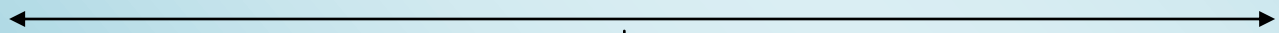


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal of
Social Science & Humanities*

Chief Editor

Dr Rama Singh



Publisher

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Malik

Associate Editor

Dr. Nagendra Mani Trapathi

Honorary

Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik

NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
International
Research Journal Consortium



Welcome to NAIRJC

ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

North Asian International Research Journal Social Science and Humanities is a research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

Editorial Board

J.Anil Kumar Head Geography University of Thirvanathpuram	Sanjuket Das Head Economics Samplpur University	Adgaonkar Ganesh Dept. of Commerce B.S.A.U, Aruganbad
Kiran Mishra Dept. of English,Ranchi University, Jharkhand	Somanath Reddy Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga University.	Rajpal Choudhary Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner Rajasthan
R.D. Sharma Head Commerce & Management Jammu University	R.P. Pandday Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman University	Moinuddin Khan Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity Rajasthan.
Manish Mishra Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU Lucknow	K.M Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	Ravi Kumar Pandey Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad
Tihar Pandit Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir.	Simnani Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree College Pulwama, University of Kashmir.	Ashok D. Wagh Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy, B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane, Maharashtra.
Neelam Yaday Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Nisar Hussain Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College (U.P) Kanpur University	M.C.P. Singh Head Information Technology Dr C.V. Rama University
Ashak Hussain Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald. Kanpur University	Khagendra Nath Sethi Head Dept. of History Sambalpur University.	Rama Singh Dept. of Political Science A.K.D College, Ald.University of Allahabad

Address: - Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No. 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815,

Email: nairjc5@gmail.com , nairjc@nairjc.com , info@nairjc.com Website: www.nairjc.com

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING IN A DEMOCRACY

DR MALLIKARJUN I MINCH*

*Assistant Professor, Department Of Political Science, G P Porwal Arts Com And V V Salimath Science, College Sindagi-586128, Dist-Vijayapur, (Karnataka)

ABSTRACT

Democracy is defined that the people govern themselves through representatives duly elected by them. When the elected representatives run the government, it is called representative democracy. Most of the modern democracies are representative democracies. The idea is that politically all people are equal and must be given the right to decide the formation of the government. In democracy, political parties have an important role. Democracy is not possible without political parties. During the elections, these parties select their candidates who contest the elections from their representative constituencies. The party that gets the maximum number of candidates elected is invited to form the government. The other parties from the opposition. The leader of the elected party becomes the Prime Minister. Every democratic system holds election periodically to choose its representatives as modern states cannot have direct democracy. Elections are the means through which the electorate can select their representatives. Election is very significant for a democratic country as the people feel that they are important. It is the electorate who decide who should be in power. People having the right to vote.

Key words; Democracy, voting, People Participation, Equal vote, Decision making

INTRODUCTION

Voting dates back to elections held in ancient Greece, ancient Rome and throughout the Medieval period. It is a right that, throughout history, our founding fathers have fought for and sacrificed everything to achieve. One man. One vote is the fairest method to choose leaders in any democratic society. Voting is patriotic right to choose your representative government. A citizen's vote is a secret ballot. Voting is the most important exercise a citizen will do as a responsible citizen of a democratic nation. In a functioning democracy, being able to vote allows citizens to express their political opinions by voting a particular policy or candidate that has your best interest in mind. The American constitution conferred voting rights to women only in 1919. Ehen they adopted the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. In Switzerland voting rights to women was granted in 1971. In England it gave women right to vote through women Franchise Act of 1919 Indian constitution allowed equal voting rights to both men and women right from the adoption of the constitution. However, franchise is denied to women in most of the African countries such as Iraq sudan Nigeria Uganda . Voting is a right of all eligible voters in any country. It is seen as the normal or typical form of political activity and it remains the primary means of political participation. The goal of any voting system is to establish the intent of each individual voter and translate those intents into a final tally or reality. According to Abraham Lincoln; No man is good enough to govern another man without that other consent this further explains that in a truly democratic society, governments are instituted

among qualified and responsible men who derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Another ex-American president, Lyndon Johnson have this to say in support of Abraham Lincoln that The right to vote is the most basic right, without which all others are meaningless.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

- the rule of law that nobody and no authority is higher than the law of the land, all fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and expressions, freedom of religion and conscience,
- freedom of assembly and civil liberties are assured and guaranteed to all citizens in the country, citizens rights cannot be infringed upon by anybody
- independence of the judiciary, separation of powers and check and balances of all the public authorities, transparency of the government to the citizens about its functions and programmes, periodic free and fair elections to be conducted by an independent electoral body,
- recognition that citizens have a right and a responsibility to play a part in government and in social community, a multiple political system with equality of opportunities,
- opinion, ideas and prospects that will benefit all the citizens and not only selected flews assigning some developing countries of Africa

IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

Voting has great importance in democracy. The citizens must be very careful while voting for a candidate. They must vote for an honest, selfless and competent candidate. The contestant should have a secular outlook. One must not vote in favour of a candidate who believes in regionalism. Candidates who are under the influence of any particular caste or religion and profess to promote only that caste or community do not believe in preserving national integrity. Such narrow-minded people cannot serve the people impartially. We should not vote for any candidate in return for any personal favour and should not succumb to any temptation.

While considering a candidate we must also make sure that the party he belongs to believes in the well-being of the people and would do nothing to harm the integrity of the nation. In a true democratic society, it is essential to ensure a government that follows the will of the people and not the one that force the people to follow it, that is, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people as said by Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg address which lasted a little over two minutes on November, 19, 1863. Democracy is not government of some people by some people and for some people as a frequent practice in some developing nations. Democracy is a nation ruled by its citizens. The beauty of democracy is that the minority will have their say but the majority will have their way.

Functioning democracy implies where the people approve to the government operating the nation. All eligible voters are given chance to select their leader through their right to vote and to be voted for. In a truly democratic society, the representative or candidates who have been elected are liable in many ways to the people

who voted and elected them. They have to implement those pledges made during elections with much transparency, accountability and good governance

Voting help to us to have new set of people representing us with fresh new ideas to help heal the damage that their predecessor shaves done. Meanwhile, on the other hand a citizen that just decides not to vote without reasonable reason is a plain ignorance. Apathy to voting may be due to lack of willingness or illiteracy. Inaction does not breed change, but only worsen the situation. The citizen's apathy or laziness to show up and make their votes count is frequently lead to country in a very vulnerable and perilous position due to incompetent and irresponsible leaders.

If you had done vote during an election, you are surely voting indirectly against democracy and making way for irresponsible leaders. By not voting, you give away your right to influence the government overall. According to Smith stein if you decide not to vote, you are taking away the .will of the majority that governs, but replaces it with the will of the minority It is essential that registering and voting are really ways that we can control the way we live in a democratic dispensation. The sheer volumes of non-voters simply destroy democratic process making it gradually slip away. Your only vote can make a difference because many local elections can be decided by just a single, solitary vote or handful of votes. If you did vote, it encourages bad officials.

Voting is for most Way to exhibit good citizenship and civil responsibility. People should get involved in elections and educated in all political measures. By this they become good and responsible participatory citizens. We should always remember that some people sacrifice their lives to preserve our freedom and let us have this voting opportunity as our sacred right. True democracy demands the involvement of the people otherwise in absence of that there is no democracy.

ADVANTAGES OF VOTING

- Voting is the first duty of democracy. Government is based on citizen's votes for representation. In a democracy, your vote is your voice and the act of standing up for what you believe.
- Voting helps to preserve our way of life. In a perfect democracy, voting is the opportunity to elect or re-elect government officials and allows you to have a voice at any level of government and the areas that affect the life of citizens.
- Voting helps to eliminate the threat of a tyrannical government. A vote cast today has a way of having impact to the present and future generations that follow. The responsibility to be a good citizen and citizenship requires voting during an election.
- Voting gives the population an equal opportunity completely blind of sex, race, origin, education in contributing to community development. This explains the argument that without freedom of information, our choices are distorted.
- Voting helps to shape public policy on a local and national level especially when you a well informed about the government activities. Voting for a candidate with little or no chance of winning or for the lesser of two evils is both a privilege and obligation in a democratic republic.

- Voting is gathering of human experiences in determine the future of a particular nation. Voting in an election shows your commitment and care about your community, by this, you become engage with diverse people of the society and the activities of the nation in general.
- Voting is the best way to influence the nation in which we live. Your vote holds your state and national leaders responsible for the decisions they make. Voting gives true meaning to the immortal words of Abraham Lincoln that You can fool some of the people all of the time and all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time Eligible and responsible voters always take their time, to read the parties programmes and agendas, study the candidates ideas, integrity, capabilities, personal records, their future plans and how they stand on public issues.
- It is always advisable to vote for credible people or candidates and not political parties as this determine the faith of the nation. It is the law of the nature that those who vote for a candidate for money, out of anger, ignorance, race, sex or ignorance will surely get what they voted for. The result is inept and corrupt leaders and politicians.
- The positive impacts of eligible voters in electoral process make voting important. A country democracy and people choice depends on voting. So we should take the initiative to vote for someone that reflects our overall views. Your vote affirms your rights as free citizens to elect your representative and take part in democracy. The truth is that your vote count and it can make a difference every time you cast your vote. Without voting, definitely, there will be no democracy to talk about.

VOTING IN A DEMOCRACY

It is extremely essential for every citizen to cast his vote in an election. But a large number of people in our country give election the least priority. Many literate and backward people do not understand the importance of voting. They are ignorant about their rights. There are many reasons as to why such people do not vote. Often they are not aware of politics and are not acquainted with the names of the candidates. Therefore, they do not care to vote. Some feel that they have no personal gain and so do not care about the candidates and party that comes to power. Some people are simply lazy and give many lame excuses. But this only shows that such people are irresponsible and lack civic sense.

The Government is useless, there is nothing they can do to make our lives better, the rising prices, the unemployment, the escalating crime rate they have no answers a better candidate would have won, and maybe he would have taken some effective measures for improvement. Unless you vote you just can't blame the government, because you have failed your duties .Well if you are one of those people who think voting is a waste of time and keep on complaining about how the government is a complete failure; then it is time you realize the importance of voting, and do your bit towards enhancing the government function Be it an election for a commissioner, governor, state official, legislator or president - it is the people of a nation who have the right to put-forward policies that will affect the town, your job, your country, your taxes through the governing bodies.

Electoral reforms have occupied the central stage in Indian politics, many commissions are appointed reforms are suggested and laws reviewed to make further improvement. Review and reform go hand in hand, many

committees were appointed so far to bring about reforms in elections It includes the Goswami committee the Indrajit Gupta Committee on State funding of election and the law commission National Review commission was appointed to review the working of the constitution it identify the problems and suggest reforms. It has given many suggestions to reforms the electoral system. Such as use of electronic voting machines, Identity cards, multipurpose cards.

Voting ensures that your opinion is taken into account while appointing the person who holds the reins of power. People who are elected have the power to formulate educational policies which are instrumental in shaping the future of children and hence the future of the nation itself. Health care, highways, jobs, taxes or even food, the elected representatives have the power to take decisions over some of the most vital issues in our life. So would you be comfortable in letting "anybody" takes over these powers, without exercising your right to vote.

CONCLUSION

Voting is one of the fundamental processes, which is instrumental in the development of a healthy democracy. When a person does not vote that one individual citizen does not participate with the electoral process. Our democracy would end. Democracy by its very nature needs the participation of the people, without that there is no democracy. When one does not cast a vote it does not mean that that voter still does not influence the election as much as any other voter. It still counts, as a vote against democracy and a vote for whatever thug want to try to rule. Informed voters who care are the backbone of the electorate. Voters who take their time, read the issues, study the candidates and decide the faith of the nation are the one who are going to lead this nation to a higher brighter place. Those who vote out of hate, anger or ignorance will get what they vote for. When casting a vote one is becoming engaged with the people of the nation. There are several ways to approach one voting but the important thing is that voting brings about engagement, and once engaged a voter can start to learn what it mean to be a citizen of a democracy. It is only through voting that a person can learn this, and this process takes years to get a handle on When a citizen of a democracy is more aware of the their own feelings and wants the voting process becomes more real, a tangible way to influence the nation in which we live. The more we vote the more this becomes real and concrete. Voting loses its "what difference does one vote make." the more one votes and participates in the leading of our nation. Informed, uninformed, old, young, and in-between voting is in itself an education, a knowledge gathering human experience. Just do it. The more a voter cast their vote the more the significance of voting becomes. Go to the poll and vote and the process takes over. We are all being human when we desire to vote. It is a very human solution to a complicated system of rules and processes. Voting is the most important thing a citizen will do as a citizen of a democratic country. It is an imperfect system with flaws and imperfections. It will always be imperfect. Voting is not a precise science; it is an intellectual, emotional event that takes participation to experience. All the yelling at a television set will not change on thing in this nation. It is in the action of going to the polls, mailing in the ballot, and waiting for the results that make the experience worthwhile, and also builds a nation and leads it to what is best for the people. And only the people can decide make voting important.

REFERENCES

- ❖ Banerjee, A.C., The Making of the Indian Constitution, 1939-1947. A Mukherjee & Co., Calcutta, 1948, Vol.
- ❖ Dash.S.C., The Constitution of India, Chaitanya Publishing House, Allahabad, 1968.
- ❖ Gajendragadkar, P.B., The Constitution of India: Its Philosophy and Basic Postulates Oxford University ,1975
- ❖ Kamal, K.L., Party Politics in an Indian State, S.Chand & Co., Delhi, 1970Press, Bombay, 1969
- ❖ Krishna Shetty, M.P., Fundamental Rights and Socio-economic Justice in the Indian Constitution, , Chaitanya Publishing House, Allahabad, 1969
- ❖ Menon, V.K.N., India Since Independence: From the Preamble to the Present, S.Chand & Co., New Delhi, 1970.

Publish Research Article

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication.

**Address:- Dr. Ashak Hussain Malik House No-221, Gangoo Pulwama - 192301
Jammu & Kashmir, India**

Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570,

Ph No: 01933212815

Email: nairjc5@gmail.com, nairjc@nairjc.com, info@nairjc.com

Website: www.nairjc.com

