

## Marble Reserves in Balochistan

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### ABSTRACT

*Balochistan is a highly rich province in a mineral resources ,and a huge number of marble reserves are found in this province .The objective of this research paper will be that marble is a very unique stone in Balochistan ,and it is highly involved in manufacturing industry .Apart from this , therefore the government is neglecting this sector and exporting it to various foreign countries on the basis of cheaper rates .The qualitative research methodology will be applied on this research paper to generate the results .The data collection will takes place through books , magazines , journals ,newspapers and internet websites etc .The geographic –politico and economic approach will be applied on this research paper to assess the significance of marble reserves in Balochistan. The marble is a very precious and unique stone of Balochistan ,which is used in various industries.The marble industry is facing enormous problems ,lack of national supervision ,cheap raw material , lack of experts ,lack of industrialization ,management failure and lack of proper funding are major hurdles that has debarred the process of marble carving and its further processing .There is a need to promote this industry by adopting proper planning process and its in the right direction by adopting the proper planning ,management and national supervision .*

### Introduction

Marble is the most valuable mineral of Balochistan. It has lot of demand in the entire world. . It is an architectural material. It is used for various purposes i.e. furniture making, flooring and cladding etc. In general, the marble is metamorphic and crystalline lime stone and it can be polished. It is used an ornamental building stone used for purpose of decoration. It is a crystalline rock composed of dolomite and calcite .It has durability in

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extreme climatic conditions. There are various qualities of marble available in Pakistan, and they are of the different colours and pattern.

Balochistan is extremely rich in mineral resources which are still unexplored. Only in 13 districts out of 28, the mining is being taken place.” According to report of Geological Survey of Pakistan, In Balochistan there are estimated reserves of 2.5 billion tons of dimensional stones which are of the reasonable price. Whenever the stones are exported from Pakistan, 90% come from Balochistan. If the government gives the proper attention and supervision to the mining sector, it can lay down positive impacts upon the economy of Pakistan. The primitive method of mining through blasting results in 70% wastage at mining end. The situation is calamitous economically and criminal environmentally. “(Malkani & Mahmood 2017)

The importance of Pakistan's marble industry came in to being when United Nations acknowledged this industry, and UNO started its development programme in Pakistan.

### **Objectives**

- 1- To prove that marble is one of the precious and valuable stone of Balochistan, and it can be utilized for various purposes
- 2- To probe in to those factors that marble industry is not properly supervised by the government.
- 3- To suggest the remedies that how the marble industry can be improved by producing variety of items in the market.

### **4- Data analysis procedure**

### **5- Data Collection**

The data collection will take place through secondary sources i.e. newspapers, journals, internet websites, books and magazines etc.

### **6- Data Preparation**

The data was prepared by thoroughly studying all the available material in form of books, reports, newspaper and internet websites. The web sketch was drafted by giving proper shape to the research paper. The paper was divided in different segments or part. It includes introduction, objectives, literature review, significance of study, data analysis and conclusion. The data was arranged to fill these segments of research work.

## **7- Data Exploration**

The whole accumulated notes were studied and they were sorted out according to the requirement of research paper .The important themes and references were sorted out .

## **8- Data Reduction**

The data reduction stage plays a significant role in coding of the data. In this study, the Neuman, s model for data coding :

Sorting and classifying.

Open coding.

Axial Coding.

Selection Coding.

Interpreting and Elaborating.

## **9- Data Interpretation**

In this stage the data were interpreted under themes. The different themes were elaborated according to the research requirement.

## **Literature Review**

*"In Pakistan ,there are multiple reservoirs of marbles exists in NWFP and Balochistan .The marble industry is one of the valuable industry in the world .It is essential to promote the marble industry in order to bring prosperity for the country .The Pakistan Stone Development Company (Pasdec ) and other small and medium enterprises Development Authority (Smeda) are sufferings from various problems due to lack of national supervision .There are so many problems confronted to marble industry : load-shedding , bad governance ,supply of raw material on cheaper rates , lack of national supervision , non-availability of proper infrastructure and poor management etc .According to Pasdec that approximately 300 billion tons of the marble reserves are scattered in various areas of Balochistan and NWPF etc.The marble exploration is stopped due to militancy and security situation .The security situation should be improved to improve this efficiency of industry ."(GoB.2009).*

## **Marbles reservoirs in Balochistan**

"The marble reservoirs are available in various districts of Balochistan i.e.Chaghi , Dalbandin .Most of the deposits are found close to pak- Afghan border areas ,Zeh , Chilgazai ,Buttak and Zardkan etc .These deposits are

commercially exploited for national and international market .The marble exists in various colours . The onyx is of dark colour ,and is of the highest quality .The Onyx is found in Bolan , Lasbella ,chaghi and Khuzdar districts .”( Mughal. 2015)

### **To End Poverty in Balochistan Through Development of Natural Resources**

“The present government is seriously concerned to promote and develop the marble and mineral reservoirs of Balochistan, and to develop the city of Gawadar for future of Balochistan and Pakistan. There is a need to deploy the international strategy to explore the marble and mineral reservoirs ,and it will contribute to eliminate poverty from country . CPEC is a mega and lucrative project, which attracts the investors for exploration of marbles and mineral reservoirs.”(Information About Balochistan)

### **10- Geography**

Pakistan is rich in marble reserves. The marble reserves are found in Khuzdar, Loaralai, Lasbella and Chaghi district. In Chaghi district ,there are huge deposits of marbles which is green in colour and unique in the world . These reserves are from Dalbandin to the Iran borders. The supreme quality of marble onyx are found in Chaghi, Lasbella, Khuzdar and Bolan districts . The other marble deposits are found in Siah –Chang , Patkok ,Maskichah , Chillgazi , Jhuli , Zwh and Buttak .These areas are situated to Pak- Afghan borders . “ Balochistan,s share in marble exports is 90 % .The total production of Pakistan is 0.3 million tons monthly ,and Balochistan,s production is 0.3 tons is daily shipped from Karachi to almost 52 countries of the world .”( Keerio.P:161)

### **Various types of Marbles**

#### **Onyx Marble**

Onyx marble is of green colour and unique in the entire world is extracted from Chagai District, Balochistan. It is of supreme quality and meets the international standards. The mining process of Onyx marble has been started in Chaghi District since 1950s .Balochistan is the larger producer of granite and Onyx raw material ,but there deposits are yet to be assessed properly .The processing of the marble depends on the quarry products . The lot of marble is exported abroad i.e. Italy ,USA , Dubai ,Korea and Bangladesh etc. .The onyx marble has lot of implications and usages .Pakistani government is earning millions of dollars by exporting the Onyx marble by improving its quality .”According to the report Pakistan Stone Development Company (PASDEC ) ,the total amount of all exports (

granite ,marble and onyx) is \$21 million in the fiscal year 2005-2006 ,which is almost more than 28 percent as compare to previous year .”(Muhammad. 2016)

There is a need of National supervision for marble ,that the government should establish Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in various districts ,that they should involve in mining and production activities .There should be provision of such a facilities that the foreign companies should invest in this mineral sector .The government and the people can earn lot of benefits from Export Processing Zone (EPZ) i.e.income from taxation , development of infrastructure ,establishment of industries ,development of rural areas and infrastructure and reduction of poverty etc .

### **Black and Gold Marble**

Black and gold marble is very unique in the entire world . It is different due to its black color and golden stripes. It is known as Black and Gold marble .The reservoir of this marble are found in the South West part of Pakistan .Very few people knew about the origin of this marble . Most of the people say that it is Chinese or Italian stone. But the reality is this that stone is explored from Pakistan. It is processed in Pakistan and the finishing of tiles and slabs also takes place in Pakistan . Black and gold (Michelangelo) marble is exported to China, Italy, USA & UAE from Pakistan.



Black and gold marble .(ref-7)

### **Use of Marble**

The use of marble is very old, even it dates back from the time of Greeks and Romans. The people used marble as flooring material in homes and various buildings etc. . The Marble exists in variety of colors, designs and patterns etc. The marble gives an aesthetic sense to building. It gives the durability from rain and extremity of weather. It also makes the surface germ-free by not allowing the growth of bacteria and germs on the surface.

Marble is used in construction and handicrafts sector. The marble handicrafts and souvenirs are unique in the entire world .It is also used in ornaments and pots . Since time immemorial, the marble has been used in palaces, churches, monuments; temples and masjids etc. Taj Mahal is considered as one of the seven wonders of the world ,is made up of marble .It is called” pearl on Earth “.It is an masterpiece of an art due to best marble carving .Marble items have great demand in national and international markets.

### **Marble City**

The government of Pakistan has established a marble city at Gaddani in Lasbella District .It is equipped with modern technology and it is used for mining process .Basically ,the idea of the establishment of Marble City was floated by LIEDA management ,and the sole purpose was to provide the platform for the sustainable industrialization in Balochistan and to save the precious stone from wastage ,and to facilitate the Mine owners and local investors of marble business .TheMarble city has been established in 2004 to promote the stones of Balochistan .” Basically ,the idea of marble city was announced by Governor Balochistan on 8<sup>th</sup> May ,2004 .The ground breaking ceremony was performed by Chief Minister Balochistan on 29<sup>th</sup> August ,2004 .The President of Pakistan inaugurated the project on 22<sup>nd</sup> July ,2006 .”(5) The government has promised that it will import further new equipment and modern technology for mining process .The government needs to develop processing centers with automatic tiling plants in the Gaddani marble city .The modern technology will enhance the efficiency of marble city . It is an estimate that 300 units will be set up in the marble city . The 52 units have started functioning, while the others are in the process of construction and installation of machinery. The Pakistani government has signed agreement of investment with Japan, Spain ,USA and UAE . The establishment of marble city is a milestone in history of industrialization.

This project is highly beneficial that it has provided many opportunities of jobs for the native people. The native people can also start their own business and investment. It has created the new working environment for the mine – owners to establish their warehouses. It will also provide an opportunity to the common people to get the variety of stones from theses mine owners and use in construction process.

### **Marble & Granite Sector to Earn Foreign Exchange:**

In Balochistan province, there are millions of the tons of reservoirs of Marble & Granite, which are of the best quality. The government has paid serious attention towards this sector. The government of Pakistan can

earn lot of foreign exchange from this sector and it contributes towards economic uplift.

## **Problem**

The Marble industry is facing lot of problems:

### **1-There is lack of supervision on the part of government.**

There is a lack of supervision of the governmental facilities for the marble industry. It is neglected sector.

### **2-The marble industry lack technical facilities.**

The marble industry in Balochistan is deprived of the technical facilities. There is a lack of telecom facilities and lack of technical experts that can provide their input about marble processing.

### **3-The improper road network:**

The road connectivity is the major issue in front of marble processing. The roads in the interior areas of Balochistan are in deplorable condition.

### **4-Shortage of water supply:**

There is shortage of water supply due to scarcity of rainfall .There is no proper sewerage system for the outlet of water.

### **5-Poor law and order situation:**

The bad governance or poor law and order situation is also a major hurdle in the way of development. The foreign investors turn reluctant to invest in marble city due to terrorism issue. The security situation is highly alarming.

### **6-The lack of infrastructure:**

There is lack of infrastructure i.e(buildings ,units and roads ) for marble processing . There is no proper facility for finishing and carving the marble items.

### **7-The lack of industrialization:**

There is proper industrialization in Balochistan province. It is the largest province of Pakistan. The marble industry is not yet developed up to the mark, as it should be. The government of Balochistan is no getting benefits from these marble reservoirs.

### **8-The export of cheap raw material to foreign countries:**

The government of Balochistan had sold the Onyx marble to Italy and other countries on the very cheaper rates. The first world countries are exploiting the third world countries for their raw material.

### **9-The lack of mining facilities:**

There is lack of exploring and other mining facilities. Most the raw – material is wasted due to the non-availability of mining facilities.

### **10-The lack of experts:**

There is lack of indigenous experts which contributes their valuables ideas for improvement of marble industry. The foreign experts come for very short period of time and take high charges for their services.

### **Recommendations**

There are certain practicable and viable remedies to improve the marble industry.

- 1- The government should chalk out such a marble policy by sanctioning mining leases to different private firms on soft terms. The firms should be granted license.
- 2- The private sector should be encouraged for investment. The private sector should be given economic incentives for the involvement in marble sector. The government must also ensure the security to investors and technology up-gradation through public and private sectors interventions.
- 3- There is a need of better marketing for marble exports. The national and International market demands should be monitored, and are modern trends of demands and supply.

### **Conclusion**

Balochistan province is rich in marble reserves. The quality of marble is unique in entire world. The marble reserves are found in various districts i.e Loralai , Khuzdar , Chaghi and Lasbella etc .The marble exists in variety of colours ,designs and patterns etc . There is a need of the establishment Export processing Zone (EPZ) for the mining of marble reserves .The marble is land mark in the industrial development of Pakistan .The marble is neglected sector and it is confronting tremendous problems i.e lack of experts ,lack of national supervision ,and lack of marketing .The foreign countries are taking advantages of theses weaknesses and are embellishing their industries on the basis of our raw materials etc .There is always space for improvement . The



government should embark upon policy of industrialization by involving the private firms for sake of investment.

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