

It is a common practice in every country of the world that a general criteria for distribution of financial resources is adopted (be it direct funding). Accordingly the prevailing principle is that each and every region/provincial/state/federating unit are provided the funding for its developmental activities on the basis of population, revenue generation backwardness.

Even throughout developed countries including USA, Canada, UK, Australia and Egypt there has been a set procedure for developmental planning and provisions for finances for the same.

Also one of the mandatory criteria is that if certain number of population have to work in the region/province/state/federating unit to which they do not have their origin and such population has to work for more than six months/year, the per capita amount allocated for the developmental schemes of their parent area is transferred to the region/provinces/federating unit/states where that

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population is working and making their earning and sending a major portion of the same to their families to place of their origin.

Unfortunately this is not being done in Pakistan resulting in apart from disparity in the schemes there is discrimination among the province/region resulting in discontentment and sense of deprivation. In this context if one looks at the present statistics in case of the province of Sindh there are three million plus residents of Balochistan.

Seven million permanent residents of Punjab and six million plus resident of NWFP-FATA, FANA are doing their business/services or have their source of earning in Sindh. Similarly in the province of Punjab three million residents of NWFP and mea-

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gre population, residents of Sindh, Balochistan combined continued have to stay semi-permanently for their bread earning. Contrary to this in Balochistan only half million of people permanent residents of other provinces normally reside for 6/8. But apart from over three million refugees from adjoining Afghanistan refugees are settled. Whereas, about 2½ million refugees from Afghanistan are residing for the last two decades per-

manently and earn their bread from Karachi.

One more thing should be kept in mind that the above is only an estimated figure at the very lower side. I am sure that if correct census is undertaken it will transpire that these figures may increase by 50 percent plus.

My conclusion would be that while considering federal funding for developmental activities only on the basis of above figures and if only per capita allocation of each federating unit worked out and allocation is made to the unit provinces/region/federating unit/state where the population is making their earning and utilising all the basic services, disparity can be lessened. This will provide a more sense of participation and con-

tentment among the federating units on the basis of above.

The Sindh should get an additional allocation of the population of 20 million or so per capita from the allocations of the provinces of the origin. Punjab should get at least 15 million or so per capita and Balochistan apart from the Afghan refugees should get at least one million additional allocation similarly NWFP to get apart from the Afghan refugees an allocation of one and half million from the area of origin. This will ensure provincial harmony and improve regional relations and there would be less issues cropping up for want of allocation for developmental activities.

The above suggested mechanism would provide diversion of annual allocation of at least 85 billion to Sindh from other provinces after adjusting its population of origin working in other provinces if the per capita developmental cost of Rs 1500 per person is taken as current value.

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