

Why is achieving good governance so difficult in Pakistan

Outline

1. Introduction.

Thesis Statement: Due to presence of corruption; inadequacy in political system, gender discrimination, foreign interference in policy making and economic crisis, it is very difficult for Pakistan to achieve good governance.

2. Impediments to achieve good governance in Pakistan.

- (2.1) Vicious cycle of corruption, at all level, is a set back to achieve good governance.
- (a) Pakistan ranks 135 in corruption perception index.

(2.2) Broken Justice System is a snag to Excel good governance in Pakistan.

- (a) millions of cases are pending
- (b) Protest by advocate to fulfill the Quorum in UB.

(2.3) Gender discrimination, biased attitude of society and less representation of marginalized community makes it difficult to secure good governance.

- (a) only 20% representation of women in National assembly.

(2.4) Inadequacy in political system ~ many a time the ruler was selected, not elected

- (a) political crisis in 1950s.

(2.5) The Existence of politics of revenge rather than politics of tolerance.

- (a) Ongoing political crisis: failure of opposition and ruling party to negotiate.

(2.6) falling behind in technology: lack of digital accountability is a bottleneck to attain good governance.

(a) Pakistan is at 136 position in digital ~~etc~~ e-government index.

(2.7) Economic crisis: primary focus of the policy maker and executer is to fulfill the common need rather than long term solution.

(a) Roti, kapra or makhan policy.

(2.8) The interference of three major pillars of state in each others affairs create a hindrance to prevail good governance.

(a) Suprem court of Pakistan Suspend two ruling PM.

(2.9) The primary focus of the Ruling government is own survival rather than the prosperity of citizen is a question mark on achievement of good governance.

(a) resurgence of terrorism in two major province ~ Silence of government.

(2.10) Conflict between provinces and center and provinces is a setback to achieve good governance.

(a) Conflict between punjab and other provinces.

3. Suggestion to achieve good governance in Pakistan

(3.1) Ensure transparency, accountability and Rule of law

(3.2) Ensure ^{active} citizen participation in policy making

(3.3) focus on long term infrastructure development rather rather than reliance on short term policy to minimize foreign intervention.

(3.4) Strengthen all the three pillar of state to achieve good governance.

4. Conclusion.

Pakistan, a breathtaking, naturally beautiful country, is facing a lot of problem. It is very difficult for it to achieve good governance. The reason is vicious cycle of corruption at all level. Moreover, The broken or failed justice system is a snag to excel the good governance in Pakistan. Furthermore, Gender discrimination, the biased attitude of society prevails less representation of marginalized community, and makes it difficult to attain good governance. In the same vein, inadequacy in political system is an obstacle to create the good governance. Apart from this, falling behind in the race of technology, lack of digital accountability is a bottleneck to achieve good governance in the land of pure people. These impediments can be eliminated with the best course of action. like, by ensuring transparency, accountability and rule of law in the land of

green and beauty. On the top of that, by ensuring active citizen participation in policy formation the good governance can achieve. Ergo, a comprehensive list of impediments like corruption, gender discrimination, broken justice system, foreign interference are a setback to achieve good governance however, these can be eliminated with best course of actions.

Corruption is the mother of all evil. Presence of corruption in Pakistan at all level is a set back to achieve good governance. It weakens the state institution. Elite rulers, bureaucrats think about the self interest and less focus on the prosperity of common citizen. The lust of money and power makes the policy maker and executor corrupt. In the presence of corruption it is a unfulfill dream to achieve good governance. Pakistan ranks 135 in corruption perception index.

So, due to the presence of corruption it is very difficult for Pakistan to achieve good governance.

Similarly, broken Justice System is a snag to excel good governance. For any nation, it is necessary that its justice system must be strong to get prosperity and progress. The reason is that without justice a nation can not run effectively. Unfortunately, the justice system of Pakistan has broken. Millions of cases are pending, yet to resolve. The justice has become expensive. The quorum is not complete. In march 2025, the advocate in CIB protest to fulfill the quorum and appoint the justice, because there is one judge in the court of CIB. Which is not sufficient to hear all the cases. So, the broken or fail Justice system is a snag to achieve good governance.

Furthermore, gender discrimination, less representation of marginalized community

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and biased attitude of society makes it difficult to achieve good governance. For good governance, it is essential that gender must actively involve in policy formulation and all other affairs of states. In Pakistan, gender discrimination still present. The patriarchal society do not allow the women to be the part of decision making bodies. Only 20% Women are the member of Nation assembly which is less than the UN standard. So the presence of gender biases in Pakistani Society makes it difficult to attain good governance.

In the same vein, inadequacy in the political system is an obstacle to achieve good governance in Pakistan. Since independence till now, political instability asprawl in Pakistan. Many at time the ruler are selected rather than elected through fair means. The military intervention and civil

crisis create chaotic situation in Pakistan.

The Era of 1950s, The death of great leaders, Mr Jinnah and assassination of Liaqat Ali Khan, was a brunt for Pakistan politics. After that, continuously changing government and excess power was a brunt on governance also. So the inadequacy in political system prove a bottleneck for ~~pat~~ good governance.

furthermore, In Pakistan the politics of revenge exist and politics of tolerance is not present. The ruling government and opposition are not ready to sit at the same table to negotiate.

They want to fulfill their demands through chaotic means. Protest is not a bad thing. peaceful protest is a citizen right, but the bloodshedding during protest and target the innocent citizen is not a sign for a state. The

Ongoing political crisis and the failure of ruling government and opposition to negotiate is a clear sign that governance has fail. So the

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the political crisis or presence of politics of revenge is an obstacle to attain good governance.

falling behind in technology, lack of digital accountability makes it difficult to attain good governance. For good governance one of the important indicator is good governance, unfortunately in Pakistan. No one consider himself responsible for any wrong deed. No one is accountable so the governance issues arises in Pakistan. Furthermore, the future is in the hand of technology while Pakistan fall behind in technology. Pakistan is at 136th position in e-governement so the fall behind in technology and lack of digital accountability makes it difficult to attain good governance.

In addition, the economic crisis is also one of the major hindrance in the path of good governance. The reason of is that, due to economic vulnerability the major focus of the

Policy maker and executor remains on the food and shelter, which are very basic and common need. The policy maker and executor focus less on the long term infrastructure development to ensure good governance like in the Bhutto regime, the primary focus of the government was to provide food, cloth etc to the Citizen. So they initiated roti, kapra and makeen policy. Resultantly, the focus was shifted from long term solution to fulfill the most common need only, that compromise good governance.

Apart from this, the primary focus of the ruling government is own survival rather than the prosperity of the ordinary Citizen. which is a question mark on the good governance. Everyone want to be in power and enjoy the ruling position. No one thinks about those who are ruled. politics is to serve the nation, not to serve the own interest. unfortunately the

cycle in Pakistan is in opposite direction. The two provinces, Kp/c and Balochistan, are facing serious crises. The people have lost their freedom of movement, but no effective policy is yet to be seen to stop this bloody game. That shows that the government is in a loop.

The bondage of self preservation makes it difficult to achieve good governance.

Furthermore, conflict between provinces and the conflict between the center and province is a setback to achieve good governance. Although, 18th amendment make provinces autonomous, but still confrontation present between the provinces on the distribution of resource. These kinds of confrontations within the state make the institution weak. There is conflict between the Punjab and Sindh on the distribution of water for years. That create governance related issues. So the conflict between provinces is

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an obstacle to achieve good governance.

Along with the impediments to good governance, there are also pragmatic solution which can be incorporated to resolve the above mention challenges.

Firstly, ensure transparency, accountability and rule of law to achieve good governance. The reason is that, these are the major indicator for the good governance. Through accountability, the policy maker remains accountable for their action. Similarly, through transparency, where can get information what is going on in their beloved state. While through rule of law, everyone get equal right despito of their gender, race, colour or ethnicity. So for good governance it is essential to ensure those major indicators of good governance.

Furthermore, active citizen participation in policy formulation is essential to achieve good governance. The reason is that good governance

demand's equal participation of all in states affair. Through participation, people can better address their issue. Furthermore, the power remains distributed so and chance of absolute authority is minimized and good governance can be ensured.

In the same vein, the government or policy maker should focus on long term infrastructure development rather than reliance on short term policy to address the issues. This thing gives long term solution to the issues and also minimize the reliance on the external aid. For good governance, policy maker should make the effective, long term term policies to eliminate the issues from its roots, and ensure long term citizen prosperity. Through this step good governance can be achieved.

More over, Through strengthening the three major pillar, Judiciary,

executive and legislature, good governance can be ensured. Although there is check and balance of these institutions upon each others, but over interference in each others affairs compromise the harmony of particular ~~inst~~ institutions. So by strengthening each pillar in their own domain the good governance can be achieved.

To conclude it briefly, the above mentioned stumbling blocks like corruption, broken justice system, gender discrimination and inadequacy in political system are roadblocks to good governance in Pakistan. Moreover, falling behind in technology, lack of digital accountability and e-government are also major obstacles in the path of good governance. Furthermore, due to economic crisis the primary focus of government remains to provide food to citizen, so overall governance is compromised. Moreover, the interference

of major pillar of state in each others affair is a snag to excel good governance. Similarly, the conflict between the provinces also act as a bottleneck to achieve good governance. ~~these~~ However, these impediments can be eliminated with best course of actions like through active participation of citizen. In the same vein by focusing on long term solution rather than reliance on short term policies, good governance can be achieved. In the end, it can be hope that Pakistan will overcome these impediments and ensure good governance and we will see Pakistan at height of glory.