

# A STUDY ON ELECTROAL SYSTEM AND IMPACT OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN INDIA

**DR.P.SHAILAJA, MA, M.Phil, NET, Ph.D**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
**NIZAM COLLEGE ( AUTONOMOUS),**  
**HYDERABAD.**

## ABSTRACT

In a democratic country the election system play a crucial role. The development of the nation depends up the elected political party in the country by the power full weapon of casting voting. The constitution of India provided with the Right to Vote, citizens are free to caste there vote whomever they like. But from time to time the electoral system is being changing by impressing the public through different ways by the political parties. There is a chance of misusing the power right to vote by the public due to the misguiding by the political parties. The casteism, favourtism, money and power are being forced the voters towards misuse of the vote.

This paper analysis the electoral trends adopted in India towards framing a strong government towards ruling and uplifting the nation.

**Keywords: Right to Vote, Election, Political Parties.**

## Introduction

A democratic society relies upon voter decision to elect representatives and upon mass media communication networks to inform the electorate. The countries which were able to establish good tradition of party politics democracy was able to survive and gain grater strength. The Mass media of communication enable the state and its leaders to reach people even the remote corners of the country.

India is the second most popular and seventh major country in the world. India is a Union of States, according to the Constitution, with state power distributed between a (federal) government at the Centre and the governments of the constituent States. Some of the major States of India are as big as some of the large independent countries of the world. The importance of the States lies not merely in their vast territory or

population, but in their distinct social structure, well-developed languages, culture and history. This tremendous diversity is mainly responsible for giving rise to different patterns of politics in different States

1 . India's parliamentary system is based on the Westminster model of constitutional democracy, a legacy of British colonial rule. The Parliament is comprised of a bicameral legislature : the Rajya Sabha, the 250 member upper house, where members are elected by state legislative assemblies (12 members are nominated by the President), and the Lok Sabha, the 543-member lower house directly elected by the people (with two additional seats reserved for Anglo Indians nominated by the President). In the Lok Sabha, voters elect candidates based on the electoral system where the person securing the largest number of votes in each district wins

2 . Elections have assumed significance as hundreds of millions of voters, living under conditions of illiteracy, poverty, backwardness, premodern social relations, religious distinctions, and inequalities based on caste built over hundreds of years, were repeatedly called upon to exercise their political right to choose their representatives at the Central, State and local levels. Fears that elections in India would either fail because of the awesome structural limitations and unpreparedness of the country to institutionalize parliamentary democracy or that they would have destabilizing consequences, which the political elites cannot control, proved to be wrong.

There may be several limitations, deficiencies and failures in the functioning of India's democracy, which need to be overcome, but there are also commendable achievements.

The purpose of this article is to study the electoral process and electoral trends in India. The study examines the pattern of winning of various political parties in general elections in India and observed the selection pattern. The study is based on secondary information also focuses on nature and measurement of elections pattern in India

## METHODOLOGY

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of the data. The data on the number of parties contested in the elections and the voters participated in the election process and the other statistics on electoral politics are collected from Revenue offices, Assembly office, various political party offices and daily

newspapers. The main source of data on electoral trends in India are the various reports from Election Commission of India.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are several studies which deal with the issues of elections including voters behaviour in the west as well as non-west including India. The approach of these studies is mostly confined to the factors relating to those influencing the voting behaviour.

- Suseela Kaushik (1982) examined the social basis of elections in India asserted that the electoral process in this country should be examined from the perspective of the Country's existing political system. In her opinion the elections has become an inseparable part of the on going politics, which are deeply rooted, in the social fabric of the humanity.
- Chopra (1989) work on Politics of Election Reforms in India examines a vote range of issues relating to the General Elections right from the first General Elections held in 1951 till the Lok Sabha Elections held in 1998. Adopting analytical and comparative approaches he analyses the various Parliamentary Elections from different angles. The study also attempts an in-depth analysis of the structural and functional aspects of the Election Commission of India, the various direct and indirect elections so far held, and also the electoral reforms implemented by the Government of India.
- Andrsin Walter (1990) study on the 1989 Parliamentary Elections revealed that these Elections are different as no single party secured majority in the Parliament and resulted in the formation of a coalition Government for the first time. Further, the popular triggered by national issues, which have characterized the national elections since 1971 were not apparent this time. There was no clear mandate for a person or a party.
- Agarwal and Chowdry (2000) studied the 1999 Lok Sabha Elections which were marked by several unique features. The study has dealt with the circumstances necessitating elections to the 13th Lok Sabha, emergence of the National Democratic Alliances (NDA) and the near-rout of the Congress Party in these elections under the leadership of Sonia Gandhi who was Projected as the Prime Ministerial candidate and pitched against A.B. Vajpayee whose popularity had achieved new heights in the wake of Kargil War.

- Jayesh Kumar (2003) study on Parliamentary Elections and Political Parties discussed the probability of incumbent party's winning the election from the same constituency. He estimates the probability of winning by the ruling party, irrespective of whether that party had formed a coalition and, had been a member of the previous government in the centre. He estimated the average probability of winning in India's General Elections from 1971-1999, under the existing electoral system, using a panel data and binary choice mode.
- The study by Suri explains the economy and voting in the 15th Lok Sabha Elections. The study argues that the examination of the effect of both "national" and "personal" conditions in the economy on voting decisions in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections demonstrates the perceptions of people on economic issues do matter in deciding whom they vote for.
- Kailash (2009) analyzed the peculiar nature of alliances in the April-May 2009 Lok Sabha elections and points out that a major change was brought by the Congress opting to abandon its national alliance in favour of state-level agreements.

## ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL PROCESS IN INDIA

Democracy means a form of government, a form of the state and also a way of life. Democracy in India has grown with the history for sharing the ideas for the governance of a state. The earlier Indian Political unit was that of the class. All members of a tribe were equal. The village community had its own assembly, only the king was above this democratic body. The new constitution came into force on 26th January, 1950 shapes the destiny of democracy in India. By enacting of people's representation Act in 1951 the constitution introduced universal adult franchisee, simple majority and single constituency election system in India. Since 1952, 15 general elections have been conducted for Lok Sabha. Electoral recruitment and participation has been mainly from the elite groups and the middle strata of the society considerations of income, education, property and religion have been distorting and scuttling the popular contest of democracy

### Election :

Elections connote many meanings. According to one opinion election is a chain of process filling nominations to the declaration of results<sup>14</sup>. Election is a method by which a citizen of a country participates in public affairs, clothing the government with legitimacy and thereby helping in the peaceful transfer of power to a new government.

Martin Harrop and William L. Miller defined election as a formal expression of preferences by the governed, which are then aggregated and transformed into a collective decision about who will govern who should stay in office, who should be thrown out, who should replace those who have thrown out. Elections are mechanisms which parties use to maintain their support bases and to establish links between the society, mainly non political, and the political system, in which parties function and of which they are a part<sup>15</sup>.

Types of Elections Broadly speaking, there are three types of elections:

i) General Election, ii) Bye-Election, and iii) Mid-Term Election.

- (i) **General Election:** First General Election in India on the basis of adult franchise was held in 1952. Yet, elections to the Lok Sabha continued to be called 'General Elections'
- (ii) **Bye-Election :** Bye-election is held to choose a member of the Lok Sabha or that of State Legislature "to replace a previous member who has resigned suddenly or died."
- (iii) **Mid-Term Election:** The Lok Sabha or the State Assembly may be dissolved before its term is over. As a result, a mid-term poll is required to constitute a new House. Electoral Process Elections are the process through which the nation will form the next Government. Electoral process and electoral system form an essential part of the design of a democratic constitution, which moulds the instruments of power on the anvil of popular approval.

By keeping the sanctity of elections in view, the makers of the constitution of India inserted Part-XV of the Constitution, providing for an indigent. Election Commission is conducting the elections in the country. The chief feature of this part is that the subject 'Elections' has been accorded a constitutional recognition in our political system and necessary arrangements have been made through the representation of the people Acts of 1951, as amended from time to time to ensure free and fair polls in the country. An independent judiciary is also created to examine the disputes between the political parties and the individuals. India has a plural

polity with parliamentary system. For conducting elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislature elections we are following the simple majority system of elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

### **Impact of Political Parties - Election**

Political parties and elections play an important role in the analysis of politics in developing countries, particularly in the analysis of democratization, and specifically the consolidation of democratic political regimes. Among political scientists, the existence of free and fair elections on a regular basis is considered the minimal condition for a democracy (democratic regime) (Dahl 1971; Diamond 1999).

A political party is defined as a political group that is officially recognized as being part of the electoral process and who can support (put forth) candidates for elections (free or not) on a regular basis (Sartori 1976). In this way, political parties (party system) and elections are used as a measure of the consolidation of a society's democracy. As an external standard, there is a "two-turnover" criterion (Huntington 1991).

By this criterion, a democracy may be considered to be consolidated if a party that takes power in an election at the time of transition to a democracy loses a subsequent election (not necessarily immediately following the first election), and if the subsequent ruling party then loses a later election."From a deeper perspective, it is when elections involve the true competition of political parties based on their proposed policies and platforms, and not the popularity of individual political candidates or voting based on special interests, that consolidation of democracy is advanced (Kitschelt 1995; Mainwaring 1999).

How, then, do political parties and elections of democracies in developing regions differ from those in the United States and Europe? First, political parties do not have a wide base of support, but rather, tend to appeal to a wide variety of social groups (Özbudun 1987). In election results, it becomes difficult to see how the relations between political parties reflect the interests of and value systems of the societies. Rather, they appear as comprehensive conflicts that can be characterized as establishment vs. anti-establishment or conservative vs. revolutionary.

The reasons for this are

- (1) the absence of a homogeneous working class
- (2) the need for coalition-building due to the large numbers of ethnic, religious, sectarian, and language groups,



(3) the fact that the transition to a multiple-party system was made under universal suffrage

Secondly, in countries in which a relatively large proportion of the population live in rural areas and are involved in farming, voters are primarily concerned with their regional interests and, therefore, tend to vote for regional parties.

In rural areas, political parties promise to bring benefits to the region and thereby garner the overwhelming support of voters in the region. The resulting government comprises a wide variety of political parties each with a few seats, but rather than representing the pluralistic interests and values that span across society, each party tends to represent the individual interests and values of its own region or voting district. As such, on the one hand, the ruling party is made up of a coalition of many regional parties and, on the other hand, the opposition party is made up of parties representing the interests of specific regions.

In a democratic polity it is a pre-requisite to have a well-informed citizenry capable of taking up independent position on political questions of all the ingredients that constitute democracy, information is a key component. In the ideal democratic setting; information is essential in order to make essential critical decisions, such as choosing a government. Elections go a long way in making democracy successful. They reflect political culture and people's political behavior. They are an intellectual exercise that helps the people remain vigilant of the activities of government

**CONCLUSION** The Parliamentary democracy in its true spirit was introduced by the Britishers gradually through the Acts of Parliament viz., 1892, 1909, 1919 and 1935. After Independence the constituent assembly prepared a fresh constitution for India, which came into force from 1950. The Constitution system was designed after west Minister Model. The new constitution established a full pledged democratic system based on multi party system, periodic elections, an independent election commission to conduct elections, an independent judiciary to examine the constitutional and electoral disputes etc. Most of the ills of electoral politics in India have sprouted out of the curse called illiteracy. Illiteracy has been the biggest obstacle on the way to rational voting. In the early days of independent India, the literacy rate was very low. The illiterate

and less informed electorate was obviously misled by a handful of politically motivated minds. Total literacy alone can substantiate rationality into the voting behaviour of our electorate. The educational and other pre-requisites are to be fixed for aspirant MLAs and MPs. Half of the present strength of politicians will be compelled to stay away from politics. Since population explosion is the root cause of all our miseries, we should not allow such people to contest elections who do not identify with the needs of the nation. Similarly the criminals can be debarred from seeking mandate.

