



Talat Fatima

PAK-APPENDIX #03

Q. How did democracy evolve in Pakistan? Were democratic norms the defining force behind evolution

Introduction

Democracy is not just right to vote, it is the right to live with dignity

- Naomi Klein

The evolution of democracy in Pakistan was not similar to that of West, where democracies were evolved organically through social movements and institutional maturity instead its democratic journey was uneven, interrupted and heavily mediated by non-democratic forces, So Pakistan inherited its democratic framework without democratic culture. Even though democratic norms were formally present they were never the primary drivers of political evolution.

Background - First step of democratic evolution

Pakistan's democratic journey began under the impact of British colonial administrative authority. The colonial state emphasized control, order and centralized authority not popular participation. Institutions like the Indian Civil Service overshadowed representative politics. As a result Pakistan inherited procedural democracy without participatory norms making democratically weak structure.

Early Leadership Crisis And Imbalance

The death of Qaid-e-Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan created a vacuum that was filled by bureaucracy and military establishment instead of political leadership. This led to failure in strong roots of parliamentary supremacy, political accountability and party institutionization.



This imbalance altered Pakistan political trajectory.

Military Intervention As an Anti Democratic Force

From Ayub Khan to General Pervez Musharraf military regimes suspended constitutions, weakened political parties and also introduced controlled and guided democracy. Although election held intermittently they lacked democratic aspects. This led to normalize Authoritarian system over democracy.

Federal Practice of Political Parties

Political parties in Pakistan failed to act as followers of democratic norms that comprise of Dynastic leadership due to lack of internal elections and Patron-client politics. The elite capture of politics ensured

that democracy remained procedural but not participatory alienating public from democratic values.

Partial Role of Judiciary and Media

Judiciary and Media played their role to restore democratic values

- Lawyers Movement — 2007
- Media Activism — 2002

But still — the completed task was partial. Their oscillation between resistance and accommodation limits long-term impact on democratic consolidation.

Conclusion

Democracy evolved despite, not because of democratic norms, it did not evolved because of it



rather survived in spite of its absence. The political culture was shaped more by power struggle, institutional dominance and elite interests than by public interest or constitutionalism. In order to evolve a true democratic system Pakistan must have to move beyond electoral rituals towards institutional accountability, political education and civilian supremacy.

Q. Prepare the case for new provinces in Pakistan. Hope and hurdles. Elaborate?

Introduction

The demand of new provinces in Pakistan is an administrative necessity, not an ethnic sentiment that is mostly misrepresented as

an ethnic or political slogan. But this is a governance question rooted with administrative efficiency, service delivery and equitable development all over Pakistan equally in its rural and urban areas of all provinces. In a country like Pakistan, marked by vast territorial disparities and population imbalance smaller administrative units are not luxury but a structural necessity.

Background - For The Demand Of New Provinces

The foundation for the debate of this demand was set after the 18th Amendment in 2010 when NWFP name changed to KP.

Although after this amendment provinces are independent in resource using and budget allocation but still the conflict on NFC award is persisting leading to



demand of new federating
units. As

Federal Government receives
42.5% of total national revenue
Provinces get 57.5% of total
national revenue.

Punjab	51.7%
Sindh	24.5%
K.P.	14.6%
Baluchistan	9%

This division of revenue invites
the problem and demand of
new provinces.

Regions Demanding To Be A Seprate Province

• Demand of Hazara from KP

The Hazara division consist of 06
districts Haripur, Mansehra, Abbottabad
Bottagram, Kohistan and Torangah.

Hazara claims is that the region
will be economically viable

as its rich in minerals and resources. Tourism can further add to generate more revenue. Hydroelectric project like Khanpur dam will create employment opportunities.

• Demand of South Punjab

The stance of south punjab is that it comprise of 31.5% of total population in area around 48.5%.

of total area of punjab. it has 03 division that further divided into 11 districts. The allocation of national fund is 29.02% from 2010 onwards. But still social indicators are so compromised that 43.1% people live below poverty line.

• Bhawalpur demand

The demand for granting provincial status to Bhawalpur is not based on linguistic,



ethnic or cultural basis. The
Bhawalpur division is the largest
of Punjab in terms of Area
18,000 square mile and its
population 13.4 million as per
2023 census. that is 11% of
total population

Justification For Demand of New Provinces

• Decentralization of Power

Decentralization of Political, administrative and economic setup
raise the need to carve out
new provinces in country. It
will eliminate the issue of less
contribution of different regions
will improve economic situation
creating the ground for wealth
creation. And will guarantee
the efficient public service
delivery.

• Economic Stability

The reason for current economic instability is the division of resources limiting to few districts only; but to deal with socio-economic backwardness if there will be more federating units all areas will have budget share through local government.

• Demographic Division

Is another reason for the additional provinces. Punjab population is accumulative of 88% of all provinces that is 58.5% of entire population of country. Punjab's centre is in Lahore and people from remoter areas of south Punjab has to travel 300-400 km to approach them for these small issues as well.



Prospects and Challenges

— Amendment of Constitutional Provisions

Creation of new provinces will not be an easy task. As the constitutional mechanism to create a new province under an article 239, require an amendment bill in either houses of parliament to be approved by two-third of the majority.

— Conflicts on New Distribution of Resources

The main reason for demanding new provinces has been the unequal distribution of developmental funds between metropolitan cities and remote areas. For this government has to come up with comprehensive recommendations to

Overcome technical, administrative and procedural impediments.

— Ethnicity and Administrative Decision

If new province carved out on ethno-lingual grounds instead of administrative basis it will induce further ethnic movements for other ethnic identities. As history has also shown People are more loyal with their ethnicities than with state during partition of east Pakistan.

Hopes Associated With New Provinces

— Improved Governance and Service Delivery

of all the urban and rural areas of



existing provinces will be divided into new federating units will lead into better service delivery by local government systems.

• — Better Law and Order through Localized Government

Through local administration implication of law and order will be improved as the transparency and accountability will improve.

• — Political Empowerment of Neglected Region

System of local government that is totally stagnant in Pakistan will start to work efficiently by the establishment of new federating units.

• — Reduction in inter-provincial Grievance

As the major reason for inter provincial ties is distribution of funds and development within cities that will be resolve by creation of new provinces

Conclusion

The refusal to address administrative realities in the name of political convenience has historically produced unrest. The creation of new provinces is not a threat to Pakistan unity but a test of its political maturity. If handled through constitutional means and national consensus, it offers



an opportunity to correct structural imbalances, strengthen federalism and restore citizen trust in state like happening world wide in different countries with fifty plus federalizing units.