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DISASTER IN DEMOCRACY A Global Phenomenon

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Abstract

What we see may not always be the reality and what we presume as real may not be our observation always. In democratic set-up, this has often emerged as reality. Democracies had always been subjected to criticism but it is astonishing to note how the interplay of corrupt vision and changing social attitudes playing a havoc in our democratic systems. This paper broadly investigates the voting behavior and attitudes in response to sophisticated tempting actions by political parties to pull voters. This research demonstrates that higher the level of temptation combined with many socio-economic perils, leads to higher biasness towards them. Participatory research, interviews, journals, publications, and observation and media reporting have been studied, analyzed, and scrutinized to discover how different poor and illiterate people vote. Findings and results attributes greater role of education, financial liberty, backwardness and awareness to political reality in determining voting behavior.

Research Purpose

The key purpose of this paper is to classify/elaborate wide range of factors that pose a big threat to democratic system, all over the world. The central aim was to differentiate common and uncommon factors (which largely go unnoticed) affecting the integrity and purpose of democracy and furthermore to elucidate their impact and reasons for such consequences.

Research Methodology

This paper is basically an explanatory research that focuses on examining the inter-linkages of various socio-economic and institutional aspects related to the subject, structured on empirical research to verify whether commonly identified factors are truly responsible or some other factors are responsible for problems discussed in the paper. Inductive reasoning has been majorly followed and sequentially deductive reasoning is also followed briefly in one chapter to disapprove own findings in this paper, as to retest the reality.

Primarily published journal articles has been the key source of information, secondly much of the information was obtained from media, this provided true and verifiable structure of information that helped in figuring current reality. Academic research provided conceptual and analytical base that helped in critical analysis of evidence found and hypothesis carried in this paper.

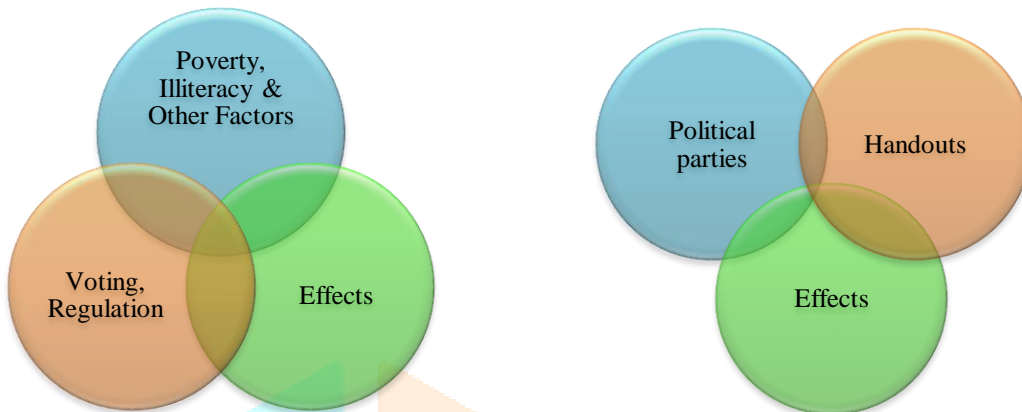
In other words, approach followed here helped in double examination of facts, where academic literature provided solid foundation for comparisons and critical analysis of facts, both supportive and non-supportive claims related to the study. This led to discovery of new concepts and unrecognized realities.

Each chapter is designed on wide range of different methods of analysis like chapter 1 is structured upon socio-economic, socio-regulatory analysis and chapter 2 is based on socio-philosophical or socio- moral analysis and lastly chapter 3 is designed on socio-cultural analysis.

Research Design

Recent research on vote choice, vote-behavior, decisions making, electoral handouts, and vote-buying strategies provides strong and in-depth account of how the mechanism works, like Schaffer in his paper “what is vote-buying” brilliantly explained vote-buying practice from wide range of different but realistic perspectives which helped us in understanding how it should be viewed and how parties rely on variety of tactics to influence voters. Similarly, Josephine T Andrews and Kris Inman, eloquently explained the relationship between vote choice and urban and rural level based on certain parameters but however didn’t focused on what makes people sell to their votes.

Figure 1:



Moving further, the primary purpose of Jenny Guardado R and Leonard Wantchekon’s paper, “Do electoral handouts affect voting behavior” was to estimate or assess the impact of handouts on voting behavior. A number of socio-economic parameters were studied to estimate.

The first Venn diagram depicts the approach followed in this paper and the second diagram showcases the approach generally followed to study the voting behavior.(among other approaches). According to this approach, political parties are at the center-stage during the election process and are explicitly engaged in persuading people to vote of them in exchange for cash for vote. And furthermore this approach helps in assessing the impact of such handouts on voting decisions, in uncovering types of different strategies followed by parties and other crucial aspects.

The approach followed in this paper (the first Venn diagram) is based on socio-economic and socio-regulatory parameters, where people are at the center of study. Based upon non-economic, economic and administrative parameters; reasons, impact assessment, behavior, social attitude, socio-moral aspects (related to problem), consequences are critically analyzed. This approach helped in discovery of new concepts based on real and most commonly observed events in our society, which unfortunately escaped from mainstream focus due to its complex nature and common occurrence

Research Benefits

This paper offers 5 great benefits to numerous fields like science of voting, public policy, regulatory science sociology, and political science. Primarily helps in identifying various voting practices that were largely unrecognized and their impact at local, national and global level, secondly helps in finding loopholes in policy design and more critically in implementation of laws, thirdly, this paper helps in gauging impact of regulation on social attitudes and social actions, fourthly highlights cause and effects of interaction between institutions and society and finally critically analyses behavior and outlook of current day political parties across the countries.

Research Questions¹

1. Why electoral fraud exists?
2. Why people sell their Votes, irrespective of their socio-economic conditions?
3. What role morality play in electoral fraud?
4. How many different forms of unrecognized voting exist?
5. How to eradicate electoral fraud from a global perspective?

¹ Bunch of countries are considered together

INTRODUCTION

Democracy is one of the dominant system of governance today. There are 123 democratic² countries in the world (Magazine B. , How Many Democratic Nations Are There?, 2013). Nearly ½ of the world's population, close to 3 billion live on less than \$2.50 a day, 781 million adults and 126 million youths cannot read and write a simple sentence. Women accounts for 2/3 of the total population. In 2014, Elections took place in almost 21 countries in African continent. Almost 6-10 national level elections were held in Asia. A total of 15-18 elections were held in Europe including parliamentary, presidential and local. 5 elections were held in Latin America in countries like Brazil [Voter Turn-out Ratio 80%] Colombia [44%] Uruguay and other. In Central American Region Costa Rica and Panama were the 2 regions where elections were held in 2014. In the Oceania region 3 elections were held. And In Northern America no general elections were held in 2014.

For the smooth functioning of democracy, or for true and impartial reflection of people's choice in a democratic country, recognition of the value of democracy and its real reach must be well understood by the people. Franklin D. Roosevelt, had said, "Let us never forget that government is ourselves and an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not Presidents and senators and congressman and government official, but the voters of this country".

This explains the primacy of a system which is chosen and governed by the people and that is based on the pillar of voting. Moving beyond the argument for or against democracy, its functioning and its achievements, what is more important to understand is what makes up the decision to vote and what inspires to vote for the majority of people around the world.

John F. Kennedy cleverly remarked on voting by saying "The ignorance of the one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all". If one voter's decision would cost the future of entire society then the question arises why would he take such a decision? Philosophically, the voter is delivering his/her ignorance than the vote rather. Ideally, it is the pool of knowledge, logic behind reasoning and ethicality of preferences that shape up the decisions that are made and actions taken. The centrality of this issue is ironically contrary to the general belief in voting and voting decisions as said above.

Voting is perceived as an instrument for change, prosperity, peace and harmony in democratic state, but sometimes evidence suggests that the situation seems to greatly contradict entirely to the philosophy of voting Evidence suggests that regulatory vacuum and feeble enforcement tends to tilt social attitudes and influence their actions, creating a vicious cycle where market for rights is booming and fortunes of buyers are bright.

The examination of social attitudes and its impact on political situation, governance, economy, foreign relations and global peace needs a wide range of different standards and methods of analysis, which has been followed in this paper to find out actually what's happening and why. Furthermore evidence tend to suggests political parties in some countries view governance from a different angle and try to exploit it for their secret agendas, against principles and purpose of democracy and by gravely overlooking people's will. This stems from the ugly fact related to absolute negligence in implementation and administrating laws enacted. These is high degree of correlation between social behavior, voting decisions, regulatory set-up and its reach, future of the country and global situation. Voter's decision and government actions and policies play a significant role in maintaining or improving bilateral or multilateral economic, social, cultural relations but when political parties loss their vision and turn more ambitious towards national political supremacy then things tend to wither badly.

Disaster in democracy is mixed up analysis of behavior of political parties, their ideology, tactics, social attitudes, institutional set-up, efficiency in governance and impact of all these on people, society and world at large. Though brief critical analysis has been performed to uncover the reasons and impact of all these due lack of statistical data but this paper provide deep insights. On the other hand, by keeping regulatory loopholes to some extent intact, political parties in most of countries have resorted to corrupt practices where they open up market of voter's right (i.e. vote) and operate like a big Corporation working on full capacity.

To understand the entire mechanism, first we need to understand briefly how socio-economic situation in some countries paving the way forward but before that it is necessary to understand what tactics political parties exercise to exploit the regulatory vacuum and socio-economic circumstances. Below are the some of the few examples of activities that act as a persistent threat to principles and integrity of democracy.

"Nigeria's Political parties bribe voters with rice" (Moore, 2015). "In the year 2006, Government of Tanzania banned election handouts during election campaigns". (news, 2006). "The chairperson of legal affairs committee of parliament Kezzia Msukwa has called on electoral stakeholders to fight for criminalizing of handouts in the electoral process so that only aspirants who have real issues to offer to the public should make it in the forthcoming tripartite elections" (Times, 2013). "Helsinki voters won't be getting much free coffee this

² Democratic Country: A type of Government in which people choose their leader by voting. A system where elections are held periodically and every citizen has right to vote during elections.

-No distinction has been considered between republican and democratic country, as this paper does not go beyond voting

election season, after the city banned parties from handing it out in major marketplaces.” (News, 2015). “Tories accused of trying to bribe pensioners with pre-election handouts” (Grice, 2015)

“In Thailand, thirty percent of household heads surveyed in a national sample said that they were offered money during the 1996 general election” (Schaffer, Clean elections and the great unwashed, vote buying and voter education in the philippines, 2005). “Voters in Taiwan of different ethnic backgrounds approach politics in distinctive ways, revealing modern echoes of conflicts beginning even before Chiang Kai-shek’s retreat to the island in 1949”. (Ching-Yuan Lin, 2007) “Recent elections in the United States provide example of turnout buying. During the 2004 election, five Democratic Party operatives in East St. Louis were convicted in federal court for offering cigarettes, beer, medicine and \$5 to \$10 rewards to increase turnout of the poor”. (Nichter, Vol 102 Feb 2008). “Indian Voters expect more handouts as parties compete to outdo one another with costly pre-election “gifts”. This practice is, of course, explicitly forbidden yet routinely pursued” (Vaishnav, 2014).

The exertion of influence to vote in their favor naturally suppresses the “free will” of the voter and does not reflect his/her preference. Political parties often attempt to pursue voters for political gain. These events reveal the magnitude of vulnerability and depth of complexities prevalent in some countries. But it should be acknowledge the fact that not all countries listed or discussed in this paper may equally be vulnerable to these problems but to project the reality and grasp the entire subject it is worth noting these problems.

Perhaps this paper is not limited to vote-buying strategies and tactics it goes well beyond and finds out why it happens and how. Furthermore it presents complete picture of how the entire mechanism works and how voting decisions are made across wide range of countries discussed. The nexus between voting, elections, results, policies, politics, international relations and ultimately world peace greatly rests on how we chose our governments and how well they deliver to their promises.

Disaster in democracy is based of precise observation; hard core evidence and broad analysis which attempts to bring global community together and rededicated ourselves to build global consensus and a mechanism where reach and impact of democracy is fair, unbiased and ethical. This is because, every vote and every human being whether working in a landfill or Parliament, has the equal right when it comes to voting and should get fair degree of opportunity to express his/her will freely during elections.

Many different kinds of voting have been mentioned in this paper which may affect the system, future and which requires global attention and dedicated effort so that systems entirely get refined and deliver their true proposes. This paper is been designed to empower and strengthen global democracy, based on micro-level constituency, province or district and national level evidence and analysis.

Chapter one

Benefit Voting

Difference between Vote-Selling and Benefit Voting is very thin and bleak, and thus remained unrecognized, but both have certain distinguishing characteristics that help us differentiate both. The practice of benefit voting relates to the tendency of a voter to seek material (or any) benefit or other help in exchange of their vote for a particular party during elections. Broadly, it is general and willful act to obtain something, that leads to vote trading activities and on the contrary, practice of vote selling is largely based on exertion of influence and persuasion by a party. Even in case of benefit voting party’s influence remains key but wide range of other different factors creates a situation where people tend accept it more openly. Benefit voting in other words, is a kind of general phenomenon, where people generally expect or ask for something for their vote regardless of their socio-economic condition. More precisely, benefit voting is a sort of evolution in vote-selling activities due many socio-economic, institutional and regulatory loopholes. Benefit Voting is a common occurrence in many democratic countries where people expect something in return of a vote; this is not just because of poverty.

In case of vote-selling, voters are usually tempted to trade by political parties and on the contrary in case of benefit voting, voters generally seem to seek, or ask any benefit for their vote. But in both the cases selling vote will be central. Benefit voting explains vote-selling from socio-regulatory perspective and whereas vote-selling explains it from socio-economic stand-point. In other words, vote-selling as we generally know, is prevalent because of certain-socio economic problems but benefit voting is gaining momentum due certain regulatory aspects, where both poor and non-poor try to get immediate material help or any other gain in return of their votes.

Literature on voting behavior or more precisely voting behavior under electoral handouts focuses to large extent on after effects of electoral handouts based on socio-political or other model. But owing to shortcomings in methodologies and statistical evidence, many critical questions remain unanswered like what drives voters to sell vote? And do voters seek benefits for voting? This chapter however attempts to answer this key question based on socio-regulatory and socio-economic analysis and answers the questions like why people trade their vote from demand and supply perspective.

Simeon Nichter in his paper brilliantly distinguished the vote-buying and turnout buying but from distributors perspective based on certain objectives; certainly ignoring the supply side. And Susan Stokes classic work assumes that political parties’ targets people “who are moderate oppressors”.

“Vote-buying is defined as a transaction whereby candidates distribute private goods such as cash and gifts in exchange for electoral support or higher turnout” (Wantchekon, 2014). Concept of benefit voting captures the phenomenon from the voter’s perspective and whereas the above definition covers it from distributors perspective, but ironically from either way it’s prevalent and active mechanism.

A person admitted that, “voting for a generous candidate in the most recent local elections: she and her friends got a taxi ride to the polling station, cash, saris, prayer utensils and a free trip to a famous temple” (Magazine E. , Illiterate Voters, Making thier Mark, 2014). The generosity viewed here is fundamentally based on certain short term offerings made by parties, which furthers proves that people generally accept offerings made by the party, furthermore it also proves that central focus of people during elections is material generosity then policy oriented progress, direction and development; as political parties are expected to deliver after assuming the office. In an another instance, “Politicians and their aides in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh admitted to violating election law to influence voters in the 2009 Lok Sabha polls through payments in the form of cash, goods, or services” (Hiddleston, 2011). First evidence shows the view of public in general (at particular location) and the second evidence explains the same phenomenon from distributors perspective, but both cases explicitly shows what methods and tools parties use to influence people and how political parties view elections.

From analytical standpoint, the first evidence presented above is related to benefit voting because here a candidate is viewed as generous since he’s offering taxi ride and other things and furthermore in second case related to Tamil Nadu state presented above is an example of tempting voters to “sell”.

Recent parliamentary elections held in Uganda, sets out clear examples that precisely distinguish vote-selling and benefit voting. “A bar of soap or a bag of salt is sometimes what decides how a person votes in Uganda” (Segawa, 2016). This again is evidence of political persuasion or corruption similar to what we noticed in case of Tamil Nadu state above and this is not benefit voting. “I never won because I never gave money to voters” (Segawa, 2016). Ironically this statement explains how voters are trying to obtain or get something for their votes and this evidence also explains the efficiency of law implementing agencies.

In other words, only if strict laws that are in place in Uganda against any sort of electoral fraud had been implemented stringently then the people would not have demanded something from the candidate, this clearly shows there is failure in implementation of the law and this clearly anchors the expansion of benefit voting. “Ugandans always demand money when they see political candidates” (Segawa, 2016). This is perfect example of benefit voting and how this evil system is thriving.

Benefit voting is a function of many complex set of variables both economic and social among other. In other words benefit voting is a materialistic voting behavior emerged due to wide range of socio-economic and regulatory factors which remains the same for most of the countries and relevant to many regions specifically around the world. “Voting behavior can be attributed to several well-known factors such as socio-economic status, gender, ethnic group, religion, and psychological factors” (Ching-Yuan Lin, 2007). As in general, voting behavior can be attributed to many factors, similarly benefit voting rests on series of identical factors. Benefit voting is a sort of behavior where people *naturally* expect something for every vote. This is due to confluence of multiple factors has created a situation where it is considered normal. More clearly benefit voting has become an acceptable norm in general, where people tend to accept open vote-buying activities clearly violating the law and indirectly engage themselves in supporting such activities.

At first, 3 key reasons will explain the extent of vulnerability and its impact. These 3 key factors that inarguably lead to benefit voting are,

1. *Hard core poverty*
2. *Illiteracy*
3. *Regulatory weakness*

Casting vote for certain material gain or more precisely selling vote for certain monetary or material benefit without consciously assessing the impact, its importance and its consequences for such action, has evidently created a vicious phenomenon that is prevalent in many countries. Combination of poverty and illiteracy creates a grave impact on voting decisions especially when regulatory environment is weak and process of reform is slow.

In other words, Poverty and illiteracy is a disastrous combination that gradually isolates the society from being aware and act on their decisions, this naturally leads a situation where the possibility of delivering someone else’s interest will be high and furthermore it promotes wide spread vote-buying activities. . “Extreme poverty is defined as those whose standard of living is insufficient to meet their basic nutritional requirements even if they devoted their entire consumption budget to food.” (Survey G. L., 2014). As this research is fundamentally designed to uncovers how poorest of the poor vote and how parties try to influence their entire electorate, it is worth noting what exactly “extreme poverty” is and how does it affects the political behavior. Primarily it is the lack of considerable knowledge in judging and identifying the methods of assessment for judgment for voting that leads to weak or undesired outcomes in the country.

This stems from the fact that hard core poor people usually lack elementary facilities and access to source of information. “The poor will continue to trade their loyalty for bags of rice and odorless fufu, until egalitarian policies are implemented by the government. The onus

is on the poor to use their conscience and not vote for tentative bag of rice, because poverty is not getting off the land anytime soon under this hegemonic party in Nigeria". (Obafemi, 2014).

For example, in 2013 in Cebu province Philippines, vote buying incidence were reported. Cebu being economically progressive cities in the country but poverty also goes hand in gloves there. "In Cebu city alone, 9,232 families are living under poverty out of 34,149." (Lorenciana, 2014). Incidence of vote buying in Cebu province represents the case of political persuasion to sell votes as we noted above in case of Tamil Nadu. And similarly the above Nigerian evidence represents case of vote-selling rather than benefit voting because here people subject to hardcore poverty and lack of knowledge are "trading their rights "and not because we can get it easily as in case of taxi ride and Ugandan example above.

Coming back to the topic, people with abject poverty are literally out of the realm of access to information and sources of information and knowledge that could have made them aware about the importance and practice of voting and how it has to be carried out. "Survey evidence also suggests that vote buying is more widespread amongst poor and uneducated voters" (Toke S. Aidt, 2015). Hard core poverty is situation where life every day is struggle. Struggle for nutritious food, for affordable medicine, struggle for health, for basic amenities like, clean drinking water, (in some places), and struggle for safe shelter. Hard core poverty is such a disastrous situation where gradually people tend to isolate themselves from main stream educated and financially sound communities owing to nature of their occupation or standard of living.

"Vijay³, a rag picker in the Govindpuri area of south Delhi, explains how the system of bribing voters works. During the Delhi Assembly polls, each house in our jhuggi was offered 1,000" (Vishnu, 2014) . This validates the fact that parties tend to target those people who are socio-economically weak and live in separate communities with poor housing and living conditions, to vote in their favor and this highlights the fact that poverty and illiteracy are the 2 primary reasons why people sell their votes and going beyond poverty and illiteracy it reveals how weak are the enforcement agencies are in the country.

As in this case cash was distributed to buy votes, it means that parties tend to target low income people engaged in unorganized sector and comparatively in case of "free taxi ride" as we have noted above people expect some sort of unusual or totally unrelated "benefit" from their vote/s. these two evidence clearly distinguishes vote-selling and benefit voting. . "The non-manual occupations provide greater intellectual stimulations than the manual occupations, giving therefore greater access to information about registration and voting process and about voting issues" (Venezky, 1994) It means that there is a direct and strong correlation between occupations and creation of separate communities or localities slightly far away from city centers and affluent residential localities and ability stay well informed especially about practice and importance of voting.

From the other eye, till now it's been found that vote-buying tactics are in full swing just because the organizations and departments overlooking elections and entire operative mechanism in these countries are weak or ineffective in curbing or even controlling this phenomenon.

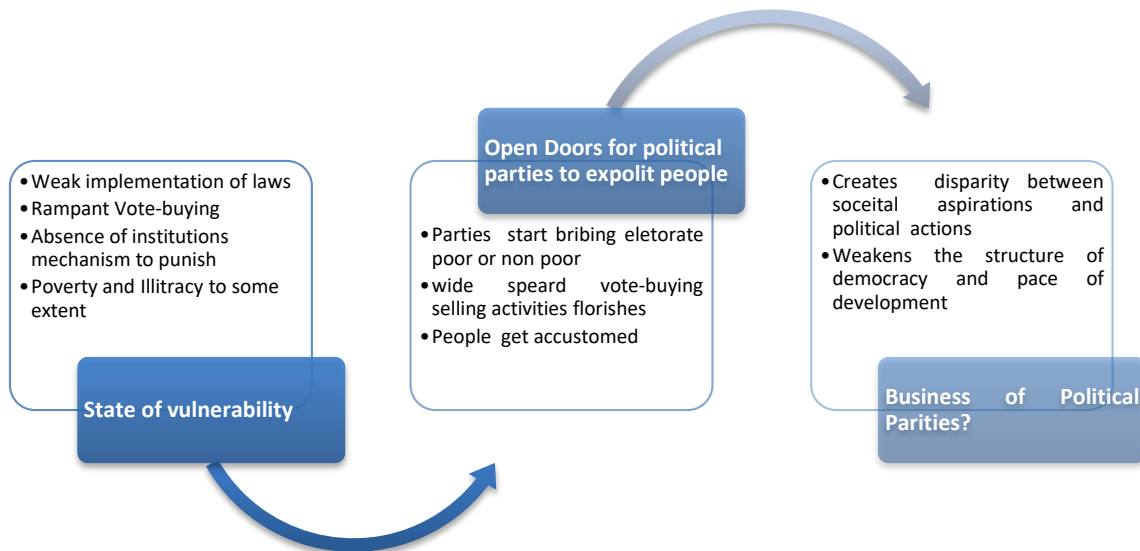
And secondly illiteracy alone also plays a central role in vote-selling activities. But in this section, brief analysis of impact of illiteracy on voting decisions is explained and in the 3 chapter detailed analysis of impact of illiteracy on voting decision are considered at length. "Illiterates are also more likely to be persuaded to sell their votes, or tricked or intimidated into voting for crooks and thugs". (Magazine E. , Illiterate Voters, Making thier Mark, 2014). Being poor imply being less aware [with regards to importance of voting and voting decisions] and being illiterate implies lesser opportunities to stay well aware, and thus being less-aware exponentially expands the possibility of easily being carried away with someone else's interest, as we have seen above.

"Illiterate citizens inevitably lack in awareness and reasoning skills. How can we expect a voter to make an informed decision when he/she is unable to even read a newspaper? Illiterate voters are easily misled." (Ghosh, 2013). But destitution coupled with illiteracy makes it impossible for these people to engage themselves in news reading or watching. "Analyses of media coverage of campaigns have found newspapers to present the greater range and in- depth issues, to have partisan bias, and to require readers to engage themselves more actively and more creatively" (Venezky, 1994). Furthermore watching news requires television but as these people are struggling to find a proper shelter or nutritional food for their families who labor usually in fields, factories or sometimes in mines or sometimes in brick making centers find it increasingly unaffordable. People who are poor, lack access to education and thereby lack opportunities to enhance their understating and thirdly people with combination of narrowed economic opportunities and broadened poverty naturally loses desire to understand the whole cycle that invariably puts them under precarious situation where they act on some else's interest.

³ Not the real name

Coming back to benefit voting phenomenon revolves around three important events and circumstances.

Figure 2:



“Selling your votes makes for bad governance, encourages corruption and is very likely to keep some of best potential candidates from running for office” (Cheeseman, 2015). Disparity between societal aspirations and political actions will be widened because party who won the elections based on vote-buying and will be less concerned and more negligible and delivers something which does fit into the aspirations of the people.

All these circumstances create opportunities for political parties that eventually lead to a phenomenon where the democratic values and code of functioning gets badly affected, leading to disastrous consequences. Political parties seems to have commercialized the whole system of electoral process and democracy where they intentionally target vulnerable people to vote in their favor, but due to lack of statistical matrices we cannot conclude that only the vulnerable people sell their votes, and since we have seen examples where people intentionally expect something in return of their than in this case it would be totally incorrect to say that only poor and illiterate people sell their votes.

Benefit voting is essentially a kind of general behavior where expect something material gain or something and readily agree to sell their votes due certain shortcoming in implementation of laws, due certain socio-economic factors as discussed, and these days benefit voting has become more common than vote-selling. The degree of vulnerability (in terms of regulatory and implementation mechanism) decides the game in democratic set-up. “I think candidates give out money not because they particularly think it’s a great way of winning an election, but because voters demand it” (Cheeseman, 2015) . The view that mostly poor and illiterate people to sell is parochial to some extent because evidence suggests many people out of the circle of poverty and illiteracy tend to sell vote, as we have seen above.

Furthermore, I observed a strange phenomenon during by polls in Gulbarga (My native place) district India, contrary to the general belief that poverty and lack of knowledge makes people to sell their votes. I noticed that people (few people) voted to those parties who offered “free pick and drop” facility to the polling station who were educated and financially sound. And furthermore even the hard core poor and illiterate section of society generally followed the same practice. But not all people had the same attitude and lot of people casted their votes without any “benefit”. This evidence strongly suggests that there exists a considerable difference between vote-selling and benefit voting. . And the biggest shortcoming of this research is that it does not classify vote-selling groups or people based on certain economic or socio-economic parameter as no reliable statistical data is available today.

From analytical standpoint, examination of this nexus and its after effects might lead us to point where one would ask, who are responsible for all these? Parties? Vulnerable society? If vulnerable society has been alleged with unethical behavior than what about political parties? If only they had introduced wide range of electoral reforms while in power, then the question of vote-selling and buying hadn’t been shaped at all.

All democratic countries have prohibitive laws, but the feeble implementing mechanism has greatly favored the parties. According to Institute for Democratic Electoral Assistance, in “South-Asia more precisely in countries like Srilanka, India, Maldives, Iran, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Pakistan vote-buying is completely ban.” (Assitance, 2015). On the contrary, we have witnessed wide-spread vote-buying activities in India & Pakistan, this highlights the fact even though stringent laws are in practice but implementation is absent. This is the third most critical factor that boosts electoral fraud and misrepresentation and most importantly benefit voting as noted above.

For example, “it is a punishable with imprisonment” (Assitance, 2015) in Chile and similarly in Ecuador “it is prohibited to for candidates to provide any type of donation or gift to citizens” (Assitance, 2015). In India bribery of any gift, or promise by the candidate and many

other forms and activities are deemed to be corrupt. (Assitance, 2015). Contrary to this, we observed gross negligence of laws set in place by political parties and voters at large, and ironically at social level, it is widely acceptable in general. Selling vote on account of hardcore poverty or occupation or illiteracy is something different and trading votes for some immediate gains or benefit even though they are non-poor and literate is something disastrous. Because we found that voters attitudes owing to weaker implementation of stricter laws (that are in place in many countries) created a situation where people especially voters have started demanding or asking something in return of a vote irrespective of their financial or literary conditions.

This proves the fact that there is huge difference between vote-selling and benefit voting, which something related to social behavior, attitudes, effect of weaker law implementation mechanism. Socio-regulatory analysis is a kind of novel analysis where effect of regulation or laws on the society are studied and when applied to study voting behavior and attitudes where vote-buying exists we found that it gradually leads to benefit voting .

This chapter saliently also highlighted the fact that even after wide spread out cry in the media and academic circles, there is hardly in change in implementation mechanism in most of the countries and vote-buying is active. This interplay of set of unethical activities and vulnerable society (and partly due benefit voters) definitely impacts the process of democracy where eligible citizens supposed to be at the heart of government formation based on their free will, but we observed that greedy politicians, with blurred vision, and dishonest practices coupled with unethical social attitude of the electorate filled the environment with unjustifiable practices only desire to cling to power, has transformed the entire society into puppets of political fancies and hidden their agendas.

In this chapter both vote-selling and benefit voting were studied in a mixed up style based on strong evidence for both and it was found that benefit voting is chiefly prevalent on account of ineffective regulatory mechanism and whereas vote-selling is because of socio-economic weakness. And furthermore this chapter showed us how gradually it turned into more common. Benefit voting is evolving phenomenon where even the non-poor and literate would expect something for their vote but whereas vote-selling occurs due lack of knowledge, resources for building knowledge and other factors as discussed above.

Someone Else's Interest

Generally it is the socio-economic factors that create a vacuum of abstract among a particular class of society that leads to confusion and exploitation at the hands of political parties. The world over especially in countries where large income disparities exist and socio-economics gaps are wider in terms of occupation, earning, literacy levels, access to information; political parties rely on unethical ways to get on to the power.

The nexus between power and competition between political parties in light of democracy is unjust and heinous, that directly undermines that capacity, value and purpose of democracy leading to some disturbing questions like is democracy just a mechanism to govern the society by political parties? Or is it political parties deceive people in the name of democracy for their hidden interest?

Nevertheless, the delivery of preference under persuasion of political parties doesn't reflect the true will of the people and leads to large disparities between what people want and what the state does. Many elections take place in Latin America and Africa but under the shadow of crime, riots, atrocities, rigging, reluctance to accept the electoral outcomes that has always results in social chaos, economic inequality, political destabilization, backwardness, stagnant economics, leading to increased impoverishment, illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, civil wars, mass crime, assassinations and bribery.

If relationship between the state and society is based on fundamentals of equality, transparency, security and overall development, then proposition of disparities between society's aspirations and government's intentions and actions wouldn't had taken place.

But it does not mean that the entire set of less-privileged more destitute people sell their votes more often. On the contrary to what we have seen above, many economically well-off people are found to be involved in benefit voting activities in many countries but due to lack of statistical data in every country we cannot classify them based on the standard of living, income or literacy levels.

Furthermore it does not mean that people from all economic backgrounds sell their votes, perhaps moving beyond the realm of economics and law, philosophical analysis present some of the contradictory testimonials for the practice of benefit voting. The terminology of judgment refers to the actual capacity based on available resources, opportunities and understanding of poor and illiterate people. Values and judgment for action if shaped by ethics, then decision will be rational and unbiased to some extent. This aspect of voting will be discussed in the next chapter.

Strength of moral, virtue and philosophical inclinations prohibit people from selling their vote for something. Here it is the question about economic opportunities and social engagement. It is very hard to define whether it is a process or outcome, outcomes are contradictory.

Chapter 2

Value Voting

In the earlier chapter we analyzed reasons for vote-selling (from socio-economic standpoint) and reasons for benefit voting, but it would be completely inaccurate to say that all poor and illiterate people sell their votes, because evidence suggests that people will refrain from vote-selling and this chapter briefly elaborates those reasons.

Value voting is a moral practice equally contrary to practice of benefit voting; entirely based on morality and values. Morality is considered to be the guiding principle for people's choice and action, a divine attribute distinguishing right and wrong. "Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self" (Philosophy, 2015). The very nature of this concept is gravely challenging to the practice of benefit voting discussed above. This is because in the earlier chapter the key aggregator for people to vote of a particular party was any benefit in return, but here key factor that drives people to vote are moral values, that will stop them from engaging in vote-selling and buying activities. Epistemologically, value voting rests upon conscience. Here it represents the core assumption of this concept or practice. Value voting or moral voting is essentially a type of natural voting, or voting based on free understanding and will, (As voting is supposed to be) and it is in complete contradiction of benefit voting because value voting is free from any external influence and influencers. In other words, value voting is backed moral values, forbidding any compromise in reluctance. The core pillars of value voting are:

1. *Free of any influence.*
2. *Nothing is expected in return of a vote, and*
3. *No vote is casted for any apparent or hidden, direct or indirect material gain.*

These three key pillars of value voting rests upon basic principles of morality, i.e.: honesty, fairness and no cheating. More precisely value voting is essentially a practice of delivering preference freely. Societies the world over have been greatly influenced by philosophy or religion and that remains the fundamental aspect for their motivation towards right or wrong. In other words for centuries religion and philosophy had impregnable impact on human thinking and actions. From theological perceptive the validity of good and evil; is governed by divine laws derived from books of wisdom which remains one of the greatest source and even today it plays a pivotal role in shaping human thinking.

Value voting profoundly asserts that voters will refrain themselves from engaging into vote-selling activities backed by strong moral. In other words, value voting stress the point that not all people will be ready barter their votes for material gain, and in many occasions, around the world voters out rightly renounced their will to exercise franchise under "someone else interest".

"Malawian voters are beginning to value their vote more than handouts" (Dulani, 2014) "In a recent study; over 70 percent of Latin America respondents opposed vote buying. Further, these questionable electoral practices in Mexico seem to operate contrary to official commitments to transparency and accountability on the part of the national government". (Matteson, 2015). "Similarly, in a 2011 Afrobarometer survey conducted in [Uganda](#), 76 percent of voters said they would accept money from election candidates but still vote for a candidate of their choice" (Dulani, 2014). "Anti-vote buying" campaigns in both Thailand and the Philippines, for example, have been carried out largely by middle class reformers who seek to "educate" the poor" (Schaffer, What is Vote Buying?, 2002)

The basic assumption is; even though abject poverty and complete illiteracy coupled with weaker regulatory mechanism may prevail but it is not necessary that people may not be guided by moral values and ethical sentiments that prevent people from selling their votes. "Some were honest enough to tell me that I had ideas for constituency, but they were voting for someone giving them something that I wasn't" (Segawa, 2016). In other words, the lack of sources that help build awareness and strength to form an idea (towards a political party for voting) and the liberty of expressing that choice in terms of vote, does not push people to merely selling their votes for material gain as we seen above. Morality is believed to be naturally embedded in human nature and to any extent it's not based on education or luxuries living. Morality sometimes acts as barrier for vote-selling. But advocates of moral relativism claim that positions of right and wrong are culturally dependent (among others) and differ in different cultures. "Different Societies have different moral codes" (Rachels, 2003). It is true that certain practice by certain section of society at a certain place might be considered moral but ironically the same it might be viewed as evil in certain different part of the world.

But philosophy of universal morality sets out that all people have similar moral obligations irrespective of race, culture, faith or social code. Ironically, moral universalism turns out to be largely effective because the process, purpose of voting, purpose of government, voting rights, system of establishing government and many other parameters remains the same in all places, so the relationship between morality with vote-selling is basically very close to the integrity and purpose of democratic system, where people are allowed to choose their government to serve in their best interest, then voting under persuasion of political parties.

The relationship between morality and vote-selling especially for any monetary or material gain is simple; vote-selling broadly involves 3 key things

1. *Suppression of own free idea,*
2. *Getting super imposed by someone's idea and*
3. *Selfishness*

Vote-selling is one of the most selfish acts on part of the voters because in this case voter is just concerned about deriving any material gain out of his action, and not literally concerned about the moral consequences if his choice goes wrong. Technically, in the first instance, where own free idea got suppressed under someone's influence for material gain; morality vanishes, because the action of vote-selling for gain in return is cheating and lack fairness and thus is immoral. Fairness would call for voting based on personal judgment and not based on someone's assertion to vote.

From philosophical perspective, the moment an individual agrees of set aside his own idea and adopts "someone else's" preposition, (just in case of voting) then individual has lost moral ground since he acting under the guidance of selfishness, rather than fairness. There has been universal condemnation against selfishness and deceit, irrespective of culture and tradition, and more importantly when viewed in conjunction with impact of selfishness on democratic system as whole, it is more disastrous. Because individual's selfishness creates opportunity for political parties to entice poor and illiterate people to vote in their favor and this will ultimately leads to a system where parties can rule illegitimately.

Analysis of impact of such a sordid system reveals that wicked politicians and greedy political parties make an adverse effect on weaker section of our society and human freedom. "Political and social participation has intrinsic value for human life and well-being" (Sen, 1999). But rampant vote buying activities results in congested environment for social and political participation which in turn lowers value for human life and well-being.

The intrinsic values of democracy and democratic system will reduced to "corruptocracy", a system where political parties pursued, influence, suppress, pressurize people to sell their votes most of the time through money and sometimes by muscle power. It's a major jolt to fundamentals of democracy. Coming back to value voting, it is always true that people no matter their living conditions tend to have at least some degree of moral values that forbids them from illicit activities to certain extent. Contrarily, the most vulnerable section of the society consistently turns out to be the victims of vote mobilization techniques and this chapter clearly demonstrates the difference between vote-sellers and non-sellers along with in-depth and broad reasoning for both, which helped us in understanding prevalence of both the phenomenons.

In other words, the purpose of this chapter was to highlight the fact that not all voters sell their votes and to distinctively elaborate the reasoning for not selling their votes. On account of lack statistical evidence across the countries the examination and analysis (to clearly distinguish between benefit voters and value voters) has been carried out on philosophical grounding to provide broader critical analysis between the two and its reasoning and impact.

Value voting also highlights the underlying fact that people themselves have raised their voice against vote-buying activities by expressing their reluctance towards it, and on the hand it also proves that in many countries so far no concrete measures initiated to curb vote-buying. These two important facts were recognized only because of the problem was studied under philosophical background. This sort of analysis established the strong foundations to understand the reasoning behind as to why people sell their votes and why not. (Among other reasons)

Value voting proves that social and moral values no matter in what society as so strong and vibrant that, it literally encouraged people to refrain from vote-selling and protest against vote-buying activities that would gradually strengthen the process of democracy and fairness in representation.

. "In Abitibit village in eastern Uganda, one participant commented "we lack so public services, we don't want to receive their 1000 shillings. Whoever wants to help us should come and put up a classroom block instead" (Institute, 2016). Realistically, it's been also found that, it is not just values or theosophical inspiration or moral values that hinder voters from selling their vote, as in case of Uganda. People have recognized the failure of party of keep up their promises, they are able to assess their socio-economic conditions and correlate with promises made by parties during elections. Secondly many international organizations are organizing village level or town level workshops in many countries like recently in Uganda by an international organization to educate the electorate about their rights and impact of selling vote. To some extent it had been greatly successful especially in Uganda. On the other hand candidates of many different political parties (for example in Uganda and Philippines) have openly urged voters to not sell their votes and this approach is effective to some extent.

Chapter- 3 Blind Voting

Blind voting is kind of voting where voters prefer candidates based on their own set of criteria for judgment then rather than performance, achievements, ideology and expertise of a party. The central purpose this chapter is to explain how poorest of the poor and illiterate section of our society forms their decisions to vote and what exactly they deliver. In other words this chapter specifically focuses on particular section of our society and explains how this section forms their judgment and consequentially answers the key question that remains at the heart of discussion and debate in politics and democracy, i.e. Why caste, color, creed, clan based voting still exist.

But conclusions drawn in this chapter are not just limited to poor and illiterate voters, since evidence suggests that even the non-poor and educated voters has similar attitudes. In this chapter we first briefly evaluate the impact of illiteracy on voting decisions and then in 2nd section we will focus on impact of poverty. Illiteracy can simply be defined as inability to read and write.

Complete illiteracy can be defined as no ability to read or write any language. Illiteracy exists in varying forms and degrees in different places in the world.

“Complete illiteracy means a person cannot read or write at all. Of equal relevance is the concept of functional illiteracy, which means an individual may have basic reading, writing and numerical skills but cannot apply them to accomplish

tasks that are necessary to make informed choices and participate fully in everyday life. Poor literacy also limits a person’s ability to engage in activities that require either critical thinking or a solid base of literacy and numeracy skills. Such activities may include:

1. *Understanding government policies and voting in elections*
2. *Calculating the cost and potential return of a financial investment*
3. *Using a computer to do banking or interact with government agencies”* (Foundation W. L., 2015)

Three different forms of illiteracy has been defined above, of all the three, poor literacy phenomenon is most critical to this chapter. Since as per definition, poor literacy limits the ability of person to understand government policies and voting in elections. In other words, Illiteracy naturally lowers (as we have seen earlier) the degree of awareness required to understand and chose a candidate to vote, because it generally creates a situation where it acts as barrier to evaluate and understand the situation, schemes and policies offered by different parties during elections and its impact.

Put simply poor illiteracy tend to limit learning opportunities for people because they became isolated from print, digital, social media except the television, and if those families are poor then the chances of having a television will also be bleak, in that case opportunities for leaning and staying well aware about national or even local politics and situation will be diminished.

“Greater education might lead to greater awareness of one’s own responsibilities as a citizen, or it might like the informal education gained from non-manual occupations, provide increased ability to handle the mechanics of registering and voting”. (Venezky, 1994). The relationship between education and literacy is strong and positive certainly because education helps people to study, understand, participate, analyze, gather information, and chose the best the candidate but ironically; poor illiteracy lessens these opportunities and leads people to something different. “Illiteracy plays into the hands of corrupt politicians who try to win votes on the basis of religious, tribal or ethnic affiliations, rather than on their contributions to the nation”. (Ghosh, 2013). On the contrary, widespread illiteracy creates a situation where people start relying on “other” factors or prepositions for choosing their candidate during elections. This deviation results In a situation where voters might consider number of different totally irrelevant factors that does not hold any connection with party or its action plan as basis for expressing their will (vote).

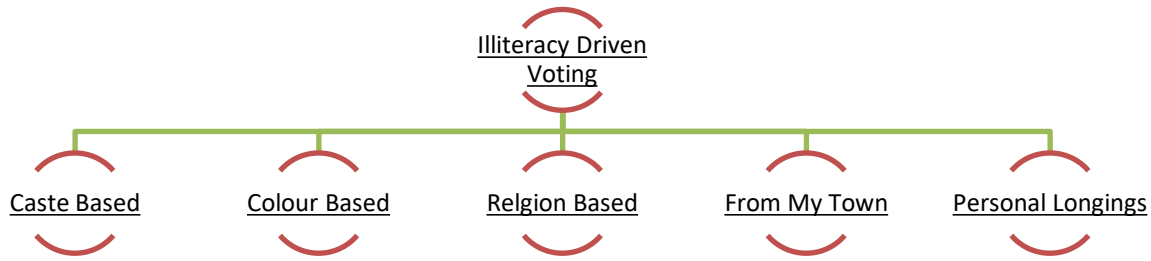
“It seems that present-day elections are no longer about the candidate or proposition with the most appealing content, but rather the candidate or proposition with the best-edited commercial, the brightest colors or the most memorable slogan. In essence, ignorance and superficiality have taken a stronghold on our voting system. People, more than ever before, are voting without knowing what they’re voting for”. (Mohr, 2008) So now the question arises what factors generally go into their reckoning for vote? Observation suggests that wide range of socio-cultural, factors like caste, creed, and color are considered. For example in India, caste based voting is largely prevalent in many of the states.

This stems from the fact that illiteracy seriously blocks avenues to learn and understand where they gradually get isolated from general public and relies on their self-created philosophies to vote, which are totally out of the realm of voting philosophy. Three factors might be the biggest factors that led people to form their judgment on something not relevant to current state of their country or region

1. *Lack of ability to read and write*
2. *Partial isolation from literate community*
3. *Lack of awareness about parties and their candidates*

Different forms of illiteracy driven voting is being described in the chart below, based on findings, and observation.

Figure 3:

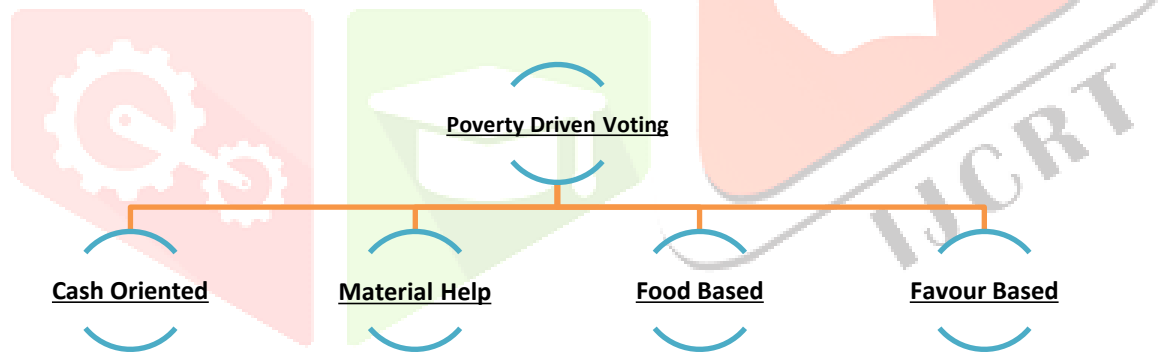


The most common type of voting especially found in India is caste based voting, where people prefer to vote of a candidate who belongs to their caste. “The Caste based factor has without doubt defined the performance of the parties in the past elections”. (Narain, 2014). This remains of the most crucial aspect in India democracy. And second most common type of voting is religion based voting where people tend to support and vote for a candidate who belongs to their religion. “A Pew Forum Analysis of nearly final exit poll data released on Wednesday found that Obama won among Catholics, Jews, and non-whites across religious traditions, but saw a dip in his support among white evangelicals, a white Catholics, among other.” (Kaleem, 2012). But it should be noted that as mentioned above, illiteracy “may” not be the only factor for these diverse forms of voting and varied attitudes; many other factors might be responsible, examination of which is literally beyond the scope of this paper. But theoretically it’s been found that the consequences of poor of complete illiteracy may sometimes lead to these forms of voting.

Furthermore, “From my town” is type of voting where people unreasonably prefer voting a candidate who belongs to their home-town, or native place. This naturally shrinks the opportunity for another candidate from a different province to stand for elections. Personal longings is having a deep culture orientation where set of people tend to vote to candidate with whom they had old family ties, or someone in their family had good personal ties or close relationship.

Now let focus on how hard core poverty may influence the voting decision.

Figure 4:



Perhaps hard core poverty does have a strong impact on how voters make their decisions, these include cash oriented, material help, food based and favor based. “Last year in West Memphis Ark. a statehouse candidate used \$2 half pints of vodka” (Fahrenheit, 2012).

The above is example of cash oriented vote-selling mainly driven by poverty, secondly material help based vote-selling means selling vote for “mixer and grinder” or saree. Parties in India raised allegations of distribution of saree and other dress materials by other party ahead of state assembly polls. (Oneindia, 2015) Thirdly, food based vote-selling is a type of vote-selling where person agrees to sell vote for lunch or dinner or some other eatables and finally favor based vote selling is a type of trade where candidates promises a person to do something good for him,(promises of government job or allocate of house in government housing colony) though this is mainly a kind of benefit voting.

This chapter elaborated social attitudes towards voting under certain socio-economic conditions, just to showcase a glimpse of how voting as such is exercised. Primary aim of this chapter was to go beyond benefit voting and vote-selling and focus on how hard core poverty and poor illiteracy impacts voter’s psychology. This helps us understand, how socio-economic characteristics of a region of county or district or entire state opens avenues to exploitation and misrepresentation by political parties or the ruling class and in the

other hand this chapter deciphers how social attitudes transforms due to poverty and illiteracy and how disastrous it will be of our democracy.

Chapter-4

Discussion and Findings

It's been observed that electoral fraud stretches beyond voting, where vote selling or benefit voting are just the beginning of entire process. Many democratic countries around the world suffer from cruelties of wicked politics. To some extent regulatory vacuum is greatly responsible and to large extent and on top of it absence of strategic reform process is adding fuel to fire. It also been observed that political parties have created an environment where political power and electoral mandate seem to have overtaken the values and purpose of democracy. "Nigeria is in the league of less successful countries in the area of election management and outcomes: the electoral rules are either unclear, ever changing, or easily subverted; the electoral body is structurally weak and perennially ineffective; the political actors and agencies are like gladiators in their conduct; while the people are often powerless in an environment of political and electoral misdemeanor". (Agbaje, 2006). As discussed above, it's the culmination of weak regulatory structure, irresponsible politicians, greedy political parties and irrational voters that have created conducive atmosphere where electoral fraud, misrepresentation, corruption and selfishness have become a central part of establishment of government.

From micro stand point, disobedient citizens (towards the law of the land) and greedy candidates have started taking advantage of certain continuing loopholes in regulatory structure at the macro level and nourished a culture of where illicit practices have become a socially acceptable and politically beneficial. In case of Tamil Nadu, as we observed that political parties try to lure voters to vote in their favor by distributing certain very short-term goods like rice cooker or saree which clearly demonstrates that parties target people with simpler and cheaper needs which can be fulfilled easily so that they can vote in their favor easily.

Similarly as in case of Delhi, rag picker provides sufficient evidence that political parties work through a coveted mechanism where they target people with limited accessibility to knowledge and smaller needs. *Jhuggi* literally in English means *Slum* and parties during assembly elections offered INR 1000 Rs (15 USD Exchange rate observed on April/17/2016) to vote in their favor

The above 2 cases gives us insights into the strategy followed by the political parties and how well they are exploiting it, but the evidence suggests the other way around. In the above case, poverty and lack of resources to understand the process and meaning voting has become a bed rock voting corruption. "In the context of a weak electoral body, a perverted electoral process and undemocratic political parties, the stage is set for flawed elections". (Agbaje, 2006).

Similarly in Uganda we noted a candidate's confession that she never won because she never offered anything to voters to vote in her favor. This sort of social attitude and social acceptance will certainly destroy the integrity and fairness associated with the democratic system and will eventually lead to a situation where standing for elections becomes a profession for the affluent which will completely overshadow the purpose of elections and effectiveness in governance.

On the other hand if we look at strong evidence from India, related to "taxi ride" and "free trip to temple", it generally explains how strong the interaction is between weak regulatory and social attitudes, totally different from what we observed in the above 2 cases where we identified strategies employed the parties. These both set of verifiable evidence is strong enough to consider these case at macro level, because majority of the underlying facts about these practices are taken from the media and they have presented this a more broader and social level, so it ultimately proves something that went unnoticed so far before this research.

Coming back to the topic, further more we also found that sometimes even abject poverty and lack of information will not act as hindrance that will stop people from selling votes. Social values in some have emerged for more superior in shaping the conscience and social actions. On the other hand we also observed that many international organizations are working tirelessly in creating awareness by educating them distance themselves from voting selling activities. This proves that it is a two-way mechanism where realization at social level has emerged and thereby association has been formed between social attitudes and vision of many international organizations which in fact resulted in defiance of vote buying and selling activities in some parts of the world.

Similarly we also observed different patterns of voting and voting behavior based on personal, cultural, social aspects which seems to be slightly surprising. This proved that voting behavior in many countries to some extent is largely influenced by many non-economic and non-political factors that certainly go unnoticed. But its seems rather rigid to straight away make any negative conclusions of its impact of process of establishing government since its requires rigorous and lengthy research to find accurate and strong correlation but based on preliminary evidence presented in the third chapter it can be said that voting involves preference of personal and cultural biasness coupled with social attachments towards candidates, parties, race, color, food and many other factors.

Finally it's been found that the practice of voting in most of the countries observed is different from conventional beliefs. Many factors play a central role in the process of voting and decision making and it does create long-lasting, severe impact of quality of governance, integrity of democracy, future of billions of people, resource utilization, foreign relations and many other variables.

Chapter-5

Conclusion

Battle between political supremacy and fairness or fair voting will always be there, until political parties refrain themselves as honest servants of the nation willing to serve, based on true and fair reflection of society's will. It is the ideological error that most of the parties around the world suffer from; which gradually drifts them away from electoral ethics and democratic fairness. This creates a situation of discontented citizens, weak governance, disparity between political will and social aspirations; leading to mass protests, social unrest, violence, rebellion and chaos. It's a transition to disaster.

Many poor countries (only democratic) around the world suffer from increasing socio-political disparity and the root cause lies in electoral fraud and social attitudes. Impact of electoral fraud will not be limited to a particular constituency or district, province or state but it gradually culminates into a global mayhem. On the other hand, we must not forget that social attitude towards governance and electoral system also needs to be realigned and readjusted in line with the principles of democratic system, or otherwise a tradition of rights trading will flourish and democratic values will be sidelined. Weak democratic system will weaken governance and administrative system and gradually this will reflect in decisions and policies executed by the government.

Weak regulatory environment, vote-buying, hard core poverty and illiteracy nourishes illicit activities (to some extent) and establishes a government which may not function as per the social aspirations and this leads to disaster and effects lives of millions of people around the world.

It's really saddening to note the elimination of electoral fraud and strengthening of democratic process is not a part of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) recently released by the United Nations because I think without electoral fairness and democratic justice it is to some extent not possible to align national vision with these goals and may result to another extension of these goals in future, so to fill that presumed void and achieve goal together its critical to include elimination of electoral fraud into SGD's. This is because recent experience with respect to Millennium Development Goals strongly suggests that global partnership was hugely successful and the entire apparatus proved to be very effective as a system, perhaps more specifically with regards to extreme poverty and universal primary education goals where almost half of the goals were met. More precisely in case of sustainable environmental goals, almost 50% of the targets were achieved comparatively. For example, 4.2 billion people gained access to piped water till 2015 compared to just 2.3 people in 1990 (Nations, 2015).

Global problem demands a global solution, and I think that we can tackle these issues very effectively with the help of system of current global governance. Because it create a global system of accountability and transparency where national governments will be monitored on the basis of their action against these evil practices which promotes transparency and responsibility.

Four-Point Solution

1. Create a global database based in surveys related to electoral fraud, intensity, and frequency
2. Include this goal as a part of SDG's.
3. Create a global system or reporting on progress and challenges
4. More coordination between local government and international organizations

One of the biggest shortcoming for this research is it lacks statistical data, this is partly due the fact that there's no such global database on electoral fraud, frequency and magnitude of voting trading, tactics of political parties, action by national governments among other, so creation of huge data base will help us monitor changes, keep track of events, develop insights and finally to initiate necessary action.

Furthermore, due to absence on reporting on electoral performance, conduct and practices, it's becoming increasingly difficult to understand the entire system from global perspective and monitor it. This way we can create a system of checks and balances and promote cooperation between national government and international organizations. Organizations like the World Bank among others can play a central role in bringing more transparency because these organizations based on their expertise can conduct surveys and maintain data and coordinate with governments in building effective solutions and rescue democracies from disasters.

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