



The Problems of Political Parties in Pakistan (B)

The Political Vision or The Lack of It

Almost all political parties were lacking proper vision in Pakistan as where they do stand and where they want to take Pakistan at a certain point. Some political parties might say that they are facing corruption in Pakistan while others say that they are lacking proper infrastructure in Pakistan. People's party was having their slogan to eradicate poverty and to redistribute equal power while the slogan of Pakistan Muslim league (N) was to build infrastructure in Pakistan. The slogan of Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf revolve around to remove corruption and they use this slogan to counter the power of Pakistan Muslim league Nawaz supremacy. The main slogan of Muslim political parties revolves around to implement Islamic teachings, policies and Islamic system in Pakistan. So, the main problem which is here that political parties were lacking proper vision. The emergence of political parties is related to the material and cultural advancement of society in which citizens are free to form groups and associations and to articulate their demands and problems. The low level of such advancement and the lack of freedom in Pakistani society, particularly during the first decade, constrained the development of parties. Thus, the phenomenon led to their myopic vision of these political parties.

Because there was lack of freedom in Pakistan, People couldn't able to express their views freely. If you oppose PML (N) than PML (N) will brand you as a traitor which is a constrained on the freedom of speech not there is the society, or the freedom of thought is not in the society than you be incarcerated in the box that would produce vibrant political parties because I have already told you political parties as a one kind of representative of people. It represents the mindsets of people It represent either the true mindset of people or its ignorant masses. If that thing is not there than we see impact of those political parties on the growth of political parties and their myopic vision.

The Lost Vision

General Zia-Ul-Haq was killed in a plane crash accident than PPP and PML (N) they got the opportunity to rule the country one after another. So, this curse political development was changed but the thing is that we were on the eve of 21st century so that political direction and the vision that was supposed to be there for us to enter into 21st century with all its changes and dynamics that was lost because both these political parties they were involve in the power grab. They didn't allow the other political parties like Pakistan People Party (PPP) was given an opportunity in 1998 and that was over thrown so PML (N) was involve in the conspiracy against PPP and we lost the Political vision in such kind of those conspiracies against PPP and we lost the political vision in such kind of those conspiracies and political parties lost their vision.

However, in the 1990s the course of political development changed totally. The political direction and vision to enter the 21st century was lost. Major political parties, particularly the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Muslim League, set their direction for a power struggle, floor crossing and corruption throughout the decade. The lack of vision weakened them to the extent that the governments of Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif were struck by the dissolution syndrome, twice each.

The weakness of political parties in Pakistan is evident from their massive proliferation and high rate of mortality, their fragmentation into small and ineffective fractions, their regionalisation and ethnicization with appeal only to a limited number of citizens. This also reflects their indifference to formulate coherent programmes and policies for winning the support of the broad strata of society. With weak institutional roots in society, parties are amorphous groups tied together by their leaders; some charismatic, others not, some becoming party leaders because of their wealth and the others due to inheritance.

So, some of the leaders are charismatic but some other leaders are not that much charismatic. Political parties need funding and some of the wealthy rich political parties need funding's to win the election. Some rich people provide the funding to political parties, so some rich political parties become leaders because they are wealthy and rich, and others become leaders because their father and forefathers have established the parties. This inheritance prevails in all political parties except Jamat-e-Islami (JI). Pakistan people party got established after the death of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto succeeded the elections after the death of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Billawal Bhutto Zardari emerged and became renowned after the death of his mother.

Lack of Citizen's Participation

The political parties can hope to play a meaningful role only if they succeed in gathering the masses around them. There are rarely any membership campaigns conducted by the parties. Even those who joined them on one or the other pretext have been demoralised. Part of the problem lies in the inner working of these parties, which does not provide a sense of participation to the members.

Lack of Mutual Understanding

Pakistan's political parties lack mutual trust and understanding. The culture of political dialogue has never taken roots in Pakistan. It was only in 1977 that the two competing political parties entered a process of negotiations. Today, only circumstances have brought the Pakistan People's Party and the Muslim League together into the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy.

Mainstream, as well as the ethnic-regional parties, lack internal debate over policy alternatives. Their priorities and preferences are not an outcome of household debates and discussion. Instead, they are identified with their leaders.

The culture of dialogue has not been established and it lacks mutual understanding. In U.S. there are a lot of peaceful dialogues and meetings are to be held and carried out. We often see mutual political debates of political parties. They should articulate their vision and abandon their ego to talk on their manifesto and to develop mutual understanding apart from it they don't come closer to each other.

The Way Forward

Accountable democracy cannot function in Pakistan until drastic changes are made in the formation and functioning of political parties, which can faithfully represent and serve the people through a transparent political system. Educated professional and progressive-minded middle-class citizens do not have any chance to participate in the democratic process. Our failure to recognise the need to restructure the political party system on fundamental principles of democracy has destroyed our national institutions by corruption and nepotism. Lack of accountability by the elected autocratic rulers during the past decades has become the accepted feature of our national policy. The chasm between the poor and the rich has reached alarming proportions. By squandering public funds on dubious projects and levying ever-increasing taxes to pay for their extravagant lifestyle, rulers have demoralized and crippled the tax paying middle class, which is the productive segment of any developing democratic society.

We have miserably fail to recognize the need to restructure the political party system in Pakistan on the bases of democracy because restructuring of the political parties on the bases of democracy means that they should be internal democracy that must be introduced in the political parties of Pakistan but this failure has basically brought to the stage to this point that we are facing in our country one after another and this is because of our failure to recognize we would always say that there is genuine democracy in Pakistan having genuine democracies in political parties themselves. So, this failure has contributed a lot to the current political miseries of the country. So, national institutions have been destroyed by corruption and nepotism whenever, there is a political leader you would have heard about from your cities and villages.