Human Security:
An Approach to
Achieving Agenda
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AN APPROACH TO ACHIEVING AGENDA 2030

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Abstract:

Humanity has constantly remained under variety of threats throughout the history of its evolution. Around 9 million people die from hunger every year. Hunger is a by-product of other insecurities, for instance food insecurity, economic insecurity and abject poverty. Every insecurity is a threat to the survival of humanity on this planet. If an individual is not safe and secure, the development initiatives and agendas might go in vain. This requires us to shift towards the idea of "Human Security" which places the individual as the main object of security. This conception of security takes us away from the traditional security paradigm and provides a programming framework that is people-centred. In this paper, a comprehensive analysis of the human security approach is discussed, with regards to its importance in achieving the Agenda 2030. The paper also touches upon the human security profile of Pakistan.

Keywords: Human Security, Traditional Security, Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction:

After the cold war ended the human security neologism emerged which shifted the idea of security from being state-centric to human-centric. The thought process behind the appearance of this concept was to shift the focus of security from territorial integrity to the threats faced by humanity. The reason being, that nuclear devastation or external aggression were no longer the threats faced by humanity. Rather the insecurities and threats that people had to encounter aroused from their daily life worries. Will I and my family have enough food to eat? Will I be tortured or killed in an ethnic conflict or street crime? Will I lose my job? Will I be able to overcome a natural calamity? Will I be a victim to violence because of my gender? All these questions haunt the lives of people and make them vulnerable to their surroundings, which ultimately leads to insecurities whether, food insecurity, economic insecurity, environmental or personal insecurity. Hence, it was necessary to make people feel safe and secure and divert the attention of security and development initiatives from being state-centred to people-centred. This idea was first coined in the Human Development Report, 1994 – where it was stated that there was a need of a profound transition in thinking – from nuclear security to state security[1]. Therefore, human security consists of three important freedoms that are needed to be protected; Fear, Want and Indignity. Which means that an individual must be protected from physical violence and harassment, must get equal job opportunities and educational facilities and lastly, have access to justice and equal rights. This broad concept of security requires that state and people be in dialogue and collectively work towards a community where every individual is safe in making choices regarding their daily life and are free from the three fears.

This paper looks into the human security profile of Pakistan while paying special attention to the importance of this concept and why was there a need of such security paradigm shift. It also explains the importance of human security with regards to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda, and

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[1] UNDP, ed., *Human Development Report 1994* (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1994).

how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) encompass every aspects of human security, making it a pre-requisite for achieving the entitled targets of SDGs.

Human Security Paradigm:

The human security rubric is a multi-faceted concept resulting from relative outlooks on insecurities. According to the United Nations, there are three major components of human security i.e., ***Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear and Freedom to Live in Dignity.*** The UN further classifies the threats to human security into seven elements, which are economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. The threat to human security is a universal concern, which includes both, the rich and the poor nations. Hence, human security is an integrative concept stressing that people should feel safe and they should be able to take care of themselves, this can only be achieved by revamping the protection and development strategies and building them on four principles: people-centred, comprehensive, context specific and prevention oriented[2].

According to the Commission on Human Security (CHS), human security is defined as "to protect vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfilment. Protecting fundamental human freedoms are the main essence of human security. This includes protection from life-threatening threats to threats to the threats that impede the fundamental freedoms a human must have to live a dignified life. The need is to create a system that is build upon the strengths and aspirations. Providing the ability to human to have freedom in all walks of life whether it is economic, political, personal, environmental, military and culture[3].

Arguably, there also exists a narrow conception of human security, presented by the Canadian government. This definition of Human Security restricts the threats to human security to 'violent threats to individuals' and deals with the human security in a pragmatic manner by pointing out the need for immediate intervention capabilities rather than long-term planning for sustainable and secure development[4]. According to the Human Security Centre, the primary focus of this definition is to protect the individuals and communities from violence.

The security paradigm shift from a state-centric approach to human-centric approach brings the notion of an individual free from threats and empowers every human being to be able to make choices without any fear. It helps in strengthening state security, observe human development and provide just human rights[5]. Hence, for peace to reside in the world and conflicts to be negotiated, the core of development fundamentals is needed to be addressed and that is 'individual'.

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[2] "What-Is-Human-Security.Pdf,", https://www.un.org/humansecurity/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/What-is-Human-Security.pdf.

[3] "Human Security in Theory and Practice English," accessed May 21, 2020, https://www.unocha.org/sites/dms/HSU/Publications%20and%20Products/Human%20Security%20Tools/Human%20Security%20in%20Theory%20and%20Practice%20English.pdf.

[4] P H Liotta and Taylor Owen, "Why Human Security?" 2006, 18.

[5] Commission on Human Security, ed., *Human Security Now: Protecting and Empowering People* (New York, 2003).

Why is Human Security Important?

Human Security; Origin and Importance:

The concept of human security was first coined in the 1994 Human Development report, "New Dimensions of Human Security". This concept emerged in the post-Cold War era, shifting the security paradigm from state-centred security to individual security and investing in human development rather than arms. After the dark shadows of the cold war receded, it was noted that many conflicts were within nations than among nations[6]. For most of the people, insecurity was more of a threat to disease, hunger, unemployment, environmental shocks and ethnic violence, rather than external aggression or global holocaust. Hence, the concept of human security emerged which shifted the thought process from nuclear security to human security. As of now, human security has become a concept of growing importance because of its people- centred approach. According to the Human Development Report 1994, "The world will never be secure from war if men and women have no security in their homes and in their jobs". People need to feel safe and secure in making any choices which does not necessarily mean enhancing the number of choices people have but ensuring that people are safe and secure while utilizing the opportunities and choices they make. Unless people do not feel safe while making decisions, widening their range of choices, which is categorized as human development, will go in vain.

Human Security in context to SDGs:

Human security addresses the root causes of abject poverty, hunger, violence and other inequalities that lead to social exclusion. As the former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, puts it, human security is not only about the absence of violent conflict, rather it encompasses human rights, access to education and health, freedom from want freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment[7]. This concept complements the idea put forward in the Agenda 2030, which is people centred, with a comprehensive approach to work towards a resilient society where no one is left behind. The sustainable development goals encompass poverty, hunger, health and education, clean water and sanitation, climate change, inequality, women empowerment and economic growth etc. which are imperative to human security. Hence, the human security approach can support the United Nations system to facilitate the integrated actions to achieve the SDGs in a more people-centred, comprehensive, sustainable and inclusive manner[8].

Traditional VS Human Security:

Traditional security, also known as the state-centric or national security is the "ability of the state to ensure the protection of it's independence, sovereignty, integrity, ensuring its sectorial essential needs, interests and core values against internal and external threats"[9]. With the rise of nation-

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[6] UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*.

[7] "LSE-IDEAS-Human-Security-Background.Pdf," http://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/Assets/Documents/project-docs/LSE-IDEAS-Human-Security-Background.pdf.

[8] "Human-Security-and-the-SDGs.Pdf,", https://www.un.org/humansecurity/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Human-Security-and-the-SDGs.pdf.

[9] Ladislav Hofreiter, "About Security in Contemporary World," *Securitologia* 21 (December 1, 2015): 7–17, https://doi.org/10.5604/18984509.1184208.

states after the Peace of Westphalia in 1684, state security emerged as an important concept in order to protect those nation-states from external threats for instance wars and attacks. Primarily, securing the state from any kind of external aggression and ensuring security of national interests reflected in foreign policy is categorized as traditional security where means like armament, nuclear weapons, military budgets and alliances are used to prevent threats to the state's integrity and sovereignty. However, on the other hand human security goes beyond state borders and focuses on individual security. The object of security becomes an 'individual' rather than the state. Therefore, the two notions of security, only differ in their 'objects to be secured'. The traditional security puts 'state' as the main object that is needed to be protected, whereas the human security places 'individuals' as the entity that requires security and protection.

FEATURES	TRADITIONAL SECURITY	HUMAN SECURITY
Centre of Security	State	Human
Aspects to be secured	State borders, Political Sovereignty, Territorial Integrity.	Economic Security, Food, Health, Environmental, Personal, Community and Political Security.
Proposed Threats	Civil War, Nuclear Attacks, Genocide, Inter-state Conflicts, External Aggression.	Hunger, Natural Disasters, Unemployment, Diseases, Crime, Social Conflicts and Violence.
Means of Protection	Arms, Military Alliances, Defence Budget.	Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, and Freedom to Live in Dignity.

Source: Author's Compilation

Human Security Profile in Pakistan:

Political instability in Pakistan -ever since its inception has led to elusive governance patterns, resulting in corruption, mal-governance, violence and crime. All of this has taken a toll on human security and the government has a myopic attitude towards the security of individuals. Pakistan is ranked as the 25th most fragile state out of 178 countries in 2020[10], with a score as low as 92.1 out of 120. This puts Pakistan among the countries on 'Alert'. According to the 2019 report of Global Peace Index, Pakistan is amongst one of the least peaceful countries, ranked at 153 out of 163 countries, and beats only Afghanistan when compared to its regional countries[11] .

When taking into consideration the seven dimensions of human security by the United Nations, the stats present a gloomy picture.

Economic Security:

Being economically secured means the assurance of having a basic income along with job security. Pakistan's population comprises of a huge youth bulge, but the job market seems to be incapable

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[10] "Country Dashboard | Fragile States Index,", https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/.
[11] "GPI-2019-Web003.Pdf," accessed May 28, 2020, http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/06/GPI-2019-web003.pdf.

of efficiently utilizing the great human resource as a result of which the highest unemployment is recorded to be between the age bracket of 20-24 years that is 15%. The unemployment rate of Pakistan according to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2018-19 is 5.79. Out of the total labor force, 3.79 million are unemployed[12], with a gradual decrease in female participation from 15.8% in 2014-15 to 14.5% in 2017-18. The Gender Gap is at it is highest, only 6% of the firms have women as top managers while 94% of the firms have male top managers. Hostile workplace environment and income inequality is leading to lower participation by women in the workforce.

Food security:

Food insecurity and hunger are one of the major threats to human security, the lack of which undermines a person's dignity and well-being. The United Nations defined food security as people always having both physical and economic access to food. Hunger does not prevail because there is no food but because it cannot be afforded by the ones in need[13]. Pakistan's Economic Survey of 2018-19 states that the annual produce meets the domestic dietary needs of the population, but still 38% children are stunted, out of which 17% are severely stunted, 7% and 3% are wasted and overweight, respectively. Only 13% of the children between 6-23 months receive Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD)[14] which is necessary in order to ensure appropriate growth and development.

Health Security:

Pakistan is amongst one of the three countries where polio remains an endemic. A huge chunk of the health budget, around PKR 46.8 billion[15] is still directed towards polio eradicating activities. Whereas the total health budget accounts for less than 1% of the GDP, which imposes one of the key structural challenges. The indicators of childhood mortality have decreased over the past ten years. Infant mortality has declined by 28% and neo-natal mortality has declined by 14% up till 2017-18[16]. However, the under-5 Mortality Rate is still the highest in the region i.e., 74.1 (per 1,000). In 2019, Pakistan was ranked at 4/9 regionally and 105 out of 195 countries in the Global Health Security Index.

Environmental Security:

Environmental shocks directly effect the most vulnerable segments of the society. Natural calamites like droughts and floods have intensified over the period because of many anthropogenic reasons including de-forestation and global warming. The exponential population growth has led to land shortages, moving people to areas more prone to natural disasters. Pakistan is amongst one of the top ten countries that this affected by climate change, with a Long-term Climate Risk Index score of 30.17[17] . Pakistan's exposure to disaster risk during 2019 was recorded to be 12.53 (Maximum Value= 100), whereas the vulnerability to risks is 56.52. The lack of Pakistan's coping capacity is very high i.e., 84.85 which ultimately leads to higher negative impacts by any natural disaster.

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[12] "12-Population.Pdf," http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_19/12-Population.pdf.

[13] UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*.

[14] Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18, https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR354/FR354.pdf.

[15] "11-Health and Nutrition.Pdf," accessed June 2, 2020, http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_19/11-Health%20and%20Nutrition.pdf.

[16] "FR354.Pdf," accessed May 29, 2020, https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR354/FR354.pdf.

[17] David Eckstein et al., *Global Climate Risk Index 2019 Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Events? Weather-Related Loss Events in 2017 and 1998 to 2017*, 2018.

Personal Security:

Personal security refers to security of people from physical violence. Unfortunately, in poor states, people are more likely to be physically assaulted. This assault can take various forms, for instance, threat from state, gangs and other ethnic groups of people, threats directed towards women and children and lastly threat to self. Pakistan is ranked at 63 out of 129 countries, scoring 44.08 on crime index and 55.92 on safety index[18]. The total crimes recorded in 2019 were 786339, which is the highest when compared to the previous two years[19]. 2846 cases of child sexual abuse and abduction have been reported in 2019[20]. Around 93% of the women experience some form of sexual violence in public. Only 10% of the cases are reported[21] whereas the rest still suffer in silence. According to CEDAW, women's representation in political and public life is low. Only 17% of the seats in National and Provincial assemblies are for women, which is far less than international standards where women representation should be at least 33%[22].

Community Security:

Throughout the world many people have certain affiliations towards a community based on the same set of morals and values, religious or ethnic associations they share among themselves. Community security promotes the security of all the ethnic, racial and religious groups so that every individual from any background enjoys equal opportunities without any violence or conflicts. Ethnic tension arises because of limited access to opportunities - whether to social services from the state or to jobs from the market[23]. Similarly, Un-equal distribution of resources, unstable politics, human rights violation, lack of education and terrorism are some of major causes of ethnic un-rest in Baluchistan. The Baloch insurgency has led to extremist's movement and separatist parties like Baloch Republican Army. This leads to unrest not only in specified areas but thought-out the country.

Political Security:

Political security is one of the most important dimensions of human security because every individual has an endowed right of living under a government or authority that does not repress their human rights. According to the first human development report on Human Security 1994, political insecurity arises when the budget directed towards a state's military exceeds the budget allocated to health and education. This shows a greater concern of the government to enhance military establishment rather than people's welfare. In case of Pakistan, the Defence Affairs and Services budget accounts for PKR 1,152,535 million, which is far greater than the budget allocated for Education and Health Affairs and Services i.e., PKR 77,262 million and PKR 11,058 million respectively[24].

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[18] "Crime Index by Country 2020," https://www.numbeo.com/crime/rankings_by_country.jsp.

[19] "Crimes_Reported_By_Type_Provinces_21052020.Pdf,"

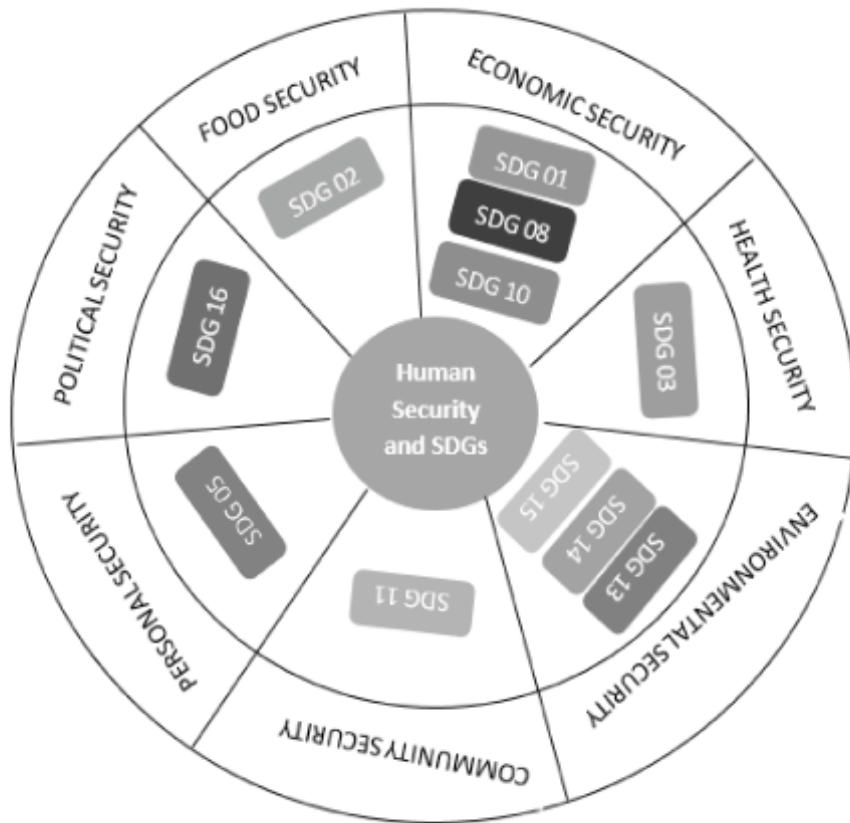[20] "Cruel-Numbers-2019-Final.Pdf," http://sahil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cruel-Numbers-2019-final.pdf.

[21] Tribune.com.pk, "'93% of Pakistani Women Experience Sexual Violence,'" The Express Tribune, March 8, 2017, https://tribune.com.pk/story/1348833/93-pakistani-women-experience-sexual-violence/.

[22] "Pakistan Cedaw Co. Pdf,", https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/vaw/country%20report/asia/pakistan/pakistan%20cedaw%20co.pdf?vs=312.

[23] UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*.

[24] "Budget_in_Brief_2019_20. Pdf," http://www.finance.gov.pk/budget/Budget_in_Brief_2019_20.pdf.

Source: Author's Compilation

Human Security: A Precursor to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Agenda 2030 is comprised of seventeen goals for sustainable development which are built on the notion of leaving no one behind. These goals work towards making an inclusive society where there is no poverty, zero hunger, better health and quality education, safe drinking water, decent employment and environment-friendly sustainable practices of production and consumption. The SDGs go hand in hand with the human security paradigm. No Poverty (SDG01), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG08) and Reduced Inequalities (SDG10) provide economic security to individuals by promoting inclusive growth, eliminating income inequality and ensuring that by 2030, no one lives in extreme poverty. Zero Hunger (SDG02) promotes food security and improved nutrition by eliminating hunger in the world by 2030. Good Health and Well-being (SDG03) focuses to lower the maternal, under-five and neo-natal mortality ratios and end the epidemics of AIDS, malaria and water-borne diseases etc., hence SDG03 provides health security to individuals. Climate Action (SDG13), Life below Water (SDG14) and Life on Land (SDG15) all three promote environmental security by taking actions towards reducing the impacts of climate change and sustainably using the marine and land resources without damaging the ecosystems. As women and children are the most vulnerable to being insecure, the SDG05 – Gender Equality promotes equality amongst the two genders while eliminating all sorts of violence against women and protecting the rights of children. Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG11) promotes safe and resilient communities that safeguard the national heritage and culture by providing a safe

living space for people from all cultures and ethnicities. This provides community security which is an important dimension of human security. Lastly, the SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong institutions provides political security to individuals by working towards a just society with accountable institutions. As Amina Mohammed, a UN Deputy Secretary-General puts it, human security serves as unifying tool to reach the promises of the 2030 Agenda and is in line with the UN reforms currently being implemented[25].

Adopting Human Security Approach to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals:

People throughout the world face varying forms of insecurities. The overlapping of these insecurities leads to a collective threat to human security, which can impoverish health and food availability, destroy communities and make people vulnerable. Addressing these issues is an essential pillar of 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The human security approach acts as a tool which enables us to overcome these insecurities in an integrated manner and work towards a more sustainable, just and resilient society. Peter Thompson, the General Assembly President of UN, stated, "human security provides us with a focussed, analytical lens and programming framework to aid the actions we are taking towards achieving the SDGs.[26]" The multi-faceted concept of human security ultimately leads us to a society where people feel secured and this security is an outcome of the SDGs, which aims at creating such social, economic and environmental changes where humanity flourishes without being insecure.

Human security approach helps to analyze the deep-rooted insecurities in the society that makes people vulnerable and directs the attention to those people who are at a greater risk of being left behind. The goal of the SDGs is "Leaving no one behind", hence the human security approach paves a path towards the susceptible segments of the society and the SDGs - while targeting those segments, brings about development initiatives that reduce the threats to humanity by achieving the seventeen goals.

Hence, the adoption of the human security approach can significantly enhance the strategies entitled in the SDGs framework and help combat the root causes of all threats to humanity and achieve the 2030 Agenda side by side.

Conclusion:

A paradigm shift from tradition concept of security to human security is essential in order to eliminate the threats faced by humanity. People are more prone to die because of hunger, mal-nourishment, disease, unemployment, natural calamities and ethnic genocide rather than from the fear of being a subject to nuclear war. The threats to humanity are integrated, one insecurity might lead to another, unemployment can lead to income insecurity and abject poverty can lead to food insecurity. These insecurities collectively become the reason for crime, violence and conflicts.

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[25] IISD's SDG Knowledge Hub, "Officials Stress Relevance of Human Security in SDG Era | News | SDG Knowledge Hub | IISD," https://sdg.iisd.org:443/news/officials-stress-relevance-of-human-security-in-sdg-era/.
[26] "Human Security Approach 'Central' to Achieving Sustainable Development – UN Officials," UN News, July 7, 2017, https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/07/561142-human-security-approach-central-achieving-sustainable-development-un-officials.

Hence, an integrated approach is required to deal with the problems associated to social exclusion. The human security approach, in this view provides an analytical lens and an integrated framework which is people –centred, comprehensive, prevention oriented and context specific. This fosters the actions and strategies taken to achieve the SDGs. The SDGs in turn target the vulnerable segments that are a part of social exclusion and devise development initiatives which leaves no one behind. As in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) it was evident that the development progress was the slowest in conflict-affected countries[27]. This inculcates the importance of incorporating the human security approach in the SDGs so that these gaols are met by 2030.

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[27] "Human-Security-and-the-SDGs.Pdf,", https://www.un.org/humansecurity/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Human-Security-and-the-SDGs.pdf.