

## EVOLVING DYNAMICS OF YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN INDIA

Swapna Rani Barman Deka

Assistant Professor, Deptt of Political Science

Manikpur Anchalik College, Bongaigaon

### ABSTRACT

*The current youthful generation is healthier than the one that came before it. It is very necessary to have this mindset in order to be an active citizen in modern India, taking into account the trajectory that the nation will take over the next several years. If we want to bring about positive change in our own lives and in the world around us, we need to have the ability to imagine how things could be different and have empathy for our future selves. Curiosity about what might happen in the future if youth enter Indian politics is a very awaiting matter to Indian society as well as globally. As a result of their unwillingness to consider anything beyond the immediate future, politicians have one of the lowest levels of competency when it comes to thinking forward. In such a situation, who else is able to look up the nation and construct its future than the president? Is it possible for younger politicians to become more responsible watchdogs of India's future? The current study investigates the extent to which young people in India are politically engaged as well as their level of interest in political issues.*

**Keywords:** *young generation, political participation, political attentiveness.*

### INTRODUCTION

Indian National Congress, a political party that went on to dominate future elections until 1977, when a non-congress administration was established for the first time in independent India, the first general election was held in India in 1951, and it was won by Indian National Congress. Young people are eager to make changes in the politics of the present, but they fear that their voices will be lost in the political oratory that is taking place. The educated masses in India often get the impression that the sphere of politics is something that they cannot tolerate under any circumstance. The engagement of young people in politics has been mostly unstructured up until now, and despite the fact that young people continue to vote in municipal elections, there is a pressing requirement for a more active and structured involvement in political processes in order to bring about the necessary reforms for the development of the country. Due to unchecked corruption, nepotism, caste politics, and a lack of transparency and openness, young people are increasingly turning away from a career in politics as a viable option. Because of this, the vast majority of our prospective human resources decide to leave the country as soon as they finish their studies in order to permanently settle in another country. The political system has to become more transparent, and it should encourage more people from younger generations to run for office.

Young leaders are the embodiment of energy and excitement, and they have the potential to be tremendously effective in formulating their own ideas on modern challenges and difficulties. They should be accountable for determining which cultural beliefs are going to work for the good of mankind and the younger generation should

serve as the pillar around which our future India is built, more ideas should be created, and more ideas should be developed by them. The inclusion of younger generations in democratic processes will also contribute to the development of a heightened understanding of the system's all-encompassing nature. There is a pressing need to broaden the scope of young political involvement beyond the act of casting a vote by instituting age quotas for membership in political parties and in the legislature respectively. A shift in how people think about politics and a strengthening of public trust in the political system may be brought about by having an appropriate mix of youthful talent and young politicians. If given the opportunity, the young people of contemporary India are aware of the challenges that our nation is experiencing; if given the chance, they would be willing to alter the political status of the country and might perhaps become better guardians of our future India. We can only hope that when we go to the polls the next time, we find more names of young people who have the potential to make our nation a better place to live.

A country like India is in dire need of some youthful leaders, and we agree that there is a need for the system to be reformed; nevertheless, we do not wish to carry the burden upon ourselves. This should be rectified because the majority of principal offices in our nation are held by politicians who are beyond the age of 50. If we want to see India improve, its young people need to start laying the groundwork for the country's future success right now; it is time for them to take leadership. It is impossible to forecast the expansion of a nation unless its young people experience anxiety and become politically active at every level. The young people of our country are in desperate need of forums that will assist them in reaching a level of political appreciation that is commensurate with their potential. They are the country's largest age group and have the most potential for growth, thus they have a pressing need for mentorship and direction that will help them realize their potential.

The right of the people to pick their representative is essential to the successful operation of a democracy. This right can be exercised through the voting process, which is open to all members of a nation's population regardless of caste, race, gender, or social status. In order to cast their vote in an election, Indian citizens are required to have an Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC), which is sometimes referred to as a Voters ID. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for their distribution. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutionally mandated autonomous organization that ensures elections at both the state and federal levels are conducted correctly. According to the concept of universal adult suffrage, which stipulates that an individual must be 18 years old in order to be able to vote they have particular criteria for determining who is eligible to vote. In addition, a person who has been found to be of unsound mind or who has been convicted of a criminal offense is not eligible to vote.

Article 84(b) of the Indian Constitution from 1949 stipulates that a candidate must be at least 25 years old in order to be eligible to run for election to the House of the People, which is more often referred to as the Lok Sabha. This is the basis for the slab. The vast majority of these young representatives run for office after securing party nominations from one of India's many political parties. In contrast to elections held at the state level and the Panchayati Raj (Village level), which take place at the central level, parliamentary contestation at the central level attracts a varied variety of candidates. At the same time, the Member of Parliament has a closer relationship with the views and structure of the party.

An MP's subsequent position does not improve as much as compared to that of a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), who is accountable for the administration of the state, other than the influence they have in their area. In addition to this, the Member of Parliament is obligated to spend practically the entirety of the year attending sessions of the Lok Sabha, which are held in New Delhi, the nation's capital. An MLA, on the other hand,

does not venture further than the state capital and plays less than a quarter season away from home each year, which makes them a more active player in the area. During the stage of candidate selection for party ticket, when the method becomes naturally diversified in Parliament and State Assembly correspondingly the party influence is manifested in a clear and obvious way. Nepotism, devotion to the party, influence of the individual, and the individual's socioeconomic assets are all possible reasons for the choice. The more senior party member has the power to use their veto over the nominees. They play a significant part in lowering the barrier of entry for the typical member of the population to participate in political politics.

### **What is politics?**

The conduct associated with the administration of a country or other geographic region. In the realm of politics, the power to function as a constituency's official spokesman is referred to as an order.

The upheavals that were led by young people in the Arab world pushed young people back onto the international scene as serious political players who have the right and the capabilities to be equally engaged in politics. These revolutions were sparked by the Arab Spring. Many people have great hopes that the participation of young people in official procedures like elections would rise in the future. If this does not occur, there is a good chance that significant frustration will emerge, which might have a destabilizing influence on the process of democratization. The present UNDP 'Strategy of Response to Transformative Change Championed by young in the Arab Region' recognises the significance of young political involvement in a significant way. Despite the fact that it offers a variety of initiatives targeted at job creation, social inclusion, and young volunteerism, it does not include any significant activities aimed at political engagement. This absence is reflective of more widespread deficiencies in understanding and practice linked to increasing political involvement among young people. The Secretary-General of the United Nations unveiled his Five-Year Action Agenda for his second and last term in January of 2012.

The Action Agenda outlined five generational imperatives, one of which was the engagement of young people in social, economic, and political development. More specifically, the objective was to "Address the needs of the largest generation of young people the world has ever known by deepening the youth focus of existing programmes on employment, entrepreneurship, political inclusion, citizenship, and protection of rights, as well as education and reproductive health." In addition, the Secretary-General, through the Policy Committee, delegated authority to the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth and Development to prepare a United Nations System Wide Action Plan with the goal of intensifying the focus on youth within the current programs of the United Nations system.

In the final three months of 2011, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) issued a call for innovative and potentially catalytic project proposals from UNDP Country Offices on the topic of youth empowerment and democratic governance. This was done in response to the worldwide phenomenon of young people calling for more meaningful participation. Following that, the DGTTF facility spent this one-of-a-kind collection of nation projects that directly address issues with youth involvement and leadership in government, gender equality, and local development. Under the direction of the UNDP focal point on youth and Director of the Democratic Governance Group of the BDP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in the process of drafting its very first-ever UNDP Corporate Youth Strategy. This strategy, which is expected to be finalized by the end of 2012, is an active member of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth and Development.

This guide is the first complete evaluation of programming methods for youth political empowerment conducted by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This study was conducted in accordance with the new mandate of the UNDP and as an attempt to correct these inadequacies. It focuses on creative instruments that have the potential to give fresh inputs for UNDP programs and activities by other electoral stakeholders. Its goal is to find examples of excellent practices and entry points to boost young political engagement across the electoral cycle. This guide was produced after an in-depth analysis of academic and practice-oriented publications, essays, and websites on the topic of youth political engagement from a variety of nations throughout the world.

In addition to forums for information exchange such as know Politics, Agora, and ACE, documents from electoral aid providers such as UNDP, IFES, and NDI were reviewed. Interviews with people with access to relevant resources helped shed light on specific effective practices. Calculations and tabulations were performed for the first time in relation to voting eligibility and age requirements. In February of 2012, a regional working conference of the UNDP was held in Cairo. This meeting, as well as focus group discussions and interviews with Egyptian youth activists and development practitioners, contributed vital information. Additional beneficial practices, ideas, and examples were discovered as a result of the UNDP/UN-HABITAT Youth global stakeholder summit, which took place in Nairobi in March of 2012. The participation of young people in political processes is a complicated and multifaceted problem that has to be addressed using a number of strategies, depending on the goals that are being pursued and the context in which they are being carried out. This guide is not intended to rank different good practices, nor is it meant to be all-encompassing. Instead, it makes an effort to outline some of the available choices that may be made to increase the level of political involvement among young people.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. The study knows the decision-making ability of young generation as a politician.
2. The study analyzes how youth make use of their power and authority as a politician.

## **Youth political participation**

The right to participate is essential to democratic governance. The elimination of current obstacles to the political engagement of young people should be seen as an aim in and of itself. If young people have the notion that formal political procedures are not accessible and/or interesting for them, this might affect their views for the rest of their lives, which could have potentially long-lasting detrimental effects on the political culture of a nation. It has been discovered that the participation of young people in formal political processes is vital from the very beginning in newly formed and budding democracies. They have the power to bring democratic ideals to life, which paves the path for the overthrow of authoritarian policies and procedures. If young people are not involved in the new official decision-making mechanisms, there is a high likelihood that major discontent will occur in nations where youth-led uprisings have forced the removal of authoritarian governments from power. It's possible that this will make the process of democracy more unstable.

The distinction between genuine political involvement on the part of young people and actions that are only lip service to participation should be given the consideration it deserves. There are a lot of events that purport to encourage adolescent engagement, but they don't really provide young people a voice or any impact in the

decisions that are made. An expert on children's rights named Hart makes the following observation: "Tokenism is when young people appear to have been given a voice, but in reality, they have very little or no choice about how they participate." It is involvement for the sake of participation or for the chance to take a picture. Young participants often lack knowledge and skills, and they are seldom required to do anything by their peers.

This also holds true for political debates. If a young child is exposed to the benefits of democratic processes at an early age, they may be more likely to become engaged citizens later in life. Golombek makes a similar point when he says, "Active citizenship cannot be expected to happen overnight when a person reaches the voting age. It must be learned 'by doing' through everyday experiences, such as opportunities to participate in shared decision-making, listening to different opinions, and weighing options and consequences." These are transferable abilities that young people may use to strengthen their commitment to the democratic process and the development of civil society.

### **Youth, Governance and Participation – Major issues**

Since the Arab Spring, many young people in the area have continued their political engagement via the formation of "political movements" rather than becoming involved with or joining political parties. Young people are typically politically engaged in universities (where it is permitted to do so), but they are very often disillusioned with political leadership and political institutions and alienated from policy making. As a direct consequence of this, political participation among young people does not conform to any formal formations.

Opportunities for young people to engage in governance and participate in political and decision-making processes are primarily dependent on the political, socioeconomic, and cultural settings. Social norms in many areas of the globe result in numerous types of discrimination against young women. Opportunities for young people to engage in governance and participate in political and decision-making processes are also largely dependent on these situations.

Formal and informal interaction may both be thought of as forms of political participation; both are good for a vibrant and robust democracy and should be fostered. Political participation can be defined in a variety of ways. There is compelling evidence to suggest that younger citizens' engagement in formal, institutional political processes is much lower than that of their more senior counterparts all around the world. This raises questions about the system's ability to be representative of its constituents and results in the disenfranchisement of young people.

It is a relatively new goal, but it is highly relevant, especially in light of recent events and democratic transformations, both in the Arab States and in other countries. The emphasis on young people, in terms of their involvement in the political arena, is a relatively new priority. The "World Programme of Action for Youth for 2000 and beyond" mentioned how important it was for young people to have a voice in decision-making, but it did not provide any specific recommendations for how this might be accomplished at the time.

In official political leadership roles, individuals younger than 35 years old are quite uncommon to find. It is normal practice to refer to a politician as "young" if they are below the age of 35-40 years old. This is the case in a third of the world's nations, where the minimum age requirement for participation in the national parliament is 25 years or above. In formal political institutions and procedures including parliaments, political parties, elections, and public administrations, young people are not effectively represented. The situation is considerably



more challenging for younger women as well as women who are in mid-level roles or who are in positions of decision-making or leadership.

It is of the utmost significance that young people actively and meaningfully participate in the democratic practices and processes of their societies, as well as in order to ensure that their fundamental human rights are acknowledged and protected. This will allow for the fulfillment of the needs of young people as well as the protection of their rights. Participation and leadership that are meaningful for young people demand that young people and organizations headed by young people have opportunities, capabilities, and benefit from an enabling environment as well as applicable evidence-based programs and policies at all levels. Realizing the right of young people to participate and be included in democratic processes and practices is also crucial for ensuring the attainment of globally agreed upon development objectives and for resetting the agenda for development.

In a poll that was carried out by the UN IANYD in the month of August 2012, 13,000 people from different countries were asked about the issues that they face, and the majority of them pointed out that the primary challenges for youth were restricted possibilities for meaningful involvement in the decision-making processes. Both young men and women experience feelings of exclusion and marginalization in their communities and civilizations as a result of the limited chances and experiences they have to actively engage in decision-making processes that are inclusive. The need of developing stronger capability, as well as the requirement for participatory frameworks and increased trust between young people and institutions, was also emphasized. Additionally, efforts should be made to concentrate on the most vulnerable young people, especially by specific measures aimed at young women. This is something that should be a priority.

UNDP understands that young people in countries emerging from war have the potential to participate in peacebuilding efforts, to lead non-violent revolutions, and to make use of new technologies to organize society in order to bring about change. It has been shown that young people have the capacity to construct bridges across communities by working together, so contributing to the management of conflict and the promotion of peace. Young people are key players in both the resolution of conflicts and the establishment of peace. They have the potential to be agents of change and to offer a basis for the reconstruction of lives and communities, therefore making a positive contribution to the creation of a more fair and peaceful society.

### **Youth empowerment and democratic governance**

In 2011, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) issued a call for proposals from UNDP Country Offices in support of innovative and catalytic projects on youth to inform public policy-making, training youth as effective leaders, extending access to justice, opening space for youth empowerment and democratic governance. There were a total of proposals that were approved, with being from Latin America and the Caribbean, coming from the Arab States, coming from Asia and the Pacific, coming from Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States, and coming. In a number of the nations where the study was carried out, the exclusion of young people was quite clear, and this exclusion often intersected with other types of marginalization related to gender, geography, culture, or community. Activities that are included throughout all of the initiatives include bolstering young advocacy organizations, offering high-quality research to facilitate interaction with public authorities, and encouraging the formation of national youth councils and plans. A number of initiatives focus a significant emphasis on the use of information technology and social media. There are many other types of innovative solutions, such as

social partnerships for the delivery of services, provincial youth parliaments, and even a digital game on youth and local politics.

## CONCLUSION

Our nation's future is in the hands of our young people. According to our research, the level of political engagement among young people in India is relatively low. In order to increase involvement, the electoral commission, governments, educational institutions, and the business sector should each take certain steps, and there is a pressing need to have an understanding of the factors that lead young people to disengage from political participation. Concern is shared by a large number of individuals, particularly but not primarily among young people, over the dearth of political education and resources available to young people within their own communities. It is the responsibility of the government and other non-governmental organizations to identify and cultivate the capabilities of young people. These organizations should also work to create good outcomes for young people by offering them the chances and assistance they need to build on their existing leadership qualities.

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