

An Analysis Of Political Leadership And The Future Trends Of It

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Abstract

A leader is the person who leads or commands a group, organization or a country. Political leadership is a multidimensional phenomenon. The decisions taken by the political leaders include social, economic, legal, cultural, regional, national and even international. Political leadership is different from other forms of leadership. The future of individuals as well as nations are both directly and indirectly influenced by the decisions of the political leaders. So need was felt to study different aspects of political leadership due to its importance. Secondary data were used mainly in this study. The study was desk based. The researcher has tried to analyze different aspects of political leadership both past and present and put forward the ways and means to cope with the possible challenges the future leaders will face in the days to come.

Keywords: Leadership, democracy, government, challenges, nation, society.

Introduction

According to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, A Leader is defined as the person who leads or commands a group, organization or a country. Political leadership is a multidimensional phenomenon. Political leadership is an important part and parcel of democracy and therefore it cannot be divorced from the democratic form of governments. The decisions taken by the political leaders include social, economic, legal, security, cultural, educational, regional, national and even international. The faith of individuals as well as nations are directly influenced by the decisions of the political leaders.

Political leadership is different from other forms of leadership .Politics by leadership is an important characteristic of the role of leadership. Some important elements of leadership are loyalty, integrity, competency, commitment, and resilience. Weak leadership leads to failure of government. On the other hand, strong leadership leads to the success of the government. Wise leadership brings prosperity and security of a nation in the long run. Again, On the contrary, foolish leadership brings shame and catastrophe to the nation. Therefore, it's very important to study and understand different aspects of leadership for a successful future of a nation state.

Objective Of The Study

The aim of the present work is to understand the various aspects of political leadership and thereby recommend a few suggestions for the future leaders.

Methodology

The method which will be used to carry out this paper includes the critical analytical method, descriptive method, evaluative method and comparative method. Basically, secondary data were used in this study. The researcher collected various government

databases, books, magazines, seminar reports, research articles, social science journals, PDF Files downloaded from different websites etc. The study was desk based.

Literature Review

The following is a brief review of some of the previous works done by different authors and researchers which the researcher has studied during writing this article :

K.C. Suri (2006) has stated that most of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties of India are known by the charismatic leaders of the party rather than their plans and agendas. The views of top leaders of the political parties are seen to be more valuable than the policy document in the public sphere. In many parties the sole decision makers are the Heads of the parties. The top leader functions as a star campaigner during elections and chief motivator of the workers in general times. In some parties the party Head acts like a modern day Prince. However, there are exceptions also. The chance of surviving in a party despite opposing the top leader is minimal in the top leader dominated parties.

M.G. Schoellar (2017) has stated that leadership is understood as a way of solving collective problems. In conditions where there are no adequate institutional mechanisms to regulate collective actions , the leader attempts to gain the target policy changes with the help of resources . Again, the followers think that if they do not act as desired by the leaders, the resources might be deployed to the disadvantage of them. However, more than mere dependence on resources, the leaders need support of the followers and an agreement of the followers with the Leaders during innovative changes and decision making process is utmost important.

Chet Clarke (1919) has mentioned that political leadership basically revolves around the idea of interaction between the leader and the constituent. There are some important issues in relations to the interaction between the leaders and the constituents and those issues are communicating with the mass in a two way communication, the responsibilities of the followers, pluralistic pressures, faith structure and control etc. For being a credible leader usually the interactions between the leader and the constituents must be meaningful. Again, three important dimensions of credibility of a leader are honesty, inspiration and competence.

Mihalik J.(2015) has stated that the Political Leadership is always a dynamic, challenging and demanding concept. One of the most examined characteristics of human species and organizations is the principles of leadership. Usually political leaders are dependent on the supporters in the policy making process. Political leaders usually use the popular concepts and nationalist rhetoric to attract as many voters as possible. Many of them appeal to the emotions of the general mass.

Plecas D., Squires C, Garus L (2018) have stated that good leaders are committed to getting feedback, knowing the concerns and aspirations of subordinates, knowing the general business and mission of the organization, evidence based decision making, keeping an eye on world events and new trends etc. A healthy and strong relationship of the government with all the stakeholders are promoted by a good leadership. A visionary leader imagines for a desired goal and tries his level best to achieve the same for the welfare of his society and the nation.

Analysis Of Political Leadership

Leadership can be categorized into different types depending on different criteria. A few of them are discussed below:

Based on story

Successful leaders usually use some simplified narratives which appeal the mass audience to think about them. Here the vision of life presented by the leader and implementation of the same in action in the society as well as the life of the leader plays a crucial role. For example, Martin Luther King's narrative had a profound appeal to the mass when he preached the non-violent approach for the emancipation of the colored people in the USA. Based on story Leaders can be of the following three types and they are Ordinary Leaders: Such kind of leaders do not go for a new story, they rely on an already entrenched story and they do not focus on the consciousness of their audiences.

- Innovative Leaders: Such kind of leaders go for a new story. Taking advantage of the innocence of the people of earlier times, they discover a new and appealing story which can catch the mass .
- Visionary Leaders : They have the potential to create a new story which can create new narratives. They have clear ideas of how they envision the future and thereby they have innovative plans and programs for the coming days.

Contemporary Leadership Based on their functions.

The leadership of the contemporary modern society can be divided into three categories and they are -

- some leadership styles use governing mechanism as an important tool to improve the coordination system. In this kind of leadership, by communicating and negotiating through organizations ideas are generated by the leaders.
- Some Leadership types use allegiance as commitment towards their supporters. The leaders try to ensure that they can keep their formal position without jeopardizing the vision for the future. In this kind of leadership pattern, the leaders act as a mere manager of the expectations and the need and priorities of the citizens.
- Another type of leadership style considers governance as the consequence of the complexity of the surrounding contexts. In addition to their wide range of normal duties and responsibilities, they are expected to relate to other organizations, both private and public. To develop proper partnership and maintain the generated policies and the implementation of them is an important task of leadership.

Some typologies of Political Leaders

Dichotomous Typologies : A few dichotomous typologies in relation to leader's individual traits and the way they generally relate to the supporters is needed to be understood. Different thinkers have divided leadership types in different ways among which some are mentioned below:

- ~Greenstein: Effective leaders and Ineffective leaders.
- ~Aristotle and Kellerman : Good leadership and bad leadership.
- ~ Tucker :Formal leadership and informal leadership.
- ~ Deutsch :Strong leadership and weak leadership.

*Trichotomous Typology: Trichotomous typology of Political leadership were more common during the Cold War period. There are mainly three types of leadership from this point of view:

- ~ Pragmatic Leadership: It was found mainly in the western democratic cultures in the first world countries .
- ~ Ideological Leadership: It was found in the communist block in the Second World countries.
- ~ Revolutionary Leadership: It was found in the newly independent Third World countries.

Way Forward

Important factors which have the potential to influence and change the way the political leaders can achieve success in the future are given below:

Information

The major and minor incidents occurring throughout the world is easily accessible at every nook and corner of the world thanks to the Internet. In today's world, however, the quantity of information does not ensure quality of information. Again, in the days to come, the digestion of information will be a big concern of the future leaders. Wrong information creates a havoc in the society by creating misunderstanding and animosity among the fellow citizens. Getting and spreading out correct information in due course of time would be a prime need of the coming days.

The privacy concerns

With an easy access to information, a reduced sense of privacy is going ground. A threat to the distinction between private and public life is coming in the near future. The government agencies will have more and more information of individual citizens. Government's access to anything and everything of the secrets of the individual citizens of a nation is direct violation to one's freedom and liberty .Due to these type concerns Citizens' disinterest to opt for a career in public service is going to be a challenge of future leaders. The leaders of tomorrow have to guarantee a balance between the right to information and the right to privacy.

Issues transcending national boundaries

Different International Organizations and issues of international concern will have direct and direct impact on the sovereignty of the the modern nation States. These may supersede the national boundaries. Examples of these are human rights, population growth, ecology, nuclear proliferation etc. This indicates the declining nature of the modern nation states. The giant multinational companies, the International organizations of universal as well as regional nature, the international monetary entities and their deepening influences are some of the challenging issues for the future leaders.

Ability of Anticipation

Successful Leaders will emerge from among the individuals who are aware of the possible future trends and able to find out the innovative means and ways to face them. An acknowledgement of the problems and confrontation of them in a realistic way will largely impact on the success of the leaders of the future. By foreseeing the future by analysing the changing circumstances in the national, regional and International issues of linguistic, ethnic, economic, cultural nature the leaders have to prepare themselves. Not only this, the leaders ought to be courageous enough to be ready to face any unexpected turbulent scenarios

and lead his people and the nation with pride and determination.

Conclusion

The leaders themselves must have the sense why they are expected by the people to deliver the best to the society. Political leadership is far from perfection, but it is also a fact that prosperity of the future of a country is dependent on true leadership. Effective leaders need to have a pro poor agenda and can render positive influence to the lives of the most vulnerable, down-trodden and disadvantaged groups of a State. Without a strong care of the citizens by the Leaders, it will be difficult to lead a nation successfully. It is imperative that educational leaders in every society familiarize students with the constants and variables of leadership as well as the tensions that complicate leaders. Everywhere role changes are always expected and leadership is no exception to this. Working with full diligence and the courage to face challenges with proper strategies as well as sailing in masky waters would be important criteria for potential leaders. Only enlightened and effective Political Leaders will be able to lead to a functional government.

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