

Elections are not the only solution to the multi-prolonged issues in Pakistan
 Essay Outline

1. Introduction:

Thesis statement. Elections are not the only solution to the multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan. However, diverse issues require multifacet approach.

2. Decoding the Role of Elections

3. How elections are not the Only Solution to Pakistani diverse problems:

- a. Political chaos can not be restored by elections
- b. Endemic poverty exacication requires leader not politician
- c. Widespread corruption can not be mitigated solely by elections
- d. Economic instability demands structural reforms which politician alone can not bring
- e. Elections do not ensure ^{an} guarantee implementation of political manifesto

4. Elections are the only solution to the multi-prolonged issues in Pakistan:

- a. ~~Only election can help in forming acceptable government~~
- a. International community hasitate in dealing with care taken set up IMF
- b. Elections will bring democracy

which will provide social welfare

c. Rule of law can be restored in the presence of elected governments
Strong

d. Only politically calm environment can attract foreign direct investment

e. With effective leadership policies can be implemented

5. Not Elections but ~~Peace~~ Multifaceted Approaches can solve the problems (Synthesis)

a. In global politics there is no permanent friends but national interest

b. Anti-democratic governance can also ensure social prosperity

c. Restoration of peace and justice requires national integration

not elections: Baluchistan crisis

d. Foreign investment needs business friendly environment not democracy

e. Policy discontinuity has eroded the culture of implementation in Pakistan

6. Conclusion,

2024 year is marked by the multiple elections across the world. Countries like US, India, Taiwan, Russia are going to a game changing round of elections. Pakistan is one of these countries. The upcoming elections are going to decide future of the country. It has been predicted that elections are the only solution to the multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan ranging from political crisis to social and economic instability. However, elections are not the only solution to diverse issues in the country. In spite of the fact that elections shape the socio-political environment for the specific period of time, in Pakistan the case is otherwise. The country has experienced unstable civilian governance despite elections. Moreover, the upcoming elections are being held in the absence of political manifesto. Hence, poverty reduction, massive corruption, and economic stability lying in limbo in the country. Therefore, it can be ascertained that elections are not the only solution to multi-prolonged issues in Pakistan.

Elections play key role in determining political will of the masses. It is a process of casting

vote in the favour of candidate - one wants to be ruled by. Elections are held in order to choose political representative. In democratic governance set-up free and fair elections are benchmark of this process. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "Democracy of the people, by the people for the people." It shows that elections and leadership are people-centric. Hence, the sole of elected leaders is to create peaceful society free of socio-economic evils. This demonstrates that elections are very crucial to decide the future of any country.

To begin with how elections are not only solution to the Pakistani problem, political crisis is one of the issue which can not be tackled by elections. Although the effort was made in the past to strengthening civilian government in past, but the outcomes were not satisfactory. Political stability is not possible without inclusivity in government. However, in Pakistan inclusive government is being compromised in present elections. For instance, the third largest political party is being deprived of participation in election. Therefore, due to biased approach the current election is unlikely to restore political chaos in Pakistan.

Another chronic issue of endemic poverty is less likely addressed by upcoming elections. The reason behind this is lack of visionary leadership in Pakistan. Unlike western countries, where politician contest election with clear roadmap, Pakistani candidates have not shared their vision of poverty eradication. Ninety-five million people in Pakistan are living in poverty (World Bank, Report, 2023). To address this acute issue of poverty in Pakistan a leader not

a mere politician is needed
this shows that elections are
not the only solution to multi-prolonged
issues in Pakistan.

In addition to this, widespread
corruption can not be mitigated
only via elections. Elections determine
political representation on higher level
whereas corruption is prevailing
at grassroots in Pakistan. As Musharraf
in his book "In the Line of Fire"
said 10% (in our organization) of people
are incorruptible, 10% are incorruptibly
int. corrupt, and the remaining 80%
wait and watch in which direction
the wind blows, they will move accordingly.
↳ from the top

This shows if top leader turns to be
corrupt the whole system will work
accordingly. For instance, Transparency
International ranked Pakistan
133 out of 180 countries. This
shows that the measures of corruption
can not be addressed solely by
elections.

Moreover, present economic
downturn in Pakistan demands
structural reforms in economy which
not elections but comprehensive
national plan can bring. In Pakistan
elections often result in coalition

government. As a result of it, various political parties lack consensus over significant reforms. For example unlike ~~in~~ America where Economic recession of 2009 was compensated through heavy taxes, cuts in subsidies in Pakistan would not be possible due to clash of interests among coalition governments. This shows that weak government representatives will be unable to address economic issues in long run. However, therefore, economy of Pakistan can not be bring on positive track by only elections but it needs comprehensive inclusive structural reforms.

Last but not the least, only elections do not guarantee implementation of political manifesto. This is due to multiple constraints such as lack of resource in financial years. As mentioned earlier, political manifesto has not surfaced yet by any party in Pakistan, yet even if it issues in near time - implementations are not guarantee. This can be seen from past political narratives of providing basic needs to Pakistani masses. For instance, 257 million people are facing hunger in Pakistan (Global Hunger Index, Report, 2023).

This shows that not only elections but multifacet approaches can solve the multi-problem problems in Pakistan.

In contrast, International community hesitate in dealing with the present care taker government in Pakistan which shows that elections are the only solution to Pakistani problems. The reason behind its hesitation is unstable governments which pose threats to their investment due to the resultant social disorder. Unstable politics is directly linked with poor law and order situation. This can be seen from continuous delay in IMF package for Pakistan subjected at providing \$3 billion, however, second tranche of 700 million is yet to received. Therefore, it is encapsulated that elections can bring political calm in Pakistan.

Likewise, the upcoming February elections will bring democracy in Pakistan which will be providing social welfare programs. Provision of basic facilities and security to the citizens are two major ingredients of democracy. Similarly, Pakistan is a democratic country constitutionally. Hence, with elections

many job opportunities will be unlocked. For example, in Sindh and Baluchistan province chances of institutionalization of special economic zones under CPEC projects are higher due to decisive elections. This shows that elections and resultant elected governments is the only solution to ensure social welfare.

Apart from it, rule of law can also be ensured by the upcoming elections. When strong politically elected government come, public institutions become alert. Moreover, elected leaders take robust decisions because at their back there is will of people. For instance, only powerful government can reform law enforcement agencies. As mentioned by **Christophe Jeffrelt** in his book '**Pakistan at the Crossroads**' that rule of law can be strengthened through strong political will in the country. This shows that desirable law and order situation can be made possible by elections in Pakistan.

Furthermore, only politically calm environment can attract foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

unlike neighbouring countries: India and China, Pakistan has been unable to attract foreign investments. This is due to poor security system and unstable governments. On the other hand, India and PRC have emerged as economic giant globally and steadily due to strong leadership and governance system. According to the Office of the US Trade Representative, Pakistan received lower American FDI in 2023 estimated \$127 million. This shows that the current government has providing ineffective in attracting FDI, hence, elections can solve this riddle effectively.

Last but not the least, effective leadership which comes through elections policies can be implemented. The process of elections go through the careful scrutiny of a leader. As a result of this vigilant leader not only craft comprehensive policies but also ensure flexible approach of implementation. This can be ascertained from various provisions of the constitution of Pakistan including Sixt Order under Ehsas Program etc. This demonstrates that when effective leaders with vision come, they bring better into

spirit by practically applying their policies.

On the other hand, global community not as a whole hesitate to deal with Pakistan which shows that elections are not the only solution to various issues in Pakistan. Global politics is centered around power and national interests. This shows that in international politics there is no permanent friend only national interests. For example, Pakistan was not allied with US in last PFF led government despite elected one. Moreover, Pakistan successfully participated in SCO, and ECO summits 2023 despite caretaker government. Hence, not elections but geopolitics is shaped by global power politics as a result of and ability to influence the world.

Moreover, anti-democratic governments can also ensure social progress. This illustrates that elections are not the only solution to the lack of social progress in Pakistan. If one delves deeper into the fact that despite elections in Past socio-economic ills have persisted, one can observe

that it's not democracy which only address them. For instance, China under authoritarian regime successfully eliminate lifted 800 million people out of poverty whereas elections in Pakistan unable to do so. As a result of it this prolonged issue persistently eating the very social fabric of Pakistan thus, elections are not the only solution to ensure social prosperity.

Moreover, restoration of peace and justice in Pakistan requires national integration not elections. In Pakistan due to national disintegration there is massive social chaos. For instance separatist movement in Baluchistan. To deal with unrest on social level, it is necessary to maintain national cohesion for which, strategic dealings with ethnic issues is required. This can be seen from the recent Baloch protests in the capital despite election date. This clearly indicates that for ^{dealings with} social peace and justice elections are not mandatory in Pakistan.

Likewise, foreign direct investment needs business friendly environment not democratic

system. Throughout the history of Pakistan foreign direct investment was remained negligible despite elective governments. Although under CPEC project the investment was massive, yet it has not met the stated amount. This can also be seen from higher amount of investment in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam by China due to business friendly environment. This illustrates that elections are not the only solution to attract Foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

Lastly, in Pakistan Policy discontinuity has eroded the culture of practical measures of any pre crafted policy. Despite the elective government and peaceful transition of power the gap between stated (policies) and implemented remain higher. Unlike western elected governments, the implementing mechanism in Pakistan is weak. This can be seen from proposed reforms in electoral process shifting to digital form. As a result of it rigged elections are often alleged occurred in the country. Hence, elections are not the only way out to bring stated into practice in Pakistan.

To encapsulate, it would be fair to state that elections are not the only solution to the multiprolonged problems in Pakistan. Despite the fact that elections decide how the country is going to progress, elections in Pakistan are unlikely to bring any positive change in socio-economic aspect. Although, elections influence trust of global community to invest in Pakistan, it do not address political disorder, economic meltdown and evils of corruption and poverty. Furthermore, policy discontinuity and national disintegration are some of the prolonged issues in Pakistan which can not be resolved only through elections.