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TÍTULO: Desarrollo socioeconómico bajo la Autoridad de Desarrollo.

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RESUMEN: La demanda de nuevas provincias en Pakistán se ha acelerado rápidamente después de la decimoctava enmienda a la Constitución de Pakistán de 1973. Las voces de la demanda de nuevas provincias están surgiendo en diferentes regiones de Pakistán. El movimiento de la provincia de Saraiki es muy popular y conocido por su larga trayectoria histórica. Los saraikis quieren crear una nueva provincia sobre una base étnica y lingüística para que su identidad pueda permanecer protegida en la región y con ella tienen muchas quejas como las económicas, políticas y culturales. La región se ha convertido en un agujero de pobreza y sensación de privación. Este estudio analiza diferentes aspectos relacionados con las quejas del Movimiento de la Provincia de Saraiki. También examina la situación actual y los últimos logros políticos.

PALABRAS CLAVES: nuevo movimiento provincial, nacionalistas, identidad lingüística, Saraikistan, South Punjab.

TITLE: Socio-economic development under the Development Authority.

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ABSTRACT: The demand of new provinces in Pakistan has picked up fast momentum after the eighteenth amendment in Pakistani Constitution of 1973. The voices of demand for new provinces are arising in different regions of Pakistan. The Saraiki province movement is very popular and well-known with its long historical background. Saraikis want to make new province on ethnic and lingual basis so that their identity could be remained protect in the region and with it they have a lot of grievances like economic, political and cultural. The region has become a hole of poverty and sense of deprivation. This study discusses different aspects related to the grievances of Saraiki Province Movement. It also examines current situation and latest politically achievements.

KEY WORDS: new province movement, nationalists, linguistic identity, Saraikistan, South Punjab.

INTRODUCTION.

The Saraiki speakers (Saraikia language that is spoken in Sothern part of the province Punjab in Pakistan) exist in the southern part of the Punjab Province in Pakistan. This territory is situated in the Indus Valley Civilization that is one of the most ancient places of the world.

Saraiki strap is also happening between Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa in the existing Pakistan. The area is very fertile, because the Indus River and its associated rivers irrigate the region. Irrigation system of Pakistan is one of the most superb in the world. The land is usually considered warm and hot. The area and population of Saraiki belt is more than the rest of the Punjab (Khan H. A., 2004), but it could not be defined the exact area and decisive borderline of the southern Punjab based on

ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious etc. Generally, four division in which Bahawalpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan, Sargodha, including two districts Dera Ismael Khan and Jhang are proposed by the Saraiki Ethnic nationalists (Khan M. A., 1993, p. 8).



Figure 1: Proposed Saraikistan map consists of the districts Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Bhakkar, Dera Ghazi Khan, Dera Ismael Khan, Jhang, Khanewal, Khushab, Layyah, Lodhran, Mianwali, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Pakpattan, Rajanpur, Rahimyar Khan, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Vehari etc. (SWADO), 2010).

Now, Sahiwal division is working as separate division that consists of three districts like Sahiwal, Pakpattan, and Okara. Before it, Sahiwal and Pakpattan districts were the part of Multan division. So, the proposed Saraiki province map also includes these two districts, but mostly, it is acknowledged that the southern Punjab consists of three divisions like Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan. Moreover, these three divisions consist of eleven districts (in Bahawalpur Division (Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Rahimyar Khan), in Multan Division (Multan, Lodhran, Khanewal and Vehari), in Dera Ghazi Khan Division (Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh,

Layyah) of Punjab province (Feyyaz, 2011, pp. 9-16). The detail of these districts is given with area and population according to the different census that was occurred in different time in Pakistan.

Table 1. Population of the Saraiki Region (Pakistan, Population_Census Administrative Units , 1998). (In thousands).

Districts	Area Sq. Kms.	1951	1961	1972	1981	1998	2017
Bahwalnagar	8878	631	823	1074	1374	2061	2982
Bahawalpur	24830	528	736	1071	1453	2433	3668
Bhakkar	8153	234	333	500	666	1051	1650
Dera Ghazi Khan	11922	380	473	686	944	1643	2872
Dera Ismael Khan	7326	223	272	380	494	853	1,627
Jhang	8809	864	1065	1555	1971	2835	2744
Khanewal	4349	635	775	1068	1370	2068	2922
Khushab	6511	268	360	543	641	906	1281
Layyah	6291	162	273	496	667	1121	1824
Lodhran	2778	289	364	559	740	1172	1701
Mianwali	5840	316	414	595	714	1057	1546
Multan	3720	725	984	1506	1970	3117	4745
Muzaffargarh	8249	589	717	1069	1498	2636	4325
Pakpattan	2724	381	440	616	844	1287	1824
Rahimyar Khan	11880	664	1016	1399	1841	3141	4814
Rajanpur	12318	247	304	456	639	1104	1996
Sahiwal	3201	604	744	945	1282	1843	2518
Sargodha	5854	893	1107	1558	1912	2666	3704
Vehari	4364	559	703	1027	1329	2090	2897

The distribution of large units and the establishment of provinces to manage administrative affairs in the subcontinent were felt at all times. In view of the same facility, the British government partitioned Bengal in 1905, but due to the hostility of Hindus, the partition of Bengal had to be canceled.

Although Hindus opposed partition of Bengal, they later supported the establishment of provinces based on linguistics, an example of which can be cited in the Congress meeting of 1908 and 1917(Malik, 2011, p. 274). On same footing, Saraiki province movement is demanding new province in the southern region of Punjab on lingual basis. In the beginning, Saraikis nationalists worked for the protection of Saraiki language but later on this movement moved to make new province to eradication of the sense of deprivation in the region.

According to Saraikkis, their development funds are being snatched by the rest Punjab. Due to lake of funds, region of southern Punjab has become backward. In June 2009, during the questions hour, it was informed to the National Assembly of Pakistan that twenty billion loans were received by the World Bank, and not a single project was launched in the southern Punjab (Feyyaz, 2011, pp. 9-16).

DEVELOPMENT.

Saraiki movement came on track in 1960's; primarily it was a cultural and linguistic movement but latterly made a political movement (Feyyaz, 2011, pp. 9-16). "For the first time in the I960s, the word "Saraiki" was employed by the linguists and literary figures of Southern Punjab(Khan H. A., 2004, p. 49)." Riaz Hashmi, a Saraiki nationalist has pursued to gain a separate status in the beginning of 1960 (Zaman, 2012, pp. 1-21). This effort led to wished-for separate Saraikistan Province in the southern part of Punjab.

Saraiki has been standardized for the determination of writing from 1960. The main objective to coin the term of Saraiki was to give a separate identity to the people of southern Punjab instead the other regional names like Multani, Derewali, Riastai, Muzajjargarhi, Uchi, Thalchari,laghadali, Lahnda, latki,Balochkietc. These words were often spoken for native languages in southern areas and replace them with single word “Saraiki”(Khan H. A., 2004, p. 87).

On 14-16 March 1975, twenty-three Saraiki organizations (Ayres, 2009, p. 58) held a Saraiki Literary Conference in Multan. On the face of it, this was an effort to share literary opinions and knowledges of Saraiki academics and experts. On the behalf of this organization, it was also made a request to the participants to avoid the expressing ethno-nationalist views (Khan U. K., 1975, pp. 15-16), but in this conference, Saraiki and Sindhi nationalists were invited to expressing their views and opinions. In this conference, different political issues discussed during the proceeding and Saraiki complaints were also debated in detail. It was provided a new stage for the discussion of Saraiki grievances by this literary conference.

Seth Ubaid a nationalist defined the conference as the rational consequence of the failure of the Bahawalpur Province Movement (BPM). Moreover, he claimed that the Saraiki Movement started due to the Bahawalpur Province Movement, which was intended at creating a new Saraiki province (Khan U. K., 1975, pp. 15-16) where Saraiki was declared as native language and Saraiki Literary conference maintained the movement, up till now no indication of ethnicity was observable. Some notable leaders like Saeed-ur-Rasheed, Makhdoom Noor Muhammad, Main Nizamuddin Haider, and Chaudhry Ferzand Ali firmly condemned the use of racial slogans in the movement(Goli Number, 1972, pp. 9-10, 13, 16).

In the Conference, Haji Saifullah, Member of Punjab Assembly (MPA) and the opposition leader in the Punjab provincial assembly, demanded the formation of a Saraiki province. He made responsible to northern Punjab for ignoring and takes advantage of the Saraiki areas (Khan U. K.,

1975, p. 15). A resolution was passed in this Conference, in which it was settled that condemning the allotment of lands in Cholistan to non-Saraiki people, emphasizing the financial dissatisfaction dominant amongst the inhabitants, sharing in government jobs on quota system etc. (Khan U. K., 1975, pp. 20-21). So, first time in this conference, politicized the "Saraiki cause". Due to this literary conference, several Saraiki nationalist parties were born which were less popular, short and separate than the other national political parties (Khan H. A., 2004, p. 112).

In 1978, a Saraiki Lawyers Forum came into being to find the political rights for a separate province in Southern Punjab. Its first meeting held in Lahore in which Taj Muhammad Langha was elected of its first President. It was claimed that decentralization of Lahore High Court (LHC) in the form of Lahore High Court Multan Bench and Lahore High Court Bahawalpur Bench was made by the struggling of this forum (Khan M. A., 1993, p. 3). In late 1970's Saraiki Qaumi Mahaz (Saraiki National Front) came into being under the chairmanship of Muhammad Hayat Bhutta. Except some meetings and press statements, no noteworthy role was played by this party (Rahman, 1996, p. 186). A party named "Saraiki Conference" was made by the Main Sajid Pervaiz in 1979 but soon died out (Khan H. A., 2004, p. 113).

In 1981 Census, Saraiki was included as a separate language and this was made a strap line by the government of Pakistan. Due to it, at least rose up its physique. The Census of 1981 gave Saraiki activists a statistical arsenal with which to reinvigorate claims for their separate Saraiki Province, "a Saraikistan", to be carved out of the center of Pakistan, for they were able to demonstrate that several key districts had a preponderance of Saraiki speakers. The map of this Saraikistan indeed covers more than half of what is present-day of Punjab (Ayres, 2009, p. 58).

In 1983, Taj Muhammad Langha who was the president of the Saraiki Lawyers Forum of that time said in a media talks apprehended in Multan High Court Bar that the formation of Saraiki province

had turn out to be indispensable. During this press meeting a Charter of Demands was also circulated.

On March 5, 1984, one more meeting was organized in Lahore by Bulging cream of the crop(These leaders were Qari Nurul Haq Qureshi, Asadullah Khan Langha, Shafi Muhammad Akhler, Ghulam Abbas) of Saraiki Lawyers Forum and announced the formation of the “Saraiki Suba Mahaz (SSM)” (Saraiki Province Front)(Khan H. A., 2004, p. 113). After that Riaz Hashmi who was leading a party “Bahalia Bahawalpur Suba (BBS)” (Restoration Bahawalpur Province) was approached by Saraiki Soba Mahz (Saraiki Province Front) and signed an agreement between the both parties by which a merger came into being of both.

On April 8, 1984, place of work was selected for Saraiki Soba Mahaz (Saraiki Province Front) in Multan and Quari Nur-ul-Haq Qureshi was chosen its foremost convener. Activists of Saraiki Sooba Mahaz (Saraiki Province Front) worked very hard for the betterment of the movement and started to meet with local movements in the region. Subsequently, Jam Taj M Berda's party “Saraiki Qaumi Tehrik” (Saraiki National Movement) amalgamated into the Saraiki Province Front.

In the Martial Law regime of Zia-ul-Haq was stressed the local parties and group badly, but in 1986-87 when Martial Law was abolished, and civil government came into action in the form of Prime Minister Muhammad Khan Junejo, then the ethno-nationalist movements and groups got fast momentum and started their activities on large scale (Rahman, 1996, p. 186). One more party, Saraiki Qaumi Movement (SQM) (Saraiki National Movement) which appeared simultaneously was the grounded on the model of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) (Migrants National Movement). There were three hubs of Saraiki Qaumi Movement (Saraiki National Movement) “Khanpur Katora” and “AhmadpurSharqia” in Punjab Province and Karachi in Sindh Province (The organization was headed by many people like Hameed Asghar Shaheen, Azam Saeedi, Shahid

Kareem, and Shahida Naz) (Rahman, 1996, p. 187). It raised productive voice in terms of printing provocative booklets on the violation of Saraiki privileges.

In 1988, another party named “Socialist Saraikistan National Front” was formed by the Comrade Manzoor Ahmad Bohar. In general election 1988, Saraiki parties did not participate in General election with their candidates but supported the Pakistan People Party.

After making the government, Benazir Bhutto did not give attention on the Saraiki grievances and entirely be unable to remember them. Subsequently, Taj Muhammad Langha detached his political group Saraiki Sooba Mahaz (Saraiki Province Front) from the Pakistan People Party (PPP), and shaped a new political party named Pakistan Saraiki Party (PSP) (Khan H. A., 2004, p. 114).

In general election 1990, Saraiki political Parties could not achieve the goals and performed badly. The main cause of this poor performance in the general election 1990 was the absence of unification among the different Saraiki political parties. In 1993, a group of Saraiki Sooba Mahaz (Saraiki Province front) belongs to Bahawalpur made another party named Saraiki National Party and Abdul Majeed Kanju was made head of this party.

In 1998, an alliance (Sindh Taraqi Pasand Party, Awami Tehreek, Baluchistan National Movement, Pakhtun-khwa Milli Awami Party, Seraiki movement, etc.) was established named Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement (PONM) (CHENG, 2002) by the ethnic nationalists like Sardar Ataullah Mengal, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Rasool Bux Palijo, Dr. Qadir Magsi, Syed Jalal Mehmood Shah and other Sindhi, Baluchi, Pashtun and Seraiki of all over the Pakistan. The first meeting was held in Islamabad during the 1-2 November 1998. On November 2, 1998, a declaration was announced in which following demands were geared up (Khan H. A., 2004, p. 115):

- ✓ All federating units including Saraikistan should be autonomous and sovereign and referred to as states in the terms and spirit of the 1940 resolution.

- ✓ All federating units including Saraikistan should be autonomous and sovereign and referred to as states in the terms and spirit of the 1940 resolution.
- ✓ These states should be the fountainheads of all power including finance, and the federation should be vested with only those powers which the states confer on it by mutual agreement and consent.
- ✓ The Pushtun (regional language) federal unit shall be known as Pakhtunkhwa and the Saraiki federal unit as Saraikistan.
- ✓ Pushto, Saraiki, Balochi, Sindhi and Punjabi languages should be declared national languages and the cultures of the federating nations should be given an equal opportunity to develop and prosper.
- ✓ Each federating unit should have proper and adequate representation in the defense forces roughly commensurate with its population.
- ✓ The principle of parity and equal representation should be made applicable to the people of all the federating nations in the federal bodies, services and other institutions with full force in the new order.
- ✓ Matters requiring settlement among the above nation (including Baloch and Pushtun), should be amicably settled by mutual negotiations under the principles of justice, fair play, and historical background in the interest of the concerned oppressed nations. (Note: Declaration of Oppressed Nations Movement, Adopted on 2 November 1998 at Islamabad Hotel, Islamabad).

These demands were very close to the demands of Sheikh Mujeeb Rehman's six points in 1966, but core benefit was got through this forum by the Saraiki political stakeholders that was the proper acknowledgement of the separate identity by the additional countrywide political movements.

In the general election of 2002, Saraiki political parties and their supported groups performed very poor and could not give extra ordinary performance in the region. Pakistan Saraiki Party (PSP)

completely failed to get support of the native people. Taj Muhammad Langha Chairman of Pakistan Saraiki Party contested the election from many constituencies but failed to do something better. So, the performance of PSP in general election was: Taj Muhammad Langha, the chief of the Pakistan Saraiki Part (PSP), contested from NA-149 (Multan II), NA-154 and NA-155 (Lodhran-I&II), and NA-183 (Bahawalpur-I), two of which were from the platform of the National Alliance and two from his own party. In Multan-II, he got 107 votes, in Lodhran-I, he could poll I 18 votes, in Lodhran-II, he scored 2322, and in Bahawalpur-I, he could get 988 votes. His security was confiscated from all these constituencies (Khan H. A., 2004, p. 116).

Advocate Malik Mumtaz Hussain another nationalist and the chief of Saraiki Sooba Movement (Saraiki Province Movement) provided the same result; he contested the election from Multan-II and could get only 348 votes. The same situation was also found in other provinces of Pakistan where ethnic nationalists parties could not give good performance in the election. All these parties made a multiparty display place named Pakistan Oppressed Nations Movement (PONAM), blamed on government for holding plotted election.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai president of PONAM blamed on army, he said, “interference of the army in civilian affairs was the main problem faced by the country” (Khan H. A., 2004, p. 116). In fact, the performance of ethnic nationalists’ parties in the election was the worst, for this, to give blame to government or other institutions of government like army was not fair. If a candidate gets one, two, three hundred or thousand votes and claims the rigging in election that is not possible. Here a question raises that “Is the government or army halts the common people to poll the vote for a particular candidate? It is impossible for the any institute of government to interfere in election.

Sardar Akhtar Mangal, head of Balochistan National Party (BNP) said that since, government did not grantee the rights of our people; therefore, we did not agree to take the Pakistan’s constitution. Taj Muhammad Langha also protested the rigging in the election. In fact, all the ethnic nationalists’

parties and their leadership had not sufficient favor of the public, because in the election results, people rejected them badly. While, they claimed themselves as guardian the rights of the people and region.

In the general elections 2008, 2013 and 2018, all Saraiki's parties gave same results as general election 2002. In general election 2013, Saraikistan QaumiIttehad (Saraikistan National Alliance) got only 1890 votes on the National Assembly seats and 2655 votes on Punjab provincial seats. Saraiki Sooba (Province) Movement secured only 1797 votes for national level seats and 1928 votes for provincial level (Pakistan, General Election 2013 (Party Wise Total Vote Bank), 2013).

In general election 2018, Pakistan Saraiki Party (T) got only 6523 total votes for National Assembly. Saraikistan Democratic Party secured 724 votes for National Assembly in general election 2018 and saved only 675 votes for Punjab assembly (Pakistan, Party Wise Vote Bank - National Assembly and Provincial Assembly, 2018).

Currently, more than a few Saraiki movements are working for separate province in southern Punjab and doing utmost struggling for their identity on national level in the shape of separate province. The key regional political parties are(Feyyaz, 2011, pp. 9-16):

- Pakistan Saraiki Party (T).
- Saraiki Qaumi Movement.
- Saraiki National Party.
- Saraikistan Qaumi Movement.
- SaraikistanQaumiIthad.
- Saraiki Sooba Movement.
- Saraikistan Democratic Party.

Amongst these parties, Saraiki Sooba Mahaz (Saraiki Province Front), Pakistan Saraiki Party (T), Saraikistan QaumiIttehad (Saraikistan National Alliance), Saraikistan Democratic Party etc., are the registered parties by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) (Pakistan, List of Political Parties, 2018). Pakistan Saraiki Party participated in the general election 2002 under the headship of Taj Muhammad Langha. Saraikistan QaumiIttehad (Saraikistan National Alliance) and Seraiki Sooba Movement(Seraiki Province Movement) took part in the general election 2013, and Saraikistan Democratic Party and Pakistan Saraiki Party (T) participated in the general election 2018 with the symbol of “deer” and “Spade” respectively(Pakistan, List of all Symbols, 2018).

The Saraiki parties have been acting upon on the theory of identity, ethnic, lingual, cultural, race etc. since their origin. Since 1970s, the people of the region recognize themselves by means of a Saraiki and texture extra arrogance for Saraiki language, values and distinctiveness. They claim that the number of Saraiki speaking people is more than the Punjabior other ethnic groups in the southern Punjab, but the proposed Saraikistan map areas situation is quite different in nine (9) districts like Bahawalnagar, Khanewal, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Vehari, Jhang, Khushab, Mianwali, Sargodha, etc.

In the three divisions (Multan, Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar) their claim is nearly appropriate. These divisions have just about 48.5% terrain of the total Punjab land and have 28.23% inhabitants of the total Punjab province population(Mushtaq, 2016, pp. 289-307). Where Saraiki speaking is in majority in the region, there the Punjabi speaking are also present in significant numbers. A noteworthy populace of Urdu speaking lives in the urban areas of southern Punjab(Mushtaq, 2016, pp. 289-307).

Table 2. Ethnolinguistics composition of Southern Punjab according censuses 1998

(In percent).

Southern Punjab	Urdu	Punjabi	Sindhi	Pashto	Balochi	Saraiki	Others
Bahawalnagar	3.7	94.6	*	0.3	*	1.2	0.1
Bahawalpur	5.5	28.4	0.1	0.6	0.1	64.3	1.1
Bhakkar	7.2	17.5	*	1.3	*	73.0	1.0
Dera Ghazi Khan	3.2	1.3	0.1	0.7	14.3	80.3	0.1
Dera Ismael Khan	3.26	0.91	0.06	22.02	0.05	72.47	1.23
Jhang	3.3	95.9	*	0.4	*	0.1	0.2
Khanewal	7.8	81.2	0.1	1.1	*	5.8	4.0
Khushab	1.5	96.8	0.1	0.7	*	0.6	0.3
Layyah	3.1	32.6	0.1	1.5	*	62.3	0.4
Lodhran	9.1	18.6	0.1	0.2	*	69.6	2.4
Mianwali	3.5	74.2	0.1	10.0	*	12.0	0.2
Multan	15.86	21.64	0.07	0.62	0.10	60.67	1.04
Muzaffargarh	4.9	7.4	0.1	0.9	0.1	86.3	0.3
Pakpattan	3.7	95.9	*	0.3	*	*	*
Rahim Yar Khan	2.9	27.3	2.0	0.7	1.1	62.6	3.3
Rajanpur	3.2	3.3	0.1	0.5	17.0	75.8	0.1
Sahiwal	1.4	98.1	*	0.4	*	0.1	*
Sargodha	5.8	93.3	*	0.7	*	0.1	0.1
Vehari	5.2	82.9	*	0.2	*	11.4	0.3

Source: 1998 District Census Reports of Dera Ismael Khan, Sargodha, Jhang, Khushab, Mianwali,

Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Lodhran, Multan, Rajanpur, Layyah, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Vehari,

Muzaffargarh, Khanewal, Rahimyar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan etc. (Pakistan, Census 1998 PUNJAB

Hand Book Population And Housing Census, 1998). Note: * Refers to a very small proportion.

Recently, On April 9, 2018, the eight lawmakers (Dawn, Karachi, 10th April 2018) held a conference in Lahore in which a group of six MNAs (Members National Assembly) and two MPAs (Members Punjab Assembly) detached from Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Sharif (PMLN) and formed an alliance. This alliance came into being in favor of separate province in South Punjab namely “Janoobi Punjab Sooba Mahaz” (South Punjab Province Front). Balakh Sher Mazari ex-caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan made the chairman of Janoobi Punjab SoobaMahaz (JPSM) and Nasrullah Dreshik made co-chairman while the Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar and Tahir Bashir Cheema formed the president and general secretary respectively. Basit Bukhari would be the senior co-president while Tahir Iqbal Chaudhary, Rana Qassim Noon and Samiullah would be co-president of this Mahaz (Front) (Daily Khabrain, Multan, 10th April 2018). Due to this front, the voice of new province raised and picked up fast momentum again in Pakistan.



Figure 2: a conference held in Lahore on April 9, 2018. in which, PML-N MNA Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar announced the resignation along with MNAs Tahir Iqbal Chaudhary, Tahir Bashir Cheema, Rana Qassim Noon, Basit Bukhari and MPA Nasrullah Dreshak, and Balakh Sher Mizari the ex-caretaker PM was also seen.

In the conference, Balakh Sher Mizari, the chairman of the Janoobi Punjab Suba Mahaz (South Punjab Province Front) explained that the development of the region had not been done for many decades and he also said that “Punjab should be divided administratively into three federating units. That will be good for Pakistan (Dawn, Karachi, 10th April 2018)”. Makhdoom Bakhtiar Khusro said it was “our lawful demand as creation of new federating units will also strengthen the federation and introduce a new system (Dawn, Karachi, 10th April 2018).” Mr. Bakhtiar also said that JPSM had only one-point agenda- the formation of separate province of South Punjab for the people of the region (Daily Khabrain, Multan, 10th April 2018); so that, they could get their basic human rights for their prosperity. This alliance wanted to make new province in the southern region of Punjab on purely administrative basis rather than ethnic, linguistic, race, religious etc.

On May 11, 2018, Janoobi (South) Punjab Suba Mahaz merged into Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) and a written agreement was signed between PTI and JPSM in which JPSM demanded that if the PTI made government after the general election 2018 then PTI would be bound to form the new province (South Punjab) in the interior first hundred days of its administration. In fact, main political parties (Pakistan Muslim League N (PML-N), Pakistan People’s Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) etc.) wanted to cover the region for the next election because eleven districts of South Punjab had 46 constituencies and started from NA-150-Khanewal-I to NA-195-Rajanpur-III. Similarly, ninety-five (95) Punjab Assembly seats existed that started from PP-203 Khanewal-I to PP-297 Rajanpur-V (Shah, 2018).

On the other hand, the Saraikistan Suba Mahaz (SSM) (Saraikistan Province Front) came into being as a response to the merger of JPSM with PTI. This united alliance consisted of eleven (11) Seraikis nationalist political parties. Khawaja Ghulam Farid Koreja elected as Chairman, Col Abdul Jabbar Abbasi (rtd) as president, Zahor Dhareeja as co-chairperson and Malik Mumtaz Jai as spokesperson of SSM. SSM rejected the proposed name the South Punjab province that was consisted of thirteen

districts. The spokesman of SSM Mr. Malik Mumtaz Jai said: “We demand a province that includes 24 districts. The districts are Multan, Lodhran, Khanewal, Vehari, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan, Layyah, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Okara, Sargodha, Khushab, Bhakkar, Mianwali, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Chiniot, Faisalabad, and from KP, Dera Ismail Khan and Tank” (Shah, 2018),

SSM demanded the new province of Saraikistan based on culture, linguistic, identity and history rather than administrative basis(Shah, 2018).

According to the Saraiki political parties and groups, there are numerous grievances like settlement of other people in the region, economically oppressed, quota of employment for Saraiki people, distance issues (as from Rajanpur to Lahore), scarcity of infrastructure in the region, lack of educational and health facilities than the upper Punjab, shortage of funds for the south Punjab like only five billion rupees were given to the south Punjab out of 490 billion rupees in the 2009-10 budget of Punjab. They claim that the income of the South Punjab is spent on rest Punjab, in this way, 43% of the population of south Punjab is breathing beneath the poverty line while the 27% of the populace of Punjab which is underneath poverty mark(Feyyaz, 2011, pp. 9-16).

CONCLUSIONS.

Indication exposes that there are dissimilar perceptions about the name and boundaries of the future province. The nationalists want to establish a new province on the bases of Saraiki uniqueness called Saraikistan, but others want to form a separate province on administrative grounds, called South Punjab. Furthermore, the public of Bahawalpur division want to make a separate province outside the proposed Saraikistan Province in the region.

The Saraiki nationalist's parties have no plea for the Saraiki people entitled to vote. But, despite of all, Saraiki subject is a significant issue in the politics of Southern Punjab. But one thing is very common that they all raising their voices for the eradication of poverty, sense of derivation, exploitation etc. in the region. They all want to make new province in South Punjab for good governance, basic rights, education, health, development, prosperity and peace. Socio-economic development under the Development Authority.

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