

Age Bar for the Retirement of Politicians

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Abstract

Representation of people are expected to be reliable. To maintain the reliability, there needs certain limitation regarding the age. This paper discusses the reasons why there needs to be age bar for the retirement of politicians. Moreover, it illustrates the grounds that helps in flourishing of country upon having such limitations. Not only the flourishing of a country, it helps in giving the space for the ideas and strength of younger generation.

Keywords: Politicians, age-bar, retirement.

Introduction

Politicians are politically engaged people, having a certain agenda towards a certain thing. They are people, holding certain position or skill in politics. Politicians are regarded as the first-hand representative of people as they carry an agenda, regarding how their people are to be facilitated. They are active in both, primary (consulting with law makers and advisors) and secondary (implementing the laws) functions, so as to meet people's core needs. The specialized function of them, depends upon which post they have been elected to.

Age is the period of time someone has lived. There are certain limits regarding to age, so as to have regarded a person as a qualified one, for a certain purpose. Age bar is a marginal limitation of a person to perform something. Having prescribed certain age bar into something, it gives

efficiency and productivity out of that work, a person has been engaged into. For example, a person needs to have attained 18 years of age, to get into contract. It is because a person's volitive and cognitive notion develops after reaching to specific age. However, the age limit might vary from country to country, as per the situation there.

Retirement refers to the withdrawal of one's position from active working life. Retirement further has two forms; early (retirement earlier than the prescribed retiring age) and phased (gradual process of retirement by reducing the workload) retirement.¹ Retirement helps as a mechanism, to give rest to physical as well as mental state of a person. Retirement further helps in development of new agendas of upcoming youths by deteriorating the former workers. By this, the labor force increases and the size of the dependent population decreases.² It helps in replacement of tired minds and body, with energetic minds and body.

Younger politicians may differ from older ones for the following reasons. One is that they have a potentially longer political career ahead of them and therefore have stronger career concerns. The second is simply that, as younger citizens, they have a longer horizon and therefore they may have an incentive to adopt more long-term policies (ALESINA, CASSIDY, & TROIANO, 2019, p. 690).

Discussion and Analysis

Profession with age-limit ensures productivity

A person takes birth and holds certain time period to live in this earth. The fact of it being 'certain', makes him/her work for creating an impact through their lives, so that they would be acknowledged throughout, even when they're no physically present in this world. In fact, it really doesn't matter how much one lives, the thing that matters is, the dimensional significance one creates in his/her life. Same thing is applied in the official profession we are involved into. The physical energy, enthusiasm, capability and creativeness are different at different stage of life.³ The energy one holds at his/her twenties doesn't equivalent at his fifties; it does vary.

Productivity can be observed from two ways; one from employee and other from employer. Employee can have impact on his physical as well as mental health post the retirement. Also, employer can have impact on his company's functioning. According to the survey taken from the Health and Retirement Study, started in 1992 in U.S. to 51 to 60-year-old population who are re-interviewed every other year showed that, about 60 percent retirees are very satisfied with their retirement, with another third considering moderately satisfying and other 8 percent

¹ Rameshwor Bhandari, 'Revisiting Civil Service Retirement in Nepal', 2015, p.25.

² : Denton, Frank T.; Spencer, Byron G, 'What is retirement? A review and assessment of alternative concepts and measures', ECONSTOR, <https://www.econstor.eu/bitstream/10419/66879/1/571570844.pdf>, p.5.

³ Rameshwor Bhandari, 'Revisiting Civil Service Retirement in Nepal', 2015, p.13.

not satisfied with their retirement.⁴ According to survey taken in Kathmandu, Nepal, 6(15%) old that they faced retirement transition adjustment problems to some extent and 34(85%) didn't face problem as such.⁵

In the context of employer, the company gets the new energy, ideas and strategy upon the retirement of old employees with the replacement of young employees. It is because, as the time changes, the mechanism we adopt to do certain things change accordingly. And, to cope with such changing mechanism, young minds are always preferable because they do certain things efficiently.

Space for other generation

Youth is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence.⁶ They are considered to be dynamically creative and up to date in the agendas that need to be brought up to change a society. They can be a creative force, a dynamic source of innovations, and they have undoubtedly, throughout history, participated, contributed, and even catalyzed important changes in political systems, power-sharing dynamics and economic opportunities.⁷ But, these abilities are overshadowed by the old age people who have been ruling the country. Youths are not able to come up with the agendas that they have, as there is no age bar for the retirement of politicians.

In U.S., the median age of the senators is 65, while the median age of all Americans is 38. And only 15.6 percent of the U.S. adult population is 65 or older.⁸

Young people under 30 make up just over 2.6 per cent of the world's MPs. Around 25 per cent of the world's single and lower houses of parliament have no MPs aged under 30. Seventy-three per cent of the world's upper houses of parliament have no MPs aged under 30.⁹

⁴ Keith A. Bender & Natalia A. Jivan, WHAT MAKES RETIREES HAPPY? , 2005, p.3.

⁵ Rameshwor Bhandari, Revisiting Civil Service Retirement in Nepal, 2015, p.64, http://www.northsouth.edu/newassets/files/ppg-research/Thesis_4th_Batch/Rameshwor_Revisiting_Civil_Service_Retirement_in_Nepal.pdf.

⁶ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Definition of Youth, New York, p.1.

⁷ United Nations Youth, 'Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making', New York, p.1.

⁸ Amber Petrovich, 'Out with the old(politicians), in with the young', Chicago Tribune, United States, 1 March 2019.

⁹ Inter-Parliamentary Union, 'Data on youth participation', Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2021, p.1, available at <https://www.ipu.org/our-impact/youth-empowerment/data-youth-participation>.

In Nepal, youth (16 to 40 years) constitute almost 40 percent of the total population. However, only five percent of youth represents 40 percent of the population in the federal parliament of Nepal.¹⁰

Youths are regarded as a pillar of nation for the development in social, economical and political aspects of the country, but when the turn of implementation comes, there is no space for them, for which there needs to be certain age bar for the retirement of politicians.

Development with new agendas

The agenda of development changes as per the necessity and time. Youths are much closer to the world through the spectrum of technology. They have different versions of ideas regarding the development that a country needs. Recently in Nepal, we can see the criticism flowed over the construction of view tower. Had there been numbers of youth in concerned area, the agenda would have been different. Nepal is having development in many aspects but unorganized. To have the proper planned development, there is necessity of youths in politics.

According to the survey taken across 15 countries in world, young people are found expecting a brighter future for themselves, their country, and the world, than adults.¹¹

When it comes to policy priorities, ending poverty (33%), improving education (31%), and access to jobs (27%) are the top Sustainable Development Goals for youths. Improving education is a significant priority for younger people, particularly in low and middle-income countries, where nearly half of people aged 12-24 (46%) see it as a priority.¹²

An example of full control by young people is the ‘Youth Lead the Change’ project in Boston, United States, where the mayor annually sets aside US\$1 million of the capital budget for youth (12–22) to oversee and manage. The three winning projects in 2019, each with around 3,000 votes, were:

1. Installing solar-powered benches that charge phones along bus routes
2. Installing new and improved water fountains and water bottle filling stations
3. Placing trash and recycling bins in streets in areas of need.¹³

¹⁰ Nirmal Kandel, ‘What is preventing youths from coming into politics? What can be done?’, Nepal Live Today, Nepal, 22 October 2021.

¹¹ Ipsos, ‘Understanding the Perspectives of Young People Around the World’, Ipsos, United States, <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/Gates-goalkeepers-youth-optimism>, accessed on 24 September, 2018.

¹² Ipsos, ‘Understanding the Perspectives of Young People Around the World’, Ipsos, United States, <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/Gates-goalkeepers-youth-optimism>, accessed on 24 September, 2018.

¹³ Generation Unlimited, ‘Young people’s participation and civic engagement’, Generation Unlimited,

Thus, to have proper planned development youths can be of great help and strength.

Proper functioning of other state organs

Legislative, executive and judiciary are the three state organs of Nepal. Legislative functions as a law-making body, executive as implementing body and judiciary as a law interpreting body. Their functions are inter-related to each other however, there is provision of separation of power and check and balance, so as to limit the powers of these organs and avoid the abuse of power.¹⁴ For example, legislature checks over executive by approving or rejecting the budget presented by executive and executive does it by declaring emergency in the state, over legislature.¹⁵

The provision of check and balance does ensure productivity, but only if it is implemented in its true sense. In the context of Nepal, as per the Article 284 of 'Constitution of Nepal', there is the provision relating to constitutional council, which functions as a recommending body of Chief Justice, and Chiefs and officials of the Constitutional Bodies as per the constitution.¹⁶ The council consists of 6 members among which 5 members belong to either legislative or executive member that is 83.33 in percentage. By this, there arises a chain of game where the either party favors other upon the words given in the time of their appointment. The chain of game extends as much as their exists politicians, and the primary function of such organ gets overshadowed by the personal nexus. By this, we can see no proper outcome in the functioning of an independent organ; Judiciary. There raises a question regarding the independence of an organ when it's is inclined towards other from the root itself. Hence, there should be no influence of politics in judiciary, solution to which can be the age bar in the retirement of politicians.

Conclusion

A country to be sound in social, political and economic aspect, there needs to be set certain limitation upon things. In the context of Nepal, retirement of old minds and bodies with the replacement of youths seems sound and fruitful to which there should be the age bar for the retirement of politicians.

<https://www.generationunlimited.org/media/3021/file/Action%20Guide%205:%20Young%20people%E2%80%99s%20participation%20and%20civic%20engagement.pdf>,

¹⁴ Dahal, Atindra, *Political Theories and Thoughts A Comprehensive Analysis*, Lex & Juris Publication, Suryabinayak, Bhaktapur, Nepal, 2018, p.131, 133.

¹⁵ Dahal, Atindra, *Political Theories and Thoughts A Comprehensive Analysis*, Lex & Juris Publication, Suryabinayak, Bhaktapur, Nepal, 2018, p.136, 140.

¹⁶ The Constitution of Nepal, Art.284.

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