

Democracy without  
Accountability is a Sham  
Democracy

Outlines

I. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

No one can disagree to this fact that democracy without accountability is a sham democracy. Accountability is the basic principle of democracy. However, democracy without accountability cannot move forward.

II. Correlation between democracy and accountability

III. Democracy is the most accepted form of government in the world

IV. Democracy best protect human rights and general welfare of the people with any discrimination

V. High illiteracy rate, economic independence of people and the most important of all, accountability are the pre-requisites for the success of democracy

- VI. Accountability is a best tool curbing corruption, oppression, injustice and such vices from society.
- VII. The effective justice system is indispensable for accountability.
- VIII. The lack of accountability in countries like Pakistan has resulted in a sham democracy.
- IX. Conclusion

Democracy is a form of government in which it is recognized that ultimate authority belongs to the people, who have the right to participate in the decision making process and to elect and to oust their rulers. According to philosophers: "Democracy is of the people, by the people and for the people." The basic principles of democracy including protecting fundamental rights, equality before law, participatory governance, accountability, transparency and decentralized power and

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authority. According to many  
gurus and thinkers in the  
field of political science,  
despite having differences over  
their concept, are equally support  
democracy due to its features.  
Democracy is the best form  
of government among many forms  
of governments in the world. There  
are many forms of governments  
present in the world. There  
are communist countries like  
North Korea, China and Vietnam.  
Similarly socialism is a form  
of government which is present  
in countries like Venezuela, Cuba  
and Uruguay. Likewise, there  
is an institution of monarchy  
which is present in countries  
like UAE, Saudi Arabia and  
some Gulf states. After experiencing  
the all forms of governments  
like monarchy, theocracy, autocracy  
and dictatorship, the people are  
adopting democracy, the best  
form of government. In democracy  
all the are equal, before the

law in democracy. In democracy representatives are accountable before the people. In this form of government people choose their representatives to rule.

Democracy is widely accepted and popular form of government in the world. It is present in the first world countries like UK, USA, Germany and France and other western countries. It is also present to some extent in the third world countries like Pakistan and the reason behind for using the phrase "to some extent" for democracy in Pakistan is that it is not present in the true spirit here.

The reason behind the prevalence of democracy in most of the countries is that it best protects human rights. The basic aim of democracy is to promote general welfare of people without any discrimination.

However, for this to happen, it is essential that must be present in its true letter and spirit.

There is no discrimination between rich and poor in a true democratic state. All have equal rights as envisaged in the constitution. There is no discrimination present in the true democratic society.

All these ideals when combined together lead toward a tolerant society in which breathing space is available for all the factions. A true democratic society is a pluralistic society which promotes co-existence.

The narrative of a state plays a key role in the creation of such a society.

The Scandinavian model is a perfect example in this regard. The countries like Norway and Sweden follow the idea of democracy in a perfect

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manner. That is why they are regarded as welfare states. Similarly, the first world countries like USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada and other states are also developed. They follow the true path of democracy.

On the other hand, countries like Pakistan where democracy is void of such ideals are victims of intolerance. Pakistan has not been able to acquire the status of welfare state because it deviated from the true principles of democracy a long time ago.

There are certain conditions for the success of democracy. The countries where democracy is successful today have fulfilled these conditions.

High level literacy is very important for the success of democracy. Education distinguishes a man from an animal. Education creates awareness among

the masses regarding various issues like to education, the get awareness about the socio-economic problem. Further, quality education gives birth to quality leadership. Without quality education, the country stripes of quality leadership. In addition, uneducated masses cannot choose good representative to run the function of the country. Uneducated sell their votes for a small amount of money. So the country deprives quality education and good. The more the educated masses the more the quality leadership. Countries where democracy has been a success clearly depicts this fact. All the developed countries have high rate rate of literacy and quality leadership. On the other hand Pakistan has ~~has~~ low literacy rate and having no quality leadership. So, education is too important for the success of democracy.

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There is an issue that feudalism are constraint in the way of education. Because awareness among masses will strip them of their monopoly, and hegemony. Education is the key to success for the democracy.

Similarly, economic independence of people is too important for the success of democracy. Democracy is based on the votes of people. The casting of vote is of prime importance in the democracy. In the institution of democracy the whole structure of the democracy is based on the votes. Economically independent people cast their vote according to free will. An economically independent man becomes free from any pressure and constraints and cast his vote in a fair environment.

The people of first world and developed countries where democracy is running smoothly have this economic independence.



On the other, the people of Pakistan are not economically independent. A large number of people do not have even basic facilities like food, health, shelter and education. They sell their votes just getting a petty amount to cater some of their needs. As a result, the rulers selected are corrupt and do not work for the betterment of the people.

Of all these conditions necessary for the success of democracy, accountability tops the list. Accountability is of prime importance in a democratic society and without it, democracy cannot flourish and prosper in a country.

Accountability means each and every individual holding portfolio is answerable to the masses for his duties. He is accountable in the matters of public interest. If he misuses his authority and resources at his disposal, he is liable to punishment. Accountability

means the complete observance of law without any discrimination.

The countries where democracy is running successfully have always adhered to the <sup>principle</sup> principle of accountability. Rich and poor are equal before the law and it applies to both. Whether a street or head of state, whoever commits a crime is punished according to law.

The countries like USA, Germany are developed today because they have strictly followed the accountability rule. Richard Nixon had to resign from the presidency of the USA after the Watergate scandal. Similarly, Bill Clinton was on the verge of impeachment for telling a lie about his scandal with Monica. In these countries no one is above the law. The public money is spent for the welfare of public. There is no concept of embezzlement in the resources because people in the power are fearful of

accountability. They know that they will not be spared if found guilty and that is why everyone works within the limits. On the other hand, countries like Pakistan where accountability process is not strong, corruption is the order of the day. The people in power have no fear of accountability.

Accountability is the best for curbing corruption, oppression, injustice and other such vices from the society. The corruption prevails in the society when there is no fear of accountability. When a corrupt person knows that he will never be caught only then he will indulge in such an activity.

In the developed countries like USA, people trust democracy because they know that the resources will be utilized only for their wellbeing. If there is any misuse on the part of the government, the accountability institution will come into action and corruption

will be dealt with iron hand. Moreover, the accountability laws are present and properly implemented as well. Due to this corruption is reduced. This results in the social growth of the society.

There is a change in attitude of people. They trust and protect democracy because they strongly believe in it due to accountability.

Even in India, democracy has been working successfully because of the strong accountability.

Recently, Jayalalitha, the incumbent chief minister of Tamil Nadu was sentenced to jail and heavily fined for corruption. Similarly, in the past people like Late Parasad Vadav were also put behind the bars for corruption for corruption.

On the other countries like Pakistan do not have trust in democracy. The corrupts are not punished. The law are there but the problem lies in the implementation of laws. Due to this

society as a whole has become corrupt and more or less every institution and department has fallen in this avalanche of corruption.

Similar is the situation in countries Egypt, Syria and other Middle Eastern countries. Arab Spring was also a result of this situation. The people stood against corruption, injustice and oppression and toppled their rulers because they had no trust in their false democracies.

Another factor which is very important for accountability is the independence of judiciary and effective justice system. Accountability and justice system are inter-related with one another. They have a mutual relationship. Accountability is only possible when judiciary is independent and unbiased.

An effective justice system is very important for accountability. Courts are responsible for sentencing the culprits. If the courts are not independent then the process

of accountability will never be completed. In all the countries where democracy is running smoothly, judiciary is independent. In India, recently Supreme Court has ordered the government to publish names of people who have kept their black money in foreign banks. This was a landmark judgement and it increased trust of people in judiciary. Similarly, in developed countries like USA, the role of judiciary has also been very important. In this way, the judiciary plays the role of in keeping checks and balances on government. The rulers are fearful of accountability and the democracy becomes strong because it delivers to the masses. On the other hand, if judiciary works in collaboration with the ruler it becomes ineffective. This has been a case for Pakistan since independence. The judiciary always helped the rulers under the blanket

doctrine of necessity. It legitimized the military rule. This resulted in the deterioration of the judicial system. As a result, the people lost faith in the whole system. Nevertheless, now the things are improving but still there is a lot ~~of~~ to be done in this regard.

Similar in the case with countries like Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Syria. The judiciary always supported the rulers. This factor has contributed a lot to the failure of democracy in all these countries.

The judicial system in Pakistan is complete, complete failure since the last couple of years. Culprits are sentenced for their crimes and corrupt. But due to politicization in the judiciary, the sentence is suspended and the culprit is acquitted. Later on, all the cases of corruption ~~were~~ are suspended owing to political

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involvement in the judiciary. Due to this political involvement judiciary loses its independence and credibility. The people do not trust in the role of judiciary. This leads to breakdown of democracy so, weak judiciary cannot ensure justice and accountability. This results in failure of democracy.

Last but not least, a strong institution of accountability is of prime importance in this regard. The history of accountability in Pakistan has been chequered one. National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is there but largely influenced by political considerations than by law. There is a large number of cases pending in with the NAB for many year but still no decision have made. Due to democracy weak in Pakistan and this is due to lack of accountability. The democracy can only prevail if the democracy is there.



On the other hand, USA has a strong institution for accountability in the shape of Federal Bureau of Investigation. Pakistan also needs a strong accountability institution like FBI. There should be no political interventions in the matters of accountability.

To conclude, if objective is to promote democracy in Pakistan then institutions of accountability should be strengthened. Only then, people will be able to enjoy the perks and privileges of democracy like in developed countries. There is a need to understand this very very basic fact that democracy and accountability go hand in hand. The democracy is false exercise without accountability and truly democracy without accountability is a show. Further, military and financial crisis also deteriorate democratic democratic norms. The authorities should take thoughtful step in this regard.