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PRESS RELEASE

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad.

PIDE Webinar - Electoral Reforms in Pakistan

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad hosted a webinar titled 'Electoral reforms in Pakistan' on 27th May, 2021.

Kanwal Muhammad Dilshad, Former Federal Secretary, ECP with Sarwar Bari, Spokesperson FAFEN and Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President/CEO, PILDAT. The session was moderated by Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice-Chancellor, PIDE.

Mr. Sarwar Bari discussed how the representation in the Pakistani assembly is totally biased and working class people do not get represented properly. Adding to this statement he also mentioned that the will of the people has been compromised by the elite capture system. There are a handful of people sitting at the position of power where only their children or grandchildren would run for big offices and strangely get elected too. These are the root cause of the manipulation during Elections and otherwise.

Mr. Kanwal Muhammad Dilshad added that there is dire need of a proportional representation. He further suggested that Electoral Reforms should be introduced for a better representation and transparency.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob expressed that a nationwide debate is required to educate people about the proportional electoral reforms. He also mentioned that Electoral reforms are already there the problem is that no one implements on them. Powerful people manipulate the laws that are already there. Mehboob referred to the elections of 1977, 1988 and 1990, where he explained that history has substantial evidence of these entities that manipulate the elections and in the longer run gets to control the whole narrative.

Another reason for the distrust, is the fact that political parties do not have democracy within the party, which gives birth to nepotism and the female quote has been highly effected by this. Mr. Mehboob stressed that all these issues are collateral damage caused by the Powerful entities of this country that conduct and manipulate the election decisions.

In ending notes, the panel agreed that the elite capture has wrecked our political system and as a result gave birth to a plethora of nuisance to the society. Another conclusion was frequent elections so that the sitting government does not take a back seat and equal, on merit representation in the assembly.

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