



Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review



JUSTICE DISTORTED: THE DARK SIDE OF LEGAL TACTICS IN PAKISTAN

Amina Bari

LLM (P.U), Deputy Director Legislation, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Punjab,
Pakistan, Email: noumancity64@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Judicial System, Legal
Abuse, Legal Proceedings,
Political Interference,
Pakistan

Corresponding Author:

Amina Bari, LLM (P.U),
Deputy Director Legislation,
Law and Parliamentary
Affairs Department, Punjab,
Pakistan,

Email: noumancity64@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The misuse of legal procedures in Pakistan has become a significant concern, despite the judiciary's intended role of safeguarding justice and fostering equitable practices. This research examines the phenomenon of the misuse of legal processes, specifically how they are used to gain personal advantage, resolve disputes, or prolong the legal process. Pakistani law poses several obstacles, and the objective of this abstract is to provide a succinct overview of the various concerns faced in the proceedings of Pakistani courts. The primary objective of this study is to examine the complex nature of the issue by exploring its historical background, the repercussions it has on the present day, and the possible remedies to address the problem. The amalgamation of Pakistan's indigenous legal traditions and the influence of British imperialism have greatly shaped the development of Pakistani law throughout history. Over time, this combination has led to the creation of a system that embodies a unique mixture of adversarial and inquisitorial methods. Nevertheless, its intricacy has concurrently facilitated people to use the judicial system via various means. In present-day Pakistan, the misuse of legal processes is evident in several forms, such as corruption, misconduct in the execution of procedures, and ethical deficiencies. The public's confidence in the judicial system has significantly diminished due to occurrences of political meddling, improper influence, and procedural manipulation. This study sheds light on the issues that arise in a system where justice is often denied and just delayed. The findings expose many inherent weaknesses in the structure, the role of legal professionals, and the consequences faced by those who have suffered from these wrongdoings. It is recommended that policymakers examine suggestions for legislative amendments and enhanced enforcement of legal ethics to effectively halt this detrimental behavior. The objective of these proposals is to reinstate the integrity and effectiveness of Pakistan's judicial system.

1. Introduction

1.1 Historical Evolution of the Judicial System in Pakistan

The historical roots of the judicial system in Pakistan can be traced back to indigenous legal traditions, which were primarily rooted in local customs, tribal codes, and societal norms. In pre-colonial times, communities followed informal mechanisms of dispute resolution, with village councils or tribal elders acting as arbitrators to settle conflicts (Khan, 2001). These practices were guided by customary laws and oral traditions, deeply embedded in the socio-cultural context of the region. However, with the British colonization of the Indian subcontinent in the mid-19th century, the legal system underwent a profound transformation. The British introduced a formalized and structured legal framework based on English common law, which aimed to consolidate imperial authority and control. Under British rule, the judiciary became more centralized, and courts were structured to serve colonial interests, with the creation of formal court systems and codified laws. After the independence of Pakistan in 1947, the newly formed state inherited this colonial legal structure, which was further modified to suit the local context and challenges. Although the system retained much of its British influence, various legal reforms and adaptations have taken place over time, aiming to make the judiciary more responsive to the needs of Pakistani society. Despite this, the colonial legacy continues to impact the structure, processes, and functioning of the legal system today (Fatima, et al., 2022).

1.2 Nature of the Current Legal System

Pakistan's current legal system is a hybrid model that blends elements from both adversarial and inquisitorial systems of justice. The adversarial system, which is common in common law jurisdictions, relies on the principle of two opposing parties presenting their cases before an impartial judge or jury, who acts as a neutral arbiter. In contrast, the inquisitorial system, commonly found in civil law traditions, places greater emphasis on the role of the judge in investigating the facts of the case and gathering evidence. Pakistan's legal system incorporates both of these elements, resulting in a unique and sometimes confusing hybrid structure. For instance, while court proceedings generally follow an adversarial format, the judge may play a more active role in directing investigations or questioning witnesses, especially in criminal cases (Mehdi, 2012). The complex nature of the legal framework, with its intertwining systems of laws, procedures, and bureaucratic processes, makes the judiciary difficult to navigate for many. This complexity can lead to inefficiencies in the system, as litigants and legal professionals often

face significant procedural hurdles, such as unclear legal procedures, slow case processing, and cumbersome bureaucracy. In addition to this, the legal system is fragmented across various levels, including lower courts, high courts, and the Supreme Court, with distinct rules and procedures at each level that can further confuse participants in the legal process (Rahman, 2021).

1.3 Intended Purpose of the Legal Framework

The legal framework in Pakistan is designed with the primary aim of ensuring justice and fairness within society. It is meant to offer a system through which disputes can be resolved in a manner that is equitable, impartial, and consistent with the principles of law. The judiciary, as a branch of government, serves as an independent arbiter, ensuring that justice is served in accordance with the laws and that the rights of individuals and institutions are protected. One of the fundamental purposes of the legal framework is to provide a mechanism for resolving disputes in an organized and structured manner (Naseer, 2013). This includes ensuring that legal processes are fair and transparent, offering access to justice for all citizens, regardless of their social, economic, or political standing. The system also aims to provide timely resolutions to disputes, thus reducing the burden on individuals and society. Beyond mere dispute resolution, the legal system serves a more significant societal function: the protection of rights, the enforcement of contracts, and the safeguarding of individual freedoms. A strong legal system is designed to promote stability, uphold the rule of law, and maintain public trust in governance and public institutions. For the system to function as intended, however, it requires adherence to established rules, the removal of obstacles to justice, and continuous reform to align it with evolving societal needs (Shaukat, 2017).

1.4 Systemic Challenges and Shortcomings

Despite its noble intentions, the judicial system in Pakistan faces a number of significant systemic challenges that undermine its efficiency and efficacy. One of the most pervasive issues is the susceptibility to manipulation and exploitation by individuals with power or influence. The legal framework is often subjected to the influence of political and economic elites, who use their resources to sway legal outcomes in their favor (Siddiq, 2019). This is particularly true in high-profile cases where wealthy or influential parties may exploit the system to delay proceedings, manipulate evidence, or exert undue influence on judges. In addition, corruption remains a serious concern within the judiciary itself, as instances of bribery and favoritism continue to surface in courtrooms across the country (Athem, 2002). Legal professionals, including lawyers

and judges, are often accused of engaging in unethical practices, which contributes to a perception of systemic corruption. The use of legal proceedings for personal or strategic gain is another recurring issue. Legal battles are sometimes not conducted with the goal of achieving justice, but rather as a means to exert pressure on an opponent or to gain a financial or strategic advantage. Such manipulation of the legal system further erodes public trust in its ability to deliver justice fairly and impartially (Malik, 2019). The complex and fragmented nature of the legal system also contributes to these challenges, as individuals with resources often find ways to exploit the procedural intricacies to their benefit, leading to prolonged delays and an overall lack of access to justice for the common person (Amanullah, 2018).

1.5 Consequences of Systemic Issues

The systemic challenges within the judicial system of Pakistan lead to several serious and far-reaching consequences that negatively affect the delivery of justice. One of the most glaring issues is the persistent delay in legal outcomes. Cases often linger in courts for years, with individuals and businesses waiting for resolution while their rights remain unprotected. These delays are partly due to an overburdened court system, a shortage of judicial personnel, and inefficient case management. Prolonged legal proceedings exacerbate the suffering of victims, as well as create uncertainty in commercial and personal transactions (Choonara, 2011). Moreover, the inefficiency in judicial processes is reflected in the growing backlog of cases, which overwhelms the legal infrastructure and prolongs the time it takes to address even the simplest of disputes. This inefficiency undermines the primary goal of the legal system: to provide timely and fair resolution of legal matters. Furthermore, the prevalence of corruption within the system perpetuates a cycle of injustice (Gupta, 2022). When corruption infiltrates the judiciary, it not only allows the rich and powerful to avoid accountability, but it also diminishes public confidence in the fairness of the system. Citizens may lose trust in the judiciary, leading to a lack of faith in the ability of the government to deliver justice and maintain the rule of law. These systemic issues result in a legal environment where the principles of fairness, equity, and justice are undermined, thus harming society as a whole and inhibiting the development of a functioning and robust legal system (Amir, et al., 2022).

1.6 Problem Statement

The primary issue within Pakistan's judicial system is the abuse of legal processes, with parties manipulating the system for personal gain. Corruption, political influence, and procedural

delays are key factors contributing to this problem. These misuses undermine the integrity of the justice system, causing cases to be prolonged and decisions delayed. In some instances, individuals are outright denied justice. The prevalence of these issues has led to a significant erosion of public trust in the judiciary. This lack of faith in the legal system has become one of the most pressing challenges facing Pakistan today. The widespread abuse hampers the delivery of fair and timely justice. As a result, the system's effectiveness is severely compromised. Restoring confidence in the judiciary is essential for the rule of law. Addressing these systemic issues is crucial for ensuring justice and fairness.

1.7 Research Objectives

This study seeks to:

1. Examine the ways in which legal procedures are misused in Pakistan.
2. Investigate the historical development of the legal system and how this has shaped current practices.
3. Propose remedies and reforms aimed at restoring integrity and effectiveness to Pakistan's judiciary.

1.8 Research Questions

1. What factors lead to the misuse of legal procedures in Pakistan?
2. How does political interference impact the judicial process in Pakistan?
3. What reforms could address the corruption and inefficiency in Pakistan's legal system?

1.9 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study lies in its potential to expose the deep-rooted issues within Pakistan's legal system, particularly focusing on the misuse and manipulation of legal processes. By critically examining these issues, the research aims to identify the underlying causes of systemic abuse, such as corruption, political interference, and procedural inefficiencies. These issues have led to the erosion of public trust and confidence in the judiciary, making it difficult for citizens to rely on the legal system for fair and timely justice. The study is crucial as it seeks to highlight how these flaws in the legal framework directly impact social justice, often leaving vulnerable individuals and marginalized groups without recourse to their rights. In addition to raising awareness, this research aims to provide evidence-based insights that can inform policy changes and judicial reforms. Such reforms would focus on enhancing transparency, accountability, and ethical practices within the legal system. By fostering a more transparent and

ethical legal environment, the study aims to contribute to restoring the credibility of Pakistan's judiciary. Ultimately, this research could play a key role in re-establishing a legal system that is not only just and fair but also accessible and trustworthy for all citizens, regardless of their socio-economic or political background.

2. Literature Review

2.1 The History of Pakistan's Legal System

Pakistan's legal system has its origins in the British colonial era, which established a legal framework designed primarily to maintain control over the territories rather than to ensure justice for all its inhabitants. The colonial legal system was structured to serve imperial interests, focusing on maintaining order and governance rather than safeguarding individual rights. Upon independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited this legal framework, which included a combination of adversarial and inquisitorial elements (Hassan, 2019). The adversarial system, where opposing parties argue their case in front of an impartial judge, was rooted in English common law, while the inquisitorial approach, where judges actively investigate cases, was influenced by civil law traditions. This dual structure, though theoretically effective, has created a hybrid legal system that often breeds confusion and complexity. It introduces procedural contradictions that make the system difficult to navigate, especially for individuals without sufficient resources or legal knowledge. Furthermore, while the Pakistani legal system has evolved over the years, incorporating indigenous elements of Islamic law, the historical inefficiencies of the inherited British system continue to persist. These inefficiencies contribute to delays, corruption, and a lack of public confidence in the judicial system, which undermines its ability to provide equitable justice (Fatima, et al., 2022).

2.2 Forms of Legal Abuse in Pakistan

Legal abuse in Pakistan manifests in several distinct and troubling forms, all of which contribute to a weakened legal system and undermine the administration of justice. Corruption is perhaps the most pervasive issue, with bribery and illegal payments often being used to expedite or delay cases for personal gain. This widespread corruption means that justice is frequently determined not by the merits of a case but by the financial resources at a party's disposal. Another significant form of abuse is political meddling, where politicians or influential individuals use their power to influence legal proceedings, manipulate outcomes, or interfere in the independence of the judiciary. Political interference not only distorts the integrity of the legal

process but also sends a dangerous message that justice can be bought and sold. Additionally, procedural manipulation occurs when legal mechanisms, such as filing motions, appeals, or requests for adjournments, are abused to unnecessarily delay legal proceedings. These tactics prolong cases and often frustrate the pursuit of justice, with individuals or corporations using the legal system as a strategic tool to outlast their opponents rather than as a means to achieve fairness. Together, these forms of legal abuse contribute to an environment where the legal system no longer serves as an equalizer but instead as a tool for those who can manipulate it to their advantage (Munir, 2020).

2.3 The Role of Lawyers and Judges

The ethical standards of lawyers and judges are critical to the integrity of any legal system. In Pakistan, however, many lawyers and judges have been implicated in unethical practices that compromise the judiciary's credibility. Some lawyers are known to accept bribes, collude with parties involved in a case, or distort the truth in order to secure favorable outcomes for their clients (Hirschl, 2006). This behavior not only undermines the public's trust in the legal system but also perpetuates an environment of injustice. Judges, too, have been involved in unethical conduct, such as accepting bribes to influence judgments or delaying cases for personal gain. The lack of accountability for these actions further damages the system, creating a culture of impunity where lawyers and judges alike prioritize personal or political interests over the rule of law. The failure to maintain high ethical standards within the legal profession has serious consequences, as it erodes the credibility of the judiciary and allows systemic abuses to flourish (Omer, 2013).

2.4 Public Perception and Trust

Over the years, public trust in Pakistan's judicial system has significantly deteriorated, primarily due to the misuse of legal processes and widespread corruption. Many citizens perceive the system as deeply flawed, with legal outcomes often determined by one's social status, political influence, or financial resources rather than the merits of a case. This perception has led to a growing sense of disenchantment with the judiciary, as people increasingly view it as inefficient, biased, and unreliable (Hariss, 2021). As a result, many individuals in Pakistan resort to informal or extra-legal means to resolve conflicts, such as seeking arbitration from tribal councils or using violence to settle disputes. This shift away from formal legal channels further undermines the judiciary's role in ensuring justice. The lack of trust in the legal system has

created a vicious cycle, where individuals are less likely to comply with court decisions, further exacerbating the challenges facing Pakistan's judiciary. Without restoring public confidence, the legal system will continue to struggle in fulfilling its role as a pillar of justice and the rule of law (Rizvi, 2015).

2.5 The International Perspective

Pakistan is not alone in facing the challenges of legal system abuse. Many countries around the world, especially in the developing world, have grappled with similar issues of corruption, political interference, and inefficient legal processes. However, there are examples of countries that have successfully addressed these challenges through judicial reforms. Nations such as India and South Africa have undertaken significant efforts to address legal system abuses and improve access to justice. In India, the introduction of specialized courts, the expansion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and increased accountability for legal professionals have helped to improve the judicial system's efficiency and integrity. Similarly, South Africa's post-apartheid legal reforms focused on transparency, strengthening the independence of the judiciary, and increasing public access to legal recourse. These reforms have contributed to a more just and transparent legal system. Pakistan can learn from the experiences of these countries, adapting their best practices to its own legal framework. By implementing similar reforms and committing to judicial independence, transparency, and accountability, Pakistan could take significant steps toward addressing its own legal system challenges. The experiences of other countries highlight that, with the right political will and institutional support, it is possible to reduce legal abuses and improve the functioning of the judiciary (Omer, 2013).

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1 Justice Theories

This research is grounded in two key justice theories: retributive justice and restorative justice, both of which provide different lenses through which to understand the challenges within Pakistan's judicial system. Retributive justice is based on the principle that wrongdoers should be punished in proportion to their crimes, and that this punishment serves as a deterrent to future offenses. In Pakistan, however, the ideals of retributive justice are often overshadowed by systemic issues such as corruption and procedural delays, which hinder the effective implementation of justice. The lengthy delays in legal proceedings and the manipulation of legal processes by powerful individuals reduce the impact of punishment as a deterrent and perpetuate

a sense of injustice within society(Khan, 2015). On the other hand, restorative justice focuses on rehabilitation, reconciliation, and repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior rather than focusing solely on punishment. This theory emphasizes healing for both victims and offenders, encouraging dialogue and mutual understanding. Restorative justice provides a more holistic approach to addressing the shortcomings of Pakistan's legal system, as it focuses on addressing root causes of criminal behavior, repairing relationships, and promoting social harmony. Incorporating restorative justice principles into the legal framework could help mitigate the systemic issues that currently plague the system, offering a more rehabilitative and restorative form of justice that might restore trust in the judiciary (Sohail, 2019).

3.2 Political Economy of Law

The political economy of law offers a theoretical framework to understand the interplay between political structures and judicial outcomes. In Pakistan, the political economy of law highlights the extent to which political elites influence legal processes, often subverting the rule of law to serve their own political and economic interests. In a system where political elites hold significant power over judicial appointments, case decisions, and legislative reforms, the legal system is vulnerable to manipulation(Khan, 2014). The political influence on the judiciary undermines its independence and neutrality, allowing powerful individuals and groups to use the legal system to advance their own agendas. This dynamic fosters a culture of impunity, where the law is applied inconsistently and arbitrarily. As a result, the judiciary fails to uphold its role as an impartial arbiter, and legal outcomes are frequently shaped by political considerations rather than by the principles of justice and fairness. By examining the political economy of law, this research can shed light on how political pressures distort the legal process, contributing to inefficiencies, corruption, and a lack of public trust in the judiciary (Human Rights Watch, 2023).

3.3 Ethical Framework

An ethical framework is essential for maintaining the integrity and fairness of any judicial system. In Pakistan, however, the absence of robust ethical standards for both judges and lawyers contributes to the dysfunction of the legal system. Legal ethics encompass the professional conduct, responsibilities, and obligations that guide legal practitioners in their decision-making and behavior(Hirschl, 2008). The lack of clear ethical guidelines for judges, who may face pressures from political or financial influences, leads to inconsistent decision-making, biased rulings, and compromised justice. Similarly, lawyers in Pakistan often face

ethical dilemmas, such as the temptation to accept bribes, collude with clients, or manipulate legal procedures to prolong cases or gain unfair advantages. Strengthening ethical standards and promoting accountability within the legal profession would be a critical step toward improving the integrity of the judiciary. Establishing clear ethical codes, enhancing the training of legal professionals, and implementing stricter oversight mechanisms could help reduce the instances of misconduct that currently plague Pakistan's judicial system. By reinforcing ethical behavior in legal practice, Pakistan can move closer to achieving a fairer and more just legal system that the public can trust (Hassan, 2006).

4. Research Methodology

4.1 Qualitative Research Approach

This study adopts a qualitative research approach to explore the complex and multifaceted nature of legal abuse in Pakistan. A qualitative approach is particularly suitable for this type of investigation because it allows for a deep and nuanced understanding of the underlying factors that contribute to the misuse and manipulation of legal processes. Unlike quantitative methods, which focus on measuring and analyzing numerical data, qualitative research delves into the experiences, perceptions, and perspectives of individuals involved in the judicial system. By conducting interviews with legal professionals, such as lawyers, judges, and other stakeholders, this study seeks to gain insights into the personal and institutional factors that facilitate legal abuse. Interviews offer the opportunity for participants to share their experiences, providing rich, detailed accounts of the challenges and ethical dilemmas they face within the legal system. Additionally, case studies are used to examine specific instances of legal abuse, allowing the researcher to explore particular examples in depth (International Commission of Jurists, 2020). These case studies can reveal how systemic issues, such as corruption or political interference, manifest in real-world legal situations and the consequences they have on the individuals involved. The qualitative approach is ideal for uncovering the contextual complexities and social dynamics that quantitative data cannot capture, such as the influence of political elites, the role of social networks, and the moral compromises made by legal professionals. This method provides a comprehensive understanding of the issues at play, which is essential for identifying the root causes of legal abuse and proposing effective solutions to address them. By focusing on the lived experiences of those within the system, this study aims to

produce findings that are not only theoretically grounded but also practically relevant for improving the Pakistani judicial system.

4.2. Population and Sampling

The population for this study consists of all District and Session Judges and lawyers working in the province of Punjab, Pakistan. Given the scope of the research, the focus was on a purposive sample to ensure that the participants selected had relevant experience and insight into the legal system, particularly with regard to the misuse of legal processes. The purposive sampling technique was chosen because it allows for the intentional selection of participants who are likely to provide the most relevant and valuable information. Specifically, 50 practicing lawyers (comprising 25 male and 25 female lawyers) were selected for participation. These lawyers were chosen based on their active practice in the legal field, ensuring a range of perspectives from different legal areas. Additionally, 10 District and Session Judges (5 male and 5 female) were selected for their experience in handling high-profile or prolonged legal cases that may have involved instances of legal abuse. By selecting participants with this specific background, the study aims to gain a deeper understanding of the nuances and complexities of the judicial system, focusing on those who have encountered or been involved in cases where manipulation, corruption, or procedural delays have affected the legal outcomes.

4.3 Data Collection Methods

This study employs two primary data collection methods: interviews and case studies, both of which are central to the qualitative research approach. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with both District and Session Judges and lawyers to gather insights into the daily operations of the legal system, particularly regarding legal abuses such as delays, corruption, and political interference. The interviews aimed to capture the personal experiences, challenges, and perceptions of the participants, helping to paint a comprehensive picture of the systemic issues present in Pakistan's judicial framework. By interviewing 50 lawyers and 10 judges, the study was able to collect a diverse range of opinions and experiences from both the judiciary and legal practice perspectives. The interviews also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss specific examples of legal abuse, the factors contributing to these abuses, and their implications for justice. The second method used in this study is the analysis of 10 high-profile legal cases in which legal abuse was evident. These cases were selected for their prominence and the clear examples of systemic issues they represented. By examining these real-

life cases, the study sought to provide concrete, detailed examples of how legal abuses manifest in practice, particularly in prolonged or high-stakes cases. The case studies offer a valuable opportunity to connect theoretical findings from the literature review with practical, real-world examples, illustrating how the issues discussed in the literature play out within the actual workings of the legal system. This combination of interviews and case studies allows for a comprehensive exploration of the complexities of legal abuse, providing both qualitative data from practitioners and tangible evidence of its effects.

4.4 Data Analysis

For this study, thematic analysis was employed as the primary method to analyze the data collected from interviews and case studies. Thematic analysis is particularly suited for qualitative research as it allows for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of patterns or themes within qualitative data. In this study, the interview transcripts from 50 lawyers and 10 judges, as well as the detailed case studies, were systematically reviewed to identify recurring themes and patterns related to the misuse of legal processes in Pakistan's judicial system. The analysis focused on identifying key themes such as corruption, procedural delays, and political interference, all of which were consistently highlighted by participants as major issues within the system. These themes were not only identified through direct responses from interviewees but also emerged from the detailed accounts of high-profile legal cases where these issues were clearly visible. For instance, instances of corruption were explored by examining how financial transactions or bribes impacted case outcomes, while procedural delays were analyzed through participants' descriptions of how cases were intentionally prolonged through legal maneuvers or bureaucratic inefficiencies. Political interference was also highlighted as a significant theme, with many interviewees discussing how political elites exert pressure on the legal process, influencing the outcome of cases to suit their own interests. By organizing the data into these recurring themes, the analysis provided a structured and coherent understanding of the systemic issues within Pakistan's legal system. Thematic analysis allowed for a deeper exploration of how these issues are experienced and perceived by those within the system, including legal professionals and judges, offering both personal and professional insights. Additionally, this method provided a comprehensive framework for interpreting the data in the context of broader issues such as social justice, legal integrity, and the rule of law. Ultimately, the thematic analysis

enabled the study to highlight the central problems of legal abuse, offering a rich, detailed understanding of the complex factors contributing to the dysfunctionality of the judicial system.

4.5 Thematic Analysis

In this study, thematic analysis was used to identify and interpret the recurring themes that emerged from the interviews with 50 lawyers and 10 judges, as well as from the analysis of 10 high-profile case studies. Thematic analysis helped uncover the systemic issues contributing to legal abuse in Pakistan's judicial system. The analysis focused on several key themes: corruption, procedural delays, political interference, lack of ethical standards, and inefficiency of the legal system (Hirschl, 2006). Below is a descriptive summary of each theme, supported by data from the interviews and case studies.

4.5.1 Corruption

One of the most prominent themes to emerge from the interviews was corruption within the legal system. Both lawyers and judges discussed how bribery and other forms of illegal payments were commonly used to manipulate the pace of legal proceedings. Lawyers frequently mentioned instances where clients paid bribes to expedite cases or secure favorable rulings. Additionally, judges shared their concerns regarding the pressure to accept bribes in exchange for favorable judgments in high-profile cases. This theme was particularly evident in the experiences of 15 lawyers and 4 judges who had direct involvement in high-profile cases. For instance, one lawyer explained how a case was deliberately delayed until a bribe was paid, while a judge detailed the financial inducements they had received to influence case outcomes. These accounts illustrate how corruption has deeply infiltrated Pakistan's legal processes, undermining the principle of justice (Khan, 2015).

4.5.2 Procedural Delays

Another significant theme identified in the data was the procedural delays that plague the judicial system. Lawyers discussed various tactics used to prolong legal cases, such as filing unnecessary motions, requesting frequent adjournments, or manipulating procedural requirements to delay judgments. This theme emerged from the experiences of 20 lawyers (10 male, 10 female), who were directly involved in long-term cases that took several years to resolve. Judges also reflected on the impact of backlogged cases and the inability of the system to handle the growing caseload, which further contributed to delays. As one judge noted, the backlog in cases in lower courts

often led to extended waiting periods for litigants, resulting in an inefficient legal system. These delays are not just procedural but are frequently manipulated by those with political or financial power to gain an advantage, thereby eroding public confidence in the judiciary (Hariss, 2021).

4.5.3 Political Interference

Political interference was another critical theme that emerged from the interviews. Both judges and lawyers reported instances where political elites and governmental figures exerted pressure on the judiciary to influence the outcomes of legal cases. This interference often led to biased decisions or the manipulation of the judicial process for political gain. 10 lawyers and 5 judges discussed how political figures used their influence to affect case outcomes, especially in high-profile cases involving politicians or their associates. Lawyers described situations where the political affiliation of a client would lead to a favorable ruling, regardless of the merits of the case. Judges acknowledged the challenge of maintaining impartiality in such situations, especially when their positions were threatened by powerful political figures. The theme of political interference reveals how the rule of law is often undermined by those who use their political power to control or manipulate legal proceedings (Choonara, 2011).

4.5.4 Lack of Ethical Standards

The theme of lack of ethical standards was particularly prominent in the accounts provided by judges and lawyers who admitted to engaging in unethical practices. This included accepting bribes, colluding with parties involved in cases, and delaying or distorting legal procedures to favor clients. 10 lawyers (5 male, 5 female) and 3 judges (2 male, 1 female) were implicated in cases where unethical behavior was evident, either through compromising the truth or failing to uphold the principles of justice. One lawyer mentioned how, in some instances, legal professionals would turn a blind eye to corrupt practices, turning the legal system into a mechanism for financial gain rather than justice. Judges discussed the pressure to act in ways that compromised their professional integrity, further highlighting the lack of accountability within the system. This theme underscores the importance of establishing stronger ethical standards for legal professionals and judges to restore the credibility of the judiciary (Imam, 2023).

4.5.5 Inefficiency of the Legal System

The final major theme identified was the inefficiency of the legal system as a whole. The judicial system in Pakistan suffers from chronic delays, limited resources, and an overburdened

court structure, all of which contribute to the slow pace of justice. 5 judges (3 male, 2 female) from high-volume districts reflected on the challenges posed by an overwhelming number of cases and the lack of adequate resources to handle them efficiently. One judge noted that many cases could be resolved in a timely manner if the courts had access to better resources, such as more staff, technological tools, and improved case management systems. However, due to systemic inefficiencies, the justice process is often delayed, leading to prolonged suffering for litigants. This inefficiency also contributes to a perception of injustice, as individuals lose confidence in the legal system's ability to deliver timely and fair outcomes. The theme of inefficiency is deeply tied to the issues of procedural delays and corruption, as both contribute to the overall dysfunction of the judicial system (Gupta, 2022).

5. Findings and Analysis

5.1 Forms of Misuse of Legal Procedures

The research identifies several significant ways in which legal procedures in Pakistan are misused and manipulated, compromising the integrity of the judicial system. These forms of misuse are deeply ingrained in the functioning of the legal framework and have profound implications for the delivery of justice. Three main forms of misuse stand out: corruption, political interference, and procedural delays (Gupta, 2022).

5.1.2 Corruption

One of the most pervasive forms of legal misuse identified in the research is corruption. A significant number of cases involve bribery or illegal financial transactions aimed at influencing the outcome of legal proceedings or expediting cases for certain parties. Lawyers and judges discussed how bribes are commonly offered to ensure favorable rulings, delay or expedite the judicial process, or sway decisions in high-profile cases. The influence of money in the legal process has become a major hurdle in the pursuit of justice, as it undermines fairness and equity. For example, lawyers revealed instances where clients paid substantial amounts to secure early hearings or judgments in their favor, while judges acknowledged receiving financial incentives to overlook procedural flaws or deliver biased verdicts. The prevalence of corruption in the legal system reduces public trust in the judiciary, creating a perception that justice can be bought, rather than earned through the merit of legal arguments or evidence (Khan, 2001).

5.1.3 Political Interference

Another critical form of misuse within the legal system is political interference. Political elites and government officials often exert pressure on legal proceedings to influence the outcomes of cases, particularly those involving political rivals, opposition figures, or high-profile political cases. Participants in the study reported multiple instances where the political influence of powerful figures affected the impartiality of judges and legal practitioners. Judges and lawyers shared examples of how political figures used their authority to shape case outcomes, either by directly interfering in cases or by subtly pressuring judges to make decisions that aligned with political agendas (Malik, 2016). The research indicates that political interference is most prevalent in cases involving corruption, power struggles, or disputes between politicians. This interference not only distorts the legal process but also severely undermines the principle of judicial independence, turning the legal system into a tool for political maneuvering rather than an institution for fair and impartial justice (Siddiqi, 2019).

5.1.4 Procedural Delays

Procedural delays were also identified as a major form of manipulation within the legal system. Lawyers and judges admitted to exploiting legal procedures to prolong cases, often to gain time or avoid unfavorable outcomes. Common tactics include requesting multiple adjournments, filing unnecessary motions, or strategically dragging out legal proceedings. These delays not only frustrate the parties involved in a case but also contribute to a growing backlog of cases in courts. One of the key findings of the research was that those with more resources or political influence are often able to use procedural delays to their advantage, while less powerful litigants find themselves stuck in an endless cycle of waiting for justice. In some cases, the delays are intentional, allowing one party to wear out the other through extended litigation. This misuse of legal procedures is particularly harmful in civil and criminal cases where prolonged delays can lead to emotional, financial, and social strain on the individuals involved. The study found that the manipulation of procedural rules often exacerbates the inefficiency of the judicial system and deepens the public perception that the legal system is incapable of delivering timely justice (Naseer, 2013).

5.2 Impact on Public Trust and Legal Integrity

The abuse of legal processes has had a profound and detrimental impact on public trust in Pakistan's judicial system. Over time, citizens have become increasingly disillusioned with the

legal system, viewing it as corrupt and biased. The widespread corruption, political interference, and procedural delays discussed earlier have contributed to a growing sense that justice in Pakistan is often determined by wealth, political power, or influence, rather than fairness and the rule of law. This perception has led to a sharp decline in public confidence, as many people no longer believe that the judiciary operates independently or impartially. As a result, the legal system has lost its credibility, and its authority to deliver justice has been significantly undermined (Malik, 2016). In the face of this erosion of trust, many citizens have sought alternative methods for resolving disputes. Informal dispute resolution mechanisms, such as local councils, tribal elders, and even extrajudicial means, have become more popular as individuals lose faith in formal legal channels. These alternatives, while sometimes more expedient, often lack the fairness and structure necessary to ensure justice. The increasing reliance on such mechanisms further undermines the authority of the formal legal system, creating a parallel system that lacks transparency and accountability. As the public increasingly turns to these informal methods, the legitimacy of the judicial system diminishes, and the very foundation of legal integrity is weakened. The failure to restore public trust in the judiciary presents a critical challenge, as a legal system without public confidence cannot effectively fulfill its role in ensuring justice and safeguarding the rights of citizens (Athem, 2002).

5.3 Barriers to Reform

One of the most significant barriers to reforming Pakistan's legal system is resistance from political and legal elites. These elites, who hold substantial influence over the legal and political processes, often benefit from the status quo and have a vested interest in maintaining the current system. The existence of corruption, inefficiency, and political interference is not only tolerated by these elites but, in many cases, actively perpetuated to serve their own interests. For instance, political figures and high-ranking bureaucrats may use the legal system to further their agendas, gain political leverage, or protect their wealth and power. As such, any efforts to address these issues and implement reforms often face significant opposition from those in power, who view the proposed changes as a threat to their influence (Hussain, 2006).

Moreover, legal professionals, including judges and lawyers, may also resist reforms that challenge entrenched practices, particularly if these reforms threaten their financial gain or professional status. The legal profession, which has historically been prone to unethical conduct, may be reluctant to adopt measures that could expose corruption or reduce opportunities for

financial exploitation. Additionally, institutional inertia and the deeply entrenched nature of the legal system make it difficult to implement change. Many of the reforms required to address the systemic issues, such as increasing transparency, ensuring judicial independence, and holding legal professionals accountable for unethical behavior, would require a major overhaul of existing structures and processes. This is a complex and lengthy process that faces resistance from multiple stakeholders who are reluctant to relinquish their power and control over the system (Cheema, & Raza, 2012). Ultimately, the resistance to reform reflects the deep-rooted challenges that exist within Pakistan's legal system. Until the political and legal elites are willing to relinquish their control and embrace meaningful change, efforts to combat corruption, reduce inefficiency, and restore public trust in the judiciary will continue to face significant obstacles. To achieve lasting reform, it will be essential to overcome these barriers, engage with stakeholders across the political and legal spectrum, and create a reform agenda that prioritizes fairness, transparency, and the rule of law (Hirschl, 2008).

6. Discussion

6.1 Addressing the Historical Context of Legal Abuse

The roots of legal abuse in Pakistan can be traced back to its colonial history, where the British colonial legal system was implemented to maintain control over the territories, rather than to serve justice equitably. This legacy, when combined with indigenous traditions, has resulted in a hybrid legal system that is susceptible to manipulation. The British system, with its complex hierarchy and emphasis on formal legal procedures, often overshadowed the local, more community-based justice practices. However, this colonial framework, while offering some structure, did not prioritize justice for all, creating a system where power dynamics were central to legal outcomes. The addition of indigenous legal traditions, while offering some cultural relevance, also did not resolve the issues created by the colonial legal system. This combination of historical factors has contributed to a system where legal abuse, corruption, and political interference are deeply ingrained (Hassan, 2019).

Overcoming this historical legacy will require a comprehensive reform strategy that acknowledges both the legal and cultural dimensions of the issue. A reformed system must not only address the structural inefficiencies inherited from the colonial period but also incorporate cultural norms that promote fairness and justice. This involves rethinking the legal framework in a way that respects Pakistan's unique cultural context, while simultaneously adopting practices

that align with universal principles of justice and fairness. Therefore, reform must go beyond superficial changes to institutional structures and address the deep-rooted cultural and historical factors that have shaped the legal landscape (Malik, 2019).

6.2 The Role of Political Interference

Political interference is one of the most significant challenges facing Pakistan's legal system. The research findings clearly show that political elites frequently use their influence to shape legal outcomes, either through direct pressure on judges or by manipulating the legal process for political advantage. This interference compromises the independence of the judiciary, which is a cornerstone of any functional legal system. To effectively address this issue, efforts to increase judicial independence must be prioritized. Strengthening the judiciary's autonomy requires institutional reforms that create robust checks and balances, ensuring that the judiciary remains free from external influence, particularly from political entities. This includes reforms such as ensuring merit-based appointments for judges, transparent selection processes, and creating mechanisms that hold judges accountable for any unethical behavior or susceptibility to external influence. The separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches must be firmly established to ensure that political interference does not erode the rule of law. This approach will not only preserve the judiciary's integrity but also restore public confidence in the legal system (Mehdi, 2012).

6.3 Legal Reform Proposals

Several reforms are necessary to address the systemic issues identified in this study. These proposals focus on legislative changes, strengthening judicial independence, and public education on legal rights.

6.3.1 Legislative Changes:

One of the primary areas of reform should be the development of clear legal reforms that directly target the root causes of legal abuse, such as corruption, procedural delays, and political interference. These reforms should establish stringent measures to combat bribery, enhance transparency in legal proceedings, and expedite case processing through effective case management systems. Additionally, laws should be updated to prevent political elites from influencing legal outcomes and to ensure that legal professionals adhere to ethical guidelines (Muhammad Nawaz, 2019).

6.3.2 Strengthening Judicial Independence:

Ensuring that judges are appointed based on merit rather than political affiliation is crucial for building an independent judiciary. Reforms should include the creation of an independent judicial appointments commission to oversee the selection process, ensuring that only those with the requisite qualifications and integrity are appointed to judicial positions. Additionally, it is essential to implement measures that protect judges from political or economic pressures, allowing them to make decisions based solely on the facts and law, without fear of reprisal or reward (Hamid, 2020).

6.3.3 Public Education on Legal Rights:

An essential element of any reform effort is improving public awareness of legal rights and the importance of engaging with the judicial system. Many citizens in Pakistan remain unaware of their legal rights or feel disillusioned with the legal process due to its inefficiencies and corruption. Through public education campaigns, individuals can be informed about their rights and the procedures for seeking justice. Empowering the public to actively participate in the legal system is essential for building a culture of accountability and fairness.

6.4 Global Perspectives on Legal System Reform

Pakistan is not alone in facing the challenges of legal system abuse. Many countries have confronted similar issues of corruption, political interference, and inefficiency within their legal systems. However, several countries have successfully reformed their judicial systems, offering valuable lessons for Pakistan. For example, India has implemented judicial reforms that include the introduction of specialized courts, judicial accountability measures, and the use of technology to streamline case management. These reforms have led to greater transparency and efficiency in the Indian legal system, helping to reduce delays and enhance the public's trust in the judiciary. Similarly, South Africa undertook significant judicial reforms after the end of apartheid, focusing on creating an independent judiciary, enhancing access to justice, and tackling corruption within the legal system. The introduction of new legal frameworks and the strengthening of judicial independence in South Africa have led to improvements in the fairness and effectiveness of its legal system (Khan, 2014). Pakistan can learn from these global experiences, particularly by adopting best practices that have been proven to increase transparency and accountability. International examples highlight the importance of political will, institutional support, and a comprehensive approach to reform that addresses both structural and cultural issues within the

legal system. By drawing on these experiences, Pakistan can develop a reform agenda that is both contextually relevant and internationally informed, leading to a more effective and trusted legal system.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Summary of Key Findings

This study has highlighted several critical issues undermining the integrity of Pakistan's judicial system, including corruption, political interference, and procedural manipulation. These problems have become deeply embedded in the legal framework and contribute to the erosion of public trust in the judiciary. The research revealed how corruption, particularly in the form of bribery and influence, often determines the outcomes of legal cases, particularly in high-profile matters. Political interference was found to be a significant factor that distorts judicial decisions, as political elites use their power to influence legal proceedings to serve their own interests. Additionally, the manipulation of legal procedures, such as delaying cases or misusing procedural tactics, was identified as a common strategy used by lawyers and judges to gain personal or strategic advantages. Together, these issues have created a legal environment where justice is not always served impartially, thereby undermining the effectiveness and credibility of Pakistan's judicial system.

7.2 Implications for Policy and Practice

The findings of this study suggest that significant reforms are urgently needed to restore integrity and trust in Pakistan's legal system. The research underscores the importance of legislative changes to directly address corruption, reduce procedural delays, and prevent political interference. Clearer laws that penalize unethical practices and establish more rigorous oversight mechanisms are essential to combat the pervasive issue of corruption. Furthermore, strengthening judicial independence is paramount, and this can be achieved through reforms such as the introduction of merit-based judicial appointments and protection of judges from external pressures. Increasing transparency in both legal procedures and judicial decisions would help rebuild public confidence in the system. Transparency mechanisms such as public access to case information, judicial performance evaluations, and the establishment of anti-corruption watchdogs could significantly improve accountability within the judiciary. These reforms, if effectively implemented, could pave the way for a legal system that is more just, efficient, and trustworthy, benefiting all citizens of Pakistan.

7.3 Future Research Directions

Future research could expand on the long-term effects of legal abuse on Pakistan's social fabric. For instance, it could examine how the manipulation of legal processes influences societal perceptions of justice, social cohesion, and individual rights over time. Additionally, further studies could explore the impact of legal abuse on marginalized groups who are disproportionately affected by delays, corruption, and political interference in the judiciary. Research could also investigate additional methods of enhancing judicial accountability and ethics, such as the introduction of ethics training for legal professionals, better monitoring of judicial conduct, and the development of systems that ensure greater public participation and transparency in legal proceedings. Future studies could also compare Pakistan's experiences with legal abuse and reform efforts in other countries with similar challenges, providing a more comprehensive understanding of how to address systemic issues in the judiciary. By exploring these areas, future research can contribute to the development of a more effective, fair, and accountable judicial system in Pakistan.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Legislative Amendments

To address the pervasive issues of corruption, procedural delays, and political interference, it is essential to introduce clear legal reforms within Pakistan's judicial framework. These reforms should focus on enhancing transparency at every level of the legal process. For example, laws should be amended to provide greater accountability for judges and legal practitioners, ensuring that misconduct is swiftly addressed. Anti-corruption measures should be strengthened, with stricter penalties for bribery, undue influence, or manipulation of legal procedures. Additionally, case management systems should be modernized, and clear timelines should be set for legal proceedings to prevent unnecessary delays. Introducing independent oversight bodies with the power to investigate complaints against legal professionals could also help address systemic corruption and ensure that the legal process is fair and transparent. Furthermore, legislative changes should aim to increase the accessibility of legal proceedings, providing resources for marginalized and disadvantaged groups to effectively navigate the judicial system.

8.2 Strengthening Judicial Independence

The independence of the judiciary must be a cornerstone of any reform effort. Strengthening judicial independence would ensure that judges can make decisions based on the law and the merits of each case, without fear of political or financial repercussions. One of the key steps in this process is to ensure that judges are appointed based on merit rather than political affiliation. This can be achieved by establishing an independent judicial appointments commission, composed of legal experts and respected individuals, who would oversee the selection of judges. Additionally, it is crucial to create mechanisms that shield judges from political pressure, ensuring that they are free to perform their duties without the threat of retaliation or influence from political elites. Implementing financial security and career protection for judges, including a secure tenure and retirement benefits, will help protect them from external pressures and incentivize them to act impartially. Strengthening the judiciary's independence is not only essential for the rule of law but will also help restore public trust in the fairness of the legal system.

8.3 Public Education and Awareness

The legal system's effectiveness also depends on the public's understanding of their legal rights and the role of the judiciary in safeguarding these rights. To foster a more informed and engaged public, it is crucial to implement public education and awareness programs that inform citizens about their legal rights, the functioning of the judiciary, and the importance of engaging with the formal legal system. These programs should aim to demystify the legal process, making it more accessible to people from all walks of life. Education campaigns can be run through various channels, such as schools, community centers, social media, and public service announcements. In addition, legal professionals could be encouraged to engage in community outreach, providing legal aid or conducting workshops to help individuals understand how to navigate the legal system. Raising awareness about the significance of adhering to the rule of law, the importance of transparency, and the necessity of fair trials would help to restore public confidence in the judicial system and promote a culture of legal compliance. By implementing these recommendations, Pakistan's legal system can take significant strides toward improving its integrity, efficiency, and public trust, ultimately fostering a more just and equitable society.

9. References

- Ali, A. (2016). Corruption in Pakistan: Causes, consequences and institutional response. *Journal of Pakistan Vision*, 17(1), 54-70.
- Amanullah. (2018). Public interest litigation: A constitutional regime to access justice in Pakistan. *Journal of Pakistan Vision*, 19(2), 168-181. https://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/studies/PDF-FILES/Article_12_v19_2_18.pdf
- Amir, F., Muhammad, A., & Jan, J. (2022). Judicial Activism At The Cost Of Separation Of Power In Pakistan: A Comparison of Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry and Justice Saqib Nisar's Era. *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, 04(03), 589–598. <https://doi.org/10.52567/pjsr.v4i03.748>
- Athem, F. A. (2002). The Role of the Judiciary in the Protection of Human Rights and Development: A Middle Eastern Perspective. *Fordham International Law Journal*, 26(3). <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/ilj/vol26/iss3/8>
- Aziz, F. (2018). Judicial Independence in Pakistan: Challenges and Prospects. *Journal of South Asian Legal Studies*, 12(3), 75-89.
- Cheema, F. A., & Raza, M. A. (2012). An analysis of corruption in Pakistan: Causes, consequences and reform strategies. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 3(7), 267-276.
- Choonara, S. (2011). NCHR of Pakistan: Report to the regional NHRI project on inclusion, the right to health, and SOGI. National Commission of Human Rights in Pakistan, UNDP. Bangkok: International Development Law Organization. <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/publications/Pakistan%20national%20report%205.pdf>
- Fatima, S., Bilal, M., & Khokhar, F. (2022). Executive intervention in judicial independence in Pakistan: An overview of the past. *The Dialogue*. SSRN.
- Fatima, S., Bilal, M., & Khokhar, F. (2022). Executive Intervention in judicial independence in Pakistan: An overview of the past. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4144186>
- Gupta, M. G. (2022). Judicial Activism: A Comparative Study Of India, South Africa And Pakistan. *Indian Law Journal and Legal Research*, 6(3), 2582-8878. <https://www.ijllr.com/post/judicial-activism-a-comparative-study-of-india-south-africa-and-pakistan>
- Hamid, Z. (2020). Political Influence and Judicial Decisions in Pakistan: A Case Study. *Pakistan Journal of Legal Studies*, 18(1), 33-47.

- Hariss, I. B. (2021, April 22). The Supreme Court of Pakistan's *suomotu* (own initiative) combat against the pandemic. Lex Atlas C19. <https://lexatlas-c19.org/the-supreme-court-of-pakistans-suo-motu-combat-against-the-pandemic/>
- Hassan, F. (2006). Pakistan's federal structure and the Constitution of 1973. *The Muslim World*, 96(2), 269–286. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1478-1913.2006.00128.x>
- Hassan, M. (2019). State of human rights in Pakistan 2018. Annual report. Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. <https://hrcp-web.org/hrcpweb/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2019-State-of-human-rights-in-2018-EN.pdf>
- Hirschl, R. (2006). The new constitutionalism and the judicialization of pure politics worldwide. *Fordham Law Review*, 75(2), 721. <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol75/iss2/14/>
- Hirschl, R. (2008). *Judicial Independence and Judicial Review in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press.
- Human Rights Watch. (2023). Human Rights World Report 2023: Pakistan. World Report. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/pakistan>
- Hussain, F. (2006). The judicial system of Pakistan. Federal Judicial Academy Islamabad.
- Imam, D. S. (2023, October 5). Good governance—An elusive dream in Pakistan. Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan: Centre for Governance Research (CGR). <https://cgr.com.pk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Good-Governance-Issue-Paper.pdf>
- Imran Ahmad Khan Niazi v. Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, PLD 2017 SC 265.
- International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). (2020). Pakistan's Judiciary: Ensuring Independence and Impartiality. International Commission of Jurists
- Khan, A. (2014). Judicial Bias and Its Impact on Legal Integrity in Pakistan. *Lahore Law Review*, 5(2), 120-134.
- Khan, H. (2001). *Constitutional and political history of Pakistan*. Oxford University Press.
- Khan, M. S. (2015). Genesis and evolution of public interest litigation in the Supreme Court of Pakistan: Toward a dynamic theory of judicialization. *Temple International Comparative Law Journal*, 29(1)
- Malik, M. (2016). The Politics of Judicial Appointments in Pakistan: A Critical Analysis. *Journal of Pakistani Affairs*, 10(4), 112-128.
- Malik, S. (2019). Judicial Corruption in Pakistan: Causes and Consequences. *Global Jurist Review*, 15(2), 50-69.

- Mehdi, T. (2012). Constitutional Safeguards and Judicial Independence in Pakistan. *Pakistan Law Journal*, 34(2), 45-60.
- Muhammad Nawaz, M. S. (2019). Assessing the Freedom of Judiciary in Pakistan during 20th Century. *Journal of Historical Studies*, 5(2), 146-173.
- Munir, K. (2020). Judicial Activism in Pakistan a case study of supreme court judgments 2008-2013. *A Research Journal of South Asian Studies*, 23(2), 321-334.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343207491_Judicial_Activism_in_Pakistan_A_Case_Study_of_Supreme_Court_Judgments_2008-13
- Naseer, A. (2013). Corruption in Pakistan's Judiciary: A Barrier to Justice. *Asian Legal Studies Review*, 14(3), 78-95.
- Omer, R. (2013). Authority without accountability: The search for justice in Pakistan. *International Commission of Jurists*. Geneva
<https://www.refworld.org/reference/countryrep/icjurists/2013/en/98282>
- Omer, R. (2013). Justice for Pakistan's 'disappeared'. *International Commission of Jurists*.
<https://www.icj.org/resource/justice-for-pakistans-disappeared/>
- Rahman, I. (2021). Reforming Pakistan's Judiciary: A Path to Impartiality and Independence. *Pakistan Journal of Constitutional Law*, 19(2), 15-28.
- Rizvi, Z. H. (2015). Some issues of governance in Pakistan (p. 14). *Social Policy and Development Centre*. <https://www.spdc.org.pk/assets/upload/CP-39.pdf>
- Shaukat, F. (2017). Judicial Appointments and Political Influence in Pakistan. *Islamabad Journal of Law and Policy*, 9(1), 88-104.
- Siddiqi, A. (2019). Judicial Appointments and the Role of Nepotism in Pakistan. *The Lahore Journal of Legal Studies*, 7(3), 133-152.
- Sohail, R. (2019, August 19). Tribune take: Supreme decisions of 2018. *The Express Tribune*.
<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1868672/tribune-take-supreme-decisions-2018>