ONE NATION ONE ELECTION- A STUDY OF SPECIAL REFERENCE WITH INDIA

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Abstract

The Democratic authority flows from people to government. The government is run by the representative after the elections. Please government thought elected by the people have to function through respecting the wishes of the people and carrying their mandate. Opinion is an important device of popular control public opinion is opinion consisting of views on matters that are open to discussion. It relates to the views people entertain the policies of the Government and how they are implemented. Democracy has many shortcomings. Modern democracy stamp form the tyranny of the majority which tries to stream roll the minority. Each political party with the ultimate aim of capturing power places facts figures and comments before the public so that the public becomes convinced about the correctness of its stand on public issues. In Indian context India is on democratic country. Democracy government is based on consent and is amendable to public criticism. Hands democracy can be viewed non- autocracy. Notes of political system categorised by the absence of personal power and moral particularly a system that brings on the principle that no one can proclaim himself ruler that no one can hold power is irrevocably in his own name. Democracy is based on the principle of equality. It is a partnership among equals. Invalid box not invalid apps it is a post to militarism vote try to choose a elect a government by the citizens. Local self government is called the foundation of national democracy India has 28 states and its union territories with a total of 36 in titles. India we have covering administrative divisions and each state has their own government. India follows the principle of universal adult suffrage. We have right to vote is irrespective of cost grade religion or gender there are 7 types of election in Indian system President of India vice President of India member of parliament in Rajyasabha and Loksabha member of state legislative assembly member of local government bodies by election is held when a seat holder of a any specific constitutional is disqualified. India follow one nation one reduction system it could be druggist and laser change in Indian election system there are lots of cross and cons of one word one nation it will help to reduce time money correction disorder dysfunction less percentage of voting competition and it increase the good percentage of voting behaviour equality of leadership good approach behaviour of population for voting interest save money save time screen of leader it will have to give changes for local party to take part in elections there are so many pros and cons for one both and one nation. A great deal has been written and said on the advantages and disadvantages of simultaneous elections ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi began to speak of this tradition as a piece of good fortune.

Definition of Government:

The term "government" generally refers to the system or body that has the authority to make and enforce laws and decisions for a particular country or community. It is a crucial aspect of organized societies, ensuring order, justice, and the well-being of its citizens. In the context you provided, it highlights the idea that a country is essentially a large community, and to maintain harmony and regulate affairs within this community, governance is necessary. The main purposes and functions of a government typically include maintaining law and order, protecting citizens' rights, providing public services, managing the economy, and representing the country in international matters. The three forms of government mentioned—democracy, autocracy, and oligarchy represent different ways in which political power is distributed and exercised within a society: Democracy: In a democratic system, power is vested in the hands of the people. Citizens have the right to participate in decision-making processes, typically through voting in elections. It emphasizes the principles of equality, freedom, and representation. Autocracy: In an autocratic system, power is concentrated in the hands of a single leader or a small group of individuals. The decision-making authority is centralized, and there is often limited or no input from the general population. Oligarchy: Oligarchy refers to a system where power is held by a small, privileged group or class. This could be based on wealth, social status, or other criteria. The decision-making is typically in the hands of a few influential individuals. Studying these different forms of government helps individuals understand the diverse ways in which societies can be organized and governed. Each form has its strengths and weaknesses, and the choice of a particular system often reflects the values and priorities of a given society (Guaba 2019).

Why we require government:

A government is a complex and organized system that holds authority over a specific geographic area, commonly a country or state. It is comprised of individuals, institutions, and structures responsible for managing and overseeing various aspects of society. The fundamental principles and guidelines by which a government operates are typically outlined in a constitution or a set of laws. The primary responsibilities of a government include ensuring social welfare, maintaining law and order, managing defense and security, and handling financial affairs. Governments are essential for providing a framework for society to function smoothly, resolving conflicts, and addressing the needs of the population (Sobhan 1993).

Governance, in the context of government, involves the processes and structures through which decisions are made

and implemented. It encompasses the formulation and execution of policies, laws, and regulations that impact the daily lives of citizens. Good governance is often characterized by transparency, accountability, rule of law, and responsiveness to the needs of the people. The functioning of a government involves a variety of branches, such as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, each with distinct roles and responsibilities. Additionally, governments may be organized at different levels, including local, regional, and national levels, depending on the administrative structure of the country (Bandyopadhaya 2006).

Political discussions, policy debates, and public reactions often revolve around government actions and decisions, as they play a crucial role in shaping the direction and development of a society. Government policies, such as demonetization and tax reforms like the Goods and Services Tax (GST), can have significant impacts on the economy and the daily lives of citizens, leading to widespread discussions and debates in the media and public forums.

Certainly, you've highlighted some crucial responsibilities of a government. Let's delve a bit deeper into each of these areas:

Ensuring Security:

Legislation: Governments formulate and enforce laws to maintain law and order within society. Legislation provides a framework for the functioning of the legal system and helps address issues ranging from criminal activities to civil disputes.

Law Enforcement: The establishment and management of an efficient police force are essential for enforcing laws and ensuring the safety of citizens.

Defense Forces: Governments are responsible for national defense, which involves maintaining a strong and capable military to protect the country from external threats (Myneni's, 2008).

Providing Civic Amenities and Infrastructure:

Healthcare: Governments are often involved in providing healthcare services to citizens, ensuring access to medical facilities, and implementing public health initiatives.

Education: Governments invest in educational infrastructure, formulate education policies, and ensure access to quality education for all citizens.

Infrastructure Development: Building and maintaining roads, bridges, public transportation, and other essential infrastructure contribute to the overall development and well-being of the society.

Managing the Economy:

Inflation Control: Governments implement monetary policies to control inflation and stabilize the economy. This involves regulating the money supply, interest rates, and other economic indicators.

Foreign Reserves: Maintaining sufficient foreign reserves is crucial for stabilizing the national currency and meeting international obligations.

Foreign Investments: Governments often work to attract foreign investments to stimulate economic growth and create job opportunities.

Environmental Protection:

Water and Air Quality Management: Governments implement measures to protect local and international waters and improve air quality through regulations and enforcement.

Wildlife Conservation: Setting up wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas helps preserve biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

Renewable Energy: Investing in renewable sources of energy and sustainable practices contributes to environmental conservation and reduces reliance on non-renewable resources.

These responsibilities collectively contribute to the overall well-being, stability, and sustainable development of a nation. Effective governance requires a balance between these various facets to ensure a thriving and resilient society (Guaba 2019).We can see these characteristics in the democracy system.

Democracy is a form of government in which the people of a country participate in decision-making processes, particularly in the selection of leaders and the formation of the government. Here are key aspects of democracy:

Citizen Involvement:

Elections: Citizens have the right to vote in regular elections to choose their representatives, who will then form the government.

Political Parties: Multiple political parties compete for the support of the electorate, each with its own vision and policies.

Universal Suffrage: In a true democracy, the right to vote is typically extended to all eligible citizens, regardless of wealth, social class, or race (Biju, 2008).

Formation of Government:

Majority Rule: A democratic government is formed when a political party or coalition receives the majority of votes

in an election. The winning party or coalition is then entrusted with the responsibility of governing.

Forms of Democracy:

Republic: A form of democracy in which the head of state is elected, rather than being a monarch.

Constitutional Monarchy: A system where there is a monarch as the head of state, but their powers is limited by a constitution, and there is an elected parliament.

Presidential System: The head of state and head of government are the same person, typically elected independently of the legislature.

Parliamentary System: The head of state and head of government are separate, and the head of government (usually a prime minister) is accountable to the legislature.

Protection of Minority Rights:

Democracies often incorporate mechanisms to protect the rights of minority groups and ensure that the majority does not infringe upon the rights of the minority (Dalal, 2015).

Rule of Law:

Democracies are characterized by the rule of law, where laws apply equally to all citizens, including those in positions of power.

Freedom of Expression:

Democracies typically uphold freedom of speech and the press, allowing citizens to express their opinions and ideas without fear of censorship.

It's important to note that while democracy is a widely embraced system, the specific characteristics and practices can vary across countries. The principles of democracy aim to foster a government that is accountable, responsive to the people, and respectful of individual rights.

The Significance of Elections in Democracy:

Elections play a pivotal role in sustaining the essence of democracy, offering citizens a powerful platform to shape their nation's destiny. The importance of elections can be outlined through the following key pillars:

Choice of Leadership: Participating in elections empowers every citizen to actively contribute to the selection of their leaders. Through the act of casting a vote, individuals express their preferences for a specific politician or political party, influencing the composition and direction of the government.

Change of Leadership: In any democracy, citizens wield the ultimate authority. If dissatisfied with the governing principles of the existing administration, they possess the right to voice their opinions. This authority allows for a peaceful transition of power, as citizens carefully consider their votes, contemplating the merits of different political parties before making their choice.

Political Participation: A responsible citizenry goes beyond merely casting votes; it actively engages in the democratic process. If individuals identify unaddressed issues or perceive the need for modifications in proposed solutions, they can participate in discussions. This involvement may range from expressing opinions to relevant governing bodies to, in a more proactive stance, forming new political entities dedicated to driving reform.

Self-Corrective System: The regularity embedded in the election system serves as a checks-and-balances mechanism. It acts as a constant evaluation of political parties, underlining the fact that inefficient governance leads to electoral consequences. This motivates political parties to consistently perform well, ensuring their policies align with the expectations of the public.

In essence, the importance of elections extends beyond the mere act of voting. Elections embody a dynamic process that empowers citizens to choose leaders, instigate leadership changes, actively participate in governance discussions, and maintain a self-corrective system that demands accountability. Through these pillars, elections become the cornerstone of a thriving democratic society, fostering a continuous dialogue between the government and the governed.

Elections in Indian context

Studying elections in the world's largest democracy poses a significant challenge, given the vast size of the country and its population. Indian national elections have consistently held the distinction of being the largest electoral exercise globally since their inception in 1952. The complexity of this event is further amplified by the cultural, linguistic, ethnic, and religious diversity within Indian society, coupled with the federal structure of the Indian state.

Over the span of the last sixty-three years, the Election Commission has successfully orchestrated fifteen elections to the Lok Sabha (the Lower House) and over 350 elections to State Legislative Assemblies. These endeavors have played a pivotal role in facilitating a peaceful, orderly, and democratic transfer of power. In India, the ascendancy of leaders from marginalized sections of society, farmers, women, and minorities to the helm of national and state governments can be largely attributed to the practice of electoral democracy. The increasing diversity of political

parties and the formation of coalitions in government reflect a tapestry of varied aspirations.

The absolute scale of today's Indian elections, when viewed merely in numerical terms, can be staggering. The Electoral Roll of India boasts approximately 780 million electors as of January 1, 2014, surpassing the combined population of both North and South American continents or all the countries in Europe and Africa combined. The 2009 elections to the Indian Parliament stand out as the largest humanly managed event globally, involving 714 million voters, 835 thousand polling stations, 1.18 million Electronic Voting Machines, and 11 million personnel.

However, it's not just the magnitude of Indian democracy in terms of geographical area or electorate size that is noteworthy; it's the commitment to reaching every single citizen. The dedication is exemplified by the provision of a separate polling station for a lone voter in the Gir Forest in western India.

India stands out as one of the most diverse countries globally, encompassing geographical variations such as deserts, mountains, plains, forests, islands, and coastal areas. It is equally diverse in terms of religion, culture, language, and ethnicity. Meeting the demands of such diversity is a considerable challenge. Moreover, addressing challenges like counter-terrorism efforts, security threats, adapting to globalization, and meeting the rising expectations of an information-savvy middle class are no less daunting. The Election Commission shoulders the responsibility of delivering elections that are not only free, fair, transparent, and peaceful but also inclusive and participatory, considering the intricate fabric of India's diversity (Stéphanie Tawa, 2009).

Approaches to understand the voting behaviour

This prompts an exploration into the methodologies and approaches employed to study this monumental political event. Understanding the disciplines and focal points of election studies, identifying key authors in the field, and examining the modes of dissemination and target readership of these studies become pivotal. By approaching the available literature with these inquiries in mind, an attempt is made to discern significant shifts over time and comprehend their meanings and implications (Commission in Volume II).

Conducting interviews with specialists in the field contributes to testing interpretations derived from the readings. This paper, focusing on the literature pertaining to Indian elections since the 1980s, seeks to delineate the scientific and political debates surrounding election studies. The objective is to map out the evolving landscape of scholarly discourse and political discussions on Indian elections, offering insights into the dynamic intersection of academic inquiry and political analysis.

The administration of elections in India has undergone a continual evolution. From the utilization of separate ballot boxes for each candidate to the implementation of the marking system, and eventually the adoption of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), it has been a protracted journey. EVMs, characterized by their simplicity, user-friendliness, cost-effectiveness, and expedited, error-free voting and counting, have proven to be a transformative innovation.

A significant challenge in the electoral landscape is ensuring a level playing field. The party in power wields the substantial resources of the state, necessitating the establishment of a code of conduct to be adhered to by all stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on the ruling party.

The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) stands out as a distinctive compact, crafted through the consensus of political parties in India. It represents a significant contribution to the cause of democracy. The Election Commission rigorously enforces the MCC from the moment it announces any election schedule. Although the MCC lacks statutory backing, and many of its provisions are not legally enforceable, its compliance is substantial. The moral sanction for its enforcement stems from public opinion. While the Election Commission has effectively mitigated challenges related to muscle power and incumbency, it remains vigilant about the potential polluting influence of corruption and money power on the electoral process, recognizing the need to safeguard its genuine potential.

Elections must not only uphold principles of freedom and fairness but also strive for social justice and increased citizen participation. Throughout our six decades of democratic history, the voter turnout has consistently hovered around 55-60%. While this figure is commendable in comparison to declining voter interest in other societies, it falls short of our aspirations.

To foster genuine inclusivity in democracy, we have established the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) wing. This initiative orchestrates extensive community outreach and multi-media campaigns aimed at engaging all citizens, with a special focus on the youth, to enhance their participation in the electoral process.

In each election, we conduct a scientific survey of Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior, and Practices (KABP) among voters before launching awareness programs. These efforts, conducted in collaboration with civil society and the media, have yielded impressive results, leading to higher voter registration and turnout in recent state elections, including setting records in certain states.

In a landmark move, the Commission declared its foundation day, 25th January, as National Voters Day

(NVD) from 2011. The primary objective is to boost the enrollment of voters, especially those newly eligible. On the inaugural National Voters Day, over 5.2 million newly eligible and registered youth received their voter cards at more than half a million polling stations. Additionally, approximately 17 million new voters were added to the electoral roll. This has been hailed as the most extensive empowerment exercise for the youth on a single day, anywhere in the world. The National Voters Day has become an annual event in India, and the model has garnered interest from several other countries.

It goes without saying that emerging democracies worldwide eagerly seek to tap into the knowledge, skills, and expertise possessed by the Election Commission of India (ECI). In response to escalating global demands, particularly from Afro-Asian nations, the Commission has initiated the establishment of the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIDEM). Functioning as a training and resource center, IIDEM is dedicated to elections and democratic processes, catering to participants on both national and international fronts. In just two years since its inception, the institute has provided training to election managers from over forty Afro-Asian and Commonwealth countries, along with numerous domestic master trainers. IIDEM has now become an invaluable contributor to representative democracy on a global scale.

Given the constitutional mandate bestowed upon the Commission, it cannot rest on its laurels. Numerous reform proposals have been put forth, aiming to cleanse the electoral process and lay the groundwork for good governance and a corruption-free polity. Some of these proposals address issues such as the criminalization of politics, regulation of campaign finance, and internal democracy within political parties.

India has reached a point where conducting free and fair elections is no longer headline-worthy. In fact, the absence of such elections would be the exception. This commitment to its own citizens and the global community is India's pledge. The relentless fight against the influence of money in elections remains a key goal. Another objective is to have every eligible Indian citizen on our electoral rolls and to ensure the active participation of every Indian voter in the electoral process. The Commission encapsulates its vision with a straightforward goal: 'Elections that are entirely free from crime and financial abuse, based on a flawless electoral roll, and with the full participation of voters.' Progress on this journey is resolute and consistent (Stéphanie Tawa, 2009).

Purpose of this study

Election studies are characterized in this context as scholarly endeavors that concentrate on the pivotal phases of the electoral process, encompassing the campaign, the voting process, the announcement of results, and the subsequent formation of the government. This definition is intentionally narrow, as elections, being a cornerstone of representative democracy, inherently connect with every facet of the political system. Nevertheless, election studies carve out a distinct subgenre within the broader domain of democratic studies, prioritizing the examination of the procedural aspects rather than the substantive elements of representative democracy.

This subgenre, which tends to enjoy more visibility than other branches of representative democracy studies, carries specific implications both within the academic realm and the political sphere. This critical review aims to delve into the nuanced position of election studies, asserting that they exist in an intermediary space between scientific inquiry and political discourse. Recognizing this, the paper emphasizes the importance of contextualizing election studies to fully grasp their significance.

The argument put forth contends that election studies occupy a unique position at the intersection of science and politics, highlighting the necessity of considering the broader context in which they operate. This examination seeks to shed light on the intricate dynamics between scholarly pursuits and political implications within the realm of election studies. it is evident that elections serve as the cornerstone of democracy, playing a pivotal role in making the entire democratic process meaningful. The regular and consistent conduct of elections is what truly gives value to the democratic system. Within the framework of democracy, elections function as a crucial mechanism to monitor the actions of political parties, ensuring transparency and accountability in their governance.

Moreover, elections empower citizens by making them responsible for their choices and the collective destiny of the nation. Through the act of voting, individuals actively participate in shaping the course of their country, influencing policies, and contributing to the overall well-being of society. This sense of civic responsibility fosters a culture of engagement and awareness among the electorate.

A fundamental principle underlying democratic societies is the universal adult franchise, where individuals from all walks of life and backgrounds are granted the right to an equal vote upon reaching the age of 18. This inclusive approach ensures that the diverse voices and perspectives within a nation are considered, promoting fairness and representation in the decision-making process.

In essence, the democratic process thrives when elections are conducted regularly, citizens are informed and engaged, and the universal adult franchise is upheld. This collective participation not only strengthens the democratic fabric but also reinforces the idea that every individual has

a stake in the progress and governance of their country (Quraishi).

Conclusion

Absolutely, effective and efficient governance is crucial for the functioning and progress of any civilized society. The government, has four essential elements of the state (along with population, territory, and sovereignty), plays a vital role in ensuring the well-being of its citizens. Governments are responsible for addressing the basic needs of the population, including access to clean water, healthcare, education, and other essential services. These services contribute to the overall quality of life for citizens. Here are some key points highlighting the importance of government in a state: Security and Protection, Socio-Economic Development, Regulation and Rule of Law, Environmental Protection, Representation and Accountability. In the conclusion we can say that, the government serves as a vital institution that not only provides security but also plays a multifaceted role in fostering the overall development, well-being, and progress of a society. Effective governance is essential for creating a stable and prosperous environment for the citizens of a state. A well-functioning government is essential for the stability, security, and development of a state. Its ability to address the diverse needs of the population and provide effective and efficient governance contributes significantly to the overall progress and prosperity of a society.

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