

CHAPTER - VII

ANALYSIS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

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C H A P T E R - V I I
ANALYSIS OF
POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The political awareness among the workers from the two mills is reviewed in the preceding chapter. Political awareness motivates political participation of an individual. Therefore, an attempt is made to assess the level of political participation of the workers on the basis of their responses to the relevant questions included in the questionnaire.

In all 13 questions are direct related to the political participation. These questions were about participation in trade union activities, participation as voter, participation as a knowledgeable individual, participation in the activities of political parties. These activities indicating political participation are classified into three categories such as elementary, medium and fairly advance levels of political participation. On this basis the responses of the workers to the queries are analysed below.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION - ELEMENTARY LEVEL : -

Political activities such as membership of a Trade Union, voting at the time of the election and attending a meeting of a political party are treated here as political participation at the elementary level.

1. Membership of a Trade Union : -

Labour union is one of the important pressure groups, which tries to influence the industrialists and government to change their policy and implementation. In the city there are different labour unions working. But in these two mills only one labour union is working and i.e. Rashtriya Girani Kamgar Sangh. All workers of these two mills are members of this trade union. Thus this elementary type of participation is very satisfactory.

Attending meeting of political party : -

A person attends a meeting of political party generally indicates his political awareness and inclination towards political participation of elementary level. According to Milbrath's hierarchical order of political participation it falls under Gladiatorial activity¹ about 1/3 of the respondents are attended political meetings (41% , 31 %). It shows

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that this type of political participation is restricted to less than half of the respondents. This also points out the rest of the respondents were not inclined to such meetings. (vide table 41).

Table 41 : Table showing number of respondents who attend the political meetings.

Respondents who attend public meetings.	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of res-pondents.	Percent-age.	No.of res-pondents.	Percent-age
Who attended public meetings.	51	41	23	31
Who do not attend public meetings.	74	59	52	69
Total	125	100	75	100

VOTING : - In democracy right to vote is a vital political right. The exercise of this right shows political participation of the individual.

About 93 % of the respondents voted at the last general election. They vote generally at all the elections. It indicates that these workers took active interest in this activity of political participation (vide table 42).

Table 42: Classification of the respondents according to the political party for which they have registered vote.

Name of the Political parties	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No. of respondents.	Percentage	No. of respondents	Percentage
1. Bharatiya Janata Party	18	14	32	42
2. Congress (I)	80	64	26	35
3. Independent	02	02	-	-
4. Janata Party	13	10	03	04
5. Shivasena	01	01	03	04
6. Communist party of India	01	01	02	03
7. Not revealing	01	01	04	05
8. Who did not vote	09	07	05	07
Total	125	100	75	100

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF MIDDLE LEVEL : -

The activities like becoming a members of a political party, giving subscription to the political party, collecting donations for a political party, taking initiative in propaganda of political party, delivering lectures in / ^{favour} of a political party, writing articles on political matters etc., can be described as political participation of middle level. This type of participation requires more political awareness and more active participation than these of elementary one.

Membership of Political Party : -

Political party is one of the means of political participation securing membership of a political party is a kind of political participation of middle level. About 1/4th of the respondents are the members of the political party (22%, 12%). This activity shows their active participation in politics. (See Table 43).

Table 43 : Table showing the classification of respondents who are the members of the political parties.

Member of Political party	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No. of Respondents.	Percentage	No. of respondents	Percentage
1. Members of Political party	28	22	9	12
2 No members of Political party	97	78	66	88
Total	125	100	75	100

Paying subscription to a political Party : -

The political party requires finance to carry on its activities. The money can be raised by collecting donations from the people and collecting subscription from its members. Thus paying subscription to political party is a kind of active participation in politics. Therefore, it is a xxx participation of middle level. About 1/4th of the respondents are paying subscription to the political parties (24%, 8%). This shows their more active level of political participation. (See table 44).

Table 44: Classification of respondents who pay subscription for their political party.

Respondents	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Res-pondents	Percent-age	No.of Res-pondents	Percent-age
Who pay Subscription	30	24	06	08
Who do not pay sub- scription	95	76	69	92
TOTAL	125	100	75	100

Collecting Donations for a political party : -

A political party can raise money for doing its work. Thus collecting donations for the political party is a kind of active level of political participation.

About 1/4th of the respondents are interested in collecting donations for the political party. Such type of activity requires to spend more time and energy. Therefore, such type of activity is a middle level of political participation. (See table 45).

Table 45 : Collecting donations for the Political Party.

Kind	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent-age	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent-age
Collecting donation	13	10	02	03
Not collecting donation	112	90	73	97
Total	125	100	75	100

Convassing for a particular political party : -

Convassing for a political party requires more interest and time. Therefore, it is a middle level of political participation. About 1/4th of the respondents are interested in convassing political party. This shows their greater interest towards the political participation (See table 46).

Table 46 : The classification of the respondents according to the political party for which they have made propoganda.

Name of the Political party.	Yeshwant-Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Res-pondents	Percent-age	No.of Res-pondents	Percent-age
Congress (I)	37	30	11	15
Bharatiya Janata Party	15	12	08	10
No.of respondents who have not made propoganda	73	58	56	75
Total	125	100	75	100

Delivering Speeches : -

Delivering speeches on political nature requires study and active participation in political activity termed as middle level political participation. As the respondents are workers, it seems that generally they do not possess an interest and ability to deliver lectures. In this case just 2 or 3 respondents participated in this type of activity.

Writing articles on political matters : -

Writing articles on political matters is a kind of active participation in politics. It requires special knowledge. About 2 % of the respondents have written articles on political matters. This shows their higher level of political participation. (vide table 47).

Table 47 : Respondents who had written articles on Politics.

Persons	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent-age.	No.of res-pondents.	Percent-age
Who had written articles	02	02	01	01
Who had not written article	123	98	74	99
Total	125	100	75	100

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF ADVANCE LEVEL : -

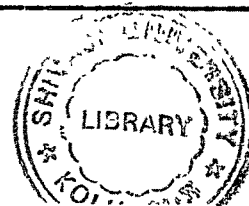
The activities like contesting an election to the directorship of a co-operative credit society, to become a labour representative, to canvass for a particular candidate at the time of election and contesting an election as a member of local government, State Legislature etc., are termed here as political participation of advance level. As this type of participation requires more political awareness and more active participation from those of the middle level one.

Contesting an election for directorship of society : -

There are credit society of the workers in these two mills. The percentage of the respondents to undertake this type of political participation is very low. It was found to be (9%, 4%) respectively in two mills (vide table No.48)

Table 48 : Respondents who have contested election for the directorship of the cooperative credit society.

Respondents	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No. of Respondents	Percentage	No. of Respondents.	Percentage
Who contested the election	11	09	03	04
Who have not contested election	114	91	72	96
Total	125	100	75	100



Workers' representative in the management : -

There is a legal provision that there should be two representatives of the workers on the Board of Directors of the company. The representative is nominated by the recognised trade union. To become such a director is a type of active political participation. Out of these respondents two workers are member of the Board of Directors. As these seats are just two and they are allotted in a way to the recognised trade union. So there is limited scope for the workers to become such a director.

However to get nominated as a director requires a very active participation in the trade union ^{activities} and knowledge of the mill. Thus these two respondents could become the directors.

Canvassing for a candidate : -

Canvassing for a candidate at the time of general election is a sort of political participations of advance level. One has to spend time and engages on this activity. 1/4th of the respondents participated in this political activity. This is a fair level of active political participation(vide table 49).

Table 49 : Respondents who have made propaganda for a candidate in the election.

Kind	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent-age.	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent-age
The respondents who have made propaganda	40	32	15	20
The respondents who have not made - propaganda	85	68	60	80
Total	125	100	75	100

Contesting election at the general election :

To contest an election to a seat in the local government can be deemed as political participation of advance level. Respondents from this mill contested an election to the Solapur Municipal Corporation. But no respondent from the other mill contested the election. This shows a fairly satisfactory political participation of this type (See table 50)

Table 50 : Respondents who contested in the general election:

Kind	Yeshwant Mill		Solapur Mill	
	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent- age	No.of Res-pondents.	Percent age
Who contested in the election.	03	02	-	-
Who have not contested in the Election	122	98	75	100
Total	125	100	75	100

Conclusion : -

The level of participation of the workers in various activities can be termed as satisfactory. In the activities such as delivering speeches and writing articles their level of participation is low. This is quite natural in the case of workers whose educational qualification is not quite adequate for undertaking these activities.

The 4th part of the questionnaire includes questions pertaining to political participation. In all 14 questions were put to the respondents for eliciting information about their level of political participation. These questions are grouped into three categories for grading their political participation. These categories are as below:-

1. Political participation - elementary level,
2. Political participation - middle level,
3. Political participation - advance level.

In case of political awareness almost every adult individual is expected to know something about political event issues and developments, therefore, for gauging their political awareness, certain categories can be formulated. In case of political participation of individuals every individual adult citizen is not expected to participate actively in the political process, except voting. Therefore, for ascertaining a level of political participation the categories and percentages used for ascertaining a level of political awareness cannot be used in toto. Because of this for finding out the categories expected percentages

are lowered down. The political participation could be classified as below:-

Sr.No.	Percent	Grade
1	Less than 5	Unsatisfactory
2	6 to 10	Satisfactory
3	11 to 15	Very Satisfactory
4	16 to 20	Good
5	21 and above	Very good.

Political Participation - Elementary Level :- -

Membership of the Trade Union : -

All the respondents are the members of one and sole trade union. This kind of participation is cent per cent. Therefore in this case participation is described as excellent.

Attending political meetings : -

About 36 % of the respondents used to attend political meetings. On this count their political participation can be termed as very good.

Casting Vote : -

About 89 % of the respondents cast their vote in the last general election. Therefore in this case the political

participation can be termed as excellent.

The conclusions can be summarised with the help of the table given below : -

S.N.	Kind of Participation	Per cent	Grade
1	Membership of the Trade Union	100	Very good
2	Attending political meeting	36	Very good
3	Casting vote	89	Very good

About 75 % is the average per cent of political participation of the respondents. Therefore political participation elementary level can be described as very good.

Political Participation : Middle Level : -

Membership of Political Party : -

About 18 % of the respondents are members of one or other political party. Therefore on this count political participation can be termed as good.

Paying Subscription to a Political Party : -

About 18 % of the respondents are paying subscription to a political party regularly. Therefore in this case their political participation may be described as good.

Collecting donations for the political party : -

About 20 % respondents collected donations for the political parties. Therefore in this case their political

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participation can be said as good.

Canvassing for a political party : -

About 35 % of the respondents are involved in canvassing in favour of a political party. In this case their political participation can be called as very good. It is quite encouraging.

Delivering speeches and writing articles on political Matters:-

About 5 % of the respondents delivered speeches and about 2 % of the respondents wrote articles on political matters. On this count the political participation can be termed as unsatisfactory. This level of political participation is very low. It is quite natural on the part of the workers as they are not groomed for undertaking these activities.

The above conclusions can be summarised with the help of the table given below : -

Political Participation - Middle Level

S.No.	Kind of Participation	Per cent	Grade
1.	Membership of the Political Party	18	Good
2.	Paying subscription to the political party	18	Good
3.	Collecting donations for the political party	20	good
4.	Canvassing of political party	35	Very good
5.	Delivering speeches on political matters.	5	Unsatisfactory
6.	Writing articles on political matters	2	Unsatisfactory

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION - ADVANCE LEVEL : -

Contesting election for directorship, union representative and in general election :

About 4 % of the respondents took active part in contesting elections. Therefore their political participation on this count is termed as unsatisfactory.

Canvassing for a Candidate : -

About 32 % of the respondents have participated in canvassing for a candidate during the general election. Therefore in this case their political participation can be termed as very good.

The above conclusions can be summarised with the help of the table given below : -

Sr.No.	Kind of Participation	Percentage	Grade
1	Contesting election for directorship, union representative and in general election.	4	Unsatisfactory
2	Canvassing for a candidate	32	Very good.

The level of participation of the workers in various activities can be termed as satisfactory. In the activities such as delivering speeches and writing articles, their level of participation is low. This is quite natural in case of workers whose educational qualification is not quite adequate for undertaking these activities.