

Alternative Political Practices in Punjab (2002–2017): A Historical and Analytical Study

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Abstract:

This research paper examines the Punjab state elections from 2002 to 2017. Its primary objective is to review the performance of various political parties during this period, and to understand and analyse the alternative politics they presented across different election cycles.

Accordingly, the work and performance of political parties between 2002 and 2017 form the foundation of this study. The paper presents a political history of Punjab, focusing on the alternatives put forward by both ruling parties and opposition parties that won elections. Between 2002 and 2017, different parties articulated distinct ideas that set them apart—and it is within these differences that we find glimpses of alternative politics.

Introduction:

After the colonial period Indian parliamentary democracy has passing through various alternative practices. Indian parliamentary parties especially Indian National Congress do new practices under the influence of systems, capitalists as well as communist. USA and USSR play an important role in policy making. Punjab as a state of India has also watched her different phases. Like other India states, Punjab was also influenced by different social movements like demand of Punjabi suba on the basis of language and after that Punjab has watched Khalistani Movement and Naxalite movement. Punjab was the state who saw partition in many ways, first in 1947 when western Punjab become the part of Pakistan and then in the next phase Himachal Pradesh separated from Punjab. In 1966 re-organisation of Punjab take place. Punjab divide on the lines of language and then Haryana, Hindi speaking areas separated from existing Punjab. Shiromani Akali Dal played an important role in re-organisation of Punjab on Linguistic basis.

When India was partitioned in 1947, Punjab was also divided in different parts. Sixteen districts of united Punjab was included in the new state of Pakistan and the remaining thirteen districts formed the new state of Punjab in the Indian Union. ¹With the integration of princely states, Patiala and other East Punjab states were brought together to a new state of the Indian union, the PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union). Later during the reorganisation of the states PEPSU areas were merged with Punjab in 1956. The Punjab underwent another reorganisation on 1st November, 1966 when the contiguous Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab, comprising Southeast of the river Ghagher, were clubbed together to form a new Hindi-speaking state of Haryana. Some hilly areas, such as Kullu, Kangra and Shimla were taken away from a bigger state of Himachal Pradesh. ²

¹ Hill, K., Seltzer, W., Leaning, J., Malik, S. J., & Russell, S. S. (2008). The demographic impact of Partition in the Punjab in 1947. *Population Studies*, 62(2), 155-170.

² Sidhu, Lakhwinder Singh. (2009): *Politics in Punjab 1966-2008*, Unistar Books pvt. Ltd, Chandigarh, P.11

The creation of Punjabi speaking state on linguistic basis led to drastic demographic change having wider political implications. Owing to transfer the Hindi speaking areas from Punjab the Sikhs came to constitute more than sixty percent of population. They became the majority community in all districts except in Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar. The main beneficiary of the reorganisation of Punjab was Akali Dal. In the undivided Punjab, they could never have won a majority of seats. On the other hand, it was the Jan Sang who suffered the most and lost all hopes of improving its position in the future and its main support was among the urban Hindus which became a minority in Punjab.

Religion wise, pre-partition Punjab was a Muslim majority state, Muslims forming 51.05 per cent; Hindus 35.06 per cent and Sikhs were 12.38 per cent of the population of the province. The Partition of Punjab led to Radical changes in the demographic position because of the large scale migration of population that occurred. Muslims of the Indian Punjab were almost completely replaced by Hindus and Sikhs migrants from west Punjab. Hindus then constituted about 38.67 per cent and the Sikhs were 33.34 per cent of the total population of the state. According to the 1991 census, the Sikhs are around 62.90 per cent and Hindus 34.50 per cent and Muslims, Christians and other are barely 2.6 percent.³

An estimated 47 per cent of the Punjabi Hindus, according to the 1971 census, mentioned their mother tongue to be Punjabi, even though the language question had got communalised and in 1991 it increased to 84 per cent. To illustrate, out of the total legislators 31 per cent were Sikh-Jat-Peasants. However, the number of Jats elected is 44 per cent between 1967 to 2007. It is clear that Punjab politics is dominated by Sikh-Jat-peasants. In other words, it is religio-caste and class axis which had become a currency in Punjab politics. For example, the Shiromani Akali Dal’s political assertions ranged from religious identity to secular Punjabi identity and its birth on January 24, 1921, can be traced to anti-casteist thrust of social and religious interactions.⁴

Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2002:

In Legislative Assembly elections of Punjab Congress got highest seats 62 and form their government under the leadership of Amarinder Singh. SAD and BJP scored 41 and 3 respectively. CPI got only 2 seats and independent candidate got 9 seats as shown in table no.1.

Sr. No.	National Political Party	Seats Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
1.	BJP (BHARATIYA JANTA PARTY)	23	3	583214	5.67%
2.	BSP (BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY)	100	0	585579	5.69%
3.	CPI (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA)	11	2	220785	2.15%

³ Dhami, M.S (1984): *Changing Support Base of Congress Party*, Punjab Journal of Politics, Vol. VIII, No. 1. P.1.

⁴ Pramod Kumar and Rainuka Dagar, (2004): *Gender in Dalit Identity Construction in Punjab in Harish K. Puri (ed.) Dalits in Regional Context*. Rawat Publications Delhi, P.20.

4.	CPM (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST))	13	0	36683	0.36%
5.	INC (INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS)	105	62	3682877	35.81%
6.	NCP (NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY)	39	0	92315	0.90%
	Total	291	67	5201453	50.57%

Sr. No.	State Political Parties	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
7.	SAD (SHIROMANI AKALI DAL)	92	41	3196924	31.08%
8.	SAD(M) SHIROMANI AKALI DAL (SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN)	84	0	478115	4.65%
	Total	176	41	3675039	35.73%

Sr. No.	STATE PARTIES - OTHER STATES	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
9.	CPI(ML)(L) (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST-LENINIST)(LIBERATION))	2	0	1991	0.02%
10.	FBL (ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC)	2	0	2516	0.02%
11.	JD(S) (JANATA DAL (SECULAR))	4	0	3084	0.03%
12.	JD(U) JANATA DAL (UNITED)	2	0	1208	0.01%
13.	RJD (RASHTRIYA JANATA DAL)	2	0	318	0.00%

14.	SAP (SAMATA PARTY)	3	0	1700	0.02%
15.	SHS (SHIVSENA)	27	0	19513	0.19%
16.	SP (SAMAJWADI PARTY)	6	0	3967	0.04%
	Total	48	0	34297	0.33%

Sr. No.	IND (Independent)	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
		274	9	1159552	11.27%

Grand Total	Total Contested	Total Seats won	Total vote Polled
	923	117	10284686

Table No. 1 (Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2002)

Source: Election Commission of India.

There were six national political parties, two state parties; eight other state parties, sixteen unrecognised political parties and independent members who contest the election. With the legacy of BSP some other political parties who claimed themselves as party of oppressed people play their part in this election battle. Republican Party of India, Phule Bharti Lok Party, Mool Bharati (S) Party, Democratic Bahujan Samaj Morcha, Bahujan Samaj Party (Ambedkar) playes their role the assembly elections 2002 but could not gain single seat. Communist parties with fractions also played their role.

Capt. Amarinder Singh emerged as a strong leader of Congress. It was the time when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was PM of India from NDA. It was difficult elections for INC to form government in Punjab but people of Punjab gave their vote to Amarinder Singh.⁵

Alternative Strategies and Party System in Punjab:

People of the Punjab choose Amarinder Singh as CM ignoring the party. With this a new era of face politics came into existence however the role of Congress Party could not be ignored. Amarinder Singh came from a royal family and a military person. He was assumed as a strong leader in Punjab who could counter the Badal rule. SAD who came from the movements and a cadre-based ideological driven party reduced itself to a family party.

To improve the party image PS Badal spent crores of rupees to Sangat Darshan. This was the new type of strategy of SAD. SAD came from movements and also had an experience of Adwani’s Rath Yatra

⁵ Sekhon, jagroop Singh and Kumar Ashutosh (2009): *Punjab Resurgence of the Congress*, EPW, Vol. 44, No. 39, October, 2009, pp. 183-186.

that payback to BJP. In the state of Punjab when Sangat Darshan started by SAD it gave fruit to Congress because The Congress alleged that hundreds of crores spent through 'Sangat Darshan' were meant for farmers.

Amarinder Singh stressed the Congress Party was geared to lead Punjab in its current struggle for freedom from corruption and bankruptcy. He blamed the SAD for not utilize the public money and also stressed on the debt of Punjab. Thus he got success to cash economic issues into votes.

INC campaign though latest methods like audio cassettes, print and electronic media etc. It was the best and different experience for the voters and Congress party. It was proven effective method to influence the voters and built public opinion.

The 16-page INC manifesto promised no less sops for both rural and urban voters of different categories. While promising to continue free power and water to farmers besides giving necessary relief to those operating only diesel pumping sets for irrigation, the manifesto assured 150 units free power per month to all scheduled castes (SC), back- ward class (BC) families and those living below the poverty line for domestic use. etc, the Congress promised benefits such as five marla plots for residential purposes and two marla for 'rudis' to all SC and BC families; one job to each SC/BC family member living below poverty line, flush latrines and drinking water in SC localities. This type of the politics that could be named as big promises to the poor people and grab their votes.

Thus there are some alternative strategies which were used by INC to acquire the votes. Although out of all these, some strategies can be considered as alternative strategies that make environment in favour of Congress. The politics of blaming opposite party to hide internal breakages of the own party stated in the elections.

Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2007:

Legislative assembly elections were contested between six National parties, ten State political parties, twenty Registered (Unrecognised) parties and independent members.⁶ SAD won 48 seats out of total contested 93 with 37.09 per-cents and BJP an allies of SAD won 19 seats out of total contested 23 with 8.28 per-cents. Congress scored 16 seats out of total contested 44 with 40.90 per-cents and Independent candidates bagged 5 seats as shown in Table. no.2.

Sr. No.	National Political Party	Seats Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
1.	BJP (BHARATIYA JANTA PARTY)	23	19	1046451	8.28%
2.	BSP (BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY)	115	0	521972	4.13%
3.	CPI (COMMUNIST PARTY OF	25	0	95704	0.76%

⁶ Kumar, A. (2012). 2012 Assembly Elections in Punjab: Ascendance of a State Level Party. *JPS*, 19(2), 256.

	INDIA)				
4.	CPM (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST)	14	0	35147	0.28%
5.	INC (INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS)	16	44	5170548	40.90%
6.	NCP (NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY)	15	0	13965	0.11%
	Total	308	63	6883787	54.45%

Sr. No.	State Political Parties	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
7.	SAD (SHIROMANI AKALI DAL)	93	48	4689018	37.09%
	Total	169	48	4741194	37.50%

Sr. No.	IND (Independent)	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
	Total	431	5	861595	6.82%

Grand Total	Total Contested	Total Seats won	Total vote Polled
	1043	117	12641706

Table No. 2 (Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2007)

Source: Election Commission of India.

Both the Communist parties did not open their account. Except SAD, BJP and Congress any other party did not win even a single seat. There were total 36 political parties who contested the election. There were total 1043 members from different parties and independent who were in the election fray. PS Badal was elected as the CM of Punjab. Personality of PS Badal attracted the people of Punjab. There were several reasons which were responsible for the victory of SAD-BJP alliance. These reasons were the adaptation of alternative policy by the SAD as their election campaign as well as politics.

Alternative Programmes of SAD:

Prakash Singh Badal is the old and wisest personality. He has a great experience of Punjab politics and electoral behaviour. He tried to satisfy all the section of society and party workers. He presented himself

as a leader of Punjab rather than Sikhs. With this policy he was able to convert Hindu and urban feelings into the votes. At the national level when the people of India was unsatisfied with UPA government PS Badal tried to utilize the un-satisfaction of Punjabis against the Congress party in the state of Punjab and he got success in it. On the Congress side; the rule of Amarinder Singh could not satisfy the demands of people. He was not passed according to the aspirations of the people. There were some issues which led to the defeat of Congress like corruption, low purchasing power of the people, failure to provide the jobs to youth. Amarinder Singh was considered as egoistic person⁷.

SAD had promised free water and electricity to the people of Punjab which was the core promise that emerged in the lap of party. The prominent slogan of Punjab, Punjabi and Punjabiya crossed the ethno-religious lines and help to bagged votes for SAD.

Issues of Development which was raised by the alliance can be considered as alternative policy of the party. SAD promised to the people of Punjab good roads, flyovers, infrastructure, water and power.

SAD had made the policies to approach the poor. For this purpose they tried to do ground work to the poor section of the society. SAD had promised with the poor to provide the flour at Rs.4 per kg and pulse at Rs. 20 per kg. The politics of welfare was the alternative initiative taken by SAD. There were so many welfare schemes for the every section of the society i.e. establishment of Meritorious Schools, Post Metric Scholarship for SC students, Construction of Medical Universities like AIIMS at Bathinda, PGI Satalite Centre at Sangrur, Advanced Cancer Research and Traetment Centre at Bathinda, 108 Medical Help Ambulance, International Airport at Amritsar Sahib. Although the government has managed to deliver on some social schemes such as doubling of the pension of senior citizens, widows, and dependent and disabled children, but here the announced schemes are facing problems in in the manner of their implementation⁸. Some of the Schemes were initiated during the first term of the party and the rest were initiated in the second inning.

Thus it became clear from the study that the election of 2007 was won by SAD through its welfare schemes. The schemes that had been initiated during this period were inspired from the alternative strategies of the party that lead to the victory.

Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2012:

Punjab legislative Assembly elections had contested between six National parties, one State party, three other State parties, twenty seven Registered (Unrecognised) Parties and independent members. SAD won 56 seats out of total contested 94 with 34.73 per-cents and BJP won 12 out of total contested 23 with 7.18 per-cents. Congress bagged 46 out of total contested 117 with 40.09 per-cents as shown in Table No.3.

Sr. No.	National Political Party	Seats Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
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⁷ Vinayak, Ramesh (2007): Congress SADdened, India Today, March 12, 2007, p. 64.

⁸ Sekhon, Jagrup Singh and Sharma Sunayana (2017): Evaluation of SAD–BJP Government (2007–17), Economic Political Weekly, January 21, 2017 Vol LII No.3, pp. 50-54.

1.	BJP (BHARATIYA JANTA PARTY)	23	12	998098	7.18%
2.	BSP (BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY)	117	0	597020	4.29%
3.	CPI (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA)	14	0	114211	0.82%
4.	CPM (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST))	9	0	21719	0.16%
5.	INC (INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS)	117	46	5572643	40.09%
6.	NCP (NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY)	13	0	4810	0.03%
	Total				

Sr. No.	State Political Parties	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
7.	SAD (SHIROMANI AKALI DAL)	94	56	4828612	34.73%
	Total	94	56	4828612	34.73%

Sr. No.	IND (Independent)	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
38.	Total	418	3	938770	6.75%

Grand Total	Total Contested	Total Seats won	Total vote Polled
	1078	117	13901424

Table No. 3 (Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2012)

Source: Election Commission of India.

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Elections 2012 was power repetition of SAD-BJP alliance and again PS Badal became CM of Punjab. However, in this elections fray there were about 37 political parties and Independents but no other party except SAD-BJP and Congress won any seat. It could be assumed that

there are only two political parties who gained seats. A newly emerged party PPP Peoples Party of Punjab was assumed as the third political rival of both the existing political parties. PPP was founded by Manpreet Singh Badal. However, PPP merged within the existing political part INC.

Manpreet Singh Badal created Third front (Sanjha Morcha) along with the Communist Party of India, The Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the SAD (Longowal).

However, Sanjha Morcha could not win the elections but it gained attention of all the political parties and votes. The PPP proved to be a wild card. It secured around five per cent of the votes, which affected the fortunes of Congress candidates in around 13 constituencies. The Bahujan Samaj Party was another spoiler. It secured around four per cent of the votes, as in 2007, adversely affecting the Congress in more than 10 constituencies.⁹

The Sanjha Morcha, formed by PPP, Left parties and SAD (Longowal), will release its common minimum programme (CMP) at Dhudike village in Moga on November 6, which will also coincide with the launch of “*Izzat Sambhal Yatra*” by the newly formed front.

Third Front tried to present their politics as an alternative politics in the state. However they had not succeeded in their will but influence the politics of the Punjab. They attempted to initiate alternative strategies which they claimed as different from the existing parties especially SAD and Congress.

- Third Front promised for establishing 200 new primary schools and 25 new government colleges for higher education and 25 hospitals in first year. Reforms would be made in Police System on the priority basis, corruption will be removed at any cost and party will take action against the corrupt officers' immediately.
- Third Front assured that the debts of farmers would be decreased and the system of minimum wages for workers would be implemented and also promised good quality seeds, pesticides, fertilizers and 24 hours uninterrupted power supply to the farmers for the agriculture sector at subsidies price. The coalition assured that the minimum wages of unskilled workers would be increased to Rs. 1000 per month.
- The unsolved issues of Chandigarh and dispute of Water river would be settled rapidly, a new manufacturing policy would be established for the trade and industry, Multinational Corporations would be invited to invest money in Punjab. Sanjha Morcha stressed the need to go towards corruption free regime, a new dawn and attempt to stop the everyday price rising, Reforms would be made in the Lokpal.
- To end the feticide, an amount of Five Thousands would be deposited in the account of newly born girl child under the Bebe Nanki Scheme; a new scheme of free housing for the homeless people would be launched on the name of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, old age pensions to be hiked. The party is also committed for providing the clean drinking water and sewerage system would also be reformed.¹⁰

However, PPP did not do their magic on the voters but they succeed to score 5.04 per-cents which were fourth highest. Although they failed to defeat existing political parties but they emerged as an alternative

⁹ <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/nation-in-a-state-harvesting-votes-from-a-new-political-terrain/article2971252.ece>
Accessed on March 3,2022

¹⁰ Election Manifesto of Sanjha Morcha.

to both the parties. SAD with the legacy of the party won again in 2012. They presented the issues which they raised during the elections of 2007. SAD continued their policies like Atta Dal Scheme for poor, free electricity, Post metric scholarships for SC students, Establishment of Medical institutes, Mai Bhago Vidhya Schemes for girls, Air connectivity in Punjab etc.

Thus these elections SAD won again. With the emergence of Third Front their vote share decreased. SAD in 2007 got 37.09 per-cents however in 2012 they scored 34.73 per-cents. Prakash Singh Badal sworn again as CM of Punjab.

There were some reasons that why PPP was not creating any alternative in the politics of Punjab; PPP was a new party without any base in people. They had not enough money power; the other colleague parties like Communist parties also had not any support base in the state that can convert the vote share into seat, they had no support base in urban areas. PPP failed to form the organizational structure of the party, PPP failed to form the organizational structure of the party. Due to these reasons PPP was unable to bag a single seat and failed to create alternative in politics of Punjab.

Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2017:

Punjab Legislative Assembly election was contested between seven National Political parties, two State Political Parties, forty other State Political parties and Independent members. In this election INC bagged 77 seats with 38.50 per-cents vote share, AAP -20 with 23.72 per-cents, SAD-15 with 25.24 per-cents, BJP-3 with 5.39 per-cents and Lok Insaf Party scored 2 seats with 1.23 per-cents votes as shown in Table no.4. INC was the winner and Amarinder Singh sworn as CM of Punjab.

Sr. No.	National Political Party	Seats Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
1.	AICT(ALL INDIA TRINAMOOOL CONGRESS)	20	0	10587	0.07%
2.	BJP (BHARATIYA JANTA PARTY)	23	3	833092	5.39%
3.	BSP (BAHUJAN SAMAJ PARTY)	111	0	234400	1.52%
4.	CPI (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA)	23	0	34074	0.22%
5.	CPM (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST))	12	0	10901	0.07%
6.	INC (INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS)	117	77	5945899	38.50%

7.	NCP (NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY)	7	0	1395	0.01%
	Total	313	80	7070348	45.78

Sr. No.	State Political Parties	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
8.	AAP (AAM AADMI PARTY)	112	20	3662665	23.72%
9.	SAD (SHIROMANI AKALI DAL)	94	15	3898161	25.24%
	Total	94	15	7560826	48.96%

Sr. No.	REGISTERED (Unrecognised) PARTIES	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
1..	LIP (LOK INSAAF PARTY)	6	2	189228	1.23%
	Total + Other unrecognised parties	302	2	311939	2.41%

Sr. No.	IND (Independent)	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
	Total	303	0	323281	2.09

Sr. No.	NOTA (None Of The Above)	Seat Contested	Seats won out of Total 117	Vote Polled	Vote Percentage
	Total	117	0	108467	0.70%

Grand Total	Total Contested	Total Seats won	Total vote Polled
	1262	117	15443466

Table No. 4 (Legislative Assembly Elections of Punjab 2017)
 Source: Election Commission of India.

AAP contested Punjab Assembly elections first time before this party had contested General Elections in 2014. AAP bagged 4 seats out of total 13 in General elections. AAP emerged as a big party in Punjab. However, AAP was born in Delhi from the IAC (India Against Corruption) movement but became famous in Punjab when it performed in General Elections. AAP was considered as the ruling party but AAP failed to do so. On the other hand Congress was won by huge majority and formed their government in Punjab.

However, AAP was new party with no experience but aims to be an alternative political instrument in the hands of the common man and woman and their movements.¹¹ It promises a new national agenda for 21st century India and commits itself to making a nationwide intervention in the next general elections of 2014. Its announced priorities include checking corruption, reversing centralisation of power, challenging discourses of power based on caste, region and religion, and putting an end to crony capitalism patronised by the major political parties. This new party has opened its political account by challenging both the major political alliances – the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) led by the Congress and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), as well as their patrons in the corporate world, for their collective role in promoting corruption in India.

AAP was assumed as a party of common men however the four faces who won the General elections were famous people like. Party claimed that their government was the government of common people like the kulfi wala, chakki wala, cycle repair wala etc.¹² AAP was considered as the game changer in the politics of Punjab. AAP could not capture the power but they joined the seat of opposition party. It is the big thing for the party like AAP to secure 20 seats, the second highest seats in the house. Thus AAP can be considered as the third player of the Punjab politics.

AAP entered Punjab with the promise not to ‘do politics’ but to ‘change politics’ and not to do *Rajniti* but to practice *Lok Niti*. Its main focus was on “alternate politics based on the need for change in the political discourse”. In the words of Yogendra Yadav, one of the innovators of AAP who was later discharged from the primary membership of the party:

It was not about governing better than others; it was about changing the paradigm of governance with a new model of democracy and development. ... It was not just about winning the political game but about changing the rules of this game. It was not just about creating a new party, but about creating a new kind of party. ... It was about creating a democratic, transparent and accountable instrument for democratic politics.

The politics of AAP is based on the Delhi unit. Punjab unit of AAP is not independent. The central decisions of the party are trickle down to Punjab. Thus it is assumed that party has lack of democracy and Punjab unit is nothing but a team of volunteers. The exorcised of formal Punjab convener of the party, Sucha Singh Chotepur without any solid reason is the example of totalitarianism in the party.¹³ In a sting, that allegedly showing him accepting money is a false video according to SS Chotepur. On this

¹¹ Kumar, Anand (2013): *A Constructive Challenge to the Political Class The Aam Aadmi's Party*, EPW, Vol.48, No.7, Feb,16, 2013, pp.11- 15.

¹² <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/factionalism-will-not-affect-aap-in-punjab/#sthash.tVKjci3e.dpuf>
Accessed on March 3, 2022

¹³ Singh, I. (2015). Emergence of AAM Aadmi party, Indian federalism and changing political scenario. *The Indian Journal of Political Science*, 76(4), 876-881.

incident formal MP of AAP Dr. Dharamvira Gandhi blamed central leadership of that it is an act to defame Chotepur and sting is intentionally designed by party.

Thus with the internal fraction party lose its faith. There was so many other incidents which are explained the third chapter. However party got success to acquire the opposition seat in the house. AAP is a new party and the aspiration of the people revolves around the party but party has not enough experience that can convert emotions into votes. Emergence of the AAP and its politics along with the alternative strategies and policies has been discussed in the third chapter.

Conclusion:

In the present study, historical evaluations of the parties have been discussed. Especially, from the state re-organization Punjab politics is changing according to the new demands and political will. Shiromani Akali Dal and Congress are the two parties who enjoyed power rotationally. But with the advent of new parties, establish political parties re-think their politics. In the multiparty system it becomes necessary to protect democracy by welcome the newly emerged parties or fronts. However in the Punjab politics the data is evidence that since 1967 the system was multiparty but having legacy and as an old parties the power rotates in two hands of SAD and INC. Emergence of the AAP has changed this scenario. Both the parties think seriously about the AAP because Congress has an experience of Delhi Assembly elections in which AAP defeat INC and SAD has an experience of General elections of 2014 in which AAP got 4 seats out of total 13 seats in Punjab. This was the reason behind the popularity of AAP that exposed the power rotation and nepotism in the Punjab. AAP took the burning issues of Punjab that touch the emotions of Punjabis like the issue of drugs, un-employment and religious issues like the demand of punishment for the people who torn the sacred Guru Granth Sahib. Since the advent of the politics in the state SAD was enter into politics to secure the autonomy of the state and with the passage of the time and alliance with BJP shifted their demands to development. When Congress was act an umbrella party, the role of SAD was revolutionary. SAD challenged the Congress party time to time to protect the democracy and federal structure. In the present politics AAP challenged both the parties (SAD and INC) and call them as partner. AAP contested the assembly elections 2017 to expose the power rotation. In this means AAP emerged as an alternative political party in Punjab.