

Politics without ethics is a disaster

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Ethics occupy a central role in politics, as it reinforces respect, tolerance, and adherence to rule of the game. However, when ethics degenerate thought to political expediency, this leads to polarization, disintegration, and possible division of society and state.

2- Overview of ethical politics

3- Significance of ethics in politics

3a- Forms pluralistic and vibrant society

3b- Reinforces trust in democratic institutions

3c- Lower societal divide and polarization

3d- Foster democratic culture

4- Unethical politics is a recipe for a disaster

4a- Lead to societal polarization

4b- Reinforces extremism and fundamentalism in society - A case of Nazism

4c- Hinder discourse and critical opposition

4d- Exacerbate societal and

state disintegration ✓

4e- Destroy democratic culture and hinder democratic growth ✓

4f- Lead to institutional crisis ✓

4g- Spearhead Propaganda and misinformation ✓

4h- Exacerbate inequality and injustice by favoring parties ✓

4i- Loss of legitimacy ✓

4j- Lead to policy failure ✓

5- Ways to Counter unethical Politics

5a- Establish rules of business for politics ✓

5b- Foster culture of discourse and dialogue ✓

5c- Strengthen democratic institutions ✓

5d- Promotion of ethical leadership in political parties ✓

6- Conclusion

In the movie, Rajneeti the internal political feud between Verandar Pratap Singh and Prithvi Pratap Singh for the control over family political party led to polarization, violence, and moral decay on both sides. The cycle of unethical politics lead to subsequent death of both Verandar and Prithvi, who in pursuit of party control applied heinous tactics of defamation. Thereby in today world, ethics occupy a central role in politics, as it reinforces respect, tolerance and adherence to the rule of game. However, when ethics degenerate ought to political expediency. This leads to polarisation, disintegration and possible division of both society and state. Thus calling for ethical politics has gained traction globally, as it develops a pluralistic, open and vibrant society. Moreover, it leads to institutionalization of rule based order and fosters democratic culture in society. On contrary, when unethical politics take center stage it exacerbate societal polarization, extremism and hinders open discourse culture. Thereby destroy democratic culture and values as evident in the book 'How democracy die'. In addition, it lead to crisis of legitimacy and subsequent policy failure.

Hence, it becomes imperative to inculcate ethical politics in all tiers of leadership. So, that a culture of open discourse and democratic institutions become strong in both society and state.

Ethical politics refer to an idea where moral considerations and values are kept in mind, while making a political decision. In addition, ensuring ^{that} the principles of participation, transparency, consensus and voice are kept in place. Similarly, ethical politics reinforces growth of democratic institutions and democratic culture. As all segments of society have open say in the system this lead to confidence building. As in the book 'How Democracy Die' both authors Steven and Daniel argue that unethical politics leads to rise of populism and polarization, whereby opposition and dissenting voices are characterised by a threat to ^{both} society and state. Hence, both authors present ethical politics as a solution, because it lead to integration, solidarity and well-being.

The conception of Political Ethics leads to the development of an open pluralistic society. As all segments of society irrespective of ethnicity, religion and gender would play an equivalent

role in nation building. ^{similarly,} Research shows that those nations in particular Global North who have ^{ensured} high ethics of politics and pluralistic values experience more growth and development. Likewise, ^{it} develop a culture of open discourse, which ^{subsequently,} leads to innovation and technological progress. Therefore, it can be said that ethical politics ^a establishes pluralistic society and growth.

Similarly, when ethics are placed in politics it ends the allegation of partisan institutions. Like it reinforces people's trust by augmenting and supplementing ^{democratic} institutions' powers. For instance, In USA and UK politics are fought on important policy matters like economy, health and defence. Likewise, political polarization in such states and societies are low due to ^{inclusive} strong institutions, as propounded by Robinson and Daron (Why nation Fail). Hence, the ingredients of success ^{strong} lies in democratic institutions, which can be ensured only by ethical politics.

Another outcome of ethical politics is that it lowers societal polarization prevalent in the society. This is because it fosters discourse and constructive ~~constructive~~ critical & critique, which leads to

low polarization. Moreover, it rationalised the society which bring political stability. For instance, Charter of Democracy signed between Pakistan political parties in 2007 lowered the societal political divide. In addition, it has rendered democratic dividends in the form of ^{stable} political government transitions till today. Thus it renders dividend in the form of lower societal polarization.

Political ethics foster the growth of democratic culture in society and state. Democratic culture refers to a culture where no one is deprived of his/her right to vote, to participate and to dissent. This in essence it is all about freedom of choice. That being said, however political ethics and rule of the game must not be crossed. For instance, Indonesia is a good democratic case study, as it got embroiled in long civil war, whereby military elites took the rein of power, but after ^{military demise in} 1998, it has experienced ^{continuous} civilian supremacy and growth of democratic institutions. Hence, it can be deduced that ethical politics lead to the development of political culture.

Ethical political is an ideal ~~not~~ practical notion, but when society and

States are experiencing unethical politics it leads to societal polarization. Thereby, society ~~get~~ ^{find} itself fracture on numerous faultlines. For instance, the prevalent unethical politics in Modi India is exacerbating communal violence. Like the Manipure incident 2023, where 100 plus ~~muslims~~ ^{Christians} lost their lives due to Hindu Mob violence shows the extent of societal polarization prevalent in India. Thus societal polarization is an outcome of unethical politics.

Similarly, unethical politics manifold tentacles of extremism and fundamentalism in society. As it augment nefarious tendencies of self-righteousness. Like, Hitler proclamation of Jews as inferior beings and termites made the German society and state extremist and fundamentalist. Hence, the absence of political ethics in German state and society gave birth to ^{extreme} ideologies like Nazism and Fascism. Thereby, it can be deduced that fundamentalism and extremism are the end product of unethical politics.

Unethical politics hinder discourse and dialogue, as it is critical of

opposition and dissenting voices thus leaves no room for dialogue. Moreover, in such fragile toxic political environment opposition and dissenting voices are seen as a force to be reckoned with. For instance, NATO failure and unwillingness to address Russia grievances led to Russia invasion of Ukraine. But if constructive discourse and dialogue had happened, this travesty could have been avoided.

Another outcome of unethical politics is that it exacerbates state disintegration. This is because it gives impetus to non-state actors to use existing loopholes to jeopardise fragile societal fabric. Like the debacle of East Pakistan in 1971 happened due to rampant unethical politics. The discrimination toward Bangladeshis by successive governments reinforced the feeling of alienation and marginalisation in Bangladeshi diaspora. ^{consequently,} This alienation amalgamated into Bangladeshi struggle and ended with the disintegration of Pakistan. Thereby, absence of political ethics ~~can~~ leads to disintegration of state.

The consequence of unethical politics is that it destroys democratic

culture. Hence, hinder democratic growth by perpetuating inertia and deadlock. Moreover, it exacerbate democratic deficit in society by entrenching a mindset of dystopian Leviathan, whereby states ^{employ} ~~have~~ considerable influence in day to day public affairs. For instance, Communist Party of China has hindered democratic culture by instilling fear of strong state institutions in public minds. Furthermore, it has silenced the dissenting voice thus has rendered democratic growth redundant.

Similarly, unethical politics manifests prevalent institutional crisis. By making a ~~big~~ ~~id~~ ~~renders~~ ~~premise~~ of institution being partisan. This brickmanship and non-accomodative narrative renders institution to be dysfunctional. For instance, the controversial role of Bangladesh's Election Commission has raised suspicion of mass election rigging. Whereby Prime Minister Hasina Wajid ~~has~~ ^{been} ~~again~~ crowned ~~as~~ ~~to~~ the ^{new} Prime Minister. So, it can be said that unethical and partisan politics deprives institutional legitimacy and public confidence.

Propaganda, misinformation and disinformation are the hallmark

of unethical politics. As propoganda against one's opponent lead to urgent short term dividents, but in the long run destroy the socio-political fabric. For instance, Minister Goebbles of Nazi Germany spearheaded propoganda of Germans being an Aryan race and portrayed Hitler as a Messiah and a universal leader.

This propoganda and disinformation played havoc on world as countless lives were lost in world war II. Hence, it can be said that propoganda and misinformation are manifestation of unethical unrestrained politics.

Likewise, unethical politics exacerbates inequality in the society by advancing the interest of the elites at the expense of the poor.

This leads to injustice and people's feeling of alienation in the society.

Thereby society became fragmented owing to rising conflicts. As per Marx's 'theory of conflict' unethical politics is a way bourgeois to maintain control over the proletariat. That being said, this inequality and injustice is a recipe for disaster and thus leads to sociopolitical criticism which eventually destroy the fabric of state and society.

Another consequence of unethical politics is the loss of legitimacy. As continuous brinkmanship and inability to hold dialogue and establish peaceful co-existence leads to loss of legitimacy in people's eyes. Moreover, loss of legitimacy is more often manifested in rising polarization and extremism. Similarly, governance deficit is a characterisation form of legitimacy loss. For instance, Sinhalese-Tamil conflict got exacerbated ^{played} by both sides. Hence, the subsequent failure of central government to establish the writ of the state and end conflict was an ^{blunt} ^{center} manifestation of legitimacy loss, which ~~is~~ exacerbated due to unethical politics.

Lastly, unethical politics lead to policy failure. This is because political polarisation lead to policy inconsistency, which subsequently translate into policy failures. The current political turmoil unfolding in Pakistan led to economic crisis, which severely dented the growth prospect upto 5-8%. Thus, skyrocketed inflation upto 29%. Moreover, failure of political parties to establish consensus was hampered ^{ought} to unethical politics. Thereby, it can be said that unethical politics heavily contribute

to policy failure.

Amid the unethical politics and its consequences, it is important to establish and implement rules of business for politics. This creates conducive environment for dialogue and debate on important policy matters. Like, the 'charter of democracy', signed in 2007 between Pakistan Political Parties was an embodied blue print of ethical politics. In addition, effective implementation of political business rules ^{of 2007} will foster culture of democratic growth. Hence, by amending the existing charter, political stability and sustainability ~~will~~ be ensured, which will benefit the country in unprecedented way.

The only sustainable cure to unethical politics is to promote dialogue and discourse on important matters. As establishment of dialogue and discourse culture will lead to enlightenment of mind ^{it} ~~more over~~, will open new avenues of technological progress and innovation. Like, the European Renaissance happened ~~ought to~~ opened discourse and dialogue culture whereby authority and role of kings were put into question. Thus, by establishing and encouraging culture of discourse will deepen democratic norms and rules in the society.

Another way to counter unethical politics is to strengthen democratic institutions by making them more effective, efficient and responsive to public needs. Moreover, inclusive, pluralistic values must be imparted and strengthened in society. This will lead to promotion of liberal values. Like, in the book 'Why Nations Fail' James Robinson and Daron Acemoglu argue that inclusive democratic institutions were the main driver of growth in western nations. There by, if any wants to experience sustainable growth, it must encourage and foster inclusive political institutions, which will subsequently lead to society and nation uplift.

Lastly, the political leadership must play a same role in promoting ethical politics. As they are people voice and have considerable sense of influence hence, their role in establishing ethical politics become far more nuanced. For instance, Gandhi advocated for peaceful selfless politics in which he gave the conception of peaceful 'non-cooperation movement' against the British colonial rule. Hence, in today world need for ethical politics have become more urgent than ever, and leaders must play a constructive role in establishing it.

So, it can be said that without ethical politics world is highly vulnerable to disruption and chaos from unethical politics. As it leads to devastation, destruction and polarization of both society and state. Moreover, past instances reflect that unethical politics can translate into dreadful events like world war II, whereby millions of innocent lives and infrastructure were lost. Moreover, its applicability in disrupting democratic culture has been discussed in detail. However, by undertaking and implementing rules of ethical politics, world can be made more safer for discourse and liberty. Hence, in today world ethics occupy a central role in politics, as it reinforces respect, tolerance and adherence to established rules of the game, so that ^{any political} ~~no~~ disaster can be avoided in the bud.