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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Power-distance, Political-Apathy and Political-Participation	<p>The culture in Hofstede's work offered a lens through which to view cross-cultural disparities. The model proposes the concept of 'power distance (PD)' as means of understanding the gap between authority and power between governors/leaders and the governed/followers. 'Political apathy' (PA) and alienation are common among citizens who experience high power distance (High-PD). Citizens are more likely to get involved in politics, vote, and take action when there is less of a gap between them and those in the power. The purpose of this research was to quantify the quality of these connection from the perspective of academics at Thal University Bhakkar, Punjab Pakistan. The results of study provide significant information about the existence of the potential relationships between variables which thus help in reaching the desired conclusion. The positive and negative associations between PD and PA and PP are supported by field research. It will be crucial for stakeholders to adapt their strategies and practices in light of the recommendations made in the field study.</p> <p> 2023 Journal of Social Sciences Development</p>
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INTRODUCTION

In the context of Pakistan, relationship between power distances (PD), political participation (PP), and political apathy (PA) is crucial for comprehending political landscape's dynamics. Recognizing relationship between PD, PP, and PA in Pakistan can assist policymakers, civil society organizations and researchers in identifying strategies for fostering a more engaged and participative citizenry. It involves addressing power dynamics, decreasing disparities, improving political education, and establishing inclusive and responsive political climate that enables citizens to actively participate in decision-making processes. Pakistan can strengthen its democratic institutions and move toward citizen-centered governance by giving people feeling of control, making sure everyone is included,

and figuring out why people don't care about politics (Papastephanou, 2019). Citizens are guided in the social, political, economic, educational, administrative, and any other aspect of life that falls under the authority of culture, which in turn defines their way of life. At every level local, regional, national, and international there is wide variety of cultures, each of which is distinctively different from the others. Jackson (2020) developed a model that helps people comprehend the distinctions between many cultures by conducting study of cultures sampled from approximately fifty different countries (Jensen & Schwartz, 2021).

The initial model consisted of four dimensions: power distance, individuality against collectivism, uncertainty versus avoidance and masculinity versus femininity. After some time two new elements were added: long-term orientation and indulgence. Both of these factors were added to the original model. In this investigation, the researcher took readings on the effects of 'Power-Distance' (PD) on 'Political-Apathy' (PA) and 'Political-Participation' (PP), working on the idea that PD raises PA but lowers PP and vice versa (Auh, Menguc, Spyropoulou & Wang, 2016). "Power distance dimension describes how well a culture adjusts to unequal power in relationships and organizations" (Bissessar, 2018). Hofstede shows how people with high-PD and low-PD are different. People with high-PD have a lot of differences between them based on things like age, gender, and status that make the differences between them seem bigger (Kurtulmuşoğlu et al., 2017). Hofstede says that in high-PD societies, power is more centralized and rank and status are given a lot of weight. They found that people share and talk to each other more in low-PD societies. Researchers have made PD-scores for each country. For example, the United States has the PD-score of 40, while an emerging country like Ghana has an 80. In other words, rank and status don't mean more in Ghana than in United States (Tripathi & Bharadwaja, 2019).

The mindset of power-distance (PD) affects political participation (PA) or activism. If PD is high, there will be fewer chances of PA, and vice versa. People are doing a lot of study on how to get more people involved in politics so that democracy can be made stronger (Auh et al., 2016). In the same way, academics are becoming more interested in PA in old and well-established democratic states because there are concerns about falling levels of civic-state engagement, low voter turnout, falling public confidence in democratic institutions, and other signs of public apathy, cynicism, and falling trust in political parties and politicians (Tripathi & Bharadwaja, 2019). There are many reasons why people get involved in politics, PD is more clear in developing countries like Pakistan. If people don't like their leaders, political groups, or political governments, it's clear that they feel betrayed by their political leaders and government (Shah, 2013; Oganisjana et al., 2015). At every level local, regional, national, and international there is wide variety of cultures, each of which is distinctively different from others. Also, if there is a high power gap, people feel like they are far away from halls of government. They feel let down and think it's best to stay out of politics because they don't have any hopes for parties in power. Political apathy shows up when people don't sign up to vote, don't vote or don't speak out against cheating.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on power-distance and political apathy has been offered in this section with the aim to provide inclusive understanding about the research realities in the particular context to offer the

most relevant literature. Political apathy is when people don't care about their government or don't want to get involved in politics at the local, regional, or national levels (Jensen & Schwartz, 2021). It's because people don't give a damn about what's going on in politics in different circumstances and situations (Monsieurs et al., 2015). It comes when people don't like the political groups, the political leaders, or the way the country's government runs. People lose interest in politics when they see that nothing is being done to meet their needs; this makes them less likely to talk about politics and political events.

Power-Distance (PD)

Geert Hofstede's model from 1997 was based on a study of IBM workers in 50 countries that was done from 1967 to 1973. The study found five "problem areas" or aspects that help to distinguish between the different national cultures (Kurtulmuşoğlu et al., 2017): power distance, uncertainty avoidance, individualism/collectivism, masculinity/femininity, and long-term orientation. Power gap is a measure of how much the less powerful members of the organizations in a state expect and accept that power is not shared equally. In cultures with a high power distance, the relationship between a boss and an employee, a parent and a child, or a teacher and a student is authoritarian, and the leader is seen as an unquestionable expert. Also, if there is a high power gap, people feel like they are far away from halls of government. However, in cultures with a low power distance, the relationship between the roles is democratic, and the subordinate is expected to contribute in diverse situations (Shah, 2013).

Power distance refers to the measurement of social inequality as perceived/accepted by citizens in different cultural environments. Hofstede (1997) suggests that in cultures of High-PD children grow with stress on the respect of elders and this continues through to adulthood. Therefore they develop organizations, which are more centralized; where employees like monocratic leadership style; the subordinates are told what has to be done; and wide gaps exist between layers of the organizational structure or hierarchy (Paharia & Swaminathan, 2019). Thus, PD is more clear in developing countries like Pakistan. If people don't like their leaders, political groups, or political governments, it's clear that they feel betrayed by their political leaders as well as government. Conversely, in Low-PD cultures the inequality is reduced and employees are consulted in all types of the diverse decision making; therefore they like more democratic and resourceful leadership (Winterich & Zhang, 2014).

Political Participation (PP)

There are many reasons why fewer people vote and take part in politics, but bad governance is the most important and generally reported one. Also, patriarchy and regionalism are the reasons why people don't take part in the process (Lin et al., 2019). Pakistan is second biggest democratic Muslim country and the fifth biggest democratic country overall. In general elections of 2013, only 45.3% of eligible voters went to polls. This is less than in India (59.4%), Bangladesh (58.2%). According to a booklet by the Election Commission of Pakistan and the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), about 50% of Pakistanis don't want to vote (Butt & Awang, 2017). From the point of view of Pakistan, lack of real democratic political parties is the most common reason why people don't vote. A political party is a group of people who agree on political goals for the masses

and representation of every person (Mangi et al., 2019). In same way, most people agree that true democratic political parties have democratic norms and values and follow democratic practices, like representing lower and middle classes, holding intra-party elections, considering issues brought up by supporters, educating voters about political values, and representing the people's opinion in parliament (Butt et al., 2021)

Democracy is the most desirable form of political organization since it allows for political liberty. The general population has ability to take advantage of this liberty and participate in the political as well as the electoral process (Saleem et al., 2021). Citizens' political engagement is a hot topic, which contributes to the democratic principles and the strength of democracy. This is a contributing factor to the strength of the democracy. Thus, citizens are guided in the social, political, economic, educational, administrative, and any other aspect of life that falls under the authority of culture, which in turn defines their way of life. However, in Pakistan there is political apathy because of inadequate governance, but at the same time, the public is not ready to accept technocrats and an authoritarian system as an alternative to democratic rule. In 2015, a survey was launched across the country with the cooperation of the higher education commission of Pakistan to investigate the reasons that discourage citizens from engaging in the electoral and political affairs of the country (Bashir & Khalid, 2020).

Political Apathy (PA)

Since the country's independence in 1947, there has been a discernible decrease in the level of citizen participation across the board in all aspects of life. According to Mierina and colleagues, not only is there a general decline in PA, but there is also a decline in political efficacy and an increase in political indifference. Because people have the knowledge that they are unable to effect any change in politics, they choose to abstain from participating in political activities (Adil et al., 2021). In this connection, as a result, very few citizens make the effort to cast their vote. In order to make democracy better and more improved, citizens need to have the feeling and confidence that they have capacity to change politics, and this will encourage them to participate in political processes. According to research conducted, residents are not only becoming less interested in participating in elections, but they also feel unsatisfied with their government and distrustful of their officials (Samonek, 2023). Nevertheless, the political indifference is most usually attributed to a lack of the political involvement and participation. Sometimes, political apathy is characterized with regard to voting or nonvoting.

Apathy is an attitude that should not be confused with merely a lack of engagement in political process, as apathy is defined on a broader and deeper level as the absence of the willingness to or motivation to take an interest in politics (Khan et al., 2019). This implies that political apathy is the absence of both willingness and motivation to take interest in politics. This method of approaching problem of political indifference motivates researchers to investigate the behavioral repercussions of taking a disinterested stance towards politics (Papastephanou, 2019). Also, "political alienation" means that a person feels disconnected from the politics and government of his or her own culture. Most of the time, political alienation has four signs: isolation, helplessness, a lack of meaning, and a lack of norms. Political powerlessness is when a person feels like he or she has no control over what

the government does and that he/she has no say in political process in different situations towards desired outcomes (Reeher, 2018). Also, political normlessness is when people think that the rules and norms that guide the political process are broken. As a result, people tend to stay away from political issues (Okunloye, 2017).

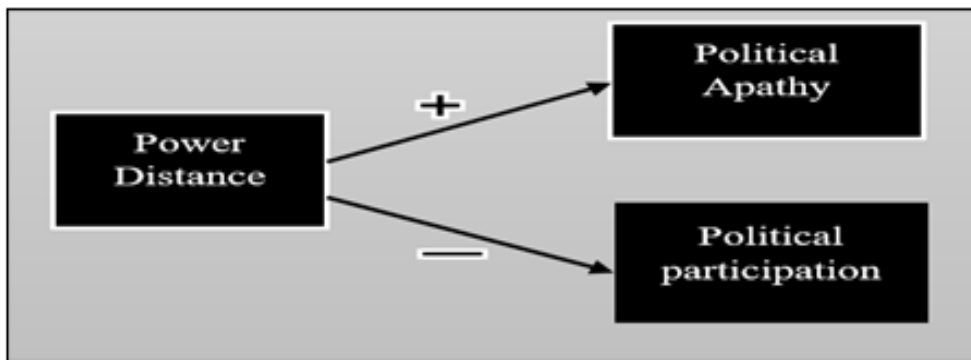
Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is a logical diagram of the variables and how they relate to each other, based on what we know from the books and what makes sense. Hypotheses (probable answers to the research questions) are made based on the relationships between factors. These hypotheses are then tested using field data from the respondents (people who are interested in the study). In this study, the target group was the university's staff, from which a sample was made in order to generalize the findings towards population.

Development of Hypothesis

- H1: Power distance is strongly linked to both PA and PP.
- H2: Power-Distance is a strong predictor of Political Apathy.
- H3: Power-Distance significantly explains Political Participation.
- H4: Group (BPS 17 & below) is scoring higher on PD and PA.

Figure 1 Theoretical Framework



RESEARCH DESIGN

Philosophy & Approach

The positivist tenets used in this investigation hold that facts can be checked by careful observation, and that information can be accurately documented and conveyed provided everyone uses the same words and phrases. The researcher selected the theoretical framework (knowledge model) from the existing literature and put it through its paces in the field. Both literature surveys and field surveys have been conducted with help of representative samples of sources related to the problem. Using online questionnaires and indices of the variables, a structured questionnaire was created to collect quantitative data. The standard formula applied to data from pilot research yields a sample size of 176. There were 151 returns out of possible 176 (86%). SPSS-21 was used to conduct numerical analysis using correlation, regression, and significance tests to assess hypotheses based upon data

collected via questionnaire. Cronbach's alpha and factor analysis was used to determine data's and instrument's validity and reliability.

Table 1 Reliability and Validity

Reliability Statistics			
	Variables/Items	N of Items	Cronbach's Alpha
1	Power Distance [PD]	11	.887
2	Political Participation [PP]	10	.998
3	Political Apathy [PAP]	9	.959
4	Questionnaire	30	.878
Required Critical Value = or > .7			

Validity-Statistics

Table 2 Pretests [KMO & Bartlett]

	Power Distance	Political Participation	Political Apathy
KMO test	.783	.856	.884
Bartlett's test	Chi-square [405.763] [df.55] p-value = .000	Chi-Square [1465.042] [df.36] p-value = .000	Chi-Square [893.002] [df.45] p-value = .000

Factor-Loadings

In factor analysis, the factor loadings are numerical values that show how strongly and in what direction observed variables are related to latent factors. The factor loadings show how closely the observable variables are correlated with latent factors. The factor loadings provide quantitative information about the degree to which a certain latent factor is responsible for observed variable in question (Armstrong et al., 2013).

Table 3 Factor Loadings

Power Distance		Political Participation		Political Apathy	
Qs	Score	Qs	Score	Qs	Score
PD1	.990	PP1	.933	PA1	.862
PD2	.583	PP2	.883	PA2	.775
PD3	.745	PP3	.987	PA3	.989
PD4	.760	PP4	.669	PA4	.125
PD5	.874	PP5	.828	PA5	.670
PD6	.771	PP6	.667	PA6	.831
PD7	.623	PP7	.768	PA7	.777
PD8	.643	PP8	.782	PA8	.873
PD9	.228	PP9	.880	PA9	.586
PD10	.415	-	-	PA10	.996
PD11	.330	-	-	-	-

FINDINGS OF STUDY

The results are presented in this section in order to provide desired information about research variables to reach the anticipated conclusion and make the required decision to contribute the existing knowledge.

Table 4 Designation-Based Frequencies

		Designation			
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	BPS 17 & Below	101	69.5	69.5	69.5
	Above BPS 17	50	30.5	30.5	100.0
	Total	151	100.0	100.0	

Table 5 Descriptive Results

Descriptive Statistics						
		N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
1	Power Distance	151	3.73	7.00	6.3542	.57791
2	Pol Participation	151	2.00	6.00	2.7125	.76507
3	Pol Apathy	151	3.20	5.10	4.4748	.47512

Testing of Hypotheses

According to the reviewed literature, low power distance is associated with political participation, while large power distance increases political apathy. The results of four hypotheses tests based on correlation, regression, and statistical significance are presented below:

- H1: Power distance is strongly linked to both PA and PP.
- H2: Power-Distance is a strong predictor of Political Apathy.
- H3: Power-Distance significantly explains Political Participation.
- H4: Group (BPS 17 & below) is scoring higher on PD and PA.
- H1: Power distance is strongly linked to both PA and PP.

Table 6 Correlation Analysis

Correlations (n = 151)			
		Power Distance	Pol Apathy
Pol Participation (PP)	Pearson Correlation	-.173*	.115
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.048	.189
Pol Apathy (PA)	Pearson Correlation	.514**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
**. Correlation sig. at 0.01 level (2-tailed); *. Correlation sig. at 0.05 level (2-tailed).			

The results of correlation revealed that PD has a strong, good relationship with PA and a strong, negative relationship with PP. Higher PD is linked to PA in a good way, while low PD is linked to PP. Both PA and PP are strongly linked to the power distance. The result of present study further revealed that the power-distance is strongly linked to both political apathy and PP this hypothesis and thus sustained.

Table 7 Power-Distance significantly predicts Political Apathy

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R2	Std. Error	F	Sig.
1	.514a	.363	.249	.40805	47.381	.002b

Table 7a Power-Distance significantly predicts Political Apathy

Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.712	.378		4.800	.000
	Power Distance	.524	.062	.514	6.810	.000
b. Predictors: (Constant), Power Distance; a. Dependent Variable: Pol Apathy						

R² of .363 tells that 36% of variation is happening in PA due to the higher power distance culture. The results of present study are significant with Beta-weight of .524 and p-value of .000. H₂ Power-Distance is a strong predictor of Political Apathy is therefore accepted based upon results from regression analysis.

Table 8 Power-Distance significantly explains Political Participation

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R 2	Std. Error	F	Sig.
1	.373a	.020	.022	.75647	3.973	.000b
Coefficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4.197	.698		6.011	.000
	Power Distance	-.329	.115	-.173	-1.993	.000
a. Predictors: (Constant), Power Distance; b. Dependent Variable: Pol Participation						

The relationship between power distance and political participation is negative. A negative Beta-weight of -.329 indicates the unfavorable prediction of PP by PD. Despite fact that the connection is too feeble, as observed from R², the link is still present. This indicates that 2% of the variation in PP is attributable to PD. Nevertheless, hypothesis 3 is accepted based on evidence for the negative prediction of the dependent variable.

Table 9 Group (BPS 18-19) is scoring higher on PD and PA

Group Statistics (Designation)						
	Designation	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	
Power Distance	BPS 17 & Below	101	7.4877	.41665	.06763	
	Above BPS 17	50	6.5337	.57103	.05571	
Political Apathy	BPS 17 & Below	101	6.5581	.47646	.08492	
	Above BPS 17	50	5.1545	.43352	.45689	
Political Participation	BPS 17 & Below	101	5.8078	.53723	.31009	
	Above BPS 17	50	3.8715	1.55212	.15568	
Independent Samples Test						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Power Distance	EVA	1.445	.348	7.779	139	.000

	EVNA			8.733	59.743	.000
Pol Apathy	EVA	9.275	.023	3.566	139	.000
	EVNA			3.849	86.739	.000
Pol Participation	EVA	12.303	.101	-.060	139	.864
	EVNA			-.048	47.708	.872
Key - EVA: Equal variances assumed; EVNA: Equal variances not assumed						

On the PD and Political Apathy, juniors scored higher, and both have become significant. Seniors scored higher on the PP, but the results are insignificant. Juniors experience a high power distance and are consequently more prone to political apathy. In this connection, the fourth hypothesis is recognized as valid.

DISCUSSIONS & CONCLUSIONS

In the context of political science and social psychology, the relationship between power distances (PD), political participation (PP), and political passivity (PA) can be studied. Power distance is the extent to which members of society embrace and anticipate hierarchical power structures. Political participation is the engagement of individuals in political activities, such as voting, joining political organizations, or protesting. In contrast, political apathy is an absence of interest, motivation, or engagement in political matters (Malakyan, 2023). The research indicates that the greater the power distance, the greater the political apathy, but lower the political participation and activism. When citizens are dissatisfied with the performance of their leaders and government, they avoid political discussions, events, and changes, according to research (Lutz & Hoffmann, 2017). Similarly, sentiments of high power distance decrease the motivation to participate in the political matters through various activities.

In Pakistan, perceptions of high power distance are prevalent due to negative accounts of numerous political leaders and poor administration. Poor governance, corruption is attributed to politician by dictators and opposition parties by politicians. The results of this study confirm the existence of a significant power gap and the resultant apathy, which is alarming for those with a stake in the matter (Fayomi & Adebayo, 2018). Given evidence of high power distance culture in developing nations, Pakistan, it can have concluded that our political parties, leaders, and mode of governance are plagued with grave issues. In the execution of democratic methods of government, democratic values are not adequately considered. Citizens are astounded by the scope of corruption and money laundering in the current political climate. According to statistical findings, there is a strong correlation between PD and PA, which should be interpreted as a fatal indicator of discouraging mass political participation.

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