Challenges and limitations of democracy in Pakistan for promoting peace and stability

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Abstract: Major aim of this research was to investigate the challenges and limitations that democratic institutions are facing while promoting peace and stability in Pakistan. Quantitative research approach has been adopted for the study and content analysis was used as research method. Research has brought empirical evidence about the causalities and deaths due to terrorist activities and suicidal bombing in Pakistan for last 13 years, and there was clear demarcation between the civilian governments time period and military regime.

Key words: *Challenges of democracy; Democracy peace & stability; Pakistan; Democracy and terrorism*

1. Introduction

Every day and every minute, someone is dying somewhere in this world due to armed violence. United Nations headquarter in New York discussed bringing peace and stability, in countries along with other topics, as new agenda of development. One of the major development goals of UN among eight millennium development goals is promoting peace and stability through eradication of extreme poverty (Hultman, Kathman, & Shannon, 2014). Pakistan being a member of United Nation Organization focuses on promoting peace and stability along with the economic growth, providing better health and education. Pakistan facing difficulties in establishing peace and stability due to lack of rule of law and justice, governance issues, societal solidity, environmental sustainability, and political stability (Nye, 1999). On 24th of April 2014 United Nation called a meeting to establish Peace and stability among countries, and they have considered are vital for sustainable development. This meeting ended up by concluding that peace and stability is necessity of time and economic development and poverty eradication is not possible without establishing peace and stability. President John Ashe opened up the debate by saying "Stability and peace are essential enablers of sustainable development, just as violence is one of its greatest obstacles". "Indeed, many of the broad goals and values that underpin sustainable development assume the existence of stable and peaceful societies, which can address urgent development issues such as health, education and access to water, to name a few. Yes, it is true: development can only take root within a stable and peaceful society" (Union, 2002).

There are several factors that leads the societies towards instability i.e. organized crime, corruption, human trafficking, trade of drugs and illegal arms; illegitimate financial in and outflows. "Achieving the overarching goal of the eradication of extreme poverty will simply remain an elusive ideal and dream, out of reach of those who most need it, unless we work together to end conflict and instability, and to promote inclusiveness, good governance, the rule of law, and human rights, including the right to development for all" (Hartzell, Hoddie, & Rothchild, 2001).

Pakistan is democratic republic country by its constitutionally, and its political system is based upon elected people that make rules and regulations regarding governance. However, unlucky in past history Pakistan was unable to continue democratic systems due to interventions by armed forces military coups and political uncertainty. Political instability is major cause of establishing peace in countries (Goldstone et al., 2010). Pakistan is facing turbulent condition, instability, political disorder, and war on terrorism. Pakistan enters into war on terror after 9/11. Even Pakistan enters into global war on terror in 1978 when an army man General Zia ul Haq agreed to took part in war again Russia by America in Afghanistan. Democratic government always remains against the taking part in wars or fighting the war against terrorism within Pakistan (Hilali, 2005). Democratic governments are facing the problems while managing the mess created by the army troops when they entered into so called war on terrorism started by America.

1.1. Research question

What are the limitations and challenges being faced by democracy in establishing peace and stability?

1.2. Objective of this research

Objective of this research is to study the limitations and challenges being faced by democracy

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or democratic governments to promote peace in Pakistan.

1.3. Significance of this research

Significance of this research has three folds. One is this research will contribute in the body of knowledge about the conditions of peace and stability in Pakistan. How democratic governments are managing peace. Secondly this research will provide the empirical evidence regarding the number of violent incidents like terrorist activities, suicide bombing and the deaths and injuries causes due to these terrorist activities in Pakistan. Thirdly this research will help the future researchers by providing them the baseline survey about the democratic Government's steps, policies and procedures to promote peace and stability in country.

2. Literature review

2.1. Peace and stability

"Durable peace needs inclusive development. Sustainable development, if it is to take hold and flourish, needs peace, stability and the firm foundation provided by human rights". Mr. Ban ki moon former general secretary of United Nations said that peace and stability are the essential outcomes, especially when it comes to personal security and making the individuals feel safer. "Children need to be safe going to school. Women need to be free of violence at home and their workplaces. People need to feel secure in their neighborhoods whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation".

Some of the researchers and practitioners argued that peace and stability should not be added in new global development agenda. They have argued that peace and stability is separate from human development, but in fact, peace and stability and human development goes hand in hand and they are inseparable and both comes under the umbrella of development. All we need to do is to actively participate in developing nations as well as individuals so that they can prosper and promote peace.

Violence does not only cause end of life, but additionally unravels the material associated with community, leaving behind colleges as well as private hospitals ruined along with a emaciated populace struggling the actual physical as well as emotional cost. When we look into the details, 9 from ten countries using the lowest human development index have observed discord inside the previous two decades, regarding little less than a half associated with delicate as well as post-conflict nations urge inside a 10 years.

Investing in peace, balance, transparency, and responsible governance is actually basic in order to extensive advancement as well as wealth. Lack of

Political stability, army effect and violence, country wide brought initiatives along with worldwide assistance to deal with inter-ethnic stress as well as market conversation throughout almost all areas associated with community offers paid back.

"Let us continue to sharpen peacekeeping, peace building, and preventive diplomacy so that they can do their part to create environments conducive for development. And let us build effective and trustworthy institutions, promote the rule of law and pay attention to human rights. By using these tools in a coherent, holistic manner, we can build stable and peaceful societies of freedom and well-being for all."

2.2. Democracy

Democracy is defined as "government of the people, government by the people, and government for the people that follows the rule of the majority" (Sartori, 1987).

According to (Collier & Levitsky, 1997) democracy is "government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free elections".

Democracy is a principle that will manifests in different number of ways, just about all possessing in keeping the folks widely, at the very least theoretically, decide market leaders who will be designed to work the particular modern society on the part of individuals. But despite having any constitutional democracy, which can be supposed to guard individuals from your vagaries regarding government, you can find constraints. Democracy may possibly well function as the very best principle regarding government human beings has built, nonetheless it can be simply no implies excellent (Dahl, 1997).

2.3. Democracy in Pakistan

Quid e Azam once said "Pakistan is made for the betterment of the people living in it. People will themselves select their Leader and it's the responsibility of the Leader to fulfill the needs of the people and work day and night for this Motherland". It means that Pakistan as a nation evolved as a democratic country. From the day one Pakistanis as a nation were struggling to design a better form of Government and finally by following the saying of Quid e Azam they have selected Democracy. But misfortunately the democracy was unable to continue for longer period of time. It was being derailed not only by the by army troops but by democratic governments as well off and on (H.-A. Rizvi, 2011).

Interestingly Quaid Azam Muhammd Ali Jinnah he himself started or laid down the foundation of derailing the democratic governments by using non-democratic means by centralizing the operational structure of Muslim League, and secondly by Sindh assembly non democratically and he also dissolve

the Ministry of Khan Sahab in former NWFP province in year 1948 .Unfortunately Pakistan completely fails to offer sovereign parliament, rule of law, free and fair elections, supremacy of constitution, independence to judiciary in their decision, free political will, dominance of civilian government or cabinet on Armed forces, basic human rights, freedom of association and freedom of speech or whatever you name it being democratic country by virtue of its constitution (Haqqani, 2006).

Muslim League that is being acknowledged as party that causes creation of Pakistan was obviously a moment not a well-structured and deeply rooted political party which could provide system, might countertop the potency of military as well as paperwork and may provide related framework in order to wishes and wishes associated with public following the zone. Apart from, League had been no democratic inside the character brought through elitists. As a result, It might not really generate very first collection as well 2nd collection command inlayed along with really like with regard to democratic best practice rules as well as beliefs particularly as well as general democratic tradition generally (Ziring, 1980).

2.4. Democracy and peace

Main stance of Democratic Peace theory is that countries that have democratic system of law are naturally peace-loving. Most of the democratic nations have domestic policies that are in favor of peace and stability in countries. Democracies do not impose war on each other and they do not allow war within the country. The Peace promoting Institute examines that there is positive relationship between democracy and peace (Gochman, Farber, & Gowa, 2012).

In a democratic country the power lies with the institutions; those institutions can be political, legislative, executive, and judiciary. They jointly with a mutual consent and after having a consultative dialogue, contribute to peace promotion in a country. Society and its individuals take advantage of this kind of situations. However, their bond involving democratic politics along with calmness likewise brings about inquiries. Are the perfect involving Democratic Calmness basically unsupported claims rather than truth? Suppose democracies likewise would like to can charge their very own technique about various other international locations applying brutality? That on which magnitude accomplishes individuals genuinely joins in typically the decision-making course of action about conflict along with calmness? And what could be the purpose on the growing media, typically the 'fourth estate'? (Sharansky, 2002)

Field Marshal law Ayoub Khan ruled the country from 1958 to 1969, General Yahya Khan from 1969 to 1971, General Ziaul Haq from 1977 to 1989, General Pervez Musharraf from 1999 to 2008. In all of the four regimes Pakistan faces and contributed in different wars. 1965 war started with India that was

the time of military regimes in Pakistan. At the time of second war 1971 Pakistan was ruled by a dictator yahya khan, third time when we entered into a war with Russia in Afghanistan; we were being ruled by General Zia ul Haq. And finally when Pakistan has decided to take part in war against terror after 9/11, Pakistan was also ruled by an army troop. Democratic government used to be neutral and use to promote peace among the neighbor countries, as well as within the country. (H. A. Rizvi, 2000).

2.5. Limitations and challenges to democracy in Pakistan while promoting peace

Democracy in Pakistan is facing a lot of issues while promoting peace. This research will discuss all these issues one by one.

First major issue that is being faced by democratic governments while promoting peace and stability in Pakistan is military interventions. In democratic political system political parties use to negotiate with each other for greater good of the country and the military troops are not supposed to intervene among the political negotiation. But unfortunately in Pakistani system the military is more powerful than the civil government.

Second major issue that democratic institution of Pakistan is facing is religious intolerance. Religious intolerance has increased in Pakistan since the General Zia put us in state of war on the name of religion and receives heavy funding from America and Saudi Arabia. From that point onward religious intolerance increased and many of the incidents took place in Pakistan on the name of religion. Suicide bombing, fight against different sects, and other religious intolerant behaviors depicted.

Third major challenge is lack of trust and coordination among institutes. Peace and stability can only be promoted in a country if the institutions are aligned and they are working by remaining in their legal jurisdiction. Institutions are politicized and are being used by the individuals to take personal benefits instead to doing well for Pakistan. Highest institute that can establish peach and rule of law is court and political people do influence the judgments of court and other legislative authorities due to their political influences.

Forth challenge that democratic institutions are facing while promoting peace and stability in Pakistan is lack of continuity of decision by the previous governments regarding development, and establishing peace among country. Every time with the change of political leadership and change of command the new coming government brings their own interest and policies and discontinue the policies of the previous government.

3. Methodology

This research study adopts the quantitative research strategy, as it uses content analysis as research method. Content analysis basically used by researchers to reduce large amount of content or

unstructured data just to make sure that only relevant and pertinent information remains to disclose in research, which is most important, relevant, manageable, and presentable in prescribed context. Content analysis is being used to examine the trends and relationships in given text or content. *"**Content analysis** is a technique for systematically describing written, spoken or visual communication; it provides a quantitative/ numerical description. Many **content** analyses involve media print newspapers, magazines, television, video, movies, the Internet"* (Barringer, Jones, & Neubaum, 2005; Riff, Lacy, & Fico, 2014). Fig. 1 shows all the types of data can be the content that can considered for analysis.

Print media	Newspaper items, magazine articles, books, catalogues
Other writings	Web pages, advertisements, billboards, posters, graffiti
Broadcast media	Radio programs, news items, TV programs
Other recordings	Photos, drawings, videos, films, music
Live situations	Speeches, interviews, plays, concerts
Observations	Gestures, rooms, products in shops

Fig. 1: All the types of data

This research took data from different sources just to provide the evidence that how many fatalities were caused in military régimes and how much causality was being faced.

4. Findings

This research provides evidences that causalities and deaths in democratic period is more than the period of military regime. Main reason behind these facts is that when the army remains in position and they are holding the major control of the country they eventually manage it. When they democratic or civil government take charge the consequences of that military regime start appearing.

Fig. 2 shows the tendency of causalities faced in result of taking part in so called war again terrorism. And the below mentioned table is depicting the clear difference between the number of fatalities in terrorist violence in Pakistan for the period of 2003-2016.
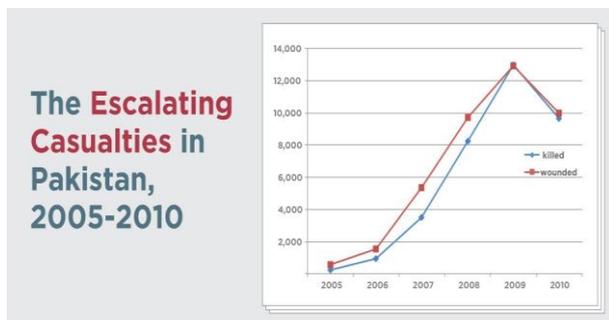

Fig. 2: tendency of causalities faced in result

5. Conclusion

By concluding we can say that democracy as system of law is very beneficial for the countries to promote economic development, human development, and peace development in a country. Democratic countries are most likely to live in peace with their neighbor countries and they tried to promote the peace within country. Pakistan is by constitution a democratic country and it manages any how to live in peace with its neighbor countries, while its period of democratic government. Unfortunately, Pakistan has badly experiencing the lack of democracy in country just because of weak political institutions, military interventions, dissolution of government, fake and flawed election, not enforcing the supremacy of constitution and due to lack of rule of law.

Democracy and democratic institutions are facing some problems while they are promoting peace in Pakistan, there are cultural issues, there are issues of diversity in ethnicity, intolerance and using the institutions for personal reasons are the major issues that democracy faces while promoting peace in Pakistan.

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