

TOPIC: DEMOCRACY AND ILLITERACY DO NOT MOVE TOGETHER (-2020)

OUTLINE:

1. Introduction

- Thesis Statement: Literacy is the most important ingredient for the recipe of democracy because illiteracy ruptures the very foundations of democracy which is its people, impacting severely on the socio-economic and political structure of the state. Hence, it must be counter to foster the development of democracy.

2. What is Democracy - A brief overview

3. Why Democracy and Illiteracy do not move together:

3.1 Illiteracy makes masses to be easily manipulated.

- Case in point: Elect wrong leaders; ~~ethnic divide~~ ethnic division.

3.2 Illiteracy makes people believe in 'might is right'.

- Case in point: No Accountability of politicians
Bear unjust by the powerful

3.3 Illiteracy do not understand egalitarian principles of democracy.

- Case in point: Politicians and govt. servants considered superior
Individual feel helpless against state.

3.4 Illiteracy tends to believe and ~~also~~ consume everything.
• Case in point: Curb on the freedom of speech
Easy target for propaganda.

3.5 Illiteracy does not demand civilian-supremacy.
• Case in point: Constitution shown as a piece of paper
Let any power intervene

3.6 Illiteracy prevents to set-up a norm of political discussions.
• Case in point: Youngster avoid to be a part of politics
Politics become a taboo in a society

3.7 Illiteracy encourages master-slave relationship
• Case in point: People prefer authoritarian rule
People consider state over them.

3.8 Illiteracy gives a state non-democratic forces or elements
• Case in point: Socio-political evils rise in society
Extremism and militancy.

4. IMPACTS: When Democracy IS PRACTICED IN ILLITERATE SOCIETY:

4.1 Violation of human rights as people do not know or aren't aware of them in the first place.

• Case in point: Curb on freedom of assembly

4.2 Powerful institution can intervene in political space.

• Case in point: Martial Law in Pakistan (1958, 69, 77, 99)

4.3 Death of meritocracy for good.

• Case in point: Favouritism and corruption in govt. jobs.

4.4 People believe that democracy is a failure political system.

• Case in point: Khilafat concept among theologians.

5. However, there exist an opposite site that believe democracy and literacy do not move together.

- case in point: Case study of Sri Lanka

6. Nevertheless, democracy needs literacy for its successful implementation at all cost.

- case in point: Socrates' stance in democracy
Current condition of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

7. Suggestions to flourish democracy with respect to Pakistan.

- case in point: Addressing out-of-school children
Reformation in high education and curriculum.

8. Conclusion

Democracy from time to time historically has been criticized and opposed by the intellectual minds only on the bases of illiteracy; let it be the Greeks such as Aristotle or Zaynal. The reason behind is that democracy is build on its people, but when people are not aware of its principles. then the system become a hane rather than a boon. There is no doubt why developing world is giving difficulty in adopting it - as they have low literacy rate. When Abraham Lincoln said, "Democracy is 'government' of, by and for the people", all states applauded and rushed to adopt it. However, the least they know that informed population is its prerequisite. Resultantly, the world witnesses many states failed to adopt it such as Pakistan. This is because illiteracy makes masses to be manipulated easily, making them believe the concept of 'might is right'. Illiteracy further hinders democracy as it fails to address or understand the egalitarian phenomenon of democracy. hence, an easy target for propaganda. Along with it, illiteracy prevents democracy in a number of ways: it does not demand citizen-supremacy; prevents to setup a room of political discussions; encourages master-slave relationship between state and individual; gives rise to non-democratic elements in a

society. This all has a severe impact on state. When democracy and illiteracy are tried running together then violation of human rights, intervention of non-democratic power in a democracy, favouritism become common, making people believe that democracy is a failure system. This depicts that literacy is the foundation of democracy. Critics, on the flip side, argue over the legitimacy of this concept by reporting few examples. In reality, even in those exceptions, literacy played a great role in the favour of people; hence, Pakistan must work to flourish it as well. Now, it can be said that literacy is the most important ingredient for the recipe of democracy because illiteracy ruptures the very foundation of democracy which is its people, impacting severely on the socio-economic and political structure of the state. Hence, it must be counter to hamper the development of democracy.