

Political polarization; Governance and Society.

Outline

(I) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Excessive transparency demands and accountability failure, widespread corruption, undermining meritocracy along with many other factors proves that political polarization deteriorates governance as well as it also impacts society.

(II) Political polarization deteriorating governance:

- i) Excessive transparency demand and accountability failure due to poor performance of opposition leaders.

Evidence: In Pakistan, opposition leaders focus on removing govt., instead of holding them accountable (ISSI).

ii) Widespread corruption due to political backing of corrupt officials.
Evidence: Global Corruption perception Index ranked Pakistan 135 out of 180 countries in 2024.

iii) Undermining meritocracy due to nepotism and favoritism;
Evidence: In Pakistan, jobs and higher positions are granted on the basis of political linkages (IPRI).

iv) Crony capitalism favoring relatives' businesses due to vested interests;
Evidence: Economic policies are made on considering business interest of their relatives (PIDE).

v) Political instability hurting investor confidence, leading to underdevelopment of governing institutions;
Evidence: Political upheaval results into loss of investor confidence, inimical to governing institutions. (The Research Gate).

vi) Election-rigging allegations undermining

public mandate;

Evidence: The current govt. of Pakistan is alleged of mandate thief. (Dawn News).

(III) Political polarization impacting Society:

- i) Rising inflation hurting the public due to poor economic policies;

Evidence: Inflation in Turkey hit 85% in 2022, one of the highest globally (World Bank).

- ii) Increased partisanship leading to voter conflicts;

Evidence: In Pakistan, people are divided into bloc politics, leading to serious conflicts (Dawn News).

- iii) Social unrest and chaos due to protests by political parties;

Evidence: 9 May incidence created social unrest and widespread destruction. (ISSI)

- iv) Poor service delivery due to unclear

federal-provincial roles;

Evidence: Ishrat Hussain asserted that service delivery is poor due to unclear responsibilities (Governing the ungovernable).

v) Neglect of major societal issues due to power struggles;

Evidence: The power struggle among politicians undermine practical issues of society (ISSI).

vi) Brain drain due to lack of opportunities;

Evidence: Pakistan losses 1600,000 people to migration, a report of UN population prospect reported.

IV) Conclusion:

A Pew Research study 2023 found that only 23% Americans trust the government, partly due to hyper-partisan oversight. This is the outcome of political polarisation in America. Political polarisation means

division among the politicians regarding their policies and power grabbing. Consequently, they focus on playing each other ineffective instead of prioritizing governance and society. Excessive transparency demands and accountability failures due to the poor performance of opposition leaders is weakening governance. In the same manner, widespread corruption and undermining meritocracy is deteriorating governance structure. Similarly, Crony capitalism favors relative businesses which results into poor economic policies. Moreover, political instability hurts investor confidence, leading to underdeveloped governing institutions. Further, election rigging undermines the public mandate, showing the inefficiency of institutions. As well as, rising inflation hurts the public due to poor economic policies shows that political polarization also impact society.