

Balochistan Think Tank Network



BTTN Monthly Review

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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.

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Electronic voting: Is it viable?
Muhammad Usama

March 12, 2024

This year on February 8, general elections were held in Pakistan. According to the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) the voter turnout was 47.6 percent as 60.6 million people participated in this democratic exercise. The total number of registered voters in Pakistan is [128 million](#), but less than half of the registered voters participated in this democratic process. Despite various media campaigns and security assurances, people were hesitant to come out of their houses and cast their vote. There are many factors that contribute to the low voter turnout on the election day, but one of the issues that is a hindrance in turnout is the old-fashioned way of voting.

In 2021, during the government of former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, the concept of electronic voting was proposed in which not only the residents of Pakistan can cast their vote, but the expatriate Pakistanis who are around 9.95 million across the world, would be able to utilize their constitutional right of enfranchisement. However, due to the political divisions it was not accepted by the opposition parties as they raised questions which created [doubts](#) in the implementation of a system of E-Voting.

In this general election however, it was observed how an outdated mechanism of voting contributed in creating uncertainty among the voters. For example, at one of the polling stations, there were many people who came without having any prior knowledge of whether their names were in the lists of that polling station or not. The organizing body of elections in Pakistan Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) did introduce the SMS facility to check which polling station a voter is allotted to cast vote in, but that was also not free of cost instead it charged Rs 2.5 per SMS and the process is also very cumbersome, like a CNIC holder has to type his or her CNIC number the way it is printed in the CNIC and then send it to 8300, an SMS service initiated by NADRA which informs voters about their polling stations. Unfortunately, Pakistan's [40 percent](#) population is not literate and around [59 percent](#) resides in the rural areas where there are not enough facilities, let alone having active mobile networks.

However, there are cases around the world which show that the phenomenon of E-Voting is not something new or not tried before. Instead this has already been used and

implemented in various countries in conducting free, fair and transparent elections. In Brazil, for instance, the electronic voting system was introduced for the [first time in 1996](#) in one of the state local elections. Since then, it has been proven to be a transparent mechanism which generates quick results. Therefore in the 2010 [presidential elections](#) electronic voting was introduced at the national level and this helped in generating results within 75 minutes after the end of the voting process. Similarly, in Canada, France, Germany, Finland, and Estonia online internet-based voting has also been incorporated alongside the physical voting facility.

Elections determine the fate of the nation for the course of the next many years; therefore, it is quite important to formulate a system that can assist in ensuring transparency in this democratic process. But, if such a non-serious political approach continues towards matters of such national importance, then it will be very hard for us to reach a meaningful end in solving pertinent issues, let alone the election process, that are hampering the prosperity of the state.

Our eastern neighbor India has introduced the E-voting mechanism known as Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Machines all over [India after many pilot projects since 2019](#). The most important aspect of the E-voting mechanism is that it prevents post-ballot rigging and secondly it helps in generating election results within a few hours after the process of voting ends.

However, Pakistan is so politically divided that it could not reach a consensus over the establishment of an electronic voting system. At the National Assembly of Pakistan in August and September, 2021, Senator Shibli Faraz was chairing a session of the [Standing Committee meetings of Information and Technology](#) (IT) where, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were discussed quite comprehensively as he called two IT engineers, one each from ECP and NADRA, to brief the committee members. Each and every technical aspect of EVM was explained in detail, but unfortunately due to political tussle the meeting ended without any decision or consensus.

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Statistically, Pakistan has a population of [243 million](#) people according to the latest figures issued by the United Nations and out of which [60 percent](#) is between the age bracket of 15 to 64 and [30 percent](#) is below 15 years, so dominantly Pakistan has a youth bulge. The Pakistani youth is actively using or interested in technology. This trend indicates that they must be aware of the usage of the internet, but let alone the usage, the irony is that only [28 percent](#) of the population has access to the internet in Pakistan according to the latest data. In such a scenario how such an efficient EVM system can work, that is questionable.

Elections determine the fate of the nation for the course of the next many years; therefore, it is quite important to formulate a system that can assist in ensuring transparency in this democratic process. But, if such a non-serious political approach continues towards matters of such national importance, then it will be very hard for us to reach a meaningful end in solving pertinent issues, let alone the election process, that are hampering the prosperity of the state. Comprehensive electoral reforms are needed to make the election process more convenient and accommodative to the general masses and for that a political consensus is necessary which is the need of the time.

[Electronic voting: Is it viable? – Pakistan Today](#)

Regulating the automation of emerging technologies
Dr. Zafar Khan

March 13, 2024

Autonomous weapons without human-in-the-loop are coming. It is argued that emerging technologies are 'enablers' and 'force multipliers' to the state's conventional and nuclear forces. To date, most of the technologies, both offensive and defensive, are controlled by human beings for simple reasons of avoiding accidents and inadvertent escalation between rivals. The Ukrainian drone company, Sakar, is reported to have claimed the fielding of a fully autonomous weapon. Such automation is programmed in a way that may decide to kill on the battlefield autonomously without human involvement. Autonomous weapons capable of finding and selecting targets may potentially raise the moral, legal and ethical questions about its regulations, especially when the autonomous weapons do not recognise between the combatants and the non-combatants in different war fighting scenarios risking accidents and escalation the military rivals may not desire in the first place.

In contemporary times, both the major and smaller powers aspire the acquisition of latest technology to stay relevant and dominant internationally. States value technologies that benefit military advantages vis-à-vis their potential adversaries. States also develop capabilities to develop effective countermeasures for every technology. This creates an unending arms race in the field of emerging technologies and those who lag behind in acquiring nascent technologies may suffer. This is because 'technological opportunism' entails that states should make use of latest technologies for both offensive and defensive purposes.

As automated technologies integrate with military and nuclear deterrent forces, worry among competing states also increases on how and when to regulate the automation of emerging technologies. Keeping the cost and benefit analysis in consideration, states may not be quick enough as expected in striking a legally binding treaty by prohibiting the use of autonomous weapons. It took many years for nuclear weapons states to craft the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Today, the NPT is considered one of the largest treaties comprising 191 countries despite the weakness and loopholes, more especially its discriminatory structure between the haves and the have-nots. It took many years for

states to conceptualize, draft and bring the Chemical/Biological Weapons Convention into force. Meanwhile, states keep the option for the possible withdrawal and abrogation of treaties on an extra-ordinary occasion. For example, North Korea withdrew from the NPT to test its nuclear capability while both the US and Russia withdrew from a number of bilateral treaties to acquire and deploy their deterrent forces prohibited by those treaties.

The regulation of autonomous weapons must begin with the major powers. As the US and the UK declared a policy in 2022 that they would always consider human-in-the-loop for the decision to use nuclear weapons, other powers will follow suit. It is recommended that major powers also need to consider the human involvement in regulating the automation of emerging technologies.

They need not only look at the best practices by regulating the access and application of autonomous weapons, but also regulate such technologies so that the non-combatants are not killed during a military crisis. The rule and regulations for fielding autonomous weapons must be devised in controlled way so that accidents and miscalculation between rivals is prevented. It is reported the automation of technologies fielded in the sea, on the ground and in the air program through AI could kill entities, even though this may be undesirable.

In summary, regulating the automation of emerging technologies through legally and politically binding treaties is needed. Any regulation for autonomous weapons after the major powers have already acquired them could be less productive. This in turn will result in an arms race, crisis instability, and the risk of conflict between the rivals.

[Regulating the automation of emerging technologies – The Express Tribune](#)

Challenges to Nuclear Arms Control
Sher Ali Kakar**March 19, 2024**

For many years, the pillars of international arms control have been crumbling due to a lack of cooperation and consensus on crucial issues among major powers. Agreements signed between the United States and Russia during the Cold War aimed at reducing nuclear risks, preventing the costly arms race, and exercising strategic restraint are losing their effectiveness and durability. As the trust gap between Washington and Moscow widens, major treaties signed between them have become threadbare or entirely defunct. Notably, the US unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2002, raising concerns for Russia. In 2021, Russia withdrew from the Treaty on Open Skies. The extension of the New START Treaty in early 2021 was the only hope of limiting military activities and strengthening the arms control regime. However, the agreement expires in 2026, with no further extension in sight given the increased tensions between the US and Russia after the Russia-Ukraine war. This, in turn, intensifies misunderstandings and leads to an escalated arms race between the military rivals.

[CPEC – A business-friendly regime for sustainable growth](#)

Another blow to arms control would be the resumption of nuclear tests, as it weakens a major arms control agreement—the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Signed in 1996, the CTBT was a major step to prohibit “any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.” However, as geopolitical competition rises between major powers, they may resort to nuclear testing and reconsider their commitments to refrain from it. Nuclear testing raises the significance of nuclear capability and serves as a way of power projection and nuclear supremacy. While more than 175 countries have currently signed and ratified it, the CTBT has yet to enter into force. More importantly, countries considered more likely to be capable of testing have not ratified it. A resumption of nuclear testing would diminish the possibility of the treaty’s entry into force. It also diminishes the hope that the CTBT’s commitment of all members not to carry out any nuclear weapons test explosions or other nuclear explosions will ever come into effect. A test by one state would likely be responded to by the other, thus increasing the risk of nuclear escalation. In particular, the end of the moratorium on nuclear testing or non-compliance with the

objective and purpose of the treaty would increase the potential of nuclear proliferation and encourage other states to consider nuclear capability.

[OGRA notifies reduction in LPG prices](#)

Since its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), North Korea has carried out six underground nuclear tests, from 2006 to 2017, and is reportedly preparing to conduct another nuclear test in the near future. In addition, on October 18, 2023, Russia withdrew from the CTBT, a major move that has escalated its nuclear risk posture amid increased tensions with the US in the aftermath of its war with Ukraine. Very recently, Russia accused the US of nuclear testing site activity, which the US rejects. Likewise, there are indications about potential Indian nuclear tests, which if conducted would further complicate the South Asian regional security environment, instigating an arms race and increasing the risks of conflict.

Even though Pakistan is not a signatory to the CTBT, it continues to support the objectives and purpose of the treaty and observes a unilateral/voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing. Pakistan's continued support for the CTBT is a testament to its commitment to the treaty's objective. Pakistan was not the first country to test and is committed to refraining from resuming nuclear weapons testing. However, despite Pakistan's continued efforts, India has been reluctant to cooperate with Pakistan on the proposed strategic restraint regime (SSR) due to its quest for nuclear primacy and becoming a superpower country.

[Robbers deprive fruit vendor of Rs60,000 cash, cell phones](#)

The resumption of nuclear testing is a worrying signal to global peace and security as it would undermine the already fragile global nuclear governance and lead to an intensified arms race, thus creating risks of nuclear escalation. Especially in sensitive regions, such as South Asia, maintaining a balanced security environment is key to peace and stability. There is a dire need for ensuring compliance with arms control arrangements.

[Challenges to Nuclear Arms Control – The Nation](#)

Two-Years of Brahmos Misfiring – A Critical Analysis
Dr. Zafar Khan

March 20, 2024

Two years ago, on March 9, 2022, India misfired a Brahmos supersonic cruise missile that maneuvered and crashed near a town in Pakistan, Mian Chanu. Brahmos is India's advanced weapon system with strategic implications. The misfiring of this missile did not only violate the airspace but also the territorial integrity of Pakistan. Despite the existence of a Direct Line of Communication/Hotline mechanism between India and Pakistan, India did not bother to inform immediately on the Brahmos misfiring incident to clarify if the misfiring was accidental or incidental. It is yet to be known to the world community as India closes the file unilaterally.

It is important to note that the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile is the world's fastest cruise missile. It is believed that Brahmos is both a conventional and nuclear-capable cruise missile.

India has already acquired Brahmos missile capability in collaboration with Russia and since 2001, it has been carrying out several tests. We now know that the supersonic Brahmos have developed several variants that can be launched from the land, air, and sea with varying ranges and payloads.

As technology advances, India is currently planning to develop Brahmos II, perceived to be a hypersonic missile with an increased range of 1500km without any technical restriction, since both Russia and India are part of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTRC), established in 1987 by the G-7 countries aiming at curbing the payloads and ranges to others not party to the MTCR.

While calling this an "accident", India unilaterally probed the incident and declared on August 23, 2022, that "it sacked three air force officers for deviating from standard operating procedures that had led to the accidental firing of a missile into Pakistan on March 9." Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) initially asked India for a joint probe on this reckless incident, but it produced no result. MOFA categorically termed India's so-

called unilateral probe on this serious incident as “unsatisfactory, deficient, and inadequate”.

MOFA went further by emphasizing that, “India has not only failed to respond to Pakistan’s demand for a joint inquiry but has also evaded the questions raised by Pakistan regarding the command-and-control system in place in India, the safety and security protocols and the reason for India’s delayed admission of the Missile launch.”

By critically analyzing India’s misfiring of an advanced missile system particularly when it has already tested this missile so many times from the land, sea, and air, a serious security analyst would raise many questions: why the missile only maneuver to crash in Pakistan? Does India have rogue elements working in its defense system threatening international security? Are there unknown flaws in the existing India’s command and control and safety and security mechanisms for its strategic and non-strategic forces? Will this episode occur in the future as well? The international community needs to pay attention to the seriousness of this issue.

Being a responsible nuclear weapon state, Pakistan’s security leadership had shown maximum restraint while closely monitoring the crash incident. One wonders about the level of restraint and scenario if Brahmos was loaded with conventional and nuclear warheads. It is argued that demonstrating restraint is part of strategy, but not a sign of weakness. One may ask if restraint must have its restraint.

The temptation for crossing too many thresholds may increase the chances of escalation to a dangerous level in South Asia especially when the rivals are nuclear weapon states.

India appears to be testing Pakistan’s strategic patience through its temptation for preemptive strikes, escalation dominance, and power projection in the South Asian region. India was tempted in the Balakot incident in 2019. This happened on 9 March two years ago by misfiring the Brahmos missile. It might get tempted in the future as well.

Conceptually, India may develop such temptation for preemptive strikes and escalation dominance out of its hubris through its increasing economic progress and strategic partnership with the leading powers more importantly with the US for containing China since China is perceived to be a security threat to the US in the broader Asia-Pacific

region. India exploits the essence of geopolitical, geoeconomic, and geo-strategic imperatives out of the leading powers vis-à-vis China to the best of its advantage.

India's temptation for dangerous confidence to preempt Pakistan may also come from India's acquisition of emerging technologies such as speed, remote sensing, stealth, and lethality in addition to its development of nuclear-powered submarines, tactical nuclear weapons, ballistic missile defense systems, sophisticated air defense system in the form of S-400, Multiple-Independently-Targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs), Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM), aircraft carriers, supersonic missiles, acquisition of technologies for hypersonic missiles, anti-satellite weapons, plans for testing the H-bomb and even acquiring the strategic bombers.

All these acquisitions create strategic imbalances, crisis instability, arms race, and security dilemmas to undermine the broader strategic stability in South Asia. The acquisition of such forces, including emerging technologies, tends to make India more offensive, undermining nuclear deterrence in South Asia. With this flawed and dangerous confidence, South Asia is becoming riskier than ever before.

Two arguments exist for India's misfiring of the Brahmos missile two years ago. One, if the misfiring of the missile was intentional to figure out Pakistan's resolve, then India attempts to find loopholes in Pakistan's deterrent force capability. Such loopholes could further be exploited for preemptive strikes. Two, if the firing of Brahmos was accidental as India proclaims this to be, then there is a serious question mark on India's command and control and safety and security mechanism about its strategic and non-strategic forces that can be preemptively launched with no warning.

On the first argument, India may not simply undermine Pakistan's deterrent forces which may broadly be concealed, dispersed, hardened, and sheltered. Countries that develop nuclear forces must also know how to protect them from potential adversary preemptive strikes. It will be a risk in competition, a flawed strategy, and a dangerous confidence if one nuclear weapon state strategizes to preempt another nuclear rival despite the existence of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). Because of the logic of MAD, both the Soviet Union and the US did not go for preemptive strikes against each other despite possessing the first strike capabilities.

Besides, Pakistan practices a full-spectrum deterrence under the ambit of credible minimum deterrence. Full spectrum deterrence needs not to be connoted with increasing numbers of nuclear forces as many perceive in the West, but rather this has much to do with the “spectrum” -that is, to be consistent in plugging the loopholes in deterrence capabilities so that the adversary may not exploit for preemptive strikes.

On the second argument regarding the so-called accidental launch of the Brahmos missile, the international community needs to pay serious attention to the safety and security mechanism of India’s strategic forces. This becomes a threat to international peace and security if one seriously assesses India’s command and control including the safety and security mechanism of its deterrent forces. India needs to follow up on the nuclear confidence-building measures already in place in South Asia.

There is a need for strategic dialogue in South Asia on these imperatives. Suppose India issues advance notices for its missile tests. In that case, it will help reduce the chances of miscalculation, accidents, and the risk of escalation in South Asia even if the missile is accidentally fired. Misfiring a missile of strategic significance without immediately notifying Pakistan creates mistrust, miscalculation, and accidental war between the South Asian rivals.

[Two-Years of Brahmos Misfiring – A Critical Analysis - Stratheia](#)

The Danger Inside: World's Deafening Silence
Pairman Bazai

March 22, 2024

Uranium is a natural radioactive element that plays a twofold role. With its natural abundance greater than that of gold, silver, or mercury in the Earth's crust, uranium has developed over the last six decades into a vital global energy resource that is used for military purposes as well as contributes to peaceful applications highlighting its dual significance in strategic and peaceful contexts.

According to the data of the World Nuclear Association, the [world's largest reserves](#) of Uranium will be found in Kazakhstan, Canada, and Namibia, which are the major Uranium producers and exporters of the world by 2022.

India touted as one of the world's largest nuclear powers, [ninth largest Uranium producer](#), and one of the [largest Uranium importers](#) (since the 1990s, especially from Kazakhstan, Canada, and Russia), finds itself entangled in the black-market trade of uranium. The sequence of uranium-related events in India reveals an unsettling story of smuggling, theft, and security failures over the years. These incidents demonstrate the ongoing vulnerabilities in the safeguarding of nuclear materials.

These range from the alleged recovery of 2.5kg in Meghalaya in 1994, where smugglers claimed the scientist entrusted with 95kg failed to retrieve it, to the recent arrests in 2021 and 2022. The recent arrest on May 6, 2021, of two individuals with 7kg of natural uranium worth a staggering 2.9 million dollars is not an isolated incident but a stark reminder of a pervasive issue plaguing the nation's nuclear capabilities. The incident of 2022 involved the illegal sale of a valuable item for Rs. 350 million per kg.

The given statistics of the consequential incidents have been extracted purely from Indian and international news outlets to avoid bias. The data lacks the exact quantity and the net worth of the confiscated radioactive or fissile material due to a number of reasons, such as inadequate reporting, a lack of particular information from the authorities, or ongoing investigations in which exact values have not been made public. Accurately determining the quantity and value of uranium that has been captured may also be difficult due to the covert operations and underground nature of the illicit trade.

However, the source of the uranium that the smugglers obtained—where the important government research officers are involved—is a common element throughout all the incidents. This demonstrates the nuclear risk that the nation of India poses to the rest of the world and its recklessness as a responsible nation.

Subsequent Incidents of Uranium Illicit Business in India

Month / Year	Incident	Source	Quantity of Uranium (Kg)	Approximate Worth Price
1994 (October 16)	Police in Meghalaya recovered 2.5 kgs of uranium from four smugglers in Domiasiat, who allege that nearly 95 kg of unprocessed uranium, originally entrusted to them by a scientist from the DAE's Atomic Mineral Division, remains hidden in the hills after the scientist failed to retrieve the radioactive material as promised.	India Today	100	Not Defined
1998 (June)	The authorities in the Indian state of West Bengal detained an opposition leader under the suspicion of	Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), Indian	100	Not Defined

	transporting over 100kg of uranium.	Defence Review (IDR)		
1998 (July)	The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) confiscated eight kilograms of nuclear material from a structural engineer Arun, in Chennai, with subsequent analysis by the Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (IGCAR) revealing six kilograms of natural uranium (U-237 and U-238) along with weapons-grade U-235. This discovery prompted additional seizures on July 31, 1998, involving 31 grams and 2 kilograms from two other engineers, suggesting a potential link to an atomic research center as the source; however, the case was eventually closed without further action.	Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), Indian Defence Review (IDR)	10.031	Not Defined

2000 (November 7)	As per the IAEA, Indian authorities confiscated 57 pounds of uranium and apprehended two individuals for engaging in the illegal trafficking of radioactive material.	Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)	25.85	Not Defined
2000 (November 13)	The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) disclosed that Indian authorities confiscated three uranium rods and detained eight individuals on charges related to the illegal trafficking of nuclear material, raising concerns about the vulnerability of civil nuclear facilities to such thefts.	Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)	3 Rods (Weight is Unknown)	Not Defined
2001	Authorities in the Indian state of West Bengal arrested two individuals in possession of over two hundred grams of semi-processed Uranium	Strafasia	0.2	Not Defined
2003	Indian agencies apprehended members of a terror outfit in a village along the Bangladesh	Indian Defence Review (IDR)Strafasia	0.225	Not Defined

	border with 225 grams of milled uranium.			
2006 (December)	In August 2006, a fortified research facility in Rajrappa town, Ramgarh district, reported the theft of a container containing radioactive material, potentially carrying uranium with a radius of adverse radiation effects extending to 1.5 kilometers; however, officials have not disclosed the degree of uranium enrichment.	ABC News	Not Defined	Not Defined
2008	A criminal gang was apprehended while trying to smuggle low-grade uranium, suitable for a basic radiation-dispersal device, from an Indian state-owned mine to Nepal. During the same year, another group was intercepted while illegally transporting a stock of uranium across the border to Bangladesh, with	The Center for Public Integrity, Indian Defence Review (IDR)	Not Defined	

	assistance from the son of an employee at India's Atomic Minerals Division, responsible for overseeing uranium mining and processing.			
2009	An employee at a nuclear reactor in southwest India intentionally poisoned numerous colleagues with a radioactive isotope, exploiting significant security lapses in the plant, as revealed in an internal government report obtained by the Center.	The Center for Public Integrity, Indian Defence Review (IDR)	Not Applicable	
2013	According to Indian government sources, guerrilla rebels in northeast India illicitly obtained uranium ore from a government-operated milling plant in 2013, utilizing it to create a basic bomb before being apprehended by the police.	Indian Defence Review (IDR)	Not identified	
2016	Around 9 kg of radioactive uranium, identified as depleted uranium through	NDTV	9	₹3 crore per kg

	laboratory tests, has been confiscated from two individuals in Thane, with preliminary investigations suggesting it was brought from abroad for sale to unknown parties in the area. Two lab reports indicated uranium content of 87.7% and 79.5%, respectively. The banned nature of this substance makes it difficult to determine its exact value, though some independent media reports estimate depleted uranium to be valued at ₹3 crore per kg.			
2018	The Kolkata police uncovered another uranium smuggling network, arresting five individuals who had come to Kolkata claiming to sell one kilogram of radioactive material, valued at ₹3 crore in the open market.	The Times of India	1	₹3 crore
2021	Acting on specific information, the Nagpada	THE WIRE	7.1	2.8 million USD

unit of the ATS apprehended a 27-year-old Thane resident, Jigar Pandya, on February 14 for possessing small pieces of valuable substance and attempting to illegally sell them; during interrogation, it was revealed that the uranium pieces were provided by Abu Tahir Afzal Husain Choudhary (31) of Mankhurd in Mumbai. The ATS later arrested Choudhary at the Kurla Scrap Association premises in Mankhurd, seizing 7.1 kg of natural uranium from him. In a separate incident, two men were arrested in Maharashtra on May 7 for possessing 7.1 kilograms of natural uranium, estimated to be worth over Rs. 21.3 crore (\$2.8 million); the source of the uranium was unknown and under investigation. Tested by the Bhabha Atomic

	<p>Research Centre (BARC), the substance was confirmed to be highly radioactive natural uranium, with a purity above 90%, deemed dangerous to human life.</p>			
<u>2021</u>	<p>This was the second incident of Uranium illicit trade in India in 2021. On June 3, police in Jharkhand arrested seven individuals for allegedly possessing 6.4 kilograms of a substance believed to be uranium. However, on June 10, a spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs disputed this claim, stating that the Indian Department of Atomic Energy affirmed the seized material is not uranium and is not radioactive.</p>	<p>Arms Control Association</p>	6.4	Not identified
2022	<p>The two Indian nationals, Upendra Kumar Mishra and Raju Thakur from Bihar, along with six Nepali</p>	<p>NDTV</p>	Not identified	(4.218 million USD per Kg)

<p>nationals, were arrested by the police as they were preparing to sell a valuable item for Rs. 350 million per kg. Bhupendra and Nawaraj were arrested from a car parked in parking lot of a five-star hotel in Boudha, where the substance was hidden, leading to the arrest of the other six based on information provided by them. All eight individuals are facing charges of illegally trading in uranium, and authorities have seized nine mobile phones from them, according to Nepal Police headquarters sources. (The total price of seized uranium could not be defined as the quantity was not identified.)</p>			
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Table 1: Author's Compilation (Sources – Indian National news Outlets, International News Outlets)

Just in 2021, India saw three such instances that all pointed to a growing illicit market for nuclear materials and, more concerningly, a deterioration in safety regulations in a nation that plays a major role in the world nuclear scene. Under the cover of India's nuclear aspirations, the underbelly of the nuclear business has exposed a troubling reality.

The Indian history in black marketing of uranium depicts that the credibility of India's safety and security measures for uranium reserves is under question. Consequently, it is considered a responsible nuclear weapon state is factually wrong. The events point to a massive gap in the system, not just a fissure, that not only allows criminals to openly sell nuclear materials on the illicit market but also proves the involvement of government officials. It also presents a disconcerting picture of India's nuclear depots, highlighting flaws that legitimately raise doubts about the country's capacity to shield its population from nuclear catastrophes. This highlights the urgent need to confront and fortify safety measures in the context of escalating demands.

The international community's indifference, together with the deafening silence on the illicit uranium trade in one of the world's nuclear giants, is quite worrisome.

India's illicit uranium supply chain is a ticking time bomb that threatens not just national security but also global security. However, the apathy of the international community towards addressing this issue head-on reveals a lot about how dedicated the states are to a world free of nuclear weapons. Because nuclear materials could fall into the wrong hands, the aforementioned incidents are those that have been reported, and there may be many more, though there is always the potential for devastating outcomes if nothing is done.

To fortify its security measures and ensure the integrity of its nuclear programme, India must take proactive and responsible action. Furthermore, the international community must unite against the growing threat posed by the illegal uranium trade in India and quit being so indifferent to it. Now is the moment to take immediate action before the dark market's shadows engulf us all in a nuclear nightmare. The stakes are too high to stay blindfolded.

[**The Danger Inside: World's Deafening Silence - Stratheia**](#)

Lost Innocence
Manahil Bazai**March 26,2024**

Poverty in Pakistan has become a major concern, with recent data showing an unprecedented increase in the number of people living below the poverty line. According to the World Bank estimates, poverty rates in Pakistan have increased to 39.4% in the last fiscal year, pushing an extra 12.5 million individuals into poverty. This is primarily due to the inconsistent implementation of political reforms, which has led to a flawed democratic system that hits the poor the hardest. As a result, poverty has gone up and the gap between rich and poor has widened. When families cannot afford necessities like food, water, education, and healthcare, they often have no choice but to send their children to work and rely on them for financial support. This shows the intricate interdependence of poverty and child labour in Pakistan.

One of the major threats to the rights of children across the globe is Child Labor, especially in developing countries like Pakistan, where around 12 million children are forced to work at an early age. Many poverty-stricken families depend on their children to make ends meet, often making them work as domestic helpers. Currently, an estimated 264,000 children are working in this sector. Furthermore, some ideological, and cultural beliefs restrict girls' access to education and consequently, they end up doing household chores and are forced into early marriages. Thus, this inaccessibility contributes to their inability to break the chain of poverty.

[CPEC – A business-friendly regime for sustainable growth](#)

In Pakistan, Child Labor is prevalent in several industries, such as agriculture, mining, manufacturing, domestic work, and the informal sector. In 2020, Pakistan banned child labour and declared it unlawful for children to be employed in factories and other industries. Despite this, according to the Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Children (SPARC), over 12 million children aged 5 to 14 are still working as labourers. In addition, according to the National Institute of Population Studies, many child labourers are subjected to hazardous and unpleasant working conditions.

Child labour perpetuates a cycle of exploitation and abuse that leads to devastating consequences, including occurrences of domestic violence. For instance, Rizwana, a 14-year-old maid, employed at the residence of a civil judge in Islamabad, endured severe mistreatment from the judge's wife, resulting in grave injuries. Shockingly, amidst physical abuse and false accusations, she was not provided with her due rightful wages. Her injuries including fractured teeth and ribs, along with strangulation marks, highlight the distressing reality faced by many forced labourers. However, this event is not an isolated occurrence, similar acts of brutality have occurred several times in the past. Thus, it stresses on the urgent need to address the interconnected issues of child labour, human rights violations, and domestic violence, intensified by widespread poverty and inequality in Pakistan.

[OGRA notifies reduction in LPG prices](#)

Such injustices remind us of the need for a caring society that puts the well-being and rights of its most vulnerable first. Therefore, child labour not only harms the children involved but also shakes the foundation of society by posing a threat to the future of millions. Forced child labor deprives children of the chance to study, learn, and acquire the necessary skills. They are exposed to arduous hours of work, abuse, and exploitation. Moreover, it impedes children from contributing positively to society as a skilled and educated individual in the long run. Thus, the consequences of child labour are multifaceted in nature that affect human lives negatively and threaten the future of humanity.

The effective role of Government in this subject matter is the need of the hour. It should improve access to quality education, especially for the marginalized communities. In the short run, there should be financial support programs for vulnerable families in the shape of cash transfer schemes, and vocational training for the parents. In the long run, to reduce the poverty government should announce livelihood programs for the targeted population living below the poverty line. Moreover, strengthening child protection systems and services to identify and support children engaged in forced labour activities. So, the principle that children are meant to learn, not to earn, echoes the wisdom of Karl Menninger who stated that "What is done to the children, they will do to society". With

continuous efforts, we can ensure a better tomorrow for all. Child labour is deeply ingrained in the mindsets of impoverished families and there is a need for social and behavioural change to abolish it. It is an obligation to speak out against such injustices and strive for a world where every child's innocence is protected, and their rights are ensured.

[Lost Innocence – The Nation](#)

ایک اندازے (ایتھنولوج رپورٹ) کے مطابق پاکستان میں 40 لاکھ سے زائد افراد براہوی بولتے ہیں اور ان میں سے نصف اسے اپنی پہلی زبان کے طور پر بولتے ہیں۔ یہ تعداد ملک میں فارسی بولنے والے (10 لاکھ) لوگوں کی تعداد سے دوگنی ہے۔ جبکہ عملی طور پر پاکستان میں عربی بطورِ مادری زبان بولنے والے بالکل نہیں ہیں۔ پھر بھی، پاکستان میں سنٹرل سپیریئر سروسز (سی ایس ایس) کے امتحانات میں فارسی اور عربی اختیاری مضامین کا حصہ ہیں جبکہ براہوی نہیں ہے۔ اقوام متحدہ کی ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق براہوی دنیا کی اُن 27 زبانوں میں سے ایک ہے جنہیں ناپید ہونے یا معدومیت کا خطرہ ہے۔ لہذا، یہ تحریر اس بات پر زور دیتی ہے کہ تاریخی اعتبار سے اس خطے کی ہزاروں سال پرانی زبان معدوم ہونے کے خطرے سے دوچار ہے، اور اس زبان کو زندہ رکھنے کے لیے اسے دیگر تدبیروں کے ساتھ ساتھ سی ایس ایس کے نصاب میں شامل کرنا ایک اہم قدم ہو سکتا ہے۔

ایک تحقیق، "براہوی زبان پر عالمگیریت کے اثرات"، کے مطابق براہوی برصغیر کے خطے کی قدیم ترین زبانوں میں سے ایک ہے۔ یہ تحقیق ایک ایم فل اسکالر، بلوچستان یونیورسٹی کے براہوی ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے ایک ایسوسی ایٹ پروفیسر اور بلوچستان ریسرچ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ سینٹر کے اسسٹنٹ ڈائریکٹر، تینوں نے مل کر کی ہے۔ مصنفین کے مطابق، براہوی بولنے والے لوگ پاکستان کے بلوچستان اور سندھ جبکہ ایران، افغانستان اور یہاں تک کہ ترکمانستان میں بھی آباد ہیں۔ ان کی تحقیق اس دعوے کی تائید کرتی ہے کہ براہوی زبان دراوڑی نژاد ہے اور یہ برصغیر پاک و ہند اور سری لنکا میں مہر گڑھ تہذیب (7000 قبل مسیح) سے بولی جاتی رہی ہے۔ یہ ایک ایسی زبان ہے جو تقریباً 4500 سے 9000 سال پرانی ہے۔ یہ تحقیق اس بات پر زور دیتی ہے کہ ایسا لگتا ہے کہ عالمگیریت کے تیز رفتار عمل نے اس زبان پر حملہ کر دیا ہے۔" جیسے کچھ الفاظ اور لڑکے، لڑکیوں کے نام، دنوں کے نام، رشتوں کے نام، دیگر اصطلاحات اور کھانے پینے کی اشیاء کے کئی براہوی ناموں کی جگہ الیکٹرانک اور پرنٹ میڈیا پر غالب زبانوں نے لے لی ہیں۔"

یونیسکو کے ایک پروجیکٹ میں ناپید ہونے والے زبانوں پر بحث کی گئی ہے اس رپورٹ میں بجا طور پر کہا گیا ہے کہ زبانوں کو اس وجہ سے زندہ رکھنے کی ضرورت ہے کہ "زبانیں ہماری ثقافتوں، اجتماعی یادوں اور اقدار کی گاڑیاں ہیں۔ وہ ہماری شناخت کا ایک لازمی جزو ہیں، اور ہمارے تنوع اور زندہ ورثے کا ایک بنیادی حصہ ہیں۔" اور بہت سے فوائد کے ساتھ گلوبلائزیشن کے کچھ نقصانات بھی ہیں، خاص طور پر پاکستان جیسے ترقی پذیر ممالک کے لیے۔ تیزی سے عالمگیریت کی وجہ سے ان اقوام میں مادری زبانیں، مقامی ثقافتیں اور تعلقات کا روایتی سماجی ڈھانچہ خطرے میں ہے۔ عالمگیریت کا عمل مغربی نظریات اور مغربی طرز زندگی کو اپنانے میں زیادہ مؤثر ہے اور یہ مقامی ثقافتوں اور ان کے اقدار اور ان ثقافتوں کی زبانوں کے لیے خطرہ ہے۔ بلاشبہ ارتقاء کے عمل کا احترام کیا جانا چاہیے لیکن مقامی زبانوں کی قدر میں کمی اسکی کوئی قیمت نہیں۔

یہ بات قابل تعریف ہے کہ ملک میں براہوی زبان میں روزانہ، ہفتہ وار، دو ہفتہ وار، ماہانہ اور سہ ماہی رسائل اور جراند چھپتے ہیں۔ قبائلی رہنماؤں، جیسے حاجی لشکری رئیسائی، کا براہوی ادیبوں اور دانشوروں کو حمایت کا یقین

دلانا بھی حوصلہ افزا ہے۔ پی ٹی وی بولان پر چند گھنٹوں کی نشریات اور رابطہ فورم انٹرنیشنل کی براہوی زبان میں خبرنامے بھی قابل تعریف ہیں، تاہم ، یہ کوششیں کافی ثابت نہیں ہوئی ہیں۔ انگریزی زبان اپنی وسعت کی وجہ سے دنیا کی کئی زبانوں کو پیچھے چھوڑ چکی ہے اور براہوی ان میں سے ایک ہے۔

دوسری طرف براہوی بولنے والوں کی اکثریت بھی صرف گھر ونمیں اپنی مادری زبان بولتے ہیں، وہ نا تو براہوی میں لکھا کچھ پڑھ سکتے ہیں اور نہ ہی لکھ سکتے ہیں۔ ان میں سے اکثر براہوی ادب سے بالکل ناواقف ہیں۔ بلوچستان پبلک سروس کمیشن کو اس کے صوبائی سول سروس (پی سی ایس) کے امتحانات کے نصاب میں 'جنرل پیپر بشمول اردو/بلوچی/پشتو/سندھی/پنجابی اور براہوی' کے لازمی مضمون کو شامل کرنے کا کریڈٹ دیا جانا چاہیے۔ یہ کسی حد تک زبان کی قوت اور وسعت کو بڑھاتا ہے۔ اگرچہ پی سی ایس کے خواہشمندوں کی تعداد تقریباً چند ہزار بتائی جاتی ہے، جو براہوی زبان کو زندہ رکھنے کے لیے کم ہے۔ جبکہ پی سی ایس کے اختیاری مضامین میں فرانسیسی، سنسکرت، لاطینی اور جرمن زبانوں کو شامل کرنا سمجھ سے بالاتر ہے، جو کہ ایک الگ موضوع ہے۔

پی سی ایس کے برعکس، براہوی زبان ملک کے سی ایس ایس امتحانات کے نصاب میں شامل نہیں ہے جس سے اس تاریخی زبان کی وسعت و اہمیت کا دائرہ محدود ہو جاتا ہے۔ براہوی بولنے والے سی ایس ایس کے خواہشمند اکثر مجبوری سے نصاب سے متبادل دستیاب زبانوں یا مضامین کا انتخاب کرتے ہیں اور عموماً اس میں ناکام رہتے ہیں۔ متبادل مضمون پاس کرنے والوں کو بھی شاید ہی کبھی اس مضمون کی افادیت اور وسعت کا علم ہو گا کیونکہ انہوں نے مجبوری سے اس مضمون کا انتخاب کیا ہوتا ہے اور اس زبان کو محض پاس ہونے کی خاطر سر سری پڑھتے ہیں اور کچھ نہیں۔ براہوی بولنے والے اکثر امیدوار براہوی مضمون نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے کم نمبر حاصل کرپاتے ہیں جو انکی تعیناتی میں مسئلے پیدا کرتی ہے۔

لہذا، یہ تجویز کیا جاتا ہے کہ دیگر کوششوں کے ساتھ ساتھ براہوی زبان کو سی ایس ایس کے نصاب میں شامل کیا جائے تاکہ اسکی اہمیت بڑھے اور یہ تاریخی زبان ناپید ہونے سے بچ جائے۔ براہوی کو سی ایس ایس میں شامل کرنے سے براہوی میں مہارت رکھنے والے افراد کو سی ایس ایس امتحانات میں حصہ لینے کا مساوی موقع ملے گا اور ایسا کرنا سول سروسز میں زیادہ نمائندگی کا باعث بھی بنے گا۔ ایسا کرنے سے عام عوام کو یہ پیغام بھی ملے گا کہ ریاست اپنی مقامی زبانوں کی قدر کرتی ہے اور انہیں فروغ دیتی ہے۔ مزید یہ کہ ایسا کرنے سے نچلی سطح پر گورننس کو مضبوط بنایا جا سکتا ہے جس سے سرکاری ملازمین مختلف علاقوں کی زبانوں میں مؤثر طریقے سے بات چیت کر سکتے ہیں جہاں وہ بخوبی خدمات سرانجام دے سکتے ہیں۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ یہ بلوچستان کے علاقائی ثقافتی ورثے کو برقرار رکھنے کے لیے بھی ضروری ہے۔ اس طرح کی شمولیت کو ثقافتی حساسیت اور اقلیتی زبانوں کے احترام کے اشارے کے طور پر بھی دیکھا جا سکتا ہے۔ سی ایس ایس کے امتحانات میں براہوی کی شمولیت زیادہ زبانوں اور ثقافتوں کی پہچان کی حوصلہ افزائی بھی کر سکتی ہے۔

براہوی کو ان علاقوں کے اسکولوں کے نصابی کتابوں میں بھی شامل کیا جانا چاہیے جہاں براہوی بولنے والوں کی تعداد زیادہ ہے۔ ان بچوں کو کم از کم براہوی میں لکھنا پڑھنا آنا اور دوسرے مضامین کے ساتھ ساتھ براہوی زبان کے ادب سے بھی واقف ہونا چاہیے۔ سینیٹ، قومی اور صوبائی اسمبلیوں میں بیٹھے بلوچستان کے نمائندوں کو بھی

اس قدیم زبان کے تحفظ کے لیے کوششیں کرنی چاہئیں۔ انہیں زبان کے دانشوروں، ادیبوں اور محققین کا ساتھ دینا چاہیے۔ انہیں زبان، اس کی تاریخ اور ادب کو فروغ دینے کے لیے جہاں ضرورت ہو وہاں مزید براہوی اکیڈمیز قائم کرنی چاہئیں۔ یہاں تک کہ براہوی جیسی مقامی زبانوں کو بلوچستان میں بی۔ ایس پروگرامز میں بطور اختیاری مضمون شامل کیا جانا چاہیے۔ طلبا آٹھ سمسٹروں میں سے کم از کم کسی ایک سمسٹر میں ان زبانوں میں سے کسی ایک مقامی زبان کو ضرور پڑھیں۔ چونکہ پاکستان ایک کثیر النسل اور کثیر لسانی ملک ہے اس لیے پاکستان کو اپنی خوبصورتی کے ایک نمایاں زیور، براہوی زبان کو، کھو جانے سے بچانا چاہیے۔

[Brahui Zaban CSS Nisab Mein – Daily Urdu](#)

Balochistan Ke Baare Mein Ghalat Fehmiyan Asadullah Raisani

March 31,2024

میں نے تین سال سے زیادہ عرصہ پنجاب کے مختلف حصوں میں خاص طور پر ملتان میں پڑھائی کے لیے گزارے ہیں۔ ملتان کے علاوہ میں لاہور، فیصل آباد، بہاولپور، بہاولنگر، خانیوال، ڈیرہ غازی خان اور پٹنوں میں، منڈی صادق گنج، ڈیرہ بکھر والا اور قاسم والا میں وقت گزار چکا ہوں۔ میں جہاں بھی گیا وہاں بلوچستان اور بلوچستان کے رہنے والے لوگوں کے بارے میں چند غلط فہمیاں عام تھیں۔ اس کالم کا مقصد ان غلط فہمیوں کی اصلاح کرنا ہے۔

غلط فہمی نمبر 1: بلوچستان میں صرف بلوچ رہتے ہیں

پنجاب میں اکثر لوگوں کو لگتا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں صرف بلوچ رہتے ہیں۔ یہ بات درست ہے کہ بلوچستان میں رہنے والے لوگوں کی اکثریت بلوچ ہے، لیکن بلوچستان ایک کثیر النسل و کثیر الثقافتی صوبہ ہے جس میں پشتون، سندھی، ہزارہ، سرائیکی، پنجابی، ہندکو، کشمیری، گلگتی، اردو اور فارسی بولنے والے، یہاں تک کہ تاجک اور ازبک بھی شامل ہیں۔ پنجاب میں رہنے والوں کی اکثریت کو نہیں پتا کہ جنوبی پنجاب میں رہنے والے بلوچوں کی تعداد بلوچستان کی کل بلوچ آبادی سے زیادہ ہے۔ مختصراً، بلوچستان متعدد نسلوں، ثقافتوں اور متعدد مذاہب کا گھر ہے۔ یہ بات بھی آپکے علم میں ہو کہ ہندو، عیسائی اور زرتشتیوں کی بھی بڑی تعداد بلوچستان کے مختلف حصوں میں آباد ہے۔

غلط فہمی نمبر 2: بلوچستان کے لوگ ریاست مخالف ہیں

یہ محض جھوٹ ہوگا اگر میں یہ دعویٰ کروں کہ بلوچستان میں رہنے والا ہر شخص اس ملک سے گہری عقیدت رکھتا ہے۔ تاہم یہ ماننا بھی مبالغہ آرائی ہے کہ بلوچستان کے لوگ ریاست مخالف ہیں۔ بلوچستان میں رہنے والے لوگوں، خاص طور پر بلوچ اور پشتون قوم پرستوں کو ریاست کے مختلف پالیسیوں اور عہدیداروں سے شکایات ضرور ہیں لیکن وہ کسی بھی جواز سے انہیں ریاست مخالف نہیں بناتی۔ ان میں سے زیادہ تر اختلاف رائے رکھنے والے شہری کسی بھی عام پاکستانی کی طرح یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ ملک صحیح راستے پر نہیں چل رہا۔ فرق یہ ہے کہ یہ قوم پرست لوگ ان پالیسیوں کے خلاف کافی کھل کر آواز اٹھاتے ہیں جو ان کے خیال میں پاکستان کی قومی یکجہتی کے خلاف ہیں۔ مختصر یہ کہ وہ ریاست کے خلاف نہیں بلکہ بعض ریاستی پالیسیوں اور رویوں کے خلاف ہیں۔

غلط فہمی نمبر 3: بلوچستان کے لوگ ضدی اور جارح ہیں

یہ دعویٰ کرنا ایک سفید جھوٹ ہو گا کہ بلوچستان کے لوگ بالکل ضدی نہیں ہیں۔ پر یہ کہنا کہ بلوچستان کے لوگ جارح ہیں، یہ زیادتی ہوگی۔ بلوچستان میں رہنے والے لوگوں کے نقطہ نظر میں سختی کی ایک بڑی وجہ یہاں کا قبائلی نظام ہے، جہاں مضبوط دعوے اور اعتماد کو مضبوط کردار اور بہادری کا حصہ سمجھا جاتا ہے، جسے بلوچوں کے ضابطہ اخلاق بلوچ میار اور پشتونوں کے ضابطہ اخلاق پشتونولی کا مطالعہ کر کے سمجھا جاسکتا ہے۔ اس سختی بھی کو ان لوگوں کو پیار اور محبت دکھا کر پگھلایا جا سکتا ہے۔ جیسا کہ ایک مشہور بلوچی کہاوت ہے، " محبت سے میں جہنم چلے جاؤں تمہارے ساتھ لیکن زبردستی کے جنت سے بھی انکار ہے مجھے۔ "

غلط فہمی نمبر 4: بلوچستان کے (اکثریت) لوگ لاقانونیت کی زندگی گزارتے ہیں

1980 کی دہائی کے وسط سے پنجاب میں 12 ویں جماعت کی سوشیالوجی کی کتاب میں بلوچوں کو "قتل اور لوٹ مار میں مصروف غیر مہذب لوگ" کے طور پر بیان کیا گیا ہے۔ اسے 2016 میں درست کیا گیا، جس کا مطلب ہے کہ کچھ تیس سالوں سے پنجاب میں لوگوں کو سکھایا گیا کہ بلوچ لاقانونیت میں زندگی گزارتے ہیں۔ ان میں سے ایک بڑی تعداد اب بھی اسی بات پر یقین رکھتی ہے۔ یہ سچ نہیں ہے۔ بلوچستان پاکستان کا سب سے کم آبادی والا صوبہ ہونے کے باوجود اعلیٰ تعلیم اور کتابوں کے قارئین کا گھر ہے جہاں لوگ جنون کی حد تک کتاب سے محبت کرتے ہیں۔ ایک اندازے کے مطابق سہ روزہ کونٹہ لٹریچر فیسٹیول 2022 میں تقریباً 70 لاکھ روپے کی کتابیں فروخت کی گئیں۔ اکیلے کونٹہ میں سینکڑوں سنگل روم لائبریریاں ہیں جہاں لوگوں نے اپنے ٹراننگ رومز کو لائبریریوں میں تبدیل کر دیا ہے کیونکہ شہر کی لائبریریوں میں اکثر جگہ نہیں بچتی پڑھنے کے لیے اور بلوچستان میں تقریباً ہر جگہ ٹیوشن سینٹرز، انگلش لینگویج اکیڈمیز، اور فری لانسنگ ٹریننگ سینٹرز کی ایک اچھی تعداد موجود ہے۔ یہاں کئی ایسے لوگ ہیں جو لائبریریوں کو معمول کی بنیاد پر کتابیں عطیہ کرتے ہیں۔ اسکے علاوہ بلوچستان کے لوگ نہ صرف مختلف اداروں میں خدمات سرانجام دے رہے ہیں بلکہ سیاست میں بھی بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لے رہے ہیں۔ مختصر یہ کہ بلوچستان میں جرائم کا تناسب ملک کے جرائم کے اوسط سے بھی کم ہے اور بلوچستان کے لوگ مختلف شعبوں میں بڑھ چڑھ کر حصہ لے رہے ہیں۔

غلط فہمی نمبر 5: بلوچستان رہنے کے قابل نہیں

یہ سچ ہے کہ متعدد عوامل کی وجہ سے بلوچستان اتنا محفوظ نہیں جتنا کہی ہوا کرتا تھا۔ تاہم، حیرت ظاہر کرنا کہ لوگ اب بھی بلوچستان میں کیسے رہ رہے ہیں، بھیانک تصورات کی نشاندہی کرتا ہے۔ اس طرح کے خوفناک تخیلات کا سب سے بڑا ذریعہ میڈیا ہے، جیسا کہ 2013 میں بی بی سی نے کونٹہ کو، 'روح زمین پر جہنم' قرار دیا تھا جو کہ اب بہت پرانی بات ہو چکی ہے۔ ہو سکتا ہے کہ بلوچستان کا ایک بڑا حصہ مختلف وجوہات کی وجہ سے سیاحوں کے لیے محفوظ نہ ہو، تاہم یہ رہنے کے قابل ہے۔ بلوچستان میں رہنے والے لوگ بھی باقی ہومو سیپینز کی طرح انسان ہیں اور وہ تمام تر مشکلات کے باوجود روزی کھاتے ہیں، پنک پر جاتے ہیں، مختلف کھیل کھیلتے ہیں، اور تفریح کرتے ہیں۔ مختصر یہ کہ بلوچستان رہنے کے قابل ہے۔

غلط فہمی نمبر 6: بلوچستان کے لوگ پنجابیوں کے خلاف ہیں

یہ دعویٰ کرنا سراسر رومانوی ہوگا کہ بلوچستان میں پنجابیوں کا کھلے عام استقبال کیا جاتا ہے۔ 26 اگست 2006 کو نواب اکبر خان بگٹی کے قتل کے بعد پنجابیوں کے قتل کے واقعات نے خاصی رفتار پکڑی تھی۔ تاہم ان کے قتل کا ذمہ دار پورے بلوچستان کو نہیں ٹھہرایا جا سکتا، کیونکہ بلوچستان میں پنجابیوں کی ایک خاصی تعداد آباد ہے اور یہاں کام کرتی ہے۔ یہاں تک کہ مجھے اپنے اسکول کے ایک استاد کی بات یاد آتی ہے، جن سے ہم نے پوچھا تھا، "آپ کیوں نہیں بلوچستان چھوڑ کر جا رہے؟ (جیسا کہ کئی پنجابی اساتذہ بلوچستان چھوڑ کر جا چکے تھے)" انہوں نے بڑے اعتماد سے جواب دیا، "کیا کوئی اپنی ماں (زمین) کو بھی چھوڑ سکتا ہے؟" مختصر یہ کہ ماضی قریب میں

صوبے میں پنجابیوں پر برا وقت آیا جو کہ قابلِ مذمت ہے لیکن اس کا یہ مطلب نہیں کہ بلوچستان کے لوگ ان سے نفرت کرتے ہیں یا ان کے خلاف ہیں۔ یہ بھی سمجھنے کی ضرورت ہے کہ ملک کی پالیسی سازی پر اثر انداز ہونے والے لوگوں کی اکثریت پنجابیوں کی ہے اور اس سے نہ صرف بلوچستان بلکہ پاکستان کے دیگر حصوں میں بھی اس اکثریت کے خلاف خدشات موجود ہیں۔

غلط فہمی نمبر 7: بلوچستان میں سرداروں کا راج ہے

درحقیقت، بلوچستان میں بہت سے بزرگ خود اپنی نسلوں کے ضابطہ اخلاق کی پابندی نہیں کرتے اور ان کے اپنے قبائلیوں پر تشدد کرنے کی کہانیاں موجود ہیں، لیکن پورے بلوچستان میں ایسا نہیں ہے۔ بلوچستان میں قبائلی نظام ماضی کی طرح برقرار نہیں ہے، بلوچستان کا قبائلی نظام سندھ اور جنوبی پنجاب کے قبائلی نظام سے مختلف ہے۔ ایک سردار کو اپنے اختیار کو جائز قرار دینے کے لیے اپنے قبائلیوں سے ووٹ کی ضرورت پڑتی ہے۔ اگر وہ بلوچستان کے حاکم ہوتے تو عوام سے و ووٹ کی درخواست نہ کرتے۔ یہاں تک کہ بلوچستان میں سیاسی انجینئرنگ بھی اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ بہت سے سردار جو اس نشست کے مستحق نہیں ہیں انہیں اپنے کنٹرول کو جائز بنانے کے لیے بیرونی دھکے کی ضرورت پڑتی ہے۔ مختصراً یہ کہ بلوچستان پر وہی لوگ حکومت کرتے ہیں جو پاکستان پر حکومت کرتے ہیں۔

مجموعی طور پر، بلوچستان اور اس کے لوگوں کے بارے میں مختلف غلط فہمیاں پائی جاتی ہیں، خاص طور پر پنجاب میں۔ اگرچہ ان خیالات کو یکسر مسترد نہیں کیا جا سکتا، لیکن یہ بڑی حد تک غلط ہیں۔ بلوچستان کی منفی تصویر کی وجہ میڈیا، غیر تصدیق شدہ معلومات اور بلوچستان اور پنجاب کے لوگوں کے درمیان محدود رابطے ہیں۔ لہذا میڈیا میں بلوچستان کی حقیقی تصویر کی تصویر کشی کی اشد ضرورت ہے اور حکومتی سطح پر پنجاب میں بلوچ کلچر اور بلوچستان میں پنجابی اور سرانیکی کلچر کو منانے جیسے مختلف ثقافتی تبادلے کے پروگراموں کے ذریعے بلوچستان اور پنجاب کے لوگوں کے درمیان رابطے میں اضافہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

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