

## **Educational Slabs and Vote for Political Parties: An Empirical Evidence of South Punjab (Pakistan)**

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### **Abstract**

*Education plays pivotal role in all spheres of life. It is considered the most important factor to mobilize and promote the intensity of interaction among the masses that leads to the democratization of the society. It is believed that education and democracy are both interlinked and interdependent. Higher the rate of education, higher the awareness level which leads to promote interactions, social and political mobility. These are the basic fabrics to democratize a society. The paper is aimed to investigate the level of interdependency between educational slabs and voter's decision to cast vote or not during elections. It will also manage to measure statistically how education plays role to develop correlation with political determinants. The study will also tabulate the impact of both education and residence of the voters over his preference to mark a check on the ballot.*

**Keywords:** Education; Voting Behaviour; Elections; Urbanity; Political Party

### **Introduction**

Electoral activity is considered the most important and influential element to promote and internalize the political norms and values in a society. The most powerful tool which electorate can utilize during the elections is ballot to

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support or impeach the candidate or political party's policies. The first and the foremost prerequisite to provide a concrete base for the political values and norms to be established among the masses, is the conduction of elections at proper intervals not only in country but also in political parties. Democratic based political parties contribute much better to develop and promote political culture in a society.

In Pakistan, electoral history is turbulent. Frequent intervention of military in Pakistan's politics, endorsement of unconstitutional moves by superior judiciary, authoritarian political culture of the society, dynastic political parties and the lack of national consensus over basic political values are the main factors that have hampered the political system, norms and values in country. One out of nine constituent assemblies succeeded to complete its constitutional life of five years. It has not only adversely affected the political and electoral culture of Pakistan but also widen a gap between objective voting and voters. That is why the scholarly attention to analyze the behavior of voters in elections is limited. Although some macro level studies are enlisted in the electoral history of Pakistan but bracketing the voter as unit of analyses is very rare. Descriptive electoral studies in few numbers can be traced out in the electoral history of Pakistan. These generalization studies have been conducted by foreign and indigenous scholars under particular perspectives. Empirical work on voting behavior generally in Pakistan and particularly in the South Punjab is very rare to study. In Pakistan, voters' survey data availability is very limited and only few organizations are in the field to survey the voters how and whom they vote for in general elections.

## **Literature Review**

Education is considered a crucial determinant of civic culture and participation in democratic participation. The uneducated man or the man with limited education is a different political actor from the man who has achieved a higher level of education (Almond and Verba, 1989, 315). They believe that political and social approaches of both the clusters are quite different. Educated individual is more aware and conscious to the situation rather than uneducated. Citizen Participation study (1990) conducted in USA reveals correlation between education and political participation. Verba et al. (1993a) is of the opinion that highly educated respondents' participation level to political activities is much more than the respondents of low education level. He is of the view that there is a strong relationship between level of education and level of political participation. Lipset (1959, 1960) believes that higher education promotes democratic politics. He terms democracy as apolitical system which provides chances to change the political actors or governors at proper intervals as per laid in constitution. To elect the representatives for public office political awareness is the prerequisite which based on two important factors including education level and economic stability of individual. But on the other hand Parry analyzing the UK electoral system bracketing the adult as unit of analyses states as the highly educated youth inclination to cast vote in elections is not more than average. He believes that ballot casting deficit in UK is more in the voter's slab acquiring more education and earning well. Parry's collected data also charts that the participation level to voting is not substantial among the poorer respondents

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having university degree (PARRY, G., Moysen, G. & Day, N., 1992). Converse (1964) analyzing the individual beliefs, attitude and values believes that these factors play vital role to develop opinion and stand regarding the particular issue. The question arises whether are there any factors which may make any affect to the individual's approach. His research concludes that only small numbers of respondents ranging to adult group have coherent and stable ideological position. Their political alignment, cleavages and inclinations are shaped and developed with passage of time. Inter-generational and intercity mobility play nothing to reshape their political inclination. Stability level among educated individuals is much greater than less or uneducated individuals. He believes that numbers of social, geographical, political and economical factors play role to shape the individual approach leveling less degree of education.

In advanced countries where democratic norms are internalized and democratic institutions are functioning without any interruption, political knowledge and interest is strongly correlated to education. Education plays pivotal role to shape and develop the political awareness and alignment among the individuals. Although media, stance of political parties over domestic and international issues and the package of delivery to public are the main factors to reconsider the political inclination of the individuals during the elections but the role of education can never be minimize in this regard.

Sharief-ul-Mujahid (1965) analyses the first presidential election of Pakistan in its political perspective. He is of the opinion that first presidential election was not a contest between two individuals but of two ways of life.

Ayub focused on stability and continuity while COP asserted the stability not by person but by system in the country. Mujahid in this article focused on the factors concerning to the national and ideological importance as the campaign of both ends stressed over these issues. He also overviewed the channelization/misuse of the governmental resources during the election. The article did nothing to analyze the behavior of basic democrats in empirical way but in normative manner. Sharief-ul-Mujahid (1971) termed the first general election of Pakistan a trend setter. Election 1970's result showed a radical change in the behavior of voters. Voters tended to vote for parties, not personalities. Voters almost rejected the former military upper brasses in elections and favored the new generation to come forward. Election 1970 was a big blow to the old stalwarts as almost all the big names met to their political end. He concludes that election refuted the Ayub dictum that *democracy is not suited to the particular genius of Pakistan*. In this article Mujahid focused on the ecological pattern of Pakistan polity and the campaigning technique of parties in descriptive manner.

Barki & Baxter (1971), in their research article sought the effects of geni-coefficients on the voters' voting decision. In this way they were able to analyze the level and growth of socio-economic development as the unit of analysis. They are of the opinion that higher the level of development of socio-economic indicators more the inclination of voters towards political parties. They are of the view that voters are more sensitive to issues of utility. Urbanization, industrialization and literacy level are the three main characteristics of their utility model in urban areas. They also framed literacy level, electrification of villages and tube well irrigation in rural areas in their

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research. They observed the behavior of voters under determinants of social factors rather than political factors. They believe that there is a decline of the influence of traditional structure over voters' choice. Analyzing the election 1970, Baxter is of the view that there is sound dent over the influence of landlords, biraderi and tribal connection towards the voters' decision how and whom to vote in election. Voters in election 1970 nullified the political pundits' predictions and a radical change had observed by electing the young and inexperienced legislators. Although Baxter did nothing to fulfill his observation through data but the overall results of election made his observation authenticated to some extent.

Palmer (1975) takes into account the provincial elections 1937 of sub-continent and Pakistan's first adult franchised election 1970 in normative way. He is of the view that involvement of voters in elections is strongly based on the attachments with political entities. He believes that local factors play an important role to formulate the opinion of voters. He classifies the political participation in four categories i.e. apathetic, spectator activities, transitional activities and gladiatorial activities.

Weinbaum (1977) analyzing the controversial election 1977 in Pakistan which according to author left the nation disunities and demoralized, focuses the role of political parties. Both political ends in elections used to highlight the weakness of each other during the campaign. PPP based its campaign over the achievements which it had gained during the regime while the opposition alliance (PNA) stressed on the Islamic revivalism and fired on the dictatorial way of PPP government. The author is of the view that political

consciousness among the voters is seen but the mobilization during the election is based on social variables. Although he gave weight to the role of media and political consciousness among the voters but did not manage to measure the impact of these factors over behavior of voters empirically. Ziring (1993) discussing the election 1977 of Pakistan, points out the importance of political determinants. He takes under discussion the role of political parties, their manifestoes and the role of leaders of parties and their impact over the political mobilization during the election. He concludes that in Pakistan political parties are personality centric. To some extent they collect their support from masses projecting the party leader personality. Bracketing the political factors in descriptive way, author does not manage to make assess the social factors' role in the mobilization of voters during the elections. Ahmed (1982) analyzing the election 1977, focuses on the administrative setup and its pattern of work in the region. The author encircles the number of contestants against the National and provincial assemblies' seats, manifestoes of political parties and the prevailing issues of the time. He believes that elections play vital role to develop and promote political culture in the country. Ahmed, in this study, did not manage to manifest any methodological relationship between these factors to identify the position of voters as how they made decision to vote (Akhtar et al, 2010, 461).

Rais (1985) taking, non- party election 1985 of Pakistan under discussion in normative way, is of opinion that bane on party participation fueled up the influence of social determinants over the electioneering process. Election campaign, particularly in rural areas, was under the grip of local issues, personal attachment of the candidate, ties to clan, tribe or biraderi and

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feudal lords. The party less election inducted 117 members in National Assembly from land lord community, 17 possessing tribal background and 42 from business community, the second largest social group in Pakistan. The election introduced young and comparatively educated politicians to step in parliament along with promoting the social factors to dominate in Pakistan polity.

Kennedy (1991), analyses the election 1988, particularly in Sindh province, under the role of ethnicity. He is of the view that urban-rural partition of voters in Sindh is ethnic based. Urdu speaking voters in Karachi and Hyderabad probably move to poll their votes under the flag of MQM while Sindhi speaking voters did same under the flag of PPP. In election 1988, MQM sweeps in Karachi and Hyderabad, two main centers of Urdu speakers while PPP gains land slide victory in rural Sindh. He states that voters are still stitch to the traditional biases and attachments and not making any attempt to relieve themselves from these clutches. That is why the growth of liberal ideas and institutions are not being made in Sindh.

Ziring (1993) commenting on the election 1993 in Pakistan takes into account the circumstances under which election conducted. He discusses the role of political parties and their leadership during the election. He analyses the participation of voters on the basis of agenda and appeal which political parties made during their campaigns. He is of the view that people turned down the parties which tried to mobilize voters under the tune of religion and other ideological slogans. Voters relatively chose new and preferably secular candidates rather than fundamentalists and conservative minds. Commenting

over the boycott of the election of National Assembly by MQM (Voter turnout in Karachi was 8%) and reconsider its decision to participate in Provincial assembly's election (Voter turnout in Karachi was 70%), he concluded that the major difference of turn out, is both the influence of social and political factors over voters' decisions.

Waseem (1994) takes into account the elections in Pakistan as a legitimizing factor in governance and transfer of authority. He is of the view that active participation of voters in elections of Pakistan is due to the increasing sense of voters about the importance of delivery system. Political mobilization, according to Waseem, is due to the rapid transformation of society and the forming and functioning of government on the basis of elections. His observations are based on the traditionally demarked constituencies, role of parties, electoral strength of political parties and the role of local leadership. Much of his study is focusing the legal and constitutional issues rather than sociological and cultural issues of voters.

Waseem (1994) points out the limited scholarly attention given to voting behavior in Pakistan. He argues that the decline of social sciences in Pakistan has limited the number of students and faculty interest to conduct electoral analyses. Waseem is of the view that scholarly research is still awaited to address the question of how a voter decides to vote under the influence of various primary and secondary commitments operating at both local and extra local levels.

Wilder (1999) conducted an empirical study to provide the detailed analysis of voting behavior in Pakistan since election 1970. He managed to analyze the available electoral data published by the Election Commission of

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Pakistan to get his research design authenticated. He also made interviews from voters and politicians to collect qualitative and quantitative data in this regard. He beautifully tried to provide the answer to the question “who is voting for whom and why?” Wilder is also of the view that Pakistani voters also give weight to the political determinants rather than social determinants to decide whom to vote in elections.

Keeping in view the limited scholarly attention to analyze the voting behavior of Pakistani voters in general and the South Punjab's voters in particular, this research has focused to look into the micro level factors those affect the decision of voters under the jurisdiction of Southern Punjab.

### **Research Methodology**

To investigate the correlation between educational slabs and vote for political parties in GE 2013 on micro level, in the jurisdiction of southern Punjab, an empirical study has been conducted. Questionnaire base collected data has been analyzed availing qualitative and quantitative research tools.

### **Profile of the Study Area**

Punjab is the most populous province of Pakistan. Geographically it is divided into three regions namely upper, central and lower or southern. Southern region is composed of three administrative divisions namely Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan. It encircles about 51% of Punjab land and shares population more than 31%. Literacy rate in Punjab province is almost 60% (Pakistan Economic Survey, 2011-12). Majority of population is settled in rural areas. Punjabi and Saraiki are the main local languages of the area. To collect primary data randomly one district from each division is selected.

Vehari, Rahim Yar Khan and RajanPur districts are chosen as study areas from Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan Divisions respectively. For this purpose, all latest available resources are channelized including emails and telephonic interviews. Local NGOs are engaged in these districts to collect the data. BHCs and RHCs in rural areas and community centers in urban areas are focused to collect for the purpose.

Respondents are categorized with respect to education in five slabs. Respondents acquiring religious education numbered one, up to middle class(eight years education) numbered two, up to intermediate(twelve years education) numbered three , bachelor and above (fourteen years education and above) numbered four and the respondents acquiring technical education numbered five.

### **Data Source**

Questionnaire in English and Urdu is designed looping into academia and experts. A pilot survey conducted to access the validity of the questionnaire and to find the loopholes. For the purpose, twenty-five respondents were approached. The necessary amendments were made in the light of pilot survey feedback. Then the questionnaire served to both male and female voters bracketing the age limit 26 years and above settled in rural and urban areas of southern Punjab.

During the survey more than two thousand people were approached following the simple random sampling technique. It was decided earlier to interview the respondents from all three districts in equal numbers. One thousand three hundred and twelve respondents responded during the survey.

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The collected data first codified and then regressed statistically availing SPSS 16 software.

### **Model Specification**

To analyze the collected primary data OLS regression technique is employed. In this regard, following Econometric model is used for multiple regressions.

$$Y_i = \alpha + \beta_1 X_1 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \mu_i$$

$Y_i$  is the dependent variable (casting vote in favoure of political determinants in GE 2008),  $X_1$  is the explanatory variable,  $\alpha$  is the intercept term and  $\beta_1$  represents the partial regression coefficient and  $\mu_i$  is a random term which satisfies all the assumptions of OLS technique.

We have to investigate the impact of educational slabs over voting behavior of voters in GE 2008 with respect to their settlement status. Others socio-economic variables are also included in the model. The functional equation is given as under.

$$VCPP8 = f[\text{SEX, RSDNC, AGEI, AGEII, AGEIII, AGEIV, EDUI, EDUII, EDUIII, EDUIV, EDUV, INCM I, INCM II, INCM III, INCM IV, INCM V, INCM VI, VT08Y, VT08N, CHPRT08, PDYN08, ETHNC08, BRDRSM08, RLGSV08, BRHD08, DVLMP M08}]$$

### **Description of Variables**

Variables selection is the most important segment for the authentication of regression model. The study includes dependent variable

(Vote to Political Party in GE 2008) to be analyzed with respect to numbers of demographic explanatory variables. 3<sup>rd</sup> educational slab (up to 12 years) is considered as a reference slab. Table 1 briefly describes the variables and their hypothesized relationship fulfilling the model requisites.

**Table 1: List of Variables, their Description and Relationship**

<b>DEPENDENT VARIABLE</b>	<b>DISCRIPTION</b>	
<b>VCPP8</b>	Cast vote to support political parties in GE 2008	
<b>INDEPENDENT VARIABLES</b>	<b>DSICRIPTION</b>	<b>HYPOTHESIZED RELATIONSHIP</b>
SEX	=1 If one is male, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
RSDNC	=If one is settled in rural area, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
AGEI	=1 if one is in age bracket of 26-35 years, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
AGEII	=1 if one is in age bracket of 36-45 years, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
AGEIII	=1 if one is in age bracket of 46-55 years, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
AGEIV	=1 if one is in age bracket of 56 and above years, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
EDUI	= 1 if educated with religious education, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
EDUII	= 1 If educated up to middle, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
EDUIII	= 1 If educated up to intermediate, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
EDUIV	=1 If educated bachelor and above, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
EDUV	= 1 If educated with professional education, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
INCM I	=1 if one is earning up to 6000 PKR, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
INCM II	=1 if one is earning up to 15000 PKR, 0	POSITIVE

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	otherwise	
INCMIII	=1 if one is earning up to 24000 PKR, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
INCMIV	=1 if one is earning up to 32000PKR, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
INCMV	=1 if one is earning above 32000 PKR, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
INCMVI	=1 if one is not to disclose one's income, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
VT08Y	=1 if one is casting vote in GE 2008, 0 otherwise	POSITIVE
VT08N	=1 if one is not casting vote in GE 2008, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
CHPRT08	=1 if one is casting vote considering the character and personality of candidate important, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
PDYN08	=1 if one is casting vote considering political dynasty of candidate important, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
ETHNC08	=1 if one is casting vote considering the ethnic background of candidate important, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
BRDRSM08	=1 if one is casting vote considering the biraderi of candidate important, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
RLGSV08	=1 if one is casting vote considering the religious views of candidate important, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
BRHD08	=1 if one is casting vote under the decision of biraderi chief, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE
DVLMPM08	=1 if one is casting vote considering the developmental manifesto of candidate important, 0 otherwise	NEGATIVE

### **Descriptive Statistics of Variables**

Table 2 describes the mean and standard deviation of the variables encircled in the model. On average 0.40, and 0.60 respondents settled in rural and urban areas respectively, in the sample at 49 percent variability about mean. During the survey respondents of age more than 26 years were approached. On the average 0.41 respondents are of the age between 26-35 years, 0.32 respondents with age bracketing 36-45 years and the variability percent about the mean are 49 and 46 percent respectively. While the respondents in the collected primary data is 0.18 and 0.07 on average are between 46-55 years and 56 years and above respectively and the variation levels about mean are 38 and 26 percent. Questionnaire of the survey categorized the education slabs up to five. On average 0.06, 0.31 and 0.33 respectively are the respondents acquiring education with religious, up to middle and up to intermediate respectively while their variation level about mean are 25, 46 and 47 percent. Respondents in the collected primary data on average 0.04 and 0.12 are highly educated and professionals at variation about 31 and 20 percent respectively. On average 0.12 respondents are illiterate at variation level about 38 percent of the mean. Per month earning of the respondents are categorized in five levels in the survey questionnaire. On average, 0.16 and 0.43 respondents are those whom monthly income is below 6000 PKR and those who do not disclose their income level in their given information, are 37 and 49 percent respectively. 0.16 and 0.21 respondents, on average, are those, whom per month earning is up to 15000 PKR and 24000 PKR respectively at variation levels of 40 and 27 percent respectively. While the respondents on average in the collected primary data are 0.6 and 0.3 of who earn their monthly income

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up to 32000 PKR and above 32000 PKR respectively at variation levels about mean 27% and 24%. Collected primary data discloses that on average 0.63 respondents are those who cast their votes in GE 2008 and variation level about mean of them is 49%.to over view the preferences of voters in GE 2008 some socio-economic variable were also elaborated in the questionnaire. On average 0.8, 0.5 and 0.2 respondents are those whom cast their vote keeping in view the character, political dynasty and ethnic background of the candidate at 27, 22 and 16 percent variation levels respectively. Some respondents support the candidate due to the beraderism (0.8), homo-sect (0.2), under the decision of biraderi chief (0.15) and keeping in view the developmental manifesto of the candidate (0.4) at variation levels 28%, 16%, 36% and 20% respectively.

**Table 2 Descriptive Statistics of Variables**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
SEX	.80	.00	1.00	.40013
RSDNC	.40	.00	1.00	.49099
AGEI	.41	.00	1.00	.49317
AGEII	.32	.00	1.00	.46915
AGEIII	.18	.00	1.00	.38707
AGEIV	.07	.00	1.00	.26077
EDUI	.06	.00	1.00	.25410
EDUII	.31	.00	1.00	.46585
EDUIII	.33	.00	1.00	.47156
EDUIV	.11	.00	1.00	.31382
EDUV	.04	.00	1.00	.20367
INCM I	.16	.00	1.00	.37340

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INCMII	.21	.00	1.00	<i>.40886</i>
INCMIII	.07	.00	1.00	<i>.27035</i>
INCMIV	.06	.00	1.00	<i>.24953</i>
INCMV	.03	.00	1.00	<i>.18800</i>
INCMNVI	.43	.00	1.00	<i>.49631</i>
VT 08Y	.63	.00	1.00	<i>.48260</i>
VT08N	.36	.00	1.00	<i>.48187</i>
CHPRT08	.08	.00	1.00	<i>.27344</i>
PDYN08	.05	.00	1.00	<i>.22871</i>
ETHNC08	.02	.00	1.00	<i>.16880</i>
BRDRSM08	.08	.00	1.00	<i>.28144</i>
RLGSV08	.02	.00	1.00	<i>.16692</i>
BRHD08	.15	.00	1.00	<i>.36043</i>
DVLMPM08	.04	.00	1.00	<i>.20516</i>

### **Econometric Analysis**

The study of election is the study of socio-economic and political behavior of the society. Voting is one of the major components of political mobilization, interaction and participation in a society. It is aimed to have a choice between or among the choices. It is important to analyze how voter decides whom to vote in elections and why. There are numbers of local and national factors those play role to influence and frame voter's decision during the electioneering process. Political affiliation, inclination and cleavages are shaped and developed if the democratic process remains intact. The process of political alignment, realignment and realignment channelizes the democratic norms and values to be developed on concrete footings. Political alignment to some extent is observed in highly educated adult group of voters depends

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upon the continuity of democratic process. This analysis has made the electoral study most informative and interesting. Survey results categorized the voters' criteria in eight. Survey reveals that as the level of education increases the participation level decreases. The interest of highly educated voters to the exercise of election is not encouraging. They used to avoid themselves from the activity of voting. A sizeable proportion of eligible and educated voters do not attend the polling session.

Democracy, according to Disraeli, is inconceivable without political parties. Political parties are considered the most important and useful vehicle to enroot the process of mobilization and participation among the masses in a society. They used to channelize the resources to engage the common people to the polity of the country at maximum. Political parties are installed at local levels and these used to engrave the parties' manifesto under the aspiration of the people (Azhar, 2009, 86). Wilder (1999) is of the view that the impact of political party factor is important in both urban and rural constituencies. Turn out in elections depends to some extent upon the mobilization of political parties.

The role of political parties in the electioneering process of Pakistan is very important. Parties used to attract the voters to cast the votes in the favoure of their nominated candidates promising to attend their issues. On other hand voters tend to vote the parties predicting to come into power at provincial or national level. In Pakistan, cleavages of voters had been developed to some extent along the ideological division of political parties.

Inter and intra-generational transitions of political divisions are observed in the electoral history of Pakistan.

**Table 3 Log Linear Estimation of Vote for Political Parties**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Coefficient</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>t-Statistics</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
C	-.047	.137	-.342	.732
SEX	.065	.020	3.217	.001
RSDNC	.007	.015	.459	.646
AGEI	.038	.017	2.311	.021
AGEII	-.041	.021	-1.953	.051
AGEIII	.122	.030	4.094	.000
AGEIV	-.068	.034	-2.024	.043
EDUI	-.027	.025	-1.084	.278
EDUII	.008	.025	.321	.748
EDUIII	.019	.031	.604	.546
EDUIV	.165	.042	3.930	.000
EDUV	-.131	.022	-5.987	.000
INCM I	-.096	.020	-4.707	.000
INCM II	-.056	.028	-1.981	.048
INCM III	-.142	.031	-4.529	.000
INCM IV	-.164	.040	-4.065	.000
INCM V	.938	.134	7.004	.000
INCM NVI	.574	.134	4.283	.000
VT 08Y	-.720	.026	-27.277	.000
VT08N	-.791	.032	-25.077	.000
CHPRT08	-.837	.042	-19.966	.000
PDYN08	-.793	.026	-30.402	.000
ETHNC08	-.882	.042	-20.779	.000
BRDRSM08	-.823	.021	-39.952	.000
RLGSV08	-.782	.035	-22.283	.000
R-Squared	0.707		F-statics	148.52

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Adjusted R-squared	0.703	P Value	0.00
N	1312		

Source: authors' estimation availing SPSS 16 software

The values of F-Statistics and adjusted R-Squared affirm the appropriateness of the model and included variables. R-Squared value of the model is 0.70 which explains the variation level of voters' preference to support the political parties in GE 2008 due to all explanatory variables is about 70 percent.

Linear analyses of the collected data by applying OLS regression technique is charted in table 3. It charts the information comprising estimates of variables, t-statistics and significance respectively. Significance level shows the variation in the probability due to one unit change in a given explanatory variable holding constant all other variables.

Urbanity/settlement status is an important factor to affect the voters' decision whom to vote and why in the election. It is presumed that in Pakistan voters from rural areas are more centric to social determinants and favour to cast vote under different societal and ecological chains. But the study reveals that coefficient of rural based voters is positive and significant. Political parties in rural areas enroot themselves to attract the voters to support their nominated candidates in elections. Education and media play progressive role to develop the awareness among masses at countryside to take part in electioneering process and favour the nominated candidates of political parties. Voters are simultaneously freeing themselves from the societal chains in casting their votes.

Age group is another influencing factor to develop the cycle of alignment, realignment and realignment. The coefficient of voters of age group bracketing (36-45) is positive but insignificant. It shows the variation of specified age group attitude towards the electioneering process. Although their support to the political parties during the election is positive but their level of significance is not exceeding more than 8%. The study shows the positive correlation of voters with age more than 56 years. Their political alignment level has developed to the extent of no change.

Education is the most important factors those play vital role in all aspects of human life. Political scientists correlate the political development to the literacy level of the country. More the literacy level leads to provide the concrete structure for democratic institutions along with political stability in the country that result the more efficient and productive delivery system and vice versa. The questionnaire of our study categorized the education slabs into five comprising religious, formal and professional education. The collected data shows that about 6.7% respondents acquire religious education who cast their votes in GE 2008 while this range is sufficient to second and third slabs of education level up to 31.5% and 38.8% respectively. While the third and fourth educational slabs' respondents are 15.8% and 2.6% respectively.

Coefficient of first education slab (religions education) is negative and insignificance. It shows that higher participation in electioneering process is not up to satisfactory level. Their interest to support the political parties is quite limited. Second education slab's coefficient is negative and its significance is 6.2%. The analyses indicates that the respondents of second educational slab is also influenced more from their societal set up and they pay

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nothing attention to political parties in elections. Third educational slab (up to 12 years education) has been taken as reference slab. The coefficient of fourth educational slab (higher education) is positive and its significance is strong. Highly educated respondents express their tilting towards the political parties. Positivity of coefficient is also resulted in analyses for respondents acquiring professional education. They also make their decision through the ballot to support the political parties. The study reveals that as the education level steps up the confidence over political parties of voters enhance. Therefore, it is to say that education's levels and vote for political parties are directly proportions. They both are interdependent and interconnected.

### **Conclusions**

Electoral results are assumed as the mirror reflecting social and political cleavages, socio-economic problems of society and intergenerational political impacts. Numbers of micro and macro factors including social, political, economic and geographical used to influence the voters during election campaign. The electoral arena of Punjab province in general and the south Punjab in particular is presumed to have more influenced by social determinants rather than political and economic. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> educational slabs prove the dictum in letter and spirit. Voters from both slabs show their apathetic attitude to support the political parties. They turn to polling stations under the influence of different demographic factors. But the survey result reveals that voters of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> educational slabs in large proportion support political parties in GE 2008. At the same it is also alarming that their participation to the vote casting in election is not well. They kept themselves

away from electioneering process. Highly educated voters in Pakistan are caused the turn out deficit in elections. Their satisfaction level to the governance mechanism is not synchronized. They are of the opinion that political culture in Pakistan in general and especially in south Punjab is designed for dynastic politics. The system left nothing space for educated mediocre to come forward and contest elections.

Political parties should manage to frame educational restrictions during allotment of tickets. Highly educated applicants should be preferred and parties should manage to support them financially to contest election. To shorten the gap between voters and political parties, political parties should manage to make the public delivery system more efficient and public involvement should be made in this regard. Free, fair and transparent party base elections at constitutional intervals will lead to promote political and electoral norms and values in real sense to be internalized among the masses which lead to stability of alignment of voters. All the stake holders should come forward and play their role to strengthen the democratic system in Pakistan. People should provide chance to support or impeach the parties' policies.

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