

# ANALYTICAL STUDIES AND EFFECT OF VOTING GIVEN ISSUES BY THE POLITICAL PARTY IN LOKSABHA ELECTION 2004, MADHYA PRADESH

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**ABSTRACT:** - India is a constitutional democracy with a parliamentary system of government, and at the heart of the system is a commitment to hold regular, free and fair elections. These elections determine the composition of the government, the membership of the two houses of parliament, the state and union territory legislative assemblies, and the Presidency and vice-presidency. The election system is pillar of Indian democracy. India is the largest democracy in the world, which promises justice, liberty and fraternity to its citizens. The real test of this democracy however is, creation of equality of opportunity for the deprived sections of the society. In a liberal democracy like India, reservation for different sections of the society in different political institutions becomes a very important tool to achieve the goal of equality of opportunity. The system consist of various levels of election to loksabha (the house of representatives of the Union). This Article includes the review of studies related to the loksabha election conducted to present time. Studies are divided into those based on aggregate data and those based on survey data of the individual electorate. This division has the advantage of providing data that may be used in different analytical areas. Voter turnout and votes polled by party are the two main variables to be explained. This paper thus shows what has been explained in voting behavior in India up to the present time. To understand voting behavior in 2004 loksabha elections and what gender matter when women involve in politics. Using the Indian national election survey (NES) from the 2004 general elections, collected by lokniti, this paper explores how represented constituents feel in places with and without quotas for women. Evidence is found that class, education, locality and social issues are key indicators. Illiteracy is the biggest stumbling block for the women development and socio-economic growth but the reservation for women might increase the contact between the citizen and the state for the group that is supposed to benefit from the quotas system.

**KEYWORDS:** India, Parliamentary Election 2004, Madhya Pradesh, Statistical analysis

**INTRODUCTION:** The Parliament of India is a magnificent manifestation of the democratic ethos of our country. The national legislature and repository of the constituent powers of the Union, it occupies a central position in our democratic polity. In the Indian general election, 2004 for Madhya Pradesh polls were held for 29 seats in the state. The result was a major victory for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which won 25 seats. The remaining 4 seats were won by Indian National Congress (INC). The trends of election studies in India has been influenced by the evolution of actual electoral politics, especially those of loksabha election. Legislative elections were held in India in four phases between 20 April and 10 May 2004. Over 670 million people were eligible to vote, electing 543 members of the 14th Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha, or "House of the People," is the directly elected lower house of the Parliament of India.

On 13 May, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its alliance National Democratic Alliance conceded defeat. The Indian National Congress, which had governed India for all but five years from independence until 1996, returned to power after a record eight years out of office. It was able to put together a comfortable majority of more than 335 members out of 543 with the help of its allies. The 335 members included both the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance, the governing coalition formed after the election, as well as external support from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Samajwadi Party (SP), Kerala Congress (KC) and the Left Front. (External support is support from parties that are not part of the governing coalition).

Congress President Sonia Gandhi surprised observers by declining to become the new prime minister, instead asking former Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, a respected economist, to head the new government. Singh had previously served in the Congress government of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in the early 1990s, where he was seen as one of the architects of India's first economic liberalisation plan, which staved off an impending national monetary crisis. Despite the fact that Singh had never won a Lok Sabha seat, his considerable goodwill and Sonia Gandhi's nomination won him the support of the UPA allies and the Left Front.

Seven states also held assembly elections to elect state governments along with the parliamentary elections.

**EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS, METHODS, MATERIAL:**

For this paper NES 2004 data is used, data is collated through the survey filling up of questioner. For Madhya Pradesh state huge team work had been done by interviewing the respondents.

**OBSERVATION:**

The election dates for the parliamentary elections were:

- 20 April - 141 constituencies
- 26 April - 137 constituencies
- 5 May - 83 constituencies
- 10 May - 182 constituencies

Counting began simultaneously on 13 May. Over 370 million of the 675 million eligible citizens voted, with election violence claiming 48 lives, less than half the number killed during the 1999 election. The Indian elections were held in phases in order to maintain law and order. A few states considered sensitive areas required deployment of the armed forces. The average enrolment of voters in each constituency is 1.2 million, although the largest constituency has 3.1 million.

The Election Commission of India is responsible for deciding the dates and conducting elections according to constitutional provisions. The Election Commission employed more than a million electronic voting machines for these elections.

According to the magazine *India Today*, 115.62 billion rupees (approx US\$2.6 billion) were expected to have been spent in campaigning for the elections by all political parties combined. Most of the money was spent on the people involved in the election. The Election Commission limited poll expenses to Rs. 2.5 million (\$57,000 approx.) per constituency. Thus, the actual spending is expected to have been approximately 10 times the limit. About 6.5 billion rupees (approx. \$150 million) are estimated to have been spent on mobilising 150,000 vehicles. About a billion rupees are estimated to have been spent on helicopters and aircraft.

**Political Background:**

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had recommended premature dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha (in accordance with a provision of the Constitution) to pave the way for early elections apparently in view of the recent good showing of the BJP in the Assembly elections in four states.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> The two "major parties" in India are the BJP (led by Vajpayee) and the Congress (led by Sonia Gandhi).

The Chief Election Commissioner who conducted the 2004 general elections in India was T. S. Krishnamurthy

**Pre-poll Alliances:**

In these elections, compared to all the Lok Sabha elections of the 1990s, the battle was more of a head-to-

head contest in the sense that there was no viable third front alternative. Largely the contest was between BJP and its allies on one hand and Congress and its allies on the other. The situation did, however, show large regional differences.

The BJP fought the elections as part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), although some of its seat-sharing agreements were made with strong regional parties outside of the NDA such as Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Andhra Pradesh and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in Tamil Nadu.

Ahead of the elections there were attempts to form a Congress-led national level joint opposition front. In the end, an agreement could not be reached, but on regional level alliances between Congress and regional parties were made in several states. This was the first time that Congress contested with that type of alliances in a parliamentary election.

The left parties, most notably the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India, contested on their own in their strongholds West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, confronting both Congress and NDA forces. In several other states, such as Punjab and Andhra Pradesh, they took part in seat sharings with Congress. In Tamil Nadu they were part of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK)-led Democratic Progressive Alliance.

Two parties refused to go along with either Congress or BJP, Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party. Both are based in Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of India. Congress made several attempts to form alliances with them, but in vain. Many believed that they would become the 'spoilers' that would rob Congress of an electoral victory. The result was a four-cornered contest in UP, which didn't really hurt or benefit Congress or BJP significantly.

**Forecast and Campaigns:**

Most analysts believed the NDA would win the elections; this assessment was also supported by opinion polls. The economy had shown steady growth in the last few months and the disinvestment of government owned production units (a continuation of India's liberalisation policies initiated in the early 1990s) had been on track. The Foreign Exchange Reserves of India stood at more than US\$100 billion (7th largest in the world and a record for India). The service sector had also generated a lot of jobs. The party was supposed to have been riding on a wave of the so-called "feel good factor", typified by its promotional campaign "India Shining".

In the past, BJP has largely been seen as a hard-line Hindu party with close ties with the Hindu organisation the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Over the years, the party has slightly distanced itself from its *Hinduva* policies, a change that is being

questioned after the party's poor showing in the elections. These elections were marked by the campaign's emphasis on economic gains. From the last few elections, BJP had realised that its voter base had

reached a ceiling and had concentrated on pre-poll rather than post-poll alliances. The foreign origin of Sonia Gandhi also constituted part of the NDA's campaign.

**RESULTS:**

**Support for formation of UPA-led Government**

<b>Political Parties/Alliances supporting the government</b>	
UPA	
Left Front	
Samajwadi Party	
Bahujan Samaj Party	
Kerala Congress	
Indian Federal Democratic Party	
Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party	
<b>Total : 335 Votes</b>	<b>61.7%</b>

**States of Madhya Pradesh Lok Sabha Election 2004**

<b>States</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Seats won</b>	<b>% of Votes</b>	<b>Alliance</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	Bharatiya Janata Party	25	48.13	National Democratic Alliance
	Indian National Congress	4	34.07	United Progressive Alliance
	Bahujan Samaj Party	0	4.75	None
	Independent	0	4.02	None
	Others	0	9.03	None

Source: <http://www.eci.gov.in>

**List of winners**

<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Elected Representative</b>
Balaghat	BJP	Gauri Shankar Chaturbhuj Bisen
Betul	BJP	Khandewal Vijay Kumar (Munni Bhaia)
Bhind	BJP	Dr Ramlakhan Singh
Bhopal	BJP	Kailash Joshi
Chhindwara	INC	Kamalnath
Damoh	BJP	Chandbhan Bhaiya
Dhar	BJP	Chhatar Singh Darbar
Guna	INC	Jyotiraditya Mahadevrai Scindia
Gwalior	INC	Ramsevak Singh (Babuji)
Hoshangabad	BJP	Sartaj Singh
Indore	BJP	Sumitra Mahajan

Jabalpur	BJP	Rakesh Singh
Jhabua	INC	Kantilal Bhuria
Khajuraho	BJP	Dr Ramkrishna Khusmariya
Khandwa	BJP	Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan
Khargone	BJP	Krishna Murari Moghe
Mandla	BJP	Fuggan Singh Kulaste
Mandsaur	BJP	Dr Laxminarayan Pandeya
Morena	BJP	Ashok Chhaviram Argal
Rajgarh	BJP	Lakshman Singh
Rewa	BJP	Chandramani Tripathi
Sagar	BJP	Virendra Kumar
Satna	BJP	Ganesh Singh
Seoni	BJP	Neeta Pateriya
Shahdol	BJP	Dalpat Singh Paraste
Shajapur	BJP	Tawarchand Gehlot
Sidhi	BJP	Chandrapratap Singh
Ujjain	BJP	Dr Satyanarayan Jatiya
Vidisha	BJP	Shivraj Singh

### ANALYSIS

Though pre-poll predictions were for an overwhelming majority for the BJP, the exit polls (immediately after the elections and before the counting began) predicted a hung parliament. However, even the exit polls could only indicate the general trend and nowhere close to the final figures. There is also the general perception that as soon as the BJP started realising that events might not proceed entirely in its favour, it changed the focus of its campaign from *India Shining* to issues of stability. The Congress, who was regarded as "old-fashioned" by the ruling BJP, was largely backed by poor, rural, lower-caste and minority voters that did not participate in the economic boom of previous years that created a large wealthy middle class and thus achieved its overwhelming victory. Another reason which was not mentioned much but still spoken of in the public was that BJP supporters are working-class people, and the poll surveys predicted BJP win, and therefore they did not reach the ballot. Whereas the Congress support base, the weaker sections of the society, don't miss voting at all.

Another more prominent reason came from checking the RSS contribution, RSS cadres reached Vajpayee over the

killing of 400 RSS workers in Assam, and Vajpayee disappointed them. RSS backed off, and results were evident. Other possible reasons that have been given for the NDA defeat- People were more concerned about issues of their immediate environment such as water scarcity, drought, etc., than national issues. The anti-incumbency factor was at work for the BJP allies. It is also believed that the riots of Gujarat in 2002 might have affected the polls. It is generally believed that RSS plays an important role in mobilising the BJP supporters, the results were not for the win for Congress led UPA, but more for the defeat of BJP led NDA. And, the reason was that RSS did not mobilise the voters and BJP cadres.

### Impact

The rout of the ruling parties in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the general elections led to calls for the dissolution of the governments of these states. The stock market (Bombay Stock Exchange) fell in the week prior to the announcement of the results due to fears of an unstable coalition. As soon as counting began, however, it became clear that the Congress coalition was headed for a sizeable lead over the NDA and the market surged, only to crash the following day when the left parties, whose support would be required for government formation, announced that it was their intention to do

away with the disinvestment ministry. Following this, Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister (in office 2004-14) and the prime architect of the economic liberalisation of the early 1990s, hurried to reassure investors that the new government would strive to create a business-friendly climate.

**CONCLUSION:**

As studies of aggregate data reveal, in spite of the decreasing importance of the effect of urbanization, the level of electoral participation has been increasing with socio-economic development. Such as pattern of increase is in line with the particular socio-political situation of each state.

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