

Economic Policy Effectiveness and Public Perception: Analysis of Congress Party popularity in Haryana

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at the efficacy of the Congress Party's economic policies in Haryana as well as how they affect public opinion over time. The study used a longitudinal analysis methodology to monitor the Congress Party's popularity over several election cycles and establish a correlation between changes in public opinion and particular economic policies. The study tries to determine the critical elements influencing public opinion regarding the party's economic plans by an analysis of voter behaviour, media coverage, and economic data. The results point to a complicated link between public perception and policy outcomes, emphasizing the role that clear and concise messaging and real financial gains play in influencing voter sentiment. The research expands our knowledge of the relationship between public opinion and the efficacy of economic policies, providing political strategists and policymakers in Haryana and other similar settings with useful information.

Keywords: Economic Public Perception Longitudinal Congress Party Popularity Haryana.

1. INTRODUCTION

In political science and economics, understanding the connection between public opinion and economic policy is crucial. Any government's plan to promote growth, reduce poverty, and raise the general standard of living must include economic policies. Election results are influenced by the public's support for the ruling party, which is frequently determined by how well certain programs work. The Congress Party has a lengthy history of governing and is a powerful political force in India. Examining its acceptance in the heterogeneous socioeconomic state of Haryana offers important insights into how economic policies affect public opinion and voting behavior.

1.1.Context of Haryana

The northern Indian state of Haryana has a distinct political and economic landscape. Being one of the wealthiest states in India, it makes major contributions to the manufacturing, services, and agricultural sectors. But it also has to contend with issues like socioeconomic inequality, geographical differences, and unemployment. Because of the Congress Party's erratic political presence in Haryana, it is a prime example of how public perception and the efficacy of economic policy interact. Comprehending this dynamic is essential to developing strategies that appeal to voters and meeting the state's socioeconomic requirements.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Jain et.al (2022). This study looks into how political leaders' educational backgrounds affect India's economic growth. Analyse the association between elected officials' educational backgrounds and other economic performance metrics across Indian states using a rigorous empirical framework. The authors make use of an extensive dataset that spans several election cycles and includes economic indicators including social welfare indices, GDP growth, and investment rates. According to their findings, states with higher levels of education in their leadership typically have better economic outcomes. According to the report, this is because educated leaders are better at creating and implementing policies since they know how to navigate difficult economic situations and make the most use of available resources. The research contributes to the larger discussion on the role of human capital in governance by offering strong evidence in Favor of the idea that political leaders' educational backgrounds can have a major impact on economic development.

Schakel and Swenden (2018) investigate the dynamics of India's party system nationalization between 1952 and 2014. Their study explores how party systems have developed and how well political parties have been able to unite support in various geographic areas. The authors contend that the party system has seen significant



regionalization and fragmentation, even in spite of the Indian National Congress's initial supremacy. They use a mixed-methods approach, fusing case study insights with quantitative analyses of electoral data. The study draws attention to the growing importance of regional parties and the difficulties this presents for the coherence of national politics. Schakel and Swenden come to the conclusion that a reconsideration of political mobilization and governance tactics is necessary, as the tendency towards regionalization is a reflection of deeper socio-economic and cultural diversities within India. Their research offers a sophisticated perspective of the challenges associated with preserving a cohesive party system in a large and heterogeneous nation such as India.

Schakel et.al (2019). examine India's political climate after the general elections of 2014, which saw the rise of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP). The writers examine how the dominance of the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) has affected the Indian political system, with a special emphasis on the decline of the third-party system. They contend that a major realignment of political forces has occurred as a result of the BJP's growth, marginalizing other regional and minor national parties. From a political and historical perspective, the article looks at voter behavior, party tactics, and electoral patterns. The writers draw attention to the BJP's concentration of power and how it affects federal dynamics, arguing that this change presents difficulties for India's federal and pluralistic political system. The research adds to our knowledge of how the 2014 elections altered Indian democracy and provides predictions for the party system's future development.

Datta (2019) focuses on the differences in party preferences between men and women. To find trends in gender-based voting, the study uses a thorough statistical analysis of election data. Men and women exhibit diverse tendencies towards different political parties, according to Datta, who also finds a sizable gender disparity in party preferences. According to the analysis, males typically prefer parties with strong agendas related to the economy and national security, while women are more inclined to support parties that place a higher priority on social welfare measures and gender justice. The study also takes into account how these gender inequalities are shaped by socioeconomic variables, media coverage, and political outreach initiatives. Datta's study emphasizes how crucial it is to take gender into account while analyzing electoral politics and contends that political parties should modify their approaches to better meet the needs and goals of female voters.

Sharma and Swenden (2018) offer a thorough analysis of the complexities, difficulties, and potential future paths of modern Indian federalism. Leading academics' contributions are collected in this book to examine the historical development, institutional structure, and day-to-day operations of India's federalism. The editors draw attention to the divergent viewpoints on federalism, stressing the conflicts between decentralization and centralization as well as the significance of local identities and political parties. Many subjects are covered in this volume, including the effects of globalization on federal dynamics, intergovernmental interactions, and fiscal federalism. It also discusses new issues that are coming up, such the development of nationalism in politics and how that affects the unity of the federal government. The final section of the book discusses future directions and possible reforms for Indian federalism. All things considered, this book is a useful tool for comprehending the complex aspects of Indian federalism and offers insights into the current discussions and policy issues surrounding it.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

• Research Design

Utilizing a multimodal research approach that integrates descriptive, analytical, historical, and comparative methods, this study thoroughly investigates the contribution of the Indian National Congress (INC) to the socioeconomic advancement of Haryana. By following the rise of INC's power in Haryana throughout time, the historical approach offers a chronological framework for the organization's political and developmental tactics. This

entails a review of the INC's electoral record, significant political developments, and changes in policy throughout its terms of office. Key economic policies, infrastructure projects, social welfare programs, and their desired consequences are all documented using descriptive methodologies that go into detail about the policies and programs that the INC has put into place. By contrasting socioeconomic metrics like GDP growth, employment rates, poverty levels, and development indices between the INC's and other political parties' periods in power in Haryana, comparative methodologies assess the INC's performance in relation to other political entities in the state. Through qualitative and quantitative data analysis, analytical methodologies further analyze the efficacy and impact of these programs, gaining insights from several data sources to create a deeper view of the INC's role in Haryana's growth.

• Time Duration

The study's scope is restricted to the roughly three decades of government that the Congress Party held in Haryana. This timeline makes it possible to analyze the party's tactics and results in great detail, taking into account both short-term and long-term repercussions on the socioeconomic climate of the state. Important political developments and turning points in history will be emphasized in order to fully comprehend the party's significance throughout this time.

• Study Area

The research's geographical focus is the northern Indian state of Haryana. Studying the impact of the INC is relevant in Haryana because of its distinct socio-political environment, agricultural dominance, and industrial progress. The state is a perfect example of how to comprehend the relationship between political governance and regional development.

• Data Collection

Primary and secondary sources have provided pertinent data for the research. Interviews with a chosen subset of All-India Congress Party leaders and employees have yielded primary data. First-hand knowledge of the party's internal dynamics, decision-making procedures, and strategic initiatives is provided by these interviews. Understanding the party's goals, difficulties, and victories throughout its tenure in Haryana is made possible by the qualitative information gleaned from these interviews. Numerous publications and documents have served as the source of secondary data. Election Commission reports, which include official data on election outcomes, party performance, and electoral strategy, are important secondary sources. Newspapers and periodicals offer up-to-date reports on current affairs, public opinion, and media viewpoints. Academic publications offer in-depth evaluations and criticisms of the socioeconomic effects and policies of the INC.

One can obtain a wide range of information about Indian political parties and state politics through online databases and tools. Books and historical materials provide analytical and historical viewpoints on the INC's function within the larger framework of Indian politics. Quantitative data on a range of socioeconomic indicators can be found in government reports and abstracts, which is crucial for examining development trends. Understanding population dynamics and conducting demographic analysis require access to census data. Views into policy discussions, legislative acts, and governance matters can be gained from official recordings of legislative proceedings. A comprehensive grasp of the study issue can be achieved through the use of archival documents, official and non-governmental papers, and other pertinent publications as additional secondary sources. The study intends to build a thorough and reliable analysis of the INC's impact on Haryana's socioeconomic growth by integrating a variety of data sources, offering a thorough understanding of the organization's political legacy and developmental accomplishments. The methodology guarantees a comprehensive investigation of the subject, permitting a sophisticated comprehension of the efficacy of economic measures and their influence on public opinion in Haryana.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socio-economic growth of the state of Haryana has been significantly influenced by the Indian National Congress (INC), according to a historical analysis of the party. The political and economic landscape of Haryana has been formed by the INC since the state's inception in 1966, during times of major control. Implementing land reforms, enacting industrial policies, and initiating agricultural development initiatives are important historical turning points. The groundwork for Haryana's development into an affluent state was built by these initiatives. Significant political occurrences, such wins in elections and tactical alliances, emphasize the party's flexible approaches to preserving its power. The analysis demonstrates how the INC's political and developmental methods changed over time to meet the state's shifting requirements and difficulties.

• Effectiveness of Economic Policies

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• Public Perception and Popularity

Public perception of the INC's policies was analysed through interviews with party leaders and workers, as well as media analysis and public opinion surveys. The results show that while the INC was credited with significant developmental achievements, it also faced criticism for issues such as corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and unequal distribution of benefits. Interviews provided firsthand insights into the party's internal dynamics and decision-making processes, highlighting both successes and challenges. Media analysis and public opinion surveys revealed that public perception was mixed, with varying levels of support across different regions and socio-economic groups. This mixed perception influenced the INC's popularity, leading to fluctuating electoral performance over different cycles.

5. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) were two political parties that the INC had to contend with, although overall its record in terms of economic development was comparatively robust when compared to other political organizations in Haryana. These groups took advantage of the public's dissatisfaction with specific INC policies to provide their own development visions. The comparative analysis shows that although the INC created the foundation for Haryana's economic expansion, other parties successfully remedied the deficiencies in public services and governance, undermining the INC's hegemony. This analysis emphasizes how crucial it is to deal with governance concerns and sustain public confidence in order to keep political support.

Table 1: Performance of Political Parties: 1982 Haryana Legislative Assembly Election

Party	Seats		Votes Polled		Vote % in Seats Contested
	Contested	Won	Votes	%	
BJP	24	6	376604	7.6	29
CPI	15	0	36642	0.7	4.2
CPM	5	0	18616	0.3	6.9
ICS	2	0	398	0.01	0.3
INC	90	36	1845297	37.5	37.5
JNP	59	1	157224	3.2	4.9
LKD	65	31	1172149	23.8	33
IND	835	16	1303414	26.5	26.5

5.1. Findings

The study conclusions indicate that while the INC's economic policies made a substantial contribution to Haryana's growth, they were not always enough to sustain the public's continuous support. Transparency, good communication, and tackling governance concerns are essential for turning a successful program into popular political support. The study emphasizes how important it is to strike a balance between equitable resource distribution, sound governance, and economic progress in order to preserve public support and confidence.

Table2: Political parties in the 2019 Haryana Legislative Assembly Election

Party	Seats Contested	Seats Won	Votes Polled	Vote % in Seats Contested
BJP	89	40	36.49%	36.49%
INC	90	31	28.08%	28.08%
JJP	87	10	14.80%	14.80%
INLD	81	1	2.44%	2.44%
Independents	Various	7	9.17%	9.17%

5.2. Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study offers several policy recommendations for the INC and other political entities:

- Enhance Transparency and Governance:** Address corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies to improve public trust and governance.
- Focus on Inclusive Development:** Ensure that economic benefits are equitably distributed across different regions and socio-economic groups.
- Strengthen Communication Strategies:** Effectively communicate policy achievements and address public concerns through transparent and regular engagement with the public.
- Diversify Development Initiatives:** Balance the focus between industrial growth and rural development to cater to diverse voter bases and regional needs.
- Monitor and Evaluate Policies:** Continuously monitor and evaluate the impact of policies to make necessary adjustments and improvements for better outcomes.

6. CONCLUSION

The study's findings offer a thorough grasp of how public opinion and the efficacy of economic policies interact in Haryana under the INC's leadership. Even though the INC's policies had a major positive impact on the state's economic expansion, a number of elements, such as communication tactics and governance concerns, also had an impact on public opinion and political popularity. Policymakers and political strategists who want to increase the efficacy and public acceptance of their economic programs will find these ideas to be very helpful. The study emphasizes how crucial inclusive development, transparent government, and long-term socioeconomic advancement are to maintaining political support.

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