

BLUE ECONOMY: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN BALOCHISTAN

Dr, Mumtaz Ali*¹, Dr. Hussan Ara Magsi², Farhana Magsi³

*¹Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Balochistan, Quetta;

²Associate professor, Political Science, University of Balochistan, Quetta;

³Lecturer, Political Science. University of Balochistan Quetta

Received: July 15, 2024

Revised: August 15, 2024

Accepted: August 29, 2024

Published: September 10, 2024

ABSTRACT

Blue economy is called as “blue growth .”and “maritime economy “.Blue economy refers to promotion of marine resources and to preserve them by protecting the environment .The term basically refer to the sustainable development of the coastal resources in order to boost up economy .The maritime economy is highly neglected by the government .The deep sea port has immense potential to be developed for future prosperity .The aims and objectives of this research paper are To explore new opportunities for sustainable blue economy in Balochistan . To find out the existing challenges confronted to blue economy in Balochistan? 3-To suggest remedies how to promote a sustainable economic growth and development in maritime economy? The qualitative research methodology will be opted in this research work. The data collection took place with help of magazines, books, newspapers and internet websites etc . In the end, there will be viable suggestions that how blue economy can tread upon the sustainable development path by taking governmental support

Key words: Blue economy, Balochistan, maritime challenges ,maritime opportunities, sustainable development.

INTRODUCTION

Balochistan is a blessed province endowed with minerals and coastal belt.” The blue economy is related to such activities as fisheries, marine animals, tourism , aquarium ,and maritime transport .It also deals with the exploration of offshore renewable energy (hydal power),marine bio-technology , aquaculture and seabed extractive activities etc .The country needs blue resources for economic revival .”(1) The blue economy in not only beneficial for market opportunities. It also provides the protection and development of more intangible blue resources. The blue economy promotes sustainable economic growth and development in Balochistan . The blue economy is based on three pillars: economic, social, and environmental. The theme of WOSC 2024 “sustainable utilization of oceans in blue economy “to promote fisheries sector by overcoming the problems of environmental degradation. The various type of activities represents blue economy coastal tourism fishing and aquaculture. There are various components of blue economy :Marine

biotechnology ,maritime transport and tourism. The blue economy is included in UN sustainable goals and it has reciprocal linkage with poverty energy and climate change.

OBJECTIVES:

- 1-To explore new opportunities for sustainable blue economy in Balochistan?
- 2- To find out the existing challenges confronted to blue economy in Balochistan?
- 3-To suggest remedies how to promote a sustainable economic growth and development in maritime economy?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

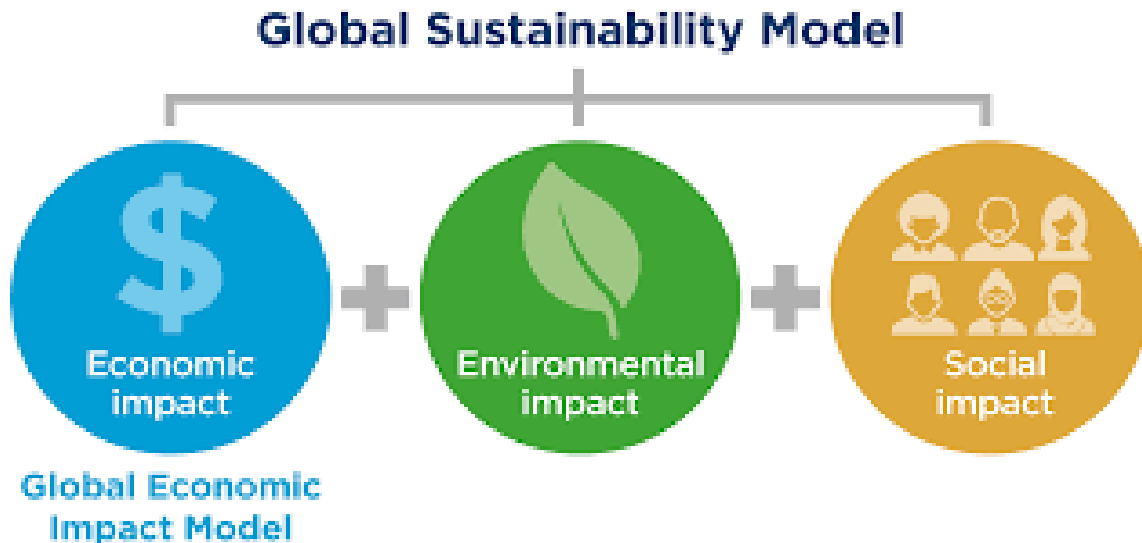
- 1-What are the existing opportunities for maritime economy in balochistan?
- 2-What are the grounds realities regarding the maritime economy in Balochistan?
- 3-Why there is a gap between theory and practice in maritime in Balochistan?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The qualitative research methodology will be applied in this research work. The data collection will take place by consulting books , magazines , journals , internet websites and newspapers .

APPLICATION OF MODELS:

In this research work the resilient and sustainable economic model will be applied . This model will help to analyses the growth of economy of Balochistan.



Significance: Nobody can undermine the immense significance of blue economy in 21st century .At macro-economic level ,there are multiple aspects of blue economy can be highlighted at national and international governance ,economic growth and development etc .The sustainable development is essential for national economy,s development .It provides also market opportunities .At international level ,the blue economy covers three economic forms :innovative development economy ,development of marine economy ,economy coping with global water crisis etc . The blue economy is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic development and growth, improved livelihoods, and creation of jobs without harming or affecting the health of ecosystems of the ocean. In short, the economic activities related to ocean, sea and coast in a way that preserve the ocean ecosystems. The blue economy enable to produce marine economic resources by restoring the natural equilibrium. In the CPEC mega project there is an immense potential in blue economy to promote fish shipping and other commercial whaling. The marine resources and fisheries carries pivotal importance. But This sector is confronting

various challenges due to lack of infrastructure and other facilities. (2)

LITERATURE REVIEW:

The article published in DAWN newspaper under the title “Dialogue held on Gawadar development, blue economy ,”published on 19july ,2021.”The parliamentary committee on CPEC(China – Pakistan Economic corridor) held dialogue on Gawadar and Blue economy growth in Pakistan .The government officials and students have attended this dialogue by highlighting the significance of Gawadar and CPEC .”(3)

“The blue economy is for the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic development in order to preserve the ocean ecosystem. Balochistan has long coastal belt .It has huge potential for development of fisheries ,tourism ,seaports and renewable energy projects .The province enjoys diversity of marine life in nature .The fishing is the only activity available to the people of coastal areas of Balochistan .”(4)

“Pakistan is a blessed country with enormous resources, landscapes and coastal areas Pakistan,s exclusive economic zone extended till 200 nautical miles .The marine resources further support to blue

economy that should be developed in 21st century . The fisheries carries pivotal importance in blue economy. The fishery sector contributes .32% in the overall GDP. The total fishing area is estimated around is 300,270 square km. The major fishing harbours in the country include Korangi Fish Harbor, Pasni Fish Harbor and Gwadar Fish Harbor.”(5)

MAIN SUBJECT:

Balochistan is a blessed province with Gawadar deep sea port and long coastline along Arabian Sea. The Exclusive Economy Zone (EEZ) of Balochistan has immense potential for catching fisheries ,seaports and renewable energy projects etc. Balochistan is a gateway of marine Cargo. Balochistan has marine beaches, islands and other tourists sights which can contribute huge amount to the revenue generation. Fish catching and aquaculture are the backbone of the blue economy, which provide not only a livelihood to the inhabitants living along with the coastline areas but also succor economic bloom. “The province of Balochistan embodies various natural marine resources. This is the most productive ecosystem of the world. This coastal area gives best quality of fish and shrimps in the entire world.”(6)

OPPORTUNITIES:

FISH HARBOUR: The fish harbor is already existing in coastal areas, and people sustenance depends on it. There is a dire need to promote and establish other fisheries industries in Balochistan. It will open the new opportunities of employment for youth in Baluchistan. The fish should be exported efficiently. There is a need of labour, packing, processing, cleaning and finishing the fish item. The fishermen should be imparted with the training with new modern lines by discarding the old methods etc . Pasni fish harbor is located along the Balochistan coast. It is deprived of basic facilities of dredging and loading . The onshore facilities are inadequate in the harbor.

Commercial Fishing: The most of the ships are engaged in commercial fishing in coastal area of Baluchistan. The ships are highly active to catch

various species of fish and they are processed and marketed towards developed city of Karachi. Then these fish are exported to foreign countries.

Fish Marketing: The traditional method is used for marketing the fish from coastal areas. The auctioneers provide the loans to the fishermen for catching the fish. The fish is transported from coastal area to the market. A major portion of fish is procured by fish processing plants. The marketing channels are not fully organized. There is proper icing system is available to preserve the fish .

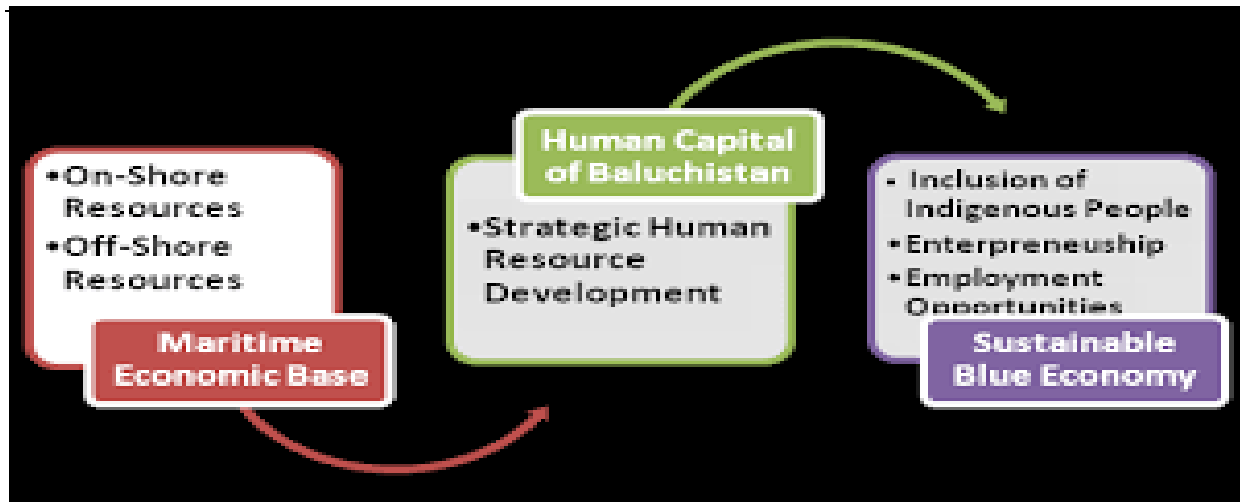
AQUACULTURE:

There is a need to develop large-scale aquaculture in Balochistan .It is also called as marine farming . There is a huge potential for farming and various other types of aquaculture and species in Baluchistan. It enable to breed, grow and harvesting the fish in Balochistan. It is an environmental source of food and commercial product. The Fisheries Development Board needs to identify pond sites for hatching fisheries in coastal areas of Balochistan. The sector of aquaculture is facing the problem of security problem,lack of manpower ,feeding and land tenure issues etc .

GAWADAR AS A JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN: Gawadr port has the immense potential to become glittering jewel in the crown of economy of Pakistan. It can bring an overwhelming change in blue growth of Pakistan. Gwadar is important due to its geostrategic location. It will open the new avenues for commercial whalings and trade proliferation. It will compete with Dubai and Singapore in future.

GADDANI:

Gaddani ship breaking industry is the third largest all over the world. It has fulfilled the requirements of steel of entire Pakistan ,and provided employment to 10,000 workers .The workers are vulnerable to toxic substances .They deal with oil tankers and are specialized in their work .



(6)

ENERGY: The coastal area of Balochistan is best for hydal energy ,and it is the main source of the production of electricity .The various types of MNC,s (Multinational companies have built total power stations . The coastal site is best for energy resources. The geological structure and climate of coastal area has the immense potential to produce wind energy. Balochistan coast is an ideal location for harnessing the wave and tidal power. The potential locations along the Makran coast are Ormara and Gawadar site.

FOOD:

Sea food is unique all over the world. There is wide variety of food exists in Balochistan, which can be exported throughout the world. The best quality of fish and prawns are found in these coastal areas ,which contribute towards enhancing GDP .There is good potential for expanding seafood production in Balochistan . It is estimated that 60 species of fish and 10 of the shrimps, including the best in the world, are found in the province. Aqua seafood company was established in 2008 located in Pasni fish harbor road, District Gawadar, Balochistan .

TOURISM:

There is a tremendous potential in coastal belt and ocean to promote the element of tourism .These place are worth seeing .There is need to develop tourists resorts ,road connectivity and security arrangements .The Gawadar beach is virgin and Astola Island is extremely beautiful .The grand aquarium can be built in Gawadr to attract the tourists ,which can contribute towards revenue generation .Gawadar needs a cultural tourism

strategy to uplift itself as a most attractive city within Pakistan and abroad .

CHALLENGES:

Balochistan” blue growth “is confronting enormous challenges:

- 1- **Government negligence:** The government has totally neglected the blue economy .There is lack of supervision on the part of government ,and due to scarcity of funds ,the government can pay attention towards proper development .
- 2- **External factors:** The external political factors i.erole of India and USA is a formidable bottleneck in the way acceleration of progress .CPEC could not brought fruitful results despite of implementation for a very long period of time .
- 3- **Internal factors:** The political inconsistency in CPEC Project is also a major bottleneck in the way of development of blue growth .The government is not paying heed towards fish harbour development.
- 4- **Pollution:** Marine pollution is also one of the major issue of coastal area .The disposal of the garbage in the ocean is lethal for marine animals . The marine turned resistant to these hazardous material due to perpetual intake. The over-shipping activity generates pollution through oil-spills in coastal area . In result of agricultural activities in coastal and flow of leftover of pesticides and chemicals also damages the marine life badly.
- 5- **Insecurity:** The element of security is one of key factor that debars the blue economy development. The investors are reluctant to invest due to critical law and order situation of the region.

Weak law enforcement and governance structures cannot control terrorism, illegal smuggling and piracy .

6- Lack of Tourism: There is lack of maritime tourism due to non-availability of facilities in the region. The tourism needs better transport facilities ,luxuries and comfortable accommodation .Although ,the scenic beauty exists but without modification and embellishment .

7-Lack of infrastructure: There is lack of infrastructural facilities in this province . The fish cannot get access national and international market. The local fishermen are still following the obsolete methods of fishing .Many coastal areas in Balochistan lack adequate harbor facilities . The absence of proper infrastructure hampers the efficiency of fishing operation.

8-CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING:

The phenomenon of global warming is contributing to rise the level of water by rising the temperature day by day. The climate is also changing which is laying lethal impact on marine animals . The other negative effects like cyclone, sea level rise, droughts, floods ,saline water intrusion and ocean acidification .Theses impacts leads towards species migration ,biodiversity loss ,disruption in marine food chain and in the long run it will affect the national economy .

9- OVER-FISHING: The over-fishing is one of the formidable problem of coastal areas. The lot of species are at verge of extinction, The fish population no longer able to sustain in water.

The damage done by overfishing goes beyond the marine environment. Billions of people rely on fish for protein, and fishing is the principal livelihood for millions of people around the world.The fisheries sector is confronting gigantic problems of over-fishing and lack of infrastructure etc . The fish are exported to middle East and Asia. There is a need to adopt proper fishing policy to improve this sector for international marketing.

10-WASTEMANAGEMENT:The disposal of waste and garbage in an ocean is also one of lethal problems that adversely affects marine life .These hazardous solid wastes are alarming danger for marine life . They turned resistant by regular intake of these chemicals. When human beings eat these fish, their health turned at stake .The human body also become recipient of these lethal chemicals

.The waste poses a significant threat to the maritime zone of Baluchistan which is adversely affecting the maritime ecosystem .

11-Lack of economic opportunities: The economic marginalization and lack of economic development hampers the level of export and import in this area. There is no proper fishing harbor and industry which can preserve the fish for export. Most of fishes are utilized in local market. The people cannot utilize their resources up to the mark as to bring them at an international level.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1- There is need of allocation of ample funds for improving the fisheries sector.

2-There is intensive need of introducing fish cage culture across dams in Balochistan.

3-The ideal sites for shrimp farms and shrimp hatchery could be at Gaddani, Pasni, Kalamat, Pishukan and Jiwani. Balochistan government must allot land for the shrimp farming projects.

4-The investors can invest in shrimp farming on commercial basis. The environmental friendly shrimp farms should be built .

5-There is need to reform the fisheries and aquaculture sector. The government and community members should collaborate in this regard to promote the sustainable development.

6-“The UNCTAD has initiatives to promote the trade of marine natural resources .The vibrant blue economy is key of success in the development of economy of the country . The blue economy promotes the sustainable development of the country.” (7)

7-“The provincial government take the initiatives to provide basic facilities to fishermen in order to uplift their standard of living . After the 18th amendment ,the government should provide the modern technology and equipment to fisher men to uplift the fisheries sector .”(8)

OUTCOME:

1-UNEP,s sustainable Blue economy initiatives aims to promote fisheries sector ,improve the ocean boundary from pollution and other waste material to improve fishing “(9)

2-The blue economy represents a conscious economic development and also serve the international developmental objectives: biodiversity preservation, food security, climate change and poverty alleviation.

3-Balochistan coastal area is blessed with immense natural maritime resources. It contributes almost 0.4% of GNP of the country. The blue economy enhances maritime revenue.

4-The sustainable blue economy contributes towards creating new jobs, reducing poverty, promoting health sector and providing food security.

CONCLUSION:

Blue economy is an important pillar of economy. The blue economy success indicators are sustainable development ,equilibrium ecosystem and preservation of marine life . There are lot of opportunities exists in this sector i.e .aquaculture ,tourism ,fish harbor and exploration of renewable energy .It requires persistent national supervision to promote tourism ,control overfishing ,developing transport linkages and providing security to make blue economy to progress on developmental path .” There are five aspects which are to be focused in blue economy: advance marine

technology ,aquaculture ,blue energy marine resources and coastal tourism .”(8)

References

^ "What is the Blue Economy?". THE WORLD BANK. 6 June 2017. Retrieved 14 May 2018,p.5.
Image ,www.researchgate.net .
^ Jump up to:^a ^b Principles for a Sustainable BLUE ECONOMY (PDF). World Wildlife Fund. p. 2. Retrieved 14 May 2018,p.7
Naseebullah Achakzai ,”Pakistan,blue economy and Balochistan ,”Daily Parliament Times ,Date :May 20 ,2021 .p.5 .
Syed Fazl –e-Haider ,Exciting blue economy likelihood Balochistan ,Pakistan &Gulf economist ,Dated : 20th July ,2021,p.3 . image –www.oxfordeconomics.com
Naseebullah Achakzai ,Pakistan,s blue economy and Baluchistan ,The first dayspring ,dated :May ,2020 ,p.4.
Muhammad Usman Askari , “Blue economy of Pakistan :challenges and prospects “,journal of Punjab university ,historical society ,vole 33,date 2020 ,p.24.

