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## THE STUDY ON RIGHTS OF VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Chetna V. Bhora  
Department of Politics & Public Administration  
UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS  
CHENNAI 600 005  
EMAIL: [chetnavbhora@gmail.com](mailto:chetnavbhora@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT:

This paper examines the subject of voting and elections. India, adhering to a democratic system of governance, has the autonomy to select its own candidates. The leader who is a representative of the populace will be elected through an electoral process. The electoral system use voting to determine the leader. Every citizen possesses the right to vote and to select a leader of their choice. The candidate receiving the majority of votes from the representatives will be elected as the leader of the country. The leader holds a significant position in the nation. We fulfill a crucial duty for the leader by voting our votes. As generations progress, young individuals exhibit a diminishing interest in politics. Politics significantly influence the nation and the well-being of its citizens. It examines the reasons behind Indian youth's reluctance to engage in political participation and explores potential measures to encourage their active involvement in India's democratic system. Conversely, the number of women is also diminished due to several factors. This research employs a non-doctrinal approach, utilizing random sampling as the method for this survey. This paper employs a stratified random sampling procedure with a sample size of 1499, and the analysis is conducted using the SPSS program to obtain more precise results, thereby validating the alternative hypothesis. Are you not aware of election laws? The Alternative Hypothesis is substantiated, and the Null Hypothesis is dismissed. It explicitly indicates that approximately 50% of individuals lack awareness regarding elections, laws, regulations, and the obligation to vote.

**KEYWORDS:** Leader, Politics, Women, Votes, Election, India

## INTRODUCTION:

India attained independence on 15 August 1947. Has been acknowledged as the largest democracy in the world. In contrast to other newly independent republics in Asia and Africa, such as Pakistan, Myanmar, Egypt, and Liberia, where democracy has frequently been overshadowed or failed to establish itself, India has sustained a vibrant democracy since its independence. A contributing factor to the vibrancy of Indian democracy is the legacy of the Indian Freedom Movement. The Indian Freedom Movement experienced widespread involvement in various political protests. Prior to the emergence of the Freedom Movement, progressive British officials, including Viceroy Lord Ripon, implemented measures to educate Indians for self-governance. Subsequently, Indians were accorded some autonomy via the Government of India Act (1919), which introduced the concept of 'dyarchy' or dual governance. According to this act, subordinate departments were to be administered by Indian ministers, while significant departments were retained by the Viceroy. Under the Government of India Act (1935), elections were conducted, and the Indian National Congress established provincial administrations for the populace. The enactment of the new Constitution of India on 26 November 1949 and the declaration of India as a Republic on 26 January 1950 marked the commencement of Universal Adult Suffrage in India. Cammaerts et al. Suffrage refers to the right to vote. Universal Adult Suffrage posits that an adult, regardless of wealth, class, religion, color, or gender, is allowed to vote. The concept of suffrage has evolved throughout centuries. The concept of suffrage progressed positively during the 16th century. However, until the mid-19th century, only a limited number of property qualifications existed. The French implemented 'Universal Male Suffrage' in 1793. It was introduced in Great Britain in 1918. Women had to persistently fight for the right to vote. Universal Adult Suffrage was enacted in Great Britain in 1928, in the USA in 1965, and in Switzerland in 1971.(Mishra) Consequently, regarding Universal Adult Suffrage, India advanced significantly sooner than most contemporary democracies, such as Switzerland and the United States of America. The extensive utilization of social media platforms for self-expression, communication, and social engagement has led to a plethora of voluntarily shared personal information online, which can be aggregated to assess public opinion discreetly. In contrast to conventional public opinion measurement methodologies, social media facilitates efficient and cost-effective data collection and analysis with reduced human labor.Khimta et al. Researchers examining social media data to assess public opinion have endorsed the notion that the predictive validity of

social media analysis no longer inherently relies on the representativeness of the user base relative to the general population. One of the most frequently examined structures is the microblogging platform, Twitter. Twitter serves as a global public forum for self-expression, dialogue, and community engagement, boasting about 330 million active monthly users and over 100 million daily active users. Numerous studies have identified significant correlations between Twitter activity, such as the frequency or attitude of tweets, and civic or political outcomes. Nonetheless, some express scepticism over the rigor of this research and the reproducibility of the results. Freddy The comparative study evaluates the efficacy of three predominant strategies for forecasting vote share in the recent elections of three Asian countries. It also evaluates the application of social media models for these predictions by comparing them to prior election outcomes and traditional opinion polls. It employs all three commonly utilized methodologies identified in prior studies: volume-based models, lexicon-based sentiment analysis, and probabilistic models, along with social network analysis. The dataset comprises 3.4 million tweets related to the general elections in Malaysia, India, and Pakistan. It also assesses the impact of various pre-processing and temporal weighting procedures on predictive accuracy. This study quantitatively identifies critical factors that enhance women's participation in the election process as voters and as multi-participatory campaigners. The article succinctly delineates the historical engagement of women in the electoral process, tracing their evolution from limited electoral involvement to more comprehensive participation in the twenty-first century, highlighting the significant increase in Indian women voters since the 1990s. Kumar and Rai The paper finishes by proposing strategies to enhance women's participation in electoral politics and governance. This coverage emphasizes the necessary corrections to eradicate gender inequalities in the political sphere and provides essential impetus for the electoral empowerment of women in India, concentrating on the symbolic obstacle of the Women's Reservation Bill (Mukherjee 1997; Shah & Gandhi, 1991).

**OBJECTIVES:**

- The primary and the secondary objectives are to study about the voting and elections, the participation of youth in India and the involvement of women in India
- Ensure Fair to make Voting allows citizens to choose representatives
- Promote the Elections are fundamental to democratic systems

## LITERATURE REVIEW:

This study article aims to examine the participation of Indian adolescents in the electoral process. Initially, let us examine the characteristics of contemporary Indian youth. Youth is described as individuals aged 15 to 24 years. India is a youthful nation. The median age of Indians is 24.1 years. The subsequent characteristics define Indian youth. As per the 2001 Census, of the 1,029 million individuals, 195 million (18.95%) are classified as youths. Significant illiteracy: 31% of young females and 14% of young males are illiterate. 41% of adolescents aged 15-17 attended school within the institution during the academic year 2005-06. Media exposure: The majority of young individuals engage with various media platforms such as television and radio. Youth opinions toward gender roles are not more egalitarian than those of individuals aged 25 to 49. "Consequently, the education of youth for the challenges of state building may be significantly limited," as noted by Sulabha Parasuraman, Sunita Kishore, Shri Kant Singh, and Y. Vaidehi in their report made for the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. (Singhal) 1967 Certain political analysts believe that young individuals are not participating in politics to the desired degree. Prominent sociologist Y.B. Damle differentiated between 'student youths' and non-student adolescents. He stated that for young students, the pressure of career aspirations and the pursuit of prominent positions render them impervious to a philosophy that necessitates comprehension and action. (Spray and Wyatt, 1968) The non-student youth are significantly concerned with establishing a residence, where ideological political action is not consistently feasible for them. Numerous political analysts in the 21st century would concur with Damle's assessment. Latha Narayan, an academician, asserts that "Teenagers have chosen to compromise rather than confront injustice." (Singhal) Their energy are predominantly expended on 'self-survival' rather than on nation-building. She additionally notes that politics is likened to unjust energy video games, resulting in a significant number of young individuals avoiding it. Political action, in its broadest definition, refers to the approach of navigating through social reality informed by political understanding. Imran Khan, a renowned actor in Bollywood, genuinely resonates with her. Young individuals must engage in commerce, however they perceive that their voices often become lost in political discourse. They choose to opt out rather than join the same structure. All observers, however, no longer concur with the perspective that youth are politically apathetic. Manisha Natarajan (1972) asserts that among the 55 lakh panchayats in rural areas, several lakh young women and men serve as office bearers in various roles like as panch, sarpanch, and others. Seventy percent of them are under the age of 35. The claim

that young people are apathetic to politics lacks validity. She also observes: "This is undoubtedly sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the youth are eager to engage with technology to transform their village communities." The apathy of the city's youth towards politics is mostly attributable to the media's bias towards political institutions, the opaque operations of political entities, and the elevated status afforded to politicians. These are detrimental elements that evoke repulsion among the general populace. To be candid with the children, some have expressed their criticisms of political indifference without reservation. In 1966, Mahipal Singh, a student of International Tourism, stated in a blog: "I have often observed youth discussing corrupt politicians, and I do as well."Singhal However, what about joining the political sphere? Only 17% of MPs in India are teenagers. The diverse cohort of Members of Parliament aged 25 to 40 comprises only 71 out of 545. This information does not allow us to criticize the elderly. In 1953, Rohit Jain asserted in a blog that the nation fervently seeks younger leaders that embody vitality, passion, integrity, and dedication. Undoubtedly, we have made significant progress over the past 62 years; yet, the rate of advancement could have been markedly different had some younger leaders guided this trajectory of development. Prior to the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, The Times of India conducted interviews with a diverse segment of the voters. Sabina Rani, a 1944 scholar from Stella Maris, stated: "I have consistently monitored political litigation in the country and subsequently participate in the process."Forbes and Forbes, 1877 However, I am apprehensive over which birthday celebration to endorse. From those viewpoints, we observe that youth are polarized on their role in politics. They recognize the necessity for younger leaders capable of advancing the United States. Research on the electoral behavior of Indians has indicated that the engagement of young individuals in elections is below average.(Sadanandan, 1991) The Centre for Studies of Developing Societies asserts that, notwithstanding the diverse demographics of young individuals, their electoral engagement in India is inferior to that of the adult electorate. The youth are assuming a diminished role in public life. The proportion of young MPs in the Lok Sabha has decreased. In the inaugural elected Parliament of 1952, the number of younger MPs amounted to one hundred and forty.This increased to 164 in 1957. (Hutcheson, 2004) Subsequently, the diversity of youthful Members of Parliament diminished. In 1989, the count of younger MPs diminished to 93, and by 2004, it further decreased to 61. The challenging electoral conduct of our children necessitates substantiation. I suggest that in the initial years following Independence, there has been a notable prevalence of idealism among the youth. Jawaharlal Nehru provided

the nation with a goal to establish a socialistic framework of society. Politics is no longer perceived as a profession. Kumar and Rai, 1988 Many young individuals perceive service through political engagement. However, with the advent of globalization in the 1990s, India was obliged to adhere to the IMF's directives. The establishment of neo-liberal marketplace economics in India resulted in the demise of the socialistic model envisioned by Nehru in 1993. The demise of the socialist variant resulted in the extinction of the ideology. Consequently, politics began to manifest as a domain of strategic recreation, intrigue, chicanery, manipulation, and positional maneuvering. This adversely affected the political choices available to our teenagers. Consequently, young individuals have become more professionally informed and less inclined to engage in politics. Kumar and Rai 1899 An early assessment of women's rights, particularly regarding electoral participation, both chronologically and thematically, traces its origins to the Swadeshi movement in Bengal (1905–1908). This movement signified the commencement of Indian women's involvement in nationalist endeavors and brought the issues of women's suffrage and voting rights to prominence. Forbes traces the origins of the women's suffrage movement in India, noting that the demand of organized women for equal treatment with men arose not from the perceptions of Indian women's needs but from the influence of certain British women. (Takayanagi, 1888) The origins of the women's suffrage movement in India in the early 20th century were modeled after Britain and influenced by the efforts of British women reformers residing in India. The initial calls for franchise emerged in 1917 when the Women's Indian Association was established in Madras, primarily aimed at advocating for an expanded role for women in public life. Significant literature examines the efforts linked to the nationalist movement and their impact on numerous aspects of India. Ultimately, the women's suffrage movement reconciled with nationalist concerns, necessitating that suffragist principles be articulated in Indian contexts and aligned with the nationalist issues of political rights and colonial status that dominated public discourse in India during the 1920s and 1930s. Consequently, the women's suffrage movement led to the expansion of limited voting rights for certain women in several provinces of India from 1920 to 1929, commencing in Madras. (Sachan) 1956 Nonetheless, those rights have been conferred only upon a narrow fraction of Indian women contingent upon property conditions. The Government of India Act of 1935 subsequently granted suffrage rights to a broader segment of women, albeit still encumbered by conditions such as literacy, property ownership, or marriage to property-owning men. Palshikar et al., 1977 The Act granted suffrage to one female for every five males enfranchised.



Notwithstanding the opposition from the women's movement regarding gender-based seat reservations, the 1935 Act allocated forty-one reserved seats for women in provincial legislatures, along with limited reservations in the central legislature, resulting in divisions within the women's movement along gender and religious lines. Borooah, 1977 Nonetheless, women capitalized on the seats allocated to them during the 1937 elections, resulting in eighty women being elected as lawmakers. At that time, India has the third highest number of women legislators globally, following the United States and the Soviet Union. Although the allocation of seats for women during the latter years of colonial rule was short-lived and fragmented along religious lines, it provided women with a foothold in Indian legislative affairs and established a precedent that could be referenced decades later. (Mehra, 1976) The period following independence did not observe significant collaborative efforts to establish inclusive election zones for women. The 1950 Constitution did not allocate seats for women in the legislature. Thukral 1993 Post-independence, women's political participation was significantly constrained by social norms that influenced the opportunities and perceptions regarding girls' engagement in politics. Those perceptions were occasionally specific to men, at times shared by women. The overall participation of women in the political sphere throughout the freedom struggle appeared to diminish following independence. Women's participation in politics and electoral competitiveness became limited to familial ties rather than being predominantly influenced by personal interest and societal motivation to engage in political activities. Political parties, with the prevailing cultural mentality, failed to address this challenge and systematically excluded women from electoral participation. (Thukral; Kumar, "Indian Elections Lack Scientific Rigor") 1980 Nonetheless, as a means of acknowledging contributions to the struggle for India's independence, political events designated a limited number of seats for women in the general elections. This became evident from the inaugural Lok Sabha elections in 1952, as women secured a mere 4.4 percent of the total seats in the Lower House. Gilmartin and Moog 1950 Notwithstanding constitutional guarantees of gender equality, the need for increased female representation in India's political institutions was only earnestly addressed following the publication of the Committee on the Status of Women in India (Government of India, 1974: 283–305). This advised that the girl's representation in political institutions, particularly at the grassroots level, should be enhanced by a strategy of reserving seats for women. The National Perspective Plan for Women advocated for a 30% quota for women in all levels of non-mandatory bodies, while women's organizations and gender advocates contended that reservations should be confined to the panchayat level to



promote grassroots involvement of women in electoral politics. The nationwide agreement over this demand led to the enactment of the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Indian Constitution in 1993, which instituted a 33 percent reservation for women in local governance institutions.(Thukral; Kumar, “Indian Elections Fall Flat on Science”; Kumar, Indian Youth and Electoral Politics: An Emerging Engagement; Sardesai) 1980 This has been implemented across all Indian states without inciting enmity or competitiveness from male politicians or society as a whole. In 1995, the issue of affirmative action for girls was reintroduced, specifically concerning reservations for women in Parliament.(Thukral; Kumar, “Indian Elections Fall Short on Science”; Kumar, Indian Youth and Electoral Politics: A Developing Involvement)1970 Initially, the majority of political parties concurred with this proposal in principle; nevertheless, dissent soon emerged. When the Bill concerning this issue was presented in the Eleventh Parliament in 1997, numerous political parties and organizations expressed concerns about elitism and the redundancy of quotas for women in general and for women from lower castes. The Draft Bill, introduced twenty years ago in Parliament, continues to gather dust with no clear indicators of when it will be enacted.

#### **METHODOLOGY:**

The study addresses empirical research, namely a non-doctrinal investigation. It encompasses both primary and secondary data sources, utilizing numerous secondary references such as books, journals, and research papers. The study addresses the survey methodology and the primary instrument for calculating or analyzing findings using the Pearson chi-square table and cross-tabulation count. The collection approach involves direct surveys based on individuals' opinions and responses to questionnaires.

The study employed a convenience sampling strategy.

#### **SAMPLE SIZE:**

A total of 250 samples have been gathered for this study.

#### **DEPENDENT VARIABLE:**

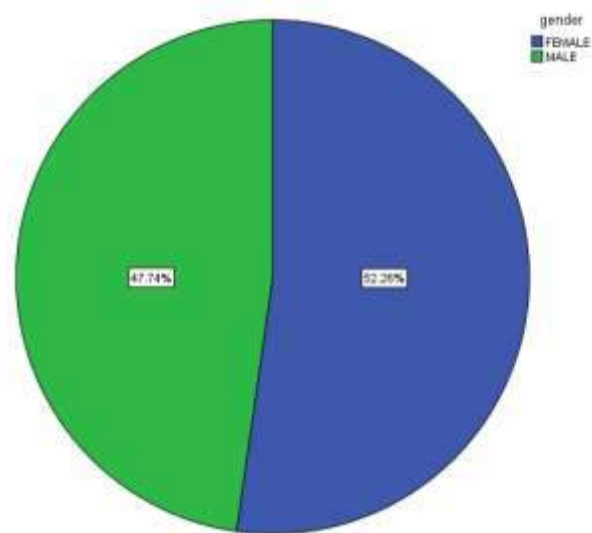
- Age

#### **INDEPENDENT VARIABLE:**

- Are you aware of election laws?
- The right to vote and the obligation to vote should be mandated.

DATA ANALYSIS:

Figure 1

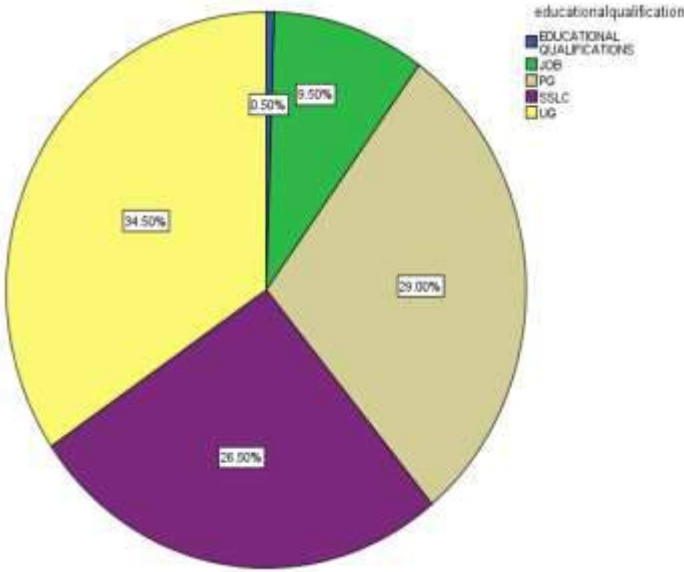


Gender

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	3	.2	.2	.2
female	641	42.5	42.5	42.7
male	865	57.3	57.3	100.0
Total	1509	100.0	100.0	

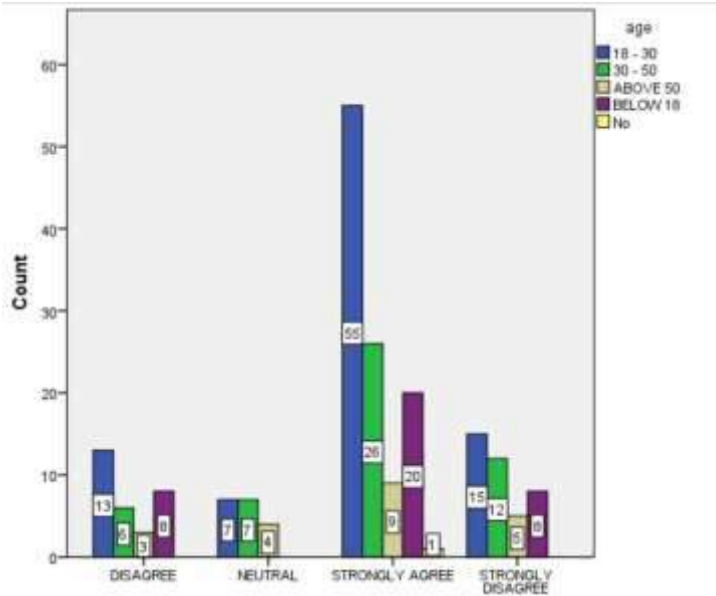
**Legend :** the figure 1 shows the gender of the sample population

Figure 2



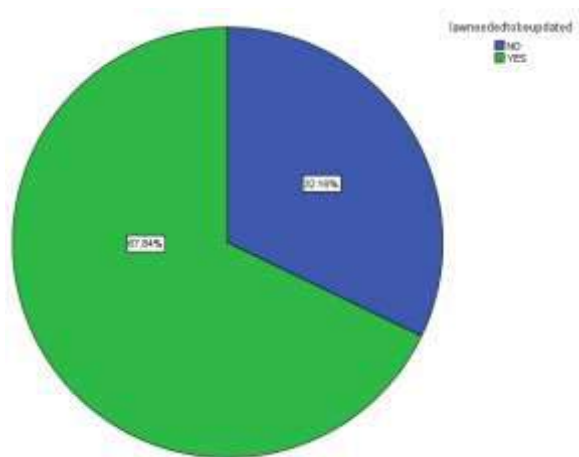
**Legend :** figure 2 shows educational qualification of the sample population

**Figure 3**



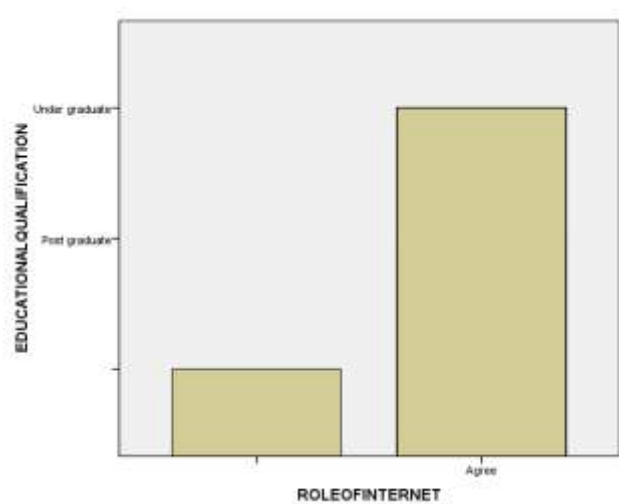
**Legend:** figure 3 shows the opinion of the respondents based on the voting in the election.

**Figure 4**



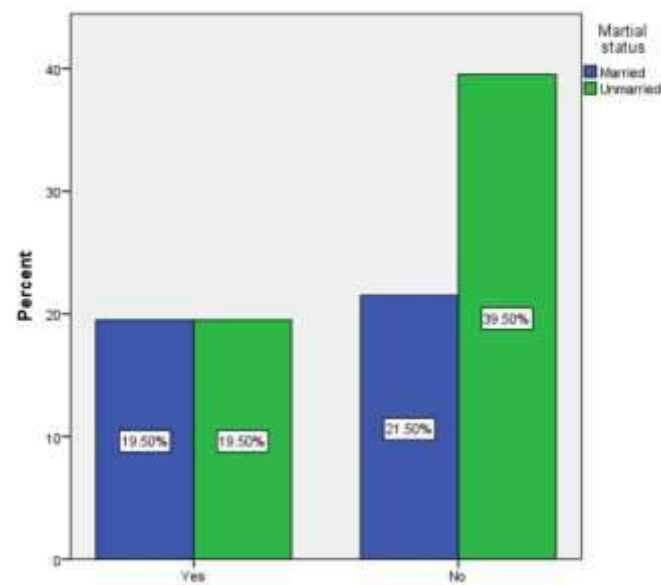
**Legend:** figure 4 tells about the law for Election

**Figure 5**



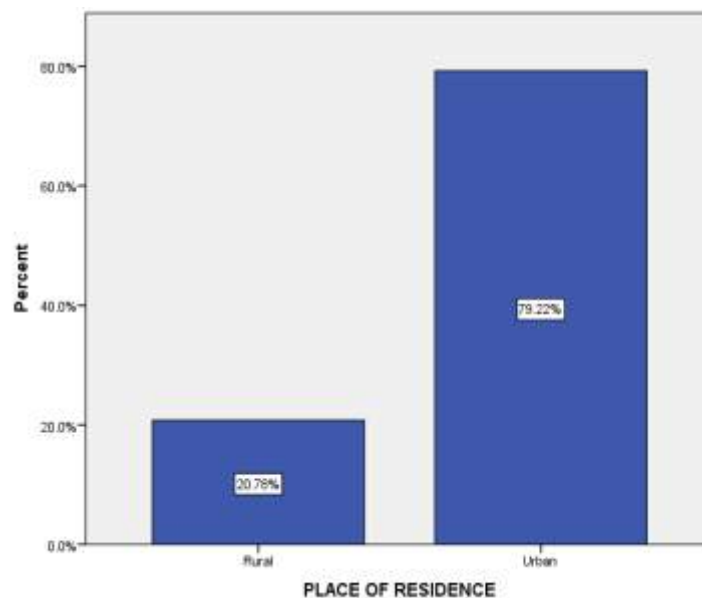
**Legend :** Figure 5 represents the educational qualification and the opinion of the respondents regarding the major role of Election.

**Figure 6**



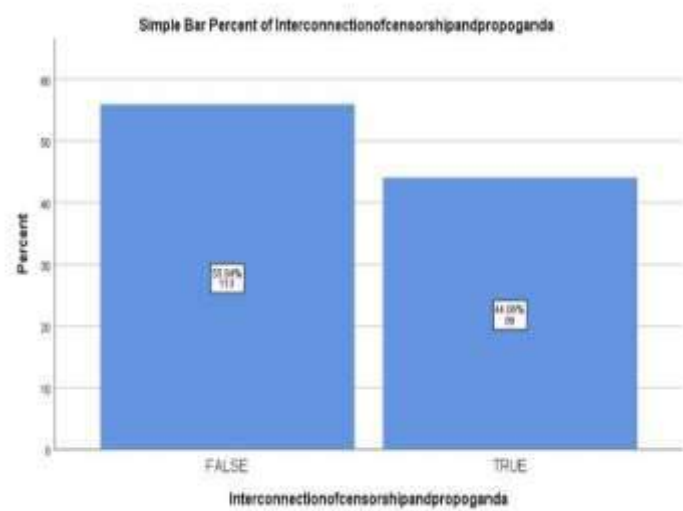
**Legend:** Figure 6 speaks about the percentage of people for the preference of equality in accordance with their marital status.

**Figure 7**



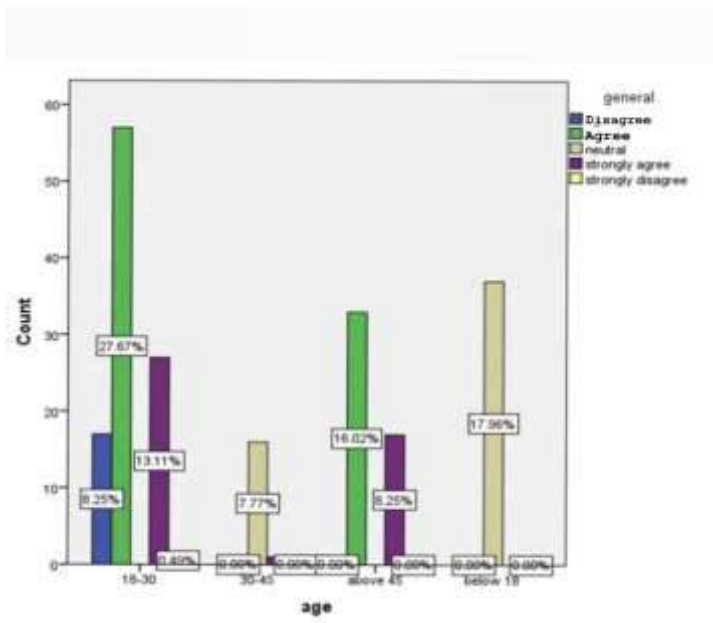
**Legend:** It represents that overall place of residence.

Figure 8



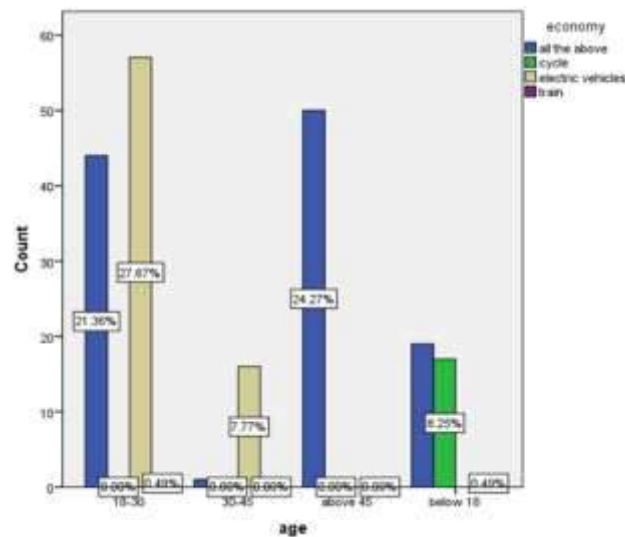
**Legend:;** shows the opinion of people on the statement of voting in elections which govern a state government

Figure 9



**Legend :** This Figure shows the age and the general opinion of election in an government of state rules

**Figure 10**



**Legend :** This Figure shows the young people are traveling types of places it was needed to develop

## DISCUSSION:

The inquiry posed to the public was whether the right to vote and the obligation to vote should be mandated. The respondents aged 18-30 indicated 213 as Strongly Disagree, 291 as Disagree, 456 as Neutral, 397 as Agree, and 148 as Strongly Agree. The respondents aged 31-50 indicated 62 as Strongly Disagree, 173 as Disagree, 175 as Neutral, 62 as Agree, and 56 as Strongly Agree. The respondents aged 51-60 reported 23 as Strongly Disagree, 65 as Disagree, 84 as Neutral, 53 as Agree, and 15 as Strongly Agree. The respondents aged over 60 indicated 12 as Strongly Disagree, 8 as Disagree, 28 as Neutral, 11 as Agree, and 4 as Strongly Agree. As the value is below 0.5, the Alternative Hypothesis is accepted while the Null Hypothesis is rejected.

**Null Hypothesis:** The right to vote and the obligation to vote should not be mandated as compulsory

**Alternative Hypothesis:** The right to vote and the duty to vote should be mandated as compulsory.



## **SUGGESTION**

This research examines youth participation in politics, revealing a mixed consensus. The previous elections have significantly impacted the current sentiment among youth, who oppose the election, as the participation of youth and women is crucial in the electoral process. Women have restrictions owing to many circumstances, even though they constitute less than half of the majority. This article addresses democracy, wherein regularly held elections provide the electorate the opportunity to determine the government. Consequently, the democratic government embodies the desires and ambitions of the populace. If the government becomes incompetent and inefficient, failing to address the demands and challenges of society, the populace may depose it. Their involvement in the political process underscores the importance of voting, which is more powerful than a gunshot. Elections are permanent fixtures that illuminate and dramatize a political mechanism, clarifying its essence and providing insights into various components of the system, including its fundamental character and overall operation. The characteristics of a political machine become increasingly evident during elections. Elections may be seen as the benchmark of a political apparatus. It is a primary concern that affects the majority of the population. They truly have a lasting impact on the political and social mechanisms of a political system. Elections serve as a connection between society and the political apparatus. Elections may also be regarded as a tranquil method of examining a political apparatus.

## **CONCLUSION**

It has been shown that approximately fifty percent of the population lacks awareness of electoral laws and the significance of participating in elections. As the value is below 0.5 The alternative hypothesis is validated, and the null hypothesis is dismissed for the inquiries. Should the right and obligation to vote be mandated as compulsory? Are you knowledgeable about election laws? The Indian Constitution designates the right to vote as a Fundamental Right, facilitated through the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Article 326 of the Constitution guarantees the right to vote for every person aged 18 and above. Moreover, Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951 stipulates that all individuals listed on the electoral roll of a constituency are eligible to vote. Consequently, the Constitution clarifies that every individual over the age of 18, whose name appears on the electoral rolls and is not subject to any disqualifications under the Act, is entitled to cast their vote. This is a non-

discriminatory, voluntary voting apparatus. India adheres to Universal Adult Franchise, allowing every citizen above the age of 18 to vote for their chosen leaders. Approximately one-third of the population lacks interest in voting. It is the obligation of every citizen to exercise their right to vote. As India is a democratic nation, the population will elect their leaders through the act of voting. Nonetheless, some contend that mandatory voting may infringe upon the fundamental rights of liberty and expression afforded to citizens in a democratic society. In this context, it has been asserted that every individual should have the autonomy to decide whether or not to exercise their right to vote. The interpretation of the constitutional right to vote on the right to abstain from voting remains ambiguous. If contested, it will be up to the higher courts to determine if mandatory voting contravenes the Constitution.

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