

Discrimination towards East Pakistan (1947 – 1971)

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**History of the Emergence of
Bangladesh**

Condition of East Pakistan

- Pakistan emerged in accordance with the proposals made in the Lahore Resolution
- East Pakistan did not get the status of a separate state
- As time marched on the gap between the two countries became wider
- They considered East Pakistan as its colony
- East Pakistan started logging behind due to the oppressive rule of West Pakistan.

Political Discrimination

- They defied democracy & autonomy
- The national leaders were oppressed & sent in jail
- Removed the elected government of Juktafront from the power unlawfully
- Imposed Martial Law in 1958
- East Pakistan had a very few representatives in the cabinet
- Among 9 heads of government only 3 were Bangalees
- Among 221 ministers, the Bagalees were 95

Administrative Discrimination

- Capital was set up in Karachi in 1947
- State Bank, Ministries, Secretariats were in WP
- All the head offices were in West Pakistan
- West Pakistanies got employment in a large scale in all government offices
- Government job was not easy for the Bangalee students
- In 1956, 2900 Bangalees among 42000 employees
- (48-63) 346 CSP officers where Bangalees were only 126
- Among 69 ambassadors, only 9 were Bangalees

In the Defence Sector

- Discrimination in the Army, Navy, & Air Force
- Punjabis had been occupying the top post
- Quota system: 60% Punjabis, 35% Pathans
- In 1955, among 2211 army officers Bangalees were only 82
- In 1966, among 17 top ranking officials, there was only one Bangalee
- Among 5 lakhs soldiers, Bangalees were only 20000 .

Economic Disparity

- Head offices of banks, insurances, & commercial organizations were in West Pakistan
- Money was laundered to West Pakistan
- All types of planning were designed in West Pakistan
- Most of the mills & factories were set up in West Pakistan
- In 1956 West Pakistan received 500 crore at the budget where as East Pakistan got only 113 crore
- development expenditure was as low as 20%
- Foreign aids : 388 cr in East Pakistan, 906 cr in West Pakistan

Per Capita Income

Table 1: Per capita income in East and West Pakistan
(1959–60 prices, in Rupees)

| | 1949–50 | 1959–60 | 1969–70 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pakistan | 311 | 318 | 424 |
| West Pakistan | 338 | 366 | 537 |
| East Pakistan | 287 | 278 | 331 |
| East–West gap | 51 | 88 | 206 |

Source: Third Five Year Plan of Pakistan, p. 11, and Report of the Panel of Economists on the Fourth Year Plan (1970–75), p. 132.

Disparity in Education

- Took massive plan for the spread of education in West Pakistan
- Attempted to replace Bangla with Urdu as the medium of education
- 1955-67: 2084m Rs for West Pakistan, where as 797m Rs for East Pakistan.
- West Pakistan gained 35,287 additional primary schools, East Pakistan declined by a total of 902
- Scholarships: East Pakistan got only 5 out of 35.

Graduates & Postgraduates

Table 5: Number of graduates and postgraduates in Pakistan, 1951–1961

| | Graduates | | | Postgraduates | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|
| | 1951 | 1961 | Change | 1951 | 1961 | Change |
| Pakistan | 86,000 | 82,000 | −4.6 | 23,000 | 31,000 | 39.6 |
| East Pakistan | 41,000 | 28,000 | −32.3 | 8,000 | 7,000 | −12.0 |
| West Pakistan | 45,000 | 54,000 | 21.3 | 14,000 | 24,000 | 68.6 |

Source: Adapted from Akther (1963).

Cultural Disparity

- Language issue: Bangla 56.40%, Urdu 3.27%, Punjabi 28.55%, others 11.78%
- Ban on Tagore's songs
- Pahela Baishakh

Social Disparity:

Due to the economic and planning disparities of the government, the social life of the two regions of Pakistan was of two types. Their aim was to keep the Bengalis destitute and diseased so that they would not be able to be active in politics. The price of rice was 18 rupees in West Pakistan and 50 rupees in East Pakistan. The price of wheat was 10 rupees in West Pakistan and 35 rupees in East Pakistan.