

NAME : SADDIQA

Batch : 020M

Final Essay Paper

Economy or Politics : Pakistan's conundrum.

Outline

1. Introduction

The prominent issues for Pakistan are political and economic instability. There are a number of reasons behind these two instabilities. The foremost remedy is to ensure independence of all institutions to put Pakistan on the path to progress.

2. Political and economic instability ; is a dilemma for Pakistan

3. Causes of political instability in Pakistan

- a. Military interference in politics
- b. Lack of awareness of public rights
- c. Incompetent judicial system
- d. Non-effective system of accountability
- e. Cramming based education system
- f. Opposition does not play a positive role

4. Effects of political instability on the economy of Pakistan

- a. Economic downfall due to frequent switch of policies
- b. Dependence on foreign aid
- c. Civil wars affect the economy
- d. A negative impact on trade
- e. Businesses and industries are unable to flourish
- f. A negative impact at international level
- g. Pakistan is a graveyard of ⁱⁿ uncompleted projects

5. How political and economic stability is ensured in Pakistan

- a. A competent political leadership
- b. Ensure accountability for all
- c. Completion of uncompleted projects
- d. Independence of every institution

6. Conclusion

After independence, Pakistan was facing many problems. These problems peaked after the death of Quaid-e-Azam. The only person who was able to settle that mess, was Liaquat Ali Khan. But, the first prime-minister was martyred on **16 Oct 1951**, when he was addressing before a public gathering. After his death, the seat of PM in Pakistan was made just a joke. Iskandar Mirza, the third Governor General of Pakistan changed five PM's in just three years. Uptill now, not even a single PM is able to complete his tenure. This shows that political instability is the root cause of many problems in Pakistan. This political unrest invites economic instability. While, there are numerous reasons behind our failure in politics. Lack of critical thinking skills in education system, military

interference, incompetent judicial system, non-effective system of accountability and negative role of opposition are prominent problems. Due to these problems, the economic system of Pakistan is facing a continuous downfall. Our government is unable to make effective policies, and there is also a continuous switching of policies. Moreover, Pakistan is considered a graveyard of uncompleted projects. The image at international level is also damaged. By using different pragmatic ways such as enhancement in educational sector and independence of judiciary can overcome these problems. So, the prominent issues for Pakistan are political and economic instability. There are a number of reasons behind these instabilities. But, the foremost remedy is to ensure independence of all institutions

to put Pakistan on the path to progress.

Political and economic instability, is a dilemma for Pakistan.

It is because when there is a political instability in any country; economic crises also arise. Pakistan's condition is

not different from that. After its independence, there were

many early problems, but political instability was chief among them. There is not

a single PM, who has completed his tenure. A

huge flaw is in our education system which is unable to produce competent

political leaders and work-oriented heads of every institution of government. Besides

education, there are many other issues. We should ^{resolve} these

issues as early as possible, otherwise it will not be

possible to put Pakistan on the path to progress.

2

Before addressing the solutions, it is important to find out the root causes of political instability in Pakistan.

The chief among them is military interference in politics.

This interference disrupts the democratic fabric of Pakistan.

History is witnessed, that Pakistan has faced four

martial laws. Day-by-day our democratic institutions are

becoming weak and military interference is becoming strong.

According to **Ishrat Husain**,

Zia-ul-Haq promised to hold elections within 90 days,

but for him 90 days were equal to 11 years. He was

enjoying his term and did not want to transfer power

to a democratic government

(**Governing the Ungovernable, 2018**).

Hence, military intrusion in politics is one of the major cause of political instability.

Besides, military interference in politics, another reason of political instability is lack of awareness of public rights. In Pakistan, public has no proper ^{awareness} about their political and legal rights. Even many Pakistanis are unaware about their fundamental rights. State's supreme responsibility is to protect the fundamental rights of its citizens; but it is only possible when public has (aware), knowledge about their basic rights. According to newspaper **The Nation**, our politics has driven by personal interests because people are not aware about their fundamental and political rights. They are weakening the country in the race of weakening one another ("People lack awareness about fundamental rights", Aug 26, 2023). Therefore, unconsciousness among public about their rights leads to unfair politics.

In addition to ignorance about public rights, the judicial system of Pakistan is not competent. When judiciary is not independent, the instability in every department peaks such as in politics.

Judicial system of Pakistan now a days is a question mark for everyone, because it is not working independently.

The ex-PM of Pakistan; Imran Khan feels fear about his life, as the judicial system is unable to hold free and fair trial of his cipher case (DAWN News, Imran Khan fears for his life, Oct 28, 2023).

Hence, in Pakistan justice is delayed, that shows the incompetence of judiciary of Pakistan.

When there is no independent judicial system; there is no effective system of accountability. National Accountability Bureau is not working

well. When one government changes with a new government, the rules of National Accountability Bureau are altered. Nawaz Sharif, who was disqualified for life-time, is now returned to Pakistan and all accountability has failed (Zaigham Khan, Can Nawaz Sharif resurrect the PML-N?, Oct 25, 2023). In this way, the system of accountability is not effective in Pakistan.

No doubt, poor system of accountability is one of the leading problems in politics, but it is due to our cramming based education system. Pakistan lacks an education system, that holds productive critical thinking skills. There are number of articles of content generate, which states that the main problem of education sector in Pakistan is outdated curriculum and lack of critical thinking skills. In this way,

the education system of Pakistan, fails to generate competent political leaders who can lead our country.

Due to non-potent education system, the opposition in the government is not playing a positive role.

In many developed countries, opposition plays a very effective role and guides government in policy making. While, in Pakistan opposition members are bullying the government. They are just doing negative things, which have damaged the political and democratic fabric of the country. This

negative role was seen in the fight between members of Parliament in 2020. This shows, that in Pakistan opposition is not playing an effective role ~~is~~

The parties that are known as opposition parties, are not

playing their positive role, due to which we are facing an economic downfall. Economic downfall in Pakistan is also as a result of frequent switch of policies. Some governments in Pakistan are preferring nationalization and others are in favour of privatization. History of Pakistan is witness of this. According to an article of Mehboob Hussain; due to nationalization policies of Bhutto, the GDP of Pakistan dropped to 2.86% ("Z.A Bhutto policy and its implementations", 2021). In this way when one government changes into another due to political instability; there is a huge impact on economic condition of a country.

When there is an economic instability in a country; then there is much dependence on foreign aid. Pakistan's economy is also dependent

on foreign aid and loan.

There is a close relation between economic and political instability because when we are taking loans from other countries and international institutions, we are not able to take independent political decisions.

For example; IMF asks Pakistan to follow the structural adjustment program; if Pakistan wants to get \$3 billion loan to support its crippling economy (IMF, \$3 billion loan approval for Pakistan, 2023). Hence, due to political instability our country is facing economic downfall.

When a country is depending on foreign aid, and is not able to make independent decisions; then there is an arise of civil war in a country. Civil wars have a negative impact on the economy of Pakistan. Pakistan is also

facing a situation of civil wars, on which country's large amount of wealth is wasted. For example: PTI protesters, when ^{were} protesting after Imran Khan's arrest, the government has spent many resources and wealth to control them. In this way, civil wars that are resulted due to political instability have destructive impact on economic condition.

Civil wars have a declining impact on economic condition of Pakistan, but our economy is also falling due to imbalance of trade. When a country is not exporting goods, its trade falls. Pakistan's economy is now facing decline because our imports are more, than our exports. The trade deficit (FY2023) of Pakistan has reached to \$24.1 billion as against \$38.1 billion last year (Finance Division, Economic

update and outlook, July 2023).

Hence, due to crises in politics, the trade of Pakistan is facing decline.

Trade deficit is caused by political instability, and due to which business ops in Pakistan is unable to flourish. When one wants to start a new business, there is a long process and he has to pass through red tape. Continuous switch in policies due to political instability, has a negative impact on business, and industrial sector of Pakistan. Bhutto during his era didn't privatize major industries; instead he introduced nationalization. While, Zia-ul-Haq reversed the policies of Bhutto. Therefore, business men in Pakistan are still facing problems due to political instability.

Business in Pakistan is experiencing downfall and it also has a negative impact at international level. When a country is not able to show its positive picture at international level, then investments are also facing a decline. Investors want to invest in a country, where there is a political stability.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of Pakistan has experienced a decline of 25% in the fiscal year 2022-2023 (State Bank of Pakistan, Factors affecting FDI, 2023). Hence, political instability portrays a negative image of Pakistan at international level.

The image of Pakistan due to bad political condition is not good. Pakistan is also considered as a graveyard of uncompleted projects. It is because of

The change of government.
Our economy is facing
decline, due to these
uncompleted projects. The
new government starts new
projects to make its
vote bank stronger. Iran-
Pakistan gas pipeline project
is facing constant delays,
by Pakistan's side, due to
sanctions imposed by US on
Tehran (Manzoor Hassan, "Pak-
Iran gas pipeline", 2023). Hence,
our economy is not at
stable position, but still
we are not paying heed,
how to use money in
a correct way.

Pakistan is considered as a graveyard
of incompleted projects and the
only solution to this, is to
ensure a competent leadership.
When leadership either it
is sitting in opposition, or is
holding government positions,
is hardworking and competent,
it will ultimately ensure

political and economic stability in the country. It could be possible, if we can make our education system based on critical thinking skills. For instance, the education of UK and other developed countries is based on updated curriculum. That's why they are progressing in technology, and politics. Hence, our leadership should be competent, that has capability to ensure stability in the country.

Competent leadership is only achieved, when Pakistan ensures accountability on the basis of equality. Accountability makes every person and department responsible and hardworking. When a country, lacks free and fair procedure of accountability, then in such country corruption prevails. We should follow the rules of NAB, that were formed

in 1999 with a purpose to eliminate corruption from Pakistan. Therefore, it is not the only solution that we just make laws, but there should be pragmatic ^{ways} for the implementation of these laws.

When accountability is ensured in Pakistan, then every government signs projects wisely. We will be able to achieve development, that is free from corrupt projects. Due to this corruption, much wealth is wasted on small scale projects that are not much expensive. There should be an addition, of an article, in the constitution of Pakistan; that the new government should complete the remaining projects of the previous government. In this way, we will be (abled) able to ensure and to achieve economic stability

in Pakistan.

Treating the problem of uncompleted projects, Pakistan should ensure the independence of each and every institution.

When each institution is independent, then each will work independently without bearing pressure. We should stop interference of government institutions in the judicial system of Pakistan. There is complete independence of judiciary, according to 18th and 19th amendment in the constitution (Naz Ali, "Independence of judiciary", 2022). Hence, independent and fair working of every institution brings political and economic stability in a country.

Conclusively one may state that, political and economic instability are two problems of Pakistan, that are hampering its progress and development. Political instability invites economic

instability and ultimately this hampers country's development. We should ensure political stability, by making our accountability system free and fair as well as ensure the independence of every institution.

Although, political and economic instability has devoured the social, political, economic and moral fabric of Pakistan, by acting out the suggested remedies, Pakistan can again be set on the path to progress. The founder of Pakistan said, "With faith, discipline, and devotion to duty, there is nothing worthwhile that you cannot achieve."
