

Future of Democracy in Pakistan

The outline

1 Introduction

Since the inception of Pakistan, democracy has not reached its full potential due to multiple reasons. Though challenged in the past, democracy in Pakistan is gradually unfolding towards more inclusive and representative governance by surpassing all hurdles of unsustainability.

2. Emergence of Democracy in Pakistan

3. Evolution of Democracy in Pakistan

a) Case in study: Democratic transition post 2008

4. Unveiling the veil of ignorance: Key Challenges

a) Governance and corruption: Pakistan ranks 140th out of 180 (Transparency International 2023)

b) Horizontal and vertical division of society: 21.6% of Pakistanis live below the national poverty line (World Bank 2022)

c) Dismal living conditions of ordinary people
i) case study: Balochistan insurgency fueled by a sense of political exclusion (Human rights watch 2023)

Irrelevant details

- d) Political Polarization and electoral integrity.
- e) Rigid loopholes in accountability mechanism: Panama papers scandal (2016)
- f) Media in democratic equation: 38% tweets about elections in Pakistan were fake - A21 lab 2020

5. Weaving Threads of Hope: ^{Prelude} ~~Perennial~~ to Perennial bright future

- a) Strengthening civil society
 - i) vibrant civil society organizations advocate for transparency, human rights, democratic reforms, playing crucial role of youth in holding government accountable (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 2023).

- b) Development of political consciousness among the nation.

- c) Resolving concerns of electoral manipulation and gerrymandering persist.

- d) Prudent strokes of collective action and strategic leadership.

6. Bridging The ^{fault lines} by adopting successful models of democracy.

- a) German Model: strong federal system, consensus building approach and robust checks and balance

- b) Singaporean Model: Efficient bureaucracy and

focus on economic development ✓
c) South Korean model: Invest in technology and education, empower civil society to hold government accountable ✓

Pakistan's journey towards democracy has been a rollercoaster of dramatic coups and spirited popular movements. In 2023 over 63 million Pakistanis, the world's fifth largest electorate, cast their ballots in fiercely contested national election that will decide the future of democracy in Pakistan. Democracy in Pakistan has been threatened by various factors like corruption to loopholes in accountability and mundane governance. Though Pakistan's democracy has also faced tremendous challenges of everlasting shadow of extremism and climate change that have created a chasm of predicaments for Pakistan. Unfortunately however Pakistan was founded on democratic principles, democracy has remained the Achilles heel of its political system. Dancing around the fire is not the solution to any problem, one should try to see beneath the surface to

grasp an idea of the main issue, just like that to understand the formidable consequences of unstable democracy some sanguine steps should be taken. Since the inception of Pakistan, democracy has not reached its full potential due to multiple reasons. Though challenged by past, democracy in Pakistan is gradually unfolding toward more inclusive and representative governance by surpassing all hurdles of unsustainability.

Conclusion:

Pakistan is facing a multitude of challenges, both internal and external, navigating through the complexities of its democratic landscape. The historical context, current challenges and future prospects paint a picture of a nation at crossroads. Yet it is land brimming with potential powered by the beacon of hopes and determination because the fate of Pakistan's democracy ultimately rests in the hands of its citizens. To overcome the edifice of predicaments it is essential to learn from the democratic models of successful developed nations so as a result Pakistan can reach the quintessence of the democratic journey.