

# Democracy In Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles

## 1) Introduction

### a) Thesis statement:

Pakistan is a hybrid democratic country. Independent judiciary, electoral reforms, active Parliament, and women's access to their rights are the hopes which ensure smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan. But indirect military intervention, fragile economy, human's rights violation, and regional politics are the big hurdles for democracy in Pakistan. There are wayforwards which can help to improve democratic values in Pakistan.

## 2) What is meant by democracy in Pakistan

## 3) Hopes of democracy in Pakistan.

a) Literacy rate is improving every year in Pakistan.

b) ~~Big~~ <sup>Major</sup> national parties are a big hope for democracy in Pakistan.

c) Women's participation in every field of life, in Pakistan, is a light for democracy in Pakistan.

5)  
d) Independent judiciary ensures smooth flow of democratic values in Pakistan

e) Electoral reforms is a green signal for democracy in Pakistan.

f) Transitions of democratic government is also a big hope of democracy in Pakistan.

4) The Hurdles which stop the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan.

a) Indirect military intervention in politics marginalizes democratic values in Pakistan (6)

b) Fragile economy does not ensure smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan

c) Human rights violations are against the democratic values.

d) Illiteracy challenges the democratic values in Pakistan

e) Regional political parties and regional politics are also big hurdles for democracy in Pakistan

f) Violence and terrorism do not allow the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan.

5) Wayforwards for the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan.

a) Increase literacy rate in Pakistan

b) Encourage women participation in politics and in other fields of life.

c) Stop indirect military intervention in politics at any cost.

d) Take appropriate measures to eradicate terrorism and violence in Pakistan.

6) Conclusion

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intervention, fragile economy, human rights violations, illiteracy, regional political parties, and spread of violence and terrorism are big hurdles for the democracy in Pakistan.

But the smooth flow of democratic process can be ensured by increasing the literacy rate, women participation, stopping indirect military intervention, and by eradicating terrorism in Pakistan. In this Pakistan can become a mature democratic country and can reap the full benefits of democratic process.

Democracy is an environment where all people are allowed to take part in economic, social, religious and cultural values without any discrimination based on sex, religion, class or caste. Pakistan is a hybrid democratic country which means that it is not a true democratic country.

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Pakistan is facing a lot of challenges for the smooth flow of democratic process. Direct or indirect involvement of establishment is a big problem for democracy in Pakistan.

Having discussed the ~~the~~ meant of democracy in Pakistan, now discussed the hopes of democracy in Pakistan which attracts Pakistan towards democracy.

The big hope of democracy in Pakistan is that the literacy rate of population is improving day by day. This shows that people are becoming aware of their legal, social and religious rights and they are also being aware of their responsibilities. Education is a way which can transform the whole nation from uncivilized

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to a more civilized nation. It helps people to choose their leaders wisely. Education also create political awareness among the public. This helps people to understand the problem and also helps them to find a solution of that problem. According to Economic Survey of Pakistan, literacy rate of Pakistan is approximately 62.8 percent. Since the inception of Pakistan, the literacy rate was well below the 20 percent. This shows that literacy rate is improving every year which is a good hope for democracy in Pakistan.

Similarly, major national parties are also a big hope of democracy in Pakistan. National parties are like a rope which ties the whole nation together. National parties provide equal opportunities and

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represent the each and every section of a country. National parties help country to promote national integration in the country. Nation parties offer seats to only to minorities but also those people who belong to deprived areas. For example, PML-N, PTI, PPP are the major national political parties which are a big hope of democracy in Pakistan. This shows that major national political parties play their role for the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan.

Not only major national political parties but also the women participation in every field of life is a green signal for democracy in Pakistan. Women is a force which can help Pakistan to solve its many serious problems. Women can help Pakistan to become

a major economic power in the world

Women are allowed to participate

in every field of life. Women

are proving themselves in the

field that they are equal to a man

For example, first three-star

general Nigar, Justice Ayesha Malik,

Pakistani cricketer, Sana Mir and

many other women are playing their

role in their respective fields.

This demonstrate that women are

allowed to take part in every

field of life which is a green

signal for democracy in Pakistan.

Likewise, independent judiciary in

Pakistan ensures smooth flow of

democracy in Pakistan. Judiciary is

third most important pillar of

state. So, judiciary should be

independent and strong. Judiciary

should not be influenced by

a political party, institution, or



by a person. Independent judiciary plays an important role to ensure that the state's system is working according to the Constitution. Article 184 makes judiciary more independent. Similarly, appointment of the judges of Supreme court by judicial committee is also a big move towards an independent judiciary. This elaborates that independent judiciary can make Pakistan a more democratic country.

In the same manner, electoral reforms are also a big hope for democracy in Pakistan. Election commission is an institution which is responsible for the conduct of free and fair elections. History is witness to the fact that election commission has been the most controversial institution due to elections. But the recent electoral reforms

are a big remedy for the broken democratic system of Pakistan.

Electoral reforms ensures that the election will be conducted in free and fair style. Electoral Reforms of 2023 helps to conduct free and fair election in 2024.

This also shows that Pakistan has moved one step ahead towards the democratic system.

### Transition

In the same way, transitions of democratic government is also a big hope for democracy in Pakistan.

Because, Pakistan has experienced the military rule several times.

Therefore, transfer of power from one democratic government to another democratic government is a big hope of democracy in Pakistan.

For example: In 2013, the first democratic government transfer its

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power to another democratic government in the history. Pakistan has not been facing the direct military intervention since 2008.

This shows that Pakistan is on the right track towards the democratic system.

Having discussed the big hopes of democracy in Pakistan, now discuss the major hurdle in the path of democratic system of Pakistan.

Firstly, the indirect military intervention in politics ~~marginalized~~ and erodes the democratic values in Pakistan. It is being observed that military has been involved in political engineering in Pakistan. All the major political parties have blamed the military leadership for indirect

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involvement in political engineering.  
Therefore, Pakistan ranked 104th out of  
165 countries in the democratic  
index, according to World Economic  
Report 2021. This shows that  
indirect military involvement is a  
big hurdle in the smooth flow  
of democracy in Pakistan.

Not only the indirect military  
involvement but also the fragile  
economy of Pakistan is also a  
major hurdle in the democratic  
process of Pakistan. Fragile economy  
does not allow the smooth flow  
of democracy in Pakistan. Unfortunately,  
Pakistan is struggling with its  
economy since its inception. Pakistan  
has failed to provide equal and  
universal opportunities to all the  
people of Pakistan. The people of  
backward areas feel that they are  
deprived of their basic rights such

as education, health, food etc. Pakistan is 42th country in the terms of nominal gdp. This means that the fifth most populous country does not have enough resources to feed its citizens properly. This shows that fragile economy is a big hurdle towards the democracy.

Similarly, Human rights violations is also a big block on the way of democracy in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been facing the challenges of human rights violations.

Many people seem to complain that they do not have their basic rights and state's institutions are violating their rights. Women, transgender and children are the most victims of human rights violation. Similarly displaced persons are also a big human violation. According to World

Justice Project, Pakistan has secured 123<sup>position</sup> out of 140 countries in the terms of human rights. This shows that human rights violation is a big hurdle towards the full democratic Pakistan.

Likewise, illiteracy challenges the democratic values in Pakistan.

Illiteracy is a big evil. It keeps people unaware of their social, political and legal rights.

Elite class rule on poor people.

Illiteracy does not allow people to choose their political leader wisely. Illiterate people remains

unaware of the problems of country. Politicians make undoable promises. Foreign countries also try

to manipulate the thinking of illiterate people through social media. According to Economic

Survey of Pakistan, literacy rate of

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Females of  
of K.P.K. is 36.7 percent which  
shows that a <sup>huge</sup> number of females  
are illiterate. This shows that  
illiteracy is a big hurdle in  
the smooth flow of democracy  
in Pakistan.

Not only illiteracy but the  
regional political parties are  
also a big hurdles towards  
the smooth flow of democracy  
in Pakistan. Regional political  
parties only support regional  
benefits and ignore the national  
benefits. Regional political parties  
give more values to regional  
problems. In this way, these sentiments  
hurt the national integration.  
Regional political parties want  
independence from their federal  
government. Sometimes, hostile powers  
fund small regional political parties  
for protests and violence. Many

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regional political parties are working in different provinces with different manifesto. For example, MQM in Karachi is a political party which highlights the problems of Karachi and Sindh. This shows that regional political parties does not allow the Pakistan to move towards a democratic process.

Similarly, violence and terrorism does not allow the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan. Violence and terrorism do not allow people to express their opinion freely. Terrorist try to threat the lives of innocent people. People do not take part in economic, political and social activities due to to terrorist. Terrorists also kills women and children. According to the World Justice Project Report 2022, Pakistan ranked 139 out of 140



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countries in the peace and security situation. This shows that Pakistan has the worse security and peace situation and this directly erodes the democratic values of Pakistan.

After discussing the several hurdles of democratic process in Pakistan, now the wayforwards of democratic process are being discussed which can help Pakistan for the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan.

Firstly, increase the literacy rate in Pakistan. Education is an instrument which can be used to treat the uncivilized nation.

Due to lack of education, people remains unaware of their social, political and legal rights. A significant portion of females are

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illiterate in Pakistan. Women are representing <sup>almost</sup> fifty percent of total population of Pakistan.

According to Economic survey of Pakistan 2022-2023, Literacy rate of male is 73 percent and female literacy rate is 52 percent. This shows that a big portion of our population is illiterate. So by increasing the literacy rate, democratic value will propell in Pakistan.

Similarly, the democracy will prevail in Pakistan if women are encourage to participate in politics and in any other fields. Women cover half of the sky. No nation can not be succeed unless women works with them. Pakistan should allow equal opportunity to all the deprived people and especially to women. Women are performing

their duties excellently. By encouragement of women participation in every field will allow women to be more independent socially and economically. According to Global Gender Gap Report 2023, Pakistan ranked 142 out of 146 countries. This shows that Pakistan needs an urgent plan to improve the gender equality in its society. In this democratic process will flourish in Pakistan.

Another important ~~part~~ step which can help to improve the democratic process in Pakistan is the discouragement of direct or indirect military intervention in politics. Because military is the most powerful institution in Pakistan which has been involved in political instability in Pakistan. Many politicians blamed <sup>senior</sup> high military leadership for regime change which is a

serious threat to the democracy of Pakistan. Article 6 of the constitution of Pakistan ensures the smooth flow of democracy and stop the direct involvement of military in politics. Similarly, Political leaders should devise a mechanism to stop the indirect military involvement in politics. This shows that democracy will prevail if military leadership is not allowed to erode the political value in Pakistan.

In the same manner, Democracy will prevail only if Pakistan take proper measures to eradicate violence and terrorism in the country. Terrorist organizations are being funded by the hostile powers which use weapons to challenge the rule of law and constitutional status of country.

Terrorists threaten the lives, and ~~asset~~ property of the citizen of Pakistan. This is a big hurdle toward the smooth flow of Democracy in Pakistan. Terrorist organizations such as TTP, IS-KP, Baloch Liberation Army, BLF and many other organizations which challenge the rule of law and law enforcement agencies. Government of Pakistan has taken many steps to eradicate this menace. But such evil demands more restrict and urgent actions against them for the smooth flow of democracy in Pakistan.

In a nutshell, Pakistan is a hybrid democratic country which is facing a lot of challenges towards the smooth flow of democratic process in Pakistan. There are also many hopes such

as electoral reforms, independent judiciary and transitions of democratic governments which encourage Pakistan towards smooth flow of democracy. While there are also some hurdles such as indirect military involvement, fragile economy, human rights violations and illiteracy which block the way of democracy of Pakistan. However, by increasing literacy rate, encouragement of women's participation in every field of life and by eradicating the roots of terrorism, democracy will prevail in Pakistan. In this way, Pakistan can be enabled to reap the full benefits of democracy.