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## Essay

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

## Outline

### 1 Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** Crisis of good governance has been pushing Pakistan into an alarming state. Causes of good governance are rampant corruption, obstruction in the devolution of power, poor economy, low literacy levels and substandard of health sector increased the proliferation of poverty, shortage of energy, absence of rule of law, and lax security situation. However, these crisis can overcome through a strict and indiscriminate checks and balances, promotion of democratic norms, strong institutions, long term planning, careful public spending, along with rejuvenation of industrial base, could turn Pakistan into a welfare state.

### 2 Nature of Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan

#### a Rampant Corruption

#### b Obstruction in the devolution of power

#### c Mounting debt

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d Proliferation of poverty

e Low literacy levels

f Pronounced health sector predicaments

g Struggling energy sector

h Absence of rule of law

i Deploable security situation

3 Steps for Reforms and Institution Building

a Incorporation of checks and balances

b Promotion of democratic norms

c Depoliticization of institutions

d Establishment of rule of law

e Long term planning and implementation

f Increase in spending on social sectors

g Meeting the energy demand



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## 9 Conclusion

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"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself it is a pre-condition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and building good governance". (Kofi Annan)

Good governance has been said at various times to encompass: full respect of human rights, the rule of law, effective participation, multi-actor partnerships, political pluralism, transparent and accountable processes and institutions, legitimacy, access to knowledge, information and education, political empowerment of people, equity sustainability and attitudes and values that foster responsibility, solidarity and tolerance. The Greeks were the first people to introduced democratic election for good governance prevailing today in most of the countries. Pakistan, too, has had a democratic system of government, since its independence. However governments in Pakistan have not been successful in delivering the nation, nor succeeded in coming up to the public expectations. Mostly successive governments

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have been mired in corruption. The reason is that power has not been allowed to develop down to the grass-roots level. We have consistently failed to gain economic self-sufficiency and thus have amassed a huge debt. Also, poor literacy levels and substandard health sector have further increased the proliferation of poverty. Recently, Pakistan has been again in the grip of a stifling energy crisis. Similarly, the law has always been a victim of the wishes and whims of the influential segments of our society. Consequently, the public has suffered immensely due to the tax security situation in the country. However, the situation is not as hopeless as it often made. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. A strict and indiscriminate policy of checks and balances, promotion of democratic norms, strong institutions, long term planning, careful public spending, along with rejuvenation of industrial base, could turn Pakistan into a welfare state. It means there is crisis of governance in Pakistan due to various reasons, which need practicable steps to bring reforms for institutions building in the country.