

A Case Study to Analysis Election and Voting Behavior in Pakistan

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Abstract. Elections are the major political events of a country and it is the democratic process of the transformation of the political power from the one political party to new elected party. In modern democracies, people express their will through their elected representatives. Political participation of the people in the public life is the cornerstone of democracy. The key objectives of the study will find out the facts whether those are social or political which affect the voting behavior of the people in Pakistan with special focus on the study of female voting pattern behavior in urban and rural areas of Pakistan. The paper will highlight what are the factors which are affecting the voting pattern of female and will unleash the hurdles in female participation in the voting system.

Keep in view of election May 2013 in Pakistan and we will unleash the finding which is related to social-economic aspects of the country along with the role of media in people's awareness and rigging impact on national politics.

To understand the voting behavior a sample of 350 households from urban and rural population was selected in Islamabad (Capital territory) and associated villages along with a rural population of Bahawalpur, Punjab uses a multistage sampling technique to analysis the voting behavior with education, kinship ties and influence of political parties. Chi-Square and Gamma method will be used to define the relationship between the voting behavior and association with political parties and other social factors which influence voter behavior. In the last part of the paper, we provide suggestions, that's how election commission should be formed and how it can make a proactive role to conduct smooth and fair elections and how these should implement electronic voting system in Pakistan to avoid rigging issues in the country.

1. Introduction

Man is a social being [1][2][3], and as such he always contributes in social life. But this contribution is not constant: the intensity and types of participation are the relevant variables in political analysis. Voting behavior is a very important aspect of humans because through this we can know the will of people and also the way they want to have it. [4]

Voting is the main form of political participation in democratic societies [5] the basic concept of democracy is that the elections should be conducted after regular intervals of the political change. The voters elect their representatives through the transparent elections. The conduction of free elections, to a large extent, depends on the working of the administrative machinery that supervises the whole process. In this way the people affect the formation of government and public policy. Citizens having the right to vote are called electoral or voters [6][7][8].

Since its establishment in 1947 [7], Pakistan has an asymmetric federal government and is a federal parliamentary democratic republic. At the national level, people elects a bicameral legislature, the Parliament of Pakistan, which consists of a directly elected National Assembly (a lower house) and Senate (upper house), whose members are chosen by elected provincial legislators. The head of government, that is Prime Minister, is elected by the majority members of the National Assembly while the Electoral College, which consists of both houses of Parliament together with the four provincial assemblies, elects the head of state (as well figurehead), the President.

In Pakistan, elections [7] are conducted under the supervision of the Election commission, headed by Chief Election Commissioner. The duties of the Election Commission include preparation of electoral lists and their regular revision for updating, conduct of elections in a free and impartial atmosphere, conduct of election to the senate and formation of election tribunals. The presence of suitable environmental setting is imperatives for the conductions of free elections. The electoral behavior of the voters and that of the political parties counts a lot in the conduction of free and fair elections. The voters have to consider the right to vote as a trust to be to be exercised in best national interest.

A person who is the citizen of Pakistan, is not less than 18 years of age on the first day of the January of the year in which the rolls are prepared or revised, is not declared by a competent court to be of unsound mind and is or is deemed to be the resident of an electoral area, can get himself enrolled as a voter in the electoral area. The citizens registered on the electoral roll are only eligible to cast their vote. (GOP, 2011). Voting defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Right as "Voting is the fundamental right of almost all citizens over the age of eighteen. It ensures that will of the people is preserved" (HRC, 2008). Voting is the expression of a person's preference for a candidate, or a group of candidates, as well as the person's preference of one political system rather than another.

2. Types of Elections

There are two types [9][10] of election majorly being observed in different countries and states

2.1 Direct Elections

The system of election adopted by most of the democratic states is a direct one in which the electorate directly elect their representative for all political offices.

In this system [10] of elections the voters directly elect deputies to representative bodies. Unlike indirect elections, direct elections are the most democratic way of organizing representative institutions, since they effectively express the will of the electors. They also provide an opportunity for exercising the right of recall, whereby deputies who have not justified the trust of the voters are removed

2.2 Indirect Elections

In the system of indirect elections [10][11], the electorate elected the members of an electoral college, entrusting them the mandate to elect representatives. The fundamental purpose of indirect elections is to vest this responsibility in few capable persons. Under the 1962 constitution of Pakistan the members of the National Assembly and the president of the Republic, was elected through the indirect elections.

3. Voting Behavior

The mode of election[12] can affected and determines the spirit of popular representation.

Nevertheless the attitude and behavior of the is an important determinant in this respect .Recent surveys regarding voting behavior in third world countries reveals that vote casting normally reflects voter's affiliation with a political party . Less than ten percent of the voters keep into consideration the policy issues involved in the party politics. Though the voting behavior is generally conditioned by socio-economic, cultural, religious and political environment, but multi factors affect the affiliations of the voters, for example not only in the Third world but in developed societies as well the sympathy of labour classes have generally been with the parties' socialistic leaning.

The social, economic, political and personal factors or interests that determine an individual's choice on the polling day is an important subject to investigate for parties as well as for analysts. At the moment, we go by caste, creed, tribe, ethnicity and other social solidarity group analysis. The individual is always missing as we make two unfounded and unempirical assumptions about Pakistan. One, Pakistan has not changed or if it has, it is too slow and small to be counted. Second, individuals no matter where they live, what they do or what social or economic mobility they have achieved are first and foremost members of a larger social solidarity group. And the influence of those groups weighs heavily on the political choices individual makes[13].

3.1 Voting behavior of women

In many emerging democracies women are less likely to vote than men. Although women account for half of the world's population, they have historically lagged behind men in legal and political rights. In recognition of this, suffrage was extended to women in most western democracies [14]. Despite these improvements, women are still far less likely than men to stand for public office, even in developed countries with older democracies. They are also less likely to participate in the electoral process as voters or to exercise independence in candidate choice when they do vote. Instead, women report voting in accordance with the preferences of the caste, clan or household head in contrast to men of all ages Voting behavior of women is generally shaped by the political attitude of the male members of their respective families. Women are more conservative and traditional as compared to the men and men are more politically active. Most of the women vote as instructed by their family members and their selection is not independent.

There are many factors affect [15] the decision to vote, women in emerging democracies may face in particular two distinct barriers. First, costs of participation may be too high. Traditions or cultural stereotypes may discourage the exercise of own preferences, mobility constraints may limit participation and, if there are expectations of voter intimidation or violence, personal security concerns may also loom larger among females. Second, women may have fewer or poorer sources of information about the significance of political participation or the balloting process, perhaps due in part to illiteracy and limited mobility. Lack of information may also reinforce stereotypes that further disengage women from public life. If lack of awareness limits participation, in rural Pakistan where women still face significant barriers to effective political participation, despite legislative reforms aimed at enhancing female participation in public life. women are often not registered as voters because they face opposition from male household heads and that female turnout is low because women lack knowledge about the electoral system and about voting

In Pakistan, political preferences and voting behaviour of individuals and specifically the females should be change more rapidly. In the countries like Pakistan, non-political factors such as, economics, religion, culture, ethnicity, factionalism are more dominant than the political factors. In such states, there is more need for the politicization of individuals. Politicization is the orientation of people to political acts and political perspectives and people are politicized in such a way that politics is given sufficient importance.

4. Role of media in people awareness and rigging impact on national politics

Media in any country has a significant role to play in the country's success. Either it could help the country achieve its objectives by highlighting the problems of its citizens or it could spoil everything

by diverting the attention of people from important issues towards significant issues. Media affects people's perceptions and priorities their thinking about the political contents. Media shapes the public's behavior about the issues and plays vital role in highlighting certain attributes of issues. Gatekeepers of the media i.e. (editors, news editors, and other journalists) they all play central role in shaping the media agenda which becomes public agenda after sometime.

Media of any country is reflection of that country. It shows that how person behave and live in their country. The way of expressing news, way of talking of politicians in political debates and discussion programs shows the behavior of people of that country .

British philosopher [14] underlined the need for free speech mainly for three reasons. He believed that freedom to read or write is an important element to expose and reveal the truth, to ensure self-development and self-fulfillment of citizens and to help ensure participation of the citizens in a democracy. The Pakistani media is an enthusiastic member of the new warrior clan of the 21st century and despite belonging to war-torn country, is playing active role in keeping with the demands of the modern times. By airing divergent views and engaging in cross questioning on significant national and social issues the media reflects and informs public opinion and practically shares the task of the parliament. Investigative reporting and live discussions can undermine the spell of many a magicians. This has facilitated public access to the hitherto unseen workings of the political and bureaucratic set-up while simultaneously highlighting the injustices suffered by the common man as a result of the shady practices of the elite

Hence we can say that in Pakistan the responsibility of media is much more than any media in the world, because Pakistan needs a big change and only media is now, as much powerful. At present media is the only source which is easily accessible by all walks of people through various electronic appliances i.e. TV, Radio, Internet, News Papers and now mobile phones also used by people to aware of events every time.

5. Methodology

The study is based to measure the behavior of voting trend toward different political parties in Pakistan. To understand the behavior of voting trend a random sample of 350 people was selected from urban and rural population of Pakistan from capital of Pakistan Islamabad and from a city of Punjab Bahawalpur Pakistan to get understanding of voting pattern of the country.

The study is based on random selection of different town and villages which are presenting and urban and rural population of the country. Open and close end questions are design to understand public view and on the basis of data we use descriptive analysis which was done through Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to get percentage and frequency distribution along with bi-variate analysis and for relationship testing we applied gamma test and Chi-square method.

6. Results and Discussion

Voting is the method of selection of a person, party or a group and it is the process of expressing the view about policies of parties and vote according. As this study is based on Pakistan and understand what are the factors which are related with the voting and democratic process. As per statistics 62% of Pakistani are literate and majority of them just can write their name and only 50% attend school then 8th standard. When a country have such alarming situation where majority of people are unable read and write how they can run voting process as it run other developed countries. There are some other factors which are directly affecting the electoral system and one of the main factor in which were interested was to analysis the impact of kinship ties on voting behavior beside this issue of female voting trend is very low due to lot of issues which females are facing in the society i.e families do not allow their females to cast vote and in this way majority of female are unable to cast vote and if we consider population of female population in the country these are around 49.5% of total population so if half of population will face issues in vote cast how we can achieve proactive and accurate results.

Table.1. show the voting behavior of the people in the sample study of urban and rural areas of Pakistan. Analysis show that around 58% of population of the urban and rural area participated in election and cast their vote and from them 70% are males and only 35 % females use their voting right. It is quite strange in the case of Pakistan that women are 50% of the population but vote casting trend is very low in female as there are lot of factor related with social and issues of families which not allowing them to go out from houses to cast vote. We study that there are about 57% peoples which are aware about party agenda while other are totally unaware and they are casting vote on the basis of other factors whether those are related with kinship ties or political affiliation with party whether party is working for prosperity of country or giving important to their own interest. It is quite interesting to know that from the population of vote caster there was 20% people who were totally unaware that for which party they will cast vote even at the last day of election. While we perform analysis on the factors which are influencing to not cast vote in the election and some of the study factors are shown in

Table. 1 Distribution of the respondents according to their voting decisions

No	Response categories	Yes		No		Total	
		Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age	Freq.	%age
1	Have u Casted Vote in 2013 Election	200	58	150	42.0	350	100
2	Male Respondent in vote casting	147	70.0	63	30.0	210	60.0
3	Female Respondent in vote casting	49	35	91	65	140	40.0
4	Are you aware about Political Agenda of the party for which you cast vote	200	57.14	150	42.86	350	100
5	Voting Decision affected by internal changes in party?	85	53.1	75	46.9	350	100
6	Have u Pre-decided to cast vote to a particular party?	281	80.10	69	19.90	350	100

Table.2. it is very surprising to know that 35 % of the people who was not participating in the electoral process they don't have any interest in election and there are some other key factor like voting station was far away from home, issue of Identification Card was pending along with fear to go out on election day due to uncertain situation in the country.

Table. 2 Distribution of the respondents according to the reasons of non casting vote

No	Reasons behind of non-casting the vote	Frequency	Percent
1	No interest in selection process	122	35
2	Voting list don't have your name in your area	59	16.7
3	Issue of ID	41	11.6
4	Inconvenient polling station	52	15
5	Fear of violence	58	16.7

6	Any others	18	5
	Total	350	100

We study the voting behavior according to internal changes in the party and influence of kinship ties in Table.3 and Table.4 respectively.

It is to be notice that more than 55% peoples are influence by other in voting trend and this influence is through kinship ties as in our country there is strong family system and they consider a sin if they vote against the person how is belong to their cast and in the a family it is not possible that a person vote against the opinion of other persons, especially women are strongly influence by their family and they don't have decision power to how they want to vote, whatever their family will decide, they will vote according to that and it is impossible to go against family decisions.

Table.3 show that 53% voters are alleged that internal changes in the party can change voting behavior as in 2008 election after the assassination of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Banazeer Buhtoo the voting trend become change and they got sympathy votes and reform government.

Table3. Behavior of voter along with internal change s in party

Changes in part setup affect voting behavior?	In coming election you will vote for a particular party?			Total
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Above
Yes	135	46	9	190
	71.3%	24.1%	4.6%	100.0%
No	55	68	15	138
	39.7%	49.2%	11.1%	100.0%
Not Sure	4	18	0	22
	20.0%	80.0%	.0%	100.0%
	194	132	24	350
	55.6%	37.5%	6.9%	100.0%

P-value = .000 value of Gamma = .53 Value of Chi-square = 23.23 distributed frequency = 4

Value of Chi-square value is 23.23 as per Table.3 along with highly significant value of P-value = .000 which clearly show that the internal changes in the party along with the voting behavior of peoples are high interrelated which clearly show us that internal changes in the party also affect the voting behavior of peoples.

Table 4: Kinship ties and voter behavior.

You prefer to vote on kinship ties basis	In coming election you will vote for a particular party?			Total
	Yes	No	Not Sure	Above
Yes	153	81	11	245
	62.5%	33.0%	4.5%	100.0%
No	42	46	9	97
	43.2%	47.7%	9.1%	100.0%
Not Sure	0	4	4	8
	.0%	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	195	131	24	350
	55.6%	37.5%	6.9%	100.0%

P-value = .001 value of Gamma = .440 Value of Chi-square = 18.47 distributed frequency. = 4

In the Table 4 shown that the value of Chi-square is 18.47 and show a high significant as P-value = .001 to express the impact of kinship ties on the voting behavior for a particular party for upcoming election. There is strong relation between then variables which lead us to drive the relationship that if the candidate belong to their kinship ties so than they will cast their vote keep in view of that kinship

ties and will vote for that particular party, to conclude this hypothesis we can say that “ if the candidate is belong to their kinship ties they will cast their vote to that particular party” is accepted.

6.1 Election of Pakistan 2013

On May 11, 2013 in Pakistan were general elections and we perform a depth study to understand the latest trends of voting; in the Figure.1 we shown the total number of National and Provincial assembly seats along with the number of candidates National and Provincial assembly seats.

As we can see in Figure.1 that in Pakistan there are 272 National Assembly seats in which 10 are for minorities and there are 86,189,802 while on the provincial level Punjab is the largely populated province of the country and it have 297 seats for Member of provincial Assembly (MPA) and for these 297 seats the competition was between the 5643 candidates which mean there was an average 19 candidates in per consistency along with total register voters of 49,259,659. As far as Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber PakhtunKhwa (KPK) have 130, 51 and 99 MPA seats along with 3 minority seats in Baluchistan.

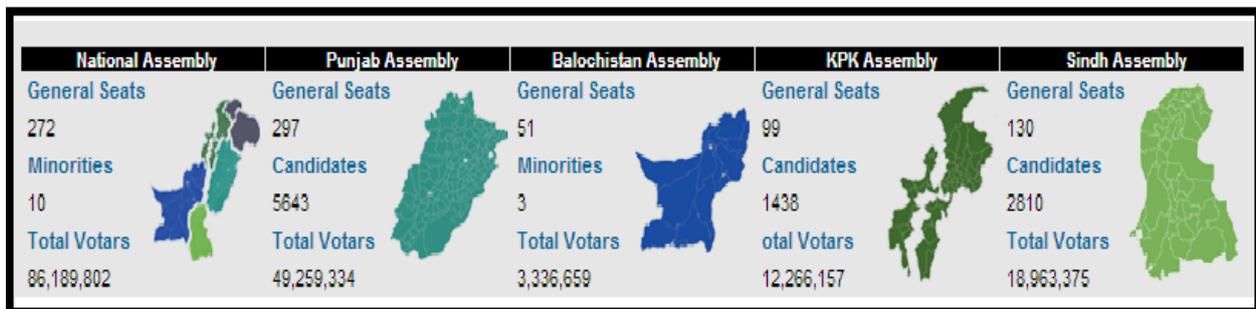


Figure.1 National and Provincial Assembly seats along with Register voters

Table.5. show the Election 2013 outcome and which show that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was the leading party and those got 124 national assembly seats out of 272 while they took 214 provincial assembly seats from Punjab and 12 from Khyber Paktunkha and only 4 seats from Sindh while they were able to got 9 provincial seats from Baluchistan. While runner up party was PPP which had 31 national assembly seats along with 6 provincial seats in Punjab along with 65 from Sindh and 2 from KPK but they was unable to get any seat from Baluchistan then Pakistan Tehrik Insaf (PTI) and Mutida Qomi Movement (MQM) got 23 and 18 national assembly seats and rest of the detail can be seen in table.5.

Party	NA	PP	PS	PK	PB
PML N	124	214	4	12	9
PPP	31	6	65	2	0
PTI	23	19	3	35	0
MQM	18	0	37	0	0
JUI-F	8	0	0	13	6
PML-F	4	0	6	0	0
JI	3	1	0	7	0
PML-Q	2	7	1	0	5
NPP	2	0	3	0	0
PPMAP	2	0	0	0	10
AML	1	--	--	--	--
NP	1	0	0	0	7
AJIP	1	0	0	3	0
QWP	1	0	0	7	0
BNP	1	0	0	0	2
APML	1	0	0	1	0
ANP	1	0	0	4	1
PML-Z	1	2	0	0	0
TOTAL RESULTS	251/272	293/297	125/130	97/99	50/51

We compare the voting trends of all elections of Pakistan with 2013 election in Figure.2 and due to PTI factor which remain on 3rd position had influence on young generation and in figure it is shown that in this election 53% was voting trend and in previous 6 election overall voting trend was 41 % and similar in Punjab it increase from 45% to 57%, in Sindh from 38% to 53% while in KPK it increase from 32% to 42% and in Baluchistan it rise upto 35 %.

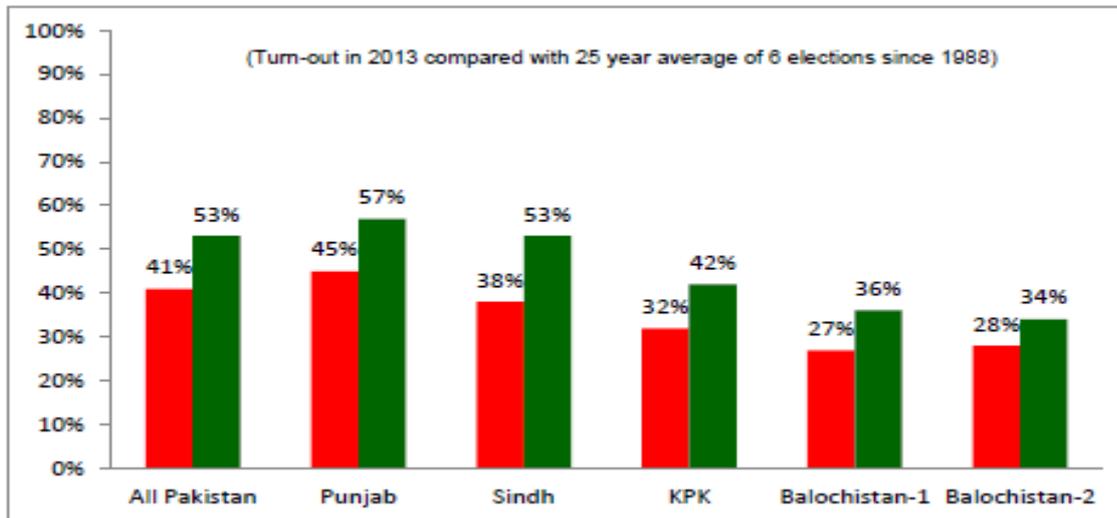


Figure.2 Turnout in 2013 compare with 25year average of 6 elections since 1988

Recommendation

Voting play a vital role in the nation development and there are lot of steps which should be taken into consideration to ensure rigging free elections in Pakistan along with overcoming females voting issues in Pakistan.

1. The first and foremost consideration is that election should be free and fair and there should be no involvement and influence of any party of group to hijack elections and specially establishment should play a neutral role in the election process;
2. There is great need of chaining the voting behavior of the peoples specially need to give freedom to cast the vote as per his/her own choice not on the basis of kinship ties.
3. In the electoral process, there is great need of implementation of electronic devices to handle and ensure smooth election on the election day, government and NADRA (National Database and Registration Authority) should implement the voting machine on voting booth which should work in the following manner to ensure smooth and efficient voting without any hurdles and issues like multiple cast votes, fake votes. The mechanism should work in the following manner;
 - ✓ When a person come to voting booth, he /she should swap his/her National Identification Card and ID Card reader should get all details of the person and authorize him after card verification;
 - ✓ On 2nd step, the thumb expression should be given and match with NADRA database and on confirmation the should able to see National and Provisional Assembly candidates list and select desire candidate and cast vote by touch screen.

Keeping in the view of the above consideration the election process will be completely reform and play significant impact on the voting trend and behavior.

Conclusion

To conclude, in this paper we study the voting behavior and elections in Pakistan with special focus on latest election May, 2013 and study of women voting behavior and impact of different factors which affect voting pattern using empirical study using Sample base technique and using SPSS. We

study the hurdles which Pakistani females are facing while using their voting right. We study the impact of media on the influence of peoples. at the end of paper we propose some solutions to improve election process to overcome some barriers of election process.

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