

"Assignment"

Q No 1:- What are the issues of federation of Pakistan and How federation of Pakistan would be strengthened?

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Concept of federation:

Federation is a type of government in which the powers are divided between the federal center and the federating units. The examples of federalism are numerous but the most successful and famous is of USA. Pakistan too is a federation. The 1973 constitution of Pakistan, provided federation for Pakistan with maximum autonomy to the provinces. The federalism in Pakistan is running successfully. However, there are some issues that are hampering the growth of federalism in Pakistan. The issues of federation in Pakistan are given below.

i- Uneven distribution of resources:

Pakistan is bestowed with all kinds of natural resources be it gas, oil, minerals etc. These natural resources are the backbone of the country in general and of the relevant province in particular. However, Uneven distribution of resources among the provinces is one of the main issues faced by the center. For instance, Sui gas was discovered in 1953 at the place of Sui, Balochistan but it was not available for a long period of time to the people of Balochistan, the capital city of Balochistan received gas in 1986. Such issues need to be tackled on immediate basis so that the issues of the people can be solved.

ii- Disharmony between the federal center and federating units:

The national motto of Pakistan is Unity, Faith, Discipline. Unity is one of the most important virtues of every nation. However, Disharmony between the center and province has been seen in Pakistan. There are numerous instances where there was a complete impasse between the center and the province or among the provinces. The issue of kala-bagh **niceday**

dam is the elephant in the room yet no one paying heed to it. This issue has created rift Bahawalpur provinces. No doubt there are pros and cons of the dam but all the major share holders must need to sit and find a solution for this problem.

(iii) Weak local government in Pakistan:

Local government is a back-bone of every federation. The importance of local government cannot be neglected. Pakistan has a weak local government system. There is a structure of local government at all levels in Pakistan but it's not productive and efficient. The local government needs structural reforms and long term policies. Without the help of the local government, no one can achieve true federation.

(iv) Absence of a constructive role of opposition:

In every democracy, there is a momentous role of opposition. Opposition is an integral part of parliament. The stronger the opposition, the more aware are the people. However, the role of opposition in Pakistan is diminishing gradually. The opposition is not playing its constructive role. Being the head of federal consolidated fund, the opposition leader should be aware of its duties and powers.

v) Institutional imbalances prevail in Pakistan:

Institutional imbalance has been one of the major causes of setbacks to democracy in general and federation in particular. The institutions are the backbone of every administration of every country. However, the institutions in Pakistan are not performing their functions **niceday**

according to the book i.e. contribution. Ergo, it has created issues for the center as well as provinces. Personal aspirations, likes & dislikes should be set aside when performing the duty.

(vi) Absence of accountability and transparency mechanism:

Absence of accountability and transparency mechanism is directly affecting federalism in Pakistan. Uniform accountability is the basic need of every democracy and every form of government. According to the transparency international report, Pakistan has ranked on 133rd position out of 180 countries. This depicts a grim picture of transparency in Pakistan. Without transparency and accountability, there would be complete anarchy in the provinces as well as in center.

(vii) Problems in dispensation of justice and judiciary:

Justice and Judiciary is considered to be the binding force in every democracy. For instance, the Supreme Court of USA had performed its momentous role in the history of USA. In Pakistan, there are many issues that require efforts from judiciary. There are piles of cases pending in the courts of Pakistan. Without justice in the society, there would be disharmony in the nation.

(ix) Deep rooted sectarianism and ethnic disputes:

Deep rooted sectarianism and ethnic disputes are some of the greatest obstacles in achieving true federalism in Pakistan. The conflicts between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran is creating sectarian tussle in Pakistan, and the ethnic ones are created

by the demagogues. These issues pose great threat to the federation in Pakistan.

(ix) Economic crisis in Pakistan:

Pakistan is passing through one of the worst economic crisis in history. These economic crisis not only affecting the economy of Pakistan but also is creating rift between center and province. Because, the province need funds from the center i.e. NFC award. Due to the lack of funds, the center find it difficult to provide give funds to the units. Thus, federation in Pakistan is affected severely.

(x) Absence of unified educational system:

Education is one of the fundamental rights and it has to be given to every citizen of Pakistan. However, Pakistan lacks unified educational system. After the 18th amendment, the subject of education is with the provinces. It is a good step but it has created a class difference in the society as well as polarization in educational class.

3. Imperative measures to strengthen federation:

i. Address the grievances of the province:

Addressing the grievances of the provinces is one of the most important task that the federal center needs to perform. There are numerous and multidimensional issues within the provinces and between the center and province. Pakistan has the platform of Council of Common Interest (CCI) which is headed by the PM along with the representatives of the provinces. This platform was made to address the grievances of the provinces. Ergo, the CCI needs to increase its efficiency with better decision making.

ii- Strengthening rule of law and administration of justice:
 Strengthening rule of law and administration of justice should be the main objective of the government. These are the basic pillars on which every democracy is based. Improving law and order and justice system in the country will help the federation to have unity among its units. The Supreme court of Pakistan should use its jurisdiction, according to the article 184(3) to solve the bone of contention between the governments.

iii)- Creating Institutional balances:
 Creating institutional balances is one of the most momentous tasks that the government needs to take. Institutions are the backbone of every administration. One cannot implement any order without the help of institutions. But, the institutions need to be checked whether they are playing by the book i.e. constitution or not. Without accountability, one cannot establish rule of law in the society.

iv- Opposition to play its constructive role:
 Opposition has a very crucial role in every democracy. Opposition in Pakistan should play its constructive role in strengthening federalism. Opposition leader is from the party that has the second highest majority in Parliament. Opposition should check the bills and scrutinize them. In this way they can keep government on the right track.

v- Devolving powers to the local government:
 Devolving powers to the local government is a need of federalism. Without it, no government can be

called federation in a true sense. Delegating powers to the local government will help the units to perform their function from grass root level to the state level. Hence, it will improve the administration exponentially.

vi- Promote religious harmony:

Religion is one of the major reasons behind the inception of Pakistan. Promoting religious harmony will not only promote unity among the people but also strengthen the trust between center and provinces. Religious harmony will also reduce the sectarian violence and ethnic disputes in the society.

vii)- To overcome economic crisis

Economy is one of the foremost the area that Pakistan directly needs to improve. All the issues of Pakistan stem from the economic crisis. To overcome this crisis Pakistan needs a stable political government along with long term policies. With such planning the investors will develop confidence in the Pakistani market. Hence, economy will improve.

viii)- Implementation of unified education policy:

As already mentioned before, Pakistan lacks unified education policy and it's the one of the main obstacles in strengthening federation and unity and harmony in Pakistan. Ergo, Pakistan should implement unified educational policy in true letter and spirit. This will also reduce the class difference that is prevailing in the society.

Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Pakistan is a country having federal form of government. No doubt it is running successfully in Pakistan. But there are some obstacles at the face of it. However if pertinent measure are taken it can be solved.