

MS RESEARCH THESIS

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF POLITICAL
INSTABILITY: A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN
(2013-2023)**



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STUDY OF PAKISTAN (2013-2023)**

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Shamaim Saleem Mirza

DEDICATION

Dedicated To My Parents

I dedicate this work to my parents, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been my pillars of strength throughout my academic journey. Their belief in my abilities has been my constant motivation. I am also deeply grateful to my teachers and friends, who have offered valuable guidance and encouragement, inspiring me to reach new heights. This achievement is a testament to our collective effort and shared success.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e- Insaf
PDM	Pakistan Democratic Movement
PMLN	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
PPP	Pakistan People’s Party
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
COVID-19	Corona Virus International Disease
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
BISP	Benazir Income Support Program
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPEC	China Pakistan Economic Corridor
US	United States
IMF	International Monetary Fund
TTP	Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan

NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
UN	United Nations
KPK	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
RDT	Resource Dependency Theory

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ABSTRACT

This case study analyzes the effects of political instability on Pakistan's social and economic landscape from 2013 to 2023. Political instability has been a major obstacle to Pakistan's socio-economic development and prosperity. The frequent changes in leadership and ongoing power struggles have led to inconsistent policies, deterring foreign investment and exacerbating economic crises, including high inflation and a depreciating currency. Besides, political turmoil fuels public discontent, leading to protests and unrest, which further destabilizes the country. This cycle of instability undermines efforts to implement necessary reforms, creating a challenging environment for economic recovery and social progress. Ultimately, without political stability, Pakistan's prospects for sustainable development remain bleak. This research examines the various facets of political instability encompassing changes in government, social unrest and policy unpredictability and their impact on crucial socio-economic outcomes. The current political unrest, marked by tensions between political leaders and the military, has created an environment conducive to terrorism and violence. By conducting a comprehensive data analysis, this study aims to determine the casual relationships between political instability and a range of socio-economic factors, including economic expansion, foreign investment, jobless rates, poverty levels and social harmony. This research utilizes a qualitative research methodology, relying on secondary data sources. The resource dependency theory will be used in this study. This study aims to provide valuable insights into how political instability influences a country's socio-economic trajectory and also provide an in-depth understanding for policymakers and stakeholders to create effective solutions for Pakistan's development.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The socio-economic impacts of political instability are examined in the case study of Pakistan from 2013 to 2023. This study focuses on understanding the effects of political instability on society at large and the economy of the country. Political instability describes a situation when a nation frequently changes its political leadership, governing structures and policies. These political uncertainties may have a significant impact on the economy and a number of societal aspects.

Political instability refers to a situation where a country or region experiences a lack of order and stability in its political system. It means that there are frequent changes, conflicts, and uncertainties that make it difficult for the government to function properly. The elements or causes of political instability include weak leadership and ineffective institutions, unfairness in society, divisions between different groups, corruption, and outside influences that can disrupt the political balance. All these things combined create an unstable and changeable political environment.

In the case of Pakistan, the years 2013 to 2023 saw a lot of political unrest marked by things like regime transitions, incidents, and large-scale demonstrations. This study intends to investigate and analyze the significant socioeconomic effects that such instability may have. Political instability has significant socioeconomic effects, one of which is the decline in public trust in national institutions (Nawaz A. R., 2021).

The public's trust often reduces when people believe that their political leaders are dishonest or inefficient. As a result, social integration is impacted, a sense of national unity is weakened, and efforts to promote socioeconomic development are hindered. Additionally, the processes involved in developing and implementing policies might be affected by political instability. Policies are frequently uncertain and inconsistent as a result of frequent changes in political leadership and goals. Long-term planning, foreign investment, and economic growth may all be restricted by a lack of stability and continuity in policymaking (Nadeem, 2020).

Political unrest often results in an unstable business environment that discourages both domestic and foreign investment. Investors are often conservative, and an unstable political situation improves the perceived dangers of investing in that nation. This result in a drop in foreign direct investment, an exchange of money, and a slowdown in economic activity (Hameed, 2018).

A politically unstable state is the result of a defective political system, ineffective political parties, and a poor political culture. Political instability has grown to be a significant issue, particularly for emerging and disadvantaged nations. Political instability is a major challenge for a multiethnic society with people from many cultural backgrounds. In a stable environment, people are empowered and utilize their efforts for the advancement of the country, while in an unstable environment; individuals become dissatisfied and lose faith in institutions, leading to societal division. Political stability is essential for nation building and national integration, as it helps to maintain peace, harmony, constitutional contentment, government institutions, and civic order. The ability of the State and Society to adapt to the numerous challenges of political evolution may be utilized to evaluate the degree of political stability. Five

problem areas identity crises, legitimacy crises, absorption crises, participation crises, and distribution crises are the root causes of political instability in emerging countries. All of these problems contribute significantly to the political unrest in Pakistan, but the first two identity crisis and legitimacy crisis will be the subject of this brief essay. A community may have an identity crisis, which is a sense of personal identification with the political system, when it realizes that the physical and psychological definitions of its collective self are no longer relevant in light of changing geographical realities (Imran, 2023).

In the case of Pakistan, we could analyze how political instability affects its dependency on external actors for resources, such as foreign aid and how this impacts its socio-economic development. Political instability disturbs the regular flow of resources, both domestic and foreign, on which Pakistan relies. This could include foreign aid, foreign direct investment, trade, and access to essential commodities. RDT helps assess how resource scarcity resulting from political instability affects Pakistan's economy, including inflation, trade imbalances, and economic growth (Joseph, 1979).

Debt increases instability, which slows economic growth and lowers the GDP growth rate. Instability is a result of the creation of more debt. In addition, studies from panel data demonstrate that there is a negative link between these two factors and political instability. Pakistan has been in internal political instability for thirty four out of its sixty eight years, or half its life. This has been caused by lack of mature leadership, confrontation between the main organs of the state, poor relations between the center and the provinces, corruption, distrust among politicians, strong bureaucracy and crisis of governance. These are immediate threats to democracy in Pakistan. The spectral of corruption is growing stronger in the absence of true

accountability, which aims to strengthen the roots of democracy. Weak institutions and feudal systems are also a major part of instability. Particularly in the case of a state and society like Pakistan, where people of various ethnicities and sects interact and who became one nation based on their shared religious beliefs and aspirations rather than being able to do so in the united India, where other religions prevented them from merging in peace. When Pakistan's institution of leadership divided into layers at the sub-national/ethnic, provincial and religious, sectarian levels, the issues of legitimacy and identity began, and over time, they grew more serious. In these multiple levels of leadership, the notion of a national leadership was lost (Awan, 2017).

Political instability is a serious problem that both developing and developed nations face. It causes the political environment to be unclear, which discourages investment, raises inflation and the national debt, and slows economic growth. A major factor contributing to instability in politics is inflation, which makes careful planning and future investments unclear. Another way that inflation lowers a nation's efficiency is by limiting and raising the cost of exports (Memon, 2011).

A democratic society's major platforms for discussing fundamental rights are protests and demonstrations. Individuals can only use their legal rights in this way. Throughout its establishment, Pakistan has seen both civilian and military regimes experience small-scale businesses and significant protests and rallies. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) governments, respectively, observed the most recent political dharnas (sit-ins) in 2014 and 2019. The same charges of election influence served as the basis for both dharnas (Mahesar, 2023).

The Pakistani people are in a difficult condition, and they are the ones who are actually suffering as a result of the country's poor economy, natural disasters, and political unrest. It is essential for societal and economic well-being that the political system of the state remain stable and that any issues that might develop as a result of the system's failure are handled with (Fair, 2017).

On May 9, the Tehreek-e-Insaf government of Pakistan ended a state of lockdown, causing an increase in cases and placing Pakistan among the top twelve nations affected by the pandemic. Although there has been a little economic growth, the government defended the action. The federal government needs to change its strategy, work towards political compromise, allow provinces more authority, and pay more attention to health care workers in the public sector. Mixed messages from the Pakistani government and false information from religious authorities have caused a general rejection for public health recommendations. The removal of prohibitions on communal prayers and minimizing of pandemic concerns by Prime Minister Imran Khan raised the chance of contracting the virus. Many ministers support religious practices while criticizing isolated living and preventive measures (Shaheen, Siraj, & Bhatti, 2020).

The “smart lockdowns” technique employed by the Pakistani government may not be sufficient to stop COVID-19 since it has been limited by insufficient data and low testing rates. In addition to rural areas with lesser health facilities, the epidemic has expanded to densely populated cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar. The centralized decision-making of the federal government has made matters worse since it has refused to assign power to the provinces and has been unwilling to cooperate with the parliament or major opposition parties to develop a

unified response. If people believe their health and wellbeing are not being sufficiently cared for by the government, the public health crisis and economic downturn could be disastrous. The government should modify the smart lockdown plan, allowing provinces to decide how much damage will be done to people's lives and livelihoods (Mushtaq, 2022).

1.1 Background of the Study

The study on the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan from 2013-2023 aims to analyze and understand how political instability during this period has affected the country's socioeconomic dynamics. One significant factor is economic decline. Political instability often leads to an uncertain business environment, reduced investment and diminished economic growth. These economic downturns affect employment rates, income distribution, and living standards, leading to social unrest and dissatisfaction among the population. Moreover, poverty rates are another crucial indicator that gets impacted by political instability. In an unstable political environment, government policies may lack coherence or long-term vision, hindering poverty alleviation efforts. Lack of proper governance and corruption can further aggravate poverty rates, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities.

Political instability refers to periods of uncertainty, unrest, and frequent changes in the government, which can have significant consequences on various aspects of a nation, including its economy, social fabric, and overall development.

In the case of Pakistan, which has experienced political instability in the stated timeframe, this study seeks to examine the specific manifestations and consequences of political instability. It delves into the interplay between political factors and socioeconomic indicators to

assess their interconnectedness and the increasing effect they have had on Pakistan's development trajectory.

Furthermore, socio-economic disparities intensify during times of political instability. Unequal distribution of resources, limited access to education, healthcare, and basic infrastructure can exacerbate social tensions and contribute to political unrest.

By studying the background and context of the topic, researchers can gain insights into the factors that led to political instability in Pakistan during this period. This may include analyzing events such as disputed elections, changes in government, political confrontations, or any other significant incidents that influenced the political landscape.

In order to assess the socio-economic impacts, the study might consider various indicators such as GDP growth, unemployment rates, poverty levels, investment trends, access to healthcare and education, income inequality, and social unrest. These indicators can provide a comprehensive overview of how political instability has influenced different sectors of the economy and society.

Furthermore, the study would explore how political instability in Pakistan has affected investor confidence, foreign direct investment and trade relations with other nations. It might also examine the impact on public institutions, governance systems, and the rule of law, which can have long-term effects on the country's stability and development.

The findings of this study provided a valuable understanding of the consequences of political instability in Pakistan between 2013-2023. The insights gained could guide policymakers, international organizations, and stakeholders in formulating strategies to address

the challenges posed by political instability and promote sustainable socioeconomic growth in the future.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Pakistan has been experiencing political instability for several decades, which has led to frequent changes in government, weak governance, and a lack of political consensus. The socio-economic indicators describe a significant relationship between politics and the socio-economic condition of Pakistan. However socio-economic condition of Pakistan has been badly damaged by the political instability in the country. Pakistan is facing a range of economic, social, and security challenges for the country, including high levels of poverty, unemployment, corruption, terrorism, and sectarian violence. This research attempts to explore that despite its enormous economic resources, Pakistan's economy remained under dark shadows most of its historical discourse. Political instability flourished corruption and reduced the economic growth of the country. So, the instability of politics in Pakistan has been a major cause of socio-economic unrest, as different groups have struggled to assert their interests and demands in the absence of effective and inclusive governance. The purpose of the study is to examine the causes, consequences, and potential solutions to the problem of political instability causing socioeconomic unrest in Pakistan, in order to promote political stability, social harmony, and sustainable development in the country. This study also examines a weak political system and government institutions that could not resist the political tension in the country and this political instability in Pakistan causes social and economic instability in the country.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The significance of studying the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan (2013-2023) is multifaceted. Firstly, Pakistan has experienced political instability for many years, which has had profound effects on its socio-economic development. By examining this case study, we can gain valuable insights into the specific challenges and consequences that political instability has on a country's and society.

Secondly, Pakistan is a developing country with a significant population, and its stability and economic growth are crucial not only for its own citizens but also for regional and global stability. Understanding the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan can provide important lessons and policy recommendations for other countries facing similar challenges. Furthermore, studying the socio-economic impacts of political instability can shed light on the underlying factors and dynamics that contribute to instability, such as corruption, lack of institutional capacity, and social inequality. By identifying these root causes, policymakers can work towards addressing them and fostering more stability and inclusive development.

Additionally, the case study would serve as a basis for comparative analysis with other countries that have experienced political instability, allowing for a broader understanding of the issue and the identification of common patterns or unique circumstances.

Overall, examining the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan (2013-2023) is significant because it not only contributes to academic research but also provides

valuable insights for policymakers, international organizations, and stakeholders who are striving to promote stability, economic growth, and social progress in similar contexts.

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To discuss the trajectory of Pakistan's political development since its independence in 1947.
2. To examine the direct impacts of political instability on socio-economic condition of Pakistan from 2013 to 2023.
3. To explore the indirect impacts of political instability on socio-economic conditions of Pakistan from 2013 to 2023.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What has been the trajectory of Pakistan's political development since its independence in 1947?
2. What were the direct socio-economic impacts of the political instability in Pakistan from 2013 to 2023?
3. What were the indirect socio-economic impacts of the political instability in Pakistan from 2013-2023?

1.6 Delimitations of the Study

The present study delimits its scope to the study of Socio-Economic Impacts and political Instability in Pakistan, with in the 2013-2023 time period. Any previous studies are excluded from this research.

1.7 Literature Review

According to Abdul Rehman in his paper “An Economic Impact of Political Instability,” Political instability in Pakistan has had a negative impact on the country's economy. Pakistan's economy has remained in the shadows for the majority of its history despite having enormous economic potential. The economic indicators show a significant connection between Pakistan's politics and economy. Political instability encouraged corruption and slowed the nation's economic expansion. Additionally, the government's institutions and political system were too weak to withstand the nation's political unrest. The study's final finding is that economic progress strengthens political stability in the nation while political instability restricts it (Abdul, 2021).

According to Muhammad Athar (2012) in his paper “Innovation and Sustainable Development,” The nations benefit from strong innovation skills both in terms of gaining larger market shares and sustaining long-term economic growth. Since innovation promotes productivity, value creation, employment, economic growth, and sustainability, it is very important at every stage of a nation's development. A nation's innovation activity may be impacted by a number of things (Allard, 2012).

For a country to support economic, commercial, and market operations, for instance, it is crucial to have a peaceful and stable environment, effective macroeconomic designs, good institutional quality, and efficient resource utilization (Ali, 2010).

According to Misbah Shaheen and Uzma Siraj (2020) argued in this article “Covid-19 Pandemic and its Politico-Economic Implications: A Study of Pakistan,” On May 9, the Tehreek-e-Insaf government of Pakistan ended a state of lockdown, causing an increase in cases

and placing Pakistan among the top twelve nations affected by the pandemic. Although there has been a little economic growth, the government defended the action. The federal government needs to change its strategy, work towards political compromise, allow provinces more authority, and pay more attention to health care workers in the public sector. Mixed messages from the Pakistani government and false information from religious authorities have caused a general rejection for public health recommendations. The removal of prohibitions on communal prayers and minimizing of pandemic concerns by Prime Minister Imran Khan raised the chance of contracting the virus. Many ministers support religious practices while criticizing isolated living and preventive measures (Shaheen, Siraj, & Bhatti, 2020).

Salah-ud-din said in this paper Public debt is another cause of political instability. Public debt is that part of the total debt, which is secured by government from internal and external sources. It has also affected the political situation of a country and creates unrest in the economy. Heavy debt is a challenge for a developing country. Because developing countries like Pakistan have a small stock of capital and investment opportunities (Sallahuddin, 2017).

The Pakistani people are in a difficult condition, and they are the ones who are actually suffering as a result of the country's poor economy, natural disasters, and political unrest. It is essential for societal and economic well-being that the political system of the state remain stable and that any issues that might develop as a result of the system's failure are handled with (Fair, 2017).

According to Waseem ul Hameed said in this paper “Impact of Political Influences on Stock Returns.”. Political unrest often results in an unstable business environment that discourages both domestic and foreign investment. Investors are often conservative, and an

unstable political situation improves the perceived dangers of investing in that nation. This may result in a drop in foreign direct investment, an exchange of money, and a slowdown in economic activity (Hameed, 2018).

The literature review provides some views of author in this study. The "smart lockdowns" technique employed by the Pakistani government may not be sufficient to stop COVID-19 since it has been limited by insufficient data and low testing rates. In addition to rural areas with lesser health facilities, the epidemic has expanded to densely populated cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar. The centralized decision-making of the federal government has made matters worse since it has refused to assign power to the provinces and has been unwilling to cooperate with the parliament or major opposition parties to develop a unified response. If people believe their health and wellbeing are not being sufficiently cared for by the government, the public health crisis and economic downturn could be disastrous. The government should modify the smart lockdown plan, allowing provinces to decide how much damage will be done to people's lives and livelihoods (Mushtaq, 2022).

According to Imran in this study "Political Instability in Pakistan Challenges and Remedies," To secure economic growth, a fundamental understanding of political stability is required. Pakistan must have political stability in order for its tax burden to be modest in comparison to its economy. The majority of them have demonstrated their ability to cooperate well. This study looks into the relationship between political unrest and economic expansion, as well as how it affects GDP and overall societal development. To do this, we examined the effects of political unrest, inflation, unemployment, and public debt on GDP. This has led to the discovery of three unique behavioural patterns that support political instability (Imran, 2023).

The literature review provides the different opinions of some author's. This socio-political instability has various adverse effects. It not only creates uncertainty in political and legal environment but also disrupts markets. Several other studies have also documented political instability adversely affects economic growth. Similarly, these studies also shed light on the relationship between economic crisis and regimes change and government changes. Government crisis and regime changes have significant effects on economic growth and there is a relationship between economic growth and political instability (Campos, 2002).

The political or religious leaders must think about the serious impacts of these protests on the lives of common people as well as on political and economic stability of the country, because to date no Pakistani Prime Minister has completed its tenure. Already, we do not have the political stability to sustain democratic rule in Pakistan for a long time. So, this political disorder creates the gap to destabilize the democratic system in Pakistan as well as our economy and foreign affairs have been badly affected through this (Mahesar, 2023).

The literature review provides different views of some author's Terrorism incidents have changed the socio-economic and geopolitical situation of Pakistan. The economic costs of terrorism are unfathomable in Pakistan, which includes the destruction of infrastructure, capital flight, and fewer exports, resulting in poor economic growth (Nawaz A. R., 2010).

Political instability is a serious problem that both developing and developed nations face. It causes the political environment to be unclear, which discourages investment, raises inflation and the national debt, and slows economic growth. A major factor contributing to instability in politics is inflation, which makes careful planning and future investments unclear. Another way

that inflation lowers a nation's efficiency is by limiting and raising the cost of exports (Memon, 2011).

According to Allard in this study “Innovation and Sustainable Development: Does Aid and Political Instability Impede Innovation?”. The Political instability, defined as extra-institutional/parliamentary threats to the government or existing political structure creates unrest in the economic system and dampens the opportunities of sound economic growth. Political instability as the tendency of collapse of government may result from internal competitions between different stakeholders in government or from other conflicts (Allard, 2012).

The governance situation under PML-N. Governance involves political leaders using their power and authority to benefit their country's citizens and subjects. Good governance refers to how public organizations manage resources and protect human rights. In Pakistan, good governance is difficult to obtain, making it desirable. The Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) struggled to maintain consistent performance, resulting in low levels of political socialization among Pakistanis. To maintain representation at the national and local levels, the Pakistan Muslim League needs to show a distinct ideology and agenda. To strengthen Pakistan's democratic system and promote good governance, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) must prioritize delegation, oversight, and regulation at national and sub national levels, as well as improving access to legal and human rights. Effective political leadership and party reorganization are also necessary (Malik, Yaseen, & Muzaffar, 2023).

According to Saira Akram Political instability in Pakistan from 2018 to the present, focusing on the governance of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) political party. Analyze important indications of political instability, including protests and opposition movements,

significant scandals, and military interactions. The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) frequently organizes protests calling for Prime Minister Imran Khan's resignation and blaming the government of economic mismanagement. The difficulties between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the military arise from their differing views on international affairs and financial administration. Between 2018 and 2023, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government planned to strengthen diplomatic ties with India and Afghanistan. However, tensions with India and the Kashmir problem slowed progress. The PTI promised electoral reforms and political accountability, but supporters claim these institutions are biased against political opponents. The government was criticized for its efficiency and claimed improper management, influencing Pakistan's political environment and potentially its future (Akram S. , 2023).

It seems that the administration has begun to get better after the 2013 elections. This miracle was expected to provide various financial and social benefits to individuals; however, nothing materialized, and the Pakistani population was dissatisfied with the decisions made by the authorities. Ideological groups used these people's emotions to influence the 2018 decisions. With the slogan “Governance is a key player for growth of country”, the PTI administration assumed power. But after eighteen months in office, the system of governance remained largely unchanged. Pakistan must now ensure that its political system, economic growth, and social development are all updated (Ishaque Fani & Naqvi, 2023).

Political instability refers to the potential for a government to fall due to legitimate or unlawful reasons. Changes in governance can lead to economic growth slowdowns or even government fall. Political stability, on the other hand, involves the rule of law, strong institutions, effective bureaucracy, limited corruption, and a business environment that attracts

investment. As political stability is essential for economic stability, foreign investment may be attracted to the economy (Khan, Safdar, & Ejaz, 2023).

Pakistan faces numerous challenges due to political instability, including extremism, terrorism, financial difficulties, ethnic and religious conflicts, corruption, military intervention, and political division. The military often dissolves elected governments and enforces martial law, while corruption threatens the government's confidence. Ethnic tensions can lead to violent political incidents. Economic issues like high unemployment, inflation, and debt fuel political unrest. Extremism and terrorism pose a significant threat to Pakistan's government, while political division often results in division along regional and ideological lines. Addressing the root causes of political instability is crucial for a more secure and successful Pakistan. Addressing these issues is essential for a more secure and wealthy future (Anwar & Hussain, 2023).

The historical context of Pakistan's socioeconomic need for democracy. It also talks on Pakistan's struggles on the social and economic identities based on by the country's unequal democratic transition. The component related to democratic transformation and, furthermore, it explores the factors associated with Pakistan's democratic downfall. Pakistan's democratic transition has been marked by significant socio-economic challenges, posing risks to local security and allowing the military to gain control. The military's role in governance raises socioeconomic concerns, and the regime has been linked to increased Islamic enmity. Pakistan's emphasis on religion and nationalism has led to the rejection of socioeconomic growth, resulting in an irregular democratic transition (Shamim, Iqbal, & Shoaib, 2023).

By raising the standard of living for its people, good governance plays a crucial part in the effective functioning of a state. However, Pakistan has struggled with government ever since it was established, raising criticism as to whether the country is ungovernable by nature. The military's intervening in the democratic process, along with weak political leadership, institutional decline economic hardship, corruption, a lack of accountability, and the absence of the rule of law, have made the democratic nation appear to be a crisis- mounted nation unable of effective governance. The complexities surrounding the current state of government, providing insights on its historical, socioeconomic, and political roots while providing stability and an efficient solution (Chattha , 2023).

The Pakistan Democratic Movement has encountered an autocratic democratic hybrid political system in Pakistan. The PDM government was formed shortly after Imran Khan's government was overthrown on April 10, 2022, by a no confidence motion in parliament. Since then, Pakistan's eleven major parties have formed a coalition government. The coalition government has been known as the Pakistan Democratic Movement. The PDM's hybrid system of democracy began on April 10, 2022, and ended on August 14, 2023, with the establishment of a temporary government. However, the hybrid democratic experience of the PDM government has had a profound impact on the country's political, judicial, and economic systems (Gul & Ali, 2023).

1.7.1 Literature Gap

The research on the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan during the years 2013-2023 is lacking in terms of specific details and focused analysis. While there are some studies that examine the consequences of political instability in Pakistan in general, there is

a limited amount of research specifically addressing the years between 2013 and 2023. This creates a gap in understanding the unique effects of political instability on the socio-economic conditions of Pakistan during that specific period. By filling this literature gap, we can gain a better understanding of how political disorder affected the lives of people in Pakistan and identify targeted strategies to address their challenges.

1.8 Research Methodology

The present study focuses on the analysis of political instability causing social unrest and economic instability in Pakistan. The researcher used qualitative research design to explore the causes of socio-economic instability in the country. Furthermore, an exploratory and descriptive approach is also used to critically analyze the socio-economic problems and political instability in Pakistan.

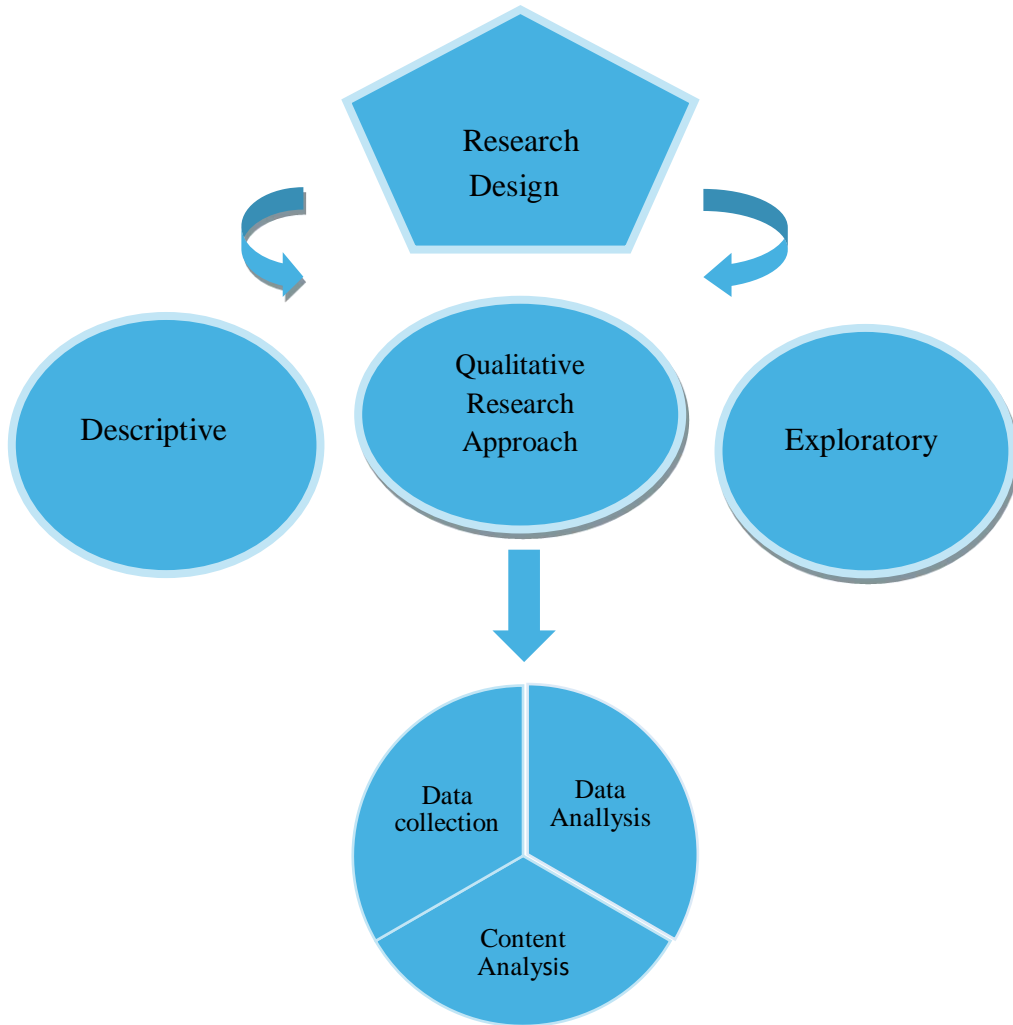
Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Such as, books, articles, official statements, policy papers of the government, journals, research papers and reports from various think tanks were utilized in this study. Moreover, a number of websites and YouTube content were used in data collection.

1.8.1 Research Design

This research focuses on Socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan (2013-2023) by using qualitative research approach. Additionally, descriptive and exploratory research methods were employed to further investigate and understand the underlying causes and consequences of political instability in Pakistan.

Figure-1

Research Methodology Framework



Source: Researcher's own Description

1.8.2 Operational Definitions

- **Socio economic impacts**

Socio-economic impacts refer to the measurable effects that certain activities, events, or policies have on the social and economic aspects of a community, region, or society as a whole. These impacts can manifest in various ways, such as changes in employment rates, income distribution, poverty levels, access to education and healthcare, overall quality of life, and social cohesion (Schumann, 2007).

- **Political instability**

Political instability refers to a state or condition characterized by frequent disruptions, uncertainties, and conflicts within a political system or society. It involves the presence of factors that hinder the smooth functioning of governance, the rule of law, and the stability of institutions. Political instability can manifest in various forms, such as frequent changes in government, social unrest, protests, violence, political separation, or weak institutional capacity (Mansfield, 1993).

- **Governance**

Governance refers to the manner in which power is exercised, decisions are made, and authority is structured within organizations, institutions, or societies. It encompasses the processes, structures, and mechanisms through which individuals or groups govern and manage public or collective affairs (Bevir, 2020).

- **Political unrest**

Political unrest is characterized by planned protests, rallies, or strikes in response to economic or sociopolitical issues that do not escalate to armed conflict (Tilly, 1978).

- **National integration**

National integration can be described as the process by which different regions, ethnic groups, cultures, and communities within a nation come together to form a cohesive and unified society. It involves the promotion of social, political, and economic harmony, as well as the reduction of divisions and disparities among the population (Varshney, 2003).

1.8.3 Instruments

This study gathered data through document analysis, observations, and textual data, including policy documents, reports, newspaper articles and research articles.

1.8.4 Procedure (Data collection)

Both primary and secondary sources were used for data collection. Primary sources include official statements, policy papers of the government and United Nations reports. Secondary sources, such as published materials including books, Journals, documents, international affair reviews, press releases and research articles were used in the research. The study consulted the interviews of political representatives and the reviews of political analysts.

1.8.5 Data Analysis

The data collected from the above sources was analyzed through content analysis.

- **Content Analysis**

A content analysis approach was used for data analysis in this study. This research technique systematically examines text-based data, including interview transcripts, documents and media

coverage. The content analysis was used to identify and analyze key themes, patterns and trends in the data collected from secondary sources

1.8.6 Ethical Consideration

Ethical principles, including academic integrity, were upheld throughout the research process. Proper citation and acknowledgment of sources were strictly maintained. Efforts were made to avoid bias, with data selection guided by the research objectives rather than personal preferences. This study incorporated no plagiarism, with all findings based on the analysis of data collected from various primary and secondary sources.

1.9 Theoretical Framework

Resource Dependency Theory (RDT) is a sociological framework developed by Jeffrey Pfeffer and Gerald Salancik in 1978. It seeks to explain how organizations rely on external resources and how these dependencies shape their behavior and decision-making processes. Resource dependency theory, in the field of political science, is an approach used to understand the influence of economic resources on political behavior and decision-making. It suggests that individuals or groups with significant control over valuable resources, such as money or natural assets, tend to have greater power and influence in the political domain.

In simple terms, this theory highlights how economic resources can shape political power dynamics. It argues that those who control important resources often have the ability to shape policies, gain favorable treatment from governments and impact political outcomes. By studying resource independence, political scientists seek to comprehend how economic factors intersect with politics and governance.

Applying Resource Dependency Theory, we examined the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan from 2013 to 2023. Our analysis reveals how external factors and resource dependencies have shaped the country's trajectory during this period. Political instability generates uncertainty, disrupting resource flows essential for economic development. This case study investigates how Pakistan's political turmoil affected its reliance on external resources, including foreign aid, investments and trade partnerships. The findings offer a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities Pakistan faced in managing resource dependencies amidst political uncertainty, informing strategies for resilience and sustainable development.

Resource Dependency Theory also highlights how political instability can influence domestic policy choices regarding resource management, allocation and regulation. In times of uncertainty, governments prioritize short-term stability over long-term developmental goals, impacting socio-economic outcomes. By considering these factors through the lens of Resource Dependency theory, we can better understand how political instability in Pakistan from 2013 to 2023 has influenced its socio-economic landscape and identify potential strategies to mitigate the negative impacts and foster resilience in the face of uncertainty.

In the case of Pakistan, we could analyze how political instability affects its dependency on external actors for resources, such as foreign aid and how this impacts its socio-economic development. Political instability disturbs the regular flow of resources, both domestic and foreign, on which Pakistan relies. This could include foreign direct investment, trade, foreign aid and access to essential commodities. RDT can help assess how resource scarcity resulting from political instability affects Pakistan's economy, including inflation, trade imbalances and

economic growth. Political instability significantly increases Pakistan's reliance on foreign aid to stabilize its economy and support development projects. However, the fluctuations in aid disbursements due to political uncertainties disrupt planned programs and investments, ultimately hindering economic growth. This instability also affects Pakistan's trade relationships, leading to disruptions in imports and exports, and potentially making the country more dependent on certain trade partners. As a result, Pakistan becomes vulnerable to fluctuations in trade policies and market conditions. The country's political turmoil deters foreign direct investment (FDI), reducing its ability to attract capital for infrastructure projects and economic development. This exacerbates economic challenges, impedes growth, and impacts the availability of essential resources such as energy, water and food. Consequently, supply chain disruptions and price fluctuations occur, and resource shortages hinder economic activities, affecting the livelihoods of the population.

This theory underscores the strong correlation between Pakistan's political instability and its reliance on both domestic and foreign resources. Managing these dependencies, especially through diversification, effective governance and reducing reliance on volatile external factors, is crucial for stabilizing its political environment. The theory can help to explore how these dependencies shape Pakistan's foreign policy decisions. Because political instability influences Pakistan's relationships with resource-providing countries, international organizations and multinational corporations. Resource Dependency Theory (RDT) provides a lens through which to examine the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan. This theory posits that organizations and societies must rely on resources that are controlled by external entities, leading to dependency relationships. External entities, such as international financial institutions, foreign governments and multinational corporations, play a significant role in influencing political and

economic stability in Pakistan. These actors often manipulate their resource distribution based on the political environment, further destabilizing the country.

Pakistan's reliance on loans from institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank creates dependency. Conditions imposed by these institutions often affect domestic political decisions, leading to public unrest due to austerity measures. Pakistan also receives aid from countries like the United States, China and Saudi Arabia. This often comes with expectations, creating pressure on the government to align its policies with the donor countries' interests, which creates internal political friction. Pakistan depends heavily on imported oil and gas, particularly from the Middle East. Fluctuations in global energy prices or supply disruptions lead to economic stress, exacerbating political instability in Pakistan. Through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China has invested heavily in Pakistan's energy sector. While this creates opportunities, it also raises concerns about dependency and the political influence China can wield.

Political instability deters foreign investments, as businesses are cautious about where they allocate resources. This leads to a scarcity of capital and technology transfer, further exacerbating economic conditions in Pakistan. Political instability may also intensify resource scarcity in Pakistan, leading to competition and conflict over limited resources. This can further deepen socio-economic disparities and contribute to instability. Because the control and access to resources such as land, energy and water can be a source of power struggles within a politically unstable environment. This competition can hinder economic growth and development.

Pakistan's dependence on international trade (exports of textiles, remittances, etc.) makes it vulnerable to political instability. Trade policies may shift with changing governments and

instability could lead to sanctions or disrupted trade relations. Disruptions in trade reduce national income, increase unemployment and heighten inflation, all contributing to economic stagnation.

RDT also suggests that organizations are heavily influenced by their external environment, particularly in terms of resource dependence. The theory assumes several key points to be true. Firstly, organizations rely on external resources such as capital, materials and information to function effectively. Second, the control and ownership of these resources impact the power dynamics between organizations. Third, organizations seek to minimize dependence on external resources to reduce vulnerability to external influences. Furthermore, the theory assumes that organizations actively engage in strategies to manage their dependencies, such as forming strategic alliances or vertical integration. Overall, Resource Dependency Theory provides a framework for understanding how organizations interact with and are influenced by their external environment in pursuit of resource procurement and strategic advantage.

Political instability in Pakistan undermines the effectiveness of governmental institutions and disrupts governance, leading to inefficient resource management and public services, corruption and lack of transparency. Poor governance leads to nepotism, mismanagement of funds and a lack of basic services like health and education, increasing poverty and inequality. This inequality, instability and misallocation of resources favor certain groups, exacerbating social disparities. Political unrest also hinders socio-economic progress and affects regional dependencies, including reliance on neighboring countries for trade and transit routes. Consequently, disruptions in regional cooperation and conflicts impede cross-border trade and economic integration.

Uncertain political conditions in Pakistan also drive skilled workers abroad in search of stability and opportunities, leading to a “brain drain” that affects local economies. Political instability often leads to a reduced focus on essential services such as education, healthcare and infrastructure development, impacting the socio-economic status of the populace.

The government’s discriminatory distribution of resources among Pakistan’s provinces Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, leads to political discontent. Resource dependency at the provincial level fuels tensions and conflicts between the federal government and regional political entities. Balochistan, for instance, is rich in natural resources but receives a disproportionately low share of the benefits. This has fueled insurgency and political instability, as local groups seek greater control over their resources. Political instability often results in power struggles, which disrupts the fair allocation of resources, such as funds for development, education and healthcare, across all provinces of Pakistan.

Agriculture is a significant part of Pakistan's economy. Political turmoil disrupts agricultural policies, affecting food security and the livelihood of farmers. Political instability also hinders the diversification of the economy by creating an unfavorable environment for new industries to flourish and reducing the competitiveness of local markets. So, limited access to essential resources e.g., energy, food and healthcare, exacerbates economic difficulties during political instability. The scarcity of resources, coupled with mismanagement, leads to widespread poverty, unemployment and social unrest.

Pakistan’s political system is often influenced by powerful religious groups and tribal leaders, who control significant resources and wield influence over local populations. Their ability to mobilize support or opposition plays a key role in political instability. Political

instability leads to societal fragmentation and exacerbate ethnic or sectarian tensions, leading to further resource conflicts and reduced collaborative efforts for socio-economic development. Continuous instability leads to increased poverty, unemployment and socioeconomic stress, which exacerbates social issues and crime rates.

Political instability impacts Pakistan's ability to effectively manage and allocate its resources. RDT can provide insights into how the government responds to resource constraints during times of political instability, potentially affecting public services, social welfare programs and infrastructure development.

Political instability disrupts the cooperation between public and private sectors in Pakistan, affecting joint development projects, particularly infrastructure, education and health sectors. Delays or cancellation of development projects lead to infrastructural deficiencies and worsening poverty. Political instability introduces uncertainty in accessing critical resources. This uncertainty reduces organizational efficiency, affects government service delivery and lowers economic output.

RDT can help analyze Pakistan's efforts to diversify its sources of resources and reduce dependency on specific countries or regions. Political instability may prompt Pakistan to seek alternative sources of resources or engage in resource diplomacy to mitigate the impacts of instability.

Governments and businesses in Pakistan seek to minimize dependence on unstable external resources by diversifying trade partners or engaging in short-term economic policies. However, political instability hinders long-term planning and sustainable economic

development. Political actors and elites, who control the distribution of key resources, often manipulate resources for personal or political gain. In times of instability, this power imbalance worsens economic disparities and deepens socio-economic inequality.

Political instability can have security implications, which RDT can help assess. For example, disruptions in resource supply chains can affect national security, food security and energy security. This can lead to changes in defense and security policies.

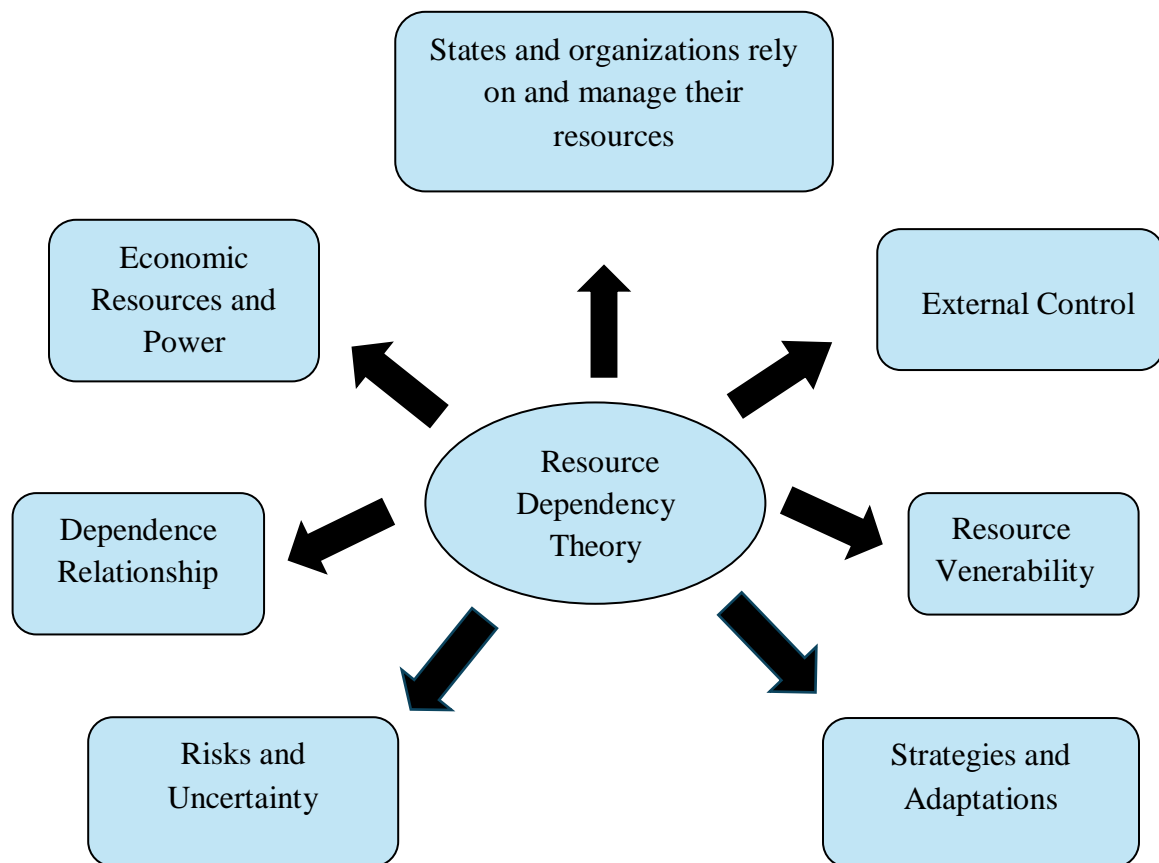
RDT can also consider non-governmental actors, such as businesses, civil society organizations and the private sector. These actors may be impacted by political instability, affecting their ability to access resources and operate in Pakistan. RDT can analyze how these actors adapt to changing resource conditions.

Resource Dependency Theory provides a valuable framework for understanding how political instability affects Pakistan's access to and management of resources, which in turn can have significant socio-economic consequences. Analyzing the country's resource dependencies, strategies for resource diversification and responses to resource scarcity can shed light on how political instability shapes Pakistan's socio-economic landscape during the specified period (Joseph, 1979).

1.9.1 Conceptual Framework

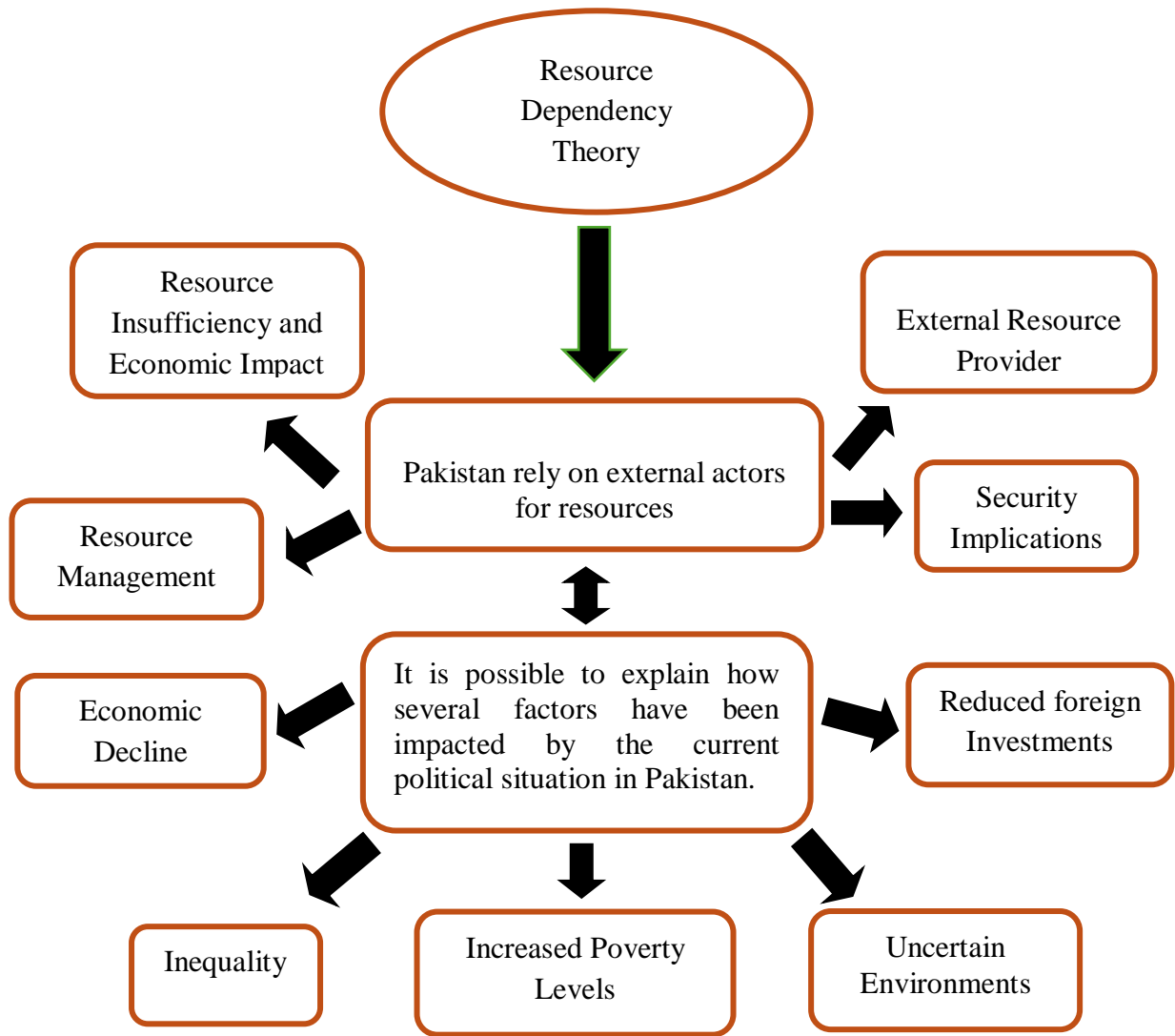
The conceptual framework for the theory's implications is described as;

Figure-2



Source: Researcher's own conception based on Joseph (1979). The External Control of Organizations: A Resource Dependence Perspective.

Figure-3



Source: Researcher's own conception based on Joseph (1979). The External Control of Organizations: A Resource Dependence Perspective.

1.10 Organization of the Study

The study is divided into 5 chapters.

Chapter 1

Chapter one elaborates the topic and provides a brief introduction about the way through which this research thesis is going to be conducted.

Chapter 2

Chapter two discusses the trajectory of Pakistan's political development since its independence in 1947, highlighting key events and milestones that shaped Pakistan's political history up to 2023.

Chapter 3

Chapter three examines the direct impacts of socio-economic instability in Pakistan from 2013-2023.

Chapter 4

Chapter four explores indirect impacts of socio-economic instability in Pakistan from 2013-2023.

Chapter 5

Chapter five concludes the study.

CHAPTER 2

THE TRAJECTORY OF PAKISTAN'S POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS

This chapter discussed the historical context of Pakistan's politics. Pakistan is one of the countries where political instability is a major challenge to progress despite its wealth. It is a difficulty to personal growth in all aspects of life. When a country is under threat, its economic development suffers the most. A review of the Pakistani experience reveals that, following independence, the country failed to construct stable people-based government in reality; it still suffers from by the evils of feudalism and discrimination among political militants. This undermines any attempt to achieve political stability in Pakistan (Burgess, 2019). According to the World Bank Report,

“Pakistan's political instability is a major obstacle to its economic development” (Hussain Z. , 2014).

Pakistan's political structure is highly complex and irregular because of the military's dominant role in both domestic and foreign affairs of the nation. Pakistan's political history has not stayed particularly stable. Throughout its seventy Six years history, it has experienced numerous political upheavals. The development of democracy has been negatively impacted by the military's and bureaucracies irregular involvement in the corridors of power ever since the nation was founded in 1947. Institutions were unable to grow in a suitable way. The nation has experienced political instability throughout its history. Under military control, things grew more difficult. For the majority of the nation's history, military rulers held on to power (Long, 2015).

2.1 OVERVIEW OF PAKISTAN’S MILITARY REGIMES AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY

In August 1947, Pakistan gained independence. Many difficulties were inherited by Pakistan, and it was difficult for politicians to solve them. We got the country after a long political conflict. However, Pakistan's political system failed after the country gained independence. Pakistan has also experienced periods of military rule and political instability throughout its history. The military has directly intervened in politics several times, with three military coups in 1958, 1977, and 1999 (Anwer, 2024).

Ayub Khan was Pakistan's second president, serving from 1958 until 1969. Governor General Ghulam Muhammad and Sikandar Mirza dissolved the legislature to address a certain circumstance in the country. The situation was severe, so Ayub Khan declared martial law in October 1958 and ruled the country for ten years. His leadership, called as the “Decade of Development”, initially resulted in economic prosperity and modernization in Pakistan. During his tenure, Pakistan made significant economic growth, and in 1959, land reform was implemented, dissolving the Jagirdar and distributing land to fewer people, lowering the number of owners. During his tenure as president, the country saw a green revolution, resulting in improved agricultural productivity. However, his rule faced increasing challenges due to claims of dictatorship, vote cheating, and failure to address critical concerns such as inequality and regional imbalances. This resulted in increasing political instability in the latter years of his reign. Public discontent resulted in large-scale demonstrations forcing Ayub Khan to retire in 1969, bringing an end to his period and starting in a new chapter in Pakistan's political history (Khan , Ahmad, & Waheed, 2016).

From 1969 until 1971, Yahya Khan was President of Pakistan, and the country suffered major political instability. His rule faced difficulties including as growing public dissatisfaction with the postponing of elections, economic issues, and the restriction of civil liberties. Furthermore, his decision to begin a military operation in East Pakistan in 1971 increased tensions, ultimately leading to the Bangladesh Liberation War and Bangladesh's independence. The political instability of Yahya Khan's government resulted in his resignation in December 1971, signifying the end of a difficult era in Pakistan's history (Khan & Syed, 2021).

Zia ul Haq was an important figure in Pakistani history, rising to power in a military coup in 1977. In 1977, all parties united against Bhutto. Due to the instability General Zia declared Martial Law throughout the country. He also led Pakistan for 11 years, establishing a number of development achievements. Economic growth was also stronger during his tenure. However, his martial law government was characterized by attacks on politics, restrictions, and the silence of opposition voices. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was executed for murder during his tenure. Zia's policies increased political instability in Pakistan, as his authoritarian leadership crushed democratic procedures and criticism. His support for Islamist groups has a long-term impact on the country's political landscape. Zia ul Haq's influence is thus complex, with his leadership adding to Pakistan's governance and strengthening of democracy issues (Khan & Fahad, 2018).

On October 12, 1999, Pervez Musharraf, Chief of Army Staff, removed Nawaz Sharif's government with force and established Marshal Law. Pervez Musharraf's leadership in Pakistan, which covered from 1999 to 2008, was marked by a combination of stability and turmoil. The transition to civilian governance under Musharraf did not greatly increase democratic rights since military control remained popular and democratic procedures were harmed. He came to power in

a military coup and received mixed reviews for his attempts to modernize the country's economy and tackle terrorism. Musharraf's rule did, however, confront problems like as allegations of authoritarianism, opposition restriction, and human rights violations. Political leaders and activists were subjected to mistreatment, torture, and untrue charges during Musharraf's administration, as well as restrictions on party activity and civil liberties (ullah, Yousaf, & Nargis, 2024).

Pervez Musharraf seized power in 2001 through a bogus referendum and used following elections to install puppet regimes. Despite the transition to civilian governance, military influence remained, with generals dominating crucial policy choices and appointments. Musharraf held control over important policy decisions, marginalizing elected authorities and weakening democracy. Political instability increased during Musharraf's final years in power, as he faced rising opposition from various political groupings, civil society and the judiciary. Eventually, rising pressure forced his resignation in 2008, marking an important moment in Pakistan's unstable political scene. While his government collapsed in 2008, he developed a variety of projects to enhance national development and productivity (ullah, Yousaf, & Nargis, 2024). Former President Pervez Musharraf once remarked,

“We need democracy in Pakistan and we need it now”(Democracy has not been tailored to Pakistani environment: Pervez Musharraf, 2016).

2.1.1 Economic and Social Dynamics in Pakistan During Military Rule

Pakistan has experienced prolonged periods of military rule, with the military staging four coups and dominating the government even during civilian rule. The military has prioritized defense spending over social and economic development. Pakistan's defense expenditure has consistently been higher than spending on health and education. This has come at the cost of human development, with Pakistan lagging behind regional peers in areas like literacy, malnutrition, and access to basic services. Economic performance has also been mixed under military regimes. While some periods saw high growth rates, this was often driven by foreign aid and geopolitical factors rather than sustainable development. The military's interference in the economy, through state-owned enterprises and preferential treatment for industrialists, has also distorted economic incentives (Muneer & Aryal, 2024).

GDP growth has tended to be higher under military rule compared to civilian governments this growth has not translated into broad-based socioeconomic progress. The military's economic influence has allowed it to accumulate significant economic power, but this has not benefited the general population. The military's outsized influence has skewed resource allocation away from critical social sectors (Chawla, 2001).

Under military regimes, the armed forces have consolidated power, weakening civilian institutions, bureaucracy and political parties. The military's political dominance in Pakistan has undermined democratic institutions. Military leaders like Ayub Khan and Zia ul-Haq not only eliminated democratic processes but also made constitutional changes to entrench military supremacy (Chawla, 2001).

Three military governments in Pakistan failed to implement long-term economic goals, resulting in unstable growth. Economic policies were short-term and benefited only a small portion of the population, increasing economic inequalities. External debt has risen without repayment arrangements, threatening Pakistan's financial stability. Economic stability was attained during General Musharraf's tenure, but poverty and extremism emerged as a result of political instability and a lack of democracy. Military regimes have also used economic incompetence and corruption of civilian governments as justification for coups. Military dominance in Pakistan has come at a significant cost to the country's social and human development, despite some short-term economic gains (Nisa, Mustafa, & Arslan, 2019). Former President Pervez Musharraf said,

“Political instability is the biggest challenge for Pakistan. It not only affects governance but also creates an environment where extremist ideologies can flourish. To ensure a stable and prosperous future, we need to address the root causes of instability, including economic disparities, corruption, and lack of rule of law” (A New Era of Sectarian Violence in Pakistan, 2022).

2.2 OVERVIEW OF PAKISTAN’S DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Jinnah disappeared from the political scene in September 1948. After then, Liaquat Ali Khan attempted to address the problem. The Assembly accepted the Objective Resolution, although it was criticized, and Liaquat Ali Khan wanted to establish the constitution as soon as possible. But he was assassinated in October 1951 at a public meeting in Rawalpindi. Following Liaquat's death, Khawaja Nazim ud din resigned as Governor General and took on the role of Prime Minister (Sultana, 2020).

The Governor General was able to control the political landscape more easily since the dominant PML party and its political leaders lacked effective leadership. The primary points of conflict were the linguistic disagreement, the representation of the two sides in the future parliament, and the proposed constitution's Islamic clauses. Muhammad Ali Bogra succeeded

Khawaja nazim ud din. After Lahore declared martial law, Punjab's chief minister was removed from office. Therefore, the army's and the bureaucracy's interference in the political system was equally the fault of the politicians (Nawaz A. , 2015).

Four prime ministers and four governor generals have changed positions in central government between 1947 and 1956. Many of these individuals were provincial leaders who were unable to draft the state's first constitution quickly enough or to build a strong parliamentary democracy. Throughout that time, the state of politics and governance was unstable (Rizwan , Ahmad, & Bukhari, 2018).

In 1971, Pakistan conducted an election. Mujibur Rehman won the East Pakistan election, while Zulfikar Ali won the West Pakistan poll. Mujibur Rehman had more seats in the national assembly than Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, but he did not give Mujibur Rehman a chance, so the fighting began, and India attacked the east wing of Pakistan, and one lac army soldiers were also surrounded by the Indian Army and taken prisoner, and East Pakistan was eventually separated from Pakistan and is now known as Bangladesh. Similar actions have begun in Baluchistan, KPK, and Sindh as well. The opponent of Pakistan attempted to create conflicts and divide the country into several sections. Following the secession of the East Wing, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto became Prime Minister for five years before being re-elected and continuing to govern until 1977. Various development programmes were undertaken to aid the country's development. He became Pakistan's Prime Minister twice during an agitation launched by opposition parties in 1977. All parties formed partnerships against Bhutto (Akram S. , 2023).

Benazir Bhutto became Pakistan's Prime Minister in 1989. She worked for the country's progress while the President disbanded his assembly in 1993 because of difficult

opposition. Nawaz Sharif became Pakistan's Prime Minister following the 1993 election. Due to unavoidable circumstances, her assembly was dissolved in 1996, and elections were held, and Nawaz Sharif was re-elected Prime Minister of Pakistan (Azeem, Chishti , Rifat, Serfraz , & Khan, 2020).

In 2008, an election was held and Asif Zardari became President of Pakistan, while Yousaf Raza Gillani became Prime Minister of Pakistan until being removed by the judiciary due to corruption, and Pervez Ashraf was chosen Prime Minister in 2012. The PPP government was successful during his tenure, which lasted five years. They worked for Pakistan's development despite the fact that economic growth was insufficient throughout his tenure (Kanwal, 2017).

Nawaz Sharif was elected Prime Minister of Pakistan in 2013, while accused in the Panama Case since 2016, and Shahid khaqan Abbassi was named Prime Minister of Pakistan. He also spent a year working for the development of a country (Azeem, Chishti , Rifat, Serfraz , & Khan, 2020).

On July 25, 2018, the PTI won the election, and Imran Khan became Pakistan's Prime Minister. He stated that he would improve the country's economic growth. During Mr. Khan's tenure as Prime Minister, Pakistan's economy suffered greatly. There were insufficient budgets to support the country's socioeconomic needs. Mr. Khan and his government faced significant obstacles. GDP growth was quite low. There were frequent energy and industrial problems, low exports, and uneven governance (Zia, Khurram, Khan, & Iqbal, 2023). According to Imran Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan,

“Pakistan is caught in a vicious cycle of political instability. When the political system is not functioning, it affects the economy, which in turn affects the social fabric of society. We need strong and transparent institutions to break out of this cycle, but that requires a fundamental

shift in our political culture and governance” (Zaman, 2023).

2.2.1 Democratic Governance and Socio-economic Conditions in Pakistan

The relationship between socioeconomic conditions in Pakistan and democratic regimes is indeed complex and multifaceted. Pakistan has experienced periods of democratic rule interspersed with military interventions, which have impacted the country's social and economic development (Muneer & Aryal, 2024).

Economic progress in Pakistan has been hampered by recurring macroeconomic instability, policy uncertainty, and external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating floods in 2022. Poverty reduction has slowed, with an estimated 40.1% of the population living below the lower-middle income poverty line in 2023-24. Critical constraints like fiscal deficits, trade protectionism, an unfavorable business environment and an unsustainable energy sector have remained unaddressed, leading to slow and volatile growth (Khan D. A., 2021). Devolution of powers to provincial and local governments remains incomplete, weakening governance and service delivery at the grassroots level. Structural reforms to liberalize the economy have progressed slowly due to political opposition. Unemployment has also remained a persistent issue, with formal job losses pushing more Pakistanis into informal work. Major obstacles to the success of democracy in Pakistan include the lack of timely, free and fair elections, a disconnect between the political elite and the general public, and a history of military coups. Overall, Pakistan's democratic regimes from 2013-2023 have struggled to translate poverty reduction into broad-based socioeconomic progress, with persistent challenges around inequality, economic reforms and governance decentralization (Mahar, Malik, & Bakhtiar, 2023).

Every government faced difficulties due to bureaucracy, weak political parties, dishonest leadership, and tensions between the political and religious classes. Pakistan's political structure. Failed and the country's instability allowed progress to continue. Throughout that time, the state of politics and governance was extremely unstable and much worse (Aslam, Zahra, Aslam, & Naseem, 2023).

CHAPTER 3

DIRECT IMPACTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN

(2013-2023)

Pakistan has experienced repeated changes in government, with military coups and civilian governments overthrown by the military or through other means. These shifts have resulted in a lack of solidity in policies, adding to the population's views on uncertainty and instability. Furthermore, political instability has had a severe impact on the economy, with frequent government changes resulting in a lack of long-term planning and investment. This contributed to high rates of unemployment, inflation, and poverty. Furthermore political instability has a negative influence on human rights, with increasing incidences of violence, extremism, and terrorism (Rani & Batool, 2016).

Political instability in Pakistan demands a comprehensive strategy that takes a long-term perspective and addresses the fundamental roots of the problem. To restore peace and further the nation's development, the administration must focus on strengthening democratic institutions, promoting economic growth, and improving security measures. To build public trust in institutions and maintain long-term progress, it is critical to promote transparency, accountability, and public participation in governmental decision-making processes. Pakistan can overcome its political crisis and achieve greater stability, wealth, and democratic governance with the right policies and effort (Aftab, 2023).

3.1 FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN

Political turmoil lead to corruption as successive administrations prioritizes their own interests over the nations, resulting in lack of accountability and openness in decision-making. Corruption in various political, administrative, judicial, and legislative institutions, as well as in the army, reduces the amount and quality of social, human, and natural resource development, thereby increasing poverty, social and economic disparity, environmental degradation, and, ultimately, reducing sustainability. It also causes social unrest, protests, strikes, political violence, and political instability in the country. Corruption has had a negative impact on other aspects of Pakistani business ethics. Corruption and poor governance restrict economic progress and damage the development of the private sector. Corruption has a negative impact on foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan, increasing uncertainty about investment opportunities (Hussain & Anwar, 2023).

Political polarization in Pakistan makes it difficult to distinguish between instruction and manipulation. In Pakistan, political polarization is mostly caused by disagreements among national parties. The government and opposition struggle to reach an agreement on national security matters. State institutions dispute with political parties on a variety of critical issues (Hanif, Sultan, & Haqeeq, 2024).

Pakistan's political leadership has prioritized personal gain. Pakistan has witnessed both military dictatorships and weak democratic regimes, resulting in weak institutions. The issue of institutionalization has become a significant barrier to political development. There were no positive initiatives implemented to increase understanding between civilian and military ties. The

bad governance harmed the image of political regimes, resulting in a weak democratic system. This technique was intended to reduce the influence of political leaders (Zahoor & Khan, 2014).

Pakistan has been the victim of authoritarianism for a variety of reasons. Military dictators destroyed democratic governments on claims of corruption and politicians' inability to deliver services. Politicians' leg-pulling and bad political opposition were responsible for overthrowing Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif's elected regimes three times on the similar reasons. Because of governance irregularities democratic culture has not had the opportunity to become deeply rooted in society. There are several causes for weak democracy in Pakistan's political history, including a lack of political socialization, which is the foundation of democratization, and individual behaviour that does not correspond to democracy (Zahoor & Khan, 2014). Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who stated,

“Democracy is necessary to peace and to undermining the forces of terrorism” (Aelsabeh, 2014).

3.2 MAJOR DIRECT IMPACTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN (2013-2023)

The political landscape in Pakistan is complex, with power struggles between various factions often overshadowing the country's development and governance. The influence of the military in political matters has also been a source of instability. Furthermore, issues such as economic disparities, social unrest, and challenges in implementing effective policies have added to the overall instability (Nawaz S. , 2024).

Political unrest is harmful to the efficient administration of national affairs. Political instability results in uncertainty, which has a negative impact on the nation's economic growth. It

also creates a situation of law and order and deters the business community from setting up shop in a country where political divisions between political parties are still extremely high. Exchange rates are also insufficiently affected by political instability. Political instability also negatively impacts the formulation of foreign policy and international business, as foreign investors will not invest in a nation with an unstable political environment. Political instability also leads to social problems, financial difficulties, a decline in the nation's economic growth, and a state of law and order that makes people feel unsafe and uneasy (Ahmadani & Noonari, 2020).

There are different direct impacts of political instability in Pakistan, some of which are:

3.2.1 Significant Socio Economic Impacts of Political Instability In Pakistan

Pakistan's socioeconomic situation from 2013 to 2023 has been permanently connected to its political dynamics, with periods of stability, transitions, and problems. Pakistan experienced significant political transformations during this time, including government changes, power conflicts between civilian and military authorities, and periods of increased political tension. These political developments have had far-reaching socioeconomic consequences for various sectors of Pakistani society. One of the most clear socioeconomic consequences of political unrest during this time period has been a decline in investor confidence and economic growth. Pakistan experienced multiple periods of political instability including huge protests, allegations of vote cheating, and government changes, all of which damaged investor trust and discouraged both domestic and foreign investment. This lack of investment slowed economic growth and contributed to decline in important areas, limiting job creation and increasing poverty levels (Hussain & Shear , 2024).

Pakistan's economic crisis is a complicated and multidimensional issue with long-term origins and consequences. Addressing these difficulties requires collaborative efforts from the government, policymakers, and stakeholders across the board. Reforms targeted at improving fiscal management, increasing exports, attracting investment, and addressing energy shortages will be critical to stabilizing the economy and setting foundations for sustained growth (George, 2023).

Pakistan has significant external debt, however poor debt management has led to an increase in the load on the economy and negatively impacted the country's development. Pakistan continues to experience a decrease in foreign direct investment due to harmful socioeconomic and political conditions. The decline in FDI from 2013 to 2023 is due to a complex relationship of economic, geopolitical, and policy reasons. The impact was felt worldwide, with emerging countries, particularly in Asia, seeing major impacts in FDI flows. The changing nature of FDI patterns, as well as the potential for capital flow transfer, highlights the movement of global investment trends during this period (Rehman H. U., 2016).

The overall dollar situation in Pakistan from 2013 to 2023 has been marked by various fluctuations and challenges. A key factor influencing this situation is the country's balance of payments, which reflects its trade and financial interactions with the rest of the world. In recent years, Pakistan has faced recurring current account deficits, meaning that it imports more goods and services than it exports. This has put pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves and contributed to depreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar. Several factors have contributed to these challenges, including rising import bills, low export competitiveness, and external debt obligations. Political and economic instability, as well as security concerns, have

also played a role in shaping Pakistan's dollar situation. Furthermore, global economic trends and fluctuations in oil prices have impacted the country's external accounts. The impacts of the fluctuating dollar situation in Pakistan have been wide-ranging. A depreciating currency can lead to higher inflation, as imports become more expensive. This, in turn, can affect the cost of living for ordinary citizens and put pressure on household budgets. Businesses also face challenges, as the cost of imported raw materials and machinery goes up, affecting their competitiveness and profitability. Moreover, a weak currency can deter foreign investment and lead to capital flight, further straining the country's external accounts. To address these challenges and stabilize the dollar situation, Pakistan has taken various measures, such as seeking financial assistance from international organizations, implementing economic reforms to improve export competitiveness, and tightening monetary policy to control inflation. However, sustained efforts are needed to ensure long-term stability and resilience in the face of external shocks and economic uncertainties (Sarwar D. H., 2023).

Table-1

Dollar Rate Fluctuation Index in Pakistan (2013-2024)

2024	Highest exchange rate of 2024: 281.737 on 04/01/2024 Lowest exchange rate of 2024: 275.866 on 29/01/2024 Average exchange rate of 2024: 277.96
2023	Highest exchange rate of 2023: 307.437 on 06/09/2023 Lowest exchange rate of 2023: 226.722 on 02/01/2023 Average exchange rate of 2023: 277.5008
2022	Highest exchange rate of 2022: 242.064 on 26/09/2022 Lowest exchange rate of 2022: 172.113 on 04/02/2022 Average exchange rate of 2022: 204.1167
2021	Highest exchange rate of 2021: 178.05 on 20/12/2021 Lowest exchange rate of 2021: 149.639 on 10/05/2021 Average exchange rate of 2021: 162.4426
2020	Highest exchange rate of 2020: 168.449 on 20/08/2020 Lowest exchange rate of 2020: 151.744 on 09/03/2020 Average exchange rate of 2020: 161.3449
2019	Highest exchange rate of 2019: 163.58 on 28/06/2019 Lowest exchange rate of 2019: 13.0483 on 15/01/2019 Average exchange rate of 2019: 149.8053
2018	Highest exchange rate of 2018: 140.393 on 31/12/2018 Lowest exchange rate of 2018: 109.822 on 17/01/2018 Average exchange rate of 2018: 121.3232
2017	Highest exchange rate of 2018: 140.393 on 31/12/2018 Lowest exchange rate of 2018: 109.822 on 17/01/2018 Average exchange rate of 2018: 121.3232
2016	Highest exchange rate of 2017: 110.926 on 29/12/2017 Lowest exchange rate of 2017: 102.185 on 24/04/2017 Average exchange rate of 2017: 104.4663
2015	Highest exchange rate of 2015: 105.534 on 02/12/2015 Lowest exchange rate of 2015: 100.564 on 15/01/2015 Average exchange rate of 2015: 102.7861
2014	Highest exchange rate of 2014: 105.769 on 15/01/2014 Lowest exchange rate of 2014: 95.9794 on 16/04/2014

	Average exchange rate of 2014: 101.0143
2013	Highest exchange rate of 2013: 108.617 on 04/12/2013 Lowest exchange rate of 2013: 97.2463 on 10/01/2013 Average exchange rate of 2013: 101.583

Source: (U.S. Dollar-Pakistani Rupee History: 2024, 2024)

Pakistan's GDP growth rate changed between 2013 and 2023 due to a variety of internal and foreign factors affecting the economy. These fluctuations can be linked to changes in government policy, political unrest, global economic conditions, natural disasters, and Pakistan-specific economic factors. For example, times of rapid development may have been driven by increased government expenditure or favorable global economic trends, whereas slowdowns or contractions may have been caused by policy uncertainty, external debt loads, or disruptions in major industries such as agriculture or manufacturing. Understanding these changes necessitates considering a variety of economic indicators, assessing the influence of policy actions, and examining how global trends and local dynamics combine to create Pakistan's economic environment over time (Shah, Asghar, & Riaz, 2020).

The GDP growth rate in 2008 was 4.99 percent, in 2009 it was 0.36 percent, and in 2010 it was 2.58 percent. Similarly, the growth rate was 3.62 percent in 2011, 3.84 percent in 2012, and 3.68 percent in 2013. Subsequently, the growth rate was 4.05 percent in 2014, 4.04 percent in 2015, and 4.71 percent in 2016. Between 1952 and 2016, Pakistan's average GDP growth rate was 4.91 percent, with all-time highs of 10.22 percent in 1954 and 20 percent in 1960, and a low of 1.80 percent in 1952 (Nawaz, Anwar, & Aquil, 2021).

Table-2
GDP Situation in Pakistan from 2013 - 2023

Year	GDP growth (%)	Annual Change
2023	4.0%	0.3%
2022	4.71%	-1.81%
2021	6.51%	7.79%
2020	-1.27%	-3.77%
2019	2.50%	-3.65%
2018	6.15%	1.72%
2017	4.43%	-2.14%
2016	6.57%	2.36%
2015	4.22%	0.10%
2014	4.12%	-0.25%
2013	4.37%	1.34%

Source: (Pakistan GDP Growth Rate 1960-2024, 2010-2024)

3.2.2 The Impact of Political Instability on Unemployment and Poverty in Pakistan

Unemployment leads to a number of societal problems, including an increase in crime, drug addiction, corrupt practices, and violence. Unemployment, declining living standards, inflation, corruption and mismanagement demonstrate that much more needs to be done. Pakistan is dealing with a number of major concerns that cannot be resolved overnight. Setting goals and organizing tasks are critical. For this, the government, commercial sector, civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, media professionals and the general public must all play a role in reducing poverty and eliminating the evils that contribute to it. Means and methods for developing effective solutions for combating poverty and ensuring high and sustained economic growth must be explored. Current economic programmes and strategies must be implemented effectively (Ramzan, 2021).

Unemployment and poverty have been significant challenges in Pakistan between 2013 and 2023. The country has struggled with high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people and women. This has been fueled by a mismatch between available skills and job market demands, limited job creation in the formal sector and issues related to education quality and access (Tahir, Fatima, & Alam, 2016).

3.2.3 Pakistan's Unemployment Rate Index (2013 - 2024)

The unemployment rate in Pakistan has fluctuated between 4.83% and 8.0% from 2013 to 2024.

- According to the ILO report, Pakistan's unemployment rate was projected to rise slightly from 5.17% in 2013 to 5.29% in 2014 (Sidiki, 2014).
- The unemployment rate in Pakistan in 2015 was 5.90%.

- The unemployment rate in Pakistan in 2016 was 5.958%.
- The unemployment rate in Pakistan in 2017 was 5.8%
- The unemployment rate in Pakistan in 2018 was 6.9%.
- According to the search results, the unemployment rate in Pakistan in 2019 was around 4.45%.
- The unemployment rate in Pakistan in 2020-2021 was 6.3%, down from 6.9% in 2018-2019.
- Pakistan's unemployment rate was 5.60% in 2022, a 0.75% decline from 2021.
- The World Bank data shows the unemployment rate in Pakistan was 5.5% in 2023, a slight decrease from 5.55% the previous year.
- The most recent data point from January 2024 shows the unemployment rate at 8.0%.

The youth unemployment rate (ages 15-24) in Pakistan followed a similar trend, ranging from 9.57% to 11.03% during this period (Neill, 2024).

Poverty has long been a source of worry for politicians and social scientists. It restricts people's access to basic essentials of life like food, housing, and clothing while also establishing a sense of deprivation in them. Poor people are more likely to be exploited by society. Pakistan's poverty rate is startling and causing growing concern. Poverty in Pakistan is attributed to a lack of education, imbalanced taxes, unemployment, high inflation, trade deficit, political instability, unequal resource distribution, corruption, malpractices, poor law and order, internal and external debts, and issues with good governance and public institutions. Pakistan has been grappling with poverty since its independence, with economic struggles and the COVID-19 pandemic contributing to its issues. Despite these challenges, Pakistan is committed to improving its

socioeconomic situation and achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal. Although progress is still needed, the achievements made in this regard should not be overlooked (Khan Arif, Bannian, & Gardazi , 2022).

Pakistan's political unrest has significantly impacted the nation's ability to create jobs. A situation of uncertainty has been produced by the insecure political climate, which is characterized by frequent changes in government, charges of corruption and military intervention. This has restricted the expansion of businesses and industries. Due to a lack of investor confidence, many businesses have remained unable to grow or engage in new a project, which has reduced the number of job possibilities available to the general public. The importance of the manufacturing sector in job generation in Pakistan. The manufacturing industry generates job opportunities and contributes to economic growth and development. The numerous sub-sectors of manufacturing, including as textiles, automobiles, pharmaceuticals and electronics, and their impact on job creation in both urban and rural locations. It looks at the challenges and possibilities that Pakistan's manufacturing sector faces, such as infrastructure, energy constraints, legislative frameworks and global rivalry (Afzal M. , 2023).

Political instability has resulted in irregular policies and regulatory frameworks, discouraging potential investors and contributing to a slowing down job economy. Successive governments' emphasis on confronting critical political difficulties rather than adopting long-term economic changes has also contributed to a lack of strong employment development measures. Pakistan's manufacturing sector's contribution to job creation, with a focus on the industry's growth potential, the necessity of investments and reforms, and the requirement for a favorable environment to encourage long-term job creation in the country. Furthermore, security

concerns caused by political instability have discouraged foreign investment and affected industries like as tourism, limiting job possibilities. The rising number of skilled workers seeking opportunities worldwide due to a lack of stability and economic possibilities at home has contributed to Pakistan's job creation issues (Javed & Suleri, 2019).

Pakistan's poverty levels have followed an uncertain trend during the last two decades. Economic growth and development activities have helped the country reduce poverty, particularly in urban areas. Poverty, on the other hand, continues to be a major issue, particularly in rural areas where a big proportion of the population lives below the poverty line. Political instability, limited access to education and healthcare, and rapid population expansion has all contributed to the country's continued poverty. Efforts to tackle poverty through social welfare programmes, job creation, and infrastructure development are ongoing, but more targeted and long-term measures are required to significantly reduce poverty in Pakistan (Afzal & Ahsan, 2021).

3.2.4 Poverty Rate In Pakistan From 2013- 2024

The poverty rate in Pakistan has fluctuated between around 34-40% from 2013 to 2024, with a recent increase projected for 2023.

- In 2013, the poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90 a day (2011 PPP) was 6.2% of the population.
- The multidimensional poverty rate in Pakistan in 2014-15 was 38.8%,
- The poverty rate in Pakistan in 2016 was 24.3%.

- According to the World Bank, the poverty rate in Pakistan in 2017 was approximately 24.3% of the population, which translates to around 50 million people living below the poverty line.
- In 2018, the poverty rate was 39.8% using the lower middle-income poverty line of \$3.65 per day (2017 PPP).
- The poverty rate in Pakistan in 2019 was approximately 39.1% of the population, which translates to around 80 million people living below the poverty line.
- In 2020, the poverty rate was estimated at 37.2% using the lower middle-income poverty line of \$3.65 per day (2017 PPP).
- In 2021, the poverty rate was 38.3%
- In 2022, the poverty rate was 34.2%.
- The poverty rate in Pakistan for the 2023 fiscal year is 39.4% or 95 million
- The poverty rate in Pakistan for the year 2024 is estimated to be around 40.1% (Mursaleen & Bardauskienė, 2023).

The field of social work in these days is heavily influenced by existing institutions and situations. Social work in developing nations is growing increasingly complex due to rising social and economic issues. Common challenges in social work arise from political, economic, and societal changes. Social workers face significant challenges in providing help to individuals due to these restrictions. Pakistan, like other emerging countries, faces economic, social and political challenges. The country's emphasized challenges include high crime rates, loss of natural resources, agricultural decline, electricity shortages and severe human rights violations (Mursaleen & Bardauskienė, 2023).

In Pakistan, social welfare projects are especially significant since they cover a wide range of socioeconomic issues. Effective policies may impact good change in crucial areas such as promoting gender equality, establishing social bonds, assuring reasonable access to education and healthcare, creating social security networks, and decreasing poverty. Social welfare projects can enhance the overall growth and well-being of Pakistani citizens by focusing on these factors. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is one of Pakistan's most important social safety programmes. BISP is a cash transfer programme that provides financial support to low-income and families in need throughout the country. The programme primarily benefits women and aims to improve their socioeconomic condition and empowerment. The programme has successfully reduced poverty, improved food security, and increased school enrollment. Pakistan's social protection system can be evaluated using a variety of measures, including coverage, finance, targeting, and impact. In addition to BISP, Pakistan offers various social protection programmes, such as the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, Waseela-e-Taleem Programme and Waseela-e-Rozgar Programme (Safdar, Afsar, Ahmed, Atta, & Noreen, 2022).

3.2.5 Rising Inflation and Effects on Cost of Living

Pakistan has historically experienced rising inflation rates with each government transition. Pakistan's citizens continue to bear the burden of an ever-increasing challenge. The current level of inflation creates a threat to the country's survival, integrity, and sovereignty. Inflation affects income and wealth distribution, with some people's actual earnings growing while others remain constant resulting in a change in income distribution. This leads to poverty, which prevents human growth, reduces patience and promotes corruption and terrorism. Poverty reduction requires coordinated efforts across monetary, fiscal, and other factors. The government

must demonstrate sincerity in decreasing inflation by implementing all essential measures immediately. Rising production costs contribute to increased prices for ultimate consumers. Prices have increased significantly due to increased raw material costs, labour costs, energy costs, taxes, interest rates, wage increases, government policies, and company profit profits. Cost-push inflation, also known as wage-push inflation, occurs when firms pass on increases in production costs to their customers (Baloch, Sher, & Zaman, 2013).

3.2.6 Inflation Index In Pakistan From 2013- 2024

The high inflation in Pakistan is driven by factors like rising food and energy prices, currency depreciation, and supply chain disruptions. The government has implemented measures to control inflation, but it remains a significant economic challenge for the country. Pakistan's inflation rate has been high and volatile in recent years.

- Pakistan's inflation rate is projected to be 24.76% in 2024, according to the data (Neill, 2024).
In 2023 Pakistan's inflation rate was 29.18% (Neill, 2024).
- In 2022, Pakistan's inflation rate was 19.87%, a 10.38% increase from 2021 (Pakistan Inflation Rate 1960-2024, 2024).
- In 2021, Pakistan's inflation rate was 9.50%, a 0.24% decline from 2020 (Inflation rates in Pakistan, 2016).
- In 2020, Pakistan's inflation rate was 9.74%, a 0.84% decline from 2019 (Pakistan Inflation Rate 1960-2024, 2024).
- The average inflation rate from July 2018 to February 2019 was 6.46% compared to the same period in the previous year. In February 2019, the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

increased by 0.64%, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) increased by 0.90%, and the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) increased by 2.21% compared to the previous month. The year-on-year inflation rate in February 2019 was 8.21%.

- The average inflation rate from July 2016 to May 2017 was 4.18% compared to the same period in the previous year.
- The average inflation rate from July 2014 to June 2015 was 4.53% compared to the previous year (Press Release on Inflation Rate For The Month of June, 2015 With Base 2007-08=100, 2015).
- The average inflation rate in June 2013 was 7.36% (Pakistan Inflation Rate 1960-2024, 2024).

Governments are considered inefficient if their policy objectives change often. There are two strategies for investigating and the link between political instability and economic growth. Political instability causes uncertainty and volatility, reducing private investment and resulting in slower growth. Political instability influences investment and spending structures, directly impacting economic growth rather than investment itself. Political instability causes inflation and unemployment to grow, causing social unrest and anxiety among the people, which escalated to major strikes and violence not just against employers but also against government policy. Terrorism prevented commercial activities the uncertain and volatile economic environment caused local and foreign investors to reduce investment and postpone activities. They preferred to protect their capital by investing in more secure environments (Tabassam, Hashmi, & Rehman, 2016).

The decline can be attributed to poor economic conditions, terrorism, political instability, law and order issues and decreased foreign investment in the nation. Currency depreciation increases business expenses and reduces competitiveness in foreign markets. Currency depreciation leads to increased exports. Pakistan's reliance on imports for fertilizers, energy, food, machinery, and raw materials due to low global competitiveness may lead to higher inflation and import bills. While it may be beneficial in the near term, it may result in a loss for the economy overall. Inflation has impacted all sectors of Pakistani society, including government employees (Ullah, 2014). Because of the country's difficult conditions, large-scale wage increases may not be possible. However, if pay is not raised to some level, government employees will face severe challenges. To solve the ongoing issue of demonstrations and strikes for greater wages, a long-term and transparent process for regular wage increases must be developed. This may be accomplished by creating a system that automatically adjusts salaries once a year to account for inflation and rising living costs (Stagnant wages, 2023).

Pakistan's inflation rate has changed significantly during the last five years as a result of political instability. Inflation in Pakistan has put a pressure on household finances. It is an important economic indicator that affects purchasing power, the cost of living and total economic growth. Despite the government's efforts to keep inflation constant, Pakistan's inflation rate has increased significantly since 2019. In May 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased to an unbelievable 38%. This placed a severe burden on the population's finances. Inflation has an impact on the country's financial stability as well as its citizen's living standards. However, the country's Consumer Price Index, or CPI, increased significantly this year, negatively impacting both the sector and households. So Political instability in Pakistan causes economic uncertainty, which has an influence on household budgets (Najam, 2024).

3.2.7 Impacts on Pakistan's Infrastructural Development

Infrastructure development, both economic and social, is an important component of economic growth in emerging nations like Pakistan. Direct investment in infrastructure produces industrial facilities, increases economic activity, lowers transaction and trade costs, improves competitiveness and offers job possibilities for the poor. Pakistan is in the early stages of development, hence institutions, socioeconomic environment, infrastructure, basics of education, and basic health facilities are all important for its growth. Pakistan's shortages of physical infrastructure, including roads, telecommunications, energy and water, is a major challenges to improving sector performance. The long-term impact of physical infrastructure measures on Pakistan's GDP. Physical infrastructure is a broad term that includes facilities such as electricity, piped gas, telecommunications, piped water, sanitation and sewerage systems, solid waste collection and disposal, roads, railways, airports, seaports, dams, irrigation and drainage systems and most recently, mobile phones and broadband internet access. The majority of infrastructural facilities are utilized directly by the population. They use piped water, gas, electricity and so on. They use modern transportation and communication infrastructure to gain access to information for improved decision making, job markets for employment, goods markets for marketing agricultural products, hospitals for health care and schools for education. This broadens people's work possibilities while at the same time increasing productivity through greater individual investment (Tanveer & Manan, 2016). According to Malala Yousafzai's statement,

“The constant political instability in Pakistan makes it difficult for the country to progress. When leaders are more focused on maintaining power than on governing effectively, the people suffer. Education, healthcare, and infrastructure development are all neglected, which only leads to further discontent and instability” (Afzal M. , 2018).

Political instability can cause delays or cancellations of infrastructure projects. Changes in administration, policy uncertainty and unstable political circumstances all have an influence on project timeframes and investment decisions. Load shedding, irregular disruptions to power, and other disturbances to Pakistan's electricity supply are on the rise. The issue has major consequences for the country, particularly in its rural areas. Tariffs had to be pushed due to rising energy generation costs and a high rate of connection losses, which resulted in losses for businesses that produce, transmit, and distribute electricity. Power shortages have also made it difficult for the manufacturing sector to create new jobs, contributing significantly to Pakistan's unemployment rate. Farmers in rural Pakistan may find it simpler to plan agricultural management if load shedding occurs at a suitable moment and duration (Usman & jie, 2022).

Natural disasters lead to increased poverty rates in education, health, and economic development. Natural disasters in Pakistan are often caused by severe weather such as storms, floods, storms, unstable weather and landslides. Climate change has made Pakistan's poor people more at risk of disasters occur. Natural disasters in Pakistan are seasonal and have various effects due to the country's unique climate and geography. Terrorism causes economic instability and affects income levels, leading to a rise in poverty among vulnerable populations. Pakistan has had security issues, especially in specific areas. Security risks from terrorist organizations slow down building efforts and discourage investors, particularly in locations where projects are at risk of threat. The government's expenditures are productive and efficient as it promotes job creation, private investment, human capital and poverty reduction through education and healthcare. Infrastructure projects sometimes need significant investment, and financing restrictions may prevent development. Delays in getting funds or financial restrictions cause project delays or failures. Corruption is regarded as one of the most major challenges to the

economic growth of developing nations, including Pakistan improving financial development and the effectiveness of institutions may significantly boost a country's economic growth (Jehan, Jan, Saeed, & Khan, 2022).

Pakistan's infrastructure is one of the most promising sectors for employing qualified workers and providing opportunities for basic jobs. Improving the country's infrastructure is important because it leads the way in boosting job creation. However, the country is experiencing a shortage in infrastructure projects. Pakistan is surrounded by major foreign powers pushing their own objectives on the global stage. Pakistan has struggled with terrorism and instability for a decade, but the CPEC offers a chance to convert the nation into an attraction for trade and investment. Pakistan's weak economy and instability have prevented it from focusing on its unique geostrategic location. This investment will strengthen the economy and become an important point for regional commerce. The Western, Eastern and Central alignments include connected infrastructure like highways and motorways (Khan H. U., 2019).

Pakistan is unlikely to fail as a state, and the recent decline in indicators of state failure may be temporarily interrupted. In the long run, Pakistan's lack of economic opportunity, high birth rate and weak educational system may result in a large, young and poorly educated population with few opportunities for economic advancement and a negative view of the country's promise. Pakistan is going to be an important player not just in the region, but also in world affairs, as long as our economy continues to progress. This argument has been utilized by successive Pakistani governments in their requests for resources and support. The country's leadership and institutions lacked credibility, limiting foreign assistance. The senior leadership is not willing to irritate the supporters of this corrupt political system. Pakistan's near future agenda

is unclear. Corruption, ineffective leadership and failed diplomatic and economic policies continue to cause doubt on Pakistan's future prospects. Political instability and poor economic management suggest a lack of abilities and efficiency among the country's political leaders. As a developing country, Pakistan's healthcare system requires significant changes to satisfy the requirements of its citizens. Pakistan's healthcare system has issues such as limited budget, insufficient staff and facilities, a lack of focus on protective health and unequal resource distribution. To address these difficulties, comprehensive policies should prioritize increased healthcare financing and equitable resource distribution. The initiative reduces healthcare expenses and improves access for marginalized communities (Khan, Asif, Aslam, Khan, & Hamza, 2023).

Identifying and fixing transport issues is a key challenge for governments in developing nations like Pakistan. Developing nations have severe transport issues due to poor planning, lack of governance and corruption, despite significant investment in urban transport infrastructure. As a result, developing nations such as Pakistan face a significant issue. Building more highways is not the solution to Pakistan's urban transportation issues. Road construction should be part of a complete transportation strategy, which includes traffic management, improved transit networks and public transportation. As cities like Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad/Rawalpindi grow, the movement of people and products becomes increasingly difficult. As cities increase, there is a need for more transportation, yet current infrastructures are insufficient. Cities rely heavily on street systems for transportation, rather than highways or major roadways. Unfortunately, these infrastructures are overburdened due to increased demand for private, commercial and public transportation services. To tackle urbanization and traffic jams, both short and long-term solutions are necessary. Professional skill in designing and operating highways, airports, trains,

rivers, public transportation and cargo terminals is becoming increasingly important in society (Munir & Iftikhar, 2021).

Pakistan experiences frequent power failures and load shedding as a result of a supply demand imbalance. While attempts have been made to expand generation capacity, problems like as distribution losses, theft and inefficient billing systems remain. Being able to get to safe drinking water is a major concern in many regions of Pakistan, particularly in rural areas. Water shortage, contaminants, and poor infrastructure all lead to health issues and economic hardship. Natural gas is an important source of energy for Pakistan's households, industry, and power generation. However, supply limits, distribution losses, and price concerns have an influence on both dependability and affordability. Pakistan's mobile and internet adoption has increased rapidly, enhancing connectivity and access to information. However, difficulties such as network coverage gaps, the use of digital devices and regulatory problems exist (Khan, Aziz, Rashid, & Baig, 2023).

3.2.8 The Devastating Effects of Political Instability on Social Cohesion and Human Development

Political instability is widespread and has a negative impact on many industries, including education, health, and construction. Unfortunately, a lack of strategic planning and effective governance keeps these critical businesses from attaining their full potential. The government's unwillingness to incorporate practical and technical experiences into the educational framework leads to inactive educational standards, which are critical for national growth. The issues increase by the government's failure to nurture students' capacity to make significant contributions to the growth of the country (Rashid & Rashid, 2024).

The health sector is also impacted by insufficient health facilities, and no efforts have been made to improve them over time as the population has grown. The government is not effectively prepared to deal with any unavoidable problems in the health sector, as we have witnessed during the covid-19 epidemic, other infectious diseases like as dengue fever, and heat stroke. On the other side, the government does not properly plan for the building of new roads or the maintenance of existing ones. As a result, the performance of this sector has been negatively impacted, affecting the transfer of products from one location to another and finally, economic growth and development (Rashid & Rashid, 2024).

Transportation plays an important part in the development of every country's economy. When it comes to the role corruption plays in political instability, we understand that it is significant and continuing. Different Pakistani governments have had to deal with corruption at every level and in every department because of government support. This means that, either directly or indirectly, government authorities failed to take necessary measures to put an end to the corrupted elements, which encouraged them to continue their activities and benefitted Pakistan and its government (Rashid & Rashid, 2024).

Pakistan has struggled with a number of issues and made an effort to create a story that would bring the country together and encourage internal stability. Even yet, Pakistan's history has changed with every change of government, whether it is military or democratic. Pakistan has been adapting to the local and international environment. Given Pakistan's complex political and security environment, a new strategic narrative is much needed. The concepts that economic success and safety would follow the achievement of our long-term national goals need to serve as the foundation of a new narrative. In regards to identity crises, ideological divides, resource

distribution, political weakness, unemployment, governance crises, civil-military imbalance, defective regional strategy, and immature international vision, it needs to make an effort to develop long-term policy decisions. Attempts against the young state, which is characterized by unique economic growth, unstable politics, and unequal economic. Political instability often results in division across society, with opposing and supporting political players on different groups. Social groups based on location, religion, or ethnicity may become more visible as a result of this division. People grow increasingly insecure of one another and of institutions of the state when they believe that the government is not looking out for or protecting their interests. The connection that hold society together may be weakened by this decline in social trust, which would make it more difficult to resolve shared problems and create a sense of unrest and uncertainty (Farooqui , Khan , Kamboyo , & Uddin , 2023). Raza Rumi said that,

“Pakistan is facing serious security and economic challenges and desperately needs political stability to avert financial chaos. The lack of a stable political environment has dire implications for governance and economic performance” (Heras, Ali, & Rumi , 2022).

CHAPTER 4

INDIRECT IMPACTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN PAKISTAN 2013-2023

Political stability is critical to a country's growth and development because it establishes the proper structure for economic prosperity, social cohesion, and effective government. Pakistan has faced with political instability, which has influenced the country's socioeconomic structure. The Pakistani economy is struggling with political unrest. Uncertainty and frequent leadership changes can make long-term planning difficult, discouraging foreign investment and creating an unstable environment. It disrupts policy consistency, resulting in irregular economic reforms and reducing confidence in investors. Pakistan has consequently been faced with issues such as slow economic growth, rising inflation, high unemployment rates and an unsustainable economic imbalance. A favorable environment for long-term product success necessitates political stability (Imran & Murtiza, 2023). The Report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) states that,

“The country's political instability is a major hurdle to foreign investment” (International Monetary Fund, 2022).

4.1 INDIRECT SOCIO- ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY

Political instability contributes to social dissatisfaction and division within society. When there is a lack of stability, political leaders and institutions lose public support, leading to disappointment and confusion among the general public. Public protests, strikes, and demonstrations can disrupt daily life and block social cohesion. Furthermore, political instability typically causes regional, ethnic and religious divisions, preventing national unity and the creation of a society that is united. Governance and policy are challenged by political instability,

making it difficult to implement significant changes. Frequent changes in administrations and leadership result in policy changes, decision-making complications and a lack of a clear vision and direction. This emphasizes the importance of implementing urgently needed improvements in sectors like as infrastructure, healthcare, education, and the rule of law. Political unrest can have a significant impact on a country's security environment. In Pakistan, moments of political turmoil have created an environment favourable to extremism, terrorism, and border tensions. Domestic political tensions cause troubles on security organizations' ability to effectively deal with these threats. Maintaining direct security measures and tackling internal and external security concerns requires a stable political environment (Sami, 2023). Dr. Ayesha Siddiqa, a Pakistani political analyst, notes that,

“The country's political instability is a reflection of its fragmented society” (Siddiqa, 2011).

4.1.1 The Indirect Impacts of Political Instability on Pakistan’s Economy

Political instability may slow down economic progress and negatively impact a country's socioeconomic and political situation. Political instability slows economic progress, raising a risk to both local and foreign investors. Reduced investment leads to lower productivity, savings and consumption as people's earning capacity and purchasing power decrease. Political instability leads to increased inflation and unemployment, causing societal unrest and stress. This leads to strikes and violence against both employers and government policy. The society starts criticizing government policies. The social instability and strikes send a negative signal to investors. Investors are afraid to put their large assets at danger. Political instability can delay economic activity and negatively impact human capital, affecting market activities. Political instability affects economic policymakers' ability to promote growth and prosperity. Political instability is

measured by a variety of events, including elections, terrorist attacks, regime transitions, and strikes across time. Non-economic problems such as corruption, political instability, regime changes, energy crises, and disagreements between parties and institutions have led to poor economic performance and lower investment. Assassinations of political leaders and terrorist acts caused widespread violence, disrupting the political and social environment and influencing economic decisions. Terrorism is therefore employed as a substitute to assess political instability and its impact on GDP. Strikes by labour, political, and sectarian activists highlight opposition to government policy. Non-economic elements increased uncertainty and provided the country more dangerous. Domestic investors have shifted their cash to surrounding nations due to the risk and volatility in Pakistan, seeking greater profits. Pakistan's weak economic growth can be attributed to the flow of capital (Tabasam & Hashmi, 2016).

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows are critical to economic development in all countries, particularly those that are newly established. In many developing countries, FDI inflows have grown over the last two decades. However, FDI inflows to Pakistan have reduced during the last decade. The reasons for Pakistan's minimizing FDI inflows, taking into account the major challenges such as terrorism, energy shortages, financial instability, and political instability. Energy challenges, financial instability and political instability have all had a negative impact on FDI inflows to Pakistan leading to the financial crisis. However, the post-financial crisis period shows that terrorism and energy shortages are the primary causes of the drop in FDI inflows to Pakistan. Market size, inflation, and exchange rates have a favourable impact on FDI inflows. The global financial crisis has had a negative influence on FDI inflows to Pakistan and the Pakistani government as it seeks to develop effective strategies to attract foreign direct investment (Bano, Zhao, Ahmad, Wang, & Liu, 2019).

Capital inflows in emerging countries like Pakistan play an essential role in economic progress. There are several various kinds of capital inflows, which might refer to anything from economic or financial terms to direct or indirect, material or invisible, physical or unphysical, etc. Pakistan is mostly a labor-producing country; we are making less progress in terms of high-cost development. These inflows come from developed to less developed nations (Hussain, Sabri, Amjad, & Tahir, 2016). Domestic investment is determined as the money invested by Pakistani businesses and people to develop factories, purchase machinery, construct buildings, and invest in additional productive resources within the country. It is an essential component to economic growth and employment creation. It has been influenced by many political and economic reasons under successive regimes. Pakistan's domestic savings rate is low compared to neighbouring nations, which limits the cash available for domestic investment (Shabbir, Bashir, Abbasi, Abbasi, & Yahya, 2021). The government offers a range of benefits and discounts to encourage domestic investment, including tax reductions, duty-free imports of machinery and loan facilities. On the other hand, rules and regulations and a lack of infrastructure continue to be problems. Improving the overall investment climate by ensuring peace and order, ensuring stability in the economy and reducing bureaucratic processes is essential for increasing domestic investment in Pakistan (Shabbir, Shaheen, & Qayyum, 2020).

Political and economic instability, bad governance, lack of property rights protection, trade mis-invoicing and economic factors such as high inflation and currency rate fluctuation all contribute to Pakistan's capital flight. Security concerns in specific areas of Pakistan, such as terrorism and political violence, discourage investment and lead to capital flight as both companies and individuals seek more secure environments for their investments. High tax rates, complicated laws and unequal enforcement discourage investment, prompting firms and

individuals to move investments to countries with more favourable tax regimes and regulatory environments. Capital flight limits the available finances for domestic investment, infrastructure development, and job creation, all of which are necessary for long-term economic growth and development. To reduce capital flight, governments frequently implement measures that attempt to stabilize the economy, improve governance, boost investor confidence and encourage foreign direct investment (FDI). Economic changes, tax breaks, investment promotion programmes and laws and regulations strengthening are all possibilities (Bashir, Khan , Tariq, & Akram, 2023).

Pakistan is now dealing with a complicated economic issue caused by causes such as currency depreciation, inflation, and a lack of investor confidence. The recent depreciation of the Pakistani rupee compared to the US dollar has generated concerns about the country's economic stability, emphasizing the need for comprehensive measures to address these difficulties. The rupee's depreciation not only promotes inflation but it also forces the central bank to raise interest rates in order to cover the negative impacts of fast currency devaluation. The removal of import restrictions on non-essential products has resulted in greater demand for foreign money, causing the rupee to lose value. This rise in demand has put pressure on the foreign exchange market, contributing to the rupee's decrease in value. A lack of investor trust in Pakistan's economic future has contributed to the situation. The uncertainty surrounding economic policy and the larger economic climate has caused investors to take a break resulting in a decrease in foreign direct investment (FDI) and capital flight (Khurshid, 2023).

The growth of illegal foreign exchange activities in the nation has added to the demand for foreign currency, placing more pressure on the rupee's value. These operations not only weaken the official exchange rate, but also the financial system's legitimacy. The devaluation of the rupee raises the cost of imported goods and raw resources. As a result, domestic prices rise,

creating inflationary pressures that affect citizen's cost of living. As the rupee declines, the cost of covering external debt in foreign currency rises. This could create a burden on the country's finances and make managing debt commitments more difficult. Foreign investors are discouraged from joining the Pakistani market due to currency depreciation and economic uncertainty, resulting in a lower population growth of foreign money. This slows economic growth and development (Khurshid, 2023).

High currency development and weak monetary policy restrictions contribute to high inflation rates. Prices rise when manufacturing expenses rise, including those for energy, transportation, and raw materials. Increased consumer demand exceeds supply capacities, particularly in critical areas such as food and shelter. Geopolitical problems, disasters caused by nature, and internal inefficiencies can all cause trade problems. Ongoing trade shortfalls increase demand for foreign currency, putting pressure on the rupee. Currency adjustment is challenging due to a lack of sufficient foreign exchange reserves. Competitive attacks on the rupee by dealers and investors increase the currency devaluation. Higher inflation rates compared to trading partners result in a loss of purchasing power and devaluation. The economy is highly dependent on a small number of export items, leaving it subject to global market changes. Dependence on imported products, particularly gasoline, machinery and raw materials, creates trade imbalances. An undeveloped industrial base restricts the manufacturing of competitive export goods, increasing dependency on imports (Ali S. R., 2024).

Inflation is an important factor in to rising consumer costs in Pakistan. Inflation is defined as a continuous increase in the overall price level of goods and services in an economy over time. It causes a decline in purchasing power since currency purchases fewer products and services. In Pakistan, inflation has been an ongoing concern in recent years, caused by reasons

such as rising energy costs, currency depreciation, and supply-side restrictions. Pakistan's government applies tariffs and non-tariff barriers on some imported items in order to safeguard local industry and increase income. These policies have a chance to increase the cost of imports, raising consumer prices. Lack of competition in some industries in Pakistan also lead to higher product costs. When there are just a few companies in a market, they have less motivation to compete on pricing, hence they charge higher prices for their goods. Agricultural shortages caused by factors such as weather, outbreaks of diseases, or a lack of sufficient water sources may all contribute to higher food costs in Pakistan. The country depends significantly on agriculture for food production, and problems in the agricultural sector have a considerable influence on food costs. Political instability and unrest also contribute to rising commodity prices in Pakistan. Instability affects production and commerce, resulting in shortages of specific items and higher costs. Rising prices create significant challenges for Pakistan's middle class and poor. Poor individuals are also denied basic necessities (Mubarik, 2023).

Political instability emerged when no single political party achieved a clear majority in the general election. This encouraged investors to engage in panic selling in order to protect themselves against possibly big losses, resulting in a severe collapse in the stock market. Future political and economic developments, according to stock investors, will affect the market. They think that the unbelievable increase in fuel and oil prices will harm investor confidence and have an impact on economic growth. It will also have an impact on investors' purchasing power. Furthermore, public debate will be dominated by talks among powerful political party leaders about developing a new government and selecting candidates for important positions (Qureshi , 2024). The national and international economies have been seriously impacted by the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) epidemic. Numerous businesses are dealing with various

problems that result in some losses. Businesses in particular are dealing with a wide range of issues, including a decline in demand, issues with the supply chain, export order cancellations, shortages of raw materials, and challenges with transportation (Shafi, Liu, & Ren, 2020).

However, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic is having a major negative effect on companies all over the world. Frequent security incidents and threats, cause operations to be disrupted, particularly in sensitive areas. This has an impact on investor trust and company sustainability. Issues with infrastructure development, such power failures and traffic jams, cause up expenses and restrict business performance. External factors that affect focused on exports companies and industries that depend on foreign markets include slowdowns in the world economy and changes in trade laws (Shafi, Liu, & Ren, 2020).

Pakistan is now experiencing one of the most severe economic crises in its history. Rising debt levels, ongoing trade deficits, political instability and a lack of investment have produced an outstanding attack for Pakistan's economy. The government has also maintained ongoing trade imbalances due to heavy imports of oil and other items. At the same time, political instability has prevented the implementation of the necessary changes to rebalance the economy. These problems have been caused by huge economy that does not pay taxes and a major decline in investment required for growth. The crisis has resulted in a sharp devaluation of the Pakistani rupee and extremely high inflation, significantly reducing purchasing power and living standards. Unemployment has increased significantly, pushing people into poverty. The government has been forced to reduce spending on public services, putting further burden on an already unsustainable healthcare and education system (George, 2023).

In an effort to stabilize the economy, Pakistan has entered into reform and bailout agreements with the IMF. However, these need difficult restrictions such as tax increases, budget cuts and tighter monetary policy. While important, these will increase the pressure on regular Pakistanis. Export promotion, foreign direct investment, and public-private partnerships are all important to economic recovery. Early improvements have settled markets but permanent solutions remain challenging due to political uncertainty (George, 2023).

The success of a public project has significant effects on the economy and it leads to growth in other areas. Public sector development projects have an unfavorable record of being completed on time and within budget. The potential elements that influence the completion duration and expected cost of public sector infrastructure development projects in Pakistan. Organizational concerns, insufficient financial strategies, market risks, input cost projections, poor company governance, legal challenges, technological problems and environmental issues are among the major causes (Nisar & Asif, 2023).

Long-term planning and investment are affected by frequent government transitions, changing policy agendas and inefficient policy execution. This uncertainty prevents local and foreign investors from making long-term commitments to economic and social development projects. Infrastructure development and the effective distribution of public services are challenged by weak governance frameworks, corruption and inefficiencies in public administration. This causes essential efforts to be delayed and resources to be improperly distributed. Political unrest produces an unstable business climate marked by unexpected policy changes, difficulties maintaining agreements and regulatory uncertainty. This restricts the growth of the private sector, restricts the creation of jobs and discourages business ownership. Persistent security threats from internal conflicts, terrorism and regional instability divert resources away

from development initiatives towards security measures. The resulting insecurity not only affects public safety but also hampers economic activities and investments (Nisar & Asif, 2023).

Pakistan's economy is facing a number of difficult challenges. These challenges are, in reality, the factors that have bound the economy in an ongoing process of poverty and stagnation when there is little or no increase in the amount of job opportunities provided in Pakistan's economy over time. It represents a lack of increase in employment possibilities that might handle the growing number of job people looking, both fresh members into the labour market and those who are now jobless. Pakistan's economic development has been unstable, limiting that it is able to create enough jobs to fulfill the demands of its rising population. Job possibilities in manufacturing, services, and agriculture are limited due to insufficient infrastructure and critical industry growth. There is frequently an ability difference between the workforce's capabilities and those required by businesses, resulting in poverty or a shortage of jobs Political instability and governance concerns can discourage international investment and restrict local growth in businesses, reducing job creation. Severe energy shortages have slowed economic growth and discouraged investment, reducing job development in industries that rely on power (Jaffar, 2024).

Fast growth in population causes job creation issues, as the economy struggles to absorb members to the labour force. A significant component of Pakistan's economy is based in the unofficial economy, which frequently lacks job security and benefits, contributing to job insecurity (Jaffar, 2024). Unemployment is one of the most serious issues affecting all countries, including Pakistan. Unemployment has been a major problem in Pakistan for decades and it is one of the primary causes for the country's failure to attain economic stability and prosperity. Pakistan's economy has been slow for many years and decreasing development has not resulted

in enough jobs to meet demand. The country's agricultural industry, which employs the majority of the people, also suffers by a number of issues, including water shortages and inefficient farming methods. Pakistan's history of political instability has resulted in an unfavourable economic situation. Investors are unwilling to invest in the country, resulting in a lack of employment prospects. The quality of education and training may not always meet the needs of employers, leaving many graduates unprepared for the job market (Sarwar A. F., 2023).

4.1.2 Indirect Social Impacts of Political Instability in Pakistan

Political unrest cause economic uncertainty, affecting job security, investment prospects, and overall economic growth. This uncertainty spreads to houses, producing financial difficulties and instability. Political instability causes divisions among different groups of people, such as those from different areas or who have different ideologies. This causes conflicts and arguments, affecting how individuals interact with one another. In certain circumstances, instability has an impact on people's sense of safety in their everyday life. Pakistan has one of the world's fastest population growth rates, with a considerable number of births every year adding to the overall population rise. It have an influence on law enforcement or emergency services, raising concerns about people's safety. Political instability has a chance to adversely impact Pakistan's image worldwide. It discourages international investment, tourism and diplomatic connections, affecting the country's worldwide position (Zaidi, 2022).

The healthcare sector plays an important role to the overall well-being of any country. Pakistan, like many poor countries, faces significant challenges in providing sufficient healthcare to its citizens. Pakistan's current healthcare challenges as well as critically these issues must be solved for the country to have a healthy future. Pakistan's insufficient healthcare infrastructure

makes it difficult to provide high-quality care. The country is experiencing an absence of hospitals, clinics, and medical facilities, particularly in rural regions. Limited supply of critical health products, drugs, and skilled healthcare staff causes the issue. One of the most significant issues in Pakistan's healthcare system is unsuitable access to healthcare services, particularly among marginalized people. Many people are unable to get timely medical care due to geographical restrictions, a lack of transportation options, and unnecessary on their own expenditures. In Pakistan, the unequal distribution of healthcare resources is a serious issue. The majority of excellent healthcare facilities are located in cities, leaving rural communities with insufficient access to basic treatments. In Pakistan, the health care sector is underfunded by the government, which restricts the development and improvement of healthcare services. Insufficient resource allocation results in an absence of healthcare facilities, underpaid healthcare workers, and restricted access to critical drugs and instruments (Khan M. A., 2023).

One of the most significant shortcomings in Pakistan's educational system is a lack of proper infrastructure and facilities in many areas. This restricts students' access to high-quality education. Many rural schools lack proper infrastructure, power and safe drinking water. The absence of these basic needs makes it difficult for students, particularly females, to attend school regularly. Long-distance to disconnected schools also discourages parents from educating their children. Gender disparities in educational access continue to be a major issue. Girls often face difficulties to entering school, increasing inequality. Deep-rooted cultural norms and traditions often discourage families from sending their girls to school. Early marriage and cultural expectations restrict females' opportunity to get an education. Pakistan's curriculum and teaching techniques have been criticized for being out of date and failing to educate students for life in the modern world. Many Pakistani schools' courses are mainly based on memorized facts by which

affects critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Modernizing the curriculum to highlight practical skills and critical thinking is important for preparing students for the challenges of the twenty-first century. Teacher quality and training are critical components of the educational system. In Pakistan, there are worries about teacher ability. Many teachers in Pakistan lack sufficient training and are unprepared to engage students and provide successful guidance (Abid, 2024).

Social protection is an essential instrument for supporting inclusive and sustainable development, especially in developing countries such as Pakistan, where inequality, poverty and instability are common. Social protection policies and programmes attempt to keep people and their families from falling into insecurity, poverty, or discrimination. Cash transfers, food assistance, health care, education and job services are some of the several types of social protection programmes. In recent years, Pakistan has made significant attempts to improve the impact and efficiency of social protection programmes. However, the country still faces major challenges in this sector. The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is one of Pakistan's most important social safety programmes. BISP is a cash transfer programme that offers financial support to low-income and unstable families throughout the country. The programme mainly helps women and seeks to improve their socioeconomic condition and empowerment. The programme has successfully reduced poverty, improved food security, and increased school enrollment. In addition to BISP, Pakistan offers various social protection programmes, such as the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme, Waseela-e-Taleem Programme, and Waseela-e-Rozgar Programme. The Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and offers emergency cash transfers to needy households impacted by the virus. The Waseela-e-Taleem Programme is an education-conditional cash transfer programme

that encourages families to take their children to school, whereas the Waseela-e-Rozgar Programme provides work opportunities for jobless youngsters (Akram M. N., 2024).

Pakistan is a developing nation that has faced major governance issues since its creation in 1947. These challenges have materialized as corruption, political instability, weak institutions and a lack of accountability, all of which have affected the country's growth and caused a variety of social, economic and political issues. Corruption is one of Pakistan's most serious governance challenges. Corruption is affecting all aspects of Pakistani society and has become the standard. It has impacted not just the procedure of governmental institutions but also the business sector, resulting in a loss of faith in public institutions and a decrease in foreign investment. Pakistan has seen periods of political unrest, including concerns with governance, corruption claims and challenges to democratic processes. Weak institutions are another issue facing Pakistan's governance structure. The country's institutions, including the police, courts and bureaucracy, are frequently insufficiently staffed underfunded and need resources as well as training. This has resulted in a system in which people in power act freely and the rule of law is often ignored. Another major problem with Pakistan's governance structure is a lack of accountability. Those in authority are often not held accountable for their acts and a lack of control and transparency has resulted in an environment of irresponsibility. When a government fails to properly handle a country's affairs, citizens can become not satisfied with the government's performance, leading in political instability, demonstrations, and even violence (Rehman D. M.-U., 2023) Dr. Ishrat Husain, former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, stated that,

“The political instability in Pakistan is a result of its failure to develop strong institutions” (Husain, 2024).

Pakistan has had significant challenges in maintaining law and order throughout its history. Although there are civil laws and processes for law enforcement in the laws and constitution, their execution has been ineffective. Changes are required, such as increased punishments and a lack of political involvement in the legal system. Pakistan's politics and economy may become more stable if the country's law and order conditions improve. The security situation is still unstable, with the country being threatened by increasing Islamic extremism and terrorism, which has already claimed hundreds of lives. This situation is further complicated by the financial crisis, water and energy shortages, as well as drug and people trafficking. To tackle and resolve these complex difficulties, the state of Pakistan must defend the rule of law, particularly a well-established and independent judicial system (Karim, 2024).

There are multiple issues with Pakistan's law and order situation, such as terrorist attacks creating uncertainty in stock markets and causing people who earn from stock to lose money, causing the entire country to face an uncertain increase in commodity prices, and local industries businesses being unable to sign agreements with foreign investors due to the prevailing law and order situation. Furthermore, terrorism causes an economic slowdown in the economy, a fall in exports, a sharp decline in government capital development and private investment due to financial limitations and increased uncertainty, as well as human costs such as higher death rates, lower health benefits and education standards and heavy development costs due to capital destruction and reduced investment. The most disadvantaged elements of society are the most at risk from a bad economy and failing law and order (Khan M. Q., 2017).

The Root causes of violent crimes in a Pakistani Society Like in many other countries, Pakistani society is impacted by a complicated network of interconnected causes that contribute to violent crime. Many social, political, cultural and economic factors are involved in this

problem and must be understood in order to understand the reasons of violent crimes. One of the most major root causes of violent crime in Pakistan is extreme disparity in income and widespread poverty. A significant amount of the population struggles to get basic essentials including food, shelter, education, and healthcare. Political instability, combined with widespread corruption, threatens the rule of law and the efficiency of law enforcement. Corrupt authorities turn a blind eye to or encourage illegal activity, creating an environment that encourages the growth of criminal networks and violence. Pakistan is situated on a corridor for the illegal drug trade, which covers the trafficking of drugs from Afghanistan, a neighbouring country. As criminal groups fight for control over drug markets and routes, this trade has the potential to become violent. Pakistan is a multicultural country home to many different ethnic and religious groups. Violent disputes and acts of terrorism result from tensions and disputes between these groups. The ongoing feeling of tension has been raised by sectarian conflict and religious extremism (Ali Z. , 2024).

Limited financial resources, weak infrastructure and insufficient supplies limit law enforcement forces' capabilities. This frequently causes difficulty in conducting investigations, preserving public order, as well as responding quickly to emergencies. Pakistan deals with a wide range of crimes, including street crime, organized crime, terrorism, and sectarian violence. The huge number and complexity of criminal activity puts huge pressure on law enforcement resources and staff. Political influence can occasionally compromise the independence and efficiency of law enforcement authorities. Political appointments and intervening in practical affairs could damage the rule of law. Corruption among law enforcement institutions can destroy public trust, slow investigations, and result in mistakes of justice. Fighting corruption requires strong internal controls, accountability procedures, and ethical principles. Law enforcement

officers must be regularly trained and updated due to fast technological improvements. Many Pakistani organizations struggle with ancient technology and limited training programmes. Building and sustaining public trust is critical to effective policing. Negative opinions of law enforcement authorities, whether caused by previous abuses, inefficiency, or corruption, may prevent public cooperation and support (Asghar, Mushtaq, & Sarfraz, 2023).

Terrorism in Pakistan has decreased but is far from eliminated. The number of terror acts and deaths has increased; sectarianism is on the rise, and the factors that contribute to population extremism not only remain but, in certain cases, enhance the situation. Pakistan's geographical position and connections with neighbouring countries, especially Afghanistan and India, have also contributed to the rise of extremism. Cross-border militant activity and foreign support for extremist groups contributed to the issue. Extremist and terrorist groups, including Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Al-Qaeda, and other Taliban factions, have used these socio-political conditions to establish themselves, attract fighters, and engage in operations. They often turn to difficulties and religious feelings to get support. Weak governance, corruption, and inefficiency in law enforcement institutions offer weaknesses for extremist organizations to exploit. This includes transparent borders, which allow extremists to move freely and engage in unlawful operations (Abbas, 2021).

4.1.3 Effects of Political Turmoil on Governance and Institutional Performance

Pakistan's government has been concerned about improving its institutional and human capacity to better the livelihoods of ordinary citizens since its creation. The effort for improvement in the normal everyday lives of its citizens is measured by the country's level of good governance. Pakistan urgently needs to implement effective measures and arrangements to

strengthen good governance and administrative rules. The rule of law, energy, the economy, political performance, and public administration are critical issues of governance in Pakistan that require the whole plan. During Pakistan's democratic governments, the cost of economic, trade, transportation, health, education, daily life essentials and living was too expensive for poor Pakistanis. Despite all of Public Leaders' efforts, Pakistan has experienced difficulties in economic development, political stability and good governance. The essential sectors of societal features were also badly affected, causing a crisis and having a negative influence on every Pakistani individual (Ishaque Fani P. M., 2023).

Pakistan has suffered from widespread corruption from the time of its creation. It faces a political environment that is unstable and unsustainable economic development as a result of its weak structure of institutions. The dominant position of military power, which is ready to overthrow any government when it perceives a danger to its economic-profit directions, contributes significantly to institutional instability. Administrative inefficiency causes governance issues in Pakistan. Bureaucratic formalities, a lack of transparency and administrative obstacles all slow down efficient customer service and policy implementation. There is a general decline in public confidence in institutions as a result of the combined effects of corruption and ineffective administration (Kirsanlı, 2023). Many Pakistanis believe that institutions such as the police, courts, political parties and public sector organizations work for the powerful rather than the general population. This misunderstanding is fueling political instability, weaken social cohesiveness and discourage participation in politics. Because of these problems, there is a mutually damaging relationship where corruption destroys institutions, which results in poor governance and slower economic growth. The ongoing process of

underdevelopment and inequality is sustained by a lack of faith in institutions, which makes efforts to solve these issues much more difficult (Khurshid, 2023).

Public policy helps to solve citizen issues with the government. Since Pakistan's creation, every government has struggled to build a sustainable structure for the creation and execution of public policy. According to the constitution, the executive provide of government works together with the federal, provincial and municipal governments to formulate public policy. After the eighteenth Amendment, the responsibility was passed to the province government, which can now transfer authority, powers and resources to local governments. Every elected governance has an agenda on which the public bases their vote. The elected governments are accountable for creating effective policies. In the case of Pakistan, however, politically elected governments have always emphasized their personal interests over public problems. Pakistan's sixty five years history has provided an almost horrible situation in terms of policy formation and execution (Haq, 2015).

The main causes of policy failures include huge corruption, insufficient investment in inexperienced human resources, a lack of vision, a weak monitoring system and poor policy evaluations. In many developing nations, such as Pakistan, public policy has been utilized for development rather than changes. This is in agreement with most rules among ministries and institutions. Pakistan's financial limitations slow down the government's capacity to sufficiently finance and implement plans. External factors like economic conditions and global behaviours enhance the situation. Corruption has been common in Pakistan. In most situations, greed is assumed, but in rare cases, the need element may also be present. Corruption is a major issue in Pakistan. Pakistan's governance has changed frequently due to political instability, affecting policy cohesion and reliability. Different governments frequently have different goals and

strategies, resulting in differences in execution. Weak monitoring and evaluation processes make it difficult to effectively measure the effectiveness of efforts. The lack of information and openness further undermines responsibility in implementation efforts (Khawaja, 2013).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan have experienced several problems throughout the years, resulting in a decline in their overall performance and influence. One major reason for this is greater government regulation and rules put on NGOs, which make it difficult for them to function freely and efficiently. The government's close control over NGO activities has restricted their capacity to fulfill their goals and offer critical services to the people they support. Lack of funds and resources has also played a major part in the weakening of Pakistan's NGOs. Many organizations struggle to continue their efforts and programmes due to a lack of funding, leading them to reduce activities or close completely. This financial burden has reduced the quality and quantity of services offered by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), further reducing their reputation and impact. Internal issues including corruption, poor leadership, and a lack of transparency have also contributed to the decline of NGOs in Pakistan. These problems have caused investors, users, and the general public to lose faith in these organizations, which caused damage to their standing and performance. In order to overcome these challenges and strengthen the position of non-governmental organizations in Pakistan, more government support, increased transparency and accountability procedures, and increased cooperation among NGOs and other interested parties are required (Sadruddin, 2013).

In recent times, there has been an increasing threat in Pakistan about the weakening of accountability processes, which has led to a culture of lawlessness and an absence of openness in public institutions and governance. The subjective nature of important institutions and oversight organizations, which has weakened their independence and performance in holding the powerful

responsible, is a major contributing cause to this a decline. Because of this, leaders and other institutions may now act without fearing too much about the consequences of their choices, which has resulted in serious corruption and resource mismanagement. Pakistan's lack of proper legal structures and enforcement tools has contributed to the weakening of accountability. Due to a lack of strong and clear legislation as well as the poor application of current norms, corrupt activities have been carried out by people and organizations without fear of legal implications. Lack of flexibility and access to information contributes to Pakistan's accountability difficulty. Citizens struggle to hold politicians and institutions accountable because they have limited access to government figures and decision-making processes (Bhidal, 2013).

4.1.4 Political Instability and Its Impact on Foreign Policy and International Relations

Political instability has become a big issue, particularly in the world's most creative and immature countries. Unstable governments, ineffective political parties and a weak political ethnicity are the fundamental components of politically unstable countries. Their consequences are much more severe for a multi-ethnic and increased population from every aspect of life. Political stability is required for nation-building activities such as political reverse and state construction, which have a direct influence on the growth of political parties. Considering its economic strength, Pakistan is one of just two countries where political instability is a major restriction to growth potential. It prevents progress in many aspects of life. When a country is confronted with this threat, its economic progress suffers most. Pakistan's private sector has been protected from economic pressures and is able to engage in good opportunities through government arrangements. High taxation and unemployment affect the people, forcing many to live below the poverty line. Burden reduction, excessive use, and anxiety are all benefits to every citizen (Ahmed O. , 2022).

Political instability can cause uncertainty in foreign policy and leadership changes, making it difficult for Pakistan to maintain stable diplomatic ties with other countries. Political instability in Pakistan have a direct security impact on neighbouring nations, notably India and Afghanistan. Terrorism, cross-border attacks, and the existence of militant organizations may all disturb regional security relations and transform foreign perceptions of Pakistan's stability. Pakistan's internal political unrest contributes to wider regional unrest. Tensions with India over Kashmir, the Afghan peace process and ties with Iran are all instances of internal Pakistani dynamics impact regional geopolitics and international relations (Basit, 2023). Given Pakistan's strategic position and past involvement in terrorism, local instability has an impact on international counterterrorism cooperation. Uncertainty over Pakistan's capacity to regulate its territory and prevent terrorist attacks damage relations with nations such as the United States and undermine global counterterrorism efforts (Ahmed S. , 2023).

Internal conflict in Pakistan causes humanitarian situations, such as population displacement, refugee an increase and difficulties in providing basic services to impacted areas. Pakistan need to modify its foreign policy aims and relationships in response to internal political events. Changes in leadership or internal goals require an overview of Pakistan's strategy to foreign relations and participation in regional and global issues. Pakistan's foreign policy objectives and partnerships need to be adjusted in reaction to internal political developments. Changes in leadership or domestic aims require an evaluation of Pakistan's foreign policy and engagement in regional and international issues (Anwar & Hussain, 2023). According to the US Congressional Report,

“Pakistan's political instability is a major threat to regional peace and stability” (Kronstadt, 2023).

Differences in Pakistan's foreign policy perspectives caused by frequent government transitions or leadership instability. Because of this uncertainty, other countries may find it difficult to engage in significant diplomatic relations with Pakistan. Economic power is an important aspect of diplomatic influence. Pakistan should emphasize sustainable economic strategies that reduce reliance on foreign aid by promoting regional businesses, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), and growing its export base. Projects such as CPEC should be used to develop infrastructure and connectivity, hence boosting the country's economy. Strengthening economic connections with these countries might also provide considerable benefits. Active engagement in international organizations and multilateral platforms help Pakistan's diplomatic status. Strengthening connections with the OIC, SCO and the UN can give businesses for Pakistan to communicate its concerns, work on global issues and obtain support for its policies. Pakistan's stability is directly related to peace in Afghanistan. Collaborative efforts to help the Afghan peace process improve border security and grow economic activity that can provide mutual benefits. Improvements to infrastructure and connectivity, such as road and rail linkages, help to promote economic interdependence and stability (Saleem, 2024).

Pakistan has suffered political instability, which have an impact on trade policy, agreements and the general economic representation. Changes in governance cause changes in trade goals and international partnerships. The COVID-19 epidemic continues to affect global supply networks, resulting in shipping delays, traffic jams in ports and shortages of necessary raw materials. These problems have impacted Pakistan's imports and exports, resulting in delays and increased prices for enterprises. The geopolitical landscape of the country, particularly its ties with neighbouring states like Afghanistan and India, affect trade routes, border crossings and trade confidence in broad terms. Ports and other transportation networks in Pakistan have an

effect on the financial success and efficient trade is. Shortcomings in the infrastructure could lead to delays and higher expenses, which would damage business relationships (Pal, 2023).

The ongoing issue of trade imbalances comes from understands that imports often exceed exports. This development affects Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves, potentially causing the currency's value to decline. It has been challenging for both foreign and domestic businesses to bring back revenues from countries other than Pakistan for more than a year due to the country's decreasing resources of foreign exchange. Illegal business has developed between Pakistan and India as a result of import restrictions on particular goods for a variety of reasons, including national industry protection, health and security concerns, and security (Pakistan - Country Commercial Guide, 2024).

Investing in education lowers poverty and increases economic growth by developing human capital. It is the most effective in terms of developing human capital and the long-term expenses and benefits to society. Aid is essential for enhancing healthcare facilities, educational institutions and programmes for vocational training. Aid restrictions prevent these areas of development, affecting Pakistani residents' access to education and public health results. Funding is usually provided for efforts aimed at increasing the economy away from more established sectors like agriculture. Aid decreases prevent the development of industries like technology, services and manufacturing, which would reduce economic range (Iqbal, 2024). In certain areas affected by extremism or war, aid can help strengthen security forces and advance stability. Aid shortages make it more difficult to preserve peace and enhance security, which makes instability in specific areas more serious. Reduced funding, damages Pakistan's diplomatic ties with international organizations or donor nations. Sustaining good ties and utilizing assistance well are essential for obtaining more support (Abdullah & Akhtar, 2019).

4.1.5 The Effects of Political Unrest on Human Capital Development

The Pakistani education system has unbelievable difficulties in terms of access and quality. To successfully invest in human capital, it is critical to deal with these problems and ensure that all segments of society have access to quality education. Human capital is a significant power of economic growth, enabling creativity, risk-taking, and higher productivity. Pakistan may increase its global competitiveness and attract investments by promoting a culture that encourages ongoing learning and skill development, opening the path for long-term economic growth. The productivity of Pakistan's workers is directly linked to their knowledge and abilities. Investments in training programmes and skill development efforts might result in a more efficient and productive workforce. Increasing job opportunities, particularly in productive areas, decreases poverty and improves human capital buildup (Rianz, 2023).

A large majority of Pakistan's workforce works in the private sector, which frequently fails to provide safety measures and stability. Improving equality for men and women in education, employment and decision-making is critical for long-term growth. Providing women with educational and economic possibilities can have a greater impact on society. Infrastructure and technology. Improving digital infrastructure and awareness can help to overcome the urban-rural separation and increase access to education and health care. Better infrastructure promotes economic growth and raises living standards. Pakistan has a big youth population, thus investments in education and skills are especially important for realizing future benefits (Rianz, 2023).

Pakistanis are going abroad in large numbers, including both skilled professionals and unskilled workers. Significant number of highly qualified professionals such as doctors, labours,

engineers, and IT experts are going abroad and posing challenges for Pakistan's economic and social development. Economic instability, high inflation and lack of job opportunities in Pakistan are pushing people to seek better salaries and living standards abroad. Political uncertainty, security concerns and lack of social welfare have also contributed to the brain drain, as skilled Pakistanis look for more stable environments (Murtaza, 2024).

The changes in global economic dynamics caused by multiple socioeconomic and environmental crises have had an influence on labour market results. Some of the most commonly identified factors impacting the labour market include technological advancement, ageing, and social protection, as well as various measures to reduce the risks of climate change. Slower economic development, food insecurity, inflation and political unrest all represent the biggest threat to job opportunities. In Pakistan, getting a quality education enhances labour productivity, which is seen as the most important measure of improving an individual's and a company's economic performance. The rise of Pakistan's businesses and sectors, especially in technology, manufacturing, and services, has a direct impact on the need for skilled labour. Economic policies that encourage investment and business may improve job creation and increase labour force participation. Furthermore, frequent changes in government leadership and policy objectives can create an uncertain environment that reduces both local and international investment in critical industries, increasing joblessness and job insecurity difficulties (Zahid, 2023).

Tourism in Pakistan has huge opportunities for boosting economic growth, creating jobs and promoting cultural exchange. The country's rich history, unique landscapes and active cultures have made it an increasingly popular tourist attraction (Hussain S. , 2024). Tourism has significantly influenced relationships between cultures in Pakistan. Cultural tourism is an active

industry in the country, which is geographically and culturally differed and has several historical and cultural heritage areas. Foreign visitors that visit Pakistan are exposed to the country's rich tradition of culture, which develops a better knowledge and respect of different societies (Tasneem, Khawar, & Hayat, 2022).

To encourage cultural exchange through tourism, the Pakistani government must invest in tourism infrastructure, enhance safety and security, and effectively market the country's traditions (Hayat, Asif, & Riaz, 2021). A successful sector of tourism helps boost Pakistan's worldwide image by promoting its cultural range, historical sites (such as Mohenjo-Daro and Lahore Fort), and natural beauty (in northern locations like Hunza and Skardu). When tourists and travellers return home, they become ambassadors for Pakistan, sharing their good experiences and rejecting misunderstandings, possibly contributing to more international investment and partnership. But difficulties like as infrastructural limitations, security issues in specific places, and environmental consequences must be solved in order to fully realize tourism's benefits (Tasneem, Khawar, & Hayat, 2022).

4.1.6 Environmental Consequences of Political Instability

Pakistan is among the most affected countries to climate change. The country is already seeing the consequences of climate change, such as increased extreme weather conditions, increasing sea levels, and water scarcity. If Pakistan does not take measures to fight climate change, the results would be harmful for its people and its natural environment. Pakistan is a sun-rich country that may significantly reduce its reliance on fossil fuels by investing in solar and wind energy. Renewable energy is clean and sustainable forms of energy that can help Pakistan lower its greenhouse gas emissions. Pakistan may also protect energy and lower its

environmental impact by pushing energy efficiency measures like heating and energy-saving equipment. Energy efficiency is an affordable technique to minimize energy usage and pollution (Sadi, 2022).

Deforestation is a serious issue in Pakistan, as it contributes to climate change. By minimizing deforestation and planting more trees, Pakistan could contribute to reducing the harmful effects of global warming. Agriculture contributes significantly to Pakistan's greenhouse gas emissions. Pakistan may cut emissions while also protecting its natural resources by adopting sustainable agriculture techniques such as changing crops and preservation of water. Pakistan's coastline is vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, including increasing sea levels and ocean acidification. By safeguarding our seas and marine life, Pakistan can help minimize the consequences of climate change and preserve the sustainable future of coastal communities. The people of Pakistan must understand the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as the efforts they may take to limit their environmental impact. Pakistan may create a more sustainable society by demonstrating its citizens about climate change and sustainability. Climate change is a global issue that demands a global solution. Pakistan could work with other countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions and create adaptation plans. By working together, the globe can create a more sustainable future for everyone (Ilyas, 2023).

Pakistan has a fast rising population and a growing economy, which places substantial pressure on its natural resources and environment. The Pakistani government has established a variety of environmental laws and regulations to tackle the country's environmental concerns. Pakistan has created a National Climate Change Policy to address the effects of climate change on the country. The policy aims to promote sustainable development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and prepare for the effects of climate change. The strategy has been effective in

raising awareness about climate change in Pakistan and supporting sustainable behaviours. However, implementation of the strategy has been difficult due to inadequate resources and capacity. Pakistan has also created a Clean Air Policy to combat air pollution in the country. The policy seeks to reduce emissions from automobiles, industries, and households. The strategy has been effective in increasing awareness of air pollution and supporting sustainable behaviours. However, the execution of the policy has been difficult due to insufficient enforcement and monitoring. The government should increase policy implementation by investing in monitoring and enforcement systems.(Saeed, 2023). Establishing comprehensive environmental rules and regulations frequently involves a number of parties, including government agencies, industry representatives and environmental experts. Delays arise due to the difficulties of formulating and finalizing these policies (Ahmed H. , 2020).

Delays in enacting environmental laws lead to a lack of accountability and regulation, allowing companies and people to avoid or ignore environmental requirements. This concept promote an unsustainable pattern of environmental damage and loss of resources, weakening Pakistan's efforts to attain environmental sustainability and deal with important environmental issues including air and water pollution, solid waste management, and climate change. Delays in environmental projects and laws restricts Pakistan's capacity to attract investment in green technology, renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, therefore restricting the country's potential for green growth and the growth of the economy (Ahmed H. , 2020).

Pakistan has major environmental issues. Environmental damage is increasing rather than improving. Pakistan's growing population presents a significant challenge for natural resource management. Energy and Natural Resource Management are essential factors in poverty reduction, as millions of Pakistanis rely directly on agricultural and livestock management for a

living. Soil and water pollution, as well as environment destruction, are serious issues throughout the country. In many locations, salty soil and water pollution have reduced agricultural production and agricultural land. These and other issues cause an increase in the amount of 'food insecure' individuals, particularly among the poor. Pakistan has a significant issue as a result of rising poverty and environmental damage. Pakistan is failing in its efforts to safeguard the environment. Pakistan is in trouble due to a fast decreasing supply of natural resources. Pakistan has abundant natural resources. Proper use of fossil fuels may change the country and lead to wealth, as nature has provided multiple options. However, political instability, corruption, and a lack of law and order in the nation prevented full utilization of these resources (Khan A. , 2020).

Deforestation is one of the primary causes of climate change in the least developed countries. Trees absorb and store carbon dioxide therefore their removal creates global climate problems. In Pakistan, it is due to illegal exploitation and insufficient implementation of forest regulations. Every year, the impact of deforestation appears in the form of floods, breakdown of soil, an increased risk of landslides, deforestation, damage heat waves in urban areas, air pollution, and bacterial and viral infections. Deforestation reduces the availability of food for different animals as well as the production of fruits and vegetables for humans in the country. It also has an impact on the climate by reducing rainfall in places with fewer woods. Deforestation is a key contributing factor to climate change in Pakistan. People in many locations cut down trees for cooling since there is a shortage of Sui gas. Thus, growing deforestation reduces natural beauty (Minhas, 2023).

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Pakistan's political environment since independence in 1947 has been unstable, formed by a combination of democratic government, military interventions, socioeconomic issues and regional factors.

Between 2013 and 2023, Pakistan experienced significant political instability marked by a series of challenges and events that impacted the country's governance and stability. The period saw the rise of various political movements, corruption scandals and protests that created a volatile political environment. In 2013, the country went through a historic general election that marked the first peaceful transfer of power between civilian governments. However, allegations of electoral fraud and protests led by opposition parties, notably the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), created a sense of political turmoil. This was further compounded by issues of governance, corruption and economic challenges, which fueled disillusionment among the population with the ruling class. Pakistan continues to experience a decrease in foreign direct investment due to harmful socioeconomic and political conditions.

The decline in FDI from 2013 to 2023 is due to a complex relationship of economic, geopolitical, and policy reasons. The impact was felt worldwide, with emerging countries, particularly in Asia, seeing major impacts in FDI flows. The changing nature of FDI patterns, as well as the potential for capital flow transfer, highlights the movement of global investment trends during this period. Unemployment and poverty have also been significant challenges in Pakistan between 2013 and 2023.

The country has struggled with high levels of unemployment, particularly among young people and women. This has been fueled by a mismatch between available skills and job market demands, limited job creation in the formal sector and issues related to education quality and access. Political instability has resulted in a failure of Pakistan's social sector, which includes education, healthcare and social welfare. Insufficient money and effort were given to enhancing human development outcomes. From 2013 to 2023, Pakistan saw growing climate change consequences, including more severe weather events, rising sea levels, and greater water scarcity. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. If Pakistan does not take action to tackle climate change, the effects would be negative for its people and the natural environment. In Pakistan, there is illegal exploitation and insufficient implementation of forest regulations. Every year, the impact of deforestation appears in the form of floods, breakdown of soil, an increased risk of landslides, deforestation, damage heat waves in urban areas, air pollution, and bacterial and viral infections. Deforestation reduces the availability of food for different animals as well as the production of fruits and vegetables for humans in the country.

From 2014 onwards, Pakistan faced a resurgence of terrorist attacks and internal security threats, particularly from groups like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and other extremist organizations. The government's efforts to combat terrorism and establish peace in regions like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were met with mixed results, adding to the sense of instability in the country. The years that followed were marked by a series of confrontations between the civilian government, military establishment and judiciary, highlighting the power struggles within Pakistan's political landscape. The Panama Papers scandal in 2016, which implicated then-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his family in corruption allegations, culminated in his disqualification from office, further deepening political divisions.

In 2018, Pakistan witnessed another closely contested general election that brought Imran Khan and the PTI to power. While Khan's election initially raised hopes for change and reform, his government faced challenges in delivering on its promises, leading to disillusionment among segments of the population. Throughout this period, Pakistan grappled with a range of socio-economic issues, including inflation, poverty, and unemployment, exacerbating the political instability. The country's relations with neighboring countries, particularly India and Afghanistan, also added to the complexity of its political landscape, with conflicts and tensions impacting domestic stability. Pakistan has suffered political instability, which can have an impact on trade policy, agreements, and the general economic representation. Changes in governance can cause changes in trade goals and international partnerships. The COVID-19 epidemic continues to affect global supply networks, resulting in shipping delays, traffic jams in ports and shortages of necessary raw materials. These problems have impacted Pakistan's imports and exports, resulting in delays and increased prices for enterprises. So, in 2020 Pakistan had faced significant economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The global crisis had a significant impact on capital inflows, remittances and overall economic growth in the country. Capital inflows in emerging countries like Pakistan play an essential role in economic progress.

These inflows encompass various types, from direct investments in businesses to financial aid and remittances from Pakistanis abroad. Despite being a labor-producing nation, Pakistan has struggled with advancing high-cost development sectors such as infrastructure and technology amidst these economic disruptions. Political instability in Pakistan strains relationships between the government, businesses and international partners, leading to a breakdown in communication and cooperation. This further exacerbates economic challenges and hinder efforts to address social issues such as poverty, inequality and unemployment. In

applying Resource Dependency Theory (RDT) to the socio-economic impacts of political instability in Pakistan, the key insights revolve around how dependent Pakistan's economy is on external and internal resources. Political instability disrupts resource flows, leading to severe socio-economic consequences like poverty, inflation, unemployment and weakened institutions. Thus, resource management and political stability are interconnected in determining Pakistan's socio-economic trajectory. Furthermore, the dependence on foreign aid and investment becomes precarious during political turmoil, limiting sustainable development and increasing economic uncertainty.

In 2022 to 2023 political unrest in Pakistan, which began with the ousting of former Prime Minister Imran Khan through a no-confidence motion in April 2022. This led to widespread protests by Khan's supporters and calls for early elections. The ongoing power struggle between Imran Khan's PTI party and the incumbent coalition government, with Khan's party dissolving two provincial assemblies to pressure the federal government into early elections. The confrontation between Imran Khan and the Pakistan military, with Khan accusing the military of involvement in his ouster and the military denying this. Allegations of US interference in Pakistani politics, with leaked cables suggesting the US encouraged Khan's removal, damaging US-Pakistan relations. The country's precarious economic situation, with high inflation, falling currency value, and decreasing foreign reserves, exacerbated by the 2022 floods. Political uncertainty has put huge pressure on Pakistan's rupee, causing it to decrease highly in value.

The rupee dropped severely between 2022 and 2023 as the country's foreign exchange reserves declined to dangerous levels. During this time, confidence in the currency weakened, causing it to lose significant value compared to major world currencies. The rupee's a decline

was further complicated by the depletion of foreign exchange reserves available, which are critical to protecting currency stability. Continued terrorist attacks and security challenges, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, threatening internal stability. There is also a deficit in democracy, rule of law and human rights, with restrictions on civil society, media, and religious minorities. The combination of political polarization, economic crisis, security threats and governance challenges have created a highly unstable environment in Pakistan over the past decade.

The years between 2013 and 2023 were characterized by political turmoil, power struggles, security challenges and socio-economic pressures that contributed to Pakistan's overall political instability. According to Resource Dependency Theory, Pakistan's economic performance and social welfare are likely to be significantly impacted during periods of political instability. The country's ability to attract foreign investment, secure development aid and maintain stable trade relationships is compromised by political uncertainties, making it more vulnerable to external pressures and less able to pursue its development goals autonomously. This instability disrupts the flow of critical resources, hindering economic growth and development. To cope with these challenges, Pakistan may employ strategies such as diversifying its sources of aid and investment, strengthening regional partnerships, or engaging in diplomatic efforts to secure necessary resources despite the challenging political environment . By understanding these dynamics, policymakers can develop informed strategies to navigate the challenges posed by political instability and promote sustainable economic growth and development in Pakistan. Addressing these entrenched issues requires sustained efforts towards good governance, transparency, accountability and inclusive development to build a more stable and prosperous future for the country.

5.1 KEY FINDINGS

1. The study finds that the direct impacts of political instability in Pakistan from 2013 to 2023 have resulted in increased unemployment, leading to poverty. The economy has suffered due to disrupted business activities and declining investor confidence. Social development and infrastructure projects have also been hindered by political turmoil and inflation has increased in Pakistan. Ethnic and sectarian tensions have been exacerbated, causing violence in society. Pakistan's international relations have been weakened, affecting diplomatic efforts and global cooperation.
2. The major indirect impacts of political instability in Pakistan from 2013 till 2023 encompass economic setbacks, challenges to governance and institutions, threats to public safety, strains on international relations and risks to social cohesion. Political instability also decreased tourism, affecting revenue and international perception. Furthermore, it strained public services and hindered infrastructure development.
3. In Pakistan, political polarization is mostly caused by disagreements among national parties. The government and opposition struggle to reach an agreement on national security matters. State institutions dispute with political parties on a variety of critical issues.
4. The Pakistani people are in a difficult condition, and they are the ones who are actually suffering as a result of the country's poor economy, natural disasters, and political unrest. It is essential for societal and economic well-being that the political system of the state remains stable.
5. Corruption has had a negative impact on other aspects of Pakistani business ethics. Corruption and poor governance restrict economic progress and damage the development

of the private sector. Corruption has a negative impact on foreign direct investment (FDI) in Pakistan, increasing uncertainty about investment opportunities.

6. Poverty has long been a source of worry for politicians and social scientists. It restricts people's access to basic essentials of life like food, housing, and clothing while also establishing a sense of deprivation in them. Poor people are more likely to be exploited by society. Pakistan's poverty rate is startling and causing growing concern.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Equitable empowerment of all provinces in Pakistan is crucial to mitigate political instability. It is essential that all political parties and provinces are united in their approach to critical matters and policies affecting the country.
2. There is a separation of power among Pakistan's state institutions, including the legislature, executive and judiciary. Therefore, they should work within their respective spheres of authority and avoid interfering in each other's matters, as interference can exacerbate political instability in the country.
3. To encourage economic growth and draw in private investment, develop infrastructure projects including energy projects, highways, and internet connections. Encourage industrialization by implementing policies that assist focused on exports, small and medium enterprises, and manufacturing sectors. To increase the job prospects of the workforce, especially among young people, implement skill development programmes and vocational training programmes.
4. Enhance the institutions of governance, encourage transparency in public administration, and tackle corruption in order to ensure effective resource management and fair

accessibility to services. To empower communities in decision-making and assure flexibility to local demands, strengthen local governance institutions.

5. Make sure to use careful fiscal management to effectively generate revenue and regulate expenditures in order to minimize budget deficits and lower the national debt. Through appropriate monetary policy and efficient central bank administration, governments enable preserve price stability and keep inflation under control. Control currency rate fluctuations to increase export competitiveness and engage in foreign capital.
6. Encourage effective interaction to settle disputes peacefully between political parties, civil society organizations and other interested parties. In order to maintain national stability and unity, resolve internal and regional disputes through negotiation and consensus-building.

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