

## **Annotated Bibliography on Election Studies**

This annotated bibliography on Election Studies in India since 1977, prepared for the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), includes over 300 research articles, published in leading foreign and national journals, as well as over dozen books, which together encompass various aspects of electoral politics in the country. The temporal starting point of this study – the year 1977- has less to do with the historical significance of the elections, both Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha held that year, and more to do with the trajectory of the sub-discipline of Election Studies in India. Despite being a vibrant democracy, India never had a continuous indigenous tradition of serious empirical investigation of elections. Serious studies of Indian elections which began in the 1960s ceased in the 1990s. The tradition of serious research into elections in India revived in the late 1990s and continues till date. At the global level, scholars, mainly North American with long-standing interest in India continued to write about elections.

The bibliography reflects this changing trend. Serious studies of Indian elections were dominated in the 1980s were dominated by a handful of American scholars, notably late Myron Weiner, Paul Brass and Lloyd and Suzanne Rudolph. Indian writing of this period is largely descriptive and lacks analytical and statistical rigour. The period of the 1990s onwards shows a revival of serious Indian writing on Indian elections combining description and in-depth statistical analysis. Apart from the leading Indian journal, the *Economic and Political Weekly* (EPW), the only foreign journal to take regular interest in Indian elections has been the *Asian Survey*.

The major criteria for selection of articles has been the use of statistics, both aggregate (i.e electoral results) and/or survey data. These articles range from those which give detailed analysis of one or more elections to those which skillfully and creatively use both kinds of data to map the broader changing pattern of Indian politics. Merely descriptive articles which give a semi-journalistic round-up of election results have been excluded. However, qualitative studies of Indian elections, undertaken by anthropologists, have been included. Thus, besides serving as kind of a ready reckoner, this bibliography also reveals what directions the study of Indian elections took since 1970s as also what happened and what did not happen within the sub-discipline.

Election Studies 1977-2010: Select Bibliography  
Compiled by Abhay Datar

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