

Decode the word
Old student
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Democracy and illiteracy cannot go together

A- Thesis Statement:

Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their opinion learn to choose wisely. The real safeguard for democracy, therefore, is education.

generalised

B- Introduction

Discusses with examples

- (i) - Democracy, which postulate enlightenment, is, by and large a blessing and illiteracy
- (ii) - which implies ignorance is a menace.
- (iii) Education is imperative for democracy for being very foundation of democratic setup

C- Why democracy and illiteracy sustain together

make comparison with other countries

- (i) Successful democracy needs clean leadership whereas ignorant masses cannot select charactered politicians
- (ii) Democracy demands ruler's accountability, but illiterate masses cannot hold their ruler for misdeeds
- (iii) Democracy provide a self cleaning system to filter out incompetent leadership whereas illiterate mass keeps on bring dynastic politicians.

(iv) Democracy assumes that there is high level of rationality and sense of good citizenship among masses whereas ignorant societies lack these capabilities.

(v) Democracy demands rational and wise selection while illiterate can easily influenced, intimidated and persuaded by religious, ethnic and personal sentiments.

(vi) Tolerance dissent is indispensable for democracy but illiterate and uneducated masses are emotional and prefer to settle matters violently.

(vii) Ignorants lack the sense of national responsibility which means low voter turnout; this is against the very definition of democracy - the rule of majority.

(ix) Uneducated ^{individual} lack political consciousness and public rights awareness. This convert a democratic setup into feudalism.

(x) Democracy means rule of law and equality of masses before law but in ignorant and illiterate societies might is right.

Main
shot

D- Pakistan's Perspective

- (i) Democracy has (produce to) failed to produce desired result due to chronic mass illiteracy.
- (ii) Illiterate masses keeps on promoting family based parties which has resulted destruction of national institutions due to nepotism and favouritism.
- (iii) High illiteracy^{has} resulted in less progressive and more showcase priorities of rulers.
- (iv) High proportion of illiterate voter has significantly altered the choice of minority pragmatic and sagacious public.

E- Way Forward

- (i) Need of an educational emergency
- (ii) Policies to enhance women participation in political affairs to strengthen democracy.
- (iii) Role of media to educate masses
- (iv)

F - Conclusion

A vote is like a rifle and its usefulness depends on the character of its user.

Democracy which postulate enlightenment, is, by and large a blessing and illiteracy, which implies ignorance, is a menace. How can both coexist? Democracy assumes that there is high degree of political consciousness among the public, a fair degree of intelligence and education, an adequate amount of knowledge about public affairs, high regard for national interest and sense of good citizenship. Not less important, tolerance dissent and civilized manner to defuse differences. People have high morals to accept the verdict of majority without threatening to topple democratic system or to question its credibility. For all the ~~above~~ qualities, education is indispensable. Where there is no education the chances of success for democratic setup ~~do~~ does not exist. Forget even a democratic setup, in an ignorant society none of the practical political setup could sustain.

Financially cleaned leadership is important to successfully run a democratic setup. Without political awareness, one cannot rationally differentiate between a corrupt and an honest politician. Education which implies understand of public affairs helps one to critically evaluate a ruler's dealing with public money. This understanding results in rejection or reselection of a leader, based on his track record, by an educated society. Contrary to this, ignorant ^{masses} mass do not really care who is ruling because of lack of awareness regarding public affairs. Consequently, corrupt politician, during high times of election, either bought or influence such people with money, power or propaganda. Sweeping political statements are made and hot slogans are sold to influence innocent and poorly educated masses. Corrupt politicians poured their ill-gotten money as an investment to buy votes and affiliation. Ignorant think of it as one time chance to make money or for

Uneducated masses have dual impact on accountability process. It democratises institutions and fuel to the power of corrupt leaders. Power granted by illiterate masses to corrupt politicians helps them escape accountability and recapture their position in high offices.

Democracy is the best revenge, which means, those who are incapable of running public affairs effectively are automatically cleaned from the system every five years. But saddly, this is not true for an illiterate democracy. This is because, millions of illiterate voters are incompetent themselves to vote for someone else, to replace dynastic politicians. Therefore, they keep selecting dubious politicians for several numbers of terms. Majority of illiterate voters not only undermine the impact of vote casted by sagacious citizens to replace incompetent politicians but also disappoint those politicians who seek fair means to come in power. From generation to generation illiterate people keep

supporting some political parties without any clear idea about its manifesto, ground performance and competency to run an office. This give rise to dynastic political parties which undermines the very basic concept of meritocracy in democratic setup.

Prudent leadership can only be selected by wise choice of educated and responsible citizens. That's why democratic setup required fair level of education, high political awareness and adequate amount of intelligence among the masses. Sadly, for an ignorant voter, elections is ~~the~~ merely stamping on ballot paper not to select better people for public office but as a favour to an influential individual in one's constituency. Whereas, education provide a medium to rationally evaluate performance of leadership. This makes people to understand performance records of those demanding selection once again. Decision to reject or accept demands are made by educated masses on one's performance not

On basis of attractive slogans which keep changing every five years. Therefore, education is compulsory ingredient of a successful democracy.

Additionally, illiteracy cannot strengthen democracy because their (illiterate) expressed choice of selection is mostly influenced, bought or persuaded by use of money, religious and cultural sentiments and by granting some

favour. Similarly, illiterate ~~don't~~ ^{individuals} show much interest in political affairs except during high times of elections.

Corrupt politicians took advantage of their ignorance and persuaded them to vote in their favour by ^{using} attractive

slogans, mass media campaigns and through social media platforms. Fake and fabricated news are circulated

to attract innocent voters in peak times. Resultantly, those who lack

political consciousness due to their ignorance ended in voting for corrupt, incompetent and dynastic politicians.

Democracy means accepting the verdict of majority. Show of tolerance on political dissent is imperative for smooth running of democratic setup.

In democracy when people belonging from different sections of life, having great economic, social and political diversities, express their choice democratically,

the rise of political differences is inevitable. In such scenario, democracy expect people show tolerance and enough moral high ground to accept the decision of majority. But unfortunately,

in uneducated societies, differences are settled more violently than in civilized manners. Every year in Pakistan several deaths are reported in connection with political dissents.

Additionally, management call for armed force support to conduct election peacefully. This not only made the whole democratic procedure dubious, but also, provide pretext to blame institutions for their lost in elections.

Voter turn-out is an important indicator of political consciousness and sense of responsibility among the citizens. In the same run, low voter showup at polling stations means people are unaware of the importance of casting vote. This unawareness is ignorance which is ^{an} integrated part of illiteracy. Such attitude is dangerous for proper working of democracy because when few select ~~ed~~ rulers who have to rule over all of the rest, this give rise to disconnection between ruler and the masses. Unfortunately, in countries like Pakistan, democracies work on the verdict of 40% to 45% of ^{the} masses. Saddly, ^{the} major chunk of these voter are illiterate who are influenced to vote ^{their own} for vested interest, but not as a national responsibility. Disappointing turnout, specially in remote areas, help feudal lords to ^{be} selected democratically. Illiterate masses are further pushed against the wall as ~~a~~ result of their ^{own} verdict.

Democracy is rejection of any authoritarian form of selection for leadership. Democracy is freedom of expression and guarantee of meritocracy. Therefore, any form of authoritarianism, for instant feudalism cannot run along democracy, especially a kind of democracy ^{which} practiced in civilized world. But how come feudalism is a part of democratic system in countries like Pakistan? Obviously, illiteracy is the answer to this query. Illiterate masses of remote areas are easy victim of feudal lords. Due to lack of political awareness and fundamental rights, (democracy awards to an individual) these masses live under extensive influence of feudal lords. It is their illiteracy awarded ignorance which keep them slaves of feudalism in democratic form of government.

'Might is right' cannot work in democratic societies. Democracy assured rule of law and equality of every citizen under the umbrella of the constitution. But in case of illiteracy

The masses have no clear knowledge about their fundamental legal rights and most importantly, their political rights. Due to lack of awareness, ignorant become victims of institutions malpracticing. How come one can expect the knowledge of constitution from an illiterate individual when he cannot even read a newspaper. This chronic ignorance of masses is used by the system against those to whom it is suppose to protect. For instance, constitution do not empower anyone to demand legal proof of marriage from couples on public places but in Pakistan, such tactics are used to intimidate people, those with lack knowledge. Interestingly, police select only those places for such query where chances of existence of educated people are less. This is because, only ignorant can be treaded with wrath of law and educated know the law which protect their rights.

Democracy has failed to produce desired results in Pakistan. Out of many provided reasons for this failure, one of the most common is derailing of democratic governments by military dictators. But the vexed question is, how come these dictators managed to sustain for 35 years collectively. Probably, because of people's disinterest in public affairs and ^{lack} of awareness ~~forth~~ for the benefits of democratic system or no one care; whoever is the ruler. No matter, which one is true for Pakistan, but one thing is certain, this is illiteracy given chronic ignorance which has ended us as failed democratic state.

Imagine the existence of 90 million illiterate voters in the system where turnout do not exceed 45pc and areas with high literacy, on average, 60pc of the people show up to cast their vote. In such circumstances, if one think of a selection which could provide

Sagacious leadership, he is certainly living in a fools paradise. These Ninety million illiterate masses have huge impact on election results when total number of vote casted do not exceed more than 35 million in case of 2018 election. These ignorant choosers have great potential to undermine choices of prudent, educated and rational voters. Therefore, having high illiteracy rate in Pakistan is, directly or indirectly, major cause of behind failure of democratic setup.

~~Democratic~~ dynastic ~~politics~~

Democracy cannot stop dynastic politicians especially when these canny politicians are extensively supported by millions of illiterate masses. Big political Parties in Pakistan are family based parties where exile for being a leader is having blood or close relationship with party founders. This practice suggest political party's unawareness with very imperatives of efficiency and democracy. Such dynastic politician exploit the

very basics of democratic system by establishing a system of buying support by granting favours. Fueled with provincialism and ethnic affiliation these parties pose great threat to national integration, as illiterate masses are their major power and unfortunately lack rationality of political thoughts. These are the voters that keep bringing failed politicians despite of their failure to deliver. Nepotism, favouritism and patronage games are the only outcome of such dynastic politicians.

Career politician in Pakistan clearly know how to make fool out of their illiterate vote bank. Unrealistic schemes and projects have been remained priority of visionless political leadership just to satisfy their voter. Less interest has been showed by government in human development projects such as improving literacy rate, health facilities and standard of living. Each successive government in

Pakistan focus on those project which can be presented as their high performance at the end of government term. Government focus on income support program instead of job creation, mass transportation project instead of improving infrastructure, boosting GDP with high imports instead of macro-reforms. Similarly, illiterate voters are satisfied by hook or crook as they lack political awareness and rationality of choice. Additionally, dynastic politicians by showcasing their performance get selected 'yet again' by illiterate voter and this is how destruction continue.

Democracy cannot succeed in presence of illiteracy because it is quite easy to influence an illiterate voter by use of religion, ethnic affiliation, provincialism and victim card in case of accountability. Uneducated, especially ignorant, neither let the status quo change nor let the smooth execution of accountability procedure. This happens only in

Pakistan that when an accused of corruption is presented in court, he or she brings a sea of its blind supporters. Such illiterate blind supporters neither understand nor accept any lawful procedure against their leaders. How come one can expect democracy to succeed in presence of such chronic ignorance. Sadly, this is not limited to accountability, in Pakistan, malpractice of political class is considered as normal. Until, such corrupt leaders do not lose support at ground, democratic process cannot be expected to produce fruitful results.

Clearly, education is the visible difference between successful western democracies and fragile democracies in Eastern countries. Therefore, Pakistan needed to declare an educational emergency to deal with high illiteracy rate. Literacy should not be misunderstood as academic qualification only, though academic education is compulsory to acquire political consciousness,

System and law understanding and most importantly, the sense of responsible citizenship. People should be educated to question malpracticing of authorities. Therefore, democracy will start working the day masses start taking interest in public affair not only as a silent observer but as a stake holder.

Strengthening democracy by increasing people's participation in system of selection is another step which could be taken in Pakistan's perspective. Increasing women participation in political activities could cure the ailment of corruption and malpracticing as women are less prone to such activities. Educated woman is the key to educated whole family and by increasing concentration of educated female in the system could greatly reduce its inefficiency. Hence, education, especially women education, is the trump card to deal with inefficient democracy in Pakistan.

Democracy, to some extent, could sustain without low academic literacy rate but it could not neither sustained nor produce result without political awareness. For in Big democracies such as India has successfully sustained despite of average literacy but still unable to produce outstanding results. The major ingredient to sustain a democracy, therefore, is political awareness. This could be achieved by various options such as in case of India, public has gain political awareness by democratic experiences of bringing various government. But in Pakistan's perspective, media being fourth pillar of democracy has powerful influence on people's lives. Educating mass without imposing one's will could help cure many ailment of democracy.

In short, the very basic of democracy is political awareness and without education it is indispensable to achieve. Without literacy, the system itself becomes a tool exploitation

by promotion of nepotism and inefficiency. Literacy made masses primary stake holder in government whereas illiteracy implies ignorance and made public alienated with government policies. Hence, illiteracy, being fuel of inefficient and unstable democracy, ~~can be~~ is major hurdle to its success. Therefore, the two can go along but the success of duo is very uncertain.