

Why has Democracy Failed to Deliver in Pakistan?

Outline

1. Introduction

1.1 Abraham Lincoln quote

1.2 Evolution of democracy

1.3 Thesis statement

2. Reasons of Failure of Democracy to Deliver in Pakistan

2.1 Weak political institutions

2.2 Civil Military imbalance

2.3 Judicial issues

2.4 Unfair Electoral process

2.5 Socio-economic inequality in society

2.6 Corruption and mismanagement

2.7 Low literacy and political awareness

2.8 Intolerance and sectarianism

2.9 Controlled media fragile social groups

2.10 External pressure

3. How Democracy can deliver in Pakistan

3.1 Strengthening institutions

3.2 Economic reforms

3.3 Empowering social groups and free media

4. Conclusion

Essay

"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people," Abraham Lincoln. It means that democracy is not just a philosophy instead it is a system where sovereignty belongs to the people. A democratic government is elected by the people which works for the well being of the people, so the real power belongs to people. In human history man has adopted many systems to govern the people and democracy is one of them. First time democracy was introduced by Romans and now in 21st century it is a modern democracy which is different than the Romans democracy. Democracy has two forms of government one is Presidential and other one is Parliamentary form of government. According to 1973 constitution of Pakistan, Pakistan has Parliamentary form of democracy. The democracy in Pakistan is fragile and unstable because there are many political parties in Pakistan and

mostly are in the control of elites; from 1947 Pakistan has been faced 4 military coups where constitution was suspended or abrogated; Pakistan held 12th general election in 2024 which raised many questions on the fairness of elections; Pakistan has been facing economic crisis, for temporary relief it required loan from International organizations and other countries which influenced national policies of Pakistan; few religious parties in Pakistan are propagating extremism in society. Pakistan has democratic government but democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan due to many reasons like corruption, mismanagement, political polarization, economic inequality and influenced media and judiciary.

Weak political institutions are the key reason of the failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan. Weak political institutions mean that political parties in Pakistan are in the control of one person or one family. Parties don't have any party election for leader and other members. There are three main parties in

Pakistan and two of them are in the control of two families and other one is in the control of one person. Due to these kind of political parties competent persons do not come in government. Thus these weak political institutions are the reason due to which democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan.

The other main reason of the failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan is civil military imbalance relations. Pakistan has been faced few military coups where civilians government was toppled by military. More than 30 years military has directly ruled over Pakistan and in remaining time it has indirectly influenced government and its policies. Hence military dominance is the reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Third main cause of failure of democracy in Pakistan is political and establishment pressure on judiciary. The judiciary in Pakistan is not fully independent establishment and political government

influenced it for their own interest. However, judicial biasedness is also the cause of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Unfair electoral process is the fourth reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Pakistan had held 12 general elections since its independence and none of them was accepted by all political parties in Pakistan.

In recent elections one party symbol was banned, their leader was behind the bar and reserved seats also not allocated to them this shows the unfair electoral practice in Pakistan. Despite of this the issue of form 45 and 47 also raised many questions. This is the reason people has lost trust on elections in Pakistan, this leads toward the failure of democracy in Pakistan.

Fifth main reason of failure of democracy in Pakistan is the socio-economic inequality in society. In Pakistan only few families have authority and all resources. According to economic survey 40% of the population are living below

the poverty line. There is a large gap between the elites who are in control and public who is struggling for food. This inequality is the reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Corruption and mismanagement is the sixth reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan. Corruption has deep rooted in Pakistan. Corruption damage the meritocracy in system. Lack of competency is the reason of inefficient policies and their implementation. Therefore corruption and mismanagement is the key reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Low literacy and political awareness is the seventh reason of failure of democracy in Pakistan. Due to the lack of proper understanding of political norms people vote on the basis of their personal loyalties and emotional attachments. According to economic survey almost 39% of total population of Pakistan is uneducated. Thus illiteracy is the main reason of failure of democracy to

deliver in Pakistan.

Intolerance and sectarianism is the 8th reason of failure of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan has been facing religious extremism in society since long time. There are many reported cases, where public has killed individuals for derogatory remarks on religion, in Pakistan. Intolerance behaviour erodes pluralism in society. Few political parties are supporting this kind of religious extremism in Pakistan. This behaviour is the reason of social polarization in our society. Hence, it is also the reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Ninth reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan is the weak social media groups and controlled media. Social groups like "organizations working in Pakistan are weak, they are not influential. Media in Pakistan is not free it is in the control of establishment and political government. In recent years many journalists and anchor persons arrested this raise the questions on the freedom

of media in Pakistan. Thus the weak social groups and controlled media is the reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

External pressure is the last reason of failure of democracy to deliver in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been facing economic crisis for a long time, so Pakistan economically is not independent. Pakistan is dependant on international organizations like IMF, WB etc and other countries for aid and loan. Pakistan get aid or loan with some conditions which influence policy making. Global Power like United states, China and Russia has also influence on the countries like Pakistan. Pakistan makes its policies in compliance of their conditions rather than on its national interest. This kind of policies led Pakistan to the failure of democracy and underdevelopment.

The reasons of failure of democracy has discussed above and following are the possible ways that how democracy can deliver in Pakistan.

One of the possible way how democracy can deliver in Pakistan is through strengthening institutions. Strong Parliament will reduce the establishment dominance in policy making. Independent judiciary ensure checks and balance on executive and legislature. Hence democracy can deliver in Pakistan if Parliament become supreme and judiciary become independent.

Introducing economic reforms is the other solution how democracy can deliver in Pakistan. There is large economic inequality in Pakistani society. By introducing inclusive economic policies and spending much on educational and health sectors will improve literacy rate and public health which are the main factors of the strong democracy.

Empowering social groups and freedom of media is the last solution which can enable democracy to deliver in Pakistan. Social groups like domestic and international organizations should be empowered. When these social groups

are active they play their role for the development of human. Media freedom provides checks on government by people. Media gives information of the government policies to people and then people ~~go~~ vote on the basis of performance of government.

Thus, Democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan due to multiple reasons such as political polarization, illiteracy, corruption, mismanagement, inequality in society, extremism and military intervention. Pakistan has democracy since 1947 but still it has failed to deliver in Pakistan. Democracy will be able to deliver in Pakistan if the institutions like military, judiciary and election commission become strong and independent; and government introduce policies for the alleviation of poverty and enhancement of education; ^{and through} Empowerment of social groups and freedom of media. Democracy is not just a philosophy instead it is a system which has evolved with time, and it is the best form of government.