

DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATE PAKISTAN

SPECIAL EDITION

BALUCHISTAN: Challenges & Opportunities



**DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATE
PAKISTAN**



Pakistan



© UNDP Pakistan

Development Advocate Pakistan provides a platform for the exchange of ideas on key development issues and challenges in Pakistan. Focusing on a specific development theme in each edition, this quarterly publication fosters public discourse and presents varying perspectives from civil society, academia, government and development partners. The publication makes an explicit effort to include the voices of women and youth in the ongoing discourse. A combination of analysis and public opinion articles promote and inform debate on development ideas while presenting up-to-date information.

Editorial Board

Mr. Ignacio Artaza

Resident Representative a.i., UNDP Pakistan

Mr. Shakeel Ahmad

Assistant Resident Representative/Chief Development Policy Unit, UNDP Pakistan

Mr. Aadil Mansoor

Assistant Resident Representative/Chief Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit, UNDP Pakistan

Mr. Kaiser Ishaque

Assistant Resident Representative/Chief Democratic Governance Unit, UNDP Pakistan

Mr. Amanullah Khan

Assistant Resident Representative/Chief Environment and Climate Change Unit, UNDP Pakistan

Ms. Fatimah Inayet

Communications Analyst, UNDP Pakistan

DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATE PAKISTAN

Disclaimer

The views expressed here by external contributors or the members of the editorial board do not necessarily reflect the official views of the organizations they work for and that of UNDP's.

Editorial Team

Maheen Hassan

Umer Akhlaq Malik

Design

Hasnat Ahmed

Printed by:

Gull Awan Printers, Islamabad

United Nations Development Programme Pakistan
4th Floor, Serena Business Complex,
Khayaban-e-Suharwardy, Sector G-5/1,
P. O. Box 1051,
Islamabad, Pakistan

For contributions and feedback, please write to us at:
pak.communications@undp.org

ISBN: 978-969-8736-24-8

The issue has received significant overall support from the UNDP Balochistan team including, Mr. Zulfiqar Durrani (Provincial Representative), Ms. Saman Bakhtawar (Economic Sector Analyst), Mr. Habibullah Nasar (Social Policy Analyst), Mr. Dawood Nangyal (Provincial Liaison Officer), Ms. Shumaila Kamil (Admin & Finance Associate), Mr. Zahoor Ahmed Taran (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer) and Mr. Muhammad Marri (Communication Officer).

December 2018

CONTENTS

Analysis

- 02** Balochistan: Challenges and Opportunities

Opinion

- 12** Lack of Investment in Human Capital: A Limiting Factor in Socio-economic Development in Balochistan

Mahfooz Ali Khan

- 14** China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Balochistan

Rafiullah Kakar

- 16** Balochistan's Social Sector

Prof. Dr. Ruksana Jabeen

- 18** Water Resources and Management in Balochistan – Key Issues

Dr. Shahid Ahmad

- 21** Gender and Balochistan

Rehana Khilji

- 23** Opportunities in Balochistan: Promise for the Future

Muhammad Naveed Iftikhar

- 25** Youth: The Forgotten Priority

Fatima Nangyal Khan

Interviews

- 27** Sardar Babar Khan Musakhel

Deputy Speaker
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

- 28** Sana Durrani

Chairperson, Balochistan Women Business Association
Executive Member, Chamber of Commerce and Industry

- 29** Komal Shah Afridi

President, Transgender Society Quetta

Ghazala

Member, Transgender Community

- 30** Zia Khan

Founder, Quetta Online and Balochistan Online
Social Activist

Youth Voices

- 31** Murad Kakakhel

Sangeen Khan

Akbar Sardar

Gusho Durrani

Sana Afridi

Asra Baloch

Follow us



/undppakistan



www.twitter.com/undp_pakistan



www.pk.undp.org

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Balochistan's Development Paradigm

Balochistan is the largest province in terms of size and smallest in terms of population. These distinguished features offer both challenges and opportunities for development. On the negative side, Balochistan bears the second highest incidence of multi-dimensional poverty after the erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas. On the positive side, the province houses abundant natural resources which could drive prosperity in the province. However, the province has not been able to optimally capitalize its potential, owing to a myriad of issues, some narrated below.

The planning and financial management process in the province needs a major shift. The 7th National Finance Commission (NFC) has increased the flow of finances from the central government to Balochistan from 7 percent in the 6th NFC to 9 percent in the 7th NFC. However, the socio-economic indicators of the province are yet to improve considerably. The allocative efficiency of the provincial Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) has remained quite low. For example, while education remains one of the main development challenges in Balochistan, its share in PSDP has declined overtime from 23 percent in 2014-15 to 14 percent in 2018-19. The allocation under PSDP should be informed by a prioritization exercise of the development challenges in the province. If such a process is used, health and education will emerge as the top priority sectors for resource allocation.

The second issue to be addressed with regards to planning and management is the lack of a proper evaluation and impact assessment system. Financial allocations are mostly done on the basis of what could be best described as an incremental approach: a specific percentage is added to the departments' previous years' allocation every year without a rigorous analysis of the development needs and the impact of previous allocations. The prioritization exercise for the Sustainable Development Goals undertaken by the Planning and Development Department indicates a step in the right direction as this analysis could be used for decisions on the inter-departmental and sectoral allocation of funds from the provincial budget and particularly PSDP.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could play an instrumental role in the socio-economic development of the province, as the Western Route passes through the most impoverished regions of Pakistan and Balochistan. CPEC will generate significant results if it connects the most deprived districts and regions to markets and social services.

The development of Gwadar city as an engine of growth for CPEC could not be overemphasized. In this regard, China's experience of developing their second-tier cities will be highly instructive. The city

governance remains the linchpin: an empowered city Mayor backed up by a well-articulated and well defined city governance structure is key to developing Gwadar as a modern and sustainable city.

Balochistan has the lowest population density in the country. This makes the provision of public social services highly expensive. Cultural constraints notwithstanding, there are examples from other countries that the government could refer to, like Australia, for providing economic and social services to a thinly spread population. The development of economic and social nodes to incentivize the population to live in central areas is another model, which will require the government's attention towards the development of second tier cities.

Besides natural resources, livestock is the key source of livelihoods especially for the rural population. Concerted efforts should be made to transform livestock husbandry into a meat industry. Given that the province bears a livestock population of nearly 34 million, which is almost 40 percent of the total national livestock population, the sector offers huge potential for poverty alleviation and economic growth. Developing the meat industry around the CPEC route will connect meat production to national and international markets.

Lastly but most importantly, strong political institutions are the backbone of long term and sustainable development in Balochistan. Unfortunately, at 45.3 percent, Balochistan had the lowest voters turn out ratio among all the four provinces in the general elections 2018 (58.6 for Punjab, 47.6 for Sindh and 45.5 for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). Women participation was equally poor, at 40 percent, again the lowest among all provinces. Among other interventions, an empowered local government system will go a long way in establishing sustainable political institutions in the province. The local government system is an effective instrument in mobilizing and developing political leadership at the grassroots level. It has also been extremely useful in enlarging inclusion, especially of women and other marginalized groups, in politics and nation building.

Balochistan harbours the potential for steering growth and development, even at the national level. What it needs is strong institutions, both inside and outside the government. The concerted efforts of all stakeholders, both public and private, is imperative in thrusting the province forward. It is encouraging to note that some steps are being undertaken towards this direction. The Balochistan Comprehensive Development and Growth Strategy, currently under preparation, should be used to provide an overarching institutional framework for long term sustainable development in Balochistan.

Balochistan: Challenges and Opportunities

Introduction to Balochistan: Significance to Pakistan

Constituting 43.6 percent of the total land-mass of Pakistan¹, Balochistan offers immense potential for the future. However, in terms of population, it makes up only 6 percent of the total population in the country. To add to this, human development indicators in the province have long been the worst in the country. 71 percent of the people in the province live in multi-dimensional poverty.² Hence, much attention has not been paid to the development of the province.

However, the province is a land of opportunity. It is rich in minerals such as uranium, copper, coal, gold, silver, platinum and aluminum, and provides nearly one-third of the country's natural gas. These reserves accumulate to form nearly 20 percent of the country's total mineral and energy resources.

In recent times, the province has gained importance through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the 'One Belt One Road Initiative'. While there remains debate regarding the true fruitfulness of this ambitious agenda for the people of the province, there is no doubt that this initiative, coupled with its sea ports, will aid in placing Balochistan as a strategic player in national and regional development.

Development Progress in Balochistan

i. Multidimensional Poverty

According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), multidimensional poverty is highest in Balochistan and lowest in Punjab. It reflects stark disparities in poverty within the country. Urban poverty is significantly lower than rural poverty. The report also mirrors provincial disparities: MPI headcount ratios ranged from 31.4 percent in Punjab (with an intensity of 48.4 percent) to 71.2 percent in Balochistan (with an

Table 1: MPI Provincial Comparison (%)

Province/Region	Value		
	MPI	Incidence (H)	Intensity
Sindh	0.231	43.1	53.5
Punjab	0.152	31.4	48.4
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0.250	49.2	50.7
Balochistan	0.394	71.2	55.3
Azad Jammu & Kashmir	0.115	24.9	46.3
Gilgit Baltistan	0.209	43.2	48.3

intensity of 55.3 percent) (Table 1).³

Overall head-count poverty in Balochistan at 71.2 percent, is highest amongst all the provinces of Pakistan. There is also a stark rural urban divide in the incidence of poverty: headcount poverty in rural areas is 84.6 percent compared to 37.7 percent for urban areas. When compared with the national aggregate-38.8 percent poverty headcount, 54.6 percent urban poverty and 9.4 percent rural poverty-it indicates that the province lags behind severely and requires a systematic overhaul in order to come at par with the rest of the country. Moreover, in terms of the intensity of poverty, at 55.3 percent, Balochistan also does not perform well when compared to other provinces.⁴

The district with the highest incidence of poverty in Pakistan-Killa Abdullah-lies in Balochistan. Other districts in the province also have a high MPI, indicating that poverty is widespread across the province. (Table 2).

At the provincial level, the indicators which contribute most to the MPI are years of schooling (28.3 percent) followed by access to health facilities (17.3 percent) and child school attendance (10.5 percent). At the dimensional level, deprivations in education are the largest contributor to the MPI (42.9 percent) followed by living standards (27.1 percent) and health (24.4

percent).⁵

This mirrors national trends, where years of schooling (29.7 percent) followed by access to health facilities (19.8 percent) and child school attendance (10.5 percent), contribute most to the MPI. A similar trend is also seen at the dimensional level, where deprivations in education are the largest contributor to the MPI (42.8 percent) followed by living standards (31.5 percent) and health (27.7 percent).⁶ This is an indication that these priorities require addressal at both levels. However foremost, it is important to improve these indicators at the provincial level, which will ultimately add up to improvement at the national level as well.

ii. Human Development Index (HDI)

The recent Pakistan National Human Development Report 2017 reflects disparities across the country. The national HDI has consistently improved since 2005, and Pakistan has transitioned from a low medium level of development to the medium level. It is interesting to note that while Punjab moved from a low medium to a high medium level of development, Balochistan has been unable to transition, and has remained on the outskirts of development. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Sindh have also made strides in improving their development levels over the last decade, as shown by their transition to the medium level of development. Urban

1. Government of Balochistan, 'About Balochistan'. Available at https://www.balochistan.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=37&Itemid=783

2. Planning Commission and UNDP Pakistan (2016), "Multi-Dimensional Poverty in Pakistan." Available at <http://www.pk.undp.org/content/pakistan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2016/06/20/pakistan-s-new-poverty-index-reveals-that-4-out-of-10-pakistanis-live-in-multidimensional-poverty/>

3. Ibid

4. Ibid

5. Ibid

6. Ibid

Table 2: MPI District Comparison⁷

Balochistan	MPI	Incidence (H)	Intensity
	2014/15		
Awaran	0.415	77.2%	53.8%
Barkhan	0.627	93.6%	67.0%
Bolan/ Kachhi	0.414	73.1%	56.7%
Chagai	0.546	89.2%	61.2%
Dera Bugti	0.499	88.4%	56.4%
Gawadar	0.293	60.8%	48.2%
Harnai	0.633	94.2%	67.2%
Jaffarabadd	0.404	75.0%	53.8%
Jhal Magsi	0.528	89.7%	58.9%
Kalat	0.275	57.1%	48.1%
Kech/ Turbat	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kharan	0.454	78.4%	57.9%
Khuzdar	0.285	57.5%	49.6%
Killa Abdullah	0.641	96.9%	66.2%
Killa Saifullah	0.386	79.3%	48.7%
Kohlu	0.503	86.8%	58.0%
Lasbela	0.395	68.1%	58.0%
Loralai	0.320	68.5%	46.7%
Mastung	0.302	62.0%	48.7%
Musakhel	0.351	66.9%	52.4%
Nasirabad	0.413	77.0%	53.6%
Nushki	0.316	64.0%	49.4%
Panjgur	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pishin	0.453	82.2%	55.1%
Quetta	0.213	46.3%	46.0%
Sherani	0.526	90.6%	58.1%
Sibi	0.324	57.5%	56.3%
Washuk	0.466	81.9%	56.9%
Zhob	0.514	82.8%	62.1%
Ziarat	0.575	90.3%	63.7%

districts such as Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Sialkot, Jhelum and Hyderabad fall in the highest HDI category. Quetta, Peshawar, Multan and Faisalabad are in the medium category.

While the highest HDI growth rate was recorded for a district in Balochistan (Killa Saifullah), it must be noted that this was largely due to the extremely low levels of initial HDI in that district of Balochistan. In absolute terms, Killa Saifullah still belongs to the low HDI category. Unfortunately, the best performing districts in Balochistan perform poorly in the HDI (Table 3).

Among regions and provinces, besides erstwhile FATA, Balochistan has the worst HDI in Pakistan. Azad Jammu and Kashmir has the highest HDI of 0.734, surpassing Punjab with an HDI of 0.732; followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan - 0.640, 0.628 and 0.523 respectively. These variations reflect significant disparities between regions and provinces reflecting inequality in human development across Pakistan.

In terms of education, Balochistan does not fare well when compared with the rest of the country. The expected years of

schooling is 7.4 years, compared to the national aggregate of 9.4 years. Apart from erstwhile FATA, the expected years of schooling is the lowest in Balochistan when compared to other provinces and regions of the country. Similar is the case with mean years of schooling, which in the case of Balochistan is 2.6 years compared to the national aggregate of 4.5 years.⁸ Poverty, and the unstable law and order situation are some factors that contribute towards poor education outcomes in the province. Plummeting fee levels cause several families to take their children out of school and into employment. Inadequate capacity of teachers is another reason.

Significant levels of disparity in terms of gender equity are reported in Balochistan. Levels of male and female literacy stand at 72 percent and 54 percent in Punjab; 67 percent and 44 percent in Sindh; 72 percent and 36 percent in KP; and, 56 percent and 24 percent in Balochistan.⁹ National aggregates of 70 and 48 percent literacy for males and females, respectively, mirrors similar trends of females still not being mainstreamed in the education sector. The situation is not as bad in the provinces as is in the case of Balochistan. Societal attitudes and cultural constraints, exacerbated with the fluctuating security situation, are all factors that account for this trend. Moreover, a lack of employment opportunities also compel several females to drop out. The female youth literacy rate, at 29.9 percent, reflects a similar trend as well.

Disparities in education outcomes is also explained by the lack of education related expenditure. The total expenditure on education in 2016-17 was PKR 699,22 million. Within this, Balochistan's expenditure was PKR 47,698 million, Punjab's PKR 260,642 million, Sindh's PKR 146,732 million and KP's PKR 136,121 million.¹⁰ While other provinces appear to be faring well on the spectrum, Balochistan's situation is quite opposite.

Pakistan falls in the medium category with a health index (HI) of 0.79 for 2015. However, provincial, regional and district health indices show inequalities across the country. Health outcomes in FATA are extremely poor, and fall in the very low category, while Balochistan is second from the bottom and falls in the low category. In Balochistan, 16 out of 28 districts fall in the very low or low health category, whereas only one district—Kalat—makes it to the high HI category. Punjab is the best performer and falls in the high medium category, while Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), Sindh, and KP are placed at the medium level of development.

7. Ibid

8. United Nations Development Program (2017), "Pakistan Human Development Index Report." Available at http://www.pk.undp.org/content/dam/pakistan/docs/HDR/HDI%20Report_2017.pdf

9. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Economic Survey 2017-18, Education Chapter. Available at http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_18/10-Education.pdf

10. Ibid

Table 3: HDI Comparisons¹¹

Best Performing Districts											
Punjab			Sindh			Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			Balochistan		
Lahore	0.877	High	Karachi	0.854	High	Abbottabad	0.761	High Medium	Quetta	0.664	Medium
Rawalpindi	0.871	High	Hyderabad	0.716	High Medium	Peshawar	0.756	High Medium	Mastung	0.459	Low
Sialkot	0.834	High	Naushehro Feroze	0.665	Medium	Haripur	0.732	High Medium	Gawadar	0.443	Low
Jhelum	0.829	High	Sukkur	0.659	Medium	Mardan	0.703	High Medium	Noshki	0.441	Low
Gujrat	0.795	High Medium	Larkana	0.618	Medium	Nowshera	0.697	Medium	Sibi	0.441	Low
Least Performing Districts											
Punjab			Sindh			Khyber Pakhtunkhwa			Balochistan		
Bahawalpur	0.645	Medium	Thatta	0.377	Low	Tank	0.459	Low	Chaghi	0.210	Very Low
Bhakkar	0.628	Medium	Tando Muhamad	0.377	Low	Shangla	0.438	Low	Washuk	0.188	Very Low
Muzaffargarh	0.584	Low Medium	Sujawal	0.326	Low	Upper Dir	0.375	Low	Harnai	0.184	Very Low
Dera Ghazi Khan	0.535	Low Medium	Umerkot	0.322	Low	Tor Ghar	0.240	Very Low	Jhal Magsi	0.183	Very Low
Rajanpur	0.506	Low Medium	Tharparkar	0.227	Very Low	Kohistan	0.229	Very Low	Awaran	0.173	Very Low

Looking at the health index over time for the last ten years shows that a substantial number of districts have experienced a decline in health outcomes throughout Pakistan. In Balochistan specifically, 12 out of 28—for which decade-old data is available, including Quetta, have experienced a decline in their health index.¹² The situation in KP is also not that encouraging, where the HI of 10 out of 24 districts has declined over time. Same is true for 11 out of 34 districts in Punjab. In Sindh, only 6 out of 16 districts demonstrated an improvement in their HI. Broadly speaking, at the provincial level, 2 out of every 5 districts in Balochistan, Sindh and KP have recorded a decline in their health outcomes over the last decade. Zhob, Kharan and Jhal Magsi (Balochistan), Bahawalnagar and Sahiwal (Punjab), Mirpurkhas and Tharparkar (Sindh), and Battagram and Dera Ismail Khan (KP) are some of the districts that have done particularly poorly on HI over the last decade.

Deficiency of trained doctors and paramedical staff in government hospitals, high fees in private hospitals, lack of transport facilities and low public sector expenditure on health are all reasons that account for the deteriorating health situation in the province. According to the break-up of federal and provincial share in total public spending on health during July-February 2017-18, the major share of spending on health has been observed in Punjab (84.8 percent) followed by Sindh (41.4 percent), KP (17.6 percent) and Balochistan (11.3 percent).¹³

The last indicator for HDI, the living standards index (LSI), also does not

illustrate a very promising picture for the province. Balochistan exhibits a score of 33.9 percent in the LSI, which is again at the lowest level in the country when compared with other provinces of Pakistan. Punjab, Sindh and KP have scores of 83 percent, 67.6 percent and 67.1 percent, respectively.

At the district level, Balochistan experiences the greatest deprivation in terms of the LSI. Out of 28 districts, 17 fall under the category of very low, 10 in low, and only one – Quetta, which is far ahead of other parts of Balochistan—falls under the category of high medium LSI. Pishin, Sibi, Noshki and Lasbela are among those districts that are performing relatively better in the province. Low LSI is undoubtedly due to a lack of infrastructure facilities (piped water, sanitation, and electricity), semi-permanent dwellings, low livestock, and lack of household assets, among other factors.

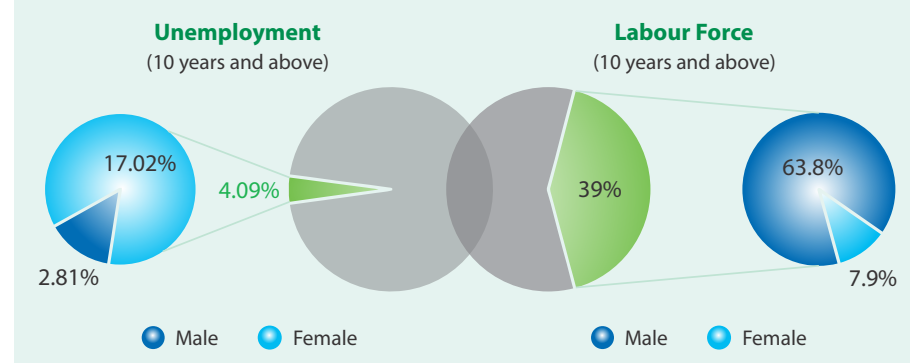
In contrast, the unemployment rate in Balochistan is the lowest in Pakistan.

Unemployment in Punjab is 5.97 percent, 7.16 percent in KP, 4.92 percent in Sindh and 4.09 percent in Balochistan (see Figure 1). The per capita income (average household income divided by average household size) in Balochistan is PKR 1,538. With the support of a few coordinated policies and strategies, the provincial government can potentially and positively address youth unemployment in the province. Public-private partnerships also offer promise in this regard and the private sector can immensely boost employment ratios in the province. Moreover, focus on vocational training can also add to improving employment with the utilization of skilled workers for various sectors in the industry.

iii. Other Development Indicators

Balochistan lags behind in several other development indicators when compared to the national level (Table 4). From the extremely high maternal mortality rate to weak nutrition indicators amongst children, the social indicators of the province require profound analysis and a

Figure 1: Unemployment & Labour Force Participation in Balochistan¹⁴



11. Supra 8

12. Ibid

13. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Economic Survey 2017-18, Health Chapter. Available at http://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_18/11-Health.pdf

14. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey 2017-18. Available at http://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/Labour%20Force/publications/lfs2017_18/TABLE-15_perc_R.pdf

Table 4: Other Indicators (%)

(Percent)	National	Balochistan
Birth registration	34 ¹	7.7 ¹
Early marriage (marriage before age 18)	21 ¹	35 ⁵
Full immunization coverage	54 ¹	16 ¹
Out of school children (age 5-16)	47 ²	70 ²
NER secondary (secondary stage enrollment)	11 ²	13 ²
NAR primary	59.9 ²	41.6 ²
NAR secondary	37 ²	19.5 ²
Received treatment for ARI	64.4 ¹	53.5 ¹
Received treatment for diarrhea	61 ¹	43.4 ¹
Stunting	44 ³	52 ³
Wasting	15 ³	16 ³
Underweight	31.5 ³	40 ³
Use of improved drinking water sources	93 ¹	67.2 ¹
Use of improved sanitation	59.5 ¹	46.2 ¹
Child labour (children age 5-14 years)	17 ⁵	N/A
Child labour (children 10-14 years)	9.66 ⁷	9.58 ⁷
Maternal mortality rate – MMR (per 100,000 live births)	276 ⁵	856 ⁵
Infant mortality rate – IMR (per 1,000 live births)	74 ¹	97 ¹
Neonatal mortality rate – NMR (per 1,000 live births)	55 ¹	63 ¹
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	89 ¹	111 ¹
Children with anemia	56.8 ³	62 ³
Women with child bearing age with anemia	49.7 ¹	51 ¹
Children with iron deficiency	32.5 ³	44 ³
Children with vitamin-A deficiency	54 ³	73.5 ³
Children with zinc deficiency	39.5 ³	39 ³
Population food insecure	58 ¹	63.4 ¹
Drinking water in schools (primary)	50 ⁶	52 ⁶
Sanitation (latrines) facilities in schools (primary)	56 ⁶	16 ⁶
Population with no toilets/open defecation	21 ¹	30 ¹

Sources: 1. Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS 2012-13)
2. Pakistan Education Statistics 2014-15
3. National Nutrition Survey (NNS) 2011
4. PSLM 2014-15
5. Balochistan MICS 2010
6. WASH Deprivation analysis – UNICEF
7. Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2015

renewed plan of action. Immunization coverage in the province is also very low when compared to the national coverage. A lack of awareness—for instance polio vaccinations or regular check-ups during pregnancy or the importance of good hygiene—then emerges as a key deficiency in the province. Moreover, weak implementation of laws also emerges as a challenge, especially when relating to child labour or

early marriages. Nevertheless, poverty appears as a constant through all: lack of financial resources in households compels families to focus on acquiring their next meal, over all other necessities.

iv. Balochistan's Performance in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
Balochistan and KP were the worst performing provinces when it came to the

MDGs. At the national level, only 3 targets were achieved out of a total of 21. Punjab and Sindh achieved only one target each, whereas, Balochistan and KP achieved none. Balochistan's performance was the worst in the country as it was off track on 18 out of 21 targets; followed by KP which was off track on 15 out of 21 targets; Sindh on 14 out of 21 targets; and, Punjab was off track on 12 out of 21 targets.¹⁵ The lack of political oversight, awareness among citizens, no indigenous research and lack of local ownership of development programs, were among some of the major reasons why the MDGs were not met in the province.

Way Forward for Sustainable Development in Balochistan

Social, economic and other development indicators, as delineated above, paint an unfortunate picture of Balochistan. Not only does the province lag behind, but its performance is the worst compared to other regions and provinces of Pakistan. As a result, development in the province has suffered immensely, with dire impacts upon the citizens.

While to some extent terrain plays its part, the low population density makes it difficult to deliver services across the province. To a large part, poor management and lack of concerted efforts for the development of the province has contributed to the current development crisis in Balochistan. Poor planning and management has manifested itself in many ways. Firstly, Balochistan has faced resource constraints to address its development needs. Dr Qaiser Bengali in his recent analysis "A Cry for Justice: Empirical Insights from Balochistan" has identified that Balochistan has been receiving merely 3.9 percent of the total development expenditure, translating to only 0.18 percent of GDP. Similarly, despite being the poorest province, only 3.7 percent of the Benazir Income Support Programme beneficiaries, are from Balochistan. Low fiscal transfers from the federation are accompanied by an incapacity of the province to generate its own resources. This is partly because there has not been any major economic development in Balochistan that can help mobilize internal revenues for the province. Post the 7th NFC award, Balochistan's share from the federal divisible pool has increased— from 7 percent in the 6th NFC to 9 percent in the 7th NFC—however, higher resources have yet to translate into improved development outcomes.

Second, public-sector institutions have not been able to adequately allocate and utilize the resources available. For example, while

15. Planning Commission and UNDP Pakistan, "Pakistan Millennium Development Goals, Report 2013." Available at <http://www.pkundp.org/content/dam/pakistan/docs/MDGs/MDG2013Report/final%20report.pdf>

PSDP allocations in Balochistan have increased overtime, however the failure to improve development outcomes reflect inefficiency. Productive sectors of the economy for instance mines and minerals, for which the province has immense potential, receives the lowest priority (0.06 percent) of PSDP allocation. Same is the case with the livestock and fisheries sector, which despite having huge potential in terms of accelerating economic growth and generating jobs, are again on low priority. While education, health and other sectors related to social development have historically received a higher percentage of resources, these have not translated into any meaningful impact. It is imperative that allocations under the PSDP are based upon development challenges and the economic potential of the province. For resources to be truly effective, strict monitoring and control is also a necessity. A proper evaluation and impact assessment system to evaluate performance and utilization of previous allocations is important in order to not reiterate mistakes made in the past. The Provincial Planning and Development Department has been working on developing a Balochistan SDG framework and Balochistan Comprehensive Development and Growth Strategy. The documents will help identify challenges and opportunities for Balochistan, which can inform targeted interventions.

Private sector contribution to Balochistan's economic development is limited. This is mainly because of a lack of conducive environment for the private sector to operate in. Private businesses can only flourish when the cost of production is low, financial services are available, infrastructure is sound etc. Unfortunately, no such incentives are present in Balochistan. A few avenues where private sector can contribute include, livestock, fisheries, minerals and renewable energy. Balochistan has a major share in Pakistan's livestock population, especially sheep and goats. Its share of total small ruminants' population is around 40 percent. Similarly, the 770 km long coastline provides an ideal opportunity for establishing the fishing industry. While both livestock rearing and fishery is being practiced in Balochistan, these are more on traditional lines, without much sophistication and in need of modernization to generate significant economic returns and large scale employment. Measures such as

access to small loans, strengthening livestock and fishery value chain by encouraging the building of processing units etc. can help encourage the private sector to explore massive business opportunities in these sectors.

The province also houses reserves of copper, gold, iron, coal, marble, sulphur etc. While both the public and private sector might not have sufficient resources to explore these opportunities on their own, one way to invite and facilitate the participation of the private sector is public and private partnerships (PPPs). PPPs present a huge opportunity to transform the economy and achieve social uplift, keeping in view the fragile and underdeveloped infrastructure of the province, and its huge reserves of natural resources. An example of a tried and tested PPP approach is the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway (the M-2 Motorway), which was delivered on the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) modality. Engagement of the private sector will not only help aid the demand for development in crucial sectors such as physical infrastructure, services etc, but also aid job creation and improve social indicators.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is estimated to create huge economic and social development opportunities for Pakistan in general and Balochistan in particular. Amongst the three major routes of CPEC, the western route linking Gwadar, Panjgur and Quetta, has huge potential for social and economic development as it passes through several of the worst poverty afflicted areas. Comparing the western route with other routes, it passes through 14 districts-8 from Balochistan and 6 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with incidence of poverty greater than 70 percent. In contrast, the central and eastern route of CPEC cuts across 3 and 2 districts respectively, with incidence of poverty greater than 70 percent.

Balochistan's multiple trade avenues, huge natural resources and the Gwadar Port have the potential to attract public and private sector investments under the scope of the CPEC initiative. CPEC provides a good opportunity for social and economic uplift in general, however, it is important to strategize and make targeted interventions in a few sectors. Developing Gwadar into a modern port city could be one such avenue

that could transform the landscape of the province. While there is a lot of buzz on investment facilitation, building of infrastructure and provision of public services, there exist confusions in coordination, management and implementation. Currently, there are several investment regimes operational in the city such as, Special Economic Zones, Export Processing Zones, Industrial Estate, to name a few. Similarly, there are several stakeholders, including the Gwadar Development Authority and local administration in charge of city development. Lessons need to be learnt from other international cities, like Shenzhen in China, who have over time, developed as hubs of innovation and manufacturing.

The province can also generate a lot of revenue via tourism. Ziarat valley, a small yet scenic town located 130 km to the north of Quetta, surrounded by mountains and lush green forests, offers huge potential for tourism in the province. Same is the case for coastal areas. However, these require development of infrastructure so as to attract tourists. Likewise, the 'Cottage' industries of the province, home to exquisite embroidery of an international standard, can not only help empower women in the province, but also become a source of revenue.

Given Balochistan's richness, significant progress can take place provided that the right policies are formulated and reforms are implemented. More importantly, consistent policy frameworks, enhanced capacity of public sector organizations, engagement of private sector for development, evidence based development planning and an improved law and order situation, can bring about tangible and sustainable development in the province.

Overall, given Balochistan's economic potential and availability of resources, an accelerated social and economic progress can take place provided all stakeholders make a concerted effort. Political leadership and bureaucratic machinery need to take the lead by formulation and implementation of sound development policies, reforms and programs. The process needs to be supported by the private sector to make meaningful investments for economic growth, employment generation and social development.

An Analysis of Public Investments in Balochistan

The Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP)

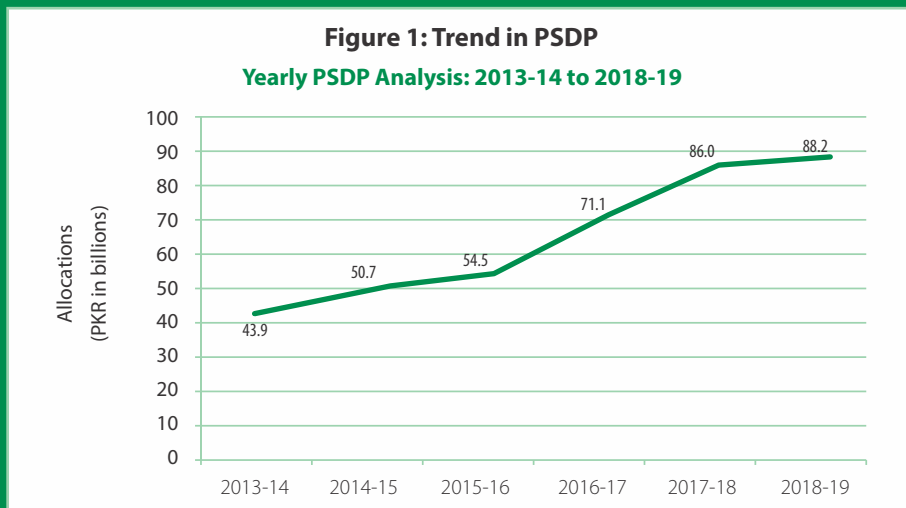
PSDP is the most important development and growth tool of the province in terms of its huge allocation of development funds for different sectors. After the 18th amendment, powers were devolved to the provincial government and hence, sole responsibility for formulating the PSDP, channelizing funds and making development interventions, now lies in the purview of the provincial governments.

Trend of Funds Allocation in PSDPs

An increase in funds allocation to different projects has been witnessed from 2013-14 to 2018-19. The PSDP has grown at a rate of 100 percent (Figure 1). Unfortunately, this growth has not been complimented with an improvement in social and economic outcomes.

Allocation of Funds

Over the past 10 years, different sectors have received different PSDP allocations (Figure 2).



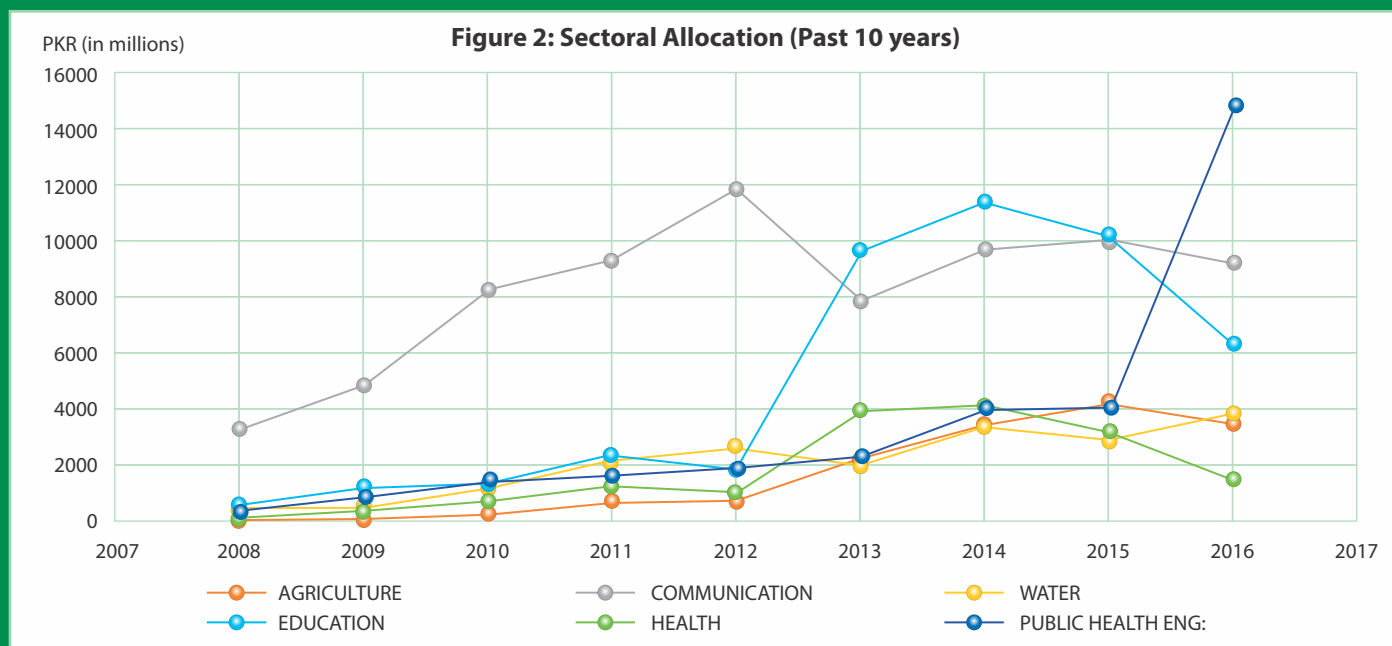
requirement really calls for the opposite. Therefore, development allocations have shown a mixed trend over the past decade.

An Analysis of the Current PSDP (2018-19)

The provincial budget of 2018-19 has a total financial outlay of PKR 352.3 billion, with PKR 88.3 billion allocated to PSDP projects. PSDP 2018-19 gives priority to

and communication being a constant priority (Table 2).

Considering focus has largely been on the social sector, stagnancy in economic growth in the province can be attributed to ignoring some of the most important departments of the province in terms of economic productivity. For instance, the province is rich in mineral resources and



Source: Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan

The government of Balochistan understands that investment in the education sector is key to human resource development. The sector's funding saw a massive increase in 2013-14, however, it has been fluctuating since then. The construction of roads for improving access and mobility, falling under the 'communication and works' sector, has also secured high allocations over the past decade. However, certain sectors such as health have witnessed a decrease in funds, when the

some very important departments, including education, water and public health engineering (PHE) (Table 1). However, at the same time it attributes least priority to sectors that have the potential to contribute to the economy, including minerals, environment and industries.

PSDP analysis between 2013-19 delineates that focus of allocation has largely been on the social sector, with education

has immense potential to be a hub of economic activity in terms of minerals, but it falls in the least priority sectors in terms of PSDP allocation. Same is the case with several other sectors (Table 3).

Sectoral Allocation of Key Sectors (2015-16 till 2018-19)

i. Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department

The mandate of the PHE department is to ensure the healthy well-being of the

Table 1: Sector Wise Allocation in PSDP (%)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Other schemes	12.29	3.96	4.78	27.29	17.75	1.58
PHE	5.42	9.01	8.49	21.43	7.87	9.80
Communication	18.61	19.62	19.91	13.50	19.69	22.88
Education	23.12	23.13	18.71	9.34	10.65	14.11
Water	6.37	6.96	5.43	5.58	8.53	9.98
Agriculture	5.21	6.88	7.71	5.10	5.71	4.36
Health	9.21	8.64	7.04	5.09	7.10	8.41
PP&H	4.09	6.50	5.36	3.56	7.21	6.65
Power	6.14	6.57	6.54	3.51	2.39	3.10
Local Govt.	0.68	1.10	10.70	2.07	4.80	2.57
Sports	0.38	3.57	1.02	0.73	1.40	1.57
Fisheries	2.18	0.76	0.38	0.51	0.58	0.34
Culture	0.14	0.61	0.39	0.39	0.52	0.57
Industries	0.06	0.50	0.08	0.39	0.23	0.35
IT	0.64	0.29	0.34	0.38	2.00	1.42
Social Welfare	0.23	0.39	0.17	0.34	0.65	1.67
Livestock	1.19	0.56	0.70	0.28	0.67	0.61
Forestry	0.14	0.24	0.11	0.17	0.46	0.41
Urban P&D	0.09	0.62	0.76	0.11	1.18	1.31
Minerals	2.43	0.30	0.09	0.09	0.02	0.06
Manpower	1.25	0.29	0.28	0.08	0.16	0.24
Women Development	-	-	0.02	0.02	0.16	0.08
Tourism	0.07	0.11	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.02
Information	-	-	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Environment	0.06	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.13
Population Welfare	-	-	-	-	0.16	0.06
Food	-	-	-	-	-	0.03
Forestry	0.14	0.24	0.11	0.17	0.46	0.41

Table 2: Top 5 Priority Sectors (According to allocation in %)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Other schemes	12.29	-	-	27.29	17.75	1.58
Communication	18.61	19.62	19.91	13.50	19.69	22.88
Education	23.12	23.13	18.71	9.34	10.65	14.11
Water	6.37	6.96	-	5.58	8.53	9.98
Health	9.21	8.64	-	-	-	8.41

Table 3: Lowest 5 Priority Sectors (According to allocation in %)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Industries	0.06	-	0.08	-	-	-
Minerals	-	0.30	-	-	0.02	0.06
Tourism	0.07	0.11	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.02
Information	-	-	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Environment	0.06	-	0.00	0.00	0.01	-

public through the provision of safe drinking water, sanitation services, consultations for developing safe healthy practices in daily chores and improving the environment.

In PSDP 2018-19, there is a total allocation of PKR 8.64 billion with a total of 1009 development schemes (Table 4). There is a substantial increase in the number of schemes in the PHE Department as accessibility of safe drinking water is a growing issue in Balochistan. The mandate of PHED directly contributes to SDG 6 on Water and Sanitation for all.

ii. Irrigation Department

Despite significant funding on water related departments like PHE and irrigation/water, the province is lagging and is off-track towards ensuring accessibility to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2030. The water sector needs greater attention and resources need to be supported by improved financing mechanisms that can leverage the sector's declining situation.

Funds allocation increased manifold from 2015-16 till now (Table 5). This delineates commitment on part of the government of Balochistan in alleviating one of the most immediate challenges faced by the province: that of water scarcity.

iii. Communication and Works Department

The function of the Communication and Works Department is to construct and maintain infrastructure i.e. roads and government buildings. The trend illustrates increase over time, both in allocation as well as schemes (Table 6). Road networks have shown steady improvement, especially in major cities.

iv. Health Sector

The Government of Balochistan is committed to providing integrated and sustainable healthcare delivery. The focus is on areas such as maternal, neonatal and child health, polio, vaccination and in reducing the prevailing rate of major diseases, as well as to support infrastructure of hospitals and other health facilities. The trend depicts that allocations have wavered over time (Table 7). Considering this sector is a significant component of overall development indicators, more focus should be attributed to it.

v. Education Sector

The Education sector has the second-highest share, of PKR 12.45 billion, in PSDP 2018-19. The government of Balochistan has increased the number of schemes for the current year, along with a substantial increase in the budget as compared to previous years (Table 8). The government's commitment to improving the literacy rate and ensuring that SDG 4 on ensuring

Table 4: PSDP Allocation for PHE Department

Public Health Engineering PHE	Funds Allocation	Ongoing Schemes	Funds Allocation	New Schemes	Total Allocation	Total Schemes
	Ongoing Schemes		New Schemes			
2015-16	1507.72	58	3119.80	187	4627.53	245
2016-17	2389.85	96	12765.60	152	15255.52	248
2017-18	2969.51	66	3802.87	204	6772.39	270
2018-19	2262.18	88	6386.55	921	8648.73	1009

Table 5: PSDP Allocation for Irrigation Department

Irrigation/ Water	Funds Allocation	Ongoing Schemes	Funds Allocation	New Schemes	Total Allocation	Total Schemes
	Ongoing Schemes		New Schemes			
2015-16	672.71	64	2286.81	135	2961.53	199
2016-17	741.58	98	3226.96	83	3968.54	181
2017-18	4089.88	77	3250.38	145	7340.26	222
2018-19	4301.07	92	4510.05	269	8811.13	361

Table 6: PSDP Allocation for Communication and Works Department

Communication and Works	Funds Allocation	Ongoing Schemes	Funds Allocation	New Schemes	Total Allocation	Total Schemes
	Ongoing Schemes		New Schemes			
2015-16	5374.14	289	5480.46	211	10854.61	500
2016-17	4748.74	329	4858.05	166	9606.79	495
2017-18	9106.14	286	7827.68	276	16933.82	562

Table 7: PSDP Allocation in Health Sector

Health	Funds Allocation	Ongoing Schemes	Funds Allocation	New Schemes	Total Allocation	Total Schemes
	Ongoing Schemes		New Schemes			
2015-16	2235.86	66	1603.98	65	3839.84	131
2016-17	2489.85	96	12765.66	152	15255.52	248
2017-18	3725.41	79	2381.64	68	6107.04	147
2018-19	3114.18	100	4306.00	172	7420.18	272

Table 8: PSDP Allocation in Education Sector

Education	Funds Allocation	Ongoing Schemes	Funds Allocation	New Schemes	Total Allocation	Total Schemes
	Ongoing Schemes		New Schemes			
2015-16	4436.38	127	5740.49	169	10196.87	296
2016-17	2827.26	72	793.65	52	3620.91	124
2017-18	6636.25	190	2527.88	141	9164.13	331
2018-19	5704.47	205	6747.83	449	12452.31	654

Table 9: PSDP Allocation in Women Development Department

Women Development	Funds Allocation	Ongoing Schemes	Funds Allocation	New Schemes	Total Allocation	Total Schemes
	Ongoing Schemes		New Schemes			
2015-16	8689.00	1	0.00	0	8689.00	1
2016-17	1.50	1	15.00	1	16.50	2
2017-18	10.96	1	125.00	3	135.96	4
2018-19	12.00	1	55.00	4	67.00	7

inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting learning opportunities for all, appears to be on high priority.

vi. Women Development

The trend of funds allocations and total number of schemes for Women Development Department has remained significantly low (Table 9).

One of the reasons for this trend is that certain initiatives for women are placed under other sections of the PSDP. In PSDP 2016-17 for instance, the department attempted to establish separate women units in different jails in Quetta, Mach, Dera Murad Jamali, Khuzdar and Giddani, which is reflected under another section in the PSDP. Other important projects/schemes under the department in PSDP 2018-19 include:

- Establishment of women centers at the divisional level at Kech, Loralai and Naseerabad – PKR 5 million (total cost is PKR 120 million)
- Establishment of sales and display center at Quetta – PKR 7 million
- Establishment of Directorate of Women Development, Quetta – PKR 10 million
- Working Women Hostel, Quetta – PKR 15 million

Rising Trend of Throw-Forward and its Impact

Figure 3 demonstrates the details of ongoing and new schemes, and the rising trend of 'throw forward' under the PSDPs. The rising trend of throw forward liability of projects has impacts which include the wastage of resources (wearing, escalation and opportunity cost), wear and tear of constructed structures, escalation due to time lapse and increasing constraint on the introduction of new innovative schemes of public interest. Therefore, it is important that throw forward in PSDPs be reduced by using alternative financing modes.

Monitoring of Funds' Disbursement

It is important to ensure that the PSDPs are monitored and aligned with development frameworks, which keep SDGs in consideration. This facet has been kept in view by the Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan, which announced that proposed projects in PSDP 2018-19 must be in line with the following strategies and plans:

- Balochistan Economic Report 2008
- Balochistan Development Need Assessment (BDNA) 2012
- Balochistan Comprehensive Development Strategy (2013-18)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)
- Other relevant sectoral policies and strategies

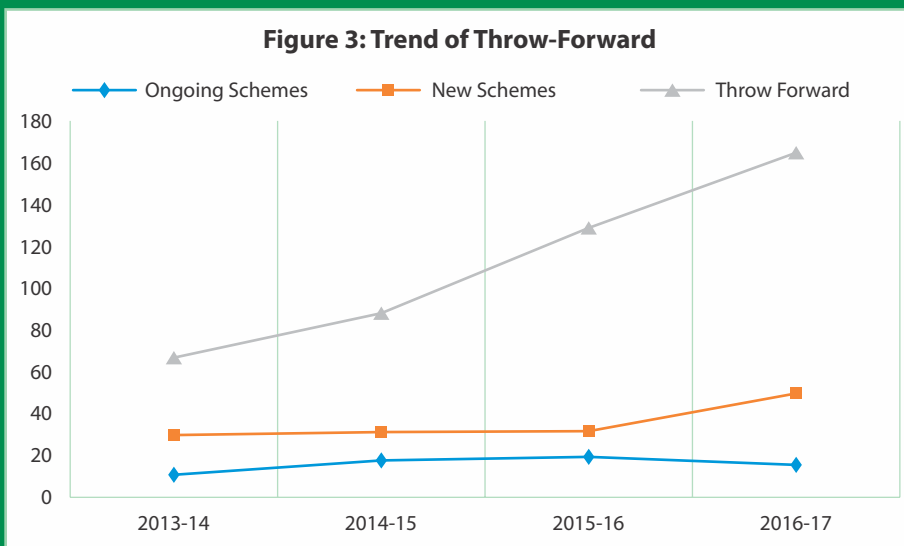
In order to address issues of coordination among sectors while formulating PSDPs, the government delegated financial powers to departmental sub committees for approval of development schemes. In this connection, the financial powers of the Departmental Sub Committee (DSC) were enhanced from PKR 10 million to PKR 100 million, for approval of development schemes.

Although huge public investment is made in Balochistan, yet the socio-economic indicators have not radically improved, as compared to other provinces. Several factors, such as law and order situation in the last few years, lack of adequate transparency and accountability mechanisms, governance problems etc account for this. Other challenges include:

- Lack of ownership of certain schemes by the departments.
- Political interference and poor planning causes certain sectors to not receive top priority in policy and decision making.
- Repeated change of schemes even after the approval of the PSDP, is also a challenge. It is also important that projects once initiated post a pre-

feasibility study and cost benefit analysis, not face budget cuts during their life cycle.

- General lack of knowledge–data and information–on available resources, systems and research in the public sector, is another important factor which impedes the ability of the government to properly contextualize planning and make optimal use of available resources. This impediment coerces the departments and the planning hub (P&DD) with no other option but to plan in the absence of evidence. Modern planning is based on research and empirical evidence. The same lack of knowledge also contributes to restraining the capacity of the departments and the P&DD to develop and fine-tune PC-I's and the PDWP to ensure thorough and critical review. This lack of evidence and capacity for planning and development is also a factor that accounts for the reason as to why certain sectors, though significantly funded, do not show growth and development.
- Intentional non-utilization by the department to have the scheme cost revised in subsequent year(s).
- Late release of funds by the finance department (due to paucity of funds or other reasons).
- Development constraints (Vastness of province).
- Need to improve human resource development for CPEC.
- Public finance management reforms – improving financial discipline.
- There is a lack of proper detailed



Source: Planning and Development Department, Government of Balochistan

planning by all actors involved in identification, preparation and implementation of a scheme.

11. Changing trends and priorities in favor of certain types of schemes/persons.
12. Enhancing the province's own source of revenue, for instance, through tax reforms.
13. Budget deficit.
14. Lack of interest in timely utilization of funds by the executing department/agency in certain cases-one of the reasons could be because of the intention of re-appropriating the withheld funds to some other schemes.

Lessons Learnt

1. To have effective PSDPs, it is pivotal that the political intervention in selecting projects and its design should be curtailed by relevant institutions.
2. Progress reviews at regular intervals, both by P&DD, and the departments involved.

3. There are also some other good steps undertaken by the government of Balochistan for optimization of the planning and development process. Few such initiatives include avoiding the block allocation schemes to the maximum level. Moreover, it was also decided that the repair/purchase schemes will not be entertained in new PSDPs.
4. Another good step taken by the provincial government was conducting pre-budget consultation workshops at the divisional level, and the formulation of citizen budget from the last two years. This initiative will build public trust and develop a sense of empowerment among the public. It will also allow the masses to comprehend the government's service delivery plan for the upcoming financial year, and to participate in policy making.

Reforming public sector is not a new idea. Modern governments and state institutions consider governance and policymaking dynamic processes; hence, a routine and periodic review and reform is the result. Reforming PSDP and the overall development model ought to be the number one priority of the incumbent

government, if it wants to accelerate progress on the abysmal socioeconomic indicators of the province. In the short term, a good starting point is to turn around into an institutionalized approach wherein concerned technical institutions are empowered to plan and implement development schemes based on systematic empirical evidence. In the medium term, PSDP reformation must be followed by transformation of the development model that is based on economic growth and trickle-down effect philosophy. The model can be transformed by placing human development on priority. Human development must become an end in itself and not a means to an end. Simultaneously, participatory and democratic approach ought to be added to the planning and development processes by devolving political, administrative and financial powers and roles, to the grassroots level.

Lack of Investment in Human Capital: A Limiting Factor in Socio-Economic Development in Balochistan



Mahfooz Ali Khan

Coordinator, Governance and Policy Project (GPP), (World Bank-MTDF), P&D Department, Government of Balochistan

Former Secretary Finance, Government of Balochistan

Member NFC, Balochistan

Balochistan is described as the richest province with the smallest available resource base. Out of the total minerals being mined from Pakistan, around 70 percent are from Balochistan. It has a 740 km coast line with huge potential in tourism and fisheries, as well as two international borders with Afghanistan and Iran. But the moot question is, why is it the poorest and least developed of the provinces? There are multiple factors which impeded its socio-economic development, but the biggest impediment was and still is, the lack of investment in human capital. Like natural resources, Balochistan has been endowed with human resource as well. Unfortunately, this potential could not be harnessed since the beginning.

When Balochistan acceded to Pakistan in October 1948, unlike other provinces of Pakistan, it consisted of British Balochistan, Kalat, Kharan, Mekran and Lasbela states. British Balochistan had the British administrative structure, whereas the other four states all had their own administrative and legal systems. Soon after accession to Pakistan, four states were merged into Balochistan State Union (BSU) and later in June 1954, BSU was further merged with British Balochistan. These two mergers brought disruptions in the administrative structure as officials of princely states had

no working knowledge of British administrative work. Another jolt came in October 1955, when all five units were merged into One Unit of erstwhile West Pakistan. Hence, the province was unable to build its own administrative structure and officers working in the province had neither an interest, nor an understanding about the region.

There was hardly any representation of local workforce at the middle and higher levels. Following the dissolution of the One Unit, officers got repatriated to their adopted or home provinces, and since Balochistan lacked a provincial service structure, its entire edifice came down crumbling. Since 1948 until 1970, Balochistan did not receive any attention in institution building by the central government and functioned on a meagre budget of PKR 600 million. As a result, the first priority of successive governments was to build economic infrastructure and while the creation and development of an efficient human resource should have been of utmost importance, it received no investment.

Natural resources can only be exploited gainfully, when there is efficient manpower. Many countries in contemporary history progressed by harnessing their manpower. Singapore and China are living examples. If this resource is not utilized for productive purposes, its energy can power anti-social elements for destructive purposes.

Utilization of this resource requires a well thought out plan. This objective could be achieved first by building the capacity of civil servants and then developing youth for future responsibility. Unless this two pronged strategy is adopted, this will always be a limiting factor in the socio-economic development of the province. Rather it may contribute negatively.

For existing civil servants, there is a dire need to build their capacity. Good governance requires competent civil service. To achieve this end of making the workforce efficient and effective, an institutional training system is needed. In all spheres of civil service, professional training institutions with highly skilled and motivated trainers are required.

Unfortunately at the moment, with the exception of two or three dysfunctional or semi-functional training institutions-Rural Academy, Balochistan Academy for College Teachers and Judicial Academy-there is no well-organized institutional training system in place. The province is either dependent upon INGOs-run training courses, or federal government institutions. Occasionally, officers avail training facilities in other provinces. It is important to understand that training and development is an ongoing process. Each functionary needs to be exposed to training and capacity building courses throughout their career.

For harnessing the potential of youth, the province needs a chain of professional and vocational training institutions in all major disciplines. Redundant structure of existing technical and vocational training institutions needs to be scratched in order to make room for modern technology based trades. These institutions require services of highly qualified and motivated instructional staff drawn from the market. Despite the fact that the provincial government did create a provincial civil service structure to man and manage the civil secretariat and district administration post 1970, yet, it still faces huge capacity issues and significant funds are wasted as a result.

Another stumbling block that hinders efficiency in civil service is the redundant and outdated legal framework. The province is running its day to day business according to rules, regulations and procedures which are incompatible. For example, before promulgation of the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules 2015, each department was managing procurements based on purchase manuals, which did not cater for services and consultancies. Similarly, delegation of financial power rules of 1964 were in operation. No efforts were ever made to concurrently update these rules and regulations which provide the entire legal framework for civil service.

Over time, not only was there an increase in government functions, but changing technologies brought new challenges for civil servants, for which they were neither equipped nor prepared. Today, just regular

government employees in all tiers of administration have crossed the figure of 270,000 and public servants in autonomous bodies are over and above this number. The number of districts has grown from 8 to 34.

Governments are in the practice of adding new administrative units without planning for trained manpower to run and manage them. During the Musharraf era, an effort was made to convert 'B Area' into 'A Area' under police jurisdiction, by merging levies force into police. A new Police Order was also promulgated. While introducing this change, the government overlooked the most vital factor—that of training and developing capacity of those functionaries who were to manage the field and secretarial work of the increased workforce.

As a result, owing to a lack of capacity building, the police were stretched from 5 percent area to 100 percent area. It backfired and the scheme reversed after spending billions of rupees. Levies was a

tribal force with a different outlook and their merger into police created diarchy and inner conflicts. In the process, not only were billions lost, but discipline was also compromised.

Existing police and levies force also lacks standard training facilities. Initial basic induction training is provided and thereafter no regular or periodical training exists. With the entire workforce also adhering to a set of age old rules with no formal training, it is not difficult to imagine the impact upon socio-economic development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A common reason for failure of development projects is the presence of shortcomings right from the beginning. This lack of working knowledge inflicts bigger losses to the fledgling economy than financial corruption. In fifty years, the Planning Department could not develop its own planning manual and major work is carried out on discretion. Due to a lack of training

coupled with capacity issues, the monitoring system is almost non-existent.

For any meaningful socio-economic change in the province, the only way is to invest in human capital. Prudent investment will yield positive results in the not-so-distant future. Balochistan has already lost many opportunities and any further indifference will yield a damaging effect. Our youth is drifting away, inaction will further alienate it. The existing civil service structure needs capacity building very badly. They are unable to face daunting challenges that lay ahead. There is pressing need for an efficient Operations and Maintenance (O&M) setup for updating old, redundant and obsolete rules, regulations and statutes. While taking these steps, it is imperative that we should also focus on our youth, that is our future hope and they have potential to make or break. Their mainstreaming is vital for any sustainable socio-economic development.



China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Balochistan



Rafiullah Kakar

Public Policy and
Development Specialist

The multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. CPEC has evoked mixed emotions and generated a highly polarised debate in Pakistan. On one hand, the federal government has called it a 'game changer' and on the other, provincial elites are concerned that it may become another East India Company. The truth is that CPEC is neither a game changer nor bound to turn into a modern East India Company. CPEC will help address major gaps in the infrastructure and energy sectors—two potential growth enablers in the context of Pakistan. Nevertheless, Pakistan will have to undertake a whole lot of complementary reforms and corrective measures to translate these gains into economic growth and to ward off negative distributional consequences.

One of the key aspects of public debate on CPEC is focussed on how CPEC may exacerbate horizontal inequality in the country. In particular, stakeholders from the province are concerned that the province is not getting its fair share in the total investments committed under the umbrella of CPEC.

Balochistan is a key pillar of CPEC because of its strategic location and natural resource endowments. The province is home to Gwadar port and provides the shortest physical route for connecting the landlocked Central Asia and western part of China with the Indian ocean. Moreover, the

province has a long coastline and large reserves of natural gas, chromite, coal, copper, gold, marble and other minerals.

Balochistan has been at the low end of development progress. Currently, it fares the worst of all provinces when it comes to the state of connectivity, energy access and industrial development. Despite accounting for nearly half of Pakistan's total territory, the province's roads represent only about one-fifth of the country's total road network. Road density is only 0.05 km/square km as compared to the national average of 0.30 km/square km. The province does not have a single expressway or dual carriageway highway. Similarly, Balochistan has one of the poorest grid connectivity and lowest transmission and absorption capacity in the country. The entire Makran region, including Gwadar, is not connected to the national grid. Existing transmission and grid network in the province can carry and absorb only up to 800 MW of electricity whereas the actual requirement stands at 1600-1700 MW on average. Moreover, the per capita consumption of energy for industrial use in Balochistan is nine times less than the national average.

CPEC can trigger growth by addressing some of the gaps mentioned above. CPEC Long Term Plan (LTP) and Monographic Study on Transport Planning entails building of Gwadar port, upgradation of road network from Gwadar to Dera Ismail (DI) Khan and establishment of rail links between Gwadar, Khuzdar and Quetta. Moreover, CPEC LTP envisages the easing of power shortages and relocation of Chinese Industries to Special Economic Zones in the province. If all this materialises, CPEC can open up and connect the underdeveloped districts of Balochistan with national and international markets, thus promoting peace and stability and fostering industrial development.

A thorough evidence-based review of CPEC projects in Balochistan, however, reveals that the reality on the ground is far from the official rhetoric about CPEC. Two major issues seem to be thwarting the realisation regarding CPEC's growth potential.

First, the security issues in Balochistan pose

a threat to the development initiatives envisioned under CPEC. Economic development cannot proceed without first achieving a minimum level of peace and stability. A segment of the local population continues to contest the legitimacy of state authority through violent means. Providing opportunities for social and economic development is one way to achieve peace and security in Balochistan. An alternate opinion is first to resolve security issues and then promote economic development programmes. The role of the state is essential, especially in discouraging the use of force and coercive tactics and instead opting for political reconciliation. Many Baloch fear that CPEC will intensify their oppression and isolation.

Second, CPEC investments are skewed heavily in favour of Punjab and Sindh. Of the nearly USD 50 Billion CPEC portfolio, only USD 4 Billion is planned to be spent in Balochistan between 2015 and 2030. A major chunk of this tiny amount is meant for energy generation and development of Gwadar port with nearly negligible financing for improving the port's connectivity to the rest of the province. This needs to be looked into if Balochistan is to be integrated within the economic framework of the country.

CPEC's monographic study on transport planning (2014-2030) had provided for the upgradation into four lane highway of the existing road from DI Khan to Surab (750 KM) by 2020. As of December 2018, progress on this road remains virtually non-existent. Even worse, nearly three-fourths of this road (Zhob-Quetta-Surab section) is not even included in the CPEC infrastructure portfolio. The only section that is officially on the CPEC infrastructure agenda is the DI. Khan-Zhob section (205 km) but here too, no progress has actually been made. The proposed rail links between Gwadar and Khuzdar and Quetta also seem unlikely to materialise. In contrast, construction work on what is publicly known as the eastern alignment of CPEC, is likely to be completed by 2019. Similarly, Balochistan is also unlikely to benefit from the energy produced under CPEC owing to its low grid connectivity and weak transmission and absorption capacity.

As far as industrial development is concerned, Balochistan does offer opportunities for private investment in the sectors of mining, fisheries, livestock and agriculture, and coastal tourism. Of the 9 priority Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 2 are in Balochistan i.e. Gwadar and Bostan. The Gwadar SEZ has the potential to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Literature on FDI suggests that it is expected to accrue benefits to the host country in the form of increased employment opportunities and transfer of skills and technology. The Chinese FDI, however, is unlikely to result in significant boost in gainful employment because China, being a labour intensive country, brings along its own labour. Moreover, Balochistan's human resource is too underdeveloped to be eligible for any technical jobs arising out of FDI. Similarly, the Bostan SEZ is at a very early stage of development and the government of Balochistan lacks the capacity to develop it into a state of the art SEZ. Because of its lack of competitiveness and discouraging investment climate, the relocation of Chinese industries in the short and medium term, seems an unrealistic prospect.

Summing it up, CPEC is not a game changer but likely to have some second round benefits for the economy of the province. There is also a high risk that CPEC will exacerbate regional inequality and intensify feelings of deprivation and marginalisation in Balochistan. The people of Balochistan regard their coastal belt and

Gwadar as an asset that will bring prosperity to the entire province. The current scheme of things suggests that Gwadar port will be developed into an entrepot with little benefits to the rest of the province.

CPEC cannot be a substitute for domestic development strategies and programmes. In order to realise the actual growth potential of CPEC, the government of Balochistan and Pakistan need to undertake several corrective measures. These include, but are not limited to:

1. A minimum level of peace is prerequisite for economic development. The state should make efforts to make long-lasting peace.
2. Federal government must use resources from its Annual Development Programme to improve Gwadar port's connectivity to potential growth points in the province i.e. the minerals-rich Chaghi region in the northwest, the hub of horticulture, agriculture and minerals in north and the agriculture-rich region in eastern Balochistan.
3. Federal government must ensure connectivity of Makran region to national grid. Moreover, the government shall explore the option of importing Iran's cheaper electricity.

4. Balochistan's energy transmission and absorption capacity needs to be at least doubled in order for it to meet the current energy demand and to benefit from the surplus energy that will be produced through CPEC.
5. Government of Balochistan shall develop a comprehensive plan and strategy for developing its mining sector and removing key regulatory and structural bottlenecks. A Mineral Development Board comprising a mix of experienced individuals from the public and private sector shall be constituted to provide strategic direction and oversight.
6. Government of Balochistan should initiate reforms to improve the overall business environment in the province and make it more conducive for private investors.
7. Government of Balochistan shall formulate a comprehensive strategy to harness its untapped solar and wind potential.
8. Government of Balochistan and Pakistan shall allocate resources for social development and poverty alleviation in Gwadar and the province at large. This may include programmes on skills development, livelihoods support and provision of drinking water facilities.

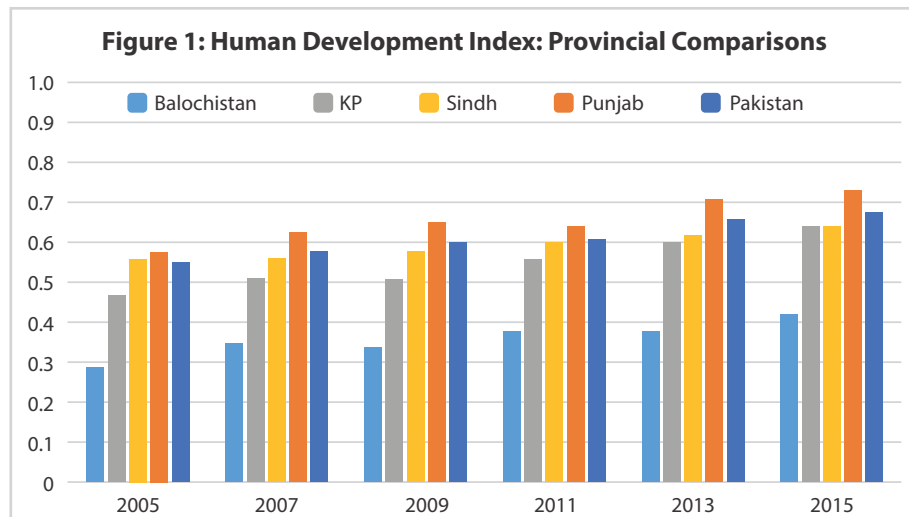
Balochistan's Social Sector



Prof. Dr. Ruksana Jabeen

Vice Chancellor
Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's
University, Quetta

Balochistan is at a significant disparity with other regions of the country, especially in terms of the social sector. Among regions and provinces, Azad Jammu and Kashmir has the highest Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.734, surpassing Punjab with an HDI of 0.732; followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)- 0.640 and 0.628 respectively. Erstwhile FATA has the lowest HDI in Pakistan at 0.216, followed by Balochistan and Gilgit Baltistan with HDI scores of 0.421 and 0.523 respectively (Figure 1).¹ These numbers are a reflection



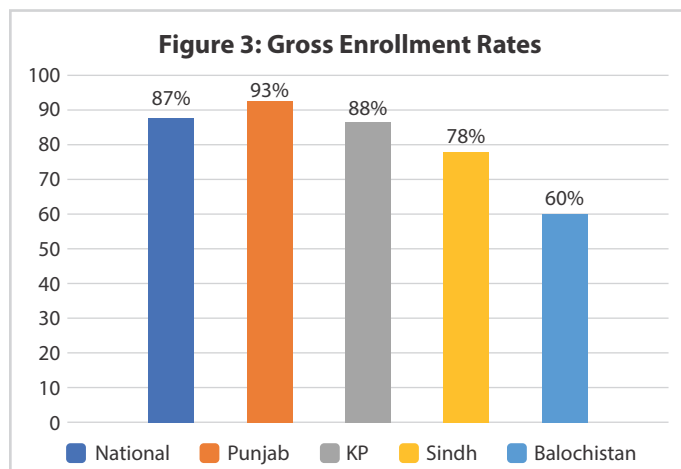
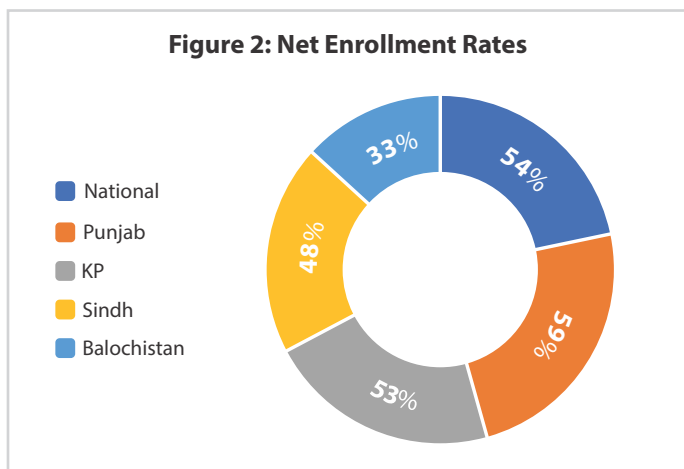
of the dire situation of the province when compared to the rest of Pakistan. Significant investments in education and health are required to produce the human and social capital needed to propel economic development of the province.

The social sector in the province has suffered neglect since years. Education and health have remained a low priority on the government's agenda.

With a literacy rate of 41 percent, education in the province remains much lower when compared to other provinces: Punjab,

Sindh and KP are 62 percent, 55 percent and 53 percent respectively.² Only 12,600 primary, middle and high schools exist in the province for over 22,000 settlements. With 2.3 million children out of school out of 3.6, the province needs to establish 10,000 additional schools just to ensure provision of education to children across the province. It has 57,000 government teachers, while it needs 60,000 teachers more.³ Net enrollement and gross enrollement rates also depict Balochistan at the end of the spectrum (Figure 2 & 3).⁴

Poor education reduces the productivity of



1. United Nations Development Program (2017), "Pakistan Human Development Index Report." Available at http://www.pk.undp.org/content/dam/pakistan/docs/HDR/HDI%20Report_2017.pdf
 2. Fajar Nadeem (2018), "Illiteracy in Balochistan." Available at <https://voiceofbalochistan.pk/opinions-and-articles/social-development/illiteracy-in-balochistan/>
 3. The statistics in this paragraph have been taken from, Syed Fazal e Haider (2018), "Health and Education: Key Issues Confronting Balochistan." Available at <http://www.pakistaneconomist.com/2018/11/12/health-and-education-key-issues-confronting-balochistan/>
 4. The News (2018), "Pakistan's literacy rate stands at 58pc." Available at <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/309542-pakistan-s-literacy-rate-stands-at-58pc>

investments and weakens governance. Low enrolment, retention, and completion has resulted in increasing unemployment: job vacancies often go unfilled due to a lack of trained personnel.

An effective and sustained educational reform hinges on a combination of policy and institutional changes. Equally important is to invest in different types of education, including vocational trainings. The province lacks skilled and trained labour to channelise its natural resources. As a result, its resource potential remains untapped.

Lack of education also perpetuates the cycle of poverty. Poor households in the province, on average, have 75 percent more children than the non-poor households. Majority of these children are not receiving any formal education and thus the vicious cycle of poverty leading to illiteracy, remains ongoing. A strong correlation between household income and school enrollment has also been seen. According to a report, the poorest wealth quintile in the 6-10 years age group are 4 times more likely to be out of school than children in the richest wealth quintile.⁵ Income based inequalities are thus a leading cause of low access to school education in the province.

In terms of gender, the province bears a poor record in educating girls. 81 percent of girls did not complete primary school in 2014-15, as compared to 52 percent of boys.⁶ Balochistan's gross primary school enrollment rates show a significant disparity between male and female enrollment. Tribal attitudes have a major role to play in inhibiting girls from acquiring education or taking up employment. The social divide in enrollment along gender

lines needs to be eliminated in the province. Only then can the overall education scenario improve in the province.

Health indicators depict a similar story in the province, especially indicators of maternal and infant mortality, which are much worse when compared to other provinces. Balochistan stands first in terms of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) as compared to other provinces of the country. Long distances, poor communication systems and lack of basic health facilities compound the problems of women. A large number of women lose the battle for life during pregnancy. Out of 100,000 women, 785 die in Balochistan as compared to 272 in rest of the country.⁷ Water borne diseases are also a common occurrence in the province, owing to poor water and sanitation facilities and absence of proper sewerage disposal and waste management system leading to water contamination. Almost 32 percent of people living in the province have zero access to basic health facilities.⁸ A healthy population is essential for economic progress and to fully utilizing the capabilities and skills of the workforce. In Balochistan, the health situation in rural areas gets worse-there is near absence of female health staff.

Development in health and education sectors in Balochistan is not only required to improve human development outcomes but also for human resource development and economic progress of the province. The provincial government must focus on improvement and formation of human capital to tap internal and external markets, and capitalize on market-driven economic growth in the province.

Social sector institutions in the province need to be strengthened in order to improve the effectiveness of public and private social service delivery. In education, in addition to provision of basic education, the focus should be upon on-job training programs, technical and non-technical education, secondary level education for development of critical skills, infusion of technology and innovation, recruitment of qualified teachers, instructors and trainers who offer value added knowledge and critical thinking. For the health sector, a re-analysis of priority areas that need urgent attention should be focused upon immediately. While the provincial government has in the past paid attention towards the sector- Former Chief Minister announced opening of 300 new schools, upgradation of another 300 schools, establishment of three medical colleges, and, purchase of new and latest medical equipment and machinery to better equip the Basic Health Units-there is still a long way to go. Nonetheless, these steps delineate promise for the future, however, it is imperative to ensure that quality also goes hand in hand with quantity, be it in the health sector or the education sector.

The provincial government must prioritize the social sector in its annual budget planning. Despite the fact that the education sector has remained a priority in provincial budgets since the last 3 years, it still requires more focus. Finally, efforts can only bring fruit if these funds are properly utilized and channelized. Therefore, institutional development is key in achieving social development in the province.

5. World Bank (2013), "Determinants of School Enrollment in Balochistan." Available at <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/351191468286790485/pdf/761150NWP0Fina00Box374362B00PUBLIC0.pdf>

6. The Guardian (2018), "Pakistan's schools crisis has 'devastating impact on millions of girls.'" Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/nov/13/pakistan-failing-to-provide-millions-of-girls-with-an-education-report-says>

7. DAWN (2014), "Maternal mortality: Balochistan's women suffer in silence." Available at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1139853>

8. Rashid Syed (2018), "Healthcare a luxury for people in Balochistan." Available at <https://www.geo.tv/latest/189971-only-30-to-32-per-cent-of-balochistan-have-access-to-medical-facilities>

Water Resources and Management in Balochistan – Key Issues

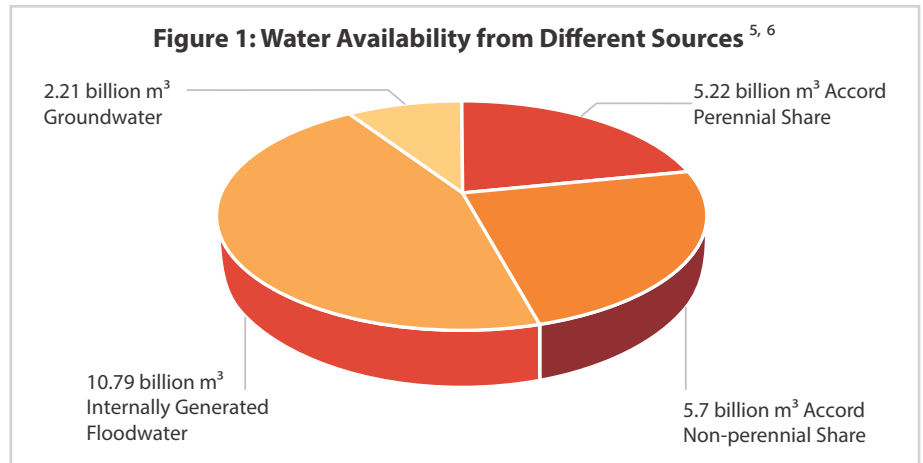


Dr. Shahid Ahmad

Water Resources Management and Development Expert

Water Scarcity

Scarcity of water is a critical constraint to development in Balochistan. While some 87 percent of Pakistan's total available water is contributed by the Indus Basin Irrigation System (IBIS), Balochistan lies at its periphery and relies largely on non-perennial and some perennial sources of water (from IBIS and minor perennial sources outside IBIS). According to the estimates of the Balochistan Economic Report¹, water availability in Balochistan during 2005 was 556 m³/ha per annum² and is almost same today (2018), simply reflecting the low population who has access to water. In real terms, variability in water availability is far higher than the national average and per capita water storage is only 20 percent of the (grossly inadequate) national value. As a result, not only is Balochistan the least water-secure province, but in fact, it is most at risk from climate change, in addition to being least able to cope with water-related development challenges. And while Pakistan's water economy is highly integrated, allowing for risk pooling, Balochistan's water economy is highly segmented, with 16 river basins accounting for its vast



territory.³

During the last three decades, Balochistan's agricultural development has largely been driven by expansions in irrigated agriculture through increases in canal-commands and spread of tubewells. While this strategy has achieved notable success, such as the growth of high value horticulture, it favoured a fraction of the population, and is no longer sustainable. Excessive mining of groundwater has lowered the water table and resulted in water deficiency in major basins. While there is scope to increase current use of canal water supplies in line with the Pakistan Water Accord, capacity of irrigation infrastructure has already exhausted.⁴ In Balochistan, 16 river basins face small and fluctuating water availability, where water scarcity is a common phenomenon.

Balochistan's Water Resources

In spite of water scarcity, Balochistan fails to make the most out of its available resources. Three major sources of water are: a) IBIS: consists of perennial and non-perennial flows as per Accord; b) Internally generated floodwater (Spate flows): comprised of seasonal flood flows; and, c) Groundwater (Figure 1). Out of the available

water of 24 billion m³ per annum, just 45 percent was utilized in 2017.

The Pakistan Water Accord of 1991 establishes clear entitlements for provinces to waters of the IBIS. Balochistan's current perennial IBIS flows are 4.78 billion m³, increased by an additional 0.44 billion m³ post the Mangla dam raising project. The perennial flow is restricted to the two districts of Naseerabad and Jaffarabad. Annual non-perennial supplies from the Indus, available during flood years and the brief monsoon season, are estimated to be another 5.7 billion m³. Yet, the present capacities of the Pat Feeder and Khirthar canals allow the utilization of only 3.8 billion m³ of the overall allocated flow of 10.9 billion m³, as per the Water Accord. After completion of the Kachhi Canal, utilization is projected to increase to 4.57 billion m³ for perennial water and 1.94 billion m³ for non-perennial water. Even after these investments, Balochistan IBIS utilization would still be around 60 percent of total available water resources (perennial/non-perennial).

The province generates total surface flows of internally generated floodwater of 3.25, 10.79 and 25.23 billion m³ at 75, 50 and 25

1. World Bank, ADB and Government of Balochistan (2008), "Pakistan's Balochistan economic report 2008". Report No. 40335 Pk. Volumes I and II.

2. ha – hectare equivalent to an area of 10000 m²

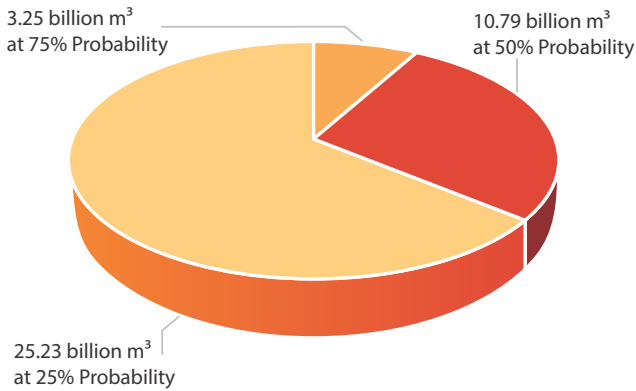
3. S. Tareen, B. Sani, K. Babar and S. Ahmad (2008), "Re-assessment of water resources availability and use for the major river basins of Balochistan – major findings, policy issues and reforms." Vol. (4), No. (7), TA-4560 (PAK), Quetta, Pakistan.

4. World Bank (2005), "Pakistan economy running dry: Country water assistance strategy". Pakistan Resident Mission, Islamabad, Pakistan.

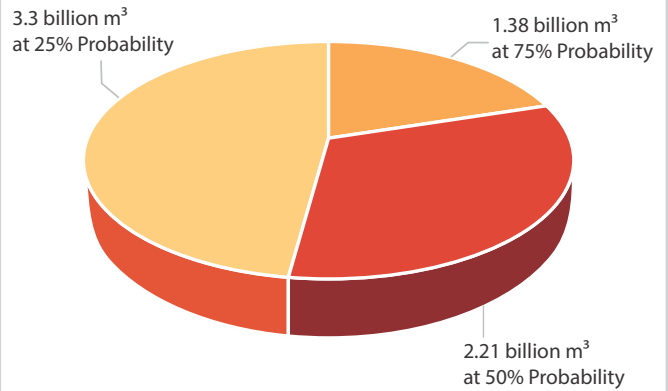
5. Government of Pakistan (1991), Pakistan water apportionment accord.

6. Government of Balochistan and ADB (2007), "Water resources availability and use. ADB-TA 4560, Supporting Public Resource Management in Balochistan".

Figures 2: Internally Generated Floodwater ⁷



Figures 3: Groundwater Availability Levels ⁷



percent probability levels, respectively (Figure 2). This indicates an increase of 134 percent during wet year from that of mean and flows decrease by 70 percent during the dry year.

Groundwater availability depends on two factors; recharge and storage in aquifers. Normally, it is based on average annual recharge. The increase in recharge is 49.5 percent during wet year and decrease of 37 percent during dry year. Figure 3 exhibits average annual recharge in Balochistan at 3 levels of probability.

Groundwater, which accounts for only 9 percent of Balochistan's total water resources, is the most intensely utilized water resource in Balochistan. Over-abstraction of groundwater is 20 percent of the recharge through tubewells and dugwells. The lowering of the water table is a common phenomenon in Balochistan, as farmers are now pumping beyond the depth of 300 m. A study of the Quetta sub-basin indicated that total annual discharge was 97.6 million m³, as opposed to an annual recharge of 61.1 million m³, resulting in an annual deficit of 36.5 million m³. In the three major basins (Pishin-Lora, Nari, and Zhob Rivers), the rate of utilization is so high that it could lead to severe depletion.

The depletion of the water table is a result of rapid growth of electric tubewells fueled by the government's subsidy. The number of electric tubewells increased rapidly since the introduction of the National Electricity Grid System in the 70s (Figure 4). There were around 41,517 tubewells as of 2014-15, out of which 30,013 were electrically operated. The share of electric out of overall tubewells increased from just under one third in 1970-71, to 72 percent in 2014-15. Farmers pay a fixed monthly tariff of PKR 6000 per tubewell, irrespective of usage and size. The availability of electricity at the right time

also plays a critical role. For example, peak water demand in Quetta, which is mostly a fruit growing district, is five times as high during the month of July (161 mm) as is in January (28 mm), corresponding to a monthly variation of power needs from 3 to 16 hours per day (Figure 5). Apart from electric tubewells, there were 10,860 diesel

operated tubewells during 2014-15 as well, but it is expected that the actual number is much more than reported owing to unreliability of available data.

Investment in Water Sector and Recovery

The Government of Balochistan's major

Figure 4: Growth of Tubewells in Balochistan ⁸

Number of Tubewells in Balochistan

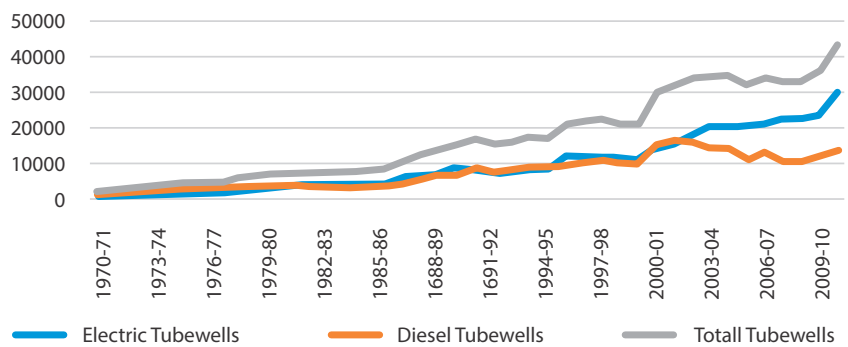
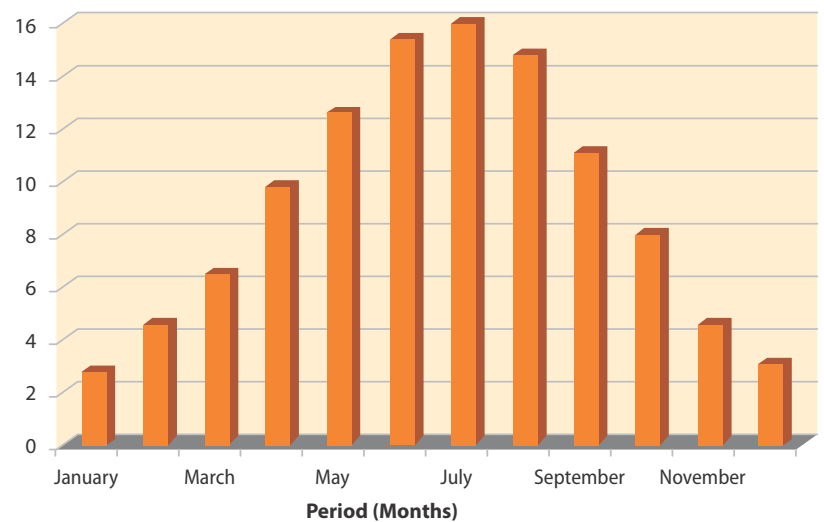


Figure 5: Hours of Daily Power Needed to Meet Water Demand for Quetta ⁹



7. Government of Balochistan and ADB (2007), "Water resources availability and use." ADB-TA 4560, Supporting Public Resource Management in Balochistan.

8. Government of Balochistan (2014), Agriculture statistics of Balochistan, department of agriculture.

9. S. Ahmad (2005), "Policy Briefings: Irrigation and Energy Nexus – Managing Energy and Water Use for Reducing Subsidy on Electric Tubewells in Balochistan." Vol. (1), No. (1), TA-4560 (PAK), Quetta.

focus of investment was on surface irrigation and dams. The investment on these schemes during 2016-17 was around PKR 6.5 billion. The major investment, on dams, amounts to PKR 4.1 billion. Overall, the budget saw a reduction of 40 percent from 2011-12 to 2016-17.

Introduced in colonial times, the provincial revenue department charges water fees (abiana) from farmers for supply of canal water on the basis of size of cropped area and type of crop. 'Abiana' rates are extremely low and their collection is poor. As a result, the amounts eventually collected are considerably below the costs of operation and maintenance of the irrigation infrastructure. The situation has not changed much since the last decade or so.

Water Productivity

Agriculture in Balochistan, whether irrigated or sailaba, uses too much water as farmers do not pay the 'social cost' of water. There are two main areas which can contribute to boosting water productivity: irrigation technology and water entitlements.

Irrigation technology: Improved water application techniques through better timing of water supplies and improved on-farm water management could greatly increase the amount of output/unit of water. Timing and reliability of water are critical to provide farmers with the incentives to make necessary investments in seeds, fertilizers, land preparation to improve yields, and to ensure water availability at critical crop-growth stages. The current authorized water allocations of various canal commands are not in line with evapotranspiration requirements, cropping patterns, or cropping intensity, resulting in low productivity and wastage of water. There is also excess irrigation at the farm level due to poor surface irrigation hydraulics and unlevelled fields, which forces farmers to apply enough water to cover the highest point in the field. Access to laser levelling is to date, very limited, as

the government maintains only a few units and the private sector has not been involved in the provision of these services to farmers.

Water entitlements: Reliability of water supply is linked to a transparent delineation and enforcement of water entitlements so that water can be effectively and equitably allocated among stakeholders. Pakistan has an unusually long and well-established tradition of water entitlements for the IBIS. The 1991 Water Accord was a landmark achievement that clearly defined entitlements for each province and within each province at the canal command level. However, the non-transparent implementation of this accord has meant that, as in the rest of the IBIS, there is considerable distrust in Balochistan among the various users, particularly among the small and large farmers, and among tail-end and head-end users. Water entitlements for floodwater or groundwater are not well-defined. There are no restrictions on the pumping of groundwater by tubewells - the right to exploit this resource rests entirely with the tubewell farmer, and although there are Water Committees at the district and provincial levels for licensing of groundwater, their role is largely limited to regulating the spacing of tubewells. Users are also free to abstract any amount of water from minor perennial surface irrigation schemes, springs, and karezes, without consideration of downstream usage or environmental consequences. Even then, Balochistan is the only province having the Groundwater Administration Ordinance, which has hardly been implemented since 1978. This Ordinance needs to be critically reviewed and modified, and workable ways of enforcing it should be developed. Annual registration of tubewells and issuing permits for abstraction of groundwater on annual basis are also important steps that should be taken. The challenge is how to implement such reforms in a tribal society.

Policy, Institutions and Capacity

Balochistan is the only province that has

formulated an IWRM¹⁰ Policy, approved by the Cabinet of Balochistan in March 2006. However, some critical policy actions have not been implemented owing to inadequate institutional framework, inadequate capacity of existing institutions, flawed institutional structures and inadequate political will.

The IWRM Policy 2006 puts emphasis on the adoption of basin approach for the management of water resources starting from the three over-drawn river basins of Pishin-Lora, Nari and Zhob. Guidelines and action plans have been developed for Pishin - Lora Basin, while that for Nari and Zhob basin are underway. Adoption of basin and integrated approach is a step in the right direction and these guidelines and action plans are facilitating developing such an approach. However, these need to be executed and implemented.

The Groundwater Administration Ordinance was promulgated in 1978 in Balochistan. Water Committees have been established in various regions and districts for the award of licenses for the installation of new tubewells. The real issue lies in effective enforcement and implementation of the IWRM Policy and Groundwater Administration Ordinance. Furthermore, it is imperative to revise the policy based on new and emerging issues.

The IWRM Policy recommended establishment of Balochistan Water Resources Management Authority (BWRMA) and Basin Water Boards (BWBs) for the major basins in Balochistan, but no action was taken till 2017. In 2018, the Government of Balochistan re-initiated establishment of BWRMA. Likewise, institutional framework for BWBs has also been developed but not implemented yet. Furthermore, the BWRMA will be the custodian of implementation of the IWRM Policy and Groundwater Administration Ordinance. Until this authority is well functioning, it is not possible to manage water at the basin level.

Gender and Balochistan



Rehana Khilji

Social Activist

Gender equality is at the heart of the sustainable development goals to which Pakistan has committed. Not fulfilling our commitments will also mean losing our opportunity to integrate inclusion and leaving no one behind. Though our constitution guarantees equal rights for women, discrimination patterns in all spheres of life, along with poor governance and prevailing societal attitudes, do not provide suitable conditions to foster gender equality and women's empowerment.

Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan with the least population. It is the 'resource rich', yet extremely deprived and under developed region of Pakistan. Gender indicators, particularly on health, education, employment, access to enabling technologies and access to justice sectors, do not delineate good results. Gender inequality and the low status of women is deep rooted and imposed both by the patriarchal system of male dominance, feudal exploitation, tribal mindset, misinterpretation of religion, lack of education and awareness, as well as structural exclusion from mainstream institutions. The province, being largely a tribal formation, generally does not allow women shares in family property as this is considered exclusive male territory, despite the fact that it is contradictory to both national and religious laws. Illegal and parallel systems of justice often act as instruments of further subjugation and exclusion.

At about 72 percent, the province bears the highest level of poverty incidence, with rural poverty greater than urban. It also has the highest rate of maternal mortality, not just in Pakistan, but across South Asia. The high maternal mortality ratio is a sign of social injustice and discrimination. Experts indicate that a lack of proper nutrition and safe drinking water, as well as lack of required basic health facilities, is a major contributor to infant and maternal mortality in the province. There are gender gaps in education, employment, voter registration, access and control over resources and enabling technologies, and so on and so forth. Climate change has devastating impacts, in particular droughts, on the lives of women and vulnerable groups. Water scarcity has increased the burden and work load of women, who are mainly responsible for fetching potable water from far flung areas.

The Afghan war and post 9/11 situation has taken a devastating toll on the security situation in Balochistan. The province also hosts a large number of Afghan refugees, which further poses challenges related to livelihood security and natural resource use. The security situation is in part, attributed to Balochistan's long term problems of governance and deep sense of deprivation, neglect and denial of rights. Women are particularly affected by all this as they are excluded from decision making and lack access to redress mechanisms and peace making processes.

At present, the Women Development Department Balochistan caters to women related issues at the grass root level by way of planning, and keeping liaison with various NGOs as well as national and international agencies involved in the uplift and development of women in the province. The department is also responsible for the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Women and various provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The department has taken some proactive steps towards pro women legislation in the province. The implementation of these laws and policies need to be ensured. Balochistan Gender Equality Policy 2013 focuses on social, economic and political empowerment of

women, enhancing leadership role of women in humanitarian crisis and ending violence against women (as a cross cutting theme). However, this policy is not backed up by a costed implementation plan, which limits its efficacy to only being 'present on paper'.

Though women labour force participation has increased over the years, there is still a huge gender gap. The province also lacks supportive facilities like working women hostels, day care centers and a gender responsive transport system. Though traditionally, women have been seen to be more employed in the education and health sectors, their representation is negligible in the rule of law and other nontraditional sectors. The protection of homebased workers is also lacking.

There is a general voter gender gap in the country, but the situation in Balochistan is worse. Though there are 11 reserved seats for women in the provincial assembly, yet local women need to be encouraged to take part in direct elections as candidates. Women's sound representation needs to be encouraged and strengthened in political parties at the decision making level, as well as in the provincial cabinet, Standing Committees and Local Government.

Women's economic empowerment is key to the growth of the economy, prosperity and sustainable development in the province. Such empowerment is requisite if women are to reap benefits from upcoming opportunities such as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor etc. Policy reforms and introducing supportive legislations to guarantee and boost women's economic rights with dignity and respect, are required. It is important that equitable access and opportunities to people of Balochistan be assured. Women should have their due share and gain from such initiatives. There is a need to assist local populations to build and develop their capacities whilst including their voice, participation and priorities in shaping their own development paradigm.

Any region's development process should be shaped in a way that it is responsive to the practical as well as strategic gender

interests of the people. Same is the case with Balochistan. Provision of safe and secure environment, health, education and training facilities, clean drinking water, employment opportunities, infrastructure connecting far flung rural areas to main town and cities, electricity, proper nutrition and true participation, should be key

domains in any development policy programmes for the province. Social and political space need to be enhanced for women. To tackle attitudinal and behavioural issues, a counter narrative needs to be collectively developed. Role of media, academia and a vibrant civil society is of key importance in this regard.

Power structures need to be challenged through institutional reforms. Since political will is important for inclusive development, it is hoped that the government takes concrete steps in this regard.

Key Recommendations to the Government

1. Balochistan requires a comprehensive gender equality and women's empowerment policy and legislation. The basic work has already been done by the Women Development Department over the last few years. The policy should be supported by a practical implementation plan.
2. A multi sectoral Women Empowerment Package for Balochistan should be announced along similar lines as in the case of Punjab and the required resources should be allocated for it.
3. Support legal and administrative actions for sound women protection laws. e.g. prohibition of early marriages, home based worker protection, anti-acid throwing and rehabilitation, right to inheritance, youth empowerment policy and girl child protection.
4. Policy for home-based worker protection should be approved and implemented.
5. Gender policy needs to be mainstreamed in all other policies so that all departments are accountable to identify gender gaps in their area of responsibility and be able to plan concrete measures to bridge the said gender gap. Similar mainstreaming is important in policies related to peace, security and trade.
6. Ensure implementation of current job quota for women and further enhance this quota to 10 percent.
7. Provincial strategy needs to be in place for integration and participation of women in CPEC and other economic empowerment initiatives.
8. Women Development Department needs to be strengthened in terms of capacity, resources and outreach so that it can technically guide and support other departments on gender responsive policy, planning and programme management.
9. Women's representation should be improved in the rule of law sector to support access to justice and protection. Balochistan's rule of law roadmap needs to be implemented.
10. Enhance the use of enabling technology for women and girls.
11. Local government system needs to be reformed for enhanced accountability, improved service delivery and gender responsive sustainable development. Women led institutions at the grass root level need to be encouraged at the community level. These community level organizations should then connect to district and provincial levels for policy advocacy and improved governance and accountability mechanisms. The new government needs to take steps to introduce a sound model of local government. All plans should be made at the very local level and full participation of women and all vulnerable segments of the community should be ensured.

Opportunities in Balochistan: Promise for the Future



Muhammad Naveed Iftikhar

Public Policy Advisor

A new dawn appears to be awaiting Balochistan, through the various development avenues opening up. While these avenues will present opportunities, but to be able to actually utilize all these opportunities, is the question. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is destined to focus on Balochistan as this trade route will culminate at the newly developed port of Gwadar, which is located in the province itself. However, it is yet to be ascertained how and when the people of Gwadar will reap benefits of CPEC and its associated trade and economic activities. This piece is focused on such opportunities and analysis of much needed efforts for the province of Balochistan.

Balochistan's sparsely populated land has been posing complex challenges to socio-economic and political developments in the province. Service delivery indicators in critical areas such as education, health, employment and income inequalities delineate the unique challenges faced by this region. Historical efforts to develop the Pakistan region (e.g. irrigation and rail/road networks) largely remained concentrated in Punjab and Sindh. Partly, these efforts were concentrated in these regions due to natural resource endowment, industrial activity and population density. However, with CPEC, there is hope that Balochistan will be receiving its share of such initiatives

for the first time in its history, through the development of road networks that will aid connectivity and boost business. The geostrategic location of Balochistan for transit trade routes to central Asian republics can be exploited depending upon Pakistan's enabling of trade regulations and capacity and peace in Afghanistan. The previously poor performance of Afghan Transit Trade in terms of leakages of transit goods and cumbersome custom clearance procedures can inform many lessons to reform our future trade, transport and logistic facilities and regulations. Similarly, the linking of Quetta and Gwadar with Karachi and other cities of Sindh, through improvement and expansion of existing road networks can unearth new opportunities for domestic commerce as well.

While trade routes will undoubtedly bring large benefits, the social side of development needs to be given top priority. It is especially important to ensure education, health, mobility, law and order and skill development for the people of Balochistan. They will only be able to reap benefits from emerging opportunities provided they have the sufficient skill set. Otherwise, the potential marginalization of Balochistan from these opportunities will create complexities for future development.

Traditional models of education and skill development may not serve the purpose to deliver services to this large land. There is a need to initiate public private partnership (PPPs) and non-traditional ways to deliver educational content across the province. IGNITE of the Federal Ministry of Information Technology has established a National Incubation Center in Quetta which is due to commence operations soon, to incubate and mentor startups and young firms in Balochistan. This is indeed quite promising for the province to promote local entrepreneurship. The government of Balochistan needs to support these initiatives to develop regional hubs to train and develop young entrepreneurs across Balochistan to connect them to the value chain within and across Pakistan along the new trade routes.

Development of Gwadar port and the city are certainly important for Balochistan and Pakistan's economy. However, the historical deprivations of the Makran coastal region has left a mark on the people of this region in terms of underdevelopment. In order to make Gwadar a 'win-win' for all stakeholders, it is important to pursue people-centric development in the region. Gwadar lacks access to water, education and health facilities. Very recently, the Pakistan Army took some initiatives to provide health and education facilities; however, the gap is huge, and needs to be filled by collaborative efforts of both federal and provincial governments. The 7th National Finance Commission could have helped to improve service delivery, however, so far, the results are still sub-optimal.

The original plan of Gwadar city included relocation of the local population to another place so as to allow space for port and ground transportation operations. This was indeed a detrimental plan in many ways. A new master plan is now being developed. It is hoped that sufficient measures will be taken to provide the first right of living to people of Gwadar in the newly developed city. The old town should be transformed into a cultural village which can serve to boost the tourism industry. There is a need to develop a robust cultural strategy to safeguard the culture and heritage of old Gwadar, and to integrate the younger generation into the new economy being shaped by the CPEC. The city government will have to play an active role in this regard: greater autonomy and responsiveness of the local government will play a key role in uplifting the locals. Property speculation has already created bottlenecks. Before the situation gets worse, the time is ripe to develop Gwadar as an economic city, with appropriate land use policies, instead of developing it as a speculative market for real estate.

The opening of trade routes may also boost Balochistan's mineral industry. However, the province lacks a comprehensive mapping of minerals¹, which might cause problems in attracting foreign investment.

1. Professor Saleem H. Ali of the University of Delaware has a global experience of researching and advising mineral industries. He believes most of the estimates of minerals and mines are based on a rudimentary analysis. He wrote in a piece published by National Geographic in 2013, "Pakistan's media should consult more deliberately with international geological experts who do not have any particular vested interest in the development of the project rather than interviewing hyper-nationalist geologists that have limited substantiation of facts and grossly exaggerate value of the reserve as well as Pakistani technical expertise to extract the resource".

To truly harness this intrinsic potential of the province, Pakistan should become part of international forums to exchange knowledge and resources to develop its mineral sector in Balochistan. For instance, the United Nations Mineral Development Program implemented in the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of states with the support of the European Union, has brought tremendous benefits for these regions.

Moreover, Pakistan's international credibility after the cancellation of the Reko Diq gold mine contract has been severely hampered. It is important to understand that without the participation of the private sector both locally and internationally, these resources cannot see their full potential. A case in point is Chile, which offers a lot of opportunities for Pakistan to learn and collaborate.

Balochistan's new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) law indeed provides an opportunity to explore partnerships in various economic and social sectors, especially in exploiting the natural resources of the province. However, it would be crucial to emphasize here that the major chunk of benefits of such resource exploitation should be transferred to the local communities. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in the province previously, which has resulted in a huge trust deficit amongst the people of Balochistan, who now get wary of any positive development in the province.

The government of Balochistan also needs to develop its professional capacities to analyze and develop key economic policies for the province. The recent move to establish the Balochistan Revenue Authority indicates cognizance among the

decision makers. The fact is, there are very few economic opportunities in the first place. The government of Balochistan will have to gear its public expenditures and policies towards creating such economic opportunities in areas of trade, mineral development and agriculture, alongside harping on tax mobilization.

As foreign and domestic investments are expected to increase in Balochistan, it would be advisable to develop a framework to provide benefits to local communities where these projects will be implemented. Several global examples delineate how foreign investors have been supporting local communities. An OECD² report, for example, emphasized the importance of engaging and supporting local communities in port cities: *"The support of a local population is essential for ports in order to keep their "license to operate" and remain legitimate economic actors... What distinguishes successful port-cities from less successful and more polarised port-cities is the sense of pride and "ownership" of the port by the population and business community."* This is not only true for port operations in Gwadar, in fact, the same principle should apply to other foreign and domestic investments in Balochistan. However, the public sector cannot absolve itself from the responsibility to undertake radical steps towards the development of the deprived regions of Balochistan.

The potential of agriculture development in Balochistan is yet to be exploited, given its large land mass. Agricultural development is one of the seven areas of cooperation under CPEC. Therefore, a huge potential for the establishment of food processing and packaging zones along CPEC routes exists. It will add value to locally produced

agriculture products, such as apples, dates, apricots, peach, plum etc. The province can prove to be vital for cash crop production, such as the cultivation of safran. Livestock (export of halal meat) is another potential area to enhance exports. However, in contrast to all this, water scarcity and efficiency, tube well subsidies, lack of awareness about new technologies, power shortages and inefficient marketing of agricultural products, remain huge challenges. There is an urgent need to utilize modern technologies and farming methods to improve water efficiency in the agriculture sector which may help improve access and equity in the water sector.

Balochistan's long coast provides an excellent opportunity for tourism. Resorts should be developed alongside the Arabian sea, next to the Makran Coastal Highway. This can reap excellent revenues for the province.

Thus, in a gist, Balochistan needs to focus on partnerships and innovation in basic education and skill development for younger generations, better governance of Gwadar city, integration of local community with the new economy, productivity and marketing of agriculture, tourism, mineral industry and sharing the dividend of prosperity with the local population. Urban centres providing improved living experiences and economic opportunities to attract population from the rural areas, should also be developed. There is a need to develop a robust framework to achieve these goals with the partnership of different sectors and agents. Further research and inclusive consultation is needed for an in-depth exploration of some of these ideas.

Youth: The Forgotten Priority



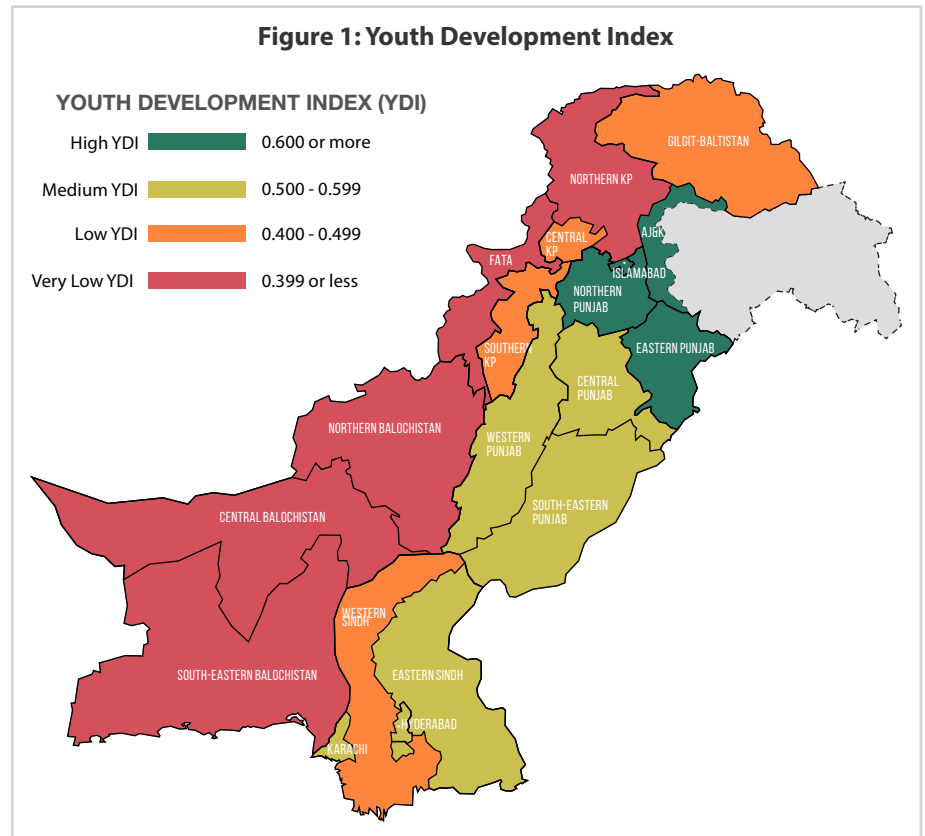
Fatima Nangyal Khan

Human Rights Activist,
Development Practitioner

Youth development in Balochistan is extremely poor, in fact the poorest as compared to the rest of the country (Figure 1). A major reason for this is the lack of education and employment. To begin with, not many youth get the opportunity to enroll into educational institutes. Those who do end up receiving degrees, face a paucity of employment opportunities. And so the cycle continues.

In search of greener pastures, the youth then go on to explore education and employment opportunities in other provinces and major cities. However, owing to issues of domiciles and settling down, they eventually either return, or get employed in under paid jobs in the cities. Resultantly, the youth labour force participation rate for Balochistan at 44.44 percent, has been historically lower compared to other provinces and there has been no youth employment strategy or policy over the last 70 years.

There are two tiers of youth in the province. Those who have inherited a feudal and/or political background and those who hail from common families. For the former, life is relatively easier and opportunities are many, along with an abundance of financial resources. It is the latter who suffer the most, in terms of money, in terms of



Source: UNDP (2017), 'Pakistan National Human Development Report 2017' ¹

opportunities and in terms of stability.

Despite the existence of a draft youth policy, its approval is still pending. No allocation has been made for the Youth Development Program post the NFC Award. There are limited provisions and opportunities for youth scholarships, career counselling, capacity building etc. No provincial youth assembly exists, no long-term youth development plan exists. In the absence of even basic youth initiatives, the discussion on facilitating and engaging disabled or female youth does not even appear on the spectrum.

Honour killing, early marriages, drug abuse, involvement in violent extremism etc. are all consequences of the youth being deprived of opportunities. Trafficking is also rampant. To save the province, action needs to be done now, before this window of opportunity of the youth bulge, is long

gone.

Over time, several ideas have been presented to the government. A Youth Employment Policy was designed that suggested selecting the top 10 scorers from the top 7 public sector universities in the province and engaging them in different government departments. It was also recommended to pay some stipend to the selected candidates. This will not only provide them with a sum of money, but will also help train and hone the skills of youth, whilst building a pool of trained resource for the future. The policy also recommended that the youth be provided vocational trainings that equip them to work along the huge coastal belt, in fishing and other industries. This area presents a land of opportunity for the province, and it was recommended to use this young resource to utilize and channelize this opportunity.

1. UNDP (2017), 'Pakistan National Human Development Report 2017'. Available at <http://www.pk.undp.org/content/dam/pakistan/docs/HDR/PK-NHDR.pdf>

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor presents another area of opportunity, for Balochistan. In the long run, this could mean additional job opportunities in the province. The youth can be part of this change, only if they are instilled with the requisite skills that these jobs will demand, in particular, good quality jobs. That is why vocational training for the youth should be an area of focus.

Political ownership and the government's will is an essential ingredient for the infusion of youth in the development discourse. This process should involve youth, right from the grass root level. Local level youth consultations are essential to ensure youth are involved in the decision making process. Simultaneously, parents

should also be made part of this process so their side of the story-when it comes to being unable to send their children to school etc-be heard. In November last year, the government of Balochistan began a series of consultations to create a youth development strategy in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Youth Program. However, no significant advancements have occurred since then.

Another integral aspect that government planning needs to keep in consideration, should be to engage youth within the province, instead of shipping them abroad via schemes and scholarships. While the initiatives that focus on training youth and then sending them abroad for job placements are good, they offer limited

opportunities for the development of the local economy. If the government creates local opportunities to meaningfully engage these youth, then not only will the economy benefit, but in fact, this will reduce the brain drain, help empower these youth and spur development in the province.

Finally, awarding jobs on merit should be a prime focus. The province has extremely capable youth, with a flourishing potential and a motivation unlike no other. But many a times, they are often unable to proceed ahead owing to favouritism/nepotism. It is time to translate this inherent energy and potential into positive, constructive outputs for the province.



say that again

"...public participation is being ensured through local bodies."



Sardar Babar Khan Musakhel

Deputy Speaker
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

What is the situation of employment in the province?

There are almost 30-35 thousand public sector jobs available at the moment where we intend to appoint people. These include jobs in a variety of sectors such as health, education etc. Hence, the government is trying to ensure eradication of poverty through providing employment opportunities. So in terms of the number of jobs available, there is not an issue.

The issue is of course as to why these jobs are still vacant. The reason for this trails in delays from the previous government. We are now working to get them through and hire suitable people.

What policy or course of action is the government following to achieve this target?

Currently, the government is in its infancy. Quality results require time. We are planning ahead and working alongside all ministries. We should see results in a couple of months.

The province harbours several opportunities including Gwadar Port, copper mines, huge land mass, CPEC etc. Are these being optimally utilized? What impact can these have on the development of the province?

Utilizing and channelizing these opportunities is the biggest challenge. For instance, for CPEC, more than 200 people were chosen to be sent to China in order to learn the Chinese language. However, most of these were simply selected from Punjab. The new provincial government is committed to reaping benefits from CPEC and intends to allocate designated space and resources for its institutional setup. The project promises improvement in the employment rate by up to 40 percent. Same applies for the Gwadar Port. The key lies in creating internal platforms to serve these initiatives which will in turn create job opportunities. Simultaneously, the government is also committed towards creating opportunities in the education sector. Same is the case for the mining industry.

What are other challenges the government is trying to resolve?

The foremost priority is the water crises. The government is working towards setting up a dedicated team to address the issue.

Security and maintenance of law and order is also a major concern and the biggest concern for private investors as well. Rest assured, the government is working with our security officials to create ease in this regard.

Last but certainly not the least, development of improved trading routes that will aid connectivity and travel are also in the pipeline.

Finally, complete digitization of the province-in terms of records, processes, systems etc. is also a key area of action.

To what extent are the general public involved in the decision-making processes?

Public participation is being ensured through local bodies'. Duties will be assigned to District Nazims, Naib Nazims and further down to councilors. They will be accountable to ensure that the public is kept not only well aware but also well involved in all processes pertaining to the development of the province.

With a rising number of university graduates, what are plans for the youth?

Our prime focus is on creating jobs for the youth. One suggestion we have in mind is to establish a cadet college for the youth. Moreover, establishing more universities is also imperative to counter the high levels of illiteracy in the province, a gap which we intend to cover in 5 years. Skilled people will be the need of the hour in the time to come.

Interview



Sana Durrani

Chairperson, Balochistan Women Business Association
Executive Member, Chamber of Commerce and Industry

What is the status of employment in the province?

Balochistan does not have any major industrial zone, hence this in itself limits the scope of employment. There are not many incentives to setup business here, especially for the private sector. In addition, there is a lack of raw material and logistic infrastructure to support new businesses. Moreover, there is dire gender imbalance in terms of active labour force. Most females are engaged in temporary employment opportunities.

Given the fact that there are several females who graduate each year, however, a majority of them do not enter the workforce. What is the reason behind this?

The reason is the lack of adequate facilities for women at work places. The case study of civil service is an interesting one. Despite the fact that several women pass out of civil service yet the irony is that there is not a single ladies restroom or a day care in the Civil Secretariat. Hence, when basic setups do not exist for women at workplaces, how then would more women be seen in the workforce?

Does the government have any plans in place to support the creation of employment? What sectors is it focusing on?

The government does appear to be focusing on sectors of health and education in order to make them more lucrative. They are planning to re-publish vacant posts with suitable and able people. However, effort is not being done to ensure the gender dimension is taken care of.

What are some of the challenges being faced by women and how can these be overcome?

Majority of women have started small ventures from their homes. There need to be proper policies to support and uplift these ventures and these policies should be legislated formally. For instance, the province has an excellent embroidery industry. Women toil long

say that again

"...There are not many incentives to setup business here, especially for the private sector."

hours, however, their work is largely unrecognized as they do not possess the proper knowledge to market their products. This is where they require the government's support to assist them in maximizing their skills. In addition, entrepreneurial skills training is also requisite, both for males and females.

Other than public sector jobs, what other avenues offer promise in terms of female employment?

The hospitality sector is a fast emerging sector. There are several females employed in the sector working as chefs or on front desk jobs. However, the acceptability of women working on front desk jobs is still rare in the society, as a result of which women often face hurdles. Apart from this sector, women are also contributing towards the gem stone business, livestock and in the beauty industry, and nearly 84 percent are working from home through small startups.

In your opinion, how will CPEC aid in creating employment opportunities in the province?

We are not yet prepared for CPEC. We do not possess the requisite education or technical skills, or language capacities. How then will CPEC be able to bear fruit for the locals? It is also important to prepare the youth from now so that the future can be bright for them as well as for the province.

The CPEC will open new avenues of trade and connectivity. For starters, the 18 hour route from Quetta to Gwadar is now reduced to 9 hours. There will also be more opportunities in the Khuzdar region, especially in terms of industrial development. Public-private partnership will also likely flourish and indigenous resources such as the wool industry will also develop.

However, the CPEC will only yield positive results if strict rules of business are defined. The province lacks proper legislation along with proper implementation. These are crucial if any benefits are to be reaped.

say that again

"... The local district police officer should be engaged and a strict plan of action to protect our interests and our rights needs to be implemented."



Komal Shah Afridi

President
Transgender Society Quetta



Ghazala

Member
Transgender Community

What challenges does the transgender community face in Balochistan?

Being transgender is considered a taboo in the society so the title itself poses a lot of challenges for our community. Owing to that, we are very restricted in our societal interactions. We face issues while going out, even for mundane things like grocery. We are treated like criminals, viewed with suspicion and mistrust. We face issues in acquiring education, in accessing health services and in approaching law enforcement authorities. We do not have any seats reserved for our community in the assembly. When our own government or our own people do not look out for us, then who will?

Another issue that is becoming increasingly common nowadays is other communities posing to be transgender. We are a respected community and we do not indulge in obscene acts. However, these communities have no regard for their honour and are defaming our name in the society.

In your opinion, how can these issues be overcome?

It is important to involve police authorities. We need protection. The local district police officer should be engaged and a strict plan of action to protect our interests and our rights needs to be implemented.

How can opportunities be created for the transgender community?

Suitable arrangements for health need to be made for our community. There should be separate medical wards for us. People from our community should be imparted vocational trainings so that they can be employed to serve not only our own community, but also the larger society. There is a lot of ambition and motivation in the transgender community, it needs to be channelized.

Separate shelter homes should be made for our community where we can reside peacefully.

Public awareness is also very integral to the cause. The public should be educated to accept our existence and to engage with us as equal citizens.

Interview



Zia Khan

Founder, Quetta Online and Balochistan Online
Social Activist

How does education and employment for youth in Balochistan fare with other provinces?

When compared to the rest of Pakistan, youth opportunities and engagement is extremely low. One of the major reasons for this is the lack of a provincial youth policy. The youth is completely missing from the development debate in the province: just look at the state of education. What is the quality? Are there any significant universities in the province, unlike the other provinces? No. There are just 2 universities, who are indeed working overtime to fill the gap and offer quality education. Similar is the case with the availability of jobs - equal to none. Where will those youth who graduate, end up at or do with their hard earned degrees? The youth also do not have any provision of skill development programs or avenues that can offer them self-employment opportunities. This is the situation of the capital, Quetta. We can just about imagine the situation of the rest of the province.

In terms of recreation, again the province lags way behind. No sports grounds, only 2 cricket stadiums, no proper cinemas or restaurants or parks. Where then will the youth divert to? Easy answer. It is unfortunate that our instrument of development has become our biggest challenge. Here, I try to play whatever part I can in aiding the youth, through the online volunteer platform that absolutely any youth can join and stay engaged with whatever community development work we take on.

say that again

"... Youth exposure tours should be planned by the government to create awareness and expose our youth to the list of possibilities and opportunities."

What platforms for youth engagement exist in the province?

Universities often arrange sports events and other co-curricular activities to keep the youth engaged. However, apart from such ventures, there really exist no opportunities, especially on part of the government. The only other options that then remain are platforms like ours.

What steps should be taken to uplift youth?

The first priority should be enhancing youth education. Merit should be strictly followed so well deserving youth do not remain left out. The public youth department should revitalize itself. It should plan and execute meaningful youth initiatives that also serve as learning experiences for them. Master trainers (on any specific skills) should be available in each district and should then train the youth of that particular area. Skills and entrepreneurship training is also very important in fields such as information technology and programs to offer these skills should be planned. Youth exposure tours should be planned by the government to create awareness and expose our youth to the list of possibilities and opportunities. Ofcourse, the government cannot uplift the youth on its own-other sectors of the society also need to step up and participate in the process. This includes social groups such as ours, and the private sector.

Youth Voices

How can the youth be engaged in the development discourse of the province?

I graduated last year and am still unemployed. Some programs that absorb youth as soon as they graduate, even if on a minimal stipend, should be initiated.

Murad Kakakhel

Provision of vocational education is important to open new opportunities for us.

Sangeen Khan

CPEC oriented technical skills or programs are what the youth needs now. The CPEC will bring many avenues of opportunity, so the youth need to be prepared for them.

Akbar Sardar

Youth bodies should be created at the city level, which promote youth oriented interests and activities. These should be of the youth and for the youth.

Gusho Durrani

Some sort of financial support and guidance should be provided to youth who wish to launch a startup. My sisters and I do all sorts of embroidery and want to take it ahead but owing to a lack of financial resources and guidance, we cannot.

Sana Afridi

Patriarchal attitudes need to change. 90 percent of my friends either left university in the middle or wasted their degree once they graduated. Change should begin at home.

Asra Baloch



DEVELOPMENT ADVOCATE
PAKISTAN