

"Democracy in Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles"

A. Introduction

B. Hopes for Democracy in Pakistan:

1. Access to social media provides political voice to all and sundry.

Case in Point: Digital Talsa's held for elections 2024.

2. The involvement of diverse groups in politics predicts subjectivity.

Case in point: Over 100 political parties registered for GE-2024. (ECP).

3. Electronic mechanisms to conduct elections ensure transparency.

Case in point: EVM's under discussion.

4. Mechanisms for citizens to directly connect with government officials.

Case in point: citizen Portals.

C. Hurdles for Democracy in Pakistan

- 1- Flawed civil-military nexuses pose threat to transparent decision making.

Case in point: Military quotas in civilian bureaucracy.

- 2- The issue of dynastic politics and nepotism within political parties.

Case in point: Mainstream parties in Pakistan.

- 3- Influence of business giants on policy formulation at state level eradicate essence of democracy.

Case in Point: Tanker Mafia's in Karachi, Real Estate Tycoons etc.

- 4- Lack of political rights awareness in masses halts democratic progress.

Case in point: Rural Women and voting rights.

D. Conclusion.