

Attitude of Dental Students Towards Elections

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Abstract: This paper examines the attitude of students towards elections in college following an observed trend of having a great proportion of registered voters who did not vote in general elections. A cross sectional study, design and multistage sampling techniques are employed, data were collected using a questionnaire through computer. The study investigated attitude of students towards election among 200 students of Mamata dental college, Khammam in 2019. Among which 60 are male and 240 are female. The results show that 73% of the respondents perceived participating in election was important. It is recommended that initiatives should be taken to cultivate positive attitudes of citizens to motivate them to turn out to vote.

Keywords: Attitude, Elections

1. Introduction

India is a democratic country. Since independence the general elections to the lok sabha were held in India between 25 October 1951 and 21 February 1952. Election is a formal group decision making process by which a population chosen an individual to hold public office. In any democratic political system, voting is one of the forms of political participation. Free and fair election is among rational and essential elements of a democratic government. It is obvious that elections have been facing many problems and challenges worldwide, which have in a number of ways distorted the meaning and value elections could add to the democratic functioning.

These challenges and problems have notably among other resulted into voters' turnout drop-the percentage of eligible voters who cast a ballot in an election which in turn affect the processes of democratization. There has been a notable voter turnout decline for the past few years both internationally. Voters turnout in an election accounts for the level of citizens' civic political participation, voter's turnout drops in elections reveal low political participation whereas a high turnout is generally seen as evidence of the legitimacy of the current system.

Some of the young people are politically not showing interest and somehow fail in their duty to participate in the elections. Undoubtedly many of young people have indeed become disenchanted with mainstream political parties and with those who claim to speak on their behalf. The political identity and

attitude of young citizens there by seen ties to family or college, but rather by the manner in which they participate and interact through the social networks which they themselves have had a significant part in constructing. The young people are wasting their votes due to lack of interest. The survey is conduct to assess the attitude of dental students towards elections.

2. Methodology

A. Study design

The present study is cross sectional in design. A convenience sampling method was followed, where a pretested, self-administered questionnaire was distributed to the students (study participants) of the Mamata dental college, Khammam. Prior to the start of the study, ethical clearance was taken from the institutional ethical committee. Informed consent was taken from the study participate in the study and who were present on the day of the study.

Total number of students present during the survey conducted were 200 students which includes both male and female of ages between 21 to 25 years. Permission was taken from the head of the department of public health dentistry. The present study was scheduled in the month of May 2019.

B. Inclusion criteria

All the interns, PG'S were present during the study on the day survey was conducted.

C. Exclusion criteria

Students who were absent during the day of survey and not willing to participate are excluded.

D. Study procedure

Questionnaire consists of demographic data and 15 questions were given. Data was collected by designed questionnaire about attitude of dental students towards election.

E. Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was done by using spss25. 0 version. Descriptive statistics was performed; chi square test was used to find the association among categorical variables.

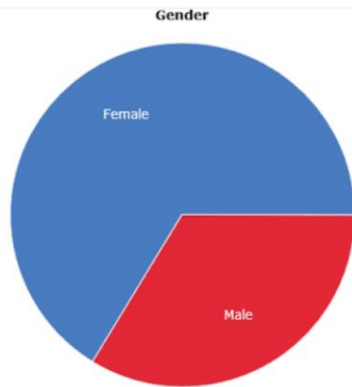
3. Results

This study was conducted among 200 students out of which 78% are female and 22% of male.

Demographic data of study participants:

Variables:

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	44	22.0
Female	156	78.0



- Based on the results obtained after analysis each question separately. Majority of students which is 128(64%) agree the way of elections are happening in India and 72(36%) are not agree the way of elections happening in India.

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	128	64.0
No	72	36.0
Total	200	100

- Majority of students which is 76(36%) are saying that they have the right to choose and 16(8%) are formal expression of opinion, 8(4%) says a group of people making the decision and 104(52%) says that all the above reasons.

	Frequency	Percentage
Having the right to choose	72	36.0
A formal expression of opinion	16	8.0
A group of people making the decision	8	4.0
All the above	104	52.0
Total	200	100

- Majority of students which is 96(48%) are active / show interest in politics and 104(52%) are not active and also not showing interest in politics.

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	96	48.0
No	104	52.0
Total	200	100

- Majority of students which is 96(48%) thinks it is very

important, 60(30%) is important, 32(16%) is not important and 12 (6%) no response are views on importance of voting.

	Frequency	Percentage
Very important	96	48.0
Important	60	16.0
Not important	32	16.0
No response	12	6.0
Total	200	100

4. Discussion

My study Include the attitude of dental students towards elections. According to my study most of the students know the importance of elections. Generally, the overall attitude of voters(students) towards elections was found to be favourable. This led to having 64% of voters are agree with way of elections and voters nearly 30 % thinking that it's very important thing. These result reveal that 36% of voters think it's having the right to choose and 8% of voters says that it's a formal expression of opinion and 4% shows a group of people making a decision and 52% show all the above things.

These results reveal that majority of respondents perceive elections participation to be important. This indicates how people have been in a position of seeing how important elections are in real terms. It tells that through favourable attitude, which can be due to the fact that, voting is very important component in promoting and exercising democracy and freedom of choice among the people. people exercise their rights and democracy to choose the leader of their choices.

5. Conclusion

These are variations in terms of student's attitude. Attitude of students towards voting is likely to be influenced by a multiple of factors ranging all the way from demographic factors to socio economics aspects in the society including the perceived importance of voting plus the likelihood of voting to yield anticipated results. Much as voting is one of the forms of political participation in a democratic political system, lot has to be done to cultivate positive attitudes of citizens in a democracy that will make it possible to turn out to vote in countries where voting is not compulsory.

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