

A Study on Political Awareness among the students
Of
Selected Post Graduate Departments of Sardar Patel University.

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Abstract:

Twenty First century is the Knowledge Century. Today the youngsters are spending most of the time on social media by using various platforms like Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter etc., It is general understanding that these media became the new source of Information which gradually convert into the knowledge. It is said that the India is youngest country in the world so the researcher has thought to collect data to explore the political awareness among the students of the post graduation who are likely to be near about 21 year of age. The process of Political Socialization is an essential part of an Individual in a democratic society. But the tight compartmentalize education system and exam orientated system has created literate students but have not been educate them. Being in the field of teaching I realized that the post graduate students, who are studying in the university, are isolated with the real world. They don't use their smart phones to be actually smart. This was a pilot study to understand about the political awareness among the students of 2nd Semester studying in the Post Graduate students of Humanities and Social Sciences. The research has identified nine such department and took 1/3 representation of male and female respondents by using lottery method.

Keywords: Political Awareness, Social Media, Political Socialization

Introduction

Being a citizen of India, every individual should have the knowledge about their political leaders. As per the article 326 of Indian Constitution every individual who attains the age of 18 years is a responsible citizen of Indian. After Independence in the constitution this age was 21 years which was reduced to 18 years after 61th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988. The students who are studying in Post Graduate Department must have attained the age of 21 years. This research is aim to understand about the basic knowledge among the students from the Post Graduate Departments of the Sardar Patel University. It is assumed that the Post Graduate students must have the basic knowledge about their Prime Minister, Chief Minister and other designated ministers. So the main focus of the study will be on Understanding their Political knowledge/ awareness and attitude. There are so many source of Information available with the new generation but are they using that sources to gain knowledge or not that will also be a question to explore during the study. Is new media a real source of knowledge or not that will be explored after this study?

Objectives of Study:

- To Understand the Political Awareness among the students
- To explore about their knowledge towards basic political designations

Significance of the study:

- This study will help to know about the Political Awareness among students of S.P. University
- This study will be helpful to develop policy document as a part of curriculum development.
- **Review of Literature:**
- **Lazarsfeld F.Poul (1948)** in his work, “The people’s choice” says that, the most common finding in the field of political behaviour is that, higher the income groups or socio-economic status, political awareness and political participation was higher. He also finds out that, people of the same general socioeconomic status have the same political attitudes. The finding of L. F. Poul is very much similar to the features of political participation in the field. It helped the

researcher to match the attitude of the same socio-economic status people in the area.

- **Pandhya K. S. and Choudhary S. (1980)** study revealed that students in Orissa, higher the grade and age, greater the political awareness. Boys were more politically aware than girls and higher the socio economic status of the family greater is the political awareness. K.S.Pandhya studied only political awareness of the students in Orissa where as socioeconomic status of the family was influential in Koppal district in determining the political awareness level. However, in adults, as they grow old, they lack interest in politics and their level of political awareness decreases.

Methodology

This study is used for descriptive research method. The study has applied sampling random method. A total 124 student respondents studying in semester – II during academic year 2018 - 2019 has been selected as sample respondents from nine post graduate departments of Humanities and Social Sciences from Sardar Patel University such as Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Psychology, History, English, Hindi, Gujarati and Sanskrit. The sample size is 1/3 of total students studying in semester – II during academic year 2018 – 2019. This 1/3 sampling was done through lottery method with proportion of male and female respondents. The primary data collection method was used for study. A structured questionnaire has been developed for data collection. The following table shows universe and sample for the study which represents male and female in their proportions.

Table 1: Sample distribution of Respondents

Name of the Department	Number of Students			Sample Respondents					
	Total	Male	Female	Male		Female		Total	
				Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Economics	56	23	33	8	16.3	11	14.7	19	15.3
English	67	21	46	7	14.3	14	18.7	21	16.9
Gujarati	63	25	38	8	16.3	13	17.3	21	16.9
Hindi	18	4	14	1	2	5	6.7	6	4.8
History	24	13	11	4	8.2	4	5.3	8	6.5
Political Science	10	6	4	2	4.1	1	1.3	3	2.4
Psychology	42	26	16	9	18.4	5	6.7	14	11.3
Sanskrit	36	13	23	4	8.2	8	10.7	12	9.7
Sociology	61	18	43	6	12.2	14	18.7	20	16.1
Total	377	149	228	49	100	75	100	124	100

Data Analysis and Interpretation

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	61	49.2
No	63	50.8
Total	124	100.0

It can be observed from the above table that 49.20 per cent respondents did voted in past election whereas 50.80 per cent did not voted in any election.

Table 3: Voted in at least one election		
	Frequency	Percent
Not Voted	63	50.8
Assembly Election	12	9.7
Gram Panchayat	2	1.6
LOK SABHA	3	2.4
NAGARPALIKA	1	.8
NAGARPALIKA & VIDHANSABHA	2	1.6
PANCAHYAT	31	25.0
VIDHAN SABHA	10	8.1
Total	124	100.0

It can be said from above table majority respondent (25 per cent) were voted in Panchayat election, followed by 9.7 per cent respondents in assembly election, 8.1 per cent respondents in Vidhan sabha election, 2.4 per cent respondents in lok sabha election, 1.6 per cent respondents in Nagarpalika and vidhansabha election they voted.

Table 4: Social Groups of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
OBC	44	35.5
Open	32	25.8
SC	14	11.3
ST	34	27.4
Total	124	100.0

It can be observed from the above table 35.50 per cent respondents were from OBC category, 25.80 per cent respondents were from open category, 11.30 per cent respondents were from schedule caste and 27.4 per cent respondents were from schedule tribe category.

Table 5: Age wise Distribution of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
19	1	.8
20	11	8.9
21	39	31.5
22	29	23.4
23	18	14.5
24	9	7.3
25	7	5.6
26	2	1.6
27	4	3.2
28	3	2.4
30	1	.8
Total	124	100.0

It can be revealed from the above table age of sample respondents were between 19 to 30 years.

Table 6: Area of Residence wise Distribution of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Rural	79	63.7
Semi Urban	2	1.6
Urban	43	34.7
Total	124	100.0

It can be depicts from the above table that 63.70 per cent respondent s were resided in rural areas, 34.7 per cent respondents were resided in urban areas and only 1.6 per cent respondents were resided in semi-urban areas.

Table 7: Gender wise distribution of respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	49	39.5
Female	75	60.5
Total	124	100.0

It can be observed from the above table that 39.50 per cent respondents were male and 60.50 per cent respondents were female.

Table 8: Competitive exam Preparation

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	66	53.2
No	58	46.8
Total	124	100.0

It can be said from above table that 53.20 per cent respondents were preparing competitive examination while 46.80 per cent respondents were not preparing.

Table 9: Join any Political Party

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	9.7
No	112	90.3
Total	124	100.0

It can be observed from above table that 90.30 per cent respondents have not joined any political party whereas only 9.7 per cent respondents have joined any political party.

Table 10: Political Awareness about National Level across respondents

National Level		Aware	Not Aware	Total
1 Name of the Present President of India	Frequency	44	80	124
	Percent	35.5	64.5	100
2 Name of the Present Prime Minister of India	Frequency	108	16	124
	Percent	87.1	12.9	100
3 Number of the Present Seat of Lok Sabha	Frequency	5	119	124
	Percent	4	96	100
4 Number of the Present Seat of Rajya Sabha	Frequency	4	120	124
	Percent	3.2	96.8	100
5 Name of present lok sabha speaker	Frequency	13	111	124
	Percent	10.5	89.5	100
6 Name of present human resource minister	Frequency	2	122	124
	Percent	1.6	98.4	100
7 Name of present foreign minister	Frequency	23	101	124
	Percent	18.5	81.5	100
8 Name of present defense minister	Frequency	8	116	124
	Percent	6.5	93.5	100
9 Name of your lok sabha seat	Frequency	15	109	124
	Percent	12.1	87.9	100
10 Name of your lok sabha member	Frequency	24	100	124
	Percent	19.4	80.6	100
11 Your lok sabha member which political party connected	Frequency	38	86	124
	Percent	30.6	69.4	100

It can be observed from the above table that majority respondents were having less political awareness, only 87.10 per cent respondents aware about name of prime minister of India.

Table 11: Political Awareness about State Level across respondents

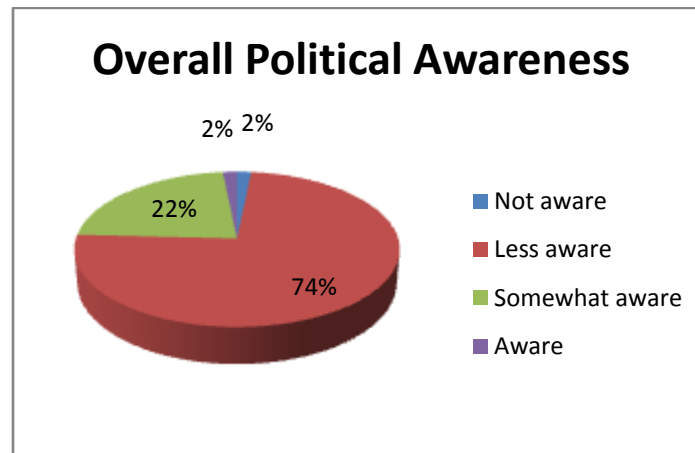
State level		Aware	Not Aware	Total
1 Name of present Governor of state	Frequency	41	83	124
	Percent	33.1	66.9	100
2 Name of present Chief Minister	Frequency	83	41	124
	Percent	66.9	33.1	100
3 Name of the present Deputy Chief Minister	Frequency	44	80	124
	Percent	35.5	64.5	100
4 Number of Assembly seats in the state	Frequency	25	99	124
	Percent	20.2	79.8	100
5 Name of present assembly speaker	Frequency	8	116	124
	Percent	6.5	93.5	100
6 Name of Present Education minister	Frequency	32	92	124
	Percent	25.8	74.2	100
7 Name of your assembly constituency seat	Frequency	29	95	124
	Percent	23.4	76.6	100
8 Name of your present minister legislative assembly member	Frequency	44	80	124
	Percent	35.5	64.5	100
9 MLA of your constituency is associated with which political y	Frequency	45	79	124
	Percent	36.3	63.7	100
10 Name of the present finance minister of state	Frequency	8	116	124
	Percent	6.5	93.5	100
11 Name of the present Home minister of state	Frequency	5	119	124
	Percent	4	96	100
12 How many seats of lok Sabha is in your state	Frequency	13	111	124
	Percent	10.5	89.5	100
13 How many seats of Rajaya Sabha is in your state	Frequency	7	117	124
	Percent	5.6	94.4	100
14 At what age you get right to vote	Frequency	100	24	124
	Percent	80.6	19.4	100
15 Name of your district collector	Frequency	2	122	124
	Percent	1.6	98.4	100

It reflects from the above table that 66.90 per cent respondents aware about name of chief minister of the state, 80.60 per cent respondents aware about qualify age of right to vote, other remaining local political awareness of the state also found less.

Table 12: Overall Political Awareness of Respondents

Overall awareness		
Awareness about Questions asked	Frequency	Percent
.00	2	1.6
1.00	4	3.2
2.00	17	13.7
3.00	14	11.3
4.00	15	12.1
5.00	11	8.9
6.00	11	8.9
7.00	7	5.6
8.00	13	10.5
9.00	7	5.6
10.00	7	5.6
11.00	2	1.6
12.00	2	1.6
13.00	6	4.8
14.00	3	2.4
16.00	1	.8
19.00	1	.8
22.00	1	.8
Total	124	100.0

Overall Political awareness of Respondents		
	Frequency	Percent
Not aware	2	1.6
Less aware	92	74.2
Somewhat aware	28	22.6
Aware	2	1.6
Total	124	100.0



It can be observed from the above table that 74.20 per cent respondents were less politically aware, 22.60 per cent respondents were somewhat aware and only 1.6 per cent respondents gave most of the answers correctly so that they fall in the category of aware respondents on the contrary only 1.6 per cent respondents were not able to give any answer so that they fall in the category of not aware respondents.

Hypothesis Testing

Gender and political awareness

H₀: There is no significant association between male and female respondents with respect to political awareness.

Table 13: Chi-square between Gender and political awareness of respondents

Gender	Pearson Chi-Square Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Political awareness about India			
Name of the Present President of India	.055 ^a	1	.814
Name of the Present Prime Minister of India	.031 ^a	1	.860
Number of the Present Seat of Lok Sabha	.915 ^a	1	.339
Number of the Present Seat of Rajya Sabha	.190 ^a	1	.663
Name of present lok sabha speaker	.268 ^a	1	.605
Name of present human resource minister	1.328 ^a	1	.249
Name of present foreign minister	1.893 ^a	1	.169
Name of present defense minister	.393 ^a	1	.531
Name of your lok sabha seat	1.363 ^a	1	.243
Name of your lok sabha member	4.409 ^a	1	.036
Your lok sabha member which political party connected	2.520 ^a	1	.112

Political awareness about Gujarat state			
Name of present Governor of state	.493 ^a	1	.483
Name of present Chief Minister	.006 ^a	1	.937
Name of the present Deputy Chief Minister	1.924 ^a	1	.165
Number of Assembly seats in the state	.943 ^a	1	.332
Name of present assembly speaker	.015 ^a	1	.904
Name of Present Education minister	.977 ^a	1	.323
Name of your assembly constituency seat	.040 ^a	1	.842
Name of your present minister legislative assembly member	3.136 ^a	1	.077
MLA of your constituency is associated with which political party	.718 ^a	1	.397
Name of the present finance minister of state	1.890 ^a	1	.169
Name of the present Home minister of state	.915 ^a	1	.339
How many seats of lok Sabha is in your state	2.947 ^a	1	.086
How many seats of Rajaya Sabha is in your state	.372 ^a	1	.542
At what age you get right to vote	.476 ^a	1	.490
Name of your district collector	.093 ^a	1	.760

It can be observed from the above table that chi-square test carried out with political awareness between male and female respondents. The p value of all awareness criteria more than 0.05, except only "Name of your loksabha member". Therefore, Null hypothesis can be rejected for this. Hence, there is significant association between male and female respondents with respect to political awareness of name of your loksabha member.

Gender and Overall political Awareness

H₀: There is no significant association between male and female respondents with respect to overall political awareness.

Table 14: Cross tabulation between Gender and Overall political Awareness

Crosstab							
		aware					
			Not aware	Less aware	Somewhat aware	Aware	Total
Gender	Male	Count	0	33	14	2	49
		% within Gender	.0%	67.3%	28.6%	4.1%	100.0%
	Female	Count	2	59	14	0	75
		% within Gender	2.7%	78.7%	18.7%	.0%	100.0%
Total	Count	2	92	28	2	124	
	% within Gender	1.6%	74.2%	22.6%	1.6%	100.0%	

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.167 ^a	3	.104
Likelihood Ratio	7.502	3	.058
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.098	1	.024
N of Valid Cases	124		
a. 4 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .79.			

The above table shows the value of Chi-square test. The calculated value of chi-square test at 3 degree of freedom is 6.167 and its two sided P value is 0.104. From Chi Square Table we observe that Asymp. Sig (2-sided) =P Significant Value =0.104 i.e. $0.104 > 0.05$. It can be concluded that at 5 % level of significance, the Null Hypothesis cannot be rejected. So, it can be concluded that there is no association between male and female respondents with respect to overall political awareness.

H₀: There is no significant association between social groups with respect to political awareness of respondents.

Table 15: Chi-square between Social Groups and Political Awareness of Respondents

Social groups	Pearson Chi-Square Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Political awareness about India			
Name of the Present President of India	1.634 ^a	3	.652
Name of the Present Prime Minister of India	2.678 ^a	3	.444
Number of the Present Seat of Loksabha	1.130 ^a	3	.770
Number of the Present Seat of RajyaSabha	.722 ^a	3	.868
Name of present lok sabha speaker	3.367 ^a	3	.338
Name of present human resource minister	5.381 ^a	3	.146
Name of present foreign minister	1.607 ^a	3	.658
Name of present defence minister	5.302 ^a	3	.151
Name of your loksabha seat	3.782 ^a	3	.286
Name of your loksabha member	5.050 ^a	3	.168
Your loksabha member which political party connected	1.694 ^a	3	.638

Political awareness about Gujarat state			
Name of present Governor of state	.977 ^a	3	.807
Name of present Chief Minister	2.668 ^a	3	.446
Name of the present Deputy Chief Minister	6.314 ^a	3	.097
Number of Assembly seats in the state	1.816 ^a	3	.611
Name of present assembly speaker	6.416 ^a	3	.093
Name of Present Education minister	.371 ^a	3	.946
Name of your assembly constituency seat	1.388 ^a	3	.708
Name of your present minister legislative assembly member	1.489 ^a	3	.685
MLA of your constituency is associated with which political party	.732 ^a	3	.866
Name of the present finance minister of state	.925 ^a	3	.819
Name of the present Home minister of state	2.682 ^a	3	.443
How many seats of lok Sabha is in your state	6.863 ^a	3	.076
How many seats of Rajaya Sabha is in your state	2.204 ^a	3	.531
At what age you get right to vote	1.894 ^a	3	.595
Name of your district collector	3.696 ^a	3	.296

It can be observed from the above table that chi-square test carried out with political awareness between social groups of respondents. The p value of all awareness criteria more than 0.05; therefore, Null hypothesis cannot be rejected. Hence, there is no significant association between social groups with respect to political awareness of respondents.

Social Groups and Overall Political Awareness

H₀: There is no significant association between social groups with respect to overall political awareness.

Table 16: Cross tabulation between Social Groups and Overall Political Awareness

Crosstab							
		aware					
		Not aware	Less aware	Somewhat aware	Aware	Total	
Social Group	OBC	Count	1	34	9	0	44
		% within Social Group	2.3%	77.3%	20.5%	.0%	100.0%
	Open	Count	1	24	6	1	32
		% within Social Group	3.1%	75.0%	18.8%	3.1%	100.0%
	SC	Count	0	10	3	1	14
		% within Social Group	.0%	71.4%	21.4%	7.1%	100.0%
	ST	Count	0	24	10	0	34
		% within Social Group	.0%	70.6%	29.4%	.0%	100.0%
Total	Count	2	92	28	2	124	
	% within Social Group	1.6%	74.2%	22.6%	1.6%	100.0%	

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	6.853^a	9	.652
Likelihood Ratio	7.402	9	.595
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.337	1	.248
N of Valid Cases	124		

a. 9 cells (56.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .23.

The above table shows the value of Chi-square test. The calculated value of chi-square test at 9 degree of freedom is 6.853 and its two sided P value is 0.652. From Chi Square Table we observe that Asymp. Sig (2-sided) =P Significant Value =0.652 i.e. $0.652 > 0.05$. It can be concluded that at 5 % level of significance, the Null Hypothesis cannot be rejected. So, it can be concluded that there is no association between social groups with respect to overall political awareness of respondents.

Conclusion:

To conduct this research, the researcher has asked 26 questions of the national and state level regarding the important political personality and important ministers. It is surprised that none of the respondents gave all the correct answers. Only 1.6% respondents gave answers of 22 questions. The shocking was that 80.6% were aware about the age of

voting in this country though they are enjoying universal adult franchise. The study found that the respondents were more aware about name of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister. And for the rest of the significant political designation they were not aware.

The researcher has set a score about the awareness of the respondents. Total 92 respondents who gave correct answers of 1 to 8 questions are considered as less aware which is 74.2% of the total respondents. Total 28 respondents who gave correct answers of 9 to 16 questions are considered as somewhat aware which is 22.6% of the total respondents. The result is an outcome from statistical tools that there is no significant association between Gender and Social Group with respect to political awareness.

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