

## Topic: Elections are the only solution to multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan

### Essay Outline

#### 1. Introduction

Thesis statement: Elections determine the future of a country by solving many problems but not necessarily in all cases. Historically, in Pakistan elections have negligible effects on growth and development. Hence, elections are not the only solution to the multiprolonged problems in Pakistan.

#### 2. Decoding role of Elections - Electing Political representative

#### 3. Elections are not the only solution to multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan (Thesis)

- a. Political representatives have been unable to address poverty
- b. Debt-circular has been on the rise due to elected leaders
- c. Democracy has been failed to mitigate corruption
- d. Elections would less likely impacts separatist movements
- e. Elected leadership would not

raise soft image of Pakistan

4. Elections are the Only solution to the multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan (Antithesis)

a. Millions of Pakistanis are being catered in their basic needs through Benazir Income Support

b. IMF loans helped developing countries to become regional power

c. Accountability and transparency have uplift Germany from war-ridden to effective democratic state.

d. Territorial integrity had been challenged during authoritarian regime in Pakistan (1971)

e. Under elected BJP governments in India soft image has increased

5. Not Elections but Proactive Policies of State are solution to the pro-longed issues in Pakistan

a. Negligible monthly amount makes Pakistanis better not takes them out of poverty

b. Foreign loans are not cure but disease to economy in long-term

c. Democracy lacks true essence

in Pakistan

d. East Pakistan has been putted due to lack of provisions promised by democracy

e. Soft image of authoritarianism regimes has also developed in the world

6. Conclusion:

2024 year will be the game-changer - an Indian media has gambled. This year would undergo elections in key players states of the geopolitical world. USA, India, Russia and many more, but the question is whether these elections would bring any positive change in Pakistan? Although, elections determine the future of a country by solving problems, but not necessarily in all cases. Historically, in Pakistan elections have negligible effects on growth and development. Therefore, elections are not the only solution to the multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan. This can be seen from the history of the country where no political representatives have been able to address socio-economic evils. Nonetheless, many of the social welfare programs have been designed to mitigate poverty and crimes, yet they only played role of adding fifth wheel in the vehicle. Thus, elections are not the only solutions to the multi-prolonged problems in Pakistan due to a weak governance.

Elections play a central role in determining who will rule the country for a specific period of time. Elections are the process of casting vote in favour of any political candidate who the voter wants to be ruled by. In democratic model of governance, people often vote for the person - who ~~prom~~ comes with certain slogans of reforms such as provision of justice and safety and security. Under the process of casting votes, people have right to choose their political representative. Free and fair elections is one of the basic ingredients of democracy. Hence every election is determined by the people who show up (Larry J. Sabato).

When it comes to the question of elections in Pakistan, political representatives, elected by the people have been unable to resolve socio-economic problems in the country. Although, the efforts were made by forefathers to make Pakistan democratic state

which means elections were crucial to be held, yet the country has failed to address poverty like ills. 95 million people in Pakistan lives below the poverty line (World Bank, report, 2023). This shows gloomy picture of Pakistan despite continuous elections of 2008, 2013, 2018 etc. Thus, elections are not the only solution to the ills of destitute in Pakistan.

Moreover, Pakistan is the third largest borrower of IMF which shows that external debt has been on the rise despite elected leadership. The external debt has multiplied since the democratic charter signed in 2008 between PPP and PML N - two biggest political parties in the country. In 2006 External Debt was 9.25% which rose raised to 17.78% in 2008 (www.macrotrends.pk). This can be ascertained from ongoing deal signed in 2018 with IMF during elected government of PTI aimed at \$8 billion to maintain current account deficit. Hence, Elected representatives resulted from election are not the only solution

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

to economic stagnation in Pakistan.

Besides, constitutionally Pakistan is a democratic state, however, democratic governance has been failed to mitigate corruption. The poison of corruption has been persistent in the country from the top leadership to the clerical level posts corrupt practices of nepotism, and Ribba have been common. This shows that despite pre-requisite of transparency, democracy in Pakistan has not reap its fruits. For instance, Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 countries (Transparency International, CPI, 2023). This indicates that elections or elected governments are not the only solution to multi-prolonged issue of maladministration in the country.

Furthermore, elections do not impacts separatists movements in Pakistan. Social unity has been on risk in the country due to unequal treatment of all provinces by elected rulers. Since the formation of provinces in 1970 Baluchistan has been deprived of its due

rights. This can be seen from December-March of Balochs towards Islamabad 2023. These movements show weak fabric of society which has not been addressed by elected representatives. Thus, elections are not the only solution to the prolonged issue of separatism in Pakistan.

Last but not the least, elections would not serve the purpose of foreign policy aims of raising soft image of Pakistan. The reason behind it is rigged elections in the country. International watchdogs have already announced that upcoming elections would must be fair in Pakistan otherwise the results are unacceptable. In this state of affairs where certain parties are denied to participate, chances of soft image are negligible. This shows that elections are not the only solution to the persistent negative image of Pakistan on international arena.



In contrast, some geopolitical analyst argue that elections are the only solution to the socio-economic ills in Pakistan. In Pakistan, to them, millions of people are being entered in their basic needs by the programs designed by elected representatives. The second largest political party - PPP's slogan was to provide Roti-Kapra-Makan (Food, cloth, and shelter). Resultantly, under Benazir Income Support program people are given monthly amounts of 12000. This shows that elected leaders are thriving to mitigate poverty in Pakistan.

Moreover, international loans help states to grow economically. In the time of need IMF is the only door to knock out to resolve economic issues. Their loans inject much liquidity in the exchequer of the country's growth. For example, in 1980s, India went structured Adjustment program of IMF which assisted technically India. As a result of it today India is the 5th largest economy in

the world. Thus, elected regimes only are eligible pave the way for India to grow and become second regional power.

Furthermore, accountability and transparency are two pre-requisite of elected leadership or elections. They help to transform country tremendously socio-economically. In democratic states institutions of accountability if strong uplift them miraculously. For instance, strong accountability of German Chancellor enable them to work for the state's prosperity. This has transformed the country from war-ridden state to socio-economically stable. It has become possible through elections. Hence, elections are the only solution to the problems of any state.

Besides, in Pakistan territorial integrity has been challenged during unelected government in 1971. The reason behind separation of East Pakistan was pro-long military rule and absence of elected-representative. This caused independence of

Eastern wings of Pakistan. Therefore, it can be said that elections are the only solution to protect territorial integrity of Pakistan against more separatist ~~movement~~ movements.

Last but not the least many of developing countries have been able to raise their soft image under elected representatives. Elected leaders send good gesture to other countries, because political calm is pre-requisite to invite FDI etc. For example, India recently attracted many foreign delegation towards the beauty of Srinagar by hosting G20 summit there. This has contributed positively in the soft image of that India which shows election are the only solution to prolonged issues in Pakistan.

On the other hand, despite having arranged elections in last two decades, Pakistani scenario portray negative image which shows elections are

not the only solutions to the multi-protonged issues in the country. The amount of money given under BBSX makes Pakistani masses dependent on governmental wazifa. This does not take them out of poverty but rather makes them better. In spite of elected leaders' programs, the problem of poverty persist in Pakistan. This shows that elections are not the only solution to ~~miti~~ eradicate poverty in Pakistan.

Moreover, foreign loans are not cure to the economic issues but disease in long term. The neo-liberal policies of IMF lacks wider plans such as reducing income inequalities and poverty reduction (Stalzed Theory of Economy).

Although Pakistan went **2<sup>nd</sup>** times at the IMF dock, however, the current account deficit persists which made currency devalued 40% since 2020. This indicates

that IMF loans are not helpful in long-term. Hence, the relationship between elected leadership and IMF loans closely linked together however, does not help in addressing multi-prolonged issue of existing existing debt in Pakistan.

Besides, democracy in Pakistan lacks true essence. The country has poor law and order, judicial system is weak, and elections are often manipulated by funded lords. For instance, the institution of accountability is not robust in Pakistan like that of Germany's. Despite constitutional provision of Article 19, citizens do not have access to information in Pakistan. This shows that elections are not the only solution to strengthening democracy in Pakistan.

Likewise, East Pakistan had been parted from Pakistan

due to lack of basic provision to the Bengali population. Although democracy demands equal and fair treatment of people by promoting slogan of - government of the people, however, deprivation felt by East Pakistanis resulted in partition. This shows that not authoritarian government, but lack of basic provisions resulted in separatism. Hence, elections are not the only solution to the issues faced by Pakistan.

Last but not the least, soft image of a country depends on the visionary leadership not elected leadership. A leader with vision and charisma is able to formulate effective policies which leads to rising soft image of a country. For instance, China is an authoritarian state, the leader is not elected, yet it has been successfully raised its soft image in the world. This shows that elections are not the only solution

to the negative image of Pakistan on global level.

To encapsulate this essay, it would be pertinent to state that not elections but effective leadership—selected or elected is the solution to the multi-prolonged issues in Pakistan. History witnessed many elections in Pakistan, however, the country is being faced with multi socio-economic issues ranging from poverty to corruption. Although, many measures have been taken by elected governments to address these issues, but they all lack vision and resulted in negative image of the country. Therefore, it can be concluded that elections are not the only solution to the multi-prolonged issues in Pakistan.