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PAKISTAN IS NOT A FAILED STATE BUT A STATE OF FAILING GOVERNANCE

Outline

1. Introduction

1.1 Thesis statement: Pakistan is a sovereign country with a democratically functioning political set up. Since independence, Pakistan has been failing in strengthening good governance. However, this failing governance can be successfully turned into good governance by taking prudent and concrete steps.

2. Why Pakistan is not a Failed state?

2.1 The organs of the state of Pakistan are properly functioning
(Constitution of Pakistan)

2.2 Pakistan has been keeping its immense diversity intact since independence.

2.3 Pakistan has slow but moving economy.

2.4 Pakistan is an important regional as well as international player.

(Pakistan and US war on Terror)

3. How the state of Pakistan is Failing in Governance?

3.1 Pakistan is weaker in implementing rule of law, accountability and transparency.

3.2 The process of legislation is slow and is not fully executed.

3.3 The elitist political culture is a major hindrance to good governance.

3.4 Local government is not properly

functioning in Pakistan.

3.5 Patriarchy prevails all over the Pakistan which has subjugated the freedom of women.

3.6 Economic opportunities are scarce and the market largely remains stagnant.

3.7 Provision of services is poor and public-private partnership is minimal (Education and Health)

3.7 Red Tapism and Nepotism in bureaucracy are greatly making governance bad and poor.

3.8 Basic human rights are not secured in Pakistan.

4. Suggestions to strengthen Governance in Pakistan:

4.1 There is need to implement rule of law and accountability effectively.

4.2 Constitutional supremacy should prevail.

4.3 Local government should be made properly functional.

4.4 Basic human rights should be secured.

5. Conclusion

Pakistan is not a failed state as it fulfills all the conditions of a complete state. It has a democratically functioning political system. Its organs are constitutionally working. The electoral process, the parliament and provincial assemblies are a clear manifest

-tation of it. There is immense cultural and regional diversity in Pakistan. This diversity has remained intact under the federation of Pakistan. Pakistan has also played major roles in regional and international arenas. These indicators suggest that Pakistan is not a failed state. However, Pakistan has been failing in upholding good governance. Rule of law is weaker in Pakistan. Accountability and transparency are scarce. Basic human rights like safety of the individuals, provision of justice and economic freedom are not secured. Similarly, the provision of services like education and health is poor and mismanaged. Freedom of women is greatly subjugated by the patriarchal forces. Women are half of the population of Pakistan. Their subjugation means the curbing of basic human rights of half of the citizens of Pakistan. Furthermore, the political culture of Pakistan is elitist. It does not suit a developing country like Pakistan. More importantly, red tapism and nepotism in the powerful bureaucratic model of Pakistan is a major hindrance in the provision of good governance in Pakistan. However, all these ills of governance can be successfully cured. There is need to implement rule of law and accountability. The constitutional supremacy should prevail, and basic human rights should be secured. In short, major challenges of governance do not render Pakistan a failed state. Sooner the wise steps are

taken, the better.

To begin with, there are various indicators which point that Pakistan is not a failed state. Pakistan is a sovereign country, being governed in the light of constitution. The organs of the state of Pakistan function democratically. Every new government comes through an electoral process. Electoral process is biggest democratic exercise. Similarly, the parliament also runs on democratic path. Its members are directly elected by people. Legislation is done according to its due process. The executive is responsible for its true implementation. The judiciary is there to keep the legislation in line with constitution. Precisely, it can be said that Pakistan is not a failed but a properly functioning state.

Furthermore, it is the democratic setup of the state of Pakistan which has been keeping its diversity in place. Pakistan is home to different and varying cultures. They are largely different in their outlook, belief, traditions and approaches. It becomes extremely difficult in administering and governing such an immensely diversified state. However, Pakistan has been keeping all the diversity under the umbrella of its federation. There is one federation / constitution, one citizenship and equal rights for every Pakistan. A failed state cannot administer such vast diversity. Therefore, it is wrong to say that Pakistan is a failed state.

Moreover, Pakistan has a slowly

moving economy. It has always managed to avoid collapse and default of economy despite being tied to the international monetary Fund (IMF). The import and export activities keep running in the face of slow production. During **COVID-19**, Pakistan was one of the fastly growing developing nations. It was a time when even the major economies stumbled. Local markets are always busy. Inter-provincial state trade and commerce also keep running. In short, Pakistan is a developing country facing major challenges, but it always manages to avoid any misfortune.

In addition to this, Pakistan has played major roles both regionally and internationally. Pakistan was a frontline state against terrorism. The war on terror was a major success for Pakistan as well as the world. The United States of America was dependent on Pakistan in fighting terrorists in Afghanistan. More importantly, the Doha Accord between Taliban and the USA came to a conclusively end because of Pakistan. The accord is considered as one of the most important historical events of this century. Furthermore, Pakistan has raised its voice against violation of human rights. Pakistan openly regarded India and Israel as Fascist states due to their inhuman activities in Kashmir and Palestine respectively. A failed state does not have the audacity to emerge to this level. Hence, it is unfair to call Pakistan a failed

state.

However, Pakistan has not been upto the mark in governance. Since independence, it has been unable to tick any element of good governance. It is unfortunate that failing governance persists even today.

The implementation of rule of law has always been weaker in Pakistan. Accountability and transparency are still a distant dream for Pakistan. The presence of mafias, regular law breakers and freely roaming criminals shows the utterly fragile state of rule of law and accountability in Pakistan. The poor and lower class of Pakistan hardly receives fair justice. Moreover, the judicial process is extremely slow and insufficient. Powerful people easily get away with their crimes. Rule of law, accountability and transparency are the face of good governance. Unfortunately, the face of good governance in Pakistan is not attractive. So, it can be rightly said that Pakistan is failing in providing good governance.

Another indication of the poor governance is slow legislative process. Legislation is the key determinant of good governance. It promulgates laws and policies which measure the quality of governance. In Pakistan, legislation is slow.

The treasury and opposition benches hardly come to any consensus. The policies made by a government are rejected by the incoming government. It seriously disrupts the course of government. Moreover, it bars governance to run on single and permanent platform. Besides, the

execution of legislation is also dissatisfactory. The policies and principles made to steer the governance remain static and so does the governance. Legislation is the fuel of governance. Sadly, governance does not receive its fuel and, hence, fails to deliver.

Coming forward, the political culture of Pakistan is elitist. The representatives of people are either feudal lords or business tycoons. Contrastingly, Pakistan is a country majority dominated by lower middle class. Therefore, there remains a wide gape between the rulers and the ruled. The representatives of people largely remain aloof from their needs and interests. That is why, the legislation executed failed to meet the needs and demands of people. Besides power politics are favored instead of welfare and service oriented politics. Without politics of people, governance cannot be made strong. It is one of the major reasons that governance is failing in Pakistan.

Furthermore, local government does not function properly in Pakistan. Pakistan has a federal set up. Local government is the utmost necessity of federal system as it devolves power to the lowest ranks of government. In addition to this, local government is the gist of democracy. So, the weakened and improper local government means an immature and dysfunctional democracy. It is not wrong to say that good governance and democracy are kin to each other. It is

some state of figure that both democracy and governance remain hungry of their ingredients in Pakistan. Therefore, governance is failing in Pakistan.

The gamut of failing governance does not stop here. It is another indication of failing governance that patriarchy still persists all over the Pakistan. The patriarchal forces have subjugated the freedom and rights of women. Half of the population of Pakistan consists of women. So, the subjugation of women means the curbing of basic human rights of half of the citizen of Pakistan. It is such a big failure of governance that a large proportion of population is insecure and dependent in accessing services and rights. In short, the presence of patriarchal forces in governance is a clear manifestation of a failing governance.

In addition to this, economic opportunities are scarce. It is largely because of narrow economic freedom. Lower member of industries and factories is widening the gap of job creations. To start a business is a challenging task in Pakistan. Nepotism and Red Tapisim is a major cause of it. The lower middle class does not have the capital to stand the business of their own. Besides, the market forces do not let competition grow. That is why the economic wheel of Pakistan is very slow. A stable economy strengthens governance in provision of services smoothly.

It engages a large number of population which brings vigilance. A self-sustained citizen also becomes a rightful citizen. Unfortunately, this trend

not witnessed in Pakistan. So, it makes governance crippled.

Similarly, the provision of services is poor. Lack of capital and infrastructure is the major reasons behind it. For example, the educational institutes are not sufficient in number to enroll children. The existing institutes lack infrastructure and basic facilities especially in rural areas. That is why **26 Million** children are out of school in Pakistan. Similarly, health facilities are also poor. For instance, lack of trained staffs as health centre is a cause of premature births and pregnancy complications. Cost of health facilities is also higher. These are the basic services and also the rights of citizens whose provision is the responsibility of the state. It is possible only through effective governance. Sadly, these basic services are not provided entirely in Pakistan. Hence, it is another indication of failing governance in Pakistan.

In addition to this, red tapism and Nepotism are also causing decision in governance. The bureaucratic model of Pakistan is elitist and hierarchical. Even the minute problems take a lot of time to be solved officially. It brings laziness and inactivity in the pace of governance. On the other hand, nepotism hampers the governance process to a larger extent. The recommended personnel are often untrained and unskilled. Moreover, they focus more

on fulfilling vested interests rather than public interests. It is the reasons that institutional inefficiency is decreasing. This decrease in efficiency makes it difficult to tap resources and services are not provided timely which is the sign of inefficient governance.

Basic human rights are not secured despite a functioning judicial and political system. Freedom of expression is greatly undermined in Pakistan. Safety of the individual is also not assured. The extra-judicial killing, are its instance. The provision of justice and access to it is an uphill task in Pakistan. Poverty largely prevails in Pakistan. Girls education is still a taboo in the far off areas. The freedom of individual is limited in every possible sphere. In short, the governance in Pakistan is failing.

Nevertheless, the state of Pakistan has the potential to mitigate the failing aspects of governance. The failing aspect of governance can be made blessing in disguise. There is need to embark upon prudent and wise policies.

There is need to strengthen rule of law, accountability and transparency. It can be effectively done by empowering the law enforcement agencies. More importantly, the police department should be made a people friendly department. For this purpose, undue political interference should be wiped away from civilian institutes. The law makers should

be confined to the parliament. The law enforcement agencies should be empowered by modernising infrastructure and allocating resources. Exemplary punishment should be awarded and minor misdeeds should also not be tolerated. In this way, the base of an effective governance can be strengthened.

In the same manner, constitutional supremacy should prevail. The constitution has aptly defined the roles and powers of the institutions and authorities. The infrastructure of these constitutional roles should be met with iron hands by the legislative and the executive. Moreover, the judiciary should be freed from the interference of undue extra-judicial forces. In short, constitutional supremacy should be made the culture of institutions to bring good governance.

More importantly, the local government should be made functional. Its constitutional powers should be rightly derived. It will strengthen basic human rights. It will also save time and capital. Furthermore, it will eradicate red tapism from local institutions. Local government will empower people and make them vigilant. The burden of execution will also lessen. It will greatly boost the culture of effective and good governance in Pakistan.

To be conclusive, Pakistan is a developing country. It has a democratic setup which has been subject to continual disruptions through martial laws. A democratic

country study proceeds program. It took centuries for the United Kingdom to strengthen democracy and governance. However, the world is in the post-modern era. The resources, ideas and models have taken various shapes which can firstly boost the democratic process. Pakistan needs to tap on these resources. In its **77 years** journey, it has achieved various landmarks. It suggests that Pakistan is capable of becoming a well-established democratic country. It is not going to fail in time to come. In a nutshell, prudence, mutually build consensus and wise policies are needed to be implemented to turn failing governance into good governance.

