China – A Poverty Alleviation Role Model for Afghanistan

China seeks to form a prosperous society and freedom from what has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the social ruling party. The blueprint for poverty alleviation has been highly fruitful and it will bear the desired result in 2020. Achieving a prosperous China will enjoy the fruits of socialist wealth. Chinese characteristics and reap the benefits of reform and opening up began four decades ago.

To view the campaign of China’s government against poverty only within the past five years, more than 88 million people (70 percent) have been lifted out of poverty and the Chinese government appropriated over 280 billion yuan to fund poverty reduction.

Moreover, the government created 3.3 million new urban jobs and livelihoods was the lowest in recent China. Last year, GDP grew 6.1 percent and personal income growth was 7.5 percent. The government also established a system to provide living allowances for the poor and disabled.

In addition, China has actively played its role in regional and global issues and pursued a win-win cooperation between China and others. Besides opening its door wider to the world, China sought to ease tension between states and strengthen peace and prosperity in the region. For example, Beijing hosted a triilateral meeting with the foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan on 15 December to recover a friendly relation between Kabul and Islamabad. China has proposed to conduct many other such meetings in the future to resolve the many differences and challenges in the region.

For the coming five years, Chinese Premier of the state Council Li Keqiang – who presented the past five-year achievements of the state in the first session of the 13th National People’s Congress (NPC) on 3 March – said that Chinese government would deepen reforms in all spheres of social and economic life and lift over 10 million people out of poverty. In such a case, the percentage of people will be lifted out of poverty within the coming three years and the poverty alleviation will be accomplished in 2020. According to China, the government will strengthen its efforts to improve social and economic issues at national and international levels.

He also said, “We will foster a positive culture in which women are treated with due respect and dignity and people with disabilities are treated considerately.” He further maintained, “Ours is a government of the people, and everything we do should reflect their will.”

He added that the government will promote harmony between religions and ethnicities and encourage political and cultural exchanges in order to protect the national unity and the independence of Afghanistan.

It is thought that in the coming years, government and national security will act as a bridge between Afghan citizens and the government. This is an opportunity to make the society more stable and prosperous.

It is expected that the number of people who join militancy are from the rural areas and their families. It is important for the government to bring down the level of crime and insurgency as soon as possible.

To summarize, the reason is that the government needs to help the people who are living in the slums.

Razia is a young girl who lives in a slum in Kabul city. She is involved in pickpocketing and burglary. She has been forced to go to school to make ends meet. Her mother, who is a government employee, has not been able to support her due to the financial pressures.

To stop the brain drain, prevent citizens from taking refuge to other countries, reduce crime, and mitigate insurgency, the government is working out a route to end poverty and create jobs for people, especially for those who are living in the slums. In the same way, scores of Afghan youth and children who live in the slums are involved in pickpocket, burglary, kidnap for ransom, killing, etc. In short, poverty engenders great challenges across all spheres of social and economic life and lift over 10 million people out of poverty within the coming three years and the poverty alleviation will be accomplished in 2020.

To view the aforementioned issues, Afghanistan is also in dire need of poverty alleviation. In the recent past, the government has launched a campaign in Kabul city to promote girls’ education in the state. In the campaign, girls’ groups are formed and motivated to track out of school girls and bring them to schools, parents were counseled, and teachers were engaged to make gender-friendly environment in schools, track drop out children and support them in improving their skills and knowledge.

BRIDGING THE GAP

An initiative was launched in Kabul city by the Pakistan Armed Forces, in which Pakistan Army is working with 20 schools in Kabul in order to promote female education. The initiative is a great step in this direction.

One of our largest projects is in Burkina Faso, a desperately poor country in West Africa where the population is poor and food insecure for at least a portion of the year. Since 1993, we have worked with more than 20,000 women in nearly 1,200 village savings groups, helping them to keep their families healthy and feeding their children. Our goal is to scale up their savings and loans, and through our experience, we are advocating for a systemic approach to promote rural savings and loans. Today, those sentiments are slowly changing. By serving as a bridge between informal savings groups and banks, health centers, schools, and agricultural extension services, we are helping women make better decisions about food use, nutritious practices, and spending. Our goal is to reach 50,000 women and girls in the next three years through a streamlined program that makes it easier for women to access productive opportunities. We are also strengthening family bonds.

During our recent visit, I was amazed at how these effects are affecting women’s lives. On one recent trip, I met Rama, a young woman who told me that she sees the benefits of our Savings Groups initiative and is working to support her family despite her husband’s emigration abroad. Her family is in a very poor state since her husband left the family two months ago. She was divesting her income, managing her finances, and taking care of her two children. She was using the income generated from the sale of vegetables.

The best part was that she described herself as “a hard-working, ambitious, courageous, and ambitious person.” Those are adjectives that women everywhere, regardless of their financial situation or education, deserve to be heard in the same breath as “hard-working, ambitious, and ambitious.”

With the support of the Sightsavers’ Saving Groups program, she and her husband have been able to support each other in securing their education and being able to meet their daily needs.

In conclusion, the evidence is overwhelming that Sightsavers’ Saving Groups program can improve women’s lives, creating positive ripple effects that spread across families and communities.

The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not reflect the views or opinions of the Daily Outlook Afghanistan.