

Topic:

Is Democracy Suitable For Pakistan's Socio- Political Context?

1 - Introduction:

Thesis Statement:-

Democracy is a suitable system for Pakistan, but due to poor leadership, weak institutions, and social problems, it has not worked well so far."

2 - Challenges to Democracy in Pakistan:

- 2-i) Disorder Political culture
- 2-ii) Weak Political Parties
- 2-iii) Poor governance
- 2-iv) Political instability

- 2-v) ~~Military~~ interference in politics
- 2-vi) Corruption and weak Institutions
- 2-vii) Voter manipulation
- 2-viii) Weak law system
- 2-ix) Ringing of election

3- Prospects of Democracy in Pakistan:

- 3-i) Electoral reforms for fair elections
- 3-ii) Strong ~~law~~ system
- 3-iii) Reduce army interference in politics
- 3-iv) Free and fair election
- 3-v) Ensure accountability
- 3-vi) Ensure Political stability
- 3-vii) Public awareness and voter education

Conclusion:

Essay:-

"Give the People light, and they will find their own way."

appropriately and quite perfectly

This quote beautifully captures the spirit of democracy - if the people are given an education (light), they will be able to make the right choices for their society. Democracy means that people choose their leaders by voting. In Pakistan, where there are many different groups, cultures, and problems, it is important to know that if the democracy really works. Although Pakistan was made in the name of justice and equality, where there people lives freely and equally. In this vision, democracy is a natural fit. But the reality of democracy

has been very different. Pakistan's democracy has been seen so many ups and downs. Since 1947, democratic governments ^{have} come and gone. Sometimes, military interference in Pakistan's government. Sometimes elected governments failed to deliver. In Pakistani society, many challenges exist, which hurt the system of democracy like illiteracy, weak political parties, poor governance, political instability, army interference in politics, corruption and weak political institutions etc. Democracy is a suitable system, but due to some challenges it has not worked well so far.

Disorder in political culture is one of the main challenges to Pakistan's democracy. Disorder in

~~Political culture~~ means that political leaders do not use democratic values or political rules properly. In such a culture, politicians often care more about power than public service.

Some political parties fight with each other instead of solving people's problems. Leaders use unfair ways to win, like bribery or threats.

According to Election Commission (ECP) General Election 2018 voter turnout was only 52%, due to political disorder. Hence, Political disorder weakens democracy and create mistrust in Public and political system.

Weak political parties is another major challenges to Pakistan's democracy. In Pakistan, Political parties are weak and not democratic from inside. They are often controlled by only one family or one powerful leader. Decisions are not

are not made through voting, but by a few top people. These parties do not train young leaders or promote new ideas. They only focus on elections and gaining personal gain. According to PILDAT 2023, average attendance of MNAs in National Assembly sessions is only 60-65%. Thus, these political parties weakened Pakistan's democracy system.

Poor governance is another major hurdle in democracy. In Pakistan, the government is performing poorly at all governance indicators: such as, transparency, accountability, service delivery, rule of law. The current government cannot provide public goods to its citizens and uphold the rule of law. The government cannot provide even safe drinking water.

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All citizens deprived from their basic rights. Government often fail to plan properly, or control corruption. Due to poor governance the public trust end on political leaders. According to the Transparency International's Corruption perception Index, Pakistan is ranked at 140th position among 180 countries. Hence, Poor governance in Pakistan weakens institutions, harm public services, and reduces trust in democracy.

Political instability is a major issue ~~to~~ ~~in~~ Pakistan's democracy. It means that frequent changes in government. Political instability happens because of weak leadership, and constant power struggles. In Pakistan, government mostly not complete their term due to some reasons like protests, no-confidence motions.

and party switching (lotocracy) are common. This creates uncertainty, delay in long-term policy making and also weak the democracy and economy of Pakistan. **NO Prime Minister** in Pakistan has ever completed a full 5-year term in office since 1947. (Source: PILDAT, 2023). Thus, Political instability damages democratic progress and creates mistrust.

Another major challenge in Pakistan's democracy is army interference in politics. In Pakistan, since its independence the Pakistani military has a long history of direct and indirect intervention in country. Since its independence, the military interventions through coups on four occasions. These interventions ~~has~~ weak democracy, stop growth of political

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institutions, and silence the voice of people. Even during the civilian government the military has a great influence on foreign policy, national interest, and decision-making. Pakistan remained under direct military rule for about 33 years out of 77-year history. Hence, the military intervention limits the power of elected leaders and slow down democratic development.

Corruption and weak institutions are one of the major challenges to Pakistan democracy. corruption and weak institutions are interconnected issues that significantly hinder the development and stability. Weak institutions create an environment where corruption can thrive. In Pakistan, many government officials

Politicians, and even local administrators are involved in corrupt practices like bribery, favouritism, and misuse of funds. This leads to poor service delivery, injustice, and loss of trust in government.

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2023. Showing high level of corruption in public institutions.

Hence, when institutions are weak and corruption is high, democracy cannot work properly.

Another challenge to democracy of Pakistan is voter manipulation.

It means using unfair methods like cheating or forcing people to vote in certain way. In Pakistan, some powerful people try to control election. They buy votes with money, force poor people for vote,

or using force and pressure. Sometimes, fake votes are added or real votes are changed. Because of these unfair election actions, elections are not ^{free fair and transparent} truly free. People think their vote has no value, this action, weakens the democracy. In 2018 elections, over 1,500 cases of cheating and mismanagement were reported by FAFEN, a group that watches elections. (Source: FAFEN Election Report 2018).

Weak law system is a major issue in Pakistan democracy. In Pakistan, the law system is very weak and slow. Many people wait for justice for many years, but they do not get it on time. Rich people easily escape the law, while poor one suffers. The courts also take too much time to decide cases. Some

Judges, lawyers, and police are influenced by money or pressure. Because of weak law system, people lost trust in the courts. According to the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (2023), there are over 2 million pending cases in Pakistani courts. Some cases stay open for 10 to 15 years. Thus, weak law system weakens the democracy, and people lost their hopes for justice.

Rigging of election is another challenge to Pakistan democracy.

Rigging of election means using unfair methods in election for gaining power. In this elections change the real results. Rigging makes the election unfair and takes away the people's right to choose their leaders freely. This Rigging of election makes democracy weak and creates mistrust among the public.

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Plural reforms for fair elections
need to improve its election system.

There should be free and fair
election in a country, and should
be clear laws to stop rigging
in elections. Provide monitoring
system can help in electronic voting.

Political parties should follow rules
during elections. These steps will make
results more trusted and

fair. The democratic system should
be improved through free and fair

elections. And people will get
right to choose their leader freely.

In 2024, general elections, voter
turnout was 47.8%.

Strong law system is another
prospects of democracy in Pakistan.

A strong and quick justice system
is important for democracy in Pakistan.

All people should be treated equally.

under the law. The poor people must also get justice. Courts should work fast. No one should escape punishment because of power or money.

According to World Justice Project Rule of Law Index, Pakistan ranked 129th out of 142nd countries in 2024. Hence, strong rule of law ensure accountability, justice, and equality bring in the country's democracy.

Ensure accountability and stability is one of the major prospects of democracy in Pakistan.

The leaders should answerable for their actions. If they do wrong, they should be punished. This will reduce corruption. Political parties should not fight all the time for power. Stable politics brings peace and growth in country. In July 2025, over 100 members were sentenced

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to prison for their involvement in the 2023 riots, with some receiving 10-years sentences. Thus,

political stability, and accountability brings peace in the country.

Reduce military intervention is major prospects of democracy in Pakistan. Strong civilian government must be supported. Civil institutions like parliament, courts must work without ^{any} pressure. The military should focus only on defense and not get involved in politics. Political leaders must be honest and work on public interest. Hence, when people trust on their leaders, the military intervention ^{will} ~~must~~ be decrease.

Free and fair elections means elections without using unfair methods. In Pakistan, there must be held free and fair elections. The power-hall people do not gain power

through force. There should be accountability. There should be no cheating or fake votes. Election staff must be honest. According to (ECP), in 2024 election, voter turnout was 47.8%. Hence, if this system is better, then people should trust the voting process.

People should know the value of their votes. They must understand how democracy works. Voter education choose honest leaders. Schools and media can teach this.

The election Commission of Pakistan initiated a student's voter Education and awareness Program in November 2021, to increase youth participation in election.

Thus, a wise voter build a strong democracy.

In Summary, democracy in Pakistan ^{is} has a suitable system in Pakistan, but due to specific challenges like weak political parties, bad governance, disordered political culture, political instability, military interventions in politics, corruption and institutions, lack of accountability, voter manipulation, rigging of elections, the gap between the masses and the government, and political instability. These issues have made democracy weak and unstable.

But even with these problems, democracy is still the best choice for Pakistan. To make it better,

we need fair elections, strong institutions, honest leaders, and education for voters. If the one fix these problems, democracy can help Pakistan grow stronger. It can bring justice, peace, and equal

rights for everyone. In the end, democracy gives hope with time, better policies, and public support. It can succeed in Pakistan and improve people's lives.