

Creation of provinces is a persistent demand from some circles in Pakistan. How do you see the creation of more provinces in Pakistan, as beneficial and harmful for the people? Explain your views with solid justification.

Introduction:

Creation of new provinces is a persistent demand, which was also persistently opposed by many circles. The creation comes with some benefits likewise, better administration, rapid development, authenticity in the distribution of resources and hegemony of one province on politics will be culminated. However, it can be harmful due to ethnic sentiments, increase in provincial and federation tussle, provincialization of natural resources and can foster disintegration. However, if the ~~same~~ creation of provinces can be settled through high standards the country will witness progressive future.

i) Grounds for on new provinces are demanded:

Since creation of Pakistan, different governing methods were applied on the country. Federation structure, one unit, devolution of power and autocratic governing model. But all failed to overcome the concern of masses

These experiments shift the politics from national to ethno-lingual politics. Due to which nationalist parties demanded equal shares for the development of their people through their new provinces.

ii) Popular demands for new provinces :

There are different parties demanding new provinces but few prominent will be highlighted. The demand for separation of Karachi from Sindh based upon majority of Urdu speaking population. Moreover, demand for separation of Pashtoon Belt from Baluchistan based on the historical division context. Besides, demand for separation of South Punjab based upon lingual and underdeveloped conditions. Last but not least, demand for new Haryana province in KPK based ethno-lingual difference. However, these differences based demands are opposed by nationalists who hold power structure in their provinces, which can be harmful for the people of Pakistan.

iii) Eruption of ethnic conflicts leads to radicalization in society :

Creation of new provinces can give rise to ethnic conflicts and weak law and

order will lead to radicalization of society. Whenever the Urdu speaking community demands separate status from Sindh the ethnic conflicts arise in a serious condition. In 1972 Sindh assembly passed the bill of promotion of Sindhi language. Some mischief mongers claimed that the bill will marginalize the Urdu. The riots erupted in Karachi and Hyderabad and many innocent people died. This conflict soon converted in radical ideology through Sindhi and Urdu political parties. Killing of ~~Muh~~ Urdu speaking in rural areas of Sindh and target killing of Sindhis in Urban areas. Soon no go areas for both were created. Recently, people gathered in Karachi and destroyed the private housing society that they are reshaping population in Sindh through settlements. Therefore, the creation will foster radicalization and weaken law and order.

ii) New provinces will foster the tensions between provinces and federation over distribution of resources :

The tension will be fostered over distribution of resources between provinces and federal. Pakistan as a country is blessed with many

resources and different areas have different capabilities. Some have ports, some have fertile lands. Gas, oil, gold, iron, copper and minerals are also divided in different areas. Since 1947, the main problem of provinces and Federal is equal distribution. Therefore, in 1975 "National Finance Award" was introduced. The last 7th NFC award was signed in 2009. It was awarded to control the financial imbalances to meet the expenditure of provinces. Different indicators for distribution are used to formulate the award like, inverse population, density, poverty and statistic research are required. Since 2009 the NFC award was not given, therefore, it is creating lack of trust and creation of new provinces will increase the breach of trust and results in non-cooperation among provinces and Federal.

iii) Provincialization of resources increase disintegration. Provincialization of natural resources will give rise to disintegration based upon ethnic sentiments. After 18th constitutional amendment provinces have right to control and benefit from their natural resources. Baluchistan's Rego Dite mines are prominent example of this disintegration. Soon after the finding Reko Dite

mimes the problem started between Provincial and federal government on sharing of Profit. Baluchistan demanded 50% share but federal was persistent to give 25% only. This led to the infringement of ethnic sentiments and eventually resulted in arms confrontation by radical factors. Therefore, if new provinces were created, then there are chances that it will ~~stremt~~ increase disintegration among the citizens of the country.

New provinces can help in rapid development if fundamental factors are applied on division.

ix) Mapping new provinces through mix demographics
Mapping of new provinces must be aligned with demographic balances to avoid ethnic problem. Provinces based upon lingual and ethnic affiliation create chaos as discussed above. Therefore, mapping is necessary, like creation of province must be divided equally from Karachi to Mirpur a new province will have balanced Sindhi and Urdu population and none of the community will be emotionally exploited. In 1951, same demands in India was erupted. The formula ethnic balance was applied. For

example Punjab was divided into two and new province of Haryana was made. The province was balanced with Punjabi, Haryanvi and Hindi speaker to avoid any ethnic conflict.

Division must depend upon the equal division of provinces:

Currently Punjab is the highly populated province of Pakistan comprises around 52% of total population. All polity was concern about control of Punjab to make government in federal, to avoid this every province must be divided into equal population, therefore, the debarment among other provinces must be eradicated.

Equal distribution mechanism is necessary:

Equal distribution of resources is necessary is a way to foster national integration. Water is one of the major issue between provinces, therefore, there should be the mechanism based upon several indicators like, population density, poverty index, on sources people earn income and how much human development ~~was~~ is focused. Applying this mechanism will help to equal distribution of resources. More agriculture dependent need more

water, high poverty effected areas need more financial assistance and equal share for the development of resource rich area must be spend.

If ^{added} some of the following factors ~~are~~ ~~incorporated~~ in the policy the creation of new provinces can be beneficial for people of Pakistan in following ways.

vii) Better administration can be ensured in the new provinces:

New provinces will be administrated in a better condition. Because the income which was divided in larger area and large population will be specified on some specific areas. The law and order situation can be more effectively monitored because of headquarters of law enforcement closely work on targeted areas. One of the best example is the division of states in the United States of America. Each state have their own governing body which specified to their small territory and easily manages the administrative issues.

ii) New economic opportunities can be created with proper use of resources:

Smaller states will have opportunity to develop new economic opportunities for their people with proper use of resources. Currently, there is large gap of economic disparity prevails. Urban areas are more industrialized and focused on services sector. While rural areas are more dependent on agricultural economy. Creation of new provinces will provide opportunities to convert their single economic stream reliance into multiple resources. In India the Gujarat and Maharashtra are single state until 1960. Capital of Maharashtra, ~~was~~ Mumbai was developed city. After separation Gujarat which was agricultural state converted their economy by using their resources. Soon the state setuped food and mineral processing units and created new economic opportunities for their people.

iii) New provinces can culminate the wrongful use of polarized politics and convert the polity of Pakistan.

Currently the polarized politics is somehow useful and problematic for the country.

Polarized leaders are able to strengthen the democratic society in the country. On the other hand they are merely focused on two provinces to gain political achievement. Priority, in 1970s Mr Bhutto was more focused on mobilization of Punjab and Sindh. Today ~~the~~ the same formula is applied either focused on Punjab and KPK or Punjab and Sindh. Provinces like Baluchistan in that case lose their political importance. Creation of new provinces led the political figures to equally focused on all regions and eventually strengthen the democratic system in the country.

Conclusion: