

ACCST Research Journal

ISSN 0972-7779

Volume -XXIV, No. 3, July 2026

Journal website: <https://internationaljournalsiwan.com/research-journals.php>

ORCID Link: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-6661-0289>

International Impact Factor: **8.625** <https://impactfactorservice.com/home/journal/2297>

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=KJ4eXesAAAAJ&hl=en>

Refereed and Peer-Reviewed Quarterly Journal



Student Political Participation - A Study

by **N. Balakrishnan**, *Associate Professor,*

P.G. Department of Political Science,

Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya,

Sri Vijaya Puram-744101, South Andaman, India

Email: bkr0704@gmail.com

(Received: June 16, 2026; Accepted: July 2, 2026; Published Online: July 31, 2026)

Introduction:

The word participation carries many definitions. Some of them stress participation in local institution level. Generally political participation means to take part in political activity. The participation was not a new idea. Thinkers like Aristotle also in his philosophy underline the importance of participation in public affairs. Political participation is a basic concept in political science and scholars define the concept in different ways. It may be defined as the actions of private citizens seeking to influence or support Government and politics. Milbrath and Goel uphold that this is a relatively broad definition since it also includes ceremonial and supports activities. In the discussion on political concept participation scholars often try to explain human behavior as it relates to the political culture have a significant impact on individual political behavior. Still, many scholars believe that at a basic level people follow the same behavioral laws irrespective of the culture they live in.

[1]

Need for the Study:

The basic structure of the tribal society shoulders responsibility to the youths at an early age, there by inducting them into the affairs of the society. The tradition of mobilizing youths at an early age, in the social and political affairs continued, and with the introduction of modern participatory democratic institutions, it opened more scope for them to participate in the political activities. People have always been a subject of great concern for the political parties, especially during elections as these parties always try to mobilize people's and sought their support and assistance in political campaigns and related activities.

The Statement of Problem:

In modern state political participation is unavoidable for people to know their responsibility and duties in the political development. The concept of political participation acquires more importance in Sri Vijaya Puram, South Andaman. Hence, the present study aims at investigating the Political Participation in this study area.

Objectives of the Study:

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To discuss the concept of Political Participation
- To know the demographic background and factors leads for Political Activity
- To study the respondents Political Participation in the selected area of study
- To offer suggestion if any for the Political Participation

Profile of the Study:

In Andaman & Nicobar Islands there are 3 districts. It is located in the Bay of Bengal. Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair old name) the capital of the Union Territory is the district headquarters. South Andaman has a sex ratio of 874 females for every 1000 males. The literacy rate is 88.49%. In these islands three general higher educational institutions are there, namely Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya, Andaman College and Mahatma Gandhi Government College.

Sampling Framework of the Study:

Sample for the research work drawn from different subject background of recently graduated respondents with the following sampling procedure. There are 100 respondents were taken as a sample for the study in the Sri Vijaya Puram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The survey was carried out and 100 respondents were selected on simple random basis. The special care was given to young graduated students from higher educational institutions in Sri Vijaya Puram.

Sources of Data:

The primary source of data obtained through first-hand information in the field area. The secondary source of data collected from the books, journals, magazines, and electronic media. They were referred to frame the theoretical work of the study and the review of literature.

Construct Development of the Study:

The present study is completely based on the primary data collected from the respondents in South Andaman district. A special care was taken to draft the questionnaire. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. The first part of questionnaire includes the demographic profile of respondents. They are Gender, Age, Educational Qualification, Marital Status, Religion and Languages. The second part of the questionnaire consists of Political Participation of the respondents.

Descriptive Analysis:

Descriptive analysis is an important tool used to assess the Political Participation of the respondents in Sri Vijaya Puram. As it is expressed in percentage, it facilitates comparison. This analysis is carried out on Political Participation.

Limitations of the Study:

The study was subject to limitation that the survey method followed to get the information only from graduated respondents in Sri Vijaya Puram. So the study reflects the opinion and views of the respondents on political participation.

Lester Milbrath (1965) Wrote “Political Participation: How Do People Get Involved in Politics” is an effort to identify the leading generalizations concerning why people engage in a variety of political activities. It is an attempt to organize these propositions according to a theoretical matrix. Philip G Altbach’s (1968) work entitled Students politics in Bombay made an attempt to trace the development of student movements in Bombay. In this work historical development of the student politics has been provided starting from 1850 to 1947.

According to Mandanlal Goel (1974) “Participation in a Developing Nations: India”, Stated general issues like: what kind of people are likely to participate in politics in India? How does political party vary across major socio-economic and psychological groups? What factors influence such political behavior as voting, discussing politics, attending political rallies and contacting officials? The Work of Oommen T K (1974) Student Politics in India: A Case study of Delhi University have written about the institutional context in which student politics takes place, the process of recruitment of leaders and their socio-economic background. Veena Mazumdar (ed.) (1979) in her book “Symbols of Power”, is a pioneering work on women’s electoral and political participation in India.

Hazary S C (1987) in his work Student Politics in India: A study of Ravenshaw College discussed on the importance of study of student politics, characteristic and typology of student and Student politics in different social background. Upreti Harish Chandra (1987) in his work Youth politics in India attempted to study and understand the University students as they have been by and large the center of attraction on wider political circles at various levels and their involvement in politics get sympathy and support from different political parties. Pascal Malngiang (1994) explained in his book Students and politics in Meghalaya analyzed the role different students “organizations existing in the State of Meghalaya. The author specifically narrated the various issues taken up by the student organizations and the pressure tactics used by them in order to accomplish their demands.

Deka Meeta’s (1996) study in Student Movements in Assam is the attempt to understand the student movements in Assam, covering a time-span of over a century, 1853-1985. Syed Ali Rashid (1997) in his work Culture of Student Politics studies the changing process of political mobilization in the post-independence period, with special reference to the student groups. Banerjee Anirban’s (1998)

work Exploring student politics is a collection of four critical essays on student politics: A Comparative perspective”, an attempt made to understand some of the major characteristics of student activity and the factors leading to student power movements. Dutta S (1998) Student Movement in Arunachal Pradesh, has detail study of the historical evolution of the student movement in Arunachal Pradesh specially that of AAPSU.

Baruah Apurba K (2002) entitled book Student Power in North East India is a collection of articles covering the various student’s movements in the North East region. The book in common tries to understand the role of student organizations and their political role in the region. Kumar Sanjay (2012) in his work Indian Youth and Politics: An emerging engagement outlined the socio-economic profile of youth parliamentarians in India. The study is undertaken by the Center for the Study of Developing Societies keeping in view the importance of youth as a demographic category. Kazeem Ajasa Badaru et al. (2021) paper was an attempt to make intellectual and scholarly inputs into the body of literature on the role of political awareness towards participation in partisan activities. The authors have made arguments to support the fact that university students are the future leaders for the continuation of the nation’s democratic politics.

Demography background of the Respondents:

In the present study the age group from 20-21 the female respondents were more than male i.e. 33 female and male 23 out of 100 respondents. Both male and female respondents were equally participated to express their opinion with political interest. The more respondents were from majority religion. The respondents spoke different languages in this study area. Among them Bengali Speaking people were more i.e. 38 out of 100 respondents followed by Tamil Language, Hindi and Telugu i.e. 18, 15 and 13 respectively. The most of the respondents were unmarried i.e. 98 out of 100. The respondents were completed graduation in different subjects i.e. Hindi, English, Bengali, Political Science, Geography, Chemistry, Botany, Computer Application and Commerce. During the time of survey the respondents were PG students. The respondents from Political Science subject showed a lot of interest to provide information.

Interpretation of the present Study:

The respondents 29% were voted in the parliament election followed by 24% in Gram Panchayat election and 11% in municipal election. Only 20% respondents were participated in the election campaign. The 87% of the respondents supported secular characteristic of political party. The 8% of the respondents were in favor of language based politics during the time of election. Nearly 81% respondents were seen the member of parliament of Andaman Nicobar Islands. The 16% respondents in the selected area not accepted the educational qualification for candidate to contest election. The respondents 93% were familiar to political party simple. The 25% respondents knew the full form of NOTA. The respondents 10% were not in favor of 33% reservation for women in the legislature. The respondents 18% were not supported for voluntary voting in the election.

Findings:

The research work indicated that the respondents 96% from the age group 20-23. All the respondents were completed UG degree. The most of the respondents were from Bengali language. In the study area the respondents 75% were cast their vote generally in any election at the same time the respondent 25% not voted even any elections. The respondents 80% were not interested to participate in election campaign. It was surprise to note that in the study area the respondents 13% in favor of rightist Party. The 92% of the respondents did not want to prefer language to elect the candidate in any election and they only concern with party interest. The respondents 19% were not yet seen the MP of this region. The respondents 84% were agreed that the contesting candidate at least possess the education qualification. Party symbol plays greater role in the voting stage the respondents 17% were not aware of any party symbol. The respondents 75% were not known about the full form of NOTA. The respondents 76% were expressed their view to support the 33% reservation for women in the legislature and the respondents 06% were not informed properly. The excise of political rights, the respondents 82% were supported for compulsory voting system in the election.

Conclusion:

The entire study revealed that the political participation of respondents attitude in participation. They also shown less interest in language based participation. The overall study denotes democratic principles awareness of the respondents and their high level political participation.

References:

1. Altbach, G. Philip (ed.) : “Student Politics and Higher Learning in India”, Vol. 97, No. 1, 1968.
2. Banerjee Anirban : Exploring student politics, Manasi Banerjee, West Bengal, 1998.
3. Baruah Kumar Apurba, (ed.) : Student Power in North East India, Regency Publications, New Delhi, 2002.
4. Deka Meeta : Student Movements in Assam, Vikas Publishing House, Bangalore, 1996.
5. Dutta S. (1998) : “Student Movement in Arunachal Pradesh”, Himalayan Publishers, Itanagar.
6. Goel Madan Lal (1974) : “Political Participation in a Developing Nation: India”, Asia Publishing House, Bombay.
7. Hazary Subas Chandra : Student Politics in India: A Study of Ravenshaw College, Ashish Publishing House, New Delhi, 1987.
8. Kazeem Ajasa Badaru et al. (2021) : “The Political Awareness and Participation of University Students in post-Apartheid South Africa”, Research in Social Sciences and Technology, Volume 6, Issue 3, P. 1.
9. Kumar Sanjay (ed.) : Indian Youth and Electoral Politics- An Emerging Engagement, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2014.
10. Malngiang Pascal : Students and politics in Meghalaya, Seven Huts Enterprise, Shillong, 1994.

11. Milbrath Lester (1965) : “Political Participation: How Do People Get Involved in Politics”, Chicago: Rand McNally & Company.
12. Oommen T.K. : “Student Politics in India: A Case study of Delhi University”, Asian Survey, Vol. 14, No. 9, California, 1974.
13. Syed Ali Rashid : Culture of Student Politics, Inter India Publications, New Delhi, 1997.
14. Upreti Chandra Harish : Youth politics in India, Rupa Books International, Jaipur, 1987.
15. Veena Mazumdar (ed.) (1979) : “Symbols of Power”, is a pioneering Work on women’s electoral and political participation in India.