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Determinants of Political capacity in developing States: Focus on Asia and Africa

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Abstract

In this paper present the determinants of political capacity in developing states. Political capacity of the state means negotiate the conflicts in the regime and ability of government to penetrate in the society. In developing states of Asia and Africa, the political capacity of the government is not making the influence in the society because most of states have not popular accepted governments. Level of political capacity differs from one section of the state to the other section; therefore firm institutional frame work is lagging behind. Different social forces are exerting pressure on the Legal institutions. Therefore government capacity is always affected because of unparalleled social cohesion in developing states, government is always working under the different layers of political units and virulent groups. They gear the capacity of government on their own side that is why Government institutions not able to manage the conflicts in the state. Parallel political capacity is required in developing states for the administration and for political order in the society.

Keywords: political synergies, Politically-dominated bureaucracy, camp politics, political lobbying.

1. Introduction

Political Capacity building is a process of progression and strengthening the abilities of individuals, organizations, and political systems which performs core functions of political organization and continues to improve and develop over the time. The political Capacity is a Framework to manage and support current activities of the state and reducing the conflicts in the society. The focus of political capacity is building and shifting abilities at local and national organizations. A politically capable government is able to change or influence policy - pursuing its political and economic goals and stabilizing the state. Political Capacity has very close relation with legitimacy of government. It has ability to influence in the society but in the in the developing nations legitimacy of the government is not stable due to inequality and uneven distribution of the resources. The traditional sources of political authority and political foundations are extremely complicated; they are creating problems for political associations and for the political capacity of the regime that affect the legitimacy of the government in the developing nations. The level of political capacity in the society achieves and reflects the relationship between its political institutions and the social forces which are working behind the state. Social forces are in the form of an ethnic, religious, territorial, economic, and cultural basis and these forces always exert influence in the public authority. Most of developing states have heterogeneous society and complexity, no single social force is dominating, much less create a community, without creating political institutions which have some existence of independent social order. Lacking of political capacity in the developing state, loyalties are with groupings-family, clan, village, tribe, religion, social class-compete with and often replace the loyalty to the broader 'Hobbesian world of unrelenting competition among social forces - between man and man, family and family, clan and clan, region and region, class and class-a competition unmediated by more comprehensive political organizations'. In Africa and Asia even today tribal loyalties are stronger than national and state loyalties. And legal authority is considered inimical in the developing state, in the politically backward societies which are lacking a sense of political community, leaders, individuals, and groups want short-run materialist aims and ignoring wide-ranging public interests.

Foundations of political capacity in developing states

High Political capacity in the society means greatly institutionalized governing organizations and articulates the public interests; organized the different sections of the state and political communities in the society. Political capacities refer to handling conflicts in states and societies

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and also it is the process of reducing the gap between the conflicting groups in the society and abridging the social distance in heterogeneous society. Conflicts are an ongoing concern of the developing states which is part of political process but when conflicts form the shape of violence then they affect the state and society because sphere of violence is beyond the boundaries of the institutions of the state. Most of conflicts raised in the developing states due to lack of institutional frame work in the state. Institutions are always a source of connection for controlling the Conflicts in the society. Institutions create the political capacity to manage the conflicts in the society. Keynes's perceptive remark that "In the long run we are all dead" applies to individuals, not institutions. Individual benefits are certainly short-run interests. Institutional benefits, though, happen over a long period of time; the advocate of the institution has to look to its welfare for the whole society. Conflicts occur in almost all societies whether developed or developing states but the matter of fact is how to negotiate the conflicts of different segments of the society. Largely segmented societies have a lack of political capacity to control the conflicts in state because interests and demands are scattered in the society, the level of satisfaction is uneven in the diverse societies, and therefore utilization of resources is not properly administered, therefore in most of developing countries of Asia and Africa variation exists in the quality and life style. Always element of chaos and discontent occurs in the different segments of the society. Sometimes useless undefined competition is found in the society in the habitual form. In this way state capacity is not able to control these conflicts. Conflicting and disputed behavior is symbol of dignity and prestige for certain groups in the society that deters the political capacity of the state is not able to manage such kind of attitudes of the people in the society. Another contributing factor is promoting the conflict that is normative conflicts norms, values, culture are cause of conflicts in the developing states. Moral values always facilitate the cooperation and harmony in the society; the help to solve the conflicts in the society but most of developing countries are segmented and their ethical and moral codes are also different from one section to another section of the society. "Morality to be a cooperative enterprise, and implies that the need for objective moral standards is practical." (Rawls 1980, §1) In developing states a clash always exists between the political executives and the civil servants about division of responsibility and incompatibility of opinion exists in the both sides which reduces the performance of the institutions in the state and not able to solve the conflicts in the society. Lucian Pye has claimed that the "flow of communications determines the direction and the pace of dynamic social development". Another factor which contributes to miss communication between political executive and civil executive is the problem of stagnant communication between them, therefore they are not able to communicate their policies to civil executives, and consequently policy implementation is poor in developing states. Political executives are formulating the public policies for particular part of the society in developing states which makes adverse effect on the society and creates conflicts and violence in the society, civil administration is not able to handle the coercive actions in the society.

Foundations of Decentralization in developing states

Political decentralization is a process of mobilizing the power from central authority to local government, in developing states there are pitiable circumstances of citizen participation.

Decentralization provides social and political interaction among different groups. Local government is not playing the supportive role in the developing countries. Decentralization is creating street politics, breeding street leaders who are more concerned with their own interest rather than community welfare. Wealth is the source of entrance into politics. People use politics as tool of promotion of their identity and protection of self-interests. Prosperity leads to politics and politics leads to lobbying which leads to ethnicity then they organize themselves on the certain ethnic lines with particular features. The process of political division is started in the local politics which not only affects the local political adhesion but also affects the national politics, therefore desires results are not achieved in the political decentralization in developing states. Local political units use politics as business for private gain rather than welfare of the individuals in society therefore elements of aggression and coercive is initiated in the local politics of developing countries. Conflicts and violence are emerging source of power and wealth in developing states political lobbying in this sense is a direct creation of the new groups with new resources and the efforts of these groups make them effective in the political arena and strengthen their political power for private gain. Conflicts are created for politics not for problem solving on the local level. Different political units are working just to strengthen the camp politics therefore Political, social and economic issues are growing concerns in the local level and political capacity is dispersed due to different political units malfunctioning in the local level. A vast network of different political units exists consequently; local government is not able to deliver quality of life and inability to manage the issues. Due to different political camps in local level bureaucratic administration is not working with full capacity. Different local political camps always influence on their working and their functions. Politically-dominated bureaucracy's exerted upon by different political units which influence the administration. They use bureaucracy for their own purpose therefore administrative work is less effective and inefficient. Acceleration and development is not continual in the local institutions. Political Capacity building at local level requires political synergies among different political units

David Rapoport has argued that the willingness of most individuals to bridle private or personal impulses for the sake of general social objectives. Comrades must trust each other's ability to resist the innumerable temptations that threaten the group's solidarity; otherwise, in trying social situations, the desire to fend for oneself becomes overwhelming.

In developing countries political capacity and procedures are unable to stand up against the impact of new social forces which are emerging in the local politics. In the developing states political system is not protected by any mechanism that is why new groups always make impact. The Institutional capacity is declined when everybody wants to get privileges via politics, in this way the number of political groups has increased but efficacy of political system is perished not only in local level but also at national level.

Conclusion

The Asians and African countries have the traditions of self-centred individuality and of suspicion and hatred for other groups which directly affects the political climate of the state, on the contrary different sections of the society are exerting influence in the government for their own interests that is why capacity of the government inability to negotiate all the sections of the state in the developing states. Due to lack of

political capacity mutual confidence is despaired in the different sections of developing countries. The absence of political associations result in low level of social organizational development that is the problem of developing states whose political capacity is confused and untidy. The political capacity frame work of developing states is not supportive for the current activities and not able to guide the social forces which are working behind the regime. Political institutions of developing states are not source of interaction creating disagreements among different social forces, and a steady political capacity development isn't achieved. The political capabilities of government are diverting in developing states due to different social forces and the desired policy outcome is not achieved. Political capacity and economic growth have close relations. In most of the developing countries economic level is uneven from one region to other region which is declining the capacity of the governance. Weak democratic culture in most of developing states therefore not able to interact with political, social, economic sphere of the state in this way political capacity of the government is not steered in the proper direction. Level of governance is variant from one section of the country to other because government in developing countries is not popularly accepted. Many flaws exist to manage the different sections of the state, consequently variation remains in the institutional quality. Opportunity of the progression is not same for every individual due to level of government capacity vary from one part of the state to other part and local elites are spoiling the government capabilities they just preferring and performing for any work for their own interest or for particular community. Normative structure of developing countries is more influential in the society than legitimate institutions of the state therefore people are more concerned with normative value. Formal approach is missing in the culture of developing states; above mentioned factors are always a hurdle in the way of government capabilities.

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