

Historical Challenges To Pakistan's Good Governance: Reforms In The Election Process In Conducting Free, Fair And Transparent Elections

Abstract

Pakistan has a turbulent democratic history, occurred in turn repeatedly between elected and military government since 1947. During this period Pakistan faced many crisis in general elections of 1970 till 2013. Functional and effective political system will only ensure the prosperity and stability of Pakistan. For functional political system free, fair and transparent elections are important ingredient. However some improvements were also seen in 2013 general elections as compared to the 1970 to 2008 elections. By close examining the historical overview of first 10 general elections of Pakistan, important political and electoral reforms are still needed to conduct elections that fulfill the criteria of the international norms and standards. This paper inter alia examines the various issues and possible solutions to conduct free, fair and transparent election in Pakistan. Moreover, this paper shows that free, fair and transparent elections has a closest nexus with Good Governance in Pakistan. In this paper some important electoral reforms are suggested to make elections free, fair and transparent in the interest of Pakistan.

Key words: True Democracy, Free and fair elections, Pakistan, Electoral reforms, Good governance

Introduction

For any country, even for true democratic countries, the administrative processes and the legal framework for elections need to be seen as vital, need regular assessment and modification. Democracy is necessary for good governance. Free, fair and transparent election procedure having a closest nexus with good governance. For any country political institutions should be democratic, independent, and devoid of prejudice. The purpose of these institutions should be essentially to protect basic human rights. Functional democracy must protect and recognize political rights of the individual. The individuals must have their free choice in the election of their representatives. Individuals too have right to keep vigilance and aware on the election process and to monitoring such exercises during, before and after the elections and publish their reports in the country. They become basic features of free and fair election practices in a country with good governing principles, leading the way into a electoral democracy. The absence of

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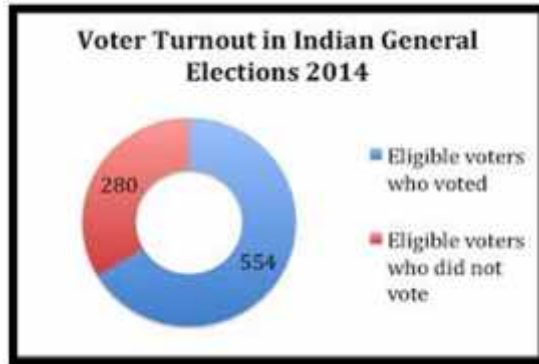
free and fair elections for orderly change of government can lead to destabilizing a country. Such rules of Ghaddafi in Libya, Sadam Husain in Iraq, and Asad in Syria illustrate the case of the lack of orderly change leading to political violence. On the other developing countries which have succeeded in institutionalizing free and fair elections are successful in sustaining good governance with diminishing the occurrence of political violence and political stability for example India. India is the country of true Electoral democracy and model of world largest democracy. Another important indicator of good governance is the Political stability and absence of violence which include the element of free and fair election.

The existence of transparent, free and fair elections by which government officials are selected is essential for people to have a say in government. In many countries of global south elections are manipulated by party of government without giving the opposition the right to compete in a fair way. In some countries even elections don't take place. For solving this issue an effective legal framework and administrative process will allow compliance with international standards and obligation. Further, it indicates a vast political need to engage in continuous efforts to maintain confidence and trust in the efficacy of the democratic system by making organic electoral processes are responsive and inclusive and are aligned with the expectations of all electoral stakeholders. In Pakistan the concept of block voting system still exist .According to block voting people do not use their voting right with their own sense and they just use it on the advice of the head of the tribe or Sardar or Chaudhary of the village so the concept of Pseudo democracy is at its peak in Pakistan. In Pakistan, despite the differences, there is acceptance among local, stakeholders, and international, that political and electoral reforms are required. As refer in an article 21, UDHR that *"Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."* (Article 21, UDHR, 1948)

Good Governance in India

A sound constituent vote based system has been India's most unmistakable character, much sooner than it set up itself as, atomic or IT or monetary major. Parliament, political parties, legal, media, or more all, general population of India always supported the Indian constitution. In spite of any questions from numerous quarters, originators of advanced India received all-inclusive grown-up establishment resting confidence in the insight of the normal Indian to choose his/her represent to the parliament. In the course of recent years, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has conveyed 16 elections to the Lok Sabha (the House of the People) and more than 360 elections to state Legislative Assemblies, guaranteeing precise, serene, and vote based exchange of force. May 2014, General election was the greatest election in the Indian history .Upwards of 554 million of 834 million enlisted voters casted their 931,986 vote to surveying corners on 1.8 million Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). In 2014 General elections 118 million voters increased as compared to 2009's General election. As far as the voting, this resemble including a whole Pakistan, or South Africa and

South Korea consolidated, or 3 Canada's, or 4 Australia's, or tenth Portugal's or twentieth Finland's to the populace.



Source Election Commission of India

India the world largest democracy---success

Security of Election

Interest is impacted by people in general trust and trust in reasonableness and security of the frameworks. The most vital drill for ECI is security. A free and transparent election is unrealistic without most extreme carefulness security, discounting every conceivable risk, leaving nothing to risk. A well expand security arrangement is, in this manner, the greatest weapon in Election Commission's armour.

Execution of Punishment

An important component of security of election is the execution of punishment i.e. non-cognizance arrest warrants. When the court issues non-cognizance warrants of any person ECI ,capture such person who kept on meandering aimlessly, with the assistance of their political defenders. Recently, the ECI starts monitoring the death warrant of bodily non-cognizance head off at pass warrants and make it possible that for the most part they are circular up. It has to a great extent helped to making elections could hear a pin drop and expedient from misdemeanour and intimidation.

Distinctive features of a Credible Election

Four distinctive features of a credible elections in India are;

- i. Transparency
- ii. Independence
- iii. Impartiality
- iv. Competence

Transparency

Transparency is important ingredient for credible election in India. Electoral rolls are shared with all political parties/candidates and hosted on World Wide Web portals for the voters to manage, for the most part candidates are obligated to explain their complete detail about assets and also full detail of criminal cases in an affidavit filed by them along by all of their nomination papers. The citizen can get all these informations easily.

Independence

The true expansion of ECI is not solo right to individualistic in its structure notwithstanding it is, by its arrest nature, fiercely marching to the beat of a different drummer in its working. The appointed, Chief Election Commission (CEC) can only be removed by process of impeachment. CEC of India is independent in its functioning. For instance, persons from the Indian Administrative Service and Provincial Civil Service officers are Returning Officers (RO). The judiciary only interferes in it when there is violation of the Representation of the People Act, which brings this case it in judicial jurisdiction.

Impartiality

Impartiality of the whole election process is maintained at all times. The enforcement of the Code of Conduct of elections ensures than no ruling party gets an unlawful advantage. The Indian polling staff is well trained by ECI. So, there are fewer chances of unlawful actions.

Competency

One of the success of the ECI's is the competency in entire election process. ECI is independent body and derives its power from Indian constitution. ECI appoints well trained staff that work without any fear. In India, 2014 General election was the historic event in the electoral history of India.

Empowerment by Constitution

The ECI is independent body and constitution of India empowered the ECI to conduct free ,fair and transparent election without any fear. The people express their will without any fear or pressure and choose candidate by their own choice. This is the election security which is provided by constitution to ECI and citizens of India.

Authority given by Supreme Court

The authority which the ECI is enjoying by working independently and in effective way is due to the decisions of the Supreme Court of India. Some of the cases are as under;.

Case Law: N. P. Ponnuswami V/S Returning Officer, Namakkal.

The High court interpreted the explanation 'election' in Clause (b) of Article 329 of Indian constitution as the entire process starting with the issue of the notification calling the elections and culminating in the declaration of the result It also mentioned a bar on the interference by courts, including Supreme Court itself, in electoral process.

There were uncertainty in sprinkling minds whether the election process destroyed by the Election Commission was all locked up on the President and Governors, who have to express notifications decor the electoral process in overture, this fear of carrying out an activity was applied at waste by the Supreme Court.

Case law: Birenda Kumar V/S State of Bihar

The court held that the duty to hold free and fair election is entrusted to be Election Commission of India .If a large number of person not eligible to be included in voters list have been included the petitioners is to have to raise their grievance before Election Commission of India.

Challenges to Pakistan's Good Governance with respect to free and fair elections: A case study of Pakistan

Good Governance in Pakistan depends on free and transparent elections. The essential piece of vote based system and good governance is elections. It is impractical to think about a vote based political framework without straightforward and transparent, free and fair elections on the grounds that the thought of the power of individuals can't emerge without provide them with a fair opportunity to choose their representatives. As it is stated by Eric Chenoweth that "*Where democratic institutions are weak, elections are easily used by violent and dictatorial political groups to manipulate the will of the people and seize control of the government*". Elections show attitude of human conduct and help to the elements and contemplations that shape their political demeanor and voting inclinations yet unfortunate. Pakistan is confronting numerous difficulties to set up a true democratic government and good governance. The explanation for is that Pakistan is such nation with the most minimal voter turnout among the nations of South Asia and 6th from the base among 169 nations whose normal voter turnout measurements were accumulated IIDEA, a worldwide between government association situated in Sweden. As indicated by insights aggregated, the normal turn out for the last eight general races (barring 1977 election which was to a great extent accepted to be fixed) works out to be 46.12%.One of the conceivable clarifications for this low voter turnout has been the voter's absence of trust in the electoral framework. This powerless validity of the constituent framework all in all and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is particular has been a weak institution in the ineffective political framework in the nation. In Pakistan, despite of differences, there is acknowledgment among stakeholders, local and international, that political and electoral reforms are still required. The talk on what should be done must be changed into reasonable and sensible activity. An initial step ought to be a cross-party assention for another evaluation, trailed by the new delimitation of voting public to guarantee, to the degree conceivable, that the populace in all constituent voting demographics is generally equivalent in size. Whatever the result of the current political emergency, every political party ought to recognize that holding another decision without another enumeration, and without tending to shortcomings in the legitimate and managerial structure, is not to Pakistan's greatest advantage. Truth be told, it would chance endangering Pakistan's hard won just picks up. An opportunity of chance now exists for

political leaders to meet up and finish the unfinished business of political and electoral reforms.

Historical overview of the General Elections in Pakistan from 1970-2013 and impact on Good Governance

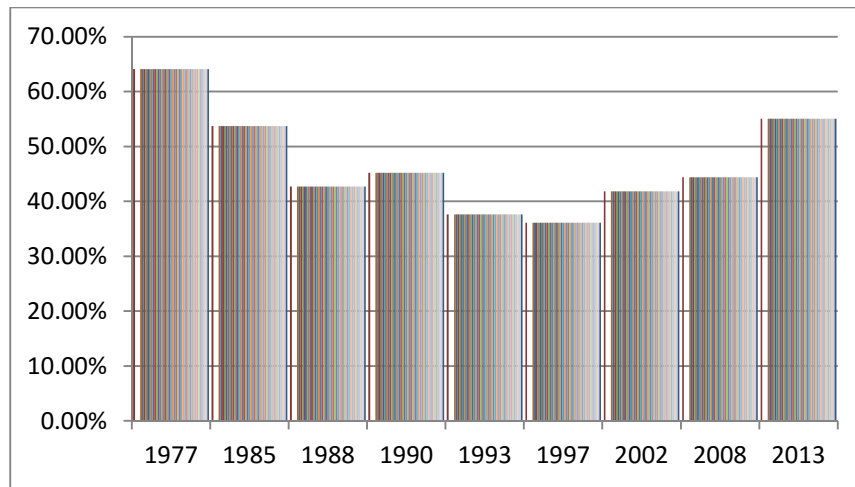
The elections history in Sub-continent can be traced from nineteenth century when the British provincial organization in Sub –continent to look delegates of India in administrative affairs of state. It was in the twentieth century that British presented the arrangement of election for some seats in India's authoritative assemblies. After freedom in 1947 of Pakistan and India, both nations began legitimate administrative work for a Good Governance. However Pakistan confronted numerous issues in election procedures. It can be comprehend by seeing the general elections from 1970 to 2013.

Historical overview of the first ten general elections of Pakistan :(Table 1)

Elections	Election Backdrop	Competing Players	Key Issues	Election Results	Post-Election political impact
1970	Principle of equality was replaced by population based representation for East and West Pakistan.	Awami League in East Pakistan and the PPP in West Pakistan.	The Awami League requested more autonomy and complained the utilization of basic resources of East Pakistan by West Pakistan.	Out of 300 general seats The Awami League won 160 seats while out of 138 seats PPP won 81 seats.	Result showed the varying inclination of East and West Pakistan.
1977	After implementation of 1973 constitution, the opposition demanded fresh elections.	The PPP was major contesting party.	PNA and the PPP criticized one another's national policies.	Out of 200 general seats PPP won 151 seats. 36 seats secured by PNA.	The triumph of the PPP was the short-lived.
1985	This was the second elections in which political parties were not allowed to participate. General Zia assumed power on July 5, 1977	Political parties were criminal from contend the election.	The military authorities completely banned the public rallies.	Many independent new comers elected.	On March 1985, General Zia-ul-Haq declared publicly the Revival of the Constitution Order (RCO).
1988	After an air crash of Zia on August 17, 1988 the chairman of ceremonies of Senate took completely as the acting President and hold election.	The PPP and the 9 rightwing-Islamist satisfaction alliance, I	The PPP and IJI criticize personally each other.	The civilian turnout for the National Assembly election was 42.7%	The PPP formed government but it was short lived..
1990	The issues of rivalries between the PPP and IJI were at its peak.	The major political parties are PML-N, PPP and PTL.	PPP was on defence to highlighting its achievements. It made pertinent criticism on IJI. The IJI strike as an arbitrary to the PPP	The IJI won as majority seats..	The IJI emerged as ruling party and formed the government.
1993	On April ,18 ,1993 Nawaz Sharif's government was dismissed by President due to charges of	The PML-N and the PPP were the major contesting parties	The PPP and the PML-N political rivalries were main issues.	The PPP emerged as the largest single party by the whole of 86 seats.	The PPP , the PML-N and independent members formed the government.

	nepotism and corruption				
1997	This was the fourth general election in quick succession because not a single government complete its tenure since 1985.	The PPP and the PML-N and PTI were competing players.	Every political party made promises but failed to fulfill.	The PML-N won 139 seats out of 207 general seats in National Assembly	The PML-N formed government at federal level.
2002	The 2002 election decided by the armament of the legislature of General Pervez Musharraf were meant to civilianize the armed forces government. Joint electorate system was applied in 2002 election.	The Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid-i-Azam (PML-Q) enjoyed the blessings of the military government. The PPP and PML-N Participated without their leaders.	The election campaign was practically monitored by ECP and the intelligence agencies. The political parties gave granted on certain terms attention to voter level political issues	The PML-Q won maximum	The military polity clocked in punched in political engineering to certify the PML-Q to consist of a coalition government at federal level
2008	The 2008 election represented the win of political and self directing forces and provided an opportunity to political and societal groups to ponder an expanded practice in political and societal affairs	The PPP and PML-N actively contend the deciding	The profession political parties had declared publicly manifestos nonetheless in that manifestos demand of health shot in the arm and advancement facilities, in approximately manifestos.	No political party got an absolute majority. The PPP shift the base hit largest party mutually 95 general seats.	The PPP and the PML-N were united by at variance political parties to a source of strength a coalition polity at the federal level. This coalition was short-lived.
2013	General elections were repress Pakistan on 11 May 2013 Allegations of systematic rigging, favouritism, and ethnicity trends on political parties marred with grist for the gossip mill regarding the nationwide elections..	The major political parties were PML-N, PPP and PTI	The practice key issues were the , political, civil-military relations and Nuclear policy and Foreign relations	PML-N had incline the largest party. The resident turnout was 55.02%	PML-N formed government but it faced many challenges.PTI claimed the systematic rigging in 2013 election.

Voters' turnout in the elections of 1977-2013: (Graph 1)



Source Election Commission of Pakistan

General Elections of 2013 as first successful democratic transition

The General Elections in 2013 were thought to be as the principal fruitful law based elections, but a few parties still had reservations and closed the elections as rigged. Many grumblings with respect to the consequences of Elections were gotten properly after Elections. Some political Parties unmistakably dismiss the Elections. Some consider 2013 elections bringing with complications, confusions and a nonattendance of coordination in 2013 general elections. However, different parties shared their worries about Elections in some voting public. Run of the mill dissensions made by different political parties exceptionally PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) and affirmations of despicable utilization of attractive ,the printing of extra vote papers, vote confirmation and explanation of the check were not gave by the directing officers to surveying specialists of some political gatherings , the vast majority of which have been raised by PTI . There were grumbles, for example, surveying staff was politicized, additional tally papers were supplied to parties, and a couple others.PTI recorded a request and Inquiry Commission for general decision of 2013 had been made and its report is as underneath;

General Elections 2013 Inquiry Commission report:

The General Election 2013 Inquiry Commission comprised of three Supreme Court judges: Chief Justice Nasir-ul-Mulk as Chairman, Justice Amir Hani Muslim, and Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan. After its first sitting on April 09, 2015, 6 an aggregate of 9 sittings were held while the Commission exhibited its discoveries on July 22, 2015 .The report demonstrated that the onus of any anomalies amid GE-2013 was on the inefficiencies of the ECP. It highlighted three noteworthy deficiencies of the ECP:

Absence of anticipating part of the ECP

- The recipe for printing overabundance tally papers (i.e., gathering together on the premise of surveying stations) particularly in the Punjab, was not enough imparted to the Returning Officers (ROs).
- Number of tallies were not consistently adjusted even where Provincial ECP decided the quantity of polls
- Decision to depend on just four printing presses was loaded given the limit issues of these printing presses
- An ink should have been created and the vital hardware acquired to guarantee an exact legal examination of questioned votes could be made
- Failure to utilize Result Management System (RMS) on Election Day
- Provision of surveying material in different supporters confronted a postponement
- ECP had still not obtained its own storage room
- Lack of preparing, over-burden of Returning Officers and Presiding Officers (POs) and inability to conform to the discretionary laws

Lack of Co-ordination between ECP, PEC's and activities on the ground

A top to bottom investigation of the Inquiry Commission report depicts the unmistakable impression that the behavior of the Election, that justified a cautious, genuine methodology, has when all is said in done been trifled with. The report advances a tragic impression of the easygoing methodology that ruled the whole procedure and arrangement of decision took care of by the Election Commission of Pakistan, the guardian Governments, the area returning officers, the returning officers, the surveying staff, race challengers and their separate political gatherings. The Inquiry Commission wholes it up when it states in the report that it was the ECP's obligation to get ready for the 2013 General Election and that it had abundant time to do as such. However, the confirmation before the Commission has proposed deficient anticipating the part of the ECP.

Lack of empowerment of ECP

The most staying issue of the ECP has been its failure to practice its established and legitimate powers successfully and state its protected power. While the ECP has set up abundant measure of tenets and codes, most supported by lawful arrangements, for example, the roof on decision costs, the ECP has never possessed the capacity to guarantee strict consistence to these guidelines and laws. The bye-race in NA-122 (Lahore-V) offered the most lamentable case of the ECP's absence of control and capacity to guarantee consistence of essential discretionary laws and principles, for example, the exposed presentation of cash power that neglected to incite the ECP without hesitation, among others. Doubtlessly the ECP has needed to endure the brunt of legal examination and consistent impedance by the Judiciary in its work; it neglected to regulate a compelling arrangement of legitimate reaction. The issue has discovered further trustworthiness in the words by the Honorable Chief Election Commissioner who was cited as saying that the "High Courts ought to abstain from meddling in the matters of the Election Commission of Pakistan and legal advisors ought to go to the ECP, rather than depending on verdicts from the High Courts." However, the ECP had the alternative to manage this in an unexpected way. On account of the

NA-122 bye-race and Lahore High Court's alleviation to the PTI's request permitting those agents to crusade, and the ensuing uproarious and clear infringement of codes and laws by the sitting Government and different gatherings, the honorable course accessible to the ECP ought to have been to cancel the bye-decision. The ECP brought on hopeless harm to its believability by not crossing out the bye-decision. One of the ECP's most prominent shortcomings has been its powerlessness to have a successful system to manage the Courts.

Challenge of Enforceability of Election Laws, Rules and regulations by the ECP

In spite of the fact that Pakistan has complete appointive arrangements and laws, its principle test is in their enforceability. ECP likewise is confronting this test. It has not done what's needed in the past to make competitors adjust to the roof of spending in a decision. Late bye-race in NA-122 (Lahore-V) has highlighted the issue as stripped showcase of cash force neglected to incite ECP energetically. On the off chance that because of court stay orders ECP felt that its writ is not being acknowledged, it ought to have put off the election yet ought not have traded off on the nature of decision. ECP ought to ensure that all decision laws, principles and directions are acknowledged and actualized. In the event that it doesn't do that, it won't do equity to its established command.

Election Tribunals be made to complete their work within the mandated period of four months

Race Tribunals named after the 2013 General Election had an order of finishing their work within 4 months as stipulated under the law. It stays baffling in the matter of why the ECP permitted the Tribunals to defer the completing of their work for about 3 years. Evidently, a noteworthy postponement happened because of long stay-orders allowed by the prevalent legal. Now and again ECP sent the election petitions after extensive deferral and now and again tribunals did not productively manage the cases. ECP ought to take up all such reasons for postponement and either settle the law further or take proper activities to stay away from such defers later on.

Political and Electoral reforms to ensure free and fair elections for good Governance.

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

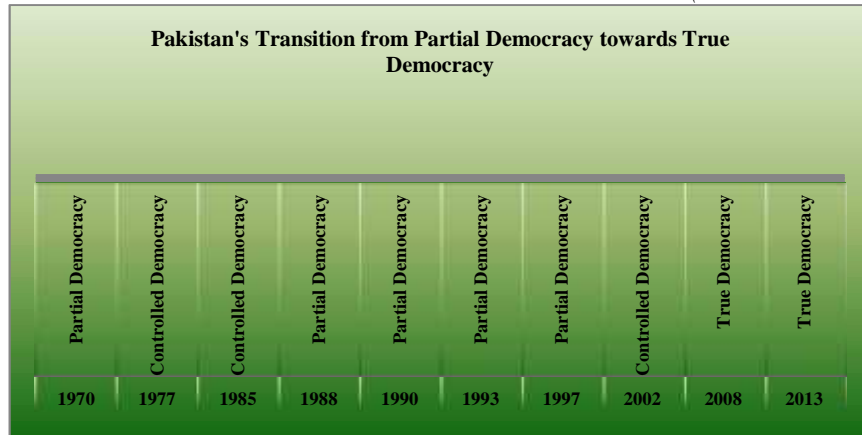
(Abraham Lincoln)

The General Elections of 2013 brought a plenty of issues into open that made much clamor over the Electoral framework when all is said in done and the authoritative issues of directing the decisions specifically. The vast majority of the accentuation put by the restriction gatherings was bound to the adequacy of the Election Commission in guaranteeing decency of surveying at specific supporters. The nation chief of the UNDP Pakistan expressed on the subject of General Elections of 2013, "In Pakistan, in spite of the distinctions, there is acknowledgment among partners, nearby and worldwide, that political and discretionary changes are required ". Additionally on an across the nation review of 4,535 individuals by UNDP, it found that 49 for each penny were not fulfilled by

the current appointive framework while 55 for every penny said political and constituent changes are fundamental.

Keeping in thought every one of the issues amid general decisions of 1970 to 2013, there is need to guarantee Elections free and reasonable and straightforward to set up True Democracy system and Good Governance in Pakistan. Pakistan confronted numerous difficulties to accomplish genuine majority rules system from incomplete and controlled vote based system. For this reason, most pivotal political and constituent changes are proposed and proposals for their appropriate usage alongside dispersal methodology are proposed to accomplish greatest straight forwardness in Elections for true democracy and Good Governance.

Pakistan's transition from Partial democracy towards true democracy during 1970-2013 elections :(Table 2)



Source PILDAT

Reforms

Civic and Voter Education

Purpose:

About 61.7% of the population of the Pakistan lives in rural area. The population in rural area is un-educated, and has less vigilant about voting rights. Also, Election Commission does not have any measure to encourage the voters to cast their vote. There is a dire need to change the perception of people who regard the whole activity of elections as useless.

Rationale:

It is possible that if less number of people will cast their votes, then the candidates with unethical means cast votes of those who haven't voted by using their right to vote due to unawareness. This will lead to rigging and unfair voting. When large number of people will cast their vote the chance of rigging will

minimize and through this way an honest, transparent and fair election can be conducted. This will also help to curb the common dilemma of winning elections solely by enticing rural population through short term benefits.

Implementation:

Election commission must use the most powerful mediums of access to public i.e. social media, National television channel, publications and radio to urge the importance of voting and hazards of losing this opportunity.

Election commission must hold certain rallies and awareness campaigns with the help of NGO's and Volunteers. An effective marketing plan must be made to reach out to the maximum people. This outreach requires a lot of time so Election Commission needs to continue these programs generally throughout the years but specifically near the time of elections.

A special Programmes called "Vote for My Sake" should launch wherein brochures should distribute among educational institutions as the messenger of voter awareness. The education about the importance of voting should provide to youth so that they carry this message to their parents and other eligible voters in the family and social circle. This has been previously been implemented in United States of America.

Dissemination Strategy:

This committee would propose to forward this reform to the Election Commission of Pakistan, Educational Institutes, NGOs and Youth Parties.

Scan Bar code on ballot paper and counter-files

Purpose:

To identify bogus and ghost-voting in the elections

Rationale:

Previously, there have been incidences of rigging where one voter has casted more than one vote. In such incidences, parties blamed each other of rigging against the other party, however, no proof could be generated. This created problems for the ECP, the parties and the public.

Implementation:

Print new with bar codes on receipts and ballot paper

Tally receipt against ballot paper

Dissemination Strategy:

This committee would propose to forward this reform to the Election Commission of Pakistan to take action and print new ballot papers

Region-wise General Election

Purpose:

Enhance the administrative ability of ECP

Effective controlling and monitoring of pre-polling, during polling and post-polling over the country

To ensure no or minimum rigging in the upcoming elections

Promote free and fair elections

Rationale:

There are about 69000 polling stations all over the country for General Election 2013, it is extremely lengthy and laborious for ECP to effectively fulfill its administrative functions on a single day.

Implementation:

This practice is already tested in the Local Government Elections 2015. This test-run was effective and efficient considering there were minimum administrative shortcomings. Implementing it at a larger level, such as General Election 2018, is to make sure that the polling result is not disclosed until the electoral is over. This will ensure that the ECP has control over the electoral process.

To maintain confidentiality of electoral result till the end of process, we suggest two ways:

At the end of polling time, sealed ballot boxes should be shifted to ECP regional office, constituency and polling station wise.

To avoid any chance of tempering during transportation, the polling staff at the polling station must complete counting and reporting through smart phone app. The report can be submitted once only. After transportation, RO at office can recount and submit a second report through the manual system.

Dissemination Strategy:

This committee would propose to forward this reform to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Limit on Campaign Expenses by contesting parties

Purpose:

Regulate campaign expenses by contesting parties and ensure equality among Candidates

Rationale:

Parties and individual candidates require monetary funds to run their election campaigns. Campaign finance laws are made in several countries so that the campaign funding and expenses regulated as they can significantly impact the outcome of an election.

In Pakistan, the Political Parties Order 2002 mainly deal with the campaign finance laws. Representation of People Act ROPA (section 48 to 51) and the code of conduct by political parties and candidates (2013) issued by the ECP set a limit on candidate spending i.e. 1 million rupees for provincial assembly seat and 1.5 million rupees for national assembly seat. Candidates are required to

submit details of their election expenses after elections but the law doesn't provide for a defined procedure for scrutiny of the campaign finance.

Implementation:

Parliament should review the spending limit for both National Assembly and Provincial Assembly Elections.

Electronic Media campaigning should be completely banned and clear Laws should be introduced to monitor and audit of party funds that are spent on election campaigns.

All the party funding should be deposited in single party account and all the party expenses should be made from party account.

An independent monitoring cells to monitor the election campaigns and the candidates who over spend the expenses should be disqualified before the polls.

Section 49 of ROPA places restrictions on the Amount of expenses that a candidate am within one area incur for his election campaign and the ECP is legally established to monitor every expense incurred by barring no one person in broken record to the election campaign.

Dissemination Strategy

This will be proposed to Election Commission of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance and the Parliament.

Candidate limit to TWO constituency only

Purpose:

To limit the filing of candidature to one constituency only and to legalize the punishments for violation of code of conduct

Rationale:

In the past elections, candidates contested elections in multiple constituencies. This led to re-elections in certain constituencies when a single candidate won from more than one constituency. ECP has to bear the burden of administration and finances of these re-elections. People are wary of casting votes for second time and a low turnout is expected harming the representational purpose of elections. The policy will help curbing this burden.

Secondly, the political parties were not seriously interested in the consensus on code of conduct. This led to open violations of code of conduct during pre-election phase. In order to make code of conduct binding, the punishments for violating code of conduct must be legalized.

Implementation

The Parliament must propose a new Bill in consultation with ECP

Disqualify any extra Contesting applications submitted by the

Dissemination Strategy

This will proposed to Election Commission of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance and the Parliament.

Intra-party democracy

Purpose:

The end of internal free enterprise of political parties is to put up the money for to improved balance on attitude of free enterprise within political parties of Pakistan. And to uphold them in pinpointing can't make the grade areas and to strengthen a satisfying discourse on the prefer for separate structures within political parties. The fruitful, freed political parties are the roughly important dwelling blocks of a able-bodied independent electioneering and society.

Rationale:

Political parties comprise the pillars of a self directing structure anyhow in Pakistan political parties demand internally free enterprise and parties are over-centralised, and decisions are taken undemocratically in the deficiency of an liberal practice, the settler autonomous program becomes chain gang member to an amount individuals. As a aftermath, institutions one as the Parliament are disabled to back to the salt mines as the prime institution of outspoken representation, people-centric charter and know backwards and forwards oversight.

Implementation:

- Political parties 'constitution intend be of democratic nature
- Regular and bought for a song party elections
- Discouragement of dynastic leadership
- A universal funding headquarters and conceivable party accounts
- Tolerance of divide within the party
- A democratic decision-making process

Dissemination Strategy

This will proposed to Election commission of Pakistan and the Parliament.

Other Recommendations:

Effective Election dispute resolution process through tribunal

Election Tribunal have to give verdict within given 4 months limit

If Election Tribunal delays the verdict due the complainant, the complainant should be fined. If the verdict is delayed due to the complainer, the complainer should be fined.

Introduce Pilot Run Digital Voting Machines

to facilitate ECP with authenticated maintenance of electoral roll

Registration process of electoral roll should be facilitated at the time of issuance of C.N.I.C. Synchronize the National I.D. Card with a unique Voter I.D.

NADRA should update the I.D. cards with a master chip with an encrypted voter code.

NADRA should provide digital machines with full electoral role database installed in the devices.

Once the card has been used to cast the vote, the machine will decline it if used another time.

Security would have to be ensured. If lost polling staff should be penalized.

ECP should properly arrange its own well train staff to ensure the fair elections without coercion or fear of any political party.

Conclusion

Indeed, the ECP has to be credited for their strenuous dedication and motivation to work for free and fair elections in Pakistan. The reforms we have proposed are innovative and prospective given that a plan to implement is duly designed. As described in Principles of Democracy that *“Free and fair elections increase the likelihood of a peaceful transfer of power. They help to ensure that losing candidates will accept the validity of the election's results and cede power to the new government”*.

End notes

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