
Electoral System

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ABSTRACT:

This paper will focus on electorate system; the modern democracy is also called representative democracy. The voters cast their votes to elect their representative, the candidate who gets the larger number of votes is declared to be successful. There are 2 methods of election 1. Direct method of election 2. Indirect method of election about their merits and demerits.

We shall study about the different elections system and basis of franchise like – franchise on the basis of property, Franchise on the basis of Education and Franchise on the basis of gender and UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE. Before, making election the study of different electoral systems we shall make use in this context –The people who cast votes are called voters or Electors and discuss universal adult franchise arguments in the favour and in against. Minority Representation- According to the present electoral system everybody did not get proper representation and so many votes go to waste also and there is Proportional representation system and this system had two methods and they are –Single transferable system and List system. There are some methods to give representation to minorities –Limited Vote system, Cumulative vote system, Communal representation system, Second ballot system, reservation of seats and Nomination will discuss in research paper in detail.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the modern democratic age, sovereignty is vested with people. Under the method of direct election, there is less possibility of election of able representatives but there is a greater possibility of competent and able representatives being elected under the method of indirect election., because the voters who elect the candidates are generally better than the common voters. They make use of their votes properly the whole country is divided into equal territorial areas out of which the people elect their representatives too. In these days simple majority system is more popular majority system is most popular of democratic states. Under this system a candidate who gets more votes than other candidate is declared elected.

II. METHODS OF ELECTION

In different countries, the following methods regarding representation are found;

1. Direct method of election
2. Indirect method of election.

DIRECT METHOD OF ELECTION

Direct method of election, the voters who cast their votes directly to elect their representatives. The candidate who gets the larger number of votes is declared successful. For example India, the member of Lok Sabha and state legislature assembly, In England the house of common and in USA the house of representatives are directly elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. Every adult who has the right to vote goes to polling

booth in the fixed day and casts his vote in the favour of candidates of his choice out the list of candidates.

Merits of direct method of election

1. Under this system of election every voter gets an opportunity to cast his vote as a result of which expresses his desire and choice.
2. in democracy, the ultimate power lies with the people and it is through direct election that all the people get the opportunity to express their views and choice. Therefore, the method of direct election is in accordance with the democratic principles.
3. On the basis of universal adult franchise, the representative elected through the method of direct election regard themselves as responsible or answerable to the people because they are elected by a large community of voters, not by a few selected voters.
4. People get political education under the method of direct election, every person get political education, because on eve of election, the political parties present their policies and programmes before the masses. The people minutely scrutinize them, and try to obtain sound election results. in this way, people get a lot of information regarding political problems and political processes.
5. Close contact between the voters and representatives the method of direct election helps in maintaining the close contact between the voters and representatives because on the eve of election, the candidates have to knock at the door. Also after their success, they keep up their contact.

Demerits of direct method of election.

1. Less possibility of the election of able representatives under the method of direct method of election, there is a less possibility of the election of the able representatives. Generally the voters at the time of election are influenced by the sectarian considerations, eg religionsim, linguism, castesimetc as a result of which the able candidates are not elected.
2. Able and intelligent person are afraid of contesting election under the method of direct election they are remain aloof from politics, they know that they are not able to attract the voters by fiery and emotional speechless and will not able to win the election.
3. It is an expensive method under the method of direct election, elaborate arrangements at large scale have to be made on which a huge public finance is spent, which a burden of people.
4. Possibilities of disputes. There is possibility of riots and disputes among the supporters of various candidates at the time of election. The result, there is a heavy loss of human life and the whole atmosphere becomes unruly or disorderly.

5. Poor man cannot contest the election under this method there is a large number of voters. The candidate has to go to the voters and he has to make contact with them but they have not a good reputation and no one can know a poor man

Indirect Method of Election

Under indirect election of method, the voters firstly elect the electoral college and then they elect the real candidate. In India, the election of the president and vice president and in America the election of the president and vice president are conducted on the basis of indirect election.

Merits of Indirect election

1. Less influence of political parties under the method of indirect election, there is a less possibility of the bad effects of political parties, because the voters are mature and wise. They are not influenced by false propaganda of the political parties.
2. Less expensive method the indirect election method is also less expensive, because the number of voter is small. There is no need of arrangements at large scale of election and there is also no need of political propaganda. Therefore, a lot of expenditure is not incurred.
3. Election of competent and able representatives there is a greater possibility of the competent and able representatives being elected under the method of indirect election, because the voters who elect the candidates are generally better than common voters

Demerits of indirect method of election

1. It is undemocratic because under this method of election every voter does not get the opportunity to express his desire and he, therefore cannot elect the candidates of his choice.
2. **Possibility of corruption** under the method of indirect election the number of voters is very small. Therefore, it is easier to fetch their votes with the power of money. Besides, many other pressures are extended on the voters.
3. **Bad effects of political parties** we have noted earlier under our study, the method of indirect election minimize the possibility of the bad effects of political parties. But in reality it is not true. In the system of indirect election also, the political parties play a significant role. In the USA though the American president is elected indirectly, yet in fact this election is fought by the political parties

III. BASIS OF FRANCHISE

The supporters of view point regard this right as natural and deem it a birth right of all. They, therefore, want this right to be granted to all. The political scientist like **Montesquieu, Rousseau and Thomas Paine** are

advocates of this view point. This theory very popular in the modern age. Despite this fact, the different theories regarding franchise are given below.

A. Franchise on the basis of property.

Some people of this opinion that right to vote should be granted only to those person who possess property or who give taxes to the government. They, in support of their this viewpoint, put forward arguments much affected by the policies of the government and they are generally patriotic, they are stand for the right use of money collected in the form of taxes. and in **against** laws does not affect only the property owners but effect the all. It is against the democratic principles to grant the right to vote only to the owners of the property. Sometimes the property is accumulated by wrong methods. Every person pay taxes directly or indirectly. Property is also also root of many social evils. It will divide society into three classes. After going through the aforesaid views, we arrive at the conclusion that it is not fair to give the right to vote only to the property owners.

B. Franchise on the basis of education.

The political thinker like **J.S. Mill** are of the view that right to vote should be granted only on the basis of education; In Favour the educated person can well understand the political problems. The administration is an art and only the matured people of wisdom can run administration. Distinction between the educated and uneducated also deserve to be made. It will hand over administration to the capable person and the educated persons will be able to elect the capable representatives. It will lead to the spread of education and illiterate will also try to receive education. In **against** the principle of equality to give the right to vote to the education alone. It would be so difficult to determine minimum education. It is not necessary that the educated person will alone be mature and wise; if some people are uneducated it is the state which is not to be blamed. If the educated alone are given the right to vote, society will be divided into different classes. Law affects all equally.

C. Franchise on the basis of gender (or women suffrage or should women be given the right to vote)

Some political thinkers have put forward the view to grant the right to vote on the basis of sex and on this basis, they support the idea of giving the right to vote only to men. Nearly, prior to the first world war, the women did not enjoy the right to franchise.

In 21century to make distinction on the basis of sex is not proper. In this age the principle of equality among sexes has been accepted throughout the world. So, the women are equally entitled to all those right to which men are entitled. It is also wrong to say that women are inferior to men as the facts speak otherwise. In these days, the women are excelling men in every sphere of life and merit lists printed in the newspaper are proof of it. Since, women have their own problems, the men cannot solve these. Therefore, the women must have the

right to vote so that they are also solve their problems and are able to make laws and policies accordingly. In the absence of political rights, the women will not be able to enjoy their civil rights also since both are interdependent. Political rights prepare ground for the enjoyment of civil rights. While expressing his views on the issue of **prof. J.S. mill** has said. *“I consider it to be entirely irrelevant to political rights as difference in the colours of the hairs..... if there is ant difference, women require it more than men, since being physically weaker, they are more dependant on law and society for protection.*

And in **against** Politics is a game of scoundrels the women consider as the goddesss of purity, therefore it will better to keep the women far away from the dirty game of politics. The women are generally emotional and the rational decisions can be made only by rising above emotions which women cannot. It also said that in comparison to men the women take less interest in politics. Most of the time, they remain busy in their households affairs and do not have much time politics. So, there is not much use of giving the right to vote to women.

D. UNIVERSAL ADULT FRANCHISE

In the modern democratic states, the right to franchise is granted to all without any discrimination because the administration affects all equally. As such, all should be given equal political participation granting right to vote all is called ‘universal adult Franchise’.

Why only Adults be given right to vote?

Along with it, a question arises as to why only adults be given right to vote ? the answer follows That whosoever is given the right to vote should be capable to understand that national as well as international problems, he should be much grown up and mentally developed. if a child of 4 or 10 years age is granted this right, he will not understand these problems and will not, thus make the right use of the right to vote. Therefore, only the adults are given the right to vote.

IV. MINORITY REPRESENTATION

According to present electoral system, everybody does not get proper representation and so many votes go wastes also. In each state people belonging to different caste and religion and speaking different languages also live. Since their number is small, therefore, they fail to get proper representation. the minorities should get adequate representation for which the following methods are adopted-

1. Proportional representation.
2. Limited vote system
3. Commulative system

4. Communal representation system
5. Second Ballot system
6. Nomination

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

The minorities get representation in proportion to the votes cast in their favor. For example, those who get 30% votes, they get 30% representation and who get 40% votes, get 40% representation.

1. Single transferable vote system
2. List system

SINGLE TRANSFERABLE SYSTEM

This system is also known as 'preferential system' or 'hate system'. This system is known as single transferable system because under this system if a voter fails to get the candidate of his first choice elected, then his vote is transferred to candidate of his second choice there are following conditions are necessary to implement Single Transferable vote system-

- a. Multi member constituencies- It means that from one constituency, three or more than three representatives will be elected.
- b. To mark preferences- Though in this system, a voter makes use of only one ballot paper, yet on the same, he can mark as many preferences as many candidates are to be elected from that constituency.
- c. For success to get votes according to fixed quota-under this system the successful candidate needs to get votes according to fixed quota,
- d. Counting of votes- after the votes have been polled, the first preference votes of each candidate are counted and the quota is fixed. The candidate who get first preference votes according to fixed quota are declared elected.
- e. Transfer of votes on the basis of preferences - After the counting of votes the first preference votes if the requisite number of candidates fail to get elected, then surplus votes of successful candidates are transferred to other candidates on the basis of the second preferences given on the ballot papers of the successful candidates. After this, the vote of those candidates who have no chance of success are also transferred to other candidates. Sometimes the third, fourth and fifth preferences are to be looked into and this process continues till the required number of the candidates get elected

V. LIST SYSTEM

List system is also another form of the proportional representation system and this system has been adopted in European countries like Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, etc. The following conditions are needed to implement this system-

- a. Multi member constituencies- It means that three or more than three representation will be elected from one constituency.
- b. It is must to get votes according to fixed quota- under this system like single transferrable vote system quota is fixed and different political parties get seats according to the proportional votes they get. To fixed droop method is adopted.
- c. Election on party basis- Under this system, not a candidates rather, the political political parties contest the election. Each political party submits a list of candidates as many are to be elected from a particular constituency.
- d. Voters cast his votes to the list- under this system, not the candidates rather, the political parties which includes the names of the candidates.

LIMITED VOTE SYSTEM

1. Multi member constituencies – In order to enforce this principle, it is necessary to elect minimum three representatives from constituencies.
2. Number of voters is less than the number of the states – Under this system, each votes is given less votes than the number of the candidates to be elected. For example, if seven representation are to be elected from one constituency, each voter will be given five ballot papers.
3. All votes cannot be polled to one representative – Each voter has to scatter his votes among different candidates as he cannot cast their votes to single candidates.

- **COMMULATIVE VOTE SYSYEM**

Multi member constituencies –constituted have to be multi member.

Number of voters equal to the number of seats- Under this system, a voter is given as many ballot papers as many candidates are to be elected from a particular constituencies.

Commutative voting- The voter is allowed to distribute his votes among the different candidates, or give all his vote to one candidate only.

The commutative system gives a chance even to a small minority to return at least one member as its representatives is likely to get the commutative votes of the member of minorities.

- **COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM**

Communal representation was introduced in India by the British with the clear imperial motive of divide and rule. Under this system, the constituencies are demarcated on the basis of the religion and each voter casts his vote to the candidate of his own religion. In simple words, a Hindu voter cast his vote to Hindu candidate and Muslim voter casts his vote to Muslim candidate and as a result of this, the religious minorities get adequate representation.

- **SECOND BALLOT SYSTEM**

The second ballot system also tries to give representation to minorities. Single member constituencies and one voter one vote and it is essential to get absolute majority win and in case no candidate gets absolute majority in first round polling then second round of polling is held.

- **RESERVATION OF SEATS**

Under this system, the seats are reserved for minorities in representative bodies and from the reserved constituency, only the candidates belonging to minority community contest election. The votes of other communities do not contest election. The voters of other communities also cast their votes to candidates of minorities community. In India, this method is adopted to give representation to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

- **NOMINATION**

In many countries, the principle of nomination is adopted to give representation to minorities. In case the minority fails to get proper representation, then some representation to minorities. For example in India, the President feels that Anglo-Indian community has not got proper representation in Lok Sabha, he can nominate two representatives of this community. The governors of the states can also nominate one member of Anglo-Indian community in the states legislative Assemblies.

VI. CONCLUSION

We have discussed many different ways for determining the election. There have different voting methods advantages and disadvantages. After going through the arguments in favour and against about right to franchise on the basis of education, we arrive at the conclusion that grants the right to vote only to the educated will be against the democratic principles.