

How should Pakistan manage the equitable distribution of resources among different ethnic (groups) regions to address historical grievances, and promote development across the country.

Introduction:

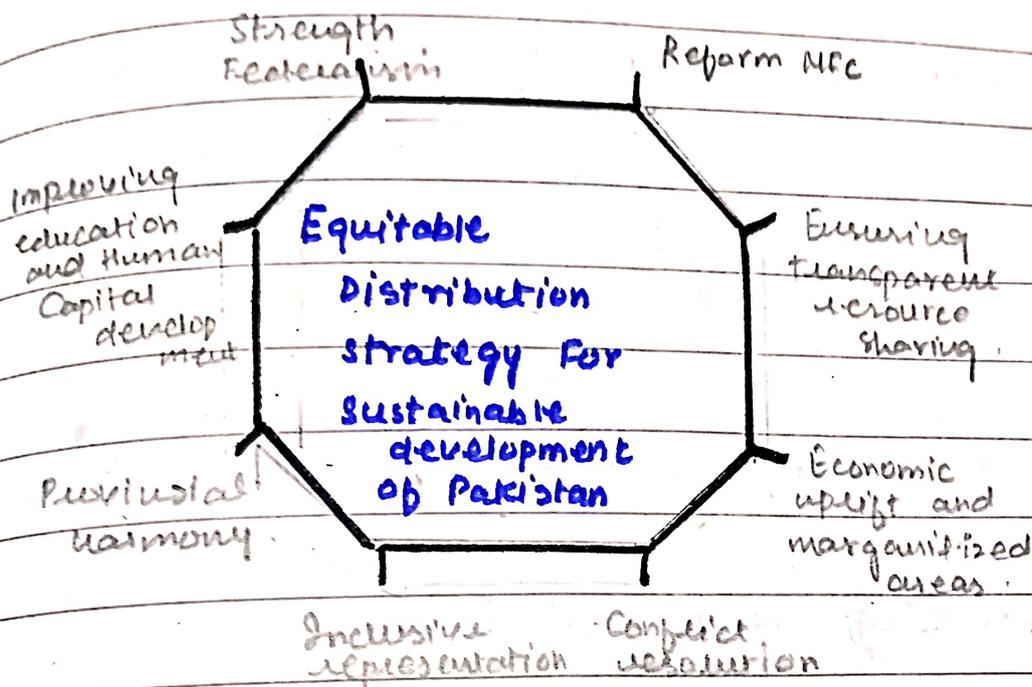
To ensure equitable distribution of resources among ethnic regions, Pakistan must adopt holistic and inclusive approach. For this, she first needs to address historical grievances, provincial disparities to ensure sustainable national development. In this regard, the 18th Amendment and local government system must be implemented to strength federalism. National Finance Commission must be upgraded to address provincial disparities. Moreover, transparent resource sharing and balanced infrastructure development among all provinces must be ensured. Inclusive representation ought

to be given to all minorities and interprovincial harmony can be generated through national media. These pragmatic measures will ensure sustainable development across Pakistan.

2- ETHNIC MARGINALIZATION AND HISTORICAL GRIEVANCES:

Historically, resource distribution in Pakistan has been imbalanced, with Punjab, the most populous and politically dominant province, receiving the lion's share of resources. This imbalance had led to the marginalisation of ethnic communities, particularly in Balochistan, Sindh and KPK. Balochistan, despite rich in resources, has experience slow development, and the benefits of these resources have largely been enjoyed by other regions. Similarly, Sindh and KP have faced underdevelopment, fueling feelings of alienation and political discontent. This resource disparity has contributed to political instability and insurgency movements especially in Balochistan.

3. EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF PAKISTAN



3-1 Strengthening OF Federalism by Fully implementing 18th Amendment and Local Government System:

Fully implement 18th Amendment to ensure that provinces have full autonomy over their resources and development projects. Similarly, empower local government systems to allow resource access to marginalized areas especially in KP and Balochistan. Article 140A of 1973 constitution states that:

Article 140A:

Each province shall by law establish local government system and devolve financial, administrative and political responsibility & authority to the elected representatives of local government.

3.2-Reforming National Finance

Commission to ensure equitable resources distribution in Pakistan:

Upgrade the criteria of resource allocation just beyond population, and include other factors like poverty, backwardness, revenue generation capacity and infrastructure needs.

As 18th Amendment states that:

The share of each province in NFC award could not be less than the share given

in the previous award - 18th Amendment

Ensure timely NFC award and a mechanism for periodic review and accountability

Federal Government



NFC Award
for allocation
of resources
to provinces

Provincial Government



Local Government

PFC
Commissioner

33- Transparent Resource Sharing to
minimize provincial disparities
for economic growth of Pakistan:

Address grievances related to
natural resource control among provinces
especially in KP and Balochistan. Establish
resource sharing framework so that local
population can benefit from exploitation
of oil, gas and water. Moreover, create
community development funds source
from resource revenue. Article 172 of
1973 constitution declares that:

Natural resources (minerals,
oil, water and gas) equally
shared by provincial and
federal government. - Article 172 of
1973 constitution

3.4. Economic uplift of Marginalised areas for Sustainable growth of Pakistan:

Balance the distribution of (natural resources) of CPEC projects among all the provinces of Pakistan and prefer the instatement of industrial zones in under developed areas and infrastructural development in remote areas. Promote agricultural and irrigation projects in water scarce regions.

15. Conflict resolution and trust building to address grievances of marginalised areas:

Ensure truth and reconciliation commission to address the grievances with the state. Initiate Development plus Dialogue Initiatives to integrate disenfranchised youth in Balochistan and Fata. It will ensure sustainable development of Pakistan by minimising insurgency and making youth a responsible citizen of Pakistan.

3.6. Ensure inclusive representation of all minorities for sustainable development:

Appoint members from minorities and under developed areas and include them in policy making. It will cater to the problem of under representation of minorities. Moreover, ensure political consensus on national security for equitable growth of Pakistan.

3.7. Promote inter-provincial harmony and civic education for effective allocation of resources among provinces:

Use national media and curriculum reform to promote mutual respect and understanding among all the minorities of Pakistan. Moreover, celebrate cultural diversity to foster a sense of ownership among all federating units.

Improving education and human capital development for inclusive growth of Pakistan.

Allocate more funds for education and health in under developed areas.

Expand scholarship quotas and training programs for youth in neglected areas to promote their upward mobility and sustainable growth of Pakistan

Current status of Resource Distribution and Regional Development in Pakistan:

Pakistan faces ongoing challenges in ensuring equitable resource distribution across its diverse regions. While reforms like the 18th Amendment have empowered provinces, disparities remain, especially in Balochistan, KPK and Sindh.

Moreover, disagreements between the federal and provincial governments have prolonged the 7th NFC Award, hindering a dynamic resource distribution mechanism that can adapt to current needs. Furthermore, significant poverty and infrastructure gaps persist in less developed regions despite their natural resource endowments.

In addition, for years, the Federal government has repeated that 57.5 percent

of Federal revenues are allocated to provinces. However, when one examines the full composition of Federal revenues, it becomes evident that close to 60% of total revenues. A growing share of this is collected outside the NFCs divisible pool, and it bypasses the constitutional principles of the NFC, weakening the mechanism designed to ensure Fair Federal - provincial Fiscal relation, creating more grievances & hindering development across the country.

Conclusion:

To address the historical grievances and promote equitable, Pakistan needs a holistic approach that includes fair distribution, infrastructure development increased accountability and industrialization in neglected areas. Targeted subsidies, improved water management and enhanced political representation for marginalized areas will foster sustainable development, reduce regional disparities and strength national unity.