

International Multidisciplinary  
Research Journal

*Indian Streams  
Research Journal*

Executive Editor  
Ashok Yakkaldevi

Editor-in-Chief  
H.N.Jagtap

---

## Welcome to ISRJ

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2230-7850

Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

### International Advisory Board

Flávio de São Pedro Filho  
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

Kamani Perera  
Regional Center For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka

Janaki Sinnasamy  
Librarian, University of Malaya

Romona Mihaila  
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Delia Serbescu  
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania

Anurag Misra  
DBS College, Kanpur

Titus PopPhD, Partium Christian  
University, Oradea, Romania

Mohammad Hailat  
Dept. of Mathematical Sciences,  
University of South Carolina Aiken

Abdullah Sabbagh  
Engineering Studies, Sydney

Ecaterina Patrascu  
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Loredana Bosca  
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Fabricio Moraes de Almeida  
Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil

George - Calin SERITAN  
Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political  
Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi

Hasan Baktrir  
English Language and Literature  
Department, Kayseri

Ghayoor Abbas Chotana  
Dept of Chemistry, Lahore University of  
Management Sciences[PK]

Anna Maria Constantinovici  
AL. I. Cuza University, Romania

Ilie Pinteau,  
Spiru Haret University, Romania

Xiaohua Yang  
PhD, USA

.....More

### Editorial Board

Pratap Vyamktrao Naikwade  
ASP College Devrukh, Ratnagiri, MS India Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

R. R. Patil  
Head Geology Department Solapur  
University, Solapur

Rama Bhosale  
Prin. and Jt. Director Higher Education,  
Panvel

Salve R. N.  
Department of Sociology, Shivaji  
University, Kolhapur

Govind P. Shinde  
Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance  
Education Center, Navi Mumbai

Chakane Sanjay Dnyaneshwar  
Arts, Science & Commerce College,  
Indapur, Pune

Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya  
Secretary, Play India Play, Meerut (U.P.)

Iresh Swami  
Ex - VC. Solapur University, Solapur

N.S. Dhaygude  
Ex. Prin. Dayanand College, Solapur

Narendra Kadu  
Jt. Director Higher Education, Pune

K. M. Bhandarkar  
Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia

Sonal Singh  
Vikram University, Ujjain

G. P. Patankar  
S. D. M. Degree College, Honavar, Karnataka

Maj. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary  
Director, Hyderabad AP India.

S. Parvathi Devi  
Ph.D.-University of Allahabad

Sonal Singh,  
Vikram University, Ujjain

Rajendra Shendge  
Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University,  
Solapur

R. R. Yallickar  
Director Management Institute, Solapur

Umesh Rajderkar  
Head Humanities & Social Science  
YCMOU, Nashik

S. R. Pandya  
Head Education Dept. Mumbai University,  
Mumbai

Alka Darshan Shrivastava  
Shaskiya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Dhar

Rahul Shriram Sudke  
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore

S. KANNAN  
Annamalai University, TN

Satish Kumar Kalhotra  
Maulana Azad National Urdu University

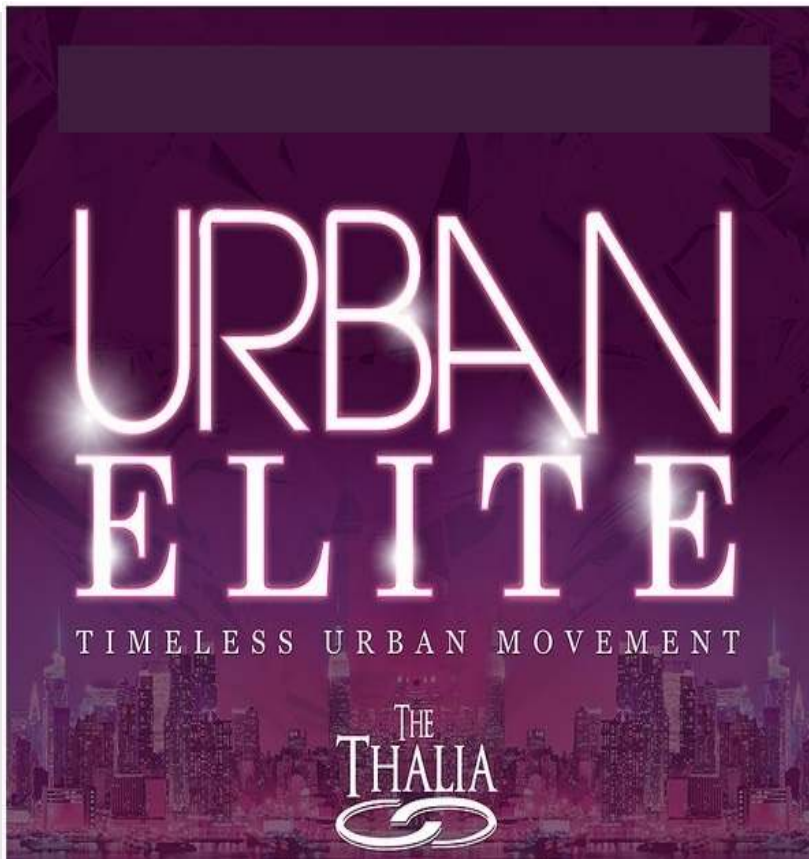
## ELITES: A THEORETICAL CONSTRUCT



Jayanta Kumar Panda  
Assistant Professor, School of Mass Communication  
IMS UNISON UNIVERSITY.

### Short Profile

Jayanta Kumar Panda is working as an Assistant Professor at School of Mass Communication IMS UNISON UNIVERSITY. He has completed Ph.D. He has professional experience of 9 years and research experience of 1 year.



### ABSTRACT:

The word 'elite' owes its origin to a Latin word 'Elira', which means 'to elect'. Initially the term was in vogue in ecclesiastical circles. The Christian hierarchy was elected through a distinct process in which the priests used to exercise their choice. Later on, however, the word came to be used to differentiate commodities of particular excellence. From the market place, the usage later on shifted and extended to special social groups such as crack military, higher ranks of mobility, the land lords, the barons, etc. who used to form politically potent circles around the monarch. In the English language, the earliest use of the word 'elite', according to Oxford English Dictionary was in 1823 at which time it was already applied to social groups. Nevertheless,

however, the term was not widely adopted in the socio-political writings until the third decade of the 20th century when the trail was blazed through the sociological writings of Vilfredo Pareto and Gaetano Mosca.

### KEYWORDS

*Elites, Construct, democratic, circles.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

History has been made not by masses, nor by silent forces, nor by violence, nor by accident, but by elites. If the 18th century enunciated popular sovereignty and direct democracy as a major theme in the democratic thought and the 19th century was concerned with the challenges of stratification and group conflict, then the 20th century tends to have made us sensitive to the role of elites and their leadership. Ever since the issue of political role of elites – the small minority who appear to play an exceptionally influential part in the political and social affairs – was first explicitly raised with relation to liberal societies in the closing decades of 19th century, the elites have assumed a greater role in the context of developing societies. Being an apostle of change, they not only facilitate development but also influence its direction. For some, elites are the ‘decision-makers’ of the society; for others they are the sole source of values in the society and constitute the integrating force in the community without which it may fall apart; while some regarded elites as the chief threat to the survival of democracy because of their key positions in the society, others seen elites as the bulwarks of democracy, protecting it from the dangers of totalitarianism.

**DEFINITION OF ELITE:-**

A select group that is superior in terms of ability or qualities to the rest of a group or society.

“The elite are the group thought to be the best and having the highest status. In the middle ages, only elite men were taught to read and write.”

**Power élites**

Power tip top is a term utilized by American social scientist C. Wright Mills to depict a generally little, inexactly associated gathering of people who rule American policymaking. This gathering incorporates bureaucratic, corporate, scholarly, military, media, and government elites who control the essential establishments in the United States and whose feelings and activities impact the choices of the policymakers.

The premise for enrollment of a force élite is institutional force, specifically a compelling position inside a noticeable private or open organization.[citation needed] One study (distributed in 2002) of force élites in the United States under President George W. Shrubbery (in office 2001-2009) recognized 7,314 institutional positions of force including 5,778 individuals.[16] A later investigation of U.S. society noted demographic qualities of this élite assemble as takes after:

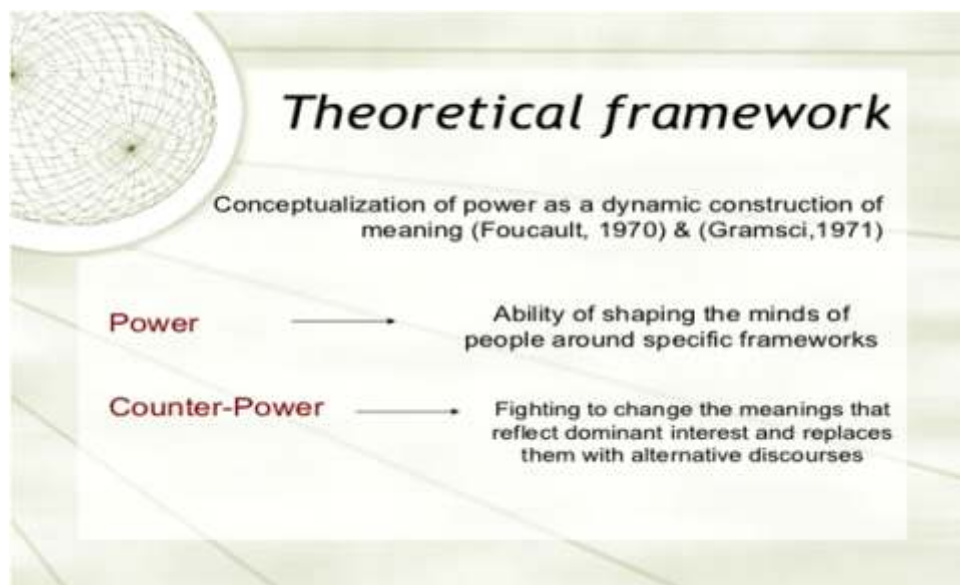
- Age :-Corporate pioneers matured around 60; heads of establishments, law, training, and city associations matured around 62; administration workers matured around 56
- Gender: - Ladies scarcely figure among corporate initiative in the institutional élite and ladies just contribute approximately 20% in the political domain. They do seem more among top positions in terms of social undertakings, training, and establishments.
- Ethnicity:-White Anglo-Saxons command in the force élite, with Protestants speaking to around 80 percent of the top business pioneers and around 73% of individuals from Congress.
- Education:-About all the pioneers have a school training, with half graduating with cutting edge degrees. Around 54 percent of the huge business pioneers and 42% of the administration élite moved on from only 12 prestigious colleges with vast gifts.
- Social clubs :-Most holders of top positions in the force élite have restrictive participation in one or more social

## Characteristics of the Power Elite

According to C. Wright Mills, among the best known power-elite theorists, the governing elite in the United States draws its members from three areas:

- (1) The highest political leaders including the president and a handful of key cabinet members and close advisers;
- (2) Major corporate owners and directors; and
- (3) High-ranking military officers.

Even though these individuals constitute a close-knit group, they are not part of a conspiracy that secretly manipulates events in their own selfish interest. For the most part, the elite respects civil liberties, follows established constitutional principles, and operates openly and peacefully. It is not a dictatorship; it does not rely on terror, a secret police, or midnight arrests to get its way



Pareto's greatest contribution, however, has been the concept of 'circulation of elites'. He observed, "the history of man is the history of continuous replacement of elites: as one ascends another declines". Political changes took place due to interaction between the elites and non-elites.

While the elite rule is permanent, members of ruling elite are not. They change at regular intervals. An ideal governing class contains a judicious mixture of 'lions' and 'foxes'. When the governing class does not contain such judicious mixture, the governed will succeed in overthrowing their rules and new elites will institute a more effective regime. However, although the members of ruling elite change from time to time, the intervals for change of power from one group to another are not necessarily for same duration.

Imparting sociological dimension, Pareto visualises relatively less mobility in the elites, rather to him, is more or less closed class envisaging it a superior status in the society. Circulation of elites occur when both individuals from the lower stratum acquire skills or when the persons from the elites degenerate, better of the two prevails and gets the elite status. The members of the ruling class decline not only in numbers but also decay in quality in the sense that they lose their vigour. Pareto justified the decline in the number of ruling class in terms of wars and differential fertility. War tends to kill more members of elite families than the common people, and elite families tend to die out as they have fewer children than the masses. Circulation of elites is also caused by rising religious-humanitarian sentiments in which the existing elite becomes softer, milder, more humane and less apt to defend its own power

The ruling elites are bound to lose power if there are already a disproportionately large number of 'foxes' or 'innovators' among them. But the new elites who replace the old ones are also vulnerable to the same weakness. Their zeal for defending their power tends to weaken as a result of their exposure to the same rising religious humanitarian sentiments.

Pareto seems to suggest that if there is avenue for recruitment of elites from the lower stratum, there is less danger to social equilibrium. In the absence of such avenues there is danger of degenerate elements multiplying in the elite stratum, who are not able to defend their power in the face of challenges from the meritorious members of the lower stratum. When over a period of time, the number of decadent elements, not willing and able to use force, increases in the upper stratum of the society and while there is an increase in the number of superior people in the lower stratum of the society willing to use force, a revolution breaks out. To quote Pareto, "Revolutions came about through accumulations in the higher strata of society – either because of a slowing down in class circulation, or from other causes of decadent elements no longer possessing the residues suitable for keeping them in power, and shrinking from the use of force; while in the mean time in the lower strata of society elements of superior quality are coming to force, possessing residues suitable for exercising the functions of government and willing enough to use force.

Mosca, on the other hand, took a very restricted view of elite. Pareto's view of 'Governing Elite' has been modified by Mosca to suit the democratic set-ups instead, he used the term 'Ruling Class' to refer to all these in positions of power in a democratic system. He erects a new science of politics on the basis of the interaction between the higher stratum and lower stratum of the society. He justified the stand on ruling class in the following words:

In all societies – from societies that are very meagrely developed and have barely attained the dawning of civilization, down to the most advanced and powerful societies – two classes of people appear – a class that rules and a class that is ruled. The first class, always less numerous, performs all political functions, monopolises power and enjoys the advantages that power brings, whereas the second, the more numerous class, is directed and controlled by the first, in a manner that is now more or less legal, now more or less arbitrary and violent, and supplies the first, in appearance at least, with material means of subsistence and with the instrumentalities that are essential to the vitality of the political organism

Highlighting the dominant position of the ruling class, Mosca further added that in all countries, "the management of public affairs is in the hands of a minority of influential persons, to which management, willingly or unwillingly, the majority differs". Elaborating the same, Mosca outlined two reasons for the inevitable rule of the minority over the majority. First, being a minority it is better organised than the rest of the society. He said, "... the domination of an organised minority, obeying a single impulse, over the unorganised majority is inevitable. The power of any minority is irresistible as against each single individual in the majority who stands alone before the totality of the organised minority". Two, the members of the elite group are distinguished from the masses by the qualities they possess. Either they are superior to others materially, intellectually and morally, or they inherited these qualities from the individuals who possessed them. Due to these attributes they are not only given social esteem but also their words carry a lot of weightage. He opines that all political classes tend to become hereditary as a matter of fact.

Comparing Pareto and Mosca on the mobility and recruitment of political elite, T.B. Bottomore writes, "The 'political class' or 'governing elite' composed of those who occupy not only the posts of political command but also directly influences political decisions. They are at the helm of affairs in a given political system and exercise power by maintaining themselves in political positions with the help of other groups and elites. These elites form a class by itself and are responsible for all progressive movements.

Political elites are the persons who enjoy considerable powers in the modern political society owing to the fact that they are at the helm of public affairs and manage the government. These groups of elites dominate the political scene in the name of the people for they are more active and more conscious than the rest of the society and seek to tilt the mass mandate in their favour by influencing the people. Political elite is



different from political class. Mosca uses the term 'political class' or 'ruling class' to refer to all those groups which are mostly composed of incumbents of ascriptively conferred roles and who exercise political power or influence and are directly engaged in struggles for political leadership. On the contrary, the 'political elite' refers to that small group within the political class whose political influence would comparatively express their capacity for leadership. In other words, they are the individuals who actually exercise political power in a society, at any given time.

### CONCLUSION:-

As to the nature of elites, two quite different traditions persisted. In the older tradition, elites are treated as exemplars; fulfilling some historic mission, meeting a crucial need, possessing superior talents, or otherwise demonstrating qualities, which set them apart. Whether they stabilize the old order or transform it into a new one, they are seen as pattern setters. In the new approach, elites are routinely understood as to be incumbents; those who are collectively influenced figures in the governance of any sector of society, any institutional structure, any geographic locality or trans-local community. Idiomatically elites are roughly the same as leaders, decision-makers or influential, and not too different from spokesmen, dignitaries or central figures ... whether to preserve the old pattern of life or to exemplify new one, elites are those who set the style".

For the purpose of this study, the researcher adopted the theory propounded by Vilfredo Pareto and considers all those who score highest indices in their respective branch of activity to constitute a class by themselves and thus, can claim the title 'elite'. The respondents to this study constitute the elite among bureaucrats, academicians, advocates, journalists, engineers, doctors, bankers, statesmen, social activists, etc.

### REFERENCE:

1. Geriant Parry, Political Elites, George Allen and Unwin Ltd., London, 1969, p.13.
2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elite>
3. <http://www.slideshare.net/mmavidad/alternative-communication-networks-framing-and-the-construction-of-political-power>
4. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/elite>
5. <https://www.udel.edu/htr/Psc105/Texts/power.html>
6. <https://realsociology.edublogs.org/2011/09/07/my-top-four-examples-of-elites-getting-away-with-crime/>

# Publish Research Article

## International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

### Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

### Associated and Indexed, USA

- Google Scholar
- EBSCO
- DOAJ
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database
- Directory Of Research Journal Indexing

Indian Streams Research Journal  
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-413005, Maharashtra  
Contact-9595359435  
E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com  
Website : www.isrj.org