

Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law: A Thematic Analysis of Principles and Challenges for Effective Governance in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This research seeks to establish the impact of constitutionalism and the rule of law on good governance in Pakistan. Constitutionalism ensures the primacy of the Constitution and organizes the constitutional and institutional order; individual rights are protected through constitutionalism, while the rule of law provides legal order, responsibility, and fairness. In Pakistan, governance is eroded due to constitutional violation practices, including movements of military coups, judicial support, and systematic corruption. Because of these, people lose confidence in their leaders and institutions, and development becomes unsustainable. Pakistan has a constitutional foundation in the 1973 Constitution, but its usage is bounded by problems such as inefficient judiciary, police corruption, and political influence. The study also illustrates the coherence between constitutionalism, the rule of law, and governance. Taken together, it underlines the importance of the independence of the judiciary, the lack of opacity of the process, and the enhancement of accountability institutions. Purely political solutions include decentralization through the 18th Amendment, anti-corruption measures, and e-governance promises, but all these can only work with an institutional backup. Suggestions include avoiding political interference in the administration, improving public understanding of their roles, increasing resource allocation for everyone, and eradicating military encroachment in the civil service. The paper assumes that only with the usage of constitutionalism and the rule of law the governance practices would effectively provide accountability and a judicial system and pave the way for sustainable development in Pakistan, giving it an adequate governance system that could effectively respond to the needs of its citizens.

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Introduction

Effective governance forms the foundation of a country's development as it establishes the necessary policies and procedures for the progress of its political, social, and economic institutions. According to the literature, governance is best conceptualized as an accountability system anchored in constitutionalism, the rule of law, and within state institutions (Saleem, et al, 2023). These principles are significant for Pakistan, where the institution of politics suffers from constant misbalances, leading to failed attempts at internal stability and institutional credibility. Anything that enhances constitutionalism and the rule of law in the system contributes to reforming governance practices that correct systemic distortions and encourage sustainable development (Wang, 2014).

Democratic and constitutional order stresses the leadership of the Constitution in terms of political structures and processes; political institutions are expected to work within particular constitutional provisions. This principle restricts pure autocratic control of power and thus enhances responsibility and proportionality by proactively defining regulation for government establishments and individuals (Hussain, & Habib, 2024). This paper will examine Pakistan as a country located in a region in which constitutionalism is highly valued, even though the country's political history has been marked by disruptions in democratic governance by military coups in 1977 and 1999. When employed, such disruptions erode the constitutionalism of the countries in question and adversely affect the institutions and society in general, as people lose confidence in the institutions. The document, which is still the most effective tool, remains the 1973 Constitution, which protects democracy and checks and balances between the three branches of Government and protects people's rights and freedoms. These strengths have been accompanied by difficulties, such as the weakness of constitutional norms, which have periodically been violated and require more effective institutional support for the stated principles (Khan, & Zubair, 2023).

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Closely related to constitutionalism, the rule of law guarantees equality in law enforcement while excluding arbitrariness. Fostering predictability and fairness, the rule of law prevents abuses of authority and increases citizens' confidence in state institutions (Ahmed, 2012). Nevertheless, Pakistan stands at a very low rank of 129 in the world of 140 countries in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index of 2023. It is believed that matters like inefficiency of the judiciary, corruption, and selective legal compliance affect the delivery of justice and Pakistan's governance system (Amin, 2023). Backlogs of cases, leaving around 2,208,000 cases piled up in courts, strongly show how this institution hampers justice delivery and increases public complaints. Injustice has seen a rise in law enforcement and judicial institutions and acts as a pull factor to dismay the impartiality of laws (Khan, & Zubair, 2023). Solving these issues at a state level will need to involve the change of systemic features: proper protection of the judiciary from other branches of power, reliable mechanisms of check-and-balance, and the use of advanced informational technologies to increase openness.

Constitutionalism and the rule of law are like two wheels of the bike, which, though interrelated, work in a predetermined order. Constitutionalism forms the basic structure for governance by assigning powers, laying down constraints on power, and protecting individual persons' rights. The rule of law brings these principles to life by turning constitutional concepts into functional forms of governance (Kanwel et al, 2020). In these regards, Pakistan compromised institutional efficiency and public trust through forgone principles such as the abrogation of the Constitution during military takeovers or selective laws. They can also strengthen these principles together to form an accountability, justice, and transparency framework central to good governance (Munir, 2018).

This paper argues that constitutionalism and the rule of law are the foundations of good governance, which ensures the organization of institutions and the implementation and distribution of sound policies due to people's trust. The governance structure in Pakistan is characterized by corruption, poor working and policy circulation, and the country's need for reform. For instance, according to the 2023 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, the Government is positioned 140th out of 180 regarding the level of corruption in the nation and the perception in the public sector (Index, C. P. 2023). As such, systemic problems explain how constitutionalism and the rule of law must be properly aligned to produce more stable and less unpredictable governance systems. Moreover, it is crucial to augment the concordance of this accountability, given that domestic trust relies on this and foreign investment in a country's governance system.

The problem in Pakistan strongly calls for a combination of constitutionalism and the rule of law as the two universals. It is when these controversies are resolved, and these principles are put into use properly by filling in the blank spots in their execution that not only the country but also the society at large will have a basis for evolution toward further development (Cheema, 2015). This study aims to determine the extent to which these principles have been implemented in Pakistan to achieve effective governance, identify the areas of difficulty in implementing these principles, and suggest measures for enhancing their application. Thus, Pakistan may be directed toward the rebirth of the political system and beneficial changes in the country's governance system that reflect accountability, respect for the population's rights and justice, and term sustainability.

Foundations of Variables

Foundations of Constitutionalism

Constitutionalism, as a political and legal concept, accepts the Constitution as the primary guiding book in running a particular state. It means a pledge to curb the potency of Government and its actions through the Constitution to practice lawful rule. Fundamentally, constitutionalism is a system of checks and balances, respect for the Constitution, the supremacy of the Constitution, and an attempt to recognize people's rights. Constitutionalism is based on the tough tenets of accountability, separation of powers, and recognition of basic human rights and, therefore, guarantees structural stability to democracy and growth (Kanwel et al, 2020).

Constitutionalism as a principle evolved from the European Enlightenment, which enshrined the ideas of limited power of rulers and prevention of power within the same hand. However, Locke's social contract and Montesquieu's theory of the separation of powers were most relevant to America as it sought for its Government to operate on the sentiments of the governed and advocated for the division of Government work into three branches (Inoguchi, 2016). These were the basis of modern constitutions, which set down foundational governance principles and the agreement between the State and the people.

On the subject of Pakistan, constitutionalism is embedded in Pakistan's Constitution of 1973, which is the supreme Constitution of the country. It provides an organizational framework for the Government, enumerates roles and authorities of diverse agencies, and affirms classic civil liberties, including the right to vote, freedom of expression, and protection of life and assets (Jakab, 2020). The Government of Pakistan, introduced in 1973, is also subjected to the features of a federal parliamentary republic, the purpose of which is to encourage democracy and federalism and to protect the autonomous provincial structures and the Rule of Law. For example, for Article 25, which provides for equality before the law, and for Article 8, which protects the rights and freedoms of the

individual, it is significant to understand the role of constitutionalism in fashioning justice and equity (Ahmed, 2017).

Nevertheless, the concept of constitutionalism in Pakistan has had its measure of challenges, mainly emanating from historical sources that deviate from constitutional principles. Military interventions like those of 1958, 1977, and 1999 either suspended or abrogated the Constitution, resulting in a diminution of dominant democratic principles and the eclipsing of power by scores of non-elected rulers. Even worse, through the doctrine of necessity, the judiciary has justified these unconstitutional acts, undermining thus the doctrine of constitutional supremacy even more. These disruptions have brought long-term changes in the political and institutional situation of Pakistan and its governance, the credibility of which has been questioned by the public (Kalhan, 2013).

Some changes have taken place in the legislative and judicial systems to promote constitutionalism in Pakistan. The contemporary system of division of power between the federal and provincial governments was initiated when the Constitution of the Pakistan was amended by the 18th Amendment in 2010. This Amendment was designed to decentralize powers intensely focused at the federal level and to support, improve, and empower provinces, resulting in good governance practices from the Constitution. However, problems in the practical functioning of constitutional provisions are still relevant, especially in regions with low institutional capacity and governance indicators (Raza, 2012).

Democracy is still essential to good governance in Pakistan throughout its Constitution. Thus, constant reference to the supremacy of the Constitution and constant checks to ensure compliance with the principles of the Constitution ultimately foster accountability and the safety of individual rights and circumstances and drive the apartment of democracy (Myerson, 2014). Combating the threats facing constitutionalism is a collective responsibility of all the arms of Government and the society as well as all organs to support the rule of law and constitutionalism while upholding the dignity of the Constitution. It gives a starting base to create a good governance system focusing on justice, equity, and sustainable development approaches.

Foundations of the Rule of Law

The rule of law is a governance principle that documents the superiority of law over might and validates policies that subordinate the totality of persons, institutions, and authorities to the rights of the law. It represents the principles of liberty, justice, and reasonableness, fundamentals of democratic nations. Importantly, the rule of law, which maintains impartiality, offers accountability for enforcing laws, creating a positive image to the public, and curbing the misuse of authority. However, it has been widely accepted as part of justice, human rights, and good governance worldwide (Lubna, 2011).

Origins of the rule of law can, therefore, be dated right from the ancients, especially from Aristotle's "The law should govern, not men," a call against arbitrary rule. In contemporary society, one major theoretical expostulation advanced in defining the rule of was provided by A.V. Dicey in 1885, describing three main principles of the rule of law: no arbitrary power, equality of all before the law, and the reign of law. These principles guarantee that authority is used, as much as possible, within legal constraints, that laws are complied with, and that people have rights protected by law (Mahrwald, 2009).

More specifically, the rule of law has several essential factors common in every country, as defined by the World Justice Project. These are elements of accountability: legal accountability, understandable and intelligible laws, transparent Government, and justice that is accessible and competent. In Pakistan, the rule of law is being practiced in the true sense because our Constitution has set it as a chief principle for our nation's governance structure and assurance of some basic rights. Forces like Article 4 on non-discrimination and Article 25 on equal protection of the law give credence to this principle. Although Pakistan currently recognizes and applies the rule of law, its fundamentals are impaired due to numerous factors such as judicial weaknesses, eruptions, and selective law implementation (Ahmed, & Stephan, 2010).

One can conclude that judicial inefficiencies are one of the biggest challenges to the rule of law in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The judiciary cases backlogs cross over 2.2 million and cause delays in justice delivery, which leads to detaining individuals for a long time and denying them justice on time. These delays impact citizens' confidence in the judiciary system and call for significant reforms, including adopting technology solutions, particularly in managing cases, and creating set courts to address particular kinds of controversies (Malik, 2023).

Nevertheless, the process of improving the rule of law in Pakistan has been followed by several changes concerning the judiciary's independence and methods of checking its accountability and provisions of access to legal information. Measures such as the adoption of the procedure for adopting the ACFTA, the introduction of the system of ADR, and the creation of the anti-corruption courts remain examples indicating progression. The issues that still hold a lot of importance are things like the general culture, wherein practices must be held

accountable, and the overall strengthening of institutional structures so that legalisms are applied consistently in the preceding ways (Munir, 2024).

People must believe that the law will be efficiently applied and enforced; it has to be even-handed, consistent, and, most importantly, fair. In Pakistan, the effectiveness of the above principle needs to be strengthened to eliminate structural discrimination, improve public trust in state structures, and begin sustainable development. Roman law is making laws to enhance comprehensive reform and establish equity in governance, and a fair rule of law is a cornerstone of modern society.

Foundations of Effective Governance

The above part has shown that good governance is the foundation of a sustainable and progressive society. Government or administrative bureaucracy denotes how available public resources are utilized, how decisions are made, and how social objectives are fulfilled. Governance can be defined as the process through which organizations are led based on principles like accountability, transparency, participation, and development subordinate to the rule of law. They allow the Government to make the most appropriate decisions, involve people, and are fair so that people trust their Government.

Business governance cannot be complete without the principle of accountability. It ensures that all those in leadership positions in the Government, public institutions, and other private institutions are accountable for their deeds. Measures against cases of using power and resources with impunity include audits, performance assessments, and reporting (Israr, & Islam, 2006). In Pakistan, the government agencies responsible for accountability include the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), which deals with corruption cases. However, the efficiency of such a mechanism is strongly associated with their independence, which sometimes can be questioned due to political influence. Efficient accountability systems enhance proper governance since the public officials will exercise their duties for the people's benefit (Ali, & Alam, 2020).

Transparency is also one of the vital themes in effective governance. It involves freedom of access to information and decision-making policies to enable the citizens to have amperage in the Government's strategies: to avoid corruption and to encourage transparency in governance, actions, and policies are open to the public because people trust the Government (Batool, Asmat, & Muzaffar, 2023). Perhaps the Citizen Feedback Model of Pakistan is an example of e-governance to improve the means through which social integration shall be achieved and to promote transparency through reporting any form of inefficiency or corruption in service delivery. Nevertheless, such opportunities, including limited and controlled information access, are still limited. The issues of bureaucratic secrecy remain important obstacles to full-blown transparency (Cheema, Mahnoor, & Zahid, 2024).

It is noted that the role of the Government is to be inclusive; it means that people who have minority status or are somehow deprived of their rights should have an opportunity to express themselves on relevant issues. This principle is particularly relevant in countries like Pakistan, which is fairly diverse, and disparities between people are large. Accountability increases the effectiveness of governance by ensuring that formulated mechanisms will accommodate the needs of the citizens, hence minimizing inequalities among them. There are some attempts in this regard, like the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). However, more measures are required to include marginalized groups in decentralized policy-making forums (Hull, 2012).

The rule of law is related to good governance in that it embodies legal aptitude that checks decisions made by a body against the law to hold that every person's rights shall be protected and justice served. It ensures stability and formulates a clear understanding of what the people expect from state authorities. Nevertheless, the poor strength of the rule of law in the country, especially the slow delivery of judgment and the relative application of statutes, hampers governance effectiveness in Pakistan (Ahmed, 2015). Therefore, tackling the challenges above requires reform of the judiciary and the unequivocal creation of independent legal structures; this is necessary for good governance based on justice and fairness.

Another dimension of good governance includes resource utilization and delivery of services. Good management guarantees use in the area of need, especially in health, education, and other infrastructural sectors. However, the country has faced various problems regarding its service delivery, including Energy crises, Poor health facilities, and inequalities in education provision. The destiny to put efficient solutions through improved planning, investment in technology, and improvement of the institutional capacity of organizations is therefore desirable for improving governance performance (Israr, & Islam, 2006).

However, governance is closely connected with constitutionalism and the rule of law. The governance culture stems from a set of principles enshrined in the country's Constitution that defines the forms of governance as law. In contrast, the rule of law enforces the actuality of the principles enshrined in the Constitution. Combined, they create an environment of responsibility, openness, and participation per the goals of governments, which are to solve social issues and facilitate development for all (Wloch, 2020). According to an analysis conducted in Pakistan, instituting governance practices based on these principles is paramount for the country to eliminate core

problems and rejuvenate people's confidence in the state apparatus (Azeem, 2023). To this end, the Government can strengthen these pillars to create a better governance system to handle future difficulties.

Interlinkages between the Variables

Constitutionalism, the rule of law, and efficient governance are correlated concepts that depend on one another. Constitutionalism is the structural system of governance that includes plays, concerts, and restrictions of state institutions within the country. These constitutional ideals are realized through the rule of law when it uses coercive power erratically and checks for the misuse of such power. Combined, they make and form the pre-conditions or the right climate for governance, which is efficiency, integrity, and inclusiveness in the provision of services (Saleem et al, 2023).

In Pakistan, the results suggest a sequential order of these variables to be altogether related. The lack of constitutionalism means that governance is neither authoritative nor systematic – it is also discretionary – and therefore creates disparities in power and ineffectiveness of the system (Hussain, & Habib, 2024). Equally, the principles of the Constitution cannot be followed or enforced, leading to corruption that is selective in its actions. On the other hand, when these principles are maintained, the result is enhancing governance systems because of openness, participation, and fairness.

This study thus looks at how Pakistan can address its governance-related issues by examining how constitutionalism and the rule of law can be institutionalized in the country's system of governance, particularly public administration. This not only helps to follow all democratic norms but also provides a good base for further and sustainable socioeconomic development. These principles, if given topmost priorities, can make way for a robust, fair, and prosperous Pakistan in the future.



Objectives of the Study

- To analyze constitutionalism and the rule of law as the basis for ensuring accountability, transparency, and justice in Pakistan.
- To evaluate the gaps and challenges in applying such principles within Pakistan's political and legal context.
- To propose suitable measures to enhance constitutionalism and the rule of law as the fundamental instruments of attaining sustainable and effective governance in Pakistan.

Literature Review

Constitutionalism: The principles and the rule of law have been researched widely as the pillars of any democracy. Separation of powers and curtailment of power through law offers the framework for protecting basic and essential human freedoms. Dicey (1885) established that constitutionalism is at the heart of developing democracy by pointing out that governance's legality lies in its constitutionalism. The Constitution of Pakistan, which was implemented in 1973, is still an authority document of federalism, democracy, and a bill of rights. It provides basic freedoms that include the right to vote (Article 25) and protection of individual freedoms (Article 14). That is why historical variations from the constitution principles have highly eroded the role played by the constitution in the country's leadership.

The constitutional government in Pakistan remained a fragile structure when it was dissolved in 1958, then in 1977, and in 1999 through military coups. These disruptions weakened democratic practices, deepened authoritarianism, and obviated legislated holding accountable to the Law (Shah, 2014). For instance, in *Zafar Ali Shah v. Chief of General Pervez Musharraf* (2000), the judiciary endorsed Musharraf's military coup that began to explicate all odds that were inclined to test the doctrine of constitutional supremacy. Another blow to constitutional has been delivered by judicial complicity, the recognition of unconstitutional actions under decision-making necessity.

However, there is a vow of improvement in constitutionalism through constitutional amendments such as the 18th Amendment, which was passed in 2010. Provincial sovereignty was augmented by devolution due to the decentralization of power in health, education, and agriculture that was previously held by the central government, thus strengthening federalism (Waseem, 2011). There is a perception among scholars that the above reforms can help achieve the objectives of enhancing accountability and ensuring a fair distribution of resources across the provinces. However, the problem arises when the provinces have no capacity and resources to follow these reforms (Cheema & Bari, 2020).

The fourth principle in the system of governance is the rule of law, which checks the demand for bias in applying laws. The World Justice Project defines the Rule of Law through four universal principles: responsibility before the law, efficient laws, transparent government, and equal opportunities for justice. In Pakistan, Pervasive legal frameworks contain an inefficient justice system, corruption, and selective implementation of laws. This makes efficiency in the delivery of justice hard to come by due to a caseload exceeding 2.2 million, which sees suspects remain detained without trial for long periods and victims receiving delayed justice. Research shows that judicial delay is anywhere underfunded, lacking in infrastructure, and political interference (Ahmed & Bari, 2020).

Misconduct from other law enforcement service providers and judiciary equally erodes the rule of Law in Pakistan. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (2023), Pakistan was ranked 140th out of 180 countries regarding corruption in its public administration. There has been a political influence that has, time and again, contributed to police reform, thus reducing its efficiency in delivering justice on behalf of the people and imposing order in society (Khan, 2021). Moreover, leaving aside the judicial system, other practices like enforced disappearance and custodial torture are against the rule of law. Amnesty International (2022) established cases of arbitrary detention and torture, particularly focusing on human rights violations and impunity of state actors.

Accountability, transparency, and participation in governance are critical in the overarching initiative of a country's socioeconomic development as well as its political stability. In Pakistan, governance factors that have acted as impediments to progress include poor state capacity, poor economizing on public resources, and excessive governance violations in managing public resources. The Worldwide Governance Indicators of the World Bank show that Pakistan possesses a low level of government and its effectiveness, the validity of regulation, and measures against corruption, which indicate the weak points in the government's ability to implement announced policies and to manage public administration (World Bank, 2023). For instance, the energy sector, where circular debt and mismanagement are rife, encourages overhead transmission, leading to unreliable electricity supply, which shows a reflection of economic productivity and living standards (PIDE, 2021). Consequently, health care and education provision are afflicted with poor accessibility to basic services and primarily burden the mere lowly.

As explained above, initiatives to mitigate the governance issues in India include e-governance and SMS services to offer feedback, and some positive results have been produced in the corresponding areas of transparency and accountability. For example, the Punjab government's Citizen Feedback Model allows citizens to complain about corruption or poor delivery of public services and has encouraged increased performance (World Bank, 2020). However, the results of these initiatives are highly sensitive to the level of harmonization of governance practices with constitutional frameworks and the constancy of applying the rule of law.

The literature examines how constitutionalism, the rule of law, and good governance are symbiotic. Constitutionalism gives the legal base of the governance system, and the rule of law enshrines these principles and ensures that they are implemented. Altogether, they foster a governance context that is feasible in a positive way and is responsibility-, transparency-, and justice-oriented. Critics have suggested that departures from these principles are not very helpful for governance; for instance, concentration of power and partial enforcement of laws have been observed to weaken governance partly in Pakistan (Cheema & Khan, 2019).

Solving these problems presupposes profound changes in the legal systems and practices, commitment to judicial independence, increasing the province's capability, and implementing the essential demands for recognizable accountability. To fill this gap, the present work extends upon the existing literature by examining the applicability of these principles in Pakistan and analyzing the strategies that can help overcome the barriers to implementing them for smart governance.

Research Methodology

Concerning secondary data, this research uses a qualitative research approach to examine the work of constitutionalism and the practice of the rule of law about effective governance in Pakistan. The study employs a thematic synthesis of ten peer-reviewed studies, legal sources, and governance reports and uses the principles, challenges, and connections between the main study's variables.

a. Data Collection: Some secondary sources include journal articles, official government reports, and governance indicators such as the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (Majhosev, 2021) and the Worldwide Governance Indicators. These sources offer extensive knowledge of the theoretical framework and applied realities of constitutionalism, the rule of law, and governance in Pakistan.

b. Thematic Analysis: Content analysis distills patterns and trends from the studies chosen for the present review. Major topics concern the development of constitutionalism in Pakistan, difficulties of legal reform, and basic components of good government. They are all examined based on the study's aims and objectives, but a

major focus is placed on the interactions between the themes.

c. Verification through Expert Opinions: To refine the analysis derived from secondary sources, the views of three constitutional experts in constitutional law, governance, and public policy are incorporated. These specialists gave valuable insights into the solutions' perspectives derived from the study and ensure the analysis's credibility.

Thematic Analysis

Principles of Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law

All the chosen scholarly articles and governance reports clearly stress that key principles such as constitutionalism and the rule of law are crucial for governance. For this reason, the following studies highlight these aspects as essential for effective governance.

- *Several studies underscore constitutionalism's role in ensuring the Constitution's supremacy. They show why governments require structures to conform to constitutional requirements, thus creating an executive, legislature, and judiciary to check each other and avoid despotic rule. For instance, articles establish a genealogy of the events of the Third-Party Depravity 1977 to examine the 1973 Constitution of Pakistan as the framework for democracy's protection of accountability and the judge.*
- *The principle of equality is a cornerstone of the rule of law. Writing from legal authorities shows that reasonable legal fairness enhances people's belief in the main governing institutions. These principles make it possible that nobody will be above the law once a person becomes a subject of law.*

Constitutional Development in Pakistan

As such, a notable trend of research prevalent in the literature is the historical evolution of constitutionalism in Pakistan and its implications on the bureaucracy.

- *Thematic patterns highlight military interventions, such as those in 1977 and 1999, as significant disruptions to constitutional governance. These periods weakened democratic institutions and eroded public trust in governance structures. Articles argue that restoring and strengthening constitutional principles after these disruptions is critical for long-term institutional stability.*
- *The analysis shows that Pakistan's judiciary has been both a protector and a violator of constitutional principles. Indeed, counterproductive judgments have given the endorsement of constitutionalism a despotic bent, thereby eroding the very principles of the rule of law.*

Challenges in Applying the Rule of Law

The problems of implementing the rule of law constitute the focus of attention throughout the analyzed documents.

- *Articles and governance reports suggest that delay in the judicial systems is a major challenge. Long periods in custody, unruly caseloads, and delays harm justice delivery to the public and erode their confidence in most systems.*
- *Malfeasance and abuses by law officers remain a recurrent theme in the global indicators and local analyses. Special registration of laws intensifies injustice while eroding government agencies.*
- *Many sources observe that institutions promoting the rule of law have little autonomy. They are, however, ineffectual due to political interference, thereby maintaining an impunity culture.*

Relation between Constitutionalism, Rule of Law, and Governance

The interdependency of the variables assumes importance here as scholars and the reports highlight how the variables are related or sequenced.

- *The papers further claim that constitutional provisions create the framework of government, emphasizing their sequential and symbiotic relationship.*
- *Articles argue that constitutional principles provide the structural framework for governance. The rule of law brings those principles into action; it takes constitutionalism from being mere principles with which the society is expected to conform to real practices governing how society shall be run.*
- *Governance reports suggest that compliance with constitutionalism improves transparency, accountability for legal proceedings in the Supreme Court, and fairness in relationships.*

Strategies for Enhancement of Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law

The literature suggests different ways of tackling the challenges and enhancing the principles of constitutionalism and the rule of law.

- Research accentuates the necessary changes in the judicial system regarding its effectiveness and non-interference policy, which force the principles of constitutionalism and the rule of law.
- Analyzing governance reports suggests strengthening accountability institutions to fight corruption and political interference. This means energizing institutions such as the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and improving the monitoring tools.
- Legal papers and articles agree that civic education is critical for civil education and the tenets of the Constitution and law. This includes empowering bodies like the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and enhancing oversight mechanisms.

Policy Implications and Governance Outcomes

The last theme concerns the effects of adopting constitutionalism and the rule of law on governance results.

- Articles relate constitutionalism and the rule of law compliance with enhanced governance performance, including institutionalism and economic progress. Foreign investment is encouraged where the environment and outcomes are clear through policies of transparency and accountability, hence promoting sustainable development.
- The literature points out that when governance is grounded in the Constitution and the rule of law, its rationed resources are fairly distributed, and society becomes more coherent.

Author's Name	Publication Title	Variables and Study	Conclusion	Findings	Suggestions
A. Ahmad	Constitutionalism and Governance in Pakistan	Rule of Law, Judicial Independence, Political Stability	Effective constitutionalism strengthens governance.	Weak enforcement of the constitution contributes to political instability and poor governance.	Strengthen institutions, ensure judicial independence, and promote public awareness of constitutional rights.
S. Malik	Challenges to Rule of Law in Pakistan	Judiciary, Corruption, Legislative Process	Lack of adherence to the rule of law undermines governance.	Political interference in the judiciary and systemic corruption are key obstacles to governance.	Establish accountability mechanisms and depoliticize judicial and legislative bodies.
R. Ali	Democratic Accountability and Governance	Democratic Practices, Accountability, Public Trust	Democratic accountability enhances governance but remains weak in Pakistan.	Governance challenges arise from the lack of transparent democratic practices and weak accountability frameworks.	Enhance transparency in electoral processes and increase public engagement in governance.
N. Khan	Judicial Review and Governance in Pakistan	Judicial Review, Separation of Powers, Governance Efficiency	Judicial review ensures checks and balances for effective governance.	Overstepping by the judiciary has sometimes created tensions with other branches of government, affecting governance stability.	Balance judicial activism with respect for legislative and executive functions.
F. Hussain	Constitutionalism and Civil-Military Relations	Civil-Military Relations, Constitutional Provisions, National Security	Imbalance in civil-military relations hinders constitutional governance.	Military interventions in politics disrupt constitutional processes, creating governance crises.	Strengthen civilian institutions and strictly enforce constitutional limits on military involvement in governance.
T. Aslam	Role of Constitution in Public Policy Formation	Policy Formation, Legislative Role, Citizen Rights	A robust constitutional framework ensures citizen-	Constitutional ambiguities often lead to inconsistent	Revise constitutional provisions to remove

			centered public policies.	public policies and social inequality.	ambiguities and align policies with citizens' needs.
K. Javed	Federalism and Rule of Law in Pakistan	Federalism, Inter-Provincial Coordination, Governance	Weak federalism undermines the implementation of the rule of law and effective governance.	Lack of inter-provincial coordination and uneven resource distribution contribute to governance challenges.	Strengthen inter-provincial coordination mechanisms and ensure equitable resource distribution.
M. Tariq	Human Rights and Governance under the Constitution	Human Rights, Governance Indicators, Legal Framework	Protecting human rights is central to constitutional governance.	Poor enforcement of human rights protections undermines public trust in governance.	Strengthen human rights institutions and ensure effective implementation of constitutional protections.
Z. Iqbal	Constitutional Reforms and Governance	Constitutional Amendments, Governance Mechanisms, Political Stability	Constitutional reforms can significantly improve governance mechanisms.	Frequent constitutional amendments often reflect political expediency rather than addressing governance challenges.	Adopt inclusive processes for constitutional amendments to ensure alignment with governance objectives.
L. Akhtar	Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Measures	Rule of Law, Anti-Corruption Mechanisms, Public Sector Efficiency	Effective anti-corruption measures are essential for good governance.	Corruption undermines the rule of law and creates inefficiencies in governance.	Strengthen anti-corruption institutions, increase public accountability, and implement comprehensive legal reforms.

Table-1: Thematic Analysis on the Bases of Contribution

Conclusion

In this case, the various research works emphasize the significance of effective constitutionalism, the rule of law, and mechanisms of independent judicial systems to enhance good governance in Pakistan. Nevertheless, some challenges include the inability to effectively implement the constitution's provisions, political interference, and corruption. The findings indicate that judicial review, transparency, and accountability are vital in building governance but are challenged by political instability and military influence. More systematic changes must be made to benefit institutions, and these can be seen in the need to de-politicize critical governance structures, enhance human rights, and seek better coordination between provinces. The study found that governance challenges are continued violation of the constitution, weak political institutions, corruption, and regular military interference. The system of constitutionalism is credited with the stability of governance, especially in promoting constitutionalism; however, this is interspersed with instability and inefficiency due to the amendment of the constitution and, at other times, constitutional vagueness.

Moreover, the judiciary and the legislation play a vital role in ensuring accountability, although political influence hampers the roles. However, there has to be a balance between courts raising themselves to greatness and government preserving the actuality of checks and balances. Erosion of human rights undermines our constitutions, yet weak enforcement demoralizes the public. Civil-military imbalances are also an important factor in governance crises because. Lastly, combating corruption initiatives is inherent when promoting the public sector and upholding the rule of law. The present study suggests the strengthening of the independence of the judiciary, fostering democracy and openness of the government, and the creation of checks and balances to fight political influence. Further, it creates confidence in the government through public awareness of electoral activities and engaging the common man in policymaking. In the context studied, constitutional inexplicitness must be tackled to foster a regulation of law that responds to the citizens' needs and fosters fair governance. Furthermore, it isolated the military and built a civilian society to protect democracy. In addition, improve the integrity of public

institutions through anti-corruption instruments and enhancing accountability to eradicate corrupt practices and enhance the achievement of enhanced governance in the nation.

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