

What does Pakistan need
the most charter of economy
or charter of democracy?

I. Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan is grappled with political as well as economic crisis. It needs two pronged solution in order to come out of this quagmire. However, the most urgent between these charters is the charter of democracy, because of its broad scope,

II. Overview of political and economic situation in Pakistan

III. Charter of democracy - an urgent need of Pakistan

(a) Democracy ensures political growth which leads to economic prosperity

- (b) Innovations are the brain-child of democracy
- (c) Democracy ensures the rule of law and accountability
- (d) Charter of democracy strengthens institutions of Pakistan
- (e) Pluralistic society is an ultimate outcome of democracy
- (f) Strong democracy inhibits the brain-drain

IV. Charter of economy and its significance

- (a) Debt crisis can be managed through the charter of economy
- (b) The charter of economy paves the way of business activities in Pakistan
- (c) Indigenous resources can be tapped by strong economic policies

(d) Sound economic policies will minimize the balance of payment crisis and trade deficit.

(e) The dream of becoming a transit corridor can become true through the charter of economy.

V. Importance of the charter of democracy supersedes the charter of economy

(a) Debt crisis can be checked by an effective legislation in the parliament.

(b) Political stability ensures the ease of doing business.

(c) Representation of locals provides an avenue to tap indigenous resources of Pakistan.

(d) Debate on economic policies in the parliament can help to minimize the Balance of payment crisis and trade deficit.

Essays

Since the inception of human consciousness, democracy is the foremost need of humanity. As it is elucidated in the words of **Joh Dewey**, "A democracy is more than a form of government; it is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience." This mode of associated living and conjoint communicated experience can be materialised through a charter of democracy. Pakistan is facing multiple challenges. Political unrest and economic downfall are the major problems. To fix them there is need of a charter of democracy as well as economy. The charter of democracy will help ~~us~~ Pakistan to bring political stability, to make inventions through

creative minds, to ensure rule of law, to ensure strong institutions and to prohibit brain-drain. However, the charter of economy is important to minimize debt crisis, to bring ease in doing business, to tap indigenous resources, to plug current account deficit and trade deficit.

In spite of all above mentioned benefits of the charter of economy, the charter of democracy Pakistan is needed the most. It is due to its vast spectrum. It can fix all the economic menaces like debt crisis, balance of payment crisis and many more along with bringing political stability - which is the need of the hour in Pakistan. Consequently, Pakistan needs the charter of democracy to fix all

its problems,

Pakistan is entrapped in political unrest and economic crisis. The political situation of Pakistan is abysmal due to many reasons.

The foremost among them is political victimization. Moreover, the process of democratic evolution is facing jolts from the undemocratic forces who are playing the dirty game of might is right. This is disturbing the peace and prosperity of Pakistan. In the same vein, dwindling economy is suffocating Pakistan. It

is emerging due to multiple reasons like bulging loans, increasing trade deficit, sky-rocketing inflation and many. All these issues require a consensus among masses. The

consensus will come through a charter. Therefore, the

Charter of democracy is the fundamental need of Pakistan. Although the charter of economy has its own importance, however, the charter of democracy is needed the most in order to bring stability and progress in Pakistan.

The foremost need of the charter of democracy is because it ensures political stability. Political stability leads to economic prosperity. For example, those countries which are politically instable are economically paralyzed. Like Yemen, Syria and Iraq are embroiled in civil war like situation at home. These countries are facing political unrest. Consequently, their resources are

wasted away in fighting. They do not enjoy the foreign direct investment. They do not invest in human development. Therefore, ~~there is~~ high crime rate, terrorist activities, poor economic indicators and poverty are the usual business in these countries. On the other side those countries which are economically sound, they are economically powerful. UK, USA and China are economically strong because they are politically stable. The political stability will come through the charter of democracy.

Innovative ideas will come through freedom of expression which is an ultimate outcome of democracy. Democracy allows a person to work and think

without the shackles of authoritarianism. Authoritarianism suppresses the new ideas and dissent. It promotes compliance. Compliance leads to status quo. However, creative ideas are generated when people are free to think and experiment. For instance, the western world was very successful in bringing industrial revolution which had changed the societies and world view altogether. Galileo, Copernicus, Einstein and many other scientists are considered to be as masterminds because of their innovative ideas, and these ideas were generated when they thought out of the box. In the contemporary world, democracy is the best system which can provide this freedom. Democracy will come and strengthen through the charter.

of democracy especially in those countries which have hybrid regimes like Pakistan.

Moreover, the rule of law and accountability are two main ingredients of democracy. When there is ^{no} rule of law in the state, then there is chaos.

Moreover, lack of accountability leads to corruption and money laundering. Both of them can cause irreparable damage to the economy of a state.

For example, Somalia, Chad and Afghanistan are at the ebb of many social indicators.

As a result of lack of accountability and lawlessness, they are weak both politically and economically. So, the character of democracy is important in order to bring democracy

in these countries, democracy will help them to come out from ~~there~~ this two-pronged menace,

Institutions of Pakistan will only be strengthened, when the tug of war between the main institutions will be ended.

The main pillars of a state are executive, judiciary and legislative. In a democratic countries, the concept of check and balance is very prominent. It does not allow any other institutions to transgress its boundaries. But like many other developing states, Pakistan is facing an impasse in the check and balance process. Due to which, institutions of Pakistan are not as strong as in the USA. However, the charter of

democracy provides a way to establish consensus and end differences. When there is consensus on the working of institutions, then they will be strengthened and Pakistan will prosper.

Pluralistic societies can be formed only through democracy. Without ^{actual} democracy, like many other developing countries, will have to face xenophobic tendencies. In pluralistic societies, other people's point of view is considered. But those states which have dictatorial affinities, they resort to violence. For instance, Hitler killed thousand of Jews during the world war. Likewise, the ultra nationalist Hindutva ideology is outclassing

Muslim and non-Muslim. But all these points are antagonistic to democracy which talks about the egalitarian society. Democracy will only be solidified in Pakistan through the charter of democracy.

Another problem, many developing states are facing is brain-drain which can be minimized by implementing democratic principles in letter and spirit. The reason is that undemocratic societies promote inequality which leads to aggression among masses. Resultantly, they want to get respite from the crunch situation which will only be done by democracy. If democracy is ignored, then people prefer to leave Pakistan. This

learned-
causes the loss of brains
which create a vacuum.
So the charter of democracy
becomes so relevant in the
contemporary world. This will also
help Pakistan to come out
from the political and economic
crisis.

While on the other hand,
the charter of democracy has
its own significance, it can help
in managing debt crisis. Debt
crisis does not allow a state
to prosper because a number
of factors. High interest rate
and conditionalities of a lender
are most critical among
them. For instance, according
to the state bank of Pakistan,
Pakistan has a loan of
127 billion dollars of foreign
lenders in 2022. Due to

which a large chunk of budget goes to pay back the loan. Resultantly, Pakistan is standing at the verge of an economic default. It is the charter of democracy which can help Pakistan in minimizing the debt crisis.

Furthermore, the business activities will be promoted by the charter of economy when there ~~are~~ are discontinuous policies, then there are less chances for business activities to flourish. For instance, due to lack of consensus in the economic sector, a small segment of a capitalist class gets benefit from the economic privileges which are given by the state. While the common businessmen face multiple issues in conducting business.

This creates a discontent in small businessmen. This discontentment impedes the way of business activities in Pakistan. Therefore, a charter of economy is required to cater the increasing concerns of small businessmen. In this way, the investment will be increased, and business activities will be promoted.

Indigenous resources can be effectively tapped and utilized by having a strong economic policy framework. This framework will come through the charter of democracy. The reason is that the charter of the economy will help all the stakeholders to engage and interact instead of countering each other. For

example, Balochistan is enriched with resources like coal and many other products. But due to a tussle between the center and this huge province most of the projects ^{are} remained incomplete. However, the charter of economy will design a roadmap on which both can come close to each other and can engage with each other. In this way, the indigenous resources of Pakistan can easily and effectively be tapped. So Pakistan needs the charter of economy.

Moreover the monsters of trade deficit and balance of payment crisis can be tackled through sound economic policies. Sound economic policies can be made by a

charter of economy. For example, Pakistan is facing a large trade deficit and balance of payment crisis. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022-2023, the trade deficit of Pakistan was 44 billion dollars. It is a huge deficit which has capability to degenerate the economy of Pakistan. However, through effective economic policies, this can be managed like by facilitating the Pakistani diaspora to increase remittances. Therefore, the charter of economy is the need of the hour in order to curb the trade gap and current account deficit.

Furthermore, Pakistan can move from a security state to an economic corridor through

a charter of economy when there is broad framework about the economic functioning of a state, then there is possibility to get economic success. For instance, China launched the Belt and Road Initiative. It is a huge project which encompasses energy projects, transportation missions and many more. But before the practical manifestation, they designed a ~~roadmap~~ ^{roadmap}. This ~~sketch~~ ^{roadmap} was the outcome of the ~~roadmap~~ ^{roadmap} charter of economy which brought different intellectuals, businessmen and government officials at one point. Resultantly, they launched such a mega project and China is growing at a faster pace because of the charter of economy instead of charter of democracy. Because there is no democracy

in China. So there is need of a charter of economy,

However, debt crisis can be checked by an effective legislation in the parliament. Strong laws ensure the efficient management of the financial resources. It is because if laws are in good form, then the executive managers will be able to execute them in letter and spirit. All this will be possible through a charter of democracy. For instance, India is doing well in the economic sector. Because it has a good charter of democracy which allows all the stakeholders to converge on one point. In this way, they are able to formulate sound laws related to

financial management. Consequently, they are freed from debt crisis.

Moreover, political stability leads to an ease of doing business. The reason is that political chaos breaks the trust of an investor. Political stability comes through democracy. Democracy is strengthened through a charter of democracy. For instance, USA, UK, Singapore and many developed nations are economically strong because they have strong political institutions. Strong political institutions provides a base for strong economic institutions, as mentioned in the book, 'why nations fail', written by Acemoglu and Robinson. This book cements the importance of political institutions. So

the charter of democracy is needed more than the charter of economy

Furthermore, representation of locals provides an avenue to take the locals in confidence to tap indigenous resources. Representation comes through democracy. The charter of democracy will help to create an inclusive environment where the local citizens will also be represented. For instance, Balochistan is enriched with natural resources. Likewise, the Gwadar has a great potential. But the alienation among the locals is an impediment in the way of economic prosperity of Pakistan. However, the panacea of this problem is the charter of democracy.

which will increase the engagement between the federal government and the provincial government of Balochistan. In this way, the native resources of this area can easily be tapped.

The charter of democracy will help in strengthening parliament where constructive debate on financial policies is happened, it will assist in controlling trade deficit and payment crisis. Parliament is the best place where representatives from different parts of the country can give their point of view. ~~It~~ It creates a conducive environment for foreign investors and local businessmen. For example, when all the stakeholders are joined in

formulating trade policies and other economic policies, then there are less chances of corruption and exploitation. Consequently, it will be possible to carry out economic reforms, these reforms will help Pakistan to come out from the swagmire of balance of payment crisis and trade deficit.

Moreover, the charter of democracy paves the way for Pakistan in becoming a transit corridor. Pakistan is facing many problems due to its neighborhood. The reason is that on one side there is arch rival in the form of India which is posing an existential threat to Pakistan, on the other

side, there is an unstable Afghanistan which is the breeding site of terrorism. Due to these threats, Pakistan has gained a title of a security state. But now Pakistan is shifting towards geo-economics. This is possible when all entities of Pakistan will converge and formulate a comprehensive national economic policy. This is possible through democratic way.

Sum and substance of the whole discussion is that Pakistan is entrapped in two pronged issue that is political crisis as well as economic meltdown. But the intensity of political crisis is more than economic crisis, therefore, Pakistan is needed.

the charter of democracy, This will not bring political stability but also the economic prosperity. The reasons are manifold like it will ensure creative thinking, accountability, pluralistic society and strong institutions. However, the charter of economy has its own importance like it will help in countering debt crisis, promoting business activities, tapping indigenous resources and many more. But the scope of this charter is limited, while the charter of democracy is comprehensive. The charter of democracy deals with all of the above mentioned issues along with creating a conducive environment for politics and economics. Therefore, it is needed the most.