

Q: The Democratization process in Pak is still weak and ambiguous. Do you consider dynastic politics and feudalism are the major hindrance on the way of establishing true democratic system in Pak? Explain.

Ans:- Democracy in Pakistan is a troubled journey. Basically democracy is by the people, of the people and for the people, but in Pakistan democracy never existed in its true sense.

Emergence of Democracy in Pak (1947)

Pakistan emerged as a democratic state in 1947 under the Quaid-e-Azam's leadership. With lots of struggles and hardships, a nation came into being where the democracy expected to exist for life time. But unfortunately, that dream remains a dream.

Weak Governance or electoral System:

After the death of Quaid-e-Azam in 1948, Pakistan was under the rule of Indian Constitution of 1935. It's own internal

condition wasn't in favour to build a new constitution for itself. But later, thoughts were given to form a new constitution which was later adopted in 1956. That was a initial step to stabilize Pakistan's political system and governance issues but not for long unluckily.

Martial laws Interruptions (1958-99)

The adoption of First Constitution in 1956 wasn't successful so far. The power politics destabilize the system again and the executive dominance gives the ways for imposition of Martial law.

• First Martial Law (1958):-

Pakistan faced its first martial law in 1958 under Ayub Khan and dismissed Mirza from its position. Ayub Khan viewed Pakistan was not ready for democratic system. Even at that

time people were fed up with the politicians. And Ayub took advantage of that time.

• 1962 Constitution:-

Ayub Khan also adopted another constitution in 1962 according to which the presidential system was adopted which further demolish the democracy.

• 2nd Martial Law (1969):-

1962 Constitution lived his life and again in 1969 martial law was imposed again in Pakistan under General Yahya Khan.

But on Dec 20, 1971, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became president of Pakistan.

Democracy Revival:-

Under Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the third Constitution was adopted in 1973. Which again tried to revived the democracy in Pakistan. The political

instability led to the separation of east Pakistan.

Formation of Bangladesh:-

1971 war led to the separation of east Pakistan. Due to political instability, lack of democracy, poor governance and rationalist approach led to the segregation in Pakistan.

• 3rd Martial Law:-

Again the democracy seems to disappear and in 1999 the third martial law was imposed in Pakistan under **Pervez Musharraf**. General Musharraf again found Pakistan under critical situation and took advantage of situation and imposed army rule in Pakistan by burying democracy for a long period. Pakistan faced continuous interruption by the army into the politics.

which never let democracy to
breath freely.

Another hope of Democracy (2010)

After 2008, the martial law
was uplifted. And new amend-
ments was introduced in the
1973 constitution.

Major Amendments in 1973 Constitution

According to the 1973 constitution
Pakistan was a federal parliam-
entary Republic. 51's amendment
brings following changes;

- ↳ Provincial autonomy by NFC
award distribution
- ↳ Limited power of executive
- ↳ Try to revive democracy by
giving more power to Prime minister
- ↳ Independent Judiciary
- ↳ Less Military Interference.
- ↳ Strong institutions

All these reforms were tried

to adopted to bring democracy back. But again challenges were there.

Persistent Weak Democracy:-

After so many changes and struggles, Pakistan's democracy is still weak and persistently it does. This is because of the following reasons.

- ↳ Weak Political Intra-Party Democracy.
- ↳ Corruption.
- ↳ Weak Institutions.
- ↳ Lack of transparency.
- ↳ Civil-Military Imbalance.
- ↳ Lack of independent Democracy.
- ↳ Unaware Public or illiteracy.
- ↳ Feudal Control remains.
- ↳ Autocracies.
- ↳ Unequal resource distribution.
- ↳ Power lust between politicians.
- ↳ Lack of Unity in People; no check and balance.
- ↳ Military Power Dominance.

↳ Party Affiliations.

↳ Elite Capture

All these are the reason that democracy is still hard to find in Pakistan. The persistent military control over the political system or civil issues, the public lack awareness on their basic rights and agreed on some incentives, the political affiliation, people got inspired from personality of politicians, the fear of being arrested in people which is due to military power dominance and above all the weak institutions and power lust of Politicians never let democracy for the people.

Suggested Ways:-

Although it's hard in state like Pakistan to bring complete democracy, but following ways can be adopted to try for once;

- ↳ Strong Institutions of Pakistan.
- ↳ Independent Judiciary.
- ↳ Civil-military balance.
- ↳ End of feudalism; 20% elite capture 80% of resources in Pakistan according to UNPD report.
- ↳ Transparency in institutions.
- ↳ Equal distribution of resources among provinces.
- ↳ Freedom of Speech without any dominance.
- ↳ Good and Sincere Governance.
- ↳ Spread awareness among people and educate them.

Conclusion:-

Finally, democracy is weak but still somehow exists in Pakistan.

There is not just one reason for that but a lot of them make it hard to bring a true democratic system in Pakistan. Elite capture, civil-military imbalance and inefficient public give ways for the autocratic rule in Pakistan.

This must be stopped. Democracy
is of the people, by the people
and for the people.