

Why Vote?

Dr. Amrutha Latha

Translated by
Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

WHY VOTERS ARE RELUCTANT TO VOTE?



Ampashayya Naveen
(*Central Sahitya Acadamy Awardee*)

Dr. Amrutha Latha's present series of dialogues on the duties of every citizen of the country focus on casting of their votes when elections are held to elect people's representatives.

One need not reemphasize the importance of vote in a democracy. When the first general elections were held in India, every citizen irrespective literates and illiterates were given right to vote. The Western democracies like England, France and others were surprised and asked how can Indian government allow its entire adult population to vote? How can they understand the importance of vote, when 83% of Indians were illiterates in 1952?

The apprehension that everybody expressed was: the right to vote would be misused and the basic spirit of democracy would be distorted.

Without taking these apprehensions into consideration seriously, the Government of India, under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru went for general elections in 1952. From then onwards many general elections were held regularly, every five years, both for State Assemblies and Parliament. Though there is a lot of criticism against the elections that are taking place, these elections have flourished to stay in India.

The main problem in voting is lack of people's enthusiasm to cast their votes during elections. The percentage of voting in elections seems to be so encouraging. It is not exceeding 52 to 55%. Why people are reluctant to vote is the theme of Dr. Amrutha Latha's present series of dialogues.

She first examines why people are not going to polling booths to cast their votes. Then she tries to educate voters on the importance of voting and convinces the voters to cast their votes without fail.

When asked why you are not casting your vote, one of the voters replies: 'I will cast my vote when the right to vote is vested with the literates.'

When asked why many graduates are not voting in graduate MLC elections the literate voter doesn't have any reply. He says that he was under a false notion that he is intelligent because he was a literate. He is now ready to cast his vote with the explanation of the narrator.

Another voter says that he is not going to vote because his name was misprinted in the electoral rolls. When he was asked to go to the officer concerned to get his name corrected, he says he is now ready to cast his vote.

One voter is not willing to vote because all contestants are bad. Another voter says he is not casting his vote because their present MLA did not do anything good for the people. Tomorrow, the new MLA will do nothing as well.

Like this, one voter after another give their remarks and reasons for not casting their votes. All of them were told that all the reasons put forth by them were wrong. Proper answers are given for their apprehensions about elections. Then the voters are convinced that their primary duty in a democratic country is to elect a proper candidate by casting their votes without expecting any monetary benefits from the contesting candidates.

All the short plays in this booklet are written in the form of dialogues between two persons. One is a voter and the other is a narrator. The narrator tries to influence the voter and motivates for casting the vote.

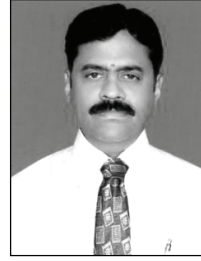
Recently the Election Commission of India introduced a 'NOTA' button in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). If a voter is not willing to cast his/her vote to any of the contesting candidates, he can press the 'NOTA' button. If majority votes are cast in favour of NOTA, no contesting candidate will be declared elected. I don't know why Dr. Amrutha Latha did not advise a voter who says that no contestant is good, to press the NOTA button.

The English translation of these dialogues by Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar is good. He did his job in an excellent way, which will be appreciated by the target language readers.

I congratulate Dr. Amrutha Latha for taking a very relevant theme of elections and educating the voters about the importance of vote.

Warangal.
04.06.2017

AN EYE OPENER...



Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

Dr. Amrutha Latha is a master of presenting ideas through different genres. She has chosen dialogues in this booklet to discuss a serious issue in a lighter vein.

The booklet is seriously concerned about casting of vote in elections in the democratic country. It concentrates on the misconceptions of the voters towards exercising their franchise.

The entire booklet has been written in simple language which helps to enlighten and motivate the voters towards voting. She criticises the misconceptions of the voters in voting and tries making it clearer how important is to participate in voting for better democracy and governance.

I followed the true spirit of translation, and try to project the expression and experience of Dr.

Amrutha Latha in her every dialogue. Her expressions are simple but striking; her words are appropriate and authentic.

As a translator sometimes I have to search for the appropriate equivalent for hours together, but the process left me with a lot of satisfaction. Hope I have done my job to the utmost satisfaction of both the author and the readers of the target language.

I'm very much thankful to Dr. Amrutha Latha for giving me such a wonderful opportunity to translate a booklet with a social concern. I extend my token of gratitude to Dr. Amrutha Latha for choosing me as her translator to translate her expressions. I am also thankful to Smt. Nellutla Rama Devi, Senior Manager, Andhra Bank, Warangal for her encouragement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Dr. Amrutha Latha

To have the recipient of a Kendra Sahithya Academy Award, Dr. Ampashayya Naveen read my humble collection of dialogues and write a **prologue** is my honour.

Many wonderful translations do not hold a candle to the original work. Proving that wrong and for doing justice to my words and translating them with care, I am thankful to Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar.

Rama Devi, esteemed writer and illustrator, and most importantly a dear friend added pizzaz to this book by her mirthful illustrations. Thank you for putting a smile across the readers' faces with your quirky and witty illustrations. Thank you for your friendship and camaraderie.

Nizamabad's regional Bapu, Babu for your eye-grabbing illustrations and for making this book a visual treat, thank you.

This book reached its acme with the paintings of Bali and Mannem Sarada for both front and back cover pages respectively.

The most tedious task in publishing a book is the proof-reading. The mistakes and errors in a book often stand in the way of the pleasure it brings. To sift them with care and gently tossing them out requires enormous amount of patience, I am grateful to my dear friends Nellutla Rama Devi, Kiran Bala, Thurlapati Lakshmi, K. Vijaya Lakshmi and A.Shankar. Their help is invaluable.

Days and nights merge into one for our DTP operators Krishna and Madan. The time that they spent on this venture is unforgettable.

CONTENTS

1. Literacy-Illiteracy - 17-19
2. Nothing Inferior - 20-23
3. Rights - Duties - 24-28
4. Friendship or Enmity - 29-31
5. What to ask - - 32-36
What not to ask
6. Voting - Cutting - 37-39
7. Use - Misuse - 40-43
8. Quilt - Blanket !? - 44-46
9. Disinclination - - 47-49
Inclination
10. *Utti** - Heaven - 50-53
11. Interpretation - - 54-57
Misinterpretation
12. Vote - Note - 58-62
- ★ About the Translator - 63-64



Why Vote?

Dr. Suresha Saha



Translated by
Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

LITERACY - ILLITERACY

"Will you vote this time?"

"No, I don't!"

"Why?"

"I don't know about others . . . I'll cast my vote when the right to vote is confined only to literates!"

"Why do you put this condition?"

"I strongly believe that only literates have the discretionary power! They will have the intelligence to understand the pros and cons of the political parties!"

"Is it? Let me ask you a question out of my ignorance? How many literates have exercised their franchise in the recent graduate M.L.C. elections?"

"Oops! It's true! Not even half of the graduates have exercised their franchise!"

"Yes, at last you are on the right path! But the illiterates whom you are disliking and criticising

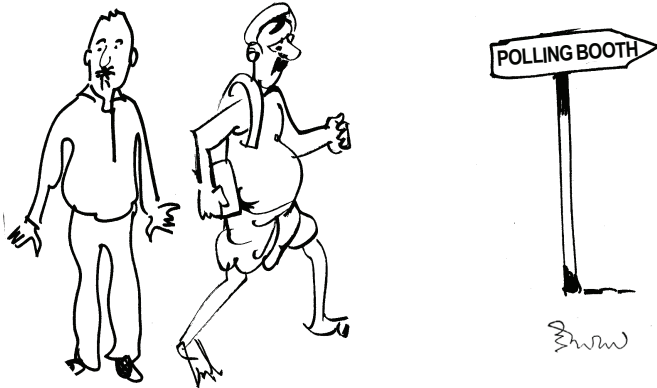
are executing their responsibilities in a perfect manner - maintaining the perfect time - giving befitting answer - in an intelligible way - to the political parties - with their weapon, vote!? Did you understand even now? You are under estimating the illiterates. Now tell me, who are intelligent and who are not?"

"I'm very sorry! I am with a wrong notion that I'm intelligent because I'm literate - but your explanation is an eye-opener to me!"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Vidya- Avidya!')*



He proposes that right to vote must be given to only the educated! Don't we know to whom should we cast our vote? It's shame on his part to say so - being an educated he didn't vote in the recent Teachers' MLC elections !





Illustrated by
Dr. Padmalatha Bhandari

NOTHING INFERIOR

"Will you cast your vote?"

"No, I don't cast my vote at any cost!"

"Why?"

"My name has been misprinted in voter identity card! The cards are full of mistakes . . . !
That is why . . ."

"Oh! I'm sorry. Don't you have even AADHAR card!"

"No, no . . . I have it!"

"Is your name printed correctly on AADHAR card?"

"No, there were also some mistakes in the card!"

"Then, what did you do?"

"I have approached the concerned authorities and corrected them!"

"Why have you corrected the mistakes in

your AADHAR card? Why didn't you leave them as they are?"

"What is that? How can I spare those mistakes? Isn't AADHAR card very essential?"

"Oho! You consider that voter identity card is not useful!"

"Please, leave the matter aside. I badly needed AADHAR card! Who is bothered much about voter identity card?"

"Oh! my poor fellow!" You must be very careful about voter identity card like your AADHAR. You must be cautious in choosing your constituency representative - One is your family responsibility and the other is your social responsibility! Did you understand?"

"Well said . . . tomorrow I'll go and make the mistakes corrected in my voter identity!"

*(Translated from the original Telugu
'Heenangaa Choodaku Denni...')*



Rama.



www



RIGHTS - DUTIES!

"What Mr.Kalyan! Will you at least cast your vote this time?"

"No, I don't cast my vote at any cost!"

"Why?"

"I don't like the contestants - one is a rowdy fellow - the other one deflectionist - the next one humiliates his wife - the other fellow is a mafia gang leader! I don't like those four candidates - what can I do?"

"Then - cast your vote for the fifth candidate!"

"It's my fate! There is no fifth candidate in the fray!"

"Why can't you cast your vote to a better candidate among the contestants - if you don't like their character - why don't you consider the objectives of the party and cast your vote?"

"What is the use? After the election that

candidate . . . in an inauspicious moment will change his party ...! My vote will go astray! Please leave me alone . . . you will have merit in heaven . . . no one in the fray is good enough! I don't want to cast my sacred vote to those immoral fellows and make it impure!"

"That's Okay! Now tell me are you a moralist?"

"I believe!"

"Then why didn't you contest in the elections?"

"Hoo! Who will give the ticket to me? Moreover I don't have the capacity to buy the ticket?"

"Do you need money to contest in the elections?"

"You belong to the older generation? You'll better fit in the period of B.C. (Before Christ)? Contesting elections without money was the thing of the past! It is highly impossible to go for any elections without money!"

"Okay, I'm asking this question out of my ignorance - you are a moralist, aren't you? - Why do you prefer the party ticket which is offered for money? Why are you wasting your time and energy by criticising everyone - if you have gathered the people with the similar

ideology, you would have created your own cadre for the elections! Do you agree with me or not?"

"Don't criticize the contestants alone - you go to the people -try to mingle with them - make yourself available to the people - be empathetic to the problems of them - get yourself a special identity! Then . . . political parties offer themselves ticket to you, though you don't have any money! Otherwise contest in the elections as an 'independent candidate'! Voters vote not only for money, but they also consider your 'calibre'!

"That could be a dream in the future - Why should I cast my vote now unnecessarily - I will think about it if I contest in the elections in the future.

"Can a person have the right to ask for the vote in his favour, if he doesn't cast vote to anyone? Just think about it!"

"Yes, you are absolutely correct brother . . . I will cast my vote now! In the future I will ask the votes for me."

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Hakkulu - Baadhyathalu!')*

Though you present many gifts to us, we are sorry that we have decided not to vote for any rowdy fellow here after! Instead we have selected a good person among us and request you to vote for him sir!



Should I cast my valuable vote for such nasty fellows ? Instead I had better contest in the elections .





Why Vote?

Dr. Anantha Laksh



Translated by
Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

FRIENDSHIP OR ENMITY

"Will you cast your vote?"

"I used to cast my vote in the past! But now I don't vote for anybody! Not only me, even my friends also don't cast their vote!"

"Why?"

"Our leader . . . when he was in a particular party . . . used to boast about its policies and doctrines! At the same time he used to criticize the opposition party deliberately! We were very much attracted to his verbosity; I and my friends became his blind followers! Recently he joined the party which he had been criticizing! We were shocked. . . Should we change our party and ideology, whenever he changes his party? No, it's not possible! That is why we are against this voting!"

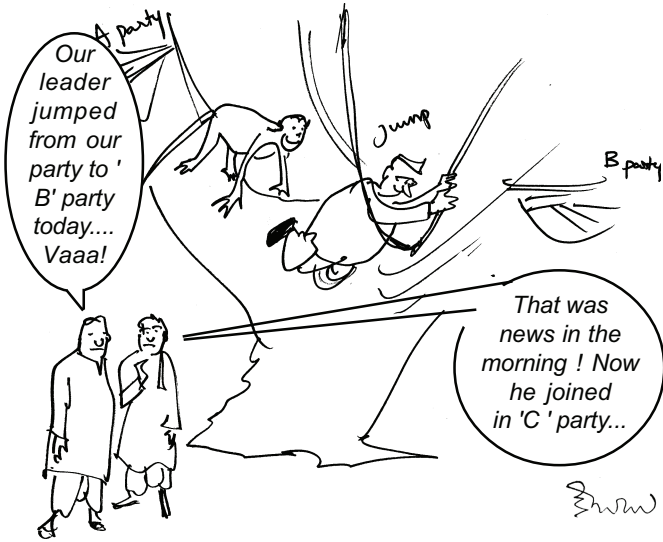
"It seems absurd with you and your friends! Do you keep yourself away from very important

social responsibility? Do you leave aside the important weapon of vote in democracy? Why don't you teach a good lesson to your leader? Why don't you take revenge by casting your vote against him? Why don't you cast your vote in favour of your favourite party?"

"Oh that's a great idea! I didn't get it! This time my friends and myself will certainly utilize the opportunity and cast our vote - we will prove that we are not innocent to follow the politicians blindly and teach them a good lesson!"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Dost - Kateef!')*







Why Vote?

Dr. Amrutha Latha



Illustration by
Dr. Pabalarthy Bhalachar

WHAT TO ASK - WHAT NOT TO ASK

"Lakshmi! Will you cast your vote at least this time?"

"I don't cast my vote under any circumstances!"

"Why?"

"Our M.L.A. did nothing for us! Tomorrow - another M.L.A. will also do nothing! Whoever the representative may be, they will take care of their own works! They always think of their selfish deeds! They don't do anything for the society! Why should I waste my vote for such a useless persons?"

"Okay - You are correct! Tell me what work our M.L.A. did not do for you?"

"What can I tell you? He could not help us our daughter in getting a seat in the medical college - he did nothing for our son in getting a teacher post!"

"You see - can you tell me how many voters are there in our constituency? Do you have any idea?"

"Yes, I know!"

"Then, tell me!"

"...May be around one and a half lakh people!"

"Tell me, how many years an M.L.A. in the power, if everything goes well!"

"Five years!"

"It means . . . around eighteen hundred days! One and a half lakh voters divided by eighteen hundred days is equal to about eighty members! If we count like this . . . Will it be possible to the poor M.L.A. to attend and solve the problems of about eighty members per day?"

"Oh! . . . Are you coming from that direction?"

"You see, we elect our M.L.A. for not our individual problems but for the common problems and necessities of the people of the constituency!"

"What do you mean by common necessities?"

"Our M.L.A. should take care of linking roads

among all the villages of the constituency . . . providing water, electricity, education, health and industrial facilities etc. They should not waste their time and power in helping the people for getting the seats in colleges, and employments illegally! They are supposed to be acquired by the people with their hard work and merit. If the people like us misuse the time of our M.L.A., how can he concentrate on the development of the constituency... just think for a while!"

"Oh! I could understand what to be asked... what not to be asked from our M.L.A.! I was also realized when to criticise and when not to criticise! I rejected to vote in the elections because our M.L.A. did not help me personally! Just now I came to know that my way of thinking is wrong! This time I will cast my vote definitely!"

*(Translated from the original Telugu
'Adigevee - Adagakoodanivee...')*



Rama.



Cartoon : Babu
Imagination : Kiran Bala



Why Vote?

Dr. Anantha Laksh



Translated by
Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

VOTING - CUTTING

"Will you cast your vote?"

"No, I don't cast my vote!"

"Why?"

"Oh! My God! What are those scoldings! Our children watched the exchange of abuses on television by the politicians and learnt them by heart - the children are using very often when situation demands! Am I supposed to cast my vote for them? Never . . . Moreover the electronic media is telecasting the entire mess in the Television lively - spreading this stench for every house hold!"

"Why are you thinking in this way? Why don't you think that our electronic media is creating awareness on the nature and character of our undemocratic politicians?"

"But . . . ! Intellectuals are not bothered about this mess . . . looking as if they were watching a drama . . . without condemning the entire affair!"

"Yes . . . they should condemn it! But they are bothered much about their selfish needs! They wanted to protect their own candidates in the matter."

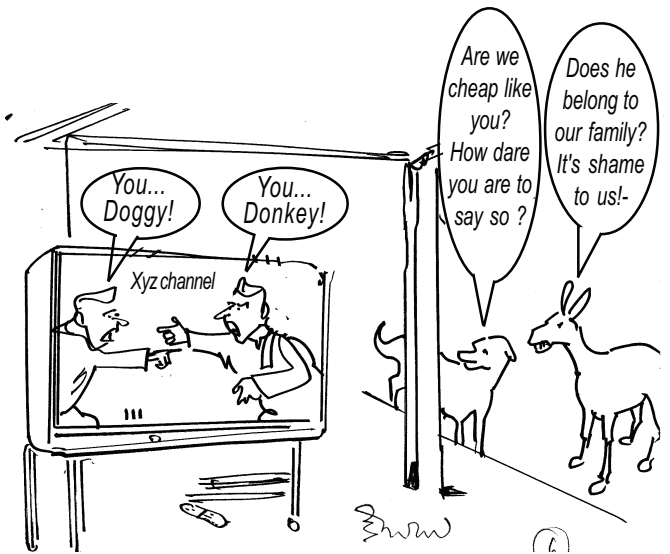
"At last, you have come in our way - I am happy now! Now tell me why should I cast my vote?"

"That is why you should definitely vote to defeat such a useless person - use your vote as a weapon . . . did you understand?"

"Yes! This time with my vote - I teach them a lesson in a befitting manner!"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Votoo - Vetoo')*





Cartoon : Babu
Imagination : Kiran Bala



Why Vote?

Dr. Amrutha Latha



USE - MISUSE

"Will you cast your vote at least this time?"

"No, I wanted to boycott it!"

"Who will be the loser if you boycott it?"

"The candidate who is in the fray...!"

"...How?"

"Last time he was defeated by his opponent by the margin of two votes! I hope it should be repeated this time also!"

"Oh! No! Your hope may not be realised!?"

"Why?"

"If you keep yourself indoors on the day of elections, someone may come and cast your vote in your absence! Your vote will be misused, which may become a boon to the candidate whom you hoped to defeat - your hope will become despair!"

"You are right - I didn't think from that angle!
This time I will definitely cast my vote - I wanted
my vote not to be misused by anybody!"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Viniyogam - Durviniyogam')*

Look - you had boycotted
your vote! But I voted
in your place. Ha ha ha..



Shraw

I lost the first election with eight votes, there after by four and during last one by two... so, any how I will win this time. What do you say ?



Rama





Why Vote?

Dr. Amrutha Latha



Illustration by
Dr. Pankaj Singh

QUILT - BLANKET!?

"Please go and cast your vote"

"I don't do that!"

"Why?"

"Oh! So many parties are there in the fray!
No party gets the complete majority, if such a
large number of parties are in the fray! If a party
gets simple majority . . . that would become a
quilt with full of patches! That's why - I don't
want to cast my vote!"

"If everyone thinks like you in the same
fashion - then we don't even get a quilt to cover
our body - just think!"

"No problem! I don't wanted to have a quilt
with full of patches! But I need a colourful
blanket!"

"I want to ask you a question out of my
ignorance! Who will make either quilt or blanket?"

"...Voters!"

"Who has to come forward if we want make either a colourful blanket or a blanket with full of patches?"

"...Voter Gods!"

"If every Voter God cross their fingers like you - who will weave either quilt or blanket?"

"Yes, you are absolutely correct!"

"Vote is a needle at your hands! You yourself make the quilt or the blanket whatever you like! But don't scold yourself as the quilt is not good and it is not protecting you from the cold. Wise people never do like that."

"Thanks! I have realized about my duty! I will vote this time without fail!"

*(Translated from the original Telugu
'Bontha - Kambalaa!?)*





Why Vote?

Dr. Anantha Laksh



Translated by
Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

DISINCLINATION- INCLINATION

"Let's go and cast our vote!"

"I don't come, I don't vote for anyone!"

"Why? - Is it not your responsibility!"

"It's true . . . I wanted to exercise my franchise!
- I have a sweet dream before my eyes! But . . .
I have no confidence on any party that my dream
would be realized! Not only have that - what will
happen with my single voted . . . disinclination!"

"If everyone thinks like you . . . if everyone is
inactive like you . . . who will help you realize
your dream?"

"I don't know! These politicians...are buying
votes with notes, voters . . .selling themselves for
liquor . . . very bad! I feel irritated if the thought
comes to my mind!"

"Why don't you think that your vote which
was not sold out for money may become like a
wave, turn into a tidal wave and clears off all the

filth out of politics! Do you confine yourself only for dreams or work to realize them? Get up and work to translate your dreams into reality!"

"By looking at this political mire - I was shocked and feeling embarrassed - a different kind of hopelessness - humiliation! I wanted to see my country in a shining state!"

"That is at your hands! Don't sit idle by only dreaming! Get rid of your despair - get ready! If everyone like you lights the lamp - our entire country will shine! Get up - get up first - go and cast your vote first!"

"Okay! I will cast my vote to the party which may translate my dreams into reality . . . I will exercise my franchise in favour of a suitable candidate ... bye!"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Virakthi - Anurakthi!')*





Why Vote?

Dr. Amrutha Latha



Illustrated by:
Dr. Pankaj Singh

UTTI* - HEAVEN

"Why are you so happy, my dear friend?"

"I have tied my hair to a hill!"

"...To which hill?"

"...M.L.A. hill!

"What is M.L.A. hill? Where is it?"

"Why are you shocked? Our constituency in the present elections has been reserved to my caste! There are only two or three probable candidates in my caste with some name and reputation! I am one among them! My kith and kin are pressuring me to contest in the forthcoming elections! I have put an application with the high command!"

"What is this hill and hair in the middle?"

"Oh! You didn't understand the relation between the hair and the hill! M.L.A. position is a hill and my application for the party ticket is

the hair! It's not so easy to get the party ticket in the assembly elections! Will anything go wrong if I apply for the ticket? That's why I've tied my 'application hair' to 'M.L.A. hill'! Did you understand now? If my hair drags the hill to me, I will be very lucky! If my hair is unable to drag the hill, it will not going to show any impact on me. I'll lose a simple application . . . nothing will happen!"

"My dear poor fellow... Your hair has been cut into pieces which you have tied to the hill without your attempt in dragging it!"

"...How?"

"Your name is not included in the voter's list! How can you contest the elections?"

"Oh shit! You have been pestering me to include my name in the voter's list since a long time! I didn't listen to you! I didn't dream of getting this type of golden chance in my life! What can I do now? Who will help me?"

"Stop your affliction! As you couldn't jump till *utti*, how can you think of flying up to the heaven! As you don't have a name in the voter's list, how can you contest the elections? Moreover weeping without any inhibition! Stop crying - if anybody

listens to this, they will laugh at you like anything!"

"You are right! I'll go now immediately and register my name in the voter's list!"

(*Utti* = A fibrous network sling, in which pots etc., are suspended from the beams of the house.)

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Utti - Swargam')*





Rama



Illustrated by
Dr. Padmalochy Brhadachari

INTERPRETATION - MISINTERPRETATION

"Hi dear Bujji, go and cast your vote!"

"No, I don't!"

"Why?"

"I wanted to cast my vote to a certain candidate! He visited my neighbours' houses recently! But he didn't come to my home . . . he didn't meet me!"

"Is that the reason for not casting your vote?"

"Yes! He needs vote! As he didn't meet me at the time of his necessity, will he meet me after completion of his necessity?"

"There are about one lakh and fifty thousand voters in your constituency... much like you! He gets only twenty five days to meet all the voters . . . between he was given party ticket... date of elections!"

"If we calculate meticulously... he has to meet at least six thousand voters per day! He can

move from house to house... only for twelve hours . . . between six in the morning and six in the evening! He has to meet at least five hundred members per hour . . . eight members per minute . . . will it be possible?"

"Yes, you have forgotten! There may be election meetings - rallies in between! If we deduct the time allocated to these activities . . . he has to meet not eight members but fifteen members or more per minute!"

"Okay you are on the right path! You are trying to understand the ground realities! Can I tell you one thing? Recently . . . you have forgotten to invite me, your close friend for the marriage of your daughter! My wife did not like to come to the marriage! I've convinced her and at last she attended to the marriage! Your daughter's marriage was fixed only one month before the marriage! You have got only one month to invite your kith and kin within the stipulated time! You were unable to invite only five hundred members in one month and you have forgotten to invite your close friends and relatives. The same rule is applicable here! Even if the candidate meets or not is not a matter - don't try to misinterpret the situation! Try to understand his condition empathetically!"

"Now I could understand everything! If a particular candidate meets me or not! It's not a matter for me - I will cast my vote in favour of the candidate whom I like most! Is it Okay for you?"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Artham - Apartham')*



Cartoon : Babu
Imagination : Kiran Bala



He is very particular to vote to the candidate who come to our house and request him personally. Now puzzled that to whom to vote as all the candidates visited our house.



Dama



Illustrated by
Dr. Padmarajy Bhandari

VOTE - NOTE

"Will you cast your vote?"

"No, I don't! One contestant is distributing rupees two hundred per voter! Another contestant is giving a liquor party! One more candidate is distributing saris to the voters! Nobody is giving anything to me! Why should I cast my vote for anybody?"

"Will you cast your vote for money, liquor or saris?"

"Yes!"

"If you are in need... if you happened go to the M.L.A.... if he remembers everything... if he demands the money for your work... what will you do? What is your position?"

"I'll give the money for my work, then! I will take... now!"

"If you don't need his help... if you don't go

for him for any help?"

"It's well and good... I can save my money!"

"But you strongly wish that the candidates have to spend a lot of money for one and a half lakh voters like you!... You are a sadist, aren't you?"

"It's Okay! They will earn enough money if they become M.L.A.s! Are they spending their own money in the elections? Some businessmen give them enough party funds before elections expecting that M.L.A. would help them in need!"

"That kind of donation is not enough for their party flags, pamphlets and petrol!"

"It seems you have understood the politics correctly! You are supporting the candidates contesting in the elections! Are you trying for M.L.A. ticket in the forthcoming elections? If I am correct... don't worry brother! I'll be with you! If you contest the elections, I will cast my vote to you without taking any money!"

"See, you are again talking about money! Yes, I know you will cast your vote if I contest in the elections!"

"Thanks my dear! At last you have understood me!"

"But... you should know about a thing which I know! Can I tell you it now?"

"Yes, tell me?"

"You will take money from every candidate... but you will cast your vote to me!"

"Oh, you are intelligent... you have clearly scanned my idea in a correct way!"

"But the contestants believing the voters like you . . . losing everything in the elections . . . Did you think of the losers in the elections? Is it not cheating on your part?"

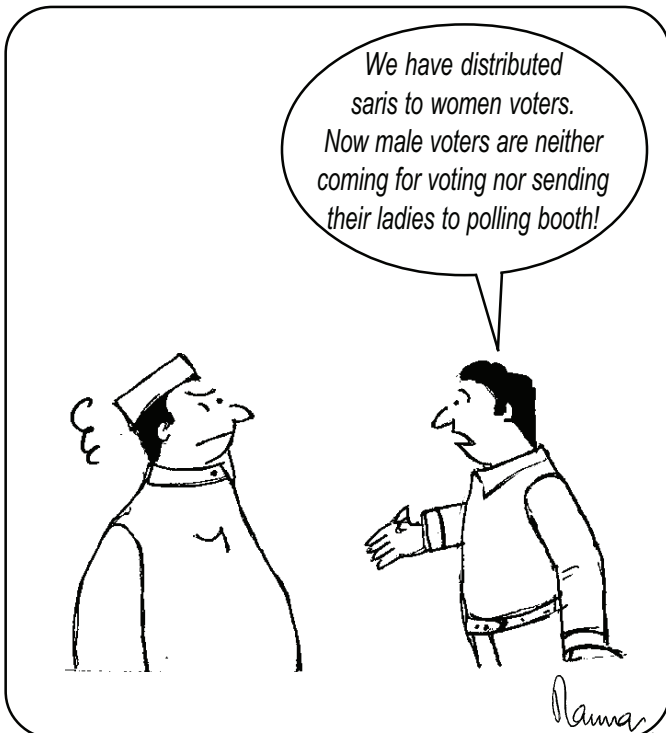
"You are right! I haven't thought of it from that angle!"

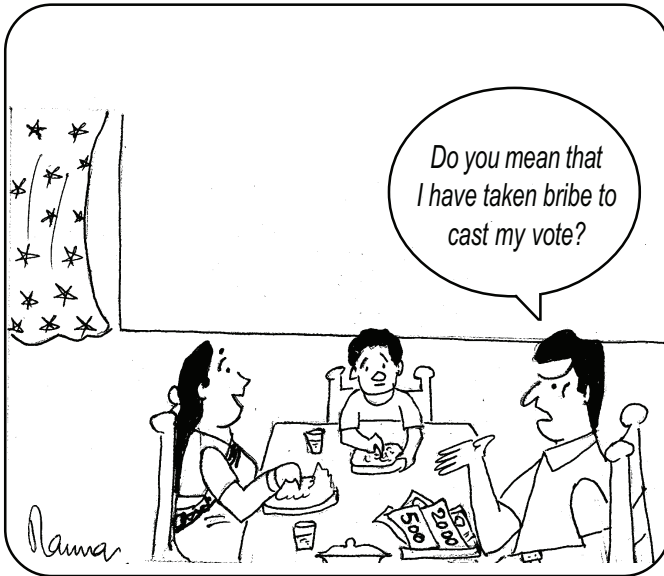
"You see, doing your duty by taking the bribe from four or five candidates... casting your vote only for one candidate! Only one candidate will win the elections... all the candidates spend a lot of money, time and energy! A voter who takes money from the candidates and cast the vote is some what better than a voter who takes money from many candidates and cast only for one! If

the people talk about you like the wretched, I may not bear!"

"Sorry my dear friend, there is a fault in my way of thinking . . . I will agree with you! I don't take anything from any contestant in the elections! But I will definitely exercise my franchise! Are you happy now!?"

*(Translated from the original
Telugu 'Votu -Notu')*





About the Translator



Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar

Dr. Palakurthy Dinakar is an Asst. Professor of English, Government Degree & PG College, KORATLA, Dist. Jagtial.

He received Gold Medal in MA (English) and first rank in MPhil and did his Ph.D. from Kakatiya University. He did his PGCTE, P.G.D.T.E. from EFLU, Hyderabad.

He stood first among the south Indian participants in Teacher Development programme at Regional Institute of English, Bangalore.

He authored

English for Enrichment, English for Accomplishment, Pedagogy for Primary English, A Text Book on Communicative English, Yoga and Self Development, Life Skills Education, Proficiency in English, Communicative English, Teaching English through Discourse Oriented Pedagogy.

He presented papers in 4 International and 29 National Seminars and published 42 research articles in reputed, peer reviewed and scholarly journals and edited anthologies. He translated more than 72 poems and twenty nine short stories and three booklets from Telugu to English out of which several were published.

