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POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

AUTHORITY

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× Introduction

The German word Herrschaft Used by the Weber has been variously translated .some sociologists term it as a authority Others as domination or command. Herrschaft is a situation in which a Herr or Master dominates or command others. Webers concept of Herrschaft by using the term authority.

Authority refers to legitimize power it means that the master has the right to command and can expect to be obeyed .

ELEMENTS OF AUTHORITY

- × An individual ruler/ master or a group of rulers/ masters
- × An individual or group that is ruled
- × The will of the ruler to influence the conduct of the ruled which may be expressed through commands
- × Evidence of the influence of the rulers in terms of compliance or obedience shown by the rule
- × Direct or indirect evidence which shows that the ruler had have internalised and accepted the fact that the rulers commands must be obeyed

We see that authority implies a reciprocal relationship between the rulers and the ruled the rulers believe that they have the legitimate right to exercise their authority on the other hand ,the ruled accept this power and comply with itr reinforcing its legitimacy

TYPES OF AUTHORITY

According to weber there are three systems of legitimacy and each with its corresponding norms with justify the power to command .It is these systems of legitimation. which are designated as the types of authority.

they are

- × Traditional authority
- × Charismatic authority
- × Rational legal authority

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

- × Traditional authority does not function to written rules or loss it is transmitted by inheritance down the generations traditional thought is carried out with the help of relatives and personal favourites .
- × This system of legitimacy flows from traditional action in other words it is based on customary law and the sancity of traditions it is based on the belief that a certain authorities to be respected because it has existed since time immemorial .

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

- × In traditional authority rulers enjoy personal authority by virtue of their inherited status there commands are in accordance with customs and they also causes the right to extract compliance from the ruled often they abuse their power the persons over them are subjects in the fullest sense of the term they obey their master out of personal loyalty or a pious regard of his time honoured status

CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY

- ✘ charisma means an extraordinary quality possessed by some individuals that gives us people unique powers to capture the fancy and devotion of ordinary people. Charismatic authority is based on extraordinary devotion to an individual and to the way of life preached by this person. The legitimacy of such a thought rests upon the belief in the supernatural or magical powers of the person. The charismatic leader proves his or her power through miracles, military and other victories, or the dramatic prosperity of the disciples. As long as charismatic leaders continue to prove their miracles and powers in the eyes of their disciples, their authority stays intact.

CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY

As it is based on the personal qualities of an individual the problem of succession arises with death or disappearance of the leader the person who receives the leader may not have charismatic powers in order to transmit the original message of the leader some sort of organisation develops the original charisma gets transformed into traditional authority or rational legal authority weber calls this routinisation of charisma.

CHARISMATIC AUTHORITY

- × Weber used routinization to mean in the transformation of charismatic leadership into institutionalized leadership where one office takes the place of personality as the focus of authorities Weber use routinization to mean the transformation of charismatic leadership into institutionalized leadership where one office takes the place of a personality as the focus of a thought

RATIONAL LEGAL AUTHORITY

- × The term refers to a system of authority which is both rational and legal it is vested in a regular administrative staff who operate in accordance with certain written rules and laws. Those who exercise authority are appointed to do so on the basis of their achieved qualifications which are prescribed and codified those in authority consider it a profession and are paid salary thus it is a rational system .

CONCLUSION

Types of authority may find that traditional authority corresponds to traditional action national legal authority corresponds to rational action in relation to go and charismatic authority corresponds to effective action or emotional action .

THANK YOU...