

Socio-Economic Development and Rehabilitation in North Waziristan in Post Military Operations Era

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Abstract: North Waziristan had historically been acting as a catalyst for geostrategic changes occurred in Afghanistan especially during the “Great Games”. Following the period of relative calmness after Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan; the fateful incident of 11thSeptember 2001 again pushed the agency into regional geostrategic wrangling. The decade long miseries of locals ended when triumphant military operation ‘*Zarb-e-Azb*’ obliterate the terrorists’ hideouts from North Waziristan and set the stage for non-kinetic initiatives to revive and restore socioeconomic and politico-administrative institutions in the agency. The research has been carried out while considering the said sociocultural ground realities and data collection limitations. The research used non-probability sampling design to collect relevant information needed to explore the causes of conflict and to suggest post conflict rehabilitation strategy. The dignity and respect for their culture are as equally important as the provision of education, health, environment, social protection, and job market. To sum-up the study concluded that rehabilitation framework and socio-economic development and establishment of military setup, in particular development in education sector, promotion of tourism based on perceptive planning and dynamic execution mechanism can optimally assist to revolutionize the socioeconomic fortune of the conflict ridden of North Waziristan district for a better and peaceful region with focus on human development.

Keywords: North Waziristan, Socio-economic, Education, Development, Rehabilitation

INTRODUCTION

Incident of September 11 changed the situation throughout the globe. United States formulized Anti-Terrorism strategy and Pakistan joined it(Asif et al., 2021; Daraz & K, 2012).Pakistan has played its role in the Global War on Terror. Pakistan has offered logistical support, shared intelligence, and supplied air bases to the US and NATO, in support of operations against al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Pakistan has supported in different ways claimed by the US such as, “over flight rights, access to Pakistani air, naval and land bases, crush the domestic elements who are in support of terrorism against Americans and its allies, end every logistic and diplomatic support to Taliban”(Hafeez, 2008).

Background of The Study

Pakistan's efforts in the "war on terror" were critical, and this is widely acknowledged that, "without the active and sincere contribution of Pakistan, the desired results in terms of breaking the Al-Qaeda network could not have been attained" (Fazal-ur-Rahman, 2003). Consequently, United States formed a close working partnership with Pakistan (Hussain, 2005).

This collaboration resulted in terrorist activities by different terrorist groups especially *Tehrik-e-Taliban* Pakistan (TTP) in the tribal areas of the FATA and Northern Waziristan in Pakistan. They started the secretarial violence and the suicide attacks in these areas and the big cities of Pakistan. The main purpose of these groups was to control the Pakistan authority and pursue their economic and all other purposes (Asif et al., 2021).

North Waziristan is one of the tribal districts, a former agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). North Waziristan had witnessed prolonged episodes of unrest and violence over the past four decades. Due to the neglected administrative controls, it had been ill-famed as an attractive site for transnational terrorist networks. When the situation became out of control, the State had to opt for the military option in order to maintain peace and security in the area (Makki & Iftikhar, 2021).

More than 80,000 families, that is, almost a million individuals, were internally displaced and an entire system of traditional social capital and communities' livelihood collapsed (Hameed, 2015; S. Khan & Akhtar, 2016; Makki & Iftikhar, 2021). Military operations were the only way to bring back a modicum of stability after suppressing the insurgency in the region. Pakistan's military used the "Seek, Destroy, Clear, Hold" tactic for the first time (Javaid, 2015). The Pakistani military is on the lookout for the intended victim. Once it's found, it'll be destroyed. The region may be evacuated both before and after the operation to ensure post-operation security, infrastructure rebuilding, and/or area rehabilitation (Javaid, 2015).

In June 2014, Pakistan's government started a military operation (*Zarb-e-Azb*) in its territory along the Pakistan-Afghan border targeting terrorists without distinction to counter the danger of terrorism. Following that, In December 2014, the Pakistani government announced the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to combat terrorism. Operation *Zarb-e-Azb* was the battle in which almost 500 soldiers lost their lives, and 3500 militants were killed (Javaid, 2015).

Both the military operation and the NAP have succeeded in improving the security situation in the nation. This development has improved the business and investment climate in the country, resulting in less economic losses. This paper demonstrates how the State is addressing the conditions to contain and defeat transnational violent extremism and terrorism in the region. This paper also examines the rehabilitation framework and establishment of military setup in the region. It concludes that socio-economic development and promotion of tourism based on perceptive planning and dynamic execution mechanism can optimally assist to revolutionize the socioeconomic fortune of the conflict ridden of North Waziristan district for a better and peaceful region with focus on human development.

Case of North Waziristan

North Waziristan is a mountainous region around 1,500 to 2,500 meters above ocean level and includes vicious valleys. The hills seem to run lattice toward each path and are geologically separated from the bigger Koh-e-Sufaid mountain range in the north and the Sulaiman Range in the south. These hills are connected to Razmak's highly mineralized zone. Kaitu, Tochi, Kurram, and Khaisora are the

major valleys. Dandi, Sheratala, and Dana kiwi are the three main plain regions. The Tochi River, also known as the Gambila River, is the main source of surface water in Tochi Valley and runs through the most fertile land. Khaisora, Kaitu, and Kurram are some of the several streams (Naveed Yousaf et al., 2018; Spychała-Kij, 2020).

North Waziristan District covers area of 4,707 Sq KM approximately. This district consists of 9 Tehsils, with 75 village councils and 6 neighborhood councils (Assessment Report North Waziristan Agency IDP 's Muslim Aid Pakistan, 2014). Total population of NWD is about 543,254 and Pashto is the native language of this district (lgkp.gov.pk, n.d.; Response, 2014). Land use information from 2017-2018 shows that 4% of the absolute geographic region of North Waziristan is productive, while over 96% of the land isn't arable. This squeezes the reachable rural land and makes food frailty in the office. About 2% of the farmland is under water system, with the leftover developed zone depending totally on rainfall. As per the 2017 headcount, the number of inhabitants in North Waziristan was 0.54 million, with a yearly development pace of 2.46%. Later measures put the figure near 0.6 million (lgkp.gov.pk, n.d.).

Terrorism infers incitement, pulverization, self-destruction assault and overwhelming of honest individuals on no reasons (Zakaria et al., 2019). Terrorism upsets the occupants, harm framework, cause a decrease in financial affluence, bring political shakiness, and break the social steadiness of the public. Terrorism stymies an area's socioeconomic growth by providing a safe refuge for terrorist groups and encouraging residents to become terrorists. Injustices, a lack of freedom and democracy, a lack of wealth, and inaccessibility to essential social services are all consequences of deprivation (Ismail & Amjad, 2014; A. Khan et al., 2016; Syed et al., 2015; Zakaria et al., 2019). In the hands of those forces with their horrific objectives, such defenseless people can readily be indoctrinated and radicalized (Nawaz, 2009).

A large number of people were rescued from the NWD region of KPK and FATA as a result of military operations against the fear mongers. With the passage of time, the financial, political, and social arrangements are crumbling. Pakistan is a low-wage country and the war on terror has exacerbated the country's financial woes. Unacquainted borrowings have increased because of poor financial development, whereas Pakistani fares, capital arrangements, and private speculation have decreased. Fear-based oppressors have put the state's authority to the test, tarnishing Pakistan's delicate image (Nawaz, 2009).

North Waziristan Tribal District was sanctuary for terrorist and invalid militant organization since event of 9/11 and succeeding US invasion of Afghanistan (Zakaria et al., 2019). Lack of social economic structure and poor standard of life added to the inspiration of local youth to join these militant organizations. With no writ of the government and lack of security and stability the existing socio-economic fabric further worsened.

The wellbeing framework is likewise extremely helpless like helpless instruction framework. There are 40 clinics with 311 dispensaries for 3.176 million individuals of NWD, it is evaluated that one specialist for populace of around 6970. Exchange has been a noteworthy wellspring of economic movement in the territory. Be that as it may, because of sneaking/ smuggling and other illegal practices, the exchange openings have reduced throughout since long. The greater parts of the tribesmen think about sneaking/ smuggling as a consistent business action and call it as their vocation. In any case, the sincere recipients are the massive mafias which control the exchange (carrying).

Inherited region has huge stores of various minerals/common assets. Because of deficient geographical studies, security conditions and ancestral divergences regarding minerals rich terrains has not allowed mineral investigation and its sufficient usage. Animals are likewise of vital economic significance in NWD. However, animals are not well-thought-out a healthy revenue source for the tribal

community due to the lack of a scientific technique of animal production. This qualitative study reveals a strong negative correlation between terrorist actions and economic growth, social improvement, and political advancement in the region (NWD).

Theoretical Framework – Good Governance

Governance is a wide concept with many aspects and definitions offered by individual researchers and development organizations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank (WB), and others. According to the World Bank, governance entails "ruling by the rulers" under a set of rules, procedures, and authority. "Governance" refers to the systems that examine a country's economic, political, and administrative issues (UNDP). Good governance is a notion that has recently become popular throughout the world and is being utilized as a major indicator of a country's overall health (GG) According to Besançon (Besançon, 2003), good governance is the consequence of the state machinery's real performance and efficiency. It is difficult to create universally acceptable rules of good governance (Graham et al., 2003). However, scholars have established four aspects of good governance, which are briefly addressed next, based on considerable literature that was used in this study. The first is Rule of Law (RL), which entails abiding by the constitution and other legal obligations enshrined in various statutes. When every individual or entity follows specified norms and is responsible and transparent in their procedures, RL is assured. The second factor is political stability (PS).

For the sake of this study, the absence of political stability can be equated to the existence of political insecurity (PI). Economists regard political instability (as defined by WGI) as a serious disease that harms economic performance. The more unstable a country's political environment is, the more probable it is to negatively impact micro and macroeconomic policy. To establish a match between the self-motivated environment and future economic goals, policymakers must regulate to constantly changing conditions (Mueller, 1982). Finally, voice and accountability are two essential concepts in this research (VA).

Mineral Sector

Owing to militancy and prevailing law and order situation in the North Waziristan for the past decades, the opportunities to carry out businesses were totally closed, however with efforts of Pakistani Government, the district is now returning towards peace. Local folk is returning to their homes and it is expected that due to commercial viability of the available minerals and Oil & Gas reserves, North Waziristan is being providing essential opportunities of investment, revenue generation and contribution in regional development. FATA Development Authority is in the process of acquiring 500 acres of land to establish Industrial Zone to boost district economy by creating enabling environment for the investors to start industrialization. Furthermore, value addition in Pine Nut (*Chalghoza*) harvesting and handling value chain is strongly recommended as the area has high production of this fruit.

Oil and Gas Exploration

The modern geologists are of the view that stratified rocks in a region is the sign of probabilities of oil and gas existence in the region. If one look at the geological morphology of the mountains from Shewa towards the Mir Ali belt the mountains are stratified having layers protruded towards the west. The possibility of earthquake in the Jurassic era through vertical eruption caused the downward movement of the stratified layer of earth and upward movement of the *Sherathala* resulting in the

construction of the present special geological shape of the mountains. Such like mountains are always containing the reserve of oil gas and coal.

In 2015 the Government of Pakistan started development schemes in the region to uplift the public life standards. The Kurrum Thangi dam was initiated followed by oil and gas exploration. In 2018 the initial expeditions for oil and gas exploration started by MPCL under the auspices of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas. Simultaneously the KPOGCL also took interest in the exploration of oil and gas in Thal block. The MPCL discovered oil and gas in Shewa and Spinwam region and in 2021 started oil drilling in the region. The KPOGCL has started their survey in 2021 and has completed their initial survey at Mir Ali and Miran Shah Tehsils during their 15 days mission to North Waziristan Tribal District. The samples of soil have been collected and have been sent to the laboratory for testing.

Health Sector

Data taken from the EDO Health Bannu, DHQ Bannu, Khalifa Gul Nawaz Hospital Bannu, BHU Ghoriwala, THQ Domail and other RHC's showed that IDP's were fronting a lot of health problems. Severe weather, contaminated drinking water, and other difficulties caused a variety of ailments. The maternal mortality rate among IDPs is alarming. Inadequate health facilities pose a serious threat to the lives of IDPs and even host families.

The majority of the people, particularly children and women, were found to be suffering from diarrhea, Malaria, and other seasonal illnesses. They were in desperate need of medications and other medical assistance. WHO workers are collaborating with government health teams to offer basic health care, and around 146,000 individuals have been vaccinated against polio. A total of 45 new clean drinking water supply schemes were developed in order to fulfill the growing demand of the population. Rehabilitation of 27 DWS schemes were completed in the aftermath of Zarbi Azb. A minor rehabilitation of 20 DWS schemes in addition to rehabilitation of 55 dug wells has been completed. 25 pressure pumps have been installed in the whole district in addition to 75 hand pumps. 10 solarized pressure pumps were newly installed and 88 hand pumps were newly constructed. In addition to that 02 hand pumps were installed in the health facilities. This has brought considerable improvement in the availability of clean drinking water for the population in order to make them functional.

The district administration has arranged hygiene sessions in the schools in association with different organizations. In this regard 4500 hygiene kits have been distributed among the people and up to 200 hygiene session have been held including 20 session at radio Miranshah and Razmak. In 2019-20 1822 hygiene kts have been distributed among the people and 20000 people have been helped to construct latrines in their houses. In majority of the villages the concept of public latrine has been introduced through low cost no cost concept "**Zero Hunger**".

The Government has introduced the administration of Acha Mum and nutrition programs in the hospitals under the auspices of nutrition in the population welfare department which has helped up to 40000 women in their puberty period. Thus, helped in the reduction in the menace of malnutrition and starvation in the district. The Islamic relief has provided food packages to 120 non-skilled laborers. In 2017-18 150 men and 50 women have been given goats and poultry in order to live decent lives. A total of 700 women have been treated with deworming tablets in order to improve their health conditions. A similar number of individual's males have been dewormed. 2800 food packages have been distributed among the people in order to overcome the malnutrition 1500 families have been given the Qurbani meet while 21890 daily wages have been given to 1400 workers in work for food program 23870 individuals have been paid in cash for work program. This may boost the socio-economic conditions of the people.

Agriculture Sector

Pakistan is an agriculture-based country, and the government of Waziristan places a strong emphasis on the sector. In Waziristan, government investment in irrigation facilities and agriculture output is a first. Agriculture is a foundation of the tribal economy and the lifeline for the impoverished. Small landholders, who make up the majority of farmers, mostly practice subsistence agriculture, which is characterized by land underutilization and the predominance of risk-averse behaviors such as the cultivation of low-input crops. Fruits such as apples and grapes, as well as vegetables including as potatoes and tomatoes, are exported from North Waziristan, whereas cereals such as wheat and maize are only sent to Waziristan. Agriculture is reliant on rainwater, and in certain regions, irrigation is provided via tube wells, dug wells, and traditional infrastructure.

Trade Sector

Customs agents, transporters, and merchants would all be needed the restoration of the Ghulam Khan Trade point would create jobs in the region. For residents, in the southern areas, the Ghulam Khan Route was critical because it gave quick economic access to Afghanistan's Paktia province. The checkpoint's reopening preparations had already been finalized. The Ghulam Khan road was primarily utilized by cement merchants, and at least 20 trucks would enter Afghanistan. "This border checkpoint's reopening is a good omen for Pakistan and Afghanistan's trade relations. It ease the serious problems facing traders on both sides of the border. The reopening of the Ghulam Khan Check post would not only strengthen bilateral trade but would also benefit business community on both side of the border. The first trade convoy had been dispatched to Afghanistan after a lapse of three years. "Ghulam Khan facilitates the resumption of trading activity. Not only is it in the national interest to build a border, but it also provide new economic prospects for the inhabitants of North Waziristan. "This is also a message of brotherhood and peace between the two fraternal countries." The action came after bilateral commerce between the two nations fell by nearly half in the past two years, from \$2.7 billion to \$1.4 billion.

Livestock Sector

Livestock is the inhabitants of Waziristan's major source of income. They've taken their cattle to the host locations with them. According to general views, they were in deplorable conditions due to a lack of food and water. There is no green fodder for them to eat because the weather is so scorching these days. At this point, they require fresh fodder and other required meals, as well as vaccinations and medications on an emergency basis. During program life, more than 30,000 animals owned by 5050 households in North Waziristan districts vaccinated against Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Black Quarter, Enterotoxaemia, Foot and Mouth, and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) diseases and de-wormed. This activity was completed in consultation through the involvement of Livestock Department and ensured that there was no outbreak of the common diseases in the area, which not only has saved the treatment cost but enhanced the production as well. Livestock is the major source of income for the inhabitants of North Waziristan. As a result, those who had the time had taken their livestock out with them. Due to a lack of nutrition, several of the cattle perished while travelling. And those who were still alive were in the worst possible circumstances. They were in desperate need of food and vaccinations.

Tourism Sector

Shawal Valley in North Waziristan has an eye-catching and snow-covered natural beauty sites with huge potential of development of a summer tourists resort in future. Government already earmarked

Rs400 million for promotion of tourism activities besides holding of festivals in merged districts in current fiscal year.

EDUCATION SECTOR

For the first time in Pakistan's history, the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), formerly known as Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), are moving closer to normality. The era of Talibanization is over, and the Pakistani military has virtually cleared the area of violent extremism. In order to bring this war-torn area up to pace with the rest of the country, it is important to emphasize the gender components of the NMDs' strategy and implementation at this historic time.

The Directorate of Education (DoE) of the FATA Secretariat developed a five-year comprehensive Education Sector Plan (ESP) for the NMDs, based on the 2009 National Education Policy. When designing the ESP, the FATA Secretariat took into account feedback from teachers, principals, and government officials to identify educational barriers. Despite the fact that more females do not attend school, it appears that the majority of the obstacles are shared by both girls and boys.

Education Setup Policies in North Waziristan

It's noteworthy that, following Fata's merger with KP in 2018, the Fata Reforms Committee mandated a doubling of reserved scholarship quotas for FATA students, including NWD, in five universities in Punjab and one university in Sindh, a decision that was implemented by the KP governor in 2019.

Since its approval in the Annual Development Program (ADP) for the fiscal year 2019-20 the Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) Department has been deliberating only on how to execute the stipend scheme, according to sources. The program has been funded by the federal government under the Accelerated Implementation Program to encourage the students' enrolment and decrease the number of out-of-school children in the militancy-hit erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The program was approved in ADP of fiscal year 2019-20. Under the program, Rs1,000 monthly stipend would be given to each of the girl students from nursery to the secondary classes and Rs500 to be paid to each of the boys in primary schools and Rs1,000 to the students of secondary classes.

Humanitarian Response

UN agencies and local non-governmental organizations are also constructing makeshift schools for the displaced children in NWD. UNICEF will assist the education of 1,334 displaced children, including 513 girls, who have been identified and enrolled in 16 adjacent government schools where government instructors from North Waziristan have been deployed, in conjunction with the provincial education department. The political authorities of NWD have also demanded that all displaced government teachers resume teaching in other KP districts, notably Bannu. BEFARE, a non-governmental organization connected with UNICEF, is conducting needs assessments among children. Bannu has received educational materials including 27 tents along student learning kits, to assist Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs).

Access to Quality Education with Improved Infrastructure

To reestablish education services, most public elementary schools have been resurrected through the use of prefabricated buildings and tents. Several enrollment drives have been conducted, which resulted in an increase in enrollment of students (girls and boys) by end of 2020.

Through the creation and training of *Taleemi Islahi Jirgas* (TIJs) / Parent Teachers Councils, local communities were involved in school management (PTCs). Many training sessions have been arranged for most of the members of TIJs/PTCs on their roles and responsibilities, monitoring, community mobilization, and school development to improve access to education.

Analysis of Education Setups and affects due to Militancy

Instructors were trained in teaching methods, pedagogy, student involvement, and psychological support to improve the abilities of teachers, NWD and TDP hosting regions of KP. Learning materials and teaching tools were provided to numerous schools. School furniture were also delivered. Many training workshops were conducted for communities to educate them about disaster risk reduction. Community support networks were established to increase school enrollment, social cohesion, and peace building.

Impact of Terrorism on Education

During the militancy in the former Fata, the social sector had sustained enormous losses. Around 1,500 educational facilities were blown destroyed or burnt, depriving thousands of boys and girls of their right to an education. With the help of international donors and funds from yearly development programs, the majority of educational institutions were restored.

Following 9/11, more community schools were built for girls than for boys, which explains the increase in female institutions at the elementary level. Females are trailing behind their male counterparts in terms of schooling. As a result, it has been a source of worry that the government places a greater emphasis on elementary and secondary education. But it does not mean that new institutions could not fail in imparting education to the people. Most of the females' institutions are closed due to threat of Taliban insurgents. One can pin hopes in thousands of institution of some much better educations, imparting at Musa Nika Public School, Zam Public School and Cadet College Razmak.

Talibanization and Malik's Intervene

The situation in NWD demands more attention in the education sectors along with social and economic development. The past mistake should be avoided, and a lesson should be learnt from the past. Education, the backbone of socio-economic and political development has been regulated by the traditional uneducated and selfish Maliks and Khans alongside with the control of the notorious civil bureaucratic institution. They discourage educational participation by not allowing the teacher to perform their duties and the students were discouraged that education weakens our cultural bound in some areas. So the exploitation of the tribesmen is engineered by the selfish maliks and civil bureaucracy. Taliban and militants in the name of religion and tribal culture misled the uneducated fraction of society, which paved way for the army to step in the area.

The education of more than 85,000 children in state-run schools in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area is being disrupted by ongoing military operations. According to the latest UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) report, 1,016,559 individuals have been recorded as displaced from North Waziristan, with over half of them being children.

An official at FATA Secretariat in Peshawar told IRIN that 86,323 kids were registered in government institutions in North Waziristan, with 50,429 of them being elementary school students.

Private school students in North Waziristan were not included in the study. The Pakistani military claims to have removed terrorist organizations from most of North Waziristan, but tribal elders claim the government has failed to take steps to enable residents to return, prompting demonstrations from displaced students from North Waziristan's schools and universities.

Enrolling the Displaced

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KP), where majority of the displaced have gone, provincial officials have agreed to enroll all school- and college-aged displaced youngsters to local institutions and colleges. On September 1, the province education administration ran advertising in local Urdu media inviting North Waziristan displaced families to enroll. Formal documentation or school credentials would not be required for admittance, according to the statement. "Every student would also get a monthly stipend of 2,000 Pakistani rupees (US\$200)." KP is already undertaking an initiative to encourage school enrollment by paying a monthly stipend of Pakistani rupees (\$20)(Directorate of Education, 2016)

Table 1: Overview of Educational Institutions in North Waziristan(Directorate of Education, 2016)

Edn Instn Level	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2009-10		2011-12	
	NWA		NWA		NWA		NWA		NWA	
	Male	Female								
<i>Primary</i>	363	292	368	305	376	375	389	366	220	367
<i>Middle</i>	45	17	46	19	48	25	48	24	18	48
<i>High School</i>	24	01	26	02	27	06	27	06	27	06
<i>College</i>	02	01	02	01	01	02	01	03	01	03
<i>Govt Commerce</i>	01	00	01	00	01	00	00	00	00	01
<i>Govt Vocational Institute</i>	02	00	02	00	02	00	02	00	02	00
<i>IHC</i>	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	06	00

However, a small number of displaced families have refused to leave the schools. "We would never live in the camps because of our social and cultural customs, said Haji Akbar, 45, a Mir Ali native who lives with his extended 25-member family, 18 of whom are women and children, at a government school in Bannu. They are kept in four of the twenty rooms in the school. "It is considered against Pashtun standards and beliefs to live in a tent with women."

Education - Pakistan Government Efforts

Instead of provided that a large amount of fund, most of the education institutions are facing problems like shortage of teachers etc. Till 2011 in government girls' college Miranshah, there are only two teachers for the 350 students, while the issue of staff has been addressed by appointing 351 adhoc lecturers (male and female) in FATA in the year 2011, out of which few numbers were provided to NWD.

In partnership with international donors, the Pakistani government developed new educational institutions to serve the people of Waziristan. At the elementary level, increased emphasis was placed on establishing female education centres and educating the next generation in secular education. Both mosques and community schools are included in the main section diagram.

North Waziristan has the highest Dropout Rate

There are 5,890 public schools in the tribal districts, with a total enrollment of 677,157 pupils. Despite the fact that the current education budget is Rs12 billion and the development budget is Rs5 billion (including grant-in-aid), the official study paints a bleak picture of the state of education in public sector schools, with the majority of schools in the districts lacking electricity, drinking water, and toilets. According to the EMIS research, just 43 percent of schools have power, 45.2 percent have drinking water, 45 percent have toilets, and 70 percent have boundary walls.

Education of Girls

It's important not to forget that half of the NMDs' young and enthusiastic population are females as they make history and move toward a new normal with a brighter and more affluent future. When these young women are educated and given 21st-century skills, they become a tremendous resource. To do this, the Department of Education must review all educational activities in light of gender-specific requirements. To understand the unique requirements of each district in the NMDs and to develop gender equity policies tailored to each setting, the directorate must collect consistent and accurate data.

Dis Incentivizing Education and Demand for Skills

This research takes a wide view of education, including basic and secondary school, as well as technical, vocational, and university education/skills for men and women. Improved commerce that creates economic possibilities for locals can enhance education chances by increasing demand for skills and providing an incentive for children and teens to be educated. Better and more stable economic alternatives enable families to finance quality education and consider the long-term advantages of educating their children, which has an impact on education. Because the benefits of children's education are realized over time, people are unable to invest and prepare while their wages are changing and uncertain. The development of human capital is also hampered in impoverished and poor regions by a lack of infrastructure and high-quality education. The financial health and stability of families are inextricably connected to the provision of high-quality education for children. In the Madakhel area near the Ghulam Khan Border, schools are also placed at inconvenient distances from inhabitants' homes. The loss of money and livelihood has made it more difficult for Ghulam Khan Residents to acquire an education. His children were admitted into top schools in Peshawar, but were placed in government institutions when they returned to Waziristan. Parents choose to have their children drop out of school due to poverty. Boys' education is inferior to that of girls. Many of the girls' schools are also non-functional. The terrorism breads from the womb of illiteracy and provincial society. With the reorganizations in the education sector the nation is being get civilized citizens and trained human

resource which may further underwrite not only in the nation building but also in the uplift of the socio-economic indicators of the district.

Following 9/11, the government recognized education as the only effective means of promoting socioeconomic growth and preventing Talibanization, and as a result, numerous educational curricula were developed. In Waziristan, schools were established to combat illiteracy and educate the local population. The United States Agency for International

Development (USAID) and other donors contributed funding to help enhance education in the region. Until 2001, there were only 3 boy colleges and no girl college in both of North Waziristan. There are now four male and one female college students.

Access to education is the single most important factor in determining individual and social achievement. Supporting the Pakistani government in upgrading public education, with a concentration on increasing the quality and cost of Pakistan public schools, USAID made education a central priority of our economic aid. In the Federal Administered Tribal Area, USAID is assisting to expand school enrollment by building and equipping sixty-five primary, middle, and high schools in five agencies. Poor parents able to provide their children with educational possibilities outside of religiously focused madrassas as a result of these impacts. For the first time, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has committed \$27.5 million in development aid to Pakistan's education system.

Analytical View of Education – NWD

War and conflict are bad for any country or region. Looking forward to post-war issues when the peace process begins, on the other hand, might lead to a better situation than before. Following peace building, the NMDs provide the chance to establish a gender-sensitive and high-quality education system from the ground up, meeting community needs and generating a new generation that make this area more peaceful and prosperous. While the rest of the country ranks towards the bottom of the global gender gap ranking, the NMDs have an opportunity to alter that by starting from the beginning.

Education in NMDs for Girls/ Women – All Types of Barriers

Planning Perspective

- Lack of gender-specific planning to alleviate inequality
- No consideration of population size or educational needs
- No planning to engage the business sector and communities
- Inconsistent data and a failure to use data for learning and understanding
- A serious lack of planning for hiring and training female teachers
- Irrational and politically influenced school distribution
- Inadequate classrooms
- Inadequate secondary schools within community reach
- Inadequate school facilities, particularly water, toilets, and school supplies

Quality

- No clear definition of quality education or educational outcomes for girls
- Inadequate pre-service and in-service teacher training inappropriate instructional language (English, which is not a local language)
- Lack of understanding of the variety of abilities that girls can develop in schools

Women Representation

- Inadequate female staffing in the Directorate of Education
- Lack of women in senior leadership positions
- Lack of female field monitor

Community-Related Barriers to Girls' Education in NWD

Circumstances

Due to low economic status and poverty, people are not able to bear educational expenses. Difficult terrain and lack of transportation has been a barrier to girls' education. Girls do not have alternatives of traditional teaching methods. Therefore, girls do not have any exposure to the world outside the NMDs and they also do not have any local role models for inspirations.

Perceptions

Several perceptions prevail in the region i.e., people have first and far-most fear of patriarchy being challenged as a result of females' empowerment of men. They do not have sufficient understanding about the broader purpose of education for girls. They perceive that a family will lose community respect if girls leave their homes. Many people think that girls will be engaged in culturally inappropriate activities. Boys are prioritized to girls for educational expenses. Another perception explains boys are considered as the sole breadwinners while girls are supposed to get married at early age.

Recruitment of Female Teachers

Due to a shortage of female teachers in the NMDs, female teachers from nearby KP districts such as Peshawar, Kohat, Karark, and Lukky Marwat have been hired. Because these outside teachers travel long distances, endure multiple security checks, and stay at Maliks' houses if they wish to minimize travel, which many residents in this region do not consider culturally suitable, this practice has resulted in high teacher absenteeism. Furthermore, government teachers are increasingly hiring substitute teachers to fill in for them.

Transport Facilities for Distant Schools

It demonstrates that transportation is a barrier for teenage girls commuting to distant secondary schools, as well as instructors travelling from surrounding villages in NMDs or KP districts. She commented, according to a local teacher, that, *“More than 60 percent of girls are not going to school because of long distance, particularly in the middle and high schools. We, as parents, don't have sufficiently strong economic status to pay for their transport expenses.”*

Compounding the problem, It also demonstrates that there are two additional issues: local rivalries and a dispersed population living in rough hilly terrain, both of which make it dangerous for girls to go alone in this area.

Education of Girls in NMDs

It's important not to forget that half of the NMDs' young and dynamic people are girls as they make history and move toward a new normal with a brighter and more prosperous future. When these girls are educated and equipped with 21st-century skills, they become a tremendous resource. To do this, the Department of Education must revisit all educational initiatives in light of gender-specific needs. To understand the unique needs of each district in the NMDs and to establish gender equity

initiatives that are specific to each environment, the directorate must collect consistent and trustworthy data.

The bulk of people who live in mountainous areas are impoverished, insolvent, and uneducated. Because of poverty, illiteracy, and *Pakhtun* culture, females from such households face scholastic hurdles and impediments, discouraging them from obtaining an education. Girls, in particular, have transportation issues; they are deprived of transportation facilities as a result of which their parents refuse to allow them to travel to their respective schools in private buses, and their schooling suffers as a result.

Education Setup Policies in NWD

It's worth noting that, following Fata's merger with KP in 2018, the Fata Reforms Committee mandated a doubling of reserved scholarship quotas for students from FATA, including NWD, in five universities in Punjab and one university in Sindh, a decision that was implemented by the KP governor in 2019. The military operations resulted in huge displacement from the region, with families returning to a nation torn apart by conflict and unemployment, as well as dangers posed by land mines and the reappearance of terrorists who have recently threatened security. The tragic murder of three young people in Jani Khel is one of many instances in which the safety of both young people and seniors is jeopardized.

Since its approval in the Annual Development Program (ADP) for the fiscal year 2019-20 the Elementary and Secondary Education (E&SE) Department has been deliberating only on how to execute the stipend scheme, according to sources. The program has been funded by the federal government under the Accelerated Implementation Program to encourage the students' enrolment and decrease the number of out-of-school children in the militancy-hit erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas. The program was approved in ADP of fiscal year 2019-20. Under the program, Rs1,000 monthly stipend would be given to each of the girl students from nursery to the secondary classes and Rs500 to be paid to each of the boys in primary schools and Rs1,000 to the students of secondary classes.

Lack of certified data of enrolled students in the government schools is another reason for the delay in execution of the stipend program, he said, adding the education department had started work on cross-checking the available data.

The Importance of Focusing On Girls' Education in the Newly Merged Districts

Although both boys and girls benefit from school, not educating female's costs families and communities more since it leads to early marriages and poor child and maternal health. With various difficulties on all fronts, post-war regions like the NMDs are wasting half of their youthful and active human resources by not educating and leaving them behind.

Reasons Why Girls in the NMDs are Not Attending School

Parents are thought to be unwilling to educate their daughters in the NMDs. This, however, needs to be reconsidered. Why are 50% of primary school girls and 95% of secondary school girls not in school?

Findings in Education Sector

Only around 300 secondary schools can accommodate all of the graduates from 1,896 elementary schools. Male relatives, not dads, are usually the dissident voices to females receiving an education. To

transform this willingness into real education participation by girls, education stakeholders must work together with the Department of Education, local communities, and other sectors to remove all of the barriers that keep girls out of school.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Future of Education – NWD

The military is now organizing schooling for thousands of pupils outside of North Waziristan, as well as vocational training for women in North Waziristan. North Waziristan's potential appears to be quite promising, and there is genuine optimism for the future. Today is the day to take action to protect it.

Technical Education

Establishment of the training institutions is essential to impart requisite technical expertise to meet the demands of mine exploration industry. These technical education institutes apart from training the local youth accelerate the process of socio-economic transformation by engaging the unemployed youth through jobs creation.

Improve the Quality of Teachers

Instead of depending on extensive pre-service training, it would be smarter to improve the in-service teacher training model first in the current post-war circumstances, when the government is grappling with wide development concerns. Train a few local master trainers/mentors and equip them with the necessary facilities to train teachers on the job for speedy in-service capacity building. While there is little evidence that in-service training is superior to pre-service training, evidence from postwar education programming suggests that in-service training should be used to satisfy the immediate requirement for prepared instructors.

Deviate from the Established Systems for Hiring Teachers

Depending on the local need, prepare to hire either local female teachers or teachers from beyond the NMDs, based on data and contextual restrictions. When possible, hire local teachers for primary school because they have the community's trust. In order to locate qualified secondary school teachers, particularly scientific instructors, it may be essential to hire from beyond the NMDs. In the immediate term, reassess the current challenging and time-consuming hiring process that graduates from NMDs struggle to navigate. At least for a few years, don't treat this postwar area as an established location for employing teachers.

Develop Effective systems to Strengthen Parent-Teacher Relationships and Cooperation

Improving girls' education in the NMDs necessitates not only schools, but also effective school governance, which can only be achieved via the use of a solid and long-lasting framework such as TIJs. Only when TIJs are founded on what communities can and accomplish they be successful.

Make Conscious and Well-Planned Efforts to Increase Community Support

The gender gap in schools never be closed unless local communities support it. The Department of Education must make a deliberate and well-thought-out effort to address gender-related social and cultural barriers. It must give special attention to involving men and boys in communities in order to improve their perspectives of girls' education and career opportunities, as well as to sensitize them about the help they can provide to girls in their communities. The Department of the Environment must

include nonprofit organizations, volunteers, and the media as key partners in these initiatives, as well as identify role models who may serve as motivation.

Provide Financial Support to Share Parents' Expenditures on Girls' Education

The government should give need-based incentives to minimize the cost of girls' education in this war-torn and impoverished area to relieve the financial burden on parents. The ideal approach to share college costs is through in-kind or cash scholarships, but the sort of incentive should be determined depending on local community needs. In the event of a budget shortfall, the government should seek donor funds to help with education costs.

Work Closely with Workforce Development-Related Directorates

Providing job opportunities for parents would motivate them to educate their daughters, making education more significant for females. The Department of Education should cooperate closely with other government agencies involved in workforce development to equip females with both basic and higher education credentials with job and entrepreneurial opportunities. The Department of Education should collaborate with the business sector to assist in the construction of new schools and the creation of jobs for educated women.

Education in NWD

The ghost school should be made functional. Special attention is needed to make these schools functional at government and community level. The Maliks and Khans have turned the schools into personal property and running according to their own will. All educational institutions should be made public property and individual ownership of elders or Maliks should be ended. North Waziristan quota should increase in other reputed educational institutions of the country and the poor, needy and talented students should be honored with scholarships. It would not only help in promoting literacy, but cultural exchange would take place which remove the gap between the people of the country.

The parents as well as the government both may assure social security for female students in North Waziristan Agency. The government and other responsible may provide a lot of educational opportunities to female students in North Waziristan Agency. The government may wash out the economic crisis of female students at all angles concerning education.

CONCLUSION

North Waziristan has been the epicenter of violent militancy, terrorism and extremism after 9/11 incident. The region is witnessing the post-military operations phase with inherent risks. Therefore, it is important to consider and address the socio-economic conditions which expedited militancy and terrorism in the region. For the assurance of sustainable peace and socio-economic development, effective and consistent policy-related interventions are important in the region. Hence this study concluded that post military operations rehabilitation, reconstruction and development projects are playing vital role in transforming the terrorism epicenter NWD to a well-reformed region.

Multiple sectors have been considered in this research however education sector is mainly studied. Our analysis suggests that post military operation, NWD has shown considerable improvements towards understanding the importance of education, eradicating the barriers to education of young generations. Hence, education plays vital role in the socio-economic development of any region and it's the best equipment to fight against negative perceptions and circumstances.

Highlighting many sectors, this paper posits that North Waziristan is a distinct social and geographic region with high potential towards socio-economic development. Thus, this research suggests that persistent and effective planning and development projects are required in this region to combat poverty, militancy, extremism, and terrorism.

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