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Research Paper

Tackling National Grievances vis-à-vis Enhancing Inter-Provincial Harmony

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Written by



Author

**Ms. Maryam Raza,
Research Associate, Center for
Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS),
Islamabad**



Co-Author

**Ms. Sarah Salahuddin,
Research Intern, Center for
Global & Strategic Studies
(CGSS), Islamabad**



The post-independence (1947) marked a timeline in Pakistan's history, where different resonances at various levels appeared. Some ideas, attitudes and frames constructed upon the constitutional grounds have broadened federal units' scope from the 1973 constitution. Moreover, it harnessed the outreaching and dominating influence on the provincial assemblies. The choice of strict pro-federal system, therefore, was well-rooted with the 1935 act. However, after the demise of Pakistan's creators, the initial period of grievances recognition between the politicians, and authoritarian rulers started to impact multiple units of the country. This research paper gives a comprehensive analysis of the factors that have affected national harmony during past decades. The desire to increase ideal serenity and harmony between federation and provinces and eradicate inter-provincial rifts have remained a big demand from the people of Pakistan for a long time now. In the later part of this paper, it is elaborated how provincial grievances can be amicably resolved through wider consensus by constitutional and other conflict settlement mechanisms.

Introduction:

For any country globally, all the provinces and the federal units within its jurisdiction must be working for better and smooth functioning. For this purpose, all the state organs must be perceptive and keen to understand the grievances of its general population. But, the structural adherence always rests with the establishment. Therefore, the experimentation of the growing stages like the insertion of Article 92-A, i.e. to lower the provincial governments status by demotion and then later in 1955,



incorporating Section 93 to soften the hard situation.¹All such twists and situational crisis cultivated the future grounds to the factors like the topsy-turvy evolution of Pakistan's federation, changing civil-military relations, widespread dynastic politics, and unequal distribution of wealth and resources. Therefore, such reasons including, their timely modifications, have considerably hindered unity and harmony. In this aspect, these factors are elaborated in the following discussion in an attempt to grasp the crucial understanding of the issues detrimental to Pakistan's stability.

Political Evolution of Pakistan:

Pakistan is a country that was founded on a firm ideological basis to unite and assimilate people from different backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities into one nation. Despite the need for a sustained reinstatement and reinvigoration of this sense of patriotism in this country, political elites have fallen short of this requirement, as



mentioned before. Unfortunately, this situation continues in one form or another. Following are the contentious factors that the political structure in Pakistan has faced during recent years:

¹ I.A Rehman , "Provinces Vs Centre ." June 11, 2020. DAWN NEWSPAPER.
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1562775>



➤ **Power Imbalance between Federation and Provinces:**

Many important portfolios that belonged to the federation were devolved to the provincial governments of all four provinces. Such devolution was necessary to strengthen the provinces. However, it created considerable impediments towards a uniform policy regarding important sectors like health, education, climate change, and tourism.

➤ **Issues Regarding National Finance Commission (NFC) Award:**

The distribution of funds and resources between the provinces and federation has remained a bone of contention based on the sporadic potentials of precarious economic conditions. According to Article 160, clause 3A of Pakistan's Constitution, the provinces' share cannot be reduced than the share given to them in previous awards. The distribution of funds between provinces has remained a highly debated issue between the federation and the provinces because of this provision. On the one hand, provinces have persistently demanded their fair monetary share under the NFC award. The federal government has limited funds most of the time to the provinces that do not want any check and balance on their spending. This factor is further elaborated separately in the latter part of the paper.

➤ **Exposed Communion Gap between 18th Amendment and Multiple Federal Laws:**

It has been more than a decade since the 18th amendment was incorporated in Pakistan's constitution, but there are a multitude of laws that still need an appropriate amendment to align with the amendment in their letter and spirit. Moreover, business rules at federal and provincial levels have been amended, and several critical issues



have been resolved. Nevertheless, some issues remain unsettled because of lack of political will, policy disconnects, and the absence of evidence-based strategies hampering transition management's pace and process.²

How Can Political Grievances be Resolved in Pakistan?

Throughout the political history, many events have led to discontent and unrest among people in different parts of Pakistan. Issues like unequal distribution of wealth, lack of democratic values, and many times unwarranted decisions on political and governmental levels have exposed the sound structure of our national fabric. Following are the ways by which the federation of Pakistan can eradicate existing political grievances:

- **Betterment of Democracy and Good Governance:**

The creation of Pakistan has demanded the ultimate goal of her being a democratic country. Due to different challenges, neither democracy nor democratic culture has been fully evolved in the state. Nation has seen revolving-door democracy. With deep-rooted democratic culture and sustainable democratic tenures, governance and political instability can be ended, and a new era of growth, stability, and good governance can begin. Increased inter-provincial political consensus for the betterment of this country's people can do wonders.

² Ali, Yasmeen Aftab. "Revisiting the 18th Amendment." archive.pakistantoday.com. Pakistan Today, n.d. Accessed January 30, 2021.
<https://archive.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/10/01/revisiting-the-18th-amendment/>



- **Sustained Socio-economic Development:**

Unstable political regimes, oligarchic elite, and the country's reliance on commercially and publicly unacknowledged national growth plans have created economic difficulties. Sustained and liable political steps by the federation can improve the economy's health. Until the state enlarges its tax pool, it would not be possible to have a stable economy.

- **Homogenous Educational System:**

The parallel education systems which have segregated our society can only be ended if the same course is introduced. The negligence over the requisites of expanding the public education system



allows alternate education systems to flourish, increasing the social segregation. If the state can systematically give its curriculum to all educational systems, educational homogeneity in the country can be achieved.³

The Constitutional Dilemma:

For any country, the process of making and upholding its Constitution holds paramount importance. However, Pakistan's constitution-making process was

³ Cheema, Qamar Abbas, and Taimur Shamil. "21st Century and Pakistan's New Narrative for National Stability." issi.org.pk, n.d. Accessed March 7, 2021.

http://issi.org.pk/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/8-SS_Qamar_Cheema_and_Taimur_Shamil_No-4_2017.pdf



painfully slow from 1947 to 1956 C.E which provided many domestic players to rule Pakistan. Many governments recast the constitution according to their will which sowed seeds of discord in the minds of people. In this regard, the constitutional dilemma must be eradicated, ensuring the fair rule of law for all.

Political Instability:

Unlike many developed countries, factors like lack of political awareness and low literacy rate in Pakistan have greatly hampered the political process's evolution. With the lack of knowledge about the rights and duties within people of the country, politicians enjoy being elected based on ethnicity, caste, and patronage rather than their competence, performance, and prudence.

Interference by Heads of State:

Not long after the creation of Pakistan, many Presidents have defied the norms of the parliamentary form of government and have maneuvered and dislodged several governments according to their will. Such frequent active involvement from the head of State in day-to-day politics further fragmented the political forces and undermined the democratic process until such powers were completely uprooted when the 18th Amendment was made part of Pakistan's Constitution 2010.

Role of Judiciary:

The doctrine of necessity introduced by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in the Maulvi Tamizuddin case in 1955 provided the impetus for unchecked and unjust authoritarian



control on the democratic system in Pakistan. In due course of time, many unconstitutional and unsanctioned approaches from governments' sectors used the judiciary to legitimize well.

Absence of Independent Election Commission:

The vacuum created by the lack of direct parliamentary elections during the first couple of decades Pakistan's creation meant that democracy was not on an effective path. This created a vacuum for systematic power practice. Moreover, the election commission is not independent because of its dependence on the ruling political party and implicit support of corrupt electoral practices.⁴

Improving Civil-Military Relations:

The relations between civil-military Pakistan have seen a relatively smooth transition for more than a decade now. Nevertheless, a systematic approach for increasing confidence-building and smooth functioning of these important State's institutions incoherence to civil sectors must be devised. In this regard, a few assertions have been given below:

- **Fulfilling Common Goal:**

At times, many political analysts observe the civil-military relations and forget the fact that civil and military leadership are parts of Pakistan and have the same goal of serving

⁴ Hassan, Muhammad. "Causes of Military Intervention in Pakistan: A Revisionist Discourse." *Pakistan Vision* 12, no. 2 (2011): 70–91
http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/studies/PDF-FILES/Article-3_V_12_No_2_Dec11.pdf



Pakistan by using all their capabilities. In this aspect, it is needless to say that civilian and military leadership are on the same page vis-à-vis matters of national interest and security. Their alliance against enemies of Pakistan on both external and internal fronts cannot be breached. Therefore, a sense of achieving a common goal by enhancing civil-military cooperation must be instilled.

- **Combined Efforts in Policy-Making:**

When the civil and military leaderships are on the same page regarding key policy matters about security, the margin of error and apparent loopholes in devising and implementing these policies becomes extremely minimized. That will ultimately prove to be a blessing for both the State and its people. Therefore, it is needless to say that such united efforts by all crucial institutions can provide ample dividends in Pakistan's largest interest.

- **Keeping Democratic Process on Track:**

The absence of democratic governments has proved to be haphazard for national integration and cohesion. The division of Pakistan into two units in the 1950s. The sense of deprivation and lack of representation among the people of East Pakistan was mainly due to the non-acceptance of the practices, including a combined majority of Bengali people in many ways. For tackling grievances of economically weak provinces, the democratic process must be implemented in its letter and spirit.



Role of Dynastic Politics:

Many alterations and reforms have been introduced on different facets of the functioning and regulations of the State of Pakistan. However, the subject of adequate representation of people in the country's political affairs has largely remained untouched so far. Consequently, wealth and land have overpowered the right of fair political representation that has outweighed the will.⁵ It can be witnessed during the recently concluded Senate elections held on 3rd March 2021. Following are the reasons which are responsible for wrong accumulation of political power in the hands of a few oligarchs:

Lack of Democracy within Political Parties:

For decades, almost all the major political parties in Pakistan have lacked a democratic electoral process for choosing their leadership. Consequently, these parties have been ruled by generations of successors who share the dynastic lineage of the founders of these parties. Such practices have led to increased stagnation of political growth as the veteran politicians (who deserve to be alleviated to the post of chairman because of their invaluable political experience) remain on the fringes when the inexperienced individuals decide the important political matters.⁶

⁵Shah, Mariam. "Dynastic Politics in Pakistan." [dailytimes.com.pk](https://dailytimes.com.pk/680344/dynastic-politics-in-pakistan-2/). Daily Times, October 21, 2020.

⁶ Ibid.



Nexus between Political Dynasties and Bureaucracy:

For decades, the political dynasties found in Pakistan have ruled with an iron grip on the bureaucracy. By doing so, these political aristocrats have increased their influence on the individuals working for Pakistan in pursuance of their petty political motives. Consequently, the diminishing effectiveness of the bureaucracy due to the reducing capacity, over-politicization, and corruption is seriously undermines Pakistan's economic, social and political development.⁷

The Mindset of the Impoverished Masses:

The low literacy rate and lack of socio-economic growth in Pakistan have greatly affected the mindset of poor citizens of this country, mostly live in rural areas. The mental slavery and subservient environment in which these people live make them believe that their salvation somehow depends upon serving these dynastic families. Millions of such people are exploited by their aristocratic political leaders, who use different tactics to lure them in their favor during elections and then discard them for years.⁸

⁷ Wilder, Andrew. "The Politics of Civil Service Reform in Pakistan." *Journal of International Affairs, Columbia/ SIPA*, May 1, 2010.

<https://jia.sipa.columbia.edu/politics-civil-service-reform-pakistan>

⁸Shah, Mariam. "Dynastic Politics in Pakistan." *dailytimes.com.pk*. Daily Times, October 21, 2020. <https://dailytimes.com.pk/680344/dynastic-politics-in-pakistan-2/>



How Can Dynastic Politics be Minimized in Pakistan?

Enhancing National Awareness:

It is expected from the politicians that they will focus their energies on achieving the goals from the neutral grounds for Pakistan's betterment. However, many of them remained influenced by dynastic approaches. Based on previously rooted comprehension, politicians prefer to uphold their political and monetary interests above the interest of the common people. The exclusion of non-hereditary people from the helm of political affairs in many political parties shows the extent of these politicians self-seeking ideas. They might at times also display negligence towards the advisors on crucial matters of national interest, let alone the common masses.

Under such circumstances, awareness in the common masses regarding the conniving mindset and interests of these dynastic politicians must be increased through electronic and social media platforms. The population will understand ground realities that performance for national achievements is more important than any other factor while choosing their representatives.

Removing Unfair Advantages in Democratic Processes:

Politics requires a lot of monetary resources. The dynastic politicians in Pakistan use their mostly dubious financial resources to keep an edge on their political rivals. The inclusion of money in the political process by these aristocrats has proved to be catastrophic for the people of Pakistan. It has indirectly suppressed many non-dynastic politicians who want to serve their people and make Pakistan a welfare state but do not



have enough means to match pace with their rich dynastic rivals. Similarly, many of these dynastic politicians use their ascribed hereditary status in their clans and *bradris* for gaining unflinching resources, which are ultimately used in gaining political power. Such power tactics discourage independent-minded people from participating in this democratic process.⁹

To avert these unfair circumstances, allowed limit for spending financial resources by the politicians during the election process must be strictly followed according to the Election Act, 2017. According to this act's provisions, the parliament had fixed the limit of Rs4 million and Rs2 million for National Assembly and provincial assembly candidates, respectively, for the election campaign expenditure.¹⁰

Honest and Competent Politicians:

An analysis of global politics provides us with the reality that a clear majority of the politicians globally have the education, knowledge, and skill to deliver their promises and play an efficacious part in the democratic process of their country. However, many dynastic politicians in Pakistan are either uneducated or have little understanding for implementing democratic laws in their letter and spirit. There is a dire need for prudent politicians.¹¹ For allowing able-minded and patriotic people to come forward for

⁹ Naureen, Adeela, and Umar Waqar. "Higher National Cause vs Dynastic Politics." *tribune.com.pk*. The Express Tribune, November 14, 2020.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2272205/higher-national-cause-vs-dynastic-politics>

¹⁰ Hussain, Imdad. "Election Candidates Spent 10 Times Higher than ECP's Set Limit." *archive.pakistantoday.com*. Pakistan Today, August 2, 2018.

<https://archive.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/08/02/election-candidates-alleged-to-have-violated-rs4mn-expense-limit/>

¹¹ Naureen, Adeela, and Umar Waqar. "Higher National Cause vs Dynastic Politics." *tribune.com.pk*. The Express Tribune, November 14, 2020.



running the country's affairs, both the state's organs and common people must change their attitude towards choosing their leaders wisely.

Disruption of Democratic Process:

Due to dynastic politics, democracy has not been implemented in its true meaning in Pakistan. The institutions responsible for upholding it have remained relatively weak and incapable of delivering its dividends to the common people. Consequently, many other undemocratic forms of government have been enforced on the people of this country.

Role of Judicial Activism and Judicial Reforms vis-à-vis National Integration in Pakistan:

Black's Law Dictionary defines judicial activism as "a philosophy of judicial decision-making whereby judges allow their personal views about public policy, among other factors, to guide their decisions, usually



with the suggestion that adherents of this philosophy tend to find constitutional violations and are willing to ignore precedent." ¹²

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2272205/higher-national-cause-vs-dynastic-politics>

¹² Franek, Mark. "Judicial Activism: A Tempest, or a Tempest in a Teapot?" *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, 2014, 40. https://www.philadelphiabar.org/WebObjects/PBAReadOnly.woa/Contents/WebServerResources/CMSResources/TPL_Summer14_Teapot.pdf



The term judicial reforms largely pertain to improve efficiency and quality of a judicial system in a country for better provision of justice for its people.¹³ When both of these concepts converge, they provide the invaluable impetus for the socio-economic and institutional betterment of any country through justice. The following points construct the importance of judicial reforms for the provision of justice for aggrieved persons and groups in Pakistan:

Making Pakistan Competitive:

Corruption, mismanagement, and incompetence from dynastic politicians are a few important factors that have affected the State of affairs. However, the judiciary's slow functioning and provision of justice is also a big hindrance in the way of smooth functions. By having apt judicial reforms and prudent provision of justice by appropriately using judicial rendition, the States's performance can become much better.¹⁴

Quick Provision of Justice:

Justice can be done in noteworthy cases where the State's institutions and organs have stalled to perform their duty in the right manner. Moreover, direct judicial



¹³ "Judicial Reform in the EU: ENCJ - European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary." encj.eu. ENCJ, 2018. <https://www.encj.eu/node/268>

¹⁴ Ahmad, Manzoor. "Judicial Reforms for a Competitive Pakistan." tribune.com.pk. The Express Tribune, January 15, 2019. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1888947/6-judicial-reforms-competitive-pakistan>



action is also important for countering tyrannical and extra-constitutional decisions made by any autocratic governments.¹⁵ Similarly, there are thousands of pending cases in the higher judiciary. While in the subordinate judiciary, there are about two million pending cases that require some sort of reformative action to be dealt with swiftly.¹⁶

Need for Check and Balance on State's Organs:

Both judicial rendition and reforms are imperative for a country because they ensure that the government institutions are working within their prescribed constitutional and legal limitations. In this aspect, there is a dire need for a robust mechanism of check and balance.

Incorporating Public Interest in Provision of Justice:

Judicial rendition and reforms benefit the masses as they provide various opportunities to citizens, social groups, and consumer rights activists to access the law. Moreover, these concepts have played an effective role in upholding and expanding the scope of fundamental rights, ultimately helping dissipate grievances in the minds of oppressed individuals and groups.

¹⁵“Hamid Khan Says Judicial Activism Has Pros and Cons.” dawn.com. DAWN.COM, April 29, 2019. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1479077>

¹⁶Ahmad, Manzoor. “Judicial Reforms for a Competitive Pakistan.” tribune.com.pk. The Express Tribune, January 15, 2019. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1888947/6-judicial-reforms-competitive-pakistan>



How Can Judicial Redention and Reforms Resolve Greivinances in Pakistan?

Following are the suggestions which can create a difference in the judicial system of Pakistan for the provision of expeditious and effective justice for the people of this country:

Legislation for Increase in Number of Judges:

It is an imminent need of the hour to increase the number of judges in all judiciary levels. For this, both executive and legislature need to join hands to amend the law. A good example was set by the present government when the numbers of judges in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) were increased from 7 to 10 but there is still much to be done in this regard.¹⁷

a. Advanced Training of People Associated with Administration of Justice:

A big reason why justice is delayed and perhaps denied is that many of our judges and prosecution are not equipped and trained by modern ways of evidence collection and prosecution at the level lower judiciary level. The majority of prosecutors in our country heavily rely on poor investigation and evidence collection techniques by the police. Therefore, modernization in our judicial system is very important otherwise, our judicial system will keep delaying and negating good administration of justice to its citizens.

¹⁷ Malik, Hasnaat. "Govt Decides to Boost IHC Strength to 10 Judges." The Express Tribune. Tribune, November 26, 2018.
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1854917/1-govt-decides-boost-ihc-strength-10-judges>



b. Strict Action on Malpractices and Duplicity in Judiciary:

The idea that judiciary only favors the privileged and wealthy people creeps into the mind of common people, society becomes fractured and impaired because of the lack of faith in those institutions that exist solely for the welfare of common people. Therefore, the abuse of powers by law lords for private gains must be curtailed by judicial scrutinization and performance reviews across the board. The wish of good decision-making by the judiciary cannot be completely fulfilled unless accountability is done.¹⁸

c. Prudent and Selective Use of Judicial Activism:

As a facet of judicial review, judicial activism tends to see and analyze every aspect vital to the right and legally justified the implementation of the rule of law throughout the country. Nevertheless, such power must be done in a precise and instrumental manner for tackling grievances among the people and backward units of federation rather than creating a collision course with the democratically elected executive.¹⁹

d. Eradication of Political Influence from Judiciary:

It is a painful reality that many authoritarian and democratically elected political governments, have tried to influence Pakistan's judicial decisions since the 1950s. Under such circumstances, judicial reforms must be more focused on eradicating such

¹⁸Singh, Rajkumar. "Prevailing Perils of Judicial Corruption." Pakistan Today, December 28, 2019. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/12/28/prevailing-perils-of-judicial-corruption/>

¹⁹"Judicial Activism and Social Justice." dawn.com. DAWN.COM, January 31, 2010. <https://www.dawn.com/news/865957/judicial-activism-and-social-justice>



activities so that the goal of providing justice to the needy and oppressed people is fulfilled completely in the future.

Tackling Pakistan's Economic Grievances: Role of National Finance Commission Award

The significance of the National Finance Commission award for the economic sustainability and growth of the provinces in Pakistan cannot be denied. The federation of Pakistan has four federating units, i.e. Sindh,



Punjab, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), and Balochistan. The NFC award is meant to distribute financial resources between the federal government through the vertical distribution mechanism and to the provinces mentioned above through the horizontal distribution mechanism. This NFC award is distributed per article 160 of the Constitution of Pakistan, and the President of the country has the responsibility to constitute it for five years.²⁰

Role of NFC Award in the Current Economic Predicament of Pakistan:

The NFC in 2010 addressed the long over-due concern and made a shift from population-based criteria after the 18th Amendment. This award introduced a

²⁰ Tariq, Waleed. "Explainer: What Is the NFC Award?" [tribune.com.pk](https://tribune.com.pk/story/1936990/explainer-nfc-award). The Express Tribune, March 25, 2019. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/1936990/explainer-nfc-award>



comparatively well-devised divisible pool for the distribution of financial resources among the provinces. In this regard, the province of Punjab sacrificed its share of 5.62% in the 7th NFC award which was redistributed among other provinces to reduce grievances among the smaller provinces in the country.

However, due to the rampant increase provinces' responsibilities and population, their demand for more resources has significantly increased during recent years. Moreover, the increase in KPK's share in the NFC award is also expected to increase because of FATA's recent merger. Presently, the federal government is facing increasing difficulty coping with these demands because of the critical economic situation happening due to various reasons such as the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.²¹

How Can the Distribution of Resources Under the NFC Award be Made Better?

Dialogue between Federation and Provinces:

Under the current circumstances, the federal government and the provinces must use all the constitutional and other mechanisms for unanimously devising the 9th NFC award. During these deliberations, the economic interests and requirements of the economically backward provinces should be given preference so that the past grievances regarding negligence of these areas can be effectively compensated.

²¹ Ibid.



Making of a Regulating Body for Distribution of NFC Award:

A regulating body should be set up for better implementation of the NFC award in the provinces. This step is important so that resources provided to the provinces can ensure maximum socio-economic benefits for Pakistan instead of going into the pockets of corrupt elements in this country.

Federal Resources: Effective Implementation of Distributive Policy

According to many economic experts, the distribution of fiscal resources raises the prospects of allocative efficiency of economic resources by allowing higher associations in the provision of public goods and services. The underlined idea behind this assertion is that with the distribution of monetary resources from the central government's coffers, people of the provinces are more likely to use these resources according to the requirements. Therefore, the formula for the distribution of federal resources must be implemented in its letter and spirit so that people's socio-economic grievances from backward areas can be minimized.²²

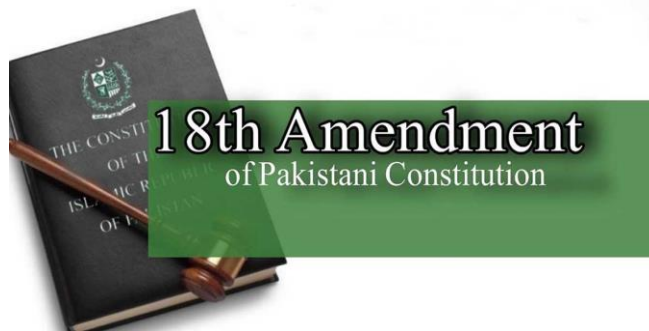
Evaluation of 18th Amendment's Role for Wider Prosperity in Pakistan:

The inclusion of the 18th Amendment in Pakistan's constitution was a big achievement for all the democratic powers. They firmly believe in just and equitable distribution of power and resources between the federation and the provinces. However, a debate

²² Mustafa, Usman. "Fiscal Federalism in Pakistan: The 7th National Finance Commission Award and Its Implications." pide.org.pk. Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, 2011. <https://pide.org.pk/pdf/Working%20Paper/WorkingPaper-73.pdf>



between the advocates of a strong center and strong provinces is still going on with valid arguments coming from both sides.



Those politicians, political stakeholders, and analysts who believe in having a strong federation believe that federation should have more legislative, financial, and policy-making autonomy in domains like health, education, tourism, etc. On the other hand, the proponents of strong provincial units believe that the provinces should retain all these above-mentioned portfolios.

Enhancing Inter-provincial Harmony through the 18th Amendment:

a. Need for Federation's Unified Policy vis-à-vis Crucial Domains:

Due to the uneven infrastructure development in education, health, tourism, etc., each province is left on its own to face challenges regarding the resources and implementation of adequate policies in developing provinces. Under such circumstances, the center must fill the void in the backward provinces so that they can match pace with the other developed parts of the country.²³

²³Hussain, Zahid. "Debating 18th Amendment." dawn.com. DAWN.COM, February 6, 2019. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1462145>



b. Need for Synchronization between Federal Laws and the 18th Amendment:

There is a genuine need for revisiting some of the clauses to remove the incongruities between the 18th Amendment and certain federal laws, which are obstacles in the way of provincial autonomy due to lack of political competence and will.²⁴

c. Requirement of Bonafide Inter-provincial Will Improve 18th Amendment:

While protecting the devolution of power, one must accept that the Constitution is a living document and can be changed to make it more workable. This work can only be done through real and united consensus of the elected representatives from all over Pakistan.

Conclusion:

The challenges and grievances opened a separate chapter for Pakistan to manage. However, there is a gradual increase in political understanding and awareness in the people. It is a silver line indicating a prosperous future has become more visible with each passing day. In this aspect, for increasing inter-provincial harmony, the masses and political elite must focus on the key factors. The factors that have proven to be detrimental to inter-provincial harmony and have sown seeds of discords. The elimination of such hurdles should be the first priority to cultivate the neutral spaces

²⁴ Ali, Yasmee Aftab. "Revisiting the 18th Amendment." archive.pakistantoday.com. Pakistan Today, n.d. Accessed March 29, 2021.
<https://archive.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/10/01/revisiting-the-18th-amendment/>



on the inter-and intra- provincial level. In this context, an integrated nation's dream on the prosperous path can become a reality within years.

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