

Q5- The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan. Critical evaluate the hurdles and give recommendation?

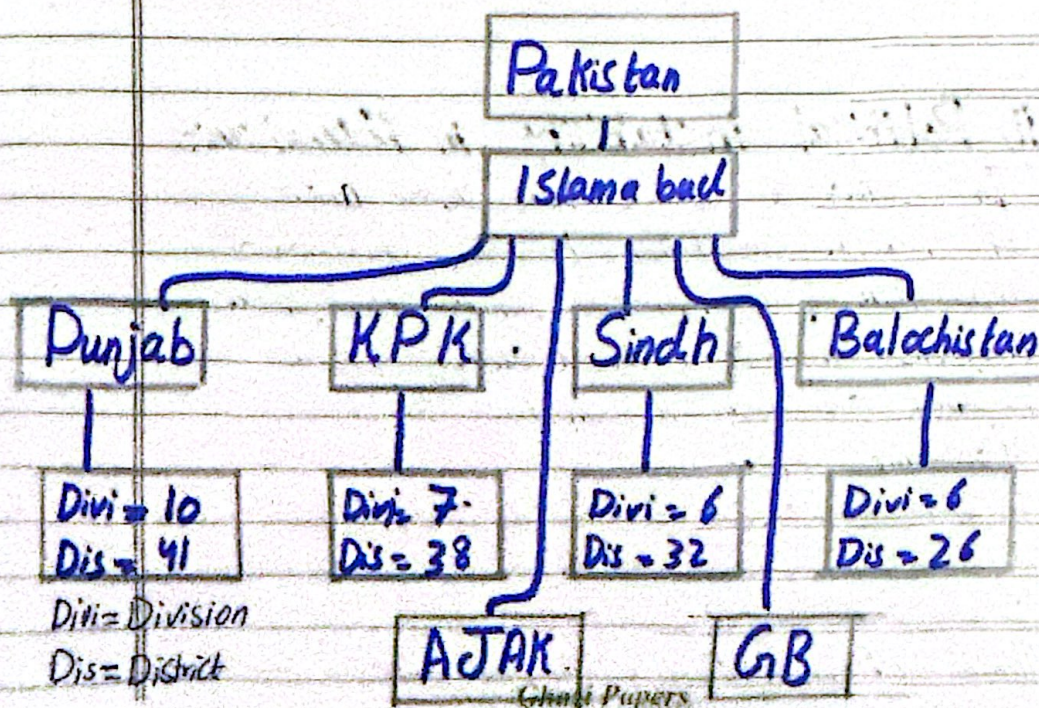
INTRODUCTION:

"Fruitfull if Provinces are divided more in units."

IPRI

The debate surrounding the creation of new provinces in Pakistan after 18th constitutional amendment of 2010, which devolved significant powers to existing provinces. Pakistan exist in 04 -bigger provinces from each others, with two federal autonomous territory and one its Capital Islamabad itself.

The territorial re-organized debate emphasizes that smaller administrative units enable more responsive governance.



HURDLES FACED IN CREATION OF PROVINCES

(i) Ethnic and Linguistic Representation

Pakistan is divided into 04 federating units. Where its units is divided into different ethnic groups and some divided by their mother language. More over on the ethnic and language division is created, but also mistrust exists among the leader of one province too.

• "Saraiki movement in South Punjab exemplifies this trend, where out of 41 districts 23 districts were Saraiki speaking population."

• "Renaming the NWFP as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa KP after 18 amendment and starting of Hazara movement where they demand to establish their own administrative unit based on language and ethnicity."

(ii) Political instability in Federal units

In creating a new provinces Under Article 239 of Pakistan Constitution two third majority of both National assembly and Senate is required. Along this consent of Provincial assembly is also required and made it compulsory in clause 4 of article 239, "A bill shall not be presented to President of Pakistan for assent unless it has not been passed by Provincial assembly with two third of majority."

Article make it obligatory to get approval of

Provincial assembly for any demarcation of boundaries where as such legal requirement will be difficult to achieve, in the coalition government of all the provinces even in National assembly.

iii) Regional Economic and Conflicts on Distribution of Resources

South Punjab rich in agricultural productivity, but remains economically backward to Central and northern Punjab.

“Economic survey report state that South Punjab experiences higher poverty rates, limited access to clean water, inadequate healthcare facilities, and insufficient educational infrastructure compared to more developed region of Punjab.”

There has been disagreement over National Finance Commission Award (NFC A) and water distribution. Along that Reko Diq project in Balochistan, a report state,

“Formal feasibility study confirmed more than \$66 billion worth of Copper and gold reserves at the Reko Diq project in Balochistan at prevailing prices.”

Demand of new provinces increase due to unequal distribution of funds and larger share in resources and income.

iv) Economic hurdles after creation of New Provinces:

New provinces will be born with economic challenges. New provinces will required its new infrastructure and the necessary building, document

that run administration.

"According to Dawn 10-April-2010, it cost 8 billion rupees for renaming NWFP as Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa."

The provinces will have their own budget and full authority to allocate budget to under developed areas. Along that some economic potential areas like South Punjab major producer of cotton can have textile industries & KPK can develop hydroelectric projects with its water resources and can sell it on others.

4) Resurgence of Terrorism in KPK and Balochistan:

• After the fall of Kabul in 2021, and Afghan Taliban victory against US and NATO that encourage TTP to challenge the writ of ~~state~~ state in Pakistan once again. Terrorist organization like TTP and Gulbakhsh groups, BLA activities against military and law enforcement agency in KPK and Balochistan create an hurdle in creation of new provinces.

"According to Finance Division of Pakistan, Pakistan has suffered around \$152 billion in economic losses since war on terror."

These challenges will not be bear by new provinces specially new units of KPK and Balochistan.

RECOMMENDATION

(i) Smaller Provinces Good Governance

Pakistan's provinces are divided in 04 sub groups. Province into division and division into district, district into Tehsil and Tehsil into Union Council.

"Total area of only KPK Province is 101,741 sq/km, that is larger than Denmark 42933 sq/km, Switzerland 41290 sq/km, Ireland 70273 sq/km. Along that UAE is divided into 07 emirates with total area of 83879 sq/km."

The world developed and developing countries are smaller in size where distribution are done according to the needs of people and where check and balance can be easily done.

(ii) Local Government

Article 140-A of the Constitution let us know the powers responsibilities and function of local government. Local government would have complete control on following:

- Education in primary and secondary school up to matric.
- Healthcare up to district hospital
- Water supply system
- Sewerage system
- Solid waste disposal
- Population planning
- Roads and bridges construction

"Sweden and New Zealand empowered its local governments lead to more responsive services delivery and higher citizen satisfaction, addressing local needs efficiently, enhance political

participation, driving grass root economic growth, New Zealand's service delivery reforms, Greater Manchester's electoral engagement, China's rural transformation, and Rwanda's reconciliation efforts this all because of local governance."

iii) Gradual Phased Implementation:-

This concept could be adopted by looking in past where Spain created 17 autonomous communities through a carefully phased process from 1978-1983.

How Spain Worked:

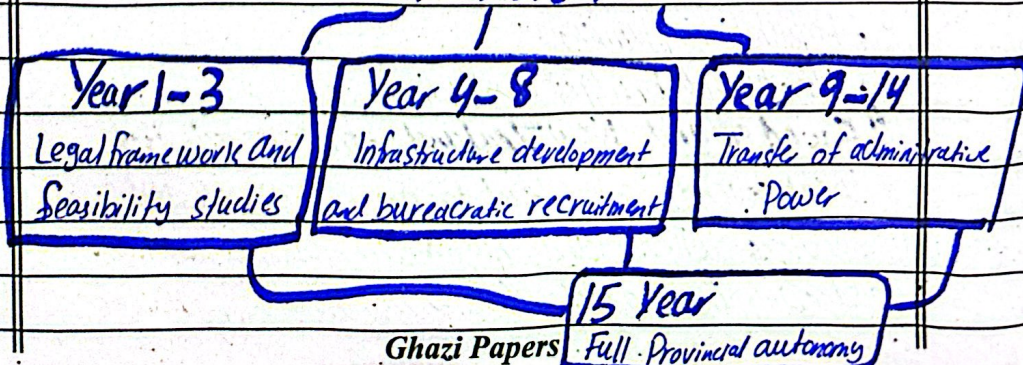
"University of Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain research report stated that

- Spanish Constitution of 1978 established the framework for territorial reorganization but allowed region to progress at different speed.
- Two track were introduced Fast track for (Catalonia, Basque) and slow track for other region.
- Between 1979-1983, devolution proceeded incrementally with regions demonstrating administrative capacity.
- Health care devolution alone took over 20 years to complete fully that ensured smooth transition.

How Pakistan should adopt it.

- Pakistan should establish 10-15 years phased timeline for South Punjab, Hazara, and Karachi.

15 Years Plan



iv) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

India created Telangana from Andhra Pradesh through Andhra Pradesh reorganisation Act of 2014.

How it work:

- In this Hyderabad city will served as capital for both Andhra and Telangana for 10 years from 2014 to 2024.
- Andhra Pradesh giving 10 years of time to build its new capital.
- Special financial packages were given to both state to managed its separation cost.

How Pakistan should work.

- If Punjab is divided, Lahore could serve as joint capital for 10 years
- South Punjab develop Multan or Bahawalpur as it Provincial city capital city.
- The federal government should provide special development packages for both provinces.
- Infrastructure development in South Punjab like school, University, hospital should be pre-upgraded before provincial status.

(v) South Sudan Independence: Speed kills but Kills.

In 2011 South Sudan separated from Sudan after referendum. South Sudan lacked institutional capacity for governance. Within two year civil war erupted. Along that insufficient administrative infrastructure, weak institution created issues.

Lesson for Pakistan.

Pakistan should avoid mistakes done by South Sudan, prioritizing political symbolism over practical governance capacity.

New Provinces need functional Courts, police, revenue departments, educational system, and health care infrastructure before official creation not after.

CONCLUSION:

Reorganisation of provinces is the best idea for development of nation but reorganisation need to be done in very effective and constitutional way. This is our Pakistan only we can make to shine brighter outside will come just for self interest. All political leaders and citizens must be united.