

Lecture 19

HUM113 IDEOLOGY AND CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN



COMSATS University
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Lecture 19
The Problems of Political Parties in Pakistan
(Part C)

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Way Forward



- **Lack of accountability by the elected autocratic rulers** during the past decades has become the accepted feature of our national polity.
- **The chasm between the poor and the rich has reached alarming proportions.** By **squandering public funds on dubious projects and levying ever-increasing taxes to pay for their extravagant lifestyle**, rulers have totally demoralized and crippled the tax paying middle class, which is the productive segment of any developing democratic society.

Way Forward



- *Democracy*
- Democracy should start at **the grassroots level** and nothing should be imposed on the people.
- All political **parties' cadres should elect their basic mohallah, ward, city, province, and national units.**
- These basic units or **tiers of a political party should remain in the charge of those workers who are elected under a system that allows members of the party to express their choices through ballots.** These units should elect the city leaders who, in turn, form an electoral college for the election of district, provincial and national party leaders.

Way Forward



- **There should also be a constitutional requirement for political parties to hold elections at least once in two years under the direct supervision of the independent and neutral Election Commission.**
- **And the commission should be empowered to disqualify a political party from contesting the national, provincial and local elections if it does not have elected office bearers.**

Way Forward



- *Accountability*
- There is a need to create **permanent mechanisms for continued accountability within the democratic structures of the state and the parties.**
- There is also **a need to look at the problem of corruption in depth and take steps to root it out** because not only are the politicians corrupt but the whole of our society is steeped in corruption.

Way Forward



- *Financial resources*
- Parties are weak because they lack financial resources. **Electoral candidates are relatively strong and do not depend on their respective parties for funding.**
- **Unless parties in Pakistan engage themselves in fund-raising activities** and thereby **finance their electoral and non-electoral activities like political education and training**, they will continue to woo local influence for support rather than lend their support to promising individuals within their folds.
- Secondly, the country needs to debate and **encourage the culture of political donations.**

Way Forward



- *Mass contacts*
- Above all, **political parties have to draw their strength from citizens for sustainable democracy** instead of looking for behind-the-scene intrigues to grab power.
- The extended role of intelligence networks in the making and breaking of political parties could only be frustrated **when citizens are made capable to vanguard their political rights through legitimate political institutions**, i.e. political parties.