

TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF PARTY PERFORMANCES IN THE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL (2006-2016): A STUDY IN ELECTORAL GEOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The present paper has attempts to study trends and patterns of party performances in the assembly elections in West Bengal from 2006 to 2016. Electoral geography is one of the important fields of research in geography. For an electoral geographer the elections results are so important that they create variations in the patterns that he analyzes with particular socio-economic and politico cultural characteristics. The main aims of the study is to analyze the trends and patterns of party performance, degree of success to political parties, patterns of party support and electoral imbalances in party performances, gain and losses of seats by political parties. The study is based on secondary source of data. The electoral data have been collected from Election Commission of India, Census of India, chief electoral officer, Kolkata. The study found that the trends of electoral performances and degree of success of CPM party has been decline, whereas TMC has increased trends of electoral performs and degree of success in both 2011 and 2016 assembly elections. It also shows changing patterns of party support from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections.

Keywords: Assembly elections, Electoral geography, Democracy, Party Performance

INTRODUCTION

Geography deals with the spatial distribution of the phenomena and the processes through which such phenomena gets generated. Election is one such phenomenon. Electoral geography thus deals with not only the distribution of votes but also the culture which leads to voting or choosing a political party. Electoral geography is one of the important branch of political geography. Electoral geography is relatively a very emerging interested field of research in geography. The main role of electoral studies in political geography is to investigate the influence of geographical context on voter's decision making processes, parties' strategies, and electoral system and make an interface between human geography and political science. Jalan

(2006, pp.20-23) presented a comparative study about spatial patterns of electoral performances between Indian National Congress (INC) and Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in Lok Sabha and assembly elections in north-east Rajasthan. She observed that BJP has fairly consistent support from various level of society in both elections but INC has significantly fluctuated support from one election to another election. The present study attempts to evolve the spatial patterns of party performances in the assembly elections in West Bengal from 2006 to 2016. As an electoral geographer, the elections results are important that create variations in the patterns with particular socio-economic and politico-cultural characteristics. Through the electoral geographer, the voting trends and party performances has clearly depicted by adopted ecological approach in combination with cartographic and statistical analysis. West Bengal has a hub of several political parties i.e. national parties, state parties, state parties of other state, registered parties as well as independents parties.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the study as follows-

1. To assess the electoral trends of performance of political parties from 2006 to 2016 assembly Elections in West Bengal.
2. To measure the degree of success of political parties from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections.
3. To analyze the patterns of party performances during 2006, 2011 and 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal.
4. To analyze seats and votes swing of political parties from 2006 to 2016 elections
5. District Wise Performances of Political Parties in 2006, 2011 and 2016 Assembly Election in West Bengal

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The election is remains one of the important key element in a democratic state. Election stands as the backbone of the democracy where people select their political representatives. The present research analysis is based on the secondary source of data. The study has been conducted three assembly election periods in West Bengal from 2006 to 2016. The electoral data have been collected from the published assembly election statistical reports by Election Commission of India, New Delhi, State Election Commission Department, W.B, Chief Electoral office, Kolkata, CSDS (Centre for the study of Developing Society).

STUDY AREA

West Bengal is an Indian state which is located in the eastern part of the country. Since independence, West Bengal has been become one of the important state in terms of India's

political scenario. West Bengal is located between 85° 50' and 89° 50' East longitude, and 21° 10' and 27° 38' North latitude. The state has a total area of 88,750 Sq.kms. (34,267 sq mile). According to 2011 population census, the total population of West Bengal is 90.32 million, population density is 1028 persons per sq km, literacy rate is 74.08%, sex ratio is 950 females per 1000 of males. West Bengal is a home of different religious people i.e. Hindu (70.54%), Muslim (27.01%), Christian (0.72%), Sikh (0.07%), Buddhist (0.31%), Jain (0.07%). West Bengal has 31.87 percent urban population and rural population is 68.13 percent, Agriculture is the main occupation of the people in West Bengal.

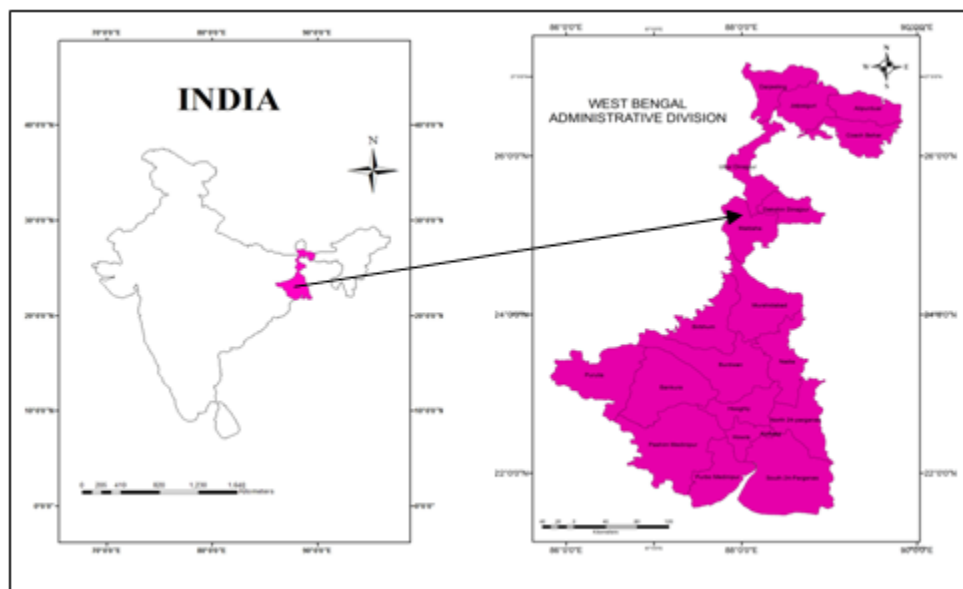


Fig 01: Study Area: West Bengal Administration Division

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: List of Political Parties in West Bengal

National Political Parties	Abbreviation
Indian National Congress	INC
Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP
Communist Party of India	CPI
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	(CPI-M)
State Political Parties	
All India Trinomool Congress	AITC
All India Forward Bloc	AIFB
Revolutionary Socialist Party	RSP
Rashtriya Janata Dal	RJD

Samajwadi Party	SP
Registered (Unrecognized Parties)	
Democratic Socialist Party (Prabodh Chandra)	DSP-P
Gorakha National Liberation Front	GNLF
Jharkhand Party (Naren)	JPN
West Bengal Socialist Party	WBSP
Socialist unity centre of India (communist)	SUCI
Gorkha Janmukti Morcha	GOJAM
Independents Parties	IND

Source: Election Commission of India, New Delhi

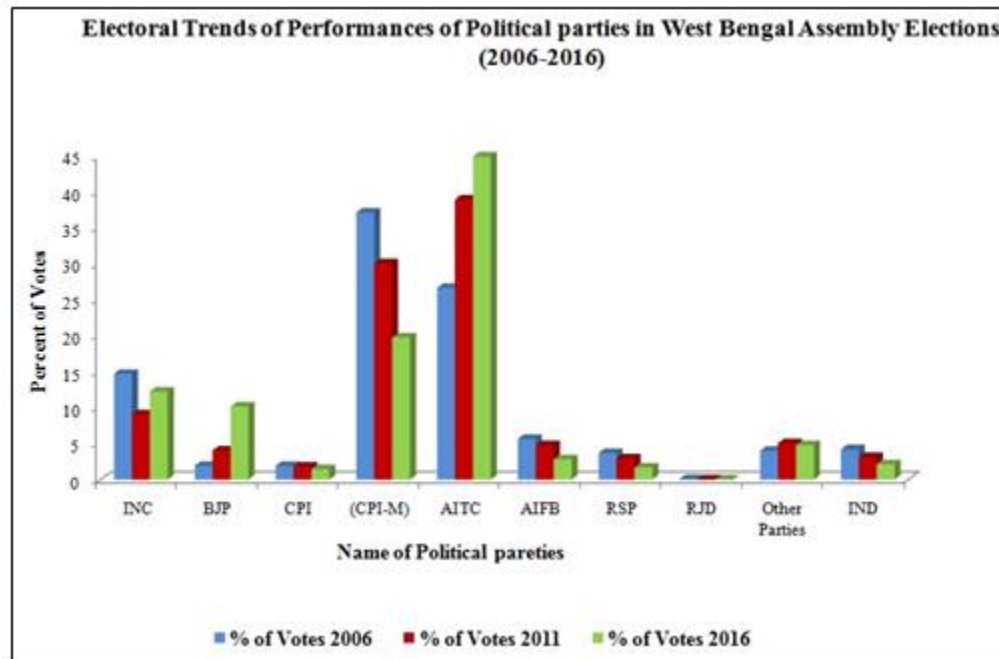
Table 2: Electoral trends of Performance of Political Parties (2006-2016)

Name of Political Parties	% of Votes 2006	% of Votes 2011	% of Votes 2016
Indian National Congress (INC)	14.71	9.09	12.25
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)	1.93	4.06	10.16
Communist Party of India (CPI)	1.91	1.84	1.45
Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M)	37.13	30.08	19.75
All India Trinomool Congress (AITC)	26.64	38.93	44.91
All India Forward Bloc (AIFB)	5.66	4.80	2.82
Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP)	3.71	2.96	1.67
Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)	0.08	0.05	0.03
Other Parties	4.01	5.06	4.80
Independents (IND)	4.22	3.13	2.16
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Based on Statistical Report in West Bengal Assembly Elections from 2006 to 2016, Election Commission of India

The table 2 shows the electoral trends of party performances from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal. It reveals that Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) has performed as dominant political party obtaining more than 30 percent of votes in the 2006 and 2011 assembly elections, but its performances has decline in 2016 assembly election i.e. 19.75. The Indian National Congress has various patterns of performances such as it has decline in 2011 assembly election i.e. 9.09 percent whereas it has increasing trends of performances in 2016 assembly election i.e. 12.25 percent. Trinomool congress has performed as increasing patterns from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections i.e. 26.64, 38.93 and 44.91 percent respectively. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have contested every assembly elections regularly and has increasing trends

of party performances from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections i.e. 1.3, 4.06 and 10.16 percent respectively. A good percentage of votes have also gone to the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) and Independents (IND) parties in all the three consecutive elections. The bar diagram (Fig: 2) clearly shows the electoral trends of political party performances in the three consecutive assembly elections in West Bengal.



**Fig 2: Electoral Trends of Party Performances from 2006 to 2016
Assembly Elections in West Bengal**

Degree of Success of Political Parties:

The degree of success of various political parties in West Bengal has measured in terms of seats contested and won in the 2006, 2011 and 2016 assembly elections.

Table 3: Degree of Success of Political Parties (2006-2016)

Parties	2006			2011			2016		
	Contested	Seats	% of Success	Contested	Seats	% of Success	Contested	Seats	% of Success
INC	262	21	8.01	66	42	63.64	92	44	47.82
BJP	128	0	0	289	0	0	291	3	1.03
CPI	13	8	61.53	14	2	14.28	11	1	9.09
CPI-M	212	176	83.01	213	40	18.78	148	26	17.56
AITC	257	30	11.67	226	184	81.41	293	211	72.01
AIFB	34	23	67.64	34	11	32.35	25	2	8
RSP	23	20	86.95	23	7	30.43	19	3	15.78
RJD	2	1	50	1	0	0	1	0	0
Other	197	9	4.56	525	6	1.14	1004	3	0.29
IND	526	6	1.14	401	2	0.50	371	1	0.27
Total	1654	294		1792	294		2255	294	

Sources: Calculated by the Researcher based on Statistical Report of West Bengal Assembly Elections from 2006 to 2016, Election Commission of India, New Delhi

The table 3 depicted a comparison of the degree of success of political parties from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal. In 2006 assembly election, Indian National Congress (INC) contested 262 seats but won only 21 seats thus the degree of success is 8.01 percent. In 2011 election INC contested 66 seats and obtained 42 seats and degree of success of INC has increasing i.e. 63.64 percent but the degree of success of INC has decline in 2016 assembly elections i.e. 47.82 percent in which INC contested 92 seats and won 44 seats. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has contested every assembly elections in West Bengal but did not won a single seats in 2006 and 2011 elections, thus its degree of success was 0 percent in both 2006 and 2011 assembly elections. In 2016 assembly election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 3 seats out of 291 contested seats and obtained 1.03 percent degree of success. The degree of success of Communist Party of India (CPI) was very high in 2006 assembly election i.e. 61.53 percent but there is decline pattern of degree of success of CPI in 2011 and 2016 assembly elections i.e. 14.28 percent and 9.09 percent gradually. As like CPI, the degree of success of Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) has decline pattern from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections. The highest degree of success of CPI (M) party has been recorded in 2006 assembly election whereas it obtained degree of success 18.78 percent in 2011 and 17.56 percent in 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal. The degree of success of Trinomool Congress (TMC) party in 2006 was very low i.e. 11.67 percent in which TMC contested 257 seats but won only 30 seats. The degree of success of TMC grew higher in 2011 assembly election whereas they obtained 184 seats of 226 contested seats and thus degree of success is 81.41 percent. The degree of success of TMC has decline in 2016 elections i.e. 72.01 percent in which they contested 293

seats and won a majority seats 211. In 2006 assembly election, the degree of success of Independents parties was 1.14 percent but its pattern of degree of success has decline i.e. 0.50 percent in 2011 election and 0.27 percent in 2016 assembly elections.

A comparative study of degree of success of several political parties in 2006, 2011 and 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal has given in the figure 3 which shows a great variation and a changing pattern of party performances.

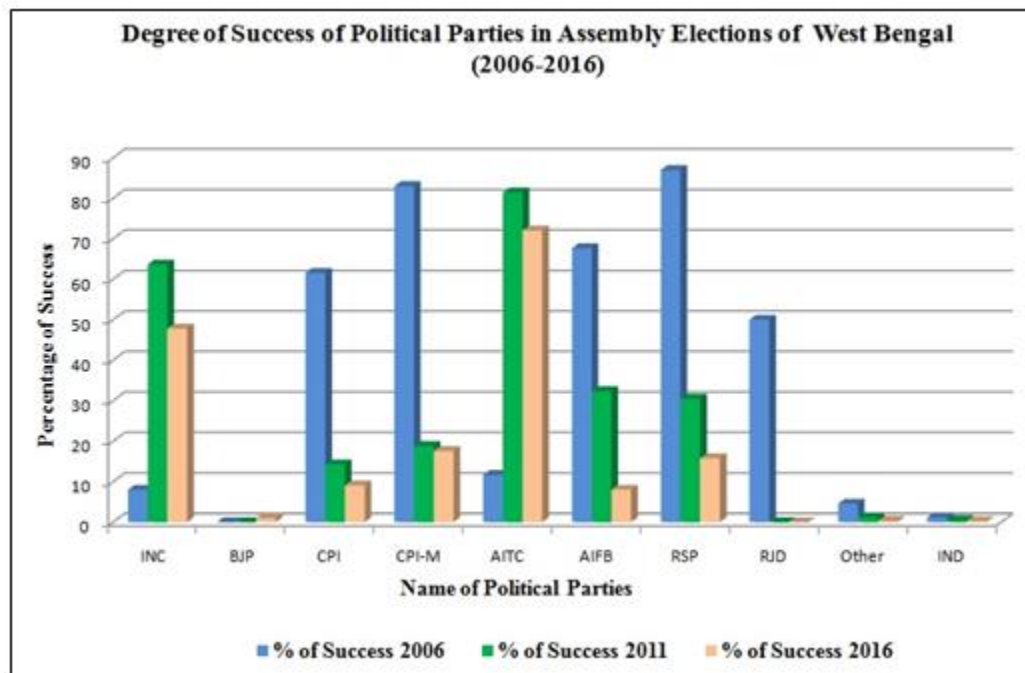


Fig 3: Degree of Success of Political Parties from 2006 to 2016 Assembly Elections

Patterns of Party Performances

The performances of political parties according to the percentage of seats and votes obtained by political parties in 2006, 2011 and 2016 assembly elections have shown in the table 4. It analyze that the differences between percentage of seats and votes in each election shows that there is great variation in the percentage of votes and seats. The Indian National Congress obtained 14.71 percent of votes and 7.14 percent of seats in 2006 election whereas the percentage of votes of INC has decline in 2011 election i.e. 0.09 percent but increase again in 2016 assembly elections i.e. 12.25 percent. There is an increasing pattern of party performances of Indian National congress interns of percentage of seats from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections i.e. 7.14 percent, 14.57 percent and 14.96 percent respectively. The percentages of votes and seats have also

increased to BJP parties from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections. The percentage of votes and seats of Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) decreased in all the elections. In 2006 TMC gained only 26.64 percent of votes and 10.20 percent of seats but in 2011 election it obtained 38.93 percent of votes and 62.58 percent of seats, it also gained 44.91 percent of votes and 71.76 percent of seats in 2006 assembly elections. The figure 4 and 5 shows that except 2006 assembly election, the highest party performances in terms of percentage of votes and seats has been recorded to the Trinomool Congress Party, whereas the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) party has been found as the highest percentage of votes and seats performances in 2006 assembly elections only. The percentages of votes and seats of AIFB, RSP and Independents party have a decrease pattern of performances in all the elections.

Table 4: Patterns of Party Performances

Parties	Pattern of Party Performances					
	2006		2011		2016	
	% of Votes	% of Seats	% of Votes	% Seats	% of Votes	% of Seats
INC	14.71	7.14	9.09	14.57	12.25	14.96
BJP	1.93	0	4.06	0	10.16	1.02
CPI	1.91	2.72	1.84	0.68	1.45	0.34
CPI-M	37.13	59.86	30.08	13.60	19.75	8.84
AITC	26.64	10.20	38.93	62.58	44.91	71.76
AIFB	5.66	7.82	4.80	3.74	2.82	0.68
RSP	3.71	6.80	2.96	2.38	1.67	1.02
RJD	0.08	0.34	0.05	0	0.03	0
Other	4.01	3.06	5.06	2.04	4.80	1.02
IND	4.22	2.04	3.13	0.68	2.16	0.34
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: Computed by the Researcher based on Statistical Reports in the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Assembly Elections in West Bengal, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi

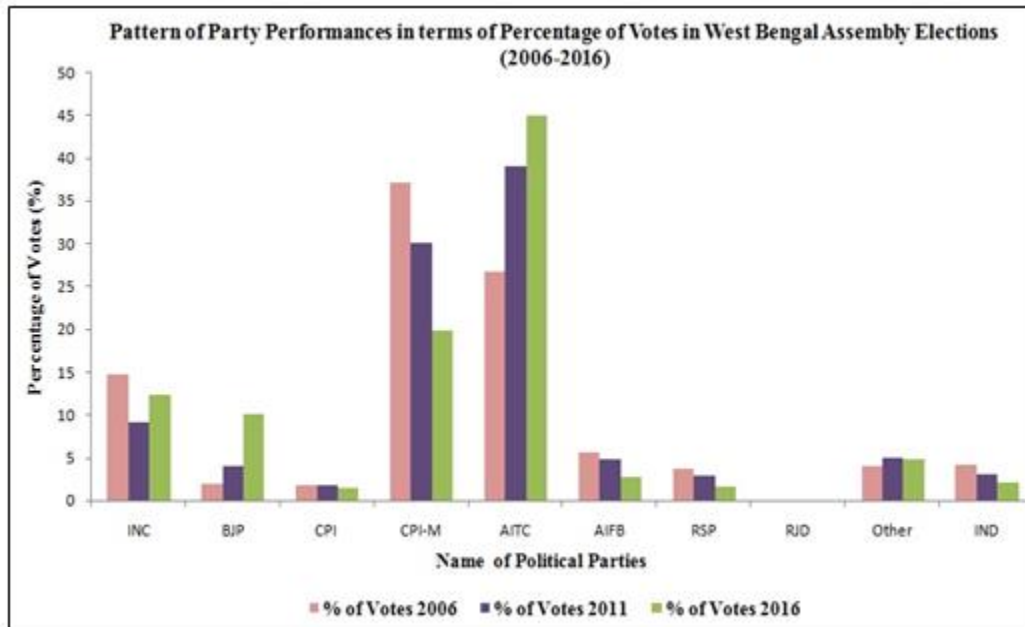


Fig 4: Patterns of Party Performances in terms of % of Votes from 2006-2016 Assembly Elections

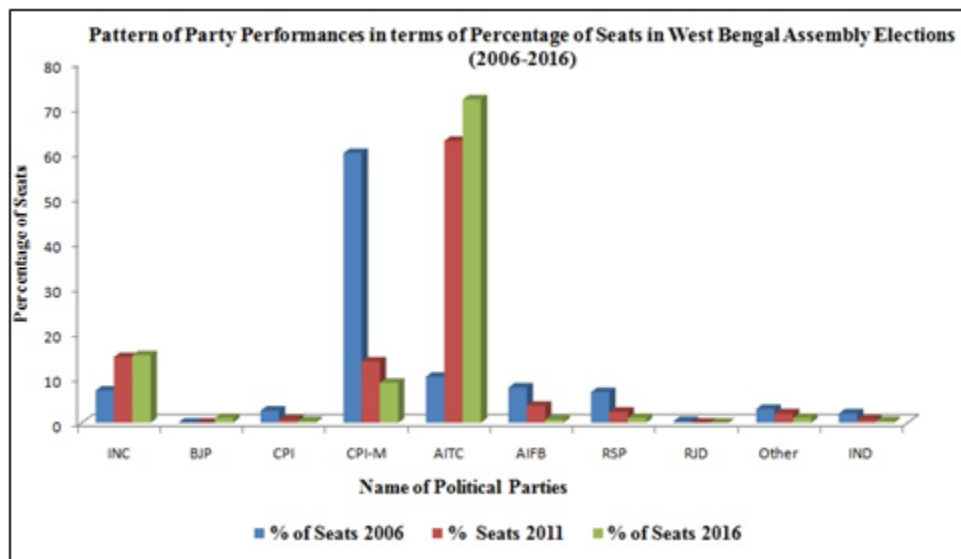


Fig 5: Patterns of Party Performances in terms of % of Seats from 2006-2016 Assembly Elections

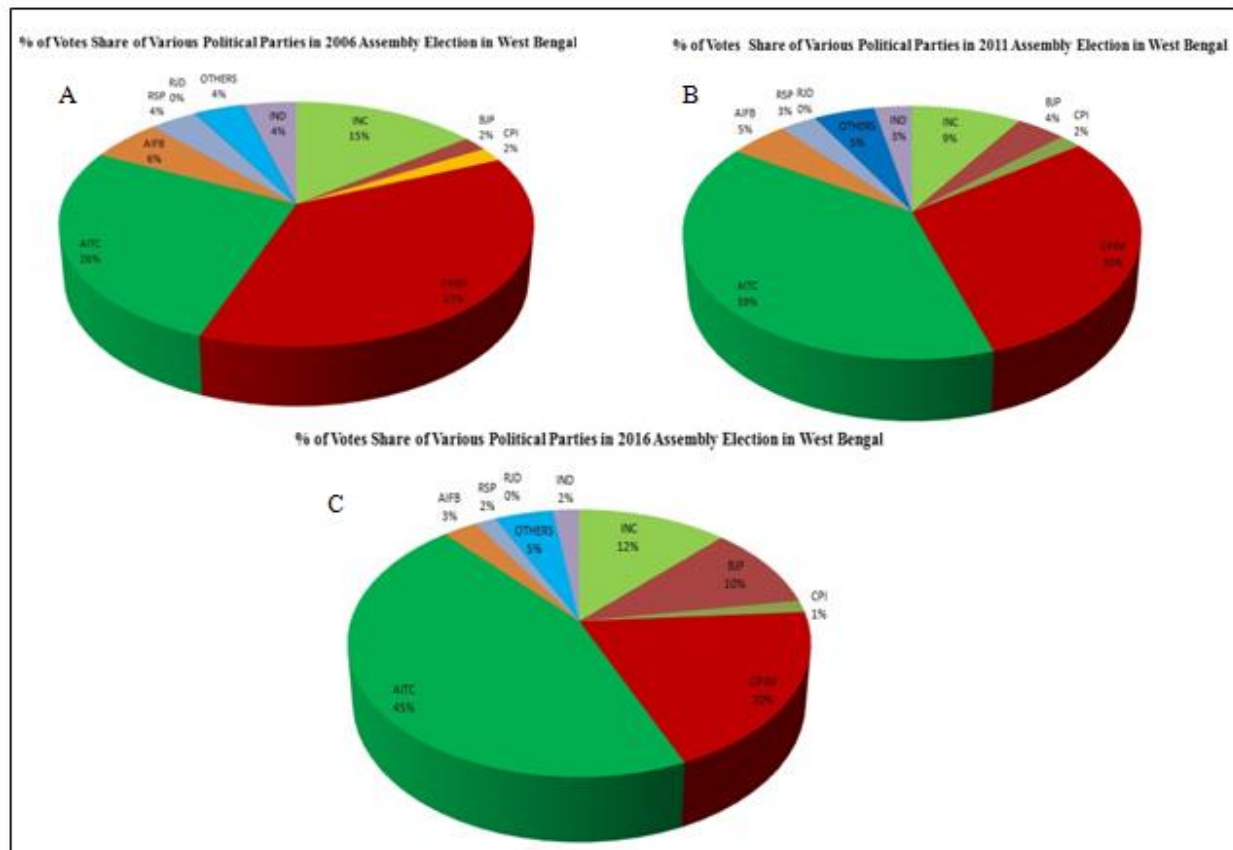


Fig 6: A, B, C shows Percent (%) of Votes Share of Various Political Parties in 2006, 2011 and 2016 assembly elections in West Bengal

Seats and Votes Swing of Political Parties

The comparative study of seats swing and votes swing by political parties in various elections is very useful because it can help to portray a spatial pattern of their consistency.

Table 5: Analysis of Seats Swing and Votes Swing of Political Parties in 2006 Assembly Election in West Bengal

Parties	Contested	Seats	Seats Swing	% of Votes	Votes Swing
INC	262	21	-5	14.71	+6.73
BJP	128	0	0	1.93	-3.26
CPI	13	8	+1	1.91	+0.12
CPI-M	212	176	+33	37.13	+0.54
AITC	257	30	-30	26.64	-4.02
AIFB	34	23	-2	5.66	+0.01
RSP	23	20	+3	3.71	-0.28
RJD	2	1	+1	0.08	-0.01
Other	197	9	+2	4.01	-0.42
IND	526	6	-3	4.22	+0.83
Total	1654	294		100.00	

Source: Calculation by the Researcher based on Statistical Reports in the 2001 and 2006 Assembly Elections in West Bengal, Election Commission of India, New Delhi

The table 5 analyzes the seats swing and votes swing of political parties in 2006 assembly election in West Bengal. In 2006 assembly election, the Indian National Congress (INC) has -5 seats swing and +6.73 percent votes swing from 2001 assembly election and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has 0 (zero) seats swing but -3.26 percent votes swing secured, Communist Party of India (CPI) obtained +1 seats swing and +0.12 percent votes swing, Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) has gained +33 seats swing and +0.54 percent votes swing. In the case of state parties, Trinomool Congress (TMC) obtained negative seats swing i.e. -30 and also secured negative percentage of votes swing i.e. -4.02 percent in 2006 assembly election in West Bengal.

Table 6: Analysis of Seats Swing and Votes Swing of Political Parties in 2011 Assembly Election in West Bengal

Parties	Contested	Seats	Swing	% of Votes	Swing
INC	66	42	+21	9.09	-5.62
BJP	289	0	0	4.06	+2.13
CPI	14	2	-6	1.84	-0.07
CPI-M	213	40	-136	30.08	-7.05
AITC	226	184	+154	38.93	12.29
AIFB	34	11	-12	4.80	-0.86
RSP	23	7	-13	2.96	-0.75
RJD	1	0	-1	0.05	-0.03
Other	525	6	-3	5.06	1.05
IND	401	2	-4	3.13	-1.09
Total	1792	294		100.00	

Source: Calculation by the Researcher based on Statistical Reports in the 2011 Assembly Elections in West Bengal, Election Commission of India, New Delhi

The table 6 shows spatial pattern of seats swing and votes swing in 2011 assembly election in West Bengal. It shows INC gained positive seats swing but secured negative votes swing i.e. +21 seats and -5.63 percent votes swing. Again BJP did not secure any single seat swing but it gained only +2.13 percent votes swing. CPI (M) party has been recorded as the negative seats swing and votes swing i.e. -136 seats swing and -7.05 percent votes swing in 2011 assembly elections. TMC has been recorded as the highest positive seats swing and votes swing i.e. +154 seats swing and +12.29 percent votes swing in the 2011 assembly elections.

**Table 7: Analysis of Seats Swing and Votes Swing of Political Parties
in 2016 Assembly Election in West Bengal**

Parties	Contested	Seats	Swing	% of Votes	Swing
INC	92	44	+2	12.25	+3.16
BJP	291	3	+3	10.16	+6.1
CPI	11	1	-1	1.45	-0.39
CPI-M	148	26	-14	19.75	-10.33
AITC	293	211	+27	44.91	+5.98
AIFB	25	2	-9	2.82	-1.98
RSP	19	3	-4	1.67	-1.29
RJD	1	0	0	0.03	-0.02
Other	1004	3	-3	4.80	-0.26
IND	371	1	-1	2.16	-0.97
Total	2255	294		100.00	

Source: Based on Statistical Reports in the 2016 Assembly Elections in West Bengal, Election Commission of India, New Delhi

The above table 7 analyzed that INC party has decreasing positive seats swing but it secured increasing positive votes swing than 2006 and 2011 assembly elections. INC gained only +2 seats swing and +3.16 percent votes swing in 2016 elections. In the 2016 assembly election, BJP came to secure their seats swing and votes swing, in which BJP obtained only +3 seats swing and +6.1 percent votes swing. CPI (M) part has recorded decreasing negative seats swing but increasing negative votes swing, it obtained -14 seats swing and -10.33 percent votes swing. Although TMC won a majority of seats i.e. 211 but it has decreasing pattern of positive seats swing and also votes swing than 2011 elections, whereas it gained +27 seats swing and +5.98 percent votes swing. However, TMC has been recorded as the highest positive seats and votes swing in 2016 assembly elections, whereas CPI (M) found as the highest negative seats swing and votes swing (Fig: 7 and 8). As like 2011 election, AIFB, RSP, RJD party has negative pattern of seats swing and votes swing in 2016 assembly elections. In the case of Independents, it gained -1 seats swing and -0.97 percent votes swing in 2016 assembly elections.

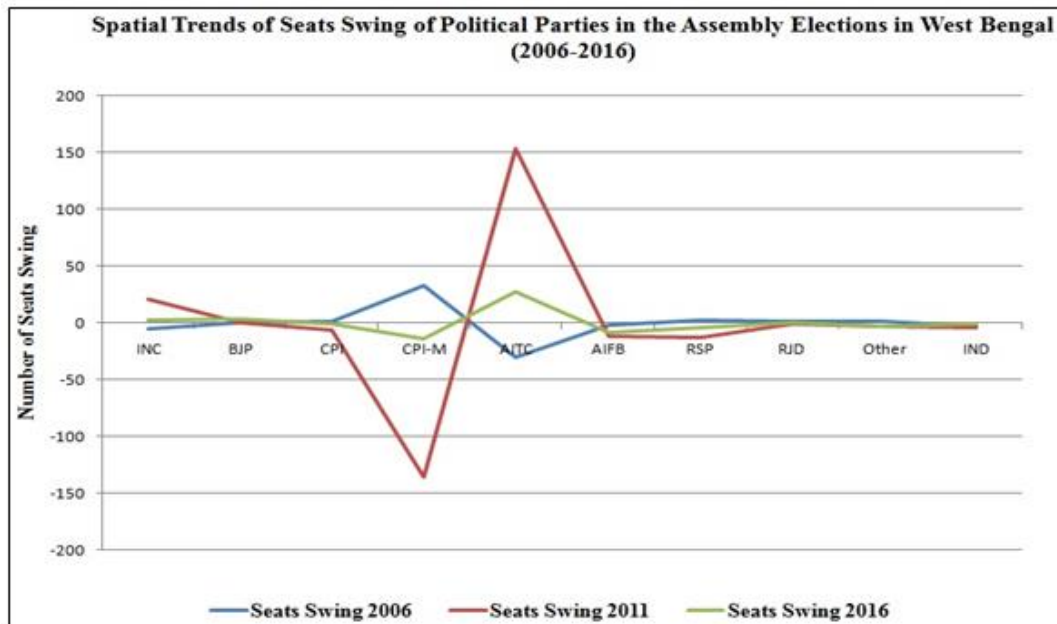


Fig 7: Spatial Trends of Seats Swing of Political Parties from 2006-2016 Assembly Elections

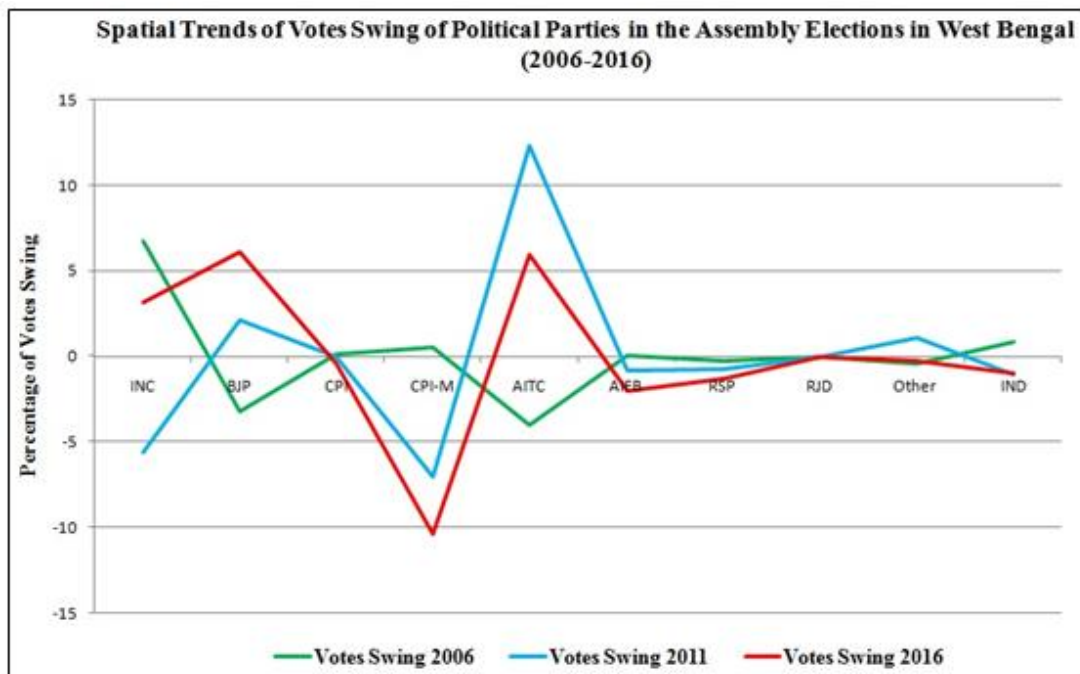


Fig: 8 Spatial Trends of Votes Swing of Political Parties from 2006-2016 Assembly Elections

District Wise Performances of Various Political Parties

The district wise analyses of performances of various political parties in the three consecutive assembly elections in West Bengal are as follows:

Table 8: District Wise Performances of Political Parties in 2006 Assembly Election

Districts	Total	Name of Political Parties									
		INC	CPIM	CPI	AITC	AIFB	RSP	RJD	BJP	Others	IND
Cooch Behar	9	3	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Alipurduar	5	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Jalpaiguri	7	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Darjeeling	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Uttar Dinajpur	9	2	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
Dakshin Dinajpur	6	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Malda	12	4	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Murshidabad	22	2	12	0	3	2	1	0	0	1	1
Nadia	17	1	10	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
North 24 Parganas	33	1	24	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	2
South 24 Parganas	31	3	15	0	7	3	2	1	0	0	0
Kolkata	11	0	7	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Howrah	16	0	11	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hooghly	18	0	12	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1
Purbo Medinipur	16	1	7	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	0
Paschim Medinipur	19	2	13	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Purulia	9	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bankura	12	0	8	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Bardhaman	25	1	21	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Birbhum	11	1	5	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	1
West Bengal	294	21	176	8	30	23	20	1	0	9	6

Source: Computed by the Researcher based on Statistical Reports in the 2006 Assembly Elections in the West Bengal, Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, Kolkata

The table 8 shows district wise performances of various political parties in the 2006 assembly election in West Bengal. In 2006 assembly election, the CPIM party has leads the government of West Bengal and won a majority of seats i.e. 176 seats out of 212 seats. In the district wise analysis, CPIM party has highest number of seats in North 24 Parganas district i.e. 24 seats followed by South 24 Parganas, Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Murshidabad district. INC

party has secured 21 seats in which Malda district has been recorded as the highest number of INC seats and seven districts such as Alipurduar, Darjeeling, Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, Purulia, Bankura did not secure a single seat. The All India Trinamool Congress has won 30 seats out of 294 seats whereas South 24 Parganas district has been found as the highest AITMC seats. Only 1 RJD seat secured by South 24 Parganas district and BJP did not win a single seat in the 2006 assembly election.

Table 9: District Wise Performances of Political Parties in 2011 Assembly Election

Districts	Total	Name of Political Parties									
		INC	CPIM	CPI	AITC	AIFB	RSP	RJD	BJP	Others	IND
Cooch Behar	9	1	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Alipurduar	5	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
Jalpaiguri	7	2	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Darjeeling	6	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
Uttar Dinajpur	9	3	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
Dakshin Dinajpur	6	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Malda	12	8	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Murshidabad	22	14	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Nadia	17	1	3	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
North 24 Parganas	33	1	2	1	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
South 24 Parganas	31	0	3	0	26	0	1	0	0	1	0
Kolkata	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howrah	16	1	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooghly	18	0	1	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	0
Purbo Medinipur	16	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paschim Medinipur	19	2	7	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	0
Purulia	9	2	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bankura	12	1	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bardhaman	25	1	8	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	0
Birbhum	11	2	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	294	42	40	2	184	11	7	0	0	6	2

Source: Computed by the Researcher based on Statistical Reports in the 2011 Assembly Elections in the West Bengal, Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, Kolkata

The table 9 clearly analyzed that 34 years largest ruling party CPIM has stopped in 2011 assembly election and AITMC has governed the state. AITMC has won a majority of seats i.e. 184 seats out of 294 seats, North 24 Parganas district has total 33 seats in which 29 seats secured

by AITMC. Kolkata district has total 11 seats and AITMC secured all the seats, as like Kolkata district, Purbo Medinipur districts also recorded 100 percent success of AITMC in which total seats are 16 and AITMC won 16 seats. The opposition party CPIM has won only 40 seats out of 294 seats, Bardhaman district has been found as the highest CPIM seats i.e. 8 seats out of 25 but seven districts like Cooch Behar, Alipurduar, Darjeeling, Dakshin Dinajpur, Kolkata, Howrah, Purbo Medinipur did not secured a single seat in the 2011 assembly elections, so in these districts CPIM party has zero performance. Out of 294 seats, Indian National Congress won 42 seats whereas the highest and good performances of INC party has been recorded in the Murshidabad district i.e. 14 seats out of total 22 seats. As like 2006 assembly election, again BJP did not won a single seat in the 2011 assembly election in West Bengal.

Table 10: District Wise Performances of Political Parties in 2016 Assembly Election

Districts	Total	Name of Political Parties									
		INC	CPIM	CPI	AITC	AIFB	RSP	RJD	BJP	Others	IND
Cooch Behar	9	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alipurduar	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0
Jalpaiguri	7	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darjeeling	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Uttar Dinajpur	9	3	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dakshin Dinajpur	6	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Malda	12	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Murshidabad	22	14	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nadia	17	3	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
North 24 Parganas	33	3	3	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
South 24 Parganas	31	0	2	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kolkata	11	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howrah	16	1	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooghly	18	1	1	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purbo Medinipur	16	0	2	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paschim Medinipur	19	1	0	0	17	0	0	0	1	0	0
Purulia	9	2	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bankura	12	2	2	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bardhaman	25	1	5	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birbhum	11	1	1	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	294	44	26	1	211	2	3	0	3	3	1

Source: Calculation by the Researcher based on Statistical Reports in the 2016 Assembly Elections in the West Bengal, Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, Kolkata

The table 10 shows that TMC has won a majority of seats i.e. 211 seats out of 294 seats. All the districts of West Bengal has well performances of TMC party, South 24 Parganas district has been recorded as the highest performance of TMC i.e. 29 seats followed by North 24 Parganas, Bardhaman, Paschim Medinipur, Hooghly, Howrah, Purbo Medinipur, Birbhum, Coach Behar. TMC has 100 percent performances in Kolkata district only i.e. 11 seats obtained out of 11 seats. The performances of CPIM party has been recorded as the decline trends from 2006 to 2016 assembly elections, they secured only 26 seats out of 294 seats. As like 2011 election, again Bardhaman districts have also found highest CPIM seats. The district of Murshidabad and Malda has very good and well performances of Indian National Congress (INC) in 2016 assembly election. The AIFB party has won only two seats, recorded in the Uttar Dinajpur and Bankura districts. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won only 3 seats in 2016 assembly election in West Bengal. The district of Alipurduar, Malda and Paschim Medinipur has performed each 1 seat of BJP. The Malda district has been recorded only 1 seat of Independents party in the 2016 assembly election in West Bengal.

CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

Elections are known as a mirror by which we can see the true image of a democracy. The modern developed democracies have always set great emphasize on the study of election. The study attempts to evolve the spatial patterns of party performances in the assembly elections in West Bengal from 2006 to 2016. As an electoral geographer, the elections results are important that create variations in the patterns with particular socio-economic and politico-cultural characteristics. The trends of electoral performances of CPM has been decline i.e. 37.13% in 2006, 30.08% in 2011 and 19.75% in 2016 assembly elections whereas TMC has increased trends of electoral performs i.e. 26.64% in 2006, 38.93% in 2011 and 44.91% in 2016 assembly elections. In terms of degree of success of CPM party has decline patterns i.e. 83.01 percent in 2006, 18.78% in 2011 and 17.56% in 2016, but TMC party has increased and decreased patterns of degree of success i.e. 11.67% in 2006, 81.41% in 2011 and 72.61 percent in 2016 assembly elections. In the district wise analysis the study found that Trinomool Congress has well and good performance in every districts of the state in both 2011 and 2016 assembly elections, but the people of West Bengal reject the Communist Party of India (CPIM) to form a democratic government. TMC has highest number of seats in the districts of Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas. CPIM has highest number of performances in the Bardhaman and Malda districts of the state. The district of Murshidabad and Malda has very good and well performances of Indian National Congress (INC) in the assembly elections of West Bengal.

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