

## ENGLISH ESSAY

# "Elections are the only Solution to the multi- pronged problems in Pakistan"

## Outline

### 1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: The delay in elections and the absence of a stable government has brought multi-pronged problems in Pakistan. Due to which instability has prevailed in each sector and people's sufferings are increasing. Therefore free and fair elections are the only solution to tackle multifaceted problems of Pakistan.

### 2) An overview of how Elections and multi-pronged problems <sup>in</sup> Pakistan are linked

### 3) How elections are the only solution to address multi-pronged problems in Pakistan

- a) Elections will rejuvenate the democratic process in the country to grant people their basic rights
- b) Free and fair elections will improve Pakistan's rank on International Democratic Index.
- c) Elections will bring political stability in the country which will boost the confidence of investors.
- d) Elections and a stable government will attract Foreign Direct Investments and international aids to overcome economic problems.
- e) Elections can pave the way to stabilize the destabilized security situation of Pakistan.
- f) Elections and stable government will protect the minorities and reduce the ethnic conflicts to ensure national integrity.
- g) Elections will pave the way to overcome the confrontation <sup>among</sup> ~~between~~ state institutions.
- h) Elections and a stable government would be able to address the domestic

problems of the country

i) Elections and a stable Govt. will be a step forward to uphold the supremacy of the constitution

j) Elections can make a Govt. with public mandate which will be answerable about its performance.

k) Elections can bring a Govt. which will represent Pakistan at international forums to powerfully raise Pakistan's concerns in geopolitics

3) How Pakistan can conduct early elections to overcome multi-faceted challenges.

a) Judiciary should play its role to halt the violation of constitution

b) Caretaker Govt. and Election Commission of Pakistan should provide level playing field to all political parties

c) Media should play its role to halt the influence of non democratic forces in election process

d) Public should exert pressure on ECP and caretaker Govt to conduct elections

4) Conclusion

Today Pakistan is at a critical juncture of its history as it is grappling with numerous challenges. Pakistan just averted a sovereign default in 2023. The challenges <sup>which</sup> Pakistan is facing are multidimensional but their solution lies in the conduct of free and fair elections. National Assembly of Pakistan has completed its 5 year term in August 2023 and two major provinces got their assemblies dissolved and their caretaker setup has also completed their tenure, but still elections have not been conducted due to which Pakistan is trapped in multifaceted issues. The only solution to all these problems lies in the conduct of free and fair elections throughout the country. As elections will infuse a new spirit in democratic process of Pakistan and would also help to improve Pakistan's ranking on Democratic Index. This

will show the international community Pakistan's commitment against hybrid regime and non democratic forces. Free and fair elections will bring Political stability in the country. This can bring foreign investments and aids in the country to overcome economic problems. Not only economic problems, elections can help overcome the security problems of Pakistan. Stable government can stabilize the security situation by protecting minorities, and ensuring national integration by reducing ethnic conflicts and confrontation among ~~state~~<sup>state</sup> institutions. Elections can bring a government which can uphold the supremacy of the constitution and will be answerable to the public about its performance. Elections can play a vital role to rejuvenate the diplomatic influence of Pakistan at international forums. Thus, multi-pronged problems of Pakistan can be resolved through free and fair elections.

Delay in elections

and multifaceted problems of Pakistan are linked with each other. As it is evident from the political history of Pakistan that delaying elections in the country brought multidimensional crisis to Pakistan.

After creation of Pakistan, the delay in general elections took Pakistan under martial laws which brought significant problems in the country ranging from political, constitutional, economic and security related. Not only this; due to delay in elections in 1970, and then due to fragile democratic process, Pakistan lost its East wing. Therefore it is evident that elections and multi-pronged problems are linked and to overcome these problems it is imperative for Pakistan to conduct elections as early as possible because in current scenario this is the only way forward.

Today elections are the only solution to deal with

Various issues surrounding Pakistan Elections will rejuvenate the **democratic process** in the country. This will boost up the confidence of voters to participate in electoral process and to vote to elect a stable government for their country. Elections can play a pivotal role to uplift democracy in Pakistan. This shows elections are the solution to overcome the atmosphere of uncertainty in the country and to overcome multi-pronged problems <sup>in</sup> of Pakistan.

As elections will uplift the democracy in Pakistan, this will also help to improve the rank of Pakistan on International **Democracy Index**. Due to not holding elections and due to fragile democracy, Pakistan ranks at 107 out of 162 countries on democracy index. This blurs Pakistan's commitment to democratic norms at international level. Therefore,

holding elections can improve Pakistan's image at international level and will also be helpful to improve its relations with major democratic global powers.

Apart from infusing new spirit in democratic process, elections can bring **political stability** in the country. A stable government can boost up the confidence of investors to invest in the country. As it is evident, due to recent political turmoil Pakistan witnessed a decline in investments even under CPEC.

Shell Petroleum company left Pakistan due to uncertain political atmosphere. This manifests by having stable political atmosphere through free and fair elections is the solution to multifaceted problems of Pakistan.

When elections bring political stability then it <sup>country</sup> attracts foreign direct investments and international aids. It is evident in the case of many



Countries which are smaller than Pakistan but they hold elections and have stable governments and are attracting billion dollar investments every year. Thailand, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia are the glaring examples. Therefore, elections in Pakistan will bring stable government which will attract FDI and foreign aid to deal with economic problems of the country. This shows how elections are the solution to the multifaceted challenges of Pakistan.

In addition to economic problems, elections are ~~the~~ also the solution to the **security problems** of Pakistan. Due to not holding elections and having an uncertain political atmosphere has given a space to non state actors like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to conduct their rogue activities. 2023 was a year in which Pakistan witnessed

a 69% surge in terrorist attacks as compared to previous years in which Pakistan had a relatively a stable government. This reflects by holding elections, Pakistan will have a stable government to deal with these insurgencies and non-state actors with iron hands. Therefore in present arena, elections are the solution to multipronged problems in Pakistan.

Not only this, elections can pave the way to protect the **rights of minorities**, reducing ethnic conflicts to ensure the national integration. Due to unstable political atmosphere, Pakistan saw a surge in violence against minorities and conflicts among various ethnicities. Jaranwala incident in which Christian community suffered a lot is a glaring example. Not only this there was a surge in Shia Sunni conflicts especially in Gilgit Baltistan.

These issues of Pakistan can be resolved through free and fair elections because a stable Govt would certainly address these issues <sup>which are</sup> hampering national unity. This demonstrates how elections are the solution to the multi-dimensional issues of Pakistan.

Not only the ethnic conflicts, the uncertain atmosphere of the country became a reason of **confrontation among state institutions** which hampered the whole administrative process. For example, after dissolution of Punjab and KPK provincial assemblies, Supreme Court of Pakistan ordered Election Commission to hold elections on May 14, 2023, but on the basis of various pretents ECP did not comply <sup>with</sup> Supreme Court's orders. This brought an atmosphere of confrontation among top state institutions. Thus to avoid such confrontations and for smooth administrative

process, elections in Pakistan are the only way forward.

Moreover, elections can bring a government which would be powerful enough to address the **domestic issues**.

Although, caretaker setup is working in Pakistan but it has not much powers to deal with domestic issues. For example, the issue of forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of Baloch people can only be resolved by a stable government formed under the new elections. Thus, elections in Pakistan can make a government which can resolve the domestic problems of Pakistan.

In recent times, due to not holding elections Pakistan faced **constitutional crisis**. The supreme document has been violated for many times. For example, the

Violation of constitution by not holding elections in 90 days in Punjab and KPK is a stark reminder that constitution is not upheld by depriving people their right to vote. These constitutional crisis can be ~~overcome~~ resolved by holding elections. This demonstrates elections are the solution to multipronged problems <sup>in</sup> of Pakistan. Moreover, elections can make a government which will come in power on the basis of **public mandate** and will be answerable to the public about its performance. The caretaker setup which is working in Pakistan right now has no public mandate and is not answerable to public and this situation <sup>has</sup> created a chaos in country. This problem can be resolved by holding elections and having a government which has public mandate.

This shows elections are the solution to Pakistan's multifaceted challenges.

Due to not having a proper setup of government, Pakistan has lost its influence at international levels. Caretaker setup has little powers to represent Pakistan at various international forums and this is hampering Pakistan's **Diplomatic influence**.

By holding elections this problem can be resolved because a government with constitutional powers can play a significant role to rejuvenate Pakistan's role at international level. Therefore, elections are the only solution to the multi-pronged problems in Pakistan.

Different factors can help Pakistan in this scenario to hold elections and to overcome its problems. For example, **Judiciary** should

come forward to play its role. Judiciary can pressure state institutions to hold elections within the constitutional limits. Judiciary should give strict warnings to state institutions for violating the constitution.

### Caretaker Government

which acts like a neutral body to hold elections should work according to the constitution.

Election Commission of Pakistan and caretaker setup should work in tandem to hold elections free and fair as soon as possible.

**Media** in this concern can play a significant role by highlighting and halting the interference of non-democratic forces in electoral process. Media should also raise awareness among people to increase the turnout.

**Public** should also

~~the ECP and caretaker setup~~  
pressurize ↓ through peaceful protests  
and social media campaigns to  
hold free and fair elections.

To sum up  
everything that has been stated  
so far it is evident that  
all problems of Pakistan  
demand fresh elections and  
a new government with  
public mandate. Caretaker setup  
and a hung parliament  
are not able to resolve the  
problems which Pakistan is  
facing today. Therefore it is  
imperative to hold free and  
fair elections and to have  
a stable government, only  
this way Pakistan can  
embark on the path to the  
recovery.