



A STUDY ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUNG AND AGED POLITICIANS AND THEIR IMPACT ON SUCCESSFUL POLITICAL CAREERS

Dr. Sunitha G

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Government First Grade College for Women. Gandhadakoti, Hassan Dist. Hassan District

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ABSTRACT

Political leadership plays an important role in democratic governance, and the success of a political career is influenced by various individual and leadership-related characteristics. The present study examines the characteristics of young and aged politicians and their impact on a successful political career in Hassan District. The study adopts a descriptive research design and is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from 800 respondents, comprising 400 young politicians and 400 aged politicians, through a structured questionnaire. The study covers major taluks of Hassan District, including Hassan, Alur, Arkalgud, Arsikere, Belur, Channarayapatna, Holenarasipura and Sakleshpura. Statistical analysis was conducted using regression analysis to examine the relationship between the selected characteristics and successful political careers. The findings revealed that the characteristics of young politicians have a strong and significant impact on political career success, with an R^2 value of 0.881. Strong communication skills, high energy and enthusiasm, ambition and career orientation, innovative thinking, and youth networking ability were significant positive contributors. The characteristics of aged politicians also had a strong and significant impact, explaining 83.0% of the variation in successful political careers. Established public reputation emerged as the strongest positive factor, followed by deep knowledge of local issues, long-term commitment to public service, effective decision-making, leadership maturity, and knowledge of government administration. The study concludes that successful political leadership depends on a combination of youthful dynamism and experienced leadership. Political parties should therefore promote communication skills, leadership development, public reputation, administrative competence, innovation, and intergenerational collaboration to ensure sustainable political success in Hassan District.

KEYWORDS: Young Politicians, Aged Politicians, Political Leadership, Political Career Success, Leadership Characteristics, Hassan District.

1. INTRODUCTION

Political leadership plays a significant role in the functioning of democratic systems and the overall development of society. The success of a political leader depends not only on electoral victory but also on the ability to understand public needs, provide effective leadership, make appropriate decisions, maintain public confidence and contribute to social and economic development. Political careers are influenced by several personal, organisational, social, technological and leadership-related characteristics. In the contemporary political environment, changing voter expectations, technological advancement, increased political awareness and the growing influence of social media have transformed the nature of political leadership. As a result, politicians belonging to different age groups may adopt different working styles and approaches to achieve success in their political careers. Young politicians are increasingly becoming important participants in modern democratic politics. They are often associated with energy, innovation, technological adaptability and a future-oriented approach. Their greater use of social media, digital technology, modern campaigning methods and data-driven political strategies enables them to communicate effectively with citizens and particularly with younger voters.

Young politicians may also focus more strongly on issues such as employment, education, entrepreneurship, skill development and technological progress. Their ability to adapt quickly to changing political conditions and their willingness to introduce new ideas and reforms can help them establish a distinct political identity. Active participation in grassroots mobilisation, youth organisations and volunteer networks can further strengthen their public engagement and political career. On the other hand, senior or aged politicians possess valuable strengths derived from their long-term political experience, administrative knowledge and established public relationships. Their experience in handling political conflicts, electoral competition, governance and public policy can contribute to effective leadership and decision-making. Senior politicians often have strong connections with political parties, party workers, community leaders and local organisations, which provide them with an established political base. Their understanding of social, cultural and regional issues is particularly important in a diverse state such as Hassan District. Political maturity, leadership stability, consensus-building and experience-based governance may therefore contribute significantly to their long-term political success. The study of the characteristics of young and aged politicians is important because



both groups contribute differently to political leadership. While young politicians may bring innovation, technological competence, energy and new perspectives, senior politicians may contribute experience, stability, maturity and strategic political knowledge. Neither age group alone can fully represent all the requirements of successful political leadership. The present study, therefore, examines the characteristics of young and aged politicians and analyses their impact on the development of a successful political career, with particular reference to the changing political environment and leadership requirements in Hassan District.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Political leadership has been extensively studied in relation to leadership qualities, political participation, electoral success, governance, public engagement and career development (Altbach, 2018). The successful political career of an individual is influenced by several personal, social, organisational, technological and leadership-related characteristics (Hooghe & Wilkenfeld, 2008). In the contemporary political environment, an important distinction can be observed between young politicians and aged or senior politicians (Hooghe & Dejaeghere, 2007). Young politicians are generally associated with technological adaptability, innovation, energy and new political approaches, whereas senior politicians are often recognised for their political experience, administrative knowledge, maturity and strong political networks (Strömbäck & Shehata, 2010) (Zeglovits & Zandonella, 2013). Both categories possess different characteristics that can significantly influence the development of a successful political career (Amnå, 2012). The literature on young political leadership emphasises the increasing importance of social media and digital technology in modern politics (van Deth, 1989). Young politicians frequently use digital platforms to communicate directly with citizens, particularly young voters, and to disseminate political information quickly (American National Election Studies [ANES], 2014). Digital communication enables political leaders to improve visibility, accessibility and interaction with the public (Jennings & Markus, 1984). The use of social media has therefore become an important characteristic influencing political popularity and career development (Barrett & Brunton-Smith, 2014). Young politicians are also associated with innovative and modern campaigning methods, including digital campaigns, professional communication strategies and technology-based voter outreach (Verba, Scholzman, & Brady, 1995). These methods can help them reach a wider audience and develop a modern political image (Alwin, 1994). Another important characteristic of young politicians identified in the literature is quick decision-making and adaptability (von Eye & Mun, 2013) (Westheimer & Kahne, 2004). The modern political environment changes rapidly because of technological developments, media influence and changing voter expectations (Wray-Lake & Syvertsen, 2011). Young leaders may be more willing to adapt to such changes and experiment with new approaches (Jennings & Niemi, 1974). Their focus on youth-related issues, including employment, education, entrepreneurship and skill development, can also strengthen their

connection with younger sections of society (Jennings & Niemi, 1981). As young people constitute an important segment of the electorate, the ability of young politicians to understand and represent their aspirations can contribute to political acceptance and long-term career success (Bennett, Flickinger, & Rhine, 2000). Studies on political leadership also highlight high energy, active public engagement and grassroots mobilisation as important characteristics of young politicians. Young political leaders often participate actively in public programmes, community activities, political campaigns and youth movements (Bennett, Wells, & Freelon, 2011). Such participation can increase their visibility and create stronger relationships with voters. Similarly, the use of data-driven and professional political strategies is becoming increasingly important in contemporary elections (Kinder & Sears, 1985). Young politicians may be more open to using surveys, voter databases, digital analytics and professional campaign management (Agresti, 2013). These practices can improve political planning and enable leaders to understand voter behaviour more effectively (Berti, 2005). Greater accessibility through digital platforms and a willingness to introduce new ideas and reforms are additional characteristics associated with young political leaders (Gupta, 1991). Direct communication through social media can reduce the distance between politicians and citizens. Young politicians may also demonstrate greater openness towards innovation and policy reform (Hertzog & Nesselrode, 2003). Their strong networking with youth organisations, student groups, volunteers and civil society organisations can further support political mobilization (Best & Krueger, 2005). A future-oriented and development-focused leadership approach, particularly in areas such as employment, entrepreneurship, technology, infrastructure and education, may therefore contribute significantly to their political success (Glenn & Grimes, 1968). In contrast, literature on senior or aged politicians gives considerable importance to political experience and administrative knowledge (Krosnick & Alwin, 1989). Senior politicians generally possess extensive exposure to political institutions, government administration, electoral processes and public policy (Brady, Verba, & Scholzman, 1995). Such experience can enable them to understand complex political situations and make informed decisions (Hidi & Renninger, 2006). Their strong understanding of social, cultural and regional issues is particularly important in a diverse state, where political leadership must address differences related to regions, communities, languages, rural and urban areas, and economic development. Senior politicians are also often characterised by strong personal relationships and traditional political networks (Neundorff, Smets, & García-Albacete, 2013). Long-term association with political parties, community leaders, party workers and local organisations can provide them with a strong political base (Prior, 2007). Such networks can support election campaigns, conflict management and public mobilisation. Their strong influence within political parties may also provide opportunities for leadership positions and greater political responsibilities (Eveland & Scheufele, 2000). Effective management of party workers and political organisations is therefore considered an important factor in sustaining a successful



political career (Prior, 2010). Another significant characteristic of senior politicians is consensus-based and cautious decision-making (Rasmussen, 2017). Experience often enables political leaders to understand the possible consequences of political decisions and adopt a balanced approach (Craig, Niemi, & Silver, 1990). Senior politicians may be more capable of managing political conflicts, party differences and administrative crises because of their previous experience (Roucek, 1967). Their deep knowledge of electoral behaviour and voter preferences can also assist them in developing effective campaign strategies (Connell, 1971). Traditional campaigning methods and direct personal contact with voters continue to remain important, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas (Sears, 1983). Political maturity, leadership stability and long-term relationships with communities are additional strengths associated with senior politicians. Their established reputation and continued interaction with citizens can generate trust and political loyalty (Deci & Ryan, 2000). A strategic and experience-based approach to governance and policy-making can further contribute to their successful political careers. Overall, the literature indicates that young and senior politicians possess different but complementary characteristics (Delli Carpini & Keeter, 1996). Young politicians contribute innovation, technological skills, energy and future-oriented ideas, whereas senior politicians contribute experience, maturity, political networks and administrative competence (Dostie-Goulet, 2009). Therefore, a successful political career may depend on how effectively these characteristics influence public support, leadership performance, electoral success and long-term political sustainability (Achen, 1975).

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Political leadership is a vital component of democratic governance, and the success of a political career depends on various personal, social, organisational, technological and leadership-related characteristics. In Hassan District, the political environment is experiencing a combination of traditional political leadership and the emergence of younger leaders with new approaches. Young politicians are increasingly adopting social media, digital technology, innovative campaigning, data-driven strategies and youth-oriented development approaches. In contrast, senior or aged politicians rely more on political experience, administrative knowledge, established networks, political maturity, consensus-building and direct public relationships. Although both young and senior politicians play important roles in the political system, limited attention has been given to systematically comparing their characteristics and examining how these characteristics influence a successful political career. It is necessary to understand whether factors such as technological adaptability, innovation, energy and public engagement contribute more significantly to the success of young politicians, while experience, political networks, administrative competence and leadership maturity contribute to the success of senior politicians. Therefore, the present study attempts to identify and analyse the major characteristics of young and aged politicians and examine their impact on successful political careers. The study specifically focuses on understanding the

relative influence of these characteristics on public support, leadership performance, electoral success and long-term political sustainability in Hassan District.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To examine the characteristics of young politicians and their impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.
2. To examine the characteristics of aged politicians and their impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.
3. To provide suggestions and recommendations for the successful political career in Hassan District.

5. HYPOTHESIS

- H0: The characteristics of young politicians do not have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.
- H1: The characteristics of young politicians have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.
- H0: The characteristics of aged politicians do not have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.
- H2: The characteristics of aged politicians have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study adopts a descriptive research design to examine the characteristics of young and aged politicians and their impact on successful political careers in Hassan District. The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected directly from young and aged politicians through a structured questionnaire designed to measure their leadership characteristics, working styles, political experience, public engagement and factors influencing their successful political careers. A survey method is used to obtain responses from politicians across all the talukas of Hassan District, ensuring wider geographical representation. The questionnaire consists of statements relating to the characteristics of young and aged politicians, and respondents are requested to express their opinions based on a suitable rating scale. Secondary data are collected from books, research articles, journals, government publications, newspapers, reports, official records and other relevant published and unpublished sources. The study focuses on comparing the characteristics of young and aged politicians and examining their influence on successful political careers. Appropriate statistical tools such as percentage analysis, mean, standard deviation, correlation and regression analysis may be used to analyse the collected data and test the formulated hypotheses. The findings are expected to provide useful insights and recommendations for improving political leadership and ensuring successful political careers in Hassan District.

7. SAMPLE SIZE

The present study determines the sample size by adopting the Yamane sampling method, which is widely used to calculate



an appropriate sample size from a known or large population. The formula proposed by Yamane is: $n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$ Where, **n** represents the required sample size, **N** denotes the total population, and **e** represents the acceptable sampling error. For the purpose of the present study, a total sample of 800 respondents has been selected, comprising 400 young politicians and 400 aged politicians from Hassan District. The survey covers the major taluks of Hassan District, including Hassan, Alur (Aaloor), Arkalgud (Arakalagudu), Arsikere, Belur, Channarayapatna, Holenarasipura and Sakleshpura. Respondents are selected to ensure representation from different geographical areas and political backgrounds. The equal representation of young and aged politicians facilitates a comparative analysis of their characteristics and their impact on successful political careers. The selected sample size is considered adequate to collect reliable primary data and conduct appropriate statistical analysis for achieving the objectives of the study.

8. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study focuses on examining the characteristics of young and aged politicians and their impact on successful political careers in Hassan District. It covers selected young and aged politicians from the major taluks of Hassan District, including Hassan, Alur, Arkalgud, Arsikere, Belur, Channarayapatna, Holenarasipura and Sakleshpura. The study

compares the leadership characteristics, working styles, political experience, communication skills, public engagement, technological adaptability, innovation, political networks and leadership maturity of young and aged politicians. It also examines the influence of these characteristics on public support, leadership performance, electoral success and long-term political sustainability. Primary and secondary data are used for the study. The findings are expected to provide useful insights into differences between young and aged political leadership and support the development of effective political leadership and successful political careers in Hassan District.

9. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Primary data will be collected through a structured questionnaire comprising closed-ended questions measured on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 = Strongly Agree to 5 = Strongly Disagree. In addition, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with selected young and aged politicians in Kannada, the official language of Karnataka, to obtain deeper insights into their political characteristics and successful political careers. The collected data will be analysed using SPSS software. Regression analysis will be employed to examine the impact of the characteristics of young and aged politicians on their successful political careers. Cronbach's Alpha will be used to assess the reliability and internal consistency of the research instrument.

Characteristics of young politicians

H0: The characteristics of young politicians do not have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

H1: The characteristics of young politicians have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

11. The characteristics of young politicians have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square		Std. Error of the Estimate	
1	.939 ^a	.881	.878		.41539	
ANOVA ^b						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	496.620	12	41.385	239.841	.000 ^a
	Residual	66.778	387	.173		
	Total	563.397	399			
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.590	.100		5.895	.000
	High energy and enthusiasm	.320	.054	.309	5.956	.000
	Use of social media and technology	-.180	.048	-.183	-3.755	.000
	Innovative thinking	.196	.061	.190	3.216	.001
	Higher educational exposure	.014	.045	.014	.303	.762
	Strong communication skills	.341	.062	.363	5.510	.000
	Adaptability to change	-.128	.055	-.130	-2.310	.021
	Ambition and career orientation	.216	.046	.235	4.680	.000
	Youth networking ability	.175	.050	.172	3.530	.000



Willingness to take risks	.051	.036	.050	1.403	.161
Greater mobility and accessibility	-.106	.049	-.078	-2.167	.031
Focus on contemporary issues	.001	.038	.001	.030	.976
Desire for rapid political growth	-.063	.036	-.056	-1.777	.076
a. Dependent Variable: Successful political career in Hassan District					

The multiple regression analysis was conducted to examine the impact of the characteristics of young politicians on a successful political career in Hassan District. The model summary shows a strong positive relationship, with an R value of 0.939. The R Square value of 0.881 indicates that the twelve characteristics of young politicians collectively explain 88.1% of the variation in a successful political career in Hassan District. The Adjusted R Square value of 0.878 further confirms the strong explanatory power of the regression model. The standard error of the estimate was 0.41539, indicating a relatively good fit of the model. The ANOVA results reveal that the regression model is statistically significant, with an F value of 239.841 and a significance value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$). Therefore, the overall regression model is statistically significant, indicating that the characteristics of young politicians collectively have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District. Hence, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (H_1) is accepted. The coefficient analysis shows that high energy and enthusiasm have a significant positive impact on a successful political career ($\beta = 0.309$, $p < 0.001$). Similarly, innovative thinking ($\beta = 0.190$, $p = 0.001$), strong communication skills ($\beta = 0.363$, $p < 0.001$), ambition and career orientation ($\beta = 0.235$, $p < 0.001$), and youth networking ability ($\beta = 0.172$, $p < 0.001$) have significant positive impacts. Among these factors, strong communication skills emerged as the most influential positive characteristic, followed by high energy and enthusiasm and ambition and career orientation. On the other hand, the use of social media and technology ($\beta = -0.183$, $p < 0.001$), adaptability to change ($\beta = -0.130$, $p = 0.021$), and greater mobility and accessibility ($\beta = -0.078$, $p = 0.031$) show statistically significant negative coefficients. This indicates an inverse relationship with a successful political career after controlling for the other variables in the regression model. However, higher educational exposure ($p = 0.762$), willingness to take risks ($p = 0.161$), focus on contemporary issues ($p = 0.976$), and desire for rapid political growth ($p = 0.076$) do not have a statistically significant independent impact at the 5% significance level. Overall, the findings demonstrate that the characteristics of young politicians collectively have a strong and statistically significant impact on the success of a political career in Hassan District. In particular, communication skills, energy and enthusiasm, ambition, innovative thinking, and networking ability play important roles in enhancing political success among young politicians. Therefore, H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted.

Characteristics of aged politicians

H0: The characteristics of aged politicians do not have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

H2: The characteristics of aged politicians have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

The multiple regression analysis was conducted to examine the impact of the characteristics of aged politicians on a successful political career in Hassan District. The model summary reveals a strong relationship between the characteristics of aged politicians and a successful political career, with an R value of 0.911. The R Square value of 0.830 indicates that the twelve characteristics collectively explain 83.0% of the variation in a successful political career in Hassan District. The Adjusted R Square value of 0.825 further confirms that the model has strong explanatory power, while the standard error of the estimate of 0.40542 indicates a satisfactory level of prediction. The ANOVA results show that the overall regression model is statistically significant, with an F value of 157.482 and a significance value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$). This indicates that the characteristics of aged politicians collectively have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District. Therefore, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis (H_2) is accepted. The coefficient analysis reveals that effective decision-making and political management have a significant positive impact on a successful political career ($\beta = 0.148$, $p = 0.001$). Deep knowledge of local issues also has a strong and significant positive impact ($\beta = 0.255$, $p < 0.001$). The strongest positive influence is observed for established public reputation ($\beta = 0.535$, $p < 0.001$), indicating that public reputation is the most important characteristic contributing to the political success of aged politicians in Hassan District. Similarly, leadership maturity ($\beta = 0.094$, $p = 0.025$), knowledge of government administration ($\beta = 0.124$, $p = 0.025$), and long-term commitment to public service ($\beta = 0.201$, $p = 0.001$) have significant positive impacts on a successful political career. However, strong political networks show a statistically significant negative relationship with political career success ($\beta = -0.145$, $p = 0.001$). Similarly, negotiation skills have a significant negative coefficient ($\beta = -0.252$, $p < 0.001$), indicating an inverse relationship with political career success when the effects of the other variables are controlled. These negative coefficients should be interpreted in the context of the combined regression model and may indicate overlap or complex relationships among the independent variables. On the other hand, strong party loyalty ($p = 0.957$), patience and emotional stability ($p = 0.434$), traditional voter connections ($p = 0.218$), and the ability to mentor younger leaders ($p = 0.798$) do not have a statistically significant independent impact on a successful political career at the 5% level.



of significance. Overall, the findings demonstrate that the characteristics of aged politicians have a strong and statistically

significant collective impact on a successful political career in Hassan District.

Model Summary							
Model		R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1		.911 ^a	.830	.825	.40542		
ANOVA ^b							
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	
1	Regression	310.610	12	25.884	157.482	.000 ^a	
	Residual	63.608	387	.164			
	Total	374.219	399				
Coefficients ^a							
Model			Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
			B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)		.153	.109		1.400	.162
	Helps in effective decision-making and political management.		.105	.030	.148	3.494	.001
	Strong political networks		-.100	.029	-.145	-3.411	.001
	Deep knowledge of local issues		.213	.027	.255	7.925	.000
	Established public reputation		.531	.047	.535	11.285	.000
	Leadership maturity		.071	.032	.094	2.250	.025
	Strong party loyalty		.001	.018	.001	.053	.957
	Negotiation skills		-.217	.046	-.252	-4.703	.000
	Knowledge of government administration		.100	.045	.124	2.243	.025
	Patience and emotional stability		.026	.033	.034	.783	.434
	Traditional voter connections		.069	.056	.092	1.233	.218
	Ability to mentor younger leaders		.010	.041	.013	.256	.798
	Long-term commitment to public service		.158	.045	.201	3.493	.001
a. Dependent Variable: Successful political career in Hassan District							

Among the various characteristics, established public reputation emerges as the most influential factor, followed by deep knowledge of local issues, long-term commitment to public service, and effective decision-making and political management. Therefore, based on the overall regression results, H_0 is rejected and H_2 is accepted, confirming that the characteristics of aged politicians significantly influence a successful political career in Hassan District.

10. RESEARCH FINDINGS

1. The study found that the characteristics of young politicians collectively have a strong and significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District, explaining 88.1% of the variation in political career success ($R^2 = 0.881$).
2. Strong communication skills emerged as the most influential positive characteristic among young politicians ($\beta = 0.363$, $p < 0.001$).
3. High energy and enthusiasm have a significant positive influence on the successful political career of young politicians ($\beta = 0.309$, $p < 0.001$).

4. Ambition and career orientation significantly contribute to political career success among young politicians ($\beta = 0.235$, $p < 0.001$).
5. Innovative thinking and youth networking ability positively and significantly influence the successful political careers of young politicians.
6. The overall regression results for young politicians led to the rejection of H_0 and acceptance of H_1 , confirming a significant impact of young politicians' characteristics on political career success.
7. The characteristics of aged politicians collectively have a strong and significant impact on a successful political career, explaining 83.0% of the variation in political career success ($R^2 = 0.830$).
8. Established public reputation emerged as the strongest positive characteristic influencing the successful political careers of aged politicians ($\beta = 0.535$, $p < 0.001$).
9. Deep knowledge of local issues, long-term commitment to public service, effective decision-making and political management, leadership maturity, and knowledge of



government administration significantly and positively influence political career success among aged politicians.

10. Strong political networks and negotiation skills showed significant negative coefficients in the regression model, indicating inverse relationships after controlling for the effects of other characteristics.
11. Among young politicians, higher educational exposure, willingness to take risks, focus on contemporary issues, and desire for rapid political growth did not show a statistically significant independent impact at the 5% level.
12. The overall findings confirm that both young and aged politicians' characteristics significantly influence successful political careers in Hassan District, although the young politicians' model demonstrated slightly higher explanatory power (88.1%) than the aged politicians' model (83.0%).

11. SUGGESTIONS

1. Young politicians should strengthen their communication skills through leadership training, public speaking programmes, and regular interaction with the public.
2. Young politicians should effectively utilise their energy, enthusiasm, and innovative thinking for public service and political development.
3. Political parties should provide leadership development and mentorship programmes to help young politicians gain political experience and practical knowledge.
4. Young politicians should develop strong professional and community-based networks to improve their public engagement and political support.
5. The use of social media and technology should be strategic and responsible, focusing on meaningful voter communication rather than excessive dependence on digital platforms.
6. Aged politicians should maintain and strengthen their public reputation and credibility, as public reputation is the most influential characteristic contributing to their political success.
7. Aged politicians should continuously improve their understanding of local issues and government administration to address public problems more effectively.
8. Political leaders should encourage intergenerational collaboration, allowing young politicians to learn from the experience and maturity of aged politicians while aged leaders benefit from the energy and innovative approaches of younger politicians.
9. Both young and aged politicians should give greater importance to long-term public service, transparency, accountability, and regular interaction with citizens to sustain political success.
10. Political parties and training institutions should organise continuous political leadership and capacity-building programmes in Hassan District to develop communication, decision-making, public engagement, technology use, local governance, and ethical leadership skills.

12. LIMITATIONS

1. The study is geographically limited to Hassan District, and therefore, the findings may not be generalised to politicians in other districts or states.
2. The study is based mainly on responses collected through a structured questionnaire, which may be influenced by respondents' personal perceptions and response bias.
3. The study considers only 400 young and 400 aged politicians, and the selected sample may not represent all political leaders and political backgrounds.
4. The analysis is limited to the selected twelve characteristics each of young and aged politicians, while other political, social, economic, cultural, and party-related factors were not examined.
5. The study uses a cross-sectional research design; therefore, changes in political characteristics and career success over a longer period were not analysed.
6. The findings are based on the political and social conditions prevailing during the period of the study, which may change due to electoral developments, party dynamics, leadership changes, and technological advancements. The study itself was designed around Hassan District and comparative characteristics of young and aged politicians.

13. DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research may extend the present study beyond Hassan District and undertake comparative studies across different districts of Karnataka or other states in India. Researchers may use longitudinal research designs to examine how political characteristics and career success change over time. Future studies can also include additional variables such as gender, political party affiliation, caste and community influence, family political background, campaign expenditure, media influence, electoral performance and public satisfaction. Comparative research between rural and urban politicians may provide further insights into differences in political success. Qualitative approaches, including detailed interviews and case studies of successful political leaders, may also enrich the findings. Future research may further examine the growing influence of digital communication, artificial intelligence and social media on political leadership. Studies involving voters, party workers and political experts may provide a broader and more comprehensive understanding of political career success.

14. CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes that the characteristics of both young and aged politicians have a significant impact on a successful political career in Hassan District. The regression analysis revealed that the characteristics of young politicians explained 88.1% of the variation in successful political careers, whereas the characteristics of aged politicians explained 83.0%. Thus, both groups demonstrated strong explanatory power, although the characteristics of young politicians showed a slightly greater influence. Among young politicians, strong communication skills, high energy and enthusiasm, ambition and career orientation, innovative thinking, and youth networking ability



were identified as important positive factors contributing to political success. Among aged politicians, established public reputation emerged as the most influential characteristic, followed by deep knowledge of local issues, long-term commitment to public service, effective decision-making, leadership maturity, and knowledge of government administration. The findings indicate that political success cannot be attributed solely to age. Young politicians contribute energy, innovation, ambition, communication ability, and technological awareness, whereas aged politicians contribute experience, maturity, public reputation, administrative knowledge, and long-term commitment to public service. Therefore, the study highlights the importance of combining youthful dynamism with experienced leadership. Political parties should promote intergenerational cooperation, leadership development, ethical public service, effective communication, and continuous engagement with citizens to strengthen successful and sustainable political careers in Hassan District.

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