

Question:

attempt on lined loose sheets for better practice.....

What Pakistan needs the most; new provinces or local governments? Take a stance and explain your answer through arguments.

Introduction:

The debate over new provinces versus effective local government reflects a crisis of governance. Demand of new provinces like south punjab and Hazara are justified by efficient administration, and political inclusion. Pakistan's core problem is not the new provinces but administered, continuous and empowered local governments. Making new Province creates another risk of elite capture rather than resolving citizens concerns.

I- Government failure is Structural, not geographical.

give the main heading first and relate your headings to the qs statement.....

Pakistan's governance failure is due to centralization of power, not merely territorial size. Provinces like Punjab and Sindh as compared to KP and Balochistan consists larger territory, still all the provinces fail to deliver services due to ^{bureaucratic} ~~beaut~~ dominance, weak accountability and giving decision making power in hands of elites. Creation of new provinces will simply replicate the old provinces; the dysfunctional models. without devolving power downwards, redrawing boundaries will not improve governance.

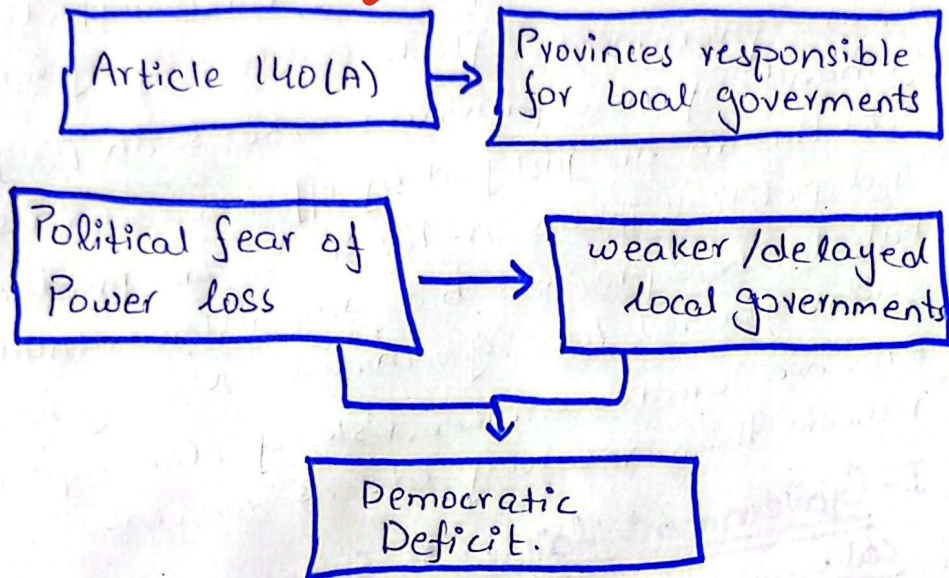
II- Local Governments are constitutionally mandated but Politically Sabotaged:

Article 140-A ^{of the} ~~obliges~~ constitution obliges provinces to establish local government and assign them administrative and fiscal authority.

This article clearly assigns local governments, Power. but due to political fear of provinces getting sabotaged or losing ^{reserved} power and resources, local governments are being ignored, and suspended.

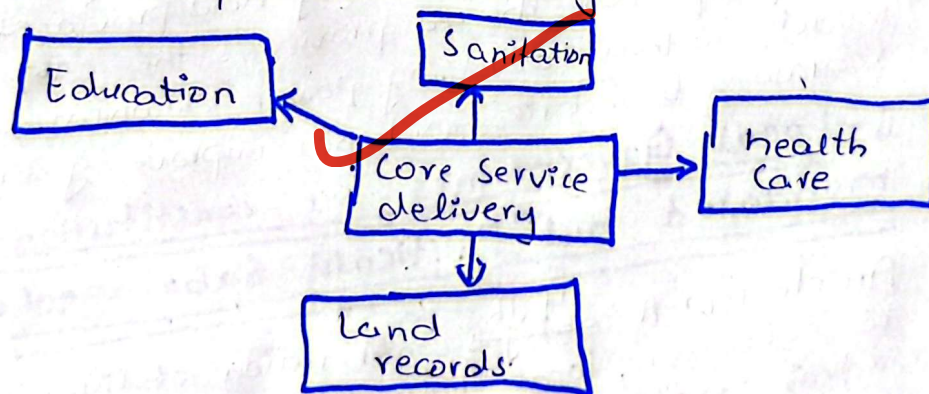
leading to systematic weakening of grassroots democracy. As a result citizens interact with bureaucrats instead of elected representatives. Strengthening local government fulfil constitutional requirements whereas provinces need constitutional amendments.

Historically 18th amendment repeats as the Power was devolved and provincial autonomy was ignored.



III - Service delivery happens at local levels

Core delivery services like sanitation, health care, education, land records are local. As if it remains in the hands of elites, like bureaucrats and don't pass it to decision making authority and fiscal autonomy to district or municipal level, Provinces can not improve service delivery.



Countries like Turkey and Indonesia prioritizes municipal empowerment. Indonesia, Post 1998 improved health care and Turkey transformed Urban infrastructure.

IV - New Provinces Replicate elite Capture and risks ethno-Political fragmentation:

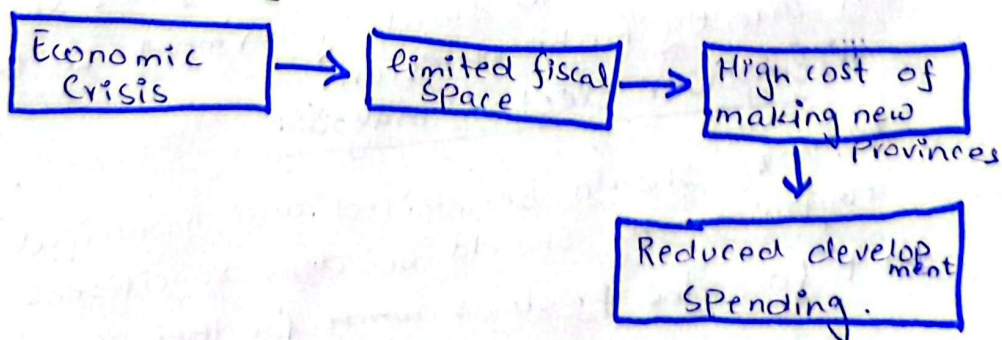
New provinces or making new provinces can intensify identity based mobilization, it often intersects ethnicity, race, language, tradition which creates clashes between the locals, instead local governance reforms and decentralizing power can be done without creating such clashes or federal cohesion.

Creation of Gilgit Baltistan ^{administrative structures} did not eliminate elite dominance.

<u>Old Provinces</u>	<u>New Provinces</u>
1- Political Elites	1- Same elites
2- Centralized Power	2- Centralized Power
3- Marginalized citizen	3- Marginalized citizens

I - Fiscal debts and Economic Reality:

Pakistan spends 70% of ~~revenues~~ on debts servicing and administration. Creating new Provinces will require new administration, courts, Police, Secretariat, Assembly and other institutions that Pakistan can not afford at this stage. IMF Programs and conditions emphasize government reforms.

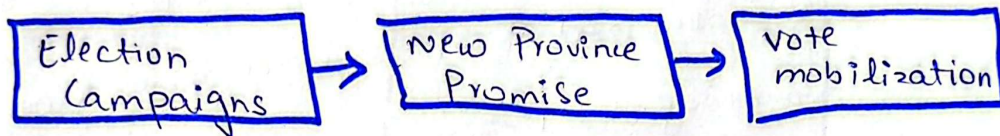


VI - New provinces are a political

distraction:

Electoral slogans have been used many times just to win the election and get votes but there are no such policy implementations and promises are not fulfilled. hence it is just a political distraction just like the Political history of Pakistan.

The South Punjab province promises has repeatedly appeared in elections manifestos in 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2024 but no constitutional amendments has been passed.



VII - Suggested Measures:-

i) make article 140-A justiciable:

Article 140A of Constitution should be implemented or the amendments should be made to prevent the suspension of local government by provinces.

ii) Guarantee fiscal transfers:

Finance in form of NFC/PFC reforms should be transferred to local government so they can directly make decision.

iii) Empower elected mayors:

Mayors should be elected and municipal empowerment should be done so citizens may not face the problems while for their solutions.

iv) Depoliticize local government laws:

local government laws should be depoliticized by ensuring that regimes will continue.

v) Consider new provinces only after empowering and institutionalizing local governments.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's governance ^{crisis} can not be changed or resolved by redrawing maps or making new provinces, rather local governments should be empowered, it actually requires power redistribution. Effective local government addresses service delivery, inclusion and democracy at grass root level, where Pakistan suffers the most. New provinces with such reforms duplicates the old province with the same elite capture. Therefore effective local government are not ^{just} urgent but also reformative.

you have not understood the qs properly and hence is not properly addressed.....