

A Study Of Electoral Literacy Amongst Learning Youth In Pune City

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Abstract

This study explores the electoral literacy among learning youth in Pune, Maharashtra, ahead of the 2024 general election. With a focus on perspectives regarding elections, voting, politics, and party agendas, the research collected 75 samples using a sample survey method in the educational hub of Pune. Despite India's improved literacy rate, the paper reveals a mismatch in the growth of voting share, prompting a hypothesis that integrating electoral literacy into the curriculum could enhance youth participation.

The findings highlight a generally positive awareness among learning youth, with an emphasis on art and social science students. However, a gender gap is evident, as 11 out of 14 females surveyed lacked knowledge of their Member of Parliament. The study categorizes respondents into age groups, underscoring the need for age-specific awareness strategies.

In conclusion, the paper recommends mandatory curriculum and activities for electoral literacy, particularly in technical courses. It stresses the importance of addressing gender disparities in awareness, emphasizing policies that promote literacy equality among all genders. By aligning with the national goal of an informed and participative electorate, these recommendations aim to strengthen the democratic fabric as India approaches its 2024 general election.

Keywords: Electoral Literacy, Learning Youth, Pune, Awareness, ECI

Introduction

Soon after India became republic, Election Commission of India comes in to action. Seventeen general election of Lok Sabha conducted successfully by ECI till the date and now days they are planning for 2024 general election. As per ECI 911950734 voters registered with commission in last general election of 2019. Out of them just 614684398 voters took part in to election process. This is calculated 67.40% voters cast their vote in 2019 election. It means 32.6% voters do not carry their duties. And this is the thing with what we should worry about. Electoral literacy is very significant part of the success of democracy. It is true that in comparison of 1952's first election, there is growth in numbers but still we are stand behind the developed countries. Especially then, when we are claiming ourselves world's largest democracy.

After independence, India counted amongst the illiterate countries. Near about 12.5% people of its population are Literate. So it is quite understandable that first election with 44.7% voting is okay. After walking long enough of more than 75 years. Literacy rate increased with 61.54% and reached out to 74.04% as per 2011 census. In this comparison voting share is increased by just 22.7 percent. 68% voters out of total numbers are youth as per ECI in 2014 election.

Objective and Methodology

The present paper intends to analyze the study of electoral literacy amongst learning Youth in Pune city. Pune is an educational hub of Maharashtra. Students comes here from all over the Maharashtra. To find out what learning youth thinks about election, voting, politics, political parties and their agenda. Total 75 samples are collected. Pune is a metropolitan city, number of higher educational institutes are very high. It is almost impossible to visit every institute and approach each student. So in this research paper sample survey method adopted.

It is also intending that assess electoral awareness amongst youth, their political conscious. Along with that commitment, ability and problem of learning youth in the process of implementing the awareness policies for voters. Diagnostic, historical and analytical methods have been employed in the present study. To examine the status of awareness collected data compared with historical data.

Hypothesis

If the Electoral literacy, awareness been part of curriculum then Learning Youth comes out for taking part in to voting process effectively.

Findings/Analysis

Electoral literacy amongst Learning Youth in Pune City

It is widely believed that the analysis of age, Gender, education, Caste, religion, family structure, occupation, income, land holding, party affiliation, etc., are important in determining the Electoral literacy amongst Learning Youth. The data relating to socio-political background of learning youth taken education in various institutions were collected in the percentage(%) study to get an insight into the emerging pattern of awareness in Pune city.

Table No. 1 Stream Wise Interest in Voting and Politics

SR. No	Stream	Collected Samples	Frequency	Percentage
1	Arts/Social Science	30	28	93.33
2	Science	17	13	76.47
3	Commerce	15	10	66.66
4	Engineering	13	6	46.15
Total/Average		75	57	70.65
Not Interested		0	18	29.34

Table No.1 intends to study stream wise interest in voting and politics with this purpose 75 samples are collected for Arts/Social Science 28 out of 30 constitute 93.33%, for Science 13 out of 17 constitute 76.47%, for Commerce 10 out of 15 constitute 66.66%, for Engineering 6 out of 13 constitute 46.15% and not interested are 18 constitute 29.34%. Overall average awareness amongst learning youth is 70.65%. This data indicates that electoral literacy with 93.33% is very high in learning youth of arts and social sciences and very low in Engineering with 46.15%.

Table No. 2 Opinion on General Awareness about Upcoming Elections

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	68	90.66
2	No	4	5.33
3	Can't say/D.K.	3	4
Total		75	100

Table No.2 is intended to discuss the opinion of respondents in the various institutions of education regarding General Awareness about upcoming Elections. The response and the study area have been

grouped into three categories that out of total 75 Respondents 68 constitute 90.66%, No's 4 constituting 5.33 % and rest of them in the category of can't say/D.K members 3 constituting 4%.

Table no. 3 Distribution of Respondents by Nature of Age Group

SR. No.	Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
1	18-21	23	30.66
2	22-25	23	30.66
3	26-30	24	32
4	31-35	5	6.66
Total		75	100

Table No.3 is intended to analyze the distribution of respondents by age group. In this table observed that the age group of the respondents has been grouped into 4 categories. Among these the highest number of respondents 24 constituting 32% are from the age group of 26-30, followed by 23 respondents constituting sequentially 30.66% belonging to the age group of 18-21 and 22-25. Further the table shows that the lowest number 5 respondents constituting 6.66% are from the age group of 31-35.

Table no. 4 Distribution of Respondents by Nature of Gender

SR. No.	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	40	53.33
2	Female	33	44
3	LGBTQ	2	2.66
Total		75	100

Table No.4 discusses the Gender wise distribution of respondents in the study. It is evident from the table that out of the total 75 respondents, the highest number 40 constituting 53.33% are male and 33 respondents constituting 44% are female. While LGBTQ constituting 2.66% with 2 Frequency.

Table No. 5 Desire Shown To Vote in Upcoming Parliament Election

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	40	53.33
2	No	5	6.66
3	Can't say/D.K.	30	40
Total		75	100

Table No.5 is intends to study voting desire amongst learning youth. It says out of total 75 respondents 40 constitutes 53.33% in favor of voting and wish to vote in upcoming parliament election and 5 constitutes 6.66% in favor of no they are apathetical about political process. While 30 learning youth constitutes 40% and they live long distance from their hometown so they are completely dependent on their parents call. If they get chance they will.

Table No. 6 Alliance Wise Opinion

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	N.D.A	32	42.66
2	I.N.D.I.A	34	45.33
3	Third Front	09	12
Total		75	100

Table No.6 is intends to study alliance wise opinion amongst learning youth. This data elaborates N.D.A alliance got 32 votes constitutes 42.66% and I.N.D.I.A alliance got 34 votes constitutes 45.33%. Along with that there are few youths hopping for third alliance with 9 votes constitutes 12%.

Table No. 7 Party Wise Desire to Vote

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	BJP	18	24
2	Shivsena(Shinde)	4	5.33
3	NCP(AjitPawar)	6	8
4	RPI(A)	0	0
5	INC	13	17.33
6	Shivsena(UBT)	18	24
7	NCP(SharadPawar)	7	9.33
8	VBA	9	12
Total		75	100

Table No. 7 elaborates information about party wise desire to vote in upcoming election. For BJP 18 constitutes 24%, this is huge number of this series but not own alone Shivsena(UBT) also have 24%, with taking 13 constitutes 17.33% INC technically on Second number. For VBA 9 constitutes 12%, NCP(SharadPawar) 7 constitutes 9.33% and NCP(AjitPawar) 6 constitutes 8%. RPI(A) is null.

Table No. 8 Voting Decision Can Change Before Election

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	09	12
2	No	63	84
3	Can't say/D.K	03	4
Total		75	100

Table No.8 is intends to study that learning youth can change their mind to vote concern with political party. With Yes 9 constitutes 12%, and No 63 constitutes 84%. Along with that Can't say/D.K 3 it constitutes just 4%.

Table No. 9 Right To Vote in Last General Election

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	29	38.66
2	No	35	46.66
3	Can't say/D.K	11	14.66
Total		75	100

Table No.9 is intends to study right to vote in last general election. For Yes 29 constitutes 38.66%, For No 35 constitutes 46.66. It indicates that number increased of new voter. Along with that Can't say/D.K 11 constitutes 14.66%.

Table No. 9.1 Party Wise Polled Votesin Last General Election

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	BJP	11	37.93
2	Shivsena	4	13.79
3	INC	6	20.68
4	NCP	4	13.79

5	VBA	3	10.34
6	Other	1	3.44
Total		29	100

Table No.9.1 is intends to study Party wise polled vote in last general election. BJP 11 constitutes 37.93%. BJP with its former allied Shivsenasucceed to pull new voters towards them in comparison with Congress Party. Shivsena got 4 constitutes 13.79%. INC 6 constitutes 20.68%, NCP 4 constitutes 13.79%, VBA 3 constitutes 10.34% and other 1 constitutes 3.44%.

Table no. 10 Preferable face for Prime Minister

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	NarendraModi	23	30.66
2	Yogi Adityanath	5	6.66
3	NitinGadkari	3	4
4	MallikarjunKharge	5	6.66
5	Rahul Gandhi	17	22.66
6	ArvindKejriwal	4	5.33
7	UddhavThackery	3	4
8	SharadPawar	4	5.33
9	Prakash Ambedkar	9	12
10	Mamata Banerjee	1	1.33
11	Mayawati	1	1.33
12	AkhileshYadav	0	0
Total		75	100

Table No.10 is intends to study that what learning youth thinks about post of Prime Minister and who is popular face for the post amongst them. With 23 votes NarendraModi still popular face for Prime Minister, constitutes 30.66% but as compare to last election polls number decreased by 41.24%. First runner-up Rahul Gandhi secured 17 constitutes 22.66%, Yogi Adityanath 5 constitutes 6.66%, NitinGadkari 3 constitutes 4%, Congress President MallikarjunKharge 5 constitutes 6.66%, AAP President ArvindKejriwal 4 constitutes 5.33%, UddhavThackery 3 constitutes 4%, SharadPawar 4 constitutes 5.33%, Prakash Ambedkar 9 constitutes 12%, Mamata Banerjee 1constitutes 1.33% along with that Mayawati is also on same position. While SP Chief AkhileshYadav got null.

Table no. 11 Preferable face forChief Minister

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	DevendraFadnavis	17	22.66
2	EknathShinde	5	6.66
3	AjitPawar	7	9.33
4	RamdasAthawale	0	0
5	BalasahebThorat	9	12
6	UddhavThackery	23	30.66
7	SupriyaSule	5	6.66
8	Prakash Ambedkar	9	12
Total		75	100

Table No.11 is elaborates information regarding preferable face for Chief Minister of Maharashtra. UddhavThackery with 23 votes succeed to top constitutes 30.66%, Present First DyCMDevendraFadnavis 17 constitutes 22.66%, current CM EknathShinde 5 constitutes 6.66%, Second DyCMAjitPawar 7 constitutes 9.33%, Congress Leader BalasahebThorat 9 constitutes 12%,

NCP(SharadPawar) Working President SupriyaSule5 constitutes 6.66%, shrewd politician VBA President Prakash Ambedkar 9 constitutes 12%, while RamdasAthawale got null.

Table no. 12 Satisfaction level with N.D.A Government

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	29	38.66
2	No	41	54.66
3	Can't say/D.K	5	6.66
Total		75	100

Table No.12 is intends to study satisfaction level with N.D.A government. For Yes 29 constitutes 38.66%, For No. 41 constitutes 54.66% and For Can't say/D.K 5 constitutes 6.66%.

Table no. 13 Recognition of Member of Parliament

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	61	81.33
2	No	14	18.66
Total		75	100

Table No.13 is intends to study recognition of Member of Parliament. For Yes 61 constitutes 81.33%, For No 14 constitutes 18.66%. Interestingly 11 out of 14 youths are belong to female section. overall it indicates that learning youth know their MP.

Table no. 14 thoughts on anti-defection law

SR. No.	Opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	44	58.66
2	No	21	28
3	Can't say/D.K	10	6.66
Total		75	100

Table No.14 is intends to study what learning youth thinks about anti-defection law and is there any need of to amend it or not. For Yes 44 constitutes 58.66%, For No 21 constitutes 28%, while Can't say/D.K 10 constitutes 6.66%.

Conclusion

Electoral literacy, awareness going on from soon after India became republic. In addition to that it is increasing by day one but lack of literacy it became difficult for ECI. If we analyze it stream wise it seems art/social Sciences learning youth are enrich of electoral literacy. While the learning youth from technical backgrounds found some kind of backwardness in respective subject. In other words I find out apathetic approach concern with electoral literacy and political awareness. But Study indicates that overall awareness regarding Electoral literacy amongst learning youth is good. While doing this research I found gender wise apathetic approach among learning youths. Female section stands far behind males in electoral literacy. According to gender wise study 11 out of 14 females don't know their MP. Study says that the age group of the respondents has been grouped into 4 categories. Among these first three groups respectively 18-21, 22-25 and 26-30 are in large numbers.

Recommendation

ECI and government should frame some curriculum syllabus as well as activities for spreading electoral literacy and awareness amongst learning youth. Especially for technical courses such syllabus and activities should be mandatory. Along with that female section should be accumulate very carefully in this process. Because near about half of the population consist with females and we cannot show negligence toward them. For the purpose of forming literacy equality amongst all genders policy needs to frame in such manner which could be possibly take us towards our national aim.

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