

"Dynastic Politics is the worst Mockery of Democracy"

1, Introduction

2, Why Dynastic Politics is the worst Mockery of Democracy?

2.1- Limits opportunities for new leadership
(Book Reference: "Dynastic politics in Punjab")

2.2- Reduces intra-party democracy
(Case Study of PML(N) in Pakistan)

2.3- Contradicts the principle of political equality
(Against Constitution and spirit of democracy)

2.4- Concentration of power within few hands

(Book Reference:
"Pakistan: Beyond the
Crisis State")

3)

2.5- Increases Nepotism
and chances of
corruption
(Case study of
Bangladesh)

2.6- Reduces accountability
of leadership
(Book Reference:
"Pakistan at the
Crossroads")

2.7- Democracy reduced
to personality cult
(Case-study of
Pakistan)

2.8- Increase political
patronage politics
and concentration
of wealth
(UNDP report)

4)

2.9- Alienation of
public from
political participation
(less voter turn-
out and participation
in election)

3) Measures to reduce Dynastic politics and revival of democracy in its true spirit:

i) Strengthening of participant political culture
(Example of UK and USA)

ii) Promotion of intra-party democracy through intra-party elections
(Electoral reforms)

iii) Reforms to reduce the terms in office
(Constitutional Amendments)

4) Conclusion

Don't limit the essay to Pakistan only

Dynastic politics is a world wide phenomenon ...

Use transitional devices to bring coherence between paras

ESSAY

Connect the hook with the rest of the paragraph in a well integrated manner

“Members of dynastic political family are doing politics as their family business rather than service to people” (Maleeha Lodhi). It is against the spirit of democracy. It limits the opportunities for new leadership to serve the country and against the principle of political equality. In addition, it leads to the concentration of power within few hands. Furthermore, it increases the chances of nepotism and corruption and reduces accountability of leadership. It reduces democracy to personality cult. Therefore, corrective measures should be taken to reduce dynastic politics and revive democracy in its true spirit. The foremost measure is to strengthen participant political culture. Moreover, promotion of intra-party democracy is

highly important to reduce the bad influence of dynastic politics on democracy. Thus, dynastic politics is the worst mockery of democracy as it reduces the chances of new leadership and increases nepotism. However, dynastic politics can be reduced by taking corrective measures.

Firstly,

Dynastic politics limits opportunities for new leadership to take power. The leadership position is transferred from one generation of the family to another like inheritance property. As a result, it is difficult for new people to hold leadership position in a country. The author of the book, "Dynastic politics in Punjab" wrote that democracy in Pakistan is reduced to dynastocracy as power circulates between PML(N) and PPP parties. Hence, it is proved that dynastic politics acts as a hindrance for new leadership to take power.

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It reduces intra-party democracy. As people who are close to party leadership come to power. It is against the spirit of democracy which provides equal opportunities to all people. As a result of dynastic politics, only few people have the chance to take leadership position. To illustrate, **Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz**, after winning 2024 elections, provided high leadership positions to its family members. **Maryam Nawaz**, daughter of **Nawaz Sharif**, is given the position of Chief Minister of Punjab. Moreover, **Nawaz Sharif** gave the position of Prime Minister of Pakistan to his brother, **Shahbaz Sharif**. Thus, dynastic politics reduces intra-party democracy which is against the spirit of democracy.

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In addition, It contradicts the principle of political equality. In democracy, everyone is allowed to take power and are politically equal. While in dynastic politics not all people are provided with equal opportunities to take power. Leadership position changes hand between few people who have political clout. To illustrate, it goes against democracy and Article 91 of 1973 constitution of Pakistan which provides opportunity to all Muslim people to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan through election. Hence proved, dynastic politics is against the principle of political equality.

Similarly, * It leads to concentration of power within few hands. It is because only those who have high political clout and are part of politically powerful family can come to power. As a result, high leadership

position remains a dream of common people. The writer wrote in her, "Pakistan: Beyond the Crisis State" that dynastic politics leads to the concentration of power within few families like Sharif family and Bhutto family in Pakistan, Nehru family in India. In short, dynastic politics reduces political power within few hands which is contradictory to democratic principles.

Besides,

It increases the chances of nepotism and corruption. The dynastic parties favour their relatives over other people. This leads to nepotism and corruption which is against meritocracy and transparency in politics. As a result, people protest against such leadership and overthrow them. For example, In 2022 people came out in protests in Bangladesh. As the government was held by Rajapaksa family

and it gave important positions to its relatives. As a result of nepotism and corruption the country was grappling with economic crisis and misgovernance. Thus, dynastic politics leads to nepotism and corruption in a country.

Furthermore,

It reduces the accountability of leadership. As institutions are subservient to the dynastic parties. These families use their power with impunity and are not held accountable for their actions. The author wrote in a book, "Pakistan at the crossroad," that dynastic politics leads to less accountability of leaders as they bypass judiciary due to their political clout. Hence proved, dynastic politics acts as hindrance in the way of accountability of leadership.

Moreover,

It reduces democracy

to personality cult. Votes are cast based on personalities rather than the manifestos of the parties. As a result, popular leaders take power who threaten democracy by showing intolerance towards opposition and curbing press freedom. For example, during election the slogan of "Bhutto Zinda hai" or "Bhutto is alive" is used to stir people sentiments and to gather votes by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). Similarly, the Awami League party of Bangladesh used the name and services of Mujeeb-ur-Rehman to gather votes. Hence, dynastic politics threaten democracy by reducing it to personality cult.

It^{also} increases patronage politics and concentration of wealth. Dynastic parties after coming to power provide benefits to people who helped them in coming to power. The parties formulate

such policies which benefit their patrons. According to the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), "The government of Pakistan provides \$17bn subsidies to its patrons in different sectors. It leads to the concentration of wealth in few hands." Thus, dynastic politics increases patronage politics and the concentration of wealth in few hands.

Lastly, ^ It leads to the alienation of common people from political participation. People refuse to cast votes and take part in elections owing to bleak chances of new leadership and change in a system. It is against the spirit of inclusive and participatory democracy.

As per the Election Commission of Pakistan report, "only 47.8% of the total eligible voters voted in 2024 elections."

~~As~~ It means half of the eligible people refused to

cast their votes. Hence proved, dynastic politics leads to the alienation of public from political participation.

In the above paragraph, the reasons of dynastic politics as the mockery of democracy has been explained. In the following paragraphs, measures to reduce dynastic politics will be explained.

Dynastic politics can be reduced by strengthening of participant political culture. In participant political culture, people take active part in politics and cast votes based on the past performance and manifestos of political parties. Votes are not cast based on patronage. For instance, **democracy is thriving in the UK and the US due to participant political culture.** Thus, participant political culture is important for restoring democracy and reducing dynastic

politics.

In addition, democracy can be strengthened by the promotion of intra-party democracy through intra-party elections. As a result, those who are capable will come to power based on meritocracy. This will reduce the inequalities persisted by dynastic politics. For instance, **electoral reforms should be made to conduct intra-party election before general elections to strengthen political equality.** Thus, intra-party elections are mandatory for discouraging dynastic politics and strengthening democracy.

Moreover, reforms should be made to reduce the terms in office. This will reduce dynastic politics as new leaders would get the chance to serve the country. For instance, **constitutional amendment should be done to limit the number**

of terms in office. Thus, electoral reforms are required to reduce the number of terms in office by a single person.

In a nutshell, dynastic politics is the worst mockery of democracy as it is against the principles of democracy like political equality, transparency and accountability. It bleeds the chances of new leaderships to assume power. Moreover, it leads to nepotism, personality cult and patronage politics. Dynastic politics can be discouraged through participant political culture. Moreover, the promotion of intra-party democracy will strengthen democracy in letter and spirit. Thus, by all these measures democracy will be strengthened and the menace of dynastic politics will be reduced.
