

Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan

Need for Reforms and Institution Building

Outlines:

A. Introduction

1. Rise of Civic Life
2. Emergence of structural government
3. Thesis Statement

B. Nature of crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan:

1. Rampant Corruption
2. Obstructions in devolution of power
3. Mounting debt
4. Proliferation of poverty
5. Low literacy rate
6. Absence of role of law
7. Deplorable security situation

C. Steps for Reforms and Institution Building:

1. Incorporation of checks and balances on institutions
2. Promotion of democratic norms

3. Depoliticization of institutions

4. Establishment of rule of law

5. Increase in spending on social sector

6. Meeting the energy demand to compete in economic field

D. Conclusion

- Ever since the emergence of human civilization people have relied upon the ~~the~~ leaders to guide them in every affairs of their life. These leaders were expected to protect the life and property of the people in times of war and ensure their survival in times of peace. Initially they were the men of strength or simply clan chiefs. However, with time more

elaborate methods were devised for the selection of leaders. The Creeks were the first people to use popular vote to decide on matters of governance and society. This later morphed into the modern system of democratic election of governments that prevails till today in most of the world. Pakistan too has had a democratic system of government ever since its independence. However, governments in Pakistan have not been successful in delivering to the nation. To begin with, successive governments in Pakistan have been marred by the scourge of corruption. Similarly, the power has not been allowed to devolve down to the grass root levels. Moreover, the

65

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05

have consistently failed to gain economic self sufficiency due to massive debt. Also, poor literacy levels and absence of role of law have contributed to the crisis of good governance. Still, in context of reforms in governance there is light at the end of tunnel. Firstly; a strict policy of checks and balances and democratic norms have to be promoted in all government institutions. Secondly, there is a need to increase the budget toward the social sector to meet energy demand as well. There is a crisis of governance in Pakistan which need^{dr} practicable steps to bring about reforms and institution building in the country.

To begin with; rampant

Corruption is prime example of crisis of good governance in Pakistan. The country mostly relies on indirect taxes and foreign aids in order to run day to day affairs of government. However, due to corruption most of this money never reaches the people it is intended for. For instance, according to United Nations corruption perception index, 2015 Pakistan ranked at 127th position. Therefore, crisis of good governance is evident from the rampant corruption.

Similarly, one of the biggest evidence of crisis of good governance in Pakistan is the existence of various obstructions in devolution of power. Devolution of power is

considered as essence of democracy and good governance. it enables the people to remain in direct contact with their governments. Pakistan has always struggled to formulate a pure system of local governments. For example, local governments have only been formed thrice in Pakistan, and only one of them, the 2015 local government was formed during a democratic government. Hence; obstruction in devolution of power indicates the crisis of good governance.

Likewise; a mounting debt is a critical element of crisis of good governance in Pakistan. To start with; all the countries which depend on some form of debt

in order to run its day to day affairs use it in most efficient way. Moreover, loans and grants, in some cases, provide an impetus to stalled economy. In Pakistan, however, we have never used the grants and loans to benefit our industry and domestic production. As a result we are depending on resourcing of loans only. For example; according to state bank of Pakistan the national debt of Pakistan at the end of 2020 was 96.457 billion dollars. To sum up, one of key factor in crisis of good governance in Pakistan is mounting debt.

In the same way, proliferation of poverty is

one of the biggest evidence of crisis of good governance in Pakistan. A smaller number of people living below poverty line is considered a good indicator for economy of the country. Pakistan has fared very badly in this area right from the day of independence. For example; according to the state bank of Pakistan if \$2 is considered minimum daily wage, then half of Pakistan's population lives below poverty line. These peoples are burden on government. In sum up; the crisis of good governance is visible from proliferation of poverty. Moreover; one of the biggest manifestations of crisis

(3)

3/5

of good governance in Pakistan is low literacy levels. All developed countries have high literacy levels. Pakistan, on the other hand, has one of the lowest literacy rate in the world.

For instance; according to the social and living standard survey 2013-14 literacy rate in Pakistan is 58%. In conclusion; crisis of good governance in Pakistan is displayed from low literacy levels.

In the same manner; the absence of rule of law is one of the biggest evidence of crisis of good governance in Pakistan. The first and foremost responsibility of a government is to provide its citizens with protection and justice. Pakistan has failed

: 61

miserably in this sector. Here justice is not served on equal basis; people with influence power or money can easily dodge the process of law. For instance; the rich can always pay blood money in order to escape the punishment of murder. Therefore; the crisis of good governance in Pakistan is shown by the absence of rule of Law.

Finally; a deplorable security situation is a further affirmation of crisis of good governance in Pakistan. For the last decade, Pakistan has been in the grip of a deadly wave of terrorism. We have had to pay heavily in this war against terrorism both in terms of money

and lives lost. For instance; as per ISPR 80,000 Pakistanis have been killed as a result of terrorist activities. Hence; crisis of good governance is proven by the deplorable security situation in Pakistan.

In the above lines the essay has discussed the various causes of crisis of good governance in Pakistan. In the following paragraphs it will describe a few solutions for reforms and institution building.

Firstly; incorporation of checks and balances is very important in order to bring reforms and institution building. It is essential that every echelon of a government is subjected to

Strict accountability. For instance; western countries have strict laws of accountability which is one of the main factor in their good governance. Moreover, checks and balances make governments more responsible towards the people. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate checks and balances in order to bring about reforms and institution building.

Secondly; democratic norms have to be promoted in Pakistan, for reforms and institution building to occur. Democracy is the form of government in which population itself chooses their rulers. Therefore, the elected are very attentive towards

(4)

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the aspirations of people. For example in western countries people readily reject the elected officials who fail to live upto their expectations. To sum up; for reforms and institution building to take hold, democratic norms must be promoted in Pakistan.

Thirdly; to bring reforms and institution building in Pakistan depoliticization of institutions has to be made a priority to begin with; administrative, military, law-enforcement and judicial institutions are established so that they may work for the welfare of people. Therefore, these institutions must be allowed to work without

political interference. However, in Pakistan they all work for their own interest not for public will. For instance; Police has often been used to register false cases against political opponents. In conclusion; institutions need to be de-politicized, in order to constitute reforms and institutions building in Pakistan.

Fourthly; rule of law must be established for reforms and institution building. Free and fair justice is the first prerequisite of a functioning society. It ensures equal rights for all in society. Moreover; institutions perform their duties as per rule of law. For instance; in third world countries

where justice is provided. The process is either too expensive or too protracted. To sum up; in order to initiate reforms and institution building in Pakistan, establishment of rule of law is imperative.

Fifthly; in order to bring reforms and institution building spending on social sector must be increased. Spending on social sector is one of the biggest indicators by which a country's economic and social wellbeing measured. For example; Japan has the highest life expectancy on Earth which is due to a large allocation of their budget to social sector. In sum; spending on social

60

sector must be increased.

Lastly, the energy demand of the country must be met in order to endem-gered reforms and institutions building. Energy has become the most important commodity of 21st century. All the developed countries rely on energy to maintain their economic superiority. This will not only create jobs but also enable the government to focus on other pressing issues. Hence, for the reforms and institutions building in Pakistan, energy demand must be met.

In a nutshell, Pakistan although largely a democratic country, is amongst those where governments have largely failed

(5)

to deliver. Firstly, the scourge of corruption is in every echelon of our government. Secondly, obstruction in devolution of power and not proper utilisation of foreign loans are main causes for proliferation of poverty. Also, low literacy rates create uneducated and unskilled persons who are burden on government. That being said; the situation is not irrevocable. To begin with, by ensuring strict accountability and a system of checks and balances have to be instituted at all levels of government. Moreover, a large allocation of budget for social sector will improve the situation of health

and education in country.
Finally we need to fulfill
the energy demand. This essay
has showed how there is a
crisis of good governance in
Pakistan and concluded with
a few suggestions for reforms
and institution building.