



DEMOCRACY AND NECESSITY OF INSTITUTIONS

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RESEARCH ARTICLE



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Abstract

The notion of democracy is at the central theme of political theory as well as in the study of politics. The idea of democracy has to be manifested in modern political lives; rule making law enforcement activities seem justified and consistent when they are democratic that adds moral legitimacy into them. Democracy is to be identified by definite key principles and by a set of institution and practices, through which its important principles are realised. The key principles of democracy are that the people have a right to a controlling influence over the public decisions and the decision makers and they should be treated with equal worth in the context of such governmental decisions. The idea of institutions refers to a framework of significant rules, norms and organised practices. Institutions also authorise an inhibit actors differently make them more or less able to people act according to indicative rules of usefulness. The concept of institution is a pivotal to political analysis, there is a big diversity over disciplines in which kinds of rules and relations are constructs as institutions. Institutionalism also emphasizes the endogenous nature and social construction of political institutions. The institutions are very necessary conditions for the success of democracy. Because, the legal conditions for effective democracy presuppose the existence of legislative institutions to enact laws, the executive institutions to enforce laws and the judicial institutions to interpret the laws. So, the effective democracy is determined by the quality of the legal system and the rule of law. Through this research paper, I will try to understand the necessity and importance of each institution in a democratic system of governance.

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Introduction

The concept of democracy is at the central theme of political theory as well as in the study of politics. The historical background of the notion of democracy is very inquisitive; the history of democracies is also annoying. Today, the idea of democracy is to be manifest to legitimate modern political life, rule making law enforcement activities seem justified and consistent when they are 'democratic'. From ancient Greek period to the present time most of the political scientists have been deeply captions of the theory and practices of democracy. While many nation states today may be democratic, the background history of their political institutions reveals the frailty and vulnerability of democratic arrangements. The past history of the last twentieth century highlighted that democracy is a comprehensively difficult pattern of government to generate and maintain: Nazism, Fascism and Stalinism came here intimate to plunk up it.¹

While the word democracy came into English in the last sixteenth centuries from the French *democratic*, its origins are Greek. 'Democracy' is evolved from *demokratia*, the root meanings of which are *demos* 'people' and *kratias* 'rule'. Democracy meant that a form of governmental system in which, in repudiation to aristocracies and monarchies system; and to encouraged the people rule. It entails a political community in which there is various kind of political equality amid to the common people. The notion of rule by the people may evident an unequivocal idea, but appearances are intricate. The backdrop history of the idea of democracy is very complicated and is noted by competing conceptions. Democracy is to be identified by definite key principles and by a set of institutions and practices, through of these important principles are realised. However, democracy also have a specific focus- that of decision making about the rules and various policies for any group, association as a whole and a distinctive conception of citizens, not only as the carriers fundamental rights and responsibilities, but as active participants in the collective decisions and policies which impact their lives. The key principles of democracy are that the people have a right to a controlling influence over the public decisions and the decision makers and they should be treated with

equal worth in the context of such governmental decisions. It could be called, for short, the basic principles of popular control and political equality.²

The idea of democracy has to be manifested in modern political lives; rule making law enforcement activities seem justified and consistent when they are democratic that adds moral legitimacy into them. Democracy is to be identified by definite key principles and by a set of institution and practices, through which its important principles are realised. The key principles of democracy are that the people have a right to a controlling influence over the public decisions and the decision makers and they should be treated with equal worth in the context of such governmental decisions. Democracy, in essence is rule by the people. It implies creation of a political system where the effective power in a society is collectively exercised by people themselves. The democratic rule is broadly based on the universal ideals of equality, liberty, and fraternity. It will be operationalized by the institutions to providing and safeguarding the democratic processes. The democratic processes and their efficacy determine what will be the nature of a democracy, what its ideals are and indirectly how it will be successful.³

Institutions in Society

The idea of institutions is framework of significant rules, norms, and organised practices, it attached in the structure of meaning and resources that are comparatively changed in the face of turnover of individuals and relatively alive to the intrinsic preferences and expectations of common peoples also changing outer situations. Institutions also authorize an inhibit actors differently make them more or less able to act according to indicative rules of usefulness. The institutions also put into force contravention and again invigorated by other third parties in introducing rule. The concept of institution is a pivotal to more political analysis, there is a big diversity with and over disciplines in which kinds of rules and relations are constructs as institutions. Institutionalism, as that term is used here, expound a common approach to the study of political institutions, a set of various theoretical ideas and interference concerning the connections between the institutional characteristics and political agency, execution and change. Institutionalism also emphasizes the endogenous nature and social construction of political institutions. Institutions did not simply contracts of equivalence among self seeking, calculating of distinct actors or arenas for rival social forces. So, they are the different collections of structures, rules and standard operating procedures that have a particularly independent role in political life. Institutionalism ideas come in various savours, but they are all perspectives for understanding and progress the political systems. They adjunct and contend within the two another spacious interpretation of politics. Rational actor and cultural community perspective sees political life as embodied by shared values and universally views in a community of common cultural activities, experience with vision. The institutionalisms have a central assumption that institutions create elements of order and predictability. The institutions is also carriers of identities and rules, these is the markers of a polity character, history and visions. The theoretical concepts might shed light on exceptional aspects of the role of institutions in our political life.⁴

Democracy and Institutions

The idea of institutions refers to a framework of significant rules, norms and organised practices. Institutions also authorise an inhibit actors differently make them more or less able to people act according to indicative rules of usefulness. The concept of institution is a pivotal to political analysis, there is a big diversity over disciplines in which kinds of rules and relations are constructs as institutions. Institutions as a term are differently perceived in different contexts. When looking at them in the context of application in polity, institutions can primarily be perceived in two ways. One, they can be a distinct entity with clear definition, boundaries and legal framework, for instance Parliament, Supreme Court, Election Commission, Supreme Court, Election Commission, Union Public Service Commission etc. Secondly, institutions can be a set of activities happening in an informal framework which assume significant standing in our society's public sphere, for instance, Religion, Culture, Civil Society, and Media etc.⁵

Among these two types, the formal institutions such as the Parliament, Bureaucracy, and Judicial Courts etc are the ones which directly enable to democracy. But these institutions were not a part of ancient conceptions of democracy. The institutions of legislature, judiciary, executive, regulatory bodies, political parties have evolved over countries, through following these developments-

- **Conception of collective decision making:** In ancient periods, several tribes and city states across the world practiced direct decision making collectively by all the members of the given society. This laid the foundation of rule, by the people and in some ways the deliberative decision making institution that acted in legislative, executive as well as judicial capacity.
- **Moving towards representative democracy:** Direct democracy and efficient administration of a large nation state was practically impossible. As a result, to advance from monarchy towards democracy, the idea of representative democracy was adopted. Representative democracy entails a flow of power from the citizen to the representative. The representative democracy to be effective, this flow of power needs to be transparent, fair, accountable and efficient.
- **Expansion of empires led to evolution of dedicated institutions:** Over time the empires expanded and moved towards monarchical systems. But these large scale empires necessitated the need for separate departments within the executive body. For instance, the Sandivighraha was the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Gupta Empire in Ancient period. The

administrative decision created during these times has further evolved towards creation of separate legislative, executive and judicial agencies of today.

- **Democratic Ideals shaping democracy and democracy ‘Sui-generis’:** Over the course of time, the democratic ideals like equality, liberty, fraternity etc have shaped national institutions along with global institutions like United Nations. But of these ideals manifest differently in different contexts, in different societies and in different nation-states.
- **Magna Carta for democracy:** In the 13th century, in Europe, a series of events from frequent wars, misery and a line of incompetent rulers created a scenario where power of the monarch became limited and shifted towards the deliberative decision making body. This development started a gradual shift of power towards people.

The role of Institutions to functioning of a democracy

There are so many institutions play an important role to functioning of a democracy. These roles are:

- **Create channels for participation:** Democratic institutions pave the way for open participation in the democratic process enabling sharing of power among the citizens, thus the process of democratization. For instance, Election Commission and parliamentary structure ensures that any citizen can form a political party and can potentially be a representative of his particular area. Also, informal institutions like Mass media, Civil Society etc help improve people's participation by keeping common citizens informed and creating indirect pressure on government by expression of public opinion.
- **Acts as a custodian of democratic ideals:** The institutions act as custodian of democratic ideals by safeguarding the core values of a political system such as freedom, equality, sovereignty, social equity etc. For instance, the doctrine of basic structure which has evolved through judicial pronouncements safeguards the constitution and consequently the politico-legal system.
- **Providing continuity and stability to democratic functioning:** Political parties, representatives, ideologies etc. change regularly in accordance with the political process. But the unelected permanent institutions like Bureaucracy serve as the permanent executive and ensure the consultation with political executive, continuity and stability in policies.
- **Safeguarding the rights of citizens:** The codification of rules, laws, and procedures and their implementation by the institutions ensures that citizens when interaction with the state or otherwise are protected by the law. For instance, irrespective of the leadership, party in power or status of individual, an individual can criticize the government constructively and is protected in India by Right to Freedom of Speech, which is enforced by the judiciary.
- **Preventing concentration of power by ensuring checks and balances:** Prevalence of multiple institutions like the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, Independent and autonomous bodies and their mutually dependent relationship ensures check on each of them and thus prevents concentration of power.
- **Maintain trust in the functioning of the State:** The functioning of the institutions is a proxy to the functioning of the state. As a result, it is the methodic functioning of the institutions that provide legitimacy to the state. For instances, inefficient and corruption ridden utilization of tax would create distrust among taxpayers and may indirectly threaten the financial stability of the state.
- **Efficient discharge of democratic processes:** Democratic functioning of large scale state like India involves various activities from election processes, recruitment, disbursement of funds etc. Specific institutions like Election Commission, Union Public Service Commission, Departments within the government respectively help in effective and efficient discharge of these functions.

Meaning of Political Institutions

Political institutions are a set of contextual features in a common option setting that defines constraints on the some opportunities and benefits for individual behaviour in that setting. It also set the 'rules of the game', and also authorised concerned parties to structural expectations, build preferences and develop the strategies. Political institutions occur that institutions are the arrangements for predictable behaviour and consequential reciprocal advantages.⁶

Political institutions are formal and informal rules, which determine the coercion and several incentives faced by the key players in a modern society. The manual feature of political institutions and the strategic allocation of powers they propagate, correctly chosen the institutions and help to develop the dependable systems capable of decreasing risks of opportunistic behaviour of political players. The political institutions have to provide incentives for political leaders to tolerate by in a sustainable way over the time.⁷

Huntington discussed that at the first time, a society achieves the political community and it reflects the relatedness between its political institutions and the social forces which construct it. A political institution is an arrangement for fostering order, resolving various controversies, selecting the authoritative political leaders and thus enhances the community among other social forces. The complicated and heterogeneous society also achieved and maintenance of political. Community becomes dependent upon the performing of political institutions. The degree of community in a complicated society thus, in a rough sense, that build on the capacity and scope of its political institutions. The political institutions evident both of the ideas that moral consensus and mutual interest of the society the diverse family, groups, tribe or local village may achieve the community with relatively little sensible effort. As the society become larger in membership, that over complicated in structural system

and more diverse in activities and the maintenance of a high level of community becomes increasingly dependent upon political institutions. But in the other hand, in a complex societies community is produced by the political action and that maintained by political institutions.

Political institutions have flourished out of the interaction among and imbalance amid the social forces and the gradual advancement of procedures and organisational devices for the resolving those discordance. The interrupt of a small homogenous ruling class, the diversity of social forces and increased interaction among such forces are preconditions for the origin of political organisations and process of the decisive creation of political institutions.

The native political system is that which depends on one district character. It is also the minimum well- conditioned. Tyrannies, Aristotle pointed out, are virtually all 'quite short lived'. A political system with various different political institutions, however, is more and more likely to adopt. The needs one age maybe unite by one set of the institutions; the needs of the next by a different set. The system possesses within itself the means of its own renovation and adaptation. For instance, in Indian system – The president, the lower house, the upper house, Supreme Court and other state governments have played different roles of several times in history. The new problems arise by one institution then by other. For instance, The French political system of the third and fourth republics centred authority in the national assembly and the national bureaucracy. If as was repeatedly the case, the assembly was too separated to act and the bureaucracy lacked the authority to act, the system was incapable to adapt to environmental changes and to deal with new policy problems. While, in the 1950s the assembly was incapable to handle the breakage of the French empire, there was no another institution, such as an independent executive to step into the breach. A result, an extra constitutional force, the military intervened in internal politics and in due course a new institution, the de Gaulle presidency, was created which was capable to manage the issues. A state without the means of some change, Edmund Burke viewed of an earlier French crisis, is without the means of its preservation.⁸

Political scientist Moe emphases that political institution is the structures of tendencies, cooperation between the powerful actors seeking to control the agenda for mutual benefits. The political process often given to increase the institutions that are good for some of the people and bad for the others people, it depending on individual has the power to induct their own will. Political institutions perhaps the structures of cooperation but they may also be the structural part of power. Mancur Olson noted that, 'We need to understand the logic of power' and these perspective of voluntary exchange is not designed to do that. The concept of power is so apparently important to politics and so usually a section of institutional analysis. The structure of cooperation that is perilous and highly expensive to transact at the level of individual agents is facilitated at the level of institutions. The practices, arrangements and structures at the institutional level o economize on contract costs, decrease opportunism and other forms of agency slippage. However, improve the prospects of gains through cooperation, in a manner usually less available at the individual level. Institutions then, look like former agreements about the structure of cooperation.⁹

March and Olson, conjoined the state-centric approach into their study highlighted the development of a 'New institutionalism' in political science. This was the opening of a shift in emphasis away from the state to one focusing more on political institutions, a shift away from an existence sociological analysis of the state to a confined concern with the impact of democratic political institutions. Immergut deeply highlighted that as politics and metamorphose institutions that induce particular forms of behaviour; they should be reworked to function more fairly. So, the political decisions made within these institutions will alternative social institutions so as to generate better citizens. Lijphart argued that, the impact of political institutions on public policies and government consumptions is based on grouping political systems in basic classifications. The important influential of these forms is Lijphart's distinction between majoritarian and consume democracies. Majoritarian democratic system are characterised by political institutions which permit a single party system to obtain majority political representation and to use this majority power to prescribe policies; in consensus democracies where governments must take broad steps of preferences and interests into their account. The specific political institutions that define consumes democracy can be divided into those that piece to executive power and those that provide the decision making rights to centres of power alternative to the central level government. An important form for understanding the impact of political institutions on policy outcomes has been manifested by Persson and Tabellini they are highlighted on two independent variables: the type of electoral system and type of regime. They can go further than Lijphart in explaining just accurately how the political system favours the particular policy outcomes, because both systems are focus on the micro-impetus of the political system.¹⁰

The Necessary of Political Institutions

The political institutions are very important and necessary for the aspects of public interests. Political institutions have moral as well as structural dimension. A society with weak political institutions scarcity of the capability to defences the excesses of personal and confined intention. Politics is an indefatigable competition among various social forces like- man and man, family and family, nation and nation, class and class – a competition unmediated by farther widespread of political organisations. The part of morality requires regularised and institutionalised patterns of the behaviour. Except powerful political institutions, society needs the means of define and to realize its public interests. The capacity to create political institutions is the capacity to emerged public interests.

Traditionally the public interest has been approached in these ways which is identified with abstract, substance, ideal values and norms such as natural law, justice or right. One particular way out of the problem is to define the public interest in terms of

the substantive interests of the governing political institutions. A society with highly institutionalised governing political organisations section and methods is over to able explicit and achieve its public interests. **Friedrich** asserted that, “are better adapted to reaching decisions and developing policies than unorganised communities”. The public interest is not something which exists a priori in natural laws and regulations of the people. Rather then, it is whatever emphasizes governmental organisations. The general interest is the interest of public institutions. That is something created and brought into existence by the institutionalism of others governmental organisations. In a complicated political system, others governmental organisations and there procedures of represent multiple different aspects of the public interest. The common interest of a complicated society is a complex matter.¹¹

The supporters of democracy are habituated to timing of governmental institutions as having representative functions, which is expressing the interests of some other set of groups. Therefore, they tend to forget that governmental institutions have own interests. The governmental interests not only exist, but they are also reasonably substantive. The political institutions interests always differ from the interests of common peoples, who are in the political institutions. Keynes remarked that “In the long run we are all dead” it applies to individuals, not the political institutions. So, generally individual interests are necessarily a short run interests but on the other hands, Political institutional interests exist through time to time. This proponent of the political institution has to look to its welfare through an uncertain future. This discretion often means that restrict of straight goals.

Political institutions are formulation by the governmental system to perform particular functions. These activities are imposed to the institutions for the betterment of the common people and the democratic system. The government is very responsive for ensuring security to the citizens and providing facilities for education and health purpose to all. The government collects all takes and spends the money thus raised on administration, defence and various developmental programmes. The government system formulates and implements different welfare schemes for the common people. Thus, the political institutions are very necessary and also very important concepts. Some of the political institutions support that the markets are publicly provided. The capability of the state structure provide to these institutions is therefore a very significant definitive of how functions a good markets. The successful provisions of such political institutions are often referred to as “Good Governance”. Political institutions help to determine limits on the arbitrary activities of power by bureaucrats and politicians. They do so by making property rights between the state and the private sector and also providing for their inducement. A significant example of these can be found in the changes in political institutions in the seventeenth centuries in Great Britain, which placed limits on the power of the monarchical system to confiscate property and so it contributed to the security of the private property. The political institutions also impress the extent of competition in the political process and the spread to which this competition holds politicians to accountable for their actions.¹²

Conclusion

Institutions in a democracy provide the framework for realization of democratic ideals, making institutions a tool which operationalizes democracy. The role and functioning of these institutions affects all facets of life of a citizen. The institutions are very necessary conditions for the success of democracy. Because, the legal conditions for effective democracy presuppose the existence of legislative institutions to enact laws, the executive institutions to enforce laws and the judicial institutions to interpret the laws. So, the effective democracy is determined by the quality of the legal system and the rule of law. Finally, in a democratic system, political institutions activeness and vigilance make the common people to responsible and critical. In parliamentary system of government, representative government and opposition parties are too committed and answerable to the interest of the common people. It is the duty of government to conduct and make assure of a free and fair election. Political institutions through their different activities try to reach the goals of democratic system.

Hence, the development and up gradation of institutions may seem like an expensive, difficult and time-consuming exercise. But as democracy has stood above all other political systems in the long run, similarly institutional development has emerged as the best possible way to realize a fulfilling successful democracy in the long-run.

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