

BUREAUCRACY DOLDRUMS Date: _____

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Development does not always fail for lack of vision, sometimes it simply suffocates in bureaucratic doldrums. Countless states have devised great master plans for the better development of their countries but various hindrances from bureaucracy have vanquished those visions. From democratic states to the monarch nations, bureaucracy plays crucial part. It is the third pillar on which countries relies on. If bureaucracy is ~~strong~~ effective, countries can perform well, otherwise states are gripped with ~~mult~~ multi-layered problems. Developed nations have successfully addressed this problem by implementing various strategies and pragmatic approaches. However, underprivileged nations are still encountering this mynthem. Bureaucracy ~~doldrum~~ ^{not} ~~is~~ a new or problem but its intensity in the current years is aggravated. Therefore, this essay will explore about the causes of bureaucratic doldrums, moving forward, will shed some light on narrowing and horrific ramifications raised by bureaucratic doldrums and lastly, will highlight some pragmatic ways and approaches

to end bureaucracy doldrums.

To begin with, frequent changes in the government is one of the most cogent and convincing causes of bureaucracy doldrums. Each succeeding government begins to abolish the existing policies and introduce new policies. When there is persistence change in the government, then how the bureaucracy doldrums do not ends? The quintessential example is in Pakistan, from 1988 to 1997, when there was frequent changes of government between Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. Within 10 years, 4 times government changed without completing any term. The reason behind for this transition in government were all relating to bureaucracy ineffectiveness, corruption, mismanagement and unstable law and order. Hence, changes in the government was the fundamental reason for ~~bureaucracy~~ bureaucracy doldrums.

Secondly, political unwillingness and ineffectiveness is another reason of bureaucracy doldrums. Political parties do not pay heed towards bureaucratic effectiveness. Instead parties continue to fight with each other and blame for the inefficiency in the bureaucracy. Political parties' main focus is to just eliminate the oppositions from the grounds of political arena. And it is done by acquiring false allegations on the other parties leaders and workers.

From 1972 till 2025, all political parties were oppressed by the Awami league in the Bangladesh and use bureaucracy to favour only the close people of Awami league. At every higher authority, there was a

representative of Awami League who used bureaucratic favoritism for the Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina never took necessary steps for change bureaucracy due to which there was delays and ineffectiveness in every ~~bure~~ bureaucratic department. ~~He~~ Thus, political unwillingness is also to some extent responsible factor bureaucracy slowdown.

Thirdly, prevalence of demagogues and elite capture also contributes to bureaucracy slowdowns. These demagogues ~~like~~ select only their favorite people in ~~their~~ bureaucracy. There is no concept of meritocracy. There is dominance of elite capture in each bureaucratic institution. Demagogues and elite capture have ~~eff~~ divided their departments and labelled them the department who will own this bureaucratic school. Just like in Pakistan, Pakistan's Peoples Party is acting as a demagogue in the provincial level governmental institution. Whole bureaucracy is dominated with Zardari's favorite personnel. Likewise, in KPK, PTI is controlling whole province. Same is the case ~~with~~ in Punjab. Therefore, ~~ext~~ existence of demagogues and elite capture is also the major ~~to~~ cause of bureaucracy slowdown.

Flawed policies and procedures is the fourth factor for worsening the bureaucracy slowdowns. Governments create policies which are unrealistic and impractical for the current status quo

of the country. Just like double taxing the selected class of Pakistan instead of widening the tax base. A person who is already paying taxes, is now bound to pay more. Either government needed to include the person who is not under the tax ~~umbrella~~ bracket. It is because of major companies are owned by politicians, ~~the~~ revenue department does not impose taxes to them, thus creating another deficiency in the bureaucratic doldrums.

Inefficient and incompetent human resource is the fifth cause of bureaucracy doldrums. Governments in ~~officers~~ hire persons on their own choice. The concept of "Parchi" system still follows in the every underdeveloped nations. According to official estimates, around 40 percent of ~~per~~ people are ~~hire~~ selected not hired in the Bhutan. And those forty percentage people are incompetent and less-qualified ~~that~~ than that of the person who is not being hired. ~~There~~ There is no transparency in the hiring of an individual. Seats are sold at the black cheques and hefty amounts. When such persons are hired then they worsen the bureaucracy system and further deteriorate the conditions of ~~the~~ bureaucracy. Ergo, so are the reasons for ~~bureaucracy~~ bureaucracy doldrums in any economy.

Previous paragraphs shed light on the cause of bureaucracy doldrums. Succeeding paragraphs will highlight the horrifying ramifications of bureaucracy doldrums.

Rising corruption and other white collar crimes are the horrendous implications of bureaucratic doldrums. When there are flaws in the bureaucratic works, corruption is easy task to do. It is because, there is no check and balance or other ways to trace the corruption. Least developed countries ranked in the ^{lowest} ~~top~~ in the corruption index. Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Syria are the countries where corruption is always at highest level. Moreover, white collar crimes, such as tax evasion, misuse of public funds and bribery also high the these countries due to inability of effective bureaucracy. According to the UNDP 2024, nearly 25-30% of development funds in fragile states are lost annually to white collar crimes and mismanagement. Clearly, ~~bureaucracy~~ bureaucratic doldrums ~~causes~~ leads to corruption and white collar crimes.

Furthermore, scarce resources are mismanaged due to ineffective and fallacious bureaucratic works. ~~The~~ Absence of accountability, check and balance ^{leads} ~~leads~~ to exploitation of natural resources. With that environment is also degraded degraded and damaged because no one is there to put check get resources through so right means. ~~A~~ Democratic of Congo is the best ^{example} ~~of~~ where resources are being exploited and environment is damaged at the horrendous

level. Cobalt mineral, used in the electric cars is extracted from the land of Congo, and international firm extract the resources and exploit the natural environment of setting. Truly, due to bureaucracy, seldomly scarce resources are exploited.

A part from this, bureaucratic dilemma also leads to political unrest and economic turbulence. When there is instability in the politics of a country, then how can economy can do well? ~~States~~ Political strikes and protest creates hindrances for the business and other institutions to work effectively. Due to bureaucratic dilemma in the Afghanistan, there is rise of terrorist attacks in the country and also creating political instability in the region and ~~for~~ unfortunately, Afghanistan being a landlocked country, then no country is open for trade with Afghanistan ~~due~~ because of war within Afghanistan. Therefore, political turbulence and ~~instability~~ in state economy is the repercussion of the bureaucratic dilemma.

With that being said, ineffective bureaucracy controls lead internal and external securities and threats. Syria, a war-torn country is facing not only threats from Israel but also from the internal opposition and insurgency that has further worsen the condition of Syria. If bureaucracy was a strong in Syria, then many problems and issues were not be able to controlled by the government. Thus, Syria is becoming weakening and fragile due to international pressure and internal insurgencies.

In addition to this, blowback of bureaucracy doldrums will tarnishing the image of any country at the international platform. Due to which other countries degrade the fragile country and does not cooperate ^{at} any level. However, it further pressure and sideline to the already weakened country. That country does not have a say in the international forum. Venezuela, due to its internal ~~weakness~~ weakness does not have say at the international forum, like UNO. This country is being marginalised by the international players of the ^{world} ~~world~~. There is no foreign direct investment in the Venezuela which can provide a ray of hope for the better developmental opportunity. Thus, demaging the reputation of Venezuela at the international forum.

Previous paragraph, discussed the repercussion of ~~bure~~ bureaucracy doldrums and ~~succedd~~ upcoming paragraphs ~~that~~ ~~no~~ would mention the pragmatic ways to create better bureaucracy of any country.

Firstly, accountability and transparency should be introduced ~~with it~~ in the spirit so that bureaucracy can work effectively.

Transparency and accountability will allow state institutions to take strong actions against culprit or wrong doer. When strict accountability is done, this will reduce crime white collar crimes

within the economy and bureaucracy can become effective. All nations successful nation has done so, though, least nation also need to go through some procedures. Thus, by this way bureaucracy can ~~become~~ ^{also} play vital role in the state.

Secondly, technocrats must be hired to change the bureaucracy ~~the~~ works. Technocrats have expertise and knowledge about the bureaucracy procedures. They are the person who can make bureaucracy great. Just like, ~~for~~ Ex. PM ~~Imran~~ Imran Khan brought technocrats from the foreign countries in the Pakistan. These technocrats were basically Pakistani, who were residing ~~in~~ aboard. By this way, bureaucracy can do ~~wonders~~ wonders.

Thirdly, Government needs to ~~at~~ adopt long term strategic planning for the betterment of the country and set political difference by side. 15. to 20 years master plan will change the destiny of the country that is ~~excentricity~~ ^{excentricity} ~~be~~ bureaucratic delays and deficiencies. ~~Succeed~~ Succeeding government need to ensure to continue the policies and procedure that are set by prior government. This way also, bureaucracy can be effective as well.

Lastly, Stringent laws and policies with fines and penalties must be introduced in the state.

Any official going against the policies and procedure of ~~the~~ in the work and that is impacting or creating a high chances ~~of~~ of corruption. That ~~the~~ Then that person must be held accountable regardless of its background, and political influence he has. This way laws and penalties will serve the bureaucracy of any country.

To cap it all, each developed nation went through under ~~so~~ rigorous reforms and transitions. Implementing these reforms are highly difficult and complicated but by doing so country can change its own destiny and nation can grow easily. If nations do not solve their issues existing in bureaucracy, then countries would face isolation by the world's ~~world~~ worth. Just like Syria, Somalia and Yemen are facing. In these years, it is highly crucial that countries must resolve their bureaucratic problems. Without bureaucracy a nation can ^{not} grow and prosper in the international arena. Effective ~~best~~ bureaucracy will helps countries to compete in the international platform, helps in creating good relations with neighbouring countries and will have opportunity to have a say in the international forums. Since, countries need to work religiously on their bureaucracy.