

CRISIS OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN

PAKISTAN : NEED FOR REFORMS

AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

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OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Understanding Crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan
3. Why there is need for reforms and institutional Building

A To provide basic necessities to underprivileged and reduce poverty
→ 45% of Pakistan's population

living under poverty; Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

B. To provide education with vocational trainings

→ More than 78% of schools are based on rote learning; Dawn

C. To facilitate youth bulge with diverse job opportunities

→ 19.2% youth bulge in Pakistan is unemployed; The Tribune Express

D. To eliminate corruption from the society

→ Pakistan among ^{most} top 10 ~~most~~ corrupt country; Global Global Index Report

E. To ensure transparent and fair justice system

→ 20 million pending cases; Supreme Court of Pakistan

→ 57% chance of adjournments each day; Institute of Justice studies

F. To provide healthy environment to emerging political parties
→ frequent use of hard power against populace leader; Ayesha Jaleel

G. To stabilize economic policies to attract domestic and international investors

→ Around 23% of interest rate in 2023; State Bank of Pakistan

H. To gain competitive edge of strategic location

→ Materializing \$64 billion investment of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

I. To have better standing at international platform

→ Pakistan is aligned with terrorist activities; The Guardian.

4. Hindrances that would be faced while reforms and institutional build.

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A. Massive loan payments in pending
→ 72% of GDP goes to loan payments
Financial Times

B. Austerity measure by financial institutions
→ IMF's austerity measures

5. Pragmatic Approaches that can be adopted for effective reforms and Institutional Building

A. Seeking assistance from friendly countries

→ China and Turkey

B. Strategic sustainable policies and framework for overall country's progress

→ Vision 2030 by Saudi Arabia

6. Conclusion

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World Economic Governance Index (WEGI) has ranked Pakistan to "an "E-Grade" in 2025. This grade illustrates fragility in the governance system of Pakistan. From its independence till today, Pakistan has been the most struggling country. Sometimes its system was disturb by foreign players and sometimes where was conflict of interest in the state institutions. Because of this, regime changes so the policies and frameworks. Having said that, Pakistan has not observed a completion of full tenure by the government from last twenty years (20 years). Currently, Pakistan is crippled with multi-layered governance crisis, that have adversely impacted overall country's progress and development. Therefore, this essay would highlight the understanding crisis of Good Governance in Pakistan. Later on, it would shed some light on the reasons why there is need

for reforms and institution building. Afterwards, it would nullify the hindrances that could be faced while reforms and institution building. Lastly, it would underscore pragmatic approaches that can be adopted for effective reforms and institution building.

To start with, developing nations like Pakistan find themselves in the state of crisis. Various economies after leap and bounds, became a stable and successful nations. For example, Japan was bombed with nuclear blast by the United States of America (USA), after bombardment, Japanese government started again from zero and today it is one of the leader in electronic appliance. ~~Starts~~ Contradictory, Pakistan is still facing good governance crisis because of legging pulling in the government, disagreement between ~~between~~ ~~our~~ ~~institutions~~ and frequent military

intervention. It has violated all ^{indications} elements of good governance, from rule of law to poverty and corruption. Governance can be ensured when state institutions prioritize nations interests and when reforms and institutions are strengthened.

Providing basic necessities to underprivileged and reduce poverty is one of the most urgent reason why reforms and institution building is needed for good governance. Around half of the population in Pakistan live below the poverty line. Owing to this, they are unaware of their basic fundamental rights. ~~that~~ ~~on~~ ~~on~~ which they can demand for better governance. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), approximately poverty-five percent (45%) of people live under the poverty line. When significant portion of population is not mainstreamed then the question of good governance

arises. Thus, basic fulfilment of basic needs and diminishing poverty is the reason why reforms and institutional building need for good governance.

Secondly, providing education with vocational trainings is also responsible factor for the ground of reforms and institutional building for good governance in Pakistan.

When people are educated and literate they demand for their rights, live better life and create harmonious and healthy society. Dawn, an independent newspaper agency, notes that more than seventy eight percent (78%) of ~~pey~~ schools are based on rote learning highlighting the urgency of reforms. With that, western philosopher rightly said that "The roots of education are bitter but its result are fruitful," Aristotle.

Thus, reform and institution building

is necessary in education and vocational training for better governance.

The third reason to be for good governance is facilitating youth bulge with diversity of job opportunities. From the past decade, Pakistan has witnessed an exponential rise in youth population between the age range fifteen to thirty (15- to 30 age). With the cutting edge technologies and innovation, ~~these~~ ^{this} age bracket has high potential when diverse job employment alternatives etc provided. The Tribune Express indicates nineteen point two percent (19.2%) youth is unemployed in Pakistan. When facilities through legal means are not provided they indulge in social evil activities. Thus, accommodating the young population is crucial and necessary for reforms and institution building for good governance.

Eliminating corruption from the vicinity of Pakistan is the fourth ground why reform and institution building is a need of time for better governance. There has been a norm of corruption in every sector and at every level of Pakistan due to which it ~~cause~~ ^{amplify} crisis of good governance. From public institutions to private sector ~~and~~ corruption can be easily identified. Individuals have labelled as a gift instead of bribery. Recently, Global Index Report (GIR) 2025 ranked Pakistan among the top ten (10) countries that ranked high in the corruption. Ergo, corruption causes bottlenecks for the good governance and hence, reform and institution building is ~~also~~ required.

Fifthly, reforms and institution building is need for good governance

because it ensures transparent and fair justice system. Fair trials and verdict without influence helps good governance. P. Sridhar is facing multiple governance crisis because Institute of Justice studies notes that fifty seven percent (57%) is the chances of ~~case~~ cases adjournments per day. That has accumulated around twenty million (20 million) cases in pending in the lower and district courts. Henceforth, fair accountability and trials leads to good governance in Pakistan, that highlighting the need for reforms and institutional building.

To serve healthy environment to emerging political parties is the sixth grand why of reforms are needed for good governance. Each government in power gives difficult time to its opposition. Allegation of corruption,

misuse of authority and mismanagement of the nation's resource are the blamer and grounds on which ~~an~~ suit is filed against the opposition political party leaders, and workers. Ayesha Jilth, in the book, Pakistan: Beyond the State of Crisis mentioned that "frequent use of hard power against populace leader is the also reason for creating weakness in the governance system of Pakistan." All in all, good governance needs reforms and institutional building because of providing healthy political environment.

Stabilizing economic policies to attract domestic and international investors is the seventh ground for the good governance reforms and institutional building. With successive government, economic policies changes that creates uncertain business climate. true entrepreneurs are reluctant to invest

In the Pakistan's boundaries, 2023 was the year when interest rate was average twenty-three percent (23%). Having such high interest rate kills investors confidence. Ergo, for better governance reforms and institution building, it is needed for the prerequisite prerequisite is stable and constant economic policies.

Eightly, gaining the competitive edge of strategic location is also needed for better governance reforms and institutional building. Pakistan's geographic location is a double-edge sword.

That can be used for encashed. Pakistan can facilitate central Asian landlocked countries for transit trade. Moreover, Pakistan also need to materialize China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that has injected dollar sixty four billion (\$64 billion) investment in most diverse sectors of Pakistan including highway and

and energy ~~sectors~~ ~~industries~~ industries.
So, good governance, reform and
institutional building would help to
gain advantage of Pakistan's geographic
location.

Lastly, good governance in Pakistan
needs reform and institution building
because of better standing of inter-
national platform. Afghanistan is a hub
of terrorist groups. Being a neighbour
and sharing 2670 kilometers long
border. Terrorist activities also take
place in Pakistan. Owing to this, The
Guardian illustrates that foreign other
countries see eyes ~~in~~ Pakistan
is also a centre of terrorist groups.
Furthermore, Dr ISPR mentioned
that around 978 ~~of~~ terrorist activities
took place in 2025. Inability to
crab the ~~insurgent~~ ^{terrorist} activities, Pakistan's
governance need to be strengthened.
Thus, for better representation of inter-

strong reform, reform and institution building is need for good governance.

Previous paragraphs highlighted the reason why reform and institution building is required for good governance. Upcoming paragraphs would underscore the hindrance that could be faced while reform and institution building for good governance.

Firstly, massive loan payments is one of the most convincing reason obstacle for the reform and institution building in Pakistan for good governance. Since 1957, Pakistan has been with draining loan from International Monetary Fund (IMF) till today. Owing to which, IMF ~~strongly~~ potentially intervene in the policy-making and reform in Pakistan. Financial Times reflect seventy to eighty percent (70-80%) of loan is paid in

Comparison to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), leaving insufficient budget behind for the reform.

Thus, gigantic loan payment is the barricade for the good governance reform and institution building.

Secondly, austerity measures by IMF is another reason ~~why~~ why good governance is reform face-to-face roadblocks. IMF's recently Extended Fund package brought various austerity measures for Pakistani government and nation. Subsidies were cutted, infrastructure development projects were put at halt and taxes on salaries were increased due to which individuals pinch capitalism and blame government for tax increase that created chaos and further erode the ~~public~~ ^{public} trust in government. Henceforth, austerity measure created a stumbling block for

for good governance reforms and institutional building.

Preceding paragraphs underscored the hindrance of that could be encountered while reform and institution for good governance. Forth coming paragraphs would illustrate pragmatic approaches that can be adopted for effective reform and institution building for good governance.

Seeking assistance from friendly countries is the first way forward for good implementation reform and institution building for good governance. China is Pakistan's close ally and they share "all weather friendship" and they bond is "deeper than ocean and higher than Himalays". China would surely assistance Pakistan in this regard. Even because of Chinese self-interest

of CPEC. Moreover, Pakistan has good
association with Turkey as well.
Help from Turkey government and
ambassadors can be taken for
good governance in Pakistan.

Another way out is to
make strategic and sustainable
policies and framework for overall
country's progress that can help
for good governance reform and
institutions. Pakistan should introduce
~~good~~ project like Vision 2025,
that of Saudi Arabia. That would
change the outlook of Saudi people.
Such initiatives when implemented
with ~~that~~ true spirit will definitely
~~do~~ ^{do} wonders of Pakistan and its
nations. Therefore, sustainable solution
and project would allow Pakistan
for ^{good} governance reform and institutions
building.

To cap it all, each nation
endured crisis and problem in
governance, but those nations became
successful after a struggle. In case
of Pakistan, it is different. It has
been more than seven decades,
centuries is still encountering bottle-
-necks due to inadequacy of justice
system, flawed policies, rampant
poverty, never-ending corruption,
and ~~to~~ economic turbulence.

However, there ~~is~~ a conundrum can
be combated when strategic sustainable
efforts are taken. ~~like~~ such as
providing education, enforcing law
and order, use of economic policies
and overhauling corruption. All problems
have solution so ^{better} ~~good~~ governance
has way out. When those are
implemented with true spirit then
surely Pakistan can achieve its
~~own~~ fundamental goal of good
governance. One need to realise

that some can not build in one day
and greets things take time. So
politician's good governance mechanism
ism.