

## Human Development: A Comparative Analysis in Democratic vs. Autocratic Regimes of Pakistan

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### Abstract

Human development is a topic that is one of the main agenda of the today's world as well as for policy makers. This study is an effort to explore further this dimension by employing time series data over the span of 36 years from year 1980 to 2015 for Pakistan. We used Auto Regressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) techniques for long and short run empirical analysis to compare the autocratic and democratic regimes in context of human development. Moreover, an index for inclusive growth is constructed by combining multi variables and then its relation with human development is established. It is found that autocracy and trade openness could not improve the level of human development in the country.

**Keywords:** Human Development, Democracy, Autocracy, Trade openness, Inclusive Growth.

### Introduction

“Human development is about advancing the richness of human life, rather than the richness of the economy in which human beings live” (Sen, 1999). Human development has become the ultimate objective of today's world, in most of the countries; it attained tremendous attention of economists and policy makers over the last decades.

Human Development Report (2002) for the first time pointed out the importance of politics in the process of economic development of a country. It emphasized on the distribution of income for reduction of the poverty along with the political power for the people. A deep and strong form of democratic governance at all levels of society is required to achieve this goal and this form of governance should be consistent with human development objectives. It is a democratic process in which human rights can only be secured and there is no other way to secure human rights other than democratization process. The level of human development of a country is associated with the democracy or dictatorship, is a question still needed to be answer in broader aspect.

Numerous studies argued that there may not be a direct relationship between different measures of human development and a regime type (Varun and Khaleghian, 2002; McGuire, 2004; Ross, 2006; Shandra, Nobles, London and Williamson, 2004). There is much qualitative evidence by these studies proving dramatic improvements over the last decades in many authoritarian countries (e.g., newly industrialized East Asian countries and communist countries), while on the other side, many democratic developing world have disparity in wealth and high level poverty (e.g., Pakistan, India, sub Saharan Africa, and many Latin American countries) highlighted by Fortunato (2015). Some of the fundamental ways by which it was considered that democracy affects the level of human development; seems unsure in light of recent observed analysis. While conservative insight supposed (largely on the basis of the experience of OECD countries) democracy becomes the reason of higher social integrity and enhances the welfare level, however this relation does not persist outside of the OECD countries (Filmer & Pitchett, 1999; McGuire, 2004). There is an ample amount of research on this topic but overall finding remain inconclusive (Sirowy & Inkeles, 1990; Przeworski, et al 1993 ). This study is an attempt to contribute the literature by employing empirical approach to ad-

dress the implied effects of democratic as well as autocratic regimes on human development in Pakistan.

Pakistan economy is twisted economy with a mixture of democratic and non-democratic regimes. The democratic proponents argue that the level of human development improved more in democratic regimes and same is claimed by supporters of autocratic governments. While the state of the human development of Pakistan is very miserable as HDI (Human Development Index) statistics 2016 ranked Pakistan on 147<sup>th</sup> position out of 188 countries and this position is much lower as compared with other countries. Here is a comparative picture of Human Development in different time periods.

**Table 1: Pakistan's HDI Trends in Autocratic and Democratic Regimes.**

Autocratic Years	HDI Value	Democratic Years	HDI Value
1980	0.394	1989	0.406
1981	0.402	1990	0.404
1982	0.410	1991	0.409
1983	0.418	1992	0.415
1984	0.422	1993	0.418
1985	0.427	1994	0.423
1986	0.421	1995	0.429
1987	0.415	1996	0.433
1988	0.409	1997	0.437
1999	0.445	1998	0.441
2000	0.450	2009	0.521
2001	0.457	2010	0.525
2002	0.465	2011	0.529
2003	0.474	2012	0.538
2004	0.487	2013	0.542
2005	0.501	2014	0.548
2006	0.505	2015	0.550
2007	0.513		
2008	0.514		

**Source:** Various issues of Human Development Reports

During autocratic regime of 1980-1988 in Pakistan, value of human development remains miserable with highest value 0.427 in the 1985. Then democratic regime of 1988-1999 showed poor value of HDI with a highest value only 0.441 in the year 1998. Then again autocratic regime observed the highest values of 0.513 in 2007. After 2008, HDI value improved and an upward trend can be seen from data. If we compare the situation of human development with other countries of the region then Pakistan also stands at bottom.

Human development has attained much attention of the policy makers and is one of the prime objectives of the recent rulers of the Pakistan. So it is much needed to investigate the impact of variables affecting the human development and to explore whether the human development has a better performance in democratic or autocratic regimes. This study will find out evidences and will to reach out to a position to suggest policy makers with some concluding outcomes.

### Previous Studies

The importance of earlier literature cannot be negated in research sphere so here is look on previous studies covering the span of same aspect and concluding with controversies. Annaka and Higashijima (2017) conducted a cross sectional study and investigated the short run and long run relationship between democratization and human well-being. This study used a data set of infant mortality rate from year 1800 to 2015 covering more than 200 years by applying error correction model (ECM) to determine the impact of democracy on infant mortality rate. Their statistical analysis found that the democracy does not cause the change in infant mortality rate during short run and this short run effect is highly uncertain. They concluded that the democracy positively affect the infant mortality rate over the longer period of time, further this positive impact will also be distributed across future time periods after the democratic change.

Saha and Zhang (2017) used a panel least square (PLS), fixed effect (FE) model to conduct cross countries analysis of developing countries for the period of 1980-2010. They found a non-linear relationship between democracy and human development, indicating that economic growth and democracy play a vital role to improve the level of human development in these countries. Their findings concluded that democracy is more crucial for developed countries whereas economic growth is more important for human development in developing countries.

Lakhan, Ali and Sultan (2015) conducted a study, their estimation results show that democracy & stability of democracy affects economic growth positively and internal disorder affects economic growth negatively. Democracy is a better political system in Pakistan however it is not persistent in Pakistan for a longer period, as a result, fruits of democracy couldn't be ripened. For a better economic growth it is necessary that the political system should be stable.

Hussain & Dubey (2013) found that a sound institutional structure is essential for inclusive growth where the people of Pakistan can participate in the process of growth and enable the country to achieve sustained growth with equity. Access to the productive assets through multi-dimensional intuitional framework for the poor is essential so that they can become beneficiary & subject of the growth as well.

Anand, Mishra and Shanaka (2013) in measuring inclusive growth found that macroeconomics stability, availability of human capabilities and structural changes in a country are imperative for achieving inclusive growth. Moreover, they also described that globalization and trade openness have a positive impact for enhancing inclusive growth in a country, while financial deepening and technological change have not any positive effect.

Harding and Wantchekon (2010) conducted a study and found democracy is not caused by economic development, while economic growth is not higher as a result of democratic institution only. Democracy is conducive for other human development components also such as longevity and knowledge; it has also positive effect on the education and health. They concluded that democracy can provide opportunity for human development but it gives no guarantee due to absence of solid institutions.

McKinley (2010) defined different measures to analyze the inclusive growth of a country. In his study, he identified that if the growth is inclusive, it will enable to achieve sustainable growth that will create and increase economic opportunities for members of society. Further, it will also increase the access for the poor that they can participate in economic activity and get benefits from growth process.

Ranis and Stewart (2005) found two way strong relationship between human development and economic growth suggesting that one has to promote the both to sustain. Economic growth is not sustainable without improvement in human development. They reject the statement "Human

Development improvement may be postponed until economic resource expansion makes it affordable.” If human development postponed, the economic growth may not be self-sustain.

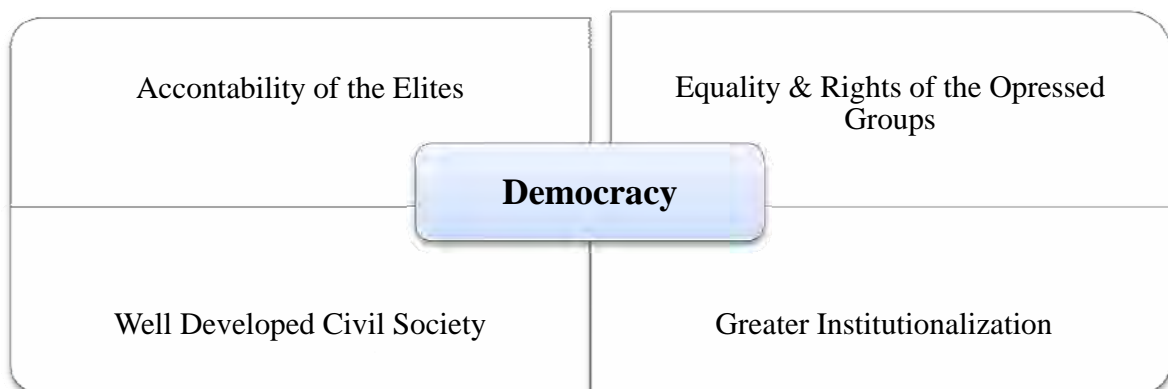
Sen, (2000) highlighted that income growth is one of the main contributor which increase the human capabilities of the individuals directly and more strikingly the human development of the nation which shows the economy command over resources For example, life expectancy and level of literacy rates of citizen of Indian state; Kerala. The fact is that the citizen of such countries cannot enjoy many facilities such as better housing, better transportation or entertainment which shows the importance of the GDP as an instrument for achieving such kind of human capabilities. Thus growth of income also has a positive impact on other human capabilities such as education and life expectancy.

Ranis, Stewart and Ramirez (2000) established a link between economic growth and human development identifying two directions, from economic growth to human development and other from human development to economic growth. They found that there exists a strong relationship among both variables and in both directions. They identified that the social spending and education expenditures are one of the main sources that increase the economic growth process and further enhance the human development.

From all the above studies, it can be identified that the economic growth increases the level of human development in a country if the benefits of the growth are shared equally among the masses.

### Methodology

In participatory concept of democracy, there are two channels through which democracy affects human development, the first channel through which democracy effects human development is empowerment of common citizens and second is civic associations (Barber, 1988). Similarly, by spreading important information which relates to public, the quality of life may be improved as public become more aware about these issues.



**Figure 1. Channels through which Political Democracy affects the level of Human Development. Source: Compiled by the Author.**

First, competition among the elites for the voters, favor of the voters should produce a situation in which the elites are accountable to their citizens or to a polarity of the voting electorate. Democratically elected candidates may have a more concern about the human development issues than those leaders who maintain their position through other means (Lake & Baum, 2001). Authoritarian leaders may also have a concern about the wide spread destabilizing effect of poverty however their

concern should be less as compare to the democratic rules as they have a much smaller electorate (Bruce, Alastair, James, & Randolph, 2003).

Second it is argued that the institution of democracy is able to foster well developed civil society. It is empirically proven that the political rights and civil rights are highly correlated with each other, existence of civil rights leads to well dense network of different kind of voluntarily associations, these civil association may be religious or secular, national or international related on many fold issue or having a one agenda (Parker, 1994). These associations may have good impact on the poor in the shape of providing different service to the poor, in collaboration with the state bodies or international actors. These associations may also instrumental for the poor in the shape of lobbying legislation for needs of the poor to improve their quality of public administration (Sondhi, 2000).

Third argument is that the democracy may develop a culture of equality among the oppressed groups and empower these oppressed groups. It may grants civil citizenship rights to these out-groups such as lower casts and classes, peasants, racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

Final and fourth argument favoring democracy is that during democracy a greater institutionalization is occurred and more benefits are obtained. In a political institutionalization procedures are regularized, professionalized, and infused with a value (Huntington, 1968). This description fits to the most long standing democracies. They featured with highly developed and highly differentiated system of governance which involves the formal bureaucracies and the other interests groups, non-governmental organization and political parties. Length of the democracy is an imperative for the quality of the institution. In contrast length of autocratic regime may have a little or no bearing on the institutions quality.

For empirical investigation, this study used the time series data from 1980 to 2015 for Pakistan. The human development index used as a dependent variable while explanatory variables are: inclusive growth which is a composition of the Nine Variables (Real GDP Per Capita, Employment, and Infrastructure, GINI index, Poverty Headcount Ratio, Gender inequality, Mortality Rate, literacy rate, improved sanitation facilities and availability of clean water & social protection expenditures as a percentage of GDP), the democracy and autocracy. Trade openness used as a control variable in this study. Further a brief explanation of the dependent and all explanatory variables including control variables is as under:

**Table 2. Variables, Definition and Data Sources**

Variable	Definition	Source
HDI	Human Development Index (HDI) a measure of Human Development it ranges between 0 and 1	UNDP
Inclusive Growth	Composition of different variables	Data is collected from World Bank (2016) WDI;
Democracy	Freed House Data for Civil and Liberty Rights ranges from 0 to 7 has been used.	Freedom House
Autocracy	Data obtained from polity IV four international which is ranges from 0 to 10.	Polity IV international
Openness	Trade liberalization measured as share of trade as % of GDP.	World development indicators.

**Source: Table Compiled by the Author.**

Human development index is a composite index which is a composition of the indicators such as; life expectancy, literacy rate and living standard. Life expectancy means a long and healthy life enjoyed by a person. We use the readily available index from UNDP for human development. Human development index constructed in year 1990 by UNDP, data from the year 1990 to 2015 has been obtained from UNDP. Due to some of limitation regarding availability of data on HDI (Human Development Index) data for the year 180 to 1990 obtained from the previous human development report on Pakistan (2013) and most close value as been used for missing value among these years.

Inclusive growth is a process which takes into account the growth for all segments of the society. Inclusive growth ensures benefits to everyone, it promises more prosperous economy with equitable opportunities. Sustainable economic growth is one of the foremost prerequisite for inclusive growth providing amenities in the form of basic needs such as food, health, education, electricity, access to better infrastructure facilities and safe drinking water. Moreover, productive employment is one of the key drivers for inclusive economic growth, it is necessary for the growth that it should be pro employment. When productive employment increases the productivity of the labor it becomes the important outcome of the inclusiveness by further increasing their income level. Further, income inequality both vertical and horizontal is reduced under inclusive growth process. All these processes will enhance the quality of human capabilities. Income inequality influences the growth via political redistribution in democracy with reference to theoretical arguments from a political economy perspective. If in a country income is distributed unequally then the median voter will earn less than the mean income as a result support redistribution policies will transfer the income and wealth from richer half to the poor half of the citizen. A cumulative inclusive growth index is constructed by combining different variables as under: Real GDP per capita growth rate, employment, infrastructure, GINI index, and poverty head count ratio, gender inequality, under 5 age mortality rate, literacy rate, improved water and sanitation facilities and social protection.

**Table 3. Broad Components of Inclusive Growth Index**

Economic Growth, productive employment and access to Infrastructure	50%
Extreme poverty and income inequality	25%
Human capabilities	15%
Basic social protections	10%

**Source: Asian Development Bank -Based on the (Terry McKinley 2010) Approach.**

For construction of cumulative growth index value of each indicator is normalized using a normalization scoring technique after scoring of each value of variable the value is then multiplied to Weight assigned to each indicator to get a value. The resulting value of each variable then combined to get an inclusive growth index value. The inclusive growth index ranges from 1 to 10. Value range 0 to 4 shows unsatisfactory performance on inclusive growth, value 4 to 7 shows satisfactory performance and value ranges from 7 and above shows extra ordinary performance on inclusive growth index.

Data for variable democracy is obtained from freedom house; the variable democracy is composition of Freedom House political rights and civil liberties indices which is a much broader term for democracy. Political rights and civil liberties components are based on a multiple criteria. This democracy index is scaled from 1 to 7, if a score is high it show a higher level of political rights and civil liberties vice versa.



Autocracy is a sort of government with a diverse kind of a political system in there is a lack of regularized political competition and concern for political freedom. In another term autocracy is a type of government which restrict political participation autocracy government have a high degree of control over economic and social resources of a country. Autocracy is an 11 point scale ranges from 0 to 10, it is constructed from coding of the different variables, competitiveness of political participation, the regulation of participation the openness and competitiveness of executive recruitment. Data for the variable autocracy has been obtained from Polity-IV project.

Trade liberalization also has a strong linkage with poverty, inequality and employment according to Heckscher- Ohlin model. The data of trade is taken from the World development Indicators. Trade openness has directly linkages with the level of human development of a country.

Trade openness affects households through three channels (Winters, McCulloch & McKay, 2004).:

- (i) Distribution of income via changes in prices of goods
- (ii) Profitability of the firms through wages, employment potential and profit
- (iii) Spending of the government by changes in taxes and transfers

Traditionally it is widely accepted that that trade openness has a positive impact on poverty alleviation. With open trade policies and with cuts in tariff in 1980s and 1990s absolute poverty has declined in many developing countries.

By keeping in view the earlier literature, this study proposed the following model to know the relationship between human development and different regimes of democracy and autocracy.

$$\text{Human Development} = f(\text{Inclusive Growth, Democracy, Autocracy, Trade Openness})$$

Whereas the index of inclusive growth is constructed by combining different variables as real GDP per capita growth rate, employment, infrastructure, GINI index, poverty head count ratio, gender inequality, under five age mortality rate, literacy rate, improved water and sanitation facilities, and social protection

This study empirically evaluates the proposed hypothesis of the study mentioned in earlier chapters. Particularly this study empirically examines the relationship between democracy and human development and between autocracy and human development and with variable inclusive growth. The time series data analysis is conducted about 36 years for the period 1980–2015. Before estimation of the above modern different statistical tests are performed for accuracy of the results details of these operation and test listed below.

In a time series data it is necessary that all the variables which are being used in our analyses must be stationary. In This study a most common methodology has been used for checking of the unit root which is Dickey-Fuller test. Then ARDL technique is applied to determine the long and short run relationship.

The F test is used for testing the long run relationship among variables. When long run relationship exists, F test indicates that which variable should be normalized. If the F test statistic exceeds co-integration (long term relationship) upper bound value, we can conclude that there exists a long run relationship between the variables regardless of their order of integration of variables. If the test statistics is below the upper bound critical value we cannot reject our Null hypothesis of no co integration, and if the F statistics value lies within the upper and lower bound critical values the results are inconclusive which means inference cannot be made without knowing the order of integration of the underlying independent variables.

The order of the lags in ARDL model is selected by either the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) or the Schwarz Bayesian Criterion (SBC).

## Results

**Table 4. Augmented Dickey-Fuller Unit Root Test**

Variables	ADF test Without Trend P value		ADF test With Trend P value	
	At level	At 1 <sup>st</sup> difference	At level	At 1 <sup>st</sup> difference
HDI	0.9869	0.0001**	0.7541	0.0004**
Inclusive Growth	0.7942	0.0000**	0.0507	0.0001**
Democracy	0.0766	0.0000**	0.2742	0.0001**
Autocracy	0.3259	0.0000**	0.6371	0.0002**
Trade % of GDP	0.1631	0.0000**	0.1961	0.0000**

**Source: Author's Calculation.**

\*\* Represents significance level at 5 percent, ADF represents the Augmented Dickey Fuller test for stationarity of data, with and without trend, at level and first difference.

All the variables used in our model are stationary at level I (0) and at first difference I (1). To determine the presence of long run relationship, Bounds F-test is applied which verifies the presence of long run relationship among variables. Now long run coefficients of variables are obtained through ARDL approach and results are reported in following table.

**Table 5. Long Run Coefficients by Using ARDL Approach**

Variables	Coefficients	Std. Error	t-statistics	Prob.
Inclusive Growth	1.786332	0.548361	3.257582	0.0057***
Democracy	3.518523	1.403302	2.507317	0.0251***
Autocracy	-1.697810	0.396264	-4.284541	0.0008***
Openness	-1.335556	0.288074	-4.636151	0.0004***
Constant	77.12917	11.95285	6.452384	0.0000***

**Source: Author's Calculation.**

The empirical findings reveal that the inclusive growth is one of the most important factors which affect the level of human development in Pakistan at the 1% level of significance, we can say that 1 unit change in inclusive growth will increase the level of human development by (1.7863) units. Our results are consistent with findings of (Saha & Zhang, 2017).

Further, coefficient of democracy also has a positive and significant impact; value of coefficient shows that the level of democracy impacts the human development very slowly over the time period. The possible reasons of this positive relationship is discussed in detail earlier. Contrary, autocracy has a significant and negative impact on the level of human development which supports the view that democracy is comparatively better regime type than autocracy.

Trade openness coefficient has a negative value of (-1.3355), showing that trade openness is negatively affecting the level of human development in Pakistan. It may be observed that in case of Pakistan, the level of imports is much greater than the level of exports. Due to widening gap of exports and imports over the years, balance of payment is worsened, therefore most of the years, our current account remains in deficit.

After finding the long run relationship among variables, the short run relationship can be determined.



**Table 6. Error Correction Representation of ARDL Model**

Variable	Coefficient	Standard error	T-statistics	Probability
D(HDI)(-2)	0.639473	0.160168	3.992524	0.0013
D(INCLUSIVE GROWTH)(-1)	0.212198	0.0655355	3.246849	0.0058
D(DEMOCRACY)	-0.145639	0.124035	1.174180	0.2599
AUTOCRACY(-2)	0.081307	0.32561	2.497047	0.0256
D(TRADE OPENNESS )(-1)	0.203749	0.044936	4.534213	0.0005
CointEq (-1)	-0.220625	0.038938	-5.666043	0.0001

**Source: Author's Calculation.**

Error correction term is (-0.22) which shows the speed of convergence if there is disequilibrium in the economy rises.

### Conclusion & Policy Implications

This study conducted a time series analysis to estimate impact of inclusive growth, democracy, autocracy and trade openness on human development over the period from 1980 to 2015 for Pakistan. The estimated results show that there exists a positive relationship between inclusive growth and human development. Inclusive growth effects human development in short term as well as in long run. The index of inclusive growth is constructed by combining the real GDP per capita, better infrastructure facilities, increase in level of education, decrease in infant mortality rate, decrease in poverty and inequality, better social protections. The higher level of inclusive growth in the country will lead towards higher level of human development and better living standard of people.

In our analysis, democracy has positive impact on human development in case of Pakistan. The empirical findings reveal that a democratic government is a better as compared with autocracy. However in Pakistan fruits of democracy could not be reaped out or mature as compare to other democratic countries. In Pakistan, most of the democratic governments over the history were not sustained, every time democratic government's setup over thrown by the military dictators. Democracy is a long process; longer and sustained period of time is necessary to flourish and attaining maturity. The sustained democratic governments will able to continue favorable policies directed towards developmental projects. Our findings are consistent with the Saha & Zhang (2017) highlighting that democracy and economic growth increase human development in the developing countries. Furthermore, autocracy has negative and significant impact on the level of human development in Pakistan. Trade openness has a negative impact on human development, might be due to worsening balance of payment over the years.

Today the challenge of the world as well as Pakistan is not just economic growth but challenge is to improve human lives of the masses. The findings of this study suggest that the inclusive growth and the sustainability of the democratic process are essential for human development. Human development cannot be achieved overnights without the involvement of a political system which should be more sustainable and secure. To attain higher level of human development in Pakistan, it is important for the policy makers to let the democracy flourish, to prepare effective strategy for reduction of poverty, strategy to increase level of education especially building human capabilities. Experience & different studies also show that effective poverty reduction strategy requires the active involvement of local communities.

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