

Modi Rise and Consolidation of Hindu-Vote Bank

Assist. Prof. Kunal Nimbaji Wagh

Head, Department of Political Science LokneteVyankatraoHiray Arts, Science and Commerce College, Nashik.
[MS]

ABSTRACT: *The Project of consolidation of Hindu-Vote Bank commenced from the formation of Muslim League after the partition of India in 1905. The extremists of Indian National Congress thought that as Muslims have their own party but Hindus don't have their own party thus the concept of full-fledged Hindu party germinated and first Hindu Party was formed in Lahor, Punjab Hindu Sabha. But because of mass appeal of Moderates like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Mahatma Gandhi before independence and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru after Independence resisted the mushrooming of Hindu Vote bank but because of the absence of strong secular leader at the national level and strong leadership and muscular image of Mr.Modi all the Hindu voters, across the caste united under the umbrella of BJP.*

KEY WORDS: *Hindu-Vote Bank, Extremist, Moderate, Caste based Parties.*

Date of Submission: 11-06-2019

Date of acceptance:28-06-2019

I. INTRODUCTION

Proving everyone wrong people of India have given their full mandate to Mr.Modi, because all the political analysts and intellectuals were under the illusion that there was no Modi-wave like of 2014 and Modi would not cross 200 marks, in India a Party requires 272 seats to form a government at the centre and Mr.Modi had 282 seats in 2014. But the Indian people or Hindi heartland (Hindi speaking states of India) were thinking differently. Congress Party, the main opposition party in India, had snatched three Hindi heartland states (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh) from BhartiyaJanata Party (BJP) in the state's elections held December 2018 and not so well performance of BJP in Gujarat Assembly election, home turf of Mr.Modi, a year ago in December 2017 was a sort of, wakeup call for the BJP. Afterward, BJP started their age-old and tried and tested formula of "Consolidation of so-called Hindu-Vote bank".

As Mr.Modi himself has confessed that 'He is a Hindu-Nationalist' and very overtly does a Hindu-Vote bank politics. By Hindu-Nationalist, he self-claims that he is a Hindu by birth and believes in Hindu religion, culture and philosophy and loves India and ready to sacrifice, if required, his life for the country, which he has said the number of times through his speeches.

The roots of Hindu politics can be traced to the Extremist camp of Indian National Congress. Indian National Congress was formed by a British Civil servant, Allan Octavian Hume, in December 1885, along with some educated elites (DadabhaiNaorji, DinshawWacha and Womesh Chandra Bannerjee) of India for their rights in British Government and administration. By 1905 there was a divide in INC: Moderates and Extremists, regarding the methods. Moderates like DadabhaiNaorji and Gopal Krishna Gokhale, who believed in constitutional means and worked within the framework of law and conveyed their disagreement to the British Raj through passing resolution and sending petition and appeal. On the other hand Extremists like BalGangadharTilak, LalLajpatRai, AurobindoGhosh believed in strong protest and boycott and need of a mass movement against the British and believed that British would not leave by making an appeal to them. Therefore, to attract the people, especially Hindus, they took refuge in Hindu Religion and to unite Hindu people BalGangadharTilak started Ganesh Jayanti and Shiv Jayanti.

The real Hindu-Vote bank politics commenced after the Partition of Bengal in 1905, on the line of Hindu and Muslim and formation of Muslim League or All India Muslim League in 1906 to safeguard the rights of Muslims. The Extremist camp of INC also felt that there should be a party which would specifically look after the Hindu rights, as they felt that Congress was ignoring Hindu rights, hence, LalaLajpatRai formed, Punjab Hindu Sabha, in 1909 and criticized the policies of Indian National Congress and failing to defend the Hindu Interest and demanded that Indian politics should be Hindu centric as Hindus are in majority. Punjab Hindu Sabha, which later on become, a full-fledged Hindu organization, Hindu Mahasabha, in 1921. But both, Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha failed to attract people because by then Mahatma Gandhi had arrived in India from South Africa and had joined the Moderate camp, led by Gokhale, of Indian National Congress and had appealed for Hindu-Muslim unity. KeshavBaliramHegdevar, a former Congressman, who was part of Extremist camp, led by BalGangadharTilak, of Indian National Congress and a member of Hindu Mahasabha

formed the RashtriyaSwayamsevakSangh (RSS) in 1925 to protect the Hindu Culture and Identity and to form a Hindu Rashtra by uniting all the Hindus. BhartiyaJanata Party (BJP) is a Political wing of RSS and Mr.Modi and many ministers of BhartiyaJanata Party are from the RSS.

Hindu-Vote Bank politics is not a new phenomenon in India. But, is there a Hindu-Vote as such in India? Yes, India is a Hindu dominated State where the majority of people follow the Hindu religion. But there are thousands of castes in Hindu religion and every caste vote accordingly, therefore people must consider themselves Hindu first, above their caste affinity and identity that is Hindu-Vote Bank and Hindu-Vote Bank unites all the people who are divided on the basis of several castes. BJP and INC both are upper caste Hindu parties but the BJP, very vociferously, self-claims that it is the only Party which fights for Hindu rights and Culture and for this reason they gave ticket, from Bhopal, to SadhviPragya Singh Thakur, who is, allegedly, an accuse in Malegaon Bomb blast, against Congress's Digvijay Singh, who, allegedly, have coined, as claimed by the BJP, the term 'Hindu Terror', to prove that BJP concerns about Hindu Identity and the sole protector of Hindu Culture. Although Hindus are in majority in India not all Hindus cast their vote to the BJP. There are many Caste based parties in India like BahujanSamaj Party (BSP), who fights for Dalit rights and Samajwadi Party (SP), who fights for Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), in Maharashtra, who fights for Marathas, a dominant caste in Maharashtra.

There are many parties in each state of India who fights for one or the other particular caste. All these people are Hindus and they cast their vote accordingly, therefore, there is a saying in India, "Indians cast their vote to their caste". The aim of BJP is to unite all these caste-divided Hindus, under the sole identity of Hindu, in which, it seems, they have succeeded. BJP has been successful to project INC as a party of Muslims by time and again questioning Rahul Gandhi, President of INC, and his decision to contest from Wayanad, Kerala, where Muslims and Christians are in majority and proving that INC does Muslim Vote Bank politics.

Mr Modi was successful in consolidating the caste divided Indian society under the name of Hindu identity and the following tables will prove this fact. People from various class, caste and areas have cast their vote in favour of Mr Modi.

In 2019 General Election (GE) BJP has Increased its vote share across all castes except the Muslims, where its vote share declined by 1% as compare to the 2014 GE.

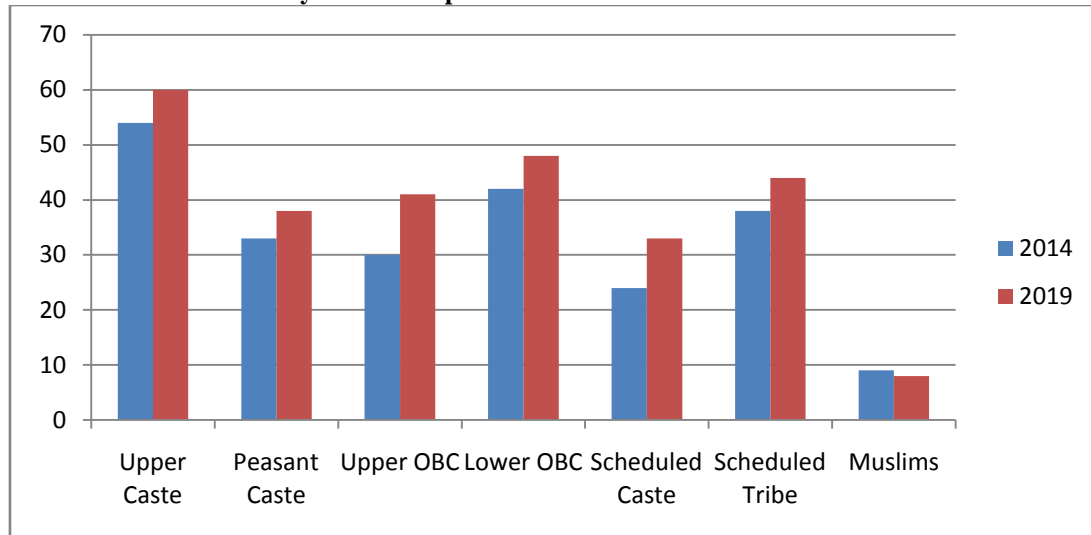


Table no. 1Source: National Election Study 2014 and 2019

(Peasant castes alike Jats, Marathas, Patels etc.the survey data is adjusted for the overall vote share of respective parties.)

BJP secured more votes in Rural India

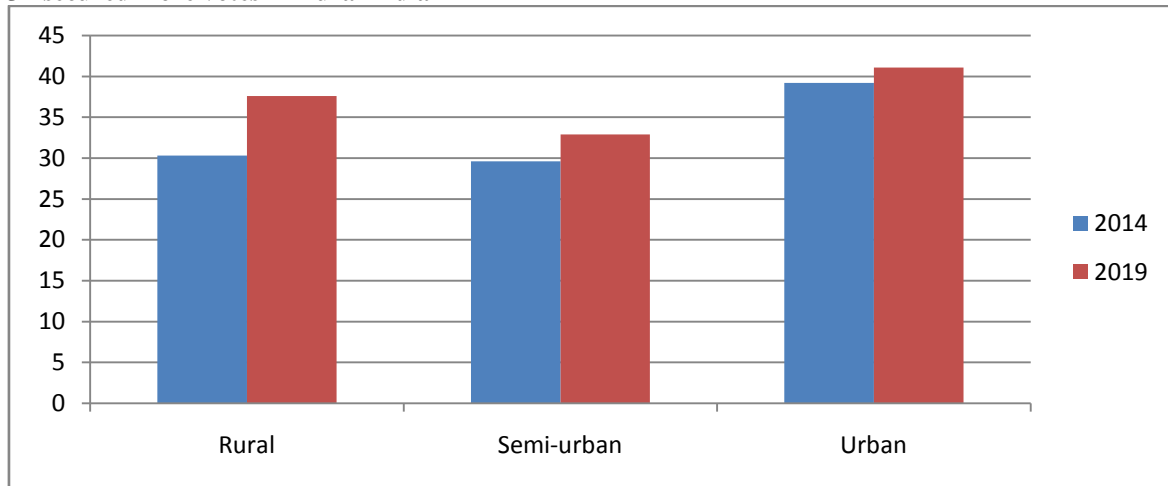


Table no. 2Source: Election Commission of India

(Seats with more than 75 % urban area and less than 25 urban area are classified as urban and rural respectively and the rest are semi-urban.)

BJP increased its vote share across economical classes but most among the poor.

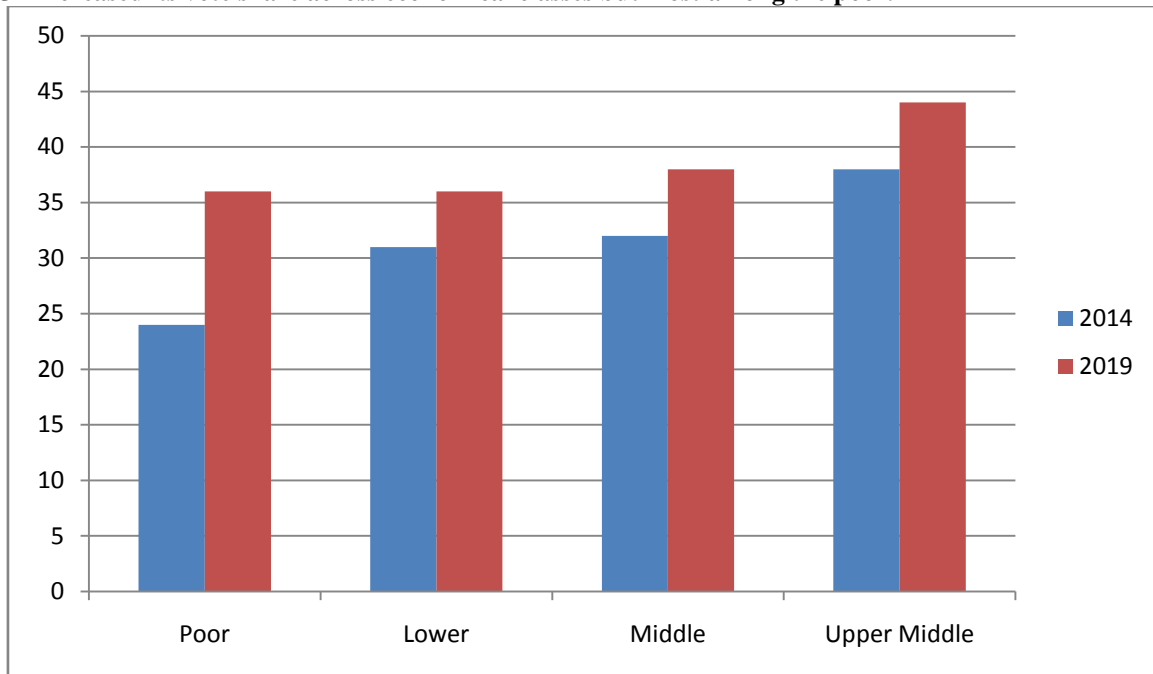


Table no. 3Source: National Election Survey 2014 and 2019

(The economic class categorization is based on a multi-dimensional (occupation, income, locality, and household assets) class index prepared by Lokniti-CSDS. The survey data is adjusted for the actual overall vote share of respective parties)

In some part, Mr.Modi was successful to attract the so-called Hindu Voters in 2019 General Election. Yes, it is also a fact that people, this time, have voted to Mr.Modi across the caste but this vote is not to a Hindu Leader. People had made up their mind that Five Years were not sufficient for Mr.Modi to deliver and therefore they have given him a full mandate for the second term. People knew that he did not do anything concrete and also acknowledged that there is a farmer’s distress, job is a big issue, economy is in shamble but people believed that Mr.Modi is a strong and only leader, currently in India, who can teach a lesson to Pakistan and he will deliver and therefore deserves a second chance.

II. CONCLUSION:

Indian voters mostly cast their vote on emotions and love for the leader and Mr.Modi is a darling of a large section of the population and they have voted him back just for their love for him knowing the fact that he has not delivered what he had promised in 2014.Mr.Modi's victory is because of his clean image, projection of strong leader, corruption-free government and belief among the electorate that he can deliver if given a second chance. Yes, Hindus have voted en masse for Mr.Modi for the development of the country not to create a Hindu Rashtra.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. <https://www.livemint.com/politics/news/where-did-the-bjp-get-its-votes-from-in-2019-1559547933995.html>
- [2]. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/hindu-mahasabha-the-waning-fringe-outfit-shouting-to-stay-politically-relevant-5563082/>
- [3]. <http://www.abhm.org.in/about.aspx>
- [4]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hindu_Mahasabha
- [5]. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/asia-and-africa/south-asian-history/congress-party>
- [6]. <http://rss.org/Encyc/2012/10/22/rss-vision-and-mission.html>

Kunal Nimbaji Wagh" Modi Rise and Consolidation of Hindu-Vote Bank" International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention (IJHSSI), vol. 08, no. 6, 2019, pp.51-54