

Investigating the Impact of Smuggling on Child Labor in Nushki and Chagai, Pakistan

Sohail Ahmed¹·Muhammad Yasir ². Rizwan Ali ³.

Sohail Ahmed is an undergraduate student of Governance and Public Policy at NUML, Islamabad, Pakistan

Muhammad Yasir is an undergraduate student of English literature at NUML, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr Rizwan Ali is an Assistant Professor of Governance and Public Policy at NUML ,Islamabad , Pakistan

Abstract

Smuggling in the border regions of Nushki and Chagai districts of Pakistan's Balochistan province has led to a rise in child labor. Children are drawn into illegal activities due to poverty, lack of education, and weak government support. This not only disrupts their education but also exposes them to exploitation and long-term socioeconomic vulnerability. This study will investigate how smuggling has increased child labor and examine the circumstances of this problem in Nushki and Chagai districts in Pakistan. By analyzing the foundational sources and consequences of child involvement in smuggling, the study addresses key questions including: how the lack of financial opportunities and socioeconomic conditions contributed to the child labor and why government laws and NGOs failed to reduce both the social issues of child labor and smuggling. This research paper uses a quantitative methodology with purposive sampling, collecting data from 101 respondents through structured Google survey forms. Participants included parents, teachers (masters), and adults who have experienced child labor in their youth. Smuggling create an alternate path to enter into a country in these districts by bypassing custom duties etc. These activities attracted children to participate because they do not have access to financial opportunities and education. The study concluded that with the Government provides of financial opportunities, education, healthcare equipment, and improved socioeconomic conditions, it will decrease smuggling and child labor in the region will be drastically decreased.

Introduction

Smuggling is a massive problem faced by the world; it is not a contemporary issue. From the 7th to the 16th century, Southeast Asia become a supplier of smuggled items. Later, Europeans took much more advantage from Opium and Narcotics. This overall Phenomena occurred in the “Golden Triangle” region

(Tagliacozzo, 2002). From 1800 to 1814 during the Napoleonic wars both countries banned each other's materials, allowing smugglers to benefit from the situation. The flow of gold from Britain to France, along with lace, silk, and leather accounted 62.5% of total export value. Additionally, Alcohol (brandy and gin) was smuggled at a rate of 933,000 liters per day. Tobacco was also smuggled somehow the last prisoners French of war were smuggled across the channel (Clarke, 2020). During the cold war (1970s to 1980s), each bloc smuggled weapons for its allied countries or terrorist organizations. Approximately one hundred AK-47s in per day and 20,000 weapons were produced annually in Darra Adam Khel, Pakistan, and illegally transfer in terrorist organizations (Daly, 2007).

Smuggling provides an indirect or illegally way to cross a country's border due to the fear of custom duties, it utilizes a second option to bypass the border for conveyance (Encyclopedia Britanica, 2025). Smuggling provides an alternative market mechanism to destroy a country's economy, and it is more complex than illegal trade (Dominguez, 1975). Smuggling involves the supply of banned materials illegally to other countries, such as drug and weapons, to escape the restricted taxes and bring in cheap equipment without paying excise duties (Hayat & Waleed, 2024). Smuggling and human trafficking are both different concepts. Smuggling is an illegal crossing of the border that disturb territory, while human trafficking is the illegal transport of humans across the countries to acquire exploitation from them (Campana & Varese 2016).

The Pakistan and Afghanistan border was created when the British Imperial signed an agreement with Amir Abdur Rahman. The project was completed on 12 November 1893 utilizing bilateral consensus and was named a soften border at that time (Anwar et al., 2024). According to Kavya (2025), the border length of Pak-Afghan covers 2,430 kilometers, known prominent Durand line. The region includes mountain ranges, deserts, rivers and different biological diversities. Today, it is known for tensions, insecurity, smuggling mafias, and cross-border terrorism purpose.

The border length between Afghanistan and Balochistan is 1468 square kilometers. Spain Boldak -Chaman serves

as the only illegal trade route, but several other illegal transit points exist in Nushki and Chagai. Due to strong culture similarities, political instability, limited economic resources, and frequent social interaction in both sides, smuggling occurs easily. American anthropologist and social scientist Clyde Kluckhohn stated ‘culture is a mental map which guides us in our relations to our surroundings and to the people.’ This concept applies to the Nushki and Chagai region. There are seven categories of border crossers, including travelers, customers, migrants, refugees, visitors, trader tourists, and traffickers, the border crossing is routine basis (Kundi, 2016).

Smuggling has a huge impact on child labor and education in border areas. The study shows youths in these areas are involved due to the lack of education, financial crises faced by their families, societal pressure, and lack of supervision by families. since they are located near the border, smuggling activities attract them, and many students utilize smuggling as an alternative tool for earning. it directly affects their attendance and education (Aman et al., 2023). The border faces multiple problems for their survival. First, they encounter unemployment, economic dependency, family background, and financial issues in their region. Second, the lack of government interest in unemployment and failure to facilitate social sector create further challenges. Those who hold power cannot provide social welfare, and privileged people in society, contribute to economic vulnerability. Family background remains the basic source and the immediate cause of smuggling, the spate of violence, and other social problems or vices (Oyenuga et al., 2022).

Problem statement

The increasing of smuggling activities in border areas in Balochistan have led to serious socio- economic concerns. Children engage in smuggling activities because they have face extreme poverty, lack of education, societal pressure, the need to complete their financial requirements. This study will investigate how smuggling has enhanced child labor and examine the circumstances of this problem in Nushki and Chagai district in Pakistan (U.S. Department of State, 2024). By analyzing the foundational source and consequences of child involvement in smuggling, this research will provide valuable insights into the socio-economic challenges faced by the affected communities. Understanding these factors will help in developing effective policies and interventions to reduce child labor and address the underlying issues contrib-

uting to this practice.

Research Objectives

- To identify how smuggling activities attract children (aged 5 to 14) Nushki and Chagai.
- To analyze the socio-economic factors (poverty, education, health) that drive children into smuggling.
- To evaluate the types of catastrophes (social, economic, health) caused by smuggling in Nushki and Chagai by smuggling.
- To recommend the policy frameworks to reduce children involvement in these districts.

Literature Review

Smuggling has an adverse impact on government revenues, and cheap smuggled products destroy the local markets. Two main reasons for smuggling in Nigeria are, first, Protectionist policies by Nigerian government, and second, the High demand for imported goods by citizens. Petty and commercial smugglers are both active on the Nigerian border and bring goods at cheap prices into the territory without paying duties. Smuggling negatively impacts the economy of Nigeria as it promotes poverty, unemployment, and a direct loss of government revenues. It also has expensive social consequences, increase chaos and conflicts, and allows the flow of arms and weapons that contribute to civil wars and disrupt security. Smugglers generate insecurity with the assistance of corrupt officials. Smuggling affects the health sector because goods are sometimes expired and unhealthy, posing health dangers. It promotes drug supply, trafficking, and kidnapping. The younger generation sees smuggling as a shortcut to wealth, ignoring education (Oyenuga & Owugah., 2021).

Smuggling establishes temporary jobs for the community, but it has an adverse effect on the government. I agree with the author that smuggling destroys countries and promotes insecurity. In contrast, the author

did not mention that this phenomenon occurs due to illiteracy and did not suggest any plan on how to promote education to reduce smuggling activities. The author mentioned the state perspective, while neglecting the community perspective and struggle (Hatim et al., 2024).

(Debt bondage and child labor thrive in Pakistan's coalmines, 2020), argues Balochistan produces 2.2 billion tons and generates 15,000 tons daily in 5 major fields. There are worst conditions for labor, with low facilities, which is the reason workers suffocate, and lose their lives. The adults work on \$6 wages this is a kind of modern slavery. The owners exploit afghan migrants who had previously taken loans, and child laborers are given them 3\$ daily. One child said that if he did not work, he could not survive. Children face torture and sexual abuse at the mines in shahrag. The stakeholder apply few regulations and have transformed mining law. The author show how Balochistan province is resourceful, especially in coal reserves, and mentions real case studies of the exploitations of children in the fields. The overall phenomenon occurs due to the financial crisis faced by children, along with abuse and torture. But the author never discussed how to empower the communities or implement skill development programs, nor which sector play a key role in that. The governments should take initiatives to make laws and policies that build efficiency in resource production and help children acquire benefits (Ellis-Petersen,2020).

The huge variety of reptiles is available in Pakistan, but their numbers are declining due to an improper management system. Reptiles are used in traditional medicine, kept as pets, and for religion rituals. Under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild fauna and Flora), the illegal poaching and trade in Pakistan remain unregistered. Several were arrested for supplying illegal reptiles abroad, and Pakistani nationals were detained in Thailand. Collectors work in groups of in six to twelve male aged 14 to 50 years. A total of 5, 369 reptiles were recorded (Nushki =2311, Chagai = 1181), representing 19 species (Mansoor et al.,2020). In Balochistan, the issue remains unexplored, at least 35 endemic reptile species exist in the desert basin of Seistan and Balochistan. There is a lack of environmental ed-

ucation, awareness, trained staff, and coordination. The Balochistan Wildlife Act 2014 is enforced by provincial wildlife authorities, with support from local NGOs.

The author primarily focus on species rather than the smuggled persons and did not suggest any plan to educate the community to understand the importance of reptiles. How many individual are involved in that business, how dangerous it is, and how many are harmed or killed in that illegal process are not discussed why the government laws do not work effectively on the ground is also not addressed (Jablonski, 2020).

Drought is a natural disaster caused by a shortfall of rain and scarcity of water. The 1997 to 2004 drought In Nushki resulted in huge losses in agricultural and livestock, along with raising unemployment and other socio-economic challenges. Around 80% of gardens were destroyed leading to massive rural-to-urban migration. Several diseases spread among the population, and malnutrition affected maternal health. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and NGOs took efforts to reduce the impact (Rehman et al., 2019). Their main objective was to promote local resilience and building community capacity for the disaster response focusing on social, economic, physical human and institutional resilience.

This literature emphasizes how disasters create socio-economic issues and highlights administration miss management of administration during droughts. People seek alternative option to meet their needs. Since Nushki is located near the border, Smuggling the main preference of the community. Government institutions and NGOs have established education and healthcare systems and also provided relief for agriculture losses. Education can play a key role in reducing the illegal activities (Jamali, 2006).

Human smuggling and illegal trade are common in Balochistan, especially in Nokundi, Chagai. Annually, 30,000 to 40,000 people are smuggled from Pakistan, and 26,000 are deported by Iran. Smuggling routes include Karachi to Taftan (towards Iran and Turkey), Gawadar to the Middle East, Lasbela to Kech (towards Iran). Individuals, mostly aged 15 to 40, are caught from central Punjab districts seeking better opportunities (Notezai & Butt., 2018).

. Many are transported from Quetta, and passing into Mashkel via the Taftan road, commonly known as

the Landon road. The FIA struggles to stop smuggling due to the very long border, and some argue that the FIA is involved in corruption.

The author focused on one side of the issue and did not consider the socio-economic systems driving people toward smuggling activities. Moreover, no strong policy suggestions were provided to effectively address and rescind the problem. Important aspects like how smugglers face difficulties, how much earn annually, and where they invest their earnings were not discussed. In my thinking, providing education facilities in border areas is necessary to decrease and eventually terminate illegal human smuggling (Imran, 2018).

The borders have four common types: co-existent, independent, integrated, and alienated. Balochistan, covering 44% of Pakistan's area (347,000 km), shares a 1,640 border with Afghanistan, created in 1893 under the divide and rule policy with Afghan Amir Abdur Rehman (Kundi, 2016). After the civil war and 9/11, Afghan migrants entered Balochistan. Border areas include Dalbandin, Chagai, Nushki, Killa Abdullah, Pishin, Killa Saifullah, and Zhob, where Baloch and Pashtun are in the majority. Chaman is a legal transit point, but illegal routes also exist in Nushki and Chagai. Border crossers include migrants, refugees, visitors, trader tourists, travelers, customers, and traffickers. Transaction involve material and non-material items. The Rahdari system, private loan, and intermarriages are key interactions. Goods like cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco move through legal or illegal routes. Non-duty paid cars from Japan and Dubai enter via Iran and illegal Pakistan routes. Drug production and trade are also major activities. No legal data exists on Afghan migrants in Balochistan.

The author provides historic figures to understand the border and communities which lived for centuries, and does not concentrate on smuggling activities operating in the region. Additionally, how the supply of drugs disturbs the climate of Pakistan is not addressed. The author immensely focuses on society and does not suggest any recommendation plan or solution that can preserve the traditions of the community while operating under the rule of law (Tariq et al., 2024).

Smuggling is known as an organized crime involving different roles like transport planning, recruiting, and bribery. The tariff import restrictions and financial restrictions contribute to smuggling. The Founda-

tion means of smuggling involve illegal goods or legally produced items without paying taxes. Fiscal and monetary planner face issues because tax evasion adversely affects the economy, estimated between 2.91 to 3.34 trillion rupees GDP, but only 302 to 347 billion rupees GDP is recorded. Trade data gaps are associated with corruption and smuggling, and the situation is not better in international trade systems. Smuggling persists and companies are using it. The revenue gap is discussed through ARDL and ECM models. If adverse effect occur, these factors reduce the economic growth. Pakistan's economy enhanced in 1998, but after 1990 the hidden economy had an adverse impact (Hayat & Waleed, 2024). The rate delinked later in 2002, But education decreased the hidden economy. Enormous taxes, restricted labor laws, and weak governments create a hidden economy. The underground economy always impacts the direct economy. Smuggling is another option for domestic and international trade by bypassing tariffs and taxes. Smugglers use special tactics and achieve per person in human smuggling, creating an immense impact on social issues. The data is collected from 300 respondent in smuggling areas.

The writer emphasized that smuggling activities occur and their impact on the economy. In contrast, it is not emphasized why such huge activity is happening and what are the main consequences. How smugglers are involved in criminal activities, and the blame is placed on smugglers rather than on the government's monetary and fiscal policy, which promotes smuggling. What are the parameters through which the economy enhanced and declined in Pakistan. The author has not mentioned in which areas data are collected, and the only 300 respondents are not sufficient for whole country's data. What is the percentage of educated people active in smuggling (Batool et al.,).

Smuggling is a globally recognized crime. it involves the illegal transportation of living or non- living material. In contrast, smuggling frequent converts into trafficking. Which targets women, and children, as the main victims. The study evaluated the different consequences of domestic and international trafficking of girls, women, and children in Pakistan. Moreover, it illustrated the vulnerable demographics in Pakistan. The research, qualitative in nature, shows the concept of human trafficking analysis in Pakistan and the ongoing legal framework for human trafficking, with the consequences that arise within the legal system during implementation. The findings illustrated certain suggestions to reduce trafficking both domes-

tically or internationally (Khan et al., 2022)

The author clarified how smuggling converts into trafficking and mentioned each step involved, both domestically and internationally. The study illustrated frameworks and provided suggestions to decrease the effects. In contrast, not all cases involved kidnapping some individuals wanted a better life and were trapped in smuggling. The frameworks should aim to reduce poverty and provide opportunities, as this would decline the rate of poverty and smuggling.

People seek better economic opportunities and follow racial migration through legal and illegal processes. Illegal refers to smuggling across borders without permission or documents. The author mentioned distinct human trafficking, which is exploitation inside and outside of country. Most smuggling activities turn into trafficking. According to a UNDOC report, around 300,000 people are trafficked from Pakistan yearly. Major smuggling routes are in Balochistan province, especially Nushki and Chagai districts. International smuggling routes follow four phases: first Karachi to Taftan borders via RCD; second route Karachi to Lasbela through Kech; third Quetta

to western Balochistan via Mashkel in Chagai; and fourth route to provide fake passports for travel to Libya and then by boats to Europe. Smugglers pick people from Gujrat and Gujranwala division and push them to Europe. Woman and child are smuggled and exploited as camel jockeys in Dubai, especially, from Rahim Yar Khan. According to LHLRA 2013, about 19000 boys at age of 2 to 11 were smuggled to Gulf countries. Afghan migrants also pass through Naukundi Chagai near Iran border.

The author urges on human trafficking and did not examine how smuggling converts into trafficking. The people face ethnic violence in these dangerous routes. The FIA and other investigation agencies do not make proper assessment of the very long border region. Government will take initiative to form new laws and force to cover their boundaries and to collect the data of all foreign migrants which settled in Balochistan (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, 2020).

The child labor is unsuitable work engaged by children below the age of 14 years. It is a common work done by children at the age 5 to 14 and engaged in to help guardians in house keeping, some may sell pa-

pers or cigarettes in the avenues while other involve in formal and causal works. There are 306 million child works and 115 million have face in extreme circumstances. Pakistan is one of 192 the issue is available significantly in Balochistan. The certain reasons attract children forced to work, financial crisis, family size, and unemployment these children are breadwinner for their families at the age of 10 years worked in carpenter, shoe making, tailoring and farming. In Nushki children work to sell newspaper, mechanics and selling seeds at age of 14 years. They are deprive from their childhood and education it the time dream and play not work. The child labor is abuse it terminated the rights of child and government provide them education and skill programs and reduce poverty and child labor protection and an appeal to local government, administration, national and international, civil societies to play their role to address the issue (Nabila Habib 2025).

The author does not show how other parameters impact child in Balochistan and Nushki. Nushki is a border region where smuggling activities attract children, and it has multiple effects on children lives. Children face abuse, torture, mishaps, and even lose their lives. They suffer from extreme poverty, have limited economic opportunities, and receive little education, so smuggling becomes one option for them. The government should take initiatives to provide training and skill development programs. NGOs should empower and raise awareness in the communities and provide education. This is one of the worst things for society, and all stakeholders must be involved in policy implementation (Policy and Law Child Trafficking, 2025).

Theoretical framework

Human Capital Theory, introduced by Becker (1964), posits that individuals and societies invest in education and skills to enhance productivity and future income. From this perspective, child labor smuggling can be interpreted as a consequence of limited investment in children's education, particularly in impoverished regions. Families facing acute poverty may prioritize short-term economic survival over long-term benefits of education, leading to the commodification and smuggling of children for exploitative labor markets. Smugglers exploit this vulnerability by offering deceptive incentives to families, often under the guise of employment or

educational opportunities.

Methodology :

Quantitative methodology is used for this research paper. The data was collected from different vital informants, including 39 parents, 21 master/ustad (skilled or techers), and 34 adults who were child labourers in their childhood and 7 were local community stakeholders such as social workers, NGOs. The authors collected data through the Google survey forms. The sample size of this research paper 101 respondents. Purposive sampling techniques are used for this research paper. The purposive sampling technique was chosen because the intended population had specific experience with child labor and smuggling in the Nushki and Chagai districts. The participants were intentionally selected based on their pertinence and knowledge about the research topic. This confirmed that the data gathered would be rich and directly related to the research purpose. It is worth mentioning that those labourers who worked as labourers in their childhood are now over 20 years old. The survey from was conducted through a structured questionnaire. To ensure data authenticity, the structured questionnaire was pilot-tested with a small group before full circulation. Responses were checked for thoroughness and reliability. Replicate or contradictory entries were checked manually, and unclear responses were omitted. Only responses from individuals with confirmed residency in the study areas were included to maintain the accuracy of the data.

DATA COLLECTION

A simple mechanism was applied for the data collection process. Data was collected through a **quantitative data approach** by using Google Forms, the survey forms were distributed to the public, and data was acquired online through the Google survey forms. The main objective was to target individuals, with a special focus on the Rakhshan region, specifically in the Nushki and Chagai districts of Pakistan. Data was collected from 101 respondents belonging to the indigenous community in the region. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: primary, which

achieved demographic information such as gender, age, qualification, district, and background of the respondents; and Secondary, which included structured questions investigating the smuggling on child labor in the Nushki and Chagai districts of Balochistan. The questions were designed using a Likert scale, to evaluate the respondent views on smuggling and child labor.

Sample Characteristics and Descriptive Statistics

The sample characteristics determined upon the demographic information in the questionnaire described under along with the frequencies and descriptive statistics for each item.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid male	83	82.2	82.2	82.2
female	17	16.8	16.8	99.0
prefer no to say	1	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Table 1: shows the percentage of gender participation. Male involvement is in vast number, 82.2 %, while female participation is 16.8%, and one respondent did not prefer to state their gender.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 19-25	60	59.4	59.4	59.4
26-32	30	29.7	29.7	89.1
33-39	3	3.0	3.0	92.1
40 and above	8	7.9	7.9	100.0

Total	101	100.0	100.0
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Table 2: Age Group Distribution of Respondents

Table 2: Presents the age distribution of the respondents in four sub parts. Most of the respondents fall in the age group of 19-25 (59.4) followed by the 26-32 age group with 29.7%. Only three respondents belong to the 33-39 age group, and 7.9% are in the 40 and above category.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Intermediate	20	19.8	19.8	19.8
Bachelor's Degree	44	43.6	43.6	63.4
Master's Degree or Higher	32	31.7	31.7	95.0
No formal Education	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 3: differentiate in Qualification

The education level is characterized in four divisions: First, 19.8% are provided by Intermediate; second 43.6% are provided by the Bachelor's level, which is the higher in the table; third, 31.7% are provided by Master's or Higher, and only 5% are provided by No Formal Education.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Nushki	70	69.3	69.3	69.3
	Chagai	26	25.7	25.7	95.0
	Others	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 4: Districts

The majority of the data was collected from Nushki district, which accounts for 70 respondents (69.3%). Another 26 respondents (25.7%) were from Chagai district, Moreover, 5% of the respondents did not disclose their districts.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	8	7.9	7.9	7.9
	Disagree	12	11.9	11.9	19.8
	Neutral	22	21.8	21.8	41.6
	Agree	47	46.5	46.5	88.1
	Strongly agree	12	11.9	11.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 5: Children in my area are often involved in transporting smuggled goods.

According to Table 5, 46.5% agreed that children in their area were often involved in transporting smuggled goods. 21.8% were neutral, 11.9% strongly agree, 11.9%, disagree, and 7.9% strongly disagree.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	7	6.9	6.9	6.9
	Disagree	12	11.9	11.9	18.8
	Neutral	12	11.9	11.9	30.7
	Agree	46	45.5	45.5	76.2
	Strongly agree	24	23.8	23.8	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 6: 2) Smuggling is the only source of income for many families in this region.

Table 6 describe that 45.5% agreed that smuggling is the only source of income for families in their region. 23.8% strongly agree, 11.9% were neutral, 11.9% disagreed, while 6.9% strongly disagree.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	8	7.9	7.9	7.9
	Disagree	26	25.7	25.7	33.7
	Neutral	21	20.8	20.8	54.5
	Agree	25	24.8	24.8	79.2
	Strongly agree	21	20.8	20.8	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 7: 3) Schools in Nushki and Chagai provide enough motivation for children to stay in school.

Table 7 shows that 24.8% agreed that schools provide insufficient motivation for children to stay in school in Nushki and Chagai, 25.7% disagree, 20.8% strongly agree, 20.8% were neutral, and 7.9% strongly disagreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	10	9.9	9.9	9.9
	Disagree	32	31.7	31.7	41.6
	Neutral	28	27.7	27.7	69.3
	Agree	23	22.8	22.8	92.1
	Strongly agree	8	7.9	7.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 8: 4) Parents willingly encourage their children to take part in smuggling.

Table 8 demonstrate that 31.7% disagreed that parents willingly encourage their children to take part in smuggling activities. 27.7%, were neutral, 22.8% agree, 9.9% strongly disagreed, while 7.9%, were strongly agree.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	26	25.7	25.7	25.7
	Disagree	24	23.8	23.8	49.5
	Neutral	18	17.8	17.8	67.3
	Agree	21	20.8	20.8	88.1
	Strongly agree	12	11.9	11.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 9: 5) Smuggling is a safer option for children compared to other available work.

Table 9 indicates that 25.7% strongly disagreed that smuggling is a safer option for children compared to other available work, 23.8% disagreed, 20.8% agree, 17.8%, were neutral, and 11.9%, strongly agree.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	7	6.9	6.9	6.9
	Disagree	4	4.0	4.0	10.9
	Neutral	21	20.8	20.8	31.7
	Agree	39	38.6	38.6	70.3
	Strongly agree	30	29.7	29.7	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 10: 6) Most children involved in smuggling would prefer to attend school if given the opportunity.

Table 10 reflects that 38.6% agreed that most children involved in smuggling would prefer to attend school if given the opportunity, 29.7%, strongly agreed, 20.8% were neutral, 6.9%, strongly disagree, and 4% disagreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Disagree	5	5.0	5.0	8.9
	Neutral	11	10.9	10.9	19.8
	Agree	37	36.6	36.6	56.4
	Strongly agree	44	43.6	43.6	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 11: 7) Financial hardship is the main reason children leave school for smuggling.

Table 11 illustrated that 43.6% strongly agreed that financial hardship is the main reason children leave school for smuggling. 36.6% agreed, 10.9% were neutral, 4%, strongly disagreed, and 5% disagree.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	32	31.7	31.7	31.7
Disagree	37	36.6	36.6	68.3
Neutral	10	9.9	9.9	78.2
Agree	17	16.8	16.8	95.0
Strongly agree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table12: 8) Smuggling has no real impact on a child's physical or mental health.

Table 12 shows that 36.6%, disagreed that smuggling has no real impact on a child's physical or mental health. 31.7%, strongly disagreed, 16.8%, agreed, 9.9%, were neutral, and 5% strongly agreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	24	23.8	23.8	23.8
Disagree	38	37.6	37.6	61.4
Neutral	17	16.8	16.8	78.2
Agree	17	16.8	16.8	95.0
Strongly agree	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 13: Community leaders are working to reduce child involvement in smuggling.

Table 13 indicates that 37.6% disagreed that community leaders are working to reduce child involvement in smuggling. 23.8% strongly disagreed, 16.8%, were neutral, 16.8% agree, and 5% strongly agreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	20	19.8	19.8	19.8
Disagree	30	29.7	29.7	49.5
Neutral	19	18.8	18.8	68.3
Agree	23	22.8	22.8	91.1
Strongly agree	9	8.9	8.9	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 14: 10) Children involved in smuggling develop valuable life skills.

Table 14 demonstrates that 29.7%, disagreed that children involved in smuggling develop valuable life skills., 22.8%, agreed, 19.8%, strongly disagree, 18.8%, were neutral, and 8.9% strongly agreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	7	6.9	6.9	6.9
Disagree	3	3.0	3.0	9.9
Neutral	7	6.9	6.9	16.8
Agree	37	36.6	36.6	53.5
Strongly agree	47	46.5	46.5	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table15: 11) Educational institutions in the area lack basic resources and facilities.

Table 15 described that 46.5% strongly agreed that educational institutions in the area lack basic resources and facilities. Moreover, 36.6%, agreed, 6.9%, were neutral, 6.9%, strongly disagreed, and 3% disagreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	7	6.9	6.9	6.9
	Disagree	15	14.9	14.9	21.8
	Neutral	25	24.8	24.8	46.5
	Agree	41	40.6	40.6	87.1
	Strongly agree	13	12.9	12.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 16: 12) Peer pressure plays a role in children becoming part of smuggling networks.

According to Table 16, 40.6% agreed that peer pressure plays a role in children becoming part of the smuggling network. Furthermore, 24.8%, were neutral, 14.9%, disagreed, 12.9%, strongly agreed, and 6.9% were also strongly agreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	30	29.7	29.7	29.7
	Disagree	33	32.7	32.7	62.4
	Neutral	17	16.8	16.8	79.2
	Agree	15	14.9	14.9	94.1
	Strongly agree	6	5.9	5.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 17 13) Government efforts to control smuggling in this region are effective.

The table illustrated that 32.7%, disagreed that government efforts to control smuggling in this region are effective.

Others, 29.7%, strongly disagreed, 16.8%, were neutral, 14.9%, agreed, and 5.9% strongly agreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	11	10.9	10.9	10.9
Disagree	12	11.9	11.9	22.8
Neutral	13	12.9	12.9	35.6
Agree	43	42.6	42.6	78.2
Strongly agree	22	21.8	21.8	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 18: 14) Smuggling helps children contribute positively to their household income.

Table 18 defined that 42.6% agreed that smuggling helps children contribute positively to their household income,

while others, 21.8%, strongly agreed, 12.9%, were neutral, 11.9%, disagreed, and 10.9% strongly disagreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
Disagree	5	5.0	5.0	8.9
Neutral	19	18.8	18.8	27.7
Agree	46	45.5	45.5	73.3
Strongly agree	27	26.7	26.7	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 19: 15) Smuggling exposes children to dangerous people and situations.

Table 19 reflects that 45.5 %, agreed that smuggling exposes children to dangerous people and situations. 26.7%,

strongly agreed, 18.8%, were neutral, 5%, disagreed, and 4% strongly disagreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	8	7.9	7.9	7.9
	Disagree	14	13.9	13.9	21.8
	Neutral	34	33.7	33.7	55.4
	Agree	38	37.6	37.6	93.1
	Strongly agree	7	6.9	6.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 20: 16) Most families in this region would support laws against child smuggling.

Table 20 demonstrated that 37.6% agreed that most families in the region would support laws against child smuggling. Others, 33.7%, were neutral, 13.9%, disagreed, 7.9%, strongly disagreed, and 6.9%, strongly agreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	3	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Disagree	6	5.9	5.9	8.9
	Neutral	9	8.9	8.9	17.8
	Agree	28	27.7	27.7	45.5
	Strongly agree	55	54.5	54.5	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 21: 17) Lack of job opportunities for adults forces children into smuggling.

Table 21 illustrated that 54.5% strongly agreed that the lack of job opportunities for adults forces children into smuggling. Others, 27.7%, agreed, 8.9%, were neutral, 5.9% disagreed, and 3% also strongly disagreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	7	6.9	6.9	6.9
Disagree	24	23.8	23.8	30.7
Neutral	23	22.8	22.8	53.5
Agree	34	33.7	33.7	87.1
Strongly agree	13	12.9	12.9	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 22: 18) Religious or cultural values prevent families from allowing child smuggling.

The table described that 33.7% agreed that religious or cultural values prevent families from allowing child smuggling. Furthermore, 22.8%, were neutral, 23.8%, disagreed, 12.9%, strongly agreed, and 6.9% strongly disagreed.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	4	4.0	4.0	4.0
Disagree	8	7.9	7.9	11.9
Neutral	19	18.8	18.8	30.7
Agree	42	41.6	41.6	72.3
Strongly agree	28	27.7	27.7	100.0
Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 23: 19) Child labor in smuggling is worse than child labor in shops or agriculture.

The table shows that 41.6% agreed that child labor in smuggling is worse than child labor in shops or agriculture. Others, 27.7% strongly agreed, 18.8% were neutral, 7.9%, disagreed, and 4%, strongly disagreed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	13	12.9	12.9	12.9
	Disagree	30	29.7	29.7	42.6
	Neutral	27	26.7	26.7	69.3
	Agree	23	22.8	22.8	92.1
	Strongly agree	8	7.9	7.9	100.0
	Total	101	100.0	100.0	

Table 24: 20) Media and local campaigns have helped reduce the appeal of smuggling for children.

The table reflects that 29.7% disagreed that media and local campaigns have helped reduce the appeal of smuggling for children. Others, 26.7%, were neutral, 22.8%, agreed, 12.9% strongly disagreed, and 7.9% strongly agreed.

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.751	17

Reliability Analysis

The reliability analysis will be inspected from the Cronbach Alpha. If the Cronbach Alpha is above 0.7, then the data is considered reliable and accepted for further tests. The recent data illustrated 0.751; it should be excellent for the test and fulfills the standard value. The whole Cronbach's Alpha mechanism is mention below:

- 1.If Cronbach's Alpha value is > 0.9 , it is considered excellent.

- 2.If Cronbach's Alpha value is > 0.8 , it is considered good.
- 3.If Cronbach's Alpha value is > 0.7 , it is considered acceptable.
- 4.If Cronbach's Alpha value is $0.6 < \alpha < 0.7$, it is Questionable.
- 5.If Cronbach's Alpha value is $0.5 < \alpha < 0.6$, it is considered poor.
- 6.If Cronbach's Alpha value is < 0.5 , it is considered Unacceptable.

Hypothesis1

One sample t test was conducted to examine whether children involved in smuggling lack of financial opportunities. The value of the test was set at 3, and the value of p is .000 hence it accepted alternative hypothesis and the null hypothesis that financial opportunities do not children into smuggling is rejected.

Hypothesis2

One sample t test was conducted to analyze whether children involved in smuggling lack of educational opportunities. The value of the test was set at 3, and the value of p is .000 hence it accepted alternative hypothesis and the null hypothesis the lack of educational opportunities do not involve children into smuggling is rejected.

Hypothesis 3

One sample t test was conducted to examine whether the smuggling affect child mental health. The value of the test was set at 3, and the value of p is .105 it means there is no significance difference between mean and 3 for hypothesis 3. The null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative

hypothesis is rejected.

Hypothesis 4

One sample t test was conducted to analyze whether the government laws and NGOs action do not reduce child labor and smuggling in the region. The value of the test was set at 3, and the value of p is .003 the alternative hypothesis is accepted the null hypothesis government and NGOs effective action to decrease child labor and smuggling is rejected.

FINDINGS

The research findings are based on a collected quantitative survey from 101 respondents to investigate the impact of smuggling on child labor in Nushki and Chagai, Balochistan. A large number of respondents were aged 19 to 25, indicating that the younger generation is more aware of the issue. The majority were males with bachelor's-level education suggesting educated individuals were more accessible during the data collection. Enormous numbers of children are engaged in child labor due to a deficiency of financial opportunities, and socio-economic conditions. The findings revealed a dilemma within families. While many parents discourage smuggling due to financial pressure, some are left with no choice but to push their children into smuggling. The children who are involved in smuggling do so because there is no vital alternative and face dangerous consequences as compared to other jobs. Sometimes they face adverse circumstances and loss their lives. They have not fulfilled their fundamental requirements and aim to achieve better socio-economic conditions. if they do not participate in smuggling activities, they cannot survive in the society. Another reason is insufficient educational opportunities or infrastructure, the community's distrust of government efforts. A significant number of respondents argued that community leader and local authorities are not performing role in primary and

secondary education. Poor infrastructure also demotivated children from continuing their education. Most of the children associated with smuggling were illiterate and do not know about their fundamental rights. Education can fill the gap. The children want to attend classes and take advantage of education, which can create innovative ideas, establish new opportunities, and build a positive and peaceful impact in the society. In contrast, when children do not have adequate educational opportunities, it can disturb law and order situations and promote an unpeaceful society. Smuggling does not gigantically affect the mental health of children. Some responses mentioned that the children engaged in smuggling can face not only physical risks such as accidents or violence but are also exposed to criminal environments. Although mental health was not significantly impacted according to the data, the potential long-term trauma cannot be ignored. Some respondents did not mention that smuggling had much impact on health. The government provides regulations or laws, frameworks to tackle the issues, and NGOs raise awareness in the community. Children know their basic rights and seek to acquire their childhood happiness, but current circumstances are not enough to reduce child labor and smuggling. The respondents suggested that vocational training and education programs can serve as the alternatives to smuggling. Some respondents argued that the government and NGOs should transfer cash payment and collaborate with schools. The findings clearly show that without multi-stakeholder action including law enforcement, education departments, NGOs, and community leaders child smuggling cannot be eliminated. The lack of jobs, schooling, and legal enforcement presents a structural failure that must be urgently addressed to restore childhood to these vulnerable groups

Conclusion

Smuggling activities have been happening from past to recent times. Smuggling provides routes without permission or involves illegal entering another country for trade purposes. An enormous level of smuggling operations is done in Nushki and Chagai, Balochistan. These lead to serious

issues in the community. Children are attracted to smuggling processes and become involved in the operations because they do not have any financial prospects and are engaged in smuggling. Further, societal pressure plays role in the part of smuggling. Illiterate children also participate in smuggling due to insufficient learning opportunities. Education reduces smuggling operations and also empower the children. They face the worst conditions in illegal activities, which disturb their mental health. The government provides new frameworks and programs to decrease smuggling and empower children ensure their child rights.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are based upon the research:

Nushki and Chagai are rural and underprivileged areas of Balochistan. to improve communication with the urban center of Quetta, the first step should be the development of road infrastructure. Upgrade the N-40 highway and expanding rural-urban road networks, along with enhancing public transport systems, will significantly increase market accessibility for rural communities.

In parallel, building digital connectivity is essential. Providing internet access and digital tools such as telemedicine can connect patients in remote areas with doctors in urban centers. Promoting digital platforms like, Alibaba and Amazon will help rural entrepreneurs enter broader markets through e-commerce.

The government should also introduce financial opportunities by offering microfinance loans for sewing machine, handicrafts, farming, and technologies like Precision livestock farming (PLF) and smart agriculture. These strategies will enhance local infrastructure, promote entrepreneurship, and actively engage villager. Such efforts not only reduce the influence of smuggling but

also assist as powerful tools for sustainable community development. They will help decrease inequality and improve the overall socio-economic conditions of the region.

To uplift education in border communities, both NGOs and the government must take proactive steps. According to Amartya Sen's Capability Approach, education expands individual freedoms and livelihood choice. Similarly, the Human Capital Theory argues that investment in education leads to higher productivity and economic growth. Community-based programs such as non-formal education, adult literacy classes, vocational training, and digital literacy should be introduced in Nushki and Chagai. Corporate social responsibilities (CSR) funding can support the development educational infrastructure and resources.

Children in these areas also face severe consequences due to smuggling, including harm to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. The government should introduce community health initiatives similar to Bangladesh's BRAC Community Health Worker Program, training local women in basic healthcare, maternal and child health, and health education. Door-to-door vaccination drives and subsidy programs like *Sehat Sahulat*, already implemented in Punjab, should be extended to these districts. A robust healthcare system is vital for a productive and healthy community.

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cination drivers and subsidy programs like Sehat Sahulat already implemented in Punjab, should be extended to these districts. A strong healthcare system is crucial for a productive and healthy community.

The government applied to revoke smuggling activities through the Customs Act, 1969, Anti-Smuggling Act, 1977, Control of Narcotic Substances Act, 1997, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947, and Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), 1860. These frameworks increase the sensitivity of the case because when the government follows strict laws, it increases the demand price, which attracts the natives to benefit from it. I provided the above Nigerian case study in literature review. I recommended another citizen-oriented decisions for the government: to work on the root causes of the problem and fulfill the first four recommendation so that citizens aware of these dangers in Nushki and Chagai.

NGOs like Transparency International Pakistan (TIP), Sustainable Policy Development Institute (SPDI), Surhad Rural Support Program (SRSP), and Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), play a crucial role in awareness, advocacy, and community-based solutions. These NGOs work with village members to raise awareness that smuggling destroy families. They create advanced advertisements in Brahui and Balochi, using social media platforms to spread this message effectively in Nushki and Chagai, Balochistan.

Community engagement events can promote positive energy in society. In Nushki, two football tournaments were arranged for the mentally disabled and individual affected by methampheta-

mine addiction. These tournaments helped construct awareness, advocacy and social cohesion in the Nushki district. Actors should provide funding for community engagement events, and the efforts should involve children and the youth generation in sports, which has an indirect effect in reducing smuggling in the region.

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