

# Makran in the Democratic Process of the Elections in Pakistan

*Social Sciences and Humanities*

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## Abstract

*Elections are the part of democratic society which needs to run and promote the democratic values and system. As far as Makran is concerned it is quite clear that this region always remained political and democratic. This society is structured on kinship basis. All decisions are made at household level and no tribal structure is present to make collective decision. Communal leadership is a function of aged people in the community. In this article, I will analyze the electoral behaviours of the people of Makran, and then compare the different election results of Makran region.*

**Key words:** Democratic Process, Electoral Behaviour, Electoral Politics, Legislative Body, Makran

## Introduction

Balochistan is a largest province of Pakistan. It is spread over 347000 km, and divided into 8 divisions. Every division has different history during the election process. One important division of Balochistan is Makran. This division consists of three districts Panjgur, Kech and Gwadar. This division performed a different role in every election than other parts of Balochistan. Makran actively participated in every local, provincial and national election and changed its representatives from time to time. On the other hand the rest of Balochistan mostly continued the hereditary system of the representatives.

## Elections

Modern nations have big states with huge territories and populations. It is really impossible for the public of such states to gather at one place for political matters. They can take part in the affairs of the state only indirectly, that is, through their representative whom they elect to make laws and decide

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other problems of the state. Hence, modern democracy in indirect democracy, with representatives elected by the public who have the right to vote, called suffrage. (Haq .1975. p.270)

### **Importance of Elections**

In modern time, the election process has acquired great importance and power. The voters elect the members of parliaments. In some states, they also elect the head of the state, the president.

In Switzerland and certain other countries, they have the powers to make laws by the initiative and referendum and can recall the legislative members. By means of these powers and functions, the voters' exercise great control over the regime. It possesses a watch over the performance, laws and strategies of the government through polls and representatives. Moreover, the voters effect the government through public opinion, which is really the opinion of the voters. In brief, so great is the influence, power and significance of the voters, that some authors have called the voters as the fourth estates, that is, the fourth figure of the state, equal in rank to the other three, the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. (Ibid, p. 277)

### **Arguments in Favor of Election**

There are several arguments in favour of election. Firstly, universal franchise is democratic; it is guarantor to preserve the rights of the people. If the people are the autonomous, they should have a share in the government. Secondly, laws are followed willingly when they are made with the consensus and support of all, as expressed through their legislative body. Similarly, the policies of the government should be made according to the desires and benefits of all people and decided by all. This is only possible if all the population has the right to vote and elect their representatives and convey their views and demands to the policy-maker. Thirdly, universal suffrage is based on the principle of one man one vote. This principle ensures political equality, as no citizen is excluded from the right to vote. Moreover, it is unjust to exclude certain classes or sections of the nation from share in political power and government. Universal franchise prevents injustice. It protects the interest of all. Lastly, it gives strength and stability to the state, because it places political power in the hands of all adult citizens who are intelligent, sane and able bodied.

And election has great importance in a society, due to this, people can use their wishes in the matters of the state, play their role in political process, and it is useful to prevent the insurgency in the society. If the people will not get a chance to elect their representative or express views and wishes in election,

the society can face lot of problems then the life of people becomes worse. (Ibid, p. 278)

### **A General Perspective of the Elections in Pakistan**

Everywhere in the world, elections are regarded among the most tangible, formal and demonstrable acts of collective decision in the political process. Though by no means an uncomplicated process, elections are at the Centre of politics everywhere. (Ahmed.1982.p.63)

The elections are not only central to the political system itself; they also provide an index to the nature of political systems, as well as to the total political and social environment of the country. They also provide clues to the measure of linkage between politics and government. (Ibid, p.63)

The elections may be either truly meaningful or merely ritualistic acts. If meaningful, they would promote popular participation in a democratic society, but if merely ritualistic, they give the people only the illusion but not the reality of participation and provide legitimacy to an already entrenched regime.

The election in Pakistan could be regarded critical as termed by V.O. Key or realigning as used by Angus Campbell. In Pakistan elections have brought about systemic destabilization by causing polarization, agitation, violence, anomie and disruption, in yet another spell of martial law, though of a diluted type, to avert a civil war that had been looming large in the political landscape of Pakistan. (Ibid, p)

After the establishment of Pakistan, no elections were conducted in Balochistan. It was for the first time that elections were held in 1962, 1964 and in 1965. These elections were held for national and provincial assemblies. In the election of 1965, the president was also elected. Those elections were held under the constitution of 1962, in which the right of adult suffrage was not given to the people but the elections were held indirectly and through Electoral College in which initially the number of members were eighty thousand which was later on extended to one lac twenty thousand. Those members were based on parity that is sixty thousand from East Pakistan and West Pakistan. At that time Balochistan was the part of West Pakistan. But Makran including Balochistan participated, BD system election of provincial and national level. Mir Ghaus Bakhsh Bizenjo contested the election of 1964 for national assembly from Kalat cum Makran. (kutty.2009.p.110-111)

When Balochistan acquired the provincial status; it participated in all the elections of the country from 1970 to 2013. In the election of 1970, the

condition of the political parties and political trends were very weak so the study of that election is not so important. The election of 1977 was controversial because the results were not accepted by opposition parties (PNA- Pakistan National Alliance). The election of 1985 was held on non-party basis from which the results cannot be achieved, so we can take only the election from 1988 to 2013 for discussion and on the basis of the activities of political parties and political trends, we will put light on the future perspective. The political position is being discussed only on the basis of election results.

### **Makran a Democratic Society**

The democratic society of Makran has always been positive and productive about the political and democratic developments. The elections at all levels always remained almost peaceful, as the society is conducive for democratization. The democratic history of Makran presents the record of 1970 to date elections.

### **The Political Parties of Makran**

Makran is an open society as compared to the other parts of Balochistan. There are many political parties like, nationalists, federalists, and religious parties. The names of some of them are below.

NP (National Party) headed by Hasil Bizenjo, BNP (Balochistan National Party Mengal) headed by Sardar Akhtar Mengal, BNP( Balochistan National Party Awami) headed by Israr Zehri, BNM,( Balochistan National Movement) headed by Khalil Baloch, on the other hand major federal parties also existed there, like PPP, PML(N), JUI (F) and Jamaat-e-Islami.

One thing is unique of Makran from the other parts of Balochistan is that the people always changed those representatives who could not fulfill the requirement of their voters. Even parties could not remain forever after the death of their leaders, like PNP and JWP. The results of elections in Makran are not same in every election. We will see different results and different representatives from 1988 to date.

In the election of 1988 and 1990 PNP won the seat of Gwadar, but in 1993 PPP won this seat. In 1997 BNP secured this seat. In 2002 even Syed Sher Jan as an independent candidate won this seat. Once again the voter of this constituency changed their representative and elected the candidate of BNP (Awami) (General Election.2002.p.162).

But 2007 ML (Q) got this seat, in the last election of 2013 the voters casted their votes in the favour of the candidate of BNP (M).

As well as the three constituencies of Turbat have also same records. In the election of 1988, PB37 Turbat I was won by BNA (Balochistan National Alliance). But in 1990 and 1993, this seat was won by BNM (Balochistan National Movement). In 1997, this seat went to BNP and defeated previous representative, from 2002 and 2007 BNP (Awami) won this seat but in 2013 the candidate of BNP Awami was defeated by the NP (National Party).

The behaviour and the decisions of the PB 38 Turbat II are not different to the PB Gwadar and PB Turbat I. In 1988, this seat was won by BNA but in 1990, JWP (Jamoori Watan Party) won this seat and in 1993 it went to BNM. In 1997 and 2002 BNM maintained its monopoly on this seat. The same results will be finding in the constituency of PB.39 Kech III and PB, 36 and later on PB 42, and PB, 43, of Panjgur. ([www.pabalochistan.gov.pk](http://www.pabalochistan.gov.pk))

## **Conclusion**

Makran consists of Gwadar, Kech and Panjgur districts. The districts have similarities in the social and political cultures. The demography has also the common factors. These assimilations bring the people closer to each other. Beside the numerous potential of development, the life in this region is in distress. The region characterizes the economic backwardness but they are democratic in their social and political culture.

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