

## A Comparative Study of Indian Democratic Polity and Electoral System

**Dr. Gavisiddappa. M.**

Principal & Associate Professor,

Department of Political Science,

Government First Grade Women's College,

Koppal-583231

### **Abstract:**

India has a vibrant democratic polity and electoral system that plays a central role in shaping the country's governance and decision-making processes. India follows a federal parliamentary democratic system. The Constitution of India, adopted in 1950, is the supreme law of the land and provides the framework for the functioning of the government. The country is a union of states and territories, with a division of powers between the central (Union) government and the state governments.

India follows a mixed electoral system. The electoral process involves both direct and indirect elections. Members of the Lok Sabha are elected through a first-past-the-post (FPTP) system, where the candidate with the most votes in a constituency wins. Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by state legislatures using a single transferable vote (STV) system.

India has a multi-party system with a wide range of political parties representing various ideologies, regions, and interests. The Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are two of the most prominent national parties. India has witnessed constant conflict in the different states vied for supremacy. This research paper discusses about A Comparative Study of Indian Democratic Polity and Electoral System.

**Keywords:** Democratic Polity, Electoral system, Legislatures, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha

### **Introduction:**

Today's democratic system has been adopted by almost all countries in the world as opposed to the authoritarian system of government that was practiced in the past. In a monarchy, the king and the royal family had the sole authority. His helpers like Amatya, Prime Minister, Chaplains, Generals and Council of Octagons consulted from time to time in every case, but the final decision was in the hands of the king. To the extent that he was aware and knowledgeable about the welfare of the subjects, the life of the subjects could be safe and happy. Even in a nation like India, which consisted of many small and large states, the atmosphere of warfare in the zeal to conquer territory constantly pervaded the medieval period. The Mahabharata wars have proved that the kings did not feel the need to take into account the disruption of life caused by wars for the state and personal enmity within the states. But if King Prajahlitdaksa was a scholar, a good warrior and a good politician, the subjects lived safely under his rule, it can be seen on the basis of Ramayana. Right from birth, the young king was groomed as the future king. Care was taken to see how he would become skilled in the education of various types of weapons. The history of Indian monarchy shows examples of subjects getting good and exemplary leadership as they are inculcated in him with all that is necessary for the rule of the people.

One of the great faults of power is that it quickly corrupts a man. Be it in any field. About power in an omnipotent field like politics, this thing proves its truth to a great extent. A dictator like Hitler is a eloquent example of the fact that a dictatorship with so many flaws can soon turn into a dictatorship, and if the dictatorship is not properly guided, the destruction of the human race is inevitable.

Dictatorship can also arise in a democratic system. An effective leader can take the reins of a country in his hands; But in such a democratic system of government, there are representatives of the people, elected by the people, who consider the interests of the people, to direct its power from time to time. The period of their power is also limited. If they are not able to protect the interest of the people, if they are behaving in a way that is harmful to the public interest or if they are following a wrong path, then the public can call them to account and depose them. For that, people can take the help of the judiciary in an absolute manner and without any pressure from the government; Because the judicial system should not be under any pressure to be transparent in the process of administration of justice, which is an important condition in a democratic polity. However, justice has to be sought in the court only on the basis of the rules prevailing during that time and in that regime. In a democratic system of government, government, judiciary and management institutions are very important. Their relationship with each other helps the governance system. The success of democracy depends on how these principles are actually implemented in management. Often ideal principles are flawed in practice. These errors arise from an inadequate and faulty understanding of the management that implements them rather than from the underlying principles; But because of this, the inability of the democratic system can be dangerous for the protection and development of the country.

### **Minority Interests in Democracy:**

No polity can satisfy everyone at all times, at all levels, give them justice and protection. It can only succeed in preserving the interests of the majority; Therefore, it cannot be forgotten that disgruntled and disaffected minorities can come together and create unrest in the democratic system. For that there must be an opposition group in a democratic system of government.

### **Role of Opposing Group:**

In a democratic system of government this opposition group can serve to keep the government on course just as much as the party in power on the strength of the majority. But often taking the stance of opposing Sate just for the sake of opposing it, the party also finds it worthwhile to demonstrate its power to the public. Their ill-conceived efforts at all levels to get power in their hands, although at the practical level they are compatible with the role of 'opposition party', they are not justified at the theoretical level. In addition, if the ruling party and the opposition party are united by the unification of many parties, then the mind does not need to exert much effort to understand the extent to which they can follow the democratic system. At such a time, a skillful and effective leadership that combines the principles of all parties, can give maximum justice to all, and adheres to democracy, can make the principles of democratic government very successful in practice. But at such a time, it starts to look like a dictatorship-dynasty, relying on one leadership.

**Individual Liberty and Duties of Citizens:**

The race of democratic system depends on civilized individual at the level of people, masses, citizens. The majority of the people in the society as citizens should have the ability to look at every incident of the nation consciously and from a broad perspective. Thinkers are expressing the need for brainstorming in the society; So the activists who are boldly doing the work of making them active also have to be created from time to time. When the work of not allowing the areas of individual freedom, intelligence, faith, social bonds, and religiousness to conflict with each other is happening in modern society, then there is a possibility of the democratic technique in the democratic system being put into practice; But such coordinating intelligence rarely remains in operation for long. The intellect is so sharp that it can draw a true picture of a lie and a true picture of a lie without realizing it. A man is so attached to his own opinion that he can only prove with the force of his intellect how his only opinion is right.

He can spread any false principle by giving as broad a definition of individual freedom as he needs. That is why he can sell soil at the price of gold and value real gold by this wisdom. But if he has a sense of good manners and social welfare, he can combine individual freedom and equality, equal opportunity, equal work, equal treatment, etc., necessary for the development of everyone in the society, on the right occasion. This harmony between freedom and equality is necessary for a civilized, intelligent, creative, cultured and society, when a person who considers restrictions on individual freedom and acts knowing his duties and purposes as a citizen of the nation, the rule of the democratic system can be successful; But in reality such a picture is rarely seen.

In a democratic system, people interact with the government only through elections. Democracy succeeds on meeting people's opinions. A representative of the people who understands the opinion of the people, properly coordinates their opinions and effectively presents them to the government, brings justice to the people in a democracy. But often its representation is not sufficient for the majority, caught in the flux of religion and caste. Many umbrellas of independent parties spring up to get themselves leadership.

**Misleading voters:**

Even in the process of election, voters are not given the necessary security or fearlessness. His mind is confused by the barrage of newspapers, lectures, advertisements, leaflets. Moreover, their technique of buying votes is well-known. Occupying actual polling stations or booths, stealing ballot boxes, stuffing fake ballot papers in ballot boxes, intimidating the environment by violence, oppression, hooliganism, etc. cannot manifest this representation of the people. Increasing oppression in all spheres succeeds in silencing the common people, justifying crime and putting the key to power in the hands of the thief; If these things are happening in elections, then it has to be said that the weeds of oppression are being sprouted in the name of democracy.

**Malpractices in the Electoral Process of Democracy:**

Is there any other way to test public opinion in democracy without elections? Is there a way to find out which representative has 'Janate Kaul' by making some changes in the electoral process? Remedies such as calling in the help of the police or the army are only temporary. Moreover, how much can the fear of the police

sustain in the face of increasing bullying in the society? If corruption is rampant from top to bottom, curbing it is the right way to make the democratic process successful. But unfortunately, in today's situation, representatives can only spend the windfall of elections on the financial support of gangsters and terrorists. Not only this, the representatives appointed/stayed in many states have also served jail time in the name of crimes like theft-robbery-murder-rape. In such a situation it is not possible to get 'people's vote' through elections.

Until a solution is found to curb these tendencies that encourage corruption and abuse in the hierarchy of power, elections are dangerous in a democracy. There are some solutions to prevent this. Although their desirable effects may not be felt immediately, they may work to bring discipline to elections over time. The main thing is that people should have fearlessness. It is not enough to just condemn bullying; So the good and virtuous forces of the society should come together and raise their voices. This is the strength of a good group with an 'as is' attitude. Virtuous, well-cultivated organizations should demonstrate the power to subdue evil forces, oppression and bullying by all forms of competition, price, fine, discrimination etc. Keeping in mind that group opinion has value in democracy, an educated and cultured society should pool its collective strength. If today's castes like doctors, lawyers, businessmen, workers, teachers stand together against corruption, then an atmosphere of discipline can be created in elections.

#### **Remedial Schemes for Eligible Representatives and Voters:**

There should be a change in the rules regarding the relationship between representatives and voters. Age should not be the only criterion regarding the voter. He should be an earner, should be well educated and should have a record of good conduct in the place where he is working. This will increase the tendency to do small business. It will help in the development of education and industry.

In respect of candidates/representatives also, emphasis should be placed on his social work, education, good manners. His representation should not be accepted unless there is convincing evidence of his good conduct. His study of social mind, public gathering, public speaking, eloquence, independence should be convinced; It is not because there are no representatives who can act constructively. But they don't have the courage to stand up to the task, they don't have the conversational tact to convince their point of view. A representative democracy with no other option but coercion and oppression is a taint to democracy. It is the voter's job to stand up for the right demands of their representative or rule out his misconduct.

Such measures have to be taken consistently. In the society, people have good attitude, gentility, sense of duty and responsibility. She needs to be awakened and create a fearless environment. If the people can have increasing influence on the elections, judicial institutions, management, government in this way, the way to achieve the interests of the people can be easier for the democratic system.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

Democratic polity is opposed to the concentration of power in the hands of a single polity; But dictatorships can also occur in democracies. But a dictatorship in the hands of a sensible-forceful leadership can be a patriot. In democracy the collective interest of the majority is concerned; But care has to be taken that the interests of minorities are not neglected. The success of a democratic system depends on an intelligent, civilized

public. The election through which the people run the government through representation, that election and that representation has to be good. But corruption in both contexts hampers representation and threatens democracy. The electoral process must be conducted in a fearless environment and elections must be contested on professional representation rather than caste representation.

Overall, India's democratic polity and electoral system reflect its commitment to inclusiveness, representation, and the voice of the people in shaping the nation's future.

#### References:

1. Atul Kohli (2016), *India's Democracy: An Analysis of Changing State-Society Relations*" Princeton University Press, USA.
2. Chhibber P. K., & Verma R. (2018), *Ideology and identity: The changing party systems of India*, Oxford University Press, New York
3. K.C. Suri, and Yogendra Yadav edited by Suhas Palshikar,, "*Electoral Politics in India: The Resurgence of the Bharatiya Janata Party*" .
4. K. C. Suri (2014), *Party competition in Indian States: Electoral Politics in Post Congress Polity*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi.
5. Kumar A., & Sisodia Y. S. (Eds.) (2019), *How India votes: A state-by-state look*, Orient Black Swan, New Delhi.
6. Rajni Kothari (2020), *Politics In India*, Orient Black Swan, New Delhi
7. David M. Farrell and Ian McAllister, "*Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*".
8. M. G. Devasahayam (2022), *Electoral Democracy? : An Inquiry into the Fairness and Integrity of Elections in India*, Authors Up Front Publisher, Delhi