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Political Science - Paper II

Subjective (Section A)

Q#2: The local government system is called the grassroot form of democracy.

Discuss.

Introduction

The local government system is called the grassroot form of democracy due to its availability to the people at grass-root level. The people at local level engage political system, represent their issues by directly participating at grassroot level political institutions. This form of governance is sine-qua non for effective delivery of services, community welfare and sustainable development. Following is given a brief account of local system of government, its characteristics and impacts on the overall governance of a country.

1- Explicating the local government system

The local government system is called the third-tier of government, after federal (1st), provincial or state (2nd) and local self (3rd) governments. Under this tier of government

Local institutions like town-hall, panchayat raj, and tehsil or zilla and union councils are formed. The local communities elect representatives from among themselves. This proximity to the people enables the representatives to gain a first hand experience of issues at local level. Thus, local system of government is considered ideal for good-governance.

2- Active Participation of Citizens in Decision-Making Process.

Grassroots level of democracy gives people an opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making process and articulate their interests. Resultantly, people are directly engaged to address issues concerning them. For example, local citizens give ideas to representatives about the issues of concern, such as budgeting and community welfare. As a result, the issues are addressed without any undue bureaucratic delays or red-tape.

3- Responsive Governance and Fiscal Autonomy:

The system of local government makes governance responsive and provides fiscal

autonomy. The close proximity and access to people provide them an opportunity to redress their problems easily. Furthermore, local governments are fiscally autonomous, they can be empowered to collect taxes, generate revenue and execute community welfare projects. This makes governance smooth and responsive.

4- Delegation of Power to Local Government Makes Governance Inclusive:

The upper tiers of governments delegate legislative and political power to local government with an aim to make governance more inclusive. Often the areas in far-flung sites remain marginalised, due to lack of proximity to the government. In order to resolve this issue, the systems of local government can work like a miracle, because when people are delegated power, they actively participate in the process, and governance becomes inclusive.

5. Better Provision of Public Services:

The local system of government makes the provision of basic public services better and efficient. This also helps government

in making policy frameworks and ^{their} execution properly. As a result, services like education and healthcare remain in the reach of citizens.

B. Local Government Ensures Accountability and Transparency in Governance:

The local system of government helps ensure accountability and transparency in governance. As local representatives are elected, they are engaged by citizens regularly, who can hold them accountable. Furthermore, this makes the decision-making process more transparent and effective.

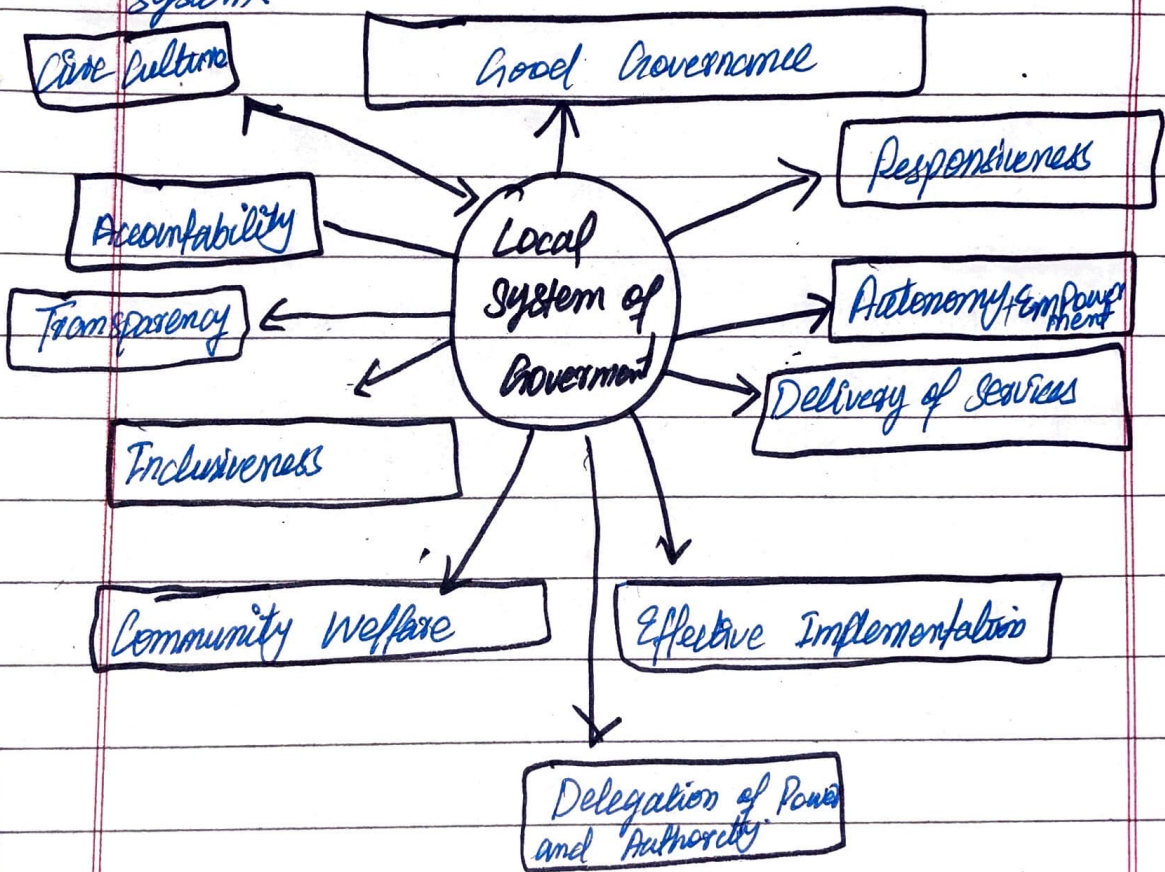
7. Effective Implementation of Policies in times of crisis:

The system of local government is more effective in the implementation of governmental policies, especially in the time of crisis. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the local system of government proved to be a life-saver in implementing lockdowns and SOPs.

8. Local System of Government produce a Civic culture necessary for democracy.

There is no denying the importance

of local government in strengthening the overall democracy in a country. This grassroots level democracy formulates certain norms of behaviours which transform into the civic culture of a constituency. The civic culture is indispensable for the success of democracy in a country. Moreover, it starts socialising citizens at an early age about the rules and procedures of a political system.



Conclusion:

The system of local government is rightly called a grassroots level democracy due to its proximity to the people and their

Issues. This is also called the third tier of government. Moreover, good governance and virtuous citizenship are brought by this form of governance. It empowers local citizens helps in effective provision of public services, and implementation of policies. Thus, democracy in general and good governance in particular are indispensable on local systems of government.



Section-B

Q#4: What is the necessity of a strong political system for every strong economy? Do you think that the democracy cannot function without capitalism? Explain.

Introduction:

A strong political system and strong economy share an intricate relationship, each reiterate the other and vice versa. A strong political system implies that there is rule of law, harmony in institutions, separation of powers and accountability on the other hand strong economy implies, higher growth rate, higher per capita income, higher employment, more social spending, more tax to GDP ratio, and well-functioning economic institutions, and free-markets.

The question regarding the coexistence of democracy and capitalism is complex, ~~it~~ both can certainly co-exist as is the norm in many developed countries. It would not be wrong to assume that democracy and capitalism are two sides of the same coin as one implies freedom of life and liberty, the other implies the freedom of choice.

1. Why a strong political system is necessary for a strong economy.

1.1. A strong political system can effectively implement economic policies:

A strong political system becomes a necessity for implementing economic policies.

For example, a government may formulate the best economic policy, it will remain a draft unless implemented. A strong political system would ward-off different lobbies and interest groups protecting the status quo. Therefore, a strong economy depends on a strong

political system. For example, when Deng Xiaoping, the former Chinese President introduced economic reforms, the old-guard within the politburo of Communist Party resisted reforms, but the strong political system implemented reforms. As a

result China is the second biggest economy in (nominal terms) world.

2.2: Rule of Law and Implementation of Financial Contracts:

A strong political system provides legal framework for the promotion of rule of law. As a result, the system protects the Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), enforces economic contracts, promotes business and helps in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). All these factors are crucial for a strong economy. For example, in a weak political system a investor may feel hesitant to invest due to lack of rule of law and contract enforcing mechanism. However, that is not the case with a strong political system.

2.3: Strong Political System Provides Strong Regulatory Mechanism to Promote Healthy Competition

The modern economic system such as capitalism and free-market system depends on healthy competition. However, weak political system provide provides vacuum to interest monopolies and rigged markets, people are forced to pull-out their investments and gangs (criminal) extort extortion money. Such unhealthy system and rigged markets

result in concentration of wealth among a few individuals. However, a strong political system provides an effective regulatory mechanism, that regulates markets in order to remove any rigging or monopolies. Thus, strong regulatory mechanism fosters healthy competition, that result in economic growth and, hence, a stronger economy. The United States before the Progressive Era of Theodore Roosevelt too was facing rigged markets, as robber-bosses were controlling most of the wealth and monopolies over trade. Roosevelt's the Square Deal legislation provided a strong regulatory framework, that set the US economy on course of greatness.

1.4: Strong Political System Ensures Effective Delivery of Services to Develop Human Capital.

Modern statecraft revolves around citizen needs and perception. A strong political system provides a framework for effective delivery of public services like health and education. These services play a key role in the development of human capital. Resultantly, better educated citizens contribute more to economy, that increases growth rate and the economy

to improve. This shows that a strong political system is sine-qua-non for a strong economy.

2. The Relationship between Democracy and Capitalism:

Democracy and capitalism are two sides of the same coin, each reinforces the other and vice versa. Democracy being the best and effective form of government provides a conducive environment for free-market to emerge. On the other hand, capitalism provides democracy with high growth rates, revenues and restricts democratic governance to outside markets.

2.1: Democracy Provides Conducive Environment of Economic Freedom:

Unlike the controlled political systems with their planned economic models, Democracy provides people the economic freedom. It means people can own property, invest in a business and earn (by legitimate means) wealth. However, that is not the case in closed political systems like that of former Soviet Union.

2.2: Democracy Ensures Inclusive Economic Growth

While capitalism thrives more

effectively under a democracy, however, if left alone to market forces (Adam Smith's Invisible Hand), the markets will become rigged as different interest monopolies will establish themselves. Therefore, in order to promote inclusive economic growth, democracies need a balancing act, to regulate monopolies.

3- How can capitalism exist without democracy but democracy ^{cannot} without capitalism

~~etc.~~ Francis Fukuyama's thesis as the Cold War came to end, seemed inevitable, that was "End of History: And the Last Man". In his book, Fukuyama explained that humanity had reached an end point in terms of evolution in the form of government. As liberal-capitalist democracy triumphed upon the totalitarian ideologies of 19th century.

Fukuyama gave traction to Plato's philosophy of *Thymos*, which means the struggle for recognition and individuality. According to Fukuyama, only liberal and capitalist democracy could provide that environment. However, the recent rise of China and resurgence of Russia seem to negate that, so does ^{the} enlightened despotism of Singapore.

3.1: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics.

China remained a communist state for more than three decades, but with the rise of reformers like Deng Xiaoping, who introduced market reforms into economy and opened economy for investment, it is no longer a communist state in the pure form. It is now what Deng Xiaoping called, "socialism with Chinese characteristics." New China is politically a communist state, controlled by the Communist Party of China but economically it is capitalist. This explains that capitalism can exist without democracy but democracy cannot exist without capitalism. Therefore, a mixed-economic model, pursued by the Norwegian countries has the characteristics of both democracy and capitalism, but they are called the welfare states.

Conclusion:

A strong political system is sine qua non for a strong economy, because a strong political system is more responsive and effective in implementing property rights, economic policies and enforcing contracts. Moreover, capitalism and democracy are considered two side of the same coin. But capitalism can exist without democracy, and democracy cannot exist without capitalism or mixed economic model.

Q#5: Discuss the major issues of the balance of powers between executive, legislative, and judiciary and devolution of Power in 1973 Constitution of Pakistan.
Introduction:

The 1973 Constitution of Pakistan provides a comprehensive framework for federal, parliamentary form of government and balancing of the trichotomy of power between the executive, legislature and judiciary. However, for more than five decades, since the constitution was adopted the trichotomy of power between the three branches of the government remained on delicate course. Even this phenomenon is present in contemporary times. Furthermore, the 18th amendment to the Constitution provided a framework for devolution, but it could not materialise in its full letter and spirit.

1. The Issues in the Powers of Executive:

The executive branch of Pakistan's government consists of Prime Minister, federal Cabinet, and President.

1.1: Issues with the Powers of President:

Although Pakistan is a Parliamentary

democracy par excellence, but the Article 90 of the Constitution states that federal executive authority shall be vested in the President and shall be exercised by him, either directly or indirectly. Furthermore, article 89 states that President can promulgate ordinances, if the Senate or National Assembly (Parliament) is not in session. Further, President is empowered in legislation to send back bills with his signs on it. Recently, this issue too was politicized. This explains that how cumbersome are the provisions in Constitution regulating the conduct of President. In history too, President had the power to dissolve Parliament and remove an elected government due to the virtue of notorious I.D.B. clause.

2.2: Powers of Prime Minister and delicate Civil-Military Relations:

The Prime Minister of Pakistan is the head of government and derives power from Articles 90 and 91 of the constitution. However, historically due to delicate civil-military relations in Pakistan, the ^{office of} PM remained on the losing side. As a result subsequent PMs had to wrestle back their powers and space called *accountability*.

1.8: Issues in the Powers of Cabinet:

The Cabinet (Federal) of Pakistan draws its powers from the Articles 90, 92, and 93. The Prime Minister is the leader of the house and head of the cabinet as well. One of the anomalies that came up recently is that cabinet is too much bloated. Successive governments have done little in this regard, that only adds additional burden on the exchequer.

2. The Issues with the Powers of Parliament (Legislature):

The Parliament of Pakistan consists of Senate (Upper-house) and National Assembly (Lower house). The members of lower house are elected directly, while members of the Senate are sent by and nominated by the Provincial legislatures.

2.1: The Issue of Centralisation ^{by} Parliament:

Throughout the political history of Pakistan the Parliament remained as agent of centralisation. As a result, the provinces, became marginalised, and national integration was affected. Thus under duress, the Parliament in 2010, passed the 18th amendment legislation with an aim to redress historic wrongs of centralisation, however, it has

fallen short of hopes, due to failure to restructure third tier government institution.

Q.2: The ^{issues} powers of Senate with respect to proportional representation:

The Senate is an embodiment of the federation of Pakistan as it represents the provinces. However, Senators are elected indirectly by the provincial assemblies on the basis of proportional representation, their powers are too considered inadequate. Therefore, there have contentious issues of Senate of Pakistan.

3- The Issues with the powers of Judiciary.

Following are the issues with the powers of Judiciary:

3.1. The Issue of Judicial Activism:

The article 184(3) of the constitution of Pakistan empowers the apex court to take suo-motu action on any issue of public concern or for the enforcement of fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution. However, the apex-court often over-stretch its authority and starts interfering in the domains of government to affect the governance mechanism. This mechanism or phenomenon is generally referred to as Judicial activism.

4. The Issue of Devolution of Power:

Under the 18th amendment legislation, the Parliament was supposed to devolve power to provinces, however it is still a half way through.

4.1: The Issue of Local Self Government:

The 18th amendment legislation contained a mechanism to devolve political and legislative power to the federating units. However, successive governments have paid more lip-service to the question of devolution, as local self government mechanism is yet to materialise.

4.2: The Issue of Resource Allocation and Distribution:

The 18th amendment and 7th National Finance Commission Award provided a effective framework for resource allocation and distribution but the successive governments have failed to continue NFE Awards and give fiscal autonomy to the federating units.

Conclusion

The 1973 Constitution provided a framework for federal-parliamentary form of democracy and balance between the dichotomy of

powers between three branches of the government. Similarly, there exists a framework for devolution to provinces. However, all these have fallen short of hopes, as these issues are still unresolved.

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Q#6: Electoral System and Elections are sine qua non for Political Socialization. Discuss.

1. Explicating Political Socialization:

Political socialization is a life-long process that encompasses the transmission of political culture, knowledge and values about a political system from one generation to another. It is a dynamic process and is influenced by many agents of socialization and electoral system and elections are among these agents.

2. Electoral System and Elections:

The electoral system means how popular votes are transformed into political representation. There are different kinds of the electoral system, for example, in proportional representation, representation is granted on the basis of the number of votes gained by them. Furthermore, in first past the post electoral system, representation is granted on the

basis of simple majority of seats won by a political party

3- The Impacts of Electoral Systems on the Political System:

The electoral system of a country shares an intricate relationship between the political system and political culture of a country. For example, in Britain there is first-past-the-post electoral system, it implies that there will be two-parties in election. Furthermore, in countries where there exists the proportional representation as electoral system it means there will be a multi-party system or more than two political parties.

4. Political Socialization through Electoral System results in a Civic Culture:

Political socialization of individuals through the electoral system results in a civic culture, where people get familiar with the established norms and principles governing a political system and they participate in that. According to Gabriel Almond and Sydney Verba, "civic culture is based on communication not persuasion, that is a culture of consensus and diversity." Political socialization of people through

electoral system and elections is a process of communication not persuasion.

5- Elections ensure civic duty and participation of individuals:

When people become socialized with the electoral system and election process, it becomes a civic duty for them that ensures their participation. According to Almond and Verba, this is the manifestation of a participatory political culture.

6- Elections and Electoral System help people familiarize with different Political Ideologies:

Political socialization through electoral system and elections help people to get familiar with different political and economic ideology. It gives people a clear idea about where do they stand, whether on the right, centre-right, left or centre-left of the political spectrum.

Conclusion:

Political socialization is a process of internalising political values and behaviour and then transmitting them to next generation. This process is not static but dynamic, that goes on throughout the lives of people. Electoral system and elections are the agents of political socialization, they help people to get familiar with ^{core principles} ~~governing a political system~~ governing a political system.