

The Impact of Economic Forces on Resource Use, State of Conservation, and Productivity of Rangelands in Northeastern Balochistan

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Abstract:

In Musakhel and Barkhan districts of Balochistan and along the western slopes of the main Sulaiman mountain range, Baloch tribes raise animals, mainly sheep and goat, on rangelands that are commonly owned. This paper looks into the impact of economic forces such as income, prices, interest rates, and taxes on an individual animal raiser's behavior towards resource use and productivity. An individual animal raiser's behavior towards resource use expressed in number of animals raised per unit of rangeland/stocking rates/use rates, directly impacts rangeland productivity or carrying capacity because the rangelands in Balochistan are generally overgrazed. Under such overgrazed conditions an increase in stocking/use rates leads to a decrease in range carrying capacity or productivity and a decrease in stocking/use rates leads to an increase in carrying capacity or productivity of the rangelands. The paper analyzes changes in economic forces that lead to changes in animal raiser behavior and changes in animal raiser behavior that lead to changes in range carrying capacity and productivity.

The Empowerment of Baluch Women: a Makrani Perspective

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Abstract:

This paper focuses on women empowerment in Makran region of Balochistan. In 1992, Pak-Canada Small Project Office (SPO) a bilateral program to fund social development projects through community based organizations started a distinctive program in Makran exclusively for female education, called Village

Education Program (VEP). SPO was later on transformed into an NGO and changed its name to Strengthening Participatory Organizations, retaining the same initials. The aim of SPO was to work with existing grass-root level organizations in the communities to help them carry out uplift of women through the empowerment mechanism. In order to do that they had to help establish Women Development Organizations (WDOs). These organizations were further provided training and technical support by SPO to initiate and monitor women education processes in their villages. VEP started its first clusters of women development organizations in and around of Balicha. In their need assessment, they identified female adult literacy as their top priority. They wanted to be able to read and write. And ultimately, VEP started the first women uplift initiative as an adult literacy center in that area.

The female of the Balicha area took the control in their own hand. They helped establish many community girls schools in the area by providing land for the school and also took the responsibility of monitoring the schools—to see whether the teacher is coming and/or the children are attending schools. This gave them the sense of ownership, being in-charge of their own affairs, and they carried out this responsibility with great commitment and devotion. After successful implementation and on-going maintenance, the same process was replicated in other areas of Kech.

Once the Women Development Organizations were established throughout the area, in order to eliminate duplication and perpetually support other development actors in the area for the benefit of the rural communities, the author came up with the blueprint of this project. This project networks community-based organizations, NGOs, GO, and International Development Agencies to share information and to collaborate with each other to save time and resources through utilization of available local human and other resources. This project was implemented by Makran Resource Center (MRC) located at Turbat-Kech. Women empowerment leads to economic and social empowerment and this project will prepare and strengthen Baloch women leaders for a brighter tomorrow.