

Role and Security Structure in Pakistan

Introduction

Threats to a state are not only the results of historical and ideological hostility. In fact, they can be the outcome of bad governance, biased government behavior towards different regions and ethnic groups, unequal distribution of state's resources and undue treatment towards any particular group of people.

What is meant by Security Threats?

Security threats usually refer to the armed hostilities by one state to another. This aspect is though a traditional definition. In the contemporary state of affairs, security threat can be non-traditional as well. Among non-traditional internal security threats fall terrorism, militancy, armed separation movements and anti-state conspiracies.

What is Governing Structure?

Governing structure refers to the arrangements, use and management of authority and national resources to govern over a state. State's governing structure is determined and analyzed through its laws, rules, policies and their application.

Contemporary Internal Security Threats to Pakistan

Pakistan has been facing following internal security threats:

- Separation Movements in Baluchistan
- Militancy across Durand Line
- Militant Separatists in Baluchistan
- Religious Extremism
- Prevailing Sense of Provincial Deprivation

Improving Governing Structure to Address Security Threats

Pakistan can neutralize internal security threats by bringing following reforms in governing structure:

Strengthening Democratic Institutions

Unless the democratic institutions like Parliament are not strengthened, internal rifts in the country cannot be neutralized. A strong parliament with effective law making capacity can better address the grievances of people belonging to different cultures and regions of the country.

Promoting Dialogue over the Use of Force

Internal security threats like separation movements can be neutralized through devising dialogue with the aggrieved parties and addressing their due concerns. Unless the state of Pakistan stop using military tactics and force to defeat separatists, the problem cannot be addressed.

Keeping Military out of Civil Governance

Military has a particular way of dealing with problems. It is established and trained to deal mainly external defense matters. Once military is allowed to share authority in civil governance the general problems of people remain subjected to an unnecessary method of treatment. This disturbs the attachment of people to the state.

Equal Distribution of Resources among Provinces

A major reform in governing structure can be ensuring equal distribution of all kinds of resources among provinces. Keeping one or more provinces as the most favorite and discarding others results in sense of deprivation. It negatively impacts national solidarity.

Equal Treatment towards all Cultures and Religious Groups

Pakistan has people from different cultures and different sect in it. Treating them on equal terms can neutralize the internal threats like religious and ethnic extremism. In any case otherwise, the threat of militancy will remain active.

Internal Security Structure

Figure 1. Pakistan's Internal Security Architecture

