

# Socioeconomic Status Related to Election System in India

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Socioeconomic status (SES) is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual.

Socioeconomic status is the social standing or class of an individual or group.

Socio-economic status is the position of an individual on a social-economic scale that measure factors such as education, income etc.

We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement.

A pledge, which gained popularity among newly eligible voters in India during the past seven years, changed the attitude of young India towards elections, thanks to SVEEP (Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation) initiatives by Election Commission of India (ECI).

**Keywords:** SVEEP, SES, ECI.

## Introduction

The election management processes have gone from strength to strength over the decades and have responded ably to emerging challenges.

Voters' Participation in the democratic and electoral processes is integral to the successful running of any democracy and the very basis of wholesome democratic mandate of the ECI for 'Superintendence, direction and control' of elections contain the built in high responsibility to have every eligible Indian on the electoral roll and get everyone on the electoral roll to voluntarily vote.

To many it looked an audacious aspiration, even impracticable in a country of this size, with limited physical infrastructure, with low levels of literacy and wide diversity.

India's Constitution laid out the aspiration that every adult Indian regardless of gender, formal education, socio economic status or location would have a right to vote and every vote would count the same.

Election Commission of India (ECI) successfully converted this aspiration into a reality. This was undoubtedly a gigantic task, right from enumerating voters to locating polling booths at easily accessible places and ensuring secrecy and security of the ballot paper. The sheer number of voters and the logistical challenges on account of distances and accessibility were truly huge.

ECI has also been quick in keeping itself abreast of technological changes and in introducing improvements in the electoral process. Photo Electoral rolls are computerized, voters have voter identity cards, proceedings in sensitive polling booths are video-graphed, polling at several booths is webcast.

## Aim of the Study

### SVEEP objectives

All SVEEP activities and efforts are aimed at

- (a) Increasing electoral participation through voter registration and turnout.
  - (b) Increasing qualitative participation in terms of ethical and informed voting.
- Continuous electoral and democracy education..

Greaney *et al.*, (1980); Taylor and Miller, (2001); Pichavant *et al.*, (2003) studied the effects of chronic (weeks of) hypoxia on oxygen carrying capacity.

### Result and Discussion

The assessment is done based on population data, elector-population ratio, gender ratio on rolls as against census figures, elector's photo identity card (EPIC) coverage, age cohort etc. Survey agencies are engaged for carrying out baseline and endline survey to find the underlying reasons for under registration, last mile problems in updation of Electoral Rolls, EPIC take off and low voter turnout and to identify the demographics of elector segments with lower electoral participation so that suitable interventions can be mounted and their impact assessed.

The systematic assessment of current and previous electoral data is carried out to guide the interventions. In addition to comparative studies of statistical and numeric data, a simultaneous evidence based analysis of socio-cultural and economic factors is done in order to have a clear understanding of reasons for non-participation. The nomenclature of Voters' behavior survey has been changed to survey of knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of voters.

### Conclusion

Regular Video Conferences are organised by CEO with all DEOs for review of implementation. The programme is reviewed at the national level by the Director General who keeps the Commission briefed. Statistical studies, innovations and case studies along with the creative material produced are compiled at DEO and CEO level and shared with the Commission for replication and scaling up.

To assess the efficacy of implementations and derive learnings for improvement, mid period review and constant monitoring of SVEEP programmes are conducted.

### Voter turnout highlights of Lok Sabha election 2014

1. The turnout for LS 2014 stands at a record high of 66.44 percent. The highest turnout was recorded earlier in 1984 at 64.02 percent.
2. The electorate in LS 2014 was around 117 million more than in 2009.
3. There was an increase of voters by 32.71 percent over voters in 2009 and in real number terms, approximately 137 million more voted in LS 2014.
4. The gender gap between the male turnout percentage and the female turnout percentage now stands reduced at 1.55 percentage points against more than four percentage points in 2009.
5. 16 States/UTs recorded a historic turnout while 33 among the 35 States/UTs recorded a higher turnout than in LS 2009 election.
6. 16 States/UTs recorded a higher women turnout and among these women voters surpassed men for the first time ever in any Lok Sabha elections in nine States/UTs.
7. Urban turnout recorded an increase across the country over the turnout percentage in 2009

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