

How to Reduce Poverty in Afghanistan

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Abstract: This article covers the socio-economic situation in Afghanistan, the lifestyle of its people, unemployment and employment rates. In particular, poverty and its causes and consequences have been studied. Problems were studied and appropriate suggestions and recommendations were given.

Keywords: poverty, population, challenge, income, growth, reduction.



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Introduction

Without doubt, the issue of poverty is one of the most important and vital issues that has attracted a lot of attention not only locally but also globally. Since the phenomenon of poverty has always been associated with human social life throughout history, the issue of arresting and helping the poor has a long history in human societies. Every year, countries try to reduce poverty in their country by measuring poverty indicators, and in this regard, the international community tries to play its role in eradicating global poverty by considering various policies and programs. The tools used to reduce this phenomenon in different societies have diversified over the past century and include a wide range of activities such as emergency relief, social security coverage, educational and cultural programs, and empowerment programs.

But one of the questions that is always asked is what is the meaning and concept of poverty? And who are the poor?

There is an elementary and one-dimensional definition of poverty in the scientific literature that says, "A poor person is one who is not able to eat properly. According to this definition, if a person in the world does not earn about one or two dollars a day, at least he can survive, so the poor are the ones who have an income at this level, a view that is called one-dimensional poverty. In this new view, nutrition alone is not important, meaning that in addition to nutrition, a person should have a minimum of education, physical health and mental health. This definition suggests that there are other dimensions in which a person's weakness can be considered as poverty. Of course, these dimensions vary according to the situation of each country and can be more or less.

What is the poverty trap? The poverty and deprivation trap, according to Richard Chambers, means that a combination of factors such as physical weakness, powerlessness, illiteracy, isolation, vulnerability, unemployment, income, and... etc. are intertwined and the vicious circle of poverty and deprivation for people. Hits. In this case, a simple example will clarify the dimensions of the discussion. Consider a poor and deprived person living in difficult conditions in Kabul. He has a very low-income job and spends all his income on renting and basic necessities. Because he is not able to meet all his basic needs, he is inevitably looking for another job to be able to cover all his expenses. He starts his business after taking a loan or a loan from a bank or individuals, but due to bad times, his business fails and his situation worsens from the initial state and he will become poorer than before. This is called the trap of poverty.

Poverty trap in Afghanistan. Since Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, it is very important to pay attention to the phenomenon of poverty trap. The idea of the poverty trap is very simple but often overlooked. The basic idea of the poverty trap is that every country needs some infrastructure for sustainable development in the XXI century in order to achieve economic growth and development. For example, a country needs roads to transit goods and move people, ports to exchange goods from one country to other countries by sea, airport, electricity, water and health, and access to basic health services. Because if there is no primary health care in the country, the population will regularly face all kinds of diseases and a lot of money will be spent on health services. What has been said is the least that many countries have, but poor countries, including Afghanistan, are deprived of; because the amount of money needed to provide these services (roads, airports, health and hygiene) is beyond the power of the government.

Analysis of the literature on the subject. Scientific researches, dissertations, monographs and articles of foreign and domestic scientists and researchers draw conclusions, develop proposals and recommendations on issues such as radical reform of agriculture, targeted use of the experience of developed countries, training of qualified specialists, retraining. However, there is a lack of scientific research on the scientific and methodological basis of the irrigation system, high productivity in agricultural production, efficient use of land and water, achieving high economic performance in the arable lands of farms and horticultural areas. Among the scientists and specialists of the field are Abdurahmonov K.H., Mamatkulov I., Mamadalieva X.X., Yuldasheva N.M., Khasanov R.R., Khodjakulov H.D., Kuziev K.F., A.O.Ochilov and the experience of practice in this field in Uzbekistan show that in many foreign countries, including in our country at present, small specialists in the field of agriculture and There are the following problems related to the quality of training: Ways to tackle poverty in Afghanistan. In general, there is a lot of discussion in order to eliminate the poverty trap in countries and many studies have been done in this regard; but there are two basic ways to eliminate the poverty trap.

A. Identifying poverty. In developed countries, the welfare system and the tax system are either in the hands of one institution or its information is provided to the relevant institutions; in this way, the identification of the poor is easily done. When a person declares that they are poor in order to receive welfare services, it is examined according to their work history and available information. Unfortunately, in our country, due to the lack of a strong information system, it is difficult to identify individuals, and some may identify themselves as poor in order to be included in government support programs.

B. The form and manner of supporting the poor. Creating programs to support the poor can be divided into conditional and unconditional. For example, the government can pay a certain amount of money each month to students' families in order to enroll their children in school and keep them in the classroom. These programs have several benefits. First, it encourages families to send their children to school, which increases literacy and eradicates illiteracy in the country, and second, it allows policymakers to support the poor. This type of support is conditional. In the face of conditional protections, there are unconditional protections that give special benefits to the poor without any conditions. For example, the government should identify the poor and state that medical services are free for the poor. Afghans have been exposed to foreign intervention, civil war, insurgency and widespread insecurity for many years, and this situation has undoubtedly had far-reaching negative effects on economic growth, reduced development opportunities and paved the way for increasing poverty.

“In recent years, a certain amount of financial and other assistance will be provided to families included in the iron book. And comprehensive measures will be taken to lift the population included in this list out of poverty. Such measures include additional training, subsidies for starting a business, and land for those engaged in farming”¹.

The fact that Afghan families rely heavily on their food production, when they are unable to produce their own food and earn a living, puts them at risk of food shortages. However, producing food products by working in agricultural fields is a desirable option for those families who are forced to make a living by working in the agricultural sector due to lack of employment opportunities. It is estimated that at least a quarter of basic food needs are met through work on

¹ Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Oliy Majlis and the people dedicated to 2021. December 29, 2020

private farmland. It is necessary to accelerate the education system among the population as a solution to eradicate poverty in the country. It goes without saying that innovative ideas are born among the population with a high level of knowledge. Entrepreneurial ability is formed. It employs itself, its family members, as well as a certain unemployed population: “In world practice, in order to effectively manage the contribution of higher educational institutions to the development of the country and society of the leading participants in the educational services market, targeted research works have been organized to provide scientific solutions to a number of problems”². Then economic growth will also be higher: “Commonly, people tend to continue their education after secondary school as they value higher education than the secondary or secondary-specialized. As a result, these secondary school obtainers continue to obtain further education instead of entering workforce and contribute to the economic growth”³.

Finally, poor families disproportionately rely on reducing the quality and quantity of food, or selling goods and property to provide food, and this increases their food security and resilience to disasters (such as drought). About 65% of Afghan families are at high vulnerability due to very poor methods of coping with natural disasters.

Although humanitarian aid can provide relief in the short term, there is a general need for long-term food security measures. “The tense situation in Afghanistan, poverty and other factors have led to the fact that half of the children aged 7 to 17 in the country, or 3.7 million children, do not go to school. 60% of them, or 2.7 million, are girls. This means that two-thirds of girls in Afghanistan are uneducated”⁴.

In order to find a lasting solution to the problem of future hunger, the World Bank Group is working with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its Humanitarian and Development Partners to develop a model to strengthen the food security alert system based on water scarcity, and financial packages. Plan and demonstrate to sustain livelihoods and strengthen the response of rural communities to the damage caused by drought.

Development activities in Afghanistan focus on investing in the establishment of warning systems and preventive measures in order to respond promptly to disasters in order to reduce the need for humanitarian assistance in the event of an accident. “Nowadays in the national economy is going on the deep economic reforms and modernization process that requires an implementation of new of technologies for that there is need to increase the number of qualified workers”⁵. In general, through this pilot partnership Efforts will be made to coordinate the process of allocating funds and regulating spending, and to further strengthen ongoing efforts in Afghanistan with existing systems.

In conclusion,unfortunately, as mentioned, one of the main problems in Afghanistan is the lack of an official source and accurate information on poverty in the country, which will make the achievements of support programs, both by the government and the international community in the field of poverty alleviation immeasurable. But without a doubt, the quality of the implementation of support programs in the country is such that a large part of the budget that is

² Ochilov A. et al. Education and economic growth in Uzbekistan //Perspectives of Innovations, Economics and Business, PIEB. – 2012. – T. 12. – №. 3. – C. 21-33.

³Ochilov A. et al. Is higher education a driving force of economic growth in Uzbekistan? //Perspectives of Innovations, Economics and Business, PIEB. – 2014. – T. 14. – №. 4. – C. 160-174.

⁴<https://kun.uz/76010470?q=%2Fuz%2F76010470>Media information

⁵ Ochilov A. O. The Higher Education Dynamics and Economic Growth: The Case of Uzbekistan //Journal of Management Value & Ethics. – C. 46.

to be spent on poverty alleviation is due to corruption and only a small amount of it is spent in this direction. For this reason, the quality of implementation of support programs in the country is such that it greatly reduces the level of expectation of achieving the goals of support programs. The results of many years of scientific research also suggest that in order to reduce the level of poverty in the country, it is necessary to increase the level of knowledge of the population.

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