

# Civil Military Relations: History Of Mistrust In Pakistan

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## Abstract:

Civil-military relations are complex and vary over time. Pakistan's history has been marked by periods of military rule and interference in civilian affairs. This paper will analyze either this fact is a cause of mistrust in this relation or not and it aims to provide insights and recommendations that can contribute to more harmonious and stable civil military relationships in Pakistan. The objectives of the study were to find out factors towards mistrust between Civil Military relationship. To know the reasons of Military interventions in politics. To identify perceptions of different level regarding Civil Military relationship in Pakistan. To put forward recommendation for the consideration of policy makers.

**Keyword:** Civil-Military Relationship, Military Rule, Civilian, Mistrust, Policy Makers

## Introduction:

The long-standing and divisive issues of civil-military relations and the history of mistrust between the civilian administration and the military in Pakistan have influenced the political landscape of the nation. According to Haider and Tariq (2016), Pakistan has experienced a number of military interventions in politics that have hampered the development of a stable political system and interrupted the democratic process. Scholars like Abbas (2019) and Zaidi (2017) have provided extensive documentation of the ingrained distrust between the civil and military authorities. This essay tries to investigate the intricate dynamics of civil-military relations in Pakistan, examining the root causes of mistrust across history and examining its effects on democratic government and stability.

According to Malik (2015), historically, Pakistan's military has viewed itself as the "guardian of the nation" and the only institution capable of defending the nation against both internal and external dangers. The military has

a tendency to feel entitled as a result of this self-perception, which makes them eager to get involved in politics (Bukhari & Siddiqui, 2019). The issue has been made worse by the absence of civilian oversight of the armed forces. The military has maintained a sizable influence over the civilian government despite constitutional provisions giving the president, a civilian authority, the right to nominate the army chief (Cheema, 2014). Due to this, civilian authorities have found it challenging to properly regulate the military, creating a power imbalance that threatens democratic administration.

There are several examples of military interference in politics throughout Pakistan's history of mistrust between the civil and military administrations. Examples of notable military coups include the one that deposed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's elected administration in 1977 and the one that deposed Nawaz Sharif as prime minister in 1999 (Khan, 2018). These actions have hampered Pakistan's political advancement by sustaining a cycle of instability

and undermining the democratic process (Ahmed, 2021). Public faith in civilian institutions has been damaged by the pattern of military interventions, which has also led some people to believe that the military has more power than the elected government (Khan, 2018).

Such a history of mistrust and military interventions has had far-reaching consequences, impeding the country's progress towards establishing a stable and democratic political system.

### Objectives of the study

- To find out factors towards mistrust between Civil Military relationship.
- To know the reasons of Military interventions in politics
- To identify perceptions of different level regarding Civil Military relationship in Pakistan.
- To put forward recommendation for the consideration of policy makers.

### Method and Material

#### 1. Research methodology

The sample was drawn for gathering of information a set out questionnaire. The study population was divided into four strata. The overall picture obtained regarding the issue through such studies is for specific time and for a particular population (Babie 1989) according to this method a sample size of 384 respondents of PHD, M.Phil, Master, and Graduates were taken.

#### 2. Data Collection:-

For primary data collection, comprehensive questionnaire was prepared, the respondents were contacted individually, it took ten days to collect data, the irrelevant and ambiguous questions were omitted this study is relevant to in depth analysis of the civil military relations (CMR) both primary and secondary sources are used to make study more objective and coherent. The methodology supported lot to

understand contribution factors imbalanced civil Military relationship, bases of interventions in politics and to identify the perceptions regarding Civil Military relationships in Pakistan.

### 3. Allocation of respondents of University

S No	Categories of respondents	Sample Size
1	PHD Students	96
2	M.Phil Students	96
3	Masters Students	96
4	Graduates Students	96
<b>Total Students</b>		<b>384</b>

### Analysis and finding

Pakistan has a long and troubled history of civil-military relations. The military has intervened in politics on four occasions, most recently in 1999 when General Pervez Musharraf overthrew the elected government of Nawaz Sharif.

#### I. Mistrust between the civil and military leadership in Pakistan:

The military in Pakistan views itself as the "guardian of the nation" and considers itself to be the only institution capable of defending the nation from both internal and external threats. The willingness to get involved in politics is a result of this attitude of entitlement. The fact that there is no civilian oversight of the military complicates matters since it is difficult for civilian authorities to exercise control because the army chief has tremendous sway over the president and the administration. In addition, the military has a vested interest in retaining power over the government due to its role in commerce and politics and its economic investment in the nation. Because of the mistrust between civil and military leadership, it has been difficult to construct a stable, democratic political system, which has

hampered economic growth and led to violations of human rights. Pakistan's ability to overcome this mistrust and construct a stable and democratic political system remains dubious despite recent efforts to improve civil-military relations, which have met with varying degrees of success. The magnitude of the mistrust and its impact on Pakistan's political growth, which contributes to the imbalance of power between the military and civilian administration, are further illustrated by historical examples such as the military interventions in 1977 and 1999.

## 2. Consequences of civil-military relations in Pakistan:

Three crucial areas have suffered as a result of the military's interference in Pakistani politics. First off, they have hampered efforts to achieve actual democratic governance and damaged democracy. Second, these actions have hampered Pakistan's economic and social progress by encouraging unrest and bloodshed. Finally, the military's engagement in politics has weakened public trust in the institution, making it more difficult for it to successfully carry out its duty as keeper of national security. The political stability, economic expansion, and public confidence in the military have all suffered as a result of these circumstances in Pakistan.

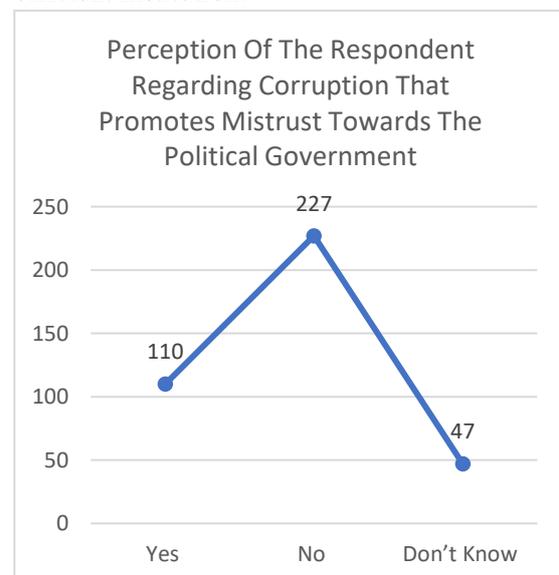
## 3. Solution to Pakistan's Civil-Military Challenges:

There are numerous initiatives that must be taken to address the issue of civil-military ties in Pakistan. To successfully oversee the military, civil institutions must first be reinforced, which calls for political changes and better bureaucracy. Second, democracy must be supported, which calls for the

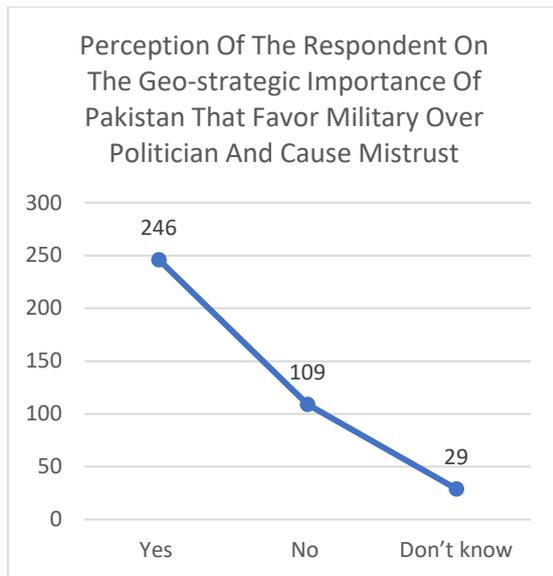
military to adopt a different perspective and the civilian government to adopt a more proactive stance. Last but not least, it is necessary to restore public support for the military and to promote accountability and openness. Even though the problem is complicated and numerous, these steps are essential for Pakistan to attain genuine democracy and long-term stability.

### Perception of respondents:

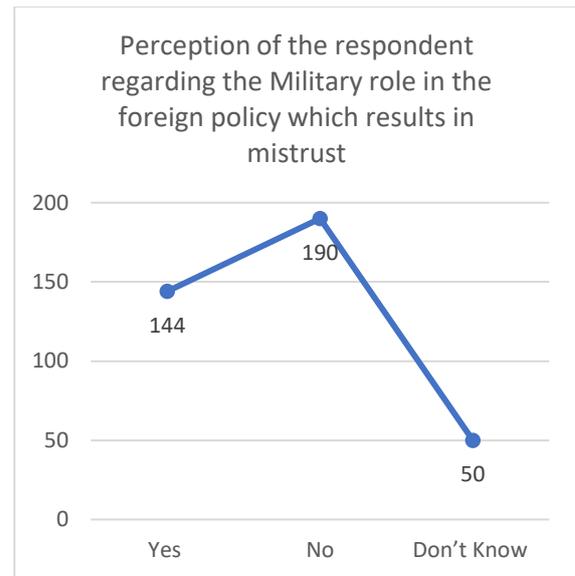
**Figure 1:-** Perception of the respondent regarding corruption that promotes mistrust towards the political government and in turn provides grounds to military to be a reliable and efficient institution.



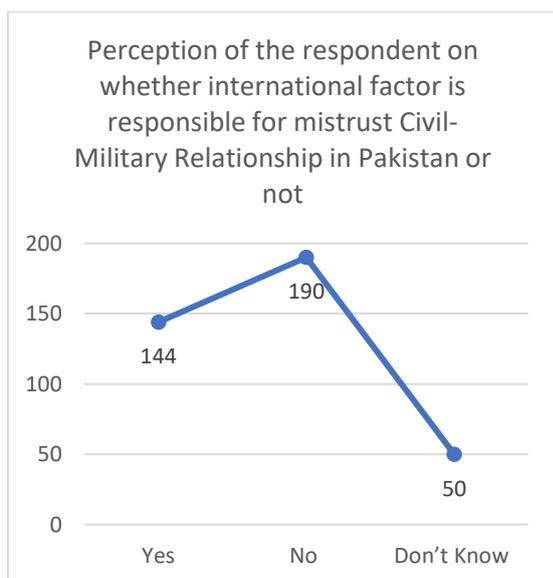
**Figure 2:-** Perception of the respondent on the Geo-strategic importance of Pakistan that favor military over politician and cause mistrust.



**Figure 3:-** Perception of the respondent on whether international factor is responsible for mistrust Civil-Military Relationship in Pakistan or not.



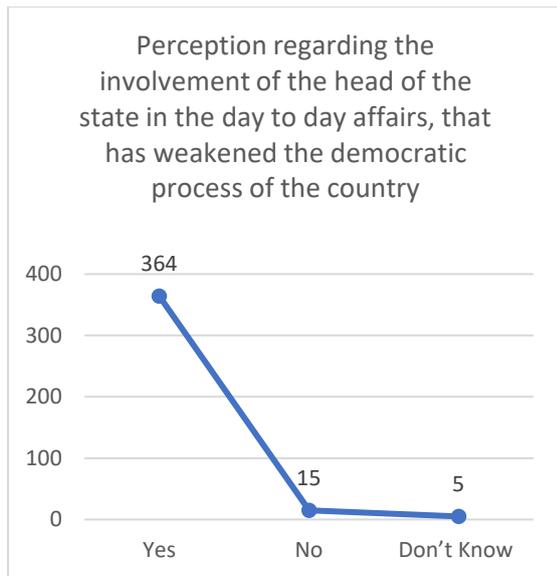
**Figure 5:-** Perception on whether the weakly organized political parties in Pakistan have given military space to play its role in the politics of the state which propells mistrust



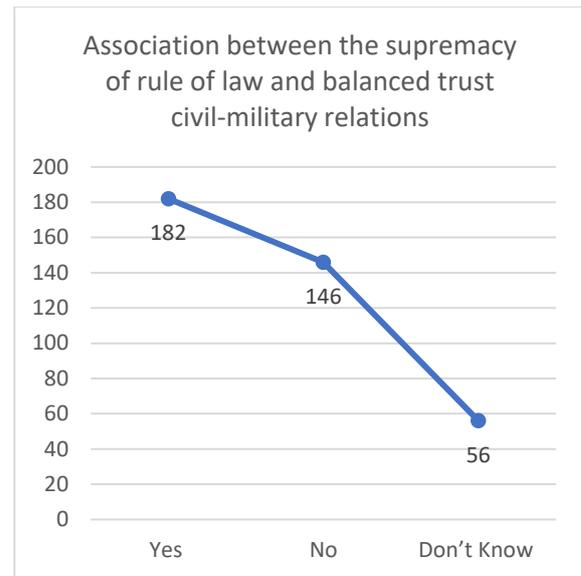
**Figure 4:-** Perception of the respondent regarding the Military role in the foreign policy which results in mistrust.



**Figure 6:-** Perception regarding the involvement of the head of the state in the day to day affairs, that has weakened the democratic process of the country



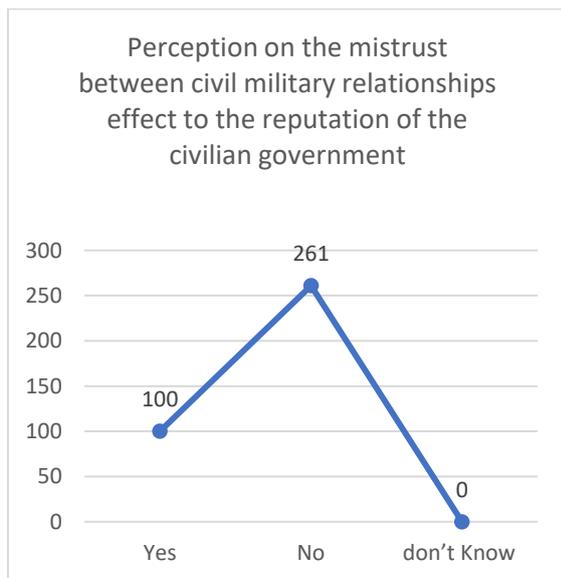
**Figure 7:-** Perception on the mistrust between civil military relationships effect to the reputation of the civilian government



**Recommendations**

Civil-military relations in Pakistan have been a source of tension and instability for decades. These are just a few of the policy and recommendations that could be made to improve civil-military relations in Pakistan. It is important to note that there is no single solution that will work for all countries. The best approach will vary depending on the specific circumstances of each country.

- Establishing clear lines of authority and responsibility between the civilian government and the military. This would help to ensure that the military is subordinate to the civilian government and that the military can not interfere in civilian affairs.
- Strengthening civilian oversight of the military. This could be done by creating a civilian-led National Security Council or by strengthening the role of the National parliament in overseeing the military.
- Promoting greater transparency and accountability within the military. This would help to ensure that the military is held accountable for its actions and that it does not abuse its power.
- Encouraging a culture of civilian-military dialogue. This would help to build trust and understanding between



**Figure 8:-** Association between the supremacy of rule of law and balanced trust civil-military relations.

the two institutions and to resolve any potential conflicts peacefully.

- Create a civilian-led National Security Council to provide strategic guidance to the military. This would help to ensure that the military is aligned with the civilian government's goals and that it is not making decisions that are not in the best interests of the country.
- Encourage the military to participate in professional development programs that focus on civilian-military relations. This would help to build understanding and trust between the two institutions and to promote a culture of civilian oversight.
- Support independent research on civil-military relations in Pakistan. This would help to identify the key issues that need to be addressed and to develop effective solutions.
- Bring a change in values, culture and acceptability among the masses that civilian rule is possible and should be put in place. This enculturation would be possible through an impartial press & committed media.
- Openness and transparency or freedom of information is vital so that everything is open to the public and civilian leadership.
- Sustainable democracy in Pakistan is also required for the establishment of strong institutions like bureaucracy, judiciary and media.

### **Conclusion:**

The results of this study show that Pakistan's civil-military ties are deeply entrenched, and a range of variables have been fostering mistrust. The investigation demonstrates direct military meddling in domestic issues. The civilian administration's inadequate leadership is primarily to blame for this intervention. The military always seeks sanctuary under this pretext and positions itself as the nation's and its citizens' saviours. The research found that

the mistrust between the civil and military relations has been exacerbated by bad governance and legitimacy crises. According to the study, political leadership that promotes sound governance can rebuild public confidence. It is clear from the findings that the tense civil-military ties have given the feudal elite in the nation a chance to advance their interests at the expense of the general populace. The civilian bureaucracy is then given the chance to fish in the choppy waters as a result. The research also showed that the alliance between the civilian and military bureaucracies had a negative impact on the nation's governance.

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