

Polarized Politics: the issue and challenges of democracy in Pakistan

1. Introduction

Try to enhance your introduction

2. The issues of democracy in Pakistan

2.1 Lack of meritocracy within political parties

2.2 Lack of accountability of people in charge.

2.3 Intolerance and favoritism of general public has downgraded political debate

Good well organised and relevant

2.4 Flaws in the structure of the political system of the country

2.5 Persistent issue of election rigging:

2.6 Forced voting has halted the proper exercise of voting rights.

2.7 Dynastic politics has badly daunted the democracy in the country

2.8 Blame game of politicians,
no one takes responsibility

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resources to face the challenges

3.2 Political instability as one
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3.3 Economic instability intersects
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3.4 Democracy in Pakistan has
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3.5 Monopoly of political parties
in the political system history
of the country.

3.6 Democratic practices lacks within
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by personality politics.

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autonomy in decision making

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4.3 Enhancing the manifest policies so people can vote on the basis of it.

4.4 Political will to avail and implement democratic practices.

B. Conclusion

Democracy in Pakistan has been

struggling with ~~Pakistan is struggling with~~ democracy since its inception. Country has sustained multiple wounds in the shape of martial laws, suspension of constitution, and the misuse of constitutions articles for achieving personal wants. Pakistan waited twenty years to see its first democratic election that too is swirled among the controversies. Almost every election in the history of country has remained under question of free and fair. Election rigging that is not the only issue of democracy in Pakistan. Even political parties are prone to follow democratic structure within party. Furthermore the question of integrity has always arisen upon the authorities upon within the election commission of Pakistan. They are always accused of impartial behaviour towards political parties of the country. Along with this, people portray politician as deity, putting them away from any accountability of their actions. Another point that is sustained by democracy that is people do not or are not allowed to exercise their

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right of vote on their free will most of people specially in the rural areas of the country are coerced to vote designated parties. Such accidents of coerced voting are repeatedly reported in almost every election of the country. This is a major problem in the democratic system of the country due to persistent challenges which has provided the roots to these issues. One of the main challenges to democracy is considered non-availability of sufficient resources to eliminate these issues. Additionally, not a single prime minister of Pakistan has completed its tenure; this shows the vandalised situation of democracy in Pakistan. Democracy is seen as sanctuary of political stability; however, such instability in Pakistan's politics has backfoot democracy. Country has struggled with its economic system when economic crisis occur, people feel less confident about parties in power, before the maturity of term, government is toppled down. Along with this, there are many other challenges which country is currently

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facing. The Democracy in Pakistan has been facing multiple issues as well as challenges since its inception; however, these can be overcome by implementing solutions for the healthy democracy.

Political parties in Pakistan always struggled with meritocracy within its structure. People in the party are favoured on their personal connections instead of their abilities to lead the party. This issue has arisen mainly due to lack of leadership within the party and the general public favouring particular person on the basis of its personality. When the right people are not prompted on right position it hurts the very soul of the democracy and incompetent people rise up to the ladder in the government who continue to sell the same mantle as their predecessors. Therefore, this intact chain of incompetency becomes a circular phenomenon and the issues of democracy keep rising time by time.

People in the government are not held accountable for their power and authority. People in the government always escapes their accountability to their higher

authority as well as general public. The political system and government deliverance lacks the transparency. Policies often are not discussed and communicated properly. No proper channels or platforms are maintained for the policies communication between different stakeholders. Such as, most of people don't know what is country's official take of climate, terrorism, national integration or economic stability. Governments always failed to circulate the narrative of state within government and to the general public. By this, most of the population is not even aware about the segregation of duties among different positions within government and the departments.

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Even particular institute fails to identify their scope of jurisdiction. Coupled with all these issues people responsible for the accidents to their authority manage to escape that.

The intolerance and favoritism in general public has arisen for the political parties in the recent time. People have become very sensitive to kind political debate, they don't even

take the rational debate. There are various incidents in the recent past that politicians are misbehaved publically on the public places by people for their remark or association with particular party. There are thousands of hate posts on social media posted by peoples against each other leaders, of course these posts lacks any rational debate they are just filled with abuses. Intolerance and favouritism is seen as one of the prominent pillar of political polarization. This issue has only seen rise in the recent past. Intolerance has turned in such a brutality that now people even avoid the constructed criticism on the political parties due to fear of risk or even the death threats. Favoritism has faded away the responsibility of leaders or party workers toward their authority and general public.

Political system of the Pakistan faces numerous flaws in its structure which hurts the very essence of democracy in the country. Such as political parties lacked any law regarding their conduct. 1956 constitution not even mentioned anything of law regarding

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political parties in the 1860s political parties act. was introduced. That law due to its complexities is exploited by politicians time by time. One of incident is recent in vote of no confidence where multiple politicians were accused of floor crossing and horse trading. That is the only law which regulate the political party and that is not considered as up to date law it need various clause to be change and needs numerous loopholes to be covered which are exploited by politicians even in the recent history. The flaws in the political structure and lack of sufficient regulating laws have coupled with other factors in the country.

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Country has been facing continuous issue of political rigging. Almost every election in the history of Pakistan has seen accusations of election rigging. The just press of losing candidate start with the accusation of rigging. This is only risen with the time, recent election of february 2024 is dubbed as the most rigging election in the history

of the country. For the comparison some elections are held under martial laws where commander in chief ran for the post of president this election is even rigged more than those elections. Even people in election Commission of Pakistan was taken in under accusation of the involvement in rigging. Election rigging directly hit the soul of democracy, it clearly changes the process of election with the process of selection. There are various factors that play their part in rigging. Outdated state machinery for the conduct of election, ballot paper are tempered, election forms such as form 45 and form 47 were said to be rigged, commonality between them is they are traditional methods there needs to be online voting. Therefore, the issue of election rigging has always degraded the democracy in the country.

People in Pakistan are forced to vote a particular party and candidate. Pakistan's election are one of the bloody elections of the world. Time around the election is very tensed and

there is high probability of eruption of a riot. People especially in rural areas are coerced to vote a particular party or candidate. Various means of coercion are applied by luring with money or even with the death threats. This menace has mainly spread due to favoritism among people. This has polarised the politics as well as downgraded democracy in the prevailing conditions of the country.

Dynastic politics has dented democracy in both ways the internal politics of party and the democratic system of the country. dynastic politics discourage competent people to come up in the leadership, though it supports nepotism and favoritism with full the system with inexperienced and incompetent peoples. They kill the democracy at very first stage. Parties filled with inexperienced and incompetent people lacks the leadership skills they will never be able to deal the country towards the safe pathways but will only exacerbate the crisis further. By analysing current position of country's democracy

one can understand the suffering of the country due to the lack of resources but lack of abilities to utilize these resources for the betterment of the country. Therefore, dynastic politics has not only tore apart the fabric of democracy but has also costed a country a progress and prosperity.

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Now one in the system accepts the blame of their actions or predecessors. It is always the previous government which is on the mistake. We often read and see the press releases and interviews of politicians claiming that previous government has driven the country to the trench now they are only trying to pull it off but it is thrashed deep down the well. They always stress on what has been happened they never talk on how they are going to bring it back to the track. When they are done with national re-barring they try to pull international organization in the matter that they are trying to debt trap and influence the policy of the

country. This blame game takes away and provide them a fine escape which strip of the democracy from accountability.

Pakistan faces various issues in the democracy and there are some challenges too which combined with issues breaks the back of democracy in the country.

Pakistan's budget has always been cash-trapped which has posed the challenge to the democracy in the country. Country with insufficient financial resources has no chance to bring any material change in its structure. Because shift in structural changes takes a lot of time and finances to implement that change and Pakistan has always lacked both it was always urgent for Pakistan to implement any change. Therefore, finances always proved crucial decision making constraint for the country. Due to lack of finances country is unable to implement essential changes for the betterment of the democracy within the country.

Since independence Pakistan has seen political instability. It took twenty years to country

to hold its general elections that too are dubbed as rigged elections. that election has sliced the country in two parts. Political instability has always been a grave issue for the country be it Iskandar Mirza's era where he sacked five prime ministers, thirty-two years under martial law or the fact that no prime minister has completed its tenure in an office ever in the political history of the country. These are the sorrowing facts that political stability is myth for the Pakistan's politics. That has also seen the lapse of national policies coupled with all this political instability has only effected democracy of in the country in negative scale.

Similar to the political instability, economic instability is also a long-lasting issue for the country. Pakistan has always seen budget deficit which limits the country's drive toward a democratic state. Economic stability comes first of political instability. A self-sufficient state has all the power to dictate its political structure. India is a case study to see the relationship

between political and economic stability. In 1990s India was economically unstable that has seen a lot of turbulence into its political affairs, but later in 2000s as India got stable it also gained the political stability and along with this, democracy sailed in India. This shows that economic instability vitally impact the democracy in the country.

Monopoly of political parties is another hurdles in the way of democracy. There is power sharing between mainly two political parties, as monopoly in any field kills the competition and soul of democratic ways. General public is provided with very few range of candidates to vote for, these are already stable politicians which already had been in power and did nothing significant for their constituency. However, people are left with no other suitable option then they have to vote that candidate even after knowing that it won't bear any fruit for the constituency as well as for the country. These limited options of candidates

and political parties limits the choice of voters hence limit the true sense of democracy.

Political parties lack the democratic process within their party. One of essential problem faced by democracy actually arises within parties. The political parties are seen discouraging democratic process by themselves. The nepotism and favoritism have swallowed the democracy within political parties as well as in the country. Those parties which compromise democracy within their party is seen compromising the democracy of the country. Family & members of party leaders are provided senior positions in the party over other candidates having experiences, qualifications and more seniority than those family members that shows the unwillingness of political parties toward democracy. Hence, such steps hurts the democracy at the national level.

Democracy also faced the challenge of personality politics over manifesto politics. Democracy provides equal opportunities to all these should be the manifesto.

a written plan of a party available to the voters so they can read and vote according to it. However, that is not the case in Pakistan's politics which is purely personality oriented. People see political leaders as deity and not only they vote on their name but compel others to vote their leaders party still happens in Pakistan head of family compel his family to vote the candidate of particular party without even reading its manifesto or their plans of future. This has ~~led to the death and~~ ~~simultaneously has increased the~~ political polarisation among the people.

Governments also are seen to be not able to exercise their powers autonomously. There is always inference in governments decision-making which has also crippled the democracy within the country. Ideally, government elected by the democratic process should have complete autonomy over decision-making, However, in Pakistan's government officials has many time expressed that their hands are tied on many national policies. They

these put under pressure by institutes within country and international organization as claimed previously.

These challenges can be overcome by implementing some solutions which can enhance the democracy in the country and can mitigate political polarization.

Pakistan needs to conduct free and fair elections. It has always been in round about of election rigging whenever democracy is discussed in the country. Therefore, it's essential to carry the election free and fair in the country that can only be done by accepting the transparency of election process and updating the voting system to the modern technology so that can mitigate the fair chances of election rigging. Free and fair elections can stabilize the politics in the country which in turn can enhance the democratic index of the country.

Political parties should eliminate the dynastic politics within the parties. So that the morale of democracy can be uplifted in political parties as

well as in the country. That will not only encourage the democratic process but will also bring the competent and experienced leadership in the front row whose decision-making can reap the fruit of prosperity. It will also uplift the morale of party workers and will prevail the sense of democracy within the party as well as in the country. Democracy will bring the equal rights for all and political debate which in turn will lower the political polarisation.

Politics of manifesto should be encouraged in the country over the politics of the personality. Election does not look like the exercise of equal rights to choose the elected leader but it looks like the clash of personalities which is in anyway no base for the democracy. There should be proper written manifestos of political parties which clearly read what they are going to do if they gets chance in the government they all should be available

to the voters so that they can read, compare and analyse and which ever seems fine to them they should be free to vote it. The voting should be matter of individual it is based on the analysis and analysis is very within family too. So the choice of each and every person should be respected thus the politics of manifesto will bring back the democratic process in the country and can gradually eradicate political polarisation.

There should be strong political will to encourage and implement the democracy in the country. Actually, all this jot down this whether any one in the system wants the democracy or not. Such as, Russia, China and India they are economically strong countries but they don't have any intention or will to bring democracy in their political system but Pakistan is democratic country therefore it is essential for the politicians of country to show intention of democracy

Conclusively, democracy in Pakistan is faced with many issues and challenges which has got serious due to political polarisation in the country. These challenges can be overcome by implementing solutions. Democracy has borne a lot due to political instability and economic instability mainly. A long history of martial laws, inability of authoritarians for not being able to hold general elections before 1970s, the rigging of general elections on each and every time along with intolerance and favoritism has delayed the democracy in the country. Moreover, these factors became the base for the political polarisation in the country. These issues of democracy posed the challenges to the country as well, country is left with no sufficient finances, the political paradigm was changed from manifesto politics to the personality politics. Political stability always faced the doldrums of social, political and economic crisis. The autonomous power of government's decision making was taken

away. Power only swung between two political parties. However, its time for Pakistan to implement few changes in the system and strengthen the democracy and eliminate political polarisation. Pakistan should conduct free

Well advanced comments

and fair elections which should bring the confident government in the power and that can alleviate the democracy in the country. Personality politics should be transferred to manifesto politics and the politicians must show strong will to cement the democracy in the foundation of country's politics. The only solution to Pakistan's countless problems is stable politics that can only be achieved by the ladder of democracy.