

Q:1 Democracy in Pakistan needs democratic reforms and institutional harmony.

1 Outline

2 Introduction: Thesis statement: Democracy in Pakistan has been in a state of turmoil since its inception. However, by ensuring democratic reforms and institutional harmony democracy can flourish in Pakistan.

3 An overview of status of democracy in Pakistan.

4 Challenges to Democracy in Pakistan:

a) Political instability

b) Electoral irregularities

c) Weak institutions

d) Constitutional crisis

5 Democratic reforms that can reinstate status of democracy in Pakistan.

(a) Political reforms:

(1) Internal democracy within political parties

(2) Consensus based politics rather than conflictual politics

### 3 Accountability and transparency ✓

#### (b) Electoral reforms: ✓

(1) Transparency in the electoral process ✓

(2) voter education and awareness. ✓

#### (c) Judicial reforms

(1) Independent judiciary ✓

(2) Supremacy of the constitution ✓

#### (d) Social reforms:

(1) A strong civil society ✓

(2) A vibrant responsive free media ✓

✓ Institutional harmony that can be established to strengthen democracy in Pakistan:

(1) stable civil military relation. ✓

(2) strengthening local government. ✓

Ever since the inception of one land, humans have tried their level best to manage their shared resources and day to day affairs in the best possible manner. To this end, they evolved and practised different models of management and governance with varying success at different times. Today, the governance system that attend to the people the most is democracy. The status of democracy is in turmoil since inception.

Similarly, political instability, electoral irregularities and weak institutions are one of the major challenges. Currently, Pakistan has been passing through severe constitutional, politico economic and institutional crisis.

Politics is the most ignored subject in Pakistan. State demagogues are busy in their personal grudges. On the other hand, electoral irregularities and constitutional crisis

are also posing greater challenges to the ~~to~~ in strengthening democracy in Pakistan. However, it is a need of hour to bring certain democratic reforms that can rekindle status of democracy in Pakistan. Internal democracy within political parties is also an essential feature to strengthen democracy in Pakistan. Moreover, by promoting consensus politics rather than conflictual politics is also major step towards the establishment of democracy in its purest form.

Based

Similarly, accountability and transparency are also two important factors to flourish democratic norms in Pakistan. In like manner, electoral judicial and social reforms are also key ingredients to bring back democracy in its purest form. Institutional harmony, sovereignty of parliament, system of

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check and balance are also crucial in strengthening democracy in Pakistan. Decentralization of power is also a major step towards the establishment of democracy in its purest form. Democracy in Pakistan has been in the state of turmoil since its inception.

However, by ensuring democratic reforms and institutional harmony democracy can be flourish in Pakistan.

Democracy in the country would remain a mirage unless the essential prerequisites are worked on and implemented in true spirit. Democracy in Pakistan has a turbulent history. The country has faced around three decades of military rule and rest of period as hybrid national regimes with the

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establishment as the chief power.  
Moreover, colonial legacy, incompetent leadership, institutional inefficiency and clashes, rampant corruption are the impediments in the way of establishing democracy in Pakistan.

Democracy is the most celebrated yet most ignored subject in Pakistan. Political demagogues used the term democracy in their slogans, yet in reality they are not willing to flourish democracy in Pakistan.

To begin with, political instability is one of the major challenges of democracy in today's Pakistan. The country in which an elected government is unable to complete her tenure then how democracy can be flourish in such type of country.

Same is the case with Pakistan.  
Only one government has completed his tenure in the history of Pakistan. This sad state of affairs can be depicted from the fact that one of the famous strategic institute based in Islamabad has declared 2020 year as the most depressed year of democracy in Pakistan. In a nutshell, it can be said that political instability is a major challenge to Democracy in Pakistan.

Moreover, Elections are bedrock of successful democracy in any country. Democracy is the Sovereignty of people. Elections are the ways through which sovereignty of people can be celebrated. Owing to this, election irregularities in third world countries are not a new phenomenon in 2018.

elections, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and international observers such as the European Union alleged that irregularities and election rigging occurred in many parts of the country, particularly in urban and rural Sindh and Punjab provinces.

This sad state of affairs is a major challenge to ~~journalism~~ democracy in Pakistan. Thus, it can be said that election irregularities are a hurdle in bringing democracy in its purest form in Pakistan.

Similarly, weak institutions can also pose a significant challenge to the establishment and sustenance of democracy in that particular country.

Institutions play a crucial role in shaping democracy by providing necessary framework for the rule of law, and

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fundamental rights. Unfortunately, in Pakistan institutions are not strong enough to protect individual rights. The weakening of institutions may be due to corruption or inefficiency to perform their work. In a nutshell, it can be said that weak institutions are key ingredients in weakening of democracy in Pakistan.

In like manner, Constitutional crisis is also a major challenge to democracy in Pakistan. Constitution is a key ingredient or bed rock to run a state. Without constitution no rule of law prevail. There is a chaos and anarchy prevail in such type of country. Only one rule that is might is right will prevail in such type of country. Pakistan has a <sup>turbulent</sup> turbulent history when it comes to constitution.

Constitution of Pakistan has been suspended, abrogated and held in abeyance by different dictators.

During this time, democracy was absent from politics of Pakistan.

Moreover, in current scenario constitutional crisis is in another form like

executive and legislature are influencing judiciary in different ways. The basic purpose behind

this is to achieve some favour, specially political favour. Thus, it can be concluded that democracy is

not flourish in Pakistan and has faced constitutional crisis since inception.

Internal democracy within political parties is also a better reform to strengthen democratic norms in a country like Pakistan.

Political parties in Pakistan usually favour those politician which are loyal to their parties

instead of their specialization or  
experience in relevant fields. Similarly  
hereditary politics is also an impediment  
in achieving and sustaining  
democracy in Pakistan. In like  
manner political parties are  
dominated by elite class. In  
Pakistani political culture there is  
no room for a poor to contest  
election or become a chairman  
of famous political party. So, it  
can be said that internal  
democracy within political parties  
is a crucial reform that a  
country is in dire need.

Moreover, there is a  
trend of conflictual politics  
rather than consensus politics  
in the political culture of  
Pakistan. Political parties are  
fighting with each other for  
the sake of power. In  
such kind of environment

no democratic norms flourish.  
 Winston Churchill, President of  
 America while addressing house  
 of common clearly depicted political  
 parties culture, he quoted, IF India  
 is granted freedom, power will go  
 to the hands of rascals, rogues  
 freebooters; all leader will be of  
 low caliber and men of straw.  
 They will have sweet tongues and  
 silly hearts. They will fight amongst  
 themselves for power and India  
 will be lost in political squabbles  
 A day would come when air  
 and water will be taxed.

Churchill said this 100 years ago but  
 it is still relevant. There is a  
 need to encourage consensus  
 politics rather than conflictual  
 politics for the sustenance  
 of democracy in Pakistan.

Moreover, there is a need to reform corruption investigating institution like NAB to ensure accountability and transparency in the country. Democracy is the other name of sovereignty of people. Sovereignty of people can only be achieved if there is proper mechanism of transparency and accountability in Pakistan. The institution like NAB sometime get influenced by ruling elite. So to flourish democracy in its purest form these two pillars i.e. accountability and transparency. Hence, it can be said that for the sustenance of democracy there is a need to reform accountability and transparency in respecting country. In like manner, transparency in the electoral process is also a key factor.

to strengthen democracy in Pakistan. Election irregularities are not a new phenomenon to third world countries. Instead these irregularities are common in almost every election. In almost every election reports published by international watchdogs pointed out election irregularities in Pakistan. These type of irregularities often lead to elect those who are not representatives of people. So how can democracy be sustain in such kind of environment. Same is the condition in Pakistan. So there is a need to bring electoral reforms in such types of countries.

Similarly, voter education and awareness is also play important role in sustaining democracy in Pakistan.

Democracy and illiteracy don't  
move together. Aristotle was  
aware of this fact and he said  
democracy as a government by  
mob. Iqbal was also  
aware of the fact that ignorant  
could not choose what is best

for them. According to Economic  
Survey of Pakistan literacy rate  
stands at ~~an~~ 59.13%. which is  
quite satisfactory. But this literacy  
rate has nothing to do with  
~~democratic~~ politics. There is a need to  
bring reforms in voter education  
and spreading awareness  
among masses. Awareness and  
voter education are key  
ingredients in sustaining  
democratic norms in Pakistan.

The judiciary in Pakistan  
has a long record of subservience  
to political direction. There are  
noteworthy list of cases in which

judicial decisions taken by judge were under the influence of ruling elite. Doctrine of necessity is the best example that can be quoted in this regard. This doctrine has contributed in deterioration of democracy in Pakistan. So it is a need of hour to revamp judiciary. Professionalism, effectiveness and responsiveness are the characteristics of a successful form of characteristics democratic system. In Pakistan it is necessary to revamp judiciary in Pakistan. Judiciary is the pillar to strengthen democracy in Pakistan.

A balanced constitution is the one in which power is equitably shared amongst different organs of the state, thereby arranging institutions in relation to one another and

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the governed so as to enable good government over time. Supremacy of the constitution is a need of hour in current turbulent phase of Pakistan politics. Pakistani society is heterogeneous society. So to protect their diversity and culture it is necessary to supreme constitution in every circumstances because it is constitution that protects fundamental rights of every citizens. Fundamental rights are corner stone in the successfulness of any country democracy. In Pakistan it is time to promote <sup>such type of</sup> culture that is protecting constitution and supremacy of constitution in true spirit.

Moreover, strong civil society is also a key ingredients in sustaining

Sustaining democracy. In a democratic state like UK, USA strong civil societies play important role. They criticize government policies in a blatant way. They often force government to take such kind of actions in which government has minimum interest.

The example that can be quoted here is Brexit. Behind Brexit it was strong civil society that forced government to take action.

There is a need of such kind of strong civil society in Pakistan. In Pakistan the situation is different. There is a fear that prevails in civil societies. Civil societies often reluctant to raise their voices against oppression.

So it is a need of hour to promote <sup>culture of</sup> strong civil society in Pakistan.

Stable civil military relations are also key factor in achieving democracy in Pakistan. The military must accept political leadership and refrain from interfering in political affairs. Gen Kayani's declaration that the army supports the democratic process and is cognizant of its constitutional obligations and responsibilities serve as positive point in fixing the divide.

Institutional harmony is a key factor in strengthening democracy in Pakistan. If institutions are not on the

same page then the situation like chaos and anarchy would prevail in such type of country. Hence, it can be

said that institutional harmony and democracy are the two sides of same coin.

Moreover, decentralization of power and strengthening local government are also crucial for the promotion of democracy in Pakistan. Local government is the basic building block for democracy and without its proper functioning, no parliamentary democracy can succeed. Local govts termed nurseries of democracy. Dr Khalid mehmood vice chancellor of punjab university while addressing a seminar has said that local governments must be established to democratise the mindset of the nation. Moreover in this regard a movement to amend the constitution regarding the mandatory establishment of local government in the country ~~in this~~ or should be started. Universities could play a dynamic

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role in promoting strengthening  
of the democratic system

In a nutshell it can  
be said that there are number  
of challenges to flourishing  
of democracy in Pakistan. The  
political culture of Pakistan is  
also supporting authoritative type  
of leadership style. Feudal mentality  
is prevailing in ruling elite.

However, by adopting certain  
measure and reforms democratic  
culture could be established in  
Country like Pakistan. 18<sup>th</sup> amendment  
was a crucial point in strengthening  
democracy in Pakistan. But  
this amendment also face number  
of challenges and criticism and  
number of clauses of 18<sup>th</sup>  
amendment still are **Partially applicable**  
**Inapplicable**

One of the best example is  
strengthening local government

System. 16<sup>th</sup> amendment advocate strengthening local government but provinces are not much attracted towards this and are reluctant to share power at grassroot level. There are number of reforms like by encouraging consensus politics, by ensuring accountability and transparency democracy can be established in a country like Pakistan. Supremacy of Constitution also play a significant role in this regard. Constitution protect fundamental rights and fundamental rights are basic pillar of Democratic state. Strength Owing to this, strengthening institution also play significant role in this regard.

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