

Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan: Need for Reforms and Institutional Building

Outline:

Introduction:

- 1) - Rise of civic life
- 2) - Emergence of structural governance
- 3) - Condition of Governance in Pakistan

Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan:

- 1) - Rampant corruption
- 2) - Obstruction in power devolution
- 3) - Exacerbating economic crisis and debt
- 4) - Sky-rocketing inflation and poverty
- 5) - Low literacy level and poor educational system
- 6) - Deteriorating health and survival.
- 7) - Struggling energy sector
- 8) - Absence of rule of law
- 9) - Egregious security situation
- 10) - Increasing religious intolerance

Steps for Reforms and Institutional Building:

- 1) - Incorporation of check and balance system
- 2) - Separation of power and uplifting local government system
- 3) - Inclusive and export-based economic policy
- 4) - Development of welfare state system
- 5) - Shifting of budget towards education and health
- 6) - Long-term planning and development
- 7) - Establishment of rule of law
- 8) - Countering security challenges and developing business-based environment

"To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not ~~above~~ above them."

Baron de Montesquieu

Ever since the emergence of human civilization, people have relied upon leaders to guide them in every affair of their lives. These leaders were expected to protect their life, property and liberty. Initially they were men of strength or simply clan chiefs. However, with the increase in population and territory a more elaborate system was devised. Greeks were the first to create a structural governance system which was furtherly enhanced to create modern governing systems of democracy. ~~election~~ governments. Pakistan too has had a democratic system of government since its independence. Even after 75 years of independence Pakistan is facing certain crisis due to bad governance. To begin with, the conundrum of rampant corruption remained

core issue during the tenure of all governments. Similarly, power has ^{been} exploited by certain institutions and not ~~at~~ been allowed to devolve down to the grass root levels.

Moreover; the exacerbating economic crisis and soaring debt has pushed the country to the edge of default. Also, the inflation is sky-rocketing which has a perilous ramifications on the poor. Likewise, the expenses on the education and health is decreasing causing a repercussions on the literacy rate and health sector. In the same way; Pakistan is struggling with energy crisis which negatively effects the industries and ~~prod~~ production. Additionally, the absence of rule of law creates mistrust ~~also~~ among people on governmental institutions. Finally; the egregious security situation and increasing religious intolerance furtherly pushed the country towards doldrums. Still; ~~the~~ in context of reform in governance there is light at the end of the tunnel. Firstly;

a strict check and balance is needed to incorporate. Secondly; power between institutions ^{needs} ~~needed~~ to be distributed with a rigid constitution, and promote local government system. Thirdly; a new export based economic policy ~~is needed to~~ should be formulated with more political and social inclusions. Fourthly; a welfare-state should be developed for the betterment of people. Fifthly; there is a need to increase the budget towards ~~the~~ education and health. Sixthly; governments need to look at their own past ~~tenures~~ and formulate plans for the long run. Seventhly; rule of law needs to be established. Lastly; the government needs to counter security challenges and develop business-based environment. There is a crisis of governance in Pakistan which needs practicable steps to bring about reforms and institutional building in the country.

To begin with; the menace of

rampant corruption is the prime example of crisis of good governance in Pakistan.

The country mostly relies on indirect taxes and foreign remittances to drive its expenditures. Due to corruption the limited reserves are also plundered. According to

~~UN~~ United Nations' Corruption Index - 2022

Pakistan is at 140th out of 180 countries.

Corruption has not only made the population less trustful of the government but also furthered the economic stain on it.

Therefore; crisis of good governance is evident from the rampant corruption that plagues our country.

Furthermore; the exploitation of power by certain institutions exacerbates the doldrums of good governance in Pakistan.

The country was governed by military for more than 33 years. Still; the influence of military is hovering on governmental powers. While the conflict of ~~ent~~ federal and provincial government intensifies the

crisis of good governance. Pakistan implemented local government system only thrice: ~~2~~ two were implemented during the military rule to reduce the influence of parliament, while only the 2015 local government system was ~~the~~ introduced during a civilian leadership but did not empower it enough as after 18th Amendment to the constitution it ~~given~~^{was} enlisted under the power of provincial government. Hence; the obstruction in the devolution of power causes crisis of good governance in our country.

Additionally; the soaring economic doldrums and mounting national debt pushed the country towards crisis of good governance. According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Pakistan's ~~for~~ overall debt in 2022 is \$248bn in which foreign debt is \$86bn. While the ~~our~~ country's current account reserves is only \$5bn. These facts and figures demonstrates the deteriorating situation of

Pakistan's economy. According to Pakistan Economic Survey - 2022 the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 5.97% and the current inflation is 26%. Just three months ago the price of a bread was Rs. 10 per bread ~~now~~ and now it is at Rs. 14 per bread. Similarly the prices of other commodities and daily usage things also increased in the same ratio. Therefore, this clearly demonstrates the looming crisis of economy and skyrocketing issue of poverty as a failure of good governance in Pakistan.

"Like a country shifting its economy from defence to education, humans shifted energy from biceps to their brains."

Yuval Noah Harari
Sapiens

That's how Noah, a historian, jotted down about human cognitive revolution in his book "Sapiens". According

to him the core cause of homo sapiens, humans, being more intellectual than his other family members, like chimpanzees, is due to ~~transfer~~ supply of ^{excess} energy to their brains. As, humans supply 25% of body energy to brain ~~at rest~~ compare to 8% by chimpanzees at rest. The argument is that ~~the~~ Pakistan spends only 1.7% of GDP on its education. The literacy rate is only 62.3% which means 60 million people are illiterate.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela.

The literacy rate and the expenses on education in Pakistan demonstrates the crisis of good governance in Pakistan.

In addition to that, the deteriorating health system and reducing survival rate also point towards the crisis of good governance in the country. The

expenses on health sector is only 3% of GDP, and the life expectancy is only 66.1 years as per United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI)-2022.

The recommended expense on health sector by World Health Organization (WHO) is 6% of GDP. The poor infrastructures of health system and non-existence of many health facilities furtherly push the country's good governance towards crisis.

Likewise; the energy sector of Pakistan is also struggling with crisis which has a negative impact on industrial development as well as the life of people. According to Ministry of Energy of Pakistan the peak energy demand in the country is 28 GW while current production is only 21 GW which depicts that the ~~country~~ country is currently facing 7 GW ^{or 25%} energy shortage. Moreover; ~~at 25%~~ In this contemporary world, where industrialization and production is proliferating, the demand of energy is

also increasing. Hence; struggling energy conundrum shows the crisis of good governance in the country.

In the same way; the absence of rule of law exacerbates the good governance issue in Pakistan.

According to Miftah Ismail, former finance minister of Pakistan, the wealth and power of the country is concentrated only at 1% population. As per him due to this centric power and wealth, these rich population create ^{manoeuvre} different laws and regulations while manipulating the poor people. Due to this spoil culture the influence of institutions are degrading. While the people have mistrust on law regulating bodies. The former prime minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, also insisted many times about the construction of rule of law. Therefore; due to the absence of rule of law the crisis of good governance is soaring in Pakistan.

Finally; the egregious security situation and proliferating religious intolerance further pushed the country's good governance in doldrums. Since after the 9/11 incident ~~per~~ Pakistan entered into "the war on terror" allying with United States. Due to this war ~~per~~ Pakistan paid a huge economic and social prize. As per ~~the~~ Inter Services ~~Public~~ Public Relations Pakistan (ISPR), ^{the country} ~~Pakistan~~ lost 80 thousand lives and \$150 billion during the last two decades, due to war on terror. Still; the security issues are hovering in the country causing the investors to leave the country and diminishing the peace of people. On the other hand; the increasing religious intolerance also amplifies the security threats in the country. The verdict is the mob lynching on a Sri Lankan factory manager, Priyantha Kumara, while accusing him of inculting Islam. Hence; the soaring

terrorism and religious intolerance proves the crisis of good governance in Pakistan.

In the above paragraphs the crisis of good governance in Pakistan is discussed. Although; the situation of good governance is egregious but still; in context of reform in governance there is light at the end of the tunnel.

To enhance the ~~bad~~^{awful} situation of good governance certain steps need to be taken which can bring reforms and institutional building.

Firstly; the government need to incorporate check and balance system which can decrease the rampant corruption. As; the contemporary world is shifting towards digital technology, Pakistan should also incorporate digital check and balance system. This step will make the check and balance institutions more independent from any influence. While; it will make

the system more efficient, effective and trustworthy. Moreover, checks and balances system make governments more responsible towards the people. It also helps in strengthening institutions. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate checks and balances in order to bring about reforms and institutional building.

Secondly, "It is necessary from the very nature of things that power should be a check to power."

Baron de Montesquieu

Secondly, power should be separated between institutions through a rigid constitution, and local government system should be uplifted in order to bring reforms and institutional building. Montesquieu, a French philosopher, gave the "Theory of Power Separation" which is successfully implemented in many high-income countries, like America. The separation of

power protects the defined power of any governmental organ from ~~any~~ exploitation by any other organ. Unfortunately, in ~~pa~~ Pakistan since from the independence the war of power hegemony was developed while ~~subjugating~~ subjugating institutions by a certain powerful institution. A rigid constitutional amendment is needed to develop to protect power exploitation. Furthermore; uplifting the local government system can bring people more closer to the governing bodies. It will also enhance the system of accountability and ~~push~~ devolve more power towards the people. Hence; separation of power and promoting local government system can certainly bring reforms and institutional building.

Thirdly; our economic policy needed to be more inclusive and export-based investment in order to develop reforms and institutional building. To make the economic policy more inclusive a

Charter of economy between political parties should be signed. The policy should be formulated with mutual consensus of different stakeholders, parliamentarians and political parties.

Moreover, the ~~young~~ ^{young} labor should also bring forward in the economic development. ~~the~~

Pakistan is the 5th largest population in the world. The first four populated countries, China, India, USA and Indonesia, collectively contribute 45% of world's GDP as per World Bank Report. While

Pakistan, ~~only~~ having 80 million young labor force, only contributes 0.4% of world's GDP. ~~the~~ Pakistan has 150 million

young people who are less than 30 years and 80 million young labor force. Still,

only 40 million people contribute in

the economy. While due to patriarchy and primitive thoughts 35 million young women

are kept out of economic contribution.

~~Hence,~~ ~~the~~ On the other hand, 85%

people in Pakistan invest on ~~the~~ real-estate. Hence, a more inclusive and export-led economic policy ~~and~~ can usher reforms and institutional building.

Fourthly, the government should develop a welfare-state in order to ~~improve~~ escort reforms and institutional buildings.

As per democratic norms the government should serve for the prosperity of its citizen. The state should be committed to providing basic economic security for its citizens by protecting them from market risks associated with old age, unemployment, accidents and sickness. It will bring back the trust of people on its institutions while also reduce the corruption and bribery.

As per John Locke, a British philosopher, in his "Social Contract Theory" defined that state was formed when a contract was done between the citizens and the government that ^{Governing bodies} ~~of~~ government will protect the life, property and liberty of people.

So, construction of a welfare-state can ~~bring~~ uplift national integrat^{on} and cohesion which can ultimately bring reforms and institutional building.

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Malcolm X

Fifthly; in order to bring reforms and institutional building ~~educate~~ the budget on education and health ~~to~~ needs to be increased. As Malcolm X, an American politician and human rights activist, mentioned that future belongs to those who prepares for it today and education is the most powerful tool ~~to~~ for preparation. Merely an investment of 1.7% of GDP-2022, compare to a huge military expenses of 17% of GDP-2022, is minimum to bring reforms. If Pakistan wants to compete in this technological era then

it should ~~be~~ invest a huge amount of GDP on education. On the other hand the deteriorating health of 230 million people also exacerbates the good governance affair. As per World Health Organization (WHO) recommended minimum investment on health and survival sector is 6% of GDP. Therefore, an improvement in education and health sector can assure reforms and institutional building.

Sixthly, the government needs to develop long-term planning ~~through~~ through mutual consensus while looking at their own past tenures in order to initiate reforms and institutional building. In the history of Pakistan not even a single democratic prime minister ~~had~~ ~~have~~ has completed its full term in the office. The constantly changing government leads to a short-term planning of every government which negates the long-term projects. In order to protect certain long-term plans charter of

democracy is needed between political parties as well as institutions. Certain ~~Law~~ plans should be developed with the mutual consensus of all stakeholders and a rigid constitutional amendment should be developed to protect the policies from ~~the~~ any change. Hence; long-term planning can surely usher reforms and institutional building.

Seventhly; to bring reforms and institutional building, rule of law should be prevailed in the country. As per the Constitution of Pakistan - 1973, all citizens have ~~of~~ equal ~~in~~ basic rights irrespective of class, color, gender, and creed. Yet; the exploitation of power by the upper-class of the country undermines the rule of ~~the~~ law. Furthermore, the high cost of litigation and corrupt law enforcement agencies ~~substantially~~ ~~the~~ erodes the rule of law. ~~The~~ In order to prevail rule of law, law enforcing agencies should ~~be~~ ~~inde~~ work independent,

without the influence of any external force. Strict actions should be taken against those who violate the laws and regulations. Therefore, the triumph of rule of law can escort reforms and institutional building.

Lastly, the government needs to counter security challenges in order to persuade reforms and institutional building.

As China is shifting towards ^{information} technological development which ~~is~~ diverting many industries towards under developing countries. Similar;

Muhammad bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, is also investing a huge amount of on future development. If Pakistan provides a secure environment then these closed allies can invest a huge amount on industrial development.

Furthermore, bilateral relationships with neighbouring countries and other ~~other~~ countries can be commensurate with fixing security concerns.

Therefore, fixing security challenges can

ensure a huge investment and bring reforms and institutional building in the country.

In short, humans are social animal. They always yearned to live in groups. They have appointed, from amongst themselves, people of the right caliber and aptitude to guide them. During the primitive era, rulers were often chosen on the basis of their physical prowess. The Greeks developed the system of people voting. This structural governance system is accentuated to modern democratic system where people choose their representatives, ~~and~~ These representatives advocate on the behalf of their people in order to legislate and execute laws and regulations in a state. Pakistan also introduced democratic system since its independence.

The government of ~~the~~ Pakistan is failed to deliver good governance since 1947. The egregious corruption and exploitation of power remains a core issues

during the terms of all governments. The exacerbating economic conditions and soaring national debts push the country towards crisis of good governance. Furthermore; skyrocketing inflation and perilous poverty depicts the doldrums of good governance. Likewise; poor educational system and deteriorating health sector demonstrates the repercussion of bad governance. ^{Also;} the struggling energy sector decreased the ~~in~~ industrial development and production. Additionally; the crisis of good governance deteriorates with the absence of rule of law in the country. Finally; the poor security situation and proliferating religious intolerance enhanced the crisis. ~~The~~ Still; the situation is not irreversible as there is a ~~st~~ light of hope in terms of reforms and institutional building. Firstly; strict accountability has to be instituted at all levels of governments. Secondly; the separation of power should be done

between all organs of the government.

Also; ~~A~~ new economic policy should be developed which is more inclusive.

Likewise; the development of welfare-state can enhance good governance. Additionally; prioritizing education and health can bring reforms and institutional buildings.

Moreover; a long term planning should be ~~made~~ ^{developed} ~~which~~ through ~~mutual~~ mutual consensus of all stakeholders. Also; the

rule of law should be supreme in the country. Lastly; the government should counter the egregious security situation and soaring religious intolerance. This essay has showed

how there is a crisis of good governance in Pakistan and concluded with a few suggestions for reforms and institution building.