

DYNASTIC POLITICS IS THE WORST MOCKERY OF DEMOCRACY.

OUTLINE:

I. INTRODUCTION:

II. Dynastic Politics as the worst mockery of Democracy:

- Political participation as a distant dream for those not belonging to influential political families
- NO concept of political pluralism due to lack of inclusivity
- Free media facing restrictions in a dynastic political setup
- NO concept of free and fair elections for all
- No accountability for those in power resulting in weakened rule of law
- Prevailing nepotism in dynastic political setup compromise meritocracy

- preference of executive outreach by dynastic politicians resulting in compromised separation of power
- Autocratic tendencies of dynastic politicians resulting in compromised fundamental rights

III. Why is dynastic politics prevalent in some countries?

- lack of education and civic literacy results in people not questioning the status quo
- Power centralization in center due to dysfunctional local government system
- No intra-party elections resulting in lack of internal democracy

IV. Ways to deter dynastic politics:

- Spreading awareness and promoting education by civil society
- A functional local government system promoting grass root level participation
- Making intra-party elections statutorily mandatory and independent election oversight for their impartiality

V. CONCLUSION :



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'Dynastic politics is the most mockery of democracy'

"When defeat feels like an existential threat to politicians and their constituents, they grow desperate to avoid it," said Steven Levitsky, an American political scientist. The best way to avoid that threat is to remain in power. Thus, the prevalence of dynastic politics. Resultantly, the democracy is compromised. In the dynastic political setup, political participation is a distant dream for non-influential individuals. There is no concept of political pluralism due to lack of inclusivity. Free media face restrictions in this setup. Moreover, there is lack of accountability for those in power. Elections are rigged. Nepotism prevails in the dynastic political setup. Furthermore,

separation of power is compromised because of executive overreach. Fundamental rights of individuals are compromised due to autocratic tendencies of dynastic politicians. Reasons behind its prevalence include lack of education, dysfunctional local government, and lack of intra-party elections. Therefore, dynastic politics is the worst mockery of democracy, because it compromises all the fundamentals of the latter. However, it can be deterred by identifying key causes behind its prevalence and implementing strategic measures.

To start with, political participation is a distant dream for those not belonging to the influential families. In a dynastic political setup, only few families rule. An ordinary

individual in powerful position is a threat to their dynasty.

Moreover, they create such policies that prevent ordinary meritorious individuals from true participation.

These families are influential as well as rich at the same time.

In contrast, ordinary people lacks both of these vital elements of participation. One of the

examples is of Pakistan where

Bhutto family is ruling from

1971 and Sharif family from

1981. To date, these families

remain in power, hence, political participation is a luxury for those not belonging to influential families.

Second, this lack of inclusivity results in jeopardization of ~~the~~ core element of democracy that is pluralism. Democracy is all about giving equal

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opportunity to everyone. However, this basic element is nowhere to be seen in countries that are ruled by dynastic politicians. One of the prime examples is of Rajapaksa family of Sri Lanka holding 40 percent of cabinet positions including key ministries. This clearly shows how pluralism is lacking in dynastic setups.

Third, free media face restrictions in a country where there is dynastic political system. Free media is an effective tool to spread awareness among the masses. This awareness may result in people questioning the status quo and can be a threat to the rule of existing dynasty. To prevent this from happening, those in rule enact harsh media regulations. For example, Haseena

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wajid, dynastic politician who ruled Bangladesh introduced 'Digital security Act' to suppress voices coming from media. This clearly reflects how media face difficulties in dynastic political setup.

Moreover, there is no concept of free and fair elections when only few families are to compete in it. Elections are core element of democracy.

Its purpose is to provide the opportunity to all candidates from diverse backgrounds. However, in a dynastic system, true letter and spirit of fair elections is compromised. As per a research

paper published by University of Philippines, 70% of the candidates in Philippine's elections belonged to Marcos, Tolentino and Villars.

There are influential families of the country. Therefore, elections

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are only in name where there is dynastic politics dominant.

Furthermore, dynastic politicians are not held accountable in their respective countries.

Resultantly, another key element of democracy is jeopardised that is the accountability. In a true democracy, no one is above the law. There ~~is~~^{exist} the rule of law. However, influential families are above the law in their

respective countries. One of the many examples is of the Arroyo family

of Philippines. When people showed discontent regarding their rule and protested, government ordered 'shoot to kill'. This resulted

in the infamous 'Philippines Massacre of 2009'. To date, no one is held accountable. This manifests how these families go unaccountable for their actions.

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To add on, meritocracy, another key element of democracy is compromised due to dynastic politics. Those in power influence every sector and department to remain in power. The best way to do that is by appointing close relatives and aides to key positions. Resultantly, those deserving these positions remain under the influential and less qualified people. For example, Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh of India is influenced by a single family and ^{its} family members are appointed in all of the key positions. Hence, dynastic politics is an impediment to meritocracy.

Additionally, preference of executive overreach by dynastic politicians results in compromised separation of

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power. Introduced by Montesquieu, separation of power remains the ultimate parameter for checking the quality of democracy. This includes judiciary, parliament, and executive all accountable to one another. However, dynastic politicians prefer overdeveloped state structure with judiciary - one responsible for making the rulers accountable - as subordinate and encroached. Key example is of the Assad's regime of Syria where Al-Assad's policies made judiciary his government's subordinate. This is the clear manifestation of jeopardised separation of power in a dynastic political setup.

Lastly, in result of dynastic policies, fundamental rights are compromised.

Citizens with rights demand democracy in its true letter and

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spirit. This will directly pose a threat to the politicians who are ruling for decades. Resultantly, they tend to rip the citizens of their rights including freedom of speech, freedom of expression, right to education, information, and many more. Regime of Hasina Wajid is one of the examples where quota in education system led to revolution by students. Therefore, citizens are deprived of fundamental rights in dynastic politicians led government.

Having discussed how dynastic politics is the worst mockery, it is important to understand the reasons behind their prevalence.

The first and foremost reason is the lack of education and civic literacy amongst

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the masses. Illiterate people do not question the status quo. They are easy to manipulate. That is why dynastic politicians devise such policies that keeps people uneducated and unaware. An assistant presiding officer wrote in Dawn newspaper of Pakistan that when he asked a person that why all of the people were voting for one party only. The person replied that the forefathers of that party gave many sacrifices. Hence, lack of education and civic literacy gives fuel to existing dynastic politics.

Second, a dysfunctional local government system is another cause of prevalent dynastic politics. Lack of local government system results in power to be centralised

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at provincial or central levels, ultimately, it becomes easier for few individuals to be in charge of all the affairs.

Moreover, lack of participation ~~and~~ local level disempowers the citizens. In Pakistan, there is a growing talk of making LG system functional. However, governments prefer the power to be centralized. This clearly reflects how dynastic politicians prefer centralized power. Therefore, lack of strong local government system is another cause of dynastic politics in Pakistan.

Third, intra-party elections result in lack of internal democracy. In intra-party elections candidates from a single party compete with one another to fight in elections for the top slot. Resultantly,

internal democracy prevails and meritorious candidates gets to the top. However, dynastic politicians perceive it as a threat to their rule. This is one of the prime reasons behind dynastic politics in Pakistan—where Article 17(2) requires parties to hold intra-party elections, but without proper oversight. Ultimately, no intra-party elections become key cause of dynastic politics.

While there are many causes behind prevalence of dynastic politics, they are not insurmountable. Following are the remedies to curb dynastic politics.

First and foremost step to be taken is to spread awareness among masses and educating them. Civil society plays an important role in doing the job.

literate masses will question the status quo and will demand change. As Thomas Jefferson said that an educated citizenry is a vital requisite for the survival as free people. Moreover, western democracies are free of the menace of dynastic politics. This is because the people there are literate. Therefore, spreading awareness and promoting education among masses will deter dynastic politics.

Second, a functional local government system to promote grass root level participation. This system will play an effective role. It will give opportunity to ordinary and meritorious individuals to rise to power. An effective LG system devolve requires devolving all powers from upper to

lower - local government - level, resulting in those weakened power of those in rule. Zohran Mamdani, an ordinary individual, became Mayor of New York through the very local government elections.

This is an example of how local government system empowers the individuals other than the powerful elite. Hence, LG system will deter dynastic politics.

Lastly, making intra-party elections statutorily mandatory will become an effective way to promote internal democracy ^{within} ~~among~~ the party. This can be done by making intra-party elections constitutionally binding on all parties. Also, to ensure fairness, an independent election body will play a crucial role. One of the reasons that there is no dynastic

political setup in USA is strong intra-party elections. These elections are mandatory to become eligible for Presidential elections. Thus, intra-party elections will play a massive role to prevent dynastic politicians from coming into power.

In conclusion, dynastic politics is indeed the worst mockery of democracy - for it compromises the democratic values. From preventing political individuals from participation in politics to promoting nepotism, it serves as an impediment to democracy taking place in its true spirit. However, number of measures could be taken to deter dynastic politics from taking place. These include, spreading awareness, making local governments functional, and

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by making intra-party elections
statutorily mandatory for all
parties through an independent election
oversight body. Ultimately,
democracy will prevail and
countries will become free
from the menace of dynastic
politics.