

## VOTING BEHAVIOUR IN HARYANA LOK SABHA ELECTION- 2009

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### **Introduction**

The decision of the voter is supreme in Parliamentary Democracy. The factors which influence the decision of the voter are called determinants of the voting behaviour.

During the last two or three decades, the study of election and electoral behaviour has attracted a good deal of scholars attention and the field has gradually acquired a special importance within the discipline of political Science.<sup>1</sup>

The voter has two options before him.

- (i) Whether he has to cast his vote or not.
- (ii) The candidate and the party to vote.

Decision of voters is supreme in democracy. The meaning of right to voter is just clear in Democracy. Decision of people in voting room is truth.<sup>2</sup>

Some important factors which influence this decision are social, economic, political, religious and caste.

Voting behaviour differ from constituency to constituency. The personality of the candidate, his position in the political party and his political ideology also effect the voting behaviour of the voter. In Haryanvi Dialect,

**“Maine nahi bera kaun khada tha,**

**Maine to hath ka button dabaya tha.”**

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## Voting Behaviour

Voting is the main form of political participation in liberal democratic societies and the study of voting behaviour is a highly specialized sub-field within political science. The analysis of voting patterns invariably focuses on the determinants of why people vote as they do and how they arrive at the decisions they make. Sociologists tend to look to the socio-economic determinants of support for political parties, observing the correlations between class, occupation, ethnicity, sex, age and vote; political scientists have concentrated on the influence of political factors such as issues, political programmes, electoral campaigns, and the popularity of party leaders on voting behaviour. However, both disciplines share much the same terrain, and increasingly have tended to overlap in their analytical approaches.

In his research thesis Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed writes, “It is necessary to know the political set-up of the place to understand the voting behaviour of the voters which influences the voting behaviour. On the basis of his erudite research, participation as a voter and observation, he has clearly stated that local environments do influence the voting behaviour.”<sup>3</sup>

A number of different approaches to the explanation of voting behaviour can be distinguished in literature. Structural (or sociological) approaches concentrate on the relationship between individual and social structure, place the vote in a social context, and examine the effects on voting of such variables as social class, language, nationalism, religion, and rural-urban contrasts. Ecological (or aggregate statistical) approaches relate voting patterns to the characteristic features of a geographical area (ward, constituency, state). Social psychological approaches relate voting decisions to the voter's psychological predispositions or attitudes, for example his or her party identification, attitudes to candidates, and such like. Finally, rational-choice approaches attempt to explain voting behaviour as the outcome of a series of instrumental cost-benefit calculations by the individual, assessing the relative desirability of specific electoral outcomes in terms of the issues addressed and policies espoused by the different parties or candidates. Each of these broad approaches tend to be associated with different research techniques and each makes different assumptions about what motivates political behaviour.

Voters have a special significance in electing their representatives. There are more than 70 crore voters in India's democratic structure. They have a right to cast their votes in election. About

voters and their voting, Rojanthal says, "When India votes, the whole world votes." There are more voters in India than voters in America, England, France, Japan, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Bangladesh. Moreover voters belong to different castes, communities and creeds in India. This diversity has great impact on the political system, political culture and political developments in the vast democracy of India. The election process exhibits voting behaviour of Indian's voters.

Voting Behaviour is a subject of study of the 20th Century. France is the first country to study voting behaviour. It was in 1913. It was followed by U.S.A. during the Two World Wars. England also studied voting behaviour after the World War. Voting Behaviour in India began to be studied after the Second General Election in 1957. Many interesting facts came to light. But the most prominent fact, which is still continued in ever election, is that the Indian voter is caught in the traditional approach of casteism and creed.

Fifteen General Elections have been held, known as Lok Sabha Election, since 1952. The years, in which elections were held, are 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1971, 1977, 1980, 1984, 1989, 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009. General Elections are held after every five years in the normal course of time. But in abnormal cases, these are held earlier also as is evident from the years of elections during the fifteen general elections so far.

My Research Topic relates to Voting Behaviour of 15th Lok Sabha Election and is restricted to Haryana Lok Sabha Election. This researcher has studied the voting behaviour of Haryana voters and has observed that the results of 15th Lok Sabha Election in Haryana have given a new message, a new dimension to the powerful democratic set-up of India. Winning nine out of ten Lok Sabha seats by a single party, the Congress, has revealed an amazing voting behaviour of Haryana voters. The present researcher will explore the political psychology of Haryana voters of 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election of 2009. 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha Election, held in May 2009, was completed in five phases. The dates of Five Phases of Election in Haryana are April 16, 23, 30 and May 07 and 13.

There are many factors which decide voting behaviour, by which the voter is influenced and uses his right to vote. These factors are not similar in all situations and places. Voting

behaviour is also different in different places. To find out voting behaviour of the voters, direct contact was established and questions were asked.

The study of voting behaviour is a difficult study. Because the voters are influenced by many other positive and negative reasons. Voters at the time of voting are attracted by many factors like personality of candidate, his party position and his thoughts. It is difficult task to divide these factors in various parts. But it can be divided into three categories.

- 1 Condition Factor.
- 2 Political Factor.
- 3 Social – economic Factor.

### 1 Condition Factor

Condition effects the voting behaviour in election. Advertisement and methods of election are same in all states. But even then there is difference in behaviour of voting. All these differences are on the basis of economic and social conditions. For this, it is necessary to understand social, economic, political and cultural conditions for the study of voting behaviour.<sup>4</sup>

When we study Haryana Lok Sabha election, there we find that voters believed in stability, development and good governance of Congress party.

### 2 Political Factor

Political factor is also an important factor which influences voting behaviour. The political factor can be divided into three parts.

- a. Party Convergent.
  - b. Candidate Convergent.
  - c. Issue Convergent.
- a. **Party Convergent.**

Political Parties have an important place in democracy Democracy is not possible without political parties. In every election, voters elect their representatives.

In his study of voting behaviour V.M. Sirsikar has found that political situation remains under the control of those people who are rich, and have social standing and also such other factors.<sup>5</sup>

In election, voters get knowledge about national and international problems. Various political parties present election manifesto. The election campaign also gives knowledge to the voters. The propaganda at the time of election gives knowledge and light to the public.<sup>6</sup>

Voters are also effected by party's feeling. But it is not stable. It changes according to time and situation. Party feeling can be seen at the time of election. During the election campaign, political parties issue their political policies. On the basis of these programmes, voters cast their votes. To know the opinions of voters in Haryana Lok Shaba election 2009, the interview was made by contact of which details are given.

Q-1. Are you satisfied with Congress Party Government in your district?

	<b>Satisfy</b>	<b>Dissatisfy</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	1250	550	200	2000
<b>%</b>	62.5%	27.5%	10%	100%

Source: Field study

On the basis of above table we can say that 62.5% voters are satisfied. But 27.5% voters are dissatisfied and 10% voters never satisfied.

Q-2. Do you belong to any political party?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	1160	840	2000
<b>%</b>	58%	42%	100%

Source: Field study

Above table clear that on the basis of sample, 58% voters belong to political parties while 42% voters don't belong to political parties.

Party feeling is so strong in voters that they cast their vote, to a particular candidate of a particular party.

Q-3. what will you do if your party selects a candidate who is not of your caste?

	<b>Caste vote to your party</b>	<b>Caste vote to other party</b>	<b>No caste the vote</b>	<b>Doubtful</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	1680	200	000	120	2000
<b>%</b>	84%	10%	00%	6%	100%

Source: Field study.

On the basis of above table, we can say that 84% voters gave vote to their party while 10% voters gave vote to other party. But 6% voters are doubtful.

Q-4. Does any party take care of your district and caste?

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Total</b>	1200	800	2000
<b>%</b>	60%	40%	100%

Source: Field study

Above table clear that on the basis of sample in Haryana Lok Sabha Election 2009, 60% voters say that party takes care of their district and caste while 40% voters say that there is not any party. According to voters various parties say that at the time of election that there would be development of the district and caste but after election it is forgotten.

In this way, it is clear that voters are attached to a party and they are influenced towards that candidate who takes care of their caste and district.

Q-5. On which basis did you cast your vote to Congress party?

	On the basis of caste	Attractive personality	Effect party	On the basis of area	Total
<b>Total</b>	510	630	820	40	2000
<b>%</b>	25.5%	31.5%	41%	2%	100%

Source: Field study

Above table clear that 25.5% voters say that they cast votes on the basis of caste, while 31.5% voters say that they cast on the basis of attractive personality, And 41% voters says that they cast votes on the basis of party and 2% voters consider that they cast on the basis of area

It is clear that caste becomes main issue at the time of election and voters also divide on the basis of caste. Eg. Jat voter influenced by Jat candidate and B.C. candidate influences B.C. voters.

### According to Jat Voter

“Jab Jat apni beti jat ko de se,

To vote bhi jat ko deni chaiye.”

Q-6. Did all voters of your locality decide victory of the candidate of one party?

	Yes	No	Total
<b>Total</b>	1250	750	2000
<b>%</b>	62.5%	37.5%	100%

Source: Field study

On the basis of above sample in Haryana Lok Sabha Election 62.5% voters say that they decided the victory of a particular party, while 32.7% say that they did not take any decision of candidate of particular party. In this way we can say that there was a lack of strong decision of voters.

### **b. Candidate Convergent**

The candidate convergent is a effective factor to influence voting behaviour of voters. Personality of leaders plays an important role to influence politics of any state. After the independence of India. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Dr. Radha Krishnan, Lal Bhadur Sastri, Smt. Indira Gandhi are the magic stars of politics.

There is important and effective role of personality to effect Indian politics at National and state level .<sup>7</sup>

Candidates attract the voters by their personal qualities. Voter also sees the personality of a candidate? Will they candidate give his contribution in development of constituency or not? What is main issue raised by candidate? In this way, it is clear that every candidate has his qualities.

But every candidate always tries to expose his qualities at the time of election to the voter influence in this way candidate convergent becomes the main factor at the time of election. V.M. Sirsikar says that works done by the contesting candidate in his constituency also influence the voters.<sup>8</sup>

### C Issue Convergent

Issue convergent also influences the voting behaviour. Due to lack of education party thoughts, programmes and policy don't effect the votes. Every party presents their election manifesto before the election. These issues play an important role in the election. If we study Haryana Lok Sabha Election 2009, then we find that Congress party raised many issues before the election.

Unemployment, stability and development of Haryana became main issue of Congress party. But BJP opposed it and gave many attractive slogans which details are:

**Congress tere raj main, pani gaya Punjab main.**

**Congress ka dekho khel lut gaya pani, ud gaya tel.**

While INLD and BJP promised that electricity will be given 24 hours to the farmers. Pension of aged persons will be increased from 500/- to 700/- and make Haryana free from corruption.



But voters were influenced towards Congress party. That's why congress got clear majority in Haryana. So it clear that issues have important place in elections by which voting behaviour is greatly influenced.

### 3 Socio – Economic Factor:-

There is more effect of socio – economic factor to influence voting behaviour. From the studies of elections in various political systems we find positive relation between socio – economic factors and voting behaviour. Analysts agree with the thought of Swedish Sociologist. “Socio – economic factor influence the voting behaviour.”<sup>9</sup> Socio – economic factor influence voting behaviour not only in India, but also in other countries. There is an important role of economic factor in voting behaviour.

#### Social Factor Which Influence Voting Behaviour:

Some students of political science, after discussion on social position of political behaviour, come to clear conclusion. It was clear by American political analyst that an erudite analysis on the basis of study on election, “One person think politically even then he is social being. Social features fix the priorities of politics.”<sup>10</sup>

### 1 Caste

Caste is the most effective factor in voting behaviour. It is also an effective factor in Indian politics. There is groupism of various castes at the time of election which highly influence voting.<sup>11</sup> Casteism is effective in Haryana politics. Election tickets are given on the basis of caste in election. In Haryana Jats are in majority. In 2009 Haryana Lok Sabha election Congress party gave tickets to 4 Jat candidates out of 10 seats. INLD also gave 5 tickets to Jat Candidates out of 10. Caste is an important factor of the voting behaviour in election.<sup>12</sup>

If we study the politics of Haryana then we find that casteism plays an important role in Haryana.

O.P. Goyal pointed out, “The relevance of caste as a voting department keeps on decreasing as we move upwards higher levels of politics and vice-versa.”<sup>13</sup>

According to Prof. Moris Johns, “Politics is more important than caste and caste is more important before politics.”

But K.S. Mathur admits that there is no relation between caste and voting.<sup>14</sup>

Q-7. Do you believe in casteism?

	Yes	No	Total
<b>Total</b>	490	1510	2000
<b>%</b>	24.5%	75.5%	100%

Source: Field study.

On the basis of above table 24.5% voters say “yes” while 75.5% voters say “no”.

Q-8. Which factor is more effective in election – caste, Religion, language or ability?

	Caste	Religion	Language	Ability	Total
<b>Total</b>	670	420	290	620	2000
<b>%</b>	33.5%	21%	14.5%	31%	100%

Source: Field study.

According to 33.5% voters caste is more effective factor. Thus caste also influences the voting behaviour. Politician says that they don’t believe in casteism but reality is different. Our politician loses trust. On one side they talk about removal of caste discrimination, on the other side they want to get success on the basis of caste, votes.

## 2 On the Basis of Family

Family and blood relation are also important factors in voting behaviour. Mostly family members give their votes according to the elders in family. It means whatever aged people say other follows that advice and cast their votes according to their suggestion. They also cast their votes due to close relation with candidate.

## According to Voter

“Hum to kade te a congress ne vote dete aaye se,

Aur abki bar bhi hamare kunbe mein sabne hat ka battan dabaya se.”

### 3 Communalism

Communalism is also a main factor in Indian politics in voting behaviour. According to the Constitution India is a secular state, yet religion plays an important role in politics of India. “Communalism” is seen as existing primarily between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians. In contemporary India, “Communalism” designates not only the conflicts between extremist religions communities, but also those between people of the same religion but from different regions and states. Caste political parties are generally considered to play an important role in stimulating, supporting and or suppressing communalism.<sup>15</sup>

So it is clear that voters are influenced by the above factors at the time of election. The questions were put to the voters, by which factor eg. Caste, religion, party etc. they were influenced in Haryana Lok Sabha election 2009.

Q-9. On which basis did you caste votes?

	Religion	Caste	Party	Candidate	Money	Total
<b>Total</b>	20	260	730	790	200	2000
<b>%</b>	1%	13%	36.5%	39.5%	10%	100

Source: Field study

On the basis of sample we can say that 39.5% votes were cast on the basis of candidate and 36.5% were cast basis of party.

### 4 Corruption

Corruption in elections has always been a key issue. Corruption is also closely linked to crime. According to a veteran political analyst and former editor of The Statesman, Pran Chopra, India’s political system has been greatly vitiated by communalization and

**criminalization.** Sickness of corruption and influence of money and muscle power along with the use of religion is there in our electoral process. Political parties give tempting offers to the poor voters and they sell their votes.

## 5 Wine and Wealth

Wine and wealth are more effective factors in elections. Political parties take benefit of illiteracy and poverty and get votes by distributing wine and wealth. Poor voters always worry about their meal of one time. That's way they sell their votes.

Q-10. Was wine and wealth distributed in your locality for getting votes?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Yes</b>	650	32.5%
<b>No</b>	940	47%
<b>Don't know</b>	410	20.5%
<b>Total</b>	2000	100

Source: Field study

It is clear that 32.5% voters said "yes" and 47% voters said "no". 20.5% voters said that they did not know that wine and wealth were distributed or not.

## 6 Force and Threats

Force and threats also influence voting behaviour. It is seen that force and threats are used to win the voters. Political parties use muscle men for this. This is not a good sign for democracy.

Q-11. Question asked from voters to know that there was any influence of force and threats.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	170	8.5%
<b>No</b>	1830	91.5%

<b>Total</b>	2000	100
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Source: Field study

It is clear that 8.5% voters cast their votes with influence of force and threats. But 91.5% voters said “no”.

## 7 Strong Leadership

Strong leadership also influences voting behaviour. In 2009, Haryana Lok Sabha Election we can see the example of strong leadership. The Congress, led by Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, retained its previous tally of nine Lok Sabha seats. Before that no ruling party had been able to achieve this feat in the state ever.

The Haryana Lok Sabha Election of May 2009, have shown that the Indian National Congress has re-established its image by winning nine out of ten seats. It has repeated the victory of 2004 Haryana Lok Sabha Election.

## Conclusion

It is significant to know the voting behaviour of the voters in democratic system. The election results of Haryana Lok Sabha seats of May 2009 are inspiring and eye-opener.

We come to know the economic, social and political background of the voters and also the various influences which reflect their voting behaviour. Diversity is apparent in Indian social set-up.

The Haryana Lok Sabha Election of May 2009 leads to the Conclusion that the voters of this state have risen above the vicious circle of three C's Casteism, Corruption and communalism. On the basis of question of the voters in this chapter the percentage of voting on the basis of casteism 24.5% whereas the percentage of voting ignoring casteism 75.5%. This clearly indicates that casteism has no place in the mind of the Haryana voters.

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