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## Political Indifference In Indian Society: A Challenge

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### Abstract:

The main reason for political Indifference in Indian politics in the first two decades of the 21st century is the increasing distrust of the public in politicians. Due to the moral decline of the leaders, the favorable relationship between the leadership and the public is ending. The public is increasingly convinced that all leaders are morally weak, regardless of the political party they represent. Their ultimate objective is misuse of power and authority and together they are looting the public money. The public increasingly believes that nothing will happen by participating in voting and by changing power.

The political leadership is increasingly being accused of corruption and nepotism. It is being reported that the movable and immovable assets of politicians are much more than their known sources. Many politicians have gone to jail on corruption charges. The process of recruitment into the political elite in India is extremely difficult and complex. For this reason the common man is unable to reach the political elite. Money, force, criminal character, dynasty, bureaucrats have become the main basis of political recruitment for some time now. Therefore, there is a feeling of disappointment towards politics among the public.

Key words: Political Indifference, political behavior, Democracy, election

## Introduction:

In today's modern era, it is a big question for the social and political thinkers that - a common man is being crushed under the impact of well organized capitalist society and the states having central powers. Day by day, the structure of modern society has been become a big complex and though more properly combined. The base of this structure is production ability. A human being is always seen as a producer. The society where he is playing his role is very much complex and broad. Personal relations are destroyed due to this broad social system. The society has been progressed very much physically. A common man has been always busy in improving his economic condition all the time during the so called progress of the society. As a result, he is feeling himself more and more alone at the time of meeting in workshops or in crowds; and in the meetings or processions of oppose. This aloneness was before directed by Marfs that - this is not because of workload only; but this is the aloneness from the state, from the colleagues and from oneself. Moreover, the state system itself has become so much central and formal that a person cannot become more than a small part of the whole system however tries he will do in reaching to make good career.<sup>1</sup>

Today's present social and political thinkers have become worried for aloneness of a common man who is crushing under the huge sky of fear and helplessness. So, the basic words of the modern thinkers are - disturbance, difference, demotion, no safety, disappointment and instability. Thinkers and history scholars like Nisbet, Sorokin, Spingler, Toyembi, etc. and the literary artists like Proust, Joyce, Kafka, Eliot, etc. have presented the sorrow of alone human being in their writings. According to modern social and political thinkers, the picture of modern man is like this. Man : lonely and helpless, searching for values being disappointed and desperate inside himself, separated from feelings and sympathies, feeling crushed and suffocated, lost from truth and proper way.

This is a thinking of aloneness: Existentialist thinking. The most important contribution of Existentialism is that this thinking gave speed to the process of pulling sympathetic attraction of the world towards the serious and difficult situation of today's lonely man. The existentialist thinking does not say anything particularly about today's political or social questions how to reach the necessity of collective social questions. About this, they don't have any particular programme and therefore this thinking could never take the form of a movement. Although it can be said for this thinking only that it is a reaction of particular emotions; but it does not tell about how to get out of this.<sup>2</sup> The modern social and political thinkers from Sartre to Markos are impressed themselves towards situation of today's man. This thinking has aroused many big impacts.

It is not wrong if we say that the democratic rule system has established its impression over most of the countries of the world. This rule system has become successful because main purpose of democratic states is welfare of the society. But great citizens and devoted leaders are needed for achieving this goal. It is said that the nation or society is built the same as its citizens are. If the citizens or the government do not have the necessary qualities, self-governance or good governance cannot be established. Today also, many people of India gave more preference to caste, region, class, religion, etc. than the country. The echo of these

A defect is seen in elections; whether it is the election of assembly or of local governments. In every election of India, the differences of parties, castes, religion or class are seen in registering names as candidates or to do political participation in voting. If this situation will remain, there may be frightful consequences happen about the stability of the country. It has put the democratic rule system in danger. These destructive forces have done opposite influence on the minds of people. So the morality of political dejection or political aloneness is seen in people.

Political Indifference means a person's indifference towards politics and decrease in political participation. Political Indifference as actually a part of the broader concept 'political alienation.' Political Indifference means a person's aversion to politics, powerlessness and loss of faith in political leadership .

To understand Political Indifference, it is necessary to understand political alienation. Although alienation is an ancient concept, it has assumed an important place in social sciences only as result of the study of capitalist societies. 'Aline' in French and 'Alondo' in Spanish are words which are used to express the mental conditions of a person in which he starts considering himself a stranger and feels alienated from himself and other people. Start to experience, At present, this word used for anxious moods or unbalanced mood and tendencies which make a person indifferent to society, environment and himself.

political alienation involves repulsion towards politics and power and decline and indifference in political participation. In this the person dose not consider himself responsible and related to the national goal

It is known by inquiring the history of democratic election system that India has maintained till today the success which it got in the first elections accepting the principle of free election system and parliamentary democratic rule system. However, it is noticed through the study of the results of the general elections of India that around 40% people have the instinct of dejection or indifference towards voting in some of the polling areas in India. On account of their dejection, the democratic system is somewhat affected. It is noticed by deep observation of the results of parliamentary election of India that the event of less voting has been much widespread from the beginning.

The average voting of general election of India is also 57.13/60.00 %. Moreover, there are also some states in India where the percentage of voting is zero in the first eight elections. For example, there is zero percent voting in the states like Bilaspur in 1951, Nagaland in 1967, L.M.A. island (Lokadevi, Minikoi, Amandevi islands) Sikkim in 1977 and Mizoram in 1984.<sup>3</sup>

There may be various reasons of low voting in every election of India; and it can be discussed in detail. Moreover, comparative study can also be done among states. For example, the lowest voting was noticed in Punjab in 1991-92. Its reason was the active demand of Khalistan and oppose of the central government. In some states such as Nagaland, Mizoram, there are movements of indifference against the central government; and so the elections may be rejected by them. The voting Percentage is high in politically developed states like

West Bengal and Kerala. But in the states like Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, which are backward in social, economical and political development, the voting percentage is noticed low. The issue of Jammu & Kashmir is of different kind, so it should be considered an exception.

Moreover, through deep study of election process, some defects or limitations are seen very clear that political indifference is responsible in the citizens of India. It includes the difference between the achieved votes to the political party and the seats, misuse of administrative system by the ruler party, delay in taking decision for the complaints against the election, enter of criminals in politics or crime in politics, increase in the use of money and its influence, increase in using power and violence in election, increasing numbers of small parties and non-party candidates; and the absence of voters.

The number of voters who do not vote in election in India is more. It is a dangerous effect of election commission. There are 40% voters do not take interest in voting. Moreover, they do not go also to the voting booths. Voting is a political right of every Indian citizen. It must be used by every citizen; so that he can elect a proper candidate and can create a competent government. No voting means to do treachery to the democratic rule system by not using the political right of voting. In this reference, Shri George Jin Nathan has said, "Bad representatives are elected by the good citizens who do not vote."<sup>4</sup> Because of absence of voters on the time of voting in election, the elected government cannot be said a government of representativeness in fact; as it is made by merely of 20 to 30 percent voters. For example, through the analysis of the election of 1971, it is known that only 55.22 % voters used their voting right in this election. It means more than 44.78 % (almost 12 crore) people did not vote in the election. Congress party got 6 crore votes and 352 seats

from 518 seats. Here, we see that a party, which has support of less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the voters and has got 43% votes of the total votes, is said a government if it has got more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  seats in the assembly. Is it really said a government of elected representatives? Thus, corruption related to election is inspired and bogus voting becomes more powerful because of so much dejection or absence of the voters. It can make the democratic rule system weak and unstable. In this reference, it is very necessary and invariable to know the political behavior of the Indian voters.

Human behavior is difficult to know and understand. A human thinks different and does different. His mind is very unsteady and changeable. Many factors affect the behavior of the Indian voters like caste, religion, language, impact of money, party union, party rules, nature of leadership, economic condition of a country, success-unsucccess in foreign policy, internal and external problems aroused before the country, expectation for a steady government, party thinking, behavior of ruling party, atmosphere of possibility of winning of candidate, qualities and eligibility of candidate and action-reactions of the political parties. These affect differently in their political, economical, social, educational perspectives to different states and different voting areas in more or less proportion.

Democracy is ultimately a subject of fearless speech and decisive behavior. Such a thoughtful behavior is expected and necessary to be followed by every citizen in democracy. People express the opinions freely on various public issues is an invariable and unique characteristic of democracy. Here, every person has to follow independence of speech and thinking; and individual and social duties are to be fulfilled in each behavior. The Professor of Princeton University of America Damis F. Thompson says in his book 'The Democratic Citizen' - 'Three important standards of citizenship in democracy: partnership, discussion and Different forms of voting. When these three criteria will be established to the same standard and in good proportion in the society, the citizenship will take form in proper proportion. It is very necessary that a citizen of democracy learn to use these three criteria and know how to take care of them. These three standards are connected to each other. Their importance in democracy is very much; and along with the appropriateness of these standards and criteria is in democracy only.<sup>5</sup>

A citizen has to be active at various surfaces and fields. For this, he has to take interest in different social and political matters. There is no any sin of no interest in democracy as it gives birth to passiveness and the number of passive people is increased. At that time, people who have attitude of corruption succeed. Edmond Berk says - 'It is necessary for winning of bad people that good people do not do anything'; because however good, honest, reputed, scholar, brilliant and understanding people are in the society, they show no interest believing the politics an ugly game. It is not proper for democracy.

Democracy is the only rule system that here every man is leader and in the same way a follower also. Every man has to lead in democracy, but never to be led by anyone. Democracy is a government for everybody's benefit. So it should be run in a way that however different from thinking or opinions of majority every citizen becomes, he is in position of giving support voluntarily. He cannot depend only on provisions of law. So, it is necessary for getting vote unity that there should a feeling of compromise, alertness of understanding different point of view and readiness of compromise in people of democracy.

In the modern era of present time, direct or straight democracy is impossible. Russou also agree on this matter. Direct or straight democracy is a form of government not only for humans but also for gods. A representative government of democracy is existed in order to manage the works like population expand and development of the modern states. The candidates, who make political partnership in this competition of getting high stage for achieving the rule by participating in election, are needed to be included in politics keeping in mind the welfare of people. In this reference, Berk says that - "The representatives should believe themselves the trustee of the whole state and not of one class only; and they should register their candidature understanding it."<sup>7</sup> At that time, it is a moral duty of voters that they should give vote with the viewpoint of electing a representative of whole country and not electing him only keeping in mind any religion, class, caste or relationship. They should try themselves to bring the democracy in right way. As Gandhiji says "Right democracy cannot be run by twenty administrative people seating in central; it is run by the people of every village from the bottom."<sup>8</sup> It is well and good for people and for democracy that Indian

citizens understand this truth as soon as possible.

### Suggestions

The main intention of this research study is to understand the mentality and reasons of the voters who stay far from voting in election. We saw in this chapter that many small and big reasons are behind no voting. Many reasons are personal. But because of low political awareness voters who don't vote can become dangerous for democracy. The suggestions about what should be done to produce real awareness in such voters are as below.

- There is a need that election fund and election expense become more transparent and it is necessary to control it more.
- Election management should totally free. Its organization, construction, appointment of workers and working system should free from every type of effects of the government and politicians.
- The voters should give votes as an impartial judge to a proper candidate being away of non secularism, regionalism, language, religion, communalism, caste, etc.
- Mainly the political parties have motive only to get power by maximum votes. So, they do not give real education to people. The thinkers or scholars of social institutes or of a country should give political knowledge to the voters by arranging lectures, seminars, conferences and to give true understanding of democracy in people.

In the same way, it is not believed wrong to ask vote in democracy; but it is very thoughtful how to ask vote and how it is given. It is possible to reach at the ruling seat on the basis of vote. But it is important matter who is reputed and how he is reputed. Here, the voting done on the basis of gender, secularism or unsocial people puts a question mark on the soul of the voter and candidate. India is divided into fields being ready on the base of politics inspired by selfishness of religion, culture and caste. It is a bitter truth that a human is divided from inside. One and only centre of its attraction is money and power. At that time, it is necessary to be alert for the citizens. One has to accept the formula of 'Constant Awareness' with a view to maintaining own individual liberty.

If we want make democracy pure and reliable, the moral and social values should be established in public life. There is no doubt if both candidate and voter will do political participation on the basis of morality and character, the democratic rule system will get maximum success. This type of education is very hard and difficult to achieve; but not impossible. Hence, every citizen has to arouse and activate their own culture, values, ideals, public welfare, qualities of citizenship

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