

Political stability in remain an elusive concept in Pakistan. Explore the factors contributing to the fractured nature of Pakistan's polity and discuss potential reforms to the constitutional and political structure that could foster stability.

1- INTRODUCTION:

"Whether something is constitutional or not, it does not matter anymore because the distinction itself has been blurred" — Mohammad Waseem, Author of political conflict in Pakistan.

Pakistan is currently in the horns of dilemma between political instability and the rise military intervention in the affairs of the country. This has caused the deterioration of the very fabric of Pakistan's polity. Unfortunately, Pakistan's political system remained fractured due to lack of political consensus among the leaders of political parties, passive public participation, institutional inequalities, dynastic politics, military intervention in political affairs, populist politics and institutional incapacities, making it more prone to undemocratic forces holding the region.

For these reasons, Pakistan's political system has fallen into the quagmire of political instability, further hampering the country's political, social and economic aspects. However, with united efforts on government, opposition and political parties, these issues may be curbed nip in the bud.

2- FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FRACTURED NATURE OF PAKISTAN'S POLITY:

Several factors play prime role in the political instability of Pakistan. These are:

a- Lack of consensus among political parties:

Political parties are sine qua non for the political system of any country. With joint efforts of political parties, a country can attain the zenith of progress. However, in Pakistan, there is a wide disagreement in the opinions of political parties. Moreover, they always appear at daggers drawn to each other.

For example; In May 2023, ^{since} PTI party leader was ousted, intolerance has increased. The

lack of willingness to cooperate on public issues is a apparent from the regular press conferences based on demeaning political opponents.

b- Dynastic Politics:

A dynastic succession of political parties leadership is a common feature of Pakistan's political system since its creation. Instead of commencing a democratic way of selecting an administrator, the political parties pass the rule to their beneficiary. It is one of the reasons behind the country's least political growth and instability because incessant similar policies lack the capacity to reform.

Example; Pakistan Muslim League (N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) follow the norm of dynastic politics in Pakistan.

c- Military intervention in politics:

One of the major reasons of slow political growth and rampant political instability in Pakistan is militarization of politics. Unlike continuous imposition

of martial laws in the country, military now ~~controls~~ takes hold of state's machinery ~~from~~ backside.

d- Passive Public Participation:

Public participation is vital for the smooth functioning of country's political system. Nevertheless, the passive public role in political affairs has also become a dilemma across Pakistan. Due to lack of awareness, people do not participate in political affairs of the country.

e- Institutional Inequalities:

The institutional imbalance is another contributing factor to the fractured nature of Pakistan's political structure. Two institutions, **military** and **bureaucracy**, have played a dominant role in the country's politics ~~since~~ from the beginning. Unluckily, Pakistan has borne the brunt of institutional inequalities in the face of a delinquent constitutional-making process, multiple military coups and the revocation of two constitutions. Hence, the same political culture prevails since then which hampers political stability.

3- POTENTIAL REFORMS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF PAKISTAN:

Following reforms can pave the way towards the stable constitutional and political structure of Pakistan.

a- Independence of Judiciary.

The free and fair decisions of judiciary are inevitable for the proper functioning of state's machinery. For this, independence of judiciary from the influence of elites and military may lead the country toward stable political structure. In order to do this, the constitutional aspect of separation of powers need to be implemented pragmatically.

b- Prioritize national interest over personal interest.

In order to attain political stability, the elites must promote the culture of prioritizing national interests and minimize the corrupt practices for personal achievements.

c- Foster law and order in the country:

It is the responsibility of leaders to curb the notorious elements in the country which threaten the very fabric of politics through their extremism.

d- Discourage Populist politics:

All the top leadership should join hands for a common national politics which fosters country's growth instead of provoking the populist agendas.

"It is only with united effort and faith in our destiny that we shall be able to translate the Pakistan of our dreams into reality."

- Quaid-e-Azam

4- CONCLUSION:

In a nutshell, Pakistan's political ~~and~~ structure is not consensual due to various factors, putting severe implications on the country's peace and

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stability. The rigorous and undemocratic practices have bred a volatile political environment. It is only through mutual effort of government and public, that the country's progress towards peace and political stability is possible.