

## Devastating flaws in any governance – A study in Shakespeare plays

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### Definition of good governance

**Aristotle:** Governance (Constitution/regime) is a system where power rests with one, few, or many, but the key is its purpose: good governance serves the common good (Monarchy, Aristocracy, Polity), while corrupt forms serve the ruler's selfish interests (Tyranny, Oligarchy, Democracy). Aristotle favoured Polity, a mixed government of the many/middle class, as the most stable and just, balancing extremes and promoting virtue for the whole community.

**William Shakespeare:** Portrayal of governance is a practical exploration of leadership ethics, emphasizing that a just and stable society depends on the moral character and responsible actions of those in power. Good governance requires a ruler to possess specific characteristics and temper the administration of the law with wisdom, integrity, and mercy.

**Kofi Annan:** According to former United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**, "Good governance is ensuring respect for human rights and rule of law; strengthening democracy; promoting transparency and capacity in public administration." He also said that "Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development.

Governance is the function of ruling and decision-making. Decision making should be transparent and bound to the implementation of law. The sustainable aim of good governance is for national progress. National progress is attained by not only implementing judicial laws, and also verification in application of people's feedback. In the 1992 report entitled 'Governance and Development', the world bank set out its definition of good governance as "the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources of development". Good governance has 8 major characteristics.

1. Participatory
2. Consensus-oriented
3. Accountability
4. Transparency
5. Responsive
6. Effective and efficient
7. Equitable and inclusive
8. The rule of law

### Devastating flaws in Populist society:

If governance do not function according to Constitutional law and ethics, certainly tragic flaws are identified. The truth of the tragic flaws is documental evidence in ruling for selfish democracy. The selfish democracy of the ruler is absolutely opposite to constitutional democracy. Constitutional democracy promotes real welfare of people, righteousness, integrity, wisdom and all political ethics. Therefore, this paper demonstrates what does Aristotle Greek philosopher legendary in political science promote? At the same time, how does William Shakespeare English Literature transcend to offering profound insights into the human condition and a complex understanding of power dynamics. Truly both are universal genius in their application of ideology. Politics are created for the welfare of the public, not for violence,

not for communal violence, not for caste creed race, not for selfish democracy. True politicians never entice people and never encourage the interference of 'population litigate politics or communal litigations. One of the best examples of populist political strategy which happened in India:

Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15 August 2019, the PM said, **'we need to worry about population explosion.** 'He said it was impeding development. In fact, this thinking had begun to take shape in Assam about two years earlier. Now it is in full play in Uttar Pradesh, where the Yogi government's Law commission released a draft the public population control bill in July 20121, inviting suggestions from the public. BJP governments in Karnataka and Gujarat are reported to be actively studying the UP-draft bill. I began by looking at the total fertility rate, I looked at data 1950 to 2021. Total fertility rate (TFR) is the average number of children delivered by women in their age. The TFR was 5.9 from 1956 to 1956, declined consistently after that dropping to 2.9 by 2002 (Page 82

In 2021 it came down to 2.179. This is just a tiny bit above replacement level, which is 2.1. this is considered the ideal level. If the TFR is under 2, the population begins to contract and that creates huge problems-reduction in workforce; fewer younger, productive people who can earn to feed and help sustain the growing number of elderly; economic slowdown; rising healthcare costs. Many countries in the world dread that prospect. The case of Japan is often cited as an example of this 'demographic debacle'. Our country is already almost at the replacement level. Is our Prime Minister unaware of this? Did he say what he said in this Independence Day address without looking at the data? Or did he simply ignore the data? Both possibilities should worry us (Page 82)

Our PM Narendra Modi ji is not alone in his 'concern'--- a concern that can appear baffling to any informed and reasonable person. The actual worry of our PM is a sharp increase of minority population. Therefore, our PM enticing people about the increase of Muslim population. **Parakala Prabhakar** is a renaissance man. An economist, a public policy professional, a corporate consultant, a public opinion pollster, a political activist and analyst, a writer, and a Telugu litterateur, a scholar. He authored a book called ***The crooked Timber of New India***

**Parakala Prabhakar** says:

Himanta Biswa Sarma after he became chief minister to Assam, Sarma asked Assam's Muslims to adopt **'decent'** family planning measures. He predicted conflicts over living space if their population continued to 'explode'. I saw a television interview in which he said that if this trend were to continue, his **'own house may be occupied one day'**. **On 28 June 2021 he said,** 'The Assam government will take specific policy measure to slow down the growth of minority population with an aim to eradicate poverty and illiteracy'. The target, in other words, is not the general population stabilisation of the state, but to reduce the growth rate of the Muslim population. But what did data from the then latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), released in December 2020, tell us about the scene in Assam? Did the figures give the chief minister cause for worry? The Muslim community's TFR in Assam according to NFHS-5 is it at 2.4. It is indeed higher compared to 1.6 for Hindus and 1.5 for Christians. However, the significant point is that it is not increasing- neither 'sharply', as the chief minister wants us to believe, nor even modestly. In fact, the fertility among Muslims has witnessed a sharp decline. It dropped from 3.7 in 2005-06 to 2.4 in 2019-20. That's just 0.3 short of the replacement level! (Page 84)

**William Shakespeare's ideology of Politics and Power Mongers:**

In relevance to populist policies, we shall go back to centuries; the universal genius **William Shakespeare** who founded his theatre, the Globe in 1599. He authored *Julius Caesar* is a famous historical tragedy and a classic example of **Power mongers**. There are power monger politicians in India, whose aim is to win the election and rule. The attitude of power mongers is spreading lies, communal politics, caste politics, Evil politicians practise violence among people, and misleading public in their government. **Shakespeare** said about evil politicians: *Julius Caesar* Act 3 SC 2:

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interred with their bones. So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus hath told you Caesar was ambitious. If it were so, it was a grievous fault. And grievously hath Caesar answered it. Here, under leave of Brutus and the rest (For Brutus is an honourable man: Page 121, Folger Shakespeare Library

The characters of **Cassius** and **Brutus** are scheming conspiracy on Caesar. Cassius and Brutus are driven by envy and greed for Political power. In relation to populist policies in our Indian society, Power mongers are habituated to practise lies in public meetings. In fact, Truth is governed by lot of lies. Politicians often twist facts to create fabricated stories which is a great threat to the people. Truth is obscured by lies when it is explained objectively. The most famous another work of Shakespeare, *Hamlet*. The story of *Hamlet* is same in Nepal politics. The **Kot Massacre** took place on 14 September 1846, when Jung Bahadur Rana and his brothers killed about 40 members of the Nepalese palace court, including the Prime Minister and relative of the King, Chautariya Fateh Jung Shah, at the palace armoury, known as the Kot, in Kathmandu. This event rendered King Rajendra Bikram Shah and Surendra Bikhram Shah powerless and marked the beginning of the Rana autocracy (Wikipedia source). The same way, We shall notice here in *Hamlet*. Act 3, SC 3

O, my offense is rank, it smells to heaven; It hath the primal eldest curse upon 't, A brother's murder. Pray can I not, though inclination be as sharp as will, my stronger guilt defeats my strong intent, And, like a man to double business bound, I shall in pause Where I first begin and both neglects. What If this cursed hand Were thicker than itself with brother's blood?

In the story of *Hamlet*, **Late King Hamlet** and **Claudius** are brothers. Despite the fact of Political Power struggle, Claudius murdered his brother Hamlet. In a Populist society, welfare of the people is manipulated instead power politics would be stitched from time to time. Therefore, Aristotle says, every king, every ruler must learn and practise virtuous life.

**Great Philosopher Aristotle's ideology on Politics and Virtues:**

The word **Virtue** is come from the Latin word *Virtus* which means valour, merit, moral excellence, or character. **Vir** (meaning man). Virtue embodies the core meaning of manliness, strength, or courage. It later widened the meaning of moral goodness. All political leaders and all human beings must learn to practice the virtues in life. Any governance any kingdom the essence is that make people happy and flourish. Human flourishing is the primary principle of human life as well as end of human existence, all humans must learn to practice virtues of human life and living well. This is called completeness in human life.

Basics of **Aristotle's** eudaimonia theory:

1. Rationalism: Human life is meant for the function of logic and reason. Best humans learn to practise this aspect excellently and virtuously.
2. Testimony: attaining the power of virtue is two folded learning and practising. This is called wisdom.
3. Health and wisdom: Aristotle suggests two forms of good life, moral virtue and highest form of *eudaimonia*. Living daily life is the application of practical life including active life, Highest form is contemplation. Contemplation includes intellectual application.

The father of political science Aristotle advises politics should be embedded with virtues. One cannot do anything without practical application of virtuous life. In any government, Political leaders must be virtuous to do justification to the public. Monarchism and tyranny throw into devastating flaws in governance. Aristotle says:

We speak of monarchies, their causes of corruption, and means of preservation; and indeed almost the same things which have been said of other governments happen to kingdoms and tyrannies; for a kingdom partakes of an aristocracy, a tyranny of the worst species of an oligarchy and democracy: for which reason it is the worst that man can submit to, as being composed of two, both of which are bad, and collectively retains all the corruptions and all the defects of both these states. These two species of monarchies arise from principles contrary to each other; a kingdom is formed to protect the better sort of people against the multitude, and kings are appointed out of those, who are chosen either for their superior virtue and actions flowing from virtuous principles, or else from their noble descent; but a tyrant is chosen out of the meanest populace; an enemy to the better sort, that the common people may not be oppressed by them. That this is true experience convinces us; for the generally of the tyrants were needed mere demagogues, who gained credit with the people by oppressing nobles (Page 164 and 165) *Politics* by Aristotle.

The goodness and accountability of the government never depend on tangible benefits, catchy phrases like freebies culture benefits. Enticing people with catchy phrases **Acche Din Aane Waale, Ek Bharat, Jan - Jan Modi** do not work out for good governance. By and large, The father of Politics Aristotle strongly says that without virtuous life of political leaders, there won't be the existence of any governance. The same ideology of Power politics in the dramas of Shakespeare is meant to teaching the value of Integrity, righteousness and accountability in any kingdom. The same way. Parakala Prabhakar unlocked the conspiracy regarding the state of the Indian republic today and evil politics in India.

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