



Papua New Guinea May Learn From China's Poverty Reduction Model

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyses China's poverty reduction model to extract possible lessons that PNG could adopt. The report makes recommendations based on the knowledge gained from China's poverty reduction experiences. China's remarkable achievement of lifting more than 850 million people out of poverty in four decades offers a valuable example for any nation willing to undertake a similar endeavour. Unquestionably, China's poverty alleviation policy, often referred to as "the poverty alleviation campaign in history," has produced extraordinary outcomes. This narrative exemplifies the effective implementation of policies at the right time and location as the nation leverages the growing impact of globalisation. This research is based on a comprehensive literature analysis of China's strategies to alleviate poverty. However, the analysis highlights China's significant efforts in developing policy mechanisms aimed at alleviating poverty. First and foremost, China's poverty reduction strategies seem to have unwavering backing and resolve from its leadership. Furthermore, China has achieved significant accomplishments by establishing explicit and quantifiable objectives for reducing poverty. Indeed, the implementation of a household registration system and a focused poverty alleviation plan has significantly contributed to China's success in poverty reduction endeavors. Thus, conclusions are drawn and suggestions are provided on how PNG may similarly address poverty and propel the nation towards growth, wealth, development, and progress

INTRODUCTION

China's remarkable achievement of lifting more than 850 million people out of poverty in four decades offers a valuable example for any nation willing to undertake a similar endeavour. China's poverty alleviation policy, often referred to as 'the poverty alleviation campaign in history', has indeed yielded remarkable results. Kim (2017) aptly describes China's transformation and reform as a remarkable narrative in human history, emphasising the valuable lessons it has gleaned. According to Huang and Lahiri (2017), the narrative of how China successfully pulled millions of its citizens out of poverty is a noteworthy example of skilfully adopting appropriate policies at the appropriate moment and location while taking advantage of the growing influence of globalisation. In 1970, about 90% of China's population lived in extreme poverty. By 1981, this proportion had fallen to 88%, and it further fell to 10.2% in 2012. By 2017, the proportion of China's extremely poor population fell to 3.1%, and the number of poor people in China dropped significantly to 30.46 million (Wei Ping, 2018). This is a remarkable achievement for a nation with the largest population globally. In 2017, China had a population of 1.386 billion people. Following his first 5-year term in office in 2013, President Xi Jinping promptly prioritised poverty reduction as a key policy objective of his administration. Throughout his first tenure, President Xi Jinping relentlessly pursued poverty alleviation policies, resulting in a significant decrease in the nation's poverty rate.

“China has implemented a range of exceptional policies and measures, in accordance with the law of poverty reduction, to address its national circumstances. This has led to the establishment of integrated systems encompassing policy, work, and institutions, paving the way for poverty reduction and giving rise to a unique Chinese anti-poverty theory.” – Xi Jinping

LITERATURE REVIEW

In 1978, China's leader Deng Xiaoping initiated the reform package known as the National Economic Development Programme, with the aim of enhancing the country's underwhelming agricultural development. Deng dismantled communism and liberalised sectors that were previously exclusively accessible to foreign enterprises. As competition intensified, product quality and standards also improved. Simultaneously, during this period, the Chinese government intensified its efforts to construct infrastructure, including dams, irrigation projects, and roads, with the aim of boosting agricultural production (Huang and Lahiri, 2017). As a result, between 1994 and 2000, the Chinese government built 42,000 kilometers of road network. The Chinese government built nearly 1,200 kilometers of road infrastructure in a single day of the year. Many assessments show that China has performed well in infrastructure construction (McKinsey, 2013; Newman, 2011). Between 1984 and 2008, China implemented 95 transportation projects with a total value of US\$52 billion (Ansar et al., 2016). Furthermore, the abundance of educated low-wage workers in China has attracted international investors to establish factories in the country, resulting in the creation of millions of jobs. The vast number of jobs generated in these sectors has led to a significant increase in China's GDP per capita. In 2017, the GDP per capita in China increased from under two hundred dollars to more than eight

thousand dollars (Huang and Lahiri, 2017). According to the World Bank (2019), this amount consistently matches the earnings of individuals in developing countries. Furthermore, it is just under 25 percent of the average income of nations that are members of the OECD. China has maintained an annual GDP growth rate of 10% for more than 30 years, which many experts believe is a long expansion for a historically important economy (World Bank, 2019). Official estimates suggest that China's real GDP rose at an average yearly rate of 9.4% between 1979 and 2003, as stated by Sangui et al. (2004). This expansion occurred during the years 1979 and 2003. In the first twenty years of the 1980s and 1990s, this growth rate was more than ten percent for the whole period. China has historically maintained a real GDP growth rate of 9%–10%. Through the use of the Rule of 72, which is a method for determining the moment at which an economy would double by dividing 72 by the yearly GDP growth rate, it has been shown that the economic growth of China has grown by twofold on an annual basis since the 1970s. Experts claim that this significantly impacted China's efforts to eradicate poverty. According to Sangui et al. (2004), China's achievement of its broad-scale poverty reduction objective may be attributed to its robust economic development.

METHODOLOGY

According to Diallo (2019), China's initiatives to alleviate poverty have, in the end, been supported politically by the government ever since Deng Xiaoping was in power. The same position has been unquestionably adopted by President Xi Jinping, who has made the reduction of poverty his top priority. As a result of China's efforts, the United Nations was able to achieve its aim of half the global poverty rate by the year 2015 (Allison, 2018). China was responsible for lifting more than 500 million people out of poverty during this time period. China's poverty rate for 2020, as determined by worldwide poverty rate assessments, was at 24.70%, indicating a 0% rise compared to the preceding year. The anticipated deceleration in growth rates over the next few years will impact the rate of poverty alleviation, with a forecasted stagnation in 2024 and 2025. The World Bank's 2024 figures predict a decrease in the poverty rate at the upper-middle income nation line to 15.3% in 2024 and 13.6% in 2025, respectively. China has not yet finished with its war against poverty; as part of its efforts to create a moderately rich society, the country has set a goal of completely eradicating extreme abject poverty by the year 2030.

Although China's impoverished circumstances indices have shown improvement over the years, PNG's national level of poverty has, in contrast, escalated throughout the same timeframe. Given that PNG's poverty rate has risen while China's has significantly decreased, there must be a discrepancy or an oversight on PNG's part. Why is this study necessary? This reflects the determination and dedication of the international community as well as emerging economies to work together to eliminate poverty and achieve common development (Weiping, 2018). One of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to eliminate poverty worldwide. Given that PNG is the country with the largest population living in extreme poverty—a status it

only achieved in early 2019 – the country cannot afford to ignore achieving this laudable goal. From now on, PNG must attach extreme importance to taking measures to eliminate and reduce poverty. The purpose of this study is to examine China's success in poverty reduction and what PNG can learn from it. Specifically, this paper recounts the history of China's poverty reduction efforts and aims to draw on the lessons learned from them to provide guidance on how PNG can achieve the same results as China.

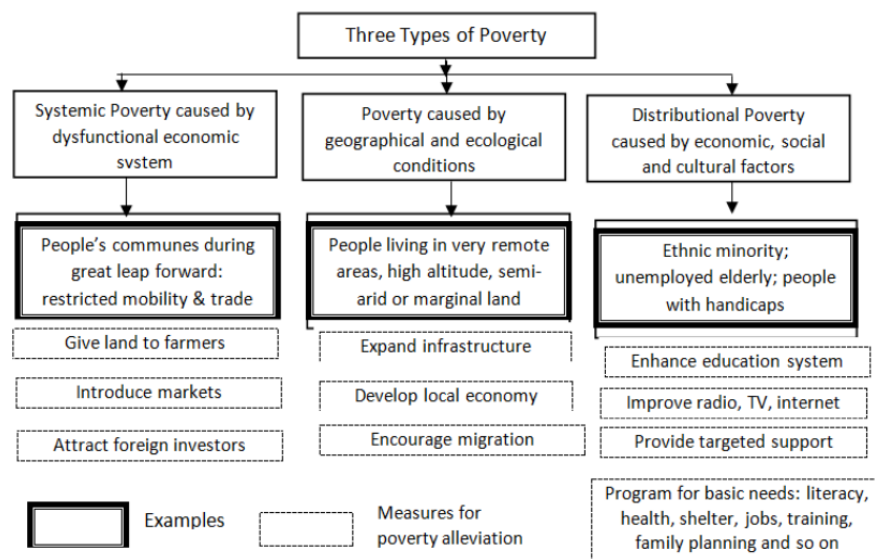
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Indications of Poverty

According to Ucha (2010), poverty is a multifaceted phenomenon that presents itself in several apparent forms. The 2001 World Development Report emphasised three key features of poverty: limited opportunities, insufficient empowerment, and inadequate security. They are unable to attain any of the goals that they have set for themselves because poverty prevents them from taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to them (Ucha, 2010). As a result, they stay virtually inactive. In 1998, the United Nations declared poverty a deprivation of choice and opportunity, constituting a violation of human dignity. The declaration further indicated that poverty reflects an absence of fundamental capacity to engage meaningfully in social life. Poverty encompasses many defining characteristics, such as insufficient financial resources to provide for a family, lack of access to education or healthcare facilities, absence of land for cultivating food or employment opportunities, and limited availability of credit. Poverty is defined by insecurity, powerlessness, and social isolation, and it particularly affects individuals, families, and communities.

Poverty is characterised by a number of indicators, including vulnerability to violence, living in marginal or insecure areas, and lacking access to adequate water and sanitation facilities. According to Mokomane (2012), there is evidence suggesting that certain categories of individuals, as well as certain types of homes and families, have a higher likelihood of living in poverty compared to others. For example, homes with a single parent, especially those led by women; families with migrant workers; families residing in rural regions or urban slums; and households impacted by HIV and AIDS are more likely to be poor than other types of households. It is also important to note that kids, the elderly, and people who have special needs are disproportionately susceptible to poverty (Mokomane, 2012).

It has been determined that there are three distinct forms of poverty in China, and Figure 1 illustrates the efforts that the government is making to combat these categories of poverty.



Picture 1. The primary forms of poverty and their methods for reducing it are discussed

Source adapted from Suleri et al. (n. d.)

1. *The China's Economic Reforms Brief History*

Historically, China has always had a leading position in the global economy. After 1840, the incursion of foreign forces plunged China into destitution and vulnerability. At the inception of the People's Republic of China, the Communist Party of China (CPC) faced a country that had suffered significant damage and upheaval after over a century of conflicts and unrest. The industrial and agricultural sectors were inherently weak, and the whole national economy was on the brink of complete breakdown. The concepts of survival and growth were inconceivable. Profound poverty was the prevailing condition (CSCIO, 2019). Human development is a core principle in Marxist political economics. The objective of the CPC is to eliminate poverty, improve living conditions, and attain shared prosperity, which are the fundamental principles of socialism. China's social system, which effectively balances justice and efficiency, has steadily reduced poverty for decades, resulting in favourable interactions between economic growth and poverty alleviation. Hence, Chinese poverty alleviation studies were established.

China in 1950 was characterised by a typical impoverished rural economy (Pei, 2018). The nation found itself ensnared in a phenomenon known as the Malthusian population trap, which characterises an economy where the increase in per capita income is slower than the population expansion. During that period, the agriculture sector accounted for 51.9% of the GDP, the heavy industry composed 20.9%, and the light industry constituted 28.2% of the GDP (Pei, 2018). The agriculture sector played a pivotal role in China's extraordinary achievement in overturning poverty. According to the China-DAC Study Group (2018), agriculture has made a threefold greater contribution to poverty reduction in China compared to other industries. During the early 1950s, China used a

Stalinist development approach by increasing its investment rate via substantial investments in state-owned heavy industries. To achieve this, China redirected agricultural surpluses into heavy industry investments. Consequently, a dual economy emerged, including both the heavy industrial and agricultural sectors, both supported by a substantial workforce. The state changed the purchase prices of agricultural products in the 1980s and transferred agricultural surplus products to farmers.

Nevertheless, this stimulated the movement of money and investment commodities to the surplus workforce, thereby instigating rapid rural automation. As a result, the inverse movement of agricultural surpluses sparked China's economic prosperity. The growth of the labour-intensive light industry and service sector facilitated this rural industrialisation by transferring investment products from heavy industry and surplus labour from farmland to these sectors (Pei, 2018). Therefore, the Chinese Communist Party's initial reform involved raising the market price of agricultural products for government purchases. However, the subsidies provided to the state grain trading system, which the state instructed to purchase at high prices and sell at low prices, prevented urban consumers from experiencing a corresponding rise in food prices. According to Pei (2018), the program's primary objective was to maintain stability in urban food costs during periods of increasing state purchase prices for agricultural commodities. The goal is to establish a market where farmers can generate a consistent income, since most of these peasants resides in poverty. Pei (2018) argues that an increase in the pricing of agricultural commodities leads to a higher rural net income per capita. These changes laid the foundation for China's profound economic metamorphosis that lasted for over three decades.

The Chinese government enacted the Household Contract Responsibility System, a program that assigned households informal leases for small parcels of communally owned land (China-DAC Study Group, 2018). This strategy, which began in the mid-1990s, laid the groundwork for market economy growth and led to the liberalisation of the agriculture sector. The termination of the state-controlled grain markets system led to the assimilation of an excess agricultural workforce by the labour-intensive industrial sector.

2. *Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy*

An important strategic step that the Chinese government has made to reduce poverty and put the country on the road to growth, progress, and advancement is the adoption of a plan that they have named the "Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy." This strategy is an essential strategic move. This plan was developed with the intention of eradicating poverty and putting the nation on the road to economic development simultaneously. For the time being, we shall examine these procedures in more depth.

Set Specific Objectives for the Alleviation of Poverty

China has set quantifiable and achievable goals to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations member states. The SDGs consist of 17 interrelated goals that aim to eliminate poverty and hunger by 2030 and promote positive health and well-being, gender equality, quality education, and other related issues. In addition to being a member of the United Nations,

China is committed to achieving these goals. According to Wei Ping (2018), China has set a goal to address food insecurity and inadequate clothing by 2020.

Additionally, China intends to ensure that all citizens have access to basic health insurance, comprehensive education, and adequate housing. The Chinese government aims to bolster nutritional stability and advance agricultural production by increasing farmers' earnings in economically disadvantaged regions at a pace beyond the national norm. To mitigate the trend of rural-to-urban migration among the Chinese populace seeking improved opportunities, the government plans to provide fundamental public amenities in rural regions. This will enable the government to address issues of traffic congestion and overpopulation that may overwhelm existing resources and facilities in urban areas.

Developing a Database System for Persons Living in Poverty

In order to provide the government with precise statistics on the poverty rate in China, this database system was specifically developed to record the Chinese people facing poor living conditions. This facilitated the gathering of data about the magnitude of poverty in China concerning individuals, households, and communities, while also enabling governments to monitor every person, family, and village classified as impoverished.

According to Weiping (2018), the register has successfully maintained data on one hundred and twenty-eight thousand villages, two hundred ninety thousand households, and ninety million people classified as impoverished since its establishment and continues to do so until 2014. This approach has the inherent benefit of facilitating population control and preventing rural-to-urban migration within the country. This phenomenon arises because a Chinese male has the potential to forego some advantages when he moves from rural areas to urban areas. The database registration system in China, often known as the household registration system, or hukou in the local language, has posed many issues. This presents an obstacle because it prevents migrants from both rural and urban regions from obtaining equal access to social services and education as those with local hukou status (Riskin, 2004).

Execution of the Focused Poverty Alleviation Plan

This strategy is broken down into five distinct phases, which are as follows: relocation, education, industrial development, social security, and eco-compensation.

Education: In order to prevent poverty from being passed down from one generation to the next, China places a strong focus on ensuring that children get either a basic education or vocational training while they are young.

Industrial Development: The developing industries including tourism and e-commerce targets the villages, aiming to facilitate their employment through vocational training and provide them with opportunities to market their agricultural products. Chinese internet giant Alibaba has made efforts to achieve this by providing assistance for the establishment of rural e-commerce hubs called Taobao villages. These villages aim to promote online sales of agricultural products and local specialities. Diallo (2019) said that in 2015, 780 Taobao villages

supported more than 200,000 active online merchants and together sustained a workforce of over one million individuals.

Eco-Compensation: Ecological compensation is a mechanism to reimburse land users or ecosystem service providers for the loss of revenue or land use rights resulting from environmental protection regulations. According to Busch (2016), the notion of eco-compensation originated in 1998 with the occurrence of the Yangtze River floods, which led to the loss of thousands of lives and caused the relocation of millions more. As a result, the Chinese government recognised the necessity of conserving upstream forests with the specific goal of preventing floods. Consequently, the Chinese government granted compensation to property owners who pursued the conservation or restoration of forests (Busch, 2016). Following the adoption of this legislation, the Chinese government has disbursed eco-compensation to the impacted people, totalling over \$150 billion.

Cash Transfer: According to Woolard and Leibbrandt (2010), cash transfer programs have the ability to provide families with a source of income that is both predictable and dependable. This is something that they observed. The ability of families to invest in both human and physical capital may be significantly impacted as a result of this aspect of the situation. The unconditional cash transfers and conditional cash transfers are the two primary types of cash transfers. Unconditional cash transfers are defined as financial transfers that are not subject to any conditions.

Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT): These transfers are contingent on a number of specific circumstances. According to Mokomane (2012), the major purpose of CCTs is to provide assistance for poverty reduction in the near term. Additionally, CCTs help to maintain demand and either promote or boost money invested in the long-term growth of human resources. This is in addition to their other functions. Mokomane (2012) asserts that CCTs establish a connection between the transfer and demand sides of service delivery, subject to the fulfilment of specific criteria. Children must meet certain prerequisites to access services such as immunizations and supplementary healthcare, which may include enrolling them in school, ensuring consistent school attendance, and guaranteeing regular checkups for both children and their mothers (Adato and Hoddinott, 2007; Slater, 2011). The CCT plan has profoundly influenced the nations that have implemented it. Consequently, there has been a significant rise in secondary school enrollment, along with a decrease in the percentage of students discontinuing their education at the elementary level. Although student dropout rates have declined, the percentage of students who successfully completed their studies has increased.

Furthermore, the program has resulted in the immediate relief of poverty, as well as the breaking of the intergenerational cycle of poverty in a significant number of families. Furthermore, the program has contributed to improving social cohesion by enhancing the family unit (Mokomane, 2012). It is important to stress, in conclusion, that monetary transfers are not enough if they are not accompanied by access to social assistance (also known as social services). Some examples of these types of social services include the provision of medical care,

educational opportunities, water, and sanitation. For instance, providing only social services like free health care or free education may leave the recipients unable to cover other school-related expenses like transportation, books, food, and uniforms. It may also be necessary to consider the opportunity cost of lost revenue from child labour. The provision of financial transfers in conjunction with social services is thus recommended on the basis of the example that was shown earlier.

Unconditional Cash Transfer: However, unconditional cash transfers, which are also known as social pensions, are effective entitlements that are paid to select categories of qualifying persons either in cash or in kind. These payments are supported entirely by public revenues or particular taxes (Mokomane, 2012). Those unable to work and not covered by comparable or connected social programs fall into these categories. These categories encompass individuals incapable of self-care, orphans, chronic illness sufferers, elderly individuals without family support, and other vulnerable individuals like children and women (Devereux, 2006). In China, cash transfers provide access to social security support for the elderly and the sick. This guarantees that they are consistently cared for. The Chinese government made an effort to give low-cost homes to those who were economically disadvantaged via this initiative. This system also includes the supply of medical insurance that is either free or at a reduced cost, as well as the provision of subsidies to families who are dealing with serious diseases (Suleri et al., n. d.).

Rural Relocation System: This approach is considered to be the primary strategy of the Chinese government's poverty alleviation efforts since it promotes the migration of rural residents residing in remote or environmentally vulnerable locations to urban areas (Diallo, 2019). According to this agreement, China anticipates relocating 9.81 million people between 2016 and 2020. The relocation initiative offers many advantages, including the potential for enhanced income for those who want to migrate. In their research, Li et al. (2019) showed that residential families that relocated had greater net earnings compared to households that did not relocate. However, despite its potential benefits, this approach has faced numerous challenges. One of the challenges encountered by the Chinese government is the compulsion of relocated inhabitants to relinquish their lands in return for meagre recompense. Consequently, the challenges of securing appropriate employment in urban areas and the exorbitant living costs in the cities have led to a significant number of these residents returning to their villages (Diallo, 2019).

Establishment of Seven Institutional Systems

According to Weiping (2018) and Diallo (2019), institutional systems are made up of a variety of components. These components include mechanisms for accountability and registration, a policy framework, an investment structure, an assistance network, a social mobilization system, a multi-channel comprehensive tracking system, and evaluation tools, amongst other things.

3. China's Strategy of Providing Help in Pairs

Wei (2015) asserts that "the paired assistance policy" represents a unique form of Chinese policy. According to this concept, established cities and

provinces are required to provide economic assistance to their matched neighboring regions, which are less developed. This assistance may take the form of financial aid, skilled labourers, or projects. Song et al. (2019) enact the strategy to diminish obstacles to the unimpeded transfer of goods, personnel, and capital to relatively underdeveloped regions. Also, the strategy brings new industries, money, and cadres to areas that aren't as developed. The pairing-up approach links authorities from the east with needy families from the west, allowing the latter to receive support from the former authorities (Diallo, 2019). Furthermore, this approach links homes in poverty with those in developed areas, allowing poor households to receive support and goods. Zhang and Tao (2018) define a paired-assistance policy as a strategy that links an economically affluent province with a severely afflicted county in a disaster. This policy ultimately aids in the recovery of border regions like Tibet and Xinjiang, provides assistance for crucial projects, and supports regions severely affected by natural disasters like earthquakes or hurricanes. On the other hand, there have been challenges in determining whether or not the partnering up program has been successful (Song et al., 2019). The policy has produced profitable outcomes. According to Song et al. (2019), the strategy has, in general, been of significant assistance in helping to develop areas that are not as developed as others, such as Tibet and Xinjiang.

4. Challenges Encountered by China in Its Poverty Alleviation Initiatives

The issue of corruption and bribery continues to be a significant hurdle in China's efforts to eradicate poverty. Several officials working in poverty alleviation have been accused of mismanaging money or engaging in blatant diversion of monies that were intended for the program. Other authorities have refuted these accusations. China has documented over sixty thousand instances of corruption and misbehaviour in the context of poverty alleviation initiatives over the previous five years (Diallo, 2019). On the other hand, China's criminal justice system and anti-corruption apparatus have been diligently working to reduce the number of corruption instances and recover the lost money due to corruption. The Central Commission of Discipline Inspection (CCDI), which is the China Supreme Anti-graft agency, was able to recover a total of \$112.20 million USD in misused money for poverty alleviation in 2018, as stated by Diallo (2019).

Lessons From China

Recently, I read "Up and Out of Poverty" by Xi Jinping, which sparked my curiosity in the method and strategy that the Chinese government has adopted in an endeavour to eradicate poverty in the country that is home to 1.5 billion people. Xi Jinping's book served as the catalyst for my exploration of this topic. The Chinese government has pledged to accomplish its objective of entirely eradicating poverty by the year 2020. In contrast, the emergence of COVID-19, a phenomenon that I believe was created, hindered a large number of organisations from achieving their set goals of attaining greatness by the turn of the decade. This was because COVID-19 prevented them from achieving their objectives. Over the course of 2020, people worldwide spent a significant amount of time fearing illness, feeling anxious about everything, wearing masks, and accomplishing very little. Nevertheless, until that particular moment, I had the impression that China was a highly committed nation in terms of its objectives,

and the outcomes demonstrated their considerable strides in attaining those objectives. I remember seeing on Youtube the journey of Chinese President Xi Jinping to isolated communities in the Chinese highlands, where he spoke with impoverished individuals, sat in their rooms, enquired about their aspirations, sampled their water and food, and instilled some sense of optimism. It had a profound effect on me. This individual left without exuding any air or pretence.

In Xi's book, I learnt that the Chinese employed two strategies to completely eliminate poverty in the country: firstly, they focused on influencing their people's mindset and eliminating any prevailing poverty mentality, such as the tendency to live in slums due to parental influence and cultural heritage. This is an area where PNG will face significant challenges if we truly strive to eliminate poverty. Secondly, they meticulously documented families. This involved employing social workers who possess a deep understanding of the unique needs of each family, allowing for targeted and accountable spending, as opposed to the alleged misconduct of PNG's Ministry of Community Affairs. The statement does not simply state: We have visited that town and distributed a certain sum of money to each individual. Instead, the government assigns a file to each family or household, appointing a dedicated agent to enhance their lives. Some households face health-related challenges. Some people have received formal education, while others are struggling with unemployment. Considering its population of 1.5 billion, China has achieved remarkable success. The aim set for 2020 has been reassessed for the current year. Based on the latest assessment, less than 3 million individuals out of the total population of 1.5 billion Chinese were classified as impoverished. It should be noted that complete eradication of poverty is achievable. The preferred goal is a very low number, and that is the current situation in China.

After reading President Xi Jinping's book, I've concluded that some issues seem particularly relevant to PNG's unique circumstances as the island struggles to overcome poverty. I do not support their acceptance, but rather propose adaptations to accurately represent the island country's specific circumstances or features. Given this situation, I have identified three crucial areas that seem to be pertinent to the Papua New Guinean setting but are noticeably absent in their current efforts to reduce poverty. These suggested topics should serve as the essential components for guiding policymakers at different levels in devising strategies to eradicate poverty in PNG. The first and most important goal is to change the way we think about the state of poverty. In other words, poverty alleviation necessitates a shift in attitude and mindset, gradually eroding the poverty mindset (Jinping, 2016; p. 7). Put differently, this suggests that we can confront and ultimately overcome poverty. This serves as both a source of inspiration and a driving force for action, considering that all industrialised nations were, at some point, entangled in poverty. The second concern is the need for efficient use of existing resources to combat poverty. Typically, in a poverty-stricken region, agriculture provides the most abundant resources, such as crops, forests, animals, and marine items. Therefore, the economic aspect of allocating resources to guarantee their optimal and productive use is the primary means of

uplifting a nation from poverty. Xi Jinping (2026, p. 11–12) refers to this as the "economic chorus."

Similarly, industrialisation in these regions should focus on resources, specifically the processing of agricultural goods. This feature highlights the strong connection between the two industrial and agricultural sectors. Therefore, it is recommended that while formulating a robust industrial strategy, the emphasis should be on using agriculture to promote industrial growth while simultaneously utilising the emerging industrial sector to bolster farming (Jinping, 2016; p. 135). Mobilising people and implementing effective leadership are essential elements for poverty alleviation. Xi Jinping (2016; p. 17) emphasises the need for leaders at all levels to thoroughly engage with the people in actual circumstances, consistently originating from and addressing the people. He delves further to delineate the attributes of successful leadership that might stimulate growth. The traits in question include credibility, discipline, diligence, non-corruptiveness, and humility. These qualities, as advocated by the author, are essential for leadership to gain the confidence and support of others. Moreover, leadership should exemplify selflessness, engage in efficient and logical actions, and encourage scientific thinking and reasoning.

It is advisable for PNG to adopt the poverty reduction strategies used by China. China's unique reduction of poverty approach has successfully elevated people from poverty via a plan that integrates extensive social and economic development initiatives with the long-term preservation of the nation's natural resources. The accomplishments of the Chinese government in curbing poverty provide a valuable lesson for PNG. It is important to establish clear objectives in order to avail ourselves of the collaboration we have with our committed and authentic partners. The Chinese experience has the potential to greatly assist Pacific Island governments in addressing poverty eradication. PNG should outline the intended economic growth path in the first phase, focussing specifically on infrastructure development. Moreover, industrialisation plays a crucial role in stimulating growth by enabling the establishment of special economic zones to combine limited resources and provide employment opportunities. In addition, we should prioritise the need for universal education and gradually evolve into innovative strategies to reduce poverty. A primary factor contributing to the observation of many Pacific Island nations gazing eastward is the inherent potential for significant learning opportunities.

China's strategy model focusses on promoting overall economic development as a means of lifting its people out of poverty, while also placing a strong emphasis on government investment in healthcare, education, and social sectors. To achieve the same level of success that China has had in alleviating poverty, PNG and other Pacific Island countries may use China's effective strategic model, particularly by including developments in education, improvements in infrastructure, and other areas of development, healthcare and skills training. China's comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty is a proven paradigm in establishing a favourable atmosphere for economic development and enhancing the general welfare of its people. Implementing efficient policies

that prioritise reducing poverty, promoting inclusive economic growth, and addressing structural obstacles to development will provide a conducive climate for sustained economic growth, eventually uplifting millions of individuals from poverty. China's remarkable socio-economic progress and ascent as a worldwide force demonstrate that infusing education and skills training programs into human capital development may enable citizens to engage in the economy and avail themselves of improved employment prospects. Nations may improve their production and the general welfare of their citizens by providing the broader population with the essential skills and information.

As a result, this lesson can help us ensure that the prosperity of individuals or the economy does not exacerbate poverty among the poor. The only way for this to happen is to establish a robust infrastructure for both education and healthcare. An important investment is to strive towards eradicating the disparity in infrastructure between rural and urban areas. The central government's function intricately connects to China's prosperity. Another crucial point to recognise is the importance of macroeconomic policy in maintaining stability. According to a 2008 World Bank report, China's experience suggests that preventing inflationary shocks has been advantageous in eradicating poverty.

1. Fight Against Poverty in Papua New Guinea

A crucial factor in the Chinese government's efficacy in alleviating poverty is the unwavering dedication and determination of its leadership to endorse eliminating poverty initiatives throughout each democratic cycle. All Chinese leaders, from Deng Xiaoping, who initiated the notable reforms, to the present leader, President Xi Jinping, who is vigorously addressing the poverty crisis, have consistently shown steadfast support and determination in their attempts to tackle this issue. Campos et al. (2018) show that a crucial prerequisite for eradicating severe poverty is the committedness of nations. Furthermore, it demonstrated that a collective dedication throughout society is necessary to address the fundamental factors contributing to severe poverty. A crucial determinant of successful poverty reduction measures is the presence of effective political leadership (Campos et al., 2018).

The leadership structure in PNG does not appear to be genuinely committed to tackling the widespread and devastating issue of poverty. They only engage in rhetoric and express superficial support for the need to eliminate poverty. The leadership circles in PNG demonstrate insufficient commitment and a lack of genuine efforts to provide a path of prosperity for the Papua New Guinean. Unsurprisingly, the poverty index in PNG continues to deteriorate on a daily basis. The Papua New Guinean authorities and their associates have persistently implemented measures to effectively tackle poverty and hunger among its population, resulting in PNG having the highest number of impoverished individuals in the Oceania area. PNG should establish a comprehensive database system to store meticulous details of all impoverished people, families, and communities. The implementation of this measure will empower the government to effectively target its poverty alleviation programs towards specific people, homes, and communities at any suitable moment and

with a predetermined expenditure. It will empower the government to monitor the progress of a specific person, family, or community in meeting their requirements on a regular basis. Insufficient documentation of impoverished people, homes, and communities will render the government's efforts helpless in combating this widespread problem.

Considering that most poor persons reside in remote regions, it is essential to promote and facilitate chances for income production and economic growth for this population (Campos et al., 2018). Even if agriculture is the primary means of revenue for these folks, governments have a responsibility to ensure that they get the required help. This assistance should include training, the provision of agricultural equipment, and the distribution of high-yield seed. It is also critical to have a diversification plan in place to accommodate those who are unable to specialise in agriculture. One possible component of a diversification strategy is to promote enterprises unrelated to farming, such as food processing and packaging. This is particularly important in rural regions that are more advantageous. Campos et al. (2018) suggest that a diversification plan could involve promoting activities unrelated to the food system, like providing environmental services. According to the China-DAC Study Group (2018), China was able to increase job opportunities outside of the agricultural sector by fostering the growth of businesses at the village and town level. Among the initiatives implemented to achieve this goal were the Village Enterprises plan, Township, and the STAR program.

China has shown commendable efforts in its endeavour to eliminate poverty by strategically allocating substantial monetary assets to the program. In 2019, the Chinese government set aside a substantial sum of approximately ninety-one billion RMB, equivalent to over 13 billion USD, with the specific goal of eradicating poverty. The Chinese government established this allocation to achieve the goals outlined in their strategy for poverty alleviation from 2016 to 2020. These figures are in addition to the four hundred billion RMB (approximately fifty-one billion euros) that the Chinese Development Bank has committed to fund the program (Diallo, 2019). It is critical to use the same approach in PNG to combat poverty. Every possible option (sources of financing) must be thoroughly investigated to acquire sufficient cash for allocation to the project. Access to substantial financial resources in PNG would facilitate and streamline government investments in social assistance programs aimed at benefiting the impoverished population. PNG implements several schemes as part of its social investment program. One of the social investment programmes in PNG is the Government Enterprise and Empowerment project. This project specifically targets tiny merchants, market women, and small holding farmers by providing them with market, farmer, and trader money. The jobless young people and elderly persons do not receive Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs). In addition, students enrolled in government elementary schools in both rural and urban regions can participate in a school fee program. These programs demand a large amount of financing, and the only way they could continue to exist is if governments had more access to financial resources.

Another notable alternative for eradicating poverty in PNG is to implement a dedicated intervention program that specifically targets individuals living in poverty. Effective communication with diverse groups of people has grown more challenging in recent years, mostly owing to the global economic crisis and armed conflicts. However, by implementing targeted interventions tailored for certain demographics, it becomes much easier to engage in communication with them. According to Campos et al. (2018), China has achieved significant progress in this field via the implementation of more focused and comprehensive initiatives. These initiatives are helping people reach out and meet their needs. The Chinese government has introduced paired assistance, a programme that exemplifies targeted involvement, to effectively engage with individuals facing economic disadvantages.

The other critical element of the effort to eliminate poverty in PNG is the need to allocate significant resources towards infrastructure development, especially in rural areas. In their 2004 research, Fan and Zhang contended that allocating resources to rural infrastructure is crucial for augmenting the total income of the rural populace. One hypothesis posits that the inadequate rural infrastructure in certain nations, which includes expenditures on education, science, and technology, could potentially explain the relatively lower levels of production in these countries. Chinese economic reform spanning three decades has been characterised by a notable focus on infrastructure development. From 1984 to 2008, China allocated a substantial sum of 56 billion USD towards investments in the transport industry, including both road and rail infrastructure (Ansar et al., 2016). To provide connectivity between rural areas and metropolitan centres, it is necessary to extend road and rail transport networks of superior quality and extensive coverage. This will facilitate the smooth and straightforward transportation of agricultural commodities and people. The country of PNG is now facing a notable deficiency in trunk infrastructure since the existing quantity of such infrastructure does not align with the nationwide needs.

Although total eradication of corruption is impossible, it is critical to limit it to its absolute threshold. There is a strong likelihood that corruption will pose a significant obstacle to the effort to eradicate poverty. The persistence of corruption will impede the effectiveness of efforts aimed at combating it. As of 2018, the World Bank Group believes that misconduct poses a significant obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations. Moreover, according to the World Bank Group (2018), corruption has the greatest impact on the financially disadvantaged population. As a result, corruption leads to increased expenditures and reduced availability of essential services such as healthcare, education, and governance. Research conducted by Özsahin and Üçler (2017) has shown a significant association between corruption and inflation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PNG should draw lessons from China's effective poverty alleviation programmes to promote their own growth. China achieved a "complete victory" in 2021, thereby fulfilling the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's poverty eradication objective. China has accomplished this a decade ahead of the projected schedule. China's success should motivated PNG, which is seeking to achieve sustainable growth. I believe that it is feasible for PNG to benefit from China's exemplary achievements, which have served as a source of inspiration for Pacific Island people. Encouraging factors, such as a strong collaboration between China and Pacific Island nations, support the feasibility of this endeavor. The Chinese example offers valuable lessons for PNG. In order to alleviate poverty on the island, PNG may adopt China's strategies, including the implementation of 'people-centred policies'. Rwanda successfully lifted one million people out of poverty using strategies similar to those of China, which prioritised human welfare. Throughout its poverty alleviation program, China successfully integrated its effective poverty reduction strategies into its own domestic circumstances. PNG's primary challenge has been replicating the systems of Western nations. Instead, it is advisable to discover feasible solutions and implement them. China's achievements motivate developing nations to accelerate their own progress. The proposed model introduces a novel framework for human advancement and offers emerging nations fresh opportunities to pursue autonomous growth. It dispels the myth that success can only come through Westernization. After winning victory over colonialism and foreign invasion, it is conceivable for China and the nations of the Pacific Islands to work together in order to show the rest of the world that they are also capable of successfully combating poverty and sluggish growth. This would be a demonstration of their ability to effectively tackle these issues. It is within our capacities to attain self-sufficiency and to allow our people to improve their quality of life. Both of these goals are within our reach.

In the last four decades, China has successfully pulled almost eight hundred million people out of poverty, contributing approximately 75 percent of the world's poverty reduction during that time frame. This is unprecedented in Chinese history. With its economy surging to eighteen trillion U.S. dollars in 2022, China has emerged as the primary trade partner for more than 140 nations and regions. Furthermore, China has successfully developed the most extensive education, healthcare, and social security systems globally, thereby reducing wealth disparity and fostering a more egalitarian society that ensures no one falls behind. There are a number of fundamental ideas that have contributed to China's remarkable economic miracle. These ideas include a powerful central government that is committed to the well-being of the vast majority of its people and strengthening citizens through education and health care, as well as thriving market industries and profitable state-owned companies.

FURTHER STUDY

Every research is subject to limitations; thus, you can explain them here and briefly provide suggestions to further investigations.

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