https://doi.org/10.62585/pjcj.v3i1.17



Addressing Historical Injustices: Advancing Indigenous Rights in the Legal System of Pakistan and Beyond

Settara Jubeen¹

Muhammad Islam²

Ume Tayyaba³

¹Advocate High Court, Lahore, Pakistan. <u>Email: Sittarach456@gmail.com</u> ²Civil Judge-cum-Judicial Magistrate, Lahore High Court Lahore, Pakistan. Email: <u>hsislam786@gmail.com</u> ³Advocate High Court Lahore, Pakistan. <u>Welwishr_me@yahoo.com</u>

ABSTRACT

This article delves into the critical issue of defining and defending indigenous peoples' and ethnic minorities' rights within the larger human rights framework. Because of a long and complex history of marginalization and centuries of discrimination and injustice, these communities are entitled to government protection based on ethical and moral considerations under international human rights law. The review study investigates the far-reaching implications of their enslavement, which have a significant impact on their social, economic, cultural, and general well-being, particularly in Pakistan. Although significant progress has been made through law amendments, reconciliation processes, and international initiatives, there is still much work to be done. This paper underlines the need for comprehensive measures, such as enacting legal reforms, raising public awareness, and creating global solidarity, in achieving true equality and justice for all people, regardless of ethnic or indigenous ancestry.

© 2023 The Authors. Published by <u>Center of Innovation in Interdisciplinary Research (CIIR)</u>. This is an Open Access Article under the Creative Common Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0

Article History: Received: September 02, 2023: Accepted: October 02, 2023: Published: October 31, 2023 Keywords: Indigenous People, Ethnic Minorities, Economic Exploitation, Human Rights, Legal Protection

Corresponding Author's Email: hsislam786@gmail.com

How To Cite: Settara Jubeen, Islam, M., & Ume Tayyaba. (2023). Addressing Historical Injustices: Advancing Indigenous Rights in Legal System of Pakistan and Beyond. *Pakistan Journal of Criminal Justice*, *3*(1), 19–29.



OPEN 🌈

https://doi.org/10.62585/pjcj.v3i1.17

1. Introduction

Recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities is a critical and pressing issue in the realm of human rights. This paper investigates the critical relevance of recognizing and defending these rights to advance equality, conserve cultural heritage, and improve social justice. Their history is rife with marginalization, bigotry, and oppression. Governments must take note of and protect their citizens' rights. It is critical to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, not only from an ethical and moral position, but also to respect international human rights norms, promote social fairness, and preserve the world's rich cultural fabric. Oppression of indigenous and ethnic communities has a wide range of negative implications for these people, affecting their social, economic, cultural, and general well-being (Hannum & Wang, 2012)

Governments have a responsibility, based on international human rights law, to acknowledge and safeguard the rights of indigenous people and ethnic minorities due to several compelling reasons. Indigenous individuals and ethnic minorities possess the inherent entitlement to self-determination and the preservation of their own cultures and identities. When these groups experience a sense of respect and appreciation, they are more inclined to make positive contributions to the broader society. Recognizing and honoring indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities can contribute to the enhancement of economic progress (Daes, 2001). They frequently possess a plethora of traditional knowledge and skills that can be harnessed to foster sustainable industries and generate employment opportunities. It serves as a means of acknowledging the variety present in our society and commemorating the abundant cultures and customs of all individuals. On the other hand, when individuals feel worried and subjected to discrimination, they are more prone to encountering social instability and violence (Baird & Shoemaker, 2007)

The term "indigenous" in book titles several decades ago primarily referred to botanical works on native plant species. Similarly, scholarly journal articles, popular magazines, and newspapers rarely mention the term as a classification for human societies. However, since the 1980s, the concept of indigenous has expanded significantly, to the extent that it is no longer solely a specialized legal term but is now recognized by the general public. The remarkable aspect of the novelty of this concept is that a fundamental sense of identity, people's primary bond with their land and culture, those who have enduring connections to traditional ways of life since ancient times, have managed to persist. Therefore, the widespread acceptance of this innovation is a remarkable accomplishment. Sigfreid Wiessner provided a comprehensive definition of indigenous people; "Indigenous people can be defined as groups that are historically recognized and self-identified as descendants of the original inhabitants of the lands. These individuals both identify themselves as such and aspire to maintain their cultural heritage (Wiessner, 1999). These groups are culturally, socially, and economically different from the dominant groups in society. They have experienced a consistent pattern of being oppressed, marginalized, dispossessed, and excluded by the dominant groups, both in the past and now.

2. <u>Historical perspective</u>

To address the explicitness of the subject, it is imperative to go into the global history of injustices and discrimination against indigenous people and ethnic minorities. This is a widespread phenomenon with significant historical origins. Throughout history, these marginalized people have endured systemic bias, suppression, and the infringement of their rights. Although there may be variations in experiences depending on the unique places, the underlying theme remains consistent:

3. Colonization by European Empires

The process of colonization undertaken by European powers led to the displacement of indigenous populations from their native territories. Colonial powers frequently employed coercion to seize control

of territories and natural assets in Africa, Oceania, the Americas, and Asia, resulting in the dispossession and marginalization of indigenous inhabitants (Kortright, 2003). The repercussions of this forced deprivation persist to this day, as indigenous groups grapple with the task of reclaiming their territories and safeguarding their cultural legacy.

4. <u>Cultural Oppression</u>

Indigenous populations and ethnic minorities have been subjected to efforts aimed at suppressing and assimilating their cultural practices. Colonial administrations frequently attempted to eradicate the distinctive cultural identities of these tribes through the imposition of new languages, religions, and practices (Hung, 2006). Consequently, the deterioration of indigenous languages and practices ensued, posing challenges for these people in their efforts to save their cultural heritage.

5. Violence and Genocide

Indigenous populations and ethnic minorities in many regions of the globe have been exposed to acts of violence and even mass extermination. The European colonization of the Americas, the Armenian genocide, and the ongoing Rohingya crisis in Myanmar exemplify instances of violence and large-scale killings specifically directed toward these populations. These actions have caused significant emotional wounds and have added to the long-lasting psychological distress experienced by subsequent generations (Dang, 2012).

6. <u>Economic Exploitation</u>

Indigenous populations have frequently been subject to economic exploitation. Their territories and assets have been used for the advantage of more dominant factions, while they have frequently endured destitution and marginalization. The rubber, mineral, and lumber industries have a lengthy historical record of utilizing indigenous labor and resources for their gain in different regions across the globe (Hall & Patrinos, 2012).

7. Discriminatory Laws and Policies

Legal systems that exhibit discrimination have continued to uphold the historical injustices experienced by indigenous populations and ethnic minorities. These populations have frequently been deprived of fundamental rights, such as the ability to get education, healthcare, and political representation. Many countries continue to enforce discriminatory laws and policies, which restrict the opportunities and rights of these marginalized populations.

8. Discussion in the context of Pakistan

Since a Pakistani, the author believes it is important to discuss the history of Pakistan. It shares similarities with the histories of other countries since indigenous people and ethnic minorities have experienced injustices and exclusions both on a global scale and within Pakistan. Indigenous populations and ethnic minorities frequently face compelled displacement from their ancestral territories to facilitate the implementation of development initiatives or to satisfy the needs of other communities. Consequently, there has been a deprivation of cultural identity, means of subsistence, and traditional systems of knowledge. Throughout history, they have endured brutality and genocide, making them victims. Historically, governments and dominant cultures have frequently attempted to absorb or eradicate indigenous populations and ethnic minorities by repressing their languages, traditions, and faiths. They frequently experience marginalization and discrimination within both the economy and society. They may encounter challenges in accessing education, healthcare, and employment prospects. Additionally, they may potentially encounter instances of racism and prejudice.

The cycle of inequity and oppression was already in motion before to the partition of British India. The partition, which took place in 1947, resulted in the forced relocation of numerous individuals,

including indigenous populations and ethnic minorities. The displacement had a catastrophic effect on these communities. The indigenous and minority communities of present-day Pakistan were greatly affected by British colonial authority in the Indian subcontinent. The British Empire enforced its authority and administration, often disregarding the social and cultural frameworks of these communities. The partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947 led to the establishment of Pakistan, which subsequently had an impact on the demography and rights of different ethnic and indigenous populations. During the period of British colonial control, there was a concerted effort to promote Western education and encourage the adoption of Western cultural norms. The marginalization of indigenous and minority people had a profound effect on their cultural identities, as it resulted in the suppression of their traditional practices and languages (Scott, 2009).

The arbitrary partitioning of territories caused significant disruptions to numerous communities and led to the emergence of tensions. British colonial authorities instigated land reforms that favored affluent landowners while undermining the land rights of smaller, indigenous groups. Following Pakistan's independence, many indigenous communities persistently encountered land-related challenges, frequently stemming from government policies or development initiatives. Consequently, many communities were forced to relocate, intensifying their existing socio-economic disadvantages. In post-independence, Pakistan, the practice of forced assimilation persisted, since Urdu was actively encouraged as the national language, while regional languages were neglected. This policy has resulted in the repression of language and culture (Jahangir, 2000).

The indigenous people and ethnic minorities in Pakistan, like those in other regions, have faced a prolonged history of injustices and prejudice that persistently influence their lives. Gaining a comprehensive understanding of these past acts of unfairness is essential to fully grasp the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding their entitlements. Due to oppressive endeavors against religious minorities, Pakistan has remained a sore place in the sights of the international community. Another issue has been the application of blasphemy laws against minorities in Pakistan. Many similar accusations have been leveled against minorities based on personal differences and accused individuals are frequently deemed guilty without any investigation or actual evidence (Bakhsh, Safdar, Jamshed, & Abbasi, 2020). The author has deeply examined the historical inequities and prejudice experienced by indigenous populations and ethnic minorities, both on a worldwide scale and within the specific framework of Pakistan.

In Pakistan, a nation characterized by a wide range of ethnic groups and indigenous people, historical injustices have had a substantial impact on the experiences of various populations. Indigenous communities such as the Baloch, Sindhi, and numerous tribes in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have traditionally experienced the loss of their ancestral lands (Rehman, 2001). These land-related concerns frequently emerge as a result of government policies or extensive development initiatives, which disproportionately impact these communities. Various ethnic minorities in Pakistan, including the Pashtuns, Hazara community, and Muhajirs, have faced cultural oppression. This encompasses the enforcement of Urdu and the marginalization of local languages, along with the depreciation of their distinct cultural customs and identities (Rais, 2007). Under the military regime of General Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1988), indigenous populations and ethnic minorities endured human rights violations, such as coerced conversions to Islam and forced expulsion from their ancestral territories (Khan, 2018). Religious minority groups, such as Christians, Hindus, and Sikhs, have encountered prejudice, oppression, and sometimes acts of violence (Ziring, 1997). Individuals from these communities have been targeted and discriminated against through the utilization of blasphemy laws and social prejudices. The recent HRCP report documented a mob's assault on churches and Christians in Jaranwala, Punjab, Pakistan. As a result, 19 churches were set on fire and 400 houses were affected. The report also revealed that over 10,000 Christians sought refuge in sugar cane and other fields during the initial nights of the attack due to inadequate security measures. Additionally, the Baloch insurgency, which commenced in the early 2000s, has led to the deaths and disappearances of numerous Baloch individuals. The Hazara minority of Balochistan, primarily consisting of Shia Muslims, has been subjected to sectarian violence and discrimination, resulting in the oppression of their religious and cultural customs. The Pakistani government has been accused of committing human rights violations in its handling of the insurgency.

Numerous indigenous and minority communities have experienced political marginalization, resulting in restricted participation within national and provincial administrations. Their socio-economic inequilities are sometimes worsened by this absence of political power. They often face economic inequalities, characterized by restricted access to education, healthcare, and employment prospects. Consequently, this sustains cycles of poverty. Certain areas of Pakistan, namely Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, have had lengthy conflicts, resulting in a disproportionate impact on indigenous tribes and minority groups. Indigenous communities of Pakistan, such as the Baloch and Sindhi, have experienced cultural oppression, resulting in the marginalization of their unique cultural practices, music, and customs.

The occurrences of colonialism, land dispossession, forced assimilation, and cultural oppression have had a significant and far-reaching effect on the indigenous and minority populations in Pakistan. Their contributions have exacerbated socio-economic inequalities, fostered feelings of marginalization, and undermined cultural identities. Acknowledging and remedying these past inequities are crucial measures in advancing the rights, respect, and welfare of these marginalized groups and cultivating a more inclusive and fair society in Pakistan.

Notwithstanding the obstacles they encounter, indigenous people and ethnic minorities have made noteworthy contributions to Pakistani society. The indigenous people and ethnic minorities possess a valuable culture and heritage that warrants both celebration and safeguarding. It is crucial to acknowledge that the past injustices and prejudice endured by these groups persist to this day. These people persistently face marginalization and discrimination in numerous regions across the globe. It is crucial to promote awareness of these concerns and strive towards establishing a fair and equal society for everyone.

The ongoing endeavor to secure acknowledgment and safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities is still underway. Nevertheless, there have been favorable advancements, such as the incorporation of sections in the Pakistani constitution acknowledging the rights of these people. However, implementing these legal protections into tangible measures continues to be a difficult task.

The indigenous people and ethnic minorities of Pakistan have endured enduring historical injustices and discrimination that are firmly ingrained in the nation's history and persistently impact these communities in the present day. It is essential to acknowledge and tackle these problems since they are not only important for ensuring fairness but also for fostering equitable opportunities, societal harmony, and safeguarding Pakistan's abundant cultural variety. Rectifying these past wrongdoings is a crucial measure in constructing a society that is more inclusive and fair for all of its inhabitants.

The experiences of indigenous people and ethnic minorities in Pakistan have been significantly influenced by occurrences of colonialism, land dispossession, forced assimilation, and cultural suppression. These historical events have had a long-lasting effect on their communities and continue to exert influence on their lives in the present day.

9. The International Human Rights Framework

The international human rights framework prioritizes the protection of the rights of indigenous people and ethnic minorities. The cornerstone of this framework is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which was approved in 2007. UNDRIP acknowledges the entitlement of indigenous peoples to self-governance, land and resource ownership, and the safeguarding of their cultural heritage. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) are human rights conventions that offer crucial safeguards for

these communities. They specifically tackle concerns such as discrimination, economic inequalities, and cultural rights. Many multilateral and bilateral accords relating to international human rights legislation can be found in the mid-twentieth century under the canopy of the United Nations (Bukhari et al., 2020). As signatories to these international agreements, governments have to defend and safeguard these rights, guaranteeing that indigenous people and ethnic minorities get all human rights and fair treatment according to the law.

10. <u>The impact of the international human rights framework on indigenous groups and ethnic</u> <u>minorities in Pakistan</u>

The human rights framework for indigenous people and ethnic groups in Pakistan is established upon universally acknowledged principles and legal mechanisms. Pakistan has ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as well as the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Despite not being a party to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Pakistan's Constitution ensures fundamental rights such as equality, freedom of religion, and cultural involvement. The 18th Amendment delegates authority to provinces to handle the needs of their communities, while the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) is responsible for safeguarding human rights. The reforms primarily target land rights and resource management, as well as affirmative action. Additionally, they emphasize the active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society in lobbying for the rights of indigenous and ethnic communities. Obstacles endure in the implementation of these rights, encompassing issues such as land conflicts, limited availability of education and healthcare, safeguarding of cultural heritage, and equitable representation. To tackle these difficulties, the government must demonstrate its dedication to enacting legislation, enhancing public consciousness, and promoting constructive communication between marginalized populations and authorities.

Signatory governments to international human rights agreements, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and numerous human rights conventions, have distinct responsibilities. They must acknowledge and safeguard the legal rights of indigenous populations and ethnic minorities. They should eradicate any form of discrimination, seek informed permission for any actions that may impact indigenous territories and resources, and provide transparent reports on their advancements while taking responsibility for any violations committed. These responsibilities are crucial in guaranteeing equitable treatment and welfare for these populations, fostering social equity, and upholding human rights at a worldwide level.

11. <u>How to address the problems of marginalized indigenous populations and ethnic communities. Cultural Conservation</u>

The prioritization of cultural preservation is crucial, especially for indigenous communities and ethnic minorities. It not only protects their identity but also supports fundamental human rights. Furthermore, the act of preserving culture plays a crucial role in enhancing the diverse fabric of worldwide civilizations. It achieves this by cultivating variety, disseminating knowledge and wisdom, encouraging cultural interaction, and enhancing societies with distinct viewpoints and advancements. Acknowledging and safeguarding the entitlement of these people to uphold their culture is an essential measure in fostering a more inclusive and culturally heterogeneous global society.

12. Contributions of Indigenous people and ethnic Minorities

The preservation of culture by indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities not only benefits these communities but also plays a crucial role in enhancing the diversity of the world's cultural fabric. The author, below, has discussed in detail the various contributions of these groups and people.

13. Preservation of Cultural Traditions and Practices

The conservation of distinct cultural practices, such as customary dances, music, art forms, and ceremonies, provides a valuable wellspring of inspiration for the arts and nurtures intercultural admiration. These traditions enhance the worldwide celebration of cultural variety. They function as a method of safeguarding customs, commemorating significant events, and honoring the cultural identity of the community. These dances are not only an expression of creativity but also a source of unity and a manner of passing along cultural information from one generation to the next. The cultural history of Pakistan is enriched by their presence, and they play a significant role in promoting the global recognition of varied traditions.

13.1.Preserver of distinctive Linguistics

Linguistics forms the foundation of any culture. Maintaining indigenous languages ensures the preservation of linguistic diversity, which is vital for comprehending the global linguistic legacy. Language mirrors distinct perspectives, ideas, and methods of comprehending the surroundings (King & Walle, 2012).

13.2.Rich Cultural Legacy

Numerous indigenous societies own tangible cultural legacy, including archaeological sites, religious locations, and artifacts. Preserving these cultural artifacts entails not only keeping a community's historical legacy but also conserving a fragment of human history. Indigenous cultures frequently offer occasions for cultural interchange and discourse. Festivals, art exhibitions, and traditional performances act as forums for engagement and comprehension among heterogeneous populations.

Indigenous cultures frequently possess traditional wisdom regarding sustainable resource management and environmental preservation (Levi &. Maybury, 2012). Disseminating this knowledge can contribute to worldwide endeavors in tackling environmental issues.

Cultural preservation encompasses the protection of the identity and dignity of indigenous people and ethnic minorities, as well as the promotion and maintenance of the diverse global cultural fabric. The distinct customs, dialects, and lifestyles upheld by these communities enhance the diversity of human civilization and the worldwide legacy. Recognizing and maintaining their entitlement to cultural conservation is a vital stride towards establishing a more comprehensive and culturally varied world.

14. Property Rights and Ownership

The recognition and preservation of indigenous people's land rights carry immense importance for multiple convincing rationales. Preserving their cultural heritage and spiritual ties to traditional territories is crucial. It promotes socioeconomic well-being by granting access to essential resources. It also ensures responsible environmental stewardship and enables self-determination in economic and cultural matters. Additionally, it addresses historical injustices related to land dispossession and provides a framework for conflict resolution. The collective importance of securing land rights for indigenous communities lies in their significant impact on both their well-being and the broader social and environmental benefits they provide (Chiu, 2018). In essence, ensuring secure land rights for indigenous people is crucial for their overall welfare, including economic stability, access to essential resources, preservation of cultural integrity, social unity, enhanced health and education, and active involvement in environmental conservation. Acknowledging and protecting these land rights is a crucial element of human rights and social justice, enabling indigenous people to prosper and promoting a fairer and more environmentally friendly future for both these groups and society at large.

The recognition and safeguarding of indigenous people's land rights are of utmost importance since they play a crucial role in maintaining cultural heritage, ensuring economic stability, fostering environmental stewardship, and, most significantly, enabling self-governance. Ensuring secure land rights for indigenous communities enables them to exercise autonomy in determining their economic, social, and cultural progress (Thornberry, 2013). This, in turn, leads to a fairer and more sustainable future for both these communities and society as a whole. In essence, acknowledging the distinct requirements and obstacles faced by indigenous people and ethnic minorities is crucial. It acknowledges past injustices, safeguards cultural heritage, tackles economic inequalities, guarantees equal opportunities in education and healthcare, supports political representation, and fosters cultural competence in service delivery. Although the ideal of equality and non-discrimination is fundamental, it is crucial to comprehend and tackle the distinct barriers encountered by these communities as a result of their historical experiences and cultural backgrounds to attain genuine equality and social justice.

15. <u>Socio-economic development</u>

Recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities is not just a matter of fairness; it also plays a critical role in supporting improved socioeconomic advancement and general welfare within these civilizations. Recognizing and defending their rights can lead to these positive outcomes. Recognizing and protecting indigenous peoples' and ethnic minorities' rights results in major economic benefits. The preservation of their rich traditional knowledge, which includes agriculture and sustainable practices, can enhance agricultural output and promote environmental sustainability. Moreover, via the promotion of cultural education that upholds their languages and legacy, these groups acquire the means to acquire information and abilities, enabling them to engage in contemporary economies while safeguarding their distinct cultural identity. Providing fair and equal access to healthcare that is customized to individuals' specific needs promotes improved health results, hence diminishing longstanding inequalities. Recognizing the economic capacity of individuals by implementing programs that promote customary means of earning a living, business ventures, and opportunities to enter the market improves financial prosperity. Autonomous governance empowers them to oversee resources and coordinate policies by cultural and economic objectives, fostering self-reliance. By confronting past instances of discrimination, we promote social integration, diminish disparities and exclusion, and ultimately optimize the capabilities of every individual. Furthermore, the conservation of cultural practices, languages, and indigenous knowledge systems not only conforms to human rights principles but also provides economic and cultural benefits, enhancing local and national economies. Lastly, the inclusion of indigenous groups in the management of sustainable resources guarantees the protection of the environment and the attainment of long-term economic advantages, thus fostering a more sustainable and fair future for everyone.

Acknowledging the entitlements of indigenous populations and ethnic minorities and advocating for customized provisions in education, healthcare, and economic opportunities yields manifold benefits. Customized education promotes the preservation of culture while enhancing educational achievements, and culturally responsive healthcare yields improved health outcomes and diminished inequities. Customized chances for economic empowerment facilitate job creation, promote entrepreneurial endeavors, and contribute to the advancement of sustainable development. Furthermore, the process of community empowerment and the promotion of stronger social bonds are essential results, enabling these communities to tackle collective obstacles and strive towards mutual objectives, ultimately benefiting both the communities and society at large.

It is imperative to tackle the enduring obstacles and continuing problems with the acknowledgment and safeguarding of the rights of indigenous people and ethnic minorities in Pakistan to attain enhanced social justice and fairness. The hurdles encompass governmental opposition, land ownership disputes, cultural oppression, prejudice, economic inequalities, political exclusion, armed confrontations, legal obstacles, discrepancies in education and healthcare, and environmental difficulties. To surmount these challenges, a cooperative endeavor combining governmental entities, non-governmental organizations, and global institutions is necessary to formulate all-encompassing policies, foster cultural awareness, and tackle economic inequalities. Moreover, the crucial measures to

achieve a fair and impartial society that respects the rights of all individuals involve altering prejudiced beliefs and promoting inter-community discourse and comprehension.

16. Conclusion & Suggestions

Presently, indigenous populations and ethnic minorities continue to face a multitude of obstacles. They frequently encounter prejudice in the realms of education, work, and healthcare. They have a higher degree of poverty, restricted access to high-quality services, and inequities in health. Occasionally, they persist in facing challenges in obtaining legal acknowledgment and advocacy (Woolcock & Narayan, 2000)

Historical injustices and discrimination have been addressed by legal reforms, reconciliation procedures, and worldwide acknowledgment of indigenous rights. Organizations and advocates globally exert relentless efforts to enhance awareness and tackle the challenges encountered by these populations. Although some progress has been made in acknowledging and resolving these injustices, there is still a significant amount of work that needs to be accomplished. To attain genuine parity and fairness for indigenous populations and ethnic minorities, it is imperative to undertake all-encompassing endeavors encompassing legal overhauls, heightened social consciousness, and worldwide unity. Acknowledging the historical injustices is crucial for constructing a more inclusive and fair world, where the rights and dignity of all individuals, irrespective of their ethnic or indigenous heritage, are upheld and safeguarded.

Acknowledging and safeguarding the rights of indigenous populations and ethnic minorities is not only a moral obligation but also a core dedication to promoting human rights and enhancing worldwide cultural variety (Karel &Vasak, 2006) These acts support the conservation of distinct cultures, stimulating economic progress, advocate for social equality, and enrich the diversity of global cultures. Ensuring these rights and rectifying past inequalities is a shared obligation that corresponds with the overarching objective of establishing a comprehensive and fair society where the rights and honor of every person are honored.

It is crucial to recognize that past injustices and continuing prejudice against indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities continue to exist in various regions of the world, resulting in their marginalization, impoverishment, violence, and violations of human rights. Hence, increasing consciousness

Governments have a vital responsibility to acknowledge and advance the rights of these people through the enforcement of international human rights legislation, safeguarding their land rights, guaranteeing equitable opportunities for education and healthcare, endorsing cultural preservation, and opposing prejudice and violence. By implementing these strategies, governments can establish fair and impartial societies that provide advantages to all individuals, irrespective of their cultural or ethnic heritage.

Through implementing these measures, governments exhibit their dedication to constructing a global society in which each person can fully exercise their rights and actively contribute to the intricate fabric of human culture and diversity. The acknowledgment of indigenous people and ethnic minorities is not alone a legal duty but a moral necessity that fosters enhanced social unity, tranquility, and advancement.

Funding

This article was not supported by any funding from public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Conflict of Interest/ Disclosures

The authors have disclosed that there are no potential conflicts of interest concerning the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

REFERENCES

Baird, I. and B. Shoemaker. (2007). 'Unsettling Experiences: Internal Resettlement and International Aid Agencies in Laos'. Development and Change 38 (5).P865-888.

Bakhsh, F., Safdar, M. A., Jamshed, J., & Abbasi, W. A. (2020). SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CORRIDOR: PAKISTAN'S COMPLIENCE WITH KARTARPUR **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS** RELATING PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES. International Journal of Management Research and Emerging Science, 10(2).

Bukhari, S. W. R., Jamshad, J., Kareem, N., Javed, M. W., & Sadiq, K. M. (2020). ASYLUM AS A HUMAN RIGHT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: THEORY AND PRACTICE IN PAKISTAN. PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology, 17(8), 893-902.

Chiu, R. L. H., & Ha, S. K. (Eds.). (2018). Housing policy, wellbeing and social development in Asia. Routledge.

Daes, M. E. I. A. (2001). Prevention of discrimination and protection of indigenous peoples and minorities. Indigenous peoples and their relationship to land (Final working paper E/CN. 4/Sub. 2/2001/21).

Dang, H-A. (2012). Vietnam: A Widening Poverty Gap for Ethnic Minorities. In 'Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development'. Edited by Gillette H. Hall and Harry Antony Patrinos. Cambridge University Press.

Hall, G. H. and H. A. Patrinos. (2012) Introduction and Conclusion in 'Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development'. Edited by Gillette H. Hall and Harry Antony Patrinos. Cambridge University Press.

Hannum, E. and M. Wang. (2012). China: A Case Study in Rapid Poverty Reduction. In 'Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development'. Edited by Gillette H. Hall and Harry Antony Patrinos. Cambridge University Press.

Hung, P. T. Poverty of Ethnic Minorities in Viet Nam: Situation and Challenges in Programme 135 Phase II Communes, 2006-07.

Jahangir, A. (2000). Human rights in Pakistan: A system in the making. Realizing Human Rights: Moving from Inspiration to Impact, 167-193.

Jilani, H. (1998). Human rights and democratic development in Pakistan (p. 72). Lahore: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

Karel, Vasak. (2006). The International Dimensions of Human Rights, UNESCO. Available at: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000038533

Khan, N. U. (2018). Human Rights Violations during Military Rule of General Zia ul Haq. Pakistan Journal of Criminology, 10(3).

King, E. M. and D. van de Walle. (2012). Laos: Ethnolinguistic Diversity and Disadvantage. In 'Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development'. Edited by Gillette H. Hall and Harry Antony Patrinos. Cambridge University Press.

Kortright, C. (2003). Colonization and identity. The Anarchist Library, 1-14.

Levi, J. M. and B. Maybury-Lewis. (2012). Becoming Indigenous: Identity and Heterogeneity in a Global Movement. In 'Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Development'. Edited by Gillette H. Hall and Harry Antony Patrinos. Cambridge University Press.

Rais, R. B. (2007). Identity politics and minorities in Pakistan. South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, 30(1), 111-125.

Rehman, J. (2001). Minority rights and the constitutional dilemmas of Pakistan. Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights, 19(4), 417-443.

Scott, J.C. (2009). The Art of Not Being Governed. An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia. Yale University Press.

Thornberry, P. (2013). Indigenous peoples and human rights. In Indigenous peoples and human rights. Manchester University Press.

Wiessner, S. (1999). Rights and status of indigenous peoples: A global comparative and internationallegalanalysis. Harv.Hum.Rts.J., 12,57..http://www.guystanding.com/files/documents/IPCOnePager47_-_English.pdf

Woolcock, M. and D. Narayan. (2000). 'Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research and Policy'. World Bank Research Observer 15(2): P225-249

Ziring, L. (1997). Pakistan in the twentieth century: a political history. (No Title).