T he main argument on poverty in development econom- ics centers on the interface between economic growth and poverty. Women on the one hand some contended that unless an economy is able to produce steady eco- nomic growth, poverty reduction cannot be possible. Economic growth typically has a spill-over effect on poverty. And there are distributional consequences that result from economic growth through a competitive market structure. A good example for this argument are countries like South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong, which are countries that got on the high growth path and could substantially lower poverty. Definitely, some others stated that economic growth is necessary but not enough to en- sure that people get richer. Unless one’s social policy is economic growth usually worsens inequality and poverty in the society. It is not enough a effort to make it suitable for the well off. Economic growth, it may deepen poverty, increase social resent- ment and invariably provide a wave of popular discontent that affects politics and the political process. As poor as the nation state and the distribution of redressing economic inequalities in society is necessary to achieving stable economic growth.

Development economics usually avoid any emphasis on political issues in relation to poverty. Poverty was considered a strictly economic domain. However, it is the only New Institutional Economics that talked about the role of institutions in generating economic growth and alleviating poverty. Effective institutions with clear rules of economic engagement reduce transaction costs, correct market imperfections and make non-market allocation of resources in some instances. The spirit of institutions in this case is simple to support the economy; it is not to give superiority to politics and democracy or governance in poverty issues. But in recent times, new thoughts have begun to emerge on the notion of poverty, its causes and the strategy to combat it.

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind

Governance and Poverty Reduction in Afghanistan

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

According to Gallup, a US polling organization, peo- ple in Afghanistan are showing unprecedented lev- els of pessimism about their future of the war-torn country. The survey sought the opinions of Afghan Adults on quality of life, satisfaction with leaders, and views to- wards their country and other countries throughout sampling interviews from 2,100 Afghans. The survey has found that two-thirds of Af- ghan says they have a negative view of life. 20 percent of adults say things are improving worse, one in five (22 percent) say things will be the same in the future and 30 percent say things will be better. According to Gallup, the lowest figures it has recorded in Afghanistan since global studies in 2008. Afghans in cities were, however, found to be more dissatis- fied than those in rural provinces vs. 39 percent. One in two things that their lives are much worse than they were a year ago. The survey shows that people almost half (46 percent) of adults say things become worse, one in five (22 percent) say things will be the same, and about two in five (40 percent) say things will be better. According to Gallup, this is the lowest figures it has recorded since global studies in 2008.

In a statement issued by the organization, it stated that three- fourths of Afghans say things are worse than they were a year ago and that the political and social situation is deteriorating. 81 percent say they are dissatisfied with the performance of the National Unity Government, 20 percent of Afghans say they are dissatisfied with President Ashraf Ghani and 86 percent say they are dissatisfied with CEO Abdullah Abdullah. As overall, the survey shows a stark sharp deterioration comparing to previ- ous years.

Regarding regional and international powers, survey indicate that regional powers are seen most favorably, western pow- ers less favorably. Pakistan and the United States are seen more neutral. Akerak expressed his views on the Northern countries (Junior). Opinion of India 62 percent overall in favor of, followed by Pakistan 40 percent. Meanwhile, major western actors in Afghanistan draw favorable opinions from about a third of Afghans: both Great Britain and the United States. The survey shows that the US and the United States is 34 percent favorable on average, the U.S. with 11 percent and the U.K. with 10 percent “very” favorable. NATO/ISAF is seen favorably by just under three in ten (28 percent overall), 6 percent “very” favorable.

Almost half (46 percent) of Afghans support post-secondary edu- cation express a favorable view of the US, compared to 38 percent of those with up to a secondary education, and 28 percent of Afghan adults aged 16-24 express it. Two in three Pashto speakers (67 percent) say they have an unfavor- able view of the US, compared to 44 percent of Dari speakers and 32 percent of Uzbek speakers who express an unfavorable view of the United States. The survey results were announced in the wake of parliamen- tary elections, which were held with its ups and downs. The common points regarding public pessimism was also felt in the people’s participation in the overall election process. For example, out of nearly 13 million eligible Afghan only nine million registered to vote but eventually nearly four million cast their ballots during the two-day election. The election was described as a widely participated election. Peo- ple were praised national and also international allies for ac- cepting the risk of threats in the two or three day election. And more than half a million Afghans risked their lives to vote in the polling stations. In the next moment, after the Taliban’s killing of a powerful police chief delayed the ballot by a week. In fact, the latest survey “reveals just how devastating the negative cycle of poverty and violence has been to Afghanistan’s already fragile economy.” Gallup said that the outcome of the survey is also similar to recent UN figures released about poverty and economic engagement reduce transaction costs, correct market imperfections and improve deficient governance. Governance provides the in- equality continues in a society it weakens the political process and invariably provide a wave of popular discontent that affects politics and the political process. If no mindful effort is made to mitigate the side effects of economic growth, it may deepen poverty, increase social resent-

US Survey Reveals Unprecedented Pessimism in Afghanistan

By Mohammad Zahir Akbari

Political Participation of Afghan Women Will Promote Social Development

By Li Shuyu, Zhu Like & Li Xin

The survey results were announced in the wake of parliamen-
tary elections, which were held with its ups and downs. The

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