

# ABSTRACT

Pakistan is a country with 137 million people and with a 2.2% population growth rate. 37% of its population lives below the poverty line and at least thirty to fifty million people suffer from food deficiency and lack of access to a minimum income to satisfy their basic needs. 62 % of adults can not read or write; 76 % of women are illiterate; 38 % of children are out of schools. 62 % of the population in Pakistan do not have access to piped drinking water. 84 % population is living without sewage facilities. Only 25% rural population has an access to sanitation facilities. 46% of the people in Pakistan are dependent, (42% children age 0-14, and 4% above the age of 65).

Poverty is not declining but growing day by day. It is not merely a statistical jugglery rather an environment where it is not easy to escape. Its human dimension is miserable. It is as if parents have to decide either to buy the medicines for the sick child or to buy food for the others. It is a state of affair where the mother throws her children in the river and then commits suicide.

Different phases of Pakistani history are discussed in the thesis to extract some lessons from the past and to develop future strategy in order to alleviate poverty. A new model named 'Troika Model' has been developed in the thesis to get rid of poverty. This model revolves round three variables i.e., economic, health and facility related variables. It is urged that it is the time to shift the model of development from the traditional economic growth to human development. The strategies and policies should not be divorced from the internal realities of Pakistan and international milieu.