



A study of the politics and role of religion in Indian politics

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Abstract

Women represent almost half population of country. The constitution of India has given equal voting power to man and women to establish gender equality in democracy. But even after the so many years of democracy in country, Indian politics does not have much participation of women in political parties. This paper aims to explain the importance of women role in political participation in India with special reference to Panchayati Raj. This paper explores the existing literature on women participation in Panchayati Raj from various reports, news, articles, and research paper. Funding of this paper highlights the role of political participation in empowered in terms of gender equality, social welfare, rural development and overall development of women capabilities in decision making.

Keywords: equal voting power, gender equality, panchayati raj

Introduction

India is a secular country. Every religion is equal (Sab dharma saman), is this true when it comes to politics in India. India is divided between different religions and again in different caste in different religions.

If we look at the Indian politics since independence, we will see every political party has played an important role in making people of one religion happy.

This paper tries to give information how politics is involved in religion since independence and how many fights are happened in India on the basis of religion.

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1. Religious beliefs

In India, there are different religions like Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism. Most dominant religion is Hinduism in India but when it comes to states every state has a different religion to dominate and political parties have to target that particular religion to get votes.

Islam has their own religious belief like we Should believe only on Allah, there is no one greater than Allah but when it comes to Hinduism they have a religious belief in Shiva and different God. If we will go to South, people are very strong in fulfilling their religious beliefs. Beliefs of the people are so strong in their Gods, nobody can remove them from their heart and it passes from generation to another. Even education in India is not able to remove religious belief and in the same

way Indian politicians have also taken this belief as one of tactics to win elections.

2. Caste system

India is again divided into different castes which are divided again in OBS, BC, SC, ST and General categories for giving an advantage to different sections of societies. When it was introduced in the Indian constitution, the reason was to uplift the poor and suppressed people but now it has become one of the political agenda for getting votes. Increase the reservations seats for getting votes in particular states.

3. People beliefs about political parties

Population in Uttar Pradesh is largest in India where caste is one of the most important determinants to win the election. The Samajwadi Party is considered as a party of Yadav, Gujjars and Ahirs. BJP is considered as Hindu party and BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party) is treated as the party of SC and ST.

4. Political parties initiatives to lure voters

In Indian politics, selection of candidates, campaigning for elections everything involves religious. The religion which are more dominant in particular area are more encouraged to give votes after promising to launch schemes for the benefits of particular religion/caste

In Gujarat, there is a Hindu-Muslim divide and this is the main reason of riots in that state and political parties take advantage of this division in Gujarat.

BJP is the party which gives pressure on development but the campaign of protection of cows and cow is a sacred animal for Hindu not for Muslims are always promoted at the time of BJP which shows it is a Hindu party. President of BJP party L.K. Advani went on chariot journey to build Ram temple in Ayodhya which shows the Hinduism of this party.

In BSP millions of Dalit view Mayawati, BSP leader an icon

and refer to her as Behen ji. In Public meetings of Mayawati slogans like "Kanshi Ram ka mission Adhoora; karegi Behen Mayawati poora" will be used. Mayawati tried to introduced reservations in private sectors but it was declined by Supreme Court of India. She is treated or projected as a leader of Dalit. The efforts to increase the reservations for Dalit in jobs or in promotion by Mayawati is also used to lure voters.

TMC government (Led by Mamata Banerjee) took the decision to restrict immersion of Durga Puja idol to 10 pm on the day of Vijaya Dashmi and banned any immersion on next day because Muharram was on the same day, which shows that TMC government is trying to please Muslim voters.

Mamta Banerjee government also sanctioned Rs. 2500 per month as monthly salary to West Bengal's masjid imams and a monthly salary of Rs. 1000 to muezzins which shows a step of government to lure Muslim voters.

In Haryana, the state is divided between Jat Vs. Non -Jat on the policy of reservation demanded by the Jat community, previously the state was not divided and most of the campaign was made in keeping mind of Jats community but maybe in future, it can lead to different campaigning which will be based on Jat Vs. non-Jat community.

The Caste-based campaign in Maharashtra (Shiv Sena), Bihar is one of the ways of political parties to lure voters. Shiv Sena promotes mostly Marathi in Maharashtra and gives more pressure on the welfare of Marathi people than any other states. Sh. Laloo Prasad Yadav in Bihar is one of the examples of caste-based politics in India.

5. Impact of religion on politics

Politicians are treated on the bases of their religion in most part of India. In UP few states give importance to Muslim leader and few give votes to Hindu leader. The proportion of Hindu and Muslim in a state can give estimates which political party will get more votes.

6. Conclusion

In India, a political party cannot win without the support of one particular religion or caste. Each political party has to choose their candidates on the basis of caste and religion and other things are secondary. Politicians are able to get votes after influencing a particular religion or caste-based system.

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