

A Study of Election-And-Representation

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Abstract

One of the most fundamental aspects of a democratic government is the electoral process, through which citizens choose their representatives. Politicians in contemporary democracies are selected for office by popular vote (and sometimes the judiciary and the executive). Elections are also the only means by which members of regional and municipal governments are selected. Election is employed not just in public institutions but also in private ones like clubs, colleges, churches, etc. Good governance rests on the shoulders of the people who take part in elections and the administration of government by their peers. However, with a larger population and wider state comes a lack of opportunity for individual citizens to have a hand in governing. This is why a form of government known as representational democracy has been established.

Keywords: Election, Representation, democratic

Election Process of Indian Democracy

Elections in India take place on many tiers, with a national Lok Sabha and individual state legislatures both mandated by the constitution.

balloting under Article 15 of the Indian Constitution. In accordance with Article 324, the Election Commission is given the responsibility of overseeing, directing, and controlling the electoral process. The Constitution's Article 324 establishes the Election Commission as the body responsible for organising and running elections. Prior to 1989, the Election Commission consisted of only one person, but on October 16th of that year, a presidential notice added two additional commissioners to the team.

Some states elect a larger proportion of the 543 Lok Sabha seats than others. The number of members chosen to each state's Legislative Assembly also varies. MPs and MLAs are elected directly by adult voters in Lok Sabha and Vidhana Sabha elections, whereas municipal elections are managed by the State Election Commission. A member of Lok Sabha or Vidhana may serve for a maximum of five years. "The first step in the electoral process is the notification of their election by the Election Commission. There are three stages to an election once the notice is issued: the nomination, the election, and the counting of votes. Nomination papers must be submitted within seven days of the election notice being sent out. They are held for further

inquiry after that one day has passed. Nomination papers might be withdrawn for other reasons as well. Those who do not want to run in the election are allowed two days following the nomination deadline to withdraw their papers and have the opportunity to do so once all relevant information has been shared. There was deliberate planning behind the four-day window for the 1993 assembly elections and the ten-day window for the 1996 Lok Sabha elections. While three days is ideal, most people try to get it done in two. A special day may be set aside for re-polling in a certain constituency if the results of the first vote count are inconclusive. Typically, voting takes place at designated polling places between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Suffrage Age

Different countries have different voting ages. In Denmark and Japan only a person above 25 years of age can vote, while in Norway this age is 23 years. But in Great Britain, America and Soviet Union this age has been fixed at 18 years. In our country too, now the minimum age for voting has been fixed at 18 years. Thus, all those men and women who are 18 years of age are entitled to vote without any discrimination. To exercise the right to vote, it is necessary to have the following qualifications:

- He is a citizen of India,
- He has completed 18 years of age,
- He is mentally sound,
- A person who has not been punished by the court.

Systems of Representation

All eligible adults should be able to vote and have a voice in how their country is run. Those who uphold the rights of the electorate are those elected to office. Local and national elections are the two most common ways to fill seats in the legislature.

Regional Representation

Many democracies use this system for choosing their representatives, and it has gained widespread acceptance. In accordance with this, voters in a certain region choose a representative at-large. Each area of the nation serves as a separate electoral district, and its representative is chosen at-large. All citizens are eligible to vote in one of many districts with about the same number of people in each district.

Executive Representation

Representatives from many professions, including factory workers, shop owners, attorneys, educators, truck drivers, and others, are elected to serve on the executive branch. This is how distinct groups of persons from the same category are established. Teachers, for instance, may form a political party and elect delegates to represent their interests. Voters are invited to choose representatives based on their specific occupational group. This constituency, like regional representation, does not have any geographical boundaries and is instead defined by the jobs that people hold. This mechanism ensures that people from all walks of life in the workforce are heard. Voters from a certain group make up a representative's constituency. This community may be located in a certain location of the world. Voters in those places cast ballots in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections. Nonetheless, the President is elected from a different pool than that of the Parliament and the Legislative Assembly. One or more people may make up a single constituency.

Single Member Constituency: The term single member is used to describe a situation in which a single representative is chosen to represent a certain area. There are 543 constituencies in India that vote for members of the Lok Sabha. Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia is divided into one of these 543 areas. India, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Russia, Australia, Nepal, and Pakistan all use parliamentary systems with a single member.

Multi-member Constituencies: The term generic ticket system is often used to refer to this method. A multi-member constituency is one that elects more than one representative. Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, and Italy all have similar systems in place. A considerable number of MPs are chosen at-large from each of the country's big constituencies. Regardless matter where a party's voters are concentrated, the party's candidates will be represented in the legislature.

When there are many people involved, a method of proportional representation is used. A candidate needs a particular percentage of the vote in order to win the election. All of a constituency's candidates must get votes from eligible voters in order to win election. They make a checkmark next to the candidates' names on the ballot. In the chapter titled Proportional Representation, you'll learn more about this strategy in depth. Thus, voters cast their ballots in accordance with the electoral system in place. The most prominent voting methods will now be discussed.

Simple Majority System: The candidate who receives the most votes in a single-member district is declared elected under the simple majority method. If there is more than one contender, this approach may create a crowded field. Additionally, there may be four, five, or even more potential choices. A candidate who receives fewer than 50% of the vote is declared the winner. The similar pattern may be noticed in India's general election.” Countries like the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada use a simple majority system. First Past the Post is another name for this method. It is by this method that we elect representatives to the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Conclusion

- To a large extent, the success and legitimacy of democracies rest on the elections and the representative nature of elections in nations with representative democracies. There are a number of indicators that point to the success of India's electoral system.
- As a first point, our electoral system has allowed citizens to not only freely choose their representatives but also to peacefully change administrations at both the federal and state levels.
- Secondly, citizens have shown a steady interest in and commitment to the electoral process. Voters will be able to choose from an ever-growing field of candidates and political parties.
- Last but not least, the voting system has accommodated everyone and carried them along with it. Over time, our legislators' social backgrounds have shifted as well. Now, we have delegates from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, yet the representation of women still hasn't improved to an acceptable level.
- Although there are numerous efforts to rig the elections, electoral irregularities and rigging do not significantly alter the outcomes in most regions of the nation. You've probably heard several people express concern about election-related violence, voting suppression, and other forms of intimidation. However, instances of this kind seldom have a decisive impact on election results.

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