

## Empowering Communities for Peace: The Barkhan Aman Committee and its Potential for Replication



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**Abstract:** *This study is based on M.Phil. research work and aim to find the method and procedures of community dispute resolution to be followed by the locals to settle their disputes as well as to evaluate the potential to support the government. The researcher used quantitative research in this study, and data was collected from four union councils: Saddar Barkhan, KulRakni, NaharKot, and Vitakari. For the selection of union councils, simple random sampling was used; the sample size was 398 for the study calculated by Taro Yamani Formula (1967), and proportionate sampling was used for the selection of the respondents. The researcher collected the data from the respondents through a structured questionnaire. The researcher used univariate analysis to find the frequencies and percentages of the responses from the respondents and bivariate analysis to find the correlations between the independent and dependent variables. The major findings of the study indicated that most of the respondents were very satisfied with the CDR and believed that it was culturally viable and financially suitable. Based on this study, the civil administration and members of the community should collaborate with the disputants to settle their clashes, which can help minimize the number of cases.*

**Keywords:** Aman Committee, Community Dispute Resolution, Peace Promotion, Barkhan, Balochistan, Conflict Resolution, Local Governance, Social Harmony

### Introduction

CDR resolves conflicts and misunderstandings between groups or parties. It involves trained and neutral mediators who help people communicate clearly and effectively. The Harvard School of Law suggests that CDR is one of several methods used to resolve clashes between groups, tribes, and parties through mediation, negotiations, and the collaboration of law and litigation. Barkhan, a backward district in Balochistan, has a strong tribal system that has led to internal disputes and increased bloodshed (Jan,2021). CDR strategies include avoiding, collaborating, compromising, and

accommodating, but the mediator should be neutral and based on fairness. The traditional Baloch society in Balochistan heavily influences nationalists in Pakistan, with elder tribal leaders leading their tribes and conducting jargahs to address issues (Dawn,2021). The CDR can promote peace and help maintain law and order in Balochistan, but government officials should monitor the process and report to higher authorities. In Papua New Guinea, communities are collaborating with the international committee of the Red Cross to reduce the humanitarian costs of tribal conflicts (Mashaal, 2021).

The community conciliation movement aims to resolve disputes within the community, rather than through the judicial system. In the 1960s, America shifted away from traditional dispute resolution due to racial violence and the disempowerment of black Americans. Supporters came from various backgrounds, including public office and poor communities. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made discrimination illegal and established a publicly funded system to reduce social upheaval and bloodshed caused by communal tensions (Zander, 2017).

The Aman Committee, founded by Ahsan Ayaz Kehtran, promotes peace in Barkhan, Balochistan. They have settled at least 275 to 300 cases, including murder, and have expanded their role as a welfare organization. They have served over 4,000 thalassemia patients at no cost, distributed 24 lakh goods during COVID-19, and provided roof materials for mud houses and basic necessities to flood-affected areas. Non-governmental organizations provide financial support to the Aman Committee to maintain peace and tranquility in society.

### **Background of the Study**

Balochistan, Pakistan's largest province, is home to traditional customs, norms, and values, with tribal structures governed by Nawab, Sardar Meer, and Mutibhar heads. Tribal clashes have led to at least 120 murder cases in recent years. The educated youth of the Barkhan district established the Barkhan Aman committee on March 10th, 2019, aiming to promote peace and end tribal disputes without discrimination. The committee's members will act non-politically and prohibit using the platform for political or illegal purposes. The committee's main goal is to raise public recognition of the importance of law and legal institutions and maintain peace. The Barkhan Aman Committee (BAC) appeals to the district's masses to support peacebuilding efforts and work together to create a functioning society for future generations to live in peace and harmony.

### **Literature Review**

Community Disputes Resolution (CDR) is the process through which clashes, conflict, and

misunderstandings between two groups or parties are handled. It is a very effective and impressive method for smoothing the functioning of any type of community. It can help to sustain the harmony and solidarity of society and organization. The overall successes of Dispute Resolution Councils, (DRCs) are suffering from problems such as infrastructure, poor documentation, improper training, and the absence of the pursuance mechanism in their decision-making (Manzoor, Ahmed&Ahmed, 2020). Alternative Dispute Resolution is a new term in our country that can guarantee best solution for ancient problem in Pakistan (Tanveer, 2017).

Community disputes, conflict resolution programs are available in major cities in America to help settle or resolve clashes among neighborhoods, and the CDR is known by different names in different places, such as community disputes resolution, community conflict resolution programs, or community mediation programs, but all these centres have the same objective: to apply informal processes to resolve disputes or clashes among neighborhoods through the mediation process (Walter, 2016).

Tribal disputes in Pakistan have undermined the political system and destabilized the basic pillars of the state. The inter-tribal disputes in the tribal areas of Sindh, the local and non- local (Sindhi and non- Sindhi) violent in the province of Sindh, Sunni, Shai savage and conglomerate activities have become the norms of our society. Without a doubt, policymakers do their best to diffuse the conditions and situation in order to control the conflict and minimize clashes, but the policies and strategies developed and implemented by the state fall short of the goal. The Baloch and Pashtoon people were not satisfied with the ruling regime of Zia ulHaq. He played different games to deal with the different ethnic identities. In Balochistan, they supported the nationalist leader to provide them benefits, and in Sindh province, he supported Urdu speaking to counter the local Sindhis. There are various variables that can play an important role in creating more conflicting situations in Pakistan, such as ethnic conflict based on

language, ethnic conflict based on religious group, ethnic conflict based on class and caste etc. (Majeed, 2013).

### **Statement of the Problem**

Balochistan, a historically traditional territory, is plagued by disputes due to the lack of a literate and efficient judicial system. The people of Barkhan, a district in Balochistan, often resort to Alternative Dispute Resolution (CDR) to save time and money. This research aims to understand the peace promotion process in Balochistan and the failure of the civil administration and judicial system to provide justice to victim families. The study will also explore the grievances of the local people about disputes, as there is limited literature on this topic. The research is crucial as it will help uncover facts beyond disputes in the Barkhan community and the district, which has been a "dispute territory" for the past 5 to 6 decades.

### **Research Questions**

What methods and procedures do people use to settle their disagreements?

What approaches does the Aman Committee apply for the implementation of the decisions taken?

### **Objectives of the Research**

- To find out the Socio-demographic characteristics of the Respondents
- To find the methods and procedures of dispute resolution, in the Study area
- To investigate the implementation of the decisions

### **Hypotheses**

- H1 There is strong relationship between Mediation, Negotiation, conciliation and community disputes resolution.
- H1 There is strong relationship between collaboration, responsiveness, fairness and community disputes resolution

### **Research Methodology**

Research Methodology is the scientific approach to developing a scientific result and the tools, techniques, and procedures that can be used for

the study of the community through scientific knowledge, which is referred to as the scientific method. Mostly, it gives guidance to the researcher on how to undertake the research and serves as a tool for the creation of new knowledge. The researcher used a quantitative method for the study and found the method and procedure for community dispute resolution as well as the implementation of decisions and support of government policies in the process of community dispute resolution in the district of Barkhan, Balochistan.

### **Population of the study**

Population is an aggregate of elements from where sample size is selected on the basis of sampling techniques. Barkhan Balochistan is a historical Dispute Ridden Territory, SaddarBarkhan, KulRakni, NaharKot, and Vitakri locales were the current study. These locales had a great experience about dispute Resolution which researcher intended.

Barkhan District consists of twelve (12) Union Councils and its total population is 171,556 (2017 censuses).

### **Target population**

The target population of the present study consisted in four union councils: SaddarBarkhan, KulRakni, NaharKot, and Vitakri.

### **Sample size and sampling technique**

The researcher applied simple random sampling to selected union councils, and proportionate sampling was applied to the selected respondents. The total population of the 4 union councils was 67,637. By calculating the Taro Yamane formula (1967), the sample size of the present was 398.

By Applying Taro Yamane Formula (1967):

$n = \text{Sample}$

$N = \text{Population}$

Taro Yamane formula (1967)

$n = N$

$1 + N$

$(e)^2$

$n$  = the sample size

$N$  = the population size  $e$  = Margin of error

Level of Signification (0.05) Population= 67,637

$N$

$n = 1 + N(e)$

$n = 1 + 67,637$

$67,637 (0.05)^2$

$n = 1 + 67,637$

$(0.0025)$

$n = 67,637 \times 0.0025$   $n = 1690.925$

$n = 1 + 1690.925 = 170.0925$

$67,637$

$n = 170.0925$

Sample size= 398

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher highlighted the major findings of the study, discussed recommendations and suggestions, and drew conclusions.

### 5.1 Major findings

Community dispute resolution is common practise in tribal areas because most people are satisfied with the results and the efficiency of the cost of this method. Similar findings were also made by Mohyddin (2013).

The study found that most of the applicants used mediation as a tool to resolve their disputes in the process of community dispute resolution, while Dickinson (2014) also found similar findings.

The elderly of the community were mandated by the local people to manage and resolve their problems through the process of the informal justice system, and the study of the informal justice system in Pakistan also found similar findings.

In the process of community dispute resolution, most of the people used mediation as a tool to resolve their disputes, similar findings were found by Dickison (2014).

This study also found that most people cannot consult courts because they are financially poor and cannot make satisfactory decisions; similar findings were given by Rehman and Batool (2013).

The CDR in our country helps the communities easily settle their disputes; similarly, the National Centre for Dispute Resolution (2015) published similar findings.

The study found that ADR is not only used as customary or traditional practices to legitimize the prestige of the clients.

The negotiation method directly involved a third party to negotiate with disputants to settle their conflicts, but similar findings were also found by Rasnic (2017).

The study found that CDR were one of the most important services desired by every citizen to maintain tranquilly in their surroundings; similarly, findings were found by Chemin (2009) and Siddique (2016).

This study also found that ADR is accessible at all times for people, while similar findings were also highlighted by Walter (2016).

This study, found that CDR is the most advanced mechanism in the country, while similarly findings by Dickinson,(2014).

According to the findings of this study, the majority of mediators were working voluntarily to provide immediate justice to victim families.

The present study, highlighted that both parties could make their arguments friendly during the CDR process.

This study discovered that the majority of people were satisfied with their local representatives when it came to resolving disputes.

This research also highlighted that community dispute resolution was ready to sort out the problems of the parties in a timely manner.

According to the findings of this study, the majority of people agreed, while the Aman committee focused on resolving community issues.

This study found that most of the participants believed that the civil administration doesn't

mediate with the parties while they try to settle disagreements.

This study also highlighted that the majority of respondents were under the age of 18–23 years old.

This study found that most of the participants were belongs to joint family while few of them were belongs to extended and nuclear family system.

This research shows that the majority of the respondents had 12years of education, while only a few had 10 years, 14 years, 16 years, and 18 years of education, respectively.

The study also found that the most of the participants were single while few of them were married and divorced.

The major finding of this study is also that people were satisfied while the elderly in the community tried to negotiate with the disputants.

In this study, the researcher found that most people are not satisfied with the decisions of the judicial system.

The major findings of this study were that the people believed that the decisions of the Aman committee had decreased the number of disputes in the community.

The majority of respondents in this study were male, with only a few female.

The current study highlighted that mediation could create a peaceful environment.

The present study discovered that the elderly in the community played a responsiveness role when people faced problems.

This study found that most people trusted their representatives to protect them from any external or internal threats while they negotiated with each other.

In this study, the researcher found that trust in the CDR process can make it easier for the parties to resolve their disputes.

According to the current study, the majority of people used various methods to resolve their conflicts, such as negotiation, mediation, etc.

The researcher also found that the majority of the participants agreed that opposite parties collaborated with the civil administration to settle their conflicts

This study also found that the majority of people believed that community dispute resolution resolved problems without wasting any money.

### **Recommendations**

On the basis of this study, it is suggested that the civil administration and members of the community should collaborate with the disputants to settle their clashes, which can help minimize the number of cases.

This study recommended that the local representatives and civil administration collaborate with community members to resolve the matters so that the number of cases can be minimized; furthermore, it is also suggested that trust in the mediation and negotiation processes is most important to settling the disagreements of the parties.

The study recommended that the elderly members of the community work with the government to change policies in order to keep society peaceful. Further, this study also suggested that the parties should remove their misconceptions about their opposite parties and try to find a possible solution without losing any materials.

This research recommended that the parties should play a positive responsiveness role while resolving issues; additionally, the civil administration and local representatives must assure both parties from internal or external threats to maintain tranquillity of the community.

It is also suggested that the CDR must adopt modern techniques to fulfil all the requirements according to the constitution of the state and provide justice to the victim families without any delay, and it must be accessible at all times and everywhere for the necessary actions.

This study also recommended that the members of the ADR must give chance to the parties make their arguments without any fair and make easier to the mediator to make fairness decision to

settled their misunderstandings or clashes.

### Conclusion

Community dispute resolution is the best informal technique to settle any conflict outside of court. Furthermore, the researcher found that the people of the Barkhan district were satisfied with this method of proceeding to resolve their cases, but the majority of the people were satisfied with the fairness of the Aman committee decision through which they resolved their problems. The study also concluded that the CDR method is best for them because it consumes less time and money, and all of the services of this method are available for community members to register their complaints against any kind of violence. So far, the current study has revealed that the locales use various types of alternative dispute resolution techniques, such as negotiation, mediation, etc., to get justice. The investigator also learned that the majority of the respondents agreed that the Aman committee played a vital role in keeping the peace and tranquilly of the community, so in this study, the researcher surveyed and collected data from 398 participants from 4 union councils (Saddar Barkhan, kulRakni, NaharKot, Vitakari) in the Barkhan district.

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