

Political Participation of Tribal Communities in Contemporary Politics of Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh).

* **Maninder Kumar Singh**

Research Scholar, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Manipal University Jaipur.

Dr. Subhash Kumar

Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Manipal University Jaipur.

Abstract:

In India political right is right given by the constitution and it is absolute right among the citizen of the India. India is a traditional home of different cultures it includes races, religions, languages, beliefs systems and so on. It has a rich cultural heritage background. Among the diversified population a significant portion is comprised of the tribal people, the original inhabitants of this land. The tribal culture of India and their traditions and practices pervade almost all of the aspects of Indian culture and civilization. In the Constitution of India Article 366 (25) defined scheduled tribes as, "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution". Right to vote, Right to elect is Rights to every citizen provided by the constitution of India irrespective of caste, gender, religion, region, language etc. Hence, the study is designed to find the political status, political knowledge and political participation of tribals in Amarkantak.

Keywords: Right, Vote, Participation, Political, Power, Tribal, Constitution.

I. INTRODUCTION

India is a place of infinite variety of culture and tradition. Unity in diversity is of the most prominent features in the people of India. India is a traditional home of different cultures it includes races, religions, languages, beliefs systems and so on. It has a rich cultural heritage background. Among the diversified population a significant portion is comprised of the tribal people, the original inhabitants of this land. The tribal culture of India and their traditions and practices pervade almost all of the aspects of Indian culture and civilization. "Development programme in any developing society like India has two major components. One is the development input, be it agriculture, health and hygiene or social development. The other is the media, be it mass media, traditional media, interpersonal channels and digital media that is employed to carry the development input. The use of media resources for 'Development Support Communication' is to ensure the development inputs reach the beneficiaries." [1]

In the Constitution of India Article 366 (25) defined scheduled tribes as, "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution".

According to Census report 2011, "the total population of scheduled tribe comprise 8.6 % of the population of India, out of which Madhya Pradesh is the highest tribal populated state in India. Madhya Pradesh is largest tribal populated state and Bhill is the most populous tribe in India and Gond is the second largest tribe in India". In Madhya Pradesh Bhill, Gond, Kol, Korku, Sahariya, Beiga are the most populous tribe, it comprises 92.2% of the total tribal population of Madhya Pradesh.

Amarkantak is a pilgrim town and a Nagarpanchayat in Anuppur district, it is one of the unique natural heritage areas in Vindya and Satpura mountain ranges. Amarkantak is also famous for the origin of three rivers namely Narmada,

Son and Johila. It is a hills station and a holy place of Hindus. The total population of Amarkantak was recorded 8,416 in 2011 census. Out of which tribal population was recorded 3,618 it comprises 43% of the total population of Amarkantak. The Gond, the Beiga, the Bharia, the Bhill, the Mahara.

Political situation of Amarkantak

Amarkantak is Nagarpanchayat town situated in Pushparajgarh tehsil of Anuppur District. Amarkantak divided into 15 wards where elections are held after every five years. After reviewing the political scenario of Amarkantak and the role of tribal people in local and national politics. The researcher found that there is 43% tribal population but yet they are struggling to fulfill the basic needs and the established elite class are misusing their political rights. Therefore, research was focused on the political participation of tribals in contemporary politics of Amarkantak.

Importance of study

In the present context, the non-tribals scholars and policy makers are formulating the policies for tribal development therefore, most of the tribal funds are misused and it is not reaching to the actual beneficiaries among the tribals. To keep in mind the present status of tribals in politics and administration. Therefore, through this research the researcher focused on whether tribals are really taking active participation in the contemporary politics?

In India, the Panchayati Raj system was introduced in 1992 through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. The adequate representation got to the tribals to participate in local self-government to formulate policies for their socio-political development.

Research Question

What is the present status of tribals and how they are participating in the local politics of Amarkantak.

Objective of the Study

- To know the political status of tribals in Amarkantak.
- To examine the political knowledge of tribals communities of Amarkantak.
- To analyses the political participation of tribals in Amarkantak.

Hypothesis of the study

There is no significance differences among the tribals of Amarkantak in participating of local politics.

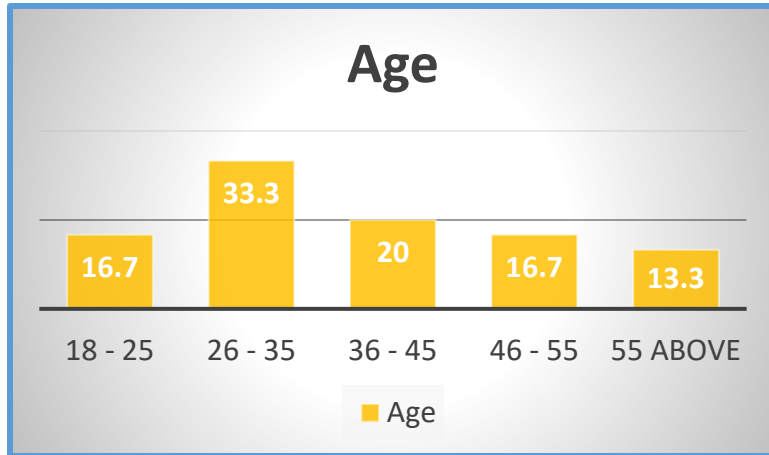
II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is being conducted among 15 wards of Amarkantak Nagarpanchayat. Keeping the study objectives in view an interview schedule was developed and observations tools used for data collection from the research area. The questionnaire was administered through a Google form. Where ever respondents were not able to use the Google form, the form was filled on their behalf through personal interviews. A random sample from the target audience group was selected for the study in 15 wards of Amarkantak. A total of 30 respondents from 15 wards of Amarkantak Nagarpanchayat were responded to the survey.

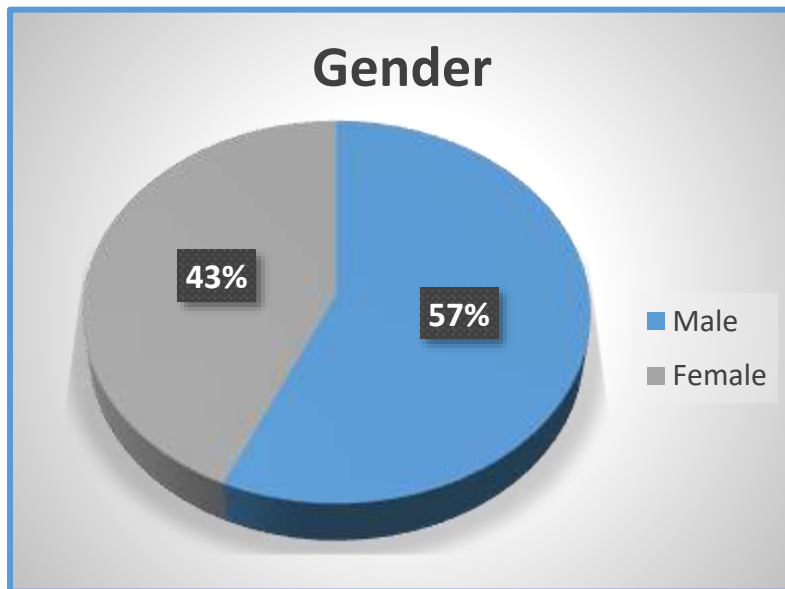
III. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected through interviews scheduled and the survey was coded and classified the data in a spreadsheet in the SPSS and analyzed with the help of T-test through SPSS software. Tables present the demography of the respondents.

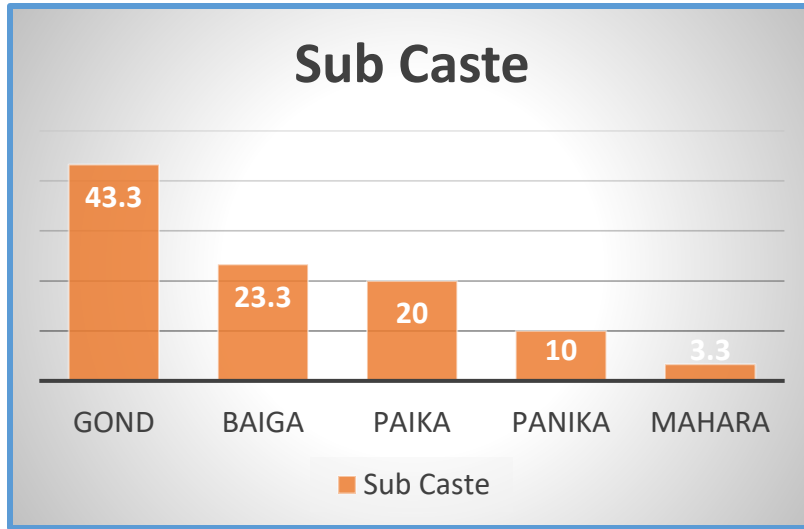
PERSONAL INFORMATION



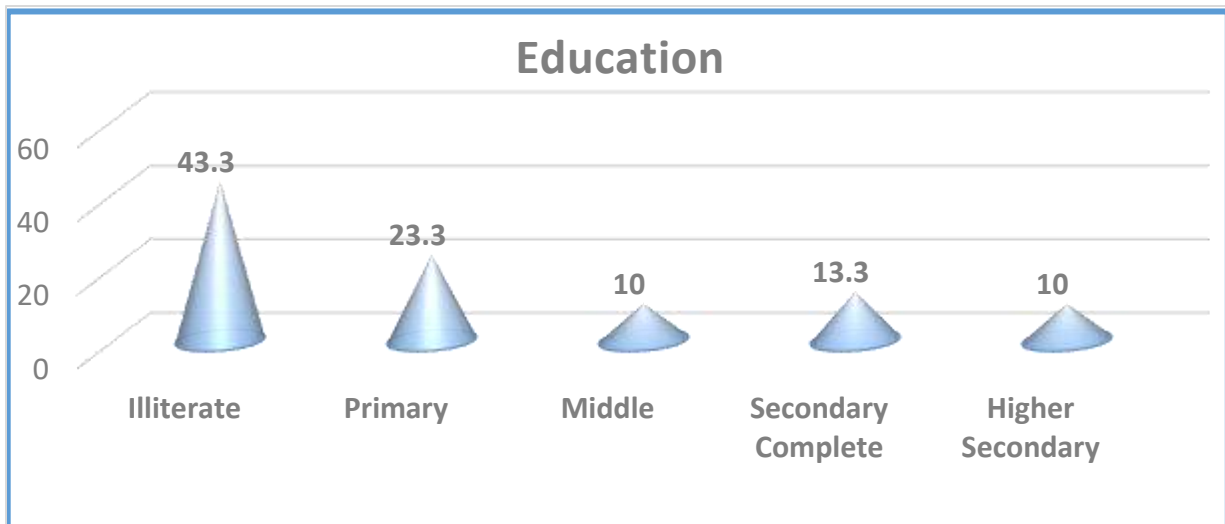
The personal data collected through survey maximum respondent are between the age group of 26 to 35 and the lowest respondent was above the age of 55 years.



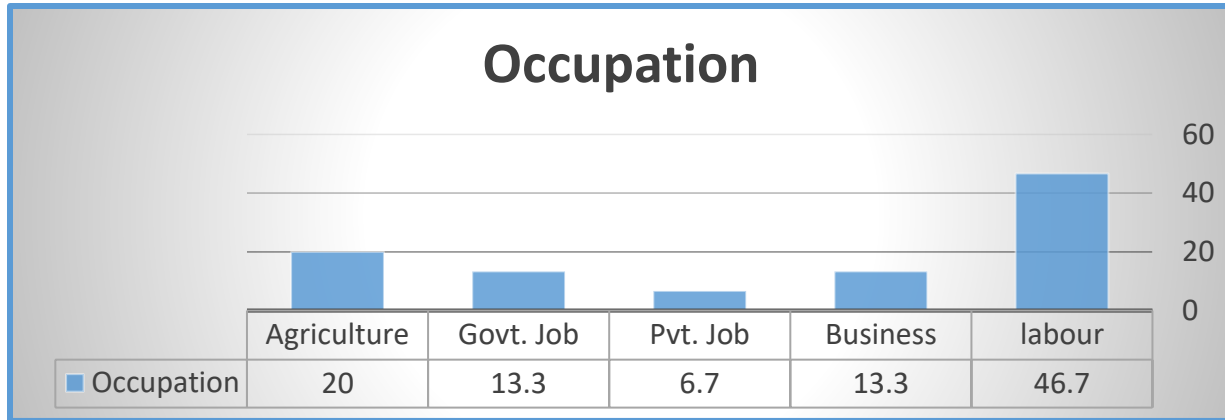
In the above figure the male (57%) respondents is more than female (43%) respondents.



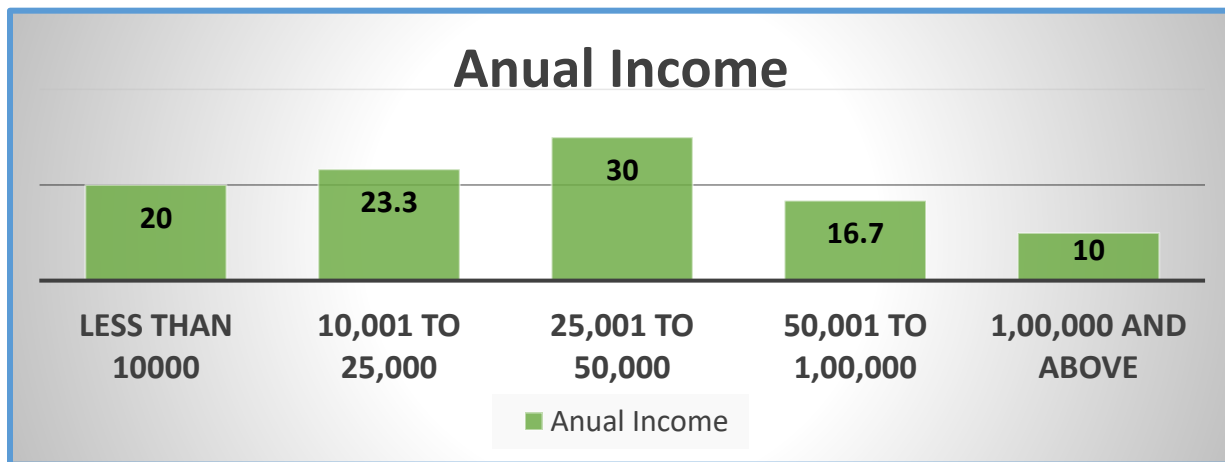
Under the sub caste of scheduled tribes category, the Gond tribe (43.3%) is largest respondent and the Mahara tribe (3.3%) is the lowest respondent.



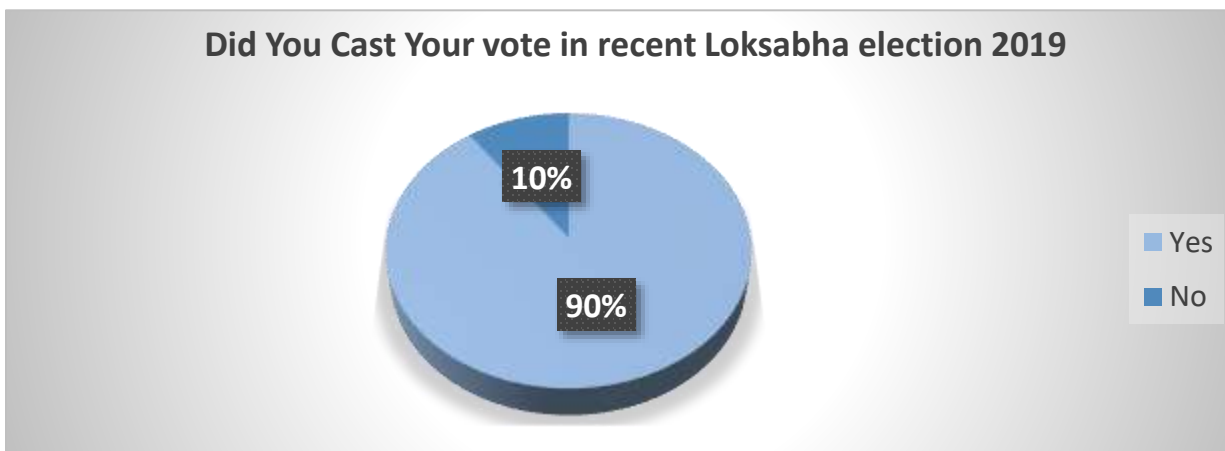
As per the educational data collected through survey, it is observed that most of our respondent are illiterate tribals (43.3%) and the highest qualification acquired by the tribals are found higher secondary (10%). Others are found in between primary to secondary level.

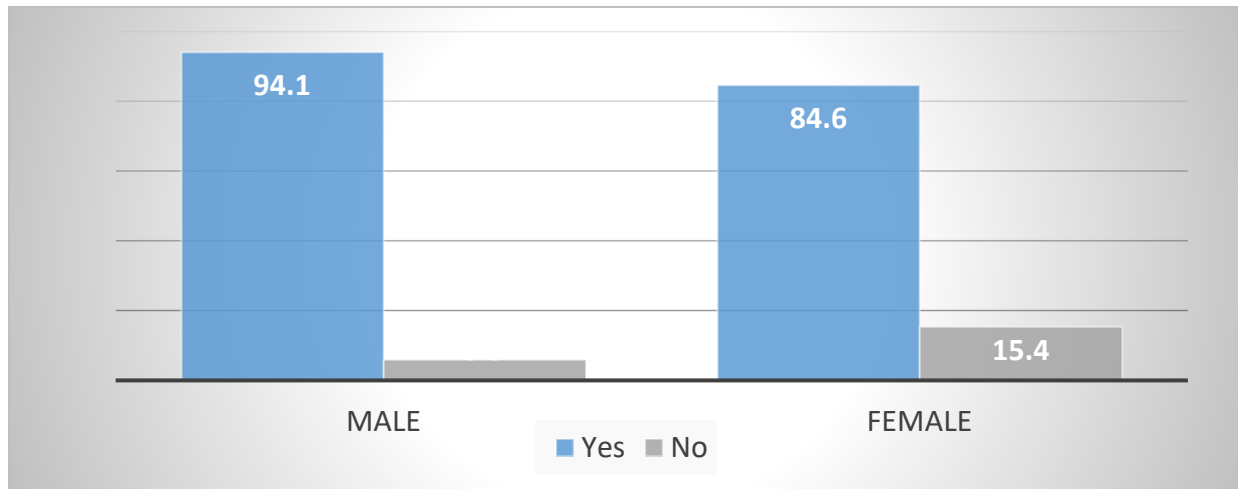


The occupation of the tribals are found majority under labour category (46.7%) and (20%) tribals are engaged in agriculture. In public and private sector (13.3 %) and (6.7%) tribals are engaged respectively. Rest of the tribals respondents are engaged in business (13.3%).

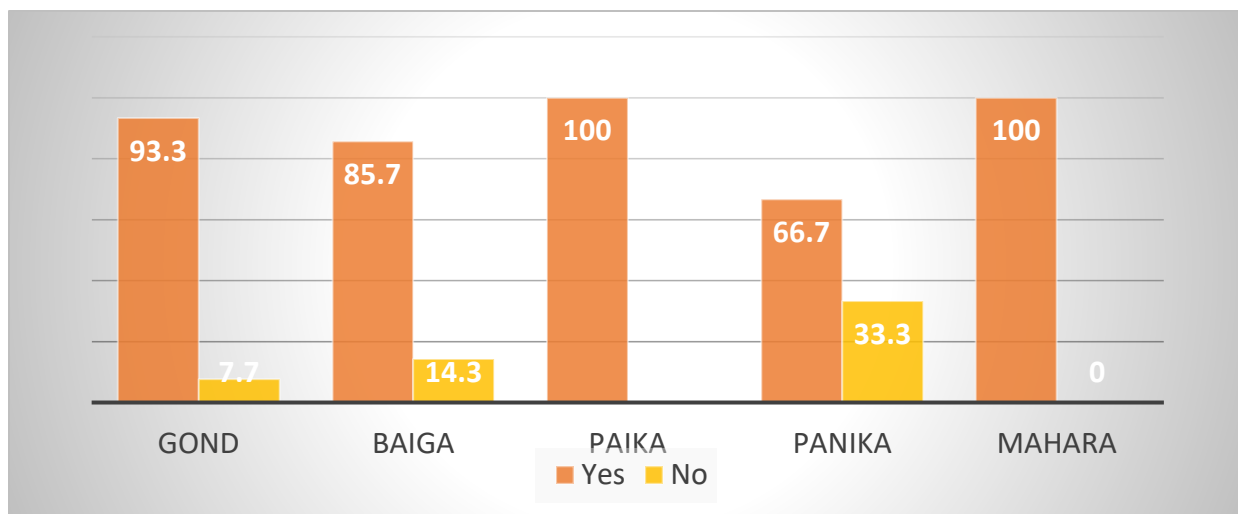


In the above figure highest (30%) annual income of tribes in Amerkantak is between 25 to 50 thousand and the lowest (10%) annual income is above 1 lac. Therefore, we can say that the financial condition of tribes is not so sound.

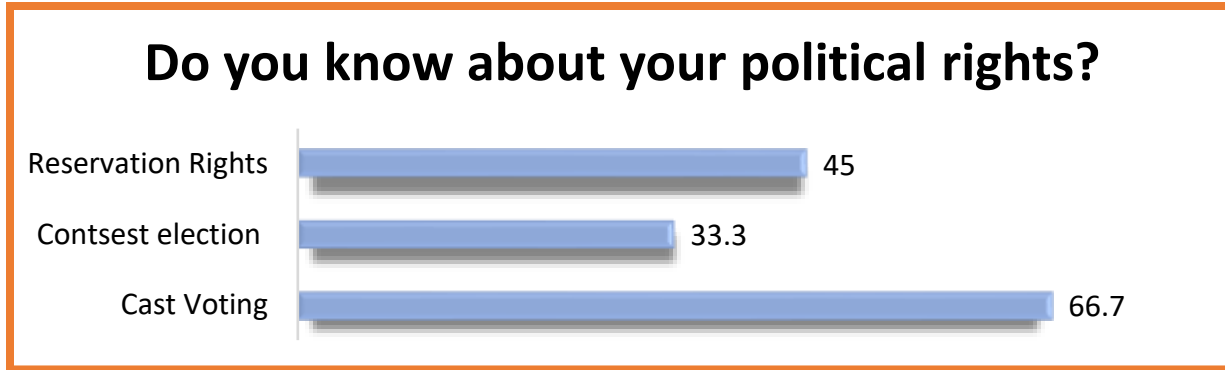




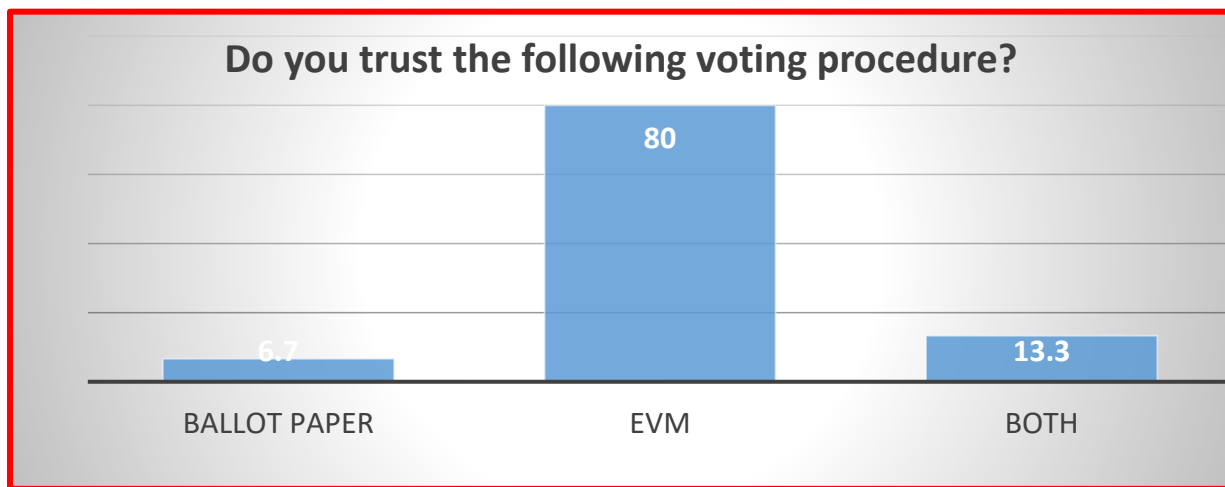
In the above two figure, the trend of the participation of scheduled tribes in parliamentary form of democracy through the elections is recorded 90% in which the ratio male voters is more than 94% and female voters is found 85%.



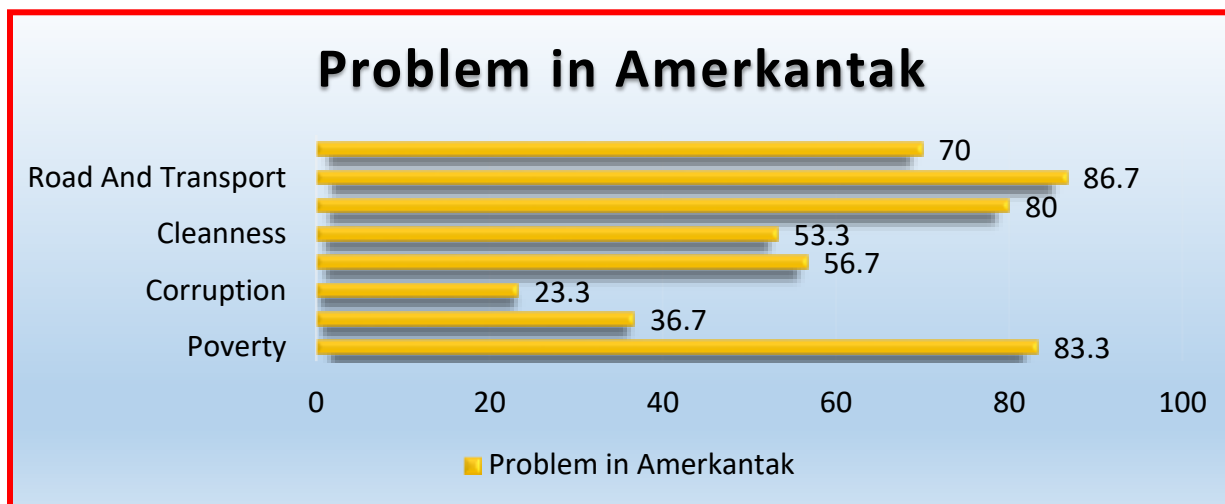
In the research also found that Paika and Mahara tribes are 100% involved in politics through using of 100% voting rights and the Gond and the Baiga tribes are found 93.3% and 85.7% participating through using their voting rights respectively.



The survey of the research says that 66.7% tribals of Amarakantak are well aware about their voting rights, 45% tribals are aware about their reservation rights and only 33.3% tribals are aware about how to contest elections.

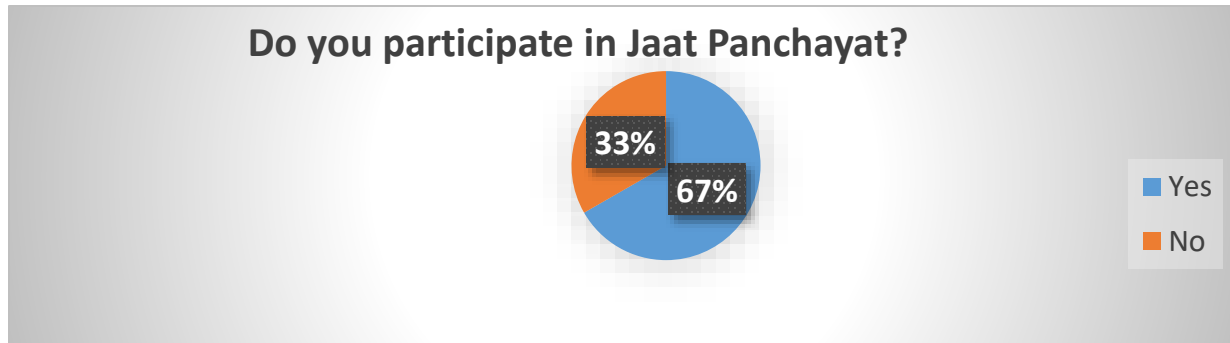


In the above figure 80% tribes are believed on EVM machine, 6.7% tribes are trusted on ballot paper and 13.3% respondent are preferred in both EVM and ballot paper.

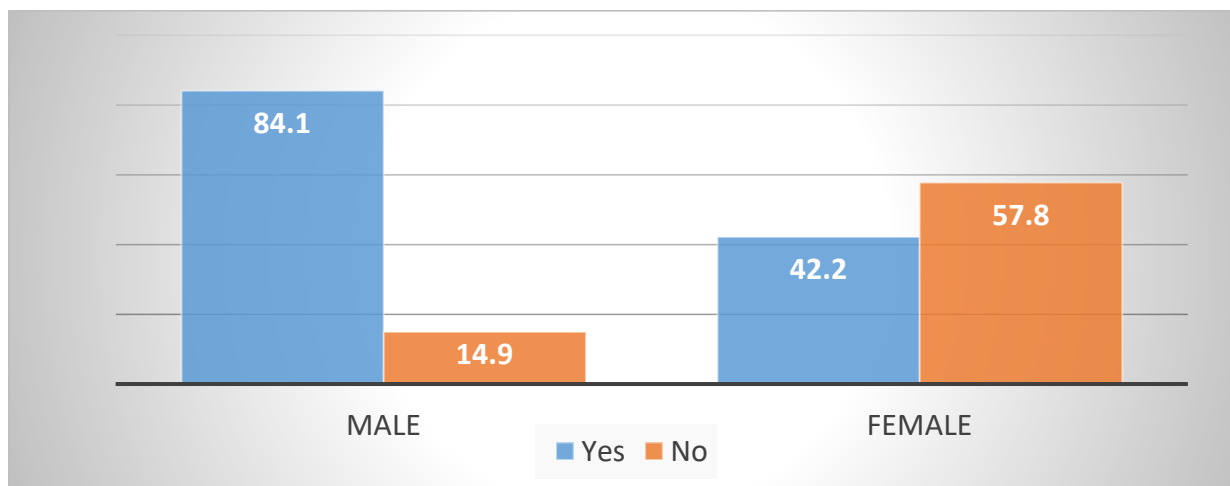


In the above table major problems of tribals of Amarkantak are 86.7% road and transport, 83.3% poverty, 80% development issues 70% electricity, 53.3% cleanness, 3.3% corruption, 36.7% unemployment, 56.7% inflation are others important problems observed in the tribals area of Amarkantak.

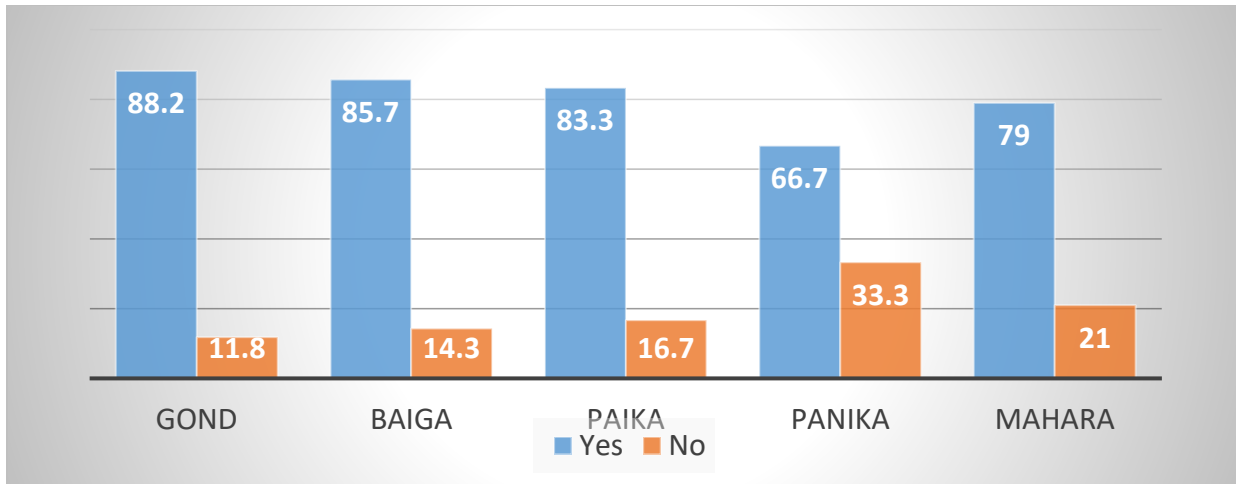
Jaat Panchayat



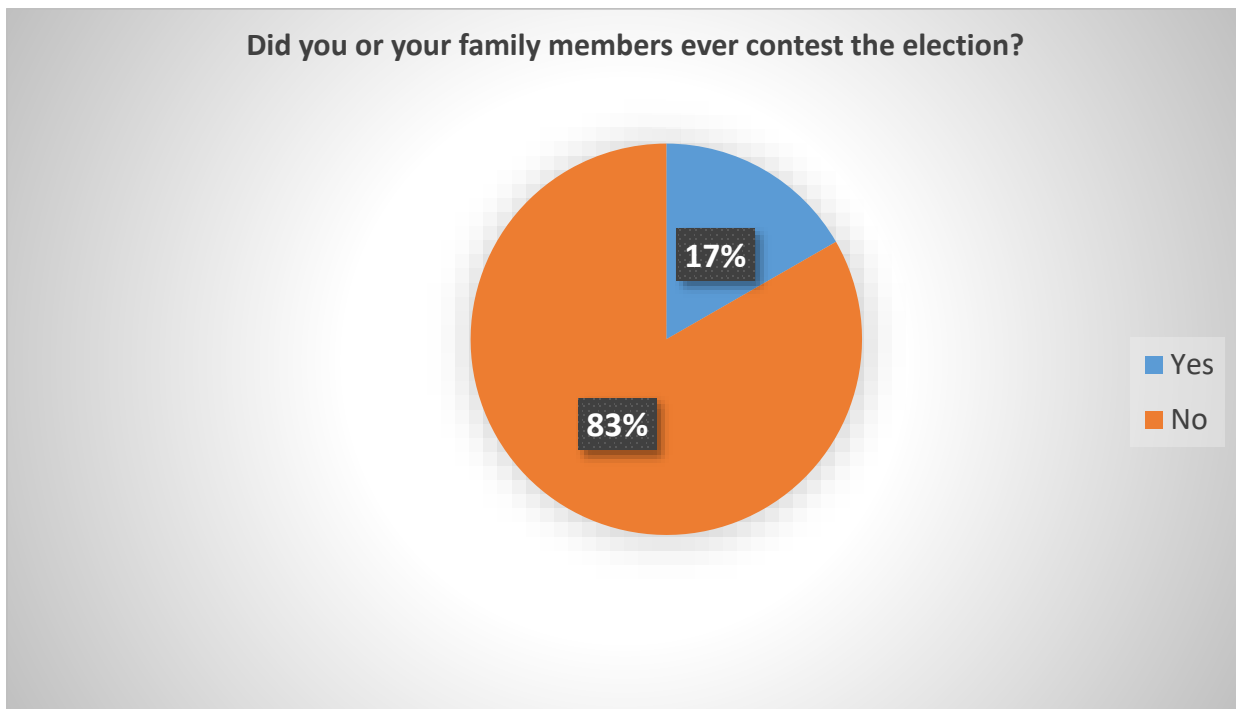
According to the data 67% tribals are participating in their own Jaat Panchayat. Jaat Panchayat is particularly functioning in each of the tribal community to discuss and to resolved the socio-religious issues among their communities.



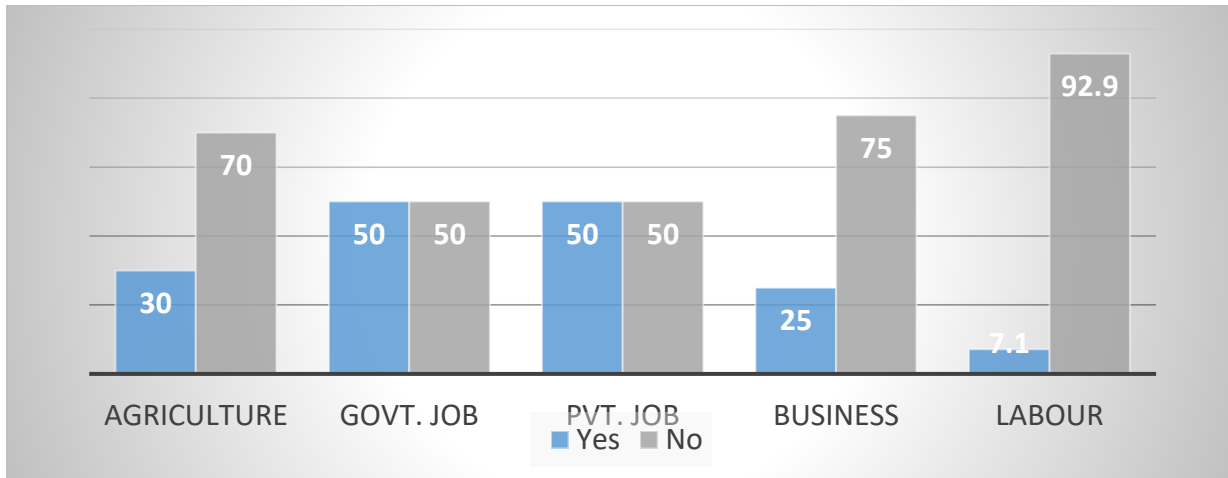
The Jaat panchayat is dominated by Male tribes (84.1%) while 57.8% Female are not participating in Jaat Panchayat.



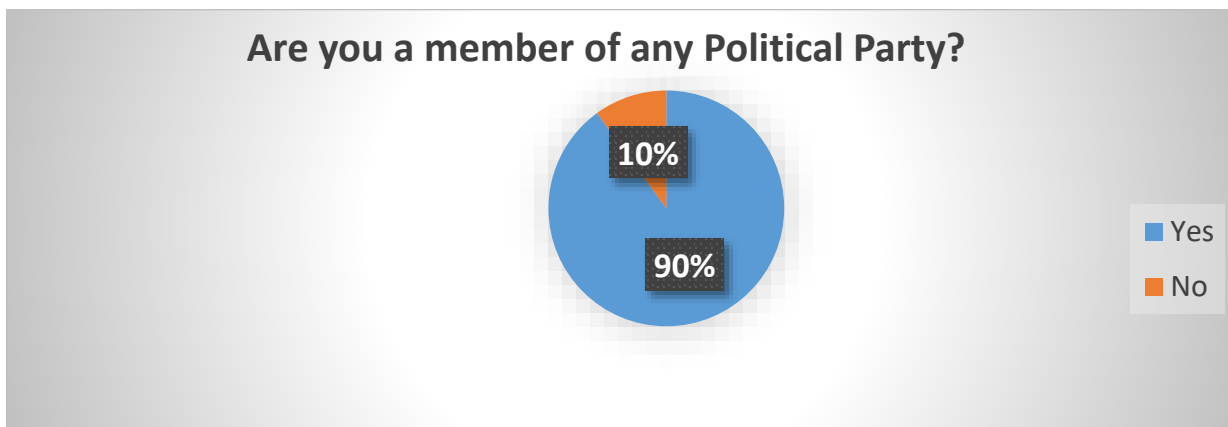
The data shows that the Gond, the Baiga and the Paika tribes are largest participating tribes in Jaat panchayat and dominating tribes. The Panika and the Mahara are less participating in Jaat panchayat in compare to other tribal community of Amarkantak.



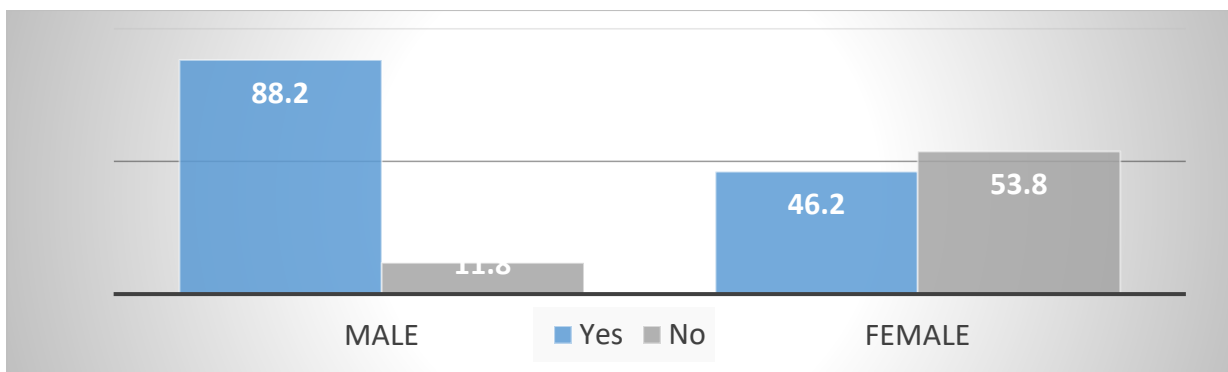
The data regarding the direct participation of tribes in politics through the contest of Election shows that 83% tribals are not contesting the elections, but only 17% tribals are taking interest to contest the local elections.



In the above figure labour, agricultural and business people are largely not participating in the election but the people working in Public and Private sectors are participating in the local election



The participation of tribals in politics through a membership of national political party is recorded 90% and 10% tribals are not interested to take membership of any political parties.



Majority of tribal male (88.2%) are very much interested in the politics in association with national party in comprise to the female tribals (46.2%) of Amarkantak.

The researcher found that 60% tribals are attracted towards BJP and 30% tribals are attracted towards Congress and remaining 10% are not interested at all to any political party.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

One-Sample Statistics				
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Did You Cast Your vote in recent Loksabha election 2019	30	1.1000	.30513	.05571
Did you or your family members ever contest the election?	30	1.8333	.37905	.06920

One-Sample Test						
	Test Value = 1					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Did You Cast Your vote in recent Loksabha election 2019	1.795	29	.083	1.0000	.0139	.2139
Did you or your family members ever contest the election?	12.0422	29	.000	.83333	.6918	.9749

The result of t- test shows that the significance value of direct participation is 0.000%. Hence this hypothesis is rejected by more than 1% of significant value. Whereas indirect participation is 0.083 therefor hypothesis is accepted by less than 1%. of significant value.

IV. CONCLUSION

The study reveals that the tribals of Amarkantak are participating in local politics through direct and indirect process of the democracy. The political participation of tribal communities in local politics is helpful to other tribal groups through the direct participations in administrations, policy framing and at implementation level to upliftment of the tribals. The all-round development of tribals are depends on the programme and policies of the government. Therefor in such level the participations of tribal's are necessary. The present research makes an attempted to understand the basic differences of grass root level among the tribal peoples of Amarkantak through direct and indirect engagement in local politics. The tribals among the dominating tribes like Gond and Baigas are taking active part in local politics through direct participation but the ratio of their participation is less than the expectation. However, the other tribal communities' direct participation in local politics is nominal.

***Corresponding author:** Maninder Kumar Singh, **Designations:** Research Scholar, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, Manipal University Jaipur, **Address:** Flats no. 905, Rameshwaram Apartments, Omaxe City, Jaipur-Ajmer Expressway, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, Pin Code- 3202026. **email id:** mkrajsingh@gmail.com

REFERENCES

- [1] Singh M.K. and Kumar Subhash, "Health Communication in Digital Era: A Study of Sub-Urban City of Jaipur", *Journal of Xi'an University of Architecture & Technology*, pp 3869 Vol. XII, Issue III, 2020.
- [2] Panda A. N. "Political Participation of Tribals", *Abhijeet Publications Delhi (2010)*.
- [3] Samal Avinash, "Tribal Development Administration: A case Study of A District in Orissa, 'Thesis', pp.33-34. Singh, C. P., (1994), *Tribal Development Administration*", *Mittal Publications Delhi (2001)*.
- [4] Louis Prakash, "Rights of Scheduled Tribes of India Acts, Commissions and Recommendations", *Manak Publications Delhi (2008)*.
- [5] Kumar Pramod, Shankar Ravi, Prasad and Sinha, "Tribal Development in India", *Anmol Publications Delhi (2012)*.
- [6] Deogaonkar, S.G. "Tribal Administration and Development, 'With Ethnographic Profiles of Selected Tribes',", *Ashok Kumar Mittal Concept Publishing Company Delhi (1994)*.
- [7] Census of India, "*Director General Census, Govt. of India*" 2011.

***Brief Introduction of the author 1:**

A graduate in Political Science from University of Delhi, Post-graduate in two subjects i.e. Political Science from University of Delhi and Master Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from GJUST Hissar Haryana. Also completed PG diploma in English Journalism from Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi. Presently pursuing PhD from Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Manipal University Jaipur.

***Brief Introduction of the author 2:**

Presently Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Manipal University Jaipur. Head of Department, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies. Head of Department, School of Journalism, Films and Creative Arts, Lovely Professional University. Head of Department, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, JECRC University. Email: