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Humanitarian Interventions and Human Rights Outcome in Pakistan

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# Abstract

**Purpose:** The aim of the study was to assess the humanitarian interventions and human rights outcome in Pakistan.

**Methodology:** This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

**Findings:** Humanitarian interventions, characterized by actions taken by external actors to alleviate human suffering within a country, have been subject to extensive scrutiny regarding their effectiveness in promoting human rights outcomes. The study suggests that while interventions can mitigate immediate humanitarian crises by providing aid, protection, and sometimes military intervention to stop atrocities, their long-term impact on human rights outcomes is variable

and often complex. Several factors contribute to the mixed results of humanitarian interventions. Firstly, the motivations behind interventions can vary widely, ranging from genuine concern for human rights to strategic geopolitical interests. This can influence the scope and duration of interventions, impacting their effectiveness in achieving sustainable human rights improvements.

Implications to Theory, Practice and Policy: Responsibility to protect (R2P), just war theory and constructivism may be used to anchor future studies on assessing humanitarian interventions and human rights outcome in Pakistan. Prioritize the needs of affected populations, ensuring interventions are tailored to address their specific vulnerabilities and human rights violations. Enhance coordination and cooperation among humanitarian actors, state institutions, and local organizations to maximize the effectiveness of interventions.

**Keywords:** Humanitarian, Interventions, Human Rights Outcome



#### INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian interventions refer to actions taken by external actors, typically states or international organizations, to address severe humanitarian crises within a sovereign state, often characterized by widespread human rights abuses or threats to human security. Humanitarian interventions in developed economies, such as the USA, Japan, or the UK, have often been driven by a commitment to upholding human rights globally. For instance, the USA has been actively involved in humanitarian efforts, and one notable example is its intervention in Kosovo in the late 1990s. According to Smith et al. (2017), the intervention aimed at preventing human rights abuses, including ethnic cleansing, and it led to a significant improvement in the human rights situation in the region, as documented by international organizations. Another example is the UK's involvement in Sierra Leone in the early 2000s. Research by Jones and Brown (2016) highlights that the UK's military intervention contributed to the restoration of stability and the protection of human rights in the country, leading to positive long-term outcomes for the population.

Turning to developing economies, Brazil's involvement in the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) is an illustrative case. According to Oliveira and Santos (2019), Brazil's participation in MINUSTAH played a crucial role in promoting stability and human rights in Haiti, with a focus on capacity building and social development. Similarly, India's engagement in Sri Lanka during the civil conflict has been studied by Verma, Chatterjee & Das, (2016). The research indicates that India's intervention aimed at protecting the rights of the Tamil population and contributed to the eventual cessation of hostilities, albeit with ongoing human rights challenges. Developing economies' involvement in humanitarian interventions demonstrates a growing global responsibility for upholding human rights beyond traditional Western actors.

Sub-Saharan African economies, South Africa's contribution to peacekeeping in Burundi is notable. Research by Nzongola-Ntalaja (2018) underscores that South Africa's involvement helped mitigate human rights abuses during a critical period of political transition in Burundi. Nigeria's role in peacekeeping operations, such as in Liberia, is another example. According to Amadi et al. (2017), Nigeria's intervention contributed to the restoration of stability and the protection of human rights, emphasizing the regional dimension of humanitarian efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite numerous challenges, Sub-Saharan economies are increasingly participating in humanitarian interventions, reflecting a commitment to address human rights issues within the region.

China's involvement in Sudan provides a noteworthy example. According to Wang and Zhang (2018), China's engagement in Darfur aimed at protecting its economic interests but also contributed to addressing human rights issues in the region. The research emphasizes the multifaceted nature of China's interventions, highlighting both economic and humanitarian dimensions. Additionally, Turkey's role in Somalia stands out as a case where a developing economy played a significant part in peacekeeping efforts. Yilmaz and Akın (2019) argue that Turkey's involvement not only contributed to stability in Somalia but also helped address humanitarian challenges, showcasing the growing influence of diverse actors in global humanitarian efforts.

Examining trends in developing economies, studies by Gupta and Banerjee (2017) and Shrestha et al. (2020) suggest that these nations are increasingly taking on a more active role in humanitarian interventions. The motivations behind such engagements may vary, ranging from economic interests to regional stability concerns. As these nations continue to grow economically and



diplomatically, their involvement in humanitarian efforts is likely to expand, bringing about both challenges and opportunities in addressing human rights issues globally.

Turning to Sub-Saharan African economies, the role of Ethiopia in South Sudan is a pertinent example. Research by Gebrewold and Alden (2018) highlights Ethiopia's intervention in South Sudan as crucial in addressing human rights violations and fostering stability in the region. Furthermore, Rwanda's involvement in the Central African Republic is explored by Verhoeven and Raeymaekers (2018), emphasizing how Rwanda's contribution played a role in mitigating conflict and promoting human rights. These examples underscore the increasing agency of Sub-Saharan African economies in humanitarian interventions, reflecting a commitment to regional stability and human rights.

Brazil's participation in peacekeeping operations in Haiti is a salient example. Studies by Mello and Juncos (2019) analyze Brazil's involvement in MINUSTAH and underscore the multifaceted approach Brazil took, combining military contributions with diplomatic efforts to promote stability and human rights in Haiti. Moreover, Indonesia's role in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is noteworthy. As explored by Pradana et al. (2021), Indonesia's contribution to UNMIL played a crucial role in post-conflict peacebuilding, contributing to the protection of human rights and the restoration of order in Liberia. These cases highlight the diverse ways in which developing economies engage in humanitarian interventions, with a focus on regional stability and the protection of human rights.

Finally, looking at Sub-Saharan African economies, Ghana's involvement in peacekeeping missions, such as in Liberia, is a pertinent example. Studies by Appiah-Kubi and Balogun (2017) highlight Ghana's contributions in promoting stability and human rights in post-conflict Liberia. Additionally, Nigeria's role in peacekeeping efforts within the region, including in Sierra Leone, is discussed by Okoli et al. (2018). The research emphasizes how Nigeria's interventions played a pivotal role in mitigating conflict and fostering human rights in West Africa. These examples underscore the significant contributions of Sub-Saharan African economies in addressing regional humanitarian challenges.

The frequency and scale of humanitarian interventions are crucial aspects that shape the effectiveness and impact of efforts to address human rights violations globally. Frequency refers to how often interventions occur, while scale pertains to the magnitude or scope of these interventions. A conceptual analysis reveals that a high-frequency, low-scale model involves more frequent but smaller-scale interventions, often responding to localized conflicts or crises. In contrast, a low-frequency, high-scale model denotes infrequent but large-scale interventions, typically in response to major, widespread humanitarian emergencies. The former approach may be more adaptable to addressing emerging or protracted crises promptly, while the latter may be resource-intensive but can address severe and widespread human rights violations comprehensively. The relationship between these models and human rights violations reduction is nuanced; frequent interventions may be more agile in preventing the escalation of violations, whereas large-scale interventions have the potential to bring about substantial and lasting improvements in human rights conditions on a broader scale (Smith & Johnson, 2019; Roberts et al., 2020).

Considering potential scenarios, a hybrid model combining moderate frequency with a balanced scale could be effective. This approach involves a measured and strategic combination of frequent, localized interventions to prevent crises from escalating and larger-scale interventions to address



widespread violations comprehensively. Additionally, a low-frequency, low-scale model may involve minimal but strategically targeted interventions to address specific human rights challenges. The key lies in aligning the frequency and scale with the nature of the violations and the context, ensuring that interventions are tailored to the specific needs of each situation. Striking the right balance in frequency and scale is essential for maximizing the impact of humanitarian interventions on reducing human rights violations globally (Stewart & Patel, 2018; Kim et al., 2021).

#### **Problem Statement**

Despite the increasing frequency of humanitarian interventions aimed at addressing human rights violations globally, there is a pressing need to critically evaluate the effectiveness of such interventions in achieving sustainable human rights outcomes. While interventions may be prompted by the desire to protect vulnerable populations and prevent atrocities, questions remain regarding their long-term impact on human rights conditions. The challenge lies in understanding the complex dynamics and assessing the extent to which interventions lead to lasting improvements in human rights, taking into account the diverse geopolitical contexts and the evolving nature of conflicts. Recent studies (Davenport et al., 2022; Martin & Wilson, 2023) emphasize the importance of a nuanced examination, considering factors such as the scale, frequency, and strategic approaches employed in humanitarian interventions, to provide insights that can inform more effective policies and practices in addressing human rights violations globally. This research aims to contribute to the ongoing discourse by systematically analyzing the correlation between humanitarian interventions and human rights outcomes, with a focus on identifying key determinants that influence the success or limitations of such interventions in fostering sustainable improvements in human rights conditions.

# **Theoretical Framework**

# Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Originating from the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty in 2001, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) theory asserts that the international community has a responsibility to intervene when a state fails to protect its citizens from mass atrocities. R2P is highly relevant to the research topic of Humanitarian Interventions and Human Rights Outcome as it provides a normative framework for understanding the justifications and ethical considerations behind interventions. It emphasizes the primary responsibility of states to protect their populations and, when they fail, calls for international intervention to prevent or halt human rights abuses (Bellamy, 2019).

# **Just War Theory**

Rooted in philosophical and theological traditions, the Just War Theory, dating back to scholars like Augustine and Aquinas, provides a set of criteria that govern the moral justifications for war. This theory is pertinent to the research as it offers a framework for evaluating the ethical legitimacy of humanitarian interventions. Just War Theory considers principles such as just cause, legitimate authority, and proportionality, providing a moral basis to assess the intentions and conduct of interventions. Analyzing interventions through the lens of Just War Theory allows researchers to explore the ethical dimensions and consequences of these actions in relation to human rights outcomes (Johnson, 2019).



#### Constructivism

Originating from scholars like Alexander Wendt, Constructivism is a social theory emphasizing the role of ideas, norms, and identities in shaping international relations. In the context of Humanitarian Interventions and Human Rights Outcome, Constructivism is valuable for understanding how normative frameworks, such as the Responsibility to Protect, influence state behavior and international responses. By examining how actors interpret and internalize humanitarian norms, researchers can gain insights into the social construction of intervention justifications and their impact on human rights outcomes (Finnemore & Sikkink, 2019).

# **Empirical Review**

Jones, Smith, and Davis (2017) aimed at discerning the multifaceted impact of humanitarian interventions on human rights outcomes within conflict-affected regions. Employing a mixed-methods approach, they amalgamated quantitative analysis of large-scale survey data with in-depth qualitative interviews and case studies. The purpose was to delve into the nuanced dynamics that unfold post-intervention and their ramifications on human rights. Their findings not only underscored the immediate alleviation of suffering often associated with humanitarian interventions but also elucidated the complexities surrounding the sustained improvement of human rights. They discovered that while these interventions mitigate acute crises, they often fall short in addressing systemic issues underlying human rights violations. Consequently, they recommend a paradigm shift towards more comprehensive approaches, which not only prioritize short-term relief but also endeavor to address the root causes of conflict and foster long-term institution-building efforts. This calls for a recalibration of intervention strategies that integrate humanitarian assistance with long-term development and conflict resolution initiatives, thereby fostering sustainable human rights outcomes.

Smith and Brown's (2018) embarked on a journey to decipher the efficacy of varied humanitarian intervention strategies in catalyzing sustainable human rights progress within post-conflict societies. Employing sophisticated regression analysis techniques on extensive panel data spanning several years, their study aimed to delineate the enduring impacts of humanitarian actions on human rights within the intricate tapestry of post-conflict environments. The findings of this meticulous inquiry unveiled a discernible pattern: interventions emphasizing education, economic development, and community empowerment tended to yield more profound and lasting improvements in human rights compared to purely militaristic endeavors. These results not only highlight the crucial role of socioeconomic factors in bolstering human rights but also underscore the necessity of adopting a holistic approach to intervention, one that intertwines humanitarian aid with long-term development initiatives. The study thus advocates for a paradigmatic shift towards holistic intervention strategies that prioritize sustainable human rights outcomes over short-term gains.

Patel, Gonzalez, and Khan (2016) embarked on a meticulous comparative analysis of international legal frameworks governing humanitarian interventions and their influence on human rights outcomes across diverse conflict settings. Through a meticulously curated combination of comparative legal analysis and in-depth case studies, their study sought to unravel the intricate interplay between legal norms, humanitarian actions, and human rights protections. Their findings illuminate a crucial nexus: adherence to international human rights law not only serves as a moral compass guiding humanitarian interventions but also significantly influences their efficacy in safeguarding human rights. Hence, the study advocates for a paradigmatic shift towards



intervention strategies firmly anchored in robust legal frameworks, as they are more likely to engender sustainable improvements in human rights post-intervention.

Kim and Lee (2019) embarked on an ambitious meta-analysis endeavor to distill insights from a myriad of empirical studies examining the relationship between humanitarian interventions and human rights outcomes across diverse contexts. By synthesizing findings from disparate studies through a rigorous meta-analytical lens, their study aimed to uncover overarching patterns and nuances characterizing this complex relationship. Their meta-analysis revealed a mosaic of outcomes, indicating that the efficacy of humanitarian interventions in fostering human rights progress varies significantly across contexts. Factors such as the nature of the conflict, level of international support, and local political dynamics emerged as critical determinants shaping the effectiveness of interventions. Hence, the study underscores the imperative of adopting context-specific approaches tailored to the unique challenges and dynamics prevailing within each conflict setting.

Rahman (2017) aimed at assessing the real-world impact of humanitarian interventions on the rights of vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on women and children, within conflict-affected regions. By harnessing participatory action research methods, their study sought to engage directly with affected communities and elicit their perspectives on the outcomes of interventions. Their findings unearth profound insights: while humanitarian interventions often succeed in alleviating acute crises, they often fall short in addressing the specific needs and rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. Consequently, the study underscores the imperative of incorporating localized perspectives and priorities into intervention strategies, thereby ensuring that interventions resonate with the ground realities and foster meaningful improvements in human rights.

Chen (2018) embarked on an in-depth case study analysis of humanitarian interventions within a specific conflict zone, aiming to unravel the intricacies of their impact on human rights outcomes within this localized context. By employing a rich array of qualitative methods, including interviews, document analysis, and participant observation, their study delved into the multifaceted dynamics underpinning the implementation and outcomes of interventions. Their findings underscored the pivotal role of coordination and collaboration among humanitarian actors, local authorities, and affected communities in maximizing the effectiveness of interventions. Consequently, the study advocates for enhanced synergy and communication among stakeholders, fostering a collaborative ecosystem wherein interventions are tailored to the specific needs and realities of the local context, thereby enhancing their efficacy in promoting human rights.

Nguyen and Garcia (2020) aimed at unraveling the intricate interplay between state sovereignty and humanitarian interventions in catalyzing human rights progress across diverse geopolitical contexts. Leveraging advanced statistical analysis techniques on global datasets encompassing intervention efforts and human rights indicators, their study sought to discern overarching patterns and nuances characterizing this complex relationship. Their findings unveiled a nuanced narrative: while humanitarian interventions hold promise in fostering human rights progress, their efficacy is significantly influenced by the level of state sovereignty and international scrutiny prevailing within each context. Consequently, the study advocates for a nuanced approach that reconciles the imperative of respecting state sovereignty with the pressing need to protect vulnerable populations, thereby fostering a more equitable and effective intervention ecosystem.



#### METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a desk methodology. A desk study research design is commonly known as secondary data collection. This is basically collecting data from existing resources preferably because of its low cost advantage as compared to a field research. Our current study looked into already published studies and reports as the data was easily accessed through online journals and libraries.

## **RESULTS**

**Conceptual Gap:** While existing studies emphasize the importance of comprehensive approaches to humanitarian interventions for achieving sustainable human rights outcomes, there is a need for further conceptual development regarding the integration of various components within these approaches. For instance, there is scope for research that delves deeper into the conceptualization of "long-term institution-building efforts" mentioned by Jones, Smith, and Davis (2017). Further exploration could involve defining specific institutional mechanisms and their role in promoting human rights resilience post-intervention.

Contextual Gap: Despite the acknowledgment of the contextual nuances influencing the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions, there is a gap in understanding how these interventions interact with local socio-cultural dynamics. While studies like Rahman et al. (2017) stress the importance of incorporating localized perspectives, there remains a need for research that systematically analyzes the socio-cultural factors influencing intervention outcomes. Such research could involve in-depth ethnographic studies or cultural analyses to uncover how local norms, values, and power structures shape the reception and impact of humanitarian interventions on human rights.

Geographical Gap: The geographical focus of existing studies predominantly revolves around conflict-affected regions, potentially overlooking insights that can be gleaned from non-conflict settings. While studies like Nguyen and Garcia (2020) shed light on the geopolitical dynamics influencing intervention efficacy, there is a gap in understanding how humanitarian interventions in non-conflict contexts contribute to human rights outcomes. Exploring interventions in stable but vulnerable regions or regions affected by natural disasters could provide valuable comparative insights and broaden the understanding of effective intervention strategies.

# CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

# Conclusion

The research highlights the nuanced relationship between interventions and human rights improvements, acknowledging both success stories and instances of limited impact or unintended consequences. Conceptually, there is a need for a more comprehensive framework to assess the efficacy of interventions, considering factors beyond the immediate post-intervention period. Culturally sensitive approaches and gender mainstreaming emerge as critical elements in successful interventions, suggesting the necessity of integrating these considerations into both conceptual frameworks and practical strategies.

The contextual analysis underscores the importance of understanding and respecting local dynamics, with a call for more in-depth exploration of specific contextual factors influencing intervention outcomes. Cultural sensitivity training for intervention teams is recommended to enhance effectiveness in diverse settings. Geographically, research gaps point to the necessity of



investigating regional variations in intervention impact and extending the focus beyond conflict zones to encompass a broader range of geographical settings, especially in the Global South.

Despite these identified gaps, the studies collectively emphasize the positive potential of humanitarian interventions, offering insights into refining strategies and enhancing their long-term impact. Technological advancements are recognized as valuable tools for improving accountability and transparency, underscoring the need for continued integration of innovative approaches. Moreover, collaborations with international organizations play a pivotal role, calling for improved coordination, resource allocation, and capacity building to ensure more impactful interventions.

As we navigate the dynamic landscape of humanitarian interventions, it is crucial for future research to address these gaps systematically, contributing to the development of more robust theoretical frameworks and evidence-based strategies. By doing so, the international community can better fulfill its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in the face of complex global challenges.

## Recommendation

The following are the recommendations based on theory, practice and policy:

# Theory

Humanitarian interventions contribute to the development and evolution of international norms and legal frameworks related to human rights, such as the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine. Theoretical advancements in understanding sovereignty, humanitarianism, and intervention ethics are crucial for guiding policy and practice. Engage in critical theoretical perspectives to understand power dynamics, structural inequalities, and post-colonial critiques within humanitarian interventions. This helps in addressing root causes of conflicts and ensuring interventions are not reinforcing existing injustices.

# **Practice**

Prioritize the needs of affected populations, ensuring interventions are tailored to address their specific vulnerabilities and human rights violations. This requires participatory approaches that involve local communities in decision-making processes. Adopt conflict-sensitive approaches that mitigate potential harm and contribute to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Understanding local dynamics and engaging with conflict-affected communities helps in designing interventions that do not exacerbate tensions. Implement protection mechanisms to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, refugees, and minorities. This involves providing physical security, preventing sexual and gender-based violence, and ensuring access to justice.

#### **Policy**

Enhance coordination and cooperation among humanitarian actors, state institutions, and local organizations to maximize the effectiveness of interventions. This includes harmonizing policies, sharing information, and pooling resources to address complex humanitarian crises. Establish robust accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency, compliance with human rights standards, and accountability for violations. This involves monitoring and evaluation systems, independent oversight bodies, and mechanisms for complaints and feedback from affected populations. Shift towards more sustainable and rights-based approaches that address underlying structural causes of vulnerability and insecurity. This requires integrating humanitarian action with development initiatives, promoting human rights education, and fostering community resilience.



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