

Issues and Challenges of the Political Culture of Pakistan

MUHAMMAD IQBAL

Ph.D Scholar

Department of Political Science
University of Karachi, Pakistan

Abstract:

The main focus of this study has been to the role of culture in shaping up the national and domestic political culture and values of the politics of Pakistan.

This research has explored the question of 'Political Culture' under the title of Issues and Challenges of Political Culture of Pakistan (1988-2010). In this synopsis it has been investigated that how far underlying propensities of a society affect the Political Values which are manifested in Political Institutions. The nature of values which work Underneath for a broader understanding of the configuration of 'Political Culture', poses an important question: what counts for people's political preferences. Within a group and society there are diverse strands of opinion and conflicting values which may check the Political preferences and in this regard the term Political Culture will be used as shared values legitimating social practices. Theses shared values are referred as 'Political Culture' All Political Systems tend to perpetuate certain patterns of behavior by which systems are recognized and it was the question to know the nature of Political values which in turn determine the Nature of System. The true recognition of values can denominate the system as stable or instable and the Political behavior as Mature or Immature. The symbols and beliefs define the situation in which action takes place and determine the consensus based on social and Political behavior. Political Culture produces controlling guidelines for effective political

behavior and for the collectivity it gives the systematic structure of values and rational considerations which ensures coherence in the performance of Institutions and organizations In Pakistan, elected governments during 1988 to2010 provided good opportunity to have The comparative study of four elections in which People Political behavior has been very Well explored. Elections in Pakistan manifested the Political Participation and Recruitment level of the People indicating their Political alignments with semi Religious and Secular Political Parties. Political Elites and Political Parties are considered the main agencies of Political Socialization and Political Participation in elections. Electoral activity is considered the significant and meaningful act of the Political System in which Political behavior of four provinces of Pakistan has been evaluated. The analysis of electoral data and questionnaire response of four Provinces was more or less similar in Projecting the Political ethos of these four regions.

Political culture which is based on shared political values and beliefs immersed as mature enough due to the rational approach of the people in deciding their Political options. These Political options were the choice of parties, priority of the issues, aligned with the Candidates and the agenda of the parties. Political preferences of People of Pakistan were mature enough for these factors which inducted them into the Political Process. Political awareness of people of Pakistan seemed exuberant when they discarded those forces which were more idealistic in their appeal and less in their Practical commitments. These were the forces led by Islamic Religious Parties which always had low electoral support for their cause and their vote percentage in national elections varied between 1 to 2 Percent.

Key words: Manifested, Institutions, Configuration, political, Culture, behavior, Problem, relationship, opportunity, understanding, Contribution, attitude, strategies.

INTRODUCTION

The first section of this chapter defines the terms ‘Politics’, ‘Political’, ‘Culture’, ‘Dilemma’ and ‘Political Culture’. It explores the relationship between these terms to explain the

problem statement. In the second section, genesis of the problem has been discussed. It provides the rationale for the study by evaluating the sources presenting divergent views in their academic depth. The third section of this chapter deals with the sources of the study, while the fourth defines the methodology to carry out the research within the defined parameters. In the last section the related parts of the study which are presented in the form of subsequent chapters are highlighted. Issues and Challenges of Political Culture is being explored not only for its definite contours which had given shape to the Political values in the democratic countries, rather it has been viewed in the perspective of its undefined nature, affecting the growth of the democratic values of a society like Pakistan. It is germane to know the nature of the values which are working underneath for broader understanding of the configuration of Political- culture which poses an important question: what counts for people's Political preferences? It becomes mandatory that the concepts, definitions of the phrase and the words, constituting the problem statement have to be explained, so that term 'Political Culture' becomes concise and relevant in the context of the present study. The statement of problem mentions the terms Dilemma and Political Culture which have to be studied and explained with reference to period 1988-1997. In this period Pakistan's Political system had to undergo Political crisis due to dismissal of four elected governments in a sequence. In this period four general elections were held which provided opportunity to study the political behavior, determined by Political values. So the question of Political Culture is expressively defined by the analysis of electoral data of National and Provincial elections.

To proceed further it is expedient to explain various terms and phrases which constitute the problem statement. In the first section terms like 'politics', 'political' 'culture', 'dilemma' and 'political culture' need to be explained and defined. The combination of these terms and their conceptual

explanations shall facilitate the understanding of the dynamics of political behavior.

These terms have been explained in their literal as well as sensual context, when put together constitute the problem statement.

DIFFERENT CATEGORY OF POLITICAL CULTURE

It has also been observed that the political culture of one country fundamentally differs from other countries. There is no country in the world to-day which can boast of single uniform political culture. Almond and Verba have listed four ideal types of political culture.

They are:

1. Parochial Political Culture:

Where the people have no understanding of the national political system, do not possess any inclination to share in the input processes and have no perception of the output processes, such a type of political culture is called parochial political culture. African tribes and Eskimos fall in this class. Such kinds of people have no role to play in the political culture.

2. Subject political Culture:

This type of political culture is found in the subject countries and monarchies. There the people are aware of the governmental method whether they like it or not. They also know the role of the government consider law making, enforcement of laws and tax collection etc. In this type of culture people are not taught to join in the input functions. Sometimes they are not permitted to do so, so the people find it difficult how to impact the working of the political system.

3. Participant political Culture:

In this type of political culture people are entirely keen to engage in the political system and influence its working. They

are always busy making practicable urge on the political system and are involved in the making of decisions. They develop a particular attitude towards the political system. Political parties and forces groups (interest groups) fall in this kinds and decide for themselves what role they can play.

4. Political Sub-culture:

It is not obligatory that all the parties in habiting a specific country may be equally advanced; some may be more advanced, while others may be less modern Therefore those parties who are more advanced, develop a participatory culture while others may still retain subject or parochial-culture. This is due to the reason that in many countries of the world there are different racial groups. Differences in political culture amongst them develop due to the difference in education, political training, economic and social background.

Therefore the backward develop a political sub-culture of their own. Sub-culture also develops when the political system is unable to advance quickly according to the fast-changing needs of the society, Sometimes new political sketch may be initiate by the elite but certain people may not be able to cope with it.

In this way different component of the society may have different political orientations. So when a specific component of the society is clearly identifiable from others in the same political system, then we find that it has developed a clear political sub-culture of its own, France is the classic example of such sub-cultures.

Normally, the different classes do not make the same formidable contribution in a political system but in times of tomb national crisis, they do so. In developing countries also political sub-cultures develop because of the differences of language, religion, class and caste. In India also, we find such sub-cultures among the tribal region.

Moreover, there is always a underlying dissimilarity between the political culture of the rulers (political leaders and

bureaucrats) and the ruled. The ruled generally vote for a particular party at the time of general election.

After the formation of a government, they do not exercise any control over it. They only read something about the working of the government in the newspapers. The rulers develop a particular attitude or superiority complex towards the governed. In this way, we find the difference between the elite and mass political culture. Where the rulers, whatever they pretend, belong to elite culture; the ruled belong to mass culture. In this way, Myron Weiner has analyzed Indian political culture with the help of a distinction between mass and elite political culture.

CONTRIBUTION OF POLITICAL CULTURE:

Political Culture is an important method to judge the development and modernization of a country. It has made a significant contribution to Political Science. Prof. S.P. Verma has highlighted the five main contributions of this approach.

First it has made Political Science a more complete social science.

Secondly, it has focused our attention on the study of political group or society as distinct from the individual and thus on the total political system.

Thirdly, it has encouraged political scientists to take up the study of social and cultural factors which are responsible for giving a political culture of a country its broad shape. Fourthly, it has helped us in combining the study of the national factors which shape the actions of the individuals to a large extent.

Lastly, it is the political culture method which helped us to understand why different political societies inevitably moved in different directions of political development, or may be political development, or may be found, themselves suffering from severe constraints, socio-economic as well as political, which free them to move towards political decay”.

OBJECTS OF POLITICAL CULTURE

It cannot be denied that political culture touches levels of human realization and sensitivity. The objects of political orientation include the political system as a whole, particular political roles and particular public policies and matter. Political culture can thus be investigated with reference to the political system as a whole, its input objects, its output objects, and self as an object.

Orientation to the political system as a whole will mean one understands of the governmental system, its working and also the historical development of the different political institutions. Orientation to input objects means the study of those institutions and structures which convey the demands and prop of the people to the decision-makers.

These institutions incorporate the government, political groups, party-elites and pressure-groups. Orientation to output objects means the perspective towards and understanding of the rule-making, rule-application and rule settlement of the structure of the political system. It participates in a general sense Bureaucracy. Orientation to self includes one's knowledge of rights and duties, tact's and strategies and resources to impact the elite.

OUR POLITICAL CULTURE

Pakistan insufficiency authentic political leadership which is the basic need for democracy to flourish and its fruits to be delivered to the people, who are presume to be the strength base of electoral democracy. Time has run out for such politics because the tolerance of people has also run out. In a democratic culture, men who lead political organizations are never venerate like pirs, but are open to public overview and disapproval When political leaders want to conduct like ghost and address rallies that remind us of alike rallies addressed by fascist leaders like Hitler or Mussolini, then it is cause for

concern. Leaders of such political organizations have to lead by example and are therefore judged according to a higher code of values and propriety than that appropriate to general citizens, because if elected they would be in the passage of power and the strategy that they draft will effects lives of millions. Such men have to place all their assets open for public investigation and should have no illicit record, drug addiction or any participation in financial according to the law.

Resort to violence and intimidation as a tool for asserting effects have no place in a democratic political culture. There should be no disputes of attention such as building industrial sector and increasing their land holdings while in power. Leaders of political organizations that form part of a sitting government should be based in Pakistan and all their stakes and assets should be located in Pakistan.

Alas, most of political organizations in this country are being run like authoritarian parties, where leaders are worshipped and no party worker can dare to differ with him. Almost all major financial fraud involving pilferage of billions have a trail that leads to political party leaders sitting in power. Abusing their powers of discretion and laws of land are contemplate benefit of power and there is not even any remorse or humiliation when caught red handed. Obstruction of justice is done as a matter of right and show of power. Once elected, they want to suppose powers of dictators and lose all contact with people, whose votes put them there in the first place.

In the late 1960s Zulfikar Ali Bhutto named his exciting new political entity — intelligent honest democratic socialism, which appealed to rising peasant movements — the People's Party, but the key figures running it were Muslim League relics.

The political culture in the upper strata was self-serving, careful and cynical. Though Britain had its own motive in establishing organizations, it bequeathed a first-rate civil administration and judiciary. But every organization that Pakistan inherited, its venal new leaders undermined. India, on

the other hand, kept British organizations intact (with minor modifications) and benefited immensely. The only Pakistani institution that retained the British tradition is the army, which nonetheless became polluted by the periodic intoxication of taking power.

So of the two major political organizations today, one was nurtured directly by the army GHQ and headed by Nawaz Sharif during Zia's reign. The other was eventually embraced by Musharraf. As he said only the other day, Benazir, had she survived, would have been prime minister under his sponsorship.

Benazir's father, to no good purpose, nationalized the schools and colleges. These often excellent colleges, built by philanthropists and civic-minded institutions, suffered for it. After Bhutto left, an insistence on teaching Urdu arose and of teaching Islam foremost or exclusively. The poor could go to nationalized schools, if even to those. The middle class attends insulated private schools to sit for British examinations and, afterwards, work abroad or at home for multinationals. So, despite the ritual hailing of democracy, there is a freedom only for the few because of their money.

A vital guardian of civil society should be the press, doing its job of comforting the troubled and afflicting the comfortable. But the less said about it the better. Some owners appear quiescent and daring journalists are demoralized, if not repressed.

Corruption over 60 years is up in leaps and bounds. The industrialist long ago developed a knack for sharing profits with ruling bureaucrats rather than with workers. The people feel powerless and are prepared to believe any odious story about their rulers, whether absurd or on the money.

Government legitimacy is, to say the least, shaky. Everybody feels that they are on their own. That despair — far more so than armed militants — is not only a disturbing feeling, but a danger.

SUGGESTION ABOUT THE IMPROVEMENT ABOUT THE POLITICAL CULTURE OF PAKISTAN

1. To improve the basic education from the grass root level.
2. To implement the basic laws which is about the righteous and duties of the citizen in curriculum from the grass root level.
3. To improve and implement the laws about the political parties and pressure groups.
4. To close the heritage procedure in political system of Pakistan.
5. To introduce and implement the election system in political parties from the grass root level.
6. Anybody take part in the election of the party level and national or provincial level only two time as a winning candidate as a member of local council , provincial assembly ,national assembly .as a councilor ,chairman . Town chairman , Divisional chairman or another governing seat of local government , Speaker, Deputy speaker , Minister , chief minister , advisor in provincial level ,speaker ,Deputy speaker ,minister. Minister of state, Advisor Or Chairman senate, Deputy chairman senate Or Another seats of national level.
7. To close the chapter retired person in our political system and abide them so they cannot take part in political system within the party or election level, they can take part only public welfare system or they can run welfare societies for the public help.
8. To improve and implement the accountability system local, provincial and national level.
9. To implement the accountability system all parts of the government from the grass root. .level with in national, provincial and local government..
10. To improve the basic public welfare system for the prosperity for the people from the grass root level.

11. To improve the educational system from the grass root level because literate person can helpful for the nation. And take interest in political system of the country.
12. . To close the chapter all types of corrupt elements in political system of the country from the grass root level in political parties.

CONCLUSION

A country which has so many different changeable such as religions ,language , territory and cast , have the potential to give birth to aggressive disputes among different ethnic identities of Pakistan .the intensity of the different changeable creates contradictory points of view and hostile political environment within the territory of any state. Pakistan ‘s political culture is not consensual due to various due to various reasons and it has also put an effects on overall development of the country.

Absence of electoral process, derailing of elected parliament, weak political organizations, gap in the middle of the public and the government, feudalistic political and social structure and trust shortage are some of the specialty of Pakistani’s political organizations experience that have largely shaped its character and course of evolution.

However, the procedure of change cannot be said to be something now, in the past many leader tried to change Pakistan according to their own political conception, Pakistan polity has been unable to fully develop minimum consensus on the functional political norms because of periodic derailing of the elected government .

Free media and an independent supreme court have appeared as a desire for the general public above all, it ensuring two important pre requisites of a political culture in an functional democracy rule of law and supremacy of constitution. An independent judiciary of has a vital role ensuring that the federation remains intact. The movement for

reinstatement of judiciary is a glaring example of the people's common desire to create social justice .On the other hand; media has played a vital role in giving awareness to the people. The role of media is cardinal in creating a strong political culture in the country. Media has a strong character for the building of the national and political culture of any country.

Rising the literacy level and emerging middle class are two other important ingredients that play crucial role in any stable democratic political system. Political participation and politically aware public is the prerequisite of democracy. Social reforms are need of any democratic system.

Throughout the history of Pakistan external power have played a vital role in undermining the development of consensual and democracies political culture in Pakistan. The pattern of alliance during the Afghan war , Afghan war has shattered Pakistani's social fabric , in the presence of ethno cultural division , the means of extremisms have further divided the society on sectarian lines .

The political stability can be achieved if legitimacy of the institutions and personal legitimacy of the ruler has been solved. The political stability is a precondition for the national building is a process necessary for the survival and development of the nation.

The process of national building works to fold, it works towards identity formation of a nation. Which is not only integrates to the society but builds a political culture that predominantly consensual rather than conflictual, and obviously an integrated society plays an important part into state building that includes the development of the administrative infrastructure of the state.