



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Politics of Urban Development: Delhi Assembly Election 2020

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1. Introduction

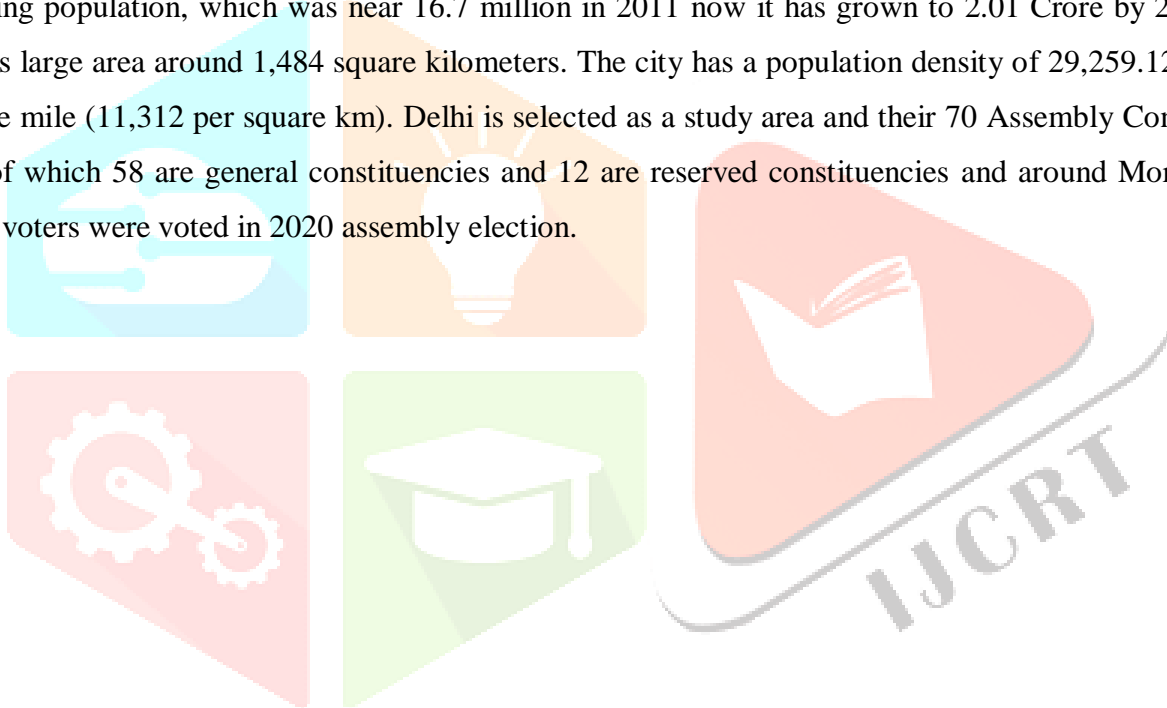
Recently Delhi has witnessed an Assembly Election. Political parties always play an important role in the process of making policies and regional strategies to solve the issues related to urban development. This study showed that how developmental issues and political programs and policies affects each other. Delhi is a cosmopolitan society where people of all religions, castes and classes live together. The 2020 assembly election in Delhi provide the best example of the fact that this time people cast their votes on development issues except religion and caste politics. Awareness among the urban residents, change in demographics with more youth arriving at metros etc are in a way responsible for the change in thinking of people. This impacted the politics of urban areas and in turn establishing accountability of politician towards common man. It further increased urbanization and is slowly turning out as a vicious cycle. With the rise of middle class and youth there is a growing pressure from citizens on government in Delhi for better delivery of services, reduction in corruption, and improvement in day to day administration. This time voters voted according to the local issues and problems of their constituency for development of their constituencies they also voted according to the choices available for vote like, candidates, political parties and their manifestoes. It was obvious that political parties always try to attract voters with their developmental policies. Delhi has 70 assembly constituencies and each constituency has their own socio economic problems like, housing, electricity, water, unemployment, slums, transport, education, health care, sewerage problem and urban crimes etc. Contemporary politics in Delhi is characterized by many issues related to water quality, electricity tariff, households and regularization of unauthorized *colonies*, free facilities of transport for women, free medical facilities and development in education sector and national issues like CAA etc. These were some of the inflammatory issues that kept urban development and urban politics in sync.

2. Aims and Objectives

- i. To understand the voting patterns of urban voters towards various political parties.
- ii. To understand the spatial variations in voting behavior.
- iii. To understand how development issues of a region can change the political circumstances of the region.

3. Study Area

Delhi is located in Northern India, at 28.61 degree N to 77.23 degree E. The city is bordered on its northern, western and southern sides by the states of Haryana and to the east by Uttar Pradesh. Two prominent features of the geography of Delhi are the Yamuna Flood Plains and the Delhi ridge. Delhi has a fast growing population, which was near 16.7 million in 2011 now it has grown to 2.01 Crore by 2020. Delhi covers large area around 1,484 square kilometers. The city has a population density of 29,259.12 people per square mile (11,312 per square km). Delhi is selected as a study area and their 70 Assembly Constituencies. Out of which 58 are general constituencies and 12 are reserved constituencies and around More than 1.47 crore voters were voted in 2020 assembly election.



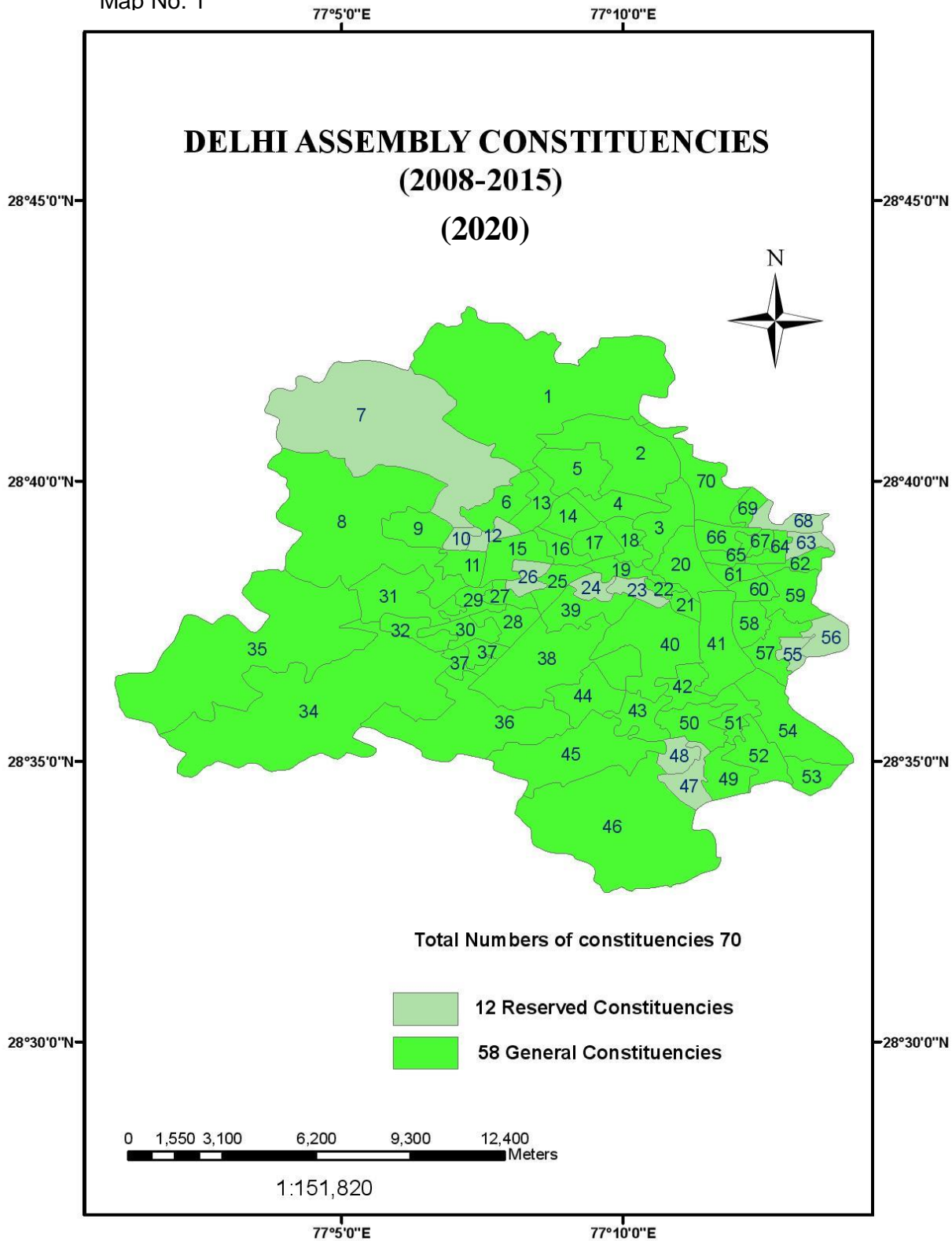
Delhi Assembly Constituencies

Table No.1.1

1.Narela	38.Delhi Cantt
2.Burari	39.Rajendra Nagar
3.Timarpur	40.New Delhi
4.Adarsh Nagar	41.Jangpura
5.Badli	42.Kasturba Nagar
6Rithala	43.Malviya Nagar
7.Bawana(SC)	44.RK Puram
8.Mundka	45.Mehrauli
9.Kirari	46.Chhatarpur
10.SultanpurMajra(SC)	47.Deoli(SC)
11.Nangloijat	48.Ambedkar Nagar(SC)
12.Mangolpuri(SC)	49.Sangam Vihar
13.Rohini	50.Greater Kailash
14.Shalimar Bagh	51.Kalkaji
15.Shakurbasti	52.Tughlaqabad
16.Tri Nagar	53.Badarpur
17.Wazirpur	54.Okhla
18.Model Town	55.Trilok Puri(SC)
19.Sadar Bazar	56.Kondli(SC)
20.Chandni Chowk	57.Patparganj
21.Matia Mahal	58.Laxmi Nagar
22.Ballimaran	59.Vishwas Nagar
23.Karol Bagh(SC)	60.Krishna Nagar
24.Patel Nagar(SC)	61.Gandhi Nagar
25.Moti Nagar	62.Shahdara
26.Madipur(SC)	63.Seemapuri(SC)
27.Rajori Garden	64.Rohtash Nagar
28.Hari Nagar	65.Seelampur
29.Tilak Nagar	66.Ghonda
30.Janakpuri	67.Babarpur
31.Vikaspuri	68.Gokulpur(SC)
32.Uttam Nagar	69.Mustufabad
33.Dwarka	70.Karawal nagar
34.Matiala	General Constituencies=58 Reserved(SC) Constituencies=12 Total Constituencies=70

Source: Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi (<https://ceodelhi.gov.in>)

Map No. 1



Source: <https://ceodelhi.gov.in>

4. Methodology

The present study is basically based on secondary sources of data. The secondary data have been taken from many sources like- The electoral data for (2015) collected from the reports on the Assembly Election published by Election Commission of India, The trends and data of 2020 Assembly election and Electoral Maps from Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi. Demographic data collected from Census of India 2011.

The areal structural and integrated approach were used, for the analysis of voting data many indicators have been taken like spatial distribution of party victories, numbers of seats won by political parties and their vote share were included to analyze the party performance.

5. Analysis

Increasing population growth in Delhi has given rise to many developmental problems. Various political parties have been doing their own politics and opposing each other on the developmental issues of various sectors of society. In Delhi more than 90% of the population was living in urban area by 1981. At the beginning of 21st century, more than 93.18 % of the population was living in urban areas by 2001 and it went up to 97.50% by 2011. This clearly indicates fast growth of urbanization in Delhi. With rapid urbanization, the rural area is shrinking: it has fallen from 1157.52 sq. km in 1961 to 797.66 sq. km in 1991 and it went up to 369.35 sq. km till 2011. This Speedy urbanization has led to many distinctive features and developmental issues and problems in many sectors for example – lack of basic facilities available to households like electricity, toilet, water supply & sewage, drainage, sanitation, solid waste management, transport, shelter and also the social infrastructure like park and community open spaces, health, education, security and community development, unauthorized settlements, JJ clusters and refugee colonies, unemployment etc. The increasing population growth in Delhi has also led to environmental pollution.

This study of urban politics explores the achievements and failures of local government in the perspective of 2020 assembly election of Delhi. During the election all political parties presented their manifestoes including various programmes and policies of development. In this election, various political parties put forth their main agendas, in which issues like development, national security and religion were prominent. The Aam Aadmi party made development its important issue and placed it before the people and the victory of this party proved that development is the most important issue of this election. The poll percentage this time is short of last time's turnout of 67.12%. This year the poll percentage was 62.59 %.

**Party wise trends and vote share of political parties
(Delhi Assembly election 2020)**

Table 1.2

Party	Seats Won (2020)	Vote share % (2020)	Seats Won (2015)	Vote share (2015)
AAP	62	53.57	67	54.59
BJP	08	38.51	03	32.78
INC	0	4.26	0	9.7
BSP	0	0.71	0	1.31
CPI	0	0.02	0	0.38
CPIM	0	0.01	0	-
JD(U)	0	0.91	0	0.35
LJP	0	0.35	0	-
NCP	0	0.02	0	0.02
NOTA	-	0.46	-	0.40

Source- Election Commission of India- State Election, 2015 & 2020 to the legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi.

Figure: 1.1

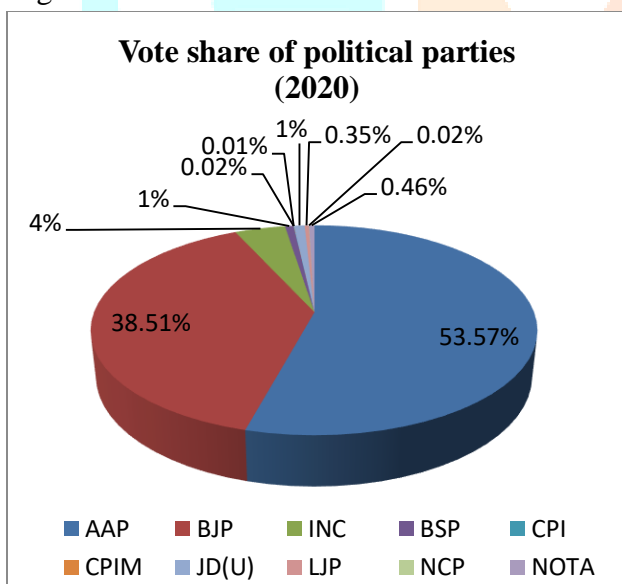
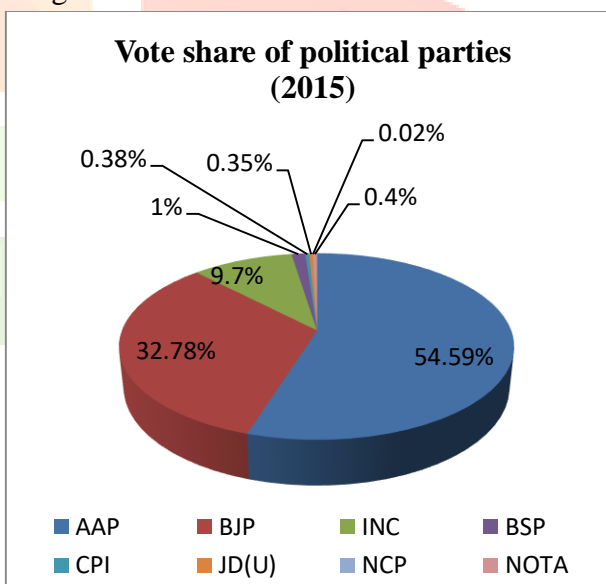


Figure: 1.2



Source: <https://eci.gov.in>

It is clear from the table no.1.2 and the above figures that AAP emerged as the largest party with 62 seats while its vote share decreased by 1.02% compared to 2015. BJP came out as the second party with 8 seats and its vote share showed a slight increase of 5.73% compared to 2015. While Congress failed to win any seat this time also, like the 2015 election and his vote share decreased even earlier.

5.1. A comparative study of Manifesto of political parties for the Development of Delhi

Table No. 1.3 Here is what Delhi gets to choose from:

Aam Aadmi Party	Bharatiya Janata Party	Indian National Congress
Education		
Building on the successes of Happiness Curriculum and Entrepreneurship Curriculum introduced in Delhi government schools, Deshbhakti Curriculum will be introduced.	The education budget will be increased by 10% every year. 10 new colleges and 200 new schools will be started in Delhi	Subsidised education for all students living in Notified Slums and all Resettlement Colonies until Class 12, in both public and private schools.
Youth		
Introduction of spoken English, soft skills and personality development classes to raise their employment opportunities and income potential.	Establishment of a 'Youth Welfare Board' to promote all round development of our young population.	Unemployment Allowance for graduates at Rs 5,000 per month and post-graduates at Rs 7,500 per month
Water		
20 kiloliters of free water per month continuation of existing policy.	Efforts towards providing clean water on tap for every household by 2024.	Paani Bachao, Paisa Kamao -flagship water tariff scheme whereby a cash back will be provided to households
Housing		
Ensure all of Delhi's unauthorised colonies get regularized and home owners get proper registries for their houses	Proper development of such colonies and will constitute a dedicated 'Colonies Development Board' for this purpose.	Regularisation of all unauthorised colonies with an allocation Rs 35,000 crores in five years.
Electricity		
200 units of free electricity per month continuation of existing policy.	Setting up of smart electricity grid Incentivisation of switch to solar power	Bijli Bachao, Paisa Kamao –electricity tariff scheme , free electricity up to 300 unit per month
Commuting		
Extension of Delhi's metro network to 500 km and others transport system with over 11000 buses	Procurement of 10,000 new green buses Completion of pending metro works Single smart card for all public transport	Procurement of 15,000 electric buses and building of necessary infrastructure
Women		
Initiatives to connect housewives with job and business opportunities. Women shall be provided access to cheap capital and requisite skills. Appointment of Mohalla marshalls for women's safety	"Rani Laxmibai Mahila Suraksha Yojana" Free bicycles and e-scooter for girls and women in schools and colleges.	Free education to girls in government schools, colleges, universities, from Nursery to PHD. Subsidised public transport. Return of 181 women's safety helpline

Pollution		
Planting of 2 crore trees Reduction of pollution to 1/3rd of current levels Cleaning and rejuvenation of Yamuna	All necessary efforts, in coordination with the Central Government, to control air pollution. Comprehensive strategy to fight air, water and noise pollution	Increase in green cover by 30%. Increased budgetary allocation to fight pollution. Institute dust management plan
Anti-Corruption Efforts		
Fight for the Delhi Jan Lokpal Bill to be passed by the Central government.	Implementation of Lokpal a priority in Delhi	Strong Lokpal in the first 6 months of election
Employment		
(No mention of job creation or start-ups in manifesto)	Provision of employment opportunities to at least 10 lakh youth in the next five years. Rs. 1,000 crore 'Startup and Innovation Fund' to be set up and a long-term Startup Policy.	A "Yaari startup incubation fund" which is a Rs 5,000 Cr corpus to incentivize young entrepreneurs.
Senior Citizens		
10 lakh senior citizens in Delhi to be taken for Teerth Yatras over the next 5 years	Increase the pension amounts for senior citizens	Launch of Sheila Pension Yojana under which of Rs 5,000 per month to all senior citizens without any source of income
Healthcare		
Holistic healthcare for all through Mohalla clinics and state-of-the-art-Hospitals	Implementation of Ayushman Bharat Scheme across Delhi Setting up of 400 health & wellness clinics	Addition of 5000 maternity beds, building of five super specialty hospitals. Appointment of Swastya Mitras to assist govt. scheme

Source: <http://citizenmatters.in/what-do-the-manifestos-of-aap-bjp-and-inc-promise-for-delhi-elections-2020-15785>

The above table shows the comparative analysis of manifestoes of three political parties in which they presented their programs and policies for the Development and welfare of people. This clearly indicates that how development issues of various sectors affects the politics of any region. It also shows how development issues dominate in this election and the common man has proved that development is more important to them than politics of religion and caste.

7. Results

- i. North East Delhi recorded the highest turnout of 67.83%.
- ii. New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency recorded lowest turnout which includes assembly constituencies of Delhi Cantonment (45.42 %) recorded the lowest turnout followed by Shakur Basti (49.19%) and New Delhi which saw a turnout of 51.64 %.
- iii. Three minority-dominated seats recorded very high voter turnout. Mustafabad with 70.55%, Matia Mahal in old Delhi recorded 68.36% and Seelampur another Muslim-dominated seat in northeast Delhi, an area that saw anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests, recorded 71.4% voting and the Gokalpur seat, reserved under SC Category, also recorded 69.73% high voter turnout.
- iv. All five Muslim seats went to AAP this time Okhla, Matia Mahal, seelampur, Ballimaran and Mustafabad. Delhi's Muslims traditionally voted for Congress but shifted allegiance to the AAP. Infact all these seats were won by the AAP in 2015 also except Mustafabad where BJP won in 2015.
- v. AAP's Okhla legislator Amanatullah Khan notched the second biggest win of the assembly election beating BJP candidate, Braham Singh by 71,827 votes. The Okhla constituency includes Shaheen Bagh and Jamia, both centers of anti CAA and NRC protests which had become a major election issue. One of the main reasons for the AAP's winning here was that, they focused on the development plank, shaheen bagh was used as polarizing poll plank by BJP across the city. But AAP kept a safe distance from it while congress was vocal against CAA and NRC. Congress failed again to gain the trust of people but AAP's programs and policies of development managed to attract people.
- vi. AAP party managed to retain its winnings on all reserved seats as well, and here too the vote share of congress got transferred to APP.
- vii. The migrants from eastern UP, Bihar and Jharkhand comprising around 40 lakh voters, live in the 1,700 unauthorized colonies in the capital. BJP had tried to woo them by offering ownership rights and regularization of the colonies, but to no avail. Poorvanchalis play a key role in at least 27 assembly segments. The prime areas among the 24 seats that were won by AAP include Burari, Kirari, Sangam Vihar, Ambedkar Nagar and Uttam Nagar. BJP also won 3 seats in this region Rohtas Nagar, Ghonda and Karawal Nagar. The main reason for most purvanchali voters to support AAP was their development work such as basic amenities like sewer network, free water and electricity, apart from more chhath ghats etc.
- viii. BJP tried to win only in the name of Modi and the work done by his government at the centre. BJP won only 8 seats; Gandhi Nagar, Laxmi Nagar and Vishwas Nagar come within the limits of East Delhi Lok Sabha Constituency which is represented by Gautam Gambhir, and Rohtash Nagar, Ghonda and Karawal Nagar are part of North East Delhi, which is represented by Manoj Tiwari. The two other seats, are Badarpur in South Delhi and Rohini in North West Delhi. Rohini and Vishwas nagar seat BJP won in 2015 also.

- ix. AAP presented its report card to the people through its development campaign, which connected people directly to them. On the other hand BJP focused on nationalistic approach. BJP tried to shift focus on polarising issues such as the ongoing protest against the CAA. BJP also had to face defeat due to lack of local leadership and negative campaign etc.
- x. The delivery of freebies also helped AAP to win this election, giving free bus and metro rides to women and free Wifi, installation of CCTV Cameras and schemes like 'Quality Health for all', without any income criteria etc.
- xi. Sense and sensibility also played a key role in this election. AAP leaders were careful in choosing their words in every statement they were putting out. Whereas BJP leaders used words that were not needed in their speeches.
- xii. People gave a clear message in this election that their vote is for development work done by AAP in last five years. Work related to improvement of education in government schools, free education, facilities of free water and subsidies on electricity with 24 hours supply and free health care with Mohalla clinics facilities etc. managed to attract Delhiites.

8. Conclusion

This Assembly election in Delhi is the best example that development is an important issue for the people today. The Aam Aadmi party was completely successful in winning the hearts of the people through the development work done by it in the last five years. Both Dalit and Muslim, the main vote bank of the Congress party, turned to the Aam Aadmi Party. Congress's performance touched a record low as the party bagged less than 5% of the total votes polled. BJP too could not do much in front of the storm of Development politics of AAP party. AAP's model of development stands in contrast to the identity politics that had held sway in India so far because it creates a new identity in politics altogether- that of a party which works for the welfare of all. Every common person, every citizen can associate itself with AAP's development politics. The voters of Delhi showed in this election that it stands completely with the model of development. This election victory for Aam Aadmi Party is also a wakeup call for all other political parties.

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Abbreviations

INC- Indian National Congress

BJP- Bhartiya Janta Party

AAP- Aam Aadmi Party

CAA- Citizenship Amendment Act