The project is on improving voter turnout in the Lok sabha as well as assembly elections. Voter turnout in the 2009 general elections was meagre 58.19% when our literacy rate was around 68%[1]. So first of all, various acts and regulations governing election process of India were studied. The foremost act was Representation of people Act 1950, 1951. Then, role of religion, money and muscle power in elections and the steps taken by the Election Commission of India were analysed to curb this menace. In the field surveys, it was found that in an area where people of different religion resides, religion still plays a dominant role for example the area where survey was done, religion matters a lot for both the candidates as well as the voters. One of the key finding was that incumbent had the highest rate of losing the election. This was because of unsatisfactory work done by the incumbent. Also people tend to flow in the caste sentiments irrespective of the candidate nature and character.

So to have a free and fair election process, ECI should be given more power. One of my recommendation is that the Commission should be given the power to frame rules under the R.P. Act, 1950 and 1951. Concept of vulnerability mapping should be introduced in the whole country (at present it is functional in only some districts of U.P.) Booth Level officer should be given more attention and their capacity building should be properly emphasised.

Rules should be amended to provide for the use of totalizer for counting of votes at EVM elections. By using totalizer (group of 14 EVMs together) trend of voting in individual polling station areas would be unknown and this will prevent post-election intimidation and victimization of electors.

Recently, Government said that ECI can not disqualify a candidate if he has filed his income details (whether correct or incorrect). This would cut the teeth of ECI and would enhance the role of money power in elections. Also the decision by CIC that political parties fall within the ambit of RTI is also a welcome step and would increase democratisation of political parties.

Universal adult suffrage has been a game changer in India and has given a big boost to empower marginal people by ensuring that each vote carries equal value.

This project has been divided into several chapters containing sections and subsections for the readers’ perusal. The first chapter gives an introduction to the electoral system of India and the problems which our present system faces while the second chapter deals with the methodology adopted for the completion of the project. The third chapter talks about the current NGO’s working in this project and Government’s efforts to increase voter turnout. The fourth chapter talks about the results gathered from field visits, literature search and the gap analysis that is what is the difference between existing model and the desired one. The fifth chapter covers the recommendations which can enhance the credibility of this festival of democracy. The recommendations put were both from official sources as well as informal sources (example-Newspaper, Magazine, News etc). The sixth chapter contains the final conclusion and covers the main point discussed in the report.

The recommendations given in this report includes suggestions for effective implementation of various projects of the Election Commission of India.