

Does Pakistan Needs Charter of Democracy or Charter of Economy

Outline :

1. Introduction

Democracy and economy are intricately intertwined, affects each other profoundly. Pakistan is facing serious political and economic crisis at time. Ensuring democratic principles will enhance political and economic stability in the long run.

2. Evolutionary history of democracy and economy of Pakistan.

3. Charter of democracy ensures following :

- To promote fairness and justice in the country
- Democracy is general will of people.
- Democracy ensures political stability
- It involves civic engagement in decision-making and ensures transparency.
- Democracy means more just, inclusive and prosperous society.

4. Significance of strong economic policies

- To promote economic fairness in the country
- Strong economy ensures growth and development, thus play its part in general will of public.
- Economic stability ensures political stability.
- It improves transparency by improving living standard of its citizens.
- Stable economy serves roadmap for creation of jobs and reduction of poverty.

5. Democracy is a broader concept

- Democracy safeguards different aspects, while economy is restricted to economic fairness.
- Stable democracy includes both general will and economic interests.
- Democracy ensures long-term stability, while economic policies cannot hold abrupt changes.
- Democracy establish system of check and

balances that ensures better transparency.

e. Democratic system ensures equitable economic development which is not ~~only~~ restricted to specific elite groups.

6. Conclusion

Ensuring democratic values will ensure both political and economic stability.

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After entering the shopping mall, an urge is created in human heart to buy all the displayed items however, things are bought according to needs and situational context. This seems true in case of developing country like Pakistan - facing serious political and economic crisis - to decide which approach is best according to current situation and needs. However, the decision to this is not one-liner and needs to consider different segments like public welfare, economic growth and development.

Pakistan is a developing country where, deciding the best approach - either democratic or economic policies - is complex and doesnot have one-side-fit all answer. Both democracy and economy are essential for long-term stability and prosperity of a country. A democratic nation means public is sovereign and has entrusted power in the hands of elected individuals that will ensure welfare of its citizens in return. It also ensures the rule of law and accountability of public office holders. So, the primary aim of charter of democracy is to promote democratic principles, strengthen democratic institutions and ensure political stability in Pakistan. On the other hand, a strong economic values focus on economic issues and policies. It aims to formulate a comprehensive plan or set of policies to address economic challenges, foster economic growth, create jobs and promote sustainable economic development. Simply, it can lead to improving living standards of society, creating job opportunities and reducing poverty. It also ensures ^{basic} basic services like education and

health care. A well performing economy can attract foreign direct investment (FDI), stimulate innovation and enhance technological developments. Democracy and economy are inherently connected and interdependent. The decisions made by democratic governments regarding economic policies and allocation of funds have significant impact on its people. According to Acemoglu, an MIT professor and co-author of analysis of 184 countries from 1960-2010. He analyzed that establishing democracies in the countries boasted economic growth. For instance, Portugal and South Korea show 20% increase in the GDP in the recent years. The data shows that implementing democratic principles can improve economic conditions as well.

Democracy and economy are intricately intertwined, affects each other profoundly. Pakistan is facing serious political and economic crisis at time. Ensuring democratic principles will enhance political and economic stability in long run.

Pakistan, since its inception, has faced challenges of for democratic government and economic stability. Early years saw mix of democratic and military rules each with their own policies and areas of focus. The era of Ayub Khan is often termed as Decade of Development, that lacked basic democratic principles so, economic developments and progress did not last long. After that, the consecutive governments of civic and followed by a military rule witnessed different democratic and economic approaches. Economic development and stability have been significantly challenged and nation was gripped with interplay between democracy and economy.

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Democracy is often considered as government of the people, for the people, by the people as it involves the public in decision-making. One of the important components of democracy is to promote fairness and justice in the society. Justice is served, when all are equal before the law without any discrimination. As in the theory of "Ideal state by Plato", he argued that Justice is the basic principle of his ideal state to ensure transparency in the society. Ensuring justice means to ensure that no one is above the law and it is foundation of democracy seriously needed in Pakistan.

Furthermore, with ensuring justice comes a responsibility of being a true public representation that expresses general will of public. Every citizen has a common general will that includes protection of life, property and liberty. Democracy ensures basic fundamental rights thus represents the ~~the~~ general will of public in true sense. As, Rousseau had said that man has born free, but everywhere he is chains. General will is the will that wills the will of people and grant them their rights. Democracy is the guardian of fundamental rights of citizens which act as general will of public.

At times, Pakistan has been facing political crisis and often been questioned on various fronts - said to be in desperate need of democratic principles. The political leadership is criticized for conduct of fair elections,

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equal distribution of power between center and states, and long-term efforts to ensure harmony and national integration. A democratic government in true sense can ensure stability for long term because they have got popular support. There will be little chance of rebellion against the government because people will change it with peaceful and constitutional means of elections - a principle of democracy.

One of the basic principles of democracy is civic involvement in decision-making which ~~will~~ ensures transparency. Pakistan is a democratic state however, government is criticized for ensuring maximum civic involvement in decision making and ~~for~~ ensuring transparency. According to Trading Economics, Pakistan ranked 140 out of 180 countries which are least corrupted according to Global 2022 Corruption Perception Index. Data shows that country needs to strengthen its democratic principles by ensuring civic engagement in decision-making and transparency.

A tolerant state based on the principle of interfaith harmony can ensure social inclusion by providing all of its citizens with equal opportunity of growth. Rising extremism in Pakistan poses serious threat to inclusive society. The purpose of democracy is to attain peace in all domains. As per NACTA's report "Pakistan's National Narrative Against Terrorism and Extremism" that from 2001-2022, Pakistan lost 83 thousand lives and incurred financial loss of more than 35 billion rupees. For attaining sustainable success,

formation of national (state) narrative will be of immense importance fulfilling the criteria of democratic charter.

A charter of democracy focus on strengthening the political institutions and processes however charter of economy aims to address economic issues and promote sustainable growth.

Pakistan is a developing country and is under umbrella of economic instability due to foreign loans, balance of payment crisis and low GDP. According to Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2023, ADB's Flagship Economic Report, Pakistan GDP growth is projected to slow to 0.6% in FY 2023 from 6% in last year due to economic struggle. A strong charter of economy will create economic equality throughout the country.

Better economic policies not only ensure economic equality but also promote growth and development which is part of public general will.

In Pakistan, the issue of poverty persists, per capita income is below line; among lower class there is a continuous struggle for financial gains.

As per World Bank, Poverty in Pakistan was 39.3% using lower-middle income poverty rate of US\$ 3.2 per day. To increase per capita income, Pakistan needs to improve economic

policies, create more job opportunities and to improve the living standards of citizens.

Better economic reforms can ensure long-term political stability i.e. the public prefers to stay with representatives who took economic

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decision that benefitted them. Economic stability means economic wellbeing of the state which will automatically reduce the other issues like poverty, unemployment etc. Current situation of Pakistan shows serious concerns for economic reforms in the country. To maintain stability in the long run, efficient economic policy measures are needed.

Charter of economy is not only limited to revenue generation and economic policies implementation rather it includes reforms in existing economic system of Pakistan. She is facing serious corrupt practices and is questioned on transparency.

2023 Index of Economic Freedom ranked Pakistan's economy 152nd freest with score 0.6 higher than last year currently 49.4. The data also suggested that government of Pakistan has demonstrated little commitment to much needed economic reforms including management of public finance and improvement of outmoded economic practices. In this regard, charter of economy is more favourable.

Moreover, ^{suitable} economic policies can build Pakistan a regional economic hub in the heart of South Asia through investments as well as job opportunities. There are a number of unemployed people waiting for some miraculous reforms. According to **Trading Economics Global Macro Model and Analysts Expectation**, unemployment rate is expected to reach 6.80% by end of 2023. This ratio will be too higher to tackle. - if not deal ~~it~~ at time. Even educated and

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skilled people are struggling to find a job. This situation is particularly dangerous because it can lead to frustration, drug addiction and other consequences. Economic reforms can deal these issues in an efficient way.

To decide between economic and democratic approach is a complex task. Both economic and democratic principles are essential for stability of country, however, **Democracy is considered a mean to end (stability)**. Democracy is a broader concept that ensures fairness in all aspects including social, political and economic. A strong democracy lays the foundation for stable growth. Without political stability, economic stability cannot last long due to constant shift in economic policies, by different political leaderships.

Since the inception of Pakistan, there was continuous shift in leadership and economic policies which neglected the general will and economic interests of citizens indirectly. Every new regime tried to enforce a different economic policies which did not last longer and as a result, rights and interests of citizens were neglected. In case of Pakistan, stable democracy will ensure both general will and economic values of public. Democratic system often comes with protection of human rights and civil liberty which will foster an environment conducive to innovation and economic participation.

Democratic system is often more resilient to shocks ^{than economy} because it is a governance of flexibility and adaptation in response to changing circumstances. For instance, elections and peaceful transfer of power enables them to navigate challenges and make decisions based on will of people. In Pakistan, there is always crisis of ^{resilient} democratic principles and strong economic policies, however, democracy will provide relief and recovery from ongoing crisis. For example, **US democracy played a role in recovery from Great Depression in 1930s due to implementation of policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New**

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Deal Programme. So, "(democracy is)" democracy is more stable than economy due to complex and interconnected nature of economy. Sudden change in economic factors can lead to downturn or crisis, while democracy can survive.

Pakistan is ranked as 140 least corrupt nation out of 180 countries as per 2022 Corruption Perception Index. Democracy ensures a system of checks and balances in different government's organs to ~~ensure~~ guarantee accountability and transparency including economic aspect. Simply, democratic principles will ensure overall transparency and accountability while economic charter is restricted to financial aspect. In this way, democratic principles are considered a favourable approach towards ongoing crisis in Pakistan.

Furthermore, economic reforms are more suitable for those who have maximum sources of production. Whereas, democracy ensures the equitable distribution of money between rich and the poor. As per report of World Bank 2022, 80% of global wealth lies with 1% elites. Pakistan is a developing country with per capita income of 1568 US\$, 38% of people belong to lower-middle income's category. Hence, democratic principles would ensure equal distribution of wealth between rich and the poor.

Democracy and economy are like two sides of a coin and ^{both} are significant for ongoing conditions of Pakistan. However, deciding one out of both favours democratic principles due to its flexibility and adaptability ~~related~~ to changing circumstances. The ongoing political, economic and social predicaments are worrying some yet not impossible to resolve. Ensuring democratic values in true sense will provide step by step solutions to all crisis.

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(Please give marks.)
Add suggestions.