

# Political Identity and Political Parties: Infrastructure Superstructure Nexus

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## Abstract

*The present research paper attempts to manifest the way to ensure economic growth and import substitution through political parties though the ultimate aim of political parties is to capture political power and keep control of the government. Paper identified the matrix of Vision, Man, Muscle and Money to win the election in national and local level. Economic production-oriented programs utilizing party member contributes political parties to achieve success. Thus, the production of goods and expansion of services grasping symbols can transform the economic condition and ensure solidarity of the party members. Marx rightly mentioned infrastructure determines the superstructure of the nation/state. Mishra (2007) consider aims of the CPNM is to ensure equal citizenship, equity, inclusion, social justice and progress. However, roadmap towards economic progressed is overlooked. Bhattachan (2003) presents political model to restructure political sphere of Nepal and regards the Panchayat political system as exclusionary political system. Realizing these aspect present paper attempts to show how intra economic prosperity and eventual sustainability is possible through concentration on symbolic political identity. Furthermore, research found charismatic leaders within every political party influence and motivate party members to contribute their time and attention in productive activities for the election symbols.*

**Key Words:** Political Party, Economic Growth, Import Substitution, Solidarity, Charismatic Leader

## Introduction

The present paper aims to shows the importance of the political parties and how super structure the political ideology can changed the infrastructure. The democratic system is based on popular franchise, elected representatives and equalitarian principles. In such context, political parties and election plays important role in the democratic world. Political parties clearly sketch the line of demarcation as in Orissa village hostile alliances do not visit each other's homes and do not attend each other's ceremony and involve in vicious gossip against each other. As a result, development efforts have been blocked. In India Gandhian workers initiated cooperative societies for the welfare of the people and provided opportunities to the younger, educated person who did not belong to the dominant

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group. Organizational innovation increases the activities in a community. Such a new skills, aptitudes and abilities are absent in the traditional leaders (Oomen and Venugopal, 2010). In the context of Nepal, the direct influence of political party is seen diverse aspect of social life of the people. Political identity plays immense role to transform society and economy. Previous experience also reveals the possibility of social transformation through political parties. Through political party, heterogeneous culture and geography-friendly economic programs can be initiated realizing proportion of party members and potentiality.

State alone unable to develop the society so political communal participation can transform the society. Political party, their wings and members and supporters play the important role in policy formulation within the party and state. Intervention of political parties can urge party members to involve in forest conservation, fisheries, solar energy, hydroelectric energy and so forth. Political parties can seek consultancy to start new comprehensive social and economic activities. For instance, agricultural products, food products and the fabrics for the clothing, art and craft. Even political parties can frequently organize project development program seeking new discovery and utilizing party members. Such interest based economic programs motivates party members to involve in different economic programs guided by their interest. Opinions of party members and voters can be collected through project development program.

Considering demand of the voters and party member political parties can start new business. Specialized product can be produced by the political party. Specialized product can be marketed throughout Nepal and also can be exported. Trade and commerce related activities can be accomplished through the production of goods. Social and economic activities of the country is based on political parties as party members, supporters follow the guidelines of the political parties. Involvement of party members in production and distribution activities can produce adequate essential goods and services. In such context, economic program of introduced by the political party can be accomplished. Nepali people are directly embedded within political environment onwards political movement of 1996. However, winning and losing election variation is seen in every election. This aspect made us realize the requirement of specific political programs and other aspect to win the election. Election winning tools are money, muscle and men including fear and uncertainty. Rather than communalism individualism is prevalent in the election environment. Reciprocally, elected state empower people with power and power gives money (Roy, 1995). Political parties adopt positive and negative mechanism in the time of election. Aspiration of Nepali people prosperous Nepali society. It is almost impossible to transform Nepali society without managing political environment. Thus, emphasis upon political party is the suitable in the Nepali context. Strength of

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political parties is determined by the vision and strategy of political party. Whenever election appears political parties spend large sum of money to purchase imported products. Unless and until import substitution-based industries were not established it is impossible to curtail trade deficit.

A political party is guided by vision in the one hand. Vision orient people to involve in political party in the other hand. Economic development related vision urges political party to involve in economic action. Economic consideration urges political party to work as the guild of medieval period. Economic enhancement improves the work of the political parties. As a result, diverse sections of Nepali people are somewhere and somehow connected with political parties. Concern towards political aspect is reflected through various aspect. Now it is needless to say it is impossible to transform Nepali society without intervention upon political sphere. Political party is the major component of political sphere. Thus, emphasis upon political party is the requirement of present Nepal. Now there is no way to progress Nepal without activities of political parties. Leaders of political parties are seeking economic program reflecting the needs and requirements of the society. If political party members are involved in economic activities, then they would achieve opportunities to contribute their own political party and entire society. Immediate requirement-based production would reward the political party. For instance, specialization would produce perfect exportable goods. Involvement of political party can enable political leaders to achieve political gains and social gains. Voters will be influenced through economic activities which is the political gains and sustainable development would be social gains. Often now leaders started complaining about state of their joblessness due to task assignment.

Political leaders started to complain about task unrelated to status and role. Effective program is the demand of political stakeholder. Acknowledging the aspiration of political leaders and program to strengthen political parties is the requirement of the time. Political parties should start income generating programs linking political identity of the political party. Different political party have different political identity. Line of demarcation of different political parties are election symbol, vision and the history. Utilizing such identity different political parties can start productive activities. Such initiatives strengthen political parties through production, boost incomes of political parties and to some extent reduce prevailing corruptive activities. Such attempt would reduce discrimination and differences between political party members within the hierarchy.

Political leaders are the representative of the society. Political leaders address the aspiration and the interest of people. In the context of China, the Communist party of China (CPC) transformed the old China from a state of backwardness into an increasingly prosperous and powerful New China. New leadership of China

attempt to work vigorously reflecting the larger interest of the people of China. In this regard, Chinese leadership moves ahead with a long-term vision and strategic planning (Lohani, 2013). Even the Head of the States President Xi Jing ping dedicated to build a strong and prosperous China. China aims to raise the standard of living of entire Chinese people bring party closer to the people (Regmi, 2013).

### **Politics and Political Party**

Political dimension plays important role as Aristotle defined human as a political animal as human could not exist without a political dimension. Historically, in the time of Aristotle social and political life were indistinguishable from one another. Politics aims to control over groups in society to ensure peace and stability within the groups and guarantee defense against external threat. Political parties organize people under ideological banners, articulate their aspirations and channel their energies towards specific political goals. (Oommen and Venugopal, 2010). Political parties were mushrooming throughout Nepal in the name of democracy, ideology, identity and so forth. Nepali political party evolved and dissolved in the series of time. Onwards 1950 multi-party democracy evolved along with the end of the oligarchy. Eventually, people from diverse section of society such as Dalits, Janajati, indigenous people and Madheshi's are able to express their grievances seeking larger role in the democratic nation building process. Shift in political party is seen onwards 1960 and monarchial system introduced. Ruling class under monarchial system introduced ruling ideology. Ruling ideology of that time is guided by symbols such as the unitary polity, the monarchy, the Nepali language, Nepali dress and Hinduism. Symbols of that time ensured solidarity in Nepali society. Symbol based politics remained till 30 years.

Pointing out positive side unlike Nepali language and Hinduism Nepali dress contributed in import substitution to some extent. The Maoist advocated to establish people Republic onwards 1996. The comprehensive peace Agreement in November 2006 urge to renounce the use of violence and accepted democracy and Pluralism. However, pluralism-based goods and services is not produced (Dahal, 2012). In retrospect Bhattachan (1994) writes political parties in Nepal remain busy with intra and inter quarrels and involved in political appointments rather than constructive activities. Similarly, Mishra (2062) suggests political parties to contribute in constructive activities despite remaining out of the government. Adding Mishra mentioned dearth of commitment is seen in political party, government and bureaucratic mechanism. Political parties of Nepal established approximately before seven decade though appreciable work is yet to experience. The Communist Party of Nepal formed in 1942 and transformed in 1949 under the leadership of Pushpa Lal Shrestha. Nepali Congress party shared power with the Ranas after overthrow of Rana regime in 1950's. Eventually young communists working in Jhapa district

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attempted armed uprising being inspired by Cultural Revolution in China and Naxalite movement. However, still development practice of China and India is yet to be replicate (Thapa, 2003). CPNM revolutionary political organizations and political parties aims to transform life and society. It is easily seen that each party have to carry special responsibility (Mishra, 2007). In this regard brand-based production of each political party is the demand of time to make life easier of party member and sustainable development of political party. When several political parties involve in economic activities then competition among political parties will take place in terms of development rather than muscle and money. Through such economic activities will take place which not only improve the living standard of party members but also entire society.

### **Election**

Concentration of people in different political party is the feature of Nepali society. Election is the catalyst to bring social and political change. Election chooses and changes the representatives of the region. Election of 1991 ensured federalization of the Indian political system (Gupta, 1992). Strong political program is required to win the election as unlike ignorant voters other intelligent voters requires specific programs to win the election Excessive import by these people is the greatest challenge. Import substituting product change the circumstances. Introduction of party-based brand will enhance the production. Economic miracle is possible through this attempt. Economic miracle would be ticket to win election in the future. Party members are liability of the party but this approach transform liability into asset. Through these activities political partis can generate resources and income. In the election time, election manifesto is rarely review by the people. Thus, long term grassroots level developmental program is the requirement to influence people.

### **Attachment to Political Symbol and Election Symbol**

Political parties adopt innovative means to attract the voters. Utilization of political symbol and election symbol can be the innovation and the important component of political parties. Rise and fall of political parties depend upon the political symbol and election symbol of political parties. Different political parties have different political symbol and election symbol. Thus, reflecting diversity in terms of political symbol and election several social activities can be launched. New technology can be introduced realizing political symbol and election symbol. People feel attached to party as a result of long-term psychological attachment to a political party. Attachment to political party is influenced by Political symbols are words and images which affect political power. People are attached to the course of lives and shapes their view (Campbell et al., 1960). Even during the tenure of

the world war heavy concentration on symbols is seen even in the media (Wilhoit, 1969). Political parties adopt various strategy to win the election. Republican Parties introduce innovation. Republican Partis attempt to do something to change the existing status, to introduce reforms and improvements (Ward, 1908). Strategy can be positive and negative. Production of goods and services reflecting sentiment of political party is the positive strategy to win the election.

### **Charismatic Leadership**

Charismatic leader exists in religious, political and bureaucratic field have influential role through their beliefs, opinions, and ideas. Weber used the Greek word, charisma as a special natural gift of the people basically arise in the time of crisis and historical opportunity as Mussolini and Hitler. Charismatic leaders for instance, Lenin and Hitler use their power of leadership to destroy or vastly alter the mores and institutional structure of their time MacIver (1998). Charismatic leaders are able to accomplish difficult task through voluntary cooperation of like-minded people. Charismatic leaders are able to impose their will on followers being the agency to change the structure of the society. Charismatic leader can motivate, attract follower to encourage them to follow the policy of them. Charismatic leader profoundly influences and effects the followers addressing the needs, values, preferences and aspiration of followers encourage followers to involve in collective interest. For instance, saying of Kennedy ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country. Charismatic leader has to perform miracles to be prophet and heroic deed to be a ward lord Vos (2014). Political party members of Nepal wish their party president to be Charismatic. They opined charismatic leaders attract party member as magnet and encourage to retain in same political party. In Nepali context, charismatic leaders can motivate party members to involve in productive activities based on political brand. Charismatic leaders have power to transform followers from an individual oriented, rational economic mode of operation to a collective, moral and value-oriented mode of operation Vos (2014). Charismatic leaders convince party members through frequent counselling activities. In convincing process, charismatic leaders link present behavior to past events by citing historical examples Willner (1984).

### **Conclusion**

The paper shows how political parties can transform the Nepali society. Transformation is possible through mobilizing members of the political parties. Political parties are mass and member-based parties, so, members should be mobilized to involve them in economic activities voluntary and involuntary. In Nepali context, new political parties and individuals are winning the election. This aspect shows the imperativeness of economic activities to involve political parties'

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members in initial phase and to motivate other people to involve in same activities. In the modern world, it is very difficult to involve people other activities besides arm-chair related activities. Involvement of political party member can provide work opportunities to party member. Similarly, production and access to market enable political party members to be economically reliant without seeking other means to be financially dependent. In that way, infrastructure and superstructure can be enhanced in parallel manner. However, in the context of Nepal, overwhelming people are explicitly and implicitly involved in political parties.

Realizing such context people in political parties should be mobilized in income generating activities. Huge amount of money is spent in election and economic determinism is seen in election pattern. From acquiring election candidate ticket to contest in the election to winning election is determined by money, muscle and man. In such context, unnecessary lavish expenditure is seen in the election. Conversion of economic determinism to the social determinism is the need of the time through involving party members in income generating activities initiating identity, geographic, talent, expertise centric economic activities. Thus, intervention in political sphere can involve people in economic sphere in certain extend. In such context, linking political party members in economic activities will bring fruitful result. Political identity plays significant role to determine socio-economic development of political parties and overall society. Political identity-based production, interest-based product, demand-based product and geography-based product act as catalyst to transform political party with charismatic leadership. Nevertheless, party also can involve in productive activity beyond election symbol that would be determined by discussion with party members to decrease monotonous feeling. People involved in political parties are expressing their view about joblessness and aspire work division. In such circumstances, day by day party members become dependent party member.

According to them, responsibility is concentrated in President. Also, it is better to utilize time in productive activity rather than covert and overt unnecessary and futile discussion. In such way, stagnation within political party will end. Productive activities in terms of political identity enable to start new industry. As a result, import led economy is transformed into export led economy. Building strong network with party members and society generates profit to the party. Political parties require finance to their administrative affairs and election campaign. However, adequate production and distribution enable political parties to generate fund. Similarly, connection with other political parties enables to maintain solidarity though principle divides political parties. Charismatic leaders have ability to inspire Political identity is the major factor to mobilize people as each individual is directly or indirectly linked with political party. It is said that 80% Nepali people support

political parties but their voting behavior is determined by developmental aspect. Thus, political parties have no option besides working through political programs. Comprehensive economic programs are required to increase the surplus of money and to strengthen the reciprocity based relationship between voters and election candidate.

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