AN AWARENESS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE ACQUIRED BY POLL MANAGEMENT AND ELECTIONEERING OF TELANGANA REGION

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ABSTRACT

Indian society is a pluralistic society with a complex social order characterized by a multitude of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and caste divisions. It comprises people living in rural, urban, tribal setting and all sections. Although the unity in diversity, Indian society is undergone some structural problems so that various sections of the society were in exclusion. Hence, social problems arising out from social structures. Various sections of society have been demanding social justice from many years. The basic aim of social justice is to remove the imbalances in the social, political and economic life of the people to create a just society. It means dispensing justice to those to whom it has been systematically denied in the past because of an established social structure. Social justice refers to a political and philosophical theory that focuses on the concept of fairness in relations between individuals in society and equal access to wealth, opportunities, and social privileges.

The study was guided by research question and hypothesis. The descriptive research design was adopted for the study. There is definite universe for the study of 385 voters and definite universe for the study of 200 political party local leaders. The simple random sampling technique and convenient sampling method sample were used for voters and political party leaders respectively. The interview schedule was used for data gathering and Chi Square (χ^2) statistics were used for data analysis. The findings showed that there was a significant relationship between voter's behavior, leaders' poll management on acquiring social justice

KEYWORDS: *Social justice, Poll Management, voter's behavior, electioneering.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Indian society is a pluralistic society with a complex social order characterized by a multitude of ethnic, linguistic, religious, and caste divisions. It comprises people living in rural, urban, tribal setting and all sections. Although the unity in diversity, Indian society is undergone some structural problems so that various sections of the society were in exclusion. Hence, social problems arising out from social structures. Various sections of society have been demanding social justice from many years. The basic aim of social justice is to remove the imbalances in the social, political and economic life of the people to create a just society. It means dispensing justice to those to whom it has been systematically denied in the past because of an established social structure. Social justice refers to a political and philosophical theory that focuses on the concept of fairness in relations between individuals in society and equal access to wealth, opportunities, and social privileges.

Social justice is generally defined as the fair and equitable distribution of power, resources, and obligations in society to all people, regardless of race or ethnicity, age, gender, ability status, sexual orientation, and religious or spiritual background (Van den Bos 2003). Fundamental principles underlying this definition include values of inclusion, collaboration, cooperation, equal access, and equal opportunity. Such values are also the foundation of a democratic and egalitarian society (Sue 2001).

The concept of social justice first arose in the 19th century during the Industrial Revolution as attempts were made to promote more egalitarian societies and reduce the exploitation of certain marginalized groups due to the vast disparity between the rich and poor at the time. Social justice initially focused on issues such as the distribution of capital, property, and wealth due to the extreme levels of inequality and economic distress prevalent at the time, resulting from the European social class structure.

Today, social justice has shifted towards a stronger emphasis on human rights and improving the lives of disadvantaged and marginalized groups that have historically faced discrimination in society. Many of these groups have been discriminated against on the basis of factors such as sex, age, wealth, ethnicity, heritage, social status, religion, and others. Social justice often leads to efforts to redistribute wealth to some of the underprivileged groups through providing income, jobs, and education support and opportunities.

Social justice initiatives can be pursued through many different types of government programs via wealth and income redistribution, government subsidies, protected legal status in employment, and even legalized discrimination against privileged groups through fines and taxes or even through purges historically. Social justice initiatives are commonly seen in socialist and communist countries, which integrates them into their economic policies, as well as in the platforms of left-leaning political parties within democracies. The main purpose of justice is to solve the problems of inequality in society.

The significance and importance of the concept of social justice today that social justice is not a blind concept. It seeks to do justice to all the citizen of the state. A democratic

system has to ensure that the social development is in tune with democratic values and norms reflecting equality of social status and opportunities for development, social security and social welfare. The caste system acts against the roots of democracy in India. The democratic facilities like fundamental rights relating to equality, freedom of speech, expression & association, participation in the electoral process, and legislative forums are misused for maintaining caste identity. It is true that India has been an unequal society from times immemorial. There are enormous inequalities in our society which are posing serious challenges to Indian democracy. Therefore, must not show excess of imposing unnecessary legislative regulations and prohibitions, in the same way as they must not show timidity in attacking the problem of inequality by refusing the past the necessary and reasonable regulatory measures at all. Constant endeavor has to be made to sustain individual freedom and liberty and subject them to reasonable regulation and control as to achieve socio-economic justice. Social justice must be achieved by adopting necessary and reasonable measures. That, shortly stated, is the concept of social justice and its implications.

Sociologists contend that excessive income inequality restricts social mobility and leads to social segmentation and eventually social breakdown, but other social scientists counter this argument with examples of economically successful authoritarian or elitist societies. Social justice is an agenda for various political parties and their leaders in their manifestos and policies in electoral politics. Promising social justice to people/voters by political parties is a major strategy to get votes from people to achieve their electoral target (Mishra, 2018). Parties and their leaders followed modern election management methods during the elections as part of poll management.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY
- To understand the socio-economic and political background of the respondents.
- To highlight the factors responsible to drive the opinion makers and voters as well.
- To describe role of ideology, media and peer group on voting patterns and opinion making.
- To dwell deeper into the patterns and strategies of poll management designed by the leaders.

3. HYPOTHESIS
H_1: There is no significant relation between social status and voters' opinion of political parties' social justice
H_2: There is no significant relation between social status and voter understanding of political leaders' poll management on social justice

4. METHODOLOGY
The quantitative method was opted for in the study, guided by research questions and hypotheses. The descriptive research design was used for the study. Political party leaders and voters. The simple random sampling technique and convenient sampling method sample voters and political party leaders respectively. The interview schedule was used for data gathering, and Chi Square (χ^2) statistics were used for data analysis.

5. SAMPLING DESIGN
Out of 13 assembly segments of selected erstwhile Karimnagar district in Telangana State, five (5) assembly constituencies namely Choppadandi, Husnabad, Jagtial, Peddapalli, and Sircilla were selected. Thus, the definite universe constitutes 10,10,697 voters and the sample size was 385 determined by following the method developed by Krejcie and Morgan (1970), and thereby, from each selected assembly constituency, 77 voters were also chosen as the sample respondents by following the simple random sampling method. Since there is no definite universe for the leaders who are affiliated with various political parties, the study followed a 'convenient sampling method' in selecting 200 political leaders from the selected five assembly segments, so that the study tried to reconcile the views, opinions, and strategies of poll management and electioneering in the study area.

6. SATITICAL DESIGN
The current study was based on an interview schedule and a statistical tool known as SPSS latest edition simple frequency tables.

7. GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
Erstwhile Karimnagar district is the cradle of movements. Any election here is prestigious and important for all parties. There are instances in the past history where the voters here gave a unique verdict in every election and supported all the leaders.
The newly formed Telangana State consists of 119 assembly constituencies. Erstwhile Karimnagar district have 13 assembly constituencies. From that only five constituencies were selected for research. The criteria for selection of this erstwhile Karimnagar district are unique political history. Political leaders, intellectuals and people have awareness on social justice. In the erstwhile Karimnagar district had experience many social movements such as Farmer revolution, Subaltern movements, Naxalbari movement and Telangana statehood movement. In erstwhile Karimnagar district, caste plays a significant role in breaking the hegemonic politics by democratic electioneering. Therefore, this study provides an opportunity that the social justice awareness of leaders and voters. Researcher have studied about Poll management by leaders and Voting patterns of voters in this research. It is useful to assess the idea of social justice patterns and people aspiration.

8. RESULTS

Table 1.1   Awareness on Idea of Social Justice

S.No	Idea of social justice	Leader		Voter	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	197	98.5	385	100.0
2	No	3	1.5	-	-
	Total	200	100.0	385	100.0

The distribution of leader respondents by the idea of social justice is shown in the above table. According to the data, 197 (98.5%) of the respondents have idea on social justice, while 3 (1.5%) of the respondents have not idea. In terms of the voters, 385 (100%) of the respondents have idea on social justice.

Table 1.2 Awareness on social justice through various associations

S.No	Associations	Leader			Voter		
		Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
		F%	F%	F%	F%	F%	F%
1	Political parties	181(90.5%)	19(9.5%)	200(100%)	129(33.5%)	256(66.5%)	385(100%)
2	Student associations	40(20%)	160(80%)	200(100%)	122(31.7%)	263(68.3%)	385(100%)
3	Caste associations	68(34%)	132(66%)	200(100%)	143(37.1%)	242(62.9%)	385(100%)
4	Women associations	13(6.5%)	187(93.5%)	200(100%)	22(5.7%)	363(94.3%)	385(100%)
5	Labour associations	5(2.5%)	195(97.5%)	200(100%)	14(3.6%)	371(96.4%)	385(100%)
6	Farmer associations	10(5%)	190(95%)	200(100%)	17(4.4%)	368(95.6%)	385(100%)
7	Trade unions	6(3%)	194(97%)	200(100%)	14(3.6%)	371(96.4%)	385(100%)
8	Others	16(8%)	184(92%)	200(100%)	147(38.2%)	238(61.8%)	385(100%)

The accompanying table depicts the distribution of leader respondents' awareness of social justice through various associations. According to the data, 181 (90.5%) of the leading responders acquired awareness of social justice through political parties. A sizable proportion of respondents 68 (34%) acquired awareness through caste associations. There were considerable size respondents 40(20%) acquired awareness through student associations of the total. Respondents 13 (6.5%) and 10 (5%) were from women associations and farmer associations respectively. Almost equal size respondents 6 (3%) and 5 (2.5%) were trade unions and labour associations respectively. Only 16(8%) were other associations.

In terms of voter background, the majority of the responders 143(37.1%) acquired awareness of social justice through caste associations. Almost equal size respondents 129(33.5%) and 122(31.7%) acquired awareness through political parties and student associations respectively. There were considerable size respondents 22(5.7%) and 17(4.4%) acquired awareness through women associations and farmer associations respectively. At the end, equal size respondents 14(3.6%) and 14(3.6%) acquired awareness through trade unions and labour associations respectively.

Table 1.3 Leaders' understanding on social justice

S.No	Leaders' understanding on social justice	Yes		No		Total	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
1	Equal Distribution	16	8.0	184	92.0	200	100
2	Equal opportunity	13	6.5	187	93.5	200	100
3	Equal justice to all castes	62	31.0	138	69.0	200	100
4	Economic empowerment	49	24.5	151	75.5	200	100
5	Proportional Representation	42	21.0	158	79.0	200	100
6	Caste Empowerment	11	5.5	189	94.5	200	100
7	Welfare	2	1.0	198	99.0	200	100
8	Equality	8	4.0	192	96.0	200	100
9	Adequate Representation	14	7.0	186	93.0	200	100

The accompanying table depicts the distribution of leader respondents according to the definition on social justice. According to the data, 62 (99%) of the leading respondents defined social justice as equal justice to all castes. Almost equal size respondents 49 (24.5%) and 42 (21%) defined social justice as economic empowerment and proportional representation respectively. As many as, respondents 16 (8%) defined social justice as equal distribution. Almost equal size respondents 14 (7%), 13 (6.5%) and 11 (5.5%) defined social justice as adequate representation, equal opportunity and caste empowerment respectively. A considerable portion of respondents 8 (4%) defined social justice as equality. At the end, only two respondents (1%) defined social justice as welfare.

Table 1.4 Voters' understanding on social justice

S.No	Voters' understanding on social justice	Yes		No		Total	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Equal Distribution	6	1.6%	379	98.4%	385	100%
2	Proper reservations	6	1.6%	379	98.4%	385	100%
3	Equal opportunities	87	22.6%	298	77.4%	385	100%
4	Justice to all castes	41	10.6%	344	89.4%	385	100%
5	Elimination of poverty	18	4.7%	367	95.3%	385	100%
6	Economic empowerment	144	37.4%	241	62.6%	385	100%
7	Proportional political representation	62	16.1%	323	83.9%	385	100%
8	Equal pay for equal work	10	2.6%	375	97.4%	385	100%
9	Caste empowerment	19	4.9%	366	95.1%	385	100%
10	Welfare	15	3.9%	370	96.1%	385	100%
11	Equality	47	12.2%	338	87.8%	385	100%
12	Adequate representation	32	8.3%	353	91.7%	385	100%

The accompanying table depicts the distribution of leader respondents according to the definition on social justice. According to the data, 144 (37.4%) of the leading respondents defined social justice as economic empowerment. As many as, respondents 87 (22.6%) defined social justice as equal opportunity. A considerable portion of respondents 62 (16.1%) defined social justice as proportional representation. Almost equal size respondents 47 (12.2%) and 41 (10.6%) defined social justice as equality and justice to all castes respectively. A significant portion of respondents 32 (8.3%) defined social justice as adequate representation. Almost equal size respondents 19 (4.9%) 18 (4.7%) and 15 (3.9%) defined social justice as caste empowerment, poverty elimination and welfare respectively. A considerable portion of respondents 10 (2.6%) defined social justice as equal pay for equal work. In the end, equal-size respondents 6 (1.6%) and 6 (1.6%) defined social justice as equal distribution and reservation respectively. As many as, respondents 16 (8%) defined social justice as equal distribution. Almost equal size respondents 14 (7%), 13 (6.5%) and 11 (5.5%) defined social justice as adequate representation, equal opportunity and caste empowerment respectively. A considerable portion of respondents 8 (4%) defined social justice as equality. At the end, only two respondents (1%) defined social justice as welfare.

H₁: There is no significant relation between social status and voters' opinion of political parties' social justice.

Table 1.5

			BC	OC	SC	ST	Minority	Total
			Social status of caste -Category					
Voters' opinion on Political parties promised social justice according to their ideologies	Agree	F	170	15	67	31	15	298
		%	73.5%	75%	83.8%	79.5%	100%	77.4%
	Agree to some extent	F	21	0	4	6	0	31
		%	9.09%	0.0%	5.0%	15.4%	0.0%	8.1%
	Disagree	F	40	5	9	2	0	56
		%	17.3%	25%	11.3%	5.1%	0.0%	14.5%
Total		F	231	20	80	39	15	385
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Chi-square(X^2) value =24.661[a]   df = 14   P (Sig)= 0.038

Above the table shows that voter opinion on political parties promised social justice according to their ideologies, according to Karl Pearson chi-square test at degree of freedom is 14, whereas calculated Chi-square (X^2) value=24.661 and the calculated significance value is 0.038<0.05(where p=0.05), Which is lesser than p value. This represents variables social status of caste -Category and Voter opinion on Political parties promised social justice according to their ideologies are significantly related and statistically dependent. Hence, the null hypothesis(H2) is rejected and alternate hypothesis (Ha) is accepted. Chi-square test value indicates that the relationship between variables is statistically dependent.

H₂: There is no significant relation between social status and voter understanding of political leaders' poll management on social justice.

Table 1.6

			BC	OC	SC	ST	Minority	Total
			Social status of caste -Category					
Voter understanding of political leaders' poll management on social justice	Agree	F	105	10	37	19	0	171
		%	45.4%	50%	46.3%	48.7%	0%	44.4%
	Agree to some extent	F	45	3	14	14	0	76
		%	19.4%	15%	17.5%	35.9%	0%	19.7%
	Disagree	F	81	7	29	6	15	138
		%	35%	35%	36.3%	15.4%	100%	35.8%
Total		F	231	20	80	39	15	385
		%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Chi-square(X^2) value =40.621[a]   df = 14   P (Sig)= 0.000

Above the table shows that voter opinion on political parties promised social justice according to their ideologies, according to Karl Pearson chi-square test at degree of freedom is 14, whereas calculated Chi-square (X^2) value=40.621 and the calculated significance value is 0.00<0.05(where p=0.05), Which is lesser than p value. This represents variables categories and voter understanding of political leaders' poll management on social justice were significantly related and statistically dependent. Hence, the null hypothesis(H2) is rejected and alternate hypothesis (Ha) is accepted. Chi-square test value indicates that the relationship between variables is statistically dependent.
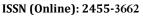
9. SUGGESTIONS
1. Voters acknowledged that social justice practices have also implemented post elections.
2. The poll management and electioneering strategies are working effectively on the respondents who are poor, helpless, socially excluded, and less empowered.
3. The poll management and electioneering strategies shouldn't be factual hindrances in achieving actual social justice, individual empowerment, and societal development

10. CONCLUSION
The study conducted in five assembly segments of erstwhile Karimnagar in Telangana state. The research conducted with basic aim of studying awareness of social justice of voters as well as political party leaders. Many visits of research field, researcher studied socio economic conditions of respondents. Social justice understanding vary from one to another due to diversified socio-cultural backgrounds and income patterns. Political leaders, intellectuals and people have awareness on social justice. In the erstwhile Karimnagar district had experience many social movements such as Farmer revolution, Subaltern movements, Naxalbari movement and Telangana statehood movement. Respondents' affiliation with various associations were studied. Association played crucial role to aware people on social justice idea. Association gave various interpretations on social justice.

Political parties did poll management on social justice promises such welfare, pensions, subsidies, incentives to caste professions, community benefits, nominated posts to castes, and proportional representation in local bodies. This study is useful to assess the idea of social justice patterns and people aspiration.

11. FURTHER RESEARCH.

The further studies on social justice should be measured to know the development of that constituency and people decision making on present political parties.

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