

The Impact of Income over Voting Behaviour in the South Punjab: An Empirical Study of Pakistan's General Election 2008

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Abstract

Income plays a very pivotal role in all spheres and aspects of human life. It also helps to develop the preferences of voters in elections whom to vote and why. This paper is aimed to know the attitude of voters of different income groups residing in urban, rural and semi urban areas of South Punjab during general election 2008. The paper also encompasses the preferences of voters at the time of voting in South Punjab's previous electoral arena. It also unleashes the causes why voters do not attend the polling procedure on the day of voting. A questionnaire based post poll survey has been conducted to collect the primary data for analysis of the issue and numerous reforms have also been suggested to improve the electioneering process at the end.

Keywords: Voting Behaviour; Election; Urbanity; South Punjab

I. Introduction

Voting is considered to be a main ingredient of political participation and political socialization in the societies following the principles of liberal democracy. The concept of voting can be traced out in the world history during the era of ancient Greece about 508BC (Dunn, 1992). Every year Greeks had an election based on negative voting to exile any politician for more than ten years granting right to voters who were only male landlords, to write ostraka in Greek on broken pots for the politician they wanted to exile if one got more than 6000 votes than one's had been exiled from politics. On the other hand, electoral history of Pakistan is not well established and well rooted. Military-civil beaurucratic oligarchy enjoyed the power to rule the country soon after its creation. In 1958, President Iskander Mirza, with military at his back, abrogated the first constitution of Pakistan. After three weeks of his unconstitutional act he met his exile (Ghazali, 1999). General Ayub declared first Martial Law in the country and promoted himself as the President of Pakistan. He introduced Basic Democracy System and legitimized himself through a controversial referendum (Ahmed, 2007). The first national level

election was held in Pakistan on the basis of direct universal franchise under the presidency of another military dictator, General Yahaya Khan, in 1970 (Baxter, 1971). The results of election 1970 led to the creation of Bangladesh (Talbot, 1998).

In 1977, the second national elections were conducted. But a controversy surrounding the results of an election led to a civil unrest movement across the board (Waseem, 1994). General Zia ul Haq, the then military chief of Pakistan, took the power in his hand after declaring Martial Law in the country (Ghazali, 1999). He lengthened his rule till his plane met a crash in 1988. Pakistan met four general elections during the period of not more than ten years from 1988 to 1997. All the four elections were embraced with the contradictory voices of rigging and fairness. No elected government succeeded to complete its five years tenure as those were dissolved by presidential orders. In the general election 1997, Mian Nawaz Sharif took over as the premier of Pakistan securing two third majority in National assembly at the portal of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz. PML(N) also constituted governments in all provincial assemblies (Bahadur, 1998). On October 12, 1999 the elected government was, once again, sacked by the then Chief of Army staff General Pervaiz Musharraf (Dutt, 2000). The new government led by General Pervaiz Musharraf justified the takeover on the same grounds which other military dictators used to claim. Corrupt Politicians, authoritative nature of government, destabilizing the institutions, worsening situation of law and order, collapsing economy and the oppression to the opposition were the allegations leveled against the sacked elected government (The News, October 14, 1999). However, the Supreme Court of Pakistan once again legitimized the military take over on May 12, 2000 along with the mandate of constitutional amendments (Baxter, 2004).

II. Literature Review

Behaviour of voters in an election process is an important segment of political science. In recent decades, with the help of new technology, voting behaviour has become a popular area of political study among academics and lay people alike (Catt, 1996). Indeed electoral politics is the forum of social research that is at the same time most interesting to and best understood by those who are not social scientists (Franklin, 1985). The analysis of voting behaviour paves a way to determine how people decide whom to vote in elections (Catt, 1996). Sociologists and political scientists analyse the voting behaviour in their own way but the determinants they unleash are closely correlated to one another. Przeworski (1980) and Przeworski & Sprague (1986) believed that socialist movements in nineteenth century were the main factors to develop the association between class and voting. The socio-scientific study of class voting is usually motivated by an interest in testing the assumption of a direct link between class and electoral behaviour as posited by theorists and opponents of social democracy. Early attempts to study the class-vote link used ecological techniques to infer the voting preferences of different income groups (Ogburn & Hill 1935 and Ogburn & Coombs 1940). The advent of election surveys, however, made possible more direct testing of Class-Vote link. Anderson and Davidson (1943) used Northern California precinct registration data to analyze how occupation affected political preference and changes in party identification during the New Deal period. Lazarsfeld and his colleagues (1948 & 1954) first compiled evidence of a social basis for political behaviour in election surveys in Erie County, Ohio (1940) and Elmira, New York (1948). Michigan school and American national Election Study (ANES) also did much to know the factors behind the decisions of voters at the time of voting.

In view of the decisive role of elections in Pakistan's creation and political development, the scholarly attention to the voters and voting behaviour is too poor. Descriptive electoral studies in few numbers can be traced out in the electoral history of Pakistan. Empirical work on voting behavior, generally in Pakistan and particularly in the South Punjab is very rare to study. In Pakistan, voters' survey data availability is very limited and only few organizations are in the field to survey the voters how and whom they vote for in general elections. The organizational work over macro or micro level ecological analysis of voting behaviour is also very limited. Waseem (1993) points out very limited scholarly attention given to voting behaviour in Pakistan. He argues that the decline of social sciences in Pakistan has limited the number of students and faculty interest to conduct electoral analysis. Waseem is of the view that scholarly research is still awaited to address the question of how a voter decides to vote under the influence of various primary and secondary commitments operating at both local and extra local levels. Wilder (1999) conducted an empirical based study to provide the detailed analysis of voting behaviour in Pakistan since 1970 election. He tried to provide the answer to the question "who is voting for whom and why?" Wilder is also of the view that Pakistani voters also give weight to the political determinants rather than social determinants to decide whom to vote in elections. Keeping in view the limited scholarly attention to analyse the voting behaviour of Pakistani voters in general and the South Punjab's voters in particular, this research has focused to look into the factors which influenced the voting behaviour of the voters under the jurisdiction of the South Punjab.

III. Research Methodology

Investigating the impact of income over the voting behavior of voters in the territory of South Punjab in general elections 2008, an empirical post poll study has been conducted. After reviewing the available literature about voting behaviour questionnaire was developed and the collected data was analysed availing qualitative and quantitative research tools.

Profile of the study area

Punjab, the thickly populated province of Pakistan, is geographically divided into three areas i.e., Upper Punjab, Central Punjab and Lower Punjab or Southern Punjab. South Punjab is composed of three administratively run divisions, namely Multan division, Bahawalpur division and Dera Ghazi Khan division. South Punjab can be divided into rural, urban and semi urban localities. Most of the population is based in rural areas. Saraiki is the main spoken language of Southern Punjab. Punjabi speakers in large numbers are also based in the area. Most of the residents are local. An adequate and reliable source of data and construction of variables are very important for an empirical analysis. Therefore, district Vehari of Multan division, district Rajan Pur of Dera Ghazi Khan division and Rahim Yar Khan of Bahawalpur division were randomly chosen as study area to collect primary data.

Data source

To collect the primary data for analysis, questionnaire based survey was conducted to the male and female voters of rural, urban and semi urban areas. Questionnaire, both in English and Urdu languages served to the respondents. Questionnaire is filled in English language after getting informations in local languages too. Total 1500 respondents including 1200 male and 300 female were approached for survey using simple random sampling technique in equal numbers from the three districts. The respondents were of all

kinds including married, unmarried, working either in public or private sector, non working, farmers, educated, uneducated, Local, Mohajar, Saraiki, Urdu and Punjabi speaking. Approached respondents, male and female, were of 26 years age group and above.

Data Scrutiny

Data scrutiny after the collection of data is the most important phase to clean up the data. The process was included the checking of questions in questionnaire either to skip or not, verifying either data is marked right or wrong. Therefore, the verified data utilizing the excel spread sheet has been analyzed.

IV. Purpose to Vote

Out of total 1500 respondents, 843 (56.2%) respondents were those who disclosed their monthly income during the survey. Out of 843 respondents, 604 (71.65%) respondents were those who casted their votes during election 2008 from all the localities under different criteria.

a. Democratic process

Table 1: Showing purpose to vote (Democratic process)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Purpose to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	Democratic process	2.2	4.5	0.8	(7.5)
6000-14999		7	10.4	1.5	(18.9)
15000-23999		1.2	1.3	0.3	(2.8)
24000-31999		1.7	1.7	0.7	(4.1)
32000 and above		1	3	1	(5)
		[13.1]	[20.9]	[4.3]	

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

The survey reveals that out of total voters who disclosed their income level and casted their votes in general election 2008, a well proportion of voters 38.3% voters including 13.1% rural based, 20.9% urban based and 4.3% semi urban based, involved themselves in the process of voting keeping in view to support democratic process in the country. Voters falling under the income group of below Rs. 6000 per month, 7.5% voters (rural 2.2%, urban 4.5% and semi urban 0.8%) took part in voting process to strengthen democratic process in the country. A well proportion of voters (18.9%) including 7% rural, 10.4% urban and 1.5% semi urban were those whom monthly income level fall in the income group of Rs. 6000-Rs.15000, attended polling stations to participate in democratic process. A small proportion of voters (2.8%) disclosed that they went to poll their votes to support democratic process whom monthly income was ranging between Rs.15000- Rs.24000. However, 4.1% voters including 1.7% each rural

and urban based and 0.7% who were semi urban based supported the democratic process whom monthly income were more than Rs.24000. The survey portraits an alarming picture that the voters earning much are not interested to participate in electioneering process.

b. Right to vote

Table 2: Showing purpose to vote (Right to vote)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Purpose to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	Right to vote	3.5	2.5	0.5	(6.5)
6000-14999		6	6.4	1.2	(13.6)
15000-23999		0.8	1.7	0.7	(3.2)
24000-31999		0.7	1.7	0.2	(2.6)
32000 and above		1	5	1	(7)
		[12]	[17.3]	[3.6]	

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Out of total voters who casted their votes in election 2008 and disclosed their monthly income level during the survey, 32.9% voters including 12% rural, 17.3% urban and 3.6% semi urban, participated in electioneering process as it was their right to vote. A good number of voters (13.6%) including (6% rural, 6.4% urban and 1.2% semi urban), who went to poll their votes on polling day keeping in view as it was their right to vote, were those whom monthly income level were ranging between Rs.6000-Rs.15000 and 6.5% voters were those whom monthly income level were not more than Rs.6000 mainly from rural(3.5%) and urban(2.5%) areas. The voters earning more than Rs. 15000 per month ranged only 12.8% mainly from urban locality (8.4%) walked to polling stations for availing their right of vote.

c. Usually vote

Table 3: Showing purpose to vote (Usually vote)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Purpose to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	Usually vote	5	3.5	1	(9.5)
6000-14999		3.2	1.8	1.2	(6.2)
15000-23999		1.2	0.5	0.3	(2)
24000-31999		0.9	0.9	0.2	(2)
32000 and above		2	2		(4)
		[12.3]	[8.7]	[2.7]	

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

The survey reveals that out of total voters, 23.7% including 12.3% rural, 8.7% urban and 2.7% semi urban were those voters who disclosed that they attended the polling stations to cast their vote as they usually did that. A prominent proportion of voters (9.5%) earning their livelihoods through menial jobs including 5% rural, 3.5% urban and 1% semi urban and their monthly income is not more than Rs.6000 casted their votes with out any specific reason. 6.2% including 3.2% rural based, 1.8% urban based and 1.2% semi urban based voters were those whom monthly income level was ranging between Rs.6000- Rs.15000. A small proportion of voters (8%) casted their votes without any specific reason that monthly income level was more than Rs.15000.

d. To elect representative

Table 4: Showing purpose to vote (To elect representative)

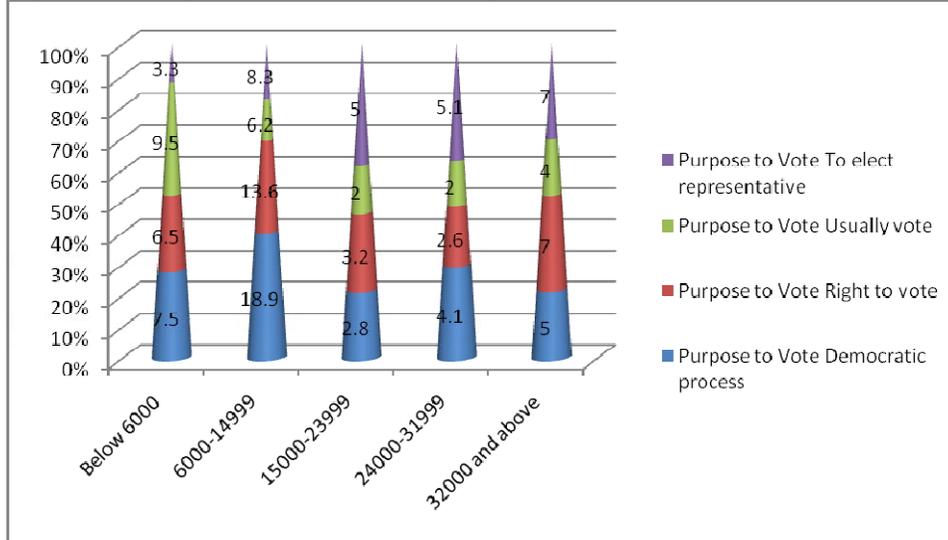
Income Group (per month in PKR)	Purpose to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	To elect representative	1.3	1.5	0.5	(3.3)
6000-14999		3	4	1.3	(8.3)
15000-23999		1.8	2.5	0.7	(5)
24000-31999		1.8	2.3	1	(5.1)
32000 and above		2	5		(7)
		[9.9]	[15.3]	[3.5]	

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Out of total voters during the survey, 28.7% voters including 9.9% rural based, 15.3% urban based and 3.5% semi urban based, were those who availed the right of vote to elect their representatives. Voters earning more than Rs.15000 per month (17.1%) based in rural (5.6%), urban (9.8%) and semi urban (1.7%) areas were those who availed the right of vote to elect their representatives in elections 2008. Urban voters (15.3%) were more vigilant to elect their representatives through electioneering process by availing their right of votes as compared to the voters based in rural (9.9%) and semi urban (3.5%) areas. 8.3% voters including 3% rural, 4% urban and 1.3% semi urban voters falling under the monthly income level ranging from Rs.6000 to Rs.15000 were those who went to polling stations to elect their representatives. A small proportion of voters (3.3%) including 1.3% rural, 1.5% urban and only 0.5% semi urban voters whose monthly income level were not more than Rs.6000 attended the electioneering process to elect their representatives. They were of the view that election process is a futile activity in Pakistan and Governments do nothing for poor but to only claim. 5% voters ranging between Rs.15000- Rs.24000 monthly income including 1.8% rural, 2.5% urban and 0.7% semi urban were those whom prior interest to attend the polling stations only was to elect their representatives through ballot.

Figure 1: Showing the criteria to vote with respect to monthly income



V. Denial to vote

Denial to vote is an important factor in the countries following the democratic norms. Eligible voters put themselves aside to cast their votes under different conditions. Out of total respondents disclosing their monthly income in the survey, 239 respondents (28.35%) were those who did not attend polling stations due to different reasons in election 2008.

a. Unavailability of CNIC

Table 5: Showing denial to vote (Unavailability of CNIC)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Denial to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	Unavailability of CNIC	7.5	2.1	2.1	(11.7)
6000-14999		1.7	0.4	1.3	(3.4)
15000-23999		0.4			(0.4)
24000-31999			0.8		(0.8)
32000 and above				0.4	(0.4)
		[9.6]	[3.3]	[3.8]	

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

It is pertinent to note that Pakistan's electoral laws require National Identity Card as a pre-requisite for voting. The CNIC is the proof of voter's nationality and age. Both conditions need to be fulfilled for voting. Out of total respondents who disclosed their income during the survey, 239 respondents were those who did not cast their votes due to different reasons. In general election 2008, a significant proportion of respondents (16.7%) including 9.6% rural, 3.3% urban and 3.8% semi urban who were eligible for

voting over the term of age but did not cast their votes due to the unavailability of CNIC as the prime proof for voting. The survey also reveals that the respondents earning their monthly income not more than Rs.6000 (11.7%) per month put themselves aside to get registered themselves in NADRA data base despite the government's massive campaign in this regard. The respondents earning between Rs. 6000 to Rs.15000 per month (3.4%) were those who disqualified themselves from casting vote as they did not collect their CNIC. The respondents earning more were well aware of registration and only 1.6% not having CNIC, were earning more than Rs. 15000 per month and did not cast their vote in this regard.

b. Name was not included in voter list

Table 6: Showing denial to vote (Name was not included in voter list)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Denial to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	Name was not included in voter list	9.2	5.1	2.9	(17.2)
6000-14999		2.1	0.4		(2.5)
15000-23999			1.3	1.7	(3)
24000-31999		0.8		0.4	(1.2)
32000 and above		0.4	0.8		(1.2)
		[12.5]	[7.6]	[5]	

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Voter's name on the electoral list is another pre-requisite for voting in Pakistan. Election Commission of Pakistan under the directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan reconsidered the electoral list to enroll more eligible voters. It is very amazing to know during the survey that still a sizeable proportion of respondents (25.1%) including 12.5% rural, 7.6% urban and 5% semi urban residents did not enroll themselves as voters. The survey also portrays an alarming picture that a prominent proportion of respondents (17.2%) whom monthly income were not more than Rs.6000 did not enroll themselves as voters. 5.5% respondents whom monthly income level ranging between Rs. 6000 to 24000 from all the localities were those who also did nothing to enroll themselves as voters while this ratio decreased to 2.4% in the group earning more Rs. 24000 per month.

c. It is a useless activity

Table 7: Showing denial to vote (It is a useless activity)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Denial to vote	Urbanity (%)		
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban
Below 6000	It is a useless activity	0.4	0.4	(0.8)
6000-14999		0.8	1.3	(2.1)
15000-23999		0.4		2.1 (2.5)
24000-31999		0.4	3.8	(4.2)
32000 and above		0.8		1.7 (2.5)
		[2.8]	[5.5]	[3.8]

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Maximum era of military regime and the poor performance of the elected democratic governments have overshadowed the worth of democratic process in the country. The respondents believed that electioneering process was a futile exercise activity in the country. They were of the view that governing elites did nothing for the masses but to gain maximum for themselves availing the channel of elections to capture the ruling seats. It seems visible that Pakistan's electoral system is not designed for the poor to contest elections. Political parties allot tickets to land lords and millionaires. The Election Commission of Pakistan did not establish itself at the level to enforce the electioneering laws in full spirit. Contesting candidates, availing all their financial and human strengths, butchered the election laws. The survey reports that 12.1% respondents including 2.8% rural, 5.5% urban and 3.8% semi urban did not attend the polling stations because they believed that it is a useless activity. The respondents earning more than Rs. 15000 per month in large proportion (9.2%) most of based them in urban areas did not participate in casting their votes as they claimed that the voting in Pakistan is a useless activity. 2.9% respondents earning not more than Rs.15000 based in urban and semi urban areas leveled the same charges to the electoral process of the country.

d. No change comes through ballot

Table 8: Showing denial to vote (No change comes through ballot)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Denial to vote	Urbanity (%)		
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban
Below 6000	No change comes through ballot		0.8	(0.8)
6000-14999		0.8	1.3	1.3 (3.4)
15000-23999		0.8	2.1	(2.9)
24000-31999		1.7	2.1	(3.8)
32000 and above		1.3	0.8	1.3 (3.4)
		[4.6]	[7.1]	[2.6]

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Out of the respondents who did not cast their votes in election 2008, 14.3% respondents including 4.6% rural, 7.1% urban and 2.6% semi urban were those who believed that no change in Pakistan is possible through ballot. People were of the view that their votes would not be honored. They also posed their disconfidence over the role of the Election Commission of Pakistan to conduct the elections in peaceful manner. Some were of the view that there is no difference between the military dictators and the elected chief executives in Pakistan. They did nothing but to prolong their rule by employing the immoral tactics. The class earning more than Rs. 15000 per month (10.1%) including 3.8% rural, 5% urban and 1.3% semi urban based showed their dissatisfaction over the electioneering activity in Pakistan. They leveled the charges on the political parties for being dynastically controlled parties as the political parties allocate tickets to elites and millionaire. There is not much space for mediocre to contest election in Pakistan. 4.2% respondents were those whom monthly income was not more than Rs.15000 per month and they showed their dissatisfaction over the same issue.

c. Lack of access to polling station

Table 9: Showing denial to vote (Lack of access to polling station)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Denial to vote	Urbanity (%)		
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban
Below 6000	Lack of access to polling station	2.9		0.4
6000-14999			0.8	
15000-23999				
24000-31999				
32000 and above				
		[2.9]	[0.8]	[0.4]

Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Election Commission of Pakistan constituted a large number of polling stations to facilitate voters in all rural, urban and semi urban areas. A small number of respondents earning not more than Rs. 15000 per month (4.1%) including 2.9% rural based, 0.8% urban based and 0.4% semi urban based, stated the reason behind their denial to vote as their polling stations were far from their approach and no proper arrangements were made on election day. It is very interesting to note that respondents earning more than Rs.15000 per month did not show any dissatisfaction over the polling stations arrangements.

d. No reason

Table 10: Showing denial to vote (No reason)

Income Group (per month in PKR)	Denial to vote	Urbanity (%)			
		Rural	Urban	Semi Urban	
Below 6000	No reason		2.1	1.7	(3.8)
6000-14999		1.7	0.8		(2.5)
15000-23999		2.1	4.6	1.7	(8.4)
24000-31999		2.1	3.8	2.9	(8.8)
32000 and above				4.1	(4.1)
		[5.9]	[15.4]	[6.3]	

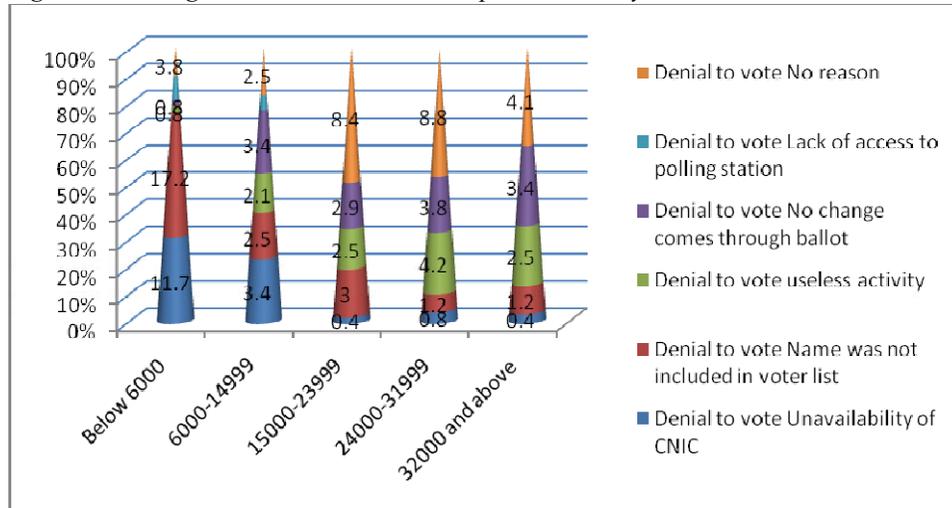
Source: Field survey by authors

Values in round brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. income, while the values in square brackets are percentages of the total voters' w.r.t. urbanity.

Improper propagation regarding the importance of vote is another main cause of denial to vote. The data collected through the survey, therefore paints a disturbing picture as large proportion of eligible voters did not cast their votes as they were not well informed about vote's importance.

The survey portrays an alarming picture that more than 27% respondents were those who did not attend the polling stations with out any specific reason. They were all from rural (5.9%), urban (15.4%) and semi urban (6.3%) areas. Respondents (21.3%) earning more monthly income (Rs. 15000and above) did not travel to polling stations in well numbers as compared to the low monthly income groups.

Figure2: Showing the denial to vote with respect to monthly income



VI. Conclusion

Frequent civil and military bureaucratic interventions sacking the elected governments, legitimization of unconstitutional move of the upper brasses of military and bureaucracy by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, weakening of institutions to lengthen personal rule, ill-defined delay to conduct elections, rigging in elections to gain the results of one's choice availing all the authoritative and immoral tactics, undemocratic attitude of political parties to suppress others at the expense of people and the dynastic control over political parties are the main irritants which do not lead democracy to develop its norms in the country. In its life, Pakistan conducted eight general elections embracing the contradictory voices of rigging and fairness. The Election Commission of Pakistan could not develop its worth among the masses for the mandate which is constitutionally accorded to it. Although voters in a good proportion (73.50%) especially from lower to middle income groups, not earning more than Rs. 15000 per month, cast their votes on election day but the survey unleashed a critical truth also that a large proportion of voters (about 50%) earning more are not interested to take part in electioneering process. They were of the view that elections in Pakistan were a futile activity. They believed that election process in Pakistan was designed for elites and it is impossible for common man to contest the heavy expenditure-loaded election. Contesting candidates avail all the financial and authoritative powers to attract and suppress voters by putting aside all the rules of the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Therefore, it is suggested that government should manage to synchronise the birth registration to the NADRA database on reaching the age, CNIC should be furnished conveniently to the concerned. Voter lists should be upgraded accordingly. Government should make it mandatory for all the registered voters to cast their votes and an easy approach to the polling stations should be provided. The Election Commission of Pakistan should arrange to facilitate the voters through machine voting. In addition to the above description, the illegal advancement to sack elected governments has to be fenced and institutional legitimization to such act should be trialed according to the constitution of Pakistan. In a way democratic norms should be internalized across the board. The Election Commission of Pakistan must be given administrative and financial autonomy to conduct the elections in free and impartial manner. It should be made constitutionally mandatory to appoint the Election Commissioner of Pakistan with the consultation of the stock holders purely on merit.

Further more, it should be made mandatory to all the political parties to conduct internal elections regularly with its true spirit. Constitutional check should be made to obsolete the dynastic control over the political parties. Political parties are supposed to launch initiatives to facilitate the poor after framing the governments. Political parties also need to launch membership campaign to induct more members to their strength. Appointments of office bearers should be made through elections rather than selection. Party tickets should be allotted to the party workers rather than intruders billionaires. There is no denying the fact that the induction of such positive reforms into the electioneering and political process will raise not only the participatory tendency of the voters but will also strengthen democratic values in Pakistan.

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