

SCIENTIFIC AND POLITICAL DEBATES RELATED TO THE STUDY OF ELECTIONS IN INDIA

ANUP PRADHAN

Professor, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

ABSTRACT

Election studies (which are here defined as scholarly work focusing on the major phases of the electoral process, *i.e.* the campaign, the vote, the announcement of results and subsequent government formation) constitute a distinct sub-genre of studies on democracy, which focuses, so to speak, on the ‘mechanics’ more than on the ‘substance’ of representative democracy. The election system is the pillar of Indian democracy. The system consists of various levels of elections to the Lok Sabha (the House of Representatives of the Union), State Legislative Assemblies, and Panchayati Raj Institutions (local self-governing bodies under State Governments). This article includes a review of studies related to the elections of Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies conducted up to the present time. Studies are divided into those based on aggregate data and those based on survey data of the individual electorate. This division has the advantage of providing data that may be used in different analytical areas. Voter turnout and votes polled by party are the two main variables to be explained. This review article thus shows what has been explained in voting behaviour in India up to the present time.

KEYWORDS: Elections, Political Science, India, Media, Democracy, Methodology