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**Pakistan's Political Development's Correlation with National Social Conditions:  
Measurement and Analysis**

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**Abstract:**

Political history of Pakistan reflects the least concern to political development because Pakistan has had centralized and authoritarian state structure since 1947. The process of democratization had been a wishful rhetoric of ruling elite until 2008 because the military regime had either abrogated or suspended the constitution three times and ruled the country for more than 30 years in its 75 years of history. Economy due to mechanisms of administration never set to position from where ray of hope could emerge. Institutions worked intermingled, and the system of independent operations were manipulated for personal favors every time. In this situation education sector in Pakistan also suffered. At the start, there were not enough and standardized educational institutions to produce and groom skilled citizens and to prepare them for modern competitive standards that would promote political development of the country. This research paper focuses on three main variables that are democratization, economy and education which have been used as an Index of Political Development and their co-relations with the social conditions which includes the military involvement, terrorism, and under-development respectively.

**Keywords:** Pakistan, political development, authoritarian, democratization, economy, terrorism

**INTRODUCTION**

Pakistan's struggle for survival has been as compelling as it has been perilous. Even after its largely Muslim majority's common religion, Pakistan has indeed been involved in a perilous struggle to define a national identity and evolve a political system for its linguistically diverse population. Urdu and English are the official languages of Pakistan, but Punjabi, Sindhi, Pasho, Balochi, and Siraiki are

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regarded as the primary languages. This variety has resulted in chronic regional tensions and utter incompetence to form a constitution. Pakistan has also faced full-fledged wars with India, a strategically exposed northwestern border, and a sequence of financial turmoil. It struggles to allocate its limited economic and natural resources in an equitable manner. Pakistan's struggles are intertwined with the dilemma of reconciling the goal of national integration with the imperatives of national security and to make their political and economic situation better for a positive political development.

According to the author of the book *Society, State and Market*, "Political development is a process which processes the inputs from the environment in the form of supply and demands etc. And at the same time gives output on it by forming and legislating on the issues of the citizens and then implemented those which are benefited for the society" (Martinussen, 1997).

For proper political development any country needs proper workable and trustable institutions. Developing country like Pakistan confronts plethora of Socio-Political and economic problems in different forms since the Independence of this country. The process of political development in Pakistan was malign and did not get the desirable goal of their founding father due to various reasons but here in this research paper the discussion and analyzation is about the three main variables as an index of political development which has been correlated with social conditions. These are Democratization which have been discussed with the social issue in Pakistan that is the role of military institution. Since Independence, most of the time military takeover on different stages abrogated and suspended the constitutions, hanged political leaders, and banned political parties due to which the process of political development halted every time and the basic argument of the particular institution was that competent leaders are not there in politicians to run the administrations of the country and so many others. But on one side and apart from this, the role of political parties was not impressive, and unfortunately they were just struggling for power and indulged in political engineering in the favor of the powerful military establishment. This paper attempts to retrospect the military involvement in politics and its impacts on the political development of Pakistan throughout the history but the things have been discussed thoroughly and concisely.

The second variable or the index of political development which is correlated with social condition is education which has been discussed with different forms in this research paper. It has been correlated, pointed out discussed different issues and flaws a in the education system. Pakistan has no single standardized curriculum or syllabus in the whole country which provides equal opportunity to the citizens as pledged in the constitution of Pakistan. We have outdated courses and syllabus mainly when talks about the madrassah education which is the third largest institute producing graduates. We have different forms or sort of educational institutions like government institutions, private institutions and Madrassas as an educational institution in our country. All of these institutions' role has been discussed in this research paper in detail in the respective section of it.

The third variable which has been discussed as an index of political development is Terrorism and correlated it with the economy of Pakistan. Due to Afghan war and especially after 9/11 attacks the economy of Pakistan did not grow, and development did not occur positively except unsustainable economic growth during Musharraf and Ayyub regime. The hypothesis of Dr. Ishrat Hussain in

"governing the ungovernable" has also been discussed in this article and it has been discussed in detail that how the terrorist's activities ruined the economy of the country and not just the economy but had disturbed everything. Even at some places where the terrorist activities happened every day the situation and the circumstances for the internal and external investors were not conducive and the economic growth in the country become halted. Unfortunately, same was the condition of Pakistan due to the terrorist's activities. All these have been discussed with the help of different research articles, books, research journals and some prominent authors in this research paper in the context of Pakistan.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Pakistan has had a variety of political systems in her short existence. None of them depended solely on force to carry out policies and regulations. During the initial decade after independence, a slew of safeguards restrained and regulated the use of coercion. Elections were held at regular intervals. There was some parliamentary responsibility and some federal division of power. The short term quasi constitutional documents, in addition to the 1956, 1962 and 1973 Constitutions, assured "basic rights." Islamic clauses have been included to strengthen constraints on arbitrary government action by prohibiting laws that contradict the Holy Quran and Sunnah. Martial law, among other things, has occurred in this country at various times.

Gabriel Almond defined "political development" as "the increasing differentiation and specialization of political institutions and structures and the increasing secularization of political culture." The benchmark of political development was seen as efficiency, effectiveness and capability which was termed as "political syndrome" by Coloman.

Lessening the challenges provides nothing except the gratification of self-delusion. These are the harsh realities of the environment in which Pakistan's policymakers must fashion a modern nation-state. He must lead a country with few resources and few human resources, a country with exceedingly weak national links, and a country where small-scale social and economic units remain the focal points of focus. Perhaps more importantly, the decision-maker must act when he is fully aware that the government lacks the capacity for effective initiative. Coercive power is not an effective instrument due to communication, personnel, and ideological constraints.

Literature about economic development and its growth and role in the political development of a country has been taken from many sources like the research articles, books, research journals. Dr Ishrat Hussain in his book *Governing the ungovernable* discussed the hypothesis about economic growth and its role in the development of the country. He explained that normal economic growth in military governments is not just due to the American aids and not due to other foreign Aids but if we see and compare, these aids have also been taken by civilian governments so why the positive and possible growth and development have not occurred in civilian governments as compared to the military governments. Other hypothesis has also been discussed by Ishrat Hussain in his book *Governing the ungovernable* about the slowdown and worst growth of the economy, the inequitable and volatile growth of the economy and different issues of economy while all these issues have been discussed in this research article (Hussain, 2018).

To quote the author: "Going forward, Pakistan's economy has to face a myriad of complex challenges arising from an uncertain global environment, an explosive knowledge economy,



disruptive technologies, demographic transition and climate change." Ishrat Hussain's analysis is going to be true because we are facing the mentioned challenges at present which is an alarming and shameful situation for us.

### **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Three main variables in this research paper have taken and analyzed. The first variable which is used by the author is the involvement of military institutions as an independent variable with the dependent variable of political development specifically the process of democratization. The next independent variable is the education which has been discussed with its different forms and is correlated with the dependent variable as a social condition poverty and discussed with its flaws and issues.

The next independent variable is terrorism in this research paper which might be caused due to poverty, inequality in economy and ethnic or sectarian based conflicts and is correlated with political development specifically with economy.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Qualitative and specifically Historical research methodology has been used in this study. While mainly secondary sources used for data collection included research journals, reports, books of prominent authors, and articles. Thematic analysis method has been used for data analysis.

### **ROLE OF ECONOMY IN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Economy is the backbone of the country, and it leads the country and plays an important role in political development of a country. We know that political factors can influence economic development and vice versa. Due to economy and the economic development, the standard of living of citizens increases by moving away from traditional farming cultures to industrialized society (Hussain, 2018).

In general, economic factors of a country support and influence the process of political development. Because if we have a weak economic situation and conditions we will automatically have weak process of political development. Every nation or state has some set of characteristics like skilled manpower, natural resources, technological resources, available labor force, transportation, and communication due to which a state can built the economy while the political development of a state occurred automatically (Study,2017). But unfortunately we are lacking all these above mentioned facilities. Political development has a direct correlation with economic development of a country and off course it is. Further in detail if we talk about the role of economy in development, in past it has shown good omen in Pakistan that the per capita income of every Pakistani was higher than that of Indians. But that was just a rumour and was just a joke with all of us. Because we are lacking not in technology but in every sector as compared to India. So how can we surpassed their GDP and their per-capita income?

Pakistan was characterized with a well-organized and developed agrarian sector and manufacturing sector which played an important role in its development. But unfortunately, this sector did not get due attention from our leaders and still we are importing vegetables, rice and wheat from other countries.

The service sector was also doing its job well which has contributed well in 2003 at round about 51% in our economy. But before this Pakistan has faced so many problems like sanctions after the tested attacks of atomic bomb in 1998. And then the economy has downed due to the 9/11 attacks on America due to which we have lost so many things.

The link between economic growth and peace is indispensable. Economic development cannot be achieved without peace and prosperity because if the environment is not peaceful and friendly for foreign investors, development and growth cannot be occurred.

Following these, other issues like conflicts among different ethnicities, terrorism, and insurgency have badly affected the economic growth of a country and destroyed both physical and human capital and also undermined the Socio-Political Institutions. Due to all these, internal investors and the capital and foreign investors also shifted abroad which adversely affected economic growth impacting on political development and economic growth of a state (Hagerty,2006). The onset of terrorism in Pakistan after 9/11, has badly affected and halted the growth and the factors which caused terrorism were Afghan war, income inequality, high inflation, ethnicity, sectarianism, illiteracy, and high population growth etc. etc. which has definitely led towards political instability. Because economy and instability have a direct impact on each other.

According to the data in 2005 capital formation was 17.46 percent of GDP but due to terrorism this decreases to 13.5% of GDP in 2015. Following this ethnic and sectarian conflicts were also there due to which some ethnicities Businessmen shifted to foreign countries to save their lives and to save their business which badly affected the economy growth in Pakistan, while the political development of Pakistan also suffered.

Pakistan has played the role as a frontline in global war on terrorism and faced a lot of problems of political violence, insecurity, and escalation of instability. And Pakistan has paid a huge price in this global war where round about 70,000 people have lost their lives including personals of law enforcement agencies, civilians and troops who have been killed in terrorist attacks during 2002-2013. Terrorism in Pakistan affected economy, political development, and almost every sector (Abbasi, Nadia, 2013).

If the acts of terrorist in a country occurs continuously it will definitely affect the economy of the country which has a direct impact on political development. Connecting this with the stock market economy is an integral part of a country's financial system which helps the country to grow and to develop their institutions with the help of this but if the situation of the country is not good and disturbed due to terrorist attacks, stock market economy also collapses which has a negative impact on economy and development of the country. Politically stable, well managed and well-organized stock market encourages its investors and productive projects which help in economic and political development of a country. An important determinant for the growth and development of stock market is macroeconomic stability of the country which attracts foreign direct investment FDI. So therefore, more stable the economy of the country the more it will attract foreign investors in stock market and economic growth and development will occur. The government policy makers or legislature should make the laws friendly for businessmen and they should provide peaceful environment in which the investors feel free and relaxed to focus on their businesses. Supporting this high-quality infrastructure availability can also enhance FDI in country. With the foreign

investment in the country there will be more jobs and if the jobs will be available to the citizens, there will be more savings in the country which would boost tourism, sports and like that everything will be good and better (Raza, Zeshan, 2012).

## **EDUCATION**

As an index of Political development, it is analyzed how education plays its role as a social condition in political development, and it is the second variable. So, in the case of Pakistan, educational institutions are categorized as government institutes, private institutes, and Madrassahs.

### **Governmental Institutions**

Governmental educational institutions are formed, funded, and controlled by a state local or national government under a specific mandate and provide free education to all children. According to the census of 2020, number of government institutes were round about 180,848 which makes 69 percent of all institutes. But the government spending nearly 2 percent of GDP which is very low. Resultantly, these government institutes have both positive and negatives aspects as they provide free education to its citizens but the standard is not like that of other private institutions that produces successful businessmen and politicians. Government institutes also play its basic role in nation building and growth and development but mostly we are governed by elites who comes from private institutions.

The problem in our educational institutions is that in the whole country the government and private educational institutions do not have a single curriculum or single syllabus which they can follow and study. The current government has played its role to give single national curriculum to all the educational institutions in the country. This effort is appreciated but it should be passed and implemented, and everyone should be taught and treated equally. For the good result the government should provide all the facilities to the educational institutions in the whole country.

### **Private Educational Institutions**

On the other side if we talk about the private educational institutions, these are controlled by a private sector and these are funded wholly or partially by the student's tuition fees. Definitely these institutes help the elite families of the society that their children study in good institutions, with the best environment. Unfortunately, poor or middle-class people cannot afford to get their children enrolled in private institutes as they are unable to feed their children due to poor economic conditions.

The curriculum or syllabus of these institutions is updated with time. Also, they teach their students the curriculum which is followed by the Institutions in the Western world like O-Level and A-Level. Though it is a positive sign for the society, but these institutions are no more educational institutions because they have made it a business to make money for themselves. The government should have to work to provide a single curriculum or syllabus to all the institutions be it private institutions or government institutions in the country to facilitate all the students equally. The government should have to focus on practical implementation about the educational reforms and provide middle class families an access to the quality education to play the role in the growth and development of the country (Hammad, 2020).

### **Madrassas**



The third form or sort of education in Pakistan is madrassa education. Reforms in these institutions are bone of contention between the government, political elite and religious groups in Pakistan. Madrassa system was emerged in 1067 A.D. in Baghdad and it was used as a proper institution for obtaining knowledge and at that time both religious and secular education were taught simultaneously. Science oriented and religious based education was highly debated in the history of Islam but after the age of colonization this division remained under discussion in the subcontinent. Here the point is that madrassa education this time is just a memorization of Quran, tafseer, fiqa, and Hadith etc. But the previous system was based on authentic and extensive scholarly research. At different times, steps were taken and struggled to reform the education of madrassa system but at different times a strong opposition of religious and some political elites was faced to halt these initiatives.

The government of Imran Khan has also taken steps and want to give a secular education also to the madrassa students but was opposed by some religious political parties. Unfortunately, the Fall of madrassa education is caused by its emphasis on memorization of books not on knowledge (Musavir,2021).

So, if these things would persist, the development in any sector of Pakistan would not be possible. In short and to conclude the above discussion, following are the issues and flaws in education system which halts the growth and development of Pakistan.

- a) The main issue of Pakistan's education system is that it is theoretical not practical in nature, which needs attention.
- b) The syllabus is outdated, 20years old, which needs reformation incorporating new methodologies.
- c) Quality of teaching is also a great concern, as teachers leave a long lasting impact on students.
- d) There is no unity in curriculum or syllabus in all the educational institutions in the country, which causes disparity among students.
- e) Career counselling is not given due weightage, which is again a hallmark of educational system.
- f) The system of check and balance is also not impressive.
- g) The system of ratification is predominating our educational institutions.

As a citizen of Pakistan, we are also responsible for not struggling to change the existing system or outdated system of education. The reforms which are required in the education system of Pakistan cannot be done alone by the government. Vocational and technical education and training is also necessary. If we as a nation want a positive development and growth and especially political development in our country, we should advance and liberalize our education system and institutions.

## **DEMOCRATIZATION**

The process of democratization as an index of political development is the third variable. When Pakistan came into being democratization was not satisfactory because the country was lacking strong leadership. We have lost the father of nation Jinnah right after independence. After him, Liaqat Ali Khan and Jinnah's Allies were assassinated and no other came in front because of dictatorship and due to some authoritarian leadership. Iskandar Mirza in 1958 abrogated the

Constitution of 1956 and declared Martial Law and Ayub Khan became chief Martial Law administrator. After this the pseudo democratic form of government was formed and assembly was formed by Ayyub Khan in which he became the President of Pakistan and defeated Fatima Jinnah in an election. The process of democratization badly impacted Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention that the rank of Army chief was on the fifteenth position but Ayyub got the opportunity to promote that into top five just after President, PM, Speaker and Chief Justice of Supreme Court.

General Yahya handed over the presidency to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who founded PPP in 1967 and after it in 1970s election he became prime minister of Pakistan. Unfortunately, the elections of 1970s led East Pakistan to Bangladesh because the Awami League of Sheikh Mujeeb ur Rehman won with the absolute majority in East Pakistan, but the leadership was not agreed to give and handed over the power to Mujibur Rahman due to which East Pakistan led to Bangladesh. But with all these the role of India and Indian army was there time to time and they were supporting the students and people of Bangladesh to rebel against Pakistan. Unfortunately, and finally in 1971 East Pakistan became Bangladesh and separated from West Pakistan. Following this and after the negotiated Shimla agreement in 1972 pseudo democratic form of government came into being and in 1974 Bangladesh was recognized as an independent state. This time when the election in the country occurred once again, the rigging in this 1977 Elections led the People's party on strike and once again Chief of staff General Zia Ul Haq took over and declared Martial law and jailed Bhutto and others and the emergency situation once again occurred. Later Bhutto was hanged on widely discredited murder charges. General Zia Ul Haq promised free and fair elections in next 3 months but until 1988 he governed as a Martial law administrator and by virtual Fiat. Later on, he banned political parties and in 1988 he unexpectedly dismissed his prime Minister and announced open and multi-party elections. But in same year on 17th August Zia's plane crashed in which he with other foreign officers was assassinated. After this the elections held, and the government of Benazir Bhutto came into being and she became the first woman prime minister of Pakistan, but she just governed the country for round about three years and unfortunately some of the officers pressurized President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who dismissed the government of Benazir Bhutto on the charges of corruption and abuse of power. After this, once again the elections held but this time Nawaz Sharif became prime minister of Pakistan in 1991 election but later on, he was also dismissed. From 1988 to 1999, the politics of Pakistan consisted of dual party system, between Pakistan People Party led by Benazir Bhutto and PMLN Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz LED BY Nawaz Sharif. Both elected twice and both were twice evicted from office on same charges (Zakaria, 2019).

Once again in 1999 the Kargil war erupted. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif tried to pin all blame for the fiasco on his generals. But army Chief General Pervez Musharraf was one step ahead from Nawaz Sharif. He suspended all the assemblies and suspended constitution, and takeover of military once again became successful. According to some scholars the democratic governments of Pakistan from 1988 to 1999 did not perform their jobs well in the economy of the country and on every level and this became one of the turning point for the military to takeover.

When Musharraf came and took the charge, it was once again the darkest day in Pakistan for the democracy. Musharraf regime was having positive as well as negative aspects because major industrial States developed in the era of Musharraf, universities and other projects also initiated



and developed in this era. The system of local government also came in a well-managed form and in a well-organized manner. But the government cannot be run when there is no confidence among the opposition and if the system is not working properly. So at that time the tussle between executive and judiciary started when Musharraf Forced Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhri to resign. On this the lawyer's movement started and the media persons also joined them and when Musharraf declared emergency in the country the situation once again became worst and finally in 2007 Musharraf stepped down and the general election once again held in Pakistan in which Pakistan People Party once again formed a coalition government (Dawood, 2017).

During this era, Pakistan People Party lead the country and they started to work for the independent institutions and they worked on institutionalization like they gave one of the most important amendments to the constitution of 1973 that is in which the role of every institution has been declared and like separation of power has been discussed clearly and the provincial autonomy was given to the provinces. 18th amendment was one of the landmarks in political history of Pakistan. After the successful completion of Pakistan People Party's democratic government in 2013, the general elections held and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz PMLN became successful, and they have formed their government. And once again somehow the democratic government completed its tenure. The last government of Pakistan tehreek-e-insaf also won the general elections of 2018 and they were and still doing their job in the country and in progress, so it is a positive sign that the third consecutive democratic government is going to complete its tenure though the government of Imran Khan was ended on vote of no confidence but that's also a democratic way. These were all about the process of democratization in the country.

## **CONCLUSION**

In short the debate of political development co-related with social conditions and the reasons behind slowdown of political development which has been discussed in detail are weak economy, weak institutionalization and the worst form of education or education system. As in this research paper we have discussed that democratization is not the only factor for the weak political development in a country though it is the primary one for the developing nation. If the economy of the country is not stable and in a right way, it definitely affects all the other aspects and institutions due to which political development halts. The other factor as an index of political development correlated with social condition is education. Education plays its own and basic role in making the nation prosperous, developed and well organized. If the education of country like Pakistan is not updating and upgrading with the world's developed and advanced technology how it will be possible to go forward and to be developed in the sector of technological advancement to make the economy better and the nation or citizens aware and progressed. Due to education every sector and institution can work under the law and under the constitution if it should be better and advanced with time because it plays the role of light mean that it can remove the darkness. In a country like Pakistan we have one of the biggest problem i.e. Democratization we know that it is a Democratic Nation because from the time of independence we have ruled by military dictators so many times and the constitution had been suspended and abrogated but actually this is not the only problem. The basic problems are of economy and education, if the economy of the country will be well organized, rest of the things will also fall in place.. According to the Bloomberg report a nation on

the name of Bangladesh which was separated from Pakistan in 1971 is the best economy in South Asia in 2021 which is 45% more rich than Pakistan and whose per capita and GDP growth is 2200 dollars which has surpassed Indian economy whose per capita GDP growth is 1900 dollars. In short, all these issues which have been discussed in this article should be addressed and focused if we want to be counted in well organized and well-developed nation and if we want a positive growth in political development and social conditions.

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