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Impacts Of Student Unions' Election Ban on Pakistani Political Leadership

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Abstract

Student politics is an indispensable -but unfortunately, under-researched and under-discussed- topic throughout the world especially in Pakistan. Pakistan's politics and political history are incomplete without discussing this subject. Having been through many ups and downs student politics in Pakistan has played a vital role. Banned twice, restored every time, last elections held by BB in 1989, restored legally by SC -on the condition of formulating a code of conduct in 1993. In March 2008 Ex-PM Yousaf Gillani during his first speech promised to restore student unions and even got a vote of confidence over such developments. In the era of PML-N, the restoration voices were also heard. In 2017 a committee of the Senate was formed to work on the issue and draw some code of conduct in light of SC's decision so that student unions could be restored. All that also went in vain. In the PTI government, we also heard the same voices. Mr. Imran Khan tweeted on 1 Dec 2019 saying these are nurseries of democracy we are working to restore them. Currently, neither students are legally nor politically banned nor elections of student unions but the inept political and bureaucratic elite has deprived students of their fundamental constitutional rights. To conduct this research, the qualitative methodology has been adopted. The researcher has argued that this ban has created a leadership drought in the politics of Pakistan. Data has been collected through primary as well as secondary sources. Books, research articles, news, opinions, editorials, official documents, etc. Interviews of former student leaders and now politicians either parliamentarians or not being conducted. This research will be helpful in understanding student politics, student unions and their elections, the history of the ban, its impacts, discussion by former student leaders, and a way forward. This paper will also provide a rationale for conducting student union elections with the recommendation of basic principles of the code of conduct.

Keywords: Student Politics, Constitutional Rights, Qualitative, Students Union.

Introduction

Let's begin with the basic question 'what is politics? Many scholars tried to answer the question. From very narrow concepts of politics such as according to Leacock, "the study of government" or Garner 'it begins and ends with state'- as the word politics came from the Greek word 'polis' means city-state meaning 'affairs of city state' (Oxford dictionary)- to the broader definitions, explanations, and theories. For example, G.E.G Catlin approached the study of political science from the 'standpoint of power'. He writes 'All politics is by its nature power politics and the empirical approach by Harold D. Lasswell. So, Plato to Aristotle when he says, man is by nature a political animal- initial and raw concept of politics to the modern structuralist, pluralist, and behaviouralist approaches and its scientific study. So, the core subject matter has evolved a lot. The role of student unions in the political process has always been very vital. Student organizations have played important role in education, society, and politics (Lipset, 1959). Taking part in the political process and practical politics by students is happening all around the world. From developing countries like India and Pakistan to developed ones like US & UK. It has been described differently by different scholars. As Barrett & Zani puts it in the way of individuals engaging in political institutions, processes, and decision-making. By saying civic engagement, they meant engagement for interests, goals, concerns, and the common good. (Barret & Zani, 2014). McCarthy declares it a specific type of civic engagement that is a means to participate in and influence the public. It means taking part in activities that have an impact on political issues, events, structures, and systems. So, we simply can say "Student awareness and students' participation in affairs of campus, surrounding, region or broadly, in society and polity" (Sruthi, 2019)

In Pakistan, these student unions are banned though rikshaw unions are active. In other words, the ones who drive the rikshaw have the right to vote for their leader and to make their association but the ones who will run the state have no such rights. Despite the fact that it is the fundamental right of humans in all democratic countries including Pakistan. Article 17 of the constitution of Pakistan says in Article 17 (1) that "Every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of the supreme sovereignty or integrity of Pakistan, public order or morals (Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973). But students are deprived of this constitutional right. Universities and colleges take affidavit of being "apolitical" (Sahotara, 2019). This ban or restriction whatever one may call it has impacted national politics on many fronts like democratic culture, democracy in political parties, political leadership, etc. The researcher is here concerned with the impacts due to the ban on the political leadership of the country. Student politics is an important but under-researched topic. It plays an important role in national politics but it has been banned in Pakistan since 1984. There is no research work on the impacts of student union or their ban on national politics, particularly in the context of Pakistan. Though some news articles can be found on student politics, its reasons, history, and even the impacts of ban or voices for the restoration of student unions that is not enough. The literature review has revealed that there is a huge research gap in the subject that needs to be filled. As national politics is a diverse and general field including political parties, political systems, political culture, political institutions, political

parties, political leadership, etc. The researcher has tried to study the impacts of student unions' ban only on one aspect of national politics which is political leadership.

In Pakistan, we often hear and read that we are facing a leadership drought causing political instability –one of many reasons for this instability. The root cause of this problem is often rightly identified as the 'ban on student unions elections' which are considered as nurseries of leadership, especially political leaders. Student unions have produced the best political leaders this country ever had. Almost all mainstream leaders and leaders of mainstream political parties are the product of student unions. Its ban has created a vacuum but some people think the other way around. The problem is first, society thinks of student unions as evil secondly, on another hand it is a constitutional right thirdly, students are united and trying very hard to get this right fourthly, legally there is no ban on it in the light of 1993 SC judgment but the lack of will lastly, above all there is lack of any academic research-based work on such an important subject from this perspective of leadership crises. Though we sometimes hear some voices or pens defending student unions, as a member of the student community I feel it is an obligation, as well as the dire need of time to have research work to have an insight look. So, the researcher has tried to determine whether this ban is really responsible factor for leadership crises or is it just a myth or saying?

Research Questions

1. What are the impacts of banning student union elections on the political leadership of Pakistan?
2. What is the perspective of scholars, students, and political cadre on the student unions?
3. What is the importance of student politics in the national and international arena?

Literature Review

Thesis titled Student politics and Political systems; toward a Typology by Ian Weinberg and Kenneth N. Walker 1969 Ian Weinberg and Kenneth N walker in research on student politics and political systems toward a typology put forward the typology of student politics and political systems. While keeping their linkages, political parties, and education systems as independent variables while student politics is a dependent variable. They have discussed possible linkages among them and typology based on these linkages. Furthermore, they discussed institutionalized student politics and non-institutionalized student politics. Further, they divided these types into 4 and 2 types respectively. In addition to this, types on the basis of linkages among educational institution systems such as strong or weak, Student politics, and National politics. Conclusively, they further described institutionalized student politics by exploring the link between the political environment and the university political setting. So, the following two links came into being; Firstly, student organizations as a process of career recruitment. Student politicians find it a ladder toward national or adult politics. Political parties' student branches either do that or Student political clubs link student politics to the political systems through the medium of independent careerist political leaders. Secondly, the interest of students as a "class" at least in sense of sharing a common concern for their education. They came up with the conclusion that if Institutionalized student politics, university governance, and recruits have strong linkages then

demand for major changes in society is easier otherwise vice versa. Its major delimitation is that this research is mostly concerned with developed or semi-developed countries.

The thesis is written by Sruthi V. and titled Exploration of the experiences and impact of engaging in Campus Political Activism. This thesis discusses student politics and its impacts on students taking part in later practical life. The researcher concerned herself with student life activism's impact on post-life. Interviews of the former student leaders are conducted. She reached the conclusion that political participation - such as voting, campaigning, donation campaign, writing slogans, boycotting, protesting, working in collectivity, etc. of those who remained activists in student organizations was very much larger, more organized, and constructive than others. So, this research generally discusses the impact of student life activism on later life. Secondly, it has a lot of delimitations such as it is only concerned with Kerala state, the population under research is not versatile and all of the research is based on interviews of former student activists that are their experience. The reasons for campus students' political involvement are investigated by Mr. Akhlaq Ahmed in his study "Politics on campus; why do students join campus politics in Islamabad?". While answering the question he found seven variables - Peer Suggestion, Ethnic Affiliation, Academic Environment, Political Culture, Political Socialization, Perceived Status, and Power Deficit- which are identified as the cause of students joining campus politics. So, above mentioned are the main factors persuading students to join on-campus politics. The researcher described these seven factors in the study in detail. But this study limits itself to reason finding and does not concern itself to impact the study. Secondly, the population under research is limited to one city that is Islamabad. Lastly, it is more from a sociological perspective than a political one.

Another group of researchers -Abdul Qadir Mushtaq, Nasir Amir, Fariha Sohail, Zil-e-Huma Rafique, and Muhammad Abrar Ahmad- explored the history of student politics in the paper titled "History of student politics and its revival in Pakistan". A detailed historical background of student politics in Pakistan, right from the birth of Pakistan, even a bit before independence i.e., Pakistan movement to recent developments and student protest for their restoration, is discussed. Also, it discusses the ban on student organizations by Ayub Khan and later on union elections by Zia-ul-Haq, restoration by Benazir Bhutto, and then the Supreme Court's 1993 decision on the union's restoration under some code of conduct. Furthermore, it also enlisted major leaders produced by student politics, particularly union elections. Moreover, it also analyzed students' perspectives on the revival of student union elections in educational institutions. Lastly, to study political leadership's response to students' demands of union restoration. This paper is limited to historical fact-finding and future policy line suggesting. A more complex study regarding this subject is conducted by Mr. Hassan Javaid. In his work "Patronage, Populism and Protest; Student politics in Pakistani Punjab" after describing a brief history of student organizations he explained student organizations on the basis of typology. Three major attitudes or templates of student organizations followed in Pakistan since 2008 are described;

Firstly, Patronage student organizations, that are having some patron of such student organizations for example Pakistan Muslim League-N Youth Wing (PYW) or Islami Jamiat Talba.

Secondly, Populist student organizations. For example, Insaf Student Federation. This type of student organization is very recent but these are not purely student organizations because of their large number of non-student members. Thirdly, Student politics of protest. For example, DSA utilizes radical ideological appeals to grow its support to protest against the status quo –political as well as economic. Another research article is titled “Prospects and Implications of student politics in educational institutions of Pakistan” by “Hashmat Ullah Khan” and “Shamsuz Zaman”. Problems of student politics in educational institutions are detailed discussed. The potential of student politics is also discussed. It is argued by the researchers that student politics impact national politics as well as leadership. Historical shreds of evidence in the support of the argument are also provided. Moreover, a brief background of student politics is discussed. Furthermore, this institution of student politics is considered a nursery for leadership. Lastly, hurdles, challenges, side effects, or drawbacks of student unions are also discussed. A way forward is also recommended. So, it is general research discussing the prospects and difficulties of student unions with respect to historical background and possible future is also discussed. Student politics is discussed from a youth perspective by Dr. Rizwan Ullah Kokab, Dr. Muhammad Waris, and Hamid Iqbal in their study “Youth Participation in the Politics of Pakistan:

A Historical Review (1947-1971)”. This study explains the youth’s contribution to the development of politics and tries to find the styles and issues of youth engagement in contemporary political struggle. Some of the historical student movements and their impacts are also discussed. For example, the Muslim League Student Federation and Muslim Students of AMU’s impacts on the Pakistan Movement, the Bengali nationalist movement gained momentum by youth or student organizations like Democratic Youth League, SLCA, etc., and the anti-Ayub Khan movement was also started by student organizations which forced him to resign from the office. Other student organizations like DSF, MSF, IJT, etc. are also discussed but under the slogan of youth participation. Overall, it is a study of the impacts of youth participation for a given course of time history. It is generalized to youth and not to students specified though most examples are given of student organizations upon which arguments are built for “youth participation”. Secondly, it discusses only the first quarter of Pakistan’s history which is irrelevant in current circumstances. Lastly, it has inclinations towards finding the role of youth in pre- and post-east and west Pakistan separation. Nadeem Farooq Paracha in his article Student Politics in Pakistan: From Revolution to Restriction- and a possible revival aptly described the rise of student politics in Pakistan. Many ups and downs are faced them. From AIMS under Quaid-e-Azam to DSF and IJT to ban by General Ayub Khan and Zia and restored by BB. Again, this challenged SC and current student political crises. Each and every aspect is discussed in detail along with national politics on the sidelines but related to student politics.

Theoretical Framework

Weinberg and Walker forwarded a theory that there could be two possible linkages among student politics, national politics, and the educational system in institutionalized student politics. Which are as; Firstly, student organizations as a process of career recruitment in national political parties. Student politicians find it a ladder toward national or adult politics. Political parties’ student branches either do that or Student political clubs link student politics to the

political systems through the medium of independent careerist political leaders. Secondly, interest in students as a “class” at least in the sense of sharing a common concern for their education. As a reaction to the government’s stronghold of the university finances, resources, revenues, and other structures as well as administrative dealings. So, in this research, I am going to base my research on the first hypothesis of the reason for student politics built by Ian and Walker that institutionalized student politics act as a nursery and recruitment ground for political parties or their student branches. The same hypothesis –it (student organizations) continuously provides dynamic political leadership to Pakistan- provided a solid base to Hashmat and Shamsuz for their research about the potentials and difficulties of a student organization in their work titled “Prospects and Implications of student politics in educational institutions of Pakistan”.

Methodology

Deductive reasoning has been used in a Qualitative manner of methodology for data collection and argument building.

i. Data collection

Primary as well as secondary sources are being used including books, research articles, news, editorials, official documents, statistics and interviews are also conducted.

ii. Population

Former student union leaders especially the ones who are currently political leaders or parliamentarians are the population of my research.

iii. Sampling

There is a lot of population, it is not possible to cover all therefore purposive sampling method is used

Impacts of the Ban on Political Leadership

Interviews were conducted with former student leaders now politicians. Upon interviewing, two types of responses were received, representing two schools of thought. Firstly, people who are opponents of student unions and secondly, those who advocate them. As for opponents they are very minimal in numbers but heavyweights of politics including Senator Raja Zafar ul Haq, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Senator Muhammad Asad Junejo, and Mr. Usman Ibrahim. They are not in favor of any political activity at educational institutions. The set of arguments given by this school of thought are: first, “parents send their children to educational institutions for studying and not to indulge in extra activities ultimately compromising on their studies and risking their future and this is not for what parents pay heavy fees.” This is the first argument given by the people who oppose student unions that students’ primary purpose is to study not to “play” politics. Second, student unions bring violence. It is the most discussed and excused argument in this respect that student politics introduced violence and weapons in students resultantly the killing of hundreds of them. Mr. Tarar puts it this way what you think of a mother or father -who has sent his son to cut his daily expenses in order to educate his child- getting news of his death or injury, what you think of a family bearing such a loss. Another politician puts it in a different way saying that the students are caught by radical elements in the universities in the name of Islam or nationalism, then exposed to violence and gun turning them against the state or society

and at last making them radical elements of society or terrorists. For example, nationalist organizations in QAU provided people like Dara Baloch with BLA and likewise, IJT members joined TTA, TTP, Al-Qaeda, etc. I suggest you read Zahid Hussain's article in Pakistan Beyond the Crisis. So, violence is twofold destructive. One, it disrupts the peaceful environment of educational institutions which is vital for learning, and other is that it provides active and educated members as well as leadership to terrorist organizations. The third argument in this regard is that it leads political parties and national politics into the campuses. Students act as tools of political parties and pursue their agenda. Mr. Haq recalling his life said that I've witnessed students being used as tools for political purposes. I remember ML using MSF against General Ayub so JI using IJT. I remember the same happening in the 1971 partition and in Zia's era up to recent fights in PU among different factions of students backed by different political parties holding conflicting ideologies. Mr. Junejo claimed that political parties fund students to pursue their agendas. It's a kind of investment they made in students. The fourth argument given is that student unions act as a pressure group. 'They pressurize university administration as well as civil administration when they feel the power of young and exciting students behind them', claimed Mr. Usman Ibrahim. He further said that when I was a part of all this we use to close the university to record our protest against portrayed problems like fee hikes, hostel problems or lack of faculty or class, etc. I remember once we blocked the road to record our protest and civil administration came to negotiate with us. So, in the name of students' rights and problems or any other tactic these unions act as a pressure group which is not only not acceptable to the state –as it challenges its writ- but also a hurdle in providing peaceful, stable, and learning-friendly environment of educational institutions to the students. Still, it happens that on minute issues educational activities are suspended for weeks and months, especially in public universities like PU, IIUI, QAU, etc. Fifth is that in the national political process we yet have to overcome a lot of problems like lack of credible election conducting institution, as a result, we hear election rigging or blames for rigging, even sometimes pre-poll rigging, then protests denouncing it demanding new and fair elections, others opposing it ending fighting over it. We are not a developed democratic nation as we see in the west, therefore, it will cause double trouble for the students as they are young, energetic, and not so much mindful.

This will cause students no good but only harm. Politics is a dirty business nowadays therefore educated and nice people should stay away from it. Sixth is that we lack political culture. The losers never accept their defeat at first and then try their best to fail the one who wins. The same is more than true oppositely, the winner's first and foremost 'duty' considered is to suppress the opponent. We lack the attitude of defeat acceptance or embracing opponents. It will be disastrous in the case of left and right or Islamic and secular. On the other hand, most of the student leaders either belonging to the right or left favor student unions. They not only counter the anti-student union arguments but also present the case for the restoration and benefits of student unions. Pro-student unions include Mr. Ameer ul Azeem, Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Mr. Farrukh Habib, Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Mr. Faisal Sabzwari, Choudhari Manzoor Ahmed, Mr. Liaquat Baloch, Khawaja Ahmed Hassan, Mr. Shabbir Gujjar, Mr. Lateef Khosa, Mr. Shehzad Saeed Cheema, Khawaja Saad Rafique, Khawaja Asif, Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan, Mr. Mushtaq

Ahmed Khan, and Mr. Qamar Zaman Kaira. Anti-student union arguments are analyzed in the first place and then pro-unions arguments are presented here. Firstly, while countering 'students are to study not to politics', Mr. Amir rightly argued that the right of association is protected by the constitution under article 17. Mr. Iqbal says politics is part of education. Students are future leaders if they study stuff at universities or colleges that have nothing to do with practical life, especially political life which includes behavior in society, polity, citizenship, rights, and duties, voting, etc. then what is it all education about? Now when the voter's age is set to 18 years it is important that he must have political awareness and training that helps him decide his own and his country's future. Mr. Muzammil puts it this way "it teaches to struggle peacefully for the rights of students like not enough education, fees hike, lack of scholarships, female education, lack of staff and facilities at campuses, increasing private mafia of education, etc. "It never disrupts or risks one's degree or career," says Mr. Baloch "when one knows that if he fails to get 75% marks and attendance then he will be disqualified for candidacy. I myself was president of the union as well as central president of IJT but I was also gold medalist on the other hand." Secondly, addressing the issue of violence Mr. Azeem said that violence was introduced in educational institutions after the ban. Almost all the interviewees agree that it was intentionally introduced by General Zia in order to have an excuse for a ban on student unions. Some say it was Bhutto who introduced weapons to crush their-opponent others say it was due to Afghan Jihad that brought Kalashnikov into the society as well as students. Mr. Amir put it this way we are at the point in history where we can have a good case study on this. Student unions worked for almost 32 years and are banned for almost 34 years so we are in the mid of it, we can easily calculate how much violence happened before and after the ban.

Mr. Sabzwari puts it this way "violence was propagated because unions had to vote not to fight, ban brought bullet when Zia closed the way of ballot...it was destined to happen in this situation." Thirdly, the risk of national political crises flows to campus, and students are used like workers of political parties. Mr. Amir said that there is no harm in following any political party. It happens in most of the world. It is natural that students get inspired by any ideology, but in the past, its excess created some trouble and can also create some in the future. Therefore, all stakeholders have to sit and solve this problem by building a code of conduct regarding this. We also have to define limitations between political parties and student organizations' relations. Whatsoever happens ban is not the solution. Like many people die during operations or women die during childbirth did anyone dare to stop or ban the operations or childbirths? What you all have to do in such circumstances is to take precautionary measures and we are ready for that. "There should be some limitations," said Mr. Baloch "regarding affiliations with political parties and funding but overall, it will strengthen the political parties and make them democratic which, unfortunately, now have become extended families in spite of parties. It also had and will provide leadership to parties resultantly to the country." Fourthly, there was a question of being a pressure group. "Pressure group in democracy," said Mr. Hussain "is not a negative thing until and unless their agenda and motive are not rogued or unconstitutional. As far as it concerned with student unions, they never remained negative toward state or university." "Students are the major stakeholders among all of the stakeholders in any university or state if they demand their rights

what's bad about it? Student unions demand education for the uneducated –which in our case is 250 million children out of schools, a major portion is female-, scholarships, public universities, schools, facilities at campuses, more funds for education, employment, arrange programs and activities for students, teaches leadership and management skills, gives them a vision of life, etc. then what's wrong in it?" asked Mr. Khan. If it's pressure then be it so, what's wrong with it they are not demanding bullets but ballots, not guns but pens say Mr. Hassan. Fifthly, while arguing about weak national political institutions, Mr. Iqbal said that it is the effect of banning student unions that the nurseries of democracy are barren. This lack of political culture and weak institutions are the products of this ban. It has destroyed meritocracy in institutions and made politics a dirty play and art of intolerance. Recalling his old memories,

Mr. Haqqani remembered that when they were running their campaign for the presidency from IJT at KU, APMSO felt they can't win the presidency, they decided to run for general secretary so they collaborated with IJT. APMSO campaigned for their presidency in return IJT supported them for a general secretary at KU. This is how ardent opponents spent their whole year working together in peace for a noble cause. Mr. Azeem opined that actually, today's political leadership hasn't experienced such a thing, they didn't get political training from such grass root level rather they are para-shooters therefore they lack such tolerance, democratic culture of accepting their own defeat open-heartedly and admiring an opponent's win. Because for some people politics is inheritance, for others it is a profitable business. "We see a lack of strong political institutions and democratic culture," said Mr. Rafique "apparently because of politically untrained and democratically immature people but actually it is rooted in the sealing of nurseries producing politically trained and democratically mature people. If we want this problem solved, we must have to reopen and replant these nurseries of political leadership." Mr. Ahmed said if this noble work of service has been polluted and dirty there must be someone to cleanse it. Who is more suitable than a trained and energetic political worker ready to do it for free for the sake of his people not for the vested interests of family or business?

Findings and Results

The findings presented highlight the pressing need for the restoration of student unions, emphasizing their constitutional right and the detrimental effects of their ban, including a surge in student violence and a dearth of political leadership. To pave a way forward, a comprehensive approach involving all stakeholders is imperative. This includes representatives from political parties, student organizations, educational institutions, civil administration, law enforcement agencies, and parents. A proposed solution entails the formation of a diverse Senate committee tasked with drafting a robust code of conduct. This code should outline criteria for candidate eligibility, regulate relationships with political parties, establish guidelines for funding and oversight, and ensure internal democracy within student organizations. To enforce adherence, a governmental body should be designated for registering and overseeing student bodies, while the establishment of student courts at various levels will provide a platform for addressing disputes and upholding the agreed-upon charter. Through collaborative efforts and institutional mechanisms, a balanced and effective framework can be established to reintroduce student unions while maintaining accountability and order within educational institutions.

Conclusion

Student politics is an important yet very under-researched topic but it has a long history in Pakistan starting from the formation of AISF to AIMSIF during the Pakistan movement. As student unions have been through very ups and downs but it has played an important role in the national politics of Pakistan. Unions were banned by Ayub Khan and Zia ul Haq. And the lack of interest was shown by consecutive so-called democratic governments. But these unions not only resisted the dictatorship of Ayub Khan and Zia ul Haq, but also provided leadership to political parties and national politics, and developed a healthy democratic culture in politics, etc. This research is meant to study primarily student unions' impact on one of the major aspects of national politics which is political leadership. For this, the related terminologies and then the historical background of the student union ban in Pakistan is been described. The qualitative method has been adopted for this study. Other than primary and secondary sources like news, official documents, books, articles, etc., interviews -of former student leaders and now politicians- are also conducted. It came out that under article 17 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan it is the fundamental right of every person. Anyone can make unions according to their ideology while remaining within the limits of the state and society. The last ban was imposed by Zia ul Haq in 1984. So, this ban on them is illegal. Under the decision of SC 1993, there is no such ban on student unions only a code of conduct is to be drawn by the government. Professor Mehdi Hasan says that if the government is failed to draw any code, it doesn't invalidate or abrogate a constitutional right. The government was given the task to draw a code of conduct in 30 days but it has been 29 years since then. Every government claim to restore them but no practical step is taken in that direction. PPP, PML-N, and PTI announced restoration -even in 2017 a senate committee was formed- during their tenures but that remained only announcements.

Upon discussing the impacts of its ban, it came out of the interviews that these unions were nurseries of leadership. These unions have produced a whole lot of politically and democratically mature politicians like Ahsan Iqbal, Saad Rafique, Javed Hashmi, Raza Rabbani, Ameer ul Azee, etc. All the current political crises are rooted in a lack of political leadership which is due to the ban on the nurseries producing them. The question of violence in the case of restoration is also discussed in detail. It is found that Zia deliberately introduced violence in educational institutions to ban unions. Zia also wanted to target democracy so he attacked nurseries of them. It was the majority response of student leaders as well as educational authorities on the topic. Some of the politicians also presented counterarguments i.e., in favor of the ban. Both views are presented and analyzed in the paper and left to the reader to decide on their own which is the more pertinent view. All the educationists, politicians as well as students -the largest stakeholders- want to have their student unions restored. We see the new wave of student awareness in this regard from 2018. Interestingly, on this matter of restoring student unions right and left oriented students are on same page. They are ready to sit together and talk rather to fight. The major hurdle is the lack of political will and bureaucracy. As far as problems related to student politics are concerned government can and must compile a code of conduct for their regulation. In the end, the recommendations are also given that what steps can be taken in this regard.

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