

Common man, changeover and grass root governments

Dear Editor,

Apparently, not the slightest change has taken place in the lives of the common man with the change of faces in Islamabad. This holds good for all the previous takeovers and changeovers and what you may call it. For 90% of the people, you step out of your house and life is as usual, as miserable as before. Even the routine business of extortion and crime was not disrupted by the changeover. The putrefying institutions and systems are intact. The SHO is the same, traffic chaos is still the same, beggars are still swarming, lawlessness, unemployment, back breaking cost of living, accidents, hospitals, injustice..... The list of public woes is endless. Some see the apathy as mind-boggling but to me life is as usual and so is the indifference.

A weird idea comes to mind when you notice that the country functions absolutely normally in absence a particular institution of governance. The pseudo democracy with its adult franchise and the humbug of peoples representation, i.e. the PM, the CMs, the ministers, the legislators the associated burden. Why have them at all!? when we have a parallel form of government that takes care of our everyday affairs of governance in the shape of President, governors, commissioners, magistrates etc. etc. (What constructive role the legislative body has played in the lives of the masses in the past decades is known to all. The system survives mostly on presidential decrees.)

Imagine the revenue we will save by abolishing the PM/CM and their legislators and related accessories of parliament houses and perks. Imagine how many schools, hospitals and roads we can make for the people.

I am not suggesting for a moment that we should also abolish the local governments just because we are functioning without them. This idea can not be applied on a local level, i.e. if we are talking about welfare of the masses. We, the real people are not functioning. Life is a torturous. We need governance on the local level; we need grass root governments. If the real issues and the real people with real representation is on the agenda of the new rulers, then a start can be made by giving us local government and provincial autonomy etc. etc. The institutions and systems on the grass root level should be rejuvenated, strengthened or redesigned.

If we could not dismantle the carcass of East India Company and the crutches of Act of India 1935 then we should demolish this sham democratic institution. The so-called Democracy has made the people poorer and miserable. Why have two systems. Imagine by abolishing one of the systems we will have half of the amount of corruption, VIP culture, sifarish culture, financial burden. Imagine how much revenue we can redirect towards human development.

Some people think that we have boarded the wrong bus, it's not moving, it is not taking us to our destiny, and they prefer to get off. I say that it is the engine. Let's sit down and repair the engine and it'll be fine. Just by changing the drivers, off and on, legally or extra-legally and changing the interior of the bus does not promise a decent journey.

We are a nation with great 'Design deficit'. We are surviving on the old colonial systems. In fact we are in the process of ruining what we inherited. We need to design systems for today. We need a think tank of experts and technocrats to remodel and design systems for us.

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