

PML-Q in Punjab: Pervaiz Illahi's Political Landscape (2002-2007)

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Abstract

Political parties are the integral part of the political system and provides direction for the political development of any country. This study laid emphasize on the working of PMLQ in Punjab. For this purpose, the descriptive and analytical research method was carried up. The focus of the study is to appraise the role and functions of PMLQ, the concept of political development, and the role of PMLQ in the developmental projects of Punjab (Pakistan). Chaudhry Pervaiz Illahi's leadership as Chief Minister led the provincial government in implementing various projects and policies aimed at improving infrastructure, education, and healthcare. The PML-Q's time in power in Punjab represented a chapter in the province's political history, characterized by both achievements and controversies. It ultimately came to an end with the general elections in 2008 when a new political coalition assumed control.

Keywords: Political party, Political development, Developmental projects, Provincial government, Elections, Ministry.

INTRODUCTION

In Pakistan, several political parties stand for the election after one government completes its tenure. The party that gets the majority votes later holds the government and the remaining parties that get less numbers of votes become an opposition.¹ The responsibility of the opposition is to keep an eye on the ruling party's performance and aptitude toward the masses. Some mainstream parties are dominating and popular among people, and some parties work at regional level, or at the provincial level as well. In any nation, political parties are seen as significant milestones for the advancement of democracy.²

This highlighted the fact that Pakistan's political parties are as varied as the spectrum that

¹ Taj, Shaista, and Zia Ur Rehman. "Role of Political Parties in Pakistan and Perverted Form of Democracy." *Dialogue (Pakistan)* 10, no. 4 (2015).

² Marume, S. B. M., A. S. Chikasha, and D. Ndudzo. "Political Parties." *artikel dalam IOSR Journal of Mechanical and Civil Engineering* (2016): 2278-1684.

represents the country's democratic administration. Examining and distributing party manifestos to enable voters to make well-informed election decisions based on the parties' promises to establish parliamentary parties and the ability to carry out their legislative responsibilities, assisting and promoting multiparty³.

Authors explains the workings of the chief minister of Punjab as he introduced many reforms regarding the development of the province of Punjab in the health, education, and transport sectors, for minorities and mainly for women. For all the developmental steps taken by him his cabinet remained a perfect example for the rest of the provinces.⁴

Pakistan Muslim League

Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah became the first governor-general of Pakistan, and Liaquat Ali Khan, the general secretary and deputy leader of the main parliamentary party, led the Muslim League. The Muslim League leadership quotes had a major responsibility to deal with the issues arising from the partition of India.⁵ The PML democratically played a key role after partition being played into the hands of military rulers and it has always found reasons to justify all. Most of its patrons have been changing loyalties like desert Sands to be capable to see a purpose for themselves in successive military regime and this is one of the major reasons why the party has been separated into so many groups, as of today, there are nearly a dozen fractions of PML, one of which is PMLQ.⁶

Development of Conceptual Framework

This study leads towards the theory of political development. By considering the aspects of political development seeing the progress, development and change in politics of Punjab, the policy framework given by the PMLQ government for the development of Punjab.

Theoretical Framework

Political improvement generally intends to smash the conventional monograph of intensity of rule in the public eye and rearrange it among new competitors in a way that harmony and success for society overall can be guaranteed.

Political dynamic has consistently been the main element of human progress. Every time has its stamp of political way of thinking and an enormous extent of its commitments are controlled by the ability, capacity, and authoritative abilities of legislators and government officials. Since their indisputable supremacy, has power and prestige which they seldom share with other professionals, they control the government pyramid from top to toe and through their domination in law-making chambers make policies and adopt programs that have far-reaching impacts on the future of a nation. It is for those reasons that politics in all ages has been a magnetic pull for ambitious individuals. So this is a brief introduction to political development. This introduction was necessary because before looking at Pakistan's experience of political development it is important to clarify its meaning and short general review.

Research Questions

- What is the role of PMLQ as a political party in the development of Punjab?

³ Atlas, Ronald M. "Petroleum microbiology." (1984)

⁴ Lawson, Kay. "How political parties work: Perspectives from within." (No Title) (1994).

⁵ Riffat, Fatima. "Trends in Political and Social Extremism in Pakistan: A Case Study of Musharraf Era 2002-2008." *Journal of the Punjab University Historical Society* 29, no. 1 (2016): 50-67.

⁶ Amin, Salman, Deebe Shahwar, Ghulam Shabir, and Sajjad Ali. "Governance, Corruption and the Media: Reflection of Corruption during the PML-Q and PML-N Political Regimes." *Ilkogretim Online* 20, no. 6 (2021).

- What were the challenges and hurdles faced by Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi's government in implementing or introducing new projects?

PMLQ as a working Party in Punjab

This article explores the development initiatives undertaken by the PMLQ government in Punjab from 2002 to 2007. It provides insights into the government's efforts in policy-making and project implementation for the overall development of the province during this five-year tenure.

Punjab

Before moving forward, a brief introduction of Punjab province is imperative. The name Punjab depends on two Persian words Panj and ab which means five and water, leading towards the word Punjab meaning land of five rivers and it was embraced during the Mughal Empire by the Turkish-persian trespassers of Sub-continent. Punjab is the ground of five waterways 'Jhelum, Ravi, Chenab, Beas, and Sutlej.' Punjab is the second biggest area nationally with more than the area covered of 205,344 kilometers.⁷

Muslim League of Pakistan (Q) traces its origins back to the All-India Muslim League, which was established in 1906. The party PML (Q) then sets out a protect Jinnah, who founded the major League in the year of 1948, as they are usually allied with the main league and originally associated with the Muslim League. At the time of partition in 1947, the Muslim League was the only mainstream party who were truly loyal to the making of Pakistan.⁸

In light of everything, by the passing of time the two of the major pioneers of the party, Quaid e Azam and Liaquat Ali, achieved Pakistan with turmoil effort, but due to administrative problems. Pakistan was under in pressure in the east or west wing of the state. The Muslim League continuously went under the effect of the West Pakistani, and particularly Punjabi, owners and heads more stressed over growing their effect than setting up a solid internal structure. According to the PML(Q) official history, they developed from the leftover players from the previous Pakistan Muslim League (J).

Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid) as a self-governing party

Despite the PML (Q) showed up when it was divided from the PML (N), afterwards Pervez Musharraf's get rid of in 1999, making one more break all through the whole presence of the PML.⁹

The PML (Q) was the undeniable "Master's Party" of General Musharraf's association. Determined by Mian Azhar and soon after by Ch. Shujaat Hussain, the party was upheld by General Musharraf's governing body and presented as vivaciously best.

Different people collaborated and showed up as the PMLQ as a party to rule over province Punjab. In 2000-2001, the Musharraf association constrained neighborhood PML (N) pioneers and past authorities to slip off and join the PML(Q). The prevailing part obliged. In the 2000-2001 non-Party close by government choices, by far most of the councilors and region Nazis had a spot with the PML(Q).

⁷ Ahmad, Muhammad Abrar. "Electoral Politics of Pakistani People's Party in Punjab With Special Reference to General Election 2008." JPUHS 26, no. 2 (2013): 45-66.

⁸ Khan, Ansar Zahid. "The Reorganization of the All India Muslim League under the Quaid-i-Azam." Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society 24, no. 3 (1976): 250.

⁹ Shahzad, Muhammad Nawaz, and Rizwan Ullah Kokab. "Political Parties: A Factor of Stability in Pakistan 1999-2008." Asian journal of social sciences & humanities 2, no. 4 (2013): 348-358.

The PML (Q) has seen itself as liberal, moderate, and reformist. Disregarding the way that they are supported by Musharraf, they have, at various centers, ensured an interminable removal of the military from the ordinary resident space to get legitimacy with general society. The PML(Q) plan and program for the organization is unclear, yet the party stance assurance is high.¹⁰

Pakistan Muslim League (Quaid)'s pronouncement proceeded with interest and change of the majority rule measure, improvement in the territories of the overall economy, instruction, and ecological mindfulness, and more capacity to the regions (lapsed and decentralized position), advancing variety in all areas.

Main Concerns of the Party

The main focus of the party is on the issues that are battling terrorism, providing education for everyone in the province, better energy management, and employment or job opportunities for youth, and empowering women also took steps for the restoration of the economy and to eradicate the corruption. These are some of the major concerns of the party.¹¹

Punjab under the ministry of Ch Pervaiz Ilahi

Chaudhry Pervez Elahi was the Ex-Chief Minister of Punjab from (2002-2007) and was one of the most popular politicians among the public and the government achieved some efficient and visible goals for the public of the province of Pakistan. He has been highly praised for making incomparable commitments to the systems of farming or water, training for different departments, health, IT area, public area advancement, framework, flexibility of power and gas, and lawfulness, during filling in as CM-Punjab.

General Elections of 2002 and Tenure of the Government of PML (Q)

General Pervez Musharraf, who took over in October 1999 without using force, announced on July 11, 2002, that general elections for the National Assembly and the four Provincial Assemblies would be held on October 10, 2002. This announcement was one of the chief executives and the president of Pakistan. The Pakistan Muslim League (Q), a faction of the former Pakistan Muslim League that supported General Musharraf's legislature, obtained most number of seats (77), but fell short of securing a majority position.¹² Under a different setup, Pervaiz Ellahi actively participated in the 2002 elections as a nonconformist. He began to see a well-known or well-liked democratic individual who had also joined President Pervez Musharraf's administration in 2002.

He finally, became Chief Minister of province, of Punjab in 2002. His prominent political working remembers the change for area of preparation, which added to the proficiency rate expanding from 47% in 2002, to 62% in 2007 in the province of Punjab.

During Chaudhry Pervez Elahi's tenure as Chief Minister, significant strides were made in the education sector, including the provision of free education in government-funded schools up to Matric. Additionally, 28 million books were distributed free of cost to every public school, and financial support was extended to 1.1 million girls in 15 low-literacy areas. These initiatives garnered support and appreciation from various donor organizations, including the World Bank. In addition to educational advancements, Chaudhry Pervez Elahi's notable achievements include the establishment of the Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology in Multan, the University of Gujrat in Gujrat, the Traffic Wardens system in Lahore, the introduction of the Rescue 1122 service in Punjab, and the implementation of the Lahore Ring Road Project.

Healthcare Policy 2002-2007 given by Chief Minister Pervaiz Illahi

People express gratitude to Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi for his high-level political and administrative support to the provincial assembly. They anticipate that increased interest from government agencies and

¹⁰ Shahnawaz, T., M. Khursheed, and M. W. Abbas. "Political Stability and Social Reforms in Punjab." *Pakistan* by (2020): 216-223.

¹¹ Khan, Imran, Ali Shan Shah, and Muhammad Azhar. "Political Stability and Institutionalization in Pakistan: An Overview of Major Political Developments during 2008-2016." *Review of Economics and Development Studies* 5, no. 1 (2019): 33-40

¹² Ibid.7

fundes as a result of this support will result in a successful coordination plan in high-priority sectors. The purpose of this cooperation is to improve Punjab's healthcare delivery system and offer high-quality medical care.

The health sector's authorities, led by Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, had complete backing for enacting changes and creating new capabilities to improve the efficacy and efficiency of healthcare services. The primary areas for donor support were prioritized at this time, allowing for efficient coordination to meet the goals that were established.

Over the past decade, the Health Department has received substantial contributions through various initiatives, with inputs now standardized and integrated into the system. Enhancing human resource development and capacity building has been made possible in large part by operational district health development centers, public health nursing schools, and regional nursing schools. While there are accomplishments in the health sector, they may be modest in number and scale, but they are nonetheless significant.

Planning, organizing, carrying out, and assessing initiatives to significantly improve human well-being present both opportunities and obstacles in the field of health. Punjab, the largest province in Pakistan with a population exceeding 80 million, constituting over 55% of the country's total population, presents both challenges and opportunities for further investment to enhance service delivery. The rest of the details of the establishment of different centers are given below in the table:

Rural areas health centers	287
TB clinics	61
Basic health units	2452
Dispensaries	1188
Sub health units	274
Maternity and peds center for their health	492
Health houses	22,000

Establishments of teaching hospitals and hospitals in the districts:

Teaching hospitals	17
DHQ hospitals	31
Different medical centers	129
THQ emergency clinics	85

Initiatives taken by Punjab Government for medical colleges and nursing Hospitals in Lahore:

Medical colleges	10
Nursing schools and colleges	10 schools and 2 colleges
Public health nursing schools	9(PHDC)
Paramedical schools	4

When Pervaiz Elahi's government took charge of the province, there was discontent within the medical community as they opposed the autonomy granted to medical institutions. In response, the Chief Minister promptly established the Justice Mujadid Mirza Commission and implemented various health plans under his supervision. Boards of directors, comprising prominent figures from society, were formed to ensure effective administrative, financial, and

developmental allocation, fostering collaboration between academia and decision-making processes.¹³

Reviving hospital emergency departments is the goal of Punjab's Strengthening of Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) strategy. For this reason, the Chief Minister kindly granted a grant of one billion rupees. In the first phase, the C&W Department is working with 14 tertiary hospitals to modernize their emergency departments. Concurrently, the Punjab Emergency Ambulance Services (PEAS), a noteworthy Lahore initiative with an overall budget of Rs. 69.03 million, has been introduced. Six centers have been constructed by the Health Department in the Lahore metropolitan area.

With an estimated project cost of Rs. 45.123 million, the Punjab Institute of Preventive Ophthalmology was founded in Lahore with the goal of reducing the prevalence of blindness in the area and offering qualified mid-level eye care professionals. An international non-governmental organization donated equipment valued at Rs. 24.029 million, while the Punjab government gave Rs. 21.049 million.

An incinerator has been erected at Children's Hospital, Lahore, to guarantee efficient hospital waste disposal. The Jinnah Burn and Reconstructive Surgery Center is being established in Lahore by the Punjab Government, led by the Chief Minister, in association with Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. At a total cost of Rs. 150 million, this center is the first of its sort in the public sector.

Three new medical schools have been constructed by the government, Sheikh Zayed Medical College in R.Y. Khan, Services Institutes of Medical Science (SIMS) in Lahore, and Sargodha Medical College in Sargodha, all under the direction of the Chief Minister. In addition, 150 additional self-accountability seats have been added to Punjab's medical schools. In addition, B.Sc. nursing programs were started in March 2004 at the recently founded School of Nursing at Jinnah Hospital in Lahore. After a 25-year hiatus, the Punjab Council has reopened medical colleges in the province. Among these are: • Sheikh Zayed Medical College, which has more than 100 seats in Rahimyar Khan.

- Services Institute of Medical Sciences has more than 150 seats available in Lahore.

These universities run their admissions processes entirely on their own dime. In addition, 160 seats have been assigned by the Punjab government to the already established medical institutions on a self-accountability basis. In addition to the 28 seats recently set aside for MBBS, a council was established to allot 21 seats in Punjab's impoverished areas for admission to medical colleges in Punjab for the 2006–07 academic year. Additionally, twelve spots have been reserved for candidates from the southern region in the BDS program for the same academic session. Furthermore, 12 seats have been allocated for the BDS program in the same academic session, specifically for candidates from the southern part of the province.

Health Sector Reforms Program from 2002-2007

Total budget of Health scheme in the era of CM Ch.Pervaiz Illahi	9 billion in the year of 2007 and increased to 23 billion further
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¹³ Shahnawaz, T., M. Khursheed, and M. W. Abbas. "Political Stability and Social Reforms in Punjab." *Pakistan* by (2020): 216-223.

The total amount of expenditures is spent on health development in 2002	850 billion was allocated and improvement also can be seen
Financed amount of health sector reforms	6.5 billion

Free Emergency Medical Services are available in Lahore, offering cost-free treatment to patients in emergency wards across the region. Services are provided by the Sir Ganga Emergency Ward, which is expected to cost Rs. 320 million when 100 more wards are built. At a cost of Rs. 340 million, the Lahore General Hospital's emergency ward is finished. The province's teaching hospital is included in the free medical services and facilities offered. The goal of Punjab's Strengthening of Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) program is to modernize emergency rooms in different hospitals around the province. A grant of Rs. 2 billion was kindly granted for this project by the former Chief Minister. Deserving patients can also receive free medical care.

Under the government of PML (Q), the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was initiated. Nursing colleges were established, and this program was introduced at Jinnah Hospital in Lahore with the aim of achieving excellence in nursing education, ultimately leading to improved patient care.¹⁴ To reduce despair and eliminate deaths due to intestinal diseases, the Roll Back Malaria Control Project was initiated at an absolute cost of Rs. 93.285 million. Tuberculosis is a growing threat, adversely affecting public health. To address this situation, the Health Department has committed to implementing the directly observed treatment short course as recommended by the government.

Comprehensive healthcare services are provided to both urban and rural populations, including: Immunization for women and children, Malaria surveillance and treatment, and Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) at people's homes. The Endeavor Project, initiated with support from the Asian Development Bank, has been allocated a one-time budget of Rs. 1200 million. The objective was to establish access to regenerative health services and develop a comprehensive healthcare infrastructure to enhance human resources capabilities for initiating family planning services in eight districts of Punjab, including Bhawalpur, Multan, Sargodha, Gujranwala, etc.

The Punjab province's Health Department, working with the Asian Development Bank, has started a project with a total budget of Rs. 239.845 million to lower the population growth rate from 2.22 to 1.8 during the next five years. This project is presently in progress in several important Punjabi areas.

Schooling Area:

Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's Tutoring Policy 2002-2007

During his government tenure, he announced a concerted effort to improve the education sector in the province, introducing several policies aimed at enhancing the education system.¹⁵ Thanks

¹⁴ Bansal, Ravinder Nath, and Meenakshi Malhotra. "Job Satisfaction in Government Teaching Hospitals: A Case Study of Medical College at Punjab." *Ind J of Science and Technology* 9 (2016): 25.

¹⁵ Singh, Sukhwinder, and Raminder Singh. "Adequacy of Financing of School Education in Punjab." *International*

to these effective policies, there was a notable improvement in the literacy rate. In 2002, the literacy rate was above 40 percent, and by 2007, it had risen to above 60%. This marked a significant achievement during his time in office.

- The employment rate witnessed a rise from 45% in 2002 to a notable improvement of 70% by 2007.
- To address the issue of school permissions and reduce the dropout rate, the Punjab Government has implemented the Punjab Guidance Territory Change Program.

FISCAL YEAR 2007-08	FACILITIES PROVIDED
Colleges	140
Colleges	90 upgraded at cost of Rs.2500 million
Training	2000 lecturers
Resource Allocation	18.52 Billion for 558 new schemes
School Education	3.46 Billion
Education Reform Program	2 Billion & 50 crore
Higher Education Program	1 billion 45 crores 93 lacs
Education Reform Program for colleges	2.5 billion
Public University	4 Billion granted

Ambulance services 1122 in Punjab

An Initiative for the welfare of people from the start, launched through the provincial department of Health later on given up to the Planning and Development Department. 14 of the ambulances were given under this initiative. Their approach code is 1122 one can call for an emergency.

- A plan named as “PUNJAB EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES” was introduced by the government of Ilahi.
- One head office and five sub-stations will operate 24 hours each day, and the head office associated with the ambulances through far off the association.
- Two recovery vehicles and other stuff were also provided.
- They are going to give a response as soon as possible, time and the minimum time is seven minutes.
- Staff planning and office set up also provided.
- A project being wandered into other colossal metropolitan regions.

During Ch. Pervaiz Elahi's government, significant measures were taken to establish a dedicated office for government assistance to special individuals, with ample resources allocated to provide improved facilities for them. Noteworthy aspects of these initiatives include:

- Provision of hearing aids
- Distribution of wheelchairs
- Access to educational books
- Availability of pick-and-drop transportation.
- Compensation of Rs. 200/- per month for support.

Following endeavors have also been set up during the years of 2005-2006:

- Digital Libraries
- Computer Laboratories
- Low vision living spaces
- Audiological focuses
- Provision of teaching help
- Provision of specific assistance and cash-related assistance to extraordinarily enlightening established in the private zone.

CONCLUSION

The province of Punjab is densely populated. Its advantages include a robust agricultural sector, a thriving industrial base, and a relatively well-developed infrastructure.

Additionally, Punjab has a higher literacy rate and better access to healthcare facilities, contributing to overall human development. These factors, coupled with its central location, have made Punjab a key contributor to Pakistan's economic growth and development, making it stand out among the country's provinces.

The PML-Q government initiated various infrastructure projects, including road networks and public transportation systems, which improved connectivity and accessibility within the province. The Lahore Ring Road is a notable example of such a project.

Under Pervaiz Ilahi's leadership, for the first time since independence, quality of governance and infrastructure increased in Punjab. PMLQ gave initiatives and policies in different sectors of developmental projects of province specially in field of education and health. The period witnessed robust economic growth in Pakistan, with GDP growth rates averaging around 6% annually. Despite certain developments, there were concerns about economic and educational inequity, with disparities between urban and rural areas and different income groups remaining largely unaddressed particularly Southern Punjab.

In summary, the PML-Q's tenure in Punjab from 2002 to 2007 had a mixed impact on the province's development. While there were notable infrastructure and education reforms, it was also a period marked by political instability and economic challenges.

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