

# Elections are the only solution to multi-pronged problems in Pakistan?

1- Introduction

2- Manifestation of the multi-pronged problems of Pakistan:

① Constant and prolonged economic challenges: high inflation, unemployment, and public debt, etc.

② Consistent energy crisis in Pakistan: power shortage, and circular debt

③ Existence of security challenges/issues in the country: Terrorism, extremism, and border issues, etc.

④ Presence of political instability and governance issues

⑤ Issues of national integration, polarization, and gender inequalities in Pakistan

⑥ Ineffectiveness of educational system in the country; low literacy rate and quest for quality education

⑦ Fragile health care system in the country

⑧ Constant rise of environmental concerns;

climate change and air and water pollution

⑨ Ineffectiveness of state administration setup: corruption, red-tapism

⑩ Institutional imbalance in the country and crisis of overdevelopment of state institutions

3. How elections are the only solution to multi-pronged problems in Pakistan:

① Free and fair elections would bring real representatives to public offices

② Elections would ensure political stability in Pakistan

③ Government backed by masses would make necessary structural reforms to solve pronged crisis in the country

④ Economic alterations and attracting foreign direct investment would become possible, if real stakeholders elected through fair election come to government in Pakistan

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⑤ Problem solving policies would be initiated by new government to end existing crisis in the country

⑥ through elections all the segments of the society would get their due representation in the parliament of the country

⑦ through debates, dialogues and informal channels the issue of security concerns would be tackled by the new government -

⑧ Institutional imbalance would be turned into institutional cooperation through strong check and balances from government tiers.

⑨ by effective governance the issues of public health, education, and healthcare would be solved by the newly elected government

⑩ An elected government would formulate effective foreign policy of the state to

its global national interests

① Political factionalism and federalism crisis would be tackled through council of common interests in Pakistan, only when there is elected government of people

4- Are elections the only panacea to multipronged issues of Pakistan:

① Good governance is the key to solve issues in Pakistan, not elections

② Presence of quality education to the masses and vocational training is the solution to Pakistan's crisis

③ Democratization of state institutions is the panacea to Pakistan's issues

④ National integration and unity among masses are the key to problem's solution ~~to the existing problems~~

⑤ Gender equality and ending disparities are the solutions to problems

⑥ Unpopular structural reforms in the Pakistan's economy are the key to state's pronged economic crisis

⑦ Presence of fair accountability,

Transparency, and rule of law in the country are the key to solutions of Pakistan's issues

③ Free and fair election is no doubt the first step towards Pakistan's problems solution

④ Integration of masses in <sup>the</sup> decision-making process of the country is the solution to Pakistan's challenges -

5- No doubt, free and fair elections are the first step or panacea to <sup>solve</sup> multi-pronged issues of in Pakistan.

6- However, Pakistan needs a "new social contract" before going to elections, which proved to be the pivotal to solve multi-pronged problems in Pakistan:

7- Conclusion:

No nation can rise to the heights of glory by turning a blind eye to its socio-economic and political development. Achieving a sustainable development in the country is merely a dream of every state. No doubt, similar is the dream of Pakistan but the existing multi-pronged issues for decades have shattered this dream before turning it into reality for the country. Whereas, elections are, now, considered as a panacea to these myriad crises prevailing in the country. Where, at the same time, a real question lies does elections are the only solution to country's pronged problems. Although, the manifestation of contemporary challenges to the country includes, constant economic woes, prolonged energy crisis, security challenges, political instability, fragile social status, and ineffectiveness of state administrations. Solution to all the above problems somehow lies

in<sup>the</sup> free and fair elections. Where through elections political stability, structural reforms in state economic model, targeted policies towards specific problems, and effective administration would be ensured ~~the~~ ~~addition~~ ~~to~~ ~~country~~ by the new government backed by electorates. Additionally, issues like national integration quest, governance steps, institutional imbalances and political factionalism at<sup>the</sup> centre all would be tackled by the newly elected government in Pakistan, if backed by the majority. Although, the question still raises that only elections are the solution, answering to this, lies that other multi-factors are also responsible to solve multi-pronged issues of Pakistan. For instance, good governance, effective and quality education, political consensus, democratization of state institutions, unpopular economic reforms, nonpartisan approach, rule of law, and accountability all these measures are, similarly,

important to tackle Pakistan's crisis - not only elections. However, without any doubt, free and fair elections would be the first step to solve the myriad crisis of the country. Because without strong and legally backed by the people, a government would never be able to solve country's crisis. Above all, the country need a 'new social contract' endorsed by all the political stakeholders and masses before entering into the new elections, because the elected government would have to take some unpopular decisions, reforms and steps to bring Pakistan out of the myriad multi-pronged crisis. Thus, this essay throws light on the quest for elections as a possible solution to the country's problems and proposes that not only elections but also other factors are responsible for solving existing crisis.