

QUESTION : 04

What are the features of Pakistan political system?

ANSWER:INTRODUCTION:

Despite years of political and constitutional evolution, Pakistan's political culture still mirrors the legacy of British. Unlike other British colonies that soon after independence freed themselves from colonialism and became a stable polity. Pakistan's political culture remains conflictual rather than consensual. It is saddening to note that Pakistan's political culture is an amalgamation of aristocracy, dynastic politics, institutional inequality, weak opposition and passive public participation, making it more prone to undemocratic forces holding the reign. This is eventually resulting in no progress in Pakistan's social, political and economic sphere. Currently, Pakistan's political culture has turned more aggressive, instead of working on country's betterment, politicians

are seen playing blame games on their counter parts - In brief, the power of lust of politicians has overshadowed the country's national interest. To cope up with this situation, consensus between government, the opposition and public is essential.

"It is only with united efforts and faith in our destiny that we shall be able to translate the Pakistan of our dreams into reality."
(Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah)

SALIENT FEATURES OF PAKISTAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

The salient features of Pakistan's political system are

• Dynastic Politics and Aristocratic Influence:

The dynastic succession of political leadership is a common feature of Pakistan's political culture since its inception. Instead of commencing a democratic way of selecting people, every political party passes the rule to their predecessors.

which is prominent trait of British Monarchy. There are many examples of such a case like PML(N) and PPP. This is the major cause of Pakistan's least political growth. Furthermore, this aspect of political culture has hampered efficiency of political leadership.

On the one hand, many untrained people get the critical positions. On the other hand, the deserving ones stay far out from mainstream politics. In short, power thrust has overshadowed the national interest. Now, to facilitate a genuinely democratic way of selecting political culture, these practices need to be addressed at grassroots level. In addition, the selection of public representatives through fair electoral process is mandatory for the proper functioning of democracy in country.

In the same manner, aristocrats have influenced Pakistan's political culture more exhaustively than any other element. Feudal lords and industrialists have made power politics a permanent feature of country's governance.

These elites manipulate constitutional law to serve their personal interests, leaving a power vacuum that allows undemocratic forces to take control. Politicians and ~~beaurecrats~~ bureaucrats frequently become tool in the hands of these elites, helping them gain maximum benefits.

Sadly, in Pakistan justice often favors money and influence rather than fairness. Corruption in various forms like bribery, nepotism, money laundering, tax evasion reflects how power politics has damaged the country. Therefore, it is necessary that these practices should be eliminated to make country's political culture more stable.

• INSTITUTIONAL IMBALANCE AND CENTRALIZATION OF POWER

The institutional imbalance is another authoritative feature of country's political culture. Two institutions - military and bureaucracy have influenced political culture since independence. The repeated

Interference has encouraged the undemocratic practices across the country. Pakistan has suffered from an unbalanced institutional setup; visible in delayed constitution making process and abrogation of two constitutions. Another major problem is highly centralized administrative system, where power is not properly shared. This often leads to clashes between local political representatives and deputy commissioners. The effect of this imbalance is visible throughout country's political system. The only solution is to build impartial and independent institutions across the country. Above all, decentralizing power can reduce the burden on central government and ensure political stability.

WEAK OPPOSITION and PASSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Likewise, in a row country's weak opposition has eroded the beauty of democracy in Pakistan. Instead of working for country's betterment, opposition parties often

focus on blaming the government and creating controversies - The disputes with the ruling party frequently dominates the media and even the sessions of senate and National Assembly get disrupted. Alongside, the passive public role is another serious issue. Many people due to lack of awareness avoid election that is why voters turn out is decreasing every year - These factors have damaged true spirit of democracy in Pakistan. Therefore, an active constructive opposition and increased public participation is urgently needed to secure political stability in the country.

ANALYTICAL REVIEW:

Pakistan's political culture shaped by undemocratic norms, elite dominance and industrial imbalance has remained conflict driven rather than consensus based. This instability not only hampers democratic growth but also discourages

investment and development. Unless public participation, media responsibility, and genuine democratic practices are strengthened, the system will continue to be vulnerable to political and economic excesses.

CONCLUSION:

Pakistan's political culture remains unstable due to undemocratic practices and colonial legacies, harming trust and development. Enforcing constitutional laws, fostering cooperation between political forces and encouraging public participation are key to building a stable democracy and a true welfare state.

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(علامہ اقبال)