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# Political Process And Participation In India

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## ABSTRACT

Participation is a state of mind as much as a practice. It's a social activity in the sense that it's a shared experience. A person going for a walk in the morning is not doing anything. Someone who is running the 100 meter dash living in a neighborhood for an extended period of time without being acquainted with any of the residents is indicative of a nonparticipant mentality. What does it mean to participate in politics? Of course, we're referring about a specific type of political activity or attitude. There is a consensus among political scientists that more participation in the political process is beneficial and necessary, and this has been widely publicized since the 1950s. However, this seeming consensus masks deep divisions in political thought and practice. To begin, let's talk about what it means to be politically active in the first place.

**KEYWORDS:** Political Process, Participation, party system,

## INTRODUCTION

Many people use the term "politics" as a synonym for "government" or "political." Human relationships, including those between men and women, children and adults with and without impairments, as well as the functioning of power at every level of human interaction, are included in a broader definition.

Participation in politics encompasses a wide range of activities that allow individuals to form and express their views on the state of the world and how it is run, as well as to influence the decisions that directly affect their daily lives. Participation in these activities can take many forms, ranging from the development of personal or family perspectives on disability or other social issues, to affiliation with disability rights organizations or other groups and organizations, to local, regional, or national campaigns, to more formal political engagement, such as voting, joining a political party, or running for office.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

**BIJOY PRASAD DAS (2021)**The term "political involvement" may mean many different things to various individuals depending on their context. This idea encompasses all elements of civic engagement, including participation in the decision-making process, political action, political awareness, and other forms of civic participation. Women outweigh males in India's lowest political echelons in terms of participation in elections, running for office, and belonging to political parties. Political involvement and voting are the areas where women's political engagement is highest. To address the issue of gender inequality in local government, the Indian government has introduced quotas for the allocation of seats. According to official figures, female turnout was 65.63 percent in India's 2014 legislative general elections, while men's participation was 67.19%. Several states' governors have all been women, including India's president and prime minister. Voters in India have elected women to state legislatures and the national parliament for many decades. This article uses the Gender Inequality Index (GII) to define and assess the political participation of women in India and analyse different government programmes to empower women.

**PRINCE OPOKU (2021)**The supreme will of the people is profoundly ingrained in modern democratic ideas defined by the concept of political influence. All citizens should be included and encouraged to take part in any democratic process. As citizens, women and men have equal rights and responsibilities; thus, they should be given equal representation in all areas of government decision-making. Statistics, on the other hand, show that women's political participation is little when compared to men's participation. Ghana and India are two more nations where women's political engagement is a concern, and our research aims to investigate this issue in these countries as well.

**ELIZABETH N.SIMASAADAM L.OZERB (2021)**In spite of the increased division between the Democratic and Republican parties, there is no consensus on how this impacts political involvement. Data from the 2010–2018 election cycles is used to assess candidates' and constituencies' distances from voters. Distance between candidates does not seem to be a factor in voter turnout. Distancing yourself from a third-party challenger increases your chances of voting, whereas becoming closer to an independent challenger lowers your chances.

**RIEKOKAGE (2021)**Studies have demonstrated that the generation that comes of age during a period of democracy and war mobilisation has a long-lasting impact. Long-term involvement rates among impressionable generations who saw both war mobilisation and democracy are unknown. Using newly available data from Japan, we analyse this issue by assessing generational cohort effects by gender.

**JULIA WEISS (2020)** what constitutes "youth political participation" as defined by the extant research? This and four other related topics are the focus of this review. How is youth political participation different from that of adults? What factors influence the formation of political opinions amongst teenagers and young adults? What are the regional variations in European youth political participation? What methods are being utilized to study the participation of young people in the political process? This study provides a good introduction to the topic of young political participation for individuals just starting their research. At the same time, it provides an opportunity for scholars who are already well-versed in the topic to reflect on where things stand right now. Finally, this report identifies areas in need of additional investigation.

## **PARTICIPATION IN INDIA**

It is not possible to have a comparable understanding of India's political involvement and the function of political parties just on the basis of this conversation. Important to note is that Indian politics and Indian party politics are two very different things. With the exception of the brief emergency period, Indian politics is unique among contemporary developing societies in that it has maintained democracy for approximately fifty years, with many paradoxical features such as high voter turnout in spite of high rates of illiteracy and agrarian population, a multilevel electoral process with many electoral areas not yet fully dominated and controlled by organised political parties, and the coexistence of various organised interest associations with various political parties. Indian society is notably characterised by the presence of religious and caste-based interest groups, for example. Additionally, when compared to the party structures of Europe and the United States, India's party system is diverse and has major differences. A number of contradictory characteristics characterise Indian party politics, according to Paul Brass. "These elements reflect the fusion of Western and contemporary bureaucratic organisation and participatory politics with indigenous practises and institutions," he writes. The Indian National Congress, the country's largest political party, is among the oldest in the world, but it has failed to establish a foundation for an institutionalized party structure that can be classified according to Western conventions. The Indian party system has become more complicated because of the country's wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Consequently, the emergence of a single party system across the country has become increasingly difficult. Since India's independence, the party system has seen significant changes. The growth of the BJP is at the heart of the shift in the political system. The parties continue to play a central role in Indian politics, despite the fact that the party system has undergone various transformations. In India, opinion polls suggest that people tend to support parties above individuals. Some political parties have stood the

test of time, engendering steadfast allegiances that last through successive generations and endowing electoral symbols with enormous symbolic weight.

### **“Political participation through an increasingly competitive party system”**

With the fast growth of political parties in India's political scene, it is hard to ignore the quick ascent of political parties in power. Both at the national and state levels, there has been a rise in the rate of this expansion. A number of factors have contributed to this growth, including the fragmentation of existing parties in terms of vote share and seat share, as well as the evolution of electoral alliances at both the national and state levels. Other factors include the emergence of new political parties like the BJP, the BSP, and others, as well as the formation of new coalitions of parties like the NDA.

Over time, it is becoming increasingly difficult for members of the Congress Party to participate in politics on a national level. As a nationalist movement and a mass wave of political groupings, the Congress was synonymous before the transition of power with the Congress, which included Communists and Socialists. Because the nationalist movement's ultimate goal was the abstract concept of independence, this resulted in widespread participation by the Indian people in politics. Between 1946 and 1950, as the Congress party transformed from the one that fought for independence, there was a reduction in the party's participation role. Congressional redistricting began as a result of the foreboding of independence following World War II. In the wake of the Communist, Muslim separatist and socialist breakups, participation inside the parties was restricted to a certain extent. Rajni Kothari's book, *Politics in India*, is widely regarded as the most authoritative history of the Congress organization following independence (1970).

In order to obtain control of the most important committees, faction leaders fought to recruit as many members as possible before the official elections. Despite the factional strife, which was often bitter and accompanied by accusations of "bogus enrolments," the party organization was able to survive and the party's leaders were compelled to grow support across the country.

Elections in 1967 represented a dramatic shift in the political landscape. Almost 5% of the people who voted for Congress did not do so. Only 54% of the seats were won by this party. It had 74% of the seats in the previous parliament. The majority of states did not support it. Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are among the nine states where non-Congress governments have risen to power. The Syndicate and Indira Gandhi were also at odds within the party, resulting to a split in 1969. In the actual world, the newly established Congress was defined by its leader. There was a halt to the party's internal elections. The central high command appointed the country's chief ministers.

## Increased Voter Turnout

Political participation in India is significant to the study of voter turnout in India because of this. Between 47.5 percent and 59.5 percent of voters participated in the first general election, respectively. The following graph depicts the company's steady growth:

**Table 2: Election data, Indian Parliamentary Elections, 1952-91**

Year	Electorate (in millions)	Polling Stations	Votes polled (in millions)	Turnout( percent)
1952	173.2	132,560	80.7	45.7
1957	193.7	220,478	91.3	47.7
1962	217.7	238,355	119.9	55.4
1967	250.1	267,555	152.7	61.3
1971	274.1	342,944	151.5	55.3
1977	321.2	373,908	194.3	60.5
1980	355.6	434,442	202.3	56.9
1984	375.8	479,214	238.4	64.1
1989	498.9	579,810	309.1	62.0
1991	488.4	594,811	276.8	56.7

Assembly elections have also seen an increase in voter turnout. According to Yogendra Yadav (1998), India's democratic politics have entered a new phase, with more people participating in politics and citizens becoming more involved. The data is shown in Table 3 below:

**Table 3: "Percentage Turnout in Assembly Elections 1984-1995."**

States	1984-5	1989-90	1993-5	Increase
Andhra Pradesh	66.7	67.6	71.1	3.5
Arunachal Pradesh	76.3	68.9	81.4	12.3
Bihar	55.1	62.2	61.8	-0.4
Delli	55.6	54.3	61.8	-
Gujarat	47.7	51.1	64.7	13.6
Goa	71.9	68.7	71.7	3.0
Himachal Pradesh	69.6	66.7	71.7	5.0
Karnataka	66.3	63.8	68.8	5.0

Madhya Pradesh	48.6	52.8	59.0	6.2
Manipur	87.3	80.6	88.8	8.2
Maharashtra	58.3	61.1	72.0	10.9
Mizoram	70.6	80.4	80.8	0.4
Orissa	51.4	55.5	73.8	18.3
Rajasthan	54.0	56.5	60.6	4.1
Sikkim	62.6	69.5	81.0	11.5
Uttar Pradesh	44.8	48.5	57.1	8.6
Total	55.3	60.3	64.2	3.9

Voter turnout and the number of candidates have both increased considerably since the late 1990s. However, there has always been a rise in the number of applicants, Yadav points out. After a decade of stable growth, it starts to rocket in the mid-1980s, indicating a gradual increase in electoral conflicts. In the 1993-5 rounds, the number of candidates per seat has increased to fourteen, with a higher proportion of independents. Second democratic uprising in post-independence India has been taking place since the 1960s in India.

Facts such as the fact that in 1952 there were only 1874 candidates running for parliament, in 1991 there were 8953 candidates, and while in 1952 there were 132,560 voting stations, in 1991 there were 594,797.

### **“Social Nature of the Party-led Political Participation”**

With the rise of regional and state-based parties, the political scene has become more competitive. We should not embrace the social cleavage theory as gospel if we go too far down this path. US Congress researchers discovered a correlation between certain political affiliations and socioeconomic inequalities in a study. Instead of being a national party, Congress has been decided to be a coalition of state (and ultimately local) organisations whose political base is the divisions and conflicts in the state and community in question.. In addition, it is important to consider the location of intergroup conflict. According on how closely parties and social groupings are related, disputes within social groups may have varied degrees of political relevance. Political party rivalry in India is seen as a manifestation of the country's societal divisions, which are reflected in the political parties' competition. Examples of political activity by traditionally underrepresented groups are many. Mandal Commission proposals have been accepted practically concurrently with the growth of the Dalit-Bahujan caste and its inclusion of the Muslim minority in recent years. These social groups are represented in politics by the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Samajwadi Party, and several Janata Dal factions. These new caste-based parties show how India's social plurality is increasingly being mirrored in the competitive party system, which acts as a stimulus for political engagement in the country's democratic process. Organizational variety is often seen amongst political parties that act as a spur for civic involvement. New research on Dravidian parties by Narendra

Subarnanian shows that party diversity supports better representation and involvement of emerging groups, as well as a reconstruction of public culture and tolerance. Not all parties in India have the same level of organisational or internal diversity, of course.

### **“NON-PARTY INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION”**

An increasing number of people are concerned about the effectiveness of these organisations in their role of promoting and influencing political parties. Unions and other organisations like these should not be completely separated. There has been a dramatic movement since the 1980s. The Green Revolution splintered the peasant movements. A consequence of trade unions' weakening due to globalization is that they are no longer as influential in political parties. This is evidenced by the fact that political parties, including left-leaning ones, do not place a high value on endorsing politicians associated with labor unions. As the number of universities has grown and their standards have deteriorated, they have had less impact in civil society as participating institutions. There are of course a number of new actors, sometimes referred to as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who have arisen as political participants in the implementation of official program or government-sponsored development initiatives. Some of these things are significant, but it's still too early to determine how crucial they will be to the public's involvement. New social movements have sprung up in reaction to concerns including civil liberties violations and human rights abuses, violence against women and prejudice against women, environmental degradation, and the annihilation of indigenous cultures and ways of life. Women's movements, forest protests, and anti-big-dam movements are some of the anti-hegemonic movements that some believe fit under these categories. Movements such as this often emerge on their own and do not align themselves with the political parties that control the nation. Many "autonomy movements" and "identity declarations" are taking place in modern India, with some resorting to violent measures.

### **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND INDIAN DEMOCRACY**

A increasing number of critics have decried these institutions for their growing ineffectiveness as conduits for political participation and as gatekeepers of political parties. Separating institutions like labor unions would be a mistake. There has been a dramatic movement since the 1980s. The Green Revolution splintered the peasant movements. A decrease in the sway trade unions have in political parties can be traced to this trend of globalization weakening them. Politicians with ties to labor unions are less likely to be endorsed by political parties, particularly those on the left. There is a decrease in the impact of universities as participating institutions as the number of universities has expanded and their qualities have degraded. The implementation of official

programmers or government-sponsored development efforts has seen the emergence of new actors, sometimes referred to as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). While essential, it is yet too early to determine how important they will be for the general public's involvement. Political participation in "new social movements" has increased in reaction to issues such as civil freedoms and human rights abuses, violence against women and bias against women, environmental degradation, and the elimination of tribal culture and way of life. Some argue that anti-hegemonic movements including women's movements, forest demonstrations, and anti-big-dam movements fit under these categories. These movements tend to grow on their own and keep a distance from the traditional political parties that control countries. Many "autonomy movements" and "identity declarations" are taking place in contemporary India, with some resorting to violent measures.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the Indian democratic process, the notion of political participation has acquired significant relevance. For spreading this idea, the Behaviouralists are to be commended for their efforts. Political engagement may take many forms, such as voting in elections, joining political parties or pressure groups, serving on government advisory committees, or assisting in the implementation of social programmes. here are a few examples. Wider participation in politics was also a result of the rise of political parties in an increasingly competitive system. Women's movements, anti-big dam movements, and other non-party organisations have also been addressing the concerns of the people. Voter turnout, political comments made by caste and religious groups, and the plight of the poor are all important motivators for political engagement. As a result, the ultimate evaluation of a successful participation and its influence on the Indian democratic process is open to different interpretations and controversies.

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