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# THE IMPACT OF POLITICAL MARKETING ON THE VOTERS' BEHAVIOR IN

AFGHANISTAN

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## ABSTRACT

In current political world, the competition amongst politicians intending to achieve important positions by the civilians' votes is vividly substantial. Therefore, the process of creating favorable social attitudes through a strong campaign to win the voters over in the targeted area for each candidate is highly prominent to identify their importance in reaching a specific goal. Such a campaign is usually via advertisements aiming at selling the politicians' characteristics, ideas, future plans, and leadership abilities and so on which is called political marketing. This study examined the impact of political marketing on the voters' behavior in Afghanistan. The main purpose of this research is investigation of relationship between voters' behavior and these factor: Political marketing, Economic, Personality, Culture,

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Beliefs, Social and Political, that have effect on voters' behavior. 199 participants who were eligible to vote were selected as the participants. Utilizing a quantitative method, the required data was collected through a questionnaire. The results of the current study indicated that Personality, Economic, Culture and Political marketing were the key factors affecting the voters' behavior towards voting to a particular candidate.

**Keywords:** Political Marketing, voters' behavior, political parties, independent candidate, political campaign.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

In current political world, the competition aimed to achieve important positions by the civilians'' votes (Abramowitz, 1989). Therefore, the process of creating favorable social attitudes in the targeted area for each candidate is highly prominent to identify their importance in reaching a specific goal. Different managerial and psychological policies have led the leadership and management of this process to achieve this goal and win the people's vote. Generally, political marketing is the first usage (Kelly,1957). Definition of political marketing in general: Political marketing is facilitator of the social process of political exchanges (Bendle, 2014). There are various arguments about the use of political marketing during the election campaign (Bendle and Cotte, 2016). The political marketing is a new phenomenon in countries like Afghanistan and influences the psychological skills and opinions of the voters to vote. In this research, I examine the impact of political marketing in Afghanistan. To achieve a favorable outcome of political marketing in Afghanistan, there are factors which have a greater impact on voters' behavior.

## 2. Voter Behavior

Voters and their initial wishes and wishes are the choices that all candidates are seeking to succeed in the chosen constituencies they represent. Candidates must understand the needs, and needs of the community. Political marketing is a successful political campaign that must be understood by voters in order to achieve this success because voters have the key to power in all democracies. In fact, the "knowing" of voters is related to two parts. The first part involves recognizing the point in the social building of "sociological, demographic, traditional, and geographical topographies." And the partner includes the needs and objectives of "beliefs, issues and well-being," and "spiritual characteristics" of personality, attitude, motives, feelings or values (WojciechCwalina et al 2012: p, 262). On the second

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part, voters' perceptions of how information is received and processed, and how to interpret political information, the politicians evaluate their programs and their proposals. In other words, voters act according to the rules governing cognitive, emotional and behavioral functions (WojciecheCwalina et al, 2012).Sociologically, also called the sociological paradigm, assumes that the main reason for voting is the feeling of a member of the social community. Examples of such communities may include ethnic, religious or occupational groups, social classes or neighboring networks, all of which refer to the collective character of voting behavior. In other words, they are those who vote, but their preferences are determined by their dependence on a particular group (Lazarsfeld, 1944; Berelson, 1954).

#### 3. Factors that affect the voters' behavior

Newman and Shett (1985) use seven variables: social imagery, issues and policies, candidate image, emotional feelings, current events, epistemic issues, personal events in the lives of voters, political options more than 90% accurately predicted Made Their model is more than predictions based on population or participation.Later, five predictive variables were reformed based on political issues, candidate personality, social imagery, probable situational and epistemic (Newman and Sheth, 1987). This model has been repeated several times (Benur and Newman, 2010; Newman, 1999; Newman, 2002).

## **3.1.** Political marketing

Political marketing is relatively a new term in the political science literature, it means using marketing tools in your politics, expressing techniques and methods in the political process (Dr. Sudha Menon, 2008). In other words, the result of the interaction between politics and marketing is called political marketing. It is still an activity or method that reflects the influence of politics through marketing. Activities such as celebrity confirmation, political propaganda, professional advisers and campaign leaders, online campaigns, use of meetings, micro-targeting, etc. Some widespread use of political marketing is used (Marshment, 2006).

## 3.2. Economic

Economic factor is one of the most important factors in people's lives, this factor directly affects the financial status and economic power of people. Economic indicators based on economic factors in society are the main indicators of social welfare and welfare of people

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(Bode, Dalrymple, 2015). In the different researches show that the effectiveness and effect of economic factors on social satisfaction and life satisfaction in society and positive attitude towards politicians with favorable economic attitude (Andrews, Kaplan, 2015).

## . Social.3.3

The social status and related conditions, such as education, social organizations, per capita studies, etc., are catastrophic factors that affect public opinion, support people from the ruling party, or lead people to government or against the rule it. In other words, this component focuses more on the issue of party rather than on individual and individuals. Therefore, the factor is very effective in people's behavior (Bode and Dalrymple, 2015).

## 3.4. Political

The political party can only maintain its identity when it maintains its identity. In fact, it is a marketing campaign that can constantly update a party, and that the party will have the planning and decision to nominate, to gain and maintain it makes it a connection to the people. Therefore, this indirect political effect on people's opinions directly affects public opinion, with direct consequences of the political situation, which is based on political slogans and titles based on the relationship and policy of reform and reconstruction (Collinson, 2015).

## 3.5. Culture

Cultural issues include cultural, social, and political issues, words, habits and cultural conditions, including the foundations of society and the traditional beliefs of every society (Bendle, Ryoo and Nastasoiu, 2017). In other words, people in different nationalities have certain cultural principles that respect and value their values and traditions. Over the years, various studies have also shown that candidates have always been more likely to vote and support with slogans and programs based on the preservation of cultural issues that have been held in the election, and that cultural issues play a role in voter behavior. It has also been remarkable for political parties and politics (Bendle and Wang, 2016).

## 3.6. Belief

Religious teachings and teachings on ethics and social practices often lead to political behaviors of individuals and group norms, or in other words, they refer people to a series of

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political and party preferences that have a religious basis, society Accepts. Therefore, insistence on ethical-religious beliefs and values and the survival of these values and beliefs through religious practices, such as: worship, reading the Bible, etc. In fact, strengthening political preferences and a party based on religious teachings and teachings (Lehman, 2001).

## **3.7.** Personality

Political marketing researchers are also interested in examining the impact of personality on voters' behavior (Eystenck, 1954). In literature, personality traits such as authoritarian personality, hard-core controversy, conservative, storytelling, and other personal factors are used to explain the behavior of voters. To develop a relationship between personality and political choices, one can develop various personality theories to this day. It will be useful for political marketers to understand the relationship between personality traits and voters' choices in terms of political ideology, which voters love what kinds of personality (Mc Glosky, 1958; Rokeach, 1960).

## 4. Research Methodology

This is a descriptive research, that we examined the impact of independent variables "Political marketing, Economic, Social, Political, Culture, Beliefs, Personality" on dependent variable "voters' behavior". This quantitative study evaluated the impact and correlation between the factors influencing the behavior of voters. In this research, seven factors affecting voting behavior have been investigated. In addition, this method can show the correlation between the variables

## 4.1.Research Model

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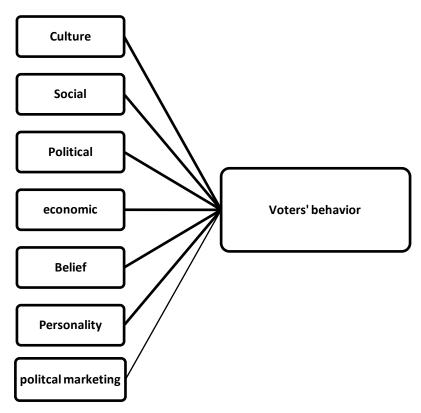


Figure 3.1:Conceptual Mode

## 4.2. Sample size and sampling method

The participants of the current study were Afghan citizens who were eligible to vote. Acknowledging the convenience sampling, 199 subjects of the study whose ages range from 18 to 55 were the respondents.

To calculate the size of sample formula proposed by (Tabachanick and Fidell, 2007) was used (2007).

N=50+8m. Where

N= Sample Size

M= the number of independent variable

N = 50 + 8m.

50+56 = 106

Based on this formula required example size for this learning is defined as 106 (as the amount of independent variable equals to seven).

Sample size is defend as (199) to exceed the minimum threshold.

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## **5.Hypotheses and Graphical Model**

Graphical model of the study and hypotheses are as following;

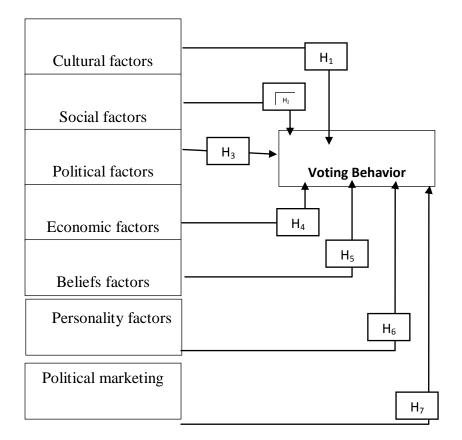


Figure 5.1: Graphical model

- SH1: Cultural factors affect on voters' behavior.
- SH2: Social factors affect on voters' behavior.
- SH3: Political factors affect on voters' behavior
- SH4: Economic factors affect on voters' behavior.
- SH5: Beliefs factors affect on voters' behavior.
- SH6: Personality factors affect on voters' behavior.
- SH7: Political marketing factors affect on voters' behavior.

## 5.1. Respondent's Profile

The sample for current study consisted of 199 complete responses. 79 % of them are male and 21% are female. 41 % of the respondents were married and 59% of the respondents were single. The age of survey participants varied between 18 and 55 years, 60 % of them are

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between 26-45 years. Majority of the sample (93 %) has bachelors and postgraduate degree. 63 % of the sample is student whereas 31 % of them is empolyee.78 % of the respondents have income less than 500 USD yearly. A considerable part of the survey participants (69%) has voted before. Table 4.1 presents demographics of sample.

Variable	Count	Percentage (%)
Sex (n=199)		
Male	157	79
Female	42	21
Marital Status (n=192)		
Married	78	41
Single	114	59
Age group $(n=198)$		
18-25	80	40
26 - 35	104	53
36-45	13	7
46-55	1	0
Education level (n=199)		
Intermediate	3	2
High School	11	5
Bachelor Degree	88	44
MsC& PhD Degree	97	49
Occupation $(n=198)$		
Student	125	63
Employee	61	31
Retired	1	1
Unemployed	11	6
Income Level(n=198)		
Less than 200 USD	68	34
200 – 500 USD	87	44
501 – 1000 USD	31	16
1001 and above	12	6
Voting $(n=195)$		
Yes	134	69
No	61	31
Reliability Assessment 5.2		

	Table	5.1:	Demo	graphics
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Reliability is related to the degree to which test results are free of measurement error. Additionally, the reliability examines how consistent the measured item is among respondents and steadiness of the characteristics across time period (Smith and Albaum, 2005). Table 3 depicts the reliability assessment of each construct. The reliability has been established as Cronbach alpha value is above 0.7 for each construct.

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Construct	Reliability (Cronbach Alpha)	Number of Items
Cultural Factors	0,856	5
Social Factors	0,759	3
Political Factors	0,772	3
Economic Factors	0,877	6
Beliefs	0,801	4
Personality	0,852	6
Political Marketing	0,883	5
Voting Behavior	0,887	5

Table 5.3: Reliability Analysis

## **5.3.** Hypothesis Testing

Regression analysis is defined as a reliable method followed in statistics for identifying the relationship between independent variables and dependent variables. By regression analysis, which variables have an impact on the research topic of interest and also the degree of that impact can be observed.

In order to examine hypotheses linear regression analysis was conducted. Table 4 shows that there is a positive strong correlation between two variables (0<0.05, R= 0,810) According to ANOVA test results (p=0,00<0,05) independent variables explain % 64 of the variance in voting behavior (R2= 0,641, p<0,05). To test each hypotheses p values and R2 are examined. As seen in Table 6 cultural factors, (t=2,264, p=0.025), economic factors (t= 2,535, p=0.01) personality (t=3,58, p=0.00) and political factors have positive affect on voting behavior in the 95% confidence interval, wheras the effect of social, political factors and beliefs weren't found statistically significant (p>0,05).

As a summary, cultural factors (H1:  $\beta = 0.184$ , p<0.05) economic factors (H4:  $\beta = 0.190$ , p<0.05), personality (H6:  $\beta = 0.194$ , p<0.05) and political marketing (H7:  $\beta = 0.270$ , p<0.05) have positive impacts on voting behavior.

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	β	t value	р	R	R2	Tolerans	VIF
(Constant)		0,094	0,925	,810 <sup>a</sup>	0,641		
Cultural Factors	0,184	2,264	0,025			0,322	3,013
Social Factors	-0,057	-0,677	0,500			0,301	3,318
Political Factors	0,04	0,048	0,962			0,321	3,111
Economic Factors	0,190	2,027	0,044			0,244	4,101
Beliefs	0,153	1,671	0,097			0,255	3,924
Personality	0,194	2,535	0,012			0,366	2,732
Political Marketing	0,270	3,588	0,00			0,378	2,649

Table 5.4: The Results of Regression Analysis

According to the multiple regression analysis results,  $H_1$ ,  $H_4$ ,  $H_6$  and  $H_7$  were accepted (p< 0,05), while  $H_2$ ,  $H_3$  and  $H_5$  are rejected (p> 0,05). Summary table of hypothesis tests are shown at below (Table 5).

Hypotheses	Relations	hips	Status		
H <sub>1</sub>	Voting	<	Cultural Factors	Accepted	
	Beh				
$H_2$	Voting	<	Social Factors	Rejected	
	Beh.				
$H_3$	Voting	<	Political Factors	Rejected	
	Beh.				
$H_4$	Voting	<	Economic Factors	Accepted	
	Beh.				
$H_5$	Voting	<	Beliefs	Rejected	
	Beh.				
H <sub>6</sub>	Voting	<	Personality	Accepted	
	Beh.				
$H_7$	Voting	<	Political Marketing	Accepted	
	Beh.				

Table 5.5: Summary Table of Hypothesis Tests

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#### 6. Conclusion

The purpose of this research was to find out the relationship between voters' behavior and the factor effect on voters' behavior. This study examined the importance of factors: Political marketing, Economic, Personality, Culture, Beliefs, Social and Political, and influencing the behavior of voters, and reflecting the real impact of political marketing on voters' behavior in Afghanistan. The results obtained from this model showed that the strongest factor affecting on voters' behavior are:Political marketing, Economic. Cultural, Personality, influence on the voters' behavior, And also affect variables such as: political, social,Beliefs and political factors on the voters' behavior...In a similar study that was conducted in Iran by Soleimani and Monem

(2017), five of the above mentioned factors were considered as the main components of political marketing on the behavior of voters. Therefore, the results have proven that the factors behind the creation of the political marketing and the factors are the definitive elements that can guide them through appropriate use of them and the related solutions of thought and public opinion in the predicted direction.

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