

Q What is local government and New Provinces and which one will be suitable for PAK?

Answer

Introduction

Local government and New Provinces both are new structures different from present federal structure. Both structures focuses on devolution of powers and bringing governance closer to people. New Provinces is also a good option but it is a bit cost-effective and time consuming - That is why local government is the more suitable option. But for implementation of local government some steps should be taken in order to make it more effective for the state.

Local Government

Local government is the sub division of provinces into districts, tehsil, councils etc. Its main purpose is to bring governance more closer to people.

New Provinces

It refers to the division of the larger provinces; main Four provinces into smaller 12 provinces.

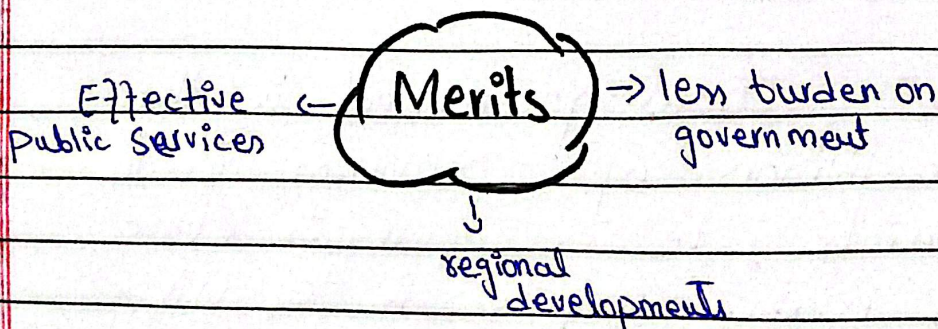
→ It is actually a change in the federal structure of the country.

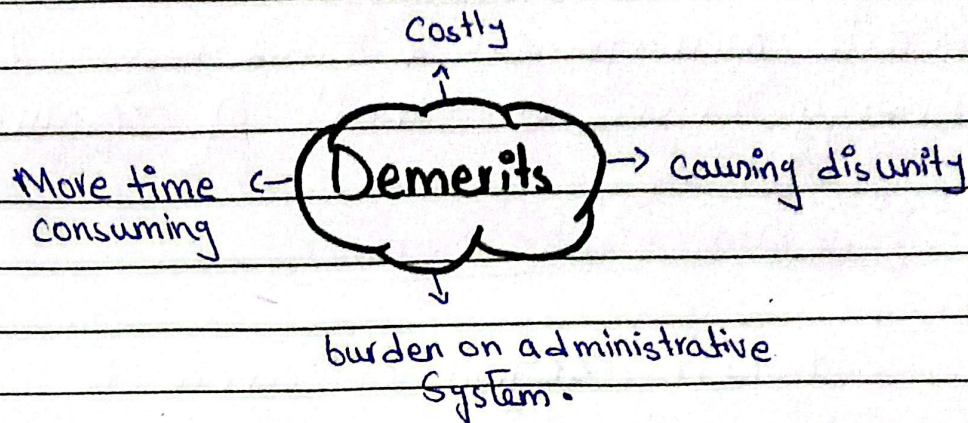
⇒ Father of this Idea:

Minister of planning & development Ahsan Iqbal stated; If Turkey can have 30-40 smaller provinces, so why not Pakistan can have 12? -

→ Assessing Merits and Demerits of both:

1 New Provinces:





Merits:

1 Regional Development

Dividing larger provinces into smaller would help in regional and local development. This would be possible because local provincial ministers would more effectively focus on regional problems and they would try to solve it. In this way resources would be distributed equally.

2 Less burden on Government

When local leaders and Ministers take responsibility of smaller provinces, ultimately main government would feel light and would focus on national interests and policies. Local ministers duties would include: water problems,

Waste management, land issues & energy crisis or theft of resources etc.

3 Effective Public Services

When region or area is smaller, development and mechanism can be handled in a good way. Similarly, if provinces are divided, then it would be really easy for local ministers to work for public & provide them facilities.

Demerits

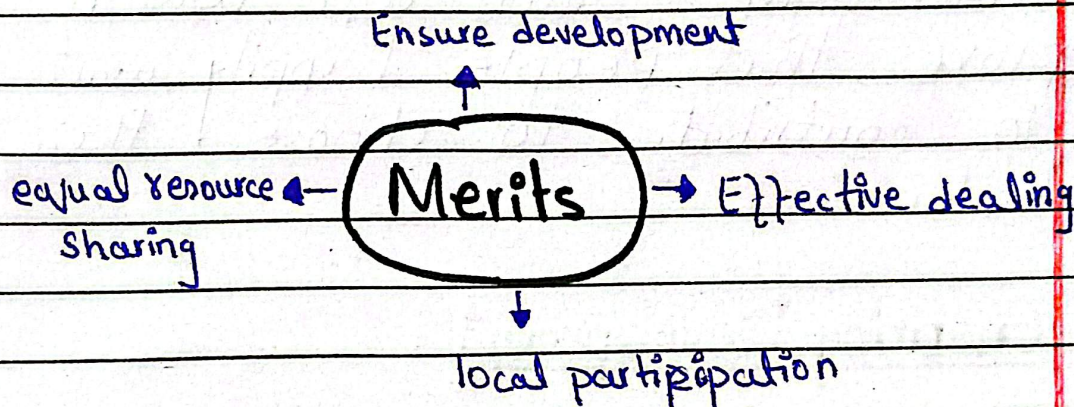
1. More Time Consuming

One of the demerit of smaller provinces is that it takes too much time because unlike India which consist of 14 councils not provinces, where division of resources and administration is quite easy while for provinces it need clear demarcation as well as division of administration, resources and different commissions such as NFCs etc is required.

2. May induce Disunity

Pakistan, already being ethnically divided country, consist of diverse cultures and ethnicity might face more badly disunity problem. This might cause extremism or resentment among people.

2: Local government



1. Effective Dealings

In local government, local leaders would be more easily available to people. Unlike, ministers who are mostly found in formal houses. Local leaders would be able to directly listen people grievances and problems and would sort it out.

2 Participation of people.

In local government structure, citizen would deliberately participate in local democracy because they can see their input in form of positive output.

Case Study:

According to Fair & Free Election Network, in 2016 Sindh local government election survey found that 46% voters give their vote which prove that people happily want to contribute to choose their leader.

3 Ensuring Development

In local government, local leader encourages tax collection and in return used it for citizen welfare.

For Instance.

Citizen Community Board (CCB) in Balochistan, completed almost 1000+ projects on their own.

4 Equal Resource Sharing

In local governance, local leaders

local leaders can equally & fairly distribute resources among locals. In this way they can effectively contribute in education, social services and transportation. The reason for such fair distribution is their fiscal independence from provinces, it allows them to receive 20-30% of share from provincial tax pool. This helps them to focus on their own program & development.

5 Cost - Efficient

Local government is more cost-efficient as compare to new provinces because in local government do not need separate buildings, legislative bodies or councils. It does not require separate judiciary or police system. This make it more affordable and effective approach.

Critical Analysis

After looking into both terms, it is highlighted that the idea of New provinces is a bit costly because it requires proper mechanism,

division of formal bodies i.e. judiciary, legislature and cabinets. While, local government is a cost-efficient process, it only requires fiscal independence, remaining is not required in it. This aspect make it more affordable option.

In context of Pakistan, already struggling with financial and social constraints, local government is a good option. This would bring goodness and prosperity to the state.

→ Conclusion:

Local government and New provinces in context of Pakistan are emerging debates. After analyzing both it can be concluded that the most affordable and effective one is local government because it do not require any formal division of legal bodies. All their purpose is to bring prosperity to people.