

Democracy in Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles

(1) Introduction;

(a) Democracy is a system which provides political equality and ensures the protection of Human rights. Democracy in Pakistan hopes for the equality, accountability, freedom of speech and better electoral reforms but it faces some hurdles like rise of populism, threats to freedom of speech and political instability. Democracy in Pakistan is facing hurdles since its inception.

(b) Difference between hopes and hurdles of democracy in Pakistan.

(2) Overview of democracy in Pakistan since its inception;

(3) Hopes related to democracy in Pakistan;

(a) Economic stability and disillusionment of economic inequality

(b) Hopes for the transparency and accountability in the different sectors of Pakistan.

(c) Better electoral reforms in the Election Commission of Pakistan.

(d) Promotion of bipartisanship rather than political polarization.

(e) Crucial role of public and politicians in shaping and sustaining democracy in Pakistan

(4) Hurdles faced by democracy in Pakistan;

(a) Rise of populism in Pakistani Politics

(b) Erosion of democratic institutions by democratically elected leaders.

(c) Allegations of foreign interference in the national elections, and electoral fraud

(d) Threat to freedom of press and spreading of misinformation.

(e) Religious extremism and sectarian tension challenge the democratic process

(5) Suggestions to the hurdles in democracy in Pakistan;

(a) Promotion of civic education and social cohesion can lead to better democratic process.

(b) Social media could play a better role in opinion formation.

(c) Strengthening the institutions by ensuring the independency, transparency and accountability

(d) Promotion of national unity and democratic culture by respecting dialogue and opinion,

(6) Conclusion;

no other party accepts the legitimacy of winning party. Threat to freedom of speech is a threat to democracy and religious and sectarian tensions poses hurdles too. Promotion of civic education and better role of media could be good solutions to hurdles. Transparency and national unity could play positive role in the hurdles. While Pakistan is facing threats to democracy, it also hopes for better reforms and national unity.

