

Issues of Democracy in Pakistan

Outline

1. Introduction

2. What are the Issues of Democracy in Pakistan?

2.1 Absence of democratic norms.

2.1.1 Political leaders and parties prioritize personal interest over public welfare.

2.2 Frequent constitutional changes weaken democratic continuity

2.2.1 Pakistan has had 3 constitutions (1956, 1962, and 1973) since independence.

2.3 Lack of credibility of elections.

2.3.1 Elections are marred by rigging etc allegations and lack of transparency.

e.g. PTI in 2013, PMLN in 2018 and (PMLN) in 2024, PTI again in 2024.

2.4 Weak political institutions.

2.4.1 legislature, judiciary and political institutions remain vulnerable to external/military pressure.

2.5 Deep Structural Inequalities

2.5.1 Feudalism, elite capture and weak middle-class undermine democratic culture.



3. Possible Remedies

3.1 Promotion of Democratic norms

3.1.1 encourage civic education, strengthen accountability of leaders and cultivate a culture of democratic values within parties.

3.2 Constitutional Stability and Respect

3.2.1 Ensure stability through broad consensus, prevent authoritarian amendments and strengthen respect for 1973 constitution.

3.3 Electoral Transparency

3.3.1 Electoral reforms to empower election Commission, ensure transparent vote counting, use technology to reduce manipulation.

3.4 Institutional Strengthening

3.4.1 Strengthen judicial independence, legislative authority, and civil service reforms to reduce executive overreach.

3.5 Socio-economic reforms.

3.5.1 land reforms, economic empowerment of lower and middle classes and investment in education.

4. Conclusion

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