

National Seminar on Water for Human Development

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
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Presentation on 'Water for People's Well-being'
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MAHBUB UL HAQ
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

About the Mahbub ul Haq Centre

- * Foundation for Human Development in Pakistan
- * Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre
- * Set up in November 1995, Islamabad
- * The late Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, founder and chief architect of UNDP Human Development Reports

Work of the Mahbub ul Haq Centre

- * Special focus on South Asia
- * Policy research institute and think tank
- * Promotion of the human development paradigm
- * Powerful tool for informing people-centred development policy
- * Professional research, policy studies and seminars
 - * On issues of economic and social development
 - * As they affect people's well-being

Why was the Mahbub ul Haq Centre set up?

- * Shared histories of the people in this region
- * Shared destinies
- * Need for cooperation among the countries of the region
- * Comparative analysis of the region with the outside world
- * Annual Report – Human Development in South Asia

Continuing Dr. Haq's Legacy

- * Analyzing the process of human development
- * People at the centre of economic, political and social policies
- * Regional focus on South Asia
- * Yardstick for progress and setbacks of South Asia vis-à-vis the rest of the world

Current activities of the Centre

- * Preparation of annual reports – Human Development in South Asia
- * Publication of a collection of unpublished papers of Dr. Haq
- * Policy papers
- * Seminars and conferences on global and regional human development issues

List of Human Development Reports produced by the Centre

- * 1997 The Challenge of Human Development
- * 1998 The Education Challenge
- * 1999 The Crisis of Governance
- * 2000 The Gender Question
- * 2001 Globalization and Human Development
- * 2002 Agriculture and Rural Development

List of Human Development Reports produced by the Centre

- * 2003 The Employment Challenge
- * 2004 The Health Challenge
- * 2005 Human Security in South Asia
- * 2006 Poverty in South Asia: Challenges and Responses
- * 2007 A Ten-year Review

List of Human Development Reports produced by the Centre

- * 2008 Technology and Human Development in South Asia
- * 2009 Trade and Human Development
- * 2010/11 Food Security in South Asia
- * 2012 Governance for People's Empowerment
- * 2013 Water for Human Development

Where to find the South Asia Human Development Reports

- * To download a soft copy, visit the 'Annual Reports' section of www.mhhdc.org
- * For a hard copy, fill in the order form, available under the 'Annual Reports' section of www.mhhdc.org

Water for People's Well-Being

- * Water has not been at the top of the policy agenda
- * Millennium Development Goals
- * South Asian countries committed to halve by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as compared to 1990 levels

Global Progress on the MDGs

- * The world has met the target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water in the year 2010
- * The proportion of people using an improved water source has increased from 76 per cent in 1990 to 89 per cent in 2010
- * Between 1990 and 2010, more than two billion people gained access to improved drinking water sources, in the form of piped supplies and protected wells

Global Progress on the MDGs

- * China and India alone recorded nearly half of the world's progress, with increases of 457 million and 522 million gaining access respectively
- * This accounts for about 46 per cent of the world's population. However, rural areas are still behind cities in terms of access to water

Water as a human right

- * In 2002, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted a General Comment which stated that,
- * “The human right to water entitles everyone to **sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable** water for personal and domestic use”
- * Thereby establishing a **non-legally binding** normative framework for the “progressive realization” of the human right to water and sanitation
- * Deeming water a human right has some clear reasoning

Water as a human right

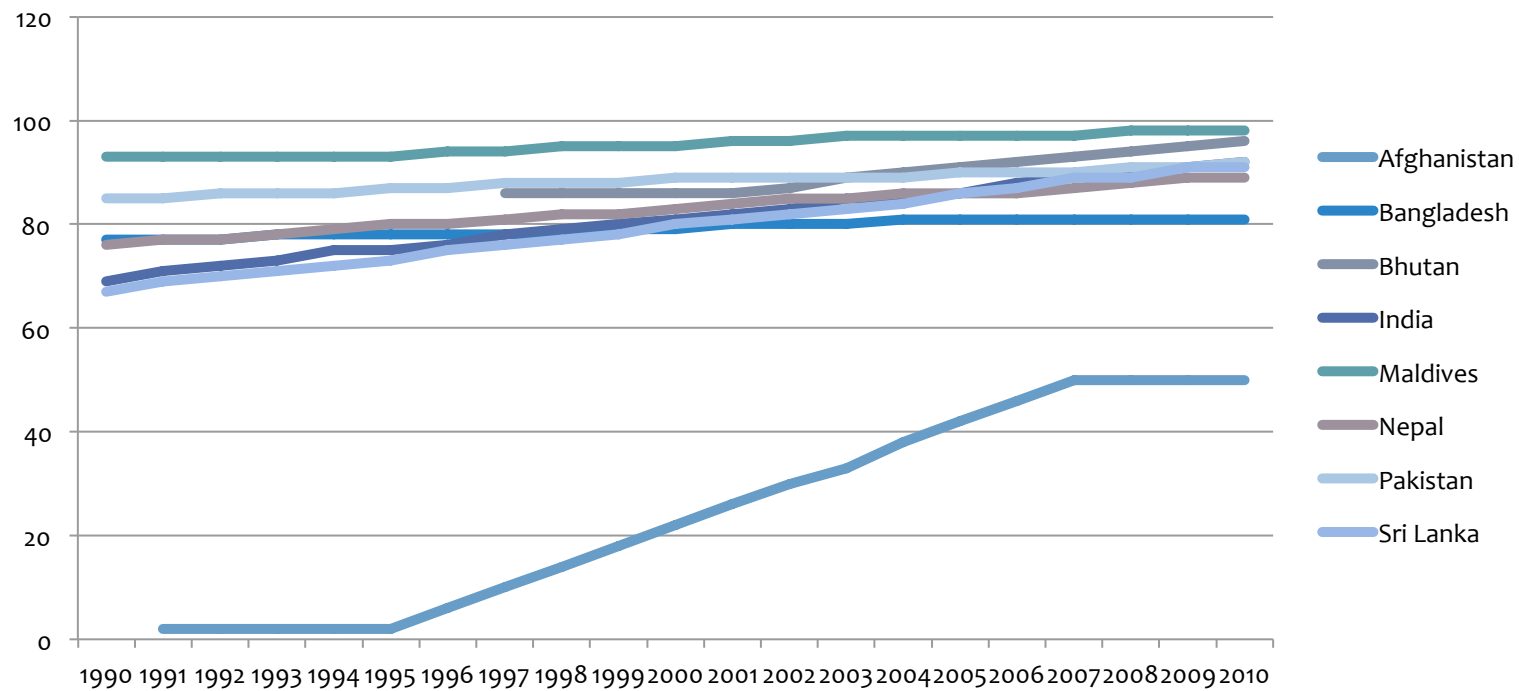
- * It is a part of achieving wider human development goals
- * The human right to water and sanitation is a responsibility,
 - * both from a moral and an economic standpoint
 - * The moral dimension is rather clear
 - * The economic dimension is also intuitive

Findings of SAHDR 2013

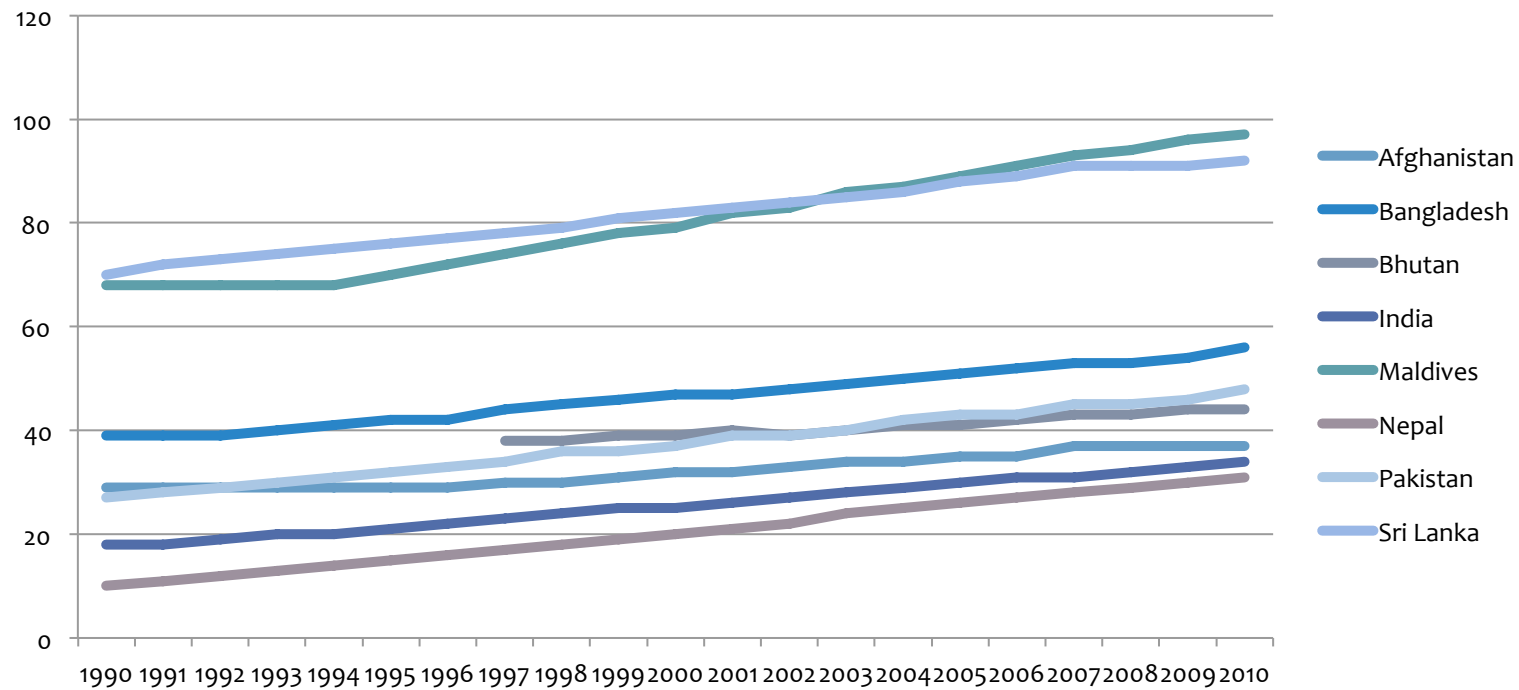
Water for Human Development

- * The poor quality of water and sanitation coverage in South Asia has compromised people's well-being
- * Growing divide between access to water and access to sanitation
- * Major infrastructural gaps
- * Negative health consequences
- * Increasing gender disparities
- * Policy inaction

Proportion of the population using improved drinking water sources



Proportion of the population using improved sanitation facilities



Status of water and sanitation in South Asia

- * 1.5 billion people have access to improved water sources
- * 1 billion people still suffer due to inadequate sanitation
- * Ignoring the critical link between the two has proved to be detrimental for the people of South Asia
- * The brunt of the growing divide between water and sanitation has been borne disproportionately by the poor

Water and sanitation in Pakistan

- * For Pakistan, denying access to water and sanitation is one of the worst forms of human deprivation
- * Out of a population of nearly 180 million people, 91 percent use improved drinking water sources, but only 47 percent use improved sanitation facilities

Pakistan and the MDGs

- * MDG target for 2015
- * In less than two years, Pakistan has to provide more than 76 million people with access to improved sanitation facilities
- * The water target under the MDGs may be met by 2015
- * However, there are several issues with measuring coverage - *access, quantity, quality, affordability and reliability*

Questions to consider

- * How strong is the human rights imperative in Pakistan?
- * How strictly does the country tie human health, human dignity and a better quality of life to improved water and sanitation?
- * How does Pakistan intend to correct the inequitable distribution of water and sanitation facilities?
- * What measures have water supply and sanitation agencies taken to reduce the financing gap, to improve governance structures and increase institutional capacity to deliver water and sanitation services to all?

Water and sanitation policies in Pakistan

- * National Drinking Water Policy
- * National Sanitation Policy
- * Roadmap for 2025 – the year when universal access for water and sanitation is to be met in Pakistan

Policy priorities

- * Increased awareness among people and policymakers about
 - * The nature and intensity of the water and sanitation crisis
 - * The incidence of preventable diseases and deaths related to contaminated water and poor hygiene practices that can be avoided
 - * The magnitude of losses that are affecting Pakistan's economy and society.
 - * A policy turnaround is required at this critical juncture, especially because growing concerns over **water scarcity** will further complicate the country's ability to provide universal access to safe water and sanitation

Thank you!

