

Scope of One Nation One Election: A Feed forward Study on People's Perception

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Abstract: *This idea of One Nation One Election was earlier placed before the nation by former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee. One nation one election is a debatable issue that is the reason even Prime Minister NarendraModi asked for national debate on this issue before execution of such kind of electoral reform. The frequent conduct of elections involves huge expenditure and use of various other resources that is why there should be one nation one election. The present paper deals with the perception of people about the One Nation One Election policy. The result of the study shows a positive wave regarding simultaneous elections in the country. People eagerly want electoral reform and change in present scenario. Majority of respondents accepted that simultaneous elections will bring stability in democracy, will reduce corruption, election and other unnecessary expenses, will strengthen nationalism, speed up development process etc. Simultaneous elections are not disadvantageous for country like India as it is not a new phenomenon for Indians.*

Keywords: One Nation, One Election, Policy, Democracy, India

1. Introduction

The One Nation eloquence seems to be keystone for all new initiative of the Indian Government. The goods and service tax (GST) come out as 'One Nation, One Tax' idea. In the field of education New Education Policy 'One Nation One Curriculum' construct. Likewise the notion of '**One Nation One Election**' is a call for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and all State legislature. The simultaneous elections is not a new concept in India. After the Independence and enforcement of constitution, the first election which was held at 1952 was conducted simultaneous. Elections were held simultaneous during 1952 till 1967 afterwards it got disrupted. The concept end when fourth Lok Sabha was dissolve early. The ideal condition require that an honest and upright person who is public spirited and want to serve the people, should be able contest and get elected as people's representative. Until now several Electoral bodies conduct elections under Article 324 of the Constitution mandates the Election Commission of India to supervise, direct and control elections to the offices of President, Vice President, both house of the Parliament, State Legislative Council and Assemblies. Article 73 and 74 facilitate State Election Commission (SEC), these bodies conduct elections at Central and State level in every 5 years. The 'idea of One Nation One Election' in India is a proposed electoral reform advocated by current Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Indian democracy has its federal structure where centre and state governments enjoy their rights and responsibilities. Parliament and state assemblies make a balance between autocracy and democracy, centralization and decentralization. The Present paper deals with the perception of people on One Nation One Election policy, it further discuss the pros and cons of implanting this policy in India.

2. Importance of Research Paper

As the Lok Sabha Election is coming in next year the research will help the policy maker and it helps in understanding the perception of people about this policy.

3. Advantages of Implementing this Idea

As India is on election mode on every three months; General elections, Assembly elections, Municipal Corporation, Zilaparishad to Panchayat election, huge money is spent on arrangements, security. Holding simultaneous polls will reduce government expenditure and will save public funds that can be better utilized somewhere else.

As election take place at various schedules on different places political parties and politicians are always in election mode. Busy in making election strategies rather than working for development of the nation. If election will be held simultaneously they will get rid of making election strategies all the time and can focus on ground work.

It will reduce party expenses too. All political parties spent huge amount of money in political campaigns during election if elections will be held once in every five year that will also reduce their need for donations.

Other than money security forces is also needed for conducting election in a smooth way. Holding simultaneous election will free up security forces that are diverted from their core duties for each election.

Elections in states lead to the imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) puts on hold the entire development program and activities. If all elections are held in one particular year, it will give a clear four years to the political parties to focus on good governance.

Disadvantages of simultaneous polls:

One of the biggest disadvantages of simultaneous polls is centralization of power as well as agendas. National issues can overshadow local issues of various states. Center can overshadow states.

Many political analysts fear that there is a kind of election wave in India. If a person votes for a party for general election he will vote to candidate of same party for Vidhansabha election too. Political literacy is not that much in India.

Small regional parties will be overshadowed by national parties.

There would be alteration in constitution.

Objectives

- To analyze effect of simultaneous elections on the country due to socio-economic and political status.
- To find out people’s perception towards simultaneous elections.
- To evaluate role of media in dissemination of information regarding simultaneous elections.

4. Review of Literature

According to Law Commission the idea of simultaneous elections came up in the first annual report of the Election Commission of India published in 1983. NITI Ayog also prepared a working paper titled “Analysis of simultaneous elections: The what, why and how in January 2017. On a study of International scenario commission found that such a system does exist in countries like Sweden, Belgium, and South Africa etc(Law Commission, 2018).

In a research article on (Choudhary, 2018) ‘One nation one election’ author stipulated that idea of one nation one

election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a welcome reform which will save the money, resources, time and energy of government to proceed without distractions. Some hurdles are there but they may be overcome by strategically planning things accordingly.

The paper **One Nation One Election in India (2017)** discuss some major reforms as pre 2000 and post 2000 and proposed reform of Election Commission in India. It also contain the different news analysis regarding debate on electoral reforms. The proposal could broadly divided into 3 categories firstly cleansing of electoral system, secondly reform to make election commission stronger and more independent, thirdly to make electoral system more efficient.

5. Methodology

Descriptive Research Design is used for this study. The sampling technique used for the feedback study was Purposive Sampling under Non-Probability Sampling Technique. The respondent chosen were according to the purpose of the study. . The tool for collecting the data for the study was survey using questionnaire. The planned sample framework was 150 but the researchers got 119 accurate questionnaires. The area of research is Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. There was age limit for respondents who are eligible for elections i.e. more than 18 years.

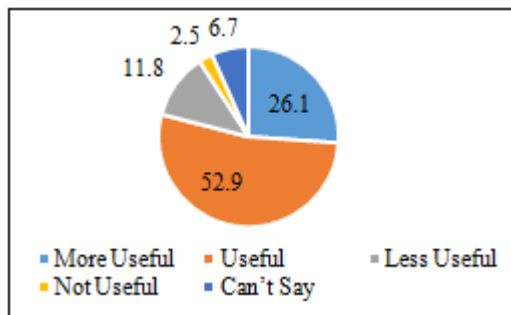
6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The Data gathered for this study is organized, coded and analysed using Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) where Frequency and Percentage were used to present the result of the study.

Table 1: Demographic representation of respondent

SN	Category(s)										
1	Age (in years)	18-27		28-37		38-47		48-57		Above 58	
		21.8%		25.2%		21%		25.2%		6.7%	
2	Gender	Male						Female			
		67.2%						32.8%			
3	Occupation	Government Employee	Private Employee	Businessman	Teacher		Student	Housewives	Others		
		21.8%	26.9%	6.7%	11.8%		21%	8.4%	3.4%		
4	Education	Higher Education		Post-Graduation		Graduation	12th	10th	1-7th		
		16.8%		32.8%		36.1%	5.9%	0.8%	7.6%		

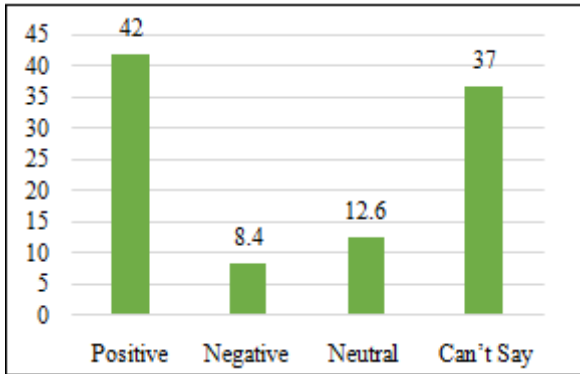
Out of all, maximum number of participants i.e. **25.2%** belonged to the age group of 28-37 years and 48-57 years respectively. Male respondents were more (**67.2%**) as compared to female respondents (**32.8%**). According to data analysis maximum**26.9%** respondent are indulge in private job. While taking the data for educational background maximum (**36.1%**) respondent are graduate i.e. maximum respondent are qualified as Graduate. More than out of 119 respondents more than half of them belong to middle class, their percentage is (**71.16%**)



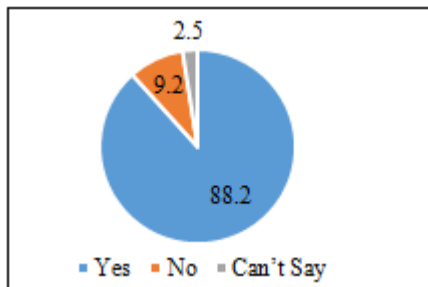
52.9% respondent find it useful whereas 26.1% respondent find it more useful. 11.8% respondent says that they feel the information provided by media is less useful followed by

6.7% respondent have no opinion and 2.5% respondent doesn't find it useful.

42% respondent finds television as a reliable medium of Information whereas 23.5% respondent finds one than one medium as a reliable source followed by 14.3% respondent says that newspaper is a reliable medium. 6.7% respondent finds social media much reliable. 5% respondent agree that Radio and Internet is reliable source respectively. 3.4% respondent finds personal talk reliable.

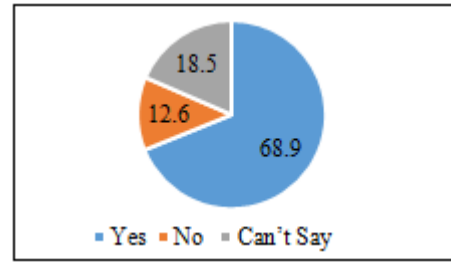


42% respondent says that media is positively delivering the information about One nation One Election Policy whereas 37% respondent have no opinion followed by 12.6% respondent are neutral and 8.4% respondent have negative impact of media 88.2% respondent do vote whereas 9.2% respondent doesn't vote and 2.5% respondent have no opinion about voting.



While responding about need for change in election 65.5% respondent says that, there is a need of change in election procedure whereas 19.3% respondent says that there is no need for change in election procedure and 15.2% respondent have no opinion about the change in election procedure.

Data obtain shows that maximum respondent use multiple mediums to get information about One Nation One Election notion. 34.5% use multiple medium. 21% respondent have personal talks and television as a mode of communication respectively. 9.2% respondent use only newspaper followed by 5.9% respondent use social media as a medium and 3.4% respondent chooses other medium. 2.5% respondent use Internet and Radio respectively.



68.9% respondents agreed that simultaneous elections are possible in India, 18.5% were not sure while 12.6% respondents said that one nation one poll is not possible in India at all.

Response(s)	Percentage
No Answer	39.5
Expenses	4.2
Security Issues	5.9
Economical	4.2
Financial Issues	16.6
No issues	13.4
Planning Issues	19.3
Centralisation of Power	5.9
Total	100%

An open-ended question was also included in this research study to know more about perception of people towards simultaneous elections in India. The respondents were asked what challenges country may face in holding simultaneous elections; 19.3% respondents said planning issues may be a big hurdle in holding Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections simultaneously. 16.6% said financial issues, 13.4% respondents said there is no issue in conducting simultaneous elections. 5.9% respondents said that centralization of power could be a major problem, 6% said security issue is also a challenge. 39.5% respondents left the space blank in questionnaire so researcher did not find any answer on this question from most of the respondents.

According to data analysis, 74.8% respondent says that one nation one election possibly lead to changes in Economic, Social, Political phenomenon and 25.2% respondent have no opinion about the possible changes in these phenomenon.

Category	Responses		
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Can't Say (%)
Stability in Democracy	67.2	5.0	27.7
Less Corruption	58	14.3	27.7
Inflation	43.7	23.5	37.8
Unemployment	37.8	24.4	37.8
Development	63.9	6.7	29.4
Social Equality	46.2	16	37.8
Regionalism	46.2	15.1	38.7
Separatism	36.1	27.8	36.1
Nationalism	58	14.3	27.7
Election Issues	66.4	17.7	15.9
Public Thinking Level	60.5	15.1	24.4
Election Expenses	72.3	8.4	19.3
Unnecessary Expenses	68.9	11.8	19.3

According to data analysis, maximum respondents have positive reaction towards One Nation One Election policy where maximum (67.2%) respondents said it will bring

stability in democracy, on question of whether simultaneous elections will reduce corruption, maximum (58%) respondents said yes. On question of inflation, majority(43.7%) of respondents said of course simultaneous elections will reduce inflation, This shows that most of the respondents feel that simultaneous elections will not reduce inflation and this way it will not enhance the economic status of the country. On question of whether simultaneous elections will reduce unemployment 38% percent respondents said yes while 38% percent were not sure. Simultaneous elections will not create opportunities for employment in India. Maximum (63.9%) respondents said that simultaneous elections may help to speed up development process in country. On question of whether simultaneous elections will enhance social equity; maximum (46%) respondents said yes and maximum (46%) respondents said that simultaneous elections might reduce regionalism and casteism as well. On the issue of nationalism maximum (58%) respondents agreed that simultaneous elections will strengthen nationalism and will encourage the feeling of nation first among citizens. maximum(66%) respondents said that simultaneous election will change election issues. Maximum (60%) respondents said that simultaneous elections will broaden the thought process of public. Maximum (72%) respondents said yes. On question of whether simultaneous elections reduce other unnecessary expenses maximum(69%) respondents said yes

When respondents were asked that whether simultaneous elections disadvantageous for the nation, 51% respondents said no, there is no loss from simultaneous elections. 25 % respondents said yes it is disadvantageous for country like India, 24% respondents replied cannot say.

Category	Responses		
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Can't Say (%)
Corruption Increases	24.4	62.2	13.4
Weakens Democracy	19.3	59.7	21
Administration Instability	16.8	56.3	26.9
Increase in Election Expenses	16	66.4	17.6
Election Resources	17.6	54.6	27.7
Security Issues	26.1	52.1	21.8
Public Disorder	22.7	54.6	22.7
Answerable to public	12.6	59.7	27.7
Individualism	23.5	46.2	30.3
Unclear Majority	35.3	41.2	23.5

According to the data analysis, most of the respondent positively thinks about following category i.e. there will be not many consequence of One Nation One Election notion. A situation was given to respondents suppose simultaneous elections are disadvantageous for country in that situation which kind of problems country may face. Various statements were given to respondents to know their opinion on that. On question of corruption, maximum (62.2%) respondents said that simultaneous elections will not increase chances of corruption. Majority of respondents (59.7%) were in favour of simultaneous elections and said that it will not weaken democracy. Maximum (56.3%) respondents said simultaneous election will not lead towards unstable administration. Maximum (66.4%) respondents said simultaneous elections will decrease election expenses. Maximum (54.6%) respondents

disagreed with the statement that electoral resources cannot be fulfilled for simultaneous elections in the country this shows a positive attitude of public towards simultaneous elections. Majority think that simultaneous elections are possible in India. Maximum (52.1%) said that electoral security is possible for simultaneous elections. (54.6%) respondents accepted that simultaneous elections will not create chaos in public order. Maximum (59.7%) respondents said that answerability of administration towards public will not decrease due to simultaneous elections. Maximum (46.2%) respondents were not agreed from this statement. (41.2%) respondents disagreed with this statement while 23% respondents were not sure about it.

Category	Responses		
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Can't Say (%)
End of issues	44.5	22.7	32.8
Negligible Condition	37	33.6	29.4
Empowerment to Political Parties	67.2	10.2	22.7
Advantage to particular party	38.7	28.6	32.8

The data collected basically for this query to know whether there will be any differences or short come in regional vs. national level because of One Nation One Election notion.

7. Findings and Conclusion

There is a positive wave regarding simultaneous elections in the country. People eagerly want electoral reform and change in present scenario. Majority of respondents accepted that simultaneous elections will bring stability in democracy, will reduce corruption, election and other unnecessary expenses, will strengthen nationalism, speed up development process etc. Simultaneous elections are not disadvantageous for country like India as it is not a new phenomenon for Indians. Simultaneous elections were also held in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967. Though people want simultaneous elections to be held in India but they have some doubts also like national issues might overshadow regional and local issues, national parties may overshadow regional parties, it might be more advantageous for ruling part rather than all parties. Results conclude that media disseminate more of positive information about simultaneous elections but during literature review researcher observed that most of the media professionals are not in favour of simultaneous elections, they think if simultaneous elections become a reality India will turn into a managed democracy like Valdimir Putin's Russia. Managed democracy is one that retains the pretence of free and fair elections and the rule of law but in reality is all choreographed. Researcher feels that there should be no politics on simultaneous elections, if electoral reform is needed for development of the nation, country should lead towards its implementation. Only debate on such an important issue will not work on, instead public opinion should be taken on 'One nation one poll' and it should be considered like Brexit.

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