

Political Stability and Social Reforms in Punjab, Pakistan by Pervaiz Elahi

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Abstract

As a chief minister of Punjab Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi received national and international fame and appreciation for his liberalism, his philosophy of modernism, for his strictness to eradicate terrorism and to maintain law and order situation in the province. This is a historical study, and the date has been collected through primary and secondary sources. His revolutionary steps like educated Punjab, rescue 1122, traffic warden system, the establishment of an institute of cardiology and children complex, irrigation system, and Lahore Ring road project were his notable achievements. These steps got appreciation from the World Bank and other donor agencies. This study will highlight the political stability and social reforms in detail of Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi as chief minister of Punjab province of Pakistan.

Key Words: Agriculture, Education, Opposition, Political Stability, Reforms, Social Sector.

Introduction

Each one of us is aware of the fact that Pakistan is the result of a lot of struggles adds hard work of several people. A lot of people were attacked, and a number of women were raped, the rest of history is known by each one of us. After Independence, the political condition of Pakistan is getting worse day by day, and none of the politicians has worked for the welfare and wellbeing of Pakistan in any way. But they have always tried to fill their pockets by doing corruption as much as possible. The politicians were always selfish to our country ([Mamoon, Javed, & Zamin Abbas, 2017](#)). There are a number of families that are dominating the political system of Pakistan, but if we talk about the general observation, these political families are running a system of giving their opportunities to their closed ones due which unemployment is increasing at a higher rate ([Ali, 2020](#)).

Same is the case with the next generation who are doing the same thing that is going to a never-changing worse condition. Pakistan is facing a worse situation, but if we compare the situations of all provinces in of Pakistan, Punjab has not faced that many severe conditions as to other provinces ([Shah Nawaz, 2017](#)). The main role or the pillar behind the Welfare of Punjab as compared to other provinces are Chaudharies that are dominating Punjab from long. They are working hard for wellbeing of Gujrat along

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with other cities of Punjab. They have worked hard for the introduction and implementation of different reforms and different policies ([Dowall & Ellis, 2009](#)).

They have generated many policies to help poor people for their employment and their income and many other ways for the people of Punjab. They basically belong from Gujrat that is located near the bank of Chenab. There are many historical places in Punjab whose protection and wellbeing are actively done by Chaudharies. They belong to a political party known as PLMQ, and there are many members of PLMQ of which Chaudhari Parvaiz Elahi have done basic part in the wellbeing of Punjab for a long time ([Shahzad & Kokab, 2013](#)). He has done a lot of reforms in Punjab as well as in Gujarat. Chaudhary Parvez Elahi is the son of Fazal Dean Jaat that were famous for their sincerity, dignity and equality ([Imran & Shahzad, 2019](#)).

Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi was born on November 1, 1947, in a well-known industrialist family of Gujrat. The family was known as Chaudharies of Gujrat. He was the son of Chaudhary Manzoor Elahi. He was the nephew of Chaudhary Zahoor Elahi who had been a prominent political figure of Pakistan. During Bhutto headship, Ch. Zahoor Elahi openly opposed and criticized the government and its policies. He had struggled hard for the restoration of democracy in the country. But unfortunately, he fell a victim of a terrorist attack on September 25, 1981. Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi is the first cousin of Chaudhary Shujaat Husain who is the president of Pakistan Muslim League. Pervaiz Elahi got his graduation degree from Forman Christian College Lahore in 1967. To fulfil the wish of his father he flew to the UK to obtain a diploma in Industrial management from Watford College of technology in London in 1971. After completing his education, Pervaiz Elahi joined the family business as well as politics.

The family of Chaudhary Parvaiz Elahi has long been working for the Welfare of other people. They were so kind that people that suffer from any issue or problem ask them for help. Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi, the previous chief minister of Punjab, was born on November 1, 1945, in Gujrat, Punjab, Pakistan. He was a member of a landlord, businessmen and political family because of which Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi got an established political platform ([Dowall & Ellis, 2009](#)). Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi to receive higher education in business education. To fulfil the wishes of his father, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi flew to London, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi got a diploma in industrial management Watford College of technology. Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi got married to his cousin Qaisara Zahor who is the daughter of Chaudhary Zahoor Elahi. After returning from London, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi joins the family business ([Kanwal, 2017](#)).

Chaudhary Parvez Elahi belongs to a very rich family that has family business because of which he followed the rules and footsteps of his elders. He also joined the business, but it was not the actual destination of him, and he chose to be the politician. He was very close to his Uncle Chaudhary Manzoor Elahi because of which he followed his footsteps and joined the primary political education system for him. His uncle always appreciates him and took him as a strong politician. He always thinks that he will rule the country one day because he was very hard working and very talented. He always took part in many political activities because of his devotion; he has succeeded in developing many policies ([I. Khan, Shah, & Azhar, 2019](#)).

He took part in active politics in 1983, and he was elected as the chairman Council of Gujrat, and then he spent four years. The period when he was elected as minister of local government he has done a lot for Punjab province, and during his er, a he has got many opportunities by which he can help poor people in many ways ([Kanwal, 2017](#)). He has seen the difference between the poor and elite class, and he really wants to minimize the difference between them. Because of his political experience, he has empowered as many as facilities to the poor people, and during their Era, he tried to provide many facilities to them ([Lyon & Mughal, 2016](#)).

Reforms by Pervaiz Elahi

Reforms in the Social Sector

Chaudhari Parvaiz Elahi has done a lot for the social reforms of Panjab. Chaudhary Parvez Elahi was famous just because he was very active and he has always worked for the development of Punjab. During the era

of Chaudhary Parvez Elahi, he was successful in managing a special appreciation made by media because of his reforms and activity. He has done a lot for the development of Punjab in many ways. He has introduced many reforms for the development of Punjab of which social sector reform was considered as the best one. He has faced many challenges by the opposition, but he was successful for improving the economic condition in Punjab. At the same time, he has also worked to fulfil the necessities of poor people that may involve the educational necessities, health reforms and many other. He has managed to improve the low literacy rate of Punjab by introducing many schools, colleges, and universities in different cities of Punjab. He has made the commendable university in Gujrat, whose name is University of Gujrat ([Ali, 2020](#)).

Similarly, he has also worked for the wellbeing of health sectors and has been issued many health services for the poor people so that they can have better health facilities that are affordable for them. He has introduced many social reform plans and has also successfully implemented them in Punjab. There was the main focus to increase the income of Punjab by providing them and providing better opportunities for employment and better opportunities for good income for both private and public sector services. This had improved the speed of economic growth in the cities of Punjab and help him to achieve the goal ([Kanwal, 2017](#)).

Reforms in Agricultural Sector

Punjab horticultural segment relies on four territories, for example, horticulture, timberland, animals and fisheries. Almost 65% of the developed territory of Pakistan is in Punjab, and it is isolated into little units when contrasted with different areas of Pakistan. After the military upset, when General Pervaiz Musharraf assumes responsibility for the nation, he declared that 2002 would be commonly a political race year. On October 1, 2002 decisions for common and public get together of Pakistan held, PML-Q showed up as the winning party. Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi expected forces as a boss clergyman of Punjab. Subsequent to expecting power as boss service, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi reported his software engineer the Punjab social segment changes program. As indicated by the program, the administration of Punjab planned to presented changes in practically every single division of Punjab areas for example extraordinary focal point of the administration of Punjab had been wellbeing, instruction and farming segments ([I. Khan et al., 2019](#)).

The administration of Punjab, initially, watched the Challenges to the helpless ranchers in this area. The subsequent advance was to explain these projects through a simple and far-reaching measure the serious issues of the farming area were the absence of financing to the poor peasants of Punjab that was the reason the present-day methods of cultivating, utilization of composts, pesticides and utilization of apparatus had been obscure to the rancher of Punjab ([I. A. Khan, 2010](#)).

The majority of the provincial territories of Punjab has been inadequate with regards to foundation, for example, street, transport, and power and food storerooms. So as to meet these necessities, the legislature must be engaged because the street length from market to cultivate was short, yet the state of streets had been hopeless. Indeed the majority of the towns have no metal street and power. The legislature of Punjab made strides in such manner. It was the aftereffect of these changes and genuine worry of the administration of Punjab that the normal monetary development rate which was 4.5% in 2000, in 2003 it came to at the most significant level of 6% and in 2007 it was 6.7.55 As indicated by a study report on the economy of Punjab by the organization of open strategy (IPP).⁵⁶ The economy of Punjab relies on 24% horticulture which is 20% of the entire of Pakistan ([J. S. Khan, Biggs, & Mubbashar, 2011](#)).

These insights show the significance of the horticulture area in the economy of Pakistan. The overview shows that still farming segment is immature and has been confronting intense money related regulatory and political emergency in the event that the serious issues which have been hauling down the monetary development in Punjab are inaccessibility of farming water, vitality emergency, inaccessibility of present-day apparatus to the ranchers of Punjab. The advancement of former⁵⁷, as indicated by the report of (IPP), Punjab government of Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi, shows a high development pace of its residency. The official

gauge shows the advancement of this period of Punjab had developed at the pace of 7.5% while the public normal of progress was 7.3%. During this time, per capita pay of Punjab seized the most significant level of history ([Mazhar & Shaikh, 2016](#)).

In the time of 2000, the Punjab share was 5.5% and in 2007 Punjab share was 5.7% in the public salary. After being chief ministry, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi announced his programmer the Punjab social sector reforms. According to the program, the government of Punjab aimed to introduce reforms in almost each and every sector of Punjab provinces, i.e. special focus of the government of Punjab had been health, education and agriculture sectors ([Mazhar & Shaikh, 2016](#)).

Reforms in the Health Sector

Health has always been the biggest issue and is considered as a crucial one because it is a very sensitive topic to discuss. The basic aim of Chaudhary Parvez Elahi was to provide facilities to the poor people that cannot avail the facilities because they cannot afford it. Just because of this reason to help poor people Chaudhary Parvez Elahi have introduced many programs that can facilitate poor people in many ways. He has introduced many health services by which poor people can affordably avail health services. Many reforms play the very biggest step towards improved health in Punjab ([Raza, Ashfaq, & Baig, 2009](#)).

The initial step government need to take was to provide basic facilities to poor people so that they can avail them without any charge and cost. For that purpose, the government has provided facilities in different hospitals of Punjab and many other cities so that in case of an emergency, people can have a health facility immediately. Similarly, as far as the rural areas are concerned, many development programs have also been introduced by the government of Punjab that provides proper medical treatment and proper medical facilities in case of emergency. Another basic goal of Punjab government was to reduce the mortality rate of the children that was very important to improve the maternal health of the women ([Shahzad & Kokab, 2013](#)).

There are many burn units in major hospitals that had been working, but these units were facing a lack of required facilities to deal with the emergency. The government of Punjab had tried to facilitate these burn units by proper financing over these units. New burn units were also established in various hospitals throughout the province ([Khalid, Irshad, & Mahmood, 2012](#)). In Punjab, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi has taken many steps for the improvement purposes in which they have provided better health facilities to the women that are going to be a mother so that the percentage of mortality of child may be reduced. Similarly, for the sake of for better health for the students, Punjab government has also introduced many programs provided awareness and facilities against many viral diseases that involve in influenza and malaria etc. ([Shaikh et al., 2012](#)).

The basic purpose of the government was to provide all the health facilities that are necessary for treatment and don't charge any type of cost to them. So, it was very necessary for them to provide all these medical facilities to the poor people. The biggest issue in Punjab was un-availability of the facilities in the case of an emergency. There were many cases in which people have lost their lives, or they have gone too dealt because of lack of any emergency. To overcome this drawback, Chaudhary Parvaiz Elahi has worked hard and have inaugurated the emergency facility for the poor people.

For the sake of this reason, he has inaugurated emergency service that helps a lot of people in case of emergency. During the early years of 2000 because of competition in the province Punjab emergency service rescue 1122 was inaugurated that involve many well organized, well equipped and skillful emergency services that were free of cost and they provide medical emergency to the poor peoples. At the same time, there was an issue of lack of doctors that were qualified, and they need to hire doctors from outside Pakistan or outside Punjab. For this reason, he has also inaugurated many colleges in different cities of Punjab and as well as many institutes of cardiology and burn center and many other in many cities of Punjab

Reforms in the Educational Sector

Education is the most important factor of any country as a literacy rate of a country decide the development rate of any country. Punjab was the province where the literacy rate was very low, and the government of Punjab took many initiatives to establish many schools and colleges to maintain the rate of literacy ([Hathaway, 2005](#)). There are many educational policies that were enforced by the education sector, but the implementation of these policies was failed many times. There were many educational conferences that were established, but there was no result came into being by the advisory board of education or establishment of Inter-University Board Pakistan along with the establishment of many other councils that are important for the conservation of education ([Tarin, 2003](#)).

All of the seminars, conferences or workshops doesn't come to any positive end ([Andrabi, Das, & Khwaja, 2010](#)). There were many programs that were introduced by the government that are as follows;

Introduction of three years programs of LLB Hons course.

- Three categories of secondary education as a primary, middle and secondary level of secondary education.
- Division of technical education into technical, polytechnics system of education.
- Universal primary education (UPE).
- Regular national anthem and flag hosting in morning assembly in the schools.
- The minimum passing marks in each paper had been fixed by 40%.
- He was the only politician that inaugurated a program in which the students were given free books that were a big step in the educational system.

Political Stability in the Era of Pervaiz Elahi

Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi was the former Chief Minister of Punjab province and belonged to a political party PLMQ. He was a devoted and dedicated person that always helped poor and needy people. As far as the politics of Pakistan is concerned, it has always been unstable because the government is always opposed by the opposition in many ways. There were four phases of election in Pakistan ([Chaudhury & Parajuli, 2007](#)). All of these four phases starting from 1909 and end to 2008. During all the phases, the government failed to set proper rules and to implement policies in the country. Many policies and many programs were introduced, but the implementation of these policies failed. In 2002 to 2008, there was a huge change in the political history of Pakistan that is because of Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi ([Aziz et al., 2014](#)).

The government have never followed the same rules and laws rules, and all laws are changed each time. The major reason for the failure of all these rules is the failure of the system of election along with the democracy in Pakistan which is followed by the federal system which is prevailing in the country. The government along with the Assembly that are either national or provincial is inherited from Father to Son because of which every time a number of problems are faced by the Pakistani people ([Bano, 2008](#)).

When Chaudhary Pavaiz Elahi was accepted as deputy opposition leader in Punjab assembly, he acts as a brilliant leader and in the absence of Nawaz Sharif who was in London for the treatment, did a great job. He was proved to be a good leader because of his abilities. He was appreciated by everyone. He has worked as chief minister of Punjab as well as he was also elected as a speaker of Punjab assembly and he has done commendable and the one that a good politician should do. He doesn't stay at home for many days and visited poor people so that he may know the problems of them. Many campaigns and many policies were introduced for poor people so that he can help them to provide them with facilities and services that are important to them ([Barber, 2010](#)).

Conclusion

Chaudhry Pervez Elahi, during his period, had made a new record of development and he had taken measures for the wellbeing of the poor by providing free medical facilities available to each and every inhabitant of the province without any discrimination. The up-gradation of health units, the provision of proper medical and Paramedical staff at every basic health unit has been the first and foremost priority of the government. During his period, the government tried to ensure to make every health unit well equipped with necessary machinery and medicine available for proper and timely treatment of the patients. Keeping in view the establishment of BHUS, RHCS, and the up-gradation of hospitals, increasing the pay scale and salary packages of the medical staff have brought fruitful results in the health sector. The people enjoyed proper health facilities as their basic right being the citizens of Pakistan. The progress in education has got national as well as international appreciation. The facilities provided to the students, teachers and other staff brought miracles in this sector.

Availability of free education, books, a stipend for girls and many more revolutionary measures brought marvellous results. The government introduces a young, highly qualified and efficient class of educators. Moreover, the establishments of computer labs at the school level, the up-gradation of school, the establishment of new primary, middle and secondary schools in the province are a very few examples of education sector reforms. These reforms opened new doors for development for Punjab province. The government of Punjab started free education in almost more than 60 thousand schools of the province for the very first time in the history of Pakistan, awarded stipends to the girls and thus opened the doors of education for each and every poor girl of the province. In order to provide free housing to the poor, the government introduced a 5 Marla housing scheme. The government also established well equipped special education schools for special children providing free education, free transportation and free medication to these special children.

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