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Governance crisis in Pakistan: Need for reforms and institution building

Outline:

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Pakistan's governance crisis stems from institutional weakness, corruption, and lack of accountability, necessitating urgent reforms and strong institution-building to ensure stability, transparency, and national progress.

2- Conceptualizing Governance: Meaning and Significance

Definition and components of governance

(UNDP Governance Indicator Report 2023)

3- Structural causes of the Governance crisis in Pakistan

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I. Institutional Fragility and Political Interference

Weak institutional autonomy and overlapping mandates

(World Bank Governance Indicators 2023)

II. Entrenched corruption and Patronage Networks

Prevalence of corruption in public sector and elite capture

(Transparency International CPI 2024)

III. Political Instability and democratic deficits

Civil-military imbalance and frequent political disruption

(PTI Dharna 2014)

IV. Bureaucratic Inefficiency and Red Tape

Poor administrative practices and political appointments

(PILDAT Reports on Civil Service Performance)

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V. Law and Order Breakdown

Weak Policing and judicial failures
(World Justice Project Rule of
Law Index 2024; Model Town Incident
Report)

4- Impacts of governance crisis on national development

I- Economic Fragility and Poor public services

Low tax-to-GDP ratio and inefficiencies
in public sector

(Pakistan Economic Survey 2023-24;
FBR Tax Reports)

II. Social Inequity and public Alienation

Widening poverty and labor unrest

(UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index
2024; Lady Health workers Protest)

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III. Declining Trust in state institutions
Public skepticism toward judiciary,
police and bureaucracy
(Gallup Pakistan Survey 2023)

5- The Reform Imperative: (Building Resilient Institutions)

I. Reforming the civil services for merit and efficiency
Merit-based recruitment and decentralized service delivery
(KP Local Government Reform Model 2013)

II. Strengthening Anti-corruption mechanisms
Institutional independence and fast-track accountability
(Indonesia's KPK Model)

III. Judicial reforms for accessible Justice
Addressing case backlogs and

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Promoting ADR

(Law and Justice Commission

Report 2023)

IV. Electoral Integrity and democratic deeping

Ensuring fair elections through tech
and law

(ECP Strategic Plan 2020-2024;

Indian Electoral Reforms, ECI Reports)

V. Local Governance and Decentralization

Fiscal empowerment of local
governments

(World Bank Decentralization Studies)

VI. Digital Governance and Citizen Engagement

Technology-driven transparency and
efficiency

(Pakistan Citizen Portal Impact
Report)

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6. The way Forward: cultivating a Governance culture

I- Parliamentary Oversight and Free Media

Strengthening democratic checks and public watchdogs

(Freedom Network Pakistan Media Monitoring Reports)

II. Public-Private Synergy

Leveraging non-state actors for institutional support

(UNDP Pakistan - Public Sector Innovation Lab)

III. Civic Education and Citizen Empowerment

Promoting democratic awareness and responsibility

(UNESCO Reports on Civil Education in South Asia)

7. Conclusion