

Pakistan has subjected to ever increasing notion of separatism in its dejected parts especially Balochistan. Discuss the causes behind sentiments of separatism in Balochistan. Delineate a wayout.

1/ Introduction

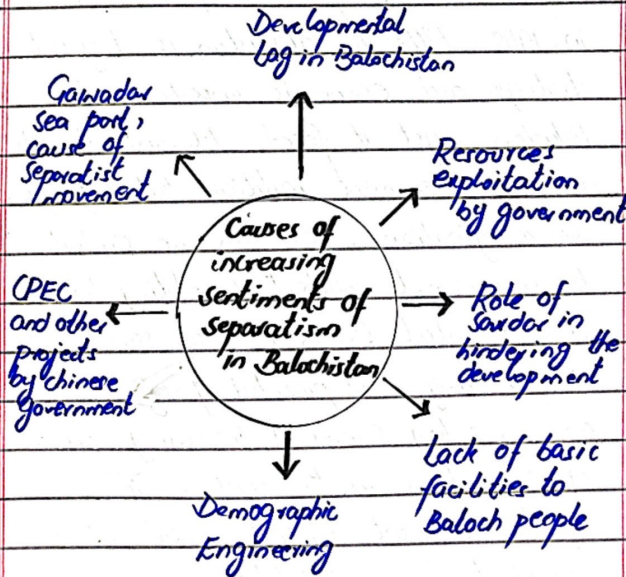
Balochistan has seen many uprising fighting for autonomy and independence since it became province of Pakistan in 1948. Although Balochistan is of great strategic and economic importance for Pakistan, yet it faced Islamist, jihadists and pro government militias. Baloch people are marginalized, resources are exploited by government without benefiting locals, developmental lag, role of sardars in censoring developmental programs are some key causes of increasing notion of separatism in Balochistan. The government must negotiate with Baloch people to bring stability in region.

"Socio-economic development and stability of country can be ensured by inclusion of every province equally in machinery of government"

(Gen Asim Munir)

- Chief of Army Staff

2) Causes of increasing sentiments of separatism in Balochistan



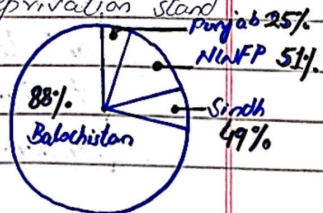
(A) Developmental lag in Balochistan triggering separatist movements

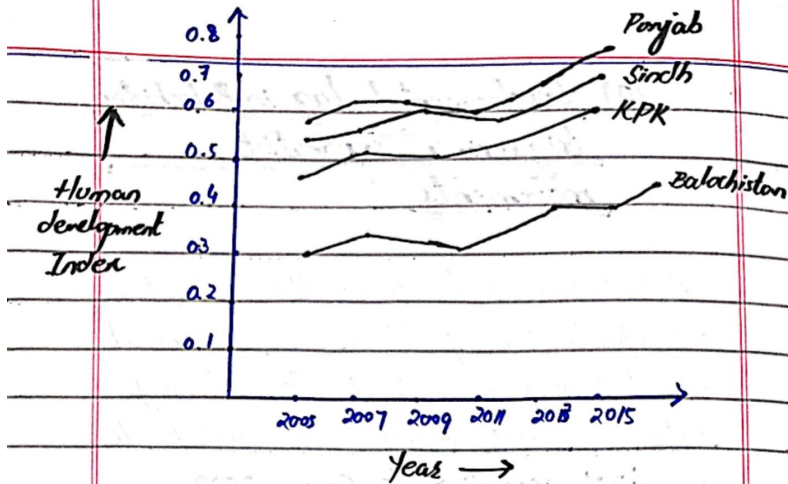
Balochistan is facing health, education and infrastructure problems, since government is not paying heed to it. The literacy rate is lowest among males and females i.e. 42% according to Census 2023.

(B) Lack of basic facilities to Baloch people causing separatist sentiments

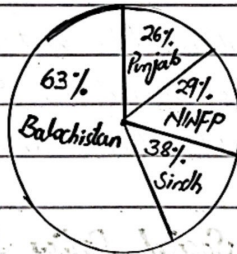
Many areas in Balochistan face lack of health facilities, like water, food electricity. This aroused in Baloch people a sense of alienation and separatist movement.

According to Social Policy Development Center 2005 report, percentage of population in highest deprivation stand highest in Balochistan.





According to Poverty related report by Pakistan institute of development and economics (PIDE), poverty is highest in Balochistan, and lowest in Punjab



(c) Resources exploitation of Balochistan by government and less amount being paid to Province is causing separatist sentiments to rise in province

Balochistan is rich in Natural resources. Countries biggest supply of gas is by Balochistan. But the well paid managers and technicians are hired from other provinces in domestic gas industry. Local Balachs are hired as labours little amount of earning by government is paid back to province as development projects.

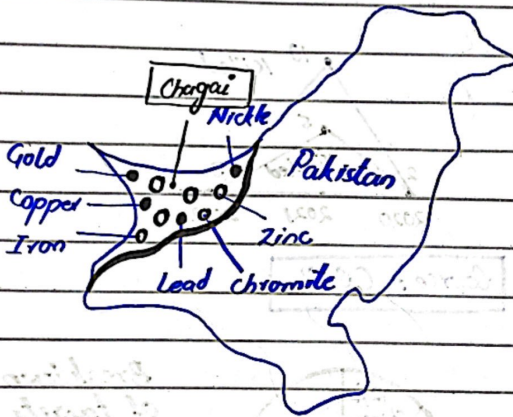


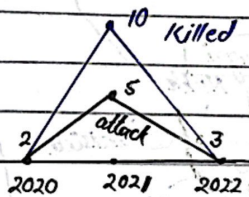
Fig: Resources in Balochistan

(1) Gawadar sea port; one of major causes of separatist movement as its development has not benefited province

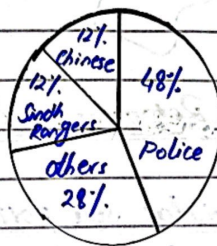
Gwadar port has great strategic and economic importance for Pakistan.

It was given to China in 2006 for development. But the local are not benefitted Recently, many locals have attacked Chinese workers.

Chinese killed in attacks in Pakistan



Source: CSCR



Source: CSCR

Breakdown of targets for terror attacks in Karachi by Baloch militant groups (2005-2021)

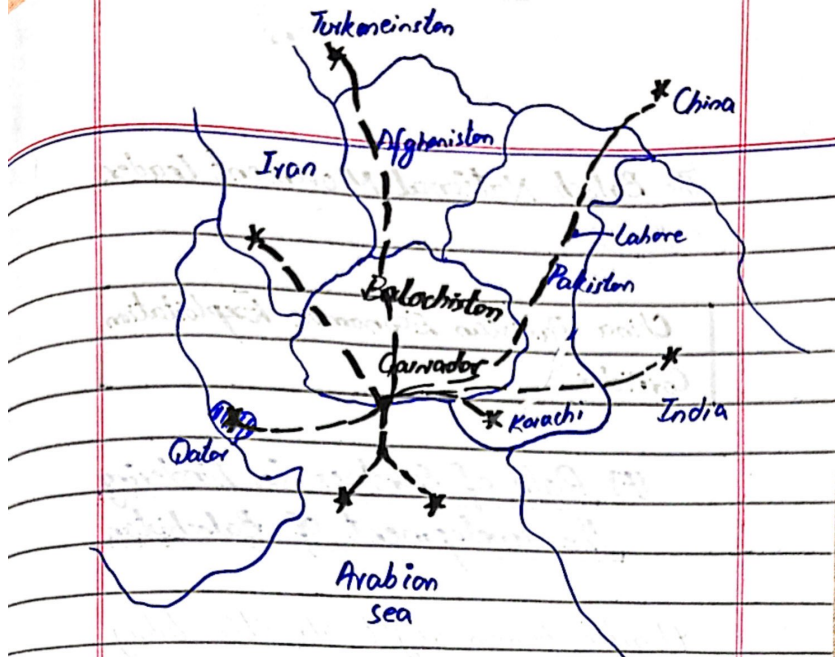


Fig: Strategic importance
of Gwadar port

(E) CPEC and similar projects
are seen as extractive by
locals and have amplified
Baloch animosity

CPEC has amplified anger among Baloch people. They see CPEC as sinister objective in Balochistan. They say that most of infrastructure used is Chinese and white collared jobs are gone to non-Baloch people.

The Baloch National Movement leader,
calls CPEC as

**China Pakistan Economic Exploitation
Corridor**

(F) Role of Sardars in hindering the development of Balochistan

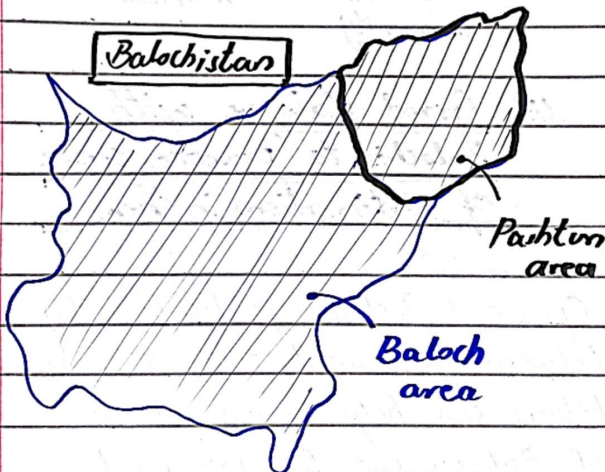
Horrible human right atrocities taking place in Balochistan have been defended by chieftains in name of cultural norms. It has censored the development of Balochistan, which has created sense of separatism in Baloch people.

(G) Demographic Engineering ; An effort by Pakistani Govt to convert majority into minority in Balochistan ; trigger to separatist movement

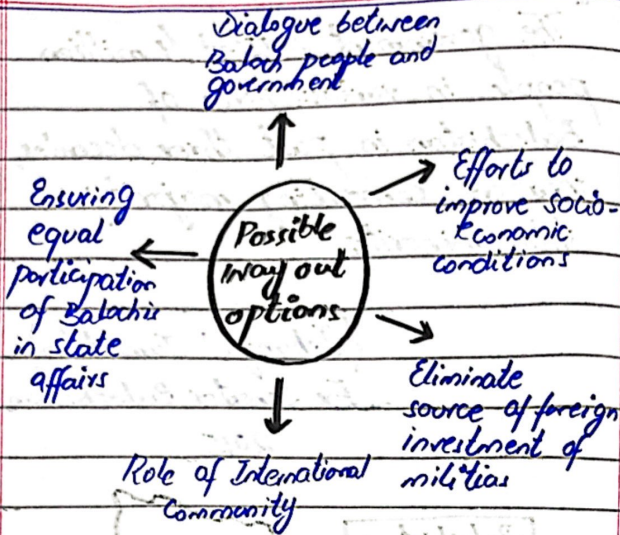
To counter Baloch insurgents the government of Pakistan started demographic engineering, to prove that Balochis are minority and Pashtuns are majority.

"The government settled 4 million people in various parts of Balochistan in past three decades, they are converting majority into minority."

(Jehanzad Jamaldin)
- Ex Senator Balochistan,
2015



34 Possible wayouts for government of Pakistan to counter separatist sentiments



(A) Grand dialogue with Balochis to promote sense of Nationalism in them

Open and Inclusive political dialogue between government and all stake holders can help address issues of Balochis and find peaceful solutions.

(B) Efforts to improve socio-economic conditions of Baloch people by provision of basic facilities

Demilitarizing
province by removing
checkpoints

Provision of
utilities and
clean water
facilities



Recognizing
Baloch economic
autonomy such
as control of
fishing rights

Investment in
provincial
education by
establishing schools
and colleges.

(C) Implementation of effective security measures to counter violence and insurgency

Effective security measures must be taken by government to counter insurgencies which curbing human rights violation. Security agencies must eliminate source of foreign funding of militants.

10) Ensuring equal representation and participation of Balochistan in state affairs

By ensuring equal opportunities and participation of Baloch people in state machinery in decision making processes and ensuring inclusion can create peace.

“
Insurgencies arise due to perceived grievances and feelings of the marginalization.”

(Bilal Javed)
2021

4) Conclusion

There has been increasing notions of separatism in Baloch people due to developmental lag, lack of basic facilities to Baloch people, resources exploitation by government and role of Sardars. The government should take steps through dialogue and provision of facilities to promote nationalism.