
The Emerging Trends in Electoral Politics & Party System in India

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Abstract: The paradox of Indian democracy is that enlightened middle class has shown indifferent attitude towards electoral process. In the era of globalization, this class is so deeply involved to fulfill his unending quench for attaining material pleasure that he fails to realize his larger national responsibility. In India people belonging to middle and upper class maintain indifferent attitude and people belonging to lower social, economic, educational background register their participation in large number. For the success of democracy, the participation of have and have not is equally required. If we analyze the prevailing trend in Indian democracy, winning election has become the sole criteria for political parties. In order to win election, political parties compromise with values, ethics and

morality, which used to be associated with it, it has weakened the base of Indian politics. In fact, this has become an accepted feature of Indian politics. No political party is ready to discuss this issue that what should be done to do away with such malpractices. Conducting free and fair election is the responsibility of the Election Commission and it has been working hard to live up to its constitutional obligation. Due to the effort of the commission, electoral violence, misuse of money, bogus voting have been substantially reduced. The oppressed and deprived section of our population who could not even dare to go to polling booth, are electing their representative without any fear. However, it would be early to say that in India, free and fair election- has been totally established in

Indian competitive party system, political party's gains power through competitive electoral battle. In order to win election, political parties, indulge in all sorts of manoeverality like arousing passion in the name (it' caste region, religion etc. In fact, political parties have compromised with ideology in order to gain power. Over the years, one finds a marked change in the party system operates in India. The present research paper highlights the emerging trends in electoral politics and party system in India.

Keywords: Indian Democracy, Electoral Politics, Party System, Defection, Election Commission, Criminalization of Politics.

Introduction: The most important factor responsible for the change in federal arrangement is nationalization of regional issues and it is largely because modernization, politicization and economic development and on the other hand because of *Mandal-Mandir* controversy. In post 1989 period, we

observe a new trend towards regionalization of Indian politics and it reflects the representative character of Indian polity. It has also brought those into the center stage of Indian politics who were left on the margins. The party system is now said to be moving from a one party dominance system to a multi-party competition, from social cohesion to fragmentation, from a stable pattern to fluidity, from order to chaos as the principle of party competition, one party dominance has been replaced by coalition government. It has led to the emergence of regional centers of power. Regional political parties are playing very crucial role in the national politics.

Multi-party System- Before independence, the Congress Party remained in the forefront of the national movement. It is because of this reason that we cannot draw a line between the history of national movement and the history of the Congress Party. Though after independence the Congress Party remained in power both in the centre and the states for a longtime, yet with the

purpose to provide an alternative to the Congress, many new parties were formed as a result of which multi-party system came into existence and it became an important characteristic of the Indian Party System.

Unholy and Unprincipled Alliances-

During the past a few years it is seen that with the purpose to get political power to remain in power, the political parties get ready to form alliance with every political party. Sometime the political parties joining together do not have common ideology and it gives rise to the politics of opportunism and the politics of expediency. Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir Bhartiya Janta Party and National Conference are opposing one another whereas in Centre both the parties are the constituent of National Democratic Alliance. There are so many more such examples which prove that the political parties in India work on the basis of the politics of convenience and not on the basis of the politics of principle, and it is because of this reason

that the level of politics in India is going down day by day.

Politics of Defection- *Political parties in India* are infected with the evil of defection which encourages the *politics of opportunism and corruption* and leads to political instability. This evil began in 1966. The Congress Party lost its monopoly over political power in the states as a result of which the coalition governments were formed which proved quite unstable and to maintain these governments, the defection from other parties was encouraged. Congress Party lost elections in 1977 and the government of Janta Party was formed in the Centre. As a result of this many members left Congress Party and joined Janta Party. Similarly there have been many more cases and on 1st January, 1985, 52nd Constitutional Amendment was made to control the evil of defection, but it failed as there was provision of wholesale defection in this law. With the purpose to make defection more difficult 91st Constitutional Amendment was passed in December, 2003, under which

it was provided that only 2/3 legislators of a political party could merge in another political party.

Communalization of Politics - The seed of communalism were shown by the Britishers has grown into a big tree and its roots have gone quite deep in the soil of India. With the purpose to vet-rid of communalism after independence India was declared a secular state and the people were granted the *Right to Religious Freedom* under Article-25 to 28. Besides this, Communal representation was abolished and provision was made of joint electorate system. Till today, thousands of communal clashes have taken place as a result of which thousands of people have died and property worth crores has been destroyed in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam in 1968, in Allahabad in 1969, in Bhiwandi in 1970 and in Delhi so many communal incidents had taken place.

Criminalization of Politics: - Democracy and violence are opposite to one another,

but in India the use of violent means to promote political interests is increasing day by day. Till today, so many politicians have fell victim to violence and many leaders related to communal world are the members of legislative bodies. In According to the information released by Election Commission, more than 40 members of 11th Lok Sabha and about 700 legislators were such against whom some sort of criminal eases were registered. Such people by becoming the members of parliament legislatures enjoy so many privileges and some time the law finds itself helpless in reaching up to such persons. Even today, many legislators of Uttar Pradesh were in jails but they play politics from jails through their mobile phones.

Politics of Casteism- Though the constitution of India has abolished discriminations made on the basis of caste, colour, creed and religion. Yet the hold of caste on politics seems to be quite strong in India. According to Jai Prakash Narayan, "*Caste is the most important political party in India*". In

other words we can say that caste in India has been politicized while selecting candidates for elections their caste is given due consideration. The caste also influences the voting behavior of the people and the caste of the person is also looked into while inducting him/her in the Council of Ministers, while asking for vote's caste based slogans such as '*Jat Ki Beti Jat Ko, Jat Ki Vote Jat Ko*' are raised. The caste war in India became quite sharp after the decision of Sh. V. P. Singh to implement the report of *Mandal Commission* as it destroyed the homogeneity of the Indian society

Growing Influence of Money Power on Politics- The politics in India is also not free from the influence of money power in India; the rich people have their strong hood on politics. During elections they help the political parties with money and after the elections they encash the benefits also. Though the Election Commission has fixed the upper limit of the money to be spent during elections, yet in reality the money spent is many times more than the prescribed limit and

the major portion of this comes from black money and black money breeds politics. Today, through fair or foul means, the politicians try to amass as much as possible, therefore, the role of politicians in major scams cannot be ruled out. They get nominations with the use of money power and after getting nominations, they have to spend crores in order to win the election. After winning the election, they again have to please their party bosses in order to become ministers etc. After getting appointed on high offices, the politicians try to collect as much money as possible for the next elections. This way, their public service becomes self service. So, the politics needs to be freed from the evil influence of money power.

Personality Cult in Politics- Before independence our economic, social and political system was based on feudal values and even after independence not much change came into it. Even today some rich and elite people have their control over politics and political institutions. The sense of personality cult

seems to be quite strong among the people of India and they have more faith in the leader than in the ideology of the party. During, elections, votes are asked in the name of the leader and people are asked to strengthen the hands of leader of the party. In India, even the names of many political parties are on the name of the leader of the party.

Decline of Value-based Politics- The freedom movement was fought on the basis of certain values and principles and to uphold in an, people made sacrifices. Lakhs of people went to jails and thousands of patriots got killed. After independence the leaders of first batch played an important role in the reconstruction of the country as their objective was the development of their fellow being but not their self development. According to them, the objective of political power was the welfare of the people and the development of their country and they made use of political power as a means. But gradually the objective or goal of politics got unchanged.

Increasing influence of Dynastic Politics- The influence of dynastic politics is increasing day by day in the Indian politics and according to some people, the politics in India has become family business. Though many people hold Nehru family responsible for the growth of dynastic politics' in India but after looking at it minutely we come to the conclusion that no political party and no political leader was above this trend. Every leader tries to establish his sons and daughters in politics during his life time .for instance; Badal and Captain family in Punjab, Abdullah and Mufti family in Jammu and Kashmir, Hudda, Chautala and Bhajan Lai families in Haryana, and so on. The answer of these leaders is that it' a son of doctor can become doctor, of engineer can become engineer, of bureaucrat can become bureaucrat etc then why a son of politician cannot become a politician. But they just forget that politics is not a profession, rather it is a means of service and when politics becomes profession,

and it breeds so many evils which are found in other professions.

Conclusion – Therefore, it can be concluded by stating that many negative tendencies have emerged in the Indian politics and all this has affected the Indian Political System. Today, the strength of women in 15th Lok Sabha is only 10.7% whereas they constitute 50% of the population. With the purpose to reserve 33% seats for them in Parliament and State Legislature, many time efforts have been made to introduce and pass constitutional amendment bill but it did not get passed, even today, about 26% of the population live below poverty line and they need to be provided social and economic justice. Still 35% population of India is illiterate. Similarly, many people in India die without getting timely medical aid and all these are challenges for the Indian Political system. The politicians need to rise above the issue of Mandir and Masjid and try to solve the problems of food, cloth and shelter, so that India becomes a truly welfare state.

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