

Exploring the Political Attitudes Amongst the Youth –A Thematic Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Ever since the transformative and charismatic leader has come into power in May 2014, the road to political leadership has changed many folds. The country has seen its own set of ups and downs. Somewhere and somehow be it the matter of following a nationalistic approach towards appeasement, or be it being vocal, the present prime minister has been, India has seen its own set of upward growth and recognition worldwide. The aim of the present research is to examine and explore how the political attitudes have fared in the past seven years amongst the youth through a qualitative analysis. For the present study, 30 individuals both males and females aged between 22-28 were contacted. A self-designed political attitude questionnaire which was subjective in nature was administered using telephonic interview and online form, keeping in mind the ongoing pandemic. Transcripts were formulated into codes and themes were analysed on the basis of the same. This research paper is an attempt to explore how political attitudes are important when we have a democratic structure and when there are various opinions, differences, conflicts and ideologies in a country that votes and chooses one among a multi-party system.

Keywords: *Political Attitudes, Political Psychology, Leadership*

Looking back towards the 2014 elections, when the current government came into power, with a one-sided statistic indicating change due to the anti- incumbency, we saw that the BJP bloomed like it was the only party contesting the elections. What made several rounds was the psyche or the psychology of the countrymen selecting the ruling government. Media reports indicated and some houses declared that it was a result of what they called, the MODI WAVE, it was the leader's charisma, great oratory skills and strong ability to maintain an emotional connect with people that led to this land-sliding victory for the NDA. Some media houses and print articles also assumed because there were waves of anti-incumbency, there was no option, the ex- government in rule had no strong face for the PM projection and many more reasons to contribute towards this one-sided, clear-cut mandate.

Psychologists and personality profiling assessments conducted on PM Narendra Modi indicated that it is indeed due to his hardcore work ethic, strong team building skills,

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effective and efficient communication style, visionary and future oriented approach as and when required were major qualities that along with his transformative leadership style worked wonders for him.

Political Psychology- A Brief Introduction

The development of political psychology dates back to the beginning of the 1960s which makes it a recent disciplinary field of study. With its increased prevalence in the western culture, political psychology is thought to be dealt with behaviour psyche of politics. The international society of political psychology (ISPP) in 1978 under the able leadership of Jeanne Knutson formulated its own journal which is active since 1980.

Since then, the development of politics and psychology has been complimentary in its expansion especially in the western culture. Behavioural theories of decision making usually highlights on a specific goal that what factors influence people towards making a specific decision, here in terms of selecting the government. The basic question of exploration arises- how do people decide? the answer lies in the fact that although people may somewhat want to make better decisions based on the basic principle of rationality, there might not always be a sense of rational thinking due to external stimuli such as information-overload. When decision makers are burdened with information- overload, there is lack of consequential decision making towards political governance for that matter.

Another structural question that arises is about the ability of coping and leading towards a healthy decision making- this can be done in three simplified ways:

1. **DECOMPOSITION**- it refers to dividing complex parts into simpler forms or units to ensure easy comprehension and understandability, leading to easy evaluation. For example, if a potential candidate for the prime ministerial post develops a campaign which would require a huge chunk of information to be comprehended, the same can be done through rallies, advertising, hoardings and billboards. Alternatively, newspaper advertising and virtual conferences can be carried out.
2. **EDITING**- in editing, the aim is to simplify the decision-making dynamic by eliminating the decision or dynamic which relates to complex expected outcomes, the idea here is to limit the outcomes to a single usage system so that goal conflicts can be resolved in order to ensure a homogenous decision-making. This is well evident in a collectivistic culture like India where, familiar, vocal and candidates who are consistent in their ground-visit and work ethic usually perform better as the voters relate better to them in terms of formulating and emotional connect.
3. **HEURISTICS**- heuristics are problem solving strategies that keeps the task demands within specific time- bounds to achieve timely and efficient decision-making. In 1973 and 1974, Tversky and Kahneman devised a three-fold strategic plan for the ease of decision making so that any heuristic can be easily applied, these were-
 - **Availability**- based on the causality, or the probability of the heuristics available to ensure a probable or preferable scenario.
 - **Representativeness**- assigning a preferred specific instance or category to an outcome to ensure smooth decision-making.
 - **Anchoring and adjustment**-devising a probable hypothesis and then attempting to draw related inferences based on the adjusted scenarios.

What are Political Attitudes?

Political attitudes may be defined as values and belief systems of individuals, groups or community of people towards a particular orientation which are definitive of the behavioural and political orientation and ideation, often indicative of the social structure. Political attitudes are important because of the fact that they enable the people to decide and select a particular leadership which according to them would ensure a good governance in the near future. A set of doctrines, ideals, ethical set of rules or orientation towards a political ideation of thought and belief system can be defined as a political ideology.

Various evidences pertaining to how personality relates to political attitudes, interests' researchers because the personality of the voter has in many instances been found to be positively related to his or her political ideology and voting strategies following the selection of a political party to be in power. For example, since 2014, India has seen an altogether different approach towards groundwork, election campaign, maintaining an emotional connect, declaring manifesto and creating a roadmap towards the agendas in the near 5 years has been entirely comprehensive and transparent on the papers. If psychologists were to analyse the traits of the then PM candidate, they would understand how the hardcore work ethic, strong charismatic and transformative leadership style has been a major contributor towards the landslide victory in the May 2014 elections.

Of lately the field of political psychology has seen the construction of various scales and psychological measures such as and F scale that tests the fascist political attitude towards fascism of an individual. The anti- Semitism scale was developed, with the patriotism subscale, the ethnocentrism scale was developed. India too has seen recent developments in this area, The Political Interest scale was developed by Iftekhar Ansari and Asma Parveen consists of 30 items subdivided into subscales such as political information index, political involvement, mass media exposure, issue and problem awareness, symbol and heritage awareness. It can be administered on the population aged 18-63 years. Another scale developed by S.K Singh and B.B. Pandey is the Political Interest Scale which is available in Hindi version. It consists of 38 items which assesses the political attitudes of university students.

Political attitudes which are practiced in a country are more likely to be affected by a lot of factors in the long run. Demographic variables, personality attitudes, religious attributes and beliefs, spiritual inclination, patriotism, social standing and status, development agendas regarding infrastructure, healthcare and education, religious representation are some of the major contributing factors that influence an average voter of a country.

On What Factors Are Individuals Most Likely to Form Political Attitudes?

The last two elections have seen a shift towards change selecting a party that has set its agendas towards the right-wing historical roots. The 2014 election victory was a result of factors such as nationalism, economy, development, charisma and an all- clear, non-corrupt image of the present prime-minister and most of his then appointed cabinet members.

The second term since 2019, saw ups and downs with the current government in power when we saw several potential religious outrages, economic instability, the visibility of the ongoing Corona Virus pandemic, steep fall in the employment rate and a huge surge in the unemployment rate due to the lockdown. What we also saw was the open targeting by the opposition over serious issues, inefficiency in handling the second wave, poor allocation of medications and other covid-related supplies were stalled or delayed in various parts of the

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country, creating a havoc or an oxygen crisis in the different states of India. The present central government was criticised over how the mismanagement was also no less than leaving people to die with people crying helplessly for their relative's life. The supreme court also, on many occasions sacked the inefficient handling of the central government.

Needless to say, a diverse country of about 135 crores and counting with around 3.86 lacs of lives lost till date due to the Covid-19 faces a lot of structural inefficiencies which might not be a completely a government failure. A lot of researchers and analysts believe that this is a complete consolidated failure at all the levels- state, centre and the public itself. The country might probably be facing the biggest farmer's protest till date in the history of independent India with failed attempts from the government's side to settle the farmer's demands and restructure the farm law, on the other hand, the farmer activists demand complete roll-back of the new farmer bill.

So, what exactly does influence the political attitudes among the youth? What factors enable or disable the selection of a particular government? On what issues will an average voter cast his or her vote in the favour of one neglecting the other party? This section aims to understand some of these factors-

- **RELIGION-** religious ideations, beliefs and orientation is the biggest factor that influences political attitudes of an individual. A party specifically in India that aligns with the religious goals of the voter is more likely to perform better in the states as we have seen in the last decade or at least in the seven years.
- **POLITICAL IDEOLOGY-** right wing or leftist, liberal or conservative, secular or non- secular, we have all heard these terms in the past years. Political ideation is easy to live with if the voter is most likely to have high levels of tolerance where religious outrages, polarization and minor inconveniences can be ignored.
- **MEDIA INFLUENCES-** how media projects a particular candidate, ministerial candidate and those for lower-level elections are competitive enough, their past records, public-image, personality plays a huge role in the voter's attitude towards shortlisting a candidate for in the favour voting.
- **GENDER, RACE & ETHNICITY-** ethnic core values, race and ethnicity determine how a voter and his or her political attitudes will be evident in an election result. Certain races are more inclined towards a particular party because some leader for example has been fruitful for their racial community in the past.
- **DEVELOPMENT ISSUES-** if we talk about the youth of India, or any country in particular, they are more likely to vote for and in the name of development than religion or political ideology. For the youth, employment opportunity, living standards, education facilities, easy access of resources, healthcare and infra are major issues as compared to religious politics and politics of appeasement. The youth, thank fully is better able to comprehend and understand the real issues prevalent in the country rather than backing up on the superficial ones that makes them a better selector of the government and avoid herd- following.
- **PRIME-MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE-** usually in a democratic country like India, there is a huge importance of prime-ministerial candidate, as he or she has to run the country for a full term of 5 years. What most matters are the qualities of the PM- candidate of the party that attempts to win the election. The overall personality traits, ability to connect well with the public, ability to fulfil the points mentioned in the manifesto, awareness of the country's issues and the ability to understand them

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well are some of the factors that a voter would like to keep in mind before going to vote for their PM – candidate.

Personality Traits of The Current Prime Minister Along with Dominant Leadership Styles

Since 2014, till now the country has seen various instances of the dominant personality traits of the present prime- minister, so much so that various political analysts have commented that he is the only face or the sole representative of the ruling party. Well dominance in its absolute sense might be taken as a negative consequence in the short run, when leadership aspects are concerned, effective and efficient personality traits and leadership styles.

People are more likely to build an emotional connect with a leader who is outgoing, fierce, has a hardcore work ethic, has good oratory skills. These traits are more evident in the current prime-minister. If political psychologists were to analyse the track, the prominent BJP leaders have been good with their oratory skills and hardcore strong work ethic. The strong work ethic is rooted in the parent organisation of the BJP, the Sangh or the RSS. Prominent leaders have been active enough in the day-to-day activities of the Sangh's shakha. What the analysts are also positive about is the fact that in both the terms, 2014 and 2019, the BJP was able to develop a strong emotional connect courtesy the prime- minister's approachable image and larger than life image. Most people of the country in accordance to various surveys conducted, have been of the view that the PM is the most dependable candidate for ruling the country.

People have across the second terms realised that the decisions and the action plan of the party since 2019, have been stalled due to the external factors in a lot of matters. The action plan and strategies of the party needs amends and too much external pressure has been made to deviate the party from achieving the goals. Youth surveys have also, to some extents have showed that the present government is bound too much with religious and political aspirations rather than development which was the actual manifesto of the party.

The personality of the current PM can be strengthened with the following traits-

- **WITTY-** In an interview of 2019, a Muslim anchor of a leading news channel asked a question worded “what do you think you have done for the betterment of the Muslim population in India over the last term?” he answered “I have done nothing for Muslims and neither have I done anything for the betterment of Hindus either, I have, in my previous term worked for the betterment of each and every Indian with utmost dedication.” This response in a national interview shows his quick- witted nature and on the spot presence of mind, which makes him easily acceptable and fun to watch on television.
- **INTROVERT-** Although we have seen that the PM has been active on social media, for many instances, even before most of the people and political leaders, his tweets and Facebook updates are evident. Then what kind of introversion are we talking about? It is the kind of person the PM is in his personal space. This is evident in his daily routine and his social circle. With managing on a daily 4–5-hour sleep cycle, the PM is known to have strict work schedule which leaves him no time to socialise or engaging in family gatherings like the ex- president of the US.
- **WORKAHOLIC-** Famous among his counterparts, for his no-nonsensical approach towards work commitments, his 18- hour work scheduling, the then president of the US remarked “the prime-minister of the largest democracy ought to work for 16-18

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hours daily, he is the aspiration of 1.25 billion people of India.” Even the national media has it where the people on many occasions made aware of the back-to-back lined up talks and meetings and national and international tours. The Pm is probably the only representative of India to have visited countries like GHANA for strengthening bilateral and financial ties.

- SELF- RELIANT – Whether it was setting up the strategic plan of action for the 2016 surgical strike or the 2019 Balakot air strikes, the very nature of keeping these high- intensity operations totally covert, even considering the fact that the only involved people apart from the PM were, the armed forces chiefs, the defence minister and the NSA, shows how the PM likes to keep it small, crisp and to the point about major plans till they are executed perfectly as planned.
- EMOTIONAL – Though many political analysts have portrayed this trait of the PM as too overwhelming and unnecessary at various occasions, psychologists might think otherwise. He has been observed being emotional and upfront about his struggles during the childhood and how he was different from the rest of the children of his age. His acceptance of his traits, openly makes him a perfect candidate for the Prime ministerial post till date.
- RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL- Needless to say, the country has seen the PM visiting almost each and every temple, visiting the mosque on the request of the Bohri Muslims, performing the shilanyas pooja of the Ram Mandir, recently we also saw him visiting the Sis Ganj Gurudwara during the pandemic, his religious and spiritual inclinations are well evident.

Leadership Style of The Current Pm

On observation, the PM is more dominant on the transformative and charismatic leadership style but his personality also shows traits of democratic and authoritative leadership style. With great oratory skills, he is better able to connect to people on an emotional level, he knows how to pull the crowd, which the leaders of opposition are unaware of. The art of talking and making connect has been truly beneficial for him. It has been evident in the election results and various rallies and election campaigns. On various diplomatic relations platforms, conferences, UN addresses, his crisp, witty and informed style of communication is evident.

During one such interview when he said ***“WE DON’T BELIEVE IN THREATENING SOMEONE, NOR DO WE BELIEVE IN BEING SUBMISSIVE, WE WILL COMMUNICATE STRICTLY WITH WHAT WE STAND FOR”**** sent across a loud and clear message across the globe showing charisma and authority more than arrogance, it showed acceptance, and a fearless attitude in tackling tough cross border situations. This statement in itself is a live example of authoritative leadership style in its very essence. He has been seen holding interactive sessions on tackling and managing stress and preparing well during the class 12th exams with a series called as Pariksha pe Charcha. Many psychologists might characterize this under the transformative leadership style. The PM’s Mann Ki Baat is also a similar example. (***Not the literal translation**).

In its true essence, a leader who understands the need of effective communication, is easily accessible and available, speaks about strengthening international relations and defence forces of the country, in many instances, under such leadership, the country can prosper and move ahead towards development in many ways. But what is a matter of concern with such a leadership style is that with a transformative and a charismatic style, comes great

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responsibility, and the general public becomes too dependable and easy on the general duties, evidence of which is visible in the hill stations of India, where there is clear lack of applicability of Covid-19 protocols inviting the onset of third wave of Covid-19. No human is perfect and this holds true for everyone including the ruling PM. His strict work ethic and routine bound traditional scheduling has been problematic with many of the officials. This holds true because not every human is equipped to match the strict work scheduling and on the toes workaholic profiling. A recent trend that is evident in the leadership style of the PM is regular cabinet reshuffling. The central cabinet of the ministers has been shuffled about three times in the past seven years or so. The idea behind is to lessen the mundane working style and gaining fresh perspectives so that development can be quick and efficient, some tough and important decisions can be taken.

METHODOLOGY

Sample

For the present study, 30 individuals both males and females aged between 22-28 were contacted. A self-designed political attitude questionnaire which was subjective in nature was administered using telephonic interview and online form, keeping in mind the ongoing pandemic. An online consent form was circulated through the e-mail IDs obtained.

The total sample comprised of 17 males and 13 females with a mean age of 25.7 for males and 25.4 for females. The age range for both the genders was 22-28 years only. Individuals with any kind of mental disability were excluded and youth associated with any kind of political activities were excluded.

Procedure

The participants were approached through word of mouth and social media forwards. When the aim of the research was informed and an ice breaker about the trending political attitudes took place successfully, a consent form mentioning the purpose of the research and the audio recording of the responses for those who opted for a telephonic interview was explained. The same was sent via e-mail to all the participants.

Out of the 30 participants, 21 responses were obtained through the telephonic interview and the rest 09 were obtained through google forms. Responses were then recorded verbatim organised into transcripts and then coded to themes for final interpretation.

Analysis

The data obtained was analysed using qualitative thematic analysis. The online responses were analysed by transcribing them on paper line by line. For online responses, coding of the responses was carried out in a word document. Data was clubbed and converted into broader themes, clubbed into organising themes carrying similar interpretation of ideas, the table of which is included in the results section.

RESULTS

Table 01- showing the basic and the organising themes of the political attitudes of the youth.

BASIC THEMES	ORGANISING THEMES
More than the government, it is a combined failure. Public, government, healthcare everyone failed at their respective levels.	Combined failure with poor level of execution.

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BASIC THEMES	ORGANISING THEMES
Lack of resources and poor allocation of resources Government has taken steps, but late implementation created a havoc.	
Major effect on the government's accountability. Current scenario will likely have an effect on future elections The government's credibility is in question.	Current scenario most likely to affect the future polls and the ruling government's stature.
The ruling government has in the past gained its trust by following a nationalist approach. Various schemes and interventions have had a positive progression in the country. The ruling government has been successfully able to establish international diplomatic relations.	Positive interventions that can garner back the public's trust.
General public is non-cooperative. Non-compliance is a major issue. Covid protocols not being followed religiously. Public negligence is a major contributing factor towards the prolonged pandemic.	Public factors hindering the pandemic's management.
Nationalism and defence pro government- a major bliss for the country Development plans under process but lack of implementation delays infrastructural development. Major decisions – political, social and international have been undertaken and implemented by the present government.	What is strengthening the government's hold?
Emotional connect a major contributing factor towards the current PM's fondness. Hardworking and stoic personality is one of the reasons there is no alternative currently for the present Prime-Ministerial candidate. The PM seems to be an easily accessible post, with great oratory skills, hence the connect.	What makes the current PM the preferred candidate for the Prime- Minister's post?
Religious polarization is prominent. Religious sides are affecting the current voting trends.	Religious factors majorly affect the nation's progress.
Religion is a sensitive issue. Politicisation of religious issues lead to religious voting and that is how vote bank works.	
Education, employment, job security major concerns.	Youth issues are major than religion and nationalism alone.

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BASIC THEMES	ORGANISING THEMES
<p>Unemployment is rising. Reservation to be based on economic standing than social divide.</p>	
<p>PM's leadership style is welcoming as an Indian. The PM candidate has a charismatic nature; hence people are well connected. Great oratory skills of the current Prime-Minister. Sense of belongingness because of emotional connect.</p>	<p>The PM's character strengths, that are in his favour.</p>
<p>Nationalism necessary to move forward with pride. Nationalism instils a sense of awareness and conscience of right and wrong. Some elements trying to widen the religious gap with over usage of influential vocabulary. New words like intolerance, nationalist, tolerance, fascism, bhakt, pseudo intellectuals and anti- national are being used unnecessarily.</p>	<p>The concept of nationalism- what to expect?</p>
<p>Mental health is a major issue with the youth. Surviving with mental issues especially during the pandemic is a challenge. The ruling government fares better in understanding mental health than the previous governments. Delighted to read the amended mental health act 2017. We need more mental health professionals. Insurance for covering mental- health treatment and therapeutic sessions. More awareness needed than negligence.</p>	<p>Mental health of the youth is a serious issue.</p>
<p>Depression Anxiety Restlessness Lack of focus Challenging time for the elderly with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Individuals with intellectual disabilities are at stake. Few helplines just a temporary solution. Suicide ideations is a matter of concern.</p>	<p>Possible mental health issues the country can face during the ongoing pandemic.</p>
<p>Increasing awareness. Exercising self- control. Compliance and cooperation.</p>	<p>The role of the citizens in curbing the effects of the pandemic.</p>

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BASIC THEMES	ORGANISING THEMES
Practicing Covid- appropriate behaviour. Understanding that it is a combined effort and there is no single stake- holder.	

DISCUSSION

The aim of the present research is to examine and explore how the political attitudes have fared in the past seven years amongst the youth through a qualitative analysis. For the present study, 30 individuals both males and females aged between 22-28 were contacted. A self-designed political attitude questionnaire which was subjective in nature was administered using telephonic interview and online form, keeping in mind the ongoing pandemic. Transcripts were formulated into codes and themes were analysed on the basis of the same. This research paper is an attempt to explore how political attitudes are important when we have a democratic structure and when there are various opinions, differences, conflicts and ideologies in a country that votes and chooses one among a multi-party system. Psychologists and personality profiling assessments conducted on PM Narendra Modi indicated that it is indeed due to his hardcore work ethic, strong team building skills, effective and efficient communication style, visionary and future oriented approach as and when required were major qualities that along with his transformative leadership style worked wonders for him.

Political attitudes may be defined as values and belief systems of individuals, groups or community of people towards a particular orientation which are definitive of the behavioural and political orientation and ideation, often indicative of the social structure. Political attitudes are important because of the fact that they enable the people to decide and select a particular leadership which according to them would ensure a good governance in the near future. A set of doctrines, ideals, ethical set of rules or orientation towards a political ideation of thought and belief system can be defined as a political ideology.

Political attitudes which are practiced in a country are more likely to be affected by a lot of factors in the long run. Demographic variables, personality attitudes, religious attributes and beliefs, spiritual inclination, patriotism, social standing and status, development agendas regarding infrastructure, healthcare and education, religious representation are some of the major contributing factors that influence an average voter of a country.

So, what exactly does influence the political attitudes among the youth? What factors enable or disable the selection of a particular government? On what issues will an average voter cast his or her vote in the favour of one neglecting the other party?

Religion, Political Ideology, Media Influences, Gender, Race & Ethnicity, Development Issues & Prime-Ministerial Candidate are some of these factors.

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Out of the 30 participants, 21 responses were obtained through the telephonic interview and the rest 09 were obtained through google forms. Responses were then recorded verbatim organised into transcripts and then coded to themes for final interpretation. The data obtained was analysed using qualitative thematic analysis. The online responses were analysed by transcribing them on paper line by line. For online responses, coding of the responses was carried out in a word document. Data was clubbed and converted into broader themes, clubbed into organising themes carrying similar interpretation of ideas, the table of which is included in the results section.

The set of self- designed political questionnaire consisted of 13 questionnaires which were subjective in nature. The first question revolved around the youth's idea about how well did they think that the ruling government has been able to tackle the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. There was a varied range of responses that were recorded but most of them majorly indicated towards the fact that Covid-19 strategizing and failure is a combined issue where not one stakeholder can be blamed, however the government, the public, failed healthcare system, poor allocation of resources and implementation. These responses somewhere indicate that the general idea of the youth revolves around the themes that the youth realises that the government is not the only responsible stake holder in the combined failure, furthermore, despite healthcare management allocation and implementation of the available resources have been a major issue. The state vs the centre debate of who is responsible did nothing worthwhile but delayed the allocation process for the population.

The second question was concerned about how the current course would have an effect on the upcoming elections and how it would affect the success rate of the current ruling government. Major responses revolved around the idea that although, the ruling government has been known in the country to have taken tough decisions in the past, but the mismanagement due to which there has been advent of the second Covid-19 pandemic along with a third expectant wave, has been due to which there has been a sense of the fact that this will to a large extent have a great impact on the upcoming elections, this has also made a huge effect on the accountability and credibility of the ruling government, if not at present but in future. This is indicative of the idea that the youth has shown a sense of awareness that the Covid mismanagement will have an effect as it is directly affecting the credibility and accountability of the ruling government.

The third question revolved around the theme where it was asked if, emotions, security and trust along-with nationalism is a major factor in the ongoing progression of the ruling government's rule. The responses recorded were in the favour of the ruling government, suggesting that it is due to the efforts of the government, that India is being recognised diplomatically and internationally, something which most of the Indians were trying to establish since about 14-15 odd years. At present, we have our own niche, and diplomatic say in the United Nations and for that, we need a strong leadership who is emotionally connected and aware of the issues of the country, how to raise them, how to leave a mark, and how to deliver the right message internationally. For many of the Indians, this government has been successfully able to strengthen the nationalist sentiments and we as

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youth are better able to understand and connect with the armed forces and security forces of the country, the respect, patriotism, gratitude seems to be at an all-time high during this period. However, what is worth noticing is also the fact that, the present ruling government has been able to take several difficult decisions, but for some interventions and policies designed, there seems to be a presence of lack of proper implementation and execution, which is creating a havoc in the names of protests and peace talks.

The fourth question indicated about the lack of preparedness and precautions on the level of the general public/ population. Even for this very question, a wide range of responses were obtained but majorly revolved around the idea that indicated that due to lack of compliance and general cooperativeness, the participants also accepted that there is lack of following of the covid-19 protocols, which is a major contributing factor towards the ongoing pandemic with a third- expectant wave.

In view of the current debate of democracy vs dictatorship, another subjective question revolved around how well the satisfaction fares in terms of democracy and authority in view of the current ruling government. Again, a wide- range of responses were elicited, majorly hinted towards the themes that, the present government has a nationalist approach and image, because of which the country's defence system has developed and strengthened well in the past 7 years or so, new diplomatic deals have been locked, defence equipment have been procured. We saw how Rafael has been the matter of great pride in the squadron. This way the government has somewhere managed to gain their trust back along side keeping the developmental projects rolling despite the pandemic, however with the major issue of lack of proper execution.

To ensure variability in the research, a question regarding what are the strengths of the current PM that is currently strengthening the democratic rule in India, a varied range of responses was obtained majorly indicated that with good oratory skills come with great emotional connect. Just because the current PM is easily active on social media and easily accessible stature makes it easy for the general public to follow. As mentioned in the section of personality profiling his hard-core work ethic, traditionalist approach towards work and targets is helping him grow politically as well.

While interviewing, a sensitive question was formed to elicit themes and ideas around religion and religious sensitivity currently. The responses elicited are of no surprise as they centre around the acceptance that there is religious polarization which by-large affects the voting trends. There is evidence of religious sensitivity which derails the country from concentrating on the real issues of unemployment, reservation and educational prospects. Also, the responses obtained hinted towards the fact that nationalism alone cannot work wonders for the development of the country but addressing and being vocal about the real issues like unemployment, job security, equal pay and infrastructural development have to be the real issues to cater to.

While keeping in mind about what the participants thought about the nationalistic trend that is faring and what effect does this have on the youth, most of the sample size believed that yes, addressing and accepting nationalism is one of the ways but not the only way to move forward towards the development of the nation. Having a nationalistic approach towards the betterment of the country instils a sense of conscience among the citizens. Youth responses trends also highlights that nationalism according to the study should not be evident for sports but being patriotic should be a way of life away from any political ideology.

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Influential or new terminology such as usage of words like tolerance and intolerance, bhakt, national and antinational, pseudo- intellectuals, fascist and others has created an unnecessary havoc in the overall living environment of the country since the present government has come to power.

Some questions were asked about the mental health issues and its importance for the youth especially in the pandemic that is currently going on. Youth responses highlighted towards the themes surrounding the acceptance that mental health is as important as physical health, major mental health issues have been on a rise especially during the pandemic. The participants believed that majorly issues regarding depression, anxiety, lack of focus, suicide ideations were at a larger side to be prominent enough for attention. Furthermore, it was found that the amended mental health act of 2017, is a comprehensive win for the population and that considering the budget allocation for mental health in itself is a win for the country. To conclude, a question was asked about how is it possible for the youth to help curb the effects of the currently ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Responses included that the most important factor was increasing awareness, compliance, cooperation, practicing social distancing norms and exercising self- control along with practicing covid appropriate behaviour. It is well evident that the youth is aware of the major issues that are surfacing in the country and they believe that these issues to a larger extent effect the voting trends, percentage, the voter turnout and the rate of progression in the country.

CONCLUSION

Political attitudes may be defined as values and belief systems of individuals, groups or community of people towards a particular orientation which are definitive of the behavioural and political orientation and ideation, often indicative of the social structure. Political attitudes are important because of the fact that they enable the people to decide and select a particular leadership which according to them would ensure a good governance in the near future. A set of doctrines, ideals, ethical set of rules or orientation towards a political ideation of thought and belief system can be defined as a political ideology. what exactly does influence the political attitudes among the youth? What factors enable or disable the selection of a particular government? On what issues will an average voter cast his or her vote in the favour of one neglecting the other party? **Religion, Political Ideology, Media Influences, Gender, Race & Ethnicity, Development Issues & Prime-Ministerial Candidate** are some of these factors. Out of the 30 participants, 21 responses were obtained through the telephonic interview and the rest 09 were obtained through google forms. Responses were then recorded verbatim organised into transcripts and then coded to themes for final interpretation.

The data obtained was analysed using qualitative thematic analysis. The online responses were analysed by transcribing them on paper line by line. For online responses, coding of the responses was carried out in a word document. Data was clubbed and converted into broader themes, clubbed into organising themes carrying similar interpretation of ideas, the table of which is included in the results section. Major themes revolved around lack of execution and implementation, increased accountability and credibility, the current PM's strategic and traditional approach for an emotional connect, that nationalism is an important factor but not the only probable factor for the country's growth, and that unemployment, education and job security are bigger issues to address to name a few. What we also concluded from the data was that religious polarization also derails the country's progress and this emerges in the voting trends.

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Conflict of Interest

The author(s) declared no conflict of interest.

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