

Q: Discuss Policy Formation and Implementation issues in Pakistan.

Restructure your introduction

1- Introduction:

Pakistan is a federation with parliamentary form of government. Being a functioning democracy, its policy formulation process resembles any nation-state with functioning democratic institutions. Multiple institutions and stakeholders which take part, directly or as well as indirectly, in the formulation of any public policy of Pakistan. Creating and applying policies is a complex process in Pakistan, influenced by political, economic and social factors. While many policies are designed to address important issues, their success often depends ~~upon~~ on how well they are implemented.

2- An Overview of Public Policy Formulation and Implementation in Pakistan

P.T.

O

> **Parliament / Provincial Legislators:**

Supreme policy makers

> **Federal / Provincial Cabinets:**

Practically cabinet, headed by elected chief executive i.e. Prime Minister or President which make policies.

> **Federal Ministers / Provincial Departments:**

At centre, Ministry makes policy; Minister approved. Cabinet approval if multi-sectoral effects.

> **Foreign Office:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs focal point for the initiation of all proposals relating to foreign affairs of country.

> **Armed Forces:** Due to multiple reasons, larger than life role played by Pakistan's armed forces in the political governance of the country.

> **Non-state institutions:** Think tanks, media, and civil society organizations play useful role by providing independent assessment.

Policy formulation is a mixed bag.

Day: _____
There have been some very good policies since 1947 and some poorly designed ones as well.

3. Policy Formation and Implementation Issues in Pakistan:

1. Political Instability:

Frequent changes in government lead to inconsistent policies. New governments often discard the policies of previous administrations, slowing down progress.

2. Institutional Overstepping:

Every institution is responsible for policy formulation belonging to its respective sphere with suitable inputs from concerned stakeholders. However, in case of defense, national security, foreign policy etc, the concerned ministries have been abdicating their responsibility. Moreover, the ~~intra~~ transverse civil-military relations are prominent.

Besides creating crises of legitimacy, it also creates crises of ownership as well as of responsibility and accountability when it fails.

3- Procedural Mismatch:

Multiple actors involved in policy formulation but ultimate authority to formulate actionable policies lies with elected representatives. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, they don't take interest in policy formulation debates in Parliament and its Standing Committees. These elected representatives usually rubber-stamp drafts prepared by consultants and endorsed by bureaucrats or technocrats.

Heading and argument should be matching!

4- Limited Role of Non-state Institutions:

Public policy formulation is a structured process involving country's formal institutions - Parliament, federal/provincial governments. However,

non-state institutions such as think tanks, media, and civil society organizations provide important inputs in this process. Pakistan is woefully short of on these; civil society organizations are not well organized, media also not up to the mark. Consequently, their contributions are not properly reflected in public policy formation.

5. Elite Policy Capture:

Policies are consistently directed away from public interest. They are directed towards a specific interest. It thus exacerbates inequalities, undermines democratic values, retards genuine inclusive economic growth and erodes trust in government.

6. Implementation Inadequacies:

Implementation inadequacy is the biggest plague. The main reasons account for: low socio-economic development, absence of commitment,

- lack of ownership, capacity deficit of responsible for its implementation.

Sometimes those responsible are not well-versed with the process of scrutinizing these policy drafts submitted by the consultants. Sometimes best-designed policies are doomed because of inadequate funding or stoppage of their execution due to change of political elite.

7. Lack of Continuity:

Substantiate
Highlight
important
points

In Pakistan, a policy once formulated by the elected representatives, reflects the wishes of people, ~~formed~~ but when their tenure gets completed, the policies are also put in cold storage. It thus deprives the people of the potential benefits and wastes the time, ~~cost~~ ^{efforts} and resources. This lack of policy continuity sends wrong signals to long term investors - local or foreigners.

Date: _____

Day: _____

4- Conclusion:

Public policy; an official document approved by competent authority, outlines the actions for solving a problem. Policy formulation and implementation in Pakistan face numerous challenges, but addressing these issues is vital for national progress.

You have got potential
Good luck!

