What is Poverty?

poor are those who dont have enough income/consupmtion to lift them above an adequate minimum threshold

- Poverty is **severe deprivation in well-being**, meaning people don't have enough resources to meet their basic needs.
- It can include:
  - **Income poverty**: Not earning enough money.
  - **Specific deprivations**: Being poor in terms of food, housing, or health (e.g., malnutrition or lack of education).
- **Broader View of Poverty**:
  - It's not just about money but also about **functioning in society**.
  - Poor people may lack:
    - Education.
    - Good health.
    - Political freedom.
    - Power to make decisions about their lives.

Global Standards for Poverty

1. **Extreme Poverty** (World Bank): 600rs
   - Living on less than **$2.15 per day** (2017 prices). WB
   - In 2024, **700 million people globally** lived in extreme poverty.
2. **Middle-Income Poverty**:
   - Living on less than **$6.85 per day**. 1900 rs
   - Around **3.5 billion people (44% of the global population)** fall into this category.

Poverty in Pakistan

Current Poverty Rate:

- **39.5% of Pakistan's population** lives in poverty (PIDE report).

Provincial Poverty Breakdown:

- **Balochistan**: 70% (highest in the country).
- **Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP)**: 48%.
- **Sindh**: 45%.
- **Punjab**: 30% (lowest among provinces).

Urban vs Rural Poverty:

- **Rural areas**: 51% poverty rate.
- **Urban areas**: 17% poverty rate.

Access to Basic Facilities:

- **26.5%** lack living facilities.
- **49.4%** lack educational facilities.

- **24.1%** lack health services.

Multidimensional Poverty in Pakistan

- **Definition**: Poverty measured across multiple dimensions like health, education, and living standards.
- **National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**:
  - **39.5% of the population** is multidimensionally poor.   0.191 national MPI
  - **Average Intensity of Deprivation**: 48.3%.
    - This means each poor person, on average, lacks nearly **half of the basic necessities** measured.

Provincial MPI Trends:

- **Balochistan**: 70% multidimensionally poor (highest).
- **KP**: 48%.
- **Sindh**: 45%.
- **Punjab**: 30% (lowest).

Changes in Poverty (2014-2020):

- **Balochistan**: Decreased slightly from 72.4% to 70.5%.
- **KP**: Decreased slightly from 49.1% to 48.8%.
- **Sindh**: Increased from 43.1% to 45.2%.
- **Punjab**: Decreased from 31.0% to 30.4%.

What is Social Cohesion? unity

socially cohesive society

- Social cohesion means a society where people feel included and work together to build **belonging, equality, and upward mobility**.   build social capital
- It promotes:
  - **Economic Growth**: Sustains long-term development.
  - **Equity**: Ensures fair distribution of resources.

Impact of Social Cohesion on Poverty Reduction

1. **Better Access to Public Services**:
   - Cohesive societies provide **education, healthcare, and welfare**, creating opportunities to escape poverty.
   - Example: Accessible education helps families break the poverty cycle.
2. **Fair Economic Policies**:
   - Trust in government allows for policies that **redistribute wealth** (e.g., progressive taxes, welfare programs).
   - These reduce inequality and protect low-income groups.
3. **Community Support and Social Capital**:

- o Strong communities offer **informal support** like job referrals, childcare, or emotional help.
- o This helps families handle financial crises and move toward stability.
4. **Reduced Crime and Safety**:
    - o Lower crime rates in cohesive societies provide stability for businesses and families.
    - o A safe environment fosters **investment** and **long-term financial growth**.

Impact of Social Non-Cohesion on Poverty

1. **Higher Inequality**:
    - o Non-cohesive societies favor policies that benefit the rich, leaving others without opportunities.
    - o Inequality traps people in poverty.
2. **Lack of Trust in Institutions**:
    - o Disconnection and mistrust reduce support for poverty reduction programs like taxes or social welfare.
    - o Political instability discourages investment, worsening poverty.
3. **Weaker Community Networks**:
    - o Isolation makes people vulnerable to crises like job loss or illness.
    - o Without social ties, people miss opportunities like mentorship or informal jobs.
4. **Higher Crime and Unrest**:
    - o Social unrest increases insecurity and diverts resources away from poverty programs to law enforcement.
    - o High crime discourages investments and creates a cycle of poverty.

Conclusion

1. **Poverty** in Pakistan and globally requires not just income-based solutions but a focus on **multidimensional challenges** like health, education, and living standards.
2. **Social Cohesion** is vital for poverty reduction, as it builds trust, fairness, and opportunities.
3. Lack of cohesion worsens inequality and isolation, creating barriers to progress and stability.