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Coalition Governments and Political Instability: Why no Prime Minister has completed a full Tenure in Pakistan

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Abstract
The research also addresses the general effects of the absence of security on democracy, governance, economic growth, and the capabilities of institutions. Lastly, this research aims to recommend feasible solutions for strengthening coalition government, fostering political consensus, strengthening the supremacy of the constitution and enhance the parliamentary democracy. It asserts that good political stability is grounded in robust democratic institutions, effective political leadership, respect between political parties and constitutional principles. In order to guarantee democratic continuity and political stability in Pakistan, these elements need to be strengthened.

1. Introduction

Since the establishment of Pakistan in 1947, the country has had a history of political instability. The nation, which is described as being under a parliamentary system of government under the Constitution adopted in 1973, has not yet found the way to a stable and continuous democratic form of government. Inability of the Pakistan Prime Ministers to serve their day to day constitutional five-years is one of the major hurdles in the path of parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. The continuity of elected governments has been often undermined by political rivalries, institutional deficiencies, military interventions, judicial rulings, constitutional turmoil, and partisan conflict. This situation has come to pose serious concerns for the stability, effectiveness and sustainability of democratic structure in Pakistan. Coalition governments have been playing an important role in the political scenario of Pakistan especially after it has become a norm that none of the single political party gets a clear majority in

National Assembly. In these conditions, political parties make alliances to form governments and stay in power in Parliament. In parliamentary democracies, coalition governments are often seen as a valuable way to provide political representation, cooperation and power sharing. But ideological differences, conflicting political interests, leadership disputes, divide over positions of ministers and lack of mutual trust among the coalition partners have often posed problems in the process of coalition formation in Pakistan.

The differences can lead to political tensions which are sources of weakness in government stability and have an impact on how well democratic institutions work. There have been several occasions in Pakistan's political history where the government has been ended prematurely and political crisis has been created. In the 1990s, the elected governments were rejected at the end of their respective constitutional mandates. Likewise, the Supreme Court disqualified Prime Minister Mr. Yousaf Raza Gillani in 2012 and Nawaz Sharif in 2017. A successful vote of no-confidence was the first time that a Pakistani Prime Minister was ejected from office in April 2022. The developments indicate the challenges of continuity of the power in Pakistan. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) led government ruled the land for five years from 2008 to 2013 but it could not complete his five-year tenure as Prime Minister. It is therefore essential to differentiate parliamentary term from the term of office of the Prime Minister. This issue of the coalition government and political instability cannot be discussed separately. A number of other issues add to Pakistan's political instability: civil-military relations, judicial interventions, weak democratic tradition, institutional cooperation, constitutional issues, economic crises, and political polarization. In addition, political parties tend to be more interested in national stability and democratic development than in political survival and short-term interests. This often leads to policy shifts, weak governance, low investment and low trust in democratic institutions. This study is focused on a critical analysis of the link between Coalition Governments and political instability in Pakistan, in the context of the reasons behind the early dismissal of Prime Ministers. It examines the impact of coalition formation, political competition, institutional disputes and power-sharing systems on the viability of democratic elections be strengthened.

2. Background

The second part deals with the background of Parliamentary Democracy in Pakistan. The history of parliamentary democracy in Pakistan has been vibrant and turbulent since the inception of the Islamic Republic, on 14 August 1947. Being a part of the British colonial system, Pakistan adopted parliamentary system, with Prime Minister as the head of government and President as the constitutional head. Political disagreements and delays in the constitution, a weak political leadership, and frequent interventions by non-elected institutions affected the development of democratic institutions. The difficulties faced made it difficult to have a stable parliamentary system in the country (Jalal, 1995). Initially the interim constitution of Pakistan was Government of India Act 1935 after Independence. There were several political and administrative issues in the country, such as the issue of representation of the provinces, the distribution of political powers and the function of the political institutions. The first Constituent Assembly was unable to draft a permanent constitution and it was dissolved in 1954 by Governor-General Ghulam Muhammad. This resulted in the erosion of parliamentary norms and paved the way for institutional conflict in early Pakistan's political history (Newberg, 1995). On 23 March, 1956

the first Constitution of Pakistan was introduced making the nation an Islamic Republic and introducing a system of Parliamentary Government in the state. This was a constitutional scheme that did not last long, however. On 7th October 1958 President Iskander Mirza declared martial law and appointed General Ayub Khan as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Soon after Ayub Khan took over as president. The military operation was a significant blow to parliamentary democracy and it also halted the building of democratic institutions (Rizvi, 2000). In 1962 a new constitution was introduced by Ayub Khan which adopted presidential system of government rather than parliamentary system.

This system centralized the power on the president, and limited the significance of representative parliamentary institutions. In March 1969, Ayub Khan resigned due to simmering discontent and political unrest, and General Yahya Khan took the seat of power. The political and constitutional structure of Pakistan was further revealed to be weak during the political crisis of 1971 when East Pakistan became an independent nation, Bangladesh (Jalal, 1995). This was a historic event in the history of Pakistan, where in the year 1973, the National Assembly adopted the Constitution of Pakistan unanimously. It re-established the parliamentary system of government, with Prime Minister as the head of government and the President as the head of state. There were also provisions in the Constitution for a bicameral system with the National Assembly and the Senate. These were made in order to enhance the spirit of representative government, federalism, parliamentary system and democratic accountability (Government of Pakistan 1973). Parliamentary democracy still suffered from significant interruptions, however, due to these constitutional changes. In 1977, General Zia ul Haq imposed the martial law and dismissed the elected government of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Likewise, the 1999 military coup brought General Pervez Musharraf to power by ousting the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Such interventions eroded democratic continuity and had an impact on the growth of parliamentary institutions (Rizvi 2000). In 2008, a civilian democratic government was restored, and in 2013, the first full five-year term of a freely elected Parliament was completed. Important steps were taken in 2008 with the restoration of civilian democratic rule and 2013 when the first full five-year term of a freely elected Parliament was completed.

The 18th Constitutional Amendment of 2010 also further reinforced parliamentary democracy by curbing the powers of the president and giving more autonomy to provinces. It also brought back the parliamentary feature of the 1973 Constitution (Government of Pakistan 2010). However, Pakistan's parliamentary system remains under strain due to political instability, disunity in the political parties, tension in the institutions and leadership challenges. Hence, it is important to comprehend the evolutionary journey of parliamentary democracy to grasp the reasons behind the unfulfilled mandate of the Pakistani prime ministers.

3. Definition and nature of Coalition Governments

Coalition government is a government formed by two or more parties in order to form a government and achieve a parliamentary majority. Typically, it happens when no one political party secures a majority to govern on its own. Coalition government is an important element of parliamentary democracy as it offers rooms for cooperation and representation and power-sharing between political parties. Through coalition arrangements, political parties develop common political objectives and cooperate to run government affairs. But the key to the success of a coalition government is mutual

trust, political understanding, compromise and agreement between the coalition parties (Lijphart, 2012). Coalition government is closely linked with parliamentary democracy in which the executive government has to remain in the confidence and support of the legislative government. In a Parliamentary system, there is the possibility for political parties to enter into pre-election and/or post-election coalition to ensure majority in the Parliament. Alliances allow smaller political parties to be in government, and have an impact on national policy. Coalition governments also promote political inclusiveness by representing various interests, ethnic groups and regions. Parliamentary governments are dependent on the support of Parliament and political parties make decisions about entering into Government or opposition strategically. (Strøm, 1990).

Coalition governments are typically ones that rely on power-sharing, and they distribute ministerial positions, parliamentary responsibilities, and policymaking power in a manner that shares them. Collaboration partners frequently enter into a contract regarding various economic policies, foreign affairs, administrative changes, and constitution issues. Such agreements can assist in defining a shared political guidance and minimize differences between the parties involved. Coalition partners, however, may share conflicting notions, political agendas, and electoral interests. Cooperation and unity can be difficult, especially when political situations shift or conflicts arise concerning significant national matters (Müller & Strøm, 2000). Coalitions can be either minimal winning coalitions, oversized coalitions or minority governments bolstered by other political parties. A minimal winning coalition is a group of political parties that collectively has the smallest possible parliamentary majority to government. Too large a coalition is a broad group of parties that are larger than need be to achieve a parliamentary majority. A government without Parliamentary majority is one that relies on outside support or agreement with other political parties. The various arrangements are a characteristic of parliamentary democracy and the significance of political bargaining in forming governments (Lijphart, 2012).

Coalition Governments have occupied an important place in the Parliamentary Politics in Pakistan especially when political parties fail to achieve clear majority in the National Assembly. Political parties often enter into alliances to create governments and enhance parliamentary strength. Yet, coalition government formations in Pakistan have tended to encounter conflicts of leadership, disputes over ministerial portfolios, political negotiations and policy divergence. Sometimes these problems have a negative impact on the performance of the government and on the security of political partnerships. The nature of coalition governments in Pakistan also indicates general institutional and political issues. Poor democratic traditions, polarization, personal interests, and competition over power can lessen the cooperation between the coalition partners. As a result, coalition governments could be subject to internal conflicts and pressure points. Coalition governments, thus, can help generate better democratic representation, if they are formed on the basis of trust and political consensus, but they can also help foster political instability when political parties are more interested in personal and party goals than in national goals (Sartori, 1976; Strøm, 1990).

4. Historical Evolution of Coalition Politics in Pakistan

Coalition politics in Pakistan has emerged in various periods of the political life of the nation and has been an important factor in the formation of a parliamentary democracy in Pakistan. Political alliances, competitions between different parties, military interventions and institutional conflicts have played a

significant role in the formation and stability of governments in Pakistan since independence in 1947. Coalition governments gained significance following the restoration of civilian democratic government, but political cooperation among various parties has continued to be an important aspect of the political system of Pakistan. Since the emergence of coalition government, political consensus, power sharing and democratic continuity have been major challenges in the nation (Jalal, 1995). Early years of the establishment of Pakistan were tough for political parties as the establishment of a stable parliament was difficult. The Muslim League was initially predominant in national politics but internal differences, a lack of political organization and regional differences made its political strength gradually wane. Various political parties and regional parties tried to form coalitions to challenge the ruling political leadership. In 1958, however, with the breakdown of the constitution and the state's transition to martial law, there was a break in the growth of parliamentary politics. Military regimes also dampened political competition and undermined the institutional mechanisms needed for coalition politics (Newberg, 1995). In the 1970s, alliances for democratic representation and political power were increasingly important in the struggle. After the split of East Pakistan in 1971, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto set up a civilian administration.

The Constitution of 1973 enacted parliamentary system, which gave political parties a chance to engage in national politics. But political tension emerged between the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the opposition parties. The Pakistan National Alliance (PNA), formed by various opposition parties, came about in 1977 in response to the government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. This political rivalry eventually led to the military rule by General Zia-ul-Haq in July 1977 (Rizvi, 2000). In the 1980s political parties renewed their fight against military rule and for a return to parliamentary democracy. In 1981, a group of opposition parties joined together to form the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) in opposition to Gen. Zia's military rule. When the democratic government was restored in 1988, the role of political alliances in the formation of government grew in importance. Benazir Bhutto had formed a government with the help of smaller political parties and opposition parties also had formed alliances against the ruling government. In the 1990s, however, the changes in government, which occurred repeatedly over the past decades, were triggered by political competition and institutional conflicts (Jalal, 1995). In October of 1999, the military took over in the government of General Pervez Musharraf, after which political activity started to be reorganized under a military-dominated political system. After the general elections of 2002, the Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q) government was formed with the help of smaller political parties and independent individuals. This was a time when it was clear that parliamentary alliances played a crucial role in preserving political authority. But political leadership and institutional limitations continued to influence the political environment (Rizvi, 2000).

5. Political Instability in Pakistan: An Overvie

Political instability is defined as a state of political uncertainty in the country, characterised by frequent changes of government, institutional conflict, poor leadership, constitutional crisis and uncertainty in policy-making. It poses challenges to effective and continuous democratic governance. Political stability is a key determinant to economic development, national security, democratic accountability and public confidence. But Pakistan has been facing continuous political instability since the time of its independence in 1947. There have been numerous military interventions and political conflicts, as well

as a lack of democratic culture and an inter-institutional conflict that have posed great challenges to the development of a stable democratic system in Pakistan (Jalal, 1995). Repeated military intervention in the civilian political affairs has been one of the main reasons for instabilities in the governance of Pakistan. The process of constitution and parliamentary system has been interrupted in Pakistan by military takeovers in 1958, 1977, and 1999. These measures undermined the political institutions and limited political opportunities for democracy. There was also an imbalance between elected and non-elected institutions, because of the military's role in the decision-making process. Rizvi (2000) argues that the military has always had a strong presence in Pakistani politics and its impact on the interactions between civilian governments and state institutions. Weakness of political party and democratic institutions is another important reason for political instability. Pakistan's political parties often suffer from party splits, leadership conflicts, personality politics and a lack of democratic leadership. For many, strong institutional structures are lacking and rely heavily on individual leaders.

This situation makes it difficult to keep political cooperation and to create long-term national policies. Political rivalries tend to be fought not ideologically but personally, leading to more polarization and confrontation between political groups (Waseem, 2012). Political instability in Pakistan is also due to coalition politics. If no party gets a clear majority in the National Assembly, then different parties form alliances to form governments. Coalition governments are supposed to create a degree of political representation and power-sharing but may have problems due to conflicting interests, differing ideologies, and disagreements over the allocation of ministries. coalition partners may exercise an influence on government decisions or negotiate political advantages through their parliamentary support, if they are small. But as a consequence, the government's capacity to make policies and to keep the parliament stable weakens due to internal differences (Lijphart, 2012). Moreover, judicial intervention and constitutional wrangles are also been a significant factor in instabilities in Pakistan. Elected Prime Ministers have been disqualified, constitutional tensions have been observed and conflicts between the executive and judicial powers have emerged, which have created uncertainty in the political system.

The events of 2017 and 2012, when the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was removed and Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani was disqualified, respectively, highlight judicial decisions that have affected the continuity of elected governments. These changes have sparked debates about the meaning of the Constitution, the scope of government, and the accountability of government to the people (Newberg, 1995). Political unrest has been further exacerbated by economic trouble in Pakistan. Citizens are not happy with the inflation, unemployment, growing public debt, lack of energy supplies, and financial crises, which put pressure on governments. Economic woes can lead to a loss of trust in political parties and make it easier to trigger a public demonstration against a government in power. Political instability is also linked to instability in economic planning, policy implementation and investor confidence in the international community. To sum up, there are several interlinked political, institutional, economic and constitutional factors which have contributed to the political instability in Pakistan. Democratic continuity has been disrupted by military interventions, weak political parties, coalition disagreements, judicial disagreements and economic difficulties numerous times. Thus, political stability needs robust democratic institutions, constitutional supremacy, political consensus, responsible leadership and good

parliamentary governance. If these changes are not made in its near future, the nation will have to grapple with issues of governance stability and sustainable democracy in the near future.

6. Solutions to Political Instability in Pakistan

1. A series of political, institutional

The constitutional and economic dynamics have contributed to political instability in Pakistan. The nation has faced difficulties in building a robust democratic framework with constitutional supremacy, institutional collaboration, and political responsibility since becoming independent in 1947. Political instability has been a major challenge due to frequent changes of government, military interventions, political rivalries, lack of democratic traditions, and conflicts between the institutions of the State. All these factors have impacted the continuity of the elected governments, and have contributed to the erosion of citizens' trust in the democratic institutions (Jalal, 1995). The military's role in politics.Military interventions and politics. The frequent entanglements of the military in politics have been one of the main contributors to the political instability in Pakistan. Military dictatorship periods in 1958, 1977 and 1999, disrupted the parliamentary democratic process in Pakistan. Such measures undermined civilian authorities and led to a distortion of the power relationships between elected representatives and non-elected institutions. Military pressures on political decision-making also have an impact on democracy and the independence of institutions. The military has been an important force in Pakistan's political affairs and has affected the civil-military relationship and the political setup of the country, as presented by Rizvi (2000).

2. Weak Political Institutions

Political instability is also a major factor due to weak political institutions. Democratically elected institutions like elected parliaments, political parties and electoral institutions must be independent, transparent and accountable in order to work. But the political structure of Pakistan has often been plagued by issues of leadership, administration, and even institutional interference. Political parties may rely on individual personalities and not build up strong party organizations. This situation restricts internal democracy and makes it difficult to form uniform/consistent political policies (Waseem, 2012). The feuds and interests of political rivals. The rivalries among the main political parties have also been a source of instability. In politics, leaders spend most of their time accusing, protesting, fighting against each other and fighting for position rather than cooperating in a democratic way and promoting national development. Due to the political intolerance, it is challenging to achieve consensus between ruling and opposition parties on key country matters. This means that political polarization reduces the ability of the parliament to cooperate, and makes it unclear whether elected governments will last (Jalal, 1995).

3. Fragile Coalition Governments

Another important element of political stability of Pakistan is coalition governments. If a political party does not win enough seats in parliament to form a government by itself, it must form alliances with other political parties to create a government. Coalition arrangements can foster greater political representation, but can also lead to conflicts over the distribution of political power, policy decisions and ministerial positions. However, when smaller coalition partners do not get what they want, they may withdraw their support. These differences can undermine the state's stability, as well as its parliamentary majority (Lijphart, 2012). Constitutional and judicial conflicts.Judicial and Constitutional

Conflicts. Political stability has also been affected by conflicts between the judiciary and executive institutions. The uncertainty in the Pakistani parliamentary system has been caused by constitutional skirmishes, judicial actions and disqualification of elected Prime Ministers. The pulling down of Yousaf Raza Gillani in 2012 and Nawaz Sharif in 2017 shows the power of judicial rulings in ensuring the continuity of elected governments. These developments have occasioned significant issues of constitutional governance, institutional limits and democratic accountability (Newberg, 1995). Answer the following questions in your own words.Write answers to the following questions using your own words. Political instability has been worsened by economic problems. People are unhappy with the state due to high rates of inflation, unemployment, growing public debt, energy shortages and poor economic governance. Governments and opposition are also under increased strain during economic crises and utilize these times to challenge the leadership of the ruling government. In addition, frequent changes in government also impact economic planning, policy continuity, and investor confidence (Zaidi, 2015). The question of political instability in Pakistan cannot be laid at the door of any one single cause. Collectively, military interventions, poor institutions, political conflicts, fragile coalition structures, judicial squabbles, and economic difficulties weaken democratic continuity. There is a need to move towards constitutional supremacy, institutional independence, political cooperation, responsible leadership and improved parliamentary democracy to deal with these issues.

7. The role of Coalition Governments in political instability.

Coalition government is a very crucial feature of the parliamentary political system of Pakistan, especially when no single political party gets a clear majority in the National Assembly. Political parties in a parliamentary democracy are able to form alliances to create governments and hold legislative backing. While coalition governments can help foster political representation, power-sharing and democratic participation, they can also lead to political instability when coalition partners hold differing policy priorities, political interests, and ideologies. Coalition governments have often been plagued by disagreements, leadership struggles, and political negotiations within the government, impacting the continuity and effectiveness of elected governments in Pakistan (Lijphart, 2012). However, one of the primary factors that causes coalition governments to cause political instability is disagreements among coalition partners. Political parties tend to form coalitions to meet similar political goals, but these unions become less effective when significant choices need to be made regarding national policy, cabinet ministers and power sharing. Smaller political parties will sometimes seek more representation and influence over government decisions. If they do not get their demands, then they might say that they will withdraw their support or join the opposition. The resulting political divisions bring uncertainty on the government's parliamentary majority and consequently its possibility of fulfilling its constitutional mandate (Müller & Strøm, 2000). The lack of ideological and political unity among the coalition partners is another important factor.

Political alliances in Pakistan are often based on practical considerations, such as electoral strategies and the pursuit of political gains, rather than on ideological convictions. Governments are formed by parties that have different political programmes and interests. Differences about economic policy, constitutional matters, foreign relations, administration, etc., can arise, however, after gaining power. These differences detract from the trust between parties and make it more difficult for coalition

governments to have a unified political course (Sartori, 1976). Coalition governments also add to political uncertainty by promoting too much political wrangling and competition for ministerial jobs. Distribution of ministries and significant government posts is often negotiated between political parties based on their parliamentary representation. In some instances, coalition partners have the party agenda ahead of national development and good governance. It can lead to administration inefficiency, policy making delays, and discontent among coalition partners. This can make it difficult for governments to carry out long-term reforms and to sustain political cooperation (Lijphart, 2012). The political history of Pakistan has several instances of coalition issues. In 2008, after the general elections, a coalition government was formed with a few political parties, headed by the Pakistan Peoples Party. This government served a full term of five years in parliament, but suffered from splits in the party and shifts in coalition backing. Likewise, after the general elections in 2024, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz entered into a coalition government with the help of other political parties. The importance of political negotiations and parliamentary cooperation has been highlighted in this type of arrangement in ensuring stability of the government (Election Commission of Pakistan, 2008, 2024).

Additionally, coalition governments are at risk if opposition parties try to capitalize on divisions within the ruling coalition. Governments facing increasing pressure due to political polarization, public protests, vote of no-confidence and competing political interests. The ousting of PM Imran Khan from office in April 2022 in a vote of no-confidence showed how parliamentary alliances and opposition cooperation can impact the viability of an elected government. Finally, coalition governments do not automatically result in government instability as their success depends on political cooperation, mutual trust, democratic principles and agreed division of power. Coalition governments have been easily dismantled in Pakistan due to a lack of political consensus, personal interests, ideological conflict, and shifting alliances. Hence building coalition agreements, fostering political tolerance and accentuating national interest over party interest is a prerequisite to guarantee political stability and continuity in the context of democracy in Pakistan.

8. Political unrest and fighting between the coalition

partners is one of the main reasons for political instability in Pakistan. Coalition governments come about in a parliamentary democracy when two or more political parties unite to achieve a majority in the legislature and to govern. While these coalitions strive to ensure political cooperation and power-sharing, clashes between coalition members can occur as a result of divergent political interests, leadership aspirations, ideology and policies. In Pakistan, political parties often form alliances for the purpose of gaining government control, and having success in unifying them after they have taken office is a formidable challenge. These conflicts stymie government functioning and raise doubts about the viability of democratic rule (Lijphart, 2012). One of the major reasons for conflicts among coalition partners is the struggle for political power and ministerial positions. In the case of coalition governments the political parties require the sharing of key ministries based on their parliamentary representation and political influence. Conflict arises when coalition partners feel that they are not getting an adequate proportion of government. Smaller political parties may leverage their parliamentary presence for additional development funds, administrative posts and ministries. These demands may lead to conflict within the ruling coalition and to a negative impact on government decision making capability (Müller &

Strøm, 2000). One other significant reason behind coalition conflicts is the policy priorities as well as political ideologies.

Economic development, taxation, foreign policy, provincial autonomy and constitutional reforms are areas of conflict among political parties. They can agree to form a government but still have different political programmes and long term goals. The government's policies may clash with those of the coalition partner, causing disagreements. Such disparities occasionally lead to public criticism, political pressure and threats on parliamentary support. Sartori (1976) argues that the ideological gap and interparty relations affect party systems' workings and stability. Leadership tensions along with other factors also play a major role in the conflict among coalition members in Pakistan. Political leaders frequently want more power in the government and in politics at the national level. If there are two or more leaders of influence who are vying for power, there may be a decline in mutual trust and cooperation. Personal political agendas can often override the public duties of government. This means that coalition partners can criticize each other openly, refuse to co-ordinate on key issues, or plan their own political course. These cause an unstable political environment and reduce democratic government (Waseem, 2012). There are several instances of differences among coalition partners in Pakistan's political history.

After the general elections of 2008, Pakistan Peoples Party had formed a coalition government with other political parties. But the Muttahida Qaumi Movement had shifted its political stance and pulled its support a number of times during the parliamentary process and kept the Parliament in confusion. Likewise, clashes within a coalition over the political agenda have affected the processes of forming and decision making through subsequent parliamentary sessions. These developments highlight the problems of political cooperation in Pakistan on the long run (Election Commission of Pakistan, 2008). In addition, clashes between coalition partners offer an opportunity for opposition parties to attack the ruling coalition. Opposition parties can pressure coalition members who are not satisfied to leave the coalition or work together in parliament to oppose the government. Political changes can lead to votes of no-confidence, parliamentary crises and early changes of government. Hence, conflicts can have a direct impact on the life of elected Prime Ministers and continuity of national policies. To sum up, political conflicts and contestation between the coalition partners is one of the vital issues which pose threat to the democratic stability of Pakistan. Coalition unity is often undermined by disputes on issues of power sharing, positions in government, political ideologies, and leadership aspirations. In order to alleviate such difficulties, political parties should formulate explicit coalition policies, foster mutual trust, uphold democratic values and put national interests above party and personal agendas. In order to achieve coalitions and improve Pakistan's parliamentary democracy, it is crucial that there be good political cooperation.

9. Pakistan's political instability and the need for a stable electoral system

Democratic continuity is the uninterrupted operation of democratic institutions, constitutional government and elected officials under the legal and constitutional rules and processes. Democratic continuity has been a perennial problem in Pakistan since independence in 1947. A parliamentary system was established in the constitution of 1973, but the state has been subject to military takeovers, political disputes, institutional clashes, constitutional challenges, and early elections. The obstacles have

undermined democratic culture and given rise to doubts about the prospect of parliamentary democracy. Prime Ministers' failure to serve out their constitutional five-year term of office indicates the challenges to political stability and democratic continuity in Pakistan while in office (Jalal, 1995). Perform military interventions and political disruptions.Carry out military operations and political disturbances. Repeated military interventions in politics is one of the major challenges in the continuity of Pakistan's democracy. Elected governments were replaced in 1958, 1977, and 1999 through military actions, which halted the constitutional process. All these measures contributed to the weakening of the parliamentary system and to the lack of the development of democratic traditions. The military also got into the affairs of politics and this had an impact on the relationship between governments and the state institutions. This means that elected political leadership often has been under strain in exercising independent authority and in finishing their constitutional mandates (Rizvi, 2000).

Affirming and maintaining a faith-based worldview.4. Building character by practicing the disciplines of the faith. Polarization is another key challenge to democracy continuity. Political parties in Pakistan often indulge in political confrontation, accusation, protest and opposition campaign. Political leaders can sometimes focus on the interests of their party and electoral campaign instead of on national problems. Lack of political tolerance makes it difficult for governments and opposition parties to work together on issues. This clash fosters political turmoil and undermines the democratic process (Waseem, 2012).

Weaknesses of Coalition Governments Coalition governments are also beset by serious problems of democratic continuity. If none of the political parties has a clear majority in the National Assembly, each party forms alliances with other parties to govern. But ideological differences, leadership conflicts, and disagreements about the allocation of ministries can undermine these alliances. Smaller coalition partners can drop out if they are not satisfied with the political demands of their coalition. These conflicts raise doubts about parliamentary majority, and the life of elected governments. Thus, stable coalition arrangements are crucial to enhance parliamentary democracy (Lijphart, 2012). Institutional conflicts and constitutional crisis. But the lack of democratic continuity in Pakistan has also been impacted by conflicts between the executive, judiciary, parliament and other State institutions. These conflicts over constitutional power, political responsibility and institutional roles can sometimes produce major political crises. The executive continuity has been affected by constitutional and judicial changes, as both Prime Ministers Yousaf Raza Gillani (2012) and Nawaz Sharif (2017) have been disqualified. These occurrences underscore the need to uphold constitutional limits and the importance of intergovernmental cooperation within the state, both public and private institutions. 6. Uncoordinated Political Parties and Internal Democracy Another challenge is the weak internal democracy in political parties. A lot of political parties rely on the strength of their individual leaders, not their organization. Decision making is often centralised and is a function of influential party leaders, with few opportunities for ordinary party members to make significant decisions. This situation can lead to leadership tensions, divisions and uncertainty. The enhancement of internal party democracy is thus an essential component in building responsible political leadership and robust democratic institutions (Waseem, 2012). Economic Challenges and Governance Problems

Economic insecurity is also at risk of rupturing democratic continuity. Citizens are dissatisfied due to inflation, unemployment, poverty, growing public debts and lack of good governance. When

governments are facing economic problems, their political pressure and public criticisms are growing. Moreover, multiple changes of government can also create disruptions in economic policies and development programmes. These issues make it difficult to draw up long-term national development strategy (Zaidi, 2015). To sum up, democratic continuity in Pakistan is associated with a number of political, institutional, constitutional and economic challenges. The parliamentary system has been interrupted by several military operations, polarization, weak coalition governments and fragile coalitions, institutional problems, weak political parties and economic instabilities. Pakistan must have constitutional supremacy, independent institutions, responsible political leadership and political tolerance and effective coalition agreements, to ensure democratic continuity. Political parties should be focused on national interest and democracy cooperation rather than on personal aspirations and political rivalry. All these measures can help ensure the stability of government and long-term healthy parliamentary democracy in Pakistan.

10. Findings and Discussion

The outcomes of this study suggest that political instability in Pakistan has been caused by multiple interconnected political, institutional, constitutional and economic factors. It looks at the connection between coalition governments, instability and the short term governments of individual Prime Ministers, who have not been able to serve out their five-year terms in office. The study of political history of Pakistan shows that coalition government, institutional conflicts, military operations, political opposition and lack of democratic culture have played a significant role in the continuity of elected governments (Jalal, 1995; Rizvi, 2000). Specific to the current government, fragility of Coalition Governments. The study discovers that coalition governments in Pakistan often struggle with political unity and parliamentary support. Internal conflicts arise as political parties form alliances for a majority in the National Assembly, but as there are differences in political interests, ideological stances and leadership aspirations. Such differences are sometimes capable of leading to attempts to withdraw parliamentary support, thereby undermining the government.

This discovery is in line with Lijphart's coalition theory which places cooperation, negotiation, and trust among political partners as pillars of political development (2012). Political rivalries and leadership conflicts. The study also reveals that competition and conflicts over leadership are significant challenges to democratic stability. Political parties often put their political game and personal agenda ahead of the interests of the country. Parliamentary polarization because of conflicts between ruling and opposition parties diminishes chances for parliamentary cooperation. Moreover, conflicts between coalition members lead to fragmentation of the government and instability of political leadership. These situations have a negative impact on democratic governance and institutional development (Waseem, 2012). The influence of military and non-elected institutions will be viewed.The impact of the military and non-elective institutions will be examined. Another significant discovery has been that the military's entanglements in politics have tainted the growth of parliamentary democracy in Pakistan.

1. The military took over control of the state in 1958, 1977 and 1999, thereby undermining constitutional democracy and democratic institutions. The role of non-elected institutions has posed challenges for civilian political leadership too. The historical experience of democratic stability is that there must be a

balance between the various constitutional institutions and there must be respect for the mandate of the elected leaders (Rizvi, 2000). A judicial intervention and a constitutional challenge.

2. A judicial intervention and a constitutional challenge. Judicial rulings and constitutional issues have been identified as playing a significant role in the continuity of elected governments, based on the research. Given the evolution of the Constitution and the judicial environment that has taken place since the 2012 disqualification of Yousaf Raza Gillani and 2017 disqualification of Nawaz Sharif, the tenure of Prime Ministers is far from certain. Furthermore, these cases underscore the significance of constitutional interpretation, the autonomy of the institutions and their delimitation (Newberg, 1995). An economic instability and governance issues.

The findings also show that economic problems are a factor in political instability. High inflation expectations, unemployment, low income, high public debt and inadequate economic management lead to dissatisfaction among the public and pressure on the ruling governments. Political instability also has an impact on investment, economic planning and the continuity of development programmes. Economic stability and good governance are thus key factors that help sustain the public's trust in democratic institutions (Zaidi, 2015). Demonstrates low levels of democratic traditions and institutional development.Low democratic traditions and institutional development. The study also reveals that low internal party democracy, personality-based politics and absence of political tolerance are the aspects which have adverse impact on continuity of democracy. Parties often rely on strong leaders more than on a solid cadre. This leads to the division from within and restricts the scope of democratic decision-making. For this purpose, political institutions need to be strengthened and promotion of democratic values is essential for political stability (Jalal, 1995).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study indicates that the political instability in Pakistan is not solely due to coalition governments. Instead, their fragility has a close relationship to the general institutional shortcomings, political rivalries, constitutional disputes, and economic problems. While the continuity is present in the parliamentary system of Pakistan as the National Assembly elections were held in both 2013 and 2018, each Prime Minister has encountered challenges to their full five-year terms. The results thus highlight the need for robust democratic institutions, responsible leadership, constitutional supremacy, political consensus, and effective cooperation among coalition partners for political stability. These steps are necessary to enhance parliamentary democracy and democratic continuity in Pakistan. Recommendations for Political and Democratic Stability in Pakistan Political stability is a key factor to consolidate democracy, enhance governance, and foster sustainable development in Pakistan. These have included changes of government, coalition politics, institutional tensions, military intervention and political rivalry, all of which have posed significant democratic continuity issues in the country's political history. These issues can only be addressed through a grand political, constitutional and institutional reform in the country. The following suggestions can be considered to strengthen coalition governments, improve parliamentary democracy and provide the environment for the elected Prime Ministers to serve their full term (Jalal, 1995; Rizvi, 2000).

1. Strengthening Democratic Institutions The government needs to bolster democratic institutions, including Parliament, political parties, judiciary and Election Commission. These institutions have to be

independent and transparent in fulfillment of their constitutional functions. The central role of Parliament in political decision-making, making legislation and holding the government accountable must be kept. Well-developed institutions can alleviate political insecurity and enhance the continuity of democratic government (Newberg, 1995).

2. Fostering Political Agreement and Collaboration Political parties should foster the spirit of understanding, tolerance and cooperation of each other. Government and opposition parties need to put the needs of the nation ahead of their own and party interests. The national questions of economic development, national security, education, constitution reforms, etc., should be discussed in the parliamentary arena. Political consensus can minimize the confrontations and provide more stability in the democratic system (Waseem, 2012).

3. Improving Coalition Agreements Coalition governments should form clear and formal agreements prior to the formation of the government. Such pacts should outline the duties of coalition partners, the sharing of ministries, shared policy goals and the way disagreements will be handled. Good coalition agreement can help minimize misunderstandings and unnecessary conflicts among political parties. Another mechanism for maintaining mutual trust among coalition partners is to make provisions for regular consultation and negotiation between partners (Müller & Strøm, 2000). Ensuring Constitutional Supremacy All political institutions and government bodies are required to abide by the Constitution of Pakistan. The rules should be adhered to in accordance with the Constitution without political interference or personal interests. The powers and responsibilities of the executive, legislative and judicial branches should not go beyond the limits of their respective constitution. Respecting constitutional supremacy, which can enhance institutional independence and safeguard democratic continuity, (Government of Pakistan, 1973).

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