

Issues and Challenges of Pakistani Diaspora in USA



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My Background



- ❑ **Engineer by profession, Political Scientist by passion**
- ❑ **Current individual project at hand “ *US - Pakistan relations*”**
- ❑ Working for AT&T Labs for the last 4 years in Seattle / Philadelphia
- ❑ Nominated for the Young Scientist of the Year Award , Gold Medalist- IEEEEP 2008 , worked on the first small satellite of Pakistan
- ❑ Came to US as a student
- ❑ Past Student Leader ; held various positions
- ❑ Was Involved in Pakistani Student Association – President & Treasurer
- ❑ Involved with *Pakistani American Congress* for the last 4 years
- ❑ Work under publisher/editorial review “*Educational Reforms in Pakistan*” .
- ❑ 9 Elections & Nominations in the last decade

Demographics



State / Metro Areas	% of US Pakistanis	Metropolitan area	% of US Pakistanis
New York & New Jersey	22.1	New York City-New Jersey-Southern Connecticut	25.1
Texas	13.1	Houston-Brazoria, TX	7.4
Illinois	12.4	Chicago-Gary-Lake, IL-IN	7.4
Virginia & Maryland	7.6	Washington, DC-MD-VA	6.3
California	7.2	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Orange County, CA	3.8
Texas	5.3	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	3.6
Pennsylvania	4.6	Philadelphia, PA-NJ	2.9
California	3.4	San Francisco-Oakland-Vallejo, CA	2.3
Michigan	2.8	Detroit, MI	2.1
Georgia	2.8	Atlanta, GA	1.8
Other states	18.8	Other metropolitan areas	37.3
Total	100	Total	100

Who Are We ? – Bright Side



- After those in Britain and the Middle East, the **third-largest** Pakistani Diaspora is in North America.
- The Pakistani North American Diaspora is the **youngest** of the three large communities in various parts of the world.
- Pakistani-Americans are the second-fastest-growing Asian-American ethnic group – our numbers **more than doubled** from 2000 to 2010, soaring from **204,309 to 409,163**.
- Adil Najam, for instance, in his pioneering work on *philanthropy by overseas Pakistanis*, suggests that the size of the Pakistan diaspora is at **500,000**. The Pakistani embassy in Washington put the number at 700,000. These estimates were made several years ago.
- My own rough estimate of **850,000 (0.1% of the U.S population (2010))**
- 2010 US Census and other US government sources, the median household income of Pakistani-American families is nearly **\$63,000**. This is considerably higher than the figure for families in America on the whole (**\$51,369**).
- Most common jobs of Pakistani-Americans include **doctors, engineers, accountants, and financial analysts**, and **55** per cent hold at least a bachelor's degree (this latter figure **is only 28 per cent** across the US population on the whole).
- In the last two decades, there was a 16-fold increase in the amount of remittances sent by Pakistanis living and working in the United States. These increased from \$150 million in 1991-92 to **2.4 billion** in 2011-12.

Source :

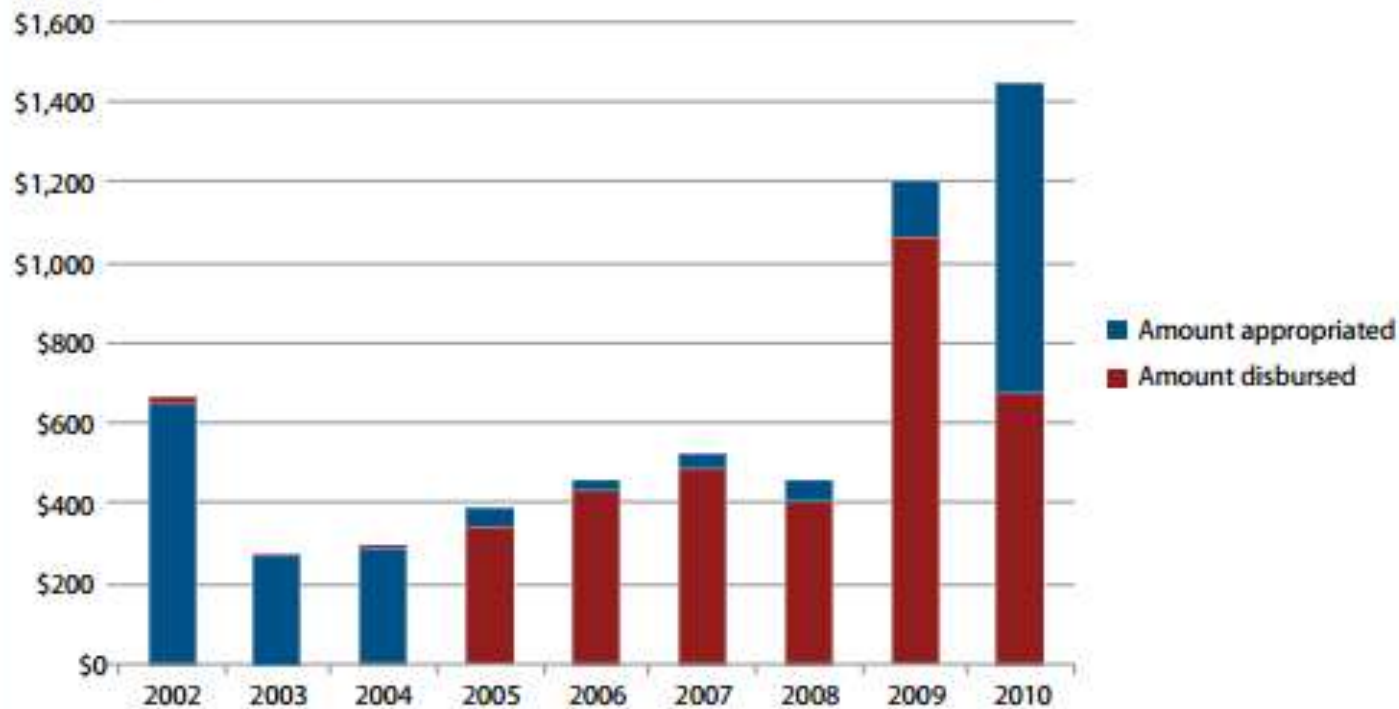
- <http://dawn.com/news/720994/how-affluent-are-the-pakistani-americans>
- <http://tribune.com.pk/story/518774/pakistanis-in-north-america/>

US Economic Assistance vs. Pakistani American Philanthropy



FIGURE 2
U.S. economic assistance disbursed to Pakistan, 2002-2010

In millions



UNITED STATES - PAKISTAN RELATIONS
 The United States and Pakistan have a long and complex relationship. The two countries are both members of the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The United States has provided economic and military assistance to Pakistan since the 1950s. In return, Pakistan has provided the United States with a strategic location for its military and intelligence operations in the region. The relationship between the two countries has been strained in recent years due to concerns over human rights, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation.

U.S. Economic Assistance to Pakistan
 The United States has provided economic assistance to Pakistan since the 1950s. This assistance has been provided in the form of grants, loans, and technical assistance. The amount of assistance has fluctuated over the years, but it has generally increased in recent years. The United States has provided economic assistance to Pakistan for a variety of reasons, including to support Pakistan's economic development, to support its military and intelligence operations, and to support its efforts to combat terrorism and nuclear proliferation.

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Major U.S. Arms Sales and Grants to Pakistan Since 2001
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Three years of U.S. aid to Pakistan and the post-9/11 aftermath
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U.S. aid levels to Pakistan peaked in 1972 when Pakistan signed with the West for joining two regional defense pacts, the South Asia Treaty Organization (SATO) and the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO). However, the relationship between the two was strained in the 1970s, but was about 2000 and 2001 when Pakistan signed the 1974 Indo-Pakistani nuclear agreement and signed the Indus water treaty in 1979.

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Who Are We ? – Dark Side



But we are also

- **15%** of Pakistani-Americans fall below the poverty line
- **only 55 % own homes**, compared to the nationwide figure of 66 % .
- **23 % of Pakistani-Americans** have no health insurance. This is significantly higher than the 17 % national figure
- While quite a few Pakistani-Americans were born in the United States, the majority – about **65 %**– were not. adjustment period is very much in the present.
- Don't forget about all those blue-collar Pakistani-American workers, and particularly the **taxicab drivers**.
- According to **US Census figures**, “drivers and other transportation workers” constitute the third most common profession of Pakistani-Americans.

Who we are ? - Overall



- We are hourly wage workers to physicians, academics, and a growing number of state legislators and mayors;
- from **Washington insider Huma Abedin** (a close adviser to Hillary Clinton) to **race-car driver Nur Ali** (the first Pakistani to serve in this profession)
- From **eloquent writer Daniyal Mueenuddin**; to **businessman Mansoor Ijaz & Shahid Khan**
- and from those who promote interfaith dialogue (American University professor **Akbar Ahmed**) to the occasional militant (**Faisal Shahzad**, the man accused of having unsuccessfully attempted to blow up Times Square).

Pakistan - US Relations



All of these effect us directly or indirectly

1. Pakistan's links with the Haqqani network;
2. Anti-India militant groups on Pakistani soil;
3. Pakistan's ties with Iran, most specifically a planned pipeline to deliver natural gas from Iran to Pakistan;
4. Pakistan's nuclear weapons - safety and security
5. Civilian nuclear energy cooperation;
6. Enhanced market access to Pakistani exports; and so on.
7. Pakistan is always been interested in exporting HR (brain drain) - remittances bring in 4% of GNP .

They want us and we need them , we cant turn a blind eye to

Pakistani Americans - Issues and Problems



- 1. Immigration** (deportations 118,000 & 3.2 Million - eligible Asian, Latino, and naturalized immigrant
 - On the other hand Immigration 'reform' **adds 33 million competitors** to jobless Americans - The 33 million in a single decade is **almost half of all immigrants who have ever entered** the U.S. in its history.
- 2. Cultural and Religious Issues – Identity Crisis**
 - Are we Pakistanis or Americans ? When Pakistanis back there are still trying to figure out its identity
- 3. Racism and Discrimination**
 - Americans in general are very respectful – we are Still allowed to wear Hijab and beards - contrary to France
- 4. Missing Connections between various communities**

Day to day Issues

- 1. Violence / Attacks in Pakistan**
 - Needless to discuss the Drone attacks , Walking on the Time Square and sticker mentioning Pakistan
- 2. Instability in Pakistan** and we are at a difficult position
- 3.** The general feeling that Pakistan's strategy on Afghanistan has cost the U.S. in terms of victory and long term stay. There is no exit seems to be possible
- 4.** American officials don't accept Pakistan's claims that it is no longer favoring certain Islamists as assets.

Future promises



- the future of American-Pakistani relations will be heavily influenced in the next couple of years by what happens in Afghanistan and what happens with al-Qaeda in Pakistan itself.
- If Nawaz Sharif can help arrange a political end to the war and allow American counter-terrorism operations to keep al-Qaeda in check, then relations will get better. If not, they will probably deteriorate further.

How can we help or improve the current situation ?



- 1. Annual Meeting & monthly teleconference meetings**
- 2. One meeting in Pakistan in a year**
- 3. Introduction of PAC in other bigger cities of USA**
- 4. Connect with the local organizations in each city**
- 5. Establish and Maintain contact with Ambassadors and Senators/Congressmen**
- 6. Publish a newsletter**

5 things happening right in Pakistan



Pakistan is Not a failed state

1. A giving people.
2. Desire for education.
3. Pakistaniat.
4. Entrepreneurship.
5. Voice.

Source: <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-9-196398-Five-things-going-right-in-Pakistan>