

## RELUCTANCE OF PAKISTANI YOUTH IN POLITICS: TRENDS IN AN INFORMATION AGE

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Political scientists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century followed by the 21<sup>st</sup> century have been proclaiming that achievement and technological change would dramatically transform not only territorial politics but the world politics as well. The scientists of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (both social and natural science) concluded that World War-I resulted unprecedented destruction, not only on the battlefield but also by wrecking the socio-political system of participants of war. (Keobane and Nye, 1998)

The contributors of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century observed the situation as the direction of change but seems to be unfair about its consequences. Some analysts relate the situation with the information revolution moved to directly, from technology to political consequences without sufficiently considering the ground realities such as economic disasters and socio-political factors, which resulted frustration among people and nations as well.

It is believed that information is power and today's information techniques have profound political activities into its vast ranges. Traditionally, political activity has focused first at the local level, only extending to national and international spheres as the activity being regulated escaped jurisdiction boundaries. The contemporary information revolution, however, is inherently global since "Cyber Place" is divided on a non-geographical basis like the addresses "edu" "Org" and "Com" does not indicate any geographical location. Same like an Internet message to a friend or colleague a few miles away may be routed through thousands of miles of computer networks, but neither the sender nor the recipient knows or cares. (Keobane and Nye, 1998)

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From mid to end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the modern scientists admitted and accepted socio-political importance of the information revolution, not only in private but the public sector too. The government also uses the social forces that are creating the information revolution to provide the information society with a new type of direction and control. Apart from the government side, the people itself are well aware of information age and/are expecting for the reshaping in all aspects. These are the people who are well informed, knowledgeable and acquainted with the newest of the ideas. (Siddiqui, 2001)

Pakistani society is fairly affected by the flow of information technology throughout the world. Hence we cannot bind our people specially the youth mind or limit their likes and dislikes in today's high tech world.

The main purpose for working on such theme is to point out the decreasing interest of Pakistani youth in today's political scenario of Pakistan, which is still based on old trends and promises, whereas the young generation is not only well aware but also well informed of the outcomes of information age.

The socio-political scientists believe that, the "communication refers to a body of basic concepts underlying several contemporary approaches to human behavior including the interaction of nation-states and involves not only oral speech but all human behaviors, whereas political communication as a different implication when it is used in the context of "Political Cybernetics". Here it consists of model drawn from the information theory and Cybernetics, theory of communication nets and a set of proposition partially derived from other theoretical areas such as democratic theory, organization theory and decision theory, about the characteristics and effects of communications and there media on attitude change, public opinion formation, voting behavior, maintenance and stability of a political system, consensus, political socialization. Political development, perception and ideology, political parties and Politicians attitude in reshaping the political culture of Pakistan, in which the youths are, seem to be the major contributors. (Johari, 1989)

The information technology has particularly influenced the youth. Today's Pakistani young generation is quite ambitious and focused. The sad fact is that their energies are not properly channeled due to economic and some political reasons. Subsequently, a process of brain drain occurs and our country loses its precious human resources. We feel that it is not only the responsibility of government to work on youths aggressive attitude towards positive politics but the politicians can be more effective to motivate the youths interest to take part in healthy Politics. It is the equal responsibility of government and political institutions to provide peaceful and healthy atmosphere to our young generation where they can freely breathe and grow to take part in nation building process. We must provide them a proper pitch where they can freely field and play their strokes for their career building process and prove themselves as valuable contributors in nation building process as well.

#### WHAT WE HAVE GIVEN THEM?

People are enjoying the independence in an independent territory where governments change without cause, parliament dissolved without reason, elections are allegedly rigged are more often rigged, political parties-role seems to be unfair on the part of loyalty to any principles, patience to wait for next general elections is not seen, nor a democratic tradition is followed. We are living in a society where criticism is not tolerated. Abuse has replaced argument as an instrument of debate, the trend of personalization has improved and the media has largely failed to perform its partiality. (Aziz, 2001)

This is the pitch that we have provided them to play in today's challenging world of information age. The history confirms and contributes to existing evidence about the mentioned factors that disengage our youth from taking interest in national politics. Therefore, majority of the youth have lost their trust in politicians and now they consider politics as boring and dull field. In general, politicians are viewed by our youth in a negative light; they were seen to be remote, untrustworthy, self interested and

unrepresentative of young generation. The politicians must consider the new trends of Cyber Politics in which their traditional roles are challenged on various fronts. In many cases the old ways of working and thinking do not match with the information age. Where the youth, who are not only well aware but well informed as well they are no easier as before. (Anttiroiko, 1997)

The politicians should consider and attempt reshaping their political trends by making politics more interesting, easier to understand, effectively obtainable, responsive to the needs and concerns of youth and the nation. They must find out new opportunities and routed for the young generation to enter and play their role in the political process of Pakistan. They must work out their ability to cope with increasingly complex systems and practise of information society, representational role and its legitimacy. They must redesign and re-shape their political attitude and behavior as well.

## CONCLUSIONS

In order to attract the attention of our youth politics needs to be explained in an accessible and enjoyable way that enables them to consider and appreciate the issue being discussed. The politicians need to give more consideration to the concern of young people, and forums that facilitate such dialogue are required. Ways of involving young generation in the structures and processes of decision-making are also needed.

It is also seen in past experiences of Pakistan's political processes that the youth were given in promises from different political platforms and at the end they got nothing but the frustration, which result their conversion towards unlawful means and pain to whole society. It should also be recognized that young people are currently taking action in a range of political activities even if they do not see them as political. In addition, while they often do not assess themselves as being interested in politics, they are concerned about issues-such as education and qualifications, job availability and security, and discrimination, which are at the core of government's agenda.

Finally, it is the prior duty of politicians, educators, elders and government as well to focus attention on engaging and representing the interests of our youth who are alarmingly moving towards the brain drain policy of the West.

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