

# GROOTS

GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS OPERATING TOGETHER IN SISTERHOOD (SOUTH ASIA)

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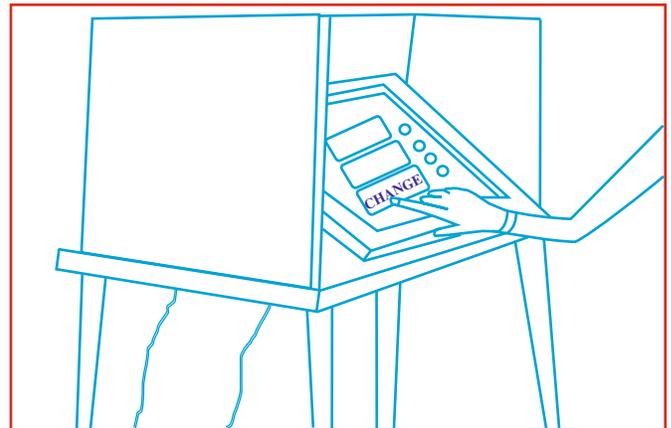
*Editorial*

## Election Verdict and Peoples' Anger - An Analysis

The verdict of the recent general election clearly reveals the anger of citizens and the issues that mattered to people of India the most. The outcome of the verdict is uniform across the country, something that has not been witnessed since 1984.

Further the verdict is an expression of truth that electorates still have faith in democracy. It demonstrates for social justice and inclusive growth in policies/programmes that is the need of the hour for the welfare of citizens particularly the poor/vulnerable. Despite being poor/illiterate the uniform expression countrywide proves that they do have a vision and dream for a strong stable government.

The government positively contributed several new schemes but failed in its delivery mechanism that was not only ineffective but widened the gap between the government and governance. No one can ever deny the real fact that even today in many states of India a child in every third poor household goes to bed in hunger.



Being primarily an agricultural country, why should India suffer in food insufficiency? This is not because of failure of workforce or peasants; but the main cause has been the rising inflation and food prices. This is one of the reasons for people's fury as the government could not bring down inflation or control price rise, thus ending up in food insufficiency that also resulted in malnourishment in children in many states of India - A national shame! This parody happened despite the fact that stocks of food grains were rotting in many warehouses.

Yet another factor that affects Indian economy is more increasing expenditure and resource generation for the same. Undoubtedly, there is no uniformity in the government's income and expenditure pattern. The government could neither increase the export nor reduce the import on a balanced term. On the expenditure level, several subsidies have been a burden on the government. In fact it has seldom reached the deserving for whom it



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was meant. The reason for failure to increase the revenue and income through taxes is nothing but an open secret of evasion of taxes and accumulating the same as unaccounted money in foreign banks by the rich. For instance, while the corporate did not repay the loan taken from the banks their assets were not auctioned instead they were given consecutive loans. Whereas the delay of repayment by poor citizens/farmers led to confiscation of their small assets such as land, house, jewels and all their dues were collected coercively leading even to suicide among the poor.

Atrocities like rape, harassment against women and girl children not only increased but made the victims either lose their lives or suffer physically and psychologically in shame all their lives. It's further evident that the same miscreants who committed the crimes walk out free as the laws have not become stringent even after the 'Nirbhaya case'. Who are the real criminals then? Is it the person who commits the crime or those who fail to punish them?

According to the UN report on 'the Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation - 2014 updated', India has large number of people in the world defecation in open areas. Despite topping the list India has failed to take steps in reducing open defecation. While the toilet facility is the most basic requirement related to security/safety and dignity of women, the government's action is either slow or nil. Every citizen knows the reason behind drop out of girl children from schools after a certain age is due to their vulnerability to violence and lack of private space. Poor sanitation and contaminated water is also the real reason for transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, etc. Yet another reality is that it is for these purposes the elected representatives receive several crores as area development funds. What happens to those funds to be spent in their constituencies? Will this dismal situation prevail if the funds earmarked for their constituencies are spent for the right purpose? Are

these not sufficient for dismal verdict?

Contrary to the development programs meant for the people, not only it failed to reach the common man instead paved way to corruption, bribery, price hike, unemployment and the like that made the voters really furious. Thus it's a foregone conclusion that this verdict is an outpouring of public anger against corruption, bad governance, unemployment, inflation, never ending problems and for a quick revival of the economy to reach a stage of inclusive growth. People expected a welfare government i.e., availability of water, power, housing as well as education for their children, even this was difficult as mentioned above due to widening gap between the government and governance.

People expected a welfare oriented government with sensible policies and infrastructure. Further the present generation i.e., the first time voters are the products of the reformed India with expectation for good life. Therefore the verdict proves failure to accept change would bring in further blow reminding one of a famous quote of poet Kumaran Asan:

“Change your ways or the change will change you”.

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