

Political Stability remains an elusive concept in Pakistan. Explore the factors contributing to fractured nature of Pakistan's polity and discuss potential reforms to constitutional and political structure that could foster stability :-

⇒ Political stability an elusive concept

• A fractured timeline

Pakistan is a democratic country, yet it faces issues regarding a stable democratic and political structure. This issue has prevailed in Pakistan for more than seven decades, yet no solution has been found to address this issue.

Pakistan since its creation has faced somewhat of political imbalance. This is largely because

of the scenarios and circumstances in which it gained its independence. Unjust division of land, military assets, logistical items ~~and~~, least-trained bureaucracy and weak institutions have altogether contributed in the instability it carries.

2. Political evolution and its Unstable nature :-

Pakistan being a federal state has a legislative whose head is the head of government called prime minister. The political instability is evident from the fact that no prime minister in Pakistan has completed its five years term. This has caused a consequent and everlasting negative impact on political and democratic structure of Pakistan. Since 1947 Pakistan a democratic country has been

governed largely by its military which shows two things, one is the inability of the public representatives to govern and ~~one~~ ^{other} is the strong presence of military in governance.

Factors contributing to fractured nature of Political system;

There are several factors historical and contemporary that have contributed in the fragile nature of political structure of Pakistan. These factors have evolved ~~with~~ in nature with the passage of time.

(i) Constitutional Crisis in beginning

~~At the time~~ Pakistan gained independence in 1947 yet it took 9 years to draft its first constitution. Absence of constitution

on contributed in weak functionality of the state and the system. This crisis gave birth to a ~~standalone~~ parallel political crisis in which country was being run by one after another prime minister as there was no constitutional framework that could have paved the way for a clean electoral or legislation process.

- Constitutional Crisis despite of a Constitution

After the constitutions were passed still there were loopholes that were used by the politicians and ~~parallel~~ actively used by the martial law administrators to take power or oust other parliamentarians. This has actively contributed in the ~~en~~ political crisis that the country faced despite having a constitution.

Role of Military

Military played a significant role in shaping the political structure of Pakistan by regular interventions and martial laws under the doctrine of necessity. Martial laws have effected the democratic and political framework of Pakistan so deeply and so ~~iso~~ sharply that it has created a strong hold in political culture of Pakistan. In contemporary politics, role of military has still been uncompromised and political fraternity has a general notion of king maker about military.

• Martial Laws :

Martial laws have undermined the federal and parliamentary structure of Pakistan. Regular martial laws in history left a little or no ground for politicians to emerge. The PCO culture not only degraded supreme

y of parliament. It also created an imbalance in civil military relations that has a far reaching impact to date.

Institutional Weakness and governance issues.

Weak institutions and poor governance have ^{always} paved a way for public dissentment in the government. This has often led to chaotic results in which the military gets a chance to intervene, as the military claims that it intervenes when the nature of political and economic affairs is chaotic and governance needs to be restored. The weak institutions often create the issue of governance which a country is unable to sustain and faces crisis. This leaves a space for the other strong institution like military to intervene.

Role of Judiciary

• Legitimiser of Martial Laws

Historically judiciary has played a controversial role as it has been always used as an instrument to legitimize martial laws. This developed a contradictory image of judiciary.

• Unable to perform its roles

Judiciary

faced several issues to play its role. It has been unable to perform efficiently and effectively in state of crisis. Historically it has been criticized for not being able to implement law as it has been evident from some famous cases like Dasso Case and Molvi Jameeruddin Case.

It has also not played its role well ^{when} ~~is~~ the abrogation and suspension of the constitution over the time took place.

Role of Political Parties

political parties are what that make political system in Pakistan. Strong political and democratic structure requires strong political parties. The political parties in Pakistan have had a history of submitting to the establishment. Other issues in the political parties that have left them weak is the feudalism and dynastic politics. No merit selection of the party representatives ~~no~~ causes the far reaching issues which damages the party reputation and party power in the electoral system. Weak party SOPs and no merit based ticket system ~~gives~~ gives way for horse trading and nontransparent system.

Potential reforms

=> Constitutional Reforms

- **Clarity on role of Military:**

There are reforms in the Constitution needed on the role of military. Article 243-245 describe role of military yet article 245 has some ambiguity where it allows to call on military in civil matters when government needs yet it mentions that it does not come under jurisdiction of Highcourt

- **Judicial reforms:-**

Judicial reforms are the need of the hour to improve political structure. There should be efforts made to strengthen judiciary and make judiciary Independent. Transparent appointment of judges through judicial commission and parliamentary commission

Judicial activism must be controlled through provisions in constitution to contain judicial overstepping of judiciary. Judiciary must be made financially autonomous.

2) Institutional reforms and governance

Institutions must be made stronger to sustain any pressure from outside. Stronger institutions guarantee stronger system and smooth governance. Governance should be made better through devolution of power - subjects to lower level. Local governments should be engaged in policy making for sustainable governance. Institutions should be depoliticized and merit based promotion system should be introduced. Political pressure and transfer culture should be eradicated to ensure maximum efficiency and transparency.

Reforms to political structure

- Strong ECP

Election Commission of Pakistan should be made strong so that no other party or institution could not exert pressure on it. It should be made financially autonomous and area of jurisdiction over electoral system should be increased.

- Political party reforms

- Intra party democracies

Intra party elections should be made mandatory. These elections are largely ignored and contribute towards uneven distribution of power ~~among~~ in parties.

- Ensure transparent fundings

ECP should conduct regular audits of accounts of political parties.

to ensure transparent money trail and impose strict sanctions in case of any misadventure

• ~~Revolution~~ and Feudalism

• Feudalism and dynastic politics :-

Ensure reforms to curb feudalism and dynastic politics.

Should control influence of waderas by introducing land reforms and strengthening police, law and order.

• Electoral reforms

ECP should ensure transparent elections by eliminating chances of rigging. New ways can be adopted to ensure smooth voting.

System such as electronic votes, e.V Ids, and Smart voting.

• Manifesto based politics :-

To curb personality based politics

It is necessary that party should propose manifesto and transparent

policy for the development and materialization of manifesto. Reforms should be introduced to make ~~parties~~ ~~the~~ the parties show their plan and policy according to their manifestos in general public so that public should be aware for what they are voting ^{for} and what should they expect

Conclusions:-

political instability is the combined result of many factors, that have historical roots in the political culture of Pakistan. Poor governance, Controversial role of judiciary and repeated military regimes have destabilized ~~some~~ political ~~and~~ ~~the~~ structure of Pakistan.

Immediate reforms ensuring transparent elections, good governance, protection of constitution, independent judiciary and ^{transparent} ~~strong~~ election process can pave way for the political stability.