THE STATUS OF INDIAN POLITICS

- A brief study since from 1952 to 2014

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Introduction:

The Indian political system has obviously grown too complex for simple, elegant models and nostalgia for such models will not help us to understand the complex reality - much less change it. The old-fashioned political scientists wanted to anchor political studies firmly to constitutional law and studies of governmental institutions; Duvergerian political scientists to party systems; and those concentrating on election studies to voting behavior. Each of these has an important contribution to make but a fast-growing political system is a 'many-splendored thing', demanding many types of investigation into many areas. It demands even experimenting with models other than the simple structural/functional models - for example, gaming models or dialectical models which need not be the monopoly of Marxists. It may be worth going further to simulate fairly complex models in the computer or on paper. In fact, models based on actual research conclusions, where available, combined with explicit plausible assumptions, where they are not, when simulated quantitatively may tell us a lot about areas for future concern or investigation. Such sophisticated speculation can also tell us much about the breaking points of the system and their dangerous possibilities. A complex political system deserves no less; it demands variegated research, complex simulation, and continuous analysis for its understanding.

A Brief journey of Indian Politics:

Politics in India is much rougher and much more corrupt that in the democracies of Europe and North America. Assassination is not uncommon: the revered Mahatma Gandhi in 1948, the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, and the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 were all murdered, although it has to be noted that these were not really political assassinations which happen more at local level. Communal, caste and regional tensions continue to haunt Indian politics, sometimes threatening its long-standing democratic and secular ethos. The

language used by political candidates about each other is often vivid. One key question will be the influence on the new government of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the vast conservative Hindu revivalist organization where new Prime Minister Narendra Modi started his career as an activist. The RSS was heavily involved in the 2014 election and Modi and many other senior officials of the BJP, which is independent of the RSS though ideologically close, are still members of the organization. Recent years have seen the emergence of so-called RTI activists - tens of thousands of citizens, often poor, sometimes almost illiterate, frequently highly motivated - who use the Right To Information legislation of 2005 to promote transparency and attack corruption in public institutions. In the first five years of the legislation, over a million RTI requests were filed and so threatening to authority have some of the RTI activists become that a number of have been murdered. More recently than the RTI movement, there has been a related – if rather different in caste and class terms - movement around the demand for an anti-corruption agency (called Lokpal). This movement has been led by the hunger-striker Anna Hazare and draws most of its support from the growing Indian middle-class which feels alienated from politics since the votes are to be found in poor, rural communities while the power is to be found in rich, urban elites. In spite of all its problems, India remains a vibrant and functioning democracy that is a beacon to democrats in many surrounding states. The study observed that the country and its culture, parameters, postulates, governing norms, and others political dimensions goes on changing and affecting the political systems and new kind of political diversity has been evolved over the period of time. The study found the specific cardinal factors which directly facilitated India to preserve their democratic government in the last decades like, Panchayati Raj system, Federalism, electoral practices, Multi-party system, written constitutions and Independence of courts and supreme court, and loyalty of Military to government.

The Panchayat system of ancient India helps the people of India to cope with the culture of democracy. Panchayat means a council of five and it usually refers to a village council which may or may not have five members- which has a great deal to say about the life of people of village in social, religious, economic and political matters. Officially speaking, the Panchayat is today the lowest and in a sense the most basic- unit of self government in India. In India, the centre largely depends on the states for implementing many of public policies which encourages decentralization process. The term ‗federation' has nowhere been used in the Constitution. Instead, Article 1 of the Constitution describes India as a‗Union of States'.

The Constitution establishes a dual polity consisting of the Union at the Centre and the states at the periphery. Each is endowed with sovereign powers to be exercised in the field assigned to them respectively by the Constitution. Federalism helps the Indians to handle the problems of multi-culture, multi-language and different religions successfully and strengthen the democracy of India.

India ensured the voting right of people of India by the Constitution of the India which is supreme law of the country. The framers of the Constitution of India described about election of India in the Part XV, Articles 324 to 329 of the Constitution. The article 326 says that elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage. Thus, since the independence of India the participation of the people is always growing. India is known for its multi party system. There are many parties in India ranging from 6 National Political parties and more than 48 state parties and many registered regional parties. The multiparty system in India make unique in the world. In Indian political system one can find the rightist, centrist, leftist, regional, even local political parties to deal with the political issues. The Constitution is not only a written document but also the lengthiest Constitution of the world. Originally, it contained a Preamble, 395 Articles (divided into 22 Parts) and 8 Schedules. At present (2013), it consists of a Preamble, about 465 Articles (divided into 25 Parts) and 12 Schedules. It specifies the structure, organization, powers and functions of both the Central and state governments and prescribes the limits within which they must operate. Thus, it avoids the misunderstandings and disagreements between the two. This constitution clearly describes about the nature of the Republic, the organization and powers and mutual relations of the Centre and the States, the Fundamental rights of the citizens (Articles: 13 to 35), the directive principles of State policy (Articles: 36 to 51), and so on. This constitution spells out almost all pros and cons of functions of the country. At present, the independence of Judiciary is considered crucial feature of the democratic country.

According to the constitution the Supreme Court of India was to consist of a Chief Justice and not more than seven other judges. The Supreme Court of India has gained a respectable position in the Indian political system. Its many decisions and interpretation have been played a great role in maintaining the stability of democracy in India. Many of its most important judgments on constitutional issues have related to the interpretation of Article 14, guaranteeing equality before the law, Article 19, guaranteeing important freedoms to the

individual, and Article 31, regarding property rights. Therefore, without any doubt we can say that the Indian Supreme Court performs its role as perfect guardian of the country and guide the all democratic institutions in the right path of democracy to enhance the stability of democracy in India. In maintaining a democratic system of government intact in India the loyalty of military toward the government plays a cardinal role. This culture guides the Indian military to perform their prime role and duty which increase the development of democracy in India. We do trust that in spite a developing state and having many challenges like overpopulation, poverty, multi-languages, multi-religion, multi-tribes, multi-culture, corruption etc if India could uphold their democracy in their own way and standing tall as an icon of influential democracy then any developing nation could also anticipate for a sustainable democracy. To make that feasible they just need to follow the democratization process of India which is also not a very hard thing to do.[1]

Review of literature:

Pradeep Chhibber (March 2013)[2]. "Dynastic parties Organization, finance and impact". Party Politics by Sage Journals mentioned the parties' organization and its dynastic character. Prakash Chander and Prem Arora[3] have authored a book on "Nature of Party System in India". Comparative Politics & International Relations. Cosmos Bookhive; explained the party system in India and throw light on its comparative politics.

Basu, Amrita; Chandra (Editor), Kanchan (2016)[4] has written Democratic Dynasties: State, Party and Family in Contemporary Indian Politics (1 ed.). Cambridge, UK:- Cambridge University Press, opinions on the issues relating to the Contemporary Indian politics. Shively, W.Arun Shourie[5] has written The Parliamentary System and mentioned in it —What we have made of it, what we can make of it.

Dr. B. L. Fadia (2011)[6] Book titled Indian "Government and Politics" In the first section the author has take an overview of the Indian political system. The author has discussed the nature of the party system prevailing in India. This needs to be understood to know the importance of mechanism of the Electioneering. In a democratic set up Political parties assume greater importance. Although the political parties informally express and form the public opinion. They influence the electorate greatly. The political parties mobilize the electorate. In the parliamentary system any political party which secures highest seats becomes the ruling party and the party which gets minority votes becomes the opposition

party. And therefore, to decide which party has the support of maximum electors the mechanism used is that of election.
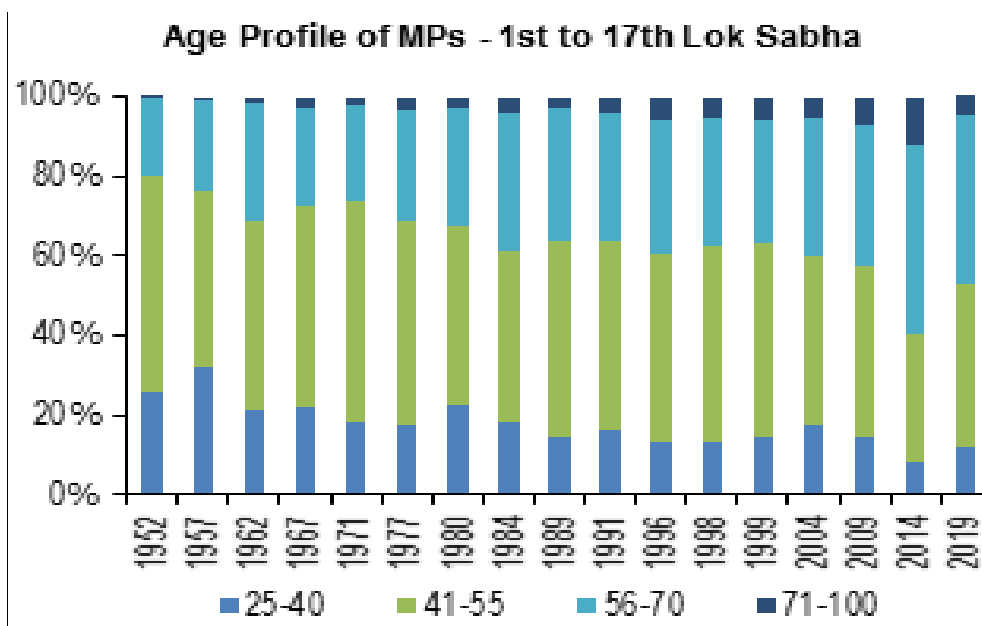
Dr. Nirmala Rana[7] in her paper on "Politics in India:-At a Glance: A Study of Indian Political System and Elections", said that the democracy is a continuous process which is not possible to accomplish entirely. Therefore, India is still functioning on their democratization process and same way every country should also strive for the development as much as they could.

Objectives of the study:

1. To find out the age wise representation in the Indian politics since 1952.
2. To know the education level representation in the Indian politics since 1952.
3. To find out the women representation in the Indian politics since 1952.
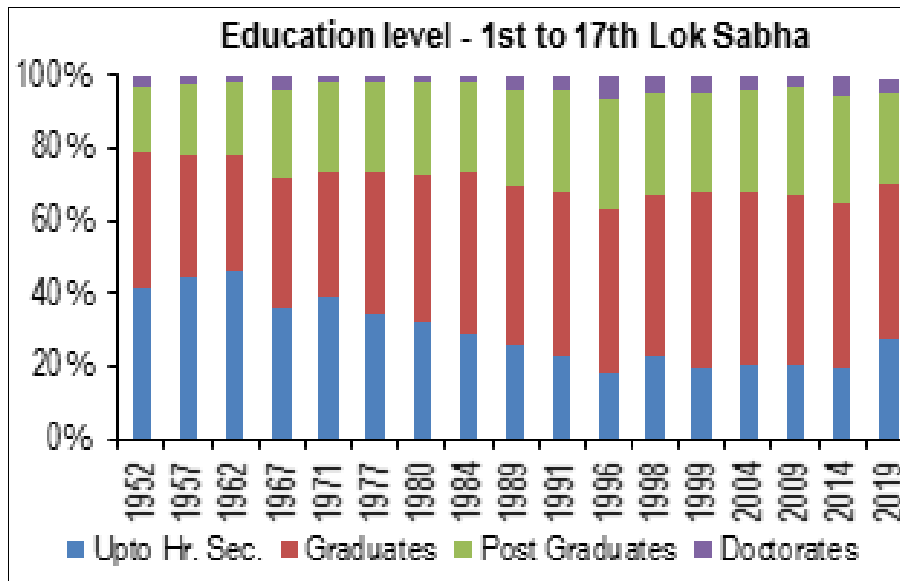4. To give the valuable suggestions to change the representation to develop the country.

Analysis and interpretation:

The Picture No. 01: Age wise classification of MPs in India
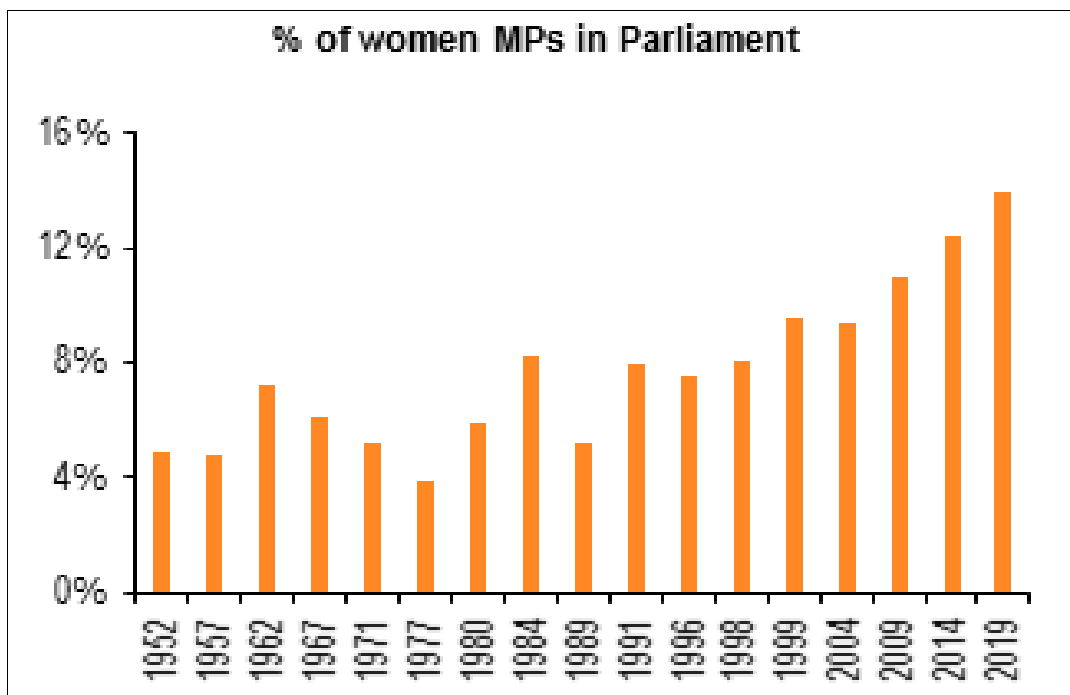

The Picture No. 01 reveals the information about the age wise classification of MPs in India since 1952 election. It is clear from the above picture that, the average age of an MP is 54 years. The 17th Lok Sabha has 12% of MPs below the age 40 years. This is more than that of the 16th Lok Sabha which had 8% of MPs below the age of 40 years. This bucks the longer term trend of Lok Sabha getting older. The proportion of MPs below 40 years of age has steadily declined from 26% in the first Lok Sabha. On average, women MPs are 6 years younger compared to male MPs in the 17th Lok Sabha.

The Picture No. 02: Education level of MPs in India

Education level - 1st to 17th Lok Sabha
Upto Hr. Sec. ■ Graduates ■ Post Graduates ■ Doctorates

The Picture No. 02 depicts the information about the education level of MPs in India since 1952 election. It is clear from the above picture that in the 17th Lok Sabha, 27% of MPs have studied till 12th class. In comparison, 16th Lok Sabha had 20% MPs who had studied till 12th class. Since 1996, at least 75% of representatives of each Lok Sabha have been graduates.

The Picture No. 03: Percentage of women MPs in India

% of women MPs in Parliament

The Picture No. 03 exhibits the information about the percentage of women MPs in India since 1952 election. It is clear from the above picture that 716 women candidates contested the General Election. Out of which, 78 women MPs have been elected to the 17th Lok Sabha. In 2014, 62 women MPs were elected. The representation of women MPs in Lok Sabha is slowly improving from 5% in the 1st Lok Sabha to 14 % in the 17th Lok Sabha. Though the percentage of women MPs has increased over the years, it is still lower in comparison to some countries. These include Rwanda (61%), South Africa (43%), UK (32%), USA (24%), and Bangladesh (21%).

Conclusion

Development became the core issue of 2014 Lok Sabha Elections. Economic issues like poverty, unemployment, development are main issues that influence politics. Garibi hatao (eradicate poverty) has been a slogan of the Indian National Congress for a long time. The well known Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) encourages a free market economy. The more popular slogan in this field is Sab Ka Sath, Sab ka Vikas (Cooperation with all, progress of all). The Communist Party of India (Marxist) vehemently supports left-wing politics like land-for-all, right to work and strongly opposes neo-liberal policies such as globalization, capitalism and privatization. India's flagging economic performance is the election's central issue. Terrorism, Naxalism, religious violence and caste-related violence are important issues that affect the political environment of the Indian nation[8].

In a nutshell it may be inferred that. In order to overall Indian politics more and more educated young bloods have to enter in the politics with the aim to to develop the country. At the same time equal representation of men and women should be there in the politics to eradicate the gender inequality in the country.

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