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## Local Perception of Social Change and Development: A Study of Village Thand Koi District Swabi

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### Abstract:

*In spite of these homogenizing impacts, some individuals would contend that globalization can likewise strengthen nearby societies. Numerous observers have conjectured that the homogenizing impact of globalization on national societies actually has a tendency to produce a response among indigenous people groups, which holds those whose societies are undermined to need to reaffirm their own nearby customs. Keeping these things in view, the present research was conducted in Swabi District. This research is about the development and the social change, brought about by the term 'globalization', in a village. An attempt has been made to put the viewpoint of the local people about the development and how they perceive different aspects of development and what brought development in this village. The data presented in this article were collected by using qualitative anthropological techniques.*

**Key words:** Development, Social change, Modernization, Pashtun, Globalization, Swabi.

## **Introduction**

Before going further it will be appropriate to mention what development is. There are many definitions of development, but here I will quote one of them that I like more. According to this definition; 'Any positive change in the lives of the people is called development'. In *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective* McMichael (2011) says, this account of development focuses on social and political transformations, and the various ways in which development is realized through social spatial inequalities. It also considers these processes from the perspective of social movements and how their resistances problematize the dominant vision of economist as a form of rule and as an increasingly evident threat to ecological stability.

The development path does not necessarily follow a single pattern. The specific forms of institutions which emerge, and the relations between socio-demographic characteristics and modernization, will not be the same for different societies. For example, in the western societies, as mentioned, modernization was accompanied by expansion of the components of social mobilization (e.g., higher literacy, education, urbanization) and growth of specialized and separate spheres (political, economic, cultural). However, in the modernization process of more recent cases, including Latin American or Asian countries, beyond a certain point, there was a negative correlation between some socio-demographic factors (e.g., literacy and urbanization) and institutional capacity for sustained growth. Also, the kind of structural differentiation and separate and specialized development of institutionalized spheres which occurred in the west was not duplicated in other modernizing countries. For example, Russia developed a more centralized and merged system which included both the political and economic systems. Also, other differences may occur. For example, Japan incorporated much more of its traditional sphere into its modern framework than did western

nations, and also developmental orientations toward particularistic units (e.g., schools, companies), rather than an emphasis on universalistic and achievement criteria in all institutional spheres, as occurred in the west.

From this definition, it is clear that when development occurs, it brings two major things, one is economic development and the other is social change. So I will highlight these two aspects of development in detail. The objectives of my research were to know the idea of the local people about development in different aspects of life and to document the events that brought social change in the village. Before these development projects that I have mentioned above, this district was not strategically important, but due to these projects its significance has increased. Due to these projects the villages here have developed economically and many changes have occurred in it.

## **Locale**

Swabi is situated in NWFP, and is surrounded by district Nowshera, Mardan, Buner and Haripur. It is located at 34.7° N and 72.28° E. District Swabi is geographically very important. On the eastern side it is touched by Tarbela Dam while on the southeastern side, it is separated by the river Indus from the Punjab. District Swabi is composed of three tehsils which are: Swabi, Lahore and Topi. There are 56 Union Councils in this district. It has two National Assembly constituencies and six Provincial Assembly constituencies. Moreover, the most famous Tarbela Dam is also in Swabi (near Topi town) and GIK (Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology) which is also located in Swabi District. Swabi is an agricultural area, with the main crops of Tobacco, wheat, sugarcane, and corn. Farming is one of the living sources of the people in Swabi. Swabi produces finest Tobacco of Pakistan. Aloof from the local manufacturing/producing units, e.g.,

Sarhad Cigarette Industries (Pvt). Limited, Pakistan Tobacco & Lakson Tobacco has established so many warehouses and processing units resulting jobs for the locals, the district also produces one of the finest marbles of the country. However, many people are living abroad in Europe, USA and Gulf countries, providing support to their families. The youth of the district is mostly interested in joining the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Air Force.

## **Research Methodology**

By 'research methodology', we mean the philosophy of the research process. This includes the assumptions and values that serve as a rationale for research, and the standards or criteria the research uses for collecting and then interpreting data and reaching conclusions. Whereas, by 'method' we simply mean the techniques or tools used to gather data. Methodology for the collection of empirical data for the current research was based upon qualitative anthropological research methods, which include socioeconomic survey, participant observation, and key informant interviews, case studies, and focus group discussions. I chose one key informant from the village on the basis of the personal judgment, taking into account his familiarity with most of the inhabitants of the village as well as the socioeconomic conditions of the area. Participant observation was used in order to get first-hand and accurate information about the village. In-depth interviews were conducted from the people of the village in order to get detailed information with the help of interview guide and each interview was of maximum 15 to 20 minutes. Structured interviews were used to collect information from the working population to test their views and opinions about development. Case studies were conducted to secure more detail.

There are four colleges, one commerce college and one polytechnic college in the district serving the people. The main towns of the district are Kalu Khan, Shewa Adda, Turlandi, Karnal Sher Khan Killi, Topi, Dagi, Maneri, Saleem Khan, Zaida, Gohati, Shewa, Turkey, Yar Hussain, Marghuz, Chota Lahore and Toor Dher. There are a lot of NGO's and other local organizations struggling for the welfare of the community.

## **Results and Discussion**

Development as perfect and practice has dependably incorporated a force power statement: to enhance the part of humanity, and to represent in the name of improving a country, its institutions, its assets, innovation, material, riches, singular chance, etc.. All things considered, development additionally carries imbalance. Fortune for some, for instance, might rely on upon low-paid work for others, while the resplendent tenet is that the individuals who have the gold make the standards, now and again the subjects of guideline (colonials, slaves, nationals, laborers, peasants, indigenous people, minorities) practice power themselves to challenge the rulers and even the rulers. Development is regularly challenged; actually when its persisting rule of human liberation is bundled in alluring speaks to self-premium - an emblem of the neo-liberal time and its attention to business sector rewards.

As a general standard, the thought of advancement ventures a solitary vision onto a different planet, requesting it on a level plane (some are more improved than others and vertically some are more equivalent than others in setting the terms of reference). It continually entices to compare the advancement vision with the objective of fairness, in "one planet". Yet this raises the inquiry of equity with what, or whom? For those to whom this objective is tended to, equity might well mean having the right to their own particular

elucidation of their condition, and in addition security and assets.

The process of social, political and economic change is very complex. Change may involve many different factors, and multiple processes operating concurrently. First, many coincidental, unique or random factors influence the change process. For example, geography can have an impact on whether a civilization develops one great center versus many smaller independent centers. Similarly, the presence or absence of specific people may be one major determinant of the path a society takes. Consequently, the specific forms that a society takes, and the particular paths, for example, of development, taken by different societies will not be the same among different societies. On the other hand, there are systematic or common processes which affect all societies. For example, successful development generally requires a basic degree of social mobilization, structural differentiation, development of free resources, specialization and diversity of social organization, and a stable and flexible governmental system. Social, political and financial change can best be comprehended by consolidating methodical with additional interesting, arbitrary or unintentional components.

### **Local Understanding of Development**

Each and every respondent has his own understanding and viewpoint about the concept of development. Technology can be a coincidental factor or part of a systematic process. The majority of the respondents looked development in terms of infrastructure and new technology 'the strength of development discourse comes of its power to seduce, in every sense of the term: to charm, to please, to fascinate, to set dreaming, but also to abuse, to turn away from the truth, to deceive'(Rist, 2002). Also, there was an emphasis on the role of education in the process of development. 'How could one possibly resist the idea

that there is a way of eliminating the poverty by one which is so troubled?"(Rist.2002). Referring to the development projects launched by the government, local people said that the government, whenever, wanted to start a development project like school or hospitals and wanted to buy a land for such purposes people are always eager to give or hand them over their land or property to the government but usually the government buys them at low prices and cost. That is the reason mostly and the majority of the developmental projects goes subversive. The local people emphasized the role of government in the process of development so they should give them proper price of the land to the landowners whilst launching developmental projects.

A small number of the respondents were of the view that, to them, development means that one should have enough money to make his life contented. They were in opposition that our country is poor and for their betterment and to make enough money they need to go to abroad to achieve their goals or in what terms they take 'to become established'.

### **Impacts of Development**

The majority of the respondents were of the view that development is a good thing for the sake of improving one's own life. 'The process of industrialization caused many aspects of the society to change' (Rury, 2002) They said that through the development our troubles could be minimized. Most of the people, on comparison with the present, emphasized on this thing that 30 years back they had a very low standard of living. They did not have many facilities. Some of the respondents replied that in their area the development took the ignition when the roads were starting to be made in the village. At that time there used to be no vehicles but only one transport and that was a bus which was the only means to get to the city. Or the further means of transportation within the village was to be

*Tonga*. After the establishment of the road vehicles and agriculture machines took place which was a step towards the betterment and a change in peoples' lives.

The majority of the respondents claimed that the developmental projects in the area like the Tarbela Dam, the Gaddon Amazai industrial estate, coming of the Tobacco companies in the district and including the motorway really happened to change their lives. These development projects worked like a fortune for their village and people started employing in them then. With the establishment of industries in the area the goods are not just obtainable at low cost, but also the farmers have an easy access to the Tobacco industries which is quiet a time and money saving for them. And just about this development their land price even raised.

### **Role of Women in Development**

The majority of the respondents, regarding the role of women in development, replied in very vital, as they see that the truth or secret behind the advancement of the West is because women are working with their men very boldly. Which was very astounding for me being a researcher because we have this general view and kind of stereotyped our minds with this phenomena that the women of the villages are strictly forbidden to work or stand equal to their men even. But again my this astonishment turned into reality because there were some people, who are labeled 'old fashioned' according to the people of my generation, that women should be staying at home and get herself busy with domestic chores and look after her family. Because according to them the meaning of 'women' is giving birth to children and getting her ruined at home and not taking care of her either, not just that, but if their women put a step out of home it will be very reprehensible for the family and will undermine their culture norms and values.



## **Cultural Development**

Then I came across such respondents who take development in terms of culture too, because according to them development is not just good in the economic manner but in the sense of culture also. Through modern ways of communicating their culture is getting diffused in the various parts of the world. But some did not show their felicity regards cultural development they took it in the means of destruction. They talked about the hegemony, that their indigenous culture has got changed and that they have borrowed a lot of things from the other cultures. They don't see the purity in their cultures and traditions anymore with the passage of time. Especially media, according to them, are the biggest source to be accused of this destruction. They think with the development, means leaving your origin, moving on, going higher and then everything doesn't stay put the same.

### **Role of Education in Development:**

'Because education can itself be defined broadly as the process of cultural transmission. If society is to function smoothly, after all, familiar types of behavior need to be taught to each succeeding generation' (Rury, 2002). Respondents emphasized on the role of education in the preliminary steps of the development. Districts developed there because education gave them a boost and gave some very good officers to serve their village or area. I happen to encounter a person's name *Sangeen khan* who happened to give his humongous amount of land in the making of High school and that he felt very pompous with himself at least it will educate the new generation to some extent if they won't be able to acquire higher education by going out of their native town.

## **Drawbacks of Development**

Whenever a new thing in the terms of technology or change is being introduced, there is not always a leeway of people responding to it in terms of positive, but there is an immense chance of people being judgmental and hating it too.

Change is not a single path or pattern, but depends on many factors, such as how a society is organized, its relations with neighbors, or its previous level of development. The material and social position of a person in the initial stages of modernization is an important influence. People who are socially organized in tribal groups will modernize differently than people in caste systems. Likewise, the process will differ according to the level of economic development. More backwards economies may undergo more stress and discontinuity. Secondly, the temporal sequence of the process will lead to varying patterns of modernization. Similarly, on my asking people, how do you take development? Or what do you think about the development? They said, it is destroying our norms and values. The new technology like mobile phones and the internet are becoming the mortal enemies, it is simply destroying our young generation. Now every other child wants a cellular phone even the girls started to keep them, which is not likable in our culture. It is also finishing the purity of our natural environment, like escalating the environmental pollution. Then people who can't afford education they cannot be employed because they cannot handle the modern machinery 'factories called for new forms of work controlled by mechanized processes' (Rury, 2002) which leads to putting an end not just to the manual labor but again in the polluting the pure air of a village. This technological development is promoting individuality and diminishing the *hujra\*1* system from their society slowly but surely 'individual decision rule during this transition' (Munshi & Myaux, 2002)

In *Tradition, Change and Modernity*, Eisenstadt (1983) describe the dynamics of modernization. He first points out that modernization requires the development of a base level of certain factors, including social mobilization, structural differentiation, the development of free resources, 1 *Hujra system*: it is the male guest house of Pakhtoons. It serves as an institution in the Pakhtoon culture. The small and major decisions of the community are made in hujra. The jirga is usually held in hujra. The condolences, marriage and other social gatherings are performed in hujra. In every village, every clan there is hujra. Specialization and diversity of social organization, and the development of regulative and allocative mechanisms in the economic, political and other institutional spheres. Examples of these regulative and allocative mechanisms include the market system and political parties, in the economic and political spheres, respectively. Eisenstadt (1983) goes on to indicate that achieving a certain level of these factors is necessary for the development of modernity, but is not sufficient alone to guarantee continuation of modernization. In order for a society to continue to modernize, it needs to develop an institutional framework capable of continuous absorption of change. That is, as the society modernizes, new demands arise, new constituencies come to power, and the political, economic, social, and other spheres need to adapt to these changes, and also need to maintain some kind of continuity. So for example, the political system must be able to deal with suffrage or national independence movements and still be able to maintain continuity. Thus, beyond a certain minimal level of social mobilization and structural differentiation required for modernization, in addition, there is a need for an institutional framework that can successfully cope with the changes and problems associated with modernization, and that can also maintain a continuous existence for itself. Eisenstadt (1983) sees modernization as partially systematic, and, as mentioned above, partially indeterminate. Thus, while there are certain

factors required for modernization, there is also a great variety in the specific forms society may take and how the modernization process occurs, and the differences in the modernization process may be partially explained by the previous level of a society's development, the temporal sequence, and the actions of the modernizing elite.

**Table 1 Age of the Respondents:**

Sr.	Age	Frequency	Percentage
1	20-30	5	16.6
2	30-40	8	26.6
3	40-50	11	36.6
4	50-60	4	13.3
5	60-70	2	6.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

The above frequency distribution table is regarding the ages of my respondents residing in Swabi. Since my total number of the respondents from whom I conducted interviews were 30, out of which 16.6% lay between the ages of 20-30, 26.6% lay between 30-40, 36.6% were from the 40-50 age group, 13.6% were from 50-60 age group where as 6.6% belonged to 60-70 years of age group.

**Table 2 Educational Level of the Respondents**

Sr.	Education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	2	6.6
2	Primary	1	3.3
3	Middle	8	26.6
4	Metric	6	20
5	Intermediate	2	6.6
6	Graduation	5	16.6
7	Masters	7	3.10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

On my observance of education within that village I encounter that 6.6% of the total 30 respondents were illiterate, 13.3% had gone to primary, 26.6% had the education up to middle school,

20% had the matriculation education, 6.6% went to college, 16.6% had the graduation level degree whereas only 10% got the opportunity to acquire the education of Masters.

**Table 3 Occupation of the Respondents**

Sr.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Religious leader	1	3.3
2	Shopkeeper	6	20
3	Farmer	7	23.3
4	School teacher	2	6.6
5	College teacher	3	10
6	Oversea employee	2	6.6
7	Politician	2	6.6
8	Laborer	8	26.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

When I asked my respondents about their occupations I came to know that 3.3% of the majority was related to the religious field, 20% people had their own shops, 23.3% were farmers, 6.6% were teaching at the school, 3.3% was teaching at the college level, 10% of the people were overseas employee, 6.6% opted for the political occupation, and 26.6% were laborers.

**Table 4 Monthly income of the Respondents**

Sr.	Monthly Income	Frequency	Percentage
1	5000-10000	10	33.3
2	10,000-15000	4	13.3
3	15000-20000	6	20
4	20000-25000	3	10
5	25000-30000	2	6.6
6	30000-40000	2	6.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

Big dreams only come along with big cash! For luxuries you need to or should be earning a levelheaded or handsome amount of pay. Because with the terms like Globalization and Development not only new technologies are being introduced,

but rather even basic needs of living sometimes become unaffordable for the people with less income. I came to know that 3.3% of the people were earning between 5000-10,000, 10,000-15,000 were 13.3%, 15,000-20,000 were 10%, 25,000-30,000 was being earned by 16.6% whereas only 6.6% were people that were earning 30,000-40,000.

### **Conclusion:**

The globalization of the generation and conveyance of products and administrations is a welcome improvement in some individuals in that it offers them get to items that they would not overall have. Notwithstanding, some are worried that the progressions achieved by globalization undermine the reasonability of provincially made items and the individuals who produce them. For instance, the new accessibility of remote sustenances in a business frequently at less expensive costs can uproot nearby ranchers who have customarily earned a living by meeting expectations their little plots of family-claimed land and offering their merchandise mainly. Globalization, obviously, accomplishes more than basically build the accessibility of outside made buyer items and disturb customary markers. It is likewise expanding global exchange, social items and administrations, for example, films, music, and productions. The development of exchange, social items is expanding the presence of all social orders to outside societies. Furthermore the presentation to outside social products, much of the time realizes changes in nearby societies, qualities, and customs. In spite of the fact that there is no accord on the results of globalization on national societies, numerous individuals accept that an individual presentation to remote society can undermine their own particular social character.

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