

Economic Crisis in Baluchistan

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Content of Dialogue

Potential Province of Pakistan.

Why Economic crisis

Massive untapped treasure

- The province of Baluchistan due to its strategic location has comparative advantage in the region.
- It has tremendous potential in all economic sectors which has largely been untapped.
- A strategic location of immense geo-economic and Political importance.
- It has potential in mining, fisheries, livestock agriculture, etc etc.

Agriculture

- Baluchistan is water deficit and land rich region.
- Agriculture is the main stay of provincial economy.
 - Over 75% of people lives in rural areas.
- The crops contributed about 62% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- It employs 67% of Baluchistan total labour force.

➤ There is no perennial system of irrigation.

The areas depend on rain, karazat, and tube well for irrigation.

➤ More than half million acre consist of orchard.

➤ About 11.77 million acre of land is still laying .
arid barren and uncultivated. .

Livestock

- Baluchistan is a pastoral economy, its livestock contributes 20% to the provincial economy.
- It is the primary source of living for about 80% of the population of the province .
- The provincial share in the country's total livestock population is stated to be about 40% .

- About 30 million herds of livestock in the province.
- About 120,000 livestock, producers or flock
- Owners earn their living from raising livestock.
leather, Carpet and pharmaceutical industry
are the main consumers of livestock products
- The province caters to the needs and demands of leather and carpet industries in Pakistan by sustaining the supply of hide, skins and wool to these sectors

Fisheries

- The coast line is 70% of country's total coast belt.
- It has huge potential for development of fisheries tourism, and seaports.
- It is productive marine eco-system of the world
 - According to estimates , 60 species of fish and 10 of shrimps and lobster are found here.
- The province produces 200,000 tons fish per year
Of which 80,000 tons are caught by trawlers from Sindh

- The enormous sea food potential is not yet to be fully tapped.
- Fisheries has been confined to on shore water due to lack of infrastructure facilities.
- Absence of quality control.
- No processing and preservation plant on their Catch.
- Obsolete method of fishing.
- Using old and smaller vessels.
- Enormous potential for development of shrimp farming along the coastal belt.

Mining

- Baluchistan is known for its tremendous mineral potential.
- Large number of metallic & non-metallic mineral have been discovered in the province.
- Mineral deposit includes; copper, iron, zinc, lead, coal, barite, fluorite, gypsum, limestone , magnesite, Chromites, marble and sulphur.
- The copper-gold deposite at Sandak / Rekodiq in Chagai district have been estimated 78 million tones.

- The province has possesses huge resources of Marble in Lasbela, Khuzdar, and Chagai districts.
- Estimated reserves of coal in the province are 196 million tones. Total estimated iron reserves about 237 million tones.

Energy

- Baluchistan produces more than 40% of country's primary energy in the form of natural gas, coal and electricity.
- Geological survey estimates reserve of trillion cubic feet of gas and billion barrel of oil during offshore exploration . Marri and Bugti areas are rich in oil and gas resources.
- Other districts Kharan, Chagai, Lasbela, Bolan, Mekran coastal region not been explored yet

Fruit Farming

- The province is known as fruit basket of Pakistan.
- It share on the country's production of Grapes, Cherry and Almond is 90%
- It contributes 60% of output of peach, pomegranates and apricot.
- 34% of apples and 70% of dates
- About 0.3 million tones of best variety of apple produced annually.
- Makran produces about 425,000 tones of dates annually having 130 varieties of dates

Industry

- Industry contributes around 10% to the provincial GDP.
- Together with mining employs 3.5% of the labour force.
Though Baluchistan lacks a sound industrial base.
- The industries are mainly concentrated in Hub, Winder, Gadani, and Quetta.
- It is an important center of economic activities providing indirect support countrywide to number of industries like re-rolling mills, welding workshops and furniture shops.

- A number of cottage industrial units spread all over Baluchistan mainly in the field of handicraft embroidery
Wool and leather product.
- One factor hindering economic growth of the Province is inadequate supply of electricity.

Human Development

- Process of economic development involves economic growth and structural changes in the economy of the province.
- The national income and human development index (HDI) are important indicators to assess the level of development of the country.
- It is a fact that whether measured in terms of provincial income or HDI.
- Baluchistan is the least developed province of the country.

Baluchistan has enormous
potential

Than

WHY CRISIS???

- British knew the geo-political importance of Baluchistan.
- It was deliberately kept backward and some what a dark region for the foreign powers under colonial control.
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- The ruler in Islamabad followed the same British policy after independence and province was kept least developed since independence.
- Not merely the establishment but the local leaders and tribal system may equally blamed for prevailing backwardness of the province.
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- The process of development in Baluchistan started in 1970 when it got the status of fourth province of Pakistan.
- In the initial phase which culminated in 1977 the short term planning or one year or annual development programme was followed to develop the resources of the province.
- It was kind of ad-hoc planning.

- After revival of provincial status.
- Baluchistan was faced with certain problems of key importance .
- It absolutely lacked physical and institutional Infra-structure for governance.
- The efforts were directed and investment made to create government infra-structure in Baluchistan

- The second phase of economic development of the province witnessed
- Long term planning pattern like Five year Plan.
This phase culminated in 1999.

Poverty and unemployment

- Baluchistan is the least developed federating unit of Pakistan with no developed infra-structure and industrial base and hence no employment opportunities for its people
- Baluchistan lacks the investment opportunities for having very small size of market
- Lack of capital low investment and low productivity have led to low income level of the province

Institutional framework

- Lack of institutional framework--- an integrated Institutional and human development inevitable to achieve the objectives vis a vis economic development of a region.
- No development activity or effort can reach Fruition until and unless the institutional framework for carrying out development activities analyzed, designed and strengthen properly efficiently and effectively.

Bureaucratic Snags

- The role of federal bureaucracy in context of allocation, provision and release of funds for speedy development of Baluchistan has been very disappointing.
- The province has been ignored in allocation of financial resources received from international donors and friendly states.
- The debt burden of the province went on rising for shortage of funds.
- Baluchistan is the weak and voiceless having no say in the federal bureaucracy.

Law and order situation

- A stable law and order situation is the pre-requisite for the sustainable process of economic development in Baluchistan.
- Baluchistan needs an economic revival operation instead of a military operation in a given “take off” situation of national economy.

Quaid- e Azam Vision

QUAID-E-AZAM Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Once in response to some demand of Quetta
Municipal committee in August 1948 said

“ you know, I take **special interest** in Baluchistan
because, this province is my **special responsibility**,
therefore I want that it should play its role in
Pakistan affairs like other provinces”

Unfortunately , Baluchistan the Quid **special responsibility** attracted minimal attraction or no attraction from successive military and democratic regimes in islamabad

The backwardness rules, supreme across the province while

Baluchistan is indeed the future of Pakistan

NOW The QUESTION ARISES ??????????

- How Long the local people will continue to beat the drum of backwardness?
- Who will take the initiative to combat the prevailing backwardness in Baluchistan?
- Who will come forward to develop and provide the required human capital for on going mega projects in the province?
 - Whose responsibility is to develop the human resource in Baluchistan government, political leaders, bureaucracy, NGOs or some one else ?

THANKS

To Listen

The voice

Of

BALUCHISTAN

