



Caste, key to success in polls, say City residents

BANGALORE, DHNS: Many Bangaloreans are of the view that caste and party are potential backing for a candidate contesting elections from the City.

The findings were outcome of a survey that was carried out in the City in December 2012.

The survey was carried out by Daksh India, which is working in the field of governance and accountability, and Namma Bengaluru Foundation, involved in infrastructure, governance and management-related issues in the City.

Of the 1,500 respondents in 27 constituencies, 41 per cent considered caste the most important factor behind the success of a candidate, 18.7 per cent felt it was the party of the candidate, while only 14.5 per cent felt the candidate himself/herself was important.

The survey also revealed that the performance of the members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) in their respective constituencies was barely half of what had been expected of them by the respondents.

Citizens mostly considered encroachment of public land, lakes and roads, zoning regulations, better employment opportunities, reservation in jobs and education, public facilities and amenities as the issues to judge a candidate. In contrast, accessibility to and trustworthiness of the MLA were considered important only in some of the constituencies.

Age group also seemed a differentiating factor to decide the importance of an issue. Residents aged between 46 and 60 years felt clearance of garbage was top priority, but it was not deemed vital by citizens below 30.

The average score for a legislator, on a scale of 10, did not exceed 5.6. The score varied marginally according to age groups.