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The Involvement of the Church of Pakistan in Development

PhD, Pervaiz Sultan

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Abstract

This research critically examines the involvement of the Church of Pakistan in development of the poor people by way of a comparative case-study of two key dioceses, Multan and Hyderabad.

The development priorities in the Dioceses studied have been defined and adopted mainly by the Diocesan Bishops of Multan and Hyderabad, J.V. Samuel and Bashir Jiwan who both by interaction with the local context as well as by exposure to externally produced theological discourses i.e. ecumenical and evangelical respectively, developed distinct approaches to mission and development in their dioceses, thus having 'conscientization' and 'evangelization' as specific aims of development respectively. Therefore, conscientization and evangelization as overruling diocesan motivating philosophies along with sample development projects have been analyzed. The diocesan aims of conscientization and evangelization were examined in the light of the 'wholism' projected by the Biblical materials.

The involvement of the Church of Pakistan in development has been highlighted in the contexts of a feudal and religiously biased national and the international secular development debate.

With the objective of discussing the applicability of the two respective theologies for strengthening the mission understanding within the Church of Pakistan and the Church worldwide, the findings of this research have provided a base for the proposition of more realistic components of a theology of development for Pakistan.