



Center for Global & Strategic Studies

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**The Dilemma of Balochistan**

By

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We, Pakistanis, are surrounded by many myths and illusions. By the time we find out that the myths hold no ground, it is often too late, with the damage being done. One scenario that is the case in point here, is Balochistan.

From the time of Pakistan's independence, till the present, we have been imagining and convincing ourselves that every Baloch/ Brahui individual is very happy being in sovereign state.

The common notion amongst the country's populace is that a residence of every district of Balochistan lives a life of content where he has proper drinking water, functioning schools, gas to keep warm in winters, with proper hospitals in every district while being treated equally as any other citizen of Pakistan. But is the ground reality really so? To assess, let us shed a light on facts and try to find a solution.

In Balochistan, there are 32 districts and according to Education Management Information System of Balochistan (EMIS) there are 13,279.

Now the question is why is the education system failing every passing year if there are 13,279 schools? The reason is clear. Majority of the schools are only hypothetical; or even if they exist, they do not either have a roof or a teacher. For example, former senator of Balochistan, Mr Sana Baloch also tweeted about a school in Gwadar, which is supposed to be one of the most literate area of Balochistan.

**Sana BALOCH** @Senator\_Baloch · Sep 29  
#Gwadar, Balochistan; Stone-age Schools & Facilities can not Produce 21st Century Engineers, Scientists & Physicist but Slave & Extremists



A similar situation is with the hospitals. I belong to the district of Chaghi, Balochistan where I have seen women dying while in labor all my life because there are no maternity wards.

Mostly, women give birth by age-old means, or try to make it to Quetta which is the capital city of Balochistan; its distance is 600 kilometers from Chaghi. During the journey, either the mother does not survive or the child.

Chaghi is a mineral-rich district having minerals like gold and copper, while it also shares a border with Iran and Afghanistan.

The condition of the hospital gifted by the ruler of UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan is being run by only 2 doctors, who come at their own free will; and of course the money which was given to be utilized for hospital facilities and purchasing of equipment was put in the pockets of corrupt individuals.

The ground realities of a majority of districts highlight the everyday qualms of denizens of the multiple districts of the province where their basic needs of life are not being fulfilled. A major chunk of the province is deprived of natural gas even though Sui is where natural gas is being supplied to for other provinces. With malfunctioning schools, hospitals, poor infrastructure, lack of clean drinking water, no jobs, the daily struggles of a common man of the province are immense!

The denizen is fed up of tribal elders who act like a boss, and who can do anything at anytime, making the resident fear him because otherwise he can lose his rights to live in his city of birth.

Then again, why are these tribal chiefs running the local system? It is clear that they are representatives of the areas and win votes through bribes or taking help from the influential caretakers of our great nation.

The question here is, are the so-called 200 or more, tribal elders the face and name of the people of Balochistan?

To understand it best, what should be done is to ask a common man who is frustrated and disturbed from the injustice of the tribal elders. An average Baloch is either a farmer, a small business owner, or a worker belonging to the lower class. Can he or his child afford to pay bribe

to get a job, or legal allotment (of land) from the department of agriculture for farming rights, or pay bribes to the mines department to get a legal allotment for working in any small time deposit of any mineral or marble mine etc?

I do not think so. The fact is, one of the most corrupt and ruthless public institutions are in Balochistan. It was once said that Balochistan is a law abiding province, where no exchange of bribes can take place, but today giving and receiving bribes is taken as a pride; if one does not take part in the act, the public servant is removed from his job because he does not serve well to his superior. If the cycle is to be understood, let's try to assess: a director of a certain department demands for bribe, then he gives a share to the DG who, after taking his share passes on to the secretary, who then gives it to his superior, the minister and if it is a big project, the chief minister gets involved as well; so it is a chain system from down to up; but who suffers the most? It's the common man who vexed at the vicious cycle.

Recently there were banners and posters of free Balochistan in Geneva, Switzerland (attaching the pictures) where the Baloch in exile were demanding referendum.

Here we are confident that first of all there will never be a referendum, and even if there is one, will all Baloch vote for Pakistan?

To save the future and our country, we need to stop being over-confident and arrogant. We should come out of our utopic box and realize our faults.

We do not have very friendly relations with our neighbors apart from China who is also friends with us because of its own interests; we have more enemies than friends and we are mainly relying on China as our saviour.

On every international forum we are attacked verbally by India; and now with their ever growing bond with Trump's USA and Ghani's Afghanistan, shouldn't we be stronger than ever so we can defend ourselves? But then again, what is defending our self? Is it making more bombs, making more weapons or increasing our army?

What we need to do firsthand is to be 100 per cent confident from within that no country can shake our pillars, and for that we need to fight corruption from Balochistan. We need to give the

common man the right to lead a normal 21st century human being's life, free from stress, oppression, frustration and anger.

For years, the Pakistan army has played a crucial role in Balochistan. It is time they stop supporting the tribal leaders and the powerful clans, rather they should support the educated Baloch, Brauhi and Pashtun, who have a clean background, and who do not have in mind to loot the government funds to feed their army of guards or make villas abroad.

It is time to heal and fix our mistakes and build Balochistan. Our intelligence agencies should hire local people from every district and send them in civil clothes to conduct a survey inside every district of Balochistan to hear the youth and what do the majority want. Do they want to break away from Pakistan, or they are still happy to be a part of the nation state?

No matter how much pain they are in, this consensus will give our army an assurance of what is actually going on.

All those who make policies for Pakistan need to understand that use of force or instilling fear is not a long-term solution for it actually ignites more hate and anger. What is needed is the correction through love, care, development, and specially a change in faces who will bring education, infrastructure, creation of jobs for the locals so they do not feel neglected nor will they starve from hunger; as hunger alone leads to many vices.

We need to prepare, be strong, and the only way is to be united as one nation as Pakistanis, but for that we need to find the roots of what can hurt us. To make it all happen, we need to act fast, so we are sure that tomorrow if something happens it won't be too late.