

# 8 Social Sector Developments

## 8.1 Overview

In recent years Pakistan has undertaken a number of reforms in the social sector which, supported by sustained economic growth over the last three years has helped in addressing a number of socioeconomic issues faced by the country. The increased emphasis on social sector development also reflects Pakistan's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)<sup>1</sup> that provides a framework to improve the welfare of the people through active policy intervention. As a result, in recent year there has been a significant drop in poverty and unemployment, improvement in literacy rate, increase in per capita expenditure on health and positive policies in the environment sector. The government has also introduced reforms to ensure good governance and women empowerment.

However, despite the improvements much remains to be done. A significant number of people still remain trapped below the poverty line, the education budget as part of GDP is still the lowest in the South Asian region. Pakistan still has the highest infant mortality rate in South Asia, and Pakistan's forest cover has not changed from 4.1 million hectares since 1990. Further, the government needs to increase the efficiency of expenditures and commit more resources to improving socio economic indicators of the country, and ensure that the benefits of strong growth accrue strongly to lower income group as well.

With this background, this chapter provides a brief overview of developments in Pakistan's social sector with a particular reference to progress made in achieving MDGs.

## 8.2 Population

The high population growth is one of the key factors that have a strong bearing on Pakistan's performance in achieving MDGs. Specifically, a high population growth not only puts a country's economic resources under stress, the resulting high dependency ratio can constraint the productivity growth in the economy. Thus, achieving the MDGs would require more efforts and resources when the population is growing at a higher rate.

Realizing these concerns, government has undertaken a number of initiatives to check population growth which have led to a decline in fertility rate and population growth rate in recent years.<sup>2</sup> However despite the fall, these indicators are still the highest in the South Asian region (see **Table 8.1**) and Pakistan continues to be the sixth most populous<sup>3</sup>

**Table 8.1: Population Comparison (South Asian Region)**

	Population (million)	GR (percent)	TFR (percent)
Pakistan	165.8	2.4	4.6
India	1121.8	1.7	2.9
Bangladesh	146.6	1.9	3
Bhutan	0.9	1.3	2.9
Nepal	26	2.2	3.7
Sri Lanka	19.9	1.3	2
Maldives	0.3	1.5	2.8
Less developed	1216	1.5	2.9
World	6555	1.2	2.7

Source: 2006 World Population Data Sheet, PRB

**Table 8.2: Age Distribution-Pakistan**

Census	Young (0-9)	Prime Age (25-29)	Old age (60+)
1961	51.4	41.7	6.9
1972	52.4	40.6	7
1981	54	39	7
1998	53.5	41	5.5

Source: Economic Survey 2001-02

<sup>1</sup> Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are time bound, assessable targets agreed in United Nations Millennium Summit of September 2000. MDGs are incumbent on each member country and provide a framework to combat poverty, malnutrition, inadequate health facilities, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and gender discrimination.

<sup>2</sup> The total fertility rate (TFR) and natural growth rate both have declined to 4 percent and 1.9 percent respectively in FY06 from 4.8 percent and 2.1 percent in FY01.

<sup>3</sup> 2006 World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau.

country in the world with 155 million<sup>4</sup> people. More importantly, the falling population growth rate is yet to translate into lower proportion of dependent population (see **Table 8.2**), thereby yielding productivity gains to the economy.

### 8.3 Poverty & Income Inequality

The macroeconomic stability and the sustained economic growth in recent years has not only led to a decline in income poverty but also showed improvement in almost all major indicators of what is known as poverty of opportunity, i.e., education, health, employment etc. However the progress made in these indicators has not significantly changed country's global ranking.

The Pakistan Living Standard Measurement Survey (PSLM) conducted during 2004-05 shows a sharp decline in poverty incidence as suggested by falling Head Count Ratio (HCR)<sup>5</sup> (see **Table 8.3**). The data indicates that the number of poor (i.e., people having income below the poverty line of Rs 878.64 per adult per month) has shrunk by 12 million.<sup>6</sup> Region-wise data indicates that the decline in rural poverty is more profound (12.5 million people) than the urban decline (9.8 million).

Pakistan's performance in reducing poverty compares well with the MDG that has envisaged a 50 percent reduction in the poverty by 2015 in accordance with which the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)<sup>7</sup> has targeted to reduce the poverty level to 28 percent by FY06. The country has already reduced the number of people below the poverty line to 24 percent (see **Table 8.4**). Moreover other poverty related indicators such as proportion of underweight children of under 5-years of age is not representing a very encouraging situation and requires more focus.

The PSLM survey also provides a comparison of country's population in six quintiles during the period 2001-05 (see **Table 8.5**). The data indicates that more of poor people are moving in the category of quasi-non-poor and non-poor. Overall, almost 12 million people have been pushed out of the poverty during the period 2001-05. Moreover 10 million people remained in the ultra poor category as compared to the 15.8 million in the last reported year, while the extreme poor

**Table 8.3: Trends of Poverty; Head Count Ratio (percent)**

	2001	2005
Pakistan	34.46	23.9
Urban	22.69	14.9
Rural	39.26	28.1

Source: Economic Survey 2005-06

**Table 8.4: Status of MDG 1 (Halve Extreme Poverty & Hunger)**

	1990-91	MDG Target	MTDF (2009-10)	2005
Proportion of people below poverty line	26.1	13	21	23.9
Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age	40	<20	28	38*
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption	25	13	15	n/a

\* Data is for 2004 from Unicef Statistics

Source: Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2005

**Table 8.5: Comparative Poverty Profile**

	2001	2004-05
Extremely poor	1.1	1.0
Ultra poor	10.8	6.5
Poor	22.5	16.4
Vulnerable	22.5	20.5
Quasi non-poor	30.1	35.0
Non-poor	13.0	20.5

Source: Economic Survey 2005-06

<sup>4</sup> Source: Economic Survey 2005-06. However, according to World Population Data Sheet, the population of Pakistan is 166 million. Even with the figure of 155 million, Pakistan's ranking in the world remains unchanged.

<sup>5</sup> HCR is the percentage of people below poverty line.

<sup>6</sup> It may be pointed out that PSLM results announced by the Planning Commission in February 2006 indicated a decline of 6.7 percentage points in poverty estimates, i.e., HCR fell to 25.4 percent in FY05 from 32.1 percent in FY01. However, by end-June 2006, the Planning Commission revised the estimates for poverty line to Rs 878.64 per adult per month. The comparable poverty line for 2000-01 was Rs 723.40 per adult per month. Accordingly, the revised estimates show a decline of 10.56 percentage points in poverty incidence during the period 2001-2005.

<sup>7</sup> Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) was the key initiative to implement the MDGs.

category depicts a decline of 0.03 million during the period.

An encouraging development is the significant decline in concentration of people around the poverty line, i.e., transitory poor and the vulnerable that constituted almost 45 percent in 2001-02 have declined to 36 percent in 2004-05. This shows that the probability of falling back into poverty trap as a result of external shocks is getting weaker for this group of people over time.

It is significant to mention here that the main concentration of the poor is still around the poverty line. This implies that the government can achieve significant reduction in poverty incidence through appropriate focus on this group.

Less encouraging is the fact that despite the above described gains in poverty incidence and sustained economic growth, the income inequality, presented by the Gini coefficient and the ratio of highest 20 percent to lowest 20 percent, has widened during 2001-05 period (see **Table 8.6**).

#### 8.4 Employment

Employment is considered as a primary channel through which a majority of the population shares the benefits of economic growth, thereby contributing towards poverty reduction.<sup>8</sup> Indeed, most of developing countries that have dramatically reduced their poverty level have done so by improving employment opportunities. Given this inter-linkage between employment and poverty, countries are focusing not only on addressing unemployment but also on improving the nature and environment of employment.<sup>9</sup>

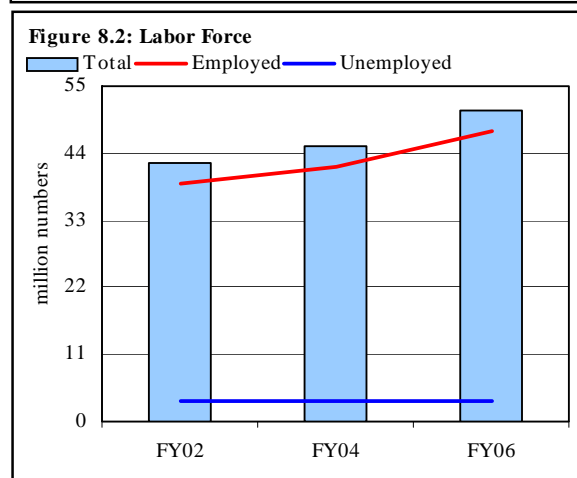
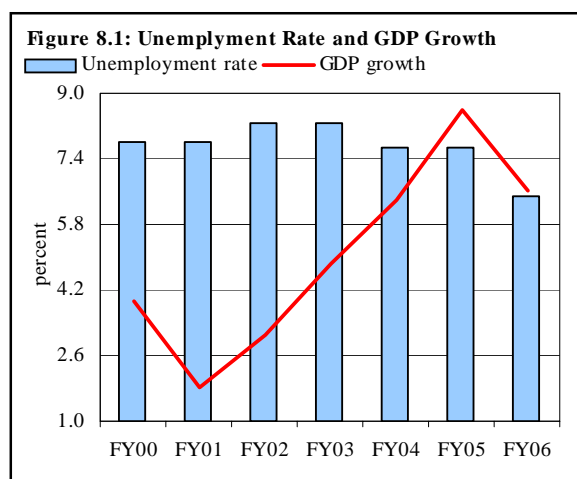
This appears true in the case of Pakistan as well, the rising GDP growth from 3.9 percent in 2000 to 6.67 in 2006 coincides with decline in unemployment rate from 7.82 percent in 2000 to 6.5 percent in 2006 (see **Figure 8.1**).

This decline in unemployment rate is more significant when we take into account the

**Table 8.6: Trend in Income Inequality**

Year	Gini coefficient	Ratio of highest 20% to lowest 20%
FY01	0.2752	3.76
FY05	0.2976	4.15

Source: Economic Survey 2005-06



<sup>8</sup> The importance of employment creation for poverty reduction is also evident from the proposed amendment in targets of (MDGs). The proposal suggests incorporation of a new target of full and productive employment and decent work for all. It highlights inclusion of women and young people to be made a central objective of all relevant national and international policies i.e. all national development strategies under MDG No1.

<sup>9</sup> Improving the nature and environment of employment is important for addressing poverty as nearly half of the total employed workers' (1.4 billion) earning is too low to be out of poverty trap (with poverty line US\$2/day). 20 million out of this 1.4 billion are those who live in extreme poverty, i.e., below poverty line of US\$1/day.

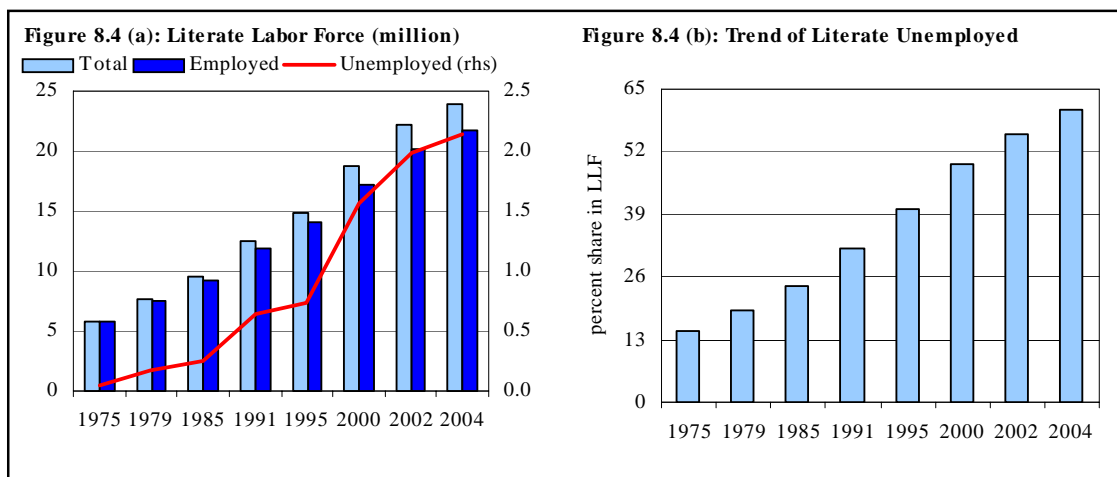
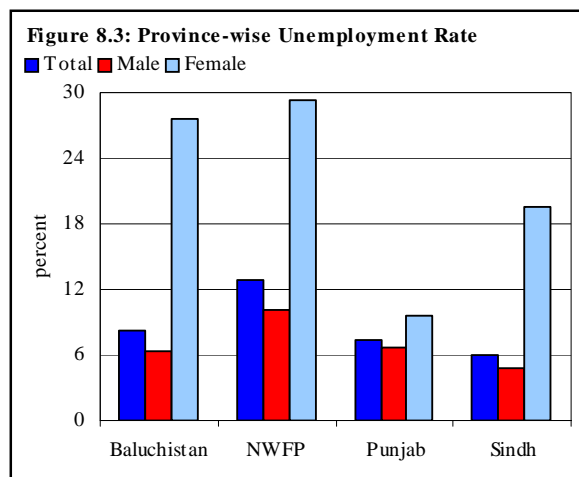
rising trend in labor force (see **Figure 8.2**).<sup>10</sup>

Importantly, the gains in unemployment are shared by both rural as well as urban areas of the country although the decline in urban unemployment is greater compared to that in the rural sector (see **Table 8.7**). However, while analyzing the status of unemployment in a country, we should also take into account the nature of work and level of productivity. In Pakistan however, underemployment, low wages and bad working conditions particularly for rural areas, are issues that still need to be addressed.<sup>11</sup>

The province-wise analysis shows that NWFP has the highest unemployment rate both for male and female workers. The lowest unemployment rate is in Sindh, followed by the Punjab. However, the unemployment rate for females in the Punjab is the lowest among all provinces (see **Figure 8.3**).

A disquieting feature of the unemployment status in Pakistan is the rising share of the *unemployed* literate labor force (see **Figure 8.4 a**). This probably reflects the mismatch between quality of labor demanded and labor

Year	Pakistan		
	Overall	Rural	Urban
2001	7.82	6.94	9.92
2002	8.27	7.55	9.8
2004	7.69	6.74	9.7
2006	6.5	5.7	8.4



supplied.

Industry-wise distribution of employment does not show significant variation over the years as the *agriculture* sector continues to absorb almost 43 percent of the labor force followed by *services* (above 36 percent of labor force) (see **Figure 8.5**).<sup>12</sup>

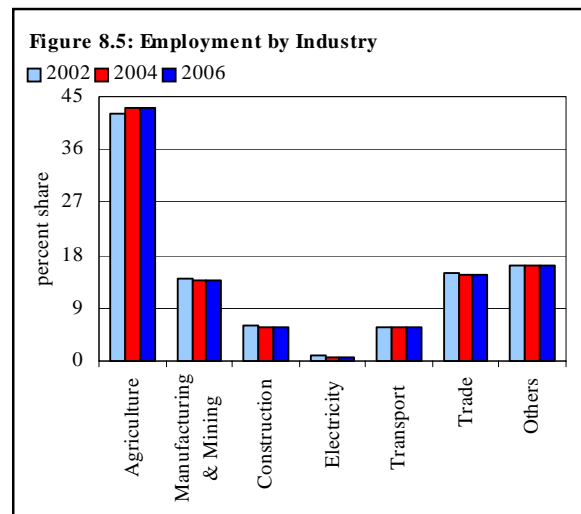
<sup>10</sup> The labor force increased by an average annual growth rate of above 6 percent during FY04 and FY06 as compared to above 3 percent average growth rate between FY02 & FY04.

<sup>11</sup> See SBP's *Third Quarterly Report* for FY06 for details.

<sup>12</sup> There is a greater possibility of higher absorption of labor force in the Service sector as employment elasticity of the Sector is quite high (0.9) as compared to the overall employment strategy of 0.4.

It may be mentioned here that Medium Term Development Framework (MTDF) has identified agriculture & all related industries, small & medium enterprises, and housing & construction as the priority sectors for employment creation.

In this regard, the government is focusing on creating employment through implementation of public works schemes, e.g., under the Khushal Pakistan Program and on reducing the mismatch between skill gap of labour demand and its supply. Further, the government is encouraging investor friendly environment in the country as it has significant positive externality for employment creation.



However it should be recognized that the enhanced investment will most probably boost employment in urban region, but much of the unemployed labour force remains concentrated in the rural region and is mostly unskilled and uneducated. Nevertheless, the government needs to pace up its employment creation efforts as increasingly young population will be entering into labour force in coming years as suggested by continuingly high population growth rate.

Government is also trying to reduce gender inequality in employment market. The Ministry for Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis included the welfare of women as part of a new broader labour welfare reforms package.<sup>14</sup> It includes propositions like equal remuneration irrespective of gender, and recruitment of female labour inspectors for enforcement of labour law for female workers etc. Moreover 10 percent quota has been recently announced for female in civil services and a recommendation for the same quota for all public sector entities is under serious consideration.

Unfortunately, the earthquake of 2005 has a negative impact on employment situation and poverty in earthquake affected areas. According to ILO estimation, 1.1 million jobs (nearly half of the total employment existed before earthquake) were wiped out in the earthquake affected areas of Pakistan. Most of the jobs in the affected areas were in less productive sector of the economy such as agriculture and services. Prior to the earthquake, each employed person was supporting more than two additional dependents, which means 1.1 million workers providing livelihood to more than 2.4 million people. The most essential goal of the relief activities in those affected areas should be the creation of employment opportunities that can help the affected people to have a sustainable source of income.

### 8.5 Education

Access to education remains a key determinant for human resource development as education helps in raising the living standard of people. While education provides opportunities for the underprivileged, people who cannot acquire it are made worse off by the literate and illiterate divide. This literacy divide is more profound in the developing countries.

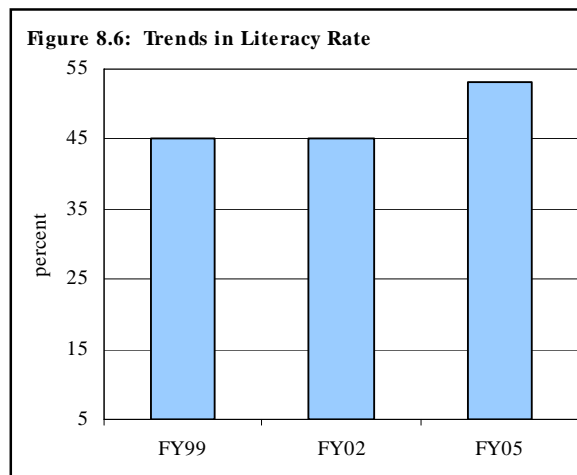
<sup>14</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> April 2000

In Pakistan, the overall literacy rate increased to 53 percent in FY05, compared to the 45 percent in FY02 (see **Figure 8.6**). The improvement in literacy rate is visible across all the four provinces (see **Table 8.8**). Region-wise literacy rate shows wide disparity between rural and urban areas. Not only is the urban literacy rate significantly higher than the rural region, the improvement is also more profound in the urban sector. This situation is common to all provinces. Further, the province-wise data shows that while the literacy rate has risen during 2001-05 period, disparity across provinces has also widened. The improvement in provinces' literacy rate is mainly linked to the Education Sector Reforms over the last three years in all provinces except Baluchistan. Punjab and Sindh are implementing similar reforms<sup>15</sup>, while Madrassahs are being registered for formal education in NWFP.

Another significant weakness of the education system is gender disparity. Though the female literacy rate has improved from 32 percent in 2001-02 to 40 percent in 2004-05, it is still lower than the 65 percent male literacy rate in 2004-05 against 58 percent in 2001-02. This situation is common to all provinces.

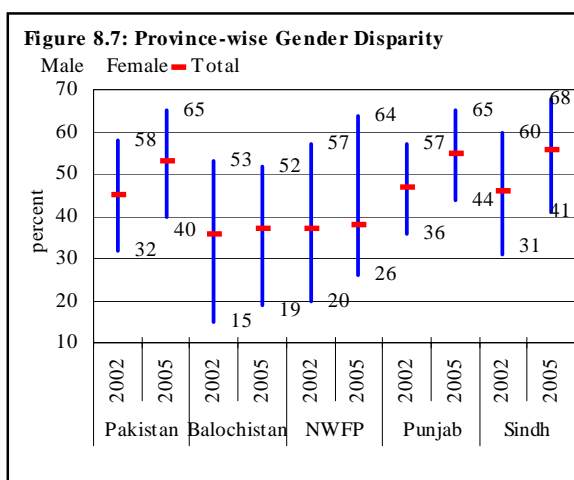
The gender disparity is more evident in rural region as the female literacy rate in the rural regions is quite low compared to the male literacy rate. However, it is encouraging that the gender gap is narrowing in all provinces except NWFP (see **Figure 8.7**). In case of Punjab and Sindh, the shrinking of gender gap can be linked to education sector reforms in the provinces as these reforms mainly focus on female literacy rate. The most surprising and encouraging element is the prominent decline in Baluchistan though overall literacy rate in case of the province has not shown much progress.<sup>16</sup>

A high dropout rate is another issue that reduces the impact of enormous efforts being put in as part of the education sector reforms.



**Table 8.8: Region wise Literacy Rate (percent)**

	FY02	FY05
<b>Pakistan</b>	45	53
Rural	36	44
Urban	64	71
<b>Baluchistan</b>	36	37
Rural	32	32
Urban	54	60
<b>NWFP</b>	38	45
Rural	35	41
Urban	56	61
<b>Punjab</b>	47	55
Rural	38	47
Urban	66	72
<b>Sindh</b>	46	56
Rural	33	38
Urban	64	72



<sup>15</sup>The thrust of these reforms is to achieve universal primary education and adult literacy by reducing the gender disparity and improving the quality of education (see **SBP's Second Quarterly Report for FY06**, for more details).

<sup>16</sup>Improvement of only 1 percentage point.

In FY06, 39 percent of students dropped out before completing their primary whereas another 20 percent left their education before completing their secondary level. Usually due to inadequate resources, children end up leaving their education, as parents are more inclined to have an extra helping hand contributing to the family income.

Dropout rates are generally higher for girls, probably because of the distance of schools and low priority generally given to educating girls. However this weakness is being targeted by new reforms in the education system that not only focus on the cost of education, but also on creating awareness among parents and providing incentives such as free of cost text books, and stipends for the students.

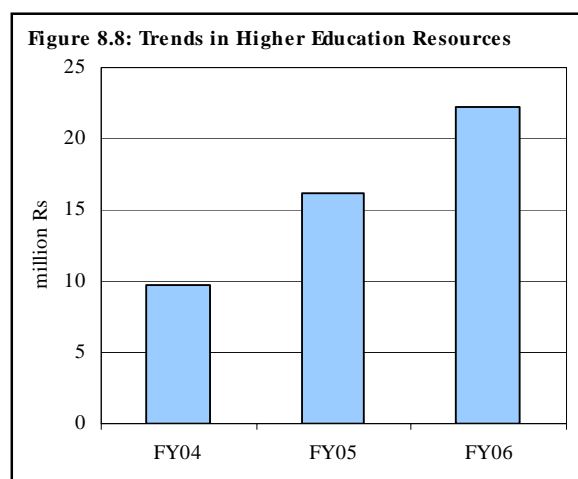
Admitting the importance of education for poverty reduction, education has got the highest share (39.7 percent) in pro-poor budget expenditure. Thus, there was a YoY increase of 26.2 percent in the country's overall education expenditure during FY06. Government spending on education now stands at around 3 percent of GDP as compared to 1.96 percent in 2001, which shows government's commitment to this sector. However given the importance of this sector, the increase is still insufficient to meet the rising demand.

Effective utilization of funds is another hurdle encountered by the education sector of Pakistan. Currently a major chunk of education budget is spent on staff salaries, leaving very little room for other expenses in the sector. However, realizing the significance of this sector, despite the lack of resources and other obstacles, both national and provincial governments have introduced various reforms (see **Box 8.1**).

Further, given the limited public resources, the government has been encouraging private sector participation. Although the private sector is playing its role in providing education, a large segment of the society cannot afford education through private institutions. Therefore to make public-private partnership effective, improving of governance and strengthening of the management is essential.

The status of higher education is also quite dismal. The enrollment rate is 2.9 percent which is one of the lowest in the world. However following the education reforms of 2003, focus on higher education has been increasing tremendously. This can be substantiated by the remarkable growth of 126 percent in resource allocation for higher (extra space) education (see **Figure 8.8**). Setting up of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) has been a strategic move by the government that has made a difference through its projects, and capacity building based measures.

However considering the overall education status of the country, an overwhelming allocation of funds (49 percent of total federal budget) from the education budget to HEC has created an imbalance with other sections of the



**Table 8.9: Pakistan Status-MDG-II**

Indicators	FY91	FY01	FY06	MTDF (2005-10)	MDG (2015)
Net primary enrolment ratio (percent)	46	42	52	77	100
Survival rate to grade 5 (percent)	50	68	80	80	100
Literacy rate (percent)	35	45	53	77	88
Male	48	58	65	85	89
Female	21	32	40	66	87

Source: Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2005 & Economic Survey 2005-06

education system that are receiving lesser funds. Government needs to ensure a balance budget at all levels of the education system.

In terms of MDG on education, while Pakistan has made considerable gains during the last five years, meeting the target will require increased focus on education (see **Table 8.9**).

**Box: 8.1 Government's Reforms in Education Sector**

**1) Reducing Inter Provincial and Gender Disparity:**

The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) has country wide established 6,602 literacy centers where 160,533 people have become literate. The non-formal basic education system introduced by the government through setting up of 7,749 centers has been able to enroll 356,977 students. In order to reduce gender gap, the government has decided to convert all primary schools to coeducation schools. Both national and provincial governments are introducing incentives for girls through monthly stipend and free text books.

**2) Restructuring Schools and Formal Education Centers:**

As part of the reforms, government has made katchi classes part of the primary education system. Through MTDf government has set a target of setting up 30,000 new primary schools. Free education up to matriculation is also part of the education reform agenda.

**3) Public Private Partnership:**

Since public spending is rather limited, private sector has a very important role in the education sector. As a result of government reforms and rising demand for education, private schools are expected to grow to 55,000 in 2009-10 from 42,000 in 2004-05. (Economic Survey 2005-6)

**4) Integration of the Education System:**

English language has been made compulsory from class 1 in all schools. Similarly other subjects like science and mathematics are to be taught in English. Provision of computer labs in all public schools is also part of these reforms. Major element of the integration efforts is the madrassah reforms. A madrassah education board has been set up to monitor and regulate the curriculum of madrassahs.

**5) Quality and Relevance:**

In order to develop competencies and skills of teachers, government has established Teaching Resource Centers (TRCs) at the district and tehsil levels. In MTDf, government has proposed to raise the minimum level of qualification for school teachers from matriculate to a graduate. National Education Assessment System (NEAS) has been set up to assess learning achievements of the students at primary and elementary levels. Academic audits are being linked with cash awards and incentives are being given for making quality up to the mark. The number of teachers is also being increased to meet the increasing demand in the schools. Relevance is being ensured through review of curriculum after every five years and streamlining the courses with the market demand.

**6) Education Management Information System:**

Existing education management information systems is being strengthened across the board with the help of UNESCO. A comprehensive program for a national census of all educational institutions has been developed with the help of a donor agency. National Education Management Information System (NEMIS) is being setup in the federal ministry of education to provide accurate and comprehensive data on regular basis. Control of educational services at school and college has been devolved to the district level.

**7) Higher and Technical Education:**

The establishment of Higher Education Commission (HEC) has led to over 347 developmental projects of which 123 have been successfully completed. These initiatives include scholarships for PhD and Masters Degrees locally and abroad, revamping of universities through capacity building and infrastructural developments, libraries and examination systems. One of the major projects of HEC include the recent agreement of establishing six new engineering universities and three technology universities in collaboration with Germany, Austria, France, The Netherlands, Korea, China, Sweden, Japan and Italy. These universities are going to be funded by the Government of Pakistan and jointly staffed and administered by the above countries. A new Federal Law University is also being established in Islamabad with campuses in each province. Through its Digital Library Program, HEC has provided universities and other local institutes with access to thousands of journals and libraries worldwide.

In order to create job opportunities for the youth, government has introduced technical education in 1,100 secondary schools. Courses will be supplemented by micro-credit provision and designed in consultation with the local industry and demand trends. During 2005-06, technical education stream has been introduced in 200 secondary schools.



## 8.6 Health

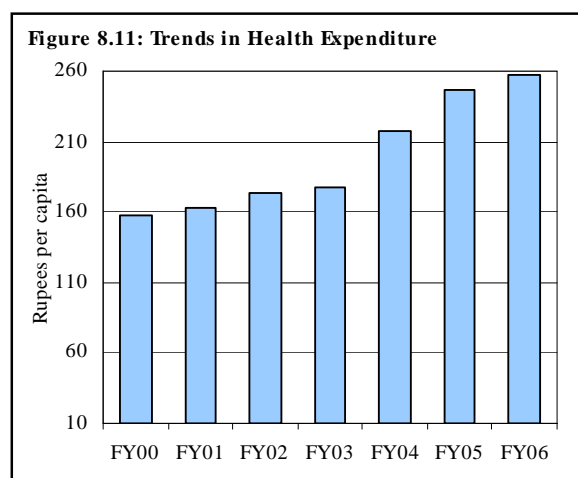
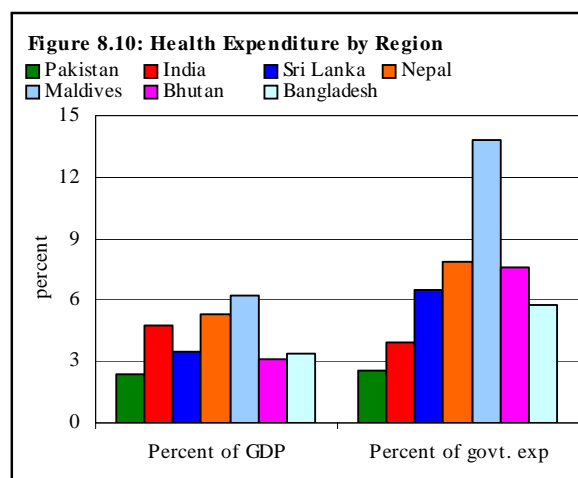
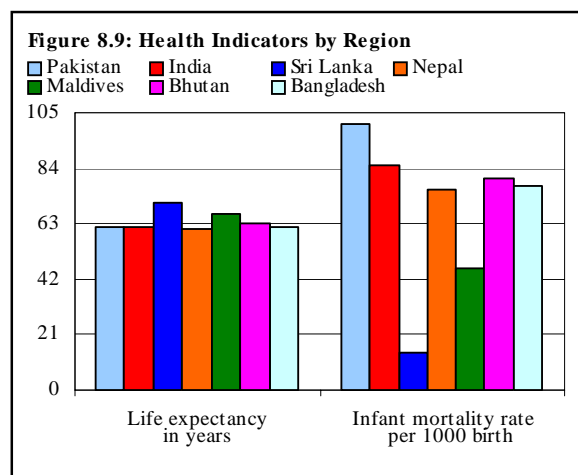
The MDGs also focused on health as a part of the areas where developing countries must show sustained commitment. A survey conducted on human development by the UNDP in 2003 concluded that those who were the poorest in Pakistan were also in extremely unhealthy state.

A regional comparison shows that Pakistan is lagging behind even in the basic health indicators (see **Figure 8.9**). Several reasons can be attributed to this dismal state such as high population growth with large dependency ratio and limited resources for the health sector.

Specifically Pakistan is the region's second most populated country after India and is the sixth largest country in the world in terms of population. Further, according to the World Health Report, Pakistan has a dependency ratio of 74, which is above the average dependency ratio of 67 percent for South Asia.<sup>17</sup>

The World Health Report notes that Pakistan has the lowest expenditures on health in South Asia, both as a percentage of GDP and as a percentage of total government expenditure (see **Figure 8.10**). Moreover, the per capita government expenditure on health for Pakistan is also the lowest in the region. Also most of the public expenditure delineated for curative health is consumed by payroll expenses.<sup>18</sup> On account of low public spending on health in Pakistan; private resources form the major share (72 percent) of the total expenditure on health.

It may however be noted that the per capita expenditure (see **Figure 8.11**) on health and the number of facilities and trained personal has been growing in the country (see **Table 8.10**). For example, there have been improvements in the coverage of antenatal care, immunization and vaccination for



<sup>17</sup> Such high dependency ratio suggests both lack of female authorization over decisions relating to family planning, as well as lack of awareness about the use of contraceptive techniques, especially in the rural areas.

<sup>18</sup> Source: Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2005 (henceforth PMDGR)

**Table 8.10: Health facilities**

Year	Registered Doctors	Registered Dentist	Registered Nurses	Registered Midwives	Registered Lady Health Visitors
2000	91,823	4,164	37,623	22,525	5,443
2001	96,248	4,611	40,019	22,711	5,669
2002	101,635	5,057	44,520	23,084	6,397
2003	108,062	5,530	46,331	23,318	6,599
2004	113,206	6,127	48,446	23,559	6,741
2005	118,160	6,761	33,427*	23,897	7,073

Source: Economic Survey 2005-06

\* Number of registered nurses as of February 2006. The actual number of nurses working is 27677

Source: Nursing Council of Pakistan

potential child-bearing women, number of lady health workers and percentage of deliveries attended by trained personnel.<sup>19</sup> However the impact of these successful interventions has been diluted by the fact that most of these are either limited to rural areas or that the incidence of the disease is still not controlled. In the case of the latter, it can be mentioned that despite the increase in health facilities and trained personnel, the incidence of diarrhea increased by 4 percent in 2005. According to 2004-05 figures<sup>20</sup> antenatal care has improved but is still heavily skewed in favor of urban areas (66 percent).

Healthy living conditions significantly increase the probability of greater life expectancy and thus an active, productive working life. The availability of water as well as proper sanitation is crucial in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, water availability in Pakistan is barely above scarcity level; in fact the proportion of people with access to clean drinking water supply has actually declined from 69 percent in 2001 to 66 percent in 2005.<sup>21</sup>

**Table 8.11: Percentage Distribution of Health Expenditure by Province under PRSP**

Province/region	Q3-FY05				Q3-FY 06			
	General hospitals & clinics	Mother & child	Health facilities & preventive measures	Other health facilities	General hospitals & clinics	Mother & child	Health facilities & preventive measures	Other health facilities
Federal	45.6	0	46.1	8.2	51.1	0	43.5	5.4
Punjab	85.8	0.5	1.1	12.6	84.2	0.5	0.7	14.6
Sindh	83.4	0	8.6	7.9	81.7	0	8.5	9.9
NWFP	79.8	0.4	5.1	14.7	79.8	0.5	4.6	15.1
Baluchistan	41.5	0.1	22.9	35.6	39.2	7.8	12.8	40.1
Pakistan	72.8	0.2	14.5	12.4	71.7	0.7	14.9	12.8

Source: PRSP

As part of the PRSP strategy for health (see **Table 8.11**), the government is now spending more on general hospitals, clinics, health facilities and preventive measures but is not doing enough to focus on mother and child care. This trend has continued in the provinces where the governments of NWFP and Baluchistan have taken the lead from Punjab and Sindh in spending on mother and child care in 2005-06. This pattern now needs to be replicated at the national level in order to make women in general, and mothers and children in becoming healthy citizens of the society.

<sup>19</sup> Percentage of population younger than two years that is fully immunized against six diseases has increased during the last five years; the rate of tetanus vaccination for 10 million potential child-bearing women in 61 highly infection-prone areas has led to an improvement; Lady Health Workers' coverage increased by 47% in 2005; percentage of deliveries attended by trained workers improved to 48% in 2004-05 (PMDGR 2005).

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

**Table 8.12 : Health & MDGs**

Goals	Units	Current status (2005-06)	MTDF	MDG 2015
Infant mortality rate	per 1000	77	65	40
Child mortality rate	per 1000	100***	77	52
<b>Immunization</b>		94%**		
Infants 12-23 months	percent	75***	90	>90
Measles coverage	percent	75***	90	>90
T.T. coverage of pregnant women	percent	65***	90	>90
<b>National Program for Primary Health Care and Family Planning</b>				
Lady Health Workers (LHWs)	numbers	82000 (95600)*	100,000	150,000
Coverage of target population	percent	80%	90	100
<b>Control of HIV/AIDS</b>				
HIV prevalence among pregnant women	percent	.1***	0.07	To be reduced by 50%
HIV prevalence among vulnerable group	percent	.03***	0.02	same as above
<b>T.B./Malaria Control Programme</b>				
Reduce incidence of T.B.	per 100,000	160***	130	45
TB related cases detected and cured under DOTS	percent	40***	80	85
Population in malaria high risk areas using effective prevention and treatment measures	percent	30***	50	75
Maternal mortality ratio	per 100,000	350-400	300	140
Trained personnel attending deliveries	percent	20***	40	>90
Pregnant women having at least 3 antenatal consultation	percent	35***	70	100

Source: MTFD(2005-10)

\*The figure given is for 2004-05 while the one in brackets is for 2005-06 but combines LHWs by National Program and Women Health Project.

\*\* This figure refers to the achievement of the Immunization Program during 2005-06,

\*\*\*The figures are for 2004-05.

The recent trends suggest that MDG targets relating to mortality rates for under-five children as well as for infants and immunization coverage would be achieved earlier than 2015 (see **Table 8.12**). Similarly MDG targets relating to antenatal care, trained birth attendants and fertility rate would be achieved for the period 2000-05, the MTFD and are all set to be met, including the target for fertility. However, Pakistan is lagging in the case of MDG targets for infant mortality rates and reducing diarrhea incidence will not be met within time. However achievement of the MDG target for reducing maternal mortality rate appears futile currently because much of the data relied upon for locating trends is faulty and thus unreliable.

### 8.7 Environment

A healthy and safe environment is a much cherished public good of every society as it enables people to lead healthy lives and thus contribute to productivity. The significance of environment was admitted explicitly and internationally at the UN Millennium Declaration 2000. MDG No.7 explicitly makes ensuring environmental sustainability one of the goals developing nations must achieve until 2015. Since then the efforts to provide safe and healthy environment have got special focus of the government. Pakistan has taken some steps towards addressing environmental issues more effectively, the most significant of which was the making of the National Environmental Policy in 2005. However despite this development, Pakistan's environmental indicators remain dismal.

According to the Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2005 (see **Table 8.13**), Pakistan's forest cover has not changed from 4.1 million hectares since 1990. Pakistan's forests also face the

**Table 8.13 : Environment Indicators and Targets**

Environmental indicators	Unit	FY05	Targets	
			MTDF FY10	MDG FY15
Forest cover as % of total land area	percent	4.9	5.2	6.0
Area protected for conservation of wildlife as % of total land area	percent	11.3	11.6	12
GDP per unit of energy	Mega Watt	27,000	27,600	28,000
Access to sanitation	percent	42	50	90
Access to clean water	percent	65	76	93
Clean drinking water for all	percent	10	100	100
Improvements of Katchi Abadis/Slums	percent	60	75	95

Source: MTDF 2005-10

threat of rapid deforestation and the main reason for this trend is the rise in demand of wood for fuel amongst poorer people and an intense commercial clearing of forests.

Air pollution has also worsened in Pakistan because of a sharp increase in vehicles since 1990.<sup>22</sup> However, this has now been matched by a rise in the number of vehicles consuming CNG, from 280,000 in 2001 to 700,000 by March 2005.<sup>23</sup> Efforts have also been made by the government to settle people living in slum areas and about 60 percent of them have been regularized.<sup>24</sup>

The root cause of environmental problems in Pakistan is a growing population, increasing rural-urban migration and a lack of awareness. These issues can only be resolved if the government prioritizes environment and increases its budgetary allocation<sup>25</sup> for the environment in the MTDF from the present minimal levels. A greater budgetary allocation along with the recently promulgated strategies of Clean Drinking Water for All, National Drinking Water and Sanitation Policy as well as promotion of CNG as vehicle fuel can put Pakistan on the path to environmental sustainability.

At present, meeting the goals of increased forest cover and energy savings per unit of consumption seem difficult in the medium term because of Pakistan's climate, rising population pressures and past negative trends. The MDG targets for clean potable water and sanitation (see **Table 8.13**) depend on the success of the government's plan to provide clean drinking water to all and at present seems a great challenge. However plans to regularize most slum areas in line with MDG targets is likely to be successful.

<sup>22</sup> PMDGR 2005

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> According to the PMDGR 2005, Rs.28.3 billion have been allocated by the government under the MTDF for the environment sector.

## Annexure

Table: Status Summary of Pakistan's Progress in Achieving MDGs

	Will target be reached?				State of supportive environments			
	Probably	Potentially	Unlikely	No data	Strong	Fair	Weak but improving	Weak
<b>Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b>								
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people below the poverty line		*			*			
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger		*			*			
<b>Universal primary education</b>								
Achieve universal primary education by 2015		*					*	
<b>Gender equality</b>								
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015			*				*	
<b>Reduce child mortality</b>								
Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate		*				*		
<b>Improve maternal mortality</b>								
Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio		*				*		
<b>Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>								
Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS				*			*	
Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	*					*		
<b>Ensure environmental sustainability</b>								
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programme and reverse the loss of environmental resources		*					*	
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water		*				*		
Have achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers		*					*	

Source: Pakistan Millennium Development Goals Report 2004