

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION

THESIS STATEMENT

Acquainting oneself with the knowledge of politics would be good for individual, but on a larger scale it creates divide within community. It is not the knowledge but the efforts to pursue one's knowledge/opinion that leads to differences. Difference of opinion leads to lack of unified response of a nation on different matters.

2. KNOWING THE TERMS: POLITICAL AWARENESS AND POLITICAL POLARIZATION

3. POLITICAL POLARIZATION IS A RESULT OF POLITICAL AWARENESS (THESIS)

- Diversity increases gender gap within a family
- Multiple opinions hinder unified response on issues
- Creation of multiple political parties ^{restricts} leads to representative government.
- Ideological difference is biggest threat to world peace.
- Difference in opinion gives birth to hate.

4. POLITICAL AWARENESS IS A KEY TO NATION'S UNITY (ANTI-THESIS)

- Healthy debate on issues helps in bonding of family
- Conformity does not ensure the best response.
- Even extremist parties are choosing the political forums
- There were more wars when people were politically unaware.
- Diversification is the beauty of nature and mode of nature.

5. DIVISION, NOT UNITY IS THE OUTCOME OF POLITICAL AWARENESS (SYNTHESIS)

- Debate on issues only materializes division, solves nothing.
- National issues require quick and unified response.
- Extremist parties divide the nation, even in political arena.

d. Political views are propaganda prone.

e. Intolerance, instability and violence are the products of diversification.

6. CONCLUSION

In Pakistan a minority political party is holding a sit-in at capital's artery, Faizalad. They are demanding expulsion of French Ambassador from Pakistan because some artist committed blasphemy in France. French government issued a security advisory for its citizen in Pakistan to stay indoors to avoid any untowards situation. Many days later, Pakistan is being reviewed for its efforts in controlling terror financing. Previously Pakistan was kept in Grey-list (performance unsatisfactory, under-observation) and was given 30 points agenda to take measures to curb the menace. Surprisingly, despite completing almost all measures, Pakistan keeps its position in Grey-list and gets ~~more~~ list of more measures to act on. This was due to courtesy of French financial watchdog, FATF. The extremist tendencies of a party, which were not supported by majority, had cost nation a fortune. Acquainting knowledge of politics would

be good for individuals, but on a larger scale it creates divides within a community. It is not the knowledge, but the efforts to pursue one's opinion that leads to differences. Difference of opinion leads to lack of unified response on different matters. Political awareness creates divide within a family and nations. This division creates hate in society. The same division is visible on global level and poses threat to world peace in form of ideological differences. Some people argue that awareness leads to unity. According to them differences are strength, not weakness of nations. They believe it is mode of nature. It leads to representative governments and gives multiple solutions to a problem from which best can be chosen. Despite these gleamy/shiny claims, it is true that differences, divide not unite. Awareness, especially political, creates divide within a family, society and nations. And this division certainly is in new way useful for a nation or any group of people.

Political awareness by no means mean staying informed only. It is about understanding the system of government - i.e. knowing the roles of different institutions and the ambit of their constitutional powers. It is about understanding the sense of actions of political parties and agendas that these parties pursue and affect of these actions and agendas on the goals of a nation. Similarly Political Polarization, although being neutral term, is given a negative connotation in political circles. It is used as antonym of cohesion, unity and

other terms which represent these. In a broader sense, it is used for divide within people with respect to their political views. People tend to develop different opinions on a topic due to their difference in understanding of working of constitutional machinery. Most dreadful aspect political polarization is the use of extremist means to achieve own goals, which is the cause of many social problems.

If we take these concept of Political awareness and political polarization, we find that ^{even} the most basic ~~social structure~~ ~~is~~ family is not safe from its evils. Political awareness creates divides within a family. A family usually has different generations and different ways of thinking, which lead to development of different views especially on political topics, these views are source of division in a family. It can be observed that younger generation in Pakistan is ^{average} more members of Pakistani family supports PTI or Imran Khan. Older generations are more likely to support PPP, PML-N or JUI, depending on their views about liberty, business and religion. This phenomenon was quite visible in General Elections of 2018 in Pakistan, where Pakistan Tehreek Insaf won the election. It has been observed that more than 60% of its voters were youth and most of them ~~supported~~ rejected the political views of their parents and did not support the parties which their parents supported or voted for.

The political awareness not only creates divides in family but also causes disruptions in political affairs by preventing a unified response on a national and international issues. Economic and Security issues demand quick response and affect country heavily. If there are multiple views on these issues, it ~~will not only~~ it will be difficult to select from multiple options but ~~also~~ this is also time taking exercise, which may cause delay in response. The recent wave of terrorism in Pakistan especially in KPK is the result of such situation. Both the governments, federal and provincial were divided after Afghan Taliban victory as to what should be the response of the nation. Religious quarters wanted friendly relations with talibans and liberal-minded people warned beforehand of such events and demanded strict security measures. ~~Due to~~ No consensus was developed and lack of unified response bought time for militants to plan and execute terrorist activities.

This lack of unified response is the cause of formation of multiple political parties. These political parties are the result of political awareness and difference in opinions. Rather than becoming a part of existing systems ^{and fixing it} everyone wants to create a new movement for solving the problems. People fail to acknowledge the idea that new party will also work within same constitutional limits. They can either struggle to develop new party and gather wide people or break people from other parties, or they can spend these energies to fix the drawbacks of existing parties ~~by~~ joining them.

Most people opt for the former and create a new party, which eventually fails to achieve anything but creates division in society. This argument is strengthened by the statistics that in Pakistan, as of Dec. 2022, there were 134 political parties registered with ECP. (Election Commission of Pakistan).

The idea of division or polarization is not limited to national level, but its effects can also be observed in international political arena. The development of ideological differences is biggest threat to world peace. Although the bi-pole world power structure formally ended with the disintegration of USSR and emergence of USA as a global power, yet the world remains divided largely on political front. There are different opinions regarding political systems, whether to adopt Democracy or Socialism. There is debate on whether Monarchy or Caliphate will serve the nations needs. This phenomenon is also visible on economic front. After knowing the benefits and demerits of certain economic systems, the world is divided on whether to adopt Capitalism or go for the Communism. This can be validated by the example of western nations (USA, Europe) and Eastern nations (Russia, China), where former support and propagate promote the capitalism and latter believing the communism or controlled capitalism to be remedy of all ills. In fact, the Russia-Ukraine war is ^{the} material example of these ideological differences.

From these examples and evidence, it is quite rational to conclude that difference in opinions creates room for and gives birth to hate. This hate is a result of lack of tolerance and lack of respect for the views of others. Whether be it family or in parliaments, people fail to acknowledge the fact that the views of other persons or party are based on empirical evidence and their interpretation of such evidence with a good intent for the betterment of their country or state. These views should be tried to understand and consensus should be developed but people outrightly reject what does not resonate with them. This phenomenon is quite visible in Pakistan between liberal and religious groups. The liberal class wants secularism for state to be in conformity with modern world values while neglecting the importance of religion for a nation's unity, similarly religious class emphasize too much on religious principle to the extent where human mind is unable to comprehend the merits of these principles and clearly sees the defects and negative outcomes of these principles.

~~All these examples~~ Although there is plenty of evidence which proves that political awareness leads to political polarization, still there is group of people who think otherwise. According to these group of people, political awareness leads to unity and is a source of strength. They have strong points that support their stance among which one is

that political awareness is not to blame if a family is divided rather it is natural that a family has every person of family has different views on everything. There are no two persons on Earth who completely agree to each other to a point that there are no differences. The most basic ^{component} structure of family wife and husband, disagree on many things yet they not only love each other but cooperate with each other to further their cause. In fact, the political awareness, or political views are a source of bonding for a family. The family shares political views with its members and they try to understand the way of thinking of each other and get to know how other family member comprehend and understands the things and develops a mindset to predict the response of that member on different issues which increases the chances of cooperation and better understanding of issues.

Political awareness not only unites a family but also presents a nation or a group with different set of ideas ^{from} which ~~can~~ be the best can be selected. A single person cannot experience everything in the world and cannot develop a vast ~~view about~~ all encompassing knowledge about anything. Therefore political awareness helps each section of society to be aware of all ~~the~~ merits and demerits of their respective fields. These views can be combined in a group and a synthesis of these views can be extracted in the best interest of country or state.

This argument is supported by the fact that all governments whether democratic or technocratic, monarchy or dictatorship, aristocratic or oligarchic, all work in form of groups. No single person is wise enough to manage all state affairs. Even in monarchies, there is a cabinet of viziers which consists of people ~~from~~ having expertise in different fields which guides the monarch with respect to government affairs and suggest the best possible outcomes.

awareness

Political ^{awareness} gives birth to different views that is why it leads to formation of multiple political parties, which ensures the representative governments. It has been observed that multiple parties present different ways to achieve the national goal. The public being political aware judges these goals rationally and makes their choice accordingly. It has been observed that almost all developed nations have multiple or bi-party system which ensures their success. In contrast the countries with much more better resources could not flourish due to either monarchies or due to dictatorship. The example of Myanmar is relatable in such context which being a tourist destination and having important location in trade routes, could not develop and flourish due to repeated rule of military dictators over 50 years.

From these examples it is observed that political awareness is a blessing not a curse. If we look at era before political awareness, this was the era of war. Political awareness led to peace in world. If we look at history, most of the wars were waged because people accepted and fought for ideas which were presented to them. Be it crusades or world wars. With the era of industrialization flourished the era of information. The formation of print media resulted in dissemination of news to every nook and corner of world. People started getting educated and developed a political opinion. These views evolved and led to the recognition of best principles that world currently adopts. Out of these principle one is global acceptance of a view that war brings no good, everything can be solved through negotiation. The end of ~~negot~~ Afghan war in negotiation is one prime example of this phenomenon.

Diversification

~~Political awareness not only led to world peace but is~~

not only a source of unity and cooperation but also it is also the mode of nature. Diversification is the beauty of nature and also the mode of nature. It is the measure of liberty of speech / views, a nation has on certain political topics. The autocratic and dictator governments do not tolerate opinions contrary to theirs whereas a democratic government is judged by liberty it provides to its citizens or having ~~certain~~ political views. Diversification is a beauty and also mode of nature. God made everything in Pairs be it night and day, or ~~sky~~ ^{heavens} and earth. There are

pairs

multiple couples that are the reason of importance for ~~the~~ items of that couple and also the beauty of nature.

The nature would be so dull without these couple/group or pair. To name a few, these are fire and water, darkness and light, Sun and moon, Good and Evil, Summer and winter, all represent diversification.

No matter how shiny ~~all~~ these arguments of unity through diversification look, there is no doubt that political awareness creates diversification or polarization. A debate on a political topic in a family solves nothing but only materializes the differences. There is no assurance that despite the debate being rational and logical, anyone will change their political views. These debates and discussions further take the hearts apart and create a divide ^{within} between families. The reason for cordial relations in rural areas is lack of political awareness. All people collectively decide their political candidate and back him no matter what. While urban families are much more informed about politics and develop their political. It is hard for them to face a relative who holds different political view. Thus political awareness creates a divide within families.

The divide within society is not the only cause of political awareness, it also creates a divide within a nation. Sometimes a political scenario does not demand the best response

but it needs quick response. As happened in 2017, when Army Public School Peshawar came under attack by terrorists, the country's political and military gave a unified and quick response which led to the expulsion of terrorists from Pakistan. This response was very effective ~~due to~~ because it was backed by all quarters of society and this. But as society develops different opinions on political matters, it starts to differ and negate each other at every point. A good example of this is the Reko Dik, gold mine case. The government officials made a deal, but judiciary not encompassing all the variables acted on its limited political views which led to defamation of country at international level and cost the country a fortune. Had it been a unified response, the case would be much different. Therefore political awareness hinders the quick and unified response by creating division in society.

The other argument forwarded by pro-awareness section is that awareness it leads makes extremist parties join the political and constitutional struggle, but this not true. The extremist parties divide the nation in political areas. These parties do not reform themselves to become the part of system, rather they change the system so that it may accommodate these people. No system or constitution supports extremism. A prime example of this argument is Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) in India. BJP is an ideological party that wants to promote hinduism and strengthen

it by any means. It envisions a hindu state named India where no other religion can exist. This party has been creating troubles for Indian muslims, christians and dalit communities. The BJP party did not give up its extremist tendencies to join the political system, conversely BJP's extremist ideology was further strengthened when the political power they accumulated and used it to further their agenda thus proving that extremist parties divide the nation.

The views that

→ Political awareness is not a blessing and creates polarization are strengthened by the notion that political views are propaganda prone and ~~create~~ can be used in favour of or against a party.

The media is the biggest tool of propaganda that shapes the minds of people according to its will, the biggest irony is that people consider these views as their own and defend these by all means.

When a political issue arises, every tv channel presents its own version of that issue. Some tv channels are even hired by political parties and always present biased views. People who digest these views develop their accordingly. They consider themselves as politically aware but do not know that they are being manipulated.

If we take a look at Pakistan's politics, we observe that PTI (Pakistan Tehreek Insaf) has the strongest media team.

On the other hand maximum number of voters of PTI are youth, who are always connected to media or use the media the most. It is established that political views are propaganda.

prone and can be used for any cause.

As political views are result of propaganda, these views are used to create divide within a society which in turn causes instability, intolerance and violence in society. Agenda based views do not leave room for any other arguments. These are rigid and intolerate. These do not allow for any other view and try to curb it by all means, be it violence. Violence in society results in instability and creates difficulties in every matter. The example of TTP's protest are the bare evidence of the fact. All the protests, sit-ins of the party somehow turn violent. Similarly, country faces extreme instability, both political and economical when TTP protest. The views of TTP's members are inculcated through repetitive methods and are the baseline for these protests. Thus creating instability, intolerance and violence in society.

Conclusively, although there are some benefits of political awareness like multiplicity of opinions and more political activity, but these do not ensure success and stability. In fact these are the ills that divide the nation and create gap between people of a nation. Everyone should be focused on our duty and results of their service produce for nation. Political matters must be left to political leadership who know their job well and can be controlled through the power of vote.