

## State's Behavior Impact on People's Participation by Emphasis on Power Transition

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### ABSTRACT

Increase or decrease in citizens' participation in a political society is most likely rooted in dominating political culture and government's behavior in treating the citizens. In this vein, government's political belief and will in assigning a part of the power to citizens and regulating political relations for people's profit impacts on fostering political motivation and increase in political participation more than any other component. However, the most important factor which makes barrier on this trend is governments' resistance and opponents in the process of transiting a part of political power of citizens. Present paper emphasizes on this fundamental assumption that citizens have equal rights to government in posing power. on this basis, by believing the fact that citizens posing seeking in political decision making is fruitful for the society in long terms, it attempts to emphasize on how government should behave citizens and uses a descriptive – analytical method to prove that way out of many political, economic and social crises is through assigning a small part of power to citizens.

**KEYWORDS:** government's praxeology, political culture, citizens' participation right, increasingly participation, power transition to citizens

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### INTRODUCTION

In most analyses on relations between government and citizens, the government plays a vital role. In the flow of power transition and participation, government plays again a critical role. If State poses limitations, people will become passive and indifference to their fate although they entitled in running their country by the Constitutional Law and human right charters because that citizens' public participation in the society needs cultural and educational contexts for awareness contributive rights more than anything else. Likewise, citizens' active participation in decision making would lead into their recognition and being aware of their citizenship identity and then their intervention in running all political, social and economic affairs. Realizing such aim is a task of the government called as *participation*. Therefore, States can pave the ground for most amount of people's intervention in determining their fate by obliging to accept citizens' participation as a principle for well governance. States' loyalty and obligation degree to people's governance tight theory and citizenship benchmarks in practice show the rate of their participation or participation averse. Through diversity and scope of participation field, present paper plans to address State's effective role in recognizing such fundamental right. In fact, the main problem of present research is that what steps should be taken by government to stabilize power transition to citizens and institutionalizing participation culture in macro policymaking? Hence, present study is a combination of descriptive and analytical methods. The necessity of research is due to the fact that citizen's participation is not a fixed and decisive issue and it is increasing (decreasing) by states' behaviors and stances toward citizens' rights. Therefore, present paper emphasizes on states' political behavior and attempts to address the importance of citizens' equal rights with state in exerting power.

#### The impact of political culture on participation

Adopting any behavioral policy or governments' positions on power transition to people is undoubtedly rooted in the context of considered society's political culture. Culture building is a valuable initiative manifested incrementally in different forms of political, economic, social and legal development. Governments' movement in this route would yield to the feeling of understanding and consistency between government official and people as well as people's trust to officials as the protectors of human values and identities. Thus, one can consider participative culture building as a radical factor in developing and excellence of a society. Hence, John Stewart

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Mill believed the best government as the elected one. Therefore, according to Mill, one of the best profits of free governments is to groom citizenship intelligence and feelings. It is realized when people are invited to cooperation for performing their citizenship roles which can directly impact on their joint interests (Mill, 1990: 150).

According to Mathew Arnolds, the scope of training citizens is, in fact, the starting point of human making process and its aim is identical to the aim of the culture namely looking for perfection. According to him, training is the scope of fundamental task of the government in integrating and to prepare and equip citizens for maximum participation in running the country and their more shares in centralized power locus (Lesly, 1999: 47). Therefore, in playing their effective role in attracting citizens participation, governments are facing with three scenarios that Almond categorizes them in limited, guided and participatory political cultures (Masoudnia and Mahdipour, 2011: 64) and they can be adapted to governments' political behavior and approach on citizens' participation (Azkia and Ghafary, 2004: 37).

**Anti-participation culture:** in this culture, citizens are not aware of their citizenship status, government policymaking and political regime structure. Government policy is defined and adjusted so that citizens' participation is postponed.

**Guided participation culture:** in political culture, citizens are only aware of some government's function including lawmaking and tax regime and they are not aware of the ways to penetrate into political system and social infrastructures. By such policy, governments pursue their aims under seemingly participative plans.

**Real participation culture:** in political culture, citizens enjoy full political awareness. Government transfers the power to participatory organizations realistically. As a result, citizens enjoy necessary authority to intervene directly in their fate through prevalent parties and constant supervision on political regime.

## **Reflection of government's behavior on citizens' participation**

### **Inactive participation**

Inactive participation roots in Rome's citizens' behavioral pattern in their fights in which only one fighter remained in the scene. In fact, in such fights conducted seemingly for kings' entertainment, only one aim was pursued namely showing the power of superiors since only strong party won the fight. The fate of another party was that it either omitted from social and political life or experienced the fail. Hence, the behavioral method of this group of citizens who expressed no reaction against social and political phenomena and withdraw from political flows is interpreted as apathetic (Milbrath – Goel, 2007: 25). Overall, this group intervenes in no political action and shows no reaction to surrounding phenomena. This group can be seen in all societies and groups and a low quantity of them may be seen remarkable. However, their tendency to involve in politics and social activities is peripheral. In fact, their participation in their affairs is silent. To find the reason of such inactive behavior, it is highly important to investigate psychological factors so that as Robert Dall asserts, the feeling of inefficiency is created among people due to government's negligence to their demands and opinions and it plays a vital role in mitigating their political confidence and, as a result, political inaction and motivation (Masoudnia, Mohamadifar and Foroughi, 2012: 109).

### **Minimum participation**

It is participation interpreted as observer's participation in political action scene. Observers are groups of people who play the role of spectator rather than dynamic and active role. In any group or party, observing participators limit to minimum participation in social and political affairs. Their traits are to use a symbol, attempt to talk with other people in order to vote to a certain flow, to start political discussions, to vote and to be exposed by a political motivation. Their contribution is limited compared to other kinds of people participation whose reaction to social problems and realities is cold and inactive is warmer. However, they are in lower ranks compared to the performance of political fighters and actors. Observers were seen in all ages including ancient Rome political and legal system so that they encouraged gladiators to foster or weaken their morale and then participated in election to determine the final winner (Milbrath and Goel, *Ibid*). Such contributions are limited by citizens and are influenced by political conditions and shows crisis in citizenship active roles. For instance, it seems that citizens in such societies have decided to participate in one scene (i.e. elections). Hence, when candidates' political layout, election maxims and the fever of elections were cooled, they limit to minimum part of participation through final hours of voting (participation in 10<sup>th</sup> election, 2009).

### **Active participation**

According to Habermas, citizenship active participation aspects are interpreted as achieved membership. This political behavior by citizens requires active participation and individual's attraction by the society which build his identity (Fateminia, 2007: 51). In fact, psychological and personality roots of such behavior are participation in

hard wars by gladiators or strong champions in ancient ages simulated with serious rivals. Such kind of participation shows the position or authority of a party, political support demand, participation on strategy setting meeting and planning for the party; active membership in political campaigns and participation in political fights. By categorizing the hierarchies of people's participation in US statistical population, Milbrath has studied people's participation. He divided US people into three groups and believes that 5-7 percent of them gladiators or those who participate in politics actively. Verba and Nay also categorized participating groups in political issues and estimated the share of fully active people namely those one who are involved in all political grounds as 18% (Fateminai, *Ibid*). In a general approach, it seems that people's active participation requires developing advanced and participatory political culture. In this culture, members respect all political culture aspects and consider an active role for themselves in decision making progresses. In participatory culture, since citizens control over roles, procedures and mechanisms of political regime, trust covers a wide range of people's mindset (Khaniki, 2002: 166). In a sociological analysis, citizens' maximum participation depends on the type and nature of political systems. Hence, increasing or decreasing people participatory control over administration would yield into emergence of three different political regimes: democratic, authoritative and totalitarian (Seifzadeh, 1994: 168) of which active participation can be realized only in democratic regimes.

### **State's affecting functions on fostering citizens**

Overall, power transition is an affecting factor on people's participation in social and political affairs. Hence, it should be emphasized that such situation may be happened when people enjoy minimum public education, leisure and scientific capacity to investigate the problems (Braumer, 2006: 927). Culture building is a step-by-step process. By using educational plans, governments aid to promote families' political awareness level as the first, smallest and most important social entity to bore constructive roles in the society. Our means of State in here, is a Particible State. Therefore such state, when it has a conducive and support behavior against the rights of citizens in running the country and commits to accept citizen's rights' in exerting the power.

Hence, States should initially build culture and its backgrounds to promote educational return and grooming next generations better. Then, they should train the people multilaterally in all social levels as well as their forces in the structure of dominating powers for better and more effective relations with clients and customers (Bitham, 2004: 71 – 74). Also, by aspiring principles such as autonomy and people's governance tight in determining their fate, government educates citizens and the route of training participation is seen as a political system output through such values as the feeling of justice, security, accountability and human virtue which would finally increase citizens' satisfaction (Milbrath – Goel, 2007: 23). Therefore, one can concluded that in western culture building model, citizens' political and social awareness relates to the quality of information flow directly. Political culture building model in developed political regimes is a guideline to promote intellectual capability of transformation in people's beliefs for effectiveness and role playing in the society. In this vein, socialization, right political orientations and empowerment are the radical roles of the government in participatory culture building flow and its outcomes discussed below:

### **Citizens' socialization**

Socialization is process by which citizens learn believing, valued and insights in a society. According to Kardiner, socialization is a tool to achieve a collective agreement among society's members by which citizens learn styles, values and social roles and find a radical identity. In a more comprehensive definition, socialization is a process which involves three aspects of citizen's life: (1) personality, (2) culture and (3) society and leads into socialization of politics, political orientation, political thinking styles and citizenship participation (Naghizadeh, 2002: 85 - 88). Almond and Verba have paid attention to political socialization in their civil and political culture. They believe that several factors including family, school, volunteer groups, mass media, administration and parties are effective in political socialization (Allen – Goy, 2005: 92). According to abovementioned points, we found that in addition to a series of definitions, political socialization has a main aim namely training political orientations and behaviors for objective and more organized political participation.

### **Orienting public demands**

Overall, any political action requires two kinds of decision. The first decision is on acting or not acting and the second one is on the orientation of the action. In this vein, various factors including pressures by family and peer groups would determine this political orientation (Milbrath, 2007: 18 – 20). Political cultures are shaped by two orientations. Therefore, when these orientations are relied upon rationality and awareness, the political culture is more evolved and based on development. The first axis of such orientation relates to individual's internal attitudes while orientation by other part is based on citizens' social situations and networks. Individual orientation

includes conception, value and feeling attitudes toward political phenomena. Citizens' understanding is determined by politics and values on participation in running domestic affairs. In the second axis, as mentioned, citizens' orientation is more based on administration relations which show administrators impact on administrative politics and structures (Bashirieh, 2002: 334). Hence, the most important challenge for government in citizens' socialization is people's reaction to administrators' performance and government's policymaking to recognize citizens' participation. Also, it investigates that society's political structures pursue which facilities and policies for people's political participation in public management. One of the most important functions of governments in attracting people's participation is to navigate and rationalize citizens' political orientations. It cannot be achieved otherwise government has a rational and citizen-oriented behavior for citizens' orientation and creates necessary contexts for a participatory climate as a participatory political culture.

### **Citizens' capacity building**

Capacity building is seen as a vital resource in governments' role playing in participation. It is based on increasingly facilities provided by governments for people's expressions and participation in running the society. When dissatisfactions from government's treatment in people's daily life becomes a public problem, mental readiness will be shaped for changes in the society. Under such circumstances, government's legitimation mechanism is allocated to elements of legitimation. Although it may be fruitful in short term, these factors and power institutes would lose their political meaning in long term. Therefore, if capacity building is conducted for public participation, it can highly encourage the people. It is revealed when the possibility of a meaningful vote namely the vote by which a voter feels effectiveness will be fully tangible for the society. To this end, participation norm in today society is seen as another requirement of capacity building to attract participation. Hence, improving participation capacity often occurs when most citizens can express their paramount demands and requests in current relevant frameworks in political regime.

### **Promoting citizens' power qualitatively Increasing the number of participators**

In participation trend, increase in the number of participators in political movements is also a crisis building issue. By increase in the quantity of participators, it is likely that people who were far from political participation for any reason – both internal and external factors – can enter political participation arena (Pay et al, 2001: 97). In fact and as a critical principle, governments are obliged to pave the ground for people's assurance on politics. By attracting their trust, they would lead public opinions toward them and they would create an ambience of empathy. In political action arena, a government is more efficient that can create more social cohesion among different classes of population and can prevent curbing by parties. Likewise, it should be able to mitigate political tensions. Participatory governments use any situation to acquire people's opinions. The result of such regular polls is to be aware of citizens' demands in social and political arenas and to estimate their satisfaction on society's plans and strategies. Increase in the number of citizens is the direct outcome of government's behavior against thoughts and opinions. Compared to other governments, efficient ones enjoy higher sensitivity and flexibility to accept deficits and to amend incorrect behaviors. In fact, each problem is seen as a political exercise.

### **Public encouragement**

In democratic administration, governance is a right belonged to all people realized by them to meet their demands and requests. A democratic system provides people with proper opportunities to be effective in a society in the best manner. One of the special situations granted to people by democratic administrations is the feeling of efficiency and effectiveness transferred from government to people. Transferring such sense would foster the morale of self – belief and hardworking. Public forces and social groups are the main constructors of the society. Hence, a society which can groom the feeling of fruitfulness and can foster attention to collective issues is undoubtedly a participatory society where there are potential capabilities which lead into aware citizens to have constant dependency to administrative processes (Held, 1996: 373). Therefore, democracy is a participative method to encourage the intervention by most citizens in their future political issues. In this method, one can achieve desired results on the right of determining the fate and recognizing different social groups to state in all areas and problems of human community (Dahl, 1999: 77 – 78). Therefore, paving the ground for maximum participation would lead into several outcomes.

One outcome is the attraction of cultural classes (elites) for role playing and intervention in public and sensitive affairs of the country since lack of proper grounds for elites' participation can waste intellectual and instrumental talents of the society. Stimulants of social groups including elites and other groups of citizens to participate in public policymaking process are shaped by three determinants including cognitive, effective and

evolutional ones. Overall, the impact of cognitive components on participation in running important affairs of the society is so that it would lead into elites' recognition on role and role incumbents as well as enter/exit mechanisms of the system. Effective component refers to their feelings and emotions toward political system, roles, personalities and behaviors of agents. Evolutional component is a combination of value criteria, benchmarks of judgment, information, feelings, beliefs and political roles (Khaniki, 2002: 167). Another result of government's persuading policy for participation is to motivate middle class of the population which involves huge population quantitatively and is the factor of fostering participatory and civil entities.

### **Promoting citizens' power qualitatively Fostering the feeling of powerfulness**

Designating a part of power to public forces is a main task of cross-traditional (developed) governments. Most developed political regimes believe that the edge of their success is the execution of main plans and strategies of society and using citizens' opinions in decision makings. The scope of this problem is implied in different political, economic, social and cultural aspects which as main pillars of participatory administration. The idea of creating wide groups which can participate in decision making is not seen in most governments. However, if a government agrees to the approach on forming public links to monitor on governmental officials' performance, it has really helped its efficiency and effectiveness. Hence, many problems of people are inside governmental entities and are due to the lack of participation feeling in organizational decision making. Therefore, when all citizens are accepted as human capital and resource, their capability is admired and their dignity is respected, they will find themselves in situations to accept several roles in the society which would result in citizens' general participation. Sharing in policymaking processes by all people is a factor of a political regime acceptance which would lead into the feeling of satisfaction among different citizens in different decision making levels and a huge source of energy, self – esteem and efficiency. According to studies, such favorable feelings relate directly to civil or political influencing senses so that one can say that participation in politics and the feeling of influence cover each other and build a link of impacts in participation chain (Mibrath, *ibid*: 95) and can foster “ego strength” (Milbrath, *ibid*: 118 – 119). In first step, empowerment different classes of population requires conceptualization and paving necessary cultural grounds on citizens' participation and enhancing scientific awareness level of people in determining their fate.

### **Fostering citizens' self – management morale**

Citizens' self – management phenomenon is seen as a manifest of democracy regime body and roots in participatory democracy style. Here, it is believed that increase in citizens' participation in running national affairs can be seen as the best paradigm and guideline to establish citizenship governance. The principle of “self – autonomy” or “self – regulation” or “self – managing” indicates the starting point toward bureaucratic participation which involves people's governance phenomenon to determining the fate of their life in its own internal layers. This new managerial model was coined by Ron Proser in his well-known book titled “self – management system in the organization”. It is a system which can determine special rights and norms to run its affairs neither through higher power representativeness nor in contradictory to general rules of the country (Khubruiyap, 2005: 15 – 16). This system disseminates democracy in organizations so that in any organizational level, each employee feels that he/she is the manager of the organization and is responsible for the fate of the organization. This is a proper model and guideline to receive and use employees' capabilities to realize individual and organizational goals. Researches indicate that when people's opinions and requests are paid attention, it would be a very sweet memory so that the holders of such experience often attempt to enjoy it again. The results of studies suggest that in over %99.3 of such systems, the amount of satisfaction from organizational factors including position, hierarchy (and respect), commitment and trust to government is one hundred percent. The domination of participatory management thinking has led to the growth of managerial system in general and public sphere management in particular. Therefore, if citizens are encouraged only one time for providing a fruitful and participatory suggestion in economic and political issues – albeit trivial incentives materially – it would lead into a positive and valuable feeling and would pave the ground for people's governance and direct intervention in public policymaking arena (Alvani, 2004: 124).

### **The outcomes of anti – participation political behavior**

Participatory culture building roots in developed political culture. By using optimistic anthropology, this culture makes it possible to transfer power from government to citizens in macro decision makings. In this structure, a single management is not existed. In fact, what dominates is citizens' public management (Rahmatollahi, 2009: 143). Participatory culture is expanded in many capitalistic manufacturing firms, unions, regional organizations and public institutes such BBC. Political schools are provided in these institutes implicitly

rather than explicitly. However, we are observing diverse roles in such institutes. For instance, educational centers transfer certain values to students and pupils indirectly by their instructional methods and activities. One example is the role of western capitalistic newspapers in praising capitalistic political behavior which looks for political, national, cultural and mental socialization in the personality of both children and adults. Western cultural structures are as is all schools and beliefs address to train citizens on politics, policymaking and public awareness on their role in society in a planned manner. (Rahmatollahi & Agha Mohammad Aghae, 2014:86-89) In contrary to governments with participation culture structure as a priority in their agenda, there are governments with centralized cultural structure approach in which all arenas related to citizenship culture building are dominated by the government and the determining and influential role of citizens is discounted to the lowest level compared to participatory cultures. Hence, some impacts or damages of governments' indifference to participatory cultural structure of their preference to build any other cultures except than participatory one are mentioned below in order to put more emphasis on the importance of government's effective role:

1. Not shaping a right holder and lack of belonging to citizenship relations;
2. Overcoming individual will in political affairs against public interests;
3. Not shaping social and political entities based on people's tendency in the society;
4. Not shaping a full social class and class fights to occupy political power;
5. Weakness of civil society and its related entities;
6. The feeling of powerless and being spectator in any level and layer of society;
7. Extensive weakness of accountability
8. Lack of documented and regulated critic and excessive anti-criticism;
9. Weakness of regulated participation culture particularly in civil areas (including in cities);
10. Self – centrality in social and civil joint activities;
11. The growth of exploitation morale on the one hand and power seeking on the other hand;
12. Not institutionalization of law and disseminating conflicting laws. (Piran Parviz, 2002: 84 – 85).

## Conclusion

In addition to the fact that not participating by people in running their fate is an undesired phenomenon, dominating governance regime in the society will be also faced with legitimacy and public acceptance crises. Government's negligence on people's participation in determining their fate – whether due to deficiencies in planning and lack of necessary infrastructures for executing participation plan – is not justifiable and is seen as the most important challenge for anti – participation communities. Today, political participation is a symbol of realizing the aim of people's equality in natural and civil rights and an internal value. By clarifying the strong relationship between culture building, socialization and political organizing, present study is conducted by civil – political participation model and investigates the nature of political participation. By social, political and cultural transformations, Islamic Republic of Iran has grown and expanded public entities in the society and has paved the ground for civil political participation in decision making process, policymaking and running the society. Citizens' political liberties and rights are locus of all discussion in the Constitutional Law. Such issues as human governance on his/her social and political fate; free expression, free belief; free press' free parties; free associations; free elections; supervision through inviting to well and forbidding evils; supervision through councils; equality against law and pedagogy; security and justice are mechanisms to accept citizens' public participation. Political – election participation is mostly institutionalized in Iran. Election and people's participation in them show their belief in political participation regime. Due to different reasons, political parties and press have not been able to play their role in expanding people's political participation except than very limited periods. By emphasizing on research findings, one can say that the structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran's structure has paved the ground for theoretical and practical basics for civil political participation. Due to internal and systemic weakness in political socialization and participatory culture building, populistical participation is shaped rather than sustainable and aware one. The result is that citizens enter participation process passively without any responsibility.

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