

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE II
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MODULE: IV CONCEPT OF REPRESENTATION

Functions of Political Parties

Aldrich writes that in the contemporary world, democracy is unworkable without having any political parties. Because of their functions the parties have become a crucial factor in stabilizing the state. In modern and democratic societies, fighting to gain power usually is the perfect function of political parties. Mostly, political parties, present programmes that the society can decide to support or refuse. It is the party leaders and members who decide upon special policies and rules while sticking together and sharing their ideas, in addition to, taking suggestions from their society. The basic aim is to present these ideas to the government for the good of the citizens. Political parties perform certain functions necessary for running the political system. It is feasible to organize these functions under the following titles.

1. The governing function:

Without political parties, this multifaceted modern civilization would become unmanageable. Political parties make easier the creation of governments. They also give stability to the government; particularly if members of the authority belong to a party.

Political parties usually collaborate between the two main areas of government: the legislative body and the administrative. Parties provide a very important opposition and criticism, from within as well as out of government.

2. The electoral function:

Election in democratic societies is dependent on political parties. Political parties generally select candidates at elections. They offer funds and services for election campaigns.

Recent electoral investigation has discovered that the common man has some problems in making the right selection in elections because complication of matters and the diversity of choices confuse voters. For this reason, one of the strange functions of political parties is to make politics more reachable to citizens.

Political parties need to organize the vote bank to get votes and also to protect the election of their candidate to parliament or other public office. On other hand, all political parties try to find ways to persuade voters that their candidates are more reliable than those of its rivals. They set up policies which the voter is required to support. Parties supply a tag with

which the electorate can identify and take responsibility, since the voter is capable of holding them accountable for policy achievements or disappointments.

3. The representative function

Political parties facilitate the formation of ideas of people to be understood and they guarantee that issues of social concern in the political scheme. They are the main input mechanisms that guarantee the fulfilment of the needs and desires of the society. This kind of function is, one of the basic and essential functions of a party.

4. The policy, or goal setting, function

While performing their representative functions, political parties try to create some policies. They are one of the agencies through which people of a country try to attain their joint goal. While doing this, political parties gather support of the common people and through this, they ultimately gain political power. This helps them, get into the parliamentary system of a specific state and there, they make and implement the policies they had promised the common masses. Political parties also introduce ideas and matters; they clear other goals for the society in ways that could improve the chances for selecting those values.

5. The recruitment and participation function

In modern and democratic societies most political campaigners are members of parties. In these countries political parties perform the main function of giving confidence to people to become political activists. They are in charge of supplying to the states their political principals. Leaders gain office because of their high profiles and participants in a presidential selection are generally political party leaders. In the parliamentary system the head of the majority in parliament usually becomes prime minister and other place of duty are generally filled by most important party members.

Sometimes, political parties offer a training class for policy makers, and equip them with information and skills. Otherwise, in societies where political parties are powerless, power is generally in the hands of traditional leaders like that of military institutions or ruling families.

REFERENCE:

https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/56955/6/06_chapter%201.pdf