

Factors affecting good governance in Pakistan, with special references to Balochistan

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Abstract

The paper explores issues of good governance in Pakistan. Since its inception in 1947 Pakistan has been facing governance issues. The issues of corruption, red tapes and incompetence of institutions have deep and profound impacts on internal structure of the country. Good governance holds great significance for the development and nation building process. Good governance is inevitable for the development. No nation can progress towards development and integrity in the presence of bad governance. Good governance is vital for the development and prosperity of a country. Bad governance has been a burning issue of media in Pakistan. Even after the seven decades of Pakistan's inception the issues in governance remained unresolved. Pakistan still faces the issues of corruption, red tapes and ineffectiveness in its institutions. It is high time for the policy makers to adopt concrete measures in order to ensure good governance in the country. This paper explores the causes of bad governance in Pakistan and proposes policy recommendations.

Key words: Pakistan, good governance, corruption, accountability, democracy.

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Introduction

This paper explores the issues of good governance in Pakistan. Since its inception in 1947, Pakistan has been facing numerous challenges pertaining to law and order system, weak access to judicial system, democratic instability, corruption and many others. The prevailing issues of governance are impediments in way towards country's development and national integrity.

Presently, Pakistan is facing economic and social and Law and Order issues, which indicate the vital role of government in serving the interest of the public. The internal structure of the state demands serious measures by the government towards the institution, policies and tools helpful for the government to deliver what an ordinary citizen and business activities expect. It also highlights the central sphere, where the attention of the government is imperative and changes may be required (Tasneem, 1997).

Pakistan has been in state governance crisis for a long period. It is apparent from the prevailing issues due to bad governance. The weak and ineffective institutions are other significant indicators which identify poor governance in the country. Owing to the crisis of good governance the significant revenue-producing institutions are adversely affected. The judiciary, one of the most important state institutions, has always been suppressed by the executive throughout the history of Pakistan (The Nation, 2010). The civil-military relations have always witnessed a rift affecting the internal structure of the state. The clash between the institutions has adversely affected the performance of the governments in Pakistan. In this study, the most fundamental causes of bad good governance failure in Pakistan will be examined. There are numerous impediments in ways towards good governance in Pakistan, but some of them required being resolved instantly. The issues of governance should be resolved and meet the challenges opposing which promoting the cause of the nation (Dawn, 2010).

Democratic Instability

Democracy is considered the best form of government. The democratic form of government aims at public participation, national integration, independence of judiciary, and supremacy of the constitution. Both democracy and good governance are interconnected terms (John, 2000).

Since independence, Pakistan has been suffering from political turmoil, creating governance issues in the country. Due to political chaos and democratic instability, good governance has become a day-dream for the nation. The frequent changes in government from 1988 to 2017 badly affected the good governance in the country. The repeated takeovers by military dictator exacerbated the crisis of good governance in the country. In Pakistan, the military dictators justifies their interference on grounds of bad governance, their regimes weakened the institutions of the state furthermore(Dawn, 2004). .

Unfortunately, even after seven decades of Pakistan's independence, issues of good governance still prevail in the country. The democratic instability has affected the institutions of the state.

Weak Judicial System

The Judiciary is one of the three organs of government. It plays the role of adjudication in a state. It ensures social justice in a state interpreting law and constitution. Unfortunately in Pakistan, the judicial system has failed to restrict other institutions within the rules and regulations. Corruption has entered into the internal structure of the institutions reducing its effectiveness. The incidence of socio-political differences makes justice even harder to ensure in Pakistani society.

In Pakistan, the judiciary has been made political institutions, whose decisions and judgments have always supported status quo. The political influences have always affected the due role of the institutions. It is perceived that the institution of judiciary has always supported the status quo, thus losing its respect and faith among the general public (Adnan, 2018). It is evident from the political history of Pakistan, that judiciary has always supported the institutions of the state whenever a dispute has emerged between the state and public. The executive and military have undermined the position of judiciary, making it an ineffective institution for the citizens. (Mughal, 2013).

The constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan preserves fundamental rights of the citizens; however its pragmatic implantation has never been witnessed. Justice for the ordinary citizens has become harder to get in the prevailing crisis of governance. Preserving citizen fundamental rights will not be enough; Pakistan is still far behind the standard of governance. Justice has

become expensive and delayed, creating sense of deprivation among the masses (Umbreen, 2010).

Lack of Accountability

Accountability is fundamental component of good governance. But, it is found little in the political culture of Pakistan. Accountability is essential for good governance. Without accountability the effectiveness of the institutions cannot be ensured. Not only should the institutions of the state by the private sector organizations also be accountable. Government is accountable to those are affected by its policies and initiatives(Hasnain, 2008).

Accountability is essential for the effectiveness and smooth running of the institutions of the state. In Pakistan, no government has taken serious initiatives for ensuring accountability and transparency in the country. The absence of accountability in its pragmatic sense has encouraged corruption andmal-practicesin the country. Accountability is vital for curbing corruption and abuses of power and privileges. The paralyzed system of accountability has led to poor governance in the country. No initiatives have been taken to bring reforms in for accountability(Mahmood, 2007).

The institutions of accountability have also suffered deterioration due to ineffective decision making process.

The imperative to ensure accountability has become more urgent in order to address critical issues of governance and corruption with far too few checks on the government. Government that is truly accountable can more efficiently fight corruption which abuse positions of power and privileges. Accountability is fundamental for all types of governments(Hussain S. I., 2010).

Ineffectiveness of civil services

The civil service in Pakistan faced severe criticism during the last four decades. The civil service witnessed decline in its intellectual caliber during the last four decades. Overall, this has been because of the decline in the academic standard which is responsible for recruitment of the civil servants.

The decline in the intellectual quality of professionals is indeed associated with corrosion of institutional mechanisms of decision making in the civil services. The political interference in transfers and promotions of bureaucrats has declined the standard of civil service in the country. The domination of

politics in civil service affects the works of the institutions which lead to bad governance(Khan, 2016).

Moreover, flaws within administration involve poor planning, ineffective management, and the lack of work ethics. The abuse of position and power within administration has led to the deterioration of administration. The administrative decay has been another dimension in governance issues in the country. The tendency of informal political affiliation is growing which is also responsible for the decline in efficiency, transparency, competency and neutrality of the civil service in the country(Niaz, 2011).

Clash between the institutions

Through the history Pakistan has witnessed repeated clash between the institutions. It happens when institutions go beyond their constitutional powers and functions. The parliament, Judiciary and military are considered key-stone of the country. Lack of harmonization and check and balance always leads towards clash between the institutions. Judiciary plays crucial role in restricting the institutions within its constitutional powers. It is the responsibility of the judiciary to restrict the institutions within the sphere of its powers and responsibilities. Unfortunately the judiciary has not played its due role; as a result the struggle for powers between the institutions of the state has created issues for good governance(Dawn, 2012).

Through the history of Pakistan the relations between democratic regimes and military have been tense and antagonistic. This has created deep and profound impacts for internal stability of the country. Good governance cannot even be imagined in the uncertain environment. The stake holders have been engage in struggle for power and welfare and development of the country gets no attention.

The military establishment is maligned for its involvement in the tussle of power with civil government. The civil government is being accused of corruption and poor governance, the judiciary is used by military establishment or blamed to use against the civilian governments(Pakistan Today, 2012).

Smooth relations among the institutions of the state are essential for the smooth running of the state affairs and good governance. When institutions fail to coordinate smoothly, the results is chaos and disorder. Same is happening in Pakistan because the relationship between the executive and the

judiciary are not normal. The maintenance of harmony and balance between the three organs of the state are fundamental for good governance. It is essential for good governance that the institutions perform their functions within the limits of their constitutional power. Unfortunately, there have been tense relations between the institutions in Pakistan(Shah, 1997).

Corruption

In Pakistan the roots corruption date back to the period of colonial rule when the British government awarded titles and privileges to their loyalists causing nepotism and corruption. Historically, two major events played key role in the genesis of corruption in subcontinent; the spiral in the defense correlated purchasing during the Second World War and allocation of evacuee property after the partition of the Sub-continent. After the partition, the industrial and trade licensing and patronage schemes in 1950s and 1960s encouraged corruption. During the decade of 1970s, the policy of nationalization also encouraged corruption and led to the rise of new breed of corrupt government officials(Awan, 2004).

Moreover, during the decade of 80s corruption entered into the internal structure of religious and business circles. The causes behind un-controlled corruption are to found in the socio-cultural and political milieu of Pakistan which currently is facing gradual decline of value system and even identity. The menace of corruption is still prevailing in the country. Corruption is found in all tiers of the government; affecting the good governance(Marie, 2008).

Corruption has deteriorated the internal structure on the institutions in Pakistan. Corruption has been central to good governance issues in Pakistan. Bribery, abuses of public offices, nepotism and fraud are prevailing in Pakistan which as a result leads to bad governance in the country. In Pakistan, the menace of corruption has badly affected the process of development and lives of ordinary citizens. Corruption has declined the resources of the state and capacity of government for investment(Hussain & Hussain, 1993).

Non-equality among provinces and the division of common national resources:

Pakistan is a multi-national and multi-cultural country. The all provinces have their own resources. But the resources of small provinces roughly use for the interests of others. Like Balochistan which is full of natural resources but everyone knows better that how the resources of Balochistan are utilizing? Beside the natural resources, Balochistan has a huge sea coast. The modern Gwadar port has established and its going to be functional, but, the federal government never feel to ask the original natives and stake holders of the area of Balochistan. The CPEC is developing all the country and the center of this Mega Project is Gwadar and Balochistan, but no one is focusing the people of the area and their interests. So, the lake of interest in to the people of Balochistan by the higher authorities and the federal government, the situation of law and order in Balochistan is going to be very critical day by day. The provincial governments of Balochistan are failing to control the situation in Balochistan since 1999 up to date. Whenever the Balochistan is not peaceful and polite then the all country will be disturb. So, it's very necessary for every authority that they try for the hostility of the people of Balochistan and other small provinces and divide the common wealth and provincial and national resources honestly. And as well as make sure the justice in this regard.

Conclusion

To conclude, Pakistan has been facing the crisis of governance for seven decades. It is obvious form the findings of the study that democratic instability, corruption, lack of accountability and institutional flaws are causing issues of governance in our country. The issues of good governance are still prevailing in Pakistan. It is apparent from the deteriorating conditions of economy, health and education. The weakness and infectiveness of institutions has been central to bad governance in the country. The issues of good governance have badly affected the significant revenue-producing institutions. The issues of good governance have made the lives of ordinary citizens harder.

Judiciary is one of the three pillars of government. It plays vital role in ensuring accountability. The fundamental rights of the ordinary citizens can only be ensured if judiciary takes pragmatic measures. The judiciary in Pakistan has always been influenced by executive. The rift in civil military

relationships adversely affects the internal structure of the state. Through the history, Pakistan has witnessed frequent clash between democratic governments and military. The internal clash between significant institutions of the state has been the main factor in bad governance. The institutions interfere in each other's sphere of power affecting the quality and standard of their duties. The study explored the most fundamental factors in bad governance. Some issues of good governance are examined which needs to be tackled and resolved instantly. In order to ensure good governance, concrete measures should be adopted.

Recommendations

It is apparent from the prevailing economic, financial, and social and law and order issues that Pakistan is facing the issue of good governance. Following are some important angles which will be helpful for the policy makers.

- Accountability and Transparency should be ensured in institutions including civil services, judiciary, politics and media. The institutes of accountability should be strengthening in order to ensure its effectiveness.
- Public institutes should be strengthened with predefined rules and regulations and preventing it against political interference.
- The government should adopt concrete measures to improve the law and order situation.
- The judiciary also required the introducing of reforms in order to ensure its efficiency and assurance to safeguard its independence and accessibility to public. Government should make measures to strengthen the regulatory procedures at National and local level in order to enhance accessibility to judiciary and fundamental human rights.
- The educational policies should be reviewed and strengthened in order to ensure great ethical fiber and the development of critical thinking in the population.

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