

Growing Population of Balochistan (Challenges and Opportunities)

Dr. Faiza Mazhar
TTS Assistant Professor
Geography Department. Government College University Faisalabad, Pakistan

Abstract—Balochistan is the mineral rich province of Pakistan. It is largest province in terms of area, but not in terms of population. Its population remained low because of its arid landscape and shortage of water. The current census shows its population growth rate was highest during last 19 year as compare to whole Pakistan and other provinces. It is a good sign. Now with the population growth it is also going on a way to prosperity with the development of Gwadar port and CPEC. Still there are many challenges to cope for the smooth and sustainable development of Balochistan. As well as there are many opportunities to boost the economy of Balochistan.

Keywords:-Population Census, Growth Rate, Challenges; Opportunities.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is broad day fact that population growth adversely affects economic development. [1] Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan in terms of area, by covering approximately 43% geographical area of Pakistan. Its total land area is 374,190 sq. km. Major Cities of Balochistan are: Quetta, Khuzdar, Turbat and Chaman. Its economy is largely based on extraction of natural resources. The frugality of Balochistan is mainly rely on natural gas, coal and other minerals.

Balochistan was used to be called a "ignored province most of the population had to live without basic facilities. In Balochistan density of population is low because of large barren and arid land.

Population data is vital for representative progress and rich planning. The actual size and situation of population helps policy makers to plan in a right way. Now as the current census depicts the maximum growth rate among the whole provinces as well as of Pakistan.

A. Evolution of Growing Population

Population history of Balochistan shows that according to the first census the population of Balochistan was just 1.1 million. The total number heaved to 1.35 during 1951to 1961.

The results of third census showed the population size increased up to 2.42 million and density was 7 persons per sq.

km. in census of 1972. Population increased to 4.33 million from 1972 to 1981.

It jumped to 6.5 million from 1981 to 1998. After nineteen years, according to 6th population census it is 12.34 million.

Census	Population	Density /sq. km
1951	1,167,167	3.4
1961	1,353,484	4.
1972	2,428,678	7
1981	4,332,376	12.5
1998	6,565,885	18.9
2017	12,344,408	36

Source: www. en.wikipedia.com

Table 1: Temporal Population Growth of Baluchistan

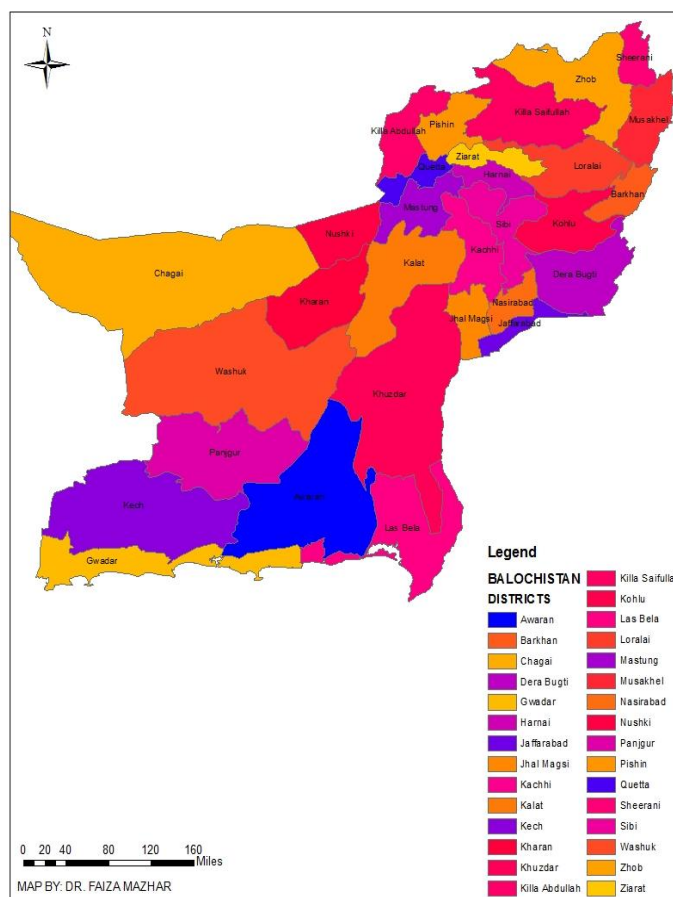


Figure 1: Balochistan

II. POPULATION GROWTH OF BALISTAN 1998-2017

According to 2017 census shows the current population size of Balochistan’s population is 12,344,408 million, displaying an increase of 3.37 percent. Out of which 8,943,055 population is rural and 1,768,830 population is urban.

Balochistan documented the peak yearly population growth rate of 3.37 percent according to 2017 census, as compared to the fifth census of 1998’s population growth rate.

Census	Urban
1951	12.38%
1981	15.62%
1998	23.89%
2017	27.54%

Source: www.en.wikipedia.com

Table 2: Urban Population Share in Balochistan

Now Balochistan is housing 12.344 million or 5.94% out of total population of Pakistan. Since 1998 its inhabitants have increased by 5.8 million or 88%. It recorded the supreme increase in the population of any other province in terms of growth rate.. Its share was only 4.96% as per the 1998 census.

B. Population Density

According to 2017 census density of population in Balochistan is 36 /sq. kilometer. But this is due to its arid topography. Still it varies a lot from area to area and city to city. The maximum density is in Quetta with 858 persons per square kilometer. Density wise Killa Abdullah is on second position with 230 persons per square kilometer. On third position Jaffarabad stands with 210 persons per square kilometer.

C. Details of Population Balochistan Census 2017

Out of Balochistan’s total population, 12.34 million male population is 6483653. Total number female population is 5860646 and Transgender are 109 in total. Spatial distribution of population is also not equal in all districts. Current population of Quetta district is on top in Balochistan.

Balochistan has shown a higher growth rate of urban population as compared to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Notwithstanding having a inferior Human Progress Patterns as compared to KP, a reasonable portion of Balochistan’s population has moved to Quetta, which is the only Metropolitan of Balochistan.

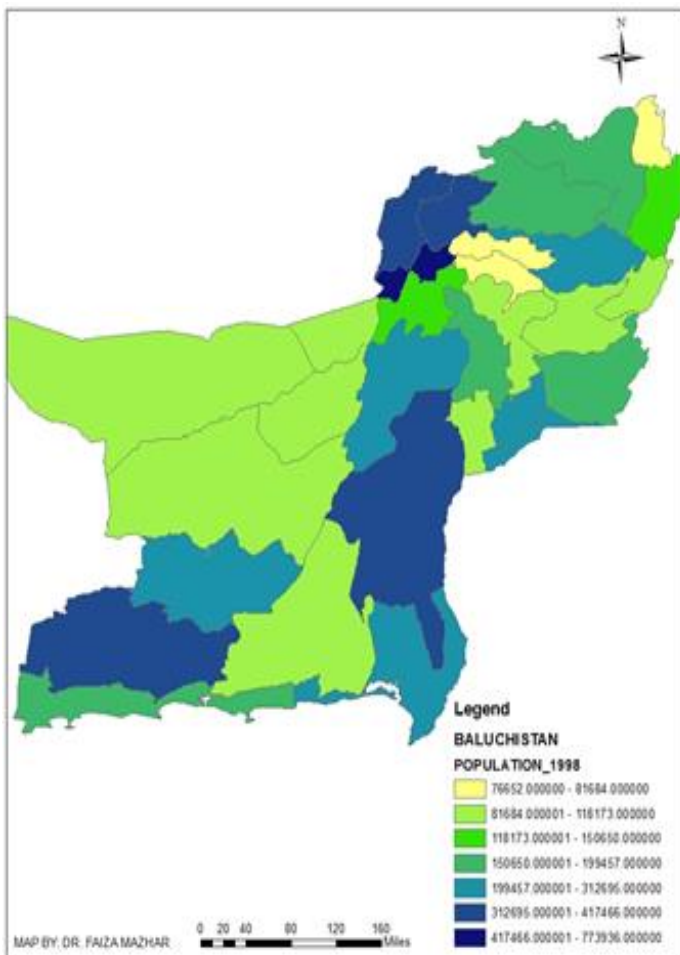


Figure 2: Population Distribution of Balochistan According to Census 1998.

A. Rural-Urban Dimensions

According to first population census the urban population share of Balochistan was 12.38 percent. In the census of 1981 it raised to 15.62 percent. During the 1981 to 1998 time period the urban share increased to 23.89%. Now the current census of 2017, the proportion of urban share has augmented to 27.54 percent. Which is not bad but it will keep on rising.

The total count of housing unit is 1.78 million according to the current census. This shows an addition of 8.1 million household units in Balochistan in last 19 years. 27.54% of Balochistan’s household units are urban.

District name	Population 2017	Density per Sq. km	Population 1998
Awaran	121680	4	118173
Barkhan	171556	48.8	103545
Chagai	226008	5	104534
Dera Bugti	312603	31	181310
Gwadar	263514	21	185498
Harnai	97017	24	76652
Jaffarabad	513813	210	291290
Jhal Magsi	149225	41	109941
Kachhi	237030	32	199457
Kalat	412232	62	237834
Kech	909116	40	413201
Kharan	156152	17	96900
Khuzdar	802207	23	417466
Killa Abdullah	757578	230	360724
Killa Saifullah	342814	50	193553
Kohlu	214350	28	99846
Las Bela	574292	38	312695
Loralai	397400	40	250147
Mastung	266461	45	150650
Musakhel	167017	29	134056
Nasirabad	490538	145	245894
Nushki	178796	31	98030
Panjgur	316385	19	234051
Pishin	736481	94	376728
Panjpai	2275699	858	773936
Sheerani	153116	55	81684
Sibi	135572	17	103746
Washuk	176206	108	110009
Zhob	310544	15	193458
Ziarat	160422	108	80748

Source:[3] www.pbs.org.pk

Table 3: Population Distribution and Density in Balochistan

Total number of households in Balochistan is 1775937, out of which 474725 are located in urban areas while 1301212 are in rural areas.

According to census 2017 total population of District Quetta is 2275699. In Total population males are 1193913; female are 1081755 and Shemale / Transgender

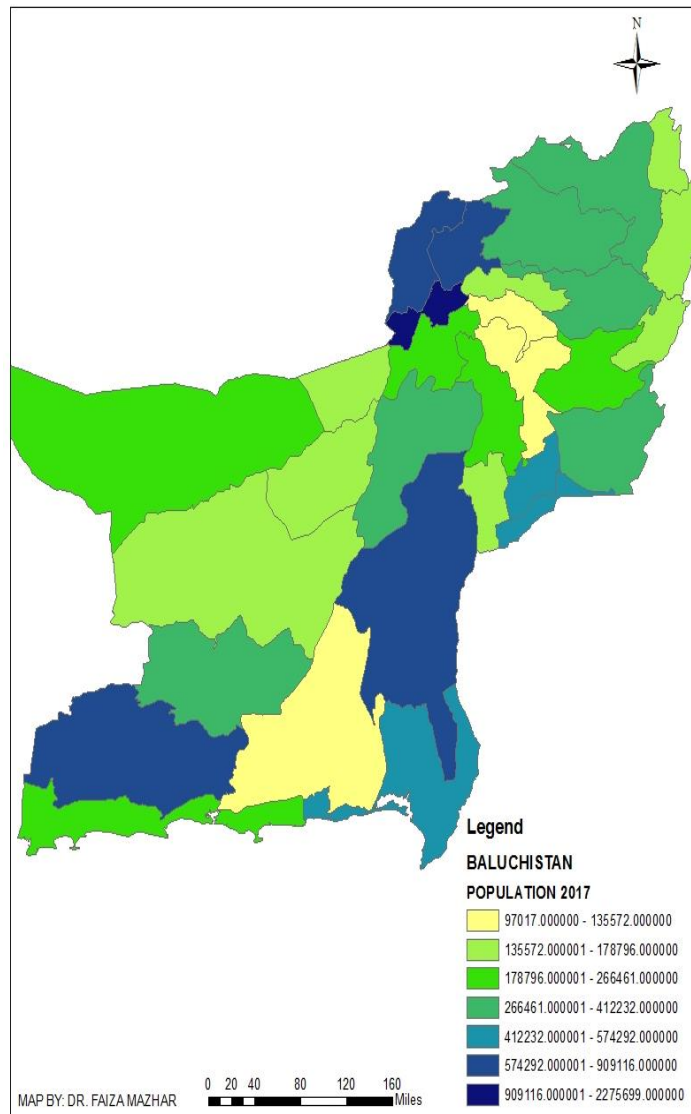


Figure 3: Population Distribution Pattern in Balochistan According To Census 2017

Complete detail of Balochistan population facts and figure of current population of Balochistan province of Pakistan all detail of census . According to census 2017 total population of Balochistan is 12344408. In Total population males are 6483653, female are 5860646 and Shemale / Transgender are 109.

Category	Urban	Rural	Total
Population	3,400,876	8,943,532	12,344,408
Male	1,793,554	4,690,099	6,483,653
Female	1,607,253	4,253,393	5,860,646
Transgender	69	40	109
Household	474,725	1,301,212	1,775,937

Source: [3]www.pbs.org.pk

Table 4: Detail Population Balochistan Census 2017

III. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

An established Balochistan promise a new Pakistan. Development of Gwadar port will bring marvelous openings for the local inhabitants to be part of the economic development of Pakistan. Gwadar Port is the 2nd largest deep sea Port in the World.

There would be a network of roads and highways in Balochistan for the connectivity of whole areas that are portion of Gwadar port project and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Almost 3000 kilometer in length CPEC will connect Gwadar deep sea Port to Kasghar.

There are some challenges which are hurdle in prosperity of Balochistan.

- The existence of immigrants in Balochistan has ablate the fears of Balochi people.
- They think that immigrants are overwhelming their part and snatching, what belongs to them.
- As well as security issues are also a big challenge for Balochistan government ion the way to progress.

These challenges ascend a lot of queries.

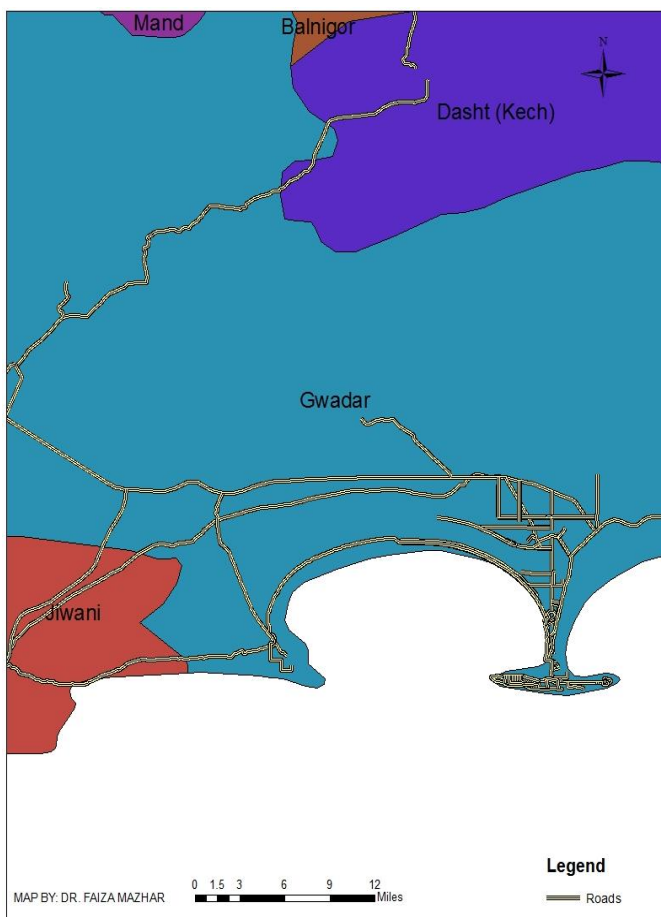


Figure 4: Map of Gwadar

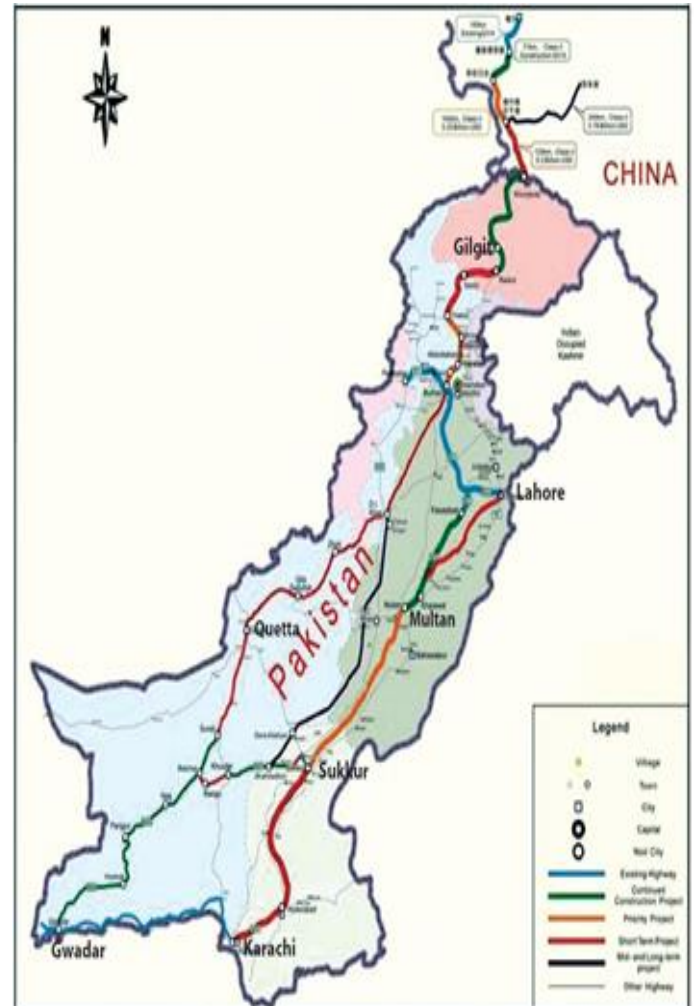


Figure 5: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

CPEC has been launched between China and Pakistan since April 2015. CPEC has acquired a prestige of fortune changer, and patriotic fervor in the political, media and public dialogues in Pakistan [2].

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is consisting of highways, railways and pipelines. CPEC will connect Gwadar port to China. It is vital for China's 'One Strap, One Road' advantage that intention to connect China to Europe and Asia. CPEC is a truth and it will function as a doorway to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

IV. CONCLUSION

Census provides a fresh aspect to the demographics of the province. 2017 census generate a new picture of Balochistan. A liberal diplomatic Balochistan means a superior Pakistan. This will lead to association of country.

2017 census has shown the rapid population growth rate of Balochistan. Therefore is the essential to ensure some positive planning in Balochistan for the advancement of the society. Balochistan was remained neglected in history. But now it is on the way to advancement.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Michael Pacione, 2001. Urban Geography: A Global Perspective, Michael Pacione, Publisher Routledge.
- [2]. http://www.balochistan.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=834&Itemid=108
- [3]. www.balochistan.gov.pk
- [4]. www.pbs.org.pk
- [5]. www.enwikipedia.org
- [6]. www.pakinformation.com
- [7]. www.pakobserver.net
- [8]. www.omicsonline.com
- [9]. www.pakistantoday.com
- [10]. www.dawn.com
- [11]. Balochistan challenges and opportunities by planning and development department balochistan 2015.
- [12]. Urbanization challenges in balochistan, 2015. Pakistan urban forum.