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Democracy: Hopes and Hurdles

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Although the democracy in Pakistan has been a weak point due to military interventions, political instability and weak institutions. However, there is a hope that democracy will flourish as the rise of civil society, improved literacy rate and role of independent media can be seen.

② Human Political Evolution and Appraisal of 77 Years of Democracy in Pakistan

③ Factors Which Halted the Democracy in Pakistan

i) Leadership Vacuum

ii) Military Interventions made Democracy weaker

iii) Political Instability cause

Damage to Democracy

iv) Weak Institutions

Weakened Democracy

v) Corruption : One of the Major Democratic Hurdle

vi) Illiteracy being Root cause of Weak Democracy

vii) Weak Economy Makes Democracy Weak

viii) Feudalism : A hurdle in Strong Democracy

④ Bright Future of Democracy in Pakistan — Hopes

i) The Rise of Middle Class into Politics

ii) Improved Literacy rate means Stronger Democracy

iii) Independent Media plays vital Role in Strengthening Democracy

iv) Universal Support

for Democratic System

v) Rising Trust between civil and Military leaders

vi) Economic Stability causes means strong Democracy

vii) Relatively Fair Elections

viii) Role of International Community

5. Conclusion

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"A democracy has got to be progressive, or soon it will cease to be either great or democracy." — Theodore Roosevelt. The concept of this quotation shows that despite the hurdles, democracy has got to be progressive because it is essential. Therefore, the hope for better and flourishing democracy is most. To understand it better, according to Merriam Webster Dictionary, democracy is "a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections." All the political

thinkers, despite their disagreement on different concepts, agree that democratic system is best form of government. However, the democratic system in countries like Pakistan has not been stable. But, there is potential of strong democracy. Although, the democracy has been a weak point in Pakistan due to military interventions, political instability, and weak institutions. However, there is a hope that democracy will flourish as the rise of civil society, improved literacy rate, and the role of independent media can be seen.

In the start of human's life, only food, shelter and clothes were necessary

for survival but with the increasing population, a governance system was also needed in society. The world has gone through many political systems but eventually, human wisdom called the democratic government system best among all of them. The most important elements of democracy are, provision of basic human rights, equality before law, participation of citizens in governance, accountability and transparency and decentralization of power. In Pakistan, the democracy has not been stable and strong. The country has constantly struggled to balance the power between elected governments and the powerful military-bureaucratic

establishment. Whenever a democracy
dates to ^{the} such, conflicts and
various institutions pulled it
back. But with growing
liberty and public trust
in governments, its bright
future can be seen.

The primary hurdle which
made democracy in Pakistan
miserable was early demise
of its founding leaders
— Qaid-e-Azam and Liaqat
Ali Khan. After their death,
the political elites failed
to make constitution for
near about a decade. This
made the country more
vulnerable as it already
was. For example, India,
which got independence
along with Pakistan but
the democracy in India

is stronger as compared to Pakistan. This is because, its founding leader, Mahatma Gandhi lived longer than Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This created a major leadership vacuum which made Pakistan democratically weak. Since, for great democracy, great leaders are necessary who ensure rule of law.

One of the hurdles in better democracy in Pakistan is military interventions in politics. Unless there would be no balance between civil and military leaders, it is impossible to make a country democratic. In 1977, General Zia-ul-Haq overthrew Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali

Bluthe in Coup "Operation Fair Play". He ruled for 11 years and introduced Islamization policies which deeply changed laws and society. This period halted democratic progress. Also, it strengthened military control over politics. Thus, the military interventions weakened the structure of democracy. Meanwhile, in India and other democratic countries where there was no military interventions are relatively stable in democracy.

Another major reason of unstable democracy in Pakistan is political instability. The frequent government changes results in chaos and it weakens public trust in

governments. In 1990, the governments of two political parties were collapsed before their tenure. This decade was politically unstable which automatically makes democracy unstable. Also, In 2022, again the government was collapsed before its tenure. The constant struggles of political instability makes country more vulnerable to weak democracy. The countries where there is political stability like Norway, Sweden and Finland etc are good example of democratic system. Thus, unless there is no consensus of political parties it will be a hurdle in progress of strengthened democracy.

Among many reasons, weak institutions are also the reason of weak and unstable democracy. If the institutions will be fragile, democratic norms can not be survived. The Lawyers Movement in 2007, when President Musharraf suspended Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, lawyers and independent civil society launched protests and forced his restoration. This shows how judicial independence can resist executive abuse and injustice. Thus, strong institutions play vital role in country's democracy.

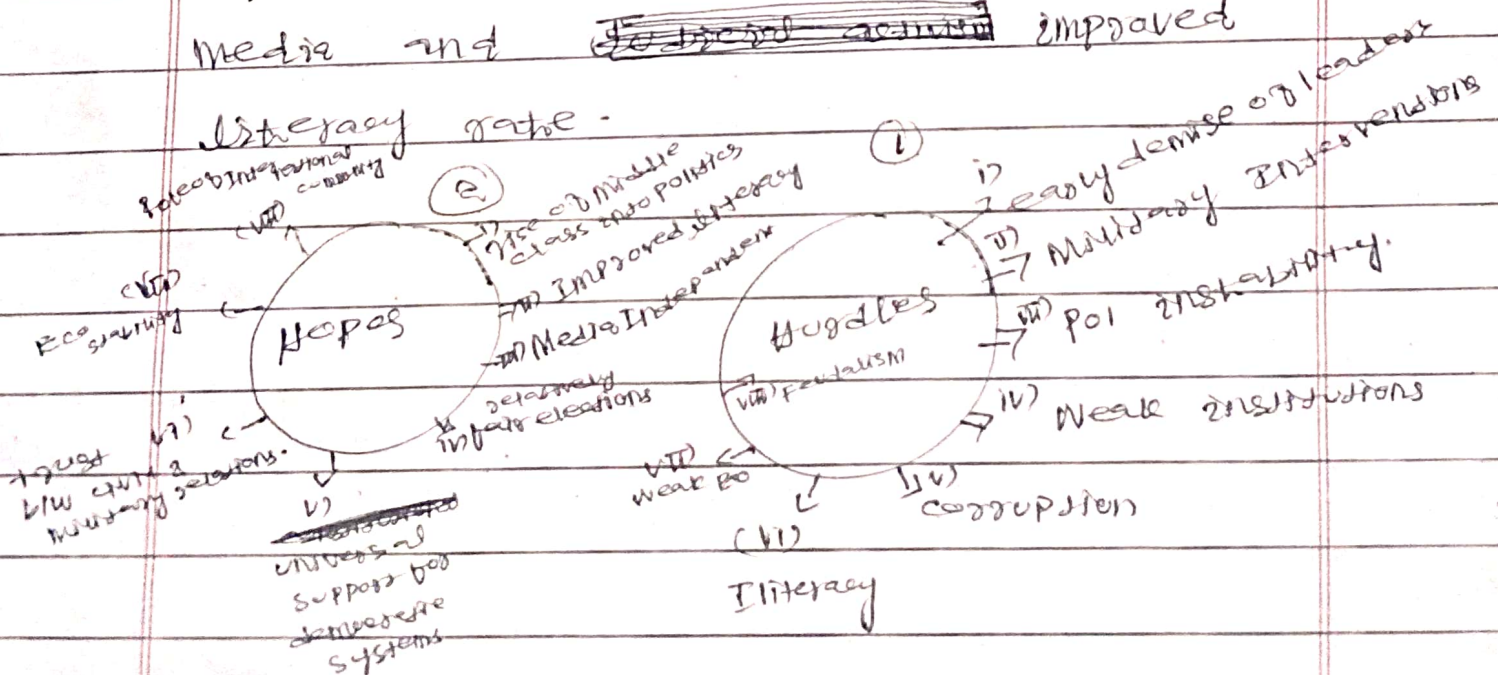
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Democracy: Hopes and hurdles.

Intro

Although Pakistan

has been progressing a weak point due to ~~and~~ military interventions, weak institutions, and political instability ~~but~~ ~~still it has a bright future~~ but there is ^{still} hope of progressive democracy because of rise of civil society, independent media and ~~economic growth~~ improved literacy rate.



① Introduction

Thesis statement

② Human pol evolution and appraisal of 77 years of democracy in Pakistan.

③ Why democracy not flourished in Pakistan.

④ Hopeful future of ~~the~~ democracy in Pakistan.

⑤ Conclusion.