
Impact of the Performance of Pakistan's People Party On the General Elections of 2013

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The defeat of Pakistan People's party parliamentarian in the 2013 General elections was not the only due to the popularity of the other political parties but the poor performance of the party in five years of power led the foundation of the defeat of the party. PPP(p) deviated from the ideology and forget its slogan of roti, kapra aur makaan. The absences of people's interests from the policies of the Pakistan people's party were main reason of the defeat of the PPP in 2013. Pakistan people's party was representatives of the middle class and lower middle class in Pakistan but the policies of the PPP from 2008 to 2013 had not representing this segment of the society. PPP manage to survive in the 2013 general election in Sindh not because of its good performance but due to the absence of the alternate to PPP for the people in Sindh. Common worker of the party was not happy with the PPP for its policies with in the party and rejected the model of leadership adopted by the party after the death of Benazir Bhutto. This study explores the factor of the performance in the 2013 elections in Pakistan The factor of PPP performance needed to be explained for the understandings of the response of the people towards the policies of the government. The 2013 elections are alarming for the political parties as people believe in the performance of the parties not slogans and ideologies.

Introduction

Pakistan People's Party had all opportunities to affect the election process as interim set up was in the hand of PPP and key posts were given to pro-PPP people. Asif Zardari as co chairman of PPP was enjoying the highest state position like President. There was a need of clear majority in the parliament to alter the amendments of the Musharraf era and to restore the constitution to its original form and PPP shared power with its political rivals like MQM, PMLQ. MQM became partner in center and provincial with PPP to run the government smoothly.

But it was an important decision to avoid political disadvantages. ¹Then on December 27, 2007, Benazir Bhutto's death was great below to the PPP. On this occasion, the PPP nominated Benazir Bhutto's son Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as chairman, while his father Asif Ali Zardari was nominated as the party's co-chairman. On November 8, 2007 President Musharraf announced that the elections would be held on January 8, 2008, but due to the death of Benazir Bhutto it was announced that the elections will be conducted before February 18, 2008. ²Elections held in Pakistan on due date and resulted in Power in the hand of PPP and But as a political heir of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Benazir, Asif Ali Zardari seemed to be failed in delivering the people. Leadership had no performance for their last 5 years. The voters were then quite wise. Instead of Bhutto's name, they were keen to see their performance. There has nothing else besides poverty and frustration. ³

Hypothesis

Political Parties has been raising attracting slogans and distributing party manifestos during the elections campaigns since partition but the voters of Pakistan has shifted its focus on the performance of the parties and programs based on Public Issues. The elections of 2013 were eye opening for the political parties of Pakistan.

Literature Review

General Elections in Pakistan is good data on the the details of the 2008, general's elections in Pakistan by the author to make the thoughtful vision about the electoral process of the country and politics but this book is not providing the specifics of the other general elections of Pakistan so that any observation in the comparison of the other general elections with 2008 election results and voting behavior of people of the Pakistan. General elections of 2008 were no doubt very unique in nature and insightful to understand that the peaceful transition of the power from military dictator to the civilians. The results of the Pakistan general elections in 2008 were also interested to observe how the king maker party lost the elections and power in 2008 and PPP emerged. But Karim Haider the author of this book have not provided the background and impact of the elections on political development of Pakistan. ⁴

The editors in this book say Pakistan is trying for the democratic principles through the electoral process in the 21st century. This book also shed light on the role of civilian and party-political leadership in decelerating the course of democratic Pakistan. Political leaders and political parties are the variables to judge the forthcoming results and impact of any political system in the contemporary world and in Pakistan these aspects are debated in this book to make indulgent about the account and future of the democracy in Pakistan, this book has

not encompassed the elections results and suggestions for the electoral process but has delivered understanding about the political culture of the Pakistan⁵

Research Methodology

Research study formally based on the Collection of data in any project and it is very important in the process of the research. Kindsof data and methods of the data collection are dependent on the nature of the project. In this project secondary sources of data collection are used to present the awareness and investigate the facts of the general elections of 2013 in Pakistan. To analyze the reasons and factors involving in the general elections of 2013, analytical model of research is applied and in this project to analyze the performance of Pakistan People's party. Analytical techniques of the research methodology are very used. The nature of this work needs an analytical and descriptive approach to test the hypothesis.

The objectives of this work are significant to understand the significance of the study. So the objectives of this study are as under

1. To find out the factor of performance effecting the elections of 2013.
2. To explain the party position of political parties taking part in the general elections of 2013.
3. To shed light on the achievements and failures of the PPP 2008-2013.

Performance of PPP 2008-2013

Achievements

Overall, PPP led democratic government in Pakistan has less achievements and more failures. It is a good thing for the country that there was no political ambiguity after elections of 2013 and performance of the PPP satisfied the leadership of PPP to become ready to accept the defeat and allow smooth transition of power. After the election, the PPP should have considered its failures on that resulted in its defeat and as it has play a role of positive opposition. There are some achievements that PPP secured in its five year term of power.

Waziristan operations

Target operations continued in Waziristan, but due to the opposition of the opposition parties, there was no regular operation like Zarb e Azab. And there could not be serious attempts to negotiate with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban, but the army was given free hand on the issue of operation in Waziristan and was avoided to civil military conflict with army. In the case of Waziristan and the Taliban, the Government was looking to adopt long term policy.⁶

Civil Military Relations

The PPP became victims of dictatorship, but after removing Musharraf from the government, the PPP reviewed its policy to the army and extended its hands to the army for cooperation. President Zardari strengthened the Civil Establishment to increase the reputation of the civilian organizations. He strengthened the democracy so that even worse political opponents preferred to bad democracy in comparison to dictatorship. He maintained the continuation of Civil Military relations by giving the Army Chief an extension. Overall his relationship with the army remains good.⁷

Parliament and the empowerment of the provinces

Asif Zardari had eliminated 58-2/B, a clause under that president had power to dissolve the assembly, and the assembly was free from fear of being dissolution'. That was why the political parties' confidence in Parliament was increased. Most of the Power of the president was handed over to Parliament, and the provinces were given the opportunity to work better by giving more powers, which led to increased trust in the provinces and the center. And the NWFP province was renamed as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa according to the public wishes.

Federation and President Zardari

The president is a symbol of the federation, the president works as a chain between four provinces and all parties, it is necessary for the president not to belong to any political party and if he does, he should not express it. President Zardari made a new chapter in this regards. He was chairman of the PPP as well as the chaired meetings of his Party in the presidential palace, making himself biased and controversial.⁸

Relationship with religious parties

JUI was with him, the country's largest religious party, he rebuilt the Lal Masjid, did not put any unnecessary obstacle in front of religious parties, the Sunni Ittehad Council was joined in alliance and avoided from any other adventures against the Madaras. The grievances with the religious parties were limited to the government's press conferences. Overall (Religious parties compared to Nawaz Sharif era) were happy with President Zardari.⁹

Politics of Reconciliation

Asid Ali Zardari is called a King of reconciliation in politics of Pakistan, he formed the government with Nawaz Sharif, but this alliance could not prove to be sustainable but PPP has done this difficult task in a good way. And with the

collation of Maulana Fazlur Rahman, he played very well in the field of politics that for the first time in the political history of Pakistan, a collation government completed five years of power.¹⁰

Service for Democracy

On April 8, 2010, he handed over all the presidential powers in 18th amendments to the Prime Minister. On November 7, 2009, Gilgit-Baltistan was made an autonomous region and the area's identity was restored. Benazir Bhutto Income Support Program started. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University announced on 13 August 2009. On March 17, 2010, the president passed the Act of donation of Human body parts and Tissues.⁵⁰ Regular session of the parliament held included 521 sessions of the National Assembly, in which 100 sessions in the first parliamentary year, 107 in the second, 107 in the third, 106 in the fourth, and 100 seats were in the fifth parliamentary year. According to the report, in the five parliamentary years, the National Assembly passed 134 bills, out of which 116 governments and 18 private members bill were included. Of these, 81 became the parliamentary act. The National Assembly passed four anti-terrorism bills in its fifth year and also in the last three sessions, although the government introduced the National Accountability Act in October 2012, but the National Assembly failed to make it law of accountability. Of the 243 resolutions, 85 were approved. Six were about the minorities rights 5 regarding women's rights and 5 about religion.

Failures

Load shading and power output

Despite the transfer of power to Musharraf, power shortages were also inherited, but serious efforts were not met to meet the lack of electricity. Due to non-construction of new dams, non-dependent on solar power and Wind Energy, the load shedding was increased, and the shortfall reached up to 5 to 7 thousand Mega Watt. In the meantime, adoption of small hydro power projects, rental power plants, weekend holidays and time for one hour forward, were the measures to reduce load shedding but the situation with the passage of time became worse.¹¹

Corruption

Since he was Minister of Privatization, he was famous Mr. Ten percent, but despite having 11 years in jail, nothing could have proven. However, many cases of corruption were common in his presidency..¹²

Disassociation from Benazir case

Benazir in his will had put the responsibility of his death on some people and Musharraf was one of them. And then after the death of Benazir Bhutto, the

evidences were removed, but President Zardari offered guard of honor instead of arresting General Musharraf. PMLQ was called the killer league by PPP, but then changed time comes and leaders of the PMLQ became the Vice Prime Minister of the PPP government after the senior leader's vision of reconciliation.¹³

Issues of Kashmir

The PPP tried diplomacy and dialogue with India in its own era, but due to the arrogance of India, and failure of the Pakistani diplomacy PPP did not give any results. There was no progress on Kashmir issue in the government of PPP.

Abbottabad operation and Civil Military Relations

On May 2, 2011 US President Barack Obama announced that the American army killed Osama bin Laden, including his son, wife and guard, the world's biggest enemy of America, during the most successful operation in Abbottabad Pakistan. The world was not convinced that American Special Forces killed Osama bin Laden in an extraordinary operation and took his body along with them. Abbottabad commission was made to investigate this high level incident in Pakistan.¹⁴ Prime Minister Gilani rejected the opposition's impression that instead of ensuring civilian supremacy in the country, by giving orders to the military investigation of the incident of Abbottabad, PPP had surrender before its Army. But the situation was according to the allegations of the opposition.¹⁵

Memo gate Scandal

During the pressure on civil military leadership about the Abbottabad commission and developments a scandal changed the situation. This scandal got popularity in the name of memo gate as this was about a memo of Pakistan's ambassador to US in which he claimed that PPP government had order him to write US administration to help PPP government against Pakistan military as in order to find Osama bin Laden, Hussain Haqani then Pakistani ambassador in USA shared information to US administration, on the directions of Asif Ali Zardari and wrote Memo.¹⁶ After the Abbottabad operation relations between military and PPP government went on the point of no return. As the presence of Osama bin Laden near the Pakistani Military Academy in Abbottabad was suspicious.¹⁷

Election of 2013

In May 2013, there were direct elections on the 272 constituencies of the National Assembly in Pakistan, but in the tribal area constituency NA 38 Kuram Agency, due to law and order situation, the elections were canceled, and on May 11, 2013 on polling day the process on NA 254 Karachi was abolished due to bad

administration. So after the last general elections the results of the 270 constituencies of the National Assembly was declared.¹⁸

National Assembly Result of Punjab

In the general elections of 2013, Punjab's share in the 272 Seats of the National Assembly was 148 seats. In the biggest election field of Punjab, Muslim League Nawaz won 118 seats in the National Assembly. On the other hand, independent candidates in Punjab won the second position in Punjab. According to election results, PTI could get only 8 seats from Punjab. Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League (Q) 2, 2, each while Muslim League Zia and Awami Muslim League won one each seat. The share of the federal capital Islamabad was two seats in the National Assembly, one of whom won the Muslim League Nawaz and remaining one by PTI.

National Assembly Result of Sindh

In the 2013 general elections, 61 seats came in the share of Sindh province in the National Assembly. By getting 32 seats in the National Assembly in Sindh province, Pakistan People's Party got the first position in the province. MQM achieved 18 seats in the National Assembly and got the second position in the province. In the Sindh Province, Pakistan Muslim League (Functional) won the 5 seats of the National Assembly while the 2 National Assembly seats was won by the National Peoples Party and PML-N, PTI won one seat each in National Assembly from the Sindh Province. An independent candidate was also successful to reach in the National Assembly from this province.

National Assembly Result of KPK

KPK province comprised 35 seats in the 272 constituencies of the National Assembly in the 10th general elections of May 2013. The largest party emerged in the province by getting 17 seats in the National Assembly of Pakistan was Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Jamiat Ulama Islam (f) with 6 seats proved second largest political party in the province. The PML-N took 3 seats while the Jamaat-e-Islami won 3 seats. Apart from this, the Qaumi Watan Party, the Awami National Party, the People's Democratic Alliance of Pakistan and all Pakistan Muslim League won one each seat in the National Assembly in the province, while an independent candidate was also successful to reach in the National Assembly from this province.

FATA National Assembly Result

In the 2013 general elections, elections were held on 11 out of 12 seats in the FATA. Independent candidates succeeded in seven seats in the tribal areas.

Muslim League-Nawaz won two seats while Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf won one seat each in this region that is called Federally Administrated Tribal Area (FATA).

National Assembly Result of Baluchistan

In the general elections of May 2013, 14 seats were in the share of Baluchistan for the National Assembly. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) won the first position by getting 4 seats of National Assembly in Baluchistan province, while only four independent candidates were successful on the National Assembly seats from this province. Pakhtunkhwa National Awami Party won three seats in the National Assembly from Baluchistan. National Party, Baluchistan National Party and PML-Nawaz obtained one seat each of National Assembly from the said province.¹⁹²⁰

Baluchistan Assembly

The Election Commission of Pakistan declared the results of Balochistan Assembly, according to which Pakhtunkhwa National Party and PML-N won 9 seats each and formed collation government. The National Party won 7 seats and 7 independent candidates secured the seats in provincial assembly while 8 other candidates remained successful, PML-Q took 5, BNP 2 and ANP only one seat while MKM and Muttahida Qaumi Movement Could not get a seat in the assembly. Pakistan people's party has no seat in Baluchistan Assembly.

Punjab Assembly

Pakistan People's Party lost the election of Punjab Assembly despite fact it provides opportunity to two Punjabi members to become prime minister and played the Saraiki belt card by declaring south Punjab province. People on performance rejected PPP and allowed PML-N to retune back and formed the government in Punjab and in provincial Assembly Seats 246 general seats won by the party. PTI won 20 general seats in the Punjab Assembly and secured the seat of opposition leader in Assembly. PML-Q won 7 seats and became third largest party in the Punjab assembly and the ruling party in Center PPP won 6 Seat while Muslim League-Zia won 2 general seatsJI won one seat JUI-F won one seat and Pakistan National Muslim League won one seat in the Punjab assembly. Six seats were won by the independent candidates.²¹

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

In the 2013 elections PPP and its ally party ANP lost the provincial assembly elections and ruling ANP was in collation with PPP in center and province but after elections PTI formed government in KPK as elections for assembly were held and PTI won 38 general seats in the provincial assembly JUI-F won 13 seats,

PML-N won 12 seats, JI won 7 seats, Qaumi Watan Party won 7 seats and independents candidates won 14 seats in the KPK assembly. PPP and ANP utilized the anti-terrorism card in elections but not focused on the performance and people rejected them in the election.²²

Sindh Assembly

In Sindh assembly, Pakistan People's Party (P) formed the government as it won 63 seats and MQM won the 37 seats in Sindh Assembly, Pakistan Muslim League-Functional won 6 seats, PML-N won 4 seats, National People's Party won 3 seats, PTI one seat and independents secured 5 seats in the 2013 elections. This was only province where PPP returned in power back and main role was played by the feudal system in the province and Bhutto card.²³

Conclusion

After the 5-years of government of PPP on May 11, 2013, there were general elections in the Pakistan in which People's Party defeated. The PPP Performances were not ideal. Positive measures were taken on political level. But the people in party did not work properly. The biggest reason was that PPP did not have a popular leadership. Asif Zardari was a political engineer, a good bargainer, a table talk specialist but he was never popular at public level. He ran the party and government like business. In the business deals the results often come in form of ruin or big profit. In 2008 PPP contested elections on Benazir Bhutto's martyrdom that attracted the people to vote for the party. In 2013, the PPP did not have the leadership and not the martyr for sympathy. There was nothing left for the PPP in the political fields of Punjab. No one in 2013 was ready to contest elections on PPP ticket from Punjab. The PPP's all hope was on Bilawal to launch the Bhutto card into the field, but it was no more charismatic card in Punjab and government in center without Punjab was like touching the moon. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan PPP performance was zero and people rejected the PPP policies and leadership but in Sindh PPP managed to survive not because of good performance but voters had no alternate to PPP in Sindh. This election explained one thing very clearly on all political parties that the good performance has no alternate for the parties to attract the voter.

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