

## Bad governance in Pakistan, its causes and consequences

If the history of modern nation states is traced, it is noticed that only countries with effective governance, strong institutions and leaders, have climbed the ladder of development and progress. May it be Singapore, China, South Korea or any other country that was once a developing and struggling economy, have now reached new heights of progress owing to good governance by their respective governments. Bad governance is one of the major dark aspect of the country which has resulted in stunted growth of the country since 76 years. It causes can be traced to be multi factorial. Political pressures and appointments, corruption and lack of accountability being one of them. These lead us to bigger factors, for example, weak watchdog institutions leading to lack of accountability further leading to bad governance. Weak local governments is also big contributing factor which leaves the citizens feeling unheard and unattended. The consequences of bad governance are disastrous, to say the least. In this case, Pakistan can be used as an arch example of what bad governance does to a country.

Low human development, corruption and economic  
constraints are one of the many manifestations of it. It  
also leads to a vicious cycle of giving birth to  
more weak institutions and <sup>more</sup> appointments not made  
on merit. To break this cycle and out of this  
whirlpool of corruption and other ills, Pakistan  
and its leadership will have to make some radical  
decisions. The local, provincial and federal governments  
have to be strengthened in their respective areas of influence,  
and none should indulge in other's domain. Strong  
watchdog institutions to be built to uphold  
accountability without discrimination. Corruption should  
have be dealt with a no tolerance policy. Bad  
governance in Pakistan can be blamed on a number  
of reasons leading to dangerous outcomes, yet, it is  
not too late to address them with our iron  
hand and bring Pakistan back on track.