

Role of Bahawalpur Region in Saraiki Province Movement

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Abstract

Pakistan is an ethnically assorted nation. Subsequently, a government framework has been presented after the autonomy. Be that as it may, forces may not be completely decentralized to the unifying units which made feeling of hardship especially among the individuals of remote regions and less developed regions. To ease their interests and complaints, the eighteenth Constitutional Amendment has been achieved and more self-sufficiency has been given to the areas. Notwithstanding, the correction couldn't address the issues of ethnic minorities living in various regions. This article investigates the possibilities of formation of a Saraiki or South Punjab Province. The article utilizes a subjective exploration strategy utilizing recorded and graphic techniques. The information has been gathered generally from optional sources. The findings show that Punjab is the biggest area regarding population, and it is hard to deal with its issues productively from the Capital, Lahore. The provincial government faces difficulties to address the complaints of the individuals living in distant, for example, South Punjab. The developing disparities prompted the restoration and escalation of the development for the production of Saraiki Province. On contrary; people of Bahawalpur Division are demanding its revival as a province as it was before One Unit. So, most of the population is taking no interest in formation of a Saraiki Province as they fear that they will become the slave of Multan. The research paper in hand discusses all these repercussions categorically and highlights the true demands of the inhabitants of former princely state of Bahawalpur.

Keywords: *New provinces, Provincial Autonomy, Saraiki Movement, South Punjab, Bahawalpur.*

Introduction

Origins of Saraiki Province Movement

Since freedom, Pakistan went through different periods of political turn of events. Force has changed hands among non-military personnel and military governments, yet these legislatures neglected to give essential necessities of life to its residents, particularly those living in far off and in reverse areas. The South Punjab is one such model. Both the military and regular citizen government has ignored this area and it couldn't get legitimate consideration and its due offer from state assets. It is accepted, that this sort of separation in the assignment of formative assets and backwardness of the zone drove numerous to expect that the following battleground after FATA may be South Punjab as militancy and radicalism were making progress there

(Siddiqa, 2009). Monetary foundation in North and Central Punjab is more evolved than South Punjab and more ventures are not situated there. The significant aspect of the military and common organization has a place with North and Central Punjab. This is the ideal state of distance and misery, which constrained the individuals of South Punjab to make frantic move and result of every one of these turns of events, was a gradual ascent of social and political assembly, which later on changed into a contention circumstance (Ahmad, Politics of new provinces in Pakistan, 2019).

It is essential to take note of that there are no conventional limits of South Punjab as it's anything but a formal substance. Notwithstanding, it is commonly acknowledged that it comprises of three divisions: Dera Ghazi Khan, Bahawalpur, and Multan, which are further sub-separated into fifteen areas. Generally, Saraiki as a provincial language/vernacular has been existed since long. Beforehand it was viewed as a variation of Punjabi language. Since 1960, it has been utilized to compose. It was perceived as a different language in 1981 during the legislature of General Zia-ul-Haq. The acknowledgment of Saraiki as language implies that individuals of South Punjab could recognize them with one personality. It is likewise spoken in part of Sind, Baluchistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa flanking South Punjab (Rehman, 1999). The birthplace of Saraiki Province Movement can be followed back to 1970s, when one unit was nullified by Yehya Khan and Bahawalpur was attached with Punjab Province. It has been seen as an infringement of an understanding marked by the royal territory of Bahawalpur with the government in 1955. In the first place, it was a social and etymological development that later transformed into the political one particularly after beginning of Bahawalpur Province Movement (Rehman, 1999). Nonetheless, because of the military administration of Zia-ul-Haq (1977-88), the development couldn't make progress and went underground. After the demise of Zia-ul-Haq, Saraiki Province Movement by and by resuscitated.

Literature Review

Rasool (2018) attested that Punjab is the greatest region of Pakistan as far as populace and it is hard for one common government to deal with the issues of the area viably. He, hence, suggested that for eliminating these issues and improving administration, the Saraiki Province in South Punjab ought to be built up. (Langah N. T.) guaranteed that the Saraiki region is a different ethno-phonetic locale, yet this reality was overlooked by both British and Pakistani administrations. He kept up that Saraiki individuals have not been given their due and legitimate spot in the legislative issues of Pakistan that was the fundamental driver behind the interest for the formation of a Saraiki area. Asserted that the Saraiki locale in South Punjab comprises of three divisions and 15 regions whose basic language is Saraiki. This language is additionally spoken in a couple of territories of Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region circumscribing South Punjab. The individuals of this locale request a different territory.

Javid (2009) noticed that Saraiki Province Movement started during the 1970s. First and foremost, it was a social and etymological development, however later, it transformed into a political development that was upheld by all nearby gatherings and gatherings in the district. (Feyyaz, 2011) contended that the settlement of outside individuals in South Punjab, backwardness notwithstanding delivering more pay and the issue of discrete personality are the primary driver behind interest of Saraiki region. In any case, the main consideration which made force in the SARAIKI PROVINCE MOVEMENT is a financial irregularity among South and rest of the Punjab. Clarified that after the foundation of Pakistan, the government framework was presented, and a similar framework stayed to proceed under all the constitutions. Be that as it may, disharmony among the areas despite everything exist which made the sentiment of estrangement especially among the individuals of in reverse locales like South Punjab. (Waseem, 2010) contended that established forces given to territories under all the constitutions of Pakistan were not used in its appropriate system and furthermore institutional instrument given under various constitutions for reinforcing federalism have not been completely emerged.

Rizwan (2015) asserted that endeavors have been made through the eighteenth Constitutional Amendment, to eliminate the sentiment of estrangement and question of individuals of littler regions somewhat.

Nonetheless, the revision likewise got pessimistic effects on ethnic minorities various territories, for example, Saraiki talking individuals in Punjab, Mohajir in Sindh, Pakhtuns in Baluchistan, and individuals of Hazara division in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Along these lines, developments for the foundation of new territories in different pieces of the nation by and by got resuscitated or heightened (Gilani, 2017). Contended that eighteenth Amendment and seventh National Finance Commission (NFC) Award additionally fortified the force and places of effectively prevailing political gatherings in regions. A few districts are wealthy in assets yet have helpless social and financial framework. Accordingly, presently they are requesting new regions for the improvement of administration, guaranteeing rule of law and fair turn of events, public solidarity and reinforcing federalism. (Hussain, 2019) asserted that in the 2018 general races, all ideological groups challenged the political race on the trademark of making South Punjab Province. After the political race, goals for the making of another area in South Punjab were additionally submitted in both National Assembly and Provincial Assembly. Be that as it may, no solid measures have been taken so for.

Research Methodology

Qualitative and descriptive research method adopted in this study. This technique has investigated the concealed variables which turned into the reasons for the interest of new territories in Pakistan. The investigation featured the need and significance of new unifying units when all is said in done and Saraiki Province specifically, for reinforcing majority rules system, federalism, and proficiency in administration and to advance public solidarity in the nation. For the assortment of information, optional sources have been utilized and information has been gathered from various auxiliary sources for example libraries, remarks, feelings and examinations distributed in various papers, research magazines and different sources from the web which were pertinent and significant for this exploration. All the information have been gathered physically from the concerned assets and orchestrated in like manner. For the examination and understanding of information, topical investigation procedure has been utilized. This procedure is generally utilized by the analysts of sociologies in subjective, contextual analysis and spellbinding exploration. During this cycle, it was additionally investigated that every ideological group and its authority utilized trademark of Saraiki Province at the hour of political decision to get most extreme votes. What's more, discourses and meetings of political pioneers distributed in the papers are additionally counseled for this examination.

Discussion

Challenges to Saraiki Province Movement

The pundits of Saraiki area have clarified that at present Pakistan faces social and monetary issues, consequently new territories incorporating Saraiki region in impractical at this point. New area in Punjab will offer rash to developments of different areas and next scarcely any years the energies and assets of the administration and ideological groups would be put resources into showdown over the formation of new regions. In this circumstance the prompt issues, for example, country building, monetary turn of events, medical services and quality instruction will be disregarded (Ahmar, 2016). The established methodology to adjust the limits of the regions is likewise troublesome. It requires two-third larger part for correction in article 239 of the Constitution and furthermore endorsement with 2/3 lion's share from concerned Provincial Assembly (Hafeez, 2014). PTI and PPP need to set up a solitary Saraiki or South Punjab territory while PML (N) needs two territories for example Bahawalpur and Saraiki Province. Pakistan Muslim League (Q), a significant partner of PTI government in the inside and in Punjab area, additionally upheld PML-N position on this issue. Its pioneer and government serve Bashir Cheema expressed that his gathering would not uphold the possibility of making of South Punjab area except if the proposition to make a different Bahawalpur Province is remembered for the plan. Indeed, this is the thing that the Punjab Assembly had gone in 2012 (Zafar, 2018).

PML-N likewise presented a protected revision bill in the National Assembly, looking for the production of South Punjab territory and Bahawalpur area. This was declared by PML (N) pioneers, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Ahsan Iqbal and Maryam Aurangzeb during a public interview. They likewise expressed that the bill was as per the gathering statement and in the light of the as of now passed goal of Punjab Assembly in May 2012 (Wasim, 2019). The possibility of formation of new areas including Saraiki or South Punjab territory has become a policy driven issue for ideological groups which have different interests and approaches regarding the matter. Obviously, every one of them uphold the interest however their activities and arrangements reflect something other than what's expected (S Khan, 2019). Their approaches depend on their political objectives and needs. For example, PPP underpins the interest of formation of Saraiki or Janubi (South) Punjab region, apparently for two reasons: (a) to establish its vote-bank in South Punjab and; (b) to minimize the political role of PML-N which had a long tenure of rule over Punjab province, established after 1985.

It additionally needs to debilitate the predominance of Punjab by separating it into two territories (Zafar, 2018). Strategically PML-N aspired further (at least two) divisions of the South Punjab to subvert PPP designs. Getting a charge out of greater part in the commonplace gathering of Punjab, it effectively got passed a goal in 2012 requesting making of regions of Bahawalpur and South Punjab. Be that as it may, PPP upholds production of one territory in South Punjab and doesn't appear to be steady to the PML-N thought of making of a different Bahawalpur region where the previous has less vote bank when contrasted with different pieces of South Punjab. PTI's objectives and strategy in South Punjab are like that of PPP as both these gatherings have frail situation in different pieces of Punjab and they need to set up their hold in South Punjab in the event that it is isolated as another area (Wasim, 2019; Khan, Shaheen, and Ahmad, 2019). On the other hand, MQM tries to grab the rule over Karachi and Hyderabad (Urban Sindh) to establish its political say in national as well as regional politics, also undermining the PML-N and PPP advantages in the form of new provinces in Punjab. MQM moreover wanted to restrict PPP to rural Sindh. Be that as it may, this factor additionally bumbles the making of the Saraiki Province. The amazing foundation other than some ideological groups, researchers and investigators are against the possibility of production of any new region in the nation as it would open a Pandora box and induce requests of formation of more regions in different pieces of the nation including Karachi (Wasim, 2019; Khan, Shaheen, and Ahmad, 2019; Hussain, 2014).

These political contemplations forestall fundamental partners remembering ideological groups and foundation from going after an agreement with respect to production of new areas. This is the principle reason that ideological groups have not talked about it genuinely and rather they were propelled by point scoring, manner of speaking and pulling in the crowd especially citizens in their separate voting public chiefly in South Punjab. The agreement among ideological groups is indispensable to change the significant arrangements of the constitution important to make any new area including Saraiki region. In any case, it appears to be less conceivable under the predominant charged and separated world of politics. The significant gatherings like PTI, PML (N) and PPP are not genuine about the issue (Khan, Shaheen, and Ahmad, 2019).

Role of Bahawalpur Region in Saraiki Province Movement

The Saraiki Soba movement is continued with full intensity. Except PMLN, all the political parties are agreeing of the partition of Punjab on the lingual, cultural and geographical basis. During The emerging movement of Saraiki Soba Tehreek, the Senator Muhammad Ali durrani has demanded the revival of Bahawalpur province. The few barons of Bahawalpur and some other people have supported him. Some political parties have got the impression by this situation that the inhabitants of Bahawalpur dislike the movement of Saraiki Soba. This impact is not completely correct. But the reality is that the majority of Bahawalpur inhabitants are in the favor of Saraiki Soba. How many people are in the favor of Bahawalpur Soba and how many people are in the favor of Soba Saraikistan, it would be cleared in the coming election? Politics is a vast field. Entering in this process, a man learns the etiquettes of ruling. Politics is the contemporary faculties and the elevated civilizes customs. But the Pakistani politics has become the symbol

of blaming, corruption and other mischievous. So in the arena of national service and the complicated of human mischievous, it is difficult to understand the Pakistani politics. If the historical realities are in front of a person, it is not difficult to understand the dilemma (Dahar, 2011). The role of Bahawalpur should be understood historically in the effort of Saraiki Soba. It could be perceived historically, the idea of a new province for Saraiki public, was given by Riaz Hashmi Advocate. His grave is in the Saddi Sherazi graveyard (Daily Jhoke, 2013).

The first whole literary and learned Saraiki conference which was conducted in Multan in 1975, the leaders of Bahawalpur Nawabzada Mamoonul-Rasheed, brigadier Nazar Ali Shah, Haji Saifullah Khan and Afzal Masood Khan and many others agreed to the creation of a Saraiki Soba. In 5 April 1984, Qari Noorulhaq Qureshi headed a meeting in Multan for the inaugurating ceremony of Saraiki Soba Mahazz. The personalities belonging to Bahawalpur participated in this meeting. Barrister Taj Muhammad Langah was the first president of Saraiki Soba Mahazz and Seth Abd ul-rehman the former mayor of Bahawalpur Municipal committee was appointed as its Secretary General. The proceeding about Saraiki Soba was mostly held at the house of former federal minister Malik Farooq Azam. He was the promoter of Saraiki Soba but now he has changed his thoughts. The prominent law expert of Ahmadpur East Akbar Ali Ansari was present in the inaugurated session of Pakistan Saraiki Party. When the book in which the suggested map of Saraiki Soba at first time was launched, Malik Siddique Sikandar Advocate was also present in the house of Afzal Masood Khan of Ahmadpur East. The famous newspaper and columnist Zahoor Ahmad Dhareja of Khanpur had started his struggle for Saraiki Soba in the decade of 80s. He had started the Jhoke, the Saraiki newspaper. Now this newspaper had been published from Khanpur, Multan and Dera Ismail Khan at the same time. He has given a message that D.I.Khan and Rahim Yar Khan are also including the Saraiki Soba by publishing the newspaper from D.I.Khan. Zahoor Ahmad Dhareja has sacrificed his life for Saraiki province. Abdul-Majeed Khan Kanju is the landlord from Rahim Yar Khan. He is the senior political worker. He was selected the president of ANP Saraikistan in 1989. This election was conducted on the residence of Aslam Rashidi Advocate at Bahawalpur (Dhareja Z. A., 2016).

After that Abdul-Hameed Kanju founded Saraiki National Party. He had signed the historical charter of Ponam, on 2 October 1998. In which, it was demanded to divide Pakistan in Saraikistan, Sindh, Baluchistan, Punjab and Pukhtunkhawah. At this time, there was none to demand the Bahawalpur Province. He had consumed the previous 25 years for Saraiki Sooba. He had expanded a lot of money for Saraiki Soba.

Sahibzada Muhammad Dawood Khan Abbasi founded the Saraiki Qaumi Ittehad. Abdul-jabbar Abbasi became president of Saraiki Qaumi Ittehad after him. Col Abdul-Jabbar had founded a new party in 2005, Saraikistan National Mahazz with the collation of other Saraiki Parties. He had marched to Multan in the leadership of Khawaja Ghulam Fareed Koreja in 2010. He had visited all the expected Saraikistan Soba districts in the state of Procession and he showed his determination that he would resist to divide the Saraiki belt into administrative basis. He leads the Saraiki public in Karachi (Dhareja Z. A., 2016).

Mureed Hussain Raz Jatoy is the oldest worker in the age of 95 years of the Saraiki cause. He lived in Khanpur. He is every time ready for the cause of Saraiki Soba. He has sent thousands of his letters in the favor of Saraiki soba to his friends, relatives and other prominent personalities. His son Mujahid Hussain Jatoy is the general secretary of Saraiki Qaumi Movement (Hashmi, 1972).

Sardar Anwar Khan Dahar had promoted the mission of PSP for the cause of Saraiki Soba. He had correlated to this party till his death. Malik Abdullah Marjan, who has buried in Bahawalpur, was the vice president of PSP. His son Shahzad Irfan has participated in election by the ticket of PSP. On August 1998, Abdul-Majeed Khan Kanjoo, Mughal Azam Kanjoo, and many others from Rahim Yar Khan had committed an agreement in the presence of Ajmal Khan Khattak. They committed to struggle commonly for Saraiki Soba. On this event, Barrister Taj Muhammad Langah, Hameed Asghar shaheen, Abdul-Majeed Khan Kanjoo, and Mirza Ejaz Baig were appointed as Saraiki leaders. The leaders of Sindh, Baluchistan, Saraiki Wasaib and KPK, Syed Imdad Hussain Shah, Dr. Qadir Maggasi, Jlal Mehmood Shah, Rasool

Plejo, Attaullah Maingal, Dr. Abdul-Hai, Mehmood Khan Achakzai, Ajmal Khan Khattak, Ghulam Ahmad billor, Taj Muhammad Khan Langah, Hameed Asghar Shaheen, M.A Bhutta, Mian Mansoor Kareem Syal, Manzoor Ahmad khan, Muhammad Ali gardezi, Ahmad Nawaz Somroo, Asadullah Khan Langah, Abdul-Majeed Khan Kanjoo, and K.K Korai (Rahim Yar Khan) etc permitted the charter of Ponam. According to the charter of Ponam, Bahawalpur was included in the Saraikistan Soba (Hassan Gardezi, 1991).

In April 1999, under the Ponam Saraikistan, the Public Jalsa was conducted on Fort Qasim Multan. In this Jalsa, the political workers of Bahawalpur participated. The residential of Rahim Yar Khan, Syed Khaleel Ahmad Bukhari is the promoter of Saraiki Soba. He is the first president of Bazme- Fareed Pakistan. The political leader of Kot Smaba, Riaz Hussain Kharral protested to add the Saraiki language in Census form in 1997. He participated in Islam Abad protesting Muzahira in 2004 for the favor of Saraiki Soba. A political worker from Basti Darra Rahim Yar Khan, Khalid Mehmood Khan Daha has stayed in Karachi. He has been struggling for Saraiki Soba for a long time ago (Dhareeja Z. A., 2013).

Ahmad Pur East is the great centre of Saraiki Soba. Here Afzal Masood Khan, Muhammad Akbar Ansari, Shabbir Ahmad Lakheer, Mumtaz Azam Advocate and many other political workers live here. Kareem Nawaz Ansari was also lived in this city. Afzal asood Khan is the senior vice president of PSP. Muhammad Akbar Ansari is very active for Saraiki Soba Now a days. Shabbir Ahmad Lakhisar has struggled for 25 years for Saraiki Soba. The annual meeting of PSP was conducted here in 1994.

In 2004, a Saraiki Conference was held in Multan in which a prominent personality of Bahawalnagar Syed Mumtaz Aalam Gillani addressed the participants. He said that his Gunahe Kabeera and Saghira could be vanished if he donates his remaining life for the cause of Saraiki Soba. He is also promoter of saraiki movement till now. Riaz Hussain Pirzada was also present at this time. He had also passed a resolution in the favor of Saraiki Soba. But, now he has changed his point of view.

In 2005, the Saraikistan National Mahazz was created and its inaugural meeting, Kernal Abdul-Jabbar Abbasi from Rahim Yar Khan was also present there where as M.A Bhutta was the representative of Abdul-Majeed Kanjoo. In this meeting, Barrister Taj Muhammad Langah, Mumtaz Hussain Jai and Ghulam Fareed Koreja were also participated. The headship meeting of Saraiki National Mahazz was conducted in Bahawalpur. Its chief guest was Allama Iqbal Waseem. In this meeting, Kernal Abdul-Jabbar personally participated where M.A Bhutta was the representative of Abdul Majeed Kanjoo. Barrister Taj Muhammad Langah, Ghulam Fareed Koreja and Mumtaz Hussain Jai participated as the commentators (PSP, 2005).

On 7th May 2007, Pattan Manara conference was held in Rahim Yar Khan. Thousands of people participated in this conference. These all people were the supporters of Saraiki Soba. Asadullah Khan Langah from Multan particularly participated in this conference. Kernel Abdul Jabber Abbasi was the most prominent personality of this conference. In this conference, it was forced to pace the movement of Saraiki Soba. Before this, Irshad Ameen and Haider Javed Syed conducted a seminar in the favor of Saraiki Soba in Rahim Yar Khan. In this conference, the Saraiki Poet from Khan pur Mujahid Jatoo, regarded the Saraiki Soba as the matter of death or life. He is also struggling for 25 years for Saraiki Soba. Abdul-Majeed Kanjoo also participated in this seminar (Daily Khabrain , 2007).

In 2008, when Muhammad Ali Durrani demanded the rehabilitation of Bahawalpur as a province, a strict protest was seemed. In 2009, the nationalists' leaders protested strictly at Fareed Gate Bahawalpur against Muhammad Ali Durrani. This protest was presided by Taj Muhammad Langah and Ghulam Fareed koreja. Allama Iqbal Waseem and Haji Abdul Malik from Bahawalpur wee prominent in this protest. Allama Iqbal Waseem has joined Saraiki movement in his teenage. Now he has become aged. Makhdoom khesrao Bukhtyar, Makhdoom Ruknuldeen Aalam, Khawaja Anwar Aalam are also the supporter of Saraiki Soba. In 2009, the district Assembly Bahawalpur and the district Assembly Rahim Yar Khan passed the

resolutions in the favor of Saraiki Soba. On 5th May 2010, PMLQ set a grand rally in the support of Saraiki Soba in Multan in which all the prominent leaders of Saraiki Wasaib including Bahawalpur participated.

On April 2011, Nawab Salahuddin Abbasi delivered his speech in Sadiq Palace to the thousands audiences and demanded the Bahawalpur province, it was regarded as the cheat for Saraiki cause. But due to the opponent of Saraiki nationalists, it had lost its importance. On 14th August, 2011, Khawaja Ghulam Fareed Kreja, Hameed Asghar Shaheen and the other people from Bahawalpur repeated the demand of Saraiki Soba at Panjnad Bridge. The thousands political workers from Sadiq Abad, Rahim Yar Khan, Kot Samaba, Khanpur, Ahmad Pur east, Khair pur, Liaqat pur and Bahawalpur are struggling for Saraiki Soba. Among them, Abdullah saqi Siyal, Imtiaz Channar, Shakir Hussain, Qazi Abdul Waheed, Raees Waheed, Khursheed Bukhari, Ghayour Bukhari and Malik Akbar etc are prominent. The people of Bahawalpur gave the title of Bint e Saraikistan to Sajida Ahmad Khan Langah from Multan. It means the Bahawalpur nationalists regarded the daughters of Multan of their own daughters (Daily Nawai Waqt, 2011).

Why Bahawalpur is not interested in Saraiki Province Movement

Bahawalpur Division, one of the nine divisions of the Punjab, acquires 18,000 square miles and terrestrially becomes the biggest division of the province. As per 1998 consensus, its population estimates are 7.518 million, comprising more than 10% of the total populace of the Punjab, and 5.6% of the national populace. The normal pace of development approaches to 5%, quite satisfactory in the face of national growth. Significantly; the region has greater agrarian value provided that it gets due share from the national distribution of the waters of Indus Water System. It can contribute sufficiently to the national production of both food as well as cash crops, mainly including wheat, sugarcane, oil-seeds and cotton. Moreover; its significance increases as it borders with India and its strategic position requires further attention of the establishment. Although, being the past totalitarian rulers of the region they are equally regarded and respected by the local populace, yet their opponents from different political parties have better political positions and have established their vote-bank.

Bahawalpur Province Movement

As a matter of fact the accession agreement was made between Nawab of Bahawalpur and the Central Administration which was duly endorsed by Khawaja Nazimuddin, the then Governor General of Pakistan. This arrangement was portrayed as the sincere move of the Bahawalpur authorities in the best interest of the nation. However; it was ensured by the Centre that the Bahawalpur State would be treated differently from other annexed states both politically and administratively, in matters of awards and loans. However; the political and administrative situation changed with the proclamation of One Unit in 1955, Bahawalpur State which had assumed the status of undeclared province with a functioning Provincial Assembly was made part of One Unit but later with its dissolution, the Bahawalpur Province was not restored and was made part of the Punjab Province. Despite the fact that an understanding was developed that after the dissolution of One Unit, but it was never respected and gave way to the 'Bahawalpur (Restoration of the) Province Movement. The proponents of the movement launched it on moral, political and constitutional grounds with the plea that the region of Bahawalpur enjoyed the status of 'internal sovereignty', right from the first quarter of 18th Century AD and kept it until its merger into Punjab Province in 1970. They were of the view that even in the days of Sikh monarchy over Punjab, Bahawalpur remained out of its fold and secured its independent position. Hence; the case of its sovereignty is historically acclaimed one and should be treated on special ground by giving it the status of a separate, fully fledged province. They called the days of One Unit as the terrible ones as the region was totally ignored and its different economic sectors were destroyed in due course of time. Before the dissolution of One Unit of the West Pakistan, the proponents of the Restoration of the Bahawalpur Province Movement accelerated the activities and as the news of dissolution of One Unit started appearing in national press about ignoring the aspirations of people of Bahawalpur they started protest processions, especially in Bahawalpur City. On 22 November 1969, Allama Arshad, the leader of opposition in West Pakistan Assembly, called a joint meeting of different protesting parties to adopt a joint strategy to press upon the country administration for the restoration of Bahawalpur Province.

These protesting quarters included a number of political and non-political groups backed by Bahawalpur Bar Association and Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce, etc. They passed a joint resolution asserting the restoration of Bahawalpur as a separate province through Executive Order. They set a common charter of demands including:

1. Bahawalpur joined One Unit being a separate, solid unit so with the dissolution of One Unit particular status of Bahawalpur would strategically, lawfully and ethically be restored and this demand would not be opposed by any quarter.
2. With the dissolution of One Unit, there would be reestablishment of first purview of prior territories which would not lead to build the ward of any territory
3. At the setting up of One Unit, Bahawalpur enjoyed the status of a territory like other discrete units, so after dissolution Bahawalpur would not be made part of any other region, rather it would be declared a separate unit.
4. Bahawalpur is not enjoying financial freedom rather its resources are being spent on the development of other zones and this practice has been accelerated in past fifteen years.
5. Discontentment of the local people about the future of the region ought to be minimized in the larger interest of the nation
6. The demand of rebuilding the region is not just from the local populace, there are other stakeholders too despite the fact they had been upheld by different political gatherings.

The move of dissolution of One Unit and merging of Bahawalpur into the Punjab Province was disdained by the local populace resulting into a large number of gathering and protest processions all over the Bahawalpur region especially in the urban centers of Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Bahwalnagar. By the end of March 1970, these activists were arrested and sent to jails. However; this series of protests got momentum and ultimately, on 24 April 1970, there was a sad incident of firing on empty-handed peaceful procession leading to the death of two protestors in Bahawalpur City, the main center of protest in the region. In the forthcoming days, the protests were increased and later on the military was called for quashing this series of protests and a number of the leaders of the movement.

Findings and Conclusion

Principally speaking, when the decisions about the fate of Bahawalpur Province were brought to the surface, and later these led to the protests, there was no true leadership was available. The land masters and industrialists kept them away from the movement. Protestors and their leadership was mainly from peasants and working classes so they were readily quashed and the rest made compromise for ordinary interests and allures. It was on this footing that these agents particularly the one's from the working class couldn't face the administration pressures, not many joined the administration camp and some went impartial.

The standard public ideological groups uphold the possibility of formation of a Saraiki area and they took a few activities to seek after this goal. Notwithstanding, their objectives, needs and political contemplations separate strongly which keep them from coming nearer and coming to an agreement on the issue. Except if they emerge from their thin political contemplations and short terms objectives, they are not prone to reach to any agreement important to make new territories including Saraiki territory. Different partners including military organization are uneasy of production of new territory in any aspect of the nation expecting that such advancement can spike request of a formation of a different region in metropolitan Sindh which may undermine public security later on. All partners including major ideological groups and military foundation needs to return to their position and reach to an agreement on this issue. They should concur on the foundation of a parliamentary advisory group or commission to devise a wide based equation for the making of Saraiki area. It might likewise propose a component that can help check rebellion just as fair conveyance of assets for individuals all things considered. The foundation of Saraiki or South Punjab Province may help in improving the administration, better use of the assets, making solidarity and union among the various pieces of the current Punjab territory. It will additionally confine the focal point of

forces which will achieve positive change in the lives of the individuals of South Punjab as new social and monetary open doors will be accessible at their doorsteps. This advancement won't just fortify federalism and majority rule government; yet additionally advance public solidarity in as it will engage all ethnic personalities living in different pieces of the nation.

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