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An Analysis of the socio-economic development of Balochistan's rural population

Abstract

This paper focuses on analyzing the economic development of rural areas in Balochistan. Specifically, this paper focuses on collecting annual data that describes the average wages of citizens in these areas; the percentage of the population with basic access to healthcare; the percentage of the population with basic access to primary school education; and economic empowerment of women.

This paper collects data via secondary and tertiary sources. The main motive behind this means of data collection is to gather statistical trends from multiple timelines without being limited to data from a single period. There are four topics for which data is collected to obtain a meaningful conclusion: Average wages, Access to healthcare, Literacy rate, and the economic role of women in rural Balochistan.

This paper collects secondary information in the form of statistical charts from other, more specific papers. The time of research is a dependent variable in all facets of the data collection for this paper. The importance of correlating time is to affirm that trends can only be analyzed by understanding the rate at which a specific variable, like average wage, is increasing/decreasing. According to this methodology, we have come to the following results. The average wage relative to the value of rupees has remained stagnant. There have been no major changes. Additionally, there have been trends showing a reduction in The average wage relative to the currency's value. Access to healthcare has been alarmingly low in Balochistan. The literacy rate remains stagnant in most regions but has seen progressive change in other areas of Balochistan. The level of women empowerment remains stagnant in almost all rural areas. No progressive change has been observed as per the creation of this paper.

Methodology

All the data collected in this research is qualitative. Conclusions are based on the relative trend and, conversely, the future trends for the specific variables chosen to be analyzed.

All data is collected in either a graphical form- like charts - or in the form of individual pieces of information collected by the researcher and used as references.

The first facet of information collection is on the average wages of citizens in rural areas of Balochistan. The timeline is a dependent variable, since it is necessary to get the general trend of average wages from different timelines. It has been observed that the valuation of rupees has not been stable and has observed a steep decline. Therefore, the average salary of citizens is shown by comparing its value to the value of gold. This can be done via the following

equation:
$$\frac{\text{average wage in rupees}}{\text{one gram of gold in rupees}}.$$

Figure 0.1 shows the value of gold in rupees relative to time. The hyper-inflation of rupees can be clearly observed in this figure. Conclusively, these statistics show that currency is not an appropriate indicator to measure the purchasing power of an individual. The data for average wages is collected via official statistical reports made by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The data for gold rate is collected from a website blog.

The second set of information collected is data on access to healthcare in rural areas of Balochistan. For this section, several sets of data are investigated to get to a conclusion. These statistics are the infant mortality rate, the percentage death rate, and the average lifespan of Balochistan in comparison to other regions. Due to limited statistical data about Balochistan, this section only focuses on a single period, rather than multiple periods of time.

$$infant_{mortality} = \frac{infant_death}{live_births} \times 100\%$$

$$Death_{rate} = \frac{Total_Deaths}{Population} \times 100\%$$

The third set of information is about the literacy rate in rural Balochistan.

The information collected will be about the overall literacy rate of individuals in rural Balochistan for the year 2018-19; and The Percentage of children that go to primary schools

The fourth set of information is about the involvement of women in the economy. The data collected is about the literacy rate of women in comparison to men:

$$Literate_{women} / Literate_{men} ;$$

and the growth in percentage of people in the workforce that are women i.e. the trends in female workforce participation, this specific information is calculated by

$$\frac{total\ female\ workforce\ percentage}{total\ male\ workforce\ percentage}$$

Results

The first set of data collected was about the purchasing power of citizens in Balochistan from 2011-2019. From **Fig 1.1**, a sharp downward trend can be seen of the purchasing power of citizens in rural Balochistan. The purchasing power decreased from 0.74 to 0.44 units. This means that the average purchasing power of a citizen decreased by >40% in just 8 years.

In 2019, the average wage of a citizen was 25610 PKR. The absolute poverty value as per 2017 was \$1.9 per day or \$57 a month [1]. The value of 25610 PKR was approximately double this standard during 2019.

The second set of data collection was about access to healthcare.

According to the data collected, Rural Balochistan has an infant mortality rate of 1.02% and death rate of 1.96% of population in 2018-20. This means that the infant mortality rate and the death rate were 10.2 and 19.6, respectively. It is necessary to keep in mind that this statistic is about infant mortality rate for infants with an age of <1.

The death rate of 19.6 is above that of Afghanistan and Bulgaria, two countries that have relatively high death rates.[2]

In 2018-20, Rural Balochistan had a lifespan of 65.49 years. As of 2021, the average life expectancy globally is 71.33 years. [world bank].

The third set of data collection was about the literacy rate of Rural Balochistan.

According to the data collected, the overall literacy rate was 40% and the children out of school were 58.96% of the children population. This implies that less than half the population had access to basic primary education in 2018-19.

As of 2018, the global literacy rate was 86.34% [3]. 40% is less than half of this rate.

41.04% of children being out of school implies that literacy rate may remain a stagnant statistic in rural areas of Balochistan.

The fourth set of information collected mainly focused on the economic emphasis on women. The population of women relative to the population of men in the workforce was measured and it was concluded that women have a similar percentage of

population in the workforce, relative to men. However, after analysis it was predicted that the role of women will be decreasing in the workforce. This can be seen in **Fig 4.1**, which shows a clear delineation in the population of women in the workforce after 2012.

Additionally, the literacy of women in comparison to men was measured and the ratio was **22:55**. This implies that out of every 77 literate people, only 22 of them were women. This Implies that the emphasis of education was higher on men rather than women.

Figures

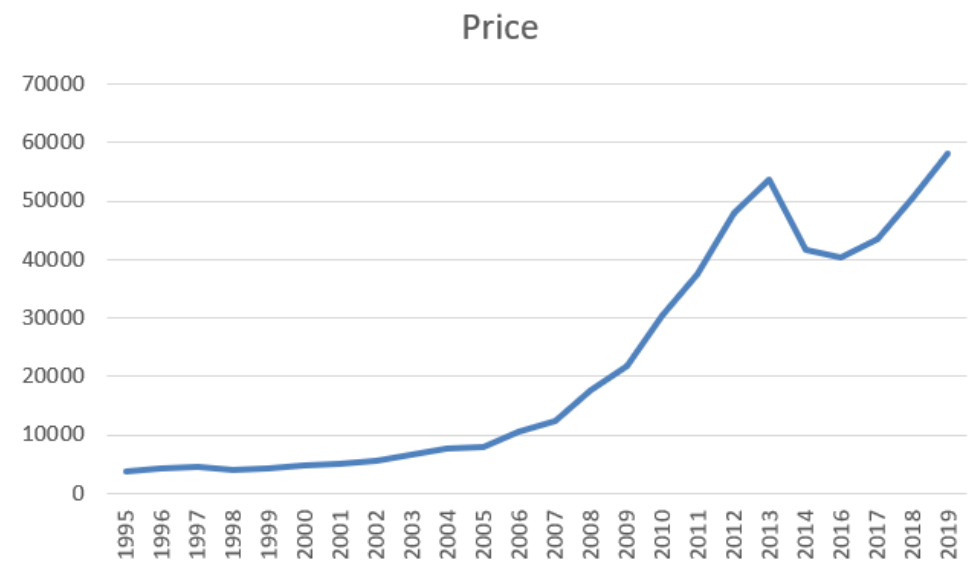


Fig 0.1: Gold Rate relative to Pakistani rupees (Summarized and displayed in the form of a chart)

Overseas Pakistani Friends, **‘Gold prices from 1995-2004, 2004-2012, 2012-2019’**,

<https://www.opfblog.com/34826/gold-prices-from-1995-2004/> ,August 2019;

<https://www.opfblog.com/34830/gold-price-in-pakistan-2004-2012/> , August 2019;

<https://www.opfblog.com/34828/gold-prices-in-pkr-july-2012-april-2019/> , August 2019.

year	purchasing power
2011	0.746237166
2012	0.581806754
2016	0.63320951
2018	0.507591073
2019	0.440579411

Fig 1.1: Purchasing Power relative to gold rate (summarized into a chart)

Pakistan Board of Statistics, ‘Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020’,

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

Pakistan Board of Statistics, ‘KEY FINDINGS OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 2020-21’,

https://pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/hies15-16/TABLE_11.pdf

Pakistan Board of Statistics, ‘PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY SOURCE AND QUINTILES, 2015-16’,

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/hies15-16/TABLE_11.pdf

Age of Mother	All Places	Home	Govt. Hospital/Facility	Private Hospital/Facility	Other
All Mothers	1,132,106	730,593	238,267	163,247	0
15-19	9,928	5,372	2,952	1,604	0
20-24	306,026	192,197	70,155	43,674	0
25-29	368,681	241,438	75,022	52,221	0
30-34	189,814	115,402	43,890	30,522	0
35-39	141,207	99,136	22,008	20,063	0
40-44	64,518	46,057	9,868	8,593	0
45-49	25,559	16,979	6,531	2,049	0
Other	26,373	14,012	7,841	4,521	0

Fig 2.1: Live Births (2018-2020) by Place of Delivery and Age of Mother

Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020, page 87

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

Age at Death	Balochistan			Urban Area			Rural Area		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Total (Under 1 Year)	63,310	31,832	31,477	14,469	7,118	7,351	48,841	24,713	24,126
Under 1 month	53,040	27,516	25,524	14,111	7,118	6,993	38,929	20,397	18,531
1 month	1,876	970	906	358	0	358	1,518	970	548
2 months	1,174	552	621	0	0	0	1,174	552	621
3 months	2,617	772	1,845	0	0	0	2,617	772	1,845
4 months	1,960	0	1,960	0	0	0	1,960	0	1,960
5 months	1,134	513	621	0	0	0	1,134	513	621
6 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 months	1,120	1,120	0	0	0	0	1,120	1,120	0
8 months	389	389	0	0	0	0	389	389	0
9 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fig 2.2: Infant Death (2018-2020) by Sex, Age and Urban Rural Residence

Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020, page 97

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

AGE	Balochistan			Urban Area			Rural Area		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALL AGES	13,082,155	6,919,563	6,162,592	3,647,333	1,911,911	1,735,422	9,434,819	5,007,649	4,427,170

Fig 2.3: population (2018-2020) by Sex, Age and Urban Rural Residence

Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020, page 27

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

Age at Death (Years)	Balochistan			Urban Area			Rural Area		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
All Ages	269,679	145,738	123,941	84,567	43,263	41,304	185,114	102,476	82,637

Fig 2.3: Total Deaths (2018-2020) by Sex, Age and Urban Rural Residence

Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020, page 122

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

year	infant death	total deaths	lifespan	live births	infant mortality	population	death rate
2018-2020	48841	185,114	65.49	4794630	1.01866046	9,434,819	1.96203

Fig 2o: Calculated death rate, average lifespan, infant mortality rate for 2018-2020

Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

Table 2.1 Percentage of out of school children age (5-16) years			
Provinces/Region	Never Been to School	Drop Out	Out of School
Pakistan	23.56	6.57	30.13
Punjab	13.71	7.18	20.89
Sindh	35.44	6.13	41.56
KP Excluding Merged Areas	22.01	6.31	28.32
KP Including Merged Areas	25.03	6.12	31.15
Balochistan	54.25	4.73	58.98
Urban Areas	13.98	6.42	20.40
Punjab	7.02	6.54	13.55
Sindh	20.37	6.17	26.54
KP Excluding Merged Areas	14.24	6.44	20.69
KP Including Merged Areas	15.61	6.09	21.70
Balochistan	41.30	7.23	48.53
Rural Areas	28.34	6.65	34.99
Punjab	17.24	7.52	24.75
Sindh	49.33	6.09	55.42
KP Excluding Merged Areas	23.42	6.29	29.71
KP Including Merged Areas	26.67	6.12	32.79
Balochistan	58.95	3.83	62.77

Fig 3.1: Percentage of out-of-school children age (5-16) years

Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2018-19, page 18

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/pslm2018-19/pslm_report_2018-19_national_provincial.pdf

Area	Pakistan			Urban Area			Rural Area		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
Pakistan	61.38	69.1	53.44	74.37	78.87	69.67	53.72	63.26	44
Punjab	70.31	76.29	64.29	80.39	83.62	77.09	64.27	71.84	56.71
Sindh	52.07	60.08	43.42	68.63	73.94	62.89	33.65	44.66	21.73
KPK	56.2	69.79	42.69	69.65	78.07	61.01	53.48	68.08	39.05
Balochistan	32.52	41.06	22.93	52.84	61.56	43.25	24.58	33.16	14.89

Fig 3.2: Population that has Ever Attended School-By Region and Province

Pakistan Demographic Survey 2020, page 141

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/population/publications/pds2020/Pakistan_Demographic_Survey-2020.pdf

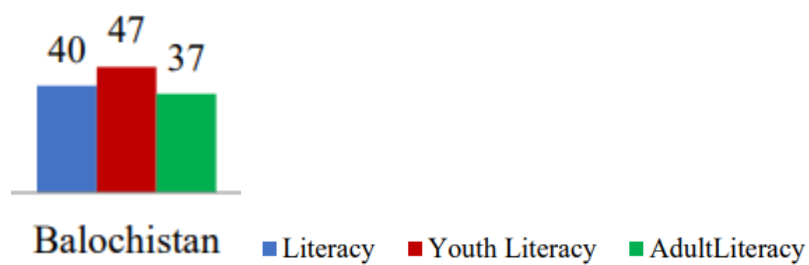


Fig 3.3: literacy rate of Balochistan 2018-19,

Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2018-19, page 20

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/pslm2018-19/pslm_report_2018-19_national_provincial.pdf

literacy rate	percentage children out of school
40	58.95

Fig 3o: Summarized data for literacy rate,

Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2018-19,

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/pslm2018-19/pslm_report_2018-19_national_provincial.pdf

PROVINCE & DISTRICT	URBAN			RURAL			TOTAL			RANK	TOTAL 14-15
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL		
Balochistan	76	47	63	55	22	40	61	29	46		44

Fig 4.1: Literacy rate

Pakistan Social & Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM) 2019-20, page 134

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/pslm/publications/PSLM_2019_20_District_Level.pdf

Year	Female	Male	Both Sexes
1998 (C)	24.7	26.4	51.1
2008	27.5	29.2	56.6
2009	27.6	29.3	56.9
2010	27.8	29.5	57.2
2011	27.9	29.6	57.5
2012	28.0	29.7	57.7
2013	28.0	29.8	57.8
2014	28.1	29.9	58.0
2015	28.1	30.0	58.1
2016	28.2	30.1	58.3
2017	28.3	30.2	58.4

Fig 4.1: Percent of Working Population Aged 15-59, 1998 to 2017

Pakistan Compendium of Gender Statistics 2019, page 11

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files/social_statistics/publications/Compendium_of_Gender_Statistics_2019.pdf

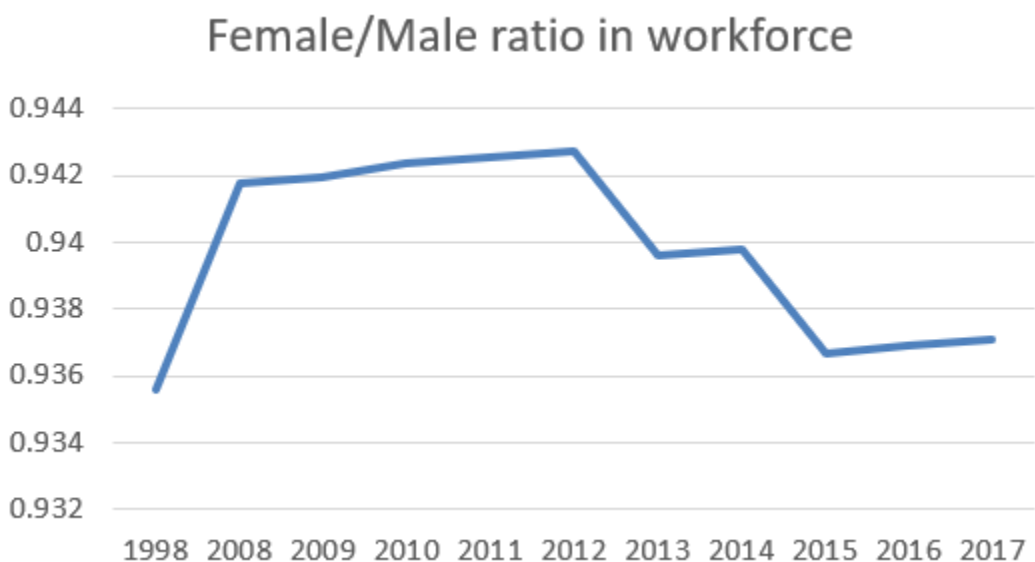


Fig 4.1: Female/Male ration in workforce(summarized)

Pakistan Compendium of Gender Statistics 2019

Works Cited

[1] Global Poverty line, World Bank

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2022/05/02/fact-sheet-an-adjustment-to-global-poverty-lines>

[2] Average Death rates, CIA

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/field/death-rate/>

[3] Global literacy Rates, Statista

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/997360/global-adult-and-youth-literacy/#:~:text=In%20the%20past%20five%20decades,just%20seven%20percent%20in%202020.>