

Center-Province Relations in India and Pakistan: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

This paper seeks to analytically explore and compare the center-province relations in federalism of India and Pakistan. It takes on the theoretical literature analysis and evolution, as well as the institutional structures, political and socio-economic effects of federalism performances in these two nations. This research employs a comparative case study method to evaluate the political structures found in the constitution, historical political occurrences and fiscal relations. It features both primary and secondary evidence; the former is constitutional documents, whereas the latter is publications. The paper establishes an understanding and comparison of federal structures, demonstrates various effects of historical and political factors and evaluates the effects on governance, regional development with specific focus on social policies. Following the policy recommendations provided in the paper, it has been suggested to decentralize power for better functioning of federalism in both countries.

Key Words: Center-province Relations, Comparative approach, Federalism, India, Pakistan

Introduction

There are significant sensitive and complex center-province relations existing in India and Pakistan which have contributed to the formation of the political social and economical structure of these two South Asian neighbors. The two countries also share similarities in this regard given that both inherited unitary colonial systems of administration; however, their respective evolutions have differed greatly in terms of handling federal systems post-independence. In order to understand the general picture of governance and development in India and Pakistan, the peculiarities of center-province relations are of significant importance.

India's Constitution has provided a strong central structure of the government having clear division of power between the Center and the states. In the last several decades this relationship has become defined through changes in the political and administrative structure, due to the requests deriving from the region, and as well the emergence of strong parties in some states. The decentralised structure of governance in India in terms of the federal relationship between the central and state governments has entailed cooperation and rivalry in terms of policy formulation and implementation as well as the general development of the state and its people.

In this regard, the relationship of center-province in Pakistan has been quite contrasting. That is why the subject was formed under the pressure of frequent changes in political regimes, including through military coups. In its relations between the centre and provinces, there has been controversy on political power separation by causing instability. These tensions are apparent in the constitution of Pakistan, where amendments have been made with an attempt to solve the constitutional tensions except for a few that persists in providing and maintaining an equal share between the two wings in power.

As such, the main empirical question steering this investigation is: How have the center-province relations evolved in India and Pakistan historically, in terms of institutions, politics, and socio-economic implications? Given that this is a comparative research, the study aims at discovering the similarities and differences in the federal systems of these countries based on the constitutional

provisions for the federal systems, key political events, and the financial basis of the federal systems. The crucial and major relationships to be discussed will also include its implications in governance, in regional development, as well as in social policies to establish understandings of its likely reforms excursions as well as promises for the said center-province relations in both countries in the future.

Literature Review

Centre-province relations in India and Pakistan have found much attention among the scholars. As for the colonial legacy and the state formation processes, the trajectories of the two countries are opposite; however, both of them are federal states and have the similar problems between the center and provinces. This section discusses and integrates the major themes and conclusions to be drawn from the most relevant literature on this subject, especially focusing on the comparative analysis of the center-province relations in these two South Asian states.

Austin (1966) on India's Constitution, on the basis of a large centre aimed at bringing about the co-ordination of diversities and hence, unity and integrity of the Indian Nation. This centralization was to address the problems of inequity in distribution of the national wealth and secessionist sentiments. On the other hand, according to the account of Khan (2006), since the early formation of federal structure in Pakistan having the administrative units of provinces, there were observations of political instabilities that triggered the power of military interventions, which in turn, caused the centralization to become centralize at some times and de-centralize at other times.

India's constitution explained the sharing of powers in a centralized framework in a detailed method for the center and the states. The Indian Constitution divides the subjects into the Union, State and Concurrent list thus the responsibilities of the state and union are well defined (Arora & Verney, 1995). This structural clarity of the separation of powers is supported by institutions like the Finance Commission for the balance of resources.

Pakistan, nevertheless, has undergone major constitutional transformations concerning center-province relations. In a similar assertion, Waseem (2010) posited that although the 1973 Constitution initially granted a fairly sound federal system for the country, numerous changes were made about that system, more so during the military rule regimes. The Eighteenth Amendment (2010) caused a drastic change to decentralization as it restored the provincial autonomy and solve the complaints (Rizvi, 2011).

Ahluwalia (2000) tried to dissect the economic situation of Indian states during post-reforms eras where the central government attempt to reduce the regional disparities were in vain. Centrally sponsored schemes and Planning Commission of India have played a major role in mitigate these disparities but not completely successful.

Using the example of Pakistan, Gazdar (2011) discusses the problems of the country's economy and their relation to social protection measures and center-province relations. This area has been characterized by provinces relying on federal transfers and the act that the economic development varies across provinces. Siddiqui (2019) provides a historical context of how the CPEC entered into Baluchistan along with an analytical discussion on how the provincial dynamics of the Baluchistan responded to the federal initiatives especially the CPEC.

The political structure in both countries plays an important role in center-province relations. Much like Kohli (1990), India's political features are discussed here with an emphasis on the issues of governability as well as regional political ambitions. New parties that emerged and the strongly developed coalition system of governance made the Centre to be more accommodative and thus encouraged the cooperative federalism.

In Pakistan, political upheaval and authoritative militarization have posed unfavourable structures for the centre-province relation. Waseem (1994) has dealt in detail the institutional structure

of the state and explained how both the military bureaucratic regimes are tend to subvert the provincial authority. In these relations, the provincial assemblies added with the involvement of both civilian and military leadership still plays the part.

Material and Methods

The type of research applied in the study is a comparative case study to analyze data from the selected countries; India and Pakistan. This design is convenient for the comparison of the federal provisions and the process of decentralization in these countries. The relative perspective, specified by Lijphart (1999) enabled to find out similarities and differences in various political systems and the consequent effects on governance.

Primary Sources

Constitutional Documents: Primary research regarding government documents, principally the Indian Constitution from 1949 and the Constitution of Pakistan from 1973 to study the official allocation of power and formal legal principles of federalism.

Legislative Records: Analyzing various legislative acts, changes (for example, the Indian Article 356 and the Pakistan's Eighteenth Amendment) and governmental reports to define historical development of center-province relations.

Secondary Sources

Academic Literature: It included journal, books and articles based on the theoretical aspects of federalism and decentralization.

Policy Analysis: It involved the use of policy documents and reports of governmental and non-governmental organizations that depict the federal policies' implementation and effects.

Results and Discussions

Historical Evolution of Center-Province Relations

It is noteworthy that the development of center-province relations in India and Pakistan full of important experience useful for understanding the contemporary processes and problems of these countries. Thus, to comprehend this change, it is necessary to explore the colonial influences, constitutional provisions and fundamental political events that characterized the formation of federal structures in both countries.

Indian federal structure basically belongs to colonialism period especially the Government of India Act 1935 which provided a federal structure to India along with autonomous provinces in the center and around. This act, therefore, provided the post-independence blueprint for India's federal structure. India got independence in the year 1947 and following a parliamentary system of governance adopted the constitution in the year 1950 to commit to a federal structure with a strong central government. The Indian Constitution delineates powers between the central and state governments through three lists: This means that it comprises of the Union List, the State List as well as the Concurrent List. This is an endeavor to have unity in the country and at the same time decentralization of powers to the regional level (Constituent Assembly of India, 1949).

Another important constitutional provision which has an impact on center-state relation in India is article 356 of the Indian constitution whereby the President can remove the state government, which does not follow the provider's constitution. This provision has been cited many a times, which has seen the centre being accused of encroaching on the states and political exploitation. However, these controversies were gradually resolved thus paving way for the recognition of regional diversities

through political bargaining and judicial activism in India's federalism. Some of the fundamental judgments made by the supreme court of India have loomed greatly in defining the difference between the central and state authority to assert the federative system (Austin, 1966).

Center-province relationship in Pakistan has experienced political instability over the years and is characterized by military interferences as well. Since its start from 1947, Pakistan adopted the Government of India Act of 1935; however, the years that followed introduced many improvements. The federal structure initially formed in 1956, when Pakistan became a republic under the 1956 constitution, was abolished in 1958 through a martial law. It is the 1973 constitution that is still in force today restored the federal structure and placed a greater stress on the provincial autonomy. Nonetheless, political instability, and military hegemony tend to upset the central-provincial relations periodically (Waseem, 1994).

Pakistan has a constitution under which the division of powers between the federal and provincial governments is demarcated by use of Federal, Concurrent and Residual lists having genesis in the constitution of 1973. In the course of time, the Concurrent List has remained a contentious issue with most provinces keen on obtaining more powers with regard to matters on the list. The Eighteenth Amendment passed in year, 2010 was one of the most revolutionary reforms in the political history of Pakistan, with the objective of devolution of power by eradicating Concurrent List and transferring enormous powers to the provinces. This amendment was quite significant as it attempted at consolidating provincial autonomy and redressing historical injustices (Rizvi, 2011).

Important political events have continued to influence center-province relation in both countries. The early major event is the state reorganization based on linguistic affiliation that happened in India in 1956 to meet regional call for cultural and linguistic identity. This move not only averted the escalating conflict within regions but also consolidated the federal structure by accepting the federation's diversification (Arora & Verney, 1995). In Pakistan, the experience of eastern province and formation of Bangladesh in 1971 has vividly defined the primordial necessity of the absorbent federal balance of power that could successfully embark the regionalism. This event served to bring into focus the ethnic and regional inequalities, the challenge which has continued to challenge the spirit of unity of the nation (Waseem, 1994).

Consequently, the center-province relations' history of India and Pakistan shows the lessons and difficulties of inspiring and governing federal systems in multicultural populous states. Even though both countries have attempted to strike a delicate power-sharing between the center and regions, there are vast differences due to historical and political conditions and the constitutional provisions. These historical evolutions still define character of center-province relations and in this manner contribute toward the existing structures of governance and development in India and Pakistan.

Institutional and Legal Framework

The legal and political background of India and Pakistan is the most important for knowing the organization and the interaction of the center and the province in these countries. Each country also has clearly outlined how the central and provincial levels of government function and is regulated through the legal system but the systems of each are distinct due to historical, political, and constitutional factors.

The Indian Constitution lays down the principles of the distribution of powers of Central and State Government. The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains three lists: It experienced three lists that include the Union List, The State List, and the Concurrent List. Some of the matters listed in the Union List include defense, foreign affairs, and atomic energy among others which can only be legislated by the central government. The State List categories issues under the domain of state governments only and it includes areas like police, health and agriculture. The Concurrent List refers to a list of honor's that both the central and the state governments are allowed to enact laws on some of them include education forest and marriage laws. The ruling of the conflict between central laws and

state laws, with reference to Concurrent List issues is that the central laws shall always supersede the state laws (Constituent Assembly of India, 1949).

A number of bodies exist in the institutional structure of modern India and the main ones are the President of India and the Governors of the states. At the centre, the President can even remove state governments through Article 356 if they are not constitutional and this is a preventive measure but criticized most times on political basis. The Governors who are nominated by the President are the direct representatives of the central government in the states and possess discretionary powers; they even advise the President in the matter of the imposition of President's rule under Article 356, Austin (1966).

An anthology of Indian federal structure is the set financial relations between the center and the states. The Finance Commission is constituted under article 280 and is aimed to advise the parliament about the distribution of central taxes between the center and state and this ensures that resources are distributed fairly. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is one of the recent institutional changes under the One Hundred and First Amendment Act, 2016 which was intended to bring coordination of centre and states for improving the structure of indirect taxes and also a way to foster cooperative federalism (Singh & Sharma, 2018).

Pakistan's structure focuses on the key rules in the constitution of 1973; the distribution of powers is done through the Federal, Provincial, and Concurrent Lists. Federal List outlines subjects come within the legislative competence of the federal government while the Provincial List outlines subjects come under the provincial legislation's purview. The Concurrent List that was eliminated by the Eighteenth Amendment in 2010 deals with those matters on which both federal and provincial legislation is permitted. The Eighteenth Amendment worked a massive change of the federal order by even strengthening Provincial rights and much of the Concurrent List was shifted to the provinces (Government of Pakistan, 1973).

The President of Pakistan and Governors of provinces hold certain important positions in the federal factor. The President has the power to declare emergency under Article 232 where internal danger exist or under article 234 where external aggression exist in which the federal government takes on the provincial responsibility. The Governors are selected by the President and act as the federal government agents in the provinces and have the authority to withhold the provincial bills for presidential okay (Rizvi, 2011).

Economic management in relation to the finance of Pakistan is controlled by National Finance Commission (NFC) which has been established under Article 160 of the Constitution of Pakistan. The NFC is suppose to advice government on how many rupees should go to the federal government and how many to the provincial government. The Eighteenth Amendment also set out the condition for providing provinces a larger share of the federal revenues as was demanded by them for fiscal autonomy (Waseem, 2010).

Both India and Pakistan have experienced a similar kind of problem in the formation and execution of their federal structures. Centralization and regionalism have large demands for autonomy and cases of central domination, and thus, the stability of the Indian federal structure has been proved in India. The role that has been executed by the judiciary especially in respect to the provisions of the constitution and the distribution of power between the centre and the states cannot be overemphasized. The Pakistan experience indicates that the process of power concentration during the military regimes and unwarranted implementation of the constitutional principles negatively affected the country's potential for stabilizing the federal system. It is of utmost importance to note that the Eighteenth Amendment alone helps a little in achieving decentralization and there is a long way to go; such problems are in terms of distribution of resources and inter provincial disparities (Waseem, 2010).

Summing up, it should be stated that the institutional and legal peculiarities of India and Pakistan reveal the conditions for centre-province relations in these countries. Although, both the

countries share the view of having a well-established system of checking and balancing the powers and the resources, the way, in which they developed, was quite different and is based on historical, political and constitutional circumstances. It is crucial to comprehend these frameworks as a foundation for the practice of federalism and center-province relations' contemporary issues in both India and Pakistan.

Political Dynamics and Governance

Topography and public politics of India and Pakistan govern federalism and decentralization's between the central as well as provincial affairs. Both the countries' political systems involve complex interrelationships between different political parties and coalitions as well as regional movements that determine the federal frameworks and affect the efficiency of their respective governments.

The particularly important feature of the Indian political structures is the presence of various parties, national and regional. That the central political party in the early decades after receiving independence has been dominated by INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS guaranteed the existence of a strong central government. Nonetheless, the centre-state relations underwent significant changes after the era of 'emergence of power' right from the 1960s due to the intervention of regional parties. These regional parties, usually having linguistic, ethnic or regional base have performed important functions in the coalitions at the centre and thus have shaped policies at the national level and enriched the federal character of the Indian political system (Kohli, 1990).

The coalition period especially from early nineties, regional parties like DravidaMunnetraKazhagam (DMK), All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) play strong role. Infact, their membership in the central coalitions have ensured the centre and states enter into more bargaining and compromising hence a checks – and – balance federalism. This period also various examples of center-state cooperation and antagonism, like the foisting of President's rule in quite a number of states, and the conflict of sharing and distribution of resources (Arora &Verney, 1995).

Out of the political culture of Pakistan, it is vivid that the country has viewed a lot of military coups and ineffectual civil rule. Pakistan's political parties before democratization have tribal and regional structure making it difficult for the center and provinces to develop harmonious relations. Out of all these parties, the most prominent ones are the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), while the regional ones include the MuttahidaQaumi Movement (MQM) and the Awami National Party (ANP) that predominantly influences the respective provinces in the country (Waseem, 1994).

Thus, the military rule influenced the center-province relations in Pakistan to a significant extent. Thus, during military regimes, provincial authorities did not occupy dominant positions, the power was centralized. For instance, General Zia and his regime from 1977 to 1988 and General Musharraf and the regime from 1998 to 2008 entailed centralization of power significantly. These periods of authoritarian regimes impaired the federal equilibrium, which inevitably strained relations between the center and the provinces (Rizvi, 2011).

The end of military rule in Pakistan after election of civil government and its approval to the Eighteenth Amendment in 2010 also showed the trend of decentralization in this country. The purpose of the amendment was to empower the provinces by decentralizing the powers and deleting the concurrent list which in turn went some way to appeasing some of the key complaints of the provinces. But it has not followed a smooth process and even today some of the barriers like centralization: inter-provincial disparities and resource allocation remain a problem (Rizvi, 2011).

The following case gathers more information about the conflicts and cooperation between the center and state/province to understand the political background of both countries. This paper focuses on India's long-standing central-state relationship, with a particular exploration of the dispute between

the central government and the state of Jammu and Kashmir as a prime example of the issues related to the management of regional nationalism in a federal state. The scrapping of Article 370 in 2019 meant that the special status of Jammu and Kashmir will no longer be protected, and this remains one of the most contentious issues because it identifies the dilemma between the process of Indian integration and regional self-governance of the state (Schofield, 2010).

Their examples include; In Pakistan, the conflict in Baluchistan shows the problems of assimilating polarized regions within a federal system. This province has always been charged with some form of rebellion and clamor for increased self-governance on the pretext of quasi-exploitation of resources and political exclusion. The government responses comprising of military action and development initiatives from the federal authority and aided by the provincial governments have yielded incongruent outcome and sheds further light on the expanding federalism dilemma of the country (Adeel, 2010).

Thus, one can state that the political environment in the Indian and Pakistani context fundamentally defines the nature of the center-province relationship and governance. Despite these improvements, both countries' ongoing experiences reveal that it is an ongoing process of negotiation to provide the regions within federal systems more autonomy where appropriate. Thus, the interaction between the political parties in the federal systems and the dynamics of the coalitions and the regional movements will continue to affect the efficiency and the stability of the federal governance in both Canada and Australia.

Socio-Economic Implications

The existing patterns and trends of center-province relations in India and Pakistan hold great socio-economic significance in relation to regional development, economic policies, welfare programs and general integration of these two countries. Such factors as the distribution of resources, fiscal federalism, and efficiency of social policies that govern the socio-economic structure in both countries are ominous.

India's fiscal relations between the center and states are determined by the Finance Commission in accordance with the act on the allocation of the central tax revenues that is reappointed every five years. More specifically, the Finance Commission's work is to balance resources in a way that it should be properly distributed in the country and its sub-division according to the population, income, rates of every state and other factors. This system of fiscal federalism thus aimed to bring equilibrium in the regional development with an intention to curtail the differences in economic disparities (Singh & Sharma, 2018).

Policies of the economy of India play a crucial role in the further development of the country's regions. GST which was implemented in 2017 is a reform for a unified national market replacing numerous state taxes. The process of harmonizing central as well as state laws is overseen by the GST Council which consists of representatives from the central government as well as the state governments. Although the GST has helped to introduce a simplified system for taxation and the enhancement of revenue earnings, it has also revealed some difficulties concerned with the unification of numerous autonomous states that have different economic agendas (Mukherjee, 2020).

Another important field that can be mentioned in connection with center-state relations is the sphere of social policies and welfare programs in India. Some of the important central government sponsored schemes to empower the people especially living in rural areas are MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and National Health Mission and these require the efforts of state governments to come into force. Such programs and their outcomes, therefore, vary due to the effectiveness of state administrations and their suitability of practices from central policies to local environments (Kapur&Nangia, 2015).

Distribution of financial resources is the responsibility of the National Finance Commission in Pakistan that decides the proportion and division of revenue between the Federal and the provincial level. The Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution received an objective that boosted the provincial share in revenue and drastically prepared to eliminate regional disparity and pave way for regional balanced development. Out of these the major issue like delays in NFC awards and disputes regarding the distribution of resources continue to haunt the provinces and financial stability and future development scenario of the provinces has become a matter of serious concern (Rizvi, 2011).

Research would show that economic policies implemented in Pakistan in the past have directly responded to the centre's main goals; nevertheless, they created regional disparities. Overall ownership and exploitation of major natural resources like natural gas and minerals are administered by the federal government, which has been a matter of dispute, mostly in demand-driven provinces like Baluchistan and Sind. These provinces have called for the devolution of power and authority over the resources so that is people benefit from the resources. Currently, these demands are met with limited effects due to the federal government's inadequacy in reforms through constitutional alteration and policies, indicating the continuities of the center-province relations (Khan, 2006).

The schemes dealing with social welfare in Pakistan also present an array of issues relating to the center-province relationship. The federally and provincially administered Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) and National Health Insurance Scheme involve the top layers of provincial and federal government and an efficient cooperation between them. The devolution of powers under the Eighteenth Amendment transferred major responsibilities of social services to the provinces but due to differences in the administrative competence and constrained resources the provinces have implemented the process of social services differently (Gazdar, 2011).

Changed regulation in center-province relations has negative influence on the socio-economic development as characteristics of regional disparity in both countries. Out of the states, Gujarat having higher industrial development and growth similarly Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are in higher position than Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha in case of most score of the socio-economic indicating factors. Solving these issues means the need to have specific policy intervention measures and more direct financial flows to the less developed regions (Ahluwalia, 2000).

The idea of decentralization is kind of implemented in Pakistan as well but the development among the provinces varies highly for example Punjab is way more developed than Baluchistan and KPK. Such issues tend to be compounded by issues related to inequitable distribution of resources and political Isolation. Most attempts at defining the type of regional development to be achieved through projects such as CPEC the distribution of resources, funds and opportunities for local participation have been an issue (Siddiqui, 2019).

Therefore, the socio-economic implication of center-province relations in the two countries, India and Pakistan is complex insofar as it impacts on provincial development, economic policies, as well as provision of social welfare services. There are also issues of regional imbalances and balanced development in both the countries which pose major issues in their developmental prospects. Cooperative governance and proper fiscal federalism together with the correct kinds of policies are important to reduce such challenges for the promotion for inclusiveness.

Key Challenges and Future Prospects

The primary issue which India faces is in how to manage regional Diversity and Unity in the country. The linguistic, cultural and ethnic map of India requires the federal structure able to acknowledge the difference between the regions. Nevertheless, this diversity usually results in calls for decentralization, which can exert pressure on the centre-state relations. The dilemma is thus made of

these demands and the requirement of a central authority, which on the one hand it is essential for the nation's coherence and efficiency (Austin, 1966). Also, the use of Article 356 in a routine manner to remove state governments has been carried out without much regard to federal principles; hence there has been criticism of the central government to act in an autocratic manner (Arora & Verney, 1995).

Another key issue is that there are issues regarding the equal distribution of resources. However, this problem has not been surmounted by the Finance Commission's attempt to fairly distribute financial burdens and resources among the regions. More developed industrialized states like Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu invest more than the less developed states like Bihar and Odisha. Eradication of these disparities calls for proper mechanism and enhancement of fiscal transfers to deficit regions (Ahluwalia, 2000). The introduction of the GST has also brought out the problem of cooperative federalism as centre and the states need to synchronize their taxation as well as revenue systems (Mukherjee, 2020).

In this case, it can be seen that political conflict on one side, central authority and provincial autonomy on the other side, political unrest and military rule background of Pakistan have made the challenge more complex and hard to deal with. Holding of more power in military regimes has always posed a problem to the provinces and has affected their autonomy hence creating tension and conflicts. Yet, the Eighteenth Amendment which has the goal to decrease the central authority and increase the provincial powers deserves to be seen as a positive development. Though it has been adopted, its execution is a bit sloppy, and some concerns like resources, and the administrative capacity are still hard-hitting (Rizvi, 2011).

Distribution of the resources and specifically in the provinces having the resources such as Baluchistan and Sind has always been a problem in Pakistan. These provinces have long called for more self-governance in their resource endowment, stating that resource-rich countries' benefits should go to the local people. Due to the federal government failure to fully meet these demands tensions and conflicts persist (Khan, 2006). This leads to a question of fairness in the distribution of revenues and resources since these are critical in handling regional complaints and forging national unity.

The agglomeration of socio-economic differences between the different regions adds to the prospects of conflicts between center and province in both countries. This paper argues that several states in India are still developing, and therefore, require different approaches to the implementation of policies taking into consideration state specifics. Decentralization and capacity that deals with the state level is crucial to increase availability for better implementation of social welfare programs along with policies related to economy (Kapur & Nangia, 2015). Some of the issues in regional development which are clearly expressed in Pakistan are differences between developed province such as Punjab and underdeveloped Baluchistan reflect that need for developmental activities and instruments for fair distribution of resources in the country (Adeel, 2010).

As for the further development, India and Pakistan require the increase of effectiveness of the federal systems to respond to these challenges. Therefore, to further the principle of cooperative federalism in Indian context better centre-State relations is required. This can be done by expanding the functions of bodies such as the Inter-State Council and the GST Council, which involve the coordination of the working and decisions of the states and the centre at different levels (Singh & Sharma, 2018). Thus, while boosting federalism, there is also a need to fix inequality in the distribution of powers, strengthen constitutional and judicial checks which guard against abuse of provisions such as Article 356.

In Pakistan the only way to improve the scale of provincial autonomy and to redress regional disparities that clearly manifested themselves in Eighteenth Amendment is to ensure that the process of its implementation becomes successful. Developing provincial capabilities about the NFC and timely and fair distribution of resources are important measures. Also, constructive changes that resolve raw political and ethnic disputes on governance, power and resource sharing can assist in the restoration of confidence and hence enhance unity in the nation (Rizvi, 2011).

In conclusion, it can be stated that the most important issues that define the relations between the center and the province in the Indian and Pakistani context can be summarized as follows: the problem of diversity, the problem of generating fair distribution revenue, and the conflict between centralization and decentralization. Solving these issues requires a strong federal model that would increase inter and intrastate cooperation, development, and government accountability. The further political evolution of the two countries depends on the enhancement of the federalism measures and on the capability of the leadership in managing the problems resulted from the multi-cultural realities.

Conclusion

The Center-province relations comparative study of India and Pakistan show that different historical, political and sociological aspects influence the federal system and organization of these two countries. These two countries with similar colonial backgrounds, although, have come up with different approaches of federalism owing to the difference in their political evolution process.

Federal structure of India can therefore be said to entail a well laid down constitutional framework that spells out division of powers between the central and state governments. Today's increased centrality of regional parties and the practice of coalition politics has only further complicated the dynamics of the center-state relations and has called for an ongoing process of establishing who gets to do what. It also relates with the effectiveness of fiscal policies, welfare programs like the Goods and Services Tax and others by underlining the need for cooperative federalism.

This study also depicts that over the period of military rule in Pakistan, power has centralized which caused a gap between the center-province and raised conflicts. In understanding the theme for decentralization and for increase in the provincial autonomy the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution is significant step. However, the inconsistencies of these reforms and problems like resource decentralization and political disadvantaging are still existent and trouble the stability of the federal structure of the country.

Recommendations

The relations between the center and provinces in both the countries paint the expected picture in terms of socio-economic scenarios which clearly mean that resource distribution should not be limited to the center alone and that there should be well targeted developmental policies. Imbalances in physical and human capital to states, presence of income disparities, and condition of existing infrastructures and facilities of social services stress the need to fiscal federalism and good governance. These contain necessities that need to be made to address the disparities in ways that are sensitive to local context development and strengthening of administrative capabilities of states/provinces.

The idea of the enhancement of the federal structures in both the Indian and Pakistani States can be regarded as a major factor for the encouragement of the national unity and stability in addition to the general development in the long run. Thus in India there is need for a strong institutional framework that facilitates cooperative federalism and at the same time protecting the constitutional provisions from abuse. Therefore, the relationships between the center and provinces in both India and Pakistan are crucial to the countries' governance and development pathways. The enumerated problems also remain real in both countries: how to govern diversity, how to combine central power and regional decentralization, how to achieve rather unequal socio-economic development? As our analysis has shown, India and Pakistan face several intricate challenges when dealing with federal structures and issues concerning shared waters; however, by further developing their federal systems and enhancing the diversity of cooperation mechanisms, both countries can create a sound foundation for the improvement of interstate relations and the resolution of trans-boundary disputes in the long run.

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