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DYNASTIC POLITICS IS THE WORST FORM OF DEMOCRACY. Mockery.

OUTLINE.

1.0) Introduction.

2.0) Dynastic politics allow a family to rule for decades

- a) Nehru Dynasty in India.
- b) Marco and Aquino dynasties in Phillipines
- c) Bhutto and Sharif dynasties in Pakistan.

3.0) Dynastic politics is a mockery of democracy because:

- 3.1) It utilizes competitive advantage to consolidate one's regime.
- 3.2) It paves the way for social evils like corruption
- 3.3) The "economic trade off" situation for them produces illiteracy and backwardness.
- 3.4) It does not provide a level-playing field for all actors.
- 3.5) It also exploit populist demands, paving the way for religious and ethnic conflicts.

4.0) Dynastic politics is not deemed to be the worst mockery of democracy:

- 4.1) It acts as a conduit for the representation of marginalized groups and may produce economic development.
- 4.2) Marginalized groups themselves still remain deprived of representation while economic development remains an exceptional case.

5.0). Panacea for fizzling out of Dynastic Politics:

- a) Intra-parties elections must be promoted.
- b) Dynastic politics must be curtailed by banning them.
- c) Education and inclusive representation must be promoted.
- d) Local government system must be promoted.
- e) Accountability and transparency must be ensured.

Conclusion.

Democracy dies either at the hands of men with gun; or Presidents and Prime Ministers who subvert the process that brings them to power.

~ Steven Levitsky.

Dynastic politics has undermined the fundamental principles of democracy. It operates under the masquerade of democracy to prevaricate scrutiny and accountability. Consequently, the countries have to encounter various political, social and economic ramifications, which mainly encompass economic inequality, utilization of competitive advantage to stifle dissent, religious and ethnic conflicts, extractive political representation and corruption. Dynastic politics can operate at two levels: national and subnational levels. Both systems allow the ruling regimes to cut common people of mainstream parties. Despite that, dynastic politics is perceived to be a conduit for representation of marginalized sections of society. Some also believe that

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dynastic politics can bring long-term economic development owing to the vested interests of the rulers.

However, the political, economic and social repercussions of dynastic politics clearly demonstrate that it is the reason of poor governance in democratic countries.

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Dynastic politics has permitted dynasties to rule over countries for decades in democratic countries. This must be attributed to their charismatic leaderships consolidated by economic wealth and political kinship networks, providing little space for dissent. This is demonstrated by the prevalent dynasties in various countries. Starting with Nehru dynasty in India, it has ruled over for seven decades. It started with Jawahar Nehru who ruled for 17 years, followed by Indira Gandhi who ruled for 16 years. Manmohan Singh, as a proxy of Nehru, also spent various years in office. Lastly, Rahul ruled for five years. Although the family has not remained in office, it has not dawned stepped down yet.

The Marcos and Aquino dynasties in Philippines also presented similar case. For instance, Ferdinand Marcos ruled over Philippines for several years. After his assassination, his wife took over the office and ruled for several years. Later on, his son was elected. When the Aquino dynasty dawned over the country, Benigno Aquino remained a leading figure. After him, his children remained in office for several years.

Bhutto and Sharif dynasties have remained no exceptions.

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Both parties have ruled the country for several times. Starting from Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, his daughter Benazir Bhutto served for two times. Later on, her husband took on the charge of the Pakistan's People Party (PPP) and served as President of the country for two terms. Concurrently, her son is leading as the Chairman of the party.

The long-term regimes of dynasties have permitted them to reap various political, economic, and social benefits for their families. However, this has unleashed various implications for the countries striving to establish popular sovereignty. These ramifications are requisite to be discussed to analyze its role in backsliding of democracy. Some of them are discussed below;

Utilization of competitive advantage by dynastic parties contributes to the prosecution of opposition. The term was coined by Levitsky and his co-author in their book "How Democracies Die" to refer to a situation where there is an "even playing field". Opposition holds meagre resources to compete with generational wealth at national level. Consequently, dynastic political parties capitalize on the situation, and exploit the situation by manipulating institutions in their favor by offering them largesse. Additionally, although media is free to operate in dynastic rules and opposition forces are free to operate, dynastic politics euthanized them by trapping in law cases. This allows them to curtail dissenting voices by crowding out of prospects of accountability.

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and dissent. Hence, this permits them to sustain their regimes for decades.

104 By sustaining their long-term regimes, dynastic regimes also pave the way for corruption. In developed countries, the atmosphere of accountability, law and order situation and presence of inclusive institutions deter the parties from engaging in un-lawful activities. They are wary of consequences of their actions and bank on level-playing fields to grab power. This is demonstrated by Henry Clinton's sundry attempts to grasp power despite possessing the label of "dynastic family".

On the other hand, developing countries do not have stringent regulatory mechanisms to hold rulers accountable. Consequently, dynastic parties appoint their loyalists to well-established positions to evade accountability while accumulating more wealth for their families without any hindrances.

104 Besides this, the 'economic trade off' situation for dynastic parties produces illiteracy and backwardness in a society. The term was coined by Acemoglu and Robinson in their political theory of economic backwardness. According to them, economic trade off alludes to a situation where dynastic parties have to walk a tight rope between choosing political power and economic development. If they choose economic development, this will jeopardize their survival. For instance, economic development in terms of employment and literacy will bring technological advancement of a society and make people more appraised.

about their rights. This will lead them to advocate for political representation and pluralism. Hence, to maintain their status quo, they will choose political power while denuding society of development. A research published by ASTAN Institute of Management in 2022 showed that the constituencies ruled by dynastic parties are more prone to poverty and impoverishment.

Along with economic rights, dynastic politics also deprive people of their political rights. It does not provide a level-playing field to all actors. Consequently, new ideas cannot prevail in society. The societies remain susceptible to traditional practices. For instance, the nexus between dynastic politics at sub-national level ~~allow the~~ and feudal lords keep people at the mercy of feudal lords and their self-created cultures and norms. Consequently, the "patron-client" environment clamp down on people's desire for self-rule. Besides this, the parallel system of justice — Tribal jirga — also unleashes in such societies. Their acceptance in a society not only results in human rights violations but also atmosphere of fear and terror. This is exemplified by the situations prevailing in rural Sindh where people have been struggling with political, economic and social implications of "wadera system" enforced on them.

Dynastic politics not only deprive people of their basic rights enshrined in democracy, but also pave the way

For religious and ethnic conflicts. For instance, dynastic party hailing from any ethnic or religious class will favor its own people. It will nurture the culture of feather-bedding by promoting discrimination among various classes. Consequently, people feud over meagre resources while resorting to undermine the rights of other classes. This produces intolerance among people towards specific religious and ethnic classes, consolidating the extractive institutions while producing chaos and disorder in the society.

Despite having tremendous political, economic and social implications, dynastic politics is not believed to be the worst mockery of democracy. It is contended that dynastic politics provide inclusive representation by incorporating marginalized groups like women, who could not have attained such rights. Additionally, they believe that if dynastic parties are "stationary bandits" — holding vested interests in economic gains to accumulate wealth, they can invest in economic development.

Although, Kanchan Chandra in her book "Dynastic Politics" has argued that the dynastic politics has played a paradoxical role in democracy by empowering marginalized community like women, it still remain exception. The women hailing from dynastic parties grab power through reputation and money of their families. Secondly, they do not represent the collective interests of whole women community. One single women cannot camouflage the situations of other marginalized women in the society.

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With regard to economic development, it still depends on the interests of dynastic politics. If that interests will challenge political regimes of the country, they will prefer impoverishment of a society to development.

To address the implications emanating from the dynastic politics, several reforms should be taken to fizzle out of it, which are explored below.

Firstly, intra-party elections should be promoted. This will allow to enhance the representation of new talents. Most of the political parties do not hold intra-party elections and undermine meritocracy by fixing representation for everyone. The effectiveness of intra-party elections can be demonstrated by the electoral system comprising primary elections prevalent in the US. Hence, it can serve as a strong pillar of democracy to curb dynastic politics.

Additionally, in order to curb dynastic politics, they must be banned in the countries. There are several countries who have already banned dynastic parties. For instance, Article 2 Section 22 of 1987 constitution of Philippines have banned dynastic parties. The constitution of Malaysia has also banned different members of same families from holding different offices. Despite that, enforcement still remains a persistent challenge. A robust framework followed by stringent enforcement mechanism is requisite to curb implications of dynastic politics.

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Thirdly, education and inclusive representation must be promoted. This will weed out the environment of "patron-client relationship," where people will be more keen to contribute towards economic development rather than relying on patrons for their needs. Hence, a more politically aware society will effectively contribute towards the development of democracy.

Fourthly, local government system must be promoted to dynastic parties often at sub-national level do not allow national parties to intervene in their territories. They sit in legislatures to grab development funds and do not invest in human resource development. Hence, local government system comprising grass-root representation with special rights for youth can save the societies from the implications of dynastic politics.

Lastly, accountability and transparency must be ensured. For this purpose, law and order is the essential element. This will necessitate strict enforcement and regulatory mechanisms to clamp down on corruption and nepotism. Consequently, meritocracy will replace the ensued ramifications of uneven playing field endorsed by a biased system.

In a nutshell, although dynastic politics is perceived to grant representation to marginalized sections of society while giving possibility of economic development, it precipitates poor governance while driving democracy into a tailspin. Politically, it does not provide equal

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representation to all actors while stifling dissent.

Economically, it promotes impoverishment and extractive economic institutions. Socially, it promotes corruption, nepotism and illiteracy. Hence, the multi-dimensional challenges driven by dynastic politics demonstrate that it is the worst mockery of democracy.