

## POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Proff. V. R. RATHOD**

Assistant Professor  
Arts-Commerce College, Yeoda Dist Amravati

### Abstract:

The 21st century is often referred to as the Knowledge Century. Nowadays, young people dedicate a significant portion of their time to various social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter. It is widely recognized that these platforms have become new sources of information, gradually evolving into a means of acquiring knowledge. Given that India boasts one of the world's youngest populations, this study aims to investigate the level of political awareness among undergraduate students who are approximately 20 years old.

Political socialization is a crucial aspect of an individual's development in a democratic society. However, the rigid and exam-focused education system has produced literate students without truly educating them. As an educator, I have observed that undergraduate students in universities often feel disconnected from the real world. They underutilize their smartphones and fail to harness the potential for gaining knowledge.

This pilot study was conducted to gauge the political awareness among sixth-semester undergraduate students in the Humanities and Social Sciences department. Respondents were selected using a lottery method, ensuring a random and unbiased sample.

**Keywords:** Political Awareness, Social Media, Political Socialization

### Introduction

As a citizen of India, it is imperative for every individual to possess knowledge about their political leaders. Article 326 of the Indian Constitution defines that every person who reaches the age of 18 becomes a responsible Indian citizen. Originally, after Independence, the constitutional age for this responsibility was set at 21 years but was later reduced to 18 years through the 61st Constitutional Amendment Act of 1988.

This study aims to investigate the level of basic knowledge among undergraduate students in colleges affiliated with Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University regarding their political leaders, including the Prime Minister, Chief Minister, and other designated ministers. It is assumed that undergraduate students should possess a fundamental understanding of these political figures.

One of the key questions to be explored during this research is whether the younger generation is utilizing the numerous sources of information available to them to acquire this knowledge. Additionally, we will examine whether new media platforms are genuine sources of knowledge in the context of political awareness.

By conducting this study, we hope to gain insights into the political knowledge, awareness, and attitudes of undergraduate students and assess the role of new media as a source of information for them.

### Objectives of Study:

1. To Understand the Political Awareness among the under graduate students
2. To explore about their knowledge towards basic political designations

### Significance of the study:

This study will help to know about the Political Awareness among students of affiliated colleges in Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University. This study will be helpful to develop policy document as a part of curriculum development.

### Review of Literature:

Lazarsfeld F.Poul in his work, The most prevalent discovery in the realm of political behavior is the correlation between higher income groups or socioeconomic status and increased political awareness and participation. Similarly, individuals within the same socioeconomic stratum tend to share similar political attitudes. This observation mirrors the findings of L. F. Poul and proved valuable for the researcher in aligning the attitudes of individuals with the same socioeconomic status within the studied area.

Pandhya K. S. and Choudhary S. A research investigation disclosed that in the state of Orissa, there exists a positive correlation between students' grades and age, and their level of political awareness. It was observed that male students exhibited a higher degree of political awareness compared to their female counterparts. Additionally, it was found that the political awareness of students increased with the higher socioeconomic status of their families.

The study conducted by K.S. Pandhya exclusively focused on assessing the political awareness of students in Orissa, without considering the influence of family socioeconomic status. Conversely, in the Koppal district, the socioeconomic status of the family played a significant role in determining the level of political awareness among students.

On the other hand, among adults, there was an observed decline in political interest and a corresponding decrease in political awareness as they advanced in age.

### Methodology

This study is used for descriptive research method. The study has applied sampling random method. A total 100 student respondents studying in semester – VI during current academic year has been selected as sample respondents from under graduate departments of Humanities and Social Sciences from affiliated colleges for the Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University such as Political Science, Economics, Sociology, History, English. The sample size is 120 under graduate students studying in semester VI during the current academic year. This sampling was done through lottery method with proportion of boys and girls respondents. The primary data collection method was used for study. A structured questionnaire has been developed for data collection. The following table shows universe and sample for the study which represents boys and girls in their proportions.

### Analysis of data :

Parametric statistic technique were use for this study for the analysis of data.

Table 1.1 Political Awareness about National Level across respondents

	Statement of political Awareness	Aware	Not Aware	Total
1	Name of the Present President of India	35	65	100
2	Name of the Present Prime Minister of India	87	13	100
3	Number of the Present Seat of Lok Sabha	04	96	100
4	Number of the Present Seat of Rajya Sabha	03	97	100
5	Name of present lok sabha speaker	11	89	100
6	Name of present human resource minister	02	98	100
7	Name of present foreign minister	19	81	100
8	Name of present defense minister	07	93	100
9	Name of your lok sabha seat	12	88	100
10	Name of your lok sabha member	20	80	100
11	Your lok sabha member which political party connected	31	69	100

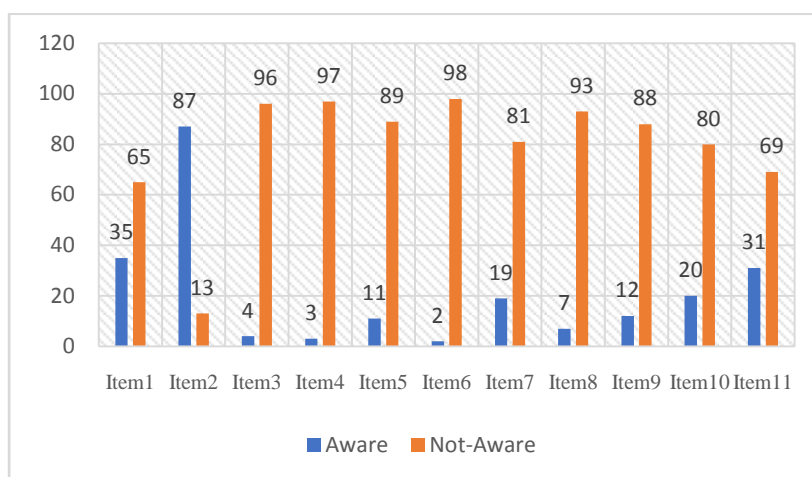
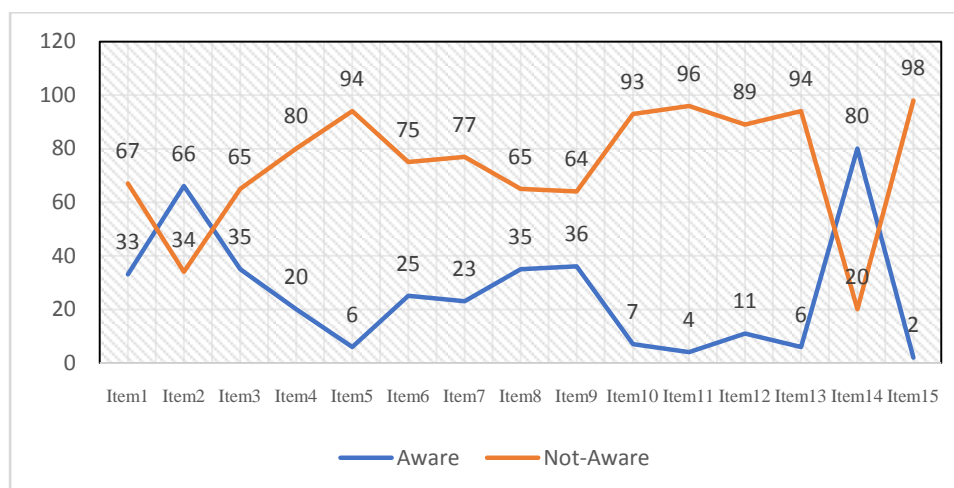


Table 1.2 Political Awareness about State Level across respondents

	Statement of political Awareness in state level	Aware	Not Aware	Total
1	Name of present Governor of state	33	67	100
2	Name of present Chief Minister	66	34	100
3	Name of the present Deputy Chief Minister	35	65	100
4	Number of Assembly seats in the state	20	80	100
5	Name of present assembly speaker	06	94	100
6	Name of Present Education minister	25	75	100
7	Name of your assembly constituency seat	23	77	100
8	Name of your present minister legislative assembly member	35	65	100
9	MLA of your constituency is associated with which politicaly	36	64	100
10	Name of the present finance minister of state	07	93	100
11	Name of the present Home minister of state	04	96	100
12	How many seats of lok Sabha is in your state	11	89	100
13	How many seats of Rajaya Sabha is in your state	06	94	100
14	At what age you get right to vote	80	20	100
15	Name of your district collector	02	98	100



### Conclusion:

In this research endeavor, the investigator posed 26 inquiries to individuals at both the national and state levels concerning prominent political figures and important ministers. Interestingly, none of the participants managed to provide correct responses to all the questions. A mere 2% of the respondents were able to answer 22 questions accurately. Surprisingly, a significant 80% demonstrated awareness of the legal voting age in the country, even though universal adult suffrage is practiced.

The study's findings indicated that respondents exhibited a higher level of familiarity with the names of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister, whereas their awareness dwindled when it came to other significant political designations.

The researcher devised a scoring system to gauge the respondents' level of awareness. Out of the total of 92 respondents, those who correctly answered only 1 to 8 questions were classified as having a lower level of awareness, constituting 74.2% of the total respondents. Meanwhile, 28 respondents who answered 9 to 16 questions correctly were deemed somewhat aware, making up 22% of the total respondents.

Upon employing statistical tools, the study concluded that there was no substantial association between gender and social group concerning political awareness.

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