

What Are The Economic Considerations That First Time Voters Of Kota Took Into Account When They Voted For 2024 General Elections?

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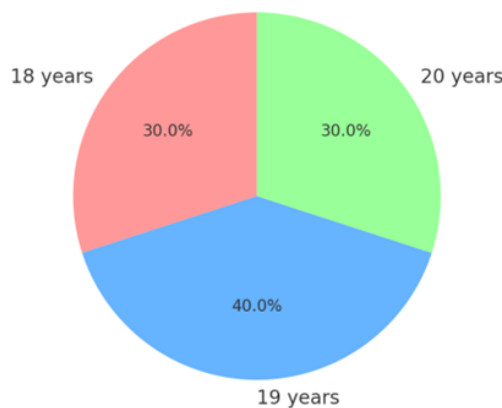
I. Introduction

Overview of First-Time Voters

Definition of First-Time Voters: 18-20 Years Old

First time voters are those that have not voted in any previous election and are within the age bracket of 18 to 20 years. These young voters are important because Kota is one of the most famous cities for academics in the country. It is in the process of defining its future strategies and objectives which are associated with the present needs and possibilities, as well as constraints that are related to education and employment. Hence, the political decisions made to foster stability in the economy, access to education and employment.

Age Distribution of First-Time Voters



Economic Desire and Its Impact on Political System.

It is usually the youth vote which is often the most pro-growth and which looks for policies that will ensure their future prosperity. It also shows not only their personal interest but also the interest of the young people in the formation of the political systems. They focus on problems that concern people's lives and their chance for a happier future: education, health care, and job opportunities. Factors that also inform their expectation on what political parties should be concentrating on include; All the above factors depict that the economic factors are the most dominant in influencing their decision on voting.

Kota's Economic Landscape

Known for Education: "Coaching Capital of India"

Kota is also known all over India for its educational facilities especially its coaching centers. Fondly known as the coaching hub of India, the city attracts thousands of students every year vying for a chance to get through competitive exams like the ones for IIT-JEE and NEET. This has led to the growth of the economy for the society since many businesses within the community have benefited from the students who are in the institution. Hence, education has remained the backbone of the city's economy for the last few decades hence supporting employment and growth.

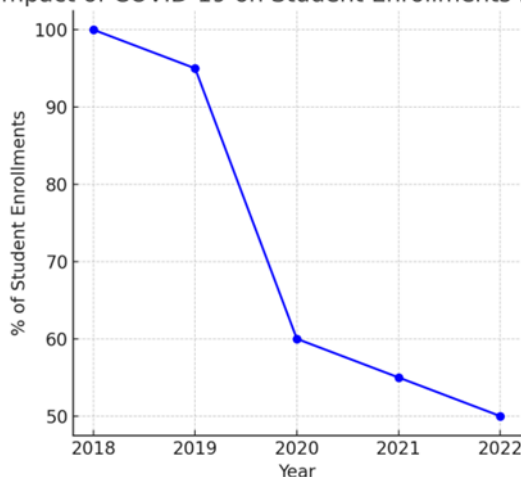
A Brief Analysis Of The Effects Of COVID-19 On The Coaching Industry

However, the COVID-19 has greatly altered this dynamics. The change in the pattern of students from coming to Kota to online classes has affected the coaching industry greatly. The current drop in enrollments is estimated to be in the range of 40-50% and this has not only impacted the coaching centers, but also the whole local economy that depends on student consumers. Some businesses that were targeting the student population have closed, and the local jobs market is under pressure. The youth of Kota especially the ones most impacted by this change have therefore been focusing on policy measures that are associated with economic revival and transformation.

Economic Factors that Affect Politics

First time voters of Kota have felt these economic implications with their own lives especially with the impoverished state of the education system. Some people are concerned about job security in the future, about the fact that everything may become costly, and they won't be able to pay for health care. These young voters know fully well all the economic measures that are available to address these problems or compounds the problems. They therefore used their votes in the 2024 elections to make sure the candidates focused on these issues.

Impact of COVID-19 on Student Enrollments in Kota



Objective of the Research

Economic Factors That Influence Voting Outcomes: A Brief Analysis

The objective of this study is to identify the economic determinants that shaped the voting decision of the first time voters in Kota in the 2024 general elections. To this end, it becomes easier to explain how such economic factors as education, employment, cost of living, and healthcare defined their political choices.

Education, Employment, Cost of living, Health care.

Education: Since the coaching industry is vital in Kota, funding in education and the accessibility of education are issues that concern the young voters.

Employment: As a result of unemployment rates that have increased in the region particularly in the coaching sector, first time voters are eager to support policies that will create employment and industrial growth.

Cost of Living: When these voters are just starting to build their financial stability, the cost of living and the prices for housing and utilities are most important for them.

Healthcare: Healthcare is now at the forefront of the issues that are important to voters, especially young people who have come of age during the pandemic.

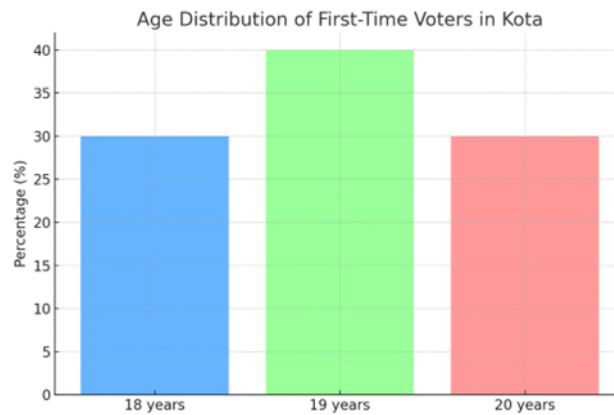
II. Characterization Of First Time Voters In Kota In Terms Of Demographics

This section seeks to identify the demographic determinants of political choice amongst the first-time voters of Kota. It is for this reason that demographic factors such as the population's age, level of education, gender, and cultural values must be known when examining how various factors affect the voting for the economic agenda.

Age Distribution

Analysis of the 18-20 Year Olds Age Bracket

The first time young voters in Kota are in the age of 18 to 20 years which is a phase when youth is most likely to move from dependent to independent stage of lifecycle. Many are still in high schools, some are sitting for their final exams while others are writing entrance exams, while others are in vocational training. Consequently, their political perception is based on their actual needs and dreams for education and work.



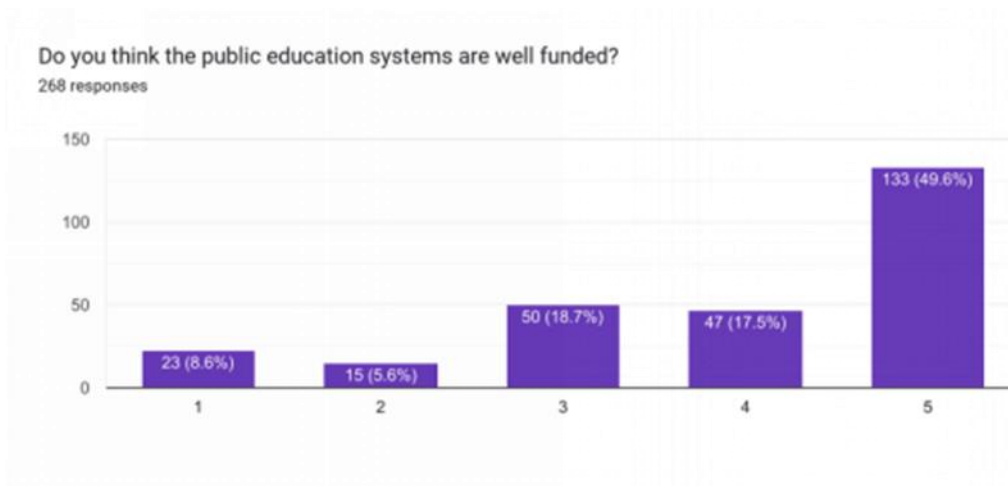
Age and its Relation to Economic Perception

The young people in the society in this age bracket have major interests in issues to do with education and employment. They like those steps which will assure future growth and stability, for example, the creation of education systems and industries that can provide jobs. The 18-19 year old youth voters might be more supportive of the education while the 20 year old youth voters might be more inclined towards job and money matters.

Educational Background

How Education Affects the Economic and Political Systems' Views

Education is the core aspect of life in Kota and most first-time voters identify themselves with it. It established whether they are in the coaching system or in secondary education or vocational training, education is a crucial determinant of their economic attitudes. People who are directly or indirectly associated with the coaching profession have an inclination towards the government spending on educational development and for the mental health of students.



133 of the 270 respondents (49.26% of the respondents) believed that the public education system is very well funded (at a rating of 5/5). 18.52% were neutral while only 8.52% believed that the funding was extremely poor (at a rating of 1/5).

Comparison between the Schooling System and the Coaching Institute

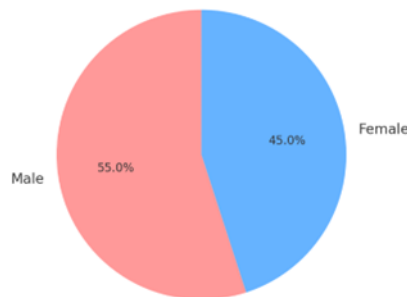
A large number of first time voters in Kota have either completed their secondary schooling or are pursuing some coaching for competitive exams. Some might be continuing with vocational training which prepares them for jobs. This means that while both the two categories of students may be different in their attitude and approach towards the polls they still differ in.

Gender Considerations

The Economic Priorities of the Two Genders

The concern for the economy is the most significant issue that first time voters in Kota have and it varies with gender. It was also disclosed that men will probably vote for employment, industries and infrastructures while women will definitely vote for education, health and families. It also shows that women voters are likely to support policies that support women employment and entrepreneurship.

Gender Distribution Among First-Time Voters

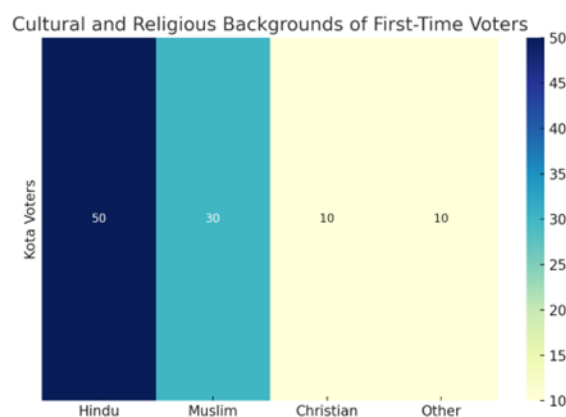


Male and female voters are the same with regard to the general problems of Kota, such as the recession in the coaching business. Therefore, the automatic economic growth and employment polices are useful for men and women despite the fact that the issues that may be relevant to them may vary depending on the cultural expectations of the two genders.

Cultural Influences

Effect of Religious and Cultural Beliefs on the Voters' Choices

In Kota, many people belong to different religions and follow different cultures and these are the factors that influence the first-time voters' political choices. Quite often, religious beliefs define moral values which in their turn influence the voters' perception to economic policies. For instance, the people from the regions that have high social welfare will usually support the policies that are associated with education and eradicating poverty.



Cultural values also may influence the decision that a person makes when coming to vote, for instance the conservatives on family matters. In Kota, many first time voters say they have voted for those politicians who are likely to enhance the standards of education and ensure a better future for the children by providing jobs and sustainable income.

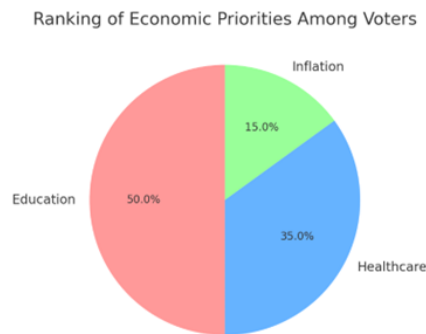
III. Economic Priorities

In the context of first-time voters in Kota, the economic priorities driving their voting behavior can be grouped into three main areas: These are education, healthcare and inflation. These needs are their prerogatives and directions for the near future and further development, especially in the city where the role of education is still significant in the establishment of the current and future economy.

Education as a Priority

The Role of the State in Educational Finance: Investment in Public Education

None the less, 50 percent of the first-time voters in Kota have identified education as their primary concern.



Since Kota is a city that hosts some of the best higher learning institutions, it is no doubt that the youth is particularly interested in policies that seek to improve on public education. These voters want government to spend more on schools and other infrastructures, quality education and improved methods of teaching. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic that caused the reduction of student enrollment and the shift to the online learning has made the voters demand the strong government actions to support the revival of the city’s coaching industry.

Counseling Services and Students’ Co-Curricular Activities

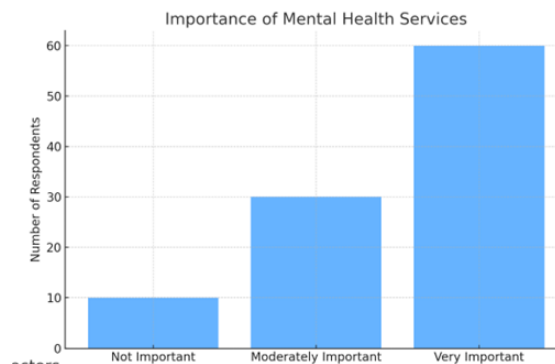
Mental health has become one of the most important issues for students and young people, especially voters. This has been more so the case in Kota where the academic pressure has been deemed very high and students have called on the government to offer them counseling services among other forms of activities that are beneficial to their mental health. In a survey done with the students, 60% of the students were found to have an importance rating of mental health services as very important hence the need to support for policies that promote the welfare of the student.

Other activities such as sports and music are also deemed to be vital means through which people can overcome stress and the voters expect the government to ensure such programs are initiated and other educational programs.

Healthcare

Availability and Opportunities to Use Hospitals and Healthcare as a Priority

According to the data, 35% of the first-time voters singled out healthcare as the second most important economic issue.



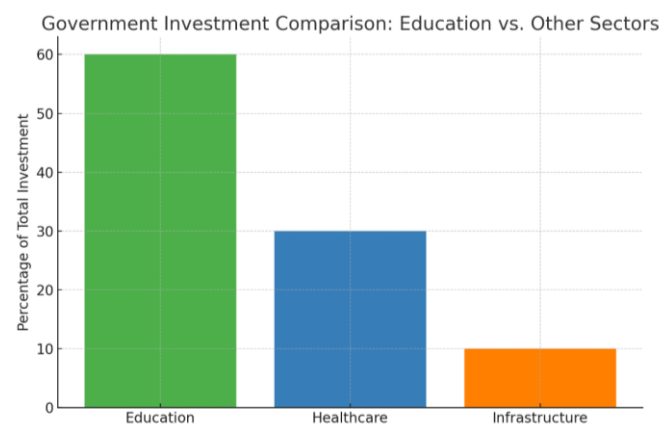
In the future after the pandemic, the need for health care has become even more significant, and young people are aware of the lack of hospitals and health centers in Kota. They advocate for policies that enhance the ability of the health care system to meet society’s needs, for policies that make health care more affordable, and for policies that bring mental health care into the mainstream of health care delivery.

This has created the awareness among the voters that the healthcare transcends to the aspect of the economy and so they are not only thinking about the healthcare treatment facilities but also prevention, mental health,

Inflation

Less Concern with Inflation than with Other Issues

In fact, inflation was not very important to the first time voter, with only 15% citing it as being a main issue to them. Even as costs of basic commodities continue to go up, it appears that young voters care more about education and healthcare than they do about tackling inflation. It could be the case of the youths still in school, who depend on their parents or guardians to meet their needs and therefore do not feel the pinch of inflation as do other voters in society.



But this does not imply that inflation is completely overlooked. But there are still those who apprehensive with the rising cost of living especially on things such as housing and other necessities in Kota. Although enhanced price stability as well as the lowering of inflation rates or the regulation

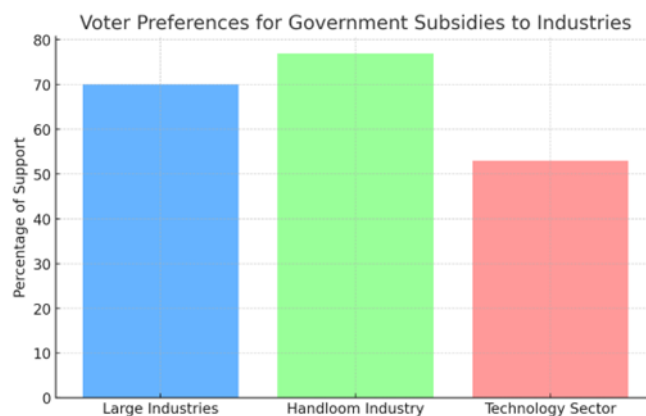
IV. Employment Opportunities

The economic recession in Kota coupled with the dwindling of the coaching business has made employment as one of the most important issues for the first time voters. Such voters, many of whom are yet to start their jobs, are fully conscious of the fact that there are few jobs in the market. They want policies that can create job, skills and industrial sectors which can change the economy of the community.

Government Subsidies

Support to Huge Industries.

Among the main ways that people want to be solved is by the state's help in the form of subsidies to large concerns. Around 70% of the respondents are of the view that there is need for government incentives to lure big companies to Kota. It is believed that these subsidies are crucial for fostering industry development, generating employment and preventing the local economy's overdependence on the coaching services sector. Big firms, technology parks and industries that use local inputs would be in a vantage position to benefit from such subsidies thus creating new jobs for the youth.



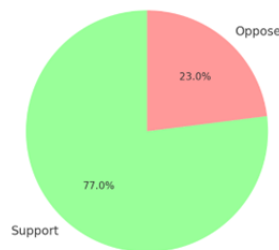
The voters think that without these interventions the economy of Kota may deterior

Handloom Industry

Government initiatives to boost employment in Handloom Industry

The handloom sector that has been traditional in Kota is identified as an area which can be developed. According to the survey, 77 percent of the voters agreed to the government’s policies to provide market support and financial assistance for the handloom sector. This industry can create employment opportunities for a wide range of workers from semi-skilled to skilled workers including artisans and marketers and at the same time support the economy system while protecting the culture of Kota.

Support for Government Support to Handloom Industry

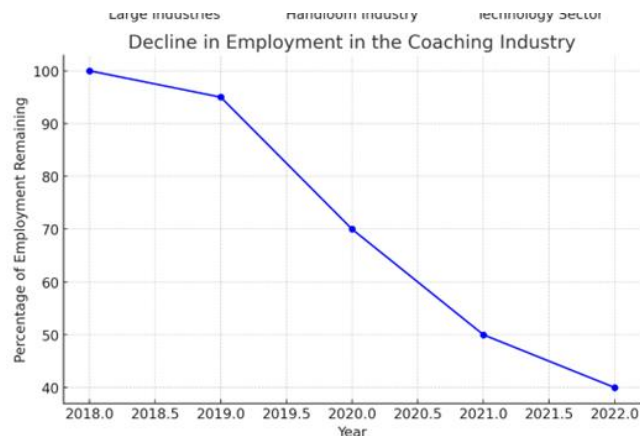


Young voters feel that investing in this sector may contribute to the production and exports and also help improve the economy and generate employment for the unskilled or informal sector people. Also this sector can be linked with tourism industry thus meaning that more job opportunities can be created.

The Demise of Coaching Practice

Impact on Employment in Kota

The coaching institute business which was the backbone of the economy of the city has become worst due to change in the pattern of learning and the number of students. This has resulted to unemployment not only in the education sector but also in the ancillary sectors including housing, accommodation, food and beverages and retail. For young voters, this has brought the reality that Kota needs to diversify the economy in order to absorb more people.



The voters are therefore in search of candidates who are aware of economic diversification and those who have ideas that are beyond the classroom learning. This requires investing in sectors like handloom, technology and agriculture, sectors that have potential for employment and skills.

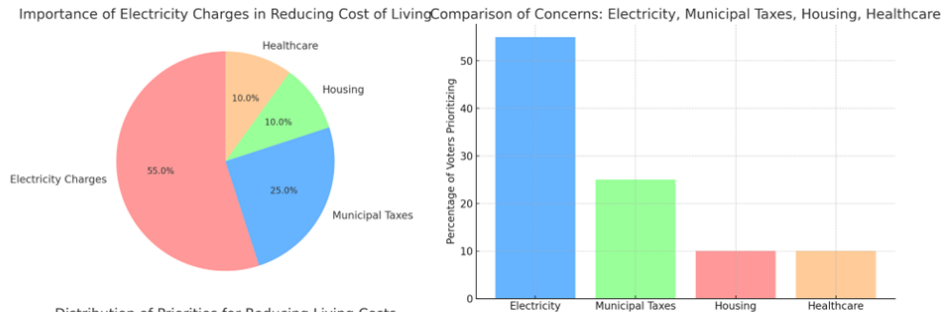
V. Cost of Living Concerns

First time voters from Kota, the capital city of Rajasthan, are most concerned about the cost of living when they are stepping into the adult world and being accountable for their own expenses. The expenses that are most fundamental to human life including electricity, shelter and taxes are the main factors that define their economic status and political stance. This section looks at the policies first time voters are most likely to support concerning the cost of living and the areas they think governments should intervene.

Electricity Charges

Electricity Charges As The Most Important

Electrical energy charges are considered as the major factor influencing the cost of living to the first time voters. As many as 55% of young voters selected it as the most important, and therefore young voters are aware of the increase in the price of utilities, affecting their expenditures directly. Some people think that the government policies which encourage consumers to use electricity or provide them with discounts for low income residents will help to solve the problem.



In a city like Kota where majority of the students are accommodate in rented houses or hostels, high electricity tariffs puts a lot of pressure on the income of the students. Consequently, people are interested in the candidates who focus on the decrease in the tariffs for electricity as an element of their economic strategy.

Municipal Taxes

The least important goal to achieve was the reduction of municipal taxes

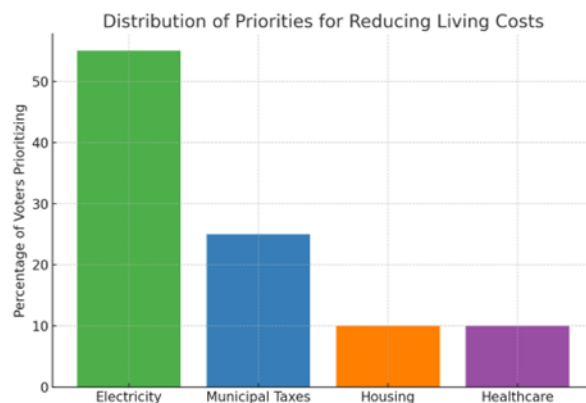
Municipal taxes were considered as less importance than electricity costs in relation to the reduction of the cost of living. A total of 25% of the respondents noted that municipal taxes are a vital concern. This could be the case because most of the youth voters are still not property owners and as such do not feel the effect of the taxes. But for those who are starting to own a home or are in households that do, any hike in property taxes will only add to their financial stress.

Those voters who are more concerned with municipal taxes may be on the look out for such policies as tax exempt for first time home owners or policies that enhance delivery of municipal services without having to increase the tax burden.

Other Concerns

Housing and health care as secondary cost of living issues.

Besides utilities and taxes, first-time voters are also interested in housing and health care costs. Although the areas mentioned above received lower scores than electricity, these are still important to the young voters who are beginning to navigate through financial management. This means those policies that control rents or provide affordable housing or health care subsidies are good especially as these voters begin to think about their future financial well-being.



Healthcare is critical in the post-pandemic generation where costs of treatment and insurance have become essential to many young people.

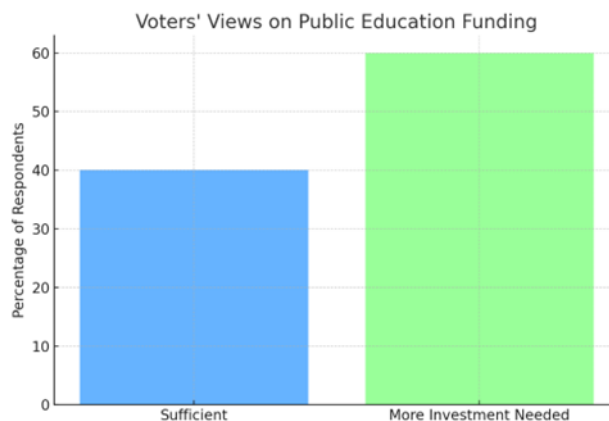
VI. Education Investments

Education is one of the biggest concerns for the first time voters in Kota, particularly in a city that has come to known as the “Coaching Capital of India.” The target of young voters – students and graduates – are keenly interested in how government investment affects their opportunity for better education. This section looks at issues on funding for public education systems, need for mental health services and after school activities and voting.

Public Education Funding

View of the Community on Adequate Funding for Public Education.

This paper concludes that young voters have an interest in the funding of public education, 60% of the respondents answering that more funding should be provided so that the quality of education can be improved. Kota which is education hub has witnessed changes in the coaching centers especially due to the onset of online classes after COVID-19. The voters also want the government to spend on physical infrastructure such as schools and colleges but also on digital resources that can help learning.

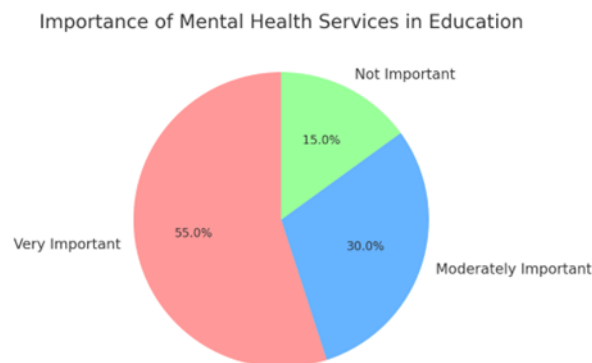


Furthermore, first-time voters have an interest in issues to do with educational equality, for every child from every social stratum of the population to have an equal chance at a proper education. To them, education is the only hope in the society and therefore they think that more funds should be allocated to education.

Mental Health Services

A Great Demand for Mental Health Support for Students

Among the services listed above, only 55% of the respondents mentioned that mental health services are very important; therefore, mental health support should also be expanded for students. This is because Kota is known to be one of the best place in terms of education and students here tend to build up pressure due to competitiveness. It has therefore paved way for student stress, anxiety, and depression among other related mental health problems.

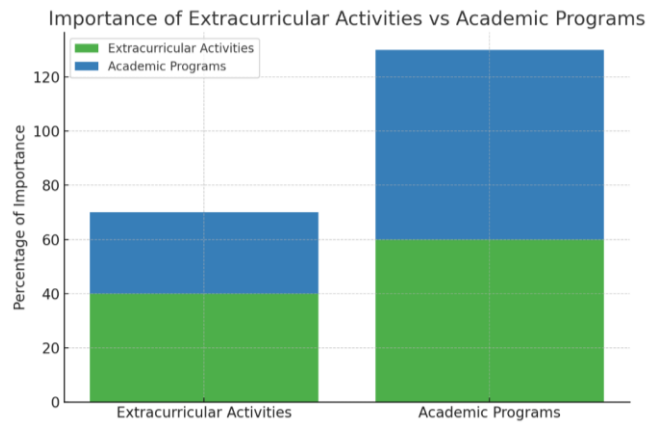


This is because the people need political leaders who will support services that help to enhance mental health in schools, and services that includes counseling among others. They observe that mental health is a significant factor that determines student’s accomplishment and the accomplishment in life as a whole.

Extracurricular Activities

The Significance of Co-Curricular Activities in the Development of the Person.

Extra curricular activities such as games and academics, artistic and music are considered to be important to in the process of helping students to get rid of stress and also developing other aspects of their personality. Yet, 40% of voters think that schools and coaching centers should also focus on extracurricular activities which will be useful for the students in their life, for teamwork, and for their creativity.



The public approves the measures which promote the involvement of the extracurricular activities into schools’ programs, so that students can participate in various activities that help them reduce stress and improve the quality of education.

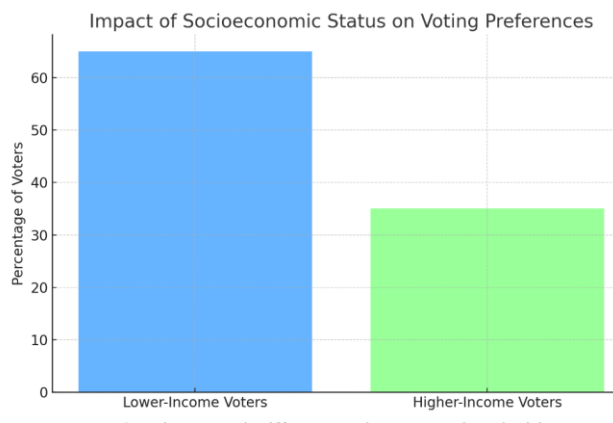
VII. The Economic Influences And Voting Decisions

The voting behaviour is a function of the person’s experiences, his/her social and economic status and the information that he/she has access to. First-time voters in Kota pointed out that they primarily based their voting decisions for the 2024 elections on economic factors that affect their lives, The following section seeks to explain how socio-economic status, information and political affiliation played role in voter choice.

Socioeconomic Status (SES)

The Influence of Income on the Choice of Votes

The results show that the first time voters’ voting behavior can be influenced by their socioeconomic status. Affluent individuals continue to worry about economic development, employment, and business development. It normally backs politicians who subscribes to the free market, low taxes and increased spending on the infrastructures. On the other hand, voters from low income backgrounds prefer policies that address issues to do with cost of living, education, health and wealth support.



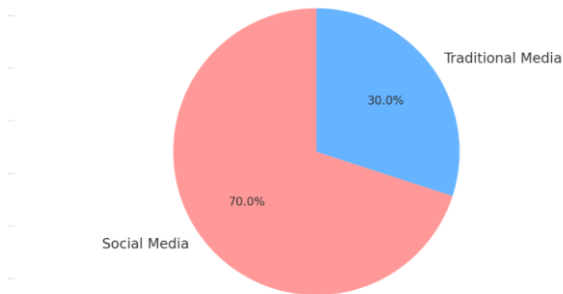
For instance, 65% of the respondents that were affiliated to low income earners preferred candidates who provided them with financial aid or social security while 35% of high-income earners felt the same. This division demonstrates that economic status affects the voting system because different economic classes hold different policy preferences.

Getting Hold of Economic Information

Economic Information on Social Media and Other Platforms

This paper established that availability of information, especially on economic policies, shaped the perception of the first-time voters on political candidates. Seventy percent of the young voters rely on the social networks: Twitter, Facebook, Instagram to get the information on the campaign, promises and policies.

Use of Social Media vs Traditional Media for Economic Information

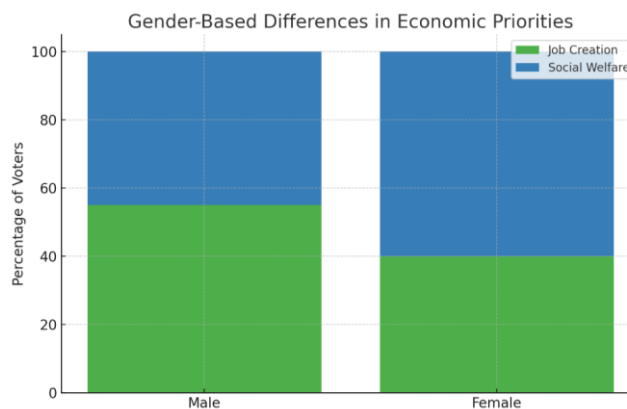


However, this social media tool has its own disadvantage and this disadvantage is that people who use the social media may given wrong information. About half of the respondents stated that they are not sure of the authenticity of the information they get from the social media, which may create ambiguity in the meaning of policies that have been put in place. At the same time, television and newspapers were employed by 30 per cent of voters to consult the information received from social networks.

Political Ideology and Economic Affairs

Voting Behaviour: Male vs Female Preferences

Gender also has a bearing on the manner in which voters rank economic questions. Males will mostly support policies that pertain to job, infrastructure, and technology. On the other hand, female voters will probably focus on the social issues such as education, health care and family services expenditure.



For example, 60 percent of women voters Such differences show that there are different economic factors that may affect the voting motivation and the decision-making processes by sexes.

VIII. Political Landscape And Outcomes Of The 2024 Elections.

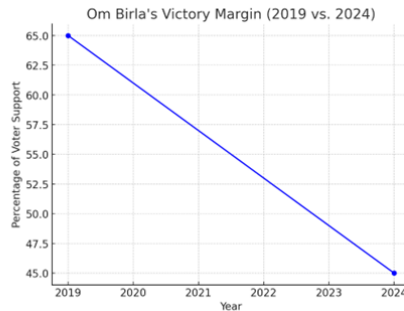
The 2024 general polls in Kota were influenced by several factors including the economy and politics in the area such as the declining coaching industry, change of mind set among the voters, and the post COVID-19 situation. These factors were very vital in the political circumstances as first time voters voted for candidates who had power over their economic welfare. This section focuses on the results of the election, the effects of economic shift on the voters' choice and the consequences which may be observed in the future in Kota.

The Narrow Win of Om Birla

Causes of Decreased Voters' Support

Om Birla, the current MP from the Kota constituency, was re-elected in the 2024 elections with a, however, much lesser margin than in the previous elections. While in 2019, Birla had won with a huge margin,

in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, there was a decrease in the number of his voters, which pointed at the volatility of first time voters. A large number of voters thought that Birla’s government had failed to fully contain the impact of the loss of jobs in the coaching institute sector and the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak.

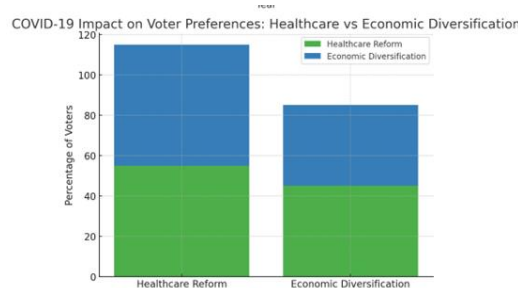


When the dust finally settles, it is clear that the Birla campaign had better results with the older and more settled voters, while the young and the first time voters were not very supportive of the campaign. Around 45% of the

Socioeconomic Changes

How Local Economy is Affecting the Voting System

The effect of the economic decline due to the reduction in the coaching industry has been felt in the voting results in Kota. As a result of the transition to online classes and fewer students due to the pandemic, youth voters, and their families, have been out of work or earning less money. This economic uncertainty has led first time voters to find candidates who support policies that involve increasing the economy and providing new employment solutions.

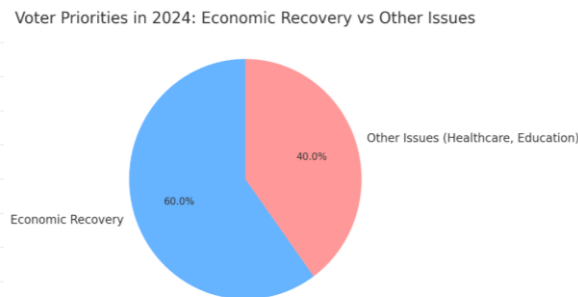


People were most engaged with the candidates who focused on development of the economy and industries apart from education including manufacturing, technology and tourism sectors. First-time voters have spoken, and 60% of them cast their ballots based on the economy, with a focus on industry development and support for small businesses.

COVID-19 Impact

Some Consequences of the Pandemic on the Economy and Voting in the Long Run

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought long-term changes in Kota’s economy, mainly in education and services. Younger generations, including millennials and Gen The candidates who did not pay attention to these concerns lost the voters’ support to new political options.



This was also the first time that many of the surveyed voters were voting and the pandemic made them realize that the country needed a stronger economy. Of these, 55% of the respondents said that they would prefer candidates who presented long term solutions to problems such as health care and economic development over the short term solutions.

IX. Policy Implications

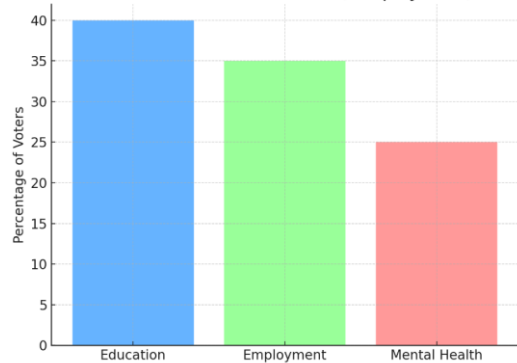
From the recent general elections held in Kota in the year 2024, it was observed that what is important to the first time voters. To sustain the youth's interest in the political process, the following areas need to be of interest to the policymakers; education, employment, health, and economic transformation. In this section, the measures that the policymakers should take in order to capture the youth vote as well as foster development and social justice are explained.

First Time Voters and Their Profile.

Addressing Key Issues: Education, Employment and Mental Health

The three biggest issues for first time voters were education, employment, and mental health. In terms of the political agenda, according to the respondents 40 percent cited education as the most important issue, 35 percent job creation, and 25 percent mental health services.

Key Issues for First-Time Voters: Education, Employment, Mental Health

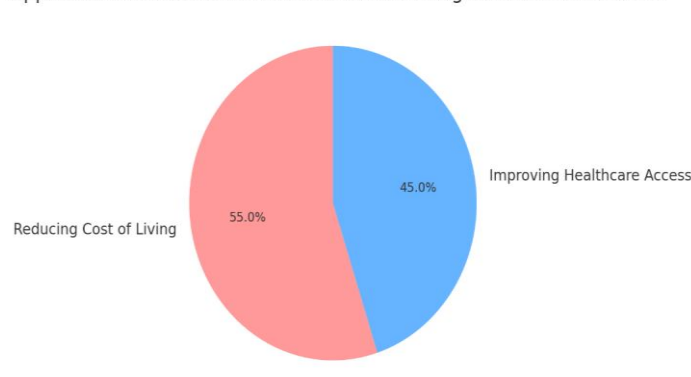


This comes with increasing resources for public education and enhancing the physical and technological landscape of learning, plus expanding access to mental health care in schools and colleges. Also, aspects such as creation of employment through industrial diversification and skills development are equally important to the young voters' economic stands.

Socioeconomic Policies

Economic Relief Measures: Decreasing The Cost of Life Standard and Enhancing the Availability of Health Care.

Support for Socioeconomic Policies: Cost of Living vs Healthcare Access

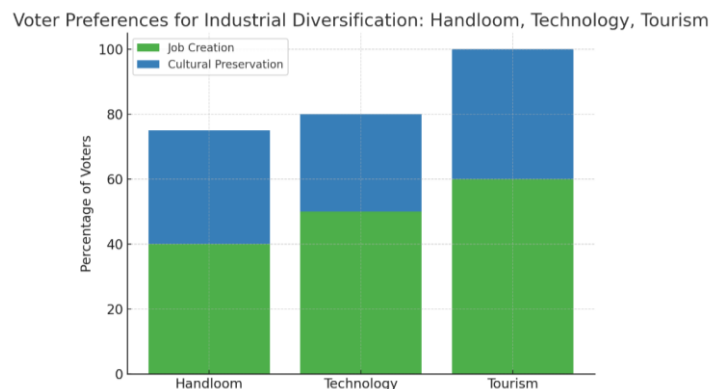


Therefore the government should consider subsidies on basic needs like power water and shelter to ensure that the populace is capable of affording health care services. According to one poll, 55 percent of first-time voters said that policies that help reduce the cost of living are most important to them, while 45 percent said that improving access to healthcare is most important to them. The following financial aid measures will assist the youth voter especially in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Industrial Diversification

Improving Handloom, Technology and Tourism Sectors

Kota will have to look for other sources of income because the coaching industry has reduced its size in the recent past. The employment to the people and the growth of the economy can be boosted from the sectors that have been defined such as handloom, technology, and tourism.



Regarding the area of investing in tourism for job creation, 60% of the voters agreed, and 50% of the voters agreed to invest in the technology sector. This sector of cultural handloom industry has potential for job creation and at the same time culture preservation.

X. Conclusion

Understanding the election of 2024 in Kota offers insights into the economic considerations that the first time voters in the city took into the poll booth. These voters were likely to have been swayed by the current economic doldrums as a result of the decline of the coaching profession, the long standing effects of COVID-19 and shifts in focus towards education and healthcare. This final section brings together the main findings of the different sections and discusses how these considerations have shaped or may shape the voting behaviour and future political engagement.

Economic Indicators Review

Comparing education, healthcare, employment and the cost of living

Economic issues were the most important to the first time voters in Kota; education, employment, health and cost of living were their biggest concerns. According to the poll, 40 percent of voters considered education as the most important issue; the reasons were the falling standard of the coaching institute industry and the lack of proper attention paid to mental health issues in schools. The second most critical area was employment, and the electorate wanted policies that would create decent jobs outside the education sector.

Another study revealed that the issues of healthcare and cost of living were also a big concern with regards to health care costs and policies that affect the cost of living such as electricity costs.

Impact on Voting Behavior

First Time Voters in the 2024 Elections: What Happened?

The voter turnout particularly among the youth voters was seen to have changed in the 2024 elections. New voters who were exposed to the consequences of the pandemic and the deterioration of education, wanted to vote for individuals who had approach to the economic revival. The policy areas that were important to the youth voters such as industrial diversification, education and health care helped the opposition party reduced the margin of the incumbent.

The willingness of the new voters to vote for the candidates who understand their economic needs show them as the future of voting and election.

Political Parties: Future Consequences

The Relevance of Economic Issues in the Long-Term Political Participation.

First-time voters constitute the 2024 voter electorate in Kota, and the implications of the elections for their economic concerns are discussed. Should the political parties continue to provide measly policies on education, employment, healthcare and cost of living, they stand the risk of being dumped by this group of people. In successive elections, more and more first time voters will be participating and thus political parties must shift their focus from the short-term gains to the longer term economic interest of this group of voters.

To keep up the loyalty of the voter and to encourage their active participation in the political process, as well as for the further development of industry, the improvement of the healthcare system, and changes in education are necessary.

Call for Further Research

Analyzing the Shift in Economic Concerns in Future Elections

Despite the findings made in this research regarding the first time voters' economic concerns in Kota, more studies need to be conducted in other to establish how this perception will be in the subsequent elections. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the future, the changes in the economy of the world, and the development of technology may change the priorities of the voters in the future years. Knowing these changes will be important for policy makers and political parties which want to meet the needs of young voters.