

Essay:

# Democracy in Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles.

Outline:

A) Introduction

Piz write down thesis statement

(a) - Democracy

(b) - Thesis Statement

B) Evolution of Democracy in Pakistan

C) Hurdles of Democracy in Pakistan:

(a) Pakistan: an Orwellian state

(i) PIA ordered telecom companies to monitor 4m citizens.

(b) Lack of public interests in election

(i) 70% people didnot trust government institution

(c) Illiteracy

(i) Only 58% of mass of Pakistan is literate only

Well researched content

(d) Unstable economy

(i) Norway, Singapore and Germany efficiently invest in public services.

(e) Feudal structure of Pakistan

(i) Pakistan Kisan conference 2007 Speakers declare "Feudals" as great hurdle for real democracy.

(f) Successive / Repeated military rule

(i) 1958-71 (Ayub Khan), 1977-88 (Zia-ul-Haq)

1999-2007 (pervaiz Musharraf)



D) Hopes of Democracy in Pakistan:

(a) Increased women participation

(i) In 2008 - 73 women participated in elections

2013 - 135 " " "

2018 - 183 " " "

(b) Decline in Military intervention

(i) No direct military coup since 2008.

(c) Improved ECP performance

(i) 2017 elections reforms

(ii) 2019 dispute of two election commissioners and reaction of chief Election Commissioner.

(d) Increased awareness among masses

about their rights.

(i) Annual Aurat March

(ii) Baloch March

(e) Room for evolution of new political parties.

(i) Awaam Pakistan Party

(f) Smooth transfer of government through elections

(i) 2008 → 2013 (PML(N)) → 2018 (PTI)

(PML(N) + PPP) 2024 ← (PDM) 2022 ←

E) Recommendation

(a) Promote education by bringing 26m childrens into school.

(b) Stabilize economy through effective



utilization of CPEC opportunity.

(C) Decentralization of power.

(F) ~~Conclusion~~

The voice of people is the voice of God; democracy ensures that voice is heard clear and louder. Democracy evolved from the ancient Greece. **I have mind to write good very good** as President Abraham Lincoln stated it; Government of the people, by the people and for the people. The major hurdles in the way of flourishing democracy in Pakistan is its illiterate mass. Repeated military rule, instable economy of Pakistan, and the feudal lords impede democracy. State central government controls the citizens (Orwellian state) and the lack of public interest in the electoral process also did not allow the democracy to flourish in Pakistan. ~~Besides~~ above mentioned hurdles to Pakistan democracy, there are also some indicators that shows best future of



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democracy in Pakistan. Such as decline in the military rule, increased women participation, improved ECP performance and room for the evolution of new political parties.

~~This is a fact that there are several hurdles to democracy in Pakistan, but if it is allowed to flourish then the democracy have a potential to perform.~~

After the independence of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah opted secular democracy for the Pakistan. After his death, there was no leader to implement democracy in Pakistan in true sense. In just 9 years between 1947-1956, four prime Ministers and four presidents (Governor-Generals) were changed. The first constitution of Pakistan was implemented in 1956, which gave parliamentary democracy to Pakistan. It was abrogated by General Ayub Khan in 1958. In 1962, he gave his own constitution. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (first elected prime Minister) gave a sys Parliamentary

Historical touch is perfect



System in 1973 constitution of Pakistan. He was removed from his office in 1977 and Pakistan once again goes into the hand of Military rulers from 1977 - 1988. In 1988, Benazir Bhutto was somehow successful in restoration of democracy. But there again started a musical chair game between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, which ended as a result of the imposition of Martial law in 1999. A tough Martial law was followed by PPP government in 2008, which brings good days for democracy in Pakistan. and surviving till now without any major hurdles. So, we can Democracy in Pakistan have seen both hurdles and hopes.

One of the major problem is Pakistan's behaviour as Orwellian State. Orwellian state is such State where government controls lives of the people. Recently, Pakistan telecommunication Agency

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have ordered telecom companies to use "Mass Surveillance System" to monitor the 4 million people of Pakistan. They will control the actions, speeches, and lives of people.

This much authority to an institution may lead to the concentration of power in one hand. Intelligence agencies may use it for their personal gains. Government can use it for to against the opposition. Therefore, the Pakistan behavior like Orwellian State impedes the nurturing of democracy.

Lack of public interest in electoral process is another major obstacle in the development of democracy. According to Gallup poll in Pakistan, about 70% people did not trust the government institution and electoral results. People as base of democracy cannot involved in the democratic processes will results in the failure of democracy. Government must take steps to replace the people in-trust with trust on institution and reduce the gap. Hence, lack of public interest results in low elections.



growth of democracy.

Thirdly, illiteracy stands as a challenge for in development of democracy. According to Cambridge dictionary, illiteracy means inability to read, write, speak and listen. People are not democratic innately. They learn the democratic norms, values and attitudes through education. Illiterate persons are unable to learn these values. According to a report, only 58% people of Pakistan are able to write and read, and 80-90 m people are unable to know about their rights, can't make their representatives accountable and can't choose the right person as their leader. Hence, in such situation democracy cannot be observed in its real sense.

In addition to illiteracy, instable economy is another cause of failure to democracy in Pakistan. Stability of economy is directly proportional to political stability. Those countries which are



economically strong <sup>can</sup> ~~strong~~ efficiently invests in public services, social welfare, and people participation in electoral process etc such as Norway, Singapore, Germany and United State of America. Good economies guarantees healthy democracies. and instable economies cannot make a sound ground for democracies. Like Pakistan and Zimbabwe are economically unhealthy, that's why democracy is not flourished.

Futhermore, Feudal structure of pakistan, where Feudals controls the mass is another major hurdle in the way of democracy. Feudals is characterized by owning huge piece of land. He give this land to the people of ~~the~~ ~~territory~~ his village where they grow crops, fruits and vegetables. He give less to the farmers and get the larger part of production from land. That's spea why the speakers of Pakistan kisan Conference in 2007 declared the "Feudals" as great hurdles for democracy. Because he considered the peoples of his village as his jagir and even don't let them to get education. People living

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under the Feudals have no freedom to give vote to their favourite candidate. Therefore, Feudal lords have limited the scope of Democracy in Pakistan.

Last but not the least, indirect military intervention in the political and civilian sphere impedes the development of democracy. Pakistan

has been ruled more by military dictators rather than by civilian government.

As a result, the civilian machinery has been undermined by military officials like Major General Hafeez-Ur-Rehman is acting / serving as a PTA chairman. With this, civilian government

has no say to formulate foreign policy against India, Afghanistan and United States. Their autocratic policies are

against the democratic values, which in result hinders the progress of democracy.

In the above paragraphs, hurdles to democracy in Pakistan were discussed. In the coming paragraphs, hopes to the democracy in Pakistan will be discussed.

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The first major hope for the growth of democracy in Pakistan is the involvement of women in democratic process. Women establishing 50% of population of Pakistan must be involved in the gearing of democracy. A report shows successive increase in the participation of women in general elections like only 73 women contested 2008 elections, while in 2013 and 2018, 135 and 183 women contested general elections respectively. In Election reforms act 2017, ECP was empowered to void the election <sup>result</sup> of constituency where female turnout is less than 10%. Also this act, ordered political parties to give 5% of their seats to female. These measures shows the willingness of governments to involve women in decision making process. So, women participation in democratic processes is a hope to blow the light of democracy in Pakistan.

Another major indicator that highlight hope for the better democracy is the decline in the military intervention. After the last



martial law which ended in 2008.

There occurs no direct military intervention in civilian government. There

are several reasons for it. Firstly

Martial law is not recognized in international community and secondly

Martial law government forced economic

sanctions. However, our military officials have become so mature

that they are now involved in anti-terrorist activities and

launched several operations like Operation Zarb-e-Azab, Rad-ul-Fasad and more recently is Azm-e-Istehkam. Such role

of establishment construct democracy.

Therefore, ~~we~~ ~~can~~ Pakistan have witnessed the decrease of military intervention.

Further more, the improvement in

the Election Commission of Pakistan gave another hope to the future

of democracy. Election Commission of

Pakistan is authorized to contest elections in Pakistan. Free and

Fair election is one of the indicators that shows that

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democracy is performing well. The Election reforms Act 2017, makes the Election Commission an independent body. Government and opposition upon mutual consultation will appoint Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. These measures matured their behaviour and performance. As in 2019, there were two empty seats of Election Commissioners, upon which consenses of government and opposition cannot met for eight months. Suddenly, the government appointed two Election Commissioner with out consulting the opposition. Chief Election Commissioner cannot take their oath of office by saying that they are not according to the Constitution. Therefore, performance of Election Commission can be agent to foster the democracy at large.

In addition to the improvement in Election Commission of Pakistan performance, the people have also aware of their rights. It is also an important pre-requisite



for the successful democracy.  
Baloch March and Annual Awaraz  
March shows that people are  
now awaring of their rights -  
Awaraz mass can make accountable  
their representatives. In short, the  
Awaraz people are the hope  
for the real democracy.

There is always a room  
for the evolution of new  
political parties. Political parties  
shows the true spirit of  
democracy. The Democratic culture of  
Pakistan have always welcomed  
new political parties. More recently,  
Awaraz Pakistan Party is the  
new addition to the political  
parties in Pakistan. This shows  
that the Democracy in the  
Country is progressing.

Lastly, smooth transition of  
power through elections shows that  
democracy will now <sup>watch</sup> see the good  
days in Pakistan. For the first  
time in Pakistan history, power  
was smoothly transferred between  
Pakistan people's party and Pakistan

Good and valid point



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Muslim League (N) in 2013. This trend was again followed in 2018 election in which power was transferred between PML(N) and PTI. Hence, the smooth transition of government proves that democracy have grown its branches in Pakistan.

Pakistan government needs to promote education in order to ensure true democratic system. Government should initiate scholarships programs in order to attract the students and alleviate poverty. Lower and middle class peoples must be incorporated in the education system and incorporated in the politics.

In conclusion, there are different hurdles and hopes for democracy in Pakistan. Challenges like feudal structure, illiterate mass, instable economy, indirect military rule and lack of public interest in elections have hinders the way of democracy in Pakistan. In contrast, some points like



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increased women participation,  
improved performance of ECP, room  
for evolution of new political parties,  
and decreased role of military  
in democratic government have  
created hope for democracy. Keeping  
this situation in mind, Pakistan  
government should most educate  
lower and middle class people and  
inculcate them in politics. So,  
Pakistan have seen both the  
faces (hurdles & hopes) of Democracy,  
and it is necessary to take  
corrective measures against Hurdles  
of Democracy to flourish it  
in true sense.