Conclusion

Punjab has usually witnessed bipolar contest between two parties. But Lok Sabha 2014 election have become more interesting with AAP making a debut in the national politics. Punjab witnessed a high voltage campaign in the triangular contest. BJP increased its tally from one to two but suffered a jolt as its senior leader lost to Congress’s in Amritsar seat which had won in 2009. SAD remained stuck at four seats AAP which emerged as new party in the state by clinching four seats only Punjab. Lok Sabha polls in 2009 Congress had picked up eight seats while SAD had taken four with BJP following on one seat in Punjab. Sitting SAD (B) MP tasted defeat at the hands of AAP’s Prof Sadhu Singh in Fardikot(R) seat. The AAP affected votes of the SAD(B) and the Congress in a big way. The fact that the AAP central leadership never concentrates on Punjab and but how much the voters were looking for a third option. AAP had raised the issues and problems they consider the most important and related to Punjab people. All the AAP candidates most of them were entered in politics first time.

Elections are the main source of a representative democracy. It is a process by which political opinion of the people is shaped. Political participation in the election is essential in any real democratic system. Elections in a democracy are the true interpreters of the policies and programs of political parties. Thus institution like democracy is considered to be handicapped without the political process like elections. Parties emerge in political systems when those who seek to win or maintain political power are required to seek support from the larger public. India adopted the parliamentary form of government based on the British model because she had remained under the domination of the British for a considerably long period and had been influence by the British for a considerably long period and had been influence by the British traditions. Elections are the life and blood of the modern democracies. Through elections, the political communication between the government and the governed is channelized. Elections provide an opportunity, to the general masses to get political education. Issues are raised and their pros and cons are discussed and in the process, the electorate pans.

Punjab is divisible into three natural regions such as Malwa, Doaba and Majha. The districts of Malwa are as follows: Fatehgarh Sahib, Bhatinda, Ferozepur, Faridkot, Ludhiana, Moga, Mansa, Muktsar, Patiala, Nawan Shahar, Sangrur and
Ropar. Faridkot town is an important historic town is part of Malwa region. Faridkot Parliamentary Constituency is one of the 13 Lok Sabha constituencies of Punjab, formed prior to the 1977 elections and consists of nine Vidhan Sabha segments, of which two are reserved for the SC category. 1,288,090 is the total electorate count in the Faridkot Lok Sabha Constituency (constituency number 9).

At the time of independence, a large part of the district was under the rule of the Maharaja of Faridkot. Faridkot was also the biggest district in Pepsu Punjab. For the purpose of administration the State is divided into four divisions namely, Jalandhar, Patiala, Firozepur and Faridkot. The population of Faridkot as per census 2011 total population is 617,508. 326,671 of them are males and 290,837 are females. In 2014 elections 617,508 persons were eligible for casting there vote. The ratio of female against male in Faridkot number of females per 1000 males are 890 in rural areas and 900 females per 1000 male in urban areas. SC living in Faridkot including both rural and urban are 240,328. Faridkot is also a parliamentary reserved constituency and it comprises nine Vidhan Sabha Constituencies namely Moga, Nihal Singh Wala, Bhagha Purana, Dharamkot, Gidderbaha, Faridkot(Gen), Kotkapura, Jaitu and Rampura Phool.

This constituency dominated by SAD(B) and INC political parties for long time. It was first time in the history of Faridkot constituency AAP candidate Prof. Sadhu Singh won in this constituency in 2014 election. In Lok Sabha Elections of 2009 SAD candidate Paramjit Kaur Gulshan won by big margin from INC candidate Sukhwinder Singh Danny. In 2014 Lok Sabha Election total nominated candidates in this constituency were twenty-eight, eight were female candidates and twenty were male candidates. The nomination papers of five candidates were rejected two were males and three were females and four candidates were withdrawn, all of them were males after that all contesting candidate were nineteen, fourteen of them were males and five were females.

**Finding of the Study**

From a professor of English to a member parliament, 73 year old Sadhu Singh indeed created history in Faridkot by winning with a record margin of 172, 516 votes. He was the candidate of Aam Admi Party(AAP). He defeated his nearest rival SAD’s Paramjeet Kaur Gulshan – a two time MP who had won in 2009 Lok Sabha Elections from Faridkot with over 68,000 votes from Congress’s Sukhwinder Singh
Danny. During the Lok Sabha Election of 2014 Arvind Kejriwal favour sadhu singh to contest election from Faridkot constituency. Sadhu Singh's opponents were retired DRO, Tehsildar etc. economically strong position they were desire to contest election from AAP ticket but could not success because Kejriwal stand to clear favour Sadhu Singh as a good teacher and honest person in Faridkot city. Sadhu Singh used techniques for winning the elections. Election Meetings with voters and his old students, Door-to-Door Canvassing, Posters and Pamphlets, discussed historical episodes with voters to impress them etc. and the findings support one of the reasons for the AAP’s success. The AAP party was ahead of other parties in raising the issues and problems which people considered important in these elections such as slogan anti-corruption, welfare of farmer and rural women etc.

A popular teacher among his students, was helped a lot by his ex-students in his entire campaign. With no specific agenda, He live up to the expectations of the masses and as they have voted for cleaning of the system, He helped them in getting this 'clean' system actually. AAP trailed only in one constituency – Gidderbaha where Congress was at number 1 and SAD at number 2 while AAP trailed with over 37,000 votes from Congress. While SAD took a lead of over 9,000 votes only in Rampura area. AAP did wonder in all achievements other constituencies as in Moga urban where AAP had won by a huge margin in Election from Joginder Singh of INC. SAD finished at number 3 in Moga urban while AAP got a lead of 48,174 votes here from INC Candidate. In Nihal Singh Wala- AAP’s lead was over 50,000 votes while in Baghapurana AAP got lead of over 31,000 votes and in Dharamkot it was more than 17,000 votes ahead of SAD’s Gulshan. In Kotakpura as well- Sadhu Singh was leading by over 21000 votes. While Gulshan never turned in counting centre, Joginder Singh had left inbetween. Sadhu Singh however remained inside the counting centre till end and went after taking the winning certificate.

This is a state where history has a tremendous impact on the present; people still nurse memories of past wounds. Identity remains important despite all the rhetoric about the paradigmatic shift from ethnic politics to peace politics and now to politics of development and governance. The Akali Dal in its verbal attacks on the AAP shows that it is a master of identity politics. In desperation, the party may attempt to revive a panthic agenda, though this would be a difficult task, due to the party’s own attempt to weaken the panthic institutions, as discussed above. What also
complicates the politics and society of the state, a factor not well researched, is that the state witnessed very high growth in the aftermath of the Green Revolution and then experienced a rapid decline as that growth was confined to the farming sector and was capital/energy intensive. This period of growth and decline was rapid, contained within no more than three decades, and probably unparalleled and specific to Punjab, as other parts of India like coastal Maharashtra and Haryana have thrived on industrial growth.

It also went against the climatic requirement of the state, shifting from traditional crop patterns. A flawed capital-intensive strategy was used as a technical solution to overcome the food deficit in India. The plan to develop agro-based industries side-by-side remained only an agenda, never coming to fruition. The diversification of crops, development of agro-based industries, and implementation of Swaminathan Committee report, all have remained confined to party manifestos. Industries moved out of the state, first in response to militancy and then in response to neighboring states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh being given special category status, a consequence of which has been that these states were able to provide more incentives to industries. Agricultural growth also stagnated during this time. The state has witnessed rising desperation among the people, especially among the state youth, as reflected in their yearning to emigrate. For all the past tragic events in the state and economic deceleration, Congress and Akali Dal takes the blame, as both have shared political power in the state and at the center in this recent period of despondency. This double anti-incumbency gives hope to the AAP. Post-crisis, AAP has been trying to make its debut as the ruling party through its Punjab Jodo movement that aims at covering all of Punjab through a door-to-door campaign. The party is harping on its promises to provide clean and effective governance of the variety of the ‘Delhi model’.

This shift continued when AAP began pandering to the affluent NRI Punjabis of Canada, US and rest of the world. The NRIs (mostly Sikhs) not only donated large amounts of money but also came in droves to campaign for the party. Thousands of Punjabis had left India and sought asylum in different foreign countries during the dark days of militancy. All seemed to be going well for AAP until the strategists in the Congress decided to turn the tables.

Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party, which tasted success only in Punjab winning four Lok Sabha seats, made inroads into the vote-share of the state's ruling
SAD-BJP alliance as well as the opposition Congress. AAP managed to get a vote share of 24.4 per cent during its maiden contest of the Lok Sabha polls in the state. Congress' vote share with a win on three of the total of 13 seats it contested came down by about 12.13 per cent to 33.1 per cent this time as compared. Punjab rebooted our confidence that people are fed up with conventional politics and looking for an alternative. People are for change and AAP can be that change. After a lot of discussion in the party, teams were dispatched to other parts of the country within the domain of limited resources to propagate democracy that is simplicity, transparency and participatory.

Despite huge organisational and political blunders, AAP is till a substantial player in Punjab’s electoral politics. It does not have the organisational network that the Akali Dal has and nor does it have a popular leader like the Congress’ Amarinder Singh who defeated Arun Jaitley, the BJP candidate, from Amritsar in 2014 with a margin of over one lakh votes. Amarinder Singh was strongly supported by the Sikh voters for his brave decision in resigning from the Congress party and Lok Sabha as a protest against Operation Blue Star. The Sikh voters chose him over AAP’s Daljit Singh despite the latter’s high profile professional and social standing because in choosing Amarinder Singh, they wanted to make a clear political statement against Jaitley whose party had supported Operation Blue Star. The weakness of the Congress in Punjab, however, is that apart from Amarinder Singh, the party has nothing else to show. The Congress has lost its old urban Hindu and Dalit support base.

This new generation was not particularly attracted to the Akali Dal although a few politically ambitious among them did hitch themselves to the Akali Dal. This new generation was not even attracted to left-wing ideologies partly because of their class location in the trading communities of Punjab but were fascinated by AAP’s rise to power in Delhi. Through the process of elimination, AAP seemed like an attractive political home to semi-idealistic sections of the upper-caste Punjabi Hindu youth. In addition to this, Arvind Kejriwal was projected in some urban circles as the most popular political leader to emerge in India from the Bania caste, and this had some success in attracting Punjabi Hindus from that caste to AAP’s fold.

Naxalite movement in Punjab had especially attracted the students, rural youth and school teachers and represented the most idealistic elements of Punjabi youth. When AAP came on the scene, it was like a breath of fresh air for these idealists and erstwhile idealists who had now entered middle or late middle age. There
were others from a new generation of young Naxalites or proNaxalites who in most cases were children of the older activists, and were active in student unions mostly in the Malwa belt of Punjab where AAP wielded much influence.

All these erstwhile activists, politically inactive sympathisers and the new activists became the footsoldiers of AAP. Their dormant energies were unleashed and they provided momentum to AAP’s political work which no other established political party in Punjab had. They played a crucial part in AAP’s electoral victories in all the four seats it won but particularly in the Faridkot and Sangrur constituencies, and to a lesser extent in the Patiala constituency. These constituencies formed areas where the Naxalite movement had had a substantial following especially among the youth. Prof Sadhu Singh of AAP managed an impressive victory in seven of the nine Assembly segments of Faridkot parliamentary constituency in 2014 but this time, the AAP’s candidate could corner victory only in three of nine constituencies. While AAP candidates Kular Singh and Master Baldev Singh — contesting on Kotkapura and Jaitu seats in Faridkot district — won, defeating the Congress and SAD-BJP candidates but in the Assembly constituency, Gurmit Singh Sekhon of AAP lost to Kushaldeep Dhillon of the Congress. The third assembly segment of Faridkot that AAP has won this time is Nihal Singh Wala. Manjit Singh won Nihal Singh Wala seat in Moga district by defeating Congress candidate by 27,574 votes.

In 2014 elections, Prof Sadhu Singh led in Faridkot, Jaitu, Kotkapura, Moga, Dharamkot, Bagha Purana and Nihal Singh Wala Assembly segments. He trailed behind in Rampura Phul and Gidderbaha segments at that time. However, in the last three years, the party failed in retaining its vote share in the four Assembly segments due to the ‘not much engaging’ attitude of the MP Prof Sadhu Singh, reportedly due to his poor health. In Lok Sabha elections, AAP candidate got 60,833 votes in Bagha Purana Assembly segment but in Assembly elections, the party candidate was limited to 41,418 votes. Similarly, in Dharamkot, the party got 34,615 votes this time against the 51,891 votes it got in 2014.

In the Faridkot Assembly segment, AAP’s Sadhu Singh had fetched 53,168 votes in 2014, but in Assembly elections, Kushaldeep Singh Dhillon of the Congress won the election by getting 51,026 votes, restricting AAP candidate to 39,367 votes. During the Lok Sabha elections, the AAP candidate had got 72,558 votes in the Moga Assembly segment this time the vote share for AAP candidate dipped to
In the Dharamkot Assembly segment, the AAP vote share in 2014 was 51,891 but this it was cut short to 34,615 votes.

However, the party has managed to spring a surprise in Punjab where it has won in one constituency, is leading in three constituencies and is a close second in one constituency. The AAP's star candidate and Punjab comedian Bhagwant Mann registered a massive win from the Sangrur constituency in Punjab. He has defeated Shiromani Akali Dal's Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa in Sangrur. AAP's Faridkot candidate Prof. Sadhu Singh is also on its way to winning from the seat, leading by a margin of over 80,000 votes. Its Fatehgarh Sahib candidate Harinder Singh Khalsa is also leading against the Congress's Sadhu Singh by over 30,000 votes.

AAP Patiala candidate Dr Dharam Vira Gandhi too is leading while HS Phoolka was a close second in Ludhiana. However, that's the only success story that the AAP can take forward from the 2014 Lok Sabha elections even as the party had over 400 candidates contesting across India. It's 49-day government in Delhi and Arvind Kejriwal's resignation as the Delhi CM certainly seems to have hit the AAP. The AAP had made headlines with its claims that it has brought about an anti-corruption mood in the country. The BJP and the Congress all along raised questions saying the AAP was being overestimated. This election has certainly been swept away by the bigger perception of the Modi wave. The AAP yet is not a game changer.

The youth played a pivotal role in AAP's success. The party, that attracted the poor sections, women, employees and farmers, has done well in the constituencies with a rural character such as Sangrur, Faridkot and Fatehgarh Sahib. Bhagwant Mann, who joined the AAP in March this year after parting ways with PPP leader Manpreet Badal, contested from Sangrur. He defeated SAD veteran Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa with a huge margin of over 2 lakh votes. Party candidate Prof Sadhu Singh (Faridkot) defeated SAD's Paramjit Kaur Gulshan by more than 1.70 lakh votes and Dr Dharamvir Gandhi vanquished Union Minister Preneet Kaur in Patiala. In Fatehgarh Sahib, AAP's Harinder Singh Khalsa defeated Sadhu Singh Dharmsoot of the Congress and Kulwant Singh of the SAD candidate.

Causes for Success/Victory of the AAP candidate:

A popular teacher among his students was helped a lot by his ex-students in his entire campaign.

To coted thought from historical episodes e.g. Punjabi writer Gurdial Singh Novel *Marhi Da Diva* and *Sikh Guru’s hymns* for as a winning tactics.

Factionalism was in INC and National level issues such as big scams impact on election scenario.

To change the ruling party.

Trust on new AAP party.

Effects of Arvind Kejriwal Personality.

Youth supported Sadhu Singh. Huge quantity of his voters was his students.

Personality of Prof. Sadhu Singh impact on voters.

AAP wave in Malwa region.

For better development in area.

Impact of Anna Hazre Movement against corruption in North India.

SAD (B) candidate broken regularly contact with the people.

**Causes for Defeat of the SAD(B) candidate**:

- Levied property tax in the cities by SAB(B) +BJP state government.
- Controversial role of Halka-in-charge of SAD(B).
- Increasing lawlessness and deteriorating women security.
- SAD(B) +BJP which was vociferous about the issue also faced people.
- Lack of contact with people after winning election 2009.
- SAD(B) leaders lost their courage to seen very large crowd with AAP candidate.
- Drug menace and blamed political leadership of the state.
- Lack of Development in Faridkot city and villages.
- Fack promises during election with the people.

Different methods were adopted by the candidates of various political parties for canvassing the voters for casting their votes in favour of them in the Faridkot constituency. Almost all fashionable methods were adopted by every political party
and candidate. Senior party leaders of all political parties visited in this Constituency from time to time. They pleaded the voters to cast their votes in favor of their candidate. All possible methods were adopted by all the candidates to run this election campaign. Cars, jeeps, scooters, tractors, rickshaw’s amplifications and meetings and even door to door canvassing were made to influence the voters. All the possible methods were adopted by the candidates to get the voters influenced. Small size posters were used and displayed on the cars and jeeps of every candidate. Party flags could be seen on the houses and shops of the supporters of the parties to show their solidarity with the candidate. Amplifiers fitted on vehicles were played to campaign the voters to vote for them.

The success of the AAP, which is only few months old, has produced dripples in the political scenario of the country by its debutant victory in recent Delhi Elections 2013. The political party formed on 26th of November 2012, and with no political backing and limited resources, has made its presence felt by connecting to the hearts of the common man in the capital. With promises to unearth corruption from the system by giving the nation the much awaited Jan Lok Pal bill, AAP is also challenging the political nexus for the first time in the country after independence. Lok Sabha elections that decide the fate of the country. But this time something is different, the mood is different. The country’s two biggest rivals – Congress and BJP are labeling it as their fight and then the dream of a Third Front never ends. Amidst all this, a year-old party has surfaced and is going to fight the state elections for the first time and that too from the capital city of Delhi. This is a political party that was formed on the backdrop of the India Against Corruption movement led by Anna Hazare in 2011.

The impressive electoral gains of the AAP in Punjab at the cost of both the Congress and the SAD-BJP combine may be attributed to the leadership factor. It was not only the popularity of Arvind Kejriwal but also the local ‘new’ leaders, projected as the party candidates that helped the party in a big way. All the AAP candidates had clean public image, most of them were ‘amateur’ politicians in the sense that they dabbled into electoral politics for the first time though as professionals/artists they enjoyed peoples’ goodwill on the strength of their impeccable records of community service. Here they were, pitted against what in the public eyes were the ‘professional’ politicians, many of them tainted and held responsible or even culpable in the people’s perception for the steady decline in the economic fortunes of the state as well as spread of social evils and crimes.
The party also seeks to break the rules of identity politics India has been riddled with. It is evident thus that the party is using clever tactics to merge its goals in a way the media is used maximally in reaching the people. While Indian political parties are also known to spend huge amount of money on campaigning ahead of polls using traditional media and hoardings, the AAP is leading by example yet again in this field. Attribute it to anti-incumbency against the Congress at the Centre and the ruling SAD-BJP combine in the State, or manifestation of the voters’ anger against individual leaders of both the parties, the fact remains that AAP’s broom succeeded in striking roots in Punjab. Making inroads in the State’s political scene even as the BJP and its allies swept the neighbouring States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh, AAP will have four of its leaders representing the party in the Parliament from Punjab.

Even as party’s candidates at over 400 seats across the nation failed to find mandate of the people, the Aam Aadmi Party has emerged as “khaas” (special) in Punjab with all the four success stories from the State it can take forward from the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Political analysts believed that the party has managed to take advantage of the anti-incumbency factors working against both the main political parties of the State — SAD-BJP combine and the Congress — getting over 24 per cent of the State’s vote share. They maintained the electors, who have exercised their franchise in favour of the AAP, neither wanted to vote for the BJP nor the Congress in the State, to which AAP emerged out to be the credible alternative. Apart from that, the political pundits have also attributed AAP’s success in the State for strategically selecting the known faces of that particular region, and people who attracted votes cutting across the party lines.

Bibliography

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