

Crisis of good governance? Need for reforms and institution building

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c) Corruption and nepotism are the evils that compromises the quality of governance

d) Concentration of power in the hands of political elite results in poor governance

e) Dynastic politics perpetuates oligarchic control compromising the quality of governance

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2) Poor infrastructure development leads to loss of resources which contributes to governance crisis

g) Lack of public participation hinders grass root politics which in turn leads to crisis of poor governance

h) Lack of transparency and accountability leads to poor governance

i) Inequitable resource distribution enhances regional disparity leading to governance crisis

4) Practical reforms are imperative to enhance governance in Pakistan

a) Devolution of powers to grass root level is essential to meet crisis of poor governance in Pakistan

b) Enhance accountability and transparency by e-governance

c) Separation of powers between executive, legislative, and judiciary should be done in order to avoid governance crisis.

d) Provide provincial autonomy in line with federal principles

e) Promote merit over political influence to ensure good governance

f) Enhance participation of women and minority for better governance

g) Federal provincial coordination should be enhanced through CCT for good governance

5) Institution building is the need of hour to avoid governance crisis

a) New institutions should be build to meet the challenges of present time

b) Institutions should be digitalized to enhance efficiency

c) Enhance administration by reducing red tape measures, which leads to inefficiency

d) Provide judicial powers to institutions so that they can decide personal cases

e) Enhance the writ of institutions for good governance by strengthening rule of law

f) Efficient and Capable officers should be appointed to run the institutions

g) Political influence should be limited in order to deal with corruption and nepotism

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Crisis of good governance? Need for reforms and institution building

Good governance is the backbone of the state. Without efficient governance a country cannot progress. Same is the case with Pakistan. The country has been facing crisis of good governance since independence. In order to deal with this issue practical reforms and institution building is the need of hour. The crisis of good governance is caused by numerous factors including weak institutional framework which undermines rule of law and subsequently pave way for poor governance. Excessive political interference disrupts administrative autonomy and also leads to corruption and nepotism. Centralization of power in the hand of political elites further aggravates the situation. Dynastic politics perpetuates oligarchic control compromising the quality of governance. Resources are also lost due to poor infrastructure development which contributes to governance crisis. Inequitable resource distribution enhances regional disparity leading to governance

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crisis. Lack of public participation, transparency, and accountability also leads to poor governance. Practical reforms are imperative to enhance governance in Pakistan. Devolution of powers to grass root level is essential to meet crises of poor governance in Pakistan. E-governance should be enhanced to ensure accountability and transparency. Separation of powers should be imposed in order to avoid governance crisis. Provincial autonomy should be provided in line with federal principles and federal provincial coordination should be enhanced through council of common interest. Merit should be prioritize over political influence to ensure good governance. Institution building is the need of the hour to avoid governance crises. Institutions should be digitalized and red tape measures should be reduced in order to avoid governance crisis.

Pakistan had to face governance crisis since independence. The country came into existence with broken administration, low budget, and huge refugee influx. The initial problems of Pakistan were given immediate attention by the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam and his

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right hand Liaquat Ali Khan. The death of former and the assassination of later led to the decline in the governance of the country. The ruling elite fought with each other to gain maximum power and as a result the country plunged deeper in governance crisis.

The crisis of good governance in Pakistan is mainly due to weak institutional frameworks. It undermines rule of law and paves way for poor governance. In the words of Hasan Askari "When institutions are weak the rule of law becomes selective and inconsistent, eroding citizens trust in state." Due to weak institutional framework, institutions often lose their credibility. As a result governance crisis prevails in the country.

In addition to that, excessive political interference disrupts administrative autonomy. Administration becomes biased due to political interference. Quaid-e-Azam while addressing the civil servants at Peshawar said "You must never be influenced by any political pressure by any political party or individual politician. The services are the backbone of

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the state. Governments come and go but you stay on". However, Abdullah Khalil notes that civil services is increasingly become a playground for political manipulation.

Furthermore, excessive political interference leads to corruption and nepotism. These evils can compromise the quality of governance. The founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam warned about the evils of corruption and nepotism adding to nip the evil in the bud. However, both these evils are present in Pakistan and cause crisis of good governance. In addition to that, Pakistan also ranks 133/180 on Corruption prespective Index.

Moreover, the concentration of power in the hands of political elite results in poor governance. These elites are against the devolution of powers. In the words of Ahsan Iqbal "Service delivery outcomes cannot be achieved without devolving power to grass root level. The ruling elite of Pakistan does not realize that devolving power to grass root level is in the best of their interest. Countries like

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United Kingdom achieved good governance by devolving powers at grassroot level and empowering local bodies.

In addition to that, dynastic politics perpetuates oligarchic control, compromising the quality of governance. More than 50% of legislators in assembly are from dynastic politics. Owen Bennett, while reflecting how dynastic politics foster rivalry, fractionalism which leads to poor governance stated that "Every Bhutto was the enemy of every other Bhutto". Dynastic politics prevail mainly due to two reasons. Firstly, the cost of politics has risen so much that it is beyond the reach of normal person. Secondly, local bodies are not empowered due to which new blood is not inculcated in politics. In order to maintain their hold dynastic politicians often interfere in administration, which leads to governance crisis in Pakistan.

Along with that, Pakistan is a developing country. It lacks proper infrastructure. As a result, loss of natural and financial resources occur. It contributes to governance crisis.

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For example Pakistan losses annually 35 to 40 million acre water due to the absence of proper infrastructure. Similarly, abundant resources are untapped in Balochistan due to governance related issues.

Furthermore, lack of public participation hinders grass root politics which in turns leads to crisis of good governance. According to Maleeha Lodhi "Genuine devolution of powers is required to break the cycle of weak service delivery in Pakistan". According to a survey conducted by PIDE, less than 3% respondents were socially engaged and only 9.2% have taken part in any social activity. Lack of public participation also cause problems for minorities and marginalized groups. Effective policy cannot be devised without the public participation.

Moreover, lack of transparency and accountability is also a major issue in Pakistan. It leads to governance crisis. It also contributes to fiscal mismanagement and corruption. Dr Ishrat hussain believes that good

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governance cannot be achieved with transparency and accountability. For example, In Pakistan only 20% of developmental projects undergo third party monitoring. It undermines the transparency and accountability in the process.

Subsequently, inequitable resource distribution enhances regional disparity. It leads to governance crisis. In the words of Dr Attiq, "unequal resource distribution both natural and financial has resulted in regional disparity which leads to governance crises". This issue is often utilized by politicians to serve their selfish interest. It further increased regional disparities. Each province in Pakistan either blames the federal or other provinces for its own issues.

In order to deal with the governance crisis in Pakistan, there is a dire need for practical reforms. These reforms are imperative to enhance governance in Pakistan. The most important reform to meet governance crisis is the devolution of power to grass root level. It requires strengthening the local bodies

Pakistan's governance effectiveness score is -0.58. In order to enhance governance, devolution of powers to local bodies is the need of the hour.

In addition to that, accountability and transparency should be enhanced. The concept of e-governance should be introduced. All governance records including land records should be digitalized. Artificial intelligence should be incorporated with governance to promote efficiency. It would also attract foreign and domestic investment. According to Dr Ishrat Hussain "Investor's value transparency and rule based governance. Crisis of governance is present in Pakistan due to low accountability.

Along with that, separation of powers between executive, legislative, and judiciary is essential in order to avoid governance crises. The theory of separation of powers by Montesquieu aims to impose a check and balance on three organs of the state i.e. executive, legislative, and judiciary. According to Dr Farrukh "Theory of separation of powers aims at limiting the powers of institutions

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However, Pakistan's case has been one institute gaining all the power and then weakening other institutions"

Furthermore, governance quality can be enhanced by providing provincial autonomy in line with federal principles. Provincial autonomy has been in great demand recently. The 18th amendment demolished concurrent list and provided powers to provinces. In the words of Dr Ishrat Husain "Autonomy must be legally guaranteed and financially protected". However autonomy must be provide by protecting interest of federal government.

Moreover, in order to tackle the crisis of governance in Pakistan merit must be prioritize over political influence. The presence of merit is of very importance in the society. As the saying goes "If you destroy the culture of merit from society, you have destroyed everything. Government officers are often transferred and promoted based on their loyalty to current political regime rather than merit. The crisis of good governance shall prevail if merit is not given priority in society.

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Subsequently, the governance crises can be tackled by enhancing the participation of women and minority. The state bank initiative of banking on equity proved successful and the number of women owned bank accounts increased by 38.23%. In addition to that, women's labor force increased from 23.2% to 28%. Following governance related reforms including maternity leave, work safety etc. Protecting minority rights would also lead to enhance the quality of governance. Instead of discarding minorities, they should also be given chance to contribute positively in the society. It would strengthen HCI, which in turn would lead to better governance.

Federal provincial coordination should also be enhanced for better governance. Council of common interest plays an important role in this aspect. Issues should be highlighted in council of common interest. The CCI must meet regularly, not occasionally for Cooperative federalism to work in Pakistan. Governance crisis can only

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be resolved when provinces and federal are willing to negotiate on common grounds.

In order to mitigate the governance crisis in Pakistan, institution building is the need of the hour. New institutions should be made to meet the challenges of present time. For example, the establishment of Anti-narcotics force by punjab government was a successful initiative against drug trafficking. If we compare the state with a human body, then institutes are the organs of the state. Instead of reforming old and inefficient institutions, new institutions should be created.

Furthermore, institutions should be digitalized to enhance efficiency. The structure of institutions should evolve with rapid development in technology. Institutions dealing with land records, revenue, and accountability should be digitalized to make things more transparent. Paper

based governance should be replaced by e-governance. Countries like UK, USA, and Germany who have digitalized their governance have become more efficient and have shown a decline in corruption. The digitalization of National accountability Bureau (NAB) have brought efficiency and ease for both management and citizens.

Along with that, administration should be enhanced by reducing red tape measures, which often leads to inefficiency. Delay tactics implied by many administrative bodies often result in complication. It also lowers governance effectiveness score. According to WGI, Pakistan's governance Index score is - 0.58. Many trivial matters are delayed for months causing difficulties for general public.

Moreover, judicial powers should be provided to institutions so they can decide their personal cases. Most of institutional cases linger in judicial courts for

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years. According to chief justice Asif Khosa "there are 1.9 million pending cases with only 4000 judges". The establishment of special anti-terrorism courts and anti-courts is a positive step towards good governance. Law enforcing institutions as well as accountability institutions should be given judicial powers in order to mitigate the crises of poor governance.

The writ jurisdiction of institutions should also be enhanced. For this purpose rule of law should be strengthened. Many institutes in Pakistan lack enforceability. Institutions should be given regulatory powers. Dr Ishrat, former governor of State bank believed that regulatory powers are imperative for good governance.

In addition to that efficient and capable officers should be appointed to run the institutions. A good public servant aims at the welfare of people as well as the institute. Good governance is indebted to the positive role of

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public servant. President Ayub Khan using the powers of CMLA took action against many inefficient officers. It enhanced the governance quality of the country.

Last but not least, political interventions should be limited in administrative affairs. Excessive political intervention disrupts autonomy and promotes corruption and nepotism. Abdullah Hussain stated that "The civil services once perceived as a neutral apparatus is increasingly become a playground for political manipulation and military authoritarianism. Excessive political intervention hinders the merit in society. Pakistan has been facing governance crises due to political intervention.

To sum it all, Pakistan has been facing governance crises from the past 75 years. The initial problems were because of weak institutions, excessive political interference and concentration of powers in the hands of a few political elites. It paved way for dynastic politics

and hindered public participation. Governance crisis was further aggravated due to poor infrastructure and inequitable resource distribution. Political reforms including devolution of powers, provincial autonomy, federal provincial coordination are imperative to enhance governance. Participation of women and minorities, promotion of merit and digitalizing governance are important reforms for mitigating crises of good governance in Pakistan. Institution building is the need of the hour. New institutions should be built. They should be digitalized. Administration should be enhanced and red tape delays should be reduced. Institutes should be given judicial powers and capable officers should be appointed. Political influence should be minimized. Tackling governance crises requires long term implementable reforms along with policy continuity.