Electoral Reforms in India: Comparative Analysis with U.S.A. & U.K

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The elections and political parties are necessary ingredients of democratic governance. Elections are a necessary condition of representative democracy. In representative democracy citizens participate in politics primarily by choosing political authorities in competitive elections. Elections, hence, are a necessary and crucial instrument to make democracy work. In India, free and fair elections are held at regular intervals as per guidelines of the constitution and the Election Commission. To make them free of flaws it is essential to reform them from time to time. Electoral reform means introducing fair electoral systems for conducting fair elections. It also rejuvenates the existing systems to enhance and increase the efficiency of the same. Following the demands of electoral reforms several committees were being set up. Some of the measures like reduction of voting age and anti-defection law are appreciable but there are other vital areas in election field completely neglected.

This paper will evaluate about different attempts made for electoral reforms in India. Different challenges before the Election Commission are also been discussed, also how it can be made effective as suggested by Commission in India will be presented. A comparative analysis with other democratic countries like U.S.A and U.K. is added to it.

Introduction

“An election is a moral horror, as bad as a battle expect for the blood, a mud bath for every soul concerned in it.”

- George Bernard Shaw

Electoral reforms are correctly understood to be a continuous process. It is change in electoral systems to improve how public desires are expressed in election results. No system of the election can ever be perfect. Any democratic society has to keep