

VOTING BEHAVIOR OF SARAIKI VOTERS IN GENERAL ELECTION 2024: (A CASE STUDY IN SOUTH PUNJAB D.G KHAN REGION)

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Abstract

In Pakistan political personalities have overriding effects on elections and political processes. Current research presents the election 2024 and behavior of the Saraiki people of Four Districts of South Punjab and demographically is populated district of can be segregated in rural and urban areas. Socioeconomic factors such as employment opportunities, access to education, healthcare facilities, and poverty alleviation programs can influence voting behavior. Factors related to religion, social norms, and cultural values may also play a role in shaping voting preferences among Saraiki voters. The Saraiki-speaking population constitutes a substantial demographic segment in Pakistan, particularly in South Punjab. However, there is a dearth of research exploring the specific voting behavior of this group. The main objective of this study is To Illustrate the Basis on which Saraiki Voters vote for any Political Party. the universe was Region Dera Ghazi Khan in which District D. G Khan, Rajan Pur, Muzaffar Garh and Layyah. The researcher research conducts in those Lecturers and Assistant Professors worked in Government Colleges in Region Dera Ghazi Khan in which District D. G Khan, Rajan Pur, Muzaffar Garh and Layyah. Sample size of the study was 35 Lecturers and Assistant Professors in each District. Total 140 respondents in the Target population of Targeted area. In south Punjab, we found that caste, braderi, family head decision, or other religious affiliation of candidates has no bearing on the selection of candidates by the common person. There were preferences and visions among Saraiki People regardless of whether or not they were literate or illiterate. Each Saraiki voter decides independently which candidate would be the best fit for his or her constituency as a political leader.

INTRODUCTION

Voting is a term used in democratic politics to elect the leaders who run the government's affairs. Voting provides citizens with a chance to actively participate in state matters rather than being passive or inactive. It is common for people to participate in politics by voting in elections (Flanigan and Zingale 1998, p6). It is possible to identify factors and considerations that shape people's political disposition and voting preferences based on election results

Saraiki also spoken broadly in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces of Pakistan in addition to via nearly 70,000 emigrants and their desendants in India. according to 1998 populace and Housing census of Pakistan, thirteen.910 milion people talk Saraiki throughout the us of a. The important attention of Saraiki audio system lives in almost 17 southern district of Punjab and southern fringes of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In lingual terms it's miles claimed that Saraiki is a separate language of Indo-Aryan circle of relatives, and a separate province particularly Saraikistan will assist in conservation of the Saraiki identity.

Battle for Saraiki Nationalism turned into operating in non-political form, from many a long time but in organized manners it became commenced on 25th December 1983. On 25th December 1983 Taj Muhammad Khan Langah the founding father of Pakistan Saraiki celebration (hereafter PSP), for the first time inside the records of Pakistan offered constitution of call for for Saraiki human beings and Saraiki region. Circle of his struggle

turned into in the constitution and federation of Pakistan. For the achievement of his objectives for Saraiki humans, he began his efforts for launching of a political enterprise. On sixth April 1984 he based “Saraiki Soba Mahaz” for the formation of Saraiki Province. afterward Saraiki Soba Mahaz changed into reorganized as Pakistan Saraiki party on 7 April 1989.

In Pakistan political personalities have overriding effects on elections and political processes. Current research presents the election 2024 and behavior of the Saraiki people of Four Districts of South Punjab and demographically is populated district of can be segregated in rural and urban areas. Like all world nations including Pakistan inherited vote based Political system. After independence Pakistan, a total of eleven General Elections have been held up. The political system in Pakistan is continuously facing novelty in terms of established infrastructure of vote casting system for selecting their political leaders.

The political preferences of Saraiki people in South Punjab, Pakistan, can vary greatly depending on numerous factors such as socioeconomic status, personal beliefs, and historical affiliations. It's not accurate to assume that all Saraiki people support one particular party. Historically, Saraiki-speaking areas have been associated with various political parties, including the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), among others. Each party has had its own base of support in different regions and among different demographics within South Punjab.

Factors influencing political preferences among Saraiki people may include the party's stance on issues affecting the region, the track record of local representatives, promises made during election campaigns, and perceptions of how well the party has addressed the needs of the Saraiki-speaking population in the past.

Saraiki voters, like voters from any other community, may cast their votes based on a variety of factors. Saraiki voters may assess the policies and promises of political candidates and parties to determine which align best with their own priorities and interests. Some Saraiki voters may have longstanding affiliations with specific political parties based on historical ties, family traditions, or ideological alignment. Incumbent politicians' performance and track record in addressing the needs and concerns of the Saraiki-speaking population can heavily influence voting decisions. Issues that directly affect the Saraiki-speaking regions, such as development projects, provision of basic amenities, agricultural policies, and infrastructure development, may sway voting decisions. While Saraiki identity may not always be the primary factor, some voters may consider candidates who are perceived to represent Saraiki interests or promote Saraiki culture and language. Socioeconomic factors such as employment opportunities, access to education, healthcare facilities, and poverty alleviation programs can influence voting behavior. Factors related to religion, social norms, and cultural values may also play a role in shaping voting preferences among Saraiki voters. The perceived leadership qualities of political candidates, including their integrity, honesty, competence, and ability to deliver on promises, can influence voting decisions (Shahwar and Asim (2012)).

Statement of the Problems

The voting behavior of Saraiki-speaking individuals in general elections in Pakistan presents a complex and dynamic phenomenon that requires comprehensive investigation. Despite the significant demographic presence and socio-political importance of the Saraiki-speaking population, there remains a lack of in-depth understanding regarding their voting patterns, preferences, and motivations.

The Saraiki-speaking population constitutes a substantial demographic segment in Pakistan, particularly in South Punjab. However, there is a dearth of research exploring the specific

voting behavior of this group. Saraiki voters' behavior is influenced by a myriad of factors, including historical affiliations, socio-economic conditions, ethnic identity, religious considerations, local issues, and perceptions of political leadership. Understanding how these factors intersect and influence voting decisions is essential. Political parties often compete for the support of Saraiki voters, but their strategies and outreach efforts may vary. Examining the engagement of political parties with Saraiki-speaking communities and the effectiveness of their campaign messages is crucial for understanding voter behavior. Socio-economic factors such as access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and infrastructure development play a significant role in shaping Saraiki voters' perceptions and priorities. Analyzing the impact of these factors on voting behavior is essential. The preservation and promotion of Saraiki culture and language are important considerations for many Saraiki voters. Exploring how cultural identity intersects with political participation and electoral choices provides valuable insights. A deeper understanding of Saraiki voters' behavior can inform political parties' strategies, government policies, and electoral reforms aimed at better representing the interests and addressing the needs of this diverse demographic group.

Research Objectives

To Illustrate the Basis on which Saraiki Voters vote for any Political Party

To investigate reasons of voters in getting recognition of Cultural identity and representation

Significance of the Study

Saraikies particularly in South Punjab, represent a substantial portion of Pakistan's population. Understanding Saraiki voters' behavior is crucial for ensuring adequate political representation and addressing their needs and concerns effectively. Saraiki voters' behavior can have a significant impact on electoral outcomes in Pakistan, especially in constituencies where Saraiki-speaking communities are densely populated. Analyzing their voting patterns and preferences provides valuable insights into electoral dynamics at both local and national levels. Pakistan is characterized by its diverse population, with Saraiki-speaking communities representing an important ethnic and linguistic group. By understanding Saraiki voters' behavior, policymakers can better appreciate the nuances of Pakistan's demographic landscape and tailor policies and initiatives to address the needs of diverse communities.

Understanding the factors that influence Saraiki voters' choices can contribute to fostering social cohesion and harmony within Pakistani society. By recognizing and respecting the preferences and concerns of Saraiki-speaking communities, efforts can be made to promote inclusivity and unity across linguistic and ethnic lines. Insights into Saraiki voters' behavior can inform the formulation of policies and programs aimed at addressing socio-economic disparities, promoting development, and improving governance in Saraiki-speaking regions. Tailoring policies to reflect the priorities and aspirations of Saraiki voters can lead to more effective and responsive governance. Political parties in Pakistan actively compete for the support of Saraiki voters during elections. Understanding the factors that influence Saraiki voters' decisions can help political parties develop more effective campaign strategies, outreach efforts, and policy platforms tailored to resonate with Saraiki-speaking communities.

The study of Saraiki voters' behavior contributes to academic research in the fields of political science, sociology, and ethnic studies. By deepening our understanding of voting patterns and motivations among Saraiki-speaking populations, researchers can contribute to broader scholarly discourse on electoral behavior and democratic participation.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

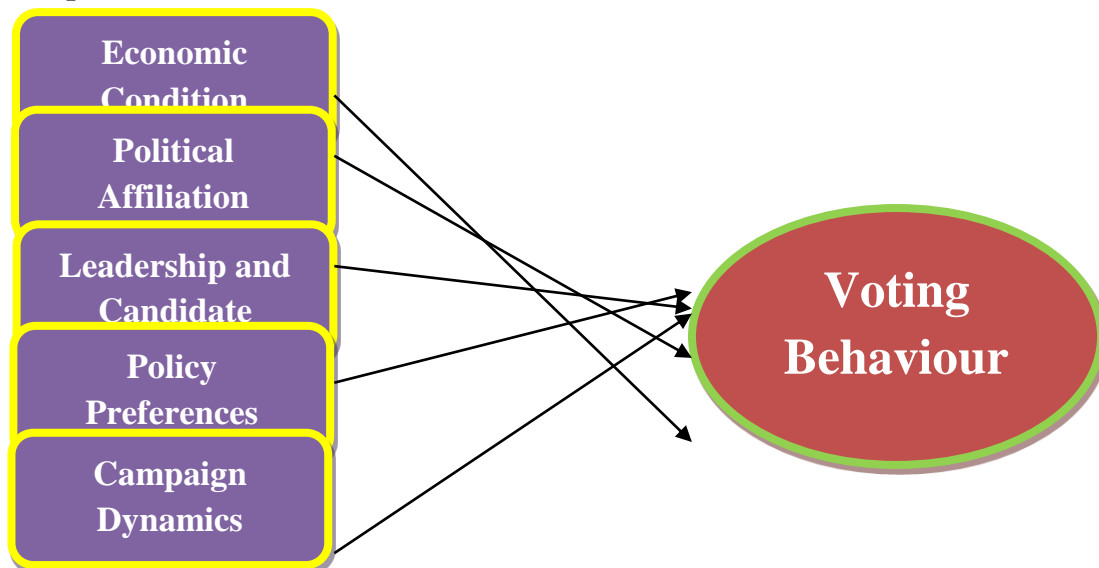
Chaudhry, et al., (2014) demonstrated that in rural areas of Pakistan biradri system is strongly interlinked. Particularly, Biradari system is significantly contribute in general

election. Aziz et al., (2014) described role of voting behavior in electoral politics. They described that Biradri system is resilient cause for success of political leaders of any political party. They expressed the political voting behavior of different peoples during general election 2013 in district Layyah, Pakistan and concluded that most of respondents vote for the specific political leader not for the party.

Shah and Rauf, (2015) described that studies for understanding of different voting behavior in Punjab possess its own importance, but it is obvious to elucidate the political behavior at the micro scale (District level) as well as gradient scale (Division level). The measuring level of democratization is encountered by Turnout in elections. It is generally considered that in Pakistan during general elections do not have decent turnout. They concluded that turnout in election is indomitable by various aspects extending from personal and group leverages to structural arrangements

Zafar (2018) noted that all political parties and their leadership used the slogan of Saraiki Province and also highlighted different problems of the region. The grievances of the people of South Punjab cannot be removed without creating a new province, which is also vital for strengthening democracy and federalism in Pakistan

Conceptualization



Converging theories of voting action Need conceptions

The psychodynamic and humanistic schools contributed the intervening variables of need and value to the study of voting action. From Chapters 5 and 6 it appears that there are important differences between the two regarding the proper nature and number of needs. The psychological theories in the humanistic direction allow for a great variety of different motives and needs in the mature human individual: adaption versus expansion (Bühler); an anxiety-reducing tendency toward order and continuity versus an inherent desire for new experiences and activities (Goldstein); deficit motives versus growth motives (Maslow). Furthermore, while the idea of self-actualization or fulfilment is central to all humanistic approaches, the form and content of the growth process is not abstracted in a preconceived scheme: the uniqueness of individual development is recognized as a fundamental rule and can only be approached as an empirical phenomenon (Allport 1961: 219ff; Maslow 1968: 21ff; see also Visser 1994c).

This flexible explanatory scheme seems to differ from orthodox psychoanalysis. Here all human activity is ultimately motivated by a few basic drives, which induce needs in the person that are constantly pressing for gratification. Humanistic psychologists have raised three objections to this theory. First, although some tissue-deficient drive-needs (like hunger, thirst, sex, fatigue, oxygen-need) may be quite plausibly related to individual motives, it remains to be empirically shown, instead of just asserted, that all complex adult motives can be reduced to only a few basic drives. Second, psychoanalysis is mistaken in assuming an exclusively genetic approach to the analysis of human thinking and behavior: motivation and conflict are always contemporary events, inherent in the present condition of the experiencing individual. Finally, the humanists have criticized psychoanalysis for its predominant adherence to pathological cases, which in a qualitative sense they deemed principally different from normal, healthy ones. On the other hand, the general validity of the Freudian approach to such pathological cases has not been fundamentally questioned: most humanist psychologists have accepted the notions of unconscious motivation and the pathogenesis of psychic disturbances in early youth (Allport 1961: 206-208; Bühler 1962: 95ff, 211-215; Goldstein 1940: 150ff; Maslow 1968: 5-7).

Although thus partly contradictory, partly complementary in a theoretical sense, in empirical practice the explanations of political behavior, offered by psychodynamic and humanistic researchers, turned out to be quite complementary. The research on authoritarian personalities provides a good case in point. Approaching from the psychodynamic side, in part II of *The authoritarian personality* Else Frenkel-Brunswik arrived at a rough typology of extremely high and low scoring individuals on overt ethnic prejudice on the basis of clinical interviews (Adorno et al. 1950: 291-486). While the highly prejudiced subjects show various dispositions which are also part of the more encompassing authoritarianism syndrome (such as tendencies toward repression, externalization, conventionalism, power orientation, and rigidity in external adjustment), the low scorers come quite close to democratic personalities in Maslow's sense. They are aware of unacceptable impulses and weaknesses in themselves, instead of repressing such tendencies. Relations to significant others are based on genuine feelings of companionship, friendship and affection, and far less on conventional values and a yearning for power and dominance. The low scorers are emotionally and cognitively far more flexible and adjusted to environmental contingencies than the high scorers. Most significantly, however, the less prejudiced subjects display.

a more closely knit integration within the individual and a more internalized and more intensive, though not conflict-free relation to others. The low scorer also tends to be oriented...toward real achievement, toward intellectual or aesthetic goals, and toward the realization of socially productive values. His greater capacity for intensive interpersonal relationships goes hand in hand with greater self-sufficiency. He struggles for the establishment of inner harmony and self-actualization...(Adorno et al. 1950: 475)

From the humanistic perspective, the authoritarian personality syndrome is conceptualized in terms of deficiency motivation. It is considered as a particular result of prolonged frustration of the safety needs, inducing feelings of obedience and submission, and the love and affection needs, bringing feelings of social prejudice, hostility and distrust, in the course of a person's life history (Maslow 1943, 1954: 88-91).

The research on authoritarian and democratic personalities thus shows complementary conceptions and results, according to which increasing political activity, interest and efficacy

positively correlate with growing self-actualization. Below a certain degree of gratification of physiologically-induced needs, no significant political interest or actions may be expected. Persons whose self-realization is stultified by frustration of their safety and social needs tend to be more politically cynical, passive and prejudiced than the average voter, which tendency among a small number of voters may lead to authoritarian thinking and acting. People whose self-realization is relatively undisturbed by deficiencies in the physical, safety and social spheres are more apt to be politically involved and active and to adopt a relatively tolerant view of the democratic process and the participation of social and ethnic minority groups therein. At the same time, ascendance in the need hierarchy seems to correlate with an increasing voting preference for left-wing over right-wing parties, although the empirical picture is still incomplete in this matter.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This study aimed at the “Voting Behaviour of Saraiki Voters in General Elections 2024 in South Punjab Region Dera Ghazi Khan”. Therefore, the universe was Region Dera Ghazi Khan in which District D. G Khan, Rajan Pur, Muzaffar Garh and Layyah. The researcher research conducts in those Lecturers and Assistant Professors worked in Government Colleges in Region Dera Ghazi Khan in which District D. G Khan, Rajan Pur, Muzaffar Garh and Layyah. Sample size of the study was 35 Lecturers and Assistant Professors in each District. Total 140 respondents in the Target population of Targeted area. The Sampling is a process of selecting a group of people or individuals from a larger population. It is important to conduct inspections during the sampling process as it increases the accuracy and productivity of the work. For convenience sampling, each respondent is chosen randomly to ensure an equal opportunity of being selected as a part of the sample. The sample of convenience, as terminology was used; describes a sample that consists of respondents selected from the target population, based on ease, accessibility and convenience for researchers. The researcher used a convenience sampling technique because it easy the respondents just happened to be situated, spatially in the same city where I went and I could easily conduct the data collection.

The questionnaire used in this research has two parts and is in English. It will be adapted for reliability and effectiveness. After conducting fieldwork, the data was entered into SPSS 25 for analysis. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used.

RESULTS

Demographic Characteristics

Table. 1 Demographic characteristics of the all respondents

Age		
18-30	43	30.7
31-45	79	56.4
46 or above	18	12.9
Department		
English	25	17.9
Urdu	31	22.1
Political Science	49	35.0
Sociology	35	25.0
Education		
Master	29	20.7
M.Phil	85	60.7
Ph.D	26	18.6

Table. 2 personal opinion about General Election 2024 of the all respondents

Sr. No	Item	Agree	Disagree	Neutral
	I believe political parties adequately represent the interests of Saraiki people.	89	42	08
	I trust political parties to address the issues important to Saraiki voters	71	57	12
	candidate's affiliation with a particular political party influences my voting decision	88	45	07
	I consider the candidate's stance on issues relevant to Saraiki people when voting.	75	51	14
	The opinions of community leaders or elders influence my voting decision.	92	29	19
	I discuss my voting preferences with family and friends before making a decision.	103	26	11
	I believe my vote can bring about positive change in the Saraiki community	73	58	09
	I am satisfied with the way elections are conducted in my area.	54	76	10
	I feel that Saraiki voters have adequate representation in government	95	28	17

DISCUSSION

During our field surveys most of the respondents pleaded that Biradari and caste system encounter political leadership at local (District and Division) levels. Saraiki people of Southern Punjab (tribal and rural area) were mostly in favour of caste based preferences of political leader in electoral system. It has been observed that most of the voters in rural and tribal areas cast their votes in favor of same caste candidate. This voting behavior trend was not followed much by voters of urban area. Beside these, in the rural areas communities, the spirit of casteism has very strong and deep roots. Results of field data for role of voting behaviour showed that in each election at micro level caste based voting behavior in General Elections 2024.

Saraiki voters often identify strongly with their ethnic background and may favor candidates or parties that they perceive as representing Saraiki interests. This identity-based voting can play a significant role, especially in constituencies where Saraiki speakers form a substantial portion of the electorate. Saraiki voters may align themselves with political parties or candidates who promise to address issues specific to their region, such as development projects, infrastructure, education, and employment opportunities. Parties that have a strong presence or vocal leadership advocating for Saraiki rights may attract support from Saraiki voters. Economic conditions and social welfare policies also influence Saraiki voters' decisions. Candidates or parties offering solutions to poverty, unemployment, and lack of basic amenities are likely to gain support. Additionally, patronage networks and local power structures play a role, as voters may support candidates affiliated with influential landlords or tribal leaders. Like elsewhere in Pakistan, religious and ideological factors can sway voting behavior among Saraiki voters. Parties with Islamic credentials or those advocating for

conservative values may appeal to certain segments of the population, while others may prioritize secularism or progressive policies.

The role of media, including television, radio, and social media, cannot be underestimated in shaping voter perceptions. Campaign strategies, messaging, and political advertisements play a crucial role in influencing Saraiki voters' decisions. Historical grievances, including issues related to land rights, language recognition, and political representation, may influence Saraiki voters' choices. Past experiences with political parties and leaders also shape perceptions and voting patterns. The alliances formed by political parties and candidates can impact Saraiki voters' behavior. Strategic alliances between parties representing different ethnic or linguistic groups may influence Saraiki voters to support a particular coalition. The performance and reputation of local candidates, as well as their ability to connect with voters on a personal level, often play a significant role. Voters may prioritize candidates who are perceived as accessible, responsive to community needs, and capable of delivering on campaign promises.

The voting behavior of Saraiki voters in general elections is multifaceted and cannot be attributed to a single factor. It is shaped by a combination of ethnic identity, socioeconomic considerations, political affiliations, and local dynamics, making it a complex phenomenon deserving of careful analysis and understanding.

CONCLUSION

Our findings revealed that caste based, braderi, family head decision or other religious affiliation of candidate does not inter link with selection by the common person of any constituency of south Punjab. Saraiki Peoples had their own preferences and vision across the literate or illiterate voter. Saraiki Voter decides independently which person would be suitable political leader in his constituency. Because of the special nature of the different gender age group and their specific preferences are the main factors that determine the prominent political leader through electoral system.

The voting behavior of Saraiki voters in general elections is influenced by a multitude of factors, each playing a significant role in shaping electoral outcomes. From ethnic identity and socioeconomic considerations to political affiliations and local dynamics, Saraiki voters weigh various factors before casting their ballots. The strong sense of Saraiki identity often leads voters to support candidates and parties that they perceive as representing their interests and aspirations. This ethnic identity is closely tied to historical grievances, cultural heritage, and linguistic affiliations, which contribute to a collective sense of community among Saraiki speakers. Socioeconomic factors such as economic conditions, access to basic amenities, and employment opportunities play a crucial role in shaping voting behavior. Candidates and parties that promise to address these issues effectively often garner support from Saraiki voters, who seek tangible improvements in their quality of life.

Political parties and candidates also play a significant role in mobilizing Saraiki voters through targeted campaign strategies, messaging, and alliances. Parties that demonstrate a commitment to addressing Saraiki-specific issues and have a strong local presence tend to perform well in Saraiki-speaking constituencies. The influence of media, communication channels, and historical context cannot be overlooked in understanding Saraiki voters' behavior. Past experiences, perceptions of political leaders, and exposure to various forms of media shape voter attitudes and preferences. The voting behavior of Saraiki voters is complex and multifaceted, reflecting a combination of ethnic, socioeconomic, political, and cultural factors. To understand and effectively engage with Saraiki voters, it is essential for political

actors and analysts to recognize the diversity and nuances within this demographic and tailor their approaches accordingly.

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