



RESEARCH PAPER

Need of Judicial Reforms in Pakistan: Ensuring Accountability and Transparency in Courts

¹Danish Bashir Mangi*, ²Liaquat Ali Magsi and ³Umair Ali

1. Lecturer and In-Charge Chairman at Department of Law, University of Sindh, Jamshoro and Ph.D. (Law) Scholar, Dadabhoy, Institute of Higher Education, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan
2. LL.M. (Final) Institute of Law, Metharam Building, University of Sindh, Jamshoro
3. LL.B. (Honors), LL.M. students at Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of technology, USA

***Corresponding Author:** danish.mangi@usindh.edu.pk

ABSTRACT

A strong legal system, founded on the sacred principles of justice, forms the bedrock of a civilized society. Unfortunately, Pakistan's legal framework has not kept pace with the burgeoning demands of its people, leading to a backlog of cases, delayed justice, and widespread disillusionment. The primary objective of this paper is to give those reforms which can help in reducing the burden of cases since there are approximately more than two million cases that are undergoing trial in Pakistani courts. Justice in Pakistan has become a myth and an unaccessible tool due to delay in justice which is basically its denial and some of the reasons are discussed in this Article. The methodology used in this paper is Doctrinal and data is collected from Various Books, Articles, blogs and news papers. In Pakistan, Justice has become both a dream and an impossible goal so at first instance the research discuss the need of reforms, Secondly The study differentiate the reasons in non delivery of justice and delayed delivery of justice, In result this Article contributes in minimizing the culture of Adjournments and system of unaccountability in Pakistan specially in lower courts, so the justice can be prevailed, In the end it suggests the Practical Reforms in a very detail for revival of justice in Pakistan.

KEYWORDS Backlog of Cases, Delays in Justice, Denial in Justice, Judicial Reforms, Judicial Efficiency

Introduction

Justice is the root of human existence. Without justice, people cannot be regarded as human beings. This is because if the people of a society do not receive justice, chaos and immorality will arise. Week after week of delays in delivering judgments is gradually eroding people's confidence and expectations in the courts (Bilal& Khokhar, 2021).The inability of the system to adapt and evolve has created a chasm between the promise of justice and its actual delivery, thus undermining the very fabric of Pakistani society. Furthermore Article 37(d) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, guarantees all Pakistanis have the right to access justice without delay. Therefore, prompt and fair resolution of cases is essential to the realization of this fundamental right. According to the World Justice Project's 2024 Rule of Law Index, Pakistan ranks 129th out of 140 countries in the world. Meanwhile, it ranks 5th out of six countries in South Asia. Such figures point to a significant failure of the judicial system in delivering justice and maintaining law and order (Nisar,2023).

Every country that seeks peace and stability for its people must ensure that justice is delivered promptly. Because justice directly affects the lives of the vast

majority of people who jointly build society. In addition, timely justice plays an important role in maintaining social peace and building trust in the judicial system. Every member of society is entitled to equal judicial services in a timely convenient manner to develop and maintain social harmony, according to Zafeer et al. 2020. Pakistan's judiciary is facing many challenges that affect its ability to deliver justice on time and in a fair manner. The biggest challenge is the backlog of cases, which has been estimated at over 2 million by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan 2023 (Zafeer, Xue, Maqbool 2020).

These detentions are prolonged and deprive citizens of their rights. In addition, judicial procedures are often unclear, leading to perceptions of corruption and disrespect (Transparency International Pakistan, 2022). Limited access to justice, especially in rural and underserved areas, exacerbates these problems (United Nations Development Programme Pakistan, 2021). Judicial independence is another important aspect, as political interference can undermine the integrity of the justice system (World Justice Project, 2024). To overcome all these challenges, several innovative solutions have been devised in this Article that have never been proposed in previous ones.

Literature Review

Pakistan's justice system has been the subject of much research and criticism due to inefficiency, delays, and systemic problems. Meanwhile, many scholars have analyzed these shortcomings of the justice system but fail to present practical solutions tailored to the needs of Pakistan. While these criticisms are well-informed, they fail to specify reforms that can feed into them as well as provide a framework for their implementation. The review culminates by summarizing the findings of the current research and highlighting areas for further research.

Some of the Authors in their article "Justice is Not Enough: The Myth of Justice in Pakistan" criticize the delays and inefficiency of the courts, highlighting the organizational and procedural shortcomings that lead to significant delays in the courts. Their work comprehensively analyzes the causes of outdated laws, insufficient judicial resources, and institutional inefficiency, but does not cover changes such as comprehensive reform programs, the introduction of technology, special training programs for judges, or improvements in the procedures (Bilal and Khokhar, 2001).

Similarly Syeda Saima Shabbir (2022) has called for legal reforms to address the backlogs in the criminal justice system, particularly outdated colonial laws and administrative shortcomings. But like others, there is no roadmap for implementing reforms such as digital tools or other dispute resolution mechanisms. Research Policy Development (n.d.) has examined social and political barriers to access, including client needs and financial constraints, but the evidence for improving access to justice remains to be seen (Shabbir, S.S. 2022).

In addition, many authors who have studied Challenges of access to justice, including Justice (R) Dr. Munir Ahmad Mughal (2012) in his book, Access to Justice in Pakistan, examine barriers to access to justice, such as procedural imbalances and inadequate legal frameworks, especially for marginalized groups. While he emphasizes the importance of strengthening the rights of defendants, his analysis does not provide specific measures to improve access to legal services, such as improved infrastructure, technical assistance, or financial assistance to communities (Mughal, MA 2012).

Similarly, a Pakistani blogger, “The Pursuit of Justice” Development Policy Research Consortium (n.d.) explores in depth barriers to access to justice, including nepotism and institutional inefficiency. Criticisms about social and financial barriers were highlighted, but proposals for reform (e.g., improving physical and financial access) remained high, while no housing-related measures or new initiatives were proposed (Development Policy Research Alliance, n.d.).

Moreover Umar Ijaz Gilani (2024) *Economic Impact of Judicial Delays*, In his look at the political economy of justice in Pakistan, he analyses the social and economic consequences of delays, particularly how the system discriminates against genuine investors due to colonial laws. Although the study sheds more light on the issue, its focus is on examining the problem rather than proposing some changes: for example, by changing the law or special courts for commercial disputes to properly treat all types of investors (Gilani, U. I.2024)

In addition, the author also points out that institutional and legal gaps lead to delays in the delivery of justice, resulting in inefficiencies in the legal system and participation in the law. While it calls for systemic changes, such as case management systems and reduction of case backlogs, the work does not detail how these improvements would be implemented, such as using technology or training court professionals. *Modern Case Management Systems* (Javaid, M.A. (n.d)).

Finally, the author discusses digital transformation and looks into the digital transformation of the judiciary in Pakistan by identifying initiatives that are aimed at digitizing the legal system. These include the e-court system and the NJAC. The study points out the capabilities of such technologies as machine learning, blockchain, and artificial intelligence towards efficiency, transparency, and making access possible; it also shows that delays and bottlenecks in judicial services are common problems in rural regions. However, with infrastructure gaps and even security concerns, the study visualizes a future that technology can bring into and help create an effective, inclusive, and transparent legal system for Pakistan (Khan, I.A. 2021).

The existing literature focuses mainly on areas of shortcomings and criticisms with a strong potential for reform. Most of the problems like inefficiency, lack of accessibility to the court, and delay in the court proceedings are very well documented; however, strategies to address these issues are very sparse. For instance, while digital transformation is often discussed, there is a lack of information on how to integrate technology into existing judicial processes, including staff training, infrastructure improvements, and sustainable financing options. While judicial training is often touted, little is said about the establishment of partnerships with international institutions or the implementation of evaluation systems to ensure the effectiveness of such programs. Moreover, the available literature hardly deals with complex issues like measuring juror effectiveness, psychological support, or strategies to reduce minor delays caused by lawyers.

Material and Methods

This research study conducted Doctrinal Research Methodology, which is a particular research approach of analyzing and explaining existing laws, policies, or legal principles in the system of law. Through the data-gathering process and relevant information on secondary sources-such as paper research, blog, newspaper and previously published data on various sites-it gives profound insight into how the

current position of the judiciary in Pakistan seems to be emerging. These sources, sourced from reputable academic databases, online libraries, research journals, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international institutions, were carefully analyzed and interpreted to identify key themes, patterns, and trends and to inform a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the Pakistani judiciary, including its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Need for Reforms

Restoration of the general public's confidence in the judicial system is the most acute reason why reforms in the Pakistani judicial system need to be introduced. At present, more and more citizens feel insecure and hopeless, which makes everyone feel the urge to go abroad. Although some argue that justice is not the only reason for this trend, the author of this article emphasizes that justice plays an important role in connecting people to their country. When justice is achieved, it creates a foundation for the prosperity and stability of a nation that cannot be undermined by external forces. Justice is undoubtedly important in every sector of society, but it is clear that justice faces threats in all sectors of the state. A large part of the population is deprived of their rights, and although this problem has been analyzed in previous studies, the causes are many.

This encompasses systemic inefficiency, politicization, deficiency of resources and infrastructure, and all these issues need to be addressed and changed completely.

Difference Between Reasons Of Denial Of Justice And Delaying Of Justice

In addition, reasons for non-delivery of justice are confused with the reasons for delayed delivery of justice. The delay in the delivery of justice is one of the factors; however, there are many more reasons that contribute to the non-delivery of justice. In this Paper the Author has described the reasons for both but not in great detail.

Denial of justice in Pakistan is due to several reasons. A massive backlog of over 1.8 million cases delays the resolution of the cases, coupled with judicial corruption, including bribery and misconduct. The judicial process is further delayed by frequent adjournments at the behest of lawyers and courts and the reliance on archaic laws like the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Judge transfers result in cases to be readied from the start, and attorney strikes stall hearings, adding delay. There are too few judges, overloading the process, and defects in coordination with law enforcement including improper service of process and failure to produce a warrant, further complicating delays. Procedural issues, delayed investigations, and weak accountability add to the ineffectiveness of the system. Such delays inflict severe economic and psychological effects on litigants as well as diminishing public confidence in the judiciary. The inability of the system to deliver justice in a timely manner creates lost credibility and continues frustrating the people (Imran, Idrees, & Saeed, 2024). However the One of the Major Reason is Delay of Justice, Pakistani courts are faced with a large number of cases, some of which are more than 50 years old. A 2008 report titled "A Study on Unfair Access to Justice in Pakistan" noted that delays in access to justice were a persistent problem and estimated that back problems would take more than 15 years to resolve. Pakistani courts take an average of 25 years to reach a decision and five years to enforce it. According to the International Crisis Group (2008), individuals go to court an average of 72 times to seek justice, spending between 200,000 and 300,000 rupees (Khan, 2004). The report on pending

cases, stable cases, hospital cases and discharged cases in August 2021 shows that Pakistani courts returned 2,177,527 cases as of August 2021. These include 54,043 cases pending in Pakistan's high courts, including the Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) and Federal Courts, and 350,495 cases pending in provincial high courts, including the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Additionally, there is a backlog of 1,773,171 cases in municipal courts across the country, as reported in an August 2021 report. The pendency of cases is evident from the report given in the research study of Bilal, Muhammad, & Khokhar, Fahad in an Article namely Justice delayed or denied: The myth of justice in Pakistan, (Muhammad Bilal & Fahad Khokhar, n.d, 2021)

Table 1
Pendency of cases before Superior Courts

Name of Superior Courts	Number of pending cases
Supreme Court of Pakistan	53686
Federal Shariat Court	175
Total	53,861

Table 2
Pendency of cases before High Courts

Name of High Courts	Number of pending cases
Lahore High Court	197907
Sindh High Court	86679
Balochistan High Court	4538
Islamabad High Court	16858
Peshawar High Court	44513
Total	350495

Table 3
Pendency of cases before lower courts

Name of Lower Courts	Number of pending cases
District Courts of Punjab	1336315
District Courts of Sindh	117938
District Courts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	249013
District Courts of Balochistan	17306
District Courts of Islamabad	52599
Total	1,773,171

Table 4
Grand total number cases pending in the Judiciary of Pakistan

Total number of cases pending in superior judiciary	53,861
Total number of cases pending in High Courts and IHC	350495
number of cases pending in District judiciary and IDC	1,773,171
Grand total	2,177,527

Denial of justice in Pakistan is due to several reasons. A huge backlog of more than 1.8 million cases slows the resolution of the cases, coupled with judicial corruption, including bribery and misconduct. The judicial process is further delayed by frequent adjournments at the behest of lawyers and courts and the reliance on archaic laws like the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Code of Civil

Procedure, 1908. Judge transfers result in cases to be readied from the start, and attorney strikes stall hearings, adding delay. There are too few judges, overloading the process, and defects in coordination with law enforcement including improper service of process and failure to produce a warrant, further complicating delays. Procedural issues, delayed investigations, and weak accountability add to the ineffectiveness of the system. Such delays inflict severe economic and psychological effects on litigants as well as diminishing public confidence in the judiciary. The inability of the system to deliver justice in a timely manner creates lost credibility and continues frustrating the people (Imran, Idrees, & Saeed, 2024).

Proposed Reforms For Ensuring Accountability and Transparency in Courts of Pakistan.

Mandatory Training Programs In Abroad And Mental Health Evaluation

To ensure the Pakistani judiciary remains effective, impartial, and equipped to deliver justice efficiently, comprehensive training programs should be mandatory for judges before appointment and annually thereafter. These programs, developed in collaboration with renowned international institutions, such as Harvard Law School, the National Judicial Institute of Canada, or the International Judicial Academy, will provide world-class education and training in critical areas, including case management, ethical decision-making, and alternative dispute resolution. By partnering with other countries and leveraging shared resources and expertise, these programs can be designed to be cost-effective, reducing the financial burden on the Pakistani judiciary.

Simulation-based training, involving simulated courtroom scenarios, would hone the critical thinking, decision-making, and communication skills of judges. Mental health checks should be a regular practice so that the judge remains impartial and can bear the stress associated with the job. Technology integration, therefore, becomes essential, as it must offer in-service training to the judges on how technology should be properly used. This in particular shall include digital case management systems for the enhancement of judicial efficiency and productivity. The regular evaluation and monitoring mechanisms are to be established, so that whether the training program is effective or not for the betterment of the performance of the judges along with the judicial efficiency as a whole.

Making these training programs mandatory and collaborative will ensure that the Pakistani judiciary is well equipped with the knowledge, skills, and expertise required to deliver justice efficiently, effectively, and impartially. Public trust and confidence in the judiciary will be increased, and there will be a culture of respect for the rule of law and the administration of justice. In the long run, comprehensive training programs for judges will be a very important step in strengthening the Pakistani judiciary and ensuring that justice is served in a fair, efficient, and transparent manner.

Fair Way Of Judicial Appointment And Accountability Of Judges

Appointment and accountability in judiciary are indispensable components of a just justice system. The appointment system currently used has resulted in political influence, which is a blemish to the integrity of the justice system. To address this problem, a special parliamentary committee on judicial appointments should be done

away with and replaced by a special judicial committee. Such committees should consist of impartial experts who can evaluate candidates based on their merits and ensure that only the most qualified individuals are appointed to the judiciary.

On top of that, the Chief Justice should be elected purely on merit basis so that there is no taint of politicizing the institution. In this manner, the judicial arm will have no political meddling and will stand independently. As for accountability, the SJC needs to increase in number including legal experts and international observers who will monitor the performance of judges and ensure them accountable to judgments given and completion of cases.

A panel of experts must be the SJC as they can analyze judges on various aspects such as sentencing, case resolution rate, management of time, and mental strength. This shall provide an exhaustive review of the performance of the judges so that the SJC would be able to identify the limitations and take corrective measures if necessary. The performance ratings and decisions of the SJC, therefore, have to be open to the public so that the citizens can check the judicial process and the judicial accountability.

The SJC should take accountability to the next level by issuing every judge an annual rating based on his performance review. The ranking system should be transparent, comprehensive, and open to reflect the strengths and weaknesses of each reviewer.

Welfare benefits for judges and their superiors should be directly linked to their superiors to improve incentives for judges to perform their jobs. Judges who are performing well should be rewarded with promotions and increases in salary, while judges who are performing poorly should be given training and support to improve their performance.

It can be ensured that Pakistan's judicial system is accountable, transparent, and impartial if it establishes a strong and independent Supreme Court and ties the tenure and seniority of judges with their performance ratings. This will increase public confidence in the judicial system and also very strongly encourage judges to handle cases fairly, effectively, and impartially. This will thus lead to constructing a more equitable and just society, where laws are respected as well as safeguarding the citizens' rights.

Strict Actions For Advocates

Advocates are the main pillar of any legal system. The integrity of advocates is an important determinant of accountability within the legal framework in Pakistan. There is a regulatory gap on the ethical conduct of advocates that is taken advantage of by some lawyers. As a consequence, justice is not served effectively leading to suffering for the masses. Therefore, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) must address this problem. There are some lawyers in India too, and a regulatory oversight is needed in order to restore the justice system within Pakistan. Therefore, a separate division focused on legal expertise in ethics and professional conduct must be formed within SJC.

This unit is to be referred to as the 'Advocate Conduct Committee' and has the ability to initiate complaints, supervise the actions of advocates, and ensure compliance

with laws set out by advocates. It is essential to put in place an all-inclusive advocate code of ethics as part of the reforms that is inclusive in regards to advocates working standards. An enforceable mention of how the advocates must respect the law is crucial. A well-structured licensing system for advocates would also ensure the quality of practicing advocates, monopolistic tendencies would be avoided through this regulation. Reforms in the investigation process, particularly within the police department, are essential before implementing reforms in judges and advocates. The police play a critical role in gathering evidence, recording statements, and building cases, which ultimately determine the outcome of a trial. However, the police department in Pakistan has been criticized for its lack of accountability, inefficiency, and corruption. To address these issues, it is necessary to introduce reforms that promote accountability, transparency, and professionalism within the police department, such as establishing an independent police complaints commission, introducing performance-based evaluations, providing regular training, and implementing a transparent promotion and transfer system. This way, with the implementation of these reforms, the police department will become accountable, efficient, and effective in the processes of investigation. Therefore, the strong cases are built, fewer people are falsely convicted, and confidence in the system is built.

Over time if legal standards are changed or if new systems are introduced then advocates also should be bound to keep taking relevant courses to stay updated and knowledgeable.

Severe Restraints For Police Personnel

Reform in the investigation process initiates with the police force. The police undertake the work of collection of evidence, recording of statements, and case building against the accused that decides the outcome of a trial. However, this police force is accused of incompetence and corruption in Pakistan. It would therefore require reforms on the police itself, such as accountability, professionalism, and even transparency. For example, setting up an independent police complaints commission, performance-based evaluations, periodic training, and a transparent system of promotion and transfer. These innovations will bring the accountability, effectiveness, and efficiency in the policing processes of inquiry conducted by the department of police by building stronger cases and reducing cases of false conviction while increasing confidence in the institution of justice within the public.

Inclusion Of Advanced Technology System In The Legal Service

The modernization of the judiciary of Pakistan can be approached by the infusion of modern technology: efficient, transparent, and accessible. The case records, judgments, and precedents can be put in a central digital infrastructure to be accessed on a secure, cloud-based platform for judges, lawyers, and litigants. The digitized repository of information will immediately make information accessible, reduce physical storage needs, and facilitate sharing of documents easily. An electronic filing system should be adopted that would make it possible for litigants to upload documents and monitor cases online. This will reduce paperwork, lessen errors, and create an audit trail. AI-based scheduling systems can rank case automation tools thus preventing delay on cases which do not require it, and ensure the critical cases receive attention in due time.

Virtual courtrooms and video conferencing systems can be utilized to hear the cases through distance in particular minor cases and procedure. The burden of traveling will come down, and it will speed up the delivery of justice. It is useful for those residing in rural areas or having mobility-related issues. These initiatives are successful if partnered with technology firms and have a significant investment in IT infrastructure. This will be helpful to litigants who live in remote areas or have mobility issues. Partnerships with technology firms and significant investment in IT infrastructure are required to make these initiatives successful.

Training for the judges and staff of the court in using such tools should be a priority. They should feel easy and confident enough to use such technology to augment their work. This training should be periodic, with the regular updates and refresher courses to keep in pace with new technologies and best practices. Routine judicial processes can also be automated to save time and reduce the human error. For instance, e-servicing of summons can be used in printing and sending a notice to the court via email, SMS, and postal services to keep litigants informed in time. An online payment platform for court fees and fines may also be developed to reduce errors or any forms of corruption in financial transactions.

Judges can use AI tools for judgments preparation, legal research, and analyzing previous cases' data for prediction of the outcome. Timelines of cases can be followed by using data analytics. Work burdens can also be divided and judges will not feel overwhelmed because technology and automation will be introduced into the Pakistan judiciary for a better experience of being more efficient, transparent, and accessible.

Strict Actions For Police Officers

Reforms in the investigation process begin with the police department. The police carry out the tasks of gathering evidence, recording statements, and building cases against the accused which determine the outcome of a trial. However, this police department is criticized for its inefficiency and corrupt practices in Pakistan. It would be necessary to introduce reforms within the police department, which should ensure accountability, transparency, and professionalism. For example, establishing an independent police complaints commission, introducing performance-based evaluations, providing regular training, and implementing a transparent promotion and transfer system are necessary. These reforms will implement accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness in the processes of investigation conducted by the police department, building stronger cases and reducing false convictions while increasing public trust in the justice system.

Legislative Reforms And Integration Of Special Courts And Supporting ADR

Strengthening the judicial system of Pakistan needs specialized courts and Alternate Dispute Resolution mechanisms. The specialized courts should be dealing with environmental law, commercial disputes, intellectual property rights, and land issues to help in resolving intricate cases and taking the burden from general courts ¹.

There must be incentives towards mediation and arbitration platforms for an easy and expeditious disposal of disputes. In the pre-trial processes for both family and commercial cases, pre-trial mandatory mediation would largely bring down the cases, besides, providing concessional court charges or tax concessions might attract litigants toward adopting ADR methodology. On-line mediation websites shall also benefit

more by reaching each nook of this country more comfortably to all the citizens. These reforms would correlate with the framework of law given by Pakistan in its legal circle, which required updating to this day's reality of socioeconomics. Antiquated Acts like the Specific Relief Act from 1877 would have to be revised, keeping in focus the needs nowadays. Legislative committees of legal pundits, economists, and public representation could spearhead this process where reforms are channeled, taking into perspective diverse views from different sections.

These reforms require higher judicial budgets. Competitive salaries for judges and court staff will attract professional people, reduce the susceptibility to corruption, and improve the overall quality of justice. The funds must also be provided for modernizing court infrastructure and adopting the latest technological progress, including the online case management system and digital repositories. There should also be a strict check and balance for funds. In the long run, such reforms will ultimately contribute to building an effective, efficient, and accessible judicial system in Pakistan that dispenses justice fairly, transparently, and on time.

Reduction In Sentences And Imposing High Fines

An important reform in the current legal system of Pakistan is reducing the punishments and imposing high fines. The fine rates are nominal at present, and people generally opt for paying fines rather than going through the punishment. This approach has resulted in a culture where people take fines as a formality rather than a deterrent.

With increased fines, people will be more wary and less willing to commit any offense because of the severe punishment in terms of money. Compulsory fines will also bring about effectiveness into the justice system. When offenders are made liable financially, they respect the law better and take care of their action. This will save the prison system from having a heavy burden since they will not be holding a large proportion of people behind bars for committing minor offenses. Also, the money collected in fines can be provided to the justice system. The collected fines can also be used for community development and rehabilitation programs.

Reducing Procedural Technicalities

This requires making the procedures less technical and more accessible with technology. Online payments regarding fines and sureties must facilitate instant acknowledgement as well as confirmations. Separate branch or cell must be devoted to handling and managing the Sureties which makes the processes even more transparent, accountable. Thereby reducing much of delay caused by this long procedure within the courts.

The integration of technology in the justice system will also improve the experience of litigants and other stakeholders. The online platforms would provide real-time updates on the case proceedings, fine payments, and surety status, which would reduce the need for personal appearances and reduce the risk of error or discrepancy. By embracing technology and reforming the fine and surety system, Pakistan's justice system will become more efficient, effective, and responsive to the needs of its citizens.

This Article explained some really important lacks in the judicial system of Pakistan, such as inefficiency, delay, and systemic obstructions in the timely dispensing of justice. Over 2 million cases are stowed behind in superior, high, and district courts; this is a matter of great and lasting damage to public trust. Such backlogs owe their origin to antiquated enactments like the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908. Apart from the old pieces of legislation, procedural inefficiencies such as repeated adjournment, very poor management of cases, and zero accountability of law enforcing agencies could be added to the bundle.

Furthermore The scarcity of judges has saddled the judicial system, coupled with systemic corruption in the forms of bribery and misconduct. Poor coordination between the judiciary and law enforcement leads to improper summons delivery, non-production of custody, and delayed investigations, which compound delays. Such inefficiencies create extreme financial and psychological burdens on litigants, thus causing loss of confidence in the judiciary and the rule of law. The article demands reforms to modernize the law, incorporate technology, enhance case management, and enhance accountability mechanisms for public trust in order for justice to be delivered on time, in an open manner, and accessibly.

Conclusion

The judicial system in Pakistan undoubtedly suffers from a grave crisis; The paper has thus focused on serious shortcomings in justice delivery delay, infrastructure inadequacy, and procedural complications, and comprehensive reforms to meet those challenges have been proposed. Several solutions are available for the Pakistan judiciary, including judicial training programs, integration of technology, better case management systems, and establishment of specialized courts. Public trust can only be regained through the promotion of alternative mechanisms for dispute resolution, revision of old legislation, and promotion of accountability within the judiciary, police, and legal fraternity. This can take it on its way to a more efficient and transparent judicial system. Finally, it is through the implementation of these reforms that the rule of law will be upheld and justice will be served in a timely manner, establishing a society that is based on fairness and equity. Such reforms will not only increase the credibility of the judiciary but also the social and economic fabric of the nation, thus opening the door to sustainable development and peace.

Recommendations

Several innovative steps can be incorporated into transforming the judicial system in Pakistan. Citizen oversight panels can be created where members are drawn from civil society, academia, and retired professionals and some other experts of this field that could supervise judicial performance as well as cases of corruption and delays to present reports on judicial practices. After that Findings should be made public for the sake of boosting transparency and accountability. Furthermore Developing AI-based systems for legal consultancies, such as document drafting, explanation of the rights of persons, and information related to the proceedings of cases, in local dialects, can bridge more gaps in accessing legal services at the grassroots.

To ensure more transparency an autonomous Judicial Ombudsman Office should be put into operation while processing complaints against judges, lawyers, and court staff. This office will have the ability to investigate unfairness, analyze the complaints, and recommend disciplinary measures while working on its own to

eliminate bias. A national judicial performance index should be introduced in which is used for tracking and public reporting of court efficacy by the general public, it will allow deficiencies in the one of the delay and the shares of good practices among jurisdictions in this respect by identifying the same. Moreover Regime mediation centers in urban and rural areas can also be used for settling minor disputes without the help of the court system and Every critical and long-pending case is given special treatment via case-priority algorithms, if these recommendations applied in future along with the reforms proposed above the transparency in courts will be increased for sure.

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