Electoral Violence and Democratic Process in Afghanistan

Elections remain a stabilisation factor in any democratic society. It is an important component of any transition process, especially from one regime administration to the other. Therefore, it is almost impossible to talk about democracy without making implicit reference to elections. Simply, elections constitute the body, soul and spirit of democracy. But how credible and peaceful an election is, determines its democratic manifestations.

Historically, violence has almost always featured prominently in all elections across the world. The extent and magnitude of occurrence in the country since the return of the country to democracy in 2001 have assumed a catastrophic dimension, particularly in 2014 and 2018, thus threatening the democratic process in the country.

Afghan citizens from across the polls on 20 October 2018 by electing members of the House of the People. Contrary to the expectation, the election was marred by issues of fraud, manipulation and unfairness across the country electoral history. According to experts, despite the heavy investment in the fraud-proof voting technology, the last election witnessed a new form of violence by the manipulation and subversion of peoples’ will which often threatens the democratization process in the country as a result of the structural and attitudinal imbalance in Afghan society on the part of political leaders. However, the team considers the losing teams stiff opponent who has nothing more than manipulation and subversion of peoples’ will which often threatens the democratization process in the country as a result of the structural and attitudinal imbalance in Afghan society.

In Afghanistan, electoral violence is possible because the political system supported zero-sum games, as the winning team considers the losing teams still pretend who have a chance to offer to the winning party, which eventually forms government. Therefore, this has led to an “electoral violence” is visible as a result of the structural and attitudinal imbalance in Afghanistan.

Although, the current status of Afghanistan calls for urgent improvement of election-related democratic processes, with particular reference to 2014 and 2018 general elections in Afghanistan and how the country can manage the electoral processes without much impact on the democratic stability. With considerable negative effects of electoral violence on the political system, therefore profit recommendations on how electoral related violence can be reduced as well as control shall be taken seriously. Such an event however will constitute additional literature to existing body of knowledge in the area of democratization. They will also form relevant data bank for policy makers, policy analysts, academics and the general reading public.

Studying the electoral violence and its implications on democratization process in Afghanistan, with focusing on previous general and parliamentary elections and the electoral challenges in the country. Elections in Afghanistan have nearly always created an atmosphere of uncertainty and tensions as a result of unresolved disputes and threats by politicians. Afghanistan’s most valuable asset remains not its mineral resources but its representation in democracy considers it as indisputable requirement. Thus, the Afghan government’s election-related violence is a major threat to the political system and the Afghan government’s election-related violence.

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The Needs for Fundamental Reforms in Election Commissions

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It is clear that the elections are not the only principle for democracy, but they are the main way for the implementation of democracy. When a democratic party wins the election, the representation in democracy consider it as indisputable requirement. As a result, it is essential for the people who win, not only the political system but democracy. The political system, which has been torn with violence, is not a way to develop democracy. In the end, if the political system fails to execute the political system properly, it will not be possible for the people to practice democracy with permanency and legitimacy.

Concerning the timely election failure, the IEC was the main responsible body, but not the fact that the parties involved are unable to solve their issues through a peaceful political settlement, the deadlock situation is a strong possibility. The Taliban do not lead to peace in Afghanistan, the re-emergence of deadlock in talks after the news of Mullah Omar’s death, did not bear the desired results. Therefore, a meaningful solution to the talks is required but due to the lack of district councils, the Loya Jirga was not held and the term of national unity has expired with the presidential term. After the formation of the National Unity Government holding the Loya Jirga was invested possibility of holding the legal loya jirga. After the formation of the National Unity Government holding the Loya Jirga was also to hold the Legal working party, which was held in holding such a meeting seriously undermined the democratization process in Afghanistan.

The Afghan parliamentary election has been delayed for more than three years and still it is in an ambiguous situation. The legal term of Provincial Council is also going to be over. The legal working party, which was held in holding such a meeting, also couldn’t come to an agreement. Moreover, changes to the duties and the way of communication in some provinces indicated that elections are still perceived as a “door die” affair in the country. Conducting free and fair elections in Afghanistan is undoubtedly a big challenge, because the “political players” are not ready to play the game according to rules. This is even more as there are no severe sanctions for perpetrators of electoral misconducts and violence.

However, some factors are traced to occurrence of electoral violence to Afghanistan. It is poverty, unemployment, ineffectiveness of security forces and culture of impunity by government officials, illiteracy, xenophobia policies, poor handling of elections by an electoral commission, poor handling of election petitions, lack of internal party democracy, corruption among electoral officials, unresolved ethnic differences, democratic deficit, internal conflicts within the main parties, ethnic groups and unmaintained electoral rolls especially from one civilian administration to the other.

Since the current status of Afghanistan calls for urgent improvement of election-related democratic processes, with particular reference to 2014 and 2018 general elections in Afghanistan and how the country can manage the electoral processes without much impact on the democratic stability. With considerable negative effects of electoral violence on the political system, therefore profit recommendations on how electoral related violence can be reduced as well as control shall be taken seriously. Such an event however will constitute additional literature to existing body of knowledge in the area of democratization. They will also form relevant data bank for policy makers, policy analysts, academics and the general reading public.

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