



RESEARCH PAPER

Political Parties and National Integration: A Case Study of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This qualitative study explores the links between political parties and national integration in Pakistan and to analyze the influence of political parties on national integration and assess the role of Political history, Power and Governance in this context. The background includes a brief history of National Integration, various Integration application and National Integration Theories and techniques such as the Consociational approach, the model of the unity in variety and the prerequisites of federalism. The case study technique was employed for this Study, which focused on the history of National Integration and the Performance of Pakistani Administrations. The Finding of this Study reveal that Political Parties have played an important role in National Integration, yet their abuse of power has resulted in turbulence such as Bangladesh's separation. This Study recommends to recognize the need for National Integration, developing exemplary governing performance and comprehending National Integration components such as Islamic and National democratic Integration. Furthermore, forming new Provinces is not always a solution to better Administration, as it may jeopardize National Unity.

KEYWORDS National Integration, Pakistan, Political Parties

Introduction

Since its founding, Pakistan has continued to face a number of challenges, including poor governance, socioeconomic and power imbalances, politico-ethnic polarisation, racial and linguistic divisions, civil-military conflicts, and more recently, judicial conflicts. Other challenges include a weak political system and leadership, ideological identities, religious extremism and sectarianism, modernity confusion, a crisis of national identity, and threats to the country's territorial integrity from surrounding nations. The problems that the hostile external elements are utilizing have multiplied due to the mistrust between the Centre and the small federating units that is laced with a sense of deprivation.

In actuality, diverse ethno cultural identities are viewed as the beauty of a pluralist state, which should ideally contribute positively to the advancement of the nation by securing socioeconomic and political rights. Marginalized communities might easily veer from their constructive role to a destructive one if these fundamental rights of multiple identities are threatened, depriving them of access to social safety net.

Even now, the nationalist leaders of the small provinces, such as Shafi Muhammad Burfat, Chairman, Jeay Sindh Muttahida Mahaz Ayaz Latif Palijo, President, Qaumi Awami Tahreek, and Manzoor Ahmad Pashtun, Chairman, PTM, are stirring up

sentiments of regionalism on the grounds that they feel exploited, alienated, and deprived of their ethno-lingual identity. Through acts of violence and vandalism, these sentiments could compromise the integrity of the country, endangering the social fabric of the country. Pakistan's civic and military authorities are constantly working to meld petty regional sentiments with a cohesive national identity.

The distribution of limited resources had undoubtedly been the root of conflict in Pakistan, and regional inequalities and plights still existed. These problems have been made more complex by the absence of representative institutions and the protracted periods of military administration, yet the presence of powerful and vocal political parties may have strengthened the sense of unity among Pakistan's citizens. Though the process of national integration posed a challenge to political stability and the very existence of the polity, the lack of organized political parties founded on democratic principles and the unfavorable role of regional parties did so. The challenges to Pakistan's national integration that result from political instability are examined in this report.

Literature Review

National integration promotes a sense of belonging among many people. It establishes a unified national front to address both local and international challenges. Pakistan has a diverse social environment and many different ethnic and religious groups. The fact that there are so many cracks shows how seriously the nation's unity is threatened by ethnic divisions, sectarianism, socioeconomic stratification, politicized politics religious political organizations with extremist agendas, gender inequity, and intellectual debate are all threats to the country's unity. Pakistan able to overcome these issues with the stability of political parties and plans (Hassan, 2022).

Since Pakistan's founding, when language riots broke out in Dhaka University following Urdu's designation as an official language, the issue of the difficulties of national unity has been a source of contention. While the "Two Nation Theory," which served as the fundamental theory guiding Pakistan's foundation, provided a unifying purpose, the divisiveness brought about by the violent upheavals against various languages and, subsequently, the grueling dissolution of

Even after losing half of the nation some fifty years ago, primarily because of intolerance and political divisiveness, we have hardly ever learned from our past errors. The federation's only binding document, the Pakistani constitution, is being frequently broken to fulfil petty political egos and new standards of discrediting governmental institutions as the nation deals with massive internal and external crises (Karmani, 2020).

Jahan (2019) Explore those two distinct wings of Pakistan produced two distinct characteristics, which were complemented by uprisings connected to languages and ultimately resulted in the division of Pakistan. While the previously mentioned fault lines are still present in our society and continue to have a significant impact on it, a new aspect of polarization based on political party affiliation that manifests intolerance and demonizes other parties, their leaders, and supporters with the threat of a bloody revolution is a recent development that has both researchers and readers of national integration concerned.

Since its founding, Pakistan has had significant internal obstacles, where Islamic doctrine, civil military interactions, and ethnic leanings have significantly impacted the national assimilation matrix (Haider, 2019).

The multiplicity of groups with various cultures, languages, and economies in his book *Ethnicity and Politics in Pakistan*. In Pakistan, these differences have not been adequately taken into account. He claims that in order to create a harmonious society in Pakistan, it is the duty of the state to acknowledge all communities and accord them their proper status. He makes the point that the state's unwillingness to take Bengalis' political and economic concerns into account ultimately led to the partition of East Pakistan (Ahmad, 2021).

The history of the ethnic struggle in Sindh. He also explains the factors that led to ethnic unrest and religious militarism in Sindh. He emphasizes the importance of finding a solution to the ethnicity issue in Sindh among the relevant parties. He offers various approaches of bringing harmony to Sindh. The author offers insightful commentary on the struggle between the MQM and the local Sindh's (Korejo, 2003).

Ahmer (2022) Explored that integration cannot be established artificially. It develops as a process through delivering justice by the state to the society. Political leadership must capitalize on the diversity of language, culture, religion, and ethnicity in order to penetrate the sense of involvement and provide equitable opportunity for all individuals.

Ishaque (2017) explored that religious extremism, regional identities, sub nationalism, and culture of political intolerance are important challenges that affect our feeling of national pride. Even while sub-nationalism is mostly under control in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan, and Sindh, sleeper cell reactivation and the targeting of innocent individuals are having strategic implications that are detrimental to national cohesiveness.

Results and Discussion

National Integration

National integration refers to both the pursuit of wholeness and the geographic unity of the nation as a whole. Although it is still a new concept, academics, researchers, students, and political professionals routinely use it in both general and specialized contexts. Political development, national construction, political integration, and political unification are all associated with it. Before the operational definition of national integration, the researcher will draw on the following basic definitions and issues in this study report: In order to develop a conceptual definition and theme for national integration, it will be first discussed the literature that is currently available on this basic subject.

The words "nation" and "integration" are actually combined to form the phrase "national integration."

Weiner defines integration in terms of five different applications;

National integration: means to bring together all of a society's social, cultural, and ethnic groups in a single area, create a national identity to win their allegiance, and then channel that allegiance into the support of the populace. National integration can be defined as the simple merger and integration of diverse societies into a single entity that has a sense of loyalty to its country and all of the state's institutions (p. 4445).

Territorial Integration: Also known as state territorial control, this term refers to the establishing of the national authority over all subordinate national and political units. In reality, territorial integration is horizontal integration.

Elite-Mass Integration: the relationship and connection between the governed and the ruled. It is a vertical integration strategy.

Value Integration: the term used to describe the widespread agreement among a state's citizens, which is necessary for the maintenance of social order; it refers to shared national myths, symbols, and history (pages 44–45).

Integrative behavior: the ability of a society to organize itself for the common good and is related to psyche and attitude toward the people of the nation (Peretomode, 1985).

National integration, according to Myron Weiner, is the act of uniting a socially and culturally diverse community in a single geographic location and giving it a sense of national identity. Thus, by establishing central control over the subordinate entities and fostering balance among them, as well as by ensuring that all social groups have an equal say in society's decisions, this national identity can be strengthened.

Consequently, it is the sensation of unification, togetherness, and cooperation toward a common goal. National integration in Pakistan is the process of obtaining nationhood; it not only keeps the system together but also inspires loyalty and support for nation building, both of which are crucial for the country's growth and modernization.

Theories and approaches of National Integration

There are numerous theories and methods for the national integration of the state, just as there are numerous definitions of national integration. These methods can be broadly categorized into two categories by social scientists.

- Modernist Approach
- Post-Modernist Approach

Prerequisites of the Federalism

- True Implementation of Constitution
- Division of Power
- Independence of Judiciary

Political Parties and National Integration

No nation can attain national integration or prosperity without national unity and integration. There are many different regions and individuals of different races that make up the Pakistani nation. Despite speaking various languages, including Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushto, and Balochi, they are all Muslims. It is the basis for racial and ethnic integration. Urdu was used to facilitate communication between people from different regions at the time Pakistan originally founded. As a result, Urdu became the official language of Pakistan.

For post-independent leaders in Asia and Africa, it might be difficult to forge a cohesive national identity out of a variety of regional, linguistic, and cultural identities. National integration is a global phenomenon that has negative effects on both developed and developing nations. Through the adoption of such strategies and the creation of planned administrative structures, the concept of national integration has been realized in developed countries.

The ultimate objective of national integration has been unsuccessful. National integration is seriously threatened when a community or group of people in a country start to revolt against the government because they don't agree with its policies and goals. It is crucial to accurately define these two concepts: A "nation" is a stable historically existing collection of people that consists of a territory, a style of life in terms of economics, and a common psychological makeup that may or may not be autonomous. There existed a community with shared problems, beliefs, social norms, financial concerns, and traditions in a particular location.

To accomplish their objectives, the members of such a group or community fought. An organisation that is successful in achieving its objectives and has solid social links is referred to be "the nation". The country is not a political entity, but a social and cultural one (Fareed, et. al., 2019; Kausar, et. al., 2019; Paddison, 1983). Contrarily, cultural values play a big part in fostering a sense of distinctiveness. Another issue that is looked at is the fact that many individuals with anger attitudes are identified based on their self-identification rather than their state identity. According to Neil (2007), a country is a group that seeks independence through a unique state.

Diverse social groups have a history of utilising a range of amenities without discrimination or favouritism, giving them the opportunity to create their own distinct social identities. It is crucial to develop an effective state-level plan that will ensure that all racial, social, and other groups, etc., may maintain their sense of self-identity in order to achieve national integration in a state.

Participation groups must agree on aims, beliefs, and myths in order to create a longlasting organisation that will ultimately create a national community (Yaseen, et. al., 2021; Rai & Malick, 1989). Integration may be defined as the blending of different language, social, and racial groupings into a composite form. Scholars of this century are presently tackling the enormous issue of national integration, which has produced a wealth of research. They come to the conclusion that a system or hierarchy must develop or emerge if national integration in the region is to be maintained.

Maintaining the division of resources, planned policies, regional integrity, and an equitable distribution of resources among all the federating units is important to accomplish these aims. The sardari and feudal systems in Pakistan, as well as revolutions and political upheaval, have raised this issue. With the aid of social, political, economic, linguistic, and ethnic initiatives, Pakistan is attempting to achieve national unification. Scholars of this century are presently tackling the enormous issue of national integration, which has produced a wealth of research. They come to the conclusion that a system or hierarchy must develop or emerge if national integration in the region is to be maintained.

Disintegration of Pakistani government

- Federalism, capitalism, and the clergy have wronged the provinces
- **Creation of new provinces and national Integration**

- Administration and ethnicity in relation to new provinces
- Bengal was divided in 1905 for better administrative purposes
- State Administration by America and India the USSR and China
- **Demands of provinces are not for better administration**
- Province of Hazara from KPK
- Saraiki and Bahawalpur provinces from Punjab
- Sindhi province of Karachi that speaks Urdu
- Balochistan-made pashton belt
- FATA demand satisfied by a merger
- **Factor of national integration**
- Widespread religion
- Common territory
- Crowd racial
- Customary Practise
- Democracy
- Time and money are not wasted
- Prosperity
- Order and Peace
- Mutual support
- The Growth of People
- Strong Administration

Islamic and national democratic integration

In order to uphold Allah's rule and advance public welfare, the Holy Prophet (PBUH) founded the Islamic state. The virtuous Khalifahs helped the Islamic state (PBUH) to become more established after the Holy Prophet (PBUH) passed away. They placed a strong emphasis on the concept of a democratic welfare state and implemented a number of policies to make it a role model for other countries. Following are the traits of an Islamic democracy.

- Benefits of National Integration
- Shares
- Democratic history
- Stopped corrupt behavior
- Prosperity Settlement
- A Definition of Religious Freedom
- The government is accountable
- Accountability
- Arrangement between the Ruler and the Ruled
- Government by Merit
- Progressive
- Other people's rights

The main obstacles to national integration in Pakistan

When country governments first appeared in Asia and Africa following the end of World War II, these new nation states began to fight for social and racial cohesion. Every nation began utilizing various theories, models, and structures in order to develop

a sense of integration and national identity. All of these developing nations in Asia and Africa are currently looking to integrate nationally and create their states.

In order to achieve this national integration and political unification, we also adopted various political theories, strategies, and models; however, due to the ineffective implementation of these models and a number of other factors, we are still looking for this national integration (Jehanzeb, Parveen, & Rehman, 2013).

But even after implementing these theories, we were unable to accomplish our precise objectives for national integration. There are numerous reasons why these integration ideas and models are ineffective. Here, some significant impediments to national integration are explored;

- Crisis of Ideology
- Lack of Ethnic and Cultural Integration
- Economic Factor
- Religious Sectarianism and Militancy
- Elite-Mass Divide
- Natural Resource Distribution
- Terrorism
- Autonomy
- Terrorist organisations or Islamic radicalism

Pakistan's problems with national integration and fifth-generation warfare

Fifth generation warfare is the most recent type of conflict that states use to promote their objectives. The weapons of modern warfare psychologically target people in the countries, turning the young generation against their country and its military. The antagonists don't hurt anyone physically, but they do psychological harm to others by employing tools like media and literature. Through this weapon of war, ideas were created and doubts about their own forces were raised.

They create moments in the name of rights, but when these moments are reported on the international media, they openly criticise the national forces and show that Pakistan is in danger. They also planned the events that show how radicalised Islam has become. There was no doubt that Pakistan faced issues on the Afghan border. Numerous people died both inside and outside of Pakistan. Because of Pakistani policies and its role in that conflict, the area along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is referred to as "Qabalis death" by those who oppose that country.

For someone who has lost family members due to drone attacks or an accident, these rumours are easy to believe. He believes that the security apparatus and government of Pakistan are to fault for this catastrophic loss. The hostile forces against Pakistan have a chance to target those people in this gap. They have prepared them to attack Pakistan's security and sympathise with them..

Hate speech and other objectionable content abound in the media and literature. They incite rebellion, highlight the flaws, and sway the media (Kaltenthaler, 2012). A former American army colonel claims that different strategies are used in fifth generation warfare. Commonly used is the triple C formula, which stands for convinced, confuse, and dispute. Since advancing our own interests has always been our top priority, we design programmes and focus on the people living in other countries.

We were careful to choose those that were valuable to the nation and, second, to develop those issues that the general public confronted frequently. Our younger generation has always been the main target in this conflict.

In the digital age, every young person utilises an Android that is connected to the internet, especially students. In terms of both leadership and philosophy on life, they are idealistic. Everybody has strong emotional bonds with other people. They have access to material via Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter, and as it is shared and spread, it quickly goes viral. The fifth generation of warfare makes use of these special instruments (Sabir, 2019).

Now, let's think about how Pakistani students use 5GW. Sad to say, there are little options for employment and money in Pakistan. Every student has a lot of financial concerns. The price of education is very high. They fall short of their educational objectives. To do this, they must both learn and work at the same time. They have numerous issues with their future, and they will continue face challenges after completing their education. This is a time of disappointment for them.

They don't believe they could have any problems. They are currently under attack from anti-Pakistani forces. They make an estimation of the number of employees and pupils they can employ for a specific amount of time. They start off by going over the reasons why and the difficulties that the younger generation must face. Through literature and the media, anti-Pakistan organisations try to be friendly by showing sympathy for them and criticising Pakistan's political system.

They then give them a money incentive or other advantages after that. This allows Pakistan's adversaries the chance to present this kind of content on stages around the world. They show and convince people that neither their own people nor the rest of the world can feel safe in Pakistan. Economics is also a factor in this battle. Pakistan may be negatively impacted by sanctions and other pertinent measures. The FATF criteria as well as Pakistan's position on the Grey List serve as another example of how Pakistan is a victim of this fifth generation of warfare.

National integration concerns are being raised by this military campaign, which notably targeted Pakistan's security forces and ideology. We'll discuss these components in this section.

Factors supporting national integration

In Pakistan, there are issues with national integration that must be resolved. The answers are as follows.

- Increased literacy
- Equal development of all areas
- The principles of democracy
- Responses that are favorable to national political parties
- The end of certain classes' dominance

To strengthen national institutions

- Reforms
- Growth of the economy
- Islamic Learnings

- Provincial Marriages

Conclusion

The idea of national integration was thoroughly examined in this paper with a focus on Pakistan. Additionally, the researcher found other theories and methods for national integration in general before focusing on the paradigm of unity in variety. Federalism was proposed as a viable strategy for Pakistan's unity in diversity. Also covered in detail were the key foundational elements of federalism. We continue to fight for national integration after 74 years of political conflict, using many models and ideologies to achieve the best outcomes. The most important condition for national progress and political stability is national unification.

The study not only identified some significant barriers to national integration in Pakistan. But they also provided a probable list of suggestions for Pakistan's national integration. In which the researcher emphasized that the emphasis on religious harmony, discouraging sectarianism and ethnicity, strong state institutions, stopping militancy, equal economic and resource distribution, accommodating role of state, and positive role of media are very practical solutions of the national integration in Pakistan. . By discussing the criterion of some encouraging suggestions for the national integration of Pakistan, we may deduce that we are encountering extremely significant barriers to that process.

Sectarianism, regionalism, militancy, deprivation, and negligence of some sections of the country are the main hindrances that are undermining the state institutions and paving the way for the disintegration of the state. These issues need to be addressed right away. Reforms in education, the structure of madrasas, and their curricula should be made in accordance with current needs. The government should pay special attention to the underdeveloped areas and win their support by guaranteeing their rights and shares. Even if we have made some reform related progress towards national integration—such as with the 18th Amendment, economic initiatives, and NFC—the time has come for these changes to be put into practise in a meaningful way.

National integration is a state-led, ongoing process that can take a very long time to complete; it is not a one-time act. We are still integrating as a country even after 74 years of independence. The necessity of the moment for this national unification and unity may be seen in the effective battle and beneficial reformative actions.

The anti-Pakistan forces have been waiting for this type of battle and are skillfully employing 5th generation warfare tactics. Several Indian media sites now acknowledge that Pakistan was successful in persuading Global Watchdog that it has taken steps to halt the financing of terrorism. "The western perspective on Pakistan has definitely shifted. China has pushed to clear Pakistan at the FATF and would do so again at the following conference, according to the Times of India. The Indian Express said that Pakistan will no longer be on the FATF's "Grey List" and will be "a cause of worry for India" if it can persuade a few Western countries to act against terrorists in response to their report.

Indian press and government declarations make their engagement in national issues in Pakistan extremely evident. Pakistan is a state with a high security risk and a high economic risk because of its name in the FATF. Therefore, Indian media and their representatives did everything they could to emphasise these kind of incidents through their authorities and media.

Serious problems like sectarianism and governance problems exist. Reforms to our madrassa system and educational system must be prioritised right away. The centrifugal forces are thinning, despite numerous obstacles. For economic growth and provincial autonomy, we have taken a variety of actions. We no longer hear many slogans. We are hopeful for a better Pakistan and progressing in the right manner. National Integration is a long-term, laborious process, not a one-time event. The current objective is focused efforts towards wealth, a sense of pride, harmony, and national integration, which must be forcefully pursued as a supreme national purposes .

Recommendations

The researcher here offers some helpful strategies and recommendations for guaranteeing national integration in Pakistan following a detailed review of national integration theories, models, and major roadblocks to a smooth process. Because until we address issues like religious sectarianism, extremism, religious militancy, ethnic and cultural conflict, linguistic unrest, internal unit conflicts, a lack of faith in central and regional authority, an equitable distribution of resources and state powers among the units, and the poor management of all state institutions, we cannot fully benefit from national integration. Here are some suggestions that could be useful:

- Focus on National Identity and Nationalism
- Religious harmony
- Equal Economic Development
- Social justice and the equitable distribution of national resources
- Discourage Sectarianism and Ethnicity
- Focus on Good Governance
- Political Stability
- Stable and robust Institutions
- Reviving the Media's Role
- Governance Concerns
- Economic Progress

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