

Struggle for informal political power in the developing countries

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Abstract

This study focuses on struggle for informal power in the developing states. Individuals of the developing countries are mainly concerned with informal political power for safeguarding their personal interests for their survival. Interests are not unified therefore they are creating gaps and distrust in the society. People are strengthening themselves by virtue of informal politics. There is lack of proper political organization and public spirit is not seen in the formal politics. Functional relations among individuals are very complicated in nature. Therefore, their relations pave the way for mutual corruption in the society.

Keywords: Political psychology, informal political units, public spirit, comprehensive security, formal political directions

Introduction

There is struggle for political power in the developing states because of internal distrust among the people; contested rivalries exist between different ethnic and political groups. It has been observed in the developing states that a huge gap between formal political democratic structures and informal political mentalities are formed. The new Informality is necessary for the political development but must correlate with formal structures. There may be legal or illegal informal relations. Formal political rule and regulations lag behind in the regimes. Informal political institutions remain functioning because they are protecting the particular self-interests of the individuals in the society; therefore undemocratic rules prevail over the formal democratic structure of the developing states. According to Dittmer, political means can be divided into legitimate and illegitimate kinds while the ends of political process will result in either public or private benefits/interests. Political elites in the developing state are not giving the respect to formal democratic structure. They depend on the normative politics. Therefore formal and informal political institutions are not working parallel, According to Fukui, formal politics is regarded as "the normal and orthodox form of politics, which is governed by various political institutions". The formal institution is not achieving the legitimacy from public because public is more concerned with informal politics for their personal gain. Different social groups are involved in the informal politics but their interaction is not with formal political institutions that hinder the performance and development of the formal institutions. Formal institutions are legitimate but public essence is missing in the informal network of the politics. Informal network just busy in private gain and has no influence on the formal structure. Dittmer further argues that informal politics would develop into two different directions in response to the change of formal institutions: suppression and marketization. Informal works in the developing countries open the doors of corruption, distrust and illegitimacy because they influence the public officials in their work. The social sector in developing countries is just satisfied with personal necessities and the rest of the society is not able to reach at public office without any political influence and public officials also like individual benefits for any work with any political reference. They oblige them for their own

gains and therefore, a wave of suspicion is always prevalent in the society. Therefore people in the Developing state are always engaged in informal political activities for the safeguard of their necessities; whether their needs and wants are legitimate or not, their perception is that formal institutions would restrict their personal interest because they are not well educated and unaware of the formal democratic structure of state. Their public policy is yet to be defined in such parts of the world. Another contributing factor is that interests, needs, want are diversified whereas in most of developed countries people are concerned with the policy matters of the government to some extent. Their interests are unified because they see their government in the broad spectrum.

Problems of political legitimacy in the Developing nations:

Developing nations are facing the serious problem of political legitimacy. Individuals of developing states want to empower themselves politically because institutional framework of these countries is fragile in the nature of political culture and their political behavior is based on the virulent actions for their self-interest. Individuals want to occupy the economic resources by political power. They put aside public interest. Therefore, political system of these countries is not creating a favorable environment for democracy. Individuals want prominence through politic and political actors provoke the violence in the society for the sake of power. They adopt this attitude frothier certain goals in the society. Political psychology of individual is based on virulent actions which pave the way for instability of institutions, yet legitimacy of these institutions is not achieved through the electoral process.

Common people have vague opinion about the voting behavior; they cast their vote without any specific will, therefore proper selection of the candidate is not possible. The self-interest of the individual is at stake that is why they attach themselves with any political figure. Perception of political attitude of the common people is confined with self-interest. Therefore the main policies and prominent issues of the nation remain in the background and the development of these nations is stagnant in nature. People in developing countries do not have enough knowledge about politics and are even unaware of government structure, therefore they are more concerned with the party candidate other than important issues; this creates authoritarian

tendencies in the society. They are ignoring the policy issues. Candidate-oriented politics is not only creating violence but also creating the problem of legitimacy in the politics, therefore election process is not transparent in these countries. Political attitudes and behaviors are stagnant. That is why political vacuum is not filled because common grounds are missing in the political environment for common people's welfare. Culture of developing nations consists of mistrust, therefore, political parties and public do not think beyond the families. Therefore commonalities are missing in their political agendas. The common people are confused about the politics in their countries. Most developing countries have pluralist societies, yet political parties have not created common grounds in the heterogeneous societies. Common political grounds can generate favorable political environment for public awareness. Therefore the institutions of democracy have not flourished yet. They are a model of personal approach. Political community is fragmented and therefore political development is absent in developing nations.

Nature of Political power

Political power is based on extrinsic factors. Power is always merged from interaction of all valuable resources in the given society. In the most of developing countries Political power is dispersed in the nature because power holder is not able to interact with the whole society. It is because of lack of knowledge and ideology and other contributing factors. Politics is hovering around on self-interest and for a particular segment of the society; therefore general population is ignored in this sense. A political action is required for strong leverage from society but in developing nations politics comprises of virulent actions. The under laying fact is that they do not have the support from all segments of the society and on other hand society is also diversified by its own interests. Therefore motivational aspect in political development is lagging behind, that is why political beliefs are disintegrated. Political psychology is based on violence and individuals have no concern with what the government does. They only have concern with what a political group would do for them. Mutual distrust is a contributing factor which creates political divide among the individuals and pave the way for self-centralism and small political associations in the society. Informal politics is creating more gaps among the individuals. Informal politics become the source of influencing the behavior of others for their particular goals. Informal politics creates virulent informal political-actor in the developing nations. Individuals are more concerned with informal politics rather than formal politics of the country. Informal politics is digging suspicion and doubt in the society, the mutual trust is lacking in these societies, therefore formal politics is always fragile in this sense because informal political-actors have control over a certain community of the society. Informal politics is creating gaps in the society. Informal politics is getting complex in nature main objective of informal politics competing for recourse and power they define the courses of action for their goals. These informal actions consequently are creating cohesion for violence in the states. Uneducated business class is more involved in the informal politics because of lack of self-confidence, knowledge and skills. They are creating distrust for their own business gain. They are the agents of distrust in the society and are creating conflict in the state. Another contributing factor for power gaining is that

individuals in the developing states have complicated functional relations due to weak governing institutions and people are more concerned with individuals who are working in these institutions. In this way they are ignoring the procedural frame work of the institutions. In this way officials become strong and institutions become weak. Officials downplay others' talents, knowledge and skills, and fear, doubt and anxiety exists in the large part of society and institutions refuse to support others with their professional development. Therefore institutions fail to keep their promises, agreements and commitments with common individuals. Other factor is that divergence of private interests of the progression in the newly emerging groups. They are products of informal politics. Progressive private interests are not their conception of the public interests because government policy is not determined in the community because informal political groups have different values and interests. Although developing countries of Africa and Asia have democratic formal political structure but they lacks democrats; therefore formal political structure is weak in the nature. This gives birth to weak political parties and civil society. Weak civil society stands upon the mutual distrust among the individuals because of lack of comprehensive security which paves the way to informal politics. Informal politics is a safe guard for them and suspicion and hate are fundamental elements among the people. Therefore they want to be powerful for their survival. In this regard civil society generates the informal politics in the state. The formal political institutions are considered weak in the presence of informal political units which affect the constitutional frame work of the state.

Conclusion

Struggle for power within the state generates the informal politics which leads to distrust and corruption in the state and reduces the influence of the formal political directions in the state. In the Informal politics, private interest becomes more important than general interest of the state. In the developing states formal political structure is based on democracy but it does not have democrats who support the formal structure of the state. Mainly the political culture of the developing countries is revolving around the informal politics. Unfortunately informal politics has no guidelines towards the formal political structure. On other hand formal politics has lack of public spirit; therefore political institutions are not able to give the positive direction to their interests. Informal politics is the decay of the political institutions of the state which causes decline of the political order in the developing states of Asia and Africa. The behavior of political elites of the developing states is not guiding the public towards formal political institutions of the states, rather they are creating gaps and distrust among the people. Hence, they are ineffective in this regard.

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