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Pakistan is not a failed state, rather badly governed one.

1. Introduction.

Thesis statement

Prevailing corruption, Political instability, lack of basic facilities, weak institutions and other factors make Pakistani state a badly governed one rather than a failed state.

2. How is Pakistan a badly governed state, rather than a failed state?

- (i) Corruption in every sector of the country.
- (ii) Governance crisis because of political instability.
- (iii) Lack of basic facilities provided by government.
- (iv) Poor health and educational infrastructure by government.

(v) No rule of law in the country.

(vi) Weak judicial system exacerbating governance crisis.

(vii) No practical and goal oriented policies for the progress of country.

(viii) Politicization of recruitment processes. further adding to the incompetency of Government.

(ix) Poor tax to GDP ratio increasing the financial constraints and showing the incompetent governance.

3. The possibility of good governance making Pakistan a progressive state.

4. Conclusion.

A villager had heart attack and was taken to nearby city for basic emergency treatment. Unfortunately roads were all blocked because of political protests, and the villager died, just because of lack of facilities in his own village.

This story is not unique; it reflects a larger pattern in Pakistan, where governance crisis have deeply impacted public life and hindered development. The current situation of governance in Pakistan includes corruption, lack of basic necessities of life, insufficient and weak educational and health infrastructure and poor tax to GDP ratio. Among the causes are political instability, lack of accountability, poor policies, weak judicial system and others. The current governance situation in Pakistan is in dire need for reforms and institutional building, which can be done by emphasizing rule of law, promoting merit

recruitments, strengthening institutions like NAB, FIA etc. and by making realistic, goal oriented policies.

To begin with, the lack of good governance has made corruption the order of the day, costing billions of rupees to the economy. Corruption prevails in every rank of government institutions. For instance, one who has never sat in the driving seat of a car can get a driving licence by bribing the relevant officer. According to Pakistan's corruption Perception Index, the country's ranking is 124 out of 180 countries, which is disappointing.

Political instability in the country proves that Pakistan is a badly governed state. In Pakistan, political instability has historically resulted in short term governance crisis strategies and power struggles that has diverted the focus from pressing issues like poverty, education, and healthcare which make the country a badly governed state.

According to International crisis group, 2023, Political instability not only creates a governance crisis but, when left unchecked, pushes the state towards failure.

Besides, the state has failed to deliver the basic necessities of life because of governance crises. It is unable to generate enough employment opportunities to absorb the emerging work force. Currently, the

unemployment ratio in Pakistan is around 7 percent. The ever increasing poverty ratio is the consequence of unemployed youth. Additionally, at the legatum prosperity index, Pakistan is at the position of 138. It demonstrates the sorry state of governance in the country even more.

Moreover, because of bad governance, the health and educational structure of the country has deteriorated. According to the legatum prosperity index, Pakistan is in the 130th position in the health sector and 143rd in education. It is far back from regional partners; the same report gave 111 and 118 positions to India, respectively. Even Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are performing well than Pakistan. This is a serious concern for the country because health and education are the

People's basic needs and require
a good setup for the welfare
of all.

The absence of rule of law and accountability prove that how Pakistan is a badly governed state, rather than a failed state. According to Voice and Accountability captures Perceptions, Pakistan is at 25.12 percent in accountability, depicting the dismal condition. In the absence of rule of law real potential of the country cannot be achieved; institutions collapse, and criminals run amok.

Weak and pliant judiciary makes the country a badly governed state rather than a failed state. All the people from the power corridors misuse their authority. Pakistani lawyer Atraz Ahsan said that "the judicial system of Pakistan is "nothing but a ploy to frighten. A strong and independent judiciary can change the fate of a

nation, but a weak judicial system shows the government incompetency and lowers the trust of people in the state institutions.

Lack of direction and poor policy decisions has always been a flaw of Pakistani governance. Vested interests, lack of will, and poor policy decisions have made the country a badly governed one rather than a failed one.

A report from UN Development Programme in 2022 highlighted that "poor policy implementation and lack of institutional coordination have left Pakistan facing critical governance challenges."

Politicization of recruitment processes add fuel to the fire in contributing to the bad governance when recruitment is influenced by political affiliations rather

than skills and qualifications. A culture of favoritism and corruption is promoted undermining the institutional integrity. In sectors like education, health care, and law enforcement, unqualified personnel can lead to substandard services and ineffective administration. Over time, the politicization of recruitment weakens state institutions, perpetuating governance crisis that hinders Pakistan's progress and stability.

Falling tax-to-GDP ratio further proves that how is Pakistan a badly governed state rather than a failed one. Pakistan's Tax to GDP ratio declined to 9.2 percent from 10.4 in 2021-2022 compared to 2020. There are many reasons behind this low figure in Pakistan and this ratio severely limits the governments'

ability to find essential services, contributing to poor governance and pushing the country towards economic instability. As funds become insufficient, the government often resorts to borrowing, which increases debt burdens and diverts even more resources away from public welfare to debt servicing.

A good governance with reformed institutions can actually make Pakistan a progressive state. Here are the effective outcomes of the good governance for the country.

Good governance can be transformative for Pakistan, setting the foundation for sustained progress and stability. When governance is transparent, accountable, and effective, it enhances public

trust and strengthens rule of law, creating an environment where citizens feel protected and fairly treated. The stability attracts both domestic and foreign investment, boosting economic growth and job creation. Further more efficient governance enables the government to allocate resources strategically improving public services like healthcare, education and infrastructure. Such an environment promotes social cohesion, reduces inequality, and encourages innovation all of which contribute to a more prosperous resilient, and progressive Pakistan.

In conclusion, since its inception Pakistan has faced the governance crisis. Pakistan rich in natural resources and a youth population is falling low on Human Development Index because of ongoing

political instability, lack of basic facilities and weak institutions like weak judiciary and others. The incompetency of government in every field whether its revenue generation or the making of practical goal oriented policies has proved that Pakistan is a badly governed state rather than a failed state. Factors like transparency, accountability and inclusivity show that the governance situation of the country is good and ultimately the state moves towards progress. In case of Pakistan strong institutional reforms have become the need of the hour to make the governance good and make Pakistan a progressive state rather than a failing state.