

# Dalit Voting Behaviour - With Special Reference to Parliamentary Elections 2019

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One of the most important pillars of any democratic institution is free participation of people in the decision making bodies. In a democracy, the ultimate power lies with the people of that country. The sovereignty is vested on the people to take any decision which is beneficial for the people in general and for the country as a whole. In a democracy, representative government plays a crucial role in solving various issues of the society and the people. Decisions are to be taken on majority basis where the representatives should work for the betterment of the electors or voters. Democracy works effectively only when the opposition parties are strong enough to expose the weaknesses of the ruling party. The opposition parties should endeavor to bring out the fallacies of the ruling party and make them to administer and govern the State with utmost sincerity, dedication and devotion.

Since from the day of Independence to India, successive governments want to provide good governance to the people of India. But due to various reasons and obstacles, the governments have not been able to ensure transparency, accountability and credibility in administration to the people of India. Elections have greater impact on the democracy as people voice is the ultimate to rule the country in the right way. Through elections, people can participate in the decision making process at different stages and give their suggestions for the development of economy and progress of the society. Therefore, while electing the representatives, people should be cautious about their voting rights and the background of the candidates who contest for elections.

The two parliamentary elections held in India one in 2014 and the other in 2019 have made a remarkable progress in captivating the votes from rural masses including Daliths and backward classes of people. There was a notion that BharatiyaJanata Party (BJP) is only favouring the upper caste Hindus and protecting their rights and interests. But the result of the 2014 parliamentary election revealed that the BJP has

gained confidence and trust from the poorer sections of the society including the Daliths. There was a misconception that only the Indian National Congress alone would safeguard the interests of the rural masses. But this misconception has failed in the 2014 parliamentary election result when the BJP Government captured the political power at the centre by getting votes from the Daliths and rural people. The percentage of Daliths votes to BJP from 2014 parliamentary election to 2019 parliamentary election has substantially increased from 24% to 34%. This clearly indicates that even the Daliths have also started appreciating the welfare programmes undertaken by the BJP government in favor of Daliths during 2014 to 2019 period at the centre. This trend continues in 2019 parliamentary election also where the BJP has captured votes from the rural people across the country by providing many social security measures, welfare programmes such as free distribution of cylinders to the Daliths and backward classes. But unfortunately, the BJP has failed to obtain votes from the Muslim community as expected.

In almost all parliamentary elections, caste plays a vital role in exercising voting power. Besides, the electoral behaviour of Indians is largely depending upon the caste consideration. But for many years in parliamentary elections, the majority of the rural masses voted in favour of Congress as the Congress party has deep rooted in the minds of the rural people including Daliths and other backward classes of people. The pro-Modi wave in the 2014 and 2019 Parliamentary elections have also contributed for obtaining votes from the poorer sections of the society including Dalith voters. Narendra Modi being himself coming from a poor community knows the socio-economic and other problems of the Daliths and untouchables in India. When he got elected as Prime Minister of India in 2014 and 2019, before entering the Parliamentary Hall, he gave utmost respect to the Constitution of India and he remembered Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and said ‘ because of Dr. B. R Ambedkar’s Constitution, today I have become the Prime Minister of India which is the biggest Democratic country.

The voting behaviour of Daliths across the country is drastically changing as they have started understanding the reality of the Congress party towards the Daliths. Before Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister of this country, Congress party had given many assurances to Daliths which were not fulfilled by the Congress Party. But now, the position of Daliths across the country is different as they have realised the true picture of the Congress Party and its contribution to the rural people including the daliths. With the increase of educated people in dalith community and their political awareness, they have realised the

importance of BJP. What fascinated the poor people of this country is the elements of Nationalism, brotherhood, oneness, Indian culture and traditions promoted by the BJP in its governance. Narendra Modi's concern and benevolence towards the people of India, irrespective of religion, race, caste & community, has made him a great and true leader of the people.

In Karnataka State, 2019 Parliamentary election results have brought a sea change in the minds of rural people and specially daliths. Out of 28 parliamentary seats, 25 seats have been captured by BJP which includes many rural based parliamentary constituencies. Congress party was to satisfy itself only for 1 seat, Janata Dal for one seat and BJP supported one independent candidate got elected. In 2019 parliamentary election result, even the daliths vote bank which was confined to Congress party was also drastically changed. As a result daliths have started appreciating BJP for its concern towards the poor and rural people. Now in almost all parliamentary constituencies the daliths are in favour of Narendra Modi and want he to be the Prime Minister of India even in future also. This clearly shows that the Daliths and rural people have realised the importance of BJP and its good governance of the country. The weakness of the Congress party has been exposed by Narendra Modi through his spectacular speeches made during 2014 and 2019 parliamentary election campaign. The very statistics that NDA got 352 seats, UPA got 91 seats and others got 99 seats show that majority people in India including the Dalit voters are in favour of Modi government.

### **Concluding Remarks**

Now, the BJP Government has captured the political power at the centre due to large scale voters castes their votes in favour of BJP including rural masses, poor Dalits, other backward classes of people in almost all States in India. This percentage is more in Utter Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madya Pradesh. As a result, more responsibility has been entrusted upon the BJP Government at the centre to fulfill the aspirations of the people of India, in general and Dalits in particular. The substantial number of poor and rural people including the Dalits are anticipating more welfare programmes and security measures for their peaceful existence in the society. If the welfare of the people of Dalits of all States is protected by Narendra Modi, the same Dalits would vote for BJP again in the ensuing elections and give political power to them to rule the entire India with good governance, transparency and efficiency. Karnataka has remained only southern

state where BJP has won almost all seats ( 25 BJP, 1 BJP supported independent and 2 opposition ) Former PM , Deva Gowda lost. His clan was wiped out by Modi wave. Many states of North, Western and Eastern parts of the country have been swept by the BJP. Karnataka has joined in that groups of states and provided unprecedented electoral victory to Modi led BJP. In other terms, Karnataka victory has saved the BJP with the allegation of Hindi heartland party given the fact BJP could not open its own account in the states of Tamailnadu, Andhra and Kerala despite all possible efforts. Let us look forward for good governance, more welfare programmes to come from BJP in the ensuing days to build and retain the same confidence on Narendra Modi ji.

### Reference

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