CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Overview

A study of the past literatures would help the researcher to understand the various dimensions of the present research problem clearly and would act as a guideline for carrying out the present study. Therefore, in this chapter an attempt has been made to review the literatures relating to voting behaviour.

Literature Relating to Voting Behaviour

Mukhi H.R. in his book states that voting behaviour is influenced by caste, religion, region and several other factors.¹

Yogendra Kumar Sharma in his book opines that absence of education is a big handicap in creating a truly democratic state because during election the ignorant people are persuaded to vote the wrong person.²

The book written by Rajendra K. Sharma points out that caste association has played an important role during election. According to him caste associations persuade the members of their caste vote a person belonging to their own caste and he may be of any political party.³

Sachdeva in his work states that human behaviour is more or less similar in certain respect under given circumstances. The voting behaviour is an illustration in this regard. The task of researcher is to engage himself to find out the existence of regularities such as price-raise, kinship, government role, party performance in

running Government, party loyalty, demagogies, slogans, personality to the candidate, economic status etc.\textsuperscript{4}

J.L. Kachroo and Vijay Kachroo in their work opine that voting like party system is the means to select the legislators who perform the decision making function in a democracy. Voting has a pattern of its own. Generally educated and urban electorate feels more involved. The illiterate and lower classes are sometimes apathetic to it. Some people traditionally vote the same party.\textsuperscript{5}

Gordan Marshall in an article points out that there are four kinds of approaches to study the voting behaviour. They are structural, ecological, social psychological and rational choice approaches. Structural approaches concentrate on the relationship between individual and social structure, place the vote in a social context and examine the effects on voting of such variables as social class, language, nationalism, religion, rural-urban contrast. Ecological approaches relate voting patterns to the characteristic features of a geographical area. Social psychological approaches relate voting decisions to the voter's psychological predispositions or attitudes. Rational-choice approaches attempt to explain voting behaviour as the outcome of a serious of instrumental cost-benefit calculation by the individual, assessing the relative desirability of specific electoral outcomes in terms of issues addressed and policies espoused by the different parties.\textsuperscript{6}

Arvind Viramani in a paper states that independent or floating voter is more likely to be affected by economic conditions than

\textsuperscript{4} Sachdeva, Introduction to Political Sociology, Vikas Publishing House Private Limited, New Delhi, 1983.
\textsuperscript{5} Kachroo, J.L. and Vijay Kachroo, General Sociology, Cosmos Bookhieve Private Limited, New Delhi, 1999.
\textsuperscript{6} Gordon Marshall, A Dictionary of Sociology, Oxford University, 1988.
voters committed to a particular party for social, caste, religious and cultural reasons.\(^7\)

Maurice Duverger in his book has emphasized the importance of electoral system that influences the political life of the country. According to him political parties provide the electorates with political direction and choice.\(^8\)

N.G.S. Kini in his book points out that community decides unanimously to vote for a particular party or individual.\(^9\)

Rose and Mossavir in an article in Norman D. Palmer’s “Elections and Political Development: The South Asian Experience” points out that voting is the only single act of political participation by majority of the adults in a country.\(^10\)

The Election Commission of India in its Report has pointed out that majority of the Indian population consists of illiterates and the illiterates may not be able to exercise their votes intelligently and freely.\(^11\)

Manoj Sarma in his book views that caste, religion, regionalism, ideology and community are the important factors that influence the behaviour of voters. According to him seat to a candidate contesting to the Parliament and State Legislatures is decided on the basis of the caste dominance. He opines that particular percentage of people is swayed by religious slogans created by the communal parties for their selfish ends. The communalist voters have voted for particular communal parties in India and influenced by religious considerations. Regionalism means love of a particular region in

\(^11\) Election Commission of India, Report on First General Election in India, New Delhi, 1952.
preference to the country. According to him voting behaviour in India is also very much influenced by regionalism. Certain persons may be committed to ideology but he votes for a candidate who is related to him irrespective of ideology he follows. In the same manner invariably a person votes for a candidate of his own community caring little for the political party to which he belongs. Thus caste, religion, regionalism and community are the important factors that influence the voting behaviour of the people in India than the ideology of the party to which he belongs.12

Ghoshal in an edited book points out that some voters are manipulated by local influential or a political brokers and some others are influenced by subjective state of feeling and understanding of why be should participate in the election. In the first case rewards and benefits provided to the voters decide the voting behaviour. In the second case Government and political parties decide the voting behaviour.13

Prem Arora in his book has pointed out that voting behaviour in India is decided on the basis of personality of the leader, religion, regionalism and muscle power.14

Rumki Basu in her book opines that under the impact of globalization, new ways of conceptualising administrative reality have been formulated, which explain the complexities of state-society relations and public private partnerships. This revised edition includes all these and many other new themes of contemporary relevance to the discipline of public administration and to the practicing word of governance. This book is an introduction to the study of public administration-the discipline as well as the profession-

14Prem Arora, Political Science Indian Government and Politics, Paper I (Section B), Cosmos Bookhives, New Delhi, 2008.
in both western and non-western administrative contexts. Major administrative theories and concepts have been explained and related to the politico-administrative situation in the developed and developing countries. Latest research findings have been used, wherever necessary, to provide empirical support to the issues discussed. According to her voters are influenced comparatively little by policy consideration.\textsuperscript{15}

Norman D. Palmer’s book is a survey of elections and political development in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. This book finds general principles hard to discover. Elections may be stabilizing or de-stabilizing, linked to development or decay. The survey data leave us uncertain of the balance between alienation and commitment of the voter. One maxim, however, emerges with some force: elections raise expectations; and raised expectations radicalize.\textsuperscript{16}

Meenu Roy’s book is a sincere attempt by the author for an indepth study of all aspects of the elections-electoral behaviour, caste politics, regional influences, defections, etc. which usually are the very basis of the battle of ballot. She opines that voters have no choice in selecting candidate. Powerful political parties impose their candidates from above. So the voters do not show the interest in casting vote. There are other two categories of non voters. Firstly the privileged people do not vote because they know they will get what they want any way and the second stay away because they know they will never get what they want.\textsuperscript{17}

Yudhisthira Das in an article opines that big money in India has led to corruption and distortion of political process of the electoral system.\textsuperscript{18}

The book written by Alan R. Ball and B. Guy Peters is substantially revised with a new chapter on globalization and regionalization and broader coverage of democratic politics, interests and movements; of the media; of social and cultural influences on political behavior and of public management. It has been systematically revised and updated throughout in the accessible down-to-earth style that has made it such a popular student choice for over thirty years. According to them voting behaviour studies follow three approaches. The first is party identification model in which voters caste their vote primarily out of long term loyalty to a particular political party, the second is rational choice approach with voter deciding to vote on the promises and performances of a candidate or party, and the third is sociological approach which emphasizes the correlation between voting behaviour and the voter’s class, religion, age or group membership.\textsuperscript{19}

The book written by M.P.Singh and Rekha Sexena begins with a detailed discussion on the nature of the Indian Constitution and moves on to describe the making of the Constitution, organs of the Government, the bureaucracy, the party system, and the civil society. The text gives a retrospective as well as a prospective view on all the topics, giving a composite idea of the issues involved. The new trends in Indian politics are seen through the prisms of democratization, multicultural secularization, federalization, and globalization. The text not only provides an updated account of the topics discussed but also brings to light new conceptual and

theoretical sensitivities underlying the transformation that is taking place in Indian politics. Besides undergraduate and postgraduate students, any lay reader who wishes to have a broad view of the Indian political system will find the book quite useful. According to them there are three sets of factors that influence the voting behaviour in India. The first set consists of social factors such as patron client networks, caste, class, tribe, language and religion. The second set comprises of political factors such as party identification, leadership image, issues and government programmes, inter-party alliance and seat adjustment, candidate etc., The third set of factors include mass media money and muscle power.20

R.C. Agarwal’s book consists of four parts. The first part deals with nature, scope and methods of political science, behavioural revolution in political science, post-behaviouralism relation political science to other social sciences state, state, nation and nationality, the nature of the state. nation and nationality, the nature of state, idealistic or metaphysical theory, theories regarding the origin of the state, sovereignty and pluralism, concepts of welfare and secular, state, relation between the individual and state, liberty and equality, state, law and punishment, international law (relations between states and theories of coexistence, panch sheel internationalism and united nations, forms of government, theory of separation of powers, political parties and local self government public opinion. The second part deals with political system, political, political culture, political socialization, power influence, authority and legitimacy political elites, modernization and political development and nationalism and imperialism. The third part deals with individualism, utilitarianism socialism, communism and collectivism, anarchism syndicalism guild socialism, fascism and Nazis Gandhism and Sarvodaya. The fourth

20M.P.Singh and Rekha Saxena, Indian Politics, Contemporary Issues and Concerns, Prentice Hall of India, New Delhi, 2008.
part deals with Marxist theory about the origin the state Marxist, theory about the origin the state, Marxist, theory of rights Marxist, concepts of liberty, equality property, justice pressure group and miscellaneous topics. According to him people caste their vote for the party whose programmes and policies impress them. Thus policies and programmes of the political parties are the important factors responsible for voting behaviour.21

R.C. Prasad in his book opine that educated cast their vote on their own accord, uneducated mostly need to prompted, helped or persuaded to go to the polling booth to vote.22

J.K. Chopra, S. Sen and G.S. Mansu Khani in their edited book have pointed out that people of a caste cast their vote as a whole for a candidate of the same or different caste either in pursuance or the decision of the caste association. Even when they do not vote enblock, they prefer a candidate of their own caste, and they do not give their preference to the merit of a candidate. They opine that election has done much to encourage the caste system because people are asked to vote for their caste candidate and this casteism is maintained by the elected leader even after election.23

Hari Hara Das in his book has pointed out that factors like religion and race significantly determine the voting behaviour of the electorate. He also opines that voter’s choice gets distorted by electoral corruption which means rigging, booth capturing, use of governmental machinery and such other methods. The use of terror-tactics in order to prevent hostile voter to come to the polling booth is a very subtle method which affects the voting behaviour of the

23J.K. Chopra, S. Sen and G.S. Mansu Khani (et.al), Sociology, Unique Publisher, New Delhi, 2000.
electorate. Political polarization on these lines may pose great danger to the stability of the political system.24

Heinz Eulau, Eldersveld and Morris Janovitz in their edited book have pointed out that voting behaviour is a community phenomenon and to understand it one must analyze the interaction of many factors like social, political, economic, religious and so on. They opine that mass media influence the voting behaviour of lower class, middle class, higher social class and higher educational class.25

Padma Chandran Dhal in his book has pointed out that in a political democracy, it is inevitable that the polity keeps changing in keeping with the times. Only by being flexible in attitude, but rigid in principles can the integrity and diversity of the social fabric be maintained. The role of the state in the social transformation of its people cannot be over-emphasized. According to him voting behaviour has two principal dimensions. They are preference and activities. Preference refer to the degree of approval or disapproval of particular political parties, candidate, laws, policy proposals or what so over. On the other hand, activity implies what they do about their preference.26

Arun Kumar in his book has analyzed in detail the meaning and concept of political marketing, mapping of political marketing, political marketing practices in other parts of the world, management of elections and perception of voters, perception of media personnel on election issues, political parties and election strategies; management of elections, composite viewpoint of voters, media personnel and political parties and lessons and basis for future strategies. He considers that education, income, media exposure, political information, party identification and electoral involvement

have an impact on the voting behaviour. He also considers that change in the environment, increase in literacy, gender consciousness, assertion of voting rights by the deprived sections of people, uncanny discern between the propaganda and discretion to exercise one’s franchise also have impact on voting behaviour.27

The edited book by Dipali Saha comprises of introduction, reasoning voters and multi-party systems, institutional and experiential approaches and tradition and transformation. In this book, the author has carefully examined the converging models of democratic citizenship, voting behaviour and multi-party electoral systems in modern behavioural research in applied politics. Here she has tried to convey the analytical application of applied research methodology in political behaviour which has contributed to the central importance concern in this discipline. She opines that political information, media, psychological perception and individual opinions create complex patterns of social communication which affect the voting pattern.28

Shell, C. Nana in her book has pointed out character of political parties influence the voting behaviour. A political party capable of handling the sentiments of the people by exploiting low level of social integration, primary associations based on caste and community and the existing socio cultural and ethnic diversity is able to influence the voters in its favour.29

S.R. Sharma in his book reviews all the major issues related to elections in India, in special context of the 1999 elections. In this book he has pointed out that most people vote either because

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they are strongly against some candidate or party or because they feel themselves under a personal obligation to someone to vote.30

N.K. Sahu in his book has done an in-depth analysis of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme which was launched by the Narashima Rao government in 1993. He has narrated various aspects of the scheme such as its thrust areas, implementation strategies, log frame for project formulation, monitoring and evaluation procedures, and the scheme's correlation with the winning and losing chances of the Members of Parliament. The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme has been a much discussed topic since its inception. According to the author, the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is different from other centrally sponsored schemes in many respects and two distinct of them are, almost every year, the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme guidelines are changed in order to accommodate the operational stake holder's requirements and the fund functions within a logical framework with components of Objectively Verifiable Indicators and the Means of Verifications, which has been explained in detail in the second Chapter of the book. In the third chapter, the author has envisaged that the eight principal actors have substantive stake in the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. They are the Members of Parliament, the people of the constituency, the executives at the union, state and district level; the political parties, the political workers, the political representatives (Members of Legislative Assembly and representatives of Panchayati Raj Institution); the work contractors and the order suppliers. In the fourth chapter, the author has expounded that in the federal politics, conflict of interest between different levels of political power holders i.e. at the central level, the Members of Parliament; at

the state level, the Members of Legislative Assembly and at the grassroots level the Zilla Panchayat, Intermediate Panchayat and Village Panchayat members, hampers the smooth implementation of the scheme. The finding shows that the fund utilization under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is relatively less in case of opposition party Members of Parliament in comparison to the Members of Parliament of ruling party of the state. In this book Sahu has observed that underprivileged citizens do not want to vote as they perceive no change in their living conditions. He points out that people judge a candidate from many angles. A local candidate is mostly favoured over an outsider and some times the voters ignore the outsider issue.31

The book written by Judith Bara and Mark Pennington provides a distinctive new introduction to the study of comparative politics at undergraduate level. Rich in case study material and global in coverage, Comparative Politics sets out the basic theoretical and methodological foundations for studying different political systems as well as the key structures and actors of which they are comprised. Part one explores the nature of comparative methodology and introduces students to the major theoretical paradigms that seek to explain the operation of institutions in democratic states and facilitate comparison across different political systems. Part two examines the institutional structures of the modern state, outlining the key features such as the electoral systems and territorial and functional divisions of government across a range of modern states. Part three analyzes the role of key actors, such as voters and parties, interest groups and social movements, the bureaucracy and the judiciary. In this book the authors have indicated that leadership image, policies image, party identification, ideological perspectives and classes are the important

factors of voting behaviour. There are number of interrelated reasons as to why people decide not to vote in many countries. Among them the main reasons are modernization, social change and dissatisfaction with political parties or government.32

The book edited by B.B. Goswami and Jayanta Sarkar comprises of articles titled Ethnicity, Politics and Political System in Sikkim by S.Ghosal, Ethnic Politics in a Matrilineal Situation by S.K.Mukherjee, Some Aspects of Tribal Ethnicity in Western Orissa by N.K. Das, Ethnic Elements in an Assembly Election in Bihar by R.K. Sinha, Power, Politics and the Tribals: Study of the Process Through Vidhan Sabha Election in a Reserve Constituency for Scheduled Tribe in Bastar by R.K. Saha, Ninth Vidhan Sabha Election in a Multi-Ethnic Situation of Rajasthan by Lok Nath Soni, Election, Power and Politics in a Multi-Ethnic Situation of Gujarat by Jyotirmoy Chakraborty. After independence of India the democratic political system has been extended from the Parliament to village panchayat. The system provides scope to the eligible citizen of India to elect representatives of one's own choice in order to annex political power. The nature and extent of association of ethnic sentiment in acquiring political power and usefulness in understanding the political behaviour of the tribes have been discussed threadbare in the seven essays; based on the anthropological studies conducted in the predominantly tribal areas stretching from the northeast to the western parts of India. The sense of insecurity in respect of their cultural identity is still being maneuvered in the north-east India that generates a strong sense of ethno-centricism. The tribal people in this region classify the electorate and aspiring candidates into two categories; the 'insider' and the 'outsider'; a mechanism which, however, gradually becomes weaker and does not operate so effectively

32Judith Bara and Mark Pennington, Comparative Politics, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2009.
in the central and western parts of India. In this book the authors have pointed out that election manifesto and money are used by the political parties for buying votes from the people and for motivating electors the political parties express the plans and programmes which they want to fulfill if they come to power.33

The book by Paul Wallace and Ramashray Roy examines the consequences and results of the 1999 general elections in light of the recent developments in Indian politics and the Indian party system. Comprising dynamic analyses of new and emerging trends in Indian politics. This volume provides data on the 1999 election combined with rich comparison with past elections right from 1957; emphasizes the importance of regionalism in Indian politics. Fifteen state-focused chapters, which include material on assembly elections, constitute the core of this volume. They reveal that national politics are increasingly reflective of state politics; and examines a whole range of important electoral issues including changes in party alliances; the role of social factors such as caste, ethnicity and religion, and the increasing communalisation of politics. India’s 1999 national elections continue with the trends of the 1990s at both the national and state levels. Political parties, capable of winning a parliamentary majority on their own, no longer exist at the national level, and are becoming rarer at the state level. Elections in 1996 and more emphatically in 1998 and 1999 have reduced the role of the Congress Party and its control on the national government. On the other hand, the authors observe that a third front functionally equivalent to a third major party no longer exists. The Janata Dal has splintered into regional parties, each of which pursues its own tactics. Efforts to reconstitute a third alternative to the BJP and the Congress are likely to succeed in the foreseeable future. Regional political parties

at the state level continue to make inroads into larger political entities in turn making coalition politics essential. Power considerations, rather than ideology or specific issues, tend to dominate alliance choices and the reluctance to merge with a larger party. The editors in this book have brought together a collection of essays that offers rich and comparative analysis of the major political strands and trends that have emerged in the last elections. According to the authors Tamil Nadu’s electorate prefer an alliance including the Congress or Contress Off Shoot in all the parliamentary elections, although the Dravidian parties are the major forces in the State level competitions. They imply that alliances of political parties has affected the voting behaviour of Tamil Nadu voters.34

The book edited by Partha Chatterjee is a collection of contributions by eminent scholars on the subject of the sociological roots of Indian politics. The papers focus on the ways in which modern politics has affected (and has been affected by) recent changes in caste structure, religious communities, and other types of identity. According to the author for the most people voting is a habit. The children tend to inherit their parents and grand parent’s politics and reflect upon the voting behaviour.35

Braham Singh in his book has pointed out that a voter can say yes or no to only one proposition in multi party system. This means that the differences are not integrated. Every vote is given not for the whole but for a particular cause. Public opinion thus remains distorted.36

Shiv Lal in his book has discussed about Indian Parliament, Lok Sabha Elections and Elections in India since 1952.

According to the author communal and caste factors undoubtedly have weighed heavily with the voters in Tamil Nadu. The communal bias has been evident even in the selection of candidate.37

Sanjay Kumar in his edited book has pointed out that political factors play a significant role in voting behaviour. The important factors are ideology, family and party association. In every society quiet a number of people are committed to certain ideologies and values like capitalism, socialism, conservatism, liberalism, secularism, fundamentalism, etc., Their voting behaviour obviously is determined by their commitments to their ideologies. He has also pointed out that local issues such as caste, dissatisfaction with general performance of party in power, role of charismatic leader and local equation, all combined in many ways determine the voting behaviour.38

M.Roy in his book has pointed out that Indian Democracy, a vibrant one, has withstood many a challenge. It has witnessed twelve Lok Sabha Elections. The author has developed an expertise in election studies. This book is the fourth in the series of election studies. The book incorporates valuable data which helps in the understanding of the electoral politics and general elections in a most comprehensive way. It also gives in a compact form about the election results in the states too. For some time India has come to settle with the coalition politics. Many a time elections have been forced upon the country without the Government at the centre completing its full term. Elections had been forced upon the country by the Congress when it withdrew support from the Central Government. Due to coalition of many parties, more so by the regional parties, the Governments at the centre have fallen by the way side.

But coalition politics have come to stay and it seems to be now a permanent part of the system. The Bhartiya Janta Party also seems to have come to stay in power for sometime to come. It has been able to make inroads in the South and the East. The book is a sincere attempt for an indepth study of all aspects of the elections-electoral behaviour, caste politics, regional influences, defections, etc, which usually are the very basis of the battle of ballot.39

John Harriss in an article addresses some changes in identity politics in Tamil Nadu since the late colonial period, focusing primarily on changes over the last decade. The article engages extensively with his earlier work on ethnic and populist mobilisation by the Dravidian parties, and the associated changes in partisanship, political representation, associational life and patronage distribution in Tamil Nadu, from the late colonial period to the late 1980s.40

Paul E. Scheele in his book has pointed out that competitive elections are vital to any democracy. American elections and public policy making demonstrate many positive qualities but at the same time are beset with serious problems. As the essays in this collection make clear, we sometimes get what we vote for, yet often we do not.41

The book written by Dan S. Felsenthal is of exceptional interest for a wide range of potential readers for students and postgraduates as a basic textbook and a handbook; for lecturers delivering courses connected with decision making as the source of

41Paul E. Scheele, We Get What We Vote For-Or Do We?: The Impact of Elections on Governing, Praeger Publication, New Delhi, 1999.
mathematical models and real examples; and for researchers as a handbook as well as an inexhaustible source of unsolved problems.\footnote{Dan S. Felsenthal, The Measurement of Voting Power: Theory and Practice, Problems and Paradoxes, Moshe Machover Hardback, 1998}

Jeff Manza, in his book has pointed out that what social groups support which political party, and how that support has changed over time, are central questions in the sociology of political behaviour. This study provides the first systematic book-length reassessment and restatement of the sociological approach to American politics in more than 20 years. It challenges widespread arguments that the importance of social cleavages have declined precipitously in recent years in the face of post-industrial social and economic changes. The book reconceptualizes the concept of social cleavages and focus on four major cleavages in American society: class, religion, gender, and race, arguing a number of important changes in the alignments of the groups making up these four cleavages have occurred. The book examines the implications of these changes for the Democratic and Republican Parties. The findings of the book are examined in light of the central dilemmas facing the two major parties in the contemporary political environment.\footnote{Jeff Manza, Social Cleavages and Political Change: Voter Alignments and U.S. Party Coalitions, Clem Brooks, 1999.}

The book written by Michael J. Avey, presents an alternative empirical theory of voter turnout. Named the Mobilization/Demobilization Theory, it analyzes voter turnout of different segments of the voting age population in terms of barriers created to prevent participation and efforts to stimulate participation. Avey challenges the theory that the characteristics of nonvoters, low levels of education and political apathy, are the root causes of poor voter turnout among persons of low socioeconomic status, arguing instead
that nonvoting results from the behavior of politicians, political elites, and the political system.\textsuperscript{44}

Han Dorussen, Michaell Taylor, in his edited book has pointed out that economic voting is a phenomenon that political scientists and economists can hardly overlook. There is ample evidence for a strong link between economic conditions and government popularity. However, not everything is that simple and this edited collection focuses on 'the comparative puzzle' of economic voting. Economic Voting emphasises the importance of comparative research design and argues that the psychology of the economic voter model needs to be developed further.\textsuperscript{45}

**Evaluation**


Comparative Politics, Political Behaviour, Indian Polity: Structure and Process, Political Marketing in India, Political Behaviour, Spatial Fragmentation of Political Behaviour in India, Major Issues in Indian Elections 1999, Electoral Politics in Federal India, Comparative Politics, Ethnicity, Politics and Political Systems in Tribal India, India’s 1999 Elections and 20th Century Politics, State and Politics in India: Themes in Politics (OIP), Political Development in India, Lok Sabha Elections Since 1952, Indian Polity, Constitution and Parliament, Electoral Politics in India: Election Process and Outcomes, Voting Behaviour and Current Trends, Populism, Tamil Style: Is it Really a Success?, We Get What We Vote For-Or Do We?: The Impact of Elections on Governing, The Measurement of Voting Power: Theory and Practice, Problems and Paradoxes, Social Cleavages and Political Change: Voter Alignments and U.S. Party Coalitions, The Demobilization of American Voters: A Comprehensive Theory of Voter Turnout and Economic Voting have been reviewed. The above literatures reviewed and appended in bibliography have not analyzed in detail the voting behaviour in Tamil Nadu with reference to Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency. The researcher thought that a detailed study on the voting behaviour with reference to Tirunelveli Constituency would bring to light the reasons for political apathy and the factors that influenced the voting behaviour and responsible for political involvement of the people. Therefore, the researcher thought it appropriate to take up this research study for detailed analysis.