

POLITICAL SYSTEM OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PAKISTAN AND MALAYSIA

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Abstract

The form of government is not so important in the study of political system but there is concern for political dynamic for the ways in which leaders, political parties or social groups achieve power. Socio-political culture influences the performance of rulers and behavior of ruling class towards ruled effects infrastructure. The arrangements and output of policies based on sincerity and skill. A comparative study of political system of Pakistan and Malaysia is an effort to examine the infrastructure and political development with reference to federalism. Essential elements and its surviving in both systems have also been discussed. Such a study can provide a preliminary base to extend the boundaries of comparative politics.

Key Words; Southeast Asia, Federalism, Dutch, Monarchy, industrialized, Dewan Rakyat.

Conceptual framework

Political system is networks of relationships through which government generates policies in response to demands or supports from the general public.¹ All political systems share certain

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characteristics and differ in its functions. Political scientist David Easton in 1965 writes that all political systems function within the context of political culture, which consists of traditions, values, and common knowledge.²

Federalism is the system of giving power to a central authority with some powers within federating units.

Political systems develop and function under specific social conditions, and the continuity of any political system is also related to such specific conditions.³ The minimum requirements for the federation are the existence of at least two territorially interdependent levels of government, a written constitution and also necessary bicameral legislature.⁴

Historical Note

Malaysia was a colony of Dutch first and then of British. During the Japanese occupation, British were not able to help the Malaysian colony as they were engaged in fighting with the Germans in their homeland. Therefore after occupation, Malaysia wanted freedom and it gained independence in 1957. Sabah Sarawak, Singapore joined Malaysia in 1963. But due to difference of opinion regarding equality of its people, Singapore separated from it in 1965.⁵

Pakistan was also under the British rule. Quaid-e-Azam led the nation for gaining independence under the flag of Muslim League. It comprised of East Bangal, Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Federal Administered Tribal Areas, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa. In 1971, Bengal was separated from Pakistan and Bangladesh came into being as an independent state.

Malaysia is situated in South East Asia Region which has thirteen federal territories. It is a constitutional Monarchy. Kuala Lumpur is the capital of Malaysia whereas the city of Putrajaya is seat of federal government. Strategically its importance can be visualized through

the fact that it is one of the major crossroads of the world in history. It is having a multiethnic society with people of different religions, traditions and races.⁶ Sarawak and Sabah joined the federation in 1956 and thus the present form of Malaysian's Federation came into being. The demography of Malaysia reveals its multiethnic and multicultural society. Its total population is almost 27.5 million in which Malays, Chinese and Indians are 50.4% 23.7% and 7.1% respectively.

Pakistan is located in South Asian region. Islamabad is its capital. Strategically, it is a very important state as Indian Ocean and Silk Road provide a link with the world and Central Asian states can easily approach it for trade purposes. Pakistan gained independence on 14th August, 1947. Its population is about 177 million. The society is multi-ethnic like Malaysia. Religiously 97% people are Muslims. Culturally, it is divided in Punjabi, Baloch, Sindhi and Pathan factions.⁷

Analytical Note

Politics and Administration

Parliamentary democracy is the system of government in Malaysia. Due to political socialization and public awareness, the political system is very stable and its continuity is also because of democratic attitude of political parties. The main aim of Political leadership is to maintain the national integrity and consistent economic development with equity. It has gained great prosperity in economic and trade sphere. Economic and social development of Malaysia is exemplary among developing countries.⁸

In Pakistan, the system of Government is also parliamentary democracy but democracy is in the transition phase. The rapid growth of media has enhanced the public awareness for improving the democratic setup in the state. Political system in Pakistan was not stable in the history but now the situation is improving and the government has completed its tenure completely for the first time

i.e., 2008-13. The leadership crisis in Pakistan is one of the main factors behind less economic growth and lack of consistency in economic reforms made the economic condition more fragile. In the history, there was rapid economic growth as five year plans were implemented in the country and many states followed the plans but Pakistan lagged behind with the passage of time. Pakistan's foreign policy focuses on security against threats to national identity and territorial integrity, and on the cultivation of close relations with Muslim countries.⁹

Economy: Malaysia is considerably a newly industrialized market economy. It is considered as third largest economy of South East Asian region. The manufacturing sector is growing rapidly in Malaysia and it contributes up to 35% of GDP.¹⁰ The production of integrated circuits and domestic appliances is increasing rapidly and it is third largest in the world ranking.

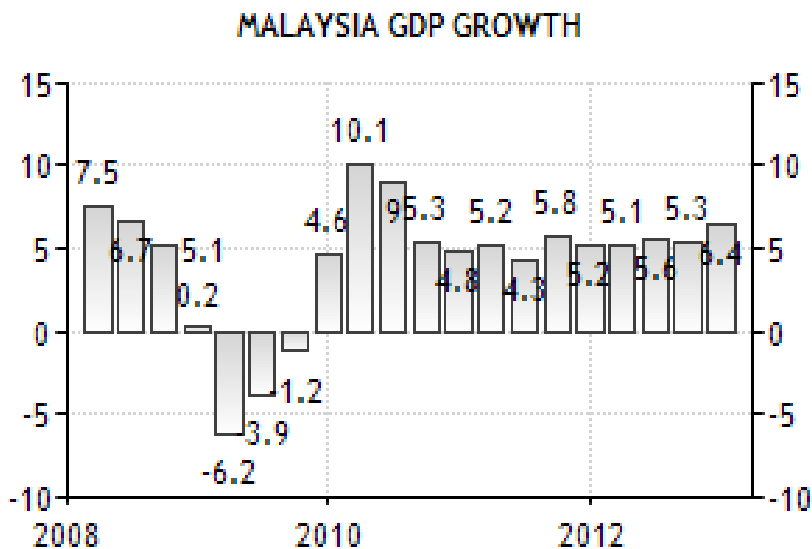
The contribution of agriculture is 10% of GDP of the state.¹¹

Malaysia's Growth Outlook Projections					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Real GDP growth	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2
Domestic demand	6.9	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2
CPI inflation	2.2	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.2
Gross domestic investment	29.4	29.4	28.8	28.6	28.3
Gross national saving	35.3	35.1	34.0	33.6	33.1
Federal government overall balance	-3.9	-3.3	-2.8	-2.7	-3.0
Revenue	21.0	20.5	20.2	20.2	20.0
Expenditure and net lending	24.9	23.8	23.1	23.0	23.0
Federal government debt	53.1	52.3	50.8	49.5	48.8
Current account balance	20.1	21.0	21.0	21.6	22.7
Source: DATA by the authorities and IMF estimates					

The excellent consistent annual growth of GDP of 6.5% for almost fifty years makes Malaysia a role model in this regard.¹² The

transition from low income economic supplier of raw materials to a middle income multi sector market economy makes Malaysia a leading nation in the Southeast Asian region. It is considered that trade is the life blood of Malaysian economy and foreign direct investment is its backbone. The presence of a large number of multinational companies which develop export oriented items ensures the economic growth in a consistent manner.¹³

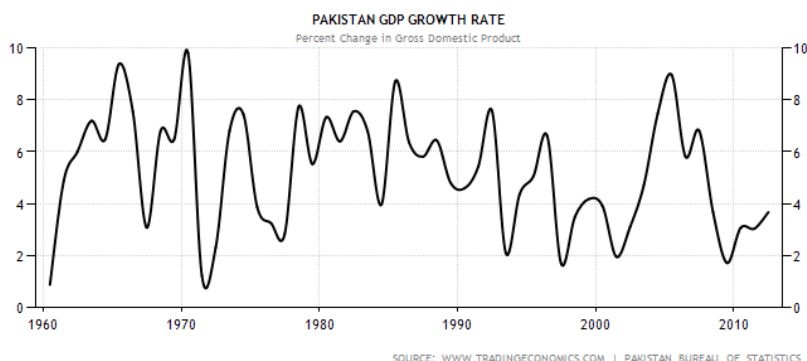
Agriculture, industry and tourism are the backbone of economic progress. Malaysia is at the top of the list among countries, which produce rubber. With the passage of time, the price of rubber fell down and the focus was shifted to palm oils which bring more income than rubber. The arm supply is the main item of industrial export. Genting and Sunway Lagoon are the beautiful holiday resorts in Malaysia which have great attraction for tourists.



Pakistan is a developing country having a semi-industrialized economy. Per capita GDP is almost \$2851 and it stands on 27th in the list of countries having maximum purchasing power. It is

considered as the 2nd largest economy of South Asia. The economic growth of Pakistan is varied since its independence. Nationalized, provincialized and foreign currency accounts freezing policies troubled Pakistan economy. It is relatively slow in the civilian rule while rapid growth is observed in the military rule. Pakistan is one of the largest producers of natural commodities. Agricultural sector accounts for 21.2% of GDP.¹⁴

According to a report of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Pakistan produced 21,591,400 metric tons of wheat in 2005 which is greater than the whole African continent produced and almost equal to the production of South America. Products of textile industry are the main source of exporting items. It accounts for almost 60% of total export. Other important industries include food processing, chemicals manufacturing, iron and steel etc. Pakistan is a beautiful country with a great tourism potential but due to terrorism and political instability, the situation of tourism is highly pathetic.



Special Features of the both countries

Identification cards are compulsory for all citizens of Malaysia. This was established to monitor the movements of communists in the past. Identity cards are compulsory in Pakistan as well but now smart cards are also made for the citizens for security and identification purposes.

Structure of Government

The presence of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy makes Malaysia a unique country having two systems. The head of state Monarch appoints the prime Minister who is the head of Government. Laws can be passed by the elected officials and head of state acts as an advisor. Chief Minister manages the affairs of state governments. There are thirteen states and three federal territories in Malaysia. Kuala Lumpur, Labuan Island and Putrajaya are federal administrative territories. Nine states are ruled by the Sultans who are hereditary rulers while the remaining four are governed by governors.

Pakistan also have parliamentary form of government with a federation having four provinces i.e., Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa as well as Islamabad as a capital city while the government of Pakistan has government in Kashmir Region in the form of separate political entity as Azad Kashmir. Gilgit-Baltistan is given a self-government system by the Empowerment and Self Government order of 2009. Local Government system is present at the level of districts, tehsils and union councils. There are about 130 districts altogether of which 10 are in Azad Kashmir and 7 are in Gilgit- Baltistan. The Tribal Areas comprise seven tribal agencies and six small frontier regions detached from neighboring districts. The head of state is the president while the head of government is the Prime Minister. Laws are formulated in the Parliament with the approval of the Senate.

Level of Development

The Malaysian Government is putting a lot of emphasis on infrastructure building and more roads are being formed. The system of street lights is also improving day by day.

Pakistani government is concerned on the increasing inflation rate and the infrastructure building as well and different projects are

initiated and completed by the recent government like road developments, steps for energy sector improvements etc. the situation is not very optimistic but consistent improvement will ultimately lead the country on the path of progress and prosperity.

Military

The expenditure on military is 2% of GDP in Malaysia. The age for induction is 21 years while during war it is between 15-49 years help to help and support for army.

Pakistan has 8th largest army in the world. The military has frequently intervened in politics of Pakistan and so the democracy is derailed time and again. The total estimated allocation for the defense sector in the 2012-13 budget amounts to Rs679bn. This is equivalent to 21 per cent of the total budget outlay, or 2.9 per cent of projected GDP.

Literacy Rate

Literacy rate is high in cities compared to the villages. In the rural areas people are more worried about food and livelihood so they send their children to work rather than sending to schools.

Free primary and secondary education is the right given to every citizen of Pakistan according to its constitution. The literacy rate is 58.5% in Pakistan. The literacy rate of male is 70.2% while it is 46.3% in case of females.

GDP per capita: It is 42nd in the world in GDP ranking. Pakistan is 179th in the world in this regard.

GDP Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)	\$ 270 billion	\$ 475.5 billion	\$ 504 billion	\$ 545.6 billion
GDP per Capita Income	\$ 450	\$ 925	\$1085	\$1250
Revenue collection	Rs. 305 billion	Rs. 708 billion	Rs. 990 billion	Rs. 1.05 trillion
Foreign reserves	\$ 1.96 billion	\$ 16.4 billion	\$ 8.89 billion	\$ 17.21 billion

Exports	\$ 8.5 billion	\$ 18.5 billion	\$ 19.22 billion	\$ 18.45 billion
Textile Exports	\$ 5.5 billion	\$ 11.2 billion	–	–
KHI stock exchange (100-Index)	\$ 5 billion at 700 points	\$ 75 billion at 14,000 points	\$ 46 billion at 9,300 points	\$ 26.5 billion at 9,000 points
Foreign Direct Investment	\$ 1 billion	\$ 8.4 billion	\$ 5.19 billion	\$ 4.6 billion
External Debt & Liabilities	\$ 39 billion	\$ 40.17 billion	\$ 45.9 billion	\$ 50.1 billion
Poverty level	34%	24%	–	–
Literacy rate	45%	53%	–	–
Development programs	Rs. 80 billion	Rs. 520 billion	Rs. 549.7 billion	Rs. 621 billion

Pakistan's Economy

Malaysian system of Government can be opted in the countries of Middle East as many Middle Eastern states have monarchs and these states are similar to Malaysia in this regard that these are third world states. Pakistan is following parliamentary democracy and this form of government is followed by many states in the world. Malaysia has bad opinion for communism as it created chaos in this state in the past.

Pakistan is in the transition phase and democracy is strengthening in it day by day. The economic progress was more in the military rules, as evident in the history, but consistent democracy can be more fruitful for the prosperity of the state.

Constitutional System

The Malaysia constitution was opted on 27th August 1957. It was based on advice of the Ried commission which did its study in 1956.

Executive Branch

Malaysia is a constitutional Monarchy and it is ruled by paramount ruler Yang di-Pertuan Agong who is also referred as king. King is selected from the nine sultans of the Malay states and he is also the leader of the Islamic faith in Malaysia. There are other four states as

well but they do not participate in the selection and they have titular governors. The executive power is in the hands of cabinet. The leader of Cabinet is prime minister.

Legislative Branch

There is a bicameral Parliament in Malaysia. Senate or Dewan Negara has 70 seats out of which 44 members are appointed by the king and 26 members are appointed by state legislature. The house of representative or Dewan Rakyat has 219 seats. Its member is elected by the people. They serve for term of five years. The legislative power is divided between the federal and state legislatures.

Judicial Branch

The legal system of Malaysia is based on English Common Law which has formulated its objectives of foreign Policy focusing on maintaining peaceful relations with all states irrespective of their system of government. Malaysia puts more emphasis on developing economic relations while establishing diplomatic ties with other states.

The legal system is based on English common laws and Indian laws. The courts include federal courts, courts of appeals, high courts, session courts, magisterial courts and juvenile courts. The king appoints the judges of federal courts on the advice of Prime Minister.

Economy

The economy of Malaysia is growing leaps and bounds. International Monetary Fund has projected more robust growth and estimated that it will be up to 5 percent rather than the previous projection of 4.7 percent. This is a chart of trend of gross domestic product of Malaysia at market prices estimated by the International Monetary Fund with figures in millions of Malaysian Ringgit.

Year	GDP (in millions) 35567980	Exchange (1 USD to MYR)	Inflation Index (2005=100)	Nominal Per Capita GDP (as % of USA)	PPP Per Capita GDP (as % of USA)
1980	54,285	2.17	47	14.78	19.19
1985	78,890	2.48	60	11.44	19.33
1990	119,082	2.70	65	10.47	20.87
1995	222,473	2.50	79	15.69	27.02
2000	343,216	3.80	92	11.47	26.01
2005	494,544	3.78	100	12.67	26.67
2010	765,966	3.04	113	17.81	31.03

estimated by the International Monetary Fund

Economic growth in Malaysia and Pakistan

The Economy of Pakistan grew at a higher rate in the decades of sixties and eighties as compared to Malaysia. The economy of Malaysia grew at a consistent pace in seventies and nineties. The structural trans information of society and economy brought many changes in Malaysia as compared to Pakistan. These changes were very rapid and human development increased at much faster rate. Consistent economic growth and reduction in poverty were the aims that resulted due to excellent role of policy makers in economic sphere.

Political stability was one of the blessings enjoyed by Malaysian system. Only a brief period of 1969 witnessed ethnic riots. New economic policy of 1971 subsided the unstable situation. In the decades of 1960's growth rate was sustained to 6% which was the largest due to taxes e-w rubber and palm oil. Monetary policy was very prudent in this regard. The government laid a lot more emphasis on establishing infrastructure in villages. The direct

investment in agricultural sector and rural development was very useful for consistent economic growth as most of the population resided there. Favorable policies enhanced the exports of the country. The ethnic riots of 1969 were problematic for the state but new economic policy for the state but new economic policy successfully fulfilled the issues of the people lay focusing on eradication of poverty and restructuring of society. The policy makers gave more stress on use of natural resources. The decline in prices of rubber was mitigated by coca and palm oil production. More export oriented items were produced and gave incentives to an export. The market oriented policy reforms explained the consistent growth. Especially in fifth, sixth and seventh five year plan more infrastructure projects were designed to improve private sector.

Throughout the past couple of years, many challenges were met and despite the plural society the position of Malaysia became stronger in the world economic order. Government put more policies in domestic saving, physical infrastructure, education etc. Political stability enhanced the economic progress.

Political instability hampered economic growth in Pakistan and it was exacerbated by mismanagement and pores public system undermined the economic growth of Pakistan. Malaysia did not go to IMF for sustaining its economy and utilized all the domestic resources to manage it. Policy implementation is an important component of instability of Pakistan economy.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Political behaviour is a central part of politics of any political system. Federation is a successful system for countries having a huge population but the institution building is a difficult task in the developing countries and stronger federalism survives only in those countries where institutions are independent and strong and powers are distributed between federation and federating units. Federalism

is not just an issue of the division of powers between central and provincial governments; it is system of harmony between integrated units and a part of political culture that can be strengthened through constitutional measures. Democratic-pluralist ethos is not followed in Pakistan in its true letter and spirit. Federal and provincial governments are not working in their domains as in Malaysia.

The principle of non-interference is a best method of a strong federalism. Decentralization of power in Pakistan and participation of local populace and provincial autonomy of federating units of the country are a key to federalism and these traits should be promoted in the society. Check and Balance system can be considered as a conventionalism for strengthen the federal system. The trend of powerful centre in Pakistan should be checked and reduced only to limited matters. The federal predominance should be restraints in misuses of emergency powers. The legislative subject should be strictly observed both by the federation and the provinces in true letter and spirit as designed in the constitution. Fair, free and transparent elections, decentralization of power are the core issues of the federalism and they should be addressed harmoniously. Comparison of economic growth of both countries is a question mark for policy makers of Pakistan. The characters/institutions involved in policy implementation should have sincerity and skill to achieve outcomes of policies. Non- political powers in Pakistan used the openness of political system as per their own outfit to prolong their era of authority and this trend became a challenge to actual democracy.

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