

An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

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Introduction

Politics that is combative is a global phenomenon. However, factors might alter throughout time, from place to place and country to country. It is seen as a fundamental human right and is crucial to politics in democracies. Agitation and protests are actually methodical and determined attempts to arouse public sentiment on a particular issue. Government operations are so disrupted. The objective is to draw attention to the problem and draw attention from the general public. A democratic kind of governance is one in which the populace is happy. If not, the public makes demands and joins these agitations, which causes issues for the government with law and order. Even though Pakistan is a democratic nation, neither the public's behavior nor the governments' willingness to grant the people rights are democratic. Election 1970 is thought to have been the only free and fair election since Pakistan's founding. It's unlikely that any caretaker government used illegal means to sway the results of the elections. Developing countries, like Pakistan, face a variety of problems such as political unrest, inability, muddle, and dissent. Street politics does not make politics solid and established. Agitational and Street politics does not strengthen democracy; it only weakens the government. Pakistan has a track record of shocking and tragic agitations during dictators as well as the elected governments. Issues and sometimes non-issues are magnified and glorified to strengthen their agitations so that they get the ultimate ends. The democratic attitude from

both government and the public to develop a democratic system is required. Often our system shows the lack of understanding between democratic government and the public when they use violence and street politics to gain the desired goal on the name of the democratic right; on the other hand, the public is not generous to wait for any change. They, most of the time, want an overnight revolution. Therefore, extreme positions collide on demolishing the whole system.

Keywords: Politics, Economics, Agitational Politics, Pakistani, State, Politico-economic

Democracy and Agitational Politics

Democracy is a kind of government that sustained by the political class to implement its basic norms in the true sense. The elected government enforces its plans and policies. However, favorable public opinion is necessary for democracy. Committing to violence to achieve the desired demands in the name of democratic rights shows the lack of mutual understanding and negotiation on the part of opposition and government. Due to agitational politics democracy is beset with so many dangers. All democratic states confront various problems such as political unrest, instability, and the pressure of opposition. Agitational politics, instability, and uncertainty adversely affect the country particularly underdeveloped countries are easy victims to these menaces. Pakistan has been hit a hard time and against Pakistan's financial markets and investment has suffered a great loss. Law and order situation is badly disturbed and economic growth is hurdled. Opposition presents unauthentic data about the economic situation to win over the sympathies of the public to the launch disobedience movement.

Objectives of the Research Study

- This study aims to discuss the agitational politics in Pakistan and examines its effects on the political and economic situation.

Significance of the Study

This research work is counted valuable because it provides elaborated comprehension of agitational politics and its adverse effects on the politics and economy. Thus, this study highlighted and emphasized the education and awareness of the public. There is a need to safeguard the basic right of opinion and politicians be convinced that parliament is the proper forum to discuss national issues. Through debate and mutual understanding,

An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

every problem can be solved. Now by using the platform of parliament there is no need to go after other ways including agitational politics. This study is more useful in the future especially for demented (manic, crazy) people to help them in their daily life political activities and be more positive to secure democracy. This study is helpful in the future especially for the mass to understand current political activities.

Literature Review

Ahmad (2018) in his article deliberates the Pakistan National Alliance Movement (PNA) that was a political alliance comprising of nine political parties. This alliance was group of opposition political parties. Basically, the policy of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the reason for PNA development. In 1977, he advised the President Fazal elahi to dissolve the National Assembly and curbing the political atrocities and civil liberties. The general elections and four provincial assemblies' elections held on March 1977. This was the moment when all the opposition parties gathered on a single platform. The manifesto of this opposition alliance was the holy Quran and Islamic laws. After voting, nine parties' alliance refused to accept the results. According to them, the elections of 1977 had been rigged massively. So, the Pakistan National Alliance demands the resignation of the then Prime Minister, replacement of Chief election commission and holding fresh elections without interference of any party under the supervision of army and judiciary. When the demands of opposition parties were not considered by government, PNA started agitation against the government .

Brohi (2018) in his article discusses that the people of Pakistan always have been resisting dictatorship and struggling for the revival of democracy. Different political parties established an alliance for the establishment of a democratic system in Pakistan. In this research paper, Brohi discusses the role of Nusrat Bhutto in the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Pakistan People Party, in Zia regime; started non-violent resistance with the name of Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) along with other parties. Nusrat Bhutto supported this non-violent movement against the dictatorship. She played an important role but her work did not receive scholarly attention in Pakistan as compared to other political personalities. Her efforts or MRD did not identify although she was the founding leader of this movement

Javed, Memoon & Abbas (2017) in their article discuss that sit-in protest in 2014 had led to political instability which stifled economic progress. Political stability is an important condition for the building of any state/nation and it is very compulsory for the development of that nation. However, the government is not stable in most of the developing countries.

Now political instability becomes a major issue, especially in developing countries. To keep the system legitimate, political stability is very important. Without political stability, an organized system of politics is impossible to be implemented. So, political instability can be defined by the propensity for the regime to focus on the incidence of violence in society and also focuses on the growth of the economy that is affected by instability. After independence, Pakistan has faced almost thirty-four years of its life in internal instability such as frequent change of government, deadlocks, and political disturbances. They describe the reasons for political instability in this article and only discussed the dharna of Imran Khan which is insufficient to describe the political instability in Pakistan. Agitational politics created an uncertain environment in Pakistan that affected the key investments by investors. Strikes and Social unrest discourages the politico-economic growth of the county.

Ahmad (2017) in their article describes the reaction of the Karachi Stock Exchange market 100 Index due to the agitational politics or dharna by Pakistan Tehrik e Insaaf and Pakistan Awami Tehreek. The reason for the examination is to explore the response of Karachi stock market KSE 100 Index during political Sit-in utilizing event study system. All the recorded firms in the Karachi Stock Exchange both under the head of monetary and non-monetary related areas are the populace for this investigation. They describe the impact of dharna or political instability on country's economy over the micro and macro level. They compare the stock market prices earlier, during, and after the protest that how agitational politics disturbs the economy of Pakistan. According to them the results of political events show the drastic changes in stock market prices (Ahmad, Khan, Usman, Ahmad, & Khalil, 2017). This article is useful for the collection of numerical data regarding stock market behavior due to the uncertain political environment. But they did not elaborate on the impacts of agitational politics on the political stability.

Masood his article confers the positive and negative points of dharna politics. No doubt, agitational politics is the right of the public or citizens or opposition parties but it does not mean that opposition urges the public for the civil disobedience as previous opposition leader. In this article, the writer discussed the pro and cons of the dharna/ Sit-in. He described the goal of dharna, as a demand of the opposition leaders and how Imran khan tried to build consensus to align all parties to join dharna. Imran khan presented his demands to demolish corruption from the country because corruption is a serious issue in Pakistan. In this article, he discusses the legal issues deeply related to sit-in politics. However, this sit-in protest tried to destabilize the political system of Pakistan. Dharna protestors wanted to play the role of prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner in the streets. In short, he was

An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

interested in capturing power. On the other side, dharna showed the disabilities or weakness of the government. Dharnas conclude that judgments or justice are going to be passed on the streets. Agitational politics and street power alone will determine the destiny of the nation. In short, dharna showed the integrity and abilities of politicians, political parties, government, and leaders and even of protestors/common man (Masood, Pros and cons of dharna, 2016)

Jahangir in his article discusses the connection between Economic growth and political instability. He discussed the political instability and economic condition of Bangladesh where opposition political parties and protestors organized strikes against ruling parties. According to him, governmental stability plays a vital part in the development of a country's economy and its modes. The rickety political situation has detrimental impacts on the economic development of any country. Any internal dormancy creates a barrier to domestic and international trade. All kind of agitational politics directly affects the economic sphere of the country (Chawdhary, 2016)

Research Methodology

this section incorporates the research methodology of the study which includes the research strategy, the exploration technique, the examination approach, and the strategies for information assortment, the sort of information analysis, and the ethical observations. For the purposes of this research, survey was conducted. The aim of statements of survey is to classify respondent's feelings, sentiments, and suppositions with respect to a specific research survey. The multi-stage irregular techniques were used to get an important result of the research. Data was gathered with the assistance of survey. Survey method was adopted to evaluate the implications of agitational politics on politico-economic sphere of Pakistan (2002-2018). Moreover, a questionnaire was designed to collect the information. Study was piloted among the students of MPhil and Ph.D. and faculty of Political science, Economic, Statistic, History and Pakistan studies and Sociology department of Government College University Faisalabad to gather reliable data.

To understand and explore the phenomenon, as well as to develop knowledge of the subject, the required data was collected from primary and secondary sources of material by adopting different research techniques. Available secondary sources of material such as books, published research articles, reviews, magazines, gazetteers, newspapers, official websites, election results, and political parties' manifestos were used during the course of study. The research is descriptive and analytical in nature. Both

quantitative and qualitative techniques were applied in this research. Qualitative approach was utilized to clarify a conception of the issue while the quantitative methodology was utilized to analysis current realities and figure. The thesis is an assortment of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The qualitative analysis is verified by quantification and analyzing of data availing the statistical software named Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS16).

Population

As this study concentrates on the agitational politics implication on politico-economic sphere in Pakistan therefore, the population of this study was both the male and female of designated Lahore, Faisalabad, Karachi and Islamabad in the table. In this survey, there were 96 female and 304 male respondents. Questionnaires were filled by 450 respondents through the online Google form. This analysis is based on 400 responses out of 450 and 50 responses were not filled properly.

Gender					
			reque ncy	P ercent	V alid Percent
Valid	Male	M	304	76.0	76.0
		F	96	24.0	24.0
	Total		400	100.0	100.0

Sample of the Research Study

A multi-stage probability sample was used. This study was delimited to the provinces of Punjab and Sindh and Islamabad. The sample was collected from Faisalabad, Lahore, and Karachi. In the first stage, the sample was stratified into four main industrial and financial hubs of the Pakistan. In the second stage, the sample was further stratified into factory areas and concern to the common man. During the survey, it was decided to approach the people from every walk of life. During the survey the minimum age specification of 26 years was made keeping in mind that the respondent had been preferably understanding about the democracy and protest movement 2002-2021. The survey was conducted during in four main cities of

An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that such informative surveys have certain limitations in the developing states like Pakistan due to meager resources, poor literacy rates, and worst law and order situation. The results from this sample might differ, slightly, from a larger sample. The author has also no hesitation to acknowledge that the survey is capturing a moment in time. The results of this survey may differ if it had been taken at a different time. Nevertheless, the survey is still important. Despite the shortage of resources, it is more or less, a nationally representative sample.

Hypothesis of the Research

H1: Democracy is in jeopardy due to Agitational politics.

H2: Agitational politics have detrimental implications on politico-economic spheres of Pakistan.

Delimitation

This study was delimited to the provinces of Punjab and Sindh and Islamabad. The sample was collected from Faisalabad, Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad. All these are main industrial and financial hubs of the Pakistan. The main exponent of industry and labor is located in Karachi, Faisalabad and Lahore. The reason of choosing these cities is economy because it directly supports the economic growth and stability of country. Karachi is also the central hub for stock exchange. Islamabad is the capital territory of Pakistan which directly affects from any political movement and protest. Whenever in past, there were agitations and protests in the capital city, it directly creates the political instability and uncertainty.

Instruments of the Study

Keeping in view the requirement of study a questionnaire comprised of 30 items, 6 items for demographic information and 24 statements on five points Likert type, was developed by the researcher for the general mass to collect the data. Keeping in view the nature of questionnaire, Likert Scale was selected as Strongly Agree (SA) =1, Agree (A) =2, Neutral= 3, Disagree (DA) =4, Strongly Disagree (SDA) =5 and for the representation of Male = 1, Female = 2.

The English and Urdu version of questionnaire were developed with the help of the experts.

Data Collection

Instrument of examination should be dependable, matters significant which improves the nature of study and same is the situation with the legitimacy that is important for choosing a device in exploration. The content

validity and face validity are usually determined by the expert opinion. Keeping in view the necessities of the investigation the main form of the instrument was formed and converted into Urdu. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the data was collected and conducted by online survey from Google forms. The current cross-sectional study was carried out to analyze the impact of agitational politics implication on politico-economic sphere of Pakistan. A cross-sectional study is characterized as a sort of observational analysis that dissects information of factors gathered at one given point in time across an example populace or a pre-characterized subset.

Data Coding

For the finding of the result, the collected data used statistical package for social science (SPSS) analysis. Data coding indicates to the process toward shifting gathered data or perceptions to a bunch of significant, strong classes. All the variables were pre-coded. However, new variables were post coded and allocated the new code right after pre-coded variables. It is method of summing up and re-introducing data to give a deliberate interpretation of the recorded or noticed marvel.

Data Entry

It is the most important to enter the collected information in an error free manner. Every filled questionnaire first, checked thoroughly and then proceeded for spreadsheet entry. Software applications were used to check the wrong and double entries. Moreover, filtration was used to further check any data entry ambiguity. Total responses that are received by online Google forms are 450 but 50 respondents were not properly answered that's why these 50 responses are not generated. The finalized data, then exported to SPSS for analysis.

Analysis and Report

The way toward getting sorted out data into meaningful information to screen how various areas of a politics are performing. The way of analysis of data and reports to extricate important bits of knowledge, which can be utilized and improve the way of analysis towards the collected data. Cross tabulation and frequency techniques of statistical software SPSS 16 were used to analyze the collected data. Tabulations and charts, wherever they needed, were used to explain the survey results.

Data Interpretation

Table 1 showing the Gender Proportion

Gender

An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

		Fr equenc y	P ercent	Val id Percent	Cu mulative Percent
Valid	Male	37	76.0	76.0	76.0
	Female	9	24.0	24.0	100.0
	Total	46	100.0	100.0	

Figure 1

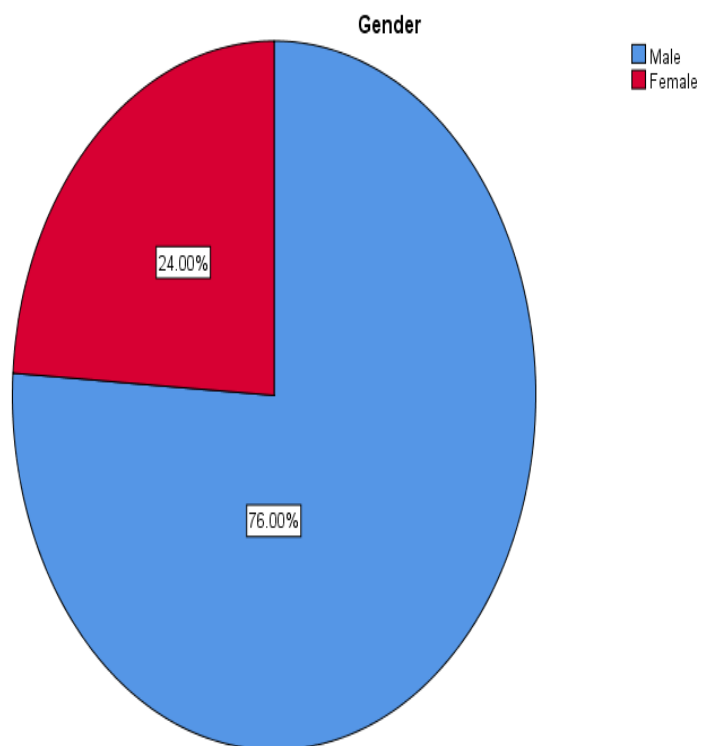


Table 2
Agitational politics is playing a significant role to create political awareness in public.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	51	12.8	12.8	
	Agreed	100	25.0	37.8	
	Neutral	63	15.8	53.5	
	Disagree	132	33.0	86.5	
	Strongly Disagreed	54	13.5	100.0	
	Total	400	100.0		

The online survey result demonstrated that 12.8 % respondents strongly agreed upon the point that agitational politics is playing a significant role to create political awareness in public and 25% agreed on this. As above research work already explained that agitational politics places a huge space in democratic system. Public opinion is the part of democratic government but 15.8% respondents neutral. While 33% respondents disagreed on that point and remaining 13.5% strongly disagreed. Here, can see that more than 37.8 responses show that agitational politics cognizant the public regarding politics. But total 46.5% responses show that agitational politics not completely aware the public regarding political issues. The result is shown in Figure:

An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

Figure 2

Agitational politics is playing a significant role to create political awareness in public.

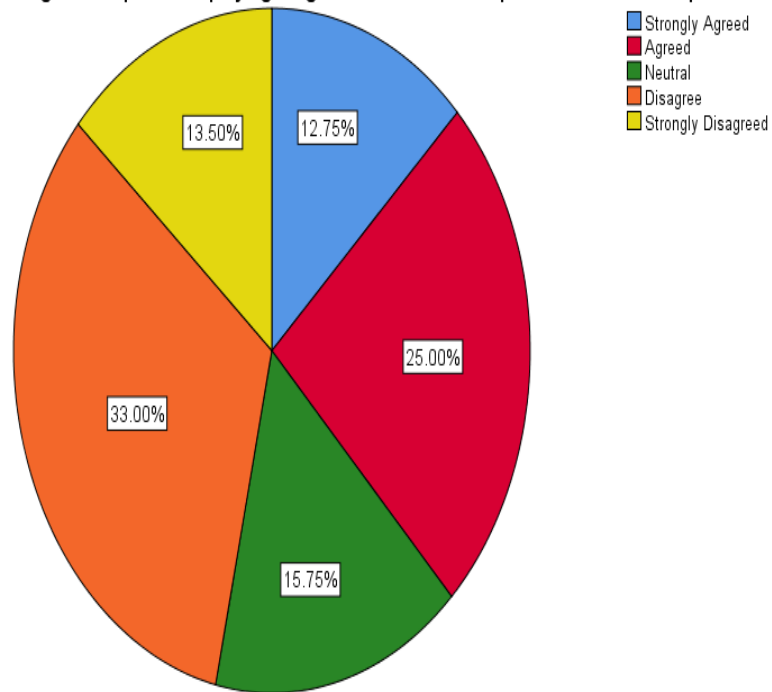


Table 3
Agitational activities or dharna politics is an effective way to pursue the demands to government.

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	42	10.5	10.5
	Agreed	90	22.5	33.0
	Neutral	70	17.5	50.5
	Disagree	104	26.0	76.5
	Strongly Disagreed	94	23.5	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	

To present demands in front of government, agitation and street politics is the tangible source. Agitation and public opinion is the part of democracy. But political parties and public representatives did not properly use parliament as a platform to present demands and find the solution. But 10.5% respondents strongly agreed on that statement: Agitational activities or dharna politics is an effective way to pursue the demands to government. While 22.5% responses show that they are agreed on that statement while 17.5% persons are neutral. Agitations and dharna politics are successful when it has clear vision and reasons and political parties have no space to present the public demands. In this question 26% respondents are disagreed even though 23.5% are strongly disagreed.

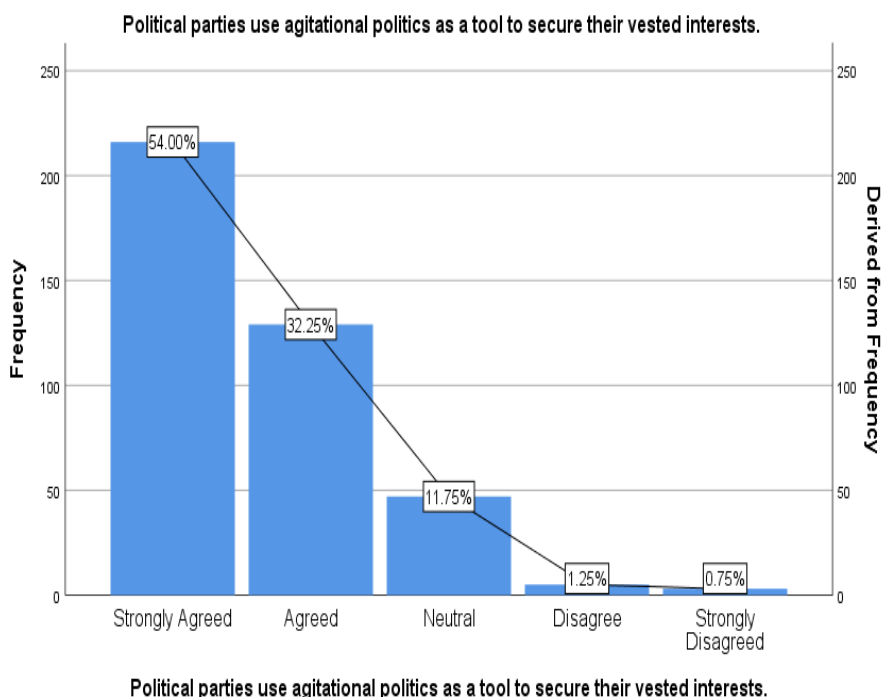
An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

Table 4

**Political parties use agitational politics as a tool to
secure their vested interests.**

		Fr equenc y	P ercent	Val id Percent	Cu mulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agreed	2	5	54.	54.0
		16	4.0	0	
	Agreed	1	3	32.	86.3
		29	2.3	3	
	Neutral	4	1	11.	98.0
		7	1.8	8	
	Disagree	5	1	1.3	99.3
e			.3		
y	Strongly Disagreed	3	.	.8	100.
			8		0
Total		4	1	100	
		00	00.0	.0	

Political parties use agitational politics as a tool to secure their vested interests. In this statement 54% answers are based on strongly agreed and 32.3% are agreed. The reason is that political parties firstly secure its personal interest and then focus on the public issues. While 11.8% respondents neutral on the point to secure vested interests by political parties. Despite the fact that only 1.3% responses are disagreed and .8% are strongly disagreed.

Figure. 4

Conclusion and Discussion

A stable political state express all areas of society get their due offers and are fulfilled being a piece of a multi ethnic culture which at last leads towards the country building. In such manner, it is fundamental to bring attitudinal change among the legislators towards parliament, fabricate their ability and guarantee authoritative and auxiliary changes in politicians and parties to build scholarly profundity of gathering pioneers and furthermore find a way to reinforce nearby government framework to prep lawmakers enough that when they reach at parliament they can perform with full limit. Pakistan faced the leadership crisis just after the death of Quaid e Azam. Politicians of political parties engaged, sometimes weaken the democracy, in confrontations with each other and mutual feuds, which was the reason of leadership crisis which Pakistan experienced after its independence. Due to these confrontations and power struggling Pakistan faced military interventions in governmental issues just like the martial law and military takeover in 1958. These are the main reason that's why democracy is in danger.

Political rhetoric is the part of Pakistani politics and catchphrases used by politician and leaders to instigate and urge the public opinion towards specific issue is significantly turns the public towards agitations

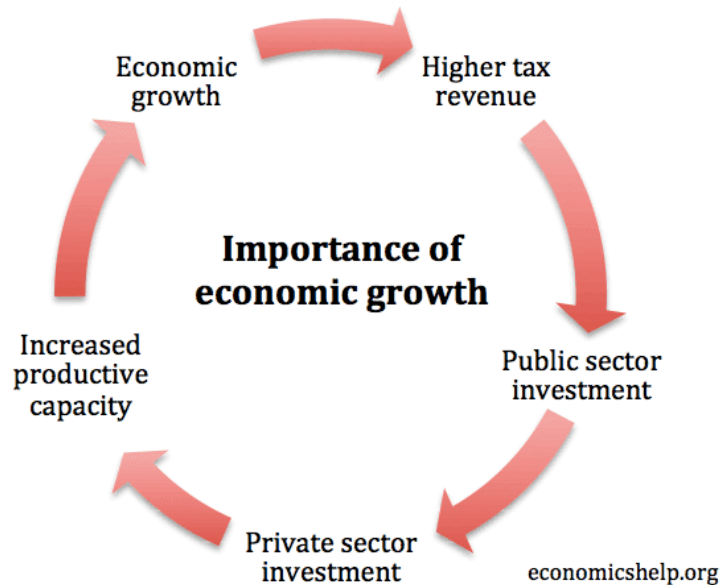
An Insight into Politico-Economic Implications of Agitational Politics in Pakistan

or sometime a severe blow of dharna. There might be numerous political parties in Pakistan which have portrayal in both upper and lower house however Pakistani legislative issues is currently a three-party game. Political immaturity and negligence of politician towards parliament sessions led the country towards agitational politics. Their collusions are not for the national intrigue however for the enthusiasm of their political initiative. Parliament is a forum that is more important to utilize this for the betterment of the country and viable solutions for the challenges rather to demolish the importance of institute. These agitational politics are the reason of polarization in the society. As a Pakistanis citizens there is a need to comprehend that governmental issues is not to be exemplified yet it should work in light of a legitimate concern for its national interest and integrity. Political rivalry at that point could not be tied in with persuading individuals to adjust their perspective and their constituent decision.

This study observes the impact of agitational politics on the economic growth. Pakistan faces a lot of issues just because of agitational politics and manifesto of political leadership to gain political power and authority. It affects the economy on micro and macro level, relations with foreign states and also a hurdle in the way of country's economic development.

Economic growth

Economic growth is the increase in value of the goods and services produced by an economy. An expansion in the creation of financial products and enterprises, contrasted from one time frame with another is termed economic growth. Traditionally, aggregate economic growth is measured in terms of gross national product (GNP) or gross domestic product (GDP), although alternative metrics are sometimes used (Chappelow, 2019). Political stability and Economic development has profound association with each other. In the event that there is a political soundness in the country, the monetary development will be more than the political unstable government.



Source: (Importance of Economic Growth, 2017)

In financial matters, economic development is normally displayed as a component of physical capital, human capital, work power, and innovation in technology. Basically the contraptions that they need to work with, and the plans that they have accessible to combine labor, capital, and crude materials by increasing the quality and quantity of working will prompt expanded financial productivity. In true sense, economic growth means a rise in Gross Domestic product, national income, national output and total expenditure. By the increase in economic growth, it raises the living standard and other side reduces the poverty, unemployment, and improves the public services. Economic growth will increase the private investment and leads to improve high tax revenues. These tax revenues can be spent on the public sector to improve the living standard. High economic growth encourages the companies and multinationals to invest in future products (Gale & Samwick, 2016)

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