Democratic Consolidation and Will of Civil Community: Lessons from Nigeria, South Africa and Brazil

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Abstract
Democracy is the most practicing political practice in the contemporary era. The majority of the nations and countries are striving to build strong roots of democracy. Every country takes its time to build a strong political system over the period of time. Democracy is based on free will, free and fair elections, impartiality, equality and free judiciary. Democracy is successful in developed countries especially in European and Western countries but on the other hand, the developing countries are not enjoying the same benefits of democracy. This research article explains the journey of democracy in Nigeria, South Africa and Brazil. It tries to explore the both positive and negative aspects of democracy in these developing countries. This research is purely qualitative in nature which is based on secondary data collection. This research article concludes that civil society of all these countries wants to build a strong democratic system in which South Africa is successful to satisfactory level. While on the other hand, Nigeria and Brazil are facing numerous issues regarding democratic consolidation.
Key Words: Democracy, Free and Fair Election, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil

Introduction

Democracy is a system of governance which is explicitly based on the popular will. It strongly negates the idea of aristocracy and oligarchy under which the selected people rule over the majority. This practice is strongly prohibited under the democratic system. The democratic governance system grants equal rights and standing to all segments of the society including the marginalized communities i.e., women and minorities (Bashir, 2015).

Democracy is a political system which is considered the most suitable governing system in the contemporary era. The majority of the countries of the current era follow the same political practice (Plumper et al, 2003). There are also some nations that oppose the idea of democracy but the fact is that democracy is based on the all those social and political traits desired by the majority of the communities to be practiced (Cook, & Westheimer, 2006). In the present regime, most of the developed and developing nations strive for the establishment of democratic values. The prime notion is that all of the global forums like World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Unite Nations are working to foster the democratic developments (Przeworski et al, 2000).

Defining Democracy

Democracy is defined by different ways. It is considered a government of the people by the people and for the people. On the other hand, at the practical level, "democracy is defined as the set of the representative institutions that strive to uphold the liberal values". The core of democracy is associated with the solution of all political, civic and economic problems (Wantchekon, 2004). It is directly linked with the grass root level as the actual practice of democracy starts from the micro and covers the wide areas at the macro level. The local, provincial/state and federal are primarily three levels of the international political set up. All of

these three levels work for social and economic development at their respective stages under democracy (Keefer, 2005).

The democratic system is based on the popular vote which is determined through the free and fair elections. This electoral system enhances the equal opportunities of all people as they are free to take part in the governance system. The majority of the world is enjoying the fruits of the democracy in present time on one side but on the other hand, there are developing and poor countries which are not enjoying the fruits of the same governing system. Officially they declare themselves as democratic countries but practically they are not having the same practices which are considered the heart of the democracy (Cook & Westheimer, 2006). The third world countries like some Asian and African countries are still far away from the professional practices of the democracy. They are lacking free and fair elections, equality, transparency, impartiality and good governance. Unfortunately, Pakistan is also among these countries where democratic practices are at vulnerable conditions which involve numerous factors. Out of all these factors, the political leaders themselves are playing the main role leading to undemocratic practices (Hashmi, 2018). Since, the inception of the country, the ideal form of democracy remained just in documents as in actual practices even the democratic governments played an authoritative and dominant role which destabilized democracy in the country (Hashmi, 2018).

Background

The foremost dimension of the democratic setup is to hold free and fair elections (Diamond, 2002). The impartiality and transparency of the regular elections determine the level of democracy in a particular country. The developed countries hold regular elections despite many problems which is the major trigger of democratic development in these countries (Przeworski & Limongi, 1997). While on the other hand, the under-developed and the developing nations hesitate to do the same because the ruling stakeholders are mostly not in the favor of power sharing. The regular and impartial, free and fair elections are the pre-determined aspect of the democratic rule which is beneficial for the community (Besley and Prat, 2006).

likewise political freedom is also one of the important indicators of the democracy because in the most of the developing and third world countries, the political freedom in snubbed by multiple actors that affect the smooth functioning of the democracy. As Sen (1999) reported that political freedom is primary mean of socio-economic development in a democratic set up which unfortunately is not being prevailed in many cases (Sen, 1999). On the other hand, in the developed nations the political freedom is fully expressed and practiced so that maximum benefits may be granted to the public at large.

The best examples of democracy can be noted in some of the minor states of the world i.e., Switzerland, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany etc. Even the most developed nations like US and UK are behind of these above-mentioned countries in granting democratic facilities and socio-economic development (Gillespie, 2013). There are many studies which also negate the democratic system i.e., Benabou (1996). According to such studies, the democratic set up affects the growth rate. But at the same time the studies like Alesina & Perotti (1997) rejected the hypothesis mentioned above and stated that the roots of the democracy primarily lie in the social, economic and human development. But there is also a precondition that democracy must be democratic not aristocratic as in many cases democracy is even worse than the authoritarian rule in the developing and under-developed nations (Benabou, 1996).

Figure No: 2.1 *Systematic Process of Democracy's Consolidation*

Source: Prepared by the Authors
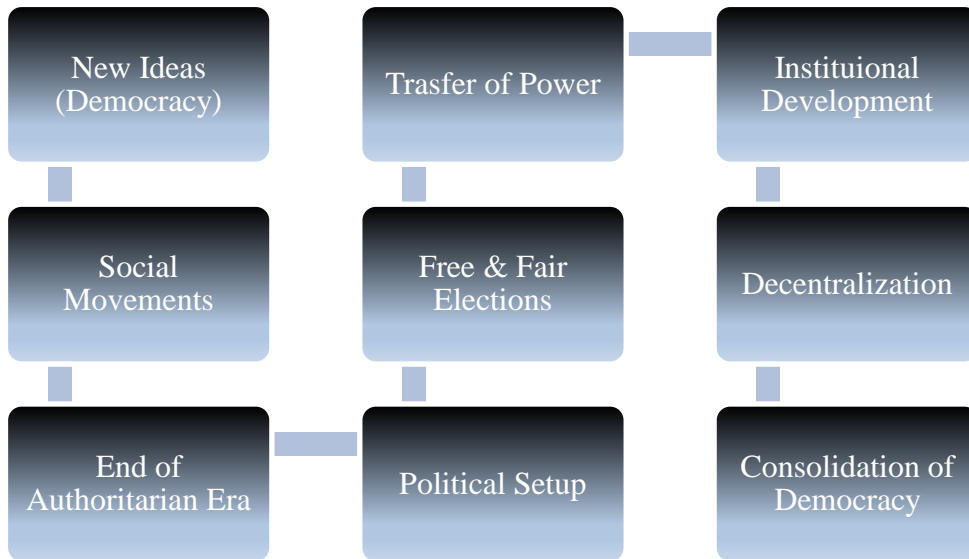
The first step to the system which people want to choose either good or bad because their candidate's selections depict the future of their democratic system (Fenno, 1978). The developed and developing nations of the west are much aware about the democracy and vote for the same. They wish that the political power should be shared into different power sharing groups so that a check and balance ought to be maintained (Fiorina, 1981). At the same time, the countries like the Middle East region are not in the same line. They practice a controlled political system where a king is ruler and works by its own not by popular will. Here again a question arises that either democratic system is better or the democracy because these countries of the Middle East region are more developed even than the democratic developed countries of the world. This query is resolved in the framework that kingship system might be more prosperous than democratic but the civil community is not as much powerful in this system as in the democratic it will be. This is the main reason the majority of countries favor democracy (Przeworski, 1991).

Another significant dimension of the democracy can be noted in the terms of resources' allocation. The democratic countries allocate resources more accurately according to needs as there is proper check and balance system in democracy which may not be found in the aristocratic system. There is a proper system of budgeting which is keenly observed and used accordingly in democracies. Hence, democracy is considered the most suitable political and governing system in the world (Alesina & Perotti, 1996). The citizens are free to run lawful businesses as approved by law. They have freedom of expression under a democratic system. They are equal before justice and rule of law. The timely justice is prevailed. The human beings are treated with dignity. The free and fair elections are held and with the help of popular will the candidates are elected. All of these above mentioned are a few characteristics of the democratic society. This is the reason that democratic system is prevailed across the globe and considered the popular political system in the contemporary era (Di Palma, 1990). This research article deals

with the democratic practice in the developing countries i.e. Nigeria, South Africa and Brazil. The purpose of this study is to find out the democratic developments, issues and challenges among these countries.

Research Objectives

- To explain the core dimensions of democracy
- To find out the efforts to consolidation of democracy
- To root out the actual democratic practices and challenges in Nigeria, South Africa and Brazil

Methodology

The present research is intended to find out the democratic practices in the developing countries. Three developing countries were chosen to explain trace out their democratic journeys and present state of democracy. This research is based on secondary sources. The secondary data was collected from different books, journals, research papers and reports. The findings of the study were later presented in systematic form.

Experience of Democracy in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the developing countries in the African region. It lies in the western side of Africa alongside the Gulf of Guinea. Nigeria shares its borders with Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon etc. Nigeria, like many other developing and third world countries also experienced a long authoritarian rule. After a long authoritarian rule, Nigeria chose the democratic way in 1999 when a democratic election was contested and the control of the country was handed over to the democratically elected government. Before, the emergence of democracy this African country remained under the series of military dictatorship but the advancement of the 21st century brought good news for the citizens with their power of votes (Nwogu, 2015).

Likewise, majority of the developing countries, Nigeria was also a colony of the Britain. It remained under the control of Britain till 1960 when it got independence from its master monarchy. The Nigerian people did not know that once again they were going to be ruled by the same kingship type rule in the form of military dictatorship. So, the joys of the Nigerians ended in 1966 when the military took over the control of the country and suspended the constitution of the country (Nwogu, 2015).

Democracy means the provision of the basic services according to the demands of the citizens. It involves the civil community in the administrative and political spheres so that a collaborative mechanism may be maintained for the betterment of the delivery of the services (Williamson, 2004). But if the any democracy is not properly structured and exclude the civil society from its political and administrative matters it cannot be democracy any more. The same is the case with the Nigeria as the powerful elite holds the public offices and the true spirit of democracy lacks. The Nigerian people support democracy but actually they are experiencing authoritarian rule in the favor of democracy (Preuss, 1991).

The new form of governance was assumed by Nigeria in 1999 and it was hoped that the new system would be helpful in consolidating the representative governing system. But unfortunately, such hopes did not come true. There was just changed the governing system because the governance remained same as it was under the previous system. Contrary to consolidating the democracy, the efforts continued to be made to derail it in Nigeria. People of Nigeria are still facing the issues like bad governance, mismanagement, corruption, nepotism and ethnicity

(Arowolo & Aluko, 2012). Like the monarchy system, the democracy of Nigeria is also in the hands of a few. A group of a few people is ruling over the majority of the Nigerian citizens. The democracy is Nigeria is at its weaker practice as it could not provide the fruitful results for civil community. The reason behind is the negation of the democratic characteristics.

The democracy is Nigeria is not performing better way due to multiple reasons. According to Darl (1989), the Nigerian democracy is a unique one (due to bad performance) which has three unique features. First of all, the economic matters are lagging behind and the popular participation in the fiscal matters is not allowed. Secondly, the manipulation and third is the monopolization of the democracy by a few powerful stakeholders. All of these unique features trickled down democratic process in Nigeria.

Another issue the democracy is facing in Nigeria is the political violence. The violence is routine tactic adopted by the political elites during every electoral in the country. It is a tool used to pressurize the masses to gain their votes. There is perhaps not a single election considered to be free and fair. Such political violence is used to elect the desired candidates who later become the source of corruption and bad governance. Similarly, ethnicity is also triggered during the elections days to gain the sympathies of the ethnic groups. This ethnicity is also used as the source of political violence as well. All of these factors are leading to consolidation of ethnicity and authoritarian rule not democracy in Nigeria (Arowolo & Aluko, 2010).

Poverty is another indicator hindering the democratization in Nigeria. The poor people have no choice just to gain the monetary benefits. The political goons are the pressure groups set up by the political elite in Nigeria. Such goons not only gain the sympathies and votes of the poor people but also terrify them. The poor people have to support them as they lack the resources and awareness due to illiteracy. The political elite further create poverty and hiders the awareness campaigns to gain the same political benefits. This shows that autocracy is being practiced in the name of democracy in Nigeria (Arowolo & Aluko, 2012).

The weaker democracy further created the weaker institutions in Nigeria. The Judiciary is not free in Nigeria. The fragile democracy is unable to perform in encouraging way because the civil society desires to build democracy but the powerful stakeholders are not in the favor of the same. Due to such weaker democracy the legislature is also in the hands of the same political group which does not make legislations according the provisions of democracy. The disrespect and disobedience of the constitution is the routine in Nigeria which is coupled with the lack of political will and capacity of a few representatives of democracy. Furthermore, the weak judiciary, ignorance, poverty, lack of awareness and corruption have demoralized democracy in Nigeria.

Democracy provides equal opportunities to all social groups on the basis of inclusion of all these groups into the mainstream politics of the country. But contrary to that the Nigerian democracy is based on socio-economic and political inequality. There is existence of gap widening between the elite and the ordinary people. The rich are becoming richer and the poor further poorer which demonstrates the democracy of Nigeria is misleading. The democracy is considered the government of the people by the people and for the people but this slogan is taken for granted in the case of Nigeria because the people (civil society) do not have recognition in this democracy (Ajayi & Ojo, 2014). The African developing countries normally experience the military intervention into the politics. In the same way, the military is also a powerful stakeholder in Nigerian politics. The political junta based on the influential class has the prime role in the democracy. The post-1999 period should overcome the routine issues and make plans to

eradicate poverty and illiteracy but contrary to that the poverty is prevailing across the whole country. This again shows that democracy has lost its track in Nigeria (Diamond & Plattner, 1996).

Primarily, there are three phases the democratic process passes through. There is not any prescribed limit in which a country can passes through these phases. It solely depends on the capability of the country that experiences the same. The first phase is related with the transition phases where a country adopts the democracy and replaces the earlier system. In the second phase, the new political order is reconstituted according to the provisions of democracy and lastly the third phase is associated with the consolidation of the democracy. Even after the period of almost two and half decades, the democratic process has not been completed yet. Under the fragile democratic system, it looks the consolidation of the democracy is far away in Nigeria (Cheeseman, 2015).

In the view of the above whole findings, it can be found that democracy is lesser than satisfactory in Nigeria. The human rights are not being preserved. The constitution which is the backbone of the democratic system is also just binding of the papers because the political elite use them for their benefits. Although the Nigerian people demand the democratic rule in the country but their wishes are not coming true. Their voices are also not being heard by the political leadership. It does not mean that democracy is worse than the earlier authoritarian rule but it requires that there is need to consolidate democracy in its true spirits.

Key Findings of Nigerian Democracy

Following are a few key points concluded from the whole detail provided above in the case of Nigerian democracy.

- Nigeria had been under the long authoritarian rule as a Colony of Britain
- Democracy was initiated in 1999
- Still authoritarian rule in the form of democracy
- People support democracy in Nigeria but they are unable to do so
- Bad governance, mismanagement, nepotism, traditional politics, corruption are a few challenges to democracy
- Political violence is used as a tool to gain sympathies during electoral process.
- Ethnicity is adopted a tool to infiltrate political violence
- Poverty and illiteracy are main hurdles to democracy
- There are weaker state institutions and writ of state is also fragile
- There is low quality of democracy less than satisfactory in Nigeria

South African Democracy

The motives behind establishing colonies were to gain politico-economic benefits. The major powers of the middle Ages preferred to establish colonies for the same purpose. The routine advantages were related to gain manpower in the form of slaves and economic motives like gold, spices and other economic benefits. The urgent advantages were related the same power to use during the time of war as India helped Britain during the World Wars through providing military personals (Terreblanche, 2015).

The case of South Africa is not different from the above noted perspectives because as soon as the gold mines were discovered in 1886 in South Africa, the Britain fought a bloody war during (1899-1902). The motive behind this was to gain the whole control of region and to keep the locals in distance from this area. After gaining the control of this region, the British introduced a political system for South Africa in 1910, the British Parliament formed a Union of South Africa

and established a political system respective to this country. The South African region was controlled by the British white people so they introduced political system based on racial disintegration and the white European people were granted the superior status. This system was known as "Apartheid System" which remained till 1994 (Terreblanche, 2015).

This system did not totally alienate the black people but they were given minimal participation under this apartheid system. They could also take part in the ownership and the entrepreneurial participation in this politico-economic system. But contrary to their population ratio, they were exploited and limited politico-economic opportunities were granted to them during this long period of apartheid system. The European white people were just about 20% of the whole population but this tiny portion hijacked the whole social and political system of South Africa. On the other hand, the Africans who constituted more than 70% of the total population just managed to gain the 20% share in the total income of the country. This was such a tyranny system which almost excluded the African people form the mainstream of socio-political activities (Heyword, 2009).

The African people struggled hard to get liberation from such an authoritarian and humiliated political system. They gathered under the leadership of Nelson Mandela and formed their organizations to represent their concerns at high command level. It took almost a century to get rid of this unequal and unjust system. Again, in the South African case the democracy is diffused as the exporters of democracy i.e. US and Britain supported to establish a democratic system in the post-colonial era. The apartheid system of South Africa was largely supported by western and European countries especially the Britain but as they withdrew their support this system came to an end in 1980s. The negotiations between the white and black people were initiated which later provided the ways to establish a pure democratic system in South Africa. The negotiations between the European white and African people started in 1990 and formed a democratic system with universal franchise rights. Under the revival of democracy, the first elections took place in 1994 when Nelson Mandela was sworn as the first black president in new South Africa (Leibbrandt & Woolard, 2010).

Unlike many other developing countries, South Africa followed the track of true and representative form of democracy. The institutionalization of democracy started in 1994 which consolidated the democracy in South Africa in upcoming years (Beetham et al, 2002). South Africa also confronted many issues related democracy but it managed to handle such issues properly. Currently, there are also some issues related to democracy but the basis of democracy lies upon the open political participation of the masses. The citizens of South Africa fully participate in the political matters without any racial regard (Gumede, 2018).

Recently, the sixth democratic elections had been held in 2019 in South Africa which depicts that democracy has been consolidated in the country. In most of the cases, the young democracies faced the military and authoritarian regimes soon after they got independence from the imperialism but in the case of South Africa, the smooth democratic system has been developed which negated the above noted aspect. In the modern world, South Africa is known as the young democracy (Morlino, 2011).

The democracies flourish through an interactive system where the civil community fully participates in the social and political matters (Schmitter, 2004). They support the administrative steps which are taken in the favor of masses and at the same time, they also criticize the unhealthy decisions taken by the political leadership. This is the beauty of this political system that the civil community shows its power through ballot boxes, political actions, involvement,

participation and joining hands in hands with the popular leaders. The similar depiction was observed in South Africa in the post-apartheid system which set on the country on the democratic path (Von Fintel & Ott, 2017).

The South African democracy is gaining much importance among the countries of this region because it is the most recent example which established relatively true democracy. The other neighboring African countries are also being inspired by the South African democracy. It is engaging the civil community through various information programs, the official websites, newsletters and visits of the educational institutions. This is enhancing the civil-public collaboration which is consolidating the democracy in South Africa from the grass root level (Gumede, 2018). Apart from the civil participation as a whole, the youth and the women are chiefly targeted by the democracy in South Africa. These two portions of the civilian population can represent the civil society in an active way. The representatives of youth and women participate in the public and private forums which shows that democracy in South Africa is taking the parliament to the people' program (Schmitter, 2004).

The democracy is also criticized in this country as well but the level and modes of criticism vary from the rest of the developing countries. The other developing countries represent the poor form of democracy but South African democracy is criticized of poorly publicized agendas and plans of the government. Another aspect of democratic criticism in South Africa is taken in the regard of poor official feedback to the public submission. The active participation of the civil community represents that it criticizes the wrong decisions of the government.

Criticism

Some of the other notable criticisms of South African democracy are following.

- The government allows insufficient time to the general public to comment on the proposed plans of legislation. It is encouraging that the policies and plans are shared with the common people for the sake of their opinion which is being considered in the perspective that the democracy is this country is consolidating at grass-root level.
- The available resources are not sufficient to include the civil society for full participation. This insufficiency should be overcome for better performance of democracy.
- The democracy is working in satisfactory way in South Africa so the citizens are allowed to participate in the public hearings on specific issues. But the issues are there regarding these public hearings.
- The backward segments are also facing the socio-economic issues in South Africa too. They also have the limited educational facilities which have marked them the backward areas. There is need to address the issues related to these communities so that they too may participate in the democratic set up.
- The South African population is also not given as much awareness and the right of information as it should be in a democratic society. This hinders the decision-making process on the democratic ways.

The democracy of South Africa is a prominent example of its best practice in the developing world. South Africa is one of those developing countries where the democracy is being consolidated contrary to majority of the developing nations that are still under the pressure of authoritarian rules in the form military and political elites. The democratic experience of the last 25 years has produced the marvelous results of democracy as it is becoming more diverse, dynamic and assertive in organizing the free and fair elections. The democracy in South Africa

has made the governments accountable before the common masses. It is also striving for the constitutional practices and fighting against corruption (Graham, 2020).

The pre-democratic apartheid system of South Africa was largely based on the racial discrimination against the black African people. They were not even considered the backward citizens but also exploited. But the introduction of the democracy granted the equal rights to all black and white people. The non-profit organization Act also played a key role in developing the democracy in this country. At the same time, the non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations also created awareness among the civil society and prospered democracy (Habib, 2005).

Apart from the NGOs and CBOs, the trade unions also assisted in imparting the democratic values. As per the existing resources it is reported that there were almost 3.93 million members of these trade unions in 2019. The comprising the 24% of the work force, the trade unions aroused awareness among the working class about their legal and democratic rights. They replaced the existing apartheid system with the democratic provisions (Matwasa, 2019). Despite the plenty of democratic working of the trade unions, still there are issues regarding the working conditions and the unemployment of the laborers. The unequal salary system is also an issue still exists under the democratic system (Tenza, 2018).

Despite the outstanding performance depicted in the above stated discussions, there are many issues the South Africa is facing in the democratic system too. Some of the key issues regarding consolidation of democracy still exist that are following.

- The human rights are being taken for granted but yet the people have strong belief in democracy.
- The African National Congress (ANC) is the major political party and it holds the main civil support. The civil society hopes that ANC will eradicate all issues related democracy.
- Despite the citizens have distrust in some intuitions yet they hope the democratic system will handle these issues.
- The citizens like other developing world perceive the legislative institution as weak, corrupt and unresponsive.
- The citizens have lack of confidence in the police department that is not controlling the crimes.

Key Findings of South African Democracy

Some of the key findings in the perspective of South African democracy are following.

- South Africa experienced a long colonial rule
- Discovery of gold mines attracted the imperialists
- The British and western developed long apartheid rule
- The native blacks faced exploitation and inequality
- Apartheid rule ended in 1994
- The post-1994 period followed the true democratic track
- Democracy ended the social and political exploitation
- Equal opportunities were provided to all social segments
- Community is fully participating in the current democratic system
- Consistency in democratic elections is being conducted
- Civil-public collaboration strengthened the democracy

- Satisfactory quality of democracy

Democracy in Brazil

Brazil is one of the noticeable developing countries of the South American region. Like other developing countries, Brazil also had been ruled by the imperialism. After the end of this imperialism, Brazil observed a brief democratic period. The Brazilian community was optimistic with the new democratic system but this country was again taken over by the military in 1964 which halted the democracy (Serra, 1983). The coup d'état relinquished the presidential system and controlled the system of the country. There remained the authoritarian rule for the next twenty years in Brazil. Later, a flame of hope was re-visited and the elections were held in 1985 which initiated the democratic process once again in the country (Hagopian & Mainwaring, 1987).

The democracy of Brazil is unique because the long military rule has enriched its roots in almost of imitations especially the politics. Later, the revival of democracy in 1985 was also started with the assistance of the military. The critical perspective can take this shift of power from the authoritarian to democratic rule was mainly triggered by the military itself. The military developed the democratic system in the wake of awareness among the civil society which demanded the democracy (Hagopian & Mainwaring, 1987).

Alongside the military, the old regime politicians also played an active role in the revival of democracy. These politicians mobilized the masses who protested on large scale for the elections of the president. The millions of the people came on the streets and roads in the favor of democracy which helped to reinstate the democracy in Brazil (Flynn, 1986).

Unlike the South African experience, the democracy in Brazil was hijacked by the military and political elite class. The political leaders of the old regime no doubt strived for the restoration of democracy but after the revival of democracy they failed to build the representative democratic system. They just followed the benefits of the powerful people and neglected the civil society which protested for restoration of democracy. The new era of democracy was just concerned with the objectives of the elite class who gained more power and benefits through democratic system (Dos Santos, 1985).

The democracy is taken in the social and economic perspectives because it is democracy which builds such system which works for the betterment of the socio-economic aspects. Contrary to that, the Brazilian democracy failed to perform in the socio-economic sectors. It did little or nothing to eradicate the prevailing poverty. The main reason behind this low-level socio-economic performance again was the military and old regime politicians. They controlled the whole political system and performed in poor way which could hardly touch the economic improvement in the post-authoritarian period. The popular participation of the civil community was forbidden under this system.

The democracy can be built through the well-established political institutions i.e., political parties and legislature. But in the perspective of Brazil, both of these institutions could not be established on democratic roots which negated the consolidation of democracy in Brazil. Neither the Brazilian democracy could build strong and unbiased political institutions nor did it allow the popular participation into the political matters.

The Brazilian political parties are not mass parties rather they are associated with the urban areas only. This is another reason of lower level of democracy in Brazil. Their lower grip in the country sides also ignored the development in such areas. The traditional politics is followed by the political leaders under which the dynasty politics and authoritative nature of the politicians

did not allow to flourish democracy in Brazil. The patterns of clientelism were mainly adopted in the democratic system of Brazil.

The participation of the civilian society was almost banned in the early era of democracy. Even though during the period of revival of democracy there were still many obstacles of civil community's participation in the mainstream national and state level politics. The primary factors behind the closure of the gates of community's political participation were traditional politicians and authoritarian military elites. But the availability of the modern technology and the education created awareness among the masses to demand their legal rights regarding the participation. The communities organized especially in the urban areas and started movements which encompassed the country sides as well which motivated them to gain their role for the democratic participation (Santos, 2005).

Despite the civil community organizations, still there is vivid portion of the population far away from the knowledge about the democratic rights. They lack of awareness due to low level of socio-economic and educational achievements. At the same time, the political and military elite also prefers to hide exact information from them which depicts that still the actual democratic practice is far away in the case of Brazil. Although the revival of democracy in the post-1985 period ended the authoritarian rule directly, the military has dominant direct control over the state institutions. The military controls executive offices, key cabinet positions, the political parties and the policy making indirectly which represents the poor form of democracy in Brazil (Moro, 2018).

Generally, it is perceived that the monarchy and dictatorship are the primary rivals of the democracy but in actual from, the political leadership itself works contrary to the democratic provisions. The traditional politicians based on dynasty politics favor the monarchy rule in the wake of democracy. In developing nations, the majority of the governments are based on the coalition where different political parties hold the offices. The major political party who is already based on the authoritarian style has to compromise over the democratic elements in order to save its governments (Mounk, 2019).

Contrary to consolidating the democracy, they democratic political parties preferred the monopoly way of ruling. President in Brazil has supreme powers and works according to the personal and party manifesto not according to democratic manifesto. Under such circumstances, the parliamentarians are left with options either to support the president and gain benefits or to sit on the opposition tables and gain nothing (Papas, 2019). The democracy in Brazil is the game of status and monetary benefits. The consolidation of democracy in this country is yet looks far away (Limongi, 2007).

The electoral process is also not free and fair as in the case of Jair Bolsonaro in the elections of 2018, the state institutions were hijacked to gain the victory. The important state institutions like judiciary and legislature are not unbiased. The political leadership had to empower these state institutions but with the assistance of other powerful stakeholders, they controlled the same for personal benefits (Moro, 2018).

Despite many issues in the democratic system of Brazil, the good news is that the civil society is gaining more awareness in the current era. The modern technology and education are imparting the awareness among the common people that are demanding the democracy in the country on the basis of its true elements. In the wake of the such awareness, the political elites are also be

conscious regarding the monopolization of the system and lifting the weight off in certain decisions (Avritzer & Rennó, 2021).

Notable Findings of Brazilian Democracy

Some of the notable findings regarding the Brazilian democracy are following.

- Brazil experienced a long rule of imperialism
- Democratic system initiated in 1964
- Later, the political system was again taken over by the military
- Brazil is experiencing controlled democracy
- Military and political elites have controlled the entire political system
- The civil society is given little participation
- Democracy has failed to perform in socio-economic sectors
- It could not eradicate poverty
- Weak state institutions
- Weak judicial system
- Democracy is concentrated in urban areas only
- Traditional/dynasty politics is being practiced in the wake of authoritative nature
- Modern education and technology created awareness among the civil society and now citizens demand political rights and participation
- Political authoritarianism is being practiced in the form of democracy
- The electoral process is unfair
- The hopeful notion is than civil community is demanding the democratic system.
- The overall quality of democracy is unsatisfactory

Conclusion

The whole of the above discussion elaborated the process and journey of democracy in three developing countries namely Nigeria, South Africa and Brazil. The findings of the data explained that civil society in all of these countries desire to have strong democratic system; a democratic system which will be based on true spirits of democracy. Out of these three developing countries, South Africa is the only country practicing democracy to satisfactory level while the rest of two countries i.e., Nigeria and Brazil are facing democratic issues. The masses of these countries are facing the issues like misuse of power, poll riggings, political violence, corruption and personal gains and benefits. This is because of the corrupt role of the traditional politicians and overwhelming political role of the military dictators in the political arena. The good notion found from this research is the community inclination towards the democratic process which will help them in achieving democratic consolidation.

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