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Democracy: The hollow facade with out human rights

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5. Conclusion

Thesis Statement:

Though democracy is the best form of government for every nation, it becomes nothing but a shallow structure without human rights.

Ever since the emergence of human civilization, people have relied on leaders to guide them through thick and thin. Initially they were the men of strength or simply clan's chief. However with the passage of time more sophisticated methods of selection of leaders emerged. The Greeks were first to use the concept of popular vote and laid the foundation of modern education democratic system. Since the inception of Pakistan in 1947, it has been a democratic country, which has struggled hard to keep up the democracy. Democracy has

base fruits for Pakistan but it was disrupted time and again by undemocratic forces. The interruption was mainly due to the weakness of human rights. No society can stay prosperous without human rights availability to everyone. From denial of educational rights to all <sup>other</sup> basic rights, human rights had been embezzled in Pakistan. Therefore, though democracy is the best form of government for every nation, it becomes nothing but a hollow shell without the protection of human rights.

The term democracy is best defined by Abraham Lincoln, who defines democracy as the "government of the people by the people for the people". In words of Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, "Democracy is the best form of government." It is a time tested concept that has stood through harsh times. It is the most followed concept around the world. Democracy is the solution of all problems as it is famously said

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that "All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy."

The essay will examine how democracy became nothing but a hollow facade if human rights are not protected.

In this regard, it is pertinent to discuss the prominent role of lack of education in strengthening non-democratic forces. The Article 25-A of constitution of Pakistan states that education should be a right for every citizen but it is not given. Almost 24 million children are out of school in Pakistan which is the 9% of overall out of school children in the world. The illiterate masses can not make a right decision while choosing their leaders in a democratic system. These masses will choose under the influence of sectarianism, caste, or religion. Only 47.9% of people voted in 2014 general elections. It means the leaders are chosen by only few. It would be right to say that it is good people who do not vote chooses bad leaders. Hence, embedment of educational right into democracy into a hollow facade.

In the same manner, illiteracy leads to rigging of polls. As the famous adage goes, "Ballot is more powerful than bullet," can not be applied to illiterate people. Ballot will be strong if people are educated and sensitized. Only educated masses who are aware of their rights can impede the undemocratic forces in election rigging. Moreover, uneducated masses are mostly seen selling their votes for few rupees or over other preferences. These people are not empowered as their right has been embezzled, leading to a weak democracy. This proves that democracy is a hollow facade without human rights.

Moreover, people in Pakistan are not given the right of free speech. They are not allowed freely to any party and can not say what they want. This denial of basic human right of free speech leads to the deteriorating condition of democracy in Pakistan. Likewise journalism which is considered as the fifth pillar of state is not free to check the

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truth. Several departments are made to spread the news. This creates a lacuna and spreads misinformation. Votes are manipulated through propaganda and a false cabal decided if not selected by the people. The denial of right to free speech makes democracy a puppet which leads to a dynastic government.

Similarly, the article 8-20 in the constitution of Pakistan ensure basic human rights of every citizen. The constitutional articles are not enforced in letter and spirit. Most of the citizens are not even aware of their rights, which allow the rulers to rule as per their wishes denying every right.

Therefore, the democratic form of government is void for the unempowered masses.

The masses can not distinguish between good or bad as they are not aware. They can not ask for their rights till the time they are not aware of their rights. This shows that democracy is a hollow facade without human rights.

Likewise, democracies without protected human rights increases extremism.

and sectarianism. The nations with subdued human rights conditions choose the course of extremism and sectarianism to gain their objectives. Democracy turns into a chaos due to extremism in all aspects of life. People affiliate themselves as a part of a specific sect not as a nation and work mainly for their own benefit. This generates a tug of war, which leads to extremism and sectarianism. Hence, the unprotected human rights in democracy may have catastrophic impacts on nations.

The basic essence of democracy as discussed earlier is the welfare of people. Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people. If the rights of people are not protected then the basic essence of government will be lost. For instance, Researchers derive the categories of democracy and its pond by comparing it with other forms of government like dictatorship, monarchy etc with limited human rights, to democratic nations to measure the health of democracy. If democracy does not ensure

human rights than it is not a democracy at all. Empowered people choose their leaders freely which is the jewel of democracy. So, without human rights democracy is just a hollow facade, or it can be said that it is no democracy without human rights.

Lastly, democracy ensures the development of people. To make human empowered and skilled life is prosperous and peaceful in a democratic way of life with human rights. However, the absence of human rights make it an obstacle for development. This leads to lack of development which further deteriorates the living condition and causes the problems discussed above. No development can take place in an unequal development society. Therefore, democracy without proper human rights availability is nothing but a hollow facade.

The above paragraphs have discussed the demerits of democracy without human rights. The following paragraphs will talk about recommendations to foster democracy by ensuring human rights.



Youth mobilization is the first and foremost step for strengthening democracy. By empowering youth on their rights, they will use their energy to advocate for their rights. In the fight they will be made sensitized and empowered. The politically aware youth will choose competent leaders. Youth consist of almost 60% of total population and the population will remain young till 2050. By harnessing the potential of youth, democracy can prosper and will be palpable with protected human rights.

In Democracy people are counted and on the basis of majority decisions are made. As mostly without the provision of human rights these masses remain unsensitized and make democracy a hollow facade. Therefore it is necessary to sensitize the masses of one wish for a true democratic state. Sensitization of masses is of utmost importance and for a nation to flourish it is important. Through sensitization, people become aware of their rights and when

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anyone tries to embezzle their rights, they do not let them. Hence it could be said that the hollow facade of democracy can be revived through the sensitization of masses.

Moreover, women comprise of 48.8 percent, more than half of the total population of Pakistan. One can not think of development by ignoring the half of your potential. The participation of women is very low in political affairs of the country. The patriarchal mindset and religious bounds stops women from participating in politics. Recently in General election of 2024, a cleric from Gilgit Baltistan passed a verdict that, women can not canvass for women participants in election. By empowering women and ensuring their rights the flailing democracy can find footing in Pakistan.

Lastly, it can be stated that it is also pertinent to strengthen the socio-political dynamics of the country. It is commonly observed that those with a stable social and

economic status tends to take more interest in politics. Therefore if economic and social conditions which are deteriorating in Pakistan can be made better would ensure stability and protection to human rights. These informed and socially stable people will stand up for democracy and will make it a suitable platform for ruling and handling of issues.

In conclusion, it can be said that democracy is a hollow facade without human rights but the dream of a true democracy can be achieved if masses are mobilized, youth is mobilized, and socially stable women participate in political affairs of the country. In the words of Winston Churchill, "Democracy may not be perfect but I just don't know a better system." Though democracy is flailing in Pakistan since its inception in 1947, it can be strengthened into a solid structure by implementing the democratic norms in a true spirit. Democracy has gone through the test of time and it has never left

anyone in a lark who has believed  
in its projects.

