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## EDUCATIONAL JIGSAW TAKE SHAPES AT BALOCHISTAN

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**ABSTRACT**

*Education is one of the most crucial and irrefutable part of any economy which guarantee economic prosperity of any nation through its catalytic effects on growth and development and leave its meaningful footprints on generation of human capital, which in turn revamp the level of productivity and transitional growth towards much greater level of quality output. Education will increase the cognitive skills of individuals through incorporating new knowledge and enable a society to confront the challenges of new technology by greasing the wheels of knowledge through the characteristics of transposal and propagation. Pakistan instead of being the fortunate nation, with one of the highest number of youngsters is still struggling to achieve the desired pace of growth due to its poor delivery in education sector. This deprived position of educational attainment vary from province to province. This study attempts to analyze the status and standard of education at Balochistan as it is the only path which catapult any nation on the road of prosperity.*

**KEYWORDS**

*Human Development Index (HDI), Higher education institutions (HEI's), Literacy Rate, Gender Parity Index (GPI)*

**INTRODUCTION**

Education being the primary need for the future development of any society which provides a better way of living and act as a guidelines in every aspect of life but unfortunately Pakistan occupies the lowest literacy rate in the entire region. If we look at the data of 1951 (divided on the basis of gender) than females are superseding males with literacy rate of 19% as compared to 18% males which was still very low numbers. Pakistan stands on the position of 152 out of 189 nations in HDI calculated by United Nations in 2019.

The Human development report 2019 highlighted the stagnant position of Pakistan in achieving better numbers in education and the reasons concluded to be the less priority and poor expenditures on the most important sector of a country which is obviously incomparable with the neighboring nations so, state and other stakeholders have the huge responsibility to uplift the literacy condition of local youth by providing them opportunities of basic education, higher education and technical education which polish the skills and work as a tool of transforming human resource to human capital.

If we go through the literacy conditions at various provinces of Pakistan than it is concluded that Balochistan is the most educationally deprived province of Pakistan. This paper focuses the educational pattern of Pakistan focusing Balochistan where it is prominently visible from the facts that there is a dire need to establish schools, colleges and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) at Balochistan to develop skillful human resource in the provinces. There are 229 higher educational institutions in Pakistan out of which 79 in Punjab, 66 in Sindh, 42 in KPK, 23 in Islamabad, 10 in Balochistan 7 in Azad Jammu & Kashmir and 2 in Gilgit Baltistan where we are expecting lots of opportunities for employment of youth at Balochistan after completion of CPEC in the near future.

**Literacy rate of Pakistan and its provinces**

Province/Area	2014-15			2019-20		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Pakistan</b>	70	49	60	70	50	60
Rural	63	38	51	64	39	52
Urban	82	69	76	79	67	74

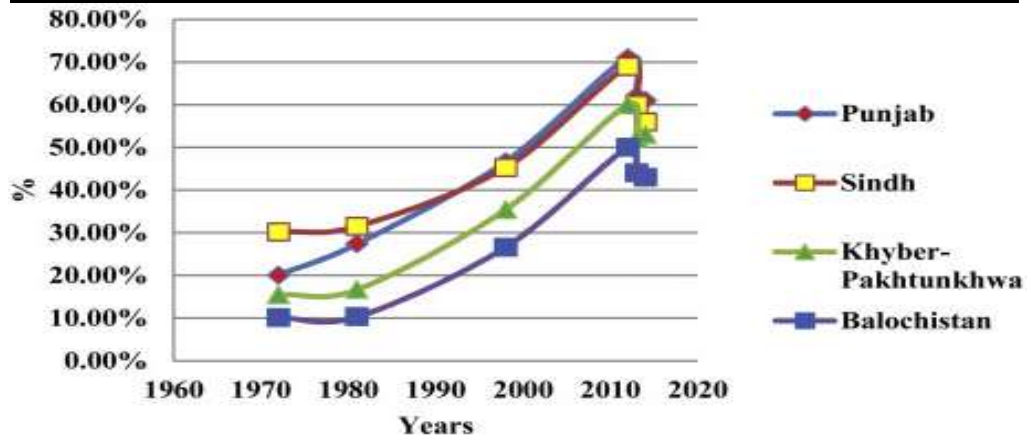
<b>Punjab</b>	71	55	63	72	57	64
Rural	65	45	55	67	48	57
Urban	82	73	77	80	72	76
<b>Sindh</b>	70	49	60	68	47	58
Rural	55	24	40	53	23	39
Urban	82	70	76	79	66	73
<b>KPK(Including Merged Areas)</b>	-	-	-	71	35	53
Rural	-	-	-	69	31	50
Urban	-	-	-	80	53	67
<b>BALUCHISTAN</b>	61	25	44	61	29	46
Rural	54	17	38	55	22	40
Urban	78	42	61	76	47	63

Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2020-21; [www.finance.gov.pk](http://www.finance.gov.pk)

Comparing the provincial facts and figures at different time periods indicate the improving position of literacy rate at Punjab as it was 20.07% in 1972 and about 64% in 2020 but the improvement is prominent at the elementary school level which obviously require further progress. Sindh is the most populous province of Pakistan where population exceeds 25 million but still Sindh is struggling to push its literacy rate from 58% to over 70%.

KPK is the victim of security threats since Afghan war and it is always a major concern of families lived in KPK to send their wards to educational institutions so with many efforts Government manage to attain the rate of over 50% but unfortunately Balochistan, the land of mountain and deserts, the land of Gwadar port, the land where most part of CPEC lies unable to achieve good numbers as its always problematic to structure the schooling amenities there and only 46% of its population are literate according to data of 2020.

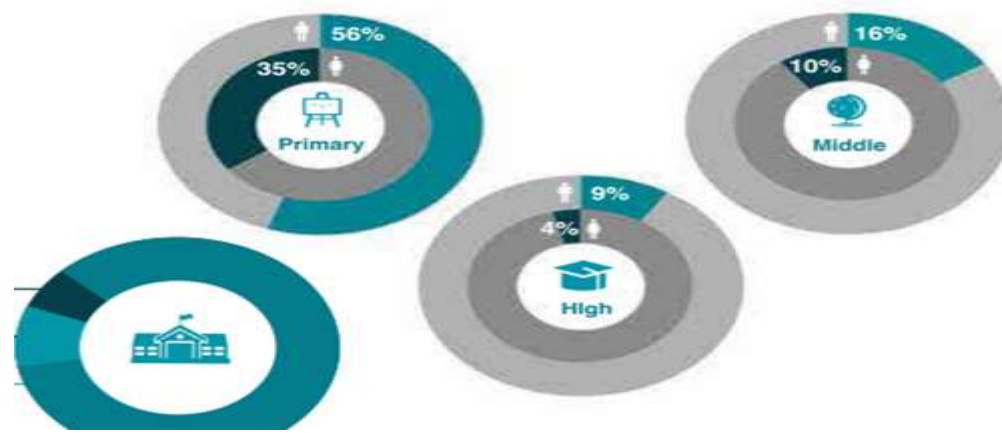
Achieving the desired outcome of CPEC depends totally upon its utilization which is not possible without human capital. Children is the most valuable asset of any nation so, it's very challenging for the Government to convince the people resides at Balochistan to acquire education (in the typical tribal setup) which is the only root to transform human resource into human capital and guarantee better utilization of CPEC projects in near future.



Source: Economic Survey of Pakistan 2020-21; [www.finance.gov.pk](http://www.finance.gov.pk)

It is a noticeable fact that, Balochistan is far away in the race of attaining and quality of education if we compare all the provinces which requires immediate attention by the stakeholders.

Balochistan is the most deprived province in terms of poverty and education in Pakistan. There are several reasons behind this situation which includes poor connectivity, poor infrastructure, poverty, tribal set up, gender bias and worst security environment. Improvement in the province require strict governance and political will to bring change but it is only possible through education.



So, dreaming better economic outcomes from CPEC is not at all possible without education and training which demand a collaborative work by public and private sector by providing better quality education at various cities of Balochistan through establishment of schools, intermediate colleges, HEI's new campuses/vocational Institutes, with a vision to enjoy fruits of CPEC by catching best opportunities in upcoming future subject to all expected and unexpected constraints.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

To improve education at Balochistan is always a challenging task for Government as almost ninety percent of the small villages and cities of Balochistan have either no school or if the school exist it faces the issue of having no teacher to teach (AA Hai, A Fatima, M Sadaqat, 2010).

If we look at the reasons behind poor performance of the province than having no teacher or no school are the only reasons; gender discrimination to access education is also very alarming at Balochistan. Gender Parity Index (GPI) of Balochistan indicate this disparity at almost at every stage of education which obviously reflect the poor participation of females in the development of nation (F Abbas, 2014).

It is also found that most of educational dropouts are from school either due to heavy punishments and mishandling of child's which is not confined to drop out but most of the time becomes the root cause of increasing the ratio of runaway child. According to the principle of First call for Children families must prioritize basic needs fulfillment of their kids but still it is very unfortunate that we are unable to guarantee the children's right which includes acquiring education it is estimated that over 3.3 million children are still engaged as a child labor obviously at the expense of education which mans a student with no basic education obviously unable to reach the higher education institutions (JK Achakzai, 2011).

It is also noticeable fact that workplace inactivity deteriorate the quality to delivery of faculty which is reflected in the student's results failure of students of Balochistan in the competitive market while graduates from the other provinces proved themselves to be the better performer (R Ismail, M Ali, 2016).

According to (Baloch, 2006) Acquiring education is the real dream of residents of Balochistan but it is set as a priority for the ruling parties of the province. Education is always assessed through its outcomes but if we examine the educational outcomes at Balochistan we observe very poor conditions because the untrained teacher having low

capability to deliver lacks in achieving those outcomes (J Faiz - Balochistaniyat, 2016).

Education being the driver of social awareness it is also observed that educated women have their active role in decision making process not only within the family but in the society as well (S Khan, MR Sajid, 2011) but this awareness of being empowered as a partner in decision making process will cause huge discrimination to access (females) education at Balochistan which require some strong policy change along with the enforcement to create the real change (SH Shah, AS Lodhi, M Ahmed , 2016).

CPEC is expected to be the fate changer for Pakistan where there is no CPEC without Gwadar (Balochistan). It is estimated that, after CPEC, Pakistan will expect that growth in social wellbeing by 5.21% and till 2020 Balochistan achieves that highest growth in social wellbeing which is almost 6.4% but obviously the best results which we wish to gain from CPEC depends on our ability take advantage which is best possible if we engage our large population in different upcoming projects of CPEC so, there is a strong need to educate our work force specifically at Balochistan as major part of success of CPEC depends on Balochistan (R Haq, N Farooq , 2016) but we are still lack in provision of better education.

#### **Job opportunities at various projects of CPEC in major cities of Balochistan**

Province of Balochistan largely based upon the production of Natural Gas, Coal, Minerals, Agriculture & Livestock, Fisheries, Mining and Manufacturing Industries. Most of the population directly or indirectly associated with and depends on these sectors for their livelihood. Almost 25,000 students are graduated from Balochistan every year out of which only 2000 candidates secure jobs in different Government and private organizations. Government jobs are the major source of employment in Balochistan. However, with the passage of time increase in population and lack of human capital development are making things worse. So, there is a requirement to develop skilled human resource which is only possible with quality education and vocational training.

In addition, China Pakistan Economic Corridor can also be decisive in shaping the economic growth and social order development of Balochistan where Gwadar is regarded as the cornerstone of CPEC. The construction of the Gwadar port began in 2002 triggered the development of the port city and surrounding areas. As the port becomes fully operational, it handles more than 6 million tons of import cargo so the developments in Gwadar have already encouraged economic activity not only in

Gwadar but it's all nearby areas. The projects in CPEC and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have already been identified which require skilled labor force for different projects at Balochistan. Therefore, well equipped campus is required to be developed for producing the human resource for the industries like Construction, Energy, Fisheries, Food Processing, Port & Shipping, Maritime, Mining & Manufacturing, Tourism, Hospitality etc.

#### **List of CPEC projects planned at Balochistan**

1. Quetta Mass Transit Train Project
2. Naukundi-Mashkhel-Panjgur Road, 317 KM in Length
3. Quetta Water Supply Project
4. Industrial Estates in Bostan and Khuzdar
5. Work on upgradation of N50 highway
6. Upgradation of Khuzdar-Basima Road
7. Upgradation of Zhob D.I Khan Road 210 KM in length
8. Establishment of Five New Berths at Gwadar Port
9. Construction of East-Bay Expressway Phase-II in Gwadar
10. Establishment of Bao Steel Park in Gwadar
11. Establishment of Stainless Steel factory in Gwadar free zone
12. Establishment of Photon Automobile plant in Gwadar Free zone
13. Gwadar East-Bay Expressway
14. New Gwadar International Airport
15. Construction of Breakwaters at Gwadar
16. Dredging of Berthing Areas & Channels at Gwadar
17. Development of Gwadar Free Zone
18. Pak-China Friendship Hospital at Gwadar
19. Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar
20. Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan

Source:<http://cpec.gov.pk/progress-update>

<https://www.balochistanvoices.com/2016/12/development-balochistan-12-new-projects-included-cpec/>

#### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

1. This study aims to highlight the status of past, present and expected future of education at Balochistan.
2. It covers the link between deprivation of province and education, highlighted the governance issues and the expected bright future of province due to CPEC.
3. This study is an attempt to recommend the route by which educational progression

is possible at Balochistan which guarantee the economic prosperity of this deprived province.

### Statistics of students of Balochistan

Year	No. of Students Passed Out from Colleges	No. of Students Enrolled in Universities	No. of Students Unable to Get Higher Education
2018	37,972	31,925	6,047
2019	39,111	32,882	6,229
2020	40,284	33,868	6,416

Source: Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Website (For data of 2018) [www.bbiseqta.edu.pk](http://www.bbiseqta.edu.pk)

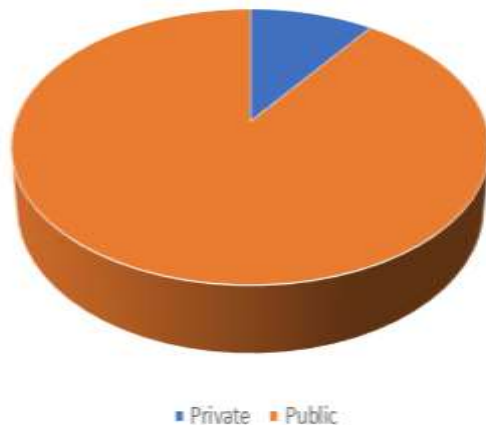
### Statistics of Universities at Balochistan

Name	Sector	Discipline	City
Al-Hamd Islamic University	Private	General	Quetta
BALOCHISTAN University of Engineering & Technology	Public	General	Khuzdar
BALOCHISTAN University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS)	Public	Engineering & Technology	Quetta
Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water & Marine Sciences	Public	General	Lasbella
Mir Chakar Khan Rind University, Sibi	Public	General	Sibi
BALOCHISTAN Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University	Public	General	Quetta
The Bolan University of Medical and Health Sciences	Public	Medical	Quetta
University of BALOCHISTAN	Public	General	Quetta
University of Loralai	Public	General	Loralai
University of Turbat	Public	General	Turbat

NUST	Private	General	Quetta
NUML	Private	General	Quetta

Source: [www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk)

### Universities are operated in Balochistan Province



### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology used in this paper is a combination of fundamental and descriptive studies with an objective to identify the prevalence issues of education at Balochistan. By generalizing the phenomenon of gathering knowledge for the sake of knowledge to create a pool of better policy recommendations by comparing status of education at Balochistan over the different period of time.

### Gap Analysis

Balochistan has the lowest socio-economic indicators in the country including educational achievements. Lowest labor productivity is the root cause of insufficient human capital showing low number/weak performance of schools, colleges and HEIs. Previous studies highlights that around 6000 students are unable to get themselves enrolled in any university each year due to various reasons. In light of these facts, it is highly recommended to establish schools, intermediate colleges, HEIs and vocational centers in different cities of Balochistan.

### Security Situation at Balochistan

From the time of independence, Pakistan’s largest province (in terms of area) having

special geographic and geostrategic position and immeasurable natural wealth inducing a coastal belt has remained captivated with anarchy and interruption. Between economic interests, socio-political issues, and ethnic tensions Balochistan has been a region subject to insecurity for decades, where insurgencies are continued which is a barrier to growth and prosperity of this province. This unfeasible environment restricts economic development, provision of health and education facilities, and build infrastructure facilities. Although, the situation is improving but still needs enhancement in Governance and security arrangements that ensure the development of human capital which guarantee economic prosperity of the province.

The city of Quetta is situated in the north of Balochistan and close to Afghan and Iran borders due to which it has faced volatile security situation during last many years. Moreover, there is a rising trend in sectarian conflicts in the city. Turbat has a long history of violent attacks and terrorist activities amongst different groups of society. Security conditions at Ormara has improved a lot due to development of Pakistan Naval Base in the area and settlement of families from different parts of Pakistan. Besides, Gwadar has been a prime target for Baloch nationalist insurgents, who during the last few years have perpetrated at least 5 major attacks in the district, including one in Gwadar and others on the outskirts of Jiwani, Pasni and Ormara. Nevertheless, Pakistan Navy and Army in co-ordination with Chinese security forces have created a new task force for defense of the port and Gwadar city, if we compare the situation of few cities of Balochistan (considering the expected economic activities due to CPEC) than the situation is,

#### Comparative analysis of large cities at Balochistan

	<u>Gwadar</u>	<u>Quetta</u>	<u>Ormara</u>	<u>Turbat</u>
<b>Population (2017 census)</b>	90,762	1,001,205	17,780	213,557
<b>Security Conditions</b>	Better	Poor	Better	Poor
<b>City Infrastructure</b>	Newly Built Infrastructure	Old Infrastructure	Poor Infrastructure	Poor Infrastructure

<b>Expected Economic Activities In Near Future Job Opportunities (CPEC) HEIs</b>	High potential due to CPEC	Moderate	Moderate	Low
	High	Moderate	Moderate	Low
	-	5	-	1

**Source: Authors observation generated through literature.**

**CONCLUSION**

Education, which is the basic right of every individual is looking to be the real victim in Balochistan. Having the vast history of several military operations since independence (Harrison, 1981, 2006; Bansal, 2010 and Breseeg, 2004) but after 2006 when Nawab Akbar Bugti killed in a military operation student unions at educational institutions react violently and set fire to various HEIs at Balochistan so education become the victim of politics and after several attacks security condition worsen the educational climate at Balochistan.

It is concluded that there are various reasons of deprived education system at Balochistan including access to education, no institutions, qualified work force, inactivity, gender bias, political structure and the connected border with Iran and the presence of cross border disturbances created by India to destroy the peace of Balochistan as an attempt to destabilize CPEC and severity of Pakistan but there is no doubt in the fact that education is only weapon to cope up all the challenges so, public and private educational institutions are required to establish to secure the future of Pakistan and as we are moving towards 2030 (completion of CPEC) visible changes are noticed regarding the awareness not only in education but quality education where women participation are also improving with a slow pace.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

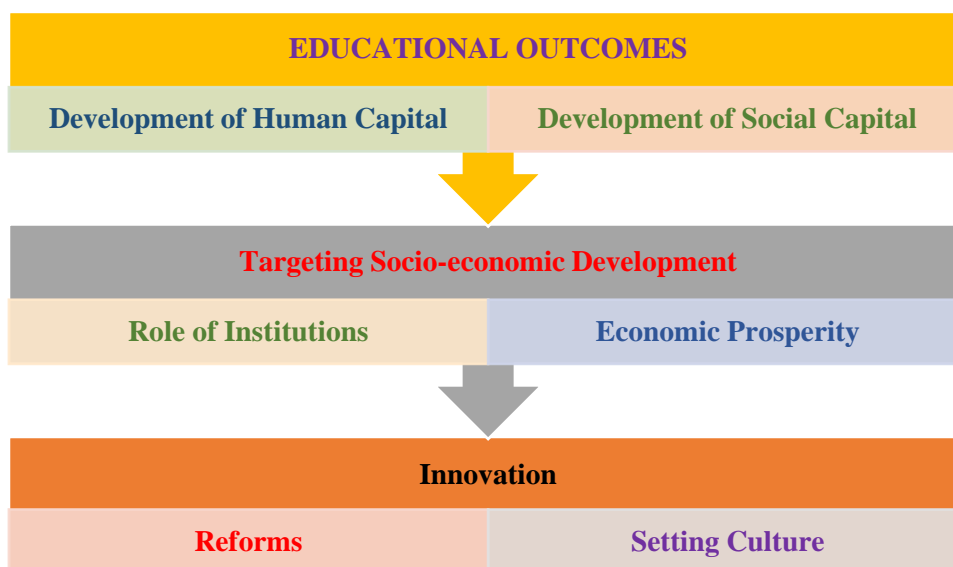
Balochistan achieve substantial growth in education but it’s a long journey to attain required bench mark but it is only possible through several policy measures like, To improve access to new learning resources at every institution of province. Actions are taken to improve the quality of teachers through trainings to acquire better quality of students. To increase number of institutions public private partnership are encouraged.

More efforts are taken to ensure security concerns of parents.

Government must ensure the low fee structure at private institutions as well so, that the poor population of Balochistan lives in vicious circle of poverty are also able to access quality education.

Strong security steps are taken against those who involve in disturbing the peace of province.

In order to increase the pace of desired outcomes, awareness regarding economic outcomes of education must be highlighted through various media sources.



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