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An Empirical Study on Electoral and Religious Riots in India

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ABSTRACT

Electoral and religious riots have been a significant challenge in India, causing significant damage to property, loss of lives, and displacement of people. The root causes of these riots are complex and multifaceted, involving political, religious, economic, and social factors. As a diverse country with a rich history and culture, it is crucial to understand the causes and consequences of such violence and identify strategies to prevent them. This abstract summarizes the importance of research related to electoral and religious riots in India. Such research can provide insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies and policymakers in managing such situations. It can also shed light on the role played by various stakeholders in preventing and addressing such violence, including political parties, religious leaders, and civil society organizations. It is crucial to promote peace and harmony in a diverse country like India, and every individual and organization must work towards this goal. By conducting research on electoral and religious riots, we can take significant steps towards preventing such incidents from occurring in the future and mitigate their impact if they do occur.

Keywords: *Electoral riots, religious riots, violence, stakeholders, political parties.*

I. INTRODUCTION

India has a long history of electoral violence, which has evolved over time. Here are some of the key developments in the evolution of electoral violence in India. Early years of independence (1950s-60s). In the early years of independence, electoral violence was relatively low. However, there were instances of violence in some states, particularly in areas with a history of communal tensions. Rise of caste politics (1970s-80s) The 1970s and 1980s saw the rise of caste-based politics in India. Political parties began to appeal to voters on the basis of their caste identity, which often led to violent clashes between different castes. Emergence of regional parties (1990s) The 1990s saw the emergence of several regional parties in India. These parties often had strong support bases in particular regions or states and were able to

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mobilize voters on the basis of regional identity. However, this also led to violent clashes between supporters of different regional parties. Electoral violence is a major issue in North India, particularly in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand. Caste and communal politics play a significant role in North Indian politics, and political parties often mobilize voters on the basis of their caste or religious identity. This can lead to clashes between different communities during elections. Political parties in North India often use strong-arm tactics to influence voters, including intimidation, threats, and violence. They may also engage in booth capturing and other forms of electoral fraud. Many candidates in North India have criminal records, and some are known to use violence and intimidation to win elections. This has led to a situation where criminals are often elected to political office, which can perpetuate a culture of violence and impunity. The police and other law enforcement agencies in North India are often seen as ineffective or corrupt, which can make it difficult to prevent or prosecute instances of electoral violence. North India is home to some of the poorest and most marginalized communities in the country. These communities are often vulnerable to manipulation by political parties, and may resort to violence as a means of expressing their grievances. Research related to electoral and religious riots in India is essential to understand the causes and consequences of such violence. This research can help identify strategies to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future and mitigate their impact if they do occur. Additionally, the research can provide insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies and policymakers in managing such situations. The research can also shed light on the role played by various stakeholders, including political parties, religious leaders, and civil society organizations, in preventing and addressing such violence. Furthermore, the media's role in reporting such incidents and shaping public opinion cannot be overstated. In this context, conducting research on electoral and religious riots in India is crucial to promote peace and harmony in the country. It can help create a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities for building a more tolerant and inclusive society, where differences are celebrated and conflicts are resolved peacefully. The aim of the study is to identify patterns, triggers, and potential interventions to prevent or mitigate future occurrences. This study can inform policymakers, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies in devising strategies to promote social harmony and prevent violence.

(A) Objectives:

- To identify the triggers and factors that lead to electoral riots
- To examine the role of political parties in electoral riots

- To analyze the impact of religious riots on social cohesion
- To assess the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in handling religious riots and electoral riots

(B) Review of literature

(Narayan) The intent of campaign violence is to influence the dynamics of electoral competition, in particular to reduce turnout among opponents. If violence is used strategically to demobilize opponents, it follows that parties should be most interested in deploying violence in areas where it matters most, such as locations where they are concerned about losing. Existing work has assumed that parties infer competitiveness from previous performance or partisan preferences. **(Kumar)** The theoretical argument expects divergent effects of malapportionment in overrepresented districts compared to well-apportioned or slightly underrepresented ones. Specifically, the smaller size of overrepresented districts offers strategic advantages for regionally or nationally influential parties that make them attractive for investments in clientelism, render them more homogenous in terms of voter preferences, and bias them in favor of local incumbent parties. These biases in overrepresented districts imply that neither the incumbent nor challengers have incentives to use violence in areas of respective strength or weakness. **(A. Engineer)** This article conceptualizes election violence as a campaign strategy intended to influence the electoral process through the coercion of candidates or voters with threats and violence. Election violence is widely understood as strategic, emerging from the electoral incentives encountered by political elites. Two strands of literature are most relevant for the argument developed here; first, work on the competitiveness of elections and incentives for violence, and second, research on. **(Gupta)** This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the communal riots that occurred in India between 1947 and 1983. The author argues that these riots are a result of the communal divide that was created by British colonial policies, and suggests measures to prevent such violence in the future. **(Ghosh)** This book explores the role of political parties and the state in perpetuating communal violence in India. The author argues that the Indian state has failed to address the root causes of communal violence, and suggests that political parties should adopt a more secular and inclusive approach. **(Saksena)** This book examines the rise of religious fundamentalism in India and its impact on communal violence. The author argues that the state's response to religious violence has been inadequate and suggests measures to address the problem. **(Lahiri and Nayar)** book analyzes the relationship between communal violence and democracy in India. The author argues that democracy has not been effective in preventing communal violence, and suggests measures to strengthen democratic institutions and promote

social integration. **(Brass)** This edited volume brings together essays by leading scholars on the subject of communal violence in India. The contributors explore various aspects of communal violence, including its causes, consequences, and possible solutions. **(A. A. Engineer)** This book provides a detailed analysis of communal violence in North India, particularly in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. **(Kafaltiya)** The author examines the political, social, and economic factors that contribute to communal violence and suggests measures to prevent it. **(Wilkinson)** This edited volume brings together essays by leading scholars on the subject of communalism and communal violence in North India. The contributors examine various aspects of communal violence, including its causes, consequences, and possible solutions. **(Mitra and Chiriyankandath)** This book provides an overview of communal violence in India, with a particular focus on North India. The author examines the historical and political context of communal violence and suggests measures to prevent it. This book provides a detailed analysis of electoral violence in the states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The author examines the political, social, and economic factors that contribute to electoral violence and suggests measures to prevent it. **(Nath)** This edited volume brings together essays by leading scholars on the subject of electoral violence in India. The contributors examine various aspects of electoral violence, including its causes, consequences, and possible solutions. **(Brass)** This book examines the impact of electoral violence on the Indian democratic system. The author argues that electoral violence undermines the legitimacy of the democratic process and suggests measures to prevent it. **(Austin)** This book provides a detailed analysis of electoral violence in the states of Bihar and West Bengal. The author examines the political, social, and economic factors that contribute to electoral violence and suggests measures to prevent it. **(Rajgopal)** This study provides an empirical analysis of electoral violence in the state of Bihar during the 2014 parliamentary elections. **(Subhash)** The author examines the spatial and temporal patterns of violence and suggests measures to prevent it. This book provides an in-depth analysis of electoral violence in Bihar, a state in North India, during the 1990s and early 2000s. **(Sardesai)** The author examines the various factors that contribute to electoral violence and suggests measures to prevent it. **(Rao and Sharma)** This book provides a broader perspective on violence in Indian democracy, including electoral violence. The author examines the connections between violence, democracy, and citizenship in India, and offers insights into the ways in which Indian democracy can be strengthened to reduce violence. **(Baird)** This book provides an analysis of the 2002 Gujarat riots, which were triggered by electoral violence. The author explores the factors that contributed to the riots, including the role of the state and the media, and suggests ways to prevent such violence in the

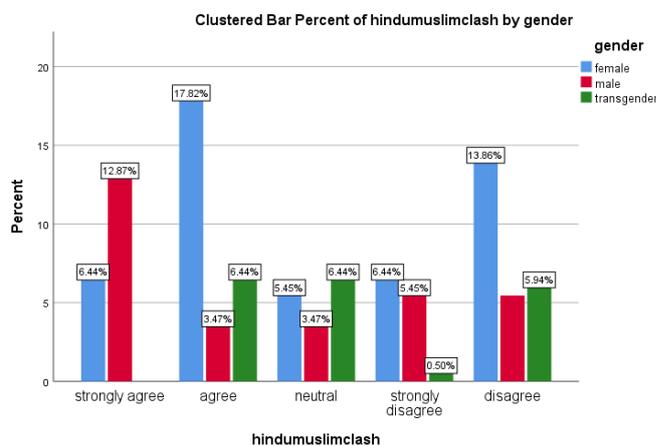
future. **(Shakir)** This book focuses on the states of Punjab and Haryana, both located in North India, and examines the role of ethnicity, caste, and religion in electoral violence. The author also looks at the responses of political parties, civil society, and the state to electoral violence. **(Narayan)** This book provides a comprehensive overview of electoral violence in India, with a focus on North India. **(Kumar)** The author examines the causes and consequences of electoral violence, and offers suggestions for prevention and mitigation.

(C) Methodology

The research method followed is empirical research. A total of 200 samples have been taken out of which is taken by a convenient sampling method. The sample frame taken by the researcher near Aravind eye hospital, Chennai . The independent variables taken for the survey are age, gender, occupation and educational qualification. The statistical tool used in the study is graphical representation.

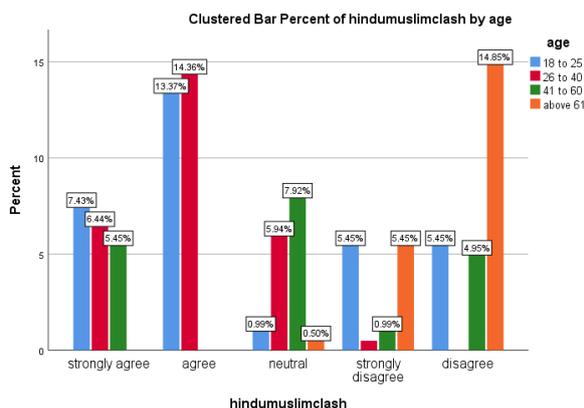
II. ANALYSIS

FIGURE 1:



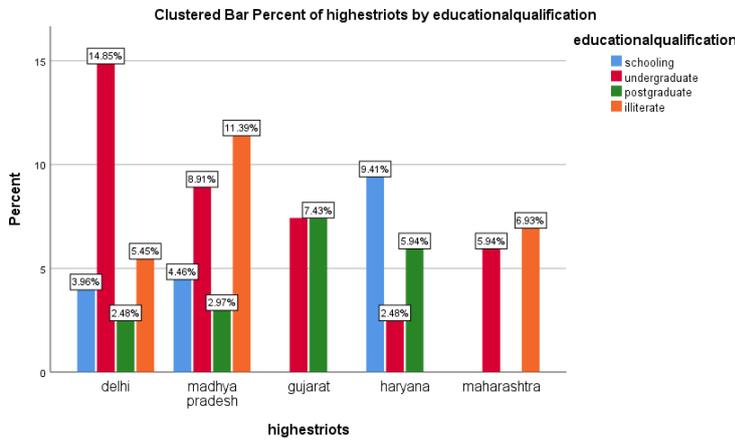
LEGEND: The figure 1 is compared with gender and Hindu Muslim clashes.

FIGURE 2:



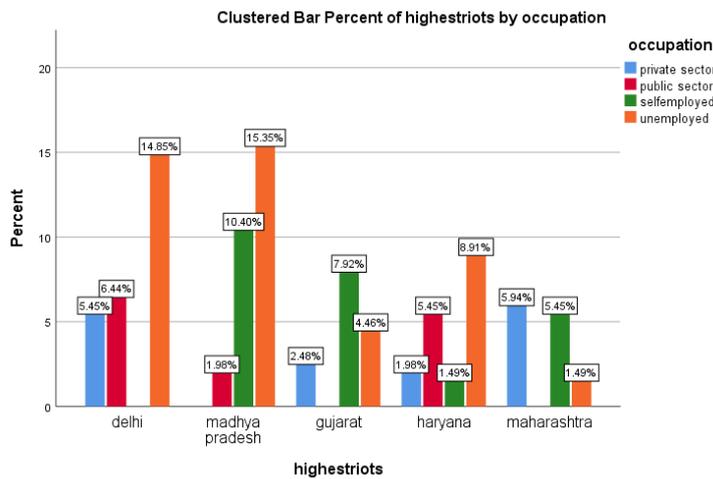
LEGEND: The figure 2 is compared with age and Hindu Muslim clashes

FIGURE 3:



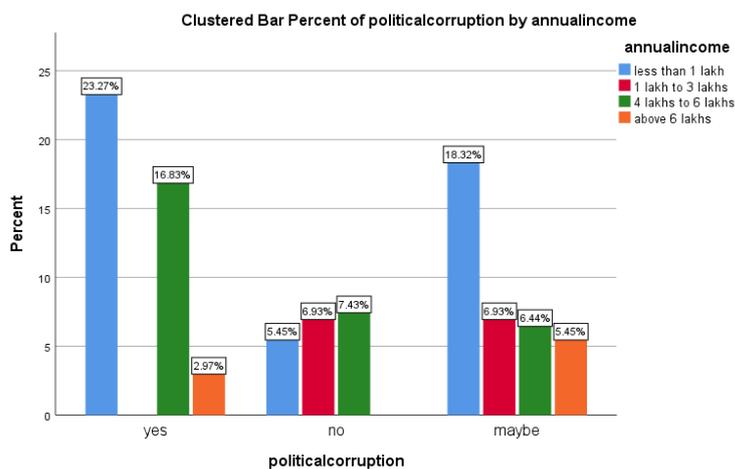
LEGEND: The figure 3 is compared with educational qualification and highest riots in India.

FIGURE 4:



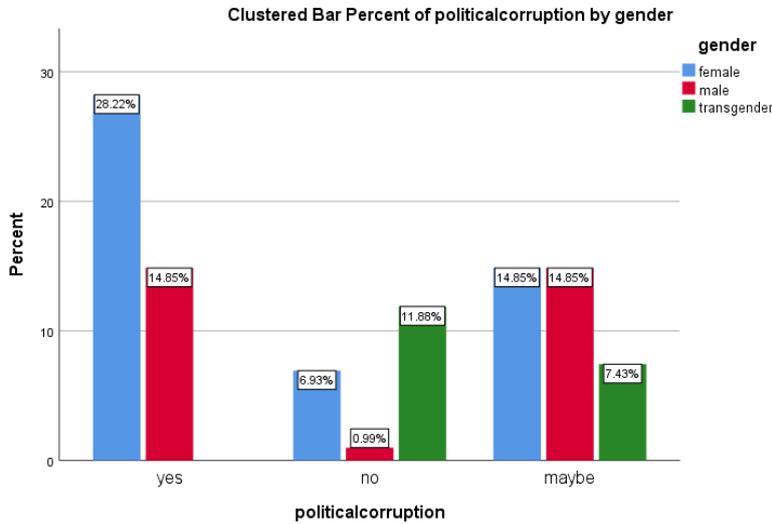
LEGEND: The figure 4 is compared with occupation and highest riots in India.

FIGURE 5:



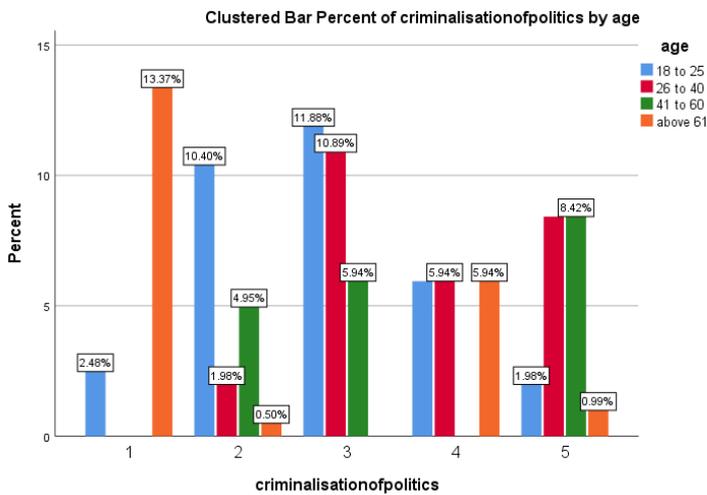
LEGEND: The figure 5 is compared to annual income and political corruption leads to electoral violence in India.

FIGURE 6:



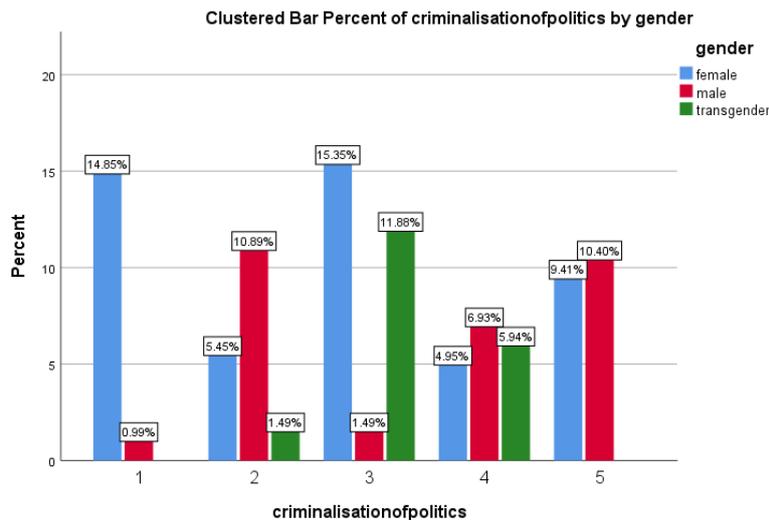
LEGEND: The figure 6 is compared to gender and political corruption leads to electoral violence in India.

FIGURE 7:



LEGEND: The figure 7 is compared to age and criminalisation of politics in India.

FIGURE 8:



LEGEND: The figure 8 is compared to age and criminalisation of politics in India.

III. RESULTS

Figure 1 explains gender and Hindu Muslim class . Most of the respondents are female and they agreed that there is a class between Hindu and Muslim. **Figure 2** explains the age Hindu Muslim class. Most of the respondents are between the age group of 26 to 40 and they agree that there is a class between Hindu and Muslim. **Figure 3** explains the highest rate of riots happening in which state so most of the respondents are undergraduate and they responded Delhi is the state where the most of the riots happen in India. **Figure 4** explains the highest rate of riots happening in which state so most of the respondents are unemployed and they responded Delhi is the state where the most of the riots happen in India. **Figure 5** explains annual income and political corruption which happens in India during the electoral and religious riots most of the respondents are earning from less than 1 lakh and they answered yes by this it has concluded that is a political corruption during electoral and religious riots. **Figure 6** explains gender and political corruption which happens in India during the electoral and religious riots most of the respondents are female and they answered yes by this it has concluded that is a political corruption during electoral and religious riots. **Figure 7** explains age and criminalisation of politics and most of the respondents are between the age group of 18 to 25 and they answered three out of five. By this it is concluded that there is criminalization of politics during electoral and religious riots in India. **Figure 8** explains age and criminalisation of politics and most of the respondents are female and they answered three out of five. By this it is concluded that there is criminalization of politics during electoral and religious riots in India.

IV. DISCUSSION

Figure 1 is compared with gender and Hindu Muslim clashes. Nearly 17.8% of females agreed, 12.8% of male strongly disagreed and 6.44% of transgender agreed to the Hindu Muslim classes happening in India. So most of the respondents are agreeing that Hindu Muslim clashes happen in India. **Figure 2** is compared with age and Hindu Muslim clashes. Nearly 14.85% of them disagree and 14.36% of them agree that Hindu Muslim clashes happens in India. **Figure 3** is compared with highest riots and educational qualification. Nearly 14.85% of them answer Delhi, 11.39% of them Madhya Pradesh, 7.43% of them answer Gujarat, 9.41% of them answer Haryana and 6.93% answer Maharashtra. **Figure 4** is compared with occupation and highest riots in India. Nearly 15.35% of them answered Madhya Pradesh, 14.85% of them answered Delhi, 74.9% of them answered Gujarat, 8.91% of them answered Haryana, 5.94% of them answered Maharashtra and most of the respondents were from the private sector. **Figure 5** Is compared with annual income and political corruption leads to electoral violence. Nearly 23.27% of them answered yes, 7.43% of them answered no, 18.32% of them answered maybe and most of the respondents are from an annual income of less than one lakh. **Figure 6** is compared to gender and political corruption leads to electoral violence. Nearly 28.22% of them answered yes, 11.88% of them answered no, 14.85% of them answered maybe and most of the respondents were female. **Figure 7** is compared to age and criminalisation of politics nearly 13.37% of them answered 2 out of 5, 11.88% of them answered 3 out of 5, 2.48% of them answered one out of five, 5.94% of them answered 4 out of 5 and 8.42% of them answered 5 out of 5. **Figure 8** is compared to agent criminalisation of politics. Most of the respondents are female. Nearly 14.85% of them answered one out of 5, 10.8% of them answered 2 out of 5, 15.35% of them answered 3 out of 5, 6.93% of them answered 4 out of 5 and 10.4% of them answered 5 out of 5.

V. LIMITATIONS

The major limitation of the study is the sample frame. Time is also a major factor limiting the study . The sample frame is near Aravind eye hospital and it acts as a major constraint for collecting samples.

(A) Suggestions:

The impact of electoral violence on voter turnout: Analyze the effect of electoral violence on voter turnout in India. This study could examine how incidents of violence during elections affect voter behavior and how this may impact the overall outcome of elections. Religious polarization and the occurrence of communal violence: Investigate the relationship between religious polarization and the occurrence of communal violence in India. This study could

explore how factors such as religious identity, economic disparities, and political rhetoric contribute to communal tensions and violent conflicts. Media representation and public perception of electoral and religious riots: Examine how the media portrays electoral and religious riots in India and how this affects public perception of these events. This study could analyze the role of media bias, sensationalism, and framing in shaping public opinion and attitudes towards these incidents.

VI. CONCLUSION

India has experienced several electoral and religious riots over the years, which have resulted in significant damage to property, loss of lives, and displacement of people. These riots are often fueled by political or religious differences, and they can quickly escalate if not properly managed. The Indian government and law enforcement agencies have taken steps to prevent such riots, but they have not been entirely successful. The root causes of these riots must be addressed, and efforts must be made to foster better understanding and tolerance among different religious and political groups. It is essential to promote peace and harmony in a diverse country like India, and every individual and organization must work towards this goal. The media also has a crucial role to play in responsible reporting, and spreading awareness about the consequences of such violence. In conclusion, electoral and religious riots in India are a serious concern, and it is crucial to take steps to prevent them and promote unity and harmony among all citizens.

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