STUDY OF POLITICAL ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT ACADEMIC STREAMS TOWARDS POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to examine the political awareness and attitude towards politics among the undergraduate students. A sample of 150 students various schools of Lucknow was selected. A questionnaire was prepared by the researcher to collect the data. Data were analyzed using percentage, mean and ANOVA Statistical methods. The students show a positive attitude towards politics as they are aware of the things happening around them.

Keywords: political awareness.

INTRODUCTION

The politics of India take place in a framework of a federal form of government. In India, the Prime Minister of India is identified as the head of government of the nation, while the President of India is said to be the formal head of state and holds substantial reserve powers, placing him or in approximately the same position as the British monarch. Executive power is enforced by the government. It can be noted that federal legislative power is vested in both the government of India and the two characteristic chambers of the Parliament of India. Also, it can be said that the judiciary is independent of both the executive and the legislature. The narrow focus and vote bank of most parties, even in the central government and central legislature, sidelines national issues such as economic welfare and national security. Moreover, internal security is also threatened as incidences of political parties instigating and leading violence between two opposing, India is a nation that is characterized to be "sovereign socialist secular democratic republic." Like the United States, India, during the time of incepting its constitution had chosen a federal form of government, however, the central government in India has greater power in relation to its states, and its central government is patterned after the British parliamentary system. Regarding the former, "the Centre", the national government, can and has dismissed state governments if no majority party or coalition is able to form a government or under specific Constitutional clauses, and can impose direct federal rule known as President's rule. Locally, the Panchayati Raj system has several administrative functions.

For most of the years since independence, the federal government has been guided by the Indian National Congress (INC), In India the two largest political parties have been the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP). Presently the two parties have dominated the Indian politics; however, regional parties also. From 1950 to 1990, barring two brief periods, the INC enjoyed amatory majority. The INC was out of power between 1977 and 980, when the Janta Party won the election owing to public discontent the corruption of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
In 1989, anta Dal-led National Front coalition in alliance with the Left lilt coalition won the elections but managed to stay in power for only years.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

a. To make students aware of the political system of the country and its' impact on them.

b. To know the leaders and the political parties.

c. To inspire, encourage and introduce to public service and to highlight politics also as a vocation.

d. To encourage participation in politics and improve the system.

e. The teacher will be able to know the students political awareness and attitude.

f. The policy makers could use this information for giving present day solutions.

**STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problem discussed in this text is "To study the political attitude and awareness of undergraduate students of different academic streams towards politics”

**Objectives**

a. To study the political awareness of undergraduate students.

b. To study the political attitude of undergraduate students.

c. To compare the political awareness of students belonging to different academic streams.

d. To compare the political attitude of students belonging to different academic streams.

**Hypothesis**

a. The undergraduate students are aware of present political scenario.

b. The undergraduate students have a positive political attitude.

c. There will be no significant difference in political awareness of students of different streams.

d. There will be no significant difference in political attitude of students of different streams.

**Delimitation**

The Undergraduate students of different selected colleges of different streams will be taken for study. The study will be confined to Lucknow City.

**Key Terms**

a. Political Awareness -An aspect of political science, attempt to quantify d explain the influences that define a person's political knowledge, iews, ideology, and levels of political participation.

b. Political attitude -A person's perspective toward politic. Attitudes are _ erally positive or negative views of a person.

**Population**

A population is any groups of individuals who possess one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher. The population may be all the individuals of a particular type, or a more restricted part of that group.

The population of this study constitutes of Lucknow City.
A close ended questionnaire was prepared by the researcher for measuring the Political Attitude and Political Awareness of the students. The questionnaire contained two sections. In the attitude test the students had to give their preference as Strongly Agree, Agree, Indefinite, Disagree or Strongly Disagree. The Political Awareness test contained questions with four alternate answers and these were few questions which had yes or no as the alternatives The preference was asked by rating and marking the most suitable answer to them. The questionnaire contained hundred questions.

Scoring of Items

In the Political Attitude test the positive statements were marked from 5 to 1 and the negative statements were marked I to 5. In the second section, the general knowledge test the correct responses were marked as 1 the wrong responses as zero. The yes/no answers were evaluated on percentage bases. The preference was also shown in percentage bases.

Data Collection and Statistical Techniques Employed

The questionnaire was filled by under graduating students of different streams as per their knowledge, likings and preferences.

For Data Analysis the following Statistical methods were used.

a. Percentage
b. Mean
c. ANOVA

The major findings of the study are:-

(a) The students show a positive attitude towards politics as they are aware of the things happening around them.
(b) The students hold a negative picture of our present politicians.
(c) Given an opportunity the youth will participate in political activities eagerly.
(d) The young blood believes in methods like dharna, pradarshan and strikes.
(e) The science students are generally bright and intelligent and their scores also proved that they are more alert to the happenings around them.
(f) The students preparing for competitive exams of all streams showed better results.
(g) Commerce students were very aware of the current events but lacked theoretical knowledge.
(h) The Arts students' performance was very poor in comparison to science and commerce students.
(j) Arts students' theoretical knowledge was below average. This highlights the defects in our educational system in which students prepare to give exams where their learning is always Zero.
(k) The Overall results were average. The political awareness test showed all three streams result clustered around 50.
(l) Some answers were partially; correct the most dangerous part of learning is half learning which is shown in student's performance.
(m) The low scoring student's theoretical aspect was weak but current knowledge was satisfactory.
Limitations

a. The student's responses were not very true always as they did not like filling a questionnaire of 100 questions.

b. The students had a very casual attitude.

c. True results cannot always be generalized as adults manipulate their responses.

d. The study is subject to human error.

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