

# Political Instability brews a host of social evils

## Outline:

- 1 **Introduction**  
Political instability paves way to many social evils like corruption, poverty, terrorism, extremism, social unrest and many other ethnic and sectarian tensions. It is the root cause of the downfall of nations. However, different political and judicial reforms can help to control this menace effectively.
- 2 **How <sup>political</sup> instability is linked with social evils**  
→ The Tragedy of Afghan War by Ahmed Rashid
- 3 **Politics of agitation leads to increase corruption cases**  
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- 13 Gender inequality dilemma due to political crises  
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### Essay:

"The greatest threat to stability of the world today is political instability. When political systems fail, when they become corrupt and unaccountable, when they are not responsive to the needs of people, they can create the conditions for conflicts, instability and even war." (Kofi Annan, former UN Security General, 2005). Annan's words are still relevant today. Political instability is still a major threat to peace and security around the world. The ongoing condition of Pakistan, Afghanistan and many other countries are facing corruption, rising poverty, social unrest in form of protests, violence and civil wars. The terrorism and extremism is on peak all around the world due to political instability. People are facing challenges in every walk of life, especially education & employment, due to political turmoils. Many people have left their countries in order to get good opportunities.

causing brain drain which is the biggest loss of a nation. Moreover, political instability has rose challenges to the mode of living of citizens, child labours and domestic violence. is evident posing threats for securing human rights. Gender inequality is also evident, females are devoid of their freedom and equal rights in areas like Kabul. Apart from that many people flee due to political instability in their country, posing refugee crises in the neighbour states and giving rise to food insecurity. However, there are many strategies to curb the menace of political instability which is deteriorating the life of a common man. The peacefull dialogues should be conducted among the state holder for resolving conflicts. No nation needs to interfere in the national issues of other countries apart from the organizations like United Nations and world Bank etc. Peace treaties among state holder either civilian or military to prevent civil wars and instabilty in democratic government. Rule of law should be ensured at every level ranging from fundamental to societal rights. In a nutshell we can say that without political stability peace, prosperity and development of nation is impossible.

There is no denying in the fact that social evils are the product of political instability. Many of the social evils like corruption, terrorism, poverty, crime, extremism are the results of the political instability. For instance political instability is the condition in which the major stakeholders of the government get onto the conflicts with eachother. These conflicts whether based on personal interests or of public interest, are like cancer to the development and growth of society. It cripple down the economy and give rise to many social evils

For instance, Ahmed Rashid in his book *The Tragedy of Afghanistan* argues that the instability in Afghanistan is linked to a number of social evils that the international community has failed to address adequately. There is no doubt that addressing the social evils that are driving instability is essential to achieving peace and stability of country.

Along with many other social evils that arise due to political instability, corruption is one of the most cancerous evil that affect nations' development and steady progress. It leads to unfair means of income as well as bribery, nepotism and cronyism. It is abuse of power for private gain. Corruption undermines the rule of law, erode public trust in government, and divert resources away from essential services. Political chaos increase the opportunities for corrupt officers to gain private benefits. Recently, in Pakistan WAPDA chairman was interrogated about corruption of PKR 753 million in Tarbela Fourth Hydro Power project before National Accountability Bureau. So, it is evident that with increase in political unrest as is nowadays in Pakistan, the organizations and other public and private sector official engage in corrupt activities.

Apart from corruption, Poverty is also driven by Political instability. The state of society which leads a person towards many other social evils like crime, theft and many other socially and morally prohibited activities. The stakeholder, instead of focusing on the basic requirements of their subjects, are more interested in holding and protesting for their own power. With upsurge in the war of thrones, the poor people suffer alot whether in form of food, education, sanitation, safety or healthcare. The report titled "Poverty and Political Instability: A Review of literature" was published in 2004 by United Nation Development Programme (UNDP). It shows that there is strong correlation between political instability and poverty. Countries with political instability are

more likely to experience high levels of poverty and countries that are poor are more likely to experience political instability.

The social evils not only hit the society in form of poverty but also has unrest and protest culture arise in society with increasing political tumults. The citizens, out of anger and rage protest against the politicians. In Pakistan, protests hold the long history, since its inception it is unable to establish a govt having full support of citizens. The opposite party conflicts lead a society towards havoc. For instance on 9 May 2023, the arrest of former prime minister lead their supporters to strike against government for arresting their leaders. The situations worsened when the riots

attacked the Minar house in Islamabad and devastated everything in the historical building. It was not the only evidence of political instability leading towards social unrest and protests but the history is evident of many such incidences. Hence, the peace of society largely depends on the stability of its govt.

The protests and social unrest invites many other social evils like terrorism and extremism to the society. Terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation to achieve political goals. Whereas, extremism is the holding of extreme or fanatical political or religious views. Both of them pose a serious threat to security and stability. They can destabilize economies, sow fear and chaos. Since 2021, with the revival of Afghan Taliban, the terrorists attacks have increased by 73%. These attacks rose when Pakistan was facing the crises of political instability and later the regime was changed in 2022. The Bajaur and Khyber mosque attack was one of the major terrorist attack made in 2023 this year. Therefore, political instability provides ground for the terrorism and extremism, which can be seen in Afghanistan as well as Pakistan so far.

Moreover, Political instability has posed many challenges to education sector as well. The effects of political instability are not only limited to the realms of economy and politics. In a country like Pakistan where military dictators can topple down government anytime, the importance of political stability cannot be stressed enough. The example of Single National Curriculum is right in front of us, it was launched by ex-PM under the supervision of Dr. Mallam Chughtai in 2021. But due to political instability the project evaporated into thin year after the ouster of Imran Khan. The focus of SNC was largely on "Ideology" and "equality" which breaks all previous curriculums in Pakistan history. It was seen as a bridge to fill the gap between Madrassah and other Public schools. But it has been affected severely by political instability in country.

In addition to the affect of political instability on education sector, the employment and job sector has also been affected. With the increase in inflation, poverty and lack of opportunities Pakistan is facing many problems like brain drain and unemployment. Pakistan institute of development economies revealed that unemployment rate among university graduates in 2002 was over 31 percent. It shows that in every 100 graduates 31 were jobless. Due to lack of job opportunities many people fled to other countries in hope of good life style and employment. A report by Bureau of Emigration and overseas employment published this year shows that, during last 3 years more than 1.4 million people left the country for better job prospects. It is quite unfortunate that people are leaving the country because the politician are engaged in their own show of attaining power and no focus is drawn towards the future of youth in the country, which is resulting in brain drain.

With increasing unemployment, poverty and inflation the rise in child labour is also elevating. Children are working in houses as well as industries in remote areas to fulfill their need of survival. Instead of the fact that constitution of Pakistan clearly prohibits child labour in **Article-11** where all forms of slavery, forced labour and services of child labour below 14 in any factory mine etc. Still **According to International Labour Organization (ILO)** one in every four household in Pakistan hires a child domestic worker. With the upsurge of political chaos in country people are forced to engage their children in labour to earn bread and butter. The domestic violence has been increased lately. For instance **Rizwana** a 14 year old domestic maid was skinned and left to be infested by maggots by wife of Judge in Islamabad. This year in July. Thus, the govt is giving attention to the education of such child labours.

Likewise, the political instability provides a ground for the human rights abuse. People are forced to follow the commands of their leader more like a fascist and Nazist regime. The freedom of speech is suppressed. No one is allowed to live life according to their own freedom. It leads to violation of wide range of human rights includes rights of freedom of expression, the right to assembly, and the right to fair trial. **According to International committee of redcross,** 28.8 million Afghans are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. The revival of Taliban on 15 August 2021 changed the way of living of Afghans by restricting them, especially the females. Many countries rose their voices in support of Afghans, to protect their freedom and provide them basic humanitarian assistance which has largely been affected due to Taliban operations.

Apart from humanitarian crises, political chaos increases the drug abuse among people. The alarming rise of drug addiction among children and young adults reveal that the menace is deeply penetrated in society. According to Afghan Diaspora Network, in January 2023 it was revealed that 3747 narcotics-related cases were either pending or under trial in Pakistan's special courts. The state's inability to keep an eye on its international border has facilitated the smuggling trade from Afghanistan. Drug addiction in Pakistan showcases a multifaceted crisis presenting an unparalleled threat to nation's social fabric. The high prevalence of drug abuse is related with the rise in health crises. Hence, political parties and government is turning blind eye to eradicate this menace.

Similarly, besides the poverty, corruption, terrorism and many other crises discussed above, the political instability brew refugee crises in neighbourly countries due to local unrest in civilian and civil war condition in country. The political chaos widens the likelihood of violence and extremism which forces people to flee for their life. We can take example of Syria, where after over a decade of conflict, it remains world largest refugee crises. Since 2001 more than 14 million people have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety. 90 percent people live below poverty line. Approximately 5.5 million Syrian refugees live in their neighbourly countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Thus political stability is mandatory for peaceful environment.

Moreover, Gender inequality results from political instability. For instance Afghanistan is a country with a long history of political instability. This instability has had a devastating impact on women's rights. Before Taliban, Afghanistan



made significant progress in improving women's rights: they were granted right to vote, attend school and work outside. With revival of Taliban in 2021, they imposed a number of restrictions on women's rights, banning them from working in government sector upto ban on their beauty parlors and education, made them a great concern for United Nations. The political instability in Afghanistan has had many negative consequences for women's right including violence against women, restriction of freedom of movement, and freedom of expression and education.

Likewise, political turmoils have brewed ethnic and sectarian divides. When a country is politically unstable, it means government is not too strong and legitimate. This leads to conflict between different ethnic groups, as they compete for power and resources. For example, the most sectarian divides in the Middle East is between Sunni and Shia Muslims and other is between Arabs and Kurds. The Syrian war (2013-present) was caused by many factors including political instability. The government of Bashar al-Assad was seen as corrupt and repressive and there was a great divide between Sunni majority and Alawite minority. This divide was exploited by opposition which led to war. Therefore, the conditions of Middle East depicts how political instability brew social evils like sectarian divides.

In the pretext of all the social evils like corruption, poverty, terrorism, and so on. the question arise that how can these all evils be curbed? how can they be removed from society? how should the political stability be ensured? So the answer is that first of all the conflicts of the stakeholders be resolved by peaceful dialogues. The political leader should must keep their ego aside for the well being of their state and to keep the society peaceful and prosperous. Secondly the intervention of foreign

army affect the sovereignty of nation. Therefore it should be discouraged that third party involve in the dispute of nation which ignites the already burned fire. However, for peaceful purpose the intervention should be welcomed. Thirdly, the totalitarian regime or dictatorship should leave alone the democratic government to function accordingly. They should not interfere in each others affairs, also they should resolve the matter with peace treaty as in Sudan the civil war is going due to such disputes last but not the least, rule of law should be implement in every sphere of life ranging from accountability, reforms in public and private sector, provision of employment, ensuring humanitarian assistance, strict check on drug trafficking to ensuring gender equality. Each and every problem should be considered by government to establish peaceful society. And strict action should be taken against people who violate laws.

In a nut shell, we can say that it is political instability that is responsible for the surge of many social evils. It can have devastating impacts on country. It can lead to decline of nations, conflicts, human rights abuses, refugees crises and what not. The world of today is facing biggest problem in form of political instability whether is it our country Pakistan, our neighbour Afghanistan or Middle East, the stability of government is like a far dream now. The stake holder are trying their level best to get their private benefits and power on the verge of spoiling their nations. However, still it is not too late to implement the good governance policies, rule of law and

ensure long term commitments to address the root cause of political instability. The role of education and awareness can play a crucial role in the revival of a better developed, peaceful, evolved and stable world. Hope and optimism should not be sidelined in overcoming political instability. The international community is playing an appreciative role in the dissolution of conflicts among nations that are on the verge of many destructive paths like civil war, terrorism and extremism. A nation cannot afford to be weak and divided. Ending up with the verse 10 of Surah hijrat:

"Hold firmly to the rope of Allah altogether and do not become divided"