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FAILURE OF ONE-PARTY DOMINANCE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: A STUDY OF 2014 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS



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legislator, Electorate, Article 370, bi-cot calls, Religion.

ABSTRACT: -

The unresolved issue of J&K has become unendurable for the people of Jammu & Kashmir as they are focus to the violence of terrorism from both the sides (internal and external) (India and Pakistan). The people of J&K have been constantly raising their voices against these violence's and demanded for the right of self-determination. However, India is using more than 800,000 military personnel to crush these voices through bullet, pellets, etc besides implanting pro-Indian regimes to administer political freedom of the people. This ballot and bullet policy has been rampant in all the elections in J&K. and Pakistan on the other side is the pivot of cross border terrorism to help Jammu Kashmir to attain self-determination. Similarly, the 2014 elections have been largely viewed with disbelief and considered as illegitimate and fruitless. Furthermore, a bumpy alliance between (PDP) People's Democratic Party and (BJP) Bharatiya Janata Party indicated more unfavorable future for J&K. The main aim of this study is to analyze the outcome of 2014 elections in J&K. The major things (Article 370, religion and bi-cot calls by separatists) that obstruct the cause of failure of one-party dominance in Jammu and Kashmir were studied.

KEYWORDS: Jammu & Kashmir, Elections, State

INTRODUCTION :

Kashmir issue has been marked by irreconcilable differences and misunderstandings from last seventy years. The adversity in Kashmir has been the outcome of deep rooted restlessness gathered over the past several decades. Administrators, policy makers and scholars have been writing about the factors that have led to such crisis. Amongst them, Sumantra Bose (1999) has acknowledged both state centered and cross border sources of conflict in Kashmir. Endogenously, the socially heterogeneous population of Jammu & Kashmir has several basic different political preferences and adherences. A chief exogenous foundation of the Kashmir divergence is the regional conflict between India and Pakistan. Difference of opinion over the region is the solitary indication of the deep-rooted hostility between the two. The state provides a very pertinent example of multi-level plurality on the basis of ethnicity, language, religion and culture. It geographically consists of three distinct units or divisions (Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh). Kashmir division is fully dominated by Muslims, Jammu division is dominated by Hindus (especially Jammu, Udhampur and Kathua district). While as Ladakh is inhabited by Muslims and Buddhists. Such plurality has its blow on the political discernments and responses. The contrary nature of political aspirations

within the state has given rise to different politics operating levels within the regions. Three regions of J&K namely, Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh have diverse demands from the Central Government. Most of the Kashmiri people craving independence from the Indian government to outline their own nation state. The Jammu people want to stay with India under the shadow of regional autonomy. The demand of Ladakh division people is confined with Union Territory status within the constitutional framework of India.

In 2014 Assembly Elections Modi wave (Mission 44+) hit Jammu division and failed to reach out its target of 44 seats out of 87 in state Legislative Assembly by winning 25 seats in the Jammu region but failed to open an account in valley. People’s Democratic Party won landslide victory of 28 seats but none of those attained absolute majority to form the government. Both parties formed fourth Coalition government under the leadership of Mufti Syeed in the state. The main reason why any party not achieved the absolute majority in assembly elections of Jammu & Kashmir was the diversity of thoughts, religion and special status through Article 370 as projected by scholars of the time. Hence coalition government was the lone alternative to run the administration. Till date PDP-BJP coalition government completed almost three years, Anti PDPBJP feelings have begun to go high not only because of the inherent conflicts within the coalition government but essentially because in the given time it has not been able to deliver the promises which it made to people during elections.

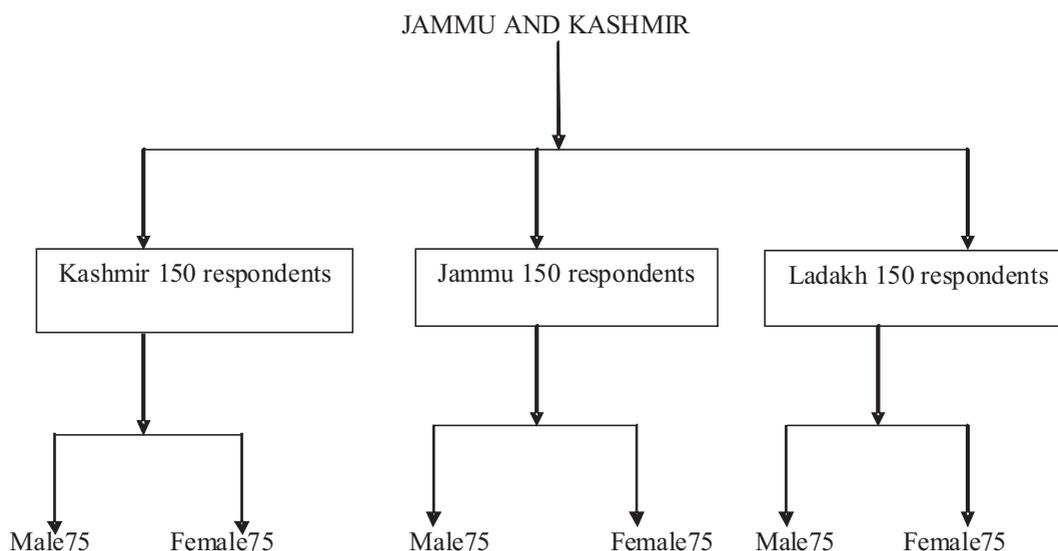
OBJECTIVES

The study will focus on 2014 assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, the basic objectives of the study are:

1. To ascertain the basis of failure of one party dominance in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. To ascertain the basis on which people of Jammu and Kashmir vote.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology employed in this study is empirical in nature designed by a convenient sampling, the collection of data and facts through reliable survey method. These facts have therefore been properly processed and presented to their right context. Both the primary and secondary sources of data collection have been used. The secondary data was collected through official reports, party documents, news papers etc and the primary source includes survey through interview schedule of three different divisions of Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh. The sample size was 450 of educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir which were selected randomly.



BASIS OF FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

In every country political parties came into existence on some basis and go out of same depending upon circumstances and situations which include: Historical basis, Psychological basis, Ideological basis, Regional

basis, Social basis, Economical basis, Religious basis, Racial basis and Political basis.

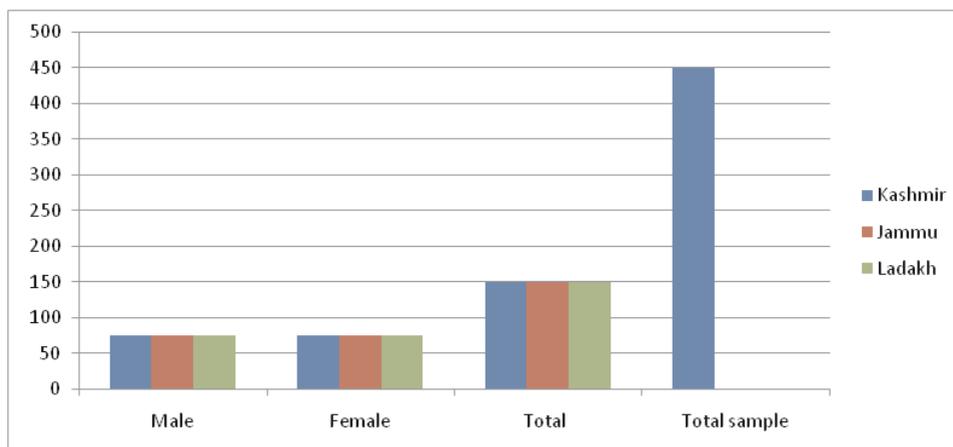
The survey based question through interview schedule

what you think about the concluded state assembly elections of 2014 in Jammu and Kashmir in which BJP sweep the polls in Jammu division and failed to open an account in valley on the other hand PDP dominated the valley and failed to get number of seats in Jammu, is it happened due to opposing stands on abrogation of:

- a. Art. 370
- b. Does the Religion affect the poll results? or
- c. Separatist’s bi-cot calls?

Sample size

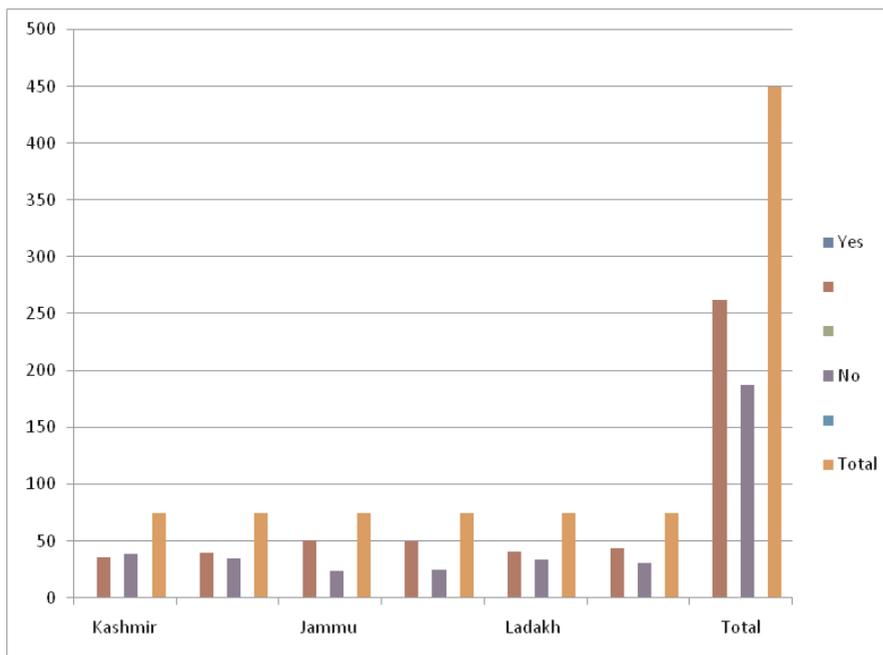
	Kashmir	Jammu	Ladakh
Male	75	75	75
Female	75	75	75
Total	150	150	150
Total sample	450		



For the present study the total number of respondents was 450 equally distributed from all the three divisions (Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh) of the state Jammu and Kashmir. Equal share of male and female respondents were selected from all the three divisions rondamly.

Separatist’s bi-cot calls a political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K and response of people

Yes	Kashmir		Jammu		Ladakh		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	36 (48%)	40 (53.33%)	51 (68%)	50 (66.67%)	41 (54.66%)	44 (58.67%)	262 (58.22%)
No	39 (52%)	35 (46.67%)	24 (32%)	25 (33.33%)	34 (45.33%)	31 (41.33%)	188 (41.78%)
Total	75	75	75	75	75	75	450



The above table states that out of total respondents (150) from Kashmir division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents from Kashmir division 36 (48%) opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as majority 39 (52%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 40 (53.33%) of the female respondents opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 35 (46.67%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

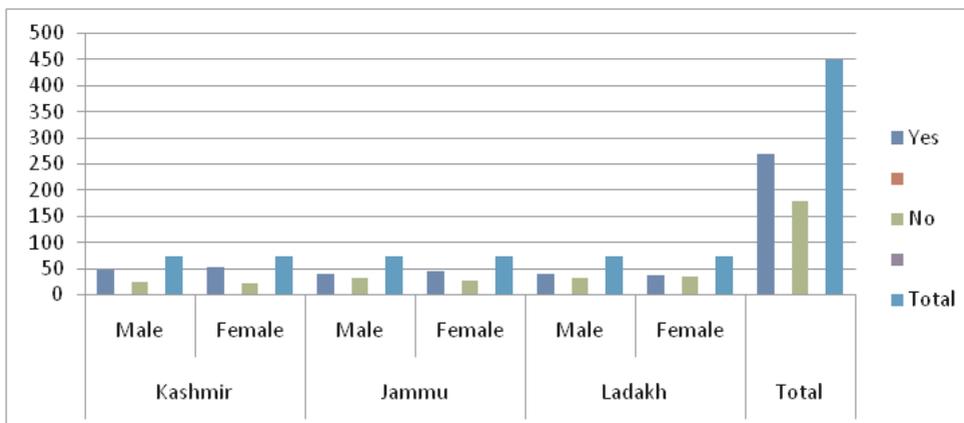
Similarly out of total respondents (150) from Jammu division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents, majority 51 (68%) opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 24(32%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 50 (66.67%) of the female respondents opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 25 (33.33%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

likewise out of total respondents (150) from Ladakh division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents, majority 41 (54.66%) opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 34 (45.33%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 44 (58.67%) of the female respondents opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 31 (41.33%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K

Hence it is concluded from the above table that out of total 450 respondents from all the three divisions, majority 262 (58.22%) of the respondents opined yes that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 188 (41.78%) of respondents are of the opinion that Separatist’s bi-cot calls were not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

Article 370 a political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J and K response of people

Yes	Kashmir		Jammu		Ladakh		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	49 (65.33%)	53 (70.67%)	42 (56%)	46 (61.33%)	42 (56%)	38 (50.67%)	270 (60%)
No	26 (34.67%)	22 (29.33%)	33 (44%)	29 (38.67%)	33 (44%)	37 (49.33%)	180 (40%)
Total	75	75	75	75	75	75	450



The above table states that out of total respondents (150) from Kashmir division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents from Kashmir division majority 49 (65.33%) opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 26 (34.67%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 53 (70.67%) of the female respondents opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 22 (29.33%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

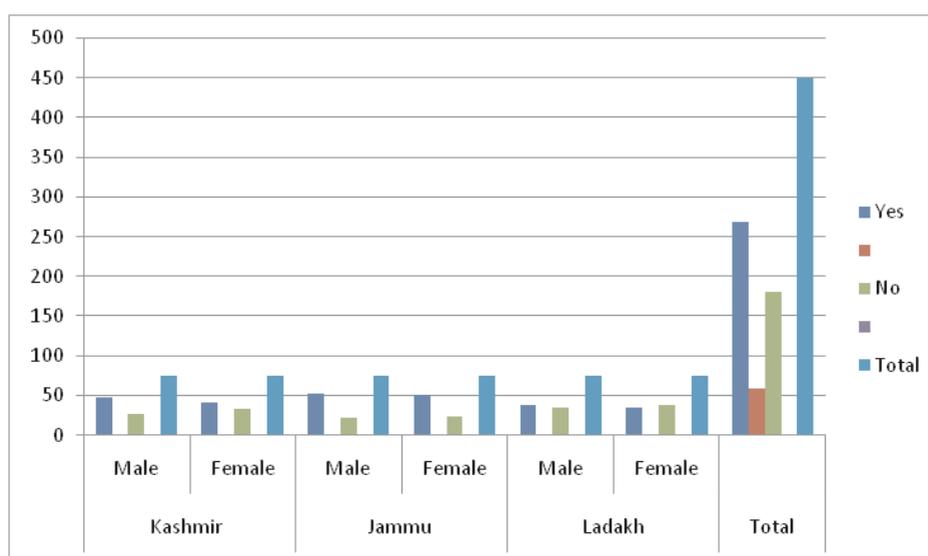
Likewise out of total respondents (150) from Jammu division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents, majority 42 (56%) opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 33 (44%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 46 (61.33%) of the female respondents opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 29 (38.67%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

Similarly out of total respondents (150) from Ladakh division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents, majority 42 (56%) opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 33 (44%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 38 (50.67%) of the female respondents opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 37 (49.33%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

Hence it is concluded from the above table that out of total 450 respondents from all the three divisions, majority 270 (60%) of the respondents opined yes that Article 370 was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 180 (40%) of respondents are of the opinion that Article 370 was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K

Religion a political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K and response of people

Yes	Kashmir		Jammu		Ladakh		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
	48 (64%)	42 (56%)	53 (70.67%)	51 (68%)	39 (52%)	36 (48%)	269 (59.78)
No	27 (36%)	33 (44%)	22 (29.33%)	24 (32%)	36 (48%)	39 (52%)	181 (40.22%)
Total	75	75	75	75	75	75	450



The above table states that out of total respondents (150) from Kashmir division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents from Kashmir division majority 48 (64%) opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 27 (36%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 42 (56%) of the female respondents opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 33 (44%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

Likewise out of total respondents (150) from Jammu division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents, majority 53 (70.67%) opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 22 (29.33%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise majority 51 (68%) of the female respondents opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 24 (32%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

Similarly out of total respondents (150) from Ladakh division bearing 75 male and 75 female. Out of total 75 male respondents, majority 39 (52%) opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 36 (48%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K. likewise 36 (48%) of the female respondents opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as majority 39 (52%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

Hence it is concluded from the above table that out of total 450 respondents from all the three divisions, majority 269 (59.78) of the respondents opined yes that Religion was the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K, while as 181 (40.22%) of respondents are of the opinion that Religion was not the political trump card in 2014 assembly elections in J&K.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Government should establish the political awareness centers both at the state level and at the centre levels.
2. Government should provide the rights to its citizens without any discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, region etc.
3. Kashmir conflict should be resolved through negotiations between the two neighbor countries.
4. The demands of the people of Jammu and Kashmir like special status of the state (Article 370), Autonomy and many more as agreed earlier should be fulfilled.

CONCLUSION

Despite a high voltage demonstration by top management of the BJP including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the saffron party was not able to make an account in Kashmir valley and also failed in Ladakh region. The party president Amit Shah backed by the RSS cadres tried very hard to make the Mission of 44+ successful in Jammu and Kashmir but it was NC and PDP that speak in a identical voice adjacent to BJP. Both the parties argued that if the BJP comes to power, it will invalidate the Article 370 of Indian constitution which gives unique status to Jammu and Kashmir. The RSS Mother Organization of BJP and its other associated units especially Vishu Hindu Parishad and Bajrangdal are equally responsible for failure of Modi's Mission in the state which has smartly created a fear and hang-up among Kashmiri people by doing some activities which were against their interests. Similarly the top political parties of the state (PDP and NC) did not attain the absolute majority. The fact behind that were religion, threat of revocation of Article 370 and the separatist's bi-cot calls. Hence resulted the failure of one-party dominance in Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly and the only alternative was the coalition between the two unexpected political parties.

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