**Title: Pakistan General Elections 2018:**

**An Analysis of Political Landscapes and Electoral Dynamics**

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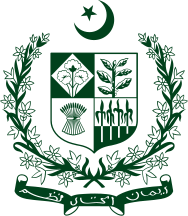
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Figure 1.Politics of Republic of Pakistan

# **I. Introduction:**

The Pakistan General Elections of 2018 were a critical milestone in the country's democratic history. Held on July 25, 2018, these elections showcased the aspirations, challenges, and democratic fervor of the Pakistani electorate. With various political parties vying for power, the electoral process unfolded amidst intense campaigning, generating widespread public interest and anticipation. This report provides a concise analysis of the Pakistan General Elections 2018, highlighting key players, electoral dynamics, and the broader implications of this significant democratic exercise. By examining the pre-election environment, major political parties, and the subsequent post-election landscape, this report aims to offer valuable insights into the outcomes and impact of these elections on Pakistan's political trajectory.

The objective of this report is to provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the Pakistan General Elections 2018. By examining various aspects such as the pre-election environment, electoral dynamics, the electoral process itself, the post-election scenario, and the impact and implications of the elections, this report aims to shed light on the key developments and provide valuable insights into the democratic processes of Pakistan.

# **II. Pre-election Environment**

The political climate leading up to the elections was characterized by intense competition among major political parties. The main contenders included the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), led by Imran Khan, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), led by Nawaz Sharif, and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Each party had its own unique agenda and campaign strategies, which were aimed at attracting voters and securing a majority in the National Assembly.

The electoral preparations included various reforms and initiatives. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) played a vital role in ensuring a transparent and fair electoral process. Efforts were made to enhance voter registration and awareness through extensive campaigns. The ECP also enforced an election code of conduct to ensure that political parties and candidates adhered to ethical standards during the campaign period.

# **III. Electoral Dynamics**

The campaigning phase witnessed energetic rallies, political debates, and media coverage. The major political parties utilized different strategies to engage with voters and communicate their policy agendas. Media outlets played a crucial role in shaping public opinion by providing extensive coverage of political campaigns and debates. However, concerns were raised regarding media bias and the influence of money in election campaigns, raising questions about transparency and accountability.

Voter turnout and participation were key factors in determining the legitimacy and representativeness of the elections. Efforts were made to encourage voter registration and increase participation, particularly among youth and marginalized communities. Factors such as political awareness, public trust in the electoral process, and accessibility of polling stations influenced voter turnout rates.

# **IV. Electoral Process**

The electoral process encompassed various stages, including the establishment of polling stations and infrastructure, the implementation of security measures, voting mechanisms and procedures, and the role of observers and international monitoring bodies. The availability and accessibility of polling stations were crucial in ensuring that voters could exercise their right to vote conveniently. Security measures were put in place to maintain a peaceful environment during the elections, although certain challenges were faced in some regions.

# **V. Post-election Scenario**

Following the elections, the process of government formation began. The party that secured a majority in the National Assembly was tasked with selecting the Prime Minister. In the case of a fragmented result, coalition-building efforts were initiated to form a stable government. The ruling party faced challenges in governing effectively, including policy implementation and managing opposition dynamics in the parliament.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Party** | **Votes** | **%** |
| [**Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Tehreek-e-Insaf) | **16,903,702** | **31.82** |
| [**Pakistan Muslim League (N)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Muslim_League_(N)) | **12,934,589** | **24.35** |
| [**Pakistan Peoples Party**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan_Peoples_Party) | **6,924,356** | **13.03** |
| [**Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tehreek-e-Labbaik_Pakistan) | **2,234,316** | **4.21** |

Table 1.Elections Results 2018

# **VI. Impact and Implications**

The elections had a significant impact on Pakistan's domestic affairs, foreign relations, and economic policies. The elected government's decisions and policies influenced the governance and development agendas of the country. The election results also had implications for Pakistan's relationships with other nations and its engagement in regional and international forums. (Enrico, 2018)

# **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Pakistan General Elections 2018 were a pivotal moment in the country's democratic journey. This report provided a detailed analysis of various aspects of the elections, including the pre-election environment, electoral dynamics, the electoral process, the post-election scenario, and the impact and implications. By examining these factors, the report aimed to enhance understanding of the democratic processes and their significance in shaping Pakistan's political landscape and future trajectory.

# **Recommendations:**

* Strengthen Electoral Reforms: Implement necessary reforms to enhance fairness, transparency, and inclusiveness of the electoral process.
* Promote Voter Education and Participation: Encourage voter education programs to increase awareness and facilitate higher voter turnout, particularly among marginalized groups and youth.
* Ensure Media Ethics and Accountability: Foster media ethics and accountability to prevent bias and promote balanced coverage of political campaigns.
* Focus on Effective Governance: Support the elected government in implementing policies, addressing governance challenges, and promoting inclusive decision-making processes.
* Strengthen Democratic Institutions: Enhance the capacity and independence of institutions such as the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to ensure effective oversight and organization of elections.
* Foster International Engagement: Strengthen international partnerships to promote democracy, good governance, and economic cooperation.
* Continual Evaluation and Improvement: Regularly assess electoral processes and identify areas for improvement to refine democratic practices.

# **References**

Enrico, D. (2018, 7 17). *European Parliament*. Retrieved from https://www.europarl.europa.eu/: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS\_BRI(2018)625136

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# **Appendix**

Assessment of the quality of General Election 2018 has been carried out by PILDAT on a score card which has 39 parameters under following 4 broad categories: 1. Pre-Poll 2. Polling 3. Counting of votes, Compilation & Transmission of Results and 4. Post-Poll Each parameter has been assigned equal weightage and graded on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 indicating the poorest quality and 5 indicating the best quality. The PILDAT Assessment of Quality of General Election 2018 is a continuation of earlier similar assessments that have been carried out by the think tank after General Elections of 2002, 2008 and 2013. PILDAT had designed a score card which has been used to assess the quality of each General Election since 2002. Similar assessments in the past assigned the overall score of 37.30% to the quality of General Election 2002 and 40% to the quality of GE 2008. The scores improved for quality of General Election 2013 at 56.76% but have dropped again to 51.79% for the quality of General Election 2018. The PILDAT Score Card on Assessment of Quality of General Election 2018 is based on combined analysis and scoring of eminent persons who are members of PILDAT Dialogue Groups on Electoral Processes, Quality of Democracy and Civil-Military Relations. Members undertook a comprehensive assessment of events and development under each parameter before assigning scores. The overall score of quality of General Election 2018 has received the score of 51.79%. Polling-day Operations has received an overall score of 64%- highest scoring aspect of the quality of GE 2018. Counting of Votes, Compilation & Transmission of Results have received the lowest score of 40% thus depicting the counting, compilation and transmission of results as the weakest link in the management and quality of General Election 2018. Both Pre-Poll Phase and the Post-Poll phase have recorded issues and weaknesses and have, thus, received a score of 50% each.