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Political Parties Shaping and Influencing the Political Culture in Pakistan: Analyzing the Role of Accountability

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Abstract: Corruption is a major hindrance to Pakistan's political and economic development; it is a core blemish in the country's political and societal structures. This study analyzes the impact of accountability and political parties' contribution to the molding of political culture through thematic analysis, correlation, regression, and mediation analysis. Survey respondents largely agreed that corruption hinders good governance and development, and there were sharply disagreed views on whether political parties facilitate or reflect the extent of corruption in society. These perceptions were statistically substantiated. Correlation analysis reveals that political parties (PP) lie on one side; on the other side, they lack accountability (LAc) and political culture (PC) and show strong links. In other words, LAc acts as a go-between for PP and PC. Regression results indicated that political parties directly ($B = 0.767$, $p = 0.000$) and indirectly ($B = 0.159$, $p = 0.000$), through lacking accountability, do affect the level of political culture. Sobel's test ($p = 0.00000005$) supported the mediating role of accountability, implying its important role in political culture. The result matches what we know about existing literature, which shows that weak institutions aggravate corruption. This study presents empirical evidence for these relationships, quantifies it, and affirms the urgent need for policy interventions. Strengthening institutional accountability, electoral reforms, transparency in political financing, and judicial mechanisms should be implemented to address corruption and promote a transparent political culture. Solving these challenges is crucial for promoting democratic governance and realizing sustainable development in Pakistan.
Keywords: Political Parties, Corruption, Accountability, Political Culture, Governance, Pakistan

1. Introduction

According to researchers Almond and Verba (1963), political culture refers to the basic attitudes and values that govern and make sense of political life in any democracy. The role of political parties heavily influences political culture in Pakistan, which deals with many forms of political interference and poor institutions despite its history of democratic ups and downs. These political groups act as more than just election participants because they create public standards while setting government frameworks and enjoying the state's highest authority (Rosenbluth & Shapiro, 2018). Papadopoulos (2014) concluded that the outcome of parties promoting democratic culture mainly depends on strong transparency systems. This work studies how political parties modify political culture in Pakistan by analyzing their direct and indirect connections with accountability systems.

The political system in Pakistan takes the form of a multi-party setup where PTI, PML-N, and PPP lead the electoral scene, according to Wu and Ali (2020). These parties successfully bring voters together while presenting defined public policy goals and working for many groups in society, according to Kriesi (2013). The political parties struggle to improve the political culture because internal problems and weak government controls stand in their way (Pillay & Kluvers, 2014). The political climate in Pakistan shows how well or poorly political institutions support their political parties, according to Ziring (2019).

Different mechanisms, such as court reviews and media reporting, help political parties stay truthful to democratic rules and help society (Scholte, 2011). Their inability to keep democratic systems strong in Pakistan prevents political parties from leading successful democracy-building (Akhtar, 2013). People often question the legitimacy of elections because vote fraud and suppression occur regularly while they doubt the political

impartiality of the courts, according to Greenstein (2021). Pakistan's media and civil groups face substantial hurdles that block their ability to control political parties because authorities block and threaten them, and they must manage limited resources (Edwards, 2009). These limits weaken how people trust their political systems (Hetherington, 2005).

Political parties and accountability mechanisms rely on each other for power movements, as described by Duggan and Martinelli (2017). Political parties drive accountability system growth when they control parliament and executive branches, according to Speijcken (2011). Through their actions, political parties respond to accountability mechanisms that either strengthen or weaken democratic principles, according to Papadopoulos (2014). Political parties follow fair election rules and make their activities open to everyone when strong monitoring systems exist, according to research by McGee & Gaventa in 2011. When accountability mechanisms prove weak, they let corrupt officials stay unchecked and create belief problems in society (Ghazavi, 2021).

This article studies the direct and indirect relationship between accountability systems and how political parties change Pakistan's political values. It recognizes these key issues as worthy of study.

i. What harmful effects does corruption have on our community, and what policies would successfully stop this problem?

ii. How do political parties help reduce or increase corruption? Could you please share your perspective on this issue?

Our research studies political parties and accountability systems to help international parties develop effective political governance methods in Pakistan. This study provides valuable information about what can help Pakistan better manage democratic governance. Even after democratic periods, Pakistan continues to face political disorder and lacks effective governance systems, as Norris (2012) reported. Party leaders who lead democratic government systems have essential duties to overcome these problems, according to research by Daly and Jones (2020). Their power to make a difference in Pakistan depends heavily on how well accountability systems can control their authority. Analyzing the relationship between political parties and accountability structures shows us when they support better democratic participation.

The article follows this structure.

The first part of the article introduces its main ideas.

This section reviews study materials that exist currently. The paper is broken down into three parts: an overview of Pakistan's political culture, including its main features and how it has changed over time; the role of political parties in shaping this culture, with a focus on their strengths and weaknesses; the role of accountability mechanisms, such as electoral, judicial, and media oversight, in limiting the power of political parties; and the challenges and opportunities for strengthening accountability mechanisms in Pakistan, using examples from other democracies to help guide the research.

iii. This research study uses thematic analysis methods to study the qualitative part of this article.

iv. This research study reveals how corruption works between Pakistan's political organizations.

v. The researcher combines the results to provide professionals and administrators with an explanation that suggests policy solutions.

How well Pakistani political parties work today depends primarily on how effective systems check their power. This research investigates how political culture develops in Pakistan and proposes ways to make its political system more democratic and inclusive.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Political Culture in Pakistan

Pakistan's politics show easy and hard changes because different groups with different beliefs and backgrounds have formed its political culture (Kukreja, 2020). These mental patterns affect Pakistan's political practices (Burlacu, 2013). The traditional and modern aspects of Pakistan's social environment influence its political culture, according to Bose and Jalal (2022). Feudal power and tribal traditions keep shaping politics, mainly in rural communities, according to Devine (2018). The development of cities and schools across the nation creates a rising desire for democratic leadership and responsible government (Jiboye, 2011).

According to Ziring (2019), Pakistan underwent multiple political system changes. The bureaucracy and military leaders ruled Pakistan after 1947 by overpowering formal democratic procedures (Khan et al., 2021). Fiaz and Nawaz (2023) show how Zulfikar Ali Bhutto created populist politics during the 1970s that appealed to the people but also deepened political divisions. After Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf took control, both leaders linked their military rule to Islamic principles and blocked people from expressing political dissent

(Haider & Zaheer, 2023).

Religion, particularly Islam, plays a central role in Pakistan's political culture (Zubair, Raza, & Islam, 2022). Many Pakistani leaders use the title of Islamic republic to support their rule, yet conflicts arise between secular and religious power factions (Miles, 2009). How people from the Punjabi, Sindhi, Baloch, and Pashtun areas see themselves always touches politics because it affects who gets resources and political power in Waseem 2022. The active participation of citizens in social media and civil society has started to modify Pakistan's political values (Karamat & Farooq, 2020). Teenagers across Pakistan are advocating for democracy by challenging powerful organizations (McGee & Gaventa, 2011). According to Diamond (1999), corruption, along with weak institutions and military control, stops Pakistan from creating stable political habits.

2.2 Role of Political Parties in Shaping Political Culture

The Pakistani political scene depends heavily on the role of political parties, as they connect the state with citizens, according to Rahim's research of 2023. They help people express their views while representing their needs to governments and contribute to decision-making, as Béland et al. (2018) reported. The functioning of political parties remains weak because system errors create bottlenecks between party members and organization structures, according to Edelman et al. (2011). The political parties of Pakistan represent the diverse social and ethnic communities effectively, according to Ziring's 2019 research. Both the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) traditionally represent specific areas and communities, helping marginalized groups to share their problems (Rahim, 2023). Rural areas in Sindh and farmers endorse the PPP, whereas the PML-N leads nationwide from Punjab province (Ali, 2023). The geographic representation system helps bring different regions into politics, despite the fragmented political structure in the country (Benvenisti & Downs, 2007).

Despite these strengths, political parties in Pakistan face significant challenges. Parties surrender much influence when they use the power of related family members. Using familial influence has damaged the party's democratic process and stopped fresh leadership from taking over (Nishizaki, 2022). People criticize PPP and PML-N because family leaders in both parties maintain their power instead of promoting democratic representation and accountability, according to Mahmood (2022). According to Feldman and Johnston (2014), members of the Pakistani political system suffer from a lack of defined beliefs and erratic policy actions. Although PTI claimed to be a reformist and anti-corruption party, it failed to meet its governance promises (Hussain, 2022). Political institutions have lost trust among citizens because different parties fail to keep their promises reliably (Citrin & Stoker, 2018).

The Pakistani military regularly controls and restricts political parties since they pose a threat to its ruling position (Rafiq, 2022). Military interference has caused several unstable periods while decreasing civilian leaders' power in governance (Harkness, 2016). Under the Musharraf rule, political parties lost their democratic function because the regime coerced them to submit and took over their operations (Amjad, 2020). Bennett (2012) writes that emerging political movements and social media now disturb classic party structures. Young people want parties to show their actions and be responsible for their decisions, so political organizations must change with the times (Rosenbluth & Shapiro, 2018). The growth cripples when bad leadership combined with weakened administration processes and foreign intervention blocks a proper democratic political environment's development (Okafor et al., 2020).

2.3 Role of Accountability Mechanisms in Mediating Political Party Influence

Political parties affect Pakistan through accountability systems that watch government performance in free elections, courts, and media outlets (Kureshi, 2022). These systems help the government work honestly and boost democratic administration nationwide (Vian, 2020). Systematic problems and political control mainly limit the effectiveness of these mechanisms, according to Andrews's study in 2013. Through regular elections, people and voters get to make political parties and leaders responsible for their actions as part of standard democratic governance, according to Lockwood and Krönke (2021).

The Election Commission of Pakistan ensures that elections in Pakistan happen somewhat and without problems. Though progress has occurred, like adding biometric voting systems, the election system still deals with concerns about vote tampering, voter threats, and campaign funds manipulation, per Afolabi's study (2020). When these issues exist, the public stops trusting the voting system, and the system loses its ability to do its job effectively (Papadopoulos, 2014).

Judicial regulation serves as an important aspect of accountability enforcement in Pakistan. According to Doulos and Thachuk (2000), the Supreme Court makes elected officials of Pakistan and political parties

answerable for dishonesty. In 2017, the Supreme Court proved its ability to enforce accountability by removing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from his position, according to the Panama Papers scandal (Corsi, 2018). People doubt the judiciary's independence because they believe it loses autonomy under political and military effects (Clark, 2010). Due to these limitations, the organization struggles to function as a fair decision-maker in political conflicts.

Media monitoring has become essential to building better political leadership in Pakistan (Jamil, 2021). Private TV stations, social media outlets, and newspapers generate an intense public debate that people can participate in freely (Giroux, 2011). Through investigative journalism, the public learns how political parties and leaders fail to govern correctly and mistreat people, which makes them face public oversight (Starkman, 2014). The media situation in Pakistan faces critical difficulties today. Reporters who cover military affairs and religious extremism often face dangerous harassment and suppression, as confirmed by Jamil (2020). The spreading of misinformation through biased media outlets makes it harder to report news truthfully (Bauer, Nadler, & Nelson, 2022).

These accountability tools show weak results because fundamental problems block their effectiveness. According to Wagner (2009), political organizations regularly find ways to remain unaccountable even though weak law enforcement allows them to do this. Traditional military meddling in politics threatens the ability of civilian institutions to fulfill their responsibility for accountability (Johnson, 2015).

Many people now want complete reforms to improve how officials are held responsible in Pakistan. The authors (Bibi & Khan, 2022) suggest improving ECP independence, better court transparency, and defense of press freedom to build accountability. Civil organizations and outside stakeholders work to improve accountability, but their progress faces opposition from government officials and slow-moving institutions (Hirschmann, 2021).

2.4 Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Accountability Mechanisms in Pakistan

Developing effective accountability systems in Pakistan will help build democratic rule and shrink corruption problems (Faisal & Jafri, 2017). The nation deals with significant accountability difficulties yet still has chances to improve according to how other democratic governments handle these problems (Bedock, 2017). The Pakistani government struggles to establish effective control because the military maintains significant power in political affairs (Shah, 2014). Through past interventions in civilian affairs, the military weakened the independence of officials in charge of accountability, including the Pakistani judges and the Election Commission of Pakistan. Impunity has become standard practice because political leaders and institutions avoid appropriate investigation (Harrison & Pukallus, 2021). To strengthen civilian control, Pakistan can adopt democratic reforms similar to those of Indonesia, as explained in Shah's 2014 paper.

Holding bodies responsible for accountability faces the issue of insufficient resources and ability from their institutions. The National Accountability Bureau has faced criticism across Pakistan because its personnel enforce laws and treat suspects selectively (Shaikh & Khan, 2023). Actual institutional development must combine more training funds with efforts to keep officials unbiased. The government of India granted greater autonomy to CBI, which serves as a model for Pakistan to follow, according to Chetty and Pillay (2017).

The development of electoral reforms creates one vital way to make leaders more responsible. People accuse elections in Pakistan of manipulation and both fear tactics because politicians buy votes (Asif et al. 2021). Pakistan should adopt voting system and campaign finance practices from Canada and Australia to create transparent elections alongside effective voter identification (Brown et al. 2020). These changes in election practices would boost voter faith in the democratic system and make political parties answer to the people they represent.

The process of holding judges responsible must undergo significant improvements. Despite occasional successful attempts for the judiciary to hold political leaders accountable its work remains limited because of interference from politicians and military officials. (Khan, 2021). Researching South Africa's independent judiciary and well-trusted judicial system offers Pakistan meaningful information for expansion (Mehmood, 2020). To build better justice practices Pakistan needs to create oversight boards and use performance benchmarks to evaluate its judges. Strong media supervision helps ensure proper accountability. The Pakistani media has evolved into a more active and critical force in current years yet journalists regularly endure risk and surveillance (Jamil, 2021). The laws in Sweden and Norway regarding press freedom serve as examples for Pakistan to adopt and develop such framework to protect journalists and maintain factual reporting accuracy (Kumar, 2022).

Accountability alongside transparency depends on the fundamental role of CSOs. Organizations of Civil Society in Pakistan serve to implement governance reforms and educate people about these changes (Rosilawati,

Rafique, Nikku, & Habib, 2018). The work of CSOs is limited by two main challenges: political resistance and insufficient funding. Civil society organizations in Pakistan should implement model strategies similar to those used by Brazilian non-governmental entities in anti-corruption initiatives (Bhargava, Elmendorf, Gray, Kafka, Ritchie, & Little, 2019). Pakistan faces significant challenges in building accountability systems yet opens paths for reform initiatives (Zakir, Iqbal, Khan, & Ahmad, 2023). Establishing powerful autonomous institutions can offer Pakistan expertise from other democratic nations, as described by Siaroff (2022). Our future depends on transparency, which requires political support, public support, and international partnership to become democratic (Fung, 2015).

3. Data Analysis: Thematic Analysis

Table 1: Respondents and Coding

No.	Respondents Profession	Total	Code
1	Political Parties' Leadership	10	A-1; A-2 (PTI); A-3; A-4 (JUI); A-5; A-6 (ANP); A-7; A-8 (PPP); A-9; A-10 (PML-N).
2	Academia	05	B-1; B-2; B-3; B-4; B-5.
3	Journalists	05	C-1; C-2; C-3; C-4; C-5

The letters A-1 through A-10 refer to the ten Political Party Leaders, B-1 through B-5 to Academia (High-Respected Teachers), and C-1 through C-5 to Journalists. The tables present data in two rows and three columns: the left column covers basic semi-structured interview questions, the center column contains respondent responses, and the right column shows interpretations.

Table 2: Qualitative data analysis design

Questions:	i. What harmful effects does corruption have on our community, and what policies would successfully stop this problem? ii. How do political parties help reduce or increase corruption? Could you please share your perspective on this issue?
Selected Respondents' responses	A1: "Corruption threatens society. Micro and macro corruption prevents a nation from progressing." "Most political parties and their leadership are corrupt and do not consider it is a threat to society." A4: "Yes, no one will support corrupt practices." "I do not think political parties allow corruption, but it is a national issue. Our entire civilization is corrupt." A6: Corruption is societal and political. Authentically address it. Slogans are insufficient." "Political parties are to blame for allowing and engaging in corruption. Not true." A7: "Yes. The catchphrase is everywhere. Everyone discusses it, but no one practices it." "No. Political parties are vulnerable. People attack political parties without evidence. Our civilization includes political parties. If society is corrupt, what should we do? People should not elect crooked politicians. One of the solutions." A10: "Eliminate corruption from our society." "Political parties do not tolerate corruption in the party or government." B4: "Of indeed. This is the only distinction between developed and developing nations. In affluent countries, corruption is a threat, but it is a way to get money in our society." "Political parties enable these practices because they engage in money laundering, kickbacks, and other unlawful earnings." C5: "Yes, it is a threat that society must address. Society should address the issue, not just the government." "Most political parties and politicians are crooked and

	support corruption. Political parties are largely accountable for corruption since they both commit and encourage it."
Interpretation	Corruption permeates Pakistan's government, courts, police, health system, and education. **Political corruption occurs when officials or their allies utilize their power for personal gain. Corrupt government officials damage our trust in their ability to safeguard citizens. They waste the money we pay in taxes and fees for local projects, forcing us to use substandard products or facilities. Corruption causes inefficiency and injustice. It may indicate that the government doesn't care about the public or is inefficient at channeling vested interests.**
Final Theme	Pakistan's deep-rooted social and political corruption impedes progress, with varied viewpoints on whether political parties encourage or reflect it.

Discussion on Corruption and the Role of Political Parties

Typically, most individuals hold the position that corruption is an obstacle to societal advancement and national growth. Government, economic development, and social equity experience deep fundamental effects from corruption. Participants recognized corruption as a major issue while having different inquiries about political parties' actions to prevent or cause such problems.

Corruption as a Societal Menace

According to the survey participants, society suffers from corruption at multiple tiers. A1 says, "Corruption threatens society. A nation can never reach progress when both micro and macro corruption exist. People have proven through this observation that corruption distorts how individuals and institutions behave. The dispute becomes more complex due to corruption at the individual and local government levels as well as at the national level of governance and policy development. Governmental efforts to combat corruption involve enforcing laws rigorously, promoting public awareness, and establishing ethical leadership.

In the opinion of A6, corruption is both social and political. Authentically address it. Slogans are insufficient." The response deems current anti-corruption approaches ineffective because they remain at the surface level. A sincere strategy and practical steps form the basis for corruption reform despite institutional or political condemnations of the practice. When law enforcement officials fail to enforce corruption-related policies, the public views these programs as empty statements. According to Respondent C5, society is leading in addressing corruption since it exists beyond governmental realms. Society should tackle this problem, whereas government responsibility remains limited. This philosophy avoids focusing on particular entities because it recognizes how corruption spreads through nations with social values that accept immoral conduct.

Political Parties and Corruption: Accusations and Defenses

Political parties serve as the center of attention when discussing societal corruption problems. Different people take different stands regarding political parties being dishonest and receiving discrimination. According to A1, political organizations and their governing bodies are primarily corrupt since their leaders fail to recognize corruption as a societal threat. Political representatives choose party gain and individual interest over the nation's well-being. Public trust deteriorates because political corruption scandals make people believe officeholders use their power for personal gain. According to Respondent A6, political parties give permission and participate in corrupt activities. Not true." The society holds political parties responsible for most corruption cases at the systemic level. Political parties remain exposed to attack, according to the views of A7. The public launches attacks on political parties based on nonexistent information. Our civilization includes political parties. How should we act when society proves itself corrupt? Both responses show corruption infects every part of society beyond its influence on political processes.

Some research participants indicate that political parties intentionally approve of corruption. B4 claims that political organizations permit these practices given their role in corrupt activities, which include money laundering and kickbacks followed by other illegal money streams. Participant C5 notes that political groups and their leadership maintain corruption and advocate tainted practices. Elected politicians establish noisy alliances with defective political parties, which makes them mainly responsible for existing corruption problems. The criticism indicates that governance institutions allow widespread distribution of corruption throughout the system.

Corruption in the Context of Developed and Developing Nations

The only difference between corruption in countries that can be described as developed or developing is the main focus of B4. Underdeveloped nations face threats from corruption, yet in our society, money represents the main incentive for such acts. The statement reveals that certain cultures accept corruption, creating obstacles to removal. Developing countries utilize corruption as a basic survival method throughout their political realms, government departments, and merchant activities. Fewer corruption occurs in industrialized countries because these societies use extensive systems for maintaining accountability.

Solutions and the Way Forward

The survey subjects acknowledge corruption as a significant problem while sure participants offer possible solutions. Respondent A7 believes that democracy can address the issue when he says, "Elections should not elect corrupt politicians. One of the solutions." The responsibility of voters enables them to seek truthful leaders and implement accountability requirements. Corruption within countries harms election operations, making voting reforms almost impossible to implement. According to Respondent A10, "Society must eliminate the issue of corruption in its entirety." This declaration reveals broad agreement regarding fighting corruption but fails to establish specific ways. According to witness A4, "Everyone without exception rejects the practice of corruption," he declared. People recognize corruption as a common problem, but collective action remains essential to eradication.

A complex array of perspectives exists regarding the analysis of corruption combined with political parties. Most respondents agree that corrupt practices impede the nation's advancement. Some observers understand that political parties cause corruption, yet others view them as evidence of societal corruption. According to the gathered data, multiple approaches constitute the required solution to combat corruption. Institutes must be strengthened to implement severe rules with transparent systems and encourage accountability measures. Implementing preventive measures against corruption needs political parties, public social values, and active community engagement. Preventing corruption requires actions from every social level together with mere verbal discussions.

4. Data Analysis: Mediation Analysis

Mediating Effects of Corruption and the Role of Political Parties in Pakistan

4. 1: Demographic Overview of the Study Sample

Table 3: List of Respondents

Variable		Frequency	%	μ	s
Gender	**Male**	**292**	**64.2**	**1.36**	**.480**
	Female	**163**	**35.8**		
Residence	**Urban**	**230**	**50.5**	**1.49**	**.501**
	Rural	**225**	**49.5**		
Age	**Below 40 years**	**235**	**51.6**	**1.66**	**.762**
	Between 40-55	**139**	**30.5**		
	Above 55 years	**81**	**17.8**		
Education	**12 years education**	**28**	**6.2**	**2.65**	**.656**
	Upto 12 years education	**120**	**26.4**		
	Upto 16 years education	**289**	**63.5**		
	M. Phil/Ph.D.	**18**	**4.0**		

The survey included 455 participants, with 64.2% being male and 35.8% female. According to survey data, the respondents between the ages of forty and fifty-five accounted for 30.5% of the total respondents. (49.5%) of participants were from rural areas and (50.5%) from urban areas. Participants under forty constituted 51.6% of the total survey population. The participants who completed 16 years of schooling constituted the largest group at 63.5% of the sample. The sample contained fewer (4.0%) and more educated respondents (26.4%).

4.2 Correlation and Regression Analysis

Table 4: Statistical Analysis Summary

Analysis Type	Variable	PP	LAc	PC	df	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Correlation	**PP**	1.00	0.907**	0.841 **					
	LAc	0.907 **	1.00	0.939 **					
	PC	0.841 **	0.939 **	1.00					
ANOVA	**Regression**				2	259.770	129.885	1681.412	0.000
	Residual				452	34.916	0.077		
	Total				454	294.686			
Regression	**(Constant)**	0.458						3.322	0.001
	PP	0.159	0.029	0.213				5.016	0.000
	LAc	0.743	0.045	0.792				18.244	0.000

Note: p < 0.01 (2-tailed significance).

Correlation Analysis

H_{01}: Political Parties are not significant associated with the Political Culture in Pakistan.

A correlation matrix shows that Political Parties and Lack of Accountability share significant positive connections, demonstrating a strong positive relationship with Political Culture. The authors determined that political parties share a significant relationship with LAc (r =.907, p <.01) together with PC (r =.841, p <.01), while LAc exhibits a similarly strong connection with PC (r =.939). The author dismissed the null hypothesis because the results demonstrated that the connection between political parties and accountability affects political culture.

Regression Analysis and Mediation Effects

H_2: Political Parties and Lack of Accountability significant influences the Political Culture of Pakistan.

The analysis shows that PP and LAc explain a significant amount of PC variation because the regression model achieved a high ANOVA value with F = 1681.412 (p < .001).

The coefficient table reveals further analytical points.

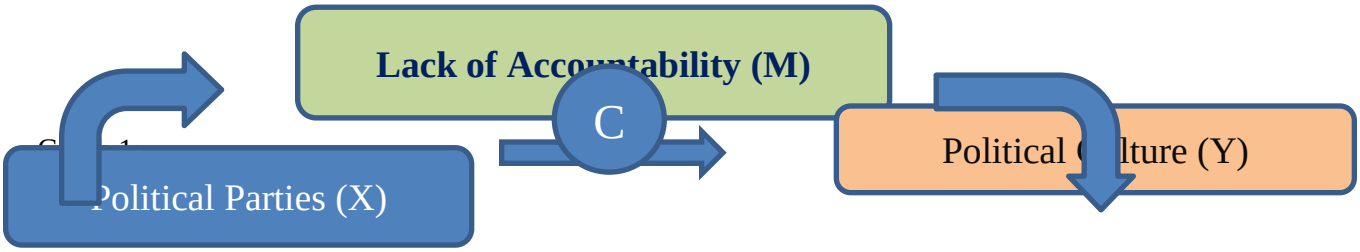
The unstandardized coefficients indicate that PP (B = .159, p < .001) along with LAc (B = .743, p < .001) produce significant effects on PC levels.

The political culture effect of lack of accountability emerges stronger than participation levels based on Beta values where LAc (.792) exceeds PP (.213).

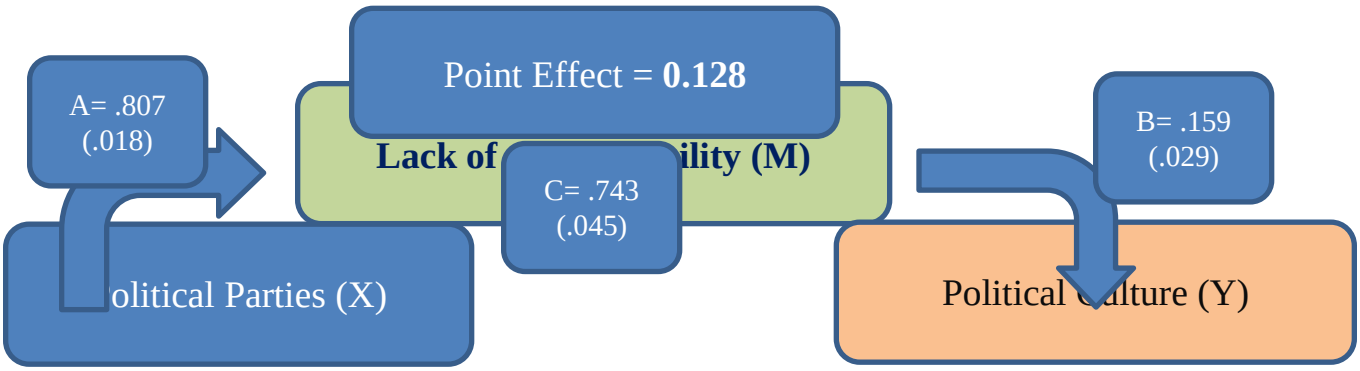
The presented results allow the author to reject the initial hypothesis.

4.3 Mediating role of Corruption and role of Political Parties in shaping Political Culture in Pakistan

The study analyzed the statistical significance of the indirect link between these variables (paths A * B).



H_3: The effect between Political Parties and Political Culture could not be mediated by the Lack of Accountability.



Graph 2: Mediation effects after analysis

Table 5: Mediation Analysis Summary: Political Parties, Political Culture, and Lack of Accountability

Analysis Type	Variable	B (Unstandardized Coeff.)	Std. Error	Beta (Standardized Coeff.)	t	Sig.
Regression: X → Y (Direct Effect)	(Constant)	0.627	0.069		9.060	0.000
	Political Parties (PP)	0.767	0.023	0.841	33.122	0.000
Regression: X → M (Path A)	(Constant)	0.461	0.053		8.778	0.000
	Political Parties (PP)	0.807	0.018	0.907	45.941	0.000
Regression: X & M → Y (Path B & C)	(Constant)	0.458	0.048		3.322	0.001
	Political Parties (PP)	0.159	0.029	0.213	5.016	0000
	Lack of Accountability (LAc)	0.743	0.045	0.792	18.244	0.000
Indirect Effect Calculation	Path A (PP → LAc)	0.807	0.018			
	Path B (LAc → PC)	0.159	0.029			
	Indirect Effect (A × B)	0.1283	-			
Sobel Test Results	Test Statistic	5.4422	-			
	Std. Error	0.00000003	-			
	p-value (Two-tailed)	0.00000005	-			

- The p-value reaches 0.00000005 below the significance threshold of 0.05, which makes the indirect effect statistically significant.

- Evidence shows that Lack of Accountability is a substantial intermediary force connecting Political Parties and Political Culture. The null hypothesis is rejected.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

Pakistan faces severe corruption problems that damage its political system and social establishment. Political parties facilitate or block corrupt activities as primary governance bodies that make policies. This research analyzed Pakistani political culture transformations due to political parties through correlation analysis, regression analysis, and examination of mediation effects. The investigation presents detailed insights into the simultaneous effects between political parties, accountability, and political culture.

5.1 Thematic Analysis: Corruption and Political Parties

Numerous survey respondents agreed that corruption poses a significant danger to Pakistani society. Many participants noted how corruption obstructs Pakistan's national development and government effectiveness. Most survey participants supported that political parties make corruption possible, yet other respondents suggested that parties merely represent widespread societal corruption. The data reveals that political parties practice corruption, including money laundering and kickbacks because these activities cause systemic corruption. Some respondents maintained that corruption represents a national concern beyond political party boundaries since citizens vote for corrupt politicians. Society's fragmented views about corruption practices demonstrate the intricate character of accountability systems in Pakistan.

5.2 Statistical Analysis and Key Findings

5.2.1 Correlation Analysis

The analysis of correlations indicated that political parties (PP) displayed a strong partnership with a lack of accountability (LAc) yet also showed a strong connection between both political culture (PC) components.

The mutual relationship between political parties and lack of accountability reaches 0.907 when measured by correlation ($p < 0.01$). This underscores the substantial impact of political parties on accountability weakness.

Political parties maintain a strong interdependence relationship ($r = 0.841$, $p < 0.01$) with political culture.

Accountability was the most influential factor affecting political culture ($r = 0.939$, $p < 0.01$) due to its strong correlation with PC.

Lack of accountability is an essential factor, which, based on these statistical findings, explains how political parties affect political culture.

5.2.2 Regression Analysis

- The regression analysis confirms these findings through statistical results.
- An analysis of political parties and lack of accountability as variables showed a strong connection through significant contribution to overall variances ($F = 1681.412$, $p = 0.000$).
- Based on this study, political parties function as major direct drivers of political culture ($B = 0.767$, $p=0.000$).
- Political parties demonstrated a significant effect on producing a lack of accountability ($B = 0.807$, $p = 0.000$), which then affected political culture ($B = 0.159$, $p = 0.000$).

5.2.3 Mediation Analysis

The Sobel test proved the mediation effect of the absence of accountability on political party influences on political culture. The results:

- Test Statistic: 5.4422
- Standard Error: 0.00000003
- p-value (Two-tailed): 0.00000005

The results show that lack of accountability has a partial mediation effect on the relationship between political parties and political culture because the p-value is much lower than 0.05. The effects of political parties on political culture become more pronounced because unaccountable political systems degrade political conditions.

5.2.4 Comparison with Existing Literature

The literature shows that corruption and diminished accountability damage democratic institutions, which blocks development progress (Index, 2022). According to Acemoglu and Robinson (2013), incompetent institutions make it easier for ruling elites to manipulate governance systems to their advantage. Norris and

Inglehart (2019) maintain that developing nations' political cultures form primarily because of governance quality and institutional accountability, as Huntington (2006) describes. The research results validate prior publications because unregulated corruption increases while political culture declines. The research adds value to scholarship by using quantitative analysis to confirm that political parties drive the formation of political culture through their responsibility systems.

5.2.5 Policy Implications

The research findings lead to multiple essential guidelines on which policy should be implemented.

1. Freeing antitotalitarian institutions from political manipulation improves governance practices.
2. Voter education programs need to prioritize the selection of leaders who maintain honesty and accountability in the electoral system.
3. Strict monitoring of how political parties use their funds and make expenditures can reduce corruption opportunities.
4. The judicial and bureaucratic systems need stronger legal foundations to implement quick responses against corrupt political representatives and civil servants.

6. Conclusion

This research demonstrates that Pakistani political parties control their nation's political culture through accountability shortcomings as a key intermediate connector. The statistical test findings demonstrate the high variance connection between political parties and political culture and the indirect impact on these variables when political accountability increases. Accomplished political reform through antitrust measures must lead Pakistan toward a transparent democratic system.

Data Availability Statement

Request data supporting this study's findings from the corresponding author. Publishing data could compromise research participant privacy/consent.

Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest reported.

Ethics Standards

Human participants are safe in this study.

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