

**Prevailing Tribal Conflicts and Its Effects on Economic Well-Being of the People of District Ziarat and Harnai**

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**Abstract**

Tribal conflicts/disputes have been recognized as a unavoidable threat to economic growth, stability, and well-being, affecting countries worldwide. These conflicts/disputes disturb economic activities, lead to forced displacement, and result in long-term progressive setbacks. The effect of such conflicts/disputes on socio-economic well-being is mainly severe in areas with fragile economies, where native inhabitants are heavily reliant on agriculture, small scale trades, and traditional incomes. This quantitative study discovers the impacts of prevailing tribal conflicts/disputes on the economic well-being of the people in District Ziarat and Harnai, Balochistan, Pakistan. Using a multi-stage and simple random sampling technique, 200 males and 200 females were selected as respondents for the study. Data was collected through interview schedule and significant statistical analysis was done using uni-variate and bi-variate techniques to examine the impacts of the conflicts/disputes on different economic variables. The study exposes numerous critical outcomes, including unintended migration, ending of businesses, a decline in agricultural production, and important job losses. The respondents also showed a rise in unemployment, increasing poverty levels, inflation, and an increasing dependence on rented housing in areas where evacuated people have relocated. The results propose that the economic costs of tribal conflicts/disputes are far-reaching, affecting rural and urban populations in the district. The study showcauses for widespread peace-building interventions and specific economic recovery approaches to soften the negative impacts of tribal conflicts/disputes on the economy and increase the well-being of the affected groups.

**Keywords:** Tribal Conflicts, Economic Well-Being, Unemployment, Poverty, Balochistan.

**Introduction**

Tribal conflicts characterize an important global issue, intensely rooted in both historical and modern-day contexts. These conflicts rise from ideological, political, and ethnic differences, as observed in the rise of neo-Marxist tribal ideologies that question liberal democracies by promoting social conflict/disputes and uprising as necessary for change (Forgas, 2024). Political tribalism is obvious in contemporary societies, where left and right political groups have become

gradually polarized, concentrating on restructuring and resource accumulation, correspondingly, which leads to opposing policies and social division (Baumeister, 2024). Ethnic conflicts/disputes further complicate the global scenery, as they lead to internal strife within multi-ethnic cultures and conflicts/disputes between states, threatening global safety and security (Christie, 2020). The post-Cold War time has witnessed a revival of ethnic and tribal conflicts and disputes in countries such as the Balkans, Africa, and Asia, emphasizing the persistent nature of these matters (Christie, 1998). Furthermore, the international discourse on local rights underlines the ongoing fight for self-determination, land rights, and communal recognition, which are important to solving the grievances of local populations globally (Deka, 2013). These multidimensional characteristics of tribal conflicts underline the complexity and urgency of resolving them in a modern world. Tribal conflicts in South Asia characterize an important and multifaceted issue. The area has observed escalating political tensions, often driven by the marginalization of tribal and local population, which has driven to demands for self-sufficiency and ethnic homelands, predominantly in region like Northeast India (Behera, 2024; Schendel, 2011). These conflicts/disputes are considered by internal colonization, state domination, and resource mobilization, with relative deprivation and land disputes and conflicts working as important motivators for insurgencies (Behera, 2024). Moreover, the discrimination of women in these tribal conflicts/disputes discovers the larger social consequences, including forced marriages and domestic violence, which aggravate the grievances of marginalized groups. Ethnic disintegration, manifest by contentious relations amongst different groups, complicates the geo-political realities, threatening strength and harmony in the area (Zurick et al., 2011). Generally, the interaction of these aspects emphasizes the imperative need for comprehensive governance and conflict/dispute resolution mechanism in South Asia (Gates & Roy, 2014). Tribal conflicts/disputes in Pakistan has an historical, socio-economic, and geopolitical line, predominantly in areas like the Ex- Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Ex-FATA) and Balochistan. The heritage of colonialism and the influence of the Soviet-Afghan War have nurtured a unstable environment, where tribal societies clash with each other, leading to continuous instability and uncertainty (Shah, 2024). Socio-economic segregation intensifies these tensions, as numerous tribal groups experience poverty and joblessness, pushing youth in the direction of radicalization and criminal actions (Nandy, 2023). Furthermore, inter-tribal disputes have severe consequences for women, who face violence and discrimination, further endangers the societal fabric of these areas (Zounr et al., 2023). The country's bio-political approaches and foreign involvements have contributed to a cycle of discrimination, violence and negligence, undermining governance and progressive efforts (Khan et al., 2023; Mahmood & Malik, 2020). Resolving these complicated issues is vital for achieving sustainable peace and socio-economic comprehensiveness in Pakistan's tribal regions. Tribal conflict/disputes in Balochistan, specifically in districts such as Ziarat and Harnai, is a little studied dimension of regional uncertainty. These regions have been historically marked by tribal disputes and conflicts, which meaningfully affect the social dynamics and the economic development of the people. The present conflicts and disputes not only disturb peace but also bound economic prospects by hindering business, agriculture, and local trade. This research purposes to discover the prevailing tribal conflicts/ disputes in District Ziarat and Harnai, emphasizing on how such conflicts affect the economic circumstances of the local people. Examining the social, political, and economic consequences, the study pursues to shed light on how these tribal disputes restrict progress, development and delay the growth of crucial regions. It looks at the longstanding effects on job services, poverty, and general social welfare. The results are estimated to contribute to improved policy-making and conflict resolution mechanism in the area. Understanding the main causes and consequences of these conflicts and disputes is essential to improving the economic development for the people of District Ziarat and Harnai.

## Material and Methods

This quantitative study employed a multi-stage and simple random sampling technique to select a sample of 200 males and 200 females from District Ziarat and Harnai, Balochistan. Data was collected using structured questionnaires designed to capture the respondents' perceptions and experiences regarding the impact of tribal conflicts on their economic well-being. The survey covered various economic factors, including migration, job loss, agricultural decline, poverty, and housing conditions. Statistical analysis was conducted using uni-variate and bivariate techniques to analyze the data and explore relationships between tribal conflicts and economic outcomes. The findings were interpreted to understand the broader implications on the local economy.

## Results and Discussions

**Table No. 1. Noticeable Level of Tension between Tribes in the Community**

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	142	35.50
2.	Agree	171	42.75
3.	No Opinion	59	14.75
4.	Disagree	21	5.25
5.	Strongly Disagree	7	1.75
	Total	400	100.0

The table explores the distribution of respondents' perceptions on noticeable level of tension between tribes in the community. More than one third majority of respondents, 35.5 percent (n = 142), strongly agreed with the statement, demonstrating a noteworthy perception of tension between the tribes. Furthermore, 42.75 percent (n = 171) agreed, further reflecting a prevalent acknowledgment of this issue. In the same way, 14.75 percent (n = 59) had no opinion, indicating insecurity or insignificance regarding the issue. While, a small percentage, 5.25 percent (n = 21), disagreed with the opinion, and only 1.75 percent (n=7) strongly disagreed, gesturing that very few respondents denied the presence of tension. Sample size was 400 respondents, and the data displays that a shared 78.25 percent (n=313) either agreed or strongly agreed, demonstrating a durable perception of inter-tribal tension within the community. This highlights that prevention of tribal relations is an important attention for future interventions expected at reducing community tensions.

**Table No.2. Participation of Tribal Leaders in Resolving Conflicts among Tribes**

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	47	11.75
2.	Agree	55	13.75
3.	No Opinion	27	6.75
4.	Disagree	136	34.0
5.	Strongly Disagree	135	33.75
	Total	400	100.0

The table reveals the distribution of respondents' perspectives on the opinion that tribal leaders energetically participate in resolving conflicts among tribes. Little more than one tenth percentage, 11.75 percent (n = 47), strongly agreed with the opinion, indicating that only a small number of the respondents accept tribal leaders are energetically involved in resolving conflicts. Furthermore, 13.75 percent (n = 55) agreed, but this statistic remains relatively small, exploring partial

acceptance of energetic involvement by tribal leaders. In the same way, 6.75 percent (n=27) had no opinion on the statement, highlighting uncertainty or lack of clarity on the problem in the area. A large percentage, 34 percent (n = 136), disagreed with the opinion, and 33.75 percent (n=135) strongly disagreed, describing that a large number of respondents do not accept as true tribal leaders perform an active part in conflict resolution among tribes. The sample size was 400 respondents, and the statistics elaborate that a combined 67.75 percent (n = 271) disagreed or strongly disagreed on the opinion, stating a prevalent insight that tribal leaders are not energetically involved in resolving conflicts. It elucidates a prospective gap in leadership involvement, which could be an important thing of attention for any mediations intended at strengthening inter-tribal interactions and relations.

Table No. 3. Conflicts among Different Tribes Occur on Resources (Land, Water, and Mines)

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	132	33.0
2.	Agree	151	37.75
3.	No Opinion	25	6.25
4.	Disagree	82	20.50
5.	Strongly Disagree	10	2.50
	Total	400	100.0

The table illuminates the distribution of respondents' perspectives on the opinion that conflicts among tribes occur for resources such as land, water, and mines. A noteworthy percentage of respondents, 33.0 percent (n = 132), strongly agreed with the opinion, depicting a strong observation that land, water, and mines are dominant to the conflicts among tribes. Moreover, 37.75 percent (n = 151) agreed, further highlighting the opinion that these resources perform an important role in tribal conflicts and disputes. A small group, 6.25 percent (n = 25), had no opinion, expressing particular uncertainty or absence of clarity on the subject of the reasons of conflict. In addition, 20.5 percent (n = 82) disagreed with the opinion, and a smallest number 2.5 percent (n = 10) strongly disagreed, spotting that a smaller section of the respondents do not believe these resources are main reasons of inter-tribal conflict. The sample size for this study was 400 respondents, and the statistics discloses that a combined 70.75 percent (n = 283) either agreed or strongly agreed, highlighting a comprehensive agreement that land, water, and mines are substantial aspects in tribal conflicts and disputes. It underlines the significance of resolving resources-related conflicts and disputes in efforts to decrease conflict and disputes, and encourage cooperation and collaboration among tribes.

Table No. 4. The Fear of Household's Financial Future

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	129	32.25
2.	Agree	112	28.0
3.	No Opinion	53	13.25
4.	Disagree	88	22.0
5.	Strongly Disagree	18	4.50
	Total	400	100.0

The table describes the distribution of respondents' perceptions on the argument that they have fear about their household's financial future. An important percentage, 32.25 percent (n = 129), strongly agreed with the argument, adding that a large number of respondents are highly worried

about the financial safety and security of their families. Moreover, 28.0 percent (n = 112) agreed, further expressing a common fear about financial security in future. A small percentage, 13.25 percent (n = 53), had no opinion, which put forward uncertainty or insignificance regarding their financial worries and anxieties. In the same way, 22.0 percent (n = 88) disagreed, and a small 4.5 percent (n = 18) strongly disagreed, presenting that a small number of respondents do not have substantial uncertainties about their household's economic and financial future. The sample size for this study was 400 respondents, and the statistics exposes that a combined 60.25 percent (n = 241) either agreed or strongly agreed, stating a high scale of worry regarding household financial certainty. It emphasizes the essential for interventions that solve financial stability and sustainability, and offer provision for households experiencing economic uncertainty.

**Table No. 5. Perceptions about Income Uncertainty and Basic Needs Uncertainty**

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	140	35.0
2.	Agree	120	30.0
3.	No Opinion	14	3.50
4.	Disagree	97	24.25
5.	Strongly Disagree	29	7.25
	Total	400	100.0

The table states the distribution of respondents' perceptions on the opinion that they feel uncertainty about their households' income and their basic needs. A large percentage of respondents, 35.0 percent (n = 140), strongly agreed with the opinion, disclosing that a significant percentage of the respondents perceives their income falls short and uncertain in meeting essential requirements. Moreover, 30.0 percent (n = 120) agreed with the opinion, furthermore indicating that a significant number of persons are working and struggling financially. A smaller proportion, 3.5 percent (n = 14), had no opinion, which replicate uncertainty or absence of clarity on their financial condition and situation. Furthermore, 24.25 percent (n = 97) disagreed with the opinion, and 7.25 percent (n = 29) strongly disagreed, indicating that a small percentage of respondents do not feel certainty that their income is insufficient to meet their basic requirements. The sample size for this study was 400 respondents, and the statistics displays that a combined 65.0 percent (n = 260) either agreed or strongly agreed, demonstrating a prevalent concern over income insufficiency. It highlights the necessity for interventions and mediation intended at enlightening economic situation and conditions, providing financial support and provision, or improving income opportunities and prospects.

**Table No. 6. Perception about People in the Community Living in Poverty**

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	147	36.75
2.	Agree	96	24.0
3.	No Opinion	48	12.0
4.	Disagree	95	23.75
5.	Strongly Disagree	14	3.50
	Total	400	100.0

The table elaborates the distribution of respondents believe on the opinion that people in their community are living in poverty. A major proportion of respondents, 36.75 percent (n = 147), strongly agreed with the opinion, disclosing that a significant number of people experience poverty

as a widespread concern within community. Furthermore, another large proportion 24.0 percent (n = 96) agreed, further underscoring the acceptance that poverty is a shared experience in the community. A small percentage, 12.0 percent (n = 48), had no opinion, perhaps reflecting uncertainty or absence of consciousness about the degree of poverty in their spheres. In the same way, 23.75 percent (n = 95) disagreed with the opinion and a small proportion 3.5 percent (n = 14) strongly disagreed, highlighting that a small number of respondents do not realize poverty as a prevalent issue. The sample size for this study was 400 respondents, and the statistics reveals that a combined 60.75 percent (n=243) either agreed or strongly agreed, expressing a dominant perception of poverty in the community. It underlines that poverty is a most important concern within the community and exposes the need for meaningful interventions intended at poverty alleviation.

Table No. 7. Opinion about Poverty as a Significant Widespread Concern of the Area

S. No.		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	143	35.75
2.	Agree	142	35.50
3.	No Opinion	16	4.0
4.	Disagree	82	20.50
5.	Strongly Disagree	17	4.25
	Total	400	100.0

The table expresses the distribution of respondents' perspectives on the opinion that poverty is a widespread matter of concern in their area. A large majority of respondents, 35.75 percent (n = 143), strongly agreed with the opinion, elaborating a prevalent perception that poverty is a predominant issue in the area. Moreover, 35.5 percent (n = 142) agreed, further underpinning the idea that poverty is a continuing concern in the community. A smaller percentage, 4.0 percent (n = 16), had no opinion, which propose uncertainty or absence of awareness and understanding regarding the degree of poverty in the area. Furthermore, 20.5 percent (n = 82) disagreed, and 4.25 percent (n = 17) strongly disagreed, revealing that a a small number of respondents do not view poverty as a prevalent issue of concern. The sample size for this study was 400 respondents, and the statistics highlights that a combined 71.25 percent (n = 285) either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, emphasizing a strong agreement that poverty is a wide-ranging issue in the area. It pinpoints the need for actions and interventions intended at solving the main causes of poverty and providing support for individuals in need.

Table No. 8. Correlation between Increase in Tribal Tension between the Tribes and Poverty as Widespread Issue in the Area

Increase in tribal tension between the tribes	Poverty as wide spread issue in the area	
	Pearson Correlation	.335**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	400

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table explains the findings of the Pearson correlation analysis between the increase in tribal tension between the tribes and the perception of poverty as a widespread issue in the area. The Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.335, revealing a moderate positive relationship between the two statements. It indicates that as tribal tensions increase, people tend to notice poverty as an additional widespread issue of concern in the area. The significance level of 0.000 is less than the 0.01 threshold, adding that the correlation is statistically significant at the 1% level. It means the

correlation between the two statements is vastly unlikely to be due to chance, approving that there is a significant linking between the increase in tribal tension and the perception of poverty in the area.

Table No. 9. Correlation between Increase in Tribal Tension between the Tribes and Worrying about the Households Financial Future

Increase in tribal tension between the tribes	Worrying about the households financial future	
	Pearson Correlation	.290**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000
	N	400

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table depicts the findings of the Pearson correlation analysis between the increase in tribal tension between the tribes and worrying about the household's financial future. The Pearson correlation coefficient is 0.290, elaborating a moderate positive relationship between the two statements. It reveals that as tribal tensions increase; respondents are more likely to tell worries about their household's financial future. The significance level of 0.000 is less than the 0.01 threshold, indicating the correlation is statistically significant at the 1% level. This expresses that the correlation between increased tribal tension and financial concerns is largely unlikely to be due to chance, disclosing a significant connection between the two factors.

### Conclusions

In conclusion the study pinpoints the profound economic and social consequences and concerns of tribal conflicts/disputes in District Ziarat and Harnai, Balochistan, Pakistan. The results elaborate an important perception of inter-tribal tension, with a high percentage of respondents' acceptance of the prevalence of tribal conflicts and tensions. These conflicts, mainly raised by resource-related disputes and conflict over land, water, and mines, have driven to severe disturbances in the local economy. As a outcome, many people experience economic hardship, replicated in the widespread concern over financial security, certainty, and the incapability to meet basic requirements. The study discloses a great frequency of unemployment, poverty, and dependence on displaced housing, intensifying the vulnerability of rural and urban people. In addition, the Pearson correlation analyses determine a moderate yet significant correlation between increased tribal tensions and increasing concerns about financial stability and sustainability, as well as the observation of poverty. These findings conclude that tribal conflicts not only generate direct economic hindrances but also have longstanding effects on the community's well-being. It emphasizes the necessity for interventions that emphasis on conflict resolution, economic recovery, and poverty alleviation. A corresponding effort to solve the main causes of tribal tensions and provide support to the affected people is important for development of stability and promoting sustainable development in the communities and region.

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