

Question No 1

The formation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan. Critically evaluate the hurdles and give recommendations?

Introduction:

There is constant debate in parliament of Pakistan for creating new provinces from the inception of the country. There are some analysts who are in favor of creating more provinces. They consider this will improve governance structure and provide more opportunities for development of under-developed regions. While on other hand, some take this as a backlash for the progress and prosperity of the country. In perspective of these, creating more province will eventually break into economic strain, ethnic disturbances, political polarization, marginalization of minorities

and intra-regional inequalities. In current sphere of Pakistan, debate of new provinces is on surge. To avoid the negative impacts of creation of more provinces, there are some other options. These include empowerment of local governments, adoption of metropolitan model, decentralization of finance, localisation of phased approach and dialogue with stakeholders can be better solutions.

2 Creation of new provinces is a recurring discourse in Pakistan.

In Pakistan's history, different political parties came in power with the agenda of making new province. In some context, these political parties use the slogans of creating new provinces to satisfy their vote bank. Due to inefficient education, people in backward areas do not have full comprehension about creation of new provinces.

They are unaware of the pros and cons of the efficient administrative structure of the government and predated by political notions of political parties. In Pakistan following are movements regarding creation of new provinces.

SaraiKista movement

→ A large chunk of SaraiKis live in South-punjab. They demand Bahawalpur as separate province.

movement of Hazara community

→ People of Hazara community consider themselves as different from others and want a separate province.

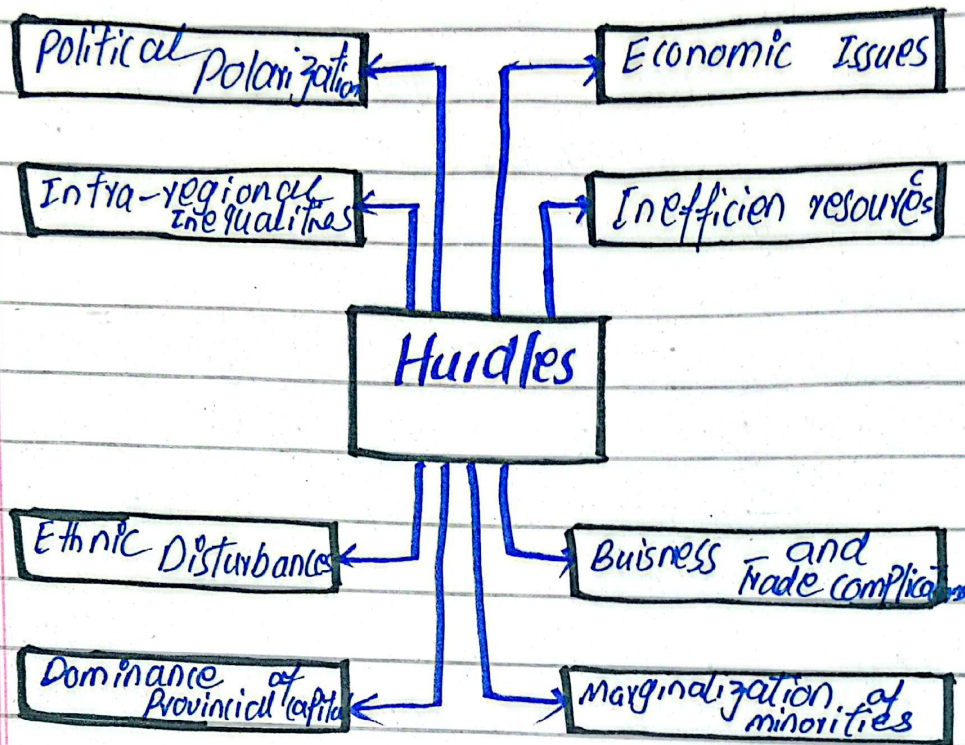
movement of urban (Karachi) ^{Sindh}

→ The people of Karachi wanted Karachi as a separate administrative unit apart from rural Sindh.

Pashtunistan movement

→ Some Pushtuns in Northern Balochistan also demanded for separate province from the existing provincial borders.

Hurdles that are encountered by Pakistan in creation of new provinces:



1) Creation of new provinces will aggravate the political polarization:

As Pakistan is such a country where a number of political parties exist. These parties have different views regarding creation of new provinces. In parliament 2/3rd majority is required for amending, passing a bill.

for creation of new provinces. This is quite difficult. Hence this will eventually break into chaos and political polarization.

3.2) Pakistan's staggering economy does not give permission for new provinces.

Pakistan is in developing phase. Its economic status does not allow to make new provinces. It is already in fiscal deficit. Hence in existing time, it is next to impossible for Pakistan to manage economy and spend a large chunk for new administration units, courts and agencies.

3.3) Presence of inefficient resources shed light that creation of new provinces will create havoc:

Pakistan is 5th most populated country in the world

There are no efficient resources for existing structure of Pakistan. In context of creating new provinces, resources will not be managed accordingly.

3.4) Emergence of Intra-regional Inequalities:

In present governance structure of Pakistan, many regions consider themselves alienated. If new provinces are created it will result into intra-regional conflicts due to inequalities in resource distribution.

3.5) Creation of new provinces pave the way for ^{further} ethnic disturbances:

When there ^{will be} large number of provinces with their specific recognition ethnic issues will further surge. Every ethnicity will try to dominate other which escalate the ethnic issues.

3.6) Complications in business and Trade environment:

Due to large number of provinces, trade and business will face serious repercussions. Every Province will hold different perspective which harm the overall progress of the country.

3.7) Escalation in marginalization of communities:

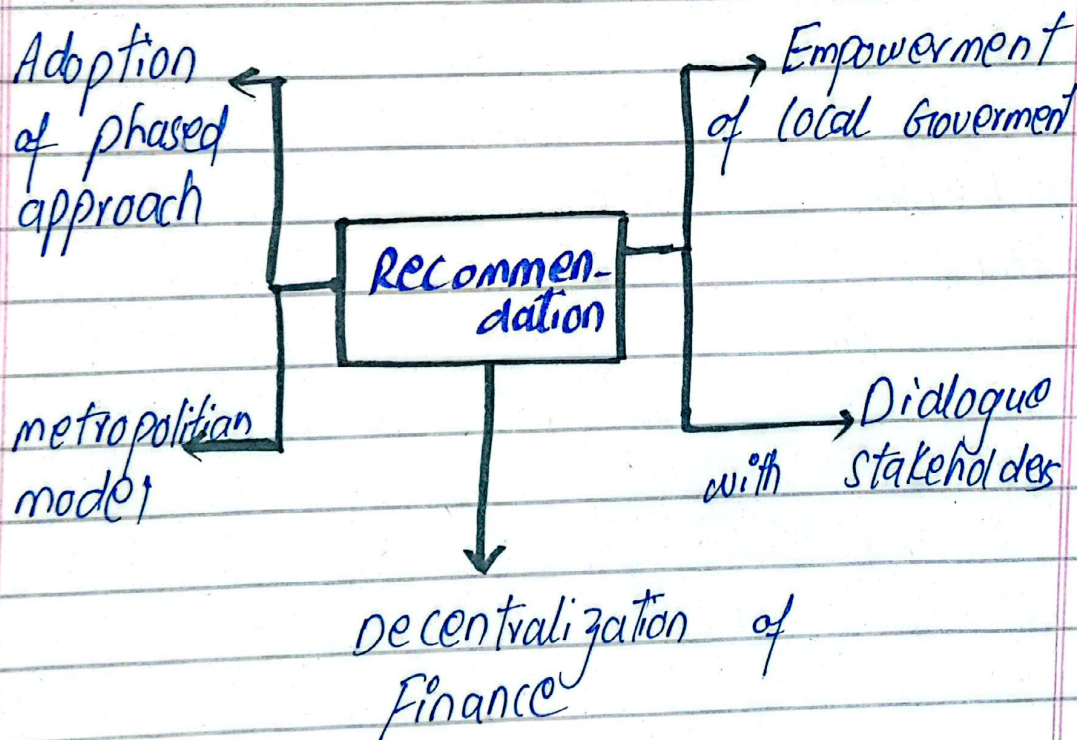
In different regions of Pakistan, different sort of communities live. If some get recognition, the other will also raise their voice for separate recognition. For example if in Sindh movements, Sindhis are allocated with separate province, the other minorities will feel them marginalized.

3.8) Dominance of Provincial Capital evades the spirit of new provinces:

the creation of new

is not possible due to provincial capital dominance. The capitals are more developed and all the mega projects are the parts of them.

Recommendations in context of creation of new provinces:



4.2) Empowerment of local governments can stabilize the circumstances:

Instead of creating

new provinces, empowerment of already existing local government can handle the matter efficiently. Ensurance of Article 140-A under which local government is established - the controversial matter of local government creation of new provinces can be solved. Moreover, by empowering local councils, the grievances of the people will be heard more closely.

4.2) Ensurance of decentralization of Finance:

The provinces, by ensuring the fair decentralization of finance, can actually resolve the issues of marginalized regions. There is no need for separate provinces, if all under-developed regions gain fair finance for their development.

4.3) Adoption of phased Approach:

The provinces should adopt phased approach. This include first empowerment of local governments and evaluate the results, then after this decides for creation of more provinces.

4.4) Dialogues with Stakeholders can resolve the issue of creation of new provinces:

The inclusiveness among parliament, Civil Society and establishment can actually pave the way for resolving issues. So, there should encouragement for inclusiveness.

5 Conclusion:

In order to sum up the whole discussion, it is clearly stated that Pakistan is not in the condition of creating new provinces. While, it can adopt an alternative instead of new provinces.

The hurdles that are presents include economic strain, inefficient resources, political polarization and marginalized minorities. In order to curb these issues, metropolitan model, empowerment of local government, phased approach and dialogue with stakeholders are recommended.
