

Essay Topic: Elections are the only solutions to multi-pronged problems in Pakistan

### Outline:

#### 1. Introduction:

Elections are the solutions to multi-pronged problems in Pakistan is debatable. While on one hand, it is said that elections are solutions in Pakistan, on the other hand, elections are the only panacea to strengthen democracy and ensure political stability.

#### 2. How elections are and are not solution to problems in Pakistan

#### 3. Elections as a Solution to Problems

- a. Elections ensure and strengthen democracy
- b. Elections bring and ensure political stability
- c. Economic stability comes from political stability
- d. Elections ensure to bring public representatives to parliament
- e. Elections guarantee responsible and accountable government

2

#### 4. Elections are not the panacea in Pakistan

- a. Elections do not strengthen democracy in Pakistan because of its dynastic politics
- b. Elections have never ensured political stability in Pakistan till now
- c. Political stability is not the only solution to economic problems in Pakistan
- d. Elections are selections in Pakistan
- e. Elections in Pakistan do not ensure responsible government as each new government blames the previous for past failures

#### 5. Although there are issues in elections, the solution is more elections and more democracy rather than no elections at all

- a. Although dynastic politics, prevails, constitutionally, every eligible Pakistani can participate in elections
- b. The elections of 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2024 prove that Pakistan has achieved political stability in terms of elections in particular
- c. Economy and politics are interrelated and requires each other for stability
- d. Elections are selections is a political slogans of political leaders in Pakistan
- e. elections ensure responsible and accountable governments as they fear public opinion

(5)

"Every election is a sort of advance payment on civilization" is a famous quote of Thornton Wilder, a playwright. This quote highlights the significance of elections. As far as, Pakistan is concerned, elections play key role in strengthening its democracy, and its elections are the solutions to many problems in Pakistan. However, the opponents of democratic process think otherwise. The proponents of democratic process assert that elections ensure and strengthen democracy along with ensuring political stability. They also claim that economic stability comes from political stability. Moreover, they claim that elections bring public representatives to the parliament who are more responsible and accountable than the non-elected ones. On the other hand, the opponents of democratic process assert that elections are futile in the presence of dynastic politics and such a politics neither ensures political stability nor economic stability. They claim that elections in Pakistan are selections which do not lead to responsible and accountable government. However,

(4)

The proponents of electoral process claim that constitution of Pakistan gives rights to its citizens to participate in elections even if the dynastic politics prevails. The elections of 2008, 2013, 2018 and upcoming election of 2024 highlight that Pakistan has achieved political stability in terms of elections in particular. Moreover, they claim that "elections are the elections" is a political slogan in Pakistan. Also, they say that economy and politics are interrelated and depend on each other for its stability and this political and economic stability is brought by responsible and accountable governments.

Moreover, elections ensure and strengthen democracy because elections are the first step to involve public in democratic process. For example, USA and UK, United Kingdom, are the model democracies for the rest of the world due to their continuous and consistent elections and electoral processes. This highlights that elections play key role in strengthening democracy. Thus, elections

(5)

in Pakistan is the only solution to its multi-pronged problems.

Along with strengthening democracy, elections also ensure political stability in any country because the ballot is stronger than bullet. The real and true political stability comes from following the principles of democracy of which election is the first principle. It must be assimilated that all those states have political stability which have elections time to time as per their constitutions. Hence, it indicates that political stability in Pakistan requires continuous and consistent elections to curb the menace of political instability in it.

Elections are not only ensuring political stability, but they also ensure economic stability because economic stability comes from political stability. There are instances of states that showcase that their internal political stability have led to their economic stability. For instance, the political

6

Stability of India and Bangladesh has resulted in their economic growth recently. Thus, this highlights that elections are the solution for economic woes in Pakistan.

In conjunction with economic stability, elections also ensure to bring public representatives to the parliament. These public representatives represent the public in parliament who make policies as per the whims and desires of the nation. With this, the public feel that they are the part of government and they do not feel separated which ultimately strengthens the state. For instance, the strength of the American democracy is due to the people as said by Abraham Lincoln, "democracy is the ~~form~~ government of the people, for the people and by the people." Hence, in democracy people are the integral part of the system in one way or the other which ultimately result in unity and strength of the nation. Hence, elections in Pakistan unite and strengthen the people by electing their representatives.

Furthermore, elections guarantee responsible and accountable government that act cautiously because they do not risk to violate public opinion and sentiments. Elections make the leaders responsible because if they can be elected through elections, they can also be deposed through elections. Thus, such leaders do not make arbitrary laws and always respect fundamental human rights of the citizens. Hence, this highlights that elections are also the solution for ensuring fundamental human rights through responsible and accountable elected members of parliament.

However, the opponents of democratic process and elections think otherwise. They claim that elections do not strengthen democracy in Pakistan because of the presence of dynastic politics. For instance, they claim that the democracies such America and England do not have dynastic politics which is why their democracies are strong as compared to Pakistani form of democracy. Hence, it indicates that elections are not the

8

solution to multi-pronged problems of Pakistan.

Along with this, they assert that elections have never ensured political stability in Pakistan. They say that the elections of 2008, 2013, <sup>and</sup> 2018 have not achieved political stability in Pakistan. Therefore, according to them, elections are wastage of time and money of the taxpayers. If three consecutive elections failed to ensure political stability, it is unlikely that future elections will bring any change. Hence, Pakistan should focus on other solutions that considering elections as the only panacea for its ills.

Moreover, political stability is not the only solution to economic stability, because by ensuring good governance, accountability and curbing corruption can ensure economic stability. According to them, Pakistan is only badly governed state which if governed properly, can lead to economic prosperity. For instance, Pakistan



9

has experienced economic growth in unelected governments rather than elected ones. Thus, this highlights that elections are not the only solutions to its economic woes.

Along with this, they claim that elections are selections in Pakistan due to unprecedented military involvement in Pakistani Politics. These slogans are raised by political leaders of Pakistan such as "Vote Ko Izzat Do" which means "respect the vote" and slogans of "Haqeeqi Azadi" of a renowned political leader highlights that elections are manipulated in Pakistan. Thus, this highlights that elections in Pakistan are flawed and cannot be trusted. Hence, elections are not the solution to its problems.

Not only elections are selections, but also elections do not ensure responsible and accountable government in Pakistan because each new government blames the previous government for its failures. For instance, the PTI government after 2018 election blamed PMLN for the

### Problems of Pakistan and Pakistan

Democratic Movement (PDM) government after the ouster of PM, blamed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government for the problems of Pakistan. Thus, it highlights that Pakistani elections do not ensure responsible government.

On the other hand, the proponents of democratic process are optimistic and they claim that constitutionally each eligible citizen of Pakistan can participate in elections as per the fundamental rights of the constitution even if there is dynastic politics in Pakistan. For example, independent candidates' elections highlight that constitutionally elections are democratic rather than dynastic. Also, such elections will curb the menace of family politics in Pakistan. Hence, elections are the solution to its political problems.

In conjunction with this, Pakistan has achieved political stability to a great extent due to its regular elections.

(11)

The elections of 2008, 2013, 2018, and now the upcoming election prove that Pakistan is on the right path of achieving political stability and strengthening its weak democracy.

Thus, this highlights that political stability in terms of elections in particular has been achieved.

Furthermore, the economy and politics are interrelated which means one can not be separated from the other. Political stability depends on economic stability and economic stability depends on political stability. According to the book, "Why Nations Fail", the failure of states lie in both political and economic poor policies. This highlights that inclusive economic and political policies ensure their stabilities. Hence, politics and economy can not be separated from each other, and their stability can be achieved through elections.

Moreover, "elections are selections"

(12)

is a political slogan in Pakistan. All those leaders who are defeated in elections blame the winners of elections. For instance, the ousted PM of PTI government was blamed for being selected by a parliamentarian in parliament without any prove in court. Thus, it is only a political slogan which holds no significance in electoral process which is carried out as per the constitution of Pakistan.

Along with this, elections ensure responsible and accountable governments as they fear public opinion. The people in any democracy are integral part of electoral process. They elect the leaders who serve them according to their wishes and desires. The elected members hardly take risk to go against the public because they know that public can overthrow them in elections. Thus, elections bring responsible and accountable governments.

In summation, Elections are the only solution to multi-pronged problems of Pakistan although the opponents of electoral process think and claim otherwise. Elections ensure democracy which results in political stability. This political stability leads to economic stability. Political and economic stability is thus achieved through elections. The panacea of political and economic instability not in no elections, but in more elections and more democracy.

