

## **Political Mindmap of Tamil Nadu- First Time Voters and Others**

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### **Abstract**

The most awaited Assembly Elections 2021 of Tamil Nadu, India are in the wind. With a population of 67.9 millions, Tamil Nadu has about 59.1 millions of eligible voters; where 0.89 million are first-time voters for the parliament elections 2019. The Political setting has undergone a drastic change over the past five years with several new players coming into the political game. The objective is to identify the major factors that influence voting preferences in Tamil Nadu and how First Time Voters affect election results. This is a exploratory research conducted to analyze the Voting Behavior of First Time Voters and others in Tamil Nadu. The public of Tamil Nadu was interviewed on political, society and demographical characteristics and their responses were collected through online and field surveys. The interest in a political career among the youth is also questioned and the awareness of the first time voters in selecting the candidate is also measured. This research data is aimed at providing useful insights into the voting preferences for the upcoming assembly elections in 2021. The scope of the research is to identify the current political trends in Tamil Nadu, India, the attributes that affect the voting behavior of people and to what extent the preferences of First Time Voters influence the Election results.

**Keywords:** First-time voters, Society, Voting preference, Elections, Tamil Nadu.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The politics in Tamil Nadu always stands different from that of the other states in India. This is because the Dravidian parties domination over Tamil Nadu since 1967 and the socialist character took over the Tamil Nadu politics. In Tamil Nadu, ADMK and DMK stand as strong political parties and they are alternatively selected by the people. Tamil Nadu has seen numerous caste based parties. They either represent the genuine concerns of the oppressed communities or create vote banks for ruling parties.

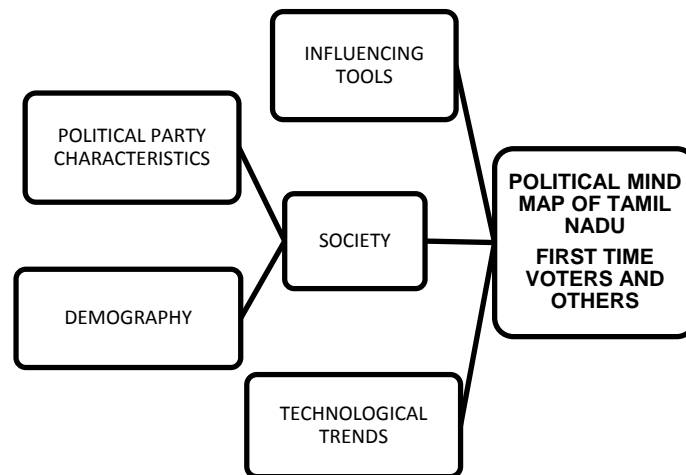
There is no strong third party existence in Tamil Nadu. The situation started to transform after the death of the former Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha and the DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi. There is no indication of a mass leader emerging from the ranks of other Dravidian platforms. Political commentators state that J.Jayalalitha, the former chief minister had a strong leadership and a strong voice. Mr.Karunanithi too had a good command over the people and remained as a versatile leader. But the present leaders of both DMK and ADMK lack that kind of leadership. The ADMK party came to power in 2016 under the leadership of the former chief minister. Following the death of Jayalalitha , a lot of dramatic changes had occurred leading to the split of the ruling party into three. This may lead to separation of the vote banks between the parties. As the legislative assembly by-elections are also planned along with the Parliament elections, the leaders of all the parties are in the full pace for the campaigning. This general election will be an indicator of how the electorate sees the state's two major Dravidian parties in the post-Karunanidhi, post-Jayalalitha period.

## **SCOPE**

Comparing to the other states in India, Tamil Nadu politics is different to extensive extent. The reason would be the state parties domination would be higher than the national parties domination. Therefore the national parties have to be dependent on the state parties for winning the elections. After 1967, National parties were not able to form the government in Tamil Nadu and only the state parties were able to form the government. In the present day scenario, it seems that there is a lack of leadership among the existing leaders. Because of that no party would be able to win the majority standing alone. Therefore they form an alliance with other parties and compete in the election. In Tamil Nadu, in the border districts there will be a domination of around 40 percent by the other state people. So there will be a difference in the status of politics in the border districts compared to the inner districts of Tamil Nadu. Because of these reasons we chose Tamil Nadu for our investigation. The scope of our study would be restricted to Tamil Nadu which would be an interesting as well as not easy to predict.

## **RESEARCH MODEL**

The research model results in the Political Mindmap which is affected by certain variables. The variables are explained in the figure below (Fig.1). The factors include Political Party Characteristics, Demography, Society, Influencing Tools and the Technological Trends.



**Figure 1 Research Model**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Caste, Corruption and Political Competition in India.**

Authors: Avidit Acharya, John E. Roemer and Rohini Somanathany,

This paper analyses about how and to what extent caste biased voting preferences of voter's influences the selection of candidates in India. Results of this study states that people of India most preferably vote for candidates of same caste and religion even if they are corrupted and have criminal background. This article says that caste is an integral component the influences the selection of a political candidate.

### **Women Voters in Indian Democracy-A Silent Revolution**

Authors:Mudit Kapoor, Shamika Ravi

This article speaks about the participation of females in elections of India. The major finding of the study is the gender bias is steadily declining and more women are participating in politics, while the participation of men remains unchanged. This is a result of self-empowerment of women to secure their right of freedom of expression.

### **The Politics of Pork: Building Schools and Rewarding Voters in Tamil Nadu**

Milan Vaishnav and Neelanjan Sircar

This paper discusses about the voting pattern of core and swing voters on distributive politics. It also analyses the rewarding pattern of the parties to secure both core and swing voters. One major finding is that there is a spike in number of school building in the first two years of new state government.

## Understanding the Indian Voter

Milan Vaishnav

This article analyses the perception of an Indian voter in various perspectives. This paper describes about the dynastic politics, continuity and change in voting behavior, selection of a candidate having criminal background and balance of power of regional and national parties.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objective of this research is to identify the First Time Voters thoughts and opinions in the Electoral region of Tamil Nadu and to identify the factors that affect the First Time voters in electing their candidate. Being a Inductive research, the data obtained are made sure to be reliable and generous without any garbage inputs.

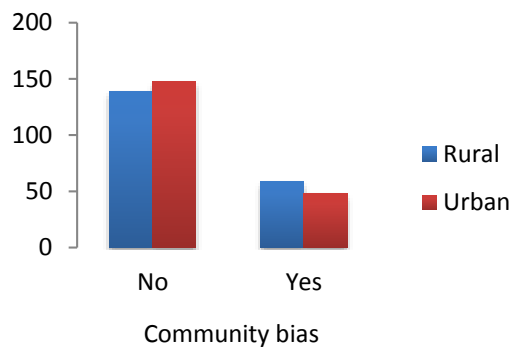
For this research, the data should be a primary data, and so the method of collecting responses are through interviews, field surveys, through online forms and other direct methods. Some of the responses were collected from the people who directly involve in political grounds and their perception is also recorded. To obtain data on the electoral norms and statistics, the websites of The Election Commission Of India and Tamil Nadu Government Electoral websites were used, since these sources are reliable and maintained by the Government of India.

The time horizon for the research is made at a point when the elections for 2019 were announced and whilst the data collections was happening, the manifestos of all other political parties were on the move. This made the people to be aware of the study before they respond to our questions. For analysis of data, Microsoft Excel and IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences have been used.

## ANALYSIS & FINDINGS

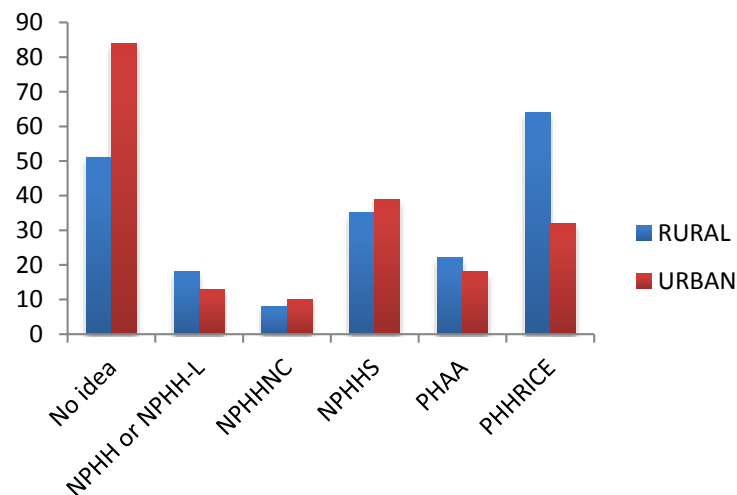
### COMMUNITY BIASED PARTIES:

Rural people rely more on community bias followed by political parties than the urban people. This is not a good sign for a secular country which should never follow community biases in politics.



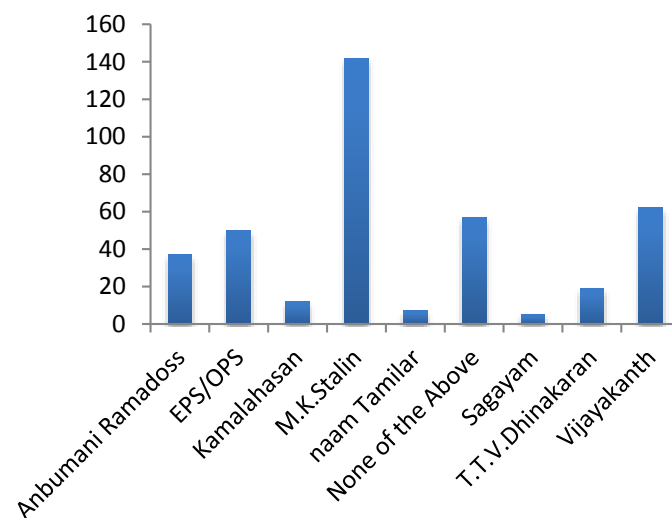
### KNOWLEDGE ON RATION CARD TYPE

The people in Urban areas do not have knowledge on their home ration card types, whereas the rural people have knowledge on their type of Ration card they hold. This is a serious issue, since the people in Urban areas, in the name of Urbanization forget what their rights are.



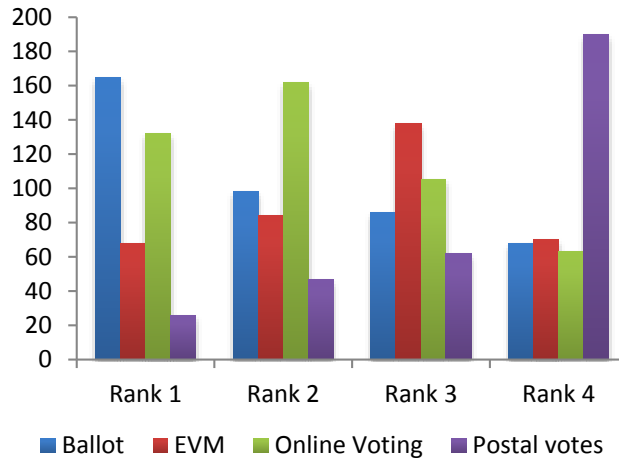
### POTENTIAL CM CANDIDATE

M.K.Stalin, the leader of DMK is leading the chart as the potential CM candidate for the next assembly election 2020. This data may or may not vary since there is a year gap for the elections.



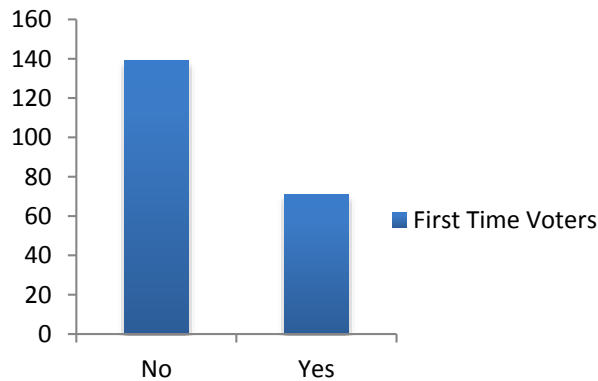
### VOTING METHOD PREFERENCES

The Ballot method is preferred by most of the voters than EVM or Online voting, which a welcome decision is made by the public. The reason behind this decision would be the continuous allegations on EVM machines.

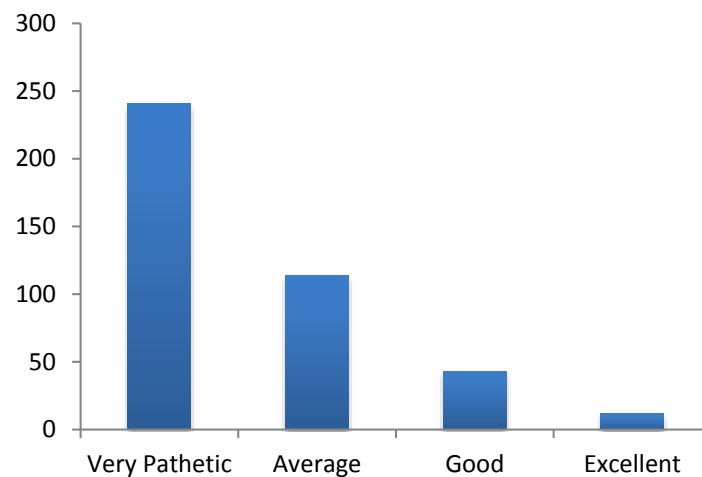


### LOST VOTES INITIATIVE

In 2014 general elections, around 281 million registered voters could not cast their vote because of their no presence in their constituencies. The Lost Votes Initiative by Times ff India, supports to vote from wherever the place, the voters are. Sadly, the first time voters were not aware of this initiative.



### **CURRENT CONDITION OF TAMIL NADU POLITICS**



The current condition of Tamil Nadu politics is credited as very pathetic, and this is because of the political conflicts which are made only for the core purpose of holding back the power, without giving any concern to the people who elected them and also the recent social issues that stirred the youth in the state.

### **CONCLUSION**

The regional parties influence seems to continue in the state and the National Parties will have to wait for another 20 years to make their mark in the state. The Vote for Money practice is making a major mark in the state elections, where rural people are easily brain washed and given some amount to get their votes. This seems to be a alarming problem, which the state is facing. There is a urgent need of good governance for the state in order to maintain the history the state is so proud of.

The First Time Voters are increasing in a huge rate which surely is going to play a huge role in the upcoming elections. They are well educated and they know the How's and Why's behind every move the political parties make.

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