

# Political Polarization; Governance and Society.

## Outline:

### Introduction:

- \* The world is experiencing extreme polarization in actions, opinions and ideologies.
- \* The political polarization is inflicting negative impacts on good governance, progress and stability of society.

### What is Political Polarization?

2.1 It is the extreme divide of political opinions and ideologies among different groups and political parties.

### Impacts of Political Polarization

on governance: -

3.1 Destabilizes the democratic rule in the country.

3.2 Hinders the legislative and constitutional procedures

3.3 Centre and provinces working in silos due to political divide.

3.4 Instability in policy making

3.5 Involvement of external powers in state affairs

#### 4. Impacts of Political Polarization on Society:

4.1 Political and civil unrest

leading to riots and protests

4.2 Spread of misinformation

leading to distrust and bias

4.3 Increased intolerance and

bigotry towards fellow citizens

with opposing views.

4.4 Reduced participation in democratic processes.

4.5 Fragmentation of society

along ideological lines, creating echo chambers.

## Causes of Political Polarization:-

- 5.1 Identity Politics, making polarization personal and emotional
- 5.2 Media biases and digital polarization
- 5.3 Economic and social inequalities fuel political divide
- 5.4 Lack of mutual respect and trust
- 5.5 Bickering and name-calling.

## Recommendations:-

- 6.1 Bilateral dialogue between different political groups and parties
- 6.2 Finding middle ground and win-win solutions for progress of the country
- 6.3 Practicing respect, tolerance and open-mindedness towards opposing opinions
- 6.4 Promoting media literacy to combat misinformation.

## 7. Conclusion:

→ Political polarization is a growing challenge for good governance, progress and stability of a society.

\* Essential to take recommended steps and implement strong policies to curb the growing threat.

The world today is interconnected, yet divided at the same time. The world is experiencing extreme polarization in actions, opinions and ideologies. Political polarization is one of the pressing issues of today that has created extreme divide in the society. It is defined as extreme divide among political opinions among different groups. It is inflicting negative impacts on good governance, progress and stability of a society. Healthy discussions and discourse are the basis of a strong democracy, but if paired with intolerance and hate towards opposing views, it destroys the social fabric and fuels social fragmentation. Political polarization has become

a great challenge for governance and social harmony. From destabilizing democratic rule and constitutional procedures to disrupting the decision making processes, from civil unrest and mistrust among the society to bigotry and creation of echo chambers, political polarization is threatening for the status quo. Steps need to be taken to mitigate the adverse effects on society. Dialogue and bipartisan collaboration can help us to curb this situation.

Political Polarization is defined as the extreme political divide of opinions and ideologies among individuals, groups and political parties. It is the rigidity and intolerance towards opposing views. A growing division of political realities to ideological extremes

where individuals and groups become more entrenched in their beliefs and less willing to engage or compromise with opposing perspectives.

The first and foremost impact of Political polarization on the governance of a country is <sup>on</sup> the democracy. It destabilizes the democratic rule in the country. Democracy prevails in the presence of discussions, mutual respect,

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collective decision making. Due to the extreme polarity in the country, the

democratic processes are badly impacting. The political parties

with their far rightist or far leftist agendas do not agree to a <sup>mutual</sup> political solution

(of the continuous instability) leads to further staggering of the

democracy within a country. It gets really challenging to govern a country with severe political attitudes with no openness to political discourse or compromise. This political polarization destabilizes the democratic system of a country.

Similarly, political polarization also hinders the legislative processes and constitutional procedures of the country. All the legislative policies and constitutional amendments <sup>which</sup> require great simple majority or two-third majority to pass. This process is supported by healthy criticism for and against of the policies/bills to be passed. With the extreme intolerance and opposition to the opposing views, if the elected members

PLZ check it does not convey any meanings



do not agree to one solution  
because staggering the process further.  
The important and critical  
matters of the state are  
left unfinished and unaddressed  
due to the negative political  
attitudes of the members of  
the parliament or political  
parties. Thus political polarization  
impacts the legislative and  
constitutional procedures of the  
country.

Moving forward, it is observed  
that the extreme divide  
in ideologies and political  
philosophies forces different  
parties, authorities and government  
to work in silos and without  
any collaboration. The centre  
and the provinces ~~are~~ <sup>do</sup> not  
working together as the extreme  
political polarization comes in

The way of bipartisan collaboration  
A The progress of the country  
gets hampered as different  
authorities and stakeholders are  
not working together. Thus  
political polarization leads to  
a political divide among  
the center and provinces that  
becomes a ~~hard~~ hurdle  
hurdle in the path of good  
and effective government.

Furthermore, the extreme political  
and ideological divide is  
~~impacting~~ the policy making  
in the country. As the ~~authorities~~  
are unable to come at a  
mutual point, no policy is  
effective and is not implemented.  
For a policy to be successfully  
implemented, all the stakeholders  
need to come to a common  
ground (with this) As the

policies are not backed by majority people, the situation becomes volatile. Policies tend to shift dramatically with changes in power. This makes the long-term planning difficult and reduces stability. Thus political polarization leads to volatile policy making with no solid backing from majority members. This affects the governance and management of a society poorly.

Moreover, political polarization and lack of mutual decision making allow external forces and authorities to come in play. When the major political parties and the elected members of the society are unable to devise plans and policy that are mutually

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+

accepted and respected by all.

This pushes the administration and the legislative executive to take the field and make authoritarian decisions.

As the leading parties are

unable to govern due to their

extreme intolerance and bigotry

towards opposing ideas and

views, authoritarian governance

arises with decisions, policies

and regulations that become

binding for everyone to follow.

This political polarization of

the democratic system

hampers and destabilizes the

overall governance structure

of a state.

Moving forward, it is

essential for the state to direct

its efforts towards reducing

political polarization on the society along with

Try to write with clarity

the governance of a society. Political polarization creates a political and civil unrest that leads to riots and protests. The extreme division of ideologies and views among political parties lead to violent protests and strikes against the opposition parties. As the political parties can not sit together and agree on mutual grounds, the party leaders and the members follow the same attitudes. It leads to extreme unrest in within the citizens of a society as no one is ready to hear and respect the other person's views and ideologies. The two groups come in direct clash with each other physically or virtually. This

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further promotes anger and violence in the society. This political polarization can lead to such devastating impacts on a society.

Similarly, political polarization also leads to spread of misinformation in society causing distrust and biases. Both groups spread false information about the other group with different ideological perspectives. Media biases also play their role, promoting one group and defaming the other. Such a situation creates false social harmony and leads to further social fragmentation of the society. Thus, members of one group lose complete respect for the members of the other group. This worsens the overall

Situation of the society. The political polarization can lead to such destruction of social fabric of a society.

Furthermore, the political polarization fuels disrespect, anger, intolerance and hate among the members of different

groups. As the political politicians do not show respect to their fellow politicians with varied ideological beliefs, their followers act in similar way.

This creating bigotry towards opposing views and ideas.

Mutual respect of each other,

and their belongings and ideas

is the basis of a stable society.

When all of these are endangered,

the society is at the verge

of destruction. Lack of

respect and tolerance towards

fellow citizens completely destroys  
a society. This political polarization has such  
a negative impact on the  
society.

Moving onwards, the political  
polarization also causes reduced  
participation in democratic processes.  
The election turnout becomes  
reduced due to distrust and  
intolerance. As citizens do not  
trust the volatile policy making,  
- minimum compromise and lack  
of healthy respectable discussion,  
it leads to lack of trust  
in the fairness of the elections  
and the overall democratic  
process. This leading to  
reduced participation of  
citizens in such countries. The  
democratic system destabilizes  
as it is not by the people and

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any meanings



in such critical situations, the people give up on the system and the society. Political Polarization can lead to such alarming situations for a society.

Least but not the least, the political polarization leads to fragmentation of a society along ideological lines that create echo chambers. This

creates an environment of stagnation as no one group is ready to accept, hear and accept the opposing views.

Both the groups consider themselves to be right and continue living and working like this.

Due to the creation of echo chambers, no opposing view reaches them, thus creating a comfortable environment for the members of a society.

~~This situation leads to the rigidity and permanence of sharp conflicting political ideologies of different groups. This political polarization can lead to such instability of a society.~~

Moving forward, ~~if~~ looking at the causes of ~~political polarization~~, there are a number of ~~reasons that can be addressed~~ one at a time. First and foremost ~~political polarization~~ and the rise of it in ~~the~~ recent times is due to the practice of identity politics. It means associating oneself with an ethnicity, nationality, sect or religion to gain more ~~attention and followers~~, many ~~political parties and~~ individual ~~are~~ ~~affected~~.

Identities like Punjabis, Pakhtuns, Shia, Sunis, Muslims, and many such ~~more~~ racial and regional identities are used to bring out the emotional association among the masses. This makes the polarization more and personal ~~for the~~ enhancing it even more. This identity politics is one phase of political polarization.

Similarly, media biases and digital polarization are other causes of political polarization among societies.

The media outlets and companies promote news and content that favour a certain group, thus promoting their views and ideologies. Similarly, digital platforms also allow access to such websites and

information that promote a certain type of agenda. This creates a greater divide among the people having access to those without it. Social media and digital platforms are playing huge role in promoting the political polarisation for their own benefits.

Moreover, the economic and social inequalities also fuel political divide. The groups of society with access to stable livelihood and means of production think very differently to those deprived of it. Both the groups favour such policies and ideologies that benefit them and promotes their interest thus creating more divide among the society.

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The political polarization is caused by economic and social inequalities and can be increased fueled by it even more.

last but not the least, political polarization is increased by the immoral and bad behaviour of political leaders. Bickering and name calling opposition leaders damages the status quo and disrupts the social harmony lack of respect towards

each other by major political party leaders have a trickle down effect. The party members and the followers adopt such attitudes and opinions and treat others in similar fashion. This political polarization is increased by

the direct disrespectful attitudes of the political leaders towards other party leaders.

The situation created by political polarization is deteriorating and reaching extreme levels.

Essential steps are needed to curb the situation. For example, dialogue and bipartisan collaboration among different political parties and assemblies can abate the situation. Bilateral dialogue and communication can lead to a middle ground. Finding solutions that prove a win-win situation for all is ~~is~~ mandatory for the progress of a country. Similarly, simultaneous, practicing respect, tolerance, open mindedness towards opposing

views can help attenuate the alarming polarization of the society.

It is also beneficial to combat the misinformation being spread by promoting media literacy.

By decreasing false information

and rumours, the anger and intolerance <sup>among citizens</sup> can be reduced.

aiding in ~~the~~ can help in

overcoming the growing political polarization among the society.

In conclusion, political

polarization is a growing and alarming challenge for good governance, progress and

stability of a society. ~~But~~ By

~~taking the recommended steps~~

~~and implementing strong~~

~~polices, this growing threat~~

~~can be averted.~~