



PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IN HARYANA ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2000 AND 2005: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

India is one of the largest democracies of the world, where people of different religion, language and castes lives. Attitude towards the election differs as the religion, language or caste of people differs. "Usually, election results indicate the way in which the different sections of the society look at their problems, and the changes which take place from one election to the other are often the expressions of the working of the popular mind." (Amani, 1972; pp.27). These differences make the study of elections more important for a geographer.

In the post-independence period only 'Indian National Congress' was the strongest political party. But in present time the regional parties are becoming powerful. The electoral contest between national parties and regional parties has drawn attention of the political geographers. In this seminar paper the performance of Indian National Congress over two assembly elections 2000 and 2005 is analyzed, to capture the changed electoral scene after the emergence of regional party.

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STUDY AREA

The Haryana State, having ninety assembly constituencies, has been selected as the study area (fig.1). It lies between 27° 39' N to 30° 55' 5' ' N and 74° 27' 8' ' E to 77° 36' 5' ' E. The area of the state is 44212 Sq Km. The state of Haryana came into existence as a result of linguistic re-organisation still full of social cultural and economic differences. "Haryana has a distinctly plural social structure consisting of three religious communities, two linguistic and cultural groups and a large number of caste stratifications" (Singh, 1977; p. 63). These differences, to a large extent, control the political recruitment and decision of voting. "The most important factor determining the politics of the State is the antagonism of various caste groups" (Singh, 1992; 154). All these characteristics made the politics of Haryana very interesting and the focus of attention.

List of Assembly Constituencies

1	Kalka	31	Mehem	61	Gurgaon
2	Naraingarh	32	Kalanaur	62	Pataudi
3	Sadhaura	33	Beri	63	Badhra
4	Chhachhrauli	34	Salhawas	64	Dadri
5	Yamunanagar	35	Jhajjar	65	Mundhal Khurd
6	Jagadhary	36	Badli	66	Bhiwani
7	Mullana	37	Bahadurgarh	67	Tosham
8	Ambala Cant	38	Baroda	68	Loharoo
9	Ambala City	39	Gohana	69	Bawani Khera
10	Naggal	40	Kailana	70	Barwala
11	Indri	41	Sonepat	71	Narnaund
12	Nilokheri	42	Rai	72	Hansi
13	Karnal	43	Rohat	73	Bhattu Kalan
14	Jundla	44	Kalayath	74	Hisar
15	Gharaunda	45	Narwana	75	Ghiroli
16	Assandh	46	Uchana Kalan	76	Tohana
17	Panipat	47	Rajond	77	Ratia
18	Sambhaka	48	Jind	78	Fatehabad
19	Naultha	49	Julana	79	Adampur
20	Shahbad	50	Saffidon	80	Darban Kalan
21	Radaur	51	Faridabad	81	Ellenabad



22	Thanesar	52	Mewla Maharajpur	82	Sirsa
23	Pehowa	53	Ballabgarh	83	Rori
24	Guhla	54	Palwal	84	Dabwali
25	Kaithal	55	Hassanpur	85	Bawal
26	Pundri	56	Hathin	86	Rewari
27	Pai	57	Firozpur Jhirka	87	Jatusana
28	Hassangarh	58	Nuh	88	Mahendergarh
29	Kiloi	59	Taoru	89	Ateli
30	Rohtak	60	Sohna	90	Narnaul

The numbers of constituencies in the table and on the map are same.

OBJECTIVE:

The main objective of the study is to analyze the spatial pattern of voting support of Indian National Congress over two assembly elections 2000 and 2005 comparatively.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on secondary data. 'Statistical Report on Assembly Election 2000 and 2005 published by State Election Commission, Chandigarh' are used to obtain the data of votes polled in favour of Indian National Congress and seats won by the party. In the present study the unit of analysis is assembly constituencies of Haryana State. In statistical techniques Mean, Standard Deviation, Coefficient of Variation, Range and Coefficient of Correlation are used. In Cartographic techniques Comparative Bar Diagram and Choropleth Method are used. Mean is used to compare the average vote share of Indian National Congress over two assembly elections. Standard Deviation is used to see the deviation of the data from its mean. The Coefficient of Variation and Range is used to see whether the data set is homogenous or not. The Comparative Bar Diagram is used to compare the performance of Indian National Congress over the two assembly elections. Choropleth method is used to see the spatial distribution of party's performance and seats won by the party.

NATURE OF DATA: AN OVERVIEW

In Assembly Election 2000 and 2005 the average vote share of Indian National Congress were 31.01 percent and 41.95 percent respectively which indicates the better performance of the party in assembly election 2005.



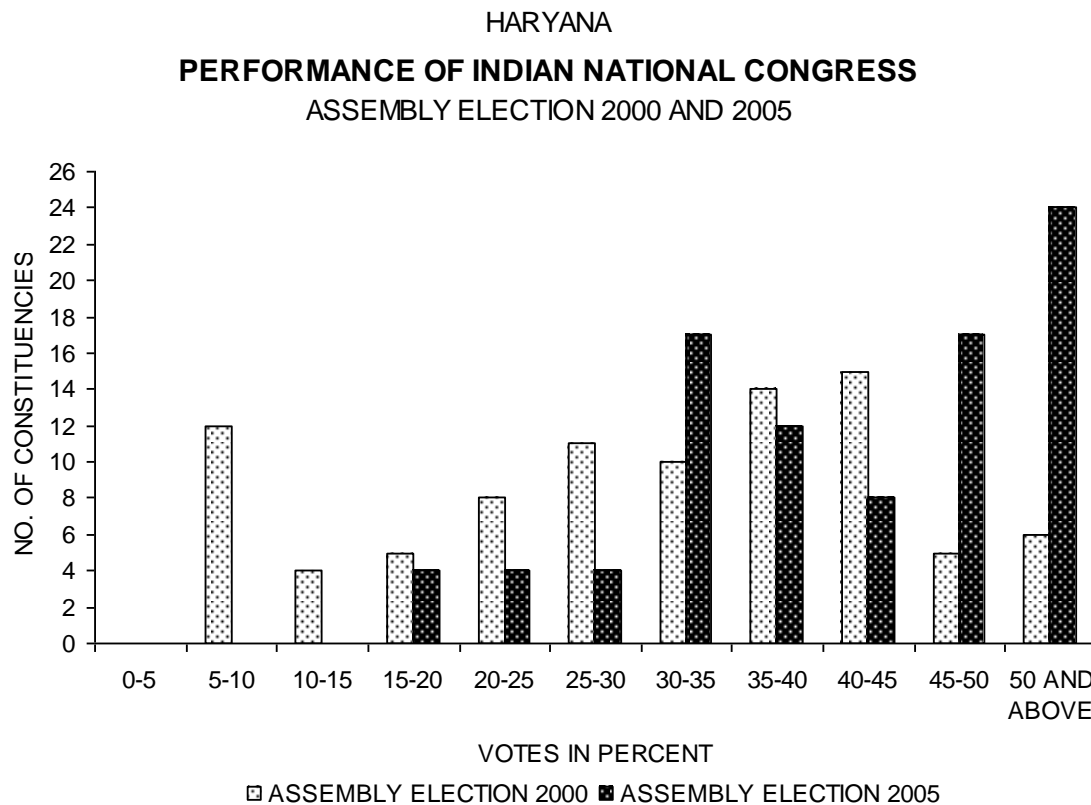
TABLE -2

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PERFORMANCE OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

ELECTIONS	MEAN (IN PERCENT)	S.D. (INPERCENT)	Cv. (IN PERCENT)	RANGE (IN PERCENT)
ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2000	31.01	14.45	46.59	65.89
ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2005	41.95	12.12	28.95	60.70

The values of Standard Deviation, Coefficient of variation and Range which are higher in the case of Assembly Election 2000 indicates that the vote share of the party in Assembly Election 2005 is more homogenously distributed than Assembly Election 2000. The value of Coefficient of Correlation is 0.18 which indicates that the relationship between the vote share of Indian National Congress in the Assembly Elections 2000 and 2005 is very low positive.



In only six constituencies the party had polled above fifty percent vote. Out of these six, in two constituencies the party's vote share was above sixty percent. In fifty five constituencies the party had polled between twenty five to fifty percent votes. In twenty nine constituencies the party's vote share was lower than twenty five percent. In assembly Election 2005, there were only four constituencies where the party's vote share was below twenty percent and there were 24 constituencies where the party had polled above fifty percent. Out of these twenty four six constituencies had registered more than sixty percent vote. In fifty eight constituencies the party had polled between twenty five to fifty percent votes. Only in eight constituencies the party's vote share was below twenty percent while in case of assembly election 2000 such constituencies were twenty nine.

PERFORMANCE OF I.N.C. IN ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2000:

In Assembly Election 2000 the party had contested all the ninety seats and won twenty one seats. Party's performance was not good. Only in six constituencies party had registered more than fifty percent votes. In majority of the constituencies the party's vote share was between thirty to forty percent. In fifty constituencies the party's vote share was above thirty percent.



The areas of very high support (constituencies recording more than 50 percent votes) for the party were Punchkula district; Kiloj constituency of Rohtak district; Salhaw constituency of Jhajjar district; Mahendergarh constituency of Mahendergarh district; Tosham constituency of Bhiwani district and Adampur constituency of Hisar district.

The areas of high support (constituencies recording votes between 40 to 50 percent) for the party were Mullana constituency of Ambala district; Nilokheri constituency of Karnal district; Panipat constituency of Panipat district; Kailana constituency of Sonapat district; Narwana, Jind, Julana and Saffidon constituencies of Jind district, Barwala, Hisar and Ghirori constituencies of Hisar district; Mahem, Kalanaur and Rohtak constituencies of Rohtak district; Beri and Bahadurgarh constituencies of Jhajjar district; Taoru and Pataudi constituencies of Gurgaon district; Jatusana constituency of Rewari district and Sirsa constituency of Sirsa district.

The areas of moderate support (constituencies recording votes between 30 to 40 percent) for the party were Ambala City and Naggal constituencies of Ambala district; Radaur constituency of Yamunanagar district; Shahbad and Thanesar constituencies of Kurukshetra district; Guhla and Pai constituencies of Kaithal district; Jundla constituency of Karnal district; Gohana and Rai constituency of Sonapat district; Badli constituency of Jhajjar district; Faridabad constituency of Faridabad district; Ferozpur Jhirka and Sohna constituencies of Gurgaon district; Bawal constituency of Rewari district; Ateli constituency of Mahendergarh district; Mundhal Khurd and Bhiwani constituencies of Bhiwani district; Narnaund constituency of Hisar district; Uchana Kalan constituency of Jind district; Tohana and Bhattu Kalan constituencies of Fatehabad district; Ellenabad and Rori constituencies of Sirsa district.

Naraingarh constituency of Ambala district; Sadhaura constituency of Yamunanagar district; Pehowa constituency of Kurukshetra district; Kalayat constituency of Kaithal district; Naultha constituency of Karnal district; Sambhalka constituency of Panipat district; Hassangarh constituency of Rohtak district; Jhajjar constituency of Jhajjar district; Nuh and Gurgaon constituencies of Gurgaon district; Rewari constituency of Rewari district; Bawani Khera constituency of Bhiwani district; Fatehabad constituency of Fatehabad district; Darban Kalan and Dabwali constituencies of Sirsa district recorded low voting support (constituencies recording votes between 20 to 30 percent) for the party.



The areas of very low voting support (constituencies recording votes between 10 to 20 percent) for the party were Jagadhari constituency of Yamunanagar district; Indri, Karnal and Gharaunda constituencies of Karnal district; Naultha constituency of Panipat district; Gohana constituency of Sonapat district; Mewla Maharajpur constituency of Faridabad district; Kaithal constituency of Kaithal district and Hansi constituency of Hisar district.

Chhachhrauli constituency of Yamunanagar district; Pundari constituency of Kaithal district; Sonapat and Rohat constituencies of Sonapat district; Ballabgarh, Palwal and Hassanpur constituencies of Faridabad district; Narnaul constituency of Mahendergarh district; Loharoo, Badhra and Dadri constituencies of Bhiwani district and Ratia constituency of Fatehabad district recorded extremely low voting support (constituencies recording less than 10 percent votes) for the Indian National Congress.

PERFORMANCE OF I.N.C. IN ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2005:

In assembly Election 2005 also the party had contested all seats and won sixty seven seats. In twenty four constituencies the party's vote share was above fifty percent In seventy eight constituencies the party's vote share was above thirty percent while in case of assembly election 2000 such constituencies were only fifty.

The areas of very high support (constituencies recording more than 50 percent votes) for the party were whole of the Punchkula district, Ambala City constituency of Ambala district, Karnal constituency of Karnal district, Guhla constituency of Kathal district, northern parts of Rohtak district including Kiloi, Rohtak and Meham constituencies, Beri, Salhawas and Jhajjar constituencies of Jhajjar district, whole of the Faridabad district except Hathin constituency, Gurgaon constituency of Gurgaon district, Bhiwani, Tosham and Bawani Khera constituencies of Bhiwani district, Ghiroi and Adampur constituencies of Hisar district, Darba Kalan and Sirsa constituencies of Sirsa district and Mahendergarh constituency of Mahendergarh district.

The areas of high support (constituencies recording votes between 40 to 50 percent) for the party were whole of the Ambala district except Ambala Cant and Ambala City constituencies, Yamunanagar constituency of Yamunanagar district, Thanesar constituency of Kurukshetra district, Kaithal and Kalayat constituencies of Kaithal district, Assandh constituency of Karnal district, Panipat and Sambhalka constituencies of Panipat district, Gohana constituency of Sonapat district, Kalanaur constituency of Rohtak district, Narwana,



Uchana Kalan and Rajond constituencies of Jind district, Bahadurgarh constituency of Jhajjar district, Pataudi constituency of Gurgaon district, Rewari constituency of Rewari district, Mundhal Khurd and Badhra constituencies of Bhiwani district, Hisar constituency of Hisar district, whole of the Fatehabad district except Ratia constituency and Dabwali constituency of Sirsa district.

The areas of moderate support (constituencies recording votes between 30 to 40 percent) for the party were Jagadhari constituency of Yamunanagar district, Shahbad and Pehowa constituencies of Kurukshetra district, Nilokheri Indri and Jundla constituencies of Karnal district, Naultha constituency of Panipat district, whole of the Sonapat district except Gohana and Rohat constituencies, Hassangarh constituency of Rohtak district, Badli constituency of Jhajjar district, whole of the Gurgaon district except Gurgaon and Pataudi constituencies, Jatusana and bawal constituencies of Rewari district, Ateli constituency of Mahendergarh district, Loharoo and Dadri constituencies of Bhiwani district, Jind and Julana constituencies of Jind district, western parts of Hisar district including Barwala, Narnaund and Hansi constituencies and Rori constituency of Sirsa district.

Sadhaura, Chhachhrauli and Radaur constituencies of Yamunanagar district, Pai constituency of Kaithal district, Saffidon constituency of Jind district, Hathin constituency of Faridabad district, Ratia constituency of Fatehabad district and Ellenabad constituency of Sirsa district recorded low voting support (constituencies recording votes between 20 to 30 percent) for the party.

Pundari constituency of Kaithal district, Gharaunda constituency of Karnal district, Rohat constituency of Sonapat district and Narnaul constituency of Mahendergarh district recorded very low voting support (constituencies recording votes between 10 to 20 percent) for the party.

LOSS OR GAIN OF SEATS

In both the elections the Indian National Congress contested all the ninety seats in Haryana. In assembly election 2000 the party won twenty one seats. Out of these twenty one seats only six seats were won by absolute majority and remaining fifteen seats were won by relative majority.



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SEATS WON BY THE CONGRESS

IN ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2000 AND 2005

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS	SEATS WON
2000	21
2005	67

SOURCE: Calculated from 'Statistical Report on Assembly Election 2000 and 2005' published By 'State Election Commission, Chandigarh'

In assembly election 2005 the party won sixty seven seats out of ninety. Out of these sixty seven seats twenty four seats were won by absolute majority and the remaining won by relative majority .The victory of Congress in assembly election 2005 was glorious one. "The congress in this election won 67 seats, maximum ever by the party in the state" (Singh, 2008; p.45).In this election, party won the election with gain of forty nine seats and the loss of three seats, these three seats were Taoru, Sohna and Ateli (won in Assembly Election 2000). Kalka, Yamunanagar, Panipat, Kiloi, Rohtak, Beri, Salhawas, Kailana, Jind, Julana, Tosham, Barwala, Hissar, Adampur, Sirsa, Rewari, Jatusana and Mahendergarh are the constituencies won by the party in both the elections.

HOW A LOSER BECOME A WINNER?

After the formation of Haryana, for a long time Congress dominated the electoral scene in the State before the emergence of regional parties. Because voters had no option in place of Congress. But now the dissatisfaction of the public results into the change of government after every five years. When Ch. Bansi Lal failed to fulfill his promises, the public rejected him for the next election. The Indian National Lok Dal under the leadership of Ch. O.P. Chautala contested the election with a planned strategy. I.N.L.D and B.J.P. were allied. Both the member of alignment exploited the caste factor i.e. "His promise to change the name of Kurukshetra University to Guru Gobind Singh Kurukshetra University helped the I.N.L.D. in consolidating its hold on the Sikh voters who are in sizeable numbers in Kurukshetra and Sirsa" (Singh, 1993;355) and Kargil issue i.e. " Two out of the 10 parliamentary seats (one



by BJP and one by INLD) was given to military personnel with an explicit objective to exploit the Kargil factor” (Prasad, 1999;3353). As a result the Congress was defeated. But promises that made in the pre-election campaign were not fulfilled. The public dissatisfied with the working of Government. “The Jats have played a decisive role in ousting the Chautala rule (Singh, 2008; p 43).The six constituencies were SC reserved won by I.N.L.D. while the total seats won by I.N.L.D. were only nine. In Haryana Ch. O.P. Chautala became notorious for his autocratic style of functioning. “The ordinary jat voters openly talks about Chautala’s dictatorial way of functioning and describes him as a tyrant and “Aurangzeb” (Datta, 2005; 1014). These are the reasons that I.N.L.D. lost the Assembly Election 2005 and Congress won the battle. In the pre election campaign Congress made the promises to take action against the Chautala’s government in case of corruption, to provide jobs to unemployed youth and women empowerment etc. Although the promises were made by I.N.L.D. and B.J.P. also but failed to win more than nine and two seats respectively. He lost his own jat constituency by his misdeeds. “It was the total rejection of the Chautala’s clan politics that propelled the Congress into power with a thunderous victory” (Singh, 2008; p 51). The change of Government after every five year shows dissatisfaction with the contemporary Governments. In this turn, to what extent, the Congress Government has satisfied the common man will be decided by the next election.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, when the performance of Indian National Congress is compared on two assembly elections it is found that the performance is better in assembly election 2005. It is also found that the caste factor, to a large extent, effect the decision of voters as in the case of assembly election 2000. But in election 2005, the public dissatisfaction transcended the bondages of caste to some extent. The most important factor of the success of Indian National Congress was the anti-Chautala wave in the state.

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