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CASE STUDY OF HARYANA, 1996-2005

Abstract

This study reveals the emergence of a multi-dimensional electoral politics in Haryana during 1996 to 2005. During mentioned period, the new political and electoral trends had been found in Haryana. There was no dominance of one party constantly in the assembly elections during 1996-2005. In 1996, HVP and BJP dominated the electoral politics of the state. In 2000 assembly election, INLD emerged as single largest party. In 2005, Congress dominated the electoral scene by winning two-third majority. In the assembly elections of 1996, 2000 and 2005, voters mandated against the ruling parties.

Major issues like completion of SYL canal, making a separate High Court for Haryana, making a separate Capital, and Chandigarh were highly politicized to garner electoral mileage. The politicians did nothing to solve the major issues than alleging each-other for not solving these issues.

Regional political parties particularly Haryana Vikas Party and Indian National Lok Dal dominated the politics of Haryana during 1996-2005. Regionalization of government recruitments and development works was made to secure electoral gains.

The state had experienced three coalition governments led by Bansi Lal and Om Prakash Chautala separately during 1996-2005. However, the coalitions dissolved early due to failure of alliance partners in following coalition *dharma* (norms). The coalitions were product of compulsion and opportunism. The assembly election of 2005 was a huge

setback to coalition politics. Absence of the coalitions favoured Congress the most as it secured two-third majority.

During 1996-2005, the dominance of Jats increased in the state. 28 (31.11%), 34 (37.78%), and 26 (28.89%) legislators belonged to Jat caste in 1996, 2000 and 2005 respectively. All three Chief Ministers were from Jat community during 1996-2005. During mentioned period, Kumari Selja emerged as a popular leader of Haryana's Dalits.

Women were under-represented and their role in electoral politics had been very meager in comparison to men. Political parties did not encourage woman participation and representation in the electoral politics. In 2005, 11 (12.22%) women, highest in Haryana since it bifurcated from Punjab, were elected to assembly.

Dominance of few personalities and evolution of dynastic factor in the electoral politics had been considerable trends in the state during 1996-2005. The Chief Ministers and their sons had been the real center of power from 1996 to 2005. O.P. Chautala, Late Bansi Lal and Bhajan Lal tried their best to maintain their hegemony in Haryana politics by grooming and projecting their sons as the future Chief Ministers. Emergence of Bhupinder Singh Hooda was a setback to three Lals and their families.

A trend of politicization of government recruitments and recruitment-making agencies: HPSC, SSC, etc. emerged and increased during 1994-2005 in Haryana. Government recruitments became a political issue that politicians used for reaping electoral benefits. Making and cancellation of recruitments became a political weapon, to benefit the party supporters and punish the opponents.