

## **CHAPTER – 5**

### **EVALUATIVE ORIENTATION : POLITICAL INTEREST AND PARTISAN PREFERENCE**

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### EVALUATIVE ORIENTATION: POLITICAL INTEREST AND PARTISAN PREFERENCE

Researchers have often sought to rank, in order, different types of political participation in terms of the number of people involved in each type of activity. Activities involving a small number of people stand at one end, while at the other end stand activities involving most of the people. It has been held that there is a latent structure in the pattern of political behaviour and this pattern reveals that if a person is a member of some politically oriented association, he is almost certain to vote (Lane 1961, 93). It is true that this pattern of associated behaviour varies from one place to another. Yet it seems logical to expect members of associations to vote rather than to abstain. That is why Lester Milbrath speaks of political participation as being “cumulative” (Milbrath 1965, 17–8). Different political acts are not only interrelated but are, in fact, different expressions of the same psychological predisposition. Knowing about a person’s participation in one activity enables us to assess at least to some extent – how far he is likely to participate in another activity. Those persons who participate in the most demanding form of participation will probably also participate in the less demanding ways. For example, it may be expected that a person who takes an active part in campaigning would also cast his vote (Goel 1974, 21). Regarding women’s participation in India, however, some modifications would have to be made. The chasm between the values of a new social order proclaimed by the Constitution and the realities of contemporary Indian society, remains wide as far as women’s rights are concerned. Some women have indeed been intensely engaged in public activities. India has had a woman as a prime minister, and several women have served as state governors. The number of women holding public offices is naturally larger. Still, the number is not large enough. In order to study political interest an attempt has been made by the researcher to study respondents participation in other non-political associations as well to understand their independent choice in political participation.

In order to understand the level of political interest the following questions were put forward before the respondents.

- 1A. Do you watch the television ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
- B. Do you watch political news and discussions ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
- 2A. Do you listen to the radio ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
- B. Do you hear political news and discussions ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

3A. Do you regularly chat with your friends and neighbours during leisure time ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

B. Do you discuss national and international politics while chatting ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

C. Is any political person discussed in your adda (leisure)? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

4A. Do you read books and pamphlets of any political party? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

B. If yes, at what time ?

5. Are you or any member of your family associated with any type of organisations like trade union, local club, school and college committees, youth organisations, puja committee etc.? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

6. Are you or members of your family associated with the following activities?

(Yes – 1, No – 2)

A. Participation in political meetings.

B. Participation in political campaigns.

C. Subscribing to any political party.

D. Collection of subscriptions for any political party.

E. Any other political activity. (Describe)

7. Have you ever placed any demand to an MLA / MP ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

8. Have you or your friends or relatives ever got any help from any political party regarding their physical survival ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

9. Do you resolve conflicts in your locality or workplace with the help of any political party ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

10. Have you or any of your friends or relatives ever got any help from any political party after any accident/emergency at home or at the workplace ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

### **Method of Classification :**

Total Score = 9

Low Score = 0 – 3 (upto 33.33%)

Medium Score = 3.1 – 6 (upto 66.66%)

High Score = 6.1 – 9 (upto 100%)

For the purpose of study the respondents were given scores. Here positive answers have been taken into consideration as that depicts how far the women surveyed are willing to participate in political activities. Women who scored from 6.1–9 were given high, 3.1–6 medium scores and women who scored less than 3 were considered to have low level of interest in politics.

In order to get a clear view the percentage of women involved in these activities have been calculated both for the informal and the formal sector and Chi-square test have been used to study the level of political activism of women in both these sectors on the basis of age, caste, religion, education, and income level of the respondents.

The women in the informal sector are members of non-political organisations and they spent 1hr on average in these associations and actively take part in their different activities but they do not hold any administrative position and are engaged as ordinary members. For e.g. in peacekeeping committees- there are 6 street vendors and 39 domestic workers, in local clubs 135 street vendors and 161 domestic workers, in religious organisations like Harisabha mostly the older women participate from both these groups. In local political party offices 96 street vendors and 53 domestic workers are engaged. However, the street vendors are found to be more active as here 28 women head or maintain liaison with other members in local party offices. They are also found to be involved in their respective trade unions though the number is meagre. 71 (26.80%) street vendors and only 35 (13.46%) domestic workers were seen to participate in these organisations which imply that women are still not regarded as potential contributors. The most important area where women actively participate are the local puja and fair committees which are totally depend on women labour. At least 41.13% street vendors and 25.8% domestic workers take this opportunity to sell their products in these local fairs or to earn extra income for their family. As regards participating in political meetings and campaigns and engaging as party cadres are concerned the percentage of women in these activities is very low. Only 17 (6.41%) street vendors and 30 (11.53%) domestic workers participate in political meetings, 20 (7.54%) street vendors and 18 (6.92%) domestic workers campaign for party leaders during elections and 47 (17.73%) street vendors and only 11 (4.23%) domestic workers are seen to be willing to act as party cadres or polling agents during elections. Contrary the male members of their family are totally active in these activities. When asked about political inclination- 169 women street vendors and 207 domestic workers refused to answer this question or were barred by their family members for the fear of being targeted by local goons or influential persons of the locality. Thus women are still not eager or are discouraged to engage in political activities.

The women in the formal sector also are members of different non-political organisations and they spent more than 1hr on average in these associations and actively take part in their different activities. Some of them are also administrative head of these organisations but majority are engaged as ordinary members. For e.g. in peacekeeping committees – 53 bank employees and 50 teachers are engaged effectively and 6 of them in each group head these peace keeping organisations, in local clubs 82 bank employees and 79

teachers are ordinary members and 40 bank employees and 42 teachers are head of these local clubs which are run by political parties. In local political party offices 76 bank employees and 58 teachers are engaged. However they are less active than that of the informal workers like street vendors or domestic workers. This is because by virtue of being members of the affluent class they are not dependent on local party leaders or influential members for food, shelter or job and hence are not guided by them. They are also found to be a little involved in their respective trade or professional groups. Only 2 bank employees and 9 teachers actually responded which imply that women are still not regarded as potential contributors. The women are also not seen to be actively involved even in youth or women organisations which are contradictory given their societal status and power. Teachers are seen to be actively involved in organisations associated with ‘Sarba Shiksha Abhijan’ or adult education in their locality by virtue of their profession. They are also quite active in the local puja and fair committees which are taken as a mode of socialisation with the larger community. As regards participating in political meetings and campaigns and engaging as party cadres are concerned the percentage of women teachers are seen to be more in these activities than the bank employees. Only 26 (10.24%) bank employees and 87 (31.99%) teachers participate in political meetings, 16 (6.29%) bank employees and 71 (26.10%) teachers campaign for party leaders during elections and 20 (7.87%) bank employees and 51 (18.75%) teachers are seen to be willing to act as party cadres or polling agents during elections. Thus it is observed that in both the categories of formal and informal sector women are seen to favour non-political organisations than the political ones.

**Table – 5.1**

**Participation of Women in Non-Political Organisations in Formal and Informal Sectors**

Organisations	Street Vendor		Domestic Workers		Bank Employee		Teachers	
	Head	Member	Head	Member	Head	Member	Head	Members
Peace-keeping	1	6	0	39	6	53	6	50
Local Club	0	135	0	161	40	82	42	79
Professional	0	0	0	0	48	81	64	78
Harisabha	0	14	0	1	0	3	6	12
Local Party Office	28	68	0	53	13	76	10	58
Trade Union	0	71	0	35	0	2	0	9
Youth Organisation	0	3	0	1	0	32	4	53
Women Organisation	0	23	0	18	1	42	1	33

Organisations	Street Vendor		Domestic Workers		Bank Employee		Teachers	
	Head	Member	Head	Member	Head	Member	Head	Members
Extension of Education	0	18	0	3	3	18	5	50
Puja Committee	0	109	0	67	6	63	0	64
Local Fair	0	102	0	67	2	51	0	44

Table – 5.2

## Participation in Political Activities

Activities	Street Vendors	Domestic Workers	Bank Employees	Teachers
Political Meetings	17	30	26	87
Political Campaigns	20	18	16	71
Acting as Poling Agents	47	11	20	51
Collecting Subscriptions	13	7	12	30

The figure below indicates the different levels of political activism among the respondents in both the formal and informal sectors. In the informal sector among street vendors, out of 265 respondents, 106 (40%) women have low scores, 132 (49.81%) have scored medium and only 27 (10.19%) have scored high which means they are actively involved in all forms of activities. Compared to this among domestic workers we observe that 123 (47.31%) have scored low i.e. less interested in participating in political activities, 123 (47.31%) have scored medium and only 14 (5.38%) have scored high level which is 50% less than that of the street vendors. Thus, it can be concluded that the two groups of women in the informal sector do not form a homogenous group in terms of their political interest and participation in such activities.

On the other hand if we compare the two groups of women in the formal sector it is observed that among teachers out of 272 respondents only 24 (8.82%) scored high in terms of participation, 134 (49.26%) scored medium and 114 (41.91%) have scored low. Among bank employees on the other hand out of 254 respondents, 37 (14.57%) have scored high, 137 (53.94%) have scored medium and 80 (31.50%) have scored low. This implies that bank employees are more involved in participating in both political and non-political activities than that of teachers. Thus it can be concluded that different occupational categories of people have different degrees of political activism irrespective of the formal and informal sectors they are in.

**Table – 5.3****Different Levels of Political Interest in Formal and Informal Sectors**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Degree of Political Interest</b>			<b>Total</b>
		<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	
Informal	Street Vendors	106 (40.00%)	132 (49.81%)	27 (10.19%)	265 (100.00%)
	Domestic Worker	123 (47.31%)	123 (47.31%)	14 (5.38%)	260 (100.00%)
Formal	Bank Employee	80 (31.50%)	137 (53.94%)	37 (14.57%)	254 (100.00%)
	Teacher	114 (41.91%)	134 (49.26%)	24 (8.82%)	272 (100.00%)

**AGE AND POLITICAL INTEREST:****INFORMAL SECTOR :****Street Vendors :**

It is a general belief political participation and activism increases or decreases depending on age and experience. People from all age groups are involved however the degree of involvement has varied. Out of 178 women who are less than 40 years of age only 14 women have scored very high, while 76 women have scored very low. Out of 87 women in the age group above 40 years 30 have scored low, 13 have scored high. It can thus be inferred that age has not influenced political interest and participation because out of 178 women below 40 years of age only 14 (7.87%) are actively involved and that above 40 years, 13 (14.94%) are involved in political activities. The Chi-square value is 3.87 and degree of freedom is 2. The Chi at .05 is 5.99 and at .01 is 9.21.

**Table – 5.4**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	76	71.70%	88	66.67%	14	51.85%	178
> 40 yrs.	30	28.30%	44	33.33%	13	48.15%	87
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	71.20	67.17%	88.66	67.17%	18.14	67.17%	178
> 40 yrs.	34.80	32.83%	43.34	32.83%	8.86	32.83%	87
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Chi-square				3.87			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

Null Hypothesis is that age and Political Interest are independent. Chi-square value is Not Significant

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age group does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

The same trend can also be seen in case of domestic workers. Out of 176 women falling within the age group of 25–40 years, 87 women have scored low, and only 7 have high degree of participation. For women above 40 years of age we find that out of 84 women, 36 have low level of political activism and 7 have high degree of political activism. Thus among both age groups women who are actively involved are equal in number. Here the value of Chi is 2.58 with degree of freedom is 2. The Chi at 0.05 is 5.99 and that at 0.01 is 9.21. Thus irrespective of age, women are less interested in direct political activities in the informal sector.



**Table – 5.5**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	87	70.73%	82	66.67%	7	50.00%	176
> 40 yrs.	36	29.27%	41	33.33%	7	50.00%	84
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	83.26	67.69%	83.26	67.69%	9.48	67.69%	176.00
> 40 yrs.	39.74	32.31%	39.74	32.31%	4.52	32.31%	84.00
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Chi-square				2.58			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

Null Hypothesis is that age and Political Interest are independent. Chi-square value is Not Significant.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age group does not influence Political Interest.

#### **FORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Bank Employees :**

In the formal sector among bank employees it is observed that out of 186 women belonging to the age group of 25–40 years of age, only 26 have scored high, and 61 have scored low in terms of political activism. For women above 40 years age group we observe that out of 68 women only 11 have scored high, and 19 have scored low. In terms of age group it can be inferred that number of women scoring high in political interest and political activism is not much in both age groups. Among women below 40 years it is 13.98% and among women above 40 years it is 16.18%. Thus age has not been a deciding factor in increasing political interest or activism among the respondents. The Chi-Square value is 0.60 which is not significant and degree of freedom is 2. The Chi at 0.05 level is 5.99 and at 0.01 level is 9.21.

**Table – 5.6**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	61	76.25%	99	72.26%	26	70.27%	186
> 40 yrs.	19	23.75%	38	27.74%	11	29.73%	68
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	58.58	73.23%	100.32	73.23%	27.09	73.23%	186.00
> 40 yrs.	21.42	26.77%	36.68	26.77%	9.91	26.77%	68.00
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Chi-square				0.60			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

Null Hypothesis is that age and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age group does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Teachers :**

Among teachers falling in the age group within 25-40 years we observe that out of 181 women, only 15 have scored high, and 76 have scored low in terms of political interest or activism. For women above 40 years of age we find that out of 91 women only 9 have scored high, and 38 have scored low. Here also the percentage of high involvement in political activities is not significant. Among women below 40 years it is 8.29% and among women above 40 years it is 9.90%. Thus here also age has not influenced increased participation or activism. The Chi-Square value is 0.20 which is not significant and the degree of freedom is 2. The Chi at 0.05 is 5.99 and that at 0.01 is 9.21.

**Table – 5.7**  
**Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	76	66.67%	90	67.16%	15	62.50%	181
> 40 yrs.	38	33.33%	44	32.84%	9	37.50%	91
Total	114	100.00%	134	100.00%	24	100.00%	272
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	75.86	66.54%	89.17	66.54%	15.97	66.54%	181.00
> 40 yrs.	38.14	33.46%	44.83	33.46%	8.03	33.46%	91.00
Total	114	100.00%	134	100.00%	24	100.00%	272
Chi-square				0.20			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

Null Hypothesis is that age and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age group does not influence Political Interest.

### **RELIGION AND POLITICAL INTEREST :**

#### **Street Vendors :**

Religion and politics is an unhealthy nexus prevalent in India but if we observe the results it shows a different picture. In case of street vendors we observe that out of 218 women of the Hindu community only 23 have scored very high, but 106 women have scored medium which means that majority of women are involved in some areas but chose to remain inactive in other areas where it doesn't suit their interest. 89 women have very low level of activism. The same holds true for Muslim community also where out of 47 women, 4 have high degree, 26 have middle level of activism and 17 women have low level of interest in politics. So on observation of all the categories at least 50% of women from all religious communities adopt a middle path in case of political activism and think a lot before taking decisions. Religion does not play an influential factor in this case. Women have low level of interest in politics in all the categories of religion in case of street vendors.

The Chi square value is 0.72 which is not significant with a degree of freedom is 4. The Chi at 0.05 is 9.41 and at 0.01 level is 13.28.

**Table – 5.8**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	89	83.96%	106	80.30%	23	85.19%	218
Muslim	17	16.04%	26	19.70%	4	14.81%	47
Christian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	87.20	82.26%	108.59	82.26%	22.21	82.26%	218.00
Muslim	18.80	17.74%	23.41	17.74%	4.79	17.74%	47.00
Christian	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total	106.00	100%	132.00	100%	27.00	100%	265.00
Chi-square				0.72			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

Null Hypothesis is that religion and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

At the outset it can be observed that both women from Hindu and Muslim community are well interested in politics but not involved in political activities. Out of 236 women from Hindus community, 12 women have high degree, and 113 show very low level of activism. Among Muslims out of 22 women, 2 have high degree, and 9 have low level of political participation. In case of Christian community out of 2 women 1 has scored medium and 1 has scored low. So on observation of all the categories at least 50% of women from all religious communities either adopt a middle path in case of political activism and think a lot before taking decisions or not active at all. Thus, religion has not increased degree of participation among the women respondents.

Chi-square value is 0.85 which is low and the degree of difference being 4. The Chi at 0.05 is 9.49 and that of 0.01 is 13.28 which is not significant. Null Hypothesis is that religion and Political Interest are independent. Religion does not influence political interest.

**Table – 5.9**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	113	91.87%	111	90.24%	12	85.71%	236
Muslim	9	7.32%	11	8.94%	2	14.29%	22
Christian	1	0.81%	1	0.81%	0	0.00%	2
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	111.65	90.77%	111.65	90.77%	12.71	90.77%	236.00
Muslim	10.41	8.46%	10.41	8.46%	1.18	8.46%	22.00
Christian	0.95	0.77%	0.95	0.77%	0.11	0.77%	2.00
Total	123.00	100%	123.00	100%	14.00	100%	260
Chi-square				0.85			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Political Interest.

## **FORMAL SECTOR**

### **Bank Employees :**

In formal sector also it can be observed that both women from Hindu and Muslim and Christian community are involved in political activities. Out of 232 women from Hindu community 32 women have high degree, and 70 very low level of activism. Among Muslims out of 16 women only 1 woman has high score, and 8 have low level of political participation. In case of Christian community out of 6 women 1 have scored high, and 8 have scored low. So on observation of all the categories at least 50% of women from all religious communities have a negative attitude in case of political activism and think a lot before taking decisions. The presence of high involvement in politics is not seen in either the Hindu or Muslim or Christian communities. Thus religion has not increased degree of participation among the women respondents. The Chi-Square value is 3.05 and degree of freedom is 4. The Chi at 0.05 level is 9.49 and at 0.01 is 13.28. Thus the Chi-Square value is not significant.

**Table – 5.10**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	70	87.50%	127	92.70%	35	94.59%	232
Muslim	8	10.00%	7	5.11%	1	2.70%	16
Christian	2	2.50%	3	2.19%	1	2.70%	6
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	73.07	91.34%	125.13	91.34%	33.80	91.34%	232.00
Muslim	5.04	6.30%	8.63	6.30%	2.33	6.30%	16.00
Christian	1.89	2.36%	3.24	2.36%	0.87	2.36%	6.00
Total	80.00	100.00%	137.00	100.00%	37.00	100.00%	254
Chi-square				3.05			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

Null Hypothesis is that religion and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Teachers :**

In case of teachers it is observed that from the Hindu community out of 257 women respondents only 24 have scored high, and 105 have scored in terms of political interest and activities. There are no women who has scored high from the Muslim and Christian community. Out of 7 Muslims teachers 1 has scored medium and 6 have scored low. From the Christian community 5 have scored medium and 3 have scored low. Thus, inspite of being members of the educated community the teachers have mostly either followed the middle path or are not at all interested in political activities. Religion has thus not ensured greater participation among teachers. The Chi-Square value is 5.43 and the degree of freedom is 4. The Chi at 0.05 is 9.49 and at 0.01 is 13.28.

**Table – 5.11**  
**Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	105	92.11%	128	0.00%	24	100.00%	257
Muslim	6	5.26%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	7
Christian	3	2.63%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	8
Total	114	100.00%	134	0.00%	24	100.00%	272
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	107.71	94.49%	126.61	94.49%	22.68	94.49%	258.89
Muslim	2.93	2.57%	3.45	2.57%	0.62	2.57%	7.05
Christian	3.35	2.94%	3.94	2.94%	0.71	2.94%	8.06
Total	114.00	100.00%	134.00	100.00%	24.00	100.00%	274.00
Chi-square				5.43			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

Null Hypothesis is that religion and Political Interest are independent. Chi-square is not significant

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Political Interest.

## **CASTE AND POLITICAL INTEREST**

### **Street Vendors :**

In the informal sector we find that out of 227 women belonging to the general caste- 24 women are actively involved, 112 women are involved based on preference of choices and activities whereas 91 women are very less involved in political activities. The number is much less in case of women of reserved categories. Among SCs it is observed that out of 28 only 3 have scored high, and 12 women have scored low in terms of political interest. The same holds true for STs and OBCs too. At least 50% (132) of women are seen to be partially involved in political affairs Thus caste has not been able to influence the level of political ambition and activism among women.

The Chi-square is 3.20 with degree of freedom being 6. The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 is 16.81 which is not significant.

**Table – 5.12**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	12	11.32%	13	9.85%	3	11.11%	28
ST	1	0.94%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1
OBC	2	1.89%	7	5.30%	0	0.00%	9
General	91	85.85%	112	84.85%	24	88.89%	227
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	11.20	10.57%	13.95	10.57%	2.85	10.57%	28.00
ST	0.40	0.38%	0.50	0.38%	0.10	0.38%	1.00
OBC	3.60	3.40%	4.48	3.40%	0.92	3.40%	9.00
General	90.80	85.66%	113.07	85.66%	23.13	85.66%	227.00
Total	106.00	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Chi-square				3.20			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that caste and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, caste does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

In case of domestic workers however we observe different picture. Among 191 women of general caste 10 have scored high, 105 women have scored medium and 76 have scored low. In case of SCs, out of 58 women, 39 have scored very low, among STs it is 3 out of 4 women and in case of OBCs it is 5 out of 7. Here caste considerations are so prominent that participation in all kind of political activities is lowest in all 4 categories specially SCs, STs and OBCs. The Chi-square is 18.88 which is very significant. The Chi at 0.05 level is 12.81 and 0.01 level is 16.81. Thus inspite of reservation of seats in legislative bodies and promises spelt out in election manifestos of various political parties, caste has not been able to increase the level of political activism among women.



**Table – 5.13**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	39	31.71%	16	13.01%	3	21.43%	58
ST	3	2.44%	1	0.81%	0	0.00%	4
OBC	5	4.07%	1	0.81%	1	7.14%	7
General	76	61.79%	105	85.37%	10	71.43%	191
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	27.44	22.31%	27.44	22.31%	3.12	22.31%	58.00
ST	1.89	1.54%	1.89	1.54%	0.22	1.54%	4.00
OBC	3.31	2.69%	3.31	2.69%	0.38	2.69%	7.00
General	90.36	73.46%	90.36	73.46%	10.28	73.46%	191.00
Total	123.00	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Chi-square				18.88			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that caste and Political Interest are independent. Thus it can be concluded that caste influence political interest in case of domestic workers.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is rejected, caste and Political Interest are associated.

### **FORMAL SECTOR :**

#### **Bank Employees :**

In the formal sector we find that out of 223 women belonging to the general caste 31 women are actively involved, whereas 72 are very less involved in political activities. Among SCs it is observed that out of 25 women 5 have scored high and 6 (7.50%) women have scored low in terms of political interest. Among STs there is none who have low score. The same holds true for OBCs too. Percentage of low scores is 31.50% in total (80). Thus caste considerations have not influenced the level of political activism among bank employees. The Chi-square is 6.24 with degree of freedom being 6. The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 is 16.81 which is not significant.

**Table – 5.14**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	6	7.50%	14	10.22%	5	13.51%	25
ST	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	2.70%	1
OBC	2	2.50%	3	2.19%	0	0.00%	5
General	72	90.00%	120	87.59%	31	83.78%	223
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	7.87	9.84%	13.48	9.84%	3.64	9.84%	25.00
ST	0.31	0.39%	0.54	0.39%	0.15	0.39%	1.00
OBC	1.57	1.97%	2.70	1.97%	0.73	1.97%	5.00
General	70.24	87.80%	120.28	87.80%	32.48	87.80%	223.00
Total	80.00	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Chi-square				6.24			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that caste and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, caste does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Teachers :**

Among teachers we find that out of 224 women belonging to the general caste 21 women are actively involved, whereas 97 are very less involved in political activities. Among SCs it is observed that out of 31 only 2 have scored high and 13 women have scored low in terms of political interest. The same holds true for STs and OBCs too. Among STs out of 3 women 1 has scored high, and 1 low. Among OBCs we observe that out of 4 women 3 have scored low in terms of political involvement. Most of these women are not involved. Thus, caste considerations has neither influenced nor not been able to increase the level of political activism among teaching faculties.

The Chi-square is 4.03 with degree of freedom being 6. The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 is 16.81 which is not significant.

**Table – 5.15**  
**Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	13	11.40%	16	0.00%	2	8.33%	31
ST	1	0.88%	1	0.00%	1	4.17%	3
OBC	3	2.63%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	4
General	97	85.09%	116	0.00%	21	87.50%	234
Total	114	100.00%	134	0.00%	24	100.00%	272
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	12.99	11.40%	15.27	11.40%	2.74	11.40%	31.23
ST	1.26	1.10%	1.48	1.10%	0.26	1.10%	3.02
OBC	1.68	1.47%	1.97	1.47%	0.35	1.47%	4.03
General	98.07	86.03%	115.28	86.03%	20.65	86.03%	235.72
Total	114.00	100.00%	134	100.00%	24	100.00%	274
Chi-square				4.03			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that caste and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, caste does not influence Political Interest.

#### **MARITAL STATUS AND POLITICAL INTEREST :**

##### **Street Vendors :**

It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's interest or disinterest in political matters. Out of 265 women only 27 show high rate of involvement. Among unmarried women out of 60 only 4 (6.66%) have scored high, among married out of 166, only 22 (13.25%) have scored high among divorced/separated women only 1 (4.14%) out of 24 women has scored high and among widow none have scored high degree of political interest and activism. On the other hand women who have achieved medium scores in terms of involvement in politics is also not remarkable. In case of unmarried it is 28, for married 84 women are more cautious in taking decisions, among divorced/separated it is 13 and in case of widows it is 7. Thus change in status does not increase or decrease a person's involvement

in political and other activities. However, widowed women are seen to be far less involved than the other three categories. Out of 15 women 8 (53.3%) have scored very low in terms of political interest.

**Table – 5.16**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	28	26.42%	28	21.21%	4	14.81%	60
Married	60	56.60%	84	63.64%	22	81.48%	166
Divorce / Separated	10	9.43%	13	9.85%	1	3.70%	24
Widow	8	7.55%	7	5.30%	0	0.00%	15
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	24.00	22.64%	29.89	22.64%	6.11	22.64%	60.00
Married	66.40	62.64%	82.69	62.64%	16.91	62.64%	166.00
Divorce / Separated	9.60	9.06%	11.95	9.06%	2.45	9.06%	24.00
Widow	6.00	5.66%	7.47	5.66%	1.53	5.66%	15.00
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Chi-square			5.34				
df			6				
Chi at 0.05			12.59				
Chi at 0.01			16.81				

The Chi-Square value is 5.34 and the degree of freedom is 6. The chi at 0.05 is 12.59 whereas at 0.01 is 16.81. Thus it is not significant. Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's interest or disinterest in political matters. Out of 260 women only 14 women show high rate of involvement. Among unmarried women out of 48 only 3 (6.25%) have scored high, among married out of 181, only 11 (6.07%) have scored high among divorced/separated none out of 17 women have

scored high and among widow none have scored high degree of political interest and activism. On the other hand number of women who have scored medium as regards political involvement in politics is quite high. In case of unmarried it is 22, for married 86 women are more cautious in taking decisions, among divorced/separated it is 7 and in case of widows it is 8. Thus change in status has not increased or decreased a person's involvement in political and other activities. Here also widowed women are seen to be far less involved than the other three categories. Out of 14 women 6 (42.85%) have scored very low in terms of political interest.

The Chi-Square value is 1.24 and the degree of freedom is 6. The chi at 0.05 is 12.59 whereas at 0.01 is 16.81. Thus it is not significant. Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Political Interest are independent.

**Table – 5.17**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	23	18.70%	22	17.89%	3	21.43%	48
Married	84	68.29%	86	69.92%	11	78.57%	181
Divorce / Separated	10	8.13%	7	5.69%	0	0.00%	17
Widow	6	4.88%	8	6.50%	0	0.00%	14
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	22.71	18.46%	22.71	18.46%	2.58	18.46%	48.00
Married	85.63	69.62%	85.63	69.62%	9.75	69.62%	181.00
Divorce / Separated	8.04	6.54%	8.04	6.54%	0.92	6.54%	17.00
Widow	6.62	5.38%	6.62	5.38%	0.75	5.38%	14.00
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Chi-square			1.24				
df			6				
Chi at 0.05			12.59				
Chi at 0.01			16.81				

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Political Interest.

**FORMAL SECTOR :****Bank Employee :**

It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's interest or disinterest in political matters. Out of 254 women only 37 (14.56%) women show high rate of involvement. Among unmarried women out of 74 only 8 (10.81%) have scored high, among married out of 155, only 25 (16.13%) have scored high among divorced/separated only 1 out of 10 women have scored high and among widows 3 have scored high degree of political interest and activism out of 15. Thus change in status does not increase or decrease a person's involvement in political and other activities. However, widowed women here are seen to be a little more involved in political activities than informal sector. Out of 15 women only 2 (13.33%) have scored very low in terms of political interest.

The Chi-Square value is 5.73 and the degree of freedom is 6. The chi at 0.05 is 12.59 whereas at 0.01 is 16.81. Thus it is not significant. Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Political Interest are independent.

**Table – 5.18**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	22	27.50%	44	32.12%	8	21.62%	74
Married	51	63.75%	79	57.66%	25	67.57%	155
Divorce / Separated	5	6.25%	4	2.92%	1	2.70%	10
Widow	2	2.50%	10	7.30%	3	8.11%	15
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	23.31	29.13%	39.91	29.13%	10.78	29.13%	74.00
Married	48.82	61.02%	83.60	61.02%	22.58	61.02%	155.00
Divorce / Separated	3.15	3.94%	5.39	3.94%	1.46	3.94%	10.00
Widow	4.72	5.91%	8.09	5.91%	2.19	5.91%	15.00
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Chi-square				5.73			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Political Interest.

**Teachers :**

The same trend is also observed among teachers group. It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's interest or disinterest in political matters. Out of 272 women only 24 (8.82%) women in total show a keen interest in political activities. Among unmarried women out of 66 only 5 (7.57%) have scored high, among married out of 184, only 16 (8.69%) have scored high among divorced /separated only none out of 10 women have scored high and among widows 3 have scored high degree of political interest and activism out of 13. On the other hand women who have scored medium is also high in all the four categories. Thus, change in status does not increase or decrease a person's involvement in political and other activities. Women who are not at all involved or very less involved is high irrespective of their marital status. In case of unmarried it is 31, among married women it is 74, among divorce/separated it is 5, among widowed women it is 4. The Chi-Square value is 4.81 and the degree of freedom is 6. The chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 is 16.81. It is not significant. Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Political Interest are independent.

**Table – 5.19****Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	31	27.19%	30	22.39%	5	20.83%	66
Married	74	64.91%	94	70.15%	16	66.67%	184
Divorce / Separated	5	4.39%	4	2.99%	0	0.00%	9
Widow	4	3.51%	6	4.48%	3	12.50%	13
Total	114	100.00%	134	100.00%	24	100.00%	272
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	27.66	24.26%	32.51	24.26%	5.82	24.26%	66.00
Married	77.12	67.65%	90.65	67.65%	16.24	67.65%	184.00
Divorce / Separated	3.77	3.31%	4.43	3.31%	0.79	3.31%	9.00
Widow	5.45	4.78%	6.40	4.78%	1.15	4.78%	13.00
Total	114	100.00%	134	100.00%	24	100.00%	272
Chi-square			4.81				
df			6				
Chi at 0.05			12.59				
Chi at 0.01			16.81				

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Political Interest.

## **EDUCATION AND POLITICAL INTEREST :**

### **INFORMAL SECTOR :**

The importance of education for participation arises from several sources. Those who have more education generally know more about the working of the political system; therefore, they are more aware of the consequences of governmental actions for their lives. Those who are more educated are also more likely to live in a social environment in which considerable social pressure exists to be politically active, These social norms may also have been instilled by the parents of those who are more educated ; those who have higher levels of education tend to come from families in which the parents had higher levels of education. But the present survey failed to establish any such association irrespective of the informal as well as the formal sector.

### **Street Vendors :**

In the following survey it is observed that the number of high scores among street vendors is relatively low among all groups irrespective of whether they are literate or illiterate. In case of women obtaining low scores it is observed that both the 2 illiterate women show low scores in terms of political participation i.e. 100% whereas among women with secondary education it is 55 (36.18%), among women with higher secondary education it is 27 (42.1%), among graduates it is 22 (47.82%). Similarly, if we compare the high scores we observe that education has not increased the level of involvement in political activities. Among illiterate there is none, among women with secondary education only 23 (15.13%), among women with higher secondary education it is 2 (3.12%) among graduates 2 (4.34%) and among post graduates none. Most of these women have obtained medium level scores. The Chi-Square value is 12.34 with the degree of freedom being 8. It is much less than the Chi score both at 0.01 (20.09) and at 0.05 level which is 15.51. Hence the result is not significant.



**Table – 5.20**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	2	1.89%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2
Secondary	55	51.89%	74	56.06%	23	85.19%	152
Higher Secondary	27	25.47%	35	26.52%	2	7.41%	64
Graduate	22	20.75%	22	16.67%	2	7.41%	46
Post Graduate	0	0.00%	1	0.76%	0	0.00%	1
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0.80	0.75%	1.00	0.75%	0.20	0.75%	2.00
Secondary	60.80	57.36%	75.71	57.36%	15.49	57.36%	152.00
Higher Secondary	25.60	24.15%	31.88	24.15%	6.52	24.15%	64.00
Graduate	18.40	17.36%	22.91	17.36%	4.69	17.36%	46.00
Post Graduate	0.40	0.38%	0.50	0.38%	0.10	0.38%	1.00
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Chi-square				12.34			
df				8			
Chi at 0.05				15.51			
Chi at 0.01				20.09			

Null Hypothesis is that education and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, education does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

It is observed that the number of high scores among domestic workers is very low among all groups irrespective of whether they are literate or illiterate. In case of women obtaining low scores it is observed that out of 5, 3 (60%) illiterate women show low scores in terms of political participation whereas among women with secondary education it is 119 (47.22%), among women with higher secondary education it is 1 (33.33%), Similarly if we compare the high scores we observe that education has not increased the level of involvement in political activities. Among illiterate there is none, among women with secondary education only 14 (5.55%). Most of these women have obtained medium level scores. The Chi-Square

value is 0.60 with the degree of freedom being 8. It is much less than the Chi score both at 0.01(20.09) and at 0.05 level which is 15.51. Hence the result is not significant.

**Table – 5.21**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	3	2.44%	2	1.63%	0	0.00%	5
Secondary	119	96.75%	119	96.75%	14	100.00%	252
Higher Secondary	1	0.81%	2	1.63%	0	0.00%	3
Graduate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Post Graduate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	2.37	1.92%	2.37	1.92%	0.27	1.92%	5.00
Secondary	119.22	96.92%	119.22	96.92%	13.57	96.92%	252.00
Higher Secondary	1.42	1.15%	1.42	1.15%	0.16	1.15%	3.00
Graduate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Post Graduate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Chi-square				0.60			
df				8			
Chi at 0.05				15.51			
Chi at 0.01				20.09			

Null Hypothesis is that education and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, education does not influence Political Interest.

## **FORMAL SECTOR :**

### **Bank Employees :**

At the outset it is observed that inspite of being educated the number of women obtaining high scores in terms of political activism is less. Out of 254 women only 37 (14.56%) women have obtained high scores, 137 (53.93%) medium scores and 80(31.50%) low scores. Since most of these women possess graduate and post graduate

degrees it is observed that out of 166 women having graduate degrees only 26 (15.66%) have got high scores, and 50 (30.12%) low scores. Among women having post graduate degrees 11 (12.64%) have obtained high scores, and about 29 (33.33%) have secured low scores. Thus the percentage of high involvement in political activity is not seen even in case of bank employees. Thus education has not been able to influence political participation among women.

The Chi- Square value is 2.04 with the degree of freedom being 8. It is much less than the Chi score both at 0.01 (20.09) and at 0.05 level which is 15.51. Hence the result is not significant.

**Table – 5.22**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Secondary	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Higher Secondary	1	1.25%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1
Graduate	50	62.50%	90	65.69%	26	70.27%	166
Post Graduate	29	36.25%	47	34.31%	11	29.73%	87
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Secondary	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Higher Secondary	0.31	0.39%	0.54	0.39%	0.15	0.39%	1.00
Graduate	52.28	65.35%	89.54	65.35%	24.18	65.35%	166.00
Post Graduate	27.40	34.25%	46.93	34.25%	12.67	34.25%	87.00
Total	80	100.00%	137	100.00%	37	100.00%	254
Chi-square			2.04				
df			8				
Chi at 0.05			15.51				
Chi at 0.01			20.09				

Null Hypothesis is that education and Political Interest are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, education does not influence Political Interest.

**Teachers :**

Out of 272 women only 24 (8.82%) women have obtained high scores, 134 (49.26%) medium scores and 114 (41.91%) low scores. Since most of these women possess graduate and post graduate degrees it is observed that out of 74 women having graduate degrees only 10 (13.51%) have got high scores, and 31 (41.90%) low scores. Among 196 women having post graduate degrees 14 (7.14%) have obtained high scores, and about 82 (41.84%) have secured low scores. Thus the percentage of high involvement in political activity is not seen even in case of teachers. More specifically it can be inferred that more the level of education the number of women have preferred to either abstain from being politically active or think a lot before taking any decisions. Thus, education has not been able to influence and increase political participation among women.

The Chi- Square value is 2.95 with the degree of freedom being 8. It is much less than the Chi score both at 0.01 (20.09) and at 0.05 level which is 15.51. Hence the result is not significant. So here also hypothesis is rejected.

**Table – 5.23****Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Secondary	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Higher Secondary	1	0.88%	1	0.75%	0	0.00%	2
Graduate	31	27.19%	33	24.63%	10	41.67%	74
Post Graduate	82	71.93%	100	74.63%	14	58.33%	196
Total	114	100.00%	134	100.00%	24	100.00%	272
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Secondary	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Higher Secondary	0.84	0.74%	0.99	0.74%	0.18	0.74%	2.01
Graduate	31.01	27.21%	36.46	27.21%	6.53	27.21%	74.54
Post Graduate	82.15	72.06%	96.56	72.06%	17.29	72.06%	197.44
Total	114.00	100.00%	134.00	100.00%	24.00	100.00%	274.00
Chi-square			2.95				
df			8				
Chi at 0.05			15.51				
Chi at 0.01			20.09				

## RELATION BETWEEN INCOME LEVEL AND POLITICAL INTEREST :

### Street Vendors :

It is observed that out of 265 women falling in different income groups the rate of participation has varied. In the lowest income level out of 8 women 5 show low score, 2 middle and only 1 woman seems to take active part in political affair. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, out of 198 women about the percentage of low scores is 41.92 and that of high scores is 8.08. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> level also we find that the percentage of low level of involvement in political activities is 30.51. Thus taking all these percentages it can be inferred that rise in the level of income does not significantly increase a person's interest in political matters and her activism. Null Hypothesis is that income and Political Interest are independent. Chi-square is 7.15 and the degree of freedom is 10. The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. Thus the Chi-square is not significant. Therefore income does not affect political interest.

**Table – 5.24**

### Chi-square Test for Street Vendors

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	5	4.72%	2	1.52%	1	3.70%	8
15001 – 30000	83	78.30%	99	75.00%	16	59.26%	198
30001 – 50000	18	16.98%	31	23.48%	10	37.04%	59
50001 – 75000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
75001 – 10000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Above 100000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	106	100%	132	100%	27	100%	265
Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	3.20	3.02%	3.98	3.02%	0.82	3.02%	8.00
15001 – 30000	79.20	74.72%	98.63	74.72%	20.17	74.72%	198.00
30001 – 50000	23.60	22.26%	29.39	22.26%	6.01	22.26%	59.00
50001 – 75000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
75001 – 10000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Above 100000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total	106.00	100%	132.00	100%	27.00	100%	265
Chi-square			7.15				
df			10				
Chi at 0.05			18.31				
Chi at 0.01			23.21				

**Domestic Workers :**

In case of domestic workers also we observe the same trend. In the lowest income level out of 192 women 86 show low score, 98 medium score and only 8 woman seem to take active part in political affair. Here the percentage of low scores is 44.80. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> level, out of 68 women about the percentage of low scores is 54.41 and that of high scores is 8.82. Thus taking all these percentages it can be inferred that the level of income does not significantly increase a person's interest in political matters and her activism. On the contrary here even with the rise of level of income political apathy has become more important. Null Hypothesis is that income and Political Interest are independent. Chi-square is 5.17 and the degree of freedom is 10. The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. Thus the Chi-square is not significant. Therefore income does not affect political interest.

**Table – 5.25****Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	86	69.92%	98	79.67%	8	57.14%	192
15001 – 30000	37	30.08%	25	20.33%	6	42.86%	68
30001 – 50000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
50001 – 75000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
75001 – 10000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Above 100000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	123	100%	123	100%	14	100%	260
Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	90.83	73.85%	90.83	73.85%	10.34	73.85%	192.00
15001 – 30000	32.17	26.15%	32.17	26.15%	3.66	26.15%	68.00
30001 – 50000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
50001 – 75000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
75001 – 10000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Above 100000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total	123.00	100%	123.00	100%	14.00	100%	260
Chi-square				5.17			
df				10			
Chi at 0.05				18.31			
Chi at 0.01				23.21			

**FORMAL SECTOR :****Bank Employee :**

In the formal sector it is expected that with the rise in the level of income the degree of participation would be more but the observations show a different picture altogether. Here the maximum number of women fall within the 3<sup>rd</sup> level of income where out of 117 women only 15 have high scores and 34 (29.05%) low scores. In the 4<sup>th</sup> level out of 67 women 26 (38.80%) have obtained low scores and only 7 (10.44%) women have high scores. In the 5<sup>th</sup> level out of 35 women 8 have achieved high scores, and 9 (25.71%) low scores. In the 6<sup>th</sup> level, those with income above Rs 1,00,000 we find that out of 19 women 6 (31.58%) have low scores and only 3 have achieved high scores. The percentage shows that with the rise in the level of income women tend to become more cautious before plunging into any actions. They also weigh their own benefits and seldom refrain from active participation in debates and discussions as noted earlier. Null Hypothesis is that income and Political Interest are independent. Chi-square is 6.15 and the degree of freedom is 10. The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. Thus the Chi-square is not significant. Therefore income does not affect political interest.

**Table – 5.26****Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0	0.00%	1	0.74%	0	0.00%	1
15001 – 30000	5	6.25%	5	3.68%	2	5.71%	12
30001 – 50000	34	42.50%	68	50.00%	15	42.86%	117
50001 – 75000	26	32.50%	34	25.00%	7	20.00%	67
75001 – 10000	9	11.25%	18	13.24%	8	22.86%	35
Above 100000	6	7.50%	10	7.35%	3	8.57%	19
Total	80	100.00%	136	100.00%	35	100.00%	251
Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0.32	0.40%	0.54	0.40%	0.14	0.40%	1.00
15001 – 30000	3.82	4.78%	6.50	4.78%	1.67	4.78%	12.00
30001 – 50000	37.29	46.61%	63.39	46.61%	16.31	46.61%	117.00
50001 – 75000	21.35	26.69%	36.30	26.69%	9.34	26.69%	67.00
75001 – 10000	11.16	13.94%	18.96	13.94%	4.88	13.94%	35.00
Above 100000	6.06	7.57%	10.29	7.57%	2.65	7.57%	19.00
Total	80.00	100.00%	136.00	100.00%	35.00	100.00%	251.00

Chi-square	6.15
df	10
Chi at 0.05	18.31
Chi at 0.01	23.21

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, income does not influence Political Interest.

#### **Teachers :**

Here the maximum number of women fall within the 3<sup>rd</sup> level of income where out of 101 women only 8 have high scores, and 47 (46.53%) low scores. In the 4<sup>th</sup> level out of 110 women 47 (42.72%) have obtained low scores and only 10 (9.09%) women have high scores. In the 5<sup>th</sup> level out of 36 women 2 have achieved high scores, and 12 (33.33%) low scores. In the 6<sup>th</sup> level, those with income above Rs 1,00,000 we find that out of 17 women 7 (41.17%) have low scores and only 2 have achieved high scores. The percentage shows that even with the rise in the level of income the percentage of women willing to have greater involvement is much less. Women here are more cautious before plunging into any actions as the women scoring medium is also a considerable. The percentage of low scores has steadily increased as we have climbed up the income ladder compared to the bank employees. Null Hypothesis is that income and Political Interest are independent but here with the rise in income level activism has decreased. Chi-square is 22.92 and the degree of freedom is 10. The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. Thus the Chi-square is significant.

**Table – 5.27**

#### **Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	8.33%	2
15001 – 30000	0	0.00%	3	0.00%	0	0.00%	3
30001 – 50000	46	41.07%	47	0.00%	8	33.33%	101
50001 – 75000	47	41.96%	53	0.00%	10	41.67%	110
75001 – 10000	12	10.71%	22	0.00%	2	8.33%	36
Above 100000	7	6.25%	8	0.00%	2	8.33%	17
Total	112	100.00%	133	0.00%	24	100.00%	269



Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0.83	0.74%	0.99	0.74%	0.18	0.74%	2.01
15001 – 30000	1.25	1.12%	1.48	1.12%	0.27	1.12%	3.02
30001 – 50000	42.05	37.55%	49.94	37.55%	9.01	37.55%	101.75
50001 – 75000	45.80	40.89%	54.39	40.89%	9.81	40.89%	110.82
75001 – 10000	14.99	13.38%	17.80	13.38%	3.21	13.38%	36.27
Above 100000	7.08	6.32%	8.41	6.32%	1.52	6.32%	17.13
Total	112.00	100.00%	133.00	100.00%	24.00	100.00%	271.00
Chi-square				22.92			
df				10			
Chi at 0.05				18.31			
Chi at 0.01				23.21			

## PARTISAN PREFERENCE

In studies on political behaviour it has been noted that women are considerably influenced by the wishes of their husbands and family in political matters. However, some studies also indicate that this pattern is beginning to change and many women now exercise considerable autonomy in using their right to franchise. 13 (Ganguly 1979, 323 – 327)

In order to find out the opinion of the respondents on the question whether women should be guided by others in the sphere of partisan choice, or, whether they should vote independently, seven questions were put to them.

1. Do you cast your vote in favour of the same political party supported by your parents / husband or in-laws or elders in the family ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
2. Do you cast your vote in favour of the same political party since the last 25 years ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
3. Have you changed your partisan preference after the end of the Left rule ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
4. Are you loyal to the same political party that came to solve your problems before 2011 ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
5. Do you consult members of your family regarding in favour of whom to cast your vote before elections ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)
6. Do you consult any outsider regarding in favour of whom to cast your vote before elections ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

7. After having discussions with family or outsiders, have you ever changed your voting behaviour ? (Yes – 1, No – 2)

The respondents were again divided into trichotomized categories on the basis of the scores obtained by them. In questions No 1, 2, 4,5, 6 and 7 those who have given negative answers (i.e.2) have been considered to possess independent choice over decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice and is counted in score, but in question no 3, positive answer(i.e. 1)means independent and is counted in score . In 2011 there was a huge political change in West Bengal which marked the end of the 34 years of Left rule and the rise of the Trinamul Congress to the seat of power headed by a woman. Hence there was a significant change in the sphere of partisan choice especially among women. Thus women with a more positive attitude towards independent decision-making were given higher scores.

It was observed that 162 (61.13%) street vendors and 159 (61.15%) domestic workers in the informal sector and 130 (51.18%) bank employees and 142 (52.21%) changed their partisan preference and voted according to the advantages they got in terms of their profession or in favour of those who solved their problems. In some cases, they also voted out of fear from being targeted by the political party cadres and to save them and their family members from harassment. A major change was noticed in 2011 after the end of 34-year left rule and paved the way for both Trinamul Congress and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to rise in prominence. There was a major shift in the voting pattern among women respondents. 132 (49.81%) street vendors and 128 (49.23%) domestic workers from the informal sector and 111 (43.70%) bank employees and 108 (39.71%) teachers changed their voting pattern in that election year. In 2011the first woman Chief minister in West Bengal came to power. The survey results show that 144 (44.53%) street vendors, 152 (40.38%) domestic workers 126 (40.55%) bank employees and 128 (43.01%) teachers changed their earlier preferences and joined the new party in power mainly because and her struggle inspired a lot of women to shift their loyalty.

The above percentage however does not imply that women have been able to develop their own identity in terms of voting preference as the survey found that in the informal sector that 168 (63.40%) street vendors out of 265 and 172 (66.15%) domestic workers out of 260 followed the footsteps of their family members while voting and only 95 (35.85%) street vendors and 87 (33.46%) voted individually. In the formal sector the picture is not revolutionary though the percentage is slightly better. Here 121 (47.64%) and bank employees and 103 (37.87%) teachers followed the wishes of their family members while voting and 115(45.28%) bank employees and 147 (54.04%) teachers voted according to their own preferences. Moreover, it has been observed that women in general have not only

consulted their family members but also influenced by other members be it in the neighbourhood or political leaders, experienced elders etc. as evident from the following table. In many cases they have changed their preferences based on such consultation. In case of street vendors it is 82 (30.94%), in case of domestic workers it is 68 (26.15%), in case of bank employees it is 73 (28.74%) and in case of teachers the lowest 37 (13.60%). Thus it is clearly evident that working women irrespective of whether they belong to the privileged or under-privileged class have not been able to carve out an independent status of their own.

**Table – 5.28**  
**Consultation with Other Persons Except Family**

<b>Persons Consulted</b>	<b>Street Vendors</b>	<b>Domestic Workers</b>	<b>Bank Employees</b>	<b>Teachers</b>
Only A (Respectable persons of your locality)	64	40	38	33
Only B (Respectable persons at your workplace)	19	21	31	26
Only C (Political leaders or workers of the locality)	17	34	7	5
Only D (Any Other)	1	0	1	1
A and B	7	5	4	1
A and C	3	10	0	1
B and C	7	8	1	0
A, B, C	1	2	0	0
Yes but No Data (All Blank)	3	2	6	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>83</b>

In order to further understand the level of independent choice over decision making a Chi-square analysis have also been taken based on chosen variables like age, caste, religion, marital status, education and income both in the informal and formal sectors.

#### **Method of Classification :**

Total Score = 7

Low Score = 0 – 2.33 (upto 33.33%)

Medium Score = 2.34 – 4.66 (upto 66.66%)

High Score = 4.67 – 7 (upto 100%)

**Table – 5.29****Different Levels of Partisan Preference Informal and Formal Sectors**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Degree of Partisan Preference</b>			<b>Total</b>
		<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	
Informal	Street Vendors	83 (31.32%)	124 (46.79%)	58 (21.89%)	265 (100.00%)
	Domestic Worker	84 (32.31%)	105 (40.38%)	71 (27.31%)	260 (100.00%)
Formal	Bank employees	94 (37.01%)	88 (34.65%)	72 (28.35%)	254 (100.00%)
	Teachers	78 (28.68%)	101 (37.13%)	93 (34.19%)	272 (100.00%)

When high scores were taken into consideration, it was found that in the informal sector 21.89% of street vendors had a highly positive attitude towards independent decision-making. Such a positive attitude is slightly more in case of domestic workers where the percentage is 27.31. In the formal sector the percentage of women having independent choice is not outstanding if compared to the informal sector. Here among bank employees it is 28.35 and among teachers it is 34.19%. Simultaneously the percentage of women lacking independent choice is also quite considerable. Among street vendors it is 31.32% and among domestic workers it is 32.31%. In the formal sector among bank employees it is 37.01% and among teachers it is 28.68%.

## **AGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING BY WOMEN IN THE SPHERE OF PARTISAN PREFERENCE**

### **INFORMAL SECTOR**

#### **Street Vendors :**

The table reveals that among the street vendors those aged between 25–40 years have recorded the most positive attitude (23.03%) than that of women above 40 years of age which is 19.54%. Presumably, many of these respondents are unmarried women. However, age is not associated with this variable as women having low scores are also high in both the age groups, 30.90% in cases of women below 40 years of age and 32.18% among women above 40 years of age. Thus age has not been able to increase the decision-making choice of women. The Chi-square value of the data presented in table is 0.42 with 2 degrees of

freedom. The Chi at 0.05 is 5.99 and at 0.01 is 9.21. Chi-square value is not significant. Null Hypothesis is that age and Partisan Preference are independent. It is thus retained.

**Table – 5.30**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	55	66.27%	82	66.13%	41	70.69%	178
> 40 yrs.	28	33.73%	42	33.87%	17	29.31%	87
Total	83	100.00%	124	100.00%	58	100.00%	265
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	55.75	67.17%	83.29	67.17%	38.96	67.17%	178
> 40 yrs.	27.25	32.83%	40.71	32.83%	19.04	32.83%	87
Total	83.00	100.00%	124.00	100.00%	58.00	100.00%	265
Chi-square				0.42			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age group does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

Among the domestic workers also the age variable seems to have no special impact. It is, however, noticed that the respondents belonging to the lowest age group of 25–40 years and has a more positive attitude 28.41% than that of the older age group which is 25%. The percentage of women having low level of decision- making choice is also more pronounced among the older age group about 39.29% compared to the younger age group which is around 29%. The Chi-square value is 2.78 with the degree of freedom being 2. The Chi at 0.05 is 5.99 and at 0.01 is 9.21 which is not significant. Null hypothesis is that age and partisan choice is independent of each other. It is thus retained.

**Table – 5.31**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	51	60.71%	75	71.43%	50	70.42%	176
> 40 yrs.	33	39.29%	30	28.57%	21	29.58%	84
Total	84	100.00%	105	100.00%	71	100.00%	260
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	56.86	67.69%	71.08	67.69%	48.06	67.69%	176
> 40 yrs.	27.14	32.31%	33.92	32.31%	22.94	32.31%	84
Total	84.00	100.00%	105.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	260
Chi-square				2.78			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age and Partisan Preference are independent, i.e. age group does not influence Partisan Preference.

## FORMAL SECTOR

### Bank Employees :

Among the bank employees also the age variable seems to have no special impact. Out of 254 respondents a total of 72 (28.35%) have high scores, 88 (34.65%) have scored medium and 94 (37%) have scored low. Hence the percentage of low scores is much more than high. It is, however, noticed that the respondents belonging to the age group of 40–60 years has a more positive attitude (33.82%) than that of the younger age group which is 26.34%. This may be attributed to the control of family members over younger generation. The percentage of women having low level of decision- making choice is also high among both age groups but it is more among the younger age group about 38.17% compared to the older age group which is around 33.82%. Therefore attitude of taking independent decisions has not improved with age. The Chi-square value is 1.38 with the degree of freedom being 2. The Chi at 0.05 is 5.99 and at 0.01 is 9.21 which is not significant. Null hypothesis is that age and partisan choice is independent of each other. It is thus retained.

**Table – 5.32**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	71	75.53%	66	75.00%	49	68.06%	186
> 40 yrs.	23	24.47%	22	25.00%	23	31.94%	68
Total	94	100.00%	88	100.00%	72	100.00%	254
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	68.83	73.23%	64.44	73.23%	52.72	73.23%	186
> 40 yrs.	25.17	26.77%	23.56	26.77%	19.28	26.77%	68
Total	94.00	100.00%	88.00	100.00%	72.00	100.00%	254
Chi-square				1.38			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age and Partisan Preference are independent, i.e. age group does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **Teachers :**

Among the teaching community also the age variable seems to have no special impact. Out of 272 respondents a total of 93 (34.19%) have high scores, 101 (37.13%) have scored medium and 78 (28.67%) have scored low. In terms of percentage teachers are found to have more high scores than bank employees but still it is not significant. Here the percentage of low scores is slightly lower. It is noticed that the percentage of high scores is more or less same in both age groups. Among 40–60 it is (34.25%) and in the younger age group it is 34.06%. The percentage of women lacking the power of decision- making choice is also high among both age groups 28.17% among women below 40 years age and 29.67% for women above 40 years. Therefore attitude of taking independent decisions has not improved with age. The Chi-square value is 0.08 with the degree of freedom being 2. The Chi at 0.05 is 5.99 and at 0.01 is 9.21 which is not significant. Null hypothesis is that age and partisan choice is independent of each other. It is thus retained.

**Table – 5.33**  
**Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Age Group	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	51	65.38%	68	67.33%	62	66.67%	181
> 40 yrs.	27	34.62%	33	32.67%	31	33.33%	91
Total	78	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Age Group	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
< = 40 yrs.	51.90	66.54%	67.21	66.54%	61.89	66.54%	181
> 40 yrs.	26.10	33.46%	33.79	33.46%	31.11	33.46%	91
Total	78.00	100.00%	101.00	100.00%	93.00	100.00%	272
Chi-square				0.08			
df				2			
Chi at 0.05				5.99			
Chi at 0.01				9.21			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, age and Partisan Preference are independent, i.e. age group does not influence Partisan Preference.

### **CASTE AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING BY WOMEN IN THE SPHERE OF PARTISAN PREFERENCE :**

#### **INFORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Street Vendors :**

The present study indicates a negative association between the caste status and a liberal attitude towards independent decision-making by women in the sphere of partisan choice. High scores are most extensive among the SCs (28.57%) who are followed by the General Castes (21.59%) who, in turn, are followed by the OBCs (11.11%). High scores are minimum among the STs. On contrary the percentages of low scores are highest among OBCs (55.55%) followed by 31.27% among General Castes followed by SCs (25%). Thus, the Chi-square test does not establish a positive correlation between caste and attitude towards independent decision-making. The Chi-square value is 4.06 and degree of freedom being 6,. The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 level is 16.81.



**Table – 5.34**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	7	8.43%	13	10.48%	8	13.79%	28
ST	0	0.00%	1	0.81%	0	0.00%	1
OBC	5	6.02%	3	2.42%	1	1.72%	9
General	71	85.54%	107	86.29%	49	84.48%	227
Total	83	100.00%	124	100.00%	58	100.00%	265
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	8.77	10.57%	13.10	10.57%	6.13	10.57%	28
ST	0.31	0.38%	0.47	0.38%	0.22	0.38%	1
OBC	2.82	3.40%	4.21	3.40%	1.97	3.40%	9
General	71.10	85.66%	106.22	85.66%	49.68	85.66%	227
Total	83.00	100.00%	124.00	100.00%	58.00	100.00%	265
Chi-square				4.06			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that caste does not influence Partisan Preference. Chi-square is not significant.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, caste does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

If we take the domestic workers here, high scores are most extensive among the OBCs (57.14%) who are followed by the General Castes (27.75%) who in turn are followed by the SCs (22.41%). High scores are minimum among the STs. On contrary, the percentages of low scores are highest among STs (50%) followed by General Castes (35.60%), then followed by SCs (22.41%). Thus the Chi-square test does not establish a correlation between caste and attitude towards independent decision-making as the number of low scores are more. The Chi-square value is 10.58 and degree of freedom being 6, The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 level is 16.81. Thus null hypothesis is caste and partisan choice are independent.

**Table – 5.35**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	13	15.48%	32	30.48%	13	18.31%	58
ST	2	2.38%	1	0.95%	1	1.41%	4
OBC	1	1.19%	2	1.90%	4	5.63%	7
General	68	80.95%	70	66.67%	53	74.65%	191
Total	84	100.00%	105	100.00%	71	100.00%	260
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	18.74	22.31%	23.42	22.31%	15.84	22.31%	58
ST	1.29	1.54%	1.62	1.54%	1.09	1.54%	4
OBC	2.26	2.69%	2.83	2.69%	1.91	2.69%	7
General	61.71	73.46%	77.13	73.46%	52.16	73.46%	191
Total	84.00	100.00%	105.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	260
Chi-square				10.58			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, caste and Partisan Preference are not associated.

### **FORMAL SECTOR :**

#### **Bank Employees :**

High scores are most extensive among the SCs (36%) who are followed by the General Castes (28.25%). High scores are minimum among the STs and OBCs.. On contrary the percentages of low scores are highest among STs (100%) followed by SCs (28%), then OBCs (20%) followed by General Castes (38.11%). Thus the Chi-square test does not establish a positive correlation between caste and attitude towards independent decision-making as the number of low scores are more. The Chi-square value is 5.65 and degree of freedom being 6. The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 level is 16.81. Null Hypothesis is that caste does not influence Partisan Preference. Chi-square is not significant.

**Table – 5.36**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	7	7.45%	9	10.23%	9	12.50%	25
ST	1	1.06%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1
OBC	1	1.06%	4	4.55%	0	0.00%	5
General	85	90.43%	75	85.23%	63	87.50%	223
Total	94	100.00%	88	100.00%	72	100.00%	254
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	9.25	9.84%	8.66	9.84%	7.09	9.84%	25
ST	0.37	0.39%	0.35	0.39%	0.28	0.39%	1
OBC	1.85	1.97%	1.73	1.97%	1.42	1.97%	5
General	82.53	87.80%	77.26	87.80%	63.21	87.80%	223
Total	94.00	100.00%	88	100.00%	72	100.00%	254
Chi-square				5.65			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted caste does not influence Partisan Preference.

**Teachers :**

High scores are most extensive among the STs (100%), SCs (35.48%) who are followed by the General Castes (33.33%) followed by OBCs (25%). On contrary the percentages of low scores are highest among OBCs (50%) followed by SCs (35.48%) then by General Castes (27.77%). Thus the Chi-square test does not establish a positive correlation between caste and attitude towards independent decision-making as the number of low scores are quite significant. The Chi-square value is 6.07 and degree of freedom being 6. The Chi at 0.05 is 12.59 and at 0.01 is 16.81. Null Hypothesis is that caste does not influence Partisan Preference. Chi-square is not significant.

**Table – 5.37**  
**Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Caste	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	11	14.10%	9	8.91%	11	11.83%	31
ST	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	3	3.23%	3
OBC	2	2.56%	1	0.99%	1	1.08%	4
General	65	83.33%	91	90.10%	78	83.87%	234
Total	78	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Caste	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
SC	8.89	11.40%	11.51	11.40%	10.60	11.40%	31
ST	0.86	1.10%	1.11	1.10%	1.03	1.10%	3
OBC	1.15	1.47%	1.49	1.47%	1.37	1.47%	4
General	67.10	86.03%	86.89	86.03%	80.01	86.03%	234
Total	78.00	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Chi-square				6.07			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, caste does not influence Partisan Preference.

### **RELIGION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING BY WOMEN IN THE SPHERE OF PARTISAN PREFERENCE :**

#### **INFORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Street Vendors :**

At the outset it is to be observed that throughout the survey religion has not played an important part in influencing political knowledge or political activism among the members of the group. The same trend is observed that women here lack the power of independent choice of decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice. Religion has not been able to establish a positive correlation. Out of 265 women in total only 58 (21.87%) have achieved high scores out of which Muslims have scored highest (23.40%) followed by Hindus where 47 (21.56%) have high scores, and there is no presence of Christian women. Consequently the low scores

have been scored by Muslims (36.17%) and then by Hindus (30.28%). The Chi-square value is 0.98 and the degree of freedom is 4. It is much less than Chi at 0.05 which is 9.49 and at 0.01 level which is 13.28. Null Hypothesis is that religion and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square is not significant.

**Table – 5.38**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	66	79.52%	105	84.68%	47	81.03%	218
Muslim	17	20.48%	19	15.32%	11	18.97%	47
Christian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	83	100.00%	124	100.00%	58	100.00%	265
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	68.28	82.26%	102.01	82.26%	47.71	82.26%	218
Muslim	14.72	17.74%	21.99	17.74%	10.29	17.74%	47
Christian	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	83.00	100.00%	124.00	100.00%	58.00	100.00%	265
Chi-square				0.98			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

Religion has not been able to establish a positive correlation. Out of 260 women in total only 71 (27.30%) have achieved high scores out of which Christians have scored the highest (100%) followed by Hindus (27.54%) and then by Muslims where out of 22, only 4 (18.18%) have high score. Consequently the low scores have been scored by Muslims (54.54%) and then by Hindus (30.50%). An interesting fact that has been revealed here are the high scores achieved by the minorities. The Chi-square value is 9.23 and the degree of freedom is 4. It is less than Chi at 0.05 which is 9.49 and at 0.01 level which is 13.28. Null Hypothesis is that religion and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square is not significant.

**Table – 5.39**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	72	85.71%	99	94.29%	65	91.55%	236
Muslim	12	14.29%	6	5.71%	4	5.63%	22
Christian	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	2.82%	2
Total	84	100.00%	105	100.00%	71	100.00%	260
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	76.25	90.77%	95.31	90.77%	64.45	90.77%	236
Muslim	7.11	8.46%	8.88	8.46%	6.01	8.46%	22
Christian	0.65	0.77%	0.81	0.77%	0.55	0.77%	2
Total	84.00	100.00%	105.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	260
Chi-square				9.23			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **FORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Bank Employees :**

The same trend is observed that women here lack the power of independent choice of decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice. Religion has not been able to establish a positive correlation. Muslims have scored (18.75%) followed by Hindus where 68 (29.31%) have high scores, and Christian women (16.66%). Consequently the low scores have been scored by Muslims (43.75%) and then by Hindus (36.63%) followed by Christians (33.33%). The Chi-square value is 1.58 and the degree of freedom is 4. It is much less than Chi at 0.05 which is 9.49 and at 0.01 which is 13.28. Null Hypothesis is that religion and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square is not significant.

**Table – 5.40**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	85	90.43%	79	89.77%	68	94.44%	232
Muslim	7	7.45%	6	6.82%	3	4.17%	16
Christian	2	2.13%	3	3.41%	1	1.39%	6
Total	94	100.00%	88	100.00%	72	100.00%	254
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	85.86	91.34%	80.38	91.34%	65.76	91.34%	232
Muslim	5.92	6.30%	5.54	6.30%	4.54	6.30%	16
Christian	2.22	2.36%	2.08	2.36%	1.70	2.36%	6
Total	94.00	100.00%	88.00	100.00%	72.00	100.00%	254
Chi-square				1.58			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Partisan Preference.

**Teachers :**

The same trend is observed that women here lack the power of independent choice of decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice. Religion has not been able to establish a positive correlation. Christians have the highest score (50%) followed by Hindus where 68 (34.63%) have high scores. Consequently the low scores have been scored by Muslims (71.42%) and then by Hindus (28.01%) followed by Christians (12.50%). Thus the Muslim women have not been able to advance much inspite of being in the formal sector and belonging to the most educated sections of the society. Thus religion has not been able to increase the choice of decision-making. The Chi-square value is 5.97 and the degree of freedom is 4. It is much less than Chi at 0.05 which is 9.49 and at 0.01 which is 13.28. Null Hypothesis is that religion and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square is not significant.

**Table – 5.41**  
**Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Religion	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	72	92.31%	96	95.05%	89	95.70%	257
Muslim	5	6.41%	2	1.98%	0	0.00%	7
Christian	1	1.28%	3	2.97%	4	4.30%	8
Total	78	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Religion	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Hindu	73.70	94.49%	95.43	94.49%	87.87	94.49%	257
Muslim	2.01	2.57%	2.60	2.57%	2.39	2.57%	7
Christian	2.29	2.94%	2.97	2.94%	2.74	2.94%	8
Total	78.00	100.00%	101.00	100.00%	93.00	100.00%	272
Chi-square				5.97			
df				4			
Chi at 0.05				9.49			
Chi at 0.01				13.28			

**Conclusion :** Null hypothesis is accepted, religion does not influence Partisan Preference.

### **MARITAL STATUS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING BY WOMEN IN THE SPHERE OF PARTISAN PREFERENCE :**

#### **INFORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Street Vendors :**

It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's independent decision-making power. Out of 265 women only 58 show high score. Among unmarried women out of 60 only 11 (18.33%) have scored high, among married out of 166, only 36 (21.68%) have scored high, among divorced / separated women only 7 (29.16%) out of 24 women have scored high and among widow 4 (26.66%) have scored high. Thus, divorced and separated women have scored the highest followed by widow and married and unmarried women have scored lowest. On the other hand in terms of low scores first comes the divorced/separated (20.83%) followed by widowed women (26.66%) then unmarried (31.67%), and the married (33.13%). Thus, change in status does not increase or decrease a person's involvement in political and other activities. Here the percentage of low scores is more. However, widowed



and separated women are seen to be far more independent in terms of decision-making in the field of partisan choice than the other three categories.

**Table – 5.42**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	19	22.89%	30	24.19%	11	18.97%	60
Married	55	66.27%	75	60.48%	36	62.07%	166
Divorce / Separated	5	6.02%	12	9.68%	7	12.07%	24
Widow	4	4.82%	7	5.65%	4	6.90%	15
Total	83	100.00%	124	100.00%	58	100.00%	265
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	18.79	22.64%	28.08	22.64%	13.13	22.64%	60
Married	51.99	62.64%	77.68	62.64%	36.33	62.64%	166
Divorce / Separated	7.52	9.06%	11.23	9.06%	5.25	9.06%	24
Widow	4.70	5.66%	7.02	5.66%	3.28	5.66%	15
Total	83.00	100.00%	124.00	100.00%	58.00	100.00%	265
Chi-square				2.49			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square value is 2.49 which is less than Chi at 0.01 which is 16.81 and also at 0.055 level which is 12.59. The Chi-square value is thus not significant.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's independent decision-making power. Out of 260 women only 71 show high score. Among unmarried women out of 60 only 14 (29.16%) have scored high, among married out of 181, only 45 (24.86%) have scored high, among divorced/separated women only 6 (35.29%) out of 17 women have scored high and among widow 6 women (42.85%) have scored high. Thus widow have

scored the highest followed by divorced and separated women and married and unmarried women have scored lowest. On the other hand in terms of low scores first comes the unmarried (35.42%) then divorced/separated (35.29%) followed by married (32.04%) and then widowed women (21.43%). Here the percentage of low scores is more. All women irrespective of marital status lack the power of independent decision-making in the field of partisan choice. The Chi-square value is 4.01 which is much less at both 0.01 and 0.05 level. Thus it is not significant.

**Table – 5.43**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	17	20.24%	17	16.19%	14	19.72%	48
Married	58	69.05%	78	74.29%	45	63.38%	181
Divorce / Separated	6	7.14%	5	4.76%	6	8.45%	17
Widow	3	3.57%	5	4.76%	6	8.45%	14
Total	84	100.00%	105	100.00%	71	100.00%	260
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	15.51	18.46%	19.38	18.46%	13.11	18.46%	48
Married	58.48	69.62%	73.10	69.62%	49.43	69.62%	181
Divorce / Separated	5.49	6.54%	6.87	6.54%	4.64	6.54%	17
Widow	4.52	5.38%	5.65	5.38%	3.82	5.38%	14
Total	84.00	100.00%	105.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	260
Chi-square				4.01			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **FORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Bank Employees :**

It is observed that marital status does not influence woman's independent decision-making power. It is greatest among divorced /separated women (60%), then married women

where out of 155 only 47 (30.32%) have high scores, followed by unmarried women where out of 74 only 16 (21.62%) have scored high, and among widow 3 women (20%) have scored high. On the other hand in terms of low scores first comes the unmarried (40.54%) then widowed women (40%) followed by married (36.12%) and then lowest among divorced / separated (20%). Here the comparison between high scores and low scores indicate a clear sweep in favour of low scores. All women irrespective of marital status lack the power of independent decision-making in the field of partisan choice. It should also be noted that the percentage of women scoring medium is significant which indicates that they still face a dilemma in taking independent decisions. The Chi-square value is 7.41 which is much less at both 0.01 and 0.05 level. Thus it is not significant.

**Table – 5.44**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	30	31.91%	28	31.82%	16	22.22%	74
Married	56	59.57%	52	59.09%	47	65.28%	155
Divorce / Separated	2	2.13%	2	2.27%	6	8.33%	10
Widow	6	6.38%	6	6.82%	3	4.17%	15
Total	94	100.00%	88	100.00%	72	100.00%	254
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	27.39	29.13%	25.64	29.13%	20.98	29.13%	74
Married	57.36	61.02%	53.70	61.02%	43.94	61.02%	155
Divorce / Separated	3.70	3.94%	3.46	3.94%	2.83	3.94%	10
Widow	5.55	5.91%	5.20	5.91%	4.25	5.91%	15
Total	94.00	100.00%	88.00	100.00%	72.00	100.00%	254
Chi-square				7.41			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Partisan Preference are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Partisan Preference.

**Teachers :**

In case of teachers it is observed that It is greatest among married women where out of 184 only 66 (35.86%) have high scores, followed by divorced /separated women (33.33%), then among widow 4 women (30.77%) have scored high and least among unmarried women where out of 66 only 20 (30.30%) have scored high. Comparison of the high score indicates that women have not achieved much independence irrespective of her marital status. On the other hand in terms of low scores first comes the widowed women (40%) then divorced / separated (38.46%) followed by unmarried (31.81%) then by married (26.63%) Here the comparison between high scores and low scores indicate a clear sweep in favour of low scores. All women irrespective of marital status lack the power of independent decision-making in the field of partisan choice. It should also be noted that the percentage of women scoring medium is significant which indicates that they still face a dilemma in taking independent decisions. The Chi-square value is 1.68 which is much less at both 0.01 and 0.05 level. Thus it is not significant.

**Table – 5.45****Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Marital Status	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	21	26.92%	25	24.75%	20	21.51%	66
Married	49	62.82%	69	68.32%	66	70.97%	184
Divorce / Separated	3	3.85%	3	2.97%	3	3.23%	9
Widow	5	6.41%	4	3.96%	4	4.30%	13
Total	78	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Marital Status	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Unmarried	18.93	24.26%	24.51	24.26%	22.57	24.26%	66
Married	52.76	67.65%	68.32	67.65%	62.91	67.65%	184
Divorce / Separated	2.58	3.31%	3.34	3.31%	3.08	3.31%	9
Widow	3.73	4.78%	4.83	4.78%	4.44	4.78%	13
Total	78.00	100.00%	101.00	100.00%	93.00	100.00%	272
Chi-square				1.68			
df				6			
Chi at 0.05				12.59			
Chi at 0.01				16.81			

Null Hypothesis is that marital status and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square value is not significant.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, marital status does not influence Partisan Preference.

### **EDUCATION AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT DECISION-MAKING BY WOMEN IN THE SPHERE OF PARTISAN PREFERENCE :**

The interests which are stimulated by better education, and the perspectives which are gained, surely operate to encourage the better educated women to participate more independently in political affairs. Therefore, it may be expected that the higher the educational level, the more positive would be the attitude towards independent decision-making by women in the sphere of partisan choice. The relationship can also be accounted for by the social deprivation explanation. Individuals with lower levels of education tend to be socially deprived and are likely to be attached to the party

#### **Street Vendors :**

In case of street vendors high scores are seen among women having secondary education (23.68%) followed by Graduates (21.73%) and it is 18.75% among women having higher secondary education. It is minimum among those who are illiterate. But here the percentage of low scores has steadily increased even as the educational level increased. It is minimum among those with secondary level (28.29%) then among women with higher secondary (35.93%), and surprisingly highest among those who have college degrees or higher educational qualifications (36.95%). The Chi-square test could not establish a positive association. Chi-square value of 4.05 and, with 8 degrees of freedom. The Chi at 0.05 is 15.51 and at 0.01 level is 20.09. The null hypothesis, education and partisan preference is related.

**Table – 5.46**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0	0.00%	2	1.61%	0	0.00%	2
Secondary	43	51.81%	73	58.87%	36	62.07%	152
Higher Secondary	23	27.71%	29	23.39%	12	20.69%	64
Graduate	17	20.48%	19	15.32%	10	17.24%	46
Post Graduate	0	0.00%	1	0.81%	0	0.00%	1
Total	83	100.00%	124	100.00%	58	100.00%	265
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0.63	0.75%	0.94	0.75%	0.44	0.75%	2
Secondary	47.61	57.36%	71.12	57.36%	33.27	57.36%	152
Higher Secondary	20.05	24.15%	29.95	24.15%	14.01	24.15%	64
Graduate	14.41	17.36%	21.52	17.36%	10.07	17.36%	46
Post Graduate	0.31	0.38%	0.47	0.38%	0.22	0.38%	1
Total	83.00	100.00%	124.00	100.00%	58.00	100.00%	265
Chi-square				4.05			
df				8			
Chi at 0.05				15.51			
Chi at 0.01				20.09			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is thus rejected, education does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **Domestic Workers :**

Here high scores are seen among women who are virtually illiterate or very little education (40%) followed by those having secondary education (27.38%). But here the percentage of low scores has steadily increased as the educational level increased. It is highest among those with Higher secondary education (66.66%) followed by those with secondary level (32.53%) Thus education have not been able to increase the power of decision- making among women. Majority of them are guided by the male members of the family in matters of voting. The Chi-square test could not establish a positive association.

Chi-square value is 1.91 with 8 degrees of freedom. The Chi at 0.05 is 15.51 and at 0.01 level is 20.09. The null hypothesis, education and partisan preference is related.

**Table – 5.47**

**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0	0.00%	3	2.86%	2	2.82%	5
Secondary	82	97.62%	101	96.19%	69	97.18%	252
Higher Secondary	2	2.38%	1	0.95%	0	0.00%	3
Graduate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Post Graduate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	84	100.00%	105	100.00%	71	100.00%	260
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	1.62	1.92%	2.02	1.92%	1.37	1.92%	5
Secondary	81.42	96.92%	101.77	96.92%	68.82	96.92%	252
Higher Secondary	0.97	1.15%	1.21	1.15%	0.82	1.15%	3
Graduate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Post Graduate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	84.00	100.00%	105.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	260
Chi-square				1.91			
df				8			
Chi at 0.05				15.51			
Chi at 0.01				20.09			

Null Hypothesis is that education and Partisan Preference are dependent. Chi-square is not significant.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is thus rejected, education has not influenced Partisan Preference.

**FORMAL SECTOR :**

It is expected that the better-educated people are the ones who read more books and magazines and listen more frequently to radio and T.V. programmes, and forums which deal with the world of current affairs. The interests which are stimulated by better education, and the perspectives which are gained, surely operate to encourage the better educated women to

participate more independently in political affairs. Therefore, it may be expected that the higher the educational level, the more positive would be the attitude towards independent decision-making by women in the sphere of partisan choice.

#### **Bank Employee :**

A positive association between these two variables is also not visible in case of bank employees. Women with post-graduates degrees have score 28.73 and those with graduate degree have scored 28.31%. The percentage of low scorers among them is also high. Among post graduates it is 43.68% and among graduates it is 33.73%. Thus, none of them show a positive attitude in decision making inspite of being educated. Therefore, here education is not associated with a highly positive attitude. The Chi-square test is 4.54 and degree of freedom is 8. The Chi at 0.01 level is 20.09 and at 0.05 is 15.51. Hence it is not significant.

**Table – 5.48**  
**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Secondary	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Higher Secondary	0	0.00%	1	1.14%	0	0.00%	1
Graduate	56	59.57%	63	71.59%	47	65.28%	166
Post Graduate	38	40.43%	24	27.27%	25	34.72%	87
Total	94	100.00%	88	100.00%	72	100.00%	254
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Secondary	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Higher Secondary	0.37	0.39%	0.35	0.39%	0.28	0.39%	1
Graduate	61.43	65.35%	57.51	65.35%	47.06	65.35%	166
Post Graduate	32.20	34.25%	30.14	34.25%	24.66	34.25%	87
Total	94.00	100.00%	88.00	100.00%	72.00	100.00%	254
Chi-square				4.54			
df				8			
Chi at 0.05				15.51			
Chi at 0.01				20.09			

Null Hypothesis is that education and Partisan Preference are dependent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is rejected, education does not influence Partisan Preference.



**Teachers :**

A positive association between these two variables is also not visible in case of teachers. Women employed as pre-primary teachers have none. Women with post graduates degrees have score 32.14 and those with graduate degree have scored a little better 40.54% regarding low scores it is seen that among post graduates it is 34.18% and among graduates it is 14.86% but it should be mentioned that among graduates 33 (44.59%) have scored medium which signifies that inspite of education these women are influenced a lot by the family members and outside leaders and they adopt a middle path depending on issues. Therefore here education is not associated with a highly positive attitude. The Chi-square test is 11.98 and degree of freedom is 8. The Chi at 0.01 level is 20.09 and at 0.05 is 15.51. Hence it is not significant.

**Table – 5.49****Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Education	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Secondary	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Higher Secondary	0	0.00%	2	1.98%	0	0.00%	2
Graduate	11	14.10%	33	32.67%	30	32.26%	74
Post Graduate	67	85.90%	66	65.35%	63	67.74%	196
Total	78	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Education	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
Illiterate	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Secondary	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Higher Secondary	0.57	0.74%	0.74	0.74%	0.68	0.74%	2
Graduate	21.22	27.21%	27.48	27.21%	25.30	27.21%	74
Post Graduate	56.21	72.06%	72.78	72.06%	67.01	72.06%	196
Total	78	100.00%	101	100.00%	93	100.00%	272
Chi-square				11.98			
df				8			
Chi at 0.05				15.51			
Chi at 0.01				20.09			

Null Hypothesis is that education and Partisan Preference are dependent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is rejected, education does not influence Partisan Preference.

## **INCOME AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDEPENDENT DECISION MAKING BY WOMEN IN THE SPHERE OF PARTISAN PREFERENCE:**

### **INFORMAL SECTOR :**

#### **Street Vendors :**

It can be expected that as the economic status of an individual rises it is likely that he or she will have a more liberal attitude towards independent decision-making by women in the sphere of partisan choice. Among the street vendors, a highly positive attitude score is most extensive among those who have income between Rs. 30001–50000 (25.42%) among Rs. 15001–30000 (21.21%) and then with income level of Rs. 0–15000 (12.5%). The data show that high, attitude scores increase up to a particular level of family income and then begin to decrease.

It also shows that low attitude score is maximum in the Rs. 15001–30000 group (31.81%) followed by the higher income group level of Rs. 30001–50000.(30.51%). Thus rise in the income level of women does not necessarily commensurate with her power of independent decision making. The Chi-square value is 1.35 and with 10 degrees of freedom, The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. The null hypothesis, is that income level is independent of partisan choice. Thus null hypothesis is accepted. Income level does not influence decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice.

**Table – 5.50**  
**Chi-square Test for Street Vendors**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	2	2.41%	5	4.03%	1	1.72%	8
15001 – 30000	63	75.90%	93	75.00%	42	72.41%	198
30001 – 50000	18	21.69%	26	20.97%	15	25.86%	59
50001 – 75000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
75001 – 10000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Above 100000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	83	100.00%	124	100.00%	58	100.00%	265

Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	2.51	3.02%	3.74	3.02%	1.75	3.02%	8
15001 – 30000	62.02	74.72%	92.65	74.72%	43.34	74.72%	198
30001 – 50000	18.48	22.26%	27.61	22.26%	12.91	22.26%	59
50001 – 75000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
75001 – 10000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Above 100000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	83.00	100.00%	124.00	100.00%	58.00	100.00%	265
Chi-square				1.35			
df				10			
Chi at 0.05				18.31			
Chi at 0.01				23.21			

### Domestic Workers :

Among the domestic workers a highly positive attitude score is most extensive among those who have income between Rs.15001-30000(30.90%) and then with income level of Rs. 0–15000 (26.04%). It also shows that low attitude score is maximum in the Rs. 0–15001-group (34.89%) followed by the higher income group level of Rs. 15001–3000 (25%). Thus rise in the income level of women does not necessarily commensurate with her power of independent decision making as here the percentage of low scores are far more than the high scores of both income groups at 34.90% and 25% respectively among the two range of income groups. The Chi-square value is 2.27 and, with 10 degrees of freedom, The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. The null hypothesis, is that income level is independent of partisan choice. Thus null hypothesis is accepted. Income level does not influence decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice.

**Table – 5.51**  
**Chi-square Test for Domestic Workers**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	67	79.76%	75	71.43%	50	70.42%	192
15001 – 30000	17	20.24%	30	28.57%	21	29.58%	68
30001 – 50000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
50001 – 75000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
75001 – 10000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Above 100000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Total	84	100.00%	105	100.00%	71	100.00%	260
Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	62.03	73.85%	77.54	73.85%	52.43	73.85%	192
15001 – 30000	21.97	26.15%	27.46	26.15%	18.57	26.15%	68
30001 – 50000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
50001 – 75000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
75001 – 10000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Above 100000	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0
Total	84.00	100.00%	105.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	260
Chi-square				2.27			
df				10			
Chi at 0.05				18.31			
Chi at 0.01				23.21			

Null Hypothesis is that income and Partisan Preference are independent. Chi-square is not significant

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, income does not influence Partisan Preference.

#### **FORMAL SECTOR :**

##### **Bank Employees :**

A positive association between these two variables cannot be observed in the urban region even with higher range of income than the informal sector. Among the bank employees a highly positive attitude score is most extensive among those who have income level of Rs. 0–15000( 100%) though there is only 1 woman who is in this range, then among women above Rs 1,00,000 (31.58%), with income range between Rs. 75001–100000 it is 31.42%, between Rs 30000–50000 it is 30.76%, then between Rs. 50001–75000 it is 22.39%

and last between Rs.15001–30000 (16.66%). Thus, rise in the income level of women does not necessarily commensurate with her power of independent decision making as here the percentage of low scores are far more than the high scores among all income groups. Among Rs. 15001–30000 it is 25%, then from Rs. 30001–50000 it is 32.48%, among Rs. 50001–75000 it is 46.27%, between Rs. 75001–100000 it is 34.28% and in the last range it is 42.10%. Thus with the rise in income level the power of choice in decision-making has not increased. The Chi-square value is 9.20 and, with 10 degrees of freedom, The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. The null hypothesis, is that income level is independent of partisan choice. Thus, null hypothesis is accepted. Income level does not influence decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice.

**Table – 5.52**

**Chi-square Test for Bank Employees**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	1.41%	1
15001 – 30000	3	3.26%	7	7.95%	2	2.82%	12
30001 – 50000	38	41.30%	43	48.86%	36	50.70%	117
50001 – 75000	31	33.70%	21	23.86%	15	21.13%	67
75001 – 10000	12	13.04%	12	13.64%	11	15.49%	35
Above 100000	8	8.70%	5	5.68%	6	8.45%	19
Total	92	100.00%	88	100.00%	71	100.00%	251
Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0.37	0.40%	0.35	0.40%	0.28	0.40%	1
15001 – 30000	4.40	4.78%	4.21	4.78%	3.39	4.78%	12
30001 – 50000	42.88	46.61%	41.02	46.61%	33.10	46.61%	117
50001 – 75000	24.56	26.69%	23.49	26.69%	18.95	26.69%	67
75001 – 10000	12.83	13.94%	12.27	13.94%	9.90	13.94%	35
Above 100000	6.96	7.57%	6.66	7.57%	5.37	7.57%	19
Total	92.00	100.00%	88.00	100.00%	71.00	100.00%	251
Chi-square				9.20			
Df				10			
Chi at 0.05				18.31			
Chi at 0.01				23.21			

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, income does not influence Partisan Preference.

**Teachers :**

Among teachers a highly positive attitude score is most extensive among those who have income level of Rs. 0–15000 (100%) though there are only 2 women engaged as para-teachers in schools, then between Rs. 50001–75000 it is 37.27% followed by those between Rs. 30001–50000 it is 33.66%, then between Rs. 15001–30000 (33.33%), then women with income range between Rs. 75001–100000 it is 27.77% and lowest among those women who have income above Rs. 100000 (17.64%). Thus rise in the income level of women does not necessarily commensurate with her power of independent decision making as here the percentage of low scores are far more among higher income group. The percentage of low scores which indicates that women are not independent in the field of decision-making is seen among Rs. 15001–30000 which is 66.67%, then from Rs. 30001–50000 it is 26.73%, among Rs. 50001–75000 it is 27.27%, between Rs. 75001–100000 it is 36.11%, and in the last range it is 35.29%. Thus with the rise in income level the power of choice in decision-making has not increased. The Chi-square value is 8.01 and, with 10 degrees of freedom, The Chi at 0.05 level is 18.31 and at 0.01 level is 23.21. The null hypothesis, is that income level is independent of partisan choice. Thus null hypothesis is accepted. Income level does not influence decision-making in the sphere of partisan choice.

**Table – 5.53****Chi-square Test for Teachers**

Income Level	Observed Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	2.20%	2
15001 – 30000	2	2.56%	0	0.00%	1	1.10%	3
30001 – 50000	27	34.62%	40	40.00%	34	37.36%	101
50001 – 75000	30	38.46%	39	39.00%	41	45.05%	110
75001 – 100000	13	16.67%	13	13.00%	10	10.99%	36
Above 100000	6	7.69%	8	8.00%	3	3.30%	17
Total	78	100.00%	100	100.00%	91	100.00%	269

Income Level	Expected Frequencies						N
	Low		Medium		High		
0 – 15000	0.58	0.74%	0.74	0.74%	0.68	0.74%	2
15001 – 30000	0.87	1.12%	1.12	1.12%	1.01	1.12%	3
30001 – 50000	29.29	37.55%	37.55	37.55%	34.17	37.55%	101
50001 – 75000	31.90	40.89%	40.89	40.89%	37.21	40.89%	110
75001 – 10000	10.44	13.38%	13.38	13.38%	12.18	13.38%	36
Above 100000	4.93	6.32%	6.32	6.32%	5.75	6.32%	17
Total	78.00	100.00%	100.00	100.00%	91.00	100.00%	269
Chi-square				8.01			
df				10			
Chi at 0.05				18.31			
Chi at 0.01				23.21			

Null Hypothesis is that income and Partisan Preference are independent.

**Conclusion :** Null Hypothesis is accepted, income and Partisan Preference are not associated.

Thus, a comparison between women in formal and informal sectors regarding political interest and partisan preference show that young women are more prone towards acquiring political knowledge partly because of education, the work environment that they are in, exposure to mass media and membership in hawkers union, but when it comes to interest and engaging in political activities the data shows a total change. Most of the women show a low interest. Again, age has not been able to increase the decision-making choice of women. Thus, it can be inferred that age is not a deciding factor in involvement in political affairs in both age groups.

Among street vendors, in terms of interest we observe that most of these women are either not involved or medially involved with the presence of high score is significantly low especially in case for domestic workers where the percentage of women having low level of political activism is mostly seen among all women especially reserved categories of SCs, STs and OBCs. Thus, inspite of reservation of seats in legislative bodies, caste has not been able to increase the level of political ambition and activism among women. The same trend is also observed among women in the formal sector where they are involved based on preference of personal choices and not out of any need to contribute in the political development of the country.

Religion or issues related to it could not act as a deciding factor in enhancing political opinion of the respondents as here in both the sectors it is observed 50% of women from all religious communities adopt a middle path or is not involved at all in political and think a lot before taking decisions. The presence of high involvement in politics is not seen in either the Hindu or Muslim or Christian communities irrespective of the sectors they are placed in.

In both the formal and the informal sectors women possessing a certain degree of education women seem to be less active. Thus, education has not been able to change the apathy of women towards politics. The percentage of high involvement in political activity is not seen even in case of teachers. More specifically it can be inferred that more the level of education political apathy among the number of women have increased and they have preferred to abstain from being politically active

In studies on political behaviour it has been noted that women are considerably influenced by the wishes of their husbands and family in political matters. For married women, the important male influential are their husbands, while for single women, fathers play an important role in opinion changes. It is observed that women irrespective of their marital status are not active in political matters both in the selected groups of formal and informal sectors. Thus, change in status does not increase or decrease a person's involvement in political and other activities. However, widowed women are seen to be far less involved than the other three categories

It is held that citizens who have higher incomes or have higher family incomes are more likely to live and work in environments that stimulate interest in politics, create social pressures for political participation, and provide opportunities for political participation. Here both among street vendors and domestic workers women respondents have shown a low level of political interest and activities. This can be attributed to their low level of income but surprisingly this trend is also observed in the formal sectors where with the rise in the level of income women have tend to become more cautious before taking part in political activities as the number of women having high scores have decreased. This is more significant in the case of teaching group. The educators are viewed as the influential members of the society and they play a fruitful part in shaping the policy formulations of the country but here they show least involvement in political matters.



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