

Q. HOW SHOULD PAKISTAN MANAGE THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AMONG DIFFERENT ETHNIC REGIONS TO ADDRESS HISTORICAL GRIEVANCES AND PROMOTE DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is a country rich in cultural and ethnic diversity. There is a co-existing mix of people living across the provinces. However, similarly, the land is full of potential and resources. However, such a situation creates ambiguity of the ownership and use of those resources. After the 18th Amendment, greater control was given to the provinces as part of federalism. But, there is a struggle that remains between the Federal and Provincial governments over matters that concern the country, one of that being, the division of resources.

HISTORICAL GRIEVANCES AMONG ETHNIC REGIONS

(i) A major grievance exists in Baluchistan by the Baloch people. The province is rich in mineral reserves in the form of copper, gold and strategic

metals used for electronics and defense. It also consists of natural resources like gas in the region of Sui. Additionally, Gwadar serves as a major sea port and is strategically located in South Asia. This makes Baluchistan a potential hub for foreign and local investment, however, reality is far different.

Another grievance is observed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where the tribal regions of ex-FATA have been historically sidelined from the country. The region has been hit with terrorism and large scale military operations, rendering many areas as uninhabitable. The province, like Baluchistan, is also rich in minerals like ~~gemstones~~ as well as valuable gemstones.

Finally, a grievance exists in the province of Sindh between the inhabitants and the Muhajirs. There ~~have~~ ^{have} seen historic tensions between the two groups that have led to massive violence and protests across the province. The hatred stems from an unequal distribution of resources and opportunities between them.

In all three cases, the grievances surround common clauses like unequal access,

keep the description of a single heading brief.

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metals used for electronics and defense. It also consists of natural resources like gas, in the region of Sui. Gwadar, port, strategically located in South Asia is also a major resource. However, the locals have been excluded from the investment, with very low returns going to the people. The region is marred by extremist and proxy groups, creating instability. People the people of the province are excluded from decision making process.

(ii) Conflict Ridden Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Grievances are observed in the ex-FATA tribal regions. Region historically hit with terroristic terrorism and military operations. There has been a lack of attention and development in the region, with many places rendered as inhospitable.

(iii) Sindhi and Muhajir dynamic

Sindh has historically seen massive violence and protests from the clashes between the inhabitants of Sindh and the Muhajirs. Such unrest stemmed from the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities between the two groups.

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

MANAGING EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

For Baluchistan:

(i) Locals engaged as stakeholders

Taking the locals on board during the distribution and development process is imperative. It will provide an understanding of the problems faced by them.

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(ii) Part ownership of resources

A small stake in ownership to be given to the inhabitants. Such will ensure the profits earned are given back to

community as well, instead of just investors.

(iii) Employment Opportunities

Projects undertaken must ensure employment is generated for the people. It will also help people

build skills and reduce poverty in region.

(iv) Sustainable development

All development should be sustainable

and not come at the cost of damage

to environment or the people e.g. Minerals

extraction making land unusable

add and highlight references/examples against these arguments.

(v) Prioritize allocation

Resources like gas allocated unequally,

with a larger share going to

Privates. Equitable distribution, with

priority to locals, needs to be established.

For Khyber Pakhtunkhwa:

(i) Developmental Budget allocation

The Annual Development Plan must include greater projects focused around ex-FATA regions, compared to rest of the province.

(ii) Greater NFC share

The region requires greater financial assistance, thus a larger portion of financial needs to be directed for development.

(iii) Rehabilitation planning

Special allocation and funds for rehabilitation of areas hit with terrorism and destruction. The people need to be assisted to restart their lives.

(iv) Investment opportunities

The region is rich in valuable gemstones. This can be leveraged by inviting investment, which will create employment and development, benefitting the people.

For Sindh:

(i) Quota Based System

Providing Quotas for minorities and muslims can help address grievances and allow for representation of people.

(ii) Political Representation

Increasing the number of seats or allowing for participation of candidates from both groups can help address grievances and allow for equitable distribution of resources.

(iii) Non-discriminatory reforms

Allowing for peaceful integration of both groups and equal opportunities in all segments through reforms is key.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

While managing of resources is important, ensuring the security and rights of citizens is also imperative. Similarly, the influence of the federal government in managing the resources of the provinces has been increasing. One example is the Minerals and Mines Act 2025, which gives power to federal government over resources. This further enables exploitation without local benefits, increasing the marginalization of communities instead of integration. 08

CONCLUSION

Management of resources to address ethnic grievances remains a challenge for the state. Through rules and reforms, it can ensure a balance between

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THE Democratization process in Pakistan is still weak & ambiguous. Do you consider dynastic politics and feudalism are the major hindrances on the way of establishing true democratic system in Pakistan? Explain.

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, Pakistan has struggled to incorporate sustainability and continuity in its governance structure. As such, no prime minister of Pakistan has been able to serve their full five-year term. The democratic regimes were constantly disturbed and often removed. Such a cycle is a defining feature in the history of democracy of Pakistan. There are numerous reasons why the democratization process has been weak in Pakistan, but the problems of dynastic politics and feudalism stand out.

CONTEXTUALIZING THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION: A BRIEF HISTORY

Democratization refers to the transition from an authoritarian to a more democratic political regime.

It involves introducing and maintaining democratic rights of the citizens, holding free and fair elections, and ensuring the freedom in society. Since the beginning, democratization was delayed, with the first constitution drafted around 9 years after independence in 1956. Though the constitution was abrogated leading to another one in 1962, until finally arriving ~~to~~ to the 1973 constitution. Such events played a major role in the delayed process of democratization in Pakistan. The country similarly faced authoritarian rule through military dictators for a substantial part of its history. This weakened the political structures and institutions of the country.

ROLE OF DYNASTIC POLITICS AND FEUDALISM AS A HINDRANCE TO DEMOCRACY

Dynastic politics has been a defining feature of the political system in Pakistan. Almost few political parties have been established their rule over the country, with the mantle of power passed amongst themselves. According to an economist report, Pakistan ranked 118th out of 167 states on the global democracy index.

DAY: _____

DATE: _____

The ~~impacts~~ of dynastic politics have been many and severe.

1) Reduced Political Competition

The system prevents formation of newer parties and inclusion of fresh faces into the political landscape. There is a high barrier for entry. Mainly three political parties compete in the elections while any independent joins either of the parties upon winning. This helps ~~parties~~ maintain their strength and presence.

2) Reduced Public Participation

People are forced to cast votes for the same people over and over again due to low inclusion of newer representations. The system does not allow leaders from local levels to rise and compete, leading to lack of interest and choice for the citizens. Voter turnout has historically remained around 48% in the country.

3) Diminished accountability

By ensuring continuity of power, lack of responsibility and accountability is promoted. Political representatives disinterested to work, and involved in corrupt practices. Having their party in power ensures no steps are taken against them.

4) Curtailing of Liberties

Dynastic politics has led to a rise in actions to curb opposition and dissent against the party. Each political party has done a fair share of work by neglecting human rights and free speech in case of criticism on the state. This has resulted in a weakened democracy regime.

Feudalism refers to the power and influence of large land owning families. Feudal or landlords is a common concept, especially in the ~~sadder~~ rural areas. Few people control vast amounts of agricultural land. This buys influence and power for ~~urbation~~ as the ^{was seen} sectors is integral to the economy of the country. However, it has played a role in weakening the state of democracy in the country.

1) Influence over resources

Feudal lords carry influence over distribution and use of resources, especially water. Cases of diversion of water flows away from small farmers and urban lands towards feudals is common. This promotes a sense of inequality and lack of rights for citizens.

2) Political Dominance in Political setup

Land owners easily find a place in the political arena due to their influence.

As such, they carry out policies and support legislature benefitting them. Agricultural taxation remains an undiscussed topic particularly due to this reason. Such influence weakens the state of democracy.

3) Exploitation of workers - Lack of rights

Feudal lords employ significant amount of people, mainly peasants or tenants from a low income segment.

Feudals control the local people through the process of debt bondage, passed down to generations. This helps maintain power over the poor people and region, with zero accountability. This further harms the process of democracy in the country.

4) Abuse of Power

Landowning families break the laws of the state with impunity. Local law enforcement fails to take action against them. In the rare instance they do, cases are dropped by the accusers due to political pressure and influence, resulting in a lack of justice within society.

While there are as a range of reasons for the weak nature and a hindrance towards democracy, feudalism and dynastic politics present themselves as major. Both effect the heart of democracy which is the rights of the people. Blatant violations and disregards for such prevents the true democratization process from taking place. & It promotes anti-state sentiments and extremist ideas that effect the long term growth of the nation. As such, the case study of Norway is a great example to strengthen democracy. It has the highest valued democracy world wide. Its electoral processes are free and fair with increasing public participation. The case study needs to replicated within the country.

Conclusion

Pakistan needs to take a proactive approach to handle the issues of feudalism and dynastic politics. In order to implement a truly democratic system, certain steps are required. This will ensure a sustainable and long term democratization process, leading to growth of the country.