

To Analyze the Major Determinants of 2007 Election in Kotkehloor Constituency District Bilaspur Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The main problem is how this socio-economic status of all classes of kotkehloor constituency district Bilaspur determines their voting behaviour and could a pattern be seen in the voting behaviour of the people from the different groups and classes? Another one of the Congress; Bhartiya Janta Party and Himachal Vikas congress Party in constituency affects the voters voting behaviour. To find out the role of caste and religion in the constituency.

Key words: - Socio-economic, determinants, political parties, voting behaviour, caste and religion.

Methodology:-Survey method is use in this study.

I. INTRODUCTION

An election is a formal decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office. Elections have been the usual mechanism by which modern representative democracy has operated since the 17th century. Elections may fill offices in the legislature, sometimes in the executive and judiciary, and for regional and local government. This process is also used in many other private and business organizations, from clubs to voluntary associations and corporations.

The universal use of elections as a tool for selecting representatives in modern representative democracies is in contrast with the practice in the democratic archetype, ancient Athens, where the Elections were considered an oligarchic institution and most political offices were filled using satiation, also known as allotment, by which officeholders were chosen by lot. Electoral reform describes the process of introducing fair electoral systems where they are not in place, or improving the fairness or effectiveness of existing systems.

Electoral System: Electoral systems are the detailed constitutional arrangements and systems that convert the vote into a political decision. The first step is to tally the votes, for which various vote counting systems and ballot types are used. Voting systems then determine the result on the basis of the tally. Most systems can be categorized as either proportional or majoritarian. Among the former are party-list proportional representation and additional member system. Among the latter are First Past the Post (FPP) (relative majority) and absolute majority. Many countries have growing electoral reform movements, which advocate systems such as approval, single transferable vote, instant runoff voting or a Condorcet method; these methods are also gaining popularity for lesser elections in some countries where more important elections still use more traditional counting methods.

While openness and accountability are usually considered cornerstones of a democratic system, the act of casting a vote and the content of a voter's ballot are usually an important exception. The secret ballot is a relatively modern development, but it is now considered crucial in most free and fair elections, as it limits the effectiveness of intimidation.

About Kotkehloor Constituency

kotkehloor is a constituency in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh State, India. kotkehloor constituency Head Quarters is kotkehloor town. It is located 30 KM towards west from District headquarters Bilaspur, 68 KM from State capital Shimla towards East. Jhandutta constituency is bounded by Ghumarwin constituency towards North, Bilaspur constituency towards East. Nangal City, Hamirpur City, Rup nagar City are the nearby Cities to Kotkehloor. This Place is in the border of the Bilaspur District and Punjab State.

Major Determinants in KOTKEHLOOR constituency in District Bilaspur

Political behaviour like all other human behaviour takes place in certain context of social milieu political structure, economic development, historical background and cultural heritage of a society .It does not take place in a vacuum .In any effort to build a theory, cognizance of these factors will have to be taken .Thus it does not mean that the factor like political ideological, belief –system of a community or emotional issues, are to be taken. On other hand, one could argue that all these factors are interrelated. Political structured and economic developments are closely related to the ideology currently popular and ruling in the country. Social structure affects the economic development and in turn is influenced by it.

Political behaviour, no- doubt, is merely an aspect of social behaviour, taken out for a closer study and systematic analysis. But this behaviour becomes meaningful only against the background of the society, its various social groupings and their interactions. To understands on individuals’ political involvements and association. These affect and influence the behaviour in the political sphere. The major concern is the determination of social, economic and psychological based of political activity .How does participation vary over major social groups? Does the level of education, income and media exposure tell us anything about whether an individual will probably participate in a given political act? Do the age, sex, caste, regionalism .occupation, education, Social status, and the religion of respondents make a difference? Does political information, party identification, or a sense of political efficiency lead to heightened involvement in politics? It is to this kind of question that this study is primarily addressed .The social factors like caste; kinship; religion and neighbourhood have a more significant role in influencing voting behaviour in a traditional rural society like India. It is necessary to caution here that a transitional society, exposed coupled with

urbanization and consequent social change exhibits a whirlpool of currents and cross currents. No single factor explanation could be adequate for the purpose. In this study the effort has been made to analyse the voting behaviour while keeping these entire factor in mind .For this purpose the questionnaire was circulated to the resp.

Age is one of the important factors that determine the voting behaviour of the electorate’s.Respect for age in rural society was the projection of behaviour in our family set-up. The age factor is significant in terms of experiences and affects left or right political behaviour in two ways: though generational difference and through differences in the typical patterns of social experience associated with different age Group.

Generally we see that in the traditional pattern of leadership, the older men were both the ceremonial and Panchayat leaders. With the coming of education and outside employment, however, middle aged educated people are being given opportunities by the older people to represent then in official Panchayats, School committees, and deputation outside the village moreover, particularly of the educated unemployed are development and represent a threat to the traditional values of the villages. In the post 73rd constitutional amendments act, the young leaders are emerging at the grassroots level democracy.

Earlier the institution of Panchayat was dominated and run by the senior or old people of the society. But the increase in literacy rate and input of modernization and subsequent development in the young blood in these institution .Thus ,the younger start of the society have overcome the old age people among the democratic characteristics ,age has found and important place as one of the psychic influence on the choice of the voters . It true that is difficult to measure the exact extent of the influence of age and its significance. In the present study the effort has been made to analyse the sample by age groups without any value loaded interpretation on our part.

Table 1.1
Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Election Result 2007

Sr.No	Party	No of Candidates	Seats won	% of voters polled
1	BJP	68	26	38.47
2	BSP	66	0	1.17
3	CPI	6	0	0.22
4	CPI(M)	16	0	1.13
5	INC	68	36	42.81
6	NCP	13	0	0.36
State parties				
7	HLP	36	1	2.40

State Party-other				
8	Samaj wadi Party	15	0	0.11
	HSP	16		0.19
	LJSP	17		0.44
Regd.(un recog.) parties				
9	AITC	25	0	0.49
10	BBP	2	0	0.02
11	HND	1	0	0.00
12	SS	4	0	0.04
13	IJS	1	0	0.01
14	Independent			
	IND	105	5	12.14
Total			68	

Source: Department of Election Commission, H.P. Kasumpti, Shimla-9

Table 1.2
Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Election Result 2007 Kotkehloor Constituency in District Bilaspur

Sr.No.	Assembly Constituency No. and Name	Electors	Votes	%age
1	Gehrwin(SC)(BJP)	66003	46656	70.7%
2	GHUMARWIN(INC)	74139	48597	65.5%
3	BILASPUR(INC)	64468	47594	73.8%
4	Kotkehloor(BJP)	65765	52211	79.03%
	Total	275445	200906	72.94%

Source: Department of Election Commission, H.P. Kasumpti, Shimla-9

Table 1.3
Analyze the major determinants of 2007 election in Kotkehloor Constituency District Bilaspur Himachal Pradesh.

Sr.No	Question	Male	Female	Don't Know	Total
1	Age (18-60 years)	120 (60%)	80 (40%)	-	200
2	Occupation	115 (57.5%)	85 (42.5%)	-	200
3	Religion(Hindu, Muslim,Sikh,Bodh.)	112 (56%)	87 (43.5%)	-	200
4	Caste(S.C.,S.T,O.B.C,Brahmin &Rajput)	105 (52.5%)	95 (47.5%)	-	200
5	Education(illit.hight.sec.Graduate and above)	111 (55.5%)	89 (44.5%)	-	200
6	Occupation(Farmer, Businessman,	107 (53.5%)	93 (46.5%)	-	200
7	Newspaper /TV/Radio	95 (47.5%)	70 (35%)	35 (17.5%)	200
8	Knowledge about Candidate	89 (44.5%)	80 (40%)	31 (15.5%)	200
9	Purpose of Voting	85 (42.5)	62 (31%)	53 (26.5%)	200

10	Change in Election 2012	115 (57.5%)	70 (35%)	15 (7.5%)	200
11	MLA/MP Should Educated	110 (55%)	80 (40%)	10 (5%)	200
12	Voting is Right and Duty	114 (40%)	72 (36%)	14 (7%)	200
13	Expose yourself in Election	120 (60%)	70 (35%)	10 (5%)	200
14	Awareness of Election Issues	110 (55%)	70 (35%)	20 (10%)	200
15	Political Party think about SC/ST welfare	107 (53.5%)	77 (38.5%)	16 (8%)	200
16	Election held for	103 (51.5%)	80 (40%)	17 (8.5%)	200
17	Manifesto of contesting political party	104 (52%)	75 (37.5%)	21 (10.5%)	200
18	Coalition Government	95 (47.5%)	65 (32.5%)	40 (20%)	200
19	Awareness of Programmes policies of BJP/CONG	102 (51%)	90 (45%)	8 (4%)	200
20	Role of Money and wine	101 (50.5%)	84 (42%)	15 (7.5%)	200
21	Issue of Development Agriculture, Irrigation ,Safe Drinking Water, Education and Transportation	80 (40%)	70 (35%)	50 (25%)	200
22	Politic is Carrier	90 (45%)	65 (32.5%)	45 (22.5%)	200
23	Take Part in Strict and Demonstration	98 (49%)	62 (31%)	40 (20%)	200
24	Role of ACC/JP industry	75 (37.5%)	70 (35%)	55 (27.5%)	200

Source: - Field Survey

Data of the Table 1.3 reveals that total sample 200 taken for this study. Out of the 200 respondents Age (18-60 years) Male 120(60%) and female 80 (40%).Occupation wise respondents taken 115(57.5%)Male and female 85(42.5%).Religion (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and

Boudh) wise 112 (56%) male and 87(43.5%).Caste (S.C., S.T,O.B.C,Brahmin&Rajput) wise 105(52.5%)male and female 95(47.5%) respondents.Education (illiterate, Primary/Middle, High Sec., Graduates and above) 111(53.5%) male and female 89(44.5%).Out of total respondents

which constitute Male 95(47.5%), female is 70(35%) watch and read Newspaper /TV/Radio and 35(14.5) given no response. 95 (47.5%) Male and 70(36%) female Knowledge about Candidate participate in election and 19 (9.5%) respondents given no answer. Out of total respondents 85(42.5%) Male & Female 62(31%) knowledge purpose of voting and 53(26.5) given no answer. Male 115(55%) 70 (35%) female agree with the view that the election of 2012 pattern is totally changed and 15 (7.5%) respondents says don't know. In this sample 110(55%) male, 80(40%) agree with the view that MLA/MP Should be Educated and 10(5%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 114(40%) Male, 72(36%) agree with the view that voting is our right and duty and 14(7%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 110(55%) male, 80(40%) agree with the view that expose yourself in election and 10(5%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 110(55%) male, 70(35%) female agree with the view that Awareness of Election issues and 20(10%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 107(53.5%) male, 77 (38.5%) female agree with the view that Political Party think about SC/ST welfare and 16(8%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 103(51.5%) Male, 80(40%) female agree with the view that Election held for political Party, for people, for democracy and 17(8.5%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 104(52%) Male, 75 (37.5%) female agree with the view that awareness about manifesto of contesting political party and 21(10.5%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 95(47.5%) Male, 65(32.5%) female agree with the view that Coalition Government good for Himachal Pradesh and 40(20%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 102(51%) Male, 90(45%) female agree with the view that Awareness of Programmes policies of BJP/CONG Himachal Pradesh and 8(4%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 101(50.5%) Male, 84(42.5%) female agree with the view that Role of Money and wine in election of 2012 Himachal Pradesh and 50(25%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 101(50.5%) Male, 84(42.5%) female agree with the view that Role of Money and wine in election of 2012 Himachal Pradesh and 15(7.5%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 80(40%) Male, 70(35%) female agree with the view that issue of development agriculture ,irrigation, safe drinking water, education and transportation in election of 2012 Himachal Pradesh and 50(25%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 90(45%) Male, 65(32.5%) female agree with the view that Politic as Carrier and 45(22.5%) respondents say don't

know. In this sample 98(49%) Male, 62(31%) female agree with the view that Take Part in Strict and Demonstration and 40(20%) respondents say don't know. In this sample 75(37.5%) Male, 70(35%) female agree with the view that Role of ACC/JP industry to development of constituency and 55(27.5%) respondents say don't know.

Major Factor influence voting behaviour:-

Age is considered one of the important factors that determine the voting behaviour of electorates. Traditionally, the politics is considered to be prerogatives of elder people. But with the spread of education and modernization young strata is activity involved in the politics. Religion has a unique place and a special role to play in the social set-up of any society. In Indian politics, by and large, the religion have assumed very significant place. It is considered that religion and caste is the most important factors, which influence the voting behaviour of electorates. In Indian politics, by and large, the caste have assumed very significant place. It is considered that caste is one of the most important factors, which influence the voting behaviour of electorates. Education is an important social resource and a means of reducing inequality in the society; it helps the individual to raise his social status in various ways. In the political sphere, education makes a complete citizen full of awareness, knowledge and creates a sense of political participation about the democratic process in the present system. Thus education is one of the major determinants of electoral behaviour, which is given due consideration in the present study. In the modern time television is one of the most popular sources of information for electorates. Main objective of such of study is to assess the role of electronic media to make people conscious and give them information. Newspapers are one of the most effective media of electioneering, particularly for the educated people. During the campaigning the parties try to ensure extensive coverage about the election activities and provide useful information to the voters regarding the contesting candidates. Today the extent of newspaper strength has increased up to optimum level. The main objective of the present data is to assess the impact of newspapers on voting behaviour. An ideal vision of the media is that they promote opinions of the citizens. The major role of the press is to keep the people well informed. Besides providing comprehensive and objective information on all aspects of the country is social, economic, political and cultural life. It plays a vital role in moulding public opinion and is an instrument of social change. It also presents the effect of current issues highlighted by media on voting behaviour of the

respondents in the newspaper. During the election, the media by its different sources plays a very important role to give the information to the electorate about the elections, political parties and the candidates. In the present study the respondents were being asked about that source from which they get more information about the elections, political parties and candidates, mostly people are affiliated with different political Parties. And they are playing the active and non-active role in politics. Mostly People are favoured the candidate whose political background strong. But if we discuss about Jhandutta Constituency in Bilaspur District Mostly people Favoured educated Person & Well Personality candidate. The voter participated in election by the way of campaign exposure their participation may take various form such as attending election meeting and rallies ,reading and listing to campaign materials ;canvassing for votes and so on .Election campaign is thus a key event in the life of a democratic system .It is generally assumed that the electorates ,which has been exposed to election campaign in good measure ,would turn up for voting to a greater extent . Campaign techniques and patterns may change from constituency to constituency (2).The campaign period become one of intense political education and its impact on the average voter, for good or bad,is indeed for reaching. In fact, campaign assumes the proportion of a full-scale battle of wits and arguments, meeting, and demonstration with which many constituencies are won and lost (3).Thus, the exposure of the voters to election campaign educates them about the electoral process.The election campaign presents the issue, politics and programs of different parties,which provides opportunity to the voters to select or reject it. But all the voters do not have opportunity for the exposure to election campaign due to several reasons. The usual method of campaigning the canvassing all meeting, procession, speeches and slogans,Handbills,Poster radio TV/ Newspaper and door to door canvassing etc. more specifically, The election campaign provides “feedback “mechanism –a means of can be manually adjusted to the advantage of the electors .Generally speaking, an election campaign is the process of acquiring present study the respondents were asked about their exposure to the election campaign. The schedule caste population in the country has grown to about 150 million in 2011 from 64 million in 1961 an overwhelming majority (81.3%) of the SCs live in rural areas. At the same time India has the largest tribal population among the countries .whose major population is non –tribal of the 846 million Indian population

enumerated in 1991 census about 8% of the India population (4). Thus the huge population of the SCs and STs plays role in the electoral democracy of India. Political parties raise various issues during election and try to fulfil when it comes to power .As elsewhere in India, political parties in Himachal Pradesh have been kaleidoscope over last 68 years since independence, margins and splitting periodically over time .It has played vital role in the development of the state. Parliamentary democracy needs, which are eligible to be elected by the ‘broadcast’ possible starts’ of the population .Thus party system is also said to be essentially a product of electoral system .In Himachal Pradesh the integration and consolidation of political parties began only after the independence (5).The evolution of two party systems in the state can be traced to the fourth general election held in 1967, till then Himachal, like other state of the country had only the dominance of Congress Party. The state has a two party system. Congress fevered by the upper areas (old areas) and the BJP supported by the lower areas (New areas) .Almost state has a history of electing to the assembly the party which rulers at the centre, as it is development on central financial assistance (6).Both the political parties claim the development of the poor but in real sense poor are becoming poorer in the state. Both Political Party BJP and Congress Government programme and policies. But every Village cannot take benefit from government policies. Money and wine both are the becoming the means in political parties wooing the voters. Therefore, in the present study, the questions were asked whether the electorates agree with the view that election can be won by money and wine or do also admit a big role of money and during election. Mostly People are agreed with the view that election pattern has been totally changed. At present mostly people are aware of their right to vote. And notmostly takes part in casting vote.

II. CONCLUSION:

The impact of money and wine in electoral process was concerned in the constituencies; only one third respondents admit that money and wine do play a significant role in the electoral process of the constituencies. Rural area as in the urban area is largely influenced by social interaction because most of women cast their vote under the influence of their father, husband, and sometimes head of the grassroots institutions, friends and relatives. The election campaign presents the issue, politics and programs of different parties, which provides opportunity to the voters to select or reject it.

The study also establishes the dominance of Rajput and Brahmin caste in the constituencies, which is followed by scheduled caste. Whereas state-wise composition of caste is concerned, Rajput and Brahmin dominate the political scene in the state but kotkehloor Constituency Bilaspur District has sizable section of scheduled caste population. At that time every candidate who fights election also plays caste based politics in constituencies. Road are not connected in every village. Health is not so good. Policies made for richest people and they take benefits out of it. In 2006 people casted vote in dummy ballet paper but 2012 election used electronic voting machine in casting vote. People are educated but they are not changed your mentality about casteism. We changed everything around but no change in our mentality.

Suggestion:-

- 1) Performance reporting against Election Manifestos by Election Commission
- 2) State funding of elections
- 3) High priority electoral Reforms:
 - a) State funding of elections
 - b) Audit of electoral expenses
 - c) Fast Track courts against elected MP's with Corruption or criminal charges
- 4) Organize awareness Programme in village level about Elections.
- 5) Education Ability should be compulsory to contesting candidate in election.
- 6) Election Commission don't give permissions to contest election corrupted candidate.
- 7) Election Commission check activates of political Parties during election.

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