

Profile of district

# Gwadar

with focus on livelihood related issues



South Asia Partnership-Pakistan

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Gwadar  
with focus on livelihood related issues

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This publication is a result of a research exercise carried out to understand and document the current status of different ways and means of earning livelihoods in a group of selected districts of Pakistan and other factors that have an impact on people's capacity to utilize available resources and that of creating new ones. The study is a part of South Asia Partnership, Pakistan's (SAP-PK) strategy to realize its mission of creating an engendered, critical society in South Asia based on the universal principles of human dignity, justice, democracy and peaceful coexistence. As member of South Asian civil society movement, SAP-Pk is striving to empower marginalized sections of society and working to influence policies in their favor.

Data for the study is collected through secondary as well as primary sources. The secondary data is mostly quoted from Population Census 1998, Agriculture Census 2000, Agriculture Machinery Census 2004, Industry Census 2004, Animal Census 2006, Punjab Development Statistics 2008 and other government sources. Information from some departmental studies like Multiple Indicator Cluster Study by Planning Commission 2003-04 has also been used. The figures have been projected to the latest year using growth rates. But growth rates for some parameters are either not available or are generalized for the national or provincial level as their district break-ups are not available. This may have resulted in not very accurate projected figures for the district. We however believe that this is unlikely to undermine the broader conclusions drawn from these.



**Livelihood** has very rarely been a subject for any scientific research despite its utmost importance. The need to initiate such work was absolutely necessary, as the traditional livelihood sources are rapidly depleting. This situation has pushed a large portion of population, especially those who have been associated with agriculture and traditional sources of earning in rural areas. They are left stranded as far as their livelihood sources are concerned. This factor contributes substantial rise in poverty. The situation is particularly affecting the landless and the farmers with small land holdings and rural workers. The women farmers and tillers belonging to religious minorities are the worst affected as they were solely dependent on traditional modes of earning.

In this scenario the work in hand is a commendable task undertaken and completed by the writers. It is a wonderful effort in the right direction. The work definitely provides a basis for further research on livelihood sources. There is not only occasional analysis included in the profile but the facts and figures provided also stimulate the reader to build up different analysis. The book very clearly shows how the nature and availability of livelihood sources can have effects on poverty and poor people.

This research work was conducted in 15 districts of all four provinces. The districts selected include

where the South Asia Partnership has been working since its inception for the betterment of poorer sections of the society through various initiatives. The publication gives a detail description of demographic factors such as population of male and female in the district and how these differences denote to discrimination and bias against women-folk of the country. The research focuses more on female population of the rural areas with stress on maternity health, literacy, enrollment and drop-out ratio among girl students.

The district profile also notes the changes in pattern of livelihood sources. It also deals with the number of issues such as health facilities, transportation and communication, irrigation, pattern of crops, land ownership patterns, livestock and industrial growth in the district. The work includes the politics of international trade agreements and its implications on Pakistan's industrial and agricultural sectors and especially on livelihood sources of the population. All the facts are substantiated by related data which is another quality of this work.

It is in fact a valuable addition in the efforts of South Asia Partnership- Pakistan spanning over the periods of two decades in the field of research especially on the subjects related to poor farmers and rural workers. And of course livelihood stands high in this list.

I want to conclude by removing some misconceptions prevalent in our 'intellectual' brethren about the efficacy and usefulness of written work. They opine that since the South Asia Partnership-Pakistan is working for the peasant and rural workers, the big majority of those are unable to read so the written work will be fruitless. I wonder if one goes with this approach then the publishing and printing of books should be halted at once, for even the big majority of literate population has no tendency towards reading the books especially on serious subjects. The efficacy of the written work cannot be measured by mere number of souls who have actually read it but by the effects the work has generated. To quote an example "DAS CAPITAL" would have been, most probably, read by some thousand people but the effect it produced and still generating is even immeasurable.

This work will definitely be helpful for the policy makers, for the development experts, for non governmental organization in evolving their strategies to coup poverty and deprivation. The research is capable of organizing peasants and workers both rural and industrial around identified issues.

Mohammed Tahseen  
Executive Director





**Gwadar** district with its 600 kilometers long coastline and un-irrigated tracts of Kulanch and Dasht valleys, has always occupied prominent place in Makran's history.

The known history of Makran goes back to 4000 years when the area is said to have been under Iranian regimes for many centuries. However, the first reliable historical account takes us back to 2500 years when Alexander, the Great conquered this area. He crossed this area to enter Iran in 325 BC on his way back from India to Macedonia. Greek historian Arrian has mentioned the coastline as the country of Ichthyophagoi. At that time Nearchos, the admiral of Alexander, sailed along the coast and mentioned places named Kalimat, Gwadar, Pishukan and Chahbar. The Greeks ruled this area for a brief period of time before they were expelled by Chandragupta Maurya.

The history of Makran was then lost. According to

some accounts, Arabs captured the area during the times of second caliph. For Arabs, its geographical importance increased when they decided to take on Sindh in early eighth century. However, no conqueror had intended to permanently stay in the area and that's why it mostly remained under the rule of local tribes, who mostly converted to Islam. A considerable portion of population follows Zikri sect, which is considered a version of Islam, presented by Mehdi Jaunpuri in fifteenth century.

In the last quarter of sixteenth century the Portuguese landed here on their way to India and captured several places along the Makran coast. In 1581 they burnt "the rich and beautiful city of Pasni and Gwadar". However, like other invaders they did not stay here. The local rulers, including Hoats, Rinds, Maliks, Buledis and Gichkis, exercised authority in the area for centuries.

Two regimes of local rulers, of Buledais and Gichkis, are worth mentioning here. The Buledais gained

power with the rise of the Zikri sect in seventeenth century. They ruled the area for more than a century up to the year 1740. In the last years of their rule they converted back to Sunni sect of Islam. The Zikri folks joined hands with Gichkis, who were their faith-fellows. The ruler of the neighboring state of Kalat, Mir Nasir Khan I, held anti-Zikri Muslim faith. Khan sought help from Ahmed Shah Abdali and was able to defeat Gichkis. He added the area to his Khanate but nominated the fallen Gichki chief Umer Gichki as Governor of the area allowing him to keep half of the revenue collected. Later, Mir Nasir Khan awarded the income of Gwadar to his son-in-law Ghulam Shah Jam. After the death of Shah Jam, the Gichkis refused to pay half of the revenue, upon which the Khan reduced the demanded amount. In 1783 Khan of Kalat appointed Prince Sultan Saeed bin Ahmed, the brother of ruler of Muscat, as his deputy at Gwadar. After the death of Khan, the Prince refused to accept the supremacy of the next ruler of Kalat and was ousted by him. The Prince struck back by raising a naval force to attack Gwadar and pushing Meer Khan to flee up to Somiani in Lasbela area. After the death of Prince Saeed, his sons started fighting for the throne. This provided an opportunity to the British to intervene. The British signed an agreement declaring Gwadar as part of Oman. Muscat became a British Colony in 1862. The British laid the first telegraph line between India and Europe that passed through Gwadar and Iran in 1868. Gwadar thus appeared on the strategic map of the British Raj. The Omani princes continued to rule here till 1958. After the Partition, Pakistani authorities realized that

“ Makran is generally known as Kech-Makran, to distinguish it from Persian Makran. Kech-Makran and the Persian Makran together constitute the Makranat. The etymology of the name is uncertain. By some Makran is said to be a corruption of mahi khoran, Persian for 'fish eaters', identifiable with the Ichthyophagi of Arrian. Lord Curzon considers the name to be Dravidian, and remarks that it appears as Makara in the Brihat Sanhita of Varaha Mirhira in a list of tribes contiguous to India on the west. ”

*Gazetteer of Balochistan, 1904*

## Population

Gwadar District 2007  
221,554

4 Towns	77 Villages
54.0%	46.0%

Urban	Rural
119,619	101,935

Towns	Population
Gwadar	53,772
Pasni	35,279
Jiwani	16,860
Ormara	13,790

Villages	No	% Share
5000 and above	2	18.9
2000 to 5000	9	29.6
1000 to 2000	17	30.1
Less than 1000	49	21.7
All villages	77	100.0

In 1862 Makran came into the prominent notice of the British Government in connection with the construction of Indo-European Telegraph Line, and a British officer was stationed at Gwadar from 1863 to 1871. Meanwhile Persia was extending her power eastward, and in 1879 it was found necessary to depute Colonel Goldsmid to settle the western boundary. Internally matter had gone from bad to worse, owing to the disputes between the Khan of Kalat and the dominant races, the Gichkis and Nausherwanis and others, until at length a settlement was effected by Sir Robert Sandeman in 1884. The interference of the British government was ever since been constantly required and frequent visits have been paid to the country by European officers supported by their escorts. In 1891, Mr Tate of the Survey of India, was appointed as the Khan's representative; but he was withdrawn in 1892, being succeeded by a Hindu Government official as the Khan's Nazim. A rising of Makranis took place in 1898, when the Nazim was temporarily captured, but the rebels shortly afterwards received a severe lesson at the fight of Gokprosh. A Brahui of good family was thereupon appointed nazim. A disturbance in 1901 led to another small expedition, which captured Nodiz forte. An Assistant Political Agent, who is ex officio Commandant of Makran Levy Corps, has been posted to Panjgur since 1904.

*Gazetteer of Balochistan, 1904*

Gwadar was geographically an integral part of Pakistan. They initiated talks with Sultan of Oman and in 1958, the government of President Sikandar Mirza purchased it from Oman for 10 million dollars. Gwadar was made a sub-division of Turbat district but in 1977 it was declared a separate district.

Gwadar was notified as a **district** in July, 1977 with its headquarter at Gwadar town. The word Gwadar is derived from two Balochi words "gwa" meaning wind and "dar" meaning gate thus literally meaning, the gate of wind.

Gwadar is bounded on the north by Kech and Awaraan districts, on the east by Lasbela district, on the south by the Arabian Sea and on the west by Iran. Administratively the district comprises Gwadar and Pasni sub-divisions.

The coastline of Gwadar districts extends in an east-west direction and is almost entirely deserted. It presents a succession of arid clay plains impregnated with saliferous matter and intersected with water course. The coastline is deeply indented with bays, but its most characteristic feature is the repeated occurrence of promontories and peninsulas of white clay cliffs capped with coarse limestone or shelly breccia which all approach the table-topped form. The intermediate coast is low.

The total area of the district is 12,637 square kilometers. Balochistan is the largest province of Pakistan with respect to area and the smallest in terms of population. The population is further concentrated in the districts, the area of which is relatively less. Gwadar is 9th largest districts of the province with respect to area while it is ranked 17th



among the 26 districts of the province in terms of more population.

Average area of districts in Pakistan:

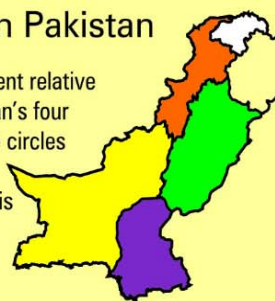
	No. of districts	Average area (sq km)
Punjab	34	6,040
Sindh	21	6,710
NWFP	24	3,105
Balochistan	26	13,353

The **climate** of Gwadar, elevated at 0-300 meters above sea level, is dry arid and hot. It is placed in warm-summer-and-mild-winter temperature region. The oceanic influence keeps the temperature lower than that in the interior in summer and higher in winter. The effects of monsoon are felt in the coastal part from June to September with damp and cloudy weather. The summer season lasts from April to November with June the hottest month when mercury shoots up to 35 degree centigrade. December to February are colder months with January the coldest, when mercury dips to as low as 13 degree centigrade. The rainfall is very scanty and uncertain. The average annual rainfall is just 101 millimeters. Due to low precipitation aridity prevails all over the district.

Gwadar has two **sub-divisions** namely Gwadar and Pasni. There are four urban localities in the district, Gwadar, Pasni, Jiwani and Ormara. Majority of the district population (54 per cent) lives in these four towns while countryside is sparsely populated. Gwadar city hosts around 53 thousand people while Pasni's population is estimated at 35 thousand souls. Jiwani and Ormara are much smaller towns providing shelter to a population of around 17 and 14

## Population density in Pakistan

Squares represent relative areas of Pakistan's four provinces while circles show their population in this graphics



### Punjab

Population:

90 million

Area:

205,345 sq km

Density:

359 persons/sq km



### Sindh

Population:

37 million

Area:

140,914 sq km

Density:

216 persons/sq km



### NWFP

Population:

22 million

Area:

74,521 sq km

Density:

238 persons/sq km



### Balochistan

Population:

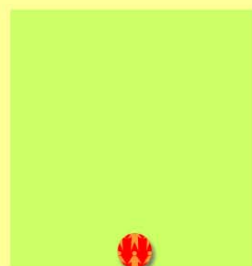
8 million

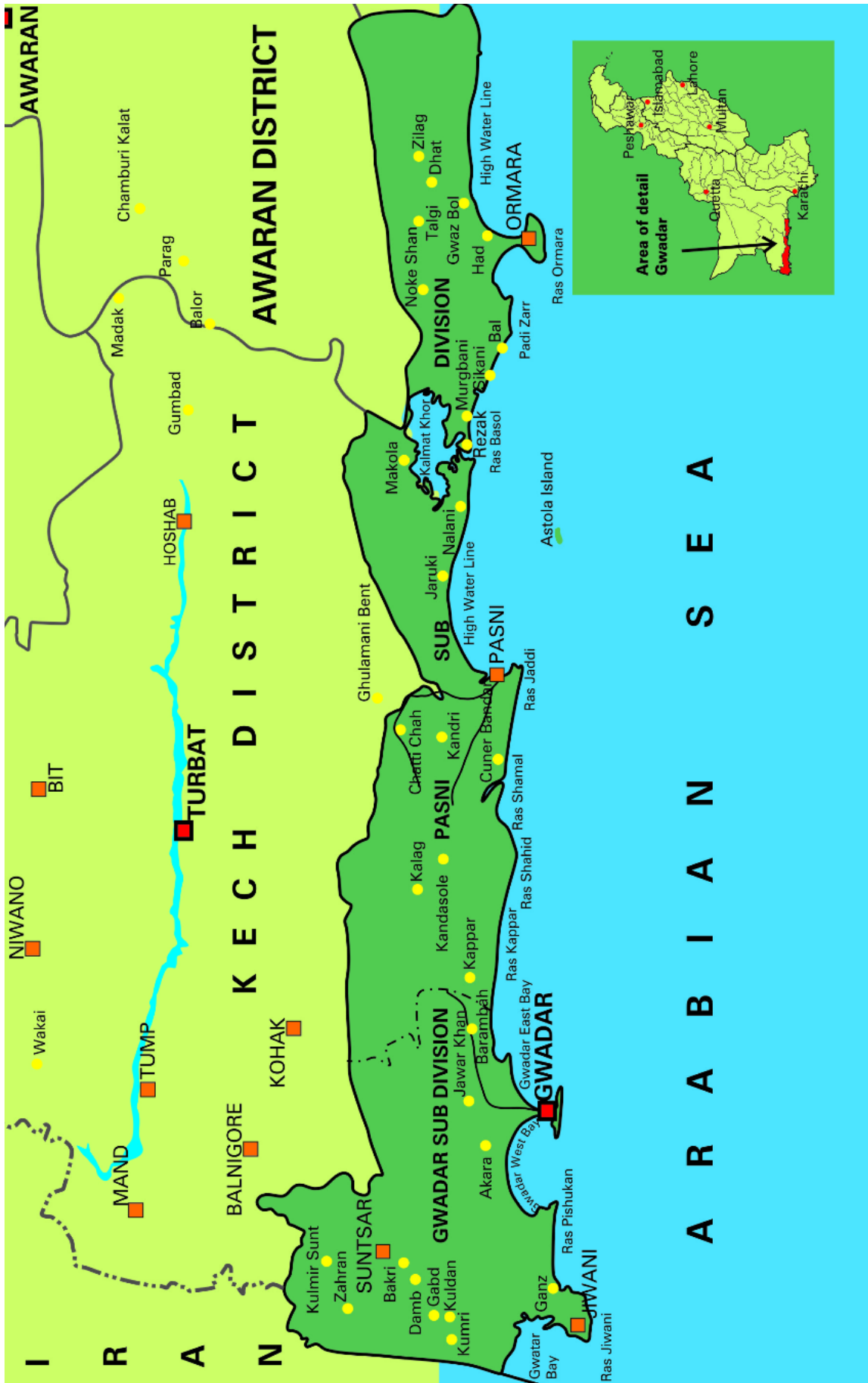
Area:

347,190 sq km

Density:

19 persons/sq km





thousand respectively. Most of the population lives in smaller villages. The villages having a population of 5,000 or more people are just two in the entire district. Those two villages are the abode of 19 per cent of the village population of district. Another 30 per cent of the rural population lives in 19 medium-sized villages, the population of which is more than 2,000 but less than 5,000 people.

Due to barren land and scarce livelihood resources, most of the Gwadar population resides in towns. The major



occupations of Gwadar's population, fishing and trade, also require people to live in towns. While most of the Balochistan population lives in villages, Gwadar is second largest district in terms of hosting more urban population. Only Quetta is ahead of Gwadar where almost three fourth of population is urban. Seven out of 26 districts of Balochistan have less than 10 per cent urban population. There is no urban settlement in district Awaran.

Urban portions in districts' population (percent)

Quetta	74	Jaffarabad	20
Gwadar	54	Chaghi	18
Lasbela	37	Kech	17
Sibi	32	Zhob	16
Khuzdar	28	Nasirabad	16

Total **population** of the district according to 1998 census was 185,498 with a high inter-censal percentage increase of 65 per cent since March 1981 when it was 112,385.

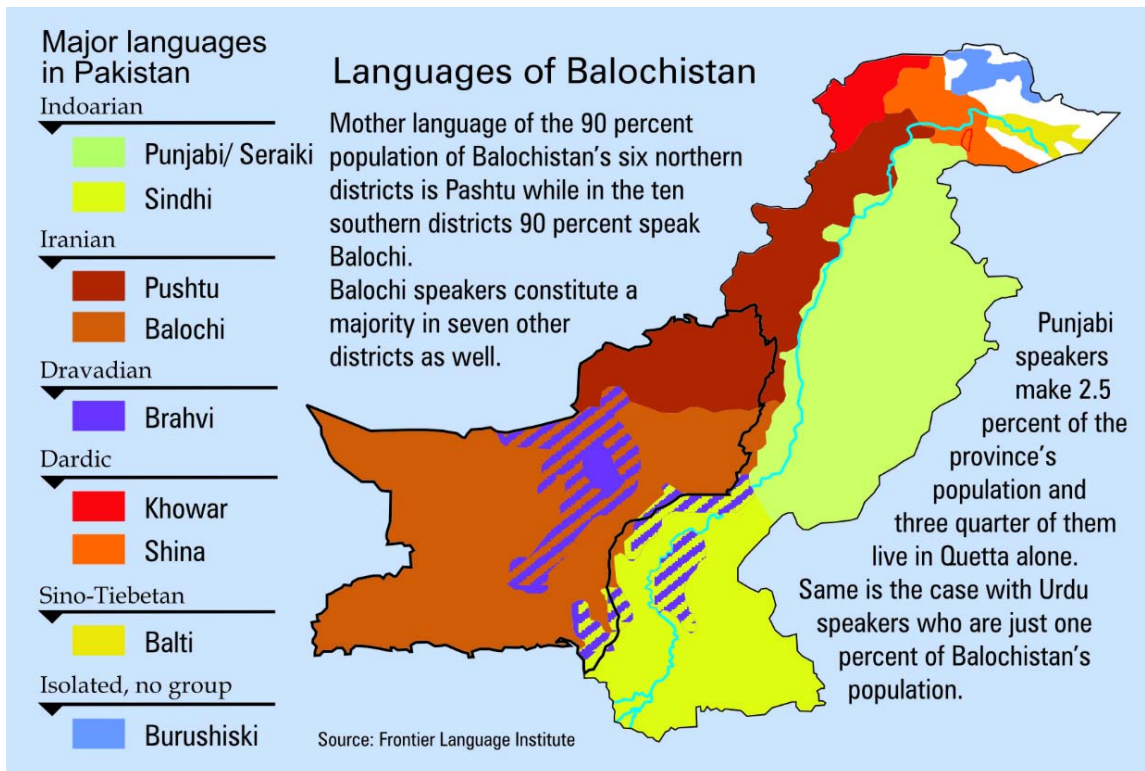
The average annual growth rate was 2.99 percent during this period. This is quite high compared with the provincial average of 2.5 and national 2.69.

Gwadar was the 9th district with high population growth rate with Killa Abdullah topping the list followed by Quetta and Nasirabad in the province.

Propagated at the national annual growth rate, the population of Gwadar district is estimated at 221,554 for 2007. The population density in

Gwadar is just 15 souls per square kilometer, which is eighth lowest in Balochistan province with Chaghi at bottom having a density of just 4 persons per square kilometer. Balochistan province is generally thinly populated with just three districts namely Quetta, Jafarabad and Killa Abdullah having density running in three figures. For province, on an average only 19 persons live in a square kilometer.

No other region of the entire country resembles Balochistan districts in terms of low population density. The least dense districts of NWFP, Sindh



and Punjab are Chitral, Tharparkar and Rajanpur with population density of 21, 47 and 90 souls per square kilometer respectively. As many as 10 districts of Balochistan have population density lower than Chitral, the district with the lowest density in the entire country leaving Balochistan.

Thinly populated districts of Balochistan  
Population density (Persons per sq km)

Chaghi	4	Zhob	14
Awaran	4	Panjgur	14
Kharan	4	Gwadar	15
Khuzdar	12	Dera Bugti	18
Kohlu	13	Kech	18

The average **household size** in Gwadar is 5.5, far lower than the provincial average of 6.7 and the national average of 6.9. The districts with predominantly Baloch population have smaller house-

hold size compared with the districts of Pakhtun belt. The family size of south-western Baloch districts of Kech, Awaran, Khuzdar, Gwadar and Kharan does not exceed 6 persons.

Districts with low household size  
Persons per household

Kech	5.1	Loralai	7.4
Awaran	5.4	Mastung	7.9
Khuzdar	5.4	Zhob	7.9
Gwadar	5.5	Killa Abdullah	8.0
Kharan	5.8	Quetta	8.5

98 percent of Gwadar's population identifies its **language** as Balochi. Punjabi is spoken by little less than one per cent of people. Almost all Punjabis live in urban Gwadar. Sindhi, Pashto and Seraiki are spoken by just 0.3, 0.3 and 0.14 per cent of population respectively.



As emerged from the 1998 census the population of district is predominantly **Muslim**, which is 99.3 per cent. There are few minority communities in Balochistan as the average Muslim percentage for the province stands at 98.75 per cent. It means that only four of 500 residents of Balochistan believe in faiths other than Islam. Hindu, Christian, Scheduled Castes and Ahmedis are the tiny minority communities of the province. Hindus make 39 per cent of the total non-Muslim population of Balochistan. Another eight percent non-Muslim population belongs to scheduled castes. The share of Christians and Ahmedis in minority communities is 32 and 12 per cent respectively. Another 8 per cent of the non-Muslim population did not specify their religion. Almost two third of the Christian population of Balochistan province lives in Quetta city alone while Hindus mostly reside in towns and villages of Kalat, Nasirabad and Quetta divisions. The home of half of the Ahmedi community is also Quetta. The only difference is that Ahmedis mainly live in villages of

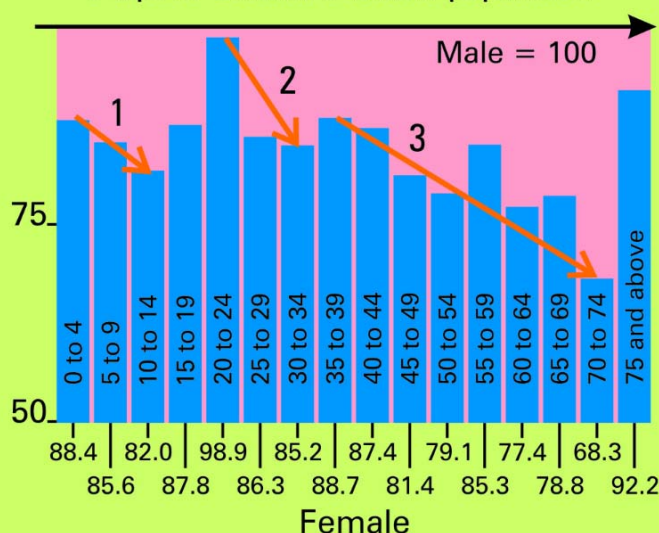
Quetta division. The community of scheduled castes is evenly dispersed in rural areas of all divisions of Balochistan with the exception of Zhob.

Scheduled castes are the largest group in the tiny minority community of Gwadar district. They were 363 in numbers, according to 1998 census, against 93 Christians, 358 Hindus, 246 Ahmedis and 241 others. Most of the minority communities live in Gwadar town.

Population of **male and female** is not and has never been equal in most parts of the globe.

Females are naturally more in numbers for a variety of reasons. United Nations figures tell us that there are more females than males in 119 of the total 191 countries in the world. It is equal in 10 and female population is less than that of males in the rest 62. In the developed countries of Europe, USA, Australia and Japan, there are 105 women against every 100 men. The figure is 102 in the poor continent of Africa as well as in Latin America. In a sharp con-

### 3 dips in Gwadar's female population



- 1 Son preference and discrimination against girl child is responsible for the decline in their numbers from 0 to 14 years of age.
- 2 Very high maternal mortality rate is likely to be instrumental in great fall in number of women from the age of 20 to 35 years.
- 3 Poor health care seems to be the dominating factor in reduction in number of women from 40 years on ward. The two surges within this period can't be explained.





the number of females in comparison to that of males, drops three times along the age line. The first decline starts immediately after birth as the nutritional and health care requirements of the girl child are not taken care of by the families that prefer sons over daughters. The same is true for Gwadar as the sex ratio

trast, number of females is less than that of males in China, South Asia and Middle East.

Pakistan besides falling in the list of countries with low female to male ratio is also one of the only four countries where life expectancy at birth of females is less than that for males. In Pakistan, female population per hundred male population is 92. Situation is worst in Balochistan where the ratio is 87, while it is 89 in Sindh, 93 in Punjab and 95 in NWFP.

Number of females per 100 males in Gwadar district (sex ratio) is just 86.6. This is even below the provincial average of 87. If all the districts of Pakistan are arranged in descending order of sex ratio, Gwadar stands at number 89 among 106 districts. Highest ratio is in Chakwal (109.1) while the lowest is in District Malir of Karachi (78.9). There are only ten districts where the ratio touches hundred-mark.

The age-wise break-up of sex ratio for Gwadar follows the national trend. Typically at the national level

for the age group 0-4 years stands at 88 and drops by seven percentage points by the age group 10-14 years.

Girls and young women play a very important role in subsistence activities. There are numerous house and farm chores that are solely considered the job of women. As they cross puberty, their 'productive value' increases and their numbers improve dramatically. This is the time when their 'reproductive value' also becomes important.

As a national trend the number of females (per 100 males) starts improving after the age of 15. The same holds for Gwadar as the sex ratio for the 20-24 age group becomes 99 females against every 100 males. This almost equal figure may be getting some support from the outflow of male population for economic reasons to other areas but despite this, the women aged 20-24 years are the only group in Gwadar district, which enjoys some equality in terms of population with males.

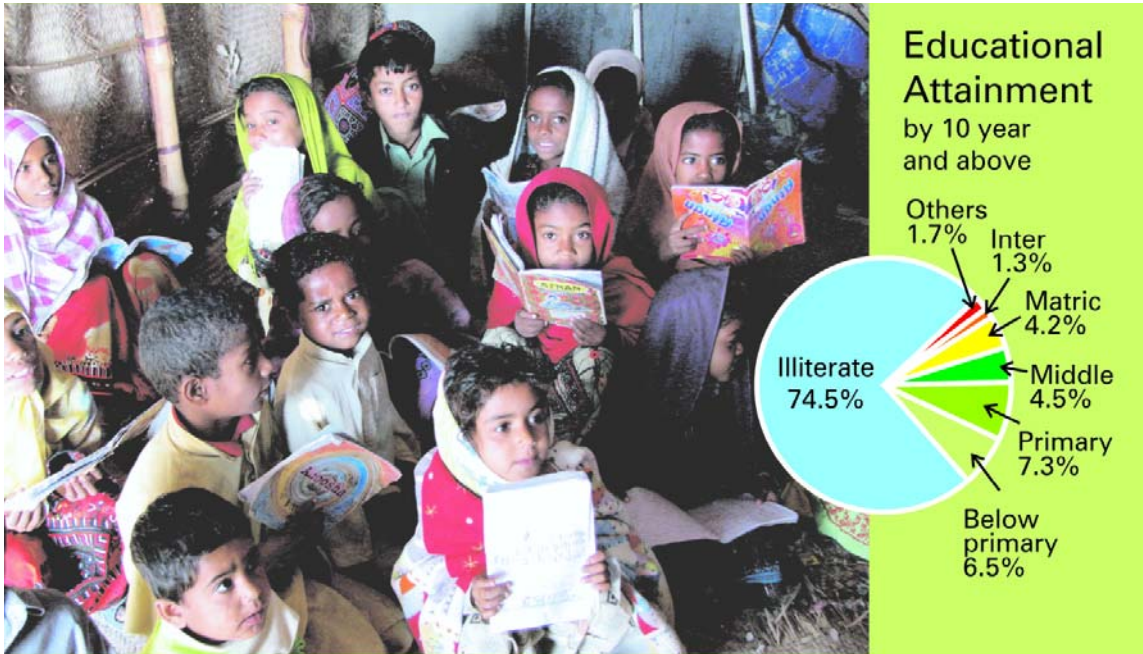
The ratio starts falling nationally after touching the peak at around 25 years. As women start bearing children at this age, they face new health risks that are poorly attended. As a result their number starts declining again and continues to do till the age of 45 when they come out of the reproductive cycle. Gwadar follows this trend too as the female to male ratio drops by 12 percentage points between 20 to 40 years. This is a big drop though in many other districts it is even greater. This suggests that maternal mortality rate is likely to be high in Gwadar.

The number of women rises immediately after the end of their reproductive age, nationally but Gwadar follows here an adverse trend. The sex ration keeps dropping until the age of 55. The seven per cent surge in female population of 55-59 age group as compared to 50-54 age group, falls sharply again in next five years as the ratio of females per 100 males becomes 77.4 for the age group of 60-64. This sharp fall is followed by the gradual rise in the number of females of next age group, which ends at 92.2 for the over 75 age group. There is no plausible explanation for this later age rise in female population of the district. There are some difference in the sex ratio for the rural and the urban populations. The sex ratio for urban Gwadar is little higher (87) than that of rural one (86).

Overall **literacy** rate of the district is just 25 percent according to 1998 census report. Balochistan province shows a pathetic trend in literacy with an overall literacy rate of just 24 per cent. Gwadar district is 9th district with respect to

## A typical household

- Average household size in Gwadar district is 5.5 persons. Households having four or less family members make a big 43 percent of the total households in the district while 22 percent consists of eight or more family members.
- 81 percent of the total families live in one room houses, although their average family size is five persons.
- Only 8 percent of the houses in villages have walls made of baked bricks while the rest have kacha walls. In towns however 29 percent of the houses are built with backed bricks. The roofs of 93 per cent of urban and 95 per cent of rural houses are made of wood.
- Only 11 per cent of rural population have access to tap water and hand pumps while the urban population having access to these water resources stands at 79 per cent.
- In towns 65 percent have electricity connections while in villages only 2 percent have this facility and the rest burn oil for light.
- Wood is the kitchen fuel for both rural (93%) and urban (82 %). Only 1.42 per cent urban families use natural gas.
- In rural area 68 percent of the houses do not have a latrine while in urban area 24 percent houses lack this facility.
- Only 4 percent of the rural households have access to television while the ratio for urban areas is 34 percent.



high literacy in the province! District Quetta tops the list with 57 per cent literacy. There is a huge difference between Quetta and rest of the province as the second district with high literacy rate Ziarat has just 34 per cent literacy.

In Balochistan, the female literacy suffers even more as only one in every seven females are literate while one in every three male is literate. This huge difference shows that male children are prioritized over girls as the male education is attached to jobs and services while girl education is considered an additional burden on the household resources and/or affront to the social values.

There are 22 districts in Balochistan, where male literacy is more than 20 per cent while there are only two districts namely Quetta (45) and Panjgoor (22), where female literacy exceeds even dismal 20 per cent mark. The female literacy fails to go into double digits in 14 out of 26 districts of the province.

The situation in Gwadar follows the provincial pat-

tern where 36 per cent male and only 14 per cent female know how to read and write. There are 34 literate female against every 100 literate males in the district. The dismal female literacy situation of the province can be measured by the fact that Gwadar is fifth best district to host more literate female population (34 against every 100 literate males). Only two districts namely Quetta and Panjgoor have 50 or more literate females against 100 literate males. Dera Bugti is worst in this respect where there are only 13 literate women against every 100 literate men.

The gravity of the situation can be judged by the fact that the male-female literacy ratio of Gwadar, the fifth best performing district in Balochistan is equal to Mianwali, the worst of 35 districts in Punjab where there are 34.6 literate females against every 100 literate men. The male-female literacy ratio of Balochistan districts resembles a lot with NWFP districts. Strong tribal bonds and anti-women customs

are the major culprits in both provinces.

A later study, Social and Living Standard Measurement Survey 2004-05, notes that overall literacy in Gwadar district has accrued up to 52 per cent with 63 per cent male and 37 per cent female literacy.

School enrollment for children aged 5 to 9 in Balochistan was 37 percent (excluding Kachi class) during the year 2003-2004. The difference between the districts in enrollment figures is quite big. It is highest in Kech district, followed by Ziarat, Pishin and Quetta. The bottom districts are Nasirabad, Jhal Magsi, Musakhel and Panjgoor.

The net enrollment ratio for Gwadar is little higher than the provincial average. According to this study, 43 per cent children of school-going age in Gwadar district are enrolled in schools. It means that 57 out of every 100 children of school going age don't go to school even for just one year.

### The district wise break-up of **Infant Mortality Rate**

figures for Balochistan are not available, however, according to latest official figure for the province, around 158 out of 1000 children do not reach their 5th birthday. The IMR and U5MR in Balochistan is high with wide urban-rural and male-female variation.

Under-5 mortality in rural areas (164 per 1000 live births) is higher than in urban children (130 per 1000 live births). About two out of every five children are under weight for their age. The National Nutrition Survey of 2001-02 counted 35.3 percent of the children aged 6-59 months as under weight in Balochistan. According to the EPI coverage survey

2001, only 35 per cent children in the age group of 12-23 months were fully immunized. There is a wide variation in child mortality between different regions as well, lowest is in Kech region (IMR 44 and U5MR 58), and highest in Loralai region (IMR 121 and U5MR 190) while the child mortality among poor families is much higher compared to the better off families.

Maternal mortality in Balochistan is high at 880 per 100,000 births. The majority of women suffer from anemia and are malnourished. 20 percent of pregnant women availed the services of antenatal care from trained birth attendants (42 percent urban and 16 percent rural). Skilled birth attendants provided assistance to 21 percent of women during delivery (44 percent urban and 16 percent rural).

There is one District Headquarters Hospital in the district along with three Rural Health Centers and 17 Basic Health Units. There is also a Leprosy Hospital and two Leprosy Clinics in the district.

**Electricity** to the district is supplied by Iran through Mund-Tump power transmission line constructed in 2003. Pasni Power Station also contributes to the power generation. District faces a frequent shortage of drinking water. Most important source of drinking water are storage dams built on non-perennial rivers of Shadi Kaur in Pasni, Dashat river in Jiwani, Ankra Kaur in Gwadar and Basol in Ormara. Ankra dam is the main reservoir and is providing drinking water to Jiwani that is 80 km away and to Gwadar that is 29 km away from the dam. The district also has three sea water desalination plants owned by GDA, Seaport and PC hotel.



Elections were held in Punjab, NWFP and Sindh in 1940's but not in Balochistan due to special status of the region. After independence the people of the three provinces were given the right to choose their provincial representatives in 1950's but people of Balochistan were not granted the same and the provincial administration was run by Chief Commissioners instead of Chief Ministers until 1955 when the entire West Pakistan was merged into one unit. Two indirect **elections** of 1962 and 1965, however, were held in Balochistan. The first-ever general elections on adult-franchise were held in Balochistan in 1970. Only four national seats were allotted to the province. Makran, Kharan and Lasbela districts were allotted to the last of the national seat titled NW-138 Kalat II. Gwadar, being a teshil of Makran district fell in this constituency.

The entire province was divided into 20 provincial constituencies. Makran district was allotted two seats and Gwadar was part of PB-18 Makran II constituency.

This was the first time that renowned Baloch nationalist leaders including Khair Bux Maree, Abdul Hayee Baloch and Ghaus Bux Bizenjo entered into electoral politics from the platform of National Awami Party (Wali Khan group) or NAP-Wali, a left-wing amalgam of Pakhtun and Baloch nationalists of NWFP and Balochistan. NAP emerged clear winner in Balochistan as it won three out of total four national seats in the province. One seat of Pakhtun belt was won by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Hazarvi). Nationalist leader Mir Ghaus Bux Bizenjo of NAP defeated Prince Mohyuddin Baloch of Qayum

Muslim League on national seat, the present-day Gwadar district was part of which. This was a huge constituency comprising Makran, Kharan and Lasbela districts. Major part of this constituency was included in former Kalat state but the prince was unable to sustain nationalist sentiment and was defeated by Bizenjo by a margin of more than 6,000 votes. The provincial Gwadar seat was also won by NAP.

Bizenjo was a senior leftist-secular politician who had served as President of Kalat State in 1946-47. He had opposed the merger of Kalat with Pakistan. He joined the Wali group as NAP broke into two parts in the wake of Sino-Soviet conflict in 1967. Bizenjo opposed the alliance of NAP with JUL in NWFP. However, the difference of opinion with Wali Khan on this issue did not stop him to join NAP's short-lived Balochistan government (1972-73) as governor and he was active in the negotiations on the drafting of 1973 constitution.

The NAP government was ousted on the orders of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1973. Bizenjo was arrested along with other NAP leaders on charges of treason. After the release of NAP leaders in 1978 Bizenjo broke away from Wali Khan and founded his own Pakistan National Party. After the death of Mir Ghaus Bakhsh in 1989, his son Mir Hasil Bizenjo took over the party.

In 1977 all the national seats of Balochistan were won by PPP. Amanullah Gichki was elected unopposed on Kalat II seat as there was no candidate due to ban on NAP and arrest of nationalist leaders. Gichkis were the erstwhile rulers of the area. The new demarcation of the constituencies prior to



1985 elections caused another dent in this nationalist stronghold. Gwadar was clubbed with Lasbela as NA 206 paving the way for the political dominance of Jam family of Lasbela. Jam Muhammad Yousaf, former chief minister of Balochistan was elected in 1985 almost unopposed as his closest contender bagged only 1,100 votes against Jam's 37,000.

Jam Yousaf has time and again stood returned in provincial and national elections and served as CM in PML-Q term of 2002-2008. He is also the ceremonial head of the former state of Lasbela, which was founded in 1742 by Jam Ali Khan I.

Bizenjo's Pakistan National Party fielded Syed Sher Jan as candidate in 1988 elections but the seat fell to Ghulam Akbar of IJI who edged past his rival with a lead of just 700 votes. IJI won as the nationalist vote was split. The candidate of Balochistan National Alliance (BNA) grabbed over 8,000 votes in these elections.

The story was repeated in 1990 elections, when the differences between Pakistan National Party (PNP) and Balochistan National Movement (BNM) led by Hayee Baloch paved the way for the victory of their common rival Pakistan People's Party. Ghulam Akbar Lasi had joined PPP to contest these elections and edged past his PNP rival Sher Jan with a meager lead of just 150 votes. BNM candidate got more than 1,800 votes, once again playing a decisive destructive role for fellow nationalist party.

In 1993 elections, nationalists could not show the electoral resistance, they were known for as the real competition was between Ghulam Akbar Lasi of PPP and Jam Yousaf of PML-N. Lasi outclassed Jam Yousaf with a margin of over 7,000 votes. The

only nationalist candidate Abid Rahim Sohrabi of BNM-Mangel got 7,400 votes. It seems that further factionalism in the ranks of nationalists had disappointed the voters.

The 1997 election was also a contest between PML-N and PPP. Bizenjo's party remained third while Jam Yousaf of PML-N won the elections defeating Lasi of PPP with a margin of over 22,000 votes.

Bizenjo's PNP that later became BNP, managed to win the only provincial seat, allotted to Gwadar district in 1988 and 1990 elections. The 1993 elections of provincial constituency however, were won by PPP. In 1997 Pakistan National Party, which had become Balochistan National Party (BNP) by then again reclaimed the provincial seat by defeating the candidate of another nationalist party Balochistan National Movement.

In the new demarcation prior to 2002 elections, Gwadar was allotted a shared national seat with Kech instead of Lasbela and one provincial seat. This changed the political demographics of the area as Zubaida Jalal, an independent candidate defeated Balochistan National Movement's Dr Abdul Malik with a margin of around 8,000 votes. She later served as the education minister. The three nationalist factions were up against each other in this constituency, paving the way for the non-nationalist candidate to win. In 2008 elections, Balochistan National Party (Awami) contested the elections while rest of the nationalist factions boycotted in protest against military operation in Balochistan. With no rival nationalist in the field, Yaqoob Bizenjo of BNP defeated independent Zubaida Jalal with a huge margin of 28,000 votes.



Being the largest costal district of the country, the dominant economy of Gwadar is **fishing** and its allied occupations. Gwadar coastline is one of the most productive seas of the world. The Arabian Sea's average primary productivity is ten times that of other world oceans and four times that of Indian Ocean. Owing to lack of irrigation water, agriculture is diminutive and livestock is meager, hence people of Gwadar are hugely dependent on fishing for their livelihood.

According to official data, sea and marine fisheries are providing livelihood to about 67 per cent of the district population. All the four tehsils of the district have good fish harbors besides the ones at Peshukan, Surbandar and Gunz. Gwadar fish harbor was constructed by Besix, a Belgian construction company in 1992. The district coastline stretches for 600 km comprising 78 per cent of the provincial

coastline and 55 per cent of the coastline of the country.

Sea is divided into three zones for economic and administrative purpose. The provincial government of Balochistan's territorial zone extends up to 12 nautical miles. Within this limit provincial fisheries department issues the fishing licenses and registers the boats. The sea between 12 to 35 nautical miles is known as Maritime zone and Maritime Security Agency (MSA) is responsible to prevent un-authorized exploitation of economic resources by any person, agency, vessel or device within this jurisdiction. The sea beyond 35 and up to 200 nautical miles falls Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and in this part only the licensed foreign trawlers are allowed for deep sea fishing.

The distribution of zones shows that the small-scale fishermen of the district, comprising more

than two third of its population, have no access to deep sea.

The 2002 data suggests that there were 30,660 registered fishermen in the district. The total output of the Gwadar coast, for the same year, was about 105,609 tons, valued at an estimated 3,408 million rupees. In 2008 sea food export of the country was about 188 million dollar and the major buyers were Korea and Japan. This quantity does not include the almost 40 per cent of the catch, sold every day in the open sea by the larger fishing crafts to the foreign fish trawlers.

Fish catch varies from season to season. In 2002, the monthly catch was above 10,000 tonnes from October to February, with the highest being in December and January when it was above 20,000 tons per month. In May, however it dropped to 4,906 tons due to high tide and other unfavorable conditions for fishing at sea.

Some 4,494 fishing boats of various sizes are registered in the district. Smaller fishing boats locally known as "yakdar" make about 64 per cent of the total registered fishing fleet. Usually these boats operate in the shallow water near the coast and their fishing tour lasts from one to three days.

Yakdar can carry 1 to 5 ton fish. Some middle sized boats can carry 6 to 15 tons of fish and they are locally known as "ghalit".

Largest fishing vessels can carry well above 25 tons and they make only about 6 per cent of the registered fishing fleet of the district. The team of fishing boat comprises of a captain locally known as "nakhuda", fisherman called "classy" and a cook. Larger fishing vessels also include a mechanic in

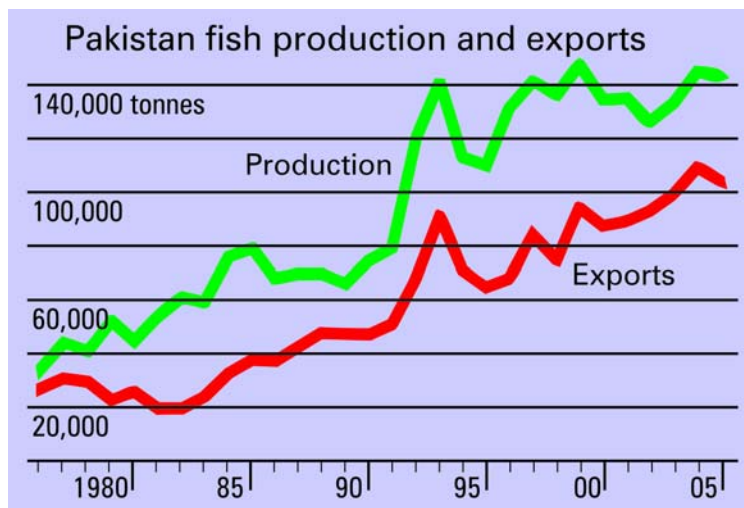


the crew. Number of fishermen increases with the size of a vessel. For communications radio transmission is allowed and some vessels are also equipped with the satellite telephone. There is however no effective system in place (that may include life boats, life guards, lights) to help the fishermen in case of a calamity.

All the fishing boats regardless of size are run by diesel engine and almost all the diesel consumed in the district is smuggled from Iran. Fishermen come to the coast early in the morning with essential supplies of fuel, drinking water, food, fishing nets and tons of ice to keep the catch fresh. Very few fishing vessels have the large built-in deep freezer to store the catch for longer period of time.

According to the fishing trade norms about 1/3rd of





the catch is received by the boat owner or contractor, one third catch is sold to compensate the expenses and one third is distributed among the crew members with largest share for the captain. On average a fisherman can earn 10,000 rupees per month working on an average vessel.

Popular fish species of the district are cod, tuna and salmon.

However shrimps, lobsters and prawn are also in abundance.

The use of illegal purse seine fishing nets or "gujja" wire nets by big fishing trawlers along with bottom trawling and over-fishing are the major threats to this vital livelihood source of the people of Gwadar.

Recently Balochistan's Chief Minister Nawab Aslam Raisani has inaugurated the Fisheries Training Institute at Surbandar. He also announced the construction of jetties at Pishukan and Surbandar.

The biggest fish export company of Pakistani Feroz Ali Gaba operates in the districts with its cold storages at Gwadar, Pasni and Karachi.

## Fisheries in Pakistan

Pakistan has a total coastline of 1,090 km and a total fishing area of approximately 300,000 square kilometers. Pakistan's fishing waters are termed as highly rich in marine life with a vast variety of species having commercial value.

Fishery is one of the important economic sectors in Pakistan and plays an important role in providing livelihoods to local communities.

It is also an important foreign exchange earner for the country that has a very narrow export base.

Pakistan also possesses extensive inland water areas comprising Indus River and its tributaries - a vast canal irrigation system, natural lakes, storage reservoirs and village ponds of varying size. According to some estimates fisheries provide livelihoods to more than 15 million people in Pakistan.



Of total fish production around 72 per cent comes from marine sources while the rest 28 per cent comes from inland water resources. The main species being caught by the industrial fisheries, especially from the coastal zones, include various kinds of fish, shellfish, shrimps, lobsters, crabs, and mollusks. Though experts opine that Pakistan is yet to fully capitalize its fish resources, the country has gone a long way in terms of enhancing its volume of production and export. FAO data suggests that Pakistan registered a growth of over 300 percent in both production and export of fish products in the three decades from 1976 to 2005.

Soon after Pakistan extended its marine jurisdiction up to 200 nautical miles and declared the extension as Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in 1996, efforts were initiated by the government to better utilize the fishery resources. Since then, this zone is being exploited by foreign fleet and joint venture industrial fishing trawlers.

Pakistan's exports of fishery products stand at about 0.25 percent of world exports. The country's domestic consumption is termed as one of the lowest in the world, at 1.6 kg per person per year (compared to world average of 16.2 kg per person per year), that's why around three fourth of the fishery products are exported. Pakistan has traditionally been exporting fish mainly to Europe, US, Japan and Middle Eastern countries.

Repeated bans imposed by the European Union on fish imports from Pakistan have led exporters to explore new markets and they have been successful in it. Fish export crossed the barrier of \$200 million in 2007-08 for the first time in Pakistan's history despite losing the European market of \$55 to 60 million. The EU imposed its last ban in April 2007 after its inspection mission in January the same year found deficiencies in conditions at the processing plants, fish harbor and non-existence of any record on product traceability.





## WTO agreement and EU bans on Pakistan's fish exports

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are one of the most important technical regulations and standards proposed and implemented by the World Trade Organization (WTO). The standards set by importing countries have to be met by exporters of food items. Primary purpose of SPS is to protect humans, animals and plants from risks arising from additives, toxins and contaminants in foods and feedstuffs. The SPS Agreement entered into force with the establishment of the World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995.

The potential of being misused as a protectionist measure, instead of protective one, was realized right at the start and specific remedial articles were incorporated to avoid this. Any decision based on SPS agreement needs to be justified technically and can be challenged in a dispute committee, especially constituted for the purpose of solving the issues arising from the misuse of this agreement. Further the WTO member countries must establish official contact points for communicating about SPS measures and SPS notifications are also posted on the WTO website.

In spite of all these measures, issues have been arising between the trading countries every now and then. One complexity is that individual countries can define their own standards based on the broader framework given in the agreement. Thus almost all the developed, importing countries have their own specific quality and safety standards that the exporting country have to meet. It has been observed that these countries have tendency to use higher than actually required health and hygiene and ecological and environmental standards. The exporters thus have to invest huge inputs every time they want to export to a new country, which is not, most of the times, feasible for them. They have to compete with the domestic or other developed country suppliers, who have more resources, higher subsidies and thus better chances of winning the bid.

Bangladesh, for example, spent US\$ 17.6 million in the frozen shrimp industry in order to satisfy EU and US. Furthermore, it is estimated that US\$ 2.2 million are spent each year to maintain a system of control and monitoring. Same has happened with Pakistan as well when EU banned Pakistan's sea food for quality reasons. European Union imposed ban on export of fish three times, the first ban was imposed in 1998, the second in February 2005 and the third one was imposed in April 2007 due to quality problems at fish processing plants in Karachi. Fisheries exports have been suffering from over \$100 million loss per year due to this ban. Although Government of Sindh has spent Rs 50 million to meet standards, yet the ban is still there.

According to figures of the Federal Bureau of Statistics (FBS), export of fishery products surged by 12 per cent and nine per cent in terms of value and quantity, respectively, to \$212 million (134,657 tons) in 2007-08 as compared to \$188 million (123,588 tons) in 2006-07.

The European Union has conditioned the removal of its ban with a number of measures ranging from improvement of hygienic conditions to upgradation of fishing boats. The government in turn has announced many programs to fulfill the same but condition on ground shows no signs of improvement. Media reports say that fish auction halls at Karachi have been improved at an expense of 57 million rupees. Sindh government approved in 2008 Rs 290 million for rehabilitation and renovation of the harbor and another Rs 102 million to assist fishermen to replace their boats with the ones that comply with the EU standards. In this program the government and the fishermen were to equally share the costs of upgradation. The program is yet to take off.

The exporters however can't wait till all the programs materialize and start producing results. They instead have diversified to the markets in UAE, Indonesia, Thailand and China.

On the coast of Pakistan, there are more than 30 species of shrimps, 10 species of crabs, 5 species of lobster and about 70 commercial species of fish including sardine, hilsa, shark, mackerel, butterfish, pomfret, sole, tuna, sea bream, jew fish, cat fish and eel.

Frozen fish products occupy the top slot in Pakistani fish exports. Here are the details of fish



products with their share in export volume and value in 2007.

Product	% share in export	
	Volume	Value
Fish (frozen, meals, dried, salted, fresh/chilled etc)	39	20
Mackerels, frozen & fresh	16	10
Flatfishes, frozen	14	12
Fish meat, frozen	6	2
Shrimps and prawns, frozen, prepared & preserved	4	6
Crabs, fresh or chilled	3	3
Marine fish, prepared	3	7
Other products	15	40
All products	100	100



**Gwadar** is situated right at the point where the Persian Gulf meets Arabian Sea. The strait of Hormuz is just 400 km from this port. This is one of the world's busiest shipping corridors where almost 11,000 ships of around 12,000 million tons of freight and 2,500 oil tankers of various countries carrying 33 million tons of crude oil pass annually. On the other hand Gwadar provides the shortest possible land link to the land-locked countries of Central Asia and Afghanistan. This makes Gwadar a confluence point of the three economically highly active regions South Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East. Gwadar's strategic importance is both boon and bane for it. The area is the but both of all the con-

spiracy theories which see the US, China, India and a number of other players making covert moves to win exclusive rights to this port. The importance of the port at Gwadar has ensured a highly fast paced development of infrastructure here and this is changing the entire area. The new economy and developments have created a new power structure which places the local people at the lowest wrung or is simply throwing them out.

The Gwadar Sea Port is developed by China on a turn key basis. To make it operational an agreement was signed between the Government of Pakistan and Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) on 6th February 2007. PSA is already running 22 seaports in 11 different countries. According to the agree-

ment PSA will pay 9 per cent of its income to Gwadar Development Authority for the development of Gwadar town. This port has 3 berths having a work force more than 1,000 skilled and un-skilled laborers. Gwadar port is deeper than Karachi and Qasim ports and its construction needed less dredging. It has capacity to afford the anchoring of more than one ship at the same time for loading or unloading purposes. In the first month of 2009 almost 13 ships carrying 0.35 million tons of urea fertilizer were unloaded at the port in a time span of just 20 days.

Makran Coastal highway linking Gwadar with Karachi was constructed in 2004. The development of another highway, called Gwadar Kalato road is more crucial for the overall development of the region. This road will link Gwadar with Iranian border. The development of another road namely Khuzdar-Rattodero, which links Gwadar to National Highway will shorten the distance between Gwadar and Punjab and NWFP. Extension of Motorway 8 (M8) linking Turbat, Hoshab, Panjgur and Gwadar will also enhance the road linkages of Gwadar with rest of the country. Gwadar Seaport can provide the shortest and most cost effective access to land locked Afghanistan, central Asia and Xinjiang region of China. Transit trade from Gwadar to Afghanistan and establishment of Export Free Zone are the part of the master plan for Gwadar.

Gwadar is undergoing a transition from a small, sleepy fishing town to a port bustling with international trade activities. The development of new port and the city is being guided by Gwadar Development Authority. It is the new and planned coastal town of

the country. The pace of planning, zoning, investment and development in Gwadar is unmatched by the history of any other city in Pakistan. Gwadar is being projected as a new mega trade centre like Dubai, Mumbai and Singapore.

These bright future prospects have resulted in the mushrooming of a real estate sector in Gwadar that is trying to woo the investors from all over the country and from abroad as well. The estate developers of Karachi, Punjab and other parts of the country are attracting people through elusive advertisements. The current pace of investment in the real estate in the district indicates that the land business in near future will exceed the municipal limits of all the four union councils of the Gwadar tehsil.

Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Gwadar levied 2 per cent revenue tax on the land transaction in Gwadar tehsil and earned Rs 30 million in the fiscal year 2005 alone. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) so far has approved and issued NOCs for 38 residential, commercial and industrial schemes and 4 commercial and residential buildings. But dozens of fake schemes and fraudulent practices in transactions of even legal schemes are the grace points for land mafia.

Gwadar's local population has become an alien in its own land. They grudge all the glittering development projects as none of them have offered them any new possibilities of earning a decent livelihood while their access to the traditional resources is fast diminishing. The Seaport is constructed on the bay that was historically used as the fish harbor, and that part of the coast was the breeding ground for fish and prawns too. The Seaport is built at the





est district in terms of low-land use intensity is Awaran district of the same province. In real numbers only 4,638 acres out of more than 76,000 acres are cultivated in Gwadar. This means that the total cultivated land with all the farmers of Gwadar does not exceed the farmland of three standard canal villages of the Punjab.

cost of fishermen's livelihood leaving them in heavy loss. The local people also do not qualify for the new jobs in the eyes of employers as literacy and educational levels among local Baloch is very low. Baloch also fear that the port will bring an influx of people from other provinces turning the local population into a minority.

Subsistence **agriculture** supplements the livelihood of Gwadar's fisherfolk. With scanty rainfall and no irrigation system and unsuitable land vast tract of the district land is uncultivable. Agriculture, however, comes second after fishing as the traditional livelihood resource.

More than half of the cultivable area in Balochistan province is not actually cultivated. The land utilization ratio in Gwadar is even poorer. Only 6 out of 100 cultivable acres come under plough here. This is the poorest performance in not only Balochistan province but in the entire country. The second poor-

According to an estimate, more than 40,000 families live in Gwadar district. The families fully or partially attached to agriculture are just over 2,500, according to Agriculture Census 2000. If we see it in rural context, there are more than 18,000 rural families in the district and one in seven is partially or fully attached to farming.

Access to land within the farming families of Gwadar district is unique and does not match with the rest of the country where small farming families with limited access to land dominate. Only 12 per cent families, 411 in real numbers, are small families with access to under-5 acres of land. Majority of the farmers (59 per cent or 1,500) are medium farmers with access to a piece of land of 5 to 25 acres. Remaining 29 per cent (600 families) of farmers belong to the category of big farmers with access to more than 25 acres of land. On an average a Gwadar farmer has access to almost 30 acres. Despite this 'high' land-access the



farmers can't sustain on agriculture due to irrigation and productivity problems.

The tiny tracks of the district are irrigated by open surface wells or springs. Land in Kuanch and Dasht valley is rain-fed, the Khushkaba, and flood irrigated, the Sailaba. There are only 25 tube-wells in the entire district, 2 out of them are non-operational.

An interesting and unique characteristic of the Gwadar agriculture is the dominance of orchards in the cropping pattern. Out of total cultivated area of 4,638 acres, orchards were reported on 4,036 acres (87 percent) in 2000 census. This means that fruit crops occupy as much as 87 per cent of the total cultivated land.

There are only eight crops mentioned in official crop production data of 2006-07 for Gwadar, five of which are fruits, one vegetable and two pulses. No staple grain like wheat, maize or rice crop is sown in Gwadar district. Gwadar's tiny farming community produces considerable quantity of dates, mangoes and citrus fruits. Gwadar district is ranked third in terms of producing dates in Balochistan province. 15 per cent of provincial and 9 per cent of the national production of dates comes from this remote district.

Dates are the biggest crop of the district, which are also grown on area categorized as uncultivated.

Following table offers details of other crops.

Crop	Area under crop (Acres)	Production (40 kgs)
Date	4,635	186,200
Mango	1,371	80,700
Citrus	319	14,415
Guava	190	8,350



According to [Livestock Census 2006](#), only 1,700 families rear milch animals (mainly cows). This makes up 9 percent of the rural families and a quarter of those engaged with farming. The households rearing sheep and cattle are, however, more in number. Almost 3,800 families (21 per cent of the rural population) raise sheep with an average herd size of 5 animals. Similarly the families reporting goats are almost 7,700. The goat rearing families make 43 per cent of the rural families. Each goat raising family keeps, on average, 11 goats. There are few industries in Gwadar. Power generation plants and a few manufacturing units and flour mills make the total industry of the district. Manufacturing units include ice factories and boat making sheds.

## SAP-Pk partner in district

### Rural Community Development Council (RCDC)

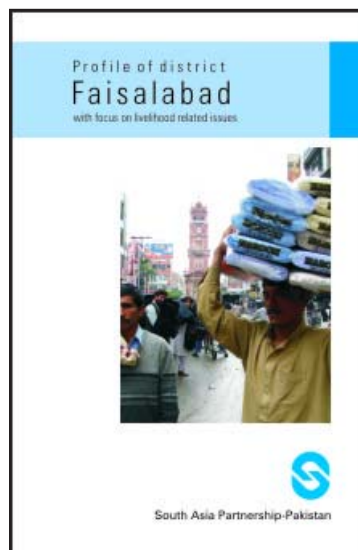
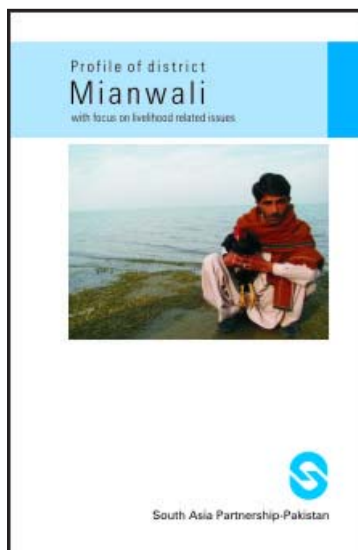
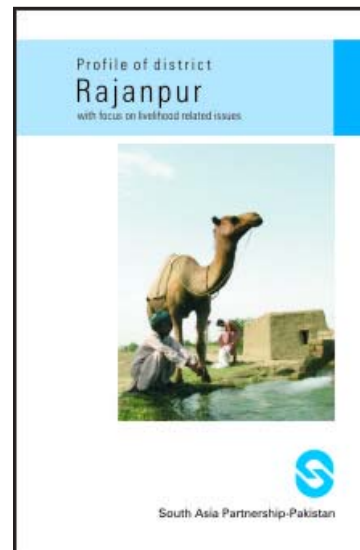
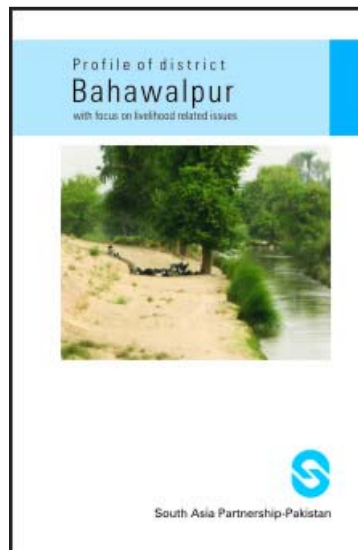
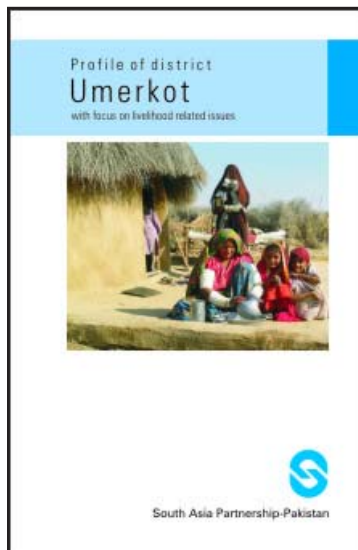
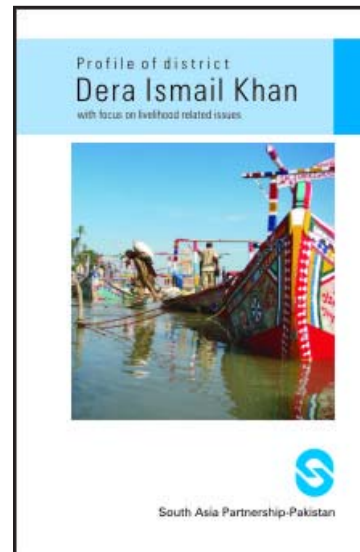
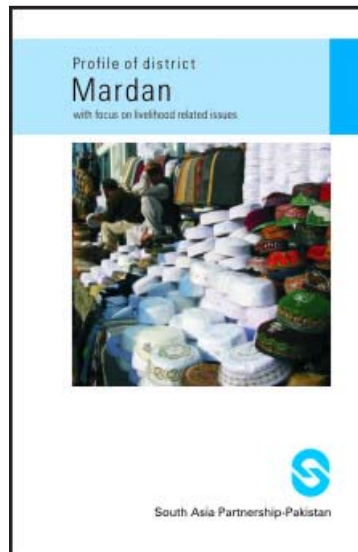
Gwadar is situated on the southwestern coast of Pakistan, extending into the Arabian Sea. It is located between three increasingly important regions: Middle East, Pakistan and Central Asia. It is therefore situated at a strategically significant place.

Gwadar's location and history have given it a unique blend of cultures. The Arabic influence upon Gwadar is strong as a consequence of the Omani era and the close proximity of other Arab-majority regions. The area also has a remarkable religious diversity, being home to not only Sunni and Zikri Muslims, but also to groups of Christians, Hindus, Parsis, and various minorities such as Ahmedis.

By all possible standards, people of Gwadar are extremely poor due to being restricted to the search livelihood through the scanty opportunities of fishing. After the government has inked agreements with fishing companies, deep sea resources are fast depleting and therefore impacting the livelihood of the poor fishermen. It is in this context of fast depleting resources, unavailability of alternative resources and increasing poverty among local communities, especially women that led to the formation of Rural Community Development Council (RCDC) in 1971. It is therefore one of the oldest organizations in Pakistan working for the betterment of the poor.

In its operations on female education, wind energy, women's participation in political process, sports, rehabilitation of water resources, livelihood of poor fishermen, effective working of citizens' community boards and micro scholarship program for youth, RCDC has partnered with World Bank, RNE, Aurat Foundation, UNDOC, OXFAM GB, USAID, DTCE and ActionAid Pakistan. The organization is also working with SAP-PK on Strengthening Democratic Governance in Pakistan (SDGP). RCDC's office is situated at Gwadar.

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