

ELECTIONS ARE THE ONLY SOLUTION TO MULTI-PRONGED PROBLEMS IN PAKISTAN

Outline:

01) Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Elections are the cornerstone to thrive democracy and equality in the country. However, it brings transparency, supremacy of rule of law and economic growth by diminishing corruption and inequality. Hence, by strengthening electoral system and commission brings prosperity and peace in Pakistan.

02) Understanding multi-pronged problems in Pakistan

03) Reasons of Election's delay in Pakistan:

- a) Severe political polarization in the country
- b) Economic stagnation hinders the state to conduct smooth election process
- c) Increasing terrorism becomes a threat to the security of the voters.

04) Why elections are the only solution to multi-pronged problems in Pakistan:

- a) Elections bring supremacy of law and reduce the inequality and autocracy
- b) Constitutional crisis will be reduced after conducting elections on time
- c) Political stability will prevail in the country
- d) A stable country, politically, attracts foreign investor, hence, economic growth
- e) A democratically elected leader prioritises the inclusivity in decision-making and reduces

national disintegration.

- f) Elections play a pivotal role in portraying soft and positive image of the country across the globe
- g) Democratic leaders work to enhance education and youth development, therefore, illiteracy may decrease.
- os) ~~How elections will ease~~ implications of elections on the multi-pronged problems in Pakistan:
 - a) Inclusivity in decision-making enhances the trust and strengthens the patriotism and nationalism
 - b) Economic growth accelerates due to investment
 - c) Social stability due to rule of law
 - d) Job opportunities reduce the unemployment ratio and brings development in the country.
- ob) Conclusion.

ESSAY:

Imagine, a country is facing huge challenges, hurdles and obstacles. The masses of the country are fighting with each other and a social unrest persists. The state is not taking any action and is in continuous struggle to sustain their power status. Corruption prevails, inequality and crimes further exacerbating the problems, but, the state is not moving towards conducting elections. Resultantly, this country presents a grim and bleak picture of social crimes and economic stagnation. Such is the situation of Pakistan, in contemporary times. However, the reasons behind the delaying of elections are, severe political polarization, economic stagnation and terrorism which limits the state to conduct elections for the security of the voters. Contrary to this, the present situation will be resolved only by conducting elections. Because, elections brings supremacy of law, resolves constitutional crisis and brings political stability. Not only this, but also a stable country brings foreign investors and attracts huge investment which resolves/solves the economic hurdles. Moreover, a democratically elected leaders promotes inclusivity in decision-making and reduces national disintegration challenges. They work to enhance education and youth development which ultimately portrays a good image of the country across the globe. All these impacts the multipronged problems in Pakistan. Such as, inclusivity in

decision-making enhances the trust of masses and strengthen nationalism. Also, economic growth accelerates and brings social stability in the country, as, it also creates jobs which reduce the unemployment and poverty from the country. In essence, elections are the cornerstone of thriving democracy and equality in the country. It brings transparency, supremacy of rule of law and economic growth by diminishing corruption and constitutional crisis. Hence, by strengthening electoral system and commission leads country towards prosperity and peace.

Before delving into the reasons, why elections are the only solution to multi-pronged problems in Pakistan, first understand what are the multi-facet issues of the country. In contemporary times, the country is facing extreme political polarization due to intolerance towards various opinions and perspectives. The current economic situation is presenting a grim and bleak picture as, there is a persistent balance of payment crisis and current account deficits. Moreover, the social fabric of the country is deteriorated badly, such as; extremist ideologies prevails, sectarian conflicts increased and social crimes are skyrocketing. Therefore, one can now clearly understand why elections are the only solutions,

to resolve multi-pronged problems in Pakistan.

Starting with the reasons of elections delay in the country. First, political polarization is prevailing in the country. It occurs when an electorate's attitudes towards various issues and problems are divided along party lines. Pakistan, however, is struggling with this menace, as, various parties are fighting with each other for sustaining their influence and power. They forget their role in the politics, that is to provide easiness and enough resources to the citizens. For example, in present situation, various opposition parties are hesitating to participate in elections and avoiding to conduct polls, because a huge number of masses are supporting PTI. Hence, the fear of being defeated makes the parties to delay elections.

Second, the economic situation of the country is also becoming a hurdle in conducting elections on time. For conducting election process, the Election Commission (EC) has ~~en~~ requires a plethora of things and payment to pay to the vendors. However, currently, Pakistan is ~~amazed~~ suffering with dwindling foreign exchange reserves and has faced the risks of default. It makes difficult for the country to conduct elections as prescribed by the constitution. Currently, Pakistan is indebted of \$100+

billion, it is only an external debt on the country. Therefore, ~~the~~ economic stagnation becomes a hurdle in conducting elections.

Third, the country is facing a new wave of terrorism which threatens the security of the voters along with the political leaders. Terrorism is the psychological and ideological warfare to threaten the state in order to fulfill their demands. Pakistan is fearing because of the security of the voters. The reason is, terrorist attacks are now entered inside the country's security checkpoints and harm the crowded places for huge casualties. According to Pakistan institute of security conflict, in half of the 2023 year, almost 271 casualties are happened, soldiers were martyred. Hence, due to security concerns, elections ~~are~~ were delayed.

Only to On the contrary, elections are the only solution to multi-pronged problem in Pakistan. Because, elections brings supremacy of rule of law and reduce inequality and autocracy from the country. Rule of law defines as a principle of governance in which every individual, institution and public or private entities adhere to law, which is publically promulgated and equally enforced. Therefore, elections is the pathway for bring justice and equality

in the country, because, an elected leader has ability to enforce law of rule and provide justice to everyone. For example, in many democratic states across the world, elections resolve many issues of corruption and inequality by choosing a leader with people's choice. Hence, elections can resolve the absence of law problem of the country.

When rule of law implemented in the country, constitutional crisis will also be reduced.

Constitutional crisis is a situation in which many political and economic disputes cannot be clearly resolved on the basis of present unconstitutional means.

After election delays, Pakistan has faced a plethora of constitutional crisis because elections should be held within 90 days of the assembly after the previous assembly dissolved. In Pakistan, when the coalition

government stepped down, the elections were not held as per the constitutional standings and crisis prevail.

Hence, constitutional crisis will be resolved if elections happen on the defined date.

Moreover, when elections conduct on the prescribed date, it will bring political stability in the country. The role of elections in political landscape is pertinent, without free and fair elections political situation will deteriorate and disrupts the country. In Pakistan, a democratic state,

elections will happen after every five-years of tenure.

However, in this year, elections were not held on the date as set by constitution due to which political unrest increased and many various issues accelerated. Such as, many opposition parties were fighting each other and had used all the malign tactics to downgrade the other parties, an unrest situation. Hence, elections will resolve the issues of politics and ^{bring} stability.

A politically stable state attracts foreign investors which reduces the impact of economic deterioration. Stability in the country shows rules and regulations to the foreign investors and enhances their trust. However, due to political polarization, the investors are hesitant to invest because of the fear of loss. As a result, the economy becomes affected adversely which caused many issues. Such as, many foreign countries were closed their branches amid the regime change in April 2022 and affected the economy. Therefore, if elections were held on time, the issue related to economy will resolve.

Furthermore, a democratically elected leader prioritises the inclusivity in decision-making. It reduces the problems of national disintegration. National disintegration means masses are not tolerating each other views and are not

accepting each other culture, hence, results in chaos and social unrest. Pakistan is a multi-ethnic society which increases the risks of ethnic divide and social unrest. Therefore, an elected leader will include the masses from the various ethnicities and draft a policy with diverse opinions. Hence, if elections happen democratically, it will reduce the issues of national integration and bring prosperity in the country.

Apart of this, elections play a pivotal role in portraying soft image of the country internationally. Soft image or power means the use of a persuasive approach through cultural marketing, economic strength or democratic standards to influence and attract others. Elections shape the image of the country in the global arena by portraying itself a democratic state and which prioritise its public. For example, the regime change in Pakistan in 2022 gave a bad image of the country across the globe, because of removing a democratically elected leader through horse riding. Therefore, this is how elections can mend the relations with various actors and institutions.

Similarly, Pakistan is facing a huge crisis in its education sector which exacerbate the current situation of the country. Education becomes an achille's heel for Pakistan because of negligence

attitude of leaders towards this significant sector. A democratically elected leader has ability to enhance the quality education because he knows how education can resolve the multi-facet issues of the country. For instance, ~~an~~ an elected leader knows how education transform the social fabric and enhance economic growth, due to this, he prioritises the education and skill development. Hence, elections can resolve the increasing education challenges after the crisis of economy and climate change.

All these bring a positive impact and prospect for the country. Such as, inclusivity in decision making enhances the trust and strengthen nationalism. Nationalism is defined as the identification of one's own nation and support for its country interest. When leaders prioritise to include the masses from various multi-ethnic societies, it will increase the trust and enhance the sense of identification and consideration. Such as, it reduces the impacts of ignorance from decades. Pakistan's recent elections can use this strategy to resolve the Balochistan uprising and protests. Hence, elections provide a stable society with integrity and community cohesion.

In the same manner, economic

growth accelerates when investors are ready to invest in a country. Foreign investment is crucial for the development of developing countries because they are unable to advance their infrastructure with limited finances. Pakistan's elections can resolve its economic issues, because a democratic elected leader prioritise accountability and work for the welfare of the state. It is evident by the recent initiation of special investment facilitation council (SIFC) to attract the foreign investors by influencing them the country is not in chaos and instability. Therefore, economic development increases after the elections done.

As well as, social stability persists due to implementation of rule of law. Social stability means there must be a rest in the society, there will not any social chaos and crimes in the country. It is done by the rule of law implementation. As, the law holds accountable to everyone, brings justice and equality in the society. Also, rule of law reduces the risk of abuse of power, which can often trigger social unrest and violence. Such as, access to easy justice reduces the grievances of the masses towards state and legal system provide peaceful resolution which reduces conflicts and tensions from the society. Therefore, elections held when elections held on time, the rule of law persists and provide social stability.

Last but not least, job opportunities will increase when economic growth accelerates. Dearth of employment brings social unrest and increases social crimes because of hunger and frustration. If When elections will be would be done, it promised the country growth and development, ultimately the industries became advanced and create jobs for various names in the country. Such as, an economically advance country and stable country provide a landscape to skilled and educated masses to start their startups and brings them to higher level, which creates jobs for many and reduce state burden. Therefore, elections may provide easy and smooth system for industrial development and create jobs.

In quintessence, elections are the backbone for thriving democracies and solution to multi-facet challenges faced by the country. However, delay elections were delayed due to economic constraints and security concerns. But, ~~that~~ this is the only solution to resolve political polarization, economic limitations, social unrest and disintegration. As, it will bring prosperity by economic advancement and political stability. Pakistan can make it through by conducting free and fair elections and uplift the country to high standards, as it did before.

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