

Local Government System: the missing link in Pakistan's governance structure.

Outline

I. Introduction

II. Why Local Government system is a missing link in Pakistan's governance structure?

(A). Lack of political will

case in point: recent deadlock in federal local government elections

(B). Insufficient resources

case in point: findings of JSSI

(C). In-adequate coordination between centre and provinces

Case in point: NFC Award flashpoint

(D). Prevalence of mass illiteracy at grassroot level

case in point: Report of World Bank

(E). Bureaucratic hindrance

case in point: Zia's reforms.

(F). Complex legal frameworks

Case in point: Fafen Report

III. Importance of Local Government system in Pakistan's Governance structure:

(A) Improve service delivery

Case in point: Pakistan a hard country book

(B). Enhance local participation

Case in point: Fafen reports

(C). Build public trust

Case in point: Pakistan's economic survey

IV. How to Bridge the Missing Link of Local Government System?

(A) Providing legal base

Case in point: Article 140 of Constitution of Pakistan

(B). Building consensus among political parties

Case in point: Reference of books named 'Towards stability of Pakistan' by Aysha Jalal

- (C) Allocating resources
- (D) Ensuring timely elections
Case in point: Insights of
Malecha Lodhi
- (E) Delegating authority in true
letter and spirit
Case in point: New Public
Management Concept.

V. Conclusion

Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain, a renowned Pakistani economist and former governor of State Bank of Pakistan, repeatedly shed light on the missing links in the transformation of development to the local level. He stressed on the point that real development and growth would ultimately lie in the bridging the missing link of local Government system. There are several reasons of existing and even widening this missing link. Lack of political will, insufficient resources, and inadequate coordination between centre and provinces are the important ones. Further, prevalence of mass illiteracy at grassroots level is also one of the major hindrance in achieving the demand of local government system. When this missing link will bridge, it ~~has~~ is important in improving the service delivery and enhancing the local participation. However, the question arises that how to bridge the missing links. By providing

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legal base, building committees and
allocating resources, one can resolve
the issue of local Government system
in Pakistan.

In a nutshell, Local Government system in Pakistan, despite importance propounded by Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain is a missing link. The reasons of absence of this system are the bureaucratic hindrance and the complex legal frameworks. This system can be developed by taking some measures. Ensuring timely elections and delegating authority to the locals in true letter and spirit are the precise and important steps in re-igniting the spirit of local Government system in Pakistan.