

Understanding Political Elites in District Lakki Marwat: A Critical Analysis

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Abstract

This research offers a descriptive analysis of the political elites of District Lakki Marwat with special reference to the Historical, religious and socio-economic factors that govern the area. The study will analyse the nature and activities of political elites, their impact and function within the process of political relations and politics district development. In this context, using a critical analysis lens, this study examines the biographical details and qualifications, career history, and political party allegiances, as well as the general political engagement and roles played in local politics by leading local politicians. A special emphasis is paid to the relations that existed or exist between political and religious authorities; to the role of religions as instruments of political manipulation and domination. The study also examines the effect of the elite's politics within LMPR on democracy, governance, and socioeconomic growth in Lakki Marwat. The themes of political patronage, nepotism, and the establishment of elite power are far from over in Nepali polity as exemplified by this research project that adopts a qualitative approach including interviews with elites, documentation of historical records, and case studies focused on popular political dynasties and individuals. Consistent with these, this study highlights the perceptive importance of solving the following social problems as pertinent to political democratic reforms: Thus, this study can be seen as a small but significant step towards stepping away from the traditional political elitism paradigm in Pakistan and providing recommendations for policymakers, academics, and civil society activists aiming to better understand and influence the dynamics of power and political decision-making in the periphery.

Keywords: Political Elite, District Lakki Marwat, Social Development

Introduction

Political elites represent one of the most important social layers in any society all over the world; every country has its specific features and relationships inside. Political players have much influence in the political setting of Lakki Marwat as do political players in various parts of the country. This article provides the reader with core understanding of elite dominance and its

structure within the framework of Lakki Marwat by analyzing only one category of the elites, political elites belonging to the district. Lakki Marwat's political power over time is generally consistent with the development of the historical paradigm of elite selection where tradition qualifications like warrior status and wealth dominated the case selection. Nevertheless, with introduction of education and extent of politics as a solution, democracy was on the upsurge, but practiced to a larger extent among the aristocrats of the region rather than the real democratic representation. This shift of political elites from traditional to representative political elites is reflected in the global historical changes, while still resonating the today's elite's dynamics (Rizvi, 2015).

Moreover, to conceptualize the political elites in the context of Lakki Marwat, it is essential to paint a holistic picture of the elite theory and how it copes with different political structures and circumstances. Elite theory that originated from the renaissance and reformers period has always been an area of interest for scholars in philosophy, sociology, and political science. In as much as Plato's Republic aimed at providing an ideal society with the philosopher-kings as the ruling class, or Marx's theories involving a conflict between the working and the ruling elite class, the elite theory provides an understanding on the working of power structures within societies. It should be stressed that Pareto and Mosca, the Italian sociologists, paid considerable attention to the circulation and hence replacement of the people in the elite stratum as a function of their capability and social roles (Daloz, 2010). In general terms, setting the Focus into Pakistan, scholars like Asaf Hussain and Saeed Shafqat has defined the old elite and the new elite of the society distinguishing it into three categories as traditional elites, colonial elites and emergent elites, all of the three have the common strategy of protecting their own interest and justifying their own ideologies (Hussain, 1979). This article will seek to rip the wool off the politics of dominance by contextualizing Lakki Marwat's political elite within this theoretical perspective in order to understand the reality and significance of elite politics in the advanced state, a reality that has a direct bearing on local governance and representation.

This research aims at finding out the following important themes relevant in ascertaining the function and functionalities of political elites in District Lakki Marwat. First of all, it acknowledges the nature of political elites in the context of the district and provides information on their previous political experience, education, and social background. To achieve such purpose, it is important to have a better grasp on the dynamics that led to their rise and perpetuity in local politics. Secondly, the study aims to description qualitatively how political elites retain their

supremacy in terms of access to and ownership of capital, social and political capital, and political structures. This involves analyzing the dynamics in which elites locked horns and sought to entrench their dominance and or malign dissent. Also, the role and contribution of elite dominance towards governance, public policy and socioeconomic development within the district education will also be established. Thus, the findings of the research are intended to contribute to the understanding of the interactions between the political elites and local governance of Lakki Marwat by addressing the said areas.

Research Methodology

The methods used in this research on political elites of District Lakki Marwat involve a combination of both primary and secondary research data collection techniques. The data gathering platform involved structured interviews with the identified politicians and educated individuals by the researcher. From these interviews, respondents were given structured questionnaires that provided detailed perception and behavior information of the political elites within the given district. Secondly, secondary data collection involved searching from sources including books, newspaper, articles, theses and essential website associated with the study area. Such an approach helped to gather data from different angles and thus make the analysis more varied and, therefore, deeper. Furthermore, for statistical data, the office records were considered so as to avoid the acquisition of wrong data and making wrong conclusions. To achieve this research objective, this paper employs both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques, with a view of providing a rich and accurate understanding of the nature and processes of political elites in Lakki Marwat.

Elite Categorization in District Lakki Marwat

Industrialist Elite

The appearance of the industrial elites in the region and particularly in the Lakki Marwat District after the formation of the industrial elites represented by the family of Saifullah is a major sign of the social change in the district. Born and raised in the political and business dynastic family with four generations political and business background Saifullah has made his identity in the local and Area politics. The family worked tirelessly to lay the foundation of numerous industries, and political leaders such as H. M Saif Ullah Khan played pivotal role in steering the growth of the region from British Era. For instance, Humayun Saif Ullah Khan has a background in Academia, and he has social access to the community, and he has been of immense assistance, as he has been connecting governance to the needs of the people. As for the building development, implementing

the different projects throughout the tenure of the district Nazim was accomplished in infrastructural as well as educational development areas. This he has done despite stiff factors constraining him such as funding shortfalls and all through demonstrating strong commitment and passion towards improving the welfare of its people of Lakki Marwat district. Similarly, Saleem Saif Ullah Khan also using their political skills and knowledge to work in the national contexts, For instance, he was a senator and minister while aggressively supporting issues of national importance to a particular region. The industrial elites of the Lakki Marwat are involved in politics, business, and public service, and thus promoted the development of businesses in the district and influenced the political structure there, especially Saifullah family (Ahmed, 2021).

The role of industrial elites as depicted in the success story of Anwar Saif Ullah Khan also adds further credence to creation of meaningful socio economic change in the newly constructed city of Lakki Marwat. It is therefore not unusual that the journey of Anwar Saif Ullah Khan from the civil service to politics presents not only a story of an individual but also the transformation of the political power structures of the district. The enhanced education has enabled him to manage advanced policy delicate and academic earning from such reputable institutions like Oxford University and the University of California enable him to manage advanced policy delicate and academic earning from such reputable institutions like Oxford University and the University of California. During his term as a federal minister in the preceding several governments, untimely Anwar Saif Ullah Khan played a central role in spearheading numerous projects in the sectors as petroleum and natural resources which are vital for the development of Lakki Marwat.

However, crisis in political realm saw him imprisoned but throughout his parliaments career he had demonstrated humanity dedicating much of his effort towards addressing his constituents. The subsequent developmental projects that he kicked off and completed includes upgrading infrastructures, provision of employment opportunities for the people of Lakki Marwat have also been a massive and unique contribution to the socioeconomic uplift of this great region. With Anwar Saif Ullah Khan of Saifullah family being a known personality of industrial and political royalty in the district, the typology proves how industrial elites could play a crucial role in steering the district towards a progressive trajectory of development that would benefit a large population of the district (Ahmed, 2021).

Business Elite

Lakki Marwat is home to influential families of the business tycoons, which are also a part of the political structure of the region. One of them is the legendary Haji Kabeer Khan passed away long

time ago, originally belonged to the Ahmad Khel tribe. Born in 1945, Khan's stock was raised within a family that committed great importance and resources towards the welfare of the community, something exemplified by his father who was well known for his ability to settle disputes that were common amongst villagers. Nevertheless, Khan got middle-level education, and he started government contracting with the spirit of an entrepreneur and successfully managed to create a network of personal and business connections with hard-working attitudes. Indeed, his entry into politics was purely out of desire to provoke meaningful changes especially for the marginalized in the society. It is where Khan embarked on political mission that brought electoral successes along with developmental agendas, making him more determined to pull Lakki Marwat out of the abyss of poverty. However, his time in office saw the development of infrastructure like phone exchanges, water treatment plants, and improvement of schools that are remembered as parts of his progressive policies and social equal opportunities (Ahmed, 2021).

Likewise, the political influence of the Malak Zain ul Abideen family cannot be overshadowed in the current socio-political setting in Lakki Marwat which has its roots dating back to 1997. This family which has been involved in transportation business and public service as well, and it is owned by Malak Zain ul Abideen Khan Marwat who has a huge background in the transportation business. The lineage that threatens they inherited from prestigious forebears such as Malak Siraj Uddin Khan Marwat affects generations, directing the political agenda in the region. Fortunately, with the next generation Malak Zain ul Abideen Khan's sons including Malak Noor Saleem Khan and Malak Imran Khan has adopted the family business and philanthropic nature effectively.

Religious Elite

Among the dominating groups in the power structure of Lakki Marwat, business and religious groups both play a strong role rendering religious feelings as a trump card. This is perhaps due to the fact that religious leaders are often holders of the profound and persistent feelings or sentiments of the populace and usually exercise great influence and authority in directing the political jurisdictions involved. It is worthy to mention some of the names such as Maulana Amanullah, he was born in the well-known Mirza Khel tribe of Lakki Marwat and had religious education that paved his way into politics. The childhood and youth characteristics of Maulana Amanullah were determined by the hope of his elder brother and the approval of society based on intelligence and purity of mind (Malik, 2022). Having completed his schooling from Jamia Ashrafia Lahore that is known for producing the religious scholars, Maulana Amanullah actively

entered into the teaching profession and simultaneously began a political career alongside religious activism. Which is linked to the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) party, his political career was characterized by welfare and support for Islamic teachings as well as projects for the improvement of civil and economic life. His time as an MNA saw changes tailored towards the needs and development of Lakki Marwat through educational improvements and sensible infrastructural enhancements, not to mention that he tendered his services to the people immediately and did not stand for self-gain.

Likewise, Maulana Muhammad Anwar Khan also immigrated to the Lakki Marwat and became religious as well as political influential figure. Born in the village of Jung Khel, his experience from conventional education to religious education established the basis for his further transition into politics. He was affiliated to the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), and therefore, his victory in the previous 2018 elections also pointed at the continuous role of religious-political parties. Maulana Muhammad Anwar Khan's advocacy for the Islamic values and, the representation of the community harnesses both religious beliefs and political authority essential for any stewardship of a population and aligns with the spirit of the Lakki Marwat people.

Moreover, one cannot leave the subject without mentioning any more personalities like Mufti Amir Nawaz Khan, for example, as a remarkable example of how religious science and politics are intertwined. Born in village Sullanser, D.I. Khan, NWFP, Mufti Amir Nawaz Khan started his political career with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) but later switched into the fold of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) which show that the movement back and forth is a norm among the religious politics. He was more than a mere teacher; he was a magistrate and provincial general secretary of JUI that had a cross-ideological appeal and thus proved how religious leaders were influential in provincial politics. To sum up it can be said that, religious elite of Lakki Marwat, encapsulates the social fabric of faith power & leadership, which has substantial impacts on social and political dynamics of the area. It, therefore, emerges that the religious cadres were able to elicit the feelings of the religious leadership of the people as vividly demonstrated by the faith-based platforms exercising powers of governance and policy decision in their respective localities (Rizvi, 2022).

Professional Elite

Khan Habib Ullah Khan and Anwar Kamal Khan Marwat represent the class of professional people of Lakki Marwat who played diverse roles in different fields like politics, law and public services in the region and etched their names prominently in the history of the region. Habib Ullah

Khan, a prominent party member of the National Assembly and High Court Judge, belonging to the esteemed Meena Khel tribe. His school education was received in Lakki Marwat, and he had acquired academic acumen from the basic education to the sophisticated degrees from Islamia College Peshawar, and Aligarh University. Beginning a political career under the leadership of Khan Abdul Qayum Khan, Khan Habib Ullah Khan also played a crucial role in the freedom movement of his country and though he was imprisoned and faced a lot of dangerous times for the sake of his principles. Subsequent involvement with the Muslim League and his political activities as a member of provincial legislatures as well as national assembly reflect his mission to serve the public. Where judiciary once met Pakistan's legislative chambers, Khan Habib Ullah Khan extended his political domination, the latter best manifested in his first, and thus far, only term as the Chairman of Senate of Pakistan. His footprints as a freedom fighter and statesman remain enshrined in the freedom struggle history and serves as guiding spirit to the generations, erecting the model and unflappable picture of professional elite of Lakki Marwat (Ali, 2021).

From serving as assistant commissioner to later being involved in legal and political spheres, Anwar Kamal Khan Marwat, the son of the prominent Khan Habib Ullah Khan upheld the lineage of conspicuous service and leadership in the family. Anwar Kamal Khan, a student of Forman Christian College Lahore, and Khyber Law College has developed student political activists at the early phase of his career. Lakki Marwat Aman Ullah Khan proceeded in incrementally climbing the provincial and municipal hierarchical ladder and took up the chairmanship of the Town Committee Lakki Marwat, in addition to serving as Provincial Minister for Planning and Development. As an MPA, Anwar Kamal Khan has held offices of the government and highlighted issues of development and representation with such vigor and executive performance that he has received credit for formalizing the legislative acts and debates.

Despite the electoral losses sustained recently, his continued engagement in public work and key party responsibilities places him as a member of the financial and political strong elite of Lakki Marwat. It is on the basis of these summative accounts of Khan Habib Ullah Khan and Anwar Kamal Khan Marwat that it can be surmised that at Lakki Marwat the above names symbolize the 'professional upper-classes', men who went beyond usual call of duties, whose work impacted beyond borders, leaving indelible histories of public service, honesty and leadership in regional history (Malik, 2022).

Conclusion

This paper aimed at explaining characteristics of the political elites in District Lakki Marwat with regard to their background, aspects of wealth and linkages with the state. After months of exploration, the direction of this cultural reformation was defined, giving a greater insight into the different forces at work in the politics of Lakki Marwat. In this respect, the research study proved to be effective in achieving the set goals and objectives by outlining several major features. The initial aim of establishing the Lakki Marwat tribe served to identify cultural and historical background of the Pakistani region, which in turn assists in understanding political elites' transformation. Thus, this was a prerequisite knowledge all through the subsequent study of the politics of Lakki Marwat. Exploring the biographies of the political elites analyzed across Lakki Marwat unveiled their family background, occupations and social status and helped to identify the ongoing transformation between traditional customs and contemporary political frameworks. It revealed how so many formal and informal structures of power in the region are shaped by history and present connections. An analysis of elitism in political Parties of Pakistan and its outcome in Lakki Marwat disclosed how dynastic politics and sycophancy are correlated with preservers' forces. This interconnection may have the effect of undermining both gender and other minorities on the political front, as illustrated in the fifth chapter of this research study. Therefore, the undertaking of this research study aimed at examining the socio-political factors affecting the political elite in District Lakki Marwat unveiled various dimensions of hegemonic authority, power, and societal narratives. In achievement of these objectives, the study has provided tangible findings on the political processes at play within the region in achieving its goals. It provides clear evidence that supported and fair development should be a goal when acknowledging the background of history and culture that defines the further action. These realities remain important as Marwat finds herself amidst the choppy waters of political life; these observations can be used as a crude map for the formation of a pluralist society and progressive political system.

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