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TRANSFORMING INDIAN ECONOMY: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

(An Overview of Changing Dynamics in Business, Economy & Society)

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Dr. Arun Kumar Singla

Assistant Professor, A. S. College, Khanna, Punjab, India

Dr. Suraj Walia

Assistant Professor, R. K. S. D. College, Kaithal, Haryana, India

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CHANGING DYNAMICS OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY: A STUDY OF YOUTH IN POLITICS

**Surender Singh*

**Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, R.K.S.D. (PG) College, Kaithal, Haryana, India*

INTRODUCTION

Democracy is not just an assurance of adult franchise; but it also creates environment for participation in the democratic process. India is the largest democracy in the world. Now, India's democratic system have crossed seventy four years and it has survived despite many countries have surrendered themselves to dictatorship and military rules not only in our neighbours, but also in the other parts of the world. The success and failure of democracy means a lot for the future of democracy not only in India, but in other countries as well on the globe. After getting the freedom in August 1947, India had chosen the Parliamentary democratic system for governance. In fact, India had no option than to choose it, because of freedom movements and socio-political awakening all over the globe. The Preamble of Constitution has described India a parliamentary democratic republic, in which the President is the head of state and the Prime Minister is the head of government. It has based on the federal structure of government, while the word is not used in the Constitution itself. Article 1 of Indian Constitution described "India is a union of States". It is clear that India is union not a federal structure of state. But one thing is very pertinent that our constitution adopted the democratic system, which has not only affected the British system, but also influenced the constitutions of different countries of the world like USA, Canada, Germany, Japan etc. In the present study an efforts will be made to know about Indian democratic system and role of youth. How and why democracy has affected the youth? What is the social and political implications of democracy in the society? The present paper also examines the role of Indian youth in electoral politics. Is merely participated in politics can addresses the problems of youth? Why the participation of youth in politics decreased in India? It analyses why Indian youth are reluctant to political participation and what can be done to make them vigorous partners in India's democratic system. These and others related questions are the main thrust of this research paper.

Presently, India is considered the biggest democracy and one of the most significant democratic country in the world. There are approximately 91.97 crore eligible voters in India and it has second most expensive elections after the United States in the world. The size of electorate in India has voted in 2019 to elect their representatives for 17th Lok Sabha, is as big as the combined electorates of 36 democracies in the world. For example, Tamil Nadu's electorate, which is 5.89 crore, is comparable to that of Turkey's 5.93 crore. Uttar Pradesh's 14.43 crore is nearly as big as Brazil's 14.73 crore.¹ The electorate increased at an average rate of 11.2% every year since 1952 after the first general election was held. The gender ratio has remained constantly skewed for every 52 voters, who were male and there were 48 female. One more remarkable pattern is the number of Lok Sabha constituencies and polling stations. The number of constituencies has increased from 401 in 1952 to 543 in 2019, an increase of 35% seats.² With an enhance in the number of seats, the number of polling stations too have gone up from 1.96 lakh in 1952 to 9.28 lakh in 2014 a five-fold increase and 10.35 lakh in 2019.³ This marked an increase of 10.10% and is largely due to rationalization of polling stations, which the commission undertook in the recent years.

Democracy is a guarantee of adult franchise and it also helps to create an environment for the people to participation in the political process and uses their political rights, which has provided by the constitution to everyone. Has India been successful in this regard? As Chakrabarty described Indian democracy that,

"It is difficult to arrive at a conclusive answer because of the apparent paradox one confronts when conceptualizing Indian democracy: on the one hand, popular zeal, which reaches the level of hysteria at times during the elections, almost evaporates once the politicians take over political authority and thus hardly functions as the custodian of both the democratic process and its value system. What is probably more alarming, on the other, is the gradual erosion of the institutions that are critical for democracy in its classical liberal sense. The perversion of the electoral system that fails to neutralize the forces challenging its very existence highlights a major lacuna in the political arrangement forced on India drawing on feudal instincts and primordial loyalties.