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Provide an outline of Pakistan's Federal system of government. Why has such an approach been chosen? How successful has it been in ensuring efficiency?

Introduction:

Pakistan's Federal System of government, as enshrined in its constitution is structured to balance authority between the central government and its provincial units including Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. This system divide system across federal, provincial and local levels, with defined roles and responsibilities for each level to promote administrative effectiveness, regional autonomy and national unity. The choice of federal approach stems from Pakistan's diverse ethnic, cultural and linguistic composition which demands a governance model that respect provincial diversity while ensuring a cohesive national framework. The federal structure aims to address regional disparities and to allow each province say in governance to foster inclusion and participation across the country.

Pakistan's Federal system of government:

1- Federal Government (Central Government)

The central government of the Pakistan runs under a Parliamentary system, with the president as the head of state and the Prime Minister as the head of government. The government exercises its authority over following subjects, such as, defense, foreign policy and finance.

2- Bicameral Parliament:

Pakistan's Parliament consists of two houses i.e. Senate: It represents the provinces with equal representation from each province. National Assembly: Members are elected from various constituencies and representation is proportional to the population of province.

3- Provinces:

Pakistan has four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Balochistan. Each province has its own government which is responsible for areas such as education, health, local government and agriculture. And each province has government

as the ceremonial head while the Chief Minister is executive of the province.

4- Legislative power division:

The subjects are divided into two lists i.e. Federal list and Legislative list. The areas which lies Federal list, it is mandate Federal government to legislate on such areas. While, The areas which comes under provincial list, the provincial can only legislate on such areas.

5- Autonomous and Federally Administered Areas:

Islamabad, Gilgit, Balistan and Azad and Jammu and Kashmir administered by federal government. However, Gilgit-Balistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir have a degree of self-governance, with their own legislative assemblies and executive setup, but are under Federal oversight.

6- The 18th Amendment:

The 18th Amendment is considered a mile stone in the constitutional history of Pakistan. It has enhanced devolution of power from central government to

7. a provincial government and their local government.
Judicial System:

Pakistan has a unified judiciary, with the Supreme Court at the apex Court, ensuring the interpretation and protection of the constitution. Each province has a High Court that oversees judicial matters within jurisdiction.

8. Council of Common Interest (CCI)

Council of Common Interest (CCI) is responsible for handling dispute between Federal and provincial governments. It plays an instrumental role in maintaining harmony among the provinces.

9. National Finance Commission (NFC) Award:

Determines the financial distribution of revenue between the Federal government and provinces, aiming to ensure fair share based on needs and population.

Why has such such approach chosen?

(1) Diverse regional Identities:

Pakistan is a home to multiple ethnic groups and languages. A federal structure allows these diverse identities to have their representation in their respective provinces. This helps in maintaining harmony among various provinces.

(2) Decentralized governance for local bodies:

The various provinces have unique issues regarding education, health and agricultural need. In this regard, the 18th Amendment considered a mile stone which has devolved power from the central government to ~~legislative~~ provincial government and then provincial government decentralized its power to local government for better efficiency.

(3) Bicameral Parliament ensure regional equality and Representation:

Bicameral parliament ensure regional equality and representation in Federal decision making processes. For instance, Both houses have passed 26th Constitutional amendment.

4- Council of Common Interest (CCI) and National Finance Commission:

Council of Common Interest and National Finance Commission play crucial role in resolving dispute and ensuring fair revenue distribution. These two bodies maintain inter-provincial harmony. For instance, when Indus River System Authority takes any decision regarding distribution of water-canal, it often creates problem between Punjab and Sindh. So, Council of Common Interests dissolves their issue.

5- Checks and Balances on Federal Structure:

The federal structure prevents overreach by central government and respects provincial rights. This system allows decentralization of powers to grass root level.

How successful has it been in ensuring efficiency?

Pakistan's federal structure provides a strong framework to meet the need of diverse societies by creating distinct roles and responsibilities for federal

governments:

Areas where this federal structure successfully contributed to efficient governance:

(1) Preservation of regional Identities:

This federal structure allows each province to manage specific internal affairs such as culture, language and local policies. For instance, Sindhi is taught in Sindhi ^{as subject}. It plays a important role in supporting ethnic and cultural representation.

(2) Equal Representation and voice for All Provinces:

The Bicameral parliamentary system prevent bigger provinces to encroach on smaller provinces. The federal structure ensures equal voice in decision making process.

(3) Provincial Development through Autonomy:

A landmark amendment in the constitution, 18th Amendment allows provinces to develop the health, education and agricultural sector. For instance, The Sindh province has its advanced health sector, such as Gambat liver Transplant center.

Area where the federal structure are still evolving:

(i) Local bodies governance issues:

The federal structure allows powers to devolved from center to provinces. Unfortunately, The decentralization of powers from provinces to local bodies is not evolved yet.

(ii) Conflict Resolution and Inter-Provincial Collaboration:

It has often noticed by the people of Pakistan that the federal government takes unilaterally decisions. For instance, The government of Pakistan decided to make new canals without the consent of the Council of Common Interests (CCI). Taking such decision can be detrimental to national integration.

Conclusion

The federal structure that is elucidated in the constitution, allows the central government and provincial governments to administer on their subject. This rationale for this structure to dissolve power to provinces

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The provinces are allowed to take decisions regarding their subject. So, they should not perceive themselves eliminated from the system. It is noted there are some areas, where the str. federal structure delivered efficiently to the governance on the other hand, there are area where it is evolving. The federal structure is designed to maintain national unity.