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Note on the Political Parties of Pakistan.

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B. Role of Mainstream parties in electoral process

II. Types of Political Parties in Pakistan

A. Mainstream Parties

B. Ethnic or Regional Parties

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Note:-

Pakistan's electoral system is in the process of development since independence. It has transformed from non-party elections to party based elections. Evolution of democracy became possible since 1970s. Eventhough, one of the famous figure of the Pakistan's history that people are not capable enough to given them the right of voting. Non-party elections were introduced under Zia-ul-Haq's regime. It prioritized local politics over the national

politics. With the much efforts of democracy it became possible to cast vote on the basis of one-person, one-vote. Therefore, political parties have got great success in the electoral process. Mainstream parties have performed vital role in the political system of Pakistan. Such parties are not limited to any ethnic or religious group. In fact they are representing the general public. They have played important role in protecting democracy. In the first general election held in 1970, the first largest mainstream political party of that won. Therefore, role of mainstream parties could not be ignored.

First important type of political parties in Pakistan is mainstream political parties. They are representing the general public and advocate of their rights. Three mainstream political parties of Pakistan are Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). All these have different political ideologies and ^{have} different agendas. Their leadership and government has largely affected

by the military establishment intervention in the system. But they have succeeded in protecting political democratic system. Therefore, Mainstream parties have significant in Pakistan's political system.

Ethnic parties are the second type of political parties. They are the also major contributors in the electoral college of the country. These are also called regional parties. They are representing particular ethnic group or specific region and advocating their particular interests. For example; some of the significant ethnic parties are Jamhuri Watan Party (JWP), Pashtun Nationalist Party (PND), Balochistan Nationalist Party BNP, Balochistan National Movement BNM and Balochistan Liberation Army BLA etc. These parties have significant role in the provincial governments. They have access to the electoral college for the majority of time. Therefore, Mainstream parties form coalition with the ethnic parties to form provincial government sometimes.

Third important type of Political Parties in Pakistan is the

Islamist Parties. They stem their roots from protesting in the streets for specific demands. They are the strong advocates of ^{promoting} Islamic law and order in the country. Two unpopular parties are emerging in this regard. Tehreek-e-Labour Party and Millat party are the important emerging parties. Hence, they are playing important role in the political system.

In a nutshell, different types of political parties exist in Pakistan with their different ideologies. However, they have played important role in the evolution of democratic system in Pakistan. They are involved in the strong democratic competition. Therefore, they will be contributing in establishing true democracy in the country. ✓

