



One Day workshop
on
Analyzing Results of
Maharashtra Assembly
Elections-2019

15 September 2019

MITWPU SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT, PUNE

Organized under the auspices of



Dr. Vishwanath Karad

MIT WORLD PEACE
UNIVERSITY | PUNE

TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, SOCIAL INNOVATION & PARTNERSHIPS

About MITSOG

MIT-SOG is part of Dr. Vishwanath Karad MIT World Peace University, Pune. MITSOG was initiated by Shri. Rahul V. Karad with the vision of creating Ethical, Spirited and Committed Political Leadership for the country from the grassroots and from all strata of life which will rebuild India.

About MPG

TWO YEAR FULL TIME MASTER'S PROGRAM IN GOVERNMENT

Need for Training in Politics & Government

Today, the global is getting nearer with every passing day. This new 'Global village' produced many socio-political challenges in front of global leaders and policy-makers. To deal with these challenges, we need a multi-disciplinary vision. The matured and multi-faceted leadership is the only solution to fight with these challenges. So to create Ethical, Spirited and Committed Political Leadership is key for this. So through this Programme, reinforcement of scholarship through field visits and periodical evaluation.

The field visits are accurately organized which provides the gateway to the participants with enriching and practical experience in political leadership. The most remarkable part of the Programme includes **National Study Tour**. MITSOG takes up the National Study Tour as a challenge and provides the participants with sublime wisdom and skills of political leadership. The 2nd year of the 2 year programme is entirely field based learnings, wherein students undertake 3 internships of minimum 3 months each.

Objectives of the Conference on Analyzing Results of Maharashtra Assembly Election-2019-

- Understanding of political agenda of different Political Parties and individual leaders.
- Development of practical insights into the execution of political leadership.
- Identification of different limitations in political leadership and its impact on the election campaign.
- Understanding of functionality of different aspects of like the electioneering, block-level management, campaign management and working of personal offices of political representatives etc.
- Understanding of the role of Media in political leadership and assessment of the functional probability of the media-knowledge gained in the SOG.

ITINERARY

Time	Sessions	Speakers
1000hrs -1030hrs	Inaugural Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. S S Haridas Associate Director, MITWPU School of Government
1031hrs – 1130hrs	Key Note Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Suhas Palshikar Eminent Political Scientist
1131hrs-1215hrs	The gains and losses for BJP in the results of Maharashtra Assembly Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Keshav Upadhye Spokesperson, BJP, Maharashtra
1216hrs-1300hrs		Lunch Break
1301hrs-1445hrs	Role of VBA and RPI – Successes and Shortcomings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Pravin More Social Activist • Shri Vijay More Assistant Professor, Department of History Swami Vivekanand Night College of Arts and Science • Chair: Prof. Dr. Surendra Jondhale Former HoD, Dept of Civic & Politics, University of Mumbai
1446hrs-1500hrs		Tea Break
1501hrs-1545hrs	Future Direction of Maharashtra Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Anil Shidore General Secretary of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena
1546hrs-1630hrs	Experience sharing of contesting assembly election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abhijeet More MITSOG Alumni

INAUGURAL SESSION Dr. Shailashree Haridas- Associate Director-MITSOG



“We all are getting more and more interested in Maharashtra post-election politics due to the dramatic nature of the conduct by all political parties. Much prior to everyone’s interest in Maharashtra politics, MIT-SOG has conducted two Pre-Poll Opinion Polls in the run up to the assembly election. A sharp difference in the outcome of two opinion polls indicated that voters’ body is not a stagnant pond but a flowing stream. We have come quite close in our predictions to the actual results, which is a matter of satisfaction for us. As an academic agency, it is our duty and pleasure to study such important events. Today I welcome and thanks all eminent scholars for attending and giving us your insight and constructive analysis on the matter in hand.”

KEYNOTE ADDRESS- Dr. Suhas Palshikar- Eminent Political Scientist

Maharashtra 2019- beyond Victories and Losses

“When we start to analyze the election results, the major problem with this analysis is we always starts with why certain party lose and why certain party wins?”



But today while analyzing, I am going to draw some basic questions to address. Should we focus on this weird aspects of post-poll politics? Or something fundamentally important? We need to understand that, coalition inherently can be unstable, though they are stable for many years in any state. So that, like 2014, today is also moment of party reconfiguration.

In this election, BJP’s vote share in contested seats is 44.12% which is strong point for BJP. But the interesting point is that also a limitation. This is not great result for Shiv Sena either. Shiv Sena

did not improve, even their seats go down than the last elections. But, the irony of situation is that when Shiv Sena Got BJP's support, Shiv Sena wins less seats than the last time, in spite of all, this results pushes Shiv Sena in limelight

In the case of MNS and VBA, it is big zero. The entire situation is contradictory for profound election theories.

The next question is why magic of April 2019 did not work for BJP in October 2019?

The major speculation of this question pointed towards 'ticket-splitting'; in this case, it is not happened in Maharashtra because, voters did not choose to vote to another party, they just voted to their party a less. In the period, of April and October, due to many reasons, voters have shifted to Shiv Sena from BJP. This principle showcases prominent voter movement. In the electoral politics, the exaggeration always adjusted by its inter mechanism. So today, the classic situation of Maharashtra politics is that, the complications of coalition politics dominated state politics on such extent that, all parties seems to be on the deadlock.

In the conclusion, I want to draw that, every election does not produce mandate. Elections, very rarely, produces mandates. In the simple sense, elections are the choices. Elections basically creates governments. So that we conclude on that, there are limitations to 'Modi Model' and the Maharashtra results are eye-opener for not only regional politics but also for national politics."

SESSION-2- Shri Keshav Upadhyay- Spokesperson, BJP, Maharashtra

The gains and losses for BJP in the results of Maharashtra Assembly Election

"From the day when election results out, everybody is asking that what went wrong with BJP? Where the equation get wrong? But what I want to say that, it is all about perception.



When we analyze the success and failure of BJP party, so naturally we need to set parameters while doing this we can measure through 'number of winning seats' i.e. 70% strike rate of BJP is maintained. If we analyze this, in 2014, BJP gained voting percentage of 27.81% with victory on 260 seats.

In 2019, we maintained this voting percentage of 26.00%. This statistics shows that we maintain our voting percentage. Now, let's talk about actual factors which are important during the analysis of assembly elections.

24, 00,000 votes are distributed into Maharashtra's rebels, independents and small parties, this is the game changer of our elections. There is always huge criticism on BJP, as it is an urban party. In all rural constituencies, maximum rural constituencies have voted BJP. There is another accusation by media to BJP that we took candidates from all parties and created mixed-up candidature.

But I want to say, during the BJP expansion, we took many new members, 26 new members joined BJP. Amongst them, 16 members won the election; that means, 20% candidates won the elections.”

SESSION-3-PANEL DISCUSSION

Role of VBA and RPI – Successes and Shortcomings

Dr. Surendra Jondhale

Former HOD, Dept. of Civic and Politics- University of Mumbai



“After the election results announced, the politics of Maharashtra took interesting twist. With this twist, today we are going to discuss about the importance of VBA and RPI in Maharashtra politics. This two parties significantly the parties of Ambedkariat group.

These parties represents Dalit politics of Maharashtra. The Dalit politics is one of the major aspects of Maharashtra's politics. RPI have seed thought from Ambedkar himself as he is the one who established the party. VBA shares same lineage of Ambedkar's philosophy as, Dr. Prakash Ambedkar is relative of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. So understanding the Dalit equation of Maharashtra politics is always important to analyze the election results. The question remains –if VBA is keen to oppose the BJP, then it is necessary to keep aside Congress? By opposing Congress, VBA is also opposing the BJP? These questions are most important in this analysis.

The support base of VBA is also considerably problematic issue. In the recent time, Dalits at large in Maharashtra are making their own choices, with this there is also a fragmentation of Dalit votes. So, VBA needs to rethink about their stance with regards, I want to say, Dalit parliamentary politics is over. So in the conclusion, politics of coalition is dominant reality of today's politics. BJP is only exception, but coalition is important for small parties.”

Shri Pravin More
Eminent Social Activist

“The politics of this section, which is known as ‘weaker section’, this section impacts RPI and VBA’s political building and structure. It is not only limited to this section, but it is important to understand the importance and impact of this one section, to balancing the entire political process. In the elective politics, VBA and RPI always faced failure, but genesis of these parties, Dr. Ambedkar conceptualized the party, which will focus on ‘political upliftment of socio-politically weaker sections’.

You can see that, there is no single candidate VBA or RPI in today’s winners, but you must understand that, we have our own stage in today’s politics. In this elections, RPI got 5 seats in alliance with BJP-Shiv Sena. RPI won 2 seats from Malshiraj and Naigoan. The blue flag is becoming important because, not just neo-Buddhist but also other communities are attracting towards RPI due to Ambedkar’s philosophy. But, it is very unfortunate that, party’s flag is used for their own benefits than RPI’s benefits.

Another problem is, the division of intra-caste politics, Hindu Dalits v/s Buddhist Dalits. This caste isolation is visible now a days, which is now, clearly used by other parties for their benefits.”

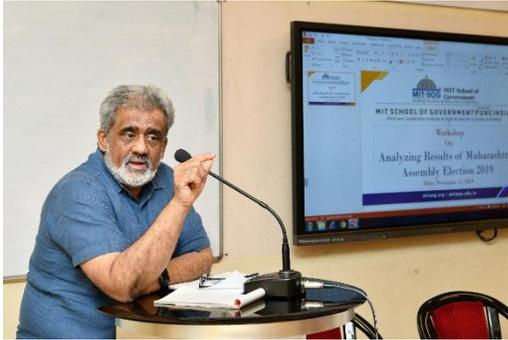
Shri Vijay More
Assistant Professor
Department of History
Swami Vivekanand Night College of Arts and Science
Dombivali

“VBA is party which started with bang in Lok Sabha elections. The party’s leader, Dr. Prakash Ambedkar who started party in 2019. This party actually created her own spot in politics during Lok Sabha elections. In the beginning, Congress and NCP leaders are trying to make alliance with VBA, but Dr. Prakash Ambedkar denied and stood firm on his party principles. But when we enter into state assembly elections, he also need to check the strength of party and voter’s support.

But, in my strong opinion, VBA need more ground-level working rather than engaging with political activities, because the leadership of Dr. Prakash Ambedkar showed some magnificent results in the past. The real reason behind the failure of VBA is they just engaged in campaigning and electioneering, rather than making strong grass-root structure. The experience failed due to segregation of voters.”

SESSION-4 - Anil Shidore- General Secretary/Spokesperson of MNS

Future Direction of Maharashtra Politics: Prospects of Possibilities



“I am very apolitical person in most of my life. I joined active politics very recently. I recalled that, for the first time in my life, I worked as political entity in back office of Labor Party in London. From election of 1967, we see that, the new wave emerged in Indian politics with anti-congressism. This wave created platforms for many regional and national parties to play major role in Indian politics. In 2014, BJP slated history with different grammar of politics. The most important, the voters’

turnout is low about 3%. Another is that, 8 ministers from former government lost election. 13 other important leaders lost election. And most interestingly, 147 parties are contesting elections for 288 seats.

‘Battle of Mumbai’ is major characteristic of this election. Another interesting point, even independents got 10% votes with 1% NOTA. This result showed ‘Modi Appeal’ is have some limitations. Local players, local politics, local realities and local aspirations are very important factors. This election also showcased that you cannot win elections with big slogans and mega campaigning.

Before voting everybody thought that, this election is straight-forward, but the elections results surprised each and everybody. The surprising results are by-product of mood-shift in common person towards entire election. So that in conclusion, I will say, the theater of politics is always very interesting, that why it keeps us moving. I am sure that, the common person’s wisdom will play major role in coming future”.

EXPERIENCE SHARING OF CONTESTING ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2019

Dr. Abhijeet More

State Co-Convenor, Janaswasthya Abhiyaan

MITSOG Alumni (MPG-3 batch)

“I am Doctor, so when I started my social life, I am the social activist who work for health sector, our country should formulate “Right to Healthcare”.



I contested assembly election as a candidate in Kothrud constituency. I joined Aam Adami Party in 2013. In 2nd half of 2018, our party started building basic infrastructure for party in Pune. Kothrud is always a safe seat for BJP and, this is the only reason BJP state head Chandrakant Patil decided to contest elections from this constituency. So in this scenario, making space for AAP is very challenging. We started with four people, now we have strong team in Maharashtra. In this election, we have motive to expand our reach to the maximum people. I am so proud to say that, in this entire campaign, I did not spend the single penny. Our entire campaign is designed on basis of ‘crowd funding’ throughout campaign. We are successful in showing our presence in the Kothrud constituency. The social media helped tremendously. We created anti-campaign against Chandrakant Patil, we named it-‘POK’- Patil-Occupied Kothrud. I want to say proudly, with all established party pressure, we stand strong with all our might. This stand gave us strong impression and confidence about our team which will be beneficial in coming Municipal Election. It is my confidence that we work continuously, in the near future, AAP will raise as a strong opposition party.”