

A Project Report on

Understanding the Ground Realities of

Electoral Politics: A Case Study of

Dubbaka By-poll Result – November 2020

by

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2020 – 2021

Research Proposal

Introduction:

Dubbaka Municipality was constituted in 31 January 2013 and is classified as a second grade municipality. The jurisdiction of the civic body is spread over an area of 26.40 km² (10.19 sq mi). Dubbaka is a newly formed MLA constituency in Siddipet District. It consists of 7 mandals: Dubbaka, Mirdoddi, Thoguta, Doultabad, Raipol, Chegunta and Narsingi.

Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy the sitting MLA died in August 2020 paving way for the by-election in Dubbaka. Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy belonged to the TRS party. He was elected in 2014 and 2018 as the MLA of Dubbaka Assembly Constituency.

The polling was held on 3rd November, 2020 and more than one lakh, sixty five thousand votes were polled with a huge turnout of about 82% of voters.

Dubbaka was the first election in the state after the Assembly elections of 2018. Therefore, it attracted the attention of the entire state. Politicians and political enthusiasts along with the common people in the state of Telangana followed this election with keen interest. TRS and BJP took this election as an issue of prestige. Chief Minister KCR visited Dubbaka and tried his best to rally votes in the favour of his party.

The counting of votes took place on 10th of November 2020 and the results were announced on the same day. Raghunandan Rao of BJP won by-poll Nov 2020 with a majority of only 1079 votes.

Research Method:

- The research will be based on primary and secondary sources.
- Two Field Trips from the college to Dubbaka shall be organised to understand the ground reality of the Dubbaka Municipality.
- Personal interviews shall be conducted with the local people and the area political leaders and if possible with the MLA.
- A questionnaire shall be designed to assess the voting behaviour of the people, the factors influencing the voting behaviour.
- Apart from the above, newspapers, and sources from the internet shall be referred for the research work. Also, the findings of psephology will be used to support the research work.
- The research work shall employ explorative and constructive research methods.

Scope of Research:

- The scope of research work is the period of one year between November, 2020 and November 2021.
- The area of research is the Dubbaka Municipality.

PROGRESS OF RESEARCH

General Study:

- The students studied the various news reports on Dubbaka by-elections and acquainted themselves with the basic information that is needed for the research work.

Construction of a questionnaire:

- A questionnaire has been designed with a set of 10 questions.

Rationale for Research:

- There are a number of studies that deal with elections. Newspapers and entire media in general focus a great deal on elections, specially in India. However, there can be several minute details that go missing in regular reporting.
- Moreover, with only one thousand votes of majority, it is really important not to leave any stone unturned. Thus this research project is very important as its main focus is to analyse the grass-root level strategies of electoral politics.
- A direct interaction with the voter makes a great difference, which is the main strategy of this research project.

Objectives:

I. General Objectives:

1. To give the students a firsthand experience of electoral politics.
2. To give the students a live lesson on voting behaviour.
3. To acquaint the students with various research methods like field reporting, questionnaire, taking interviews and report writing.

II. Research Objectives:

1. To study the causes for the victory of BJP in the Dubbaka by-elections, held in November 2020.
2. To understand the voting behaviour of the people.
3. To analyse the ground reality of electoral politics, that is often reported in the media.
4. To find out the various problems the people of Dubbaka are facing, which might have been key factors in the elections.

Field Trip:

- A field Trip has been organised and conducted with one faculty and seven students, who visited Dubbaka. We could interview many people and around 60 questionnaires could be filled, though our target was 80.
- The questionnaires have been analysed and each student has given their own personal experience during the field trip. A preliminary report is prepared.

THE REPORT

DUBBAKA

Dubbaka is a Municipal town in Siddipet district of the Indian state of Telangana. Dubbaka is a newly formed Assembly constituency in Siddipet District. It consists of 7 mandals: Dubbaka, Mirdoddi, Thoguta, Doultabad, Raipol, Chegunta and Narsingi. Dubbaka Municipality was constituted in 31 January 2013. The jurisdiction of the civic body is spread over an area of 26.40 km² (10.19 sq mi).

BY-ELECTIONS

Solipeta Ramalinga Reddy, the MLA of Dubbaka died in August 2020. He belonged to the TRS party. He was elected four times as the town's MLA. Therefore, by-elections were announced for Dubbaka constituency.

The Election Commission of India released the schedule for the Dubbaka bye-election along with by-elections to one Parliamentary constituency and 55 other Assembly constituencies across the country. The polling was to be held on November 3, 2020.

IMPORTANCE

Ever since, the 2019 General Elections, by-poll to Dubbaka constituency, was the first election in the state that attracted the attention of the entire Telangana state. TRS and BJP took this election as an issue of prestige. Chief Minister KCR personally visited Dubbaka and tried his best to rally votes in favour of his party.

TRS installed the wife of the departed MLA, Solipeta Sujatha as the candidate from TRS for the bye-elections. BJP announced the name of Raghunandan Rao for this election. Other important candidate in the fore was Cheruku Srinivas Reddy, ex MLA of Dubbaka from Congress Party. However, his candidature was not viewed seriously. Therefore, the main contest was between TRS and BJP.

RESULTS

The counting was conducted on November 10 followed by announcement of results.

Raghunandan Rao of BJP won the by-elections with a marginal majority of only 1,079 votes. He won a total of 63,352 votes, garnering 38.47% of total valid votes. His main opponent, Solipeta Sujatha Reddy won 62,273 votes, gaining 37.82 percent of total valid votes. Overall the difference was only 1,079 votes, which amounted to 0.01 percent of total valid votes.

RESULT OF DUBBAKA BY-ELECTIONS NOVEMBER, 2020				
Party	Candidate	Votes	Percentage	Loss/Gain
BJP	M. Raghunandan Rao	63,352	38.47	+24.72
TRS	Solipeta Sujatha Reddy	62,273	37.82	-16.54
INC	Cheruku Srinivas Reddy	22,196	13.48	-2.86
NOTA	None of the above	554	0.34	
Majority		1,079	0.01	-38.03
Turnout		1,65,638	83.32	

FIELD TRIP

The election results were as interesting as the election process. Many reports were published in the newspapers giving the analysis on the election results. However, the Department of Political Science, at TTWRDC (M) Kamareddy decided to find out the ground realities for the electoral victory of BJP. Thus, a Field Trip was arranged to Dubbaka to conduct a Election Survey in Dubbaka. The team consisted of one faculty and eight students of BA Final Year.

THE TEAM

Our Team of one faculty and seven students, reached Dubbaka on 21st November, just 10 days after the election results. We got down at the Bus stand of Dubbaka and surveyed people in the town area, throughout the day. We interviewed the residents of the place and filled the questionnaires. By the end of the day, we could collect a sample of 46 voters. We ensured that we did not ask anyone, whom they voted for. This was to ensure their right to privacy.

DATA ANALYSIS

Gender of the voters:

Male	19
Female	27
Total	46

Age group of the voters:

Age Group of the Voters	18 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	51 and above	Total
Number of Voters interviewed	10	17	12	7	46

REASON FOR THE LOSS OF TRS AND THE VICTORY OF BJP

Reason	Number
TRS candidate is not good	7
Unsatisfied with TRS in Dubbaka	39
Just to give BJP a chance	17

MIXED EXPERIENCE

There were mixed experiences at Dubbaka. On one hand we met women who were enthusiastic and spoke without any hesitation on their political likes and dislikes, on the other hand, men were not willing to talk to us. Overall, 27 female voters and 19 male voters could be interviewed.

There were people who were matured voters, who understood that no political party is going to do anything for them, yet there were some who were bothered about their pension.

There was an old lady whose understanding of politics was limited to the symbols of car and the flower. When we told her that flower that is lotus representing BJP won the election, she started worrying if she is still going to get her old age pension. For her, it was the car that was giving her pension. We assured her that she will continue to get her pension.

THE EYE OPENER

We met a Councillor of a Ward of Dubbaka Municipality. She turned out to be an eye-opener. When our team approached her and asked the reasons for TRS losing elections, she put the question back into our court. She asked us about the people's feedback. We said that most people were not happy with the candidate of TRS. And her reply was the highlight of our survey.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERVIEW

1. She had ensured that money that the people needed to get under various schemes was distributed just before elections to keep the voters in favour of TRS.
2. She was angry that people received all the benefits from TRS and voted for BJP. She also acknowledged the fact that in her ward, people voted against TRS.
3. Another fact revealed by her was very unusual. On the eve of elections, youngsters of the area, had a meeting and decided to vote for BJP.
4. What was more surprising was that these young men after returning homes, made their parents promise that they would vote only for BJP. Some parents had revealed the same.
5. She referred to the TRS candidate Solipeta Sujatha Reddy as 'poor lady, who was weeping and mourning her husband's death'. Therefore, she could not speak to people properly and therefore, her campaign did not attract the people.
6. However, the most interesting part was her response on the TRS candidate. "Madam, it is written in the Constitution itself that the seat must be allotted to the member of the family of the deceased. And TRS did the same. We were helpless. "

Problems:

- Unemployment.
- Lack of employment opportunities, no companies/factories.
- Damaged roads.
- Open drainage and sewerage.
- Most of the people depended on beedi-making and tailoring.

The above problems were stated by most respondents. Indeed, the roads were not good. The drainage system was open and passed right in the front of the houses.

The other problems our team witnessed were:

- Sanitation facilities were extremely bad at the Dubbaka Bus stand.
- The community water tank was leaking from many sides.

Others:

There were people were sitting in the toddy shop (kallu compound) and they said that they had no work so they sit there and drink the toddy. That is their way of passing time.

The Venue



Our Reporters









The Problems evident







A Sample Filled in Questionnaires

FIELD TRIP
Department of Political Science
Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District
Questionnaire

1. Name: Raju

2. Age: 53

3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? Yes

4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?

Irresponsible ruling of TRS Govt leads to impact on Dubbas people mindsets.

5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?

- Not proper ruling
- not fulfilled people's demands
- Unsatisfied schemes reached over dubbaka

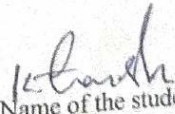
6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?

LRS, Unemployment

7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?

Hoping to rule good

8. Other information:


Name of the student

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District

Questionnaire

1. Name: Kavitha

2. Age: 40

3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? yes

4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?

The reason for the victory of BJP is there is no proper development in Dubbaka
→ unemployment and lack of facilities to people

5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?

→ The defeat of TRS is they are not did proper development in Dubbaka
→

6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?

→ lack of Road facilities, unemployment etc.

7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?

→ He is going to do welfare to the people

8. Other information:

→ The people should aware about the election and development activities.

Abalje

Name of the student

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District

Questionnaire,

1. Name: Suguna
2. Age: 40
3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? yes
4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?
given chance to the new party
5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?
candidate ~~was~~ not good
6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?
unemployment
7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?
factory, Road and Hospital
8. Other information:

Name of the student

R. Sambanth

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District Questionnaire,

1. Name: *Devuni Lalitha (Councillor)*

2. Age: *40*

3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election?

Yes

4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?

No specific reason

5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?

*People were unhappy with the MLA Ramalinga Reddy.
the candidate - Sujatha*

6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?

Roads and Sanitation / Drainage is not covered

7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?

Employment.

8. Other information:

Arma
Name of the student

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District

Questionnaire.

1. Name: Rangama

2. Age: 42

3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? Yes

4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?

No comments

5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?

→ we hope that TRS ruling not bad
→ going good progress

6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?

Normal problems, Sometimes water inadequate

7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?

No expectations.

8. Other information:

G. Sudhakar
Name of the student

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District

Questionnaire.

1. Name: *Sravante*
2. Age: *36*
3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? ~~no~~ *yes*
4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?
given chance to the BJP
5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?
candidate was not good
6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?
unemployment
7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?
water, roads
8. Other information:

G. Sravan Kumar
Name of the student

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District

Questionnaire.

1. Name: meera

2. Age: 40

3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? yes

4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?

Irresponsible handling of PPS Govt leads to impact in Dubbaka people mindsets

5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?

→ Not proper handling
→ not fulfilled people's demands
→ unutilized money reached over at Dubbaka

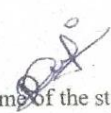
6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?

TRP's unemployment

7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?

• working well good

8. Other information:


Name of the student

FIELD TRIP

Department of Political Science

Result Analysis of By-elections at Dubbaka, Siddipet District

Questionnaire

1. Name: Damule

2. Age: 50

3. Did you vote in the recent bi-election? yes

4. What are the reasons for the victory of BJP?

Expecting him to well well, Propaganda imparted
and Award to fulfilled people's desire

5. What are the reasons for the defeat of TRS?

No clear Propaganda reached
also company for B.P. who are busy

6. What are the problems in Dubbaka?
BPP, Rice - no MSF
Drainage, enemy alignment, Party bander...

7. What are your expectations from the BJP candidate Raghunandan Rao?
Expecting to fulfill people's desire

8. Other information:

E. Gulye
Name of the student

Unveiling of our Project Work

Unveiling of our Project Work by Mr. B Somanadha Sharma, Deputy Secretary, TTWREIS, Gurukulam



Certificate of Appreciation

Later, Mr. B Somanadha Sharma has sent us a Certificate of Appreciation

