



RESEARCH PAPER

Towards Legal and Judicial Reforms: In Pursuit of Transforming the Justice System

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ABSTRACT

The judicial system of Pakistan is beset with heavy backlog, rampant corruption, incompetent judicial and non-judicial staff, insufficient use of technology and poor research culture. There are procedural and legal lacunas in lodging transparent First Information Report (FIR). Besides, the mechanism of investigation and inquiry is pathetic. It lacks technological methodologies. Bail reforms and alternatives to pre-trial detentions are improper. The legal system of Pakistan experiences poor documentation management system. It lacks tracking and tracing mechanism. The prime objective is to assess inefficiencies and inequities in existing judicial system. In background, Legal and judicial system has evolved in colonial era; however, it is unable to adapt contemporary demands. The qualitative methodology is used herewith. Key challenges to judicial system of Pakistan are the results. Application of AI in judicial proceedings, objectivity and accountability in the Judges' appointment process, the role of judiciary as the guardian of the constitution are recommendations.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Judicial System, Legal Reforms

Introduction

It is true that the judicial system of Pakistan is bedrock of democratic framework, good governance, institutional harmony, social progress and economic development. Sadly, it is beset with daunting challenges and innumerable problems that have impeded its effectiveness and eroded the trust and confidence of the public. In an era, where global standards of efficiency, transparency, and fairness for legal systems are improving, the judicial system of Pakistan is suffering from heavy case backlog, procedural inefficiencies, and limited accessibility. There are certain procedural and legal lacunas and pitfalls in lodging transparent FIR. Besides, the mechanism of investigation and inquiry is pathetic. It lacks scientific and technological methodologies. Another characteristic of the judicial system of Pakistan is procedural intricacies and delays in the trial mechanism. It is devoid of modernization and innovation. There is no concept of bail reforms and alternatives to pre-trial detentions. Sadly, the legal system of Pakistan is experiencing poor documentation management system. It lacks track and tracing mechanism. It is suffering from case prioritization, assigning cases to judges, scheduling hearings, managing court calendars and allocating resources. In order to compete with international standards, practices and globalized society, the judicial system of the country must undergo significant reforms to establish a system that delivers swift, impartial and accessible justice. Independence of the judiciary can be guaranteed through reducing case backlogs, improving the quality of justice, and enhancing public confidence. Indeed, Pakistan seeks to create a legal framework that upholds the principles of fairness, equity, and the rule of law. The transformation does not aim only to modernize the process of judicial system and to integrate technological advancements, but it also fosters the culture of accountability and professionalism. It should focus on streamlining the case management systems, adopting innovative legal technologies, and enhancing training and development for judicial personnel. Additionally,

reforms should aim to increase transparency and reduce corruption. Efforts should be made to enhance the transparency of judicial proceedings and bolster the protection of human rights. Such a transformation will be pivotal in enabling Pakistan to compete effectively in the global arena, positioning its judicial system as a robust pillar of governance and an engine of socio-economic progress. This paper focuses on the critical aspects of judicial reforms in Pakistan, while examining the challenges and proposing solutions, and the potential effects of these reforms on the judicial system of the country. As a matter of fact, this research paper focuses on through reforms in Pakistan's Judicial and legal system in order to meet with international standards.

Literature Review

Transformation implies that there are certain problems and issues in the system of judiciary that require some improvements and suggestions. In order to reach at the conclusion, this research first try to dig out the causes of the vulnerable judicial system of Pakistan, thereafter it discusses some effects and then suggests remedies and mechanism to transform the system of judiciary. In this connection, much research has been conducted but these are devoid of scientific techniques and modern technologies; however, the focus of this research is to integrate the Artificial Intelligence and modern technology with judicial system to provide easy access to justice.

Why the Judicial System of Pakistan is Weak and Vulnerable: Its Reasons

Shortcomings in Registration of Effective and Transparent FIR: The first and the foremost shortcoming in the criminal justice system of Pakistan is the timely registration of FIR. In fact, Section 154, Cr.P.C implies that the SHO is duty bound to register every information regarding cognizable offence. Unfortunately, the directions of Sections 154 and 155 Cr.P.C, 1898 are violated in leaps and bounds. The irony of the fate is that even the orders of the court are also floated by the police personnel. However, if it is registered on time then many important areas like who is complainant and accused? What are the facts? And who is brain behind the crime is being neglected. Besides, Police always remains reluctant to lodge the FIR. They demand bribery, and remain under political and administrative pressures. In short, procedural inefficiencies, intentional stalling, personal bias, threats to the complainant, institutional failures and false registration of FIR are also the reasons behind delayed registration of FIR.

Weak Mechanism of Investigation and Inquiry Techniques: Another impediment that needs to be addressed is the weak mechanism of Investigation and Inquiry. Before highlighting the lacunas in the mechanism of investigation and inquiry, it is necessary to define both the terms in the light of the Code of Criminal Procedure Code 1898, as Section 4 (Baqar et al., 2023) of Code of Criminal Procedure defines Investigation as following:

“Investigation includes all the proceedings under this code for the (collection of evidence) conducted by a police officer who is authorized by a Magistrate in this behalf (Batool et al., 2023).”

Whereas --

Section 4(k) states as under:

“Inquiry includes every inquiry other than a trial conducted under this Code by a Magistrate or Court (Ghani et al., 2022).”

Police investigators are often devoid of modern scientific training and technique. It results in poor conduction of investigations, mishandling of evidence, mismanagement of

crime scenes and inaccurate or biased witness questioning. Additionally, political and external pressures are also exercised to influence the results of investigations. Unbridled corruption is another aspect that leads to managed investigation. In Pakistan, investigations often face delays due to a lack of coordination between various stakeholders, such as police, prosecutors, and the judiciary. Besides, there is no concept of forensic science in the country. It is underutilized. Forensic labs are often ill-equipped and understaffed. Thus, all these hurdles result in lengthy trials and unfair investigations. Widespread Procedural Intricacies and Delays: Bail Reforms and Alternative to Pre-Trial Detention: Widespread procedural intricacies and delays in Pakistan's criminal justice system, particularly concerning bail and pre-trial detention is also the reason for vulnerable judicial system of Pakistan. The speaking judgments are always replete with the phrase "Delay defeats justice" but it has hardly been addressed. Indeed, as per Article 37(d) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973, inexpensive and expeditious justice is a constitutional mandate (Hussain et al., 1993). The Supreme Court of Pakistan in the case of State versus Gulzar Muhammad observed that the delay of 15/16 years in cases after the submission of challan in the trial court in the conclusion of the trial could not be explained away on any hypothesis (Hussain et al., 2014). Despite that, the judicial system of Pakistan is overburdened. Courts in Pakistan are beset with menacing problem of massive backlog of cases, complex bail procedures, and inefficient case management and over formalism in the procedures of the court. In turn, it leads to prolonged delays in the legal process. This impacts the timely processing of bail applications and contributes to extended pre-trial detention periods.

Lack of Rehabilitation, And Public Safety in Sentencing Protocols: Moreover, there is lack of rehabilitation and public safety in sentencing protocols. It faces several challenges. These issues stem from systemic inefficiencies, limited resources, and deeply rooted perceptions about justice. The criminal justice system of Pakistan lacks sufficient rehabilitation programs. It is devoid of vocational training, counseling, drug rehabilitation centers, especially in prisons. This phenomenon undermines efforts to reform offenders. Besides, inadequate financial resources also limit the ability to implement effective rehabilitation programs. Overcrowded prisons, lack of trained personnel, inconsistent application of sentencing protocols have severely affected the coherent rehabilitation-oriented approach. Probation and parole systems in Pakistan are also underdeveloped and underutilized. In this connection, the mechanism of monitoring offenders also raises many questions.

Challenges And Issues for The Protection of Accused and The Witnesses: The fundamental basis for witness protection initiatives lies in Article 9, of constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973. It upholds the essential rights of individuals to life and freedom (Idrees et al., 2018). The adduced article shoulders a responsibility on the government to safeguard individuals from any form of harm or intimidation (Imran et al., 2024). Similarly, Article 10-A which has been introduced in the scheme of the 18th Amendment, ensures a just legal proceeding. It includes the privilege of witnesses to give testimony without any concerns of retaliation (Khan et al., 2017). Contrarily, there are certain issues and challenges with regard to the protection of witnesses and accused. These challenges impact the fairness and efficacy of the legal process. In fact, witnesses are often faced with threats and intimidation from the accused party. This fear discourages witnesses from coming forward to testify. In this connection, the existing laws are outdated. These are unable to address the complexities of witness protection and accused rights. Even though laws are in practice, implementation can be weak. Besides, in high profile cases or politically motivated cases external factors may influence the legal process which may create hindrances in the process of Fair Trial.

Inefficient Case Management Systems and Case Backlogs: Undeniably, access to justice is hampered by a number of causes, including a backlog of cases and poor case

management proposed by (Lau et al., 1973). As a matter of fact, A civil case should typically be resolved in one or two years, but in Pakistan it typically takes ten to fifteen years (Lohana et al., 2023). Besides, workload and tardiness of judges also leads to significant backlogs, as they hear 50 to 60 cases everyday proposed by (Murphy et al., 1969). It is evident from the fact that approximately 2.26 million cases are pending before the various courts of the country while Pakistan has been ranked at 130th out of 142nd countries as far as world judiciary is concerned. This alarming situation has caused grave violation of fundamental rights and forfeited constitutional virtues. Injustice, inequity and unfairness have become the norm of the day. Historically, this colonial judicial system was put into practice to enslave and subjugate the masses and keep them distant from the corridors of power and governance. Many courts and legal institutions still rely on manual processes for case filing, tracking, and management, which can be slow and prone to errors.

Analysis of Pending Cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts of Pakistan

This data highlights the significant workload faced by the High Court of Lahore, which far exceeds the caseloads of other courts. Fig. 1.1 illustrates the cases pending before the Supreme Court and High Courts of Pakistan, where the High Court of Lahore shows the highest number of pending cases at 173,615. This could indicate either a higher population or more legal activity in the Lahore region. To address this, further investigation into the reasons behind this imbalance and potential strategies for reducing case backlogs might be necessary.

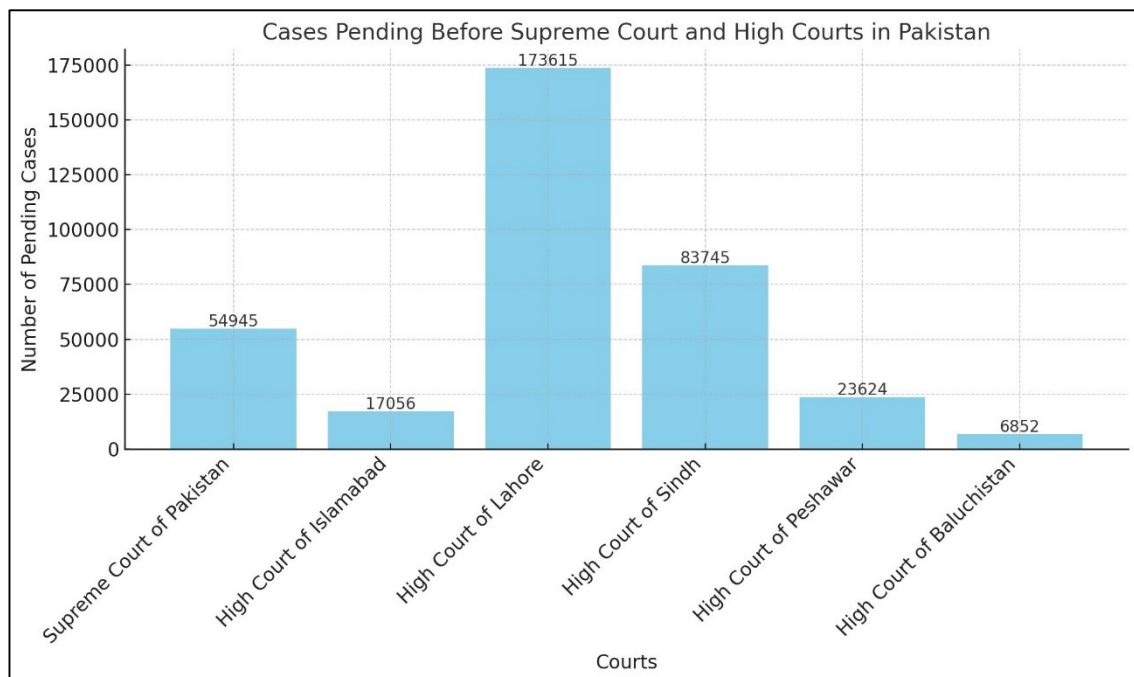


Fig. 1 illustrates the cases pending before the Supreme Court and High Courts in Pakistan

Some other Challenges to the Judicial System of Pakistan

Widespread Political Interference: One of the foremost causes of the poor performance of judiciary in the country is the persistent interference of political stakeholders-cum-feudal lords. Historically, starting from the infamous Molvi Tamizuddin case in 1954, in which the then Chief Justice of Pakistan Muhammad Munir, along with four other judges, declared the dissolution of the legislative assembly by Governor General Ghulam Mohammad legally valid. This would become the first of many instances where the

courts legitimized the abrogation of the Constitution under the guise of the 'doctrine of necessity'. They always wanted to create their own ideologies, theories and strategies to malign the writ of judiciary. They always want to exert pressure on the judiciary to undermine its independence. They want their own outcomes and style of governance. Indeed, they have left no stone unturned to make the judiciary of a country controversial and inefficient.

Rampant Corruption: Rampant Corruption within the judiciary is another cause of the weak writ of judiciary in the country. It has eroded the public's trust and confidence. Instances of bribery, favoritism, nepotism and misuse of power have tarnished the image and reputation of judges and legal institutions. According to the Ex-Chief Justice of Sindh High Court Maqbool Baqir "The inductions in the judiciary have not been up to the mark [right from] our independence. There was nepotism, favoritism and sacrifice of merit soon after we inherited the Government [of India] Act 1935 after the creation of Pakistan (Muneer et al., 1969)." Additionally, according to the National Corruption Perceptions Survey 2023, the police remain the most corrupt sector (30%), tendering and contracting was seen as the second most corrupt (16%) and the judiciary third most corrupt (13%) (Ndururu et al., 2023). Thus, it can be deduced that rampant corruption has also undermined the performance of judiciary in Pakistan.

Lack of Accountability: Besides, without accountability, the independence and transformation of judiciary in Pakistan becomes the forlorn dream. Indeed, judicial accountability is part and parcel of judicial independence. The lack of internal and external accountability mechanisms has further added fuel to the fire. The weak culture of internal and external audit has deteriorated the performance of judiciary. One of the ways to achieve accountability within judiciary is to revise the judicial code of conduct to bring it in line with international standards. Judicial immunity under section 77 of the **Penal Code** and other provisions of the law, which protect judges from liability resulting from their "good faith" judicial actions, should never insulate judges from prosecution for serious crimes and crimes under international law (Novoselova et al., 2020). There is also a lack of transparency and fairness in the nomination and selection process of the Judges (Omer et al., 2016). Hence, the lack of accountability has allowed problems to persist and exacerbate.

Weak Institutional Framework: Additionally, the judiciary in Pakistan has weakest institutional framework. It lacks a judicial code of conduct. There are One of the ways this can be done is to revise the judicial code of conduct to bring it in line with international standards with institutional weaknesses, including outdated laws, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient training for judges and legal personnel.

Frequent Political Instability: Moreover, Pakistan has been witnessing rapid political instability since its inception. Many changes have been introduced in its political, social and legal system. Consistency in legal and judicial mechanism has never been the characteristic of the system. It has led to the inefficient, weak and vulnerable system of judiciary. It has eroded the independence of judiciary and exerts immense pressure on the formation of the benches of judges. It undermines the vitality, impartiality and equality before the law. It disrupts the judicial process, leading to delays in the resolution of cases. It is also the reason behind the weak rule of law and protection of the rights of individuals. Eventually public confidence and trust being assets of the judiciary are gravely eroded when the judicial system is seen as influenced by political facts (Pimentel et al., 2016).

Grave Economic Conditions: In addition to this, socioeconomic factors, such as widespread poverty and inequality, are also responsible for the vulnerability of judiciary (Rauf et al., 2022). It impacts the functioning of the judiciary. Marginalized communities and people of downtrodden areas are even unable to access justice. They have limited access to

legal resources. The poor representation for marginalized communities hampers justice (Shabbir et al., 2022).

Unrestrained Military Influence: Another factor that has been undermining the core vitality of the judicial system of Pakistan is the historical influence of military of Pakistan. The influence of military in the politics of Pakistan has gravely impacted the autonomy and impartiality of the judiciary (Shamim et al., 2018). Consequently, Pakistan assumed the character of a 'security state' rather than a 'development state' (Siddiqua et al., 1994).

Material and Methods

Figure 2 illustrates the methodology for conducting qualitative research in the context of judicial reform. The process begins with Qualitative Research Methods, focusing on surveys and questionnaires. Participants include a diverse range of stakeholders, such as judges, lawyers, court administrators, legal scholars, policy experts, and marginalized groups. These insights feed into Analysis and Solutions, where evidence-based reforms are formulated. The final step is the implementation of these reforms, aimed at Transforming the Justice System. This methodology emphasizes a thorough understanding of perspectives from various participants, followed by a solution-oriented approach to reform the judicial system effectively.

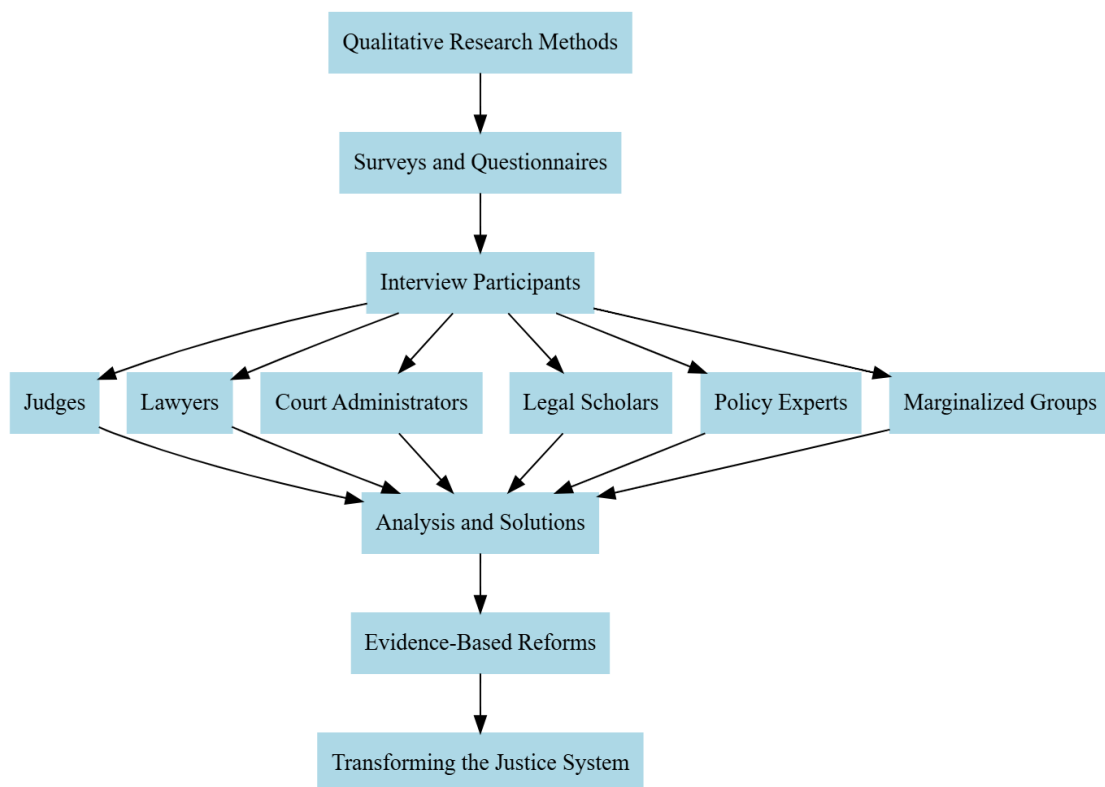


Fig. 2 Methodology Flowchart for Qualitative Research in Judicial Reforms

Result and Discussion

The judicial system of Pakistan has undergone significant transformations over the years due to rapid political, economic and social changes. It has witnessed a number of notable advancements and challenges. In turn, these have hindered the progress of the system. It is pertinent to mention that constitutional amendments have obstructed the way of undemocratic forces and strengthened the independence of judiciary. It has enhanced the role of judiciary to protect the essence of democracy and fundamental rights. Besides, many

a specialized courts have also been introduced to resolve the various issues of the masses. Efforts have also been made to use technology to manage the flow of cases while decreasing the backlog of cases. In turn, this phenomenon has resulted in easy access to the doors of justice. Reforms have also been introduced to modernize the legal system in order to fulfill the requirements of international standards. On the other hand, the judicial system is beset with a number of challenges like a backlog of cases. It has tarnished the image of the judiciary. It not only undermines the trust of the public but also erodes the rule of law. Rampant corruption within the judiciary is another menacing that has weakened the foundations of the system. It violates the principles of equality before law. Furthermore, political interference and limited access to justice has raised many questions about impartiality and independence of judiciary. In short, the legal and judicial reforms that have been taken over the years have resulted in pros as well as cons. However, it has shouldered immense responsibility upon judiciary to address the persistent problems of massive backlog of cases, rampant corruption, limited access to justice, and widespread political interference in order to guarantee a fair, efficient, just and accessible justice system. If adduced, reforms are implemented with immense diligence; it would foster a culture of accountability and transparency.

Table 1
Comparative Judicial Analysis Across Pakistan, India, US, Germany, UK, and Scandinavian Countries

Factor	Pakistan	India	US	Germany	UK	Scandinavian Countries
Case Backlog	2.26 million	47 million	450,000	438,300	-	-
Judge to Population Ratio	17 Judges / million	21 Judges / million	107 / million	240 / million	3.3 judge / 1 lac people	11 judges / 1 lac people
Average Case Disposal Time	Decades	Similar	7-9 months	1-2 Years	Civil Case 2-3 Years	6 to 12 months
Access to Justice	130th / 142	79th / 142	116th / 142	5th / 142	15th / 142	Denmark 1st, Norway 2nd

Discussion

This Table 1 provides a comparative analysis of various judicial metrics across six regions: Pakistan, India, the US, Germany, the UK, and Scandinavian countries. Pakistan's judicial system, as seen from the backlog of 2.26 million cases, suffers from significant delays compared to the US, where only 450,000 cases are pending. The judge-to-population ratio is another key concern, with Pakistan having only 17 judges per million people, far behind countries like Germany (240/million) and the US (107/million). This imbalance contributes to the long average case disposal time in Pakistan, which can take decades, whereas cases in the US are typically resolved within 7-9 months. Access to justice rankings reveal that Pakistan is positioned at 130th out of 142 countries, indicating that citizens face challenges in accessing timely and fair justice. In contrast, Scandinavian countries like Denmark and Norway rank at the top, demonstrating a more efficient and accessible system. This data underscores the need for judicial reforms in Pakistan to address case backlogs, improve the judge-to-population ratio, and enhance access to justice.

Conclusion

The crux of the matter is that the judicial system of Pakistan needs a drastic reforms and transformation. In this connection a number of efforts have been initiated to transform the colonial system of judiciary of the country. Indeed, the judiciary has left no stone unturned to assert its independence and uphold the rule of law. Despite many efforts, it is yet beset with formidable problems of diverse nature. It has been suffering from core issues of massive backlog, unbridled corruption, limited access to justice, and political interference. These menacing problems have impeded the way of masses towards fair,

efficient, and accessible justice system. In order to achieve true transformation, certain steps are taken like case management, judicial accountability, judicial independence, and access to legal aid. If adduced steps are taken with immense care and utmost seriousness the fruit of justice will be delivered to all and sundry; in turn, the needs of citizens will be catered for, and an equitable society will be established.

Recommendations

In order to drastically transform the judicial system of Pakistan, certain steps are required. In this connection, following remedial measures can be proved pivotal. If adduced steps are taken with immense care and seriousness the fruitful results of judiciary will be delivered to all and sundry.

Objectivity And Accountability in The Judge's Appointment Process

The foremost step in order to transform the judicial system of Pakistan should be ensuring objectivity and accountability in the appointment process of judges. It is a vital step for maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the judiciary. Indubitably, the principles of fairness, transparency, and merit-based selection must be upheld in the process of appointing judges. It helps to ensure public trust in the judicial system. Notably, Article 177 permits for the appointment of a Chief Justice and other Supreme Court judges without adhering to a principle of seniority (Pimental et al., 2016). Moreover, it even permits the appointment of retired judges or advocates who had never been High Court judges. In this respect, The Al-Jihad Trust case, also known as the judges' judgment, theoretically empowered the Chief Justice, making his recommendations more influential in the President's decision-making process (Rauf et al., 2022). The original Article 175A, introduced by the 18th Amendment, aims to balance the powers between the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) and the Parliamentary Committee (PC) (Shabbir et al., 2022). However, its implementation remains questionable.

Parliamentary Oversight in Making Appointments in The Superior Judiciary Furthermore, despite the introduction of new mechanism of appointment of judges in 18th Amendment, the appointment process in Pakistan has remained a subject of controversy. This new process gives power to the Parliamentary Committee. It is comprised of eight members, i.e. four from the National Assembly and four from the Senate. The Committee scrutinizes the nominations and names confirmed are forwarded to the President, through the Prime Minister, for appointment (Shamim et al., 2018). Critically, the judiciary remains significant over the appointment process, even after the 18th Amendment. The JCP, chaired by the Chief Justice, often plays a decisive role in selecting nominees. Political interference in the appointment process and lack of transparency are also the factors that impact the appointment process. It has also been argued that the judiciary remains active in political matters, leading to concerns about its independence and impartiality. Overall, the appointment of judges to the superior judiciary in Pakistan remains a complex and contentious issue. Therefore, transparency should be maintained in letter and spirit in the nomination and confirmation process, including the publication of criteria and procedures. In this regard, the Parliamentary Committee should be given a more decisive role in the appointment process.

The Judiciary's Role as The Guardian of The Constitution and The Rule of Law

The role of judiciary as the guardian of the Constitution and to maintain the rule of law in Pakistan is integral to the democratic framework. Indeed, the judiciary helps to maintain constitutional governance and protect fundamental rights through interpretation of the constitution, ensuring the rule of law, and provision of checks and balances on the other branches of government. However, addressing challenges related to independence,

corruption, and public trust is crucial in order to strengthening its role and effectiveness. Hence, this role is foundational for maintaining the balance of power within the country and ensuring democratic principles (Siddiqua et al., 1994).

Judicial Review of Legislative and Executive Actions to Prevent Overreach

In addition to this, the fourth step that needs consideration is judicial encroachment or overreach. It is defined when the judiciary starts interfering with the proper functioning of the legislative or executive organs of the government. In other words, judiciary ruptures the fine line of separation of power and weakens the public trust reposed in the judiciary when it encroaches upon the other branches of the government. Indeed, apex courts have passed speaking judgments from time to time to prevent the judicial overreach. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, one of the leading Justices of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, has ruled in *The Mall Road Traders Association* case that when judges commit “judicial overreach” they violate their oath (Tabassum et al., 2021). Besides, the Supreme Court’s interference with the proceedings of the Parliament is not only unwarranted by the Constitution but also violates the principle of parliamentary privilege. There should be a difference between judicial activism and judicial overreach. As, the constitution endows the supreme court with original appellate, advisory, and review jurisdiction under article 184, 185, 186 & 188 respectively. Article 184(3) of the constitution provides SC with suo moto power by stating that if SC considers it appropriate, it shall take notice of fundamental rights and public importance concern and decide the matter by itself (Taj et al., 2023). It is advisable for the judges of the apex judiciary that they should not adjudicate upon the matter involving a political question and let it be resolved through a political process. In this connection, Article 69 of the Constitution of Pakistan deserves a special attention which reads as “*the validity of any proceedings in the Parliament shall not be called in question on the ground of any irregularity of procedure*”. Recently, in the case of *Yousaf Raza Gillani vs Federation of Pakistan*, Islamabad High Court dismissed a petition by the former Prime minister challenging the results of the Senate Chairman election (The Express Tribune., 2023). It ruled that the proceedings of the Parliament are immune from the interference of the high court. Thus, there must be bifurcation between judicial overreach and judicial activism.

Effectiveness Of Judicial Review in Addressing Public Interest Litigation

Another step is effectiveness of judicial review in addressing public interest litigation must be followed in letter and spirit. Judicial review is a fundamental principle in legal system of Pakistan. It allows courts to assess the legality and validity of government actions. Whereas Public interest litigation (PIL) is a legal tool that enables individuals or organizations to challenge government actions or policies that affect the public interest. It ensures fundamental rights such as the right to life, liberty and equality. It is the PILs that empower individuals to challenge the actions of government that violate these basic rights. It also puts checks on the power of government whether it acts within the limits of law or not. It can also be used to expose corruption, bad governance and abuse of power by government officials. Indeed, it not only mobilizes the public but also raises awareness regarding social and environmental issues. Notable case of *Baan Ganga* can be cited as a landmark example (The Justice Reform Project., 2022). It protects the marginalized groups such as the poor, minorities and women to get easy access to justice. However, political interference, lack of resources and backlog of cases can significantly delay the resolution of PILs. In short, it is essential to improve its effectiveness, to address the core issues such as judicial delays, political interference, resource constraints, and enforcement challenges. The ability and performance of the judiciary of Pakistan can be strengthened through this mechanism in order to protect the rights of citizens and promote good governance (Waseem et al., 2019).

Accountability in Judicial Process and Protection Against Judicial Overreach

It has always remained challenging to ensure a balance between judicial independence and accountability. Judicial independence is usually defined in terms of freedom from outside influence in order to make just and partial decisions (Zakir et al., 2022). The Constitution of Pakistan, in this respect, clearly segregates the powers of the judiciary. It prevents it from encroaching upon the domains of the executive and legislature. Indeed, the system of checks and balances confirms that no single department of government has absolute power. Similarly, the judiciary is also subject to oversight by the executive and legislature. However, the judiciary itself is not immune to scrutiny and accountability. Parliamentary oversight committee can enforce laws. It governs the powers and procedures of the judiciary. Additionally, Parliament can impeach judges for misconduct or incompetence. Hence, judges are also expected to adhere to a strict code of conduct. It outlines the ethical standards to be followed. Its violations can lead to disciplinary action, including removal from office. Therefore, accountability of judiciary must be strengthened (Shaman et al., 1990).

Some More Remedial Measures for the Transformation of Legal and Judicial System of Pakistan: In Pursuit of Legal and Judicial Reforms.

In order to advance further transformation of Pakistan's legal and judicial system, more suggestions are following.

Strengthening of Institution and Capacity Building: The training and professional development of judicial and non-judicial staff should be enhanced in order to ameliorate the efficiency, competency, and ethical standards. It may focus on constant seminars, workshops on emerging legal practices, technologies and ethical guidelines.

Introduction of Comprehensive Legal Reforms: Through study of existing laws and procedures should be undertaken in order to eliminate outdated practice and integrated these with contemporary standards. This should involve participation from all the concerned stakeholders so that these reforms may cater the needs of public and the judiciary.

Alignment of Technology: Modern and innovative technology should be adopted in court proceedings, case management in order to reduce delays and improve access to justice. This step should include electronic filing system, digital record-keeping and virtual hearings to make offices paperless.

Emancipation of Judicial Accountability and Transparency: A robust mechanism should be developed to make judges accountable for their conduct and performance. Independent bodies should be established to entertain the complaints against the judiciary and audits may be conducted to ensure impartiality and integrity.

Enhancement of Access to Justice: Legal aid services and support mechanism for marginalized and unprivileged class should be expanded. Community legal clinics and mobile court should also be initiated to provide justice to remote areas of Pakistan. Thus, it may guarantee equitable access to justice.

Expansion of Public Awareness and Engagement: Public awareness regarding legal rights and judicial process should be expanded through educational campaigns and community outreach programs. Civic engagement must be promoted in the legal reform process to pave way for trust building and changes.

Revision of Case Management Mechanism: Refined and augmented techniques for case management should be introduced. Complex and urgent cases must be expedited

and prioritized. This scheme may focus on court schedules, resource allocation and reduction of procedural intricacies.

Accentuate on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR): Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanism such as mediation and arbitration should be fostered in order to reduce the burden of cases on the traditional courts. It provides more vibrant options for resolution of disputants.

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