Political Participation from Imam Khomeini Point of View

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Abstract

Political participation has important role in forming social capital. Whereas, social capital causes main filed of participation. In fact, social capital is spirit and participation of social and political behavior. The participation is tangible aspect and social capital is intangible aspect of national capital. By freeing this force, improvement and excellence (political, social, cultural and economic) and mental and social security are warranted. The question of the article is political participation and social capital considered in Imam Khomeini thoughts? Given political participation influences on feelings of belongings. Imam tried in one side stimulated voluntarily participation and in other side, revives belongings felling between people with emphasize upon country is yours. In research and discuss of bases of political thoughts of Imam Khomeini, we considered important points. Especially religious people based which is derived from his thoughts. Imam Khomeini emphasized attendance and participation of people in different fields with citation of Koran and narrations of prophet. In this article, firstly, we consider concept of political participation and political participation in Imam Khomeini thoughts.

Keywords: Imam Khomeini, Political Participation, Elections, Religious Democracy

Introduction

Political participation is from important and key concepts in study of sociology and political and economic improvement of countries. And it was necessary case. The political participation will be drawn by elections and all groups can influence in this field with different tastes in the framework of system. The past experience showed that political participation increases responsibility more to society and others and the government was effective ones which can be have efficient interaction with outside world and defend from the rights of people which role of nobles of universities and ell educated is undeniable. Political participation can neutralize all conspiracies and crisis between governments in addition to remove the gaps between countries which have been stated by Imam Khomeini and we consider it as preface in this article.

• If your election is lower than our previous level, outsiders and foreigner defeats will say Islam refuses Islamic Republic. (Imam citation, volume 5, pp 26).

• I participate in election in any case and the world will see the dear people of Iran will repeat the past epic of participation thorough country. (same, volume 21, pp 10).

• It is about election of presidency, it is not matter who is president, I have one vote and gives to someone. You do too if you want to utter against world and say we are alive, shall participate, it is prestige and the problem is so important is participation and he said today, election in presidency is not social and national task but is Islamic and religious task in which defeat is about Islamic Republic and it is imperative to maintain on people and the obsession is from evil the great. (same, volume 12, pp 228, 339).

• About our presidency, determination of president is superior to anything and all people shall intervene. If they don’t intervene, and damages Islam, we are responsible. Someone says no matter? Unless you can say Islam no matter? You are entitled to maintain the honesty and its maintenance is due to president. (same, volume 15, pp 17).

• We shall ensure that the foreigner media say about lacking attendance of people on elections and will try to consider anything with insidious analysis. (same, volume 21, pp 10).

• I hope honorable people of Iran participate in saient important case (elections) and give their cotes in cash (same, volume 17, pp 132).
We are follower of people vote, we are not entitled to impose anything to the Muslims and the prophet did not give to it.

**Concept of Political Participation**

The participation is based on which all people have right and responsibility in any case which is pertains to them and cites their thought without fear and intervenes on their decisions. The most fundamental thought of infrastructure is to acceptance equality. When people have value and merit in bonding with each other, the participation can help them and provide the benefit of utility for all. (Boshriyeh, pp 135). From participative point of view, all people can responsibility in the case which is pertains to them and can state their thoughts freely. In economical institutes, participation means ensemble effort and cooperation between all (managers, staff and customers) in order to reach in shared aims and benefits. In participative management, distance between staff and managers reduced, they intervene in decision and programming and use benefits and approaches derived from participation. There are different definitions from participation in which there are shared bases. Some of shared and fundamental bases in which emphasized:

- Equality of people and utilize citizenship right
- Distribute power between people and sharing in powers and decision
- Allow people in order to supervise on the affaire which is influenced on their destiny
- To make equal opportunities for progress especially for lower group of society (Rash, 2009, pp 34).

Before definition of political participation, it is necessary to consider participation. Participation means cooperation, attendance that means attendance of person in society where hold doe discussion and decision and can be regarded as participation. But what is considered by the writer is basic element in social and political participation that means awareness and relish. As if some regarded it as consciousness acceptance in his cooperation in order to restore social life.

Political participation is voluntarily activities in which members of society shall participate as direct and indirect in public policy making. (Boshriyeh, 2006, pp 123)

It can be said that political participation is action and behavior in which influences on public policy making or election political leaders or views of leaders on people as summary decision and demand between people and government. (Same, pp 156)

The most important point about political participation is political participation shall be awareness, organized, freely and based on personal, group and guild tastes. (Boshriyeh, 2010, pp 231).

**Necessity of Political Participation**

**Intellectual Task**

The human is social and social life is based on relations between humans and this process is influenced by people on society. As result, it is imperative people to play their role in society accurately. Political problems and affairs pertinent to state is more important and the people shall intervene by active participation in their destiny and society and policy making so that if they don’t intervene in their destiny, others make decision for them with dominant based on traditions and cause people follow them and fall in the trap of cheat. Then political participation is necessary for mental life and honorable life.

**Realize People Government**

Political participation is necessary in order to realize right of people. If the people are not in order to determine on their destiny and give the responsibility others, their government right is removed. The people shall consider that if they want to determine city and country possibilities and progress governance of their city based on their votes, there is not way but attendance in political, social arena of Islamic Republic. Based on Islamic traditions, someone tried to influence in his effort, then we have to elect the best candidate who have the Koranic specifications. Future discussion will be steps of political participation and election (same, pp 245).
Characteristics of Participation
Each society needs participation in order to alive, in fact, the participation is dynamism and prestige of group, each active group consists of members who are participants and participate because of subject, motivation and aim in group activity. Thus, we shall ask which motivation and stimulation is based on. But political participation is new phenomena and widespread after Second World War. There are different definitions in which some of them are:
Encyclopedia of social science regards political participation as arbitrary activity which members of society do it for electing the governments as direct and indirect in political form. The writers of sociology culture regard political participation as election of political leaders and public politics. Golilmo Fererro writes: democracy is just determination of attorney by election which is for solving society problems. The leaders agree with all to elect some nobles persons in order to govern their benefits. (Rash, 2010, pp 145). In fact, participation is so pale in definition of western researchers. What is happened as political participation in western democratic certifies it. Role of people was on margin in public programming and policy making. Democracy or people government is Greece word and its means is direct and without mediation government. Some of thinkers believe that democracy is derived from old Greece. (Boshiryeh, 2010, pp 21). Some of scientists regard it as intellectual and logical process by leaning scientific methods and in their opinion; in order to reach in suitable strategy we shall traverse steps which have intellectual results. Others regard it as impractical and offered other methods in amending it. In all theories, the policy maker is finding solution as wise actor and for this, utilizes intellectual method. Other group, defined policy making as process based on power. In their opinion, public policy making and decision is not follower from intellectual and logical process, because, the strategy is derived from power games before it was intellectual and logical process and the strategies for extending political participation are:

Compilation of Religious Bases and its Extension on Society
Religion is one of main and the most important indicator of social and political movements in society. Independent variable of society is so important in extension of political and social participation. Effect of religion is undeniable for people during history in Islam world. Ebne Khaldon the great Islamic sociologist says about role of religion in participation: religion makes unification in forces, removes competition and gives testimony people, this spirit results to increment participation and vast government so that the religious beliefs resulted to stagnancy and totter national unification. Thus, one of the targets of colonialism is to indifference them against social destiny for secularism Muslim world, since Islam is about world, political and spiritual life. But secularism believed that there is no relation between religion and politics and want to deflect society (religion is opium of people). And it wants to say the Muslims pray only and neglect political and social affairs. But it neglects that the religion like Islam and tradition like shiitte were not religious merely but they were thought base in which political leader like Imam Ali. Thus, in shiitte thought school, religion is not separable political leaders and they were required. Thus, we can increase place of religion and participation of people and prevent from deviation thoughts and real religion is same public participation. (same, pp 201).

Informing and Increase people Awareness
One of the barriers of public participation is unawareness and many of people unaware to their powers. Since in past regime, majority of people were out of arena and don’t participate in decision and removed practically and lost belief to their powers. But after revolution, by extension concepts and information for people acquaintance to constitutional law and Islam point of view about participation and advertise Islamic narrations and words of Imam Khomeini – or leadership in public participation, increase public participation play vital role in developing participation.
Prevention from Dominant of Beneficiary Groups
By prevention from exclusive groups on political and economical aspects of society and maintenance social justice, power of motivation of people enhanced because if all works are on special party, and the governmental institutes are follower them, there is not space for participation.

Parties and active Participation in framework of Constitutional Law
One of the developing strategies for people participation is Islamic parties which direct people forces in extending their participation in political problems because the government is required to maintain mental, social and economical tastes and the people can state their wants as personal and group and there are tools for it. (Boshriyeh, 2006, pp 190)

Belief problems, constitutional law, wise and mind shows participation of people specially nobles and political groups in politics and refers to it as for growth population, complexity and so on. Since noble government is election of majority of people on people. For realize it, the institutes will be made that direct the participation as well as help to peaceful election. The parties, population, groups and political organizations are suitable tool for people participation.

Culture
Culture is the most important variable for political and social participation. Participation of people is vast in society where participative political culture has. Against it, in society lack culture, people conform to social phenomena as inactively thus participation culture will be directed.

Stimulate Public Confidence
In order to direct political behavior, variations of beliefs and change people mind and stimulate political sensitivity is main introduction. In this regard, to make legal compiled system in order to determine political activity and supply security for citation freely and negotiation can warrant participation. As result, motivation of people in form of political groups follows dynamism of system. In society like Iran, it is possible more participation because of young. So there is necessary potential. If the barriers of political and social participation remove and identify (like unemployment), hope to future can be infrastructure of participation. Someone try to show the space of society darkness, avoid others to intervene in their destiny. (same, 162).

Political Participation in Thought of Imam Khomeini
Place and Role of People in Islamic Republic of Iran from Imam Khomeini Point of View
Two important views have been discussed about thought and political vote of Imam Khomeini,ght and Some believed that democracy indicates right of political right and elect authorities and decision. Against, others believed that as for Islamic thought, Imam believed in democracy that means people have welfare, security and education and the government is entitled to provide it for people. ( Jamshidi, 2010, pp 231).In this system, people appoint the supreme administrative person that means the president and head of the administrative faculty as directly and intervene as indirectly in election general managers, governors and others. in civil affairs, people participate with electing their representatives as directly and mayor and in the field of decision, the citizens establish base on law. So that in Islamic Republic of Iran, leadership has the higher position is not elected with direct vote but people play role by electing their representatives in council and leadership elects authority of other institutes like the judiciary. It is obvious that if people had role in electing the authorities but after that, they have not share on supervision (especially the entrepreneurs who were indirect persons), the political partnership is void. Constitutional law of Iran provides the approaches for completing people role in all levels (direct and indirect selectee) and act based on it. Base on, supervision of people and criticism of authorities in constitutional law locate performance of the authorities under lens and there is not dead end for it. Process for legal supervision can respond the authorities and they want to respond it and replace them with others and elect and it is predicated to mechanism for removing and appointment cruel persons in law and it
was experienced. In fact, religious democracy is government of law on people. Thus, if democracy is cited as antidote in western systems, in religious government, religious democracy is law against people and cited as alternative for defeating dead end, so that Islamic government and revolution is formed. (Fuzzy, 2011, pp 243).

**Musts and Must not of Election in Political View of Imam Khomeini**

Islamic revolution was applied by Imam firstly in Paris for describe suitable system. Revolution is democracy of government. Imam says about nature of government in Islamic revolution in responding question of journalists dated 16.09.1978: Islamic Regime and Islamic revolution is regime by leaning public votes and referendum. (Imam' note, volume 3, pp 514.)

Thus, revolution is acceptance to people right in election and political system and forms dominant shape of government and in this system, people are regarded as bases on political system as if people’s view was not important in first steps of system but Islamic revolution is bound to permanent attendance of people. Of course, in addition to it, Islam is important base of it which Imam stated it more. In deed la, Islamic revolution removes western democracy. Islam forms main concept and nature of this system and terms of Islamic regulations are main bases of its laws. (same, pp 134). One of the most important tools for political participation is different elections which if it is done with foresight and thoughts by the authorities, can guarantee Islamic revolution against cheats and internal and external dangers.

At here, we consider some of must and not musts in elections from Imam Khomeini point of view:

**Importance of Election and Role of People**

The elections are attendance and political participation in order to determine their destiny, thus, election has so important and people play vital role.

Imam Khomeini says about importance of people attendance: this is saint task, national task and human task which we shall act it and participate in election. (same, volume 18, pp 318)

As for importance and role of people in election, it needs efforts of all authorities to provide a field for attendance of people and more hope and defeat of enemies.

**Avoid from Destruction**

In Islamic system, elections have special conditions as if the candidates and their opponents shall not use any method in order to success so that acceptance of responsibilities and accept saint and national task is for realizing service to people. Thus, religious and frameworks are discussed and personality of people cannot be influenced by world wants. Unfortunately, sometime election is progressing into unsuitable events and some of persons used any method for destruction rival and removing him for arena. Imam Khomeini says about candidates and their opponents: I anticipate that they observe Islamic and human ethics and avoid from criticism which causes outrage and difference. (same, volume 12, pp 12). It is not obvious some did imprudence in order to reach in position and service to people and attributed profanity to persons. Prestige and nature of Muslim is superior to anything in Islam and outrage negates justice. (Tebyan, pp 243).

**Selection Criteria**

As for great role and prophecy which the representative of council has in relation to compilation of law and Islamic regulations, they shall special specifications.

Center of all powers is council and the council directs anything. (same, pp 337).

As for role of council, the people shall elect representatives who believe in revolution and Islam to consider two important bases during discussion. The founder of Islamic republic of Iran says about specifications of council representatives:

I want you to agree about electing persons and consider Islamic non deviant persons from direct line and give destiny of country to persons who believe in Islam and Constitutional law and undertake saint laws and don’t overcome their capability to country ones. (Imam’s book, volume 12, pp 49).
Elections as Influence of Unification
Election is one of the fields for realizing of unification and indicating people bonds and all efforts shall be done. Unfortunately, national unification is damaged in election and the great damages due to it, in this field, if candidates, their opponents and media special parties and political groups take logical and legal framework, not only this element not damaged but cause national unification and more cohesion. This point shall not be neglected. Imam Khomeini emphasized necessity of unification and avoids from difference and said: of course, there are two thoughts and shall be. There are two votes and shall be, there are different tastes but they don’t cause humans are not friend... If there is not difference in nation, it is imperfect. If there is not difference in council, the council is imperfect. The difference is and difference of taste is about scuffle, but it is not resulted to two clusters and we are friend as if we have difference. (same, volume 21 pp 47).

Administering Election
Vote cashes are trust of nations under authorities and this honesty will be maintained accurately and personal inclinations don’t overcome on public and legal benefits of persons. Imam Khomeini considered it more and emphasized it more: we shall think between us and God that you are responsible and shall supervise that the election is accurate approach and no one overcomes other. (Same, volume 18, pp 380).

Concluding
By neutral research on political thought of Imam Khomeini about political participation of people, golden concept named religious democracy as found. Religious democracy has root in form of Islamic revolution. The indicators shall be resulted in religious political thought so that Islamic revolution is based on revolution and Islam that means its form is political and manner of its institutes is revolution but its content is Islam. Then, the content of government will be determinable in political thought and are not analyzed out of framework of Islamic political view. To be Islamist is based on religious and Islamic values. Imam Khomeini says: we are follower vote of nation, whatever they vote, we follow it, we are not right, God doesn’t give right us to impose anything to others. (Imam’s book, volume 11, pp 235). The said point about religious democracy indicates that revolution word is for all citizens but Islam word is due to legal task. Doubtless, the most important action is revolution with Islam. Majority of people are Muslim and want to participate and following with religious government and regard revolution to Islam and constitutional law is based on public wants. This concept certifies majority trend and points to fourth element into contents of Islamic revolution. It is indicated that all laws and regulations are based on Islamic terms and in sixth element, it is emphasized upon public vote and elements 29, 20, 23, 24 and 26th refer human, political, press freedom, parties and so on. Imam Khomeini emphasized more in framework of religious democracy. He believed that the people are entitled to supervise on directions and government policy making in domestic and abroad and offer their consolatory views about restoration of society and strength of Islamic bases. Imam emphasized more: if the nation wants to end this victory and reach in the last of victory which is the dream of nation, shall watch out about persons who form government, president, head of council, maybe someone from wealth class reached in position. Importance of role of people is so important which Imam regarded it as saint duty and religious responsibility and this is sensible aspect of people task against compact with governors which has nature of religious democracy.
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