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GEOGRAPHY OF ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH (1982-1990): A SPATIAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT : The paper presents areal and temporal patterns of electoral participation in elections to the state assembly of 1982, 1985 and 1990 in Himachal pradesh. The main focus of this paper is on the identification, description and analysis of patterns of electoral participation and analysis of patterns of electoral and invalid votes and a set of seven selected socio-economic variables with the help of hypotheses, maps and a number of statistical techniques.

Voting is by far the most common and widely discussed form of political participation in the modern society. In a democratic set up electoral participation is measured as percent turnout in a given election. This measure of participation includes both valid and invalid votes polled by all candidates. Ineffective participation on the other hand is defined as percent rejected votes out of the total votes polled (Chand,1993). Voting is the single act of political participation undertaken by a majority of nations in the world today (Rose and Mossavir, 1967). In most electoral studies made by geographers, this particular aspect has received rather scant attention and treatment so far (Mehta and Sekhon,1980). Therefore, this study is an atempt to fill this gap.

Since the basic aim of all the electoral studies is to discern the electoral behaviour of an individual or of a social group, it is essential to examine the level of electoral participation to build and establish the proportions about relationships between the social characteristics of people (Dikshit,1993). In addition to voting which is the most common form of political participation and is related to electoral process there are many other forms including various kinds of compaign which involve serveral operations which make election significant institutions in most political systems. Electoral participation is only one aspect of the total electoral process (Dasgupta & Morris-Jones, 1975).

Significant and positive correlation in almost all political systems between political participation and socio-economic status can be measured by indicators such as class or caste identification, income levels, occupation, education and levels of literacy and like (Dikshit, 1993).

In this study the relationship between electoral participation and socio-economic variables is tested with the help of a set of seven slected socio-economic variables. These seven socio-economic variables have been grouped into three groups namely 'development variables' 'Social variables' 'and' agricultural variables'. Group of development variables includes urban population, literates and household industries, manufacturing & servicing. Scheduled caste

population and scheduled tribe population are social variables. And among the agricultural variables are agricultural labourers and marginal farmers.

In this paper the choropleth method is extensively used to delineate electoral participation.The study has also employed a number of statistical techniques. z-score values are used for describing the electoral participation. Standard deviation and coefficent of variation are used for examining the extent of evenness in the distribution of electoral participation. And Pearson's product - moment coefficient of correlation is used for ascertaining the relationship between socio-economic variables dand electoral participation.

The specified objectives of the paper are (i) to examine hypotheses on electoral participation in legislative Assembly elections in Himachal pradesh; (ii) to identify and compare the areal patterns of electoral participation in three successive election from 1982-1990: (iii) to examine the role played by social, economic, cultural and other factors fon the electoral participation in Himachal Pradesh.

HYPOTHESES

The hypotheses regarding the electoral participation will be tested in the following pages with the help of pearson's product-moment coefficient of correlation technique :

i) In recent elections, the patterns of electoral participation have undergone drastic change. The relation between patterns of electoral participation and development variables has become negative. Because the rates of electoral participation is high in the less developed areas than the developed ones.

ii) There is a positive correlation between the patterns of electoral participation and the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population and the persons engaged in agricultural activities.

iii) With increase in literacy the level of ineffective participation has decreased substantially throughout the state. Ineffective participation has strong relationship with development indicators.

GROSS PATTERN OF PARTICIPATION

During the Legislative Assembly elections of Himachal Pradesh in 1982, 1985 and 1990, the participation varied, though not widely from one election to the other. The percentage of votes polled in the state as a whole during the Assebmly electors of 1982 was 69.69%, 70.36% in 1985 and 65.66% in 1990 (Table-1)

Table 1 :

Himachal Pradesh : Legislative Assembly Elections
Total Number of Votes and Votes polled in 1982,1985 and 1990

Year of Election	Total No. of votes	Total Votes polled	Percentage participation	SD of Vote distribution	CV of vote Distribution
1982	22122093	1541669	69.69	05.45	07.65
1985	2356932	1658426	70.36	05.69	08.08
1990	3154408	2071429	65.66	06.61	09.73

SD: Standard deviation *CV:* coefficient of variation

Source : Chief Electoral officer, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla. Calculated by the Author.

The higher rate of participation in 1985 election than in the previous election of 1982 may be attributed to the sympathy wave swing in favour of the congress after the assassination of the then prim Minister mrs. Indira Gandhi, that is why maximum people exercise their franchise. But lateron, in 1990 general election, the turnout droped by about 5 percent.

The percentage of voter turnout of all the three Assembly elections have already been shown in Table-1. Table-2 shows the participation of 1982, 1985 and 1990 Assembly election and the frequency distribution of constituences.

Very-very High Participation :

There were 4 constituencies at 1982, 2 constituencies at 1985 and only one constituency at 1990 election under this category. The very-very high turnout in these constituencies shows the political consciousness of the voters.But the number of constituencies falling in this category decreased very much from the earlier election to the recent elections.

Very High Participation :

There were 35 constituencies at 1982. 36 constituencies at 1985 and 27 constituencies at1990 electon under this category. More than 50 % constituencies of the state falling under this category revealing greater awareness among the masses about their right to franchise and the tough competition between different segments of population or different groups, encouraging the voters to cast their vote.

High Participation :

The Table-2 shows that the frequency distribution of constituencies is fairly good at all the three elections under this category. There were 28 constituencies each at 1982 and 1985 elections and 33 constituencies at1990 election under this category. Over 90% of the constituencies falling in two categories of very high and high participation reveal the outcome of highly literate people who are more politically awakened, conscious and have agreater awareness about their right to franchise.

Moderate participation :

The study and the examination of the table-2 shows that frequency distribution of constituencies under this category are limited. There was only one costituency at 1982, the number increased to two at 1985 and 6 constituencies at 1990 election under this category. It may be noted that in these constituencies about one-half of the electorates did not participate in the elections at all.

Table -2

Paticipation

Frequency of Distribution of Constituencies

Category	Low	Moderate	High	Very	Very-Very high	Total
Perent Votes	less than 50.00	50.01 60.00	60.01 70.00	70.01 80.00	Above 80.00	
Year of Election	1	2	3	4	5	6
1982	Nil	01	28	35	04	68
1985	Nil	02	28	36	02	68
1990	01	06	33	27	01	68

Low Participation :

The percentage of low participation was found in very limited area in all the three elections. At 1982 and 1985 elections there was no constituency falling under this category. Only one constitueccy at 1990 election was under this category. The lowest turnout was found in Shimla constituency i.e. 42.69% in the last election.The migratory and unsettled votes were among the main factors which brought down the rate of turnout in this constituency.

The comparative study of spatial analysis of electoral participation indicates the fact that the frequency distribution of the constituencies under higher categories were greater in 1982 than the number of constituencies under higher turnout categories in 1985 and 1990 elections. The areas areas under high, very high and very-very high turnout categories are politically more conscious while the areas under the moderate and low turnout categories are politically unconscious.

very turnout categories are politically more conscious while the areas under the moderate and low turnour categories are policially lessconscious.

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF PARTICIPATION 1982

The spatial patterns of participation in 1982 Assembly elections in Himachal Pradsh was 69.69%. There are areal variations in the percentage of votes polled ranging from a maximum of 83.49% in Gangath constituency of Kangra district to a minimum of 56.89% in Shillai constituency of Sirmaur district. Standard deviation of the vote distribution was 5.45% and the coefficient of variation of vote distribution was 7.65% both of which were the lowest ever recorded, indicating relatively feven areal variation of the participation (Table-1)

The areas of high participation were in central-eastern parts of Shimla, southern parts of Sirmaur, western parts of Solan and north-western and central parts of Kangra districts. The above average participation was recorded in whole of Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, northern and sourthern parts of Shimla, western and eastern parts of Sirmaur, northern parts of Solan and Bilaspur, larger parts of Kullu, feastern parts of Hamirpur, northern, central-western and eastern parts of Mandi, southern, central and eastern parts of Kangra and central parts of Chamba districts. Below average participation was registered in north-eastern and central-western parts of Shimla, north-western. parts of Sirmaur, north-western and central part of Mandi, north-western and central eastern parts of Hamirpur, larger parts of Bilaspur, south-eastern parts of Una and Kangra and north-eastern, central and south-eastern parts of Chamba districts. The areas of low participation were in western parts of Shimla and chamba, southern parts of Kullu and Hamirpur, western and southern parts of Mandi, south-eastern parts of Solan, and north-western parts of Una districts. (Fig-1)

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF PARTICIPATION 1985

In 1985 Assembly elections, the total participation recorded in the state was 70.36%, which was the highest ever recorded. There were certain changes in the core areas of higher participation;certain new areas emerged with high rates of participation while some areas which had previously recorded heavy participation did not sustain that feature.Spatial variations in participation ranged from a maximum of 80.73% in paonta-Doon constituency of Sirmaur district to a minimum of 51.48% in Shimla constituency of Shimla district. Standard deviation of the vote distribution was 5.69%. Coefficientof variation

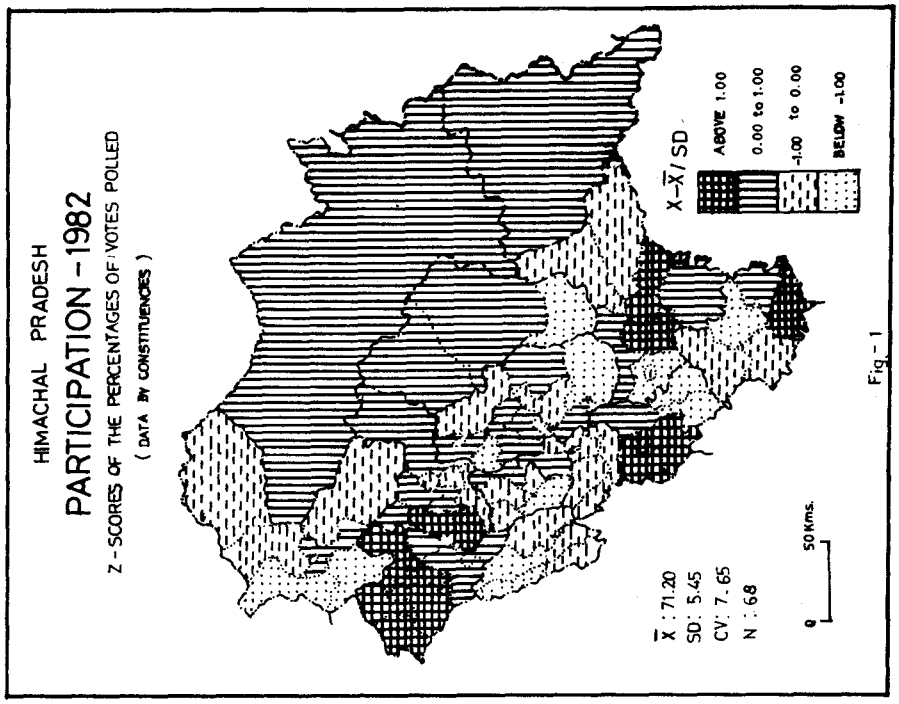
HIMACHAL PRADESH
PARTICIPATION - 1982
Z - SCORES OF THE PERCENTAGES OF VOTES POLLED
(DATA BY CONSTITUENCIES)
X̄ : 71.20
SD: 5.45
CV: 7.65
N : 68
X−X̄ / SD
ABOVE 1.00
0.00 to 1.00
-1.00 to 0.00
BELOW -1.00
0
50 Kms.

Fig - 1

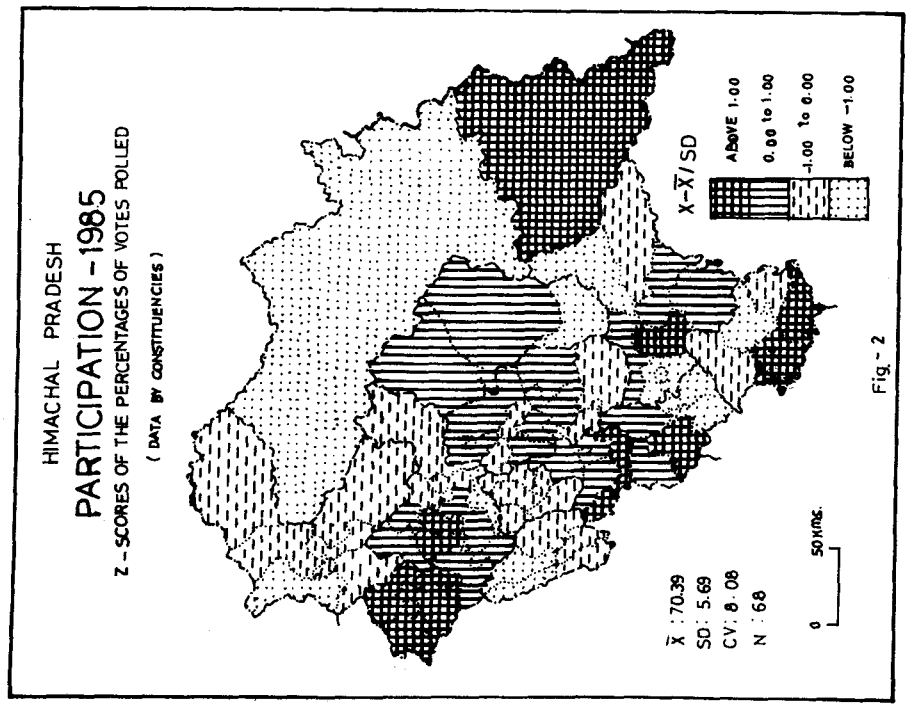
HIMACHAL PRADESH
PARTICIPATION - 1985
Z - SCORES OF THE PERCENTAGES OF VOTES POLLED
(DATA BY CONSTITUENCIES)
X̄ : 70.39
SD: 5.69
CV: 8.08
N : 68
X−X̄ / SD
ABOVE 1.00
0.00 to 1.00
-1.00 to 0.00
BELOW -1.00
0
50 Kms.

Fig - 2

of the vot distribution was 8.08% indicating even distribution of participation (Table-1)

The whole of Kinnaur, central parts of Shimla, south-westran parts of Sirmaur, central-western parts of Kangra and solan,south-western and south-eastern parts of Bilaspur districts were the areas of high participation. Above average participation was registered in northern and south-eastern parts of Shimla, western and north-eastern parts fof Solan, northern and central-western and central-eastern parts of Bilaspur and Mandi, larger parts of Kullu, northern, south-western and south-eastern parts of Kangra districts. Below average participation was recorded in Hamirpur, eastern parts of Shimla and kangra, north-western and eastern parts of Sirmaur, western, central and south-western parts of Mandi, eastern and southern parts of Una and large parts of Chamba districts.

SPATIAL PATTERNS OF PARTICIPATION 1990

A maximum participation of 80.39% was recorded again in paonta-Doon constituency of Sirmaur district and a minimum participation of 42.69% again in Shimla contituency of Shimla district. Standard deviation of the vote distribution was 6.61% and the coefficient of variation of the vote distribution was 9.73%, which were the higher ever recorded, indicating the higher areal variation in the distribution of participation (Table-1).

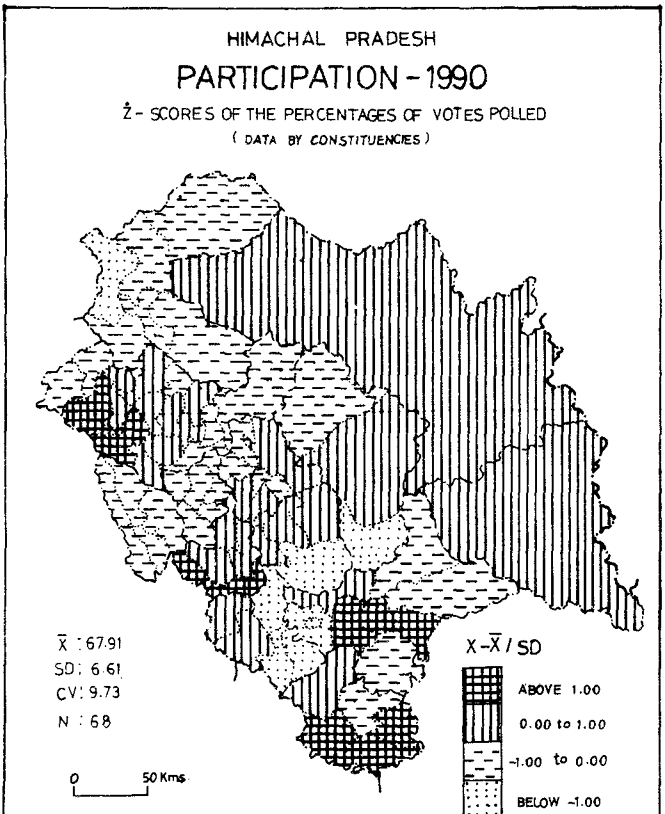

Fig.-3

The areas of very high participation was found in central-eastern parts of Shimla, western, south-eastern parts of Sirmaur and Bilaspur and western parts of Kangra districts. Above average participation was recorded in kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, northern parts of Shimla, north-western parts of Sirmaur, western parts of solan, central parts of Kullu, large parts of Bilaspur, western-central and north-eastern parts of Mandi and central parts of kangra districts. Below average participation was registered in whole of Hamirpur and Una, north-eastern and southern parts of Shimla, eastern parts of Sirmaur, northern parts of kullu, north-western and central parts of Mandi, western and eastern parts of Kangra and large parts of Chamba districts. Western parts of Shimla, southern parts of Mandi and Kullu, north-eastern parts of Solan and western parts of Chamba districts were the areas of low participation (Fig-3)

CORRELATION ANALYSIS

Development Variables and the participation

The participation has a negative correlation with the urban population in all the three elections. The literates are positively correlated in the first election and has a negarive correlation in the last two elections. The household industries, manufacturing & servicing are positively correlated with participation in all the three election (Table 3)

Table -3

Correlation Matrix of Development Variables and participation

Year of Elections	Urban population	Literates	Household industries Manufacturing & Servicing
1982	-0.183	0.090	0.215
1985	-0.531	-0.260	0.501
1990	-0.451	-0.044	0.164

Social Variables and the participation

The participation has a positive correlation with the scheduled caste population in the last two elections and negative in the first election. The scheduled tribe population has a negative correlation with the participation in 1985 election and positive in 1982 and 1990 elections. Social variables are positively correlated with participation in 1990 elections (Table-4)

Table -4

Correlation Table of social variables and participation

Year of Election	Scheduled caste population	Scheduled Tribe population
1982	- 0.278	0.003
1985	0.106	- 0.099
1990	0.020	0.164

Agricultural Variables and Participation

The agricultural labourers have a positive correlation with the participation in all the three elections. On the other hand, the marginal farmers are negatively correlated with the participation in the first election and positve with the remaining two elections. Both the agricultural variables are positively correlated with the participation in the 1985 and 1990 elections (Table-5)

Table -5

Correlation Matrix of Agricultural Variables and participation

Year of Election	Agricultural Labourers	Marginal Farmers
1982	0.431	0.151
1985	0.269	0.028
1990	0.289	0.235

Urban residents generally vote more frequently than those in rural areas : but as Myron Weiner has pointed out, "It should be noted that the

higher voting turnout is not simply a function of urbanisation since the rural areas of the hightly participant states have a higher voting turnout than the urban areas of the low participant states". In Himachal Pradesh also some elections in some constituencies, rural voters have turned out in larger numbers than urban voters (Sharma,1986).

In all the three election, the urban population has a negative correlation with participation. The literates are also negatively correlated in the last two elections. On the otherhand, the participation has a positive correlation with household industries, manufacturing & servicing in all the three elections. The hypothesis regarding change in participation pattern is proved. Earlier the rate of participation used to behigh in deveoped areas but the negative relationship of the participation level with urban population and literates shows that participation is low in relatively developed areas. The proportions of household industries in Himachal Pradesh is high in rural the tirbal areas. Therefore, the positive relationship between percent population engaged in these activities and participation shows more participationin rural and less developed areas.

In all the three elections, the social variables fand the agricultural variables are generally positively correlated with the participation indicating the fact that the rates of participation are higher in the constituencies reserved for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population and the constituencies having higher concentration of population of agricultural labourers and marginal farmers. Because the maximum people of these categories exercise their franchise in each elections for the betterment of their living conditions after following the programmes of different parties. Thus, the hypothesis regarding positive correlation between participation and social and agricultural variables is proved.

GROSS PATTERN OF INEFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION

As the literacy of the state is increasing the ineffective participation is going on decreasing in each election. The percentage of rejected or invalid voted polled in the state as a whole during the Assembly elections of 1982 was 1.36%, 1.06% in 1985 and 0.81% in 1990 (Table-6).

The higher rate of ineffective participation indicates the lower rate of literacy, backwardness of people, politically lessconscious and lesser awarenes among the masses about the voting procedure. With the passage of time, literacy increased, people became more conscious and aware about the election procedure leading to low rate of ineffective participation.

Table 6

Himachal Pradesh : Legislative Assembly Elections

Total Number of Votes polled fand Invaild Votes in 1982,1985 and 1990

Year of Election	Total votes polled	Total Invalid votes	Percentage Ineffective	SD of Invalid Vote Distribution*	CV of Invalid Vote Distribution*
1882	1541669	21011	1.39	0.33	24.44
1985	1658426	17499	1.06	0.58	53.70
1990	2071429	16960	0.81	0.25	29.76

SD : Standard deviation *CV*: coefficient of Variation

Source : Chief Electoral officer, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla. * Calculated by the Auther.

Table 7

Ineffective Participation

Frequency of Distribution of Constituencies						
Category	**Very-Low**	**Low**	**Moderate**	**High**	**Very High**	**Total**
Percent of Invalid Votes	**Less Than 0.50**	**0.51 0.50**	**1.01 1.50**	**1.51 2.00**	**Above 2.00**	
Year of Election	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	6
1982	Nil	11	39	14	04	68
1985	Nil	41	20	03	04	68
1990	04	48	14	02	Nil	68

Table-7 shows the ineffective participation of 1982, 1985 and 1990 the frequency distribution of constituencies.

The comprative study of the spatial analysis of ineffective participation indicates the fact that the frequency distribution of the constituencies under higher categories were greater in 1982 followed by 1985 and 1990 elections and the unmber of constituencies under lower categories were more in 1990 followed by 1985 and 1982 elections. The areas under moderate, high and very high categories are not much developed areas in terms of literacy and urban population. People are backward and politically lessconscious and not much awakened about the overall electoral system, while the areas under low and very-low categories are much developed in terms of literacy and urban population, and people are politically more conscious and much awakened.

Spatial Patterns of Ineffective Participation 1982 :

In 1982 Assembly elections, the total ineffective particiaption recorded in the state was 1.36%, which was the highest ever recorded in these three elections. There are areal variations in the percentage of total invlid votes ranging from a maximum of 2.41% in Kinnaur constituency of Kinnaur district to a minimum of 0.80% in Sundernagar constituency of Mandi district. Standard deviation of the invalid vote distribution was 0.33%. Coefficient of variation of the invalid vote distribution was 24.44%, which was the lowest ever recorded, indicating much areal variation ineffective participation (Table-6).

The areas of very high ineffective participation were Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, eastern parts of Shimla, southern part of Sirmaur and western and northern parts of Kangra districts. Above average ineffective participation was recorded in western and central-eastern parts of Sirmaur, western parts of Solan, south-western parts of Bilaspur, northern, central and southern parts of Una, north-eastern, and southern parts of Hamirpur, north-western and central western parts of Mandi, northern parts of Kullu, western, north-eastern, central and sorth-eastern parts of Chamba and north-western, southern central and esgtern parts of Kangra districts. Below average ineffective parts of Shimla and Solan, north-eastern parts of Bilaspur, north-western and central parts of Hamirpur, western and north-eastern parts of Mandi and Una, southern parts of Kullu, western parts of Chamba and western and central parts of

Kangra districts. The areas of low ineffective participation was recorded in central and eastern parts of Shimla, northern parts of Sirmaur, eastern parts of Solan, central parts of Kulu and central, south-eastern parts of Mandi districts (Fig.4.).

Spatial Patterns of Ineffective Participation 1985

The spatial patterns of ineffective participation decreased to 1.06% in elections. A maximum ineffective participation of 3.6% in Bharmaur constituency of Chamba district, which was the highest ever recorded, and a minimum ineffective participation of 1.51% in Jubbal-Khotkhai constituency of Shimla district. Standard deviation of the invalid vote distribution was 0.58%. Coefficient of variation of invalid vote distribution increased to 53.70%, both of these were the highest ever recoded, indicating relatively more areal variation on the ineffective participation. (Table-6).

The areas of very high ineffective participation were again found in Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti districts, central parts of Kangra, and north-eastern and south-eastern parts of Chamba districts. Above average ineffective participation was registered in eastern parts of Shimla, larger parts of Sirmaur, western parts of Solan and Una, southern parts of Kullu, south-western parts of Chamba, north-western, north-eastern and central-western parts of Mandi and Kangra districts. Remaining parts of Himachal Pradesh were the areas of below average ineffective participation, where as no area of low ineffective participation was found in the state in this election (Fig.5).

Spatial Patterns of Ineffective Participation 1990.

There were further decrease in the spatial patterns of ineffective participation in 1990 when the overall ineffective participation was less than one percent (0.81%). Spatial variations in ineffective participation ranged from a maximum of 1.83% in Sulah constituency of Kangra district to a minimum of 0.39% in Kumarsain constituency of Shimla districts, which were the lowest ever recorded. Standard deviation of the invalid vote distribution was 0.25%, which was the lowest ever recorded. Coefficient of variation was 29.76%, indicating relatively even variation in the ineffective participation (Table-6).

The areas of very high ineffective participation were in whole of Kinnaur, eastern parts of Sirmaur, western parts of solan, north-eastern parts of Hamirpur, central andnorth-eastern parts of Kangra and south-western, north-eastern and south-eastern parts of Chamba districts. Above average ineffective participation was recorded in whole of Lahaul & Spiti and Bilaspur, south-western, north-eastern parts of Sirmaur, southern parts of Kullu, north-western parts of Una, northern and central-eastern parts of Hamirpur, north-western and central parts of Mandi, south-western, northern and central parts of Kangra districts. Below average ineffective participation was registered in north-eastern, central-eastern and south-eastern parts of shimla, north-western parts of Sirmaur, north-western, northern and sourth-eastern parts of Solan, south-eastern parts of Una, north-eastern and central-western parts of Mandi, Morhtern parts of Kullu, western and central parts of Kangra districts. The areas of very-low ineffective participation were in central-western parts of Shimla, south-western parts of Solan, south-western and eastern parts of Mandi, central parts of Kullu, western parts of Kangra and Chamba districts (Fig.6).

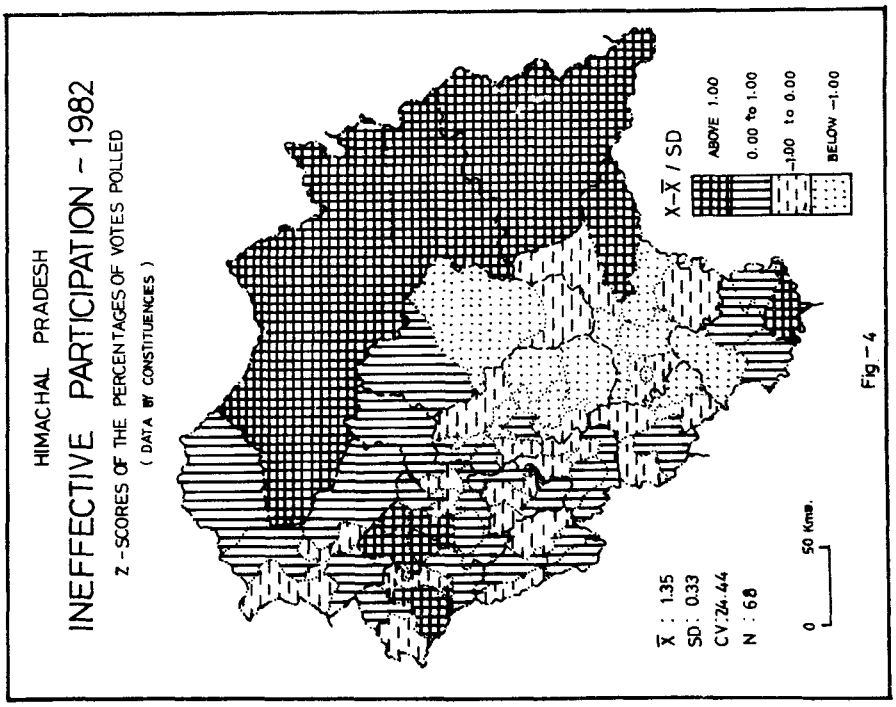
HIMACHAL PRADESH
INEFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION - 1982
Z-SCORES OF THE PERCENTAGES OF VOTES POLLED
(DATA BY CONSTITUENCIES)
X-X̄ / SD
ABOVE 1.00
0.00 to 1.00
-1.00 to 0.00
BELOW -1.00
X̄ : 1.35
SD: 0.33
CV:24.44
N : 68
0
50 Kms.

Fig – 4

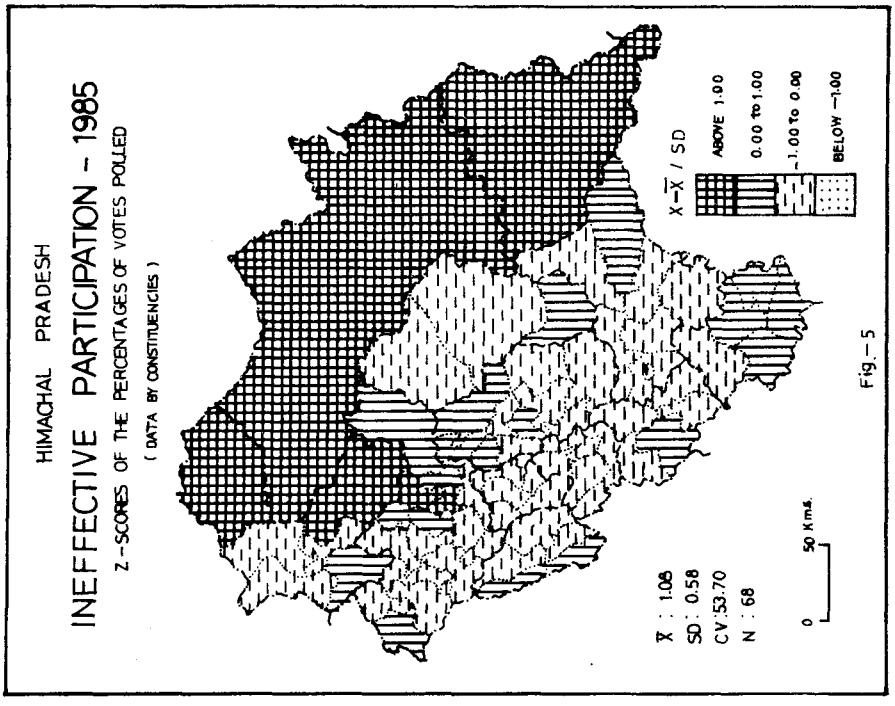
HIMACHAL PRADESH
INEFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION - 1985
Z-SCORES OF THE PERCENTAGES OF VOTES POLLED
(DATA BY CONSTITUENCIES)
X-X̄ / SD
ABOVE 1.00
0.00 to 1.00
-1.00 to 0.00
BELOW -1.00
X̄ : 1.08
SD: 0.58
CV:53.70
N : 68
0
50 Kms.

Fig – 5

Table 8

Correlation Table of Development Variables and Ineffective Paricipation

Year of Elections	Urban population	Literates	Household industries, Manufacturing & Servicing
1982	-0.235	-0.190	0.407
1985	-0.189	-0.235	0.267
1990	-0.244	-0.085	0.592

CORRELATION ANALYSIS

Development Variables and the Ineffective Participation

The ineffective participation has a negative correlation with the urban population and the literates in all the three elections, whereas the household industies, manufacturing & servicing are positively correlated with ineffective participation in all the elections. This indicates that the rate of ineffective participation is less in more developed areas than in the rural areas (Table-8).

Social Variables and the Ineffective Participation

The scheduled caste population is negatively correlated with the ineffective participation in all the three elections. On the other hand, the ineffective participation has a strong positive correlation with scheduled tribe population in all the elections, which shows that the rate of ineffective participation is much in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh (Table-9).

Table-9

Correlation Table of Social Variables and Ineffective Participation

Year of Election	Scheduled Caste Population	Scheduled Tribe Population
1982	-0.555	0.596
1985	-0.561	0.804
1990	-0.358	0.505

Agricultural Variables and the Ineffective Participation

Agricultural labourers have a negative correlation with the ineffective participation in the first two elections and positive in the last election. The marginal farmemrs are positively correlated with the ineffective participation in all the three elections, indicating the fact that the ineffective participation is closely related the agricultural variables (Table-10).

Table -10

Correlation Table of Agricultural Variables and Ineffective Participation

Year of Elections	Agricultural Labourers	Marginal Farmers
1982	-0.110	0.054
1985	-0.165	0.014
1990	0.064	0.093

As Table-6 reveals, the ineffective participation has progressively decreased since 1982 election. This decline in ineffective participation occured due to increase in literacy. The ineffective participation has a negative correlation with the urban population and ther literates which shows that the areas. On the other hand, the household industries, manufacturing & servicing has a positive correlation, the rate of ineffective participation is higher in tribal areas. Thus, the hypothesis regarding the strong relationship with development indivators and decrease in ineffective participation with increase in literacy is proved.

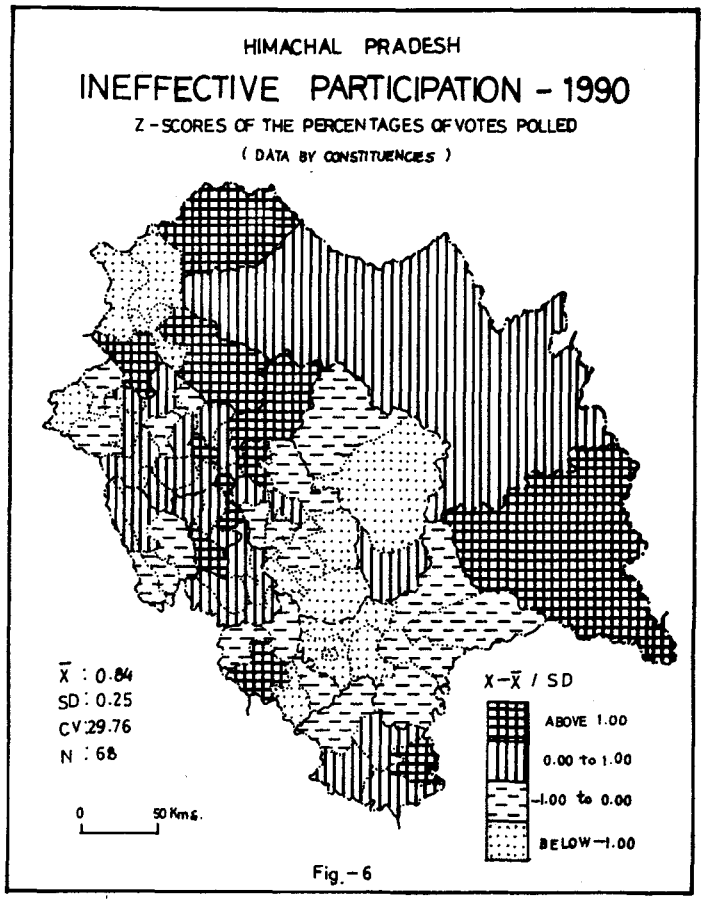

Fig.-6

CONCLUSION

The areal patterns of participation have been rather inconsitent and hence changed from election to election. The coefficient of variation in the distribution of participation has all through been quite low, indicating uniform distribution of the participation over the whole of the state. The participation has negative relationship with urban population, indicating low participation in urban areas where voters generally prefer to abstain from voting. On the other hand, participation level is higher in areas where number of people eagaged in household industries is also higher.

Level of ineffective participation has decreased considerably over time, but there is no discernible trend in its coefficient of variation. The ineffective participation is the one electoral variable which has consistent and strong relation with the development variables. In all the three elections, the percent urban population and the percent literate people are negatively correlated with ineffective participation. This indicates that the level of ineffective participation decreases with increase in these two variables. Ineffective participation is also closely related with social and agricultural variables.

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