

PAKISTAN'S ROLE IN THE SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION OF AFGHANISTAN IN THE POST 9/11 ERA

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Abstract

Afghanistan has been under a state of war for the past few decades. Wars and the ensuing destruction in the region have badly affected the socio-economic and security environment of the country. The situation in Afghanistan has been equally alarming to the neighboring states, particularly for Pakistan which shares its longest porous border with this war torn country. Cognizant to this fact Pakistan not only fully supported the NATO forces to stem the looming threat of Al -Qaeda and Taliban but have also taken serious interest in the social reconstruction of Afghanistan. The primary focus of this paper is to highlight the role of Pakistan with respect to the social reconstruction of Afghanistan. Here the term "social" broadly employs to some important social sectors of Afghanistan such as communication, health, education, and the hosting of Afghan refugees as well as the nurturing of Afghan businessmen in Pakistan and their contribution to the Afghan socio-economic development. The paper at hand argues that Pakistan, due to its geographical proximity and ethnic similarity with Afghan Pashtun can play significant role in the social reconstruction of Afghanistan. Pakistan's performance in this regard can become more effective if her own security concerns regarding the involvement of hostile countries in Afghanistan are properly addressed by the international community.

Key Words: Social Reconstruction, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Security Environment, Regional peace and Stability.

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Introduction:

For the last about four decades, Afghanistan has been under a state of war. Apart from its human and capital losses these wars have badly affected the social infrastructure of the region. Social sectors like health, education, roads, bridges, power plants and telecommunications etc have been heavily damaged. Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan was reduced to shambles and the administrative structure of Afghanistan badly affected. Millions of Afghan refugees were forced to take shelter in the neighboring countries particularly in Pakistan which has longest porous border with Afghanistan.¹ The objective of this paper is to highlight the efforts and financial support extended by Pakistan for the social reconstruction of Afghanistan in the Post 9/11 era.

Gradually emerging from decades of war and destruction, Afghanistan needs the special attention of the big powers and the neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan to revive and rebuild what it has lost during the past decades. After the fall of Taliban government the first conference regarding the future political setup and peace process in Afghanistan took place in Bonn (Germany)². A joint declaration on Regional Peace and Stability was issued which articulated that a secure, stable and peaceful Afghanistan is necessary and important for establishing a secure region. It was articulated to break up the cycle of violence and to transform the highly violent society into a stable state.³ Being an immediate neighbor of Afghanistan, Pakistan is quite cognizant of her responsibility and therefore, has undertaken various projects for the social reconstruction of Afghanistan. Although, Pakistan has great contribution in this regard, it is quite suspicious of the increasing involvement of India in Afghanistan which grinds its own axis alongside its reconstruction assistance. India's quest to get strategic access to Afghanistan via-Iran⁴ has been a main cause of concerns for Pakistan. If Pakistan's concerns regarding the increasing involvement of India in Afghanistan were not properly addressed by the international community it would not only

¹ Noam Chomsky, *Power and terror: Post 9/11 talks and interviews*, (New York: Vanguard Books, 2003), p.37

² Moonis Ahmar. *The Challenges of rebuilding Afghanistan*, (Islamabad: Department of international relations, University of Karachi and Hanns Seidel Foundation), p.213.

³ Friedeich-Ebert-stiftung (FES) "*Afghanistan Region; 2014 and beyond Joint Declaration Regional Peace and Security*," (FES, Regional Project Peace and security policy, New Dehli, 2013). Retrieved from <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/10307-pdf>

⁴ India-Iran Relations: Pragmatic Town" *Economic and Political Weekly*, (Mumbai, April 12, 2001).

affects Pak-Afghan relationship but also hinders the whole reconstruction process.

Social Reconstruction:

Owing to the perpetual war and destruction for about four decades, social sectors in Afghanistan resulted into a very dismal condition. It can be revealed from the fact that in 2003 Afghanistan spent 2.6% of its GDP on education and 0.6% on health which is the lowest allocation globally. Similarly the male and female literacy ratio was 36% and 10% respectively. In Afghanistan expenses per head is USD \$1 while in South Asia it is USD \$26. In Afghanistan life expectancy is 45 years and the mortality rate of infant stand at 115 per 1000 children.⁵In Afghanistan housing is a big problem and more than 5 million returnees are suffering from this issue. The international organizations should divert their attention towards this important issue, otherwise the returnees will again migrate to neighboring countries and this will cause socio-economic problems in the host countries. Broadly speaking, the activity necessary for the maintenance and well being of the society can be included in the sphere of social reconstruction. The word “reconstruction” has been defined in several ways. The World Bank defines the post conflict reconstruction as “to try for sustainable and durable peace after the cessation of hostilities in the war affected zone and supporting socio-economic development”.⁶ It further says that good governance rebuilding of social infrastructure, repairing physical infrastructure and normalizing financial borrowing are the key elements for achieving post conflict reconstruction. The UN definition of reconstruction is more comprehensive which includes peace building activities such as:

“The disarmament of all those parties which are part of the war and the restoration of peaceful environment, doing full time effort for the destruction of all types of weapons, rehabilitation of refugees, provision of training to all security personnel, to monitor and ensuring free and fair election, all possible effort for protection of human rights, to leave no stone unturned for making the government institutions strong and their reforms, and supporting all

⁵ Saifuddin Saihoon, *The State of Afghanistan's Economy, Mass Poverty, Underdevelopment and Legacy of War: the Challenge of Rebuilding Afghanistan*, Karachi: Bureau of Composition, (Karachi: University of Karachi, 2005), p. 96.

⁶ Sultan Barakat, *After the conflict Reconstruction and development in the aftermath of war, Introduction: Post-war reconstruction and development coming of Age*. (London IB-Tauris and CO. LTD. 2010), P.10.

*kinds of processes both formal and informal for the purpose of political participation*⁷

The main difference between the two definitions is that the World Bank emphasis on assisting economic recovery and normalization, whereas the emphasis of UN is on the importance of political reform. All of them are necessary for reconstruction of war torn society and war ravaged country like Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been playing significant role in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. During the past 15 years it has been supporting multiple sectors in Afghanistan such as communication, education, health, banking etc to increase economic growth of the war torn country, and to help in the restoration peace and security in the region. Apart from physical reconstruction, Pakistan has also used soft power policy and invested in capacity building and technical training programs. "Soft power means to manage conflicts peacefully and enhancement in economic cooperation." In the present age of globalization, the use of soft power over military means has been gaining ground. The major objective of Pakistan's soft power policy has been to win over the sympathies of Afghan people and to create a vibrant civil society in Afghanistan.⁸ This situation will pave the way for rooting out extremism, militancy and terrorism and change the nature of Pak-Afghan relations.

The details of both accomplished as well as the ongoing projects undertaken by Pakistan for the social reconstruction of Afghanistan are as follows.

Communication:

Over the past few decades the communication system in Afghanistan has been in a dilapidated position. A major portion of the communication sector was destroyed during the decade of 1980 by the aerial bombardment of Russian forces. The somewhat remaining portion of roads and bridges were destroyed during the US-led NATO forces heavy aerial bombardment⁹ and the Taliban counter attacks in the form of suicide attacks and installation of mines which inflicted great loss to the existing infrastructure. Being a landlocked country Afghanistan largely depends upon the neighboring countries not only for the development of its internal communication system but also for her access to world market. Since the US invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan has been taking keen interest both in the reconstruction of the destroyed and the building of the new communication

⁷ Ibid, p37.

⁸ Tehseena Usman, "Corporation without trust : Pakistan's Role in Afghanistan Reconstruction and Future prospect". PUTAJ oriental studies, volume 20, 2013.P.4.

⁹ Alamgir Khan Khattak. "US policy in Afghanistan and its impacts on FATA". *Tigah: A Journal of Peace and Development*, 5(5),(June 2014),133-149.

infrastructure in Afghanistan. Pakistan has provided different kinds of heavy machinery for the construction and maintenance of roads to enhance its trade relations with Afghanistan and to facilitate her access to the Central Asian Republics.

In this regard Pakistan has completed the 75 km long Torkham-Jalalabad road. This project was completed at a cost of \$ 34.42 million in 2006 by the FWO (Frontier Works Organization) of Pakistan army.¹⁰ The road consists of five bridges and 184 culverts. After its completion, the bus service between Torkham and Jalalabad has been revived which is a good development in term of trade as well as connecting the people of the two major Afghan cities. Earlier, the same road was repaired thrice by the cooperation of Pakistan. Moreover, in 2007 at the request of Afghan government, the construction of additional carriageway was started by Pakistan between Torkham and Jalalabad. This project also included 184 culverts and 5 bridges and the total cost of Pakistan on this project was \$ 72.35 million. Some 75% work of this additional carriageway has been completed.¹¹

Besides these mega projects, Pakistan has also constructed several internal roads in Jalalabad worth of \$ 4 million. This has not only facilitated the free flow of traffic in Afghanistan but also helped in the connectivity of different small cities. Trade and transportation of goods has become easier. Moreover the feasibility study of Sarobi-Jabal-e-Siraj road has been completed by the National Engineering Services of Pakistan (NESPAK) and the Government of Pakistan is fully committed for its early completion and this will prove to be a back bone in the development of the whole region.

To facilitate the construction works the government of Pakistan has provided different types of road construction machinery to Nangarhar, Kandahar and various other provinces of Afghanistan. This machinery includes motor-graders, pneumatic tire rollers, vibratory road rollers, loaders and standard rollers. The total cost of this project is more than \$ 1 million.¹² Pakistan has also provided fifteen weighbridges to the government of Afghanistan. The total cost of this project was \$ 10 million that was met from Pakistan's bilateral assistance program. Moreover, 30 mobile hot mixers at the cost of \$1.5 million have been provided to the Ministry of Public Works of Afghanistan. All these play a crucial role in the development of communication infrastructure in Afghanistan.

¹⁰ *The Daily Dawn*. (September 14, 2006).

¹¹ M. Sadiq (Ambassador of Pakistan to Kabul), *Journey of Friendship Pakistan's Assistance to Afghanistan*, (Kabul: Wazir Akbar Khan, August 2010). p. 10.

¹² *Ibid*, p11.

Alongside the roads services Pakistan has also showed great interest in the development of the rail services in Afghanistan. Rail service in Afghanistan has been in very poor conditions. To develop this sector Pakistan and Afghanistan jointly approved a rail project that will connect Chaman in Pakistan to Kandahar in Afghanistan. Pakistan will construct Chaman to Spin Boldak Portion of this project at a cost of \$12 million. The feasibility study of the Pakistani side of the Chama-Spin Boldak rail link has been completed and the Afghan side yet to be completed. Both the countries signed the memorandum of understanding on May 23, 2007 regarding this very important project. After resolving some relevant technical problems, the Railway Ministry of Pakistan was directed to start the work on the said project and this will be promising development in term of trade and economic relationship between the two countries.¹³

Pakistan has approved Rs 76 million to carry out feasibility studies of Peshawar--Jalalabad rail link. Besides this some other important feasibility studies are under consideration such as rail connectivity between Khost to Bannu via Miranshah and from Helmand city, Bahramcha (Afghanistan) to Gawadar via Yakmuch and Panjgur and this will be the shortest rail connectivity for the purpose of trade and transit between the two countries.¹⁴ Like road and rail services Pakistan has been taking keen interest in the development of the power and telecommunications sectors of Afghanistan. Pakistan has provided different equipment of more than \$ 3 million in this regard. These equipments include: electric poles, electric wire and transformers.¹⁵ By the installation of these systems, there will be greater opportunities for the people of Afghanistan to move towards more stable, peaceful and prosperous society.

Pakistan has provided Television transmitter to Kandahar Province at a cost of US \$ 0.051 million.¹⁶ In May 2004, Pakistan has established its offices for AVT Khyber in Kabul, Jalalabad, and Qandahar. Rafiq Dhehzad, who is Pukhtoon from Jalalabad is representative of AVT Khyber. This channel gives frequent coverage to trade, agriculture, defense and sports related activities. Bondage of Hearts program is also transmitted by AVT Khyber regarding Pak- Afghan. It gave special coverage to *Nauroz* (a religious festival) and Independence Day of Afghanistan¹⁷. Pakistan is taking keen interest in development of Afghanistan and in this regard media can play an effective role in the projection of such feelings.

¹³ Ibid,p.14.

¹⁴ *The Daily Dawn*, (January 17, 2016).

¹⁵ *The News*, (March 21, 2016).

¹⁶ M. Sadiq, Op-cit, pp.36-37.

¹⁷ Author Interview with Mubarik Ali—Controller of Khyber News Islamabad, Islamabad: May 9, 2018.

Pakistan's contribution in the reconstruction of communication infrastructure in Afghanistan will not only help to join the different cities but also pave way for a stable, peaceful and secure Afghanistan. This will make easier for the people to people contact of the two countries. The trade and economic activities in the region will be increased which will improve overall life of the people living on both sides of the border. These communication facilities will provide better access to the Central Asian Republics (CARs). Trade opportunities with CARs will increase economic growth of both the countries and will be utilized to exploit the natural resources of CARs and to fulfill the energy requirement of Pakistan. Afghanistan and CARs will be connected through CPEC to Gawader port for trade. This will bring well-being and prosperity in the whole region and it will prove a game changer in the whole region.

Health:

Health sector is one of the most important social indicators which shows the development or under development of a society. Health facilities in Afghanistan were already in poor condition, however, for the past four decades due to the persistent crisis in the region this sector has reached to its nadir. It needed an immediate attention and huge financial support of international community. Since the past more than 15 years Pakistan has been actively participating in the development of health sector in Afghanistan so that the people of Afghanistan have all kinds of health related facilities inside their country. This will save their time and money from travelling abroad and can utilize all these resources for the improvement of their social life. According to one estimate more than 90% people from Afghanistan visit Pakistan for the purpose of medical treatment. Most of these Afghan patients get their treatment in the major hospitals at Peshawar and Quetta.¹⁸ Pakistan has started various health related projects in metropolitan cities of Afghanistan in order to provide health facilities at their door steps.

Both the countries have agreed to work jointly for the eradication of Polio virus. For this purpose, a polio campaign was started in both countries on the same day so that all the children get polio vaccination against on both sides of the boarder. Special teams for vaccination have been formed between the two countries. The health ministries of both the countries agreed to meet on quarterly basis by video conferences and through biannual meetings in persons.¹⁹

¹⁸ Tehseena Usman . Opcit. P.5

¹⁹ *The Daily Dawn*, (January 8, 2016)

To support the health sector of Afghanistan, the Government of Pakistan laid the foundation stone of four hundred beds Jinnah Hospital at Kabul on October 10, 2007. This building has been completed at the cost of \$ 20 million. Fund for this project was met by the Pakistan's bilateral assistance program. Pakistan has trained doctors, paramedics and other staff for the hospital and for this purpose a separate grant has been provided. For the construction of this hospital, 25 acres of land have been provided by the government of Afghanistan.²⁰

Jinnah hospital at Kabul has been well equipped with the modern health facilities such as Thalesemia Centre, Dialysis centre, Diagnostics, OPD, Gynae ward, Emergency Unit, ICU and CCU Departments, Surgical suit, Food Services Department etc. General Support Services of the hospital include: Water Tanks, fire alarm and nurse call system, lifts and stairs, administration offices, stores, Pharmacy, laundry, pump house and septic tank, central sterile supply department, five 1000 KVA Generators, and 2 tube wells, etc.²¹

Apart from Jinnah hospital another most important health project was initiated by Pakistani government at Jalalabad. The Nishtar Kidney Center at Jalalabad has been completed by Pakistan in summer 2010 at the cost of \$ 7 million.²² Similarly the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) Karachi has been providing training to the Afghan doctors and other staff in order to run this hospital. Some of the important health facilities provided at Nishtar Kidney Centre includes: 24 hour OPD, Operation Theatre, Emergency Unit, ICU, Dialysis unit, surgical wards, Diagnostics unit, Blood Bank, Laboratory, X-ray, Ultrasound, Transplantation unit with Operation Theater and allied facilities. Apart from these basic facilities, the hospital also provides some important general facilities which include: tube-well, administration offices, water tank, central sterile supply department, pharmacy, nurse call system, fire alarm system, three 300 Kv generators for backup power supply, pump house, kitchen, laundry and septic tank with two soakage wells etc.²³

Similarly in November 2008 Pakistan started another project known as Naeb Aminullah Khan Hospital at Logar (Afghanistan) which was completed at the cost of \$ 20 million. This hospital is well equipped with different kind of facilities such as: OPD; causality department; radiology department; pathology department; operation theatre; delivery suite; rehabilitation centre; and morgue etc. General support services in this hospital include: central sterile supply department, administration offices,

²⁰ M. Sadiq, Op-cit, p7.

²¹ Ibid,p9.

²² Ibid,pp.17-18.

²³ Ibid,pp. 21-22.

laundry, pharmacy, tube well, dining area, and water tank, transformers and generator etc.²⁴

Pakistani government has been working on different health projects in Afghanistan such as Artificial Limb Centre at Badakh Shah, Al-Shifa eye hospitals in Kunduz and Gardez and Syed Ahmad Shaheed Hospital. All these under construction projects are fully supported by Pakistani government out of its meager resources. Pakistan has established free eye camp in Jalalabad which provides medical treatment to the Afghan citizen at their door step. Pakistan has donated 45 ambulances and 14 fully equipped medical units to the various provinces in Afghanistan. These two donations cost Pakistan \$ 4-5 million and \$ 1 million respectively.²⁵ Apart from the government donation, Edhi Foundation--the Pakistan's largest Philanthropic organization-- has donated 50 ambulances to the different hospitals in Afghanistan.

In 2008 Pakistan allocated Rs. 45 million for the construction of dispensaries in different parts of Afghanistan to provide health facilities at door step. By developing social security system of Afghanistan and investment in health and education system, Taliban insurgency in different parts of Afghanistan can either be minimized or reversed, which will help in the economic stability of the region.

The contribution of Pakistani government is not only limited to the health sector within Afghanistan, it has also been providing healthcare support to the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. As a result of Afghan war some more than 3 million Afghan refugees migrated to Pakistan. Though there numbers have been reduced since the past few years, there is still a significant portion of Afghan refugees living in different parts of Pakistan. All of them are getting free treatment from the government hospitals throughout Pakistan. Pakistan has set up 66 Basic Health Unit in different refugee Camps for Afghan refugees. Since the USSR invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, Pakistan has spent more than \$ 2 billion from its own resources on the health care and treatment of the Afghan citizens living in Pakistan.²⁶ And this also evident from the fact that only in 2009 Pakistan Embassy in Kabul and its consulates at Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Jalalabad have given more than 130,000 visas to the people of Afghanistan.²⁷ Majority of them got their visa for medical treatment and have been provided free medical treatment in Pakistan. Besides this Pakistan's Philanthropic organizations also provided free medical treatment

²⁴ "Burdened economy: Pakistan medical aid to Afghanistan", *The express Tribune*, (Islamabad:October 26, 2013).

²⁵ M. Said, Op-cit, p.23.

²⁶ "Burden of Afghan refugees", *The Express Tribune*. (November 6, 2013).

²⁷ *The Express tribune*, (December,13, 2013).

to the people of Afghanistan. They have been provided free eye surgeries and 30,000 Afghan patients are treated every year by such an organization.

The provision of quality health services is a great challenge in the war ravaged country of Afghanistan. The basic aim behind the provision of better health facilities is to improve the health of its citizens, so that they could utilize their energies and resources for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and bring themselves to the mainstream of life. Moreover, this will also reduced the pressure of Afghan patients on Pakistani hospitals particularly those functioning in KPK, i.e. LRH, Khyber Teaching Hospitals, North West etc.

Education:

Education plays vital role in the development of a society. It is one of the key factors behind all the social changes taking place in any region. The higher the literacy ratio of the citizens the greater will be the socio-economic prosperity of that region. Pakistan has mainly focused on the basic and higher education of the Afghan children and youth. Pakistan has completed several educational projects in different parts of Afghanistan in order to impart quality education to the Afghan children.

Rehman Baba High School, Kabul:

Pakistan has completed the construction of Rehman Baba High School in Kabul and it was the first educational project by the government of Pakistan. The cost of this project was US \$ 4 million and it was completed by the end of April 2008. The school is equipped with different modern facilities such as 33 class rooms, well furnished laboratories one each for the subject of biology, chemistry, physics and two computer laboratories, staff room, library, principle office, art room, clerical staff room, canteen, first aid room, tube well with pump house, 400 Kv transformer and diesel generator store, furniture for offices and class-rooms etc.²⁸

There are 1200 students in Rehman Baba High School and majority of them are from Southern and Eastern parts of Afghanistan where the facilities for education are very limited. Moreover, the Government of Pakistan has also constructed Rehman Baba Hostel in Kabul which has the capacity to accommodate up to 1500 students and the total estimated cost of this project was \$ 15.86 million. Furniture to the hostel has also been provided by Pakistan. The hostel provides facilities such as a seminar hall, 3 dining halls, 4 recreation halls, 4 kitchen and 3 stores.

Allama Iqbal Faculty of Humanities, Kabul University:

Pakistan has opened new faculties in different universities of Afghanistan. The Allama Iqbal faculty of humanities at Kabul University

²⁸ Tehseena Usman, Op-cit, p34.

was completed in summer 2009. The total estimated cost of this project was US \$ 10 million.²⁹ Some of the major facilities provided in Iqbal faculty in Kabul University include: class rooms to accommodate up to 2400 students, 4 syndicate rooms, 2 offices, 48 professors/ associate professors' rooms, library, seminar halls – each with a seating capacity of 1753, workshops studios, tube-well along with generator and 2 computer laboratories.

Liaqat Ali Khan Engineering Faculty, Balkh University:

Engineering Faculty building was constructed in the new campus of Balkh University, Mazar-e- Sharif by the cooperation of Pakistan. The cost of this project was US \$ 10 million. The students of this Engineering Faculty now play an important role in the different reconstruction projects within Afghanistan. The faculty is equipped with modern facilities such as: 58 class rooms, 32 laboratories, 8 dean offices, 24 teacher offices, tube well, 13 warehouses and technical shops, Two 250 Kv generators and 4 Tea rooms.³⁰

Sir Syed Post Graduate Faculty of Sciences, Nangarhar University, Jalalabad

The faculty of sciences was completed at Nangarhar University Jalalabad by the Government of Pakistan with the cost of \$ 5 million. The students of this university have been contributing to the social reconstruction of Afghanistan in different fields. This building has modern facilities such as 24 classrooms, Science Laboratories, 2 Seminar halls, 8 Staff rooms, 3 Syndicate rooms, 32 Professors/Assistant Professors Office, Library, 4 Head of Department rooms, Tube Well, 400 KvA generator and 5 Administration staff office.³¹

Besides this Pakistan has started the construction of primary schools in different districts of Afghanistan. Initially, four primary schools were constructed of the same designs in Herat, Wardak, Kandahar and Baghlan provinces. The cost of each school was US \$ 200,000 and each school has been furnished with modern facilities such as: 8 classrooms, Principal's office, Play area, Staff room and 2 sets of toilets. For the development of human skills in Afghanistan, Pakistan has started construction of vocational training institutions in the different parts of Afghanistan. First such vocational training institution was established at the old Pakistan embassy

²⁹ Ibid,p.6.

³⁰ Ibid,p.8

³¹ Ibid,p.9.

compound in Kart-e-Parwan area of Kabul. These vocational institutions offer different skills to the Afghan students such as basic computer literacy, stitching and blacksmithing, carpentry, electrician training etc. For improving the proficiency of Afghan students in English, special language courses have been offered in these institutions.³²

Pakistan has donated 300,000 students' kits and 2800 advanced computer system to the different organizations in Afghanistan during 2005-2006. Moreover, Pakistan has also provided 2000 fully funded scholarship to the Afghan students for graduate and post-graduate studies in the fields of information technology, engineering, medicine, economics, natural sciences, computer sciences, agriculture, business administration, and teaching.³³

In addition, 2800 Afghans were educated from different academic institutions in Pakistan during the last thirty years. They have been contributing to the social and economic progress of Afghanistan and are utilizing their energies and resources for the well-being and prosperity of the nation. More than 6000 Afghan students are enrolled in different educational institutions of Pakistan. Similarly, 50,000 children of Afghan refugees are getting education in various schools of Pakistan. Various NGOs of Afghanistan have been given permission to open schools for Afghan students in Pakistan. Presently, some 428 such schools both (Primary and High) are working in different cities of Pakistan with the Afghan curricula.³⁴ Since 1979, Pakistan has opened different types of educational institution for the students of Afghanistan. Pakistan welcomed Afghans students to their government and private schools, professional colleges and training institutions. The number of Afghan students in Pakistani universities is on the rise since the past 15 years. The different public and private sectors universities of Pakistan offering admission to the Afghan students in higher studies are for example, Peshawar University (Peshawar), University of Engineering and technology (Peshawar), Preston University (Peshawar), Agriculture University (Peshawar), Agriculture University (Faisalabad), Iqra University (Peshawar) and International Islamic University (Islamabad).³⁵

In the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 42 technical training institutions have been opened in the refugee camps, which have enrolled 10,686 Afghan students. The courses of physiotherapy, English language, computer literacy, Para-medicine are offered in these institutions.³⁶ Pakistan's contribution to the Afghans in the provision of skill development and education is unmatched. Other countries have accepted Afghans in limited number while Pakistan has adopted an open door policy

³² Ibis, pp.5-6

³³ *The Daily Pakistan*, August 28th, 2010.

³⁴ Tehseena Usman, Op-cit, p18.

³⁵ Ibid, p.21.

³⁶ M. Sadiq, Op-cit, p16.

for Afghan students at all levels. Pakistan's role in constructing educational institutions in Afghanistan and promotion of education is of great significance in order to well equip the Afghan citizens from the modern day requirement of education.

Sheltering and caring of Afghan Refugees:

The mobility of Afghans along the Pak-Afghan border was already on the way even before the communists' coup in Afghanistan. They lived with their families on one side and did their employment on the other. They considered themselves on both sides of the boarder at home.³⁷ These movements across the border of Pak-Afghan were never highlighted and focused on in the print and electronic media as it did not disturb the life of the people living across the Pak-Afghan border. However, after the USSR invasion of Afghanistan the flow of Afghan refugees to Pakistan considerably increased. By 1980 the number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan reached to 5.5 million. In 2002, 3.5 million refugees have been repatriated back to Afghanistan voluntarily but 37 percent have returned to Pakistan within weeks³⁸ because of the non availability of houses, unemployment, health and education problems. More than 3 million refugees are still living in Pakistan.³⁹

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR as a result of which Afghan refugees were not only registered but also provided with PRC (Proof of Registration Cards). At the start, the requirement of refugees was fulfilled alone by the Government of Pakistan and later on UN and other donor agencies also contributed in the accommodation of refugees. In the past three decades, Pakistan has spent an average US \$ 400 million from its own resources.⁴⁰ Moreover, for safeguarding the rights of Afghan refugees, Pakistan has established a commission at the federal, provincial and local level under the Ministry of States Frontier Region and Northern Areas (SAFRON). Pakistan has contributed US \$ 1 million to the registration of Afghan refugees and US \$ 5 million to the UNHCR supported registration programs.⁴¹ Despite these efforts there is still uncertainty among the Afghan refugees regarding their future direction. Repatriation to the war ravaged country has taken place

³⁷ Ghulam amar, "The Refuges Problem: An Over view," *Pakistan Horizon*, no. xxxviii(1), 1985. (Karachi: Pakistan institute of International Affairs). P.25.

³⁸ *The Express Tribune*, (October 3, 2016).

³⁹ Afghan Refugees in Pakistan await extension of repatriation deadline, *The Express Tribune*, (Islamabad, June 18, 2013).

⁴⁰ M. Sadiq, Op-cit, p.26.

⁴¹ Ministry of SAFRON, *Report on Afghan refuges 2016*, Prime Minister Secretariat Islamabad.

amidst economic instability and insecurity. The donor countries particularly the US should help Afghanistan to take all necessary steps on emergency basis in order to reintegrate the returnees and prevent their movement back to Pakistan and other neighboring countries.

Conclusion

In view of the above findings, it can be concluded that Pakistan has significant role in the reconstruction project of Afghanistan initiated by US and the donor countries since 2001. Cognizant to the spill-over affects of the ongoing war in Afghanistan, Pakistan has taken every possible effort ranging from financial support of the different social sectors in Afghanistan to the full fledge military operations against the militants in the erstwhile FATA and PATA. The impacts of this policy are quite visible at mass level in Afghanistan but at governmental level its desired results have not been accrued as yet. This is largely because that the different actors involved in Afghanistan are pursuing their divergent interests alongside their financial support. In the absence of a sincere and monolithic approach among the donor countries the agenda of reconstructing Afghanistan is likely to remain incomplete. The donor countries must realize the changing phenomenon and should focus more on the interest of the war torn Afghan people than pursuing their own specific and often divergent interests.

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