

Democracy and Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles

Outline

1. Introduction

Democracy is the most acceptable form of government. Gives courage and strength to people to live in dignity.

- > General Statement
- > Thesis statement

2. Democracy and its Prerequisites

3. Situation of Democracy in Pakistan

4. Hopes and potentials of Democracy

4.1 Representation of diverse groups

4.2 Independent and assertive judiciary

4.3 Fair and Free governance

4.4 Accountability employed by citizens

4.5 Transparency In Elections

4.6 Peace and Equality In state

5 Hurdles In Way of achieving democracy.

5.1 Lack of Education and Illiteracy

5.2 Interference of feudal Lords

5.3 Internal conflicts among political parties

5.4 High Index of Corruption

5.5 High rate of poverty

5.6 No rule of Law

5.7 Chained Role of Media

6 Way Forward to achieve Democracy in its full entirety:

6.1 Promote importance of Education

6.2 Consolidate Unity among political parties

6.3 To ensure transparency in administrative services

6.4 To revive the true purpose of parliament

6.5 To implement rule of law and accountability

7 Conclusion

"Democracy is not only about right to vote, but it's about behavior"

True governance or leadership could only be found on the basis of Democracy. It is the foundation of Constitution. Democracy is the most acceptable form of government because it has a lot of positive implication. It not only gives prosperity to state but also makes human life good and dignified. It refers to the authority given to the people to choose a perfect leader for themselves.

"Government of the people, by the people, for the people"

Abraham Lincoln

This shows that people decision and choice matters a lot. Democracy has immense advantages and potential. It actually gives a full and just representation to the marginalized ones. And makes

rough

rule
note

Who bring prosperity and goodness to the state. Along with the right of choosing, they could help him/her accountable for their wrongdoings and can even eliminate him.

Democracy has certain principles or prerequisites in order to be adopted by any nation. It requires fair judiciary, rule of law, economic freedom, right to speech, vote and social life, freedom of parliament, equal representation of citizens and freedom of media. By following all these principles, states can claim that they are democratic in nature.

Pakistan, although constitutionally is a democratic in nature but it is fragile and weak in nature due to its flaws and faults in governance and administrative structure. After 9 years of independence Pakistan made its first constitution which was later on abrogated by Ghulam Muhammad Khan in 1958. In this way, its national assemblies have been broken for several times i.e (1958, 1960, 1973, 1979, 2022). This shows some internal flaws in its structure and

and leadership. In its 78th years of independence, total 28 Prime Ministers has been changed, which shows its capricious nature of democracy.

Next, we have the debate about the potential or hopes of democracy in context of Pakistan. First, is true democratic country ensures true representation of diverse ethnic groups. Sometimes, different communities feel marginalized and sidelined not only in deciding leadership but also in economic and social development. This cause resentment and hatred among citizens, consequently leading towards chaos and rivalry among citizens.

Democracy is not only about right to vote but also to live in dignity.

— Naomi Klein

Secondly, judiciary which is a pivotal factor of any democratic country often faces some political pressure or influence and cause disruption in its working. Democracy ensures a free and independent judiciary where citizens can

freely ask for justice without any fear or influence.

Justice is the basis of constitution and any step against constitution will not be spared.

Mian Saqib Nisar
Chief Justice, Pakistan

Third, free and fair government is also guaranteed in considering or employing democracy. Fair and Free government ensures equal treatment of citizens, not any concept of subjugation, respecting consensus, advocate against injustice, equal transfer of resources, services and laws abide by constitution and peace in state. This peace and tolerance not only help state to prosper but also ^{receive} appreciation globally.

Fourth, democracy give the the right of accountability and questioning to citizens. Means they can inquire about leaders' actions and decisions. In this way every step against the will of the state would be questioned and decision makers would be held accountable for their actions. This would ultimately give a true direction to each matter in a

Date: _____

M T W T F

Date: _____

positive way. Under this right no one could transgress their boundaries, and everything or matter would be in a boundaries set by constitution.

Next, the most integral benefit of democracy is the transparency in elections. This institution serve as a platform which ~~defi~~ decides the future of country.

In context of Pakistan, democracy ~~in~~ Pakistan would help in ensuring transparency and fairness in elections. Means there would be not any rigging, biasness to any specified political party or injustice in counting. If elections system could transform in to positive process, nation would ultimately find its way toward progress and prosperity.

Last but not the least, peace and equality is also one of the potential benefit of the ~~democracy~~ democracy. Usually partisanship and inequality in resource distribution cause tensions and conflict. But if democracy is employed in its full means it ensures giving equal platform to everyone and hearing their voices, looking into citizens grievances and seeking

solution for it. Consequently, this leads towards proper equality and peace in any state.

Next, we have the discussion about those hurdles and obstacles which makes it difficult for democracy to be fully implemented in any state. In context of Pakistan, there are a lot of matters which are causing problems in way of democracy.

First, lack of education and literacy is one of the big problem in a state. Because of this many of the people do not know about ~~con~~ their fundamental and constitutional rights. This makes them to completely submit to government or leadership and endure injustice and brutality of their wrong decisions.

According to the Nation News report, Pakistan literacy rate is only 60%. This number is negligible and is the matter of pondering.

Secondly, the ungoverned or unstoppable interference of feudals is cause great harm to democracy. Feudals dependant on the strength of acres land, money and fame influence political parties and their decisions. Most of the political

aligned with them to win the contest against opposition. Because the power of feudal is incomparable and in this way they regulate government decisions according to their own will. District Kashmir reflects the feudal influence in terms of its poor socio-developmental policies.

Next, factor of hindrance is the internal conflict within a specific political party. A report of (PILDAT) Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency shows that internal level of democracy within the political party is weak even though constitution was democratic enough. Internal conflicts are various in number. It includes struggle for power, corruption, lack of cohesion and consensus, disagreement over decisions and lack of dialogue, cause great harm to parties cohesion.

The element of corruption cannot be undermined. Corruption by different institutes shows their weakness and cause lack of trust among citizens.

According to International Transparency index, judiciary and police sector is the most corrupt. This shows

that these sectors incline more towards elite ones. And in this they decide in the favor of high class. This makes the middle and lower class vulnerable to exploitation and manipulation. Through this way half of the population which is not rich, does not participate in democracy and lead to chaos and conflicts among citizens.

Next one is poverty, According to Pakistan fiscal budget report (2024-25) about 40 pc lives below the poverty line. It is obvious that when a person cannot even get a proper square meal for him his family and himself. How can he would participate in democracy by giving vote in favour of one party. Growing index of poverty cause main hindrance in the way of democracy.

Sixth is absence of rule of law. When everyone is beyond rule of law and questionability there would be injustice prevailed in a larger scale. Rule of law helps in keeping everyone confined to laws, which is the one of the feature of true democratic state.

Date: _____

M T W T F

Recently, under 27th Constitutional amendment several figures would not be held accountable under any case.

For example, judges of the new federal court, army chief and president.

This would undoubtedly lead to injustice because decisions made by them would not be questionable, even though they are against people will.

Lastly, media platforms which have faced a lot of times censorship due to its role of highlighting weaknesses and injustices of administration and government sectors. A free press is the backbone of democracy, informed citizens would identify wrongdoing of governance and demand accountability.

Oazi Faez Isa

But in case of Pakistan, attack on journalist has been increased for approximately 68%. Weak media platforms or censored journalist would not highlight faults or gaps of governance and in this way layman would be unaware of it.

After analyzing the potential advantages and problems in way of democracy, it is necessary to recommend some suggestions for smooth and just democracy.

In order to attain a truly democratic state; Education should be a lot of importance. Because education makes the citizens aware of their basic rights and give them a way to demand their rights from government. In this way true democracy could be maintained by the people. ~~strugg~~

Next, in order to have a true democratic state encourage strength and unity among political parties and eliminate the growing gap between them. In order to abolish these lack of unity, they should discuss their problems and make a way out of it instead of dividing.

Third, government should focus on transparency of the different sectors. Frequent checking and monitoring of the Audits and projects status, helps in eliminating the corruption and thefts made by administrations.

Fourth, in order to have the true democratic country, government should focus on reviving back the true role of parliament by involving every representative of party and by taking into consideration everyone's

Date: _____

stance in order to formulate the law or rule. This highlights the true consensus of the political parties and would promote the image and true essence of democracy.

It can be concluded that democracy is the requirement of today's world because of its immense benefits and advantages. It revolves around people and their will. Rules and laws are made by the consensus of political bodies and they work in unity to promote peace and prosperity in a state. Pakistan being a democratic constitutionally still faces problems.

But these problems could be abolished by following or adopting an effective measures. It could be focusing on education of youth, their economic condition and their social dealings. Democracy due to its immense advantages can not be left unaddressed, its the problems in its way need to be addressed or talked about. Otherwise we would lose it forever.

X ————— X