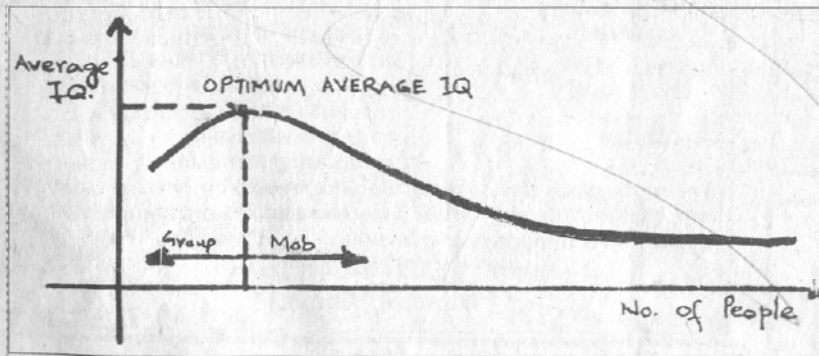


The population in any country, as a whole, is conservative, insensitive, and hard to excite. On an average a population is geared to act once in a decade. It takes a lot to break through the shell the people use to separate themselves from their rulers. A lot of effort is required to incite the people to remove the elite group which is taking a major portion of the resources of the country. Whatever the politicians say, politics is not about nationalism, religion, democracy or other such high ideals. Politics is all about the distribution of the wealth of the state. Nearly all modern thinkers have visualized the mass of people as an intelligent, shrewd, positive and decisive entity. This is far from the truth.

According to popular belief, if you have a group of people with an IQ of 140, the average sum total of the IQ of the group will be more than 140. In other words, two heads are better than one, three heads are better than two, and four heads are better than three, *ad infinitum*. In practice this rarely happens. If we draw a graph of IQ vs the number of people in a group, the result will probably be as below:



The optimum IQ will be reached at a number which depends on the characteristics of the people constituting that group and the task for which the group has been assembled. The optimum IQ is also a point where any increase in the number of people will increase the tendency of the group to act as a mob. A corollary of the above discussion is that democracy in its present form — i.e., one person one vote — will lead to disastrous situations. This usually happens when the number of people (the IQ) is at its lowest.

Democracy for development

In Pakistan where government inflated illiteracy figures still make a dismal reading, our experiments in democracy have failed drastically. Still the results of autocracy also have not been much better, says A.Q. QAYYUM

ing our experiments in democracy have failed drastically. Still the results of autocracy also have not been much better. So what is the solution?

One way out of this problem is to decrease the people in the group electing the leadership. This can be done by setting up qualifications which will separate a basic group of electors. An elite group will take up the task of deciding for all the people. This can take several versions. Ayub Khan's Base Democracy is divided into two stages. The first stage makes for the election of the elite group and second stage allows the elite group to elect the leadership. The major flaw in such a scheme was that it was thought that the

of property, industry and trade (drugs)? Some middle class exceptions also make it to the Assemblies but they normally do not have the specification which would influence the Assemblies. This specification is subtle or naked power. The Senate has some seats for so-called technocrats, but these are usually filled with bureaucrats rather than technocrats. The major difference between the two being that the former will try to maintain the *status quo* and keep the boat steady as long as he is getting the perks of the job. A technocrat will always be thinking of improving the system. A bureaucrat is an administrator and a technocrat is a manager. This conflict has been magnified in the Bhag (bureaucrat) and Nawaz (manager) confrontation. Should we keep feeding the white elephants of WAPDA or should we try to change the system for better or worse? Unluckily the administrators always have an influence in the government spread over a length of time whereas the managers are always in a hurry. In his 50 years meritorious service to the nation the Chief Bureaucrat has seen many a change in policies and shifts between the right and the left and whatever his ideals, has always managed to survive.

In all the groups selected, through many a qualification one can think of, the elite group, which chooses the leadership, can be selected from anywhere in the IQ-No. of people curve. For a qualification of wealth in the form of property, the IQ level of the elite group will be average, or looking at our MNAs and MPAs, especially what happened in the Punjab Assembly, it would be below average. Since what is really required is that the elite group should have a standard of character much higher than the local populace, a

feet. For us the problem is to translate character into something tangible. It cannot be wealth. It could be something to do with age but not wholly so. Our best bet is to equate education with character. It still does not fill the bill but it is the best we can hope for. We could give the power of vote to only those people whose IQ is already high. This base group (which elects the elite group) will have a standard of character much higher than the one man — one vote base group. This group will be more representative of the middle class, will be more morally upright and will represent the progressive aspirations of the nation. Quite a number of present members and even a few ministers will be absent from the Assembly. The level of debate will be higher and law-making in the Assemblies — the main reason why the MPs are over there in the first place — would be much improved.

If we can imagine a superhuman, with the best interests of the country in his heart, then we would have given him a *carte blanche* for selection of the elite group. But human beings are not angels, and people have their own perception of events and ideas. We in Pakistan have been lucky or unlucky to have several superhumans imposed on us, and from the turn of events another one seems to be entrenched. These have led to toothless assemblies of Generals Ayub and Zia, and, thanks to the famous/notorious 8th Amendment, a perpetuation of the frustrations of the vested/national interests of the representatives. A little show of independence and the all-in-all, almighty person sitting in the Presidency decides that in the best interest of the nation a puppet government is required.

The President is elected by the Provin-

vested interests of the landed minority. Further the incumbent President, himself a bureaucrat and having strong links with the bureaucracy, and the armed forces, represent the three white elephants gulping down national resources. Economically these are the three most useless classes and a massive drain on the national exchequer. Keeping in view this background it was inevitable that the latest showdown would take place within the two groups having a widely different viewpoint. In fact, it is surprising that the ex-PM survived for so long. Had the ex-PM been more of a John Wayne or Harrison Ford type persons, the confrontation would have come sooner. If a progressive, in contrast to the present retrogressive, President had been holding the power of dissolution, he would not have had a head to head collision with a progressive PM. There might have been differences on the economic benefits of some projects, say privatisation or the motorway, but he would never have denigrated the entrepreneurship of the qualified people who have opted to drive taxis rather than wait for jobs aiming to become government functionaries at the clerical level. Education is no good if it imparts social snobbery.

Since the enactment of the Constitution of 1973, there have been a number of amendments including an umbrella famous/notorious amendment: the Eighth. Under the cloak of this Amendment, an 'impartial' President can pull the plug on the democratic process whenever he feels like it. The best option would be to be able to choose a President who is not a representative of the various pressure groups in the political game. The electorate of the President should be qualified in a manner which is best for the country. The President should be elected through direct elections with every person having a vote who holds a graduate degree or equivalent, and further all the provinces should be given equal weightage. This will increase the level of knowledge, wisdom, etc. of the group of electors and at the same time would retain the federal character of the Presidency. The elections should be held every seven years so as to allow a continu-

to disastrous situations. This usually happens in a democracy. In Third World countries, where illiteracy (and thus a low IQ) is at its lowest democracy will have different results than in countries which have a high rate of literacy (and a high IQ). In Pakistan where government inflated illiteracy figures still make a difference.

Summary as no qualification for character was made in the basic democratic system, the elite group had no spine to challenge the dictation of the general.

Another type of qualification can be wealth and property. This is not so alien in our society as it seems. In fact in a free and fair general election held in our country the only qualification is wealth in the form

group should have a standard of character much higher than the local populace, a sieve should be found which would help us in finding people of the best character. The Islamic Government in the times of the Caliphs was based on this qualification of character. The leadership and its electors (the elite group) was such that no fault in terms of character could be laid at their

best interest of the nation a puppet government is required.

The President is elected by the Provincial and National Assemblies and the Senate. The Senate itself is elected by the Provincial Assemblies. The electorate of the President is indirectly weighted to represent more of provincial interests than does a Prime Minister. As mentioned earlier, the Provincial Assemblies are dens of

group of electors and at the same time would retain the federal character of the Presidency. The elections should be held every seven years so as to allow a continuation of government when the Assemblies come up for re-election. The educational qualification will give a progressive bias to the proposed character of the President, and will give more weightage to the educated, conscious middle classes as against the bureaucracy, Army and the landed class.