

# 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 (1998) and PMLN 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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