

Has democracy failed to deliver in Pakistan?

OUTLINE

(1) Introduction:

Thesis statement:

There are several deleterious factors manifested that democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan. However; pertinent measures are essential to strengthen true form of democracy.

(2) Significance of democracy in the modern era.

(3) Factors manifested that democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan:

(3.1) Economic instability and low Gross Domestic Production.

(3.2) Electoral fraud and result manipulation.

(3.3) Dynastic politics and elite capture.

(3.4) violation of human rights and minorities concerns.

(3.5) Failure of governance and ineffective service delivery.

(3.6) Weak rule of law and delayed justice system.

(3.7) Rampant corruption, clientelism and nepotism.

(3.8) Polarized politics and military interference.

(3.9) Controlled media platforms and suppression of freedom of expression and choice.

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(4) Pertinent efforts are required to ensure the true form of democracy:

- (4.1) Organizing free fair and transparent election process through e-voting.
- (4.2) Formulating judicial and ~~Bureaucratic~~ ^{Bureaucratic} reforms.
- (4.3) Conducting anti corruption measures and independence judiciary.
- (4.4) Investing vocational and political education programs.
- (4.5) Implementing policies regarding Intra-party election.
- (4.6) Promoting national harmony and inter-provincial coordination.
- (4.7) Encouraging free and vibrant media and civil society.
- (4.8) Encouraging women and youth to participate in national politics.

(5) Counter arguments: demonstrating that democracy contributes meaning fully in Pakistan:

- (5.1) Constitutional continuity and civil rule.
- (5.2) Provincial autonomy and economic growth.
- (5.3) Devolution of power under 18th amendments.

(6) Conclusion

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"The strength of democracy is measured by the ability of its citizens to hold their leaders accountable" (John Adams).

There are numerous formidable factors manifested that democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan. The economic instability and low Gross Domestic Production (GDP) reflects that weak democratic form of government in Pakistan. Moreover, Rigging in election process and manipulation of election result exacerbates formidable challenges for democracy in Pakistan. Family politics and elite capture has degraded the progress and growth of democracy. Furthermore, violation of human right and discrimination against minorities and women undermines the potential of democracy. Mismanagement, and lack of services delivery are the major obstacles for government in Pakistan. Fragile justice system, rampant corruption, nepotism and weak rule of law exacerbates capability of democracy. Additionally, political instability, civil-military imbalance, controlled media and suppression of freedom of thoughts and voices diminishes the capabilities and prospects of democratic form of government in Pakistan. Therefore relentless strategic initiatives are essential to strengthen true form of democracy through free, fair transparent election, structural reforms, anticorruption measures, judicial independence and encourage participation of women in politics.

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"Democracy is government of the people by the people and for the people". Democracy plays vital role in the development of nations in the world. It is widely accepted model of governance in modern era. It strengthens constitutional supremacy and parliamentary monarchy. It prevents authoritarianism and absolutism which threaten the security, sovereignty and stability of countries. It promotes merit, justice, equality and rule of law. It is guarantee of prosperity, harmony and nation integration. Moreover, democracy encourages fundamental and constitutional rights for all citizens without any discrimination, bias, and disparities. It flourishes opportunities for the citizen in every sphere of life. Democracy rejects political instability, populism, military intervention and non state actors to involve in public affairs. It encourages women and marginalized communities groups to participate in politics, nation policy framework and legislation. Democracy prevents violence, crime, injustice and corruption in every component of country. It ensures transparency, accountability and inclusivity. It encourages human welfare, social justice, cultural diversity and connectivity among people. It guarantees human rights, freedom of expression vibrant civil society and media.

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There are numerous components manifested that democracy has failed to deliver in Pakistan. The economic fragility and low Gross Domestic Production are the major perilous failure of democracy in Pakistan. It has severe causes which undermines economic growth and potential. The short term policies, foreign debt, failure of governance, polarized politics, limited export, rampant corruption, outdated taxation system, industrial decline and climate change are the severe reason behind economic decline of Pakistan. It poses severe pernicious challenges, including, poverty, budget deficit, unemployment and fiscal deficit. Therefore; prodigious efforts are essential to strengthen true form of democracy and reforms in governance structure to ^{formulate} ~~take~~ effective economic policies and structural reforms in economic indicators.

The rigging in election process and result manipulation are the deleterious components of failed democracy in Pakistan. It has several causes behind rigging and electoral fraud such as, ineffective role of election commission, corruption; armed force involvement, fragile judicial system, failure of management and governance, polarized politics, feudal system, lack of awareness about voting rights, Tribal lords influence in areas, and

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Caste system. These causes exacerbates multiple consequences including weak democratic form of government, demerit, rigging, distrust among common people, loss of sanctity of vote, suppression of voices, controlled media and elite capture. Therefore, relentless strategic initiatives are required to prevent rigging and result manipulation of election through e-voting, e-governance, public awareness, accountability of election officers, anti corruption measures and provide safety and security to people during election day.

Additionally, dynastic politics and elite capture undermines the potential, and prospects of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan has been facing dynastic politics and elite capture since its inception in the shape of Bhutto family and Sharif family. Both families have long history to govern the Pakistan since 1973. There are several causes of dynastic politics in Pakistan such as; weak democratic institutions, strong family influence, lack of political awareness among people, lack of intra-party election, patronage, feudal culture, elite capture, controlled media and lack of student and women participation in national politics. However, it poses severe consequences including economic instability, weakness of law, demerit, favoritism, elite capture,

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weak democratic institutions, erosion of meritocracy, rampant corruption, political nepotism, short term policies framework, and power struggles among powerful families. Hence, pragmatic measures are much needed to overcome dynastic politics and elite capture through merit, political awareness, intra-party election, civil society engagements and vibrant media to expose nepotism, demerit and dynastic legacy, promote issue based politics and highlight leaders' progress, policies, performance and manifesto.

Furthermore, violation of human rights and non-emergence of minorities safety and security concerns reflects the weak program and ineffective service delivery of democracy in Pakistan. It has several reasons behind the human rights violation and minorities concerns, weak rule of rule, political polarization, religious discrimination, crime, violation, forced conversion, gender based violence, sectarianism and radicalism, economic inequalities, and unequal job opportunities. However, these concerns pose severe challenges such as, terrorism, violence, religious disharmony, poverty, unemployment, psychological trauma situations for youth, economic decline and division of society among classes. Hence, resolute and strategic strides are necessary to ensure equality, rule of law and promote fundamental human rights, constitutional rights for all citizens,

provides safety, security to minorities and encourages religious tolerance and respect among common peoples to avoid violence and religious conflict.

Consequently; the failure of governance and ineffective services delivery expresses the failure of democracy in Pakistan. It has numerous causes which are responsible for failure of governance and ineffective service delivery such as, rampant corruption, outdated economic policies, ineffective recruitment process of government officials, traditional training and skill management system, political polarization, lack of resources, leadership vacuum, lack of technological advancement, outdated policies, high rate of crime and violation. These factors pose pernicious repercussions including, economic disability, weak rule of law, crime, lack of welfare of people, demerit, favoritism, terrorism, violence, conflict, social inequality, poverty, decline in public service delivery, rise of extremism, brain drain, environmental degradation, and international isolation. Hence pragmatic and effective measures are essential to strengthen governance system and ensure public service delivery through parliamentary supremacy, independence judiciary, reform in election commission, e-governance, proper recruitment process, accountability, transparency, and merit based bureaucracy.

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The weak rule of law and fragile justice system has incapacitated the prospects potential of democracy in Pakistan. There are several reasons behind weak rule of law and delayed justice system such as, political interference, rampant corruption, high pendency of cases, ineffective recruitment of police officers, low First information report (FIR) registration, dearth of technology, low salaries, shortage of judges, fragile social development, safety and security concerns of judges. However it poses several repercussions such as, violence, crime, injustice, discrimination and disputes. Hence, pragmatic measures are necessary to strengthen rule of law and independence judiciary through merit based appointment of judges, accountability of judges, provides technological equipment to law enforcement agencies, community engagement and community policing.

Additionally, corruption, is the mother of all ills. It exacerbates demerit, and nepotism which replete the failure of democracy in Pakistan. It has several causes includes, achievement of social status, misuse of power, poverty, lust of accumulation of wealth. However, it has multiple consequences which undermined the progress, prospects and capability of democracy. Therefore, relentless

strategic initiatives are essential to overcome corruption, demerit and nepotism; through anti-corruption measures, vibrant media, accountability of politicians and government officers, public awareness, e-currency, transparency and monitor the flow of money regarding development funds; merit based requirement process, ensure justice and equality among common citizens without any discrimination and disparities.

Political polarization and military interference are the major obstacles in the path of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan has been facing thirty five years of military government in country and long history of political instability till date that incapacitated the program and service delivery of democracy in land of the Pure. Moreover, it has numerous causes of military intervention and polarized politics in Pakistan. The safety security threats, civil-military imbalance, corruption, foreign policy concerns, high defence budget allocation, politician interest, wrangling of power, social instability, leadership vacuum, lack of effective constitution formation. Moreover, these causes pose severe challenges ^{such as} dictatorship government, weak rule of law, absolutism, controlled media, supreme judiciary, weak economic growth, inflation

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low trade rate and economic instability. Hence, prodigious initiatives are necessary to strengthen democratic form of government in true sense through implementing 18th constitution amendment, consensus based politics, civil military relations, free fair and transparent election process.

The controlled media platforms and suppression of freedom of expression and choice are the failure of democracy in Pakistan. There are several causes behind suppression of voices and controlled media in Pakistan include, elite capture, dynastic politics, corruption, interest of media persons, ownership of media platforms, political instability and censored media. Media is tool of voices across the world. It connects the people and highlights their concerns, aggressions, and issues in front of international platforms. However, it poses multiple consequences such as, injustice, violence, polarized politics, manipulate minds of innocent people, spreads fake news against opposition, fear, chaos among people. Therefore, strict and effective steps are much needed to counter perilous ramifications of controlled media through community engagement, formulating media regulation act, promote true and actual information and public awareness regarding the fake news.

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The pertinent efforts are essential to strengthen true form of democracy. The organization of free, fair and transparent elections is the cornerstone of a democratic political system. In Pakistan adoption of e-voting system enhance accountability, transparency and reducing electoral fraud and result manipulation. E-voting system guarantees the transparency and prevents rigging, fraud and double vote casting. It maintain the record of votes and polling stations. It provides easyness to overseas and also those people who are away from their polling station. It promotes public trust, accuracy, efficiency in election outcomes and prevents political polarization. However, government need to adopt e-voting system and establish cyber-security measures, public awareness campaigns and legal framework to ensuring accountability and data protection.

The Judicial and Bureaucratic reforms are essential for strengthening democratic form of government. Both are the fundamental and vital pillar of country. A independent efficient and accountable judiciary ensures rule of law, fairness and protects the fundamental rights of citizens in country. Similarly, a transparent

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and merit based bureaucracy serves as the backbone of policy implementation and good governance. Moreover, reforms must be focus on effective recruitment process, elimination of corruption, independence judiciary, prevents political interference and delayed justice system and promoting digitization, e-governance, accountability and institutional autonomy. Hence, government can adopt modern bureaucratic models of successful countries and appointment judges on the basis of merit, credibility and progress without any form of favouritism and afilitation.

The anti corruption measures and structural reforms in democratic institutions are necessary to prevent corruption, demerit and injustice. The reforms in law enforcement agencies such as Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), National Accountability Breau (NAB), Anti Narcotic Forces (ANF) to ensure transparent and accountability of government development funds and government official. Moreover, appointment of Director Generals of law enforcement agencies on the basis of merit, credibility and efficiency to strengthen law and order and avoids corruption practices. Government provides modern based technologies, increases salaries and proper trainings of officers to ensure merit and fairness.

The vocational training programs and political awareness are the essential step to empower people and bolster the democratic form of government. Government should organize vocational training and technological uplift programs such as Benazir Youth Development programs, Eterne economies programs, National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) to empower the women and youth of Pakistan.

The vocational training programs plays a vital role in empowering women and promoting socio-economic development. However, political awareness helps youth understand their rights, responsibilities and importance of active participation in democratic process.

The intra-party elections and promoting national harmony and inter-provincial integration encourages true democratic form of government. It is the fundamental aspect for the growth and stability of democracy in Pakistan. It strengthens national unity, cohesion, harmony and equality among citizens. It transforms the economic progress and development. Moreover, Pakistan should learn from successful model of intra-party democracy like, United Kingdom, Germany, China and European countries to strengthen national integration and coordination. It ensures transparency, accountability, and leadership based on merit rather than dynastic politics.

Furthermore, intra-party democracy coupled with national unity and provincial cooperation, is essential for sustaining a strong and participatory democratic system in Pakistan. Hence government should effectively implement 18th constitutional amendment to promoting trust among federating units and create environment, where citizens feel represented institutions function transparency and democratic norms flourish.

Consequently, encouraging free vibrant media, and active participation of women and girls in national politics is the tremendous sign of true and successful model of democracy in the Pakistan. A free media act as the watchdog of society, exposing corruption, demerit and injustice, ensuring transparency, accountability and creating informed citizens. It highlights the voice of marginalized groups. Similarly, Pakistan's half population are the women to participate in national politics and policies formation. The inclusion of women and youth in politics brings diversity, innovation and new perspectives to policymaking. Therefore ensuring vibrant media, enforcing gender equality, laws, and providing training for youth and women are vital steps toward building an inclusive participatory and progressive democracy in Pakistan.

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These counter perspectives demonstrating that democracy contributes meaningfully in the progress of Pakistan, such as, constitutional continuity, civil rules, provincial autonomy, economic growth and devolution of power. It strengthens the democratic institutions and gradually reduces the dominance of non-democratic forces. The 18th constitutional amendment marked a milestone in promoting provincial autonomy and devolution of power allowing provinces to manage health, education, security, law and order, and local development according to their needs. It enhances freedom of expressions, thought and encourage political participation. It fosters accountability through election, anticorruption measures, vibrant media and civilian accountability. The democratic government ^{is} continuously working for economic growth, tax reforms, Gross Domestic Production, inflation control and subsidies for citizens. It enhances the constitutional monarchy and parliamentary supremacy and close the doors of authoritarianism and dictatorship government. Therefore, it ensures the supremacy of law and protected fundamental and constitutional rights of citizens.

To sum up; "Democracy is a system which is still in the process of growth and evolution" (Allama Iqbal). There are numerous components reflected that democracy has failed —

to deliver in Pakistan. The economic instability, low Gross Domestic Production, electoral fraud and result manipulation are the major failure of democracy. Moreover, dynastic politics, elite capture, violation of human rights, mismanagement, lack of social welfare, and weak rule of law are the pernicious repercussions for failed democratic government. In addition to, fragile justice system, rampant corruption, demerit, favouritism and polarized politics exacerbates hurdles in the path of democratic government in Pakistan. Furthermore, military interference, censored media, and suppression of freedom of expression incapacitates the potential of democracy in Pakistan. Therefore, relentless and strategic initiatives are essential to strengthen true form of democracy through e-voting, e-governance, political awareness, anticorruption measures and investing in human development.

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