

A Significance of Youth Participation in Panchayati Raj: A Case Study on Bihar Naxal and Violent Groups Affected Districts

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ABSTRACT

The 73rd constitutional amendment significantly impact on rural areas and the decentralization process at grass root level strengthen the democratic value and incited the process of inclusive participation at village level electoral role. India's average demographic dividend is approximately 29 years and it became important to youth participation in PRIs elections because by the dint of such process we can enhance the effectiveness of the PRIs at the village level. This research paper tried to show that youth are actively participating in the PRIs election in some Bihar's districts which was affected by Naxal and violent group related activities. After the effective implementation of the 73rd constitutional amendment it positively impacted in such districts and really help to eradicate social probe like caste-based dispute and curbed to stop the massacre. In this decentralization process, many caste and class got representation at village and it helped to stop caste-based discrimination in the village level. Many such aspects are being discussed in this paper. Youth Participation in PRIs election is a positive impacton thesocial reform process in the village.

Keywords- 73rd Constitutional amendment, Youth participation in PRIs election, Caste-based Massacre, by Naxal and violent group

I. INTRODUCTION

Youth participation significantly became an important thing in to strengthen the democratic value at the grassroots level. The 73rd constitutional amendment of constitution playing a key role in at village level. After the adoption of constitutional provision of Panchayati Raj System in India it is providing a platform for the youth to participate in grass root level democracy and became a way to participate in village level democratic participation. Some important aspects in it which became beneficial for youth participation, Ashok Mehta committee was recommended to allow political party in PRIs election while Balwant Rai Mehta committee did not allow political party and after the 73rd constitutional amendment related to Panchayati Raj System Indian government did not allow political party to stop political and money influence in PRIs election. On the other hand, reservation provision for OBC, SC and ST community also adopted in 73rd constitutional amendment. Such provision really helped to stop caste-based discrimination at village while proving a better way to ensure

representation of all caste at village level.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODLOGY

The research is based on secondary data. In this research paper state election commission data is being used to understand the youth participation in violent group affected districts. In this research Quantitative research approach used to see the real figure of youth contestants in 2016 Panchayat election to analyses real number of youth participation. The discussions made with some people in these districts are being used to conclude the finding and to correlate the Quantitative research approach and the qualitative research approach.

The research work used the secondary data of government report and used references of previous research article and news article based on Naxal and violent group related to affected districts of Bihar.

III. DISCUSSION

Youth participation in nation building became very essential because of Demographically, youth constitute a significant segment of the population in India. Their active involvement and participation in governance is imperative for country. India has a big youth population with about 64.4% of its total population between the ages of 15 and 59 years in 2015, according to data from the sample registration survey of India (SRS) statistical report. Urban and rural areas had very similar population composition. Youth made up a greater share of the urban population (67.7%) and the rural areas (62.9%) which is showing that youth can play major role in nation building.

Passing the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts was a defining moment in the history of decentralization of political power in India. Devolution of powers and responsibilities enabled the local government institutions to formulate plans aiming at local economic development and social justice, and implement the programmes imbibing the principles of decentralization. These amendments have resulted in changing the dynamics and equations of power significantly in the country at the cutting-edge levels. After two decade of this law we can show many fact and figure which helps us who can youth participation enrich the value of a democratic state like Bihar.

In Bihar many Naxal and violent group related activities were common in previous year and many people lost their life in many massacres named Laxmanpur Bathe massacre (1996), Dalelchak-Bhagaura massacre (1987), Belchhi massacre (1977), Bathani Tola massacre (1996), etc. Such massacre really shows the caste based clashed in some districts in Bihar. More or less, there is less representation of some deprive section of society was responsible for such massacre. Caste based discrimination, land dispute between land holders and deprive section of society are main reason behind such massacre. Before the 73rd constitutional amendment no effective and inclusive people participation Panchayati Raj system were adopted in Bihar and due to such reason, there was on representation of deprive section of society in grass root democracy. While some village related democratic post like Mukhiya and sarpanch was in influence of upper caste and class of society and was no being conducted election in very five-year tenure. Due to such reason Panchayati raj system was not effective.

There is need to understand the significance of 73rd constitutional amendment in youth participation in PRIs election because violent group in Bihar like Ranveer Sena, Kuer Sena, Brahmarshi sena werereally attracted youth because of violent massacre and due to revenge tendency many Youth actively were attracted towards such violent groups. Unfortunately, a trust deficit against administration and state government it was a challenge for government to stop such massacre and reinsure the trust formation among the people living in violent related districts. Really 73rd constitutional amendment played a key role to improve the such violent situation in some districts.

The significance of youth participation in Panchayati raj in Bihar state may help you to understand it. According to government repot Out of 38 district 16 districtsare naxal affected in Bihar while some violent groups like Ranveer Sena, Kuer Sena, Sunlight Sena, Brahmarshi Sena were behind the several massacre. The Ranvir Sena has been involved in several massacres of Dalits in central Bihar. These include cases relating to the incidents of Mianpur, Shankarbigha, Sarthua, Lakshmanpur-Bathe, Nagari, Haibaspur, Bathani Thola and Santani. These villages are located in Bhojpur, Jehanabad and Gaya districts of central Bihar. Interesting things is that many government reports are supporting declining naxalism and naxla activities due to increase youth participation in panchayat and municipal poll. There has been dramatic decline of Naxalism from the Central Bihar. More than one factor has contributed this decline but one of the most important factors increasing youth participation in civic poll. Bhojpur Patna, Gaya, Aurngabad, Arwal, Bhabhua, Rohtas and Jehnabad have seen rapid decline in the last few years. Bihar Jhulan Devi¹ of Pandura village under Sandesh Block was the

first women Naxalite leader. She had canvassed for the Naxalite candidate in 2000 Panchayat election. Her contribution was crucial in electing a Maoist Mukhiya for Pandura Panchayat. Suchexample shows the decline of trust deficit against the civic body and building a faith among the people and we may draw the conclusion that to increases youth participation in PRIs can put an impact on Naxal and other violent group activities.

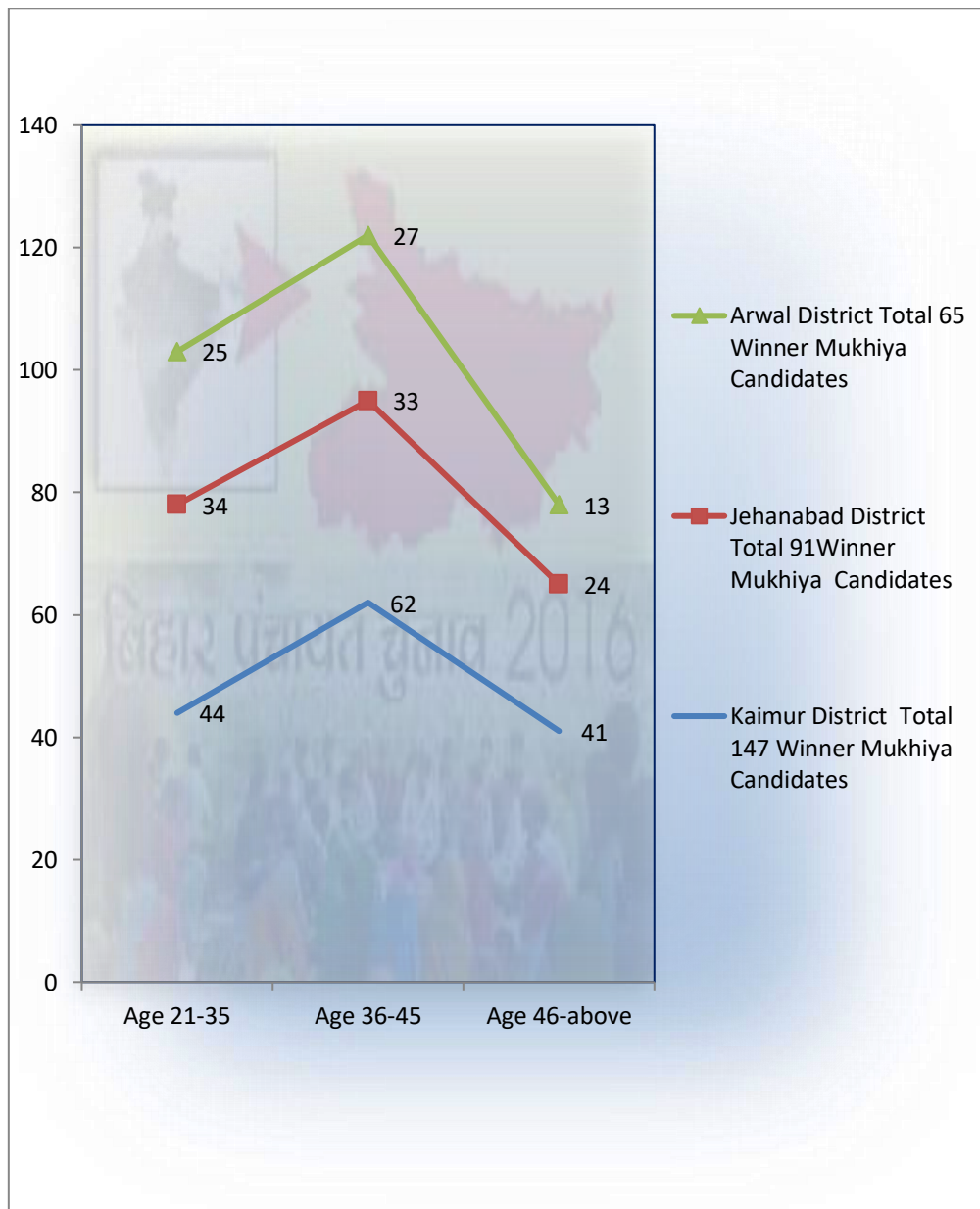
In this research paper we are trying to understand the youth participation in PRIs election in some districts which was Naxal and violent group affected districts in Bihar. It is very optimistic many such violets and Naxal group are being disorganized by administration with the help of strict police action against those people who were indulge in massacre. There is need to understand that state government dual process of reforms to curb such heinous crime. At the initial phase law and order was main challenges in that district and with the help of fast track court administration send many culprits behind the bar while state government taken many steps which is the reformative aspects in such districts. In this research we explained the how youth participation in PRIs election really helped to curb the bad situation in Arwal, Jehanabad and Kamiur districts.

According to Bihar state election commission in Bihar Panchayat Election 2016 the total number of winner candidate in naxal affected districts like Arwal (5 Blocks), Jehanabad (blocks), and Kaimur(11 Blocks)are 65, 91and 147 respectively. The interesting things are that the number of candidates between age group 21 to35 and 36 to 45 is higher than between the 46 to above age group. It is clearly show that youth participation in panchayat election is high and it also attracting those youth which are indulging in naxal and other criminal activities.

In some block youth winner candidate between 21-35 age group is very high for example kako Block in jehanadab district 11 out of 16 winner Mukhiya candidate and Arwal Block in Arwal district 7 out of 12 winner Mukhiya candidates are youth between 21-35 age group. But it would be wrong conclusion that by the dint of youth participation in PRIs we can make a big change in Indian society.

We cannot side line other important aspects like government policy like MANREGA, improvement of literacy rate and socio-economic condition and it has garter role to strengthen our PRIs institutions. But there is need to focus on certain specific steps for enhancing participation of young people in the functioning of PRIs. There is a need to enhance practice of young citizens in certain critical areas like public redressal mechanisms, right to information act, poverty alleviation programmes, etc.

¹Kumar,Satish, "Declining Naxalism from Central Bihar" Journal Of Defense Studies, October 2010



State Election Commission, Bihar

Ensure registration of all youth organizations with the Gram Panchayat and Encourage and support formation of youth organisations in the locality. Now it became essential to Organise awareness sessions and capacity building programmes for the functionaries of youth organizations.

IV. CONCLUSION

Active involvement of youth can provide a strong support system for the local governments. Importance of an enabling environment, wherein both local governments and youth come together and function as 'partners in development', needs no emphasis. Youth has to realize the constitutional and political mandate

based on which the local governments function. It is imperative that youth assume an important role in the systems, institutions and practices of local governance. The programmes initiated and implemented by local governments should take care of the specific needs, concerns, interests and priorities of youth from the geographical area. In addition, local governments could utilize their competencies, dynamism, energy and skills in planning, implementation and monitoring of various programmes/projects. To make this happen, more and more youth should involve and participate in the programmes and activities of local governments, thereby playing a significant role in local governance.

If youth are to be actively involved in the functioning of PRIs, they must feel affinity and comfort

with the environment; be given a platform to share their views/ comments/suggestions and their voices be heard properly; recognize ownership of their role and functions; and, entrusted responsibilities with confidence. In brief, there is a need for a youth-friendly approach by the PRIs which may be manifested not merely in the initiatives and interventions but also in the process of youth development.

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