

The Rule of Law Crisis and its Implications on National Security in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The rule of law is an essential pillar for sustaining democracy, human rights and economic development, yet Pakistan faces a profound crisis in this domain that significantly threatens its national security. This study explores the multidimensional impacts of the rule of law crisis in Pakistan contribute to social unrest and undermine the state's capacity to address both internal and external security challenges. Using mixed-methods approach, this research combines quantitative surveys of legal professionals and security officials to capture diverse perspectives on the erosion of judicial independence and its implications for public trust and institutional integrity. The study aims to identify key relationships between the rule of law crisis and critical security sectors, including political and societal security. By addressing how weak rule of law exacerbates human insecurity, poverty, and social inequality, the research underscores the necessity for reform to restore public confidence in legal institutions. The findings will provide valuable insights for policymakers seeking to foster a stable and just governance framework, reinforcing the rule of law as fundamental to Pakistan's national security. Ultimately, this work contributes to the ongoing dialogue regarding the intersections of law, governance and security in the context of a complex geopolitical landscape.

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1. Introduction

The concept of Rule of law functions as both a standard and contemporary term for natural law. Rule of law functions as one of the foundational elements that establish the modern world to ensure economic growth alongside democratic initiatives for human rights protection. The founding principle of Administrative law exists in the Rule of Law doctrine according to MH Kramer (2004). According to prominent British jurist A.V. Dicey Rule of Law represents a vital principle as he explained in these specific words:

"It signifies, above all, the complete dominance of established law over arbitrary power, rejecting any form of arbitrariness, prerogative, or extensive discretionary authority by the government. Englishmen are governed solely by the law; a person may face punishment for violating the law, but for no other reason. it refers to equality under the law, meaning all classes are equally subject to the rulings of ordinary courts. In this sense, the rule of law denies any notion that officials or others are exempt from complying with the laws that apply to other citizens or from the authority of the judiciary."

Thus, Dicey attributed the following three meanings to Rule of Law

- I. Supremacy of Law,
- II. Equality before Law, and
- III. Predominance of Legal Spirit

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents the principles of rule of law through its “Equity, Equality, Inclusion, Rights, Laws and strong institutions” standards which manifest most prominently in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. SDG 16 works to establish “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. The objective of Goal 16 “Peace Justice & Strong Institutions” exists independently and IDLO (International Development Law Organization) shows through their programs that it helps SDGs achieve success (idlo.int).

Article 4 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan ensures that “*every citizen and other person in Pakistan will have the right to be treated in accordance with the law and to be protected by it*”. Article 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan states that “*all citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law. It also guarantees that there is no discrimination based on gender*” (Constitution of Pakistan, 1973).

Hence, the scholarly discussion and legislation at National and International level underscores the importance of rule of law for sustainable development and it is regarded as prerequisites for long-term growth of any country but unfortunately, despite acknowledging the importance of Rule of Law and legislation made in the Constitution, the situation in Pakistan is troublesome probably the worst in the history of the country. Figure 1 and Table 1 illustrating the Pakistan’s position in Rule of Law Worldwide.

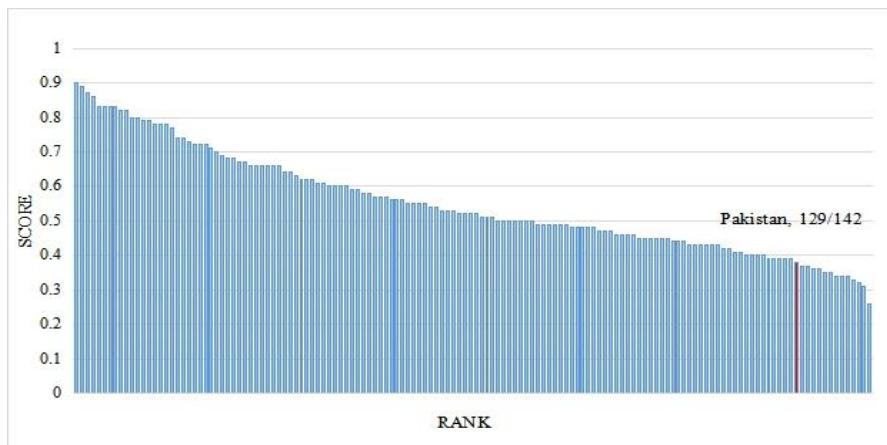
As per WJP, face-to-face interviews with 2,010 households, evenly split among the five urban areas of Faisalabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta, were used to conduct the General Population Poll. This survey was conducted by the WJP Rule of Law Index® in order to gather information on the opinions and experiences of regular people regarding a number of topics pertaining to crime, bribery and corruption, government accountability, and access to justice. Using the same methodology, the WJP also carried out a separate Justice Sector Survey of 2,010 households to further investigate justice issues. The opinions and experiences of respondents regarding gender issues, household dynamics, legal identity, legal awareness, and dispute resolution are compiled in this survey. This report presents disaggregated question-level data as 12 thematic briefs to highlight various aspects of the rule of law as experienced by the people of Pakistan, in contrast to the WJP's flagship Rule of Law Index®, which provides aggregate rule of law scores. In addition to opinions on women, internally displaced people, and refugees, these briefs discuss criminal justice, civil justice, accountability, corruption, and fundamental freedoms. When taken as a whole, these briefs provide an overview of Pakistan's legal system and rule of law, which can be used to gain a better understanding of the nation's current state as it is expressed in the daily lives of its people. Key findings of the WJP's survey was as follows:

- **Perceptions of Government Accountability:** Although opinions on government accountability differ from city to city, there is a high perception of impunity in Pakistan. Regarding government accountability, respondents in Quetta are the most pessimistic, while those in Lahore are the most optimistic.
- **Corruption Across Institutions:** The perception among Pakistanis is that a large number of officials engage in corrupt activities. Respondents believe that judges and magistrates are the least corrupt officials, while police are the most corrupt.
- **Bribery Victimization:** In Pakistan, petty bribery is widespread. A quarter of Pakistanis have paid a bribe to process a government permit, and over half have paid a bribe to obtain police assistance. Bribery to a police officer, to obtain a government permit, and to obtain medical care at a public hospital has generally decreased since 2013.
- **Fundamental Freedoms:** Pakistanis have generally positive opinions about religious freedom and moderate opinions about the country's media and political freedoms. Perceptions of the nation's media, political, and religious freedoms have improved since 2016.
- **Crime Victimization:** Pakistan's crime rates differ by city and type of crime. Karachi has the highest rates of armed robbery, Peshawar has the highest rates of burglaries, and all five cities have murder rates that range from 1% to 3%. Since 2016, the rates of all three crimes have generally decreased.
- **Criminal Justice:** The most significant issue facing Pakistan's criminal investigative services was identified as the incapacity of criminal investigators, while the most significant issue facing the country's criminal courts was identified as a lack of resources. In recent years, there has been an improvement in the perception of police corruption and the protection of suspects' rights.
- **Access to Civil Justice:** Eighty-two percent of those surveyed reported having encountered a legal issue in the previous two years, with issues most frequently

The Rule of Law Crisis and its Implications on National Security in Pakistan pertaining to public services, consumer disputes, and community and natural resources. Just 14% of them sought the assistance of a third party or authority to decide, mediate, or resolve the issue. Stress-related illnesses were the most frequently reported hardship, with nearly half reporting that their legal issue had caused them to face hardship.

- **Legal Awareness:** The level of legal knowledge among Pakistanis is moderate. When asked about children's legal rights, the largest percentage of respondents were able to provide accurate answers.
- **Women in Pakistani Society:** When it comes to divorce and dispute resolution, men and women have slightly different opinions about women's rights; however, when it comes to issues like inheritance and domestic relationships, the difference widens.
- **Internally Displaced People:** In Pakistan, opinions regarding internally displaced people (IDPs) differ depending on the subject and the location. Although more than two thirds of Pakistanis think the government is doing enough to assist IDPs, only half of them generally think that IDPs are welcome in their community. In Quetta, these views are the most unfavorable, while in Faisalabad, they are the most favorable.
- **Refugees in Pakistan:** In Pakistan, opinions on refugees also differ by city and subject. According to half of those surveyed, refugees ought to have the same constitutional rights as Pakistani citizens. The majority of respondents stated that refugees bringing violence and extremism to Pakistan was a serious issue when asked how serious they thought various refugee-related issues were. Less than half of those surveyed think that police officers treat citizens and refugees equally.
- **Trust in Pakistan:** People in Pakistan have a great deal of faith in one another. Although trust in the police has gradually increased over the past four years, Pakistanis have the greatest faith in the courts and the least faith in the police overall.

Figure 1: Pakistan Ranked 129th across 142 Countries in Rule of Law - 2024.



Source: World Justice Project

Table 1. Global ranking of different aspects of Rule of law in Pakistan – 2015 to 2024

Year	Global Rank	Constraints on Government Powers	Absence of Corruption	Fundamental Rights	Order and Security	Regulatory Enforcement	Civil Justice	Criminal Justice
2024	129/142	0.45	0.32	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.39	0.36
2023	130/142	0.47	0.31	0.38	0.33	0.38	0.38	0.36
2022	129/140	0.48	0.32	0.38	36	38	40	36
2021	130/139	47	31	38	37	39	40	35
2020	120/128	49	31	38	37	39	38	35
2019	117/126	52	32	38	36	38	38	35
2017-18	105/113	53	33	40	32	36	38	38
2016	107/113	52	33	39	29	36	38	37
2015	98/102	49	35	39	28	37	39	44

Source: World Justice Project

However, using the classic definition of security provided by Arnold Wolfers (1952), security could be understood, for instance, as "the preservation of group's core values.". However, such a broad definition of security doesn't tell us much about the group's identity, core values, potential threats to those values, or potential means of advancing or preserving them. The reduction of threats to cherished values, particularly those that go unchecked, is most frequently linked to security. In very simple terms, two common security philosophies can be distinguished, each of which developed from essentially distinct beginnings. According to the first philosophy, power accumulation and security are practically interchangeable. According to this viewpoint, security is a commodity (i.e. e. Actors must have certain assets, including money, property, armies, territory, and weapons, in order to be considered secure). The notion that power leads to security is contested by the second philosophy. Rather, emancipation that is, a concern for justice and the protection of human rights is the foundation of security. According to this viewpoint, security is not a commodity but rather a relationship between various actors (Williams, P. McDonald, M., and D. (2023).

Although people have always been the primary focus of security throughout human history (Rothschild, 1995), security and "the state" were frequently combined in academic IR. More precisely, it was combined with a specific understanding of "the national interest," as demonstrated by the 1947 US National Security Act. For many decades, the most common response to the question, "Whose security should we be talking about?" was that states were the most significant referents. On the other hand, some analysts contended that humans should come first because security is meaningless without taking into account specific people (e.g. G. McSweeney 1999; Booth 1991a).

The release of Barry Buzan's book "People, States, and Fear" in 1983 marked a significant advancement in security theory (Ullman 1983). At least two of the four Ss of traditional security studies were fundamentally challenged by this book: security was not limited to an "inherently inadequate" focus on military force, as in strategic studies, and it was related to all human collectivities, not just states. Buzan's alternative strategy maintained that elements in five main sectors, each with its own focal point and method of prioritizing issues, influenced the security of human collectivities, not just states (Williams, P. McDonald, M., and D. (2023):

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- *Military Security:*
- *Political Security:*
- *Economic Security:*
- *Societal Security:*
- *Environmental Security:*

The rule of law crises directly affects these five major sectors of security. This not only undermines the public trust and governance system in state institutions but also poses a significant threat to human and the National Security of the country by fueling social unrest, economic constraints / stagnation and regional instability (Zikria & Roofi, 2019). The correlation between rule of law and National Security is profound. A weakened rule of law intensifies governance failures, aggravates inequalities and erodes the state's capacity to respond effectively to internal and external security threats. Pakistan's sensitive legal structure along with political unfair treatment and excessive authority exercised by state officials has generated an atmosphere defined by distrust and insecurity and doubtfulness (Yusuf, 2007). The judiciary previously protected people from executive excess but its independence briefly declined after the 26th constitutional amendment was passed. The present research evaluates the complex effects that a rule of law crisis has on National Security in Pakistan. The research examines the relationship between declining trust from public citizens due to judicial degradation and governmental failures with human security dilemmas and economic deprivation and rights violations which create threats to National Security. The research evaluates the relationship between Pakistan's regional leadership and diplomatic-security operations in complex international spaces as affected by the rule of law decline. The research investigation identifies core elements along with their relevant effects to offer important insights about fortifying rule of law as the foundation of National and Regional Security.

2. Background of the Study

The rule of law serves as the foundation of democratic governance, ensuring equality, accountability and justice within a state. It pledges that no individual or institution including the government is above the law. In Pakistan, rule of law has been a persistent challenge since its independence, plagued by weak political interference, governance structures, corruption and judicial inefficiencies. These issues have eroded public trust in state institutions and undermined Pakistan's ability to address internal and external security threats.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Markel, a researcher at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB), explored various theoretical perspectives on democracy, political parties, and civil society. He mentioned that democracies operate effectively when a strong rule of law is already in place; however, the rule of law cannot function properly in a democracy that is still attempting to establish it (Beal & Graham, 2014). As context, Pakistan's history is marked by four Martial Laws justified by the judiciary through the doctrine of necessity and the adoption of three Constitutions, which have hindered the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in the country. Years of authoritarian regimes have eroded democratic institutions and the rule of law. Years of authoritarian regimes have eroded democratic institutions and the rule of law. For the first time ever the Supreme Court validated a military coup

in the 1950s which turned the judiciary into a branch controlled by ruling governments. The courts uphold their proper competencies yet fail to activate their available powers to the extent that they should. The first Chief Justice of the country made resistance against a ruling regime in March 2007 which launched a movement to promote rule of law. Through its activities the Lawyers Movement taught society about how essential it is to reinstall deposed judges and establish judicial independence. The movement shaped Pakistan to become a country that now contains an energetic civil society together with a free media system joined by active political parties. (Zikria, G., & Roofi, Y., 2019).

Now once again in October 2024, 26th Constitutional Amendment significantly curtailed judicial independence raising concerns about checks and balances in governance. The amendment grants the government increased control over judicial appointments and decision-making, has deepened the rule of law crisis by limiting the judiciary's ability to act impartially and protect basic fundamental rights (said UN rights Chief, reported in Dawn, 2024).

This crisis is not just a domestic issue but has broader implications for Pakistan's National Security. Weak rule of law exacerbates human security issues, such as poverty, injustice, and inequality which can fuel unrest and extremism. The domestic turmoil compels the state to reduce its effectiveness for addressing national problems as well as regional security threats. The internal instability in Pakistan makes its diplomatic and security engagements more complicated thus creating a reduced geopolitical presence in the region (Naz et al., 2021).

3. Statement of the Problem

The problem of lawlessness in Pakistan continues because political actors interfere with judicial processes along with ineffective judicature that lacks judicial integrity. The national security positions of Pakistan face danger because of this crisis while the legal system endures severe damage. Public distrust of the legal system strengthens inadequate governance that creates an endless loop between societal discontentment and personal insecurity across political and social domains. The arrangement of limited resources and social unfairness alongside poverty creates problems with human security that ultimately produce unrest among people and the emergence of extremist groups. Security challenges both within and outside the state borders become difficult for the state to handle due to the present situation. The effective management of the rule of law crisis becomes essential at this time as it helps countries build stability while protecting themselves from different forms of security threats. This study looks at how Pakistan's rule of law crisis impacts national security by examining key factors that contribute to the problem and suggesting potential fixes.

4. Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of the study is;

- To analyze the relationship of the rule of law with the national security threats including social unrest and economic stagnation in Pakistan.
- To evaluate the effect of Judicial Independence on Governance and its consequences on governance and citizens trust in state institutions.

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- To investigate the main causes of systems failures that lead to major Rule of Law Deficit including political intrusions, corruption, judicial ineptitude.
- To evaluate how Rule of law deficit worsen human security.

5. Significance and Scope

Because it offers through insights into how the weakening of the rule of law jeopardizes internal stability of the country, this study is extremely significant for policymakers, legal experts and security experts. A more thorough comprehension of these relationship can direct the creation of successful changes meant to improve judicial independence, reinforce governance frameworks and fortify legal institutions. The study intends to emphasize practical methods for bolstering the rule of law as a vital pillar of national security and sustainable government by concentrating on Pakistan's political and legal developments, particularly in the wake of 26th Constitutional amendment.

6. Literature Review

This thematic literature review adopts a critical review approach to examine the relationship between the rule of law crisis in Pakistan and its implications for National Security. A critical review not only summarizes existing research but also evaluates the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in the literature. This approach is suitable for analyzing how weak legal systems, governance failures, and socio-economic instability contribute to security challenges in Pakistan. The review critically assesses previous studies on legal governance, economic stability, and security risks to identify underexplored areas and to justify the need for a comprehensive analysis integrating governance theory and security studies.

Governance Failures and the Rule of Law Crisis in Pakistan

Governance Theory highlights the role of institutions, processes, and rules in shaping effective governance and policy implementation (March & Olsen, 1989). In Pakistan, persistent issues such as political interference, corruption, and weak law enforcement mechanisms have severely undermined governance effectiveness (Zikria & Roofi, 2019). These governance failures erode the rule of law by weakening judicial independence, diminishing public trust, and facilitating unchecked executive power (Yusuf, 2007). The judiciary, traditionally seen as a safeguard against executive overreach, has struggled to maintain its independence, particularly following legislative changes such as the 26th Constitutional Amendment (Dawn, 2024).

Impact of Rule of Law Deficits on Socio-Economic Stability

A strong rule of law is essential for economic growth and social stability (Hasan, 2010). In Pakistan, weak legal frameworks and poor regulatory enforcement hinder sustainable development and exacerbate economic stagnation (Lubna, 2011). Corruption and lack of accountability in governance disrupt market operations and discourage both domestic and foreign investment (Akinola, 2020). This economic instability contributes to rising poverty, inequality, and unemployment, which in turn fuel social unrest and political dissatisfaction (Sargana et al., 2019).

Governance Failures and Social Unrest

Governance breakdowns often result in human security issues, including poverty, injustice, and social inequality (Zikria & Roofi, 2019). Weak legal systems and governance failures create an environment of mistrust and insecurity, leading to increased social unrest and the rise of non-state actors (Booth, 1991a). The securitization of governance issues often leads to the suppression of dissent, further intensifying societal tensions and civil instability (Buzan, Wæver, & de Wilde, 1998).

Securitization of Governance Failures and National Security

Securitization Theory, developed by Barry Buzan, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde, explains how state actors frame certain issues as existential threats to justify extraordinary measures (Buzan et al., 1998). In Pakistan, political actors and the military often frame internal governance crises as national security concerns, legitimizing increased state control and extraordinary actions (Williams & McDonald, 2023). This securitization process leads to the erosion of democratic norms and the rule of law, ultimately exacerbating national security threats (Naz et al., 2021).

Human Security and Public Trust in State Institutions

Human security emphasizes the protection of individuals from threats such as poverty, injustice, and violence (Rothschild, 1995). In Pakistan, governance failures and legal inefficiencies have undermined public trust in state institutions, weakening the social contract between the government and its citizens (Iqbal, 2015). This erosion of trust contributes to increased social unrest and challenges the state's capacity to maintain internal stability and security (McSweeney, 1999).

Regional Security and Geopolitical Implications

Pakistan's internal governance crisis has significant implications for its regional security role and diplomatic engagements. Weak rule of law and governance deficits impair Pakistan's ability to effectively manage cross-border security threats and regional conflicts (Naz et al., 2021). In the geopolitically complex South Asian region, internal instability diminishes Pakistan's strategic influence and complicates its relationships with neighboring countries and global partners (Williams & McDonald, 2023).

7. Research Gap

While existing literature extensively explores governance failures, judicial inefficiencies, and security threats in Pakistan (Mahrwald, 2009; Hasan, 2010), significant gaps remain. First, there is a limited understanding of how governance failures are strategically securitized by state actors to justify extraordinary security measures and the centralization of power. Second, most studies have focused on isolated aspects of governance or security issues without exploring their interconnectedness and how these dynamics collectively threaten national security. The full scale influence that governance breakdowns have on public trust alongside societal resilience in Pakistan requires more extensive investigation. Research about this topic frequently fails to examine how geopolitical pressures outside of Pakistan worsen the country's internal governance problems. This research lacks evaluation between Pakistan's governance crisis and governance situations in comparable

The Rule of Law Crisis and its Implications on National Security in Pakistan countries to draw useful policy corrections. The study incorporates Governance Theory together with Securitization Theory to deliver a complete investigation about how Pakistan's rule of law crisis produces increased security weaknesses. This investigation evaluates how Pakistani governance deficits get transformed into security threats before reviewing their impact on national defense strategies. The proposed investigation uses Governance and Securitization theories to demonstrate how internal crisis responses from the government impact Pakistan's national security framework.

8. Research Questions

- How does the rule of law crisis in Pakistan contribute to Social Unrest?
- How does Social Unrest emerged from weak rule of law crisis influence the National Security of the Country?

9. Theoretical Framework

The research bases its theoretical framework on governance models together with security studies. This research analyzes the rule-of-law crisis and its national security effects in Pakistan by utilizing Governance Theory together with Securitization Theory.

9.1. Governance Theory

Governance Theory provides its analytical framework through March and Olsen who study how institutions, processes and rules create successful governance systems and policy execution methods. The theory necessitates open book accounting and responsible institutions together with strong performance as key elements for delivering excellent public administration. States function efficiently through formal institutions when combined with informal practices which determines policy performance strength. Pakistan faces a government efficiency decline because of political interference which combines with corruption and judicial non-compliance to their functions. Governance theory provides the reason for this examination because governance weaknesses cause national security threats and deterioration of rule of law. The state struggles to handle social-political-economic matters because insufficient governance procedures generate national security dangers and jeopardize nationwide stability.

9.2. Securitization Theory

Some issues receive threat status when political actors and states apply Securitization Theory developed by Barry Buzan alongside Ole Waever and Jaap de Wilde to establish emergency procedures over standard political processes. The main concept of Securitization shows the origin of security concerns following deliberate political reconceptualization through discursive means. Security protocols establish for authorities the legal authority to bypass normal democratic processes as well as standard legal regulations. The Securitization Theory helps explain how Pakistani authorities display their deficiencies in law enforcement and problematic judicial system by using national security threats. The existence of Pakistan's state comes under threat according to national governance crises which political actors together with military forces and other powerful groups advance as existential threats. Soft national security threats receive legitimization by means of excessive executive measures coupled with intensified state authority and broadened

dominion. Through this process governments regularly seek to silence dissent so they break democratic procedures and destroy rule of law institutions thus worsening internal security complications. The application of Securitization Theory enables researchers to study the political mechanisms in Pakistan that exploit security threats as justification to marginalize governance failures thus creating elevated insecurity levels within the country.

9.3. Integration of Theories

This paper performs detailed investigations about Pakistan's national security problems and its law enforcement crisis through the combination of Governance Theory and Securitization Theory. A multidimensional approach makes it simpler to analyze security processes that originate from governance failings and inadequate legal systems which endanger national security stability.

9.4. Application to Pakistan's Context

The theories merge in Pakistan through three factors including government weakness together with political influence and judicial independence decline. Through Securitization theory we learn that political figures use security threats from internal challenges to acquire support for abrupt actions yet governance theory demonstrates how weakened institutions together with corruption cause governance system failures. This two-pronged theoretical framework demonstrates Pakistan's entire rule of law crisis both at home and globally.

10. Research Methodology

The research combines qualitative and quantitative methods to fully analyze how rule of law breakdowns affect national security threats within Pakistani borders. The research method uses empirical evidence and expert knowledge to create an inclusive understanding between governance breakdowns and the deterioration of legal principles which cause national security weaknesses.

10.1. Research Design

The research design employs an explanatory method that determines the systematic connections between national security issues in Pakistan with securitization of internal crises and governance problems. The system allows researchers to carefully study the processes through which security threats grow stronger due to political intervention and judicial mismanagement alongside corruption and insufficient governance mechanisms.

10.2. Research Method

A mixed-methods research method will be used, combining quantitative surveys. This approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the research problem by integrating empirical data with expert insights.

10.3. Source of Data

Primary Data: The primary data will be collected through structured questionnaires from legal professionals and security officials and practicing advocates.

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Secondary Data: Secondary data will be gathered from academic journals, policy reports, legal documents, government publications, and credible media sources to support the analysis.

10.4. Justification for Target Respondents

The selection of legal experts, practicing advocates and security officials is intentional and strategic to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the research problem:

Legal Experts and Advocates: Their direct involvement with the legal system provides critical insights into judicial inefficiencies, the erosion of the rule of law and the impact of legal reforms or governance failures. They can evaluate how governance issues manifest in legal practice and justice delivery.

Security Officials: Their role in maintaining internal and national security positions them to provide valuable insights into how governance failures and legal weaknesses translate into security vulnerabilities, including the rise of non-state actors and internal instability.

By engaging these groups, the study ensures a well-rounded examination of governance deficits and security challenges from multiple stakeholder perspectives. This diverse input strengthens the study's validity and relevance.

10.5. Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Quantitative Sample:

A total of 100 participants was surveyed using structured questionnaires. The sample was divided as follows:

50 Legal Professionals and Practicing Advocates.

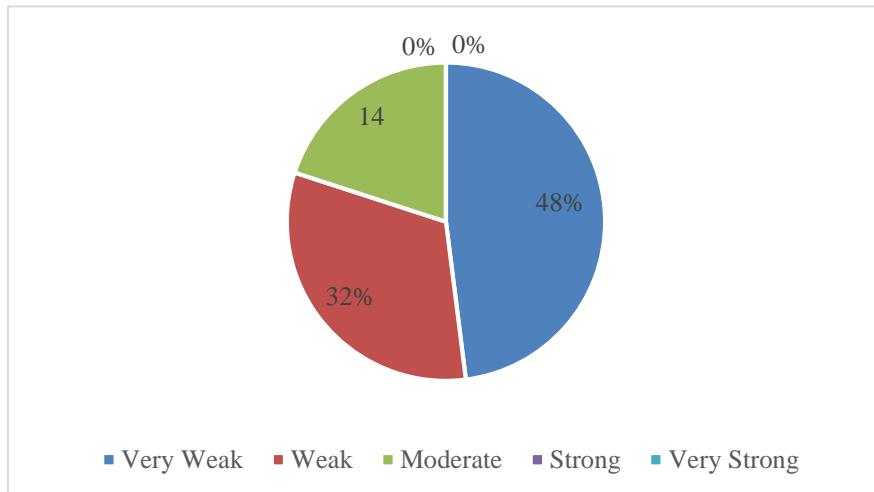
50 Security Officials (from law enforcement agencies).

Participants will be selected using purposive sampling to ensure that individuals with relevant expertise and experience are included.

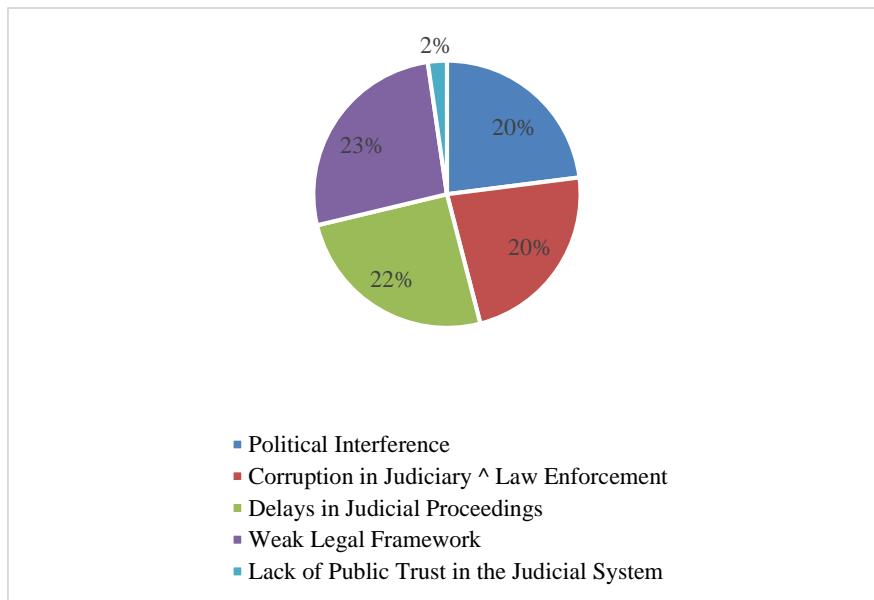
10.6. Tools for Data Collection

Structured Questionnaire Survey (Quantitative): A well-designed questionnaire was developed to measure participants' perceptions of governance deficits, judicial independence, and national security threats. Data was collected using Likert-scale items and close-ended questions to allow for statistical analysis. The following questions were asked in survey:

In your opinion, how effective is the rule of law in Pakistan?

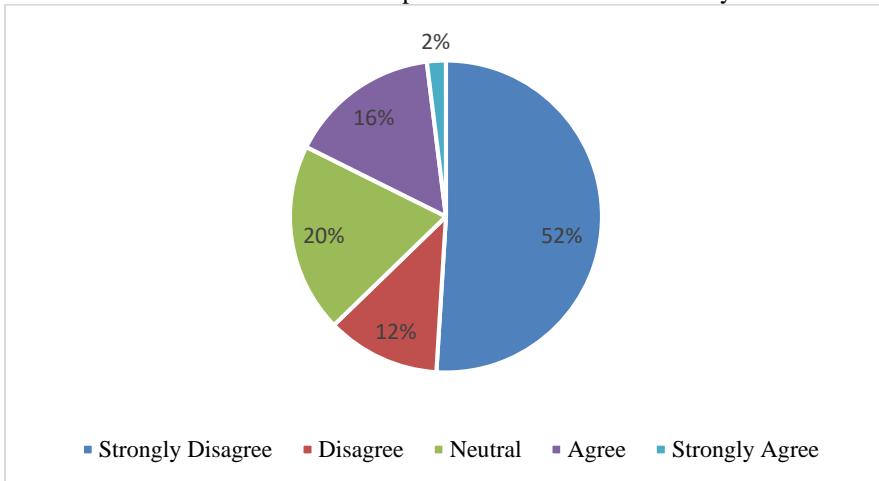


What do you consider the biggest challenge to the rule of law in Pakistan?

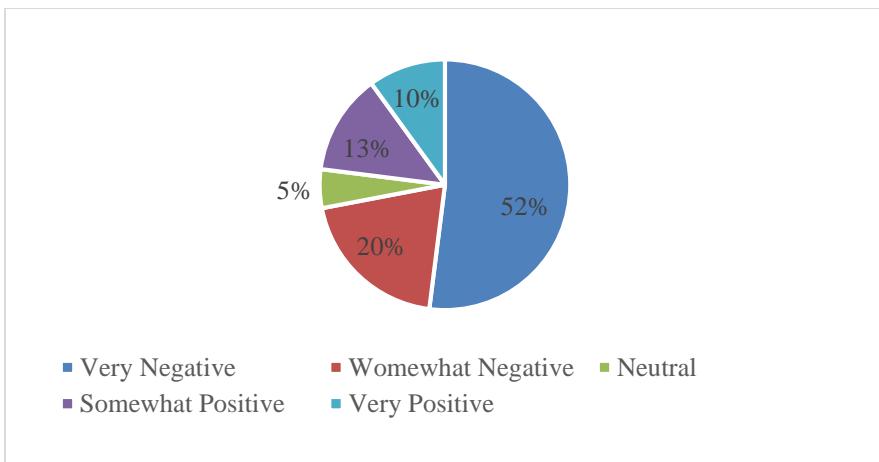


To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
"Judicial independence in Pakistan has significantly declined due to political and executive influence."

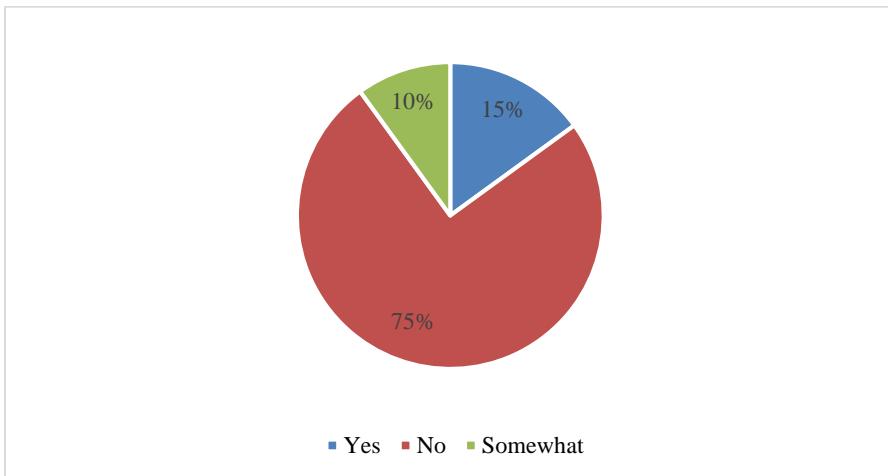
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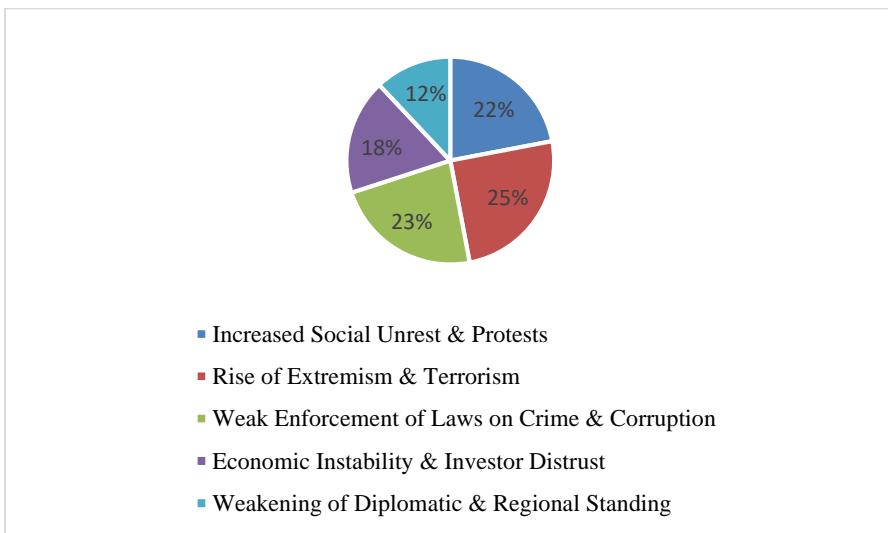
How would you rate the impact of the 26th Constitutional Amendment on judicial independence?



Do you think Pakistan's legal system ensures equal access to justice for all citizens?

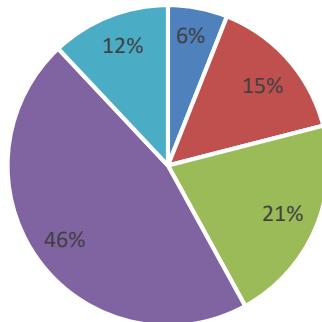


How does the crisis in the rule of law affect national security in Pakistan?



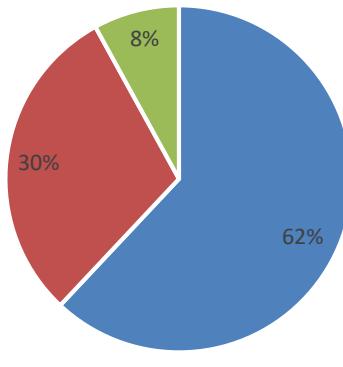
To what extent do you think weak governance contributes to security threats in Pakistan?

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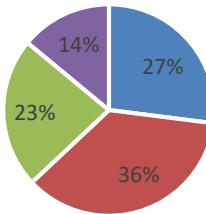
■ No Impact ■ Low Impact ■ Moderate Impact ■ High Impact ■ Critical Impact

Have weak rule of law and governance failures led to an increase in non-state actors (e.g., militant groups, criminal networks)?



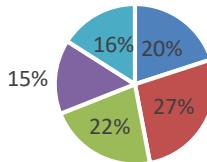
■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

What is the primary impact of judicial inefficiency on human security?



- Increased Poverty & Inequality
- Erosion of Public Trust in Institutions
- Delayed Justice & Denial of Fundamental Rights
- Strengthening of Parallel Justice Systems (e.g., Jirgas, Sharia Courts)

What reforms do you suggest to improve the rule of law and governance in Pakistan? (Select all that apply)



- Judicial Reforms to Ensure Independence
- Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures
- Speedy Case Disposal in Courts
- Strengthening Law Enforcement Agencies
- Ensuring Free & Fair Elections to Reduce Political Influence

10.7. Data Analysis

Quantitative Data Analysis: Statistical analysis will be performed using software tools (e.g., SPSS, Stata) to identify patterns, correlations, and causal relationships between governance failures and national security threats. Both descriptive and inferential statistical methods will be applied to interpret the data effectively.

Qualitative Data Analysis: Thematic analysis will be used to analyze the qualitative data obtained from interviews. This method will help identify recurring themes, narratives, and perceptions regarding the securitization of governance issues and their broader impact on Pakistan's security landscape.

11. Results and Discussion

The quantitative survey conducted for this research provides empirical insights into how Pakistan's rule of law crisis is perceived by legal professionals and security

The Rule of Law Crisis and its Implications on National Security in Pakistan officials. The data highlights several pressing concerns regarding judicial independence, governance failures, and their implications for national security. Key results and their thematic discussion are presented below:

11.1. Perceptions on the Effectiveness of Rule of Law

A significant majority of respondents (82%) rated the rule of law in Pakistan as either ineffective or highly ineffective. Among legal professionals, 46% strongly believed the legal system is manipulated by political and executive influence, while 36% of security officials echoed similar sentiments.

This widespread discontent underscores the erosion of public trust in judicial processes and confirms the argument within Governance Theory that weak institutions diminish state functionality and legitimacy.

11.2. Judicial Independence and Political Influence

About 91% of participants in the survey accepted that judicial independence in Pakistan has experienced major deterioration because of political and executive influence. Legal professionals strongly asserted that the 26th Constitutional Amendment caused detrimental effects to judicial independence by assigning a “very negative” rating to its influence. Opinion holds that this amendment generates severe harm to separation of powers and consequently weakens institutional safeguards. The findings show that extremist elite shifts in legal systems can be used as securitized items to validate executive power expansion which leads to power concentration despite its impact on democratic principles.

11.3. Access to Justice and Human Security

According to research participants Pakistan’s legal system failed to afford fair chances of justice to all citizens by 74 percent. People mentioned systemic corruption together with delayed justice procedures and social class-related barriers as primary obstacles. The study results showed that human security issues are mainly attributed to insufficient judicial performance because marginalized citizens cannot fund extensive court battles or offer payments to officials. The poor performance of judicial procedures led to multiple negative results which people frequently identified:

- Increased stress and economic hardship (reported by 45%)
- Rise in parallel justice systems (e.g., jirgas and panchayats)
- Erosion of state legitimacy in underserved regions

This aligns with Human Security frameworks that view legal access as central to citizens' well-being and national cohesion.

11.4. Weak Governance and Security Threats

An overwhelming 88% of participants agreed that weak governance contributes directly to internal security threats. Key security implications highlighted include:

- Rise in non-state actors (confirmed by 76% of respondents)
- Increase in militant networks, criminal gangs, and extremist mobilisation
- Decreasing control of state in border regions and urban peripheries

Security officials particularly emphasised how the vacuum left by ineffective governance is increasingly filled by militant or criminal entities. This substantiates the research's premise that rule of law crises serves as a catalyst for expanding insecurity.

11.5. Reforms to Strengthen Rule of Law

When asked about reforms, the most widely supported suggestions were:

- Strengthening judicial independence (91%)
- Anti-corruption measures across institutions (87%)
- Depoliticisation of law enforcement agencies (84%)
- Speedy judicial processes and court automation (79%)

These responses reflect a desire for systemic change rooted in both theory and practice. They reinforce Governance Theory's emphasis on transparency and accountability as essential elements for stability and development.

11.6. Securitization of Legal and Political Crises

Qualitative researcher comments confirmed that national security threats allow states to avoid judicial and legislative safeguards through the framing of internal governance issues. The respondents stated that when authorities securitize this process it typically creates authoritarian behavior which both reduces civil rights and weakens democratic systems. The survey demonstrates that governance failures enable executive actors to use Securitization Theory for extraordinary measure validation. A circular pattern of events progressively diminishes democratic systems while maintaining constant security concerns.

12. Synthesis of Findings

The empirical evidence presented in the research indicates that Pakistan is grappling with a nationwide law enforcement predicament, primarily due to challenges in national security. This predicament, in turn, originates from the law enforcement crisis. A decline in institutional legitimacy is observed, which is attributed to various breakdowns in governance and judicial independence, as well as concerns regarding general administration. These issues facilitate the emergence of parallel legal systems, leading to social unrest and the development of non-state actors. The data aligns with the findings of the Governance Theory, which reveals a persistent deterioration in institutional performance due to deficient accountability systems and failures in efficiency and transparency. The survey results suggest that the judicial branches, tainted by political interference, lead to a decrease in state confidence and distrust in law enforcement, either due to their incompetence or dishonesty. Such trust deficiencies heighten concerns about security and diminish public participation in the societal contractual framework. The research corroborates the fundamental principles of the Securitization Theory; as Pakistani state officials have utilized internal governance issues to present survival security risks as stakes. This strategic portrayal of security threats enables the executive and military branches to consolidate power, executing extraordinary actions beyond the bounds of democratic conventions. The securitization practices shape the security condition.

13. Conclusion

The findings of the study underscore a critical legal governance predicament in Pakistan, which negatively impacts both individual and national security. The research reveals pervasive judicial inefficiency, coupled with corruption, political interference, and weak law enforcement practices. The legal system is under threat from executive and political entities, as indicated by the majority of survey respondents, who also reported unequal access to justice. The 26th Amendment has introduced significant changes that exacerbate concerns about judicial independence. The deterioration of the rule of law leads to social conflicts, an increase in extremism, and the decline of governmental institutions within Pakistan's political and economic climate. The majority of survey participants concur that non-state organizations, such as militant networks and criminal operations, can proliferate concurrently with insecure governance, thereby enhancing security risks. The performance issues within the justice system erode public trust, as they foster unauthorized legal systems and render Pakistan less capable of fulfilling its international and regional commitments. To resolve the current issues, law enforcement must disengage from political influence, as anti-corruption strategies and judicial independence measures are indispensable for restoration of public trust. Trust restoration hinges on improvements to democratic institutions, free and fair elections, and strengthened legal mechanisms.

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