

TOPIC: Democracy In Pakistan: Hopes And Hurdles

Outline

(1) Introduction:

this is too generic statement please

Thesis: Democracy in Pakistan is facing hurdles but there are hopes that democracy will prevail in Pakistan.

need more substantive arguments within

(2) Hurdles for the democracy in Pakistan.

(i) Illiteracy and poverty are the hurdles for democracy in Pakistan.

(ii) Weak law enforcement, judiciary and lack of accountability are obstacles for democracy to prevail

(iii) Lack of meritocracy, weak parliament are challenges for democracy

(iv) Suppressed media and press are challenging democracy in Pakistan

3 Hopes for The Democracy in Pakistan

- (i) Youth activism in politics is the hope for democracy to prevail.
- (ii) Increasing role of social media in exposing inefficiencies and creating awareness is hope for the democracy in Pakistan.
- (iii) Increasing participation by the marginalized groups in elections and polices are the hopes.
- (iv) Global encouragement by international organization and allies are signs that democracy will prevail in the country.

4 Way forward

- (i) Improving literacy rate / providing education to citizens
- ii Independent mechanism for promoting democracy
- (iii) Transparency and accountability in institutions

Conclusion

Winston Churchill once said "Democracy is the worst form of government - except for all others that have been tried." This paradox aptly reflects the hurdles and hopes in the democratic pathway, especially for the states that struggle to balance expectation and realities.

As its core, democracy is a form of governance in which sovereignty lies with the people, exercise directly or through elected representative. It ensures justice, freedom, accountability and welfare of the people. In Pakistan, democracy is demonstrated through the Beacon of hopes which inspire people by democratic values, including, equality before law, accountability of the leaders, justice and policy making on citizen's voice,

deserving public trust in democratic values. However, the journey of democracy in Pakistan ^{has been} marked by fragile governance, corruption, political instability, which systematically erodes democratic values and weakens the democratic institution.

Democracy in Pakistan is facing multiple hurdles. These hurdles are evident in higher illiteracy rate, weaker law enforcement, lack of meritocracy, and dynastic leadership and suppressed media.

Despite these hurdles, optimism lies that democracy will prevail in the country as youth activism in politics, increasing role of social media to aware people about goods and backs of politicians, increasing participation by marginalized group in political activities, and global

encouragement for political values, are raising hopes for the democracy in Pakistan.

These hopes would be turned into reality by taking practical measures for democratic values to be practised in the country.

To begin with, illiteracy and poverty cripple the very foundation of democracy in Pakistan. Due to illiteracy people of Pakistan do not have much awareness to use their voting right responsibly, creating an invisible obstacle for democracy in Pakistan. According to economic Survey of Pakistan 2024-2025, the literacy rate in Pakistan is 58%, which means a large proportion of population is uneducated that directly

impact their decision to choose the representative for themselves. poverty also plays a role to hinder democracy in Pakistan. Political elites in Pakistan offer short term measure to the people to gain their trust and vote, and people happily accept that for their survival. Therefore illiteracy and poverty are the major hurdle for the democracy in Pakistan.

Along with illiteracy and poverty, weak enforcement of law, judiciary fragility, and lack of accountability are making democracy as an illusion rather than a reality. The failure of law enforcement agencies allow the impunity of powerful, eroding public trust from democratic institutions. Pakistan Global Rule of

law index put Pakistan 130th rank out of 140, highlighting glimpse of flimsy democratic institution and democracy as well. The slowed, impartial justice decisions by weak judiciary are also factors that hinder democracy in Pakistan. As Anatol

Levan mentioned in his book "Pakistan A Hard Country" that Justice System of Pakistan is slowed, corrupt and ineffective which left the vacuum for extreme group to exploit it and provide alternatives to it. These alternatives challenging the essence of democracy in Pakistan.

Lack of accountability in the democratic institution is also

for democracy failure in Pakistan.

This evil gave birth to corruption

by which landlords and political elites illegally enter their wealth and

prosperity, undermining the spirit of democracy. IMF in its governance and corruption Assessment made Pakistan with "weak organizational accountability" as critical governance flaw. All these factors highlight that In Pakistan democracy is facing multiple hurdles.

Additionally, Lack of meritocracy, weak parliament, and inefficient bureaucracy are also the factors that undermine democracy in Pakistan.

Pakistan has the history of dynastic politics, in which few chosen parties ruled the country for decades, undermining meritocracy in democracy.

The parliament of Pakistan is also a hostage of political polarization instead of ^{being a platform for} consensus and dialogue.

It became a tool for political hostility and obstruction. The repeated

parliamentary deadlock is a result of this bitter reality, making fundamental unit of democracy ineffective and inefficient. The ~~bureaucracy~~ of Pakistan is also a major obstacle for democracy in Pakistan. The politicization of bureaucracy makes it ineffective to do its work of provide reforms, pushing public of Pakistan in the traps of corruption and bribery. Hence, lack of ~~democracy~~ weak parliament, and ineffective bureaucracy are the significant hurdles for the democracy in Pakistan.

Along with this, the suppressed media and press also hindered the democracy in Pakistan. The threat to journalist of media hinders the fight for

from the public which impedes their right to information and affect their decision to choose leaders for themselves. media is also censored to expose the inefficiencies of the institution and politician, eroding essence of democracy while deceiving the public to know the reality. The world press freedom tank Pakistan 180 out of 180 highlighting the censorship of media in Pakistan. Therefore supposed media and press is a significant hurdle for the democracy in Pakistan.

These are multiple hurdles for democracy which are discussed above. The below discussion examines what are the hopes for democracy in Pakistan and those hopes

promote democracy.

The growing youth bludge of Pakistan and their active participation in democratic process is a vital hope for democracy in Pakistan. As youth active participation in the election is capable of changing democratic culture in Pakistan, it shows that the youth of Pakistan is not only involve in participation but also shaping the democracy in Pakistan. For instance, in General Election 2018, participation by youth significantly impact the result of the election. Moreover, initiative taken by youth like "Vote First" campaign and universities debates on political right highlight that youth of Pakistan are not just the recipient, but they are shaper of democracy.

So, the active participation of youth playing a vital role for enshrining the democracy in Pakistan, marking a major hope for it.

Not only youth activism, the role of social media is also significant for providing huge hope for democracy in Pakistan.

Social media enable people to know about the institution failure, governance inefficiencies and corruption, which undermined by passing ~~social~~ traditional media. For example, Panama papers revelation initiate public debate and strict judicial action against political elite. It is due to circulation of this matter on social media. This

Role of social media ensure transparency by exposing the inefficiencies, promoting democracy in the country. Social media also help in creating transparent election system by exposing procedural ineffectiveness to election commission of Pakistan. For example, journalist and ordinary citizens can highlight important issue during the process which speak to millions in few minutes, ensuring transparency and generating hopes for the democracy in Pakistan.

Therefore involving citizens, exposing inefficiencies, social media is a vital hope for the democracy in Pakistan.

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participation by marginalized groups is a hope for democracy in Pakistan that ensure inclusivity and participation. Women and minorities are getting involved in the democratic process, and institution through elected seats, campaigns, and advocacy groups highlight introduction of marginalized group in the democratic system. Active participation of minorities in Senate and National Assembly is a proof that the hopes for the democracy to prevail are still alive. For example, Shireen Rehman, Maryam Nawaz, are active women members of National Assembly providing strength to democracy. The increasing participation of women

hopes for democracy in
Pakistan. All in all the increasing
participation by marginalised
groups play a pivotal role
for providing new opportunities
for the democracy to prevail
in the country.

Finally, Global encouragement
is also a hope for
democracy in Pakistan. International
national institutions like United
Nations appreciate the democratic
values and provide technical
and financial support to
the countries for encouraging
democracy in the countries,
providing hope for the
democracy in Pakistan. Along
with this, relation with allies
like U.S and European countries
which also provide Most Favoured
Country (MFN) status to Pakistan, and

for it with condition for
the fulfilling of human right
and promising democratic
reform, motivate state to
have democratic norms

These hope, global encouragement
by International institution and
allies are the hopes for
the democracy in Pakistan.

Besides these hopes, there are practical
measures available to give prosperity
to the democracy in Pakistan and
make democratic values to be
practiced in the country. The below given
discussions explain the way forward
for the democracy in Pakistan

Improving literacy
rate and providing formal education
to the citizens is crucial way forward
for democracy in Pakistan. Education

give the citizen consciousness to engage in democratic system and use their vote wisely to choose their leaders, without influencing from patronage politics and not to sell their vote for short term benefits.

According to a study by PILDAT districts, where literacy rate is high shows significant participation in the election and result in greater voter turnout, highlighting that education enables citizens to raise their voice in the democratic system. Furthermore,

Pakistan's youth bulged demography is an opportunity which can only be benefited when they are educated.

According to UNDP, 60% population of Pakistan is under the age of 30, signifies the importance of education for better democratic system in Pakistan. Hence literacy and formal education promotion is a practical

Step to ensure democracy in
Pakistan.

With education, independent
media and free press are
essential for democracy in
Pakistan. Media and press are
the watch dogs which expose corruption
political inefficiencies that erode
public trust. According to Reporters
Without Borders, World Press Freedom

Index Pakistan ranked 150 out of
180 countries, emphasizing the urgent
need of free media in Pakistan.

Media also play significant role
in informing citizens about the
performance of politician and provide
diverse political views, creating informed
citizens to demand for shaping
democracy in Pakistan. Therefore,
free press and media are the solution
for the democracy in Pakistan.

Along with free media, ensuring ~~in institution~~ accountability and transparency is an important way forward to promote democracy in Pakistan. Corruption, poor governance has eroded the public trust ~~from~~ in the democratic institutions. According to World Governance Indicators, Pakistan ranked 133 out of 180 countries in the Corruption Index, highlighting grim of poor governance of democratic institutions.

Secondly, when democratic institutions become more transparent through budgeting, auditing and public monitoring, it not only improves democratic values, but also improves public services. According to World Bank, governance accountability directly enhance governance effectiveness. So, for democracy to grow in Pakistan, it is necessary to ensure transparency and accountability of the democratic institutions.

Conclusively, the debate of on democracy in Pakistan make it clear that country is standing between the hopes and the hurdles. While many obstacle at individual and institutional level represents the hurdles that democracy is facing in Pakistan, there are hopes the democracy will endure in Pakistan. On one hand there are hurdles like illiteracy and weak democratic institutions and their vulnerability that prevent democratic values to prevail in Pakistan, suppressed media and poor governance and corruption that erode the public trust. On other hand, increasing activism of youth in politics, participation by marginalized groups and increasing role of social media in creating awareness are

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hopes that democracy is the future of Pakistan. Some practical way forward, including providing education to free media, and accountability of democratic institutions are solution for promoting democracy in Pakistan. Therefore democracy in Pakistan is not complete, but it is not finalized. By effort of citizens and their struggle of getting their rights and leader effort to continue to push democratic reforms, the democracy will prevail in near future in Pakistan.