Moderating Effects of Culture on the Role of 'Progressive Thinking' in the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan

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Abstract

This article was based on the role of Culture and Progressivism in Socio-Political Development in Pakistan. Thematic analysis, a qualitative portion of the study, revealed several major facets of Progressivism and Culture, such as Openness; Participation; Acceptability; Adaptability, and then a survey was conducted among the 416 highly educated people among the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa population, through multi-stage sampling technique, to explain these facets in a detailed manner with the help of quantitative analysis. The survey revealed that Progressive Thinking (as a whole) established a strong, positive, and significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan.

Keywords: Progressive thinking; Sociopolitical Development; Openness; Participative; Acceptability; Adaptability; Pakistan.

Introduction

Sociopolitical development refers to the processes by which an individual acquires the knowledge, skills, and commitment to analyze and challenge oppressive social forces (Seider, et.al., 2020). Sociopolitical development (SPD) is the process by which individuals become aware of social inequality, recognize the status of their social identities, and engage in activism (Anyiwo, Bañales, Rowley, Watkins, & Richards-Schuster, 2018). Sociopolitical development, the process of coming to understand and take action against systems of oppression, is associated with key outcomes for youth (Seider, 2019). Watts and colleagues (Watts & Flanagan, 2007; Watts, Griffith, & Abdul-Adil, 1999; Watts, Williams, & Jagers, 2003) coined the term sociopolitical development (SPD) to refer to one's consciousness of and engagement in action to change inequitable structures. This bipartite definition that includes consciousness and engagement is central to SPD. Sociopolitical engagement refers to one's participation in activities such as

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petitioning to influence public policy, community organizing to address a neighborhood issue, or public education campaigns to illustrate cases of injustice. This is a behavioral construct, and it may be understood as a sub-type of civic engagement that operates at a more political level. Sociopolitical engagement is distinguished from civic engagement to avoid confusion with less political forms of action, allowed, for example, by Putnam's description of civic engagement that

includes any activity that "gets people off the living room couch" (cited in Hyman, 2002, 197). The SPD may be set in motion and impelled forward via certain precipitants, including

family influences (e.g., racial and political socialization during childhood), organizational influences (e.g., participation and experiencing empathetic peer relationships in social-change organizations), and developmental tasks such as identity development, meaning-making, exposure to moral role-models, and personal experiences with oppression (Griffith, 2002; Kieffer, 1984; Mustakova-Possardt, 1998; Neblett, Philip, Cogburn, & Sellers, 2006; Watts, et al., 1999). Watts, Williams & Jagers (2003) reviewed the ideas of Socio-Political Development (SPD). They said, an emerging ideology, SPD has been advocated to empower socialism and in social psychological injustice, freedom, criticism, and awareness, and similar ideas. SPD is a process through which the people can work in the necessary political and social systems for the interpretation and resistance of knowledge, analytical abilities, emotions, and oppression.

Literature Review

An increasing amount of studies reports that sociopolitical development is prognostic in

people of a number of important consequences together with flexibility and civic engagement. The study of Seider et. al., (2020) discovered the role that schools can play in nurturing youths' sociopolitical growth through a longitudinal, mixed-methods study. Their investigations exposed that, on normal, youths joining schools confirmed meaningful development in their aptitude to critically examine the financial and cultural disparity. The results of Gavkalova, Lola, Prokopovych & Zilinska (2020) validate that there is a close connection between the states' sociopolitical appeal and the level of their ICT development.

'Progressive' is a spoken word, especially using a particular political history. Even though

it was utilized through conservative elements such as Benjamin Disraeli in addition to Randolph Churchill who labeled their moderate, mutual social restructuring programs, it is moreover a powerful nature of the 19th-century liberalism and social liberalism and social democracy. In the

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initial 20th century, it was the most common usage of Mount identification as it was over in 1983. It was cemented by Edward's *Progressive Movement* (Clark, 1971, 1974; 1978; Freeden, 1978; Collini, 1979) as well as through the Social Democratic Party. Furthermore, three decades later, Thatcher (1978) agreed that Disraeli's considerate of progressive ups and downs has fallen by the idea that 'always means the way of socialist, corporatist, collective procedures'. According to May, "Progressives" wanted to make many changes, "they had so much confidence in the real facts as they were" (1959, 29).

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Socio-political policies presumably designed to meet the need and promote the equality of all citizens are deliberately manipulated by the political class – a comparatively minor people's group which is conscious and full of dynamism in political affairs and from that group, the leadership at the national levels is produced. But this class of politically aware, mostly instrumental to the patron-client network within government has, in a logic, formed groupings and associations where their most important attention, as well as concentration, is their achievements in the socio-political fields through the employment of the system to the detriment of the majority, they performed in the condescension of the legitimate guidelines in addition to the covenants they are under oath to uphold to enhance their power, ignore or deliberately circumvent constitutional provisions and thus making the reality of a sustainable political system in the polity through good governance a pipedream (Adetiba & Rahim, 2012, 132).

In a situation like this, the authority of governments over their people tends to be progressively eroded; which invariably reduces compliance with decisions and regulations. In this way, the socio-political and economic rights of citizens are affected and the demand for this leads to conflicts that affect the sustainability of socio-political development negatively. Therefore good governance is predicated on mutual help as well as complaisant relations amongst administration, civil society, as well as the private segment. Understanding the nature of the relationships amongst these three actors in the society, in addition to the want for consolidating reciprocated connections take up precarious significance (Adetiba & Rahim, 2012, 132). Consequently one of the major challenges to having a sustainable socio-political and economic development in Pakistan today is the dearth of good governance (Adetiba & Rahim, 2012, 132).

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Hypotheses

To find out the association between predictor variables and criterion variables, the below-mentioned hypothesis was formulated by the researcher:

H_1: Progressive Thinking: Openness; Participative; Acceptability; Adaptability does correlate with **Socio-Political Development**.

Similarly, to know that whether predictors of socio-political development were significantly predicting any change in the criterion variable or not, the researcher formulated the below-mentioned hypothesis:

H_2: Progressive Thinking: Openness; Participative; Acceptability; Adaptability does significantly predict **Socio-Political Development**.

It is the standard norm for carrying our research at this level to formulate some control variables, which can help the readers to understand also this very dimension of the issue. Hence, To analyze these hypotheses were based on the control variables and research variables. the mediating role of Culture on Socio-Political Development, mediation was utilized through SPSS.

H_3-H_7 = There is significant Mediation effect of Culture on the relationship between Progressive thinking and Development of Socio-Political Culture

To investigate the socio-demographic variables' impact on the views of the masses about Socio-Political Development.

H_8-H_{14} = The demographics change the responses of the respondents on all the research variables Progressive Thinking: Openness; Participative; Acceptability; Adaptability and Socio-Political Development.

Findings and Discussion

This article aimed at finding the impact of progressive thinking on the development of socio-political culture in Pakistan and was centered on the major findings derived from the primary as well as secondary resources. First of all the secondary qualitative data was used to draw some basic concepts about the social phenomena under consideration. That secondary data then led the researcher to create some type of primary data which was then in the second phase of the study collected from 416 participants of this research through questionnaire replies from the graduate and post-graduate students and scholars (M.A/ M.Sc, M.Phil, and Ph.D.) to analyze

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the influence and impact of progressive thinking in the development of socio-political culture in Pakistan.

The first part of the first hypothesis was, There is a substantial correlation between Predictors (**Progressive Thinking:** Openness; Participative; Acceptability; Adaptability) and Outcome Variable (**Socio-Political Development**).

The summary of the major findings of the Correlation analysis is discussed below:

Correlation, Pearson-*r*
Table: 1 Complete Pearson-*r* Correlation Outcomes

		Openness	Participative	Acceptability	Adoptabilit	Culture	Progressive Thinking
Socio-Political Development	*r*	.936**	.911**	.754**	.869**	.923**	.982**
	p	.000**	.000**	.000**	.000**	.000**	.000**
	N	416	416	416	416	416	416

Openness established a strong, positive plus significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan (r-value is 0.936, and the p-value is 0.000).

Participative established strong, positive plus significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan (r-value is 0.911, and the p-value is 0.000).

Acceptability established a strong, positive plus significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan (r-value is 0.754, and the p-value is 0.000).

Adoptability established a strong, positive plus significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan (r-value is 0.869, and the p-value is 0.000).

Culture established a strong, positive plus significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan (r-value is 0.923, and the p-value is 0.000).

Progressive Thinking (as a whole) established a strong, positive plus significant association with the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan (r-value is 0.982, and the p-value is 0.000).

Regressions (dependent variable; Socio-Political Development)

The analysis of multiple regression was done to know the role of Progressive Thinking in contributing to the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan. Null Hypothesis was:

H_2: The factors/facets (Openness; Participative; Acceptability; Adaptability) of the Predictor Variable (**Progressive Thinking**) do significantly contribute to the Outcome Variable (**Socio-Political Development**).

The major findings from the multiple regression of the hypothesis about cause and effect relationship are mentioned in the table below:

Table 2: Multiple Regression Analysis Results

Model	Openness	Participative	Acceptability	Adoptability
R^2 = 0.966, 96.6% or 97% contributing in Socio-Political Development	0.000**	0.000**	0.000**	0.000**

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

The 97% of change emanating from Openness; Participative; Acceptability and Adaptability in the **Socio-Political Development** rendering to the opinion gathered from the 416 participants of this article.

Mediation Analysis

H_3: There is significant Mediation effect of Culture on the relationship between Openness and Development of Socio-Political Culture

Table 3: Mediation Analysis: Culture on the relationship between Openness and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Testing Paths	
Path c: DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .8762, F = 2929.7089, p = .0000**	
IV = Openness	β = .7725
Path a: DV = Culture	

R^2= .8049, F = 1708.1701, p = .0000**	
IV = Openness	β = .9263
Path b and c'DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .8935, F = 1732.0593, p = .0000**	
IV= Openness (c')	β = .5521
IV = Culture (b)	β = .2380

**. *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Summary of the results from the mediation equations are used to evaluate the following conditions for M as a mediator of the relationship between X (predictor variable) and Y (outcome variable):

* Path c is significant: R^2= .8762; F = 2929.7089; p = .0000; β = .7725.

* Path a is significant: R^2= .8049, F = 1708.1701, p = .0000; β = .9263.

* Path b is significant: R^2= .8935, F = 1732.0593, p = .0000; β = .2380.

* Path c' is not significant: R^2= .8935, F = 1732.0593, p = .0000; β = .5521.

Satisfying all four conditions provides evidence for complete mediation, whereas satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. Hence, the analysis mentioned above satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. The hypothesis is accepted. Hence there is partial mediation exists.

H₄: There is significant Mediation effect of Culture on the relationship between Participatory and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Table 4: Mediation Analysis: Culture on the relationship between Participatory and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Testing Paths	

Path c: DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .8290, R = 9105, F = 2007.2434, p = .0000**	
IV = Participatory	β = .9122
Path a: DV = Culture	
R^2= .7780, R = .8820, F = 1450.6056, p = .0000**	
IV = Participatory	β = 1.1055
Path *b* and *c'* DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .8695, R = .9325, F = 1375.6574, p = .0000**	
IV=Participatory (c')	β = .5349
IV = Culture (b)	β = .3413

**. *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Summary of the results from the mediation equations are used to evaluate the following conditions for M as a mediator of the relationship between X (predictor variable) and Y (outcome variable):

* Path c is significant: R^2= .8290, R = 9105, F = 2007.2434, p = .0000; β = .9122.

* Path a is significant: R^2= .7780, R = .8820, F = 1450.6056, p = .0000; β = 1.1055.

* Path b is significant: R^2= .8695, R = .9325, F = 1375.6574, p = .0000; β = .3413.

* Path c' is not significant: R^2= .8695, R = .9325, F = 1375.6574, p = .0000; β = .5349.

Satisfying all four conditions provides evidence for complete mediation, whereas satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. Hence, the analysis mentioned above satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. The hypothesis is accepted. Hence there is partial mediation exists.

H5: There is significant Mediation effect of Culture on the relationship between Acceptability and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Table 5: Mediation Analysis: Culture on the relationship between Acceptability and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Testing Paths	
Path c: DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .5692, R = .7544, F = 546.9114, p = .0000**	
IV = Acceptability	β = .8528
Path a: DV = Culture	
R^2= .4025, R = .6344, F = 278.8565, p = .0000**	
IV = Acceptability	β = .8971
Path b and c' DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .8633, R = .9292, F = 1304.5497, p = .0000**	
IV= Acceptability(c')	β = .3496
IV = Culture (b)	β = .5609

*__**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).__*

Summary of the results from the mediation equations are used to evaluate the following conditions for M as a mediator of the relationship between X (predictor variable) and Y (outcome variable):

* Path c is significant:R^2= .5692, R = .7544, F = 546.9114, p = .0000; β = .8528.

* Path a is significant:R^2= .4025, R = .6344, F = 278.8565, p = .0000; β = .8971.

* Path b is significant:R^2= .8633, R = .9292, F = 1304.5497, p = .0000;β = .5609.

* Path c' is not significant:R^2= .8633, R = .9292, F = 1304.5497, p = .0000; β = .3496.

Satisfying all four conditions provides evidence for complete mediation, whereas satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. Hence, the analysis mentioned above satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. The hypothesis is accepted. Hence there is partial mediation exists.

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H₆: There is significant Mediation effect of Culture on the relationship between Adaptability and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Table 6: Mediation Analysis: Culture on the relationship between Adaptability and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Testing Paths	
Path c: DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2 = .5425, R = .7365, F = 490.8949, p = .0000**	
IV = Adoptability	β = .8599
Path a: DV = Culture	
R^2 = .7550, R = .8689, F = 1275.7588, p = .0000**	
IV = Adoptability	β = .8108
Path *b* and *c'* DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2 = .9004, R = .9489, F = 1866.1288, p = .0000**	
IV= Adoptability(c')	β = .4234
IV = Culture (b)	β = .4506

*****. *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Summary of the results from the mediation equations are used to evaluate the following conditions for M as a mediator of the relationship between X (predictor variable) and Y (outcome variable):

* Path c is significant:R^2 = .5425, R = .7365, F = 490.8949, p = .0000; β = .8599.

* Path a is significant:R^2 = .7550, R = .8689, F = 1275.7588, p = .0000; β = .8108.

* Path b is significant:R^2 = .9004, R = .9489, F = 1866.1288, p = .0000;β = .4506.

* Path c' is not significant:R^2 = .9004, R = .9489, F = 1866.1288, p = .0000; β = .4234.

Satisfying all four conditions provides evidence for complete mediation, whereas satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. Hence, the analysis mentioned

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above satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. The hypothesis is accepted. Hence there is partial mediation exists.

H₇: There is no significant Mediation effect of Culture on the relationship between Progressive thinking and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Table 7: Mediation Analysis: Culture on the relationship between Progressive thinking and Development of Socio-Political Culture.

Testing Paths	
Path c: DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .9645, R = .9821, F = 11236.3273, p = .0000**	
IV = Progressive thinking	β = 1.0954
Path a: DV = Culture	
R^2= .8007, R = .8948, F = 1663.1859, p = .0000**	
IV = Progressive thinking	β = 1.2076
Path b and c'DV = Socio-Political Development	
R^2= .9663, R = .9830, F = 5920.3518, p = .0000**	
IV= Progressive thinking (c')	β = .9669
IV = Culture (b)	β = .0766

**. *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Summary of the results from the mediation equations are used to evaluate the following conditions for M as a mediator of the relationship between X (predictor variable) and Y (outcome variable):

* Path c is significant:R^2= .9645, R = .9821, F = 11236.3273, p = .0000; β = 1.0954.

* Path a is significant:R^2= .8007, R = .8948, F = 1663.1859, p = .0000; β = 1.2076.

* Path b is significant:R^2= .9663, R = .9830, F = 5920.3518, p = .0000;β = .0766.

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* Path c' is not significant:R^2= .9663, R = .9830, F = 5920.3518, p = .0000;β = .9669.

Satisfying all four conditions provides evidence for complete mediation, whereas satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. Hence, the analysis mentioned above satisfying the first three conditions indicates partial mediation. The hypothesis is accepted. Hence there is partial mediation exists.

Tests of mean Differences (About Demographic Variables)

Table 8: Mean Differences Results' Summary (Independent Samples t-test and One Way Analysis of Variance, ANOVA)

	Gender	Residence	Age	Education	Status	Faculties	Family Income
Progressive Thinking	0.896	.214	.012*	.037*	.010*	.718	.401
Socio-Political Development	0.894	.174	.013*	.047*	.010*	.738	.550

**. *Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

*. *Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).*

Gender, a demographic variable, does not influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H_8 was rejected**.

Residence, a demographic variable, does not influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H_9 was rejected**.

Age, a demographic variable, does influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H_{10} was accepted.**

Education, a demographic variable, does influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H_{11} was accepted.**

Status, a demographic variable, does influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H_{12} was accepted.**

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Faculties of Education, demographic variables, do not influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H$_{13}$ was accepted.**

Family Income, a demographic variable, does not influence the views of the participants of this research on the variables, Progressive Thinking, and SPD. **The H$_{14}$ was accepted.**

Discussion

The main resolution of conducting this research was to apprehend and recognize the definite and tangible impact as well as effects of the role of progressive thinking on the development of Socio-Political culture in Pakistan. The analysis conducted by the scholars pointed towards a positive, strong, and significant impact of the predictor variable (the Progressive thinking) on the dependent variable (the Socio-Political Development in Pakistan). It was also revealed that all the independent, causing or predictor variables were strongly, significantly, and positively associated with the criterion variable. Furthermore, the researcher also analyzed the Culture as a mediator in the development of socio-political culture through progressive thinking in the country. It was revealed that culture was partially mediating among all the facets of progressive thinking and their contributions to the development of socio-political culture in Pakistan.

All these qualitative and quantitative data, lead the scholar to contend that the most important part of our society and most of our people have political consciousness and awareness related to this vital political aspect of our society in Pakistan. It is a matter of fact that, there are so many reasons to accept this interpretation and the one is the introduction of Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs) as well as the rising the level and standard of education in addition to research in the country, and it is understandable that it discharges innovative presence of ICTs envisioned for constructing more optimistic *progressive thinking* in the nation that can ultimately lead to the Socio-Political development of a country in a short and long term. The intensive use of the Social Media all over the place viz. the political, social as well as economic issues created awareness and realization among the common people of the country about the importance in addition to the eminence of progressive thinking and for the whole development of our society.

Conclusion

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Following are the major conclusions based on the discussion and major findings of this research: Progressive Thinking is owing to its momentous and vital role can further contribute to the Socio-Political in our country and everywhere in the world. Progressive Thinking including its facets and factors are well established in their correlation with the Socio-Political development in Pakistan. It is proved that the qualitative (interviews) and quantitative (field survey) data was in favor of the Progressive Thinking's role in the SPD. Culture played a mediator role in this development. It is fact that through awareness and education and media especially Social Media, this mediating role can be reduced to a minimum level that can't affect this development in Pakistan.

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