

THE ROLE OF BALOCH PEOPLE IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF UAE**Muhammad Azam***M.Phil Scholar, Area Study Centre, University of Balochistan, Quetta***Abstract:**

The Baloch people are also living in the United Arab Emirates and Persian Gulf besides Balochistan. But they are working in different countries as well. Baloch have been living in Gulf Region prior to the formation of modern states. Baloch have cultural similarities and norms with the Arabs, The Iranian province of Sistan va Baluchistan is located near the Persian Gulf. The proximity of Baloch region with the adjacent Arab regions has brought the people of both regions in contact with each other since early times. Arab chronicles mention Baloch presence in region during the 10th century and earlier then it. Later many of the Baloch people shifted the from the Southern Makoran coast. The financial and economy development of the United Arab Emirates is strong reason of its visionary governmental policy. Moreover, it is also sound character of the leadership of United Arab Emirates. When the oil was discovered, in the period of 1960, the head of United Arab Emirates adopted modern labors policy, tourism policy, and construction policy for developing of his country. The paper discusses and analyses the role of Baloch diaspora in UAE and the economic development of Dubai.

Keywords: United Arab Emirates, State, Baloch, Gulf, Economy, Labor and Workers

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Introduction

Baloch people are one of the large diaspora communities not only in Dubai but also in other gulf countries. The Baloch Diaspora is about 468000, living in different areas of the UAE.

Historically, the Baloch have been living in different parts of the Persian Gulf Countries and many of them are working in top institutes of different the United Arab Emirates.

The province of Balochistan is located in the Iranian Plateau, which is also near to the Persian Gulf. But, during the year of 2016, many Baloch immigrated to the UAE and other Gulf countries to seek out jobs and making money (Peterson, 2014). Some of them are working in army in Dubai, and other Middle Eastern countries. Baloch are divided into many tribes and extend into typically big connected families. Many of the Baloch people went Dubai and other States of United Arab Emirate via legal means, while the other emigrated via trafficking.

The Balochi literary society under the name '*Balochi Labzanki Sarchammag*' is active in the UAE. (Jahani, 1989).

In Balochi folklore, the Gulf is frequently referred as a land of opportunities and employment. Poetry, lullabies, or songs sung by women at weddings for instance contain references to the economic prosperity offered in Dubai. The surnames denote the Baloch ancestry and is widely used among the local Baloch. There are many Baloch people who are doing business in United Arab Emirates and many of them working on daily wages system in the shops. Some of them are working in gardens and petrol pumps.

Consequently, they are playing a vital role for the Dubai economy, but many of them face hardships there, because of many non-Arabs and Arabs create threats for them. (Peterson, 2011)

An Overview of United Arab Emirate's Economy:

United Arab Emirates became a sovereign nation, when the British Empire ended its hegemony in the Gulf region. At that time, the economy was at worst condition. The United Arab Emirates had huge reservoirs of natural resources. In 1961, when oil was founded there, then the leadership of United Arab Emirates invited many of the foreign companies for business in his country. Thus, the need of labors for new businesses, infrastructural development and oil exploration invited huge waves of laborers. But outer labor and companies also took interest for business in United Arab Emirates (Cleveland, 2010). The king of the United Arab Emirates also created many

opportunities for Labor and international companies, and they provided them many facilities as well.

He established tourism places and different construction projects with an international airport. At that time, many Baloch people went there to seek jobs and earn money at different states of United Arab Emirate. Besides the Baloch people, several foreign workers also arrived in the UAE. Many of these laborers were skillful. They were adjusted in international companies and some of them worked on the basis of daily wages. Traditionally, the people of Dubai were dependent on rainfall. Rain could irrigate their plum, date farms and enrich their pastures greenery. (Matthew, 2007) The people of this region were totally bound to the nature. Historically the significance of Dubai and other Gulf region and its topographically characters as a watercourse, business way which is joining the Gulf whole dealers with other traders in the Subcontinent of Indian sea, shore of Africa and Southeast Asia. Nowadays, the significance of this region depends on its natural resources. The world and international companies were giving interest in this region due to its natural resources and its geographical location, because it's very important gulf for the trade. (Cleveland, 2010) Its credit goes to this region's leadership and its policymaking of the essential for attracting FDI as a source of wealth in their local economies. UAE and Saudi Arabia are involved 80 percent of overall US \$ 277 billion FDI graceful in the GCC above the former 20 Era. Saudi Arabia is the main Arab receiver of FDI, the former two periods. The topographical position of Dubai fortified the growth in the starting of nineteenth period.

During this, the Economy of Dubai was dependent on fishing, pearling, manufacturing and business with the East Africa and India. The economic policies undertaken by the rulers of Dubai at that time boosted the economy; for example, in the 1890s, Sheikh Maktoum bin Hasher Al Maktoum introduced tax-free, customs-free and license free policies to attract regional and international merchants and entrepreneurs, including Persians, Indians and the British to consider Dubai as an attractive port and trade hub from the Indian sub-continent (Cleveland, 2010).

The financial plans take on through the monarchy of Dubai at that era, he improved the financial conditions of their States. He introduced many trade facilities for international business tycoons (Alawad, 2010).

Demography

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The overwhelming population of Balochistan consists of the Baloch people. Balochistan is located at southwest of Pakistan and covers total area of 347,190 sk. Balochistan occupies 44% of the total land mass of Pakistan. This region lies at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz and it is the shortest way to central Asia. Diaspora Population of United Arab Emirate is 215000 to 468000(Khalid, 2010). During the post-independence period of UAE and the subsequent economic development attracted huge numbers of workers from all around the world for better earnings. Baloch are the largest ethnic group in Balochistan and they immigrated to other countries for earning their bread and butter. The Baloch also shifted to different countries of the world as well. The Baloch population is around 250 to 350 million in worldwide. Many Baloch people are living in Iran, Persian Gulf Countries. Many of them have got citizenship rights in the Persian Gulf Countries (Nissar, 2006)

General Works

In Dubai, large number of Baloch labor force work in an open market. Many of them have initiated and launched their self-businesses e.g opened shops and some of them are working in the higher governmental institutes and international companies. They are contributing positively in booming economic development of Dubai. Similarly, few Balochs are street vendors. So many are engaged at gardens, fields, Moreover, the unskilled labor work at the construction companies. (Develyn, 2010) Many of them are engaged in transport business all around United Arab Emirates The majority of Baloch are concentrated in the Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Similarly, few of them are also working in the judicial department.

Armed Forces and Military Personnel

The military of the United Arab Emirates has an important and exemplary role in protecting of the territorial integrity of the state from any aggression and internal instability. The strength of military personnel is 65000. The head quarter is in Abu Dhabi. It is mainly divided at two levels i.e. Federal Army Force and the Forces of Emirates. A visible number of Baloch people are working as military personnel in United Arab Emirates (Peterson, 214). They are considered as an integral part of the defense of the United Arab Emirates. During the Gulf War, they played a pivotal role in the defense of the state and bravely devoted their strengths for the security of the state.

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Temporary Workers Shift: A Regional overview:

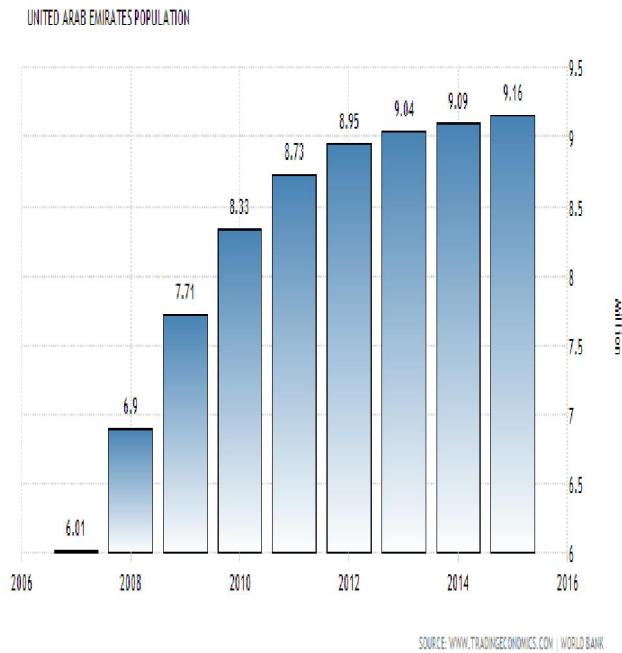
The overwhelming population of GCC countries, namely; Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman and Kuwait are migrants and workers. They come for better earnings in all sectors of development. But the majority of the foreign workers in the Gulf Cooperation Countries resides and works in United Arab Emirates (Alawad, 2010). The number of workers is increasing due to the blossoming economy of United Arab Emirates. Here is a table which shows the population of foreign labors in United Arab Emirates in the periods of 1975 till 2010.

The population of native born and outer born in the periods of 1975 till 2010

Periods	Total	Native born	Outer born	Parts native	Parts outer	Growth rate of native	Growth rate of outer
1975	9,731,259	879223	941036	90.3%	9.7%	3.2%	14.5%
1990	22,522,620	14201239	8241381	63.4%	36.6%	3.3%	5.0%
2010	41,093,624	23536409	17557409	57.3%	42.7%		

Sources: Shah Nasra and Philippe Fargues.2013. The Socioeconomic Impact of GCC Migration, Gulf Research Centre (Online)

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UAE labors	Last	Previous	Highest	Low est	Unit
Unemployment rate	4.20	4.60	4.60	1.15	Percent
Population	9.16	9.09	9.16	0.09	Million

Gulf Research Centre (Online)

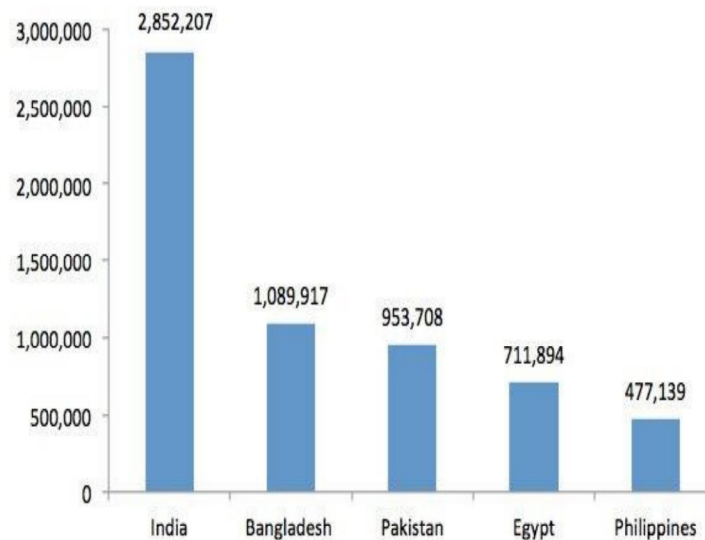
The Total population of United Arab Emirates was about 9.2 million people in the period of 2015. During the foundation of United Arab Emirates, the total population was 0.1 million people. The arrival of foreign workers, rapidly increased the population. GCC countries are best destination for laborers from Asian and African countries. But the most immigrants are male in the GCC and the share of female workers is actually increasing, who coming from Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. (Dovelyn, 2010) Most of the foreign workers are working as unskilled laborers service sectors. The majority of female workers are employed in house works and

retail services. In addition, there are lucrative incentives and opportunities for skilled workers in sectors of oil, gas, education and investment (Dovelyn, 2010).

Attraction of UAE's Emerging Economy for Migrants

In the period of 1990, many labors from Asia and North Africa were moving to work in United Arab Emirates. Consequently, the population of UAE increased rapidly to great numbers (Hettne, 2001). After that, many European labors also emigrated to UAE for working. The major workers and laborers were needed in the sectors of oil exploration, gas fields, banking and finance. In United Arab Emirates, there are 400,000 foreign born household laborers, which are hail from Asian countries (Alawad, 2010). According to the Kafala system, household labors comes under the Ministry of Interior, while the other labors will work under the Ministry of Labor. The United Arab Emirates is dealing with labors generously throughout the country. There are approximately 65000 unauthorized and illegal migrants in UAE. Some become illegal migrants after the expiry of their visas. So, they prefer living illegally and working for low wages in different areas and sectors. Moreover, some Tourists also work illegally in UAE.

Here are five top country labors who working in the UAE.



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Source: United Nation.2013. Total migrant stock at mid-year by origin and destination, United Nation's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Online)

Conclusion

Many Baloch emigrated to Dubai and other Emirates of United Arab Emirates for earning their livelihood. The administration of Dubai brought lot of opportunities and incentives for labors and international companies. The Balochs have long-standing and historical interaction with Gulf States prior to the creation of Pakistan. They settled in the Gulf Region prior to modern, State-formation and the advent of the British imperials.

So, there is a cultural affinity, social relationship between Baloch and Arab long ago, but another wave of migration started after the establishment of the UAE. During this, the human capital was largely needed for development projects. The economy of United Arab Emirates was fragile and a week before the exploration and discovery of oil and other natural reservoirs. It was 1960, during which a new era of development began and required a large number of labors for socioeconomic development. Subsequently, the leaders of Dubai and Abu Dhabi took to innovative, visionary and modern policies for infrastructural and economic development of United Arab Emirates. The Baloch are found in all quarters of the UAE. They are contributing progressively to the economy of the UAE. Besides, the UAE, Baloch are also found in the rest of the GULF states. But many Baloch also are working in different countries of the GCC. When the oil was discovered in the gulf countries, and they brought many kinds of opportunities for labors, then many countries of Asian, African and other people were wanting to go there due to their works. At firstly times, the GCC also needs labors for different his industries. The United Arab Emirates has created many employment opportunities for the workers from around the world. The workers in UAE hail from all countries and continents i.e. Asia, Europe, Africa. A bulk of labors comes from India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Africa and Arab countries. They all move to UAE to earn a respectable livelihood. Some of the Baloch diaspora has permanently settled in UAE with their families and have got citizenship rights. Thus, they are making a valuable contribution in the economy and development of the state. There are many Female labors and workers from Philippine who work as cooks, dishwashers and sweepers in the houses. In addition, the foreign labors have several problems in the UAE. Mostly, the labors work in government sector while the rest are working in private companies and semi-government sectors. Few of the companies pay less reward and wages to the foreign

labors and rare cases of non-payment of salaries to the workers is also recorded by the private companies. It is one of the serious problems faced by the workers in the UAE.

Meanwhile, the government of the UAE has brought massive reforms in labor laws to redeem the workers from the problems and address their issues with global norms and standards so that to protect the interests of workers. The judiciary in Dubai and Abu Dhabi is also dealing with such cases to ensure the standards in line with global norms. The government of the UAE has also concluded several bilateral agreements with the states from where the labor force is required. The UAE has provided ample opportunities for labors in the world.

A visible number of laborers live comfortably in the UAE and earn their livelihood. Because, there are a lot of other people who are living in the UAE. Now-a-days the government of the UAE is restricting the free flow of international labors due to internal and regional security threats.

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