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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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## ELECTRONIC ELECTORAL MANDATE: ADVANTAGES AND COMPLEXITIES

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### ABSTRACT

Electronic mandate has become the accepted national voting process in India. This is considered as a step way forward to the ballot paper vote franchising which was prevalent in the country from many decades. It has completely replaced the later in national as well as provincial elections. The remnants of ballot box voting remain only in small municipal and rural civic body elections known as panchayats in India. The electronic mandate has obvious advantages. They are fast, accurate, economical, convenient, transparent and voter friendly. These are the claimed benefits. However there are claims on the otherwise too. The opponents to this voting process claim that this methodology is rather tricky, mischievous and has fraudulent implications. The debate has occasionally been heated on the national level and in spite of being the exclusively applied process in national elections, the baiters to this technique are far from being satisfied. We will try to cover the benefits, disadvantages as much as possible in this write up and also focus on the points which are not disclosed in public domain and try to work out the truth behind the scientific pedestal to this technique friendly, handy and fabulous methodology and also work out the answers to the involved complexities lying therein. The discussion is intended to be based only on the scientific point of view and the various breakthroughs in technological fronts that has happened on the global scene in recent years.

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## INTRODUCTION

Electoral process is an essential part of a working democracy. Various processes are involved like ballot papers, voting slips or raise of hands etc in the election of public representatives to government bodies. The methodology may be secret or open voting. Nowadays there has been an extensive intrusion of technology in various walks of life including the electoral system. The usual drawbacks with the ballot boxes were that they could be rigged, stolen, hijacked or manipulated in various ways. Booth capturing is a well known phenomenon in India and has come under much public criticism in the media or otherwise. India is a vast country where money power and muscle power play prominent roles especially during election campaign or at the time of actual voting. There are big landlords in rural background and local Mafiosi or strong men who wield their influence in favor of particular candidates of their choice. A lot of money also flows in the conduct of such a process. So, the overall democratic process has earned a nefarious name in the minds of people and media has highlighted many of such episodes of poll rigging on national level. Another drawback with this ballot system was that it was a time consuming process and the counting of votes took many days in a stretch especially in constituencies where the number of voters is quite big sometimes expanding to near a million voters. In election to the national parliament the number of such big constituencies is sufficiently high.

So, in order to reform the election process, many approaches were thought of and electronic voting certainly came as a relief which obviously did not seem to have any of these drawbacks. In practice too, the election results with very big vote bases were made possible to be declared very fast in a matter of few hours on the day when the actual counting of votes started with the electronic voting machines in action. There was other relief that the ugly and infamous practices like electoral booth capturing were reduced considerably. So, the electronic voting machines seemed to win the hearts of the people of this large nation and there was a general feeling of applause for the machines. But as the time passed, the people started to grow suspicious of the electronic voting machines. The machines are a technology and like any other technology it can be supposed to be obedient or sometimes favoring to its masters. So, the government which runs the country and the electoral authorities are also under its control; has an upper hand in impressing the electoral outcomes in such a voting system where such machines are used. Moreover, the national election commission which oversees and supervises such an elaborate electoral exercise is after all a bunch of bureaucrats and technocrats who are in government jobs and can be easily influenced by the government. This thought process has been continuously brewing in the minds of people from many years in a row. In theory election commission is an autonomous body but in practice this remains under government influence due to many conditions such as the selection of its members or even the chairman. Even the Supreme Court of India has just recently criticized the government for this

(Ananthkrishnan, 2023). Under such circumstances, many articles were carried in national media quite a few years back and there was a sort of uproar against these electronic voting machines. But the process of voting with these machines lingered and the various governments in power in the country just seemed to cling to the use of these machines. Surprisingly, the regime changed in India in 2014 and the belief of people was enhanced in these machines. The opposition to the machines was silenced to an extent and the new regime that came into power in 2014 has found the use of these machines very handy and comfortable. So, what are the real advantages of these electronic machines employed in electoral process and what are their possible drawbacks; there is still a heated debate in India and many people are still not satisfied with the use of these machines. So, we will try to focus on the actual electoral process in action in election procedures underway and try to understand the various mechanisms involved during the working of these machines and try to find the solution to the intriguing questions such as whether these machines can be manipulated or not or if manipulated, then to what an extent this process can be influenced or whether all this can be corrected or converted into an ideal and fair election methodology? The science behind the actual working of these electronic instruments known as voting machines holds the key to the answers that seem to be embedded in a very long thread of the beads of questions that are brewing in the minds of the people of this country.

**The need for machines:** Where there is the need, there is the way. This is a very popular saying. This holds the key that why such machine were thought of being as suitable to be employed in the election voting process. Before the use of the machine became a practice, the actual electoral process with ballot papers had earned a very bad name in the minds of the people of India. As this is a common knowledge that India is very big and populous country with almost one and half a billion people residing in this country. There are big divides of haves and have-nots. Some people in India are super rich and hold top positions in the Forbes' List of the wealthiest persons of the world. But majority of the people of India are just paupers and so impoverished that they can not even afford to have the luxury of feeding themselves and their family with two square meals a day. Most of them go to sleep on empty bellies. India is placed very low on almost all the development, living and healthcare indices of the world. The people who are penniless are also in a way powerless and most of such people are illiterate too. They have no knowledge of the history, social sciences or the political environment. They do not understand the simple truths about many things like what is the concept of a government and what role a government should play in the making of a good nation or how a government can raise the standards of living of the people residing in such a country? They do not even know about the grand freedom struggle that was fought to liberate this great nation from the yoke of British colonialism. For them a government is an alien entity that they have no business to transact with. Even the behavior of the government institutions and the employees working therein is very disheartening and discouraging for such people. A common person even feels terrified when he has to go to a police station or the office of a district magistrate or a court or the office of a development officer or even when he goes into the office of a public utility facility like electricity, health or a telephone department. Such people have developed a sort of mindset that a government is such a thing that is of no meaning to them. So, whatever government comes into office is none of their business. The people have turned insane with the governments. They have in actuality learned to hate the governments and its employees. More than this, they hate their leaders. So, when the election time comes, they just behave indifferent to the process of it. For them, it is just meaningless to be enthusiastic and hopeful about anything from the outcome of such a process. The various governments that have come to power in a span of these seven and half decades post independence have performed so badly that the faith of people in them has slipped very low on a downhill slide for the negative performances of these inefficient and corrupt governments. The corruption index on the worst side has been a hallmark of these governments.

So, whenever an election comes, the people just take it as another tamasha of sorts and they are not at all concerned with the actual outcome of it. Moreover, during these elections, the religious and caste based agendas are pushed by the various political parties. Even the selection of candidates is done on the basis of religious and casteist identities. The temple-mosque issues are raised. The churches and gurudwaras become the epicenters of political activity. The people are divided on religious lines and even on casteist lines. The voting is done based on these divisions. The real issues like development, employment, electricity, education, healthcare, housing etc take back seats. The outcome is another inefficient, nonperforming and to the worst of it a theologically minded or a separatist or communally minded government. The result is the increase in difficulties and hardships of people. This is happening from the last seventy five years or so. The people have turned so indifferent to the state of affairs in political, social or economic life that they have developed a thinking of the sorts and only focus on their daily lives and the meager earnings that they can raise to make both ends meet for their families. The hungry and impoverished people have no concern for bigger questions or bigger dreams of making their country great. They just want to make most of the opportunity that knocks at their doorsteps in the form of an election eve. They queue for the free gifts that these political parties and their candidates can offer to them like a bottle of some cheap and spurious liquor, a piece of cloth or a bag of wheat flour or a packet of rice etc. They are more than eager to accept cash and kind from them too. They in the process sell their votes with eagerness and enthusiasm. These impoverished people can also be influenced by terrorizing by such political parties and their goons to cast their mandate in their favor. So, the combination of petty gifts, cash etc coupled with terrorizing tactics provided an ideal scenario for the booth capturing and the loot of the people's mandate during such elections. In fact, no body ever objected to these practices from the stand of common people. They happily accepted such a conduct of the loot of democracy with their willing consents. Such people had no choice either. But, at the depths of their hearts the people of this country have always nurtured a hope of some good fruitful outcome from these elections. So, when the electronic voting machines came into practice, the people just welcomed them with enthusiasm. These machines offered a hope of some real good transformation that this country could pass into and they were hailed like a good happening. The need for reform in the electoral system formed the ground that served as the basis of the application of electronic voting machines in election process in India.

**Advantages of electronic voting machines:** A new application or technology certainly has advantages. Depending upon the situation, they can be more or less but definitely they are there. One advantage is the speeding up of the counting of votes. In Brazil the counting process was completed within 15 minutes after the completion of the polling process in national presidential elections in 2010 (Brazilian Superior Electoral Court, 2012). Another benefit is the reduction in the long term expenses in the polling. Voters save time and cost by voting from their place if the electronic voting is done by using internet. The biggest argument presented in favor of electronic voting machines is that they are highly accurate and reliable and reduce the chances of errors or mistakes in the vote counting process. They can automatically detect and reject invalid votes. This further increases the accuracy of the electronic machines. Moreover, these machines are very efficient and they can manage and control the entire voting process including voter registration, ballot distribution and vote counting. This will further streamline the voting process and reduce workload on election personnel. Accessibility is one more advantage with these machines. They can be designed to accommodate different languages, disabilities and other special needs making the voting process more accessible and inclusive for all voters. Security is one more advantage of electronic voting machines. They can use different technologies such as encryption, digital signatures and audit trails which can help to protect against tempering and fraud. However, it is important to note that the security of these machines is a complex and ongoing challenge and there are still concerns about the potential hacking or other attacks.

**Disadvantages of electronic voting machines:** It has been demonstrated that as voting systems become more complex and include softwares, different types of electronic frauds become possible. Another drawback is that ordinary humans are not equipped at verifying operations occurring within an electronic voting machine and as because people cannot verify these operations, these operations cannot be trusted. Moreover why should people trust the programming that they cannot author? Countries like Netherlands and Germany (Federal Constitutional Court, 2009) have stopped using them. The involvement and vested interests of the companies that make these machines and the political parties that benefit from rigging in these elections makes the polling with electronic machines dubious (National Democratic Institute, 2017). Voting machines can be compromised and malfunctioned (Schneier, 2007). Electronic voting machines have been criticized for lack of transparency. The machines are operated by the Election Commission of India and the main stakeholders are voters who cast their votes and their interests are most valuable and these are the very people who have no access to the systems that can verify that their votes have reached the candidates of their choice or not? There have been reports that these machines are liable to be tampered and malfunctioned. The implementation of the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines was thought of as a good option but these paper trails have very limited use in an actual election process. Even if used, the number of VVPAT machines that can be counted is very small. If all machines can be fitted with these paper trail machines, then what is the use of electronic machines and in this case the ballot paper is the best choice?

One more issue with the electronic voting machines is that it is difficult to use for people who are not familiar with the technology. Many people have complained about the difficulty in using the technology and even the physically handicapped people have difficulties in using them.

**The electronic question:** It is a reality that all electronic systems run on the science of electronics that is based on the principle of electrons and holes generation coupled with the additional techniques like diodes, triodes and transistors etc. This is the basic concept of electronics. This science has developed into a grandiose branch of transformation and is one of the most developed branches of science only next to the science of electricals. It is an applied branch of science that involves various algorithms, combinations and permutations etc based on an elaborate system of the flow of electrons, holes etc based on a varied sequence of electric impulses known in computer sciences as bits. These bits form the basis of the science of computers. The basic systems of computers are developed on a systematic and elaborate study and arrangement of these bit sequences. Furthermore, algorithms and combinations provide more substance and variety to the already developed ideas in computer programming. These combinations and algorithms provide an elaborate system of coding and decoding that is developed to perform various activities designed to mean various outcomes. This coding and decoding activity is matched with the science of mathematics and physics giving it the most magnificent platform where millions and billions of practical outputs can be designed and put to practical application. Starting from the simple calculating systems to the much complicated processes involved in branches like physics, chemistry, thermodynamics, electricals, biochemistry, pharmaceuticals, metallurgy, environment sciences, social sciences, research concerns in all branches of science etc, these combinations find a most elaborate array of applications that can result to yield various outcomes. The coding and decoding system is the core of the output and application performance of the science of electronics. The elaborate electronic circuits are designed and operated in electronic equipments like televisions, computers, mobile telephones, audio-video devices, electronic tablets, i-pads, rockets and weapon systems. These electronic circuits are compressed into very small micro-chips and these days it has developed into an even more sophisticated science involving highly sensitive sensors involving metal elements and traces involving cadmium, chromium, strontium, nickel etc. This

has added more feathers to the already sophisticated science of electronics.

**The coding and decoding systems:** Every code is designated a particular function. It remains a masked command. When put to translation, it is decoded to perform a particular task just like the "Genetic-Code" of Watson and Crick. This task may include the performance of a particular function on a television screen to the most devastating delivery of a nuclear weapon system. A simple mathematical multiplication function can be replaced with a subtraction or division function to yield a damaging output. If a particular symbol means a particular output on an electronic machine fitted with a particular button, the pressing of that button will enable the machine to perform that particular function and on a similar standing if some other button or symbol is designated to deliver the same output, it will also do the same function. Similarly, the former button can be designed to perform another output. Based on this approach and coupled with an elaborate system of combinations and algorithms the alternate buttons as described above can be designed to perform variedly and result in pre-designed outcomes that may be unfair and illogical in the final outcome but which are an integral part of the operating system in the machine. This may present the simplest methodology where rigging in the final outcomes with electronic machines can be designed and put to action. The rigging may be an integral part of electronic operating systems but the basic science of electronics is as impartial and fair like any other branch of science. It is only due to the millions and billions of various permutations, combinations and algorithms that these rigging techniques can be designed and put to practical yields. This makes the science of electronics a dangerous field of science and it surely can be a deadly weapon in the hands of the person who designs and operates it only to result in the damage of the adversary of that person or party. This factor has raised the doubts about the fairness and transparency in the minds of the people against the use of these machines in electoral process. Another factor is the development of a branch of electronics called as Artificial Intelligence. It is usually known as AI and is much talked about subject these days. As we have already discussed about the use of various sensor techniques in electronics just a while back, these sensor techniques when put to action with simple techniques of electronics, form the basis of the science of artificial intelligence. The artificial intelligence has made these machines very wise ones. They can sense. They can feel. They can judge even their surroundings. They can analyze the facts and perform accordingly. This is the basic concept in the development of the science of artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence makes these machines behave like thinking brains. Any machine that behaves like a thinking brain can also be designed to cheat like thinking brains. This accolade of the electronic machines can be put to a very devastating application of cheating and frauds. The cheating and fraudulent activities performed with the use of electronic devices has become very common these days. Coupled with the internet usage and applications, these fraudulent actions these days are known as internet frauds. We know about them in newspapers almost on a daily or weekly routine. It is also known as internet hacking. Even the mobile phones and computer systems of other people are hijacked this way. Even the owner of a particular mobile phone or a laptop or an i-pad does not know anything about the usage of his electronic gadget by another person or agency. We all know about the Pegasus Systems (Pegg and Cutler, 2021). Moreover Pegasus system is a thing of past these days and more stronger and efficient systems like Predator and Cognite has gotten developed which ensure better hacking performances.

Artificial intelligence is also applicable on systems which are not connected to the internet. This is called offline application of artificial intelligence. It acts on similar principles except that it is not connected to the internet. This characteristic of the electronic equipments have presented an argument that can be presented against the use of electronic voting machines in electoral process. Just like any other electronic device, the electronic voting machines are also electronic equipments and they can be fitted with the artificial intelligence like any other electronic gadget. So, they can not be believed to deliver transparent and fair outcomes when some

processes and outcomes of a national importance and of a national scale can be thought of as implementable.

**The international question:** The electronic voting machines are not used much in the world especially in the developed world. We have the experience of Germany where in an overwhelming decision the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany in 2009 has strongly criticized against the use of electronic voting machines in electoral processes and ordered the German Government not to use these machines in the democratic electoral process. Even in USA, these machines are not thought to be as dependable and they are not used in electoral process. Even in Europe, they are not much implemented. In the elections in Belgium on May 18, 2003, one particular candidate got extra 4096 votes and the problem was detected because she polled more preferential votes than her own list of the votes which is impossible in the voting system of Belgium. The official admittance of the error came and it was told that there was an error of the spontaneous inversion of a bit at the position 13 in the memory of the computer (these votes were as preferential votes and were even in excess to the list of votes that the candidate had presented herself). This was not in conformation to the system of elections in Belgium and this was why this fraud was detected. Many countries like India, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, DRC and Philippines etc have used these machines in national elections and many countries like Australia, Argentina and United States etc have used them in random places in municipal elections in addition to the countries just mentioned above. The most striking feature is that these machines have found no widespread acceptance in the developed countries so far. This is the reason that these machines are not widely used in these developed nations and even in developing and poor nations they have not become people's favorites.

**Rigging software:** Rigging is a term that is used variously in different disciplines of life. In Civics, the meaning is the polling frauds. This involves the use of electoral rigging favoring a particular political party during the ongoing poll process. But another meaning of this term is used for cheating and fraudulent purposes. Cheating is an age old practice and the act of doing this is called as fraud. The human history is full of the stories of frauds and fraudsters. Many times the fraudsters use technology to facilitate the process of frauds. In the modern era of information technology the science of electronics is used much often to implement the act of frauds. Many frauds are done the online way. But there are frauds that are affected involving the use of cheating softwares. Many of these softwares use the application of specialized apps. People are allured into falling into these frauds by sending them well devised e-mails or other social media messages or links on their computers or mobile phones. On a simple click on his own mobile phone or lap top, a person falls a prey into the trap of these fraudsters. There are numerous stories these days of the banking frauds where all the money in people's accounts is wiped clean. Even during the online purchase offers, many people are cheated and low quality or spoiled or even sometimes no goods are dispatched in lieu of the money already paid into the accounts of these scamsters. These softwares can also be fitted as integral part of the hardware or electronic chips fitted into gazettes like e-tablets, computers or mobile sets. There are even stories of the fitting of such software into the fridges, television sets or even light bulbs (Hagan, 2023). The issue came under a heated debate in the British Parliament and many Chinese companies were placed under the scrutiny list which were manufacturing these products. Just a while ago, USA government has barred the famous Chinese technology company Huawei to take part in the bid for allotment of 5G spectrum in USA. The involvement of the most sophisticated technology systems into cheating and frauds has become almost a neo norm the world over. The act of online spying with the help of specialized technologies or chips or softwares has also become widespread practice these days.

There can be no denial that these cheating or rigging softwares can not be fitted in any of the electronic devices including the electronic voting machines. If this is the reality, then there is no point in believing that the outcome with these machines will be clean and fair. This raises the doubts of the possibility of the rigging scandals with

the help of these machines a daylight reality. Of course, these softwares can be detected and removed but these nasty malware and systems are available in such high numbers that it is an almost impossible task to claim the total success in cleaning all these instruments from these rogue softwares. The best solution remains to avoid such involvement of these practices from acts of national importance and elections are such an event which decides the destiny of the nations and there can not be denial of any kind that the future of a country can not be even thought of as having been compromised due to our love or fascination for a particular instrument or technology. The nation is above anything even above the choice or the level of technology implementation. A technology should be used to benefits the interests of a nation or its people and not to damage their interests or create doubts in the minds of people about the impartiality of their national tasks and interests. So, there is a very strong point against the use of these electronic voting machines in a country especially in the elections to the national parliament and even in the elections in the state legislative assemblies. Though it is usually difficult to detect rigging software but it is a fact that they can be detected. It is a different question that this procedure may take a very long time to complete and rigging softwares may remain in action for many years before they are detected and removed. We all know about the Pegasus systems and we also know that they are very difficult to be detected and we also know about the story of people like Gautam Navlakha (Mihindukulasuriya, 2022) who was implicated in serious charges and it was claimed that he and many others like him were falsely framed by inserting the specialized spyware in their personal computers in such a way that their laptops, mobiles and computers were hacked and controlled by agencies or persons and dubious e-mails were sent to infamous terrorist and antinational organizations from their electronic gazettes. Those people who did not even know of anything like this happening with their electronic equipments, languished in jails for many years on a stretch and many of them are still behind bars but it is a fact that technology certainly has big loopholes and it can not be believed when matters of very serious concern are involved and national elections in a country are the most important events of profound fallouts; so, it is the best option not to involve such things in matters like a national or provincial elections in a country.

**Test rigging software:** Test rigging software is the next level of rigging software. A test rigging software is the one which makes the detection of rigging software totally impossible. The modus operandi of a test rigging software is designed that it is fitted into those equipments where already rigging softwares are inserted and in working but the presence of them is masked almost completely and detection of them is rendered a Herculean task. The electronic gazettes undergo drastic changes after a test rigging software is fitted into them. This also involves the implementation of artificial intelligence and involvement of super sensitive chips and sensor systems. The machines fitted with such software start to feel the surroundings. They in a way can smell, see and feel. Moreover, they can analyze the data that they sense from their surroundings and environment and compute them to reach conclusions. They then decide their further course of action. They behave like thinking human beings. This action makes them even to be able to cheat. These machines which are devised, designed, formatted and programmed by humans of super technical caliber, just set to cheat the other human beings like ordinary clever humans set to cheat upon others. They act like comen. Once they are out of these situations where there is no need to cheat, they start behaving just like ordinary performing honest and simple machines. This dual nature of them is due to the most sophisticated software systems inserted into them and it may be true that such actions are usually the results of some specialized malafide intentions aimed at cheating the people for vested interests.

**The case files:** There are some organizations in the world which are famous for designing the super sophisticated technical equipments. Of course, there are very big transnational business organizations which fall under this classification. One such organization is known as Bosch Corporation. It is a very big technology company of

international standing. It is one of the best technology companies in the world in today's date. The Bosch organization developed a certain software in 2004 which had very efficient application in improving functional efficiency in automobile vehicles. This software was leased out to the international giant car maker company Volkswagen. Volkswagen further developed it to perform certain functions that were not part of the original contract between these mega business houses. During the course of action, it was sensed by authorities at Bosch that the Volkswagen group had improved upon the original software to implement it as a test rigging software and they officially warned the car maker not to use this software except for purposes that they had promised it to be used for to but the Volkswagen authorities convinced the Bosch that they had no such intentions to use this technology other than to use it for purposes that were part of the actual agreement to be used for to. The governments worldwide are increasingly become more and more aware to the dangers of the deteriorating global environments. It was due to this that the Government of USA and EU (European Union) decided to implement the reduced air pollution emission levels known as Euro 4 from January 1, 2008. So, all the automobile and car makers had to conform to these new emission levels from this cut off date. The problem with this was that with the lowering of the emission levels, the vehicles started to yield less mileage with their engines. The problem was more obvious with small engines. It was easy to conform to these levels for engines heavier than 2000 cc capacity but with smaller engines especially of the smaller and mid segment cars, the owners of these cars usually belonging to lower and middle income groups has a general preference for high mileage vehicles obviously due to economic concerns. They prefer vehicles with greater economy although also conforming to mandatory low emission levels. The authorities who had access to the advanced Bosch software and had further developed it to be used as a test rigging software, decided to implement it as an emission cheating software. They fitted their smaller and mid segment cars with this new technology.

However, Bosch sensed this and sent a strong warning to the Volkswagen authorities in 2007 (The Wall Street Journal, 2016) but the later refused of such an unlicensed application. The Bosch authorities were satisfied with the answer but the car maker started to go further ahead with the new development on a path that the Bosch authorities could not imagine even in their wildest dreams. They brought out a grand new range of "Green Cars" which were very big on mileage and very low on emissions. They won lion's share in international car markets and also won on the goodwill scenario of the world governments and won many international awards and licenses for their green-cars technology. They were hailed as the new avatar on economy as well as on emissions. The things went on for many years until in September 2015 (Bild, 2015), their full scandal was exposed. Actually what this automobile giant did was not a reduction in pollution emissions but a cheating on the government authorities who checked on the pollution standards of these cars. These cars were fitted with super specialized artificial intelligence in a way that when the pollution inspectors or other authorities ventured to check on pollution limits, the cars could sense it and they immediately feigned to behave totally free on emissions. They controlled their emissions such that they emitted pollution much lower to the imposed limits. But when the testing procedure was over, they just rolled on the roads with emission levels as higher as 17 times to the limits that they exhibited on the pollution check centers. These cars in a way behaved like sensing and thinking human beings. They could feel their outer surroundings just like seeing, smelling and hearing. Then they could behave like thinking and cheating humans and they actually cheated on the authorities. But when they were on the roads, they could feel that there was no danger of a pollution testing, they emitted pollution much higher than the sanctioned limits. This scandal when exposed on September 27, 2015 (International Business Times, 2015), cost very heavily to the German car maker and it resulted in a cumulative loss of U.S.D. 34 billions to the automobile giant. Now a question arises that an automobile engine which is designed on the thermodynamical principles of mechanical physics, can become so intelligent that it can feign to be honest on the approach of a test

procedure and can cheat on the testing authorities (Reuters, 2015), then what can a total electronic voting machine do when it is subjected to a testing protocol. The answer is that it can definitely cheat. If such a machine is using some cheating software and is shamelessly cheating the people's voting mandate, then there are hundred percent chances that upon being fitted with such a test rigging software, this machine will dupe upon the testing authorities and behave total honest on the electoral mandate. So, such machines can not be believed at all especially on the most crucial questions of national importance such as national or provincial elections. They can be very big poll rigging tools in the hands of governments and their election authorities. The outcomes in public mandate can be heavily influenced with the help of these machines. It is a good thing that the emissions scandal of the German car maker Volkswagen was exposed otherwise we could have known nothing of test rigging softwares which are very dangerous indeed.

**The polls are important in working democracies:** Polls are the lifeblood of democracies in work. They are the ultimate tests which tell us that whether a democracy is working properly or not? If the elections are rigged, that means that the popular people's mandate is also rigged. This also means that a political party which is decided by people to come to power will not be able to do so and another party which has been rejected by the people, will be sworn in as the new government in that country. This will be clear case of the rape of democracy in that country. So, the fate of nation will be compromised in the hands of authorities that are rejected by the people but which are imposed upon the people by an electoral fraud perpetrated by the fraudulent electronic voting machines. So, this is the million dollar question that the fate of a nation should not be trusted on a faulty technology or something which has even a remotest chance of cheating on the popular people's mandate. A ballot box is hundreds of times much better a choice. This fact should be kept in mind before deciding in the polling instrument choice before a national or provincial election in a country and the balance of justice hangs much greater in favor of a ballot box than in the favor of an electronic voting machine.

## CONCLUSION

Democracy is by far the best form of government in any country of the world. It is by very long struggles that humanity has reached this stage of development on the front of civilization that democracy is implemented in lot of countries in the world today but this precious gift of democracy needs to be nurtured and not hijacked by electoral scandal mongers and the trust of people should be maintained and kept intact in the institution of democracy by a total clean and fair process of polling. The ballot boxes as a process of election conduct are clearly the much better choice for deciding the poll outcomes. There may be difficulties and drawbacks associated with this technique but this needs to be corrected with efficient administrative measures than to opt on a technology which is liable to be manipulated, rigged and hijacked. So, ballot voting is by far the best and safest option for a democratic process than the errant probable electronic voting machines.

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