

POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN: AN EXAMINATION FROM 2018 TO PRESENT

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Abstract

The present study investigates the political instability in Pakistan during the period spanning from 2018 to the present, with a specific emphasis on the governance of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party. This study examines political instability by analyzing key indicators such as protests and opposition movements, major political scandals, and changes in relations with the military. The results underscore the frequency of demonstrations spearheaded by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), which call for the resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan and allege the government's mishandling of the economy. Furthermore, the article examines the developing correlation between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the military, highlighting tensions arising from divergent stances on international relations and fiscal administration matters. The present study discusses the implications of the findings with respect to socio-economic circumstances, foreign relations, and internal security within the context of Pakistan. The abstract concludes by emphasizing the necessity for Pakistan to implement efficient policies that tackle the fundamental reasons behind political instability, resulting in a more stable and prosperous future.

Keywords: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), PDM, Imran Khan, Political Instability, Implication.

Introduction

Pakistan political history has been characterized by intermittent periods of democratic governance, military rule, and political instability since its establishment in 1947. The complex political terrain has emerged due to the interplay among democratic institutions, the military's sway, regional factions, and religious dynamics. The comprehension of Pakistan's political instability is not only regionally significant but also holds international importance due to its strategic geopolitical location (Zaman, 2023).

This study aims to examine the characteristics of political instability in Pakistan spanning from 2018 to the present, focusing on significant occurrences, individuals, policies, and consequences. This era holds significant importance as it marked the rise of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party to authority, accompanied by significant political upheaval and obstacles. This research aims to investigate the origins and consequences of the instability in Pakistan, analyze its influence on the country's socio-economic structure, and examine its repercussions in global affairs. This study aims to thoroughly examine the various factors involved in Pakistan's current political landscape. By doing so, it seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the situation and potentially identify a path toward achieving stability and strengthening democratic institutions.

Background

Pakistan political history is complex and marked by a series of significant events, developments, and changes. Pakistan was created on August 14, 1947, as a result of the partition of British India. It was established as a separate homeland for Muslims. The country operated under the Government of India Act of 1935 until its first constitution was adopted in 1956. The first constitution established Pakistan as a republic with a parliamentary system (Khan, 2009).

Pakistan experienced its first military coup in 1958 when General Ayub Khan seized power. He ruled as President until 1969, when he was succeeded by General Yahya Khan. The military rule ended in 1971 after the loss of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in the Bangladesh Liberation War (Bose, 2022).

After the Bangladesh crisis, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto came to power. He was the founder of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). His rule was marked by nationalization, social reforms, and the 1973 Constitution. Zia-ul-Haq took power in a military coup in 1977 and remained in power until his death in 1988. His regime introduced a more conservative interpretation of Islam, supported Afghan mujahideen during the Soviet-Afghan War, and held non-party elections in 1985. After Zia's death, Pakistan experienced a period of political turbulence. Benazir Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's daughter, and Nawaz Sharif each had two non-consecutive terms as Prime Minister during this period.

The Kargil conflict with India in 1999 led to a military coup in October of that year, with General Pervez Musharraf taking power. He ruled Pakistan until 2008. General Musharraf's rule came to an end in 2008. Elections were held, and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) came to power with Asif Ali Zardari as President and Yousaf Raza Gilani as Prime Minister.

The period from 2008 to 2013 saw a return to civilian rule, with both the PPP and Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) taking turns in power. Nawaz Sharif was re-elected in 2013 but was later disqualified in 2017. The military played a significant role in his ouster. General elections were held in 2018, and Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged as the leading party.

Imran Khan assumed the position of Prime Minister in August 2018. His government has focused on anti-corruption efforts, economic reforms, and a more independent foreign policy. Prior to 2018, Pakistan's political environment was characterized by erratic patterns of democratic administration and military governance, the latter of which frequently benefited from legal frameworks. After the conclusion of General Pervez Musharraf's military administration in 2008, Pakistan experienced a decade of comparatively continuous civilian rule. Nonetheless, this era was characterized by many obstacles, such as pervasive corruption, extremist tendencies, and an unsteady economic climate. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was the first political party to assume power, succeeded by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) led by Nawaz Sharif. Nonetheless, both factions encountered difficulties with their respective portions of controversies and accusations (Mir at el, 2022).



Prior to 2018, a multitude of significant occurrences contributed to the emergence of political instability within Pakistan. The nation experienced a gradual increase in extremism and intolerance, fueled by a narrow perspective of national identity. This trend posed a threat to the country's social cohesion and stability. The lack of reliable conflict resolution mechanisms within state institutions created a conducive atmosphere for adopting violence as a possible recourse. In addition, the state of economic vulnerability endured while there was a rise in domestic polarization, resulting in a more turbulent political landscape (Zaman, 2023, p. 34).

The floods in 2022 Pakistan have revealed the country's susceptibility to climate-related catastrophes, significantly influencing its agriculture and healthcare industries. This event has also brought to light deficiencies in governance and economic resilience. The escalation of tensions in the region has been attributed to the resurgence of extremist groups along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, particularly with the Taliban-led Afghanistan. Despite the announcement of a ceasefire in Kashmir in 2021, the relationship between the concerned parties remained stagnant and fraught with the potential for crises, posing a threat to regional and international security. The increasing impact of China, a notable partner of Pakistan, has introduced a novel element that can mitigate or exacerbate various internal and external disputes (Farooq et al, 2023).

Amidst these challenges, endeavors have been undertaken to ameliorate the circumstances. Programs such as the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) have endeavored to counteract the growing lack of acceptance towards diversity in Pakistan and promote societal unity. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has engaged in partnerships with state institutions to enhance their capacity to address the concerns of their constituents, with the ultimate goal of mitigating the use of violent measures to settle disputes. The U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) and similar initiatives aim to foster peaceful coexistence and advance narratives of inclusivity in Pakistan using diverse initiatives that enhance police-community relations, facilitate dialogue, improve access to justice, and fortify democratic institutions (Ghouse et al, 2022).

International organizations, such as the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), have assisted with peace building and social cohesion initiatives in Pakistan due to the complex political instability. The work in question consists of multiple constituent parts. Enhancing the Relationship between Law Enforcement and the Community: USIP has tried to address the tense relationship between the Pakistani police force and the general public, characterized by a trust deficit. It is achieved through collaborative efforts with national and provincial law enforcement agencies to strengthen their rapport with the populations under their jurisdiction. The endeavor has encompassed instructional courses and initiatives to enhance capabilities and utilize social media platforms to facilitate more efficient law enforcement (Alshubiri, 2022, p. 569).

Given that a significant proportion of Pakistan's population, approximately two-thirds, is comprised of individuals under the age of 30, the youth's impact is disproportionately significant. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has collaborated with civil society and state institutions to foster discourse, analytical reasoning, and instruction on peaceful coexistence among this youthful population, specifically emphasizing higher education. In response to the

escalation of extremist ideologies and religious fundamentalism, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has assisted cultural leaders, artists, and civil society organizations in reinvigorating customs that foster inclusivity and constructive communication. It entails endorsing media productions that offer alternative narratives to extremist ideologies (Alshubiri, 2022).

USIP has been actively promoting interfaith harmony and peaceful coexistence in response to the deterioration of relations between religious communities, focusing on promoting the inclusion of religious minorities. The aforementioned entails assisting indigenous peace advocates, such as religious experts and authorities, to guarantee fair and just integration of underrepresented groups in every facet of the communal sphere. USIP has been providing technical support and advocating for greater inclusion of marginalized groups to enhance the responsiveness of democratic institutions to citizens as part of its efforts to support democratic institutions. One of the primary focal points of these endeavors is centered on gender, featuring initiatives aimed at enhancing women's agency in peace building and democratic procedures (Khalid, 2022)

Pakistan has encountered significant political instability in recent times. However, various stakeholders, both national and international, are making collaborative endeavors to address these obstacles. Efforts toward achieving more stable governance are being pursued through various measures such as police reform, education initiatives, and advocacy for inclusivity.

Political Instability from 2018 to Present

Detailed analysis of the 2018 general elections and subsequent formation of government

The present study aims to examine the role played by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and its leader Imran Khan in the political landscape of Pakistan.

The 2018 national elections in Pakistan represented a notable inflection point in the nation's political terrain. The rise to power of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party, helmed by Imran Khan, directly resulted from this development. Imran Khan, a renowned cricket player, and philanthropist, positioned himself as a catalyst for transformation, pledging to tackle corruption, enhance economic circumstances, and institute a welfare-oriented society. The individual's populist discourse and opposition to corruption struck a chord with many citizens in Pakistan, particularly among the younger and middle-income electorate, who were dissatisfied with the prevailing conditions. Following the electoral process, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party attained the status of the predominant political entity. Subsequently, it established governance, with Imran Khan serving as the Prime Minister (Ali, 2022).

The responses and accusations of election manipulation by opposition parties.

The electoral proceedings of 2018 were not devoid of contentious issues. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People Party (PPP), among other significant opposition parties, have made claims of extensive electoral tampering. The military

establishment was accused of surreptitiously exhibiting a bias towards PTI and engendering an inequitable environment. Allegations about voter intimidation, media censorship, and pre-poll rigging were presented (Mir at el, 2022).

The allegations resulted in a disputed political climate, wherein the opposing political factions declined to acknowledge the election's outcome and organized nationwide demonstrations. Notwithstanding these protests, the establishment of the government proceeded. The ongoing dispute about the previous elections has contributed to the persistence of political turbulence and disharmony within the nation, and these accusations have raised doubts regarding the credibility of the Imran Khan administration. The present era represents a pivotal juncture for scrutinizing the persistent political turbulence in Pakistan.

Examination of governance issues

Economic challenges and policy responses

The PTI government has encountered a range of diverse economic challenges. The economic environment has presented significant challenges, including high inflation, an expanding current account deficit, and a weakened currency. As a reaction, the government has enacted various policy measures, such as engaging in a bailout arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and enforcing austerity measures. Even with these endeavors, the recuperation of the economy has been sluggish and has been additionally convoluted by the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak. The government's management of the economic challenges has been subject to criticisms, which have resulted in public discontent and political instability (Dai at el, 2023)

Legislative issues and democratic function

Obstacles in the legislative arena have characterized the tenure of the PTI. The lack of cooperation and vocal opposition from political parties has resulted in a legislative impasse on significant matters. The efficacy of the government's policy changes has been impeded by frequent hindrances, thereby constraining their capacity to implement significant reforms. Furthermore, inquiries regarding the comprehensive efficacy of democracy have been brought up, with apprehensions regarding restricted press liberties, diminished room for civic organizations, and the purported overextension of judicial and military establishments.

Internal party conflicts and shifts

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has experienced internal conflicts and changes. The party's unity and strength have been questioned due to internal disagreements and factionalism. The intricate task of satisfying the military, the party's multifaceted political constituency, and the wider public has presented difficulties. The complex governance situation in the country has been exacerbated by internal dynamics and external pressures confronting the party, ultimately leading to political instability.

Analysis of significant political events

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, under the leadership of Imran Khan, achieved a majority victory in the 2018 general elections, signifying a significant transformation in the political milieu of Pakistan. The triumph of the PTI marked the conclusion of the hegemony of the two principal political factions, namely the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). It ushered a novel political entity into the corridors of power (Afzaal at, el 2022).

The present study examines the phenomenon of opposition protests and their relationship with the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) during 2020-2021. The emergence of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an amalgamation of opposition parties, instigated demonstrations against the government nationwide. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has called for the resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan, citing allegations of economic mismanagement and electoral fraud against the government. The demonstrations showed increasing resistance towards the PTI and had a hand in the political turmoil (Ali, 2022).

The period spanning from 2019 to 2021 was marked by economic challenges, which prompted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide a bailout. The PTI assumed responsibility for a challenging economic scenario marked by elevated inflation, a devaluing currency, and a substantial fiscal shortfall. The government endeavored to secure financial aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and executed measures of austerity and structural reforms to establish economic stability. Nevertheless, these measures were subject to censure due to their effect on the general populace, thereby bolstering the opposition's portrayal of fiscal misadministration (Zaman, 2023).

The COVID-19 pandemic, which occurred between 2020 and 2021, posed a considerable obstacle for the government of PTI. The government has been censured for managing the crisis, encompassing apprehensions regarding the healthcare system's capability, vaccine acquisition, and dissemination. The outbreak of the pandemic exacerbated the already limited resources of the government and contributed to the discontentment of the general public.

The PTI government reoriented Pakistan's foreign policy between 2018 and 2023 to enhance diplomatic ties with neighboring nations, including India and Afghanistan. Despite the efforts, the progress was impeded by escalated tensions with India, triggered by border clashes and issues about Kashmir. The government's foreign policy strategy has been analyzed and evaluated, with potential consequences for the stability of the surrounding region. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party pledged to implement electoral reforms and establish political accountability from 2018 to 2023. Initiatives were undertaken to establish entities such as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to address corruption. Notwithstanding, detractors contend that these establishments have been employed in a discriminatory manner to single out political adversaries, resulting in accusations of political persecution (Ghouse at el, 2022).



In general, the tenure of PTI has been characterized by demonstrations, resistance campaigns, fiscal hurdles, and endeavors to reformulate international relations. The governmental body has encountered censure and political turbulence, as dissenting factions have raised doubts regarding its efficacy and have alleged instances of maladministration. The ramifications of these consequential occurrences are poised to exert a lasting influence on the political topography of Pakistan in the foreseeable future (Rashid et al, 2022).

Protests and opposition movements

Under the governance of PTI, demonstrations and opposition campaigns have become an everyday phenomenon. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an alliance comprising eleven opposition parties, has organized multiple demonstrations throughout the nation, urging the resignation of Imran Khan and alleging the government's inadequate handling of the economy. The movements above have contributed to exacerbating political turmoil and instability within the nation (Ali, 2022).

Major political scandals

Numerous political imbroglios have transpired after the ascension of PTI to authority, with the most salient being the imbroglio surrounding the purported tampering of the 2018 electoral outcomes. The PTI has faced notable allegations of corruption and nepotism, which oppose the party's original anti-corruption position. The previous scandals have undermined the general public's confidence and engendered factionalism within the political party, exacerbating the prevailing state of political volatility (Farooq et al, 2023).

Changes in relations with the military

Since 2018, there have been notable transformations in the dynamic between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party and the military. The Pakistani military, which has historically held significant influence in the country's political landscape, was perceived to have exhibited a preference for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party during the 2018 elections. Nevertheless, as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's term has advanced, indications of tension have emerged in this association. Disparities have surfaced regarding pivotal policy matters, encompassing foreign policy and economic management. The ramifications of the progression of this association are noteworthy in terms of political steadiness, taking into account the military's past sway over politics in Pakistan. How this relationship progresses will have a significant impact on determining the future political course of the nation (Dai et al, 2023).

Impacts of Political Instability

The ramifications of political instability on a nation can be substantial, encompassing a range of domains such as governance, economy, society, and international relations. The following are typical consequences of political instability:

The occurrence of political instability can result in a state of unpredictability, thereby exerting an adverse influence on the economy, leading to economic consequences. Potential investors may exhibit reluctance in allocating their funds toward the country, resulting in a decline in foreign

direct investment (FDI) and a subsequent reduction in economic growth. The instability can impede business operations, diminish consumer confidence, and lead to capital outflow. The presence of economic instability has the potential to intensify pre-existing issues such as poverty, unemployment, and income inequality (Hassan & Khan, 2019).

Political instability has the potential to generate social unrest and amplify the likelihood of civil unrest, demonstrations, and acts of violence, thereby raising security concerns. The potential for an increase in the populace's discontent may result in heightened tensions and conflicts between disparate groups or communities. Under certain circumstances, political instability may escalate into a complete outbreak of civil unrest or armed conflict, thereby jeopardizing the well-being and protection of the populace (Sohail et al, 2022).

The phenomenon of impaired governance and policy paralysis can be observed in political instability within a country. Recurrent alterations in leadership or coalition governments may lead to policy paralysis, characterized by impeded or delayed decision-making and implementation. The phenomenon above can potentially diminish the efficacy of public administration, impede strategic planning efforts, and curtail the government's capacity to tackle urgent matters and cater to the populace's requirements (Nawaz et al, 2021).

The erosion of institutions and the rule of law can result from political instability, which may cause a deterioration in the effectiveness and legitimacy of various entities such as the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and regulatory bodies. The escalation of corruption, nepotism, and favoritism could erode the legitimacy of legal frameworks and public confidence in governmental establishments. The gradual deterioration of institutions can potentially result in enduring adverse consequences for governance, accountability, and the general operation of the state (Sulehri & Ali, 2020).

The field of International Relations acknowledges that a nation's political instability can impact its diplomatic ties with other countries. The presence of ambiguity and unpredictability in domestic politics has the potential to influence diplomatic ties, trade pacts, and overseas assistance. A nation undergoing political instability may need help to uphold steady and consistent foreign policy stances, which could impact its international standing and reputation (Choudhary et al, 2020).

The Human Development Index (HDI) and development literature suggest that political instability has the potential to impede a nation's progress toward development. The diversion of resources from development projects and social welfare towards addressing political crises or maintaining security is a potential concern. As a result, essential progress metrics, such as the availability of educational opportunities, healthcare services, and infrastructure, may experience adverse effects, ultimately negatively influencing the country's Human Development Index (HDI) (Farooq et al, 2023).

It is imperative to acknowledge that the ramifications of political instability may exhibit a range of severity and longevity contingent upon the particular circumstances, the robustness of

establishments, and the aptitude of the administration to competently handle and resolve predicaments.

Impact on Pakistan's socio-economic conditions

The potential consequences of political instability in Pakistan's socio-economic conditions are significant and adverse. The presence of ambiguity and frequent alterations in leadership can potentially erode economic stability and impede the ability to engage in long-term planning. The effects encompass:

Political instability has the potential to hinder economic growth and investment. The presence of uncertainty can have a negative impact on the investment decisions of both domestic and international investors, ultimately resulting in decreased business operations and deceleration of economic growth. Furthermore, it has the potential to adversely impact employment opportunities and further amplify the issues of destitution and unequal income distribution (Shehzad, 2023).

The relationship between inflation and the cost of living can be influenced by political instability, which may result in economic instability, exchange rate fluctuations, inflationary pressures, and increased living expenses. This phenomenon could affect individuals' buying capacity and exacerbate the financial strain on the most marginalized segments (Sohail et al, 2022).

The government's capacity to allocate resources towards public services, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure development, may need more support. The allocation of finite resources towards resolving political crises may lead to insufficient delivery of fundamental services and infrastructure upkeep.

The efficacy of social welfare programs and poverty alleviation initiatives can be impeded by political instability. The lack of uniformity in policies and governance can impede the execution of specific initiatives designed to enhance the welfare of underprivileged populations, intensifying societal disparities and constraining the availability of fundamental amenities.

Impact on foreign relations and regional geopolitics

The effects on foreign relations and regional geopolitics are noteworthy.

The potential ramifications of political instability in Pakistan extend to its foreign relations and regional geopolitics. A nation's instability can create tension and strain in its diplomatic relations with other countries. Frequent alterations in governmental or policy stances may result in ambiguity and challenges in upholding uniform foreign policy strategies, which could affect bilateral and multilateral associations. The implementation of regional cooperation initiatives may be impeded by political instability. Pakistan's ability to participate in regional forums, tackle cross-border concerns, and contribute meaningfully to regional peace and stability may need to be improved. The issue of security is a matter of concern, as instability has the potential to affect regional security dynamics. The potential for internal political turmoil and instability to extend

beyond national borders and intensify existing tensions, thereby impacting regional security dynamics, is a significant concern. Those above could potentially result in ramifications for stability in South Asia and the wider region (Wani, 2022).

Impact on internal security and law enforcement

Political instability in Pakistan can significantly affect the country's internal security and law enforcement. The presence of militancy and extremism can create a conducive environment for extremist factions to capitalize on the situation and perpetrate violent acts or exacerbate the nation's instability. The potential for heightened security challenges may necessitate a greater allocation of resources and a heightened level of effort to uphold law and order (Virk, 2022).

The stability of governance and adherence to the rule of law can be compromised by political instability. Inadequate institutional frameworks and unpredictability can hinder the efficacy of law enforcement, thereby providing a conducive environment for the proliferation of criminal activities. The phenomenon above has the potential to result in escalated levels of criminal activity, encompassing organized crime, corrupt practices, and unlawful undertakings (Virk, 2022).

The preservation of stability is a critical factor in ensuring the efficacy of counterterrorism endeavors. The presence of instability may lead to diverting attention and resources from counterterrorism endeavors, resulting in a security vacuum that extremist factions may take advantage of. The operational efficacy of policing and judicial systems can be impacted by political instability. Insufficient stability can lead to substandard training, diminished morale, and disruption of law enforcement operations and legal proceedings, impeding the efficient execution of justice.

Notably, the impacts above exhibit interconnectivity and the magnitude of their ramifications may fluctuate depending on the duration and intensity of the political instability encountered in Pakistan.

Comparative Analysis

Comparison of political instability in Pakistan with other similar nations

In order to assess the level of political instability in Pakistan about other comparable nations, it is imperative to consider a range of factors, including but not limited to the political systems in place, historical background, socioeconomic circumstances, and regional dynamics. Although there are variations among countries, certain nations that have undergone political instability similar to that of Pakistan are:

Bangladesh:

Bangladesh has experienced political instability marked by recurrent alterations in governance, political turmoil, and polarization. Analogous to the situation in Pakistan, the presence of power struggles among prominent political factions has contributed to political instability and difficulties in governance.

Thailand:

In recent years, Thailand has experienced military coups, political demonstrations, and governmental instability. Like Pakistan, civilian and military administrations' dynamic significantly impacts political stability and governance.

Egypt:

Egypt underwent a period of political instability during the Arab Spring, which led to the removal of established leaders and subsequent phases of political transformation and turmoil. Like Pakistan, the challenges of governance, economic inequality, and calls for political transformation have been pivotal factors contributing to the instability experienced in Egypt.

Venezuela:

Venezuela has experienced a period of political instability characterized by economic turmoil, civil unrest, and ideological polarization. The country's instability can be attributed to various factors, such as power struggles among factions, economic mismanagement, and international pressures (Assamoi & Wang, 2023).

Insights Gained from Comparisons:

Promoting robust and autonomous democratic institutions is imperative in guaranteeing political steadiness. The aforementioned entails the establishment of efficient electoral mechanisms, unbiased judicial systems, and resilient mechanisms for oversight to avert the consolidation of authority. The promotion of inclusive governance that accommodates diverse political voices has the potential to alleviate political instability. The implementation of power-sharing mechanisms, formation of coalition governments, and upholding minority rights have the potential to foster stability and redress grievances (Alshubiri, 2022,).

The promotion of sustainable economic growth, the implementation of social welfare programs, and the addressing of economic disparities are potential measures that can be taken to alleviate grievances and contribute to economic stability and social welfare. Implementing measures to achieve fair resource allocation and foster economic empowerment can mitigate social tensions. Developing efficient conflict resolution mechanisms, such as mediation and dialogue, can be instrumental in managing political disagreements and averting the escalation of violence or prolonged instability. Promoting nonviolent methods of political articulation and cultivating an environment of discourse can enhance stability (Rauf at el, 2022, p. 16993).



Promoting regional cooperation, cultivating diplomatic ties, and resolving global concerns can be viable means of enhancing stability. Facilitating communication and collaboration among neighboring nations can alleviate regional conflicts and foster peaceful and stable conditions. Establishing robust and proficient security institutions can enhance internal security and law enforcement capabilities. It entails allocating resources toward developing training programs, acquiring equipment, and establishing efficient intelligence-sharing protocols to counteract criminal activities and extremist menaces (Ullah et al, 2022).

The lessons above underscore the significance of effective governance, all-encompassing political participation, economic and social advancement, and collaborative efforts among neighboring regions in reducing the likelihood of political unrest. Nonetheless, it is imperative to customize these teachings to particular circumstances and obstacles, as the context of each nation is distinct.

Discussion of measures taken to stabilize the political situation

Various measures have been implemented to establish political stability in Pakistan.

Efforts have been made to enhance the electoral process and promote transparency through electoral reforms. The proposed measures encompass the adoption of biometric voter authentication mechanisms, fortification of the Election Commission, and imposing more stringent regulations to forestall instances of electoral malpractice.

The government has undertaken economic reforms to achieve economic stabilization, including obtaining a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund and implementing austerity measures to tackle fiscal difficulties. Various initiatives have been implemented to encourage foreign investment, improve the business environment, and foster economic expansion.

The government has initiated a dialogue process with opposition parties and pursued reconciliation to address political grievances. It encompasses establishing political discourse platforms and pursuing agreement on crucial matters via legislative procedures.

Counterterrorism and law enforcement have been the focus of efforts to bolster counterterrorism measures, fortify law enforcement agencies, and enhance internal security. Military operations have been executed to mitigate the dangers posed by extremist groups.

The government has prioritized diplomatic engagements to enhance relations with neighboring nations and regional stakeholders. These endeavors encompass endeavors to mitigate the escalation of tensions with India, initiate discussions on Afghanistan, and augment regional collaboration via platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Examination of the potential future of political stability in Pakistan

The political stability of Pakistan in the future is subject to the influence of multiple factors. Although making precise predictions is difficult, various factors can influence the perspective.



Institutional strengthening ensures enduring political stability, whereby democratic institutions such as the judiciary, electoral bodies, and accountability mechanisms are fortified. Sustained endeavors to augment institutional efficacy, lucidity, and autonomy will bolster a more steadfast political milieu.

Consensus building and reconciliation are crucial in mitigating political polarisation and promoting stability. It fosters political reconciliation, promotes inclusive governance, and builds consensus on key issues. Fostering discourse among diverse political stakeholders and redressing grievances can serve as a means of promoting a more enduring political milieu.

The prioritization of socio-economic development, poverty alleviation, and inclusive growth is paramount in addressing fundamental grievances and fostering stability. Prioritizing the creation of employment opportunities, implementing social welfare initiatives, and ensuring fair allocation of resources can potentially mitigate social unrest.

The regional geopolitical landscape may influence the political stability of Pakistan. Sustained endeavors to foster communication with adjacent nations, amicably address global concerns, and advance collaborative efforts within the region are poised to bolster a secure regional milieu, fostering political steadiness within Pakistan.

Research Methodology

In this research descriptive method applied to provide a comprehensive and accurate portrayal of a phenomenon or topic. It focuses on describing the characteristics or attributes of a subject, event, or situation without intervening or manipulating variables. Meanwhile, historically analysed to understand and interpret past events, behaviors, and social phenomena. It seeks to uncover patterns, causes, and effects from the past. During review of the literature focused to analysed incorporate most latest researches on PTI government, regime change and PDM policies to replace the government.

Literature Review

The performance of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) during its tenure as the national government from 2018 to 2022 was marked by a range of policy initiatives, economic challenges, political developments, and public opinions (Abbas at el, 2022). During its tenure in power from 2018 to 2022, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) introduced several social welfare policies and programs as part of its broader governance agenda. The Ehsaas Program is one of PTI flagship social welfare initiatives. It is Pakistan's largest-ever social safety net program and is designed to provide financial assistance to low-income individuals and families. Additionally, The Ehsaas Emergency Cash program, launched during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided financial relief to those affected by the economic downturn. Moreover, the Sehat Insaf Card program aimed to provide health coverage to low-income and vulnerable populations. Under this initiative, eligible

families received health insurance cards that could be used to access medical treatment, including hospitalization and surgeries, free of charge at participating hospitals (Zubanovic, 2023).

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) under the leadership of Imran Khan often presented itself as an anti-establishment or anti-status quo political party. This stance was a central aspect of PTI's political messaging and was evident in its approach to governance and political dynamics in Pakistan (Hassan, 2020).

PTI has consistently advocated for accountability and the eradication of corruption in Pakistan. The party positioned itself as a champion against corrupt practices within the political establishment and government institutions. Imran Khan's call to bring corrupt individuals to justice and create a corruption-free Pakistan was a core part of PTI's political platform. However, PTI government could not achieve mark able progress and corruption remained the in many institutions (Wu, X., & Ali, S. 2020).

The relationship between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government and the military in Pakistan has been a subject of interest and sometimes controversy. The dynamics between civilian governments and the military in Pakistan have been complex and are influenced by various factors. Civil-military relations in Pakistan have historically been characterized by periodic interventions by the military in politics, leading to periods of military rule. The balance of power and the role of the military in governance are often contentious issues (Adeney & Boni, 2021).

The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) was an opposition alliance in Pakistan formed in 2020 with the primary goal of challenging and ultimately ousting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan. One of the central demands of the PDM was the resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The alliance believed that Khan's government was not legitimate and should step down. The PDM argued that the 2018 general elections in Pakistan were rigged and not conducted fairly. The alliance called for the restoration of what they referred to as "real democracy" by addressing electoral irregularities (Faiz, 2022).

Regime change affected economic stability and investor confidence. International financial institutions and foreign investors may assess the economic direction of the new government before making decisions. Meanwhile, changes in leadership can have implications for national security and counterterrorism efforts. A new government may revise strategies and priorities in these areas. While, the commitment to democratic principles, the rule of law, and governance standards may be assessed by domestic stakeholders and international observers. The effectiveness of the government in providing public services and addressing domestic challenges could also be scrutinized (SH, 2023).



Suggestions for policy changes based on the analysis of the political landscape

Political stability is crucial for the overall well-being and progress of a country. It fosters economic development, ensures the rule of law, and provides a conducive environment for social harmony. To overcome challenges to political stability, invest in the development and strengthening of democratic institutions. Ensure that elections are free, fair, and transparent. Promote the independence of the judiciary, a free press, and a robust civil society. Meanwhile, ensure that the rule of law prevails. Establish strong accountability mechanisms to address corruption and malfeasance within the government. Implement policies that hold public officials accountable for their actions.

Embrace inclusivity and engage in governance that represents the interests of all segments of society. Avoid exclusionary policies or practices that marginalize specific groups. Promote a culture of political dialogue and compromise. Encourage political parties to work together on issues of national importance rather than pursuing a zero-sum approach.

Establishing professional and constructive relationships between political parties and government institutions and ministries is essential for good governance, effective policymaking, and the well-being of the nation.

It is imperative to prioritize additional reforms aimed at bolstering democratic institutions, including but not limited to the judiciary and election bodies, in order to guarantee their autonomy, openness, and efficacy.

The promotion of inclusive governance can be achieved through the encouragement of participation from diverse political voices, the protection of minority rights, and the cultivation of a culture that values dialogue and consensus-building.

The primary objective of socio-economic development is to concentrate on attaining sustainable economic growth, job generation, poverty mitigation, and social welfare initiatives to tackle socio-economic inequalities and minimize grievances.

Promoting transparency in governance, enhancing accountability mechanisms, and strengthening the rule of law are essential measures in the fight against corruption and ensuring equitable application of the law.

Regional Cooperation: It is recommended to actively participate in regional cooperation initiatives, engage in dialogue to address cross-border issues, and enhance diplomatic relations with neighboring nations to foster regional stability and tranquility.

To enhance internal security and counterterrorism, investing in the capacity building of security institutions, improving intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and enhancing law enforcement agencies' professionalism is recommended.



Implementing the policy above modifications, coupled with persistent endeavors toward political discourse, conciliation, and economic advancement, can potentially augment political steadiness in Pakistan. Nonetheless, the effective execution of these policies will necessitate unwavering political determination, widespread agreement, and sustained dedication from all parties involved.

Conclusion

Summarizing key findings of the research

The research outcomes reveal significant insights about the issue of political instability in Pakistan. Under the governance of PTI, Pakistan has witnessed a recurring pattern of protests and opposition movements spearheaded by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). These movements have been primarily focused on calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan and have accused the government of inadequate economic management.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been embroiled in significant political scandals, resulting in allegations of election manipulation and corruption. These controversies have had a detrimental impact on the party's reputation and have contributed to internal divisions. As a result, public trust in the PTI has been eroded. The present study examines the evolving dynamics of the relationship between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party and the military, a historically influential institution in Pakistani politics. The analysis reveals that the relationship has exhibited tension due to divergent views on foreign policy and economic governance.

Implications of these findings for Pakistan and the international community

The findings have significant implications for both Pakistan and the international community.

The research indicates that the political instability prevalent in Pakistan presents obstacles to effective governance, economic advancement, societal well-being, and domestic security. It is imperative to tackle these concerns to ensure stability and foster sustainable development within the nation.

The political stability of Pakistan holds significant implications for the security and regional dynamics of South Asia in the context of regional geopolitics. The presence of instability can significantly impact various aspects of regional dynamics, including cooperation among nations, relationships with neighboring countries, and endeavors to tackle shared issues such as terrorism and regional conflicts.

The international community has a vested interest in the political stability of Pakistan, especially for nations with economic, security, and diplomatic concerns in the area. Facilitating endeavors

aimed at fostering stability, effective governance, and democratic establishments in Pakistan has the potential to enhance regional stability and global security.

The results generally emphasize the significance of tackling political instability in Pakistan using inclusive governance, enhancing democratic institutions, encouraging socio-economic progress, and cultivating regional collaboration. The previous endeavors may yield favorable outcomes for the internal coherence of Pakistan and its associations with the global populace.

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