

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

THE CONTENT ANALYSIS OF ETHNIC-RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS IN BALOCHISTAN

*Dr. Sadaf Irtaza¹, Dr. Abdul Malik Abbasi², Mr. Muhammad Kamil Lakho³,
Mr. Abdul Quddos Bangulzai⁴, Mr. Salman Hyder⁵*

¹ Department of Media Studies, University of Balochistan, Quetta

² Faculty of Language and Culture Studies, Department of English, SMI University, Karachi
Pakistan

³ Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Social and Development Studies, SMI University,
Karachi, Pakistan

⁴ Mir Chakar Khan Rind University, Sibi, Balochistan

⁵ HANDS NGOs, Sukkur, Pakistan

Corresponding Author's Email: amabbasi@smiu.edu.pk

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0481-2992>

Dr. Sadaf Irtaza, Dr. Abdul Malik Abbasi, Mr. Muhammad Kamil Lakho, Mr. Abdul Quddos Bangulzai, Mr. Salman Hyder. The Content Analysis of Ethnic-Religious Conflicts in Balochistan -- Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology 20(1), 1149-1157. ISSN 1567-214x

Keywords: Balochistan, Ethnic-Religious, Consequences, Newspapers

ABSTRACT

Balochistan is the south western region of Pakistan and the biggest area land-wise. Quetta is its capital and biggest city. It has fringes with Punjab and Federally Administered Tribal Areas toward the upper east, Sindh toward the east and southeast, Arabian Sea toward the south, Iran toward the west, and Afghanistan toward the north and northwest. The study aims to determine the ways and means, regarding the ethnic-religious unrest in Balochistan. A mixed methods design was utilized to collect the primary and secondary data samples across three major cities of Balochistan. The preliminary data was collected from the respondents by using the interview schedule and secondary data (selected newspapers, and documents-2006-2013) were used in three purposively selected districts namely (Quetta, Khuzdar, and Turbat). The current study contains five hundred (500) respondents. The sample size for respondents' religious views were two hundred (200), whereas for respondents' ethnic view were three hundred (300). Concurrently, three hundred (300) respondents (Quetta+100, Khuzdar+100, Turbut+100=300)

were selected as the target population using the simple random sampling technique. The findings reveal less than half (45%) of the respondents did not comprehend any unrest existed on the province level. One-fourth (45.5%) of the respondents were of the view that extremism infiltrated through thoughts. Record (43.3%) of the respondents believed that newspapers as a massive tool for resolving conflicts. Utmost (42%) of the respondents did not know the newspapers. Maximum (70%) respondents don't know that the media plays a role in sectarian eradication. The results further reveal peak (59.5%) of the respondents believed that they did not see any ethnic unrest in the areas. Nearly (53.3%) of the respondents did not accept that the regional media is highlighting issues at the national level. Keeping in view, the findings of the study follow the recommendations devised in light of the study. Improvement of Balochistan is critical for the advancement and prosperity of Pakistan, subsequently there is a need to understand that a solid Balochistan implies a firm Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is a federation of five provinces and in a league, there is dependable and unpredictable harmony between goals of the constituent units for self-governance. Since its inception, all constitutions defined have demonstrated an inclination towards a more grounded government at the cost of common freedom. The subject of conventional independence (either civil rights or press freedom) has been a slogan in the Pakistan government, preliminary objectives since its inception¹. Balochistan is the south western region of Pakistan and the biggest area land-wise. Quetta is its capital and biggest city. It has fringes with Punjab and Federally Administered Tribal Areas toward the upper east, Sindh toward the east and southeast, Arabian Sea toward the south, Iran toward the west, and Afghanistan toward the north and northwest. The principal ethnic gatherings in territory are Baloch's and Pashtuns, who constitute 52% and 36% of populace separately, as per or according to 2011 census; the staying 12% involves minorities as littler groups of Brahui, Hazaras, Sindhis, Punjabis, Uzbeks and Turkmens². The name Balochistan signifies "the place where there is Baloch in numerous territorial dialects. To a great extent the immature economy is overwhelmed by characteristic assets, particularly its petroleum gas fields, evaluated to have adequate ability to supply Pakistan's needs over the medium to long haul. Besides Quetta, a further region of major financial significance is Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. Balochistan is noted for its extraordinary culture and greatly dry climatic. Baloch are overwhelmingly Sunni majority³. In a content analytical study conducted by Abbasi, et al (2018) states that 'predisposed and aggressive language was used in a typically twisted form. It gave the impression that journalistic norms have been sacrificed at the podium of patriotism'.

Balochistan's physical features are strategically sensitive and significant for Pakistan's survival and security. Due to these features, Balochistan is becoming

¹ Kundi A, "Provincial Autonomy": A view from Baluchistan: in, Problems and Politics of Federalism in Pakistan. Islamabad: IPRI, 2006, p.35. (2006).

² Muhammad L, "The tricky demographics of Baluchistan" Dawn News. (2012) Archived from the original on 25 November 2016. Retrieved 16 May 2017.

³ Government of Baluchistan, GOB. Baluchistan, Pakistan. "Encyclopaedia Britannica". Archived from the original on 5 April 2017. (2017). Retrieved 5 April 2017.

a hub for regional and major powers such as China, the United States, Iran, Afghanistan, and India. Balochistan's area includes Iranian Balochistan to its west, and parts of Afghanistan are located in its north where it touches the Pashtun Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Balochistan is bound on the west by a 520-mile-long border with Iran and on the north by a 720-mile-long border with Afghanistan. In the east are the Pakistani provinces of Sindh, Punjab, and a part of North West Frontier Province (NWFP). Its extended seacoast runs along the Sistan region of Iran ending at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. With a 470-mile Arabian Sea coastline, the province occupies almost three-fourths of Pakistan's entire coast, making it a channel for accessing the Straits of Hormuz, one of the key strategic points in the Indian Ocean. The Balochistan coast provides an exclusive economic zone potentially rich in oil, gas, and minerals spread over approximately 180,000 square kilometres while giving Balochistan considerable strategic importance for two of Pakistan's three naval bases---Ormara and Gwadar are situated on the Balochistan coast (Niazi 2005)

In 2002, President Pervez Musharraf initiated the construction of Gwadar, a port city in Balochistan, Pakistan. China provided both physical and economic support for the development of this seaport. In 2004, a shocking incident occurred in the seaside town of Gwadar when three Chinese workers were killed in an automobile bombing. The attack was reportedly carried out by Baloch separatists who were opposed to the development of Gwadar port and other infrastructure projects in Balochistan. This incident was intended to create fear and disrupt the peace movement in Balochistan and Pakistan (Dawn, September 30, 2004).

Dunne (2006) The democratization process in Balochistan was severely hindered by the local administration. The separatists were labelled as "detrimental to government parts," which sowed the seeds for a split between the inside and the zone in the 1970s. The current situation in Balochistan is the result of various recent factors, such as the development of Gwadar port, the impact of battle on fear, and the current politico-economic conditions in South Asia. Human rights organizations and intellectuals blame the government for the current crisis in the region. The Baloch revolt has had a disastrous effect on Pakistani society. The deteriorating situation in Pakistan is reflected in the Misgovernance Government Directory report.

The examination goes up against the part of different undercurrents of society in Balochistan and goes further inside the issues, for example, the patriot motivation of Baloch individuals, political extremity, sectarianism, militancy, and fanaticism. Alongside the substance investigation also includes an analysis of the chosen daily papers. A poll was created to measure the part of daily papers in framing general sentiments concerning issues of turmoil in Balochistan particularly ethnic and religious distress in Balochistan. This existing framework should be changed, and the new framework ought to centre on financial improvement and render chances to the native residents. Media ought to go as a balancing strategy to those outside powers affecting the present emergencies. Media men should depict the genuine picture of external forces. Following objectives were configured:

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To gauge the role of newspapers in highlighting the issues of unrest and sectarianism in Balochistan.
- To measure the responsibility of newspapers regarding resolving issues of conflict in Balochistan.
- To evaluate major causes of ethnic unrest and violence in Balochistan.

MIXED METHODS DESIGNS

A descriptive research design was used to explore socio-economic conditions in three heavily violence-affected districts of Balochistan province. Two structured research instruments were used to collect data from 500 respondents. A descriptive type of research is explicated as a proclamation of activities and obtained the perceptions regarding the socio-economic condition in the current scenario and having no control over variable. The sample size as a target population for the present research study contained respondents (who possessed religious views) and respondents (who possessed ethnic views) of the three purposively selected districts namely (Quetta, Khuzdar, and Turbat) of Balochistan province. These districts have been heavily victimized by violence either religious or ethnic. However, in this connection, selected newspapers were evaluated from the year of 2005 to 2013. This period from 2005 to 2013 was the upsurge of the ethnic as well as Baloch rebellion to a greater extent at the province level. The sample size for respondents who possessed religious views were two hundred (200), whereas for respondents who possessed ethnic view were three hundred (300). While three hundred (300) respondents (Quetta+100, Khuzdar+100, Turbut+100=300) were selected as the target population using the simple random sampling technique. The target population encompassed 500 respondents. Two structured research instruments were rummage-sale as a tool for gathering information.

Furthermore, 29 closed and open-ended matrix quires as an item survey were identified as the extent to which the respondent's perceived perception was captured. Those appraisal items were measured based on the attributed view of the respondents such as (A = Yes, B = No, C = don't know) while (level of effected for respondents respectively) to measure the constructs (D = Neutral, E = Don't Know). Similarly, a list of selected options to reply to the question, where the choice is "yes", "no" and don't know" respectively. Secondary data was collected through previous research and studies on the same or relevant topics. Other sources for secondary data collection are books, reports, news content, articles, and interviews published in newspapers on the issue of journalism in Balochistan. For face validity of the research instrument, the scholar has completed altogether indispensable requirements, arrangement, and measurement of questions. For content validity, a panel of three specialists from the Department of Commerce University of Balochistan Quetta assessed the opinion poll. Cronbach's alpha coefficients were also estimated.

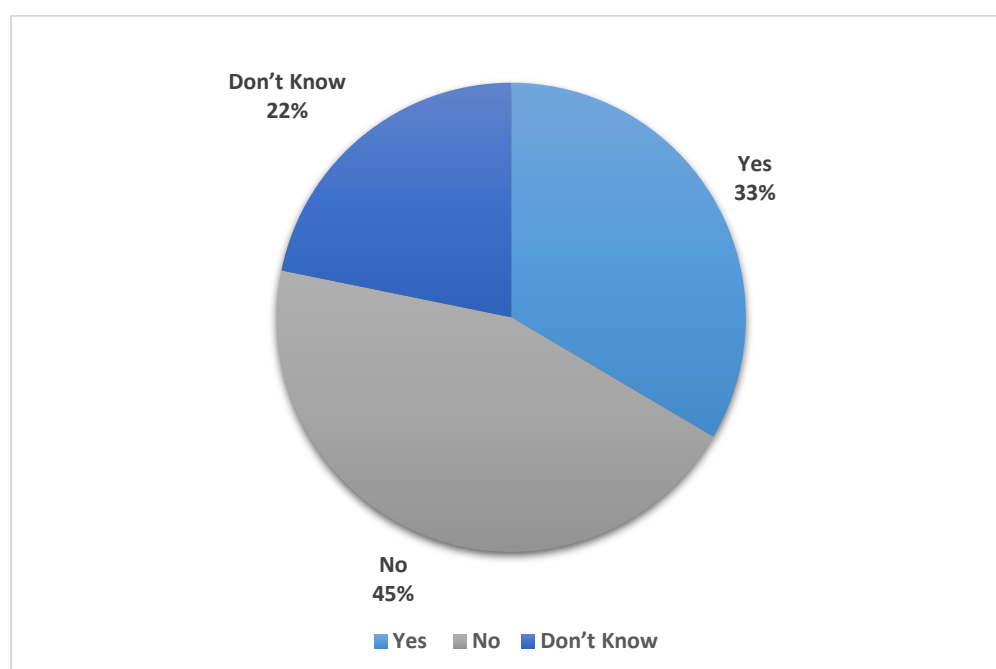
All information arrangements $\geq .81$, was excellent⁴. The minimum range of value was Cronbach's alpha 0.7 to 0.8 appropriate to conduct research as reported by Reynaldo⁵. The collected statistics were analyzed using SPSS version 22 statistical package and One-Way-ANOVA was conducted using the formula. Parametric statistics, including analysis of variance and t-test, were calculated to determine the variances and inconsistencies between and among variables with statistical significance differences at the 0.05 alpha level. The t-test, regarding assuming equal variances statistic, was also calculated.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The present chapter shade the light on findings of the recent study. The dependent variable was analyzed by using the SPSS. In this regard, the data were present in table and graph forms.

RELIGIOUS UNREST

Figure 1. Distribution sample according to religious unrest in Balochistan

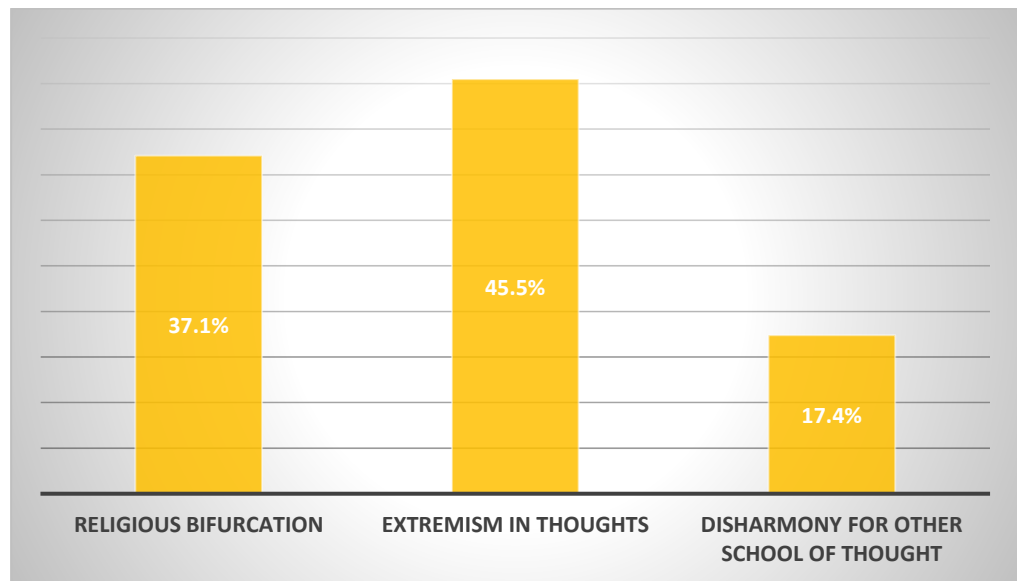


The data was divided into three categories based on religious unrest at the province level. The findings showed that 45% of respondents did not perceive any unrest, 33% believed that unrest still exists in Balochistan, and 22% were unwilling to discuss religious affairs.

⁴ Nunnally JC. *Psychometric theory*: (1967): New York: McGraw-Hill.

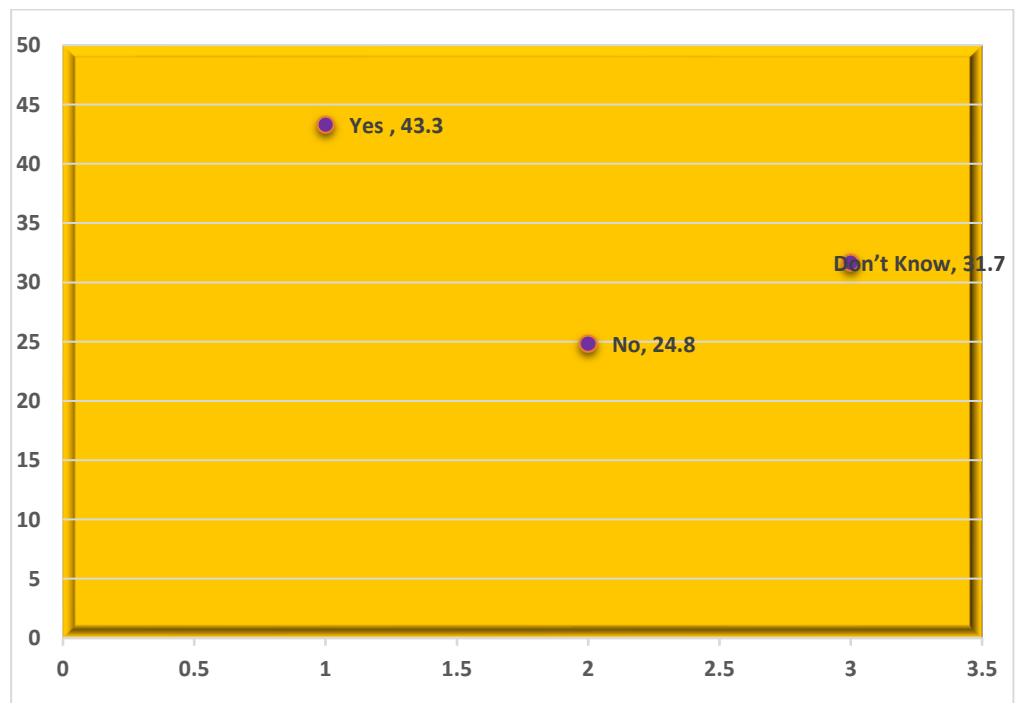
⁵ Reynaldo J & A Santos. *Cronbach's Alpha*: A tool for assessing the reliability of scales. J. Extension (1999).

Figure 2. Distribution sample according to about sectarianism



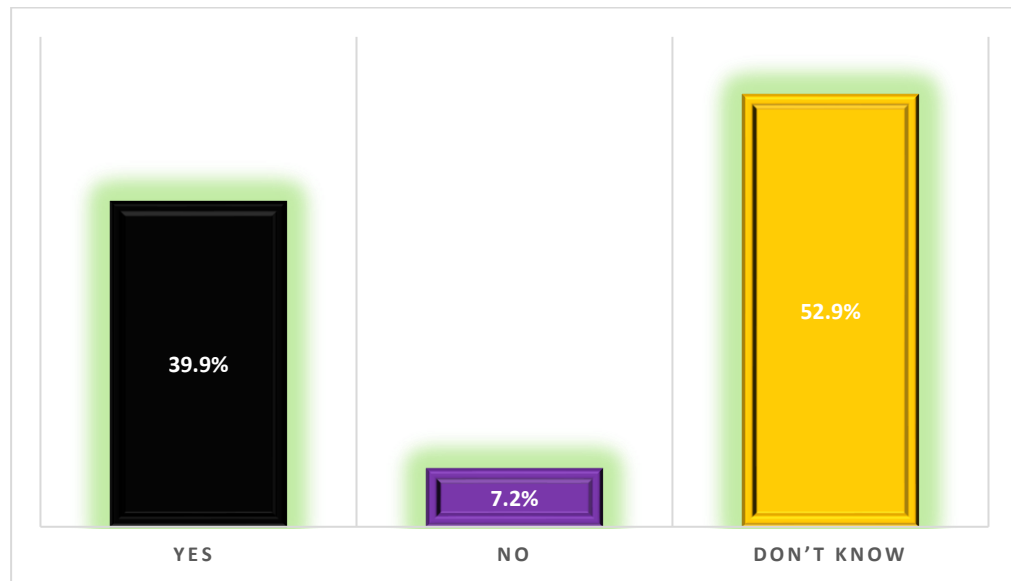
The survey asked respondents about ideas and sectarian dynamics. Figure 2 shows that 45.5% attributed extremism to thoughts, 37.1% to religious division, and only 17.4% to disharmony with other schools of thought.

Figure 3. Distribution sample according to newspaper as tool of resolving conflicts



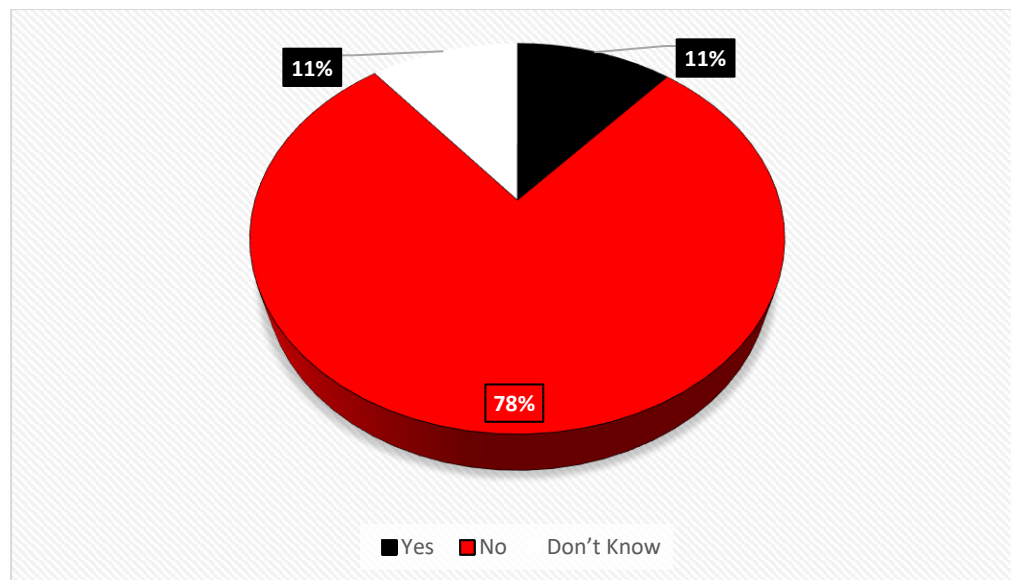
The survey asked respondents if newspapers can help resolve conflicts. According to Figure-3, 43.3% agreed while 31.7-24.8% did not know.

Figure 4. Distribution sample according to newspapers about reports incidents of sectarian violence in Balochistan



The results of Figure 4 show that 42% of respondents are unaware of newspapers' fear of reporting sectarian violence in Balochistan. 39.9% believe that newspapers are scared to report such incidents, while only 7.2% determined that newspapers are not scared.

Figure 5. Distribution sample according to media and its role in sectarian issue with the term of religious.



The religious segregation data, presented in Figure 5, shows that 70% of respondents are unsure of the media's role in eradicating sectarianism. Only 11% believe that it has helped resolve issues in Balochistan.

Table 1. Distribution sample according to ethnic unrest in area

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	1	.2
No	297	59.5
Don't Know	202	40.3

The survey asked respondents about ethnic unrest in the area. According to Table 1: 59.5% believed there was none, while 40.3% were unsure.

Table 2. Distribution sample according to major causes of ethnic unrest in Balochistan

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Illiteracy	23	4.6
Tribal system	139	27.9
Government neglects	119	23.8
Talibanization	219	43.7

The respondents' views on the major causes of ethnic unrest in Balochistan were determined using Likert scale responses, as shown in Table 2. The results indicate that 43.7% of respondents believed Talibanization was the primary cause while 27.9% attributed it to the tribal system.

Table 3. Distribution sample according to reasons behind ethnic issue

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Bugti assassination	138	27.5
Change in international scenario	92	18.6
Awareness about Baloch tribe	3	.6
American interest	139	27.7
Afghan war	39	7.8
Pakistan war against terrorism	89	17.8

The reasons for the ethnic conflict were presented in Table-3. 27.7% of the respondents believed that American interests were involved, while 27.5% thought that the Bugti assassination was the main factor, and only 18.6% believed that a change in the international scenario was responsible.

Table 4. Distribution sample according to regional media highlighting issues at national level

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Yes	199	39.7
No	266	53.3
Don't Know	35	7.0

The study analyzed responses to the Likert scale in Table 4. The majority (53.3%) of respondents did not believe that national issues were highlighted by

regional media. However, 39.7% believed that it was a major feature at the provincial level.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the results, 45% of respondents did not perceive any unrest at the provincial level. 45.5% believed that extremist thoughts were the cause. 43.3% felt that newspapers were a vital tool in conflict resolution. 42% were unaware that newspapers feared reporting sectarian violence in Balochistan, followed by 39.9% who believed newspapers were afraid. 70% did not know that the media had a role in eradicating sectarianism. 59.5% did not witness any ethnic unrest in their area. 43.7% believed that Talibanization was the primary cause for ethnic unrest in Balochistan. 27.7% believed that American interests were involved. Finally, 53.3% did not believe that regional media highlighted national issues. Recommendations have been developed to improve Balochistan, which is critical to Pakistan's success. National security encompasses parliament, the economy, human rights, and law governance. It is important to prioritize community-based development and economic opportunities for Baloch citizens.

REFERENCES

- Abbasi, A. M; Ali, M and Kamil, M. (2018). The content analysis of Donald Trump's bullying tweets to Pakistan, *The Sindh University Journal of Education*, 47(2), 41-63.
- Dunne, Justin S. (2006) *Crisis in Baluchistan: A Historical Analysis of the Baluch Nationalist Movement*. Naval Postgraduate School. [Retrieved on December 17, 2012 from <http://www.dtic.mil/cgibin/GetTRDoc?>
- Daily Dawn, September 30, (2004)
- Kundi, A. (2006). Provincial Autonomy: A view from Balochistan: in, *Problems and Politics of Federalism in Pakistan*. Islamabad: IPRI, p.35.
- Government of Balochistan, GOB. Balochistan, Pakistan. (April, 2017). *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Archived from the original on 5 April 2017.
- Muhammad, L. (2012). The tricky demographics of Balochistan. *Dawn News*. Archived from the original on 25 November 2016.
- Niazi Tarique. (February, 2005) Gwader: China's naval outpost on the Indian Ocean, *China Brief*, 5 (4). February 14
- Nunnally, J. C. (1967). *Psychometric theory*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Reynaldo, J & Santos, A. (1999). Cronbach's Alpha. A tool for assessing the reliability of scales. *J. Extension*.