

Electoral Behaviour and Voting Pattern of women in Ajmer Tehsil:(A Geographical Analysis)

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ABSTRACT: Electoral Geography is the sub field of Political Geography which deals with all election process within geographical area. This paper discuss about voting behaviour in general and voting pattern of women in Ajmer Tehsil.Electoral geography is the analysis of the methods, the behaviour, and the results of elections in the context of geographic space and using geographical techniques. In any democratic country voting is very important political process and it is the only right of common people to participate in the formation of government. Voting behaviour means how an individual make up their mind to vote and this voting behaviour influenced by somesocial and psychological factors. The present study is based on field survey, primary data and secondary data as well collectedfrom published documents, newspapers, articles various journals etc. Ajmer is the heart of Rajasthan and 135 kms form the capital city Jaipur. It is surrounded by Aravalli hills with total area 8481sq kms.

Keywords:Electoral Geography, VotingBehaviour, Voting pattern, social factors, psychological factors

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I. INTRODUCTION

Electoral geography is the sub field of Political Geography deals with all election processes like spatial distribution of voters, voting behaviour pattern, election results with in geographical area. "Electoral Geography is a constituent component of politicalgeography, a science which study development of all political processes inside geographical space" (Alexander Kireev).Earlier study of electoral geography was made by the French geographer 'Andre Seigfried' in 1913 he was considered as the Father of Electoral Geography. Cox , Sauer , Johnston , Pattie , R.D. Dixit and Sudhipta Adhikari these are some geographers who worked in the field of Electoral geography. "Electoral geography tends to studies to geographical aspect of organisation, conduct and result of election". (Prof. Nizammudin Khan and Md. Motibur Rahman2015). Electoral geography is integrated science because it deals with all social, political, psychological and economic factors of election with in geographical space."The electoral geography emphasis on the spatial location, distribution and interrelationships of economic groups, living in the physical settings within its limited resources base".(Seema2014).This paper discusses voting behaviour in general and voting pattern of women of Ajmer Tehsil. The study of voting behaviour and voting pattern is very important and large field of electoral geography and political geography.Voting behaviour is about how people tend to vote, why they do so, their choices and preferences and voting pattern.Some social (caste, education, age, gender, economy etc.) and psychological (based on information and knowledge of an individual about particular candidate) factors affect voting behaviour of an individual.

II. STUDY AREA

Ajmer is a city in the centre of Rajasthan. It is 135 kms west of capital city Jaipur situated in a valley surrounded by Aravalli hills with total area 8481 sq. kms. Ajmer lies between 25 38' and 26 58' N latitudes and 73 54' and 75 22'East longitudes. The district has no natural division. Its boundaries are territorial and composed of four sub divisions namely Ajmer, Beawar,Kekri,and Kishangarh. It is pilgrimage centre for the Shrine of the Sufi Saint Khawaja Moinudin Chishti and also bases for visiting Pushkar an ancient Hindu pilgrimage city .According to the 2011 census total population of around 5,51,360. The climate of Ajmer is semiarid and hot and the city experiences more than 55 cms of rain annually.



Objectives

- 1) To analyse the voting pattern of women in Ajmer Tehsil.
- 2) To identify the determinants of voting behaviour.

III. METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary data, field survey and secondary data sources (internet, journals, books, articles from published documents).

Voting Behaviour

In democratic countries like India, voting is important political process. Voting refers to elect a representative by casting a vote in election. Our constitution give each and every citizen of India a right of Universal Adult Franchise that means every adult who is 18 and above 18 has right to vote. The process of voting is influenced by voting behaviour of an individual. Voting Behaviour means how voters make up their mind to vote, their choices, preferences, why do they follow particular candidate and their voting pattern. Voting behaviour studies open windows on the minds of the millions of people who are involved in the political process as voters (Biraj Hazarika 2015). Voting Behaviour of an individual is influenced by some Social and Psychological factor and these are also called determinants of voting behaviour. These factors affect voting

behaviour of an individual and ultimately affect political system and government. The main social determinants of voting behaviour are -:

Caste

Castism is in the roots of Indian society .In our Puranas we have Varna System. When India got its independence this castism also got uprooted but after 69 years of independence this castism is still in our society.Castism has deep impact on our election because some people caste their vote keeping caste factor in their mind .If a candidate belongs to their caste they caste their vote to the candidate irrespective of anything.The political parties follow castism and form their strategies and policies according to caste. Even candidates get selected keep caste factor in mind so that they easily manipulate voters and voters on the basis of caste can easily connect to the candidate. Gradually this castism becomes one of the importantdeterminants of voting behaviour.

Charismatic Personality of the Candidate

The strong and charismatic personality of a particular candidate their thoughts and solutions over some issues and their ability to understand the problems of voters are also taking into consider by voters. Many times candidates won just because of their charismatic personality irrespective of which party they belong , their party wins or not or they are individual candidate .

Age and Gender

Age is becoming important determinant of voting behaviour. Voters mostly vote mature candidate because they find mature candidate more competent as comparison to young or old candidates. Old voters are rigid in their thoughts and they vote the same party which they follow from years. Young voters observe the candidates and manifesto of parties, before casting their votes they think and check candidate's ability, willingness to work and calibre rather following the same party. Many women vote under influence of their family or husband and if their family are party biased they follow the same.

Education

Level of education is important determinant of voting behaviour because illiterate people vote under influence .They have group discussion in their respective places at the time of election and this discussion will be at their home or their work place they don't vote according to their will rather they vote according to the head.

Money

If we talk about voting behaviour money is important determinant. Money play very significance role in election if we talk about India .Parties spent lots of money on election campaigns and they offer money to poor voters and poor voters get attracted towards them and they cast their vote on behalf of money .With the help of this money political parties solve immediate problems of people, offer them liquor and people don't use their minds and vote blindly without thinking the consequences of it.

Psychological Determinants

It includes how an individual takes and understand politics. Voting behaviour differs from individual to individual because information of each and every individual regarding a candidateand their beliefs and thoughts about why they select particular candidate is also different. The other thing related to psychology which affect voting behaviour is negative impact of a candidate, if at the time of election voter have negative information about the candidate, it turn voter to vote against the candidate, here hate factor works and voter vote in favour of opposite candidate because our brain remember negative things easily as compare to positive things. Sometimes voters vote those candidates who share their life to people because they connect their life to candidate's life and these similarities are only in perception not in reality. Psychological factors are only perception based and it differs from individual to individual.

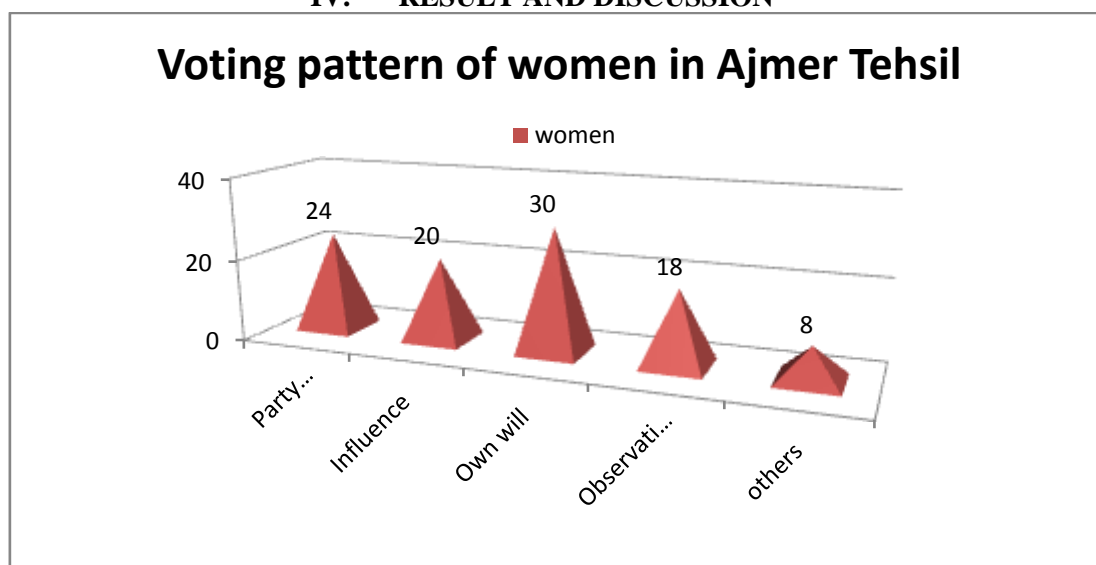
Some other determinants of voting behaviour are also present like (1) Distance- if at the time of election polling booths are very far, some voters drop the idea of casting the voters and other thing is that if voter is out of town, he/she doesn't vote due to distance.(2)Climate-if it's toohot,too cold or its raining some voters doesn't come out from their houses to cast their voters. These factors affect voting behaviour of an individual and ultimately affect political system and government.

Voting Pattern

To identify the voting pattern of women we conduct a pilot study of Ajmer Tehsil and we asked some questions from womenthat on what basis they vote:

- 1) Are they influenced by their family while casting their vote?
- 2) Are they biased to particular candidate or party?
- 3) Do they vote according to their own will?
- 4) Do they observe the candidate whether he or she is eligible as a representative?

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION



1. 24% women say that they are Party Biased.
2. 20 % women are influence by their family or husband.
3. 30% women vote according to their own will.
4. 18% women vote after observing candidates and
5. 8% women categorized in others because they are not interested in voting or they don't vote for some reasons like they don't have voter identity card.

The pilot study of women to identify the voting pattern clearly show that whether women are party biased or influence with their family but still large percent of women vote according to their own will or choices. It means now women are taking interest in election, they are aware of their right to vote and they understand the importance of casting a vote. Now they don't take casting a vote like burden they use their mind, think about their choices and vote only to those candidates who are really wanted to work for people and for solving the problems and issues of people

V. CONCLUSION

In India election is very important political process because with the help of these elections, citizens of India can show and apply their political views. In India government is "For the people, By the people and To the people" and elections show the choices of common people and casting a vote is the only right of the common people to participate in government making, so these determinants of voting behaviour like caste, education, personality, age and gender should be ignore by us as a citizen of India and to ignore psychological determinants we have proper knowledge regarding elections, its process and our role in elections. We don't believe whatever we heard about candidates from others, it is our duty to check candidate's history, his/her ability, willingness to work and don't get influenced from other thoughts and take our own decisions so that constructive and balanced elections take place and political parties don't make their policies keeping in mind these factors which affect voting behaviour of an individual. If we want that, India continue as a democratic country we all must ignore these undemocratic means and make election a healthy and transparent process.

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