

One Day National Workshop on
STRATEGIES OF ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The Department of Political Science, M. V. S. Government Degree and Post-Graduation College (Autonomous) Mahabubnagar, Telangana had organised a one day national workshop titled "Strategies Of Electoral Behaviour: Issues and Challenges" on January 3, 2018. The workshop was co-sponsored by Telangana State Higher Education Council (TSHEC), Hyderabad; Indian Council for Social Science Research - Southern Regional Centre (ICSSR-SRC), Hyderabad; and Andhra Bank, Mahabubnagar Branch. The workshop was organised with the patronage of Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad (UoH), Telangana.

Inaugural Session

The national workshop commenced with the inaugural session wherein the welcome address was given by Mr. D. Sreepathi Naidu, Organizing Secretary of the workshop. Dr. Mohammed Ghouse, Convener of the national workshop provided the details about the workshop. Dr. G. Yadagiri, Principal, M. V. S. Government Degree and Post-Graduation College (Autonomous) Mahabubnagar and chairperson of the session. He delivered his remarks by congratulating all the institutions that came forward and organised the programme. He also put across certain points concerning the theme of 'Understanding the Indian Voter' wherein he questions do the regional parties undermine the role of national parties given that we follow First Past the Post System. Given that a large number of political parties are contesting elections there are more than two viable political parties. Indeed, the regional political parties have carved out their space through pre-electoral alliance and pragmatism. Even though the seat share of regional political parties has not increased in the 2014 Lok Sabha their vote share has increased. It will be interesting to witness the developments in the state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the upcoming 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Prof. G. Sudarshanam, Retired Professor, Department of Political Science, UoH mentioned that it is a privilege for him to address the gathering, congratulated the principal and faculty members, and a special thanks to Dr. Mohammed Ghouse along with his team. He informed that first of all understanding the human behaviour is itself difficult to study and studying electoral behaviour is too complex. To understand the electoral behaviour it involves

complicated process as various factors affect the voting behaviour. Hence the theme of workshop is indeed a challenging question.

Professor Afroz Alam from Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MAANU) after thanking the organising committee for inviting him informed to the audience that the tragedy of Indian politics is such that anybody can speak on this topic. However, what is very important is that we need to speak from our mind and there is a need for special attention to understand the theme of electoral behaviour. The first major observations concerning the electoral politics are the assumption of who is a voter? He says voter is that person who is politically conscious but otherwise not well educated, hailing from rural areas, and holds no great economic position. It means voter is one who is from economically poor class, perceives elections as one time employment opportunity who is paid, fed and pampered, and highly emotional who turn up to the polling booth. Second, the voter belongs to illiterate or semi-literate, who is also from working class, has limited knowledge, does not enter the domain as theoretical but as agents of political parties. They have enough time, highly socialised, expecting returns, and very importantly function on a client-patron relationship. Third, the voter hails from rural masses, and has a deeper sense of loyalty towards country. On the other hand those who do not vote are often likely to be highly educated, urban, rich, and networked individuals. Hence these voters form a majority in India, and are active agents of democracy. They vote based on the various determinants of voting and to understand this we need to visit villages and public spaces where we will encounter the finer nuances of politics leading to the understanding of real dynamics of voting behaviour.

Dr. K. K. Kailash, Associate professor, Department of Political Science, UoH thanked the Principal and organisers for inviting him to the workshop. He informed that he would be very delighted to hear from all the dignitaries, subject experts, chairpersons, and panel members. Later on during the valedictory address he would put across his point of views.

The Keynote address for the workshop was delivered by Chief Guest - Dr. E. Venkatesu, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, UoH wherein the address was titled as "Electoral Politics and Voting Behaviour: An Account of CSDS-Lokniti". He informed the gathering that he has been coordinating election studies in the state from past twelve years conducted by Lokniti; an independent autonomous institute since 1960's established by Professor Rajini Kothari. He premised his address by asking the question – why study electoral behaviour? It is mostly to analyse how Indians have asserted themselves in the

democratic political system. He viewed that voters are competent enough and this is established in the last seven decades. The subject discipline of electoral mobilisation is studied by both foreign and Indian scholars the democratic political system in India is operating from a dominant single party to two parties and further to multiparty system and all the way through the electoral behaviour has been studied. Even there is a major literature on the determinants of voting such as Rudolph and Rudolph, Rajini Kothari, James Manor, K. C. Suri, Sanjay Kumar and many others.

He endorsed that the study of electoral behaviour is complex, cultural specific, non-scientific pattern, and changing factors that determine the behaviour of voters. Commenting on conceptual or theoretical framework he emphasised the importance of hypothesis. These neither are universally accepted phenomena nor can be generalised in the context of electoral behaviour. Sweeping statements cannot be made instead focus should be accorded to the specifics which cut across the space, time, period, and political party. Need to understand the changing phenomena in specific situation or context through analysing emerging trends public policies, government performance, and addressing issues. Regarding the research methodology it was informed that to capture the electoral behaviour Lokniti-CSDS employs a structured questionnaire which facilitates understanding of various perceptions, views, and opinions and are also expressed through votes. Such kind of methodology has to be adopted which will assist in not just collecting data on electoral behaviour but also help in comparing the data across the time and period. Regarding the data it was brought to the notice that data has to be collected, generated, and projected in a scientific manner otherwise the results will be misleading. For instance the exit poll analysis of recently concluded Gujarat legislative assembly was incorrect and none of them were accurate even though more than twelve channels were involved in the exercise. There is a need to collect and analyse statistical data otherwise it will not be possible to capture the data with accuracy, analyse the trend, and arriving at probable figures.

The Keynote speaker said that there is a need to concentrate on serious challenges i.e. practical issues in relation to studying the electoral behaviour by taking account of local experiences wherein large scale voting has occurred. He hoped that the workshop would bring out such experiences and rich understandings. This diversity in experiences is to be located at the grass root level and community perspective which would link in order to fill the gaps in understanding the electoral behaviour. Further, he elaborated on the two major school

of thinking i.e. Michigan and Chicago model which are extensively used to understand the behaviour of voters. The Michigan model is also referred as Michigan Socio-Psychological Model where the proponents argue that group membership and family influence leads to party identification. Further various attitudes towards policy, attitude towards group benefits, and attitude towards candidates lead to vote. Mere association of people is not sufficient, but the role of attitude, commitment, traits, and characters of candidates also matters. However due to the growing research and studies in this field the existing models are questioned, new models are emerging wherein there is a blue print concerning academic and theoretical consensus to study and understand electoral behaviour. With regard to India it was said that there are multiple factors that determine the voting behaviour such as trade union, peer group, public policy, customs, region, and so on. Ultimately it is multiple factors be it macros and micro determine the voting behaviour. Rational and scientific methods have to be appropriated so as to understand Indian democratic political process. A sincere attempt has to be made in the direction to analyse the forces which are leading to politicisation, modernisation, deciding characters of politics, democracy and voter.

Prof. B. Rajarathnam, Vice Chancellor of Palamuru University was the chief guest of national workshop. He welcomed the gathering and expressed that he is happy to be here and also glad to know that the academic event has been sponsored by TSHEC with the active support of Department of Political Science, UoH. The theme chosen for the national workshop is of societal relevance, and public policy oriented. He quoted from the writing of Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen that India has proved globally the importance of election, political participation, and transfer of power as shaping the destiny of India. Electoral behaviour, which is a sub-discipline of Political Science deals with empirical investigation, which reflects how people tend to vote and the particular way they vote. It also deals with process of electoral participation, rise and fall of political parties, development of strategies to influence voting behaviour, planned campaign, seek support, and also appeal emotional attachments, and other such social determinants. The key role is played by factors such as caste, class, religion, region, and language, which have become the planks of voting and identity based politics is at its peak. Finally he hoped that the national workshop would throw light on various aspects related to electoral behaviour and come out with meaningful insights.

Dr. Venkat Reddy, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, M. V. S. Government Degree and Post-Graduation College proposed vote of thanks for the inaugural session.

Session I: Democracy, Elections & Challenges

The first session was chaired by Dr. K. K. Kailash, wherein the discussions revolved around the theme of democracy, elections and their challenges. Dr. Veera Babu, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UoH said that it is difficult to define challenges related to democracy and elections. He referred to the elections pre-independence wherein British too had organised limited forms of elections using means such as raising the hands and ballot system. Later on during the post-independence period we continued with new methods of determining, moved on to electronic voting machines and perhaps time has come to progress towards online voting. In his view online voting is a revolutionary reform system which has also been recommended by law commission. While understanding the Electoral behaviour one has to also analyse how muscle or manpower influence the voters. Telugu states are an example wherein there are Naxal challenges during elections and thereby election officers face difficulties in executing their election duties. Hence, there is a need to bring reforms in the way elections are organised. He referred South India as a place where there is money politics and influence of rich, for instance by-elections of Kadappa and R. K. Nagar. There is a need for reforms, controlling the flow of money during elections, decreasing the election expenses incurred by the candidates, transforming, transparency, and accountability. He asserted the need of a “synchronised elections” with the slogan of “one nation - one election” as suggested by Law Commission 1999 as well Niti Aayog. The time is ripe for the government to discuss and initiate this idea so as to counter and eradicate the challenges affecting elections and democracy.

Dr. A. Nageshwar Rao highlighted the importance of democracy and political process in India. He remembered the mission and vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar wherein he gave a call i.e. One Man – One Vote – One Value and this has been upheld in all the elections held across India. The relevance of Professor Rajni Kothari was highlighted by referring to his seminal contribution in the book ‘Politics in India’ and ‘Caste Politics in India’. Considerable analysis has been carried in relation to the factors that determine the electoral behaviour of the voters. The most prominent among them is caste which ironically should have not been a determining criterion given that India’s democracy is the largest and it also contravenes to the constitutional provisions found in Representation of People’s Act – 1951. Various important aspects have been ignored such as moving away from socialistic patterns in 1952 to corporate model of elections in 2014. Changes are occurring at a fast pace and so there is need for

reforms in political process given that the basic features and aspects are taught and practised differently. Answering to the factors that change voting behaviour, the speaker mentioned that earlier it was charisma but today it is criminalisation and money power. Electoral reforms were referred such as (a) decriminalisation of politics, (b) misuse of religion for electoral gains, and (c) making bribery an in-cognisable offence. There is a need to rethink the democracy, and essential reforms have to be sought. However, in the case of upcoming Panchayat elections in the state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh pumping of money has already begun. Dr. Pulapre Balakrishnan holds a pessimist view refers to this situation as crisis of democracy and democracy at crossroads. The major challenges faced by the country are illiteracy in general and political illiteracy in particular. To understand the voting behaviour one must understand the changing factors. There is a need to overcome Political illiteracy as well as rampant corruption. In fact the voters themselves are expecting money or returns from the political parties. Further communalisation, muscle power, caste, and evading of code of conduct are the challenges. Thus there is a greater need for reworking towards making India's democracy a successful.

Dr. Syed Najiullah, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MAANU) addressed the gathering with the title "Challenges of Representative Democracy in India". By Representative Democracy he meant majority reign wherein there is limited scope for democracy and settles for a lesser form of democracy. He questioned – How representative is India's democracy? Is it the best form of democracy? In his view the lower turnout of voters, absence of parity in seat share and vote share, underrepresentation of women, underrepresentation of minorities, and influence of money are the major challenges to Indian's democracy. Issues such as 60 percent voter's turnout in elections, mismatch due to first past the post system, less percentage of vote share by the ruling party, 62 women i.e. 11.3 percentage in 2014 Lok Sabha are pertinent which have to be addressed and discussed. Perhaps there is a need to think, debate, and discuss pertaining to 33 percent reservation of women in parliament, double member constituency, representation of more minorities, and securing voice to the people.

Mr. Mohammed Rizwan Rasheed, PhD Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, UoH spoke about political representation of Muslims whereby along with highlighting the plight of underrepresentation of Muslims he also questioned the idea of representation itself. He narrated that despite there is 12.5 and 9.2 percent of Muslim population in Telangana and

Seemandhra there are only 8 out of 119 and 4 out of 175 Members of Legislative Assembly respectively. Similarly he questioned whether this is the only way to understand the idea of representation. He went into historical anecdotes by mentioning about Minto Commission wherein minority representation was thought of through the idea of separate electorate. However, various narrative leading to partition and independence of India led to the dropping of this separate electorate to minorities and providing affirmative action only to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe. Number based representation is a complex way of understanding the Muslim identity as even within them there are apprehensions as to who can represent the Muslims. The question of who represents the Muslims is of very important as there are caste and class dimensions associated even though the religion as such does not distinguish among its followers. There are Muslims belonging to Scheduled Casts and Other Backward Classes across India and the argument of collective identity of Muslims is questioned. Perhaps new ways of thinking is needed such as participating in the political process without the identity of religion but as citizen oriented participation.

Dr. Sadat made his observations by mentioning that the success of Democracy not just depends upon the powerful leader but also by catering to the delivery of public services and due respect to each and every citizen. Referring to the account of Hazrat Umar, the second Caliph of Islam where he did not use the Bayt al-mal for his own purpose patrolled the area with anonymity and successfully winning the hearts of the people. Juxtaposing with the current situation he lamented that the present governments are using public resources for winning elections, they are misusing the religion and also mishandling the technology. He mentioned that there is a psychological pressure on the minds of the voters which has resulted in a critical situation. Appropriate use of technology, songs, manifestos, and props has to be ensured by political parties.

Session II: Electoral Behaviour: Contemporary Issues

The second session of the national workshop on strategies of electoral behaviour was chaired by Prof. I. Ramabramhamam, from Department of Political Science, UoH. He remarked that elections in India are like festivals where there is entry at any given point of time and there are various stakeholders associated with the process. The chairperson mentioned electoral process as cumbersome, time consuming, eating upon populism, influencing voting behaviour, leading to segmentations of populations, and adopting various strategies.

Ms. Shabeena Begum highlighted the nature of democracy which was adopted by Indians during post 1947 period. It had the great principles of government elected by the people, having freedom, prosperity, respectable life, socialist, republic, secular, and sovereign. India is the country which has the largest democracy, system of rules by laws, protects citizens, and possesses representative democratic system. The Lok Sabha is equivalent of people's representative but there is discrepancy in women representation where they are only 11 percent of the total members. Similarly, even though the state of Uttar Pradesh has 20 percent of Muslim population, Bharatiya Janata Party, a national political party did not allow even a single Muslim to contest in the recently concluded state legislative assembly elections. There are tendencies of polarisation of votes which perhaps resulted in electoral behaviour of Muslims to elect Muslim representatives. However, these trends are threats to the world famous Ganga-Jamuna Tehzeeb.

Professor Afroz Alam mentioned that January 3, 2018 is celebrated as 187th birth anniversary of Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule and he would focus on women and their electoral behaviour. Altogether eighteen assembly constituencies from both Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh witnessed women emerging as winning candidates. Women are referred to as the greatest instruments in mobilisation of elections particularly by Brahmin-Baniya Party in securing vote banks and so was with Yadav party and Dalit party. The year 2009 was a turning point wherein there was a brain storming session that thought of how to break the winning margin given that the more or less consolidation of votes has occurred. They decided to take via route i.e. votes of the women, for instance Yadav women, Dalit women, and OBC women. They reached out to women through heightening the spirituality i.e. Jaagriti programmes. Policies such as Ujwal scheme i.e. LPG subsidy and Maternal Relief for women, Saraswati Mandir and so on resulted in large number of enrolment from women leading to change in the voting pattern.

Mr. Azhar Khan C. A. from ISEC, Bangalore after thanking the organisers for providing this valuable opportunity mentioned the significances of the electoral behaviour, the subtheme of the discipline of Political Science. He mentioned that electoral behaviour deals with the studying those factors which consequently influences and inspires voters in the given situation to vote in a particular way. It is concerned with the ways and means through which the citizens tend to cast their votes in elections and reasons why they vote the way they do. There is also a special focus on analysing the various factors or determinants of voting such as caste, community, class, religion, region, ethnicity, age, performance of government,

charisma of the leadership, party loyalty and so on. The Indian voter too gets influenced by multiple determinants wherein different factors assume the position of predominance in different regions at different times. For instance the clear majority of BJP in 2014 Lok Sabha elections was different in comparisons with elections since 1989 wherein the country witnessed a coalitional era. Along with the traditional determinants of voting some of the other factors that were repeatedly highlighted were support to SC, ST, and OBC, promise of development, decisive leadership of Narendra Modi, and anti-incumbency of UPA II. Therefore the 2014 Lok Sabha elections have signalled a paradigm shift in the voter behaviour where there is preference for good governance and development.

Mr. Azhar also highlighted some of the data pertaining to the state legislative elections that have occurred post 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Post 2014 Lok Sabha elections eighteen states have had their legislative assembly elections as of January 2018. Among them ten states are governed by BJP, two are by BJP in coalition, one by All India Trinamool Congress, one by Aam Aadmi Party, one by Left Democratic Front lead by Communist Party of India Marxist, one by All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, one by Congress, and another by congress in coalition. This clearly indicates the preferences of voters, reflects the choice of the voters, and also the voting behaviour. However, what is important is the multiple factors that determine the patterns and trends of voting in different states at given different periods of time. It would be interesting to note the developments concerning voting behaviour during upcoming state legislative elections i.e. March 2018 in Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Tripura, May 2018 in Karnataka, and December 2018 in Mizoram.

Dr. Biju B. L. from Department of Political Science, UoH presented his discussion on electoral studies and public opinion by saying that these remain secrete in public domain. The voting preference falls within the boundary of right to secrecy and therefore there are certain limitations concerning nature of voting, and open ballot experiment. First the electoral studies and public opinion assume that the election periods are the right time for measuring opinions, however not all political parties are election oriented. The secret ballot after casting either in assembly or parliamentary constituency seizes to be politics, and so is this constituency creating a new sort of opinions. Second most of the electoral studies equate electoral opinion to that of a political opinion. However, what about those individuals who either genuinely do not want to vote or see the absence of their preferred political party. Many a time, elections results in emergence and decline of political parties but some of the parties live both outside

and inside of elections such as cadre parties and movement parties. Similarly Dr. Biju highlighted about voting behaviour at different levels i.e. national, state and local. He was of the view that the study of electoral politics sometimes misses out some of these aspects while analysing the results. Hence, it is the non-core voters who decide the course of either electoral victory or electoral defeat.

Ms. N. Subhashini, Lecturer, Department of Telugu presented on the perspectives of women in electoral strategies. It was mentioned that priorities at national level might be pursued by women as like that of men, however it surely changes when it comes to the priorities at state and local level. What a woman considers and how she casts her vote depends majorly upon the socio-economic, geography, and related factors. For instance her priority would be subsidised food, gas, ration card, and housing facility i.e. mostly revolving around bread and butter. Middle class homemaker's women priorities would be subsidised higher education and job opportunities for their children. However educated working women priorities would be equal salary for equal work, regulated working hours, equality, and freedom. The need of the hour is influential women leaders as they would cater to the different perspectives of women whose emotional quotient is much higher compared with their male counterparts.

Session III: Electoral Behaviour: Challenges and Way - Out

The second session of the national workshop on strategies of electoral behaviour was chaired by Prof. G. Sudarshanam. Dr. Jaganatham from University of Gujarat who reflected on recently concluded state legislative assembly in Gujarat with the title electoral politics and alternative voices. He highlighted that Indian politics post-1947 had impacted by those who were elite, educated, and western influenced. Until 1970's India witnessed a single party domination, later moved on towards multiparty competitive system. Parties from subalterns groups too emerged during the 1990's in states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar who asserted the dominance of caste and class. In the context of Gujarat it was INC which held power till 1995 and its basis was on Khap. From 1995 till 2017 the Patel community did not support INC. Today reservations are demanded by Patels, but in 1981 they protested against reservations. The emerging leader from Patidars or Patels Mr. Hardik Patel is also opposing BJP. Three prominent leaders emerged during the 2017 Gujarat legislative assembly elections namely Hardik Patel, Jignesh Mevani, and Alpesh Thakor. They not just articulated the caste question but also argued on the class basis as well and very importantly touched upon the question of land. They highlighted issues related to annihilation of caste, distribution of

resources, land reforms, religious minorities, backward classes, as well as tribal upliftment. They united together brought the forces of alliance between Dalits and Muslims. Though the INC lacked leadership in Gujarat they were able to bring in Alpesh Thakor into their fold and complemented with central leadership with the face of Rahul Gandhi. Gujarat is one of those states where the tribal population is very significant i.e. close to 14 percent of total state population. Chhotubhai Vasava, the founder of Bharatiya Tribal Party was also given prominent focus during the elections. All these factors enabled INC to stand up and fight against BJP, which reiterates the belief that people's participation in elections can bring social, economic, and political changes.

Dr. M. A. Malik discussed about the challenges associated with electoral behaviour as well as the factors that influence the elections or electoral outcomes. He was of the view that politicians today are appealing the people through those aspects or determinants which make them sensational and emotional. He listed some of the major challenges which are undesirable factors such as (a) Illiteracy and unawareness of administrative mechanisms i.e. ignoring the aspect of power, (b) Philosophy and Value of Political Parties, (c) Money and Muscle power, (d) Philosophy and Value of Political Candidate, (e) Dominant Caste such as Kamma, Reddy and Velma, (f) Paid Media, (g), Sentiments and sensations, (h) Integrated and holistic approach is ignored. Discussing about way outs from these challenges Dr. Malik suggested the need for education and administration; awareness among the voters; questioning the news reports' real issues to be highlighted such as poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and social exclusion; not to get affected by sentiments and sensations; importance of not taking money or commodity from political parties; and accepting pluralistic values.

Katari Akhilesh Kumar, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, UoH discussing about the elections and electoral behaviour he mentioned that Indian voters exercise their choice of vote. However this is influenced by various determinants and among them the current major determinant is the role of media. Post 2014 Lok Sabha elections the exposure to media has significantly increased, and it plays a key role in determining the choice of the voters. Post-liberalisation period the range of Television channels has increased extensively, more and more of prime-time debates are occurring, television viewers has increased immensely, affected not just urban voters but also rural voters as well, newspaper readership too has improved, and all these factors have resulted in high media exposure. Professor Suhas Palshikar has written that the 2014 Lok Sabha elections were highly

mediated elections where there was ample space provided for social media, constant notifications, displaying results on the screens, web chats, live chats, tweets, and website response by political parties.

Gowd Kiran Kumar, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, UoH discussed about Other backward Classes (OBC) and their voting patterns. He mentioned that there are two broad myths associated with OBC namely (i) influence of OBC caste on politics and (ii) monolithic category of OBC voters. Analysing the voting patterns of OBC in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections it is said that INC drastically lost its share of OBC votes, while BJP significantly gained the share of OBC votes. How did OBC voted for a party which is anti-reservation and anti-Mandal commission? How BJP gained popularity among the OBC voters? The BJP was able to tactically strategies their moves in gaining OBC votes through (a) Sub-categorisation of OBC and (b) Strengthening National OBC Commission. This helped them to divide the OBC votes between lower class OBC and Upper Class OBC. During the recently concluded Gujarat legislative assembly elections three tracker polls were conducted by Lokniti-CSDS where it was analysed that initially INC is gaining popularity among Dalits and Muslims categories, but BJP was performing well among other six categories. Later it was analysed that BJP was popular among four categories while INC was also popular among other four categories. INC does not have a solid OBC leader in the state of Gujarat, and if INC has to review then it should initiate such actions which would lead them to attract and gain popularity among OBC. It was also noted that the greatest help to INC came from tribal populations under the leadership of Bharatiya Tribal Party, second by traditional vote bank, and third by concentration by Muslims. He concluded by saying that that BJP is aggressively appealing Urban OBC however OBC vote bank is not solid, very flexible, and it can move from one party to another.

Valedictory Session

Dr. G. Yadagiriremarked about the importance of media and elections in the fair and free electoral competition. In this participatory process one has to be made available such platforms, through which voters can exercise their informed choices, secure transparency, and associate closely with the electorates. Dr. Mohammed Ghouseinformed the gathering that as the electoral behaviour is rooted in the methodological individualism, the organising committee of national workshop also wanted to have a session on research methodology for studying electoral behaviour. However this remains as a gap in the proceedings of the

workshop but nonetheless all the sessions proceeded as planned and resulted in effective outcomes. He thanked all the dignitaries who attended and contributed to the proceedings of the national workshop. Special thanks were extended to Dr. K.K. Kailash mentioning that he is an asset to the Department of Political Science, UoH. Professor Afroz Alamtoo thanked the organisers and said that he experienced a different and new experience altogether. Prof. G. Sudarshanam observed that he enjoyed the association with organisers and expressed that it was a real successful workshop that discussed and deliberated on various issues and challenges. However, he felt the lack of discussion about politics of Jammu and Kashmir where there is an elected government but with very limited voter turnouts. Mr. Azhar, rapporteur of the workshop read the report of the national workshop by highlighting the discussions and deliberations carried during the daylong proceedings.

Dr. K. K. Kailash was requested to deliver the valedictory address for the national workshop on strategies of electoral behaviour. He quickly thanked all the dignitaries for putting across their respective viewpoints related to elections, democracy, participation, representation, determinants of voting, and voting behaviour. Throughout his valedictory address he focused on four major points concerning to the larger theme of national workshop. (I) Challenge of Elections, (II) Representation through elections, (III) Responsibility of the government, and (IV) Relationship between Political Parties and the Candidates.

Explaining the first of these points Dr. Kailash mentioned that elections themselves become a challenge and whether we need to have 'one nation-one election' also known as 'synchronised elections' is a matter of debate and discussion. This idea was conceived by a team of Prime Minister and National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog also has come up with a working paper. The crux of this synchronised election is to have simultaneous multiple parliamentary, legislative and Panchayati elections, minimum campaign, less disruption of governance, and one constituency for both Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections. Concerning about cost factor it is suggested to have all elections at one time as elections are costly affairs. Moving resources related to money and manpower every now and then causes disruption and waste it is suggested to have synchronised elections. Further conducting election often disrupts normal life and traffic congestion. Election Commission of India reports the list of things it has achieved by highlighting the quantities of used supplies such as Paper, Ink, Electronic Voting Machines, Ballot Papers, computers, and other machines. Simultaneously it also reports the total cost incurred in conducting the particular

elections which runs up to thousands of crores in rupees. However it was said that if India wants to claim itself as the world's largest democracy then it comes with a price which has to be borne by the government and citizens. The model code of conduct to be followed by the political parties was agreed by them and not imposed whose core feature is not to have capital expenses when elections are announced. The problem is not with electoral cycles but problem is with political parties and their few centralised leadership. It is not the problem of governance or government but of political parties and their leaders. The huge costs of democracy have to be borne. The prerogative of Prime Minister or Chief Minister to dissolve the government is the strategy of political parties which many a times constrains the autonomy of the government. Hence whose electoral cycle to follow is associated or worked with the logic of benefits. Changing institutional rules thinking of securing benefit and assuming things will work out but they may very well not be successful. For instance the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by BJP in 2000 tried to move towards a Presidential form of government through the proceedings of National Commission for Reviewing the Working of Constitution (NCRWC). It was thought of that since votes are not being concentrated it may be possible to win elections in Presidential form of government. However the idea of one nation-one election may not be good for democracy, need to constant questioning and rethinking.

Elaborating the second point Dr. Kailash mentioned that most of the time elections are perceived as a matter of representing the citizens i.e. who represents whom. However we need to constantly think through literature, can we make elections as mechanisms to hold government accountable and an apparatus to throw out those representatives who are inefficient, ineffective, and inactive. Can't elections be perceived as tools for either extending or extinguishing the support to existing governments, or as an accountability mechanism, and thereby evolving different view of election strategy?

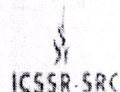
Third, whether the government should be responsive to majority of people or to as many people as possible. Elections can be viewed in two ways namely during campaign and in government. During campaign political parties try to aggregate as many voters as possible, mobilise the population, seek plurality of vote, and attempt to amass different sections of the society. However, when the political parties are in government they act in another way, not to help as many as possible, but to a majority of people. This is the contradiction of electoral versus federal system which we have to endure.

Fourth, detailing on the relationship between political parties and candidates, the focus is on representation through First Past the Post System which is oriented towards the candidate. The candidate in due course of time cultivates personal vote, however the paradox is that the more a candidate cultivates personal votes, they are highly likely to be less accountable to the political party. For instance post 2014 in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh many Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLA) observed switching from Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and INC to Telangana Rashtriya Samithi (TRS) in Telangana and from Yuva Jana Shramika Rythu Congress (YSRC) to TDP in Andhra Pradesh. Thereby candidates displayed very less connection to their respective political parties. If a candidate wants to raise their position they use party as their vehicle to launch themselves. During the bifurcation of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh even those INC members of Parliaments (MP) who were not in favour of bifurcation had to follow and abide by the party agenda.

Concluding the valedictory address Dr. Kailash threw light upon major challenges and transformations in the domain of electoral politics. He called upon constant struggle for a better means of accountable and representative form of government. Devising means to achieve better representations through elections, and thinking about elections as apparatus to hold government accountable. He upheld that we cannot do away with elections, it is the only way through which we can legitimise our leaders who would constantly quest, are accountable and representative in the journey to sustain the world's largest democracy.

The Chief Guest for the valedictory session was Professor I. Panduranga Reddy, Registrar, Palamuru University. He was delighted to take part in the valedictory session of the national workshop on Strategies of Electoral Behaviour. He also took pride in conceiving such programmes which are contemporary, relevant, and themes revolving around the society. Elections are bedrock of democracy, channel for exercising ones choice, bring change and electoral completion and very importantly voice of the people being equated to voice of God. Any democratic government should be for the people, by the people, and to the people. According to him elections, peaceful protests, and public debates are three important features of democracy. It is observed that the burdens of dissents are mostly transformed into elections alone. Voting in India is not just conscious exercise but also an emotional experience. Very importantly the hallmarks of democracy are unfettered electorates who shall pay way for the sustenance of democracy. Lastly, he congratulated the organisers of the national workshop as well as the dignitaries for the daylong deliberations and throwing light

on various dimensions of Electoral Behaviour. D. Sreepathi Naidu extended the vote of thanks and thereby concluding the valedictory session.



MV'S Govt. Degree & PG College

(Autonomous) Mahabubnagar, Telangana, India.

Affiliated to Patanjali University & Accredited with NAAC Grade B++

Website: <http://www.mvgroupofcolleges.org>

Department of Political Science

One Day National Workshop on

STRATEGIES OF ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

(Co-sponsored by Telangana State Higher Education Council, ICSSR
SRC Hyderabad and under the Patronage of Department of Political
Science, University of Hyderabad)

Background of the National Workshop

As far back as the behavioral persuasion swarmed the discipline of political science in the 1950s, observational and empirical research on political conduct and behaviour has overwhelmed in the field of academic research and motivation. Among political behaviour, the investigation of voting behaviour throughout the years has possessed a focal position, both regarding quantity and quality. Its precursors backpedalling to the start of this century, voting research at first was transcendently demographically arranged, an introduction mostly constrained upon it by the total idea of the accessible decision and evaluation information. Empowered by the rising 'behavioral influence', the utilization of opinion poll surveys and overviews immediately multiplied to wind up noticeably the overwhelming technique for request in the field of electoral research, if not in many ranges of political behaviour research.

In a democratic country like India, the word 'election' symbolizes the dynamic and direct participation of the general population of a country to form a government. It is all around acknowledged that for a vote based system to function as one, its citizens choose their representatives and, thusly, run themselves. The elections speak to the general will of the general population, as communicated in their votes. The trends of the voting and behaviour of the voters decides the factors of success and defeat of any political party. The votes of the balloters solidify into the order of the general population. Hence the peoples' mandate is the ultimate source of the power in the democratic governance. Elections are held in our country at regular intervals the main special case is the six-year term of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. By practicing their establishment, voters express their changing desires and feelings in regards to the sort of Government they want. The voters are the principle partners in a vote based system and they vote with the conviction that the

Government, as the fundamental referee without bounds of the nation and its kin, will give each subject the most ideal approaches to construct a superior nation, a better community, and a superior life. According to the Election Commission of India official website more than 6.1 Crores of voters participated in the 2014 General Elections.

The Study of Voting Behaviour

The repeating divergence bearable collection of perspectives in optional research is by a broad degree because of the way that political science does not have a stunning theory of political coordinate or a mind-boggling way to deal with its examination. Existing methodologies contrast from each other with respect to fundamental speculations of human conduct and behaviour, the orders of financial matters. Psychology and Sociology being the principle providers of such hypotheses. In the field of voting conduct this advancement prompted the foundation of obviously recognizable financial, mental, and sociological 'schools' of constituent research, which progressively ended up noticeably organised and intellectually separated from each other. While then recognising and praising the advance discretionary research has made in the fields of methodology and measurements, this will be focused and attempt of quantifying the behavioural research in the Indian context.

Electoral Behavior in India: Determinants

Parties, candidate and issues are the immediate determinants of voting behaviour. They are the intervening variables. To negotiate between the distant but more permanent sociological and political forces that operate upon the voter and his actual vote. The psychological school has concentrated on three variables: Party identification, Candidate - Orientation, and Issue of Orientation. Voters are most concerned about general issues than specific issues. Candidate-orientation means the attitude of the voter towards the personal qualities of the candidate. This can be broken up further into ones performance capabilities and personal qualities like honesty, religious devotion and so on. Candidate-orientation is a significant factor. The data pertaining to the elections and the electoral process can help us to analyse the voting behaviour of the people of India. In fact, the voting behaviour studies conducted in India have identified the following as the main political and socio-economic factors which act as determinants of voting behaviour in India.

1. Charisma, 2. Caste, 3. Religion, 4. Language, 5. Money Factor, 6. Sub-Nationalism, 7. Performance of the Party in Power, 8. Mass Literacy, 9. Factionalism, 10. Public Esteem of the Candidate, 11. Election campaigns, and 12. Current events

Objectives:

The objectives of the workshop includes;

Understand the theoretical perspectives of electoral behaviour from below (i.e. oppressed classes of the country who constitutes more than 70 percent of the country's demographic dividends. b) The making and unmaking of leadership in terms of political representation, and political participation of under-privileged classes. c) Assess the linkages between leadership and governance as widely believed that low levels of political empowerment results in inadequacies in outlays and policy outcomes for these classes. d) Evaluate the role of political parties in the advancement of leadership of oppressed classes and understand the reasons for the non-emergence of charismatic personalities. e) Examine the scientific measures in operation and steps for the documentation of physiological and other factors. f) Investigate the impediments that hamper the process of opinion and exit polls translated into mandate of the people after conduct of elections. g) Role of caste, religion and ideologies on study of electoral behaviour. h) Contemporary theories of electoral behaviour and electoral reforms. i) Role of Social media in making electoral behaviour

Broad Themes

1) Theoretical Perspectives of Electoral Behaviour 2) Determinants of Electoral Behaviour and Perspectives from below 3) Role of the State Civil Society Media and Political Parties and Electoral Reforms 4) Policy Interventions and Impact of Electoral Behaviour in the study and the Election Commission of India

Local Hospitality: Lunch and refreshments during the workshop will be provided by the organizers. The delegates are expected to take care of any additional expenditure incurred by them. Registration fee for the academicians, scholars, NGOs and other civil society organizations is as follows. This fee contains Workshop kit, hospitality, participation certificate and other contingencies.

Academicians/NGOs Bureaucrats
Research Scholars
Rs 300-00
Rs 200-00

About the College

MYS Government Arts & Science College, a sterling landmark of higher education in the district of Mahabubnagar is established in the year 1965 by the pious efforts of Sri Pallela Hanumantha Rao and other elite of the Mahabubnagar town with the prime motive of ensuring quality education within the reach of poor and down trodden rural students. The college has been incubating the most pragmatic and idealistic education to more than three thousand five hundred students in the wide spectrum of Science, Arts and Commerce, taught in English, Telugu and Urdu media. The college grew by leaps and bounds in the initial stage and successfully completed the journey of fifty years with 27 under graduate, 7 post graduate and skilled based market related annual certificate programmes. The collective vigor of these programmes has been reckoned with the accreditation of B++ status by the NAAC. This accreditation has given a major fillip to staff and students for further culminating educational excellence in the due course of time. The college has presently possessing Autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission. At present this institution has one of the most enrolled colleges in the state as much more than three thousand students are pursuing higher education.

The Historic backdrop of the College
An eminent freedom fighter, Sri Pallela Hanumantha Rao and other philanthropists of Mahabubnagar have conceived the idea of incarnating Mahabubnagar Vidhya Samithi which led to the formation of MYS Arts & Science College in the year 1965. Initially, it commenced operations as a private college which has acquired 2(i) status on 01 July 1965 and 12 (b) status on 11 June 1972. The academy public interest and local participation motivated the state government of Andhra Pradesh to take over the ownership of the college on 18 October 1978 and declared it as the Government Degree College. It was affiliated to the University Hyderabad for quite long time and ultimately decided by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to shift the affiliation to Patnam University with effect from 2013.

About the Department

The Department of Political Science started with BA (H) & MPhil in the year 1965. At present the students in the department are 174. The department has successfully completed Minor Research Projects sponsored by UGC, SERP, Hyderabad and certain students of the department engaged in Socio-economic surveys of households in the district. The success rate of projects are about 85 percent and most of the successful students of the department are in good career positions in India and abroad. The department is looking to introduce Post Graduate course in coming academic year and related certificate courses with the help of ICNOD and other market related certificate courses.

Organizing Committee
Chief Patron
Prof. G. Sudarshana, (Retd.)
Dept. of Political Science, UoM

Patrons
Dr. K. V. Ratnam, Dept. of Political Science, UoM
Dr. E. Venkatesh, Dept. of Political Science, UoM

Convener
Dr. Mohammed Ghous, Asst. Professor & POF
Dept. of Political Science

Organizing Secretary
D. Sirepathi Naidu, Asst. Professor
Department of Political Science

Co-conveners
Ragnavender Reddy
Logistics Committee
Dr. J. Venkateswaram, Dr. V. Geetha Nani

Co-conveners
Dr. B. Sanjiv, P. Varadachari
G. Ravi Kumar
Arfa Jabeen, Ameen Sultana, G. Sukanya

Important Dates of the Workshop
Last Date for Registration
25 December 2017
Information of Acceptance of Registration
1st January, 2018
Date of National Workshop
1st January, 2018
Venue: New Seminar Hall, MYS CODE (at Mahabubnagar, Telangana)

Contact Details
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Assistant Professor &
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Dept. of Political Science
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STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE & UTILIZATION CERTIFICATE

1. NCPUL file No.: f.no.4-5/2015/GIA/NCPUL-13
2. Title of the Seminar: Mujada Daur Mein Samaji Uloom Ki Afadiyat-o- Ahmiyat**
3. Name of the Convener: Dr. Mohammed Ghose
4. Number of Participants: 200 Venue: MVS Govt.Degree & PG College,
5. Duration of the Activity (with dates): 23-02-2015 Monday

Sl No	Description	Receipt No	Amount (Rs.)	Remarks
1	TA/DAOf Participants (Guests)	Vouchers Enclosed.	13,039-00	
2	Honorarium of Scholarly Papers along with Keynote Address	Vouchers Enclosed.	17,000-00	
3	Purchase of Bags and Seminar kits	Voucher Enclosed.	10,500	
4	TOTAL	-----	40539-00	
5	Grant Received	-----	20,000-00	
6	Balance to be received	-----	20,000-00	

It is certified that the amount of Rs40, 539 (Rupees Forty thousand five hundred thirty nine) out of the total grant of Rs40, 000 (Rupees forty thousand) sanctioned to the.Dept.Of Social Sciences MVS GOVT. Degree & PG College Mahabub Nagar by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language NewDelhi. Vide its letter No f.no.4-5/2015/GIA/NCPUL-13 dated 30 Jan.2015 under Financial Assistance for Seminar scheme. The above said amount has been utilized for the purpose of which it was sanctioned and in accordance with the terms and conditions as laid down by the Council.

If as a result of check or audit objection, some irregularities are noticed at a later stage, action will be taken for refund, adjustment or regularization.

Name and signature of Convener/Organizing Secretary

Name & Signature of Head of College (with seal)

Signature of the Govt. Auditor/Chartered Accountant (with seal)

Govt. of Telangana State
Department of Collegiate Education

From:
Dr. G. Yadagiri, Msc, PhD.
Principal
M.V.S. Govt. Degree College
Mhabubnagar

To:
The Director
RCUES
Osmania University
Hyderabad

Sir,

Sub: M.V.S. Govt. Degree College, Mahabubnagar- Conduct of One Day National Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Public Administration" on 07-09-2017- Submission of Report- Utilization Certificate and list of Scholars etc.-Reg

Ref: 3. Your Office Letter, f.no.4-4/2016/MAIN/GIA/NCPUL
4. Bank Statement of First installment

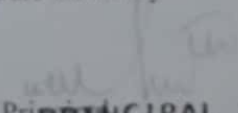
Kind reference is invited to the subject and reference cited above. I herewith submit that our college was sanctioned an amount of 60,000 (Sixty Thousand) only, vide reference 1st cited above, for conducting One Day National Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Public Administration". Accordingly our college received an amount of Rs 30,000 (Thirty Thousand) only, vide ref 2nd cited above, through NEFT transfer on 11-07-2017 as first installment for organizing the seminar. The College approached Regional Centre for Urban and Environment Studies Osmania University, Hyderabad for financial assistance and they sanctioned Rs 10,000/- as financial assistance for conducting the one day seminar.

In this regard, I am herewith submitting, a copy of the invitation card, brochure, report of the seminar, photos, News Paper Cuttings, Utilisation Certificate, list of scholars participated and presented papers, particulars of payment & Receipts for Rs72,716/- (Rupees Seventy two thousand seven hundred sixteen only) for your perusal. Rs 61,386/- bills are in original and Rs 11,330/- bills (original bill submitted to RCUES Hyderabad) are in photocopy form audited by Chartered Accountant.

Thanking you Sir,

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully


Principal
MVS Govt. Arts & Science
Degree & PG College (A)
Christian Pally, Mahabubnagar



MVS GOVT. DEGREE & PG COLLEGE MAHABUBNAGAR, TELANGANA. NATIONAL SEMINAR

On: **IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES ISSUES & PERSPECTIVE**

23rd February 2015

Sponsored by National Council of Promotion of Urdu Language,
Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. Of India (New Dehli)

Organized by: **Department of Social Sciences**



قومی سمینار "سماجی علوم کی اہمیت: مسائل اور امکانات"

زیر اہتمام: شعبہ سماجی علوم ایم وی ایس گورنمنٹ ڈگری کالج محبوب نگر



بہ اشتراک: قومی کونسل برائے فروغ اردو زبان، نئی دہلی

This is to certify that Kum./Sri./Smt./Dr./.....
.....has participated in the
one day National Seminar "Importance of Social Sciences Issues & Perspectives" on 23 February
2015. He / She has presented a paper entitled.....

Dr. Muhammad Ghouse
Convener

Dr. G. Yadagiri
Chairman & Principal