

## Governance enigma: Concerns and human security challenges to Pakistan



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### ABSTRACT

This study explains the concept of good governance in Pakistan and discusses the issues and challenges of governance in Pakistan and the expectations of the people from the setup. This work also estimates the past and present status of governance in Pakistan and proposes an idea for a fruitful and successful future. Good governance in Pakistan is probably ideal governance because its goals are difficult to achieve. Pakistan must control its shortcomings such as corruption, poor accountability and nepotism, lack of accountability, and mismanagement through the legislative framework to make sure good governance. This opinion has been reached with the help of the Normative Model of Governance.

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### 1. Introduction

An integrated, long-term approach to building collaboration between government and citizens is much necessary to enhance governance. As the performance of provinces improved governance consists of participation and institutions. Civil society is powerful enough to perform positive functions in politics and government. It supports transparency, accountability, and the rule of law and cooperates to create a government that is justifiable and efficient. [Fig. 1](#) shows actors of governance.

The state of governance in Pakistan has deteriorated since independence due to weak leadership, incompetence, poor accountability and poor law and order. So, from the past till to now Pakistan has been facing problems (e.g. corruption, nepotism, poverty, adulteration, etc.) that have become an obstacle to the sustainable development of the country like corruption and high poverty rate. These issues lead to unemployment, lack of awareness, decentralization, and weak economic performance. So bad governance in Pakistan is not only consisted of these problems, but it also includes decreasing taxation, monetary policies, fiscal mismanagement in all fields, and Pakistan jumping under debt day by day and reaching \$116.3 billion ([Malik, 2021](#)).

Good governance in Pakistan is probably ideal governance but its goals are difficult to achieve. Governance commonly wishes a well-meaning public that brings its concepts, impressions, biases and other human vigor and flaws to the policy-setting. Good governance is achieved through ongoing consultations that attempt to gain full deliberation, ensuring that stakeholder benefits are addressed and reflected in policy initiatives. Finally, governance will be ensured in Pakistan with the strengthening of democracy and renewable development strategies in which the alignment and execution of strategies with the powerful administration will be recognized.

The essential elements of good governance in Pakistan are citizen participation, state substance, state assimilation, government ancestry, organizational ancestry, and powerful base, an independent liberal judicial system, freedom of the press, and social, political, and economic progress ([Keping, 2018](#)). It minimizes corruption as well as considers the vulnerable voice of minorities during decision-making that is still absent in us. It keeps in view the present and future as well ([Helliwell and Huang, 2008](#)). Certain ways of Good Governance could be adopted to deal with the problems caused by bad Governance ([Fig. 2](#)).

Participation of men and women is the foundation of good governance. This participation can be direct or indirect. It is necessary to highlight that democracy does not basically mean considering the most valuable issues of society during the process of decision-making. Participation should be planned and up to date. It refers to the freedom of society on the one hand and a structured civil society on the other hand ([De Búrca et al., 2014](#)).

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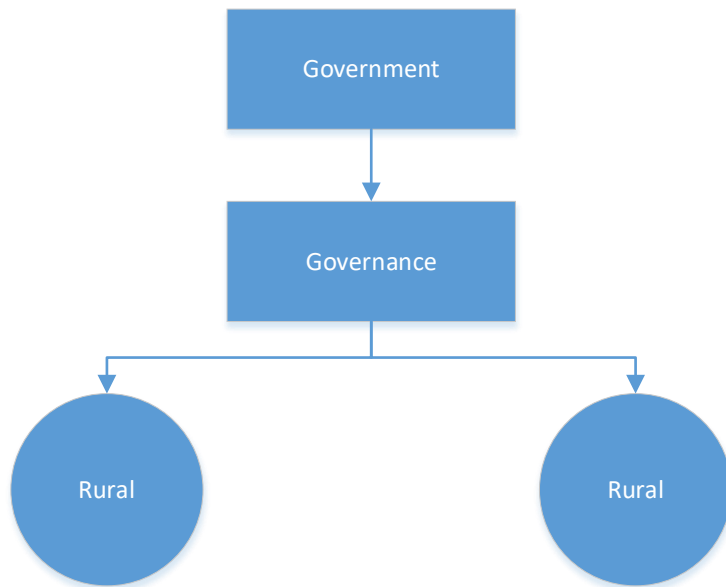
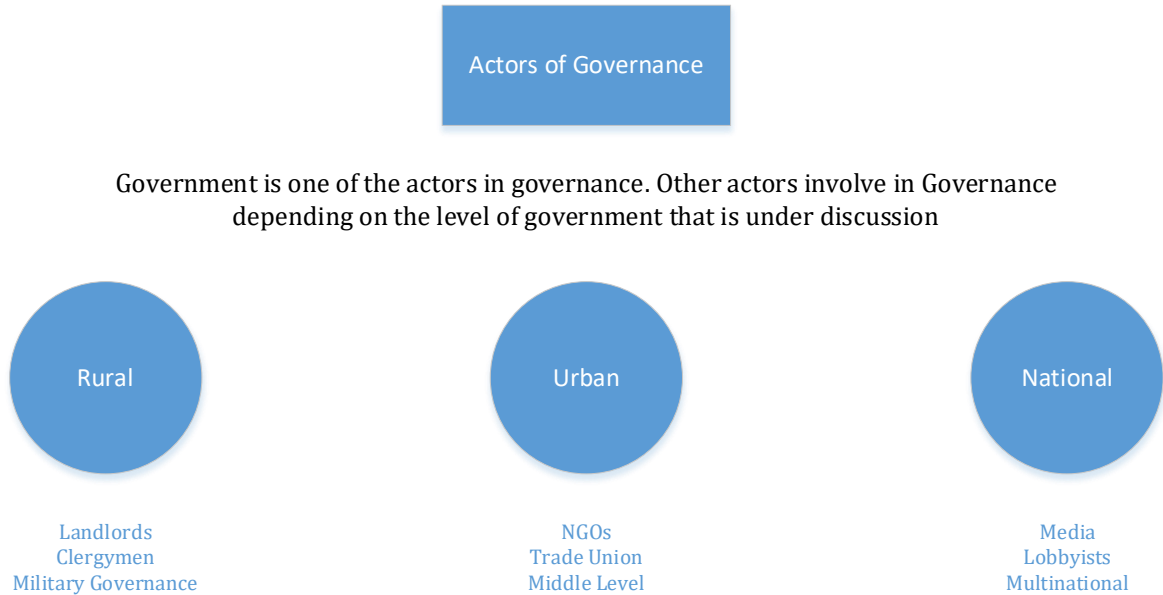
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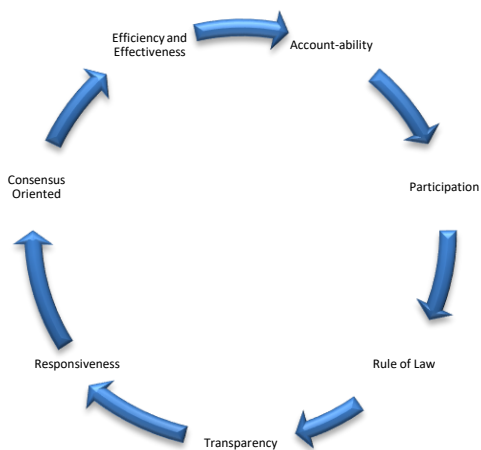
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**Fig. 1:** Actors of governance



**Fig. 2:** Ways of good governance

Good governance entails just authorized frameworks that are imposed neutrally. It also needs complete defense of human rights, especially those of minorities. Neutral enforcement of rules involves

an independent judiciary, neutrality, and a morally upright police force.

Transparency refers that decision-making and its implementation is done through rules and regulations. It also means that information on decision-making should reach those who are affected by decisions as well as their implementation. Transparency also refers to enough information and a transparent form of media (Weiss, 2000).

The answerability of all institutions is a cornerstone of good governance. As good governance demands the institution and procedures serve society within a suitable timeframe (Rotberg, 2014).

There are many players and concepts in society. Good governance demands negotiation on various interests in society to arrive at a wide consent in society, which is the most common interest of society and how it can be achieved as well. It also demands that goals or interests are required for sustainable human progress as well as for the

process of achieving such goals. Social, cultural, and historical perspectives of a given society provide all these understandings.

Good governance refers to those institutions that make the best use of resources to meet the needs of society. The idea of efficiency from the perspective of good governance is to hold the sustainable and positive use of natural assets for the safety of the environment.

Accountability and responsibility are the bases of good governance. Civil society, organizations, private sectors, law making institutions are answerable to institutional stakeholders. Accountability links to transparency (Malik, 2021).

Fig. 3 shows the kinds of governance and Fig. 4 shows the normative model.

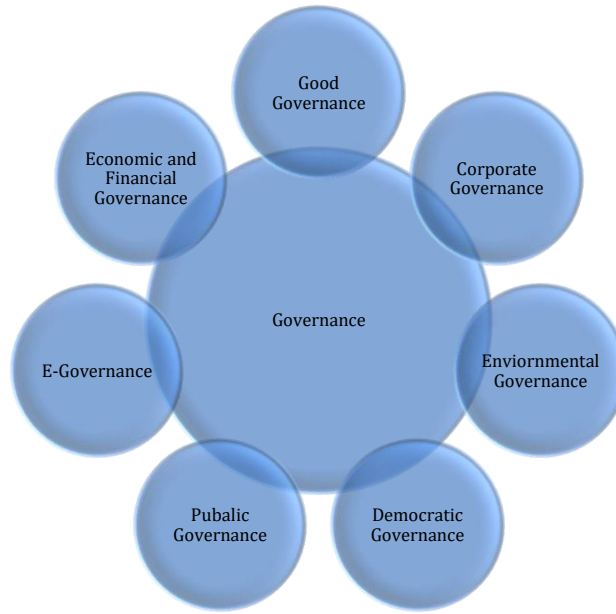


Fig. 3: Kinds of governance

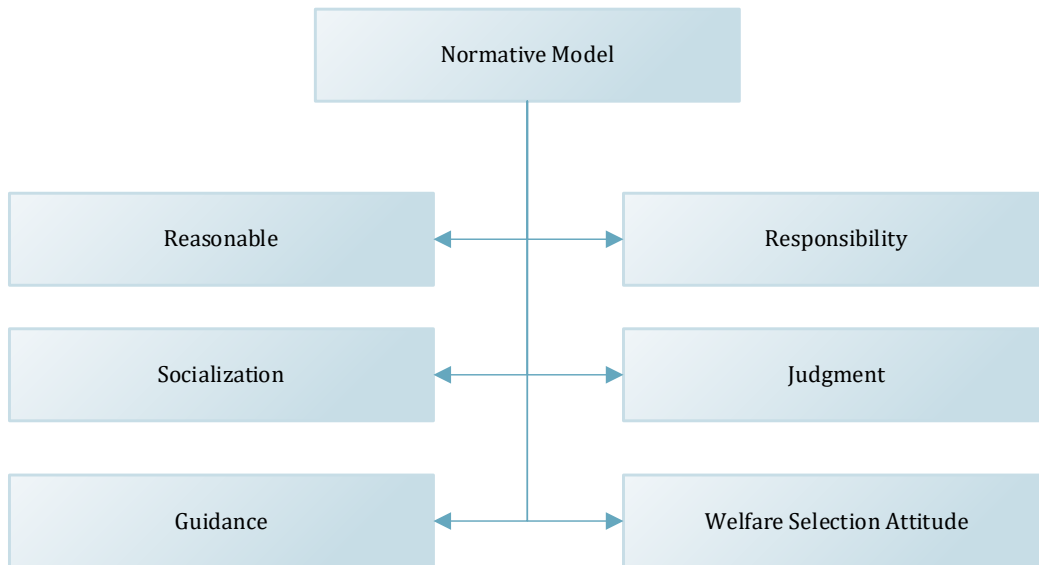


Fig. 4: Normative model

## 2. Issues and challenges of governance in Pakistan

The English term governance is not new to the government. It was used in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and derived from French words. Primarily their meanings were not different as both these terms refer to the activity of the government, and manners of the process of the government.

In the mid-sixteenth century, the government indicated a system or process by which something is ruled or governed. Moreover, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, it involved getting the meaning of a 'ruling power' or 'governing authority.' So, the word governance steadily became marginalized at that time, and in the nineteenth century, it was considered to reflect an emerging archaism. However, the word governance has been used from different perspectives (Hafeez et al., 2020).

Governance is commonly considered the practice of political economic and administrative power in the private and public circles to handle the country's matters at all stages for the improvement of the quality of life of the public. It is an ongoing process where different views and hopes are fulfilled by understanding and patience in a passion of collective or supportive action for the common interest of the larger whole. It has three extents:

1. The political administration.
2. The schemes and process for practicing power.
3. The capability of governments.

This research argues and explains some factors of legislation and executive which take part in miss or mal governance in Pakistan. It too involves which type of activities are needed for the betterment of governance in Pakistan. So, there are three prominent factors of governance in Pakistan:

- First, is devolution to the local government status?
- Second, the effects of corruption and immoral exercises as a barrier to good governance and as a reason for the unsuccessfulness of institutional organizations with specific references to the procedure of arrangement, and the last, financial, and social cost of mal governance (Yoshikawa, 2018).

Government officers and senior politicians know well how the government and its machinery participate in the affairs of the state. Further, federation holds the control of resource management because provinces had not been able to divide them equally or obtain the exact value of money. Unsuccessful systems and procedures frustrate the hard work of honest officials and the public face such as political and bureaucratic systems. That is unaccountable but also unresponsive to the needs; moreover, policies are a barrier for the entrepreneur because they are contradictory to each other. They are also counter-procedure and help in increasing corruption and are as persistent as the varying winds. Pakistan and provinces must change the way of governing and executive, especially in the context of the macroeconomic organization. Political instability, public management, and development competence of institutional capacity to attain economic development and to achieve the quality of life of its public. Pakistan is facing a lot of governance issues at present, and all these issues have become burdens or barriers in the way of the smooth and maintainable progress of the country. Pakistan's rank is 124 amongst 144 countries on the index of effectiveness according to World Economic Forum based on the points below.

Institutions 115, macroeconomic and economic environment 139, infrastructure 116, primary education and health 164<sup>th</sup>, training and higher education 124, goods market proficiency 97, labor market proficiency 130, financial market progress

73, technological eagerness 97, market size 30, business complexity 78, and Modernization 77 (ESCAP, 2009).

This depicts a tragic image of governance at the state and global levels. It is a requirement of Pakistan to reconsider its scheme and planning related to efficiency and success of governance at all levels with special attention to growth and progress in the long term as well as short term. It is an authenticated fact that bad governance directs to corruption in a variety of ways.

This research tries to point out the action policy to resolve the governance problems in Pakistan. This also describes the least action policy required for the betterment of governance level in Pakistan as its intervals in the World for the ranking of governance. This study explains three basic factors of governance in Pakistan, which require the attention of the government:

1. Devolution or decentralization.
2. Corruption and adulteration.
3. Mal governance and embezzlement (Hyder et al., 2019).

There is common consent among the economists, planners, and policymakers which is the greatest and best tool to maintain development in coming times to ascertain effective governance in the scheme. For active and effective governance, there may exist several plans in civil services, refining and increasing the capability of institutions participating in policy shaping to set coherent policies, emerging, and sponsoring the policy reforms. Problems of governance in Pakistan begin with the ancient induction system that has been working for centuries as an issue of status quo policy (Bernauer et al., 2010).

There is no suspicion that the crisis of good governance has badly affected the socio-economic and political development of Pakistan due to which Pakistan faces many social evils such as poverty, unemployment, unawareness, terror, denominationalism, theological extremism, contamination, police oppression, institutional corruption, nepotism, lack of transparency, favoritism, bureaucratic incompetence, and poor health facilities, etc.

Unluckily, in the last decade instead of democracy in Pakistan wherein corrupt ruling elite corrupted the state establishments through key appointments of their cronies who worked for their masters rather in the interest of the state and its institutions. It seems that an effective answerability process started in the country and the corrupt elites are crying and blaming political victimization with help of their alignments which control media and the corporate market. They send a message to civil society and international actors that there is a threat to democracy. Political inconstancy suits the corrupt elite to jam the accountability and blackjack of the state's institutions that accountability and economic growth can't work together. They are propagating

that answerability is causing economic and political instability. Therefore, investors are not willing to invest in Pakistan as a result this procedure of answer ability should be stopped.

### 2.1. The basic requirements for the high position of the governance

- Adjusted dynamic as far as political approaches.
- Fortifying in monetary assets.
- Clear straightforwardness.
- Satisfactory and trained acts of the standards and laws of Political, Monetary, and Social governance in Pakistan.
- Dynamic and sovereign legal executive.
- Authentic and approved ascendancy.
- Created and sorted out institutional associations.
- Cultural sureness and security.
- Correspondence in the dispersion of capital and assets.
- Efficient and organized official positioning.
- Opportunity of articulation, discourse, and freedom of media.
- Very much built and even majority rules system
- Insurance of Compassionate Rights.
- Open commitment and relationship in the dynamic procedure.

Stability in universal politics, the economy in the sense that Pakistan must be comprehensive for fast political and financial development. Governance in Pakistan is all through taken as an enduring encounter (Ali and Ahmed, 2016).

These gaps outcome from the point or fact that one stage of government will base on another for skills, resources, and information irregularity in information proved to be a serious threat or challenge in the policy production procedures various levels of government hold various kinds of information on the same issues. For instance, intellect sharing amongst the rule implements institutions and agencies are decentralized or shared regularly. This shortcoming causes the absence and lack of harmony between the institutions, consequent in bad governance in rule-implementing agencies and institutions. Filling this gap is one of the main problems of multilevel governance. A concise description of present gaps is given as follows:

- Information gap
- Capacity gap
- Financial gap
- Executive gap
- Policy gap
- Connecting the gaps for global governance
- Financial sustainability
- Internal dispute and country power

### 2.2. Financial sustainability

Good governance demands financial sustainability. As financial indicators represent the

country's progress and power for more growth. Financial policies as economic policies and regulatory policies are understood to be the two basic factors of national finance that control and enhance two processes of trade and investment both on the state level and outside the state. Pakistan desperately is having the requirement of financial sustainability to contest with international markets (Hope, 2009).

### 3. Challenges for governance

Pakistan has demanded to analyze and review the performance of the government and its capabilities to rule the present law and order, financial, energy, and demographic crisis, which have straight effects on governance exercises in Pakistan.

The worth elasticity and efficiency of public governance are vital to Pakistan's capacity to solve future problems and challenges. Especially, it is highlighted that Pakistan's government needs to make new policy strategies and tools or reform old ones completely in new procedures, with the determination to re-think and maintain financial activity, enhance new procedures in the system and make a strong outline for better working trade markets in the state. Likewise, both fiscal crisis and law and order situation have demonstrated the significance of the governance system. In this present world, governments try to be fast in answering policy problems concerning the national interest, as the scenario among the countries is so challenging and competitive. The public got more and more awareness through the media. So consequently, citizens want a quick answer as well as quick solutions to meet the needs of people. On the other side development in technology also elevated citizens' hopes regarding new processes to communicate and make sure of public services from the government. Information, as people have access to it, motivates the public to analyze governments' presentation with policy performance and democratic performance (Hafeez et al., 2020).

The diverse and a lot of issues confronting the Pakistan government carry into severe emphasize the need for government to consider and perform in the long term, to cooperate globally as well as with the national government, and to examine various information because of their complicated features. To solve these issues or crises, government requires expert staff with the perfect skills.

#### 3.1. Capability to anticipate future challenges

Strategic Planning and forecasting Pakistan Governance is facing a variety of challenges as the energy crisis, political instability terrorism, and environmental change, which will need long-term planning and harmonization to solve them. These issues and crises highlight the significance and sustained need for developed management in the organization, detection, and assessment of policy formation to secure the people's interests. Because

of short-term electoral and political obligations, government observes it hard to suitable forecast and handle the growing circles of dangers, or to suitable assess and control governance issues and chances. Policy management and predicting within public management has tried to focus more on medium despite long-standing, along high standard progress of work or strategy reports highly connected to the electoral process. Management and Collaboration Governance issues are mostly parallel in nature, influencing multiple features of government actions. Resultantly, a solution to these problems needs collaboration across ministries. There are shortcomings; however, it is difficult for managers to pay adequate consideration to all basic people in long term. For International and cross-departmental organizations, efficiency can be limited despite usefulness, if definite front-line control, service supply agents, and those contributed to directory control are omitted from deliberations.

### 3.2. Management and collaboration

Governance issues are mostly parallel in nature, influencing multiple features of government actions. Resultantly, a solution to these problems needs collaboration across ministries. There are shortcomings; however, it is difficult for managers to pay adequate consideration to all basic people in long term. For International and cross-departmental organizations, efficiency can be limited despite usefulness, if definite front-line control, service supply agents, and those contributed to directory control are omitted from deliberations. Though, growing collaboration may not only need structural modifications but also cultural variations to produce an environment and motivations favorable to collaboration: it is vital for high-level services leadership for facilitating these variations, as separate groups of managers are cultivated by some countries (Sundaramurthy and Lewis, 2003).

### 4. Constructing the exact skills

Many countries have enforced new reforms to enhance their capabilities to build right and high caliber staff as it is very essential for countries' performance. Similarly, governments are handling demographic variations both on the external and internal level which can influence their capability to supply services and goods.

#### 4.1. Integrating policy making and enforcement

Policy making and enforcement of policy are two separate things, but both are essential for a policy or for making a program successful or achieving its purposes. Unluckily the separation of both breaks the flow of information, often causing badly planned policies and imperfect or limited enforcement.

Pakistan has a need for both steps for shaping policies, which is called offer for a structure of good

governance exercises in the country. As there are many factors like a violation of merit, corruption, and jobs issues are barriers to the practice of good governance.

Free and fair elections play a vital role in any governance, but the election situation is not good in this regard. There is no discrepancy with the fact that the same politicians come with a few expectations several times and affect public institutions as per their vested interests. Hence, taking such elections without required electoral reforms is purposeless. So, if this is done objectively, then it can be helpful in removing corruption from a public institution (Haider et al., 2011).

### 4.2. Political instability or ineffectiveness

Political instability or ineffectiveness are serious problems, especially in developing countries. It is creating many problems and obstacles in the development of the state. Political instability in any state provides the best opportunity for external intervention, anti-state factors, and pressure groups for the usage of their personal interests.

Currently, political instability in Pakistan's governance system raises different internal and external challenges and problems, especially in the regions of politics and economics, terrorism, and national security. So, in all the provinces, bad governance has led to many political inefficiencies and flaws. Such political conflicts and problems can be easily solved if the three main organs of the state, such as the judiciary, the executive, and the legislature, are accountability and faithfully fulfill their responsibilities.

### 5. Democratic instability

Democracy means that the majority system of government is a standard of individuals, for people, and by people. It implies that a people's government is a type of government where the rulers are elected by their people. The residents of the nation elect the government to rule the nation and the elected government works for the governmental assistance of the people. Pakistan faced democratic instability from the very beginning and the term controlled democracy is not going to be ended (Jaffrelot, 2015).

### 6. Recommendations

- Liability and answerability should be guaranteed in each institute involving civil services, bureaucratic civil institutes, judicature as well as politics and media.
- Public institutions must be strengthened by hiring professional and competent individuals and establishing norms and regulations and avoiding political involvement in their operations.
- The Pakistani government must concentrate on step-up and amalgamation of the delegacy process, must strengthen oversight and regulatory

processes at its national and sub-national levels, and intensify accessibility to the judiciary and other human rights.

- Accountable institutes should be strong and faithful towards their responsibilities because they are the constitutional investigator of the government revenue and expenditures.
- The salary structure of government workers should also be increased so that the crises of corruption can be controlled.
- Critical difficulties are making obstacles in the way of effective function of present local bodies, which must also be taken into consideration straight away by making them strong and unclear of any political and bureaucratic interference.
- Institutions should be strong, not individuals, but enabling individuals to contribute to the procedure of improvement for stability.
- Hold the Right persons for the right job, so that continuous professional development could be through accountability and sharing of responsibility.
- Government should create different scopes for improvement so that the ability of people to come out with their decisions, and resources and enforce these decisions for the development programs jointly.
- Education is most important for all citizens. With the best education, people's voting vantages get better bases. So, illiteracy must be destructed by society.
- Rule of law is the way of harmony and request when there is no defilement. The majority rules system basically involves the standard of law. It is as indicated by law that individuals express their will and exercise power. The legislative principles ought to be founded on law rather not based on rich or helpless men. Good governance is essentially adhering to manage of the law. Law looks to concentrate on equity, when there is an absence of enactment then there would be more odds of disasters to produce in the public to destruct law.
- Judiciary should be independent because judiciary performs the most important role in the governance system of any nation. It protects the fundamental rights of citizens and provides help in solving problems in a just manner and avoids taking suo moto actions for nothing.

## 7. Conclusion

Every state has national security outlines for its existence and always remains in a position to reinforce its national security parameters. For such determination, it formulates policies to enhance its national security apparatus in traditional manners to increase its traditional competencies to face all national security threats originating from the external environment.

Pakistan has been facing a lot of human security challenges which are gradually enhancing due to ignoring or reinforcing social order in the country.

Current research has elaborated on these human security challenges to Pakistan particularly focusing on the areas of mismanagement, bad governance, and incompetency. After a logical and comprehensive analysis, the current research work has inferred some findings to evaluate the readings like [Tadjbakhsh and Cheny \(2007\)](#).

Pakistan has focused only to enhance its security patterns only in traditional manners and has neglected the norms of human security values. The country has worked only to develop the state instead of its inhabitants. It is also observed by analyzing the security policies of Pakistan that it has been facing major security hazards only at the conventional level and has worked only to face them at the conventional level by ignoring its inhabitants. Moreover, [Axworthy \(1997\)](#) explained the insecurity of humans in Pakistan like it is also found that Pakistan presently has been facing most of the threats from the miscreant elements penetrating within the society of the country rather than from the outer world and it would be a serious threat to its federation.

## Compliance with ethical standards

### Conflict of interest

The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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