**Historical Overview of Political Culture in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh's political culture has been shaped by a complex history of colonization, partition, and war. The country gained independence from Pakistan in 1971 after a bloody struggle that left millions dead. In the following years, Bangladesh struggled to establish a stable government and political system.

The 1980s were marked by military rule and political instability, with frequent coups and counter-coups. However, the 1990s saw a return to civilian rule and the establishment of parliamentary democracy. Since then, Bangladesh has made significant progress in economic development and social welfare but continues to face challenges related to corruption, human rights, and political polarization.

**The characteristics of Bangladesh's political culture:**

* **Nationalism:** The belief that the people of Bangladesh form a nation and should have their own country.
* **Secularism:** The belief that the state should not be associated with any particular religion.
* **Patronage:** The practice of exchanging political favors for personal gain.
* **Violence:** The use of physical force to achieve political goals.

## Political Culture in Bangladesh from 2008-2013

The period from 2008 to 2013 was a tumultuous time for Bangladesh's political culture. The country experienced widespread protests, violence, and political instability. The Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, won the general election in December 2008 and formed the government. However, the opposition parties alleged that the election was rigged and refused to accept the results.

During this period, the government faced numerous challenges such as dealing with corruption, improving the economy, controlling inflation, and addressing human rights issues. In addition, the government had to deal with natural disasters such as floods and cyclones which affected millions of people. Despite these challenges, the government made some progress in areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure development.

## Political Culture in Bangladesh from 2014-2018

During the period of 2014-2018, Bangladesh experienced significant political turmoil and upheaval. The ruling Awami League government faced widespread protests and criticisms for its authoritarian tendencies and human rights violations.

One of the most notable events during this time was the controversial national election in 2014, which was boycotted by the main opposition party and marred by allegations of vote rigging and violence. The government's heavy-handed response to the protests that followed further eroded public trust in the political system.

## Political Culture in Bangladesh from 2019-2023

Over the past few years, Bangladesh has experienced significant changes in its political landscape. The country has seen a rise in political activism, particularly among young people, who are demanding greater accountability and transparency from their leaders.

At the same time, there have been growing concerns about the government's crackdown on dissent and freedom of expression. The controversial Digital Security Act, which was enacted in 2018, has been used to silence journalists and activists who criticize the government.

## Problems in Bangladesh's Political Culture

Bangladesh's political culture has been plagued by corruption, which has hindered its development and progress. Corruption is rampant at all levels of government, from local to national, and it has become an accepted part of the political system. This has led to a lack of trust in government institutions and a sense of disillusionment among the people.

Another major problem in Bangladesh's political culture is the lack of accountability. Politicians and government officials often act with impunity, knowing that they will not be held responsible for their actions. This has created a culture of entitlement and arrogance among those in power, which further erodes public trust in the government.

Violence is also a significant issue in Bangladesh's political culture. Political parties often use violence as a means of gaining and maintaining power, leading to a climate of fear and intimidation. This has resulted in a breakdown of law and order and a lack of respect for human rights.

**Some Major Problems in the political culture of Bangladesh today:**

1. **Political Polarization:**

Problem: Deep divide between major parties leads to gridlock and violence.

Solution: Encourage cross-party dialogue, promote compromise, and implement proportional representation.

1. **Lack of Civic Education:**

Problem: Citizens lack understanding of democratic processes.

Solution: Integrate civic education in schools, raise awareness about rights and responsibilities.

1. **Corruption:**

Problem: Widespread corruption hampers growth and erodes trust.

Solution: Strengthen anti-corruption laws, enhance transparency, support accountability.

1. **Lack of Political Accountability:**

Problem: Leaders often avoid accountability.

Solution: Strengthen independent institutions, enable citizen participation, allow recalls.

1. **Violation of Human Rights:**

Problem: Human rights abuses persist.

Solution: Strengthen the rule of law, engage with human rights organizations.

1. **Weak Civil Society Participation:**

Problem: Civil society faces restrictions.

Solution: Ensure freedom for civil society, support social initiatives.

1. **Gender Inequality:**

Problem: Gender discrimination continues.

Solution: Enforce gender equality laws, promote women's participation.

1. **Youth Engagement:**

**Problem:** Youth feel excluded.

**Solution**: Create platforms for youth, provide mentorship, involve youth in policy-making.

## Solutions to Improve Bangladesh's Political Culture

One potential solution to improve Bangladesh's political culture is through electoral reforms. This could include measures such as increasing the transparency and accountability of the electoral process, ensuring fair representation for all parties, and implementing stricter regulations on campaign financing.

Another solution is to implement anti-corruption measures at all levels of government. This could involve creating independent oversight bodies to investigate and prosecute corrupt officials, increasing penalties for corruption, and promoting a culture of transparency and accountability in government institutions.

## Challenges to Implementing Solutions

One of the biggest challenges in implementing solutions to improve Bangladesh's political culture is overcoming resistance from powerful individuals and groups who benefit from the current system. These individuals and groups may use their influence to block reforms or undermine efforts to increase transparency and accountability.

Another challenge is changing the attitudes and behaviors of ordinary citizens, many of whom have become disillusioned with politics and may not see the value in participating in reform efforts. Educating and mobilizing these citizens will be crucial in building momentum for change.

**Criticism of current political culture:**

* **Religious extremism:** Bangladesh has been grappling with the rise of religious extremism in recent years. This is a major threat to the country's secular identity and its democratic institutions.
* **Money in politics:** The influence of money in politics is a major problem in Bangladesh. This has led to corruption and the erosion of public trust in the political system.
* **Growing power of the military:** The military has played a significant role in Bangladeshi politics in the past. There are concerns that the military is becoming increasingly powerful and that it could intervene in politics in the future.
* **Erosion of democratic norms and institutions**: There have been concerns about the erosion of democratic norms and institutions in Bangladesh in recent years. This is due to a number of factors, including the rise of religious extremism, the influence of money in politics, and the growing power of the military.

The future of Bangladesh's democracy is uncertain. The country faces a number of challenges, but it also has a number of strengths. It has a long history of struggle for freedom and democracy, and its people are resilient and determined. If Bangladesh can overcome its challenges, it has the potential to become a vibrant democracy and a model for other developing countries.

Increasing participation of women in politic’s

Current political scenario In Bangladesh

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2. oppotion part: jayito