

Insaf Research Wing

IRW

Finding solutions for a better Pakistan

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"Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely"

Eradicating Corruption

An 11 step procedure to deal with Corruption in Pakistan

May 5, 2009

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Committee: Anti-Corruption

Dossier # 002

Version # 001

Research Paper

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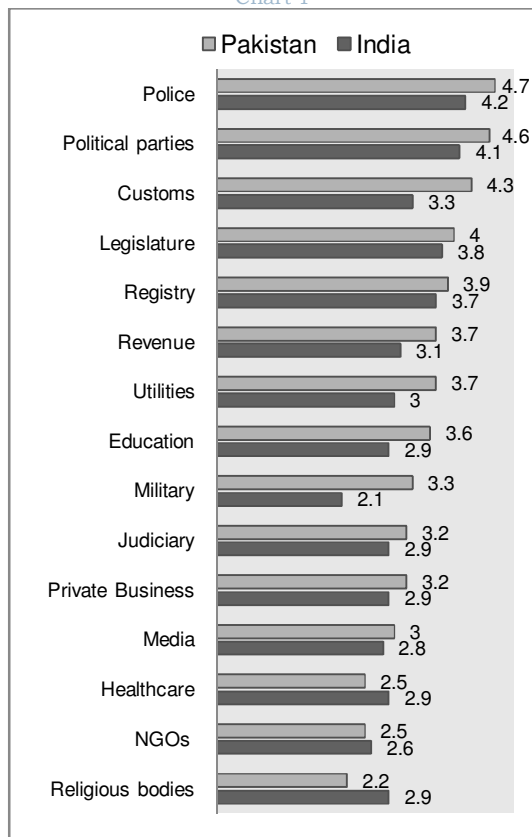
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Eradicating Corruption

Introduction

Pakistan has one of the highest rates of corruption in the entire world. Bribe Payers Survey 2008 carried out by Transparency Intl. showed that the actions of the government in Pakistan’s fight against corruption were seen as ineffective by 72% people whereas the same value for India stood at 42%. The survey also revealed the institutions considered to be the most corrupt shown in *Chart 1 (1 not at all corrupt – 5 extremely corrupt)*

Chart 1



It is clear that even our neighboring country is doing better.

It is argued over and over again that Pakistani people in general are corrupt. Sadly, with a corruption ranking of 134 set by Transparency Intl. out of 180 countries there is no argument to convince otherwise. The most important reason often pointed out in the country is the lust to live beyond one’s means, hence, fulfilling all the desires by accumulating wealth illegally.

Weak judicial system fails to implement rule of law. Lack of accountability ensures corruption mafia to continue their practices. A large portion of the community blames scarcity of education for the corruption onslaught. Nevertheless, most educated people of the society have been proven to have committed the most devastating frauds in the economic history of the country.

Eliminating corruption

Pakistan’s corruption problem arises mainly due to centralized government. The Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry himself said “*absolute power corrupts absolutely*”.

In the following text, an explanation of current problems and their possible solutions are provided to deal with the situation.

1: Decentralized Independent Judiciary

The judiciary system should be at the federal, province and city state level. The provincial and city appointments should be under the control of local government. Federal system of appointment is ineffective and promotes corruption. Small claim courts in all cities should be established even when town and villages have extremely low population. Easy access to these claim courts will not require people to travel large distances for solution of

problems. Filing cases should be made easy and free. The court must be required to give rulings in a short period of time.

These small courts should deal with civil cases only. Patwari, Tehsildar and Magistrate system should be replaced with locally elected judges and small claim courts.

2: A complete decentralization all the way to union council, city, district and state level

Central Government should control department of justice (Judiciary only at the federal level). Efforts must be made to make every government institution profitable including defense, customs, post office, etc. Government should not keep institutions which have suffered loss for long periods of time and when all attempts to recuperate them have failed. Most of the losses in our current structure are due to fraudulent practices and corrupt politicians using their influence. Federal government must abdicate healthcare & education ministries completely to the provincial, city and district governments.

3: Provincial Election Commission

Every province should have its own independent Election commission. A central election commission is a disaster and an instrument which has always been used for rigging purposes by the establishment.

4: No Provincial or Central control on police in cities

CM of Punjab should not have any control on the police in Lahore or any other city in Punjab. It should be completely under the control of

city Government and same should be valid for all other departments.

In the past central control on police has been used for rigging the elections and targeting the opposition.

By decentralization police will only work on criminal cases.

5: Education system

Children should be morally taught in school to treat corruption as a sin. Lying should be punished and lying under oath should be treated as a high crime. Lying is an epidemic in Pakistan. People lie with no fear. If lying goes unpunished Pakistan will never progress or come out of crisis.

6: Role of the CM and provincial assembly

Their Job is to make state laws and implement them e.g. in state of Texas, USA which is roughly the size of Pakistan, Governor's office is in Austin but he has no control over Austin police. The department is under the Mayor of Austin

7: Salaries

Pays should be determined completely by city Government.

8: Strongest District attorneys

Justice System needs to be implemented at Union council, city, district Government. and state level. District attorneys should have the right to prosecute anyone in their jurisdiction without any pressure.

9: Universal pay scale for all the federal employees.

Government of USA does not pay for any of their President's personal expenses. President Clinton paid all the costs of the Monica Lewinsky trial. The system should be similar in Pakistan.

10: Abolishing the position of President and Governors from constitution

This is an extra burden on the Tax payers and instrument for Martial law. If decentralization is properly implemented there is no need for a President to oversee the units of federation.

Additional presidential structure was implemented in the past to guarantee that the federation ensures equal treatment of each province without any bias. Time has proven repeatedly that the presidential structure ironically has always been the cause of the federation's weakening, former President Musharraf & Ghulam Ishaq Khan are evident proofs.

11: Reporting Corruption

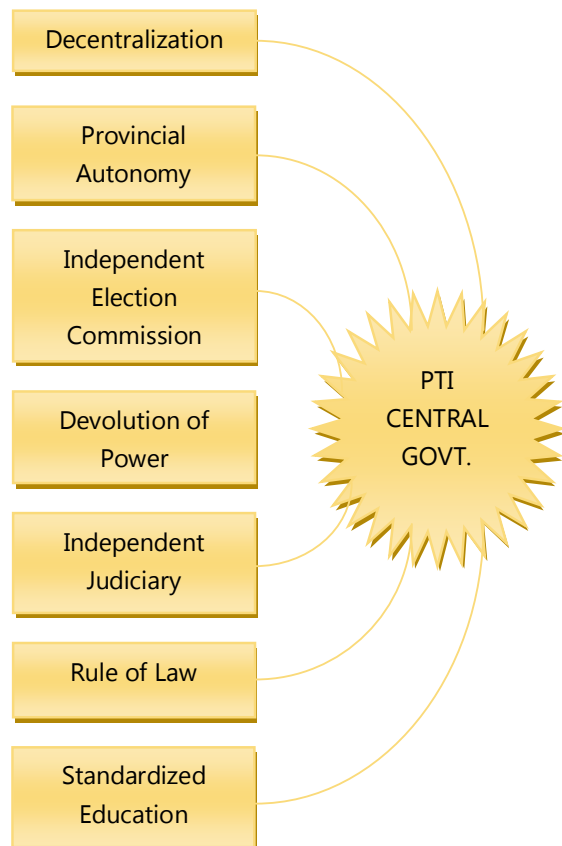
An easy and practical system must be implemented in the country to ensure that ordinary citizens can report incidents of corruption. Several mediums like toll free numbers, television, mail, etc should be widely advertised as a means for getting to the appropriate authorities. To date we do not have a proper system to report corruption.

Conclusion

A systemic disease if not treated properly causes a multi organ failure. This is exactly what has happened in Pakistan. Corruption is widespread & hopelessness is slowly taking over.

All evil in this world starts with injustice, in our case since 1947 Pakistan's centralized government has been a source of this injustice. It is about time People of Pakistan get their equal rights regardless of race, culture, religion and language.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf should base its policies and the future government on just principles.



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About the Author

The author is a cardiologist by profession. He has worked in Pakistan, UK and USA. The author chose to write on the topic because of his first hand experience during education and professional life. The author is currently an official representative of PTI's Dallas Chapter in USA. He is also an active contributor at Insaf Research Wing.