

Question no:01

Pakistan's political culture marred with extreme polarization

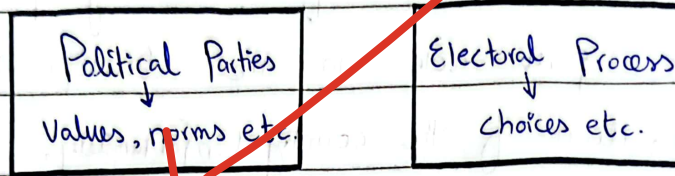
1. Introduction

Political culture of a country plays a pivot role in the development of direction of the country. Unfortunately, Pakistan's political culture is marred with extreme polarization. That's why it is not developing like other countries over the world. There are so many factors for this polarization. For instance, dynastic politics, lack of intra party elections, media and nation's biasness towards politicians, as well as, controlling of the judiciary. It is need of hour for some solutions to make better political culture. Like, to prevent political ^{media and people} biasness, political awareness to people through education and strict rules from election commission of Pakistan. Hence, this question will identify the political polarized culture of Pakistan and

its solution for prevention.

2. Political culture of Pakistan with extreme polarization

Pakistan political culture is basically divided in two groups.



According to Samuel P. Huntington

“Political parties are the integral part of the culture”

But if these parties do not give importance to the national interest, it is called polarization.

3. Features of polarized political culture of Pakistan

A. Dynastic politics:

According to the book titled “Dynastic Politics in Punjab”, it states that:

“ Dynastic families enjoy tremendous power and political system ”

These dynastic families have their own self-interests regardless of national interests. Hence, this is a best example of political polarization.

B. Lack of intra party elections:

In Pakistan, the dominant political parties do not have system of intra party elections. So, the members of party could not know the importance of democracy. Unfortunately, In Pakistan, political parties have already selected their leaders without any vote system or merit. This matter also kills the concept of democracy over the country and also rejects the quote of Russell:

“ Democracy is a system of the people, for the people and by the people ”

B. People can

... believe

c. Media biasness:

Media is also biased for the political parties. They set agenda for any time for the opposition. But, it is said that

“Media is the fourth pillar of Government”

But this fourth pillar is already polarized, not working for the interests of the specific political group. It creates chaotic situation in the country.

d. Biased religious elites:

Religious figures play a fundamental role to build a peaceful constitutional country. But, they are tilted towards terrorist organizations or political figures to work for their interests. So, this figure is also politically polarized who confers people to work for the specific political group. For instance saying that: This person is such a spiritual person, you should vote him or her.

E. Centers of powers:

According to the constitution of Pakistan 1973, judiciary was called independent. But, unfortunately, after 26th amendment in the constitution, the legislatures have snatched this right to make them polarized for the government. So that they could work for their interests regardless of the national interests.

4- Electoral system and polarization

A. Autocracy rather than democracy:

It is said that, there is democratic system in Pakistan. But, basically, this system is autocratic based. Where there is no advantage of elections because the leader is already selected before elections.

B. People are biased:

People have staunch believe in

Caste system and ethnic biasness.

They vote those who meet their biasness (whether he is right or wrong).

But, our political nature which is democratic, does not allow these norms.

It only teaches equality and of justice. As Prophet (P.B.U.H) said:

“There is no distinction between black and white, Arabic and non-Arabic. Except for piety”

5- Solutions of this problem

A. Strong policies by Election Commission of Pakistan:

There should be strong policies by Election Commission of Pakistan, so that, no one could be selective before election. As well as no one could fall the government before its tenure. There should be a proper

security system.

B. Legislation to stop corrupt practices

There should be proper legislation to stop the corrupt authorities, through introduction of punishments of death or long time jail.

C. Judiciary

Judiciary should not be biased. So, need to amend the constitution for their independence.

D. Awareness between people

(Our) The education system should be changed so that all people could be aware of the political tactics of politicians.

E. To stop the concept of dynastic politics and introduction of intra- (polu) party elections

It is need of hour to stop the
 of dynastic family politics and to
 introduce the concept of intra-party
 elections so that the nation and political
 members could know the importance of
 democracy and unbiasedness.

6- Conclusion

There is no doubt, Pakistan's political
 nature is biased or polarized but
 through some amendments in the system,
 it can be (get through) removed easily.

To remove the continuous dynastics
 politics and a strong election commission
 department; as well as through the
 awareness of political people, so
 many issues can be resolved.

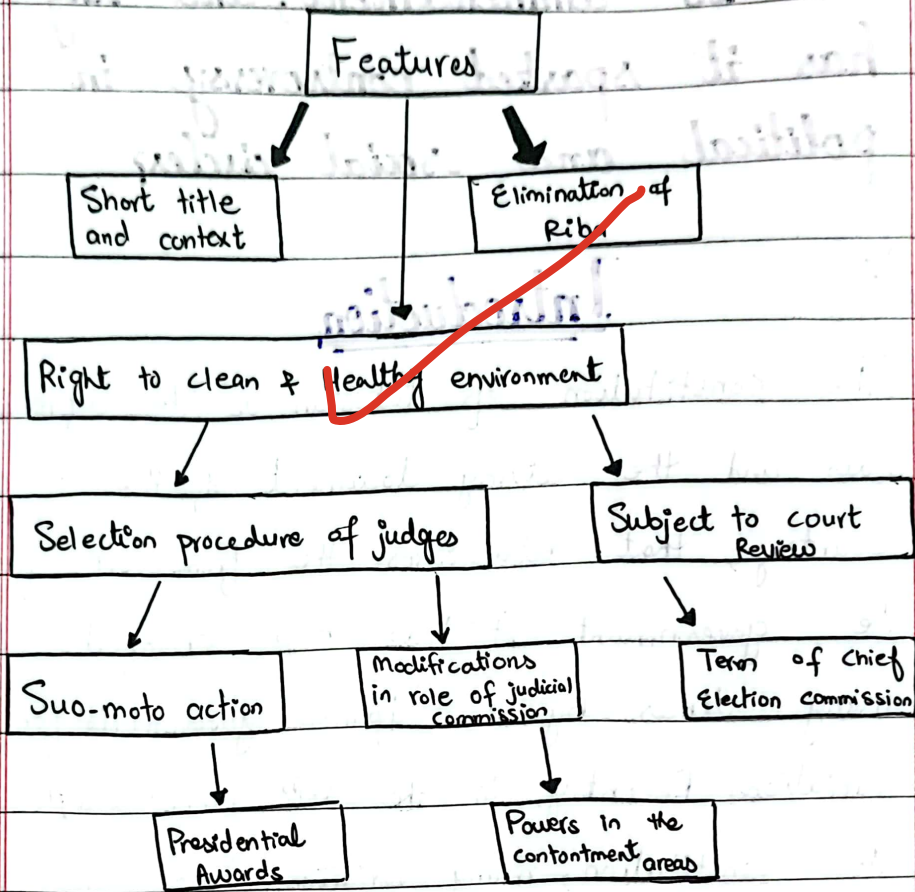
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Introduction

The constitution of Pakistan is the supreme law and the living document of the country; that establishes the framework of the government. It has been changed many times by the former governments for variations. Recently, in the 26th amendment of the constitution, many variations have been made. For instance, elimination of Riba, presidential awards, environment and powers of cantonment areas etc. But the major changes have been established in the independence of judiciary and accountability and their tenure as well. The changings have created controversy in political and social circles. In epitome, the opposition and critics are opposing it while the government is in

the support of the amendment.

2. The key features of the amendment



A few key features are following belows

A. Elimination of Riba:

Article 98A states the elimination of Riba completely before 1st January 2028.

B. Sustainable environment:

Article 9A talks about the right to clean and healthy environment is a right of all citizens of Pakistan.

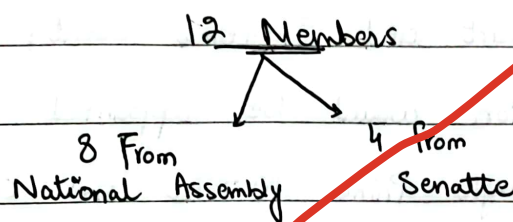
C. Selection procedure of judges:

Article 175 A talks about jurisdiction of court.

For the post of chief justice of Pakistan, one of the three senior most judges will be selected by Prime Minister. Their names would be given to the President, and he will decide whether he should be selected or not.

• Special parliamentary committee:

There are 12 members regardless of 8.



There will be an equal proportion of members from opposition and government members.

D. Subject to the court review:

In the former constitution, it was stated that, there would be no subject to the judicial review.

Now, the advice given to the President by the cabinet and prime minister, cannot be challenged. If it is challenged, it

will be reviewed by the constitutional bench.

E. Suo-Moto Action

If any question that is involved regarding public importance, cannot be proceeded by the supreme court now. It is stated in the Article 184.

D) Modifications in the role of judicial commission

In the case of any vacant seat both in High Court and Supreme Court; the direct nomination would be appointed by President through Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Pakistan.

G. Federal constitutional benches

In supreme courts the judges would be separately appointed by the Government for constitutional benches. If any policy is rejected, it will be heard by constitutional benches instead of supreme court directly.

H. Term and tenure of C.J

Tenure of CJ is for three years regardless

of his age.

I. Tenure of Chief election

Commission

Till the new appointment, the Chief election commission can take his charge after completing his tenure.

3. Controversy

On the behalf of opposition parties

• Judicial independence:

The opposition has objection to this amendment. They state that it has snatched the independent nature of the judiciary. As they should not be in the external or internal influence.

Santiago Canton from International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) gives his remarks on it.

He says that:

“These amendments are an attempt to subjugate the judiciary and bring it under the control of the executives”

Political Polarization:

Opposition subjects that, to be under (politic) the parliament, appointed by the government, it is a direct threat to the judicial impartiality. Judiciary will face political polarization instead of being the righteous.

Judiciary opposition to the amendment

The amendment has also been opposed by the judiciary. According to them, the appointments will be based on the business instead of merit. Santiago Canton says more that:

"It betrays the fundamental principles of the rule of law, separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary"

4. Support of the government

On the contrary, the government is supporting the amendment due to the following stated reasons:

(I) Enhanced accountability

The government has given the remarks that, they have enhanced the accountability due to public allegations of corruption and nepotism in judiciary.

(II) Democratic oversight

The government states that, it was necessary to make the judiciary more democratic by involving the elected representatives.

But unfortunately, what is being said, is totally controversial

(III) Political strategy

To have check and balance on the judiciary because the governments were being caught in many high-profile cases. So, it is a way to regain the control over judicial matters. Iqbal states that:

ہے دل کے لئے موت مہینوں کی حکومت
 احساس مروت کو کچل دیتے ہیں آلات

5. Conclusion

The variation in the constitution of Pakistan reflects a deep connection with the balance of power especially in the judicial reforms. As there are so many controversies, so that the government should put a deep eye on the amendment once again. The clash over the ^{judicial} (judiciary) integrity should not be compromised because it will promote nepotism and elitism as well. In short, all the controversies should be eliminated for avoiding inconveniences.