
Constitutional Rights and Access to Justice in Pakistan: A Comprehensive Analysis with Case Laws

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Abstract

Human rights and access to justice are fundamental pillars of any democratic society, serving as the bedrock for the protection of individual liberties and the rule of law. In Pakistan, where the Constitution of 1973 embodies principles of democracy, rule of law, and protection of fundamental rights, understanding the interplay between international human rights standards, constitutional provisions and mechanisms for access to justice is paramount. This research studies international standards on access to justice, examines the constitutional framework governing rights and justice in Pakistan, explores key provisions, landmark case laws, and the roles of relevant institutions.

The research delves into international principle and guidelines on access to justice, the constitutional provisions safeguarding fundamental rights, including the right to life, liberty, equality, and due process, as enshrined in Articles 4, 9, 10, 14, and 25, (Constitution, 1973) among others. It analyzes significant case laws from the Supreme Court of Pakistan which have shaped jurisprudence on constitutional rights and access to justice. Furthermore, the research highlights the roles of institutions like the judiciary, human rights commissions, legal aid organizations, and ombudsman institutions in promoting and protecting constitutional rights and facilitating access to justice for all citizens. By critically examining the constitutional provisions, case laws, and institutional frameworks, this research aims to provide insights into the challenges and opportunities in realizing constitutional rights and access to justice in Pakistan. It seeks to identify gaps in the legal framework, propose reforms for enhancing access to justice mechanisms, and offer recommendations for strengthening the protection of constitutional rights in line with international standards and best practices. Ultimately, this research contributes to the discourse on the intersection of international human rights law, constitutional law, and access to justice in the Pakistani context, with implications for policy, legal practice, and societal development.

Keywords: Constitution, Supreme Court, access to justice, fundamental rights, precedents, public interest litigation, legal remedies.

1. Introduction

Access to justice is a fundamental aspect of any democratic society, ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities to seek redress for grievances and enforce their legal rights. Access to justice is not merely a legal concept but a fundamental pillar of democracy and human rights. It embodies the principle that all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status or background, should have equal opportunities to seek legal redress, protect their rights, and participate meaningfully in the legal system. Access to justice is a basic principle of the rule of law. In the absence of access to justice, people are unable to have their voice heard, exercise their rights, challenge discrimination or hold decision-makers accountable. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) emphasized on the rights to life, liberty, honor, dignity, equality, freedom of expression, freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention or exile, right to be free from torture, right to be free from slavery etc.

“It can be said that access to the courts is a necessary part of an effective democracy, while access to justice begins with a just society. The courts protect our rights and freedoms against arbitrary interference, as well as ensure that we do not unlawfully interfere with the rights and freedoms of others. Implicit in this responsibility is the duty of the courts to ensure equality of access (Connellan 2001, 5-8)”.

In the context of Pakistan, a nation striving to uphold the rule of law amidst diverse socio-political challenges, the intersection between international human rights obligations, constitutional rights and access to justice assumes paramount importance. Pakistan ratified various international human rights instruments including International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and Convention Against Torture (CAT). These international human rights instruments along with the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, serve as the bedrock for safeguarding fundamental rights and ensuring access to justice in Pakistan. Enshrined within the Constitution are provisions that guarantee various rights, including but not limited to, the right to equality, due process, fair trial, and access to legal representation. This research article aims to delve into the complexities surrounding constitutional rights and access to justice under Pakistani law. By examining pertinent constitutional provisions, original laws, landmark case laws, and scholarly references, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of the existing legal landscape and identify areas for improvement. In this backdrop, this research article aims to explore the intricate relationship between international human rights standards, constitutional rights and access to justice within the Pakistani legal landscape. By examining international human rights instruments, constitutional provisions, landmark case laws, scholarly literature, and empirical studies, the article seeks to critically analyze the effectiveness of legal mechanisms in upholding constitutional rights and facilitating equitable access to justice for all citizens. In essence, this research article endeavors to contribute to the ongoing discourse on access to justice in Pakistan, with the overarching goal of strengthening the rule of law, upholding access to justice to the people.

1.1 Statement of The Research Problem

The research problem addressed in this study is the persistent challenges in ensuring the effective realization of constitutional rights and equitable access to justice in Pakistan. Despite the constitutional guarantees and the active role of the Supreme Court in upholding fundamental rights, many citizens, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged groups, continue to face barriers in accessing legal remedies. Issues such as inefficiencies in the legal system, lack of awareness about constitutional rights, and insufficient enforcement of judicial decisions undermine the protection of these rights. This study aims to explore the extent to which the Supreme Court and other related institutions in Pakistan contribute to safeguarding constitutional

rights and improving access to justice, while also identifying the systemic obstacles that hinder the full realization of these goals.

1.2 Significance of The Study

The significance of this research study lies in its detailed analysis of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's pivotal role in upholding constitutional rights and promoting access to justice. It highlights how the Court functions as a guardian of fundamental rights, ensuring that issues such as equality, due process, and human rights violations are addressed effectively. By focusing on public interest litigation (PIL) and the proactive approach of the judiciary, the study showcases how marginalized communities benefit from legal interventions. Furthermore, the research emphasizes the importance of judicial precedents in shaping legal interpretations and enforcing accountability among state and private actors. This study is crucial in understanding how the judiciary fosters good governance and reinforces the rule of law in Pakistan. In addition to the judiciary's role, the research explores the contributions of various other institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) and National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) in promoting constitutional rights and justice. By examining these institutions alongside the judicial mechanisms, the study underscores the collaborative nature of protecting fundamental rights and ensuring access to justice for all citizens. The research also sheds light on the advancements in case management and digitalization of the court system, which enhance the efficiency and transparency of judicial processes. Overall, this study provides valuable insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and academics into the interconnectedness of constitutional rights, legal reforms, and access to justice in Pakistan.

1.3 Research Methodology

The research methodology employed in this research article is primarily qualitative and doctrinal, focusing on a detailed examination of international human rights standards, constitutional provisions, judicial precedents, and institutional frameworks. The study relies on an extensive review of primary and secondary sources, including the Constitution of Pakistan (1973), landmark judgments from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, and scholarly literature on constitutional law, human rights, and access to justice. Key constitutional articles are analyzed, such as Articles 4, 9, 10, 14, and 25, which safeguard fundamental rights like life, liberty, equality, and due process. Additionally, the research incorporates case laws to illustrate the judiciary's role in interpreting and enforcing constitutional rights. The study also examines the contributions of institutions like the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), and Ombudsman offices in promoting access to justice. By critically evaluating these legal and institutional mechanisms, the research identifies systemic challenges, such as inefficiencies in the legal system and barriers faced by marginalized groups, and proposes reforms to enhance access to justice and strengthen constitutional rights in Pakistan. The methodology is grounded in legal analysis, case law interpretation, and policy evaluation, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between constitutional rights and access to justice in the Pakistani context.

1.4 Literature Review

“Access” means “to reach”. “Justice” means “that which is due as a lawful right”. Thus access to justice means to reach to that which is due as a lawful right. This term clearly shows that there is a law enacted by the competent legislature of a sovereign State which defines certain rights of the citizens and prescribes punishment for violation of such law and provides machinery to for the implementation of such law so that the rights created by such law are denied, infringed or damaged the same are redressed in accordance with law (Atchleyv. Sprigg,1864). The foundation of a

civilized society is always rooted in justice. Justice distinguishes the rights as well as responsibilities of the citizenry. (Rawls, 1999). Justice is the basic fundamental right of each Pakistani because the “Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973” under Article 37(d) ensures the speedy justice to the Pakistani (Sherwani, 2006). Easy and expedient resolution of the conflict can be done by the general and swift laws because irrational and complex laws cause delay and interrupt the interest of parties to the cases (C. R. van Rhee, 2020). Supreme Court as the custodian of the constitution including fundamental rights is constitutionally obligated for the protection of these rights (Constitution, 1973). It has always been conscious to such critical situations (State v. Dosso, 1995) and determinedly mindful for a need of a new judicial jurisprudence assuring the protection of fundamental rights (Khurshid, 2010). For expeditious justice Pakistani judicial system needs reforms to insure the rule of law. The Pakistani judicial system must update the old complex laws (Salauddin, 2016). The number of courts and judges should be increased (Pratiksha Baxi, 2008). Budget of the Pakistani courts must be increased (Nasir, I, 2018). The Pakistani Judicial system must introduce advanced technology (Malik, A, 2019) for revival of expeditious justice in Pakistan.

International Human Rights Standards and Access to Justice

Several international human rights instruments recognize the right to an effective remedy, access to justice, and the principle of equality before the law. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) affirms in Article 8 that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by competent national tribunals for acts violating fundamental rights granted by the constitution or by law. Additionally, Article 29 establishes that individuals have duties to the community, and in exercising their rights, they are subject to limitations determined by law to ensure respect for the rights of others, public order, and general welfare in a democratic society. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) reinforces these principles. Article 14.1 guarantees equality before courts and tribunals and mandates fair and public hearings by competent, independent, and impartial tribunals. It allows for exceptions in cases concerning morality, public order, national security, or when publicity would prejudice justice. Article 2 obligates State Parties to adopt legislative and other measures to give effect to the rights recognized in the Covenant and ensure effective remedies for violations, enforceable through competent authorities. Similarly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) under Article 15.1 affirms that women must be granted equality with men before the law. The Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) provides additional safeguards. Article 13 ensures that individuals alleging torture have the right to complain and receive a prompt and impartial examination of their case, with protection from intimidation or retaliation. Article 14.1 guarantees victims of torture the right to redress, including compensation and full rehabilitation. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) addresses access to justice in Article 6, ensuring effective protection and remedies through national tribunals against racial discrimination and the right to seek reparation for damages suffered. Additionally, Article 5(a) affirms the right to equal treatment before tribunals and all other justice-administering bodies. The Convention Against Torture (CAT) also upholds access to justice principles. Article 8.1 guarantees the right of access to justice in environmental matters under due process. Article 8.2 mandates that domestic legislation ensures judicial and administrative mechanisms to challenge decisions related to environmental issues. Furthermore, Article 9.3 requires states to take effective measures to prevent, investigate, and punish threats or attacks against environmental human rights defenders. These provisions collectively emphasize the fundamental role of access to justice, legal remedies, and equality before the law in the international human rights framework.

Constitutional Rights Guaranteed Under the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973

Constitutional provisions form the cornerstone of legal frameworks, delineating the rights and responsibilities of citizens and institutions within a nation. In the context of Pakistan, the Constitution of 1973 serves as the supreme law, embodying principles of democracy, rule of law, and protection of fundamental rights. Within this framework, several provisions explicitly address the concept of access to justice and safeguarding constitutional rights.

a. Preamble (Constitution, 1973)

The constitutional rights for access to justice is found in the preamble of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, which is the very foundation of the Constitution. The Preamble has sets out some of the key “principles” to be observed by the State, namely, democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice. It guarantees fundamental rights, including equality of status, of opportunity and before law, social, economic and political justice, and freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship and association.

b. Relevant articles of the Constitution (Constitution, 1973)

Following are relevant articles of the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, guaranteed the constitutional rights as to ensure access to justice;

- i. Article 4: Right to Be Treated in Accordance with Law:** Article 4 enshrines the principle that every citizen shall be dealt with in accordance with law, ensuring fairness and due process in legal proceedings. This provision serves as a bulwark against arbitrary actions by state authorities and underscores the importance of adhering to legal norms in all matters affecting individuals' rights.
- ii. Article 8 :Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of Fundamental Rights to be void:** It states that any law, or any custom or usage having the force of law, in so far as it is inconsistent with the rights conferred by this Chapter, shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void.
- iii. Article 9: Security of Person:** Article 9 guarantees the security of person, emphasizing the inviolability of life and liberty. It mandates that no person shall be deprived of life or liberty except in accordance with the law, highlighting the significance of procedural safeguards and protection against unlawful detention or arbitrary arrest.
- iv. Article 9-A: Clean and healthy environment:** -Every person shall be entitled to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- v. Article 10: Safeguards as to Arrest and Detention:** Article 10 provides essential safeguards to individuals arrested or detained, including the right to be informed of the grounds for arrest, the right to legal representation, and the right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours. These safeguards aim to prevent abuses of power and ensure that individuals are afforded fair treatment within the criminal justice system.
- vi. 10-A. Right to fair trial:** For the determination of his civil rights and obligations or in any criminal charge against him a person shall be entitled to a fair trial and due process.
- vii. Article 11:** Under this article, slavery, forced labour, etc., traffic in human prohibited. It has also been stipulated that no child below the age of fourteen years shall be engaged in any factory or mine or any other hazardous employment.
- viii. Article 12:** Under this article protection against retrospective punishment is prohibited.
- ix. Article 13: Protection against double punishment and self-incrimination:** This article provides that no person shall be prosecuted or punished for the same offence

- more than once. In addition, no person shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
- x. **Article 14: Inviolability of Dignity of Man:** Article 14 underscores the inviolability of the dignity of man and the right to be treated with respect and dignity. It prohibits torture, cruel, or inhuman treatment, emphasizing the state's obligation to protect individuals' dignity and integrity.
 - xi. **Article 15: Freedom of movement, etc:** Under this article every citizen shall have the right to remain in, and, subject to any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the public interest, enter and move freely throughout Pakistan and to reside and settle in any part thereof.
 - xii. **Article 16: Freedom of Assembly:** Under this article every citizen shall have the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of public order.
 - xiii. **Article 17: Freedom of Association:** Under this article every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of sovereignty or integrity of Pakistan, public order or morality.
 - xiv. **Article 18: Freedom of trade, business or profession:** Under this article every citizen shall have the right to enter upon any lawful profession or occupation, and to conduct any lawful trade or business, subject to law.
 - xv. **Article 19: Freedom of Expression :** This article provides that every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defense of Pakistan or any part thereof, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, commission of or incitement to an offence.
 - xvi. **Article 19-A: Right to Information:** Under this article every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law.
 - xvii. **Article 20: Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions:** Under this article every citizen shall have the right to profess, practice and propagate his religion. In addition, every religious denomination and every sect thereof shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions.
 - xviii. **Article 21: Safeguard against taxation for purposes of any particular religion:** Under this article no person shall be compelled to pay any special tax the proceeds of which are to be spent on the propagation or maintenance of any religion other than his own.
 - xix. **Article 22: Safeguards as to educational institutions in respect of religion, etc:** Under this article no person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction, or take part in any religious ceremony, or attend religious worship, if such instruction, ceremony or worship relates to a religion other than his own. Similarly, in respect of any religious institution, there shall be no discrimination against any community in the granting of exemption or concession in relation to taxation.
 - xx. **Article 23: Provision to property:** Every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property in any part of Pakistan, subject to the Constitution and any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest.
 - xxi. **Article 24:** Under this article no person shall be deprived of his property save in accordance with law. Moreover, no property shall be compulsorily acquired or taken possession of save for a public purpose, and save by the authority of law which

provides for compensation therefore and either fixes the amount of compensation or specifies the principles on and the manner in which compensation is to be determined and given.

- xxii. **Article 25: Equality of Citizens:** Article 25 guarantees equality of citizens before the law and prohibits discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, or place of birth. It enshrines the principle of equal protection of the law and underscores the state's duty to ensure non-discrimination and equal treatment for all citizens.

c. Principles of Policy (Constitution, 1973)

Principles of policy are the directive principles to achieve the cherished goal. They are like the light house in the sea of good governance. They are to keep the direction to the right goal. Articles 29 to 40 are referred to as Principles of Policy. Following are the key principles of policy providing guidelines for access to justice;

i. Article 33: Parochial and other similar prejudices to be discouraged

The State shall discourage parochial, racial, tribal sectarian and provincial prejudices among the citizens.

ii. Article 34. Full participation of women in national life

Steps shall be taken to ensure full participation of women in all spheres of national life.

iii. Article 35. Protection of family, etc.

The State shall protect the marriage, the family, the mother and the child.

iv. Article 36. Protection of minorities

The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.

v. Article 37: Promotion of Social Justice and Eradication of Social Evils:

It mandates that the state to promote social justice and eradicate social evils, including ensuring access to justice for all members of society. It underscores the state's responsibility to create an enabling environment where every citizen can exercise their rights and access legal remedies without discrimination or impediment.

The Judiciary at The Frontline as Ensuring the Constitutional Rights and Providing Access to Justice

The judiciary in Pakistan plays a pivotal role in ensuring constitutional rights and providing access to justice. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has been at the forefront of this endeavor, as evidenced by several landmark judgments. The Supreme Court of Pakistan is the highest appellate court of the country and court of last resort. It is the final arbiter of the law and the Constitution. Its orders/decisions are binding on all other courts in the country. All executive and judicial authorities are bound to act in aid of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court exercises original, appellate and review jurisdiction. The Supreme Court can also exercise original jurisdiction, with respect to the enforcement of fundamental rights, if the case involves an issue of public importance. The Constitution provides for the independence of judiciary and its separation from the executive. The Constitution assigns the Supreme Court a unique responsibility of maintaining harmony and balances between the three pillars of the State, namely, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. As guardian of the Constitution, the Court is required to preserve, protect and defend this basic document (<https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk/>). Following are the case laws of Supreme Court of Pakistan ensuring constitutional rights and providing access to justice.

A. Important Case Laws

i. Taj Wali Shah VS Bakhti Zaman (2019)

This judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been authored by Honorable Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, while the Bench also including Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Honorable Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah. In this judgment it has been held that:

“Any right vested in a person to seek his remedy under the law should be liberally construed, as this would bolster his recognised fundamental right of access to justice”

ii. Zafar Iqbal Vs the State (2023)

This judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been authored by Honorable Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, while the Bench also including honorable Mr. Justice Amin-Ud-Din Khan and honorable Mr. Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail. The principle has been laid down in this judgment that the law of limitation shall be followed in filing of bail matters as to ensure that those incarcerated have equal opportunities of access to justice, and for safe administration of criminal justice.

iii. Shehla Zia v. WAPDA (1994)

In this landmark case, authored by Honorable Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the Court recognized the right of access to justice as an inherent component of the right to life and liberty, as enshrined in Article 9 of the Constitution. The Court held that the term "life" encompasses not only mere existence but also the right to a clean and healthy environment, which is essential for the enjoyment of life with dignity. This judgment underscored the principle that access to justice is fundamental to safeguarding individual rights and ensuring that citizens can seek redress against violations, thereby reinforcing the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary in protecting the rights of the populace.

iv. Ghulam Mustafa v. Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank (2024)

In this case, authored by Honorable Mr. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, the Supreme Court of Pakistan addressed significant issues regarding the constitutional rights of employees and their access to justice. The Court held that the relationship between the bank and its employees was one of "master and servant," which meant that the employees could not invoke the writ jurisdiction of the High Court due to the absence of statutory service rules. This ruling emphasized that while the lack of statutory rules limits the remedies available to employees, their fundamental rights must still be respected, as these rights are integral to due process under the Constitution. The Court proposed the establishment of special tribunals or courts to expedite the resolution of disputes involving employees in such relationships, thereby ensuring that their rights are protected and that they have timely access to justice. This judgment not only reinforces the importance of judicial reforms but also highlights the need for legislative measures to safeguard the rights of employees who are currently deprived of effective legal remedies.

v. Capital Development Authority, CDA through Chairman, CDA, Islamabad VS Ahmed Murtaza (2023)

This judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan has been authored by Honorable Mrs. Justice Ayesha A. Malik, while the Bench also including Honorable Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Senior Justice, Supreme Court of Pakistan. In this judgment the frivolous litigation has been discouraged as the same is an obstacle in the way of access to justice. It has been held in this judgment that:

“Under the circumstances, we are not inclined to dismiss the petition simpliciter as we believe that such frivolous litigation overburdens this Court with vexatious cases thereby delaying and thus denying the rightful claim of access to justice guaranteed under Article 9 of the Constitution. Such frivolous litigation also impairs expeditious justice and offends Article 37(d) of the Principles of Policy under the Constitution. Court time can be well spent on handling genuine cases as opposed to pursuing cases which are vexatious and meritless on their face and which have already been decided between the parties. The Petitioner is a responsible public institution which is to work and function for the benefit of the public and undeniably, the same deliberately wasted time and resources of the Court which itself runs on taxpayer's money”.

vi. National Commission on Status of Women v. Government of Pakistan (2019)

In this case the Supreme Court of Pakistan addressed the legality and implications of informal adjudicatory bodies such as jirgas and panchayats, which operate outside the formal judicial system. The Court emphasized that these bodies violate fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 4, 10-A, 25, and 175 of the Constitution, particularly regarding access to justice and equality before the law. The Court highlighted that the existence of such informal systems undermines the rule of law and perpetuates discrimination, especially against women, who are often inadequately represented in these forums. The judgment reinforced that access to justice is a fundamental right, essential for the protection of other human rights, and mandated that any decisions made by jirgas or panchayats lack legal authority unless they operate strictly as arbitration or mediation forums with the consent of all parties involved. The Court directed the government to ensure the establishment of a uniform judicial system in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, thereby promoting equal protection under the law for all citizens, including those previously subjected to the discriminatory practices of jirgas and panchayats.

vii. Al-Jehad Trust V. Federation of Pakistan (1996)

In this case the Supreme Court underscored the importance of an independent judiciary and the need for judges to be of excellent character, superior caliber, and meritorious record. The judgment emphasized that judges must be patient, not corrupt, and should decide cases without fear, favor, or prejudice. The Court also highlighted the judiciary's role in ensuring that none of the government functionaries act in violation of the Constitution or the law, and that the judiciary's independence is deeply connected with the constitutional process of the appointment and transfer of judges.

viii. Asma Jilani v. Government of the Punjab (1972)

This is a landmark judgment that significantly reinforced the principles of independence of the judiciary and the rule of law in Pakistan. The Supreme Court affirmed the supremacy of the Constitution and established the principle of judicial review. The Court emphasized that the judiciary must remain independent and free from any military influence, thereby upholding the rule of law as a fundamental tenet of the Constitution. This judgment not only invalidated the Martial Law Regulations imposed during that period but also established a precedent that military actions cannot override constitutional mandates, thereby ensuring that the judiciary retains its authority to review and challenge unlawful acts by the state.

B. Protection of Fundamental Rights

The Supreme Court acts as a guardian of fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. It hears petitions and complaints related to violations of constitutional rights, such as the right to life, liberty, equality, and due process. Through its judgments and decisions, the Court interprets and expands the scope of fundamental rights, ensuring their effective enforcement and protection against infringement by state authorities or private entities.

C. Public Interest Litigation (PIL)

The Supreme Court has been instrumental in advancing the concept of public interest litigation (PIL) in Pakistan. PIL allows individuals, civil society organizations, and public interest groups to petition the Court on behalf of marginalized or disadvantaged communities and seek redress for systemic injustices or human rights violations. The Court's proactive approach to PIL has led to significant reforms in areas such as environmental protection, access to education, and healthcare.

D. Legal Precedents and Jurisprudence

The Supreme Court's judgments and decisions establish legal precedents and contribute to the development of jurisprudence in Pakistan. By issuing reasoned judgments, the Court provides guidance to lower courts, legal practitioners, and government agencies on interpreting and applying constitutional rights and legal principles. These precedents serve as authoritative sources of law and shape the legal landscape of the country.

E. Enforcement of Court Orders

The Supreme Court ensures the enforcement of its judgments and orders to uphold constitutional rights and promote access to justice. It has the authority to issue directives and remedies to government authorities, including executive bodies and law enforcement agencies, to implement its decisions effectively. By holding state actors accountable for non-compliance with court orders, the Supreme Court reinforces the rule of law and protects citizens' rights.

F. Ensuring Accountability

The Supreme Court plays a crucial role in ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. By adjudicating cases of corruption, abuse of power, and maladministration, the Court holds government officials and institutions accountable for their actions. Through its oversight functions, including the review of government policies and actions, the Court promotes good governance practices and strengthens democratic institutions.

G. Case Management

“Efficient case management is the first goal of most class action laws. When large numbers of claims arise out of the same factual and legal circumstances, the result often is to flood one or a few courts with caseloads far beyond their capacity to resolve expeditiously. By allowing a court to decide common issues in a single representative action, the class action eliminates the need to decide essentially the same issue over and over again in individual litigation, saving expensive judicial time (Deborah R. Hensler,2015)”.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has streamlined the case Management System in order to facilitate the public by using technology and digitalization of court work and procedure. It has provided online case status, online judgment search, online cause list search, video linking, online streaming of proceedings of the court, latest judgments search etc.

H. Constitutional Interpretation

As the final arbiter of constitutional matters, the Supreme Court is tasked with interpreting the Constitution and resolving constitutional disputes. Its interpretations of constitutional provisions, including those related to fundamental rights, provide clarity and guidance on the scope and application of these rights. Through its reasoned judgments, the Court sets legal precedents that shape the interpretation and enforcement of constitutional rights across the country.

I. Access to Legal Remedies

The Supreme Court serves as the final appellate authority for legal disputes, providing citizens with access to a fair and impartial adjudication of their grievances. Through its appellate jurisdiction, the Court hears appeals from lower courts and administrative tribunals, ensuring that individuals have recourse to legal remedies and due process of law. Its role as the guardian of justice ensures that no one is denied access to justice on arbitrary grounds.

J. Public Awareness and Education

The Supreme Court engages in public outreach and education initiatives to raise awareness about constitutional rights, legal procedures, and the role of the judiciary. Through seminars, workshops, and judicial academies, the Court empowers citizens with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, fostering a culture of legal literacy and civic engagement. By promoting legal awareness, the Court enhances access to justice and strengthens the rule of law.

K. Ensuring Speedy Litigation Through the Supreme Court's Research Wing and Research Centre

The Supreme Court Research Wing, comprising of Senior Research Officers and the Supreme Court Research Centre, comprising of Research Officers drawn from Civil Judges of District Judiciary, are playing a vital role in various aspects of the judicial process. They conduct legal analysis and review precedent cases to identify areas for improvement in the judicial system also relating to constitutional rights. They optimize case management systems and workflows, leading to more efficient handling of cases. Moreover, they inform evidence-based policies and procedural reforms aimed at reducing backlog and ensuring timely resolution of cases. Additionally, they facilitate training programs for judges and legal practitioners, enhancing their capacity to handle cases effectively, particularly matters of public interest litigation. Furthermore, they assess the effectiveness of technology solutions, monitor judicial performance, and promote public awareness about the justice system. Through these efforts, the Supreme Court is actively upholding the rule of law and ensuring swift justice for all litigants also focusing on constitutional rights (<https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk>).

L. Human Rights Cell (HR Cell)

The HR Cell has been established in the Supreme Court of Pakistan as Complaints Wing. Facilitation has been provided to the public for filing their complaints to ensure accountability and to better public service delivery (<https://www.supremecourt.gov.pk>).

M. OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Besides the judiciary, other institutions are also play their role in safeguarding constitutional rights and access to justice in Pakistan. Following are the major institution.

A. National Commission on The Status of Women (NCSW): The NCSW is a statutory body tasked with promoting gender equality and women's rights in Pakistan. It works to eliminate discrimination against women, enhance their socio-economic empowerment, and advocate for legislative reforms to address gender-based violence and discrimination. The NCSW conducts research, provides policy recommendations, and raises awareness about women's rights issues (<https://ncsw.gov.pk/>).

B. National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR): The NCHR is an independent statutory body established to protect and promote human rights in Pakistan. It investigates complaints of human rights violations, monitors the implementation of human rights laws, and advocates for policy reforms to strengthen human rights protection. The NCHR plays a crucial role in ensuring accountability for human rights abuses and promoting a culture of respect for human rights (<https://www.nchr.gov.pk/>).

C. Ombudsman Institutions

Ombudsman institutions, such as the Federal Ombudsman and Provincial Ombudsman Offices, serve as avenues for redressal of grievances against government agencies and officials. Citizens can lodge complaints with the ombudsman regarding administrative injustices,

corruption, and human rights violations. These institutions investigate complaints impartially and recommend remedial measures to address grievances and uphold constitutional rights.

1. Federal Ombudsman (Wafaqi Mohtasib)

The Federal Ombudsman has the vision to provide expeditious and inexpensive relief to citizens by redressing their grievances against federal government agencies and to promote good governance (<https://mohtasib.gov.pk/>).

2. Ombudsman (Mohtasib) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The Ombudsman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has the mandate to protect the rights of the people, ensuring adherence to the rule of law, diagnosing, redressing and rectifying any injustice done to a person through maladministration and suppressing corrupt practices. The law empowers the Ombudsman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to entertain complaints against any department, commission or office of the Provincial Government or a statutory corporation or other institution established or controlled by the Provincial Government (<https://www.ombudsmankp.gov.pk/>).

3. Ombudsman (Mohtasib) Punjab

The Ombudsman Punjab has the mandate to protect the rights of the people, ensuring adherence to the rule of law, diagnosing, redressing and rectifying any injustice done to a person through maladministration and suppressing corrupt practices, (<https://ombudsmanpunjab.gov.pk/>).

4. Ombudsman (Mothibi) Sindh

The Office of Provincial Ombudsman (Mohtasib) Sindh established through Sindh Act No. 1 of 1991 (Establishment of the Office of Ombudsman for the Province of Sindh Act, 1991), which empowers Provincial Ombudsman (Mohtasib) Sindh to diagnose, investigate, redress and rectify any injustice done to a person through mal-administration of an Agency of the Government of Sindh (<https://mohtasibsindh.gov.pk/>).

THE MAIN CAUSES OF DELAY AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN PAKISATN

Access to justice in Pakistan is hindered by a combination of structural, socio-economic, and institutional factors. Below are the main causes and obstacles:

a. Cases Backlog:

The judiciary faces a massive backlog of cases, leading to delays in justice delivery. Cases often take years, sometimes decades, to resolve. The 3rd Bi-annual report (Bi-annual report, 2024) of the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan has provided an overview of cases initiated, resolved, and pending across various tiers of the judiciary from January to June 2024. It is based on data collected bi-weekly from the Superior Courts. Following are the tables showing institution and pendency of cases in superior as well as district judiciary across the country;

Summary:

Courts	Pendency of Cases 01-01-2024	Pendency of Cases 30-06-2024
Supreme Court of Pakistan	55302	58479
Federal Shariat Court	102	77
High Courts	342249	347173
District Judiciary	1863028	1815783
Total	2258070	2221512

Supreme Court of Pakistan: Increase in Pendency: 5.74%, indicating a higher rate of new cases compared to disposals. This suggests a need for enhanced efficiency or resource allocation to manage the caseload effectively.

Federal Shariat Court: Decrease in Pendency: 24.51%, showcasing efficient case management and a reduction in backlog. This is a positive trend and could serve as a model for other courts.

High Courts: Slight Increase in Pendency: 2.22%, indicating a minor rise in the number of pending cases. While the increase is not substantial, it still points to the need for measures to improve case disposal rates.

District Judiciary: Decrease in Pendency: 2.54%, showing effective management in reducing the backlog of cases. Given the large volume of cases handled by the District Judiciary, this reduction is significant and indicates positive progress.

i. Supreme Court of Pakistan

Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan – Jun 24	Disposal Jan – Jun 24	Balance 30 Jun 24
56157	9,135	6943	58479

The Supreme Court of Pakistan was able to resolve 6,943 cases in six months, but the influx of new cases (9,135) outpaced the number of resolved cases, leading to a net increase in pending cases. An increase of around 4.13% in cases pending for adjudication has been observed during the First six months of the year 2024.

Supreme Court of Pakistan Press Release: 100 Days Judicial Performance (February 7, 2025)

The Supreme Court of Pakistan vide press release No.PR No.15/2025, dated 07/02/2025 has shown the 100 days Judicial Performance under the supervision of incumbent honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan, Mr. Justice Yahya Afridi, wherein significant performance has been done and a milestone has been achieved, which is mentioned as follows:

“During the first 100 days (w.e.f 26.10.2024 to 06.02.2025) under the leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan, the judiciary has implemented significant reforms to enhance efficiency, transparency, accountability, and accessibility in the justice sector. These efforts have focused on improving case management, facilitating litigants and lawyers, and ensuring the timely resolution of legal matters. To build a more inclusive legal framework, the Chief Justice has engaged with the legal fraternity, development experts, and academia as well as “Online Feedback Form – Stakeholders’ Engagement for Judicial Reform,” has been made available on the official website of the Supreme Court to gather insights and recommendations for strengthening the justice system. These discussions have been instrumental in shaping policies that address systemic challenges and streamline legal processes through short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. A major step in these reforms has been the introduction of E-affidavits and instant certified copies, significantly reducing procedural delays and improving accessibility for litigants and lawyers. Additionally, guidelines for early case hearings have been developed in consultation with the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). Recognizing the role of tax-related litigation in economic governance, the judiciary has introduced categorization measures to expedite the resolution of such cases and reduce the backlog. Over the last 100 days, the Supreme Court has demonstrated increased resolve by deciding 8,174 cases while receiving 4,963 new cases. This reflects a positive shift in judicial workflow, where case resolution outpaces new filings, reducing backlogs and ensuring timely justice. This improvement highlights the impact of recent reforms, including structured rule-making, automation, and streamlined procedures, contributing to a more effective and responsive judicial system. To enhance the effectiveness of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), the primary focus was on framing comprehensive rules through stakeholder consultation. These rules establish clear merit-based criteria, streamline evaluations, and integrate automation to ensure transparency and efficiency. A dedicated secretariat reinforces accountability, making the

judicial appointment process more structured and impartial. The appointment process for the Secretary to the Commission has been initiated, while new appointments of 36 additional judges in all five High Courts and the formation of constitutional benches at the Supreme Court of Pakistan and High Court of Sindh have been made. In adherence to the constitutional mandate, steps have been taken to ensure fair and equitable provincial representation in the Islamabad High Court. Merit-based elevations in the Supreme Court have also been reinforced, with the five senior-most judges from each High Court being considered for elevation, ensuring transparency in the judicial system. In reinforcing judicial accountability, the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) has established a separate secretariat to enhance its operational capacity. The appointment process for a regular/permanent Secretary SJC has been initiated, and regular meetings have been institutionalized for better oversight and faster case disposal. A key aspect of these reforms includes the swift resolution of complaints against constitutional officeholders, ensuring accountability mechanisms function efficiently, and upholding public confidence in the judiciary. The amendments in the Supreme Judicial Council Code of Conduct and Procedure of Enquiry 2005 are being considered. The Council in its two meetings examined 46 complaints under Article 209 of the Constitution received against constitutional officeholders, out of which 40 have been disposed of, whereas comments in 5 complaints were sought, and one was sent for information. The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) has introduced major reforms to strengthen judicial efficiency and legal representation by replacing retired judges, ensuring broader stakeholder participation. The newly inducted bar representatives include Makhdoom Ali Khan (Karachi), Khawaja Haris (Punjab), Kamran Murtaza (Balochistan), Fazal-e-Haq (Peshawar), and Munir Paracha (Islamabad) and one member jointly nominated by all Bar Councils of Pakistan. In further efforts to improve access to justice, the LJCP has initiated jail reforms, including regular prison visits and outreach to the farthest districts to assess conditions and ensure fair legal oversight. To strengthen the capacity of the district judiciary, foreign training programs have been introduced for the district judiciary, enabling judges to gain exposure to international best practices. Moreover, the appointment of a new Secretary to LJCP will enhance administrative effectiveness. The agenda preparation for the NJPMC meeting expected in the last week of Feb is in full swing. Following the vision of the Hon’ble Chief Justice, the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA) has launched an initiative for continuous legal education and professional development. A dedicated WhatsApp Community for Bar Councils and Bar Associations has been established, providing legal practitioners nationwide with free access to online courses and educational resources. This initiative complements oncampus training, particularly benefiting lawyers from remote regions who may not have access to professional development opportunities. The steps have been taken to strengthen the legal fraternity by ensuring the active participation of the Bar in judicial reforms. The Bar is being consulted in stages of reforms, i.e. from conception to implementation. In consultation with the bar, the policy on early hearing on an urgent basis has been finalized and put to immediate practice. Additionally, training and capacity-building programs have been introduced to equip legal professionals with contemporary legal knowledge, modern litigation techniques, and ethical best practices (Supreme Court 2025, PR 15)’’.

ii. Federal Shariat Court

Pendency 2024	1 Jan	Institution 24	Jan – Jun 24	Disposal 24	Jan – Jun	Balance 30 Jun 24
85		40		48		77

This data indicates a decrease in the number of pending cases from 85 to 77 over the first six months of 2024. The judicial system managed to resolve more cases (48) than the number of new cases instituted (40), which led to a reduction in the overall backlog. A decrease of around 9% in cases pending for adjudication has been observed during the First six months of the year 2024.

iii. High Courts

The institution, disposal and pendency of cases in all High Courts during the period from July to December, 2024:

High Court	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan-Jun 2024	Disposal Jan-Jun 2024	Balance 30 Jun 2024
Lahore High Court	193674	74841	70640	197875
High Court of Sindh	83941	18375	17393	84986
Peshawar High Court	42409	11434	11903	42227
High Court of Balochistan	4951	3096	2955	5092
Islamabad High Court	17274	6553	6148	16993
Total	342249	114299	109039	347173

The data from January to June 2024 for the High Courts of Pakistan shows significant judicial activity with a total initial pendency of 342,249 cases. The courts received 114,299 new cases and disposed of 109,039 cases. The overall balance at the end of June 2024 was 347,173 cases, reflecting a net increase of 2.2%.

iv. District Judiciary

The provided data outlines the institution, disposal, and pendency of cases across the district judiciaries in Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Islamabad for the period from January to June 2024.

District Judiciary	Pendency 1 Jan 2024	Institution Jan-Jun 2024	Disposal Jan-Jun 2024	Balance 30 Jun 2024
Punjab	1387809	1859419	1891242	1357684
Sindh	131923	184604	186417	130582
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	273762	244864	259752	259441
Balochistan	17818	25972	25629	18161
Islamabad	51716	64960	66715	49915
Total	1863028	2379819	2429755	1815783

Across all districts, there was a total initial pendency of 1,863,028 cases. During the first half of 2024, 2,379,819 new cases were instituted, and 2,429,755 cases were disposed of. This led to a net decrease in the overall pendency to 1,815,783 cases, reflecting an overall reduction of 47,245 cases (approximately 2.5%). The data indicates that the district judiciaries have been effective in managing and slightly reducing their overall caseloads (Bi-annual report, 2024).

2. Understaffed Courts:

There is a shortage of judges and judicial staff, which exacerbates delays and inefficiencies. The shortage of judges and judicial staff in Pakistan is a critical factor exacerbating delays and inefficiencies in the justice system, significantly hindering access to justice for the population. The

courts are severely overburdened, with judges handling an unmanageable number of cases, leading to prolonged delays and a massive backlog that can stretch cases over years or even decades. The problem is further compounded in rural areas, where judicial infrastructure is sparse, forcing individuals to travel long distances to access courts. Additionally, the lack of specialized training and modern case management tools limits the efficiency of the existing judicial staff. These delays erode public trust in the justice system, impose financial burdens on litigants, and often result in denied justice, as evidence may deteriorate or witnesses become unavailable over time. Addressing this shortage requires urgent reforms, such as increasing judicial appointments, improving recruitment processes, enhancing training, and ensuring equitable distribution of resources, to make the justice system more accessible and efficient for all citizens.

3. Frivolous and vexatious litigation:

Frivolous and vexatious litigation is a significant obstacle to access to justice in Pakistan, contributing to unnecessary delays and burdening an already overburdened judicial system. These types of cases are often filed with malicious intent or lack of genuine legal grounds, primarily to harass opponents or delay legal outcomes. This practice clogs the court dockets, diverting precious judicial resources from genuine cases and prolonging litigation for deserving litigants. Causes of limited access to justice in Pakistan include procedural complexities, high legal costs, lack of awareness of legal rights, inadequate infrastructure, and the slow pace of judicial proceedings. The prevalence of frivolous litigation exacerbates these challenges, leading to prolonged case disposal times, erosion of public trust in the justice system, and denial of timely justice to the marginalized and vulnerable segments of society. Addressing this issue requires procedural reforms, judicial discretion in penalizing frivolous cases, and creating awareness about responsible litigation practices.

4. Outdated Laws

Outdated laws in Pakistan are a major hurdle in ensuring access to justice, as many existing legal provisions are archaic and fail to address the complexities of modern society. Numerous statutes, some dating back to the colonial era, have not been adequately updated to reflect contemporary realities, leaving significant gaps in justice delivery. These outdated laws often contain ambiguous language, irrelevant provisions, and outdated procedures that complicate legal processes, leading to delays and inconsistencies in judicial decisions. For instance, modern challenges such as cybercrime, environmental issues, and data protection require comprehensive legal frameworks, yet outdated laws leave these areas inadequately regulated. This legal obsolescence disproportionately affects vulnerable populations who rely on the law for protection, creating barriers to justice and diminishing public trust in the legal system. Reforming and modernizing outdated laws is essential to ensure an efficient, accessible, and fair justice system that meets the needs of present-day society.

5. Insufficient infrastructure and lack of updated resources

Insufficient infrastructure and lack of updated resources are critical obstacles that delay access to justice in Pakistan, severely affecting the efficiency of the judicial system. Many courts operate in overcrowded and poorly equipped facilities with limited technological resources, which hamper their ability to handle cases effectively. Basic facilities such as proper courtrooms, record-keeping systems, and modern IT infrastructure are either outdated or entirely absent in many areas, particularly in rural regions. This results in delays in case management, loss of important records, and inefficiency in judicial processes. Moreover, the shortage of trained staff and limited access to digital tools further aggravates the situation, making it difficult to streamline judicial proceedings and improve case disposal rates. An under-resourced judicial infrastructure not only prolongs litigation but also discourages people from seeking justice due to the cumbersome and time-consuming processes. Upgrading infrastructure and incorporating modern technology are essential to creating a more accessible and efficient justice system.

Conclusion

To sum up, it is inferred that the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees a robust framework of fundamental rights, the realization of these rights depends on the accessibility and responsiveness of the legal system. In its landmark judgments, the Supreme Court of Pakistan emphasized on constitutional rights and access to justice to the people. Various effective steps have also been taken for the said purpose. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has played a pivotal role in safeguarding constitutional rights, expanding the scope of public interest litigation, and holding state actors accountable through its judgments. Additionally, other institutions such as the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), and various Ombudsman offices complement the judiciary's efforts by providing platforms for redress and promoting good governance. Despite these efforts, systemic challenges such as delays in case management, limited awareness of rights, and administrative inefficiencies continue to impede access to justice. By addressing these issues through reforms, technological advancements, and enhanced public engagement, Pakistan can strengthen its legal framework, ensuring that all citizens, especially marginalized groups, benefit from equitable access to justice and the protection of their fundamental rights. By addressing systemic challenges and embracing proactive reforms, Pakistan can strengthen its commitment to upholding constitutional rights and ensuring equitable access to justice for all citizens, thereby fostering a more just, inclusive, and democratic society.

Recommendations

Following are suggestions for strengthening constitutional rights and access to justice in Pakistan:

1. **Strengthen Case Management:** The judiciary should continue enhancing its case management systems by integrating more advanced technological tools, such as artificial intelligence for case prioritization and automation of routine judicial tasks. This will help reduce the backlog of cases and ensure timely adjudication.
2. **Discourage Frivolous Litigation:** It is essential to implement clear legislative reforms defining frivolous claims, establish pre-filing screenings, and streamline dismissal processes. Introducing financial disincentives can deter baseless lawsuits.
3. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Promoting of the use of ADR methods such as mediation and arbitration to resolve cases without full judicial proceedings can significantly reduce the burden on courts.
4. **Capacity Building and Training:** Regular training programs for judges and court staff on efficient case management, new laws, and technology can improve overall efficiency.
5. **Legislative Reforms:** There is dire need for review and amendment in outdated laws and regulations that contribute to delays in the judicial process. By introducing fast-track procedures for specific categories of cases that require expedited resolution fruitful results can be achieved.
6. **Infrastructure Development:** Investment in modernizing court infrastructure, including virtual courtrooms and better facilities, to handle cases more efficiently is essential. In addition, enhancement in IT infrastructure to support digital filing, virtual hearings, and electronic case management systems can improve service delivery.
7. **Promote Public Legal Awareness:** There should be a national initiative aimed at raising awareness among citizens about their constitutional rights, legal remedies, and the role of the judiciary. Educational campaigns through schools, media, and community outreach can significantly improve public understanding of the legal system.
8. **Enhance Collaboration Between Institutions:** Strengthening the collaboration between the judiciary and other key institutions, such as the HRCP, NCHR, and Ombudsman offices, would ensure a more cohesive approach to safeguarding constitutional rights.

Creating joint task forces for human rights violations or administrative reforms could enhance the enforcement of rights.

9. **Increase Access to Justice for Marginalized Groups:** Special measures should be taken to make legal processes more accessible to marginalized communities, such as women, children, minorities, and persons with disabilities. This could include legal aid programs, mobile courts, or simplified legal procedures to ensure equitable access to justice.
10. **Expand Judicial Education and Research:** The Supreme Court Research Centre (SCRC) should expand its resources to offer more comprehensive training and research for lower courts and legal practitioners. This will help harmonize the interpretation of constitutional rights and ensure consistency in judicial rulings across the country.
11. **Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Reform:** While PIL has been a valuable tool for social justice, clearer guidelines for its application could prevent its misuse and ensure that it remains a mechanism for addressing genuine systemic issues. The Court could establish a separate bench for PIL cases to streamline their handling.
12. **Institutionalize Judicial Accountability:** The judiciary itself must maintain high standards of accountability and transparency. Establishing internal review bodies or enhancing the existing judicial oversight mechanisms could ensure that the judiciary remains free of corruption and inefficiency.
13. **Periodic Review of Constitutional Rights:** Periodic reviews of the Constitution in relation to evolving global human rights standards can ensure that Pakistan remains aligned with international norms. A regular update on constitutional rights, taking into consideration social, economic, and technological developments, will keep the legal framework dynamic.
14. **Feedback Mechanism:** Establishing of a feedback mechanism for litigants and lawyers to report issues or suggest improvements can provide valuable insights into operational inefficiencies and areas for improvement.

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