

The Relationship between the Election and the Democracy

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Abstract

The election is a part of the political process in the democracy and for every political system also employs the election as a symbol of the democracy. However, if the election is corrupted in process itself, it is clear that the democracy based on the election may be fraud. Therefore, the cheating strategies in the election will destroy the democratization that the citizen would like to have. We can empirically summarize that under the cheating process, there are at least 12 patterns which are bribing the arresting officers, bribing the referee, managing the election center, blacking out the electricity when counting the vote, negotiating not to fight, threatening, buying all votes, having many the election agents, having enough resources, always pay, ready to enter the soldier areas, blundering to win, and gambling.

Keyword: Election, Democratization, Patterns of Cheating Election

Introduction

The election is a part of the political process in the democracy that several people study when they are young or perceive it from the various media for a long time such that if there is no election, there is no democracy. So, this is an important symbol showing the picture of the liberal democracy at best. Some socialist or extreme communist experts said that if the election is the democracy, communist will be democracy as well because in this political process as mentioned above has an election to find the agents for the political system, but there is the limitation under the constitution allowing only the communist party to be a sole party having the influence to select the candidate to be the parliament members allowing the citizen to select these candidates.

The definition of "Democracy is the Election" creates the meaning indifferent for all political system and indicates that the election is unavoidable process since if there is no election, that political regime will be the dictatorship. Thus, it is not surprising that if the citizen will pay attention on this point of view.

If the election becomes the main channel to the political system most righteously because the politicians from the election process can presume the righteousness as an agent of the citizen especially in the Thai politics from the local level to the national level. The Thai politicians have the same opinions that the politic is to be the political agents from the election only, if from the designation, it cannot claim to be the representative of the citizen and have the picture of the state representative.

The following question is the elections happening in each level are fair or under the principles or regulation or related laws or not. If not, it is difficult to believe that the citizens will obtain the good or rightful political representatives when there are the illegal elections contrasting to claim the righteous the citizen representatives in the political system.

The next topic will discuss the cheating strategies used in the election indicating the examples that the election is necessary to beware the amount of trick leading the citizen to get the unpreferable representatives or get the almost good representatives but are not beneficial to the citizen because citizen do not like or much trust.

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The examples showing in this article are some part of the true stories and several cases can be seen generally, but there are many reasons why the cheating are ignore or even accepted to be the right things. These are very harmful to the political development in Thailand to be the true democracy.

The Cheating Strategies in the Election

The presentation about the cheating strategies in the election is the reflection indicating that the corruption in the election or the election auction as mentioned above is the concrete failure of the democratization for the Thai politics. The happening democracy is more fake than the truth because all representatives must usually face the familiar questions that “how much you pay or if not pay, how many votes you get”. Also, it is shake in the emotion because they have to buy votes from the family members that seems entering to the politics is painful to their mind.

If “Money” is an important resource for the corrupted activities even in the local level that has the small election, we will see generally that the buying votes is the topic of the political negotiation everyone accepted to be beneficial most directly and concretely to the citizen. Furthermore, the cheating strategies proposed are divided into 3 categories, which are cheating in the government parts or government officials, cheating in the case of fewer candidates, and cheating in the case of many candidates. The article will briefly present how the money used in each category to be useful to the candidates under the basic procedure as follows: bribing the arresting officers, bribing the referee, managing the election center, blacking out when counting the vote, negotiating, threatening, buying all votes, having many the election agents, having enough resources, always pay, ready to enter the soldier areas, blundering to win, and gambling, respectively.

First Category: The Cheating in the Government Parts of Government Officials

1. Bribing the arresting officers means bribing the officers who has the power to capture the illegal election offenders. Mostly, the candidates for both local and national level usually create the network with these officers. When the officers found the illegal activities, they will bend the laws because it is normal for any candidates to give the money that is count to be the income distribution. Moreover, the buying votes can be allowed to some specific groups leading the election auction to the monopoly election by only one candidate since the officers select to capture the opposite candidates. This makes the election auction failed before the election. Thus, bribing the arresting officers to the candidate groups is an important priority if they think that money is for winning the election.

2. Bribing the election referee means accessing to the referee since if the corruption happened, this will make the election results be successful as they want. Like the attorney decides not to prosecute causing the corrupted case disappears suddenly. Finding the further witnesses and evidences becomes waste of time for the rivals. In addition, many people may hear the news about buying the election central referee, but the power of the central organization has not enough time to consider the deep detail since they have a lot of cases to deal with creating the gap that can make the wrong man to be the right man. So, accessing to the referee is the election auctioneers usually want and attempt to do secretly.

3. Managing the election center means to control each election center by several methods such as sending the trustful people to be the election committee, buying some committee, sending the people to force the committee. Thus, the managing the election involves in other corrupted activates especially in the large election areas that can be replace voting “Ghost relative”, or the dead family members, or other people that they do not know into the household registration easily, crossing the votes in the ghost card and put into the

election box which are the frustrated stories particularly in the counting the votes by simultaneous counting. The corrupted activities are still involved such as adding the ghost card, changing the election box during the transportation, wrong counting, or make the good voting card of the rival to be the bad card, etc.

4. Blacking out the electricity when counting the vote means the surprising corruption with the villager technology by generating the blackout incidents or create the incidents to distract the vote counting at the election center. This often happens when the winner-want would like to win the election if the vote is very close to the rival. After the incidents, the vote will invert to the follower suddenly. This cheating may be called “champion belt robbing in front of stage” making the losers are willing to accept the results because they know that the winners did not do by themselves, they have many teams to support them. So, calling for the fairness is just a dream more than truth.

Second Category: The Cheating When There are Fewer Candidates

5. Negotiation not to fight in case of there is only 2 candidates. The negotiation leading other sides to withdraw from the election is the political rival often select because it is the win-win situation, the negotiation means to contend leading in the politics, mostly used the method “buying the rival”. The reason is buying the rivals is cheaper than buying the people in the market. The negotiation deal or political policy consists of giving the political position as well as paying the money to withdraw that is the marketing promotion attracting to win together. This method is the positive meaning for the politics and the voted citizen accept that their representatives have the fair, clean, and well-accepted picture from the election.

6. Threatening: the important problems when the rivals do not accept the negotiation causing the intense political fighting strategies by threatening the opposite side candidate which means the opposite side candidates are scared the danger to their bodies and minds. Although the threatening is the picture of the physiological war, sometimes we found that there are the many real attacking cases causing the fatality. The political threatening normally creates the political picture to be dangerous and the good people should not involve in the politics or the competent people may avoid to risk in these political activities. Thus, the intimidation the rivals assault the good meaning of the word “Democracy” because all citizen cannot be the political representatives equally. Therefore, when there is no gun or grenade using to assault or assassinate the rivals that people will become no value for the political position. The threatening may have less economic cost comparing to other methods, but when compare to the social loss especially in the human resource, it is quite evil.

7. Buying all votes means the extreme fighting with any strategy to make their side to win by many methods mentioned above or buying votes intensely. This method is often used with the threatening the rivals because buying the villagers to support their sides as a mercy political patronage for the villages and other people help to reduce the negative image for the threatening and create the pathetic and support image. This leads to the crazy competition and it seems the recipients like this method because both rival sides will spend money to buy the vote many rounds. Also, these methods will more support the citizen to see and understand the democracy in the wrong way since even the large amount of citizen go to vote, but if they go without the spirit to aware the value of the right using. This is sad to the democracy development in this wrong way.

Third Category: The Cheating When There are Many Candidates

8. Having many election agents is to have the election agents or the competent agents for gathering the vote sellers because in case of many candidates, the depending on the election agents is very necessary. The good election agents must have some important

attributes such as knowing a lot of people, well accessing to the people, lovable to the villagers, having some influence, having trust and honesty, etc. It is difficult to the vote selling process if there is no election agent in order to distribute the money to the sellers. From previous experiences, the voter buyers attempt to keep the support base of their election agents because if they lose the election agents, it likes the army leaders lacking of the general in the war causing the loss to the army.

9. Having enough resources means the candidate should be generous to spend the resource to buy the villagers vote particularly money, alcohol, and other needed stuffs or even the lottery since these things are the images to support the citizen to gain trust or benefits from the selected representatives after the winning the election. The money spending in the election is to build image together.

10. Always pay means the vote buyers are always ready to spend for buying the supporting vote from the villagers because during the election period the election agents need the money. Thus, the buyers have to have the high readiness, if not the buying voter proves will fail at the early stage. Moreover, the vote buying at present cannot complete at one time, so the repeatedly paying relying on the trust between the buyers and election agents is hard to separate. The buying through the election agents is more comfortable, faster, and more safe and have higher efficient than doing by themselves.

11. Ready to enter to the soldier areas or other election agent areas such as temple or religion activity for both auspicious and inauspicious ceremonies. This generates the good image for the public and government offices that requires the obvious regulations letting the member to move to the home registration to their work organization. This government office becomes the areas to summarize the voting base. Thus, the side that can access to this area can monopolize the supporting votes by creating the connection with high ranking officers in that government organization. This is valuable because even it can save the money; it is more efficient to gather the voter unanimously together. The agents may be called "the political election setter"

12. Blundering to win means in the case of 3 candidates, it should support 2 opportunity rivals to fight each other because they will cut the vote themselves. The other candidate should keep its base because he can win after the first 2 candidate fighting. The blundering must take a high risk, but it can save the money that will be spent in many districts that is low opportunity to win. The interesting notification is that the blunder must have 1/3 of the total vote score, even the blundering result will be benefits to any side of blundering.

13. Gambling means to create the gambling system useful to the voting buying side such as creating the condition that if the buyer wins the election, the gamblers will win the gambling too. Thus, the gamblers who select the buyer side will be the election agent helping to promote causing the buyer to win the election.

As mentioned above, these strategies are some part of the popular methods used at the present time. Even we cannot tell all, but this help to understand the present election is hard to believe to have the fairness and clear.

The Technical Problem of Spending Money to Buy Votes

1. The problem of attaching the candidate card with the banknotes, we found that the banknotes or envelops with the candidate card when capturing will be the unavoidable evidences and will create the bad image to that candidate too.

2. The problem of the voting citizen card seizure: when there is the investigation from the government officers from the opposite political side will lead to the notification of dubious or tend to have the corruption more obvious.

3. The problem of buying only 1 round: as mentioned above, it indicated that buying votes for many rounds at least 2 – 3 times will make the auction perfectly and make the voting buyers confident to win. Also, it helps to create the picture of the better relationship between voting buyers and sellers.

4. The problem of buying vote ill-time: the time selection to pay the money inappropriately will make the buyer loss the money. The good notification is that the day before the election is not important equal to the election day because buying in the morning better indicate and reiterate the buyers. Also, it is easier to forecast the extended money used to meet the intersection point of Demand and Supply of the buyers.

5. The problem of misplace buying vote: the buyers often have the thinking base that they should buy the vote in the place they have lower votes to make them stronger, but in reality they should buy the vote in the area they have the strong vote to strengthen themselves and discard the low opportunity area to save the waste money. The area that is evenly matched, they should evaluate to buy the vote.

6. The problem of paying the money extensively to all groups, referee, and supporters. This will make the election auction or buying votes not perfect and create the leak point danger to lead the election process fail.

In Conclusion

The cheating strategies of the election for this article indicates the examples that the election is necessary to beware the several trick making the citizens to get the undesirable representatives or the almost good representatives but are not beneficial to the citizen because citizen do not like or much trust. Furthermore, the democracy from the election should come from the clear, fair, and trustful election, if not it is hard to be the real democracy.

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