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**AN INVESTIGATION ON THE VOTERS' TRUST ON THE PAKISTAN GENERAL
ELECTION 2018**

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Voters' Trust, Favorite Party, Election, General Election	The research study was conducted to examine favorite political party and the people's perception about outcomes of general elections 2018. Researcher drawn 400 sample from population of district Dera Ismail Khan using non-probability sampling technique through Curry & Dr. John in 2007 method for sample selection. The researcher used the convenient sampling techniques for the data collections. The study adopted the cross-sectional survey research method with closed-ended questionnaire for measuring concept. The results revealed that there is significant relationship between favorite political party and public perceptions about current government. The study is expected to provide suitable contribution to existing database of knowledge about the issues under considerations in this research. Study is also expected to offer valuable recommendation as extracted from the results of the current study for the general public and policy makers.
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INTRODUCTION

Many studies claimed that voters political trust depends upon education level because if any area public education ratio lower than turnout of voters will be minimum its means that lower educated people have little interest in election, either they have no information and knowledge about electoral process so they did not cost vote in elections (Bovens & Wille, 2010). Bovens and Wille (2010) divided trust into two categories, one is 'permanent' political actors (the country parliament and the legal system) and second is 'changeable' actors (political parties and politicians) whereas the lower educated have less trust in the permanent actors than the higher educated, this effect is much less visible for trust in the changeable actors. This evidence suggests that improving the trust of lower educated in politics as whole needs' attention in society. High educated people can easily evaluate the political agenda of politicians and they trust on him since they know he/she will care their

hitches and will try to solve it. Another side lower educated people thinking that political actors did not considers opinions so they will face problems either they vote to someone or not (Bovens & Wille, 2010).

Researchers defined political trust in his study, according to which "If the voter trusts the member of parliament, prevailing thought in their mind is: I am ready to give myself over into your hands. I know that you can hurt me, still I do not know when it might happen. But I assume nevertheless that you will not hurt me, and I will not have to worry about your behavior". Political trust not easy to gained during elections and political campaign but it is a continuous process in which you will connected to people a years to build their trust and it's also needs dedication and efforts to grab public trust (Turska-Kawa, 2013). Public gives support and appreciate to the government, institutions and their policies or political parties' agenda than trust building between political institutions and public (Blind, 2007). The public trust have very important meaning for politicians and their preferences for public policy-making for ruling party and there is trust of public on government, institution, electoral process and political actors they will sacrifice own property and materials for the welfare of country and other public services or expansion for others and will support them at any step of the welfare (Lee, 2018). Lee, (2018) welfare attitudes, political trust and its determinants in Sweden.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Lee (2018) political trust not limited that public trust on government and political institutions or electoral process for interest of national security and internal legal matters but its concentration on to make policies for well-being, health safety and relief for poor and significant relationship with support to make prosperity and fruitful returns of sacrifices of materials and trust in future. Blind (2007) trust build when political parties or leadership gets those steps in favor of public or for relief of public and make favorable understanding to hold significant bond about the expected results. If trust build between person, group of people or institutions with than they will be focused on other parties supporters attitude and behavior (Blind, 2007). The public gives support and appreciate to the government, institutions and policies or political parties' agenda than trust building between political institutions and public (Blind, 2007). Blind (2007), trust is divided into two categories; macro level trust and micro level trust, means that macro level trust exists when public naïve on political system and care act of institutions, government and ruling class while micro level political trust builds if support or trust on political party leadership of political of party.

These both of political trust depends upon reliability of policies which made in favor of the public. According scholar inquiry public trust have very importance in the democracy and democratic nation give value to public trust in politics because ignoring public trust means to challenging public representation and avoiding compulsory requirement for democracy.

By public trust means the public support and trust on government, institutions and ruling party during country facing uncertainty situations and predisposition and the public trust is essential for the democracy (Meer & Thompson, 2017). The logical cause of worry is that democratic system flopped without the public trust and right representation and it move towards Kingdome or monarchy so to running in the smooth way to a democratic country must require public support and trust. For legitimate era must be required the audience trust and support and was first time highlighted during second period of democratization and again get high importance in 1970 during third wave of democratizations period. A large number of Political Parties contested in the General Elections of 2018 which was a major political event of Pakistan. In this connection, this event has importance in this aspect that it's the continuity of democratic government in Pakistan where third time democratic government shifted from one political party to the high mandated political party by vote in history of Pakistan.

Secondly Pakistan "Tehreek-e-Insaf" caught the attention by emerging as third national political party in country which is mostly ruled by two major political parties PPP and PML-N. It also changed history in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by coming into power for the second consecutive time where there is no party succeeded for the second time after completing their tenure. In 2018 elections all political parties introduced new slogans and manifestos to attract and motivate undecided voters to vote for them. During the election campaign the candidates try in their speeches to motivate voters, give courage to their supports and to convince the voters that they are the best representative in the parliament. The speech language of political leadership reflects their various objectives which is the part of their party manifesto. The candidates present same election party agenda in their speeches and they try to present those topics and issues from which they can achieve their political goals. In this study researcher find out to whom the voters cast their vote in constituency in general election 2018 and how much they agree with election results reflects the voters views in true form.

Objectives of Study

1. To measure the voters' level of the trust on general election 2018 as main theme of the study.
2. To explore voters' perception about the government formed after general election 2018.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present research study is quantitative study which tried to explore the objectives by using survey method of exploratory research. Research design means the set of methods and procedures used to collecting data and after the data collection how to analyze these data to measure the variables relationship. This researcher used the cross-sectional survey

research design to study the variables under study in the focused population only at one point of the time.

Population

Population for the present study was the residents of Dera Ismail Khan, including Urban and Rural resident of this district. District D.I. Khan has five tehsils; "Tehsil Dera Ismail Khan City, Tehsil Paharpur, Tehsil Paroa, Tehsil Daraban and Tehsil Kulachi. According to the Pakistan Bereave of Statistics report of census 2017, total population of city is 1,627,132. In this connection, the population is further divided Tehsil wise in tabulation which is given below in the table.

Table 1 Population Details

S.No	Name of Tehsil	Urban	Rural	Total
1	Dera Ismail Khan City	217,457	507,438	724,895.
2	Paharpur	80,155	303,829	383,984.
3	Paroa	39,881	252,585	292,466.
4	Daraban	Nil	123,933	123,933.
5	Kulachi	24,738	77,116	121,854
	Total	362,231	1,264,901	1,627,132

Sampling Techniques

It is very impractical to study whole population, so sampling techniques allows researchers to select group of people from population to collect data and generalize results on whole population. In current study, it was not possible for scholar to select subset of population by simple random sampling methods due to non-availability of detailed information about each individual of population, thus researcher drawn sample using purposive sampling method from population care in view population features available in census report 2017 of Pakistan Bereave Statistics.

Sample-size Determination

Sample size means selection or choosing a subset of population which is very important feature in research study because goal of sample is to make comparison about population from a sample. According to [Gay \(2013\)](#) essential criteria for the sample selection is, if your population size more than five thousand (>5000) then your sample size of four hundred is appropriate for data collections. [Gay \(2003\)](#) described sample size according to population size in his book "Educational research". According to [Gay \(2013\)](#) if population size is less than hundred, then entire population will be sample size of the study, if population size is one hundred to five hundred then 50% of the population will be selected as sample size, if the population size is fifteen hundred then 20% of population will be sample size, if the population is more than five thousand then sample size will be four hundred or above. For sample selection [Curry \(2007\)](#) offered another criterion, according to criteria if population

size is more than ten thousand (10,000) than one percent of population is appropriate for sample size. Curry, (2007) described sample size rule of thumb for sample selection which is given below:

Table 2 Sampling Details

Population Size	Sampling percentage
10-100	100%
101-1,000	10%
1,001-5,000	5%
5,000-10,000	3%
10,000+	1%

According to above mentioned criteria, a sample of four hundred (400) was sufficient for this study. In this connection, the Tehsil and locality wise distribution of sample size is given in the following table.

Table 3 Locality Wise Sample Distribution

S. No.	Name of Tehsil	Urban	Rural	Total
1	D. I. Khan City	53	124	177
2	Paharpur	19	74	93
3	Paroa	09	61	71
4	Daraban	0	39	29
5	Kulachi	06	19	30
	Total	87	317	400

Data Collection Tool

The study uses coding sheet and closed ended questionnaire for collecting data. Coding sheet is used for content analysis of speeches, while in this connection, the questionnaire is used for this purpose to measure the attitude and behavior of voters towards political process in the country.

Measurement of Concepts

By political participation means participation of respondents in general election 2018 and cast vote in constituency. By political participation means that how much respondents agree with election results reflects the voters views in true form. The variables of political participation were measured by two question, with options; Which party/party's candidate did you vote for?

- A. Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf
- B. Pakistan Muslim League (N)
- C. Pakistan People's Party
- D. Mutahida Majlas-e-Amal
- E. Awami National Party
- F. Independent and Others

In your opinion, how accurately the outcome of the general election 2018 reflects voters views?

- 1. Completely
- 2. To great extent
- 3. To some extent
- 4. Very little
- 5. Not at all

H₁: There is significant association between support for a political party and trust on the results of elections of 2018.

RESULTS OF STUDY

This part is divided into two main portions. In this connection, the first part is comprised of the univariate analysis of all the variables while second part is comprised of hypothesis testing used in this study.

Univariate Analysis

The purpose of presenting these results is to give an idea about the distribution of data across different variables of the study. The data in this portion is presented in frequency distribution tables, and in each table frequency, percentage, and cumulative frequency percentage are provided for each variable. This part is divided into two tables. The first table is about favorite party while second for outcome of elections voters views. Each table is followed by its explanation.

Table 4 Favorite Party (Frequency Distribution)

		f	%	Cf%
Party/Party's	PTI	255	63.8	63.8
	PML-N	32	8.0	71.8
Candidates	PPP	24	6.0	77.8
	MMA	28	7.0	84.8
	ANP	6	1.5	86.3
	Independent	49	12.3	98.5
	Others (Please Mention)	6	1.5	100.0
Total		400	100.0	

The above table depicts frequency distribution about the favorite party of respondents. The table indicates that majority of the respondent 63.8% voted for PTI 12.3% respondents voted for the independent candidates while 8% respondents voted for PML-N candidates. In this connection, in the present study, only 7% voted for MMA while those who vote for PPP were 6%.

The table below shows that how much respondents agreed or disagreed that results of election 2018 were according to their views. The as per above table the majority of the respondents agreed that results of election 2018 were according to their views. 28.5% of the respondents agreed to great extent, while 24% respondents agree to some extent that

election results were according to their views. A small number of respondents disagreed with results and their opinion was that results were not according to their views.

Table 5 How much election results reflect voters' views? (Frequency Distribution)

		f	%	Cf%
Outcome of elections voters views	Completely	136	34.0	34.0
	To great extent	114	28.5	62.5
	To some extent	96	24.0	86.5
	Very little	32	8.0	94.5
	Not at all	22	5.5	100.0
Total		400	100.0	

Hypothesis Testing

The results of the analysis are provided in an organized manner in order to give better understanding of the findings of the study. In this connection, to test the hypothesis, Chi-square test for independence is used. The alpha level is .05. Thus, the results are presented in one table.

Table 6 Association (Support of Political Party & Trust on Results of Election 2018)

Party Voted For	How Accurately Outcome of Elections Reflects Voters Views					Total
	Completely	To G-Extent	To S-Extent	Very Little	Not at All	Completely
PTI	106	65	57	12	15	255
PMLN	5	12	9	4	2	32
PPP	7	9	4	4	0	24
MMA	10	9	5	3	1	28
ANP	1	3	2	0	0	6
Independent	6	15	16	8	4	49
Total	136	114	96	32	22	400

n= 400; $\chi^2 = 39.32$

Chi-square test for independence was used to know the association between the favorite political party and people's perception about the accuracy of election out comes. The test results show that relationship is significant at $\alpha = .05$, $\chi^2 (24) = 39.32$, $p = .02$. Cramer's V = .16 shows that these two variables explain 16% of association. These findings suggest that being a supporter of a particular party does matter while assessing the public trust on the outcomes of the elections.

DISCUSSIONS

Research study was conducted to examine favorite political party and people perception about the outcomes of the general elections 2018. The association among favorite political party and people's perception about outcomes of elections and results show that there was vital relationship among these two variables. Findings of Citrin (1974) study indicate

that there is a weak relationship amid two variables of political trust and electoral turnout. Same is stated by [Hatherington \(1998, 1999\)](#) who concludes that there is no link between the declination of political trust and voter turnout. We argue that these results are based on operationalization of political trust that entail too many variables, especially attitudes towards incumbent governments. Our analysis is based on distinction between concepts of trust and satisfaction as measurements of the political support. We distinguish between variables measuring support for representative democracy as a system from the variables measuring attitudes towards political actors. A similar argument to ours has been made by [Iyengar \(1980\)](#) who treats system support and incumbent support separately. Furthermore, our approach has similarities with, for example; [Cox \(2003\)](#) who has studied empirically whether trust in the European Parliament and trust in national parliaments affect turnout in respective elections.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study also revealed that there is significant association between the favorite political party and people perception about the accuracy of election outcome. The statistical results show that there was significant relationship between these two variables. In light of research study results and conclusion, researcher suggests recommendations for the future studies and political practitioners. Future researcher can study the difference among political agenda, public and media agenda during general elections campaign. The researcher study was focused on post elections perceptions, while in future researcher can conduct pre-elections research study on the same topic. This research study was based on district Dera Ismail Khan resident, future researchers can study on same topic on residents of others area of Pakistan. In this research study, the sample of population were selected by using convenient sampling technique, because it was not possible in this study to draw sample through probability sampling techniques. Future researchers need prefer probability sampling techniques particularly where parameters of the population are known. In this connection, for better political campaigning, political parties should focus on how they are different from other political parties so that they may emerge as a distinguish choice for the voters.

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