



# A Comparative Study On Fighting Elections And Corruption In India

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## ABSTRACT

India is considered to be the greatest democracy in the world. The main pillars of democracy are free and fair elections. For the past few decades, across India, corrupt candidates have been involved in vote-buying and gaining victory in elections. This vote-buying declines voter well-being. The Election Commission of India is responsible for conducting the polls. The main obstacle faced by this commission is how to destroy corruption in elections, which damages the standards of participate democracy and fair elections. Meanwhile, to remove corruption during the electoral process, Anti-corruption Bureaus and Vigilance are introduced in all-inclusive state governments. Also, these Bureaus and commissions try to bring back transparency in elections. This anti-corruption bureau takes several steps to control corruption during the voting process. Accordingly, this study investigates to identify the effectiveness of the anti-corruption bureaus in fighting corruption at the time of elections held in India. The study follows a quantitative research approach and considers 120 study samples willing to attend the survey. The data is gathered from the respondents through a survey with the aid of a questionnaire. Moreover, the study identifies the aspects linked with voter awareness and candidates fighting for elections in India. Finally, the research mentions suggestions for encouraging fair elections and upholding democracy in India.

**Keywords:** Democracy, Elections, Vote buying, Corruption and Anti-Corruption Bureaus

## 1. Introduction

In India, elections are the most significant and integral political part of a governance's democratic system. Meanwhile, politics is the practice and art of engaging with political power, and the election is the legitimisation process of those powers (Srinivasa, 2023). Across the globe, India has the world's largest democracy (Gnana, 2023). However, democracy can execute adequately only if the elections are held reasonably. Here, the word fair denotes the endowment of equal opportunities to every citizen, yet it does not mean that individuals with criminal identification must be permitted to reach the political arena instead of qualified people with ethical and moral values (Tarar, 2020). Without free and fair elections, it is impossible to create a democratic nation. The balloting in India is performed by the Election Commission of India (ECI), an autonomous body with maximal supremacy at the time of election (Buchasia & Tirkey, 2021). The task of differentiating political parties through imposing precise criteria and allotting symbols to those parties is done by ECI. ECI also arranges the period for conducting and campaigning for elections. The most potent electoral regulatory body across the sphere and the comprehensively renowned public institution is ECI. This commission directed around 370 state elections and 17 national elections from when India gained Independence around 1947 (Ahuja & Ostermann, 2021). ECI performs various long and large elections at the international level (Tripathi & Gogoi, 2023).

In recent times, elections have not been held in a reasonable and unbiased manner due to political corruption (Sivakumar & Prabakar, 2016). It is tough to obscure corruption in Indian democracy, but it is openly argued, investigated and discussed. The opposition party of the ruling party will quote the corruption of the existing government to attain political advantage, which is the primary reason for the change of government in India.

Therefore, it is evident from India's past that corruption is a political issue with extensive economic consequences (Kundu, 2015), including different innovations, loss of opportunities, and aborted investments. All through the developing nations, unethical political party candidates are involved in the process of vote buying to gain victory in elections. A kind of distributive politics where applicants and parties provide material gains or money to electorates in exchange for political support or votes during Election Day is known as vote buying (Stokes, 2011). This process of vote-buying undermines the political exemplification of voter interest. This, in turn, diminishes the pro-poor public services supply.

A most general form of electoral mismanagement in India is vote-buying, which has become the main feature of the election culture in this present society. Political parties generally utilise the electoral clientelism approaches, such as vote-buying during election campaigns, and political parties excessively target the poor and disadvantaged people for their benefit (Kramon, 2016). ECI created the central operation to prevent candidates from violating the rules. Even though India's Election Commission has the maximal powers to stop its prevalence, it is still extensive (LASKAR). Electoral integrity is affected by corruption and indeed demeans the democracy of a country (Singh, 2014). Also, governments, multilateral agencies, and civil society organisations need more success in their search for cost-effective competence to reduce the impact of vote buying (Schechter & Vasudevan, 2023). Also, it is revealed that corruption is expensive in terms of equity and efficiency in providing public services in developing nations like India.

On the other hand, when the political leadership is committed. The electoral competition is fair, and the electorates are concerned regarding one's honesty, so there is no requirement for anti-corruption laws and measures. But in countries like India, there is a requirement for awareness among the public regarding the ill effects of electoral corruption practices such as vote-buying and so on (Still & Dusi, 2020). Hence, anti-corruption courses and committees in India are vital in curbing corruption during elections. Various scholarly works focus on how Indian politicians target the public for vote buying and the impacts of those practices.

Conversely, only a few research studies focus on the anti-corruption Bureau's role and the effectiveness of its practices in developing nations like India. To overcome this research gap, this present investigation performs a comparative study on the perception of urban and rural residents of India towards the Indian electoral process and the effectiveness of the anti-corruption Bureau in curbing corruption practices during elections. Finally, this investigation provides suggestions for democratic and fair elections in India.

### 1.1 Research objectives

The main offerings of this inquiry are as follows,

- To identify the factors associated with voters' awareness and candidates fighting for elections in India.
- To analyse the rural and urban resident voter's priorities during the election.
- To evaluate the corruption practices and steps involved in fighting corruption during elections in India

## 2. Literature Review

Corruption destabilises citizens' satisfaction with the democracy's performance and reduces trust in the system's institution and the democracy's legitimacy. Spoiled ballots, meaning blank and invalid voting, are usual occurrences in democracies across the globe. Sometimes, when the share of the invalid voting is more significant compared to the victory margin or vote share, it creates a democratic legitimacy issue. In association with this, an investigation (i Coma & Werner, 2019) analyses the determinants in four hundred and seventeen democratic parliamentary elections in seventy-three nations on 5 continents from 1970 to 2011. This inquiry reveals that obligatory ethnic fragmentation and compulsory voting are the strong forecasters of invalid voting; corruption has a lower effect. The verdicts of investigations demonstrate that the societal structures are significant in considering the democratic legitimacy problem, such as invalid voting, since it decreases the attachment of the public groups to the democratic process.

Similarly, research (Chang, 2020) inspects the corrupt exchange structure among politicians and voters and the central aspect of informal institutions that form the electoral behaviour of voters regarding corruption. The examiner debates that when electors have the apparent idea of which person to bribe to protect desired services and encourage the corrupted officials for one's misdoings. This study employs the World Business Environment Survey towards the corruption predictability and the Asian Barometer survey on electoral Behaviours of electorates. The experimental evidence reveals that entrenched corruption facilitates the electoral tolerance of corrupt political figures in Asian republics. Subsequently, a study (Paul, Parameswar, Sindhani, & Dhir, 2021) examines how the politicians and political parties utilised Twitter in the seventeenth Lok Sabha elections using the theme of the tweet with particular prominence on corruption.

Moreover, the political strategies these parties embrace are evaluated on Twitter. Also, the impact of the tweets on the Indian 17<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary elections in 2019 is assessed. As a result, this article stresses the political parties' beneficial and unfavourable strategies, including corruption allegations contrary to one's opponents.

The main issue in Asian nations is corruption. So, their governments have depended on several anti-corruption measures, including anti-corruption agencies, to combat corruption over the past few decades. An existing study (Quah, 2021) recognises the 5 mistakes made by Asian nations' political leaders in reducing corruption. These faults establish the failure cycle that needs to be ruined for Asian countries to combat corruption successfully. This examination is grounded on the comparative assessment of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures embraced by several Asian nations. This failure cycle in reducing corruption in Asian countries derives from one's government's dependence on dishonest political leaders, various anti-corruption agencies and police. This investigation would benefit policymakers, researchers, and anti-corruption practitioners who are apprehensive about improving anti-corruption policies' effectiveness by violating the failure cycle. Another study (Giommoni, 2021) intends to learn how corruption affects every aspect of political involvement. This inquiry concentrates on the Italian municipalities from 1999 to 2014, which produced a local and daily exposure measure to crime while screening the main Italian press agency newspaper articles. This exploration emphasises the local elections, and in an event-study evaluation, it recognises the 3 primary outcomes. Initially, corruption exposure impacts citizens' participation in elections through decreasing voter turnout. Then, corruption affects the involvement of politicians, such as electoral lists, and candidates' quantity influences the local political consequences since the tenured candidates are more likely to be selected; meanwhile, newcomers lose ground. The outcomes of the investigation recommended that the exposure of corruption has common and negative impacts on political contribution, resulting in the public losing interest in political affairs.

### 2.1 Research gaps

One of the main concerns the political system of government considers is corruptive practices or corruption. In association with this, an examination (Paul et al., 2021) analyses the Indian seventeenth Lok Sabha elections. However, this study encounters few limitations. Initially, this investigation involves the communication strategy embraced by the Indian political parties preceding the seventeenth Lok Sabha elections. Hence, the impact of the actions commenced by political parties previous to 6 month period is omitted. Since these actions will play a significant part in the election campaign. Also, the research concentrates only on three necessary political parties in India which employed Twitter for election campaigns. In the future, it is essential to extend the scope of the research by analysing various political parties and their association with corruption practices.

Furthermore, an investigation (Giommoni, 2021) explores the exposure of corruption in political involvement and its outcomes. Yet, this study is in an Italian background, and the local politics of Italy is usually subjugated by civic lists that are not formally associated with any national parties. Therefore, in the future, it is recommended that this inquiry be pursued in various settings where party politics are also denoted on the local level.

## 3. Research Methodology

Research is the application of systematic methods to attain new knowledge (Pandey & Pandey, 2021). Research Methodology is described as learning how an investigation is executed scientifically. There are 6 steps involved in standard research methodology. Those are - choosing a particular topic or issue for the research purpose, defining the various aspects associated with the research topic, formulating a working hypothesis, collecting relevant data, examining and interpreting the collected data and writing the outcome of the investigation (Davidavičienė, 2018). The present inquiry embraces the quantitative research methodology. The methodology that describes the phenomena through gathering numerical data, which are evaluated utilising statistical techniques and approaches, is called quantitative research (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). Survey research is the most widely utilised among several tools used for collecting quantitative data (Sukamolson, 2007). The present research also employs a survey with a questionnaire for collecting data from research participants. This study adopts the purposive sampling technique to gather survey samples, and 120 respondents are selected as the study samples. Correspondingly, the present research maintains the privacy of study applicants. The contributors are also given the right to discontinue the survey at any point if they wish to do so. Finally, the quantitative data from the inquiry participants are analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software. The SPSS software allows the test outcomes to be rapidly processed and attained accurate (Sadridinovich, 2023). To conclude the study, the analysed data are interpreted for study implications.

### 3.1 Research Hypothesis

**This examination aims to inspect the following hypotheses,**

**H1:** The factors associated with voter awareness and electoral candidates show a significant impact on elections held in India

**Ho:** The factors associated with voter awareness and electoral candidates show no significant effect on elections held in India

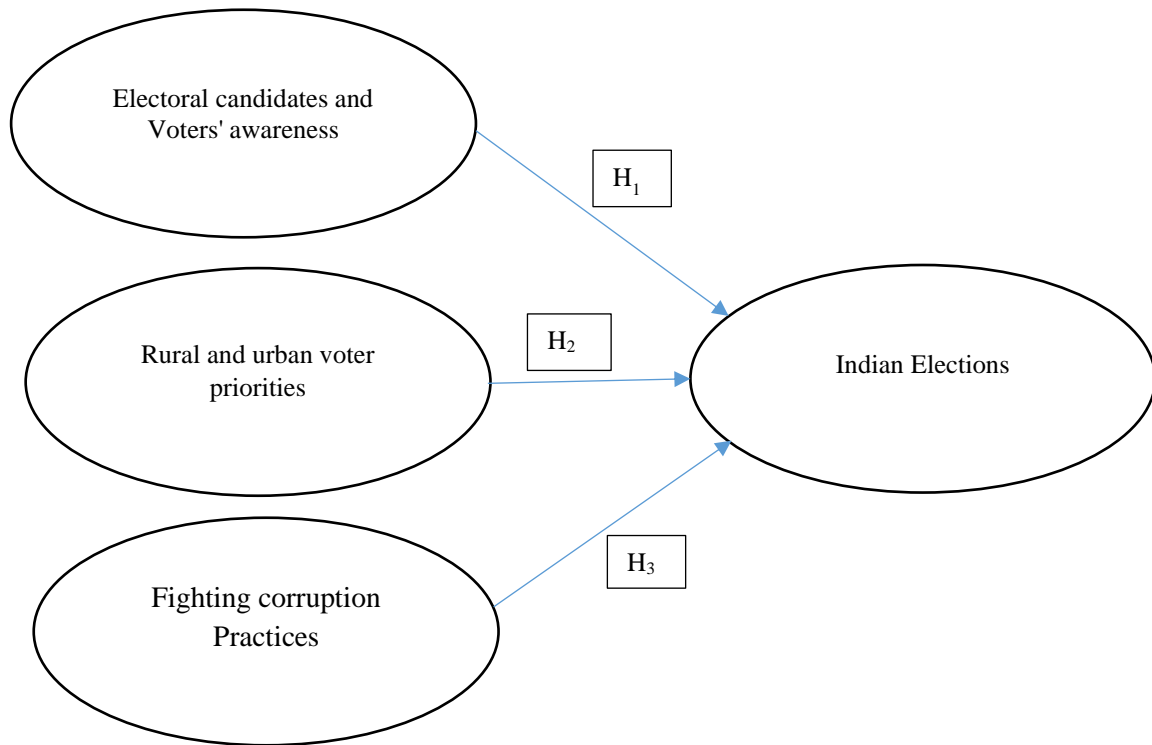
**H<sub>2</sub>:** The rural and urban resident voter priorities are essential during the election in India

**H<sub>0</sub>:** The rural and urban resident voter priorities are not necessary during elections in India

**H<sub>3</sub>:** Fighting corruption practices are highly effective during election

**H<sub>0</sub>:** Fighting corruption practices are not highly effective during election

### 3.2 Conceptual Framework



**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of the study**

Figure 1 shows the conceptual Framework of the present inquiry.

### 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The subsequent section delineates the data analysis performed in this research using SPSS software. The statistical tests implemented in this investigation are Demographic analysis, reliability testing, hypothesis testing, chi-square tests, correlation, regression, and ANOVA.

#### 4.1 Demographic analysis

The demographic information of the contestants is presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Frequency analysis**

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Rural	106	88.30
Urban	14	11.70
<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
18 - 21 Years	83	69.20
22 - 35 Years	19	15.80
36 - 50 Years	16	13.30
More than 50 Years	2	1.70
<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Business	2	1.70
Employee: Non-Government	2	1.70
Employee: Government	24	20.00
Farmer	8	6.70
Student	84	70.00
<b>Education</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Under Matric	7	5.80

Under Graduation	87	72.50
Graduation and above	26	21.70
<b>Fighting Election in India</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Yes	76	63.30
No	44	36.70
<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Candidate	86	71.70
CM Candidate	17	14.20
Party	17	14.20
<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Caste / Community leaders	2	1.70
Family members	18	15.00
Friends / Colleagues	3	2.50
Local political leader	32	26.70
Votes on my own	65	54.20
<b>Criminal record</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Yes	28	23.30
No	92	76.70
<b>Distribution of cash</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Per cent</b>
Yes	65	54.20
No	55	45.80
Total	120	100.00

From the above table, it is noted that 88.30% of the respondents are from rural areas, the remaining 11.7% are from urban areas, 69.20% are in the age group between 18 - 21 Years, 15.80% are in the age group between 22 - 35 Years, 13.30% are from 36 - 50 Years and remaining 1.70% are More than 50 Years. 1.70% are in Business, 1.70% are Employee: Non-Government, 20.00% are Employee: Government, 6.70% are in Business, and 70.00% are students. 5.80% have attended schools, 72.50% have completed Graduation, and the remaining 21.70% have completed Graduation and above.

Furthermore, it is noted that 63.30% have mentioned yes to support in fighting election in India. Also, it is identified that 71.70% have mentioned the reasons for casting a vote is due to the candidate, 14.20% have said it is due to the CM candidate, and the remaining 14.20 have chosen due to the party. 1.70% mentioned that Caste / Community leaders influence the opinion to vote, 15% said that Family members control them, and 2.5% mentioned Friends / Colleagues. 26.70% as Local political leaders, and the remaining 54.20% cited that they Vote independently. 23.30% have stated that the candidate can have a criminal record. However, 76.70% mentioned that they should not have any criminal record. Lastly, it is noted that 54.20% stated that there were instances of cash disbursements made during the previous election, and the remaining 45.80 stated that there were no such instances.

#### 4.2 Raids on specific complaints to trap corrupt officials /candidates

**Table 2: Anti-corruption**

Anti-corruption Bureau	Frequency	Per cent
Satisfactory	62	51.7
Not Satisfactory	32	26.7
Not Performed	26	21.7
Total	120	100

From the above table, it is noted that 51.7% of the respondents mentioned that they are satisfied with the Conduct of raids on specific complaints to trap corrupt officials /candidates, 26.7% mentioned as not satisfactory, and the remaining 21.7% said no actions were performed.

#### 4.3 Surveillance based on specified or general information against officials/departments/candidates dealing with public

**Table 3: Surveillance based on specified or general information against**

Surveillance	Frequency	Per cent
Satisfactory	64	53.3
Not Satisfactory	40	33.3
Not Performed	16	13.3
Total	120	100

From the above table, it is noted that 53.3% of the respondents mentioned that they are satisfied with the surveillance based on specified or general information against officials/departments/candidates dealing with the public, 33.3% said it was not satisfactory, and remaining 13.3% mentioned no actions were performed.

#### 4.5 Recommendation of departmental action against delinquent officials based on findings of enquiries

**Table 4: Recommendation of departmental action against delinquent officials based on findings of enquiries**

Departmental actions	Frequency	Per cent
Satisfactory	62	51.7
Not Satisfactory	31	25.8
Not Performed	27	22.5
Total	120	100

From the above table, it is noted that 51.7% of the respondents mentioned that they are satisfied with the Recommendation of departmental action against delinquent officials; based on findings of enquiries, 25.8% mentioned as unsatisfactory, and the remaining 22.5% said no steps were performed.

#### 4.6 Measures to control systematic corruption

**Table 5: Measures to control systematic corruption**

Control measure	Frequency	Per cent
Satisfactory	72	60
Not Satisfactory	23	19.2
Not Performed	25	20.8
Total	120	100

From the above table, it is noted that 51.7% of the respondents mentioned that they are satisfied with the measures to control such systematic corruption, and 19.2% said it was unsatisfactory. The remaining 20.8% mentioned no actions were performed.

#### 4.7 Reliability analysis

Reliability analysis by means of Cronbach's alpha is a statistical technique utilized to evaluate the inner consistency and reliability of a scale or a group of related items in a survey or questionnaire.

**Table 6: Cronbach Alpha**

Factors	Alpha value	No. of items
Voter priorities – Rural	0.705	3
Voter priorities – Rural and Urban	0.820	10
Steps taken	0.876	4

It is noted that rural voter priorities possess a Cronbach alpha of 0.705, whereas, for rural and urban voter priorities, it is 0.820; steps taken by the Anti-corruption Bureau to minimise corruption practices have a Cronbach alpha of 0.876. Hence, the data is reliable and valid.

#### 4.8 Correlation analysis

Correlation analysis is a statistical method employed in data analysis to determine and evaluate the strength and direction of the linear relationship concerning 2 continuous variables.

**Table 7: Correlations table**

Correlations	Anti-corruption Bureau	Surveillance	Departmental actions	Control measure
Anti-corruption Bureau	1	.739**	.660**	.615**
Surveillance	.739**	1	.708**	.625**
Departmental actions	.660**	.708**	1	.512**
Control measure	.615**	.625**	.512**	1

The correlation coefficient 0.615 specifies a positive association concerning the variables "Anti-corruption Bureau" and "Control measures". The correlation coefficient of 0.625 shows a positive relationship between the variables "Surveillance" and "Control measures". The correlation coefficient 0.512 indicates a moderate relationship between the variables "Departmental actions" and "Control measures". Furthermore, it is noted that the correlation coefficient of 0.739 specifies a strong association concerning the variables "Anti-corruption" and "Surveillance". Also, the correlation coefficient of 0.708 indicates a strong relationship between the variables "Surveillance" and "Departmental actions". All these values are close to 1, the maximum possible value for a positive correlation. It recommends that there is an approximately perfect linear relationship between these considered 2 variables.

#### 4.9 Regression analysis

Multiple regression analysis is a statistical method and it is important in analysis of data and investigation across several fields.

**Table 8: Regression analysis table**

Regression	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
(Constant)	1.034	0.114		9.067	0.00
Anti-corruption Bureau	0.116	0.086	0.195	1.359	0.18
Surveillance	0.042	0.103	0.063	0.41	0.68
Departmental actions	0.056	0.078	0.095	0.717	0.48
Control measure	-0.023	0.071	-0.039	-0.326	0.75

**From the above table, the regression equation can be framed as**

$$\text{Administration functioning} = 1.034 + 0.116 \times \text{Anti-corruption Bureau} + 0.042 \times \text{Surveillance} + 0.056 \times \text{Departmental actions} - 0.023 \times \text{Control measure}$$

#### 4.10 Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) test

This test is a statistical assessment utilized to determine if there is a significant relationship or Independence concerning 2 categorical variables.

##### Research Hypothesis 1

**Null hypothesis:** The factors associated with voter awareness and candidates show no significant impact on elections held in India

**Alternate hypothesis:** The factors associated with voter awareness and candidates show a significant impact on elections held in India

**Table 9: Chi-square tests**

	Reasons		
	Candidate	CM Candidate	Party
Voter awareness			
Yes	63	4	11
No	23	13	6
Total	86	17	17
Chi-Square Tests	Value	Degree of freedom	P-Value
Pearson-Chi-Square	15.429a	2	0.0
Likelihood Ratio	14.883	2	0.0
Linear-by-Linear Association	3.519	1	0.06

The results of chi-square tests display that the p-value is 0.00; henceforth, the null hypothesis is excluded, and the alternate view is acknowledged. And so, it is proven that the factors associated with voter awareness and candidates show a significant impact on elections held in India

#### 4.11 Analysis of variance

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) is a statistical method that plays a crucial role in data analysis by allowing researchers to assess the significance of differences among means in a dataset.

##### Research Hypothesis 2

**Null hypothesis:** The rural and urban resident voter priorities are not necessary during elections in India

**Alternate hypothesis:** The rural and urban resident voter priorities are important during elections in India

**Table 10: ANOVA test – voter priorities**

ANOVA	Sum of Squares (SoS)	Degrees of freedom	Mean Square(MS)	F	P-value
Between-Groups	0.062	2	0.031	0.28	0.756
Within-Groups	13.063	117	0.112		
Total	13.125	119			

In this analysis, the p-value is 0.756, more significant than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, rural and urban resident voter priorities are not necessary during the elections in India.

##### Research Hypothesis 3

**Null hypothesis:** Fighting corruption practices are not highly effective during election

**Alternate hypothesis:** Fighting corruption practices are highly effective during election

**Table 11. ANOVA test – Corruption practices**

ANOVA	SoS	Degrees of freedom	MS	F	Sig.
Between-Groups	3.839	1	3.839	17.5	0.00
Within-Groups	25.953	118	0.22		
Total	29.792	119			

Interpreting an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) result with an SPSS output showing a p-value of 0.00 involves recognising the statistical significance of the overall group differences in the context of the specified significance level, typically 0.05. A p-value of 0.00 indicates that the observed differences among group means are highly unlikely to have occurred by random chance alone. In practical terms, this suggests that there is strong confirmation to discard the null hypothesis, which posits that there are no substantial differences among the groups. Consequently, statistically considerable variations exist in at least one group means. However, it is essential to note that the exact p-value displayed as 0.00 in SPSS output is likely a minimal value, as the software often rounds to two decimal places. Researchers should exercise caution and recognise that while the result is highly significant, it does not provide information about the size or direction of the observed differences. Therefore, further post-hoc tests or pairwise comparisons may be necessary to identify which groups differ significantly.

In summary, a p-value of 0.00 in an ANOVA output from SPSS signals strong evidence of group differences, prompting a rejection of the null hypothesis and indicating the need for additional analyses to discern the nature of these differences. However, in the study, the p-value is 0.00, which is less than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis is excluded. Therefore, corruption practices are highly effective during the elections.

## 5. Discussion

The data analysis and interpretation reveal that the factors related to the awareness of voters and candidates significantly influence electoral outcomes. Also, the concerns and connotations of the urban and rural voters are less critical at the time of the election. Indian democracy requires free and unbiased elections and transparency (Singhal, 2022). Recently, for several decades, efficient anti-corruption policies have played a significant part in Indian electoral politics, and this trend is increasing day by day. The study's findings demonstrate that fighting corruption practices are highly efficient in India now. This can strengthen Indian legislation and anti-corruption supervisory bodies (Beyes & Bhattacharya, 2017). Corruption has adverse impacts on Indian democracy. Thus, the present study investigates the role of anti-corruption bureaus in curbing corruption practices during the election.

Conversely, an existing study (Ostermann, Ahuja, & Naseemullah, 2021) infers that anti-corruption politics can also become the main obstacle to democratic development and well-being. Anti-corruption politics targets marginalised group parties, which leads to inclusive biased legislation. To resolve this issue, every Indian citizen must build an incorruptible political system and government (Choudhury, 2023).

Anti-corruption activities are required when corruption prevails in society. Similarly, an existing study (Cheeseman & Peiffer, 2020) postulates that if citizens do not have faith in a democracy, there is no chance for voting for transformation. Also, citizens will doubt the concept of democracy if corruption prevails during elections. Acknowledging the current study's findings, the existing inquiry (Biswas, 2023) reveals that the marginalised subdivisions of society are regarded as different from the same citizens, only the vote bank of a specific party. Given that, the priorities of the rural and urban residents should be given more importance during elections. Also, the defeat or victory of a political party relies on how a political leader or party is perceived among the voters. Various factors regarding the candidate, such as occupation, education level, and background, impact voters' decisions. Voters' awareness of the political party and its candidates influences their voting behaviour. The thrust to reduce corruption has concentrated chiefly on the efforts to develop the implementation of the rule of law through political frontrunners or anti-corruption bureaus and compliance with the law among ordinary citizens. According to these study findings, the strategies taken to combat corruption prevailing at the election time in India sawn with partial victory. In the future, it is recommended that India's citizens and government invest in efforts to eradicate corruption in the electoral process.

## 6. Conclusion

Every citizen of India must fight against the corruption prevalent in the Indian political system. Even though the anti-corruption bureaus effectively control corruption in the electoral process, it is the sole duty of the public to be aware and conscious of its ill effects. Also, the election candidates must be judged based on good acts, not caste and urban or rural background. From the research outcomes, it is inferred that political parties should consider voters' priorities for the nation's welfare. The comprehensive approach to decreasing corruption in India is formulated on the government's declaration of zero tolerance against corruption. The



Election Commission of India and the Anti-corruption Bureau are fighting against corruption in the electoral process. Hence, it is the responsibility of citizens to understand the consequences of vote-buying activities. The high level of corruption disturbs the Indian democracy. The implementation of strong anti-corruption policies is necessary to destroy corruption. Since elections happen every 5 years and are a systematic exercise in developing nations like India, the ruling political parties are asked to give importance to public desires. Subsequently, it will prevent corruption and instil trust in Indian democracy among the general public.

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