

Democracy in Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles

Democracy is not just a form of government; it is a way of life. It provides human rights, gender parity, accountability, inclusivity through representation, and conflict resolution mechanism among various factors. Unfortunately, there are also some hurdles in ~~dem~~ democracy of Pakistan including political instability and frequent military interventions, corruption and nepotism, lack of accountability, and gender disparity. In short, democracy in Pakistan has great potential to offer many opportunities. However, it faces various hurdles too which need to be resolved.

According to the constitution of 1973 in which democracy ensures human rights of the people. In articles 8-28, it is clearly mentioned that it provides basic fundamental human rights irrespective of their race, caste, colour, and religion. The people who are living in ~~the~~ Pakistan can claim about their rights if their rights have been breached. Also, government is persistently managing that everyone should get equal rights under the constitution of Pakistan.

In addition, democracy is the name of gender parity where both male and female should treat equally without any discrimination. As once the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam said, "If you want to become

a progressive country, you should work with women shoulder by shoulder". Democracy in Pakistan offers equal opportunities for both male and female. Thus, Pakistan is continuously promoting various plans for women such as gender action plan.

Moreover, democracy is a hope for accountability in various ways such as; free and fair, separation of powers, independent of media, active civil society, transparency and access to information, and independent judiciary. By providing these mechanisms, democracy empowers citizens and institutions to hold leaders accountable.

By promoting inclusivity through representation, democracy ensures inclusivity by granting every citizen to the right to participate any political party. If they are joining any party, they will highlight their problems and issues. There are many factions who are marginalized by majority. Therefore, democracy in Pakistan offers diversity and inclusivity by promoting ~~every~~ factions to participate in political parties in order to maintain equality.

Furthermore, democracy ensures peace and harmony by promoting conflict resolution mechanisms among various factions. These conflict resolution mechanisms assure that all groups should treat equally without any discrimination. These platforms inculcate

sense of responsibility where factions ~~are~~ realize their identity. This is how, they will believe in democracy.

Undoubtedly, democracy in Pakistan provides many hopes but there are also various hurdles which constrain the fairness of democracy. For instance; political instability and frequent military interventions. Since the inception, Pakistan is struggling with political instability and military ~~intervention~~ intervention. Pakistan has experienced multiple military coups and interventions which are disrupting democratic processes and ~~under~~ undermining civilian rule.

Not only this, but corruption and nepotism has also played an indispensable role in constraining the democracy. There is a famous saying in Animal Farm by George Orwell that, "all animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others." Pakistan is currently facing the same crisis where some are given more favours and opportunities while others are being suppressed by those who are incapable for their jobs.

Additionally, lack of accountability perpetuates a culture of corruption, impunity, and abuse of power, these factors are undermining democratic governance and the rule of law in Pakistan. Therefore, citizens have limited

opportunities for meaningful participation in decision making processes, which are reducing their ability to hold leaders accountable

Also, Pakistan is struggling with gender disparity since the inception of Pakistan. Women are not given equal rights as compared to men which are one of the biggest hurdles in democracy. There are some current examples which show gender disparity such as Judiciary Commission of Pakistan, which is based on 126 judges in the upper tier of the judiciary, there are only seven women judges. In addition, there are only two female judges out of 12 judges in Supreme court. Thus, it is one of biggest challenges for Pakistan which need to be addressed.

To cut the long story short, democracy in Pakistan is surrounded by both hopes and hurdles. It provides many hopes including human rights, accountability, gender parity, inclusivity through representation, and conflict resolution mechanisms among various factions. But, there are some hurdles which need to be so resolved such as political instability and frequent military interventions, corruption and nepotism, lack of accountability, and gender disparity. Therefore, government should try to efface the hurdles in democracy.