

Sustained through equitable powers, inclusive governance & a commitment to pluralism.

## Discuss the obstacles in the way of Good governance in Pakistan. What steps can be taken to achieve the goal of good governance?

Good governance is crucial for the sustainable development & progress of any nation. In the case of Pakistan, the path to achieving good governance has been riddled with various obstacles & challenges. These obstacles stem from a combination of historical, political, socio-economic, & institutional factors that have hindered effective governance in the country.

In his book, *Imagining Pakistan*, professor Rasool Bakhsh Rais describes Pakistan has had patchy progress toward building effective state-society relations & an effective state with periods of good progress b/w many failures, declines & crises.

Over the course of its political development many problems have accumulated such as poverty, inequality & the rise of extremism & terrorism. These are the serious challenges that adversely affected the governing capacity of the state & the national development process.

Overcoming these obstacles is essential to ensure transparency & accountability, & the delivery of public services to the citizens of Pakistan.

Thus good governance in Pakistan is undoubtedly a challenging endeavour, considering the complex socio-political landscape & the multitude of obstacles that hinder its realization. However, with the road to achieving good governance may be arduous, it is not an unattainable goal. With concerted efforts & commitment & strategic reforms, Pakistan can make significant progress towards good governance.

## What is good governance?

Governance is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented.



Formal govt. structures are means by which decisions are amended & implemented.

The working definition used by British Council emphasizes that a Governance is a broader notion than 'govt.' & goes on to state -

Governance involves interaction b/w formal institutions and those in civil society -

Governance refers to a process whereby elements in society wield power, authority & influence & enact policies & decisions concerning public life and social uplift.

While Good governance is a normative conception of the values etc to which the act of governance is measured, & the method by which group of social actors interact in a certain social context.

Good governance is an indeterminate term used in international development to describe how public institutions conduct public affairs & manage public resources.

Good governance relates to political and institutional processes & outcomes that are deemed necessary to achieve the goals of development.

According to UN Good governance has 8 major characteristics;

- It is participatory
- consensus oriented
- accountable
- transparent
- responsive
- effective & efficient
- equitable & inclusive &
- Follows the rule of law.

Thus it assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account & that the voices of the most marginalized vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making.

It is also responsible to the present & future needs of society.

It has been said that good governance is the process whereby public institutions conduct public affairs & manage public resources & guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner that



essentially free of abuse & corruption & with due regard for the rule of law.

The true test of good governance is the degree to which it delivers on the promise of human rights, civil, cultural, economic & political & social rights -

### Historic Background;

In its weak record of governance since independence from colonial rule, emphasis has been remained on restructuring of govt. through constitutional & administrative measures with no or little impact on governance. Consequently, Pakistan is deep into quagmire of problems resulting from insecurity, terrorism, sectarianism, law & order, corruption, illiteracy, population explosion, unemployment & ~~scarcity~~ scarcity of resources etc.

Historically, Jinnah wanted to see Pakistan as a truly democratic nation where fundamental rights & civil liberties were protected -

In his speech to the 1st constituent assembly of Pakistan, Jinnah had made it clear that everyone will enjoy the equal status as a citizen of the state

regardless of one's creed, color & language etc. Corruption, terrorism, unemployment, high inflation with a multitude of other problems have made the life of a common man miserable. In face of these bitter realities, good governance is man's yardstick.

### Obstacles in the way of good governance are as follows;

The governance in Pakistan is regulated through related provisions of the constitution of Pakistan concerning federation & provincial relations -

Three levels of governance in Pakistan include National level, i.e. federal Govt. & provincial level & federating units/provincial govt. & local level i.e. district govt.

Pakistan is a state rich in resources & talent but badly governed. A brief history of country since 1947 reveals how different modes of governance have been brought into experiment under various civil & military regimes in Pakistan -

Genesis of good governance in Pakistan is not a new concept - It has been contested for a long time - Even today, when the neighboring country like China has



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evolved from its roots into a well governed state, Pakistan still lags behind in devising a clear mechanism of governance reforms & institution building.

Crisis of good governance can be understood only when one gets to know about the attributes & features of good governance -

- Among these attributes "General public welfare & state health come the first". "Good governance is attributed with the welfare of masses".

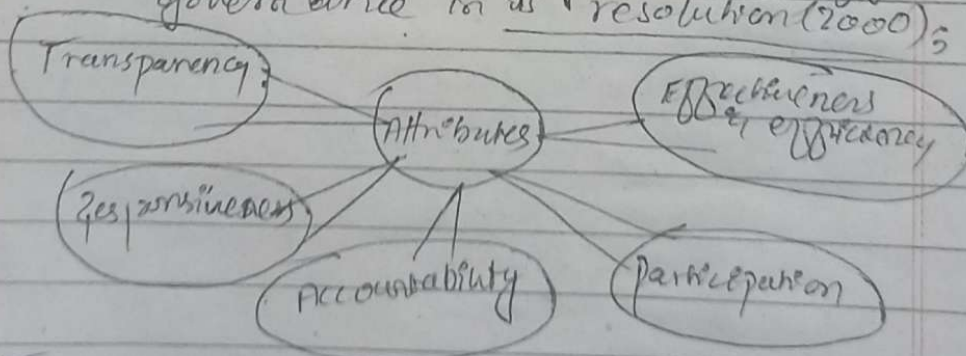
If the people of a state are living a good life with all the fundamental rights & the basic necessities secured, it can be said that the state is well governed.

- (2) Another part of this is health of the state. It can be measured in economic, defense & political strength of a country. A state when healthy in its defense the politico-economic outlooks is usually well governed.

- (3) Further good governance brings an overall better standard of life. Hence it can be said that attributes of good governance vary in the eyes of a common man a ruler & a state as a political entity.

Crisis of good governance is the name of the situation where all the attributes mentioned above are missing or replaced by social & political abnormalities. These abnormalities can be in the form of agents which deteriorates the levels of good governance.

The former commission on human rights identified the key attributes of good governance in its resolution (2000):



- (1) transparent (Being open to scrutiny in decision making processes)  
 (2) participatory (encourage wide citizens participation in decision taking)

- (1) consensus oriented; (reach decision based on widespread agreement)
- (2) responsive; (listening & responding to the needs of its citizens)
- (3) effective & efficient; (provide basic services)
- (4) equitable & inclusive; (not excluding sectors of population, especially those that are more vulnerable or marginalized)

## Pakistan is in state of governance crisis,

Its apparent manifestations can be seen in the declined public health, illiteracy & poverty - An important way to judge the crisis of governance in Pakistan have a look on weak state institutions & mismanaged state controlled enterprises - Dr. Ishrat Hussain describes:

Having ruled out factors such as security & terrorism, inflow of foreign assistance, preference for military rule, external economic environment, & diversion of public expenditure towards defence may have all played some role but were not principal determinant of poor performance - we turn our attention to institutions of governance

Following are the causes of bad governance in Pakistan.

### (1) Weak institution set up in Pakistan is Major Hurdle in the way of good governance,

Strong and independent institutions are pivotal for the realization of good governance in any state -

The institutions dealing with corruption & accountability etc need to be built, sustained & made stronger -

Strengthening institutions is crucial for promoting good governance in Pakistan -

But unfortunately, serious attention has not been paid to build institutions on a sustainable basis in Pakistan from day one -

The institutions with the function of accountability e.g. the police, the NAB etc are not fully independent. Politicians influence the institutions for their personal & party interests thus becoming a hurdle in the eradication of corruption -



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Thus, political pressure inhibits the capacity & ability of the institutions to bring the criminals to justice & enquire about the cases of powerful people -

(2) Dictators leadership left little space for political institutions & democratic systems to grow & develop:

Out of 72 years, Pakistan has witnessed 34 years of military rule. After the end of a decades long dictatorship, a new political system was installed from scratch. The new political system was dismissed & bulldozed before it got mature. This vicious cycle has been repeating since the first Martial law was in the country imposed in 1958 by Ayub Khan -

The political parties also have acted against each other at the behest of their undemocratic forces which is one of the obstacles in the way of good governance in Pakistan.

(3) One of the biggest cause of bad governance is rampant corruption:

Corruption is a pervasive challenge that undermines good governance in Pakistan.

In his book, 'Imagining Pakistan', Prof. Raza Bakht describes,

Ale to transparency international, Pakistan ranks among top corrupt countries of the world. This is at a time when it is borrowing heavily both domestically & internationally & facing ethnic & religious radical insurgencies. Corruption has been a chronic problem for Pakistan. It is pervasive at all levels of political, social & private, & public institutions in the state.

It hinders both physical & human development of a country - by reducing the economic growth -

It leads to increased poverty & illiteracy - It erodes public trust & hampers economic growth & perpetuates inequality - widespread corruption affects various sectors including politics & bureaucracy,



judiciary & law enforcement -

This problem has aggravated in absence of impartial & independent accountability -

And unfortunately, none of the govt. have got out of this vicious circle & take practical measures to ensure accountability across the board without political witch-hunting -

(4) Lack of accountability & transparency & law & order problem also great hurdles in the way of good governance,

Accountability entails making public office bearers answerable for govt. actions to people for the entity from which they derive their authority -

Accountability is a very important factor when one comes to good governance -

The govt. & institutions of the state are answerable before the people - but govern weak institutional setup > it's difficult to see any fair accountability in Pakistan -

That's why law & the order situations have been always dismal govt. - people are being robbed & killed in bright daylight - people do not feel safe & secure - places of worship have to be guarded for the fear of terrorism - security issues in the country are one of the reasons which scare the investors to come to Pakistan thereby causing damage to the economy -

(5) Incompetent politicians have adversely affected the governance system in Pakistan that lead chronic political instability;

It is the basic problem with the policies of our country - It may be from systemic & generic incompetence.

(a) Systemic in the sense that our political system is not designed to perform the type of functions it is entrusted with -

(b) Generic in the sense that political apparatus (parliament, govt or the cabinet) designed for performing certain functions essentially the sovereign functions that does not have proper capability to discharge the duties that assigned to them - There is a sharp difference



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blw our political culture & governance.  
In some cases it does but in many cases it does not -  
social justice & transparency, effective economics & enterprise management do not find a place anywhere in our politics -  
politicians have a one point agenda to attain power & they are not for the purpose for which they are elected.

That's why Pakistan has experienced periods of political instability & inclusion of frequent changes in govt. Policy inconsistency -

This instability hampers the continuity of policies & reforms & making it difficult to achieve sustainable good governance -

Thus, strengthening democratic institution, promoting accountability & stability among govt. structure, ensuring a smooth transition of power is essential for persistency of good governance -

Until the power gaining political thinking prevails, Pakistan cannot materialize its dream of good governance, As Qaid-i-Azam stated,

If we want to make this great state of Pakistan happy & prosperous, we should wholly & solely concentrate on the wellbeing of the people, especially of the masses & the poor.

A.P. Memon rightly says it,

The unstable govt. & inefficient political parties & a weak political culture create a scenario of good governance for a politically unstable state.

**(b) lack of political will & socio-economic challenges pose significant hurdles to good governance;**

The lack of sustained political will is a significant obstacle to good governance in Pakistan - e.g.

short term gains over long term reforms & hindering progress in key areas such as anticorruption, rule of law & institutional strengthening.



For fostering a genuine commitment to good governance & there is must necessary to ensure the continuity of reforms across different political regimes are vital for overcoming this obstacle.

Lack of political will further rise the socio economic challenges including poverty, unemployment & inequality pose significant hurdles to good governance. - These challenges

in turn exacerbates social unrest, weakens the social fabric & hinder effective governance. - Addressing these issues

through inclusive economic policies, poverty alleviation programs & investment in human development is necessary for promoting good governance.

### (1) Crisis of sincere leadership also a major cause of poor governance in Pakistan.

Governance implies management by the leadership in power but in conjunction with prevailing circumstances & the quality of leadership available, governance becomes a problem.

And with this leadership crises Pakistan faces challenges in delivering essential public services effectively,

inefficient bureaucracy, inadequate infrastructure & limited resources contribute to the poor delivery of services such as healthcare sector & sanitation.

This erodes public trust from their leader & this results in disunity, factionalism among the population & a lack of trust in the government's ability to meet their basic needs.

### (2) Polarized political landscape & weak judicial system leads to gridlock & of effective governance.

Pakistan's political landscape is often marked by polarization along ethnic, regional & ideological lines. This polarization hinders the consensus building, compromises & cooperation among political parties, leading to gridlock & ineffective governance.

It is becomes challenging to implement



comprehensive policies & reforms when there is a lack of political unity & a tendency towards confrontational policies -

Moreover, judicial system in Pakistan faces challenges related to capacity & efficiency & independence.

Lengthy court proceedings, backlog of cases & corruption within the judiciary undermine the rule of law & access to justice -

Thus strengthening the judicial system, ensuring judicial independence, & improving its efficiency is crucial for establishing an effective governance framework -

(1) Lack of financial accountability and influence of non-state actors contribute to the erosion of good governance;

Pakistan faces challenges in terms of fiscal transparency, budgetary control & misuse of public funds.

The planning & budgeting systems are deficient in Pakistan - This reduces transparency & accountability in the process of allocation & expenditure -

Budgets are framed without a consistent macroeconomic framework -

Today taxes are imposed on & collected from the poor - large segments of civil society, particularly the rich remain inadequately taxed to wit -

In Pakistan tax incidence on upper strata of income is 40.5% & on lowest 10.3%.

This erodes efficient allocation & effective management of the macroeconomy -

This is a direct hindrance in the way of good governance -

Moreover, Non state actors include, religious, extremist groups & influential interest groups often exert considerable influence on the political & governance landscape in Pakistan -

Their interference can undermine the rule of law, impede policy implementation, & challenge the authority of the state -



Effectively addressing this challenge requires comprehensive counter-terrorism measures > promoting social cohesion & ensuring the state's monopoly on the use of force.

Thus;

Good governance in Pakistan faces numerous obstacles that impede its progress & hinder the establishment of an effective & accountable governance system.

These obstacles are deeply rooted in the country's historical, political & socio-economic context.

(10) Political Patronage & Nepotism  
> Lack of citizens' participation  
& security concerns undermines  
the principles of good governance

Pakistan has a history of political patronage, where influential individuals & groups use their connections to gain favours, positions & resources.

This culture of nepotism undermines meritocracy & hampers the selection of qualified & capable individuals for key governmental positions.

This perpetuates a system of favouritism & undermines the principles of good governance, which prioritize competence, fairness & transparency.

This is mainly due to limited citizens' participation & engagement in decision-making processes hinder good governance. Many even mostly citizens feel disconnected from the political system, leading to a lack of accountability & transparency.

Encouraging citizens' participation through avenues such as public consultation & community involvement & strengthening local govt. structures can enhance transparency, responsiveness & inclusivity in governance.

Moreover, Pakistan faces security challenges including militancy, terrorism & regional conflicts. These security concerns divert resources & undermine stability & impede the government's



ability to focus on governance reforms -  
Establishing peace & stability through  
effective security measures &  
addressing underlying causes of conflict  
is essential for creating an  
environment conducive to good  
governance -

Thus, Pakistan facing lot of these  
challenges in the way of good governance  
but every problem have solution, so  
with sustained dedication & strategic  
reforms → Pakistan can surmount these  
obstacles & establish a governance system  
that promotes transparency, accountability  
& public welfare.

### Recommendation/ steps to mulate good governance in Pakistan;

To overcome these obstacles, Pakistan  
needs a comprehensive & multi-faceted  
approach - This includes implementing  
robust anti-corruption measures,  
strengthening institutions, promoting  
political stability, investing in social-  
economic development, fostering political  
will, & encouraging citizens participation.  
Additionally, building strong alliances  
with international partners,  
Leveraging technological advancements,  
fostering a culture of transparency &  
accountability can also contribute  
to overcoming these challenges -

(a) Strengthening Democratic  
institutions is the one  
one step in achieving the good  
governance in Pak;

For the effectiveness of this measure,  
Govt. should enhance the capacity,  
independence & effectiveness of democratic  
institutions. Including parliament,  
Judiciary & election commission etc,  
very crucial. This can be achieved  
through reforms that ensure



transparency, accountability & the rule of law & proper system of check & balance - This will increase the responsiveness & transparency of the working of these institutions -

(b) Promote political stability in the country & enhance transparency & accountability very essential for achieving good governance in Pakistan;

Ensuring political stability is essential for good governance. Encouraging political parties to prioritize national interest over personal or partisan agendas, promote dialogue & consensus building & discouraging the disruptive politics can & address the public grievances on a large scale can contribute to a stable political environment -

In this reference, only a sincere leadership can take the country out of the crisis & can bridge the gap b/w religious, ethnic & sectarian & provincial entities that can lead stability in the country -

All actions must be directed above the personal glory & continuation of power but for the & wellbeing of the country alone -

bold decisions are required to be taken to steer the country out of the chaos -

The speed of decision making is the essence of ensuring good governance >> (Piyush Goyal)

Moreover, Establishing robust mechanisms for transparency & accountability is essential -

This includes:

→ Complementary effective anti-corruption measures,

→ promoting financial transparency

→ Ensuring the disclosure of assets & income of public officials

For instance, strengthening institutions such as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) can help to combat corruption effectively -

(c) Empowering the local governance & by improving the public service delivery also leading step towards good governance



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Strengthening local govt. bodies & devolving power to the grassroots level can promote participatory decision making & effective service delivery -

This means that financial powers, administrative authority & commensurate responsibility must be given not only to lower echelons but also to lower tiers of govt. particularly at the local level within a tight regulatory framework -

This can also foster a sense of ownership & accountability among the local communities -

This enable the govt. to be more responsive to local needs & to make better use of scarce resources for basic human priorities -

Investment in human resource development, improving infrastructure & streamlining bureaucratic processes are essential for effective public service delivery -

- > Implementing e-governance initiatives
- > Promoting citizen-centric approaches
- > And enhancing the capacity of civil servants can contribute to better service delivery -

**(d) Promoting citizen participation & participation of private sectors is very crucial for good service delivery & achieving good governance.**

Establishing platforms for public consultations & engaging civil society organizations & incorporating citizens feedback into policy formulation can ensure that governance decisions are inclusive & representative -

Furthermore, The private sector participation can to a large extent overcome a lot of short comings in the development of infrastructure & in the provision of services > e.g. NGO, various stakeholders etc -

**(e) Strengthening the rule of law & fostering the culture of Meritocracy can overcome**



## the challenges of nepotism & favouritism;

In reference of rule of law, the different reforms for strengthening the judicial system must be necessary; like, ensuring speedy & fair trials → addressing issues such as backlogs & corruptions within the judiciary are necessary - providing adequate resources, training, & support to the legal sector can contribute to an efficient & impartial justice system -

Moreover, instituting merit based recruitment & promotion systems in the public sector can help to overcome the challenges of nepotism & favouritism.

Emphasizing qualifications, skills & experience in the selection of public officials can contribute to a more efficient & competent bureaucracy -

## (c) Ensuring free & independent media is very much essential for good governance;

For ensuring this, it is necessary to promote the media freedom & freedom of expression -

Moreover; protecting journalists' rights → Encouraging investigative

journalism → And facilitating the access to information can foster the transparency, accountability & public scrutiny - And this step is very close the good governance.

## (d) Strengthening the role of civil society & reforming the civil society rules is essential step in promoting the good governance;

Civil service reforms need to be introduced to make the public official answerable for his actions -

Only notable reform to date, was the introduction of lateral entry into the civil service implementing in 1973 -

It was a measure designed to enhance the professional quality of the cadres -



Moreover, recognizing the role of civil society organizations in promotion of good governance & choosing avenues for their active participation (transparency, accountability & citizen engagement)

### (7) Make strong measures to upgrade the technology & awareness among the citizens;

People must be educated without which they cannot protect their rights, press can play a vital role in creating awareness among people regarding their problems & their solutions.

The promoting edu. & awareness programs can empower citizens with the knowledge & skills necessary for active participation in governmental processes. In this reference govt. take measures;

- > Promoting civic education
- > Medical literacy
- > Technical education
- > Civil engagement programs

can foster a culture of good governance via E-governance

### (8) More General steps are as follows;

- (1) In order to have an effective system of governance, participation of women should be ensured.
- (2) Independence of judiciary must be maintained when exercise an effective system of check & balance & can prevent politicians from abuse of power.
- (3) Economic & political stability are deeply interlinked - without one other can't be obtained - so govt. should adopt major restructuring. Then continuity of policy is required without which not result would be obtained.

### Concls - Synthesis;

- > Obstacles in the way of good governance in Pakistan are numerous & multifaceted. These obstacles undermine the effective governance & hinder the country's progress.



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Concls-

Quaid said;

with faith & discipline & selfless devotion to duty > there is nothing worth while that you cannot achieve -

Quaid also throws light on the importance of law & order; He stated;

The first duty of a government is to maintain law & order so that the life, property & religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by.

note The root of the matter is that achieving good governance in Pakistan is a complex task due to the various obstacles that hinder its progress -

These obstacles include political instability, corruption, weak institutions, lack of transparency & accountability etc

But however, by implementing a comprehensive set of setups, it is possible to overcome these challenges & pave the way for good governance in the country -

Implementing these steps requires commitment, political will, & sustained efforts from all stakeholders including govt, civil society & citizens -

It is a gradual & ongoing process that requires continuous evaluation & adaptation to address emerging challenges & ensure sustainable

good governance in Pakistan -

Thus by addressing ~~go~~ obstacles & implementing the necessary steps, Pakistan can strive towards achieving good governance > which will not only contribute to the overall development & prosperity of the country but also enhance the trust & confidence of its citizens in the governance system -

Dqr - W - Wloom Deoband;

Deerulwloomdeoband occupies a unique significance & importance in the Muslim educational system.

It rendered invaluable services for establishment of Muslim knowledge based on theology by following traditions of shah Waliullah in subcontinent. It was established because of invasion of western culture