

THE PROS & CONS OF INSTITUTIONALISING POLICY ANALYSIS IN PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Pakistan has suffered a lot at the expense of adhocism in the policy formulation and implementation, which is quite visible in the slow progress of the nation, particularly in the policy matters. Whilst issues of the area are attributable to several broader social factors however, the absence of an institutionalised policy-analysis mechanism is what appears to be the major barrier to reforming and promoting policy development process.

This paper sets out an overview of the current conditions for policy formulation in Pakistan to gain understanding of the problem with emphasis on both the threats and opportunities for the proposed mechanism at the operational level. The emerging comprehension has then been used to build a theoretical-cum –practical framework to redress the situation.

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan came in to existence as an independent state on August 14, 1947, when the British rule ended in the Indian subcontinent. The present structure and system of administration is not much different from that which was handed down to her by her colonial masters in 1947. Most of Pre-independence government orders and instructions are still in vogue without any thorough examination of their relevance to the current needs of the country. The only change made is that policy formulation function has been entrusted with the bureaucracy, which was previously done in England. Previously the Indian civil services monopolised policy-making posts not because every one of its constituents had any ability for policy analysis but because of the amenities and privileges attached to these posts. We inherited the legacy because "the liberation wars had not produced a theory of development much beyond imperial rule" (Baker 1991: 354). But until now little efforts have been made to probe into the problem of improving policy analysis. Several reforms commissions have