

Balochistan Think Tank Network



BTTN Monthly Review

Edited & compiled by

Mr. Ajmal Khan

Supervised by

Dr. Siraj Bashir

Volume II

Issue: January/ February 2024

Balochistan Think Tank Network, at BUIEMS, Airport Road, Quetta. www.bttan.org.pk

About BTTN

Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) was established at Quetta, on March 1, 2021. It is an autonomous, non-profit, non-partisan, and multidisciplinary Research Center with a focus not limited to Balochistan only, but includes the regional and global dynamics which can influence Pakistan. Broadly, BTTN endeavors to undertake in-depth research of provincial issues with a view to developing the socio, political, and economic status of the province. Its interests also include issues of Energy, Regional Stability, Strategic Stability, Peace and Security, Arms Control and Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Technology, Conflict Resolution, Regional Connectivity, and Socioeconomic development at the national level. Geopolitically, besides South Asia, BTTN's research areas also include regions of Europe and Africa.

BTTN OP-EDs

Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) Faculty of Research has been writing op-eds on a regular basis on different contemporary issues that are published on various international and national platforms. The opinions expressed in this edition are the authors' individual views and do not reflect the official policy of BTTN or any governmental organization. This electronic review is compiled on a monthly basis.

Table of Contents

About BTTN.....	i
BTTN OP-EDs	i
The Expansion of BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan	1
Climate Change: A Threat to Pakistan’s Agrarian Economy.....	4
CBMs and Nuclear CBMs in South Asia.....	7
Berbera Port Deal: Uproar in The Horn of Africa.....	10
Frigid Crisis: Quetta’s Winter Struggle	13
Pakistan: Brahui Language Should be Included in CSS Syllabus	15
Migration through the Mediterranean: A Perilous Passage	18
CD First Plenary 2024 – Key Takeaways and Pakistan’s Stance	21
The State of SDG-3 in Pakistan.....	25
Lack of Teachers’ Training: An Obstacle Towards Achieving Quality Education in Balochistan.....	27
Pakistan’s hunger crisis demands action.....	30
Protecting Human Rights: A Necessity in Balochistan	32
Drawbacks Of Education System in Balochistan: The Way Forward.....	34

The Expansion of BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan

Sana Ullah

February 12, 2024

The 15th summit of the BRICS member states was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 31, 2023. These groups of big emerging national economies have announced the addition of six new members in an attempt to restructure the global liberal economic order and provide a counterbalance to the US and its western allies.

As announced at the Johannesburg Summit, the six new members will be admitted at the beginning of this year. These states include Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Argentina, the UAE, and Ethiopia; they joined the existing members of BRICS. Last year, Pakistan also submitted the formal application for BRICS. The main purpose of submitting the application is to become part of this new global economic alliance in order to overcome its economic troubles. Since the expansion of BRICS, the geo-economic landscape of the globe has experienced significant change. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the changing dynamics of the world and Pakistan's engagement with BRICS. Pakistan's addition to this group of nations can also create many opportunities as well as challenges for Pakistan. Thus, it is important to examine both the opportunities and challenges for Pakistan in this group.

The word "BRICS" is an acronym representing a cluster of the five major emerging economies like Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. At first, it was known as "BRIC" before South Africa joined this association in 2010. The countries in this association of states represent 41% of the world population and currently hold more than 25% of the world's GDP. Last year, the bloc decided to add six new members at the start of 2024. This development increased the economic might of the BRICS, as the coalition will now represent over \$30 trillion in GDP, or around 29% of the global GDP. This group of states aims to promote economic cooperation and influence regional and global affairs around the world. Across multiple continents, these states share common goals of fostering development, addressing global challenges, and reforming the structure of international financial institutions to better reflect the diverse interests of emerging economies. The BRICS nations collectively represent a significant force in shaping the geo-economic landscape.

Though the economy of Pakistan is on the deathbed and bearing different economic shocks, that makes Pakistan dependent on the IMF and the World Bank for loans to overcome its own economic crisis. These traditional lending institutions, the IMF and the World Bank, provide condition-based loans to countries that affect their domestic policies. By joining BRICS, Pakistan can get loans from the New Development Bank on easy terms, as it will help to decrease its dependence on traditional institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. Pakistan's addition to these emerging economies can create many greater economic opportunities. For instance, Pakistan can get access to the markets of these countries, and the economic competence of these nations can provide Pakistan with foreign direct investment opportunities.

Pakistan can also benefit from the technological exchange and infrastructure initiatives of the BRICS. Some of the nations in the BRICS have a good track record in infrastructure development, particularly China, which has invested billions of dollars in infrastructure development in the last few decades. Engaging with BRICS can boost Pakistan's infrastructure development, regional connectivity, and overall economic strength. Furthermore, in this new economic forum, Pakistan can strengthen its diplomatic ties and expand its web of allies and strategic partners, as it is necessary to strengthen Pakistan's position in the global arena.

On the other hand, there are also many challenges for Pakistan in engaging with the BRICS nations. The first and foremost challenge is that India is reluctant to accept Pakistan's membership in this group of emerging economies. At the Jonesburg Summit of the BRICS nations, Pakistan was not invited, and the Pakistani authorities claimed that India opposed Pakistan's invitation to the summit. Despite it, as a part of BRICS, it would be a difficult diplomatic test for Pakistan to maintain its existing relations with the United States and its Western allies. Therefore, Pakistan needs to strike a balance in the complex structures of international relations in order to avoid isolation and keep functioning in the system.

Although there are many economic opportunities in this new bloc, it also poses a challenge for Pakistan because of its weak economic condition and weak industrial development sector. The industries in Pakistan may face competition from the highly

technologically advanced and developed economies of the BRICS. This created a need for Pakistan to introduce demanding economic and strategic planning to advance the industries that would enhance Pakistan's role in the international arena.

Moreover, in international relations, where relative gains in the form of interest signify the national interests of a state, different geopolitical stances of states on different regional and international security issues to preserve their interests may lead to a conflict within the BRICS. To sail across all these geopolitical priorities and differences while securing Pakistan's own security interests is a difficult task, demanding a smart diplomatic approach from the decision-making authorities in Pakistan.

In a nutshell, Pakistan stands at a critical point in the changing world order, poised to outline its future course in a rapidly fluctuating international landscape. Thus, the expansion of BRICS and Pakistan's engagement with these groups of emerging economies present both challenges and opportunities in the changing dynamics of the world. In order to avail perks from this forum, which offers economic opportunities while presenting the challenges of increased economic competition among the nations of the BRICS, Pakistan's policymakers need to act smartly in order to minimize the cost and maximize the benefit of engaging with this alliance of growing economies.

[The Expansion of BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities for Pakistan – Eurasia review](#)

Climate Change: A Threat to Pakistan's Agrarian Economy **Muhammad Usama Khalid**

February 14, 2024

Climate change poses a significant and multifaceted threat to Pakistan, with profound implications for its agrarian society and economy. The country's heavy reliance on agriculture as a primary economic sector makes it particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. This article explores the various dimensions of this threat, examining the direct and indirect consequences on agriculture, rural communities, and the broader concept of food security.

Pakistan's agriculture sector is highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and extreme weather disrupt traditional farming practices. Changes in the schedule and intensity of rainfall affect crop cycles, leading to reduced yields and increased uncertainty for farmers. Prolonged droughts, heatwaves, and floods further exacerbate the challenges, threatening the livelihoods of those dependent on agriculture.

One of the critical challenges of climate change in Pakistan is the increasing water scarcity. The country heavily relies on the Indus River for irrigation, and precipitation patterns and glacial melt alterations have significant implications for water availability. Pakistan is ranked 160th in the water withdrawal resources ratio, and agriculture sector is the largest water consumer sector, accounting for [94 percent](#) of annual water withdrawal.

Climate change disrupts the suitability of certain regions for specific crops, affecting crop diversity and productivity. Pakistan is on the verge of severe food insecurity. Additionally, shifts in temperature and precipitation patterns influence the availability and quality of fodder for livestock. This sudden change in temperature, in turn, threatens the livelihoods of farmers who depend on crops and livestock for their income, eventually hitting the food availability in Pakistan.

The agrarian society of Pakistan is predominantly rural, and most of the population relies on agriculture for its livelihood. Climate change-induced disruptions in farming practices directly affect the income and well-being of rural communities. As crop yields decline and

water scarcity increases, farmers face economic challenges, often leading to heightened poverty levels and migration from rural areas.

The interconnectedness of climate change and agriculture raises significant concerns about food security in Pakistan. Reduced crop yields, disruptions in the supply chain, and increased food prices can lead to inadequate access to nutrition for vulnerable populations. Addressing these challenges requires short-term solutions and long-term strategies to enhance the resilience of the agricultural sector.

The Pakistani government recognizes the severity of the threats posed by climate change to the food sector and has implemented policies aimed at adaptation and mitigation. In 2022, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar proposed a draft resolution targeting this threatening trend of rising food insecurity. In 2018, the [National Food Security Policy](#) (NFSP) was formulated by the then newly established government of PTI in order to control the rising threat of food shortage. However, it still needs a unified action plan to streamline and consolidate all efforts toward ensuring adequate mechanisms and facilities for food shortages.

In 2021, Pakistan's [National Climate Change Policy](#) (NCCP) was updated to address the challenges of climate change and promote sustainable development. The policy focuses on adaptation and mitigation strategies to address the impacts of climate change. The policy proposes conducting comprehensive vulnerability and risk assessments to identify the areas and sectors most vulnerable to climate change impacts. It focuses on promoting the integration of climate change considerations into various sectors, including agriculture, water resources, energy, health, and infrastructure. Recognizing that climate change is a global issue, the policy underscores the importance of international cooperation. It emphasizes collaboration with the international community to effectively access funds, technology, and expertise to address climate change challenges. There is a need for capacity building at various levels, including government institutions, communities, and the private sector. Garnering public support and participation, the policy stresses the importance of raising awareness about climate change and its impacts. Educational programs are essential to build a sense of responsibility and promote sustainable practices. The development and utilization of renewable energy sources to

reduce dependence on fossil fuels, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a more sustainable energy sector. It is important as per the policy to conserve natural resources, including water and biodiversity, to enhance resilience to climate change and promote sustainable development.

However, effective implementation, resource allocation, and monitoring mechanisms are crucial for the success of these initiatives. International cooperation is also imperative to access funds, technology, and expertise to strengthen the country's resilience against climate change impacts, particularly in the food sector, which is quite vulnerable currently.

In the face of climate change, technological advancements and innovative agricultural practices play a pivotal role. Sustainable agricultural practices, precision farming, and adopting climate-resilient crop varieties can contribute to building the adaptive capacity of the agricultural sector.

Climate change undeniably presents a formidable threat to Pakistan's agrarian society and economy. The multifaceted challenges—from altered precipitation patterns to water scarcity—require a comprehensive and coordinated response. Sustainable agricultural practices, community engagement, government policies, and international collaboration are vital components of a resilient strategy. As Pakistan navigates the complex interplay between climate change and its agricultural economy, proactive and adaptive measures are essential to ensure the nation's sustainable and secure future.

[Climate Change: A Threat to Pakistan's Agrarian Economy – Eurasia review](#)

CBMs and Nuclear CBMs in South Asia
Dr. Zafar Khan

February 15, 2024

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and Nuclear CBMs (NCBMs) play a significant role in managing and preventing, if not resolving, longstanding issues between the South Asian rivals. Crises between the rivals may bring both danger of escalation and opportunities for the contending parties to reflect on how to manage, prevent and resolve the crises mutually. A Harvard University Professor Alastair Iain Johnston codified the Chinese ways of managing the crisis through which one may learn the crisis management techniques and strategies. This may include 1) communicate with the adversary clearly and constantly, and be specific about what is being demanded, 2) articulate limited goals and be prepared to drop unlimited ones, 3) maintain military flexibility and respond symmetrically in your options, 4) don't excessively pressure the other side, and don't take the use of force lightly, 5) avoid excessively ideological positions; 6) don't threaten the other side's basic values, and don't moralise conflicts of interest, 7) exercise self-restraint, including in response to provocative actions by the other side, 8) do not issue ultimatums while ensuring that the adversary can back down in a face-saving manner, 9) divide large issues into smaller, manageable parts, and 10) anticipate unintended consequences of particular moves.

There are a number of CBMs and NCBMS between Pakistan and India, but each of these CBMs confronted setbacks in the event of serious crises such as the Kargil crisis (1999), the Twin Peaks crisis (2001-02), the Mumbai crisis (2008), the Pathankot, Uri and Nagrota attacks (2016), and more recently the Balakot incident (2019) where both India and Pakistan showed strategic restraint to avoid major conflict. Some of the proposed CBMs are either violated or declined by India. That said, mutual suspicion, a shared troubled history, acute security dilemma between the rivals, hostility, territorial disputes and cross-border terrorism between the South Asian rivals are some of the common reasons for undermining CBMs/NCBMs in South Asia.

Despite all this, the Direct Line of Communication (DLC)/ hotline between the responsible civilian and military leadership may play a significant role in both managing and preventing crises in South Asia. Although there still appears to be weakness in the DLC

between the two rivals for a couple of reasons. One, most of the time the hotline remains little and limited at the Director General Military Operations (DGMO) level that needs to be expanded to other top civilian and military management levels. Two, the hotline sometimes remains missing between the two rivals, thus creating mistrust and risk of miscalculation. For example, the recent so-called misfiring of India's Brahmos missile in the Pakistani territory was not communicated timely. This in the event of a crisis could trigger a risk of escalation to a dangerous level. Moreover, at the bilateral level, the South Asian rivals exchange the list of their nuclear installations and facilities every year on January the first as part of mutual understanding that they would not target each other's nuclear installations and facilities. The nuclear moratorium may play some role in managing and preventing the arms race crisis in South Asia. However, if India opts for more nuclear tests, Pakistan could follow suit. It is reported that India might go for more nuclear weapon tests since it has been preparing grounds for testing the H-Bomb.

Two aspects are important to mention. First, the third-party role, in the South Asian case the longstanding US managerial role, has been significant in managing and preventing crises between the South Asian nuclear rivals. It is often argued that India for a variety of reasons may not be interested in the third-party role in South Asia. Many argue that India may desire to preempt Pakistan even before the third-party intervention reflecting India's military aggression linked up with the dangers of escalation. Second, because of the logic of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD), nuclear weapons have played their own part in discouraging the rivals, thereby inculcating strategic restraint for escalating the crisis to a dangerous level. This reflects the continuing deterring role and the relevance of nuclear weapons for preventing both major and limited wars in South Asia. Arguably, maintaining safe, secure and reliable nuclear forces as part of "shared responsibility" do play an important role by managing and preventing crises in the background of all nuclear politics.

Although crisis management techniques and strategies are rudimentary steps towards managing and preventing crises, there is eventually the need for resolving the conflict as part of longstanding measures for the proposed CBMs/NCBMs. For this to happen, there is a need for a graduated strategy, which may involve the following: a) improvement and expansion of the credibility of the existing CBMs, b) institutionalisation of CBMs/NCBMs,

c) turning some of the CBMs into legal binding if mutually agreed upon by the rivals, d) establishing the proposed longstanding strategic restraint regime in South Asia, e) consistent mechanism for communication and dialogue at the important and responsible level between India and Pakistan, f) restraint for not carrying out more nuclear weapons tests, g) restraint for not undertaking limited war or limited preemptive strikes against each other, and h) demonstration of normative posture when it comes to global arms control and non-proliferation (both vertically and horizontally) if not nuclear disarmament.

[CBMs and Nuclear CBMs in South Asia – The Express Tribune](#)

Berbera Port Deal: Uproar in The Horn of Africa **Irum Shehzadi**

February 15, 2024

In the early start of 2024, the tension in the Horn of Africa escalated since Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed [signed](#) a deal with President Muse Bihi Abdi of Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia to use its Red Sea port of Berbera.

Over Somaliland's 50-year lease of a Berbera port to Ethiopia, anger has grown in Somalia. Ethiopia's economy is struggling with no sea access, so a landlocked country has decided to break its geographic prison to obtain access to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, which might enhance its access to Europe. The agreement rests on a wide scope of cooperation to give a landlocked country Ethiopia, direct commercial and military access to the Red Sea. In return, Ethiopia promises to provide an in-depth assessment of Somaliland's long-standing quest for official recognition as an independent country which will make Ethiopia the first country to recognize Somaliland as a sovereign state.

The deal has been fiercely opposed by Somalia that would grant Ethiopia access to the strategically important Gulf of Aden and beyond that, to the Red Sea. The Federal Government of Somalia says Ethiopia's step is an offensive that could jeopardize the stability and peace of the already unstable region. On the matter, Somalia appealed for the withdrawal of its ambassador to Ethiopia, claiming that the port agreement would spark unrest and imperil stability in the Horn of Africa. President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud [warned](#) Ethiopia, "This is a piece of land that belongs to Somalia and we will not stand idly by and watch our sovereignty being compromised".

There is a long and tense relationship between Somalia and Somaliland since Mogadishu regards the [5 million](#) people self-governing region as part of its own territory. More than 30 years ago, Somaliland fought an independence war mostly along the ethnic lines and broke apart from Somalia. However, the groundbreaking agreement has created uproar in the region and infuriated Somalia, which sees it as an act of aggression and an egregious violation of its sovereignty. The Somali government strongly condemned and rejected the Ethiopian action as illegal and aggressive. The country urged Ethiopia and Somaliland to withdraw from the agreement, but both sides consider it a historic agreement and are unwilling to back down.

With 120 million people, Ethiopia is one of the most [populous](#) countries in Africa, but its economy is constrained by its lack of sea access. The recent deal will appear to provide Ethiopia with unhindered access to the Red Sea, allowing it to utilize the Berbera port for export-import activities. Currently, Ethiopia primarily depends on Djibouti for its port operations, facilitating both inbound and outbound trade. However, Djibouti charges Ethiopia billions of dollars annually in port fees which impelled Ethiopia to explore other alternatives in neighboring Somaliland, Sudan, Eritrea, and Kenya but Ethiopia's plan to use any of these ports has not yet come to pass.

From a geostrategic standpoint, Ethiopia's focus on Berbera is undoubtedly logical. Berbera port stands as the closest point to Ethiopia, which will provide an opportunity to open trade to the vast but isolated eastern region, particularly for livestock and agricultural exports. According to [Ethiopian authorities](#), the port agreement is advantageous for both countries as it will help Ethiopia to share its military and intelligence expertise with Somaliland to protect common interests. To support this, Ethiopia plans to build both a commercial maritime zone and a military base in Somaliland. Besides, the port will help the Ethiopian prime minister to rehabilitate his unpopular image in the country due to his conflicts in the Tigray region, the bloody insurgencies in the Amhara and Oromo regions, and the recent economic setbacks the country has experienced. Over the years, Ethiopian authorities have presented access to the sea as an existential concern, this new agreement would provide Abiy with significant internal political gains.

In conclusion, the agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland holds considerable economic prospects, but simultaneously, it is anticipated that this agreement will face substantial obstacles in the future. Ethiopia's pursuit is to reduce dependence on a single port, stimulate economic growth, and establish an alternative trade route by securing access to the Red Sea through the port of Berbera.

However, the pact has exacerbated the long-standing animosity between Somalia and Somaliland which is fueling already existing tensions. Moreover, the international community's involvement risks wider geopolitical repercussions and potential intervention, particularly for global powers with interests in the Horn of Africa. For example, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project as part of the Belt and

Road Initiative (BRI) launched by rising global power China, has the potential to be a game-changer for poorer countries. However, it is unfortunate that various hostile powers are covertly preparing strategies to contain the rise of China in the regions bearing geopolitical and geo-economic significance. So, will a small and poor country like Ethiopia be able to resist foreign conspirators?

[Berbera Port Deal: Uproar In The Horn Of Africa – Eurasia review](#)

Frigid Crisis: Quetta's Winter Struggle **Hamza Nasir**

January 16, 2024

As winter blankets Quetta with its icy embrace, citizens find themselves facing an increasingly grim reality — a critical [shortage of gas pressure](#) that not only makes survival challenging but compounds difficulties in cooking daily meals. The issue has been exacerbated by [illegal and risky usage of compressors](#). This multifaceted challenge demands immediate attention and collaborative solutions to ensure the well-being and safety of Quetta's residents.

[The shortage of gas](#) pressure during winter is not a novel predicament for Quetta, but this year's severity has transformed routine activities, [particularly cooking](#), into a daily struggle. For households across the city, the simple act of preparing meals becomes a daunting task as the scarcity of gas pressure collides with the harsh winter conditions.

Gas pressure drops significantly in areas like Kharotabad, Pashtunabad, Saryab, Nawa Killi, and other Places during the evening and early morning. This sudden drop causes severe cold, making it tough for residents, especially for vulnerable groups like children women and the elderly. This gas pressure issue has made life harder for residents, especially with the hard cold weather. Unfortunately, the situation is not getting better because it seems like the government is not doing much about it.

This challenge is worsened by the increasing use of [compressors, an illegal practice](#) that many residents resort to out of sheer necessity. Faced with the harsh reality of inadequate gas pressure, citizens opt for makeshift solutions to secure a more robust supply for heating and cooking. While this may offer temporary relief, it comes at a considerable cost — jeopardizing individual safety and putting additional strain on the city's already stretched gas infrastructure.

The heightened usage of [compressors introduces new risks](#), from potential accidents to leaks and even explosions, posing an immediate threat to the safety of residents. The adoption of these makeshift devices reflects not just the urgency of a pressing need but also a symptom of deeper systemic issues that demand comprehensive and immediate resolution.

To address this multifaceted challenge effectively, a dual-pronged approach is necessary. Immediate measures should involve targeted interventions to augment gas pressure and distribution during the winter months. Investments in the expansion and enhancement of the gas infrastructure are crucial to [ensuring a consistent and reliable supply that caters to the needs of all citizens.](#)

Simultaneously, [public awareness campaigns](#) play a pivotal role in educating the community about the dangers associated with illegal compressor usage. Stricter regulations and penalties must be implemented to deter individuals from resorting to unsafe practices, underscoring the paramount importance of public safety in the face of adversity.

A forward-thinking strategy involves exploring alternative energy sources to mitigate the impact of the gas shortage. Renewable energy options, such as [solar-powered cooking solutions](#), present sustainable alternatives that can reduce the city's reliance on gas and pave the way for a more resilient energy landscape.

The winter challenges confronting Quetta are unmistakably characterized by pressing issues such as gas shortages and the unauthorized proliferation of compressors. Considering these difficulties, there is an urgent call for attention and the formulation of collaborative solutions. It becomes imperative for the authorities to engage in a cooperative effort with the community, collectively delving into the root causes of this crisis.

The primary objective is to ensure that the residents of Quetta are equipped to endure the winter months with a sense of dignity, safety, and the confidence of having a consistent and reliable energy supply. Achieving this goal necessitates a multifaceted approach that not only addresses the immediate challenges faced by the community but also integrates sustainable, long-term solutions. By striking a balance between providing immediate relief and implementing measures for lasting improvement, the authorities can effectively uplift the overall quality of life for all residents.

[**Frigid Crisis: Quetta's Winter Struggle – Eurasia review**](#)

Pakistan: Brahui Language Should be Included in CSS Syllabus

Asadullah Raisani

February 18, 2024

It is estimated that some [four million](#) people in Pakistan speak Brahui and [half of them](#) speak it as their first language.

This number is double the number of people who speak Persian ([1 million](#)) in the country. While virtually there are no Arabic speakers at all in Pakistan. Still, Persian and Arabic are part of optional subjects in exams of the Central Superior Services (CSS) in Pakistan while Brahui is not. The 2009 UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)) [Report](#) declared Brahui as one of the 27 languages of the country that are facing the danger of extinction. Therefore, this piece emphasizes that there is a need to realize that a historically rich language of the region that dates back thousands of years is in danger of extinction, and its inclusion in certain curricula and the CSS syllabus can be an important step to keep the language alive.

According to a paper, "[Impact of Globalization on Brahui Language](#)," Brahui is one of the oldest languages of the sub-continent region. The paper has been written by an MPhil Scholar, an Associate Professor of the Brahui Department, University of Balochistan, and an Assistant Director of the Balochistan Research and Development Center. As per the authors, people who speak Brahui live in Balochistan and Sindh in Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, and even Turkmenistan. They state that research backs the claim that the Brahui language is of Dravidian origin and it has been spoken in the Indian Sub-Continent and Sri Lanka since the Mehrgarh Civilization ([7000 BCE](#)). It is a language that is some 4500 to 9000 years old. The paper argues that "the rapid process of globalization seems to have invaded this language." As, certain words and names of boys, girls, days, relationships, terminologies, and names of food items are replaced by the languages that are dominant in electronic and print media.

The [UNESCO's Project](#) "Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger" rightly answers the question, "Why preserve language diversity?" stating, "Languages are vehicles of our cultures, collective memories and values. They are an essential component of our identities, and a building block of our diversity and living heritage." Globalization with many of its advantages has certain disadvantages, particularly for developing countries

such as Pakistan. Mother tongues, local cultures, and the traditional social structure of relations are under threat in these nations due to rapid globalization. The process of globalization is more about adopting Western ideas and Western living styles and poses a threat to the local cultures and basic tools of the cultures like the language(s) of these cultures. Of course, the process of evolution should be respected but the devaluation of the local languages is not a price worth paying.

It is appreciable that there are daily, weekly, monthly, fortnightly, and quarterly magazines and journals in the Brahui language in the country. Tribal leaders such as Haji Lashkari Raisani [assuring support](#) to Brahui writers, intellectuals, and researchers is also encouraging. The programs broadcasted for a few hours on PTV Bolan, and the news coverage provided by Rabita Forum International ([RFI Digital](#)) on YouTube in Brahui are praiseworthy. However, these efforts are not proven enough. The English language has overtaken many languages in the world on account of its wider vitality and scope. Brahui is only one of them.

A majority of the Brahui speakers speak their mother tongue only at home. They neither can read nor write in Brahui. Most of them are completely unaware of Brahui literature. Due credit should be given to the Balochistan Public Service Commission for including a compulsory subject of 'General Paper including Essay in Urdu / Balochi / Pashto / Sindhi / Punjabi and Brahui' in its Provincial Civil Service (PCS) Exams [syllabus](#). It to some degree increases the vitality and scope of the language. Though the number of PCS aspirants is roughly estimated to be a few thousand, which is not a good number either to maintain a good scope of the language. The inclusion of French, Sanskrit, Latin, and German in the optional subjects of PCS is beyond one's understanding, which is obviously a different topic.

Unlike the PCS, the Brahui language is not included in the syllabus of the country's CSS Exams. This undermines its importance and limits its scope. Brahui-speaking CSS aspirants often compellingly pick an alternative available language or subject from the syllabus and usually fail in that. Even those who pass the alternative subject, will hardly ever know the utilization and scope of that subject because they picked that subject out

of compulsion and studied it for passing sake and nothing else. Their overall aggregates also get disturbed, and they face difficulties in allocation.

Therefore, it is suggested that with other efforts the Brahui language should be included in the optional subjects in [Group – VII](#) of the CSS Exams syllabus to make an important effort to increase the scope of the historical language to save it from perishing. Such inclusion will allow individuals who are proficient in Brahui to have an equal opportunity to participate in CSS Exams, contributing to a more representative and inclusive civil service. Through the inclusion the government will send a positive message that it values and promotes local languages. This can strengthen governance at the grassroots level by enabling civil servants to communicate effectively in the languages of the region they serve.

It is also important for maintaining the cultural heritage of the Balochistan region. Such inclusion can also be seen as a gesture of cultural sensitivity and respect towards minority languages. The inclusion of Brahui in CSS Exams can encourage the recognition of more languages and cultures, ultimately promoting greater unity and diversity in Pakistan. For instance, Siraiki is another language that deserves to be in the optional language subjects of the CSS Exams as it is spoken by over [30 million](#) people in Pakistan.

Brahui should also be included in the School Textbooks of the areas where the number of Brahui speakers is in the majority. These children should at least know how to read and write in Brahui and get familiar with the literature of the language along with other subjects. The representatives of Balochistan sitting in the Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies should also make efforts to preserve this archival language. They should support the intellectuals, writers, and researchers of the language. They should establish more Brahui Academies where needed to promote the language, its history, and literature. Even local languages like Brahui should be included as an optional subject in BS programs in Balochistan. Every BS student should at least opt for one of these languages in any of the eight semesters. As Pakistan is a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country, since beauty lies in diversity, Pakistan should save a prominent jewel of its beauty from getting lost.

[Pakistan: Brahui Language Should be Included in CSS Syllabus – WGI. World](#)

Migration through the Mediterranean: A Perilous Passage

Irum Shehzadi

February 18, 2024

The history of migration in Africa is deep-rooted and multifaceted, with significant dark chapters including the Atlantic slave trade and colonial labor movements which have left a lasting impact on the continent, shaping its social, economic, and political landscape. Today, mass migration and displacement in Africa are fueled by contemporary challenges, notably poverty, violent conflict, and environmental stress. It is a complex issue that many developing countries are grappling with. Many people from various developing countries including Pakistan make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea and face challenges and risks along the migration route, including dangerous sea crossing and human rights concerns. This migration route has gained extensive attention due to the substantial number of people undertaking the hazardous journey in pursuit of improved opportunities, safety, and the aspiration of securing employment. Regrettably, this journey is marked by the daunting reality of the Mediterranean Sea, which is why it is considered the deadliest journey globally. Thus, the article aims to shed light on the challenges faced by migrants during their perilous journey across the Mediterranean Sea, while also exploring the causes and impacts of this migration.

The irregular mixed movement of refugees and migrants across the Sahara Desert via sea routes to Italy, Malta, and Spain continues to cause catastrophic loss of human life. Despite the danger, many still decide to migrate to Europe. Europe is the continent [48 percent of migrants](#) from North Africa choose as the ideal emigration destination. Migrants and asylum seekers use the dangerous Central Mediterranean route to enter Europe on an irregular basis. However, the Italian island of Lampedusa, less than 150 kilometers off the coast of Tunisia, has been experiencing an influx of migrants in recent days. This crossing is nothing but fatal. Hundreds of desperate African men, women, and children crowded shoulder to shoulder on rickety boats in the Mediterranean Sea, sailing toward an unknown future in Europe.

According to the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM), there has been a significant increase in arrivals to Italy, with 130,000 so far this year compared with some

70,000 in 2022, and about thousands of people have died or gone missing while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. However, it is worth noting that a significant number of deaths are likely to remain undocumented and unrecorded in the ongoing migration crisis.

The ongoing migration crisis is driven by various reasons that push individuals to abandon their homes in Africa. Repression, extreme poverty, economic and political instability, insecurity, and environmental conditions made certain regions in Africa uninhabitable. As a consequence, refugees and migrants frequently experience sexual assault, incarceration, violence, and exploitation at the hands of adults throughout the perilous journey multiple times and in multiple locations. Tragically, thousands of them die. In addition to being a dangerous path chosen by desperate people, it is also a billion-dollar business route under the hands of criminal networks. Conflicting militias not only control certain areas but also establish their own laws, oversee border crossings, and detain migrants for exploitative purposes.

Moreover, the migration through the Mediterranean Sea poses far-reaching effects on both continents. It may cause a brain drain in Africa by displacing highly qualified people. When highly skilled and educated individuals leave their home countries, it can impede progress and the accessibility of vital services. The entire development of African countries may be impacted by creating gaps in areas like infrastructure, healthcare, and education. On the other hand, when African immigrants go to Europe, European countries also have to face many effects. These may include increasing pressure on resources and public services. For example, an influx of immigrants may lead to increased demand for public services, potentially overwhelming existing infrastructure and resources. This stress can result in challenges such as long waiting times for healthcare services. Additionally, there may be concerns about job competition, as immigrants may compete with natives for employment opportunities, especially in sectors with high unemployment rates.

This migration transcends beyond continents and many Pakistani migrants chose this path to migrate to Europe, mostly illegally. The majority of Pakistani migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers pass through Iran and Turkey and then enter Europe via the Eastern

Mediterranean route and the Western Balkans before reaching Italy. Alternatively, some take the less conventional sea route from Turkey to Italy. The less common sea route from Turkey to Italy involves perilous boat journeys, with migrants risking their lives in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels. Such journeys lead to serious humanitarian difficulties as well as catastrophic incidents. The recent shipwreck in Greece is one of the worst migrant boat disasters in the Mediterranean, and questions remain about the Greek response after it became clear that the boat was in trouble. Tragically, more than [300](#) Pakistanis were among those who lost their lives in this devastating incident.

To sum up, the journey, marked by danger and hardship is a shared struggle experienced by individuals not only in Africa but also from regions as diverse as South Asia, particularly Pakistan. If root causes are considered, it is crucial to recognize that this migration crisis transcends geographical boundaries. Both Africa and Pakistan grapple with economic hardships, political instability, and the pursuit of a better life. Consequently, people are forced to relocate in search of better opportunities elsewhere. The loss of lives and talents affects not only the immediate regions of departure rather they also have far-reaching effects on the interconnected global community. Ultimately, the international community needs to support both countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development. With improved economic growth, job opportunities, and better living conditions, people would prefer to live in their own countries without being compelled to quit their kith and kin. That said, it will be a collaborative effort that can positively impact the migration patterns in both Africa and Pakistan.

[Migration through the Mediterranean: A Perilous Passage – Modern Diplomacy](#)

CD First Plenary 2024 – Key Takeaways and Pakistan’s Stance

Hananah Zarrar

February 21, 2024

The Conference on Disarmament (CD) is an international body that is the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum that makes decisions based on consensus. The presidency is on a rotation basis among its 65 member states. The body adopts its own [Rules of Procedure](#) and its agenda for discussion, depending upon the recommendations of the General Assembly and the proposals of its members. It reports to the General Assembly annually and occasionally as required. Despite its significant role, CD is often criticized for not being able to conduct any substantive negotiations on legally binding instruments so far.

The justifications given behind this are drawn from the specific rules of procedure and the very condition of consensus-based decision-making. The member states believe that the broader geopolitical and diplomatic environment affects the functioning of CD.

The majority favors that CD should solely work for legally binding measures as for non-binding measures, there are dedicated international working groups.

Decision-making within CD is primarily challenged by political differences and the interests of individual member states. The first plenary meeting of 2024 was held on 23rd January 2024 under the Presidency of India in which the Conference adopted its agenda for the 2024 session. President Ambassador Anupam Ray opened the session while acknowledging the lack of political will by some member states that keep the forum paralyzed due to their diverging interests and geopolitical differences. This has long hindered any substantive discussions and solutions emerging from within the conference.

Speaking in the very first plenary, Pakistan initiated the discussion on the adoption of the agenda. It emphasized that following [Rule 27](#), Pakistan proposed a working paper, [‘Addressing the Security and Stability Implications of Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy in Weapon Systems’](#) which highlights the security challenges arising from the use of AI for military purposes and integration of autonomous weapon systems. This coincides with existing CD agenda items. Pakistan emphasized the

necessity of including this theme as one of the agenda items, which would demonstrate collective responsibility to adapt and respond to the evolving security environment.

While there is no consensus on adding a new agenda item, many member states like Russia agree with Pakistan's proposal in a way that proposes to incorporate the issue under the work of a relevant subsidiary body of the CD within the current agenda rather than adding it as a separate agenda item. China also backed the idea, as the country itself pointed out the issue in its global [AI Governance Initiative](#) 2023 and also proposed to work on developing a legally binding instrument on the prevention of arms race in outer space through negotiations.

Pakistan, while highlighting the trends in arms control and nuclear disarmament, called attention to India's activities that threaten peace and stability in South Asia. It mentioned that the strategic stability of the region is threatened by India with its military modernization and acquisition of sensitive technologies under the current course of its offensive doctrines, provocations, and risks of accidental launch. The state reiterated its call to immediately begin negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, convention on legally binding negative security assurances (NSAs), and treaty to prevent the placement of weapons in outer space. Other member states like G21 proposed to carry out negotiations on NSAs, physical material, and radiological weapons.

The FMCT is another instrument facing a logical deadlock. Upon discussion of beginning the negotiations, Pakistan re-emphasized that the FMCT could not address the existing disarmament challenges and it ensures that no nuclear war could ever occur. It distracts from the core CD agenda by only banning physical material production while leaving the existing stockpiles unaddressed which would undermine many of the states' security interests.

The proposal under the FMCT and its emphasis on discussion over it remains unproductive and prevents the body from talking over the time-sensitive agenda items as well.

The initial meetings also focused the decision on the applications of observer (non-member) states as explained under section 9 of the Rules of Procedure. The decision was followed by discrepancies among member states specifically on the application of the State of Palestine with 16 others which did not meet consensus. US backed Israel in its objection against adding the State of Palestine as an observer state while stating that only States can be admitted as observers and Palestinians do not qualify as a State in the US view.

The majority of the members vocally supported the State of Palestine's application while stating that the country enjoys the status of a nonmember observer state in the UN and is a state party to various international instruments as well. The blockage of their application only displays the double standards and politicized opinion of the few to further strangle it.

By the end of the Indian presidency in plenary 2024 this week, the President in his concluding remarks presented the result of consultations on the draft decision for the program work for the 2024 session of the CD. He said that the draft decision did not find consensus and claimed it to be primarily due to Pakistan's reservations. Pakistan responded with a statement focusing both, on the procedure and substance of the process conducted by India as the President. It stated that instead of putting forward decisions of 2022 as the zero draft, the President called members to consider minimal changes to the 2022 discussions.

It emphasized that in multilateral diplomacy, documents are debated, modified, and amended until they are accepted by all member states. In debating new language, previously agreed formulations are usually kept as a baseline. Contrary to this, the draft circulated by the president was to a very small membership of CD, excluding a large group. Pakistan objected to the characterization made by India that it is the only member state that is not ready to join the consensus.

It mentioned the two reports that were successfully adopted from subsidiary bodies to continue work in CD as a result of the 2022 discussions. During current discussions under

the Indian presidency, there has been a clear obsession with FMCT and the Shannon mandate. It was obvious that the CD in the current presidency was directly and indirectly made hostage to one issue for negotiations i.e., FMCT. These self-serving assertions have indeed created a deadlock in the past whereas the progress in CD needs flexibility and compromise from all delegations.

The initial plenary meetings of 2024 suggest that CD proceedings of the year and member states' consensus would be shadowed by the Russia-Ukraine war and Israel's war on Gaza.

The contemporary humanitarian crises and failure of international forums would follow the CD agenda for the year 2024, making the global nuclear disarmament goal tougher to achieve. The Indian presidency is not fruitful for the beginning of 2024 discussions and leaves it more difficult for the succeeding presidencies to reach consensual decisions.

Meanwhile, many key arms control agreements have been abandoned in recent years which again stand discouraging for global disarmament efforts. Though the Conference is preserved as a primary international disarmament and arms control architecture, it is now necessary for it to address major contemporary security issues relating to the arms race. The center focus should be to adopt those proposals that serve mutual interests rather than favoring a few states.

[CD First Plenary 2024 – Key Takeaways and Pakistan's Stance - Stratheia](#)

The State of SDG-3 in Pakistan
Manahil Bazai**February 26, 2024**

Agenda 2030 is a global plan that intends to achieve a wide range of targets regarding intricate issues confronting humanity in achieving sustainable development. This includes promoting health and well-being around the world and preserving the environment to make economic advancements sustainable. SDG-3, with wide a range of indicators, stands as a beacon that aims to ensure good health and well-being around the globe. In this regard, Pakistan is committed to achieve the targets of this goal to enhance the health of the general populace. However, delving into the specificities of this goal in Pakistan depicts a concerning picture as the country is lagging behind other developing countries and global targets. With only seven years left for the agenda, the country still has a long way to go to meet the targets. Thus, the authorities need to prioritize the localization process of SDG-3 to be on track for meeting its targets.

The first significant target of SDG-3 aims to reduce the maternal mortality rate to less than 70 per 100,000 births. Though Pakistan has made a significant improvement in the reduction of cases of MMR from 521 in 1990 to 178 in 2021, but still, it is lagging behind the global target. In addition, these rates are very high in certain provinces, specifically in Balochistan, where MMR is 298 per 100000 children's live births. This reflects that the ineffective policies and lack of proper implementation plans by the authorities have contributed to MMR remaining a prominent issue in Pakistan. In addition, the rate is very high in the rural areas of Pakistan because of inefficient implementation strategies that fail to give tangible results. Moreover, the lack of monitoring and evaluation methods makes it difficult to track progress and identify problem areas. On the other hand, terrorism, instability, conflicts, and insecurity are other factors that impede the country from improving its MMR rate. In the existence of such issues, it will be an arduous task for the country to meet the global target.

The second target is to reduce neonatal mortality rates to less than 12 deaths per 1000 live births and 25 deaths per 1000 for children under five years. In this context, with a child mortality rate of 65.2 per 1000, Pakistan is among the countries with the highest rates of death for children under five, above the global average of 37 deaths per 1000 live

births as of 2020. Furthermore, Pakistan's infant mortality rate leads the world with 56.9/1000 livebirths, much above the global recorded IMR of 26.7 per 1000 as of 2022. The greater percentage of child mortality is due to the country's high rate of poverty, poor sanitization and healthcare facilities, and low levels of education, particularly among women in rural areas.

The third target is to eradicate hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases by 2030 and to eliminate the epidemics of AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Pakistan is having abysmal record when it comes to all these diseases, and it seems unlikely that it will ever be able to stop the spread of these diseases. With a 75% increase in the number of new HIV infections between 2010 and 2019, it is the highest rate of growth in Asia and the Pacific, second only to the Philippines. Every year, approximately 25,000 new cases of such diseases are added. Furthermore, Pakistan is the country with the fifth-highest worldwide burden of tuberculosis (TB) and the fourth-highest prevalence of multidrug-resistant TB. On the other hand, after the catastrophic floods in 2022, more than 660,120 cases of snake bites, typhoid, malaria, dengue fever, and acute, watery diarrhea have been documented. With these stark statistics prevalent in the country, it seems almost impossible to reduce cases of such diseases without proper strategy.

To meet the global agenda for 2030 in SDG-3 it is imperative for the authorities to take urgent measures. It is crucial to design policies for the regions with the highest maternal mortality rates such as Balochistan and for this, localization of strategies is a pre-requisite. Moreover, there is a dire need for policies to be designed at the micro level which will take into consideration the ground realities and complexities. Focus on healthcare facilities, accessibility, and awareness is the need of the hour. To have tangible results it is crucial to have robust monitoring and evaluation systems that ensure the effectiveness of designed strategies and their implementation. To deal with infectious diseases, strengthening the health care system and global collaboration are essential. In a nutshell, to meet the agenda for 2030, there is a dire need for collective efforts both from government and other stakeholders to effectively localize.

[The State of SDG-3 in Pakistan – The Nation](#)

Lack of Teachers' Training: An Obstacle Towards Achieving Quality Education in Balochistan

Muhammad Usama Khalid

February 26, 2024

Balochistan has a huge land mass with less population as compared to other provinces and is strategically very vital as it borders with two neighboring states, Afghanistan, and Iran. The province also holds strategically and economically important share of maritime boundary of Pakistan, yet according to United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Balochistan has the lowest [Human Development Index](#).

At present Balochistan is mired in various problems, but the education sector is the most prominent amongst them as it needs to be dealt with utmost urgency. Within the education sector, there are numerous challenges from infrastructure to students' admission ratio. Still, among them the teachers training is the most serious and concerning matter for the provision of quality education.

Analyzing the case of Quetta only, there are [678 government schools](#) for girls and boys. The number of schools look promising with respect to Quetta district that has the population of 2.5 million according to the [2023 digital census](#). However, the numerical strength of schools and children admitted in them do not define the quality of education, instead the availability of required teaching material and properly trained teachers are what makes the education sector stand out and contribute to enhancing the quality of education overall.

In November 2023, a field survey was done by the researchers of Balochistan Think Tank Network (BTTN) on the quality of education in Quetta district. In the field survey various aspects that act as an obstacle in the access to quality education were identified. Resultantly, the aspect of up-to-date teachers' training is one where discrepancies have been found. According to the findings of this research, the teachers are not given priority for the training program based on merit, instead they are being selected through political references and bureaucratic nepotism. Surprisingly, such trainings should be provided to all the teachers which must equip them with modern day teaching needs, but due to inadequacy of funds and training resources only two or three teachers per school are given the opportunity to attend the training.

At the provincial government level, 'Provincial Institute of Teachers Education (PITE) Balochistan' is solely responsible to provide teachers training. PITE was [established](#) in 1997 with the assistance of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Till 2007 it was operating under government watch, but since 2008 under the directives of the Secretary of Education it has been working independently. PITE has a vision to improve the quality of Balochistan province through quality in-service teacher education.

However, to meet the needs of around [49000](#) government school teachers of Balochistan, it is impossible for one institute to effectively and efficiently train the whole lot. For an argument's sake, if PITE just focuses on Quetta, it is still very hard to meet the criteria of meritocracy in conducting teachers training as [6700](#) teachers are performing their duties in the Quetta district alone, as per the data available in the last Balochistan Education Sector Plan (BESP).

Critical evaluation of our political elites' behavior is evident that PITE is the only institute for teachers training and it is also being [supported](#) by and run in collaboration with the international funders such as UNICEF, European Union, Innovative Development Organization (IDO), World Bank and Education Management Information System (EMIS) technical team. This development reveals that the government's attention is directed towards those matters which can be projected at the election campaigns, unfortunately education does not lie in that category.

Balochistan is often associated with the issues of insurgency and terrorism, but such issues are also a byproduct of the Balochistan's political elites' lack of will towards matters that have long term impacts, such as education. Education is the doorway to success and prosperity for any nation, but this phenomenon has become very hard for our political elite to understand, either because of their shortsightedness or because they are intentionally ignoring this vital domain of nation-building.

On-ground government has established schools, but the issue of well-trained instructors and tutors persists even in the provincial capital city of Quetta, let alone the whole province. Since the 18th constitutional amendment in April 2010, provinces have been given hold of various sectors and the education sector is one of them. But the 18th

amendment was carried out without thoughtful consideration whether provinces had the required capacity to handle certain sectors on their own.

However, it is still not too late for political leadership of Balochistan to increase its involvement in the development of education sector because the current precarious situation of education in Balochistan reveals the intent of province's political elites. Only a few independently operational NGOs cannot bring any sustainable change. Provincial government's involvement is very necessary in getting things on the right track. Teachers' training is one of the very vital components in achieving the goal of delivering quality education because unless and until teachers are trained according to modern educational needs, one cannot prepare a strongly knowledgeable youth.

[Lack Of Teachers' Training: An Obstacle Towards Achieving Quality Education In Balochistan – Eurasia review](#)

Pakistan's hunger crisis demands action
Mommen Khan**February 27, 2024**

HUNGER in the developing world remains one of the most prevalent obstacles to poverty reduction and sustainable economic development globally. Currently, one out of nine people is undernourished, with 98% of them residing in underdeveloped countries. Despite advancements over the years, the Global Hunger Index 2023 indicates that progress against hunger has stagnated worldwide. In this report, Pakistan ranks 102nd with a score of 26.6, signifying a serious concern regarding hunger levels and necessitating urgent action to alleviate the suffering of millions through a collective approach.

Malnutrition in Pakistan is not merely a statistical phenomenon but also a silent menace jeopardizing the future of the populace by significantly impacting health. Primarily, it poses a great challenge for women and children in the country. Furthermore, inadequate intake of essential micronutrients among school-going children is a concerning factor, with more than 80% of children lacking crucial nutrients such as calcium, vitamins and zinc. This deficiency restricts their cognitive growth and hampers long-term productivity. Moreover, the economic cost to Pakistan is substantial, with malnutrition alone accounting for an estimated annual loss of approximately \$3 billion, equivalent to around 1.33% of its GDP. Additionally, direct medical costs amount to around \$19 million annually.

Child stunting, a prevalent consequence of recurrent malnutrition, is characterized by poor cognitive and physical development in children under five due to insufficient nutrition during the initial 1000 days of life. Pakistan ranks as the country with the second-highest prevalence of stunting across South Asia, with over 40% of children under five suffering from stunted growth, compared to the South Asian average of 31%. This condition, closely linked to brain development, may lead to long-term physical impacts, depriving children of the ability to lead fulfilling lives. The rate of reduction in stunting presents a grim picture, at 0.5 annually, far below the global target of 3.9%. According to World Bank estimates, each batch of newborns adds a burden of \$7.6 billion per annum due to stunting, posing a significant challenge to the already struggling economy.

Child wasting, another consequence of undernourishment increases a child's risk of death by 10%. One in five children in Pakistan is wasted, with one in ten severely wasted. Pakistan also faces a high burden of underweight births, with an average of 22.7%. Furthermore, the country's child mortality rate is alarmingly high, with a leading rate of 65 per 1000, surpassing the global average of 37 per 1000 deaths. Cognitive deficits resulting from childhood stunting and iodine deficiency will lead to reduced future productivity, costing Pakistan an estimated Net Present Value of \$3.7 billion per year.

The root causes of this issue include poverty, lack of education, gender disparities, insufficient dietary diversity and limited access to healthcare. Poverty rates are higher in rural areas, with 30% of children in these regions suffering from malnutrition. In 2023, the poverty level rose from 34.4% to 39.4%, indicating that 12.5 million people have fallen below the poverty line and are vulnerable to undernourishment. Gender inequality further exacerbates vulnerability to malnutrition, as the nutritional needs of women and children are often neglected at the household level, perpetuating the issue.

A multi-sectoral approach involving education, health and social security programs is imperative. Grassroots initiatives that engage religious and community leaders to raise awareness are essential. The new government must prioritize nutrition-sensitive interventions and foster collaboration among stakeholders and authorities. Strong political will is necessary to bring about behavioural change and break the cycle of malnutrition, ultimately leading to optimal productivity levels.

[Pakistan's hunger crisis demands action – Pakistan Observer](#)

Protecting Human Rights: A Necessity in Balochistan

Sadia Zahra

February 27, 2024

The UN, formed in 1945 after the League of Nations faltered post-World War II, aimed to secure [global peace and act against threats](#). Despite this, repeated failures stain its history. The ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict showcases the UN's inability to address atrocities, marked by Israel's occupation termed by a UN investigator as ethnic cleansing, with thousands dead and displaced. Similarly, the Kashmir dispute further questions the UN's efficacy. The Cambodia violence (1975-79) saw the UN-recognized Khmer Rouge committing genocide, killing two million, exposing the UN's impotence. Civil wars in Somalia, Rwanda, and Syria underscore persistent UN failures in [establishing peace](#).

Understanding the structure of an organization plays important role in understanding why it faced failures in certain events. The Security Council is the principal organ of the UN structure, which is the key decision-making body. This body comprises of 15 members, with five member states holding permanent positions and exercising [veto powers](#).

These states include Russia, China, the United Kingdom, France, and the United States. The ability of these veto-exercising states to employ their veto power has been a source of contention. On several occasions, they have used their veto authority to serve their own national interest. Such practices, at times, disrupted UN diplomatic missions and peace talks. Resultantly, the structure of the Security Council, characterized by the influence of veto powers, has been a crucial factor contributing to the challenges and failures of the UN in addressing various global issues.

Furthermore, the United States of America has used its veto power several times to counter the UN Security Council resolutions that condemn the illegal occupations of Israel and the use of force against the civilian Palestinian population. Likewise, being an old ally of India, Russia repeatedly counters the UN resolutions on Kashmir disputes that have condemned the Indian brutality in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. For example, Russia's 99th and 100th veto both favored India. The 99th veto was on a resolution in 1961 that called for a ceasefire, when India blitzed Portuguese-held Goa, and the 100th vetoes of Russia smashed the "Irish resolution" which urged both Pakistan and India for direct negotiations [on the Kashmir issue in 1962](#).

Moreover, the Rohingya Crisis of 2017 is another example of brutality and genocide in which Myanmar launched a military crackdown on the Muslim ethnic-minority that led to the persecution of thousands of Muslims. In this event, Myanmar was backed by China as it blocked all the efforts of the UN Security Council.

The U.S. intervention in Iraq in 2003 and subsequently in Syria in 2014 serve as significant examples highlighting the UN's limitations in preventing and managing conflicts. At the time of the Iraq War, the U.S. carried out invasion without explicit authorization from the UN Security Council, portraying the challenges of the UN in enforcing international law and maintaining collective security. Correspondingly, the invasion of Libya by a NATO-led coalition in 2011 saw noteworthy UN efforts, but the deep divisions at the Security Council prevented the adoption of [a coherent strategy](#). These case studies emphasize the UN's impotence in situations where great power interests clash, leading to a lack of consensus and an inability to effectively address and prevent crises, ultimately raising questions about the institution's effectiveness in maintaining global peace and security.

In the recent Hamas-Israel conflict, the United Nations seems to have failed once more. The efforts of the United Nations are once again blocked by the United States of America. Recently, a Brazilian drafted resolution was blocked by the US that would have condemned the Hamas attack on Israel while calling for a pause in fighting to allow [humanitarian assistance to Gaza](#). Keeping these incidents in view, it seems that the United Nations which was mandated to maintain peace and security is failing to play its role.

Therefore, there is a wide need for reforms in the United Nations' structure, particularly in the Security Council. Also, by limiting the role of veto power in dealing with international issues or by increasing veto states that would curtail the role of contemporary permanent members of the Security Council and give mandates to more states in world politics. In this way, the UN can perform effectively to overcome various crisis around the world.

[Protecting Human Rights: A Necessity in Balochistan – Modern Diplomacy](#)

Drawbacks Of Education System in Balochistan: The Way Forward

Muhammad Salman

February 27, 2024

In the vast expanse of Balochistan, where the mountains touch the sky and the desert stretches as far as the eye can see, lies a challenge that defines the dreams of its people: education. My own journey through Balochistan's education system paints a picture of struggle and hope, reflecting the experiences of many others like me.

During my time in middle school, I faced a tough situation. Despite doing well in my studies, the teachers struggled to teach us properly. They tried their best, but with low pay and not enough resources, it was hard for them to give us the education we deserved. Even private schools, which people thought would be better, weren't much help. They cared more about making money than about giving us a good education. Furthermore, even in private schools, I witnessed owners sending their children to elite institutions rather than admitting them to their own schools. This glaring disparity suggests that the owners themselves recognize the inadequacies of the schools they oversee, thus raising serious concerns about the quality of education being provided.

Moving on to high school, things didn't get much better. Cheating was everywhere, making it hard to focus on learning. It felt like our education was slipping away from us. Furthermore, the higher education system in Balochistan is outdated. The syllabus includes subjects that are no longer relevant in today's world. Additionally, many teachers are unqualified and lack the necessary skills to effectively teach. They are often hired based on their ability to memorize multiple-choice questions and content solely for exam clearance, rather than their ability to deliver quality lectures. With teachers of this caliber, it's challenging to produce students who can compete on international standards. Moreover, the research culture in Balochistan is lacking, with many researchers resorting to plagiarism instead of conducting original studies. This culture of academic dishonesty further undermines the quality of education in the region.

But even in the midst of all these challenges, there's still hope. The question of how and when Balochistan's education system will improve is a big one, and it needs answers. First, we need to admit that there are problems holding us back. We need to support our teachers better by giving them more training and resources. We also need to make sure

that everyone follows the rules and values learning. But fixing education in Balochistan isn't just up to the teachers. It's up to everyone the government, the community leaders, and even the students themselves. We all need to work together to make things better.

So who holds the key to change? The answer is simple: all of us. From government officials to community leaders to parents and students, each of us plays a role in shaping the future of education in Balochistan. But where do we start? The first step is acknowledging the problems that exist. We can't hope to fix something if we don't understand what's broken. From there, we need to come together to develop concrete plans for improvement.

One area that is in desperate need of attention is teacher training and support. Teachers are the backbone of any education system, and yet in Balochistan, they are often undervalued and undertrained. By investing in ongoing professional development and providing teachers with the resources they need to succeed, we can ensure that every child receives a quality education. Equally important is the need to address the culture of cheating that pervades many schools in Balochistan. Cheating not only undermines the value of education but also perpetuates a cycle of dishonesty that is difficult to break. By promoting honesty and integrity in our schools, we can create an environment where students are encouraged to learn and grow. Of course, none of this will be easy. It will require dedication, determination, and a willingness to confront the entrenched interests that benefit from the status quo. But if we truly believe in the power of education to transform lives, then we must be willing to fight for it.

In conclusion, the time for change is now. Let us come together as a community to demand better for our children and future generations. By working together, we can unlock the potential of Balochistan's education system and ensure that every child has the opportunity to succeed. The future is in our hands – let's make it a bright one.

[Drawbacks Of Education System In Balochistan: The Way Forward – Eurasia review](#)