

Abstract

Coalitional-Agitational politics has become a prominent feature of Pakistan's political landscape since 2008, profoundly impacting the country's political development. This research provides a concise overview of the effects of coalitional-agitational politics on Pakistan's political dynamics. Mixed methodology was used to complete this research in which 250 questionnaires were filled and 10 interviews were conducted. Following the restoration of democracy in 2008, Pakistan experienced a surge in coalitional-agitational politics, where political parties formed alliances to challenge the ruling government. These coalitions often mobilized mass protests, sit-ins, and other forms of public agitation to demand political reforms, accountability, and regime change. The purpose of this research was to examine whether there have been positive or negative political development since 2008 and in order to determine this aspect, four themes of Lucian Pye's political development were taken. One major consequence of coalitional-agitational politics has been the destabilization of governments. Frequent protests and demands for resignation have led to political instability. Furthermore, coalitional agitational politics has polarized society along political lines but it has only given them the way to express their anger. This polarization has created a hostile political environment, impeding consensus-building and inclusive decision-making processes. In order to achieve their own objectives, political parties frequently engage in agitational politics. To give the public the impression that these agitations are for a national cause, they conceal their own secret goals behind them. After 2008, political parties were also successful at encouraging citizens to participate in politics. On the positive side, coalitional agitational politics has increased political awareness and citizen participation. Large-scale protests and demonstrations have engaged the public, raising awareness about political issues and fostering a sense of political activism but it has led to more information about politics rather than awareness. Another positive thing was the consecutive three democratic governments. In conclusion, coalitional agitational politics in Pakistan since 2008 has had significant effects on the country's political development. While it has increased political awareness and citizen participation, it has also destabilized governments, strained institutional relationships and polarized society due to lack on integration. Coalitional governments have not brought stability in the country and they only blackmail each other which hamper the political development. Stability can come only through the institutionalization of political system and giving clear majority to the political party to form government. In Pakistan, coalitional-agitational politics have resulted in negative political development since 2008, such as instability, polarization, and a lack of continuity in good governance. While challenging established power structures and amplifying the voices of oppressed communities, it has also helped to promote public awareness and mobilization. However, the drawbacks of coalitional-agitational politics exceed their advantages. Pakistan's political progress has been hampered by the absence of national cohesion, harm to democracy, lack of stability, and unplanned change. To ensure a more stable and inclusive political system, it is crucial for political actors to engage in constructive dialogue, strengthen democratic institutions, and focus on long-term development goals while respecting the rule of law and democratic principles.