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**ROLE OF ETHNICITY IN THE POLITICS OF PAKISTAN DURING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS; A CASE OF LOCAL BODIES ELECTIONS IN DERA GHAZI KHAN 1982-1998**

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**Abstract**

*Ethnicity is a vibrant and vast concept with a modern phenomenon of politics after World War second. In third world countries identity considered an important factor in political representation of people and especially the marginalized group always played a card of their ethnic or racial identity to get success in the political system especially in electoral democracy. Pakistan as a third world and developing country is also facing the challenge of ethnic factor in politics due to weak political system. The feelings of inequality and disparity promoted ethnic politics among the marginalized groups not only in National and Provincial Politics but also influenced at regional and local politics. Dera Ghazi Khan which is a small region of Pakistan and have same characteristic with plural society and multi-ethnic culture present a clear picture of ethnic politics in the country. All the dominant and marginalized groups contest the elections on their political strength and used ethnicity as a tool for their success. This paper highlights the role of ethnicity in the politics of Dera Ghazi Khan and Pakistan.*

**Introduction**

Ethnicity is considered an important element in the politics of Dera Ghazi Khan District. Dera Ghazi Khan is one of the southern district of Punjab and it was formed by a Baloch Sardar Nawab Haji Khan in 1472 A.D on the name of his Son.<sup>1</sup> Dera Ghazi Khan faced many ups and down in history and many dynasties ruled here. After them Durani, Sikh and British rule formed at Dera Ghazi Khan 1849-1947 with annexation of Punjab after the Sikh's decline in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sikh War.<sup>2</sup> With local inhabitants many migrants also settled in the entire district. Due to this ethnic plurality every group tried to gain its representation in power and at local level the dominant and marginalized groups used the tool of ethnicity for the identity during elections. The local bodies' elections considered almost the elections of groups, families and *broderies*, where the tribe, caste or race affiliation is more important than any political vision or approach. In local elections political parties did not play an effective role because political parties only represents the dominant groups and the local elections are not party based elections because each group wants it representation and therefore the people used the right of vote on the basis of *Biradari* or family due to authoritarian concept of electoral

democracy. In this research paper it is tried to explore the role of ethnicity during local government elections which presents a model of politics in the country.

### **Research Methodology**

For the preparation of this research paper, historic method has been used with both qualitative and quantitative approach with the help of primary and secondary sources books, elections results and interviews etc.

### **Review of Literature**

As very important part of research, the most concerned literature have been consulted for this research as Tareekh-e-Dera Ghazi Khan, Election results, Biographic encyclopedia of Punjab, *Taunsa ka Manzarnama*, Dera Ghazi Khan Intekhabi Tareekh, Census Reports, District Gazetteer, *Dera K tahzebi Khado Khal*, *Baloch Qbail*, Interviews of Local Politicians.

### **Discussion**

#### **Historical Perspective**

Dera Ghazi Khan District is resided by large number of Baloch tribes and sub tribes and according to the tradition all the Baloch people follow the rules and customs of the tribe. As in Dera Ghazi Khan, The politics is basically the politics of tribes and the tribal head is considered the most powerful symbol of electoral politics. He decides the candidate and vote.<sup>3</sup> So in this political environment the element of ethnic politics cannot be ignored or minimized in the politics of Dera Ghazi Khan since 1867 with the formation of *Tumandari* System.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Political Formation of New Units**

In 1982 Dera Ghazi Khan formed as a new division of Punjab with Rajanpur and Layyah as a new district. With this change the numbers of Union Councils and Town committee with other local units promoted local bodies system rather than provincial and national government at that time during Marshal Law.<sup>5</sup> During the election coverage it was observed that the trend of the people was clearly to candidate of their own biradri or family affiliated. In the politics of Dera Ghazi Khan ethnic element cannot neglect because tribal chiefs are the center of political powers due to the limited role of Political Parties.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Ethnicity Local Bodies Election 1982-2000**

Local government elections are called the elections of Biradries and families in the district. During the military regime of Gen Zia-ul-Haq, Maqsood Leghari Group and Khosa group jointly shared power on local level in the district council Dera Ghazi Khan after the local Bodies polls of 1979, 1983 and 1987, Legharis nominated as chairman and Khosas or their nominated candidates were elected as vice-chairman. Under local government ordinance, there were four levels of municipal government in the urban areas: town committees, municipal committees, municipal corporations and metropolitan corporations. On September 29 1983, local bodies' elections were again held during Zia's rule and on November 30, 1987, councilors were elected yet again to solve the local problems with the local resources...<sup>7</sup>

#### **Local Government Election 1983-1987**

During Zia Regime second time local government election held in 1983 with same parameters as 1979. Maqsood Leghari again elected as Chairman District Council. He formed Alliance with Khosa Group and Sardar Amjad Khosa elected as a Vice chairman with Maqsood Leghari in 1983. With Leghari and Khosa groups several other minor groups also contested the election of District council and among them won by their seats. These minor groups were in position to elect Chairman and Vice chairman of Dera Ghazi Khan District Council in 1983. Almost groups won a single or couple of

seats and then they joined the alliances of Khosa and Leghari groups. Even some alliance or candidate contested the election with the support of Leghari or Khosa group. Because group politics was important tool for successes in these non-party election. The seats occupied by all ethnic groups in the district were as following.

<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>
Leghari	05	Malghani	01
Khosa	02	Mahar	01
Khetran	01	Loand	01
Buzdar	01	Dhareja	01
Changwani	01	Miana	01
Nutkani	01	Sakhani	01
Minority	01	Reserve	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	

Leghari group again won 05 seats as a largest group in the election 1983 of District Council and Khosa Group won 02 seats as a second largest group. Sardar Maqsood Ahmad Khan elected chairman for second time with the support of Khosa group and his other coalition's candidates, while Khosa group retained the post of vice chairman again with new candidate of Sardar Amjad Farooq Khosa with the support of Sardar Maqsood Ahmad Khan Leghari.

#### **Chairman/Vice Chairman Dera Ghazi Khan District Council 1983-1987**

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Chairman/Vice Chairman</b>
1	Sardar Maqsood Ahmad Khan Leghari	Chairman Leghari Group
2	Sardar Amjad Farooq Khan Khosa	Vice Chairman

Elections 1983 of Local Government were held according to the local government ordinance 1979. With the mutual understanding Leghari and Khosa groups succeeded to elect their Chairman and Vice Chairman for second time and most of the other groups also supported this alliance. In this election 1983 of District Council of Dera Ghazi Khan. The other ethnic group's representation were as following.

#### **List of Members District Council Dera Ghazi Khan 1983-1987**

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Name of Members</b>	<b>Ethnic Group</b>
1	Sardar Maqsood Ahmad Khan Leghari	Leghari
2	Sardar Mansoor Ahmad Khan Leghari	Leghari
3	Sardar Masood Ahmad Khan Leghari	Leghari
4	Sardar Sajad Ahmad Khan Leghari	Leghari
5	Sardar Riaz Ahmad Khan Leghari	Leghari
6	Khadim Hussain Khan Leghari	Leghari
7	Sardar Amjad Farooq Khan Khosa	Khosa
8	Sardar Inam Ullah Khan Khosa	Khosa
9	Sardar Muhammad Ismail Khan	Loand
10	Sardar Muhammad Ziad Khan	Buzdar
11	Khan Ahmad Nawaz Khan Khetran	Khetran
12	Sardar Muhammad Akram Khan	Malghani
13	Sardar Afzal Ahmad Khan	Changwani
14	Sardar Khalid Ahmad Khan	Sakhani

15	Dilshad Ahmad Khan	Miana
16	Abdul Rashid Khan	Mahar
17	M. Muhammad Akbar	Dhareja
18	Safia Begam	.....
19	Khanzadi Begum	-----
20	Ilyas Masih	Minority

### Local Government Election 1987-1992

Elections of local government held third time in 1987. Leghari group and their supported candidates won the election. After the election Leghari group again successfully occupied the post of Chairman and vice Chairman. Sardar Mansoor Ahmad Khan Leghari and Sardar Sajad Ahmad Khan Leghari elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The seats of all other groups were as below.

#### Group wise Seats in District Council Dera Ghazi Khan.

Ethnic Groups	Seats	Ethnic Groups	Seats	Ethnic Groups	Seats
Leghari	06	Changwani	01	Aliani	01
Khosa	03	Sakhani	01	Sanghi	01
Qaisrani	02	Bughlani	01	Bhati	01
Buzdar	01	Malghani	01	Koria	01
Khetran	01	Gurmani	01	Mehar	01
Loand	03	Kulachi	01	Dhareja	01
Syed	05	Daha	01	Jafar Pathan	01
<b>Total Seats</b>				<b>35</b>	

### Chairman/Vice Chairman District Council Dera Ghazi Khan 1987-1992

Sr.No	Name	Chairman/Vice Chairman
1	Sardar Mansoor Ahmad Khan Leghari	Chairman
2	Sardar Riaz Ahmad Khan Leghari	Vice Chairman
3	Sardar Sajjad Ahmad Khan Leghari	Chairman
4	Sardar Masood Ahmad Khan Leghari	Vice Chairman

Sardar Mansoor Ahmad Khan left chairman ship and he went to abroad. After his resign Sardar Sajad Ahmad Khan elected as Chairman and Masood Ahmad Khan the brother of Ex. Chairman elected as Vice Chairman.

#### Detail of members for Dera Ghazi Khan District Council 1987

Sr. No	Name of Members	Ethnic Group	Political Alliance	Sr. No	Name of Members	Ethnic Group	Political Alliance
1	Abdul Ghani	Bughlani	Leghari	19	Ghulam Rasool	Buzdar	Leghari
2	Saif-ud-Din	Khosa	Khosa	20	Ghulam Akbar	Sakhani	Khosa
3	Muhd Nawaz	Koriya	Koria	21	Umar Asghar	Khetran	Khosa
4	Abdul Rasheed	Mehar	Leghari	22	Ghulam Shabir	Sanghi	Khosa
5	Fazal Ahmad	Loand	Leghari	23	Nazar Hussain	Kulachi	Leghari
6	Mohd. Saeed	Gurchani	Leghari	24	Nazar Hussain	Syed	Leghari
7	M. Akbar	Dhareja	Leghari	25	M.Akram Khan	Malghani	Makghani
8	M. Hayat	Daha	Khosa	26	Ghulam Younis	Syed	Khosa

9	M. Baqir	Syed	Leghari	27	Kh. Daoud	Pathan	Leghari
10	M. Ramzan	Bhatti	Khosa	28	Shabir Ahmad	Syed	Leghari
11	Riaz Ahmad	Leghari	Leghari	29	Ismail Lund	Loand	Leghari
12	Manzor Ahmad	Chngwani	Khosa	30	Zafar Ullah	Loand	Leghari
13	Maqsood Ahmad	Leghari	Leghari	31	Inam Ullah Khan	Khosa	Khosa
14	Sajjad Ahmad	Leghari	Leghari	32	Ghulam Mustafa	Syed	Leghari
15	Masood Ahmad	Leghari	Leghari	33	Salahud Din Khan	Khosa	Khosa
16	Amman Ullah	Khosa	Khosa	34	Mohsin Ata Khan	Khosa	Khosa
17	Zahoor Ahmad	Qaisrani	Khosa	35	Amjad Farooq	Khosa	Khosa
18	Fatih M. Khan	Buzdar	Buzdar	36	Mahar Chand	Minority	
				Total		36	

The above table shows the hold of ethnicity on local level politics. In each Union Council the ethnic politics always played important role in victory. The minor ethnic groups also support the major groups in National and Provincial elections even they also supported them in Tehsil and the district councils Chairmen and vice chairmen in all the previous elections. Leghari group successfully again won the chairmanship of the district council third time and proved his strong grip on regional politics of Dera Ghazi Khan.

#### MC Dera Ghazi Khan

After the end of Muhammad Bilal Toor' tenure Zafar Ali Khan Advocate and Mian Sajad Husain Siddiqi Advocate were remained as a caretaker chairman of Dera Ghazi Khan Municipal Committee for short time and then Sardar Aalm Khan Khetran elected the chairman of Dera Ghazi Khan Municipal Committee from 1983 to 1987 and after him Zafar Ali Khan, Haji Muhammad Sami and Abdul Matin remained 1987 to 1990 as caretaker chairmen. While 1990 to 1992 Haji Sami again became Chairman. While in 1992 Sardar Din Muhammad Khan Khosa was elected Chairman Dera Ghazi Khan Municipal Committee with the full support of Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khosa 1992. Sheikh Liaqat Rafiq also elected Chairman Municipal Committee in 1998. In the local politics Leghari and Khosa group always tried to elect their close alleys for chairmen of Municipal Committee but Khosa group maintained its strong hold in Municipal Committee and did not lose the election of MC Dera Ghazi Khan.

#### List of Chairmen & Vice Chairmen Municipal Committee D.G. Khan 1983

Chairmen Municipal Committee D.G.Khan			Vice Chairmen Municipal Committee D.G.Khan	
1	Sardar Aalam Khitran	1983 to 1987	Sheikh Allu ud Din	11-11-1983
2	Zafar Ali Khan Adv	1987 to 1989	Haji Muhammad Sami Khan	18-07-1988
3	Muhammad Sami Khan	1989 to 1990	Dr. Gulzar Ali Khan	02-10-1989
4	Abdul Mateen Mehtr	1990 to 1990	Akhwand Nadir Majeed	30-01-1991
5	Muhammad Sami Khan	1990 to 1992	Syed Azhar Tarimzi	30-01-1992
6	Din Muhammad Khosa	1992 to 1994	Laiq Ali Khan Advocate	1992-1994
7	Sheikh Liaqat Rafiq	1998 to 1999	Mian Rashid Sadique	18-12-1998
			Sheikh Ahsan ul Haq	20-05-1998
			Khalid Ali Khan Kakar	14-12-1998

#### Municipal Committee Dera Ghazi Khan 1983.

Sardar Aalam Khitran	<b>Chairman</b>	Khetran
Sheikh Allu Ud Din	<b>Voice Chairman</b>	Sheikh

### Members Municipal Committee 1983

Sr.No	Name	Ethnic Group	Sr.No	Name	Ethnic Group
1	Dr. Gulzar Ali Khan	Sherani	10	Dur Muhammad	Chandia
2	Syed Dilawar Shah	Syed	11	Sheikh Abdul Saeed	Sheikh
3	Mehtar Abdul Mateen	Mehtar	12	Hafiz Sultan Mehmood	.....
4	Ghulam Mustafa	Lashari	13	Muhammad Shareef	Khosa
5	Hakim Khan Niyazi	Pathan	14	Malik Karam Elahi	Arain
6	Niyaz Muhammad	Buzdar	15	Sheikh Abdul Khaliq	Sheikh
7	Sh.Muhammad Shafiq	Sheikh	16	Qazi Attique Ahmad	Qazi
8	Akh. Sadique Akhtar	Akhwand	17	Dr. Muhammad Latif	Chandia
9	Ch. Umar Din Gujjar	Gujar	18	M.Amin Khatak	Pathan
39	Naseer Ahmad Khan	Buzdar	52	Sohail Naseer Khan	Khosa

### Reserved Seats District Council 1983

1	Begum Zenat Khan	---	3	Ahmad Nawaz Chandia	3
2	Anwari Begum	Ansari	4	Iqbal Maseeh	4
3	Habbib Ullah Khan	Jarwar	Total		22

### Municipal Committee Dera Ghazi Khan 1987.

<b>Chairman</b>	Zafar Ali Khan Advocate	Ethnic Group
<b>Voice Chairman</b>	Haji Muhammad Sami Khan	Sherani

Sr. No	Name	Ethnic Group	Sr. No	Name	Ethnic Group
1	Sardar Aalam Khan	Khetran	19	Muhammad Sami	Sherani
2	Din Muhammad	Khosa	20	Khalid Mehmood	Arain
3	Arshad Ali Khan	Pathan	21	Imam Buksh Khan	--
4	Dr. Gulzar Ahmad	Pathan	22	Haji Muhammad	----
5	Malik Iqbal Saqib	Arain	23	Ghulam Farid Khan	Babar
6	Abdul Saeed	Sheikh	24	Ijaz Hussain Zia	
7	Ghulam Fareed	Chughtai	25	Abdul Mateen	Mehrat
8	Niyaz Muhammad	Buzdar	26	Zafar Ali Khan	Sheikh
9	Syed Qasim Ali	Syed	27	Sheikh Sardar Allam	Sheikh
10	Muhammad Iqbal	Chandia	28	Manzoor Hussain	Sipal
11	Sheikh Liaqat Rafiq	Sheikh	29	Syed Azhar Tarmzi	Syed
12	Ch. M. Ishaq	Gujar	30	Nadir Majeed	Akhwand
13	Muhammad Khalid	Rajput	<b>Reserved Seats</b>		
14	Hakim Khan Niazi	Pathan	1	Muhammad Nawaz	Arain
15	Anees ul Hassan	Sadiqui	2	Mirza Ishtisq	Mirza
16	Sufi Ilyas Ahmad	Chandia	3	Saeeda Bibi	.....

17	Dilawar Hussain	Syed	4	Nazir Begum	.....
18	Fazal Ali	Qureshi	5	Mubarak Begum	.....
Total Seats					35

### Municipal Town Committee Tuns Sharif 1983

In the election of the Municipal Committee 1983, Khawaja (Jafar Pathan) Group which was the leading group of Municipal committee did not get any remarkable success but they got the chairmanship of MC Taunsa due to a religious influence. Khawaja Muhammad Darwaish elected chairman with Shafique Ahmad Khoja as a Vice Chairman. The group wise no. of Seats were as following;

Ethnic Group	Seats	Ethnic Group	Seats
Chucha	02	Jat Carlu	01
Thaheem	02	Qureshi	01
Buzdar	02	Doli	01
Manjotha	01	Mughal	01
Jafar Pathan	01	Khoja	01

According to the ward wise detail of election is as following in the table.

1	Khawaja Darwaish Muhammad	Chairman	Jafar Pathan
2	Shafique Ahmad Khoja	Voice Chairman	Khoja

### Members of Municipal Town Committee Tuns Sharif.

Sr.No.	Councilors	Ethnic Group	Sr.No	Councilors	Ethnic Group
1	Ghulam Yaseen	Chucha	7	Muhammad Ameen	Chacha
2	Molvi Ibraheem	Buzdar	8	Ghulam Mustafa	Qureshi
3	Dr. Khalid Bilal	Buzdar	9	Haji Qadir Buksh	Karlool
4	Muhammad Ismail	Thaheem	10	Muhammad Ramzan	Thaheem
5	Manzoor Mughal	Mughal	11	Muhammad Khan	Doli
6	Allah Buksh	Manjhota	<b>Total</b>		13

### Municipal Town Committee Tuns Sharif 1987

In the election 1987 Jafar Pathan Got maximum seats five out of 16 and Thaheem got three out of 16 as second larger group of Taunsa. While Buzdar remained at third with 02 seats. Other 07 groups got one seat respectively. The seats of groups can be observed in the following table

Ethnic Group	Seats	Ethnic Group	Seats
Chucha	01	Jat Carlu	01
Thaheem	03	Qureshi	01
Buzdar	02	Bhutta	01
Machi	01	Qazi	01
Jafar Pathan	04	Leghari	01

### Chairman & Vice Chairman in 1987

Khawaja Abdul Mutalib		<b>Chairman</b>		Jafar Pathan	
Muhammad Sharif		Voce Chairman		Thaheem	
<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Councilors</b>	<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Councilors</b>	<b>Ethnic Group</b>
1	Muhammad Ibrahim	Buzdar	11	Abdul Munaaf	Jafar Pathan
2	Muhammad Jalil	Thaheem	12	M. Ramzan	Bhutta
3	Kh. Allah Buksh	Jafar Pathan	13	Ghulam Mustafa	Leghari
4	Kh. M. Salamat	Jafar Pathan	14	M. Khalid	Buzdar
5	Ghulam Mustafa	Chucha	<b>Reserve Seats</b>		
6	Haji Ghulam Hussain	Jutt Karloo	1	Zubair Ahmad	Qazi
7	Muhammad Sharif	Thaheem	2	Haleema Bibi	.....
8	Muhammad Ameen	Machi			
9	Rab Nawaz	Qureshi			
10	Khawaja Abdul Mutlib	Jafar Pathan			
Total Seats				16	

### Members Municipal Town Committee Taunsa Sharif 1992

Election 1992, Khawaja group continued their lead and once again it was the largest group of Municipal committee election of Taunsa. Khawaja Hafiz Muhammad Jamal and Khawaja Abdul Mutalib elected as chairman and vice chairman. Groups wise

<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>
Jafar Pathan	05	Gazar	01
Buzdar	02	Thaheem	01
Chacha	02	Qaisrani	01
Sakhani	01	Bhutta	01
Arbi	01	Chughata	01
Bulowani	01	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

In the election Khawaja group had become victorious to elect their chairman of Municipal committee of Tehsil Taunsa.

<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Councilors</b>	<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Councilors</b>	<b>Ethnic Group</b>
1	Muhammad Ibrahim	Buzdar	11	Sadique Ahmad	Sakhani
2	Khawja M. Ahmad	Jafar Pathan	12	Muhammad Khalid	Buzdar
3	Bashir Ahmad Arbi	Arbi	13	Abdul Mutalib	Jafar Pathan
4	Kh.a Ghulam Akbar	Jafar Pathan	14	Khawaja Jamal	Jafar Pathan
5	Ghulam Mustafa	Chucha	<b>Reserve Seats</b>		
6	Bashir Ahmad	Thaheem	15	Mai Sabhai	Chacha
7	Allah Buksh	Gazar	16	ZenabKhatoon	Bulowani
8	Bashir Ahmad	Jafar Pathan	17	M.Sharif	Chughata
9	Ghulam Akbar	Qaisrani	<b>Total Seats = 17</b>		
10	Altaf Hussain	Bhutta			

### Municipal Town Committee Taunsa Sharif 1998

In the municipal Committee elections 1998, any one of the contesting group did not win with decisive majority. The winning seats of ethnic groups were as following.

<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>Seats</b>
Jafar Pathan	06	Qureshi	01	Manjotha	01
Buzdar	04	Thaheem	01	Qazi	01
Sakhani	01	Bhutta	01	Jat Karlu	01



Gurmani	01	Khoja	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>
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Jafar Pathan Famous as Khawaja Group with 06 seats was a majority group. The runner up was Buzdar group in this election. Khawaja and Buzdar groups formed alliance with this agreement that Chairman will be elected from Khwaja group and Vice Chairman will be Abdul Salam Buzdar. The detail of seats won by the candidates of different ethnic groups are as given below.

<b>1</b>	Khawaja Ghulam Muhammad	Chairman	Jafar Pathan
<b>2</b>	Abdul Salam Khan	Voice Chairman	Buzdar
<b>3</b>	Khawaja Muhammad Salamat Ali	Voice Chairman	Jafar Pathan
<b>4</b>	Molvi Muhammad Abdul Latif	Voice Chairman	Sakhani

**Name of Councilor MC Taunsa in 1998**

Sr. No.	Councilors	Ethnic Group	Sr. No	Councilors	Ethnic Group
1	Zubair Ahmad	Qazi	10	Kh. M. Jafar	Jafar Pathan
2	M. Abdullah	Gurmani	11	M.Latif	Sakhani
3	Molana Ibrahim	Buzzdar	12	Ghulam M.	Qureshi
4	Muhammad Iqbal	Buzdar	13	M. Ibrahim	Jat Karlu
5	Muhammad Jamal	Khoja	14	Abdul Rasheed	Bhutta
6	Kh. Ghulam Akbar	Jafar Pathan	15	Khizar Mehmod	Jafar Pathan
7	Abdul Salam	Buzdar	16	M. Sharif	Thaheem
8	Peer Bashir Jafir	Jafar Pathan	17	M. Qayum	Buzdar
9	Allah Bukhsh	Manjotha	18	Ghulam Mohd	Jafar Pathan
19	Kh. Salamt Ali	Jafar Pathan	Total		19

Election of Municipal Committee Taunsa 1998 was once again a reflection to the role of ethnic politics at most lower tiers of local level. In the election Jafar Pathans “Khawajgan” of Taunsa had great influence and they won 06 seats out of 19 and Buzdar got 04 as second largest ethnic group. All other minor groups occupied one seat respectively. Jafar Pathan group successfully again won the Chairman Ship of Municipal Committee of Taunsa.

**Members Municipal Town Committee Tunsa Sharif 1992**

Election 1992, Khwaja group continued their lead and once again it was the largest group of Municipal committee election of Taunsa. Khawaja Hafiz Muhammad Jamal and Khawaja Abdul Mutlib elected as chairman and vice chairman. Groups wise

Ethnic Groups	Seats	Ethnic Groups	Seats
Jafar Pathan	05	Gazar	01
Buzdar	02	Thaheem	01
Chacha	02	Qaisrani	01
Sakhani	01	Bhutta	01
Arbi	01	Chughata	01
Bulowani	01	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>

In the election Khawaja group had become victorious to elect their chairman of Municipal committee of Tehsil Taunsa.

Sr.No	Councilors	Ethnic Group	Sr.No	Councilors	Ethnic Group
1	Muhammad Ibrahim	Buzdar	11	Sadique Ahmad	Sakhani
2	Khawja M. Ahmad	Jafar Pathan	12	Muhammad Khalid	Buzdar
3	Bashir Ahmad Arbi	Arbi	13	Abdul Mutalib	Jafar Pathan
4	Kh.a Ghulam Akbar	Jafar Pathan	14	Khawaja Jamal	Jafar Pathan
5	Ghulam Mustafa	Chucha	<b>Reserve Seats</b>		
6	Bashir Ahmad	Thaheem	15	Mai Sabhai	Chacha
7	Allah Buksh	Gazar	16	ZenabKhatoon	Bulowani
8	Bashir Ahmad	Jafar Pathan	17	M.Sharif	Chughata
9	Ghulam Akbar	Qaisrani	<b>Total Seats = 17</b>		
10	Altaf Hussain	Bhutta			

### Municipal Town Committee Tunsa Sharif 1998

In the municipal Committee elections 1998, any one of the contesting group did not win with decisive majority. The winning seats of ethnic groups were as following.

Ethnic Groups	Seats	Ethnic Groups	Seats	Ethnic Groups	Seats
Jafar Pathan	06	Qureshi	01	Manjotha	01
Buzdar	04	Thaheem	01	Qazi	01
Sakhani	01	Bhutta	01	Jat Karlu	01
Gurmani	01	Khoja	<b>Total</b>		<b>19</b>

Jafar Pathan Famous as Khawaja Group with 06 seats was a majority group. The runner up was Buzdar group in this election. Khawaja and Buzdar groups formed alliance with this agreement that Chairman will be elected from Khawaja group and Vice Chairman will be Abdul Salam Buzdar. The detail of seats won by the candidates of different ethnic groups are as given below.

1	Khawaja Ghulam Muhammad	Chairman	Jafar Pathan		
2	Abdul Salam Khan	Voice Chairman	Buzdar		
3	Khawaja Muhammad Salamat Ali	Voice Chairman	Jafar Pathan		
4	Molvi Muhammad Abdul Latif	Voice Chairman	Sakhani		
<b>Name of Councilor MC Taunsa in 1998</b>					
Sr. No.	Councilors	Ethnic Group	Sr. No	Councilors	Ethnic Group
1	Zubair Ahmad	Qazi	10	Kh. M. Jafar	Jafar Pathan
2	M. Abdullah	Gurmani	11	M.Latif	Sakhani
3	Molana Ibrahim	Buzzdar	12	Ghulam M.	Qureshi
4	Muhammad Iqbal	Buzdar	13	M. Ibrahim	Jat Karlu
5	Muhammad Jamal	Khoja	14	Abdul Rasheed	Bhutta
6	Kh. Ghulam Akbar	Jafar Pathan	15	Khizar Mehmod	Jafar Pathan
7	Abdul Salam	Buzdar	16	M. Sharif	Thaheem
8	Peer Bashir Jafir	Jafar Pathan	17	M. Qayum	Buzdar
9	Allah Bukhsh	Manjotha	18	Ghulam Mohd	Jafar Pathan

19	Kh. Salamt Ali	Jafar Pathan	Total	19
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Election of Municipal Committee Taunsa 1998 was once again a reflection to the role of ethnic politics at most lower tiers of local level. In the election Jafar Pathans “Khawajgan” of Taunsa had great influence and they won 06 seats out of 19 and Buzdar got 04 as second largest ethnic group. All other minor groups occupied one seat respectively. Jafar Pathan group successfully again won the Chairman Ship of Municipal Committee of Taunsa.

**Conclusion**

In this research paper, it is tried sort out the role of ethnicity and political development from 1982-2000 in detail. Through a detailed discussion it has come to know that a remarkable awareness has come in the political development of the District. The demand of new administrative units, political and administrative institution, voice for representation and the electoral demarcation of constituencies show the consciousness of the people of this district. This consciousness is considerable for political development especially the regions which is thought backward and politically not sound due to the minimum progress of political parties. Dera Ghazi Khan had a multi-ethnic and plural society with different ethnic groups and these ethnic groups are the real political players in the district as I discussed these groups and their strength with intra ethnic relations in the previous chapter. Dera Ghazi Khan District is consist of three major ethnic groups i.e. Baloch, Saraiki, Urdu speaking and several minor ethnic groups with Khawaja religious based group which have also a political weight in northern part of the district. A maximum to minimum representation of these ethnic groups seems to be taking in the Dera Ghazi Khan District. Baloch ethnic groups are the most dominant ethnic groups in district due demographic condition. The electoral politics is totally seems under the hold of Baloch ethnic groups i.e. Khosa Leghari, Buzdar, Qaisrani and Loand from 1982 to 2000. Leghari and Khosa are the dominant groups of the National Assembly’ constituencies and all others were dominant in their provincial constituencies. All other minor groups are looked their alleys during this period 1982-2000. Ethnicity is the major tool of electoral contest and the tradition political elite which is mostly the tribal chiefs of these major groups of Baloch, won the election with their ethnic strength and power. While the provincial assembly seats of the district are found as the ideal example of ethnic politics. All groups have representation in the provincial assembly due to the geo-nature of its electoral constituency as PP-199 to PP-203 Buzdar, Qaisrani, Khetran, Khawaja, Khosa, Leghari, and Loand with the support of minor groups respectively. The trend of ethnic politics was dominant and continued in this whole period and even the local bodies elections were the real picture of ethnic politics. With National and Provincial politics the local level politics is thought as a grass-root politics and it provides a chance to common man and minor groups to participate in the election. So that they may play a role in the electoral process. Even in the local bodies election these marginalized groups are also participate with the will of dominant groups of the district through an alliance. These alliances were formed for the elections of District Council, Municipal Committees and union councils.

With the passage of time the political situation of the district is changing. A considerable political development has seen due to the involvement of several miner groups on local level politics. The growing representation of different groups is considered as an important development in the politics of Dera Ghazi Khan District. But still the ethnic politics is dominant and played vital role in the electoral politics

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