

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES
Of
THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM



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INTRODUCTION

While propounding the fundamental principles of a political system, the co-relation subsisting among its basis, media and goals should be carefully spelled out. The positive and dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King is the cardinal tenet of the Panchayat system. Partylessness, class co-ordination and decentralization are its basic media and the evolution of a society free from exploitation is its ultimate goal.

The definition, elucidation and re-affirmation of every canon of a system should be set forth in their logical sequence. Such a presentation is helpful in deepening our study and comprehension, leading to the attainment of academic clarity. It fosters in us a pragmatic outlook in our active life. The Panchayat workers would then develop a standard uniformity in their thought, speech and deed in relation to the fundamental principles of the system. It is with these considerations in mind that this document has been brought out;

THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM

The Panchayat system is a political doctrine that aims at the generation of supreme well-being of the people of Nepal and the evolution of a society democratic, just, progressive and free from exploitation, under the active leadership of His Majesty the King and in consonance with the popular consensus, national genius and traditions, through the media of partylessness, class co-ordination and decentralization.

The followings are the highlights of the panchayat system:—

- (1) Basis—The positive and dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King.
- (2) Goal—Evolution of a society democratic, just, progressive and free from exploitation.
- (3) Media—
 - (a) Partylessness
 - (b) Class co-ordination
 - (c) Decentralization

Basis—The positive and dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King.

In the context of the geo-political conditions of Nepal, her religious values, social and cultural heritage

and structure, historical background and profound popularity His Majesty the King is vested with all sovereign powers. Traditionally there subsists complete unanimity in the views of the King and the people in all matters concerning the territorial integrity, national sovereignty and all round development and reconstruction of the Nepalese society. Whenever time and circumstances demand any momentous change and development in our social and economic front, the supreme initiative emanates from His Majesty the King. Thus His Majesty the King initiates, from time to time, revolutionary measures receiving universal acclaim. This phenomenon has been accepted as the keynote of our Panchayat system.

This assertion is further reinforced by the following:-

- (a) **The unification, democratization and modernization of Nepal have been achieved under the leadership of the Crown. The Crown personifies the collective expression of the entire people of Nepal and it is the symbol of the indivisible national entity. The Crown is thus the sole repository of our sovereignty. His Majesty the King is, indeed, the fountain of all authority.**
- (b) **His Majesty the King enjoys the exclusive competence to enhance the prestige and build up the personality of Nepal in the comity of nations.**
- (c) **The Crown is, as a matter of fact, the raison d'être of our Panchayat system. The institution of Monarchy is the focal point of our national culture and**

commands the spontaneous homage and loyalty from the people of Nepal.

Goal—The evolution of a society democratic, just, progressive and free from exploitation.

The prime objective of the Panchayat democracy is to evolve a society democratic, just, progressive and free from exploitation through the initiation of harmony in the interests of various classes and vocational groups in a graduated and concerted manner, in conformity with popular aspirations and motivated by a comprehensive nationalistic outlook.

- (a) The process of evolving a progressive society representing the positive values of our culture and traditions broadbased on fairness and justice is inherent in our Panchayat system.
- (b) Animated by a desire to create a society capable of marching steadily forward along the path of progress in conformity with the popular aspirations, policies and programmes are being formulated to enlist the participation of the entire populace in the decision making processes and thus to eliminate injustice and exploitation in the course of enjoying social, political and economic privileges.

Basic media—

PARTYLESSNESS

Partylessness is the democratic process whereby the participation of the entire populace is enlisted in the governance of the realm through their association with the various organs of administration, without recourse to party politics.

The leadership of His Majesty the King being an undisputed reality in our Panchayat system, the partyless character of the system has been an important vehicle to evolve a society free from exploitation in keeping with its sublime goal.

This assertion is further reinforced by the following:—

- (a) As our partyless Panchayat system offers no artificial barrier in the expression of public opinion, there is ample scope for the reflection of sublime popular aspirations.
- (b) In the context of our social values and heritages and our historical background, our national character has better scope for projection in the partyless Panchayat system than under the conditions of party politics.

CLASS CO-ORDINATION

A class is a group of people with homogeneous interests and outlook on life conditioned by their economic, social and vocational needs. Class co-ordination is procedure whereby the collective interests of various organized classes are mutually accommodated and each class is considered the complementary of the other.

- (a) The various classes and communities in the Nepalese society receive equal measure of consideration, love, indulgence and judicial protection from the Crown and at the same time they entertain towards the Crown loyalty and devotion of equal profundity. Under the leadership of the Crown one class or community could not

possibly exploit upon the other. Thus harmonization of various class interests through a concerted strategy has come to be a normal practice here. The process of bringing in social and economic uplift without recourse to class struggle is steadily developing. The visualization of a just society through class concord is an important feature of our Panchayat system.

- (b) Policies and programmes are underway to enable the general public to take collective initiative on the strength of full social justice, through the development of their political competence and moral character.
- (c) The principle of balanced financial investment and equitable distribution of the gains accruing from the economic growth is being adopted through the development of co-operative economy.

DECENTRALIZATION

Decentralization is the delegation of the authority vested in the central government on matters concerning the formulation and implementation of policies to the autonomous bodies and administrative units at the regional and local level, within the constitutional framework and in response to the demands of the prevailing circumstances.

- (a) Decentralization provides the greatest incentive to the popular participation in the formulation and implementation of policies, thereby fulfilling the ideals of a democratic government.
- (b) The objective of decentralization is to build

up local leadership at various levels and thus to enable the popular representatives to discharge their responsibilities towards their constituencies through the steady promotion of mass awakening, according to the demands of our geographical situation, economic needs and political experience.

- (c) The principle of decentralization takes full cognizance of the ideal of making the people the architects of their own destiny by inculcating in them the habit of self-help in the solution of their own problems, in keeping with the spirit of the Panchayat system.



