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# Awareness and Perception on One Nation One Election: A Socio-legal Study among Law Students in Tamil Nadu

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## ABSTRACT

One Nation One Election is an idea that proposes to hold all elections in India, including Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies, simultaneously. The aim is to synchronize the election cycles of all these different levels of government to create a unified election calendar for the entire country. On 25 Jan 2017, President Pranab Mukherjee, in his customary eve of Republic Day address to the nation, came out in support of synchronous surveys for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. President Mukherjee said simultaneous elections may be advantageous to the nation and he also said political parties and the Election Commission, should work towards it. The BJP-led NDA Government has already set the ball moving with the 'One Nation One Election' motto and PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to hold all all-party meeting, shortly. The vision is to conduct state assembly elections with the general election scheduled for 2024 however some BJP ministers have even suggested introducing the new norm, as early as 2019. The CEC Nasim Zaidi has said that such a proposal is feasible but would require constitutional amendments and political agreement. This study aims to explore the perception and awareness of law students in Tamil Nadu regarding the One Nation One Election proposal. The study used a descriptive research design and a sample of 53 respondents who completed an online survey. The findings reveal that the majority of the respondents were aware of the concept. And this study also highlights the role of legal education in shaping public discourse on important national issues and promoting informed and constructive debates.

## INTRODUCTION:

One Nation One Election is an idea that has been gaining traction in recent years, with proponents arguing that it would achieve a more advantages, like diminishing the expense of decisions, guaranteeing progression in administration, and advancing national integration.

The concept of One Nation One Election is to hold all elections in India, including Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and local bodies, simultaneously. The idea is to synchronize the election cycles of all these different levels of government to create a unified election calendar for the entire country.

The current electoral system in India is such that elections are held at different times for different levels of government, resulting in frequent elections and their associated costs, resources, and logistical challenges. One Nation One Election aims to address these issues by reducing the frequency of elections, saving resources, and streamlining the election process.

you think that the possibility of One Nation One Election is new for India then you are off-base since One Country One Political decision is certainly not an unique experiment in our country. Simultaneous elections have been directed for the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies at the same time in India in 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 This training was stopped in 1968-69, on the grounds that an Legislative assemblies were dissolved before because of different reasons. From that point forward India is making a solid attempt to take on the old political decision framework yet there is no agreement among the political parties. The One Nation eloquence seems to be keystone for all new initiative of the Indian Government. The goods and service tax (GST) come out as “One Nation, One Tax” idea. In the New Education Policy “One Nation One Curriculum” was construct. Likewise the notion of “One Nation One Election’ is a call for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and all State legislature. (Seema Uikey et al., 2017 )

There are also concerns that the implementation of One Nation One Election could undermine the federal structure of the Indian Constitution, as well as the independence of individual states. To better understand the awareness and perception of One Nation One Election among law students in Tamil Nadu, a socio-legal study has been conducted. The study seeks to investigate the opinions and attitudes of law students towards this concept, as well as their understanding of its potential impact on the Indian political system. Through this study, we hope to gain insights into the legal and social implications of One Nation One Election, and how it might affect the rights and interests of different stakeholders. We also aim to examine the role that legal education can play in shaping public discourse on this issue, and in promoting informed and constructive debates on matters of national importance.

## REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE:

Seema Uikey (etal.,2017) conducted a survey on scope of one nation one election: A feed forward study on people’s perception. The tool for collecting the data for the study was survey using questionnaire. The planned sample framework was 150 but the researchers got 119 accurate questionnaires. The area of research is Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. There was age limit for respondents who are eligible for elections i.e. more than 18 years. The finding of this study reveals that the media disseminate more of positive information about simultaneous elections but during literature review researcher observed that most of the media professionals are not in favour of simultaneous elections.

Mr. Hemant Singh (2019) conducted a survey on one nation one election in India: A critical Analysis. The findings states that simultaneous election will not affect be democracy while strengthen the democracy.

Parindu Bhagat (etal.,2020) conducted a survey on conceptual reforms one nation one election. This study carries out the secondary data taken from various reports and research papers. Herein, we discuss the role of elections in Indian democracy, its historical study. Necessary amendments in Constitutions to be made and

accordingly changes in legislation to pass. The findings of this study reveals that the concept of One Nation One Election can essentially lead to power on the right one's hand and will not only strengthen our democracy, but it is also an example for other existing and emerging democratic States.

Prof. Dr. Ashutosh Bairagi (2022) conducted a survey on one nation one election in India: A contemporary need vis-a-vis a matter of mere discussion. The findings of this study states that who are concerned about the country losing it's electoral diversity then they should leave that to the mature Indian electorate.

## METHODOLOGY:

The following methods are applied in the present study

The researchers collected 50 sample through Google forms from the study respondents.

Sampling method used in this study is convenient sampling method

Descriptive research design was applied in the present study to describe about the important, significant , positive and negative impacts of one nation one election.

The researchers used Questioner method to collect the primary information from the study respondents by google form mode.

Sources of data: primary data as well as secondary resources (such as magazine ,previous studies, documents or also used as a sources of data collection)

Convenient sampling was adopted by the researchers in the present study.

Descriptive research design was applied in this research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Study Respondents

	Frequency	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	23	43.4
Female	30	56.6
<b>Total</b>	53	100
<b>Age</b>		
17 -20 years old	47	88.67
21- 22 years old	6	11.3
<b>Total</b>	53	100
<b>Qualification</b>		
UG	51	96.2
PG	0	0
Others	2	3.8
<b>Total</b>	53	100
<b>Parents Occupation</b>		
Government sector	11	20.75
Private sector	9	17
Business	26	49.05
Farmers	3	5.66
Others	4	7.54
<b>Total</b>	53	100

Income		
Below 25000	2	3.8
25000-35000	12	22.6
35000-40000	15	28.3
Above 40000	24	45.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

The above table explains the demographic representation of study respondents in which we can understand that majority of the study respondents are coming from the age group of 17 to 22 in which majority of them (88.67%) are between the age group of 17-20 and 11.3% of the respondents are from the age group of 21-22 years and most of them are undergraduate students (96.2%) and close to 3.8 % of students are from others followed by parents occupation from which we can say that majority of the parents are engaged in Business (49.05) , 11% from Government sector , 9% from others and close to 3% are engaged in agriculture and nearly 45.3% of the parents earn above 40000 .

**Table 2: The below Table describes whether One nation one election is suitable for democratic nation or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	14	26.41
Disagree	8	15.1
Neutral	16	30.2
Agree	11	20.75
Strongly agree	4	7.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

The analysis of the table states that nearly 41.51(26.41% +15.1%) of the study respondents strongly disagree for the statement “one nation one election is suitable for democratic nation “ , 30% of them are neutral and nearly 28.29 % (20.75% + 7.54% ) of the respondents agree to this statement.

**Table3: The below table describes whether One nation one election is a good option or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	12	22.7
Disagree	7	13.20
Neutral	12	22.7
Agree	18	33.9
Strongly agree	4	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Data

The findings of the table reveals that most of the study respondents (22.7%+13.12%) disagrees with the statement that one nation one election is a good option ( 33.9%+7.5%)of the respondents sates that one nation one election is a good option.



**Table 4: The below table describes whether One nation one election increases corruption or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	9	17.00
Disagree	10	18.86
Neutral	15	28.3
Agree	12	22.64
Strongly agree	7	13.20
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

The above table states that (22.64% + 13.12 %) of the study respondents states one nation one election increases corruption and (17 % +18.86 %) of the respondents states one nation one election does not increase corruption.

**Table 5: the table describes whether One nation one election helps in money saving or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	4	15.1
Disagree	10	26.4
Neutral	17	32.1
Agree	14	18.9
Strongly agree	8	7.5
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

The table shows that (26.4% + 15.1% ) of the study respondents disagree with the statement one nation one election helps in money saving and (7.5 % + 18.9%) of the respondents agree with that statement.

**Table 6: The below table describes whether One nation one election weakens democracy or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	5	9.43
Disagree	8	15.09
Neutral	20	37.73
Agree	11	20.75
Strongly agree	9	17.00
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

The above table shows that most of the study respondents (20.75%+17%) states that one nation one election weakens democracy and nearly (9.43%+15.09%) of the respondents states one nation one election does not weakens the democracy.

**Table 6: The below table 6 describes whether One nation one election promotes individualism or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	4	7.54
Disagree	9	17.00
Neutral	15	28.30
Agree	19	35.84
Strongly agree	6	11.32
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

The findings of the table reveals that (11.32%+35.84%) of the respondents agree and (7.54%+17%) of the study respondents disagree for the statement one nation one election promotes individualism.

Table 7: The below table states whether One nation one election helps smooth functioning of the government machinery or not.

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	7	7.5
Disagree	7	30.2
Neutral	19	35.9
Agree	16	30.2
Strongly agree	4	7.5
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

From the above data we can state that most of the study respondents (30.2%+7.5%) disagrees one nation one election helps in smooth functioning of the government machinery and (13.20%+13.30%) of the respondents believes one nation one election helps in smooth functioning of the government machinery.

**Table 8: The below table shows whether one nation one election brings instability in administration .**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	4	7.54
Disagree	13	24.52
Neutral	14	26.41
Agree	17	32.1
Strongly agree	5	9.43
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

The findings of the table shows that nearly (32.1%+9.43%) of the respondents states one nation one election brings instability in administration and (7.54%+24.52%) of the respondents agrees with the statement one nation one election does not bring instability in administration.

**Table 9: The below table states whether One nation one election reduces autonomy of state or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	3	5.7
Disagree	9	17.00
Neutral	22	41.5
Agree	19	35.8
Strongly agree	0	0
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

From the above table we can find that most of the respondents (17%+5.7%) states one nation one election does not reduce the autonomy of the state and nearly 35.8% of the respondents states it one nation one election reduces the autonomy of state.

**Table 10: The below table states whether One nation one election decreases the power of state or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	2	3.8
Disagree	10	18.86
Neutral	14	26.41

Agree	16	30.18
Strongly agree	11	20.75
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

The findings of the above table shows that the majority of the respondents (20.75% + 30.18%) agrees one nation one election decreases the power of the state and 3.8%+18.86% of the respondents sates one nation one election does not decrease the power of the state.

**Table 11: The below table shows whether One nation one election leads to autocracy or not.**

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly disagree	0	0
Disagree	8	15.1
Neutral	21	39.62
Agree	16	30.18
Strongly agree	8	15.1
Total	53	100

**Source: Field Data**

From the above table we can understand that most of the study respondents agree with the statement one nation one election leads to autocracy and 15.1% of the respondents believes one nation one election does not lead to autocracy.

## SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION:

The ‘one nation, one election’ system can reduce the amount of time, energy and resources invested in the conduct of polls. If simultaneous election commission do reduce the duration of conducting polls, political parties will have ample time to address national issues and enhance governance. There needs to be a consensus on whether the country needs one nation one poll or not. The Constitution of India has fundamentally provided a federal structure of State governance. There are several government levels such as Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha besides State Governments, Municipal Corporations and the Panchayats. But the power is not concentrated into one hand. The concept of One Nation-One Election can essentially lead to power on the right one hand. The findings state that the analysis of the study respondents strongly disagree for the statement “one nation one election is suitable for democratic nation “ and it also states that the one nation one election increases corruption

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