

Q: Political stability is mandatory for economic prosperity in Pakistan. Elaborate?

Introduction:

Political instability weakens the economical growth rate

Political inst. negatively impacted the economic life, ↑ inflation, ↓ FDI, ↑ corruption & poverty

As from 1999 when military regime ousted the civil govt, the economy grow

It shows that during political instability economic growth of the country remains low.

"Good governance is one of the most imp. factor in economic growth & social wellbeing"
~ Joe Condale

Relationship b/w Political & Economic Prosperity

Pol. Stab. means where the political system continues without any interruption.

e.g:- Regular holding of election.

Strengthening legislature, executive & judiciary

Non interference of political actors in

Administrative machinery of state.

Economic prosperity implies improvement in economic conditions of people, their living standards and jobs.

The Economy in support of such strong political environment will ensure steady growth.

There is an obvious link b/w the two.

"without political stability there can be no economic prosperity (...), that's the bottom line" ~ Ray Jovanovich

Persistent Situation of Political Instability in Pakistan and its impacts :-

since 1970 → experiencing fluctuating growth rate
→ great political turmoil ^{result in} war

even today weak pol. institutions left loopholes in country's political system which are being exploited by non political actors. TLP exploit Islamic ^{character of} constitution to create violent

disturbance in capital territory. It affects the country law and order, increase extremism and violence. It brings instability resulting in ^{bad} economic growth.

Pak GDP has fluctuated b/w 5% & 2% for decades due to political instability.

The biggest challenge of Pakistan ^{how} to improve our state institutions and governance, so we can tap our potential.

- Imran Khan

How is political stability Mandatory For Economic prosperity in Pakistan?

Political instability has caused multiple problems for Pakistan, including a lack of FDI, vulnerable law and order situation, rampant corruption and nepotism and interference of military elites in the country's political system.

Pak need necessity of pol. stability for economic development in Pakistan.

1. The smooth running of state with proper implementation of policies :-

- Economic growth in Pak. can't be achieved if country's policies are not executed religiously.
- The gap b/w theory and practice creates room for uncertainty.

" Developing policies with a lack of implementation is like planting a tree that doesn't produce a fruit "

• Increase productivity & employment opportunities

Economy can be uplift through increased productivity of industrial units and creation of employment opportunities.

Improved law & order → industrial units working in the country work efficiently.

↑ productivity & yield, enhance the supply and exports of Pakistan, generate employment opportunities for people.

These positive impacts help economy of Pak to grow.

• monitoring of institutional efficiencies:

efficient monitoring of institutions help its economy.

It rampant nepotism and corruption

- Making efficient long-term policies for handling of resources
efficient handling of country's natural resources due to govt's long-term policies.

lack of long-term policies^{or} incumbent govt discards the previous govt's policies.
So the newly govt opted short term policies which proved futile in long run.

Creating an environment lucrative for investment.
political stability → attract Foreign investment paving way for economic development.
lack of pol. stab., worsened law & order situation result in low FDI. Economy become aid driven.

How political stability be attained in PAKISTAN
Political stab → leads to → Economic stability & Prosperity.

- Take pragmatic steps to attain pol. stab.
- Independent Judiciary (non biased/neutral.)
- separation of power among pillar of state should be followed in true spirit.
- National interest above personal.
- Effective monitoring system
- law & order to be managed well to deter notorious elements of society such as extremist religious groups.

Critical Analysis:-

Various elements responsible for the worsened political scenario of country.

- ① Role of military leadership interfering in country's pol. Affairs.
initially by martial law now backstaged manoeuvres in system.
- ② power play b/w opposition party & govt impacted country's pol. system objective is to gain power & seat.
These hinder economic growth.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, pol. stability is a prerequisite to economic prosperity.

The frequent shift / ~~switch~~ ^{switch} of policies create volatility, & ^(damage) negatively affecting economic performance.

Despite enormous economic resource, it remained in dark shadows, pol. instability has flourished corruption & lack of efficient administration.

It's time to take immediate action for stable political system to enhance chances of investment, employment & productivity.

Local Government System in Pakistan

Improving governance in Pakistan has been an elusive dream till date. LG is one of the vital organ of the state through which programs of development are formulated and implemented for a community.

The democratically elected members at the local govt level represent the community and advocate its interests in the social and economic development of the area.

Three Tiers of govt :

- 1) Federal
- 2) Provincial
- 3) Local (lowest tier, internationally regarded as the best system of governance).

It is the level of govt and public administ closest to citizens and effective in providing many public services. It is important for the legitimacy and stability of institution of democratic governance.

Acc to Duane Lockard, It is defined as "A public institution, allowed organizing and controlling public schemes and plan within a specified territory, the latter is a portion of the central govt."

(The politics of state & local govt)

In the Book "Elements of politics" Dr Henry says "local govt is a govt of some subdivision that has specified authorities to publish rule & regulations within the area which they control."

Advantages of LG System :-

- Empowerment of ppl at grassroot level
- Access to public service at local level
- Emergence of political leaders; Nursery for democ,

- public participation in decision-making
- Accountability of the local govt to the general public.

Constitutional provisions that stipulate the LG system in Pakistan:

Article 32 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan reads:

"The state shall encourage local govt institutions composed of elected representatives of the area concerned and in such institutions special representation will be given to peasants workers & women."

Article 140 A (1) of constitution is also relevant in this regard.

Historical perspective of LG system:-

- The pre independence era
- The system introduced by General M. Ayub Khan
- The system introduced by Gen. M. Zia ul Haq
- The system introduced by Gen Pervez Musharraf

It is ironic that all 3 experiments in decentralization of power have been instituted at the behest of non representative military regime.

The Elected govt, following the military regimes, saw the local govt as their rivals and ignored/suspended the system introduced by military regime to achieve objectives:-

- Marginalizing the mainstream political parties
- Strengthening the military regimes
- Gaining legitimacy or their regime which were without any constitutional cover.

2. LG System in Pre-Independence Era :

Major problem with this local govt. system was that it was not built on the traditional structure of the local governance like Panchayat.

Members of the LG system were not locally elected but were nominated by British Bureaucracy.

Deputy Commissioner, the office of non-representative central bureaucracy was the principal actor in the system.

This system was not connected with the grass root realities.

LG System under M. Ayub Khan

Two ordinances ~~were~~ regulated ~~under~~ the functioning of local govt system under Gen. M. Ayub Khan :

- Basic Democracies Ordinance, 1959
- The municipal Administration ordinance 1960.
- credit may be given to Gen. M. Ayub for that his regime made the 1st attempt after independence to reform the local Administration.

It was the 1st ever opportunity provided to the public to elect their representatives.

Development functions, though limited, were devolved to the local level.

Provincial Assemblies & National Assembly were disbanded.

Hence, under a strong center it was the only functional tier of the govt.

This system was controlled by the Deputy Commissioner, Commissioner & provincial Govt which had the power to quash the proceedings and suspend resolutions passed by any

These councils were headed by the bureaucrats at tehsil, District & Division level.

LG System under Gen. M. Zia ul Haq

It was regulated by local Govt ordinance, 1979
→ 2 tiers in the rural setup were.

1. Union council

2. Zila council

→ Urban setup had 4 tiers

• Town Committee

• Municipal Committee

• Municipal Corporation

• Metropolitan Corporation

Select

30%

Elect

70%

3 Tier system

District Council

Taluka

Union Council

Power kam logoun k
bath main ho

He though PPI of Pakistan
not able to govern
themselves.

• Role of Bureaucracy curtailed: No official members were made part of the Council;
• Public representatives comprised and headed the councils.

• Adequate representation was given to women peasant workers & minorities.

• Councils were dependent upon provincial govt. for allocation of funds.

• Although, the provincial administration retained suspension powers and the powers to quash resolution and proceedings during the Zia period, their control over local govt. functioning through direct representation was loosened.

• This was a significant change from BDO (1959) & MAO (1960)

• Local elections were held on non party basis in order to neutralize the influence of political parties.

DC - King of district - 259 laws & power.

(Liberal model)

LG System under Gen. Pervez Musharraf

- This system was based on local Govt ordinance 2001.
- It was introduced as the "Devolution of Power" Plan by Gen. P. Musharraf in Jan 2000 & implemented after a series of LG elections that ended by August 2001.
- District Nazim was the head of the local Govt. at District level.
- The office of the DC was abolished. Its name was changed to District Coordination Officer who reported to District Nazim. Earlier DCs reported to the non-elected provincial secretariate.
- It was a 3-tier system.
 - District Govt / Zila Council headed by Zila Nazim
 - Tehsil Council / Town Council headed by Tehsil Nazim / Town Nazim. (ppl can govern themselves)
 - Union Council headed by a Union Nazim.
- Govt officials and the department were under the supervisions of Zila Nazim, Tehsil or Town Nazim at their respective levels.

Important functions of Local Govt :-

Importance can be gauged by the functions they perform. There is likelihood that in absence of a strong LG system, the imp. function would be ignored.

- Decision power closer to ppl
- Municipal service will be efficient
- Breeding ground for new leadership
- Great public participation
- MPA will concentrate on original work

Benefits

- Provision and maintenance of streets, slaughter house, public parks, playgrounds
- Libraries and public places
- Registration of Births & deaths
- Sanitation
- Water supply
- Lighting
- Cleanliness
- Acquiring & maintenance of graveyards
- Collection of Land Revenue
- Settlement of local disputes
- Development work
- Monitoring of working of the govt. departments
- Administrative and financial discipline
- Supervision of law & order
- Relief operations in disasters or national calamities
- Sports and cultural events
- Prevention and removal of encroachments
- Collection and maintenance of statistical info for socio-economic surveys

Flaws in our LG system

LG were introduced by non-representative regimes in order to gain legitimacy for the military regime and sideline the main stream political parties who could oppose those. Thus, the intention behind installing these systems was to strengthen the military regime instead of improving the local public services.

Problems

- Imp subj are still hold by provincial govt
- Edu. solid wastemang.
- Limited financial powers
- Bound by provincial discretion - Need permission for everything
- CM can dissolve local govt system before expire

- There was no political ownership of these systems. It is for this reason that these LGs were disbanded by the subsequent elected govt. who saw these local govt. as their competitors & rivals.
- These systems have never been financially empowered and self-sustaining.
- LG elections were held on non-party basis which were detrimental to strengthening the political institutions and democracy.

Recommendations for a viable & efficient LG system:

- Elected public representatives should be trained and educated in the areas of service delivery, role of local govt in good governance, and laws and rules governing the LG bodies. They should be given awareness on the importance of financial and administrative discipline. All dept. and the govt. officials should be under the supervision of elected office holders of LGs.
- LG elections should be held on party basis.
- The LGs should be financially empowered, administratively independent and operationally autonomous.
- There shall be a system of audit and inspection at the provincial level to measure the performance of the LGs at district level. Chief Minister office may formulate the key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the

Performance of all the district Govt.
This would create a healthy competition
among all district govt.

Conclusion:-

In Pak, Politicians & bureaucrats have traditionally failed to strengthen the local govt. structures despite the fact that they are nurseries for all democratic structures. It is because those in power and have authority consider local representation a burden. local govt. are considered a threat to the status quo.

An absence of elected local govt. manifests a disregard for the spirit of democracy. It is due to the delays in establishing this third tier of governance that the processes of development and good governance come to an abrupt hold at local level.