

Dynastic Politics is the Worst Mockery of Democracy

- A. Introduction
- B. Comprehending the term Dynastic Politics
- C. How Dynastic Politics is the worst Mockery of Democracy?

a- Promotes favouritism in politics, hindering free and fair elections

→ Pakistan's Political party system

b- Weakens opposition, undermining transparency and accountability
Bangladesh dynastic politics and opposition

c- Increase dependency on foreign aid, affecting economic growth

World Bank South Asia Report - 2023

d- Enhances public distrust through ineffective policies

PEW Researched report 2022 survey - Public distrust and politics

e- more focused on leadership than growth

PILDAT (Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and

transparency report 2023

f- Weakens institutional strength
through misuse of power

"How Democracy die" book by
Steven Levitsky and Daniel

g- Increase social division

Bangladesh historical social
division pattern

h- Affects rule of law by
selective justice system practices
Pakistan - a case study

i- Suppress freedom of expression
by influencing media
Economic Intelligence Unit
Report 2024

j- Increases poverty cycle
through corruption
Philippines (Marcos family)

D. How Dynastic political trend
can be reduced?

a- Increase awareness among
citizens

b- Encourage youth involvement
in politics

c- Make alliance of global democracies
against dynastic politics

E. Conclusion

"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people" The above mentioned words by famous politician named "Abraham Lincoln" truly explain the meaning of democracy. It helps one to understand the meaning and importance of people participation in democracy. However, dynastic politics is opposite to his idea - real idea - of democracy. In dynastic politics democracy loses its true essence. It becomes a government of the family, by the family and for the family. Unfortunately, dynastic politics is expanding, all across the world. Its gradual expansion weakens the democratic values - making it a worst mockery of democracy. Family politics promotes favouritism in politics. In addition to that, it weakens opposition and increases public distrust among people. Similarly, it also increases dependency over foreign aid. Correspondingly, dynastic politics weakens institutional strength by misuse of power. Moreover, it increases political polarization.

all these are true democratic principle which are gradually weakened by family politics. There is no doubt that this system exist and prevail but it can be reduced by certain pragmatic measures including an increase in awareness among citizens and encouraging youth involvement in politics. Hence, dynastic politics is no doubt the worst mockery of democracy as it gravely damages the core democratic values - free and fair elections, transparency, public trust - but this can be reduced by effective reforms.

Before moving ahead, it is crucial to explain the concept of dynastic politics. It is the type of politics totally opposite to democracy. In democracy all people are equal and can take part in politics but in dynastic politics only from one family rules. It maintain its rule through from both formal and informal ways. This kind of family politics focused on leadership and next elections instead of growth.

This family politics undermine the democratic principles. The politics in Bangladesh and India are germane examples to quote here. In Bangladesh Awami league party of Sheikh Mujab-ul-Rehman rules for many years, whereas in India Gandhi family rules for many years.

Having discussed what dynastic politics is, it is time to explain how it is the worst mockery of democracy.

To start with, dynastic politics promotes favouritism in politics, hindering free and fair elections. As free and fair election are the core principle of democracy, dynastic politics spoils this principle. Family politics favour their loyal to take part in political affairs. Moreover, their recommendation by elites are already there at the time of selection of political seniors or officials. Instead of merit based selection, favourit person are nominated and for political affairs. For instance

Pakistan, the lower level political members are selected by the party elites - who are closer they select who are closer to their families. Hence, dynastic politics encourage favouritism rather than merit based selection.

Moreover, dynastic politics weakens opposition, undermining transparency and accountability. The strong opposition is very important for a true democratic country, because the strong opposition work as watchdog on the ruling leader. It kept eagle eyes on the policies and project by the government. But However, in family politics by misuse of their power weakens the opposition. This has adverse impacts on the democratic nature of state. For example, the two major political parties - family politics - has dominated the politics in Bangladesh. These are Awami league and Nationalist party. These parties have great dominance and have rules over years. No other party has ever taken the rule power in its history. Thus, dynastic politics weakens opposition and affect democratic principles.

In addition to that, dynastic politics increases dependency on foreign aid, affecting economic growth. When a politics is dominated by one family. They only spend money by their own will. They spend more at the time of elections only - to gain power. Consequently, there less focus on economic growth results in surge of debt burden from foreign countries. According to world bank South Asia Report 2023, "the elite capture of resources worsens debt dependency." Thus, there is no denying fact that family politics increase debt burden.

Similarly, it enhance public distrust through ineffective policies. The public trust on politics and government is very important. When government continuous to delay their projects, when they it not implement policies. Then with the passage of time people government looses trust of people. According to PEW researched report 2022 dealing trust in democracy linked to elitism and hereditary politics. Hence, family politics not only create distrust in citizens about politics but also about democracy.

Correspondingly, family politics is more focused on leadership than growth. As family politics promotes favouritism. They help their relatives to stay in politics. They focused more next election and next leader. They do work for people, they make projects and policies, But the hidden objective is to gain more votes in next elections. They invest more personality cults. As (PILDAT) Pakistan Institute of legislative survey development and transparency, 2023 shows; Family politics prioritizes leadership preservation over governance performance. Thus, family politics is more concerned of leadership rather than growth.

Moreover, dynastic politics weakens institutional strength through misuse of power. The strong institutions means strong observance on government policies. This ensure transparency in government. However, elite politicians when came into power, tries to influence institutions by their misuse of their power. This In order to gain more freedom in their political affairs. What "Steven and Daniel" has written in their famous book "How Democracy Dies" is pertinent to quote here. According to them, leaders destroys democracy by turning neutral institutions into tools.

Hence, family politics weakens institutes, undermines democratic values.

In addition to that, dynastic politics increases social division. When a family dominates politics it uses propaganda to stay in power for a longer duration. To gain more support from people they invest in specific areas. This creates a division in society ~~the~~ Political polarization - one those who supports them and the other who oppose them. For instance, in Bangladesh there is a historical social division of society into two perspectives. One who follow a nationalist party and the other who follows Awami league party. Thus, family politics instead of unity increase social division which affect democratic principles.

Furthermore, it affects rule of law by selective justice practices. Rule of law means, everyone is equal before law. But in dynastic politics law is different for supporters of the family and for opponents. They favours the loyal of their party. They do, by controlling institutions and media control. They exaggerate opponents news on media whereas suppresses their supporter news. This can be proved by quoting the

example of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, during the Sheikh Hasina's Awami league party rule, the opposition leaders have faced arrest, lengthy trials, while their party member cases are fit rarely heard. Therefore, the rule of law which is crucial for democracy to survive is weakened by dynastic politics.

Besides that, dynasties politics also suppress freedom of expression—a democratic value. In modern time traditional media (TV, radios, newspapers) has reduced value but social media plays role in politics. Family uses media to suppress freedom of expression. They control the news, vlogs, channels which uploads ~~news~~ against their policies or parties. As reported by The Economic Intelligence Unit 2024 the ^{word} Press freedom Index in the Pakistan stands 152th out of 180 countries. Thus, free media is necessary for freedom of expression which ensures democracy to survival.

Lastly, dynasties politics increases poverty cycle through corruption. When a family and plays authoritative role in politics. It

tries to gain more and more wealth for the its family members. It promotes favouritism, It make policies for more more related to personal gains instead of people's demand. These practices increase corruption. It aggravates the rich and poor division. The rich becomes more wealthy and poor survive badly. Therefore poverty cycle prevails and continuous. For example Marcos family ruled in Philippines from 1965 to 1986. They just focused on wealth accumulation and leadership. Thus, the family politics increase poverty through corruption which hinders democratic principle such as equality transparency to work.

Despite its deep roots and serious challenges, dynastic politics is not unbeatable. Some practical steps are suggested below to reduced its effects on democracy.

First, One can reduced the drastic affects of family politics on democracy through awareness among citizens. If people knows very well about their rights

the dominance of political elites can be mitigated. One can promote awareness through campaign in rural areas and through media also. This can also be achieved through academia. People ought to know about their role in democratic state and about the importance of their participation in politics.

Secondly, one can reduce it by encouraging youth involvement in politics. Through social media such as whatsapp, Facebook, youtube - it is quite easy to attain. If youth involves in politics no authoritarian family can rule for longer period of time.

Thirdly, the alliance of all democratic countries at international level can also be helpful to achieve this.

This alliance should work to combat the dynastic politics and help democracies to for efficient government governance. The European union countries should focus and focus fund the little democracies to flourish and grow.

In a nut shell, dynastic politics which prevails across the world, can be mitigated through effective measures. Family politics is contrary to the principles of democracy. As democracy demand free and fair election, merit based selection, and freedom of expression. Dynastic politics seem ~~as~~ the worst mockery of democracy.

As it weakens the institutions strength through misuse of power. It increase strength social division or political polarization. Moreover, it affects the rule of law by selective justice practices. Similarly, it suppress the freedom of expression. Correspondingly, it increase poverty cycle through corruption. There is no doubt, dynastic politics seems expanding but with practical measures its affects can be reduced. If the world community wants to see a prosperous world it must promote democratic culture. It is not merely a culture, but this life hood of a prosperous society.

