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“Attitudes towards Assembly Election in Relation to Caste, Class and Sex as a Function of Violence in Central Bihar”

Abstract

The present study hypothesized that the Upper Caste subjects irrespective of class and sex will show more positive attitude towards voting as compared to Lower Caste subjects and that the Lower caste (irrespective of sex and class) will show less positive attitude towards voting. It was also hypothesized that subject belonging to upper class irrespective of sex and caste will show more interest in voting as compared to the subjects belonging to the lower class. It was also assumed that there would be difference in keenness to vote in terms of gender where males would be keener to vote than females. Variables like violence, corruption and extremism will show negative attitude towards voting whereas the vigilant and strong administration will contribute positively to voting behavior.

The survey of literature carried out in the preceding chapter as well as the explanations and descriptions in the first six chapters about various aspects of political attitudes, behavior besides motivations to vote in context of political scenario in Central Bihar helped in adopting a specific methodology for conducting the present study entitled “Attitudes towards Assembly Election in Relation to Caste, Class and Sex as a Function of Violence in Central Bihar”. This required: a) Setting the objectives, b) Formulation of Hypothesis, c) Choosing the variables of the study, d) Defining the population/universe, e) Selection of the Sample, f) Adopting an appropriate Design, g) Selection/Development of the necessary tools for measuring voting behavior, h) Procedure of data collection and its scoring, and i) Statistical Analysis of the data.

Sample size of the study comprised of 600 voters, 300 each from two categories i.e. Upper Caste and Lower Caste. Furthermore, subjects were divided on the basis of their social category caste, i.e., Bhumihar, Landlords, and Bhumihien and laborers (Upper Class and Labour Class). Similarly the samples were equally represented in respect of sex (male and females). The study followed a 2x2x2 factorial design, two levels of Castes (Upper Caste and Lower Caste) 2 levels of class belonging to Upper Class and Labor Class, and 2 levels of gender (Male and Female). To gain personnel information of the sample a questionnaire was developed and an attitude scale was developed to assess their attitude towards voting and caste system.

Instruments / Tools Used

1. A questionnaire was developed to get the personnel information of the sample and their attitude towards voting and caste system.

2. Attitude scale was developed to examine the voting pattern among different groups i.e. Caste, Class, Women, Administration, Violence, Corruption and Extremists.

Conclusion

The following conclusions were formed on the basis of the findings of the present investigation:

Recommendations and Suggestions:

- Making understand the power of vote:
- The first step of a citizen is to follow his or her duty, with the first duty being to cast the vote. It is a grim reality and we need to ask as to why we do not exercise the biggest power vested in us by the constitution of India. There is no denying the fact that our country is facing a large number of problems ranging from corruption to terrorism to the economic crisis. We often blame the government for turning a blind eye to the real issues and engaging themselves in petty caste and religion politics. But do we have a right to blame the government if we do not vote? By choosing not to vote, it is our fault that we bring into power an incompetent government and thus we are the ones who should be blamed for all the problems of the country.
- Importance of role of women in society
- In the typical Indian Society, you find that there are still expectations and assumptions about women that are not so much relevant to their current status, but a clear hangover from our suppressive past. This may be more obvious in rural societies, but it is extremely prevalent in urban ones as well.
- Attitude towards voting. Vote above caste class and culture
- Spreading awareness about the harmful and negative impacts of corruption on society
- Strict administration can help in effective implication of law and order and hence an effectual voting process.
- This study should be expanded and generalized to other geographical regions or on a nation wide scenario.
Availability of resources

Limitations of Present Study and directions of future study

- The study is confined to particular geographical region. The sample taken was from ten districts of central Bihar only. In future researches an attempt needs to be made to expand this study on different geographical areas.
- Education is a very important factor for any social process. Education as a variable could be considered for future researches.
- To carry out a study on a large basis an extensive manpower and resources are required.
- Present study was limited only to the voting pattern of Bihar assembly election. For future researches attempt should be made to study the same pattern on a wider scale.