

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN PAKISTAN AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

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### ABSTRACT

The study of Public policy formulation is actually scientific study of behavior. It have been discussing frequently by scholars and politician from its inception. Some particular of public policy making that are related to behavioral style are still unidentified. Elite's selected interests are usually recognized in under developing political systems, especially in the third world countries. The durable patron in domestic public policies requires analyses of the basic interests are impacts of leading class. Without concerning community and only by reference to Pakistani prestigious class one cannot understand the influencing forces subsidizing to policies consequences. This paper will suggest the importance of clashing public and elite interests for explaining obstacles to a consensus on national identity and uncertain acceptance of public policy and the difficulties in implementing social and political reforms.

It will also argue that public policy making is not a difficult task but an implementation is necessary to appreciate attitude towards national leadership and sincerity and skill is the most important in this regard. The common difficulty in policy of choices is also shown to be traceable in past. The paper will conclude by suggesting missed opportunities by the political leaders to modify the elite interest culture in the national interest.

**KEYWORDS:** Elite Class, Behaviorism, Public Policy, Reciprocal

### INTRODUCTION

#### Conceptual Analysis

Public policy is the combination of the basic decisions, commitments and actions made by those who hold or influence government positions of authority. Public policy is a course of government action taken in response to social problems.<sup>1</sup> What government to do, why they do it, and what difference it makes.<sup>2</sup> The policy makers have always been attracted by the idea of maximizing foreign assistance for being investment layout to achieve high growth.<sup>3</sup>

Corruption has been around of hour a very long time and will remain in the future unless governments can figure out effective ways to combat it. The detrimental effects of bureaucratic corruption gained attention from policy

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<sup>1</sup> Tahir Mahmood, Hafeez ur Rehman and Shahnaz A. Rauf (2008), Evaluation of macro economic policies of Pakistan (1950-2008). *Journal of Political Studies*, Volume XIV, pp. 57-75.

<sup>2</sup> Page No. 69 issue XIV. Winter, 2008. Tahir Mahmood, Hafeez ur Rehman and Shahnaz A. Rauf (2008), Evaluation of macro economic policies of Pakistan (1950-2008). *Journal of Political Studies*, Volume XIV, pp. 57-75.

<sup>3</sup> Hafeez ur Rehman and Amjad Naveed (2007), Determinants of corruption and its relation to GDP (A panel study). *Journal of Political Studies*, Volume XII (Winter), pp. 27-59.

makers.<sup>4</sup> In these regimes corruption allegations are often used in political battles, raising public perceptions of corruption and thus reflecting the degree of political competition rather than actual corruption.

The elite-mass model holds that in every society or state, elite dominates the policy-making process. The elite' as an unchangeable group of people endowed with unearned privileges. Members of this group enjoy disproportionate benefits due to their association with the government and public sector, while giving little in return. This group maintains control over benefit-streams through an astute reading of politics and active participation in it. In order to retain political relevance, it can rapidly change its political associations according to the changing environment — the real and overriding motivation lies in pursuing more benefits through retaining control over policies that comes with public office.<sup>5</sup>

### **ELITE THEORY POLICY AS ELITE PREFERENCE**

Public policy may be well defined as the preferences and values of governing elite. In a broader perspective, it reflects the demands of the people; which express the myth rather than the reality. Elite theory suggests that the people are less interested and misinformed about public policy that basically elites shape the mass opinion on policy matters rather than masses shape the elite opinion. Thus, public policy really turns out the policies of the elite. However, in a democratic political system, policies flow downward from elites to masses, they do not arise from mass demands. Elite theory can be summarized briefly as follows: Pakistani Society is divided into the few who have power and the many that having nothing to participate in political Decision Making, A small number of persons allocate values for society; the masses do not decide public policy.

The few who govern are not representative of the common people who are governed. Privileged persons of the society are drawn unjustifiably from the upper socioeconomic levels of society.

The struggle of non-elites to higher positions must be slow running process to maintain stability and avoid revolution in a state, whereas, elites share consensus in behalf of the basic values of the social system. Thus, Public policy does not reflect the demands of subjects but rather the prevailing values of the elite. Moreover Changes in public policy matters will be supplementing process rather than a revolutionary process.

What are the implications of elite theory for policy analysis? First, elitism implies that public policy does not reflect the demands of the people so much as it does the interests, values, and preferences of elites. Therefore, change and innovations in public policy come about as a result of redefinitions by elites of their own values.

Because of the general conservatism of elites that is, their interest in preserving the system change in public policy will be incremental rather than revolutionary. Public policies are frequently modified but seldom replaced. Changes in the nature of the political system occur when events threaten the system, and elites, acting on the basis of enlightened self-interest, institute reforms to preserve the system and their place in it. The values of elites may be very "public regarding".

A sense of noblesse oblige may permeate elite values, and the welfare of the masses may be an important element in elite decision making. Elitism does not necessarily mean that public policy will be hostile toward mass welfare but only that the responsibility for mass welfare rests on the shoulders of elites, nor masses. PM's Special

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<sup>4</sup>Page No. 27, Dr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman and AmjadNaveed, determinants of corruption and its relations to GDP, Journal of political studies issue XII, winter 2007.

<sup>5</sup>Co-opting the revolution Musharraf R. Cyan ) Dawn 19-04 2012

Incentive Package for top bureaucrats. The DG Housing Foundation told the committee that the under the PM Incentive Package, plots were given to 236 bureaucrats including 21 judges of the higher judiciary.<sup>6</sup>

The relationship among economic contexts, political institutions, and the dynamics of national policymaking can be examined through an analysis of contemporary French and German labor market reform. Several elements are cited as shaping public policy in Pakistan. Elite interests are usually identified. The enduring patterns in domestic Public Policies require examination of the underlining interests and influences of Elites.

Only by reference to Pakistanis Elites and prestigious class can we understand the predisposing forces contributing to Policy outcomes. The paper will posit the importance of clashing public and elite interests for explaining

At one level, the policy process becomes a terrain of conflict and coalition-building between those actors and interests that believe they would benefit on the whole from globalization, on the one hand, and those that believe they would be disadvantaged, on the other. But at another level, globalization (especially globalization as discourse) itself becomes a bargaining process among groups that are characterized by different kinds of payoffs. This process benefits primarily those groups that are transnationally linked and networked.<sup>7</sup>

Systems have distinguishable boundaries setting them off from their environments, and each has a tendency toward a state of equilibrium, i.e., the system tends to maintain itself through various processes whenever it is disturbed, either from within or without its boundaries. Each system tends to be structured in accordance with certain invariant problems characteristic of all social systems. Internal differentiation takes place, with specific structures and processes being developed to handle specific kinds of problems, and, as a result, various subsystems will evolve, such as the economic system, the political system, social stratification, etc.

In the case of political systems, the major task and function, or contribution to society, is that of selecting societal goals, mobilizing resources for their attainment, and making societal decisions.<sup>8</sup>

The term “structure” is generally applied to those patterns of power and authority which characterize relationships between rulers and ruled – relationships which are more or less enduring and therefore more or less predictable.<sup>9</sup>

In Pakistan, every successive government has followed policies that are unpredictable, impulsive and are of short duration. There have been too frequent changes, sometimes contradictory in nature and at times catering exclusively to special vested interests rather than meeting national economic objectives

While Pakistan is a developing country in which every government has tried to adopt its own policies for their own and short term benefits. Due to the interruption of military dictators, the civilian governments cannot continue its policies, which cause economic upheavals in the state and disturb the social fabric of the society.

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<sup>6</sup> *Asim Yasin*, The News, Thursday, December 13, 2012

<sup>7</sup> Rethinking World Politics A Theory of Transnational Neopluralism  
Cerny, Philip, Professor of Global Political Economy, Rutgers University-Newark  
Print publication date: 2010

<sup>8</sup> Political System, International Encyclopedia of The Social Sciences, David L. Sills Ed. Vol, 15, The Macmillan Company & The Free Press, p. 473

<sup>9</sup> Political System”, International Encyclopedia of The Social Sciences, David L. Sills Ed. Vol, 15, The Macmillan Company & The Free Press, p. 474

They accused the writers, poets and artists of pandering to the elites and they said it was time they engaged their creative skills to shed light on the conditions of the rural areas, marginalised classes and politically and socially oppressed sections of society<sup>10</sup>

The secret of rise and fall of a nation lies in self-determination, sincere leadership, patience, hardworking, merit harmony, sacrifice and proper system of checks and balance.<sup>11</sup>

THE minister of education has announced the National Education Policy (NEP) for the next decade. It is interesting that the previous education policy, for the period of 1998 to 2010, had still not expired.<sup>12</sup>

In Pakistan, the education sector is far behind as compared to the other developing state's education sectors. Due to its economic upheavals, discontinuation in education policies and different tiers of education system creates an unbalanced education system. Whereas, in this regard the former Education Minister Zobeida Jalal announced the National Education Policy in Musharraf regime in which she argued that, "there is a 'disconnect' between policy declarations and budget allocations. NEP 2010 however, is different from previous education policies on the count that its process of designing started almost three years before. A number of seminars and meetings were organized apparently to draw the consensus of different groups of stakeholders."<sup>13</sup> Participation in policy affairs may be a desirable activity for the man of civic virtue or personal rectitude but is, it is said, foreign to the serious enterprise of science as such.

## CONCLUSIONS

Democratic system in fact can do so when given the time and space to make difficult decisions. As for as the policy introduction is concerned the all earlier policies which were a lot of rhetoric and always fell short of reality. Even a layperson would know that the problem was at the implementation level. The policy focuses on the whys and whats but skillfully ignores the real issues of who and how. The interactions of elites and subordinate classes are often more nuanced and reciprocal (A reciprocal action or arrangement involves two people or groups of people who behave in the same way or agree to help each other and give each other advantages than disruption (causing trouble and therefore stopping something from continuing as usual theory assumes.) Most of the public policies in developing countries are shaped by the elites from the elites for the elites. If problem generation decreased and if solutions to past issues were successful there would be less congestion. Nation adopts the 'right' policies to achieve the 'right' goals but when it is hijacked by prestigious class the outputs would not be accordingly.

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<sup>10</sup> Zubeida Mustafa, Catalysts for change, Dawn, 4 July 2012

<sup>11</sup> Imtiaz Shahid p.367

<sup>12</sup> Dawn, New education policy By Dr Shahid Siddiqui Monday, 14 Sep, 2009

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