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Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan: Need for reforms and institution building

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in corruption, 95 per (corruption index)

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Pakistan ranked 161 out of 191
in human development, 95 per (HDI)

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Pakistan ranked 147 out of 163 countries indicating high level of instability and violence (Global Peace Index)

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The concept of governance is as old as human civilization. Governance plays crucial role in shaping policies, strengthening democracy, and implementation of laws for public good.

In the democratic countries, it is the governance which make the countries economic stable, social security, public policies, and its implementation. Unfortunately, Pakistan, since its inception faced numerous challenges to stable the country's sovereignty, economic, territorial disputes, and internal issues. However, for developing country like Pakistan, good governance is the need of the hour. For instance, the already developed countries are playing the valuable role in not only

their internal matters, but they are playing a pivotal in world order. In this matter, the status of good governance in Pakistan is questionable. Furthermore, the major crisis like institutional weaknesses and corruption, low economic level and inflation, and political instability are the hurdles for good governance in Pakistan. However, to counter these hurdles some of key reforms are needed to ensure governance stability. The reforms in the form of strengthening of institutions, prioritize rule of law, public participation, and economic growth can strengthen the country's stability. On the other hand, reforming and revitalizing the institutions

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like independence of judiciary, given investigation power to Anti-corruption agencies, strengthening of state, * need of autonomous body, and transparency in the parliament is the need of hour. Therefore, the crisis of good governance can be improved through major reforms and institution building.

The World Bank (WB) in its article "Good Governance and development", published in 1992, defined the good governance first in history.

The good governance can be defined as the way in which power is used to regulate the economic and social resources of a country for development. It can be ensure through

public participation in decision-making, transparency for the access of information, accountability of authorities for their actions, ensuring rule of law, and government effectiveness.

However, the status of good governance is far from desired. Since its inception the country faced numerous challenges in form political instability; not even a single executive complete his/her tenure till date. On the other hand, the military dictatorship has badly effected the country not only internally, but externally as well. The political instability after Covid-19 has also badly effected the country, however, the new setup government are in

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the struggle to counter major issues.

The reasons behind these are countless, but the institutional weaknesses and corruption comes first. The institutions plays a role of major actors in stabilizing country's governance, economy and development. However, if the institutions are weak and the corruption is not even consider evil in the institutions, that country can't take good governance even in desire.

As per the corruption index, Pakistan ranked 140 out of 180 in corruption. The ranking is questionable, being an atomic country with thousands of rich resources, the country don't

touch the century.

Additionally, the low level of economy with inflation is also not affordable even for the middle class families. Pakistan is badly ^{facing} economic instability, as compare to its neighbouring countries even Afghanistan and Nepal are in near phase of stability. According to Human Development Index (HDI), Pakistan is ranking 161 out of 191 in human development. The report shows various concerns of not only political leaders, but it shows the concerns of general public as well.

On the other hand, the another issue is political instability

and poor leadership, which not only affecting the country's internal matters, but it is effected the foreign policy as well. The strong military dictatorship has also not give a positive consequences even being more powerful. As per the Global Peace Index (GPI), Pakistan ranked 147 out of 163 countries indicating high level of instability and violence. Therefore, the stable government and the intellectual leadership can foster greater economic opportunities, social security, and other development mechanisms.

However, some of the key reforms can be helpful to stable the country and governance. The institutions and other bodies

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of the government plays significant role in shaping public policies and its implementation. In this context, the strengthening of those institutions to ensure transparency can be greatly beneficial to run a state in a moderate way.

Furthermore, the rule of law should be given top priority to erase crimes and other bad evil. Every citizen should be treated equally; all citizens are one under the umbrella of the state. The justice system can be a first seat step towards the good governance and its indicator; rule of law. Therefore, the justice system needs to be stronger all time.

Moreover, the encouragement of public participation in policy-making must be ensured equally. The World Bank also prioritized public participation. In this perspective, engagement of general public in policy-making can be more effective, only the stakeholders can decide the better policies for themselves, as compare to external body. Therefore, the public participation can play a vital role in strengthening the governance.

In addition to reforms, the economic growth can boost the economy through proper mechanisms. It can be in the form of investment, industrialization, and trade.

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The economic growth can reduce inflation too. The small business can also take benefits for earning their daily wages easily. However, the major businesses like factories, brands, and provincial level industries can play a significant role in the country's economy. The internal economic stability can also encourage foreign investors as well.

However, besides reforms, the revitalizing of institutions can ensure good governance too. In the first step, ensuring independence and effectiveness of judiciary is a crucial part. The independence of judiciary is limited amid 26th amendments in the constitution of 'Islamic' Republic of Pakistan

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Various scholars and senior judges argued. However, the justice and rule of law can still be assumed generally. The judiciary is playing a significant part to ensure justice and individuals' rights for freedom, peace, and tranquility.

Moreover, the anti-corruption agencies with the need of investigation power can give phenomenal reduction in corruption. The corruption in majority departments is on peak. The corruption play a significant part in country's instability. The investigation power should be given to anti-corruption agencies to reduce corruption in emergency bases.

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In addition to the list, in good governance Monetary policies is pivotal to strengthen economic growth. In this context, the world Bank (WB) give special place to banking system and Monetary policies to overcome instability economically. Therefore, the strengthening of the State Bank of Pakistan over autonomous monetary policies can be crucial for the economic prosperity.

Furthermore, another major step can be the need of independent body for civil services. The state prioritize the bureaucracy through independent body like parliamentary committee. It can foster transparency towards the

system. On the other hand, the bureaucrats can be also be answerable for their actions and policy making. Therefore, it can play a crucial role towards strengthening the civil services.

Last but not the least, another major part towards reforming and revitalizing institutions is transparent and well-disciplined parliament. For every democratic country, the legislature is the biggest state machinery. Besides their responsibility (ies), the transparency and access of information to general public is their right. The citizens have the right to information particularly for their elected leaders. On the other hand,

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the discipline should be given top priority. It is continuously noticed that, there is a serious lack of discipline in parliament.

So, therefore, the discipline must be ensure in parliament for the dignity and sovereignty of Pakistan.

In a nut shell, the crisis of good governance has led the country to a sensitive place.

The political instability, corruption, poor leadership, lack of transparency, and rule law are the key reasons for the crisis of good governance. However, the mentioned key reforms and institution building can lead Pakistan to a more prosperous and sovereign state.

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