

ABSTRACT

In all spheres of collective human endeavors leadership has remained one of the principal factors. The concept of leadership revolves around the quality of vision and judgment of the leader. Governance entails the process of decision making and implementation of those decisions. It involves ability of the government to figure out and execute policies for the people. Effective governance necessitates visionary and effective leadership.

In Pakistan successive governments, democratic and military alike, have fallen short of delivering good governance leading to the development of social opportunities to the people. Mostly their efforts have revolved around empty words not supported by implementation. Successive governments have tried and failed to make much headway towards tackling and eliminating political and socio economic problems of the country. The frequent exclusion of the people; notwithstanding any political changes, is attributable to the political and economic power which lies with the elite. Only this small ruling clique has prospered in the country at the cost of the great majority: the common people. Democracy has failed to gain a firm footing as it has seldom gone beyond the electoral process with little regard to the rule of law. Pakistan has had a long string of deficit national budgets. It also has many major national enterprises consistently running in the red. Political alienation has weakened the foundations of the civil society. Politics of expediency and widespread corruption throughout the society, synchronized with disrespect for the rule of law, have alienated the people against the ruling elite. This has resulted in widespread pessimism and cynicism throughout the society. The growing dissatisfaction amongst the federating units can be traced to the long neglected socio political needs and the ever growing factionalism in the society; which is acting as a great hindrance towards the development of HDI (Human Development Index) in the state.

The study of governance and leadership is of historico descriptive nature. The objective of this research is to provide an insight into the problems which have led to bad governance in Pakistan. The study attempts to trace the issues faced by the state and the society in Pakistan. This is followed by recommendations as a way forward.