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Abstract

In any defined political system with sustained democracy, the political parties act as basic solid pillars that contribute in the right direction, exact nature, and level of political development. The history of political development is so deeply stained by military interference but the major political parties such as PMLN, and PPP played a significant role in maintaining a stable democracy though they were lacking in their commitments at many points in economic and social levels. In the constantly changing and unpredictable political climate of Pakistan, the smooth changeover of power is so rare and the history of Pakistani politics is compromised by political parties' rivalries that affect the democratic development and its sustenance on larger bases. The following survey was conducted to evaluate the contribution of political parties to the development of the democracy in changing political climate. Data was collected by using a simple convenient sampling technique through different secondary sources and then analyzed by using content analysis. The survey concluded that political intolerance among different political parties at different stages affects the political climate so drastically and also is a major factor for poorly sustained democracy along with unnecessary military interference.

Keyword: Political development, democracy, changing political climate

1. Introduction

The current elected legislative assembly, like past parliaments, encountered several challenges, hazards, and instances of political intrusion that weakened its independence. The fact that has been argued many times is that political parties are endemic to democracy. In any defined democratic system, political parties provide the proper mode of functioning for the government so that the party with the majority or a combination of parties controls the government, while other parties serve as the opposition in that government and attempt to check the abuses of power by the ruling party. In any healthy political environment, citizens extend their desires, needs, and problems to the government through the political parties. Political parties represent an essential tool that acts as a bridge between a society and its government. The existence of a strong and viable opposition keeps the ruling party alert. Political parties also must promote policies that will educate the people about how a democratic system functions and offer different policy packages to the electorates. To some extent, political parties allow people to defend their rights, and the support of the people strengthens political parties. Therefore, political parties promote the welfare of the society as a whole. One basic need is to develop the political ideology and democratic roots within a state, which is a fundamental method of political development. The goals and objectives of political development could not be achieved without political parties. Since independence was achieved in Pakistan on 14 August 1947, only a few number of civilian governments have completed their constitutional tenure, and most of those who did were under the rule of a dictator. This is the dilemma of Pakistani political history the political system in Pakistan has never functioned efficiently in sixty-four years of independence and during this period, Pakistan's political system has faced four military interventions, during which the army chiefs overtook political governments and imposed 1 J. R. Montero and R. Gunther (2002), P 3. 7 martial law. Pakistan still has not found a defined, stable political equilibrium or clear directions to sort out its basic political conflicts. Because of these diverse types of government, the people of Pakistan are always in doubt and unsure of whether their government should be secular or Islamic democratic or ruled by a military dictator. The basic problems faced by political development were fragility among institutions for example a lack of accountability and the never-ending corruption; a lack of interest in people's needs; and an emphasis on increasing the assets of the leaders of the political parties. The history of military dictators is characterized by deceit, institutional decay, political fragmentation, moral and social rot, insurgencies, and alliances of the state with violent ethnic and religious groups. The occurrence of these incidents and events can only be explained by reviewing the situations under which the country was created. When an electoral political regime is in power, it will seek to prolong its control and satisfy key members by awarding them critical positions in important institutions. Furthermore, many internal problems in political parties lead to problems in the political system, such as an undemocratic structure and a lack of political values and practices. These problems decrease the popularity of political parties and reduce the trust of the leaders among the people.

2. Political climate changes and democratic process

The participation of authoritarian forces, either directly or indirectly, in Pakistan's political process has hampered the effectiveness of democratic progress there. This has been the case both directly and indirectly. The phenomenon that has been described has been shown to present itself in a variety of ways, one of which being the common occurrence of legislative sessions either being infrequent or lasting only a short amount of time. In addition, the autonomy and influence of the parliament are limited, which frequently leads to its role being reduced to that of a symbolic approving body that is vulnerable to the supremacy of established power dynamics. According to a report published by Crisis Group in 2013, the elected parliament in Pakistan has constantly demonstrated a lack of substance, and its operations have been judged inconsequential, even during periods of civilian administration because of political parties' conflict and political intolerance. This has been the case throughout the country's history. The occurrence that was discussed earlier had a considerable impact on the political climate of the country, which acted as a barrier to the development of democratic institutions. It's common knowledge that when countries are confronted with authoritarian regimes, members of opposing political parties band together to push for democratic reforms. However, the implementation of democratic principles in Pakistan has met with several challenges, such as frequent governmental conflicts, which have considerably slowed the development of democratic

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norms within the political landscape of the country. Thus, the non-democratic and inconsistent behavior of political elites in their pursuit of genuine democracy raises serious concerns. Between the years 1988 and 1999 and between the years 2008 and 2013, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) ruled the country. This allowed the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) to create a government after they won elections in May 2013. It is also true that Mian Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, heads of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), respectively, have fought hard for the return of democratic governance in Pakistan. As a result, democratic ideas have gained greater acceptance in both the public and political arenas. Furthermore, both camps have shown a lack of commitment to protecting the basic rights of the general public, especially those of historically marginalized groups. This includes failing to uphold the rule of law and focusing too little on ensuring people have access to the resources they need to make a living. The lack of democratic principles is not the root cause of crime; rather, the display of dictatorial hubris by leaders and governments is. Despite their rhetoric about restoring democratic ideals, these governments have failed to effectively address the concerns of the public. To be sure, regular organization of elections that are fair and independent from arbitrary limits is a crucial part of a genuine democracy. In this respect, the results of Pakistan's elections have been disappointing. So losing groups kept complaining about the unfairness of the elections and both sides accused each other of engaging in fraudulent behavior.

3. Manipulation of election results

Furthermore, it is critical to realize that, while in power, political parties in Pakistan have been seen as manipulating election outcomes. The multi-party system's inherent intricacies are largely to blame for the already-mentioned situation, making it difficult for any one party to gain an outright majority. As a result, it is not uncommon for countries to form coalition governments to maintain stable leadership. However, concerns regarding the lack of accountability and openness in the political process are warranted by claims like those of election manipulation. In academic circles, there is a lot of talk about the disconnect between the public and their elected officials. Given that the military has historically held power in Pakistan, it is fair to say that the vast majority of the country's political leaders support genuine democracy. It's also been pointed out that election campaigns are a prime time for political leaders to reach out to the public to sway public opinion and win votes. However, once people reach positions of responsibility, they often seem to distance themselves from the rest of society (Shah, 2016). Because of corrupt and incompetent leaders, Pakistan has been unable to make progress in the political sphere. It has been noted with regret that political leaders in Pakistan have a propensity for damaging national institutions through the adoption of reckless policies. Because of this, it is very important to examine the political leadership's policies and actions in depth to determine whether or not they are aware of the potential implications.

4. Lack of consistency in behavior

Consistency in behavior and attitude among political leaders and elites has been cited as a major impediment to democratic progress in Pakistan (Ahmed, 2014). While it is encouraging that democracy has been restored and that efforts are being made to reinforce its foundations, it is disappointing that our political leadership has not done a better job of creating an environment that supports democratic ideals and sustained democracy. The use of negotiation, consensus building, and bargaining methods in the creation of policy frameworks can effectively address conflicts. But it's crucial to recognize that political parties often aid in maintaining rivalries and enacting policies that further polarize society (Kokhar, 2017). The political climate in Pakistan was characterized by a persistent feeling of unpredictability and was marked by severe upheavals. The problems were not addressed sufficiently. The pursuit of individual power rather than the progress of institutions was the primary factor in determining the order of priority for those institutions. In addition, the increasing popularity of Islamic militantism has greatly undermined the efficiency of the state's security apparatus as a result of the state's efforts to counteract this trend. Both within its boundaries and on the international stage, Pakistan's reputation as a nation known for its peaceful disposition has been presented with a severe test as a result of the persistent danger that has been going on for some time now.

5. Conclusion

The following survey concluded that the political parties in Pakistan are assembled in such a way that reflects family politics leaving the rest of the Pakistani people with no chance to vie for and democratically win an election. Democratic principles like mass participation and the rule of law are so rare attributes of Pakistani politics. Political parties therefore lack majority support which propagates further dissatisfaction among the people. For democracy to function properly in Pakistan the politicians need to look beyond narrow interests of religion, ethnic, or social affinities. Political parties need to reach across the ethnic and religious aisles. Also, the electorates need to be educated on their rights and responsibilities nationwide. In any government, accountability makes it more stable and functional. According to social contract theory, governments must be held accountable for their actions. If the government is not able to satisfy the people, then it could be replaced at election time. In the past, to become more powerful, any government threatened and pressured the opposition to suppress them. If the government is made accountable by the influence of the political parties, then the elected representatives present in the government will avoid any type of act that damages the country's interest and corruption. Nowadays electronic and print media play a vital role in keeping the government accountable by keeping a close eye on the deeds and misdeeds of the government and due to the freedom of expression. Furthermore, political intolerance among different political parties at different stages affects the political climate so drastically and also is a major factor for poorly sustained democracy along with unnecessary military interference.

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