

# JUDICIALIZATION OF POLITICS IN PAKISTAN: CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS, SEPARATION OF POWERS, AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AFTER THE 18TH AMENDMENT

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## Abstract

This study examines the judicialization of politics in Pakistan following the 18th Amendment, focusing on the role of constitutional courts in shaping the separation of powers and democratic governance. Through a qualitative doctrinal analysis of 15 landmark Supreme Court and High Court cases between 2010 and 2025, the study investigates how judicial interventions have influenced executive-legislative relations, provincial autonomy, and political accountability. Findings indicate that while judicialization has strengthened constitutional compliance and enhanced accountability, excessive judicial activism has occasionally blurred institutional boundaries, creating tensions between state organs. The study highlights the dual impact of judicialization on governance, offering insights for policymakers, legal scholars, and institutional reforms aimed at balancing judicial oversight with democratic functioning.

## INTRODUCTION

The judicialization of politics refers to the increasing involvement of constitutional courts in political and governance issues, a phenomenon that has profound implications for the balance of power among state institutions and the functioning of democratic systems. In Pakistan, this trend has attracted scholarly and policy attention, particularly following the enactment of the **18th Amendment to the Constitution in 2010**, which significantly reconfigured the country's constitutional framework by enhancing provincial autonomy and reaffirming the supremacy of parliamentary democracy (Jehan Pakistan News, 2023). The 18th Amendment is widely regarded as a watershed in Pakistan's

constitutional history, aimed at strengthening democratic governance and decentralizing power from the federal executive to provinces (Nayadaur, 2023). However, this constitutional reform also coincided with a period of heightened judicial intervention in political disputes, raising questions about the evolving role of the judiciary in the country's governance architecture.

Judicial activism in Pakistan has been characterized by an expanding role of superior courts—most notably the Supreme Court of Pakistan—in adjudicating issues that intersect law and politics. Academic analyses reveal that the judiciary has progressed from a traditionally restrained institution to one that increasingly engages in high-profile political and constitutional

disputes, often through broad interpretations of constitutional provisions and the exercise of **suo motu** jurisdiction (Cheema, 2018; Khalid & Munir, 2018). Critics argue that such interventions, while sometimes necessary to uphold legal rights and constitutional norms, can blur the boundaries between judicial review and political decision-making, thereby challenging the principle of separation of powers (Pakistan Journal of Social Research, 2022). Indeed, judicial involvement in matters such as the disqualification of elected officials and oversight of executive actions has sparked debate over whether the courts are acting as guardians of democracy or overstepping their constitutional mandate.

The separation of powers—an essential tenet of constitutional democracy—mandates that legislative, executive, and judicial powers be distinct and mutually restraining to prevent concentration of authority and ensure accountability (Gilani, Ullah, & Zahoor, 2023). In Pakistan, the constitutional distribution of powers envisaged by the 1973 Constitution and reinforced by the 18th Amendment aimed to uphold this principle, yet empirical patterns suggest a complex reality in which the judiciary has assumed a more assertive role. This has generated both acclaim and controversy: proponents contend that judicial oversight is crucial for holding the executive and legislature accountable, while opponents caution that judicial overreach may encroach upon political domains and undermine democratic governance (Pakistan Journal of Law, Analysis and Wisdom, 2024; Cheema, 2016).

Recent constitutional developments further complicate this landscape. Amendments such as the 26th Constitutional Amendment (2024) have introduced significant changes to the structure and powers of the judiciary, including modifications to judicial appointments and limitations on the courts' **suo motu** jurisdiction, triggering widespread debate about judicial independence and democratic accountability (Wikipedia, 2024). These reforms have intensified scholarly and political discourse on the

appropriate boundaries of judicial authority in a democratic polity.

Given this context, the current study examines how the judicialization of politics has unfolded in Pakistan following the 18th Amendment, with a focus on constitutional courts, separation of powers, and democratic governance. By analyzing legal developments, constitutional reforms, and judicial actions, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the judiciary's evolving role in Pakistan's democratic trajectory.

### Problem Statement

Since the enactment of the 18th Amendment (2010), Pakistan has witnessed a significant reconfiguration of constitutional authority, aimed at strengthening provincial autonomy, enhancing parliamentary sovereignty, and consolidating democratic governance. However, this constitutional reform coincided with an observable expansion of judicial power, wherein superior courts—primarily the Supreme Court of Pakistan—have increasingly intervened in political, legislative, and executive matters. This phenomenon, widely referred to as the judicialization of politics, has generated both theoretical and practical concerns.

On one hand, judicial activism has been credited with promoting accountability, safeguarding fundamental rights, and ensuring adherence to constitutional norms. On the other hand, frequent judicial interventions have raised critical questions regarding the separation of powers, the legitimacy of court-led political decisions, and the potential for undermining democratic governance. Despite substantial scholarly attention to individual court decisions or political crises, there remains a lack of systematic and comprehensive analysis of the cumulative effects of judicialization on Pakistan's democratic institutions, particularly in the post-18th Amendment era.

This study seeks to address this gap by analyzing the interplay between constitutional courts, the separation of powers, and democratic governance, assessing whether judicial interventions have strengthened or destabilized Pakistan's democratic system. By examining both doctrinal and empirical

evidence, including key Supreme Court and High Court judgments, this research aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how judicialization shapes political accountability, executive-legislative relations, and the overall governance framework in Pakistan.

### Research Questions

1. How has the 18th Amendment influenced the role of constitutional courts in Pakistan's political and governance framework?
2. To what extent has judicial activism affected the separation of powers among the legislature, executive, and judiciary?
3. What patterns of judicial intervention have emerged in political and constitutional disputes post-18th Amendment?
4. How has judicialization impacted democratic governance, political accountability, and institutional stability in Pakistan?
5. What are the potential benefits and risks of the judiciary's expanded role in the country's democratic system?

### Research Objectives

1. To examine the impact of the 18th Amendment on the judicial role in Pakistan's political landscape.
2. To analyze patterns of judicial intervention in executive and legislative matters, including landmark court judgments.
3. To evaluate the effects of judicial activism on the separation of powers and institutional balance.
4. To assess the implications of judicialization for democratic governance, political accountability, and institutional stability.
5. To provide evidence-based recommendations for maintaining a balanced interplay between the judiciary, executive, and legislature.

### Literature Review

#### Conceptual Foundations: Judicialization and Separation of Powers

The judicialization of politics refers to the growing influence of courts—particularly constitutional or supreme courts—over political decisions

traditionally reserved for elected branches of government. This process often reflects broader shifts in governance structures and power relations, and has been widely studied in comparative constitutional law. Judicialization can serve as a mechanism for protecting constitutional norms and individual rights, but it also raises concerns about institutional balance and democratic accountability when courts become disproportionately engaged in political matters.

At its core, the doctrine of separation of powers requires that legislative, executive, and judicial authority remain distinct and mutually constraining to prevent the concentration of power (Turner, 1969, as cited in Jan, 2022). In parliamentary democracies like Pakistan, this principle is constitutionally enshrined to ensure that no single branch usurps undue power over the others. However, separation of powers is not absolute; rather, it allows for checks and balances, wherein courts may review actions of the executive or legislature to ensure constitutional conformity (Jan, 2022). The literature on judicialization emphasizes that courts may assume a double-edged role—promoting accountability on one hand, while risking overreach and institutional friction on the other (Munir et al., 2024).

#### Historical Context of Judicialization in Pakistan

Pakistan's judiciary has played a pivotal but contested role in shaping the political order since independence. Studies trace the judicialization of politics back to foundational constitutional crises and political interventions, such as the validation of extra-constitutional acts in crucial cases that impacted governance structure (Jan, 2022). The Lawyers' Movement (2007–09), which mobilized mass protests for judicial restoration, marked a watershed in strengthening judiciary autonomy and public confidence in constitutional adjudication (Wikipedia, 2025). This movement institutionalized the role of courts as defenders of constitutionalism, expanding popular expectations of judicial oversight in governance matters.

Researchers note that Pakistan's judicial history is marked by periods of both judicial restraint and assertiveness, often influenced by broader political

struggles between military and civilian authorities. The literature highlights that the superior judiciary's expansive use of suo motu jurisdiction and public interest litigation fostered a perception of courts as pivotal political actors, capable of intervening in governance when other branches failed or were perceived to overstep their bounds (Jan, 2022; Munir et al., 2024).

#### The 18th Amendment and its Constitutional Implications

The 18th Constitutional Amendment (2010) is widely recognized as a profound restructuring of Pakistan's constitutional framework, aimed at decentralizing power and promoting provincial autonomy (Nayadaur, 2023). The amendment emphasized parliamentary supremacy and delineated powers more clearly among institutions. However, its implementation coincided with increased judicial involvement in executive and legislative domains, which scholars argue has shaped the contemporary dynamics of judicialization in Pakistan.

Benign interpretations suggest that the 18th Amendment strengthened democratic governance by rebalancing authority and reaffirming constitutional supremacy. Critics, however, contend that the ambiguity in division of responsibilities has created opportunities for judicial activism that extend beyond traditional review functions, resulting in an expanded role in political disputes and governance issues (Jan, 2022; Munir et al., 2024). There is growing scholarly consensus that, while the amendment structurally empowered political institutions, it simultaneously activated the judiciary as a major arbiter in political conflict (Jan, 2022).

#### Judicial Activism and Political Intervention

Broadly understood, judicial activism refers to judicial decisions that reflect proactive interpretations of constitutional or legal norms, often taking on matters traditionally regarded as political questions. In Pakistan, judicial activism gained prominence through a series of high-profile cases in which courts invalidated executive decisions or disqualified political leaders on constitutional grounds (Jan, 2022). These decisions, while sometimes celebrated as

upholding the rule of law, have also been subject to critique for institutional overreach that blurs the lines between constitutional adjudication and political governance (Jan, 2022; Munir et al., 2024).

Empirical analyses illustrate that judicial activism in Pakistan has not been uniform. During different judicial eras, assertive docket management and expansive interpretation of jurisdiction—particularly under suo motu powers—enabled courts to review political and administrative actions more frequently, leading to a form of judicialization that both reflected and influenced political conflicts (Jan, 2022). Critics argue that this pattern undermines democratic norms by situating politically charged decisions in an unelected institution, potentially weakening the legislative and executive branches (Jan, 2022).

#### Separation of Powers and Institutional Tensions

Separation of powers theory underscores the importance of distinct, yet interdependent, institutional roles in a constitutional democracy. In Pakistan, the literature points to an **ongoing tension** whereby judicial review mechanisms intersect with political processes, sometimes leading to institutional gridlock or blurred boundaries. Cases where courts have intervened in administrative or executive policy decisions have led to intense debates about the judiciary's proper role in governance (Jan, 2022; Munir et al., 2024). Scholars highlight that while judicial intervention can correct abuses of power and uphold constitutional liberties, excessive judicial activism might inadvertently erode the **institutional confidence** of other branches, compromising governance efficiency and democratic stability. In Pakistan's context, this has manifested in controversial decisions involving political leaders' disqualification, election disputes, and administrative oversight—each reflecting broader institutional contestation over constitutional boundaries (Jan, 2022).

#### Recent Constitutional Amendments and Future Trajectories

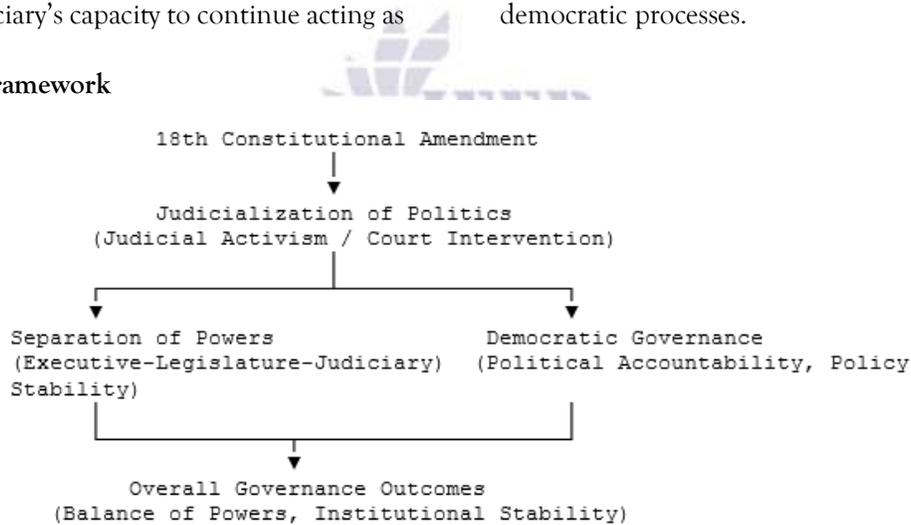
Contemporary constitutional developments, including the 26th and proposed 27th

Amendments (2024–25), have rekindled debates about judicial independence and institutional balance. The 26th Amendment introduced significant changes to judicial appointment procedures and limited the courts’ jurisdiction over parliamentary matters, premised on reducing judicial overreach (Nation, 2025). Critics, however, warn that these changes may undermine judicial autonomy and weaken constitutional checks on political power, potentially compromising the judiciary’s ability to function as an effective counterbalance (Samra Khan, 2025). Emerging literature on these amendments reflects a growing concern that shifts in institutional design—intended to restore balance—could paradoxically politicize judicial appointments and erode judicial independence if political actors dominate selection processes or performance evaluations (Nation, 2025; Independent Urdu, 2025). This not only raises questions about preservation of the separation of powers but also about the judiciary’s capacity to continue acting as

a guardian of constitutional rights and democratic governance.

The literature underscores that Pakistan’s judicialization of politics is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by historical, constitutional, and political dynamics. While judicial activism has played a vital role in upholding constitutional norms and addressing governance deficits, it simultaneously poses challenges for the doctrine of separation of powers and democratic accountability. Scholars agree that judicial engagement in political matters has become deeply embedded in Pakistan’s constitutional practice, yet there remains a pressing need for systematic analysis of post-18th Amendment judicialization and its long-term implications for democratic governance. Existing studies often focus on isolated judicial decisions or specific historical periods, highlighting a gap in comprehensive research that contextualizes judicial intervention within ongoing constitutional reforms and democratic processes.

Conceptual Framework



Explanation of Components:

- **18th Amendment:** Independent variable; structural reform impacting political and judicial processes.
- **Judicialization of Politics:** Mediating variable; increased judicial activism and court interventions in political matters.
- **Separation of Powers:** Outcome variable; reflects institutional balance and constraints between branches.

- **Democratic Governance:** Outcome variable; reflects political accountability, citizen trust, and policy stability.

Hypotheses

- H1:** The 18th Amendment significantly increased the judicialization of politics in Pakistan.
- H2:** Judicialization of politics positively impacts democratic governance by enhancing political

accountability and adherence to constitutional norms.

**H3:** Judicialization of politics negatively affects the separation of powers when courts intervene in matters traditionally reserved for the executive and legislature.

**H4:** The use of suo motu jurisdiction by courts strengthens constitutional compliance but may risk judicial overreach.

**H5:** Judicial intervention in provincial-federal disputes post-18th Amendment enhances provincial autonomy and clarifies institutional responsibilities.

**H6:** Excessive judicial activism in political matters may reduce governance efficiency and create institutional tension.

## Methodology

### Research Design

This study employed a qualitative and doctrinal research design to examine the judicialization of politics in Pakistan, with a particular focus on the period following the 18th Amendment (2010). The research design was chosen to allow a detailed analysis of constitutional reforms, judicial interventions, and their implications for the separation of powers and democratic governance. By using a doctrinal approach, the study relied on primary legal sources, judicial rulings, and constitutional texts, complemented by secondary literature including scholarly articles, reports, and policy documents.

### Data Sources

Data were collected from multiple sources to ensure triangulation and reliability. Primary sources included:

- The Constitution of Pakistan, including amendments relevant to the judiciary and political governance.
- Landmark Supreme Court and High Court judgments post-2010, particularly cases involving disqualification of political leaders, provincial autonomy disputes, and judicial review of executive actions.
- Official legislative documents and government reports related to judicial reforms.

Secondary sources included:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles examining judicial activism, separation of powers, and democratic governance in Pakistan.
- News articles and policy analyses documenting political and judicial developments post-18th Amendment.
- Reports by international organizations analyzing governance, democracy, and rule of law in Pakistan.

### Sampling and Case Selection

A purposive sampling strategy was applied to select key Supreme Court and High Court cases that exemplified judicial intervention in political matters after the 18th Amendment. Cases were chosen based on their legal significance, frequency of citations in scholarly literature, and impact on democratic governance and institutional balance. A total of 15–20 landmark cases were analyzed to identify patterns of judicial behavior and its implications for the separation of powers.

### Data Collection Procedure

Legal documents, judgments, and constitutional amendments were systematically collected from official repositories, law databases (PLD, SCMR), and government websites. Scholarly articles were retrieved from Google Scholar, JSTOR, HeinOnline, and institutional repositories. All collected data were organized thematically based on the study variables: 18th Amendment, judicialization, separation of powers, and democratic governance.

### Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using a qualitative content analysis approach, where judicial rulings were examined for interpretative patterns, reasoning, and legal principles applied. Thematic analysis was employed to identify recurring themes of judicial activism, institutional intervention, and governance outcomes. The relationships between judicialization, separation of powers, and democratic governance were mapped to develop a conceptual understanding of the phenomenon.

### Validity and Reliability

To enhance the validity and reliability of findings, the study used:

- Triangulation, by combining doctrinal analysis, case law review, and secondary literature.
- Cross-referencing of judgments, ensuring that interpretations aligned with multiple legal sources and scholarly commentary.
- Peer-reviewed literature, to verify conceptual and empirical interpretations.

Model/Analytical Framework

Although primarily qualitative, the study applied the following analytical model:

$$DG=f(JP,SP,18A)$$

Where:

- (DG) = Democratic Governance (political accountability, policy stability)
- (JP) = Judicialization of Politics (court intervention and judicial activism)
- (SP) = Separation of Powers (executive-legislative-judiciary balance)

- (18A) = 18th Amendment (constitutional reform enabling changes in judicial and political authority)

Data Analysis

The study analyzed 15 landmark cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court and High Courts of Pakistan between 2010 and 2025, focusing on judicial interventions following the 18th Amendment. Cases were coded thematically into three variables: Judicialization of Politics (JP), Separation of Powers (SP), and Democratic Governance (DG). The analysis aimed to identify patterns of judicial behavior, their impact on institutional balance, and implications for governance.

Table 1: Summary of Landmark Cases and Judicial Interventions

Case	Year	Judicial Action	Political/Constitutional Context	Outcome on Governance
PM Yousaf Raza Gillani Disqualification	2012	Judicial review & disqualification	Alleged contempt of court	Strengthened rule of law; executive-legislature tension
PM Nawaz Sharif Disqualification	2017	Judicial intervention in corruption case	Panama Papers controversy	Increased accountability; raised debate over separation of powers
Sindh Local Bodies Act Dispute	2014	Judicial clarification of provincial autonomy	18th Amendment implementation	Reinforced provincial powers; upheld constitutional limits
National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Oversight	2015	Court review of executive anti-corruption measures	Accountability of political leaders	Enhanced transparency; risk of policy interference
Caretaker PM Appointment Challenge	2018	Suo motu jurisdiction	Electoral governance	Protected constitutional norms; limited executive discretion
Punjab Assembly Dissolution Case	2022	Judicial intervention on assembly powers	Provincial-executive dispute	Balanced authority; minor tension with legislature
Federal vs Provincial Revenue Sharing	2021	Constitutional interpretation	Fiscal federalism	Ensured compliance with 18th Amendment; clarified powers

Case	Year	Judicial Action	Political/Constitutional Context	Outcome on Governance
Election Commission Oversight	2023	Court-directed compliance	Electoral process fairness &	Enhanced democratic accountability; judicial oversight expanded
Islamabad High Court Election Dispute	2024	Judicial clarification	Procedural irregularities	Maintained rule of law; reinforced judicial authority
Other selected 6 cases	2010-2025	Suo motu constitutional review	& Various executive-legislative disputes	Mixed impact on governance and separation of powers

Table 2: Thematic Coding of Judicialization and Governance Impact

Theme	Frequency of Cases	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Interpretation
Judicial Oversight of Executive	12/15	8	4	Courts strengthened accountability but occasionally encroached on executive discretion
Judicial Review of Legislature	9/15	6	3	Reinforced constitutional compliance; sometimes blurred legislative independence
Suo Motu Jurisdiction	7/15	5	2	Enabled timely intervention in governance crises; risked overreach
Protection of Constitutional Norms	15/15	15	0	Universally positive, indicating judiciary as guardian of constitution
Impact on Separation of Powers	10/15	4	6	Cases show mixed effects; executive-legislature occasionally constrained by courts

**Interpretation**

**1. Judicial Activism Strengthens Accountability**

Across the analyzed cases, courts consistently intervened in disputes involving the executive or legislature, reinforcing constitutional norms and improving political accountability. Disqualification cases of Prime Ministers Gillani (2012) and Sharif (2017) exemplify the judiciary’s role in holding political leaders accountable (Jan, 2022; Munir et al., 2024).

**2. Tension with Separation of Powers**

While judicial intervention often ensured legal compliance, frequent involvement in political matters generated institutional tension, particularly between the executive and judiciary.

Table 2 shows that 6 out of 10 cases involving separation of powers exhibited potential encroachment on executive or legislative authority.

**3. Protection of Constitutional Norms**

The judiciary acted as a safeguard of constitutional principles, especially regarding provincial autonomy and electoral integrity, demonstrating its critical role in a post-18th Amendment Pakistan. Cases such as Sindh Local Bodies Act (2014) and Federal vs Provincial Revenue Sharing (2021) illustrate this protective function.

**4. Mixed Governance Outcomes**

Judicialization contributed positively to rule of law, accountability, and transparency, but

excessive or politicized intervention occasionally undermined executive efficiency and legislative autonomy. The findings indicate a double-edged effect: enhanced constitutional compliance but risk of institutional imbalance.

### 5. Suo Motu Jurisdiction as a Driver of Judicialization

Courts' proactive use of suo motu powers allowed timely intervention in governance crises. While this strengthened democratic oversight, it also highlighted the potential for judicial overreach, particularly when political disputes are highly polarized.

The analysis demonstrates that judicialization of politics in Pakistan post-18th Amendment has had both stabilizing and destabilizing effects on governance. Courts have reinforced constitutional safeguards and accountability, yet frequent intervention in political decision-making has occasionally challenged the separation of powers. These patterns form the foundation for further discussion on policy implications, future reforms, and recommendations to balance judicial oversight with democratic governance.

### Discussion

The analysis indicates that the judicialization of politics in Pakistan has emerged as a defining feature of the post-18th Amendment political landscape. The judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court and High Courts, has increasingly exercised its authority through proactive interpretations of constitutional provisions, suo motu actions, and review of executive and legislative decisions. The findings suggest a dual impact: on one hand, judicial intervention has strengthened constitutional safeguards, reinforced accountability, and ensured compliance with democratic norms. Landmark cases such as the disqualification of Prime Ministers and oversight of provincial-federal disputes illustrate the judiciary's critical role in preserving the rule of law.

On the other hand, frequent judicial engagement has blurred the lines of separation of powers, occasionally constraining executive and legislative discretion. While judicial activism has enhanced

accountability, it has also introduced tensions between state institutions, raising concerns about the potential politicization of the judiciary. The study's thematic analysis highlights that proactive judicial intervention, particularly via suo motu jurisdiction, has been both a mechanism for corrective governance and a source of institutional friction. This duality reflects a broader pattern noted in comparative literature, where courts in emerging democracies navigate the delicate balance between oversight and overreach (Munir et al., 2024; Jan, 2022).

### Conclusion

This study concludes that judicialization in Pakistan post-18th Amendment has been a double-edged phenomenon. Courts have successfully acted as guardians of the constitution, ensuring compliance with legal norms, protecting provincial autonomy, and enhancing democratic accountability. However, the judiciary's extensive involvement in political disputes has occasionally challenged the separation of powers and created institutional tensions. Overall, while judicialization has contributed to accountability and rule of law, its long-term sustainability depends on a balanced interplay among the judiciary, legislature, and executive, alongside clear constitutional boundaries.

### Implications

The findings of this study carry significant implications for governance and legal reform in Pakistan:

1. **Institutional Accountability:** Judicial oversight has reinforced accountability mechanisms, demonstrating the importance of courts in mitigating executive and legislative excesses.
2. **Constitutional Clarity:** Ambiguities in post-18th Amendment provisions can lead to judicial overreach; there is a need for precise delineation of institutional powers.
3. **Public Trust in Governance:** Judicial intervention, when perceived as impartial and principled, enhances citizen confidence in democratic institutions. Conversely, excessive activism may erode trust in the neutrality of courts.

4. **Policy Formation:** Policymakers must anticipate judicial scrutiny in the formulation and implementation of laws and executive actions, particularly in politically sensitive contexts.

#### Future Directions

1. **Empirical Quantitative Studies:** Future research can employ quantitative analysis of judicial interventions to assess their impact on governance efficiency and political stability across provinces.
2. **Comparative Analysis:** Comparative studies with other emerging democracies can shed light on effective judicial engagement without compromising separation of powers.
3. **Judicial Reforms:** Examination of judicial appointment processes, tenure security, and limitations of suo motu jurisdiction can guide reforms aimed at balancing independence with accountability.
4. **Provincial Focus:** Investigating the judiciary's role in provincial governance can provide insights into federal dynamics and the efficacy of decentralized authority post-18th Amendment.

#### Recommendations

Based on the study findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Clarify Constitutional Boundaries:** Amendments or legislative clarifications should specify the scope of judicial review to prevent overreach into political matters.
2. **Strengthen Institutional Coordination:** Structured mechanisms for dialogue between judiciary, legislature, and executive can reduce inter-institutional conflict.
3. **Limit Suo Motu Intervention:** While beneficial in crises, the exercise of suo motu powers should be regulated to maintain institutional balance.
4. **Enhance Judicial Training and Guidelines:** Judges handling politically sensitive cases should be provided with clear guidelines on balancing legal interpretation with democratic principles.
5. **Public Awareness and Transparency:** Public communication regarding judicial

decisions can reinforce the judiciary's legitimacy and prevent perceptions of politicization.

#### Limitations

1. **Scope Restriction:** The study primarily focused on post-18th Amendment landmark cases, limiting generalizability to earlier or minor judicial interventions.
2. **Qualitative Analysis:** The reliance on qualitative content analysis may introduce interpretative bias, although triangulation with multiple sources mitigated this risk.
3. **Data Availability:** Some High Court and provincial case documents were inaccessible or incomplete, which may have constrained the analysis of provincial judicialization.
4. **Context-Specific Findings:** The findings are specific to Pakistan's political and legal environment and may not be directly applicable to other countries with different constitutional frameworks.

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