



Golden Jubilee Year 2019-20 of
Department of Political Science

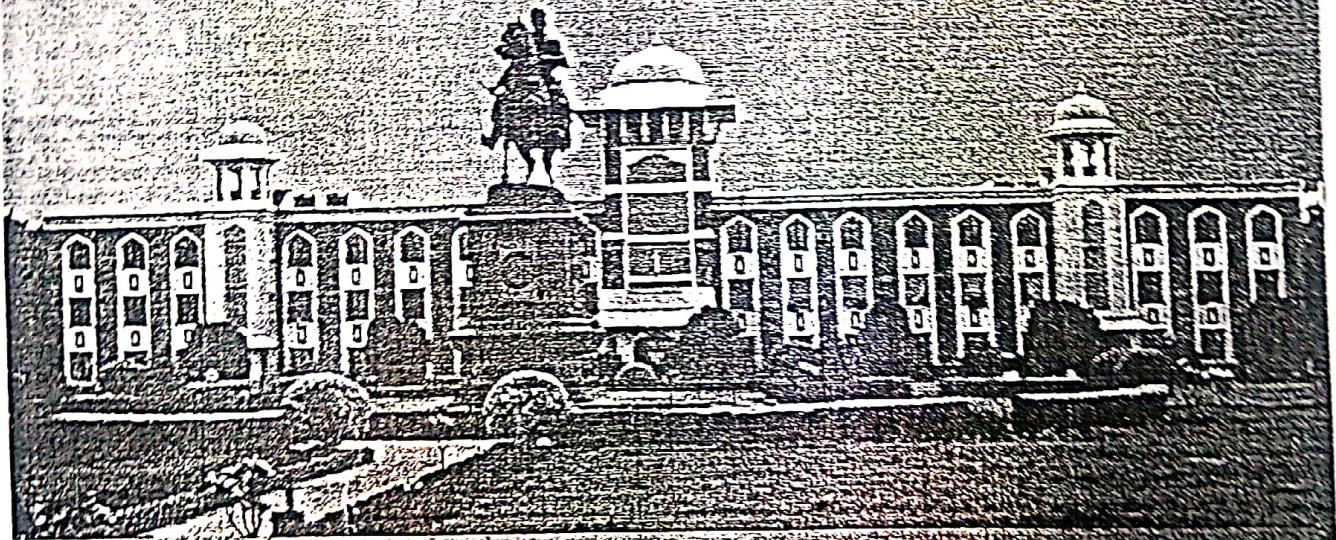
&
Shivaji University Political Science Association

Conference Proceeding of Two Days National Seminar

&
37th Maharashtra Political Science & Public Administration Conference

“Contemporary Issues in Political Science”

10th & 11th January 2020




Navyot
SOCIETY

ISSN-2277-8063

International Interdisciplinary research Journal
(Humanities, Social Sciences, languages, Commerce & Management)

Handwritten signature



Golden Jubilee Year 2019-20 of
Department of Political Science
&
Shivaji University Political Science Association
Conference Proceeding of Two Days National Seminar
&
37th Maharashtra Political Science & Public Administration Conference
“Contemporary Issues in Political Science”
10th & 11th January 2020

Editor
Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Bhanage
Head of Department,
Political Science, Shivaji University, Kolhapur



ISSN - 2277 - 8063

International Interdisciplinary research Journal
(Humanities, Social Sciences, languages, Commerce & Management)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Bhanage'.

Department of Political Science
Head of Department
(7th October 1970 to 11th January 2020)



Prof. N.D. Sakharikar
(Oct 1970 to April 1981)



Prof. (Dr.) K.K. Kaylekar
(May 1981 to Oct 1995)
(1 Nov 2001 to Oct 2004)



Prof. (Dr.) L.R. Tarodi
(1 Nov 1995 to 31 Oct 2001)
(1 Nov 2007 to 31 Oct 2008)



Prof. (Dr.) Ashok Chosalkar
(1 Nov 2004 to 31 Oct 2007)



Prof. (Dr.) Vasanti Rasam
(1 April 2010 to 31 March 2013)



Prof. (Dr.) Bharati Patil
(1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016)



Prof. (Dr.) Prakash Pawar
(1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019)



Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Bhanage
(1 April 2019 to till)

Electoral Politics In East Khandesh From 1990

Prof. Dr. Manish B. Sonawane, M.S.G.College, Malegaon.

Introduction :-

In Maharashtra as compare to the other Indian states, Congress party has maintained certain features, at local level in its development. These features are strong social base of the Maratha kunbi caste, Maintenance of economic aspirations of the agricultural magnets through the way of co-operative movement and mass based or Bahujanvadi politics. By means of the co-operatives and local self government institutions the congress party has supported its workers to represent the party, which resulted into the strong institutional support for the party. Through the Bahujanvadi politics it created ideological support for itself. Hence, in the moments of decline, the congress party has succeeded to maintained its stronghold in the state politics. No doubt, there was the strong political framework of the congress domination in the state politics, but it was not even. Its division wise unevenness was quite remarkable. With exception to the western Maharashtra, the politics of other Districts of another divisions like Khandesh, Marathwada, Vidarbha of the states have changed since 1978. However when the congress party in 1980 established its rule in the centre as well as in the state, the congress leadership started to neglect the political changes that has occurred in these regions. The congress leadership at the time has been looked out these political changes as the climax at the internal strife that has broken out in the congress party. But as the people of the region got strong political option in the form of the Sena-BJP Alliance, the mass base of the congress party started to decline rapidly.

The complete breakdown of the congress political domination in the state is neither an abrupt event nor the climax of state level politics. The state witnessed the landside defeat of the congress political domination in the state politics during 2014 and 2019 state assembly elections. Basically, the congress party domination survived due to the internal strifes between Shivsena-B.J.P. and the support of the districts of the western Maharashtra. But the districts like Jalgaon (East Khandesh) has already witnessed loss of the congress party's political domination. So, by studying the local political processes in these districts one can assess the current political events in the state level politics. It also helps to understand the uniqueness and the political, social, cultural facts of the district. It also extended chance to understand the mutual relations between local political process and state level politics. Therefore, the district level politics helps to understand the state and national level politics.

Generally all the scholars who have studied the political process in the state before 1995 have included the study of political scenario in the khandesh region (Jalgaon, Dhule districts) under the study of political process in Western Maharashtra. But as compare to Western Maharashtra the Khandesh has different and independent political, social and historical identity. Generally, any political process takes its shape in the unique socio-economic-cultural environment. So it becomes necessary to understand the Khandesh politics independently. After 1995 onwards, **Mr. Palshikar, Mr. Vohra** etc. stated to consider the politics in Khandesh with reference to the North Maharashtra, including Nashik district, in their psephological study. But inspite of this, the politics of Nashik district has largely remained identical with the politics of Western Maharashtra. Like Vidharbha, the economy of Jalgaon District (East Khandesh) is under the clutches of Non Marathi castes. e.g. Basically cotton growers agricultural castes like Maratha, Gujar, Leva, Rajput etc., but cotton mills owners are from Non Marathi castes. After the creation of the state of Maharashtra, state government had intentionally decided to encourage the policy of co-operative

movement, which helped the political leaders in Western Maharashtra to establish their control over the politics and economic affairs. But on the contrary, the co-operative movement failed to grow in the Jalgaon district. On account of their numbers the Maratha elite class has needed to establish their political domination but unlike the Maratha leaders of Western Maharashtra they failed to establish their control on the economic domain of the district.

- 1- The Marathas in the East Khandesh have remained politically successful but it is not as the 'Dominant caste'.
- 2- In the East Khandesh the Leva Patils are the another important agriculture caste economically sound and the main political competitor of the Marathas. In the Western Maharashtra, the Maratha elite class has competed with their own. But Jalgaon district has no such parallels. The Leva's have equally contributed to the political power, as the Maratha Kunbi caste has, other than the Leva the Gujjar, Mali, Koli, Rajput are the castes who also enjoy their influence in the politics of the Jalgaon district. All, the politics of the Jalgaon district is multi caste in nature.

Extension of BJP'and decline of congress of East Khandesh after 1990 onwards.

Once upon time the East Khandesh enjoyed a fame of congress dominated district. But it fell drastically after 1990. Whereas BJP with its domination on the local self institutional politics, by making alliance with the Shivsena and through social engineering has successfully extend its popular base. On one hand, since 1999 with the exception of one Loksabha election, both Loksabha constituencies of the Jalgaon district are in the hands of BJP, with 64% of success in the state assembly elections from 1990. While the congress party could not succeed even on one seat of Loksabha after 1996 assembly seat after 2004. In 1990 congress candidates were in seven assembly constituencies with 36.19% votes in the district. But in 2014 , ten (out of 11) congress candidates have even to keep its election deposit safe. The average voting percentage of congress was 18.74%, while for B.J.P. was 21.75 % in the assembly elections from 1990 to 2014 in the district.

sharp rise in the political participation of OBCs

Basically the congress politics in Jalgaon district was moved around Maratha-Kunbi & Leva caste, on account of which Other Backward Communities (O.B.C.) would not get sufficient opportunities up to 1980s. Leva & Maratha were already enjoying power along with the Maratha Kunbis, so they were not taken in to account. But instead, for the sake of O.B.C.s got opportunity for the first time. Afterwards, in the decade of 1980 through Janta Dal, Shetkari Sanghatna O.B.C.s got leading vote to play. But instead of direct participation in the election, the Shetkari Sanghatna have extended its support to Sharad Pawar's P.L.D. front (Progressive Democratic Dal) which failed to cater the political aspirations of the O.B.C.s. But in the political domination that established in the district after 1990. OBC MLAs has raised by 11.60% as compare to before 1990. Through the B.J.P. Shivsena alliance the OBC castes has been enjoying the opportunities. During the period 1990 to 2014 there were 17 OBC MLAs were elected out of which twelve (70.59%) were belonged to Sena-BJP alliance. In all, the Jalgaon district politics witnessed, through the way of alliance, the rise in influence of the OBC castes. The Shivsena, in its total, has 50% of the MLA belonged to the OBC castes like as Gujar, Mali, Rajput. The congress, no doubt, have tried to represent through the OBC castes like Rajput, Gujar, whereas the NCP through the Mali, Teli, but it without continuity. Both Congress alliance partners have failed to acknowledge the political aspirations of OBCs. But it is beyond doubt that after 1990, whatever the political dominance that established by the Sena-BJP alliance, the role of the OBC castes has special important.

Decline of the congress bring down the Maratha representation

Since the beginning, the politics in the Jalgaon district was not the politics of the Maratha domination because the Leva caste has been remained the most powerful caste in the district politics. It exploited the power, since the beginning, as the Marathas did. But in the eighties, due to the insufficient opportunities of representation from the congress, it has been started to emphasized an agricultural problems and raised their political rows through the Socialists, Janta Dal, etc. the Maratha elite class on the other hand, by the way of Uttamrao Patil, the Jansanghha have succeeded to entered itself in the politics of western part of the district. But 1990 onwards rising internal factional politics, during every election in the district, leads to internal rebellion in the congress as well as the constituencies of western region of the district. After the entry of alliance coalition approach. The politics in the region become uncertain..

But in the year 1999, on account of the establishment of the N.C.P., which proved as great divide in the voting pattern, of the congress party and N.C.P., ultimately severely eroded the Maratha elite domination. But as various fronts with the congress party came into existence, the Maratha leaders, through the N.C.P., got an opportunity to comeback. The 2014 elections proved as disaster for the Maratha domination in the district politics. As both the congress parties decided to contest independently, the number of Maratha M.L.A.s after 2004, the eastern region has failed to elect single Maratha M.L.A., Now a days district has four legislative constituencies that, after 1990, would not elected a single Maratha M.L.A. but the only two constituencies that elected only two Maratha M.L.A.s.

The Eastern and the Western part of the East Khandesh are under the political dominance of Leva and Maratha caste respectively.

Upto the year 1990, the eastern part of the district had extended its strong support to the congress party. The Levas were very important in this support. Before 1990, the Leva M.L.A.s were elected on behalf of the congress party in the Jalgaon district. But after 1990 they are about 53 % of the B.J.P. The Levas who were the strong supporters of the congress party in the eastern part of the district before 1990, they turned and continued as the strong supports of the B.J.P. after 1990. During 1962 to 1985 assembly elections the percentage of the Leva M.L.A.s in the eastern part was 41.67% it reached to 50% after 1990. It means that, half of the MLAs are belonged to the Leva caste in the eastern part of the district. And hence, it is proved that this region is under the political domination of the Leva caste.

In the western part of the district, the politics is in the hands of the Marathas which has been proved by different election verdicts. It is still continued today. In this region the Maratha elites has been remained their own competitors, on account of which, the western region remain politically more unstable as compare to the east. The main reason behind this is that the Maratha elite class represented in all the political parties. Before 1990 the percentage of Maratha M.L.A.s was 66.67% which declined up to 50% in the period 1990 to 2014. But even today the western part of the district politics under the Maratha elite class.

Conclusions:-

1. B.J.P. established its dominance in the politics of East Khandesh after 1990.
2. The politics of the eastern part of the district has dominated by Leva caste and in the western part of the district are under the dominance of the Maratha caste. So, Maratha & Leva castes have become chief conductor of hidutva and succeeded in maintain their dominance in the politics of East Khandesh even after 1990.

3. The district politics have turned single party dominance into multiparty Politics after 1990.
4. Even today, the eastern part of East Khandesh, the agriculturists continued their domination on the other hand, agricultural castes are losing their hold on the politics of western part of region.
5. Role of the assembly elections have played the major role in the political transformation of the politics of East Khandesh.

References:-

- 1- **B.S.Baviskar**- Pikhod In 1930's; April (2012-13) Sociological Bulletin Vol.61 No.2 (May-Aug. 2012-13)
- 2- **Harsh Jagzap** - Land, Caste, Political Power :A case study of Jalgaon District M.Phil Thesis (Unpublished) Pune University, Pune 1993
- 3- **Deshpande Rajeshwari** - Caste Association in the post - Mandal Era, C.A.S. Department of Politics ,University of Pune, 2010.
- 4- **Jain Ashok** - four General Election in India with Special Reference to Maharashtra Politics (Ph.D. thesis Unpublished), Pune University, Pune 1991.
- 5- **Kothari Rajni** - Politics & the People in search of a Human India volume II, Ajanta books International Delhi,1989.
- 6- **Lele Jayant**-Elite Pluralism & Class Rule Political Development In Maharashtra. Bombay Popuar Prakashan 1982.
- 7- **Pawar Prakash, Lele Jayant** - Yashwantrao Chavan Reflects on India society & Politics, Daimand Publications 2015, Pune.
- 8- **Vora Rajendra, Palshikar Suhas, Sumant Yashwant** - A Study of the sixth Loksabha Election ICSSR Project, Department of Political Science & Public Administration Pune university of Pune.

hsl