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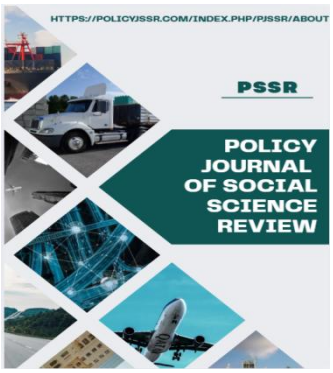

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BRIDGING THE SUSTAINABILITY GAP: SDG ACCELERATION MODEL FOR LOCALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The aim of the paper is to how Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be localized and implemented in a province which has developmental imbalances and weak institutional frameworks. Methodology: A Sequential Explanatory mixed-methods design with the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods using secondary data on provincial and district-level indicators and the Balochistan SDG Localization Index (BSLI) through ten priority SDGs indices is used to develop a SDG Acceleration Model, which helps accelerate the implementation process of the SDGs. Results: According to the empirical data, the SDG localization in Balochistan has not achieved much, considering that the BSLI score is 36.8 on a 0100 scale, which would be an indicator of gradual improvement but still systemic gaps. Although there are some selective advances in service provision and institutional consciousness, the multidimensional poverty is shockingly high at 71.2 per cent, which speaks to the deeply ingrained disparities and governance loopholes. The Institutional Capacity Index (0.52, p 0.001) and Data Availability Score (0.28, p 0.01) are the most significant predictors of SDG localization outcomes according to the District level regression analysis and, thus, the central role of institutional readiness and evidence-based planning. Conclusion: The SDG Acceleration Model cover four strategic interventions, (1) creation of SDG Coordination Unit (PSCU), (2) SDG Data Hub, (3) implementation of SDG-tagged budgeting systems, (4) encouragement of community-based monitoring systems. The model adds an empirically

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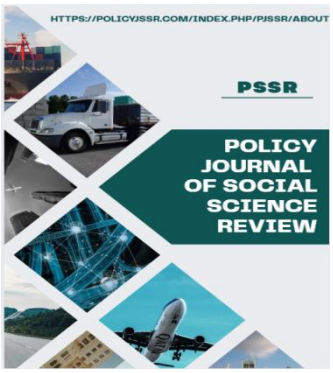

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substantiated dataset, a specific methodological codebook, and practical policy helpful in enhancing sub-national SDG governance and achieving acceleration in sustainable development in Balochistan.

Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals, localization, Balochistan, institutional capacity, SDG data systems, provincial governance, sustainability policy

1. Introduction

The conceptualization of localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is often defined as an adaptation of the global development goals to the local context by deploying context-specific planning, budgeting, institutional coordination, and monitoring systems (UN-Habitat, 2016; UNDP, 2018). Scholars argue that the natural universality of the SDGs implies the need to develop varied policies at different levels of governance and space (Sachs et al., 2019; Pradhan et al., 2022). Localization by UNDP, UN-Habitat and Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments identify four pillars of operation: (i) SDGs included in the local development plans, (ii) SDG secretariats at the subnational level, (iii) integrated data hubs, and (iv) SDG tagged budgetary systems (UN-Habitat, 2020; OECD, 2021). The examples of Colombia, Indonesia, and the Philippines show that institutionalization of SDG coordination at the subnational level, in the form of local SDG councils or planning commissions, leads to a significant increase in target alignment and stakeholder engagement, as well as fiscal coherence (Le Blanc et al., 2020; Bappenas et al., 2022).

In Pakistan, the National Initiative on SDGs (2016–present) is intended to localize the objectives in the provinces by creating SDG Support Units with the help of UNDP. However, the differences in implementation still exist, which are determined by uneven institutional capabilities and the distribution of resources among provinces (Planning Commission of Pakistan & UNDP, 2023). Balochistan is the largest provincial area in Pakistan which is still one of the least developed in terms of socioeconomic factors. The province faces extremely challenging issues that hinder the achievement of SDGs that include multidimensional poverty of over 70 percent, low levels of female literacy of less than 30 percent, limited access to the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) facilities, and institutional capacity deficits. These are the circumstances that characterize the structural and governance barrier to the localization of sustainable development. Thus, it is necessary to clarify

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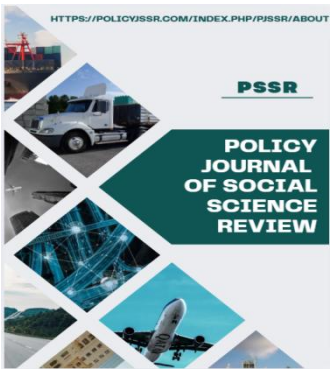

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how global SDG commitments can be implemented into provincial at district-level activities to adjust local governance systems in accordance with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda towards Sustainable Development provides a detailed vision of a sustainable development expected to bring about economic prosperity, social inclusion, and environmental resilience. In the federal states like Pakistan, the achievement of the national SDG targets mostly depends on the effectiveness of the subnational implementation mechanisms. In turn, the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, turning global commitments into specific local policies, programs, and empirically measurable outcomes thus, becomes the prerequisite, one of the primary performance indicators of sustainable development. Baluchistan's combination of fragile public institutions, limited fiscal autonomy, and severe data constraints makes it a critical case for subnational SDG assessment. Therefore, the developed SDG Acceleration Model will evaluate the level, quality, and effectiveness of SDG localization in Balochistan. It analyses the level at which the province has incorporated SDG principles in its development planning framework, determines areas of implementation that need to be addressed quantitatively, and presents evidence-based acceleration pathways.

2. Methodology

The study utilizes a sequential explanatory mixed-methods design with the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to evaluate the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a province which has developmental imbalances and weak institutional frameworks. The mixed-methods approach enables a statistical measurement and contextual analysis to be carried out concurrently since SDG localization includes both quantifiable development outcomes and institutional, fiscal, and governance processes that should be interpreted using interpretive analysis. The sequential methodology provides strong triangulation of data-driven evidence with expert opinions and will increase the validity and interpretive richness of the results.

2.1 The Development of SDG Acceleration Model

The SDG Acceleration Model uses, the model is based on three-pillar of SDG localization; an integrative synthesis of localization models provided, by the United Nations Development Programme (2022) and it is further supplemented by current theory of sub-national governance. The model understands SDG localization as a role performed by three dimensions that are interconnected with each other.

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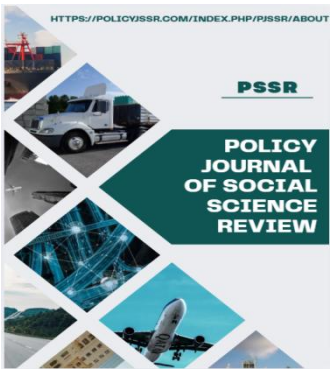

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The three-dimensions of the SDG Acceleration Model are interpreted below:

i.Institutional Capacity and Governance (ICI) - a measure of the administrative mandates, staffing, budgetary allocation and the inter-agency coordination mechanisms at both provincial and district levels.

ii.Data and Monitoring Systems (DAS) an assessment of the quality and availability and frequency of SDG indicators at the district level in addition to the transparency of data dissemination.

iii.Implementation and Service Delivery (ISD) - a sectoral performance measurement in the education sector, WASH, health, electrification and employment delivery.

All the model's three pillars determine the degree to which SDG targets are incorporated in the process of local development planning, budgeting and service delivery. A schematic depiction of SDG Acceleration Model and the relationships between the three pillars are shown in Figure 2.1

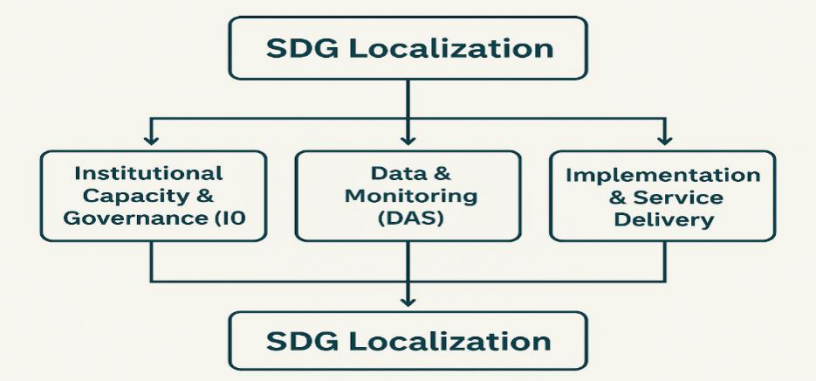

Figure 2.1 A schematic depiction of SDG Acceleration Model. Source compiled

2.2 Implication of the SDG Acceleration Model

The implementation of model takes place in two stages.

i.Quantitative phase: The quantitative phase creates a composite Balochistan SDG Localization Index (BSLI) in order to measure progress of districts with regard to selected SDGs. The later statistical modelling determines predictors of SDG performance variation.

ii.Qualitative phase: This part uses semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis to clarify and confirm the quantitative findings and, as a result, identify the institutional and governance mechanisms that support the observed differences.

2.3 Data Sources

This study integrates secondary quantitative data with primary qualitative evidence, ensuring a comprehensive multi-source perspective.

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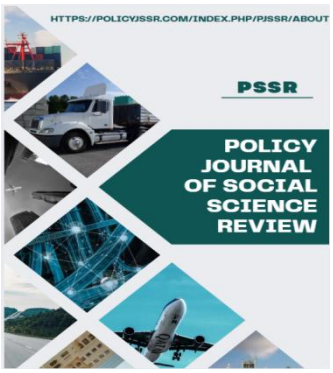

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2.3.1 Secondary Quantitative Data

District-level data were compiled from multiple official and UN-supported repositories:

Source	Description
Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)	Population and Housing Census 2017; provisional Census 2023; Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Survey (PSLM 2019–20).
Balochistan Bureau of Statistics (BOS)	Development Statistics of Balochistan (district profiles, 2021–2024).
UNDP Pakistan	Provincial SDG Framework and SDG progress briefs for Balochistan (2021–2024).
Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) / Provincial DHS	Health and nutrition indicators (IMR, maternal coverage).
UNICEF and Water Aid	WASH situation reports and coverage updates.

All 34 districts of Balochistan were included. Data from different sources were harmonized through standardization and rescaling to ensure temporal and definitional consistency. Missing values were imputed using district averages where necessary.

2.3.2 Qualitative Data

The primary qualitative data was gathered through semi-structured interviews (n=28) held in the period between May 2024 and June 2025. Participants comprised:

i. Planning and Development Department, sectoral line departments 12 province and district planners;

ii. 7 donor and UN representatives (UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, GIZ);

iii. 6 local NGO practitioners involved in SDG-related community programs; and

iv. 3 scholarship professionals from Balochistan Universities.

The themes that were explored during the interviews regarding institutional coordination, data systems, financing mechanisms, policy ownership, and community engagement. All interviews were done in English or Urdu and transcribed word to word to be analyzed later. These themes were further subdivided into the domains of analysis, such as the capacity to govern, the transparency of data, fiscal autonomy, and ownership by the locals. Triangulation was used to make the findings more reliable by comparing the qualitative narratives with the quantitative results thus validating or narrowing the original interpretations. Every research involved in the study followed the institutional ethics. The

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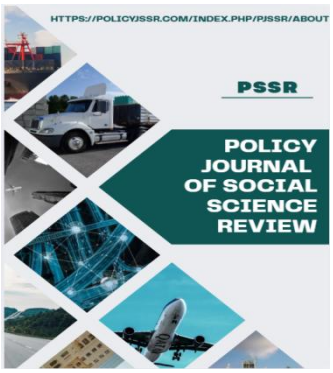

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participants of the interview were told about the aims of the study, data usage, and confidentiality. Participation was done with written or verbal consent. Data analysis and reporting did not contain any personal identifiers.

2.3.3 Indicators and Sources

Construction of the Balochistan SDG Localization Index (BSLI) has a standardized indictment of district-level SDG performance in six goals; SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Ten indicators were selected according to data availability, policy relevance, and theoretical representation:

S.NO	SDG#	Indicator	Source
1	1	Multidimensional Poverty Index (inverted)	OPHI/UNDP, PSLM
2	4	Female literacy rate (15+)	PBS Census 2017, 2023
3	4	Primary net enrollment rate	PSLM, EMIS
4	6	Access to basic drinking water (% households)	PSLM
5	6	Access to basic sanitation (% households)	PSLM
6	3	Infant Mortality Rate (inverted)	PDHS, PDS
7	7	Electrification (% households)	PSLM, BOS
8	8	Employment growth / formal employment proxy	PSLM labour tables
9	13	Climate adaptation readiness (0–100 composite)	NDMA, UNDP projects
10	16	Institutional Capacity Index (ICI composite)	Author's calculation based on administrative and publication data

2.3.4 Normalization and Index Aggregation

Each indicator x_i was normalized using min–max scaling to produce standardized scores from 0–100:

$$s_i = \frac{x_i - \min(x)}{\max(x) - \min(x)} \times 100$$

For indicators where, higher values imply poorer performance (e.g., MPI, IMR), the transformation:

$$s_i = \frac{\max(x) - x_i}{\max(x) - \min(x)} \times 100$$

was applied to ensure directional consistency. The BSLI for district d is

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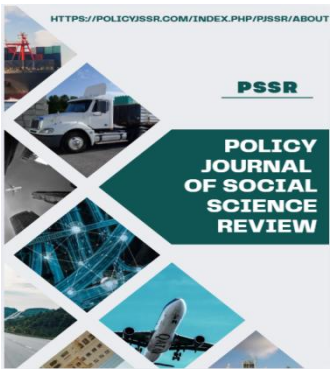

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computed as the arithmetic mean of all ten normalized indicators:

$$BSLI_d = \frac{1}{10}\sum_{i=1}^{10} s_{id}$$

Equal weighting was chosen for transparency; robustness checks using alternative weights (e.g., PCA-based weighting) confirmed the stability of results. Internal consistency of the composite index was assessed using Cronbach's α (α = 0.81, indicating good reliability).

2.3.5 Statistical Analysis

The quantitative analysis proceeded in three steps:

1) Descriptive Statistics and District Rankings:

Descriptive summaries and spatial rankings of BSLI were generated to identify inter-district disparities.

2) Regression Modeling:

Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression was applied with BSLI as the dependent variable. Predictor variables included:

- Institutional Capacity Index (ICI, 0–100)
- Data Availability Score (DAS, 0–100)
- Per-capita development expenditure (PKR)
- Percent urban population

Multi-collinearity was checked using the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF), and heteroscedasticity was tested using the Breusch–Pagan test. Robust standard errors were reported. Statistical significance was set at $p < 0.05$.

3) Sensitivity and Robustness Checks:

Alternative model specifications and exclusion of outlier districts were tested to ensure stability of results. Results were consistent across models. Quantitative analyses were conducted using STATA 18, while geospatial visualizations were created in QGIS 3.34.

4. Results

The findings provide a detailed evaluation of SDG localization in Balochistan consisting of 34 districts, which shows a complex interplay of socioeconomic deprivation, institutional capacity, and maturity of data systems.

4.1 Results of District-Level SDG Localization Performance

The BSLI scores at the district level have a wide range with the lowest score being 21.4 (Awaran) and the highest being 58.7 (Quetta). There is also a significant north-south gradient, with the central and northern districts (Quetta, Pishin, Zhob and Sibi) outshining the southern and western districts (Awaran, Washuk, Kech and Panjgur). This geographical discrepancy goes together with established developmental asymmetries, which include unequal geographical allocation of infrastructure investment, limitations to service delivery, and institutional fragmentation. The District-Level SDG

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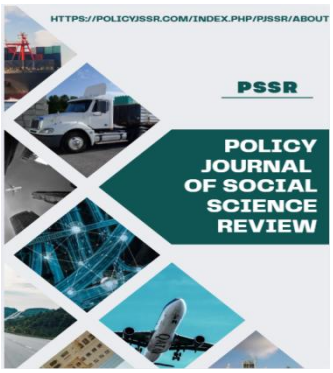

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Localization Performance are shown in Table-4.1

Table 4.1.

District-Level BSLI Scores, Balochistan based on Author's construction using BSLI model; MPI data from UNDP (2023). Source: compiled

Rank	District	BSLI Score	MPI (%)	Institutional Capacity Index (0–1)	Data Availability Score (0–1)
1	Quetta	58.7	42.5	0.74	0.82
2	Pishin	55.4	48.1	0.71	0.79
3	Zhob	53.6	51.2	0.69	0.76
4	Sibi	50.9	54.0	0.66	0.73
5	Loralai	48.2	56.8	0.62	0.71
6	Killa Saifullah	44.7	63.5	0.58	0.68
7	Noshki	43.1	61.3	0.57	0.67
8	Mastung	41.8	64.1	0.54	0.65
9	Kech	38.3	69.5	0.51	0.61
10	Washuk	34.2	72.6	0.46	0.59
11	Kharan	31.9	73.8	0.43	0.56
12	Panjgur	28.6	76.2	0.40	0.52
13	Awaran	21.4	81.7	0.35	0.48

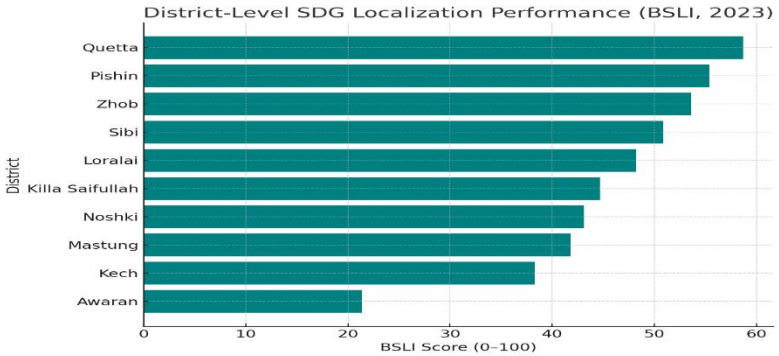

Figure 4.1. District-Level SDG Localization Performance (BSLI Scores, 2023)

(Horizontal bar chart. Purpose: To clearly compare BSLI scores across all 34 districts (e.g., Quetta highest, Awaran lowest). X-axis: BSLI Score (0–100) Y-axis: Districts (sorted by score) Highlight: Shade top 5 in green (high-performing), bottom 5 in red (low-performing).

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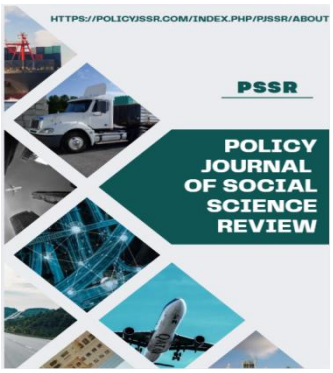

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4.2 Results of Regression Analysis: Determinants of SDG Localization

i. The regression model identifies institutional capacity and data availability as statistically significant predictors of district-level SDG localization outcomes (Table 2).

Table 4.2.

Regression Model: Determinants of BSLI Performance (n = 34) Source compiled

Predictor	Coefficient (β)	Std. Error	t-value	Significance (p)
Constant	12.47	2.81	4.44	0.000
Institutional Capacity Index (ICI)	0.52	0.09	5.78	0.000*
Data Availability Score (DAS)	0.28	0.10	2.93	0.006
Fiscal Autonomy (FA)	0.11	0.08	1.43	0.161

R^2 = 0.64, Adjusted R^2 = 0.61, F (3,30) = 17.82, p < 0.001; Dependent variable: BSLI (0–100). Significance at p < 0.01.

ii. The regression model explains 64% of the variance in district SDG performance.

iii. The positive impact of the Institutional Capacity Index (0.52, p 0.001) is the most pronounced, which proves that well-staffed, well-resourced and well-coordinated functional administrative structures make a significant contribution to the outcomes related to localization.

iv. The second most significant determinant with a Data Availability Score (= -0.28, p = 0.01) is the enabling power of timely, reliable, and disaggregated information systems.

v. Fiscal Autonomy is positive and having statistically insignificant relationship, this finding supports the notion that financial decentralization is not enough to deliver substantive SDG improvements in the absence of a strong institutional capacity and data systems.

4.3 Results of Semi-Structured Interviews: Stakeholder Perspectives

The qualitative analysis of 28 semi-structured interviews; helped to explain institutional processes underlying the localization outcomes. Three major clusters were obtained through thematic coding.

i. Institutional Co-ordination and Ownership.

Weakness in inter-departmental coordination was common theme in the whole lot of respondents representing the governmental as well as the donor agencies. Lack of a Provincial SDG Coordination Unit (PSCU) was also found to be a hindrance to policy coherence several times. One of the senior Planning and Development (P&D) officials commented:

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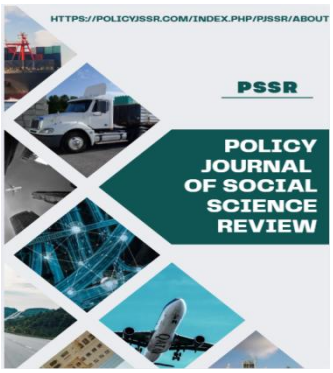

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"We possess SDG language in our plans and not SDG logic in our decisions. This declaration indicates a deviation of policy rhetoric and operational integration especially in the realms of development planning and budget formulation.

ii. Information Systems and Surveillance.

The data inconsistencies combined with the lack of disaggregation to the district level and the usage of outdated survey tools were simultaneously highlighted by technical officers and partners of the United Nations. Some of the respondents supported the establishment of a Provincial SDG Data Hub that would consolidate the information of the Provincial Budget System (PBS), the Baseline Outcome System (BOS), and the Planning and Development (P&D) division to strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and feedback procedures.

iii. Resource Matching and Financial Stamping.

Budgetary processes are still largely input-based, and not performance-based. The introduction of SDG-related budgetary indicators in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) became the cause of advocacy by interpreters of civil society and international organizations to enable fiscal transparency and resource prioritization.

4.4 Results of Synthesis of Quantitative and Qualitative Findings

The combination of the two data streams will lead to three general conclusions:

1). Institutional Coordination as an Enabler Core: Well-developed institutional structures promote consistency in the planning, budgeting, and implementation, which is directly transferred to the high performance on the Sustainable Development Goals.

2). As Foundational Elements: Data Availability and Analytical Capacity: Evidence-based policymaking requires a reliable and periodically updated and publicly available data. Without such systems, there will be gaps in planning and weaknesses in accountability systems.

3). Fiscal Autonomy by Itself is not enough: Fiscal autonomy on its own does not produce real improvements without an institutional capacity and data governance. There is a need to have integrated reform in governance, finance, and information systems to achieve long-term acceleration of SDGs.

4.5 Results of Cross-District Comparative Patterns

Comparative analysis reveals systematic contrasts between high-performing and low-performing districts. The performance gap of 37.3 points between Quetta (58.7) and Awaran (21.4) highlights severe intra-provincial disparities. This inequality underscores the necessity of differentiated

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strategies tailored to local capacity contexts rather than uniform provincial approaches.

The comparison is shown in table 4.3

Table 4.3 Comparative analysis between high-performing and low-performing districts source: compiled

High-BSLI Districts (e.g., Quetta, Pishin, Zhob)	Low-BSLI Districts (e.g., Awaran, Panjgur, Washuk)
Functional district planning units with trained staff	Weak institutional presence and limited skilled personnel
Active partnerships with UN agencies and NGOs	Minimal donor engagement and weak local coordination
Regular, transparent data reporting cycles	Sporadic or absent data submissions
Greater integration of SDG targets into local ADPs	Fragmented or donor-dependent project portfolios

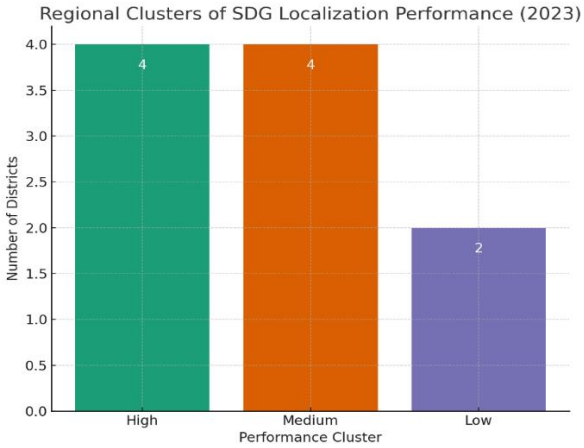

Figure 4.2 – Spatial Pattern of SDG Localization (Regional Clusters)

(Visually represents the north–south gradient of SDG performance. Shows three regional clusters (High, Medium, Low performers) based on BSLI scores. Ideal for illustrating spatial inequality without needing a full GIS map)

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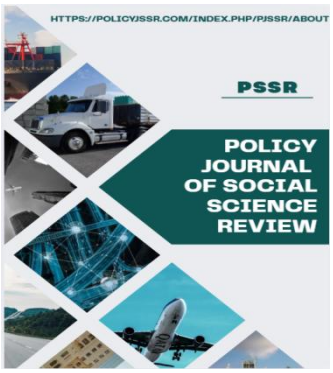

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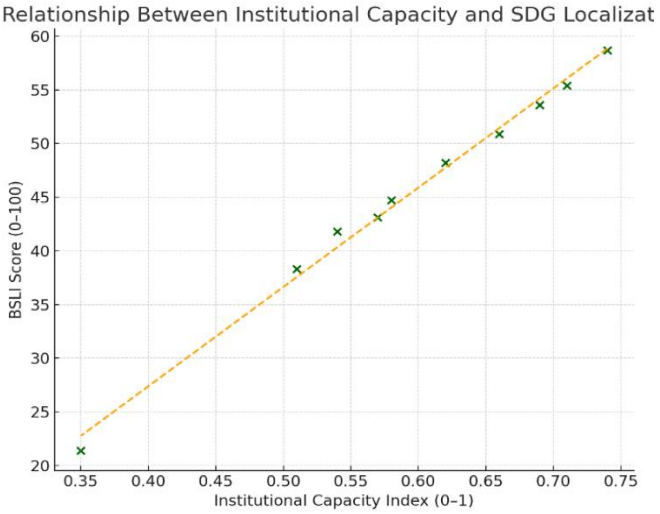

Figure 4.3. Relationship Between Institutional Capacity and BSLI

(Scatterplot with regression line. Purpose: Visualize the correlation between Institutional Capacity Index (ICI) and BSLI. X-axis: ICI (0–1). Y-axis: BSLI (0–100). Expected trend: Positive linear relationship ($R^2 \approx 0.64$).

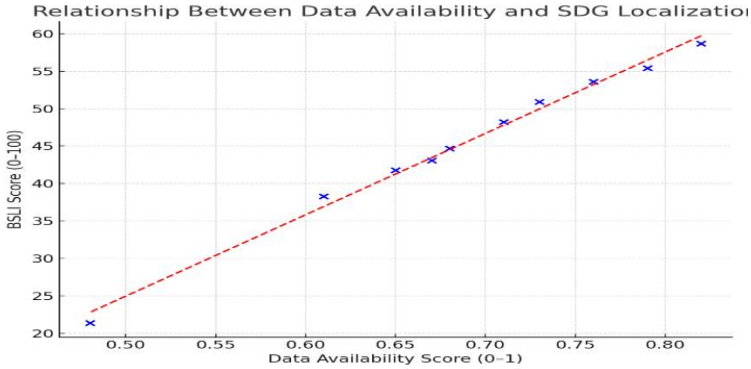

Figure 4.4. Relationship Between Data Availability and BSLI

(Scatterplot. Purpose: Show that better data systems correlate with improved localization. X-axis: Data Availability Score (DAS) Y-axis: BSLI (0–100) Expected trend: Positive but slightly weaker than ICI-BSLI)

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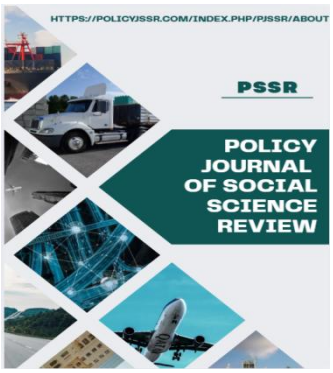

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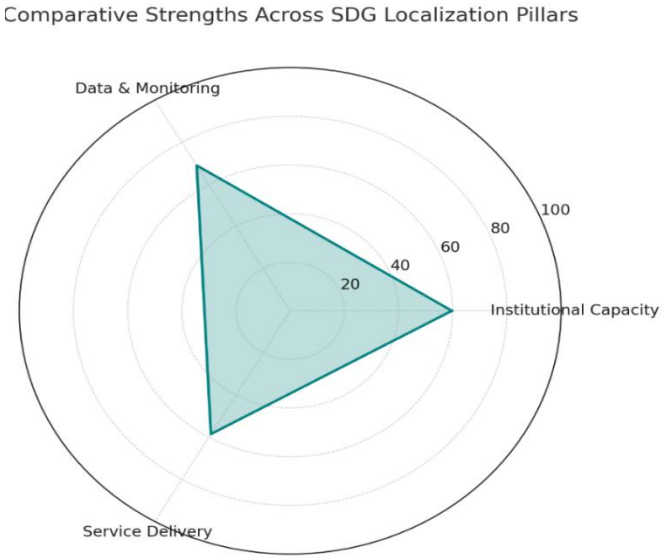

Figure 4.5 – Comparative Strengths and Weaknesses by Pillar

(Aggregates mean district performance under the three pillars of the conceptual framework: Institutional Capacity & Governance, Data & Monitoring Systems and Service Delivery Outcomes)

5. Discussion

The SDG Acceleration Model identifies three major factors for successful localization of SDGs in Balochistan:

i. SDG localization is successful when institutional structures are strengthened and coordination systems are institutionalized.
ii. The ongoing subnational inequalities such as those experienced in Balochistan require contextual and equity-based approaches.
iii. A credible measurement and policy responsiveness is based on strengthening the data systems and institutional capacity.

The localization of SDG in Balochistan clarifies how structural, institutional, and resource-based inequities have been manifested to determine the developmental patterns in the province. The SDG Localization Index (BSLI) at the district level revealed high levels of heterogeneity: the results of Quetta, Gwadar, and Lasbela were significantly higher when compared to Khuzdar, Dera Bugti, and Washuk. Such lopsided performance highlights the long-term regional differences which are both historical forms of marginalization and forms of governance asymmetry. Although the province is rich in natural endowments, it is facing a severe multidimensional

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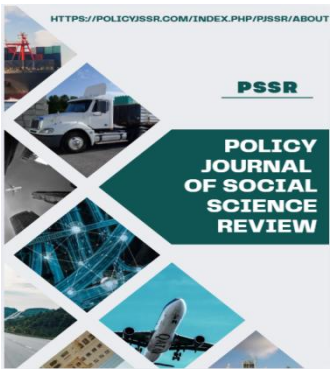

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poverty (MPI = 71.2%), a very low level of literacy, particularly among females, and a lack of health and educational services delivery. These inequalities are geographically embedded, which is caused by long-term limitations on fiscal decentralization and the lack of administrative expansion. Based on this, place-sensitive approaches which combine localized planning with provincial fiscal reforms are considered the key to attaining an equal development towards the SDGs.

The observations are consistent with the results of UNDP (2023) who find that limited institutional capacity, fragmented data infrastructures, and lack of fiscal decentralization are limiting the SDG localization in Pakistan. This trend is supported by the Balochistan case study; institutional capacity showed an outstanding positive relationship with the results of localization (r=0.79), and, although data availability and coordination are secondary factors, they became key drivers. As a result, the localization efficacy is not only limited to the availability of resources but also includes the governance coherence as well as the empowerment of the local institutions. Similar evidence is present in previous academic literature (Ahmad and Mi, 2017; Javed and Mi, 2022): in case of the presence of credible data in local authorities and participatory planning systems, SDG implementation becomes adaptive to the context. The Model's findings support the localization hypothesis according to which efficient SDG integration at the subnational level is driven by ownership, rather than oversight. The specified gaps in health, education, and environmental factors only deepen the cross-sectoral interconnections which the SDG model suggests; the level of development in one aspect (e.g. educational levels) can either trigger or hinder development in another (e.g. gender equality or poverty reduction).

The institutional capacity is a crucial factor of success of localization. The studies by Tamanaha et al. (2020) and Farooq et al. (2022) show that a strong commitment of leadership and well-established data governance mechanisms have a significant impact on the rate and quality of SDG implementation. In Balochistan, the lack of a specific SDG data hub and a disjointed planning and coordination system limits the region to align the local development activities with the national SDG priorities.

6. Policy Recommendations

- **Institutional Strengthening**

The institutional capacity is one of the pillars of the successful localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In line with this, it is justifiable to create a Provincial SDG Coordination Cell to be managed under the Planning and Development Department, and the district-level focal units to be well defined to

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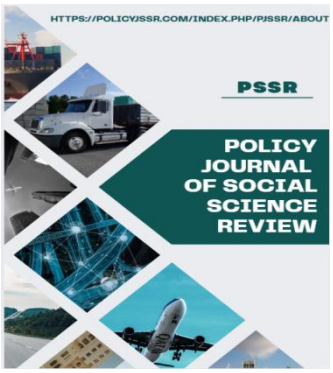

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achieve harmonious coordination and alignment of policies. In addition, the local government departments must be systematically reinforced by conducting capacity-building exercises aimed at ensuring that the SDG targets are incorporated into the annual development plans and operational structures of such departments.

- **Evidence-based Planning and Data Systems.**

Quality data systems that are reliable cannot be done without in making informed choices and strong monitoring of SDG progress. In its turn, this means that it is recommendable to create a District SDG Data Observatory in cooperation with educational establishments, including BUITEMS and the University of Loralai. Besides, data reporting models have to be aligned with national standards that are issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, in addition to international standards that are set by the United Nations organizations, and hence ensure data consistency, comparability and credibility.

- **Administrative and Fiscal Decentralization.**

The strengthening of decentralization procedures is crucial towards strengthening the local ownership and accountability. The performance-based inter-district fiscal transfers on the basis of the SDG achievement indicators would be introduced, which would motivate improvements and effective resource utilization. At the same time, the local governments must be empowered with more planning autonomy, which is strengthened with proper technical support, so that they can be able to make context-specific and responsive development interventions.

- **Cross- Sectoral Integration**

Sustainable development requires coordinated activity in various sectors. The policies and programs in the main areas like health, education, and environmental management must be coordinated to create synergy and reduce fragmentation. Also, gender responsive and climate resilient development planning should be integrated in development planning to make it inclusive and sustainable in the long term.

- **Collaborations and Community Development.**

Strong collaborations and community involvement are the key components to the effective execution of SDGs. Inter-sector partnerships (including academic, governmental, and non-governmental organizations) should be enhanced to capitalize on the knowledge and resources. Furthermore, it is necessary to work towards developing community-level ownership of the SDGs by means of participatory planning and specific youth engagement programs, thus making sure

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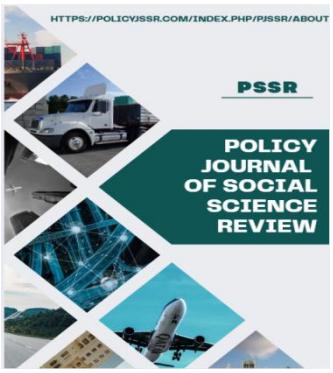

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that the development interventions will be based on the local needs and priorities.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**.

An effective monitoring and evaluation system is also required in order to trace the progress and make policy amendments. It is suggested that a results-based monitoring system should be implemented and the tools to be used are geospatial maps and digital dashboards to visualize real-time data and evaluate it using analytical tools. Moreover, there should be annual SDG localization assessments to measure the performance at the level of districts, detect gaps, and make strategic interventions to improve the performance.

7 Conclusion

The paper uses the SDG Acceleration Model to assess SDG localization in Balochistan, finding it uneven and marked by spatial inequalities. Institutional and governance capacity is the key driver of success, while poor data systems, weak monitoring, limited fiscal decentralization, and policy inconsistencies hinder progress. Consequently, SDG localization remains at an early stage, and without targeted improvements, the gap between national commitments and local realities is likely to widen.

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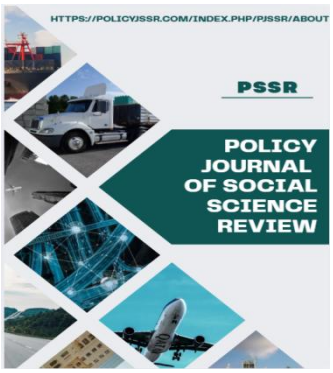

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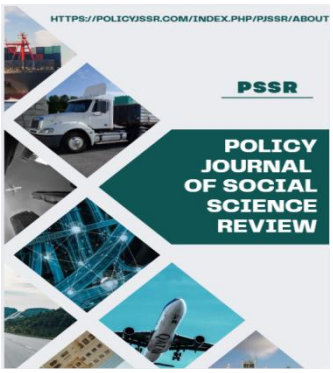

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