

Democratic institutional development in the light of current chaos in Pakistan

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Abstract

Pakistan passes through different anarchist regime to pseudo democratic governments. Resultantly states institutions were grew weaken and could not thrive democratically. The immediate reasons behind poor institutional development were drought of iconic leaderships and political tussle between East and West wings. Additionally the time taking factors likewise military and political rift, poor economic reforms, social disharmony and decry of national integration led the country in fold of democratic expansion. The deep rooted hatred among different class of society grows up in the era of Zia and fueled by war on terror in the region. None of politician bothers to reform state institutions but they all were hectic to make more money in their accounts in foreign banks. The Liaquat Ali khan era seems keen on to protect its government on rivals and used all means crush them. General Yayha khan too faces the eruption in Pakistan and institutional deadlock was at peak. Somehow during Z.A Bhutto tenure some measures were taken boosts institutions democratically. But Pakistan again meets the bad fate and Zia took over the rein of the state and shrug off civilian government. Some hopes were again born when Benazir Bhutto came in the power but civilian conflicts continued till the fourth Martial of Musharraf in 1999. Indeed the tenure of 2001 to 2007 was the worst era which Pakistan history had noticed. By which national security is at turmoil and writ of state is challenged in past by separation of Pakistan in 1971. Currently the situations are fog and no ray of hope seems in coming days for a vibrant democratic state. All the state institutions are playing blame game among each other and they failed to build level of trust for smooth functions of national affairs.

Key terms: Democratic institutions, political rift, blame game, trust deficit, institutional crises

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Introduction and historical backlash

Pakistan being at the tip of South Asia emerged as a democratic nation from British imperialism. The founding leadership envisaged for future Pakistan where everyone could live in peace and openly profess their beliefs and traditions. With the passage of time none of ruler focuses on country machinery to works according to wishes of people. A decade after independence was gone without constitution and Liaquat Ali khan objective resolutions of 1949 could not met the needs of the time and created imbalance among the two wings on point of language and population. Somehow the 1956 constitution redress the grievances of Bengalis nationalists. But again the country could not develop institutionally which checked upon state matters. The situation worsened and the civilian government abrogated the first constitution in 1958.(Stanly, Wolport 1984).

Military had taken the benefit of time and imposed Martial in the fetus country which was flourishing democratically. The first Martial law refrain country from institutional and democratic development. It is the saddest chapter of our history that the country was run without rule of law, justice and equality. The military constitution solely aimed to safeguard the wasted interest of military in political arena of Pakistan. The concept of basic democracy was limited to appoint military men in state institutions. Bengalis leaderships had taken the advantage of time and stared agitation against Pakistan under Indian umbrella. Sheik Mujeeb Ur Rehman presented his points in 1966 which were openly challenged the writ of state. Gradually they got wider public support in East Pakistan and became independent in 1971. (Ian, 2000)

Z.A Bhutto was ray of hope for the people of Pakistan for development of democratic culture in mother soil. But unexpected intervention of military in political concerns refrain institutional development. The regime of PPP met the same misfortune in 1977 and military again step in political affairs. Thus in first time of Pakistan history a premier was hanged and killed extra judicially

Unsurprisingly Zia UlHaq ruled the country on his own brand of laws. In this era Taliban trained by the military as a strategic assets for American interests to disintegrate Russia. Non states actors become the essential components of state affairs and policy making. They were given enough space to involve on political, social and administrative aspects. Crises carry crises and situation turned worsen on democratic path. (Ayesha. 2007)

Democratic and institutional deadlock continued up to a fresh military rule in 1999. General Musharraf tried his level best to works on good governance, checked mal administration likewise 'corruption nepotism and favoritism in administrative pillar. But he gained poor support from civilian side and civilian

started campaign against military rule. The military and civil defy again restrain states institutions to thrive democratically. Hence tussle remained on board and institutions were weakening day by day.(Husain, 2005)

Presently state is passing in its darkest period where the treasury of state is empty, corruption is thriving day by day and politicians are above the law of land. The common public is facing all the atrocities of law enforcement agencies and punitive laws are made for them. Inequality between the upper and lower class deprived the masses and they have place to compound themselves. All the state institutions are made to protect politicians and their mal practices. Henceforth institutional reform on the basics of equality and rule of law is the need of hour.

Objectives of Article

The article aims to trace the history of institutional development and hurdle which they have faced to grow democratic. It also highlights the military rule and their poor reforms in state institutions. Additionally it will focus on civil military relations and interventions on the affair of each other. The last parts of research discuss the current condition of state institutions and problem which they are facing.

Why Pakistan grow as a weak institutional country?

The deadlock of constitutional making in one decade (1947-1956) initiated institutional drought. The first constitution (1956) could not provide required institutions for formulation of nation state. It was lacked integration reforms for the both wings of East and West Pakistan respectively. Instead of first constitution the second constitution of 1962 could not address the issue and left unaddressed. (Bhutto. 1969).

Moreover the imbalance establishment of institutional formation for both wings left the country in miseries. In a one nation state there were two different laws and West wing laws were superior against the East wing law. The two different laws in the same state divided the country sovereignty. Notwithstanding the issue remained unsettled until 1971. (Hamid. 1998)

The weak political and economic institutions did not boost up country economically politically and democratically. Economy becomes fragile and politics was upheaval and democracy did find ways to flourish. It is known fact that economy + politics bolster democratic norms and principles. Without existence of single characteristics of three wheels democracy and institution remained dead.

After the great flood of 1971 Pakistan was the brink of multiple crises from 1971 to 1973. Country was run without administration, governmental figures, without leaderships and the country was left unchecked by politicians. In meanwhile the problem of Pashtoonistan and Baloch also started various movements' in different part of Balochistan. Thus after separation of Bangladesh the ways of other independence movement initiated. It was due to weak institution of state. (Wilson. 2008)

Z.A Bhutto has taken some step to bring some reforms in economic sector on privatizing lands. But the move was opposed on nationwide and couldn't succeed. The rest of landlord openly opposed the Bhutto reforms and could not let him to ring formidable reforms on institutions. Z.A Bhutto had tried his best to make more institutions for the sake of democratic institutional development. So the all reforms of PPP government 1973-1977 were interrupting by third party. (Anas. 2011).

So the history experienced on concern of weak institutional development and the situation is same presently. No measures are being taken on reforming states institutions which are imperative need of the time. Politician and parliamentarian are busy on blame and counter blame game. The ruling elites blame the past rulers and the opposition is keen to weaken ruling party to take the rein of the country. Thus institutions are badly ignored and left unreformed.

Steps taken by past regime for democratic institutions

The first step taken by the founding father in constituent assembly that Pakistan will be democratic state where everyone live freely and can profess their religion without any threat and defy. This was the immediate speech of Quaid e Azam on the fate of country future. He stress upon that military should be limited in the border areas and to their colonies and they have nothing to do on public affairs. Secondly he viewed on states institution judiciary should work smoothly and parliamentarians should not influence the works and functions of judges and executive pillar of government. (Anwar. 2007).

The iconic Liaquat Ali khan introduced objective resolutions in 1949 to run the functions of government. He declared first time that Pakistan would be a democratic republic with Federal government. Additionally he boosts the concept of independent judiciary, equality and vibrant administration of justice. He explored the concepts of democratic institutions for the sake of good governance and fundamental rights. The ideal civil-military equation is achieved with a military "strong enough to do anything, the civilians ask them to do with a military subordinate enough to do only what civilians authorize them to do."

The first constitution 1956 and 1962 respectively had not brought many changes on state institutions. Both constitutions were formulated to safeguard limited interests of particular segment of the society. But 1973 constitution serve the interests of general public and country democratic institutions. It provided enough fundamental rights and independent judiciary with vibrant functions in civil and criminal administration of justice. In this constitution all the institution were demarcated with certain limitation and checks. (Qhaus. 1999)

By the dint of 1973 constitutions various other institutions were developed to flourish democratic norms. Many other institutions were made to check upon corruption mal practice and to officials from ill use of power. Likewise educational institutions were made to serve democratic norms, economic institutions were made to popularized democratic image of Pakistan globally, and religious institutions were made maintain tolerance equality fraternity and brotherhood and agricultural institutions were made to communicate inter-provincial cooperation for a stronger democratic country.

Analysis of democratic government of past

Pakistan witnessed a greater part of its history in control of military. The pace of democratic development was too slow to meet the true spirits of democracy. After the fall of Dhaka Z.A Bhutto came into power and he declared first time democratic state. He adopted two fold policies which were contain internal and external. His internal policies were based upon to institutionalized the country and focuses on democratic institutions. The external polices were two centric; goodly and peaceful relationships with neighboring countries like India Afghanistan Iran and China, secondly democratic means of relationships with rest of world. Thus Bhutto era seems very important on democratic institutional development. (Sartaj. 2009)

The era from 1988 to 1999 was not constant in democratic prospective. In the entire era corruption was common and mal practices in governmental machinery were the order of day. In a short period of time around four time regime were changes in the allegation of corruption. Benazir and Nawaz rift continued till military got enough space for take over. So the civilian government again provides ways for military intervention. Once again from 1999 institutional deadlock begin up to 2007. According to Feaver the "civilians are better positioned to judge the political underpinnings of military policy" and that they should have the final say in decisions even at the cost of errors".

Asif Zardari regime also tried to work on charter of democracy. But the country was facing enormous challenges internally and externally. Asif Zardari

tactically deals both issues and brought Pakistan image as an international democratic state. The foremost achievement of the era was the restoration of judiciary and many judges were set free who were behind bars without reasons. Another step for state institution taken by Zardari's triumph was permission of judiciary to work independently. (Iram 2012)

The greater achievement of Zardari regime was the transfer of power from one democratic regime to another. Nawaz regime was the second ever succeeded regime in 2013 which had taken the power from civilian government. So it was eager to work according to well and wishes of people. In the trace history of Pakistan this was first time when the sense of competition grows between the civilian governments on democratic principles.

Poor role played by institutions to make the country democratic

Historically majority of country institutions were ruled by corrupt and incompetent. It was great hurdle to develop country institutions in democratic means. Institutions face crises to crises and could not thrive accordingly. Institutional failure results democratic failure and badly effect the country internally and disordered became the order of day. The rest of institutions could not deliver for the public interests. (Illhan, 2010)

During General Musharraf's tenure the culture of check and balance was promoted. The purpose of check and balance was to restrain corrupt practices and restore culture of merit and discourage culture of favoritism nepotism and red tape in administrative affairs. In contrary the system was introduced to protect the military rule. It was a best move taken by Musharraf for the sake of protection his regime. This thing led Musharraf toward regime failure and institutional failure. (Hamid. 2004)

It is obvious fact that Zardari regime achieved a lot in concern of economy politics and internationally. But he could not primarily focus on institutions to work smoothly and accordingly. There was lack of check and balance and lack of coordination among democratic institutions. These things could not let the country thrive democratically and get stronger roots for future course.

Menace and consequences of Martial laws

Martial laws badly affected Pakistan institutions and waken them to work properly. The three Martial law put Pakistan in the brink of multiple crises. Institutional failure was the immediate consequence of military rule. All the state institutions were used to defend military interests. None of military government was keen to develop country institutions. The crises ridden institutions from 1958 to 1969, 1977-1988 and 1999 to 2007 respectively left numerous problems for state survival. (Shafqat, 2008)

Secondly military rule results political chaos among various political factions. Political dispute among different political wings stagnated institutional development. The culture of political hatred is still continued and not letting state to be developed as a democratic nation on the face of earth. Thus political upheaval is thriving each passing day.

During the rest of military regime economy was concentrated on military interests. Other aspects of states affairs were avoided and could not reformed. During Ayub regime Military was engaged war with India and greater part of economy was consumed over there. In the Zia tenure military was engaged to trained nontraditional and extremist groups. The 75 percent of budget was consumed on training and other expenditure of them. During Musharraf era and up to date Pakistan is involved with the war of other without any gain. (Zubair, 2016).

Thus multiple problems had created by martial laws for state survival, economy and democratic development. Somehow the civilian government had tried to promote democratic institutions. But over military influence in civilian affairs restrain institutionalization. Hence Pakistan becomes a state where institutions are in daily quarrel and cannot coordinate among each other for serving common people. (Khursheed, 2001)

Reforms and policy making of PPP government 2008 to 2013

PPP regime had tried hard to bring more democratic reforms in institutions. But institutions were too weak to be reformed in immediate mean. President Zardar in 2009 introduced series of economic and political reforms. The reforms followed other reforms in 2011 to bring the country among top democratic nations. The opposition government of the time was not enough cooperative with PPP rulers. But they did their best to reform the country institutions. (Nouman, 2013)

The former President AsifZardari restores the international image of Pakistan. He made various agreements with international community on institutional building of Pakistan. In the era of President Zardari Pakistan came in the list of top democratic nations and economy was developed rapidly and ratio of terrorism was decreased massively.

It was the only era that legislature judiciary and executive were function smoothly and randomly. President Zardari could not let each other to intervene on the affairs of each other. The limitation and ambit of each and every institution was demarcated and determined. In the whole era of PPP none of state institution trespass their ambit and were coordinated and cooperative to each other. (Hussain. 2013).

Hence the era brought various changes in political and economic aspects. Democracy becomes the mean of government functionaries. Delivery was the slogan of the government and produces thousands of jobs of educated youth. In his tenure he made thousands of educational institutions to make democracy more successful. President Zardar viewed about democracy without educational institution is like a body without soul. Thus he encouraged institutional development for future democracy of Pakistan. (Dr., Haq ul Noor.2010)

Nawaz setbacks and Dharna politics

When Nawaz Sharif taken the rein of state the situation was quite favorable and peace was maintained by past civilian regime. His remained option was to work on country democracy and institutions. Soon after 2013 election he formulated his cabinet to work on different aspects of institutions. He appointed foreign policy experts for representing Pakistan as a peaceful and democratic country. His early phase was quite best to unite and integrate Pakistan internally. He is made a mechanism for inter provincial communication, cooperation, coordination and trade to promote national integrity and prosperity. (Muhammad. 2015)

He reformed economic sector for world market under the umbrella of China Pakistan economic corridor. It is worth mentioning that CPEC is the life line achievement of Nawaz regime to strengthen economy, democracy and institutions of Pakistan. The government provide feasible environment for international traders and businessmen to come in Pakistan for more economic activities. (I.A, Rehman, 2017).

The government in 2015 introduced series of educational reforms for state institutions to be more powerful. Nawaz Sharif announced all higher educational degree to be free for eligible candidates for producing more brain for country future policy making. The educational expenditures of FATA and Baluchistan students in all universities become free of costs. In the veracity of fact, that it was great achievement of Nawaz regime to address practically the deprivation of both region. (Amir,2016)

Government of Nawaz was working smoothly in all social economic and democratic fronts. But the set in politics brought immense repercussion on the way of all developmental schemes. The deadlock among various political parties become order of day and politics turned spate. Pakistan once again entered in era of political polarization. The hate politics become part of Pakistani political culture. Thus enigma is continued which common Pakistani is suffering. (*Pakistan developmental report*, 2017).

Current analysis

Pakistan critical history on concern of democracy was not as much formidable as it was required for the time. The same is happening currently and no pace of change is yet seen apparently. Resultantly, Pakistan has greatly facing institutional flaws presently. Pakistan growing trend of Mal practice and spread of corruption is part institutions and administration. Thus, the menaces weaken Pakistan internally and externally.

The next problem which is not being address by politician is the lack of coordination among national institutions. This thing has paralyzing the institutions within and on their operational parts. Today, the poor delivery by the state run institutions is due to communication and association gape among them. Hence democracy is not taking strong root is Pakistan due to institutional mismanagement.

Additionally, politicians yet failed to formulate more democratic institutions which can flourish democratic culture on the motherland. In matter of fact that democracy can mushroom which democratic institution are formulated and they should be checked regularly. But Pakistan is lagged behind from the system of check and balance. Every institution in Pakistan has working without an eye bird view and lacked accountability and responsibility.

The weak and hackneyed administrative system of Pakistan has created enormous crises for democracy, national institution and governance. These are the three wheels which can develop a nation at height of highness. Pakistan democracy is in complete failure due political poor cooperation. Institutions are destabilized due to widespread corruption and nepotism. By result of which government is stagnate to work smoothly and accordingly.

Conclusion

Pakistan is in immediate need of institutional reform for smooth functioning and democratic development to face internal and external issues. Without making strong institution Pakistan cannot develop economically and socially. It is obvious fact that today Pakistani society is facing problem like terrorism, extremism, regionalism, unemployment and so on. These are the immediate irritants for Pakistan democratic and institutional advancement.

Thus the issue of institutional reform should be in priority of policy makers. Additionally they have to focuses on democratic norms in Pakistan administrative and governmental concerns. Moreover all issues like corruption, favoritism and nepotism should be checked with due diligence and care. Institutions should be given democratic task to be performed for cause of

justice equality and rule of law. Henceforth Pakistan is a country where democracy is the panacea of all evils.

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