

Political Behavior of the Tribal Youth: A Study

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Abstract

In spite of the rapid and well-sustained political socialisation and in spite of the high level of political attitudes among these youth, the level of tribal youth political recruitment is dismally low. An attempt has been made to investigate the reasons for this lapse. Though it needs further investigation into the matter to arrive at more concrete factors which retard tribal youth participation in politics. The present investigation is aimed at understanding the levels of political attitudes and political participation of the tribal youth of the Maharashtra pursuing higher education. An earnest attempt has thoroughly been made to arrive at conclusions from the data, systematically collected and scientifically analyzed. In order to be precise in making observations and to have clarity in making conclusions, the study is categorized into two broad domains. The first one deals with the political attitudes in terms of social, educational and economic aspects of the tribal youth and the second part deals with the level of political participation and the political apathy in respect of these youth.

Keywords: Youth, Tribal, Political behavior, Maharashtra, awareness, political attitude

Introduction

There is a dearth of data for law-makers and political leaders to measure the exact level of 'youth participation' in politics and to know the attitudes of youth towards politics and politicians, this study, to a large extent, fulfils the need and explain the present status with special reference to tribes.

The present study also aims at understanding the political attitudes of tribal youth studying graduate and professional courses. The educated tribal youth are increasing in leaps and bounds with the establishment of a number of tribal colleges and universities. The educational institutions are helping the educated youth to improve their awareness about the issues confronting the society and polity and the issues confronting their best self and placement in the system. The constant interaction between these student groups and the entry of student wings of various political parties such as Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, National Student Union of India, Student Federation of India, Revolutionary bodies, and so on, provided the platform for the exchange of views. This continuous process is necessary for attitudinal development which in course leaves imprint on society, marks impact on political system, which alone can assume their just set up. A culmination of these developments can be seen through social movements at social level and legislative enactments at political level. The suppression of Maoist movement and the introduction of PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Area) Act 1996 Maharashtra Rule 2014 in tribal areas are two straight examples to cite with. It would be pertinent to remark that such an attitudinal change improves political socialisation and political participation.

Precisely, at this crucial juncture, the present study aims to cover the graduate and professional courses students of Maharashtra, their responses and their behavioural patterns in the changing scenario. Besides this, the study peeps into their levels of political participation.

Certain tribal youth, though high in the ladder of socio-economic status or position, are apathetic in their approach. There is an urgent need to study, why such apathetic conditions are yet present. An attempt is made to explain the reasons for the apathetic approach of such respondents. The frame work adopted for the study of political apathy is based on the frame work provided by Moris Roseberg.

In India there are nearly 8.6% of population tribals. In Maharashtra, Vidarbha region Tribal Population is 13.75% after Nashik Region. In this region none of political party working for the tribal groups. In India also there is no full fleshed political party working for the tribal groups .

After independence, the Tribal Socio Political groups were invisible in tribal area like Aheri and each Political party like Congress , BJP ,NCP , BSP etc. having social groups working in this region for mobilization of tribes for the votes .

Methodology

Objectives

Following are the objectives for studying the Political awareness among the Tribal Youth.

1. To study the Socio, Economic and Political Status of Tribal Youth.
2. To study the Electoral Process of Tribal youth.
3. To study the accessibility Socio-Political Organization in Tribal Areas

Locale and Sample of the Study

Maharashtra state was selected for the purpose of study. The data was collected from two districts i.e. Pune and Akola. One block from each district was selected at random from the selected districts to elicit unbiased responses from the sample.

Mode of Data Collection

The schedule meant for the tribal youth covered their socio-economic, professional and educational background, extent of experience in politics, activities including opinion and attitude of the youth on political behaviour. Data were collected over a period of seven months. Initially the basic statistics about the political institutions, social organizations and their overall characteristics are listed out from the records available with the agency in the district. After selecting the sample postulates, the respective members of the village were contacted in person. Subsequently, a pre-test is conducted to test the validity of the schedule by canvassing it. During the phase of data collection, the researchers gained unstinted cooperation from the youth, community members and political representatives. Youth showed very keen interest while responding to the questions in the schedule. There was slight difficulty in tracing the political party representatives for canvassing the schedule since they were involved in frequent and mostly unscheduled field visits.

Major Finds of the Study

Profile of the Sample Respondents

The total number of sample respondents interviewed for the purpose of the study is 30. Sex wise distribution of sample, males is consist 20 (66.67 %) and females is 10 (33.3 %). Age wise distribution of the selected sample respondents shows that majority 14 (46.67%) of them are in the age group of 19 to 23 years, followed by 10 (33.3 %) members are in 24 to 35 years of age and only 1 (42.00 %) member is above 35 years of age. Marital status wise distribution of the selected sample respondents shows that majority of them 25 (83.33 %) are married and remaining 5 (16.67 %) members are unmarried, out of 25, 15 men and 10 women are married, in case of unmarried out of 5 all are men.

The distribution of the sample respondents according to their educational background identified that majority 13 (43.33 %) of them are having secondary education followed by 12 (40.00 %) of them are graduates and remaining 5 (16.67 %) of them are illiterates. Majority 18 (60.00 %) of them are below poverty line and remaining 12 (40.00 %) of them are above poverty line.

The distribution of the sample respondents according to their type of house majority 18 (60.00 %) of them having Kaccha house and remaining 12 (40.00 %) of them are having Pucca house. Majority 20 (66.67 %) are from joint family and remaining 10 (33.33 %) are from nuclear family background. Type of toilet used by the selected sample respondents shows that majority of them 25 (83.33 %) are going to open toilets and remaining 5 (16.67 %) members are using room toilets, it shows that there is slight impact on Swachh Bharat Programme.

Languages Known

The researcher enquired about the known languages to the sample respondents, the details as given; The above table reveals that the languages known to the sample respondents, all the sample respondents known Marathi as well as Hindi language and 28 (93.33 %) members are also can talk Telugu and Gondi languages, because they are surroundings of border of Telengana and Jharghand states.

Voting Behaviour

As per the information given by the sample respondents, the table-3 explain about the voting behaviour of the sample respondents, 12 (40.00%) sample respondents reported that they cast the vote in first time, 10 (33.3%) sample members noticed that they cast the vote for two times and remaining 8 (26.67 %) members reported that they cast the vote three or more than three times in elections. It shows that majority of the sample respondents are interested to cast the vote.

Favourite Political Party

For the purpose of the study, the researcher enquired about the favourite political party among the tribal youth, majority 18 (60.00 %) of the members are favourite to Bharatiya Janatha Party (BJP), 6 (20.00 %) members informed that they are interested to vote for National Congress Party (NCP), 3 (10.00 %) and 2 (6.67 %) members are noticed that they are favourite to Bharatiya Samajwadi Party and Congress respectively and only one member favourite to communist party.

Reasons for Voting

The investigator enquired about the reasons for voting in the last open elections, majority 18 (60.00%) members informed that they cast the vote because of Modi, 6 (20.00%) members noticed that they are take in

consideration of the candidate and each of 3 (10.00%) of the members reported that they are taken in concern the caste and traditional voting.

Distributing the Money in the Elections

The investigator enquired about whether the distribution of the money in the election are liked or not, then the respondents reported that majority 22 (73.34 %) members doesn't like this practice i.e. the distribution of the money in the elections. In case of 4 (13.33 %) members are noticed that it is a good practice of distribution of the money and same number of members are reported that they have no opinion in this regard.

Mid-term Elections

The researcher enquired about the mid-term elections are required or not in the Maharashtra state, half of the (50.00 %) sample respondents reported that the mid-term elections are required, because they frustrated on this government, 12 (40.00 %) members informed that there is no need to conduct the mid-term elections and these members are satisfied with this government and remaining 3 (10.00 %) members having neutral opinion in this regard.

Consideration of the Elections

The researcher enquired about, at the time of cast the vote, which one you can take into the consideration in the elections, equal number of the members opined that politician, party and family members, it mean we are unable to judge the opinion of the sample respondents.

Favourite Political Leader

The investigator enquired about who is their favourite political leader, majority 17 (56.67%) members informed that Modi is the favourite leader, followed by 8 (26.67 %) members noticed that Sharad Pawar, 3 (10.00 %) members reported that Mayavati and remaining 2 (06.67 %) members told that Sonia Gandhi.

Favourite Women Political Leader

The investigator enquired about who is their favourite women political leader, majority 20 (56.67 %) members informed that they don't like any women leaders, but in case of 6 (20.00%) members told that Sonia Gandhi, 3 (10.00 %) members informed that Mayavati and remaining one noticed that Supriya Sule.

Democracy

India is a democratic country, in this regard the investigatory enquired about the satisfaction with democracy or not, majority 25 (83.33 %) members are satisfied with the democracy, but in Case of 2 (06.67 %) members noticed that they are interested in precedential rule and remaining 3 (10.00 %) members noticed that they have no idea in this regard.

Favourite Local Political Leader

The investigator enquired about who is their favourite local political leader, majority 22 (73.34 %) members informed that Amrish Atram is the favourite local leader, followed by each of 4 (13.33 %) members noticed that Dharmarav Baba Atram and Satyavan Baba Atram.

Political Organizations

The investigator enquired about which is your favourite political organization, majority 21 (70.00 %) members informed that Gondwana Gantatra Party is the favourite local political organization, followed by 5 (16.67 %) members noticed that Rashtriya Gantantra Party and remaining 4 (13.33 %) members noticed that Birsa Rashtriya Dal is the local political organization.

Social Organizations

The investigator enquired about which is your social organization, majority 20 (66.67%) members informed that Adivasi Samaj Sangh is the favourite local social organization, followed by 6 (20.00 %) members noticed that Adivasi Samaj Sanghatana and remaining 4 (13.33 %) members noticed that Birsa Munda Kranti Dal is the local social organization.

Student Organisation

The investigator enquired about the which is your favourite student organization, all respondents informed only one students organization i.e. 'Adivasi Vidhyarthi Sangh' led By Amrish Atram.

Opinion on cast the vote to all the people

The investigator enquired about the opinion regarding to all the people that they can cast the vote in open elections or not, majority 18 (60.00 %) members informed that if all the people are casting the vote in the elections, this is very good to the democracy and in case of 12 (40.00 %) members reported that all the people are unable to cast the vote because they have their own interest to participation in the elections.

Distribution of Wine and Money

The investigator enquired about whether the political parties distributing the wine and money in election or not, all sample respondents openly agreed that all the political parties are distributing the wine and money.

Voting Behaviour affected by Wine and Money

The investigator enquired about whether there is any affect on voting behaviour on distributing the wine and money, majority 21 (70.00 %) members reported that it is affecting on voting behaviour and in case of 9 (30.00 %) members reported that there is no affect on the voting behaviour even though distributing the wine and money.

Female Participations in Elections

The investigator enquired about whether the female participation in the elections are satisfied or not, majority 21 (70.00 %) members reported that they are satisfied with the female participation in the elections.

Students Participations in Elections

The investigator enquired about whether the student's participation in the elections are satisfied or not, majority 29 (96.67 %) members reported that they are satisfied with the student participation in the elections.

Opinion on Elections

The investigator enquired about the opinion regarding democratic elections, majority 18 (60.00 %) members informed that elections are good for the democracy and in case of 12 (40.00%) members reported that elections are not good for the democracy.

Visits of the Leaders after Elections

The investigator enquired about whether the political party leaders are visited in your places after the elections or not? All sample respondents openly agreed that no one of them might visit their places.

Opinion on Visits of the Leaders

The investigator enquired about whether the political party leaders are visited in elections for your places? All sample respondents agreed that the political leaders are visits in the election time only.

Dependency of the Female Political Leaders

The investigator enquired about whether the female political leaders are depending on their relatives or not? All sample respondents agreed that the female political leaders are depending on their relatives only. It shows that women empowerment is lagging behind.

Availability of the Aadhaar Card

The investigator enquired about whether the sample respondents are having Aadhaar Card or not? Majority 28 (93.33 %) sample respondents are having the Aadhaar Card. It shows that every citizen knows the importance of the card.

Effect of Naxalite

The investigator enquired about is there any effect of Naxalite on elections or not? All the sample members are reported that there is an effect of Naxalite on elections.

Naxalite Vs Voting

All the sample respondents reported that there is an effect of the Naxalite on elections, further the investigator enquired about whether you are casting the vote or not? All sample respondents reported that all the members are cast the vote even Naxalite effect of elections. It show that the fear of Naxalite is becoming reducing now-a-days.

Interest on naxalism

The investigator asked about naxalism is good or bad for society, majority 29 (96.67 %) of the sample

respondents reported that naxalism is very bad for society and remaining one member doesn't give any response.

Unification of the Naxalite

The researcher asked that does they allow Naxalite to come in normal life of society, all the members are noticed that Naxalite members are welcoming to normal life of the society.

Impact of Election

The investigator enquired about the elections can change the life of tribal people or not? All members are opined that the election can change the life of tribal people.

Conclusion

As regards political participation, though it appears to be at a lower level now, there is every scope of its growth and level to a very considerable level in the coming years. It may be slow, it may be gradual, but it is sure. In a changing society, in the transition period, much cannot be expected in this direction. Direct involvement takes some time more. Overnight changes can never be expected. It can never be quick. Whatever little percentage that is there now among these women students would extend itself to greater levels in the near future in the sense that these educated women have certain ambitions in life in terms of political changes. It is appreciable to a great level that the trends, opinions and outlook of life have taken a different positive turn when compared to the traditional and conservative women of the past. Modern views, a new modern outlook with a hope of bright future, among these young women with education are growing strong.

Very few of these tribal youth, a negligible per cent of them, showed apathy in this direction. The rest of them, a large majority of these educated youth are highly positive and very active towards the political side of the society, state and nation. They are very happy to vote, they are not afraid of any outside pressure or influence in exercising their franchise, they would like to elect right kind of person to be their representatives, they would like to respect the nation, observe national holidays and respect national symbols. They like to form into groups and organize to extend their levels of understanding and awareness towards the political field. They would like to refuse unjust laws. They never like social injustice or immoral acts on the part of politicians or the Government. They do not like religious and caste associations much in view of their secular beliefs. They would as well prefer taking memberships with a secular party having no discrimination of caste, creed or colour. At the same time, they would never like to be radicals or revolutionists. They want healthy politics in the best interests of the nation and in view of their patriotism. They would like to discuss politics with their near and dear and close associates. They would also like to consult experienced and retired politicians and educationists to have a clear guidance. In this connection, the input function of 'communicator' is satisfactory, the level of output function is not so encouraging. The low level in this case may be due to this period of transition. It is likely to go up in due course of time in the sense that most of these young educated women have the enthusiasm in this direction. Similar is the case with 'Party and Campaign Worker'. It needs some time, it seems, for women to take up protest marches, to join public street demonstration and such other activities involving website strong determination to dedicate themselves to politics.

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Appendix
Table – 1: Profile of the Sample Respondents

Character	Variable	Number	Percentage
Gender	Male	20	66.67
	Female	10	33.33
Age	15 – 18	5	16.67
	19 – 23	14	46.67
	24 – 35	10	33.33
	Above 35	1	03.33
Marital Status	Married	25	83.33
	Unmarried	5	16.67
Education	Illiterates	5	16.67
	Primary	0	00.00
	Secondary	13	43.33
	Graduation	12	40.00
Income	Below Poverty Line	18	60.00
	Above Poverty Line	12	40.00
Type of House	Pucca	12	40.00
	Kaccha	18	60.00
Type of Family	Joint	20	66.67
	Nuclear	10	33.33
Type of Toilet	Open	25	83.33
	Room	5	16.67

Table – 2: Languages known to the sample respondents

Sl. No.	Language	Number	Percentage
1.	Marathi	30	100.00
2.	Hindi	30	100.00
3.	Telugu	28	93.33
4.	Gondi	28	93.00

Table –3: Voting Behaviour of the Tribal Youth

Voting	First Time	Two Times	Three or More Than 3 Times
Number of Respondents	12 Respondents	10 Respondents	8 Respondents

Table–4: Favourite Political Party among Tribal Youth

Sl. No.	Political Party	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Congress	2	06.67
2.	NCP	6	20.00
3.	BJP	18	60.00
4.	BSP	3	10.00
5.	Communist Party	1	03.33

Table–5: Reasons for Voting

Reasons For Voting	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Modi Wave	18	60.00
Because of Candidates	6	20.00
For The Caste	3	10.00
Traditional	3	10.00

Table–6: Opinion of sample respondents regarding Distributing Money in the Elections

Interest	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Liked	4	13.33
Don't liked	22	73.34
Don't know	4	13.33

Table-7: Opinion of sample respondents regarding mid term Elections

Opinion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	15	50.00
No	12	40.00
Don't know	3	10.00

Table -8: Opinion of sample respondents regarding Consideration of the Elections

Opinion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Politician	10	33.33
Political Party	10	33.33
Family members	10	33.33

Table -9: Favourite Political Leader

Name of the Leader	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Modi	17	56.67
Sharad Pawar	8	26.67
Mayavati	3	10.00
Sonia Gandhi	2	06.66

Table-10: Favourite Women Political Leader

Name of the Leader	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Supriya Sule	1	03.33
Mayavati	3	10.00
Sonia Gandhi	6	20.00
No leader	20	66.67

Table -11: Opinion on Democracy

Opinion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Democracy	25	83.33
Precedential	2	06.67
Don't Know	3	10.00

Table -12: Favourite Local Political Leader

Name of the Leader	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Amrish Atram	22	73.34
Dharmarav Baba Atram	4	13.33
Satyavan Baba Atram	4	13.33

Table-13: Favourite Political Organisation

Name of the Organization	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Gondwana Gantatra Party	21	70.00
Rashtriya Gantantra Party	5	16.67
Birsa Rashtriya Dal	4	13.33

Table -14: Favourite Social Organisation

Name of the Organization	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Adivasi Samaj Sangh	20	66.67
Adivasi Samaj Sanghatana	06	20.00
Birsa Munda Kranti Dal	04	13.33

Table -15: Opinion on cast the vote to all the people

Opinion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	18	60.00
No	12	40.00

Table –16: Voting Behaviour affected by Wine and Money

Affect	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	21	70.00
No	9	30.00

Table-17: Opinion on Elections

Opinion	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	18	60.00
No	12	40.00