DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN

Democracy means not,” I am as good as you are”, but “you're as good as I am.”

-- Theodore parker

The word democracy is a Greek word. It consists of two words, demos- people and cracy-power. In a democratic government, supreme power is held by the people. Democracy holds a high rank for all and esteems every person.

The state which carries democracy in her constitution and applies it practically that state flourishes by leaps and bounds. Implementations of democracy sets a state free from bribe, corruption, illiteracy, indecorum and backwardness. It induces a spirit of advancement, skillfulness, innovation, and struggle.

Pakistan is an Islamic republic and the majority of residers are the believer of Islam. The role of a Pakistani Muslim is very important in Pakistani model of democracy. A Muslim believes in the oneness of Allah and the end of prophet hood and thus they obey their orders strictly. Hazrat Mohammad (Peace be upon him) said in his last sermon:

“Verily in the sight of Allah the most honored amongst you is the one who is most God-fearing. There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab and nor for a non-Arab over an Arab nor the white over the black nor for the black over the white except in God consciousness.”

In Islam killing a man is like killing the mankind whereas saving a man is like saving the mankind. The value of a common man is equal to the value of a sacred khana-e-k’aaba.

Our leader Quaid-e-azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah founded Pakistan on the Islamic democracy and said:

“"It is my belief that our salvation lies in following the golden rules of conduct set for us by our great law-giver The prophet of Islam(Peace be upon him).Let us lay the foundation of democracy on the basis of truly Islamic ideals and principles. Our almightily has taught us that our decisions in the affairs of the state shall be guided by discussions and consultations.”

He also implemented it by saying:

“You’re free, you’re free to go to your temples, you’re free to go to any place of worship in this state of Pakistan, and you may belong to any religion or cast or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the state. We are starting this fundamental principle that we are all citizens of one state”.
Pakistani model of democracy is based on Islam. Its model is totally reflecting Islamic rules and regulations. Quaid-e-Azam also stated once:

“Democracy is in the blood of Musalman who look upon complete equality of men. I give you an example, very often when I go to mosque, my chauffer stands side by side with me. Musalman believe in fraternity, equality, and liberty”.

Allama Iqbal fully convinced the Muslims to follow the golden rules of Quran and Sunnah and said:

“Keep the Quran as a mirror before you; you have completely changed, run away from yourself. Fix a balance of your deeds; stir a commotion which your forebears stirred in the past.”

If we throw the light of Quran on the democracy of Pakistan it is observed that Islam place a vital role in the democracy of Pakistan due to excess of execrable ritualism and traditions, Pakistan had not played an active role in democracy. Islamic Scholars should inculcate true knowledge to Pakistani citizens. For this agenda, a network is being branch-out in our country. Now these angelic scholars, who guide the people to the righteous path, are short-listed, and the ones who are existing, cannot wield the influence by exerting power over anti-democratic elements.

Some elements are being used to exploit people by double crossing their minds, by intruding (peer-faqir) system they steal the right of freedom from the people.

Despite of such situations, I hope that Pakistan’s intellectual and upright people would accomplish mind-slave free democratic system because our youth is determined to have a change and this change will fade away the dark elements of the state.

It is true that today Pakistan is not a complete democratic state. It is a time to call spades a spade. Every person is sent down on earth to play a substantial role in their lives. If everybody plays their role in the development then Pakistan will become a democratic state. Kofi Annan rightly said:

“No one is bound a good citizen; no nation is bound a democracy. Rather both are processes that continue to evolve over life time; young people must be included from birth. Our society that cuts-off from its youth severs its life-line.”

The destiny of a nation vested with the youngsters. Youth is an initiative to any country’s progress and prosperity. Youth have a power to hold the true democratic principles and to revive the strong will for countries love and strike away the numbness from nation’s heart and strengthen them.

“Under your shoulders. Dear young people of the entire world, weigh the responsibility to transform tomorrow’s world into a society where peace, harmony and fraternity reign.”

--Bishop Carlos Belos
Youth has a might of extensive thinking and innovation. Youth are open to creative ideas and energy contrary to the old ones. Now coming to the point about the role of youth in Pakistan, youth are now getting awareness regarding democracy. They are expressing it in their educational institutions and Pakistani politics. They are playing a vital role in comparison with the old generation, which is fully cleared from different talk shows and protests.

“Our youth are not failing the system; the system is failing the youth. Ironically, the very youth who are being treated the worst, are the young people who are going to lead us out of this nightmare.”

--Rachel Jackson

Pakistan consists of sixty to seventy percent of youth and most of the males being nurtured with education. Majority is heading to foreign world to acquire higher education and to observe their system of education and system of government and to implement those systems on the home ground. This will only happen when they shall practically involve in the government institutions and play an active role in politics.

I, myself feel that my peers discuss the issue of democracy with keen interest to bring about a good and fair democracy within the state and express great care for Pakistani model of democracy in future.

In this regard, I and my colleague’s initial constructive step toward democratic state would be casting our votes to an intellectual, honest and hard-working person. The same way a stream of youth is desperately waiting to wield the influence and they have the same thoughts, hopes and plans as I have. In this way youth dedicates their best part in the Pakistani democracy.

Quaid-e-azam enlightened the role of youth in his words:

“Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students who have always been in the forefront in the hour of trial and need. You’re the nation’s leader of tomorrow and you must fully equip yourself by discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of you. You should realize the magnitude of your responsibility and be ready to bear it.”

Education makes a man of refinement and this man wants to spend a refined life and a refined life an outcome of leading a life with good rules and these good rules are articulated only by democracy.

I re-phrase Allama’s quote with my ideology:

“Grant the youth of my plaints of early morn furnishes again these eaglets with strong wings. My only prayer to you, my Lord, is that the light of my vision be diffused amongst all.”

Like the youth of the rest of the World, Pakistani youth is getting awareness regarding the rights and wrongs. They are playing their best role in stabilizing the corrupting elements. They take active part in protests and attend seminars that fully nourish them with the current political
instability of Pakistan, and when these youths go to any educational institutes they upgrade that institute level and when they raise their voice against something they are not ignored but fully respected.

State Institutions also deliver there most to the democracy of the state. All the institutions should be liberal and free of corruption. Institutions have the power to accomplish the goals of the nation. If the institutions start working at good pace then the people will automatically run the affairs of the state at a good pace. Because of good institution arrangements, everybody will get a chance proving them on a particular platform and it will also reduce unemployment.

Institutions are the main source of building characteristics of skillfulness, education, mind-sets and literacy. The institution of the state needs to be at a good level, this will improve the democratic status of the state and the state will receive appreciation by the other democratic states. These institutions of a democratic state would be fruitful for its citizen and this democratic state would play an active role for the peace building of the world.

Now, sketching the Portray of Pakistan, institutions are not flourishing as they are ought to be. It is because the shadows of dictatorship had hovered Pakistan for a very long time, which was a big hindrance in the democratic development of Pakistan.

Dictatorship survives but contributes to the dictators’ kitties rather than development where the army is the only power centre but consists of poorly educated warlords while parties, businessmen and landlords are weak, ethnic differences high, and the educated diasporas small.

Dictatorship left the country with more extremism, more terrorism, more blood, and more instability of the region, economical collapse of Pakistan and more suicide bombs. Democratic powers struggled hard to de-install dictatorship from the state and contribute greatly in strengthening the state institutions.

The best outcome of the struggle is the liberation of judiciary on 22nd March 2009, which was an assurance of democratic sovereignty of the state. Strong and independent Pakistani judiciary is a classic example of highly democratic state and thus respecting judicial decisions and implementing them is indispensible for strengthening democracy.

Media is another most important democratic institution of Pakistan which is playing a major role in developing a democratic society. It highlights the problems of people to the concerned authorities, protects the fundamental rights mention in the constitution of Pakistan. Media is helping people to raise their voice against the injustice, corruption, dictatorship etc.

“The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of the democracy.”

--Amy Goodman.

Police force is another major democratic element of a state; it must be subjected to the rule of law rather then the wishes of powerful leaders, to protect the citizens and are publically accountable. But, unfortunately, Pakistani police remained unsuccessful in emerging as an ideal democratic element, due to inadequate governance. As a result, public is being ignored and are not being assured for their safety.
For the real implementation of democracy police department is being augmented and can be embellished like judicial department of the state.

Another very important constituent of democracy is Army. History of Pakistan shows that military force was the essential contributor for the breakdown of the democratic system. At present times, the Pakistan army is functioning within prescribed boundaries and every institution is given its own sovereignty. Pakistan army is going toward betterment and it is hoped that it will retain such democratic policies and thus maintain its expertise military skills which exclusively make it distinctive amongst the world’s best armed forces.

It is a well-known fact that the settlement of democracy in Pakistan is good for army as well as state institutions. Quaid-e-Azam addressed to the military staff college on 14th June, 1948:

“Never forget that you’re the servants of the state. You do not make policy. It is we, the people’s representatives, who decide how the country is to run. Your job is to only obey the decisions of your civilian masters.”

The last but not the least important democratic element is an Educational department of a state. The future prosperity of a society depends on the rising of standard of education. Education furnishes the mental growth of the people and enables them to lead a liberal life, which brings a significant increment in democratic power.

“A person’s freedom of learning is a part of its freedom of thoughts; even more basic then his freedom of speech.”

--John Holt

Presently, the pattern of education in Pakistan is outdated and obsolete and this system is running since a very long time. Focusing on the madrassa education system, which is not being under intellectual Ullma-e-deen. As a result, people are bounded to mind-slavery. They are like prisoners without prison. Their minds are being controlled and dictated just like in dictatorship system. Taking advantage of such mind slaves, politicians fulfill their greedy personal interests.

“The world is moving so fast that if we do not educate ourselves, we will not only be left behind but also will be no more”.

--Quaid-e-Azam

A woman, citizen and political parties also have major role in the building up of democratic elements. Even minorities can not be neglected in the rise of democracy because I think that they are liberal and independent citizens and work as an ambassador for Pakistan, minorities are a big advantage for Pakistan, for developing good relationships with other democratic states.

“It is the first and foremost duty of all the well-wisher of the country to strive for the welfare of all people irrespective of any consideration of caste or religion.”

--Anonymous
I have presented my views about democracy in Pakistan. I hope that my views about future democratic Pakistan would be clear to you.

--Thank you--