SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF VOTING PATTERNS IN RESERVED CONSTITUENCIES: DELHI ASSEMBLY ELECTION, 2015

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Abstract

Electoral geography is interested in the study of elections to understand spatial variations of political phenomena, which are deeply embedded with the environment occurring at the time of election and the people's perception about various political parties. The voting behaviour of the electorates is greatly influenced by their perception existing at the time of elections. The voters perception about election's environment and political parties are vary over one constituency to another constituency. Electoral geography viewpoint, the changing scenario of party competition and electoral behaviour of the electorate of Delhi is a very interesting problem area for study. The electoral behaviour largely influenced by the socio – economic conditions of geographical area. In 2013 Assembly election BJP tops Delhi and Aam Aadmi Party came out as a show-stopper. **Aam Aadmi Party** secured absolute majority in 2015 assembly election, winning 67 of the 70 seats and came out as a ruling party. Here attempt have been made to see the electoral participation and party competition in the reserved constituencies of Delhi. Attempt has been made to establish whether the location of a reserved constituency in a particular point of space is important or the reservedness of the constituency is important in predicting the electoral behaviour. For the analysis of voting data important indicators have been taken like to show the spatial distribution of seats won by various contesting parties' areal structural approach were used. The results are depicted by means of choropleth maps. This gives a quick visual idea of the areal pattern of party stronghold. Beside that integrated approach applied to show the spatial structure of voting behaviour as revealed in election results. This is based on highly generalized voting data.

Keywords : Electoral Geography, Electoral Behaviour , Party Competition, voter turnout

Introduction

Electoral Geography is the analysis of the methods, behavior, and results of elections in the context of geographic space and using geographical techniques. Specifically, it is an examination of the dual interaction whereby geographical traits of a territory affects political decisions and geographical structure of the election system affects electoral results. The purpose of this analysis is to identify and understand driving factors and the electoral characteristics of territories in a broad and integrative manner. Elections serve as the central political expression and exercise of power within democratic states, and conducting elections in democracies requires the translation of the political decisions. The territorial unit with boundary distinctions in representative elections is commonly termed the constituency, district, or precinct, and serves as both a region for the tabulation and study of the electoral result. These boundaries are defined in various methods, which are unique to each state, and can cause alterations or skewing of aggregate vote results and by extension the true decision of the electorate's spatial distribution and variation of the voting populace in conjunction with the demographic characteristics and delineation of voting regions provide a geographic context for the analysis of elections. Along with purely physical characteristics, distribution of economic resources, lines of communication, governmental and party platforms, and gender, ethnic, or class groups creates an interwoven fabric of people and opinion, which is accounted for in electoral analysis. A population settles for various social, economic, and cultural reasons which create a defined contour of both population density and related political opinion. However, this contour is not a static condition and changes in electoral results must be considered with respect to the change in the type of people and not just the change in their chosen politics. The distribution of politics has been attributed to various factors, one of which is described as a convergence of external stimuli. These stimuli can come in the form of state-supplied information, local cultural norms, religious affiliations, economic opportunity, and media presentation of issues. The degree of effect for each particular stimulus is then a result of the susceptibility of a particular geography. For example, policy dealing with the governmental treatment of an urban population would have greater importance to those in a territory with an urban densities and a far smaller importance in a sparser region. A state or its political organizations has some power to affect these stimuli and are therefore considered as a contributing factor in the changes of election outcomes. Electoral geography considers the way in which the physical characteristics of a territory directly affect the population and thus the election decision of these people. The geographic location and associated natural factors are directly related to the potential in a specific region for political development and have an additional relationship

with the electoral processes and policy decisions of the region. The study of electoral results has been shown to identify the regions of specific politics and the relative cohesion amongst these similar regions. Regions which share large numbers of physical or demographic characteristics, or both as these two factors are related, will demonstrate significant similarities in voting participation and patterns of outcome.

The economic development within a given region is also related to the development of its politics and the issues which are important to the electorate. A state with disproportionate economic development will necessarily come under pressure from the poorer constituencies to take action to redistribute wealth and level the economic prosperity, which will be observable in the electoral results. The range and availability of communication and issue awareness can affect perception of issues and skew rational decision making. If a populace is generally unaware of the implications of policy decisions they are less able to make informed decisions and are more readily manipulated by candidate or party claims and marketing techniques, which can make analysis difficult as no predictable rationale may exist for voting outcomes.

All socials processes of **Electoral geography**, for example, studies regularities and patterns of election results develop non-uniformly in geographical space. There are no exceptions **Electoral geography** is a constituent component of political geography, a science which studies development of all political processes inside geographical space. However, election results are only natural result of numerous social, economic and political processes. Studying the geography of elections is senseless without knowing what is behind these results and what political processes preceded them and what these results mean. It is also senseless to study electoral geography without thorough knowledge of the socio-economic characteristics of the territory where the election is taking place. That is why **electoral geography** is an exceptionally integrated science: it cannot exist without its constituting sciences, especially political science and geography. However, history, economics and sociology also play important roles.

In 2013 Assembly Election in Delhi the <u>Bharatiya Janata Party</u> won a plurality, closely followed by <u>Aam Aadmi Party</u>, in its first election; this resulted in a <u>hung assembly</u>. After the BJP refused to form a government in the <u>hung assembly</u>, the <u>Aam Aadmi Party</u>'s (AAP) <u>Arvind Kejriwal</u> became chief minister with "not conditional" support from the <u>Indian National Congress</u> (INC).

In the Delhi assembly elections of 2015, the AAP cavalry came bludgeoning and trampled everything that came its way. The BJP was at the receiving end this time. The 49 day rule of AAP and Arvind Kejriwal proved more than enough to enable them to win comfortably against an ever

strengthening BJP. The AAP has got the number, better than it ever imagined. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) formed the government in Delhi within the shortest span of time since its formation. The party came into existence in November 2012 and formed the government in Delhi in December 2013.

Aims and Objectives

The basic aims and objectives of the study are:

❖ To trace out the changing patterns of voting behavior in one election as compared to other election in reserved constituencies.
❖ To understand the changing scenario of party performance in one constituency as compared to other constituency in 2015 assembly Election.
❖ To Show the spatial variations in Party Competition in reserved constituencies.

Study Area

The total population of Delhi in 2011 is 16753235, total male population is 8976410 and total female population is 7776825 out of which 86% are literate. In 1952 assembly election Delhi has 48 constituencies out of which 6 constituencies are reserved for SC category. In 1972 to 1983 assembly election Delhi comprised 56 constituencies in 1972, 7 seats are reserved for SC category and in 1977 and 1983, 9 seats are reserved for SC category. The number of electors involved has increased rapidly. There were nearly 744668 electors in 1952 the first assembly election in Delhi, their number went up to over 83, 64,733 electors in 1998 assembly election out of which 48,17,794 electors were male and 35,46,979 were female. In 2003 assembly election the numbers of electors were 8420141 in Delhi out of which 2468791 were male and 1656195 were female. The electoral data of 2008 assembly election shows rapid increase in number of electors, the total number of electors went up to 10726573 out of which 5966895 were male and 4759678 were female electors. In 2008 assembly election the total polling percentage was 57.58 percent. While in 2013 assembly election showed tremendous increase in voting the number of electors were 11936360 out of which 6614238 were male and 5321572 were female. The polling percentage has also increased at a very fast rate it was 65.63% out of which male recorded 66.03% and female recorded 65.14% and the number of valid votes also showed high increase total 7823820 valid votes were recorded. 2015 assembly election also shows the increase in poll percentage it was 67.47% and around 8942372 valid votes were recorded in Delhi.

Delhi Assembly Constituencies 2013-15
Table No.1.1

1.Narela	38.Delhi Cantt
2.Burari	39.Rajendra Nagar
3.Timarpur	40.New Delhi
4.Adarsh Nagar	41.Jangpura
5.Badli	42.Kasturba Nagar
6Rithala	43.Malviya Nagar
7.**Bawana(SC)**	44.RK Puram
8.Mundka	45.Mehrauli
9.Kirari	46.Chhatarpur
10.**SultanpurMajra(SC)**	47.**Deoli(SC)**
11.Nangloijat	48.**Ambedkar Nagar(SC)**
12.**Mangolpuri(SC)**	49.Sangam Vihar
13.Rohini	50.Greater Kailash
14.Shalimar Bagh	51.Kalkaji
15.Shakurbasti	52.Tughlaqabad
16.Tri Nagar	53.Badarpur
17.Wazirpur	54.Okhla
18.Model Town	55.**Trilok Puri(SC)**
19.Sadar Bazar	56.**Kondli(SC)**
20.Chandni Chowk	57.Patparganj
21.Matia Mahal	58.Laxmi Nagar
22.Ballimaran	59.Vishwas Nagar
23.**Karol Bagh(SC)**	60.Krishna Nagar
24.**Patel Nagar(SC)**	61.Gandhi Nagar
25.Moti Nagar	62.Shahdara
26.**Madipur(SC)**	63.**Seemapuri(SC)**
27.Rajori Garden	64.Rohtash Nagar
28.Hari Nagar	65.Seelampur
29.Tilak Nagar	66.Ghonda
30.Janakpuri	67.Babarpur
31.Vikaspuri	68.**Gokulpur(SC)**
32.Uttam Nagar	69.Mustufabad
33.Dwarka	70.Karawal nagar
34.Matiala	General Constituencies=58 **Reserved (SC) Constituencies=12** Total Constituencies=70

Source: General Election 2013 and 2015 to Delhi Legislative Assembly, Report and Statistical details, Chief Electoral Officer, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi.

Methodology and Techniques

The present study is basically based on secondary sources of data. The secondary data have been taken from: The electoral data for (1993 and 1998) collected from the reports on the Assembly Election published by

Election Commission of India, New Delhi ; Indian Decides Elections *(1952-1991)* Butter David and Other ; Election in India Major Events & New Initiatives (1996-2000) published by Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi ; Electoral Maps and voting data , Chief Electoral Office , Kashmiri Gate , Delhi and Vidhan Sabha library , Delhi . Findings from surveys conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi.

The areal structural approach, under this approach studies are primarily concentrated on the spatial pattern of voting example; spatial distribution of seats won by various contesting parties. The results are depicted by means of choropleth maps. This gives a quick visual idea of the areal pattern of party stronghold. The **integrated approach,** under this approach the stress only on the spatial structure of voting behavior as revealed in election results. This is based on highly generalized voting data.

For the analysis of voting data many indicators have been taken. In the, electoral participation the percentage of votes polled and percentage of invalid votes have been taken. Whereas spatial distribution of party victories, number of seats won by political parties were included to analyze the party performance. Statistical techniques have been also used to analyze the party competition like Margin of Victory.

Electoral Participation in 2015 Assembly Election of Delhi

Regional variations are found in electoral participation in elections. Spatial variations are found from one constituency to another constituency. Voter turnout describes the fluctuations in electoral participation within the state and it divides the state in to various regions of very high, high, moderate and low electoral participation. **Constituencies have been divided in to four categories: To know the regional variations of electoral participation in Delhi,** *on the basis of voter turnout percentage* :

   I. **Where more than 70% of the electorate cast their votes are constituencies of very high voter turnout.**
  II. **60 to 70% of voters participated in election are high voter turnout regions.**
 III. **50 to 60% of electorates recorded their choice in election, those are moderate voter turnout regions.**
 IV. **Below 50% of electorates participated in election those is considered low voter turnout regions.**
   ❖ *In 2015 Assembly election all the 12 reserved constituencies' recorded High and very high voter turnout (see table no. 1.2). It shows that reserved categories constituencies voters are aware about their voting rights.*

Electoral Participation in Reserved Constituencies, 2015

Table no. 1.2

S.No.	Constituencies	Districts	Voter Turnout
			High Voter 60-70%
1.	Bawana(SC)	North West Delhi	61.81
2.	Karol Bagh(SC)	Central Delhi	68.44
3.	Patel Nagar(SC)	Central Delhi	68.11
4.	Deoli(SC)	South Delhi	67.58
5.	Ambedkar Nagar(SC)	South Delhi	69.76
6.	Kodli(SC)	East Delhi	70.15
7.	Sultanpur Majra(SC)	North West Delhi	67.97
			Very High above 70%
8.	Seemapuri(SC)	North East Delhi	73.23
9.	Gokalpur(SC)	North East Delhi	74.19
10.	Trolokpuri	East Delhi	71.70
11.	Mangolpuri	West Delhi	72.07
12.	Madipur(SC)	West Delhi	71.30

Source: Delhi Legislative Assembly, Report and Statistical Details 2015 Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi.
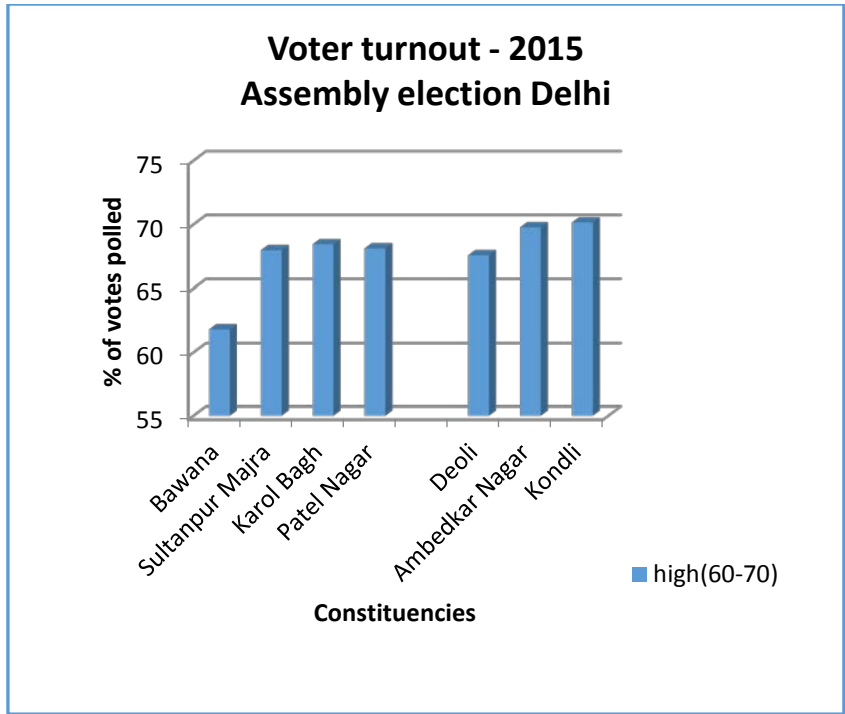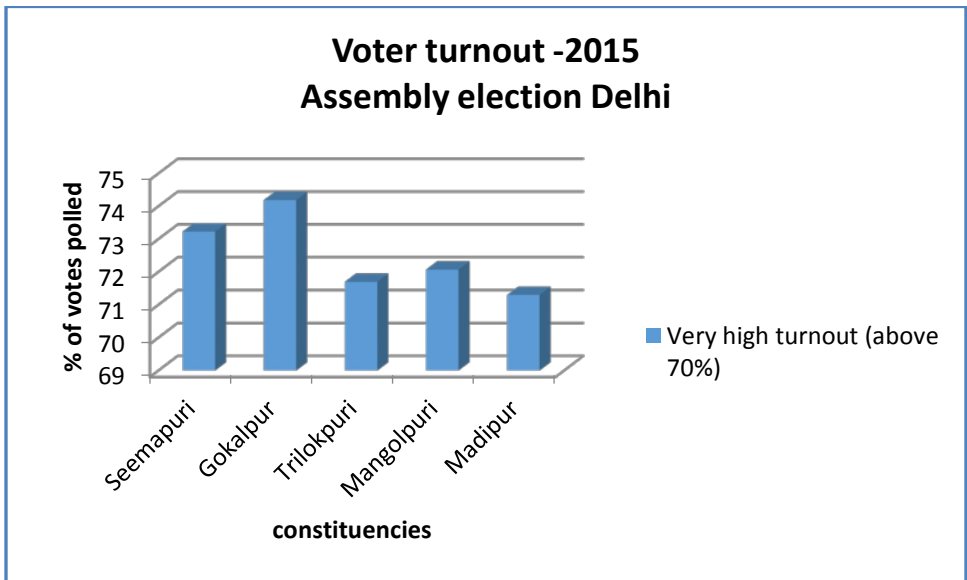
Figure:1.1

Figure:1.2

Source: Delhi Legislative Assembly, Report and Statistical Details 2015 Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi.

It is clear from the above figures and table 1.2 that in 2015 vidhan sabha election in Delhi all the reserved constituencies generally recorded

high and very high voter turnout out of which seven constituencies like Bawana , Sultanpur Majra , karol Bagh , Patel Nagar , Deoli, Ambedkar Nagar and Kondli recorded high voter turnout where 60 to 70% voters cast their votes in the election . While five constituencies witnessed very high voter turnout percentage like Mangolpuri , Trilokpuri , Gokalpur , Madipur and Seemapuri where above 70% voters cast their votes .

Party Competition in Reserved Constituencies: Delhi Assembly Election 2015

This study describes the nature of party competition, what have been the main patterns of party competition? Indian politics commonly has been portrayed as a one party dominant or a multi-party system. In part , such classification probably have developed from the existence of a large number of political parties in India and the control of the national government by one major party during the entire period since independence . An adequate understanding of the nature of party competition in India however must be based on a careful empirical investigation of contests between the parties within local political districts or constituencies[97]. The struggle of power makes political parties to compete with each other and form a strong support base. Since this competition takes place in a given area, it has a spatial dimension too. Although the practices of understandings , adjustments, agreements and even alliances are quite common at the state level , the nature and composition of these alliances vary from one state to another and from election to election . The party competition stand in sharp contrast to much of the period after independence , When the Congress was either the dominant party or one of two major parties . After the 1993 election in 1998, 2003 and 2008 Vidhan Sabha election Congress emerged as a big ruling party in Delhi and electorates elected Congress party for governance. But in 2013 assembly election AAP gave very tough fight to BJP and Congress and emerged as a second largest party while BJP emerged as a largest party but failed to secure majority of votes to form government. After that again in 2015 assembly election in Delhi Aam Adami Party secured majority of vote and this time they got more than enough seats to form government in Delhi.

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[97]. O.P.Goyal and Harlan Hahn , "The Nature of Party Competition in Five Indian States", Asian Survey ,Vol.6, No. 10, Oct. 1966, University of California Press , pp. 580-588 .

Party wise summary
Table no.1.3

PARTY NAME	SEATS
Aam Aadmi Party	28
Bharatiya Janata Party	31
Independent	01
Indian National Congress	08
Janata Dal (United)	01
Shiromani Akali Dal	01

Party Wise Summary : Assembly Election 2013

AAP 40%
BJP 44%
INC 12%
IND 2%
JDU 1%
SAD 1%
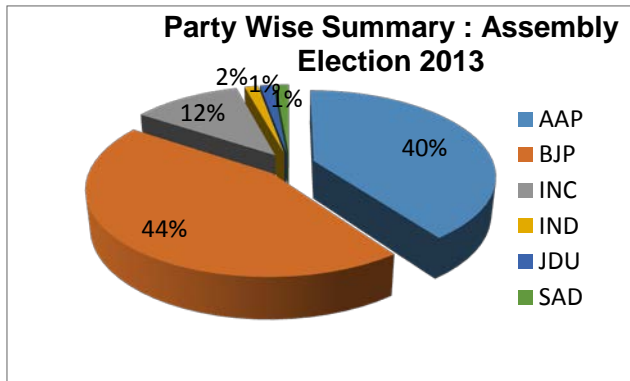
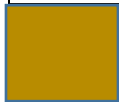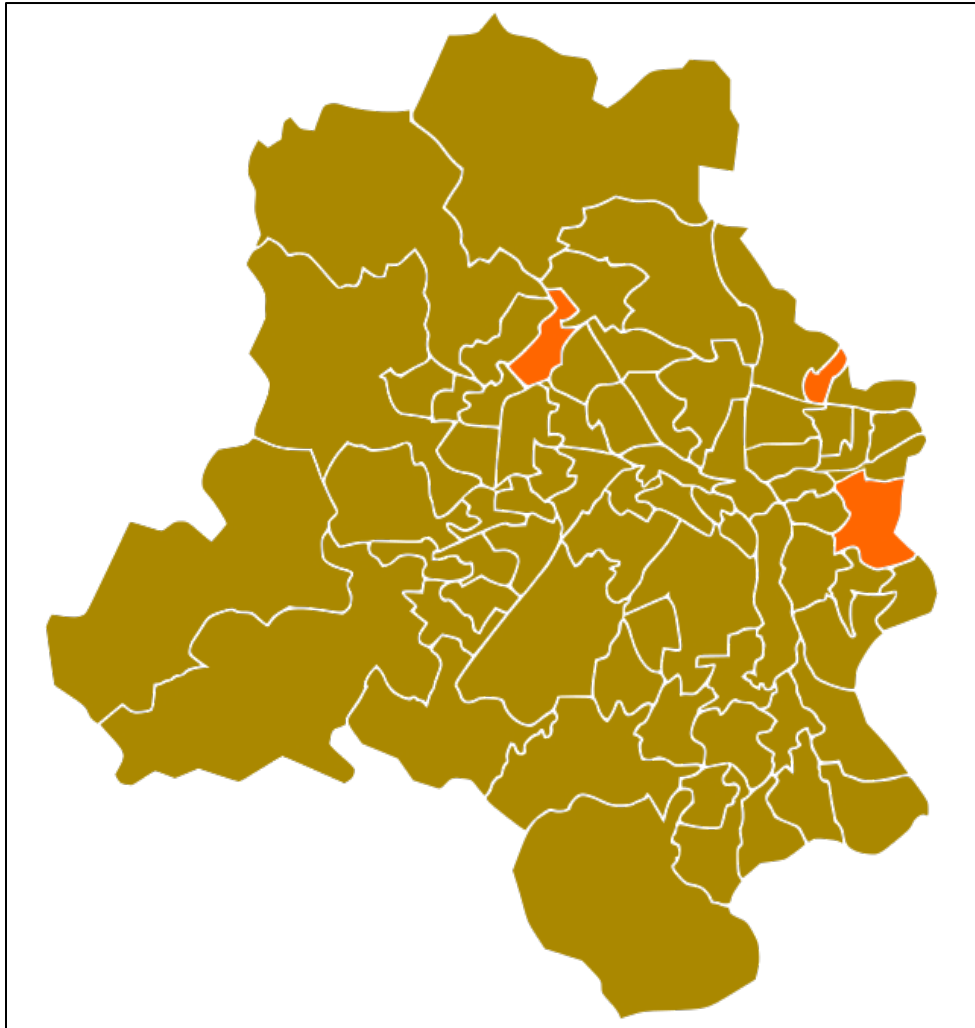**Source:** Chief Electoral Officer , Delhi.   Figure:1.3

In 2013 assembly election around 880 contestants in fray and in 2015 673 contestant in fray, this shows very high competition. Moreover , it is clear that the larger the number of candidates the greater is the competitiveness .

Table no. 1.4

All 70 seats in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi (2013-15)	First party	Second party	Third party
Leader	Arvind Kejriwal	Kiran Bedi	Ajay Maken
Party	AAP	BJP	INC
Leader's seat	New Delhi	Krishna Nagar (*lost*)	Sadar Bazar(*lost*)
Last election	28 seats	32 seats	8 seats
Seats won	67	3	0
Seat change	39	29	8
Percentage	54.3%	32.3%	9.7%
Swing	24.8%	0.8%	14.9%

Results of the 2015 Vidhan Sabha election -Delhi

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**Aam Aadmi
Party**

Bharatiya

Janata
Party

Map not to Scale
Source: chief electoral officer Delhi
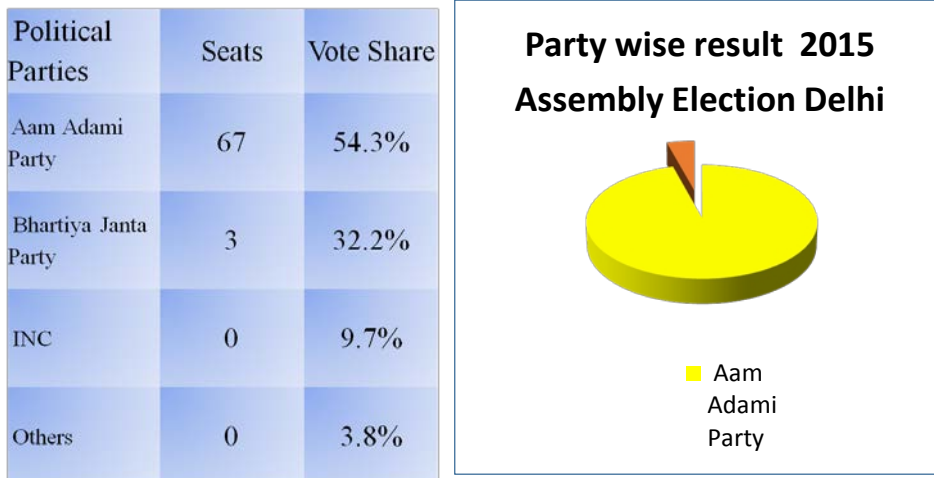
Delhi Assembly 2015 Party Wise Results

Table no. 1.5

Political Parties	Seats	Vote Share
Aam Adami Party	67	54.3%
Bhartiya Janta Party	3	32.2%
INC	0	9.7%
Others	0	3.8%

Party wise result 2015 Assembly Election Delhi

■ Aam Adami Party

Figure:1.4

Source: Delhi Legislative Assembly, Report and Statistical Details 2015 Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi.

Delhi's historical folklore was already enriched with a vast number of tales and anecdotes, but on 10 February 2015, another glorious chapter was added to it. In the Delhi assembly elections of 2015, the AAP cavalry came bludgeoning and trampled everything that came its way. The BJP was at the receiving end this time. Aam Aadmi Party won 67 seats out of 70 and BJP won only three seats beside that Congress party failed to win even a single seat in Delhi assembly polls.

Party competition has been measured in terms of margin of victory. Margin of victory is the crude measure of degree of competition but the merit of this method is that it shows the competitiveness between the two nearest rivals easily. *Margin of victory is calculated :*

$$\frac{\textit{votes polled by the winning candidates} - \textit{Votes polled by the nearest rival candidates}}{\textit{total valid votes polled}} \times 100$$

The margin of victory was divided in to 3 categories to highlights the variations in the degree of competition between the two nearest rivals, these categories are following:
 (i) below 20 % (Low Margin Victories) (ii) 20-30% (Moderate Margin Victories) , (iii) above 30% (High Margin Victories). If we look at the

detailed study of party competition spatially in reserved constituencies many interesting facts were came out related to party competition. Table no.1.6 presents the clear picture of margin of victories between various political parties.

Table no.1.6

Margin of Victory in Reserved Constituencies, 2015

| S.No.	Constituencies	Margin of Victory in %	Wining Party	Districts
	Low Margin Victory(Below 20%)			
1.	Mangolpuri(SC)	17.67	AAP	west Delhi
2.	Kondli(SC)	19.92	AAP	East Delhi
	Moderate Margin Victory (20-30%)			
3	Patel Nagar(SC)	29.82	AAP	Central Delhi
4.	Madipur(SC)	25.40	AAP	West Delhi
5.	Gokalpur(sc)	21.94	AAP	North East Delhi
6	Bawana(SC)	27.11	AAP	North west Delhi
7	Karol Bagh(SC)	29.27	AAP	Central Delhi
8	Trilokpuri(SC)	23.37	AAP	East Delhi
	High Margin Victory (above 30%)			
9.	Sultanpur Majra(SC)	56.04	AAP	East Delhi
10	Deoli(SC)	46.94	AAP	South Delhi
11.	Ambedkar Nagar (SC)	43.79	AAP	South Delhi
12.	Seemapuri	38.73	AAP	North East Delhi

Source: Chief Electoral

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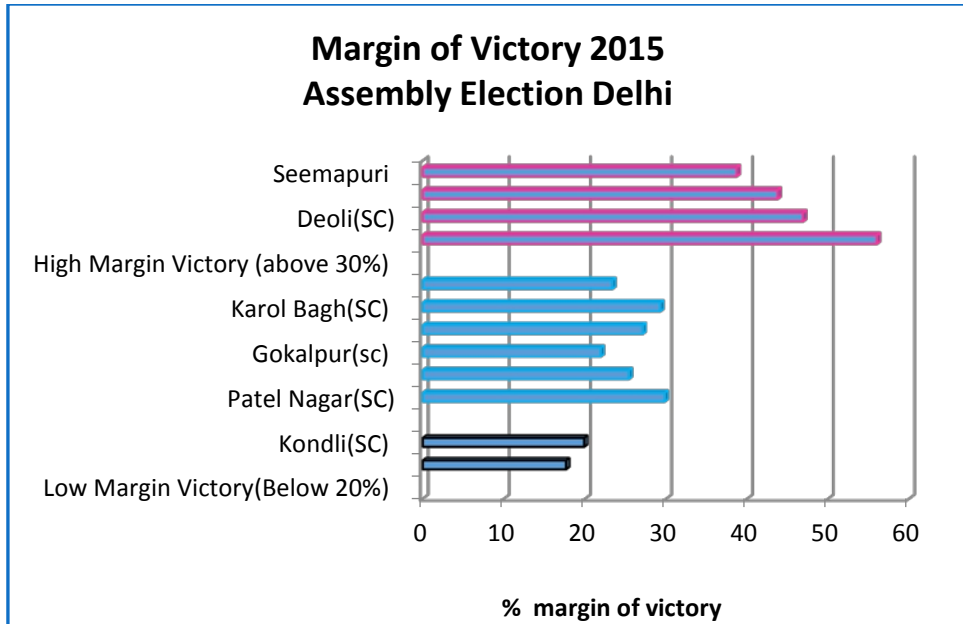
Figure:1.5

Source: Delhi Legislative Assembly, Report and Statistical Details 2015 Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi.

It is clear from the above figure that in 2015 assembly election in Delhi only two reserved constituencies Mangolpuri and Kondli recorded low margin victories which shows tough fight between the two nearest rival. Six reserved constituencies Patel Nagar, Madipur, Gokalpur, Bawana, Karol Bagh and Trilokpuri recorded moderate margin victories where two nearest rivals are close to each other in electoral support . While four reserved constituencies Sultanpur Majra , Deoli, Ambedkar Nagar and seema puri recorded high margin victories which shows that winning party have won majority of votes as compared to others .

Delhi elections 2015: Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP breaks rules of identity politics.

The arrival of the Aam Aadmi Party on Delhi's electoral scene in 2013 upset the traditional support base of various parties across various castes and communities. The usual pattern of upper castes voting mainly for the BJP and the OBCs and Dalits voting largely for the Congress stood disrupted.

The AAP broke the rules of identity politics and made a dent in the core vote bases of both the established political players. Findings from surveys conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi estimate an average of 40% of the voters in Delhi belong to the upper castes. About 12% are Brahmins, 7% are Punjabi Khatris, 7% are

Rajputs, 6% belong to the Vaishya (Bania) and Jain communities and 8% are from other upper castes Traditionally, the upper castes of Delhi had voted for the BJP in sizeable numbers, particularly the Punjabi Khatri and the Bania communities.Support for the BJP among these two communities was consistently above the 50% mark in the 1998, 2003 and 2008 Vidhan Sabha elections. However in 2013, the AAP succeeded in taking away a big chunk of the BJP's Punjabi Khatri and Bania votes. Among the Punjabi Khatris, it garnered 39% of the votes compared with the BJP's 36%, while among the Jains and Banias , the party ended up with 29% of the vote and gave the BJP a decent fight.

OBC communities such as the Gujjars, Yadavs and the lower OBCs together form about 18% of Delhi's population. Traditionally the backbone of the Congress's base (along with Muslims and Dalits) in Delhi, they switched over to the AAP in 2013 in large numbers. The Dalit communities (17% of Delhi's population), in fact, have been instrumental in AAP's spectacular rise in the city. Having mainly been with the Congress and the Bahujan Samaj Party in the past, they shifted in massive numbers towards the AAP in 2013 and the AAP emerged as the leading choice of Dalits. About 36% of the Dalits voted for the AAP in the 2013 election as opposed to 29% for the BJP and 23% for the Congress. This sizeable support among Dalits for the AAP resulted in the party winning as many as nine of the 12 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes in the 2013 Assembly elections[98]. In 2015 assembly election AAP also came out as a winning party in all the twelve reserved constituencies in Delhi.

[98] The Economic Times, Politics and Nation, ET Bureau Jan 23, 2015.

Figure: 1.6

In every age group, AAP's vote share was significantly higher than that of BJP
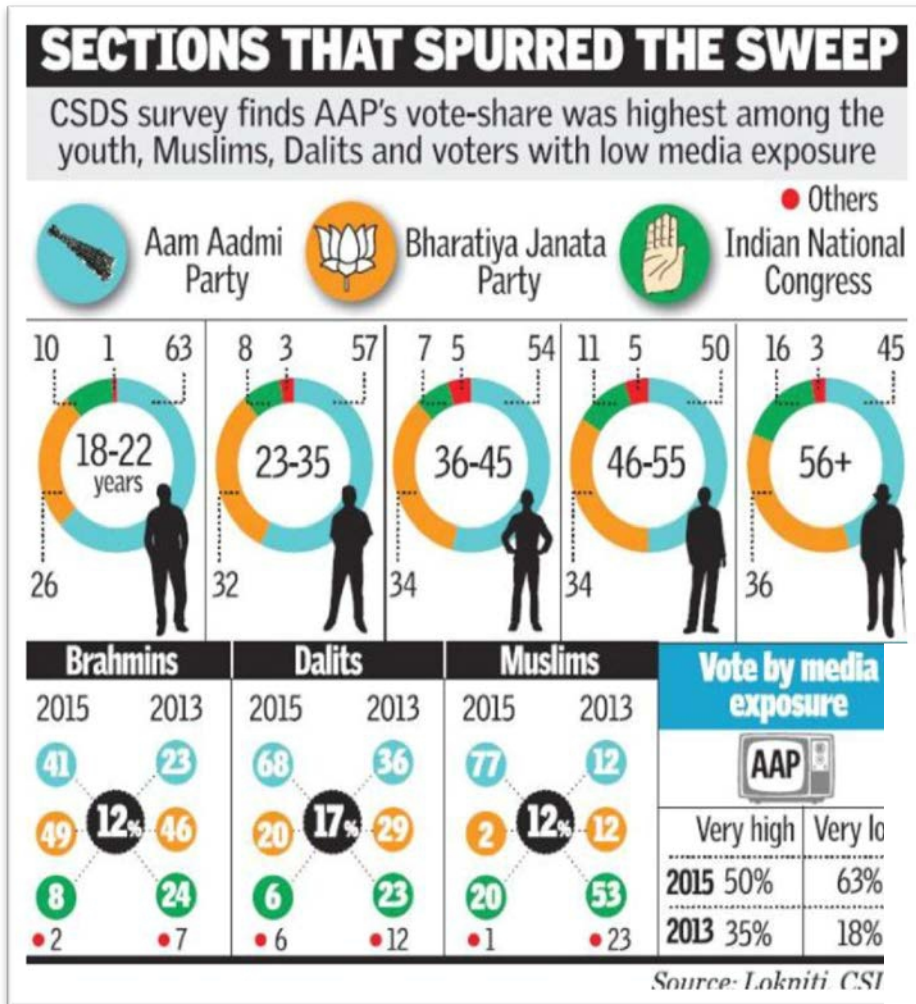
The sheer scale of the Aam Aadmi Party's sweep – winning 67 out of 70 seats and over half of all the votes – would indicate that the party won the support of all segments of Delhi society. While this is true, the party's support base leaned on slightly younger, poorer voters and those from more marginalised backgrounds, according to a post-poll survey by Lokniti at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. The survey was conducted soon after voting ended on February 7, among 2,060 respondents in 120 locations across 24 Assembly constituencies in the city; the sample's demographic profile closely resembled that of the city, and the declared vote

preference of the sample matched the ultimate actual vote share, the survey said. AAP's vote share was the highest among Delhi's youngest voters – aged 18 to 22 – rising even further among young Dalit voters. The party's vote share then gradually declines by age, falling to 45 per cent among those aged 56 and above. In every age group, however, the AAP's vote share was significantly higher than that of the BJP, and even at its narrowest (among the oldest voters), it had a lead of nine percentage points over the BJP[99].
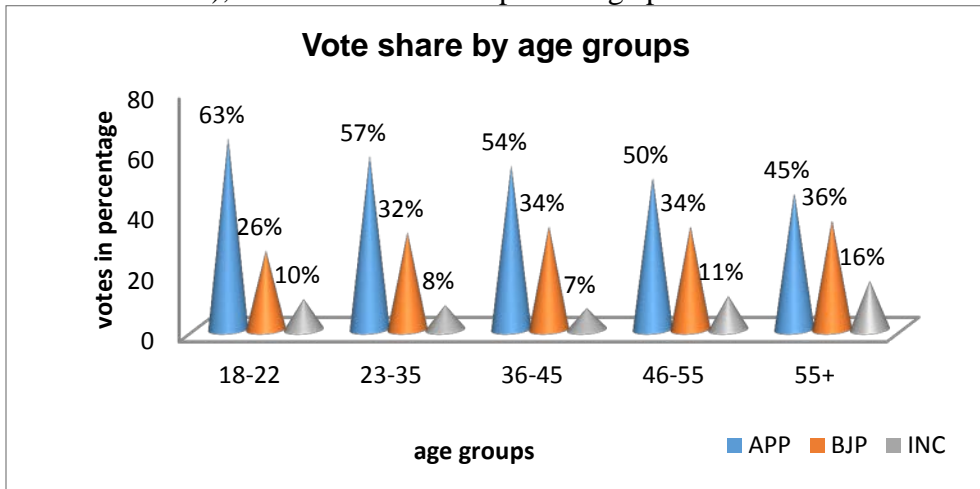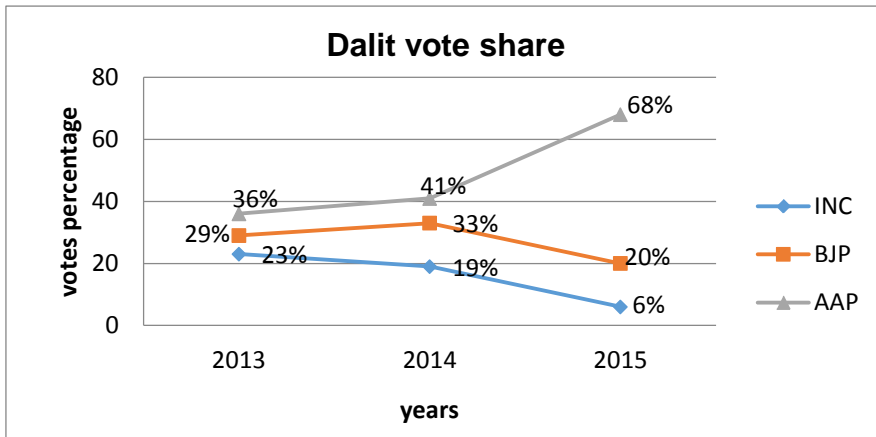

Data Source: CSDS.
Figure:1.7

Among the various social groups analysed by Lokniti, the AAP's vote share was highest among Muslims and Dalits, 77 per cent and 68 per cent respectively. In the case of Muslims in particular, the growth in the AAP's popularity has been remarkable, going from 12 per cent in 2013 to 77 per cent in 2015. Relatively, its popularity was lowest among upper castes; Brahmins, Vaishyas/Jains and Jats were the only caste groups among whom the BJP had a higher vote share than the AAP.
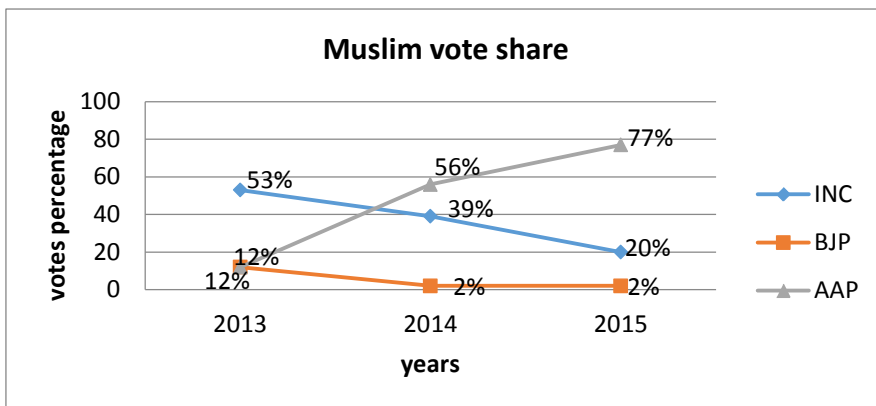
[99] The Hindu, NEW DELHI, February 13, 2015.

Brahmin vote share

Data Source:CSDS
Figure:1.8

Dalit vote share
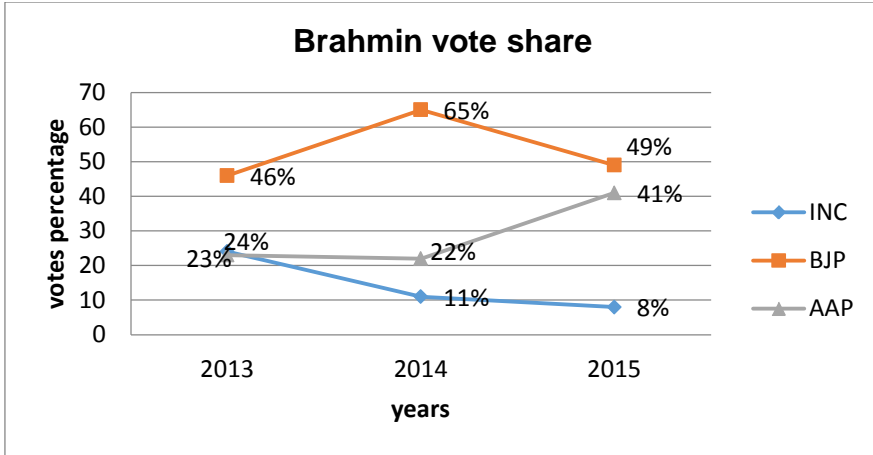
Data Source: CSDS
Figure:1.9

Muslim vote share

Data Source: CSDS
Figure:1.10

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The AAP's support was highest among the poorest voters surveyed by Lokniti, and lowest among the richest, whose preferences were split between the BJP and the AAP. It is clear that in the relatively rural and more far flung (from the urban agglomeration) areas in west and north-west Delhi predominantly, the AAP's vote share was lower than in the urban concentrations of south, central, east and even some places in northern Delhi. The ability of the AAP to mount a door-to-door campaign, promising alternative forms of governance driven by innovative ideas such as "constituency based manifestos" and other measures were responsible for their successes in these urban agglomerations, which invariably have high densities of population. As Maidul Islam says- *"the AAP also finds support in a section of the traditional middle class that is linked to the public sector, petty shop owners, small merchants and the professionals (doctors, teachers, lawyers, journalists), which is exasperated with the existing political parties on everyday issues such as inflation, and the lacunas in the public delivery system, power tariff, water supply, urban infrastructure etc. Moreover, under a neoliberal regime, the old contract between the state and the people has been redefined with the social welfare schemes targeting mainly the poor and not including this section of the middle class which emerges from the public sector, small trade and the professions. In a world where the public sector is rapidly vanishing to make way for the corporate, sections of this old middle class are now looking for a political alternative that could articulate their grievances[100]"*.

Reasons behind Aam Aadmi Party's massive win in Delhi

It is a fairy tale comeback for a party and leader who had been written off by everyone after the 49-day government in Delhi and the mauling in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. But soon after the Lok Sabha election disaster, the much-maligned Aam Aadmi Party and its founder-leader Arvind Kejriwal started the ground work to regain Delhi's trust. Kejriwal started with doing the unthinkable. He tendered an apology to the Delhi voters claiming that he had made a mistake and not any crime by resigning in 49 days. The voters, unaccustomed to politicians apologising, came to Kejriwal's rescue and decided to give him one more chance. With

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[100] The Aam Aadmi Party's win in Delhi: Dissecting it through Geographical Information Systems, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol - XLVIII No. 52, December 28, 2013

stories of how corruption had come down during his brief rule, the Delhi voter flocked to AAP as the party gathered strength[101].

Here is what worked for AAP and Kejriwal in Delhi:

1) Arvind Kejriwal's image, his apology and fighting elections on his name
2) Started campaigning 3-4 months back
3) Sticking to local and constituency specific issues
4) Anti-corruption stand along with the promise of slashing of power and water tariffs
5) Collapse of Congress
6) Dalits, Muslims and the poor moved enbloc to AAP, giving the party a major boost.
7) Divided BJP and the negative campaign
8) Overreliance on Narendra Modi. The Narendra Modi card failed badly in Delhi.
9) Kiran Bedi's projection as CM
10) Challenging BJP leaders directly. Kejriwal was called "bhagoda" (runaway) by his rivals but he never shied away from taking on the opposition.

Conclusion:

The 2013 Assembly elections witnessed the remarkable success of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), a new political party. The Congress which was in power in the capital for the last 15 years faced a major defeat winning only 8 out of the 70 Assembly constituencies. BJP won the most with 31 seats, falling short by just 4 seats to reach the half-way mark. The nascent AAP debuted in the Delhi elections winning as many as 28 seats. Other political parties bagged 2 seats. AAP President Arvind Kejriwal defeated Sheila Dikshit in the New Delhi constituency with a huge margin of over 25,000 votes. AAP's success took most political rivals by surprise, who with support from the Congress, went on to form the government. But Arvind Kejriwal's resignation from the Chief Minister's post led to President's rule in the state. The Congress party, that governed Delhi for three consecutive terms from 1998 to 2013, seems a mere shadow of its past. BJP fails to capitalise on the 'Modi Wave' once again and fails to emerge as the single largest party BJP won only three seats . While AAP gave tough competition to the BJP and Aam   Aadmi   Party   won   highest   67   seats   .

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[101] 10 reasons behind Aam Aadmi Party's massive win in Delhi, Priyarag Verma, IBN Live.com | Feb 10, 2015

Delhi seems concerned about the same lot of grim issues that have continued to hurt its status as the national capital for long. Poor water supply and power outages, weak infrastructure, corruption, crime against women, problem of law and order, unemployment and pollution are the issues that was the core of the assembly elections.

Findings
- 2015 assembly election shows rapid increase in voter turnout it went up to 67.47% as compared to 2013 and 2008 assembly election held in Delhi.
- It was found that reserved constituencies also showed the trend of High and Very high electoral participation.
- Party competition has been measured in terms of margin of victory. Most of the constituencies recorded moderate and high margin victories .
- It was observed that in reserved constituencies only two constituencies Mangolpuri(sc) and Kondli(SC) recorded high degree of competition , where tough fight was found between two nearest rival .
- Six reserved constituencies recorded moderate margin victories , where the nearest rivals were close, though not very close, to each other in electoral support.
- Only four reserved constituencies witnessed high margin victories, In this study a big margin would show that the winning party or leading party secured majority of votes .

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