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SOCIO-POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN WAZIRISTAN

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ABSTRACT

The current study focused on the socio-political participation of youth in Waziristan. The political participation of youth in Waziristan was investigated. In order to meet the study's aims, data was collected using a pre-designed questionnaire. Lack of awareness, lack of female involvement, and youth political participation were discovered in the study. Cultural considerations, traditional socialization, and Malak dominance are also considered to be hurdles to youth political involvement in Waziristan. Furthermore, discussion is made on cultural preconceptions that restrict young people from participating in political activity. Waziristan's youth are typically assigned tasks within the local Malak and traditional socialization. An investigation about participation of youth in the South Waziristan agency is examined and interrogation is made whether equal opportunities in politics and encouragement of a good attitude toward youth participation in many fields of politics in Waziristan is provided.

Keywords: *Lack of awareness, Lack of female involvement in political participation, Cultural Consideration, Malak Dominance*

Introduction

The word "participation in politics" includes any act that aims to influence government actions by directly establishing public policy or indirectly pressuring politicians and candidates for a specific ideology. The political scene in Pakistan has prompted youth participation for a variety of reasons. People who already are interested in working with their neighbors and others to benefit their communities may achieve personal satisfaction through political involvement, because of Pakistan's strong family system, it might be tough to shift one's political preferences, but the country's youth are working hard to transform the political landscape (Saad, Ida & Mashud, 2019).

Participating in civic/political groups, engaging in politics, voting, signing online petitions, volunteering and campaigning are all examples of political participation. These sorts of political engagement are major elements and foundations of a thriving democracy. Several democracies in both rich and developing countries are now concerned about the decline in youth political involvement. However, there seems to be a fresh rise in political involvement among young in recent years, thanks to social networking sites like Facebook; the trend and opportunities for political involvement have drastically changed. Facebook is now keeping productivity forms of political participation as youth increasingly use it to affect social and political change (Abduab, Mohamad & Mudaa, 2016). Youths will not be as politically engaged as their ancestors. Political interests young people, although in a unique way that older decades. Regarding 'political revolution,' the Internet plays a significant role. Young people are engaging in new types of political activism as a result of the Internet. Young people no longer join political parties or participate in formal political debates, preferring instead to join single-issue initiatives and networks. Political interests young people, but in a unique manner than earlier generations. The percentage of young people (18–24 years old) voting in presidential elections in the United States has progressively decreased over the last four decades, from 50.9 percent in 1964 to 32.3 percent in 2000 (Calenda & Meijer, 2009).

Young people have effectively participated in social movements throughout the 20th century. For instance, at the time of the Civil Rights Movement, many activists, including Julian Bond, John Lewis, and Bob Moses, were college students under the age of 21. Some movement participants were in elementary or secondary school during the Montgomery and Birmingham civil rights campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s. Yet despite the participation of school-age Americans in these campaigns, history books often focus on the leaders of these campaigns and represent them as older Americans. For example, although Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is rightfully considered to be a representative symbol of the Civil Rights Movement, very rarely is his youth (aged 25 at the start of the Montgomery Bus Boycott) (Marri & Walker, 2007).

Literature of Review

The most common acts by people that aim to influence and support the government are included in the concept of participation in politics. It refers to citizen-led initiatives aimed at influencing political decision-making. People tend to participate in a combination of different forms of participation, such as membership in parties, social movement engagement, and voting, in a multidimensional approach to political participation. Political participation has been affected by gender roles, with men being more politically active than women. Furthermore, ethnic differences in political participation, especially voting, have been widely investigated

Schlozman, Verba, and Brady (1999) observed that White Americans take part and belong to political organizations at higher rates than African Americans and that African Americans are much more likely to join in protests, which they explain as a result of their separation from social and civic affairs (Hed & Grasso, 2019). Citizens' actions to dictate policy are much broader and can include things like party involvement, collecting signatures, joining a rally, contacting an official, and displaying a party symbol. Researchers have attempted to define a wide variety of possible activities when dealing with numerous them. The classic distinction between conventional and unconventional involvement is employed in pioneering studies. These classified activities carried out through official means, including such voting or party activism, as conventional, while acts carried out outside of such systems, including protesting or taking a building, were classified as unconventional (Robertson, 2009).

The most important problems facing our society are youth people's lack of interest in politics and voter turnout; the younger age group is uninformed about the value and significance of their vote. In Pakistan, youthful or university politics has a long history, and they have played an important part in defining the government's orders. Attempting to engage with the youth, political parties have failed to adapt their internal structures and outreach activities. Pakistan is undergoing a significant demographic transformation, with 63 percent of people under the age of 25. This has far-reaching socio-political implications. Failure to restore the nature of youthful political involvement can have a significant impact on politics (Din, 2016). The ability of youth to participate in politics and public policy procedures is heavily affected by political, social, and cultural circumstances, whereby social standards in many parts of the globe manifest in a variety of types of discrimination towards young women. There is substantial evidence that young people's participation in official, organizational political activities is lower than that of elder individuals around the world. In official institutional institutions and practices including Legislative bodies, political groups, votes, and state institutions, youth are underrepresented. For young men and women in mid-level and decision-making/leadership positions, the situation is much tougher. Young people have few opportunities to participate effectively in decision-making processes, therefore young men and women feel isolated in their cultures (UNDP, 2012).

South Waziristan is a mountainous region in Pakistan's northwest region. Its borders are divided by Afghanistan. Waziristan is a province in Pakistan that occupies 6,620 square kilometers for administrative purposes, Waziristan is split into 2 agencies (South and North). FATA had a semi-independent status under the Pakistani Constitution of 1973. Its governing system was nearly a millennium old, and it was based on old tribal practices known as *Riwaj*. The tribal chief (*Malak*), as well as the Political Agent

(PA), are the two pillars of authority who reported directly to the mullahs. The governance system in the FATA was harmed by the new power structure. The territory was administered by the Federal Government, which was characterized by 'Political Agents,' according to Article 247 of Pakistan's Constitution (PA) (Wahid, 2019).

The Malak' (Tribal Chief) continued to be a major role in all political matters in the Pashtun community. When he worked as a judge, the impact throughout society was so strong that his words became absolute and respectable often to the opposing parties. It became a source of motivation and authority in society. Malak was a chief speaker for his clan/tribe, dealing with the other clans and the government, and acted as the finest source for imposing government loyalty in the war-torn parts of FATA. For their loyalty, the government rewarded them handsomely, after 9/11 Pakistan had become a prior user in the fight against terrorism, resulting in significant worldwide change, notably in tribal areas. This rising militancy has weakened the Malaks' authority and strength in their different districts, resulting in anarchy across tribal communities (Malik, 2013). The political concerns, the adult franchise has not been extended to the FATA since Pakistan's independence in 1947. In other parts of Pakistan, they were advised to stay away from constitutional packages. However, in late 1996, the Pakistani government decided to expand the adult vote to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The 1997 elections were the first of their sort in the FATA, with adult voters choosing 12 members of the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Pakistani government had been delaying this position due to their appeasement strategy toward tribal chiefs (Malaks). President Asif Ali Zardari launched the long-awaited political, legal, and administrative changes for the FATA on August 14, 2009, by authorizing political activities in tribal areas (Shah, 2012).

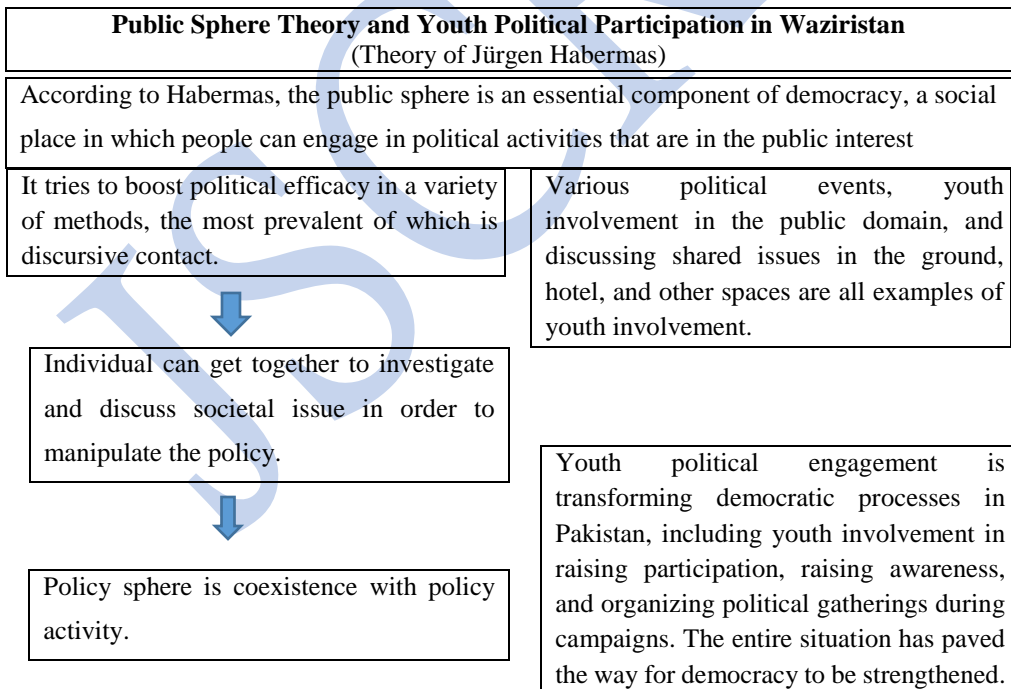
Participation in political events is in decline, especially among the young. The European Union countries have seen a fall in political participation in recent decades. In 2017 Bulgarian Parliamentary Campaign is a perfect example, with only 14.9 percent of young people voting. There is a discussion on how youth political participation is in decline. According to several recent research, young people are not disconnected, but they must engage in alternate kinds of political participation such as protesting, demonstrating, signing petitions, and participating in online discussions. In most European Union countries, there is a definite long-term reduction in young people's participation in elections (Kitanova, 2020). This article analyzes the history and current trends in Albanian political youth activism. Albania is still a patriarchal society, with age-based restrictions on freedom of speech and decision-making (customary law). There have been extraordinary cases in the Albanian State's political history. The example of Ahmet Zogu, an Albanian Head of State who became Prime Minister at the age of 24, President just at age of 28, and the King of Albanians at the

age of 33 in 1928. When the communist rule in Albania was established in 1944, 70% of the Communist Party of Albania's leaders are between the ages of 21 and 33 (Tidd, 2001).

Pakistan is like many of its neighboring countries and has a young population, the perspectives of the younger crowd are important in deciding how the country will evolve in the future. Pakistan has a low level of political literacy leading to a shortage of dedicated people and a history of brutal dictatorships. Even though Pakistan is no longer ruled by a brutal dictatorship and has transitioned to an inter-democracy, political literacy remains poor. Pakistan's political system is founded on clan, caste, or sect-based support, and even the army has evolved a patronage system. They believe that being engaged in politics is dangerous and that they will face threats to their lives and property (Lall, 2014).

Theoretical framework:

The theory Jürgen Habermas explained people's engagement in public spheres, in which they have mutual interests and may discuss those people can meet in public spaces such as parks, playgrounds, restaurants, and other venues to discuss their concerns in a public setting (Habermas, 1974). 1974).



Research Methodology:

Research methodology is the specific procedures or techniques used to identify, select, process, and analyze information about the research's objectives. Various methods and methodologies for study, whether natural or social, have been established to quantify variables and discover relationships between them.

Research Design

In this research quantitative research approach is adopted. Quantitative method are adopted when the goal of research problem to understand and define a phenomenon. These methods are a common choice in social science. Quantitative researches are well-structured, systematic, and can be described and identified clearly. In this study, the quantitative research approach was used. The current study's use of a quantitative technique is acceptable because the study's goal is to understand and analyze the socio-political participation of youth in Waziristan.

Universe of the Study

Universe of the study are Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Ex Agency of FATA). The district has recently been merged with in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district of Pakistan.

Population of the Study

Population of the study are young individuals aged (15 to 29). This study will be conducted in South Waziristan Agency.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

Selecting a sampling is the process to finding and choosing the people who are going in the target of research. A sample is a group of people that represents the whole population. The probability sampling method has been used. In the probability sampling, we will using simple random technique for selecting the respondents. In any research, a sample represents the population. The researcher used simple random sampling in this investigation. In addition, the Taro Yamani Formula was used to compute the sample size. The researcher have selected total 400 respondents from the whole population. The selected sample size is quite enough for the researcher in the whole South Waziristan.

Tool of Data Collection

Questionnaire are used to collect data form the respondents who are living in Waziristan.

Data Analysis

Data has analyzed through descriptive (frequency, percentage, mean) and inferential (correlation) statistics. The data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). The data from the questionnaire was coded and entered into a social science statistical software (SPSS). As appropriate, use mean standard deviation or frequency percentage. All the tables cannot be placed and have been summed up in paper conclusion and their result is discussed.

Finding and Results

This study was designed to explore the political participation of youth in Waziristan. This study was quantitative study and select the samples from random sampling technique was used, data was collected by using schedule interview questionnaire as a tool of data collection. Univariate and bivariate analysis technique were used to analysis the data.

The demographic profile of the respondent's show that majority of the participant were young, approximately, 56.5% of participants were young but they participate in alternate kinds of political participation such as protesting and online discussion. The similar finding were given by (Kitanova, 2020). Similarly, the result of another variable showing that social media provide additional outlet for youth to engage in political activities, the majority of the respondents have political discussions on social media. The similar finding were given by (Mohamad, Dauda & Halim, 2018). The demographics profile of the respondents show that majority of the participant were less political awareness. Approximately 55.0% of the respondents have lack of political awareness, they have lower level of political participation due to age and other limitation. These results are backed by Quintelier research (Quintelier, 2008).

Similarly, the results of another variable showing that approximately 38.3% of the participant said that the gender discrimination create hurdle for youth in political participation. The male are highly active in political activities as compare to female. The similar finding were given by (Levy & Akiva, 2019). The demographics profile of the respondents show that majority 45.0% of the participant were strongly agree that Malak dominancy creates a barrier for the youth in waziristan to participate in politics events. The malak continued to be major role in all political activities in waziristan. The similar finding were given by (Malik, 2013).

The data reveal that, majority of the respondents (48.0%) were Mehsud, while (27.3%) of the respondents were Wazir and some respondents belongs to any other ethnic group was represented by (24.7%) of the respondents. Any other term refers to respondents who are from a different caste (Bettani and Sherani). The demographics profile of the respondents show that majority (59.7%) of the participant have never cast vote. Due to the lack of understanding of politics and low voter turnout among young people, they are unaware of the worth and importance of their vote. They have never cast vote. The majority (63.7) of the respondents have cast vote for any other (Any other mean the respondents have cast vote with JI, PMAP, IND, and some of them none). These results are backed by Muhammad Din research (Din, 2016).

Conclusion:

The data analysis found that political trust factors hamper youth political participation in the South Waziristan agency. In political trust factors that lack awareness and youth are not trusting in any political party leaders, so build the youth trust in political party leaders. The cultural factors that religion and strict local traditional norms system in South Waziristan agency. In social-cultural factors, the dominant factors that hamper female political participation are illiteracy and discrimination that create hurdles for youth and also for females to participate in political activities in Waziristan. Furthermore, cultural preconceptions restrict young people

from participating in political activity. Waziristan's youth are typically assigned tasks within the local Malak and traditional socialization. In general, cultural considerations are the most significant barriers to youth political participation. As a result of the predominance of these elements, it is stated that youth political involvement in the South Waziristan Agency is extremely low.

Recommendations:

Nobody can ever disagree that youth political engagement is extremely important for a society's overall growth. As members of society, youth must be provided opportunity to participate in the development of their communities. Political rights are also a fundamental right of youth, but they have been mostly overlooked in this regard. The current study suggests the following remediable methods to increase young political participation.

- There is a dire need to create a conducive social environment where the youth can take part in the political activities and realize their potential
- The power full people including local lords should also be motivated and realized that youth political activities are very important for the future of this country.
- For youth there should be given equal opportunities as it will empower them and ultimately enable them to take part in political activities in Waziristan.
- Religious leaders who passes both religious education as well as modern education must be involved in modifying mindset of the people about youth political participation.
- It is also suggested for the future researches that carry out studies on the issue, although this study has successfully attained its objectives. However, it is expected further studies will add to the scholarship and will eventually contribute to youth political participation.

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