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## Crisis of Good-Governance in Pakistan : Need for Reforms and Institutional Building

### Outline

#### 1. Introduction :

**Thesis statement :** As various manifestations show crisis of good-governance in Pakistan, therefore, there is not only an utmost need for reforms but also institutional building through which the path of implementing good-governance in Pakistan can be paved.

#### 2. Crisis of Good-Governance in Pakistan :

##### An Overview

(Pakistan's history and current scenario)

#### 3. Manifestations of Crisis of Good-Governance in Pakistan

(3.1) Weak rule of law ;  
(World Justice Project Report)

(3.2) Leadership crisis ;  
(Military intervention)

(3.3) Bureaucracy dalliance ;  
(Nepotism and red-tapism)

(3.4) Rigging in elections ;

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(Blame game after every election)

(3.5) Pluralistic form of government

(3.6) Severe economic crisis ;

(Transparency International report)

#### 4. Need for Reforms to Minimize Crisis of Good-Governance in Pakistan

(4.1) Political reforms ;

(Focus on consensus building and prevailing national interest)

(4.2) Judicial reforms ;

(Enhancing judicial independence, efficiency, and accountability)

(4.3) Economic reforms ;

(Long-term policy making and taking anti-corruption measures)

(4.4) Electoral reforms ;

(Free and fair elections system)

(4.5) Use of latest technology in governance ;

(E-governance and use of Artificial Intelligence in decision making process)

(4.6) Focus on sustainable development ;

#### 5. Ways through which Institutional Building can Overcome Crisis of Good-

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## - Governance in Pakistan

(5.1) Avoids interference in institutions ;  
(Diminish military and other external political influence)

(5.2) Strengthens accountability across the board ;

(Why Nations fail by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson)

(5.3) Independent media

(5.4) Education and awareness enhance

## 6. Conclusion

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Good-governance is considered a pre-requisite for a state advancement. In fact, different nations, societies, and countries made development due to features of good-governance in their system; for example Islamic state of Medina; Golden Era of Muslim rule (762-1258), European, and Scandinavian countries. Unfortunately, in case of Pakistan, crisis of good-governance exists since its inception. The country is faced with issue of crisis of good-governance in many ways. There are various manifestations that show crisis of good-governance in Pakistan; therefore, there is a dire need for reforms and institutional building to prevail good-governance in the country. In the same manner, some of the reasons of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan include weak rule of law, severe leadership crisis, bureaucracy doldrums, rigging in elections, and many more. These mentioned factors have harmed the governance process in Pakistan. To cure these reforms, some reforms are direly required, such as political reforms, judicial reforms, economic reforms, electoral reforms, and so on. Additionally, institution building can eradicate the crisis of good-governance, like avoiding interference in institutions, strengthening accountability across the board, promoting independent

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media, and awareness in public. Likewise, crisis of good-governance exists, but at the same time it can be resolved by taking some recommendations into implementation.

Pakistan is faced with crisis of good-governance since independence. Throughout its history, the country lags in transparency, accountability, public participation, and responsiveness. Furthermore, governments did not remain as efficient and effective as it should be. Soon after independence, the country was faced with death of leadership. The early death of Quaid-e-Azam and Liaqat Ali Khan further add fuel to the fire. Several Prime Ministers (PMs) changed in first nine years that is from 1947-1956. Till date, no single PM <sup>have</sup> has completed its five year ruling period. Moreover, the country has experienced four times martial rule spanning over more than two decade of a time. In reality, the state experienced failed governance most of the times. There remains political instability in Pakistan's politics, and it has caused massive harm to the country's development. Currently, political polarization and economic crises have further exacerbates the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. All in

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all, both past and present era, show multiple manifestations of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.

The upcoming paragraphs will discuss the various manifestations of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan in detail. The first one among them is weak rule of law. The law of the land is violated by the powerful mafias and rich persons easily. Though law exists but is violated by powerful segment of the society. For example, Natasha Danish Gajbal, wife of CEO Gul Ahmed energy company, murdered a father and his daughter along with several other injured in a road-accident. She is on judicial remand and the affected families suffers in this case. Similarly, world justice projects ranks Pakistan at 130<sup>th</sup> position out of 142 countries in 2023 rule of law index. This lower ranks shows poor rule of law in the country. Hence, weak rule of law is one of the main causes of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.

Secondly, leadership crisis is another factor causing crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. The country faced scarcity of sincere leadership since its inception. Due to

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lack of visionary leadership, military interferences in politics and thus the country experienced about 4 times martial rule. Moreover, one of the causes of secession of East Pakistan in 1971 was disunity among politicians. And it was because of lack of leadership. Thus, crisis of leadership caused crisis in good-governance.

Thirdly, bureaucracy dilemma is the cause of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. It refers to the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of bureaucratic machinery. In fact, bureaucracy is considered as the engine of running government affairs. Unfortunately, there exists many problems in Pakistan bureaucracy, such as red-tapism, nepotism, and favoritism. Recently, a case of CSS qualified candidate of 2022 exam appeared on social media, which shows the lack of transparency in paper marking and checking. This shows deteriorated state of affairs of the country. Conclusively, it can be said that inefficiency in bureaucracy leads to crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.

The fourth factor that represents the sample of bad-governance is rigging in elections. Most of times, after

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every elections, it is claimed that it was a rigged elections. The role of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is questioned and termed partial. Politicians have exhibited the blame game of after losing elections. The country used large financial resources in this process. Ultimately, public and state suffers, due to inefficient and corrupt institutions that leads to rigged elections. Therefore, rigging in elections is the symptom of bad-governance in Pakistan.

The fifth factor that is the manifestations of crisis of good-governance is pluralistic form of government. There is no single party which have ruled the federal as well as all provinces. Different regions and provinces have different political parties. For example, Punjab is governed by Pakistan Muslim League (N), KPK is ruled by PTI, Sindh by PPP, and Balochistan is by local Baloch Awami Party, Cursedly. This results in lack of proper coordination and cooperation. Therefore, governance affairs didnot run smoothly as it should be. That is why, bad-governance is caused by pluralistic form of government in Pakistan.



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The sixth and last manifestations of good-governance crisis is severe economic crisis. The country, indeed, is faced with unprecedented economic crisis. It is one of the major causes of underdevelopment of the nations. Likewise, increasing corruption and malpractices makes the situation worst. According to 2023 Transparency International report, "Pakistan ranked 140<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries."

Judiciary and police, as an institutions, are termed as <sup>the</sup> most corrupt institutions of the country.

Similarly, India, as a case study, has made phenomenal economic advancement. The difference between the two countries is good-governance. Hence, economic crisis causes crisis of good-governance in the country.

After exposing the manifestations of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. The following paragraphs will describe need for reforms to minimize crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. The first factor in this manner is political reforms. The success of good-governance mainly depends upon the political stability. There should be a culture of dialogue and diplomacy among the political politicians. For this, consensus

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building should be prioritized. All politicians must prioritize national interest over personal and political interests. For this purpose, institutions should be depoliticized as well.

Resultantly, if such reforms in Pakistan's politics persists then crisis of good-governance will reduce to a larger extent.

Besides political reforms, judicial reforms are also sine qua non. The judiciary should be reformed based on the latest pattern of the world. It should be free from any interference related to its decision making process. It must act independently in its affairs. Furthermore, its efficiency can be enhanced through strict accountability if any injustice found in it.

Consequently, judicial reforms could resolve the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.

Alongwith judicial reforms, economic reforms could also reduce crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. Economic policy making institutions should focus on long-term vision and policy making. The planning machinery needs to frame policies that is socially acceptable, economically feasible, and politically fair. Revenue generation at

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Federal and provincial level departments should align and coordinate with each other for efficient management system. Moreover, anti-corruption measures need to be enhanced to curb corruption from its roots. Hence, good-governance can be improved by implementing economic reforms.

In addition to economic reforms, electoral reforms can play a vital role in diminishing crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. It can bring political stability. Blame game and agitation after every election should be ended. For this, free and fair election system should be maintained. The role of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is very important in this regard. It should not align itself with any other party. ECP should be neutral in its affairs. Thus, electoral reforms can minimize the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.

Additionally, use of latest technology in governance can decrease the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. In fact, modern and developed countries like China, USA and Russia have integrated latest technology in their governance system.

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Currently, concept of E-governance is prominent. It has eased government procedures. Now, public can attain government services online. There is also one window operation to avoid work redundancy. Similarly use of Artificial Intelligence such as CHATGPT, Gemini and so on can be used as a tool for making public decision in better way. As a consequence, introduction of latest technology in governance can contracts crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.

The last reforms to minimize crisis of good-governance in Pakistan is to focus on sustainable development. Pakistan still lags behind in attaining sustainable development goals. Our institutions like health, education, police, judiciary, parliament and so on are not performing as it should. The increasing rate of poverty and crimes in society is its manifestations. In order to developed, Pakistan needs to achieve the target sets in SDGs (2015-2030). Thus, good-governance can be maintained by giving focus to sustainable development.

After narrating the need for reforms, the upcoming paragraphs

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will describe the ways through which institutional building can overcome the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. The first way is that it avoids interference in institutions. It gives strength and independence to existence of institutions. It also creates sense of depending on itself. This process leads to diminishing military and other external political influence. Recently, a coup d'état failed in Turkey (Türkiye) because of their strong institutions and public trust. Hence, institutional building makes less space for intervening in institutions.

Similarly, institutional building strengthens accountability across the board. Institutionalization strengthens accountability and diminishes corruption. In the book "Why Nations Fail" by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson states that, "inclusive institutions are more beneficial than extractive institutions." It is because of the fair accountability and public trust. Institutions must accommodate itself to public and be open to accountability. Therefore, building institution on such patterns strengthens accountability across the board.

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Moreover, an independent media can be obtained through institutional building and support. Media should act independently without any compulsion. However, freedom of speech should have limitations. It should not hurt religious, ideological, and personal beliefs of an individual. Furthermore, media should be free, fair, and responsible. In current times, it is considered as a fourth pillar of state after legislature, judiciary, and executive. Therefore, an independent media institutional is possible because of a fair institutionalization in the country.

Last but not the least, institutionalization can help in enhancing education and awareness among citizens and in the country. For this purpose, institutions like school, media, civil society and so on should work together. There is a dire need of promoting civic education, critical thinking, and democratic values. If such things occur, then crisis of good-governance can be minimized. That is why, increasing education and awareness through institutional building can lead to good-governance.

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In conclusion, it can be said and accepted that various manifestations show crisis of good-governance in Pakistan. However, through certain reforms and institutionalization, the crisis can be averted and Pakistan can make its path for development. The need for reforms and institutional building is must in this scenario. The various causes of crisis of good-governance in Pakistan are bureaucracy deliriums, rigging in elections, pluralistic form of government, economic crisis and many more. Besides, to overcome these hurdles, certain reforms need to be adopted, such as, economic reforms, political reforms, electoral reforms, using latest technology, focusing on sustainable development, and soon.

Moreover, strengthening institutions and its maintenance can diminish the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan, in this manner, certain steps can be taken like avoiding interference in institutions, strengthening accountability across the board, promoting independent media, and enhancing education and awareness. Additionally, good-governance attributes like transparency, accountability, public participation, and effectiveness need to be basic part

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of any government structure in Pakistan. Then, in real sense, bad-governance can be defeated. Indeed, Pakistan can develop by leaps and bounds through maintaining good-governance in their system. And it is not something impossible to achieve, it needs fair reforms implementation and institutional building to avert the crisis of good-governance in Pakistan.