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Socio-Political structure of Pakistan and its effects on ^{Ubeaucratic} Bureaucratic functioning of Public administration mechanism :

Introduction :

Public administration in Pakistan is influenced by political and social structures, which influence the overall functioning of bureaucracy and effectiveness of Public administration mechanism. While the political structure drives bureaucratic decisions through patronage, instability and military influence, the social structure creates complex environment of ethnic, regional and class based tensions. These all factors hamper the efficiency, transparency and independence of bureaucracy.

Political Structure :

1. Political Patronage and influence :

The political system in Pakistan is highly characterized by patronage, where bureaucratic appointments are highly based on political loyalty rather than merit. In-powered Political parties appoint the officers on special positions who support their agendas. This leads to bureaucracy becoming the extension of political apparatus rather than independent body serving the public.

2. Civil-Military Relations :

The political structure of Pakistan has been shaped significantly by the repeated military involvements over the course of history. The military involvement over the key policies such as defense, foreign policy and internal security often overrides the bureaucratic autonomy. This centralization of power stifles the effectiveness of bureaucrats, who are frequently sidelined in decision making processes.

3. Political Instability :

Pakistan has experienced frequent changes in

government marked by political instability. This results from corruption, shifting alliances and military interventions. This leads to environment where senior bureaucrats are forced to adjust to changing political priorities rather than focusing on consistent and effective service delivery.

Social structure of Pakistan:

1- Feudalism : Pakistan social structure is deeply influenced by feudalism especially in rural areas. The feudal lords often influence the local governance and administrative decisions. Bureaucrats are often selected on the basis of relations with these elites rather than their qualification or experience.

2. Ethnic and regional diversity : Pakistan is a diverse society with different ethnic groups as Punjabis, Sindhis, Mohajirs and Pushtoons. Bureaucratic appointments are sometimes influenced by regional and ethnic considerations which can lead to favouritism and imbalance in the representation of different groups. Discriminations based on regionalism and ethnicity can result in marginalization of certain groups and can hinder effective ^{governance} government.



Urban Rural divide : Pakistan's social structure is also marked by the clear urban-rural divide, with urban areas enjoying better resources and better administrative structure than the rural areas. Bureaucrats in urban areas are better equipped with resources and training, while those in underdeveloped face underdevelopment and neglect. This leads to unequal service delivery with rural areas often receiving less attention from bureaucracy.

Impacts of Politico-social Structure On Bureaucratic Functioning :

1- Lack of Meritocracy : Political patronage and social hierarchies often dictate the bureaucratic appointments, meaning that bureaucrats are often appointed on the basis of political loyalty or social standing rather than their professionalism and qualification. This undermines the credibility of bureaucracy and reduces its capacity to function efficiently.

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2. Corruption and Nepotism : The combination of political patronage and social hierarchies foster a culture of corruption and nepotism in the bureaucracy. Bureaucrats often indulge in corrupt practices to maintain their position and satisfy the political patrons. Additionally, feudalism and social inequality creates opportunities for exploitation, as bureaucrats use their position to benefit their political and social network. This corruption weakens the administrative system and erodes trust.

3. Policy Instability and Discontinuity :

The political instability and frequent changes in government disrupt the functioning of policy implementation. Bureaucrats are forced to adapt to shifting political priorities with each change in government, which leads to the discontinuity in long term policies and strategies. Similarly, the lack of inclusivity and focus on urban areas

results in policies that are not suited according to the needs of marginalized or rural population. This undermines the effectiveness of bureaucracy in delivering consistent services.

4. Bureaucratic Inefficiency: The centralization of power, political instability and social divisions leads to inefficiency within the bureaucracy. Bureaucrats often face conflicting directives from the political elites, which distracts them from their core responsibilities. Also, the pressure to conform political, ethnic or regional expectations can lead to biased decision making, resulting in ineffective public service delivery.

5. Unequal Service Delivery:

The urban rural divide along with regional and ethnic divisions leads to unequal service delivery. Bureaucrats in rural and underdeveloped regions face challenges in accessing resources and making decisions that affect the specific needs of these communities. This centralization of power at federal level and focus on urban areas often leaves the rural population under-developed, leading to inequities in governance.