



Socio-Eco Packages and Environmental Factors – An Analysis from Balochistan

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of the Socio-Economic packages announced over the past two decades for Balochistan by the Federal Government / State on Political, Social, Economic, Security, and other environmental factors, predicting the future of the province. It adopts a qualitative research design with a historical, descriptive approach using interview-based primary data collection along with the study of published and unpublished documents of government and private sources. Since the rise of President Gen (R) Pervaiz Musharraf to the premier office of Pakistan, the Federal Government undertook five ventures to support Balochistan on its way to progress. However, mismanagement and bad governance failed the very spirit of the initiatives, and the results couldn't be achieved. The findings of the study conclude that the announcement of socio-eco packages would have proved to be beneficial towards achieving specific goals set if the welfare and development schemes had been carried out and monitored through agencies/intermediaries other than the local political or parliamentary leadership. Environmental factors, especially political factors, are directly impacted by the implementation of these packages. This study presented its analyses by interviewing the people linked with academia and the administration only owing to time constraints. However, future research should include the views of other groups directly or indirectly linked with the prevailing situation in the province, thus addressing the limitations of the present study.

Keywords: Socio-Eco Packages, Environmental Factors, Policy

1. Introduction

Balochistan, the biggest land mass of Pakistan, is the poorest of all the provinces, where more than 50 % of the population is living a life in abject poverty (Kagabo et al., 2023). The dilemma of Balochistan's depravity is multi-faceted, with root causes embedded in environmental factors that predict the overall plight of the area and its people (Asim et al., 2023). Economic and social deprivation is caused by "internal weaknesses and unresolved mishandled antagonism," which is propagated by foreign players to destabilize the overall economic, social, and, above all, security environment of the province. Many recent studies have been trying to highlight prospects of economic, social, and security stability linked with financial schemes designed by the government for Balochistan. This province has strong potential to positively influence the economic growth not only of itself and Pakistan but also of the neighboring countries like China, Iran, and Afghanistan, owing to its strategic location (Saima, 2024). Unfortunately, some internal as well as external factors have always impacted the efforts to boost its environment negatively. Most of the time, the failure of efforts is blamed on non-serious attitude and lack of interest shown by both provincial and federal governments (Asim et al., 2023; Ahmad et al., 2024; Naeem, Ali & Ahmed, 2022).

The need to attend to the deprivation of the locals has always been felt in the corridors of powers, resulting in the announcement of welfare schemes by Federal and Provincial governments to improve the living standards of the people of Balochistan, but somehow, the results have been found to be worsening the situation than improving it (Baloch et al., 2018; Imran et al., 2023). Over the past two decades, the Federal Government, in coordination with the local provincial government, has announced around five socio-eco packages to uplift the overall economic and social condition of the people of Balochistan. These packages are the Khushal Balochistan Program (2001 - 2007), Aghaz-e-Huqooq-q-Balochistan (2009- 2013), Pur Aman Balochistan (2015-2017) and Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF - 2015) which is still continuing. The intent behind announcing these packages appears to be very positive, but the outcomes suggest that there are certain inadequacies either in the planning or implementation stages that need to be mended for desired outputs.

1.1. Problem Statement

The socio-eco packages announced for the uplift of Balochistan over a period of the past twenty years couldn't change the plight of the common man owing to many shortcomings and mismanagement. Governments have been trying hard to provide the locals with at least the basic necessities of life, like food, education, health, etc., but all endeavors appear to be in vain. Overall, an environment of depravity and despair is prevailing all around. Thus, the problem highlighted by the study is to find the impacts of Socio-eco packages announced by the federal government for Balochistan on Political, Social, Economic, Technological, Legal, and Security factors determining the environment of the province and finding causes behind the failures of these schemes, further recommending some suggestions to be considered while forming new packages for the welfare of the people of Balochistan.

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1.2. Hypothesis

“A comprehensive analysis of Socio-Eco Packages announced by the Federal government over the past two decades to uplift the province of Balochistan would lead to finding the reasons for not producing desired results as expected by the governments and ultimately providing a way forward to planning future packages.”

1.3. Research Objectives

RO 1. To study the impact of socio-eco packages announced by the federal government of Pakistan over the past two decades for Balochistan on the political, social, economic, technological, ecological, and security environment of the province.

RO 2. To highlight the shortcomings of these socio-eco packages that marred the expected results of these packages.

RO 3. To suggest possible mechanisms to be devised for the success of future schemes.

1.4. Research Questions

RQ 1. What has been the impact of socio-eco packages announced by the federal government of Pakistan over the past two decades for Balochistan on the Political, Social, Economic, Technological, Ecological, Legal, and Security environment of the province?

RQ 2. What were the shortcomings of these socio-eco packages that marred the expected results?

RQ 3. What possible mechanisms can be devised to ensure the success of future schemes?

2. Research Method

The approach adopted for research is inductive-explanatory with an interview-based method for data collection. Most of the material on the implementation of socio-eco packages and their impact on the overall uplift of the province is available in the form of newspaper articles and government reports, but to comprehend the environmental factors and their relationship with the implementation of socio-eco packages, personal interviews of ten renowned professors from various universities and officers of administration department of Balochistan were conducted, thus thoroughly exploring the answers for research questions (Muhammad, Safdar, & Saif, 2024).

2.1. Review of Socio-Eco Packages

The federal government and the state have always been on their toes to address the issues related to the critical situation of the province and have announced various social welfare packages over the past two decades, but the objectives have not been achieved as expected. Khushal Balochistan Package, Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Package, Pur Aman Balochistan Package, Sothorn Balochistan Package and Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) are some of the highlights of the efforts poured in by the central governments over the past few years. The details of these packages can be viewed in the Appendix Section of this article. All these packages provided temporary relief, up to some extent, to the people here but couldn't fulfill the promises of a brighter and peaceful future for the province.

2.2. Khushal Balochistan Program (2001 - 2007)

It was launched by President Musharraf's Government from 2001 – 2007, with a financial outlay of Rs 4.42 billion, bringing south Balochistan, especially Gawadar and Turbat, into focus. Under the ambit of this package, the Coastal Highway and around 6378 Km of roads were built, Hospitals, universities, and colleges were established, and the Kachhi Canal project started. This package was perhaps the most celebrated of all the schemes ever announced for Balochistan till then. It paved the way for further progress in Balochistan by linking its far-flung areas with Karachi and Quetta with the help of road networks. The construction of hospitals and educational institutions added to the social improvement of the locals, influencing nearly every walk of life (Zuberi, 2019).

This package was the harbinger of the CPEC, especially in the southern part of the province. The package was an apolitical triumph of the Musharraf government as it brought the Gawadar Sea Port into the focus of China, and the initiative of One Belt One Road was hatched. The coastal highway linked the port with the main cities of Pakistan and shortened the time of travel. The access to the local and provincial markets became easier, and the local populace felt that they were not left in the lurch by their governments.

With all the positives mentioned above, the package also widened the economic gulf between rich and poor as most of the development schemes were directed towards the areas where the sardars and their baradaris were located. Except for a few main highways, the local roads were planned to benefit the vehicles of the local Vaderas and give them access to their farms and Baithaks (Interviews of local people). Similarly, the projects of importance fell into the well of corruption that not only caused delays but substandard construction and facilities.

2.3. Aghaz-e-Huqooq-e-Balochistan Package (2009-13)

The package was unanimously approved by Parliament in November 2009, and a seven-member parliamentary committee headed by Senator Mian Raza Rabbani finalized the package in consultation with the political leadership and other stakeholders. This package was very much appreciated by all and sundry as it proposed some much-needed projects that were expected to set the right pace of progress for the province by resolving some of its serious issues related to security and economic fields. The establishment of investigative commissions and inquiry committees to find facts behind the prevailing law and order situation of the province were very welcoming steps to, once and for all, address the reservations of the local people. Similarly, the projects of construction of

roads, dams, and other facilities were also much appreciated and anticipated to bring peace back to the land (Gishkori, 2011).

The package was actually an intended compensation to the insurgencies trodden province for the injustice done by the state in acclaiming the rights of the people of Balochistan. The apology extended by then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Yousaf Raza Gillani, from the people of Balochistan speaks volumes about the wrongs of the past. The Aghaz-e-Haqooq-e-Balochistan Package had the backing of the government and political leadership that gave a realm of hope to the people that the era of backwardness and war was almost over as there was realization in the corridors of power in imparting the actual rights to the province.

The package was approved on November 23, 2009, but owing to the lost interest of the government, federal and provincial, and delayed or lack of funding, most of the projects announced either couldn't be started or were not completed as per given timelines. Even today, many of the schemes announced are awaiting implementation. The package, which was announced to address the longstanding grievances of the people, proved to be adding to them (Muhammad & Brett, 2020).

2.4. PurAman Balochistan (2015-17)

The Peaceful Balochistan Package had a financial outlay of Rs 5 billion with the aim of burying the hatchet and bringing the outlaws back into the main stream. It was a sigh of relief, especially for those armed men who were tired of hiding and wanted to provide their coming generations with a peaceful future and the life of a common man. Around 2242 terrorists surrendered, and the eastern areas of Balochistan saw peace after a decade of fighting and unrest (Zafar, 2015).

In 2017, PurAman Shelter Schools were established in the villages of the surrendered terrorists of Sui and Sibbi Districts, enabling their children to receive formal education by providing them with free books and schooling. These schools are still working and are builders of trust and harmony among the government and the local people. The package was abandoned due to the loss of interest of the federal government as the promised payment and funds stopped.

This package, in the opinion of the academia of UoB, was a well-directed project as it came with a promise to deliver at the very doorstep (of SuTs). The opening of schools in their villages and paying them money to restart their routine lives were very good initiatives, but the missing link was planning and monitoring. Some of the SuTs returned to the mountains, finding mismanagement and broken promises, and most of them are still striving to lead a simple rustic life of peace owing to limited resources. In the villages, e.g., Filliji Village of Sibbi, no roads are available, schools and even mosques are located at considerable distances, and people are far away even from their religions as much as they are at a distance from formal education. The package was more of a political stunt than a welfare scheme. The people were left in the lurch, and no one came back to see what had happened to those who had shaken hands in the hope of a prosperous future.

2.5. South Balochistan Package (2020-to date)

The three-year package was announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan, and it was worth Rs 630 billion for nine districts in south Balochistan. with the obvious aim to "Uplift the people most prone to militancy." The progress on the developmental projects is very slow, and it has reached a near halt with a delay of around one year.

The package was welcomed, but there were lots of doubts in people's minds. They were afraid that the package would become prey to corruption and nepotism like all the previous packages announced for the province. Their doubts were somewhat real as the lost interest of the federal government in the implementation of the package and the ever-changing political climate of Pakistan and Balochistan predicted the obvious failure of the package. Though monitoring mechanisms at federal and provincial levels were implemented, owing to rapid changes in the governments and political instability, the objectives of the project couldn't be achieved. A monitoring mechanism is in place (APP, 2020).

2.6. Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) – 2015

Under the slogan "SAY-YES-TO-MERIT," BEEF was announced in 2015 as a provocative scholarship scheme that provides funds to talented but financially disadvantaged students of Balochistan (Details can be viewed in the Appendix Section). It is announced to cover educational level from class 9th to MPhil / MS. Around 55000 students have been partially funded to date with 60 fully funded scholarships across 22 universities nationwide. The scheme is still ongoing, and students benefit from it annually (BEEF, 2024).

Each year, BEEF announces its scholarship policy, adjusting the number of scholarships based on data from previous years. Being an economically poor and backward province, such schemes are the most needed ventures for Balochistan. This scheme, like other social welfare projects, has fallen prey to nepotism and corruption. The students with political -linkages earn the scholarships, and very few deserving scholars are successful in winning the needed funds. Each year, thousands of applications are received, but the bribe and influence win the bid, leaving the genuine cases behind.

3. Analyses – Environmental Factors

Where governments have always been arrogantly propagating the success of these packages there, many sections of civil society have been heard complaining about the unfair distribution of the finances and allocation of

development schemes (Javaid, 2010) related to these packages. Studies of news reports and gazettes also suggest that most of these packages have not been very successful in attaining the intended outcomes. An evident gap has been observed between the objectives set and the objectives achieved related to these development schemes.

Whenever any development scheme is designed, it is expected to impact environmental factors that resultantly paint the canvas of the progress for any settlement. Even some intelligent designs fail if the planning ignores the ground realities and over / underestimates the impact of the schemes on the environmental factors (Cooley & Heathershaw, 2017). Balochistan, being a province always on the radar for security concerns, has always been setting new challenges for the people at the helm of affairs to set things right. Understanding internal as well as external factors while sowing the new seeds of change for betterment is always crucial. This understanding can only be developed by studying the impacts of the schemes of the past on environmental factors. The present study tries to explore the impact of some major development packages announced for the development of Balochistan over the past two decades on the environmental factors determining the path of progress of Balochistan.

No reliable studies and very thin data presenting a picture of any sort of issue have been found, so a mixed research approach has been adopted to unveil the real problem and figure out the way forward. A study of available data sources along with extensive interviews of the academia, administration, and laymen have been carried out first to unearth the problem linked with the unintended impact of the packages and then to lay down a future framework for the policymakers to issue guidelines for the engineers of the fate, sketching the future scenarios and deciding upon the destiny of this important part of Pakistan in specific and the region in general.

This study tries to analyze the impact of the aforementioned packages over certain environmental factors necessary to make the mare of the progress go. Important factors in this regard are Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Ecological, Legal, and Security.

3.1. Political Environment

The political environment of Balochistan is very predictable as far as the political elite is concerned. The same faces, parties, tribal presentations, and the people favored by the establishment are seen walking on the assembly floors.

These packages have empowered political/tribal leaders more to exploit the locals. Packages are, though announced for the betterment of the people, tools in the hands of leaders to drive the people in their favor. They win elections and earn millions out of the schemes announced. The overall political environment of the province is to spend on elections to win and earn after elections through welfare packages.

- Tribal politics in the province are an impediment to the overall progress of the province.
- Billions are spent through political/tribal leaders in the wake of welfare packages, resulting in empowering the tribal leaders more than ever to exploit the masses.
- BEEF Scholarships are even offered first to students who have a direct link with political/tribal leaders, unlike any other deserving student.
- Roads and infra are built on the recommendations of the influential elite of the area.

The implementation of the schemes must be done through a third party, which should not be directly involved in politics here. It can be through the local youth organizations, university think tanks, and well-wishers from the civil society. Political awareness should be spread by educating the poor and making them aware of their rights. Instead of announcing projects of public welfare in the form of road constructions and establishment of educational institutions, though very much necessary, employment opportunities should be provided by encouraging local industry so that people may come out of the influence of the tribal leaders (Phulpoto et al., 2024).

3.2. Social Environment

The packages are mostly introduced on the basis of recommendations of the political representations of the area, ignoring the ground realities. The social culture here nurtures nepotism and the indirect means to win the favors of the ruling elite. Welfare packages are added to strengthen these norms, but they should aim to promote the democratic mechanism in society by infusing the merit and justice system.

- Tribal Culture should be studied with the aim of bringing Social Change.
- Democracy should be encouraged, and the unprivileged should be supported to come forward.
- Awareness is the key to bringing social change through curriculum designing for schools and Madrassas and through Juma Prayers addresses in the local mosques.
- As per the 18th amendment, education and health are provincial subjects, but in Balochistan, they should not be in the hands of local political leaders as they exploit the youth. For the last three months, the biggest university in Balochistan has been on strike owing to non-payment of salaries to the staff.
- Social uplift can only take place if the people are valued instead of their sardars.
- Brain Drain over the past two decades has been a fundamental issue faced by the province. People from other provinces should be encouraged to come and serve here, especially in the education sector. This will give more exposure to the youth here, and social ties can be strengthened.
- The quota system should be reviewed after conducting special surveys, as the older quota system has not done any good so far.

3.3. Economic Environment

Money infused through welfare packages brings temporary relief to the economy, but from a broader perspective, it is damaging the overall economic growth of the province. The easy money in the form of packages and bailouts is resulting in increased corruption (Iqbal, 2017).

The economy of Balochistan is mostly agricultural and mineral-based. The canal and dam projects aimed at improving the agricultural economy, which is always welcomed by the local peasants. However, the super floods of 2022 mocked the durability of the dams as many dams couldn't sustain the pressure of surging waters and collapsed. As a result, a large land mass went under floods, causing innumerable damage to houses and fields. People are now afraid of any scheme for building dams being announced in their areas as they consider these dams as live bombs waiting for rains to pour down to detonate (Nawazul et al., 2011).

Mining is perhaps the profession most favored throughout Balochistan. No scheme has ever been launched to teach the new mining techniques to the locals, thus enabling them to dig safely and efficiently. Old methods of mining are still widely used across the province, putting precious lives in danger and negatively affecting productivity. Welfare schemes should include projects introducing new technology in the mining field at a subsidized rate, thus encouraging more skilled employment.

Roads and other infrastructure should be built to meet the needs of local occupations and industries rather than favor the local nawabs. The start of Sibbi-Harnai Train is a very welcoming move for the local business.

Smuggling and other economic crimes can only be checked if people have options to switch to other legal businesses. Areas rich in various natural resources like farm produce and minerals are marked, and small industries to big industries like fruit processing plants, cold storage, and refineries are established, strengthening the local as well as national economy (Aziz et al., 2020).

3.4. Technological Environment

Technological aspects have never been on the agenda of the clouts deciding the future of Balochistan through welfare packages. Technological advancements are the stairs to success and progress, but even in the 21st century, many of the cities of the province are without cellular coverage. The internet is limited even in the capital city, Quetta. No scheme or project related to technology has been included in any of the welfare packages announced so far. Perhaps it is because Balochistan is still far behind other provinces in the provision of basic necessities of life like health, education, transportation, etc., so most of the welfare packages announced focus on the packages for the provision of basic necessities (Jabeen, Ali & Ahmad, 2023).

Future schemes should include technological aspects by providing free and fast internet, Information Technology courses, and studies to empower the youth to link themselves with the modern world. Building networks and online businesses are multimillion-dollar industries nowadays. If one has the required skills and an urge to earn, online platforms are the best choice, and in regions like Balochistan, where markets are very limited, their online business options can be best suited. The government should announce a technological package financing online entrepreneurship as well (Ali et al., 2023; Haider, Ahmad & Ali, 2024).

By investing in technology, modern machinery can be introduced in various fields like medicine, education, and the construction industry, thus producing skilled labor to work for the betterment of the province. In education, different twenty-first-century skills like critical thinking skills have been the focus of different recent studies in education policy documents (Jamil, Aslam, et al., 2024; Jamil, Hafeez et al., 2024; Jamil, Muhammad, et al., 2024), social sciences, and science textbooks (Jamil, Mehmood, & Noorani, 2024; Jamil, Mehmood, & Saleem, 2024; Jamil, Mehmood, & Shah, 2024; Naseer et al., 2022), teachers' perspectives (Jamil, Anwar, et al., 2024; Jamil et al., 2021a), and teachers' practices (Jamil & Muhammad, 2019; Jamil et al., 2021b). Life skills integration has also been the focus of different textbooks in recent studies (Jamil, Arif, et al., 2024; Jamil, Chohan, et al., 2024; Jamil, Hassan et al., 2024; Jamil, Jabeen, et al., 2024; Jamil, ul Ain, et al., 2024).

- **First Digital Policy for Balochistan:** Balochistan's first digital policy for 2020–2021 was approved by the province's cabinet to improve e-governance and provide digital services to the public. The policy also aims to provide cheap, high-speed, and standard internet access. The 2021 digital policy includes a digital strategy with short-, medium-, and long-term action plans. The Digital Road Map 2030 envisions a future where the digital landscape empowers people, transforms governance, and propels the province into a new era of progress and prosperity. Digital policy concerns include regulating digital and electronic communications, Networking and information security, frequency policy, and issues concerning broadband access and digital infrastructure.

- Balochistan is considered relatively poor in terms of internet and digital skills when compared to other provinces in Pakistan. It has lower literacy levels, is less urban, and has less internet availability and penetration when compared to the rest of Pakistan. Like other policies, this policy has also been at a halt, and no work has even started on it yet.

3.5. Legal Environment

Most of the projects started under the ambit of the welfare package remain subjudice owing to complaints of favoritism and irregularities. The justice system of Pakistan further hinders the progress of the project, resulting in a rise in the cost of the project and delayed timelines. Legal stays are the easiest way to pressurize the governments and other related persons by filing corruption charges against the contractors and departments.

Every package announced must methodically consider the legal side of the implementations. Packages are announced, and works are started in such haste that many of the dimensions are left unexplored, especially the legal side. The hasty start of the project is for the early release of funds, which is also a form of corruption that provides the people a chance to file cases against the projects.

The BEEF scholarships and appointments/jobs under certain packages are most of the time challenged in the courts and remain there for a long time as the governments are not prepared to defend them. The hasty decisions and lack of documentation sometimes make the government revert its decision, which makes the situation worse, and the projects are abandoned at the halfway stage.

3.6. Security Environment

Balochistan has been experiencing a security situation for several years. The security situation in Balochistan has been characterized by several factors, including ethnic tensions, separatist movements, and the presence of militant groups (Yaseen & Muzaffar, 2018). Baloch nationalist groups have been active in the region, demanding greater autonomy for Balochistan and a larger share of the province's resources. These groups have carried out acts of violence, including attacks on security forces, government installations, and infrastructure projects. Additionally, there have been reports of human rights abuses and enforced disappearances in Balochistan, with allegations leveled against both state security forces and militant groups. The situation has resulted in a cycle of violence and counter-violence, leading to instability in the region (Yaseen et al., 2023).

Perhaps the real motive behind the announcement of welfare packages was to stop the people favoring the anti-state actors. The miscreants always stood against any welfare project announced for the province, fearing the popularity of the positive sentiment towards the state. They tried to stop these projects by posing threats to the workers and contractors working on them. CPEC, being the game changer for Balochistan, has been opposed by Baloch separatists since its inception in the fear that foreign development projects would make them a minority in their own province. The increased security presence to safeguard Chinese projects and investors has further escalated Baloch anxieties. Considering the fast-paced development of the region, Baloch separatist groups are said to have reorganized their militant strategy by attacking security forces, and analysts have been raising concerns over increasing violence in the province. China has proposed negotiations with Baloch groups critical of CPEC, but Baloch militants have denied such requests.

Pur Aman Balochistan's package was straight away directed towards improving the security situation in Balochistan by offering state pardon to the surrendered terrorists and promising their rehabilitation. Other packages tried to uplift the economic and social status of the masses, winning their hearts and minds for a peaceful environment.

The non-implementation and delay in delivering the projects are indirectly helping the cause of the insurgents. The project half done is actually not done, which is, in fact, adding to the difficulties of the people, who become hopeful every time a package is announced but become angry when it is not delivered in a timely manner or becomes ineffective due to corruption. Surrender terrorists joining back the insurgents and an increase in the frequency of terrorist activities prove the ineffectiveness of the projects.

4. Findings and Recommendations

Balochistan, with a huge potential to contribute to the economy of the country, has been ignored owing to some obvious reasons, where hollow promises and non-seriousness of attitudes are contributing to the already deteriorating economic and especially security environment (Kagabo et al., 2023; Thomas, Khan & Ahmad, 2022). The poverty index of Balochistan is pretty high compared to other provinces (Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform's Report, 2016) despite all the hefty amounts being spent in the form of socio-eco packages. The dilemma of the rich becoming richer and the poor living miserable lives infers that justice is being done. This situation is intensified by the lack of proper infrastructure, poor law and order, and other environmental concerns despite every socio-eco package aiming at building infra and other necessities facilitating the masses (Saima, 2024; Aslam, Iqbal & Ahmed, 2022; Muhammad, 2015).

4.1. Findings

All the socio-eco packages announced by the government could only uplift the already uplifted (Sardars, Nawabs) with just momentarily reliefs for the poor masses. The findings of the study are as follows: -

- a. The packages were announced with serious and positive intent.
- b. The implementation of the packages was not serious, and all the parties showed a lack of interest in this matter.
- c. Not all the stakeholders were taken on board while designing the packages.
- d. Opinions of the stakeholders were not given properly while the mechanism for the implementation of the packages was being laid out.
- e. No proper feedback system was designed to ensure the outcomes.
- f. With every change in government, the priorities were reviewed, and many of the projects were left to oblivion due to some political element involved.
- g. Communication networks have not been properly woven to increase awareness among the masses.

- h. Lack of communication caused lesser participation of local people, especially from far-flung border areas, in the educational/other welfare schemes.
- i. Most of the schemes were intended for already developed cities/towns to win the next polls for the government rather than ensuring merit.
- j. Packages were utilized for political gains rather than proper social welfare.
- k. Packages are mostly directed towards uplifting economic factors, ignoring the most important technological and ecological factors of the environment.

All the above findings are based on the interviews with the Academic Intelligencia of the province, who have first-hand knowledge of being tightly linked with the youth and are aware of what the youth think and what is happening around them.

4.2. Recommendations

Putting Balochistan on the path of prosperity demands a thorough analysis of the present environment before chalking down any new developmental schemes. The root cause of the failure of several mega-projects and policy initiatives is a lack of objective need analysis before framing any of the developmental schemes. These failures have always given rise to socio-political and socio-economic grievances of the people of Balochistan. Mentioned below is a list of recommendations to address the issues in the implementation of socio-eco packages and a way forward to design future strategies concerning Balochistan.

- a. Political leadership must come forward to take the initiative of uplifting the province by thinking about Balochistan as a whole rather than confining its efforts to its constituencies. Winning votes is important, but the province's progress comes first. Political gains must not coincide with provincial and national interests.
- b. Implementation processes need to be flawless and well thought about. Local councils, such as Mohallah committees, youth councils, and civil societies, must be involved in the process of monitoring the projects rather than any political representatives of the area.
- c. All the separatists and different-minded people must be approached through solid measures, taking them on board by inviting them to put their share in the progress of the province.
- d. A broader scale initiative must start targeting the backward areas, no matter how meager their population is. Basic necessities must be provided at every doorstep, though there are distances and hurdles. What is a welfare government for?
- e. Schools, colleges, or other educational institutions must also be invited to visit the project sites, inviting their input and showing them the efforts behind the schemes and projects. The coming generations, the future leaders, must realize the hardships behind every step taken toward progress so that they can value and define their role. (Apart from inviting them to inauguration ceremonies, call them to witness the efforts and the processes, enabling them to identify themselves with the projects to ensure the long-term success of the schemes)
- f. Provincial and federal governments must build strong bonds to build a comprehensive policy for addressing the grievances of different sections of society. Most of the time, the political leadership of Balochistan is seen blaming the federal government for issues in the province. The trust deficit among both governments causes the projects to fail.
- g. Projects that have already been started under the scope of different packages should be pursued seriously, and funds must be released and utilized as per timelines. Projects like CPEC and Kachi-Canal must be taken objectively and concluded according to the set timelines. CPEC, being a game-changer, can be used for regional economic connectivity by linking it to Chahbahar of Iran and the ports of UAE. The inclusion of other regional players will enhance the scope and acceptance of CPEC in the region, thus ultimately resulting in a win-win for all the stakeholders.
- h. Timely provision of funds should be ensured through concerned quarters for the uninterrupted continuation of the new projects; otherwise, delays in the release of funds to future projects may predict the same fate as the previous packages announced.
- i. The digital revolution can guarantee a secure and prosperous future for Balochistan. Public-private partnerships in the fields of health, education, and the digital sector should be chosen, thus creating new and better employment opportunities for the youth. It will also enhance the quality of services, and modern trends will be introduced.
- j. New legislation is required to be considered before reviewing the quota system, subsidies, and scholarships. Merit-based scholarships and jobs will solve many issues, and complaints of injustice and favoritism will also be addressed.
- k. Whenever a package is announced, it should also be propagated and communicated to the masses so that the maximum number of people become aware of it and benefit as per their share. Digital and print media can be a better source, along with public meetings for announcements of development schemes, taking the general public on the same page for the success of the packages. Positive projection and the outcomes of the projects must be brought into the view of every eye for people to feel the difference.

1. Kinetic operations are rising all the time, but the security situation is deteriorating. The grassroots-level changes, such as the provision of basic necessities, the distribution of resources, and the establishment of merit, will ultimately win the support of the masses, resulting in improvements in the security situation.

5. Conclusion and Limitations

5.1. Conclusion

The present study is an effort to evaluate the impacts of the aforementioned schemes on environmental factors such as Political, economic, social, legal, and security predicting progress in Balochistan. This study has also highlighted the shortcomings and impediments in the implementation of the aforementioned socio-eco packages. Further, it suggested the mechanisms to make future schemes designed for the progress and uplift of Balochistan successful.

Mere discussion in the parliament to announce a welfare package for Balochistan is not enough. Rather, the focus of different forces working to carry out the national agenda in the province must be aligned with the thought and philosophy behind the announcement of any welfare package, thus synergizing the efforts of all the stakeholders to attain the objectives. Political leaders use these packages to win the favor of their voters instead of spending money for the overall progress of their area. Technological and ecological factors also need to be considered while planning future packages. The security factor is directly impacted by the socio-eco packages announced for the province, and that's why all packages meet the disapproval of the forces working against the interests of the province. If implemented well, these packages would have been harbingers of peace and prosperity in Balochistan.

5.2. Limitations

No study is without limitation, and so is this study. Environmental factors picked to be investigated for the study paint a broader picture, whereas more factors like ecological, cultural, and traditional factors may have opted to be studied in future research for a detailed analysis. Each project, either announced or started under the aforementioned socio-eco-packages, can be analyzed in light of environmental factors to gain a deeper understanding of the problems related to failure or non-commencement of the projects. Lastly, the study is interview-based that of the academia and administration departments; other stakeholders may also be included, and thorough research be conducted to unearth the solution to the problems.

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