

# Dynastic Politics is the worst mockery of democracy

## Outline

### (1) Introduction;

Thesis statement: "Dynastic politics, in its very nature, is hazardous. It weakens institutions of election, accountability and transparency letting the evils of corruption, despotism and human rights violation prevail."

### (2) How is dynastic politics the worst mockery of Democracy;

(a) Dynastic politics enhances the influence of certain families on core democratic institutions, like the institution of election and accountability institutions.

Case in point: Rajapaksa Brothers had appointed their close relatives and friends on controlling positions of main institutions before the July 2022 revolt against them.

(b) Dynastic Politics enhances patron-client culture in a country  
Report: Prior to 2024 election, Gallup Pakistan conducted a survey and found that 89% of the voters went to vote for candidates for ~~other~~ personal favor.

(c) Dynastic Politics replaces ideological and issue-based politics in a country  
Report: According to a report of The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, majority of the politicians have no proper election manifesto or agenda, most of them gain votes by accusing each other for corruption and other evils in Pakistan.

(d) Dynastic politics prevent rise of genuine leaders and encourage parachute politicians

Report: A Gallup Pakistan report in 2022 stated that 91% of the politicians in Pakistan belong to



families that have historically been part of Political Club in Pakistan.

(e) Dynastic politics results in empowering undemocratic forces in the country's politics

Reference: Pakistan's Case is in point

(f) Dynastic politics and Collaboration of elite families try to curtail the powers of Core democratic institutions.

Case in point: 26th Amendment to the Constitution is a clear illustration to that as the Amendment curtails the powers of judiciary and undermines its independence through the Parliamentary Committee.

(g) The Countries to ~~to~~ with dynastic politics are more prone to Corruption.

Reference: In 2023 Transparency International reported that Venezuela and Syria are the most corrupt



Countries. Though both these countries are not democratic but both practice dynastic politics.

(h) Long term power occupation makes leaders despotic

Case in point: Hasina Wajid in Bangladesh with her repressive policies towards political opponents

(i) In Countries, with dynastic politics, human rights violations and abuse of powers are frequent

Reference:

During Sheikh Hasina's 15 years regime over 700 political opponents went missing and many of them were found dead later on, reported the Odhikar, a prominent NGO

(j) Countries where dynastic politics is prevalent often end up in severe economic crisis.

Case in point is Sri Lanka's economic crisis

(3) Conclusion



Dynastic Politics is a global challenge to democracy. There are many democratic countries where dynastic politics is practiced. Certain families rule generation to generation to cement their roots in the political apparatus of that country. The cyclic rule of these individuals and families greatly hampers democracy and the institutions of it. By exerting their influence over the election and accountability institutions, they exempt themselves from accountability and influence the electoral process. In such a political environment, Patron-Client culture gets prevalent as individual vote for certain individual candidates for personal favors without considering the broader aim of social welfare. Similarly, the dynastic politics and prevalent Patron-Client culture results in public backwardness and corruption, thus, the ideological politics is replaced with blame game politics where leaders get public votes without any contributions in their development and prosperity. The politicians just blame each other and appeal the poor feelings of public. Thus, with this



blame-game for corruption and backwardness, the politicians get votes and reach the post-policy-making position for another term without doing anything for public. Furthermore, it has often been observed that politicians belonging to dynastic families off compromise with undemocratic forces in exchange of favours. These compromise weaken democracy and give room to undemocratic forces to get involve in political engineering. Similarly, the Collaboration among elite families and with undemocratic institution is undermining the institutions of accountability and check and balance. Such as 26th Amendment in Pakistan's Constitution curtailed the powers of judiciary and undermined its independence by placing it under parliamentary Committee of elite politicians. Similarly when the very institutions of accountability are compromised, then in such countries corruption can be prevalent. Apart from corruption, countries with dynastic politics and weak institution often make the rulers despotic. For instance, the Regime of Shaikh Hasina Wajid resort to repressive policies and did grave human



rights violations during its 15-years rule. Last but not the least, the countries with dynastic politics often witness severe economic crisis, for example economic crisis in Sri Lanka which ultimately ended up overthrowing the regime in the country. Therefore, dynastic politics, in its very nature, is hazardous for democracy. It weakens the institutions of accountability, election and transparency letting the evils of corruption, despotism and human rights violation to prevail.

Families that rule a country for generation, then it is obvious that those families will have a significant influence on the institutions of that country. As it has been commonly observed that the ruling families anywhere in the world try to hijack core institutions, such as election accountability by installing people of their favor on top positions of those institutions. For instance, in Sri Lanka the Rajapaksa brothers appointed their



Close relatives and friends on to positions to control and use those institutions whenever they feel the need to. Until July 2022, the Rajapaksa family was dominant on the Sri Lankan politics with the support of those individuals sitting on top positions in the military and civil bureaucracy. Thus, due to dynastic politics individual families can influence and dictate state institutions undermining the core principles of democracy.

Another challenge that dynastic politics poses to democracy is the prevalence of patron-client culture in the countries where dynastic politics is practiced and political awareness and knowledge is dimmed. In such a political environment people vote for certain influential families who give the voters personal and individual favors without considering broader social welfare. As a <sup>survey</sup> report of Gallup Pakistan ~~2023~~ highlights that 89% of the voters said that they went to vote for certain election candidates in 2024 elections for personal favors rather



than the social welfare of the Society as whole. That's why it's evident that dynastic politics ruins the political environment and prevails Patron-client culture in the Country.

Similarly, another challenge that dynastic politics poses to democracy is that it changes the nature of politics from ideological and issue-based politics to merely blame-game politics where the politicians blame and accuse each other for the plight of public at large. As in a Country with dynastic politics, patron-client culture prevails where individuals are awarded ~~caste~~ instead of the Society. So Society largely remains backward and, thus, the politicians keep blaming each other for the corruption and back-wardness leaving the ideological and issue-based politics behind which would create a healthy political environment in the Country. This prevalence of blame-game politics, yet again, can be attributed to the dynastic politics.



@ As said above, in dynastic politics the some specific families dominant the politics of the country and do not give room to genuine politicians who could represent the public. As Gallup Pakistan in a report in 2022 stated that 91% of the politicians in Pakistan belong to powerful families that had historically been part of Pakistan's politics. This clearly shows that how dominant is the dynastic politics on the political apparatus of the country which makes it impossible for genuine political leaders to rise to ruling position.

Moreover, as in dynastic politics, the politicians belonging to elite political families dominant the political apparatus, it has also been observe that such politicians easily compromise with undemocratic forces and give them room to enter the country's politics. For instance, in this regard Pakistan's case clearly illustrate that whenever the politician of ruling family families found themselves in trouble they used to compro-



#mise before the undemocratic forces and let them influence the political decisions and to do political engineering. Thus, this is another attribution of the dynastic politics.

As mentioned in the last paragraph, the dynastic politicians and undemocratic compromise with each other on certain points and issues. So, they also work to undermine the institution who ~~would~~ could be the obstacle in their way or ~~could~~ could make them accountable. For example, the Pakistani Parliament, dominated by elite and dynastic politicians backed by the military, ~~q.~~ passed 26th Amendment that greatly curtails the powers of Supreme judiciary and undermines its independence by empowering the parliamentary committee for judicial appointments and removal. Thus, this illustrates that the current hybrid regime, which the current Defence Minister Khawaja Asif acknowledges played well in curtailing the powers of ~~the~~ judiciary.



Additionally, Countries where certain family rule for generations and institution remain weak, the Corruption is obvious. It has been observed that the Countries where dynastic politics is practiced are much more ahead in terms of Corruption when compared to Countries where there is no dynastic politics. To illustrate this a report of Transparency International 2023 will be enough. According to the report Venezuela and Syria topped the Corruption & index. Though these countries are not functioning democracies, yet in both Countries dynastic politics was prevalent at the time when this report was published, clearly illustrating the premise that dynastic politics enables corruption.

Apart from Corruption and all that, when a single person or family occupies power in a Country, then that makes the regime despotic and repressive. For instance, Sheikh Hosain Wajid ruled for 15 years on Bang-



adash using repressive policies and tools to suppress the political opponents. As a report from Odhikar, a prominent NGO, says that during this 15 years over 700 political opponent had been ~~missi~~ forcefully disappeared and many were killed, this shows that long time dynastic rules can turn to despotic regimes leading to oppression and human rights violations.

Last but not the least, the countries with dynastic politics often face severe economic crisis, as in dynastic politics corruption and misuse of powers is prevalent which pushes countries towards economic crisis. In this context, the case of Sri Lanka is relevant where long rule of Rajapaksa family crossed all limits of corruptions and ~~miss~~ misuse of power leading to economic crisis in Sri Lanka and ultimately the default of the country. Thus, it is evident that countries with dynastic rulers end up facing severe economic crisis.



In Conclusion, it can be said that dynastic politics is the worst Mockery of democracy as it weakens state institutions, empowers undemocratic forces in the countries and lead to Compromise of all the democratic principles and institutions. With weakening institutions, it also opens ways for prevalence of all kinds of evils, like corruption, misuse of power, despotism and oppression which further worsen the status of democracy in these countries. Therefore, it is safe to say that dynastic politics is the worst Mockery of democracy.