Youth Employment, Skills & Tech-Entrepreneurship Pipeline: Linking MVTP to Local Needs in Balochistan

In a province where young people form the majority, they represent both an extraordinary opportunity and a looming challenge. Balochistan with 53.6% of its population is either unemployed or in active (Business Recorder, 2024) the province faces what economist call a labour market disequilibrium: copious labour supply but insufficient demand for skilled workers. The youth (ages nd15-24) unemployment hovered around 18 % since the early 2000s (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics). This disparity reflects both structural unemployment and human capital misallocation where education and training systems fail to align with the changing demands of the economy. In terms of Solow growth model, Balochistan's economic stagnation stems less from capital scarcity and more from underutilized human potential.

Therefore, identifying productive secrors for youth employment in Balochistan is crucial, agri-tech remains at the forefront, but the gender dynamics are quite distinct. Contrary to national level statistics, female labour force participation in balochistan is extremely low: the Balochistan Gender Parity Report 2024 shows a female labour force participation rate of only 24.5% in the province (bcsw.balochistan.gov.pk). Even though many rural women engage in agriculture (especially unpaid family work), they are severely underrepresented in the formal labour statistics. (USAID PDF+1) this gap highlights both a huge untapped potential for rural women in agri-tech jobs and a significant barrier: economic, cultural, and mobility constraints that prevent many from accessing formal employment.

To bridge the gap between skill supply and job demand in Balochistan, A shift towards competency-based Training (CBT) and modular bootcamp models is essential. This is particularly urgent given the province's labour market realities: according to the Balochistan Gender parity Report 2024, only 5.5% of the population aged 10 and over is female and part of the labour force, compared to 34.9% of males (bcsw.balochistan.gov.pk). Moreover, youth (aged 15-29) unemployment remains high: the unemployment rate for this cohort has declined over time but was still 8.45% in 2020-21, according to PRIDE consulting's analysis of labour force survey data (pridepakistan.pk). through short, Intensive vocational programes (8-12 weeks), blended learning, and employer-linked apprenticeships, training can dramatically reduce time to employment, while signalling productivity to firms (as per spence's signalling theory). These interventions when localized in rural and tribal communities would also mitigate the high opportunity cost for young women and men, especially where mobility and socio-cultural barriers are significant.

The Mountain View Technologies Park (MVTP) can play a transformative role by adapting its incubation model to the realities of Balochistan's rural and tribal youth. Unlike major urban centers, Balochistan's districts face limited digital infrastructure, long travel distances, and lower female labour participation, with only 5.5% of women aged 10+ active in the labour force ([Balochistan Gender Parity Report 2024](#)). To ensure equitable access, MVTP must decentralize its model through satellite innovation hubs in district towns, mobile training labs, and incubation tracks tailored to Ballochistan's high potential sectors such as agri-tech, solar energy services, and logistics solutions. In line with Porter's Cluster Theory, Sector-specific incubation would help cultivate localized innovation ecosystems linking trained youth including young women and tribal youth directly to market opportunities. By integrating Vocational graduates into entrepreneurship pipelines, MVTP can create dual outcomes: job creation for those entering the workforce and enterprise formation for those ready to launch scalable ventures aligned with local economic needs.

Ultimately, Balochistan's economic future depends on transforming its large youth population into a productive force capable of driving long term growth. With youth unemployment still at 8.45% in the province as of 2020-21 and female labour force participation at a critically low 5.5%, the risks of underutilized human capital are substantial ([PRIDE Pakistan](#); [Balochistan Gender Parity Report 2024](#)). Applying the frameworks of Becker's human capital Theory, Schumpeter's Innovation driven entrepreneurship, and lewis's structural transformation model, Balochistan can convert this challenge into opportunity by aligning skills development, employment pathways, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. A coordinated approach connecting MVTP's incubation platforms with TVET Institutions, Labour departments, and local employers can establish a robust pipeline from training to livelihoods, and to ensure both equitable and effective intervention continuous monitoring and inclusive design is necessary. This integrated strategy can turn Balochistan's youth from a vulnerable demographic into the cornerstone of its economic transformation.