

Apr-2018 ISSUE-I, VOLUME-VII (I)

Published Special issue

With ISSN 2394-8426 International Impact Factor 4.374

UGC Approved Journal Sr. No. 48455



Published On Date 30.04.2018

Issue Online Available At : <http://gurukuljournal.com/>

Organized &
Published By

Chief Editor,
Gurukul International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
Mo. +919273759904 Email: chiefeditor@gurukuljournal.com
Website : <http://gurukuljournal.com/>



PRINCIPAL
Adarsh Arts & Commerce College,
Desaiganj (Wadga) Dist.- Gadchiroli

INDEX

Paper No.	Title	Author	Page No.
1	Government Policy On Poverty Reduction In India	Dr. Arunabha Bhaumik	1-8
2	Analysing The Barriers In Vendor Managed Inventory In Medical Stores	Ms Jyoti & Dr. Neetu Gupta	9-16
3	Impact Of Training & Development Programmes On Teachers Performance	Dr. Hitesh A. Kalyani	17-22
4	Gendered Media, Identity And The Marginalized Groups: Understanding The Lives Of India's Third Gender	Ruman Sutradhar	23-27
5	महाराष्ट्रातील स्त्री शिक्षण आणि प्रगती	प्रा.डॉ. वंदना रामराव चवरे	28-33
6	महाराष्ट्रातील समाजकार्य महाविद्यालय ग्रंथालयांचा अभ्यास	प्रा. वर्षा अ. तिडके (शानिवारे)	34-41
7	औरंगाबाद जिल्हातील शालेय पोषण आहार योजनेनाला पालकांचा प्रतिसाद एक चिकित्सक अभ्यास	प्रा. सानप सुजाता विक्रम	42-46
8	शेळी पालन	कल्याण गंगाराम सरोदे	47-50
9	स्त्री-शिक्षणासाठी आधुनिक विचारप्रवाह-एक अध्ययन	प्रा.डॉ. वंदना रामराव चवरे	51-55
10	Which is Better, an EVM or a Paper Ballot?	S. K. Singh	56-59



PRINCIPAL
Adarsh Arts & Commerce College,
Desaijanj (Wadea) Dist.- Gadchiroli



Which is Better, an EVM or a Paper Ballot?

S. K. Singh
Associate Professor
Head of the Department
Adrash Arts & Commerce
College, Desaiganj

In paper ballot system, voters mark their choice on the pre-ballot papers and drop the voted ballot in the ballot box. After casting votes, ballot papers are counted and the number of votes will be declared. Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) is used to conduct and count votes using electronic systems. Using this method, voters have to press the button reflecting their choice and the votes will be electronically registered in the machines. EVMs have numerous advantages like faster results, cost-effective, accurate, portable, reducing the role of people, saving a lot of paper, more advanced form etc. The main disadvantage of EVM is that it is easily prone to tampering. From the past few years, there have been several incidences where the votes are easily manipulated and tampered by the powerful leaders in their favour. With paper ballot system, this can be prevented. Paper polls are more secure contrasted with EVMs. Digitization is on ascend in each field. Be that as it may, not all divisions are same. For example, fraud in elections is not same as a misrepresentation in web based business area. On the off chance that voting framework is not secure, whole country will be in the hands of the non-meriting pioneer. Elections are the most important thing for any country. Thrust of voters in the voting system is the most important thing than convenience or cost-effective solution. Either secure digital voting system or paper ballot system will ensure the confidence of voters and prevents the failure of nation. The question that paper ballot are more better or electronic voting machines are more better is still a matter of controversy and thus relies entirely on individual's perspective and experiences.

"The right to vote is the right upon which all of our rights are leveraged and without which none can be protected"

-Benjamin Todd

India, over the years, has earned the extraordinary distinction of not only being the world's largest functioning democracy but also of setting an example by conducting as many as sixteen free and fair elections at national level and more than thirty-four elections at the State level. Our country, being one among several other modern representative democracies today, vests its sovereignty in the hands of its citizens who use their fundamental and inalienable right



to decide their choice of a leader. The provisions of the Universal Adult Franchise, mooted by the Constituent Assembly of India in 1947, empowers the people and engages them in the process of decision-making, thereby serving as a stepping stone for the democratization of polity and preserving the essence of democracy. It is the collective will of the nation that translates into the election results, thus epitomizing the current pulse of the nation.

Our undying faith in the power of voting, through continual and peaceful elections, stands as a testimony to our entrenched belief in the efficacy of the democratic system. When viewed from any aspect-political, social or psychological, elections in India have invariably remained a telling barometer of our triumph as a competent self-governing institution. From catalyzing national cohesion and offering identical opportunities for exercising choice to the entire electorate to providing the most reliable insight into the voting behavior of the population and the factors influencing their choice, we as a nation have successfully tackled several arduous challenges despite our former colonial history.

Just like the countless droplets, which make an ocean, each vote has the power to sway the mandate and re-write the results. The famous saying- "A ballot is stronger than a bullet" holds very true as a single error in tallying or registering of votes can make or break the future of our country and cause the reigns of our motherland to slip into the wrong hands. Thus the accomplishment of a true democracy lies not only on entertaining plurality of ideas and increased participation of citizens in the governance of the country but also on ensuring transparency and accountability in the election process. Hence, the Election Commission of India (ECI) globally acknowledged as the "Gold Standard" in the conduct of free and fair elections in our country, sought to implement the Ballot system from 1951 and introduce the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in 1998 to record, tally the votes of its people and preserve the decorum of a democratic establishment.

But despite ECI's best efforts to ensure smooth elections, the 2016 Assembly Election results were made to witness a baptism of fire owing to the accusations against the alleged tampering of the EVMs. Though the claims were proven to be false, as confirmed by the recently concluded "Hack the EVM challenge" organized by the ECI, the occurrence of such an incidence has heightened the need to carefully examine the situation and analyse the cogent evidences pertaining to the event as we re-ignite the deliberation between the feasibility of scrapping the EVMs, and re-introducing the Ballot. The recent whirlwind of happenings have also prompted the increased citation of the voting practices followed by developed nations such as the USA and



the European Union, which have either discontinued or refrain from using the EVMs, while India continues to do so despite the frequent resurgence of such controversies over the years.

While the Indian political system is known to have absorbed and assimilated key elements from diverse practices followed by other countries, drawing comparisons with them in the light of such an episode may prove to be a futile exercise as the EVMs used in the Netherlands, Ireland and Germany lacked auditability measures, encryption safeguards, clear policy guidelines vis-à-vis storage, transport, use of voting equipment, ultimately leading to discrepancies in the final results and their eventual termination in 2002. Nonetheless, the USA has been using the Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) Systems, since the 2000 apart from implementing the Optical Scan Paper Ballot Systems and other Ballot Marking Devices owing to the presence of a largely bi-partisan system and less number of voters per constituency. Also, the fear of online hacking, fraud via fake voter-registrations and foul play by DRE/EVM manufacturing companies further provoked them to stick to the age-old Ballot.

The ballot system in India, which dates back to the ancient "Kudavolai Scheme" of 720 AD practiced by villages in Tamil Nadu for election of the village counsels, is preferred for its simplicity, lucid manual operation and provision of one-person-one vote facility. The distribution of identical ballot slips reduces chances of tampering and its technologically non-intensive nature helps generate employment for the officers on duty. But, every coin has a flip side and so does the Balloting system. The errors occurring during re-counting of votes, time-consuming tallying procedure, vulnerability to booth-capture, environmental and ecological hazards posed by felling of trees to produce ballot papers, excessive drain of capital due to increased employment of staff, rising costs of printing and the difficulties experienced during transportation and storage of votes are some of the numerable disadvantages of the Indian Ballots used in the electoral process.

On the other side, the EVMs introduced by the ECI, in association with two Public Sector Undertaking viz. Bharat Electronics Ltd. and Electronic Corporation of India Ltd., are regarded as power-efficient electronic marvels running on 6-volt batteries, thereby facilitating their operations in the remotest of election booths throughout the day. Their lighter-built and increased portability apart from their time-saving operation help avoid the lengthy rigmarole involving marking of the ballots, thumb-printing, paper-folding etc. The EVMs, termed as "Impenetrable fortresses" are stand-alone machines which are not connected to the Internet or any network during polling, thus overriding their vulnerability to hacking. The possibility of altering the final results via installation of viruses into the system is as fickle as sighting a 'blue moon', as any





change in the hardware or software shall be easily detected by the most sophisticated interference-recognition features such as Self-diagnostics, Tamper Detection and the installation of One Time Programmable (OTP) microcontrollers. These highly sensitive applications shall immediately render the EVM inoperative, the moment anyone tries to open the machine. Despite the heavy initial investment, the use of EVMs has helped to cut down the cost of printing lakhs of ballot papers, their transportation, storage, the number of man-hours to tally the votes and wages of the officers on duty, thereby outweighing the expenditure. The most important advantage apart from the speedy totaling and immediate declaration of the results, is its ability to prevent booth-capture. The EVMs, which are programmed to record only five votes per minute, shall be able to furnish sufficient time for the police force to arrive at the scene and nab the culprits in their act of registering multiple entries in minimum time. Also, defective machines or Non-ECI-EVMs cannot get re-inducted/inducted into the polling process as they shall get detected by their mismatched Balloting & Controlling Unit codes. However, the humble Ballot paper can get the better of EVMs, only if certain constituencies have more than 65 contesting candidates as the EVMs can only accommodate the details of maximum 64 candidates.

Thus, the different levels of checks and balances carried out at every stage of the elections using the EVMs guarantee the validity of the results and instill greater confidence in its operations unlike that of the Ballot which has now become incompatible to suit the requirements of ever-growing and dynamic population. Furthermore, the ECI's recent ruling to organize all future elections with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) shall provide an audit trail of the votes cast by voters on EVM, enhance trust of voters and bring utmost credibility to the EVM-based voting system. It will also be a matter of pride that India will become the first country to deploy 100% VVPATs in its election process by September, 2018. Thus, it is of critical importance that all government institutions collaborate to protect legitimacy of our election procedure and work towards strengthening the ECI rather than engaging in a war of words.

References :

- 1) <http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-cvm-paper-trail-introduced-in-8-of-543-constituencies-1982463>
- 2) <http://www.quora.com/which-is-better-an-EVM-or-a-paper-ballot>
- 3) <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ec-to-see-about-rs-2-000-crore-for-vvpat-system/article1-1148899.aspx>

