

The issue of Institution building in Afghanistan: A Challenge for the Taliban Government

Dr. Muhammad Tariq,

Lecturer Department of Political Science Hazara University Mansehra, KP Pakistan email:

Abstract

The issue of institution building in Afghanistan has been a critical and challenging issue for many years, as the country has struggled with instability, insecurity, and political fragmentation. With the recent takeover of the Taliban government in August 2021, the need for institution building has become more pressing, as the government seeks to establish a sustainable and inclusive political and economic system that can meet the needs of all Afghan citizens. This paper examines the various challenges and issues related to institution building in Afghanistan, including corruption, economic development, human rights, security, education, and healthcare. The paper also suggests potential solutions and recommendations for the Taliban government to consider, including addressing corruption, promoting economic development, protecting human rights, establishing a broad-based government, addressing security concerns, improving education and healthcare, and seeking international support. The findings of this paper suggest that institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging process that will require significant investment and sustained effort. However, with the right policies and strategies, it is possible to build strong and resilient institutions that can promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the country.

Key Words: Corruption, Healthcare, Security, Institution-building, Health-care

Introduction

Afghanistan has been war-stricken since 1979 when the Soviet forces intervened in Afghanistan followed by the American intervention in 2001. During this period, Afghanistan went through a quagmire resulting in many issues and challenges for the country. The fall of the Afghan government and the subsequent takeover by the Taliban in August 2021 has put the issue of institution building in Afghanistan in the spotlight once again. Institution building has been a challenge in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban government in 2001 (Ahadi, 2021). The country has been plagued by conflict and instability for decades, which has made it difficult to establish and sustain effective institutions (Barakat & Finkel, 2019). The purpose of this paper is to examine the issue of institution building in Afghanistan and the challenges faced by the Taliban government in this regard.

The long history of Afghanistan presents enough substance for conflict and instability. The country has been invaded and occupied by various foreign powers throughout its history, including the British, the Russians, and the Americans. But on all occasions, the people of Afghanistan have been able to regain their power and strength in the country. The Taliban government was in power from 1996 to 2001, during which they established a government that

sought very harsh and strict policies. The strict policies and measures adopted by them in the country were mainly responsible for their downfall. Their policies not only brought disorder amongst the people of Afghanistan but also invoked the vengeance of the international community that mainly talked in terms of human rights; violation. The Taliban was ousted from power in 2001 by a US-led coalition, and a new government was established in its place. The new democratic government that was installed in Afghanistan was faced with many challenges of political instability and institution building. Though democratic government had to function in the country for about twenty years yet no fruitful results could be produced since the Taliban overtook the country in August 2021 when some of the foreign troops were still there in Afghanistan to safeguard the key installations over there. However, since more than eighteen months have elapsed when the Taliban came to power yet they have not been able to focus on the key sectors and form a representative government that could resolve the issues of institutions-building in the country.

Institution building in Afghanistan

Institution building is the process of creating and strengthening institutions that are necessary for a functioning state. These institutions include the government, the judiciary, the military, and the police, among others. In Afghanistan, institution building has been a challenge since the fall of the Taliban government in 2001 (Kalyvas & Kocher, 2017). The country has been plagued by conflict and instability, which has made it difficult to establish and sustain effective institutions. The Afghan government has made some progress in institution building over the past two decades, but the process has been slow and uneven. The government has struggled to establish its authority outside of the capital city of Kabul, and corruption has been a major obstacle to effective governance. The judiciary has also been plagued by corruption and a lack of resources, which has undermined its credibility. The military and police forces have also faced significant challenges. The Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police have struggled to maintain security and control over the country. The security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated in recent years, with a rise in violence and attacks by the Taliban and other militant groups.

Challenges faced by the Taliban government

The Taliban government faces significant challenges in institution building. The group is widely viewed as an illegitimate regime by the international community, and many Afghans are skeptical of its ability to govern effectively (Karokhail, 2019). The Taliban government is also facing significant financial and economic challenges, with many foreign governments and international organizations withholding aid and assistance. The Taliban government has also inherited a weak and fragile state. The country's institutions have been damaged by years of conflict and corruption, and the Taliban will need to rebuild these institutions from scratch. The group will need to establish a functioning government, judiciary, military, and police force, among other institutions. But there is also no denying the fact that the Taliban came to power on their own strength and potentiality without taking anybody into consideration. It was their mere strength and dominating power that enabled them to grab power from the government but the most significant thing was ability to clinch power within a few days and did not face any resistance from nay quarter.

The issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging one. The country has been plagued by conflict and instability for decades, which has made it difficult to establish and sustain effective institutions. The Taliban government faces significant challenges in institution building, including rebuilding the country's institutions from scratch and addressing the issue of human rights (Rashid, 2020). The success of the Taliban government in addressing these challenges will have significant implications for the future stability and prosperity of Afghanistan.

The Taliban government will also need to address the issue of human rights. The group has a poor record on human rights, particularly with regard to women's rights and freedom of expression. During the previous regime of Taliban from 1996-2001 their imposition of strict policies with regard to women and girls compelled the regional and international community to intervene in Afghanistan and work for the restoration of human rights. The international community is closely watching the Taliban government's treatment of these issues, and any violations could have significant consequences for the group's legitimacy (Partow, 2019). Keeping in view the previous regime of the Taliban, the international regime has been trying that the government of Taliban should work for the smooth harmony of the country. The Taliban, on the other hand, should also keep in their mind their previous policies that brought about their downfall. Only a cooperative and accommodative government inclusive of all the actors in the country would mitigate the issues of the people and would result in peace and prosperity in the country.

Some of the key issues related to institution building that the Taliban government need to focus and pay attention for the betterment of the people will be to give top most priority to the establishment of a government that is broad-based and inclusive. Such a mechanism would be in better position to deliver a functioning government that can deliver stability and prosperity to the Afghan people (Sedra, 2020). This will not only help in redressing the problems of the people but would also save the country from further collapsing and instability. Some of the issues which the country is confronted with include corruption, economic development, human rights, and the establishment of a broad-based government.

Corruption

Corruption has been a major obstacle to effective governance in Afghanistan for many years. It has undermined the legitimacy of the government, eroded public trust, and led to the misallocation of resources. Corruption in Afghanistan is pervasive and affects all levels of government, from the highest levels of political leadership to local officials. Addressing corruption will be critical to the success of the Taliban government in building effective institutions.

Economic Development

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, and economic development will be critical to building a stable and prosperous future for the country. The Taliban government will need to prioritize economic development as a means of improving the lives of ordinary Afghans. This can help to build support for the government among the population and can reduce the risk

of conflict and instability. The government will need to focus on building infrastructure, creating jobs, and attracting foreign investment.

Human Rights

The issue of human rights is also a critical challenge facing the Taliban government. The group's past record on human rights is concerning, particularly with regard to women's rights and freedom of expression. The Taliban government must take steps to address these issues and to build support for the government among the international community. This will be critical for securing financial and economic assistance, which will be essential for the country's development. The Taliban government will need to work to ensure that all citizens, including women and minorities, have access to basic rights and freedoms.

Establishment of a broad-based government

The establishment of a broad-based government that is representative of all the country's different ethnic and religious groups will be critical for building support for the government among the population and reducing the risk of conflict and instability (Sohrabi, 2020). The Taliban government will need to work with different groups to establish a government that is inclusive and representative of all Afghans (Azimi, 2021). This will require dialogue, compromise, and a commitment to building a government that is responsive to the needs of all citizens.

The issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging one that requires a long-term, sustained effort. The Taliban government will need to address a range of issues related to corruption, economic development, human rights, and the establishment of a broad-based government. Addressing these challenges will require a commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance (Helmandi, 2021). For the achievement of a broad-based government, the regional actors and particularly the neighboring countries need to play their due role in strengthening the internal structure and mechanism to such an extent that no foreign force can intervene in Afghanistan. The role of the international community would be very critical in supporting the Taliban government in this effort, and it is important that all parties work together to achieve these important goals.

In addition to the issues of corruption, economic development, human rights, and the establishment of a broad-based government, there are several other key challenges that the Taliban government will need to address (Qiam, 2021) in order to build effective institutions in Afghanistan. These challenges include security, education, and healthcare.

Security

The issue of security is critical to building effective institutions in Afghanistan. The country has been plagued by violence and conflict for many years, and ensuring security will be essential for establishing a stable and functioning government (Zaman, 2022).. The Taliban government will need to work to address the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, unemployment, and the

lack of opportunities for young people. It will also need to work to build a capable and professional security force that can provide security for all citizens.

Education

Education is critical for the long-term development of the country, and the Taliban government will need to work to ensure that all citizens have access to quality education (World Bank, 2020).. This will require significant investment in the education system, including building schools, training teachers, and developing a curriculum that is relevant to the needs of Afghan society. The government will also need to work to ensure that girls and women have equal access to education.

Healthcare

Healthcare is another critical issue that the Taliban government will need to address in order to build effective institutions. Afghanistan has one of the lowest life expectancies in the world, and many Afghans lack access to basic healthcare services (Waldman, 2017). The Taliban government will need to invest in healthcare infrastructure, including building hospitals and clinics and training healthcare workers. It will also need to work to ensure that all citizens have access to basic healthcare services.

To address the various challenges of institution building in Afghanistan, the Taliban government can consider the following solutions and suggestions:

- Addressing corruption: The government should establish an anti-corruption commission to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption. It should also create a transparent and accountable procurement process to reduce opportunities for corruption.
- Promoting economic development: The government should prioritize infrastructure development, including building roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure. It should also focus on attracting foreign investment and creating jobs to stimulate economic growth.
- Protecting human rights: The government should take steps to protect the rights of all citizens, including women and minorities. It should work to promote freedom of expression and ensure that all citizens have access to basic human rights, including education, healthcare, and employment.
- Establishing a broad-based government: The government should work to establish an inclusive government that is representative of all ethnic and religious groups in the country. It should work to ensure that all citizens have a voice in the government and that the government is responsive to the needs of all citizens.
- Addressing security concerns: The government should work to address the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities. It should also build a professional and capable security force that can provide security for all citizens.
- Improving education: The government should invest in education infrastructure, including building schools and training teachers. It should also develop a curriculum that is relevant to the needs of Afghan society and work to ensure that girls and women have equal access to education.

- Improving healthcare: The government should invest in healthcare infrastructure, including building hospitals and clinics and training healthcare workers. It should also work to ensure that all citizens have access to basic healthcare services.
- Seeking international support: The government should work to engage with the international community and seek financial and technical assistance to support institution building efforts.

Addressing the issues of corruption from the country would be of great help in restoring the confidence of the regional and international actors. The establishment of anti-corruption courts and the system of accountability and transparency would other contributory factors for strengthening the internal edifice of the country. Promoting peace by giving women their rights for jobs and working in different institutions of the country and girls education would also avoid further deterioration of law and order situation in the country. Timely provision of healthcare facilities and education to all and sundry would also restore lost confidence of the people and would be great step in the institution building.

Findings

- The issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a long-standing challenge that has persisted since the fall of the Taliban government in 2001. The country has been plagued by conflict and instability, which has made it difficult to establish and sustain effective institutions. The Afghan government has made some progress in institution building over the past two decades, but the process has been slow and uneven. Corruption has been a major obstacle to effective governance, and the security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated in recent years.
- The Taliban government faces significant challenges in institution building, including rebuilding the country's institutions from scratch, addressing corruption and economic development, and addressing the issue of human rights. The group is widely viewed as an illegitimate regime by the international community, and many Afghans are skeptical of its ability to govern effectively.
- There are several recommendations that can be made to help the Taliban government address these challenges, including establishing a broad-based government, addressing corruption, prioritizing economic development, addressing the issue of human rights, and engaging with the international community. If the Taliban can successfully address these challenges, it may be possible to establish a stable and prosperous Afghanistan in the years to come.

The issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging one that requires a long-term, sustained effort. The Taliban government faces significant obstacles in this regard, but there are steps that can be taken to address these challenges and establish a functioning government that can deliver stability and prosperity to the Afghan people. Since the issue of institution-building in the country is a great challenge before the present government of Taliban so there is a greater need to form an inclusive and representative government including all the stakeholders in the country. This will resolve most of the outstanding issues in the country and will provide a stable platform for the national actors to participate in the affairs of the country. Moreover the regional dynamics also need to focus on this issue so that a broad-based government may be established with the international community's involvement for the

recognition of Taliban government. The international community has a role to play in supporting the Taliban government in this effort, and it is critical that all parties work together to achieve these important goals.

Recommendations

Here are a few recommendations that would help in mitigating the issue of state-building and would provide a sound platform to all the stakeholders to show their worth and participation in the affairs of the state:

- Establishment of a broad-based government would resolve the issue of institutions-building in the country and would lead to a stable government that will be in a better position to face the challenges of security and related matters. The Taliban should seek to establish a government that is representative of all the country's different ethnic and religious groups. This will help to build support for the government among the population, and can help to reduce the risk of conflict and instability.
- Addressing the issue of corruption would be another significant area for resolving the issues and challenges faced by the present government. Corruption has been a major obstacle to effective governance in Afghanistan. The Taliban government should take steps to address corruption within its own ranks, and should establish mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in government. The mechanism of transparency and accountability would be great steps in resolving the issue and would be very fruitful in establishing a sound system for the enhancement of the sound governmental mechanism.
- Focusing on economic development of the country would be another area that would help in strengthening the economic system as it is this system that provides a baseline to other developments in the country. The Taliban government should prioritize economic development as a means of improving the lives of ordinary Afghans. This can help to build support for the government and can help to reduce the risk of conflict and instability.
- Addressing the issue of human rights is another area of great concern before the present set up and would require a consensus-based mechanism for the inclusion of all the stakeholders in different institutions of the country. The Taliban government should take steps to address the issue of human rights, particularly with regard to women's rights and freedom of expression. This will help to build support for the government among the international community, and can help to reduce the risk of conflict and instability.
- Engaging with the international community in the foreign policy matters would be of great help in strengthening relations with the neighboring countries. The Taliban government should seek to engage with the international community, and should work to build relationships with foreign governments and international organizations. This can help to secure financial and economic assistance, which will be critical for the country's development. Moreover, the Taliban government needs to get membership of the various regional and international forums so as to get in touch with the international world.

The issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging one and the Taliban government faces significant obstacles in this regard. The success of the Taliban government in addressing these challenges will have significant implications for the future stability and prosperity of Afghanistan. It is important that the Taliban government takes steps to establish a functioning government, address corruption, prioritizes economic development,

address the issue of human rights, and engage with the international community. If the Taliban can successfully address these challenges, it may be possible to establish a stable and prosperous Afghanistan in the years to come.

Discussion and Conclusion

The issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging one that requires a comprehensive approach to address the many different factors that contribute to instability and conflict in the country. The Taliban government faces significant challenges in institution building, including addressing corruption, economic development, and human rights issues, while also establishing a government that is representative of all the country's different ethnic and religious groups.

One of the key challenges facing the Taliban government is the issue of corruption. Corruption has been a major obstacle to effective governance in Afghanistan, and addressing this issue will be critical to the success of the Taliban government in building effective institutions. The Taliban will need to establish mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in government, and to root out corruption within its own ranks. This will require a long-term, sustained effort, and the Taliban will need the support of the international community to achieve this important goal.

Another key challenge facing the Taliban government is the issue of economic development. Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, and economic development will be critical to building a stable and prosperous future for the country. The Taliban government should prioritize economic development as a means of improving the lives of ordinary Afghans. This can help to build support for the government among the population and can reduce the risk of conflict and instability.

The issue of human rights is also a critical challenge facing the Taliban government. The group's past record on human rights is concerning, particularly with regard to women's rights and freedom of expression. The Taliban government must take steps to address these issues and to build support for the government among the international community. This will be critical for securing financial and economic assistance, which will be essential for the country's development.

Finally, the Taliban government must work to establish a broad-based government that is representative of all the country's different ethnic and religious groups. This will be critical for building support for the government among the population and reducing the risk of conflict and instability. The Taliban will need to work with different groups to establish a government that is inclusive and representative of all Afghans.

In conclusion, the issue of institution building in Afghanistan is a complex and challenging one that requires a long-term, sustained effort. The Taliban government faces significant challenges in this regard, but there are steps that can be taken to address these challenges and establish a functioning government that can deliver stability and prosperity to the Afghan people. The

international community has a critical role to play in supporting the Taliban government in this effort, and it is important that all parties work together to achieve these important goals.

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