

EFFECTS OF POLITICAL DEMOCRACY AND DICTATORSHIP ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Through the historical records, it is proven that the democratic system fosters public interests while the dictatorship regime mends for a single man. Both regimes have their socio-economic advantages and disadvantages in society. The social as well as economic aspects remain a matter of business for the prevailing government setup. The main objective of this research is a comparative analysis of Pakistan's socio-economic performance in democratic as well as dictatorial regimes (1947–2012). Some economic performance measures, including life expectancy, population growth, and literacy rates, as well as GDP growth, inflation, and head count ratio (HCR), have been taken for comparative analysis to check the performance. Statistical tests assist in this comparison. Our findings show that, in general, dictatorship regimes are better democratic governments in every aspect.

Keywords: democratic; dictatorship; socioeconomic performance measures; literacy rate.

1. Introduction

The economic incompetency and corruption of political administrations are debatable issues among developing countries. Economic growth always starts with diverse and difficult situations. Sustainable economic growth is out of the question without the common interest of the nation [1, 2]. Since Bangladesh's separation from Pakistan, there has been immense economic and social change, while in Pakistan, the economic and social situation has declined with time [3, 4]. Economic development undoubtedly relies heavily on resources, but corruption or improper use can lead to their leakage. The military justified its coups by citing economic incompetence and corruption in society. They view these issues as significant challenges to the nation's unity [5, 6]. As an institute, military men consider themselves better in all walks of life as compared to civilians. They are professionals in their field, but that does not mean that they can manage the economic affairs of our country [7]. In military regimes, bureaucrats and the elite class of society gain an advantage as compared to others because the life standard of military officials is quite high. The monetized amount of

perks and subsidies makes the actual amount of salary quite high for high-ranking officers in the country [8, 9].

Pakistan's per capita income increased by 2% between 1947 and 1996, while social factors did not improve at the same pace. **Figure 1a** summarizes the GDP growth rate of Pakistan from 1956 to 2009. The GDP growth rate was higher during the Military coup. More specifically, during all four military coups in Pakistan, the GDP growth rate was higher than that of the democratic regimes. **Figure 1b** compares the GDP rate of Pakistan during the Four Military coups. There was a 6.7% increase in GDP during Ayyub Khan's regime. In his regime, the quality of the social sector was improved to a satisfactory level [10]. East Pakistan's autonomy created an environment of destabilization in the country. General Yahan Khan, the military head and president of Pakistan, appointed a military to suppress this movement, and economic growth declined [11]. The eleven years of Zia's regime did not produce such significant improvement in the economic as well as social sectors. Pakistan's parliament system was not fully established due to an unstable political system, corruption, weak law enforcement agencies, crises of leadership, and professionalism [12].

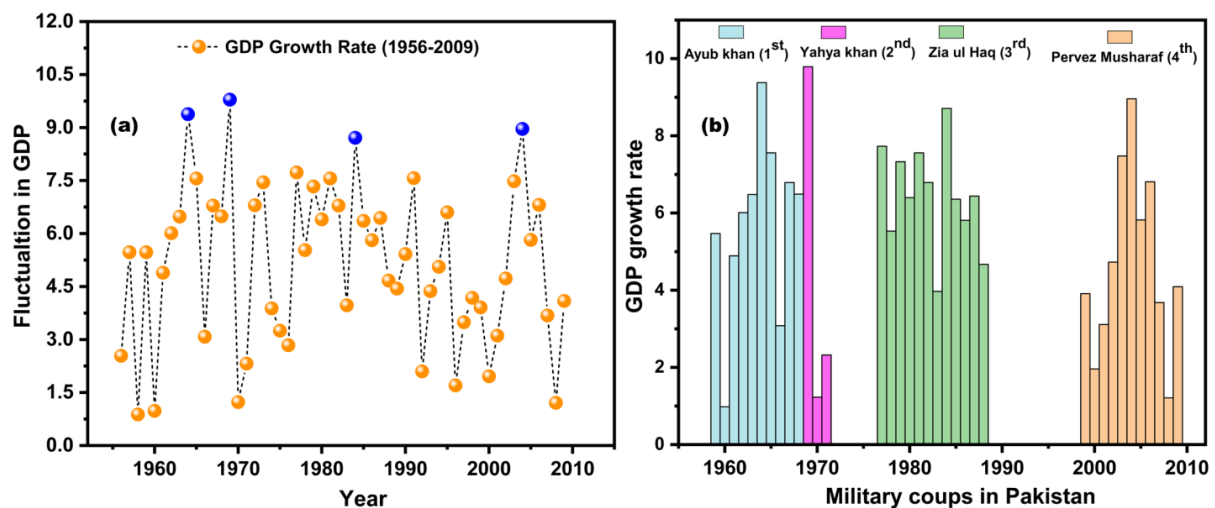


Figure 1: (a) Overall GDP and GDP (b) during the military coup in Pakistan.

In the Musharaf regime, 11.8 million jobs were created, and Pakistan's reserves increased from US\$1.2 billion to US\$10.7 billion, but socially, his regime was not more than a military one. Democracy is more likely to experience smaller rates of economic growth because it leads to the stretched-out role of superior categories that inhabit the effective allocation of resources, ensuing growth. It always deems it necessary to provide justice, education, and health services to all without any discrimination [13, 14]. In most developed countries, democracy exerts a positive impact on economic growth by ensuring liberty, poverty reduction, job availability, good governance, and better fiscal policies, but the democratic system is not as good as dictatorship in terms of reforms for retirement benefits, welfare, unemployment, health, and subsidies for the nation [15]. The dictators also seek motivation from perks and subsidies, such as wage earners. Pakistan's economic position was favorable, with significant growth in economic indicators. However, persistent increases in poverty and unemployment led to serious challenges for the country, despite assistance from the World Bank and IMF to address these issues. Social performance measures from the democratic era such as health, education, and poverty have mostly not changed [16].

It is an attempt to measure Pakistan's economic and social development aspects during democratic and dictatorial regimes. We use comparative analysis to investigate economic and social growth rates, utilizing secondary data for this purpose. The coefficient of variance (CV) is used to identify the level of variance between two regimes, while the T-test and F-test are used to analyze data.

2. Research Methodology

2.1 Description of Data

To investigate the relationship between economic and social growth and democracy and dictatorship in Pakistan, data from 1947 to 2012 is used. GDP, inflation rate, and headcount rate are used as economic indicators, while population growth rate, literacy rate, and life expectancy rate are used as social indicators in both regimes.

2.2 Data analysis

Descriptive as well as inferential statistical techniques are used for the analysis of the data. The central tendency, variances, and standard deviation are determined through descriptive statistics. The T-test is used to determine the performance of two regimes in terms of economic and social indicators, while the F-test is used to verify the assumptions of equality of variances. Further, its validity is confirmed through ANOVA [17, 18].

2.3 The Sample

The Pakistan Economic Surveys in their various editions (2005, 2004, 2003, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1988) and a book released by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan, were the main sources of information used to compile the data for the selected variables. A convenience sampling technique was employed to select the data. The data was divided into two categories: democratic government and dictatorship regimes, using stratified random sampling.

3. Results and Discussions

The primary concern of this paper is to compare the economic as well as social performances of democratic and Dictatorship governments. For this purpose, the results are given in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Comparison of Socio-economic Indicators of Democratic and Dictatorship Governments

D=Democratic, M=Military

| Indicators | Mean | | SD | | CV | | T-test | | F-Test | |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| | D | M | D | M | D | M | T | P-value | F | P-value |
| E GDP Growth Rate | 4.29 | 5.82 | 1.96 | 1.78 | 45.77 | 30.63 | -2.59 | 0.0135 | 1.22 | 0.6808 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| E Inflation Rate | 12.1 | 7.83 | 5.8 | 4.0 | 48. | 51. | 2.67 | 0.011 | 2.1 | 0.114 |
| | | | 8 | 5 | 57 | 71 | | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| E Head CR | 26.7 | 24.1 | 6.6 | 3.7 | 24. | 15. | 1.51 | 0.138 | 3.2 | 0.015 |
| | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 99 | 45 | | 6 | 1 | 2 |
| S Population | 118. | 114. | 37. | 30. | 32. | 26. | 0.388 | 0.699 | 1.5 | 0.365 |
| | 37 | 14 | 99 | 71 | 09 | 91 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 |
| S Literacy Rate | 38.7 | 38.0 | 13. | 13. | 35. | 34. | 0.153 | 0.878 | 1.0 | 0.874 |
| | 3 | 9 | 63 | 11 | 18 | 41 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| S Life Expectancy | 60.5 | 61.0 | 4.4 | 2.7 | 7.4 | 4.4 | - | 0.672 | 2.7 | 0.037 |
| | 4 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 0.426 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| S Population Growth Rate | 2.55 | 2.74 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 18. | 27. | 0.987 | 0.329 | 0.3 | 0.041 |
| | | | 7 | 5 | 31 | 24 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| S Fertility Rate | 5.41 | 5.51 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 19. | 20. | - | 0.779 | 0.8 | 0.703 |
| | | | 5 | 4 | 36 | 7 | 0.287 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| S Mortality Rate | 132. | 133. | 30. | 26. | 23. | 19. | - | 0.870 | 1.3 | 0.535 |
| | 31 | 79 | 57 | 41 | 1 | 74 | 0.164 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | 6 | | | |

From **Table 1**, we find that the average GDP of a Dictatorship is better than that of Democratic regimes. While the variation in the GDP of dictatorship is smaller than that of Democratic regimes. The coefficient of variation (CV) indicated consistency. From our results, considering CV, we observed that GDP in a Dictatorship is more consistent than that of a Democratic government. The T-test shows that there is a difference between the average GDP of both regimes ($p\text{-value}=0.0135$). While the F-test indicates that there is no statistically significant difference between the two regimes variations. Same as with Inflation rates; variation in inflation rate remained less in Dictatorship tenures as compared to democratic. The average inflation rates of the two regimes differ statistically, according to the T-test ($p\text{-value} = 0.0111$). While the F-test indicated that there is no statistical difference between the variations of both regimes. HRC (Head Count Ratio) remained good in democratic governments. While considering CV, it indicates that a Dictatorship government is more consistent as compared to a democratic government; the T-test indicates that there is no statistical difference ($p\text{-value} = 0.1386$), while the F-test indicates variation in both regimes ($p\text{-value} 0.0152$).

Concerning social indicators: as far as the literacy rate is concerned, the average literacy rate remained a little bit good in democratic regimes as compared to Dictatorship regimes; CV indicates consistency between dictatorship governments; T-test and F-test show that there is no statistically significant difference between the average literacy rates. The average life expectancy rate is better in democratic governments because the smaller value of CV indicates the consistency of dictatorship governments as compared to democratic ones. The T-test shows no statistical difference, while the F-test ($p\text{-value} = 0.0371$) shows a statistical difference between the variations of both regimes. The population growth rate is better in dictatorships. The T-test shows no statistical difference, while the F-test ($p\text{-value} = 0.0415$) shows a statistical difference between the variations of both regimes.

4. Conclusion and Discussion

The T-test and ANOVA test results support the overall findings, which showed a significant difference in the rates of life expectancy and literacy in the two regimes. It is inculcated from our findings that a dictatorship regime is better than a democratic regime. In actuality, though, the dictatorship regime's GDP rate was more valuable than that of a democratic one because of the openness with which the available resources were used. It is observed that the inflation rate was not stable in the Dictatorship regime; therefore, the purchasing power of the nation is better in a democratic regime. The headcount ratio was observed to be better in the Dictatorship regime as compared to democratic governments. The population growth rate remained much better in a democratic regime as compared to a dictatorship regime. However, the population remained under the control of the Dictatorship regime. In the case of the fertility rate, democratic governments remained better, while the mortality rate was good in dictatorship regimes. Three of the nine metrics rate of population growth, the rate of inflation, and the rate of fertility—remained higher under a democratic government than they were under a dictatorship. The progress and prosperity of any nation depend on GDP, so the GDP growth rate was good in the Dictatorship regime. Based on these six economic and social performance measures, it is easy for researchers to predict that two dictatorship regimes were much better than democratic regimes. But based on the findings, we can conclude that, in terms of national development, dictatorship regimes are more suitable than democratic regimes in Pakistan. However, social life continued to be reasonably positive under a democratic government.

5. Declaration Statement

I, Mubashir Rasool, being the 1st and corresponding author declare that:

a. Ethical approval and Consent to participate

All study participants provided informed consent, and the study was carried out with ethical approval.

b. Consent for Publication

All concerned authors have given their consent for the publication of the manuscript.

c. Availability of supporting data

The Pakistan Economic Surveys in their various editions (2005, 2004, 2003, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1988) and a book released by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, Government of Pakistan, were the main sources of information used to compile the data for the selected variables.

d. Competing Interest

The authors declared that they have no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this work.

e. Authors' Contribution

Author 1, contributed to the drafting, making conceptualization of the raw data, data collection, and proofreading of the manuscript, while other authors, contributed their prime efforts for drawing analysis from the available data. All the authors read and approved the manuscript repeatedly.

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