

Youth Participation and Local Government: Case Study of Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This paper studies the devolution plan 2000 in Pakistan i.e. the local government system, to empower the common people through political participation and attempt to address the questions like what is the role of the political parties in this system as this system provided a non-party base mode of elections. This paper explains that how did the political parties manage to get their place. How far did this system prove successful in stimulating the recruitment of the youth by the political parties and induction of 'new faces' in politics? It analyses the prospects for youth participation in the local government system and measure the progress towards the goal of youth participation in the presence of elite culture, parochial interests, the inertia of the bureaucracy, and the military-civilian hybrid political system along with many limitations of the devolution plan itself. It explains that in the wake of the government change in Pakistan as a result of elections in February 2008, what are the prospects of the survival of the local government institutions after the restoration of democracy in Pakistan?

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