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## Prospects and Implications of Students Politics in Educational Institutions

### Outline:

#### 01- Introduction:

Thesis Statement: Student politics may reveal multifaceted prospects and impacts such as, empowering students and imparting leadership skills in them. However, the challenges of political polarization and Administrative tensions may arise which should be addressed in a proper way to strike a balance between academic pursuit and socio-political activities.

#### 02- Understanding students politics in educational institutions-

#### 03- Positive Prospects of student politics:

- Decision-making capabilities enhanced in the students through participation in student unions.
- Students may become aware of the democratic values and practices.
- Students politics in educational institutions can be a Be certain valuable ground for future political leaders Be certain training.
- Participating in students unions may enhanced social communication skills.

#### 04- Negative Prospects of students politics:

- Student unions Be certain may induce Populism popular sentiments.
- Innocent minds of the student unions member can be manipulated by external forces.
- Student politics may turn into violence and extremism due to election rigging and misuse of power.

The negative side is not included in prospects, as the later are always positives

d) Campuses may become a breeding ground of politics more than imparting education.

05- Implications of Students politics in Educational institutions:

a) Emergence of democratic leaders for future political landscape ✓

b) Better ~~Technocrats~~ for policymaking through student unions **Technocrats**

c) Students become aware of the social realities and issues ✓

d) Populus leaders increase political polarization ✓

e) Huge tilt towards political activities impact the intelligence and education ✓

f) Increasing violence disturbs the educational activities ✓

06- Way forward to curb the negative prospects and implications:

a) Strict checks and balances on student unions may reduce the violence on the campuses. ✓

b) Influencing students toward strong ~~strong~~ norms will diminish ~~populus~~ **Populist** sentiments ✓

c) Strike balance between educational activities and socio-political activities to curb the academic hindrances. ✓

07- Conclusion

## ESSAY:

Imagine, a school system which has splendid infrastructure and research capabilities. They are providing students with recent and advance education of technology, politics and economics from grass-root levels. Their aim is to produce a highly qualified person who can help in the national development of the country and can become a future leader of the state. They have a separate union for the students where they practice, according to standard democratic values, leadership skills and communication skills to interact with others in the society. From such analogy one can analyze the prospects of students politics in educational institutions. It enhances the decision-making capabilities of the students. Students may become aware of the democratic values and practices. Also, the educational institutions may become a valuable ground to provide training for future leaders and polish social communication skills for better interaction with other people. However, student politics also have negative prospects, such as, induction of popular sentiments in the members and manipulation by the external forces. Not only this but also, student unions may contribute to violence and extreme activities along with unions may become a breeding ground of politics more than academic activities. All this results in both positive and negative implications. The positive

implications will be the emergence of democratic leaders, better technocrats for policymaking and students become aware of the social issues and realities.

Conversely, the negative implications will be increasing political polarization due to populist leaders, affecting educational activities and diminishing intelligence and logical reasoning abilities. However, the problems can be resolved by strict checks and balances on student unions and by influencing students towards strong democratic norms. By striking balance between academic activities and politics can also be useful to curb the negative aspect of student unions. In essence, students politics may reveal multifaceted prospects and impacts, such as; empowering students and imparting leadership skills. However, the challenges of political polarization and tensions may arise which should be addressed in a proper way to strike a balance between them.

~~Before under looking to the prospects of students politics, first~~

Student politics in educational institutions refers to the participation and involvement of students in political and activities within the campus or university setting. This involvement involves various activities, including students organizations and unions, students activism for social awareness and

resolving students issues and challenges. They are pertinent because they are elected officials who hold positions such as president, vice president and secretary generals which helps in understanding the actual democratic culture and how to use such position to address the student issues, plan events and manage student funds for betterment of the society. The following discussion addresses the further prospects, both negative and positive and their implications to understand student politics in educational institutions.

**Prospects are always the positive outcomes**

Firstly, student politics in educational institutions enhanced the decision-making capabilities through diverse participation in events and debates.

Decision-making process involves diverse policy making such as direction of the organization, strategic decisions, financial and operational decisions. It helps in building a good governance within the organization. ~~Moreover~~ The educational institutes which encourage student politics may produce a better decision-makers for the country policy making. As, an individual person who has splendid skills of decision-making will lead the country towards prosperity and progress. Therefore, advance policy-making skills make an organization competitive.

Secondly, students may become aware

of the democratic values and practices through student politics and unions in the educational institutions. Democratic values are the fundamental principles that underpin a democratic society. They represent a shared set of ideals about how people should be governed and how they should interact with each other. Such awareness in young students may help in building a strong democratic political system in the future, which resists dictatorship and authoritarian system in the society. This induced in the students to cast their votes in elections and fulfil the democratic procedure and fair trial. Hence, students unions help in inducing the awareness about democratic values among young generation.

Thirdly, student politics in educational institutions can become a valuable ground for the training of political leadership to induce patriotism, and leadership skills are crucial for the betterment of the country. The ground provided by student unions may help in inducing interest of politics in the young generation. In recent times, it is clearly evident that young generation is averse to political activities because of chaos and tensions.

Such platforms may increase interest among students. Therefore, by practicing such scenarios by themselves, platforms such as Facebook and Twitter can be utilized by

educational institutions to raise awareness about political leadership and reduce students' aversiveness. Therefore, in this way, student politics in educational institutions become a training ground for leadership.

Moreover, students' participation in students unions may enhance social communication skills and interaction among diverse groups. Social skills are crucial for an individual person, it helps to build and maintain relationships, navigate social situations and experience diverse opinions. Therefore, student politics allow students to network with their peers, faculty and sometimes even with external political figures. It helps in fostering social interaction and making connections that may be beneficial in their future careers. Hence, networking and social interaction are important skills to live a sustainable and healthy life.

With the positive prospects, there are a few negative prospects of student politics in educational institutions. Such as, student unions may induce populist sentiments among masses which hinder their healthy growth. Populism is a range of political stances that emphasizes the idea of the people - an elite group and is frequently associated with anti-establishment and anti-

political sentiments. The students who have populism as a driving force are usually end up with massive disaster and collapse of an union. Such as, the populist tendencies of Trump and Imran Khan drag them towards disaster in their political career. Hence, populism sometimes become a negative aspect for the organization.

Not only this, but the manipulation of innocents minds of the students by external forces also become a negative aspect of student unions. External forces, such as; political leaders or parties and extremist violent groups manipulate the upbringing of innocent minds with their manifestoes. Young students are prone to manipulation because of fragile understanding of the complex political scenario and organizations extreme agenda's. Such as, in past, Pakistan such as, in past, educational institutions in Pakistan became political houses. Different political parties used students for their own benefits and propagate hate speeches against opposite parties. Hence, the misuse of student politics will be a major concern for the educational institutions.

Apart from this, student politics may turn into violence and extremism due to election rigging and misuse of power. Election



rigging means manipulation in the democratic process of electing any leader. On the negative side of student politics and unions in the educational institutions, it may become a major cause of violence and extremism. The struggle for power and high position lead the students toward using unethical means which resulted in chaos and violence within the campus. For example, in 2022, student union elections at the university of Gana turned into violence after accusation of unfair and fraud elections. Hence, such situations in unions become a reason of negative prospect of student politics.

Similarly, due to power struggle and hegemonic thinking among union members, it may make campus a breeding ground of politics more than imparting education. The tendency of student unions to prioritize political activity over educational engagement is a worse prospect of student politics in educational institutions. The union members started protest and rallies against political injustice and even trying to become a guardian and dictator of the campus. It is clearly evident by the Sudan University era of student unions, several instances were reported when student union members started protest and forcefully closed the educational activities.

Hence, student unions have become a cause of unrest within the campus.

There are various implications of student politics also present. Such as, the positive ones, it helps in making democratic leaders for future political landscape. It has been done by transferring and teaching democratic values to the students and practice them while organizing student unions. Democracy, in Pakistan, is so fragile which requires a strong force of democratic-driven values to recover it. Also, student unions build democratic leaders, which can be exemplified by the forefathers struggle for independence of Pakistan. The leaders such as, Ali Brothers and Nawab Saleemullah Khan were the students of Aligarh and helped in political struggle. Therefore, student politics have positive impact on democratic leadership.

In addition to this, the better technocrats are also emerged which helps in making better and workable policymaking. Technocrats are individual with technical training and problem solving skills. They are experts in various fields and should be used to guide public. The unions have various committees which helps in building a strength in an individual about how to use their problem-solving

skills to draft a valuable and workable policy. Such as, by organizing workshops and skill based training by the union members produce a better policy maker for solving problems with rational thinking. Hence, such technocrats will help the country to grow and advance with practical policies.

Apart from this, students unions also affect the students and making them aware of the social realities and issues. Unions have to work for the betterment and welfare of the other students and the campus. They are the voice of many students in the campus. So, to resolve the issues and challenges, for the process, they become aware of many social realities and hurdles faced by an individual. Such as, they become aware about the administration loopholes and what the female students faced in the campus. Hence, such realities of the campuses make them resilient to the life harsh realities and hurdles.

Not only the positive implications, but also the negative implications of student unions are various. The sentiment of populism among student union brings political polarization in the political landscape. Political polarization is the

divergence of political attitudes away from the centre, towards ideological extremes. Student unions play part in creating political polarization within the campus and also in the make extreme ideological driven members. As a result, the society has to face huge unrest and disturbances. The evidence of political polarization is the I.K's (Imran Khan) political agenda of making madina Riyasat induced an extreme ideological rift in the young minds that they are resisting to listen and adopt the truth. Hence, political polarization is a worse impact of student unions.

Also, the educational activities may hinder because of the tilt towards political activities rather than education. It is a common phenomenon that extra-curriculum activities, on one hand, make students active and alert, and on the other hand, students are more tilted towards such activities. This is the case with student unions as well, the members are giving more attention to join the union and compromising academic activities and intelligence growth. A 2019 report by higher education commission (HEC) of India indicated the unions were misusing the funds allocated for academic events and scholarships, to meet the unions agenda's and posters. Thus,

educational progress hinders and impacted by the more interest towards the political activities.

Last but not least, the increasing violence and protests by unions disturb the educational activities. The violence increases when there are any upcoming elections for the organization presidency seat and secretary seat. Student unions violence and rallies affect the educational activities because the unrest and fear increases among normal students and they prefer to stay at home to avoid facing any conflict. In 2018, Karachi university student unions protested against the committee which hindered the academic activities and classes. Hence, violence by student political parties becomes a major impact of educational activities hindrances.

Since, every problem has solution, so to counter the challenges posed by student unions also has solutions. Firstly, by strict checks and balances on student unions may reduce the violence in the campus. Checks and balances are crucial for the maintenance of every organization and ~~rest~~ refrain them from causing chaos in the country or the particular area. Therefore, educational institutions should have

to address the threats posed by student politics and limit their ~~all~~ excessive maneuvering in the administration, despite the complete closure of student unions. It can be done by making SOPs for the unions to follow and on violation of any SOP, the union will be suspended. Therefore, this ~~is~~ will help in running smooth process of academic activities and student unions.

Secondly, by influencing the student union members towards strong democratic norms will prevent the populism sentiments. Democratic norms are crucial to understand in order for peaceful co-existence and running of any organization. Therefore, the educational institutions need to emphasize on imparting and teaching strong concepts of democracy to resist the students to become a dictator or authoritarian leader. It can be done by debating and arguing on various aspects of politics and forms of governance to teach the students about the importance of standard democratic norms. Therefore, in this way, students will remain averse to orthodox and rigid leadership styles.

Moreover, there should be a balance

between educational activities and socio-political activities. It can help in curbing the hindrances in the academic activities and campus peace and prosperity. The educational institutions have to work on striking a balance between them by strong administrative hold on the campus rules and regulations. The campus administrative has to clearly differentiate between academic and extra-curriculum activities by granting more weightage to academics. In this way, the education institutions can achieve a balance between education and student unions.

To sum up, student politics play a significant role in the progress and development of the educational institutions and the individual well-being and character-building. The prospects of student unions, such as; awareness about democratic values, enhancement of social skills and decision-making capabilities. It impacts the country's political future by producing a strong democratic leader, a better policy maker and an individual with strong leadership skills. Therefore, if student unions are again initiated, will provide a better future to the country.