

Q. No. 8

Dynastic rule and democracy challenge each other.

## Outline:

### I. Introduction

**Thesis Statement:** Dynastic rule indeed challenges democracy as it discourages pluralism, promotes family politics, erodes the principle of meritocracy, assumes authoritarian character and others. On the contrary, democracy also challenges dynastic rule in various ways, including promoting public political participation, rule of law, accountability and education. In fact, there are some basic causes of dynastic rule as a challenge to democracy in developing countries. Therefore, some pragmatic measures may strengthen the position of democracy to root out dynastic rule there.

### II. How dynastic rule challenges democracy:

- A. Discourages pluralism
- B. Promotes family politics
- C. Erodes the principle of meritocracy
- D. Assumes authoritarian character



- E. Shrinks space for political accountability
- F. Disrupts checks and balance norms
- G. Compromises fundamental rights

### III. How democracy challenges dynastic rule:

- A. Enhances public political participation
- B. Ensures inclusive education
- C. Guarantees media freedom
- D. Makes judiciary independent
- E. Facilitates impartial accountability
- F. Promotes rule of law
- G. Eliminates corruption

### IV. The basic causes of dynastic rule as a challenge to democracy in developing countries:

- A. Mass illiteracy
- B. Abject poverty

### V. Some pragmatic measures to bolster democracy to root out dynastic rule in developing world:

- A. Political awareness through education
- B. Socio-economic development
- C. Women empowerment

### VI. Conclusion



## The essay:

Dynastic rule and democracy are at odds with each other. The rise of one brings about the fall of the other. Both patterns of government are contradictory to each other. When dynastic rule is established in a country, it challenges democracy in different ways. Dynastic rule discourages pluralism, promotes family politics, erodes the principle of meritocracy in politics, and assumes authoritarian character. Similarly, it also shrinks space for political accountability, disrupts checks and balance principle and compromises fundamental rights. These problems are dead against the principles of democracy. On the other hand, when democracy prevails in a country, it also challenges dynastic rule in several ways. Democracy increases public political participation, ensures inclusive education, and guarantees media freedom. In addition to this, democracy challenges dynastic rule by making judiciary independent, bolstering impartial accountability, promoting rule of law and eradicating the menace of corruption and malpractices. In fact, dynastic rule challenges democracy in various ways, including discouraging pluralism, promoting family politics, eroding the principle of meritocracy and assuming authoritarian character. On the



Contrary, democracy also challenges dynastic rule by promoting public participation, inclusive education, media freedom, independent judiciary and others. Indeed, there are some basic causes of dynastic rule as a challenge to democracy in developing countries. Therefore, some pragmatic measures may bolster the position of democracy to root out dynastic rule in poor countries.

To begin with, dynastic rule challenges democracy as it discourages pluralism. Since democracy thrives on the principle of inclusiveness, dynastic rule creates impediments for pluralism and inclusiveness. Dynastic rule shrinks space for public political participation that ensures inclusiveness. Only small clique of people is seen in political activities while majority of people is deprived of engaging in politics in dynastic structure. It can be seen in developing countries. For example, Pakistan hosts 241.5 million people as per the Census 2023, but only a few political parties have controlled the country's politics on dynastic line. Therefore, dynastic rule challenges democracy by creating hurdles for pluralism.

Similarly, dynastic rule promotes family politics. It is a direct challenge to democracy. In dynastic structure, power transition of political parties occur on family lines. Despite presence



of competent party members, party presidentship runs through family blood. It can be witnessed in South Asia. For example, in India, Gandhis have controlled the top layer of Congress party. Same issue is also seen in Pakistan's major political parties. Thus, it becomes clear that dynastic rule stands at odds with democracy as it eggs on family politics.

Apart from discouraging pluralism and promoting family politics, dynastic ~~rule~~ rule also erodes the principle of meritocracy. In fact, meritocracy is the soul of democracy, but dynastic rule flagrantly violates this principle. In dynastic structure, party tickets, political patronage, cabinet structure and political decisions are based on compromise and lack of merit. It is visible in Pakistan's political landscape. To illustrate, in elections of municipalities and local government, major political parties bolter those people in political realm who lack competence and proper education. Thus, the principle of meritocracy faces ~~receives~~ onslaught in dynastic pattern of government structure, so it strikes democracy at heart.

In dynastic rule, people in power assume authoritarian character. It directly clashes with very principle of democracy. As democracy stands for rule of law, checks and



balances and accountability, dynastic rule by increasing authoritarian tendency in power corridors brings about a serious trouble for democratic norm. This fact can be justified from the studies of scholars. According to Arshad Jalal, a prominent historian and author of several books, dynastic rule has promoted "authoritarian forces" in the political discourse of Pakistan and India. Thus, it is obvious that dynastic rule assumes an authoritarian character that erodes democratic norms.

As political accountability is a part and parcel of democracy, dynastic rule tends to shrink space for impartial political accountability in a country. When dynastic rule is established, political leaders operate with impunity without accountability. What damage they may do while in government receives no punishment. It suffocates democracy by galvanising despotism bereft of proper accountability. It can be justified from the studies of prominent scholars. As Ishaq Hussain in his book, "Evening the un-governable", that lack of political accountability from masses and government institution has reduced the "prospects of democracy" in Pakistan. In a nutshell, as dynastic rule ~~encourages~~ reduces space for political accountability, it



directly challenges democracy.

With the establishment of dynastic rule in a country, the norms of checks and balance will be disrupted. In fact, democracy thrives on the principle of check and balances of various government organs — executive, judiciary and parliament — and government institutions. However, dynastic rule disrupts checks and balances principle that results in the amputation of democratic muscles. It can be verified from constitutional principles of developed democracies. For example, the US constitution guarantees checks and balances of various government organs. As there is no dynastic rule, these norms of checks and balances are observed in good faith. So, by disrupting the norms of checks and balances, dynastic rule challenges democracy.

Last, but certainly not least, fundamental rights are compromised in dynastic structure. Indeed, protection of fundamental rights is the main objective of democracy whereas dynastic rule hangs a sword of Damocles over the neck of fundamental rights. It continues to violate people's basic rights through subjugation and repression. It can be exemplified from developing countries. For example, Pakistan's dynastic political



has overshadowed the fundamental rights of people in the country. In this way, it becomes clear that dynastic rule compromises fundamental rights of people; therefore, it challenges democracy.

In above arguments, it has become clear that dynastic rule challenges democracy in different ways. However, democracy also challenges dynastic rule when it is established in a country. The following paragraphs will clear the argument as how democracy root out dynastic rule in a country.

The first argument is that democracy enhances public political participation in a country. Since dynastic rule discourages pluralism and inclusive public political participation, democracy does the opposite. Democracy ensures that people will be given the opportunity to participate in electoral process, empowering their leaders and political accountability of transgressor. It can be seen in developed democracy. In US, for example, democracy has increased public political participation. It has eliminated dynastic structure in the political discourse of America. No political parties are in dynastic line. Thus, democracy augments public political participation that eliminate dynastic rule.



Democracy also ensures inclusive education. On the other hand, dynastic rule reduces the prospect of inclusive public education. With educating masses, democracy creates political awareness in a society. As people become educated, they would challenge the dynastic political order in a country. The more democracy guarantees public education, the greater prospects for the eradication of dynastic rule. It can be verified from the studies of scholars. Bertrand Russell, a prominent philosopher, writes the book "Education and Social Order" that education brings silent revolution by challenging the basic edifice of social order. As people become educated, they will challenge the existing social order. Therefore, the core purpose of a country is to educate people to bolster its own nationalism. Thus, education challenges the social order of dynastic rule, and democracy promotes the forces of education.

Apart from this, democracy guarantees media freedom. When people get freedom to speak and media becomes the "voice of voiceless", dynastic rule will collapse like a house of cards. Media, the fourth estate and a pillar of democracy, continues to propel democracy by educating people and ensuring check and balances. It can be justified from the fact of the Nordic



states. For example, Norway and Sweden are top democracies where media enjoy freedom without any restriction save instigation of any sort of violence. As democracy has ensured media freedom, the prospects of dynastic rule is a far cry. Therefore, democracy guarantees media freedom that erodes dynastic rule.

As independent judiciary is a fundamental principle of democracy, it wipes out dynastic forces. An independent judiciary implements the constitutional principles, so it keeps dynastic rule at a bay by guaranteeing fundamental rights of citizen and ensuring rule of law in a country. It can be justified from the fact of the Khalifa's rule in Muslim state. As Hazrat Umar (RA) was the Ameer-ul-Momineen of the Islamic Empire, he did not rescue his own ~~his~~ son from justice. He allowed to punish his son over drinking wine. Thus, it becomes clear that democracy makes judiciary independent that reduces the prospect of dynastic rule.

Since dynastic rule erode the principle of accountability, democracy facilitates impartial political accountability of rulers. In democratic structure, people hold their leader accountable provided that he/she fails to ~~to~~ deliver.



Besides this, institutions of the government will hold rulers accountable in case of transgressions. It can be justified from the fact in developed democracies. For example, people in the US have voted out Donald Trump in 2020 presidential election, despite his popularity, as he failed to deliver during the Covid-19 in 2020. Thus, it is obvious that democracy ensures impartial political accountability; therefore, it challenges dynastic rule.

Similarly, democracy also challenges dynastic rule by promoting rule of law. No one is above the law in democratic structure. Although dynastic rule tends to maintain rule of law and public order, ~~it~~ people in power are not equal in the eye of law in dynastic structure. On the other hand, democracy promotes rule of law and equal justice. It can be understood from the studies of scholars. Ishaq Hussain opines that rule of law can be ensured when democracy becomes mature in Pakistan. Thus, promoting rule of law is the principle of democracy, so it shrinks space for dynastic rule.

Finally, democracy eliminates corruption. With the process of accountability and independent judiciary, democracy stamps out corruption in a country. It reduces the prospect of a dynastic



structure as dynastic rule does not thrive without corruption. It can be verified from the daily life observation. For example, a dynastic ruler visits a constituency, he/she gives bribery, nepotism and incentives to his family lineage while he/she shrugs off the rights of competent people in the ~~con~~ who are not in the family blood line in a constituency. So, democracy eliminates corruption that challenge dynastic rule in a country.

In the above paragraphs it has been discussed that democracy challenges dynastic rule in various ways. So, it becomes pertinent to shed light on the basic causes of dynastic rule as a challenge to democracy in developing countries.

One of the major reasons of dynastic rule that continues to challenge democracy in developing world is mass illiteracy. Lack of education clouds rational faculty of masses. They become in the dark about their political, social and economic rights. Nor do they know about the spirit of democracy. As a consequence, they will end up in following and propelling dynastic rule. It can be verified from



national statistics. For example, literacy rate in Pakistan, as per Pakistan's ~~Bureau~~ Bureau of Statistics 2022, literacy rate in the is 58 per cent. It has greatly reduced the prospects of democracy and has strengthened dynastic rule. So, illiteracy is a main cause in developing countries which has promoted dynastic rule.

Another basic cause of dynastic rule in developing world is abject poverty. Destitution has made people so engaged in meeting the ends to spend the days, they are not in a position to speak about dynastic rule and urge for democracy. Dynastic rulers just give people a ~~measure~~ meagre resources, so they should not come out of loaves and breads. There are several examples which can testifies this fact. In rural areas of Pakistan, people do not have enough resources to meet their basic necessities. They are unable to pick a bone with their dynastic rulers. Thus, it is clear that poverty is a basic factor that has propelled dynastic rule in developing countries.

With the discussing the basic reasons of dynastic rule which continues to challenge democracy in developing countries, it becomes *sin qua non* to suggest some pragmatic



measures to root out dynastic rule and bolster democracy.

First, rising political awareness through education is mandatory to ensure democracy and wipe out dynastic rule. Education indeed makes people aware about their political, social and economic rights. After acquiring education, people will understand the principles of democracy and their fundamental rights. As a result, they will not sit idle in dynastic political structure. It can be verified from European democracies. As education took inroad in the street of common people, despotism in Great Britain received a powerful jolt. Democracy has been propelled, and dynastic pattern of politics has been relegated into the dustbin of history. Thus, rising political awareness among mass with the help of education can eradicate dynastic rule and ensure democracy.

Second, with socio-economic development, dynastic rule can be wiped out and democracy egged on in developing world. As far as democratic consolidation is concerned, socio-economic development will do the job. When social and economic condition of people is improved, they will plant the seed of democracy and axe the root of dynastic rule. It can be understood



from the studies of scholars. According to Maleeha Lodhi, a former ambassador of Pakistan, socio-economic development will "empower democracy" in Pakistan (Pakistan: Beyond A Crisis State). Thus, socio-economic development will empower democracy in developing world and overthrow dynastic rule in developing world.

Lastly, women empowerment will also bolster democracy and reduce dynastic rule. With empowering women, democracy will assume a pluralistic character and reduce prospect for dynastic pattern of governance. Women will challenge the historical injustice of men in the political spectrum of a country. As a result, dynastic rule will be kept at bay in national political discourses. It can be understood from the writing of researchers. According to Rafia Zakria, an attorney, women empowerment is fundamental for the growth of democracy in Pakistan. Unless women have been given political space, democracy remains a pipe dream in the country. Therefore, empowering women is indeed a modus operandi to propel democracy and dislodge dynastic rule in developing world.



In conclusion, dynastic rule indeed challenges democracy in multiple ways. On the other hand, democracy also stands at odds with dynastic rule in several ways. In fact, there are some fundamental factors which have promoted dynastic rule in developing countries. Therefore, some practicable steps can empower democracy and erode dynastic political pattern in developing world. Dynastic rule continues to challenge democracy across the world. It discourages pluralism, promotes family politics, erodes the principle of meritocracy, propels authoritarian rule, reduces prospects for accountability and others. On the other hand, democracy eliminates dynastic rule by <sup>ensuring</sup> increasing political participation, inclusive education, media freedom, judiciary's independence, rule of law and elimination of corruption. In fact, some basic causes are there which have strengthened dynastic rule and weakened democracy in the developing world. It includes mass illiteracy and abject poverty. Therefore, taking some steps like promoting political awareness through education, socio-economic development and women empowerment can facilitate to empower democracy and overthrow dynastic rule in poor countries. Obviously, democracy, in response, relegates dynastic rule in the dustbin of history for good.