**CHAPTER – I**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

India is the largest democratic country in the world. Democracy is a government of the people. It must reflect the genus the people, their hopes, aspirations, conflicts and way of life. Fair elections, freedom of thought, expression, freedom of press and independency of judiciary are the main pillars on which the edifice of democracy stands. Elections are the comer stone of democracy. They lie at the heart of the democratic process. It is based on the popular will. In fact, democracy is based on the active and intelligent interest of the people in their national affairs. The voters come in the picture during an election because it is through elections that sovereignty of the people is institutionalized and realized. The process of election is shouldered by the responsible executive authorities. It is quite obvious that these independent authorities are no exceptions for the political influences and power politics.

According to the New Standard Encyclopedia Election, the act of choosing officials and representatives by voting. Elections provide the chief means by which people express their will and make it effective. Democracy cannot exist without free and frequent elections.

The founding fathers had envisioned a socio-economic revolution that aimed to achieve unity and integrity of the nation, socialism, secularism and the development of the democratic values, adult franchise, regular elections and accountability of political leadership by the Constitution of India which they drafted. They had great faith in democratic values. They evolved and developed democratic institutions and practices, but soon an erosion of. these institutions and the decline of the political process began as a consequence of the excess of populist and confrontational politics that began in the last quaker of the sixties. Today the normal political process has been grossly distorted. The political legitimacy and morality of political leadership is always suspected by the people. There is gross decline of democratic commitment and erosion of ethical values. Growing corruption, criminalization, conviction, repression and intimidation have gravely pWVerted the growth and development of democratic process'. Increasing violence at the polls is promoting the loss of public faith in participatory democracy; the forcible seizure of booths, the stuffing of ballot boxes, the burning of vehicles, the manhandling of election staff, the free use of guns by armed goondas and murders are becoming common features of the electorid system.

India is facing political, economic and social problems of an t unparalleled magnitude.' The people of the country have by now experimented and experiinced repetitive changes of political parties, including multiparty ~overnments'and each such experience has not been found satisfying the aspirations of the people. According to Shri N. A. Palkhivala "we should think of making some changes in our Constitutional law ..... There are a number of changes in our Constitutional law which need to be effected to root out corruption and to prevent further degradation of our political life.. ... To my mind, the greatest danger facing lndia is that of disintegration3". Corrective measures in the form of Constitutional and Electoral Reforms have become imperative to face the situation. In such matters, generally, Governments are reactive and not pro-active.

**CHAPTER – II**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

**PROBLEM STATEMENT**

India is the largest democratic country and with about 850 million recorded voters, it is the Participatory Democracy of the world. The Constitutional mandate of superintendence, control and directions of Elections to the State Legislative Assemblies and the parliament has been conferred on the Election Commission of India. As an independent Constitutional entity, the Election Commission of India has effectively conducted regular elections to the various state legislative assemblies and Parliament for the past 66 years in a free and fair, informed, Participative and credible manner. The Election Commission which has been at the forefront of embracing, adopting and implementing the latest technological advancements in promoting and fine-tuning the election systems and processes. However, the Election Commission has taken the ground-breaking project of initiating Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) for storing, recording and even counting of public votes across the breadth and length of the Country in a credible ,transparent and secure manner as well as backed by proper legal support. The Election Commission has successfully used Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) in conducting 3 Lok Sabha Elections and even 113 Elections to the lower house of the state legislature over the last 23 years. However, the Electronic Voting machine (EVMs) is an electronic device, which is utilized to store votes in place of earlier voting system. The EVMs can be easily utilized by the Voters and polls employees. In Indian Elections the electronic voting machines (EVMs) used are globally known as Direct Recording that trace votes directly in electronic memory. The Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were developed by the electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and generally the foreign companies in Japan and US supplying microcontrollers and these companies are owned by the Indian government

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

To ensure the privilege of voting rights of the citizens, the procedure of election with security and integrity is a basic condition of any nation. Voting in India is a constitutional and fundamental right under the Representation of People Act 1951 and under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India. The Elections in India are performed almost completely using electronic voting machines (EVM) build up over the past 2 decades by a pair of government-owned companies. However, in India these devices is known as Electronic Voting Machines ,have been praised for their easy devise, ease of use, and reliability, but recently they have also been criticized and despite this criticism, several particulars of the machineries’ design have never been publicly disclosed, and they have not been subjected to a rigorous, independent security evaluation. This research paper will evaluate the machine’s effectiveness and function in detail, as well as address its safety in light of related election procedures. Presently , in India available Electronic Voting Machines(EVM) has been applauded for their uncomplicated design, dependability as well as usability, yet as of late they have moreover been condemned taking after across the board reports of race abnormalities. In spite of this feedback, numerous subtle parts of the machines' outline have never been freely unveiled, as well as they have not been subjected to a thorough, autonomous security assessment. However, the whole world efficiently dismisses the electronic voting machine (EVM) and in fact, just a couple of nations are presently using the electronic voting machines (EVM). The research paper examines the citizens attitude towards electronic voting and traditional voting system in India.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

* Citizens attitude towards electronic voting machine and traditional voting system
* To study the citizens perceptions about Electronic Voting Machine
* To study the advantages and dis advantages of Electronic Voting Machine.

**METHODOLOGY**

It will describe the growth and development of Electronic Voting Machines in India from its implementation to the present use of it and the effectiveness of the EVMs in the electoral system of India with its opportunities and constraints. The proposed research is based on document study of a multiplicity of publicly existing sources consisting of official reports from the Election Commission of India(ECI), books and articles about the Indian Electronic voting and universal, technical studies and economic studies on Electronic Voting Machines. Different valid literature and related literatures have been consulted to examine the proposed work in a scientific way. In the secondary data the characteristics such as reliability of data, Suitability of data and adequacy of data have been considered.

**Universe**

The whole customer in kannur district

**Sample**

50 respondents are selected who are purchasing products through online

**Sampling Techniques**

The sampling techniques used for the study is convenient sampling

**SOURCES OF DATA**

The primary datafor the study is collected from the respondents in Kannur region using questionnaire method.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

* The research is based on 50 respondents; the opinion of the whole Citizenz can’t be obtained.
* Time was the main constraint.
* With regards to customers it was difficult to get all their opinions due to convenience.

**REVIEW OF LIETRATURE**

Innovations in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have led to affordable and ubiquitous technologies and have made advances in e-government feasible (Pick et al., 2015; Previtali and Bof, 2009; Saxena, 2005). One such innovation has been electronic-voting (e-voting). Voting is the lifeblood of a democratic country where voters cast their vote to elect preferred representative during elections. There are many different approaches to conduct e-voting: machine-readable ballot systems, direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines, mobile devices, and Internet voting systems (Aditya et al., 2004). Various countries such as India, USA, Japan, Brazil, and South Korea have embraced technologies for making the voting process secure and efficient (Carter and Bélanger, 2005; Choi, 2006; Hisamitsu and Takeda, 2007; Wolchok et al., 2010; Powell et al., 2012; Avgerou, 2013). India is one of those few countries where voters cast their vote through a paperless DRE, often referred to as electronic voting machine (EVM) in India.

Wolchok et al. (2010) highlighted how election insiders can modify the outcome of voting in EVMs and also access voting information thereby breaching personal privacy. In such cases, citizens may be inclined to abstain from the voting processes. Researchers have discovered that the accuracy and confidentiality of technology enabled voting system enhances the potential voters’ behavioural intentions to cast their vote (Choi and Kim, 2012; Yao and Murphy, 2007). If citizens perceive that the e-voting system works accurately and reliably, they will be unhesitant towards delegating their civic voice viathe electronic medium (Avgerou, 2013; Schaupp and Carter, 2005). Several researchers underscore the importance of security for e-government acceptance (Chiang, 2009; Shin, 2013; Hernandez-Ortega, 2012). Therefore, it can be expected that the perceived security can influence the citizens’ behavioural intention to use EVMs to cast the vote.

**CHAPTER – III**

**THE STUDY**

**From Ballot To EVM: Dissecting The Indian Electoral Process**

Breaking the shackles of a tyrannous colonial past, [India](https://www.skillsphere.org/global-jigyasas/india-getting-acquainted-with/) achieved independence in the year 1947. The country then started the gargantuan task of setting up an electoral process and went on to hold its first election in 1952. Polling in the first election was done through a system of **ballot boxes** wherein each candidate was allotted a ballot box and voters had to drop a pre-printed paper into the ballot box of the person or the party they wanted to vote for. This method was not only cumbersome but had huge operational and security costs associated with it. **The ballot voting system was susceptible to booth capturing, forcibly destroying ballot boxes, tampering and manipulating with the pre-printed ballot papers.** The ballot box system was used in the election of 1952 and 1957 with an electorate size of more than 17.3 crores but was discontinued thereafter, owing to a large number of pitfalls associated with it.

In the third Lok Sabha elections of 1962, an improved version of the ballot box voting system was introduced. In this new system, ballot papers had markings with the names and party symbols of the candidates. The voters had to mark against the name of the candidate that they wanted to vote for on their ballot paper and drop the paper into a common ballot box. The Election Commission would then take weeks to count and compile these ballot paper-based votes before announcing the results. A huge quantity of paper was required for printing ballot paper. For the legislative and parliamentary elections that were to be held that year, the election commission placed an order of 710 tonnes of paper amounting to about Rs. 1.16 crores – a huge amount in a developing nation like India back then. (Election Commission of India, 1962) In addition to being inefficient, this ballot paper voting system was environmentally harmful and opened a Pandora’s box for malpractices like ballot box stuffing, booth capturing and incorrect marking on the ballot paper.

In the general elections of 1957, various incidents of stealing ballot boxes from polling stations were reported from Bihar. Incidents of removal of ballot boxes were also reported from Jammu &Kashmir, Haryana and Bihar during the 1971 elections. There were many issues with the ballot paper system that was being included. There were instances when ballot boxes were forcibly removed from the polling stations. There were also incidences when polling stations were seized in an attempt to impede the normal functioning of the elections. At times, electorates in certain areas were threatened to prevent them from casting their vote. There were a range of other methods implemented by anti-social elements (violent and non-violent) to obstruct the flow of casting, storing and/or counting votes during elections at different polling stations. All the aforementioned practices are collectively referred to as booth capturing.

To overcome all these limitations of ballot voting, the Election Commission of India proposed the idea of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in 1977. The EVM was prototyped by the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd (ECIL), a PSU of Atomic Energy Ministry and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Defence Ministry PSU and underwent rigorous test runs. Thereafter, it was implemented in electoral operations in the year 1998, in legislative elections carried out in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. After 2001, all state and central elections were conducted with the aid of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

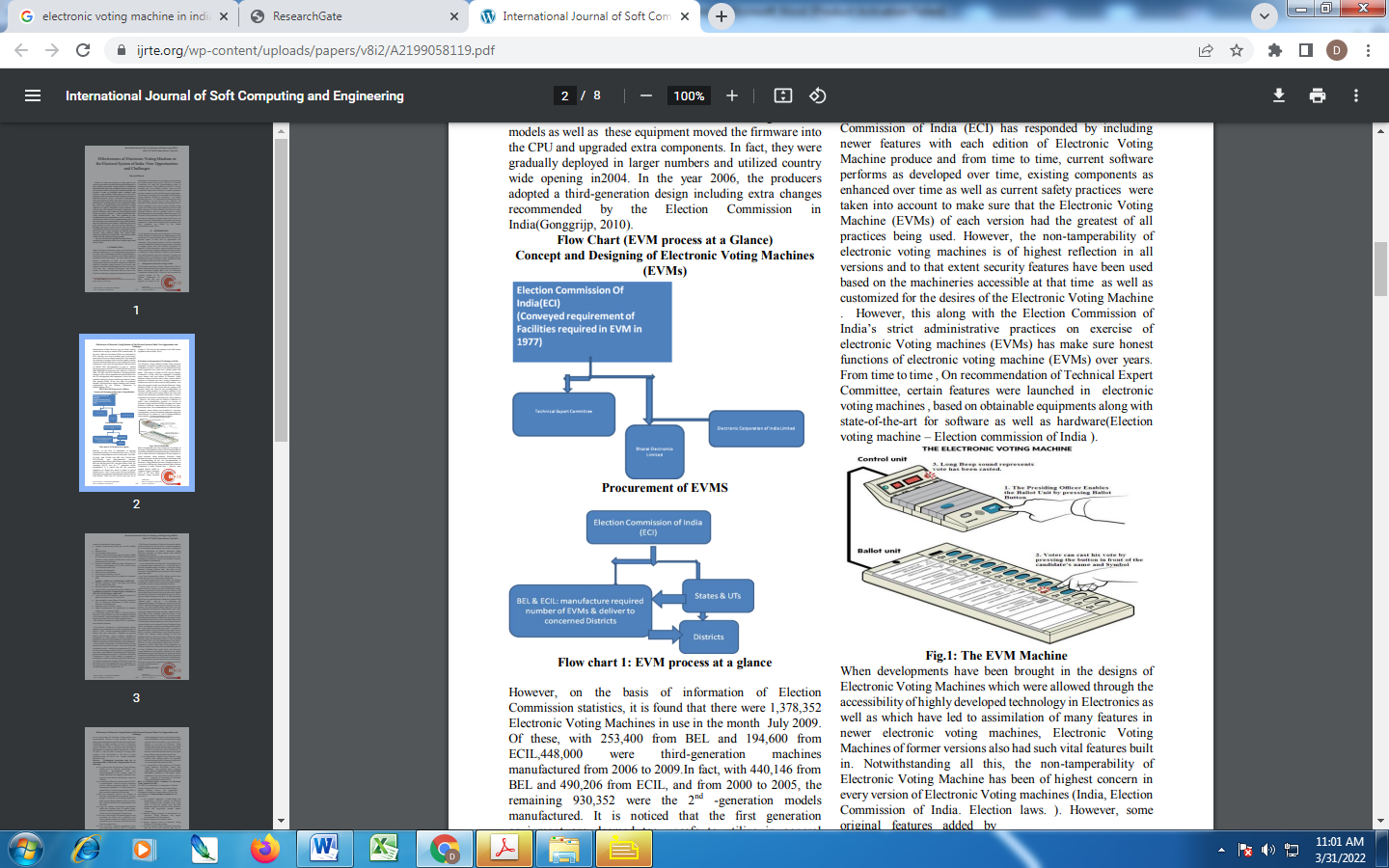
Though EVMs come with a higher initial investment cost of about 6000 INR, their advent has reduced operating costs drastically and made the entire voting process more transparent, simple and tamper-free. EVMs not only reduced the scope of human error but also made counting of votes quicker in addition to saving millions of trees.

Despite all the advantages EVMs have to offer, from time to time, questions have been raised on the probity of the Electronic Voting Machines by disgruntled politicians. Its veracity remains sacrosanct though. Since its inception, EVMs have been used in 107 legislative elections and 3 Lok Sabha elections. In fact, India has been the only country to promulgate and implement this digital method of voting in the entire country, amongst 850 million registered voters. Currently, only two dozen countries in the world use EVMs in entirety.

**Background of Electronic Voting in India**

The Election Commission of India enhanced the EVMs in India in collaborating with two government-owned agencies, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and the Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL) .These two are not under the executive control of the Election Commission of India, though the two agencies are owned by the administration of India. However, they are benefit -seeking vendors that are trying to market EVMs internationally. In the early 1980s the first Indian EVMs were developed by ECIL and they were used in definite areas of the nation, however but were never adopted countrywide. They launched the technique of structure used to this day together with the separate control and ballot units as well as the layout of both components. In fact, these first-generation EVMs were based on Hitachi 6305 microcontrollers as well as utilized firmware stored in external UV-erasable PROMs along with 64kb EEPROMs for preserving votes. However, in the year 2000, The BEL and ECIL introduced Second-generation models as well as these equipment moved the firmware into the CPU and upgraded extra components. In fact, they were gradually deployed in larger numbers and utilized country wide opening in2004. In the year 2006, the producers adopted a third-generation design including extra changes recommended by the Election Commission in India(Gonggrijp, 2010)

Flow Chart (EVM process at a Glance) Concept and Designing of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)



However, on the basis of information of Election Commission statistics, it is found that there were 1,378,352 Electronic Voting Machines in use in the month July 2009. Of these, with 253,400 from BEL and 194,600 from ECIL,448,000 were third-generation machines manufactured from 2006 to 2009.In fact, with 440,146 from BEL and 490,206 from ECIL, and from 2000 to 2005, the remaining 930,352 were the 2nd -generation models manufactured. It is noticed that the first generation equipment are deemed too unsafe to utilize in general elections due to their 15-year service life has terminated, although they are apparently still utilized in definite state and local contests. There were 417,156,494 votes cast, for an average of 302 votes for each machine in the 2009 central legislature election (India, 2010)

Evolution & Incorporation of Technology in EVMs:

The Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) being electronic equipments, are based on a speedy evolving equipment, both in hardware as well as software. It was observed that many useful suggestions have come from political parties and public ,With utilize of EVMs in Polls, and the Election Commission of India (ECI) has responded by including newer features with each edition of Electronic Voting Machine produce and from time to time, current software performs as developed over time, existing components as enhanced over time as well as current safety practices were taken into account to make sure that the Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) of each version had the greatest of all practices being used. However, the non-tamperability of electronic voting machines is of highest reflection in all versions and to that extent security features have been used based on the machineries accessible at that time as well as customized for the desires of the Electronic Voting Machine . However, this along with the Election Commission of India’s strict administrative practices on exercise of electronic Voting machines (EVMs) has make sure honest functions of electronic voting machine (EVMs) over years. From time to time , On recommendation of Technical Expert Committee, certain features were launched in electronic voting machines , based on obtainable equipments along with state-of-the-art for software as well as hardware(Election voting machine – Election commission of India ).

When developments have been brought in the designs of Electronic Voting Machines which were allowed through the accessibility of highly developed technology in Electronics as well as which have led to assimilation of many features in newer electronic voting machines, Electronic Voting Machines of former versions also had such vital features built in. Notwithstanding all this, the non-tamperability of Electronic Voting Machine has been of highest concern in every version of Electronic Voting machines (India, Election Commission of India. Election laws. ). However, some original features added by Technical Expert Committee (TEC) in M2 (Post 2006) electronic voting machines because of technological improvements:

Dynamic Coding among Control part as well as Ballot unit.

* Real time clock
* Time stamping of key presses
* However, it was observed that some new features added by Technical Expert Committee (TEC) in M3 (post 2013) electronic voting machines (EVMs) due to most recent advancements in technology:
* Reciprocal validation among the entire mechanisms of electronic voting machines i.e. CU, BU as well as Voter –Verified Paper Audit Trail.
* Automatic self-diagnostics
* Battery existence predication
* Not working on releasing of covers
* Digital documentation used for recognition of authentic units

**Qualities of M2 Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail:**

* Publishes applicant’s name, series digit and election mark on thermal paper slips.
* Secondly, Sensors to identify mistakes
* Lastly, be able to be promoted from M2 to M3(Rao,2017).

In a democratic country like India it is observed that the electronic voting machines are really exceptional compared to the electronic -voting technologies exercised in another regions of the earth due to the below mentioned factors:

The Election Commission of India-EVMs is stand-alone non-networked machines The Election Commission of India-Electronic Voting Machines are constructed in two PSUs specifically BEL as well as ECIL , not like technologies utilized in another nations, that were constructed completely by personal entities and therefore, there is nothing possibility of participation of vested attention of private companies or equipment vendors in choice building or construction of the Election Commission of India-Electronic Voting Machines

The Election Commission of India-Electronic Voting Machines have been time as well as once more effectively confirmed as well as certified by an autonomous TEC after an end-to-end testing procedure. STQC an accredited third party entity, under Ministry of Information and Technology, performs standardization as well as certification of Election Commission of India- EVMs shaped by companies or manufacturers, unlike the machinery utilized in Netherlands,

In Election Commission of India- EVMs data is stored on the inside as well as not transferrable by any mechanism, not like extra nations in the DRM where voting data verification is shifted through way of compact disk, etc.

The Election Commission of India has developed complete end to end safety set of rules as well as executive protections for the storeroom, transportation, use as well as tracking of Election Commission of India’s- Electronic Voting Machines, dissimilar in another nations where NEDAP equipments were utilized.

The Election Commission in India is fully backed by a TEC including of well-known experts and professor, however unlike MOIKR of Netherlands.

It was observed that every Electronic Voting Machine has a exceptional figure connected to it, in the data base of Election Commission that is recorded by Electronic Voting Machines Tracking Software and this figure of the Electronic Voting Machine can at all times be cross-checked against the record.

One Time Programmable (OTP) software used in these EVMs, that can’t be re-written after manufacture.

As per legal framework across the country, the Election Commission of India-EVMs is all the time under uniform, high profile executive and physical safety and strict.

In fact, the Section 61 A of the Representation of the Peoples Act(1951) permits the utilize of Electronic Voting Machines by Election Commission of India. However, the various High Courts of justice across the nation have uphold the utilize of Electronic Voting Machines time as well as again in different decisions as well as in 2004, Karnataka High Court has stated Election Commission of India-EVMs “national pride” due to its robustness and transparency(Gangwar, 2015) However, in the year 2013 the VVPAT was initiated to give still better clearness to the poll practice. The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail is an extra unit connected to the Electronic Voting Machine, that issues a little slip of paper that brings the name, symbol as well as serial figure of the contender chosen by elector, in the viewing window which is noticeable for 7 (seven) seconds. Behind pressing the button on Ballot Unit the elector be able to outlook the written slip on Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail during the viewing window as well as hence be able to confirm that the vote is confirmed for the Candidate of their choice. Accordingly, as per the prescribed procedure by ECI ,the paper slips are routinely cut as well as stored in a preserved section of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail as well as be able to utilized later to cross check the votes in Control Unit. However, besides glowing of LED near candidate button as well as the beep in Electronic Voting Machine system, the publishing of slip in Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail is an extra authentication to the elector. However, in every coming election station to the Central legislature as well as lower house of state legislature, the Election Commission is dedicated to the hundred percent use of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails with Electronic Voting Machines at every polling. Pursuant to the central administration consent, the electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Bharat Electronics Limited have devoted to construct as well as deliver 16,15,000 Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines essential for perform of parliamentary Elections to Lower house of parliament 2019 to the ECI by November 2018(Dnyanesh P. Lengure, 2015).

**Security features and EVM Safety:**

It was observed that the Electronic Voting machines are non-tamperable, Because of rigid executive and safety dealings and technological measures laid out by the Election Commission of India, whereby no access to Electronic Voting Machine/VVPAT is allowed to any unauthorized person. Therefore, both are protected from any kind of manipulation or tampering whether during polls, or before the polls, or after the polls, in storage or carrying from company to the District/state or vice versa, or when transported from one state to the another state(Desna Sebastian, 2015).

However, Technological protections that give to non-tamperability of Electronic Voting Machine are the followings:

* It is observed that the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) used by Election Commission is a stand-alone non-networked and one time-programmable (OTP) machine, which is neither connected, nor computer controlled to any network or the internet; and therefore, cannot be ‘Hacked’.
* It is seen that the Electronic Voting machine/VVPAT is technologically secured to stop any tampering and the software programme utilized in these technological equipments i.e. EVM is burnt into a masked chip or a onetime programmable (OTP) so that it cannot be tampered or altered with.
* With this connection, however, the software of Electronic Voting Machine is improved in-house through a chosen set of well known Engineers in ECIL (Atomic Energy Ministry’s PSU) as well as BEL (Defence Ministry PSU) independently from each other.
* As per the software requirements specifications (SRS) after finishing point of software design, generally evaluation and testing of the software is carried out by an Independent Testing Group.
* Next step is after doing well finishing point of such assessment; the device code is specified to the micro regulator producer for writing in the micro controllers and so, the source code cannot be read from this machine code.
* In fact, the Micro controller manufacturer firstly gives engineering samples to PSUs for evaluation and these samples are assembled into the electronic voting machine (EVM), verified and evaluated for functionality at great length. Only after doing well achievement of this authentication, the Bulk production authorization is given to micro controller maker by PSU.
* At all times the source code for the electronic voting machine is stored under restricted conditions .However, Checks and balances are in place to make sure that it is accessible to certified employees only.
* As per the laid down value plan as well as presentation test procedures, functional testing is done by production group during production in the factory.
* It has been found that the software is thus planned that it permits an elector only once to cast the vote and accordingly the vote can be traced by an elector from the BU(Ballot Unit) just behind the Presiding executive allows the ballot on the Control Unit. However, at any time the Electronic Voting Machine does not accept any signal from outside and after the Presiding executive permits the ballot on the CU, the next vote can be recorded only. In between, the machine becomes lifeless to any signal from outside (except from the Control Unit).
* For functionality, Samples of the electronic voting machine from making batches are repeatedly examined through Quality Assurance Group and it is an independent unit within the PSUs.
* It is noticed that in M2 generation of Electronic Voting Machines (Post-2006), certain other technologies were launched such as dynamic coding between Control Unit (CU) and Ballot Unit (BU), installation of full display system, installation of real time clock and date as well as time stamping of key-pressing in Electronic Voting Machines(Shrivastava,2016).

Role of Technical Expert Committee on Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs):

The ECI has maintained an independent Technical Expert Committee(TEC) to assist and evaluate designs, specific technical features and performance development of electronic voting machine (EVMs). The main functions of Technical Expert Committee (TEC) have been to:

Give technical suggestion to build design and specifications of newer versions of Electronic Voting Machines/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails so that they include most up-to-date equipment together in software as well as Hardware Design and progressing strength against Tampering.

* Scrutinize design proposals of manufacturers on Electronic Voting Machines and suggest recommendations for development.
* Mentor designs process wherever asked.
* Observe concerns raised on Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) tamper ability.
* Any other suggestion that the Election Commission may seek or any other technical effort that the Election Commission may entrust from time to time.

However, The Election Commission holds regular extensive and intensive gatherings with the Technical Expert Committee as well as evaluates mechanical specifications, design as well as connected problems of the Electronic Voting Machines/Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails or some additional technological issue rising from time to time (Ashok Kumar D., 2011).

**EVM Challenge in India**

In all parties meeting held on 12th may,2017 the Election Commission of India (ECI) had informed members of regional as well as central level parties that it would hold an Electronic Voting Machine( EVM) challenge as well as recommend opportunity to the both national and regional parties to expressthat Electronic Voting Machines utilized in the elections of state legislature in the month of Feb-Mar 2017 were tampered and that Electronic Voting Machines can be tampered even under the laid down technological and executive protects. However, it is found that in 20th May,2017 ,the Election Commission held a Press Conference to publicize Electronic Voting Machine Challenge as well as sent invitation to every state as well as national Parties to take part in the Electronic Voting Machine Challenge from 3 rd of the June, 2017 onwards. Interestingly, two well known parties, i.e. Communist Party of India (Marxist) as well as Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) presented their attention in sharing the Electronic Voting Machine Challenge as well as the said parties reported to the Challenge Venue on 3rd June, 2017. But, they did not wish to participate in the Challenge; however they presented only their attention in accepting the Electronic Voting Machine process. To clear their questions, the said political parties cooperated widely with the TEC of the Election Commission of India.

**Advantages of Electronic Voting Machines**

In the year 1989-90, at the time the machines were bought, the expenditure of per Electronic Voting Machine was 5,500 Rupees and in spite of the fact that the basic speculation was heavy and it has following been relied upon to spare operating expense of invention as well as publishing of ticket papers in lakhs, storage as well as considerable diminishment in the checking staff, transportation as well as the compensation remunerated to them. However, the most crucial deal view points are:

Firstly, the making of millions of ballot papers can be eradicated through Electronic Voting Machine essential only a single Balloting element for several voters and however, this outcomes in huge preserve of money by process for expenditure of paper, transportation, stockpiling, printing as well as distribution.

Secondly, the smallest effort of the technology as well as the recycle reduces the cost‐of‐ownership.

Thirdly, through the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) the fast, counting of votes reduces assessment connected stress as well as aggression. However, there is no probability of unacceptable votes due to voting under Electronic Voting Machine.

Fourthly, the Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs)removes ballots stuffing and however, it make booth capturing very difficult

Fifthly, The Electronic Voting Machine (EVMS) have improved voter trust in India. Problems and the Electronic Voting in India To operation under more demanding environmental situations as well as functional restrictions the voting machinery in India should be designed than additional electronic voting methods. These necessities have impacted the easy design of the recent equipments as well as impact our safety study. Among the problems are mentioned:

Price by well over a million Electronic Voting Machine in utilize, the cost of the structure is a main concern. The present Electronic Voting Machine are constructed from economical commodity elements as well as price around $200 for every set of units , and far less than various DREs utilized in the United States. Several polling spaces are situated in regions that have only intermittent service or have lack electricity service . Therefore, Electronic Voting Machine works completely from battery control, rather than just utilizing a battery like a backup.

**Issue of Natural hazards**

However, varied climate in the democratic country like India has immense extremes of temperature, and other natural hazards i.e. pollution as well as dust. Hence, the Electronic Voting Machine should be worked with these difficult situations as well as should be stored in facilities that lack climate control for long periods.

**Illiteracy**

Though, it was observed that many voters in India are well literate, whereas some are not educated. However, 74.04% is the literacy rate of India as per 2011 census as well as only about 64.60% among females, so conducting uneducated voters should be the rule rather than the exception. Therefore, without written commands, ballots feature graphical party symbols as well as names of candidate as well as the technology are designed to be utilized.

**Issue of Booth Capture**

Before the opening of Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) ,a major challenge against paper voting was booth capture, wherein party loyalists would take over a polling place by power as well as stuff the vote box. Better policing makes such attacks less of a risk at present, however the Electronic Voting Machine has also been planned to discourage them through minimizing the rate of vote casting to five per minute.

**Disadvantages of EVM-**

It was observed that Prof. Alex Halderman, computer science department of Michigan University says ,“ The Electronic Voting Machine utilized in the West require software attacks as they are sophisticated voting equipments as well as their hardware cannot be replaced cheaply.

In contrast, the Electronic Voting Machines in India can simply be replaced either in part or as wholesale units.” The Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) manufacturers can perform fraud not only by using generic microcontroller but they replace mother board also (contains the microcontroller).

These manipulations are undetected. The Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronic Corporation of India Limited (EVMs manufacturers)have shared the top undisclosed Electronic Voting Machines software program to copy it onto the microcontrollers utilized in Electronic Voting Machines with two other foreign companies, Microchip(USA) as well as Renesas (Japan) and whereas it can be done in India by manufacturers.

Other than this when they handover the microcontroller chip, the code was unreadable by the Indian EVM manufacturers, and this software not even completed accessible with the ECI for some safety reason. With such facts software as well as hardware both are not safe and secure.

At the time of Counting the Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) in India can be manipulated using fraud display board by replacing real display in control unit which shows the fraud vote count consequence.

Unlike the fraud display there is a mechanism which attached straightforwardly to the memory card of EEPROM inside the control unit. In a democratic country like India the counting of votes gets some days after voting therefore insider or criminal can utilize the clip on mechanism to modify the votes documented and recorded in if security is not properly maintained.

During the time of Election, the Government of India may hire well known company or manufacturer for built-up Electronic Voting Machines as per the require of the political party in power and suddenly, the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) can be tampered at the manufacturing stage, that too for the duration of the manufacturing of the Chip. It is not easy to discover it through the third party after tampering the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM).

It has been found that the votes that are cast with the (EVM) are stored in a secure storeroom in the computer device memory and the time break among election as well as the calculating of votes is a risk to probable manipulation and hacking.

It has been observed that there are so many questions which comes in electronic and print media that the result of Electronic Voting Machine ( EVMs) is not fair in the election of 2014 and also in election of 2017.

**CHAPTER – IV**

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**TABLE NO 4.1**

**GENDER WISE CLASSIFICATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No of respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Male | 30 | 60 |
| Female | 20 | 40 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 60% of the respondents are males and 40% of the respondents are females.

**TABLE NO 4.2**

**LOCALITY**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No of respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Village | 15 | 30 |
| Town | 35 | 70 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 70% of the respondents live in town and 30% of them are lives in village.

**TABLE NO 4.3**

**EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Illiterate | 3 | 6 |
| High school | 10 | 20 |
| HS | 11 | 22 |
| UG | 15 | 30 |
| PG | 7 | 14 |
| Others | 4 | 8 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 30% of the respondents are completed graduation,22% of them have higher secondary qualification, 20% are completed high school, 14% are post graduates, 8% are have other educational qualifications and 6% of them are illiterates.

**TABLE NO 4.4**

**RELIGION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Hindu | 20 | 40 |
| Muslim | 17 | 34 |
| Christian | 13 | 26 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 40% of the respondents are comes under Hindu religion, 34% are comes under Muslim religion and 26% of them are comes under Christian religion.

**TABLE NO 4.5**

**LANGUAGES KNOWN**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Malayalam | 20 | 40 |
| English | 15 | 30 |
| Hindi | 10 | 20 |
| Others | 5 | 10 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 40% of the respondents know Malayalam language, 30% of them know English, 20% know Hindi and 10% of the respondents know other languages.

**TABLE NO 4.6**

**MARITAL STATUS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Married | 28 | 56 |
| Unmarried | 22 | 44 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 56% of the respondents are married and 44% of them are unmarried.

**TABLE NO 4.7**

**TRUST IN ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE WITH THEIR VOTE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Trust | 21 | 42 |
| Not trust | 17 | 34 |
| Can’t say | 12 | 24 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: primary data**

**CHART NO 4.1**

**TRUST IN ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE WITH THEIR VOTE**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 42% of the respondents trust in electronic voting machine with their vote, 34% are not trust and 24% of them opined as they can’t say.

**TABLE NO 4.8**

**PREFERENCE OF MODE OF VOTING**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Traditional | 15 | 30 |
| Electronic voting | 35 | 70 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.2**

**PREFERENCE OF MODE OF VOTING**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 70% of the respondents prefer electronic voting and 30% are prefers traditional voting.

**TABLE NO 4.9**

**FREQUENCY OF VOTING IN ELECTIONS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Always | 32 | 64 |
| Sometimes | 8 | 16 |
| Rarely | 6 | 12 |
| Never | 4 | 8 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.3**

**FREQUENCY OF VOTING IN ELECTIONS**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 64% of the respondents always voting in elections, 16% are voting sometimes, 12% are voting rarely and 8% of them never voting in elections.

**TABLE NO 4.10**

**OPINION ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ELECTRONIC VOTING COMPARED TO PAPER BALLOTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Very safe | 25 | 50 |
| Safe | 17 | 34 |
| Not safe | 8 | 16 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.4**

**OPINION ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ELECTRONIC VOTING COMPARED TO PAPER BALLOTS**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 50% of the respondents opined that electronic voting is very safe compared to paper ballots, 34% are opined as safe and 16% of them opined that electronic voting is not safe when compared to paper ballots.

**TABLE NO 4.11**

**RESPONDS REGARDING THE VERIFIABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Good | 20 | 40 |
| Average | 15 | 30 |
| Poor | 10 | 20 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.5**

**RESPONDS REGARDING THE VERIFIABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 40% of the respondents opined that the verifiability in the context of electronic voting machine as good, 30% opined as average and 20% of them opined as poor.

**TABLE NO 4.12**

**OPINION WITH THAT THE ELECTRONIC VOTING WOULD GREATLY DECREASE THE TIME OF THE WHOLE ELECTION PROCESS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Strongly agree | 16 | 32 |
| Agree | 21 | 42 |
| Neutral | 4 | 8 |
| Disagree | 9 | 18 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.6**

**OPINION WITH THAT THE ELECTRONIC VOTING WOULD GREATLY DECREASE THE TIME OF THE WHOLE ELECTION PROCESS**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 42% of the respondents agreed that the electronic voting would greatly decrease the time of the whole election process, 32% are strongly agreed, 18% are disagreed and 8% of them have no opinion.

**TABLE NO 4.13**

**CLEAR PRINTING OF CONTESTERS NAME AND SYMBOL IN THE BALLOT UNIT OF EVM**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Clearly printed | 16 | 32 |
| Size of letter is small | 14 | 28 |
| Difficult to read | 12 | 24 |
| Crowded | 8 | 16 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.7**

**CLEAR PRINTING OF CONTESTERS NAME AND SYMBOL IN THE BALLOT UNIT OF EVM**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 32% of the respondents said that contesters name and symbol in the ballot unit of EVM is clearly printed, 28% are said that the size of the letter is small, 24% are said as difficult to read and 16% of them said that it is crowded.

**TABLE NO 4.14**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF CASTING VOTE THROUGH BALLOT PAPER**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Very easy | 12 | 24 |
| Easy | 23 | 46 |
| Not easy | 11 | 22 |
| Difficult | 4 | 8 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.8**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF CASTING VOTE THROUGH BALLOT PAPER**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 46% of the respondents are opined as easy to cast their vote through ballot paper, 24% are opined as very easy, 22% are opined as not easy and 4% of them are opined as difficult to cash the vote in ballot paper.

**TABLE NO 4.15**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF CASTING VOTE THROUGH EVM**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Very easy | 26 | 52 |
| Easy | 14 | 28 |
| Not easy | 6 | 12 |
| Difficult | 4 | 8 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.9**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF CASTING VOTE THROUGH EVM**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 52% of respondents said that it is very easy to cast their votes through EVM, 28% said as easy, 12% are said as not easy and 8% of them said as difficult.

**TABLE NO 4.16**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF VOTE IN SECRET WITH BALLOT PAPER**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Very easy | 13 | 26 |
| Easy | 16 | 32 |
| Not easy | 11 | 22 |
| Difficult | 10 | 20 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.10**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF VOTE IN SECRET WITH BALLOT PAPER**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 32% of the respondents said it is easy to vote in secret with ballot paper, 26% are said as very easy, 22% are said as not easy and 20% of them said as difficult.

**TABLE NO 4.17**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF VOTE IN SECRET WITH EVM**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Very easy | 28 | 56 |
| Easy | 15 | 30 |
| Not easy | 4 | 8 |
| Difficult | 3 | 6 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.11**

**OPINION ABOUT THE EASINESS OF VOTE IN SECRET WITH EVM**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 56% of the respondents said it is very easy to vote in secret with EVM, 30% are said as easy, 8% are said as not easy and 6% of them said as difficult.

**TABLE NO 4.18**

**FACTORS THAT MADE E VOTING EASIER**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Train run before regular election | 15 | 30 |
| Demonstration of voting through EVM/circulation of voting guide | 20 | 40 |
| Use of electronic media for better awareness | 15 | 30 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.12**

**FACTORS THAT MADE E VOTING EASIER**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 40% of the respondents opined that demonstration of voting through EVM/circulation of voting guidemade the e vote easies, 30% are opined as train run before regular election and 30% of them opined as use of electronic media for better awareness.

**TABLE NO 4.19**

**OPINION ABOUT ELECTRONIC VOTING THAT MAKING PROCESS OF VOTING BETTER OR WORSE OR MAKE NO DIFFERENCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Better | 30 | 60 |
| Worst | 12 | 24 |
| No difference | 8 | 16 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.13**

**OPINION ABOUT ELECTRONIC VOTING THAT MAKING PROCESS OF VOTING BETTER OR WORSE OR MAKE NO DIFFERENCE**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 60% of the respondents opined that the electronic voting made the process of voting better, 24% are opined as worst and 16% are opined as no difference.

**TABLE NO 4.20**

**RESPONDS WITH THE ELECTION COMMISSION DECISION TO USE EVM IN ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Strongly agree | 16 | 32 |
| Agree | 19 | 38 |
| Neutral | 9 | 18 |
| Disagree | 6 | 12 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.14**

**RESPONDS WITH THE ELECTION COMMISSION DECISION TO USE EVM IN ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 38% of the respondents are agreed with the election commission decision to use EVM in all future elections, 32% are strongly agreed, 18% are have no opinion and 12% are disagreed.

**TABLE NO 4.21**

**RESPONDS WITH THAT VOTING THROUGH EVM RESULTS IN FREE FAIR AND FAST ELECTION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Particulars** | **No. of Respondents** | **Percentage** |
| Strongly agree | 22 | 40 |
| Agree | 14 | 24 |
| Neutral | 5 | 10 |
| Disagree | 9 | 18 |
| **Total** | **50** | **100** |

**Source: Primary data**

**CHART NO 4.15**

**RESPONDS WITH THAT VOTING THROUGH EVM RESULTS IN FREE FAIR AND FAST ELECTION**

**INTERPRETATION**

The above table shows that 40% of the respondents are strongly agreed that voting through EVM results in free fair and fast election, 24% are agreed, 18% are disagreed and 10% are have no opinion .

**CHAPTER – V**

**FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION**

**FINDINGS**

1. 60% of the respondents are males.
2. 70% of the respondents live in town.
3. 30% of the respondents are completed graduation.
4. 40% of the respondents are comes under Hindu religion.
5. 40% of the respondents know Malayalam language.
6. 56% of the respondents are married.
7. 42% of the respondents trust in electronic voting machine with their vote.
8. 70% of the respondents prefer electronic voting.
9. 64% of the respondents always voting in elections.
10. 50% of the respondents opined that electronic voting is very safe compared to paper ballots.
11. 40% of the respondents opined that the verifiability in the context of electronic voting machine as good.
12. 42% of the respondents agreed that the electronic voting would greatly decrease the time of the whole election process.
13. 32% of the respondents said that contesters name and symbol in the ballot unit of EVM is clearly printed.
14. 46% of the respondents are opined as easy to cast their vote through ballot paper.
15. 52% of respondents said that it is very easy to cast their votes through EVM.
16. 32% of the respondents said it is easy to vote in secret with ballot paper.
17. 56% of the respondents said it is very easy to vote in secret with EVM.
18. 40% of the respondents opined that demonstration of voting through EVM/circulation of voting guidemade the e vote easies.
19. 60% of the respondents opined that the electronic voting made the process of voting better.
20. 38% of the respondents are agreed with the election commission decision to use EVM in all future elections.
21. 40% of the respondents are strongly agreed that voting through EVM results in free fair and fast election.

**SUGGESTIONS**

* Election authorities should make people more aware about the use of EVM
* The old people are not aware about the benefit vvpat features of EVM. So people should be trained before every election about the features and use of EVM.

**CONCLUSION**

The Electoral Voting Machine (EVM) has improved legitimacy of Indian elections as well as public confidence in front of the world community. The Electronic Voting Machine in India stands as one of the mainly Non-tamperable, credible, as well as transparent mechanism amongst all such equipments utilized in further areas of the globe. However, the Electronic Voting Machine (EVMs) in India has got the concentration of many African and Asian countries and till date, no single could in fact express that Electronic Voting Machine in control of the Election Commission of India as well as utilized by it, can be manipulated or tempered. In contemporary times, the Election Commission of India once again absolutely reconfirms its trust in the non-tamperability of Electronic Voting Machine of Election Commission of India in vision of the technological safety characteristics as well as the strict executive set of rules along with technical preserves which are compulsorily to be followed after as well as during the polls. The Electronic Voting Machine in India is a “national pride” as well as the reality is the elections system in India is broadly globally accepted as the “universal Gold Standard”. The Election Commission of India will start a concerted, complete as well as universally elector education as well as consciousness programme under its flagship SVEEP initiative, to orient, educate and inform the voters of India about usage, working along with merits of the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trial machines as well as their vast usefulness in strengthening the credibility, transparency and legitimacy if the voting process. However, The Election Commission of India sincerely seeks the collaboration and cooperation of every crucial stakeholder, mainly political parties, to unite hands in the context of promoting consciousness about the merits of VVPAT machines. The Election Commission of India is assured that the mutual hard works of all stakeholders in the Indian electoral process will guide to permanent developments in the Indian electoral administration as well as construct our structure more informed, participatory, transparent as well as credible. At last, it can be argued that to achieve a protected and transparent voting structure, a democratic country like India should reconsider carefully how to implement a strong and secured voting system which is appropriate to safeguard its state values .

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**APPENDIX**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Gender :

Male

Female

1. Age

Locality

Village

Town

1. Educational qualification

Illiterate

High school

HS

UG

PG

Others

1. Religion

Hindu

Muslim

Christian

1. Languages known

Malayalam

English

Hindi

Others

1. Marital sttus

Married

Unmarried

1. Would you trust electronic voting machine with your vote?

Trust

Not trust

Can’t say

1. Which mode of voting you prefer?

Traditional

Electronic voting

1. How regularly do you vote in elections?

Always

Sometimes

Rarerly

Never

1. How safe do you think electronic voting woul be when compared to paper ballots?

Very safe

Safe

Not safe

1. How would you define verifiability in the context of electronic voting machine?

Good

Average

Poor

1. Do you think electronic voting would greately decrease the time of the whole election process?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

1. Is the names of the contesters and party symbol clearly printed in the ballot unit of EVM?

Clearly printed

Size of letter is small

Difficult to read

Crowded

1. How easy was it to cast your vote through ballot paper?

Very easy

Easy

Not easy

Difficult

1. How easy was it to cast your vote through ballot paper?

Very easy

Easy

Not easy

Difficult

1. How easy was it to vote in secret with ballot paper?

Very easy

Easy

Not easy

Difficult

1. How easy was it to vote in secret with EVM?

Very easy

Easy

Not easy

Difficult

1. How could the e voting be made easier?

Train run before regular election

Demonstration of voting through EVM\circulation of voting guide

Use of electronic media for better awareness

1. According to you electronic voting made the process of voting better or worse or did it make no difference?

Better

Worst

No difference

1. Do you agree with the Election commission decision to use EVM in all future elections?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

1. Do you agree voting through EVM results in free fair and fast election?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree