

## Abstract

The existence of the *biraderies* (*Brotherhood, clans*)<sup>1</sup> in the social set up of any society is an acknowledged fact. *Biraderi politics* are deeply impacted on the societal setup, norms, and rituals and culture and politics of specific state if agriculture based economy exists there. Even the rapid changes of the world and the long time span do not affect the persisted nature of the *biraderi* system, and the self-established phenomenon rules over the lives of the members that undermine the independence, free will and consequently affect the process of democratization.

The *biraderi* is the most predominant identity insignia in Pakistan. The *biraderi* forms an imperative dynamic element in an individual's life, particularly in the central parts of the Punjab. The analysis and evidence reveal that the *biraderi* system has been one of the major factors influencing the democratic process since the inception of Pakistan and the politics of *biraderies* is still playing an important role in the economic and political life of Toba Tek Singh. In contemporary Punjab the hierarchal structure, of the *biraderi* system is plainly breaking down to some extent – but in political process the significance of *biraderi* politics has augmented rather than declining in post-independence period that is primarily a colonial product and the post-independence state continued to use the existing 'over-developed' state structure that protected, projected, and entrenched the *biraderies* in this system of power.

The historical, political junctures of colonial and post-colonial Punjab discloses that in the milieu of Punjab, the study of *biraderi* politics has probable new significance as it provides a rational model of manipulation of power through *biraderies*. It postulates a state where *biraderism* is used by *biraderies* as a tool of manipulation through social, economic, and political abstract power by which to strive for control over scarce resources and the remains of colonial rule. In Punjab's

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<sup>1</sup> The word *caste* in Pakistan is different from the word used in Indian caste system. Here we mean a group of people having the same caste such as Rajput Jatts and Arains. However, the word derivation of the term "Biraderi" comes from Persian word "Bradar" which means 'brother'. In different Urdu dictionaries meanings for the word *Biraderi* "Zaat and Quam" are used. In *Ijaz-ul-Lughat* it is meant as "Bhai Chara" (Fraternity) and as "Bhai Bandi" (Brotherhood). Whereas, in *Farhang-e-Asfia* it's meanings describe as "Goth (Sub caste), Zaat (Caste), Groh (Group), Jamat (Class), Sangat (Companionship), Gharana (Family) and Risht-e-dari (relatives)

political history this politico-sociological aspect has received little attention. *Biraderi* politics, if ever studied, are only dealt with at a national level by stressing the roles of bureaucratic, military elites and parliamentarians that represented by the landed aristocrats.

The purpose of this study, therefore, is to analyse through an empirical method that to what extent different following variation of the social, economic and political dynamics of the *biraderi* politics create adherence in Punjab and thus influence the process of democratization with particular reference to District Toba Tek Singh.

1. Social dynamics; social structure like family, culture, occupation, religion, education, status, titles, gender discrimination
2. Economic dynamics; Economic stability, Wealth, land, business, class structure, dependence, employment
3. Political dynamics; Political participation, e.g. political awareness, elections, voting behaviour, political parties.

This study is based on the hypothesis that the domination of *biraderi* politics is affecting the process of democratization through its socioeconomic and political manoeuvring and hence restricts an individual to take independent decisions. While using the structured questionnaire tool, a survey was conducted in the 21 Union Councils of the district Toba Tek Singh. Results show that dynamics of *biraderi* politics played an important role in all social, economic, and political aspect of individuals' life and his emancipating powers are pledged by this *biraderi* system.; on the whole 70 to 80 % respondents had endorsed "*Biraderi Politics Questionnaire*" of this study and has shown that *biraderi* politics is affecting the process of democratization. People are well aware of the *biraderies* ties and evidently reflected their inclination to keep supporting the contesting candidates in the future elections who affirm by their own relevant *biraderies*.

The *biraderies*, like *Arains* and *Jatt*, *Sayyed* and the native *biraderies* *Kharral* are the dynamic *biraderies* of the District Toba Tek Singh those are dictating the individuals to participate on the basis of *biraderi* prejudices or *biraderism*. And thus they serve the higher strata of the *biraderies* by playing a non-democratic role. The finding of the study is that the dynamics of *biraderi* politics are affecting the process

**of democratization and proving as an impediment in the process of institutionalizing  
of democracy.**