



## **The Electoral Reforms in India – Issues and Challenges**

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### **Abstract:**

Indian has the distinction of being the largest democracy of the world. Elections are the most important and integral part of politics in a democratic system of governance. The election System in India is a basic foundation for our successful democracy. The election commission in India is a statutory body which is having the responsibility of conducting elections in state level as in central elections. The election system is not only seen in India, it can be seen in all countries of the world. The election system also decides the successful running of the government also. Even though, it is a traditional system in India, still it is has applied many changes it itself, and now it is a most developed progressive system in India. The election system in India, has many features like adult franchise, reservation in constituencies, nomination system etc. Our election system in India is very strong administrative machinery which conducts elections in periodic wise.

**Key Words:** Democracy, Elections, Electoral Reforms, Politics, Communalism etc.

### **Issues in Indian Electoral Politic's :**

We need to understand the certain to electoral reforms , to make qualitative improvement in legislature level ,to provide for political stability ,is very much threatened due to the ear of coalition government to promote values like democracy ,secularism, morality, non-violence e t c, the major defects which come in the path of electoral system in India are money power, muscle power, criminalization of politics, corruption, castes, and communalism.

A democratic system means peoples participation in governance. Elections are the important means of politics. The present election are not being hold in ideal conditions because of the enormous amount of money required to be spent

and large muscle power needed for the winning elections. In addition there are many other factors which influences on the process of electoral system in India.

**Money power-** Money plays a central role in elections now days, elections is an expensive affair in every democratic polity which places a more role in India.

**Muscle power** – Muscle power and domination are another issue in Indian electoral system. Booth capturing rigging , scaring the voters and also polling staff, during and after election in different form of muscle power.

**Criminalization of politics** - Another important factor is raising criminalization of politics is one of the most serious issues in our present politics



system. Perhaps the most alarming them is the significant number of elected representative with criminal charges pending against them.

**Castism** - Cast is a major issue for the Indian political system, cast plays an important role in Indian society and well visible in elections, castes leading strong their particular political parties.

**Communalism** -The emergence of India as a "secular" state, the politics of communalism and religious fundamentalism during post independence has led to a member of separate movements in various states and regions of country.

**Lake of moral values in politics** – There has been very sharp erosion in the ideological orientation of political parties, Gandhi values of selfishness service to the people and self sacrifice destroyed systematically over the years and both the politicians and political parties have lost their credibility.

#### **Electoral reforms in India**

Electoral reforms are necessary to ensure free and fair elections in India. The reports of various election reform commissions and a number of formal informal group discussions at various forums and by individuals have categorically pointed out the defects in electoral system. However government has accepted recommendations of many commission reports only partially . Some of the important committee's are-

- The joint parliamentary committee on amendments to election law 1971-72,

- The Tarkunde committee report of 1975,
- The Goswami committee report of 1990
- The constitution bill 1994 and the representation of the people(second amendment bill),
- The election commission's recommendation in 1998 Indrajit Gupta committee report of 1998.
- The law commission report of 1999
- National review commission 2000 e t c, produced comprehensive set of recommendations regarding electoral reforms.

The election commission has taken several new initiatives in the past as a use of state owned electronic media for broadcast or telecast by political parties providing with electoral identify cards, introducing e v m, streamlining the procedure for registration of political parties and requiring them to hold regular organizational elections, a variety of measures of strict compliance of modal code of conduct for providing a level playing field to contestants during the elections and so on. In India the election commission has established a set of guidelines know as the model code of conduct the must be obeyed by political parties and candidates in the run to an election.

**Nota-** (None Of Above) Was Used For The First Time In Assembly Elections Held In Five State In 2003.The Option Was Introduced In The Electronic Voting Machines In India After The Landmark Judgment Delivered By The Supreme Court In India –In Peoples Union For Civil Liberties V/S Union On India Case



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**Conclusion:**

Every system consists of merits and demerit, reform is not single time but a continuous process

The election commission has conducted a number of laudable electoral reforms to strengthen democracy and enhance the fairness of election. These reforms are quite adequate and admirable. The election machinery under the aegis of the election commission. Deserves credit for conducting election in free and fair manner. However our system is still plagued by many vices. So thought the election commission is doing its duty this regard but it cannot succeed unless all political parties and voters realize their responsibility.

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