



Exploring the Functionality of Smuggling and Hindrance for Border Dwellers: A Case Study of Paroom-Iran Border, District, Punjgor, Balochistan

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- Vol. VII, No. II (Spring 2022)
- Pages: 127 – 137
- p- ISSN: 2521-2982
- e-ISSN: 2707-4587

Key Words: Cross-border Trade, Hindrance, Illegal Economy, Kinship, Reciprocity, Smuggling

Abstract: This study explores the functionality of smuggling and hindrances faced by border dwellers along the Paroom border. The natives are majorly involved in the illegal transportation of goods and services. Therefore, the study explains how important smuggling is for the local people and what difference it makes in their daily lives. This study describes the kinship role in reciprocity in their trade and transportation and the role of people who clash with the armed forces of Iran and Pakistan to conduct their illegal business. Qualitative research methods have been used to conduct this research. The sample size of thirty is selected from the people involved in informal cross-border trade living on the Paroom, Punjgor Balochistan borderland. The interview guide schedule is incorporated into the research process during data collection. The purposive sampling technique is used because this technique considers the magnificent data and observations from the field. The thematic analysis technique is used for generating themes from data. The researcher expanded the study on a wider level, and every ethics was followed during the study.

Introduction

This research paper explores the functionality of cross-border trade and the hindrance faced by the border community in Punjgor (*Paroom-Iran* border). Trading with Iran is a flexible business that borders community practice because Pakistan's government cannot guarantee to provide fundamental facilities to natives, such as employment, education, and health facilities. That is why people prefer trading with Iran to get their kitchen alive. While defining the informal economy, it is noted (NSSO 2005) that the illegal economy portrays a big role in developing countries. For instance, the informal sector in India counts for 93% of overall employment. As (Bohata, M. & Mladek, J. 1999), and (Hashi, I. 2001), formal challenges appear as the most crucial barriers for developing countries that restrict them from informal trading. It must be

acknowledged that it is difficult to recognize and evaluate the influence of illegal challenges.

Informality is "inwritten laws and regulations guided by a set of practices and norms that are known and accepted universally by local social and economic actors" (Dunn 2003). defined illegality as a problem-solving way in which people trade with other countries informally and boost their economies. As he wrote, informality was the backbone of the Soviet system and, thus, several commonwealth countries of Independent States (CIS) practised it (Dunn, C. 2003). In informal economic transactions, invoicing is an efficient tool by which two parties or countries agree to trade. Doing so allows them to deliver goods and services without paying government taxes (Vakulchuk, R. 2012). The more restrictions on formal trade were imposed, the more the bubble of informal trade magnified (Megoran, N. 2005).

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According to Pitt, a phenomenon often occurs in the state with illegal commodity trading is the black market in foreign exchange. Smuggling has a long dialectical history (Pitt, M. 1983). In Britain, smuggling began in the late 18th century and proved economically significant. Later, many first-world countries had to work hard to accommodate the large numbers of immigrants smuggled across national borders, which became an illegal trade (Muhammad, J. 2006). To avoid paying taxes at checkpoints and other customs fees, smugglers have relied on speed and speed to cross the border, especially in the Gulf of Mexico, where the smuggling vessels have been named "Go fast boats" (Tachuk, K. L. 2007). In the period 1990-2009, the smuggling records of 183 countries are estimated in terms of cause and effect, and smuggling has been found to have positive results on labour force participation rates in developed countries (Wajid, Z., Aziz, B. & Iqbal, Z. Jan-Dec 2014). In contrast, it hurts developing countries. Data from 183 countries showed that government tax collections decreased when smuggling increased (Ibid). At the national level, Pakistan is recognized for human trafficking. According to this report, 22,424 Pakistanis were deported from Oman, Iran, and Turkey. The operational definition of human trafficking in Pakistan is given in section 2(a). h) decrees on the prevention of human trafficking. Section 2 (h) definition criminalizes people smuggling (UNODC. July, 2014). Illegal transfer of agricultural and non-agricultural commodities to or from Pakistan is carried out at the borders of Iran and Afghanistan. *Chaman, Pishin, Badeen, and Punjgor* areas are used for smuggling from Afghanistan to Balochistan and *Mand, Taftan, Nokandi, Gwadar* and *Jiwani* are used for smuggling from Iran. Agricultural commodities such as dry fruits are smuggled from Afghanistan to Balochistan. In contrast, oil, gas, fish, rations, and construction materials are smuggled from Iran to Baluchistan (Sharif, M. 2000).

Balochistan borders the Iranian province of *Sistan*, and people living on this line depend on informal trading with Iran. The focus area of this research paper is *the Paroom* border situated in District Punjgor, Balochistan. People living in *Paroom* Punjgor are dependent on Iranian products smuggled from Iran. The cross-border trade on Iranian borders is based on Kinship ties where a

barter system of reciprocity is encouraged because it is difficult for a trader to transfer money through proper channels, such as the banking system of Iran being restricted due to the international trade label on Iran.

Literature Review

"The Free Economy and the Strong State Approach" supports an informal economy and encourage states or any community to trade without international trade laws. This theoretical approach enables or allows people or any developing country to perform cross-border trade illegally, as Iran opened its borders for smuggling to neighbouring countries (Raheem, A et al. 2021). Moreover, in the measurement model, indicators for smuggling illegal goods brought the conceptual definition of illegal smuggling refers to the flow of illicit drugs and informal immigrants from Mexico to the United States (Eichler, S. & Buehn, A. 2009). An informal Economy consists of an illegal economic deal of services and goods. Such businesses are banned completely or restricted through international laws (Felbab-Brown, V. 2009). However, African countries often fall under the smuggling zone of the world: for example, most heroin passes through East and Southern Africa, which leads to European markets. The bulk of the heroin trade is carried through shipments that are sometimes broken into smaller consignments to avoid detection (Hysom, S, et. all. 2018).

It is noted that the Turkish cross-border trading of illegal oil trade links functions by kinship, religious connection, and ethnic bonds. Likely, the Kurds in Iraq, Iran, and Azerbaijan smuggle because of religious relations with the Republicans of Nakhchivan. The latter believe their religious ties with Shi'a-Muslim help them in their illegal trade links (Bozcali, F. 2011). In Social Exchange, confidence is a pivotal characteristic of social solidarity and the base to sustain the association within the social networks that make up the social structure (Adler, L. 2004). As (Lomnitz, L. & Melnick, A. 1991) found that the Chilean middle class give importance to trust. They perform a culturally defined way of exchange called "compadrazgo" (alluding to the closeness that God parenthood implies in the Catholic Church) based on a belief among individuals. In this system, they perform exchanges within the

limit of friendship. According to (Ledeneva, A. [1998](#)), blat is an illegal exchange pattern established on interpersonal ties of belief through which individuals resolve daily life problems.

In the Indian Economy, smuggling has been accepted as a huge form of economic activity. The state instituted all kinds of anti-smuggling and imposed restrictions on imports by contacting government officials. The exchange trend can be countered by the buying and selling of commodities by black market traders. In exchange, either item are sold on the black market at higher prices than the official prices of the foreign currency, or they are imported outside official sanctions (Sen, S. [1975](#)). As Tengku Umar quoted, "Smuggling will never stop as long as the sea water is still seawater, and as long as there is water in the sea, smuggling in the Riau Islands will continue". As the British and Dutch began to create economic spaces in the Straits of Malacca, smuggling became an interacting part of life in the Riau Islands (Lyons, L. & Ford, M. [2012](#)). Tanzi (1983) presented a monetary approach to measuring the extent of the shadow economy in the United States, arguing that illegal transactions are mainly supported by cash, and therefore changes in illegal transactions can be perceived by looking at changes. Demand for currency in the Economy (Mahammood, R. & Ahmad, E., [2015](#)). With little achievement, the U.S. line power made huge attempts to secure bootleggers crossing the boundary. Lawful merchandise dealers, as opposed to illegal smugglers, violate the law from their workplaces instead of a boundary. No convincing information is accessible in writing to gauge it (Eichler, S. & Buehn, A. [2009](#)).

The operative explanation for smuggling is the government's slackness in channelling reciprocal trade and moving through a legitimate interaction. The legislatures are compelled by a solemn obligation to check the individuals engaged in unlawful exchange (Andreas, P. [2003](#)). The Iran-Pakistan line additionally frames South Asia's limit with the Middle East. There are a few people who endeavour to move over to Europe looking for business illicitly. It makes the dealing an observable issue, such as smuggling. In a period of globalization, tremendous amounts of products are moving worldwide. It is more difficult to guarantee border management to forestall criminal operations, especially on a border as defenceless as

the Goldsmith Line (Alam, S. [2004](#)). Regardless, these illegal activities in the boundary area cast a shadow over respective relations. Consequently, to work with collaboration and harmony, an arrangement was endorsed between the two nations in 2004 declaring *Sistan* and Baluchistan as 'twins' (Dawn, D. [2004](#)).

Due to its cheap availability in Iran, the smuggling of diesel has been common for some time. Other merchandise, including blankets and dry fruits, are smuggled without customs duties and taxes. Immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh secretly travel to Europe by route to Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Hence, trade is an important economic reality of normal border relations. Without trade, a border economy suffers the disadvantages of being at the corner of a closed national economy. Trading makes an advantage for the border regions to become the most convenient place to sell and purchase goods with a neighbouring country (Khan, et. all. [2020](#)). The *Paroom*-Iran border also witnesses much smuggling and is the source of economic opportunities for dwellers of the borderland. This paper aims to document the functionality of border trade and write about the hindrance people face while trading.

Theoretical Framework

Theory of Capital

Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002) was a French sociologist and public intellectual primarily concerned with societal power dynamics. Bourdieu saw social capital as the individual's property rather than the collective. Social capital allows a person to exercise power over a group or individual that mobilizes resources. For Bourdieu, social capital is not uniformly available to members of a group or collective. Still, it is available to those who seek to acquire it by achieving positions of power and status and developing goodwill. According to Bourdieu, social capital is irreducibly linked to class, and other forms of stratification, which in turn are linked to various forms of advantage or promotion. Bourdieu conceptualized social capital as the accumulated real or virtual resources acquired by individuals or groups through the possession of "more or less institutionalized relations of mutual recognition and recognition". Thus, social capital resides in the individual

because of their investment. Bourdieu's social capital does not include the attributes of collective ownership, which Bourdieu calls cultural capital instead (Julien, C. 2015).

Application of the Theory

Considering the theory given by Bourdieu, called "social capital theory", parts of the data can be applied in this research paper. The condition is quite the same as Bourdieu note's 1986 theory. People on the *Paroom*-Iran border do not follow the institutional requirements of border rules to trade; rather, they put their effort into performing cross-border trade. There is no formal way of negotiating with border authorities as people deal with the security management of both countries informally. Economic management and trading are the most important for border dwellers participating in illegal business with multiple associated risks. For example, people must deal with law enforcement officials with their links and communication skill.

Methodology

A qualitative research methodology is used to conduct this research. The study investigated the functionality of smuggling and hindrance faced by people living on borderland: a case study of the *Paroom*-Iran border (Punjgor Balochistan, Pakistan). The research's target population was people involved in informal cross-border trade. The sample size of this research is 30 selected from people living on the borderland in *Paroom*, Punjgor Balochistan. The interview guide schedule was incorporated into the research process during data collection. The purposive sampling technique was used in the research process by using the purposive sampling technique considered the magnificent data and observations from the field. The thematic analysis technique was used for generating themes from data. The researcher expanded the study on a wider level, and every ethics was followed during the study.

Research Findings

Introduction

The hindrance imposed by the Pakistani government hurts natives the most because border trade is only the source of income for that

government with the name of security closing borderlands for Baloch inhabitants. Local people of *Paroom* perceived this policy as an economic crisis for themselves. They believe that if the government cannot produce job opportunities for inhabitants of *the Paroom* must not confiscate the ongoing trading opportunity by restricting the border trade. Anyhow, this article discusses the imposed hindrances and problems created by concerned law enforcement departments in the name of security, causing the closure of border routes where natives smuggle and trade to fulfil their livelihood needs. This paper attempts to document native points of view regarding the functionality of border trade and opportunities that the government attempting to restrict since 2012 after the situation worsened due to the waves of insurgency in Balochistan and the construction of the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) development project.

Smuggling in Paroom

The Economy of smuggling in *Paroom* is based on the nature of cross-border transactions. The transportation of goods and social mobility occurs in the context of illegal cross-border trade, whether in the form of drugs, human trafficking, and ration goods export-imports or in the form of natural resources such as diesel, oil, gas, and petrol. The pattern of reciprocity and business partnership. People living on both sides of the border are Baloch, who negotiate their business with kinship values. The cross-border social relations are strong enough to reciprocate without harsh conflicts, as responded by natives that they suffer from the economic crisis and do not have such a stable way of earning compared to other regions of Pakistan. People depend upon informal border trade, which is full of risk and hindrance. They are united due to poverty and economic crises. As a result, they meet with the kin-related reciprocal system and mutual support. They have mutual moral support when they are in trouble and deal with that by helping each other. Hence, they have an informal way of dealing and trading across the border and avoid government regulation by using dangerous routes.

Border Market

"We live in the part of Baluchistan which relates to the

borders of Iran, and whatever we eat, or use comes through the border trade from Iran. There is a huge rush in the border because of the works where some have opened petrol pumps, and others have shops and hotels where thousands of people are regularly working for survival".

If the border gets closed, then it means we would not gain anything to eat. It simply means everything they get comes from the border or the money they get from labour works on this border. The most common things they bring from Iran include Tiles, tyres, petrol, and other daily useable commodities. And from Pakistan, they take many materials to Iran, such as mangoes and other fruits commonly liked in Iran. However, petrol and Iranian gas are the most common materials from all. And they use different routes to transport these Martials, including mountainous areas, and they face multiple troubles from the forces of both sides where they must do our entry three times in Pakistan. They must wait for hours there for their turn. And every ten kilometres, they face Fc and Army check posts where they must show their entry ticket. The same they must do on Iran's side. They must take food from their houses where they get troubled for days and don't get any hotel or places to eat and drink. Even they have their blankets with them to sleep in the mountains.

They have a good culture on the border because there is a huge rush, and they see Baloch everywhere and help each other. It is all done because all of us are the victim of poverty. If the government of Pakistan provided them with job facilities, they would not face such troubles. The nearest border houses are kind of theirs, and most of the time, they help them if they need. Sometimes they are arrested by the Pakistani forces, and they demand money. If they do not provide them money, they through their patrols.

On the other hand, they do not have clear roads and taxes for all *chokis* (check posts) and take taxes. Iran forces arrest them, then they take us to jail, and if we give them money, they will leave them. Health issues are another burden because they must live in the car for weeks, where they often become ill. All drivers deal with one another better than government officials.

Border Closure

People are worried about the present status of the border, that its main trade routes are sealed by

Pakistani forces, causing an economic crisis for the inhabitants of Paroom. As they responded about border closure by not denying that the border is sealed in total but is too dangerous for them to travel through unexplored routes in jungles and mountains. As one of the respondents highlighted,

Man, e gapa inkari nayan k border chata band ent baly e rahan k ma safar kanagaya sake danger ant o may gadi o endega sawari probh ant tabah banth o Chencho mardum mireath o tabah beath agan jungle koban gardi haraab bebeath. E garm o jala chenb ptrol e gadi ha aas lagetag,

The closing of traditionally main routes caused multiple problems in travelling to border areas where they reciprocate their trade. They mentioned that they had recently travelled through narrow routes in the jungle and broken hilly roads. As they said that these road conditions causing day to day accidents in their cars by getting fire due to petrol. These routes are causing the deaths of people. When their cars get out of condition, they must wait in the jungle until they get assistance. If they are not assisted fall into problems that can cause their deaths because their water and food finish. And many times, they are hunted by beasts and other dangerous animals in the jungle.

As people were interviewed about the behaviour and check posts' hindrances that they emphasized over security concerns, forces often shared with them that due to security concerns, borders are closed, and routes are sealed. The Pakistani government increases the check and balances as respondents shared that they are forced to check posts where people trade weapons and transport insurgents on borders. But the native people were committed and sure that they only travelled from such dangerous routes for trading purposes. As one of the respondents retorted,

Mara har check posta darag betent jost kanag beath o tang kanag bet hent. May aap o waragan FC wala bar anth mara jan anth murga kanath o kushag e dhamki dayanth. O ham e yakeen gapa jana k shoma sarmacharan kumak kany. Ya k sarmacharni jaghan mara begoshag e go,

They are stopped at every FC and Army check post, where they are asked about the insurgents and their hideouts. They, by violence, force them to work as a spy with them and tell them about the insurgents' hideouts, as reported by driver groups. The check post's authoritative body

forces them to snatch their food and water drivers carrying with them for use. If they deny it, they will be punished by making them duck on the road and threatened with death.

Moreover, security reasons prevailing in Balochistan due to the activities of Baloch freedom fighters since 1948. But it is affecting those populations that are not involved in helping insurgency. As people reported, the government failed to overcome the insurgency waves in Balochistan, resulting in violence against the general masses who are not guilty. People are screaming about the policies to be changed by the Pakistani government because the enforcement is causing more problems for the Pakistani government and its survival in Balochistan.

Law Enforcement Departments

Law enforcement departments are involved in the security management of border areas. They believe insurgency acts are happening due to open borderlands with Iran and Afghanistan. *Paroom* village from District Punjgor is situated on the borderlands with Iran. The economic activities in this region depend on border trade or smuggling at the Iranian border. People mentioned that they do not have job opportunities from the government to carry out their business at the Iranian border. But the law enforcement departments, including FC, Army, MI, and ISI, are much more active in countering terrorism where their focus is on Iran and Afghanistan border. As they argue, borderlands are being used to shelter and facilitate Baloch separatist organizations.

On the other hand, the native people understand it as depriving them of the border economy that is the main source of income for the people of Balochistan, specifically, *paroom*. The law enforcement departments closed the main traditional border routes with Iran in 2012. People switched toward the broken roads that passed throughout the jungle, mountains, and dangerous hilly roads. The native quoted, "*for the survival of our family, we prefer death and dangers!*". It is because they do not have an alternative to earning for survival. According to respondents, law enforcement departments do not cooperate with local traders and arrest them by confiscating their cars and other belongings while travelling for business.

Bribery Culture

Bribery culture is at its peak across borderlands while doing business. Some respondents shared that they pay illegal taxes to different forces and departments during the trade. They highlighted the name of forces to whom they pay bribes and extortion, such as local police, Levies force, FC, Army, MI, Anti-narcotics, Excise Taxation, and FIA. All mentioned forces need to be paid for extortion and bribery. It is to be mentioned that these taxes are not legally entertained, or they have not been transferred to State accounts. Rather the heads of check posts and upper-level officers collect money for themselves only.

One of my respondents said they must pass these all-check points of mentioned forces. Even one department has several check posts in the routes where each check posts collect its share of bribery. As mentioned by drivers,

Ma agan isha laaalich mdeen gora mara e murga kana jana. My gardian bar ant, may paisaban o smanan laheen ant. Mara cheez border e sara sak arzaneen nibadaan dast kapan baly encho chokian paisa dayaga pad baaaz lain kbarcha lagi.

The *lain kbarcha* (route expenditures) is too high. They cannot afford it, but they travel to trade because they compel. The italic words analyze the situation where the trader or driver needs to pay bribery to each check post of forces. Otherwise, they would be tortured and beaten by forces, their products would be confiscated, and they would be sanctioned by authority. People still travel to trade because they do not have any alternative to fulfilling their basic needs and making their families survive.

Impact of Border Closure

Closing the main border routes with Iran greatly impacted local people whose survival depended upon border trading. The respondents highlighted that working at the Iran border is only the ultimate source of income. It can be analyzed that the unemployment rate is increasing more than before. People had an environment of working across Iran's borders, but closing borders with Iran caused an economic crisis, anxiety, and tension for the local community living near the borderlands.

On the other hand, people who once were engaged worked with the border but soon after,

the closure of borders caused local youths and young to abuse drugs. As respondents shared, the anxiety and tension of unemployment and the torchers by state security compelled them to abuse kinds of drugs that are of dangerous types for local people. One of my respondents retorted,

Kar o rozgar may border beeethag o border sarkara wati arjaan jath o band kurth. Mara berozgairian tab prosh kutag. Ma Nisha pameshaka kanan k saadabeen zindy taba may ehsaas zindag banth goda ma surviv kurth nakana. No ma Nisha kana k deet jod beban mara kasi parwab mabi chokani logy o mardumani parwab mabeeth.

They abuse drugs only to be emotionless toward their families, children, and society. Because if they do not abuse drugs, they will attempt suicide because looking at family members who are hungry or wish less about the material world hurts them. Drugs are the source of making responsible people's emotions less and more irresponsible. The main cause of abusing drugs is to release anxiety and be emotionless regarding their families, according to natives.

Moreover, abusing the drug is caused due to anxiety about low income and unemployment where they do not have other opportunities to be engaged except border trading. But the closure of borderlands with Iran enhanced the poverty rate in the region, where youngsters and household feeders seem to be moving more toward drug abuse. This social and economic change accelerated the crimes, begging, and violence in Paroom and other border regions.

Discussion

Smuggling is the only way to survive, but the government is hindering their subsistence in the name of security. If it continues to happen, the rate of criminal activities will increase. In the *Paroom* border, the Economy of smuggling is composed of transborder transactions. Every item, such as products of daily use, drugs weapons, is transported from one country to another. All these things are importing and exporting on kinship ties, as on both sides of the border of Baluchistan and Iran, Baloch people reside and have ethnic ties and strong social relations to reciprocate without any punitive conflicts. While (Bozcali, F. 2011) studied that the Turkish cross-border shipping of illegal oil trade has been done through kinship ties, religious connections, and ethnic tribes. Uniformly, the

Kurds in Iran, Iraq and Azerbaijan have smuggling connections due to their religious ties with the Republic of Nakhchivan. This state mobilizes their ethnic and religious ties with Shi'a Muslim communities, enhancing its trade networks. The people of *Paroom* lack basic infrastructure. They lack job opportunities and cannot fulfil the basic requirements of living satisfactory lives. It is the main reason people depend on informal border trade and put their lives under threat while adopting their ways of smuggling. People in the region are mostly involved in smuggling; they help each other with every difficulty. On both sides of the border, they are united with kin-related reciprocal systems and mutual support as is also noted by (Felbab-Brown, V. Pp.1411-1413. 2009) that the delinquent economies include the cultivation of unlicensed crops like opium etc., smuggling of wildlife, human trafficking, and money laundering.

It is a risky venture, but people cannot get rid of it because they do not have any other source of income. They are ready to work legally with the Pakistani government if they are provided with their fundamental needs. In *Paroom* border, smuggling of diesel and oil petrol has been practised for a long ago. This revenue generated by smuggling is a major economic booster in *Paroom*. Diesel is very useful because increasing prices can benefit the common person in the battle between legal and illegal, another type of smuggling that has been remarkably experienced and practised in *Paroom* and other border regions is called Drug Smuggling. People export various types of drugs to different countries. It is the most dangerous type of smuggling in border areas. These are the strategies by which countries destroy people of other countries through drugs. Drugs have the potential to destroy the young generation. But smugglers are performing this job because it is fortunate to earn a good amount. Access to drugs is easy in *Paroom* and other regions, and almost every household has a drug-affected person.

Brown (2009) noted that the state's inability to give attention to the illicit economies while using their lands gives birth to an illicit business. It goes beyond the domain of legal business. State attentively labels tags certain goods and commodities as forbidden so they can be under the limitation of taxation (Felbab- Brown, B. 2009) . The government has sealed the major trade routes

alongside the border and put locals into economic crises. It is risky for natives to adopt unexplored alternative routes such as jungles and mountains to travel for their livelihood. Check posts hindrances from FC and the army has led people to adopt and share their travel essentials with them; otherwise, they are threatened for their lives and imprisonment. Security reasons are prevailing in Baluchistan due to freedom fighters; such action has involved where local people of Baluchistan, specifically people residing near border areas, who are facing difficulties, and hindrances in the name of security.

Law enforcement agencies put forth the reason that insurgencies are happening due to the open Pak-Afghan borders. All security agencies such as FC, Army, MI, and ISI actively counter-terrorism. They are of the view that these border lines are a shelter for Baloch separatist movements. In this regard, in search of terrorist agencies, sea natives, with an eye of doubt, do not cooperate with the local traders and arrest them. This a need of time to realize that, on the one hand, they are sealing the border to control illegal trades while, on the other hand, they are collecting bribes from people smuggling goods. Sealing the border lines with Iran has impacted the livelihood of people having legal trades. Young generations face unemployment due to people who have entered borderline trades and businesses. Due to having less socially accepted livelihoods and opportunities, they are in a continuous cycle of anxiety and depression. People along borderlines have great exposure to drugs. Due to increased unemployment, the rate of drug addiction has increased. Before 2012 people in *Paroom* had some trading activities along border lines, but after the increased security concerns, the border was closed, and economic activities were disrupted fully.

The trans-border trade remained a major economic booster in postcolonial times from Islands to Singapore, including copra, coconut, rubber, and fish. In return, they brought fresh vegetables, Rice, and clothing. In 1968 alliance between Singapore and Indonesia resulted restoring of cross-border movements too (Lyons, L. & Ford, M. 2012). On the other hand, the government of Pakistan has not led native Baloch people to work with national and international companies to extract natural resources from Baluchistan. The poverty rate can be decreased if

government allow Baluch native people to work n CPEC and other economic activities. Poverty leads to adopting those sources which are considered illegal by the state. When people see their families in extreme poverty and depression, they may join separatist movements or get involved in smuggling and human trafficking. In such conditions of unemployment and poverty backwardness of the region is obvious. Facilities such as education, health and improved living standards can only be gained if people have good earning opportunities. No facility well as protection is provided to the people of *Paroom* in their hour of difficulty. Cross-border trade is the only source of income for the people, but it is completely sealed, and people are putting their lives in danger for their subsistence. Hence, they are in danger of survival.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, it can be concluded that due to the unavailability of resources and job opportunities, better healthcare facilities and lower literacy rates give birth to activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, drug abuse and many more. If the border trade can benefit a community through illegal trade, it is equally possible that it can also contribute to the country's economy. Baluchistan is providing natural resources to the whole country, but they face poor and backward living standards as a reward. At last, they benefit from cross-border trade.

In the name of security, this trade has been sealed, and people risk their lives for survival. If the border gets closed, then people will get nothing. They are dependent on services and goods coming from neighbouring countries. They are importing goods and exporting mangoes and other famous dry fruits from Quetta and other parts of the country. However, petrol, diesel, and other Iranian products are major import and export products. People use different routes to transport material through jungles and mountains. Hindrances posed by the Pakistani government are another problem for them in the process of checking. Natives lost their travel essentials, such as food and money. Law and enforcement agencies demand heavy extortion and bribes from poor drivers.

Cross-border trades happen because Baloch people reside on both sides and unite in every hour of difficulty. Baloch people are the victims of

poverty, brutality, and ignorance. Those people are unaware of the luxury other parts of the county enjoy. If they are not being neglected, they can provide good labour and productive sources of revenue for the whole country. These people are living on their own. They help each other, are hospitable, and welcome everyone with open hearts. Their business trades living products, goods and services from neighbouring countries. They are not even consuming Pakistani products because they cannot afford them and think they are not of the best quality compared to their prices. They are demanding the opening of borders for their subsistence.

The research paper analyzed the perception of people residing in the *Paroom* region and their

informal economy. Cross-border trade is their ultimate source of income, where governments and other agencies have created hindrances. As a result of these difficulties, they welcome the troublesome journeys of alternative routes to carry a handsome amount. Due to the unemployed, they are falling into anxiety and drug abuse and are then famous for being backwards. They also have the right to access good quality health and education. They automatically will leave these illegal activities. They also want to live peacefully, as other parts of the country enjoy. Attacks by different security agencies and counterattacks have made people's lives miserable. The government has miserably failed to control the security situation and cannot protect the citizens of Baluchistan.

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