

PERCEPTION OF TEACHERS REGARDING STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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ABSTRACT: *The study was conducted to explore the Perception of Teachers Regarding Student's participation in Politics in Educational Institutions. A purposive sample comprised of 120 teachers was selected from the population. A closed ended questionnaire was used as an instrument. The data was collected from teachers of educational institutions of Lahore. Results revealed that some traditional teachers were against student's participation in politics; they thought that their involvement in politics created different problems and it also diverted their attention from studies. On the other hand, some teachers appreciated student's participation in politics; they thought that it would create awareness among students about their rights. Teachers showed both positive and negative perceptions about student's participation in politics.*

Keywords: Perception, Teachers, Students, Politics

INTRODUCTION

Students political activities has significant place in society as they can bring social and political change. Student's political wings are important; they not only provide cultural and labor leaders but also leaders for country. There are several student unions in different countries and they play great role in their country's political stance [1].

In less developed countries, pupils are unaware of their rights as they are not established. They are even less in numbers. There is need to establish them so that they play their role in their political setting. They have to strengthen themselves by arranging funds [2].

LITERATURE REVIEW

Student politics in educational institutions always causes problems. If administration of educational institutions does not allow student unions to play their role in institutions then students claim that it is the violation of their rights. In this way, conflicts arise among administration and students, there is need to develop such atmosphere which is favorable for healthy political activities [3].

Different books give different definitions about politics [4].

Student politics is very important; it prepares students for future. So, universities are platforms which prepare political leaders on national level [5].

Participation of students in politics in educational institutions is very common. In several educational institutions, pupils take part in different political activities. Student politics is most common in universities [6].

It is also observed that majority of students are also involved in party politics. Nearly every party attracts students towards it to increase its street power. Apart from their political association; every party believes that student wings are backbone of politics [7].

Participation of students in politics is very important. It has both positive and negative effects. Its positive effects include political awareness among students, accomplishment of their rights and development of leadership skills whereas negative effects are non serious attitude of students towards studies and clashes among different political wings [8].

Student's participation in politics should be encouraged. It is responsibility of the educational institutions to create political awareness among students. They should facilitate students to study the political history of the world and

mainly of their respective country. If educational institutions put restrictions on students in relation to their participation in politics then students will be unable to develop political awareness. It is necessary to educate students on contemporary political trends. Educational institutions should convey political understanding through debates, dialogues, discussions, seminars and lectures [9].

Politics is a very important. Students should be encouraged to participate in it; discouraging pupils from participating in politics may harm their will of democracy [10].

Student's involvement in party politics may have negative effects as it can affect their studies. It may affect the environment of the educational institution. Politicians can use students for their own benefits [11].

Student's involvement in politics sometimes is not beneficial for them. Students become puppets in the hands of politicians who use them for achieving their agendas. They influence the young minds and then manipulate them for gaining street power [12].

Furthermore, similar has been explained by Mouffe (1993); Pickles (1964) and Lukes (1974) thus, political parties assemble student wings to bring political revolutionize or to do protests [13,14,15].

METHODOLOGY

Design

It was descriptive study. Survey was conducted to collect the data.

Instrument

The instrument of the study was a closed ended questionnaire; with a five point likert scale from strongly agreed to strongly disagreed, developed by the researcher. The validity of the questionnaire was confirmed by an expert opinion.

Population

All the teachers working in the universities of Lahore were the population of the study.

Sample

The sample of one hundred and twenty teachers was selected from the educational institutions of Lahore. Among these, one hundred and twenty teachers responses were collected from one hundred and fifteen teachers.

Delimitation of the study

The research was delimited to Government and private universities of Lahore.

ANALYSIS OF DATA

Descriptive analysis technique was used to find the

frequencies of the demographic variable responses of each statement of the instrument that was used to collect the responses from the participants.

Table:1: Frequency of different statements (N=115)

No	Statements	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Mean	S.D
1	Students should focus on their studies only rather than involvement in politics.	11	18	20	58	8	2.88	2.10
2	Students participate in politics only to gain power in the institution.	9	26	7	62	11	2.83	2.13
3	Student's participation in politics is not in the national welfare.	18	18	18	51	10	2.85	1.25
4	Government should protect student's rights to participate in politics.	8	49	24	20	14	3.14	1.16
5	Student's participation in politics develops political awareness in them	24	38	14	20	19	3.24	1.39
6	Student's participation in politics builds art of public speaking in them.	31	47	15	13	9	3.67	1.21
7	Student's participation in politics is wastage of their time.	17	38	9	45	6	3.13	1.23
8	Student's participation in politics disturbs the environment of educational institution.	19	30	17	37	12	3.06	1.29

Frequency of the some of the statements that are used in the questionnaire, are given in the above table.

Table: 2:Gender

Respondents	Frequency	Percent
Male	57	49.1
Female	58	50.0

Above table shows that 57 % respondents were males and 58 % respondents were females.

RESULTS

- 57 % teachers disagreed that students should focus on their studies only rather than involvement in politics.
- 72 % teachers disagreed that students participate in politics only to gain power in the institution.
- 61 % teachers disagreed that student's participation in politics is not in favor of national welfare.
- 50 % teachers agreed that Government should protect student's rights to participate in politics.
- 54 % teachers agreed that student's participation in politics develops political awareness in them.
- 68 % teachers agreed student's participation in politics builds art of public speaking in them.
- 52 % teachers disagreed that student's participation in politics is wastage of their time.
- 58% teachers disagreed that student's participation in politics disturbs the environment of educational institution.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Results of this study show that teachers have both positive and negative perceptions about student's participation in politics. Student's participation in politics may distract them from studies. It may also politicize the educational institution. Some traditional teachers have perception that student's participation in politics is wastage of time; it is also considered as main reason of many other evils, i.e. rivalries

among student groups, lack of discipline, aggressive quarrels etc. These ills destroy students in future and it is harmful for national integrity. On the other hand, some teachers are in favor of student's participation in politics. They think that student's participation in politics creates political awareness in them. It also develops art of public speaking among students. Student's participation in politics is also in favor of national welfare.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are some recommendations regarding student's constructive participation in politics.

- Workshops and seminars should be arranged for students for creating constructive political awareness among them.
- Teachers should encourage students to participate in politics which is for welfare of students.
- Teachers should restrict student's participation in party politics.
- Educational institutions should introduce laws for student unions.
- Educational institutions should introduce policy framework for student politics.

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