



## **FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester**

**SUBJECT: Political science-I**

**SUBJECT CODE: BAL-101**

**NAME OF FACULTY: Dr. Shiv Kumar Tripathi**

# Lecture-2



## **Nature of Politics:**

One, the definition or idea of politics is flexible or changing. To the traditional thinkers politics was the study of state and government. Today the definition is not confined within a limited sphere or few notions.

The subject is variously defined and includes many notions. The idea of politics encompasses numerous aspects of political behaviour of individuals, groups, associations, agents etc. Even the elements of international relation have found their place in the definition or analysis of politics. To sum up, politics is a broad concept and changes its contents with the change of time.

Two, Controversy is a very important element of politics. Let us elaborate it. Politics means the existence of issues and again it means the existence of controversy. It is argued that where there are issues (and, politics cannot be thought of sans issues) there must be controversy.

Issues are never homogeneous and the heterogeneity of issues creates an atmosphere of debate and in this way politics cannot be separated from controversy. Let us quote Wasby, "Where no controversy exists, where no issues are being debated, politics does not exist". The controversy pervades to all sections of society as well as to all sorts of groups, institutions, individuals, organisations etc.

Three, J. D. B. Miller, emphasises the disagreement nature of politics in his *The Nature of Politics*. It is true that the controversial nature of politics indicates the disagreement among opinions issues and explanations. When there is disagreement among individuals, organisations, institutions, groups, controversy or debate is bound to crop up. The point to note is that according to Miller, the disagreement is the true nature of politics.

Four, It will be a misconception if we think that controversy or disagreement is the exclusive feature of politics and in the arena of politics there is no place of agreement or consensus. Persons, organisations and groups debate among them on any political issues but at the same time they arrive at agreed terms or solutions.

Five, a number of modern political scientists (Lasswell and Robert Dahl are prominent among them) believe that politics involves power and influence. In an analysis of politics an important question is raised—Who gets, What, When and How? Politics is said to be the provider of the answer to this question. That is only through the exercise of power and influence an individual or organisation can get what he it wants.

Politics also provides the way of getting the desired objective. It is the contention of Lasswell, Dahl and many others that if this question is ignored in the study of politics, its central idea will lose importance. For this reason power and influence can never be kept out of politics. Rather they form the central part of politics. Many political scientists even try to call power as the summum bonum of politics. This, of course, is highly political. Many do not agree.

Six, one important feature of politics is its pervasiveness. In all forms of state and society (primitive, tribal, modern, developed, developing and underdeveloped) there always exists politics. Even in past in all types of society/state there existed politics. The form and nature of politics have changed no doubt.

This is due to the fact that in every state or society there is management or administration and for this politics is essential. However, the nature of politics has assumed new forms and dimensions in different ages but politics still exists. Today, we call national politics, international politics, local politics, party politics etc. Politics is everywhere.

Seven, conflict is not the exclusive feature of politics. There are also institutional arrangements for the settlement of conflicts.

Now these two (disagreement and the resolution of it) generate an atmosphere of politics. Guided by reason individuals do not want to continue the disagreement and they start to find out ways of settlement. It is generally regarded as politics.

The state of nature was neither a political society nor a 'civilised' one. Muscle power and physical force were the ways were freely used by this members of the state of nature for the settlement of disputes. The state of nature was a state of war. Some people wanted to do things and by dint of muscle power they did it.

# MCQ

---

1. Socrates says that "all that the soul endures, if directed by \_\_\_\_\_ ends happiness."

(a) Virtue (b) Wisdom (c) Prophets (d) Truth

2. In Plato's state the government is run by :

(a) Workers (b) Philosophers (c) Soldiers (d) Constitution

3. According to the Philosophy of Plato, the fundamental character of philosopher is

(a) Courage (b) Wisdom (c) Appetite (d) None of the above

4. "True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing" said by

(a) Socrates (b) Aristotle (c) Homer (d) Plato

5. Socrates was awarded punishment:

(a) Death (b) Fine (c) Banishment from Athens (d) Imprisonment for 3 years