

# Parties and Party Competitions in Western Tamil Nadu - A Study of Dominance of AIADMK

M.KANNAN, Ph.D Research scholar, Department of Political Science, Government Arts College (Autonomous), Coimbatore.

## Introduction

The politics of the democratic states are virtually depending upon the right of dissent and the diversity of life, because of the regional political parties influence as well as impact in the National Politics. In India had broader diversity, a number of regional parties have emerged on the base of local issues. This is played subcultural role in a different dimension and dominated in the Indian politics since independence.

In this circumstance this article had primarily analysed the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) party performance of the Tamil Nadu assembly election and hence how people had given his strong support to the party. Tamil Nadu had been divided in four zones such as Northern, Central, Western and Southern. The western Tamil Nadu was included with Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode, Nilgiri, Salem, Namakal, Dharmapuri, and Krishnagiri districts. Appropriately 55 consitituences were consisted in the Western zone, it was rearranged by election commission in 2008 and presently 57 consitituences was selected as our field of study. The underlying analysis of this article took place in terms of lost ten assembly elections form AI ADMK contested in first general election in 1977 to last 2016 elections.

## Growth of Regional Parties in TamilNadu

Tamil Nadu had sectional interests were became very predominant in a various category of political aspect. Before independence, the Justice Party of India hold political power in Tamil Nadu. It primarily consisted of politically non-Brahmins who wanted to crackdown the Brahmin hegemony and domination. On the base, one of the congress leader of E.V.Ramaswamy who started the Dravida Kazhagam in the southern states to promote the policy of the Dravidan race. As soon as it become vehemently anti-Brahmin,anti-Hindi party in the post-Independence area,

After independence the Congress government in Tamil Nadu did not give the party much scope to develop and congress Chief minister of Kamaraj took away from the polls by Dravida Kazhagam. And eventually the split of Dravida Kazhagam in 1949 between E.V.Ramaswamy and the young men like C.N,Annadyrai. The pathbreak C.N,Annadyrai started new party itself the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK), it produced a huge impact in terms of Tamil Nationalism, anti-Hindi and anti-Brahmin issues. In the protest of anti-Hindi agitation of 1965, it came to power in Tamil Nadu politics in 1967.

In 1969, party general secretary and the Chief minister of CN Annadurai died. After his death,the interim government had formed under Chief minister of M. Karunanidhi. There was a power tussle among the seniaor leaders. In 1972,the party was bifurcated because of party's numbers disinterest and dejection.The prime reason of this party split,M.G.Ramachandran (MGR) was forcibly expelled, and he immediately founded the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(ADMK) The name of All India ADMK in 1977 expanded and simultaneously gained in state assmby elcation. .By the political fortune of M.G.Ramachandrans Charismatic power,he become the president of the new party and the chief minister of the state until his death in 1986..

During his regime AIADMK supremo MGR life, had been significantly transferred to his political follower namely Jayalalitha. After the demise of MGR, she had added her own independent appeal as one of English fluency and Tamil oratory skill based on her political ideology. She also Chief minister in Tamil Nadu five times until her death. .

The Justice Party and the Dravidar Kazhagam also the orgion of present day Dravidian parties like the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which have ruled Tamil Nadu continuously since 1967.

### **Other Parties and Associations**

Apart from these two fronts, Dr .Ambadkar birth century of latter half of the 1990s, two Dalit political parties emerged and earned tremendous strength with power under the name of Puthiya Thamizhagam (pallar) and Viduthali Cheruthikal Kachi (Dalitpanthar- -paraiyar).The supporters of particular SC castes distinguishes them from the Indian Rpublic Party, Bahujan Samaj party, because they have not remotely approached.

On the other side DMK faced a major split of party senior member Vaiko was expelled from the party in 1993. Vaiko had formed a new party the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(MDMK)

Based on the caste mobilization, Vanniars are one of the two largest megacastes in Tamil Nadu. formed the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK). Subsequently it's success encouraged the formation of other caste parties like Movethar Munnetra Kazhagam (Mukkulathor) and Kongunadu Munnetra Kazhagam(Gounders) etc .

In 1995, Tamil Nadu Congress committee also faced party split. Because of party central committee had decided allied with Jalalitha without considering the Moopanar leader of the Tamil Nadu unit. By this contrast Moopanar came out from the congress. After that Moopanar formed new party in the name of Tamil Manila Congress (TMC)

A new party in Tamil Nadu the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) had formed in September 2005 by actor turned politician Vijaykant. And Education turned politician TR Pachamuthu's Indiya Jananayaka Katchi (IJK), Samooka Samathuva Padai of retired IAS officer P Sivakami, Nam Thamilar Siman, the Tamizhaga Munnetra kazhagam of John Pandian, , Sarathkumar, Karunash and Islamic group also formed several political parties.

## The Electoral Competitions

The Dravidian parties became the inevitable forces in state-level competition but the political parameter of nationalist party or the congress most influential in parliamentary elections only. The decline of congress part's electoral started especially early in Tamil Nadu in state-level competition as congress offshoots ceased to be unparallel contenders for power in the state assembly as early as 1977. Apart from the major nationalist party Bharatiy Janata party (BJP) had been less political sound than in other major Indian states. Included the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), the Janata Dal (JD), Indian Rpublic Party and Bahujan Samaj party also..

**Note:** \* Number of Set Contest (C) / Won (W)

S.No	Party Name	Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Elections																			
		1977		1980		1984		1989		1991		1996		2001		2006		2011		2016	
		C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W	C	W
1	AIADMK	49	40	45	41	38	34	47	17	44	44	44	1	36	35	45	15	39	39	56	45
2	DMK	55	3	24	3	38	3	43	24	37	-	45	42	44	1	30	21	26	2	44	10
3	INC	45	6	30	5	16	14	49	5	11	11	11	1	4	4	10	7	14	1	10	2
4	CPI	10	-	6	3	6	1	4	-	5	-	4	3	2	1	3	-	5	5	7	-
5	CPM	5	3	2	1	4	1	7	6	7	-	11	-	1	1	3	2	2	2	6	-
6	JNP	55	3	28	-	4	1	5	1	18	-	8	-	1	-						
7	JD									5	-	4	1	1	-						
8	PMK									51	-	24	3	8	8	9	8	8	3	57	-
9	BJP			4	-	6	-	5	-	28	-	34	-	6	1	51	-	56	-	46	-
10	MDMK											41	-	49	-	7	1			4	-
11	TMC											6	5	4	4					8	-
12	DMDK															55	-	11	7	26	-
13	VCK															2	-	2	-		
14	PT													2	-						
15	RPI	1	-	1	-							2	-					1	-		
16	BSP													7	-	36	-				

**Source :** Statistical Report –State Elections (from 1977 to 2016) Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu.- Election Commission of India.

In Western Tamil Nadu the electoral competitions between DMK and ADMK that were major alliance themselves. Thus parties contested high numbers of seats. Other parties contested only few constituencies. Congress had loss his independencies contest and alliance with thus parties at seats sharing.

Kongunadu Munnetra Kazhagam(KMK). a political party in the western districts of Tamil Nadu viewed as a party of Gounders development in the kongu region. Arundhathiar (a section of dalits) outfit headed by R Adhiaman formude Arundhathiyar Munnetra Kazhagam besed in western Tamil Nadu. Social

Democratic Party of India has also plunged into the Western Tamil Nadu with a view to garnering Muslim votes in Coimbatore. Several small party also contested in this region. Namthamilar Siman, T.R. Pachamuthu's Indiya Jananayaka Katchi (IJK)

First time in 2016 elections Western Tamil Nadu had faced in high level of electoral competitions in all constituencies. Parties and party alliance also contested in high numbers of seats ADMK-57, PMK-57, Nam Thmizar- 56, BJP- 46, DMK-44, DMDK-26 in this elections.

Out of the 1996 elections the Western region of Tamil Nadu highly support to ADMK, the party continued won in first place. The table showed how the people had given to her support to the party. From 1977 the first election contested to the party won 32.90 % percentage of vote, in 1991 election to high 52.08% percentage of vote polled in favors of the party in this region. In the first election in 1977 the ADMK won first places its continue to (except 1996 elections) with out failer until 2016 elections, DMK, JP and INC respectably shared the second, third and fourth places. In 1980, 1984, 1989, 1991 elections congress replaced the Janata Party and win the third place. In the year of 1996 congress split TMC got the third place. 2001 election the places goes to PMK and 2006, 2011, DMDK won the place.

ADMK under the leadership of MGR received in his all three assembly elections, 24 out of 55 constituencies of the region continued won until his death. After MGR death ADMK under the leadership of Jayalalitha also received peoples support to 1991 in 7 constituencies. The tragedy of 1996 election after she was regain continued support upto 9 constituency until her last election in 2016. ADMK won continually in Bargur, Gobichettipalayam and Pollachi constituencies in all nine assembly election of the region.

### Aspects of popularity in AIADMK

The Dravidian movement was very weak in western Tamil Nadu areas for social reasons. The movement was a reaction against Brahmin domination of religion, society and economy of Tamil Nadu. This parical problem was found in the agriculturally fertile regions like the Cauvery Delta. The Western Tamil Nadu districts were largely arid and rainfed and in the social economic and religious domains there was no conspicuous Brahmin dominance. Here the Non- Brahmin communities are dominant. Therefore the anti-Brahmin Dravidian movement did not become successful achieving political mobilization in this region.

The politicization of people and political mobilization largely occurred through the medium of films. The number of MGR fan clubs in western districts was always considerable. These districts entered politics through MGR films to a great extent only in the 1967 and 1971 Legislative Assembly elections and therefore the DMK was very dominant in the earlier Tamil Nadu. The congress was always crystallization of support behind DMK in 1967 and 1971 Legislative Assembly elections can be chiefly attributed to fan clubs of MGR. Therefore when MGR broke away from DMK to Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam the social and electoral base in this region went along with him to ADMK from DMK. Since then down to the last Legislative Assembly elections the western region continues to be a fortress of ADMK.

Moreover western Tamil Nadu, as it shares boundaries with Kerala and Karnataka has a considerable number of people speaking Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu languages. This linguistic plurality of the region also favours ADMK as DMK is perceived to be mainly interested in Tamil welfare.

The social structure of Tamil Nadu also favored the emergence of MGR as a statewide leader. The state unlike the neighboring Andhra Pradesh does not have any caste community having numerical, economic and political dominance across the state. All the numerically dominant communities are region specific.

MGR emerged as acceptable and even adored leader as he could not be appropriated by any single community or region in the state. In fact the greatest advantage of a film star politician in Tamil Nadu is the visibility mileage he derives from films in all regions of the state.

MGR was very popular among the underprivileged communities, Scheduled Caste in the state. In the 1980's he introduced Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme in schools. The children of Scheduled Caste communities were the major beneficiaries as they form the bulk of the poor and the people below the poverty line.

Moreover MGR government introduced a new system of recruitment for village administration. Traditionally in Tamil Nadu village administration work was carried out by 'karnam' the hereditary headman. But MGR as chief minister abolished this hereditary system and in turn appointed village administrative officers who were selected through an open competitive exam. In the traditional administrative system. As it is mandatory constitutionally to provide reservation to Scheduled Castes in governmental employment, in the new system seats were reserved for them. For the first time Scheduled Caste youth came to have the opportunity of being administrative officers in the villages signifying a kind of rural political revolution. This political, administrative measure of MGR galvanized the scheduled caste population behind ADMK.

Succinctly we can say cinema provided an opening in politics to MGR. But there are other social, political and administrative factors which enabled MGR to ride the politics of Tamil Nadu as a colossus. Cinematic popularity is not the single thread of the political fabric. Other strands and threads are also important.

After the demise of MGR, Jayalalitha had added her own political ideology marked a decisive shift from policies of welfare. Jayalalitha Chief minister in Tamil Nadu five times until her death, her government also introduced lot of welfare scheme.

Based on the welfare perspective, she helped the poor students of Tamil Nadu by distributing books and bicycles. In 2011 Jayalalitha's turn free rice to cardholders below a specified income level was made totally free from the PDS scheme. The other major announcement was that free laptops would be given to every student of the twelfth grade. The scheme was widened to include students of government aided higher secondary schools, arts and science colleges, engineering colleges, and polytechnic colleges. There were also announcements of free goats, milch cows, and fans, mixies, grinders. The principled programmes of the MGR years targeting the poor and the underprivileged peoples. The Chief Minister's Farmers' Security Scheme for farmers and agriculture workers, which included a monthly pension of Rs 1000 for those over 60 years of age. Educational assistance for their children, and marriage and maternity assistance. Also attracted people of both in rural and urban Tamil Nadu. She also won same level of sets in western Tamil Nadu. She held the place as continually after MGR.

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