

# **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY-I**

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**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY-I**

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**Unit - I**

Emergence, Nature and Scope of Political Sociology

**Unit -II**

Approaches to the Study of Political Sociology:

- A. Behavioral Approach
- B. Systems Approach
- C. Marxist Approach

**Unit - III**

Political Socialization

**Unit - IV**

Political Participation

**Unit - V**

Political Power: Concept of Elites and Masses, Leadership

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**UNIT-I****Lesson 1.1 - Emergence, Nature and Scope of Political Sociology****Unit structure**

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- 1.9 Development of Political Sociology
- 1.10 Relationship Between Sociology of Politics and Political Sociology

Political sociology offers a novel perspective in the examination of political phenomena. The subject matter pertains to the examination of the interplay and connections between society and politics, specifically focusing on the relationship between a political system and its surrounding social, economic, and cultural context. This study explores the dynamics of social power and places emphasis on the political attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors shown by individuals throughout many countries. This field of study focuses on topics related to conflict management, the expression of interests and concerns, and the processes of political integration and organization. The fundamental focus of these problems pertains to the interconnectedness and interaction of socio-cultural, economic, and political factors. Political sociology is a subfield of sociology that focuses on the study of the relationship between politics and society. It examines how political power is distributed, exercised, and contested within social structures, and how this power shapes

**1.0 Definitions**

According to S.M. Lipset, political sociology may be defined as the scholarly examination of the interconnectedness between society and politics, specifically focusing on the dynamic relationship between social structures and political institutions. According to R. Bendix, Political

Sociology commences its analysis from the perspective of society and investigates its impact on the state. According to Rush and Althoff (year), political sociology is a field of study that examines the interconnections between social structures and political structures, as well as the correlation between social conduct and political behavior. Giovanni Sartori posits that Political Sociology is characterized as an interdisciplinary amalgamation. Political sociology may be described as the study of political conduct within a sociological framework, as stated by scholars Robert E. Dowse and John A. Hughes. According to A.K. Mukhopadhaya, Political Sociology arises from the convergence of sociology and political science, investigating the mutual impact that exists between society and politics. This discipline explores the societal ramifications on political processes and the manifestation of politics within a social framework.

## **1.2 Nature and Scope of Political Sociology**

The nature and scope of political sociology include examining and analysing the relationship between politics and society, with a particular focus on the social factors that shape and influence political behaviour, institutions, and processes. The previous iteration of political sociology became associated with the examination of the societal foundations of political behaviour and institutions. Political variables, including factors and variables, were seen to be contingent upon sociological variables. In contrast to the perception of sociological variables, which were seen as autonomous elements, political variables such as law, state, constitution, and political parties were considered to be contingent upon them. However, in recent years, emphasis has changed from a purely sociological interpretation of politics to a more integrated approach that combines political and sociological perspectives. Political sociology is intricately connected to the concerns that have been presented.

In the field of political philosophy. The field of political philosophy boasts a substantial and enduring legacy of political theorizing, originating from ancient philosophers' intellectual contributions in India and Greece. Subsequently, Karl Marx emerged as a pivotal figure in elucidating the intricacies surrounding the essence of political authority and its intricate interplay with social and economic structures. He is widely recognized as the one who established the field of political sociology. Political sociology is a field of study that seeks to comprehend the origins and societal foundations of conflict and the mechanisms involved in conflict resolution.



Conflicts arise due to inherent human tendencies and the complex interplay of societal factors. Given the enduring presence of diverse interests and insatiable needs within a context of limited resources, it becomes evident that conflicts of interest are inevitable and inescapable. A political process is a continuous and dynamical process continually in a state of flux, and there is no ultimate solution to the issue of conflicts. The political process entails the systematic management and regulation of social conflict in order to attain the objective of maintaining societal order. However, achieving complete eradication of disputes, even if attainable, requires a level of authority that would undermine human freedom. An organized society does not embody a totalitarian regime that seeks to establish uniformity while suppressing variation, enforcing strict discipline while eradicating opposition, and promoting conformity at the expense of spontaneity. Order may be effectively established by recognizing reciprocal interests and fostering agreement, while nevertheless upholding the principles of public involvement and adherence to established standards.

The scope of political sociology is the study of the relationship between politics and society, with a focus on understanding the social structures, processes, and dynamics that shape political behaviour and institutions.

### **1.3 Scope of Political Sociology**

Political sociology is an academic discipline that primarily focuses on the examination of the dynamic relationship between politics and society. Political sociology is a multidisciplinary topic that investigates the influence of social attitudes on political participation, the correlation between social class and political ideologies, and the analysis of voting patterns and their consequences for political and social dynamics.

Political sociology is a multidisciplinary science that spans a diverse array of subjects and domains of inquiry. The examination of decision-making processes has considerable importance in the realm of political sociology, since it involves a wide range of social factors and integrates economic variables that are subject to many influences, including monetary systems, market dynamics, and resource scarcities. Political sociology also examines whether the person holding a position of power or authority within a political system is influenced by social factors and structures.

The decision-making process exerts a significant level of influence on those who wield authority. The concept of the political system encompasses

the introduction of a dynamic element in the analysis of politics. The scope of this research surpasses the examination of prominent governmental institutions such as the legislature, judiciary, and administrative agencies. Furthermore, it entails an examination of several social structures present in the political domain, including caste divisions, familial associations, and formal entities like as political parties and interest groups. Two scholars have participated in a scholarly exchange over the scope of political sociology, with each expressing their own unique viewpoints. According to Greer and Orleans (year), Political Sociology is concerned with examining the structural framework of the state, the essential qualities and conditions for legitimacy, the dynamics surrounding the state's exclusive control over the use of force, and the complex interactions between the state and its subordinate organizations.

Andrew Effrat, a renowned academic, asserts that political sociology is a discipline that centers on the examination of the sources, configurations, and consequences of power and authority allocation across diverse social structures. The social system comprises a complete framework for analyzing political phenomena, including many components such as familial structures, educational establishments, peer associations, and political institutions. Richard G. Braungart posits that political sociology comprises three key domains of inquiry: (a) the sociological roots of politics, (b) the structural dimensions of politics and the political process, and (c) the societal and cultural consequences arising from political dynamics. Therefore, it is well recognized that political sociologists primarily concentrate on the analysis of social order and political conformity. This scholarly investigation spans the following domains:

#### **1.4 Social Structure**

social structure of a society encompasses several elements, including the role played by caste, class, community, and regional language. These factors significantly influence the organization and functioning of a society, shaping individuals' identities, opportunities, and interactions within the broader social fabric. Many factors need to be considered when assessing polity and the rural-urban split.

#### **1.5 Political Structure**

The political structure of a nation typically consists of three key organs of the government, namely the executive, legislative, and judicial

branches. These organs together exercise authority and perform distinct functions within the political system. Additionally, political parties have a significant role in shaping and influencing the governance of a country, often representing various ideological perspectives and competing for political power.

Pressure groups, also often referred to as interest groups, are organizations that aim to influence public policy and decision-making processes. These groups typically represent certain interests or causes and engage in various activities such as lobbying, advocacy, and public awareness campaigns to promote them

## **1.6 Political life**

Political life encompasses several aspects such as power dynamics, authority structures, the legitimacy of governing bodies, and political evolution. Political modernization refers to how a society changes its political structures, institutions, and practices to adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing world. This process involves the adoption of new political systems, the development of democratic norms and values, and the implementation of policies that promote political participation and accountability. Participation and political communication both assume essential roles in the context at hand offering an elucidation of the realm of politics.

## **1.7 Political leadership**

Examining recruitment policies to foster the formation of elite individuals or groups. To ensure the effective functioning of political leadership, it is important to consider the role of both political leaders and the bureaucracy within the designated social framework. One of the primary focal points within the field of political sociology is on the examination and evaluation of sociopolitical dynamics. Many elements contribute to economic progress. The issues pertaining to the expansion of administrative structures, the bureaucratic lens through which a nation's indigenous culture and society are examined, the dynamics between bureaucratic officials and political leaders, and the involvement of citizens in development endeavours hold considerable practical importance. Consequently, governments and scholars have been compelled to acknowledge and study development's sociological and political aspects. Urban politics is a closely related discipline that examines the dynamics of

political processes in urban areas. This topic encompasses several issues such as social change and mobilization, political institutions and public engagement, as well as the organization and administration of government services, which are often seen to expand in scope and complexity within metropolitan contexts. Villages and towns are seen as microcosms of countries, whereby they grapple with challenges pertaining to social transformation, political engagement, and administrative governance. There is an increasing recognition that the challenges associated with development extend beyond technical or bureaucratic aspects, including socio-political dimensions. Consequently, it is imperative to establish political mechanisms that facilitate the successful execution of development plans.

### **1.8 Significance of Political Sociology**

The significance of political sociology lies in its examination and analysis of the relationship between politics and society. This field of study explores the ways in which political structures, processes, and institutions shape and are shaped by social howepts of state and politics are inherently interconnected, hence necessitating an integrated understanding of political sociology that does not treat them as distinct entities. A comprehensive comprehension of socio-political systems and their ramifications can only be achieved via the examination of political sociology. The significance of political sociology as a branch within the discipline of sociology lies in its scholarly contributions to understanding the intersection of politics and society.

The primary emphasis of this approach is in the examination of the social factors that shape political dynamics, as opposed to the analysis of its operational procedures. Political Sociology is a field of study that examines politics across four distinct levels. One such level focuses on the analysis of political conflict and struggle among states, which falls within the purview of the sociology of international relations. This inquiry pertains to the essence and function of the state across many nations. The characteristics and structure of political movements and parties. The involvement of individuals in political activities. Additional facets of its investigation include:

The present inquiry seeks to elucidate the state's fundamental characteristics, operational mechanisms, and corresponding political system. The nature of political parties, pressure groups, and other political

organizations and movements. This study examines the various patterns of political involvement and political behaviour, including both active engagement and non-participation among individuals. Specifically, it focuses on empirical studies pertaining to the levels of popular participation in politics and the behaviour shown during voting processes.

The topic of inquiry pertains to power dynamics and dominance within societal structures, specifically focusing on the relationship between political elites and the general population. The central question is on the degree to which contemporary societies may be characterized as being controlled by a ruling class. Political sociology is an academic discipline that examines the nature of human beings as socio-political entities and their behaviors within society. It is widely acknowledged that human political behavior is but one facet of human behavior within the context of the environment, namely within society. Political behavior is consistently shaped by social behavior, economic prosperity, and moral considerations. More specifically, it may be determined in a deterministic manner.

The intricate network of social relationships and interactions shapes the behavior and attitudes of individuals within a society. Individuals are born within a familial unit, where they acquire their early values, patterns of behavior, and interpersonal relationships. Therefore, examining human political behavior requires a methodical analysis that considers its social environment. Political sociology fulfills this need.

## **1.9 Development of Political Sociology**

The field of political sociology has seen significant development throughout the years. The emergence of political sociology may be traced back to the establishment of a clear demarcation between the realms of social and political phenomena. The origin of this field may be attributed to the contributions made by certain academics. As scientific technology and industry have advanced, political scientists have increasingly sought to analyse political reality through a scientific or empirical lens. The term “manner” refers to the way in which something is done or carried out. The aforementioned process served as a catalyst for their interest in sociology, a field that had already established its reputation as a constructive and empirical study. Moreover, sociology had started to include concepts aimed at enhancing the scientific nature of political science. There is an increasing recognition that issues pertaining to development are not just confined to technical or bureaucratic aspects, but fundamentally include

socio-political dimensions. However, Karl Marx elucidated the intricacies surrounding the essence of political power and its intricate interplay with social and economic dynamics. The topic of discussion pertains to the field of economic organization. The start of the “Sociology of Politics” may be attributed to his critique of Hegel’s state philosophy, his materialistic understanding of history, and his conceptualization of class as the fundamental determinant for social and political analysis. In light of this observation, Runciman accurately dates the

1840s as the timeframe during which this field of study began to take form.

Max Weber, a prominent German sociologist, made a substantial contribution to the field of political sociology after the influential work of Karl Marx. The individual in question established the groundwork for the field of political sociology via the introduction of innovative and enduring ideas pertaining to various forms of authority, the conceptualization of an ideal bureaucratic model, and the incorporation of status and party as complementary constructs to the notion of class. Weber’s contributions included profound observations on the dynamics and trajectories of social and political progress, with a liberal adaptation of the Marxist framework of historical materialism.

Weber made a significant contribution to the field of political sociology by introducing the notion of legitimacy, which gives individuals the authority to wield power and is generally acknowledged. Weber further provided commentary on human behavior, highlighting the need of considering the reasons and goals of those engaged in various activities. Nevertheless, Weber faced criticism for his perceived deficiency in doing historical analysis. In addition to the influential contributions of Marx and Weber, other scholars have made noteworthy contributions to the field of Political sociology, but not as foundational or thought-provoking. One notable scholar at the same period as Marx was Walter Bagehot, who conducted an analysis on the interconnections between culture and personality, as well as the relationship between political structures and behavior. Furthermore, the author of the text made a clear distinction between constitutional theory and practice. Additionally, the author argues that the paper reflects on the functioning of the parliamentary form of government. A French sociologist, Gabriel Tarde emphasized the significance of contemporary communication technologies, such as the telegraph, telephone, books, and newspapers, in establishing a connection



between individuals and the media. The field of political sociology saw further expansion via the contributions of prominent sociologists, such as Vilfredo.

Pareto and Gaetano Mosca, in their separate writings “The Mind and the Society” and “The Ruling Class,” have made significant contributions to the field. According to the argument, it is posited that the control exerted by the elite over economic forces is not an absolute need. Rather, it is suggested that political and economic transformations occur as a result of the elite’s circulation or mobility. Subsequently, several researchers have placed significant emphasis on political parties and their organizational structures. The focus of the studies revolved on the electoral process, voting patterns, and statistical analysis of elections. In the 1930s, scholars in the field of political science also conducted investigations on the influence of personality on political phenomena.

The academic inquiry into the interplay between the sociology of politics and political sociology is of paramount importance. This investigation seeks to understand the intricate relationship and mutual influence between these two fields of study. Certain academics argue that these two concepts are synonymous, whilst others reject the notion of equating them.

These two entities are considered to be indistinguishable from one another. The researchers affiliated with the second faction espouse the perspective that Political Sociology has a broader scope than the Sociology of Politics. The latter concept delineates the societal transformations that transpire as governmental apparatus becomes integrated into the social fabric.

Social transformation may be influenced by several aspects such as political culture, the political engagement of the people, the social base of political behavior, political ideologies, political consensus and cleavages, power dynamics, authority and legitimacy, patterns of political leadership, and other similar elements. The field of Sociology of Politics aims to analyze and elucidate the underlying factors that contribute to societal conflicts arising from political engagement. Additionally, it endeavors to illustrate the ramifications and outcomes of political endeavors, as well as their influence on both the general populace and the broader societal framework.

The field of Sociology of Politics conducts an investigation of the structure and dynamics of society, with a particular focus on the social

dimensions of political transformations. This argument posits that the underlying social processes that influence political events have more significance than the phenomenon themselves, which is the central focus of the field of Political Science. This study conducts a sociological evaluation of politics, seeing political phenomena as the outcome being influenced by underlying social phenomena acting as explanatory variables. The

Sociology of Politics is a specialized area within the discipline of Sociology.

### **1.10 Relationship between Sociology of Politics and Political Sociology**

The relationship between Sociology and Political Science is a subject of academic inquiry and analysis. Scholars have explored the interconnectedness and interplay between these two disciplines, seeking to understand the ways in which they inform and influence each other.

The study of Sociology examines social structures, institutions, and processes, whereas Political science and sociology are closely interconnected disciplines. Political science, as a field of social science, primarily focuses on the study of the state, government, and power dynamics. According to Morris Ginsberg, sociology has historically been rooted in the realms of politics and philosophy of history. Political science, on the other hand, focuses on the study of human political actions, including the principles of societal structure and governance. This field of study examines social organizations that are structured under the framework of state sovereignty. The study of political science is often seen as incomplete without a comprehensive understanding of its social underpinnings. The determination of systems of government, the characteristics of governmental agencies, and the establishment of laws and the scope of state operations are influenced by the social process. The disciplines of politics and social activities are mutually beneficial, since political activities constitute merely a subset of social activities.

Political involvement both impacts and is influenced by the social lives of individuals. Politics, ultimately, serves as a manifestation of societal dynamics. Political science provides an analysis of the structure and operations of governmental entities. Political science is a discipline



that is rooted on an understanding of the origins of political power. Political science focuses on the study of the state, whereas sociology also examines the state as a kind of human relationship. The early state may be characterized as primarily a social institution rather than an original entity. Without a sociological grounding, the examination of political phenomena may lack a comprehensive understanding of the social factors that shape and influence political processes.

The field of science would be considered unfinished. Furthermore, sociology relies on political science in order to draw its conclusions. The comprehensive examination of the political dynamics inside a society has significant importance in the holistic understanding of such society.

The disparities between the disciplines of Sociology and Political Science are worth exploring. These two fields of study diverge in their focus, methodologies, and theoretical frameworks. While Sociology examines social behavior, relationships, and structures within society, Political Science delves into the study of political systems, institutions, and

- a) Sociology is a discipline that focuses on the systematic study of society, including various social structures, institutions, and interactions. In contrast, political science is a field of study that specifically examines the structures, functions, and dynamics of the state and government.
- b) Sociology encompasses the examination of many types of societal structures, both organized and disorganized, while political science focuses specifically on the study of politically organized societies.
- c) Sociology examines the inherent social nature of human beings, whereas political science focuses on the inherent political nature of human beings.
- d) Sociology is a discipline within the social sciences that encompasses a broad range of phenomena and is considered relatively nascent in comparison to political science, which is a distinct field with a longer historical lineage.

Despite the inherent parallels and dissimilarities that exist between the disciplines of sociology and Political science and international relations have a strong link. Political sociology has gained popularity in the contemporary era. Political sociology serves as an intermediary link between the disciplines of sociology and political science. The perspective espoused posits a reciprocal connection between sociology and political

science, affording equitable significance to both social and political factors. Political sociology, as an academic discipline, encompasses more than only the examination of social elements that influence the political order. It also investigates the reciprocal relationship between political institutions and non-political social structures.

#### **Self Assessment Questions**

1. Examine the nature of Political Sociology.
2. Discuss the evolution of Political Sociology.
3. What is the significance of Political Sociology?
4. Define the relationship between Sociology and Politics.
5. Examine the Approaches of Political Sociology.

**UNIT-II**

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**Lesson 2.1 - Approaches to the Study of Political Sociology**

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**Unit Structure**

- 2.1 Behaviouralism:
- 2.2 Behavioural approach:
  - 2.2.1 The movement of potest:
  - 2.2.2 Focus on behaviour:-
  - 2.2.3 Scientific outlook and objectivity:-
  - 2.2.4 Methodological Revolution:-
  - 2.2.5 Inter-disciplinary study:-
  - 2.2.6 Invention of scientific theory: -
- 2.3 Characteristic of Behaviouralism:
  - 2.3.1 Regularities:-
  - 2.3.2 Verification:-
- 2.3.3 Techniques:-
  - 2.3.4 Quantification:-
  - 2.3.5 Values:-
  - 2.3.6 Systematization
  - 2.3.7 Pure science:
  - 2.3.8 Integration:-
- 2.4 The Accomplishments of Behaviouralism
- 2.5 Critiques of Behaviouralism
- 2.6 Characteristics of Post behaviouralism
- 2.7 Post-Behaviouralism
- 2.8 Systems Approach

- 2.8.1 The Inputs
- 2.8.2 The outputs
- 2.8.3 Feedback
- 2.9 structural functional approach
  - 2.9.1 Input functions :
- 9.2 Interest articulation:
  - 2.9.3 Interest aggregation:
  - 2.9.4 Political communication:
  - 2.10.1 Rule making
  - 2.10.2 Rule application
  - 2.10.3 Rule adjudication

An approach, in academic parlance, may be conceptualized as a methodological framework used to analyze and elucidate a certain phenomena. The methodology presented offers a systematic approach for the elucidation and forecasting of political issues. Political analysis may be generally categorized into two main types: normative analysis and empirical analysis. The former is often characterized as being influenced by subjective values, whilst the latter is recognized for its objective and impartial nature. In other contexts

The use of language is characterized by the use of words, with normativism being a defining feature of the former, whereas empiricism is associated with the latter. The categorization in this respect is based on the link between facts and values. Based on this premise, conventional techniques tend to prioritize 'values', whilst the latter prioritize 'facts'. The outcome is the existence of a "fact-value dichotomy," which refers to a fundamental distinction between two diametrically opposed concepts or perspectives.

The deciding factor is often influenced by several factors.

## 2.1 Behaviouralism

Behaviouralism is a theoretical approach in the field of political science that emphasizes the study of the emergence of behaviouralism. The emergence of behaviouralism may be traced back to the early 20th century, but its whole significance was fully recognized in the 1950s. The conceptual origins of this concept may be traced back to the works of Auguste Comte and the school of thought known as logical positivism, which sprang from the intellectual discussions of the Vienna Circle. Despite substantially modifying the research programs within the field, it upholds several fundamental concepts of American political science, exemplifying a conservative revolution. According to Easton, behaviouralism seeks to structure political science research based on the framework used in natural sciences. This statement underscores the need of developing a rigorous scientific approach to the study of politics, which would provide a fresh perspective for doing research and constructing theories within the field. During the course of its development, this perspective dismisses political theory as a purely sequential and academic account of ideas without practical significance in understanding the current political landscape. During the 1950s, those who maintained their dedication to evaluative and prescriptive analysis, as well as the study of the classical heritage, saw the rise of scientism in behavioralism as a potential challenge to the field of political theory.

In contrast, behaviorists argue that normative political theory poses a significant obstacle to scientific inquiry. Charles E. Merriam, a prominent figure at the University of Chicago, is widely recognized as the influential progenitor of the behavioral movement in the field of social sciences. He, along with a cohort of distinguished political scientists like Harold Lasswell, VO Key, David Truman, Herbert Simon, and Gabriel Almond, embarked upon the endeavor of formulating methodologies for...

The study is based on the methodologies used in the fields of psychology, sociology, economics, and mathematics. The behavioral movement saw a surge in popularity prior to World War II. Several notable authors, including Gabriel Almond, Robert A Dahl, David Easton, Harold Lasswell, and Karl Deutsch, developed several theoretical frameworks and research methodologies during this period. The Behavioural approach emerged as a response to discontent among American political scientists regarding the perceived limitations of traditional methods employed in the study of Political Science. Specifically, scholars expressed dissatisfaction with the historical, philosophical, and descriptive-institutional approaches that had

been conventionally utilized. American political scientists held the belief that these techniques exhibited a complete disregard for political realities. Behaviouralism places a strong emphasis on doing scientific research that is objective and devoid of moral judgments in order to understand political events. This approach recognizes the influence of the environment, namely the behavior of humans, on these phenomena.

## **2.2 Behavioural Approach**

The behavioural approach is a theoretical framework that focuses on the study of observable behaviours and their relationship to environmental stimuli.

### **2.2.1 The Movement of Protest**

The movement of protest known as behaviouralism may be seen as a response to the perceived deficiencies within the field of traditional Political Science. Primarily championed by American political scientists, behaviouralism seeks to challenge and address these shortcomings. As a result, behaviouralism has transitioned its focus from the conceptual state, government, and political institutions to the practical concerns faced by individuals on a daily basis.

### **2.2.2 Focus on Behaviour**

The behaviorist perspective posits that although behavior may vary across individuals, it exhibits some features of consistency. The prevailing viewpoint posits that behavior may be conceptualized in broad, overarching terms and then be rendered predictable.

### **2.2.3 Scientific Outlook and Objectivity**

The concept of behaviouralism places significant emphasis on the scientific viewpoint and objectivity. Behaviouralists tend to disregard ethical ideals due to their inability to be investigated in a scientific and impartial manner. They promote the concept of a value-neutral approach to the study of political science.

### **2.2.4 Methodological Revolution**

The methodological revolution in political science involves a shift from traditional approaches, which relied on philosophical, historical, or

comparative methods, to a focus on behavioral methods. Behaviorists emphasize the use of techniques such as observation, interviews, surveys, research, case studies, data collection, statistical analysis, and quantification. In order to get expertise in behavioral approaches, it is important to possess a comprehensive understanding of statistics and model construction.

#### **2.2.5 Inter-disciplinary Study**

Interdisciplinary research refers to the examination of the political behavior of an individual within the broader context of collective social behavior exhibited by all persons. To get a comprehensive comprehension, contemporary political science researchers must draw from a range of social sciences, including sociology, history, economics, anthropology, and other related disciplines.

#### **2.2.6 Invention of Scientific Theory**

The primary objective of behaviorists is to construct a scientific theory via the use of observation and experimentation. This theory should be capable of making predictions and applicable in a global context.

### **2.3 Characteristic of Behaviouralism**

One of the defining characteristics of behaviouralism, as elucidated by David Easton, is its emphasis on the scientific study of political behavior. David Easton, a prominent figure and pioneer of the behavioral school of thought, has outlined some notable characteristics of behaviouralism. He refers to them as the intellectual pillars of Behavioralism. The aforementioned concepts include regularities, verifications, techniques, quantifications, values, systemization, pure science, and integration.

#### **2.3.1 Regularities**

In relation to patterns, there are identifiable consistencies in political conduct that may be articulated via generalizations or theories to elucidate and forecast political occurrences. Political behavior has significant similarities under certain conditions. The objective of the researcher is to ascertain the presence of patterns or regularities. This will be beneficial. The primary objective is to elucidate and forecast political events, so establishing political science as a genuinely scientific field with the capacity for explanation and prediction.

For example, voting behavior serves as a prominent illustration in this regard. It has been noted that voters who identify with a certain caste, social rank, economic position, or profession tend to consistently support the same political party in consecutive elections. From this analysis, it is possible to derive certain generalizations and anticipate patterns in political behavior. While Political Science may not exhibit the same level of precision as disciplines such as physics and chemistry, it may be more appropriately likened to fields such as astronomy or biology.

### **2.3.2 Verification**

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of a particular drug on the human body. Verification is the process of confirming or validating the accuracy, truthfulness, or authenticity of something.

Behaviouralists do not readily accept any assertions as absolute truths, in contrast to the traditionalists who were more inclined to do so. They have a skeptical stance towards abstract notions. They maintain a rigorous commitment to confirming and testing all aspects. Anything that cannot be confirmed or tested is considered dogmatic and falls beyond the realm of scientific inquiry. They adhere to the acceptance of empirical or scientific findings exclusively, contingent upon rigorous scientific validation.

### **2.3.3 Techniques**

Various techniques can be employed in order to achieve a desired outcome. Behaviouralists place significant emphasis on the use of accurate methodologies for the acquisition and interpretation of scientific data. In order to conduct their investigations, researchers often employ advanced methodologies such as sample surveys, mathematical models, simulations (which are instructional models designed to impart knowledge on problem-solving techniques), and multivariate data analysis (a statistical approach used to analyze data involving multiple variables).

### **2.3.4 Quantification**

The concept of quantification refers to the process of assigning numerical values or measurements to variables or .The researcher is required to not only gather the data, but also to assess and quantify it. The process of quantification and measuring is of utmost importance. According to David Easton, the use of tables, graphs, and curves is essential



in behavioral research to ensure precision and accuracy in data collecting and the presentation of results.

### **2.3.5 Values**

The concept of values is an important aspect of human behavior and decisionmaking. Values can be Behaviouralists advocate for the segregation of factual information from subjective values. For scientific investigation to be considered genuine, it is imperative that it be impartial and devoid of any ethical or moral biases.

For scientific investigation to maintain objectivity, it is essential that it be devoid of any subjective values. It is important for research to maintain a value-free approach, since this ensures that the researcher does not possess the ability to reassess a political matter based on their own subjective view. In order to provide a scientific explanation, it is necessary to set aside moral and ethical considerations.

### **2.3.6 Systematization**

Systematization refers to the process of organizing and structuring information or data in a systematic. The behaviorist perspective emphasizes that systematic study is necessary in the field of political science. The approach should be focused on theory and guided by theoretical frameworks. The integration of theory and research is essential in constructing a cohesive and rationally structured body of knowledge. The character of theory should be informal. The composition need to include a thorough examination, elucidation, and projection, while refraining from engaging in conjecture and self-reflection.

### **2.3.7 Pure science**

Pure science, also known as basic science or fundamental science, refers to scientific research that is conducted only for the sake of expanding knowledge. The behaviorists advocate for a methodology they refer to as a “pure science” approach. The nature of research should be purely academic in its approach. The verifiability of the claim should be supported by empirical data. The applicability of the solution to a particular social issue is still being determined. The overarching objective should be to achieve a level of similarity between social science and natural science. Integration is a mathematical concept that involves finding the integral of a function.

### **2.3.8 Integration**

The Behavioralist supports the use of an interdisciplinary approach. The belief is held that social and political events are not amenable to isolated study. Determining the precise demarcation between the social, economic, political, and other facets of human existence is a challenging task.

Cultural and other activities are inherently interconnected and can only be comprehended within the broader framework of the society's complete social fabric. Political science is not regarded as an independent and distinct field of study by them. According to scholarly discourse, political science is classified as a social science discipline, thereby advocating for its integration.

In conjunction with other disciplines like as sociology, psychology, and economics. The study of political behavior necessitates a knowledge of the many ways in which social, economic, and cultural forces exert influence upon it.

### **2.4 The Accomplishments of Behaviouralism**

The researchers in the field of behaviorism have achieved notable advancements in the enhancement and fine-tuning of research instruments and procedures. The advancements in the domains of content analysis, case analysis, interviewing and observation, and statistics are notably noteworthy.

Theory building is a fundamental process in academic research that involves the development and construction of theoretical frameworks. It is a systematic and rigorous approach

### **2.5 Critiques of Behaviouralism**

Behaviouralist places a greater emphasis on technique rather than the outcomes achieved. Behaviouralism is a theoretical approach in political science that places significant emphasis on the impact of individual and group behavior, often at the expense of considering the influence of institutional factors.

The field of political science is inherently incapable of achieving complete objectivity. Behaviouralism places more emphasis on studying static issues rather than focusing on current occurrences. The challenges

arise from the dynamic nature of human behavior, as emotions, ideas, and thoughts undergo constant fluctuations. The field of behavioral research is heavily reliant on other social sciences, perhaps leading to the dilution of the distinct character and autonomy of political science. The demarcation of borders among several social sciences. It is essential to establish distinct limits within the realm of social sciences, since sociologists, economists, and historians need more understanding in the field of political science. It is essential to prevent scientists from other social sciences from exerting dominance over the field of Political Science.

The concept of post-behaviouralism refers to a theoretical framework that emerged in the 1960s. There was a prevailing discontentment about the accomplishments of behaviourists, since their efforts had proven inadequate in effectively resolving real-world practical issues. Therefore, the emergence of Post-behavioralism gave rise to a movement of opposition against behavioralism. David Easton, a former advocate of behaviouralism, launched a substantial critique on the research methodologies used by behaviourists. In his presidential speech delivered at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, the speaker discussed several aspects of the political landscape.

In 1969, at a science association hosted in New York, David Easton expressed his dissatisfaction with the political research and teachings influenced by behavioralism. The behavioral approach aimed to establish political science as a subject grounded on the methodology of natural sciences.

#### Factors contributing to the expansion of Post-Behaviouralism

- a) The shortcomings of the behaviouralism approach in addressing practical challenges in the real world.
- b) There needs to be more focus on research methodologies and instruments within the field of behaviorism.
- c) The inability of behaviourists to effectively transform political science into a discipline focused on problem-solving.

The characteristics of post-behaviouralist refer to the distinguishing features of this theoretical approach within the field of political science. Post-behavioralism emerged as a reaction to the limitations of behavioralism,

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of a particular drug on the human body. Opposition to the concept of value-free social science: The proponents of postbehavioralism strongly criticize the efforts made by behavioralists to establish political science as a discipline devoid of subjective values.

A protest movement emerged subsequent to the rise of behaviouralism, which contested its principles and advocated for the need of political science to have practical implications for society.

## 2.6 Post-Behaviouralism

The philosophical movement known as Post-Behavioralism has garnered supporters from all segments of society. Post-Behavioralists direct their attention towards the prospective societal welfare, seeking to establish a connection between the methodologies and technologies used by behavioralists and their implications for future societal well-being.

## 2.7 Characteristics of Post Behaviouralism

The characteristics of post-Behaviouralism refer to the distinguishing features of this theoretical perspective within the field of political science.

According to David Easton, the characteristics of Post-Behavioralism might be described as the “Credo of Relevance” or a “Distillation of Maximal Image.” These traits can be succinctly characterized as follows:

1. **Substance must have precedence over technique:**—In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of a particular drug on the human body. The prioritization of substance above method is crucial. As to David Easton, the primacy of content over method is emphasized. The utilization of advanced investigative techniques is commendable; yet, it is imperative to be cognizant of the underlying objectives for which these tools are used. The value of research is contingent upon its relevance and meaningfulness in addressing the societal challenges of the modern day. The behaviouralist perspective believed that it was preferable to be incorrect rather than ambiguous. Still, the post-behaviouralist perspective maintains that it is more advantageous to be ambiguous than to be excessively accurate in a manner that lacks relevance. The focus should be placed on promoting social transformation rather than maintaining social preservation. The perspective held by post-behaviouralists asserts that political science needs to prioritize focus on

2. concept of social change, rather than social preservation, was emphasized by behaviorists.)
3. The behaviourist perspective had become disconnected from the harsh realities of politics, prompting the emergence of post-behaviouralist as an attempt to address societal and human challenges. It is essential for the field of Political Science to have a strong connection with the practical and tangible aspects of politics.
4. The behavioralists had become disconnected from the fundamental realities of politics, while the post-behavioralists prioritized substance above tactics. The emphasis on relevance and the advocacy for dramatic social change are prominent
5. The argument may be made that Political Science should not adhere to a value-free approach.
6. The behavioralists placed significant emphasis on scientism and value-free methodologies, while disregarding the significance of values. The general populace expressed discontent due to the fact that all information was founded upon value-based assumptions. The fervent enthusiasm for scientism must to be abandoned, since it is not feasible to transform the social sciences into purely objective or scientific sciences.
7. Political scientists have a responsibility to safeguard the fundamental ideals of civilization that prioritize the well-being and dignity of all individuals. The post-behavioralists contend that it is the responsibility of political scientists, as intellectuals, to safeguard and advance the human values inherent in civilization. Should political scientists persist in distancing themselves from social issues, they risk devolving into simple technicians or mechanics, only concerned with manipulating and adjusting societal mechanisms. Given the prevailing conditions, they would be precluded from asserting the entitlement to engage in unrestricted investigation.

The prioritization of action above contemplative science is being emphasized. The proponents of post-behavioralism advocate for research that is action-oriented and has relevance to the social sphere. The prevailing circumstances or factors. The contention posited is that the field of contemplative research may have been suitable during the 19th century, a period characterized by a more extensive consensus on moral principles across countries. However, it is said that in the present-day society, which is marked by deep divisions pertaining to values and

ideologies, contemplative science is incongruous and lacks relevance. It has been suggested that behavioralists should shift their focus towards action rather than only emphasizing contemplative studies. The primary focus of their research should be directed towards examining the social and political challenges prevalent within society, as well as exploring strategies for their mitigation or eradication.

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of a particular treatment on a specific population. There is a pressing need to include political dimensions into the professional realm. Post-Behaviouralism has a forward-looking perspective. Once it is acknowledged that political scientists, as intellectuals, have a constructive function in society, it becomes necessary to politicize all professional bodies and colleges in order to accomplish this objective. Political scientists are expected to effectively communicate their disciplinary expertise in a manner that is applicable and beneficial to governmental officials. The researchers in the field of political science. Science should be linked with the examination of pertinent social and political issues.

## **2.8 Systems Approach**

The systems approach is a theoretical framework that analyzes complex phenomena by considering the interrelationships and interactions among many components within a system. The immediate consequence of the first behavioral basis of politics is the structure of the system. The origins of system analysis may be attributed to the scholarly works of Ludwig Von Bertalanffy, a biologist active throughout the 1920s. The concept of “system” serves as a valuable tool for structuring one’s understanding of various social entities. By employing a systemic approach to the study of politics, individuals are able to perceive these subjects in a manner that acknowledges the interconnectedness of their constituent elements. This perspective recognizes that each component of the political landscape does not exist in isolation, but rather maintains intricate relationships with other components. Consequently, comprehending the functioning of any individual part necessitates an examination of the broader operations of the entire system. Political analysts, including political sociologists, have coined the phrase “political system” as a complete analytical framework for the study of politics, with the intention of shifting the focus away from the state as the primary object of interest.

Phenomena occur among civilizations of various cultural backgrounds, levels of industrialization, and sizes. The focus of political sociologists was

oriented towards the functioning of the political system within a context that displays the defining qualities of a political system:

In this study, we aim to investigate the impact of social media usage on mental health outcomes. A composition of pieces or things that form a complete entity.

A consistent and recurring pattern of interaction among various parts. The concept of comprehensiveness refers to the extent to which something is inclusive and covers all. The presence of borders and specialized anatomical or physiological structures that are specifically adapted to carry out certain duties.

David Easton is widely recognized as the pioneering political scientist who methodically and rigorously constructed a framework rooted in the systems approach for the examination of political phenomena, rather than just borrowing it from the disciplines of anthropology or sociology. The researcher has chosen the political system as the fundamental unit of analysis and has focused on studying the internal behavior of different systems as the primary domains of research and inquiry within the field of social science. The individual in question has provided a definition of a political system as a collection of interactions, and has also described politics as the process of making authoritative decisions on the distribution of values. The individual in question has been conducting an examination of the practicality of the system as the primary entity, with a specific emphasis on political life as a behavioral system that operates within and reacts to its surroundings while making authoritative decisions on the distribution of values. The Easton conceptual framework underwent a progression consisting of three distinct periods. The first stage is denoted by the publication of "The Political System" in 1953. The subsequent stages are denoted by the works titled 'A Framework for Political Analysis' and 'System Analysis'.

The publications "The Dynamics of Political Life" and "The Evolution of Political Life" were both released consecutively in 1965. The conceptual framework upon which he built his analysis was grounded on four fundamental assumptions. Pursuing knowledge by empirical means necessitates the development of a systematic framework, sometimes referred to as a theory, which represents the greatest level of generalization.

Political scientists are required to adopt a holistic perspective while analysing the political system, rather than focusing on isolated



components. Emphasize the development of targeted solutions for specific situations. In order to get a comprehensive understanding, it is necessary to integrate factual information. The acquisition of knowledge and the use of empirical evidence.

The study of political systems incorporates psychological and situational data, including the analysis of individual personalities and motives of participants and the impacts stemming from the natural and social surroundings. The state of political life is often characterized by a state of disequilibrium, representing a counterforce to the concept of equilibrium that is seldom achieved in practical terms. Easton's rejection of the state is predicated upon his critique of the inherent chaos and diversity associated with it. Regarding its many connotations and interpretations. The individual in question saw power as a consequential notion that influences and implements authoritative political dynamics throughout society. The efficacy of this phenomenon lies in its capacity to exert influence on the behaviors of individuals. A policy may be defined as a complex network of choices and acts that determine the distribution of societal values. In Easton's conceptualization of political life, the notions of power, authority, decision-making, and policy have significant importance as they pertain to the authoritative allocation of values within a society.

The researcher recognized the following characteristics of the political system:

1. Concepts of Units and Boundaries
2. Input and output mechanisms
3. Distinctions within a system and
4. System Integration

Easton's analysis of political systems is characterized by a perspective that views them as being both open and adaptable. Additionally, his examination of these systems emphasizes their dynamic nature.

The primary emphasis is in the examination of the dynamics of trades and transactions that take place between a political system and its surrounding environment. This inherently entails the incorporation of concepts related to systemic boundaries and boundary conditions. Nevertheless, it is essential for a political scientist to prioritize the examination and alteration of a wide range of factors, which are described by Easton as "the life process of political systems." The system analysis



developed by David Easton is often known as input-output analysis or the process of conversion. Easton's input-output analysis encompasses three fundamental factors, namely demands, supports, and feedbacks. The core focus of input-output analysis is to the process of converting inputs into outputs within a given system. The individual's viewpoint posits that the political system operates by incorporating inputs in the form of demands made on authorities and support from institutions and the political community. Subsequently, it produces outcomes in the form of policies and decisions. Easton (year) has conducted an observation and analysis of a notion termed Para political systems, which pertains to the internal political structures present inside many groups and organizations.

The author's study primarily centers on the "political system," which refers to the thorough scrutiny of political action inside the most expansive entity. Input-output analysis is a methodical methodology that investigates the interrelationships between a given system and its broader environment. The operational framework of a political system may be categorized into two main elements:

(i) The term "intra-societal" refers to systems that operate inside a certain society, excluding those that are external to society itself. These external systems may be broadly categorized into political systems and extra-societal systems. Intra-societal systems include a multitude of components, including behavior, attitudes, and ideas, which encompass many aspects such as the economy, culture, social structures, and personalities, among others. In contrast, extra-societal systems work as essential components within a global society, which may be seen as a broader system including individual societies as fundamental elements. The comprehensive framework of a political system encompasses two distinct categories of systems: intra-societal and extra-societal. Influences arise from various sources, potentially leading to consequences that might impact the stability of political institutions. Easton's conceptual framework of the political system has two essential elements: 'inputs', which include 'demands' and 'supports', and 'outputs'. The idea of 'feedback' functions as a mechanism for establishing connections among different parts. The information that has been supplied. Stability and change include several elements, such as public opinion, political parties, interest groups, and social movements. These many components have a significant role in the operation and development of the political system, influencing the formulation of policies and determining their resulting effects.

The operational processes of the system are dependent on two fundamental resources: raw material or knowledge, and energy. These resources may be further classified into two categories: demands and supports. able to purchase at a given price and time period. It is a fundamental concept in economics and plays a crucial role in determining market equilibrium and prices. Demand is influenced by various factors such as price, income, tastes and preferences, and the availability of substitutes. Understanding and analyzing demand patterns is essential for businesses and policymakers to make informed decisions regarding production, pricing, and resource allocation.

According to Easton, the concept of demand may be characterized as the expression of a perspective that has authoritative weight. The determination of decision-making power for resource allocation in a certain subject area should be vested in the persons who have been entrusted with this task. This suggests that people, assuming the role of “actors,” use influence on their political system with the intention of advancing their own interests. The demand may be categorized into four main classifications: The need for the fair allocation of goods and services, including salaries and educational access, is more evident.

The primary issues being taken into account are opportunities, housing, and medical facilities. The following aspect pertains to.

There is an increasing need for the establishment of rules concerning many facets of society behavior, including the control of market activities and the provision of essential services.

Regulations have been established to safeguard the overall welfare and safety of the general populace, including several domains such as marriage, health, and sanitation.

The subsequent point is presented as follows. The plea for active participation in the political system involves several dimensions, such as the privilege to seek candidacy, the capacity to hold positions of authority, the liberty to organize public protests, and the entitlement to petition governmental bodies.

The need for communication and knowledge emerges in several circumstances, including instances when political leaders convey their policy goals or when the authority of the political system is shown during times of peril or ceremonial events.

The user expresses support for a particular topic or viewpoint. Necessary stability and functionality to operate effectively. They can be seen as the pillars that uphold the political system and ensure its smooth functioning. These supports can take various forms, such as institutions, laws, norms, and practices, and they play a crucial role in maintaining order, resolving conflicts, and facilitating the decisionmaking process within the political system. Without these supports, the political system would be vulnerable to instability, chaos, and inefficiency. Therefore, understanding and analyzing the different supports that exist within a political system is essential for comprehending the ability to effectively manage and handle the many requirements and pressures placed upon an entity. Support entails demonstrating obedience and exhibiting allegiance to a political system. The term "it" refers to the act of expressing a willingness to accept a certain allocation of values or the procedure by which such allocations are determined. Support may be categorized into two main types: overt support and covert support. Overt support refers to observable behaviors that clearly and obviously supportive refers to a kind of support that is openly and visibly shown. On the other hand, covert support pertains to an attitude or feelings of support that are concealed or hidden. The viability of a political system is heavily reliant on the support it gets from its surroundings, since its survival is contingent upon this support. There are four kinds of supports:

1. Material supports, such as the provision of financial resources via the payment of taxes or other levies, as well as the allocation of tangible assets or resources, play a crucial role in several aspects of societal functioning.
2. The supplies of services, such as labor on public works or military duty,
3. Compliance with legal laws and rules;
4. Participatory support encompasses several political actions, including voting, engaging in political discussions, and other types of civic engagement.

This study focuses on the examination of official communication and the expression of reverence or respect towards public authority, symbols, and ceremonial practices.

### **Conversion process**

The conversion process refers to the transformation of one form or state of something into another form or state. It involves changing the

characteristics, the process and method by which a political system transforms inputs. The term used to describe the reaction of an organism to the stimuli present in its surroundings is known as the conversion process. The efficacy of the conversion process is contingent upon the political system's ability to extract resources, regulate and govern persons and things, distribute resources, and facilitate development.

### **The outputs**

A political system, therefore, sustains itself in part via its own regulating mechanisms. The generation of societal support may occur via several means, both specialized and diffuse. The primary measure of its efficacy is determined by its impact on society. A political decision or policy is the result or outcome of a political system. Easton argues that outputs have a dual role in shaping both the larger society and subsequent inputs inside the political system. According to Easton, the outputs of a political system refer to the authoritative choices and activities undertaken by the leaders of the system, which have an impact on the distribution of values inside it. These outputs not only serve to exert impact on occurrences.

Within the larger societal context in which the system operates, individuals not only contribute to its functioning but also play a role in shaping subsequent inputs that influence the political system.

### **Feedback:**

The presence of a feedback loop enables us to elucidate the mechanism by which a system may effectively manage stress. The system may opportunistically use the current circumstances to adapt its functional behavior. The concept of feedback entails the need of providing information to the relevant authorities on the outcomes resulting from their activities, particularly when such measures are undertaken to meet requests or provide favorable circumstances. The absence of information input about the system's operations would have resulted in the authorities operating with little knowledge or understanding. According to Easton, it is important to conduct a thorough examination of the many components of the feedback loop. The phenomenon encompasses the production outputs generated by the governing bodies as a reaction.

The dissemination of information on the replies to authorities and subsequent actions by these authorities is facilitated by the individuals

comprising the society. Consequently, a further cycle of outputs, responses, information feedback, and reactions by the authorities is initiated, creating a cohesive network of interconnected activities. The input received significantly impacts the system's ability to endure and effectively manage stress.

Nevertheless, the model of input-output analysis developed by David Easton has been submitted to scrutiny.

In response to the aforementioned complaints. According to Eugene Meehan, it is noteworthy that Easton, similar to Parson, does not conceive of a theory in terms of explanation, but rather in terms of the establishment of a conceptual framework. The outcome entails a very abstract framework that is subject to logical speculation, conceptually ambiguous, and of little empirical use. Easton's Input-Output analysis places significance on inquiries about the durability and adaptability of the political system, as well as the management of stress, stability, and systems equilibrium. However, it has sometimes been criticized for exhibiting a bias towards maintaining the existing state of affairs. In addition, Easton's Output analysis provides little information about aims and values outside the scope of persistence.

## **2.9 Structural Functional Approach**

Structural Functional method is a sort of systemic analysis which looks at political system as a cohesive entity which impacts and is in affected by their surrounds. A political system is kept together by the existence of lawful force across the system. It has three characteristics: comprehensiveness, independence and presence of limits. The interactions that take place inside a system are not between people but between the roles which these individuals assume. Lastly, the political system is an open system and is engaged in contacts with systems, outside its bounds. The credit for adopting the predominantly sociological concept like structural functional analysis goes to some leading political scientists like Gabriel A. Almond, William C. Mitchell and David Apter.

### **William C. Mitchell**

Mitchell in his dissertation on American Political System identifies four essential functions that are done by a polity. He was influenced by Talcott Parsons, and defines polity as a subsystem primarily concerned with the mobilization of resources to meet the goals of the system. He

identifies four functions of the American party. In general, this analysis is applicable to any modern polity:

1. The authoritative to any modern polity,
2. The authoritative mobilization of resources to implement the goals,
3. The integration of the system, and
4. The allocation of values and costs.

### **David Apter**

David Apter in his book entitled *Politics of Modernization* in 1965, tried to apply the functional model to comparative study of modernizing countries. He observed that almost all of the developing countries are populist and in a real sense mainly democratic rather than antidemocratic. Different political systems not only embody different ways of choosing but vary in their priorities. The study of political system in the newly emerging countries of the Third World led him to include some interesting problems relating to the types and forces that have played their part in the process of rapid transformation in them. His politics of modernization seeks to analyse political system in three respects, which are as follows:

1. Nature and purpose of government: He feels that the business of the government is to see the conditions under which it can maintain itself during the period of transition from a traditional to a modern form without losing legitimacy.
2. Models of government: He suggests that instead of classifying governments into broad categories of liberal-democratic and totalitarian, the modernizing predemocratic". He presents three models namely, (a) mobilization system, (b) reconciliation system, and (c) modernizing autocracy.
3. Functions of the government: According to Apter, each system has four functions to perform which are:
  - i) The logic of sanctions in society,
  - ii) The providers of symbols linking the people's past and future,
  - iii) The responsible agents for the orderly arrangement and performance of roles in a system, and
  - iv) The providers of criteria for deciding on membership and participation in society.

His central functional hypothesis is that, different politics employ different mixtures of coercion and information in trying to maintain

authority, stability and to increase efficiency. Modernizing societies and industrial societies can utilize information only when they possess sound interpretative mechanisms.

### **Gabriel.A.Almond**

The systems approach to political analysis developed by David Easton, was again furthered by Gabriel A. Almond in his model of 'Structural-functional analysis' and thereby giving a completely new dimension to political analysis. In his book entitled *The Politics of Developing Areas* in 1950, he gives a detailed analysis of his approach. For him, system was more important than process because system implied totality, interactions among units within the totality and stability in these interactions, which he described as "changing equilibrium". Almond relied upon Max and Talcott Parsons in the political system's actions and turned to concepts like structure and role replacing the legal vocabulary of institution, group or organization. Lastly, he introduced the concept of political culture which is embedded in a particular pattern of orientations to political action. These patterns generally extend beyond the boundaries of the political system. Almond suggested that all political systems have four characteristics:

- i) All political systems have structures. ii) The same political functions are performed in all political systems.
- ii) All political structures are multifunctional.
- iii) All political systems-are mixed in the cultural sense.

Almond then outlined his own functional categories classifying them into inputs and outputs:

#### **2.9 .1 Input functions**

Political socialization and recruitment. The function of political socialisation and recruitment are performed usually by them political structure, political parties. The child is socialized by the political parties, educational institution, family, organizations, etc. And they are recruited directly to the political parties by its senior members. These two are the primary input functions performed by the structures.

### **Interest articulation**

Interest articulation means the identification and coordination of different interests of the people by interest groups or pressure groups.



Based on these interests later the demands are prepared by them for its implementation. Caste, educational, business, farmers, laborer's interest groups perform their role in society to bring out their interests.

### **Interest aggregation:**

After interest articulation, the necessary demands from the groups were communicated to the political parties for its aggregation. This process is called as lobbying. The political parties then accept or reject the various demands and formulate it in the form of a proposal for law.

### **Political communication:**

The final input function is political communication. In this function the aggregated demands or interests are communicated to the political system by the political parties for its acceptance. Usually the people's representatives in the legislature, who are the members of different political parties, perform these functions. The political parties have the responsibility to inform the public about respective legislative proposals and they work as the channel of communication. After political communication, the output structures start to carry out their functions.

## **2.9.2 Output Functions**

### **Rule making**

Rulemaking is the primary output functions performed by the political structure, legislature. After the political communication the political system receives necessary demands from the environment or society, and starts the conversion process, i.e., the transformation of different demands into formal rules and regulations.

### **Rule application**

The function of implementation of the rules is done by the executive wing of the government or political system, the other political structure. Through its various Ministries and departments the executive enforces the laws prepared from the legislature.

### **Rule adjudication**

Rule adjudication is the final output function performed by the judiciary. The laws once implemented by the executive went to the



hands of judiciary for interpretation. Judiciary interprets and judges in all cases reached before it. The outputs are functions and correspond to the traditional legislative, executive and judicial functions. They show a bias towards American and European conceptions of government showing traditional orientation of comparative politics. Almond, however, argued that input functions are crucial in characterizing the political systems of developing countries. These input functions constitute the ingredients of the system: who recognises, deliberates and resolves problems and issues. Spiro called this a process of flow “and interpreted it as consisting of demands and supports for action”. Almond says that political socialisation takes place through the family, school, church, trade union, party and even government agencies. It also involves recruitment of people from different social groups into political parties, civil service etc. Interest articulation is the expression of political interests and demands for action. Interest aggregation is the combining of those interests and demands which are articulated by interest groups and political parties. Political communication helps all these political functions. Political socialisation, recruitment, articulation and aggregation occur through communication.

Gabriel Almond says that political culture is dualistic, not monistic. Political systems may be represented as modern and traditional, developed and underdeveloped, industrial and agrarian. Political systems have evolved through stages of development. Structures become more differentiated as systems reach higher stages of growth. Almond divided them into primitive, traditional, transitional and modern systems. Almond's framework was further elaborated in the third phase when he, in collaboration with Powell, published *Comparative Politics - A Developmental Approach* in 1966. He now put forward the concept of conversion processes, which allow for the transformation of the demands and supports that flow into the political system. Out of that system flows extraction, regulation and distribution into society. He argued that his conception of political system deals with interdependence which does not mean harmony. He claimed that his theory was dynamic as it conceived of “developmental patterns”. He connected his framework of system with his concept of political development.

A second level consists of capability functions: regulation, extraction, distribution, and symbolic response. These activities relate to the environment. Almond said that in democratic systems, “outputs of regulation, extraction and distribution are more affected by inputs

of demands from groups “and these systems therefore have “a higher responsive capability.”

Totalitarian systems are less responsive to demands, regulate behaviour through coercion, and extract maximum resources their people. Symbolic capability relates to the symbol flow from a particular into the informational environment i.e. its image in the community of nations. A third level of functions is related to maintenance and adaptation of political system. They include political and recruitment. According to Almond, a theory of the political system can be based on the understanding the relations among these three levels and the relations of the functions at each level. In 1969, Almond reviewed his conceptual framework and proposed a research design “intended to draw us a little combines system-functional analysis, aggregate quantitative analysis and rational choice analysis at appropriate points in the explanation of developmental episodes.” This approach retained his structural-functional formulation but combined it with other approaches to make it empirically more fruitful.

### 2.9.3 Criticism

Almond’s structural functionalism has been criticized on three grounds: The topic of discussion is conservative ideology. Critics have identified that structural functionalism is grounded in a deterministic, conservative, and constraining philosophy. Don Martindale identified four criticisms of functionalism: the presence of a conservative ideological bent and a preference for maintaining the status quo, a lack of clarity in its methodology, an excessive focus on closed systems in social life, and an inability to adequately address social change. C. Wright Mills expressed his critique of the conservative inclination seen in the works of functionalism proponents. He said that functionalism, as a grand theory, lacked empirical grounding and failed to attain a sufficient degree of theoretical development. Barrington Moore, Alf Dahrendorf, and Andrew Hacker have all expressed criticism towards the conservative tilt of the subject matter.

**Lack of Conceptual Clarity:** According to J.C. Jurcie, functionalism is constrained by its limited capacity to provide explanations, its adequacy in offering explanations, and the restrictive impact of its assumptions on the nature and functioning of social systems. Groth’s critique of Almond’s theory included three primary objections: imprecision in

the use of language, challenges in ascertaining political associations, and perplexity arising from the intermingling of factual and evaluative elements. Malamson and Kind also expressed criticism towards the author's preoccupation with empirical details that are disconnected from theoretical frameworks, as well as the ambiguity present in his use of languages. In his work, Hempel stated that functionalism is characterized by logical inconsistencies, whereas Sherman's viewpoint aligns with this perspective. According to Roy Krupp, there is a tendency for the system to overemphasize its coherence, leading to a lack of clarity in describing objectives and a lack of thorough analysis.

Operational limitations refer to the constraints or restrictions that may impede the functioning or effectiveness of a system, process, or organization. The technique of structural functionalism typically entails a tendency to conflate ideal scenarios with the actual observable situations of systems. Terry N. Clark expressed dissatisfaction with the excessive focus on structural functionalism in the context of institutionalized political behavior. According to some criticisms, structural functionalists have not adequately undertaken the crucial task of refining, operationalizing, and empirically testing theories. The flaws were ascribed to the constraints of the authors, the nascent phase in the development of the theory, and the inherent inadequacies of functionalism.

Holt and Turner assert that Almond saw the contemporary system as characterized by structural differentiation and secularism. However, they identified several limitations associated with this conceptualization. According to their statement, the application of this concept presents challenges when attempting to include a wide range of historical and current instances. The statement also has the tendency to effectively identify the contemporary political system with the modern Anglo-American democratic system. The definitions used in this context exhibit an excessive reliance on several dimensions, while simultaneously overlooking the issue of variety in the social tasks of government.

## **2.10 Marxian Analysis**

The Marxian method occupies a distinct position that may be considered fundamentally distinct from both conventional and contemporary approaches in several significant aspects, but some similarities can also be identified with both. The remarkable aspect of this method lies in its conceptualization of the "state" as an inevitable

outcome of class struggle, which is a key subject in the field of political science. Rather than limiting the scope of research to the formal structure and substructure of a political system, this approach places emphasis on delving into its fundamental origins. It can be argued that the class structure is shaped by the economic system. As the means of production, distribution, and exchange undergo transformations, there is a corresponding shift in the dynamics between the ruling class and the subordinate class. This can be observed in historical contexts such as the relationship between masters and slaves, feudal lords and serfs, as well as capitalists and workers. In each case, there exists a dominant class and a class that is subjugated. The examination of power dynamics as a fundamental aspect of politics necessitates an exploration of the conflict that arises between two opposing social classes. The resolution of this situation characterized by conflicting elements can alone be achieved via the construction of a socialist society. This method not only highlights the fundamental inadequacies and flaws of the prevailing capitalist system, but also serves to educate and mobilize the exploited and marginalized working class, including workers, peasants, and laborers, in order to foster unity and ultimately dismantle the oppressive structures of societal subjugation on a global scale. This perspective regards the state as a tool for the exploitation and subjugation of one social class by another. It asserts that the class-based nature of the state will persist until society reaches a stateless situation, which signifies the culmination of a classless society.

The Marxist analysis of politics, as espoused by thinkers such as Marx, Lenin, and Mao, diverges from the perspective of both historical and contemporary liberals in its rejection of the notion that individual or group interests and conflicts are inherent or inevitable. According to Marxist ideology, disputes among people and organizations are seen to be socially constructed. While liberals maintain the belief that the opposing interests of individuals or organizations can be resolved, Marxists assert that these conflicts are irreconcilable.

The Marxian understanding of politics is rooted in the historical-materialistic framework formulated by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels throughout the 19th century. According to Marx, the prevailing political power within a certain era is often shaped by the material circumstances of society. Politics, as influenced by the prevailing economic realities within a society, likewise reinforces the corresponding socioeconomic

structure. Each state has both a tool of coercion and an instrument of administration, which it utilizes to safeguard and maintain the prevailing social structure. Marx posits that the state functions as a class-based institution, serving to safeguard the interests of the economically privileged class, sometimes referred to as the “Haves,” within a given society. Therefore, this perspective regards the state as a tool used by the ruling elite to exploit the labour class. The Marxian perspective on Politics may be succinctly summarized by its distinctive characteristics. The occurrence of conflicts among people and communities is neither inherent or innate. They represent a prominent characteristic of the class-based societal structure. The common interest refers only to the interests of the economically dominant groups.

The state is inherently biased and lacks neutrality since it actively safeguards and advances the interests of the possessing classes while simultaneously exploiting and suppressing the non-possessing classes. Politics emerges as a result of the existence of a class-based society. The assertion made by liberals about the nonfundamental nature of this activity is challenged, since it is said that it primarily pertains to the owning classes and those with economic power.

Politics may be seen as a contestation between individuals belonging to the privileged socioeconomic strata. Internally, they engage in power struggles, while outside, they engage in a class conflict against the non-owning social groups.

The concept of class warfare is a phenomenon that is only present inside a society structured by social classes. In a society devoid of social classes, the absence of class conflict is seen. The capitalist society is characterized by its adherence to a class-based structure, whereas the communist society is characterized by its adherence to a socialist framework. The revolution is the ultimate phase of class conflict and functions as the driving force behind historical progression, propelling society from a lower level of social development to a higher stage. This transition involves the shift from a civilization characterized by class divisions to the construction of a society devoid of class distinctions.

In a classless society, specifically a socialist society, the state as an institution gradually diminishes and eventually ceases to exist. This occurs when individuals within the society engage in productive activities based on the principle of contributing according to their abilities and receiving

according to their needs. The Marxian method asserts its scientific and progressive nature in this manner. The aforementioned perspective critiques the current state of affairs as being characterized by oppression, exploitation, and inequality. Instead, it advocates for an alternative framework that prioritizes collaboration and harmony, aiming to eliminate exploitation and oppression.

#### **Self Assessment Questions**

1. What is System Approach in Political Sociology?
2. Examine the Behaviourism and its impact on Political Sociology.
3. What are the main Characteristics of Post Behaviourism ?
4. Elucidate the Marxian Approach of Political Sociology.
5. Examine the Structural Functional Approach in Political Sociology.

**UNIT- III****Lesson 3.1 - Political Socialisation****Unit struture**

3.1 Characteristics:

3.2 Types of Political Socialisation

3.2.1 Manifest political socialization:-

3.2.2 Latent political socialization

3.2.3 Particularistic socialization

3.2.4 Universalistic socialization

3.2.5 Affective socialization:

3.3 The agents of political socialisation:

A. Family:

B. Educational institutions:

C. Peer groups

D. Religion:

E. Mass media:

F. Role of Governmnet:

G. Political Parties:

H. Work or Employment Situation-

I. Social institutions-

3.4 The Functions and Significance of Political Socialization

Political socialization plays a prominent function within the field of political sociology. Political culture is both maintained and transformed via this process. Furthermore, it facilitates the formation and progression of individuals' attitudes and views toward the political system. The process is not limited to the formative years of childhood, but rather extends throughout one's lifetime. The process of political socialization



is inherently dynamic, since it is characterized by a lack of staticity, given that neither political attitudes nor societal contexts remain stagnant.

The institutions and attitudes of individuals regarding these phenomena are subject to change. Attitude change has the potential to occur rapidly, even within a short period of time, leading individuals who were formerly very loyal to adopt a rebellious stance, and vice versa. The idea of political socialization differs from general socialization, since it is a distinct sociological phenomenon that warrants differentiation from the outset. Socialization refers to the intricate process by which people acquire the ability to adhere to the established standards of a particular group, while also fostering deeper and more meaningful connections with other members of society. On the contrary, political socialization refers to the mechanism by which the maintenance, alteration, and formation of political culture occur at both the individual and communal levels. The aforementioned statement suggests that political ideals are transmitted, altered, and generated via a process. The process of political socialisation refers to the acquisition and internalisation of political attitudes, beliefs, and values by individuals within a society. It is a crucial aspect of political development and plays a significant role in shaping

The term “Political Socialisation” was introduced by Hyman. The concept of politicsThe process of socialization has undergone several phases prior to reaching its current state. The reason for this is because it is a continuous rather than a static process. The formation of attitudes in human life does not occur just during infancy; rather, attitudes are continually acquired and reinforced throughout one’s lifetime as a result of accumulating experiences. The first phase of political socialization starts when a youngster attains an awareness of the external environment. During this developmental stage, children may start to perceive the existence of other sources of power and authority outside their immediate family, leading them to recognize that their parents do not possess unlimited power.

Adolescence is a subsequent phase in the process of political socialization. When people reach adulthood and become actively engaged in governmental actions. He has been more exposed to the external world, resulting in a heightened level of political awareness. Additionally, he acquires political group memberships. The subsequent phase of political socialization occurs after a person has reached a high level of maturity.



He has either affection or animosity for a political system, institution, or structure. He has undergone a process of total politicization. The individual casts their vote in a manner that demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of its significance.

Political socialization may be described as the set of developmental processes by which individuals acquire political views and patterns of conduct. According to David Easton, political socialization refers to the process of establishing and developing views on the political system. The aforementioned statement pertains to a continual and iterative process of acquiring knowledge and understanding of the accepted norms, attitudes, and behaviors within a certain political system. The AR Ball is a technological innovation that combines augmented reality (AR) with ball sports.

According to Almond and Verba, political socialization refers to the ongoing process by which political cultures are both preserved and transformed.

According to Robert Sigel, the process referred to as “political socialization” involves the progressive acquisition of norms, attitudes, and behaviors that are deemed acceptable within a given political system.

Political socialization is a fundamental process by which individuals learn their political ideals, not alone via direct involvement in political activities, but also prior to participating in such activities.

### 3.1 Characteristics

1. The process of political socialization is an ongoing and continuous one, beginning in infancy and extending throughout an individual's life. During this process, individuals are exposed to a variety of life events and learning circumstances that gradually shape their thoughts and beliefs about politics.
2. The phenomenon of political socialization is seen in all political societies, although to a greater extent in democratic societies and to a lesser extent in totalitarian societies.
3. Political Socialisation is related with Political Culture-
  - a. In order to maintain the integrity of political culture.
  - b. In order to alter the prevailing political culture.
  - c. To explore the concept of political culture.

4. The transfer of political beliefs to subsequent generations is a fundamental process.
5. The internalization of political beliefs refers to the progressive acquisition of the standards, attitudes, and behaviors that are deemed acceptable within a certain political system.

### **3.2 Types of Political Socialisation**

There are several forms of political socialization that individuals undergo throughout their lives.

#### **3.2.1 Manifest Political Socialization**

Manifest political socialization refers to the direct expression of certain values and emotions towards a political system. The document contains clear and direct transmission of information to the involved parties. Political socialization may occur via several mechanisms, such as imitation, anticipatory behavior, political education, or political experiences. The act of imitation plays a crucial role in the process of political socialization. Informal education provided inside educational institutions, discussions on technology and mass communication

Media often portrays political issues, including the phenomenon of rural migrants adopting the political orientations of urban dwellers in order to gain acceptance among their new social circles. Similarly, children may intentionally imitate their parents' party preferences, extrapolating from broader social values to political matters.

#### **3.2.2 Latent Political Socialization**

Latent political socialization refers to a form of socialization where the transmission of ideas occurs indirectly. One method of indirect socialization is through the transfer of values and thoughts to other individuals. This can occur through interpersonal transference, apprenticeship, and generalization. Interpersonal transference involves the transmission of values and ideas to an individual through the influence of others.

Apprenticeship involves the acquisition of skills, habits, and behaviors.

Activities that are eventually deemed suitable for political engagement are characterized by their appropriateness. Non-political activities, in turn, serve as a kind of training or preparation for individuals' future involvement in political endeavors. Generalization refers to the process of

extrapolating broad societal ideals to political entities. Apart from these primary forms of political socialization, there are further variations of this notion as well.

### **3.2.3 Particularistic Socialization**

Particularistic socialization refers to a kind of political socialization whereby a person is exclusively instructed in a singular position. Their political beliefs and perspectives are oriented towards a certain value, which they are expected to adhere to and respect.

Consequently, all of their political efforts are focused only in this direction.

### **3.2.4 Universalistic Socialization**

Universalistic socialization refers to a sort of socialization that fosters a cosmopolitan perspective, where political energies are not confined to a certain direction. Individuals who undergo universalistic socialization are encouraged to assume many roles across different domains of life.

### **3.2.5 Affective Socialization**

Affective socialization refers to a form of socialization that primarily emphasizes emotional values, with limited emphasis on rationality. In this type of socialization, values are subject to change based on fluctuating emotions, resulting in a lack of stability. On the other hand, pragmatic socialization, also known as instrumental socialization, places less emphasis on emotions and more emphasis on reasoning. This approach is characterized by a pragmatic mindset, where strategies are carefully planned, calculated, and their potential positive or negative effects are thoroughly understood.

## **3.3 The Agents of Political Socialisation**

The agents of political socialisation refer to the many entities and institutions that play a significant role in shaping an individual's political beliefs, values, and behaviours. These agents might include family, education, peer groups,

If we examine the concept of political socialization, which focuses on individuals' attitudes towards political entities, it is important to explore the influence of agents involved in the process of internalizing norms.

Specifically, this inquiry delves into the role of these agents who possess skills and significant influence over individuals' minds, ultimately shaping their political identity. These agents include

**a. Family:**

The family can be regarded as the initial institution that serves as the child's primary exposure to the external world. It represents the child's initial encounter with authority figures. The child often adopts the political perspectives of their parents, thereby shaping their own outlook on the political system and its various institutions. According to Robert Lane, the family plays a role in establishing the foundations of political beliefs through explicit and implicit indoctrination, by situating the child within a specific social context, and by shaping the child's personality. Davis further contends that the family serves as the primary mechanism for the transformation of an initially undeveloped infant into a fully-formed adult with a distinct personality. Moreover, a significant portion of an individual's political disposition, including their inclination to think and behave politically in specific manners, is established within the familial environment, well before they engage in political activities as a citizen political participation in society.)

The family plays a significant role in shaping a child's political opinions, as both overt and covert influences from family members contribute to their development. Within the family unit, children acquire the behaviors of accepting authority and engaging in cooperative interactions with others. When children are involved in the decision-making process within their family, their political competence is likely to enhance. This also applies to their inclination towards participating in political activities within society.

Political engagement is a significant aspect of political socialization. The family plays a pivotal role in this process due to many reasons. Primarily, the family occupies a critical place in the child's life. During a significant duration, the family serves as the only entity responsible for fulfilling the child's physical and emotional requirements. Furthermore, it is observed that youngsters possess an inherent inclination to imitate their parents. Indeed, it is accurate to assert that the impact of one's parental model wanes as the individual matures and starts to adopt other models from the broader social sphere in

which they subsequently navigate. However, it is important to note that the concept of the parental model never completely dissipates.

Moreover, individuals within a family often reside inside a shared living area. The individuals are subject to comparable influences from their surrounding neighbors and communities, including religious, ethnic, and economic factors. The presence of a consistent alignment of viewpoints within the family unit fosters an environment in which children are more inclined to adopt their parents' political perspectives. The individual's opinions, values, and orientations are subject to modification based on their level of intellect and socio-political experiences. However, notwithstanding this ongoing transformation, several famous individuals still. The enduring impact of parental influence persists inside the individual.

**b. Educational institutions:**

Educational institutions play a significant role in the political socialization process by facilitating the impartation of education. The educational content delivered within school curricula has a significant role in shaping the perspectives and conduct of pupils. Educational institutions have a crucial role in disseminating political ideas, values, and patterns of political conduct. The dissemination of political information and thought occurs via direct transmission within the educational setting. Research has shown that those with higher levels of education tend to possess a greater level of awareness about

The influence of the government on individuals' lives leads to increased awareness of political activities, enhanced political knowledge, and a consistent demonstration of greater levels of political competence compared to those who are less affected. They possess a heightened ability to exert influence on the political decision-making process. The facilitation of debates, symposiums, discussions, competitions, and speaking contests within an educational setting not only enhances students' knowledge base but also cultivates their understanding of societal norms and values. Education has a significant part in the process of political socialization, which is why individuals inside educational institutions and outside advocate for the modification of syllabi and curricula.

Individuals may tailor the path of their education to align with their political viewpoint. For example, African Americans often advocate for the

incorporation of their community's accomplishments in the development of the United States, as well as for the removal of some elements that diminish their social and political standing in the nation known as the "land of liberty."

**c. Peer groups**

Peer groups, also known as reference groups, operate outside the confines of educational institutions. A peer group refers to a collective of individuals who share similar characteristics such as age, social standing, hobbies, and exhibit amicable interactions. This category encompasses several social units, such as childhood play groups, schoolmates, friendship cliques, siblings, job colleagues, and married couples, among others. The exchange of political ideas between individuals may significantly impact their respective political perspectives. Within these organizations, the exchange of political viewpoints occurs in an informal and spontaneous manner. During adolescence, the process of political socialization takes on additional complexities as individuals grapple with the interpretation of political developments and prepare themselves for engaging in certain political roles. The responsibility for this part of the situation lies with the peer group. Peer groups serve as a complementary element to the familial socialization process, since they prepare individuals for more specialized political engagement.

**d. Religion:**

The function of religion in political socialization is significant in many countries, especially in emerging theocratic states. During the formative years of their children, parents often accompany them to religious establishments, where they are exposed to the philosophical teachings of the priest, who may espouse his own political ideology. This sentiment is manifested in several ways throughout his lectures and has significant importance.

The impact on the developing cognitive processes of a child's mind is profound, since it is carried forward into subsequent stages of maturation. It is widely acknowledged that in England, the church engaged in a significant struggle with the state in pursuit of dominance. It is noteworthy that in India, religious organizations exhibit distinct political ideologies, hence expecting adherents to align their voting preferences and engage in political endeavors accordingly.

**e. Mass media:**

If In contemporary societies, the media plays a significant part in the political socialization process. Various forms of media, including as radio, television, newspapers, magazines, and social media platforms, serve as sources of information on political events and developments. The influence of the media is felt by individuals of all age groups, regardless of their residence in rural or urban settings. The information disseminated by the media is often received with careful attention, making it difficult to discern its legitimacy throughout the editing process. A regulated media system has the capacity to politically socialize its audience in a certain manner. A free media imparts contrasting ideals.

The tutelage of ideals inside a totalitarian society via the media. Individuals often develop personal preferences and values via activities such as reading newspapers, listening to news broadcasts, and engaging with other perspectives. Lucian W. Pye has aptly said that the use of mass media for socialization purposes is the most effective and pivotal strategy in the short term, particularly in the context of political socialization. The control exerted by totalitarian governments on the media may be attributed to the significant role it plays in the process of political socialization.

**f. Role of Government:**

The role of government in any state encompasses the governance and administration of political ideologies. Even the most steadfast proponents and adherents of a political philosophy may alter their political alignments upon evaluating the efficacy or ineffectiveness of policies implemented domestically and internationally by their own political party. One significant factor that motivates politically aware individuals to disaffiliate from their previous political parties is their decision to either join an established party or establish a new party. The performance of the government has a significant role in shaping political socialization among enlightened and developed nations.

**g. Political Parties:**

Political parties play a significant role in political socialization, exerting influence in both democratic and totalitarian nations. Political parties serve as the primary entities responsible for aggregating interests and facilitating political communication. The Communist party assumes



a significant role inside a socialist state by actively engaging in the political socialization of children from an early age. In democratic nations, regardless of whether they have a two-party or multi-party system, each political party endeavors to shape the behavior of the public according to its preferred mode of political participation within the state. The perspectives of individuals are likely to undergo transformation to a certain degree in response to the engagement of political parties.

#### **h. Work or Employment Situation-**

The work or job situation, including the workplace and kind of employment, has also been a factor to examine in the process of political socialization. Upon the completion of one's education, individuals strive to establish themselves in their personal and professional lives. The individual's perception of political institutions and structures is influenced by the level of ease or difficulty they encounter in securing employment opportunities. The individual's emotional response towards the system is contingent upon the development of either affection or animosity. Furthermore, the nature of one's employment and the individuals with whom they collaborate, including their political ideology and cognitive abilities, as well as the extent to which they are able to engage in political discourse with their colleagues, the behavior of their employer, and the degree to which they are involved in the decision-making process, all contribute to the process of political socialization. In addition to these factors, political views may be influenced by engagement in labor unions, participation in collective bargaining processes, involvement in demonstrations, and similar activities.

#### **i. Social institutions-**

In multi-racial and multi-caste communities, social organizations often engage in political efforts to exert influence over their respective members. In the Indian context, it is seen that many castes strive to exert political dominance across different regions.

### **3.4 The Functions and Significance of Political Socialization**

- a) The study examines the evolution of political culture throughout several generations. In steady settings, this function has significant importance. However, due to the prevailing turbulence in the political sphere, the process



of political socialization fails to effectively maintain the preservation of political culture.

- b) The alteration of political culture is a significant outcome of the process of political socialization. The clarity of this element is seen via its associations with the concept of transformation.
- c) The development of a political culture is a necessary component in the building of a new political system within any given civilization. The aforementioned function is executed via the mechanism of political socialization.
- d) Continuity and Change: The concept of continuity and change. Change and alteration are inherent and enduring characteristics of the subject matter. The presence of change and alteration is a consistent characteristic within it. Nevertheless, this modification also has
- e) The concept of stability is of significant importance in various academic disciplines. The speed of this procedure might vary, ranging from rapid to sluggish. The outcome is evident in the given context.
- f) The political domain may be seen through the lens of either rapid or gradual political socialization. The present document is
- g) Moreover, it has the capacity to exert influence on the state's policy decisions. In some states, the government demonstrates a strong commitment to pursuing this objective, but in other states, such efforts are not as apparent.

They are always promoting their own interests. Conversely, in democratic countries, the preservation of traditions is somewhat less challenging. Hence, political socialization may be enforced in accordance with the strictness of the social systems. Political socialization is a field of research that is relatively recent, however it serves crucial purposes for both the political system and people. In some instances, even a totalitarian state has a strong inclination to control the socialization process in order to cultivate favorable sentiments towards itself, regardless of the ethical concerns that may arise from a broader humanistic perspective. a state of flux and undergoing significant transformations. The examination of political socialisation in these contexts is of utmost importance due to its potential to shed light on the dynamics and processes through which individuals in these nations acquire political values, beliefs, and behaviors.

Furthermore, understanding the intricacies of political socialisation in the third world countries can provide valuable insights into the formation and evolution of their political systems, as well as the challenges and opportunities they face in fostering democratic governance and civic engagement.

The phenomenon under discussion exhibits a state of constant flux and transformation, without a clearly defined form at present. The examination and discourse surrounding the significant political matters in developing countries, such as political stability, political progress, and change, may be enhanced via the use of theoretical frameworks such as political culture and political socialization.

#### **Self Assessment Questions**

1. Define Political Socialisation and its features.
2. Examine the Agents of Political Socialisation?
3. Discuss the types of Political Socialisation.

## UNIT- IV

### Lesson 4.1 - Political participation

#### Unit struture

- 4.1 People's Participation
- 4.2 People's Participation in Indian Governance
- 4.3 Gram Sabha
- 4.4 Urban Local Bodies
- 4.5 Apathy
- 4.6 The Factors Contributing to Apathy

#### 4.1 People's Participation – Concept and its Importance

Most simply defined, 'participation' means taking part. In the context of development theories, participation means direct involvement of all those people in the decisionmaking process which is likely to affect their lives. The way participation is defined largely depends upon the context and background in which participation is applied. While the Economic Commission for Latin America (1973) considers contribution by the people to Public Programmes to the complete exclusion of any involvement in the decision making process as participation. Cohen and Uphoff (1977) maintains that participation includes the people's involvement in the entire decision making process. FAO (1982) emphasizes participation in all decision making process but by the People's own Organization and through self organized actions. Paul (1987) introduces the concept of enhancement of well being in terms of values cherished by the communities as being the ultimate objective of participation

Participation can be seen in two extreme forms. It can begin as passive participation where people are told what is going to happen or happened. People are just objects on whom action is thrust. On the other extreme is self mobilisation where people participate by taking initiatives independent of external institutions to change systems. Participation starts from the conception stage up to the delivery of the product and its consumption. The process involves decision making at various stages, independent of any external influence. Participation can be categorized into various stages in which degree of involvement varies. The Typology of Participation are:

- Participation in Information giving
- Participation by Consultation
- Participation by Material Incentives
- Functional Participation
- Interactive Participation
- Self Mobilisation

In the above typology passive participation is at the one end of the spectrum where people are told what to do while on the other end is the self Mobilisation where local people themselves are in total command. As one moves from passive participation to self Mobilisation control of local people & creases and outsiders decreases. According to Zubair Meenai (2008) “The principle of participation is widely recognized as a right in itself. The right to take part in the conduct of public affairs means that every person and all people are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy civil, economic, social and political development.”

The importance of people's participation in governance and development in recent years is highly recognized both by national and international organizations. , According to Joel and Bhore (2003). “The essence ‘of development is nothing but peoples’ participation. There are many components that are involved in development like money, material, resources, technology, human etc. Of all the social factors, human factors are the crucial elements. People are the pivot around whom the entire development processes are supposed to revolve.” The above statement underlines the importance of peoples’ participation in development process. Ever since societies have strived to develop, the methods of development have been widely debated. The early phase of development era emphasized on the Top down approach to development based on trickle down theory. During this phase, the emphasis was on planning at the top with focus on achieving higher growth rate. This approach was based on the premise that centralized planning ensures higher growth which automatically trickles down to grass root level. “ Until 1950s and 1960s - modernisation theories had been so pervasive that it was almost impossible to separate modernisation from development linked to capitalism and economic growth (Zubair Meenai, 2008).

However, the experience gained during this time reflected that these development strategies were losing battle against the poverty and hunger. Even a higher growth ‘ rate could not ensure equitable growth and

disparities in development levels continued to either remain or get wider and wider. Participation as a concept and a strategy of development is an outcome of the profound disillusionment with the established development strategy in post Industrial Revolution period. The experiences of the fifties and sixties have demonstrated the fundamental weakness of the Top down, GNP focused, growth centered strategy of development based on professional expertise and modernized technologies. The development strategy followed during this period emphasized economic growth and industrialization in the context of increasingly centralized planning and control over the distribution of resources (Joel and Bhore, 2003).

The origin of participatory approach to development is based on the failure of the growth centered approach to achieve all around development. This phenomenon was observed across the countries and international agencies like UN, UNDP, ADB, FAO, hotly debated the feasibility of this model. Gunnar Myrdal, the Noble Prize winning Economist in the late 1960s urged governments to plan their economies actively, adopt social policies that enhanced people's welfare and take steps to redistribute income and wealth. This led to the publication of a major policy document from the UN (1971), 'Social Policy and The shift in focus of development strategy from growth centered to people centered has necessitated planning from grass root level involving all the stake holders in the process. According to Joel and Bhore (2003) "People must be at the centre of human development. Development to be woven around people not people around development". David C Korten has articulated such concept of people's involvement as "People Centered Development". People are the primary subject 'matter in people centered development". It is now said that development is no longer a favour or a privilege to the people. It has to revolve around them. They cannot be treated as mute observer or objects or passive receivers as they are powerless and un-endowed. They are supposed to be prime movers of development at any given point of time. FAO, while emphasizing the role of people's participation in governance and development, has listed various ways by which people's participation can be strengthened. Participation by information - a unilateral means of providing information

### **Participation as a process -**

If seen as a process in development Programme, there is involvement of local people in implementation of externally designed initiative. There is collaboration along with external agency and local population

whereby externally designed development activities are implemented in a participatory manner. Thus, participation is a means or instrument to implement a programme to achieve desired goals. **Participation as an end** - Participation as a goal of a policy initiative entails empowering people in terms of their acquiring skills, knowledge and experience to take greater responsibility for their development. People are provided access to power and resources to create opportunities which are self-sustaining.

**Bastain (1997)** sketches four different thematic variations in the concept of participation. First, participation is employed as a simple means of getting unpaid labour from the people. It serves the purpose of creating a sense of belonging among the public about the public utilities created. Second, participation is interpreted as an attempt to provide self-reliance. Third, participation approach is resorted to as a technique to create ideal villages. Finally, participation is resorted to as a method of Project Management. **People's Participation in - Governance and Development.**

#### **4.2 People's Participation in Indian Governance**

India has had a long history of local governance. The concept of village as a self-sufficient unit and existence of Panchayats at village level have existed since ancient times. Panchayats were institutions of local people for governance and resolutions of disputes at local level. Despite having no codified laws for functioning of Panchayats, they existed as potent institutions to maintain law and order, stability and utilization of local resources for common good of the community. Panchayats were democratic means of involving people in decision making, using local resources and talent to manage all affairs of the society. Panchayats were least dependent on external agencies and were the best examples of local governance through democratic participation. In modern India, the concept of participatory development had been experimented much before it took shape in the development discourse. The first such attempt of structural participation of people in development was through Community Development Programme in 1952 as a Programme of aided self-help. This Programme intended to be planned and implemented by the villagers themselves, government offering technical and financial assistance. The community development Programme failed miserably because of lack of political patronage as well as bureaucratic lethargy. The country in its endeavours to fast-track growth, focused on growth, cantered approach through centralized planning. There was no political priority

to decentralize the governance system. This happened despite the fact that the Constitution of India had recognized Panchayat bodies as units of Self Government drawing its inspiration from the historical legacy of Panchayat Systems of Indian villages.

The importance of people's role in overall development framework was well enshrined in the Indian Constitution although in the Directives Principles of state Policy, Article 40 of the Constitution reads as "Organization of village Panchayats: The State shall take steps to organize Village Panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of Self Government." However, the non-obligatory nature of its reference in the Constitution resulted into complete exclusion of Panchayat System from policy priority. From independence up to 73<sup>d</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution of India several efforts were made towards decentralization emphasizing the role of participatory governance at grass root level. Some of the salient steps were:

**Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957):** this Committee was set up to study the problems and suggest ways and means for implementing the scheme of Panchayati Raj on some uniform line throughout the country.

**Ashok Mehta Committee (1977):** to suggest measures to revitalize *panchayati raj* institutions (PRIs).

**H.Hanumantha Rao Committee (1984):** to suggest the methodology for district level planning. -

**G.V.K.Rao Committee (1985):** to study the administrative arrangements for rural development programmes and poverty alleviations schemes.

**L.M Shianghvi Committee (1987):** to examine the functioning of PRIs, recommended reorganizations of villages for creating viable Gram Panchayats. **64th Constitutional Amendment Bill (1989):** to set up *panchayats* in every state, but could not be passed in Rajya Sabha.

**73rd Constitutional Amendment(1992):** A Constitutional obligation to set up Panchayats in states, hold elections with provisions for reservations and devolve powers, administrative and financial to Panchayati Raj Institutions for grass root participation of people in planning and development process.



Since independence, India has experimented with its policies partially on the lines of its own history and partially going by the global trends of the times. The periods of 1950s-1980s were periods of Centralized governance systems even internationally with growth centered top down approach to development. India while giving token value to its own history in self governance, borrowed the concept of centralized planning with top down approach. GDP growth was the prime mover of the policy presuming it will take care of redistributive part.

The international failure of growth centered approach excluding the masses was almost replicated in India also. India had multi dimensional issues to address on development front like poverty, hunger, illiteracy, extreme inequalities, and rural urban divide. Fortunately, the importance of all round development with active people's participation was realized sooner than later. The emphasis shifted from 'top down' to 'bottom up approach' meaning thereby transfer of planning, decision making and delegations of administrative authority from the Central and State Government to Local Administration units of Government.

The following quotes describes its importance "it was increasingly realized that democracy could play an important role in promoting development, eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life, which makes strengthening of local democracy an end to itself. Thus efforts to institutionalize the participation of citizens in decision making, development planning and management by giving more powers and resources to the grass root level was aimed to be brought about by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts(1993). These Constitutional Amendments, the 73rd pertaining to rural local government

and 74<sup>th</sup> for urban local government have given a shot in the areas. These actions fully guarantee the vital role of people in harnessing their own talents and govern their own resources for their own development, State or any external agency being a nominal facilitator in the process. The 73rd Amendment, which is a watershed in the sphere of rural governance has an attached Eleventh Schedule to the Indian Constitution which covers 29 functional areas ranging from agriculture, land reforms, forestry, small industries, drinking water, rural electrification poverty alleviation, education, development of women and children, etc. Local Government, be it rural or urban, is essentially a manifestation of popular participation in the process of governance at the grass roots level.



All political power in democracy comes from people. Access to political power is critical for economic and social empowerment. Central, therefore, to governance is empowerment of people by increasing their control over governance. Till the 73rd Amendment there were few structural institutions of governance at local level. People were largely excluded from the development process. A policy shift towards decentralization of political power took place in India through the 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution of India. This was an outcome of growing concern about increasing inefficiency and costs of delivery systems of development programme.

### 4.3 Gram Sabha and Peoples Participation

Right from the Gandhian Economics of the grass roots and Schurnacher's 'Small is beautiful' much has been written and said about taking economic development to the rural areas and with it, the smallest unit of the Indian democratic set up, the village. The dream of such visionaries was realized in modern India through the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution which provided for creation of three tier structure of Panchayats. The creation of this system was made constitutional obligations on all states leaving no discretion with them. Thus democracy began to flow from lowest level of society and development became people centric. The setting up of Gram Sabha at village level has strengthened the people's direct involvement in their affairs. The Gram Sabha has been set up in each village consisting of all members of the village who are eligible to vote in elections. According to Article 243(b) a Gram Sabha consists of all persons registered as voters in the electoral roll. Gram Sabha is empowered to look after all the developmental issues of village and has a binding duty to discuss them in meetings to obtain consensus of its members. Gram Sabha is recognized as the assembly of Panchayati Raj.

#### i) Composition of Gram Sabha:

There will be at least two meetings of Gram Sabha every year, one in the first and the other in the last quarter of the financial year. Gram Sabha can also meet on the written request of one tenth of its members, or if required by Panchayat Samiti, Zila Parishad or the State Government. Participation of people in meeting is ensured by Panchayat by placing before the Gram Sabha - (in first quarter).

In the first meeting of the Gram Sabha generally following issues are discussed.

- 1) Annual Statement of Accounts
- 2) Report on the Administration of the preceding financial year
- 3) The development and other programmes proposed for the financial year
- 4) Last Audit Report -

In the meeting held in the last quarter of the year generally following issues are ; discussed.

- a) Statement of Expenditure incurred during the year
- b) Physical and Financial programmes taken during the year.
- c) Proposals for any changes in the Programme
- d) Budget of the Panchayat and tax proposals of the Panchayat.

Besides above any other matter referred by Panchayat, ~anchzt~Saatm iti, Zila Ppishad, the State Government is also taken up by Gram Sabha.

**ii) ' Quorum:** The quorum for a meeting of the Gram Sabha shall be one tenth of the total members out of which at least 40 per cent should be women.

**iii) Presiding Officer:** The meeting of the Gram Panchayat shall be convened and presided by the Sarpanch of the Panchayat or, in his absence, by the Upsarpanch of such Panchayat.

**iv) Functions of Gram Sabha:**

- To consider and approve the annual plan prepared by the Gram Panchayat. To generate proposal and determine the priority of all schemes and development programmes.
- To identify and select individuals for beneficiary oriented programmes.
- To disseminate information on development and welfare schemes.
- To assist Gram Panchayat in collection and compilation of details about the village for development plans.
- To collect information about functioning of Gram Panchayat and share in Gram Sabha.
- To generate awareness among people about programmes and schemes for development.
- In addition to above Gram Sabha discharges almost all functions which are required in the village for the development including persuading members to pay taxes and loan repayment.

**v) Constraints in functioning of Gram Sabha:**

- Lack of awareness, lack of attendance, domination of forward caste.
- Lack of awareness about legal provisions of Gram Sabha.
- Poor people feel that their issues are not taken up.

The above structure of Gram Sabha incorporates all members of the community. The decisions are collective in nature and rely on utilization of resources for the benefit of the society. Meetings of the Gram Sabha are convened to ensure the development of the people through their participation and mutual cooperation. The attendance ratio of people in Gram Sabha meetings is the best indicator of peoples' participation in planning and development.

**vi) To promote effective participation in Gram Sabha the following positive actions are needed to be taken:**

- Creation of objective conditions in the society
- Democracy cannot succeed with inequality and poverty.
- Effective role of political parties in educating and mobilizing people for Gram Sabha.
- Panchayat leadership to be more democratic and open to criticism.
- Freedom of speech to be ensured.
- Information dissemination of positive works of Gram Sabha and Panchayat to be highlighted.
- Government agencies to be responsive to people.
- Advice and decisions of the Gram Sabha to be binding on the Gram Panchayat.
- State to ensure penal action for not holding Gram Sabha meetings.
- Motivate members for meaningful participation and effective role in Gram Sabha.

**Ward Sabha and People's Participation Ward System in**

**4.4 Urban Local Bodies**

'The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, provided for creation of Urban Local Bodies for wider participation of people in development of urban areas. The background for this was weak and ineffective local bodies due to failure to hold regular elections, prolonged supersession

and inadequate devolutions of powers and functions. Urban Local Bodies were not acting as vibrant democratic institutions of self governance with active peoples' participation. The Constitutional Amendment created viable municipal bodies in urban areas which represented the people of the municipality. Municipalities were to have

M7ards within their territorial jurisdictions. However, the Ward Committees and Municipalities have not been adequately developed into the institutions of people's participation. Urban decentralisation has not matured to the extent it is done in rural areas. Our cities and towns do not have bottom up structures that create more proximity between the citizen and their urban local government. People's participation is at the heart of democracy. The absence of people has several adverse consequences on the functioning and accountability of those managing these institutions.

### **Ward Sabha in Panchayati Structure**

In some states a village panchayat consists of 'Wards' and each Ward has a Ward Sabha. The Ward Sabha in Gram Panchayat have been more effective instruments of airing popular views and opinion at decision making level.

#### **i) Composition of Ward Sabha**

The Ward Sabha comprises of all adult persons of the ward in the panchayat circle. The members of the ward elected through direct election, a paneh as head of this ward who represents the people of the ward in all Gram panchayat meetings.

#### **ii) quorum**

The cporum for the meeting of a ward sabha shall not be less than one tenth of the total members in the **ward** sabha or twenty members whichever is less. To ensure wider participation of all sections of the society, not less than thirty percent of the voters attending the **ward** sabha shall be women. The persons belonging to SCJ ST shall be represented in proportion of their population in the **ward** sabha.

### **Functions and Powers of Ward Sabha**

- To generate proposals and determine the priority of schemes and development programs in the area of ward sabha and forward the same to the Gram Sabha or Gram Panchayat for inclusion in the development plan. · To identify eligible persons for beneficiary oriented schemes.

- To verify the eligibility of persons getting various welfare assistance from Government.
- To collect information about services, plans and decisions taken in Gram Panchayat concerning the ward.
- To mobilise voluntary action for public goods and services.
- To ensure that members of Ward Sabha pay taxes and repay loans.
- To suggest location of public services like street light, toilets, public wells, etc.
- To impart awareness on matters of public interest such as environment, sanitation, pollution.
- Ward Sabha also takes up any other issues which concerns the members of the ward and raises it at Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat level for resolving the problems. Ward Sabha has been effective channel for people to directly participate in managing their development needs.

#### **Meetings of Ward Sabha . -**

Subject to orders of the Government ward sabha meets at least once in six month. Constraints Ward Sabha is a viable mechanism for active participation of all section of people at the very root of the society. However, there are limitations which can thwart people's role in governance

- Lack of education among majority in rural areas.
- Lack of awareness among weaker sections.
- Lack of knowledge among panches and Sarpanches about provisions of ward sabha.
- Domination of rich and elite in decision making.
- Exclusion of women and other weaker sections from ward sabha meetings.

#### **Inclusive Participation**

The right, to participate is linked to right to inclusion and right to obligations, through which poor people may expect to hold governments more accountable and responsive. It is essential that civil society and government must work together to make sure that participatory local governance programmes are inclusive and equitable in order to correct power imbalances that exist at local level. For inclusive governance, the existence of diversity and differences has to be recognised. The salient features of inclusive participation are-

- Team work and collaboration.
- Individual and group activity.
- Action and ownership.
- Reflection and learning.

It has been observed that due to wide disparities in economic, social and political status of people in India, many individuals or sometimes the whole section are excluded from development because of their gender, ethnicity, disability or poverty. The effect of such exclusion is huge deepening the already existing inequalities.

Development must encompass the whole spectrum of the society so that all stakeholders in the outcome of development have participation and say in the process. Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha Panchayat institutions would become vital instruments for inclusive participation if their potential is properly harnessed. These institutions have inbuilt mechanism to include all sections of society in all decision making and development process. It ensures optimum utilisation of local resources including human resources for capacity building of local population. The legal provisions of Panchayat Act ensure compulsory participation of women, SCIST and other weaker sections. Inclusive participation is to be at the centre of achieving equitable development, where in the hits of the process of development are consumed at all levels. The mere inclusion of all ensures its correct path and optimization of resources. The effect of not harnessing the great potential of women as human resource has been felt all around.

Political participation refers to the active involvement of individuals in the political processes and activities of a society. It encompasses a wide range of actions. Political engagement is an important component of every political system. In any civilization, political power is concentrated in the hands of a select few individuals. However, it is observed that those who have political authority in every given system are inclined towards facilitating a certain degree of political engagement among the populace. The rationale for this phenomenon is readily comprehensible. Political participation plays a crucial role in promoting stability and order within a state by bolstering the legitimacy of political institutions via the inclusion of a diverse range of individuals.

The concept of authority is a significant aspect within academic discourse. In a democratic system, participation serves as the primary mechanism via which consent is given or revoked, therefore holding those in power responsible to the governed.

Verba (year) defines political participation as the lawful actions undertaken by individuals in order to exert influence on the process of government selection, as well as the decisions and actions taken by government officials. According to Huntington, political participation refers to the engagement of private citizens in activities aimed at influencing the decision-making processes of governments. Political involvement is a fundamental component of a democratic political system. The level of participation in the political process and political institutions is indicative of the overall health of the system. Enhanced levels of engagement contribute to the bolstering of legitimacy in governmental actions, fostering political stability, and fostering reverence for authorities.

Political involvement refers to a range of voluntary actions that impact the political process, including activities such as the choosing of leaders and other elements of public policy formation. These actions are considered to be .Participating in the regular transmission of political viewpoints via interpersonal contact with other members of the public.

Lester W. Milbrath categorizes these activities into the following three distinct groups. Spectator activities refer to events or occasions when individuals observe and engage in passive participation, often as an audience, rather than actively. Gladiators symbolize a select group of politically engaged individuals who actively participate in various party-related activities, such as assuming party leadership positions, contesting elections as party nominees, soliciting party funds, attending party gatherings, and participating in party campaigns.

Transitional activities encompass various forms of engagement, such as attending party meetings in the capacity of party supporters, sympathizers, or impartial yet attentive listeners. Additionally, individuals may contribute to party funds and establish connections with public officials or party personnel. On the other hand, spectator activities involve actions like voting, exerting influence on others to vote in a specific manner, participating in political discussions, exposing oneself to political stimuli, and displaying badges or stickers as a means of political expression. The majority of individuals fall inside this particular group. Political engagement may be categorized based on its purpose, namely as instrumental and expressive. Instrumental political participation is primarily focused on attaining tangible objectives, such as ensuring party success or the enactment of legislation within the legislature. In contrast, Expressive Political Participation does not seek to achieve specific



objectives, but rather focuses on the instant gratification or emotional release it provides. Therefore, certain individuals cast their votes not only driven by a genuine interest in the political outcomes derived from the elections or any personal pecuniary benefits, but rather due to a sense of gratification derived from the act of exercising their right to vote. In practical implementation, it is common for instrumental involvement to get intertwined with expressive engagement. Political mobilization refers to the deliberate efforts made by various players to exert influence on the prevailing distribution of power and resources within a given political context.

The concept being discussed is that of power. In order to enhance the precision in defining the nature of the interaction that emerges between persons and parties, a directional variable is included.

#### **4.5 Apathy:**

Apathy refers to a state of indifference or lack of interest towards a particular subject, Milbrath's taxonomy suggests that political engagement may be broadly categorized into two main types: active and passive. The individuals referred to as "formers" are those who actively engage in various political activities. On the contrary, passive participants might be categorized as either onlookers or sympathizers. The aforementioned difference is an inherent consequence of the prevalent reality that political engagement within any given community incurs a cost in terms of temporal, physical, and material resources. Not all individuals possess identical abilities or even individuals who are prepared to incur these expenses may not necessarily be direct and active members in all societies. This phenomenon is sometimes referred to as apathy in political engagement.

Political apathy refers to a state of indifference, lack of interest, or disengagement from the political process. A poll done in the United States found that 3% of individuals assume the position of gladiators, 7% fall into the transitional group, and the majority, 60%, assume the role of spectators. Approximately 30% of the American population has been identified as exhibiting apathetic tendencies. Within the context of a democratic society, it is common to encounter two distinct categories of individuals who display apathy. Some individuals refrain from engaging in political activities due to a combination of factors, including little knowledge and interest in the political sphere, resulting in political apathy and an inability to participate. Additionally, a lack of opportunities to engage in political



processes further contributes to their non-participation. The purposeful kind of political indifference is the second category. There are a subset of individuals who choose to abstain from political participation.

#### **4.6 The Factors Contributing to Apathy**

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of climate change on biodiversity in a tropical The lack of political engagement in a person may stem from the perception that they are unable to effect meaningful change within the current societal framework.

Engaging in political activities may provide comparatively lower levels of personal satisfaction when compared to several other forms of human endeavors. Political engagement often relies on two key factors: psychological and social. An individual's inclination towards indifference in political participation may be influenced if they find themselves in a situation where they are strangely detached or unengaged. This phenomenon may also arise due to an individual's excessive contentment with the effectiveness and efficiency of the political system to which they belong.

Political apathy may sometimes be fostered by the perpetuation of ideological stereotypes. In the context of India, the Naxalites made a request to the populace to refrain from participating in the electoral process. As previously said, political engagement is a multifaceted phenomenon that defies simplistic explanation. The extent of variation in societal norms is contingent upon factors such as geographical location, historical period, and the distinct social groups within a given community. Political involvement is a complex phenomenon influenced by several circumstances. These variables may be broadly categorized as follows: Social phenomena refer to the observable patterns and behaviors that occur within a society or a group of Political participation, in fact, fulfils an individual's psychological requirements.

The individual's endeavour to surmount their state of solitude. Men engage in political participation due to a strong aversion to social isolation and a need for social affiliation. Individuals may sometimes engage in political activities as a means of alleviating their own psychological concerns. Political involvement has the potential to mitigate these tensions via two mechanisms: firstly, by diverting the individual's attention away from their internal conflicts, and secondly, by offering effective outlets for expression and engagement. The social environment of a person

encompasses several aspects that significantly influence the character and degree of their political engagement. Among these characteristics, education, occupation, wealth, sex, age, residence, mobility, religion, race, and group influence are considered to be of utmost importance. The political landscape also has an impact on levels of political engagement. If the geographical expanse of a nation is extensive, and the mechanisms of political communication are not functioning effectively, and if government institutions are entangled in inflexible and intricate regulations, individuals are prone to experience a sense of detachment that significantly hampers their level of political engagement. The greater the degree of rivalry for power within a community, the higher the likelihood of increased involvement. Increased participation in elections may be seen when the election processes are simplified. The presence of excessive faith in the government's capabilities might sometimes foster a perception among individuals that their involvement is not really important, since the government is expected to continue generating commendable outcomes even in the absence of their engagement. Occasionally, international crises have the potential to intensify.

The inclination to engage in an activity, whether it be an increase or decrease. Political parties fulfil a variety of crucial roles that facilitate citizen engagement in political processes. Party campaigns have a significant role in influencing levels of political engagement.

### **Self Assessment Questions**

1. Explain the meaning and concepts of people's participation.
2. Discuss the importance of local Self Governance, people's participation in development.
3. Comprehend the role of Grass root institutions like Panchayati Raj Institutions, Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha.
4. How Gram Sabha controls the resource utilisation in its geographical jurisdiction? Is it a true representative of all sections of society?
5. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act has led to true empowerment of people at grass root level by giving equal opportunity to all in development. Comment.
6. How Gram Sabha controls the resource utilisation in its geographical jurisdiction? Is it a true representative of all sections of society?
7. What is Political Apathy?

**UNIT-V**

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**Lesson 5.1 - Political Power: Concept of Elites and Masses, Leadership**

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**Unit structure**

- 5.1 Power
- 5.2 Forms of Power
- 5.3 Bases of Power:
- 5.4 Different Viewpoints on the Concept of Power:
- 5.5 Elite Theory
  - 5.5.1 Meaning
  - 5.5.2 The Attributes of Political Elites
  - 5.5.3 Types of Elites
  - 5.5.4 Prominent Theorists on Elitism
  - 5.5.5 Organisational Approach
- 5.6 Elites Versus Masses

**5.1 Concept of Power****Introduction**

In colloquial parlance, power is often conceptualized as the possession of ability, strength, or capacity. In the realm of social and political philosophy, power is often understood as the capacity or capability to perform actions or exert influence, and the ability to generate outcomes within the context of social interaction. In this context, power Altruism is a kind of conduct that is uniquely derived from the presence of social interactions. The topic of interest is to the study of interpersonal connections and structured communal engagements. In academic discourse, power is often conceptualized as wherein one person has control or power over another, is a common aspect of human interaction.

In the context of this discussion, the term “mind control” refers to the ability of a person or a collective entity to exert influence over the cognitive processes and mental states of another. The behaviours shown by those outside oneself. Power is a fundamental social notion that encompasses several dimensions and manifestations. meanings and considerable disagreement surrounding them. social relationship will be in a position to carry out their own will despite resistance, regardless of the basis on which this likelihood rests.’

Individuals inside social relationships has the capacity to exercise their own will in the face of opposition. Irrespective of the foundation upon which this possibility is based. Put otherwise, it might be stated that it is the The capacity to exert influence on others, occurrences, or assets; to bring about desired outcomes. Occur notwithstanding the presence of impediments, opposition, or resistance. In addition, the author proceeds to articulate several viewpoints.

Power may originate from social ties in several settings, including the drawing room and the public sphere. The market, whether seen from the lectern of a lecture hall or the command post of a regiment, from a romantic or philanthropic connection, as well as from academic discourse or The topic of discussion is athletics. student) relationships. The connection being discussed is also one that is taught. Thus, according to his perspective, power may be defined as the opportunity or likelihood for an individual or a group to exert influence or control. The capacity of individuals to collectively exercise their agency, even in opposition to prevailing norms or circumstances, is contingent upon the participation of a certain quantity of male individuals.

The resistance shown by other individuals who are engaging in the activity. According to Dowse and Hughes, politics revolves on the concept of power. The phenomenon of politics takes place. When power differentials are present, it signifies the existence of political dynamics. Thus, power is an intrinsic and essential component of human interactions, constituting a significant facet of social relationships.

The attributes and qualities associated with power Power, as defined by its ability to influence the behavior of others, has distinct aspects and attributes. The phenomenon in question is inherently immeasurable due to its often-covert nature. While legal penalties may exist to support the exercise of power, it is often accompanied by extra-legal consequences.

In this study, we aim to investigate the effects of a particular drug on the human body. Political power is not inherently absolute, but rather it is contingent upon and influenced by several factors, making it a relative concept. The concept is relative in nature, since it is dependent on many factors and perspectives.

It has the potential to be used in conjunction with a specific entity. In essence, it is imperative that individuals exist who possess the capacity to demonstrate reverence for authority. If there is no one to comply with it, the existence of authority becomes inconsequential.

Another characteristic of political power is its inability to be purely hypothetical or fictitious. Irrelevant to the given circumstances. Political power is bestowed onto the privileged few, namely the elites or lawmakers, with the expectation that they would fulfil the unfulfilled desires and ambitions of the populace. In each societal context, individuals possess certain aspirations that they see can only be fulfilled by a select few who are granted authority. The extension and acceptance of power are driven by the need for a prompt and adequate fulfillment of these ambitions.

The concept of power is intricately linked to both situational factors and one's position within a given context. The concept of power is a fundamental aspect in several academic disciplines and is often explored in the context of social, political, and organizational dynamics. Power may be seen as the. An individual occupying a certain job may encounter obstacles that might impede their acceptance. However, it is possible that the same may not be deemed acceptable under altered conditions. Even in the absence of changing circumstances, the acceptance of a person's viewpoint persists as long as both the circumstances and the position remain unchanged.

Power is also linked with use. Although power may exist, it will not have any impact. The significance of anything is only realized when it is used correctly. In essence, electricity will deteriorate if it is unused. Both the President of India and the President of the United States has constitutional powers. Indeed, from a legal perspective, the aforementioned individual does not exercise the aforementioned rights, and there is a lack of concern over his legal and constitutional authority. Conversely, the capabilities of the latter are consistently and meticulously examined on a global scale due to their practical use.

## 5.2 Forms of Power

The many manifestations of power According to Marx, economic power serves as the fundamental foundation for other forms of power, including The concept of political power refers to the ability of individuals or groups to exert influence and control over the decision-making processes and outcomes within The foundation of this concept is rooted on an impartial correlation with the various ways of. The concept of production refers to the state of a group within the labor market and the opportunities available to them. The subject matter at hand pertains to the field of economics.

## 5.3 Bases of Power:

Power may be defined as the quantification of one's capacity to exert control over events based on their inherent authority or influence. The concept of material advantage refers to the benefits or gains that may be obtained via the possession or use of physical resources or assets. The aforementioned factors include informal communal consensus, familial status, notions of honor, prestige, as well as spending habits and lifestyles. Weber's scholarship highlights the significance of social power, which often supersedes economic objectives. In the realm of contemporary sociology, social status has garnered significant attention, to the extent that it seems that the significance of political power has sometimes been undervalued. The aforementioned factors are predicated on the interplay between the legislative framework, partisan alignment, and the presence of a complex administrative apparatus. The institutionalization of political power is shown via the establishment of extensive government bureaucracies. A prevailing notion that has endured is the assertion that these entities are under the influence of elites, namely exclusive and privileged factions. Political power encompasses the actions and influence exerted by governments, extending beyond the confines of national borders. The networks of political power have the potential to extend beyond national borders and include a global scale. Political power encompasses the authority to levy taxes and allocate resources to the populace.

The concept of power bases is a fundamental aspect in the field of social psychology and organizational behavior. Power bases refer to the sources or foundations from which individuals get their influence and Power might potentially have several foundations that vary across different cultures and societies. Moreover, the transition from one political framework to

another is also a significant aspect to consider. Within a given cultural context, several aspects

In the context of power dynamics, several factors such as income, the ability to wield tools of violence, proficiency, religious beliefs, allegiance, and established patterns of behavior play significant roles.

The combination of indifference, interest, and power pertaining to a certain topic area may often establish a solid foundation. In order to broaden the scope of influence to other areas of concern. The power base, in conjunction with The capacity to use this power encompasses the potential for exerting power. Furthermore, there must exist a will or inclination on the side of the actor that seeks to exert influence and control over the activities of others. Other individuals. Power manifests itself when the capacity for power is coupled with will. To influence the behavior of others.

In every culture, individuals have a proclivity to expand their influence.

The scope The degree of success in power-seeking endeavors is contingent upon the level of competence possessed. Furthermore, the acquisition of power by individuals will be examined. Once power is obtained, the one who has it The individual endeavors to acquire more power due to the inherent worth and use of power. The concept of power is a fundamental aspect of social and political dynamics. It refers to the Once obtained, it may be used to accomplish a range of objectives such as attaining recognition and admiration.

Security, respect, love, prosperity, and several other qualities are considered significant in various contexts. The individual, who has obtained Those in positions of power will inevitably want to expand their authority. The pursuit of further authority by a single entity The legitimacy of a holder may be verified by comparative analysis conducted by other individuals or entities in positions of authority.

The concept of power is Overwhelmed by others who possess more authority. Therefore, the use of power is constrained by its own limitations. a complex and multifaceted concept that has been extensively studied in several academic disciplines. It is often defined as the ability to influence or control others, and it plays a Additionally, there are constraints imposed by several additional circumstances. Occasionally, an actor may have a proclivity for acquiring other abilities. capabilities and limitations, both physical and psychological.



Individuals' own social actions. In his seminal work "Modern Political Analysis," Robert A. Dahl examines four distinct Methods for identifying power dynamics within a certain context. First and foremost, one may attempt to quantify power by establishing a necessary connection to a position of authority. In this context, The underlying premise is that power is only exercised within the confines of established official positions. However, The emphasis on a formal office setting may often be insufficient in comprehending the essence and magnitude of a given situation. Power, in several instances, does not persist just inside official positions of authority, but rather, The office bearer is able to exert influence over external factors that surpass their own capabilities. When observing from a far location. The second method for identifying power is placing reliance on well-established indicators. The individuals assigned to the role of judges are responsible for documenting both the observations and impressions made by others.

Individuals who have had the privilege of maintaining frequent communication with the former office The term "holder" refers to an individual or entity that possesses or owns something. One approach to identifying Power is to focus on tangible decision-making processes. The process of creation. This methodology investigates the characteristics and extent of individuals' Engagement in the tangible process of decision making. The fourth technique involves. Evaluate the contributions of various players in the decision-making process and subsequent outcomes. After conducting a thorough comparison, a discerning assessment may be made on the essence and magnitude of power. These aforementioned actions. In any circumstance, while monitoring a power dynamic, it is essential to maintain a vigilant stance.

When considering the concept of political power, it is important to take into account three key aspects: power-weight, scope, and domain. The concept of power weight refers to the extent of involvement in the decision-making process.

The term "scope" pertains to the range of values that are involved, whereas the concept of "domain of power" specifically pertains to the pagans. Over whom authority is exerted. What, therefore, are the observable indicators of power dynamics?

According to the scholarly work of Robert Dahl, it is posited that an individual, denoted as A, has power over another individual, denoted as B,



inasmuch as A is capable of influencing B to engage in a certain action that B would not have undertaken otherwise. The primary emphasis lies not on the acts and intentions of the individual in authority, i.e. the actor exercising power, but on the enquiry as to whether the power addressee i.e. The actor upon whom power is exerted engages in actions that are contrary to their own intentions. The existence of a power relation is contingent upon the presence of resistance. Dahl articulates his perspective in this manner because to his belief in the significance of sanctions as key elements of power. However, a challenge occurs when the recipient of power does not concur with the instructions provided by the one in a position of authority.

Goldhamer and Shins have effectively addressed the issue of power in their work titled "Types of Power and Status." According to their perspective, an individual's power may be defined by the amount to which they are able to shape the actions of others in alignment with their own intentions. It is apparent that there exists a noticeable distinction between this particular definition and that proposed by Dahl. Dahl's primary focus is in the power of the addressee, but Goldhamer and Shills place their attention on the power holder and their own intentions. According to Goldhamer and Shills' criteria, it is necessary to first ascertain the intentions of the individual in power. Subsequently, an examination should be conducted to see whether the policies implemented by the recipient of power align with these intentions. If such actions are taken, then the former will be seen as possessing authority over the latter. Therefore, the definition proposed by Goldhamer and Shill seems to be more appealing and captivating.

The influence of Dahl's work is less significant compared to the other author's. Professor A.K. Mukhopadhyay has also identified another issue that arises when the one in a position of authority fails to convey their intentions to the recipient of that power. The outcome is unfavourable since the effectiveness of the power holder's intentions is crucial for the establishment of power dynamics. It is essential that these intentions be effectively conveyed to the intended recipient in order to achieve the desired outcome. Therefore, it is essential that there be a kind of communication or interaction between the one with power and the individual to whom power is directed. The attainment of power for an actor necessitates the presence of both clear intentions and a deliberate effort to effectively convey these intentions via their performance.

Coercion, an essential component of power, encompasses the act of communicating.

#### **5.4 Different Viewpoints on the Concept of Power:**

##### **d) The functionalist perspective:**

The functionalist perspective is a sociological framework that examines society by focusing on the functions and roles of its various institutions and structures.

According to Max Weber, power may be understood as the opportunities available to an individual or a group of individuals to exert their own will within a collective endeavor, even in the face of opposition from other participants in that endeavor. Weber's conceptualization of power suggests that those who possess power do so by exerting control over others, hence resulting in a detriment to the latter. This implies the existence of a finite power supply, resulting in a situation where those who possess power therefore leave others without power. The perspective being referred to is often recognized as the "Constant sum" idea of power. Weber's definition also suggests that those in positions of power are inclined to use that influence in order to further their own interests. Sociologists claim that power is used by individuals or groups to further their own particular interests, often at the expense of others who are subject to that power, so creating a fundamental conflict of interests. Accordingly, power is mostly used by individuals or groups to exploit and oppress certain individuals or groups. In accordance with the functionalist approach, Talcott Parsons critiques the notion of power as a 'constant sum' and the belief that power is exerted in a unidirectional manner. Furtherance of sectional interests. Instead of seeing power as something that Parsons considers the notion of possession as a means by which some individuals maintain their status at the detriment of others. by the whole society.

Accordingly, power may be defined as a broad capacity or set of resources within a certain context. The term "society" is often used to refer to a group of individuals who share common values, norms, and social interactions. Specifically, it is the ability to effectively use the societal resources.

In order to achieve objectives that have garnered a collective commitment from the broad populace, The action was executed. In this context, the quantification of societal power is determined by the extent to which it is manifested. Which group aims are achieved? Therefore, the higher the efficiency of a social system. The power inside a system is

directly proportional to its ability to accomplish the objectives established by its constituents.

The concept of society. This perspective is often referred to as the “variable sum” idea of power due to its theoretical framework. The perception of power within society is not seen as static or unchanging; instead, it is acknowledged as being subject to variation and fluidity. The Marxian perspective refers to the theoretical framework developed by Karl Marx, a prominent 19th-century philosopher and economist. This perspective The Marxian study of power offers a fundamentally different perspective compared to Parsons’.

The functionalist approach is a theoretical perspective that emphasizes the interdependence and functionality of various social institutions and structures in society. The perspective being challenged is the notion that power is a communal asset possessed by individuals within a society.

The concept of trust is fundamental to the functioning of societies, as it is the foundation upon which individuals place their confidence in those who hold positions of authority. This trust is established with the expectation that people in positions of power would act in a manner that benefits the collective welfare of society as a whole.

On the contrary, the concept of power the phenomenon of societal power concentration within a certain group, to the detriment of others, is seen regarding the society. This idea of power may be classified as a ‘Zero-sum’ paradigm due to its focus on net gain in the distribution of power.

The influence exerted by the Want group results in a collective decrease in societal power. The dominant group use its authority to further its own interests. The aforementioned areas of interest Indirect conflicts may arise when the goals of individuals under the influence of a certain entity are not aligned with that entity’s objectives. This perspective diverges significantly from Parsons’ portrayal, whereby regulations and those subject to them are united for the collective welfare of society, devoid of any divisions. The underlying conflict of interests.

#### **e) Marxian Perspective:**

According to a Marxian framework, the primary origins of power within society may be traced back to the underlying economic foundation. In stratified societies, it is a common characteristic for a small group, known as the ruling class, to own and exercise ownership and control over

the means of production. The supremacy of a social system is established on the basis of its connection to the forces of production. Consequently, it may be inferred that the only means of restoring power to people is the collective ownership of the means of production. Given that all individuals would now possess an equal connection to the forces of production, it follows that power will be distributed among all members of society. According to the Marxian worldview, the act of using authority to exploit others is characterized as coercion. The use of power in this manner is seen as illegitimate due to its imposition of circumstances that are contrary to the interests of the subordinate class. The study of the formation of the modern state has been a significant focal point. The study focuses on the intricate and ever-evolving dynamics of power and control. The state has been the historical pre-condition for the development of the modern capitalist enterprise. India, a country located in South Asia, is the subject of discussion. In the era after independence, there was a notable scholarly interest among social scientists. In the context of comprehending Indian culture and tradition, the concept of the “village” has been seen as a significant aspect. A significant place of entrance in recent years, have shown a significant shift in the social dynamics of rural communities.

The measures implemented by the independent state garnered considerable attention. power emerged in Europe during the early modern period. These centres of power were characterized by the consolidation of political authority and the establishment of centralized governments. The formation of nation states led to the emergence of new political institutions that played a crucial role in governing and administering these nations. This period saw a shift from feudalism to a more centralized and bureaucratic system of governance, with monarchs and rulers exerting greater control over their territories. The rise of these new centers of power had significant implications for the political, social, and economic landscape of Europe during this time. The emergence of power resulted in a reciprocal transformation of caste relations within the society.

Following the conclusion of the British colonial era, a series of new social and political phenomena began.

The national leadership undertook initiatives to establish a new direction for the country, leading to a comprehensive undertaking. The start of the modernization process in India brought about significant changes within the Indian political system. The establishment of the

bureaucratic state machinery had place. Therefore, from the perspective of conventional elite ideologies, these instances marked the emergence of the novel concept of a “power elite.” The idea of the “elite” remains inadequately explored within the context of persistent socioeconomic disparities, which is a significant point of contention in social sciences in India. Within the sociological discourse, a plethora of models have been constructed with the aim of comprehensively elucidating the power dynamics inherent in Indian society.

Numerous studies have concentrated on the utilization of Marxist techniques to analyze the inequalities and class distinctions in India. On the other hand, several research have examined the factors underlying dominance and power within the context of caste.

Numerous empirical studies have examined the rise of rural-landed elites following India’s independence, as well as the transformation of political elites from a previous nationalist leadership engaged in anti-colonial efforts. However, there is a scarcity of empirical research focusing on urban elites within the framework of globalization. Although these tools for analyzing power structures are significant, they do not address the formation, historical context, and changes of ‘elite’ structures throughout time. The prevailing approach to conceptualize “political elites” in India has always been on identifying key actors within the “political structure,” mostly including political leaders and high-ranking government officials. Therefore, scholars in the field of social science directed their attention on studying the emergent power dynamics, with a specific focus on conducting empirical inquiries to get insights into the political elite inside rural settings. In his seminal book “Caste, Class and Power” (1969), Andre Beteille employs a Weberian theoretical framework to examine the dynamics of power within the context of caste.

Beteille highlights the fluid nature of power, noting that the power structure within village communities is cantered on the interplay between Brahmins and NonBrahmins. Furthermore, he underscores the role of politics as a means for social mobility within this system. This statement elucidates how the interaction between these axes gives rise to a certain kind of social differentiation. According to Sharma (1976), the rural elite derived their influence from the interconnectedness of land ownership and local caste ties. Numerous empirical studies have shown that with the attainment of independence, the determining factor for power allocation was not just caste domination, but rather the intricate interplay of caste,

class, and political power. The entity known as Congress is evident in the inaugural political framework that furnished India's original political elites during the era of colonial governance and the subsequent postcolonial period. The upper-caste Hindus had a dominant position within this context, including a range of ideological perspectives that spanned from right to left. The dominant power's authority was sometimes contested by communist factions, as well as organizations advocating against untouchability and caste discrimination.

According to the scholarly perspective put forward by M. N. Srinivas in 1959, it is essential to interpret this phenomenon through the lens of caste relations. Therefore, the concept of a "dominant caste" has significance in elucidating both the power dynamics and social stratification, since it primarily encompasses the middle castes that wield substantial numerical, economic, and political influence. In essence, the political elites, mostly hailing from the top and middle castes, had land ownership and enjoyed favorable economic conditions. Following the attainment of independence, this select group transitioned towards engaging in party politics and actively participating in elections for the Lok Sabha and Assembly.

According to Arora's seminal study in 1973, it was shown that those occupying positions within the political cabinet had a notable propensity for possessing a high level of education. Individuals who have obtained advanced degrees from international colleges. Regarding In terms of occupational distribution, the legal profession had a position of dominance, with the exception of Fields such as medicine, education, and engineering, among others. In a manner consistent with their objectives, they advanced and reinforced by transitioning their social capital into the political realm, individuals are able to use their social standing and influence within society.

The concept of political authority refers to the legitimate power and control exercised by a governing body or individual over a certain territory or group of Therefore, the rise of political elites subsequent to achieving independence. The subject matter may be seen from two perspectives: firstly, as individuals occupying prominent positions within the contemporary societal hierarchy, and secondly, as individuals who were integral components of the present

The individuals were chosen following a rigorous examination and scientific training process inside the Indian Administrative Service (IAS),



which is the civil service responsible for the administration system. The second manifestation of this exclusive collective was characterized by the rise of political figures with nationalist ideologies. As previously stated, the 'Congress Party' included the aforementioned new elites who have the authority to exert influence on the trajectory of societal transformation. The "political elite" of post-independence India constituted a privileged group that has the ability to influence both political dynamics and the trajectory of economic advancements. The formation of the elite may be attributed to the convergence of two distinct kinds of social organization, namely political organization and governmental machinery. In a similar vein, the policy provisions established by political elites reflect a notable alignment between these elites and the Indian capitalist class. Consequently, this alignment has influenced the inclusion of legal rights in the constitution and the formulation of regulations pertaining to business conduct. The measures implemented by the state had significant effects on the composition and organization of the elite class.

During the time often referred to as the "green revolution," the implementation of land reforms and the ensuing conflicts over agricultural pricing resulted in a significant transformation of the feudal-landed elite. This transformation led to the emergence of a new elite class comprised of affluent and large-scale farmers (Jodhka, 2006). The aforementioned shift had noteworthy implications for the political landscape of India. Specifically, throughout the period spanning the 1970s and 1980s, this newly formed rural elite successfully organized and rallied a substantial number of farmers, leading to the creation of movements centered around the issue of agricultural prices inside the country. In the northwestern region of Uttar Pradesh, a number of large-scale farmers established collective entities such as the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), which were mostly dominated by influential agricultural Jats. Consequently, this was the emergence of influential individuals from rural regions in India, exemplified by the notable figure of Chaudhary Charan Singh. Prominent figures in the realm of national politics include Mahendra Singh

Tikait, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and several more.

The alterations seen within the rural setting have raised a significant inquiry about the extent to which democracy has bolstered the influence wielded by the landed gentry. Furthermore, the decrease in rural elites may be seen as a manifestation of the evolving dynamics between democracy and pro-business policies implemented by the state,

as well as the shifting power dynamics within urban India. The advent of the contemporary Indian nation-state facilitated the emergence of new channels that served as crucial hubs of authority. Therefore, as previously stated, the rise of political elites following independence has been interpreted through two distinct lenses. Firstly, these elites are viewed as “high officials” who were integrated into the modern administrative structure and were selected based on their performance in exams and specialized training, specifically within the Indian Administrative Service (IAS). Secondly, they are seen as political leaders who emerged from a national movement aimed at challenging colonial rule. In a similar vein, Rudolph and Rudolph (1987) have provided a comprehensive analysis on the establishment of the Indian state.

As to their analysis, this phenomenon also signifies a transition towards a kind of politics characterized by increased emphasis on meeting societal demands, after the previous era of rural elites’ predominance subsequent to the green revolution. The examination of prior scholarly literature pertaining to dominance and power structure reveals that the political framework of India after its independence had a relatively uniform perspective and constitution. However, subsequent to the 1990s, there has been a discernible shift towards diversity. Therefore, the growing divergence within the political framework can be comprehended in light of electoral procedures, the rise of regional political factions, transformations in rural power dynamics due to significant occurrences such as land reforms, the green revolution, and affirmative action policies, as well as the commencement of the globalization process.

In the examination of power structures, researchers often encounter a tendency to get sidetracked by literature focusing on the functions of political parties, their affiliations, and the individuals associated with them. Prominent political scientists have made substantial contributions to the understanding of the Indian power structure within the fields of sociology and anthropology. The authors mentioned are Paul Brass, Francine Frankel, and Rajni Kothari. Numerous scholarly publications have made significant contributions to the comprehension of power dynamics via a sociological lens.

The concept of political domination and social power is a significant area of study in the field of political science and sociology. It pertains to the examination of the mechanisms and dynamics by which individuals



or groups exert control and influence over others within a societal context. The collaborative effort of Frankel and M.S.A. Rao has resulted in the editing of a comprehensive two-volume publication titled "Dominance and State Power." Drawing upon the premise that India is a culture deeply rooted in religious beliefs and practices. According to Frankel, the presence of British colonial control in India provided an opportunity for individuals from the shudra and untouchable castes, who were previously constrained by the hierarchical structure of the religious system, to get access to education. However, the conventional hierarchy has shown to be deeply ingrained and resistant to total displacement. The Backward classes also strive to establish an own identity in relation to the scheduled castes.

According to Frankel, the collective influence of these variables contributes to the understanding of why, despite the increasing economic disparities, regional, religious, caste-based, and tribal affiliations continue to serve as the predominant means through which economic dissatisfaction is expressed.

Mobilizations predicated on caste and religion exhibit notable distinctions due to the distinct cohorts of individuals being mobilized in each scenario. There is no distinct separation or clear categorization of individuals into religion or caste divisions. One example of a religious tradition that has a hierarchical social structure is Hinduism, which encompasses several castes. The salient concern is to the underlying reasons for the activation of castes during certain periods, as opposed to the prevalence of religion during other distinct periods.

According to Zoya Hasan, the existence of distinct boundaries constrains the extent of caste mobilizations, primarily due to the ongoing contestation over the allocation of advantages among different castes and social groups. According to Hasan, the process of caste consolidation is driven mostly by economic considerations rather than cultural connection. Empirical evidence suggests a statistically significant relationship between one's caste affiliation and their economic or social class positioning. This phenomenon involves the juxtaposition of Yadav, Kurmi, or Jat workers with landless laborers, who often hail from other castes.

Subrata Mitra's field research on political choice in a hamlet in Orissa demonstrates a distinct and pioneering approach. The contention posited in this discourse is that the inclination to establish caste-based

relationships exhibits a discernible pattern during political campaigns. Benefit maximization and duty are two conflicting rules that vie for prominence. Although the change is from the transition of an obligation norm to a benefit norm, the process of determining the specific methods for implementation. This implies that conventional responsibilities based on caste and feudal systems are now non-functional.

In contemporary times, it is essential to acknowledge that in order to optimize individual advantages, it is no longer viable to continue with the current approach. Caste societies engaged in competitive endeavors. The phenomenon of emergence has occurred. However, caste relationships possess a primary disadvantage and absence of flexibility.

According to Kothari, there has been a shift from the dominating party paradigm to a more diversified framework of party rivalry. Scholars have shifted their attention on the erosion of institutional authority. Undoubtedly, the emergence of the emergency in 1975 exerted significant influence in this regard; yet, even subsequent to the resumption of the democratic process, challenges pertaining to governance and structural tensions within the political framework persisted. According to Brass, ideological compulsions do not have significant influence inside the Indian politics. The salient characteristics of this political entity have included the following aspects:

The significance of those who own and exercise control over land. The concept of caste refers to a social stratification system that is prevalent in some societies, particularly in South Asia. It is characterized as the interconnectedness between those in positions of governmental authority and those who possess control over valuable resources.

The aforementioned links exhibit disparities, which can be attributed to the significant influence wielded by the government. This influence extends beyond the management of resources and individuals, as it encompasses the ability to employ bureaucratic and law enforcement mechanisms to consistently intimidate and trouble citizens who contemplate strategies for safeguarding themselves against such governmental immoderations.

### **Demand Polity and Command Polity**

In this context, it is important to analyze the correlation between external pressures imposed on the political system and the subsequent responses of such system to these demands. In their work titled "The

Pursuit of Lakshmi,” Rudolph and Rudolph use an analytical approach to examine the issue at hand. This analytical lens becomes beneficial in offering a broader understanding of political institutions and events.

Rudolph use the notions of demand polity and command polity in their examination of the political landscape of India. These phrases are associated with the more well recognized economic concepts, including the demand economy and the command economy.

In a polity characterized by demand, the principle of sovereignty is with the voters and people. The polity is characterized by its focus on achieving short-term objectives, using competitive mechanisms to determine policies and address public interests, such as voting, discussion, and bargaining, as well as the supply of private goods. The decision-making process is influenced and guided by the necessity of winning elections and by the impact of pluralism and social class on public decisionmaking.

Within the realm of political governance, the choices pertaining to extraction and allocation are indicative of the inclinations held by elected and appointed individuals who are responsible for the selection and execution of policies. They exhibit a preference for, suppress, provide authorization to, or assimilate social classes, interests, communities, and elites. However, for both demand and command to be considered legitimate, they must show effectiveness, although via distinct approaches in each situation. The legitimacy of demand politics is contingent upon the state's ability to effectively address the immediate and fair fulfillment of people's requests. The legitimacy of command politics is contingent upon the state's ability to establish credibility via its appeal for fair sacrifice, with the aim of attaining future gains and mitigating societal costs.

The Rudolphs have partitioned India into four distinct stages. The first phase, spanning from 1952 to 1963, was marked by the prevalence of a democratic system intertwined with elements of command politics, most seen during the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru. During the period spanning from 1964-65 to 1974-75, the political landscape of India was marked by the convergence of democratic governance and the rise of political demands, which came to define the era before the declaration of emergency under the leadership of Indira Gandhi. The period from 1975 to 1977 saw the prevalence of an authoritarian system characterized by a combination of command politics.

During this time period, there was a notable rise in both food production and industrial output, in addition to a decrease in the number

of man days lost. According to Rudolph & Rudolph, the aforementioned outcomes may be attributed to the presence of an autocratic government. However, a transition back to a democratic government occurred in 1977, leading to a period from 1977 to 1984 characterized by a combination of both demand-driven and command-driven features.

In conclusion, it can be inferred that the information provided supports the notion that the topic under, A power structure refers to the comprehensive framework of influence dynamics that exist among individuals within a certain organization. A comprehensive delineation of a power structure would include the manner in which power or authority is allocated among individuals within various collectives, including but not limited to governmental bodies, nations, institutions, organizations, and societies. A power structure may be deliberately designed and formalized to optimize goals such as justice or efficiency. This can be seen in hierarchical organizations where all entities, with the exception of one, are subservient to a single entity.

### **5.5 Elite Theory**

The crux of the elitist thesis is that within every given society, there exists and necessitates a minority population that assumes the responsibility of making significant choices and governing over the majority. This particular group, sometimes referred to as the “political class” or the “governing elite,” include those who have sway over governmental decision-making processes, both in terms of influencing policy outcomes and officially making policy choices. The attainment of a dominating position by the minority extends beyond the realm of conventional electoral processes. The potential impact of this phenomenon might perhaps be attributed to its inherent characteristics.

The manifestation of certain societal or religious principles, genetic inheritance, or distinct individual characteristics. The concept of elite theory posits that individuals within various spheres of society do not possess equal standing or influence. The doctrine of ‘elite rule’ signifies the rejection of the revered principle of the “rule of the general will”. According to Maurice Duverger, it is recommended that the phrase “government of the people, by the people” be substituted with an alternative formulation.

The formula may be described as a system of governance in which a select group of individuals, originating from the general population, hold power

and make decisions on behalf of the people. Elite theory is rooted in the classical belief in the inherent inequality of individuals, which consequently promotes a tendency towards irresponsibility and the perpetuation of political absolutism. This directly contradicts the principle of widespread participation, as envisioned by the doctrine of a liberal democratic state.

In the realm of politics, society may be classified into two distinct groups: the political elite and the non-elite. The former group experiences both political respect and perks, but the latter group does not. The elites include several social groupings and classifications. Furthermore, there are counter elites as well. In a general sense, elites refer to those who have achieved achievement in many domains of life. Not all individuals are equal and do not get equal rights and respect. engage and excel, therefore attaining a position of prominence and influence.

Engage in active involvement. Individuals that specialize in the field of politics are sometimes referred to as political elites. This category includes politicians at various levels. Individuals rise to prominence in the realm of politics due to many factors, such as their intellectual capabilities, personal attributes, familial lineage, influential connections, or diligent efforts. The upper echelons of society are comprised of individuals who have prominent positions within the strategic hierarchy. This organized minority exerts dominance over the disorganized bulk. Typically, those belonging to the highest echelons of society assume the role of controlling both the means of production and distribution. They get satisfaction from their position, social standing, and power.

#### **5.5.1 Meaning:**

The term “elite” originated from the Latin word “Elegene,” which denotes the concept of being chosen via a deliberate selection process. However, the English translation of the term “Elegene” denotes the concept of leadership. Although the word “elite” was first used in the 17th century, its widespread usage only emerged in the current century. Throughout history, political theorists have sometimes advocated for the implementation of governance by a distinct social group, since it aligns with their envisioned ideal political framework.

The term “Elite” refers to the act of authoritatively recommending or ordering a Plato’s conception of a perfect society was the delegation of governance to a select cadre of philosophers who were carefully nurtured and educated, forming an exclusive governing class known as the ‘Philosopher Kings’. Pareto posits the concept of the “Governing Elite,” Mosca refers to it as the “Ruling Class,” and Robert Dahl presents it as the “Ruling Elite Hypothesis.” According to their perspective, some individuals are inherently destined for leadership roles, while others are inherently destined for subordinate positions.

### Definitions

Several Definitions of the term “elite” are provided below:

**According to Ortega Y Gasset**, a nation can be characterized as a structured collective of individuals, with a minority of selected individuals providing the organizational framework. G Mosca posits that an elite represents an organized minority that follows a unified impulse, exerting dominance over the unorganized majority. C Wright Mills defines the power elite as individuals who hold positions of authority and influence, thereby possessing the means to exercise power. Pareto argues that the elite comprises individuals who achieve success and ascend to the top of various professions and social strata, including lawyers, mechanics, and even criminals. Michels suggests that the elite consists of a small group of individuals who possess the ability to control the indifferent or passive masses.

**According to Laswell**, those who exhibit traits of indolence and servility are prone to being influenced by flattery and displaying obsequious behavior in the face of authority. Laswell defines elites as those who possess significant power within the political structure, occupying esteemed positions within a particular culture.

### 5.5.2 The Attributes of Political Elites

#### g) Minority- High Class:

The minority group within any given culture, sometimes referred to as the elite, have a significant influence on key positions of authority and control. The individuals in question mostly originate from the higher echelons of society and have a propensity for effectively executing the

judgments they make. The following are the attributes associated with elites:

In many forms of administration, such as parliamentary or presidential, democratic or totalitarian, there are individuals who have significant esteem, influence, status, and jurisdiction within the realm of politics. Minority groups are often characterized by their smaller representation or numerical presence in a given context.

**h) Majority is Ineffective:**

According to Mosca, the prevailing fact is that a minority group consistently holds the reins of power, rendering the majority ineffective. The minority exhibits a high level of cohesion and organization, which therefore leads to its eventual dominance over the disorganized majority. As the size of a political community increases, the task of organizing the majority to effectively respond to the minority becomes more challenging.

**i) Elected by the People:**

In a democratic system, those who possess a higher social status or level of influence are elected into positions of authority by the general populace. The candidates participate in the electoral process by presenting themselves to the electorate and appealing for their votes. Following their victory in the election, the individuals in question endeavor to maintain their hold on power indefinitely.

**j) Interest of the Elite**

The interests of the elite diverge from those of the general public due to their belief in the idea of inherent inequality, which therefore leads to a rejection of the principles of broad participation as advocated by the ideology of the liberal democratic state. Due to their perceived superiority, the elite occupy the highest positions within society, whereas others are situated at the lower or intermediate strata. They exert influence across several domains, irrespective of their direct involvement in those domains.

**k) Special position:**

The acquisition of special positions may be attributed to several factors, including individual aptitude, traditional norms, economic standing, control over economic and natural resources, and even physical prowess. Political elites are those who achieve prominence in the realm of politics, hence exerting indirect influence on many aspects of society.



### **l) The dynamism of the elite:**

The permanence of political elites is not a given. The composition of an elite group in contemporary society is subject to change throughout time, since individuals who now have elite status may not necessarily retain that status in the future. There is a possibility that he may face rejection and disapproval from the general public at any given moment. The status of an individual as part of an elite group is contingent upon their acceptance by both their group and the wider populace. Once an individual is disowned, they lose their status as a member of the elite.

### **5.5.3 Types of Elites**

The presence of the elite may be seen within several domains, including administration, religion, and intellectual circles. In several domains, individuals are seen as superior to the general population, hence establishing a disparity in terms of both social status and intellectual capacity. They are regarded as prominent individuals in society. They possess a high level of expertise in their chosen domain.

#### **h) political elites**

The subject of analysis pertains to political elites. In all forms of government, whether it parliamentary or presidential, democratic or dictatorial, there are individuals who command significant respect, wield influence, hold prominent positions, and possess authority within political spheres. These individuals possess a substantial following, and their perspectives are attentively regarded within the political sphere to which they are affiliated. Likewise, their adversaries accord appropriate significance to their perspective. These individuals often constitute a tiny minority, although they gain attention as a result of their intellectual and emotional attributes or owing to unique circumstances in which they find themselves. These individuals are often referred to as the political elites inside the societal context.

#### **a) Administrative elites**

Administrative elites encompass individuals involved in the administration who are responsible for both decision-making processes and the execution of decisions. The aforementioned individuals belong to the classification of managerial elite. They actively engage in the decision-making process by offering guidance, providing consultation, presenting



factual information, and proposing potential courses of action. Individuals in academic settings engage in the practice of maintaining interpersonal connections and evaluating the perspectives of others, among other activities.

**b) Religious elites:**

Religious elites within religious institutions and organizations, a discernible and unambiguous hierarchy exists. The practice is observed among all religious faiths and their respective institutions. The prominence of religion is readily seen in many facets of life throughout all societies. In some communities, its visibility may be comparatively lower than in others. Religion and religious organizations have consistently had significant importance for humanity throughout history.

**c) Economic elites**

Economic elites have significant influence on and exercise control over all economic activity within a given state. They represent prominent figures in the industrial, trading, and commercial sectors. These entities possess monopolistic power in several domains and possess extensive resources for production and distribution. In contemporary times, the significance of their position has notably amplified, with the evaluation of political programs and policies contingent upon their capacity to provide economic benefits for the populace. Throughout history, there has always been a strong collaboration and mutual comprehension between the economic and political elites, since their interests are intricately interconnected.

**d) Intellectual elites**

The significance of intellectual elites has been steadily growing in contemporary times, as they serve as the intellectual driving force behind various political endeavors, strategic planning, and societal movements. They provide proposals and introduce novel ideas for the deliberation of the political elites. Through their written works, individuals have the ability to shape civilizations and cultivate an environment that either supports or opposes the prevailing political systems, organizations, and structures. This category include individuals such as artists, scientists, writers, and several other professionals.

### e) Traditional elites

Traditional elites refer to those who have long been recognized as the privileged and influential members of a certain society. The elite nature of individuals may be attributed to several factors such as culture, religion, familial background, and income. Some examples of social groups in India are Brahmins, landlords, and zamindars.

### f) New elites

The emergence of new elites is leading to a displacement of traditional elites. These individuals embody contemporary societal characteristics and adhere to a liberal ideological framework. A portion of individuals has a Western-style education, whilst others have been influenced by Marxist and communist ideologies. These organizations mostly emerge as a result of national movements inside their particular nations, and they actively combat various forms of exploitation across several domains. In the realm of politics, there is a desire to relegate the established political figures to a secondary position, since there is a perception that they are unable to effectively fulfill their responsibilities given the altered conditions.

## 5.5.4 Prominent Theorists on Elitism

In the following discourse, we will provide a concise examination of the concepts put forward by prominent theorists within the realm of elite studies, with a particular focus on the major themes that underpin their scholarly contributions. The concept of political elite encompasses many classifications, as outlined by Geraint

Parry, under the overarching theoretical framework.

- a) The Psychological Approach, as shown by Vilfredo Pareto,
- b) Organizational Approach as espoused by Gaetano Mosca and Roberto Michels.
- c) The economic approach represented by James Burnham
- d) The institutional approach, as exemplified by the work of sociologist C. Wright Mills,

### 1. Psychological Approach

**Vilfredo Pareto**, born in 1848 and deceased in 1923, was a notable figure in academia. In his work “The Mind and Society,” Vilfred Pareto aims to elucidate the elite hypothesis by examining the underlying

psychological variables. The author suggested that there is an inherent variability in the fundamental talents of people, leading to an inescapable presence of inequality within society. According to his perspective, there exists a disparity among men in terms of intelligence, efficiency, and capability, with some individuals possessing higher levels of these attributes than others. The individual has introduced a novel perspective on the notion of an elite. Pareto provides a comprehensive and all-encompassing description of the elite. The individuals who possess exceptional talents in several domains of life are collectively referred to as the elite. The aforementioned elite may be further categorized into two distinct groups: the ruling elite and the non-governing elite. The term “governing elites” refers to those who have significant influence, either directly or indirectly, in the management and operation of governmental affairs.

Non-governing elites refer to a segment of society comprised of individuals whose actions and influence do not have substantial political significance. As per his assertion, within each society, there exists a growing trend of individuals and elites transitioning from higher to lower social strata, as well as from lower to higher strata. This phenomenon leads to a significant rise in the presence of degenerate elements within the classes that continue to wield power. Conversely, it also results in an increase of individuals of superior quality within the subordinate classes. Psychological changes in individuals

Periodically, the elites exhibit certain traits that result in changes to the makeup and functioning of various elite groups. Consequently, some elites are supplanted by others, which may occasionally give rise to political instability. Pareto's research reveals that elites engage in both logical and illogical acts in their pursuit of objectives. Upon doing a more in-depth examination, an endeavor is made to offer not.

Logical acts may be seen as consisting of two fundamental components: residues and derivations. Residues refer to the characteristics or attributes associated with those who have positions of power or privilege, sometimes referred to as the elites. These residues may be seen as the outward expression of deeply ingrained emotions and instincts. Conversely, derivations serve as the cognitive processes via which these residues are rationalized or justified. The elite class use the utilization of myth and the application of force as a means to rationalize their actions and repress any activities that pose a threat to their vested interests. These reasons might be seen as derivatives.

Pareto posits the existence of six distinct categories of residues. The individuals in question are.

- a) The residue of combination refers to an individual's inclination to generate and undertake novel and daring experiences.
- b) The concept of residue of persistence of preservation, specifically in the context of aggregation, refers to the inclination to consolidate and ensure stability.
- c) The concept of residue of expressiveness refers to the inclination to externalize emotions by means of symbolization.
- d) The residue of sociability refers to an individual's inclination to associate with and form connections with others.
- e) . The concept of integrity residue refers to an individual's inclination to preserve a positive self-perception.
- f) The concept of residue of sex refers to the inclination to interpret social situations via a sexual lens.

The subject of elite control is pertinent to the first two groups of residues. Pareto's idea of "innovation" and "consolidation" is founded upon the use of the first two residues. These residues serve as replacements for his concepts of "instinct for combination" and "persistence of aggregate." Pareto argues that those who possess a greater residue of combination are often characterized as "foxes" owing to their display of attributes like as cunning and wit. In general, those exhibiting boldness and a penchant for adventure are often willing to take risks in pursuit of maximizing their profits. Men who exhibit the enduring remnants of collective determination may be likened to lions. On the contrary, they exhibit a steadfast adherence to traditional values, demonstrating a strong sense of loyalty towards their family, religious institution, and country. Additionally, they consistently prioritize the use of force above intellectual prowess. The individuals express contentment with the modest gains derived from low-risk investments and show a willingness to engage in speculative activities. The elite is comprised of individuals who may be classified as either foxes or lions, depending on the prevailing norms. Throughout history, there has been a recurring pattern of alternating dominance between an aristocracy composed of foxes and an aristocracy composed of lions.

### **Pareto's perspective on the circulation of elites**

Pareto posits that history serves as a repository for the decline and replacement of aristocratic systems, as he introduces his renowned concept of the "circulation of elites." According to the individual's perspective, it is posited that inside any societal structure, two primary groups may be identified. One aspect of interest is to the governance of a society, whereby a certain entity often assumes authority over the production apparatus and thus accumulates wealth. The second category comprises those who are economically disadvantaged and subject to governance. This phenomenon is articulated by asserting that inside any societal structure, there are distinct social strata comprising of both privileged and disadvantaged groups. The top classes may be considered as the elite, whereas the lower classes can be categorized as the non-elite. Nevertheless, the categorization of individuals into elite and non-elite groups is not inherently permanent or immutable. There exists a vertical mobility pattern among individuals belonging to both the elite and non-elite social classes. The status of being part of an elite group has the potential to deteriorate, resulting in the individual no longer being considered elite. Conversely, an individual who is not part of the elite may ascend to the esteemed status of being considered elite. The phenomenon seen in this interaction between social strata is sometimes referred to as the circulation of the elite. According to the individual's perspective, the current elite members exert significant efforts to restrict the inclusion of non-elite individuals into their social group. However, it is not uncommon for such efforts to be unsuccessful. The author has shown that the phenomenon of elites experiencing both upward and downward mobility occurs via two distinct mechanisms. One aspect to consider is the phenomenon of the replacement of one kind of elite with another. The concept of "otherness" refers to the dynamic process by which people transition between social groups characterized by varying levels of privilege and status. The process of replacement may occur with either gradual infiltration or violent upheaval. Pareto provides an explanation for these phenomena using psychological terminology. When the ruling class lacks the requisite resources to maintain their hold on power, while the lower social strata effectively demonstrate their own resources. Subsequently, the diminishing elite endeavors to replenish its ranks by including individuals from non-elite backgrounds, thereby reinstating its credibility. The aforementioned process is perpetual in

nature, since the dominant classes initiated the process and continue to do so.

Over time, the system undergoes degeneration. This finally leads to the dissolution of the previous dominant social class and the emergence of new social groupings. The stability of an elite group is contingent upon several conditions, hence precluding the establishment of a definite duration for such a group. The effectiveness of the organizations is contingent upon the level of honesty shown by its members, their integrity, commitment to fulfilling their responsibilities, dedication to their job, the manner in which they attained power, their interactions with the general public, and the degree to which their approach garners widespread appeal and acceptance.

The organizational approach is a theoretical framework that focuses on the structure, processes, and systems inside an organization. It examines how these elements interact and influence the overall functioning and performance

#### 5.5.5 The Organisational Approach

The organizational approach to the elite thesis is proposed by Gaetano Mosca and Roberto Michels.

**Gaetano Mosca (1858-1941)** was an influential Italian political scientist and sociologist. Gaetano Mosca, an Italian researcher, made significant advancements in the development of Pareto's theory. In his seminal book titled "The Ruling Class," the author expounded upon his idea of elitism, which has a prominent position within the field of political science. Similar to Pareto, Mosca had a strong belief that irrespective of their external structure, all governments were fundamentally governed by a minority. This view prompted him to criticize the conventional categorization of countries into monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. Based on his perspective,

One of the enduring patterns seen in all political entities is so conspicuous that it is readily discernible even to the most casual observer. In every society... There are two distinct social classes that may be observed: the ruling class, which has power and authority, and the ruled class, which is subject to the influence and control of the ruling class. The ruling class relies on the compliance and subordination of the ruled class in order to maintain its position of dominance. The political elites exercise influence

over the general population via their autonomous decision-making. According to Mosca, the ruling class may be described as being in close proximity to power.

The concept of a “category of top people” refers to a group or classification of individuals who are considered to be at the highest level of achievement or influence within a certain domain or field. The first group, which is consistently smaller in size, assumes all political responsibilities, consolidates authority, and reaps the associated benefits. Conversely, the subsequent, larger group is subjected to the guidance and oversight of the former. The individual in question has referred to this exclusive group of individuals as the elite. These entities represent the focal points of authority, with many actors striving to attain them. However, the exclusive cohort

The existing power structure restricts the ability of newcomers to exert their influence, displaying a readiness to use aggressive or unjust tactics without hesitation. One notable aspect of Mosca’s theory of two classes is the emphasis placed on the interdependence between the two classes, whereby one class relies on the cooperation of the other. While the ruling class is reliant on the support of the subordinate class, the latter offers safeguard to the latter. The political agency of individuals is contingent upon the guidance and direction provided by a select set of leaders. According to Mosca, a minority group has inherent benefits just due to its minority status. However, the author asserts that the political elite may be further categorized into two distinct tiers: the upper echelon and the lower echelon. When discussing the upper echelons of the ruling class, Mosca asserts that it does not include all aspects of society.

The elite group is directed by the bosses. These individuals in positions of authority actively get satisfaction from and exert their influence in selecting candidates for electoral contests, as well as determining the strategies by which campaigns are initiated, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the success of their chosen candidates during general elections. In addition, they determine the allocation of candidates to certain subgroups within the elite group in order to prevent any subgroup from attaining a disproportionately high level of representation.

The group in question has significant influence and poses a potential danger to other subordinate groups. The dominant faction exercises authority over the whole of political affairs subsequent to the successful



election of their candidates to parliamentary or legislative bodies. Pareto posits that the perception of power being concentrated within the minority stems from the fact that it is really a minority. The system has the ability to make prompt judgments and promptly resolve any misconceptions that may arise. The system of communication among individuals is characterized by its ease and efficiency, with little occurrence of communication gaps.

If any gaps exist, they may be easily eliminated.

#### **5.5.6 The Concept of a Political Formula**

The concept of a political formula refers to a strategic approach or framework used in politics to achieve certain goals or outcomes. It involves the upper echelon effectively using their influence by using what Mosca referred to as the “political formula.” According to the individual’s assertion, it is posited that inside every societal framework, there are certain acknowledged beliefs and doctrines. Based on the aforementioned criteria, the political elite use strategies to persuade the general population that they are actively preserving certain principles. To achieve this objective, they employ both moral justification and legal validation in their acts.

The concept of the political formula refers to the endeavor undertaken by the political elite to provide a moral and legal foundation for their authority. The political formula may be seen as a strategic approach to governance that complements the use of physical power by the ruling class. Mosca’s “political formula” may be seen analogous to Pareto’s “derivations.” Similar to Pareto, Mosca also espoused the thesis of the “circulation of elites.” The elite possess certain characteristics that distinguish it from other members of society, with the most prominent being the ability to lead and exert political influence. The acquisition of control and the emergence of a ruling class may be attributed mostly to the presence or absence of aptitude among people. Once this aptitude begins to wane, which is an unavoidable occurrence, and individuals outside of this group begin to develop it in significant numbers, which also cannot be stopped, the current governing elite is confronted with the inevitable possibility of being replaced, while others with the necessary abilities attain positions of authority. The transient nature of their supremacy will likewise result in the eventual decline of these emerging leaders, as they too will lose their competence over time, making way for fresher successors. The perpetuity of this cycle lends support to the hypothesis of elite circulation. The governance of a society is mostly controlled by a minority group, whereby

the individuals occupying positions of power may vary throughout time, however the fundamental nature of the government stays the same.

Mosca argues that the perpetuity of a ruling elite is unattainable, since several variables contribute to its eventual replacement and overthrow. As previously said, there is a possibility that it might see a decline in its ability to govern and exert political authority. Alternatively, the perceived value of its services to the general population may be deemed insignificant. Alternatively, a shift in social dynamics may occur, rendering a transformation in the ruling body unavoidable.

It is noteworthy that Pareto primarily focused on the influence of psychological elements, while Mosca included social aspects as well to explain the dynamics of elite transformation.

**Robert Michaels**, born in 1876 and deceased in 1936, was a notable individual. Robert Michaels, an Italian political scientist, conducted an extensive examination of European socialist political parties and labor unions, with a particular focus on the German Socialist Party. His research revealed a clear presence of oligarchic power dynamics inside these organizations. In his scholarly publication titled "Political Parties," the author presents his perspectives on political elites. According to his perspective, the mention of organization is synonymous with the concept of oligarchy. In contemporary culture, it is widely acknowledged that the successful execution of any endeavor requires a high degree of organization. According to his assertion, it may be posited that the term in question served as an alternative designation for the political system known as Oligarchy. It was in this manner that he introduced the renowned concept known as the "Iron Law of Oligarchy." The term "iron law" is used to denote the inescapable nature of its influence on societies and political parties. The term 'oligarchic' is used to describe a situation in which a tiny minority assumes control over all organizations.

The size of an organization expands when the inner circle of leadership assumes more responsibilities. Over time, the influence and authority of the inner leadership intensify to such an extent that their followers find themselves unable to exert control over their leaders. The concept of "Power Breeds Power" serves as the foundation of the elite system. According to Michael, the current organizational framework of contemporary society is conducive to the emergence of elite governance. No organization can operate without providing advantages to a select few who are affiliated with it.

The topic of leaders is of great significance in various fields of study. Furthermore, he has said that the presence of leadership is essential for both the sustenance and advancement of society, and is intricately connected to the dynamic nature of leadership. In the realm of governance, influential leaders endeavor to exercise authority over the means of production and distribution, while concurrently fostering mutual assistance among themselves. Leaders acquire power due to their active involvement in organizational activities, whereas the general population tends to display less interest in such matters. Michaels supports the expansion of this particular oligarchy via his conceptualization of the 'mass mind'. According to Michael, a significant portion of the human population is characterized by apathy, laziness, and a tendency to conform to authority, rendering them perpetually unable to rule themselves. Leaders adeptly use these attributes to maintain their hold on power. They deploy various strategies, such as oratory, persuasion, and manipulation of emotions, to deceive people. Michael believed that the use of flattery and oratory serves as potent tools employed by the upper class, as they seek to persuade the masses by providing justifications for their actions.

There exists a psychological inclination among the general population to seek direction. Consequently, individuals are often willing to delegate political tasks to others. Once the leaders attained the highest level of authority, they were impervious to any kind of downfall. If legislation is enacted to regulate the concentration of power among leaders, it is the legislation itself that eventually diminishes in effectiveness, rather than the leaders. The privileged class will so persist indefinitely. Occasionally, they may include new aspects from the non-elite social stratum. However, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the societal framework. Even in instances when a revolution occurs and achieves its objectives. The termination of elite authority does not necessarily imply the cessation of their influence, since the people often need leadership in order to initiate a rebellion. Moreover, after the successful execution of a revolution, other leaders will inevitably emerge to assume positions of power.

The pursuit of power and the aspiration to join the privileged class. The economic approach is a theoretical framework that analyzes human behavior and decision-making through the lens of rationality and self-interest. It is based on the assumption that individuals and firms

### 5.5.7 The Economic Approach

**James Burnham**, born in 1905 and deceased in 1987. He is an additional political theorist who has presented his perspectives on the concept of political elites. The individual in question has directed his attention on a significant matter, namely the process by which individuals attain elite status. He fails to support the notion that individuals become part of the elite based on their own merits or ability. He also disagrees with the notion that political elites can maintain their positions only via public support, and that the people possess the ability to alter their political leadership. In his seminal essay titled "The Managerial Revolution," Burnham provides an exposition of the economic perspective on the elite idea. In every system, the economic factor serves as the primary source of power for the elite. According to the individual, a certain group attains societal supremacy by its ability to exercise control over the means of production and distribution. The exercise of economic dominance engenders political influence and social prestige, hence giving rise to the formation of an elite. The duration of their tenure in power is contingent upon the retention of these sources. The emergence of a new political elite occurs when the control over these resources is relinquished by the existing power holders and then assumed by a distinct set of individuals. This newly formed group assumes the role of the political elite. The possibility of a shift in the makeup of the ruling class exists, however the termination of its governance remains unattainable. In doing so, he challenges Marx's thesis about a society characterized by the absence of social classes and the promotion of equality among its members. According to Burnham, in every capitalist society, there comes a point when the capitalist class eventually withdraws from active involvement in financing and instead assumes a leisurely lifestyle, relying only on the profits generated by their firms without making any further contributions to production. Therefore, over time, the capitalists become completely separated.

The position is occupied by the managerial class in the context of production. Through the exercise of control over the means of production, the privileged elite not only guarantee their political power, but also enjoy preferential treatment. The occurrence is inevitable inside every civilization experiencing a decline in capitalism systems.

### 5.5.8 The Institutional Approach

Charles Wright Mills, born in 1916 and passing away in 1962, was a prominent figure in the field of sociology. The institutional approach is a theoretical framework that examines the role and impact of institutions in shaping social, political, and economic outcomes. It focuses on understanding how formal and informal rules.

According to C. Wright Mills in his work "The Power Elite," the formation of the political elite, also known as the power elite, is influenced by the institutional framework of a given society. According to the individual's statement, within any given society, there are certain institutions that possess significant influence. Those individuals who hold the highest positions within these institutions are situated at the apex of the social hierarchy, so assuming the authoritative positions within the power structure, thus becoming the power elite. Based on a research conducted in the United States, the author identifies the presence of an elite group within three significant domains.

The institutions under consideration include the military, large companies, and the political executive. The individuals occupying the highest positions within these organizations together form what is often referred to as the power elite. The group may be characterized as a conscious, cohesive, and conspiratorial entity due to the commonality of their social background and shared experiences. In light of the prevailing power elite, the general populace is characterized by fragmentation, subjugation, and a lack of awareness of its potential role within the overarching societal framework. It just satisfies the existing procedures. Therefore, it can be seen that there is a consensus among elite theorists about certain foundational aspects. In every civilization, it is a consistent observation that political power tends to be concentrated among a limited number of individuals. Once again, it is evident that the privileged class maintains dominance.

The group consistently exhibits characteristics of self-awareness, unity, and a tendency towards conspiratorial behavior. The concept of power, as seen by elitists, is viewed as cumulative. In other words, power is seen as a mechanism for attaining economic prosperity or social reputation, which in turn may be leveraged to acquire further power.

**There are many criticisms to Elite theory.**

The political theory of elites has inherent shortcomings that may be delineated as follows:

- a) The emphasis placed by the elitists on elite politics is either excessive or they have not presented a credible alternative to the Marxian theory of class conflict. The elites seem to be presenting their own political theory of ideology as a direct response to the middle class' Marxian ideology. This political ideology fundamentally contradicts the widely revered concepts that define democracy as a system of governance by the people. Democracy entails the mobilization of the lowest socioeconomic strata in opposition to the hegemony exerted by the aristocratic or affluent segments of society.
- b) The perspective held by elitists on power is misguided. In this regard, they obfuscate the differentiation among concepts such as power, authority, and influence. The idea of legitimacy is fundamentally interconnected with authority. Individuals may experience coercion or terrorization due to the exhibition of power, although they only acknowledge and accept power that is deemed legitimate. Consequently, it is more appropriate to refer to this accepted power as authority. The concept of elite theory provides a rationale for the presence and functioning of clandestine political practices.
- c) The concept of manipulation is the comprehension of their ideas brings us in close proximity to the discernment of the viewpoints expressed by Machiavelli and Thomas Hobbes throughout the early modern era. In essence, it disregards the superior and more virtuous aspects of politics, as espoused by eminent figures such as Mahatma Gandhi. The ethical and metaphysical dimensions of human existence should not be disregarded within the domain of political discourse.
- d) The elite hypothesis posits an erroneous equation on the dynamics between leaders in positions of power and their devoted and highly trusted followers. The analysis fails to account for the influence of motivational factors that establish a bond between the leader and their followers.
- e) According to elite theorists, it is not necessary for the political elite to constantly function as a consciously coherent and conspiratorial organization. In presidential democracies, the distribution of power is not concentrated within a conscious and unified collective.



- f) Primarily, individuals who possess a deep admiration for the traditional concept of democracy are unable to concur with the core argument put forth by elitists, which asserts that the decisions made by a minute minority hold significance in all matters. Consequently, the widely acclaimed principle of the “will of the people” is deemed to be nothing more than a fallacy. While they do not contest the presence and influence of the elite, they explicitly reject the notion that exclusive significance should be attributed only to the desires of these few individuals.

Notwithstanding these aforementioned points of critique, it is possible to concur with the assertions put out by elite theorists, who contend that the distribution of political power within society is inherently unequal, with choices of a political nature being mostly influenced by a select few rather than being inclusive of the whole populace. The concept of elite theory pertains to a discernible and verifiable social phenomenon that effectively endeavors to elucidate transformations in social and political realms. Hence, several political occurrences in the the theory under consideration provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the complexities of the world.

### **5.6 Elites versus Masses**

The definition of elites and the masses may vary in accordance to factors more than one. It may be the segment of the society they are situated, or the professional fields they operate in. It could be their levels of educational attainment, or just the families they are born in. It can be their highbrow tastes for music, art theatre or their preference for one kind of social clubs over the other. So, it is very difficult to deduce one singular definition of elites and the masses as such. But what remains central to the understanding of the two concept - the elites and the masses - is that they both can be understood only in outcome with each other. There can be no elite without the masses and no masses without the elites. It is in turn their control over the resources that decides who is an elite and who is not.

Those who are dominant by the virtue of their access to political resources, become the ruling elites of a given society. The minority elites, thus, rule over the majority masses. Those with a domination over economic resources of production and distribution become the economic elite. These again remain a minority that exploits the majority of non-elites. And, then there are the other kind of elites who hold top position in



the institutions of power like the state, the corporations and the military these are the power elites. But, what remains a common fact binding all the elites alike is that they are the minority in any given society, yet they possess the most domination over the significant social, political and economic resources.

Elites maintain their exclusiveness from the non-elites, using their cultural capital, social networks and education as tools of status maintenance. Furthermore, they ensure the reproduction of their status, by exercise control over social institutions of education and leisure - the educational institutions and the social clubs, respectively.

### **Leadership**

Leadership has been defined in different ways by different set of scholars. Leadership is defined as the ability to influence a group towards the achievement of a vision or set of goals. Keith Davis observes that, “without leadership, an organization is but a muddle of men and machines...Leadership transforms potential into reality. It is the ultimate act which brings to success all the potential that is in an organization and its people”.

In 1938, Chester Bernard gave a new definition of leadership and stated that,

“leadership is the ability of a superior to influence the behaviour of subordinates and persuade them to follow a particular course of action”. A recent theorist on leadership, Williams (2005), states that, “leadership is an interactive art in which the leader is dancing with the context, the problem, the faction, and the objective”.

A person in an organization may assume leadership both in a formal and informal way. By formal leadership we mean to say that a person assumes leadership role, based on the position that he holds in an organization and in such form of leadership, the leader is designated with the title, along with the authority and responsibility to lead the team. In the second form of leadership, a person assumes leadership without any formal sanction of authority and duty. That is, in informal leadership, the ability to influence the group arises outside the formal structure of the organization and people in the organization oblige to such influence even without the formal influence.

Leadership is quite important for an organization and they act as agents who cope with change and bring about change for the betterment of the organization. Leaders establish direction by developing a vision of future for the organization, communicate the vision to the people in the organization and synchronize them with the organizational vision and mission, thereby inspire the people to translate the goals, vision and mission into reality. Thus, leadership is the ultimate act that brings to success all of the potent potential, that is in an organization and its people.

### **Theories Of Leadership**

In influencing the people in the organization towards the goals of the organization, there have been various approaches adopted by different set of leaders, as one model may not be suitable for different organizations with different set of objectives. Moreover, such models or theories of leadership also depend on the qualities that a leader inherit or display in managing her/his team. Some of the theories of leadership ranging from conventional theories to contemporary theories have been dealt with over here, the chief of them being the following:

- Great Man Theory/Trait Theory
- Behavioural Theories
- Contingency/Situational Theories,
- Transactional Theory of Leadership
- Transformational Theory of Leadership

### **Great Man Theory/Trait Theory of Leadership**

Some of the leaders in the history have always been identified as strong leaders based on the qualities or traits that they display. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, Narayana Murthy of Infosys, Apple's Cofounder Steve Jobs etc. has been identified, based on the traits that they displayed. For instance, when Margaret Thatcher was the prime minister of the Great Britain, she was regularly described as a confident, iron-willed, determined and decisive leader. Thus, the trait theories of leadership consider personal qualities and characteristics that differentiate leaders from non-leaders (Robbins, Judge, & Sanghi, 2007).

In the beginning, the assumption behind trait theory was that "leaders are born and not made". This concept was popularly known as the "Great

Man Theory” of leadership. The great man theory was originally proposed by Thomas Carlyle in 1949 and the assumption behind this theory is that “great leaders will arise, when there is great need”. The theory also assumes that a leader cannot be a normal person and they are different from the average person in terms of personality traits such as intelligence, perseverance and ambition. However, a proposition of “Great Woman” finds no place, especially in leadership studies mainly due to the fact that gender issues were out of context, when the theory was proposed and moreover, it was only male members of the society who were into such research and such biasness was hardly realized by the people then.

A comprehensive review of the leadership literature on traits, reveal that one of the significant approach that was developed was the Big Five Personality Framework. Though various traits were identified by different studies, it was possible that such traits were somehow clubbed or subsumed under the Big Five approach. Though the approach seems to be complex, it offers useful insights. Leaders who are extraverted (individuals who like being around people and are able to assert themselves), conscientious (individuals who are disciplined and keep commitments they make), and open (individuals who are creative and flexible) do seem to have an advantage when it comes to leadership, suggesting that good leaders do have key traits in common.

In recent years, another trait that has been identified with leadership is the Emotional Intelligence (EI). Advocates of EI argue that without it, a person can have outstanding training, a highly analytical mind, a compelling vision, and an endless supply of terrific ideas, but still not make a great leader. The general assumption is that, empathetic leaders can sense “others” needs, listen to what followers say (and don’t say), and are able to read the reactions of others.

### **Behavioural Theories**

In the 1940s, apart from the research studies being conducted on the traits displayed by leaders, research was also conducted on the behaviours exhibited by leaders. The first and foremost study on leadership was carried out by psychologist, Kurt Lewin and his associates in 1939 and identified different styles of leadership, viz. autocratic, democratic and laissez-faire leadership, which has been discussed in the next unit. While the assumption behind traits theory is that “leaders are born, rather than made”, behavioural theories assume that specific behavioural patterns of

leaders can be acquired through learning and experience. While the trait theory concentrates on “what the leaders are”, the behavioural theories concentrate on “what the leaders do”. In this section, four different behavioural pattern of leadership has been dealt with, which are as follows:

### **(1) Ohio State Studies**

One of the foremost studies that emanated on behavioural theories was the study made by Ohio State University in 1945 by E.A. Fleishman, E.F. Harris and H.E. Burt. The study narrowed the leadership behaviours into two categories, viz. initiating structure and consideration, under which the various leadership behaviours were clubbed.

- i) **Initiating Structure:** Initiating structure refers to the extent to which a leader is likely to define and structure his or her role and those of employees in the search for goal attainment. It includes behaviour that attempts to organize work, work relationships, and goals. A leader with initiating structure is generally task oriented, with focus on performance of employees and meeting of deadlines.
- ii. **Consideration:** As per “consideration” category, a leader pays more attention to the employee of the organization rather than the task and shows concern for the well-being, comfort and satisfaction of employees. That is, a leader focuses on the relationships that are characterised by mutual trust, respect for employees’ ideas, and regard for their feelings.

The two-factor conceptualization of Ohio Studies has been gaining wide recognition in recent times.

### **(2) University of Michigan Studies**

Similar to the Ohio State University studies, research on leadership studies was also carried out by the University of Michigan’s Research centres, in 1946 by Rensis Likert and his associates. The study made an analysis of the relationship between leadership behaviours and organizational performances. Michigan Studies also identified a twofactor component, viz. “employee-oriented leader” and “production-oriented leader”.

- i) **Employee-Oriented Leader:** The concern of the employee-oriented leaders were more on the interpersonal relations with the employees and such leaders paid more attention on the needs of the employees and accepted the individual differences among members.

- ii) **Production-Oriented Leader:** The production oriented-leaders paid attention to the technical aspects of the job or the tasks assigned to the employees, rather than on employees. Such leaders gave least importance to the group members, and regarded the employees as only a means to achieve the ends, that is, the goals of an organization.

It can be found that the two-factor conceptualization of the Ohio study is similar to the two way dimension of the Michigan studies. While the employeeoriented leadership can be compared with the “consideration” component of Ohio studies, production-oriented leadership can be compared with “initiating structure”. While the Ohio studies considered both its components to be important for effective leadership, the Michigan studies gave supremacy to the component of “employeeorientation” over “production-orientation”.

### **(3) The Managerial Grid**

Like the Ohio State studies and Michigan studies, the Managerial Grid theory of leadership was also based on the styles of “concern for people” and “concern for production”. The Managerial Grid theory of leadership was proposed by Robert Blake and Jane Mouton in 1964. This theory which is depicted in a graphical form is also known as the “Leadership Grid Theory”.

Though behavioural theories make its contribution in understanding leadership effectiveness, it cannot be considered as the utmost option, to determine the success of leadership. In other words, it cannot be said with utmost clarity that a leader depicting a certain kind of leadership traits and behaviours are always successful. At times, the situational contexts play a strong role in determining the effectiveness of leaders.

#### **5.5.2 Contingency/Situational Theories**

Sometimes the success of a leader does not depend upon the qualities, traits and behaviour of a leader alone. The context in which a leader exhibits her/his skills, traits and behaviour matters, because same style of functioning may not be suitable for different situations. Thus the effectiveness of leadership also depends upon situations. Several research studies, when analyzing the reason for inconsistent results in differing conditions with the same leadership style, laid their focus on situational variables. This theory views leadership in terms of a dynamic interaction

between a number of situational variables like the leader, the followers, the task situation, the environment, etc. Some of the noteworthy studies on situational contexts that gained wide recognition include Fiedler's model, Hersey and Blanchard's Situational theory, Leader-Member Exchange theory, Path-Goal theory and Leader-Participation model, which has been discussed over here.

### **(1) Fiedler Model**

Fred Fiedler was the first person to develop a comprehensive model for the contingency theory of leadership in 1967. The basic premise behind this theory is that, effective performance of an organization or a group of people in an organization highly depend upon the style adopted by a leader and the degree to which a situation gives control to the leader.

In order to assess the style followed by a leader, Fiedler developed "Least Preferred Coworker" (LPC) scale, in which the leaders were asked to give their preference on the employee with whom they have least preference to work with. If the least preferred coworker was described in favourable terms, such response was rated as 'relationship oriented' and if rated in unfavourable terms, a leader was regarded as 'production oriented'. However, in contrast, the response derived from such study did not show a clear cut picture, as some of the responses had a score in the mid range. Through such responses, it was difficult to classify a leader either as a relationship-oriented or a production oriented leader, as the scoring was neither high nor low. Fiedler's model thus illuminated attention on a new dimension of leadership studies. Thus through this study, it was suggested that, if a situation requires a task oriented leader and the person in that leadership position is relationship-oriented, either the situation has to be modified or the leader replaced, if optimal effectiveness is to be achieved (Robbins, Judge, & Sanghi, 2007).

Based on the results derived, Fiedler has identified three situational factors, viz. leader-member relations, task structure and position power, which determine leadership effectiveness. A brief discussion on such situational factors is as follows:

- i) **Leader-Member Relations:** The degree of confidence, trust and respect that members have on their leader;
- ii) **Task Structure:** The degree to which the job assignments are structured or unstructured;

- iii) **Position Power:** The degree of influence a leader has over power variables such as hiring, firing, discipline, promotions, and salary increases.

Fiedler's model evaluates the effectiveness of leadership, based on the degree of existence of the above mentioned situational factors. The degree varies from good to poor in leader-member relations, high to low in task structure and strong to weak in position power. According to Fiedler, a leadership is said to have more control of organizational situations, if the leader-member relations are good, task assignments are highly structured along with a stronger power positions. Similarly, the situations in an organization would be unfavourable, if the respect that members have for leaders is poor, with unstructured task assignments and weak position power.

As depicted in the figure 5.2, based on the situational factors, Fiedler model identifies 8 different kinds of situations or categories in which a leader can identify her/his position.

However, one of the major drawbacks in Fiedler model is that the style adopted by a particular leader is fixed. It is assumed that a leader can follow only a particular style in any given situation and the theory suggests change of a leader to fit a situation. For instance, the assumption is that, if a situation in an organization is highly unfavourable, and the organization is led by a relationship oriented leader, the organization's performance could be improved by replacing the leader with one who is task-oriented. The other alternative suggested is to change the situation to suit the leader. That is by restructuring tasks or increasing or decreasing the power positions, the leader is expected to bring the situation under control.

Though Fiedler's model offers useful propositions, the practical application of the theory is highly questionable. In practice, it is generally difficult to assess how good the leader-member relations are, how structured the task is, and how much position-power a leader has (Robbins, Judge, & Sanghi, 2007).

### **Cognitive Resource Theory**

In the early 1990s, the original model of Fiedler was reconceptualised by Fiedler and his associate Joe Garcia, as Cognitive Resource Theory. In this model, the focus has been laid on the role of stress as a form of



situational unfavourableness and how a leader's intelligence and experience influence her/his reaction to stress. The assumption behind this theory is that stress is the enemy of rationality and a leader cannot think in a logical and analytical manner, if she/he is under high level of stress. According to this proposition, the importance of a leader's intelligence and experience to effectiveness differs under low and high stress situations. Fiedler and Gracia state that a leader's intellectual ability correlates positively with performance under low stress but negatively under high stress. And conversely, a leader's experience correlates negatively with performance under low stress but positively under high stress. Thus, according to Fiedler and Gracia, the level of stress in a situation, determines whether an individual's intelligence or experience will contribute to leadership performance.

## **(2) Hersey and Blanchard's Situational Theory**

One of the path-breaking models that were developed in the leadership studies is that of the Situational Leadership Theory (SLT), that was put forward by Paul Hersey and Ken Blanchard. The focus of this theory is laid on the followers and the readiness that followers show in accepting a leadership. The basic assumption behind this theory is that, it is the followers who accept or reject a leader and thus, effectiveness of a leader also depends on their followers. Thus, regardless of what a leader does, effectiveness of leadership depends upon the actions of the followers. By readiness, Hersey and Blanchard mean to say the extent to which people have the ability and willingness to accomplish a specific task set by the leader. In analysing the leader-follower relationship, the Situational Leadership Theory, equates the relationship with that of a parent and a child.

According to Hersey and Blanchard there are four types of leadership behaviour that varies from highly directive to highly laissez-faire, which again depends upon the ability and willingness of followers to perform a given task. According to SLT, if a follower is unable and unwilling to do a task, the leader needs to give clear and specific directions; if followers are unable and willing, the leader needs to display high task orientation to compensate for the followers' lack of ability and high relationship orientation to get the followers to "buy into" the leader's desire; if followers are able and unwilling, the leader needs to use a supportive and

participative style; and if the employee is both able and willing, the leader doesn't need to do much.

This theory, thus gives a new dimension to the study of leadership, and the aspects that appeals in this theory is the importance given to the followers and the capacity of the leader to compensate for the ability and motivational limitations in their followers. However, in spite of the wide recognition and popularity that this theory has gained, it is said to have internal ambiguities and inconsistencies.

### **(3) Leader-Member Exchange Theory**

Another new dimension to leadership theories was added with the proposition of the Leader-Member Exchange (LMX) Theory. The assumption behind this theory is that a leader cannot use a fairly homogenous style with all of the people in their work unit and a leader act differently with different people and tend to have her/his "in-group". Thus, as per this theory, a leader maintains a special relationship with a small group of their followers, due to time pressures. The people in the "in-group" tend to get more attention, have the trust of the leader and also enjoy special privileges and even have an informal interaction with the leader. On the contrary, followers in the "out-group" spend less time with the leaders, have limited access to rewards and privileges and the leader-follower relation is based on a formal authority interactions.

### **(4) Path-Goal Theory**

Path-Goal Theory was developed by Martin Evans and Robert House in 1970/71, taking inputs from the concept of initiating structure and consideration of the Ohio State Studies and the Expectancy Theory of Motivation. The base behind Path-Goal theory is that effective leaders clarify the path to help their followers to move forward from their current position towards achieving the work goals. In this process, the leader reduces the roadblock that occurs in the path of the followers, and makes their journey easier. Thus, the essence of path goal theory is that, it is the leader's job to provide the followers with the information, support and other resources, necessary for them to achieve their goals (Robbins, Judge, & Sanghi, 2007).

This theory identifies four types of leadership behaviour, viz. directive leader, supportive leader, participative leader and achievement-oriented

leader. Unlike Fiedler, who assumes the leader to follow a fixed leadership style, the theory put forward by House, assumes the leader to be a flexible person, who can display different kinds of behaviours based on a given situation. The four types of leadership behaviour, identified by Robert House are as follows:

- i) **Directive Leader:** A directive leader clarifies the followers of the role expected of them, schedules the work to be done and gives the needed direction or guidance as to how to accomplish tasks;
- ii) **Supportive Leader:** A supportive leader behaves in a friendly manner with the followers, and the main concern of the leader is placed on the needs of the followers, rather than on accomplishing the tasks;
- iii) **Participative Leader:** A participative leader involves the followers in the consultation process and also gets the suggestions or views of the followers, before making a decision;
- iv) **Achievement-Oriented Leader:** An achievement oriented leader set challenging goals for the followers and expects them to perform at their highest level. The above mentioned leadership styles under the path-goal theory is contingent upon two factors such as, characteristics of employees and environmental factors. While environmental factors include aspects such as task structure, formal authority system, work group, etc. employee characteristics include aspects like locus of control, experience, perceived ability, etc.

#### **(5) Leader-Participation Model**

The Leader-Participation Model was developed by Victor Vroom and Phillip Yetton in 1973 and this theory is called by different names as, Decision-Participation Model and Normative Model. This model was called normative, as it provided a sequential set of rules that should be followed in determining the form and amount of participation in decision making, as determined by different types of situations.

According to this model, three set of variables affect the performance of the leader in terms of his capacity as a decision maker, which include:

- i) Quality of the decision;
- ii) Degree of acceptance of the decision by subordinates; and
- iii) Time required in making the decision.

Thus, based on the variables identified, Vroom and Yetton defined 5 different kinds of decision making procedures. That is, it represents a continuum from authoritarian approaches (AI, AII), Consultative approaches (CI, CII) and a group based approach (G2) which is as follows:

- A1: Leader takes known information and then decides alone.
- A2: Leader gets information from followers, and then decides alone.
- C1: Leader shares problem with followers individually, listens to ideas and then decides alone.
- C2: Leader shares problems with followers as a group, listens to ideas and then decides alone.
- G2: Leader shares problems with followers as a group and then seeks and accepts consensus agreement.

The contingency theories that make an analysis of situational context, thus brings to light the challenging role that a leader has to play. Especially women leaders, whose life is a mix of a complex fabric of personal, professional and community involvements and responsibilities, becomes all the more complex in a contingent situation. Since women leaders function in more than one context (family, work place, community), managing different contexts simultaneously remains a major challenge for women leaders (Klenke, 2011).

While the theories that have been discussed above are conventional theories, which have unique inputs to offer even to this day, it has also given way to new set of leadership theories viz. Transactional and Transformative theories of leadership, Visionary Leadership theory, etc. While the conventional theories laid their focus on the traits, qualities, behaviour exhibited by a leader, the modern theories makes a shift in the way leaders were perceived. From the position of an omnipotent hero and saviours of organizations, the leaders are now looked at as normal people, whose decisions can lead both to success or failure of an organization. Thus the modern theories, gives more importance to the leader-follower equation. While the traditional theories are leadercentric, the new theories have follower-centric perspective.

### 5.5.3 Transactional Theory of Leadership

The transactional theory of leadership was first discussed by Max Weber in 1947 and was later developed by Bernard M Bass in 1981. There

are several assumptions that underlie the transactional theory, which are as follows:

- People perform their best when the chain of command is definite and clear.
- Workers are motivated by rewards and punishments.
- Obeying the instructions and commands of the leader is the primary goal of the followers.
- Subordinates need to be carefully monitored to ensure that expectations are met.

Under the transactional theory of leadership, the leaders guide or motivate their followers in the direction of established goals by clarifying role and task requirements. The characteristic features exhibited by transactional leaders are as follows:

- i) **Contingent Reward:** The leader links the goals of the organization to rewards and clearly specifies and expectations, provides the needed resources and set SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely) goals for the subordinates;
- ii) **Management by Exception (Active):** The leader actively monitors the performance of the subordinates, watches and searches for deviations from rules and standards, and take corrective actions to prevent mistakes;
- iii) **Management by Exception (Passive):** In terms of passive management, a leader intervenes only if standards are not met and even use punishments for poor performances; and
- iv) **Laissez-Faire:** In this for, the leader gives an environment to subordinates, where they can take decisions. In this form, the leader himself abdicates from responsibilities and avoids making decisions, due to which the followers lack the direction.

This kind of leadership may not be suitable for all occasions and be suitable, where organizational problems are quite simple and clearly defined. The transactional leaders tend to be highly directive and action oriented and their relationship with the followers tends to be transitory and not based on emotional bonds. In taking this style of leadership, gender differences exist. Several studies found that, in using transactional leadership style, women were more likely to focus on the “rewards” component, while the men laid their focus on “punishment” component.

### 5.5.4 Transformational Theory of Leadership

Transformational leadership is also equated to an extent with the charismatic leadership. In order to bring transformation in the followers' or employees' interest and reshape their capacity, one critical component that has been considered essential is the charisma of the leader. In this form of leadership, a leader inspires her/his followers to transcend their own self-interests for the betterment of the organization. Transformational leaders pay attention to the developmental needs and concerns of the followers, and inspire followers to give a new outlook for the old problems and thus motivate the followers towards achievement of the goals of the organization, by giving them new perspective. According to Bass and Riggio, there are four dimensions to the transformational theory of leadership, viz. Idealized Influence (II), Inspirational Motivation (IM), Intellectual Stimulation (IS) and Individualized Consideration (IC), which are as follows:

- i) **Idealized Influence (II):** In this form of leadership, the leaders act as role models for their subordinates and they exhibit high morals and ethical standards. They further provide the vision and sense of mission, instill pride amidst the followers and gain respect and trust;
- ii) **Inspirational Motivation (IM):** In this dimension of leadership, leaders inspire their subordinates in various ways and give meaning to their work and bring new challenges and enthusiasm. The leader expresses the organizational purposes in simple terms to the followers and has high expectations on the followers;
- iii) **Intellectual Stimulation (IS):** In this form, the leaders stimulate the intellectual ability of their followers. That is, through new approaches, the leaders try to stimulate the way of thinking of their subordinates and thus, raise the creativity in them and promote intelligence, rationality and problem solving skills; and
- iv) **Individualized Consideration (IC):** The leaders, under this dimension, pay more attention to the individual needs of development of the subordinates so as to achieve success (Kuchynkova, 2013).

Research was also made on the gender differences in transformational leadership and it was found that, women were rated higher than men on most dimensions of transformational leadership and higher outputs were achieved by women, by following this style of leadership.

Apart from the above mentioned modern theories of leadership, there have been wide array of studies that have been taking place on leadership in recent times, which is based on the concepts of spirituality, authenticity, chaos and complexity, relationality, ethical leadership, visionary leadership, transcendence, etc. All such analysis on leadership brings in new dimension to the study of leadership, and is still in the process of evolving a solid theoretical construct. The emerging theories thus, attempt to accommodate new organizational structures characterized by more fluid, temporal arrangements, rapidly changing technologies, increased globalization, and changing workplace demography (Klenke, 2011). Some of the substitute theories of leadership are of the view that in such new forms of organization, the need for a single leadership is diminished. However, some of the studies also suggest that in new forms of organizational structure, the need for a leader is felt more, because of the newness of the organizational structure and the followers tend to look at their leaders to make sense of the unfamiliar organizational forms (Klenke, 2011).

### **Summary**

Leadership plays a key role in showing the right direction to his/her employees in achieving the goals of an organization. The various theories of leadership viz. traits theory, behavioural and situational theories offer useful insights in understanding the different dimensions of leadership styles. With such theoretical underpinnings, the study of leadership gets a new horizon, as with such theories, the focus has been shifting from “what leaders are”, and “what leaders do” to the extent of “how a leader behave in different situations”. In the same manner, theories of leadership were also looked at through the lens of gender. Some useful insights were derived on the gendered context of leadership and the different styles and theories of leadership. However there seems to be confrontations between theory and practice, especially when taking women leadership into considerations. Though leadership theories based on gender concerns find place in recent years, it still has to protrude the mainstream leadership literature.

### **Types and Styles of Leadership**

#### **Defining Leadership Styles**

Leadership style is the pattern of behaviour that a leader exhibits, in influencing his/her subordinates towards the goals of an organization.



Leadership style change from group to group and also from situation to situation. When a group lacks the sense of direction or purpose, directive style can be adopted by a leader, and when groups are clear of the organizational goals and objectives and perform well, non-directive styles can be adopted by a leader.

The study of leadership style has been in vogue right from 1930s, when researches were conducted on the leadership theories. When the traits and behaviours of leaders were explored, the classification that was arrived at was “task oriented” and “employee oriented” leaders. Such classification further was expanded by the scholars in later years, which got extended as different styles of leadership. In this unit, effort has been made to explore the different types and styles of leadership. But before we get into the leadership styles that exist, it is critical to understand the factors that influence the leadership styles.

### **Factors influencing Leadership Style**

The behavioural pattern, exhibited by a leader is influenced by various factors. Some of the factors that influence the leadership styles are as follows (D’Souza, 1987):

- i) **Personality of the Leader:** The very personality of the leader has its impact on the style of leadership that he/she adopts. The value system that a leader follows influences him/her in adopting a certain style. The leadership style also gets influenced by the amount of trust that a leader has on his/her employees. The inclination that a leader has towards a directive style or team-building style also influences the leadership style. Further, the personality displayed by a leader in uncertain situations also decides the style of leadership to be adopted by him/her.
- ii) **Personality of Group Members:** The kind of personality exhibited by the followers in an organization, also help in deciding the style to be adopted. For instance, if employees in an organization prefer high need for independence, show readiness to assume responsibility, display interest in problem solving and decision making, then leaders permit greater freedom.
- iii) **Nature of Task:** The nature of task performed in an organization, plays a greater role in determining the leadership style. If the nature of task to be performed in an organization is quite critical and the

time is too short in taking decisions, autocratic styles may be used by leaders, whereas in handling simple task with no pressures of time, the leader might adopt a participative style.

*Nature of the Environment:* The structure of the organization may determine the kind of leadership to be adopted. For instance some organizations may put a heavy emphasis on the leader's abilities to work effectively with people. At other times, the social, economic and political pressures that an organization faces prompt certain style of leadership to be followed.

A successful leader is sensitive to the influences in various situations and they are in a position to determine the right style of leadership to be followed in handling various situations.

### **Leadership Qualities and Characteristics**

The basic qualities that a leader should possess, in influencing her/his people towards organizational goals, acts as a benchmark in accepting her/his leadership and conferring leadership upon a leader. In general, a leader needs to exhibit qualities or behaviour that followers find credible, useful and appropriate. Some of the scholars, in fact enumerate a list of leadership qualities. According to Chester Barnard, six qualities are essential for a leader and such qualities, as per his order of importance include (Fadia & Fadia, 2006):

- Vitality and Endurance
- Decisiveness
- Persuasiveness
- Stability in Behaviour
- Intellectual Ability; and
- Knowledge

The leadership qualities as suggested by Millet include:

- Good health
- Sense of mission
- Interest in other people
- Intelligence
- Integrity
- Persuasiveness

- Judgement
- Loyalty

Terry's list of leadership qualities includes (Fadia & Fadia, 2006):

- Energy
- Emotional stability
- Knowledge of human relations
- Empathy
- Objectivity
- Personal motivation
- Communicative skills
- Teaching ability
- Social skill; and
- Technical Competence

In crux, a leader must display "proper behaviour", be considerate and humanhearted, respect the face and dignity of the subordinates and lead through moral character. When such qualities are displayed by leaders, with the combination of the needed styles of leadership, a leader is said to play an effective role.

### **Leadership Types**

The leadership typology has been classified into various ways, based on the nature displayed by the leaders in influencing the followers. The types of leadership that has been discussed here include feudal, paternal, dictatorial, participatory, developmental, bureaucratic, manipulative, expert type and charismatic type of leadership, which are as follows (Fadia & Fadia, 2006; Sahni & Vayunandan, 2010):

1. **Feudal Type:** In the feudal type of leadership, the relationship that exists between a leader and follower is that of a lord and his subject. Under this type, the employee of the organization is considered as an essential part of the organization and is given compensation by the leader for performing his/her immediate task.
2. **Paternal Type:** In this type of leadership, the leader's relationship with the employee is that of a father and son. Hence, the leadership as per this typology is called as "paternal" and the employees of the organization are seen as family members. This type of leadership is

- quite popular in Japan, mainly due to their cultural environment.
3. Dictatorial Type: When a leader adopts a style, where he/she dictates terms to the employees and demands obedience of the employees in carrying out the orders, the typology is called as “dictatorial”. That is, in this typology, the leader gives out orders and expects the subordinates to carry out the orders rigidly and the employees of the organisation, has completely no role in decision making. However, dictatorship is redundant in the present time and people express their resentment by way of massive resistance, low morale and low productivity.
  4. Participatory Type: In this typology, the leader tends to adopt a flexible approach, wherein the employees of the organisation are allowed to participate in decision making process and the leader rather than passing out orders, just shares his/her vision and ideas to the employees and the decisions are arrived at by having a group discussion. The leader of this kind believes in upbringing of team spirit and cordial atmosphere in the organisation.
  5. Developmental Type: Under this typology, the leader feels that it is his/her duty to develop people. The leader considers his/her subordinates to have vast potentialities for improvement and thus the focus of this leader is laid on promoting the subordinates to highest performances.
  6. Bureaucratic Type: Under this type of leadership, a leader is bound by strict rules and regulations and they expect their employees to follow the procedures in a prompt manner. Bureaucratic style of leadership may be suitable for a routine organisation, where the tasks undertaken by the leader and the employees are routine in nature. Bureaucratic leaders may not be suitable for flexible and large organisations, where the nature of work is quite complex. As per this typology, rules and procedures, decide the way of functioning of employees and no initiation or participation is permitted.
  7. Manipulative Type: According to this typology, the leader manipulates the employees of the organization so as to attain his own personal goals. However, this kind of leadership attitude cannot be exhibited for a long time, as people cannot be exploited on a sustainable basis. Thus, once the employees become aware of such manipulations, resentment sets-in in the organization.
  8. Expert Type: Expert type of leadership is an emerging style of

leadership, which evolved as a result of the growing complexities in organizations. The basis for expert leadership is the individual leader's knowledge and ability and he/she assumes the role of a leader regardless of his/her age, sex, physical or other attributes.

9. Charismatic Type: The term "charisma" is primarily associated with Max Weber, who states that, "charisma is applied to a certain quality of an individual personality by virtue of which he/she is set apart from ordinary men and treated as endowed with supernatural, superhuman, exceptional powers or qualities". Charismatic leaders are regarded as of divine origin and the recognition of the followers depends upon the demonstration of constant proof, which in turn, augments follower devotion and enthusiasm. Charismatic leaders are further classified into 5 types, viz. socialized, personalized, officeholder, personal and divine charismatic, which are as follows (Dubrin, 2001):
  - i) Socialized Charismatics: A socialized charismatic is a leader who uses power only for the benefit of others, rather than using it for private gains. The socialized charismatic formulates and pursues goals that fulfill the needs of group members and provide intellectual stimulation to them. Followers of socialized charismatics are autonomous, empowered and responsible;
  - ii) Personalized Charismatics: Personalized charismatics are leaders who use the powers to a certain extent for personal gains, to serve their own interests. Such leaders impose self-serving goals and they offer support to group members only when it facilitates their own goals. Followers of this type of leader are typically obedient, submissive and dependent;
  - iii) Office-holder Charismatics: For this type of leader, charismatic leadership is more about the office occupied by him/her rather than his/her personal characteristics. By being a holder of key position, the leaders attain high status;
  - iv) Personal Charismatics: A leader with this quality, often gain very high esteem through the extent to which others have faith in them as people. Irrespective of the high or low status held by this leader, the personal charismatics are able to influence the followers, through their right traits, behaviours and characteristics;
  - v) Divine Charismatics: A historically important type of

charismatic leader is that of the divine charismatic. Such leaders tend to have divine grace and they are considered as magnetic saviour, who would arise to lead people through a crisis.

### Styles of Leadership

The literature on leadership styles has been growing in number and different styles of leadership are highlighted by different studies. However, it has to be understood that a single style of leadership cannot suit different situations. As and when the need arises, based on the situation and needs of the employee and organization, a leader can combine one or more styles of leadership in influencing people towards the goals of the organization. Thus, choosing the right style, in the right situation, at the right time is the key to the success of a leader. Some of the leadership styles discussed here is based on the inputs derived from the theories of leadership, as shown in table 6.1. Not all styles mentioned in the table are discussed and only the common styles of leadership that have gained wide popularity has been dealt with in this section.

The Leadership studies conducted by Kurt Lewin and his associates in Iowa University, identified three different styles of leadership, viz. autocratic, democratic and laissez-faire style of leadership, which are as follows:

- i) **Autocratic Style:** The autocratic style of leadership is also known as authoritative style or directive style of leadership, in which the autocratic leader retains most of the authority for himself/herself. An autocratic leader gives orders to his/her subordinates and expects that subordinates should give complete obedience to the orders issued. In this type, the decisions are taken by the leader without consulting others.
- ii. **Democratic Style:** This style of leadership is also known as participative style of leadership, which can be further categorized as consensus, consultative and democratic. In this style, the subordinates are involved in decision making. A consultative leader, take the opinion of the employees, before making a decision and a consensus leader, make a decision only after consulting the group members. A decision is not made final, until all the members agree with the decisions. In the democratic style, the final authority of making decisions rests with the subordinates.

- iii. **Laissez-Faire Style:** The Laissez-Faire leadership is also known as freereign leadership, where the decision making power is completely left with the subordinates. In this style, the leader's involvement in making decision is minimized and the people are allowed to make their own decisions. The group members are given complete freedom in setting their own goals and achieving them, which give them complete autonomy. Employees under this leader, tend to become self-sufficient and guidance is not offered by leaders unless requested.

In 1961, Rensis Likert, in his Four Systems of Management Leadership", identified four styles of leadership, viz. exploitative authoritative, benevolent authoritative, consultative and participative, which are as follows:

- i) **Exploitative Authoritative:** In this style, rather than engaging people in decision making, the leader gives directions to people. The leader shows low concern for the people, but places high concern for the task and adopts threats and fear-based methods to achieve the results.
- ii) **Benevolent Authoritative:** This style is also known as benevolent dictatorship, wherein, the authoritative leader, also places concern for the people. As per this style, though the leader allows the employees to participate in decision making, major decisions are taken by the leader only. In order to achieve the results, the leader uses rewards.
- iii) **Consultative:** As per this style, the leader consults with the employees in making decisions. The leader shows genuine interest on the ideas shared by the subordinates under this style of leadership, but still the central decision making authority lies only with the leader.
- iv) **Participative:** In this style, there is complete participation of the group members and the leader makes maximum utilisation of participation method.

As discussed in the previous unit, the Path-Goal Theory that was put forward by Robert House identifies four styles of leadership. The four types of leadership behaviour, identified by House are as follows:

- i) **Directive Style:** A directive leader clarifies the followers of the role expected of them, schedules the work to be done and gives the needed direction or guidance as to how to accomplish tasks. The leader emphasises on



formal activities, such as planning, organizing and controlling, this style is suitable, when the task is unclear to the employees;

- ii) **Supportive Style:** A supportive leader behaves in a friendly manner with the followers, and the main concern of the leader is placed on the needs of the followers, rather than on accomplishing the tasks. As per this style, the leader lays his/her attention on the well-being of employees and creates an emotionally supportive climate. Supportive leadership style can be used at a time, when the followers are not sure of how to proceed;
- iii) **Participative Style:** A participative leader involves the followers in the consultation process and also gets the suggestions or views of the followers, before making a decision. This style of leadership is suitable for improving the morale of wellmotivated employees who perform non-repetitive tasks;
- iv) **Achievement-Oriented Style:** An achievement oriented leader set challenging goals for the followers and expects them to perform at their highest level. The achievement oriented leadership style works well with achievementoriented team members, and also with those working on ambiguous and nonrepetitive tasks.

The above mentioned leadership styles under the path-goal theory is contingent upon two factors such as, characteristics of employees and environmental factors. While environmental factors include aspects such as task structure, formal authority system, work group, etc. employee characteristics include aspects like locus of control, experience, perceived ability, etc.

The Three Dimensional Model put forward by William Reddin, states that situational factors make the leadership styles effective or ineffective. Reddin thus highlights eight styles of leadership, out of which four has been identified as effective styles and the remaining four as ineffective leadership styles, which are as follows (Sahni & Vayunandan, 2010):

**(i) Effective Styles: The four effective leadership styles include:**

- a. **Developer:** Based on the situation that arises, this style is preferred by leaders where there is combination of high relationship orientation and low task orientation. Leaders as per this style are seen as having implicit trust in people as being primarily concerned with developing them as individuals;

- b. **Executive:** In this style, a leader uses high task orientation and a high relationship orientation, based on the situation. Leaders as per this style are seen as good motivators who sets high standards, who treats everyone somewhat differently and who prefers team management;
- c. **Bureaucrat:** As per this style, a leader adopts low task orientation and low relationship orientation, and the concern of the leader is basically to follow the rules and procedures and thus maintain and control a particular situation, with the help of rules and procedures;
- d. **Benevolent Autocrat:** Based on the situation, the leader adopts a style wherein there is usage of high task orientation and low relationship orientation. A leader in this style is seen as knowing what he wants, and knowing how to get it without creating resentment.

**(ii) Ineffective Styles: The four ineffective styles of leadership are as follows:**

- a. **Missionary:** In inappropriate situations, if a leader adopts a high relationship orientation and low task orientation, a leader is said to be ineffective and is seen as being primarily interested in harmony;
- b. **Compromiser:** A leader is seen as a compromise, when he uses high task orientation and high relationship orientation, when the situation demands focus on only one orientation. Such leaders are seen as poor decision makers, as he/she allows himself/herself to be influenced by pressures in a situation;
- c. **Deserter:** When a leader uses low relationship orientation and low task orientation, when such behaviour is inappropriate, such style of leadership is called a “deserter”. The leader at such situation is seen as “uninvolved” and passive.
- d. **Autocrat:** When high task orientation and low relationship orientation is used by a leader at inappropriate times, the style adopted is said to be “autocratic”. When such style is adopted, the leader is seen as having no confidence in others, as unpleasant and as being interested only in the immediate task.

The Situational Leadership theory of Hersey and Blanchard identifies four styles of leadership, which is based on the relative amount of task and relationship behaviour that a leader engages in. Task behaviour is the extent to which a leader spells out the duties and responsibilities of employees by giving direction and setting goals. Relationship behaviour is the extent to which a leader engages in multi-way communication

with the employees by adopting measures such as listening, providing encouragement and coaching. Thus the four styles of leadership identified by Hersey and Blanchard include the following (Dubrin, 2001; Sahni & Vayunandan, 2010):

- i) **Telling Style:** The telling style is seen as highly directive as the leader pays more attention to the task and less importance to the relationship. This style can be used by leaders where the followers are unable and unwilling to take responsibility and they need the direction of leaders in clarifying the goals expected of them;
- ii) **Selling Style:** Selling style is adopted by a leader, when the followers are unable to take the lead, but are willing and confident. In such situations, the leaders exhibit high orientation towards both task and relationship. The selling style is also very directive, but in a more persuasive and guiding manner.
- iii) **Participating Style:** In participating style, the leaders give less direction and there is more collaboration among leaders and employees. In this style, the leader just shares the ideas, as the employees are able to do, but unwilling due to lack confidence and thus, there is high relationship and low task orientation in this style.
- iv) **Delegating Style:** In this style, the leader just delegates the tasks to the followers and is kept informed of progress, as the followers are able to do, willing and confident to take responsibility. Thus, in this style, low relationship and task orientation is shown by the leader.

Thus, as discussed so far, the leaders can adopt any kind of style, based on the situation in which he/she is held up. The style adopted by a leader depends upon various factors such as, the attitude exhibited by the leader towards task and employees, the readiness shown by the employees towards the task and the leader and the situation in which the organisation as such is held up. Thus based on these factors, a combination of styles can be used by leaders as the same style may lead to differing results at different times.

This unit thus introduced you to the leadership style, which is regarded as the pattern of behaviour that characterizes a leader. The concept of leadership style is influenced by many factors such as the personality of the leader and employee, nature of task performed and the nature of environment. Based on such influences, a leader tends to adopt different styles and the style adopted by leaders also depended on the qualities and characteristics of a leader, wherein you were introduced to qualities of

leadership as stated by various scholars. Further, leadership typologies ranging from dictatorship to charismatic leadership were discussed. The leadership styles as portrayed by different scholars such as Kurt Lewin, Likert, Hersey and Blanchard, Robert House, etc. was discussed, which gave insights on the various styles such as autocratic, democratic, laissez-faire, exploitative, supportive, achievement-oriented, teller, seller, etc. Apart from these styles of leadership, gender differences that exist in leadership styles were also explored. When women leaders had the tendency of taking up relationship-oriented leadership styles, men were keen on taking up command and control oriented styles. Finally, best way of choosing a leadership style was also dealt with, which revealed that a blend of leadership style based on the situation would offer comparative advantage, rather than resorting to the same style of leadership for different situations. Thus, the essential aspect that has been highlighted is that, to be effective, a leader must be able to adapt herself/himself to the changing circumstances.

### **Leaders in the Era of Globalisation**

In the globalised set up, there has been remarkable change in the way in which the world moves forward and nothing remains static in the era of globalisation. There have been dynamic changes in the way in which organisation functions, especially with the liberalisation of the economy and opening up the market at the global level. In such an era, the notion on leadership has also been changing and there have been more expectations on the leaders and need of today is demand for leaders who are change and development oriented and who can face the new challenges with strong zeal and vigour.

The role of the traditional leaders was within the boundary of the organisation and the focus of the leader was just increasing organisational efficiency and achieving the goals. However, the role of the modern leader is quite complex. Along with the tasks to be performed within the organisation, the modern leaders also has to face the global environment, manage the requirements of the government, keep up with the competitors and meet the expectations of other stakeholders (Gentry, Eckert, Stawiski, & Zhao, 2014).

Some of the scholars have tried to redefine the term leadership, in line with meeting the global challenges. Adler states that, "Leaders can be viewed as people whose vision, courage, and influence set ideas, people,

organisations and societies in motion toward the betterment of their organisation, their community and the world (Adler, 1999)". Adler, states that many of the global challenges, mentioned in the present time can be tackled by adopting the traditional feminine qualities such as empathy, helpfulness, caring, nurturance, interpersonal sensitivity, etc. (Gessner & Arnold, 1999). Thus in the competitive environment there is wider scope for women leaders to tackle the challenges with theirfeministic qualities and skills.

### Challenges faced by Leaders

Diverse set of challenges are faced by the leaders of modern times, which includes, economic pressures, political uncertainties, societal expectations, etc. By making a study of about 763 leaders, across 7 countries, Centre for Creative Learning, has identified 6 major challenges that a leader has to face, which includes the following (Gentry, Eckert, Stawiski, & Zhao, 2014):

- **Developing Managerial Effectiveness:** Challenge of developing the relevant skills – such as time management, prioritization, strategic thinking, decision-making, and getting up to speed with the job – to be more effective at work;
- **Inspiring Others:** The challenge of inspiring or motivating others to ensure that they are satisfied with their jobs; Thus, a crucial challenge of a leader is how to motivate a workforce to work smarter;
- **Developing Employees:** The challenge of developing others, by adopting measures such as mentoring and coaching;
- **Leading a Team:** The challenge of team-building, team development, and team management; again the concern of the leader is on how to instill pride in a team or support the team, how to lead a big team, and what to do when taking over a new team;
- **Guiding Change:** The challenge of managing, mobilizing, understanding, andleading change. The focus of the leader in addressing this challenge, rests on, how to mitigate change consequences, overcome resistance to change, and deal with employees" reaction to change; and
- **Managing Internal Stakeholders and Politics:** The challenge of managing relationships, politics, and image, such as gaining managerial support and managing up; getting buy-in from other departments, groups, or individuals.

### Characteristics/Capabilities Needed to Face Global Challenges

Having identified the challenges that a global leader faces, the solution would be to develop dynamic skills, qualities and capabilities to face such challenges. Thus, by developing the following capabilities or inculcating the following characteristics a leader can become competent in facing the challenges (Oppel, 2007; Mercer & Wyman, 2007):

- develop strong values towards social responsibility;
- lead with integrity, and develop a business savvy that embraces uncertainty;
- create a flexible and adaptive mindset and be responsive to change;
- learn to cope up with the speeding technology and the changing environment;
- maintain a vision, that incorporates people from different cultures;
- develop dynamic people skills;
- develop multi-disciplinary perspective, that are essential for problem solving in complex and changing environments;
- learn to stay connected with different kinds of employees, of different ages and different cultural backgrounds;
- try to become global, by learning many languages and understanding different cultures;
- learn to transcend old ways of transactional relationship with transformational relationship;

Thus, by developing the needed characteristics, the leaders would be better equipped to face the global challenges.

### Self Assessment Questions

1. Examine the concept of Power?
2. Write an essay on Elite theory in Political Sociology.
3. Elucidate the Circulation of Elites.
4. What is Iron Law of Oligarchy?
5. Examine Power Elite.
6. Discuss the types of Elites and their impact on Society.
7. Explain the meaning and characteristics of 'leadership' and its importance in the context of democracy and rural transformation.
8. Analyse the theoretical nuances of leadership in a broader sense and their utility at the grassroots.

9. Compare between representatives of people and leaders of institutions.
10. Describe of various forms of leadership- transformative leadership, collective
11. leadership, administrative leadership, and new emerging leadership in the context of democratizing the society in a multi-caste society.
12. Why leadership studies are so important at grassroots at present?

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