

Q Political polarization has become a defining feature of Pakistan's democracy. Critically analyze the root causes and impact on institutional stability and propose a practical roadmap for National consensus.

INTRODUCTION:

The politics in Pakistan has a ~~dividing culture~~ polarized culture. For a long time, the political patterns of Pakistan has been seemed to be similar. The politics of zero-sum game is rampant which while having little or no focus on the uplift of the country and its people. It is so polarized that it feels like politicians are satisfying their personal grudges instead of betterment of the society. This polarized politics have deep roots in the history which also impact the efficiency of institutions.

However, practice changes can help to change this prolong culture zero-sum politics.

DECODING THE ROOT CAUSES OF POLITICAL POLARIZATION:

The political polarization is mainly due to historically set norms and precedents. Historically, the certainty of completing any government's tenure is less. It is unlikely that the government has completed its five-years of tenure. Further, the root cause of this menace are:

CORRUPTION - A BI-PRODUCT OF POLITICAL DISCOURSE:

It is observed throughout the history that the governments are overthrown on the basis of corruption charges. Corruption allegation is widely considered a serious

adopt to reduce the confidence of people over any political party, wheather in Government or opposition. This foster the element of discourse among the political parties.

THE ROLE OF MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN FOSTERING THE POLARIZATION:

The media and social media has further exerbated the situation. The talk-shows and news chanel's convey political events majoritarily. The ~~new~~ events other than politics are less repeated and has lesser time of show on-airing as compared to the matter related to the politics. Similarly, the un-ethical use of social media, ~~on the~~ has exageratted the political polarization in Pakistan. People are widely involved in politics rather than state affairs. This limit-less structure of media,

created an environment where politics is considered crucial part of daily life.

WEAK DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS:

On the battle-field of politics, the institutions are also often dragged into politics. This affects the institution's credibility. Institutions are considered as part of politics that further escalate the menace of political polarization. The spirit of democracy is also hindered by the bias nature of institutions.

IMPACT ON INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY:

The political polarization creates an environment of instability that impact not only the economy but also the socio-fabric, and institutions as well. The stability of institutions is widely hindered by the political environment.

EROSION OF PARLIAMENTARY SUPREMACY:

The supreme nature of parliament is undermined due to political instability. A place where policies in favour of people are to be written, is seemed as the battle-ground of politics. Frequent walkouts, resorts, boycotts and protests are rampant between the parties i.e. in Government and opposition. Thus, such uncertain environment of parliament not only effect the country's affairs, but parliament's supremacy as well.

POLARIZATION OF BUREAUCRACY AND JUDICIARY:

There are few positions in bureaucracy and judiciary that are chosen by the head of the state. For instance, in recent events - Chairman NAB; Chief Justice of Pakistan through 26th Amendment of

Constitution. These roles and their appointments are widely considered biased that creates controversies due to political divide in Pakistan. Thus, this impacts the institutional role of the country.

ECONOMIC INSTABILITY - MARKET UNCERTAINTY AND INVESTORS TRUST:

The political discourse has impacted the economy drastically. For instance - the stock-market gets down whenever there is any political event occur or yet to be occur. Besides this, the trust of investors is lost. Investors are unconfident while investing in such an instable environment. Also, many companies closed down their businesses from Pakistan. Thus, political polarization creates an environment of mistrust and instability in economy of Pakistan.

PRACTICAL CONSENSUS SOLUTIONS FOR NATIONAL CONSENSUS:

The political culture of Pakistan can be change by adopting few changes :, such as :

CHARTER OF DEMOCRACY 2.0 :

The charter of democracy that was adopted in the past can be re-adopted ~~at~~ with certain key modifications. These modifications can be:

- ① Completion of tenure
- ② Ensure parliamentary supremacy
- ③ Prioritize economy before anything else
- ④ Criticize must be productive rather than based on personal grudge.

Such agreement among the political parties may establish a certainty in the political, institutional and economical fabric of Pakistan.

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS- ECP :

The institutional functions of

institution must lay upon transparency and accountability. To achieve this, it is necessary to introduce few changes in Election Commission of Pakistan. The Election Commission must adopt Electoral Reforms that ensure political party's accountability. In this way, certainly can be established in the political sphere of Pakistan.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE MEDIA:

The media can be responsible in its action towards political discourse. Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) can be held responsible for the hate speech and also by not undermining the freedom of speech.

Similarly, for the social media sensory, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) can play its role.

The freedom of speech must be ensured with ethical boundaries.

In this way, the political culture of hateful discourse ~~co~~ might be reduced.

CONCLUSION - WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

To conclude the above analysis, it can be said that political polarization has its root cause into the ~~ratio~~ history and national unity. This undermines the democratic and moral values along with the economic impacts on Pakistan. However, the practical measures can help to ensure the national consensus. Through which the stability will be acquired in the domains of ~~the~~ national institutions, economy, politics, parliament, judiciary and media sphere.