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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Pakistan judicial system, judiciary, political, criminal, justice and law, Pakistan	<p>The landscape of contemporary international relations is marked by the advent of coercive diplomacy, a strategic maneuver employing threats or pressure to influence a state's behavior. This research delves into the intricate dynamics of strategic coercion that have profoundly shaped Pakistan's diplomatic trajectory. Notably, the United States and India have leveraged coercive doctrines against Pakistan, prompting an analysis of diverse methodologies within these frameworks. Examining Pakistan's responsive strategies across diplomatic, political, and strategic realms, this study unveils the multifaceted nature of counterstrategies. Moreover, it illuminates the intricate web of factors impacting global relations, providing nuanced insights into the diplomatic intricacies of South Asia. This article is pivotal in unraveling Pakistan's strategic stance and its nuanced responses to coercive pressures exerted by significant geopolitical forces. By offering critical insights into the diplomatic milieu of South Asia, it serves as a valuable resource in understanding how nations navigate and react to coercive demands in contemporary geopolitics.</p>
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Introduction

In a situation this dire, the judiciary's role has likewise been weak. In actuality, Pakistan is among the most conspicuous instances of non-consolidated democracy. Pakistan's democratic past has given rise to institutional weaknesses, which the government is now attempting to address via structural weaknesses. The army only had open doors to grab power and destroy the foundations of democracy as a result of this. The army has always sought legitimacy, and the courts have often provided it. Judiciary has been noted to have a significant part in the process of democracy (Khalid, 2012). This governmental institution may contribute much to the development of a democratic society. It is, in fact, ordained for the triumph of democracy. Therefore, in order to achieve this goal, it should function as a free institution with its own network of laws and regulations and without any influence from the government or other institutions¹. This has never materialized in the case of our nation. To have a comprehensive understanding of the matter at hand, it is essential to closely examine the functioning of the legal system and examine a select number of noteworthy instances (Siddique, 2013). The judiciary continued to operate under a number of concepts and guidelines throughout both civil and military administration. Pakistan's security posture has a significant impact on the growth of its institutions and democracy. The judiciary's job in such a situation has never been an easy one. Numerous concerns and implications have needed to be addressed and balanced (Hussain & Hussain, 1993).

The research examines at how Pakistan's judicial system has failed to deliver prompt justice, which has led to a rise in public dissatisfaction with the country's judicial system. It also looks at how delayed justice affects litigants' lives, causing them to experience trauma on a mental, emotional, and financial level (Hussain, 2011). This research excerpt concludes by outlining how Pakistani justice may be restored, the steps that can be taken to address the issue of delayed justice in Pakistan, and how Pakistan's judicial system and infrastructure can be improved (Saeed, 2020). The article concludes with a workable solution. The evolution of Pakistan's legal system reflects the dynamic interplay between politics and law within the intricate framework of the country's sociopolitical milieu. Pakistan's court need to adhere to the course set by constitutional amendments, past practices, and collaboration with the nation's political leadership since the nation's 1947 independence (Habib & Zahraa, 2012). The complicated connection between the court and politics is examined in this article's opening sections, along with analysis, historical precedents, present difficulties, and ongoing reform initiatives that honor this significant legacy. The legal framework of Pakistan's legal system dates back to the British colonial period. But as the nation developed, so did its legal frameworks, and the court played a significant role in shaping the structure of the government (Durrani & Alam, 2020).

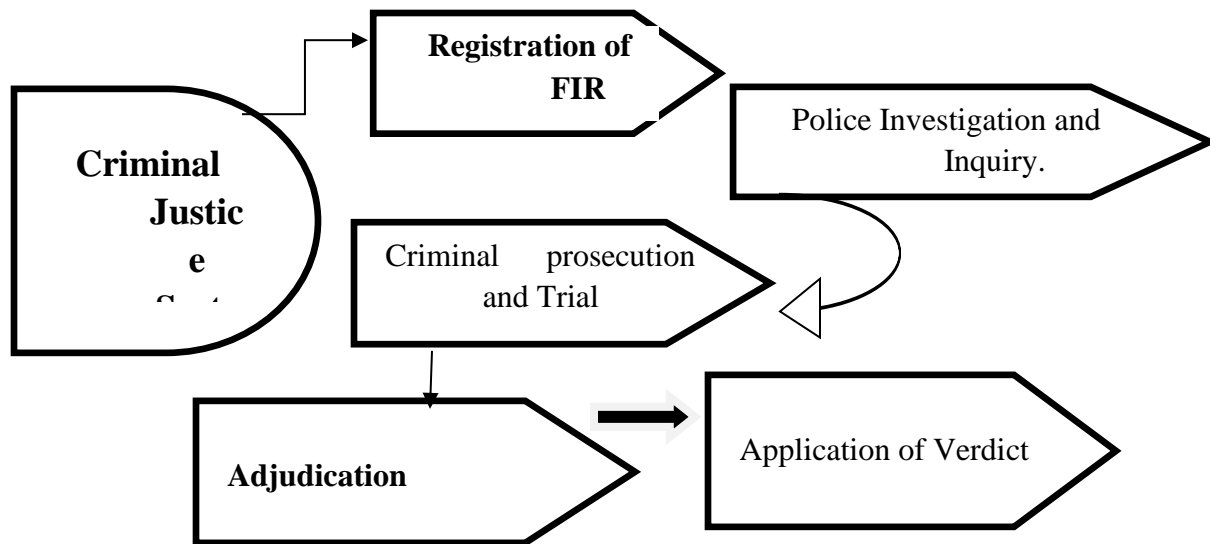
Pakistan has launched significant reform initiatives to fortify the Nizam Insaf's foundations in spite of these obstacles. The establishment of special courts, the incorporation of alternative dispute resolution procedures, and the use of technology in litigation are important initiatives aimed at enhancing accessibility and effectiveness (Islam, 2012). The reform initiatives will be closely examined in this piece, which will also consider the legal and political ramifications. It is almost impossible to overstate how important the court is to maintaining democratic values and monitoring potential abuses of power. This piece will examine the points of convergence between politics and justice while delving into the intricacies of this mutually advantageous collaboration (Soomro & Soomro, 2023). Therefore, our goal extends beyond mere legal reporting to provide a comprehensive picture of how Pakistan's political evolution has been impacted by the growth of the legal system. We want to shed light on this history via our research, which emphasizes the dynamic interaction between politics and the judiciary and removes the layers of barriers and shifts that will impact the future of the nation (Helmke & Rosenbluth, 2009).

Aims and Objectives

1. Historical Evolution of the Judicial System
2. Challenges faced by the Judicial system
3. The Judicial System and its impact on Politics
4. Case studies and its practical implication
5. Implication for future of Pakistan's Judicial System

2.0 Literature Review

Pakistan's legal system has always generated controversy. It has long been plagued by several issues and difficulties. Serious crimes claim the lives of Pakistani residents, and the system has failed to provide prompt and equitable justice to victims of crime despite considerable legislative and judicial improvements (Thakre, 2019). The aim of this article is to pinpoint the system's weaknesses and provide suitable approaches to enhance it. The criminal justice system has long been beset by issues such as corruption, resource shortages, abuse of authority, and institutional rigidity (Korai et al.). These issues have resulted in a system that often violates people's rights and is unjust. Listed below are some of the main obstacles to justice that victims, accused parties, and their families must overcome: One significant flaw in Pakistan's criminal justice system is the length of time it takes to settle cases. The backlog is increasing, and it will likely take many years to finish all pending cases. The primary causes of the delays are a paucity of judges, prosecutors, and court employees in addition to inadequate technology and equipment (Waqar et al., 2022).



The misuse of authority is a significant issue in Pakistan's criminal justice system. Torture may take many different forms. For example, judges may sentence political dissidents harshly or police officers may use excessive force. During investigations and interrogations, police officers are often accused of extrajudicial executions, torture, and other crimes (Strasser & L., 2014). In addition to infringing upon the accused's basic human rights, it erodes public trust in the legal system. Lack of adequate help for accused parties and legal aid is another issue plaguing Pakistan's judicial system. Because they cannot afford an attorney, the majority of accused are at a disadvantage in court (Rashid, 2019). The system of state-sponsored legal assistance is inefficient and fails to provide the accused with equitable counsel. Corruption and nepotism have undermined Pakistan's judicial system's impartiality and integrity. Judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials are often accused of taking bribes, manipulating evidence, and siding with influential people or groups. Crime victims suffer as a consequence, and public trust in the legal system is damaged (Sahito, 2009).

2.1 Historical context

The Government of India Act 1935 was kept in place as a temporary constitution upon independence. As a result, the British legal and judicial systems persisted, naturally with the appropriate adjustments and revisions made as needed to meet the demands of the new Republic. In this manner, there was no void or malfunction, and the judicial system kept running smoothly (Barua, 1967). The legal system stayed the same as well. The Sindh Chief Court, the Judicial Commissioner's courts in the NWFP and Baluchistan, and the Lahore High Court all carried on with their operations. At Dacca, a new High Court was established. In a same vein, Pakistan was granted a new Federal Court. The Federal Court and High Courts' jurisdiction, powers, and authority as outlined in the Government of India Act 1935 persisted (Waseem & Asia, 2015).

1954 saw an amendment to the Government of India Act 1935 that gave the High Courts more authority to grant prerogative writs. The authority and jurisdiction of the higher courts, as well as the legal system, were not significantly changed by the ensuing Constitutions of 1956, 1962, and 1973 (Hussain, 2011). The 1956 Constitution changed the name of the Federal Court to the Supreme Court, while the 1973 Constitution upgraded the Chief Court of the NWFP and the Judicial Commissioner Court of Baluchistan to full-fledged High Courts. Subsequently, in 1980, a new court known as the Federal Shariat Court was established (Jaffrelot et al., 2020). Its competence was to decide whether or not a particular legislation violated the injunctions of Islam, either Suo motu or upon petition from a person, the federal government, or a province government. Because Pakistan is a federal republic, the provinces have broad authority over a variety of areas, including the administration of justice. The province's main court, the High Court, has appellate authority over decisions made by special courts and subordinate courts, as well as original jurisdiction for writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights. The High Court has administrative supervision over the Subordinate Courts. Funding for these courts comes from the province government (Cheema, 2018).

2.2 Constitutional benchmarks and progression of legal structure

Nothing seems to be more vital to a nation's stability and development than a robust judicial system. A strong judiciary is essential for stability and development because it is unbiased and unaffected by outside forces. When the general public feels confident in the judicial system and can rely on it to provide justice quickly, and when they know that their cases will be considered and decided in an unbiased, equitable, and rational way, the judicial system is strong (Mehmood, 2020). The only way for our courts to fulfill their constitutional duties is to provide a decision based entirely on the evidence and facts, and our judiciary is always working to preserve individual rights and the Constitution while doing so with the highest respect (Khan & Zubair, 2023).

Pakistan's court has endured in the face of all political crises and has emerged as a ray of hope for its people, despite the country's troubled past. The judiciary has played a crucial part in Pakistan's democratic development. Despite several efforts to subvert its authority, the court has become more resilient and self-governing with each challenge it has faced (Gazdar, 2009). The court plays a crucial role in preserving the balance of power and a system of checks and balances in a democratic state. To protect the law, establish better precedents, and provide the nation's common folk justice, all members of the judicial system, regardless of rank, have been working nonstop. Many advancements have been made to arrange the system so that justice may be served quickly. In 2009, the National Judicial Policy significantly contributed to the processing of cases even in the face of inadequate infrastructure and human resources. The Pakistani people are resilient, and the judiciary in the country is no less robust. The number of cases that are being filed in courts is rising, which is one of the best indicators that the judiciary

is doing its job and that people are putting their faith in it to maintain justice. This represents optimism for a more stable and fair society (Jackson et al., 2014).

Judge Qazi Faez Esa was recently the target of a fake and forged reference, which was subsequently unanimously rejected by the court, demonstrating the strength of a strong judiciary. Up to the very end of the program, it demonstrated that even judges are subject to accountability. While the fingers that were falsely pointed at Justice Qazi Faez Esa have twisted, he is still serving as a fair and unbiased judge. The harsh reality is that, despite the recent events in the nation, the public's respect for the court has remained the highest because of its independence, honesty, and integrity (Ayesha Khan et al., 2020).

2.3 Obstacles within the Judicial Sphere

The position of the judiciary in the nation has always been contentious, spanning from the well-known Maulvi Tamizuddin case to the most recent accusations made by former Chief Judge Rana Shamim of Gilgit Baltistan. The Pakistani legal system was also questioned in the most recent report published by the International World Justice Project. The general public's view of these reports is consistent, despite the belief held by many that Western institutions have always utilized them as a propaganda weapon by the state's opponents (Ali & Waqar, 2022). A large portion of the populace is dissatisfied with the nation's judicial system. In Pakistan's judicial system, they have lost trust. In Pakistan, the slow pace of justice is a contributing factor to a great deal of crime. Rather than resorting to the nation's courts, some irate citizens turn to their local jirgas and panchayats, which frequently punish accused individuals unfairly or inhumanely despite the paucity of evidence or the victims' taking up the law in an attempt to exact revenge, which in turn fuels more crimes (Lamb et al., 2012). The Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) have also suffered from judicial system failure; on several occasions, officials from the LEAs have claimed to have apprehended terrorists, only to have them freed on technical grounds by the courts. Like all other national institutions, the nation's judicial system has to be changed (Jawad & Quarterly, 2022).

The country's survival and sovereignty may be seriously threatened if the judicial system is not promptly changed and political influence is not removed from the courts. This might lead to an unparalleled catastrophe. Throughout history, the court has colluded to provide decisions that were, for the most part, the result of outside impudence. By using the "doctrine of necessity" during each military takeover, it gave legitimacy to the subsequent military coups. The court went so far as to let the military ruler to alter the constitution whenever necessary after the military took power in 1999. While deciding the cases before it, the court served as a tool of entrenched interests rather than upholding or maintaining its impartiality. The case of Mr. ZA Bhutto, in which the High Court heard his case and rendered a predetermined decision under the control of the military dictatorship, might be used as an example of the Lahore High Court's bias. This is because the High Court denied him the opportunity to appeal (Neudorf et al., 2017). Two

prime ministers who were fired by the president at the time under the notorious Article 58 (2) (b) of the Constitution provide another example. Charges of corruption led to the dismissal of both prime ministers' ministries, however in one instance, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of one prime minister and against the other. The subordinate judiciary thus began participating in a culture of corruption, nepotism, and favoritism while the superior court was preoccupied with allying itself with political and nonpolitical groups. It demonstrated its incapacity and insensitivity by failing to provide the people with justice based on merit and when it was required. People with less money were less likely to have their cases ruled in the junior judiciary's favor because of the judiciary's extreme corruption. Because these instances could not persuade the court to take notice of their predicament, cases involving the underprivileged began to be adjudicated more slowly (Siddique, 2013).

2.4 Judicial activism and restraint

The inception of judicial activism in Pakistan dates back to the Lawyer's Movement of 2007. The movement aimed to reinstate Iftikhar Chaudhry, the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), who had been removed by General Musharaff's autocratic government for declining to validate the Constitution's subversion. As a result, the entry of jurists into the shadowy field of politics was first celebrated as a sign of opposition to an obviously autocratic government (Akhtar, 2017). Things, however, quickly deteriorated when CJP Iftikhar Chaudhry, who had been removed as CJP, reinstated himself and, with a single stroke of his pen, fired over 110 judges who had not submitted their resignation. This action demonstrated to Pakistan that judicial activism was prepared to eschew the democratic process in order to further its underlying political goals, in addition to its tendency to crush any criticism that emerged within its ranks (Akhtar, 2017).

According to Article 209 of the Pakistani Constitution of 1973, the proper procedure for dismissing a judge is to submit a report to the Supreme Judicial Council, which will determine if there is enough proof of misbehavior or insanity to support the removal. Maintaining the public's perception of the judiciary as sacred is crucial in a nation like Pakistan where the possibility of democratic subversion is always there. Despite heavy pressure from the administration, elections in the case of *Federation of Pakistan vs Saifullah Khan* 1988 had to be conducted on a party basis. Subsequently, it was ruled by the LHC and the SC that the dissolution of the Junejo administration was illegal. 1993 saw the restoration of the Nawaz Sharif administration by a very aggressive interpretation of Article 17 of the Constitution. In the first instance, a High Court should have heard the matter had the SC construed the article textually (Ali, 2018). Nonetheless, two significant instances in 1996 fundamentally altered Pakistan's political environment. Initially, the government was compelled to enact the Legal Reforms Ordinance, 1996, which divided the judiciary and the executive branch at the lower level, by the Supreme Court's repeated orders. This law corrected an aberration and

abnormality in our democracy that every administration had subtly encouraged in order to gain political power. The Supreme Court of Pakistan subsequently ruled in the precedent-setting "Judges Case" of March 29, 1996, that the Chief Justice of Pakistan would have the last say when it came to appointing judges to the higher courts (Oldenburg, 2010). About the appointment of judges, the executive would need to have "consultation" with him that is "purposeful, meaningful, and consensual." By defying the Chief Justice of Pakistan's suggestion, this case has virtually ended the executive practice of appointing judges to the higher judiciary. Thus, the nation saw a "one-man judicial revolution" thanks to Justice Sajjad Ali Shah. The Chief Justice's Committee was established, a unique body that openly denounced executive abuses on a regular basis (Hussain, 2018).

The conventional judicial system was eventually indirectly shut down by the implementation of the aforementioned and subsequent changes. Anybody may submit a petition to alert the court to any violation of a basic right, or even the courts may act on *Suo motto* notification. Public interest litigation (PIL) increased in frequency, and the people received remedy by exercising their constitutionally guaranteed fundamental rights. It thus became customary for procedures for basic rights abuses started under *Sue motto* powers to be changed into petitions under Article 184(3) (Khan & LJ, 2014). Therefore, the years 1990–1996 were PIL's prime development years. However, since it exempted the courts from all protocols and precedents, some legal circles saw this *Sue motto* authority of the courts as being too arbitrary. Similar to this, the public, which was already leery of the current rulers' poor leadership, enthusiastically embraced the *Sue motto* cases involving random crimes of a heinous nature, deaths by kite-strings, cases of bonded labor, inhumane treatment in jails, NICL scam, Hajj corruption, Ephedrine scam, cases of missing persons, and rulings on a plethora of other public issues. Judicial activism provided assistance to millions of impoverished and defenseless individuals who were unable to approach the legal system on their own, which was one of its main advantages (Niaz, 2020).

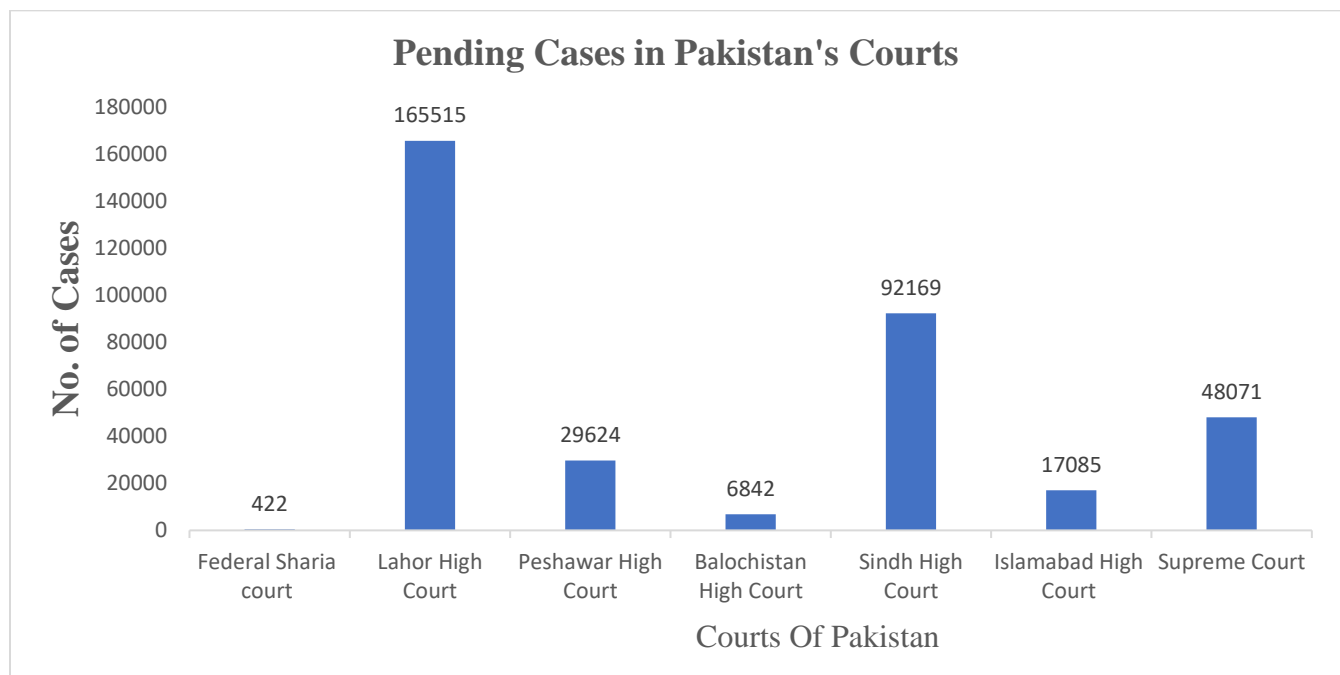
2.5 Intersection between political sphere and judicial system of Pakistan

The judiciary's power to overturn judgments made by other branches of government was first established via a combination of judicial innovation and constitutional provisions. The 1973 Constitution enhanced the judiciary's review authority. The Constitution gives the high courts the power to order governmental entities to protect fundamental rights. The Supreme Court might now make orders on the protection of fundamental rights on issues it deemed to be of "public importance (Munir, 2007)."

The judiciary thereafter separated from the executive branch and became in charge of appointing judges. The official role of executive institutions was reduced twice, first via judicial intervention in the 1990s and then through a 2010 constitutional amendment. The Judicial Commission, which appoints and promotes people within the judiciary, is made up of the

senior justices of the Supreme Court and other courts. Third, the majority of candidates for high court judges come from the legal profession, where there has been a change in culture from upholding the law to opposing the executive branch—either elected or military—and questioning it (Khan, 2021). During the democratic decade of the 1990s, when political parties were not well institutionalized and inter-institutional conflict was common, judges and attorneys started to perceive the state's political leadership as having limited legitimacy and that the judiciary could have an impact on national politics and policies. The fragmentation of the political scene and the rise in importance of the courts as forums for political conflict resolution contributed to this image. The court's shift toward increased ambition and conflict was caused by a number of factors, including the judicialization of politics, the expansion of jurisdictional power, the executive branch's independence from the judiciary, and a changing legal culture (Khan & LJ, 2014).

There has to be a quick fix since the criminal courts are becoming more and more behind schedule. It hurts Pakistani justice, people, and society as a whole. This is due to the fact that a new market economy, heightened public knowledge of individual rights, and a meteoric surge in the number of court cases have all contributed to this situation. Even while a tremendous amount of work has gone into addressing the problem of delayed justice and guaranteeing prompt relief, this has not been able to keep up with the increasing number of cases. This has led to around two million cases sitting in Pakistani courts. The backlog of cases in the courts is so large that justice takes too long to be served. The old adage goes something like, "Justice delayed is justice denied" (Gladstone, 2018).



2.6 Reformed and initiated innovations within the Judicial system

Procedural law is essential to every system of judicial administration. In general, obtaining the truth, settling the matter quickly, and streamlining the procedure are the three primary goals of a fair procedural legislation. Due to the recent surge in court cases brought on by the population boom, increased public knowledge of rights, and the mechanics of a modern market economy, achieving these goals has become more challenging. The difficulties that affect judiciaries worldwide are comparable in this context since they share a common set of duties and obligations. It should come as no surprise that efforts have been made all around the world to address the issue of delayed justice and provide prompt relief. Common law nations like those in the subcontinent, however, have fiercely opposed these initiatives. (Javaid & Review, 2010) Adversarial dispute resolution remains the most common method of dispute resolution in these countries. A judge acts as an unbiased mediator between two disputing parties, giving them the freedom to submit written statements, present evidence, and file various applications without the judge having any real control over them. Due to this, there is now an antagonistic culture that influences the parties' conduct to the point where they sometimes turn into two fighters in the criminal and social spheres. Additionally, it has made individuals less confident in the system itself (Fair, 2014).

Informing the parties on the merits of their individual claims is one of the main goals of alternative dispute resolution. By presenting the matter to a judge who is not assigned the case for trial, the method of judicial settlement assists the parties in getting their dispute resolved. This technique has the advantage that the referee provides a secret evaluation and opinion on the case. A settlement conference is called by the Referee Judge once the matter is submitted for judicial settlement. As the matter is being handled, the Settlement Judge serves as a mediator, helping the parties to come to an agreement (Ali Khan et al., 2020). He calls conferences, either together or individually, and provides an unbiased evaluation of the situation while also presenting them with a range of solutions. He is required to maintain total secrecy when he calls a separate meeting with a party. In the event that the dispute is ultimately resolved, the trial court is notified and both parties sign an agreement confirming the settlement. In the event that the parties are unable to come to an agreement, the matter is returned to the trial court for a merits trial. This strategy is mostly used in business situations when the involved parties respect one another's time and want to keep their business relationship intact. (Neudorf et al., 2017)

Over many decades, Pakistan has seen a fall in the caliber of legal education as well as in professional standards, which has negatively impacted the caliber of the court. Since 1958, there have been eight significant Law Commission studies that have all strongly advised improving the caliber of the professors, students, standards, curriculum, and facilities at law schools (Siddique, 2007). Unfortunately, owing to a lack of further funding and political

commitment, almost none of those proposals were put into practice. It is critically necessary to establish many legal education centers with the capacity to serve as demonstration sites, in addition to a national council of legal education that can establish, oversee, and enforce standards in the field. (Abbas, 2011)

3.0 Methodology

Approach in conducting qualitative research on the evolution of justice in Pakistan, it is crucial to follow a rigorous approach to guarantee the gathering of comprehensive and precise data. These investigations used qualitative research methodologies, including literature reviews, content analyses, and literature reviews. The primary goal is to gather high-quality data from books, research papers, publications, articles, reviews, and related publications in order to have a thorough grasp of the issues and historical development of Pakistan's judicial system. To begin with, a thorough analysis of the body of research done in order to identify major themes, patterns, and underlying presumptions about the evolution of the Pakistani court. In order to create a strong foundation and a framework for investigation, this first stage is crucial. The study concentrated on moral concerns, such as safeguarding writers' intellectual property rights and maintaining the privacy of private data. This calls for following the rules of academic honesty and getting the required permissions to utilize the appropriate sources. A thorough examination of a limited number of documents, such as court rulings, scholarly papers, and agreements, are part of the data collecting process. An effective coding system is used to classify and understand the data in order to identify trends and ideas pertaining to the evolution of Pakistan's legal system. All tiers of ethical concerns are covered in the studies, with an emphasis on transparency, honesty, and responsible data usage. This research attempted to provide important insights into the difficulties the Pakistani court faces and make recommendations for possible enhancements by conducting a thorough analysis of the body of literature.

4.0 Analysis of evaluation of judicial system of Pakistan

Despite this, policy implementation-related topics are sometimes mentioned. There is sadly not single dedicated research on the topic in Pakistan. The Chief Justice of Pakistan brought up many issues with the institutional processes on the start of the new judicial year. He contends that cooperation between the state's whole judiciary, including the provincial judiciaries, is necessary in the struggle for justice, which can never be carried out on a national basis. Similar to this, the press release from February 2020 also reveals that there are a lot of issues with the legal system and its practices. The absence of preset algorithms is one of the theme analysis approach's strongest points. Instead, the study's categories are discovered after the data is gathered. Given the qualitative nature of analysis, it allows the researcher freedom to extract the most value possible from the data. However, one of the weaknesses of thematic analysis is that it does not provide instructions on how to code and detect themes. If the data is

not coded correctly, it might go crazy. The majority of research analyze the legal system using statistical analysis. The issue with this strategy is that it just concentrates on identifying patterns and correlations in the data, without taking any cues from theories of causality. Due to the lack of a validity check and the potential for misunderstanding, the data in the statistical analysis might potentially be falsified. The most effective method due to this statistical analysis issue is theme analysis.

The public's confidence in the court is undermined by the unwarranted and excessive delays in cases, which go against the fundamental right of every individual to a prompt and equitable trial, as guaranteed by several international agreements, treaties, and conventions. The population is growing daily, which is causing this delay to increase. The issue of needless delays has affected several instances in Pakistan. The infuriating thing about this backlog is that lawmakers still haven't made it their top priority to clear it out right now. Delay is becoming intolerable and unmanageable as a consequence. Due to the backlog of cases, judicial delays have become commonplace and protracted. Due to delays in both civil and criminal cases, Pakistan's courts are overflowing with many outstanding cases, and this number is rising daily. Other problems impeding cases from being resolved quickly include the backlog of cases, inadequacies in the legal system, complexity of the litigation procedure, and poor case management. Judges switching between courts may further prolong a conflict since the new judge may decide to reopen the case and summon witnesses.

5.0 Discussion and conclusion

While evaluating the effectiveness of the courts in a given jurisdiction, a normative investigation of the essential characteristics of a functional judicial system and methods for measuring them is required. The realistic expectations and legal demands of the average person may be closely matched with the ideal ideals of the judicial system. Perfect courts would have easily accessible, reasonably priced, and quick judicial service; the ultimate judgment of rights and obligations would be justly and factually made by impartial judges, offering a useful remedy. Establishing the rule of law and promoting socioeconomic and human growth need a society to move toward this kind of judicial service. The judicial sector is a public organization where its administrative, procedural, and functional components are subject to critical analysis and study, making it imperative to adopt an institutional efficiency viewpoint in order to enhance court service with respect to expedition. Four main components of the court system may be distinguished from an institutionalist perspective: substantive law, human capital, court process and case management system, and financial resources and physical infrastructure. Delay and misuse of the legal system as performance concerns in this project are 105 *ibid* 42. 57 By changing civil process and case management, efforts are being made to keep Pakistani lower courts within reasonable bounds.

A well-functioning system of court procedures and administration may play a crucial role in delivering judicial remedy in an affordable and timely manner. A range of methods and instruments designed for evaluating court performance were found in order to investigate how actual courts may be assessed using normative criteria in general. Qualifiable indicators and empirical data are examined to assess the presence, extent, and kind of relative malfunctioning. Case clearing rate (CCR), backlog, and age of cases are the primary metrics in this regard. Workload and case disposal analysis may be used to measure timeliness and efficiency considerations. Comparing performance using these metrics over time, throughout locations, and among other case categories may highlight inadequacies within the institution. In addition to numerical indicators, research approaches to assess the effectiveness of courts include litigants' experiences, expert and elite interviews, comparative international ranking, and ethnographic fieldwork. It will be claimed that the district judiciary plays a crucial role in establishing the rule of law against the background of Pakistan's socioeconomic and geopolitical conditions. However, the lowest rung of the formal justice system, where 90% of litigation takes place, has received very little attention, particularly when it comes to empirical investigations into the operations of lower courts and potential academic solutions. These scholarly and official discourse deficits will be noted, and it will be shown that the immediate project is a modest but creative attempt that fills this need.

6.0 Implication of study

The investigation's inherent limitations stem from its solely qualitative character. In-depth interviews or focus groups with the relevant groups, such as police, prosecutors, judges, and correctional and prison-related workers in the national and international context, might be used to investigate the qualitative aspects of the issue. Furthermore, statistical analysis may be carried out after data collection, although it is currently beyond the purview of the research. It is crucial to do research on Pakistani courts in order to apply study results to practical situations. Public awareness campaigns may spread these historical components, and education can benefit from their historical foundations to increase comprehension. Basic laws serve as the cornerstone of government and mandate the use of regional strategies including limiting political meddling, democratic decision-making, and popular elections. Social consciousness must be used to support these actions. Consistent participation in public hearings and court sessions is necessary to ensure the practice's long-term viability. The crucial instrument of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) calls for specialized training as well as ongoing assessment. A crucial and helpful component in maintaining financial stability is adaptability. Building assessments and public opinion polls may provide insightful data. Legal reform is crucial and requires a thorough analysis of current legislation, collaboration with relevant groups, and adherence to the law. In order to garner support and articulate the need for change, advocacy is crucial. Stakeholders must be empowered and educated in order for success to occur. A sound

approach that incorporates political protection, historical integration, ongoing collaboration, monitoring, and assessment is necessary to build a successful legal system and a judicial system that upholds the law.

7.0 Limitations of the study

Research on Pakistan's judicial system yields valuable insights, although with significant constraints. It is challenging to pinpoint and isolate certain causes in the complex and dynamic legal and policy landscape, which hinders the development of unambiguous cause-and-effect links between factors and results. A lack of awareness of historical and cultural subtleties may restrict judges' knowledge and hinder them from having a thorough grasp. The accuracy of the estimate may be impacted by issues with data availability and dependability, such as skewed or incomplete information. The consistency and impartiality of the findings may be impacted by methodological restrictions, such as the possibility of bias induced by certain research methodologies.

Contributions

Muhammad Usman Arshad: Problem Identification and Model Development

Muhammad Asif Malik: Literature search, Methodology

Abdul Sattar: Drafting and data analysis, proofreading and editing

Conflict of Interests/Disclosures

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest w.r.t this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

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