

THE ROLE OF LAW IN SOCIAL JUSTICE: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN LEGISLATION AND REALITY IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the role of law in the context of Pakistan; therefore, it supports the argument of how law strengthens social justice to reform injustice into justice and protect the rights of oppressed groups besides ordering society. However, major discrepancies remain between the idea of legal reform in Pakistan as provisioned by its official legislation and the actual realities of the situation. The present paper aims to describe the historical development of laws in Pakistan regarding social justice and assess the systematic problems related only to the Pakistani context, namely corruption, lack of political willingness, and patriarchy, and to overcome them. Most attention is accorded to the failure between passing legal frameworks and implementation that sustains unfairness. Based on the lessons from Pakistan's legal, cultural and political environments, this study reveals the need for strong enforcement measures, awareness and technological interventions to fill the gap. According to these systemic factors, the paper outlines pragmatic recommendations for changing the structure towards an equal society.

Keywords: Social justice, Legislation, Systemic inequities, Enforcement mechanisms, Legal literacy, Community engagement, judicial bias, Access to justice, Equality before the law.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan's social justice entails fair treatment of the people in social, economic, and political aspects of day-to-day life. However, the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973, is based on principles of equality and welfare; however, its enforcement is equivocal: Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees equality before the law, and Article 38 advocates for the welfare of individuals. Factors including corruption, weak commitment from the leadership and structural culture in the country that supports patriarchy

erode the realization of these constitutional provisions, creating a huge gulf between government and rhetoric (Awais and Shah, 2024). Another important problem is the gap between the legislative measures enacted and those implemented on the ground; this lack of synergy reveals systemic problems. Autonomous regulators in Pakistan are usually exposed to chronic underfunding, and bureaucracies often hamper their authority (Zaman and Bhatti, 2023). Prejudice within institutions deepens these

inequalities, as do the cultural norms inherited from feudalism and conservatism that oppose legal efforts to create equality in education. These factors accumulate on the needy, disadvantaged and vulnerable, denying them their rights and justice (Nandy, 2024).

This paper reviews the literature on social justice, the law, and related factors constraining the delivery of social justice in Pakistan. Discussing Pakistan's legal development and presenting modern problems, the research underscores the relevance of systemic changes and citizens' awareness. More support for stronger enforcement authorities, more efforts to fight cultural barriers, and integration of diverse groups under the frameworks of legal requirements are all critical pieces of information on the way forward in matching legal frameworks with legal enforcement. ES is the final approach towards making effective strategies consistent with Pakistan's socio-cultural context for establishing the viability of the social principles of justice under the Constitution that have been recognized legally. It promotes a policy framework designed for cooperative efforts between policymakers, civil society organizations, and the public to work together to achieve the visions of justice in Pakistan.

2. Historical Context: Legal Foundations of Social Justice

Equality for people in Pakistan has always been one of the fundamental concerns closely related to Pakistan's law development and fight for justice. This commitment is evident in the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973; the principles of equality and justice articles of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan include Article 25 of the constitution of Islamic republic of Pakistan, which provides equality before the law and Article 38, which provides for the economic and social wellbeing of all citizens of the Islamic republic of Pakistan (Hussain, Xiab, et al., 2024). These provisions indicate that the state has embraced the principles of social justice. However, the analysis of the actual practice shows that the differences between the regulation and the legislation's purposes are stark. However, considerable structural impediments, including corruption,

political apathy, sociopolitical influences and gender bias, deny these constitutional assurances for women, ethnic and other minorities, and economically vulnerable populations (Ishfaq et al., 2024).

Pakistan's wrangling with the issue of social justice can otherwise be measured in terms of such progressive highlights as the elimination of bonded labor. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1992 was an important law enacted to abolish inter alia the bonded labor systems where generations of poor laborers were forced to live under deplorable conditions (Waqas, Ali and Rahman, 2022). Nevertheless, the legal victory for the global eradication of bonded labor has not yet prevailed over the manifestations of this phenomenon in its most widespread form – in the rural regions of the countries that adhere to feudalism. The gap between the law and its implementation illustrates enduring structural factors, such as ineffective rule of law and deep-seated cultural patterns that remain hard to overcome. The barriers highlighted above demonstrate that although there is legislation that forms the basis, it cannot on its own destroy institutionalized Discrimination (Khan and Riaz, 2024).

2.1 Abolition of Bonded Labor: Reflection of a Few Persistent Drawbacks

The eradication of slavery all over the world has for a long time been deemed as a key inspiring force towards equity, and this fight is mirrored in Pakistan. Slavery, a situation aimed at bonded labor, had been reported in almost all sectors of Pakistan, including agriculture, brick kiln and domestic servants. To end, such injustices are prohibited by the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act of 1992, and any captivated bonded laborer is to be released. However, the law has had little effect because there are no penalties or punishment to enforce its provisions, the bureaucracy, and the lordly cliques that do not want change (Sammi, Rehman and Syed, 2024).

An abundance of bonded labor in Pakistan shows that legal changes are insufficient to achieve social justice. Social factors, including poverty, non-education and lack of an opportunity to work, contribute to the perpetuity of the industry (Ife,

Soldatić and Briskman, 2022). Moreover, tradition and the dominance of local landlords are compounded by the usual lack of regard for workers' rights in Asian countries. Experiences of some countries can be a lesson for learning that to bring positive change in the lives of affected people, consistent campaigning, sensitization, organizing, and lobbying for structural changes in the law is needed (Johns and Harry, 2022). Pakistan, as examined in this paper about the bonded laborers, encapsulates the above as a general trend of achieving a gap between legal reforms and social change at best.

2.2 Civil Rights and Social Justice: Lessons from Global Movements

The demand for social justice in Pakistan is also based on civil rights movements around the world, especially in the light of crusades against Discrimination and iniquity. One to name in this case that was signed to eliminate structural racism in the provision of equal rights was the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in The United States of America (Frese, 2022). This groundbreaking Act dealt with matters of race, Discrimination in employment and the initiative to give the Blacks the right to vote. However, issues experienced while implementing the Act, like prejudices in housing and gender discrimination, act as a pointer that legal reforms cannot do the work of cultural and systematic reforms (Smith-Carrier and Manion, 2022).

In Pakistan, the same scenario is seen in the backdrop of gender equity and minority political rights. The Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 and Hindu Marriage Act, 2017 are some legal provisions that move in that direction of equity (Gibson, Grant and Mancheno, 2022). However, these laws are not implemented in patriarchal and conservative societies because such legal provisions are against the culture of society. For instance, Hindu marriages have been legally recognized by the Hindu Marriage Act, but there are barriers when implementing this Act and prejudices against Hindu marriage also remain active (Fredericks, 2022). Analysis of global civil rights movement features shows that other approaches are needed to complement legal reform, including continuing

organized advocacy and public education and building institutional capacity to implement change.

2.3 Universal Human Rights: Compliance and Social Justice: A Global Framework

The assessment of the UDHR of 1948 set the stage for creating global standards of justice, equality and human rights. They said it offered a broad concept for handling social injustice worldwide, with auxiliary legal records like ICCPR and ICESCR (Agyare, 2024). Pakistan is a party to most of these treaties and has included most of these principles in its domestic laws. For instance, the Constitution of Kenya protects freedoms in Article 9 with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which closely resembles the provisions of the UDHR (Matviichuk et al., 2023).

However, it is pertinent to identify that due to political, cultural and economic realities, the true implementation of these so-called international standards is in severe jeopardy in Pakistan. This raises questions on matters of gender, religious bigotry, and economic exploitation, among others, despite the constitution and international treaties, covenants and conventions in force (Altwicker, 2022). This hitches implementation between principle and practice because enforcement mechanisms are weak, and there is little political will and societal resistance to change. The UDHR best illustrates this lesson as it shows that legal democracy has to be supported by education and economic and cultural change (Antai et al., 2024).

2.4 Lessons from History: Charting a Path Forward

Analyzing past legislation on social justice yields several important lessons for Pakistan. First, laws are helpful mechanisms in initially setting and establishing primary principles of equity and fairness. Freeman says that there are signposts like the abolition of slavery, civil rights legislation, and international human rights declarations that have served as a guide to addressing systematic injustices. In Pakistan, legal matters such as the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and the Protection of Women Act of 2006 illustrate how

legal systems can provide social justice(Desierto, 2022).

But history teaches that laws are not enough without consistent pressure on authorities and law enforcement. As was seen with the abolitionist and civil rights movements worldwide, their accomplishments were not limited to the enactment of laws; they owed their success to sustained lobbying, cop pressures and institutional changes. In Pakistan, efforts in the same direction are required to make legal provisions effective in compliance. This consists of enhancing the independence of the regulatory agencies, combating corruption and offering education and entrepreneurial chances to deprived groups (Warwick and McNeilly, 2022).

The history of social justice ensures that the system of oppression and structure was given adequate importance. Legislation reform can be hindered by Discrimination, unequal access to resources and unequal power relations. Pakistan's experience in associated problems, which include bonded labor, gender discrimination, and religious hatred, calls for a multi-pronged approach that includes legal, economic and cultural reforms. Pakistan, in particular, may learn from history and apply these lessons to construct a condition of justice (Darling-Hammond and Darling-Hammond, 2022).

3. The Role of Law in Promoting Social Justice

Social justice provides laws through which discrimination, oppression, and exploitation are fought for, especially in vulnerable sectors of society(Karimullah, 2023). In Pakistan, social justice legislation is applied to eliminate social injustice by extending Equality before the Law, protecting vulnerable groups and proactively redistributing societal resources to maximize fairness. However, these laws can only be effective if the enforcement agencies allow them, they are in harmony with the society's culture, and most importantly, they consider the Pakistani society's structural setup. This section aims to understand how the laws work for social justice in Pakistan, equal protection of vulnerable groups, and resource reallocation (Lombard and Twikirize, 2014).

3.1 Legal Aid and Social Justice Digest

This concept means people have equal rights without discrimination based on their gender, race, or social class in the community. Pakistan's Constitution enshrines these principles since, under Article 25, it protects the rights of an individual by Equal protection under the Law and prohibits discrimination (Rugg, 2022). However, the implementation of these principles is often met with many challenges. There are problems like structural discrimination, social discrimination, and the absence of legal assistance for people with different disadvantages in society(Sousa-Meixell, Kim and Silmere, 2022). For instance, even though the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act of 2010 aims to promote gender Equality, it fails to operate fairly because of cultural influences and poor legal literacy among women. Likewise, the Juvenile Justice System Act of 2018 also provides legal protection to children but lacks implementation strategies, reducing its impact at the systemic level (Kotkas, 2024). These examples exemplify that it is about time social justice reforms were pursued holistically after legal, structural and cultural adjustments have been made.

3.2 Protection of Human Rights and Individuals and Groups in a State.

The two main sources of Law in Pakistan are aimed at providing the people with protection and rights, especially to the vulnerable groups in the society, which includes women, children with disabilities, as well as the recognized religious minorities. Nevertheless, these rights are frequently accompanied by systematic discrimination and poorly developed protection mechanisms(Jayasundara, 2022).

Gender Equality

CEDAW has been ratified, and women's rights have been advanced through internationally binding obligations in Pakistan. At home, to name but a few legislative acts adopted to fight such problems as honor killings, forced marriages, and workplace harassment, the Women's Protection Act of 2006 and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act of 2011(Mustafa and Komalasari,

2024). However, their effectiveness remains limited due to stereotypical perceptions of people's societal roles and cultural resistance. Women's rights to education, work, and justice still lack freedom and remain a major problem majorly for rural women (Al-Rahman, 2024).

Disability Rights

Recently, Pakistan enacted the Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance in 1981 and ratified the UN CRPD. Each of these laws requires accommodation of persons with disabilities in education, employment and elsewhere in society. Nevertheless, poor infrastructural development, the absence of policies to support legislation, and social prejudices still hinder this group and reduce the efficiency of such legislation (Simcock and Lee, 2022).

Minority Protections

Persecution and violations of the rights of religious minorities in Pakistan result from systemic prejudices and, above all, malicious application of blasphemy laws. Some laws, such as the Hindu Marriage Act of 2017, recognize Hindus and other minorities in special laws, hence basing their rights on that. However, events of forced conversion and attacks on the said minorities remain a testimony to the fact that the enactment of the laws is a serious constraint. The improvement of institutions to protect minorities and the enhancement of social coherence are the key factors that will improve the rights of minorities (Shareef, 2024).

3.3 Redistribution of Resources

Social justice, one of its subsets, economic justice, aims to address issues related to fairness in the distribution of resources and balancing the identified economic injustices. This means that Pakistan has a legal structure through which resources are redistributed to society through progressive taxes, labor law, and social security legislation. However, the effectiveness of these laws is always in jeopardy due to poor governance and economic politics (Mestrum, 2022).

Progressive Taxation

Progressive taxation systems are meant to lessen the equal income divides because they aim at taxing the rich more than they tax others. Pakistan's income and property taxes are major taxes that must be paid to provide state services in health care and education. However, problems such as tax evasion, corruption, and poor institutional arrangements still greatly hinder the effectiveness of these systems in real redistributive aims—the upliftment of efficiency in tax collection and enhancement of accountability forms critical components for equity (Beienburg, 2024).

Labor Laws

Current employment laws in Pakistan including the Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1961, Industrial Relations Act, 2012, and others, protect the workers and their rights and regulate the pay structure, safety measures and working hours. It is also a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and has one ILO convention. However, labor exploitation has continued in these managements because of the weak enforcement strength, the lack of union members, and the informal sector's domination. For instance, the areas where DL has met extremely well are the agricultural and kilns work, which shows the immensity of difficulty in enforcing labor rights (Golovina and Tomashevski, 2023).

Social Security Programs

Pension Funds in Pakistan, like the Employees Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) and Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), help jobless personnel, retirees, owes, etc. Even though these activities are laudable, they only cover a touched area since funding is scarce and the imprecise working of bureaucracies. The following are the main recommendations: Enlarge the coverage of social security programs and enhance their policy and institutional frameworks for realizing economic justice (Kidd, Nykander and Seglah, 2023).

3.4 Issues in the Implementation of Social Justice through the Law

Although legislation is dedicated to justice, some issues hamper the Law's ability to air social justice in Pakistan. Cultural and structural barriers, including corruption, bureaucracy and politics, normally delay the realization of laws. Also, culture, as static and as a result of patriarchal pre-colonial feudal or religious influences, may block Equality under the Law, especially for treated discriminated women and minority groups. Poor law implementation and a lack of awareness of rights and the availability of justice worsen the concern (Rahman, 2022). Most of the public, especially rural people, do not have adequate understanding and tools to seek justice. This shows the importance of a legal awareness crusade and easy access to legal assistance for disadvantaged society members (Gyori, 2022).

3.5 The Way Forward: Supporting the Forum of Law and Social Justice

The present paper posits that a system approach supplemented and supported by legal construction is necessary to promote social justice in Pakistan. The next strategy is enhancing the enforcement institutions, which is also an important implementation aspect. This includes providing sufficient facilities and resources to the regulatory institutions, improving the judiciary and tackling issues of corruption in the legal institutions (Gabel, 2023). Both public awareness and public education are closely connected with justice and Equality. Legal literacy can enable neglected groups to demand their rights, while advocacy will ask for a change of practice regarding cultural beliefs that uphold the oppression of those groups. Also, effective partnerships between governments, CSOs, and international organizations can enhance policies and enhance comprehensive development (Wang, 2022).

In the economic sphere, closing the gaps between the groups requires progressive taxation, fair employment practices and the extension of social security measures. Funding education, health and physical infrastructure are priorities if the poverty-stricken and the oppressed are to be uplifted. In addition, by mixing policy formulation and implementation, the members of

the marginalized groups will express themselves and ensure that their demands are met (Li, 2022).

4. The Gap between Legislation and Reality

Legal frameworks can be used as important mechanisms in advanced social justice that deal with discrimination, oppression, and exploitation of the vulnerable in societies. In Pakistan, laws aim to distribute fairness in society by providing equal protection to individuals, protecting the interests of vulnerable groups, and wishing to balance power by equal resource distribution. However, these laws cannot work without being implemented, culturally appropriate and sensitive to the systematic nature of the Pakistani society (Boyle et al., 2022). This article examines the role of laws in Pakistan regarding social justice, equality, discriminated groups, and resource distribution.

4.1 Equal protection of the law and equity

This principle refers to fairness in the treatment of males and females, blacks or whites, as well as the rich and the poor in the eyes of the law. These principles can be ascertained concerning the Constitution of Pakistan as Article # 25 of the said constitution demands equality and bars discrimination. However, attempting to turn these concepts and ideals into practice is still a problem. Inequalities such as structural racism and social discrimination play a role in denying justice, especially to minorities, and there is always a — lack of legal representation for such marginalized individuals (Gooden, 2023).

For example, even though the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act of 2010 was enacted to promote women's equality in the workplace, it is still challenging to implement due to culture and low legal literacy among women. Likewise, the Juvenile Justice System Act of 2018 spells out the rights of a child as far as the law is concerned; however, restricted functionality derails the law's implementation. This demonstrates why social justice reform must be at all legal, structural and contextual levels (Veal, 2023).

4.2 Protection of Special Categories of People

The legal systems in Pakistan have intended goals of shielding such diverse categories of people as women, children, disabled people, and religious communities. Although these rights form part of the law, they are usually accompanied by systemic discrimination and generally poor compliance and enforcement procedures (Hamad, Jannial and Indriyani, 2022).

Gender Equality

There are various regional and international treaties assisting Pakistan with gender quality, including the UN CEDAW Convention against all forms of discrimination against women. Internationally Women's Protection Act of 2006 and the Prevention of Anti-Women Practices Act of 2011 have been enacted domestically to cover anti-women practices, honor killings, forced marriages as well as workplace harassment (Jalaludin, Arifin and Fauzia, 2024). Still, through the acts of law, these initiatives are hampered by strong male dominance and cultural influences. Education, employment, legal preparation, and remedies for the women folk, especially in rural communities, are still scarce (Adami, 2021).

Disability Rights

Pakistan passed its Disabled Persons (Employment and Rehabilitation) Ordinance in 1981, ratifying the UN CRPD. These laws require the participation of people with disability rights in education, employment, and public spaces. However, poor physical facilities, policy a detached policy execution, and social bias keep this group relegated, thus making such legislation almost useless (Meyers, McCloskey and Petri, 2023).

Minority Protections

This paper examines the religious discrimination of minorities in Pakistan, and the analysis shows that discrimination is primarily based on social prejudices of the society and misuse of blasphemy laws. One of the existing Indian laws useful for minorities is the Hindu Marriage Act of 2017, which legally recognizes marriage among Hindus (Cox and Maschi, no date). However, the cases of forced conversions and extra judicial killings of

minorities are showcases of the limitations that such laws possess. More so, the enhancement of institutional structures for minorities and the consolidation of social relations are important in the protection of their rights (Masuku, 2024).

4.3 Redistribution of Resources

As a social justice branch, economic justice mainly encompasses issues related to fair resource sharing and fighting economic injustices. Pakistani legal mechanisms for resource redistribution are thus comprised of progressive taxation, labor legislation, and social security. Nonetheless, such laws are often undermined by poor governance and economic disparities in the countries in which they are enforced (Klein and Fouksman, 2022; Mestrum, 2022).

Progressive Taxation

The progressive taxation system is the type of taxation that ensures that those with high incomes pay more taxes than those with low incomes. For example, Pakistan's income and property taxes should supposedly provide the revenue needed for public services like education or healthcare (Sevilla-Bernabéu and Del-Valle-Calzada, 2024). However, by contributing to tax evasion and corruption and by having weak bureaucratic structures, such systems are restrained from effectively addressing fundamental redistribution. Enhancing tax administration measures and enhancing accountability are key components in the direction of equity (Olika, 2024).

Labor Laws

The labor laws of Pakistan, including the Minimum Wages Ordinance, 1961, and Industrial Relations Act 2012, aim to protect the workers and provide fair wages for safety measures at workplaces and reasonable working hours. The country is equally a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and has domesticated most ILO conventions. However, modern labor exploitation is still evident for the following reasons: poor implementing laws, no union representation and high informalization of the economy. For example, effective labor rights have major obstacles to bonded labor in agriculture and brick kilns (Moeckli et al., 2022).

Social Security Programs

Some social security programs exist in Pakistan, including the Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), which support the considered needy groups within the population – retirees, widows, and jobless people (Alaverdov and Bari, 2022). However, these efforts are satisfactory and mean-oriented because they are funded and hampered by bureaucracies to cover broad audiences. On our part, economic justice will only be realized if Social Security programs are extended to even more people and if their governance is enhanced (Sousa-Meixell, Kim and Silmere, 2022).

4.4 Issues on Advocacy for Social Justice within the Domain of Law

Thus, there are several barriers to the role of law towards social justice, even though Pakistan has hundreds of legislative acts. System constraints include corruption, ineffective and inefficient bureaucracy, and a lack of desire from the political authorities to do so (Claessen et al., 2024). Also, the high degrees of patriarchal culture, feudalism, and religion use obstacles to legal changes, especially the changes that can improve the status of women and minorities. This is so because the laws are complemented with weak enforcement mechanisms, and secondary, there are low levels of awareness and access to the legal system among the populace. Most citizens, especially those from rural areas, are poorly informed and cannot access legal aid. On the same note, it becomes paramount to translate legal awareness campaigns and to make legal assistance reachable to the disadvantaged sections of society (Lai, 2023; Noyori-Corbett and Moxley, 2024).

4.5 The Way Forward: Towards Enhancing Engagement: A Call to Reinforce the Roles of Law in Advocacy for Social Justice

For the mission to achieve social justice for Pakistan, the country has to fully embrace a legal agenda but with a systems approach. Improving the structures for ensuring compliance is then important in ensuring that the laws are complied with. These include ensuring that the appropriate authorities are provided with sufficient funding,

improving the judiciary's strength and eradicating corruption in laws. Education and enlightenment are essential to creating justice that can beg for equality (Satterthwaite and Burge, 2022). Legal literacy empowers the 'voice' of those societies that are being oppressed, while advocacy campaigns may seek to change the 'hearts and minds' of the larger society regarding some groups or individuals who are discriminated against. Also, to further the decent government-civil society-international organizations partnership, policy innovations crucial for good development could be enhanced.

In the economic context, social justice, changes in taxation structures, labor relations, and social security schemes provide adequate solutions to systemic injustice (Schrempf-Stirling, Van Buren III and Wettstein, 2022). Given this perspective, poverty and economic justice may only be achieved through foreign direct investment in education, health and infrastructure. Moreover, there is an indication that marginalized groups should be involved in policy-making and implementation processes to feel representative.

5. Bridging the Gap: Strategies and Solutions

Despite such evidence, Pakistan struggles to translate the legislative reform's intent and the social justice premise into reality. Strategies are crucial in functioning laws as justice structures, even though they cannot be effective without enforcement, publicity, citizen participation, and technology. It is quite important that such systemic barriers have to be confronted in order to make legislation work as required. This section outlines key strategies for narrowing this gap: improving the enforcement tools, legal conscientization, legal outreach, and legal innovation (Du Plessis-Schneider, 2024).

5.1 Ways to Strengthen Compliance Processes

Review mechanisms are the key components that enable one to move from the politico-legal architecture to operation paradigms. On the other hand, in Pakistan, enforcement suffers from political interference, meager resources, and inefficient institutions. For instance, institutions that are responsible for overseeing and enforcing laws on labor, environment, and anti-

discrimination are often poorly staffed, receive minimal funding, and work under political influence (Transparency International, 2021). This hampers the chances of violators facing the consequences and results in more pressure from the public (Yasmiami and Yudiawan, 2024).

In calls for improvement in enforcement mechanisms, agencies must be properly funded and enjoy more operational independence. The EPA in Pakistan is one good example of this reality. However, due to inadequate funding and capital, it cannot prosecute industrial pollution as required by its mandate on environmental laws. Solving such challenges calls for allocating enough resources, enabling agencies to have the necessary tools and people to implement them (World Bank, 2022). Furthermore, one gets to the question of institutional independence, which must be protected by laws to be free from bias and answer to no one. For example, the ad-hoc models within Denmark and Finland are ‘clear, independent, and self-governing systems which foster credibility and adherence among the public.’ (Zeyrek, 2022) Thus, free third-party evaluations and public oversight boards should be implemented. They help increase regulatory agencies' accountability, transparency, and performance in their mandates. In Pakistan, strengthening such frameworks is possible because their support will increase trust and minimize corruption's impact on process enforcement.

5.2 Promoting Legal Literacy

Legal awareness must be employed to enable people to exercise their rights within the courts. Sadly, most Pakistani women, especially the downtrodden ones, are not aware of their rights as enshrined in the law because of illiteracy. Therefore, a way of filling this gap is to encourage legal literacy to enable people to make the necessary calls (Malik and Rasheed, 2024). Promotional interventions within cultural and linguistic contexts hold considerable potential for communicating legal information to the population. For example, mobile theatres and radio programs have been implemented in India to create awareness in several communities on land and women's rights (UNDP, 2022). The same

could be done in the Pakistani countryside to inform rural people about the local labor laws, their rights to inheritance, and anti-discrimination laws. Another strategy is to take legal literacy into the school curriculum. If students can be imparted knowledge on rights and the judiciary system of Pakistan, then such a generation would be ready to fight against the odds. Constitutional awareness initiatives in South Africa offer a framework for constitutional education in public schooling (Islam, Jubeen and Tayyaba, 2023).

It is also most important to demystify the use of legal terms and processes. Using many legal terms usually affects the feelings of people with no educational background. Appealing to the spirit of a specific language, using more readable genres such as local languages in translating legal documents and using graphic displays in the form of pictures, diagrams, videos, and the like make legal information more easily understandable (Naveed and Shah, 2023). The best example of such concepts is simplified guides for managing legal disputes within the European Union, which it has recently started developing (European Commission, 2021). Implementing these practices in Pakistan can go a long way toward enhancing legal literacy and aid availability (Baig et al., 2023).

5.3 Community Engagement

It is found that community engagement is effective in scaling the chasm between legislation's intent and its application. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), citizens' associations, and grassroots movements have the capacity and potential to fight for justice, monitor and pressure governments, and champion the human rights of marginalized social sectors (Bukhari et al., 2024).

While there exists a variety of ways of helping the oppressed, the best practice is activating grassroots movements to help enact laws and encourage people to embrace change. Examples are the civil rights movement in America, which coordinated society-based political activities to change the policy of discrimination based on color (Khan, 2024). Generally speaking, in Pakistan, donor support for funding, training, and overall capacity building of local CSOs can open

new ways to deal with regional social Justice Challenges (Hussain, Sultan, et al., 2024). The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has also shown that it is possible only to make a change when communities arise.

Community participation in policymaking ensures a better relationship between legislative intentions and social requirements. Some common participatory channels include public hearings and civic forums that allow minorities to air their views and make input into policy making. For example, the extension of participatory budgeting in Brazil has improved spending accountability and enhanced public engagement (World Bank, 2022). Such practices used similarly in Pakistan can increase the role of civil society in policymaking to increase its efficiency (Rizwan, Naveed and Ahmed, 2024).

5.4 Leveraging Technology

Current technological breakthroughs present opportunities to increase access to justice, enhance efficiency in delivering justice, and increase transparency in police work. This can be seen in Pakistan, where court backlogs and limited access to justice constitute large hurdles. Integrating technology into the legal process will completely transform the entire system (Aslam, Abidi and Rizvi, 2024).

Free and paid legal consultations and access to volunteer attorneys on the Internet can help remove limitations connected with the inability to receive formal legal assistance. For example, MyLaw, currently operating in India, and LegalZoom in the United States offer people the opportunity to seek legal help at a low cost (Afzal, 2024). Pakistan could study such models to find ways to reduce the high costs and simplify the stuff related to legal representation. Other judicial efficiencies include electronic filing systems, remote hearings and contracts and automated case processing systems. Some of these technologies have been adopted in Estonia and Singapore, to mention a few, to enhance efficiency and also clear up what the OECD (2022) called congested courts. Implementing such systems in Pakistan can reduce delays, increase accountability and deliver justice (Khalil, 2024).

Technology may also enhance a company's conformance with policies concerning labor, environment, and anti-discrimination. Use of wall apps to permit the workers to report any violation, GIS mapping to observe environmental compliance and data mining for compliance ensures efficient enforcement. In India, through reporting at least via mobile apps, authorities have already taken action on minimum wages (Ashraf, 2017). However, ensuring that technology is equally available is important since it helps people's daily lives. Most of the neglected population in Pakistan is either illiterate or has no access to gadgets and/or the Internet. It is, therefore, important to ensure that this digital divide is bridged by introducing programs and developing the necessary infrastructure for technology-enabled solutions (Javed and Li, 2025).

6. Conclusion

This paper underlines how laws contribute to social justice in Pakistan, focusing on transforming injustice into justice in legal terms. However, even where there are provisions of good laws, considerably large gaps exist between promises enshrined in law and reality on the ground, which can only be explained by the entrenched nature of legal systems of enforcement, corruption, legal culture, and social legal traditions. Nonetheless, constitutional and legal reforms and protections have been achieved, but marginalized groups such as women, children, and the disabled and religious affiliations have no easy access to their legal rights. Legitimate ambiguities defeat the purpose of social justice as the enacted legislation fails to match social realities. Therefore, a complex strategy is imperative to fill this gap. The ability of the various laws has to be enhanced through sufficient funding of enforcement mechanisms, enabling the institutions to operate effectively and independently and having strong accountability procedures. Legal education and enhancing people's awareness can help citizens understand the legal avenues to take if they deviate. Moreover, involving communities in developing policies and using technologies can increase access to justice, make judicial proceedings more efficient and

promote the openness of police work. In accepting the article's methodology, it is also pertinent to understand that social justice in Pakistan cannot be fully realized through the provisions of law alone but must be supported by structural and, arguably, transformation of societal norms. Thus, citizens, civil society, and policymakers should combine efforts to avoid structural prejudices and discrimination and create inclusive societies. Pakistan can come one step closer to attaining the constitutional promise of justice, equality and fair treatment of every citizen within a state through an overlapping social, legal and enforcement architecture. As difficult as they are, all the proposed strategies mark the way towards more significant changes, which can turn laws into powerful, effective tools for gaining social transformations.

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