

# Democracy in Pakistan: Hopes and Hurdles

## Outline

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Hook

1.2 Background

1.3 Thesis Statement: Despite constitutional development, independent judiciary and media, youth participation, devolution of power and international democratic norms, democracy in Pakistan continues to face political, social, administrative and economic hurdles.

### 2. Hopes for Democracy in Pakistan

2.1 Strong Constitutional Framework

2.1.1 1973 Constitution as a consensus document

2.1.2 Strengthening of parliamentary supremacy through 18<sup>th</sup> amendment.

## 2.2 Independent Judiciary and Media

2.2.1 Lawyers' movement (2007-9)

2.2.2 Expanding role of social media

## 2.3 Growing Political Awareness in Youth

2.3.1 Growing political awareness among youth (majority population under 30)

2.3.2 Increased vote turnout in recent elections

## 2.4 Devolution of Power

2.4.1 Strengthened provincial autonomy

2.4.2 Local government reforms

## 2.5 International Democratic Norms

2.5.1 Engagement with global democratic institutions

# 3. Hurdles to Democracy in Pakistan

## 3.1 Political Hurdles

3.1.1 Weak role of election commission of Pakistan

3.1.2 Absence of true democratic spirit in political parties

## 3.2 Social Hurdles

3.2.1 Illiteracy and Poverty

3.2.2 Class disparities and gaps

## 3.3 Administrative Hurdles

3.3.1 Corruption

3.3.2 Inadequate development and growth

3.3.3 Poor performance of democratic governments

## 3.4 Economic Hurdles

3.4.1 Deteriorating situation of economic growth

3.4.2 Destabilization of currency

## 4. Way Forward

4.1 Strengthening internal democracy within parties

4.2 Investment in education and political literacy

4.3 Institutional balance between civil and  
military leadership

## 5. Conclusion