

Question no:06

## The Role of Political Leadership in Undermining Democracy in Third World Countries.

Outline:

### 1. Thesis Statement:

Political leadership in third world countries have proven to be weaken the democracy through riding on wave of populism, conduction of rigging in general elections, marginalising the minority to gain popular support, and suppressing freedom of speech.

Therefore, the role of political leadership presents itself as an agent of crippling democracy in third world countries.

### 2. Indicators of measuring democracy in a country:

- 2.1 Producing transparent election results.
- 2.2 Free and open public expression.
- 2.3 Political environment dealing with pluralism.

### 3. The role of political leadership in undermining democracy in third world countries:

- 3.1 Transfer of ruling power within few parties; Dynastic politics of South Asia
- 3.2 Intolerance of opposition <sup>towards</sup> with the ruling party; lack of full political term completion in Pakistan
- 3.3 Delay in conduction of elections; recent general elections in Pakistan case
- 3.4 Unacceptance of public will; rigging in election of Venezuela
- 3.5 Theulcating dogmatic principles in public; Surging wave of populism in Philippines
- 3.6 Seeking dominant support through marginalisation of ~~used~~ minority; Bhartiya Janta Party working on

RSS scheme

3.7 To suppress the mass uprising for change of regime ; military coup contingency in Africa

3.8 Restricting freedom of expression to prevent political movement - ban on

Prohibiting expression on social media in Pakistan.

4. Strengthening of democracy in third world countries:

4.1 All citizen participation in elections

4.2 Accountability of political actions of party leaders

4.3 Holding intra party elections

4.4 Bridge the gap between leadership and citizens.

5. Conclusion

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The leadership of political parties in third world countries depict a bleak picture of debilitating democracy. Party leaders acting as a figurehead of each political party are responsible for steering the direction of regime in a country. However, the presence of own vested interest, lack of bipartisanship, and overlooking the need of public marks the political leader responsible for the weakening of democracy in state. This is explicitly evident through the delay in elections, gaining support through populism, and presence of military coup to maintain continuous political power. The confluence of these multiple factors builds a scenario which that is in complete polarisation with notion of democracy.

For that reason  
Therefore, political leadership in the country third world country have proven to be weaken the democracy through riding on wave of populism,

conduction of rigging of elections, marginalising the minority to gain popular support, and suppressing freedom of speech. Therefore, the role of political leadership in presents itself as an agent of crippling democracy in third world countries

The presence of democracy in a country calls for the display of certain indicators in the country. The most prominent one is the production of transparent election results which reflect the true public will. Then, the allowance of free and open expression of public opinion holds a value in display of democracy. Through voicing of public perspective. The governing regime will meet the public demands only through voicing realistic voicing of public perspective. Furthermore, the growing pluralistic

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environment of a country demands  
for an inclusive and all representative  
political environment to be built.  
Hence, the presence of good and  
strong democracy in a country  
rests upon the idea of transparency,  
expression, and pluralism.

In current world scenario,  
the role of party leaders is overtly  
seen in undermining the position  
of representative government in third world  
countries. In this regard, many  
incidents are seen around the world.

Firstly, cycle of transfer of ruling  
power within few parties is openly  
seen in areas <sup>many and</sup> mostly in South East  
Asia. This practice of dynastic

politics ~~undermine~~ obstructs the rise  
of new parties with innovative agendas.

The hegemony of old ruling parties  
serves as a clout against the  
production of effective change in

environment. Another aspect of dynastic politics is the absence of change in figurehead and revolving party leadership. Such political practices are seen in South East Asia through the presence of Awami League, Congress and multiple parties in Pakistan as well including Pakistan's People Party. Thus, is the influential role of party leaders in maintaining power stands against the foundation of democracy in third world countries.

Secondly, lack of bipartisanship in political arena further exacerbates the weakening of government by people. An acceleration in intolerance of opposition towards the ruling party restricts the ambit of progress of democracy based on mutual assistance. This polarised behaviour leads toward the ousting of ruling party. Incapability

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to complete full political term renders the government unable to complete the public manifesto. Clearly seen in scenario of Pakistan, where the political term completion was seen only once in 75 years of independence. Hence, the intolerance of party leaders toward the agenda's of other parties direct the democracy of country towards weakening.

Thirdly, delay in timely conduction of election acts as a threat to democracy. Elections hold a magnitude of importance in democracy through bridging the gap between the public will and governing body. Any delay in holding of elections acts as an impediment to the constitutional government. As seen, recently, the constant delay of general elections of 2024 in Pakistan displayed the inability



political leaders to complete  
Such a primary factor of democracy

The postponement of elections  
by leaders only led to further  
political instability in <sup>the</sup> country.

Hence, the incompetence of  
party leaders drives the country  
to undermining of democracy.

Fourthly, the unacceptance of  
public will exhibited through  
election result erodes the essence  
of democracy. Rigging and manipulation  
of election results for their own  
vested interest of maintaining  
power damages the presence of  
democracy. This scenario was  
evidently seen in Venezuela,  
where Nicolás Maduro manipulated  
the result in of 2019 election.

Clear display of disenfranchisement  
of voters, intimidation and  
improper tabulation of results were

seen This whole propuganda was set to maintain ruling power and continue to benefit themselves with resources of country. Thus, <sup>onus of</sup> the diminishing of democracy in third world countries rests on the shoulders of party leaders

Fifthly, an upsurge in wave of populism seeking major strengthening the presence of dominance through erecting a facade of will of people, is clearly seen. The essence of populism lies includes the inclusion of dogmatic principles to ~~man~~ manipulate the public will. Such maneuvering with the public opinion undermines the free opinion of democracy. The effect of populism is seen in multiple countries including Phillipines, where the elected president<sup>s</sup> Rodrigo Duterte's rhetoric style of Duterteism<sup>4</sup> fit

the description of populism. Taking aggressive and radical steps such as "War on Drugs" and overlooking other public demands reflect his populism in Philippines. Therefore, the wave of populism causing an upsurge in aggressive behaviour by political leaders undermine the presence of democracy.

Sixthly, another prominent tactic displayed by the political leaders of today is in the form of manipulating marginalising the position of minorities to gather support from majority. Reflection of radicalised behaviour in society is being exploited by party leaders instead of neutralising it. As seen in the political scenario of India, where Bharitya Janta

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Party is following the extremist principle framework of RSS.

Through exclusion, marginalisation and subjugation of Muslim minority rights in country, BJP is gaining a huge momentum in yielding public support. Such deliberative measures of exclusion taken by party leaders steer lowers the position of democracy in third world country.

Seventhly, the suppression of mass uprising for rights and change by leaders of military coup further exaggerates the undermining of democracy. The establishment of political troika and taking party leadership by the military establishment lays foundation of an autocratic governance. Presence of such unelected leaders stifles the thrive of democracy.

Suppressing the voice of public  
for exertion of power weakens  
the state of democracy as seen  
in the wave of military coup  
gripping the region of Africa.  
Hence, the position of ~~weak~~ military  
coup resisting mass uprising  
~~party~~ leaders to resist the  
military coup ~~is~~ weakens the  
state of democracy.

Eighthly, the restriction of  
public opinion by political leaders  
to dampen the effect of political  
movements, is in contrast with  
the objectives of democracy.  
Freedom of expression holds a  
significant value in democratic  
system, where the "will of  
people" decides the governing  
body of state. However, the crushing  
of public opinion by party leaders  
for their own vested interests  
calls for the displays a warning

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against the democratic regime.

An overt display of suppression of public voices and censorship of public opinion on social media in Pakistan reflects the rigid position of party leaders against political movement. Therefore, the acceptance of suppressing public opinion by the party leaders ~~is~~ roins democracy in third world country.

Such compromised scenario of weakening democracy in third world countries by party leaders calls for the adoption and inclusion of certain steps for strengthening governance.

In the first place, all citizens participation in elections should be ensured. Insurance of involvement of women, marginalised communities and overseas citizens should be

asserted. The outcome of participatory election reflects the true position of public will and allows establishment of governance in accordance with opinion of public. Hence, ~~At~~ all citizen participation in elections holds an immense value.

In the second place, accountability of the action of political leaders needs to be enforced. Unchecked activities of politicians mars the ruling framework of the country. Presence of accountability answerability to political activities will act as a system of check and balance. Such regulations will restrict the conduction of activities for their own vested interests. Therefore, strengthening of democracy requires accountability.

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of party leaders

In the third place, holding intra party elections strengthens democracy through ~~the~~ formation of a strong political party. The changing position of party leadership neutralises the effect of dynastic politics and allows the generation of transparent political party. It also paves way for a change in manifesto of political parties.

Hence, the cycle of change of party leadership ~~it~~ affects the position of democracy in a positive way.

In crux, the role of party leaders in undermining the weakening the democracy of third world countries is explicitly seen.

The role of political leadership thriving on dynastic politics,



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restricting public opinion, manipulation of election results, and seeking help of populism show the position of political figurehead hindering the progress of democracy. The elements of elective government nourishes from the overt display of public opinion, pluralistic participation, and transparency in results. Flaw in any component by the assistance of political leadership damages the reputation of democracy in state. Hence, the part part of political leadership in third world countries weakens the position of democracy and calls for inclusion of robust measures to neutralise this scenario.