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Question No: 01

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Introduction

Pakistan is no doubtedly facing serious political polarization. It's major factors are intolerance of political leaders, intervention of military in politics, ethnic and sectarian conflicts along with misinformation spreading from media to masses. Judiciary is another factor that fuels the unjust political culture by having issues with political leader or army.

Historical Background of Pakistan's political culture

Pakistan, since from 1947, is highly characterized

by extreme polarization, with divisions between political parties and military regimes. These divisions are deepened by historic, economic and social factors.

Pakistan has faced seven new leaders in just its creation's first ten years. After that frequent military coups from 1958, 1977, 1999 lead the country. This authoritarian rules have led to cycles of political instability, limiting the growth of a mature, democratic political culture.

Reasons for political polarization in Pakistan

Political parties and leadership crises:

The two main political parties Pakistan's People Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim

League Nawaz (PML-N), along with more recent rise of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have often been entrenched in a zero-sum power battle.

Poor leadership is seen just for gaining of power, with no vision of country's development and public welfare. Leadership crises is a big factor in the political polarization. Political instability is the root cause of weakening institution with having no accountability and governance.

Role of Military:

Military has always played a significant role in the politics, often ruling the country directly or indirectly. Military interventions in politics have fuelled distrust between civilian government and the military establishments.

Intervention of undemocratic forces:

Democracy is characterized by conducting transparent and unbiased elections. But, unfortunately Pakistan remains deprived of fair elections due to interventions of corrupt political norms, military interventions and weakness of institutions. Political polarization is exacerbating when mass opinions and the leadership do not match.

Remedies for combating political polarization in Pakistan

Instilling the sense of national integration:

The key role of integration in different ethnic groups is need for the sake of reducing the political polarization in Pakistan.

Rising of Democratic Norms:

Building strong, transparent and independent institutions is crucial for reducing polarization. Strengthening local governments and decentralizing power can help to give people a sense of ownership.

Mutual understanding among politicians

Political leaders should make a concerted effort to engage with each other in a constructive manner, setting aside personal or party rivalries in favor of national interest.

Supremacy of Constitution:

A state is governed by laws and regulations and everyone must abide by these laws. Constitutional laws should be equally valuable.

The military's influence also contributes to polarization, as different factions align with or oppose the military's interests.

National Disintegration:

Pakistan as a nation is divided in ethnic, linguistic, regional and religion conflicts. Every ethnic group is aligned with specific political party. Political leaders are playing with the sentiments of masses as the public believes blindly in their leaders. Pakistan has a diversity of ethnicity, Sindh is governed by PPP, Punjab has an authoritarian rule of PML-N and KPK is under the leadership of PTI. This kind of sectarianism and ethnicity is the root cause of national disintegration causing Political polarization also.

Judicial and civil-military divide:

The judiciary is not free and fair, at times, has taken a confrontational stance against the executive, especially in the case of judicial activism. This has contributed to a lack of coordination among key state institutions, deepening political fault lines.

Spread misinformation by Media

Media in Pakistan has inclination towards their concerned political parties. Media is selling the public's opinion but spreading misinformation is increasing the political polarization. Media is manipulating the facts and displaying the self-interest truths that causes intolerance among people for political bodies.

for everyone for the sake of
masking decisions. Supremacy of
constitution can alleviate the
polarization.

Rightful role of media

The media must
play a more responsible role in
presenting issues with fairness
and impartiality. Media should
be regulated in order to reduce
sensationalism and biased reporting.
This would also contribute to
reduce polarization.

Addressing Economical Equalities

Economical disparity
between regions and social groups
often fuels political polarizations.
Ensuring more equitable economic
development across the country,
investing in underdeveloped regions
and addressing poverty and
unemployment can help reduce
dissatisfaction and the appeal of
extremist views.

Conclusion:

Pakistan's extreme political polarization is a deeply ingrained challenge that requires multi-pronged efforts to address. The key lies in instilling a sense of national integration, developing understanding between political parties, lawful and correct media representation and last but not the least addressing the economic disparities of various regions.

Question No: 03

Introduction:

Federal structure and parliamentary form of government are undoubtedly most appropriate systems involves an analysis of Pakistan's historical, cultural and political content. Every system has merits and challenges in case of Pakistan's socio-political realities. The parliamentary form of government seems more appropriate with a federation structure.

Federal structure:

In federal system, power is divided among central and regional governments, allowing for regional autonomy while maintaining national unity. For Pakistan, a federal structure is often considered

more suitable for the following reasons,

Ethnic and Regional Diversity:

Pakistan is home to multiple ethnic and linguistic groups ^{am} ^{gratia}. Punjabis, Sindhis, Pashtuns, Baloch and Muhajirs, as well as different regions with distinct economic, social and political concerns. A federal structure can help accommodate these differences by providing regional governments with the authority to manage local affairs.

Decentralization of Powers

A federal system can foster a sense of inclusion and representing different provinces helping to reduce the potential for alienation and secessionist sentiments.

For instance, KPK and Balochistan have, at times, voiced concerns about insufficient representation at national level.

Balance between unity and diversity:

Federalism can strike a balance between national unity and regional diversity. Pakistan's diverse geography and peoples require a governance system that allows for local participation and control, while still maintaining a unified national state.

Challenges with Federalism

Unequal Resource Distribution

The central government often controls the lion's share of revenues, which leads to disparities in development and infrastructure between provinces.

Ethnic Tensions:

While federalism can provide regional autonomy, it can also exacerbate ethnic tensions. In Pakistan, this can lead to conflict between larger provinces like Punjab and smaller like KPK and Balochistan.

Parliamentary System of Government:

The parliamentary system in Pakistan where the head of government **Prime Minister** is elected by the legislature and the executive is drawn from the elected representatives, is often regarded as more suited for the country's democratic aspirations.

The parliamentary system offers several advantages. Its key features are discussed below,

Historical precedent:

This system is familiar to both public and political elites and it has allowed for the development of political parties and representative institutions over time. A shift away from this system could risk destabilizing political institutions that

evolved within a parliamentary framework.

Greater Accountability:

In a parliamentary system, the executive is accountable to the legislature. This creates a mechanism for "checks and balances," making it more responsive to the will of people. If the government loses the support of the legislature, it can be removed through a "vote of no confidence", allowing for smooth transitions and preventing the concentration of power.

Inclusivity and coalition Politics:

Pakistan has a fragmented political landscape with multiple political parties representing different regional, ethnic and ideological interests. The parliamentary system encourages coalition politics

which can ensure that no single party can dominate the government.

Flexibility:

Unlike a presidential system, where the executive is often fixed for a term, the parliamentary system allows for flexibility. If a government is failing, it can be replaced without waiting for elections. In Pakistan, where political instability and corruption are recurrent, this feature can help to remove ineffective leaders quickly and allow for a new government to form.

Challenges with the parliamentary system:

Political Instability:

One of the main criticisms of Pakistan's parliamentary

system is the frequent instability and short lived governments. Coalition often break down, leading to early elections and leadership, which undermines effective governance.

Weak Governance:

The need for coalition governments in a fragmented political landscape can lead to weak governance, where compromises and power sharing agreements dilutes effective decision making.

Corruption and Patronage:

The parliamentary system in Pakistan has often been characterized by patronage politics and corruption. Political parties, especially in coalition governments, rely heavily on patronage networks, which can result in misallocation of resources and inefficiency.

Conclusion:

Federalism helps to address the country's regional and ethnic diversity, providing provinces with autonomy and promoting a more inclusive governance system. On the other hand, parliamentary form of government allows for greater accountability and responsiveness to the people's will, fostering political inclusivity and flexibility. Both systems need to be strengthened through reforms that improve governance and ensure better resource distribution and reduce corruption. A balance between regional autonomy and national unity is crucial for the success of Pakistan.