

Representation of Political Parties and its Impact on Community Development in Bihar

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Abstract: *This paper examines how the representation of political parties shapes community development in Bihar. The argument is that party representation in Bihar cannot be understood only as the winning of seats or the formation of governments. It also operates through the social profile of candidates, the caste-community coalitions that parties build, the language of dignity and justice that they use, the distribution of public schemes, and the way local institutions translate party competition into everyday development outcomes. Bihar is a significant case because it has experienced both intense identity-based mobilisation and a later developmental turn in electoral politics. The paper develops a conceptual framework linking descriptive representation, party competition, welfare brokerage, local governance, and community development. It uses secondary literature, election studies, historical works, and policy-oriented scholarship published before 2020. The analysis shows that political parties have expanded voice and symbolic inclusion for historically marginalised communities, especially backward castes, extremely backward castes, Dalits, minorities, and women. However, the developmental results of representation have remained uneven because representation often travels through patronage, caste segmentation, weak local capacity, and competitive populism. The paper concludes that representation contributes to community development most effectively when it moves beyond symbolic inclusion and becomes institutionalised through accountable local governance, transparent welfare delivery, inter-community bargaining, and programmatic policy commitments..*

Keywords: Bihar, political parties, representation, caste, community development, Panchayati Raj, social justice, democracy, welfare, local governance.