

Journal

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## National Officers Academy Islamabad

Pak-Affairs Test 02

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### Question No: 03

#### (I) Introduction:

The crisis of governance in Pakistan has been the output of its political culture which causes hurdles in the pathway of prosperity. It is unquestionably a fact that Pakistan faces governance crisis such as the social injustice and inequality, missing rule of law, highly prevailing corruption, rising extremist segments, low literacy rate, political engineering and weak institutions. These all are the main factors that put Pakistan in governance

crisis. On the other hand, the main igniting ingredient to boost the intensity of governance crisis is the existing political culture system in Pakistan.

## (II) Political Culture in Pakistan:

Political culture refers to a set of aspects which combine to form the political system and governance of a society. In Pakistan, political culture has been lacking a true spirit of democracy, freedom and legitimacy, owing to number of political failures and unknown state forces. It is, therefore, the ineffective and authoritative political setup in Pakistan has led towards governance crisis.

## (III) Role of Political Culture and the Governance Crisis:

Political culture in Pakistan is prevailing in an undemocratic state; weak

political institutions and lack of free and fair elections. These causes the governance crisis which are as:

## ① Undemocratic Governance

Pakistan faces the undemocratic government owing to military intervention in electoral system. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index, 2024 Pakistan was ranked **124<sup>th</sup> out of 165 countries**, falling six places from the previous year and was classified as an authoritarian regime, a downgrade from its hybrid regime status in 2023.

## ② Highly Prevailing Corruption

Pakistan's institutions lack a transparent and accountable system to stop the evil of moths — Corruption. It is permeated in all public sectors to make them more inefficient in delivery. As it is the result of existing

political culture in Pakistan.  
According to the Corruption Perception Index, 2024 — report by Transparency International, Pakistan ranked **135<sup>th</sup> out of 180 countries**, falling two places from its 2023 ranking of 133, reflecting a worsening perception of public sector corruption.

### ③ Dynastic Politics

The political culture is dynastic politics in which Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) have been the dominating political parties of Bhutto-Zardari family and Sharif family respectively.

### ④ Lack of Free and Fair Elections

Good governance comes with electing right representatives of people. However, in Pakistani political culture has kept citizens deprive of providing

Fair election system. For instance, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf claims that in General Election 2023, voters were bogus and there was unfair election, due to military support.

### ⑤ Weak Opposition

The effectiveness of governance can be ensured by having strong opposition in Parliament to make sure the accountability of the government's work. In Pakistan, the opposition in Parliaments are not even given proper time to present their stance. How the governance can be effective.

### ⑥ Patronage Politics

In Pakistan, political culture promotes clientalism system which favours some party workers for jobs and in return they support the party. Noted in Malecha Lodhi's book Pakistan Beyond the Crisis

#### (IV) Crisis of Governance and Political Culture:

Pakistan has been facing governance crisis due to the corrupt and unjust system. The following crisis prevails in Pakistan as:

- The lack of rule of law implementation, whereas elite are favoured in all aspects of life.
- Justice is missing as there are more than fifty thousand cases pending in Supreme Court of Pakistan.
- True public representatives are not elected who can promote democratic values and tackle effectively the governance.
- The provision of standard education system can undoubtedly lessen the governance crisis and further make the system better and active.

## (V) Conclusion:

Pakistani political culture has been the main factor contributing negatively to the governance crisis. As all issues arise from the weak and ineffective system which has been the output of political culture of that society.

