

The Relationship between Public Policy Failures and Inconsistent Foreign Policy in Pakistan

Authors

Munir Ahmad Khan Gasura (M Phil Scholar)

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Islamabad

Dr. Waleed Rasool Sheikh (Assistant Professor)

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Islamabad

Kashif Zaheer Kamboh (Senior Lecturer)

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Islamabad

Mazahir Abbas (M Phil Scholar)

Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Islamabad

Abstract

This research paper draws into the relationship between Public Policy failures and inconsistent Foreign Policy in Pakistan. The country's foreign policy has been portrayed by irregularities and unconventionality, which has subverted its international standing and ruined its capacity to accomplish its foreign policy targets. The impetus behind this paper is to look at the variables that add to this relationship and feature its suggestions for Pakistan's policymakers. By exploring existing writing and contextual analyses, this paper distinguishes feeble administration, absence of institutional bound, and a divided policy making process as key variables adding to the relationship between public policy failures and foreign policy irregularities in Pakistan. The suggestion of this paper is that tending to policy failure is basic for advancing a more lucid and compelling foreign policy in Pakistan. This paper gives significant understandings into the transaction between public policy failures and foreign policy in Pakistan, and highlights the requirement for additional research in this area.

Keywords; public policy, international policy, Pakistan, policy failure, administration, monetary arrangement.

Introduction

Pakistan is a South Asian nation known for its strategic location, historic alliances and atomic capacities. The nation faces many difficulties in the political, financial and social circles reflected in its foreign and public policy failures. Pakistan's foreign policy objectives are to foster

regional stability, strengthen economic and trade links, and protect national security interests. However, in addition to a history of tense relations with neighboring nations such as India and Afghanistan, the country's foreign policy is frequently marked by paradoxes and unpredictability. Many reasons contribute to Pakistan's public policy failures, including corruption, poor planning, and a lack of political will to effectively implement policies. These failings have had substantial social, economic, and political ramifications for the population of the country, contributing to lower living standards, insufficient access to education and health care, and limited economic prospects.

The motivation behind this study is to inspect the connection between Pakistan's foreign policy and public policy failures. This paper inspects the effect of public policy failures on Pakistan's foreign policy objectives and international commitment. The paper additionally investigates the elements that added to Pakistan's public policy failures and their effect on the nation's inner and foreign relations. The research questions for this study are: What effect has the breakdown of Pakistan's public policy had on Pakistan's foreign policy and international commitment? Public policy failures in Pakistan fundamentally affect the country's foreign policy objectives and international commitment, adding to the imbalance and capriciousness of international relations. Addressing these political failures is fundamental for Pakistan to advance its domestic circumstance and connect all the more really on the international stage.

This paper is composed of four areas. In segment 1 analysis of public policy of Pakistan has been done. Segment 2 contains analysis of foreign policy of Pakistan. Literature review has been done in Segment 3. Findings based on literature review have been consolidated in section 4. Based on these findings, recommendations have been made in Segment 5 followed by conclusion.

In summary, this research paper gives an extensive analysis of the connection between Pakistan's foreign policy and public policy failures. This paper adds to the literature on the difficulties confronting emerging nations in carrying out powerful strategies that address the issues of their domestic and regional steadiness and economic turn out.

1. Analysis of Public Policy Failures in Pakistan

Pakistan has been tormented by various public policy failures throughout the history. Therefore, different social, financial and political hitches have emerged. These failures have been credited to various variables, including lack of foresight, debasement, and absence of political will to actually execute policy (Malik, 2019). Education, medical care, energy and infrastructure development are a portion of the key areas where Pakistan has encountered huge policy failures. Several reasons have contributed to Pakistan's breakdown of public policy. One of the primary issues is corruption, which has been a long-standing issue in Pakistan. This results in insufficient resource allocation, inefficiencies in public service delivery, and a lack of accountability (Azam & Khan, 2018). Improper planning and implementation is also a key cause

of policy failure, as policies are developed without taking into account the economic, social, and political aspects that can influence their effectiveness. (Ahmad & Javid, 2018). Many Pakistanis suffered from low living conditions, insufficient access to education and health care, and limited economic possibilities as a result of these shortcomings (Khalid, 2019).. This adds to social distress, political unsteadiness and absence of confidence in government organizations (Khan, 2017). The repercussions of these failures are being felt past Pakistan's lines and are additionally influencing the country's international relations. Public policy failures in Pakistan significantly affect the country's international policy, prompting conflicts and capriciousness in international relations. Nations incapable to address domestic issues make it hard to introduce an intelligent and powerful foreign policy plan (Khan, 2017).

Absence of progress in key areas, for example, education, medical services and infrastructure development additionally make it challenging for Pakistan to draw in unfamiliar venture and really participate in international exchange and financial associations. Besides, public policy failure add to Pakistan's security challenges, including the ascent of radical sentiments and progressing clashes in areas like Balochistan and Kashmir. These moves limit Pakistan's capacity to connect successfully with its neighbors and international community (Hussain, 2018). Tending to public policy failures in Pakistan requires government authorities, policy makers and all stake holders to cooperate to focus on responsibility, straightforwardness and compelling preparation and execution. This incorporates battling defilement through measures, for example, reinforcing hostile to debasement organizations and expanding straightforwardness in government processes (Ahmad and Javid, 2018). Furthermore, policy making and execution process requires a more comprehensive methodology that takes into account about the financial complexities, social and political elements that impact policy achievement (Malik, 2019).

Pakistan must prioritize boosting access to education as well as the quality of education given. This necessitates higher government education expenditure, enhanced teacher preparation, and stronger institutional responsibility (Khan, 2017). Similarly, enhancing health care necessitates higher government expenditure, better infrastructure, and better health-care administration (Khalid, 2019). Addressing infrastructure difficulties necessitates substantial investment in areas such as transportation, electricity, and water supply, as well as the formation of public-private partnerships to assist infrastructure development (Azam & Khan, 2018).

In conclusion, our examination of Pakistan's public policy failures emphasises the tremendous obstacles that the country faces in developing effective policies that fulfill the needs of its inhabitants while also contributing to its international engagement. To address these issues, a holistic approach that prioritizes accountability, openness, and effective planning and implementation is required. Pakistan can better its domestic condition and engage more effectively in the international arena by resolving these challenges.

2. Analysis of Pakistan's Foreign policy

Pakistan's foreign policy reflects the country's strategic position, nuclear capabilities, historical connections, as well as domestic and regional issues (Khan, 2019). Countries wish to enhance regional stability, strengthen economic and trade links, and safeguard national security interests (Hameed, 2016). However, Pakistan's foreign policy is frequently marked by contradictions and unpredictability, which have harmed the country's international reputation and hampered its capacity to fulfill foreign policy objectives (Noman & Khan, 2020). A multitude of domestic, regional, and international issues influence Pakistan's foreign policy. Historically, the country has had close relations with the US, China, and Saudi Arabia, but has had difficult relations with India (Zaidi, 2017). The continuous violence in Afghanistan, as well as the presence of terrorist groups in the region, makes it difficult for Pakistan to maintain regional stability (Kugelman, 2020). The country's nuclear capabilities have provided it with a strategic advantage, but they also pose a risk to regional and international security (Haqqani, 2019). One of Pakistan's greatest foreign policy dilemmas is its relationship with the United States. Despite being allies, the two countries' relationship was turbulent, with phases of cooperation and confrontation (Rashid, 2018). Pakistan's apparent support for terrorist groups adds to suspicion among the international community (Nawaz, 2017). Furthermore, relations between Pakistan and India are strained as both countries want to exert their influence in the region by diplomatic and military actions. (Ashraf, 2020).

These paradoxes and obstacles impede Pakistan's ability to collaborate with its neighbors and the international community as a whole. Pakistan has endeavored to improve its international reputation and engage more effectively in regional and international politics in recent years (Akhund, 2021). Through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, the country has tried to strengthen economic and trade links with other countries, notably China (Chowdhury, 2020; Shah, 2023). Pakistan has also contributed to regional projects such as the Afghan peace process (Yusufzai, 2021). To summarize, various internal, regional, and international variables have affected Pakistan's foreign policy, resulting in inconsistencies and unpredictability in the country's international relations. To address these issues, government officials, policymakers, and civil society actors must work together to prioritize transparency, coherence, and successful diplomacy. Pakistan will be able to improve its international participation, contribute to regional stability, and promote economic development as a result of this.

3. Literature Review

Numerous researches on the links between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy have been done, with a special focus on developing countries such as Pakistan. This section examines some of the important publications on the issue, including theoretical frameworks and empirical research. Politics, according to Holsti (1967), refers to decisions that create goals, establish precedents, decide possibilities for action, and the actions used to achieve those goals. Foreign policy, on the other hand, is characterized as a discussion of national objectives, the elements that impact their decisions, and the methods employed to attain them.

According to Levi (1970), foreign policy is a government's definition of a nation's international goals as well as a plan of action to attain them. It reflects the nation's needs and desires, and the government sees its fulfillment as advantageous to the nation. National interests in the international community are the total of these demands and aspirations. National interests, more accurately, are realized wants and desires. Policy coherence has been used to explain the link between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy. Policy coherence, according to Lall and Weiss (2016), refers to the degree of congruence across distinct policy domains as well as the degree of consistency with broader national objectives. Conflicts and contradictions in public policy can lead to conflicts in foreign policy, because decisions in one area can have unexpected implications in another. For example, if a country's economic policy contradicts its foreign policy objectives, it may cause economic or diplomatic conflicts with neighboring countries. The concept of domestic determinants of foreign policy is another similar theoretical paradigm. Domestic variables such as political institutions, public opinion, and interest groups, according to Breuning and Hogan (2014), can have a substantial impact on a country's foreign policy. Government failure and corruption have been cited as important internal factors of foreign policy in Pakistan (Riaz, 2017). These elements contribute to Pakistan's foreign policy paradoxes, as decisions are affected by domestic political reasons rather than strategic or diplomatic goals. Finally, the notion of strategic culture has been utilized to describe Pakistan's foreign policy conflicts towards various countries. According to Aziz (2016), Pakistan's strategic culture has been defined by its war with India, which has influenced its foreign policy approach and lead to tensions with other countries such as the US and China. increase. In Pakistan, empirical researches have also looked at the relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy. Alam (2018), for example, did research on Pakistan's energy policy and its impact on Iran's foreign policy. According to the study, Pakistan's energy policy contradictions, particularly the failure to develop its own energy resources, have contributed to the country's reliance on Iranian energy imports. This has resulted in paradoxes in Pakistan's foreign policy towards Iran, as the country has sought to combine economic interests with strategic and diplomatic objectives. According to the report, contradictions in Pakistan's economic policies, such as corruption and a lack of openness in decision-making, have contributed to the country's reliance on foreign aid and investment. This has resulted in conflicts in Pakistan's foreign policy between China and the United States, as the government struggles to combine economic interests with strategic and diplomatic objectives.

There is a lot of literature addressing the relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy in Pakistan, in addition to the theoretical frameworks and empirical research described above. The impact of security policy on Pakistan's foreign ties received special attention. According to Hussain and Arshad (2017), Pakistan's security policies, particularly its support for extremist groups, have resulted in foreign policy problems with neighbors such as Afghanistan and India. This is due to the fact that such policies incite suspicion and antagonism in these countries, resulting in diplomatic and military conflicts. The significance of international actors in moulding Pakistan's foreign policy was also emphasized.

For example, Zeb and Khan (2019) contend that the United States shaped Pakistan's foreign policy towards Afghanistan, particularly in the post-9/11 era. This has resulted in inconsistencies in Pakistan's attitude to Afghanistan, which strives to balance its strategic objectives and relationship with the US. Similarly, Khan and Hussain (2016) contend that China influenced Pakistan's foreign policy towards India. As a result of attempting to reconcile its economic and geopolitical goals with its ties with China, Pakistan's approach to India has become contradictory. Finally, there is a growing corpus of work that investigates the impact of economic policy on Pakistan's foreign policy. According to Khwaja and Mian (2018), Pakistan's failure to handle economic difficulties such as its trade imbalance and debt burden has resulted in foreign policy tensions with the US and China. This is because economic reasons have shaped Pakistan's approach to these countries, particularly in terms of pursuing foreign aid and investment (Shah, 2018).

In conclusion, the literature reveals a significant relationship between Pakistan's domestic policy failures and its inconsistent foreign policy. Policy coherence, domestic determinants of foreign policy, and strategic culture are theoretical frameworks that provide useful insight into the elements that contribute to these disparities. Empirical studies also show how public policy failures affect Pakistan's foreign policy towards diverse countries. A better assessment of these challenges will allow policymakers to develop solutions to address these contradictions and improve Pakistan's foreign policy coherence and effectiveness.

4. Findings and Results

In Pakistan, domestic policy problems are closely linked to inconsistent foreign policy, corruption, weak institutions, and a lack of political will all have a direct impact on Pakistan's foreign policy. Contradictions in public policy produce an unpredictable and volatile domestic political environment, undermining Pakistan's credibility and capacity to maintain stable international relations. This generates a foreign policy dilemma as the government strives to balance domestic interests with foreign policy objectives. Many factors influence Pakistan's relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy. The lack of institutional capacity and political will to implement good policies is one of the major issues. Governments' ability to create and implement cohesive policies to meet national and international concerns is hampered by corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency. Another problem is the region's continual turmoil, which makes it harder for Pakistan to maintain stability and coordinate its foreign policy objectives. National security considerations frequently take precedence over other policy objectives, with military and security programmes prioritizing economic and social development. Finally, in Pakistan, a lack of long-term strategic vision and competing political goals exacerbate the relationship between domestic policy failures and competing foreign policies. Short-term political objectives are frequently prioritized over long-term political aims by the country's political leaders, resulting in inconsistent policies and a lack of cohesion in domestic and foreign affairs.

The relationship between public policy and inconsistent foreign policy has far-reaching ramifications for both domestic and international policy of the country. Conflicting approaches and a lack of a coherent foreign policy vision have harmed Pakistan's international reputation and hampered the country's ability to fulfill its foreign policy objectives. This has limited foreign investment, slowed economic growth, and created political instability. Public policy failures at the national level exacerbate social and economic inequities, causing political instability and civil discontent. This weakens the government's ability to enact successful policies as well as public trust in the democratic system. In conclusion, in Pakistan, relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy is a complicated and interwoven phenomenon. There is dire need government officials, policymakers, and civil society actors to prioritize openness, accountability, and good governance in policy to address the issues associated with public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy. A concerted and comprehensive effort is required. Pakistan will be able to increase its international participation, promote regional stability, and contribute to economic and social growth as a result of this.

5. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, we make the following suggestions to Pakistani policymakers. Policymakers will attempt to establish a more secure and prosperous Pakistan that confronts the challenges of moral failure and incoherent foreign policy and contributes positively to regional and global peace and security by following these recommendations;

- I. **Creating and putting in place effective governance systems:** To solve public policy failures, policymakers must prioritize the development of effective governance structures that promote openness, accountability, and the development of institutional capacity. This includes steps like tightening anti-corruption laws, enhancing public service quality, and guaranteeing the independence of important institutions like the judiciary and election commissions.
- II. **Prioritize social and economic development over military and security aims:** To establish a more logical and coherent foreign policy, politicians must prioritize social and economic development over military and security goals. This involves investing in education, health, and infrastructure to promote long-term economic growth and raise Pakistanis' living standards.
- III. **To address the influence of regional conflicts on Pakistan's foreign policy:** Authorities must undertake a comprehensive and determined effort to promote regional stability and collaboration. Working with regional partners to handle common concerns like as terrorism, extremism, and regional economic integration is part of this.
- IV. **Strengthening Civil Society and the Media:** Policymakers should enable civil society and the media to play an active role in advancing democratic ideals, human rights, and good governance in Pakistan's government system in policy to increase

transparency and accountability. This involves safeguarding press freedom and boosting information access.

- V. **Engage in international diplomacy:** Policymakers must engage in international diplomacy and advocate Pakistan's interests in the international arena to strengthen Pakistan's foreign participation. Building links with international organisations such as the United Nations and establishing partnerships with key regional and global partners are necessary components of this strategy.

Conclusion

This research investigated the relationship between Pakistan's public policy failures and its inconsistent foreign policy. This investigation discovered a close association and that these two phenomena are related. Corruption and poor institutions have a direct impact on Pakistan's foreign policy, resulting in paradoxes and a lack of consistency in internal and international affairs. This link is also influenced by factors such as a lack of political will, ongoing regional conflicts, and competing political goals, according to the study. The study's conclusions have significant consequences for Pakistani policymakers. To address the issues associated with public policy failures, policymakers should prioritise implementing efficient governance systems, institutional capacity building, and anti-corruption measures. Second, for coherent foreign policy, politicians must develop a long-term strategic vision that prioritises social and economic growth over military and security objectives. Finally, officials must work together to address regional issues, foster stability, and boost Pakistan's international engagement.

This study has various limitations that must be acknowledged. First, the study focuses solely on Pakistan's domestic and international policies, with little consideration given to the impact of external variables on Pakistani politics. Second, the study depends on secondary sources, and more primary research is needed to investigate the relationship between Pakistan's domestic policy shortcomings and inconsistent foreign policy.

Finally, the current political and economic changes in Pakistan have had a significant impact on the relationship between public policy failures and inconsistent foreign policy. More research is needed to examine the impact of external factors on Pakistan's foreign policy, such as regional wars, global economic trends, and geopolitical shifts. Future studies should also look into the role of civil society and the media in promoting openness and accountability in Pakistan's political system. Finally, studies should look into the impact of Pakistan's foreign policy on its neighbours and the region as a whole, with an eye towards promoting regional stability and cooperation.

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