

Political polarization has made governance hard in Pakistan

OUTLINE

1 Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan has long been plagued with the issue of political polarization, resulting in poor form of governance. The sharp contrast in opinions and the quest for power among political parties resulted in the erosion of the core of democracy. Ensuring the centralization of politics is the only panacea to have a stronger form of governance in the country.

2 How political polarization has made the governance

hard in Pakistan

- a. Prioritization of their agendas over national interest
- b. Prevalance of corruption and nepotism to hold power
- c. Weak form of political institutions
- d. Sole focus on the quest for power
- e. Politicization of government institutions for personal interest
- f. Inconsistant civil-military relationship based on political interest
- g. Politicization of religious matters for own interest
- h. Focus on short-term governance rather than long-term reforms
- i. Media biasness and censorship by political parties

3. Panacea to curb political polarization and to have good form of governance

- a. Ensure the prevalance of rule of law.

b - Strengthen the government's institutions and ensure inclusiveness

c - Ensure consensus of all political parties over the drafting of long-term reforms

d - Ensure the prevalence of civic education

4 Conclusion

Polarized politics and economic turmoil is pushing Pakistan into dangerzone (Maleeha Lodhi)
Since Pakistan got independent from British colonial rule in 1947, it has struggled to establish stable democratic institutions amid political instability and socio-economic challenges.

Democracy in Pakistan remained turbulent marked by the period of civilian government interspersed by military intervention. Unfortunately, the quagmire of political polarization grew larger over time resulting in the poor form of governance

The difference of opinion and the quest for power among political parties resulted in the erosion of the core of democracy. Ensuring the centralization in politics is the only panacea to have a stronger form of governance in the country.

Prioritization of their specific agenda by the political parties over the national interest has resulted in the bad governance in the country. The sharp contrast of opinions among the major parties without considering the benefit of nation has resulted in paralysis of democracy.

The failure of democracy in Pakistan is not due to inherent flaws in the system, but as a result of political culture and leadership that has long dominated in Pakistan.

(Democracy in Pakistan, G.W. Choudary). Hence, the prioritization of the specific interest of a political party over the national interest has resulted in bad form of governance.

In the same way, prevalence of corruption and nepotism within the system is the major impediment in the way of

good governance. The use of illegal means for personal gains and the culture of favourism within political system has made the governance hard in Pakistan. Nepotism is favoured to ensure their own people in the system that can uplift their personal interest. Hence, the prevalence of corruption and nepotism is among the major impediment in the way of effective form of governance.

Furthermore, the weakness among the political institutes has made the governance hard in Pakistan. Lack of intra-party elections has resulted into political polarization. Democracy within political institutes is very essential for effective form of governance. The prevalence of undemocratic practices

within the political parties will further exacerbate the issue of bad form of governance.

Moreover, the quest for power among the political parties has made the governance even more harder. The political parties goes through every possible mean to gain power resulting in erosion of democratic norms. Powerful people here and everywhere try to seek complete grab over the institutions, thus undermining every aspect of positive social development. Keep those people under the check of democracy or watch your nation fails. (Why Nation Fails, Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson). Hence, the quest for power among the political parties results in poor form of governance in the country.

In the same way, politicization

of governments institutions like Bureaucracy and administrative institutions for personal interest has further contributed to the ineffectiveness of governance in the country. Politicization of government institution like judiciary has resulted in the loss of its independence, transparency and the erosion of public trust over these institutes. Hence, the politicization of government institution for personal gains has made the governance even harder in Pakistan.

Similarly, inconsistent civil-military relationship based on political interest has undermined the democratic norms of the country. The inclusion of military in political affairs by the political parties to gain or sustain the power has resulted in

very bad form of governance.

Military has played a dominant role in the history of Pakistan, but a balanced civil-military relationship is very crucial for sustainable development and stability. (Beyond the Crisis State, Maleeha Lodhi)

The democracy of Pakistan has been marred by frequent interruptions, resulting in fragile political system that fails to meet the aspiration of people (The Democracy and Governance in Pakistan, Touqir Kamran). Hence, the interruption of military in political matters has made the governance even harder in Pakistan.

In the same way, political polarization has led the parties to politicize the religious matter for their own interest. This further

exacerbate the extremism process resulting in bad governance. By making the religious matter as the base of their agendas, political parties try to shape public opinion in their respective favour. Illiteracy among citizens had let this disease thrive in Pakistan. Hence, the use of extremism to shape public interest has further eroded the base of democracy.

Moreover, the focus of political parties on short-term governance rather than long-term reforms has resulted in underdevelopment and poor governance in the country. The ruling political party solely focus on their short-term of governance instead of taking the steps in the right trajectory that can benefit the nation in

long run. Political polarization has diverted the focus of political parties from their original goal resulting in poor governance.

Furthermore, political polarization has resulted in media control and censorship to shape the opinion of public in their respective favour. Freedom of press is the main pillar of democracy. The telecast of fake or biased news has further ignited the fire of ineffective governance in the country.

The panacea to curb political polarization and to ensure good governance in the country is to ensure the prevalence of rule of law in the country. Every political parties, despite of contrasting opinions

should be bound to follow law which will eventually results in good form of governance in the country.

Political centralization is very essential to have a strong state that can deliver basic public services

(Governing the Ungovernable, Ishrat Hussain).

Hence, prevalence of rule of law in the country will eventually result in good governance.

In the same way, strengthening of governments institutions and ensuring inclusiveness among the institutions is very imperative to have an effective form of governance.

Democracy is as strong as its institutions, without strengthening the institutions, democracy will not function effectively in Pakistan (Imran Khan Niazi)

Extractive political and economic

institutes leads toward poverty and failure while inclusive political and economic institutes leads towards prosperity.

(Why Nation Fails, Daron Acemoglu, James Robinson)

Hence, the inclusiveness among the institutes will result in political centralization and good governance.

Furthermore, all the political parties should coordinate and draft reforms that will benefit the nation in longer run. The consensus of all political parties in drafting the reform is very essential to curb political polarization and ensure better form of governance. The goal of every political party should be national interest.

Moreover, the prevalence of civic education is very imperative to form a responsible

citizen. Uneducated individual lack the ability to judge the agenda of political parties resulting in corruption prevalence. Democracy will remain vulnerable in Pakistan as long as the access of people to justice, education and basic human rights is denied. (A.T. Rahman)

Hence, education is very imperative to hold the government accountable for their actions and to take decisions based on their own intellect.

In a nutshell, the disease of political polarization has long plagued Pakistan, resulting in poor form of governance.

The quest of power among the political parties and the difference of opinions has resulted in marred form of democracy. To ensure centralization (or) of politics,

the prevalence of rule of law,
strengthening of institutions,
consensus among political
parties and the flourishing
of civic education is very
imperative.