

PAKISTAN

• 14 August 1947, Pakistan became an independent country. But it faced many problems.

- Geographical
- Political
- Economic

Statehoodto a singlestate

The original idea of autonomous statehood (as mentioned in the original draft of the Lahore Resolution) was replaced by an idea of a single "State."

☐ For how long did it last?



- ☐ The merger of two widely different regions could not exist for long.
- As time went by, alongside the geographical, social and cultural differences, there also developed gradual disparity between the two wings in economic and other institutional levels such as military, educational and political representations.

DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS EAST PAKISTAN

- The state of Pakistan emerged in accordance with the proposals made in the Lahore Resolution, But East Bengal did not get the status of a separate sovereign state in accordance with the fundamental of the Lahore Resolution.
- East Bengal had to strive for autonomy through movements and agitations for long 24 years.
- During this long span of time West Pakistani rulers adopted the policy of discrimination and oppression against the people of East Pakistan in political, administrative, military, economic, educational and social and cultural areas.
- In protest of this, movement for autonomy and independence originated in East Pakistan i.e. East Bengal.

POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION

- Since its inception in 1947, East Pakistan was made crippled politically and was dependent on West Pakistan.
- Though it was mentioned in the Lahore Resolution that the states were to be autonomous, Pakistani rulers were reluctant about this matter from the very beginning.
- They defied democracy and continued ruling the country through autocracy and military rule.
- They imposed colonial rule on East Pakistan and worked for the prosperity of West Pakistan by depriving the East in every field of social, political and economic activities.
- They created stalemate in the political atmosphere of East Pakistan by oppressing and suppressing the political leaders. They repeatedly sent the national leaders including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to illegitimate imprisonments.

POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION

- In spite of being majority, Bangalis had very few representatives in the Cabinet of Pakistan.
- To create hindrance for the democratic process, Pakistani rulers showed their disinclination to hold elections for the National and Provincial Legislative Assemblies.
- They removed the elected government of Juktafront from the power unlawfully in 1954.
- Later they dissolved the East Pakistan cabinets repeatedly to collapse the governance.
- Finally, the Government of Pakistan imposed Martial Law and withheld people's democratic rights.

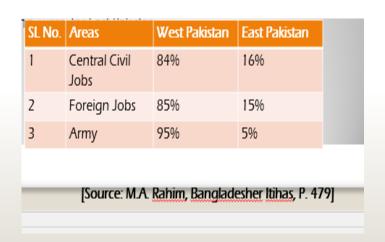
ADMINISTRATIVE DISCRIMINATION

- The officials of the civil service were the key force in the Pakistani administration.
- In 1962 there were only 119 Bangalis among 954 high ranking officials in the Ministries.
- In the central government offices there were 42000 employees, among them only 2900 were Bangalis.
- As the capital was set up in Karachi in 1947, the West Pakistanis got employment in a large scale in all government offices.
- It may be mentioned that the West Pakistanis enjoyed the absolute right to hold almost all high positions in the central government offices.
- All the head-offices were in West Pakistan. It was not possible for the Bangalis to go there to compete for a job because of the geographical distance.
- As Bangla did not get the status of the state language in Pakistan till 1956, success in the competitive examinations for government jobs was not easy for the Bangali students.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE ARMY

- Disparity of the West Pakistanis over East Pakistan was clearly marked in the military affairs. Representation of Bangalis in the army was negligible.
- From the very beginning Punjabis had been occupying the top posts of the army. They resorted to the policy of keeping a distance from the Bangalis.
- In the recruitment policy of the army they adopted a quota system allocating 60% Punjabis, 35% Pathans and only 5% from other parts of the whole Pakistan including East Pakistan.
- There was a very negligible increase in the number as a consequence of the pressing demands of the Bangali. A census in 1955 revealed that among 2211 army officers Bangalis were only 82. In 1966 there was only one Bangali among the 17 top ranking officials.
- During Ayub Khan's regime 60% of the total outlay of the government was allocated for the army. East Pakistan was liable for supplying the major part of the budget, but the defense of East Pakistan suffered from negligence.

Military



The **headquarters** of the three Defense Services were established in West Pakistan.

In the Army, of the total Commissioned Officers 95 percent posts were held by the West Pakistanis and East Pakistan had a share of only 5 percent.

In Air Force only 17% were from East Pakistan. Similar was the case in the Navy in which the percentage of superior officers ranged from 5 to 17%.

SL No.	Areas	West Pakistan	East Pakistan			
1	Central Civil Jobs	84%	16%			
2	Foreign Jobs	85%	15%			
3	Army	95%	5%			
[Source: M.A. Rahim, Bangladesher Itihas, P. 479]						

• Employment In the administrative arena, within 1966, 77% 1st class jobs belonged to the West Pakistanis.

74% for 2nd Class,

73% for 3rd Class and

70% for 4th Class jobs went to West Pakistan while remaining were for East Pakistan.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY

- East Pakistan suffered from the highest disparity caused by West Pakistan in economic affairs.
- The degree of exploitation by West Pakistan was terrible. As a result, East Pakistan could never be economically self-sufficient.
- Provincial government did not have any authority to exercise in currency management and economic control.
- Under the supervision of the central government all types of income of East Pakistan was drained to West Pakistan.
- Head-offices of banks, insurance and commercial organisations including The Central Bank were in West Pakistan.
- For this reason, money was laundered (obtained illegally) to West Pakistan very easily.
- East Pakistan had to rely on West Pakistan for the required monetary allocations.
- The surplus financial savings remained deposited in West Pakistan. As a result, East Pakistan never had any growth in the capital formation.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY

- All types of planning were designed and prepared in the Headquarter of the Central Government in West Pakistan.
- As there was no representation of the Bangalis, West Pakistani rulers deprived East Pakistanis of their lawful rights.
- Since inception, three five-year plans were adopted in Pakistan. In the first one the government outlay from budget allocations in East and West Pakistan was 113 crore and 500 crore, respectively.
- In the second one the budget allocations were 950 crore for East Pakistan and 1350 crore for West Pakistan.
- In the third five-year plan the budget allotments were 36% and 63% respectively for East and West Pakistan.
- The maximum portion of the allocated outlay for the renovation and development of the capital was for West Pakistan.
- 570 crore was spent in 1956 for the development works in Karachi, which was 56.4% of the total government expenditure.

ECONOMIC DISPARITY

- At that time the rate of total government expenditure in East Pakistan was 5.10%.
- 300 crore taka was spent for constructing Islamabad till 1967; whereas, the money spent for Dhaka was 25 crore taka.
- Though the low-cost raw materials were available in East Pakistan, most of the mills and factories were set up in West Pakistan.
- The few industries grew in East Pakistan were owned by West Pakistanis.
- So for industrial matters East Pakistan had to rely on West Pakistan.
- There was no barrier for anyone who went from East Pakistan to West Pakistan taking gold and money with him, but there were government restrictions on bringing gold and money from West Pakistan to East Pakistan.

Economic

The provincial government did not have any control over its currency and economy. As everything was controlled by the Centre, all the income of East Pakistan flew away to West Pakistan.

Bank,trade andcommerce

Head offices of the State Bank and other banks, insurance companies, trading concerns and foreign missions were established in West Pakistan.

Foreign exchange

About two thirds of the foreign exchange of Pakistan was earned by selling the jute of East Pakistan. But the jute farmers could never get the **fair price** for their products.

Capital investment

Between the financial years, 1947-48 and 1960-61, capital investment for development purposes amounted to 172 crore Rupees for East Pakistan, it was 430 crore Rupees for West Pakistan.

Education

Grade	East Pakistan 1968-69	West Pakistan 1968-69		
University	04	09		
Medical, Engineering College	09	17		
Primary School	28307	39418		
Source: Bangladesh documents, Ministry of External Affairs,				
	India	, 1971 (p:17)		

During the period 1947-58, enrollment in primary schools increased by 163% in West Pakistan and by 38% in East Pakistan.

Enrollment in secondary schools increased by 64% in West Pakistan, but **dropped by 6.6%** in East Pakistan.

University enrollment increased by 38% in West Pakistan, but by only 11% in East Pakistan.

DISPARITY IN EDUCATION

- Bangalis experienced discrimination in the field of education too.
- West Pakistan wanted at heart the backwardness of Bangalis in the field of education, whereas they chalked out massive plans for the spread of education in West Pakistan.
- So, they did not undertake any plan for the improvement of education in East Pakistan.

DISPARITY IN EDUCATION

- Besides, they attempted to strike the education system of East Pakistan by replacing Bangla with Urdu as the medium of education.
- They also conspired to introduce a system of writing Bangla in Arabic language.
- In the matter of allocating budget for education, extreme disparity was maintained between the two wings of Pakistan.
- From the total allocation for education during the period of 1955 to 1967, a sum of 2084 million rupees was allotted for West Pakistan in contrast to 797 million rupees for East Pakistan.
- West Pakistan got 30 scholarships out of the total 35 in Pakistan and East Pakistan received only the remaining 5.

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION

 West Pakistanis enjoyed more privileges than Bangalis in the field of roads and highways, school-colleges, courts and offices, hospitals, postal services, telephone, telegraph, electricity, etc.

 Most of the West Pakistanis got the benefit of social welfare and service-oriented activities. As a result, West Pakistanis enjoyed a better living standard.

Health and SocialDevelopmentSector

Area	West	East
Population	5.50 crore	7.50 crore
Number of Doctors	12400	7600
Rural Health Complex	325	88
Social Development Centre	81	52

CULTURAL DISPARITY

- Language, literature and culture of the two wings of Pakistan were quite different.
- East Pakistan had 56% of the total population. Moreover, Bengali language and culture had the heritage of thousands of years.
- On the other hand, 45% of the total population lived in West Pakistan, but there existed different languages, nationalities, and cultures.
- Urdu speaking people were only 3.27%. (In another source* it says the percentage of Urdu speaking people in 4 provinces of West Pakistan was only 7 percent in 1951, which remained almost same in 2020).
- Still West Pakistani rulers engaged themselves in conspiring to wipe out Bangla language which the majority people used to speak as well as the highly enriched Bengali culture.
- At the very beginning, they tried to eradicate Bangla language and had the attempt to use Arabic alphabets in writing Bangla.
- Though Tagore's songs, plays and literatures heightened Bangla culture, they attempted to forbid them in order to undermine the Bengali culture. They even tried to create hindrance in the celebration of Pahela Baishakh mentioning that the festivity had Hindu influence.

Culturaldiscrimination



- Bengali was the mother tongue of **56 percent** of the people of Pakistan. On the other hand, Urdu was the mother tongue of **less than 10%** of the people of the whole of Pakistan (Census 1951).
- ☐ Thus Bengali, despite being the language of most of the people of Pakistan, was ignored by the Pakistani ruling group as a state language.

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