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The creation of more provinces is a persistent demand from some circles in Pakistan. How do you see the creation of new provinces is harmful or beneficial for the people? Explain your ways with solid justification.

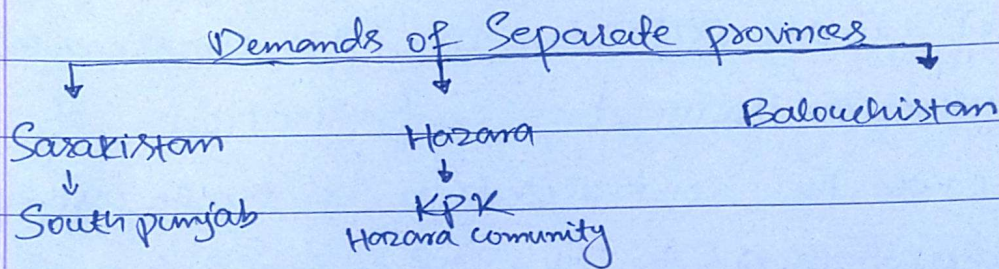
1 INTRODUCTION

The tragedy of separation of East Pakistan in 1971 is associated primarily with the centralisation of power. The centralisation of power offends people. Therefore, the decentralisation of power is needed for the integration and survival of a country. In Pakistan, the resistance against centralisation of power is found occasionally. To eradicate this persistent demand and to ensure the welfare of public, decentralisation of power is necessary. The purpose of decentralisation can be fulfilled with the creation of new provinces in the country.

2 The Creation of new provinces: Negative Implications

i) Floodgate of creation of new provinces

The first and foremost argument against the demand of the creation of new provinces is that it will open a floodgate of new provinces. In Pakistan, various demands from different sections are raised for separate provinces.



All these above mentioned demands are based on ethnicity and language. If they are fulfilled, these will open encourage others because Pakistan has mixture of different ethnicities.

ii) Issue of new agreements between Center and new provinces

The second issue is that the existing agreements that are solely responsible for maintaining the

administrative and political and financial relations between center and provinces would be revised. For instance, NFC Award, Council of common interest, and division of administrative duties would be revised in the case of the creation of new provinces. It seems very difficult at the present situation because of existing difference among political elite of the country.

iii) Absence of required finance

The creation of new provinces also demands finance for infrastructure development and other provincial departments. Currently, Pakistan is facing economic crisis. and it is relying on IMF. Therefore, it is not a viable option to create new provinces. As the name changing of KPK costed 8 billion to the country. In these circumstances it seems unfair to demand for new provinces when the country is facing severe economic crisis.

3. The creation of new provinces is in favor of people of Pakistan

i) The reduction of existing larger units would ensure effective administration

The existing size of Pakistani provinces is larger than many of the countries of the world. Punjab is bigger than 180 countries. Baluchistan is bigger than 400 countries. These larger units face difficulty in administration. The reduction of these into smaller units can ensure effective administration.

ii) Existing disparity among provinces cause grievances among people: The reduction is a solution

The shares of provinces cause the grievances among the people of different provinces. For instance, the people of Punjab are hated by the people of Baluchistan on the basis of availing larger opportunities. The shares of provinces are root causes

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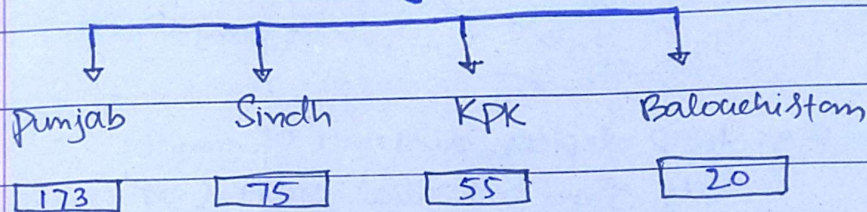
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these grievances.

NFC Award

- Punjab's Share : 51%.
- Sindh's Share : 24%.
- KPK's Share : 14%.
- Balouchistan's Share : 9%.

Seats in National Assembly



This division of share causes grievances.

The Conversion into smaller units would resolve these issues.

iii) people will be able to reach government in their nearby cities.

The distance between countries provincial capitals and other cities create the problem for the people residing in remote areas. Kashmir is 600km away from Karachi, Gwadar is 1000km away from Quetta and Rajampur is 565 km away from Lahore. This distance creates problem for the people to

access government easily.



Fig: Map depicts distance of remote city from provincial capital of Punjab

The creation of new provinces will facilitate people regarding accessing supreme provincial high court easily and other provincial departments in the same manner.

iv) The creation of new provinces will prove helpful in developing neglected and remote areas

In Balochistan and the remaining provinces, many remote areas lack enough and required infrastructure. Even though, many countries areas of

different provinces lack basic facilities such as water availability and health care facilities. The creation of new provinces will help in addressing the issue of neglected, underdeveloped and remote areas.

v) Strengthening integration by addressing the economic grievances of people

The demands of separation emerge when the people do not get enough financial resources. The deprived people feel jealous of the people having enough resources. The example can be taken of the people of Baluchistan and Punjab. The creation of new provinces will provide opportunities to the people. Thus, they will leave their demands of separation. Moreover, the third actors or non-state actors who aim to disintegrate Pakistan would be better investigated. Each new province will strengthen its security and these actors will not be able to penetrate into the country.

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4 CONCLUSION

Consequently, the creation of new provinces will help addressing the problems of the country like Pakistan. The decentralisation of power will enhance the administrative issue of the people. The developed countries such as France, Japan, and UK have more administrative units of than Pakistan. Following their examples, Pakistan ^{should} also create new provinces.