



RESEARCH PAPER

**Dynamics of Electoral Politics in Punjab: A Case Study of Elections
2013 and 2018 in Faisalabad**

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the complex processes of electoral politics in Punjab, with a specific focus on the political landscape of district Faisalabad during the general elections of 2013 and 2018. The study conducts a detailed analysis of the various elements that influenced the election results in this area, examining the interaction between socio-economic dynamics, political culture, sociological traits, party affiliations, and voter behavior. The study used a mixed method approach that combines qualitative and quantitative methodologies to uncover the complex patterns and trends that impacted voter decisions. The research examines the changes in political alliances, candidate profiles, and historical facts to provide insight into the changing dynamics of electoral politics in Faisalabad across two general elections. The findings provide useful insights into the broader comprehension of election processes in Punjab, presenting an important viewpoint on the complex interrelationships between local dynamics and wider political trends that caste system and party affiliations are played pivotal role in both elections.

KEYWORDS Constituency Trends, Caste Dynamics, Electoral Politics, Political Development, Voting Behavior, Voting Trends

Introduction

The Faisalabad Division, comprised of Faisalabad District, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang District, and Chiniot District, holds a distinctive position in Pakistan. Initially named Lyallpur, it earned the moniker of the "Manchester industrial city of Pakistan" due to its significant industrial prowess. Established in 1896 by Sir James Loyal, the city's planning was executed by Sir Ganga-Ram, with the Chenab River to the northwest and the Ravi River to the east. The city is a political hub, actively participating in national and provincial politics. The political landscape involves major parties like PML-N, PTI, and PPP, creating a dynamic environment that can be influenced by national-level developments. While traditional caste and biradari politics have historically played a role, there is a growing trend towards more inclusive and merit-based politics.

The electoral politics in Faisalabad has been historically influenced by the caste or biradari system, tracing back to the ancient social structure of Aryas. Despite changes in political systems and the breakdown of the biradari system in 1970, its influence persisted, particularly in local body elections. In terms of political affiliations, various biradaris like Jutt, Arain, Rajpoot, Cheema, Sial, Malik, Gujjar, Ansari, Awan, Khan, and Baloch have a presence, with their ratios fluctuating in general elections from 1988 to 2018. However, industrialization and urbanization have slowed down the influence of biradaris on national politics. Despite this, the impact on local politics remains significant, especially in the nomination and planning of district council positions.

To address the influence of caste and biradari dynamics, the importance of education and equal representation is emphasized. Efforts to promote integrity within

political parties and cultivate political consciousness among the people are crucial. The research also emphasizes the need for a transparent electoral system, highlighting the vital role elections play in democratic progress. While the electoral system encompasses factors like identity, party affiliation, and local grouping, Punjab, and specifically Faisalabad, holds a pivotal role in Pakistan's political dynamics. The study is analyzing the electoral trends in Faisalabad from 2013 to 2018, focusing on factors such as party affiliations, local groupings, caste, biradari, ideology, and religious identities. Punjab's electoral demography has a significant impact on Pakistan's political landscape, with election trends influenced by psychological, sociological, socio-economic, and political realities.

Literature Review

Shah and Majeed (2022) writes that electoral process is an integral part of a democratic system. It is the legitimate and constitutional way of coming into power and governing the state. The electoral system of Pakistan encompasses multiple factors including identity, party affiliation, local grouping, and provincial-based issues. Punjab has a vital role in the overall political dynamics of Pakistan but the role of district Faisalabad is missing so this research will fill those gaps. This research is helpful to know the whole process of electoral politics but insufficient because it does not talk about the major dynamics of electoral politics. Ashraf et al. (2021) write nearly half of the world's population is women. The representation of women in the legislature is merely 15%. A mere 12 countries have achieved a parliamentary composition where 33% or more of the seats are held by women (according to the UNDP Report). The primary objective of this research is to extensively analyze the evolution of women's political involvement within the conventional society of Punjab, Pakistan, specifically focusing on the last 2 general elections in 2013 and 2018 that will be helpful to fulfill the requirements of the proposed research topic. This work talk about the last two general elections conducted in 2013 and 2018 respectively, but do not discuss about the politics of Punjab.

Bano et al. (2021) discusses the political landscape of Faisalabad, the third most populous city in Pakistan. The study examines the historical background of political and electoral progress in the region and examines the implications of the politics of electable candidates. This study discusses the historical overview of the political and electoral developments in Faisalabad which is helpful to understand the general knowledge about the electoral development but is not sufficient to understand the whole dynamics of electoral politics in Punjab Faisalabad. Kanwal (2021) writes that in the 2018 Pakistan elections, which took place in July of that year and led to the smooth transition of power from one elected government to another for the second time. The results of the elections were in line with predictions: a hung assembly in which the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) emerged as the largest political party. Imran Khan's rise to power has been remarkable, but his job is made more difficult by Pakistan's economic troubles. This research work is essential to know 2018 Pakistan elections smooth transition of power from one elected government to another but not enough to fulfill the whole requirement of the proposed research topic.

Kumar (2020) analyze the main trends in Punjab's electoral politics in this paper. He writes Punjab influences the way Pakistan is run politically. The voting behavior and constituency trend in Punjab are defined by a number of political party-based associations, local groupings based on caste or biradari (family subgroups), the factor of ideology (which derives from religious identity) among other elements. This research is beneficial to know the Punjab's electoral politics but insufficient because the proposed research topic specifically discusses the case study of Faisalabad region. Rahim (2018)

argues that Pakistan's political system is a multi-party one. For a comprehensive study of the role of political parties in Pakistan's political system the writer electronic and printed media information as well as articles, biographies and books. The writer investigates the relationships between parties and regions. This research work is essential to know the role of political parties in the way of electoral politics but do not discuss the basic dynamics of the electoral politics in Pakistan.

Shafqat (2018) writes about the spirit of democracy resides in elections, and representative government cannot exist without them. The purpose of this study was to develop a better understanding of electoral politics in Pakistan. This research work is good in its work and study the science of elections and politics. It is helpful to complete some basic concepts related to the proposed research topic but it is insufficient because it is the part of some few concepts and dose not fulfill the whole requirement to the proposed research topic like dynamics of electoral politics is missing in this work. So, these gaps fulfilled by the proposed research work.

Material and Methods

This research adopts a concurrent triangulation design, combining both qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the electoral dynamics in Faisalabad. The study's primary participants consisted of (sample size) 52 individuals selected through purposive sampling. This sample size was deemed sufficient for a detailed exploration of the electoral dynamics in Faisalabad because mamimum data is collected though interviews. Before circulating the questionnaire a pilot study was conducted, under the supervision of Dr. Anwar Ali Assistant Professor Department of Political Science GC University, Faisalabad, and necessary changes are done according to the suggestion of the member of pilot study. SPSS software was used to check validaty and reliability of the questionnaire and the value of Aplha was 0.78.

In-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including political candidates, election officials, and community leaders. These interviews provided qualitative insights into the details of electoral politics. A formal interviews of Rana Sana Ullah (NA-106, Faisalabad-VI), former senior minister Farrukh Habib (NA108- Faisalabad-VIII) from PTI, MNA Faiz Ullah Kamoka (NA-109, Faisalabad-IX) from PTI, Muhammad Ajmal (PP-97 Faisalabad-I) as an independent candidate, Muhammad Shoib Idrees (PP-98, Faislalabad-II) from PML-Q. However, the primary goal of interviews was to know their valuable opinions about the dynamics of electoral politics in Punjab province with particular reference to Faisalabad during elections 2013 and 2018 to strengthen the the authenticity of this study.

While a structured questionnaire was filled from selected respondents, representing a cross-section of the Faisalabad electorate. The survey instrument included only closed-ended questions for quantitative analysis of voter perspectives. Secondary data are collected from a variety of sources, including different reports, academic publications, and books related to electoral politics in Punjab. The quantitative data obtained from the questionnaire survey were analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were employed to summarize and interpret key trends and patterns. Thematic analysis are applied to the qualitative data collected through semi-structured interviews. This involved identifying recurring themes, patterns, and insights relevant to the electoral dynamics in Faisalabad.

Historical Background

Faisalabad (Prior Lyallpur) Election Contests and Dynamics during 1950s and 1960s

At the time of Pakistan's independence, Lyallpur (present-day Faisalabad) did not have any representation in the Constituent Assembly (1947 NA). However, during the 1st Constituent Assembly in the 1950s, Chaudhary Ali Akber Khan emerged as the Muslim League nominee from Lyallpur. Prior to 1949, other notable figures like Chaudhary Harbhaj Ram, Dev Raj Sethi, Sardar Kartar Singh, Sardar Dalip Singh Kang, and Chaudhary Aziz Din represented Lyallpur in the Punjab provincial legislature (Kamran, 2008). At the time of independence, Chaudhary Aziz Din was the sole Muslim member from Lyallpur in the Punjab legislature, which had a total of 21 elected members. This era saw Mian Abdul Bari as the opposition leader, while Shamim Ahmed Khan and Chaudhary Ali Akbar served as ministers. In the provincial legislature, Mehr Muhammad Sadiq and Chaudhary Sultan Ali took on roles as Parliamentary Secretaries (Pasha & Shahid, 1996). Notably, Begum Khadija G. A. Khan became the first female parliamentarian from Lyallpur, serving as Deputy Minister in the Punjab cabinet.

The 2nd constituent assembly elections in 1955 introduced a new Electoral College system. Chaudhary Aziz Din and Mian Abdul Bari were elected from Faisalabad to the 2nd constituent assembly, representing the Muslim League. The subsequent introduction of the Basic Democracies system in 1962 led to the establishment of an Electoral College for the National Assembly. In the aftermath, Lyallpur secured four seats in the national legislature. Miss Zahra Aziz, Muhammad Afzal Cheema, Chaudhary Abdul Hamid, and Mian Abdul Bari were elected. Miss Zahra Aziz, a prominent leader and advocate for women's rights, marked a significant milestone, using her position to champion gender equality and women's empowerment (Ahmad, 2010).

The 1965 elections brought leaders like Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Zafar Iqbal Chaudhary, Sheikh Abdul Majid, and Malik Muhammad Anwar to represent Faisalabad in the West Pakistan Assembly. Khan Abdul Wali Khan advocated regional autonomy and decentralization of power. Additionally, figures like Rafiq Saigol, Saleem Khan, Sultan Ahmed, and Muhammad Ishaq Cheema were elected. In 1966, Malik Nadir Khan filled an empty seat, having been nominated for a year. The same year, individuals like Wahidullah Khan, Nasir ud Din Shah, Makhdum Syed, Anwar Ali Khan, M. Hamza, Asgher Randhawa, Rai Arif Hussain, and Imtiaz Ahmed Gill represented Lyallpur in the provincial legislature, with Asgher Randhawa and Imtiaz Ahmed Gill being re-elected (Abdullah et al., 2020; Ahmed, 2012).

General Elections 1970

In the 1970 adult-franchised elections for the National Assembly, Lyallpur's nine constituencies saw a significant political shift as former electable faced defeat. Established figures like Malik Nadir Khan, Col. Saleem Khan, Chaudhary Sultan Ahmed, Ishaq Cheema, Imtiaz Gill, and Rafiq Saigol, who were former National Assembly members, experienced defeats against PPP candidates who achieved substantial victories. Mukhtar Rana triumphed over Zahid Sarfraz with a significant 64,000-vote margin, while influential industrialist Rafiq Saigol was defeated by Mian Atta Ullah with a margin of 67,000 votes. Akhter Gill faced defeat by Bashir Ahmed with a margin of 50,000 votes. Muhammad Aslam secured a victory margin of 28,000 votes against Hamza, and Israr Hussain Shah lost to Rai Hafeez Ullah by 19,000 votes (Iftikhar, 2022). In this election, the PPP secured a dominant position by winning 16 out of 19 Lyallpur constituencies in the Punjab Assembly. An independent candidate won one seat, and

West Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan (WJUP) and Pakistan Muslim League Council candidates each secured one seat. Especially, all successful candidates were newcomers to the legislature (Baxter, 1971).

General Elections 1977

In the 1977 General Election, from 09 to 13 constituencies for Lyallpur (present Faisalabad) were increased. Twelve national assembly seats won by the PPP but lost one to a PNA nominee. Some of the elected members were new to the legislature while others had previously served. During this election on the PPP ticket Chaudhary Bashir Ahmed, Muhammad Bashir, Muhammad Bashir, Rai Hafiz Ullah Khan, Asad Masood, Ghulam Nabi Chaudhary, Shahadat Ali Khan Baloch, Imtiaz Ahmed Gill, Moin Uddin, Anwar Ali Khan, Rana Sakhawat Ali, Nisar Akbar, and Mian Muhammad Ata Ullah, were elected to the national legislature. The PPP nominees Shahadat Baloch, Moin Uddin, Nisar Akbar, Muhammad Bashir, and Asad Masood, were all new to the legislature. A notable electable was Mian Atta Ullah, who had previously served as a minister in Bhutto's cabinet. Another re-elected member was Rai Hafiz Ullah (PPP) (Ashari, 2012; Weinbaum, 1977). Chaudhary Bashir Ahmed, Ghulam Nabi, and Anwar Ali Khan, were also re-elected. In the Punjab Assembly, PPP nominees won all 27 constituencies with significant margins. Many new faces were elected, including Ali Muhammad Khadim, Hameed Ullah Khan, Rai Ahmed Hayat, Ghulam Qadir, Nasir Baloch, and Rai Sakhawat. The outgoing Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Shamim Ahmed Khan, was also re-elected and nominated for the slot of Deputy Speaker (Hassan & Chawla, 2019).

General Elections 1985

Before the 1985 election, tehsil Toba Taik Singh became a separate district from Faisalabad. Faisalabad was upgraded to a divisional headquarter and had ten constituencies, whereas Lahore had eight seats. The 1985 elections resulted in the emergence of new politicians and changes in the legislature. Despite the PPP boycott, the party still had an impact on the polling. Former PPP leaders and new faces were elected to the National Assembly. Begum Sarweri Sadiq, the wife of former provincial minister Mehr Muhammad Sadiq, returned on reserved seats for women. Nasir Ali Baloch, Rai Arif Hussain, and, Anwar Ali Khan, among others, were successful candidates for the National Assembly (Wilder, 1999).

Abdullah Ghazi, Bashir Randhawa, Rai Salahuddin Khan, Chaudhary Nazir Ahmed, Hanif Ansari, and Raja Nadir Pervez, were new faces for the legislature. Raja Nadir Pervez, despite being new, had a strong political background as his father, Malik Nadir Khan, had previously been a member of the provincial and national legislatures. Hanif Ansari, with the support of the Ansari Biradari, set the stage for the election of Akram Ansari. The affluent and influential members of the Ansari Biradari made financial contributions towards the election campaigns of Hanif and subsequently Akram. Unfortunately, Hanif Ansari passed away a few months after the general elections, giving Akram Ansari the opportunity to be elected in a by-election. This marked the beginning of a series of electoral victories for Akram Ansari. Chaudhary Nazir, another emerging candidate, also won for the 1st time in 1985. He used his wealth and influence to secure votes, and later resigned from the Provincial Assembly, allowing Sardar Dildar Ahmed Cheema to win the seat in a by-election (Akhtar et al., 2010). The 1985 Punjab Assembly elections saw the initial electoral success of future electables Safdar Shakir, Mazhar Ali Gill, Rai Rab Nawaz Khan, Muhammad Akram Chaudhary, Sardar Shahid Iqbal, Muhammad Farooq, Muhammad Yousaf Malik, Tahir Ahmed Shah, Fazal Hussain Rahi, and Muhammad Siddiq Salar in 20 constituencies. The success of

Fazal Hussain Rahi and Tahir Ahmed Shah can be attributed to silent support from PPP workers. These non-party base elections also witnessed the use of financial resources, particularly in the election campaigns of candidates like Dildar Ahmed Cheema, Hanif Ansari, Safdar Shakirand, Sardar Shahid Iqbal, and Chaudhary Nazir (Rais, 1985).

General Elections 1988-1997

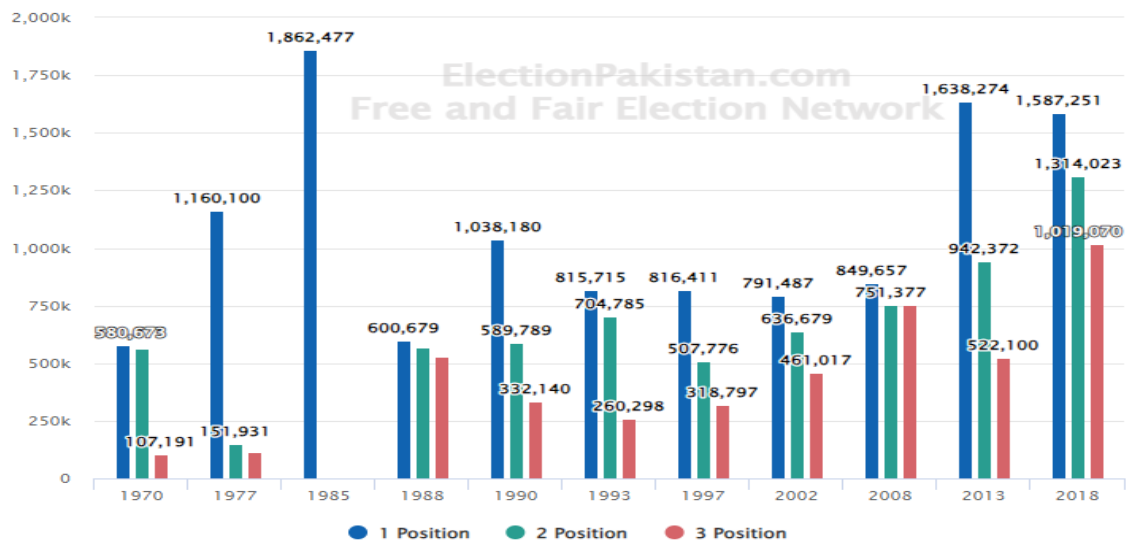
In the 1988 general elections in Faisalabad, a diverse array of candidates marked the political landscape. Re-elected figures like Nisar Akbar Khan, Shahadat Baloch, and Chaudhary Nazir Ahmed shared the stage with newcomers such as Mehar Abdur Rasheed, Ahmed Saeed Awan, Ghulam Mustafa Bajwa, and Rai Muhammad Aslam. Chaudhary Nazir's dual victories, one as an IJI nominee and the other as an independent, showcased the intricate dynamics of the political arena. The strategic vacating of his independent seat, leading to Zahid Sarfraz's success, underscored the nuanced alliances at play. Nisar Akbar Khan and Shahadat Baloch, previously absent due to PPP's boycott in 1985, re-entered politics in 1988, leveraging their past affiliations for success. Chaudhary Nazir's effective use of media and wealth, rooted in his Chaudharies background, contributed to his triumph. Other PPP workers turned legislators – Rai Aslam, Mehar Abdur Rasheed, and Ahmed Saeed Awan – further enriched the political fabric (Akhtar, 2011).

In the 1990 elections, IJI strategically nominated electable candidates like Chaudhary Nazir, Zahid Sarfraz, Nasir Baloch, and others, leading to a diverse mix of winners. Sardar Dildar Cheema's success, driven by his feudal influence, showcased the impact of local dynamics. The PPP's miscalculated decision against Haji Akram Ansari highlighted the delicate balance of candidate selection. The 1993 elections witnessed consistent victories for PPP's Ahmed Cheema, Sardar Dildar, Shahid Nazir, and others, alongside PML-N's Chaudhary Sher Ali and Haji Akram Ansari. The entry of first-time winners like Mian Amjad Yaseen signaled a shifting political landscape. The alliances formed by Shahid Nazir and Dildar Cheema underscored the importance of strategic collaborations. In the 1997 elections, familiar names like Chaudhary Sher Ali, Haji Akram Ansari, and others reclaimed their seats, showcasing the enduring influence of certain political figures. The emergence of first-time winner Mian Abdul Mannan hinted at the continuous evolution of Faisalabad's political dynamics. Generally, Faisalabad's political landscape witnessed a complex interplay of re-elected stalwarts, newcomers, strategic alliances, and occasional miscalculations, shaping the course of its electoral history (Akhter et al., 2012).

General Elections 2002-2008

In Faisalabad, influential individuals have wielded control over electoral politics since independence, consistently winning elections through resources and connections. Despite occasional defeats, they managed to reclaim positions, often by switching political parties. From 1947 to 1997, elections in Faisalabad were not dictated by political ideology or parties but by these powerful personalities (Asim, 2012; Khan, 2011). The 2008 elections underscored the dominance of PPP and PML-N in Faisalabad. Out of 11 National Assembly and 22 Punjab Assembly seats, PPP secured 6 and 7, PML-N won 3 and 10, and PML-Q obtained 2 and 5, respectively. This highlighted the stronghold of PPP and PML-N in the political landscape. PILDAT identified four voter categories, with PPP and PML historically claiming 60-75% of votes. Factors like age, income, and education significantly influenced voting behavior. Overall, the period from 2002 to 2008 continued the trend of powerful individuals shaping Faisalabad's politics, with PPP and PML-N emerging as dominant forces.

Graph No: 1 The following graph shows the party trends of Faisalabad region



Source: <https://electionpakistan.com/constituency>

Political Dynamics of Faisalabad Politics

Punjab, the most populous province in Pakistan, wields significant influence on the country's political landscape, boasting 148 seats in the National Assembly. Additionally, 35 seats are allocated for women under the province's quota. Over the past decade, Punjab's electorate has consistently mirrored the ruling party at the national level, indicating a deep-rooted voting pattern transcending generations. This allegiance, passed down through familial ties, is not solely attributed to satisfaction with a specific party but is influenced by various factors, including biradriism (Riffat Bano & Mohabbat, 2021). Political awareness remains hindered by widespread illiteracy, prompting voters to align with candidates and parties whose promises align with their problem-solving ideologies. Economic considerations, intertwined with factors like biradari affiliations, significantly impact voting decisions in Pakistan (Mushtaq & Saleem, 2015).

In Faisalabad, the caste system and biradriism exert a profound political influence, overshadowing party loyalty and ideology. Regional and ethnic loyalties dominate Pakistan's political environment, with voters prioritizing the safeguarding of their caste or community interests. In Faisalabad's social fabric, biradari connections supersede psychological ties to political parties, profoundly shaping voting behavior at national, provincial, and local levels (Anwar, 2019). The city's culture emphasizes familial influence, as joint households foster a collective decision-making process. This familial sway contributes to the variations in political behavior and participation culture observed across different regions in Pakistan (Moosvi, 2021).

Major Electoral Dynamics

Electing patterns in Faisalabad mirror the political culture, humanistic qualities, and mental examples in the general public towards governmental issues. Alongside the conventional political attributes, expanded youth cooperation, contemporary components of support including virtual entertainment, and consistency during the time spent on decisions are contributing variables in grasping the constituent governmental issues and casting ballot conduct of individuals of Punjab specifically Faisalabad (Khan

& Musarrat, 2014). In this unique situation, the accompanying elements were distinguished to comprehend the democratic examples of individuals of Faisalabad.

The Rural-Urban Factor

It is being seen that casting ballot conduct in Faisalabad changes in various geographic districts. The fundamental fluctuation exists between the metropolitan and the rustic regions. The populace of Faisalabad is 2.37 percent and the metropolitan populace represents 3.7 million as per the Punjab Bureau of Statistics (Khan & Musarrat, 2014).

Table 1
Peoples of Faisalabad region are stuck about biradarries, region, ethnic groups and rural-urban divide

Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	11	21.2	21.2	21.2
Agree	25	48.41	48.1	69.2
Neutral	11	21.2	21.2	90.4
Disagree	4	7.7	7.7	98.1
Strongly Disagree	1	1.9	1.9	
Total	52	100.0	100	100.0

Ideological group alliance, party statement, the overall presentation of the ideological group in administration, and family connections are a few principles including that individuals residing in the metropolitan and downtown areas of Faisalabad stick to a rank decision in favor of the up-and-comer. Though the country communities predominantly stick to the nearby gathering, the impact of land-possessed elites, Biradari and faction association, and for the most part the famous ideological group at the hour of the political race. In this unique circumstance, the accompanying inquiries were posed by the respondents connected with the example of the metropolitan rustic democratic way of behaving (Javid, 2011).

Political Groupings and Personality Political Gathering

Constituency politics in Pakistan is characterized by the significant roles played by political groupings (Dharra) and individual personalities. While local groups and constituency-based political dynamics have not received extensive scholarly attention, they constitute essential elements in electoral politics. Each constituency exhibits unique features, including levels of political engagement, election dynamics, and political competitions. Notably, a survey indicated that 78.2 percent of the population acknowledged the pivotal role and influence of local groupings in constituency politics (Awan, 2014). Localities foster a strong collective identity based on traditional family ties, disputes, social positions, biradari (clan), and influential affiliations. The majority of Punjab's electorate is significantly influenced by these local loyalties. The character profile of a candidate further shapes the electoral landscape in Punjab (Franklin, 2002). Different approaches to political conduct highlight candidate traits, belief systems, political philosophies, social and moral standings, as well as leadership abilities, qualifications, and experiences—all contributing to voters' political perspectives (Mushtaq et al., 2018).

Tabl 2
Electable personalities dominated the politics during election 2013 and 2018

level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	14	26.9	26.2	26.9
Agree	23	44.2	44.2	71.2
Neutral	10	19.2	19.2	90.4
Disagree	4	7.7	7.7	98.1
Strongly Disagree	1	1.9	1.9	
Total	52	100.0	100	100.0

Analyzing the connection between political engagement and personality traits, Alan S. Gerber utilizes the Five-Factor Model (FFM) to categorize traits into extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability, and openness to experience. These traits influence general election participation, public political involvement, and engagement in local and regional politics (Kumar, 2022). Extraverted individuals tend to be more social, agreeable ones are modest and altruistic, and conscientious individuals are diligent. Traits like emotional stability and openness to experience indicate a problem-solving approach. Candidate personality characteristics also impact voter turnout and support, as voters form specific perceptions based on these traits (Mushtaq et al., 2013).

Party Affiliations

A thriving democratic system heavily depends on the pivotal role played by political parties in addressing the populace's demands. These parties, instrumental in navigating the constitutional electoral process, become the driving force behind assuming political power. The intricate dynamics of a country's electoral landscape are significantly shaped by the activities of political entities, which meticulously choose candidates based on a cost-benefit analysis during election campaigns (Kumar, 2022).

Tabl 3
Peoples cast vote on the bases of political party affiliation in 2013 and 2018 elections

level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	11	21.2	21.2	21.2
Agree	22	42.3	42.3	63.5
Neutral	10	19.2	19.2	94.2
Disagree	6	11.5	11.5	98.1
Strongly Disagree	3	5.7	5.7	
Total	52	100.0	100	100.0

In the current political milieu of Faisalabad, Punjab, three major parties – PML-N, PPP, and PTI – have been central players. The historical trajectory reflects the shifting fortunes of these parties, with PPP initially gaining prominence in the 1970 General Elections but gradually losing strength in Punjab from 1988. PML-N emerged as a dominant force in subsequent elections, facing a temporary challenge from PML-Q in 2002. PTI, a relatively new entrant, gained momentum in 2011 and achieved significant success in the 2018 general elections, forming a provincial government through coalition efforts (Shah & Sareen, 2018).

While religious political parties, including Pakistan's TLP, have garnered support in specific constituencies, they have struggled to secure major victories. Despite this, they have impacted electoral margins by securing a notable number of votes. A substantial percentage of respondents in Faisalabad (67.8%) acknowledged casting their votes based on political party affiliation, underlining the enduring influence of party alliances shaped by various factors such as local dynamics, the political climate, and the candidate's standing within the party unit.

The Caste, Biradari and Sect Factor

Caste and fraternity have long been influential factors shaping political behavior and voting patterns in the subcontinent's political culture. Despite gaining independence in 1947, Pakistan retained a culture where caste played a crucial role in political campaigns, voting preferences, and support structures. The existing literature on rural politics, particularly in Faisalabad, Punjab, underscores the decisive impact of caste, religion, and sectarianism (Kanwal, 2017). Faisalabad exhibits a diverse array of castes and communities, with certain groups such as Jutts, Arayian, and Rajpoots dominating the political landscape.

Tabl 4
Cast system seems to be stronger than political loyalty in Faisalabad

Level	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	5	9.6	9.6	9.6
Agree	12	23.1	23.1	32.7
Neutral	14	26.9	26.9	59.6
Disagree	14	26.9	26.9	86.5
Strongly Disagree	7	13.5	13.5	
Total	52	100.0	100	100.0

Traditionally, the Sunni-Shia sectarian divide has been a significant source of garnering political support based on religious ideology (Magstadt & Schotten, 2020). Recent developments within the Sunni sect, especially the divisions between Deoband, Bareilvi, and Ahl al-Hadith, have further influenced the political dynamics in Faisalabad, as evidenced by the emergence of Tehrek Labaik Pakistan (TLP) as a political force with Faisalabad as a major stronghold.

Despite these historical trends, a shifting narrative is evident among the sample population. While 56.3 percent acknowledge the importance of caste, community, and religious sects in determining voting behavior, 35.6 percent contest this notion, highlighting a changing perspective. Factors contributing to this shift include the increasing youth population, evolving roles within political parties, and socio-cultural and economic transformations in villages. Educational levels, economic status, diverse agricultural activities, social media usage, and urbanization collectively contribute to diminishing the significance of caste and religious factors in shaping electoral trends in Punjab (Anwar, 2019).

Issue Based Local Politics

The dynamics of local politics diverge from national politics, with the nature of social, political, and economic issues shaping the distinct character of constituency-based concerns. In places like Faisalabad, Punjab, local issues span from personal to city-level

problems, encompassing infrastructure, development, and the lack of basic services such as health and education (Kumar, 2022). Candidates become informal mediators in conflict resolution and management, making local dynamics a decisive factor in people's voting behavior. A significant majority (73%) emphasizes the importance of constituency issues over national matters, reflecting the profound influence of candidates on domestic affairs (Mushtaq & Adnan, 2022).

Candidates' performance in their constituency and the government's overall performance are crucial metrics influencing voters' orientation. Public satisfaction with economic and security situations, as opposed to macro-economic and strategic planning, shapes the electoral climate, with issues like inflation, employment, and security at the forefront (Akhtar, 2016). The performance of the previous government plays a role in shaping voter opinions, impacting the prevailing electoral trends.

The role of independent candidates is pivotal in understanding electoral dynamics, particularly in Faisalabad, where the culture of contesting as independents is prevalent, often leading to post-election collaborations with ruling parties. This was evident in the 2013 and 2018 general elections when independent candidates played a decisive role in government formation. Survey results indicate that 64% of respondents believe independent candidates will continue to play a significant post-election role in Faisalabad, while 26% disagree (Riffat Bano & Mohabbat, 2021). The electoral process in Pakistan, marred by loopholes, has historically led to the dominance of parties like PPP and PML-N, with PTI emerging as a recent contender. Local dynamics, party politics, caste, biradari factors, and the cognitive characteristics of local personalities remain central to Faisalabad's electoral dynamics. The city's political climate has broader implications for the nation, and the increased political maneuvering by the establishment adds complexity to the pre- and post-election phases. Independent candidates are seen as influential factors in Punjabi politics alongside political parties (Kumar, 2022).

Conclusion

The study on the dynamics of electoral politics in Punjab, with a specific focus on the elections of 2013 & 2018 in Faisalabad, has disclosed a complex tendencies of political evolution and transformation. The study delved into the intricacies of the electoral process, exploring the factors that shaped the political landscape during two elections. The findings of this research underscore the significance of socio-economic factors in influencing electoral outcomes. The dynamic interplay between economic conditions, demographic shifts, and political preferences was evident in the patterns that emerged. The city of Faisalabad, a vital battlefield in Punjab, witnessed nuanced changes in voter behavior, indicating the responsiveness of the electorate to evolving socio-economic dynamics. The role of political parties and their strategies emerged as a pivotal aspect in understanding electoral dynamics. The study highlighted how parties adapted their approaches to resonate with the changing aspirations and concerns of the electorate. The electoral process, far from being static, showcased a continual process of adaptation and realignment.

Moreover, the research shed light on the opinion of public, politician and other officials that influenced the political dynamics in Punjab particularly Faisalabad in previous two elections. As we reflect on the dynamics of electoral politics in Faisalabad, the research underscores the need for a holistic understanding of different factors that are designing the results of general elections. Different factors like party affiliation, biraderism, rural-urban divide, political grouping and issues base politics are played massive role in determining the results of both election. However the influence of these

factors are loosed its grip in the 2018 election as compare to 2013 election that's why PTI secure maximum seats as compare to other parties.

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