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POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG MUSLIM STUDENTS: A STUDY OF ALMORA TOWN (UTTARAKAND)

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to check the level of political awareness and correlation between education and Political awareness among the Muslim students of Almora town. The Muslim area of the town has been selected purposely. Data has been collected by the convenience sampling technique from 39 respondents with the help of self made tool questionnaire. During this study it was found that there is a difference in the level of political awareness, among respondents and when we classify the respondents on the basis of Gender it was found girls are more aware than boys. In this study we also found that there is a correlation between education and the political awareness. From 12th to Graduation political awareness increases however it remains constant from Graduation to P.G. The study can be helpful to the Govt. in formulating the incentives for addressing the problems of poor political awareness among the Muslims in India.

KEYWORDS

Muslim, students, Political, awareness, education, Almora, town.

INTRODUCTION

Islam is the second largest religion in India after Hinduism. According to the 2011 census the population of Muslims in India is 14.88%. As per the Sachar committee findings (2006) the socio- economic conditions of this community presents a dismal picture and education is the grave concern of the Indian Muslims. The report further says that the status of Indian Muslims is below the conditions of Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes. Their representation in different government sectors is very low therefore on the recommendations of this report the UPA -1 led by former Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh takes some steps for the upliftment of this community. Different welfare programmes were introduced like Prime Ministers 15 points programme, minority scholarships and skill development programmes. The poor political awareness among Muslims has been the major issue in accessing Govt. schemes. (K. Rahman Khan 20/12/2014)

NEED OF THE STUDY

Muslims are second largest population after Hindus in our Country. It is very important for the Muslims to be politically aware because there are various programmes run by the Govt. of India for the development of Muslim Students. The programme of Govt becomes successful only when people are aware about the particular Programme therefore it is necessary to check the political awareness among the Muslim students because if they are aware then these Govt. Programmes are successful.

MEANING

For the proper Meaning and understanding of political awareness we must first understand the word awareness. The word awareness means to have knowledge about something for example as something means university so awareness about University means to know all about the particular University. So it is clear that political awareness means to know about the political process prevailing in the country as the solid democracy needs a politically aware people who can be capable to differentiate the policies of the main political parties. The politically aware people play a vital role in the political, socio development in the country.

IMPORTANCE

Political awareness affects every aspect of citizen's attitude. (Zaller 1990)

- To be political aware is very important for the Scio- economic development. In the democracy the ultimate power lies in the hands of people. The decision making is the fundamental activity of the Government. These Govt. decisions affects the people at a huge level, the effect depends on the nature of decision so if the people are politically aware they can make difference between the good and bad decisions.
- The politically aware people have an idea the qualities of good leader ship.
- Politically aware people know how to use the vote.
- Politically aware people know about the programmes and schemes run by the government.

FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE POLITICAL AWARENESS OF A PERSON

The main factors which directly affect the political awareness of the person are:-

EDUCATION

Education plays a vital role in political awareness of the person because an educated person analyse the policies, decisions of the government very effectively. Political awareness among Dalits, a study of Block in Haryana reported that those citizens who are educated have high level of political awareness than those who are uneducated.

POVERTY

Poverty is also another factor that affects the political awareness of a person as high level of political awareness are seen in those citizens who have much income as compared who are poor (S. Ravindra and S. Ram 2013) The poor people did not have too much time to discuss the political problems as he remains busy in earning their livelihood.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA

Topography too play an important role in political awareness of a person as those people are more aware who have availability of information in the form of news papers, internet facility easy connectivity to cities as compared to those who don't have these facilities available.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

Face- book and Twitter increase political awareness in authoritarian regimes(Ora John and David Szakonyi 2013) Social media has power to change the thinking about politics in the way political parties compaign (K. Rajalakshmi and C. Velayutham 2014). Therefore it is clear that social media plays a significant role in political awareness of the person. There is a lot of information in the form of different pages on the face- book created by different political parties who every day share their political ideas on different issues of the world. During the year of 2009 and 2014 assembly elections the main national political parties of India BJP and Congress use social media as a part of election compaign in order to attract the young audience.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- To study the level of Political awareness among the Muslim students.
- To study the correlation between the level of education and Political awareness among Muslim students.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study can be helpful for the state Govt. in formulating the better policies and Programmes in order to address the problems of poor Political awareness among the Muslim community in India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**AREA OF STUDY**

The Almora is one of the districts of newly formed state Uttarakhand. It is spreaded over an area of 5385.00sq.Kms and is situated at Lat 29.5972'N and long 79.6570'E. According to the census of 2011 the population of this district is 621927 out of which the Muslim Population is 7283 which constitutes 1.15%.

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out in the Almora town of Uttarakhand, India.

POPULATION

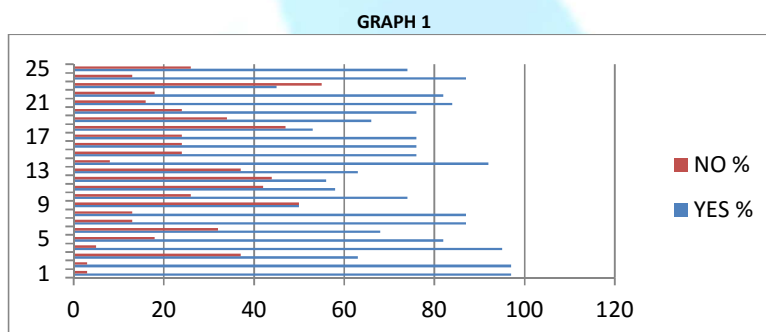
The population of the present study were the 12th, Graduate and Post Graduate Muslim Students of Almora town.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

The Present study is an empirical; The Muslim areas were selected purposely as these areas are (Niyaa ganj, Karbelaa, Dharaanaula and Khan- Molalla) from these areas the respondents were selected by convenience sampling technique.

TOOL USED FOR THE COLLECTION OF PRIMARY DATA

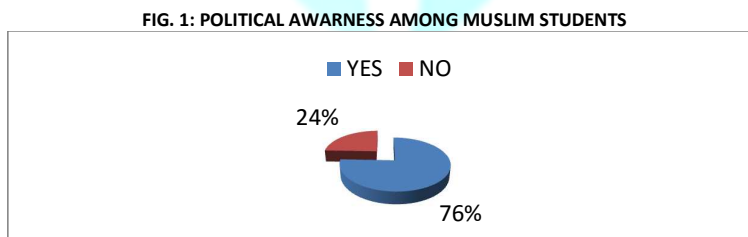
A self made close ended tool was administered for the purpose of collection of primary data. The tool has been distributed among the respondents usually males and females in order to get first hand data. In the tool, two point scales was employed to determine scores where respondents were asked to rate each attribute on Yes or No as the percentage of responses is shown in the following figure:

**DATA ANALYSES METHOD**

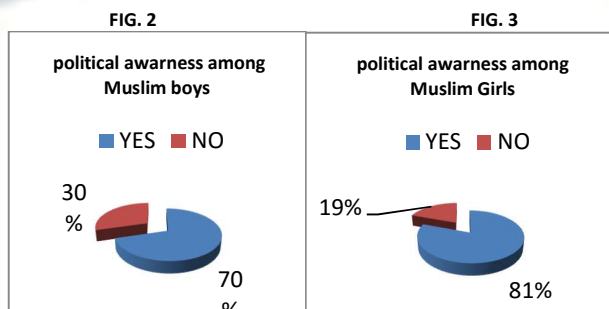
In present study, Percentage method is used to analyse the data. The data have been analysed on the bases of three fold classification of the respondents.

ANALYSIS

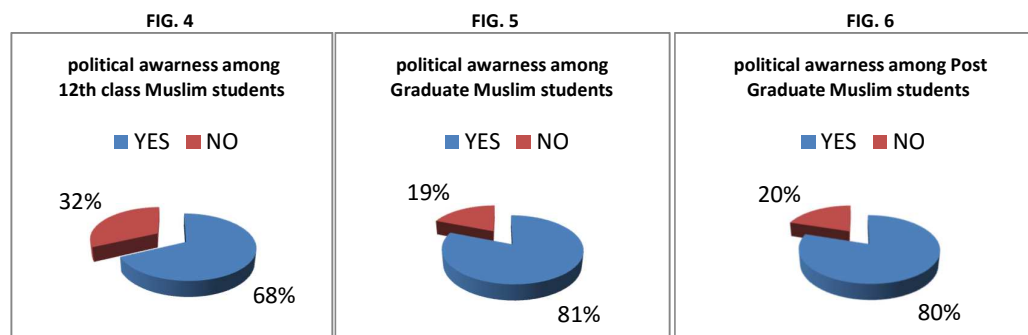
First the awareness is seen as in whole as shown in the following figure:



Then the data has been classified on the bases of gender means the respondents has classified into boys and girls shown in the following figures:



On the bases of level of education the respondents are classified on three categories as Intermediate, Graduation and Post Graduation as shown in the following figures:



FINDINGS

Data has been analysed on the bases of percentages and results therefore discussed below:-

1. POLITICAL AWARENESS ON THE BASES OF GENDER

It is clear from the fig. 1 that 70% of male respondents are aware while as 30% are unaware, And among female respondents as shown in fig.2 that 81% of female respondents are aware and 19% are unaware.

2. POLITICAL AWARENESS ON THE BASES OF EDUCATION

A. Political awareness of 12th class Muslim students

It is evident from the fig. 4 that 68% students are aware and 32% students are unaware.

B. Political awareness of Muslim Graduate students

It is clear from fig. 5 that 81% of Graduate Muslim respondents have a political awareness while as 19 % of respondents are unaware.

C. Political awareness among P.G. Muslim students:-

The fig. 6 shows that 80% of respondents are politically aware while as 20% of respondents are not aware.

On comparing boys and girls it was found that girls have more political awareness 81% than boys as boys have 76%.

It is found there is correlation between level of education and Political awareness as present study shows that the political awareness increases from 12th to graduation and from graduation it remains constant it may because in PG the students focuses on the concerned subject in which he/she are doing P. G.

CONCLUSION

On basis of data analyses and findings it may be concluded that there is a difference in the level of Political awareness among boys and girls. And on comparing the level of political awareness of boys and girls it is found that girl's are more aware than boys. And further the political awareness of the respondents is correlated with the level of Education as the political awareness increases from 12th to Graduation however it remains constant from graduation to P.G. It may be because in P.G, the students focus on Masters Course very deeply so their level of political awareness did not increase with the level of education and from 12th to graduation there is a combination of different subjects which may be the main cause that political awareness increases from 12th to graduation.

SUGGESTIONS

- Special programmes should be organised for the political awareness for the Muslim Community.
- A guide line should be framed by the Govt. that basic political education should be given in Madarsas.
- Monthly or weekly courses should be organised by the govt. for the political awareness of the Muslim community.
- NGOS should come forward in order to give basic education regarding the developmental programmes run by Govt. of India for the welfare of this community

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