Project Report

on

Endline Survey of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Citizens in Bihar

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Bihar

Chandragupt Institute of Management Patna

Project Research Team

Prof. (Dr.) V. Mukunda Das

Prof. Ankit Sharma

Prof. Anuj Sharma

Prof. Sriranga Vishnu

Field Researchers

Mr. Ajay Kumar	Mr. Kishori Mohan Sinha	Mr. Randhir Pratap Singh
Mr. Amitesh Kumar	Mr. Kundan Kumar Singh	Mr. Santosh Kumar
Mr. Arun Kumar	Mr. Mithilesh Kumar	M. Santosh Kr. Srivastava
Mr. Binod Kumar Sharma	Mr. Nagendra Kumar	Mr. Shibnath Chatterjee
Mr. Brajmohan Kumar	Mr. Pankaj Kumar Singh	Mr. Sunil Kumar
Doctor Santosh Kumar	Mr. Rajeeva Kumar Sharma	Mr. Umesh Kumar Deo
Mr. Gopesh Kumar	Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh	

Field Supervisors

Mr. Alok Kumar Raj

Mr. Kaushal Kant

Mr. Vidya Sagar

Computer Operators

Mr. Sunil Kumar

Mr. Sumit Kumar

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

Background

An election is a process by which people choose their representatives who formulate policies that affect their lives. It is a medium wherein the voice of the voters is heard. Election Commission of India (ECI) conducts elections in India. Looking at the geographical size and the population of India, conducting free and fair elections is a tough task. ECI has taken several measures to educate the voters and improve the election process.

The present study aims to understand the knowledge, attitude, and practices of voters in Bihar. The major objectives of the study includes measuring the effectiveness of the voter registration process, identifying the key factors responsible for the participation of voters in the elections, understanding the awareness and attitude of the voters, identifying the exposure of SVEEP interventions to the voters, and understanding the underlying reasons for low voter turnout in the last General Election 2019 in the Bihar state and to suggest logical and plausible measures to improve voter turnout based on the outcome of the survey.

The survey covered 40 Assembly Constituencies (ACs) spread over 20 districts of Bihar. From each AC, at least four polling booths, two with high voter turnout and two with low turnout, were selected. In all, 163 polling booths were covered and 6515 respondents were surveyed during the study.

Socio-Economic-Demographic Profile

The socio-economic demographic characteristics of the respondents of this study reveals that-

- Majority of the respondents are illiterate or have received education up to primary level

- Daily wage earners, farm labourers, cultivators and people engaged in agriculture and allied activities form the major chunk of respondents.

- A significant proportion of the respondents belong to the OBC category.

- Most of the respondents of this survey do not read Newspapers or Magazines.

- Most of the people reported that they do not listen Radio. Rather, they watch Television.

- A sizeable proportion of the respondents do not use internet. However, with increasing outreach of Smartphones, there is a large chunk of population, especially youth, which has started using internet and is active on social media platforms.

Voter Registration

To understand the effectiveness of measures taken by ECI to increase the level of registration of voters, questions related to voter registration and voter enrolment process were administered and responses were assessed. The findings of the survey revealed that:

- 91.4% of the sampled respondents lived in a particular residential area since their birth.

- 1.2% of the respondents got their names deleted from the voter list of previous AC.

- 95.5% of the respondents are currently enrolled in the voter list.

- 97.3% of the respondents of this study have and use their voter ID cards.

- Visit of the BLO to the residence of the respondents of this study (in 45.3% of the cases) was the major medium for enrolment among the respondents.

- Around 80% of the respondents feel that the enrolment procedure is easy.

Voter Participation

To understand the level of participation of voters, questions related to the facilities at the polling station and the difficulties faced by voters while voting were administered and responses of the survey participants were assessed. The findings of the survey revealed that:

- About 88.6% of the survey respondents voted in the Lok Sabha election 2019.

- More than 80% of the respondents voted in the election as they believe that "voting is their right", followed by 60.9% of the respondents who believe that "voting is their duty", and 49.3% of respondents voted as they believe that "their vote matters".

- About 89.9% of the respondents reported that they observed separate queues for women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens, and about 56.8% of the respondents confirmed separate entry and exit at the polling booth.

- Total 84.4% of the respondents did not face any problem(s) during the polling day.

- The reported difficulties faced by the respondents include, "standing in the long queue", "no separate queue for senior citizens", and "lack of basic facilities including drinking water, toilet, and ramp".

- The two main reasons for not voting in the election include the absence of the name of the voter in the electoral roll and the non-availability of the voter in the constituency on the polling day.

Voter awareness and attitudes

To have a sense of understanding about the level of knowledge and awareness among the voters about the electoral processes, questions related to minimum age of registration to be a voter, qualifying date for registration, National Voters' Day, NOTA option, Braille on EVMs, and VVPAT along with the sources of knowledge concerning elections and politics were administered and responses of the survey participants were assessed. The findings of the survey revealed that:

- About 66.4% of the survey respondents are aware of the minimum age of registration to be a voter.

- About 70.7% of the respondents do not know the qualifying date for registration.

- More than 90% of the respondents do not know when the National Voters' Day is celebrated.

- About 55.8% of the respondents are not aware of such an option like NOTA.

- About 73.5% of the respondents are not aware of the presence of Braille provision on EVMs.

- Out of total respondents, about 49.3% of the respondents are not aware of the VVPAT.

- Respondents have a positive opinion for the statements, "Every vote counts", "Elections are conducted freely and fairly in India", "Voting should be made compulsory", and "EVMs provide accurate results".

Exposure to SVEEP interventions

Since 2009, ECI has taken several initiatives to increase voters' participation. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme, better known as **SVEEP**, is the flagship programme of the Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter

awareness and promoting voter literacy in India. This survey has administered several questions related to voters' exposure to SVEEP interventions and responses of the survey participants were assessed. The findings of this survey revealed that:

- About 52.6% of the respondents could recall the campaign(s) run by the Election Commission of India.

- More than 73% of the respondents receive information about the elections through TV advertisements.

- More than 80% of the respondents received the information or the message "Voting is my right and duty".

- The information or messages about, "Voter helpline 1950" or "Voter Helpline App", "cVIGIL App related" and "NVSP portal" were not recalled by the voters. Hence, the awareness related to these interventions is very low.

- More than 50% of the respondents were able to recall the taglines, "*Desh ka Mahatyohar*" and "No Voter to be Left Behind/*Koi Matdata Na Chootey*".

- About 32.4% of the voters were able to recall M. S. Dhoni giving a motivational message related to election participation (celebrities who gave messages related to elections).

- About 83.4% of the respondents have not used the Election Commission/Chief Electoral Officer website.

- About 99.5% of the respondents of this study have not used Voter Helpline No. 1950 or the Voter Helpline Application. The Commission may like to pay needed attention so as to educate people about this facility.

Conclusion

The sample survey to assess KAP of voters was conducted in 40 assembly constituencies across 20 districts of Bihar and it has revealed some interesting trends related to Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of citizens in Bihar. The results show that there exists a large scope to increase awareness among people about the electoral process, increase voter participation, make the registration process more efficient and increase the exposure to SVEEP interventions. Strategic interventions and adequate planning by the Election Commission of India will improve the overall election process and turn voters more informed and concerned

about the overall election process. This will lead to establishing good governance and democracy.

Contents

Chapter	Particulars	Page No.
	Project Team	i
	Acknowledgements	ii
	Executive Summary	iii-vi
	Contents	vii
	List of Tables	viii-ix
	List of Figures	x-xi
	List of Abbreviations	xii
1	Introduction	1-20
2	Socio-Economic Demographic Profile	21-31
3	Voter Registration	32-40
4	Voter Participation	41-50
5	Voter Awareness and Attitude	51-58
6	Exposure to SVEEP Interventions	59-70
7	Involvement of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the Election	71-73
8	Conclusion and Recommendations	74-81
Annexure-I	Questionnaire in Hindi	82-91
Annexure-II	Qualitative Observations from Field	92-119
Annexure-III	Photographs taken during research study	120-138

List of Tables

List of Figures

List of Abbreviations

AC	:	Assembly Constituency
BLO	:	Booth Level Officer
CIMP	:	Chandragupt Institute of Management Patna
ECI	:	Election Commission of India
EPIC	:	Electors Photo Identity Card
EVM	:	Electronic Voting Machine
KAP	:	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
LSE	:	Lok Sabha Election
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
NOTA	:	None of the Above
OBC	:	Other Backward Class
PC	:	Parliamentary Constituency
PwDs	:	Persons with Disabilities
SC	:	Scheduled Caste
ST	:	Scheduled Tribe

SVEEP : Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation

TISS : Tata Institute of Social Sciences

VVPAT : Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

Chapter- 1

Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

Democracy is widely considered to be the finest form of governance that reflects the rule and will of the common people through elected representatives who are ordained to work towards improving the quality of life of citizens of the country. In a Parliamentary Democracy, as that exists in India, aspirations of people are best manifested through their voting rights bestowed by the Constitution of India. Unless warranted otherwise, elections in India are held every five years. During elections, people cast their votes to elect representatives to the Parliament and to the state legislative assemblies. Hence, conduction of free and fair elections is crucial for upholding the basic foundations of democracy as envisaged by the Indian Constitution. In tune with other democracies, India also has an autonomous Election Commission for conduction of general and state assembly elections in the country.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a constitutional body responsible for administering elections in India in accordance with the provisions and powers provided by the Constitution. The ECI provides the basic layout for conduction of elections in different parts of the country and is responsible for enforcement of the model code of conduct during polls. The Commission has taken many steps to ensure proper participation of the voters in the electoral processes. Some of the notable initiatives include preparation and regular updation of electoral rolls, creation of more polling booths, upscaling of security and administrative arrangements at voting locations, use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), distribution of Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to the eligible voters and conduction of large scale awareness campaigns for people through various media vehicles. These initiatives have yielded positive results. Elections in India are now carried out in more conducive environment and there are better arrangements at the polling stations. Special care is taken for voters who are elderly, women and with disabilities. The process largely remains peaceful and over years there is decline in the incidents of booth rigging, bogus voting, and factional violence. Use of EVMs ensures fast dissemination of election results.

While the voting environment has improved considerably in recent years, the voter turnout at polling stations has not been equally encouraging. It is a matter of concern for the Election

Commission of India because active participation of voters in electoral processes is essential for a strong and sustained democracy in the country. The Commission has been taking proactive steps so that the elections are more participatory and conducted without fear and favor. In order to educate the voters and motivate them for voting, the ECI runs Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program. The study of voters' composition and turnout rates and their Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) is also an integral part of election management. In KAP surveys, voters are randomly selected from some sampled assembly constituencies. Through these surveys, the Election Commission gets to understand the attitude of voters towards the entire gamut of elections and the reasons for not participating in electoral process.

For better understanding of the kind of positive behavioral inputs required to enhance interest in the electoral process among voters, a well-structured research study is required. The present KAP survey has been conducted to help the Election Department of the stateformulate future strategies, programs and interventions for educating voters on all the aspects of democratic and electoral process and hence, ensure higher voter participation in forthcoming elections in Bihar. It is expected that the findings of this study shall provide valuable insights that can help in meeting the desired objectives.

1.2. Research Objectives

The major objective of this study is to identify the level of awareness of the voters regarding electoral process. The study also assesses the voting-related attitude and practices of the electorates. Further, this study attempts to identify the reasons behind low and high voter turnout during recently held General Elections. Specific objectives of this study are as under:

1. To understand the effectiveness of the voter registration process undertaken by ECI.

2. To identify key factors influencing participation of voters in the election process.

3. To understand the awareness and attitude of the voters regarding elections.

4. To assess the effectiveness of SVEEP interventions made by the ECI.

5. To understand the underlying reasons for low voter turnout in the last general election in the State and to suggest logical and plausible measures to improve voter turnout based on the outcome of the survey.

2

1.3. Research Design

The major objective of the current study is to assess the current status of voters' level of knowledge, attitude involving belief and perception related to participation in the election process. In light of this, the research team has formulated a comprehensive master plan to ensure that requisite data in accordance with the problem at hand is collected accurately and economically to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way.

Research design is a comprehensive plan for selecting respondents, research sites, and data collection procedures in an empirical research project. It is aimed at answering specific research questions or testing specific hypotheses, and contains details on the processes entailing research methodology, geographical outreach, sampling tools and techniques and data collection process.

1.3.1. Geographical Coverage

For the purpose of public administration, Bihar has been divided into 9 divisions, 38 districts, 101 subdivisions and 534 circles or community development blocks. In terms of political units, the state is sub-divided into 40 Parliamentary Constituencies (PCs) and 243 Assembly Constituencies (ACs). The present research study has surveyed and collected data from 40 Assembly Constituencies (16.46%) spread across 20 districts in all the 9 divisions of Bihar. Selection of ACs has been done in consultation with the Election Department, Bihar. Maximum nine constituencies have been selected from Patna Division. Six ACs have been taken from Purnia Division. But for Bhagalpur Division from which two constituencies were selected, remaining divisions are represented by four ACs each. While selecting the ACs, proper representation has been given to the reserved and unreserved constituencies. Out of 40 ACs, eleven are reserved constituencies and the remaining are unreserved constituencies. Katoria Assembly Constituency in Banka District is the lone ST constituency selected for data collection. The remaining reserved ACs are SC constituencies. Due representation has been given to the constituencies situated in border districts. Accordingly, 13 districts – Bhojpur, Kaimur, Saran, Siwan, West Champaran, Madhubani, Araria, Supaul, Kishanganj, Purnia, Banka, Jamui, and Gaya, have been shortlisted for the purpose. A table containing the list of Divisions, Districts and Assembly Constituencies selected for this KAP Survey -2019

has been provided hereunder. A map representing the surveyed districts of Bihar is also shown below.

Table 1.1: List of ACs Selected for KAP Survey - 2019

S. No.	Name of Division	Name of District	Assembly Constituency	
			No.	Name
1	Patna	Patna	178	Mokama
			183	Kumhrar
			189	Masaurhi (SC)
		Nalanda	172	Biharsharif
			175	Hilsa
		Bhojpur	194	Arrah
			196	Tarari
		Kaimur	205	Bhabua
			206	Chainpur
2	Tirhut	West Champaran	2	Ramnagar (SC)
			8	Bettiah
		Muzaffarpur	91	Bochaha (SC)
			94	Muzaffarpur
3	Purnia	Araria	48	Forbesganj
			49	Araria
		Kishanganj	54	Kishanganj
			55	Kochadhaman
		Purnia	59	Banmankhi (SC)
			62	Purnia
4	Bhagalpur	Banka	161	Banka
			162	Katoria (ST)
5	Saran	Saran	117	Marhaura
			118	Chapra
		Siwan	105	Siwan
			108	Raghunathpur
6	Munger	Begusarai	146	Begusarai
			147	Bakhri (SC)
		Jamui	241	Jamui
			243	Chakai

S. No.	Name of Division	Name of District	Assembly Constituency	
			No.	Name
7	Magadh	Gaya	227	Imamganj (SC)
			230	Gaya Town
			231	Tikari
		Jahanabad	218	Makhdumpur (SC)
8	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	82	Darbhanga Rural
			87	Jale
		Madhubani	36	Madhubani
			37	Rajnagar (SC)
9	Kosi	Supaul	43	Supaul
			44	Treveniganj (SC)
		Madhepura	72	Singheshwar (SC)
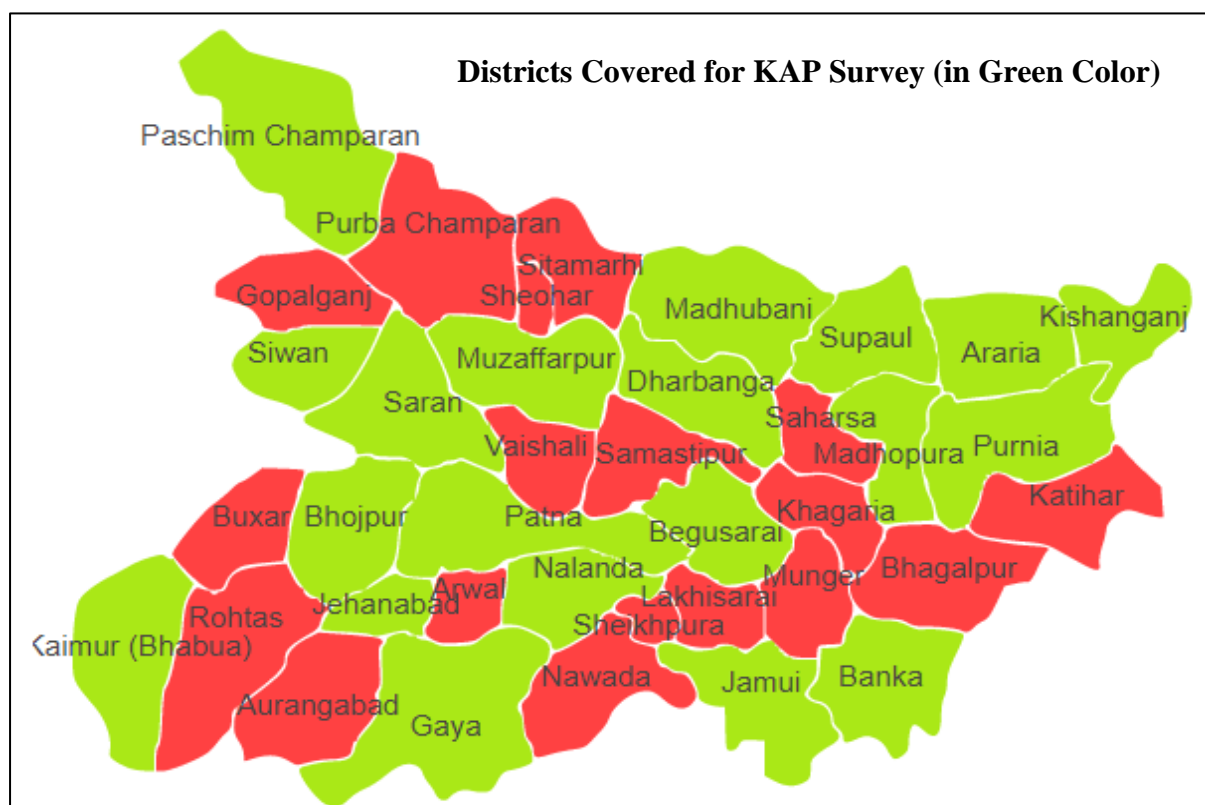
Figure 1.1: Geographical Coverage of Sample Survey in Bihar

1.3.2. Research Methodology

Methodology provides the philosophical and operational groundwork for the process adopted to carry out any research. Essentially, the procedure by which researchers go on to

conceptualize, describe and explain their work and predict phenomena is called research methodology. For this study, a quantitative research methodology like questionnaire based survey was designed to measure voter's perception, attitude and behaviour in Bihar. Questionnaire based survey has been found to be efficient in collecting information from a large number of respondents where a wide range of information needs to be collected.

1.3.2.1. Secondary Data Collection

The faculty team of CIMP held discussions with the officials of the Election Department regarding selection of districts, Assembly Constituencies and polling booths with high and low voter turnout. The objective was to get a representative sample for this survey. Based on these detailed discussions, the team collected the secondary data pertaining to the voter turnout during the last general election (assembly-wise and booth-wise) for sampling purposes. The team also collected the contact numbers of District Collector-cum-District Election Officer and Deputy Election Officer of relevant districts. For the ease of finding the location of booths and the Booth Level Officer (BLO), much needed information was collected from the website of the state Election Department. Such information were shared with the field investigators which immensely helped them in locating booths, contacting the BLOs and conducting this data collection work.

1.3.2.2. Primary Data Collection for Quantitative Survey

Quantitative Survey was done through a structured questionnaire developed especially for the purpose by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and provided by Election Commission of India. The questionnaire was retained in its original form for data collection purpose. For the sake of convenience of the enumerators and the general public, the questionnaire was translated into Hindi, without any tampering with the instructions, section heads and the data entry codes. It covers various aspects of KAP survey such as profile of the respondents, voter registration and participation, their awareness and attitude, and exposure to SVEEP interventions. A special section captures pertinent information related to persons with disabilities. The questionnaire includes single response and multiple response questions. Most of the questions are close-ended and have been assigned a code to capture the responses of the person being interviewed. The target group for this KAP survey was eligible voters (respondents above the age of 18 years) in a household who are registered and are available for the interview. Selection of the household attached to a sampled booth was done randomly. In a family, the respondent was selected through a Kish grid provided in the questionnaire.

This further added to the randomness in the selection of respondent for this survey. A copy of the questionnaire has been attached with this report as Annexure - I.

1.3.2.3. Quantitative Survey

In addition to the quantitative survey through a structured questionnaire, the research team also collected qualitative information on various aspects such as reasons for low and high turnout of voters in the recently held general election, amenities available at the polling booth, role of the Booth Level Officer, location of the booth, people's attitude towards electoral process, etc. During data collection process, the field enumerators interacted with various eligible voters, general public, Booth Level Officers and other functionaries and marked down their observations. Apart from data collectors, field supervisors and the project team members of CIMP also interacted with various people during field visits and made relevant observations. A summation of all such observations has been presented in this report (Annexure - II).

1.3.3. Sample Size

For this research study, all the 243 assembly constituencies from all the 38 districts of Bihar were considered for sample selection. From this population universe, 40 assembly constituencies (16.46%) from 20 districts were selected in consultation with the Election Department. All the 9 administrative divisions of Bihar have been represented through these ACs. Major criteria for selection of these constituencies was their spread across the state, their categorization as reserved or unreserved constituencies, constituencies located in difficult terrain (hill, forest, etc.), constituencies affected by naxal activities and constituencies located in border districts. The research team obtained the names of ten highest and ten lowest polling stations of each of these ACs from the Election Office. This list has been prepared on the basis of voter turnout ratio in the recently concluded General Election - 2019. From this list, names of three highest and three lowest Polling booths were selected and provided to the investigators for data collection. The research team also ensured that urban and rural booths get proportionately represented in the overall sample. From the list of six polling stations per Assembly Constituency, field investigators were instructed to select a minimum of four booths – two with low voter turnout and two with high turnout, for data collection. This was done to develop an insight about the factors, practices, beliefs, etc. that

lead to high and low voting. One of the basic outcomes of this information shall be to use these findings to enhance the overall voting percentage in various assembly constituencies. The data collection team surveyed respondents from 163 polling booths in 40 ACs. A total of 6515 respondents were interviewed during this survey. While collecting data at a particular booth, the field investigators were instructed to select respondents from a representative sample. Proper mix of gender, age, community, etc. was taken into consideration. This was done to avoid any biases in the data and the resulting inferences. A list of districts, ACs, polling booth selected for data collection are given below:

Table 1.2: List of Polling Stations and No. of Respondents

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
1	Patna	178-Mokama	52-Utkramit Madhya Vidhyalay Kajichak (Purvi Bhag)	40
			55-Madhya Vidyalay Khajurar (Dakshini Bhag)	40
			216-Prathmik Vidhyalay Ganga Serpur	40
			217-Prathamik Vidyalay Fatakawatola	40
		183-Kumhrar	228-Madrasa Islamiya Samsul Hoda Kaniy Musalahpur (Madhy Bhag)	40
			251-Rajkiy Buniyadi Abhyashala Mahendru (Kamra No-3)	40
			271-Urdu Madhya Vidyalay Khanamirza (Purwi Bhag)	40
			343-Sai I.T.I,Sansthan Sector-8 (Purwi Bhag)	40
		189-Masaurhi (SC)	70-Rajistri Office Masaurhi (Purwi Bhag)	40
			97-Prathamik Vidyalay, Keshochak	40
			98-Prathamik Vidyalay, Puranachak	40
			182-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Pipala, Urdu (Purwi Bhag)	40
2	Nalanda	172-Biharsharif	82-Prathamik Vidyalay, Pachasa, (Daya Bhag)	39
			99-Utkarmit Madha Vidhalay Mirjapur	40
			235-Rajaswa Kachahari Gadhpar Uttar Bhag	40
			322-Bajar Samiti Ka Madhya Bhag ke Uttari Bhag	41
		175-Hilsa	23-Uttakramit Madhya Vidyalay mohiuddinapur Chak	44
			138-P.H.E.D. Karayalay Hilsa Purbi Madhya Bhag	41

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
			139-Prakhand Karyalay Hilasa Ke Sate Purav Bhavan	40
			196-Prathmik Vidyalay, Noniya Vigaha	40
3	Bhojpur	194-Arrah	97-Prathamik Vidyalay Dhanupara Ara (Pashchimi Bhag)	40
			99-Prathamik Vidyalay Dhanupara Ara (Madhya Bhag)	41
			299-Karyala Sahayak Abhiyanta Path Pramandal (Uttari Bhag) Bihari Mill Road Anaith	26
			300-Karyala Sahayak Abhiyanta Path Pramandal (Uttari Madhya Bhag) Bihari Mill Road Anaith	27
			301-Vyapar Mandal Udanvanatanagar, Anaith Ara Pashicham Bhag	28
		196-Tarari	29-Prathamik Vidyalay Chilabiliya	42
			76-Madhya Vidyalay, Narayanpur (Uttari Bhag)	41
			79-"Uchcha Vidyalay Jamodhi (Baya Bhag)"	40
			121-Utkramit Madhy Vidhalay , Basauri (Uttari Bhag)	41
4	Kaimur	205-Bhabhua	79- Prathamik Vidyalay, Karamichak	40
			131-Nagarpalika Madhya Vidyalay, Bhabhua Ward No.-7	40
			137-Jila Pashupalan Padadhikari ka karyalay, Bhabhua,Ward No.-8 (Dakshini Bhag)	40
			270-Prathamik Vidyalay, Pandeypur	40
		206-Chainpur	19-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Konahara	45
			119-New Prathmik Vidyalay Ujari Dadwan	40
			231-Van Vibhag Vishram Grih, Karakatagadh	40
			235-Anusuchit Jati, Anusuchit Jan Jati, Avasiy Madhya Vidyalay, Semara	40
5	West Champaran	2-Ramnagar (SC)	88-Madhya Vidyalay, Harinagar Nepali Tola Pashchami Bhag	40
			123-Prathmik Vidyalay, Jogiya, Hindi,Utri Bhag	40
			179-Rajakiy Prathmik Vidyalay, Tahakaul	40
			197-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Manguraha, Purvi Bhag	40
		8-Bettiah	76-Madhya Vidyalay, Gandak Coloni,2 Betiya, Purv Bhag	41

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
			126-Audyogik Prashikshan Sansthan Jayaprakash Nagar Dakshini Bhag	42
			155-Madhya Vidyalay, Shekhauna Math	52
			163-Prathamik Vidyalay, Pipara	57
6	Muzaffarpur	91-Bochaha (SC)	38-Prathamik Vidyalay,Shekhpur Pashchimi Bhag	41
			39-Prathamik Vidhyalay, Shekhapur,Paschim Madhay Bhag	41
			85-Prathamik Vidhyalay, Nanhuchak Tola, Mushahari	41
			86-Uttakramit Madhya Vidhyalay Daya Bhag , Mushahari	41
		94-Muzaffarpur	1-Muzaffarpur Institue of Technology Brahampura, Purwi Bhag	40
			292-Madhya Vidhyalay , Pakari Ismail Uttar Bhag	40
			110-Madhya Vidhyalay, Gokhalepuri, Islamapur	40
			299-Prathamik Vidhyalay, Dumari, Pashchimi Bhag	41
7	Araria	48-Forbesganj	61-Madhya Vidyalay, Kamta, East Part	40
			69-Madhya Vidyalay Rangdaha Majhua, North Part	40
			102-Nibandhan Karyalay, Forbesganj, South Part	40
			134-Dwijadaini Smarak Ucchh Vidyalay, Naya Bhawan, Forbesganj, South Part	40
		49-Araria	38-Prathamik Vidyalay Chararani	40
			178-Azad Academy Araria (East Part)	40
			179-Rajkiy Kanya Madhya Vidyalay Araria (East Part)	40
			193-Prathamik Vidyalay Basantpur Dhar	40
8	Kishanganj	54-Kishanganj	163-Chamane mustafa Madarsa Bansbadi	40
			193-Upgraded middle school Maheshbathna North Part	40
			245-Middle school Ashalata (south Building)	40
			262-Upgraded middle school, Pothia Dhekabhinja North Part	43
		55-Kochadhaman	95-Utkramit Madhya Vidhalya Jhantibadi Uttar Bhag	42
			96-Utkramit Madhya Vidhalya Jhantibadi Dakshin Bhag	40

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
			212-U.M.S. Lahra Fulbadi North Part	40
			224-P.S. Noniyantoli	40
9	Purnia	59-Banmankhi (SC)	78-Madhya Vidyalay Masuriya Mushari	42
			90-Madhya Vidyalay Akhtiyarpur Purv	43
			249-Madhya vidyalay moujampatti uttar bhag	40
			253-Madhya vidyalay shishva uttar bhag	25
			254-Madhya vidyalay shishva dakshin bhag	16
		62-Purnia	2-Madhya Vidhyalay Rifuyjee Colony (Purab Bhag)	35
			44-Purniyo Kolej Purniyo Pashchim Bhag	5
			198-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Uthari Pokhariya Abdullanagar uttar Purav Bhag	40
			256-utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Daliya Husainavad	36
			265-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Duanniya Ramapur uttar bhag	44
10	Banka	161-Banka	42-Rani Mahakam Kumari High School Banka Paschim Bhag)	40
			62-Primary School, Windi	40
			110-Upgraded Middle School, Pokhariya	40
			171-MIddle School Khadahara (North wing)	40
		162-Katoria (ST)	2-Upgraded Middle School Budhwabathan Left Wing	40
			112-Primary School Dogachcha	45
			167-Upgraded Middle School Durgapur	40
			201-Upgraded Middle School Kajikairi (Middle Wing)	40
11	Saran	117-Marhaura	3-Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalay Mothha Madhya Bhag	40
			59-Kanya Madhya Vidyalay Marhaura,Daya Bhag	40
			61-Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalay Bhawalpur Purab Bhag	41
			129-Prathmik Vidyalay Shishwan Musahar Toli	41
		118-Chapra	1-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Semariya Khurd Pashchim Bhag	40
			37-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Mukrera	40
			152-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay	40

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
			Methwalia	
			217-Ambedakar Trust Parisar , Nai Bazar Kamra No-4	31
12	Siwan	105-Siwan	163-Prathmik Vidhalay Devapali	40
			216-D.A.V. Satabdi Public School Kabirmath Kandhwara Paschim Bhag	40
			223-Jila Nibandhan Karyalay Siwan Baya Bhag	40
			294-Vidyut Karyalay Makhdum Saray Daya Bhag	41
		108-Raghunathpur	60-Utakramit Madhya vidyalay,taenghara (daya bhag)	40
			142-Maktab Usri Buzurg, Baya Bhag	40
			231-Aanganbadi Kendra Nikhati Kala (Daya Bhag)	40
			234-Utakramit Madhya vidyalay,nikhati kla (left side)	40
13	Begusarai	146-Begusarai	41-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay,Parra, Purvi Bhag	41
			100-Madhya Vidyalay, Chhapaki	40
			218-Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Paharchak, Dakshin Bhag	40
			297-Nagarpalika Office Begusarai Pachhim Bhag Baya Bhag	40
		147-Bakhri (SC)	64-Panchayat Bhavan.Pir Nagar Sthit Majanupur	41
			69-Prathamik Vidyalay. Dumariya	42
			155-Lakshmi Udit Narayan Uchcha Vidyalay, Shakarapura(Purvi Bhag)	40
			191-Madhy Vidalaya Parihara Bandh se sate purv. dakhsin bhag	41
14	Jamui	241-Jamui	51-Utkarmit Madhay Vidyalay Khadasari (Pashchimi Bhag)	40
			108-Utkarmit Madhay Vidyalay Shahapur Purab Bhag	40
			237-utkarmit Madhay Vidyalay Chancho	40
			239-Urdu Madhya Vidyalay Banpur East Side	40
		243-Chakai	155-Prathmik Vidhyalay Rajadumar	40
			177-Navin Prathamik Vidyalay Simara	41
			271-Utkrami Madhy Vidyalay Golachakai	40
			275-Utkramit Madhy Vidyalay Jalakhariya	44

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
15	Gaya	227-Imamganj (SC)	9- Primary School, Anbaran Salaiya	40
			122- Samudaik Vikas Bhavan,Tetariya	40
			127- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Kosamah	40
			237- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Jatahi, Kothilava	40
		230-Gaya Town	17- Kanya Prathamik Vidyalay, Kharkhura	19
			23- R. M. P. School, Kharkhura (Pashchimi Bhag)	61
			181- Shahmir Takiya Madhya Vidyalay Saptam Varg Sankul Kendra	40
			191- Urdu Madhya Vidyalay, Gewal Bigha	40
		231-Tikari	156- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Mahimapur	40
			234- Prathamik Vidyalay, Kuseta Harijan Tola	39
			270- Prathamik Vidyalay, (Harijan) Malhaiya Tola Murgi Vigha	40
			296- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Paluhad (Pashchimi Bhag)	40
16	Jahanabad	218-Makhdumpur (SC)	8- Prathamik Vidyalay Bhadaseri	40
			57- Prathamik Vidyalay Bharthua	40
			67- Angan Bari Kendra Khapura	40
			241- Prathamik Vidyalay, Bhaikh	45
17	Darbhanga	82-Darbhanga Rural	97- Middle School, Sonki, South Part	40
			194- Madhya Vidyalay, Makaranda, Purvi Bhag	40
			212- Kanya Uchcha Vidyalay Nehara Uttari Bhag	40
			224- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Chakachintamanipur, Pashchimi Bhag	40
		87-Jale	120- Phalahul Muslim Madarsa Nagardih, Purvi Bhag	40
			129- Madhya Vidyalaya Jahagir Tola Uttari Bhag	40
			165- Madhya Vidyalaya Tataila Dakshini Bhag	40
			178- Samudayik Vikas Bhawan Ahilyaasthan, Uttari Bhag	45

13

S. No.	District	Assembly Constituency (No. and Name)	Polling Station Selected (No. and Name)	No. of Respondents
18	Madhubani	36-Madhubani	10- Prathamik Vidyalay Bhakharouli	42
			17- Jagadish Nandan Mahavidyalay, Madhubani, Danya Bhag	42
			305- Urdu Maktab Sima Madhya Bhag	46
			320- Prathmik Makatab Bhavanipur Banya Bhag	50
		37-Rajnagar (SC)	2- Madhya Vidhalay Shivipatti Naya Bhavan	41
			16- Prathmik Vidyalay Blha Hindi Karhiya Bayan Bhag	40
			258- Prathmik Vidyalay Madna Goth Laheri Tol Dayan Bhag	40
			280- Prathamik Vidyalay, Dumara Urdu	40
19	Supaul	43-Supaul	91- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Ghogharariya	40
			102- Madhya Vidyalay, Piprahari	40
			113- Panchayat Bhawan Bairiya Sthit Malhad	40
			146- Utkarmit Madhya Vidyalay Kharail Punarwas (Pashchim Bhag)	40
		44-Triveniganj (SC)	18- Utkramit Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya Bhawanipur Uttar Bhag	43
			146- Madhya Vidyalaya, Daparkha (Dakshin Bhag)	40
			217- Utkarmit Madhy Vidyalay Lakshmaniya (Hindi) (Pashchim Bhag)	41
			232- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Parwaha (Dakshin Bhag)	41
20	Madhepura	72-Singheshwar (SC)	47- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Sinheshwar, Madhya Bhag	42
			175- Prathamik Vidyalay, Puraini Baya Bhag	40
			278- Panchayat Bhavan, Rahata, Baya Bhag	40
			291- Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Lakshmipur Chandisthan, Left Side	45
			TOTAL SAMPLE SIZE	**6515**
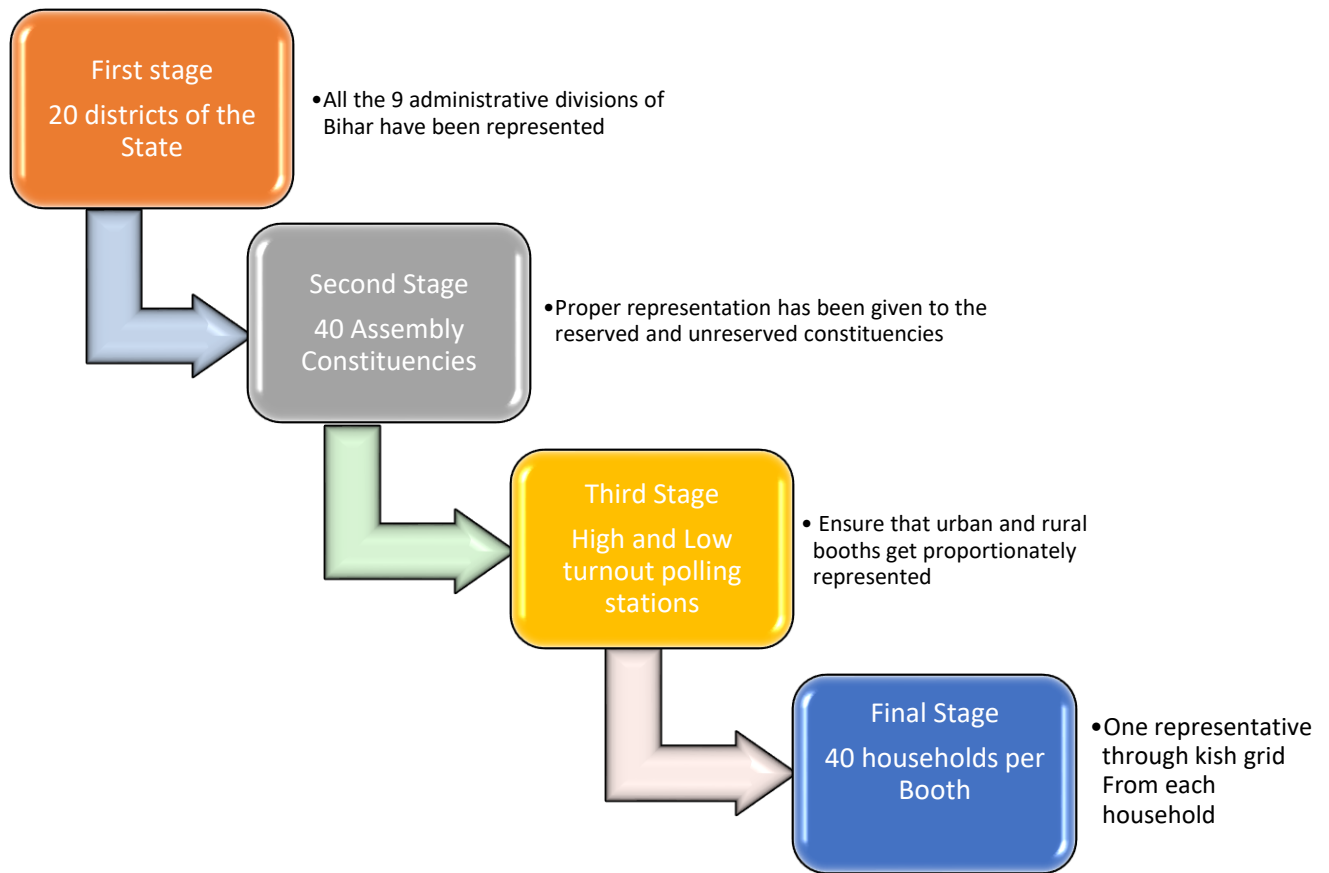
Figure 1.2: Total Sample Size

1.3.4. Sampling Methodology

Multistage stratified random sampling method was used for the selection of various constituents of the population. In stratified random sampling, the population is divided into small groups based on a particular criterion common to all members of the group. These groups are known as 'strata'. Then, a random sample from each stratum is taken proportionately. The sum total of these random samples forms the universe for research study. This technique is very useful in capturing important population characteristics in the sample and in reproducing characteristics that are proportional to the overall population. In this research study, the randomness of the data was ensured at multiple levels – during selection of assembly constituencies, polling stations, households and finally the selection of respondents.

Table 1.3: Overview of sampling method adopted for quantitative survey

S. No.	Particulars	Nos.
1	Total number of districts in Bihar	38
2	Number of districts covered (52.63%)	20
3	Total number of Assembly Constituencies	243
4	Number of Assembly Constituencies surveyed (16.46%)	40
5	Number of Polling Stations targeted	40*4 = 160
6	Number of Polling Stations actually surveyed	163
7	Total sample size targeted (No. of Respondents)	40*160 = 6400
8	Total sample size actually achieved	6515

1.4. Project Implementation

The aim of this section of the report is to provide information about the operational details of the study.

1.4.1. Development of Research Tools

A Structured questionnaire (KAP tool) is developed especially for the purpose by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and provided by Election Commission of India. The structured questionnaire was administered to respondents above the age of 18 years who were selected as per the sampling plan given in Section 1.3.3 and 1.3.4. For the sake of convenience of the enumerators and the general public, the project team has ensured that questionnaire has been translated into Hindi, without any tampering with the instructions, section heads and the data entry codes. The KAP tool was then translated and back translated to ensure that no information was being lost due to translation.

1.4.2. Training of Field Teams

An orientation and training programme was organized at the Chandragupt Institute of Management Patna (CIMP) premises in the third week of August to select prospective Field Investigators (FIs). The final list of FIs included a proper mix of young and elderly investigators who are well versed in Hindi and had prior experience in conducting surveys. Each question of the survey questionnaire was discussed at length with the Investigators and their doubts were clarified by the project team. They were provided with the various codes required to fill the Section- A of the Questionnaire. They were also provided with

information regarding their Assembly Constituencies, the polling booths they have to visit, authorization letter from CIMP, name and mobile no. of BLOs and the Deputy Election Officer and other necessary details.

The field investigators selected for this research study underwent two-day training on various aspects related to the KAP survey especially about selecting respondents using Kish Grid, conducting the interviews, filling coded responses and skipping the question, if needed. The training sessions included a detailed question-by-question discussion and various methods of probing/asking questions were also discussed. At the end of each day, field investigators were asked to conduct mock interviews among themselves in order to exterminate issues and biases related to the data collection.

1.4.3. Field Survey and Data Collection

After completion of the training, the field investigators left for their respective areas for data collection. Each investigator was provided with the necessary kit, questionnaires in adequate numbers, and important contact numbers to initiate their work. They were instructed to collect around 160 responses from each assembly constituency, with 50% of the responses coming from high voter turnout area and the rest from low turnout area. While collecting data at a particular booth, the field investigators were instructed to select respondents from a representative sample. Proper mix of gender, age, community, etc. was taken into consideration. This was done to avoid any biases in the data and the resulting inferences. Selection of a respondent in a household was done randomly through a Kish Grid provided in the questionnaire. In the case of unavailability of the person whose sequence appeared through the grid, responses were collected from the next best alternate respondent in terms of gender and age. In case of families having a member who is an eligible voter as well as a person with disability, that member was selected for interview.

1.4.4. Data Processing

After the preparatory data collection and data validation exercise was complete, the data entry was conducted by experienced personnel under the supervision of the analytics and research team. As per instructions of ECI, all data was coded, punched, cleaned and validated before it was handed over to the research team for conducting data analysis. The chapters that follow contain detail result of the analysis done on the data. The raw data was stored in ASCII format that was converted to STATA/SPSS format.

1.4.5. Quality Control

The research team directed the study and closely monitored the entire process of data collection. They were also present for the training of enumerators and supervised the data collection work, thus serving as the resource persons for all the field investigators. The CIMP project team maintained regular communication with field investigators to assess the work in progress and to answer their queries. CIMP Supervisors and the research team members made multiple visits to the Assembly Constituencies to assess the quality of work done and to back check the questionnaires filled by enumerators. The supervisors also collected the completed questionnaires from the field and brought them along for rechecking and data entry. This helped in reducing the time lapsed in getting the questionnaires available to the data entry operators. A supervisor managed a team of four investigators and was responsible for scrutiny of the filled questionnaire to ensure that the data collection was done as per the highest quality norms. Supervisors would randomly visit the households covered by the enumerator and physically verify the key data objects to crosscheck the responses.

1.5. Data Analysis and Documentation

The quantitative information, after data processing, culminated into tables and charts which were used for further analysis and report writing. The data captured under the various heads of the questionnaire were used for formulating the chapters of this report and the information captured through the questions under those heads have been used for analysis work. In addition to quantitative information, qualitative information were also generated during the research study. Such information collected by field investigators, supervisors and faculty team of CIMP were transcribed and have been used in enriching this report.

1.6. Ethical Considerations

The major ethical issues in conducting research are: informed consent, beneficence, respect for anonymity and confidentiality, and respect for privacy. Research ethics involve the protection of dignity of respondents, seeking consent of the respondents, ensuring privacy and confidentiality of the respondent is maintained, allowing the respondent the freedom to not answer a particular question/terminate interview and being sensitive to respondents with special needs. The principle of informed consent involves researchers providing sufficient information and assurances about taking part to allow individuals to understand the

implications of participation and to reach a fully informed, considered and freely given decision about whether or not to do so, without the exercise of any pressure or coercion.

Following are the main ethical considerations that were taken into account while conducting the study:-

a. Informed consent: Informed consent is the major ethical issue in conducting research. Informed consent is one of the means by which a respondent's right to autonomy is protected. In the current study, full consent was obtained from the respondents prior to data collection of the study.

b. Freedom to terminate the interview & not to respond to questions: The purpose of the study was explained to respondents and opportunity was given for non-participation in case the respondent does not feel comfortable. The respondents were given rights to withdraw from the data collection process at any stage if they wish to do so.

c. Privacy and confidentiality: Privacy and anonymity of respondents is of a paramount importance. The issue of confidentiality and anonymity is closely connected with the rights of beneficence, respect for the dignity and fidelity. Anonymity is protected as the respondents' identity cannot be linked with personal responses. All the respondents of the current study were well informed that their names, address or any other personal information will never be disclosed to any other person or organization.

d. Respect and dignity of the respondent: The data collection related activities were conducted only after ensuring that the respondents were comfortable about the entire process, context and the surroundings. Gender roles and cultural factors were kept in perspective in conducting the field work, especially the qualitative component of the study.

e. Influence and peer pressure: The field investigators made sure that only the respondent answered the question and there were no influences from surrounding members even if they are from the same family/household.

f. Vulnerable groups of respondents: The vulnerable groups among the respondent covers people from socially backward strata, women and people with special needs. The low participation of vulnerable groups in research can be attributed to their inability to give an informed consent and also to their need for further protection and sensitivity from the researcher as they are in a greater risk of being deceived, threatened or forced to participate.

All the field investigators were given special training to collect data from these groups of respondents for ensuring their participation in the current study.

1.7. Limitations of the Study

The population under study includes the inhabitants of 40 ACs in Bihar. However, the study does not observe social interactions or communications between persons or institutions in a given population, but only characteristics of the individual members involved.

Quantitative research's main purpose is the quantification of the data and by this, allowing generalisations of the results by measuring the views and responses of the sample population. Every research methodology consists two broad phases namely planning and execution. Therefore, it is evident that within these two phases, there likely to have limitations which are beyond our control. Despite of applying appropriate sampling plan representation of the subjects is dependent on the probability distribution of observed data. This may led to miscalculation of probability distribution and lead to falsity in proposition. The data collection was confined to only 40 ACs in Bihar since constraints were faced during data collection. The replication of the study at different regions of Bihar would enable better generalizability of the findings of the study.

The sample for the present study comprised of 6515 voters of Bihar state. This sample is only a very small proportion of the entire population of voters in the State. Therefore, research studies with much larger sample size would be required to ensure appropriate generalization of the findings of the study.

Conclusions

The chapter has introduced the study objectives, described the research design, the research methodology including the quantitative and qualitative components, and has discussed the sampling plan and geographical coverage for the study. In the last, this Chapter has described the project implementation plan, ethical considerations and concluded the limitation of the current study. The next Chapter will present the social, economic and demographic aspects of the respondents.

Chapter- 2

Socio-Economic Demographic Profile

Introduction

This chapter describes the demographics of the respondents. Demographic indicators provide information on demographic processes and their outcomes. Socio-economic indicators track economic progress and social change, and generally portray people's state of well-being and quality of life. At the household and individual levels, this study has used sample surveys method for obtaining the required information. Depending on the type of information required, the sample was selected randomly from the total population without any prior knowledge of particular characteristics (through stratified random sampling).

However, this study has also conducted a participant appraisal research involving key informant interviews and focus group discussions which obtained information on the socio-economic profile of the villages, including its physical and institutional infrastructures and natural setting as well as to collect vital information on perceptions, attitudes and practices regarding a range of topics such as socio-economic status, political environment, occupations, intentions and behaviour and electoral decision-making.

The next section displays the personal details of the respondents based on their frequency distribution and the percentage analysis are given.

2.1 Distribution of Respondent's gender by their location

In social sciences research, personnel characteristics of respondents have very significant role to play in expressing and giving the responses about the problems, keeping this in mind, in this study a set of personal characteristics namely, age, sex, education, occupation, etc of all the respondents have been examined. The Table 2.1 below has detailed the distribution of

respondent's gender by their location. As it can be seen that the survey has ensured equal participation to both urban and rural respondents.

Table 2.1: Distribution of Respondent's gender by their location

Location	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rural	2835	59.67%	1916	40.33%	4751	100.00%
Urban	1044	59.18%	720	40.82%	1764	100.00%
Grand Total	**3879**	**59.54%**	**2636**	**40.46%**	**6515**	**100.00%**

2.2 Educational qualification of the respondents

The educational level gives an impression of the respondent's income, or more generally its socio-economic status (SES). The frequency distribution of respondents by Educational Qualification shows that the respondents of this study had varying access to educational opportunities beyond compulsory schooling

Table 2.2 shows the educational qualification of the respondents. The data obtained gives a very bad picture of education in Bihar. The assessment of the responses have revealed that 38.5 percent of respondents are Illiterate and only 19.5 percent have completed primary education. It means nearly 58 percent of the population must be facing extreme difficulty in reading and writing. More than 15 percent respondents have completed the High School, and 13.8 percent have completed the Higher Secondary schooling. Only 11.2 percent of the respondents were Graduates.

Table 2.2: Educational qualification of the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Illiterate	2508	38.5%
Primary school	1273	19.5%
High school	977	15.0%
Higher secondary	898	13.8%
Diploma/ Certificate	129	2.0%
Graduate & above including Professional/Technical Courses	730	11.2%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
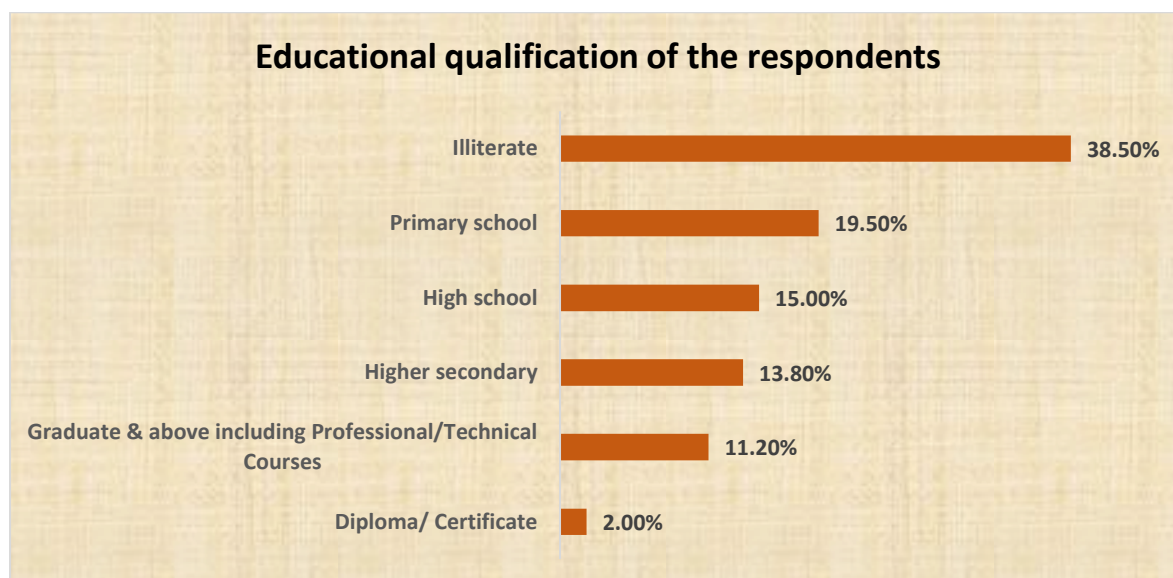
Figure 2.1: Educational qualification of the respondents

2.3 Occupation of the Respondents

This Section details the frequency distribution of respondents by their occupation according to the survey data. Table 2.3 shows the occupation of the respondents. The assessment of the responses revealed that the highest number of respondents i.e. 43.4 percent are labourers (or related to some agricultural activity) followed by homemaker which is 27.6 percent. 10.6 percent of the respondents have their own enterprise, 4.4 percent work for the government and 5.3 percent work for the private sector. About 3.5 percent of the respondents are students. 2.5 percent of the respondents are unemployed and 0.6 percent are unemployed and available for work. About 0.3 percent of the respondents consist of retired persons.

Table 2.3: Occupation of the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Student	229	3.5%
Unemployed	164	2.5%
Unemployed available for work	38	0.6%
Government Service	284	4.4%
Private Service	348	5.3%
Own enterprise	689	10.6%
Labourer/ Cultivator/ Agricultural and allied activities	2829	43.4%
Home maker	1796	27.6%
Retired	20	0.3%
Others*	8	0.1%
No Response	110	1.7%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**

*Pensioner, Politician

Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	Percent
Labourer/ Cultivator/ Agricultural and allied activities	43.40%
Home maker	27.60%
Own enterprise	10.60%
Private Service	5.30%
Government Service	4.40%
Student	3.50%
Unemployed	2.50%
Unemployed available for work	0.60%
Retired	0.30%
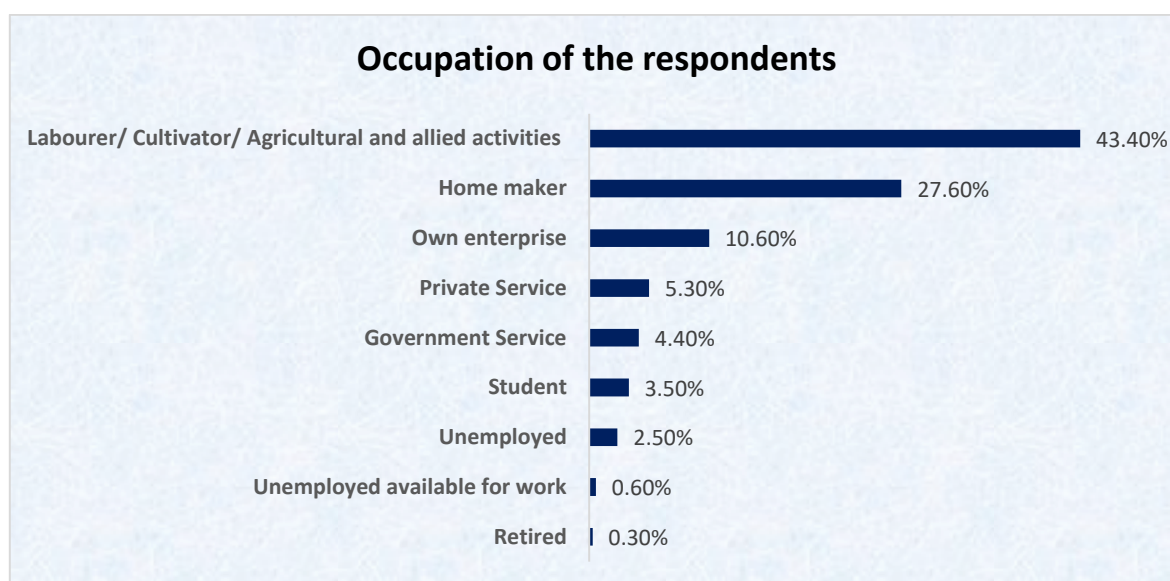
Figure 2.2: Occupation of the respondents

2.4 Marital status of the respondents

Marital status plays a predominant role in the society, where much importance has been given for cultural aspects. The married one is more respectable than the single. Marriage brings an important and major change in the lives of men and women, irrespective of the economic position. In Indian society, marriage is supposed to be a social obligation. In this context, this study makes an attempt to analyze the marital status of the surveyed respondents.

Table 2.4 shows the marital status of the respondents. The assessment of the survey responses revealed that 85.6 percent of the respondents are married, 6.9 percent are not married, and 6.3 percent are widowed. A very small fraction of the respondents (0.2 percent) are married and waiting for Gauna. One fact that is heartening is that the rate of divorce is negligible among the respondents. We found only 0.1 percent of the respondents who got divorced or separated.

Table 2.4: Marital status of the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Never married	447	6.9%
Married, no gauna	12	0.2%
Married	5578	85.6%
Widowed	413	6.3%
Separated/divorced	9	0.1%

No Response	56	0.9%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
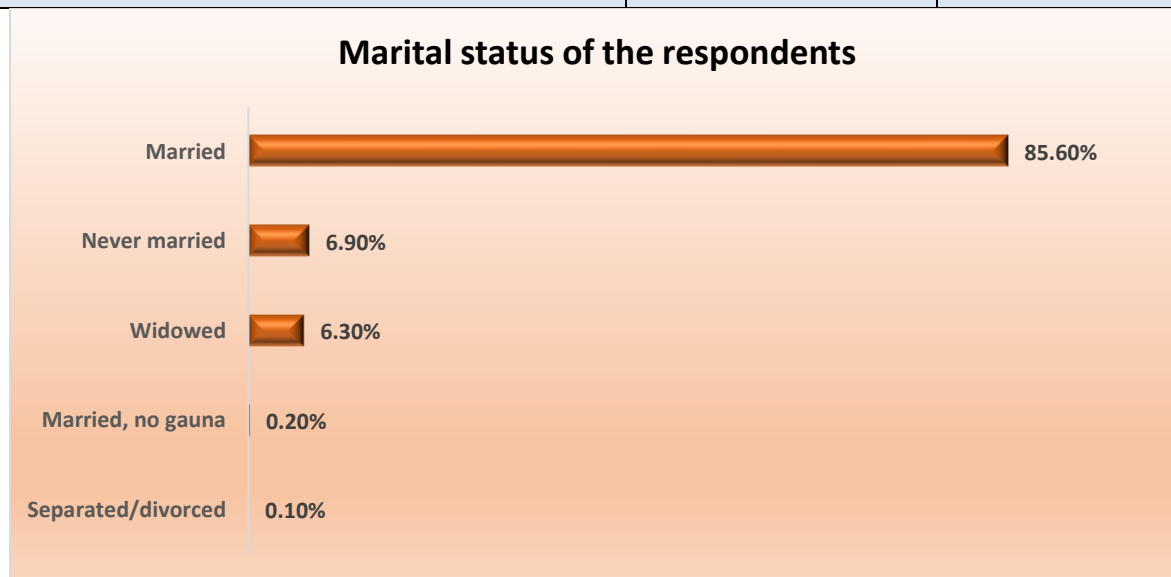
Figure 2.3: Marital status of the respondents

2.5 Social group of the respondents

Table 2.5 shows the social group of the respondents. The assessment of the survey responses revealed that half of the respondents belong to Backward Class, 19.6 percent of the respondents belong to Scheduled Caste and 3.7 percent of the respondents belong to Scheduled Tribe. Other categories in combination constitute the remaining 26.4 percent.

Table 2.5: Social group of the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
SC	1276	19.6%
ST	244	3.7%
OBC	3278	50.3%
Others	1717	26.4%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
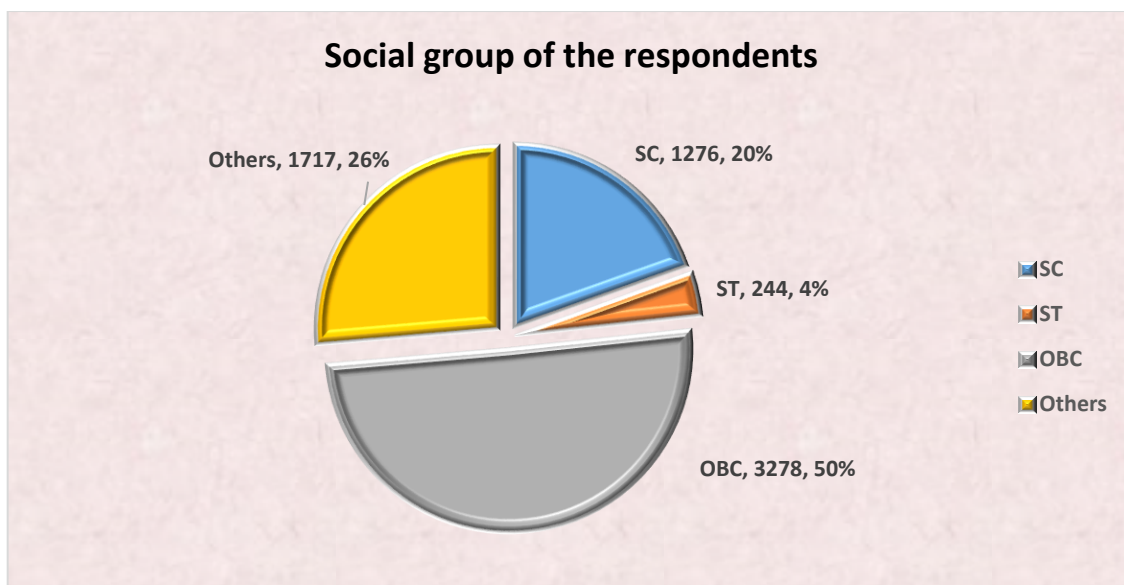
Figure 2.4: Social group of the respondents

2.6 Exposure to Media

In a state like Bihar, where a large majority of voters specially women are illiterate or have little formal education, informal channels such as the mass media can play an important role in bringing about modernization. In this study, men and women were asked questions about whether they read a newspaper or magazine, watch television, or listen to the radio at least once a week. The Table 2.6 (A, B, C, and D) shows the frequency with which the respondents read the newspaper, listen to the radio, watch television, and use the internet.

2.6.1 Reading habits of the respondents

Table 2.6 (A) shows the frequency with which the respondents read newspapers or magazines. The assessment of the survey responses revealed that more than 60 percent of the respondents do not read a newspaper or magazine. It is also expected as the majority of the respondents are illiterate. It was observed that 25.4 percent of the respondents read the newspaper daily followed by 8 percent of the respondents who read the newspaper at least once a week and 4.7 percent who read the newspaper less than once a week.

Table 2.6 (A): Frequency of reading newspaper or magazine by the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Almost every day	1656	25.4%
At least once a week	524	8.0%
Less than once a week	306	4.7%
Not at all	4029	61.8%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
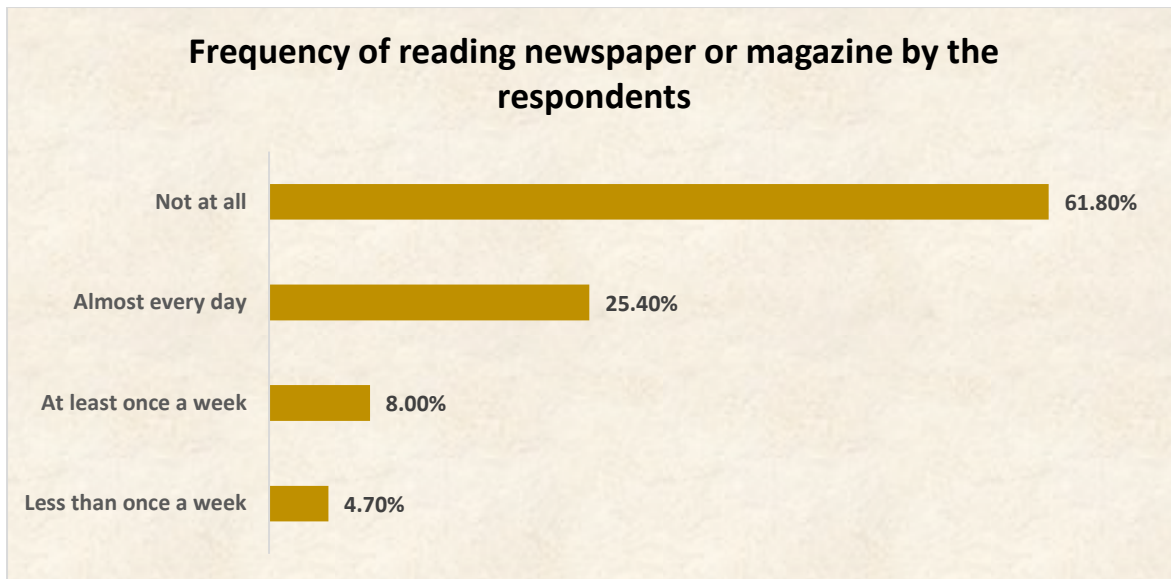
Figure 2.5 (A): Frequency of reading newspaper or magazine by the respondents

2.6.2 Listening habits of the respondents

Table 2.6 (B) shows the frequency with which the respondents listen to the radio. The assessment of the survey responses revealed that more than 90 percent of the respondents do not listen to the radio. A small fraction of respondents (4.8 percent) listens to the radio almost every day followed by 2.7 percent of the respondents who listen to the radio at least once a week and negligible respondents- 1.1 percent are also part of the study sample who listen to the radio less than once a week.

Table 2.6 (B): Frequency of listening Radio by the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Almost every day	311	4.8%
At least once a week	178	2.7%
Less than once a week	69	1.1%
Not at all	5957	91.4%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
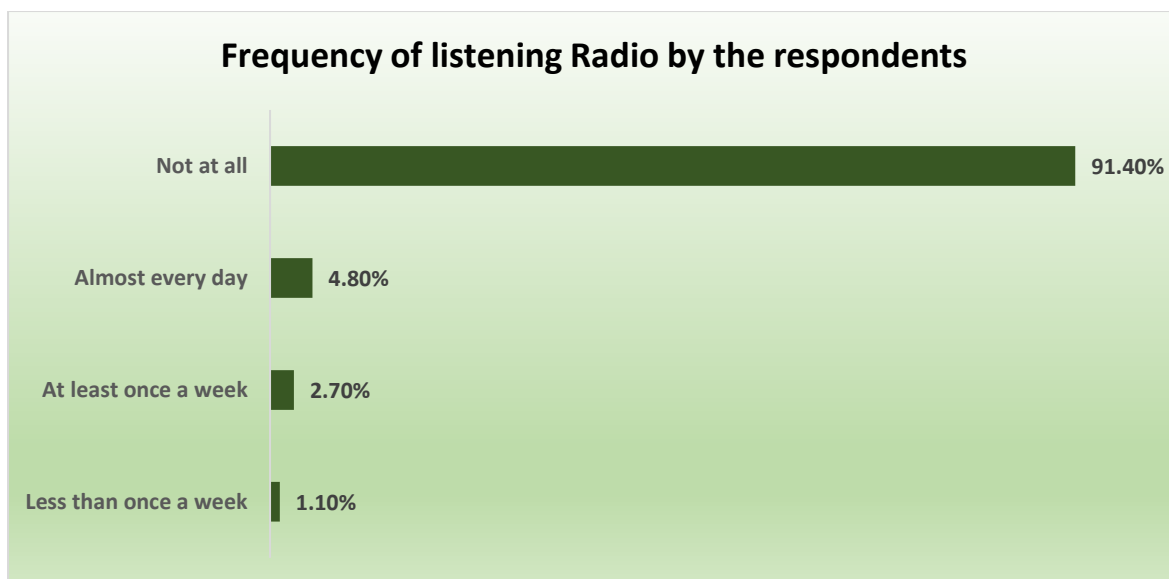
Figure 2.5 (B): Frequency of listening Radio by the respondents

2.6.3 Watching habits of the respondents

Table 2.6 (C) shows the frequency with which the respondents watch the television. The assessment of the survey responses revealed that 48 percent of the respondents watch television almost every day. About 8.5 percent of the respondents what television at least once a week followed by 3.9 percent of the respondents who watch the television less than once a week. A majority of the population (39.7 percent) does not watch television at all.

Table 2.6 (C): Frequency of watching Television by the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Almost every day	3126	48.0%
At least once a week	554	8.5%
Less than once a week	251	3.9%
Not at all	2584	39.7%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
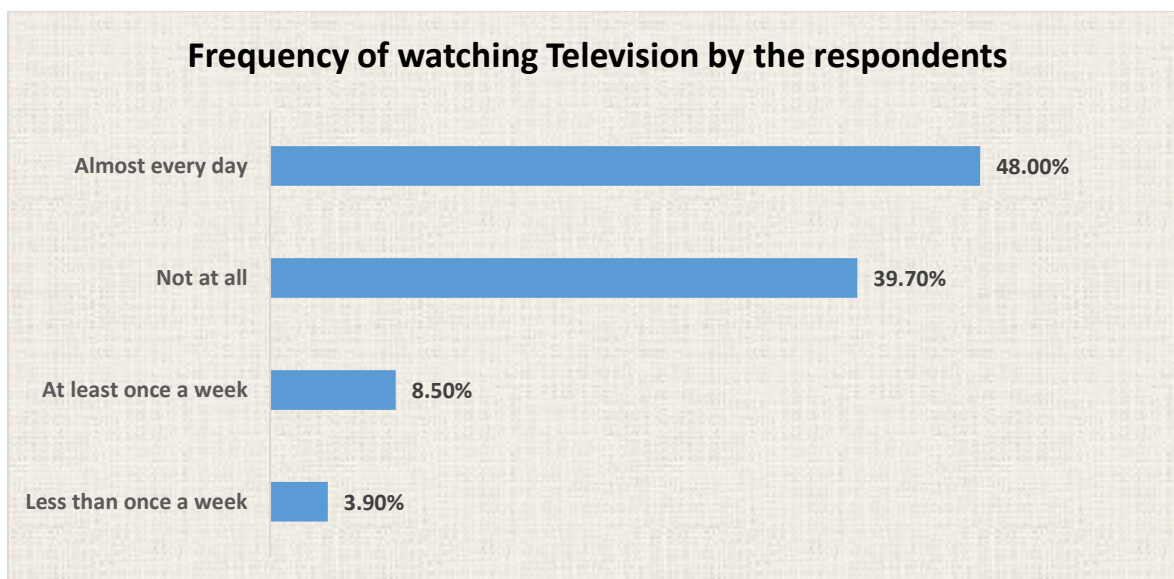
Figure 2.5 (C): Frequency of watching Television by the respondents

2.6.4 Use of Internet by the respondents

Table 2.6 (D) shows the frequency of the respondents who use the internet (Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.). The assessment of the survey responses revealed that the use of the internet has penetrated to the remotest part of the state. More than 24 percent of the respondents use the internet almost every day. About 4.5 percent of the respondents use the internet at least once a week followed by 2.5 percent who use the internet less than once a week. A majority of the population (68.6 percent) still does not use the internet. It can be seen that the use of radio has reduced tremendously and the use of the internet is increasing.

Table 2.6 (D): Frequency of using Internet (Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.) by the respondents

Response	Number	Percent
Almost every day	1595	24.5%
At least once a week	294	4.5%
Less than once a week	155	2.4%
Not at all	4471	68.6%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
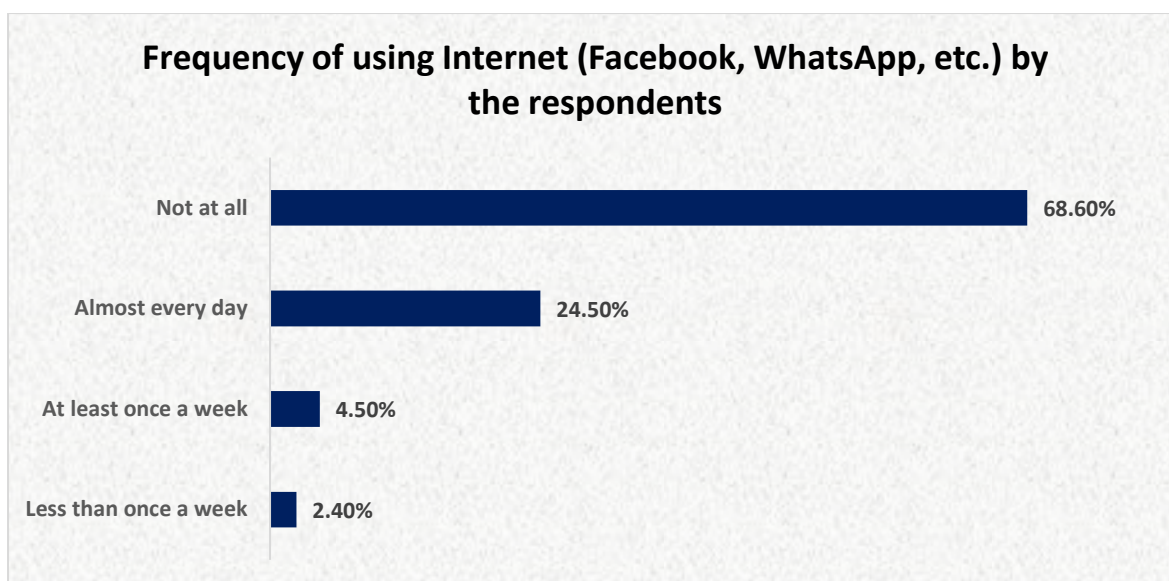
Figure 2.5 (D): Frequency of using Internet (Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.) by the respondents

2.7: Sources used by the respondents to get information about elections and politics

Table 2.7 shows information about the sources used by the respondents to get information about elections and politics. The assessment of the survey responses revealed that 50 percent of the respondents rely on television to get information about the election. More than 40 percent get information from family members, relatives, and friends. About 18 percent of the respondents read newspapers and magazines while 6.5 percent listen to the radio to get information about the election. The use of mobile phones and the internet was found to be 11.5 percent and 6.1 percent respectively.

Further, it was also found that the information about elections is received from a ward member, BLO, announcement using loudspeakers, workers of the political parties, society, etc.

Table 2.7:Sources used by respondents to get news on elections and politics

Response	Number	Percent
Newspaper/Magazine	1174	18.0%
Television	3258	50.0%
Radio	426	6.5%
Internet	400	6.1%
Mobile phone	750	11.5%
Family/relatives/friends	2652	40.7%
Ward Member	109	1.7%
Others (please specify)*	26	0.4%

Sources used by respondents to get news on elections and politics

Source	Percentage
Television	50.00%
Family/relatives/friends	40.70%
Newspaper/Magazine	18.00%
Mobile phone	11.50%
Radio	6.50%
Internet	6.10%
Ward Member	1.70%
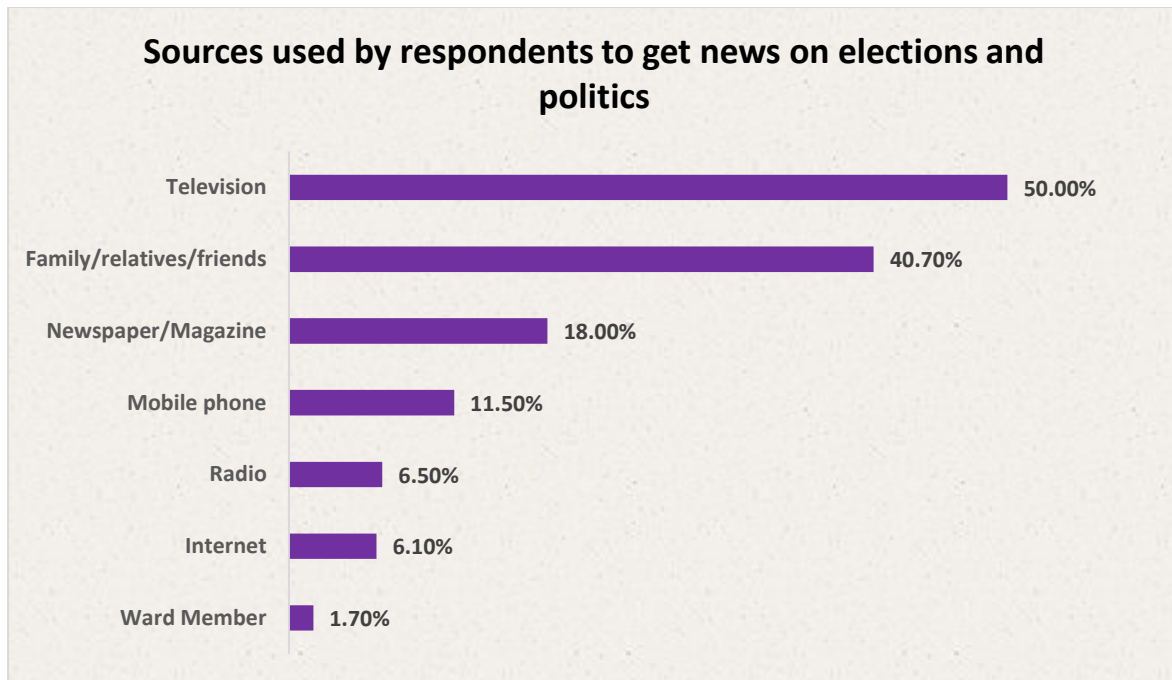
Figure 2.6: Sources used by respondents to get news on elections and politics

Conclusion

This Chapter has presented socio demographic characteristics of the respondents of this study. The personal details of the respondents based on their frequency distribution and the percentage analysis are given. The next chapter focus on the registration process which plays a very important role in conducting the elections.

Chapter- 3

Voter Registration

Introduction

Voter registration (or enrollment) is the requirement that a person otherwise eligible to vote register (or enroll) on an electoral roll before they will be entitled or permitted to vote. Registered persons may need to re-register or update their registration if they change residence or other relevant information. The Election Commission of India periodically conducts a revision of the voters list. An additional summary revision is conducted every year. Apart from this, citizens can request their inclusion in the voters list by applying through Form- 6. If the application is valid, the applicant's name will get included in the list.

It is expected that every person who is eligible to vote must be registered and their name must appear in the voting list. If the person has changed the location then his/her name must be removed from the previous list and added to the current voter list. This chapter focuses on the registration process which plays a very important role in conducting the elections.

3.1: The distribution of respondents by length of living in the residence

Table 3.1 shows the distribution of respondents by length of living in the residence. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 91.4 percent of the sampled respondents lived in a particular residence since birth while only 0.2 percent of the respondents lived in a residence for less than a year.

Table 3.1: The distribution of respondents by length of living in the residence

Period	Number	Percent
Less than 1 year	12	0.2%
1 to 5 years	26	0.4%
6 to 10 Years	41	0.6%
11 to 25 Years	177	2.7%
26 to 50 Years	114	1.7%
More than 50 Years	17	0.3%
By birth	5956	91.4%
No Response	172	2.6%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**

The distribution of respondents by length of living in the residence

Category	Percent
By birth	91.40%
11 to 25 Years	2.70%
26 to 50 Years	1.70%
6 to 10 Years	0.60%
1 to 5 years	0.40%
More than 50 Years	0.30%
Less than 1 year	0.20%
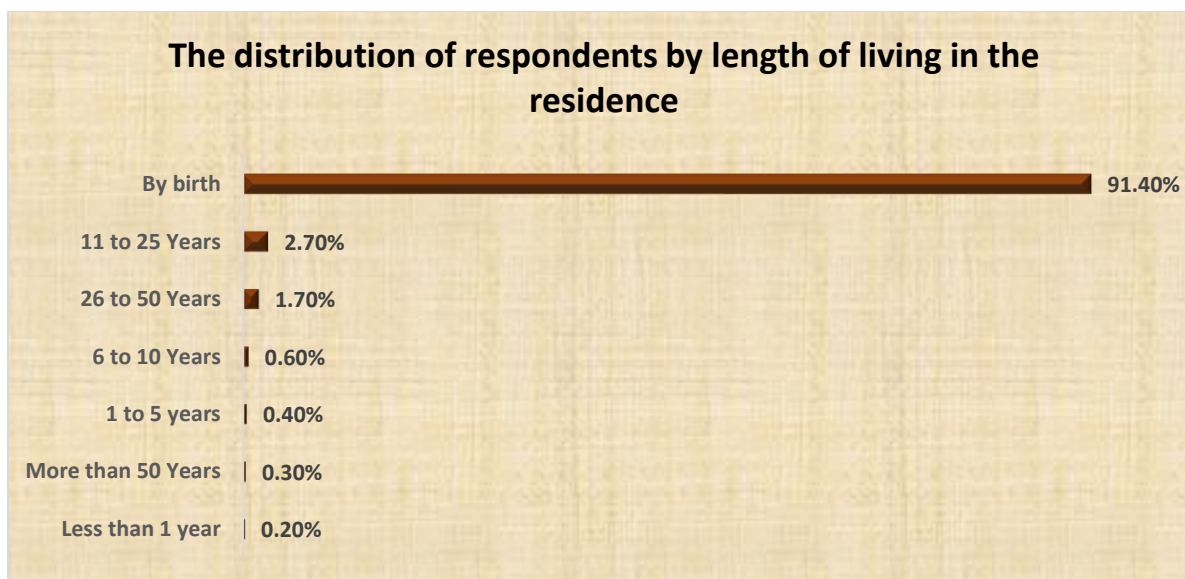
Figure 3.1: The distribution of respondents by length of living in the residence

3.2: Deletion of name from the electoral roll of previous AC

Once the person migrates/shifts to a new location the voter list needs to be modified. Person should remove the name from the voter list of previous AC and add his name to the voter list of current AC. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that only 1.2 percent of the voters have got their names deleted from the previous AC. Majority of the voters either don't know about the process or they do not even know that they need to get their names deleted from the voter list of previous AC.

Table 3.2: Deletion of name from the electoral roll of previous AC

Response	Number	Percent
No	132	2.0%
Yes	79	1.2%
Don't Know	100	1.5%
No Response	6204	95.2%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
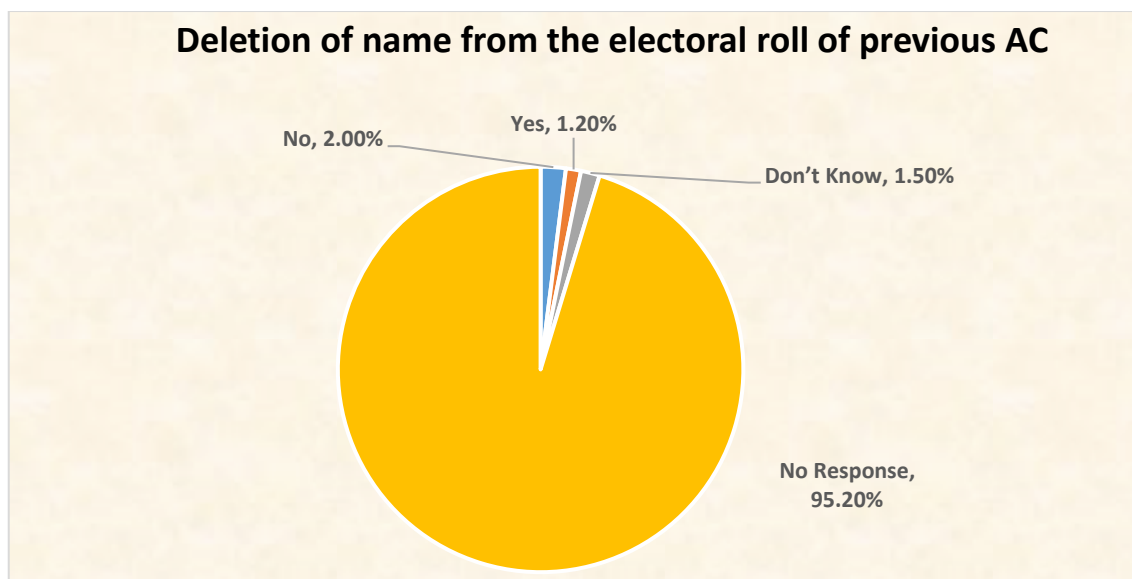
Figure 3.2: Deletion of name from the electoral roll of previous AC

3.3: Status of registration of the respondents in the voter list

Table 3.3 shows that 95.5 percent of the respondents were registered and 1.3 percent respondents have applied to register in the voter list. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 3.2 percent of the respondents never applied to register their name in the voter list.

Table 3.3: Status of registration of the respondents in the voter list

Response	Number	Percent
Never	209	3.2%
Yes, Applied	86	1.3%
Registered	6220	95.5%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
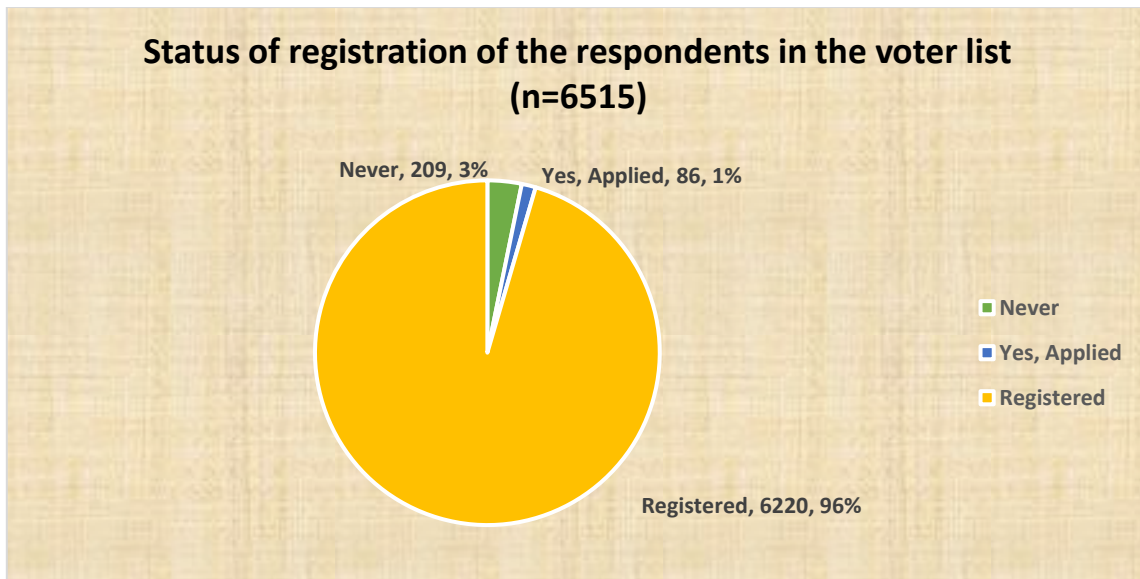
Figure 3.3: Status of registration of the respondents in the voter list

3.4: Availability of a voter ID card/EPIC

Table 3.4 shows that out of 6620 respondents who were registered in the voter list 97.3 percent possess their voter ID card while 2.7 percent of respondents do not have their voter ID card.

Table 3.4: Availability of a voter ID card/EPIC

Availability of EPIC	Number	Percent
Not Available	169	2.7%
Available	6051	97.3%
Grand Total	**6220**	**100.0%**
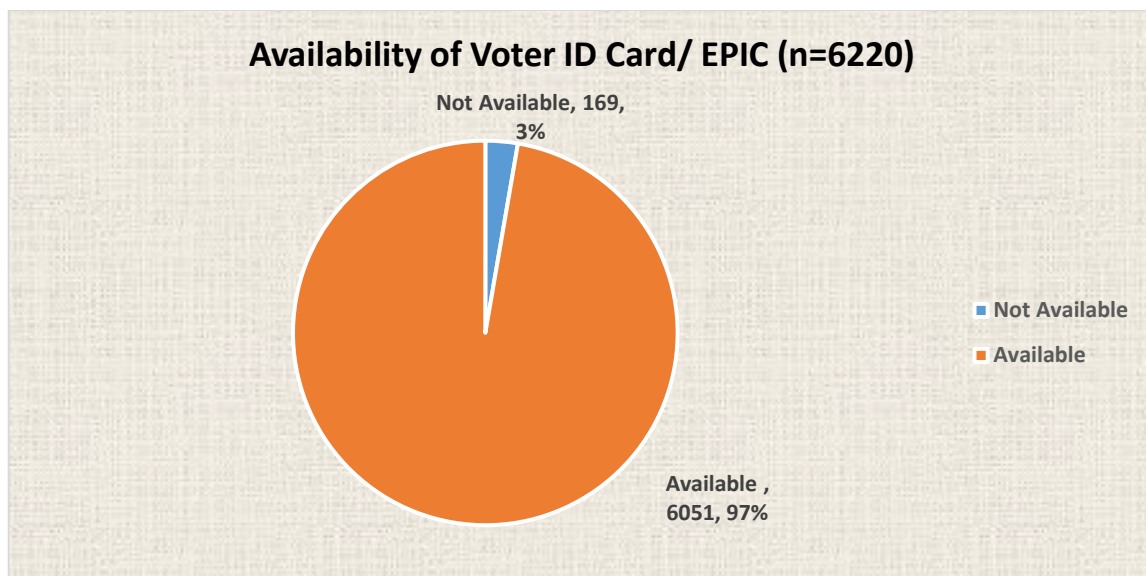
3.5: Current status of enrollment of the respondents at the polling booths

Table 3.5 shows that out of 6306 respondents (who were registered in the voter list or have applied to register in the voter list) 85.1 percent of respondents were enrolled at the right polling booth and a very small number of respondents (0.2 percent) were enrolled at the wrong polling booth.

Table 3.5: Current status of enrollment of the respondents at the polling booths

Response	Number	Percent
Wrong polling booth	13	0.2%
Right polling booth	5365	85.1%
No Response	928	14.7%
Grand Total	**6306**	**100.0%**
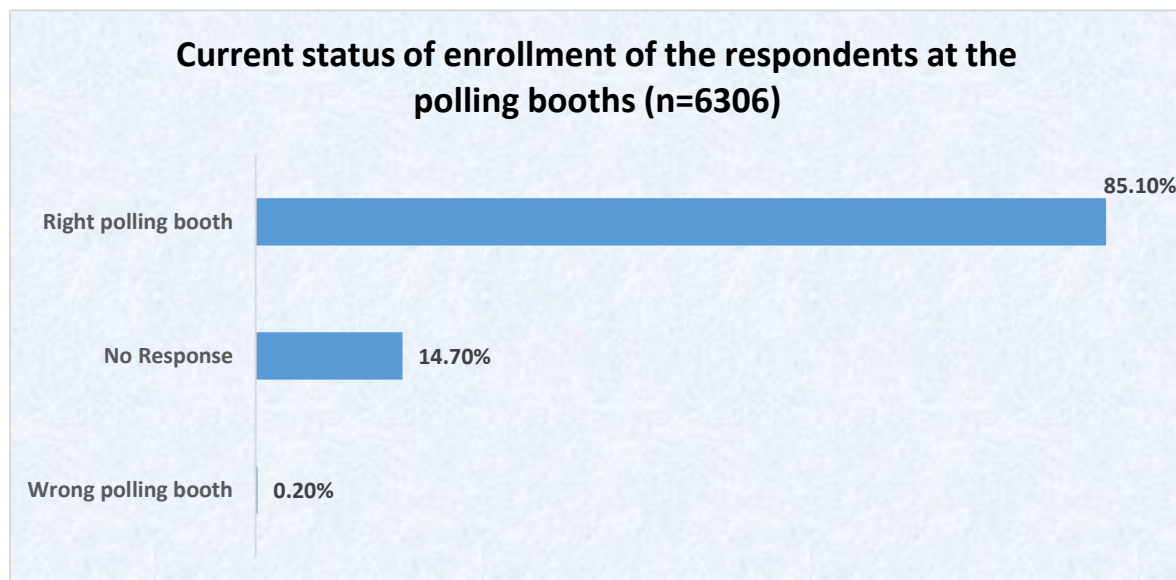
Figure 3.5: Current status of enrollment of the respondents at the polling booths

3.6: Ways used by respondents to enroll themselves in the voter list

Table 3.6 shows that 45.3 percent of the respondents got enrolled when a booth level officer visited their residence followed by a special enrollment drive wherein 26.7 percent of the respondents got enrolled. More than 18 percent of the respondents went to the local voter enrollment center for their enrollment.

The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that the other ways of enrollment were relatively less used by the respondents to enroll themselves in the voter list. Only 0.2 percent of the respondents approached the Election Office, 0.3 percent respondents used the NSVP

portal, 0.3 percent took help from political parties, and only 0.5 percent respondents asked help from CSO (or other associations or individuals) to get enrolled in the voter list.

Table 3.6: Ways used by respondents to enroll themselves in the voter list

Response	Number	Percent
During a special enrolment drive	1683	26.7%
A Booth Level Officer had visited residence	2855	45.3%
Went to the local voter enrolment centre	1164	18.5%
Went to the State Election Office	12	0.2%
Online/NVSP	18	0.3%
With help from political parties	17	0.3%
With help from CSO/Association/Individual	29	0.5%
Don't know	528	8.4%
Grand Total	**6306**	**100.0%**
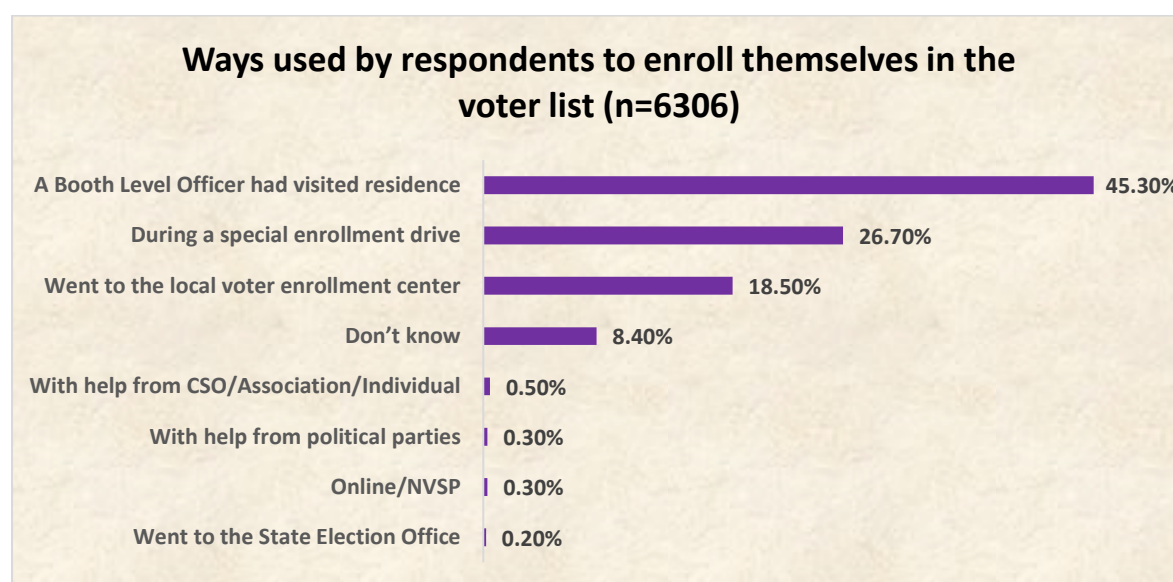
Figure 3.6: Ways used by respondents to enroll themselves in the voter list

3.7: Rating the process of enrollment

Table 3.7 shows that the majority of respondents (79.9 percent) found the process of getting enrolled quite easy while about 17.1 percent respondents gave a neutral response (neither easy nor difficult) and 2.9 percent of the respondents felt that the process of enrollment was difficult.

Table 3.7: Rating the process of enrollment

Response	Number	Percent
Easy	5039	79.9%
Neither easy nor difficult	1081	17.1%

Difficult	186	2.9%
Grand Total	**6306**	**100.0%**

Rating the process of enrollment (n=6306)

Easy	79.90%
Neither easy nor difficult	17.10%
Difficult	2.90%
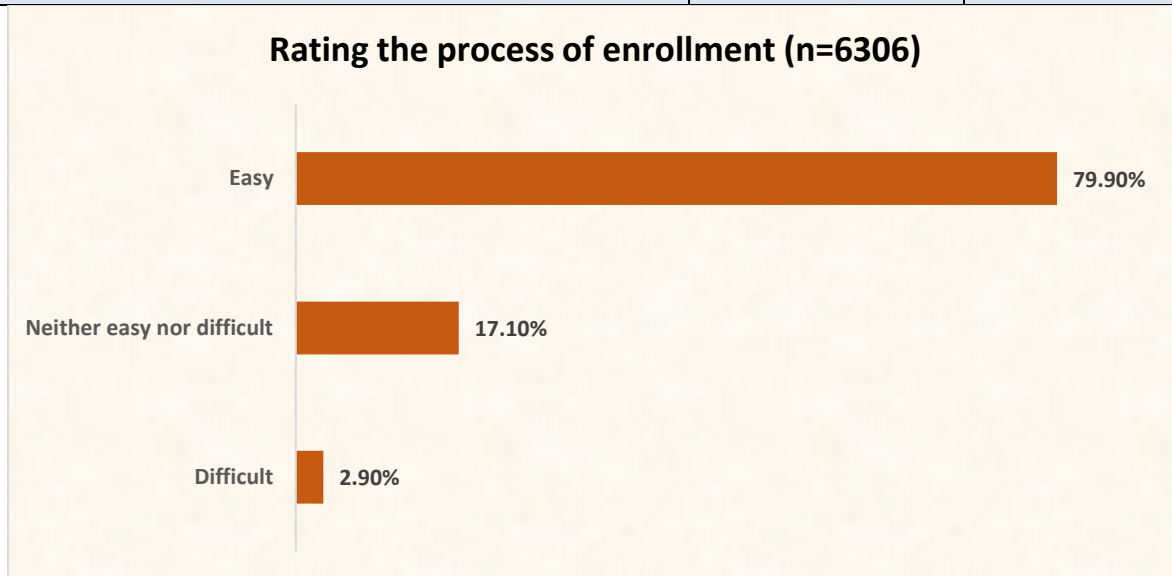
Figure 3.7: Rating the process of enrollment

3.8: Steps taken by respondents to enroll

Table 3.8 shows that out of 209 respondents (who were not enrolled) 87.6 percent of the respondents never tried to enroll themselves at their own while 11.5 percent respondents tried to enroll themselves.

Table 3.8: Steps taken by respondents to enroll [who are not enrolled]

Response	Number	Percent
No	183	87.6%
Yes	24	11.5%
Don't know	2	1.0%
Grand Total	**209**	**100.0%**
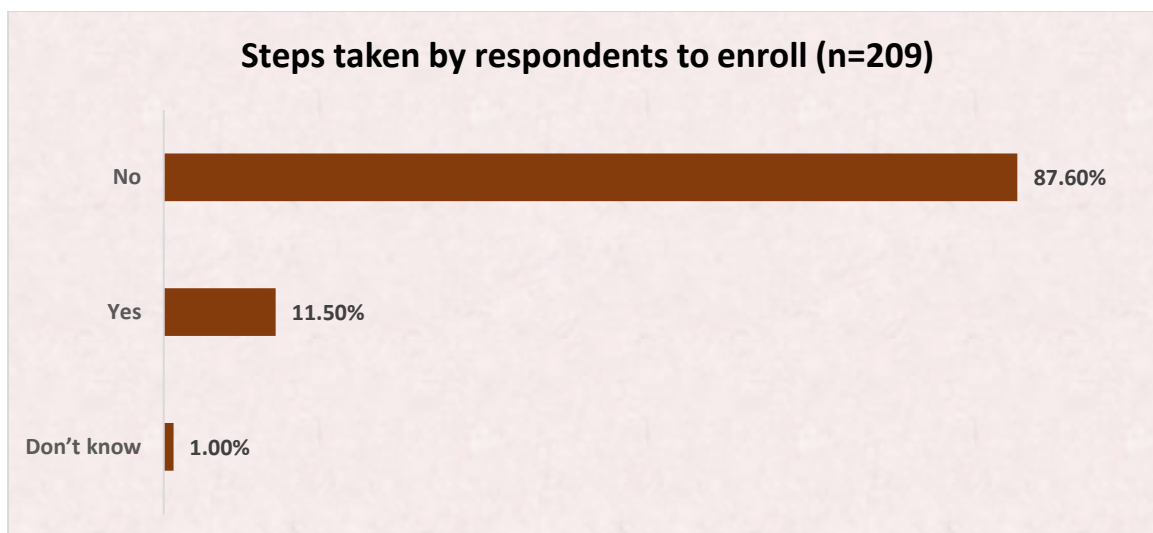
Figure 3.8: Steps taken by respondents to enroll (n=209)

3.9: Status of the application of the respondents who tried to enroll

Table 3.9 shows that out of 24 respondents (who tried to enroll) 33.3 percent of the respondents were not able to provide the proof of address while about 4.2 percent were not able to provide proof of age or other related documents. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 20.8 percent of the respondents got the acknowledgment for their application, as well as about 25 percent respondents have affirmed that an election official visited them and 16.7 percent were waiting for the acknowledgment of their application.

Table 3.9: Status of the application of the respondents who tried to enroll

Response	Number	Percent
Got the acknowledgment	5	20.8%
An election official has visited me	6	25.0%
Waiting for acknowledgment	4	16.7%
Proof of address rejected/insufficient	8	33.3%
Proof of age/ other documents rejected/ insufficient	1	4.2%
Grand Total	**24**	**100.0%**
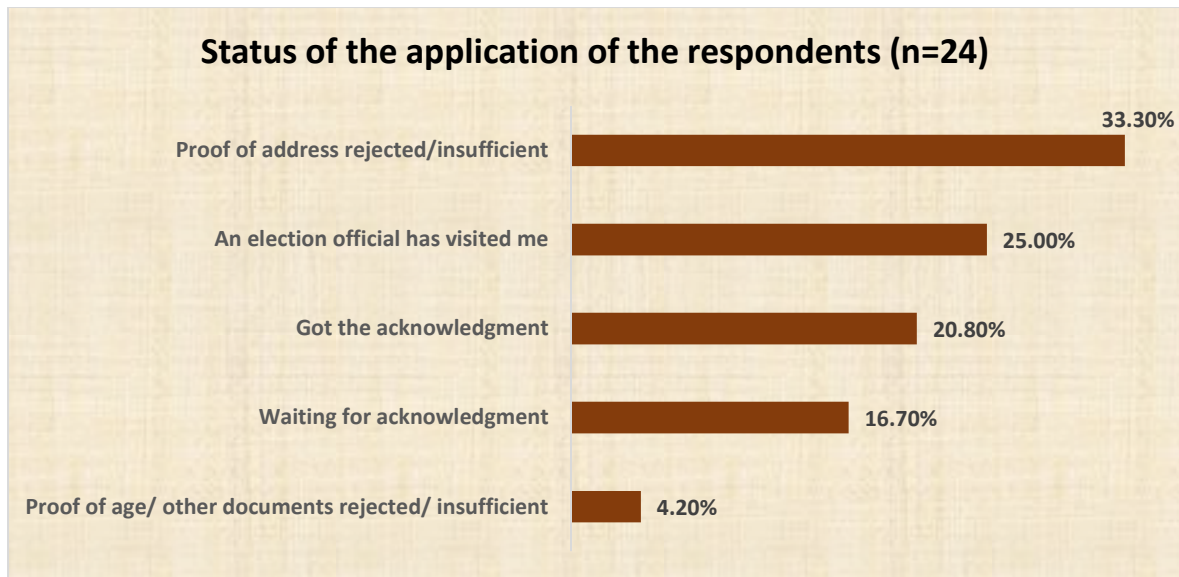
Figure 3.9: Status of the application of the respondents

3.10: Reasons for not enrolling in the voter list

Table 3.10 shows that out of 183 respondents (who never tried to enroll themselves in the voter list) about 43.2 percent of the respondents did not enroll as they were unaware of the procedure while 22.4 percent of the respondents found the process of enrollment cumbersome. More than 9.8 percent of the respondents did not enroll as they do not possess the proof of residence. At the same time, the assessment of the survey responses has also revealed that about 24.6 percent of the respondents were not interested in getting themselves enrolled in the voter list.

Table 3.10: Reasons for not enrolling in the voter list

Response	Number	Percent
Unaware about Procedure	79	43.2%
Cumbersome procedure	41	22.4%
Do not have any proof of residence	18	9.8%
Not interested	45	24.6%
Grand Total	**183**	**100.0%**
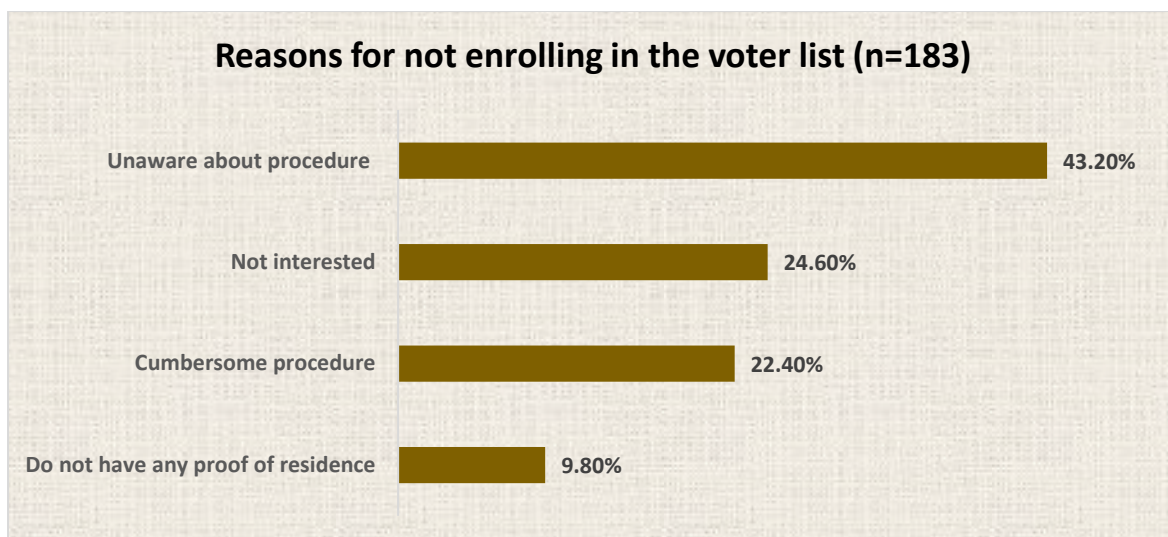
Figure 3.10: Reasons for not enrolling in the voter list

Conclusion

Election commission of India offers online voter registration for Indian citizens who have attained the age of 18 on the qualifying date (1st of January of the year). The objective of this chapter is to assess the level of awareness of the respondents related to various aspects of the electoral process, voter registration including enrolling in the voter list. Typically, this chapter has assessed the awareness of voters about minimum age of registration to be a voter, date for determining qualifying age for getting registered on the electoral voting and status of their application and reasons for not enrolling in the voter list. This next Chapter of the report details various aspects related to the voter participation in the election.

Chapter- 4

Voter Participation

Introduction

Electoral participation rates depend on many factors, including the type of electoral system, the social groupings to which voters belong, the voters' personalities and beliefs, their places of residence, and a host of other idiosyncratic factors. Previous studies have confirmed that relatively low levels of electoral participation are associated with low levels of education,

occupational status, and income. Those groups in society that have been most recently enfranchised also tend to vote at lower rates. The rates of participation of racial minorities are generally lower than those of majority groups, and members of the working class vote less frequently than members of the middle class. In many states, it has also been observed that participation by young people is significantly lower than that of older people. This Chapter of the report details the voter participation in the General Election 2019.

4.1 Participation in Lok Sabha Elections 2019 (General Elections 2019)

Table 4.1 below shows the number of respondents who voted in the Lok Sabha election conducted in the year 2019. It can be observed that 88.6 percent of the respondents voted while 11.4 percent of the respondents didn't vote in the Lok Sabha election 2019 (LSE 2019).

Table 4.1: Details of the respondent who voted in recent LSE 2019

Response	Number	Percent
No	741	11.4%
Yes	5774	88.6%
Grand Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
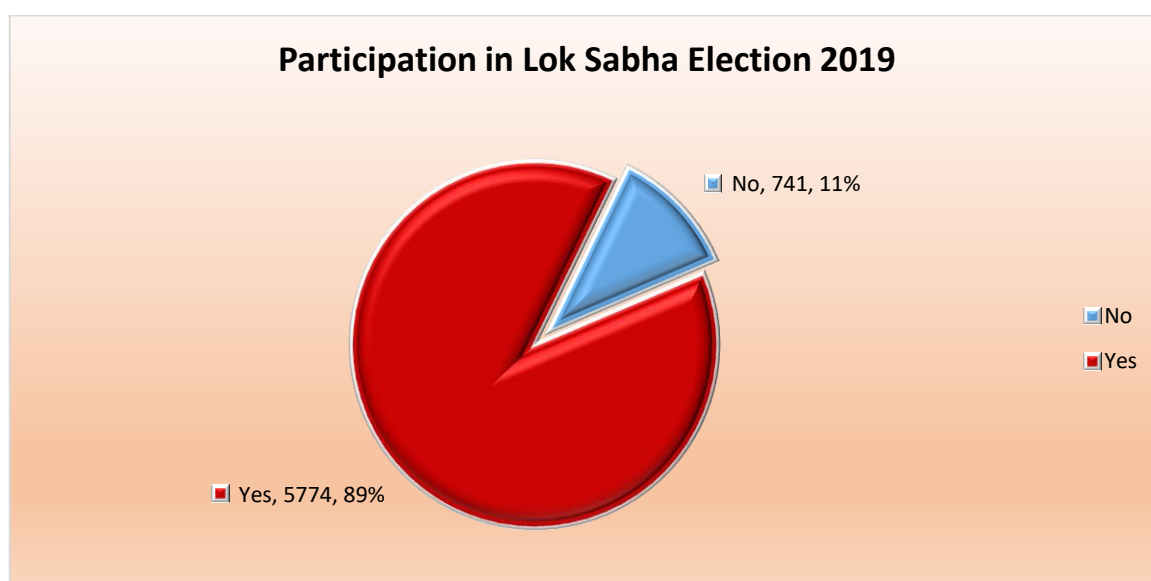
Figure 4.1: Participation in Lok Sabha Election 2019

4.2 Reasons for voting in Lok Sabha Election 2019

Table 4.2 shows the reasons which lead to voting by the voters in the Lok Sabha election conducted in the year 2019. Out of the total 5774 respondents who voted in the Lok Sabha election, 80.1 percent of the respondents believe that "voting is their right", followed by 60.9

percent of the respondents who believe that "voting is their duty", and 49.3 percent of respondents voted as they believe that "their vote matters".

The above results show that the majority of the respondents who voted have a sense and feel that voting is important and seems to be aware of their voting rights. This shows that they are motivated intrinsically more than the other extrinsic factors.

More than 34 percent of the respondents voted as they received the voter slip. This shows that receiving the voter slip on time is an important factor that leads to voting. At the same time, 16.1 percent of the respondents said that the accessibility of the polling booth is also one of the reasons to vote. About 9.1 percent of the respondents indicated that they voted as they got registered in the electoral roll.

While there are some who genuinely cast their vote, many people sit back and relax on voting day, and others are cajoled into voting for particular candidates. The importance of voting is lost amongst the hustle and bustle of voters' personal and professional lives. Few voters have stated that while everyone sits and complains about this and that, and makes suggestions that the government should change this and that, the elections come and go without 40% the population paying attention and ensuring participation in the election.

Election commission of India works hard to conduct free and fair elections all over the country. Still, the result shows that only 19 percent of the respondents are motivated to vote only because of the free and fair elections conducted by the Election Commission. Either, the respondents do not understand the hard work done by the Election commission or they are not motivated much by these extrinsic factors.

It is also evident that the respondents are not influenced by others. A negligible amount of respondents voted due to threats or suggestions from their friends. However, some influence of the family on voting can be observed for 9.4 percent of the respondents.

Little more than 16 percent of the respondents voted because of the reason that the candidate was good and 16.9 percent voted for a particular party.

It was found few other reasons to vote which include, "selecting a good government", "for better future", "for protection", "development of the country", "reducing inflation", "selecting a strong government", and "development of society".

Table 4.2: Reason for voting in the Lok Sabha Elections conducted in the year 2019

S. No.	Response	Number	Percent (N=5774)
1	My Vote Matters	2849	49.3%
2	Voting is my right	4624	80.1%
3	Voting is my duty	3514	60.9%
4	Because of enabling (free and fair) environment created by Election Commission	1096	19.0%
5	Because of accessible Polling Station	932	16.1%
6	I got registered in electoral roll	524	9.1%
7	I got voter slip	1978	34.3%
8	Candidate was good	937	16.2%
9	I voted for a specific Political Party	975	16.9%
10	Casted my vote due to threat or coercion	6	0.1%
11	My Family asked me to do so	544	9.4%
12	My friends asked me to do so	110	1.9%
13	I had the option of NOTA	20	0.3%
14	Others (please specify)	50	0.9%

Reason for voting in the Lok Sabha Election 2019 (n=5774)

Voting is my right	80.10%
Voting is my duty	60.90%
My Vote Matters	49.30%
I got voter slip	34.30%
Because of enabling (free and fair) and environment…	19.00%
I voted for a Political Party	16.90%
Candidate was good	16.20%
Because of accessible Polling Station	16.10%
My Family asked me to	9.40%
I got registered in electoral roll	9.10%
My friends asked me to	1.90%
I had the option of NOTA	0.30%
Cast vote due to threat or coercion	0.10%

Figure 4.2: Reasons for voting in Lok Sabha Election 2019

4.3: Basic minimum facilities present at the polling booths

The Table 4.3 shows the information about the basic minimum facilities observed at the polling stations by the respondents. It was found that about 89.9 percent of the respondents noted separate queues for women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens and 56.8 percent noted separate entry and exit in the polling booth.

About 76.8 percent of the respondents noted that drinking water was available and 67 percent of the respondents were able to recall the presence of toilets at the polling booth. About 45.4 percent of the respondents also recalled the presence of a help desk at the polling booth.

It was found that 72.4 percent of the respondents indicated the absence of Wheelchairs and 63.2 percent indicated the absence of chairs/ benches for the pregnant women or elderly. As the LSE 2019 was conducted during summer, respondents were expecting a tent (covering in some area of the polling booth) to combat the heat which was not available at a large number of polling booths.

About 42.7 percent of the respondents recalled the presence of voter facilitation poster and 37.5 percent could recall the signage for directions during the election.

About 41.5 percent of the respondents were not able to recall the presence of sign language poster for Deaf Voters. At the same time, it was also observed in this study that 49.5 percent of the voters were unaware of such a facility being provided by the Election Commission at the polling booth during elections.

About 40 percent of the respondents were not able to recall the presence of an election volunteers. At the same time, it was also observed in this study that 34.7 percent respondents didn't know about the presence of volunteers at the time of the election.

It seems that few basic facilities might be missing from the polling booths during LSE 2019 as the voters are unaware of the basic facilities being provided by the Election Commission during elections.

Table 4.3: Did you come across any of these basic minimum facilities at the polling station?

Sl. No.	Response (N=5774)	No		Yes		Don't know	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Separate queues for women, persons with	514	8.9%	5191	89.9%	69	1.2%

	disabilities and senior citizens						
2	Drinking water	1190	20.6%	4435	76.8%	149	2.6%
3	Chairs/benches	3650	63.2%	1825	31.6%	299	5.2%
4	Toilets	1476	25.6%	3868	67.0%	430	7.4%
5	Help desk	2017	34.9%	2620	45.4%	1137	19.7%
6	Separate entry and exit in the polling booth	2235	38.7%	3277	56.8%	262	4.5%
7	Ramps	1326	23.0%	2895	50.1%	1553	26.9%
8	Wheelchairs	4182	72.4%	118	2.0%	1474	25.5%
9	Signage for directions	1572	27.2%	2165	37.5%	2037	35.3%
10	Voter Facilitation Posters	1156	20.0%	2464	42.7%	2154	37.3%
11	Sign language posters for Deaf Voters	2398	41.5%	516	8.9%	2860	49.5%
12	Volunteers	2310	40.0%	1460	25.3%	2004	34.7%
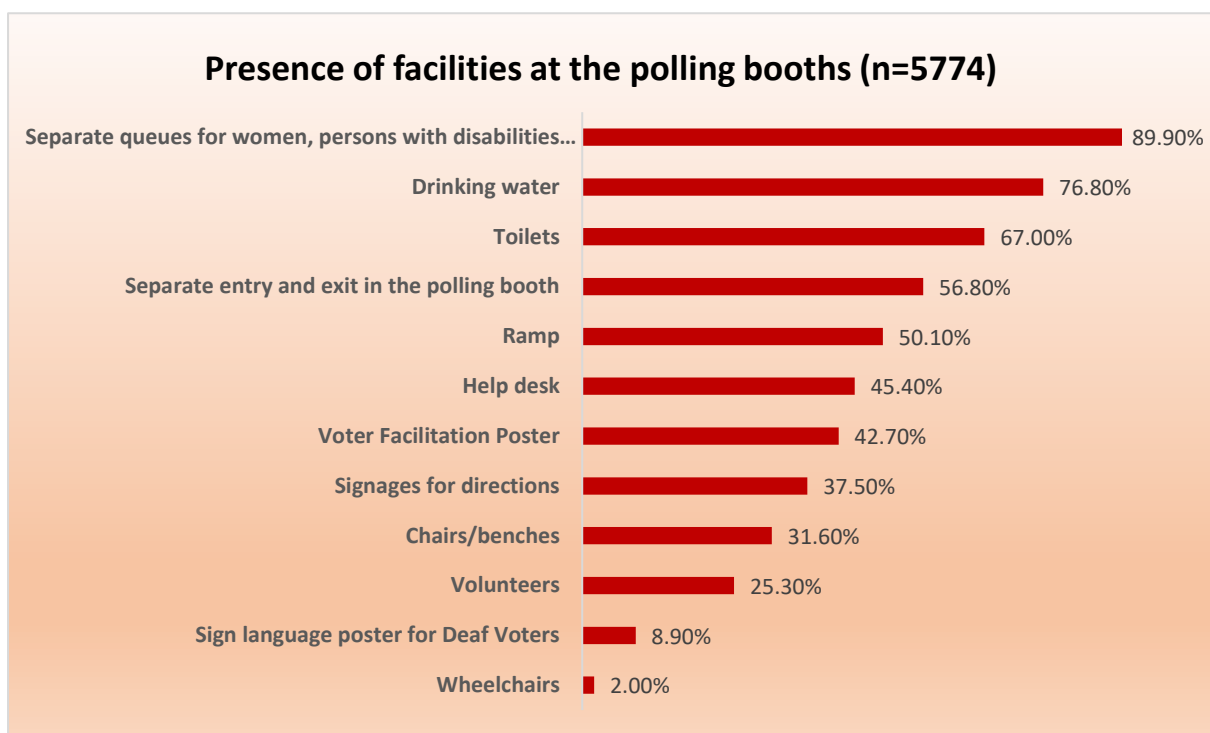
Figure 4.3: Presence of facilities at the polling booths

4.4 Difficultly faced by the respondents

The Table 4.4 shows the difficulty faced by the respondents during the election. Out of 5774 respondents who voted in LSE 2019, 898 respondents faced some sort of problem. The details are provided in Table 4.5.

Table 4.4: Frequency of the respondents who faced difficulty during voting in the election

Response	Number	Percent
Faced No Problem	4876	84.4%
Faced Problem(s)	898	15.6%
Grand Total	**5774**	**100.0%**
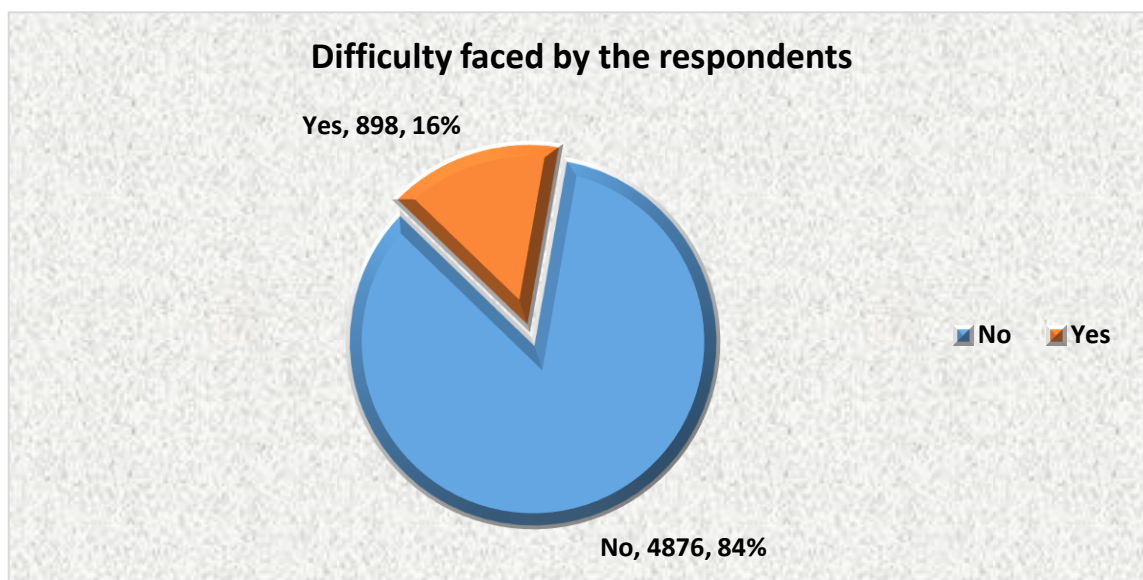
Figure 4.4: Difficulty faced by the respondents

4.5 Types of difficulties faced by the respondents

Table 4.5 shows the difficulties faced by the respondents during LSE 2019. Out of 898 respondents who faced some sort of difficulty, about 63 percent faced the problem of standing in the long queue. Whereas, 17.1 percent of respondents of this study faced some problem as a separate queue for senior citizens was not available.

About more than 31 percent of the respondents of this study faced problems due to lack of basic facilities at the polling station including drinking water, toilets, and ramps.

About 7.7 percent of the respondents of this study faced difficulty in locating the polling station and 8.5 percent respondents of this study faced difficulty in finding their name on the voter list at the polling booth. About 11.2 percent of the respondents did not receive guidance from the polling personnel. It was also observe that the cases of threat received from the political party are negligible.

The main problems identified include, "standing in the sunlight", "no facility to protect voters from sunlight", "polling booth is situated at a large distance", "rush at the polling booth", "more than one polling booth in the same premises at the same place", "lack of arrangement for physically challenged", "voter slip not obtained", etc.

Table 4.5: The various types of difficulties faced by respondent during LSE 2019

Sl. No.	Type of Difficulty	Number	Percent (N=898)
1	Long queue at the polling station	566	63.0%
2	No separate queue for senior citizens	154	17.1%
3	Lack of facilities including drinking water, toilets and ramps	284	31.6%
4	Coercion/ threat by a specific political party	3	0.3%
5	Difficulties in locating my polling station	69	7.7%
6	Difficulties in finding my name on voter list at the Polling Station	76	8.5%
7	No guidance from polling personnel at the Polling Station	101	11.2%
8	Others (please specify)	162	18.0%
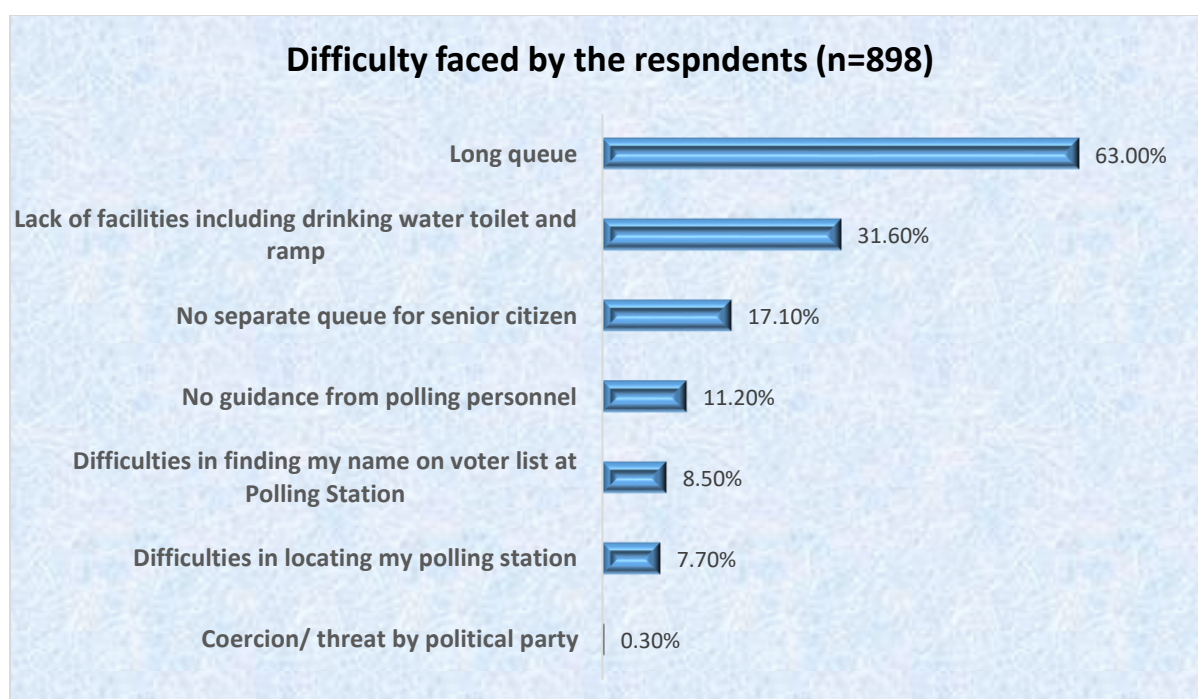
Figure 4.5: Types of difficulties faced by the respondents

4.6 Reasons for not Voting

Table 4.6 shows the reasons for not voting in the General Elections 2019. Out of 6615 respondents of this study, total 741 did not vote in the General Elections 2019. It was found that total 37.4 percent of the respondents did not vote due to the absence of their name in the electoral roll and about 1.5 percent of the respondents did not vote as they were not having the electoral photo ID card. Total 24.2 percent of the respondents were not able to cast vote as they were not in the constituency during the General Elections 2019.

About 3 percent of the respondents didn't vote because the polling station was situated at a distance. Total 2 percent of the respondents were unaware of the polling station and a small fraction of 0.5 percent of the respondents did not cast vote thinking of a long queue and unavailability of time. A very small fraction of 0.3 percent of the respondents didn't vote because the polling booth was not accessible. Further, about 7.4 percent of the respondents felt insecure in going to the polling station. About 0.4 percent of the respondents did not vote as they were able to find the candidate of their choice.

This study also found that the respondents very well understand the importance of vote and believe in the political system of the country. About only 0.9 percent of the respondents said that they did not vote as they believe that nothing is going to change if they vote or they have lost faith in the political system. Similarly, 0.1 percent of the respondents believe that voting in the national elections does not make a difference or they believe in voting only in assembly and local elections.

Table 4.6: Reasons for not voting in General Elections 2019

Sl. No.	Type of Problem	Number	Percent
1	My name was not on the electoral roll	277	37.4%
2	I was not available in my constituency on the polling day	179	24.2%
3	I did not have my electoral photo ID Card (EPIC)	11	1.5%
4	I did not know my polling station's location	15	2.0%
5	Polling station was at a distance (logistic problem)	22	3.0%
6	Long queue and I did not have time	4	0.5%
7	I felt insecure to go to the polling station	55	7.4%
8	There was no candidate of my choice/liking	3	0.4%
9	I just did not want to vote as nothing will change/ I have no faith in political system of India	7	0.9%
10	Voting in national elections doesn't make a difference, I vote only in Assembly and local elections	1	0.1%
11	Polling Station was not accessible	2	0.3%
12	Others (please specify)	70	9.4%
13	No Response	95	12.8%
	Total	**741**	**100.0%**

Reasons for not voting in LSE 2019

Reason	Percentage
My name was not on the electoral roll	37.40%
I was not in my constituency	24.20%
I felt insecure to go to the polling station	7.40%
Polling station was at a distance (logistic problem)	3.00%
I did not know my polling station	2.00%
I did not have my electoral photo ID Card (EPIC)	1.50%
I just did not want to vote as nothing will change/…	0.90%
Long queue and I did not have time	0.50%
There was no candidate of my choice/liking	0.40%
Polling Station was not accessible	0.30%
Voting in national elections doesn't make a…	0.10%

Figure 4.6: Reasons for not voting in General Elections 2019

Conclusion

Voter participation varies from individual to individual. When the nation's attitude changes from thinking "my vote doesn't make a difference", then the numbers increase and a multitude of people voting makes the difference. The responsibility lies on every individual.

Research suggests that many independents and nonvoters are poorly informed politically and relatively uninterested and uninvolved in elections. The Government of India has made the provision for voters to exercise their vote even if they are not happy with any of the candidates. NOTA stands for "None of the Above", and this is an important vote to cast for those who aren't satisfied by any of the parties standing. Voting NOTA expresses that none of the candidates are good enough.

However, this study has observed that the respondents understand the importance of vote and believe in the political system of the country. But, the level and type of election have a great impact on the rate of electoral participation. This chapter has also assessed the reasons for not voting and various types of difficulties faced by respondent during the last General Election 2019. The next Chapter will assess the awareness and level of knowledge of the voters.

Chapter- 5

Voter Awareness and Attitude

Introduction

The Election Commission has taken several initiatives to create awareness and enhance the level of knowledge of the voters. At the same time, attempts are made to remove the misconception in the mind of voters regarding the electoral process. This Chapter of the report has tried to assess the awareness and level of knowledge of the voters. This Chapter also examines the attitude of voters towards elections following an observed trend of having a great proportion of registered voters who did not vote in the General Elections 2019. Hence, this Chapter aims at assessing the voters' attitude towards election and their perceptions on the importance of participating in election process. The results show that majority of the respondents perceived that participating in every election was important. It is recommended that initiatives should be taken to cultivate this positive attitude of citizens to motivate them to turn out to vote.

5.1 Awareness about minimum age of registration to be a voter

Table 5.1 shows that total 66.4 percent of respondents of this study were aware of the fact that 18 years is the minimum age to register to be a voter. About 33.3 percent of the respondents were unaware of this fact and only 0.3 percent were not knowing the actual age to become a voter. The result shows that even after taking so much effort, one-third of the respondents were unaware of the basic fact that the minimum age to register as a voter is 18 years. In a large democracy like India, such lack of awareness is of huge concern.

Table 5.1: Awareness about minimum age of registration to be a voter

Response	Number	Percent
Aware (as 18 Years)	4324	66.4%
Unaware	2164	33.3%
Wrong knowledge (as other than 18 Years)	27	0.3%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
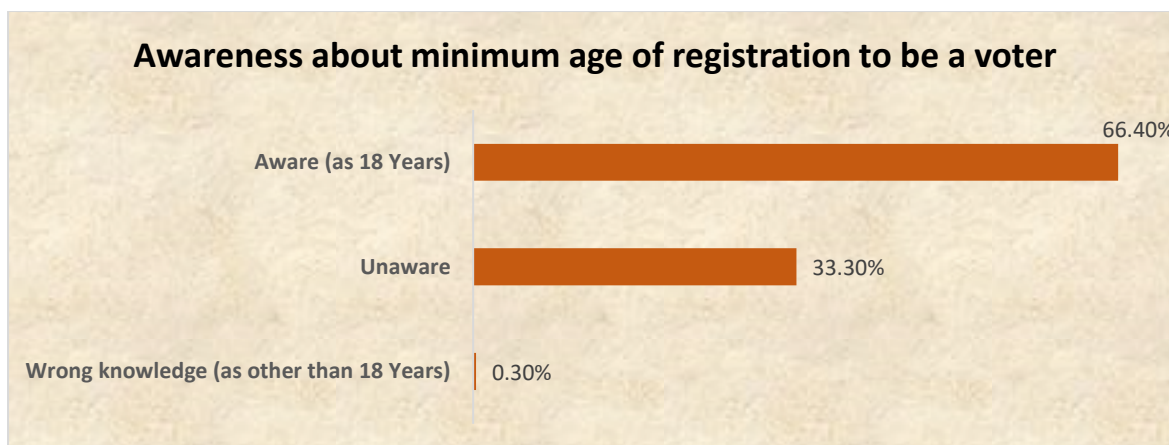
Figure 5.1: Awareness about minimum age of registration to be a voter

5.2 Awareness about qualifying date for registration

Table 5.2 shows the awareness level about the qualifying date for registration on the electoral roll being 1st January of each year. About 70.7 percent of the voters were unaware of the qualifying date for registration and more than 17 percent of the respondents believe that the actual age for getting registered on electoral voting is 18th birthday. Only 12 percent of respondents reported 1st January as the qualifying date. It seems that there is a need to clear the misconception between minimum age for registration and qualifying date for registration on the electoral roll.

Table 5.2: Awareness about date for determining qualifying age for getting registered in the electoral roll

Response	Number	Percent
18th Birthday	1129	17.3%
1st January	783	12.0%
Don't know	4603	70.7%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
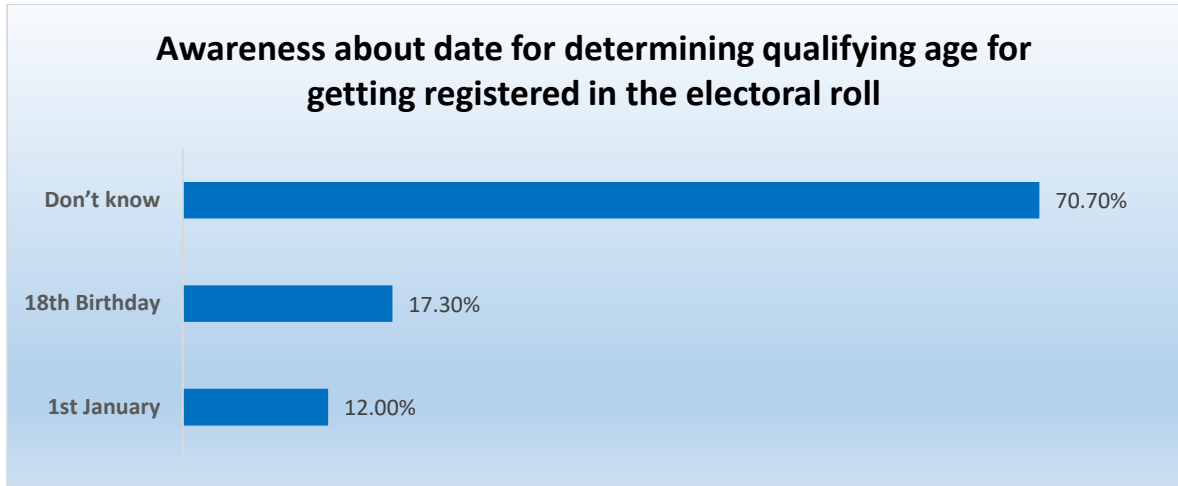
Figure 5.2: Awareness about date for determining qualifying age for getting registered in the electoral roll

5.3 Awareness about National Voters' Day

The National Voters' Day is celebrated on 25th January each year to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India. It is also celebrated with the mission to encourage more young voters to participate in the political process of the country. Table 5.3 shows that about 90.1 percent of the respondents of this study do not know that when the National voter's day is celebrated. Total 6.6 percent of respondents reported incorrect date and only 3.3 percent of the respondents were aware of this fact that National voter's day celebrated on 25th January.

Table 5.3: Awareness about National Voters' Day

Response	Number	Percent
Wrong knowledge	429	6.6%
Right knowledge	217	3.3%
Don't know	5869	90.1%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
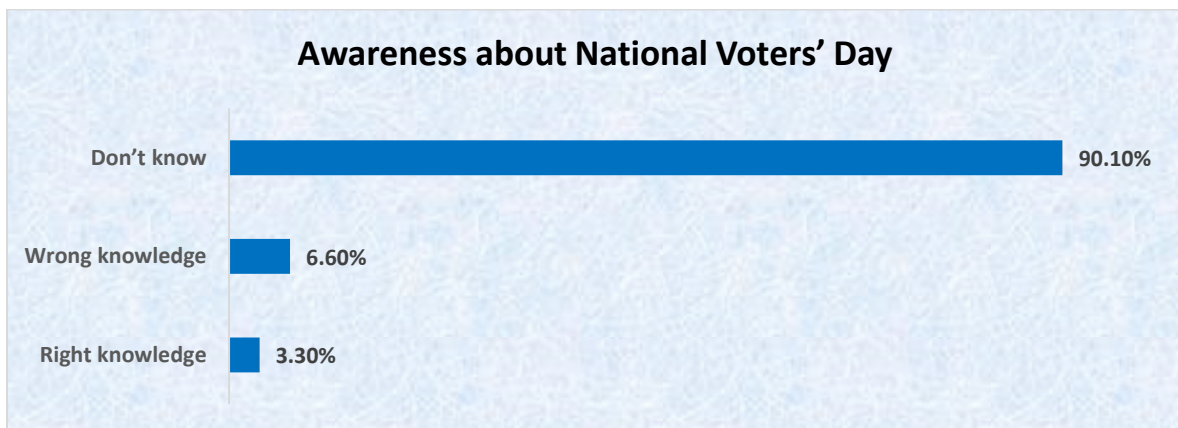
Figure 5.3: Awareness about National Voters' Day

53

5.4 Awareness about NOTA option, Braille and VVPAT

Over the years, the ECI has been moving towards making the election process easier for people. Until now the visually impaired had to take help of someone who could guide them through the voting process. During the Lok Sabha elections in 2014, in a few constituencies, EVMs with Braille were used to help some of the visually impaired people. This was much appreciated, and encouraged with that, these were used in General Elections 2019 too and the entire country had Braille enabled EVMs for the first time. This section has assessed the awareness of voters related to NOTA, Braille and VVPAT.

5.4.1 Awareness about NOTA option

NOTA (None of the above) option was introduced in the year 2013. NOTA option is intended to be used when the voter rejects all the candidates contesting in the election. Table 5.4 shows that 26.8 percent of respondents saw the NOTA option on the EVM machine when they cast their votes. Total 0.5 percent of respondents confirmed have been informed about the NOTA option in the electoral literacy program and about 16.9 percent of respondents have read and heard about NOTA. However, 55.8 percent of respondents were unaware of NOTA option.

Table 5.4: Awareness about NOTA option

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	1746	26.8%
Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	33	0.5%
Yes, have heard/read about it	1100	16.9%
No	3636	55.8%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
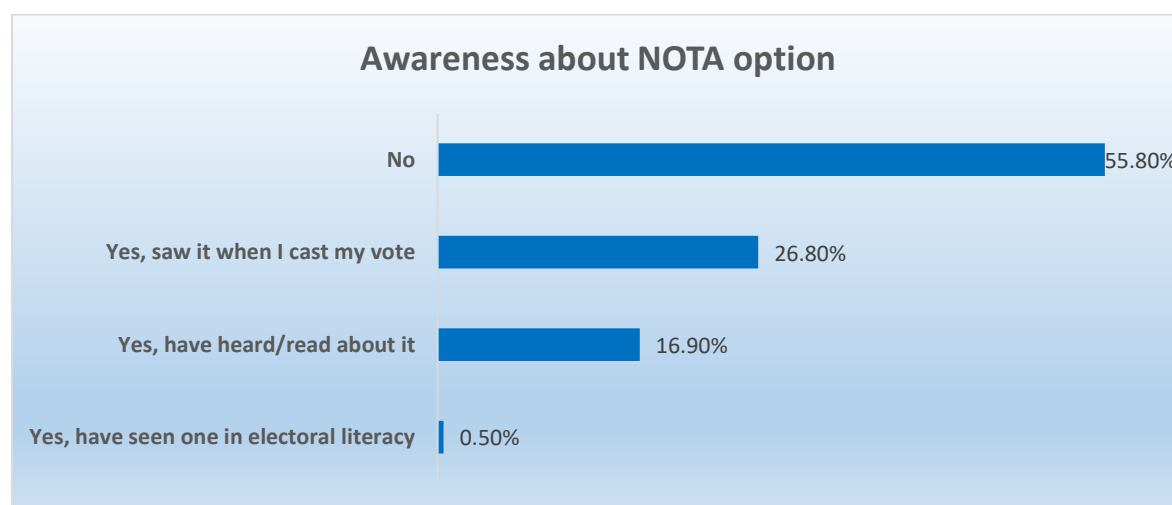
Figure 5.4: Awareness about NOTA option

54

5.4.2 Awareness about the name of candidates available in Braille Script on the Electronic Voting Machines (EVM's)

Since 2009 the Election Commission is providing the names of the candidates in Braille to help the visually disabled individuals to cast their votes. Table 5.5 shows that 16 percent of respondents have seen the Braille provision on the EVM. 1.9 percent of respondents confirmed that they were informed about the option in the electoral literacy program while 8.6 percent of respondents have read and heard about the option. Such facility is available for a decade now and despite this, 73.5 percent of the respondents were not aware of the Braille provision on EVM's.

Table 5.5: Awareness about the serial number of candidates available in Braille Script on EVM

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	1042	16.0%
Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	123	1.9%
Yes, have heard/read about it	560	8.6%
No	4790	73.5%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
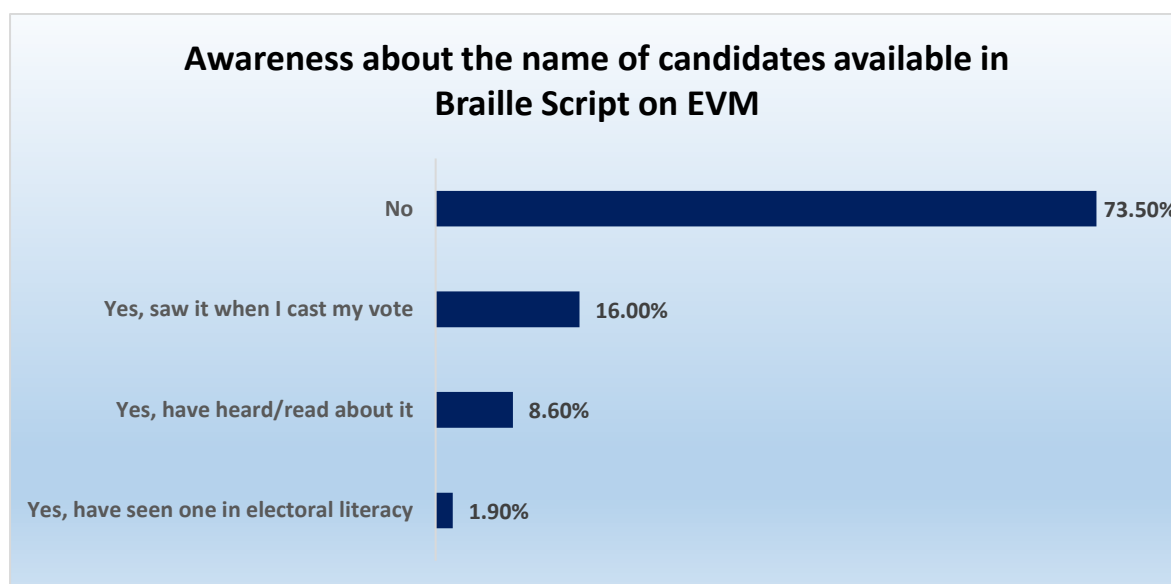
Figure 5.5: Awareness about the name of candidates available in Braille Script on EVM

5.4.3: Awareness about Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)helps to verify that the vote is cast correctly. This helps to prevent electoral malpractices. Table 5.6 shows that 36.8 percent of respondents have seen VVPAT when they cast their votes. Total 0.9 percent of respondents have

confirmed that they were informed about VVPAT during the electoral literacy program while 13.0 percent of respondents have heard and read about VVPAT. Despite the initiatives taken by Election Commission, 49.3 percent of respondents were not aware of VVPAT.

Table 5.6: Awareness about Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail VVPAT

Response	Number	Percent
Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	2397	36.8%
Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	61	0.9%
Yes, have heard/read about it	848	13.0%
No	3209	49.3%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
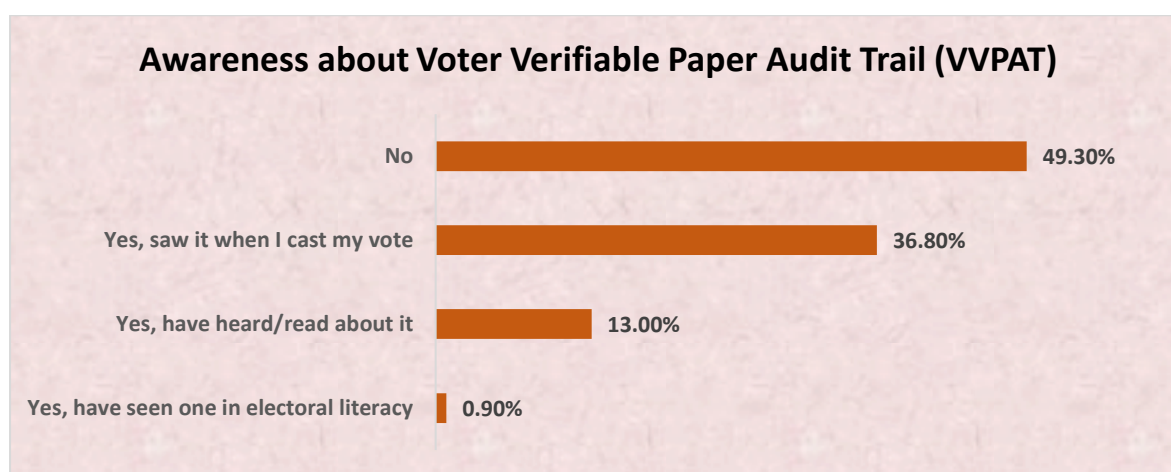
Figure 5.6: Awareness about Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)

5.5 Opinion of the respondents

Several contextual statements were put in front of the respondents and they were asked to give their opinion. The investigators of this study asked the respondents to give their opinion at five levels which included Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree and Strongly Agree on these statements.

Table 5.7 shows that statements to which the majority of the respondents agree include, "Every vote counts", "Elections are conducted freely and fairly in India", "Voting should be made compulsory", and "EVMs provide accurate results".

The statement "The influence of money and muscle is increasing in elections" provided mixed results. A nearly equal number of respondents agree and disagree with the statement.

The statements to which the majority of the respondents disagree include, "Women should consult male members or elders before voting in elections", "Voting is cumbersome chore", and "I do not intend to vote in the upcoming elections".

Table 5.7: Opinion of the respondents

Sl. No.	Type of Problem	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
1	Every vote counts	1.2%	0.1%	3.9%	60.3%	34.4%
2	Voting should be made compulsory	2.6%	17.6%	12.9%	44.3%	22.6%
3	Voting is cumbersome chore	26.3%	54.3%	14.3%	4.1%	1.0%
4	Elections are conducted freely and fairly in India	1.1%	4.9%	11.3%	53.8%	28.9%
5	EVMs provide accurate results	3.6%	2.7%	21.2%	42.2%	30.3%
6	Women should consult male members or elders before voting in elections	28.1%	38.7%	13.7%	17.2%	2.3%
7	The influence of money and muscle is increasing in elections	12.7%	28.0%	20.9%	28.9%	9.5%
8	I do not intend to vote in the upcoming elections	56.1%	37.4%	5.2%	0.9%	0.4%
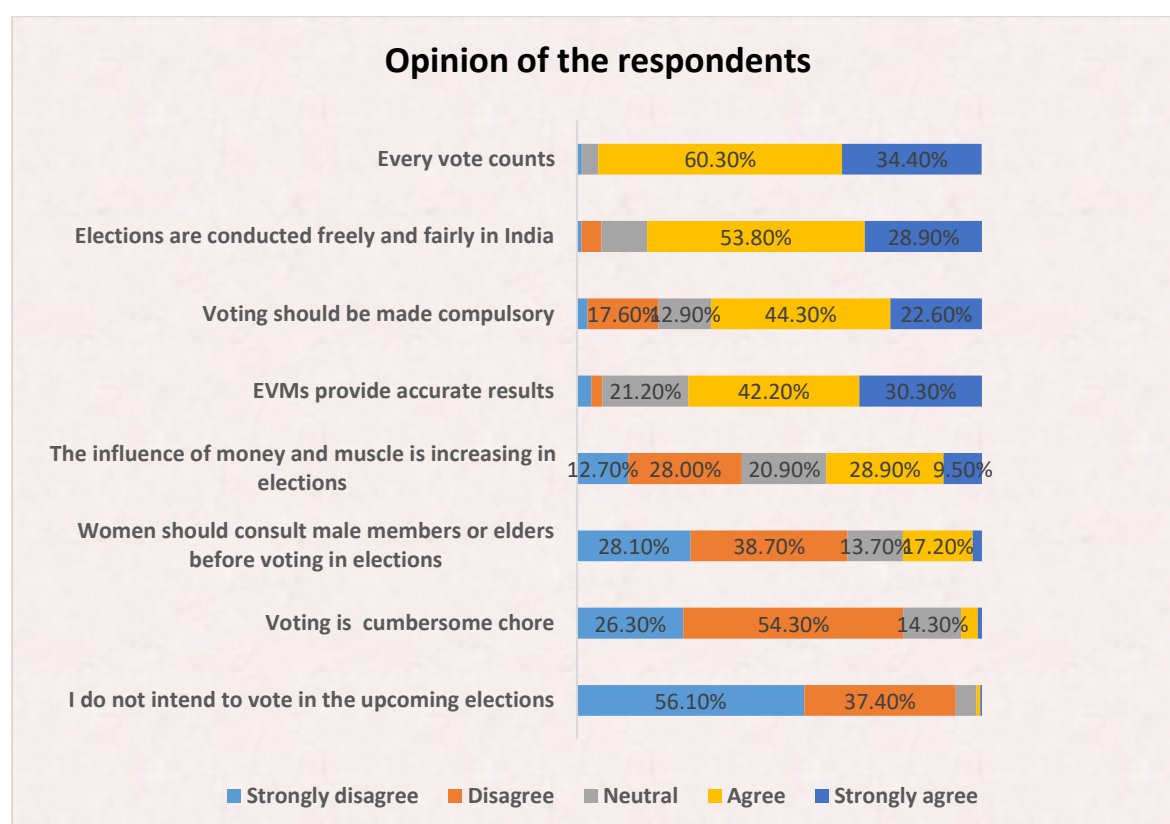
Figure 5.7: Opinion of the respondents

57

Conclusion

Like in other democracies, India has an autonomous Election Commission to conduct fair and free elections. Over the years ECI has taken several innovative initiatives to promote greater participations of voters and to ensure free and fair periodic elections. To meet the challenge of eligible and yet unregistered citizens and not so high voter turnout, ECI started reaching out to citizens to understand what was stopping them from registering in the electoral rolls and voting. Certain amounts of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities were taken up in 2009 to benefit the voters. This was subsequently revamped in 2010 as a national programme titled Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP).

This chapter has presented the attitude of the sampled respondents concerning electoral participation and electoral processes. It has been observed that 66.4 percent of respondents were aware of the fact that 18 years is the minimum age to register to be a voter But, 90.1 percent of the respondents do not know that when the National voter's day is celebrated. About 36.8 percent of respondents have seen VVPAT when they cast their votes and 16 percent of respondents have seen the Braille provision on the EVM. Though the attitude of the voters towards elections largely is positive, there is still a lot of knowledge gap which needs to be filled.

The next Chapter details exposure of respondents to Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) interventions.

Chapter- 6

Exposure to SVEEP Interventions

Introduction

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Programme (SVEEP) is a proactive step taken by the Election Commission of India in 2009 with the sole objective to improve the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of voters so as to conduct the poll without fear and favor. In order to know the outcome of the SVEEP Interventions in changing the voting behavior it was felt imperative to conduct this study throughout the state of Bihar. This Chapter details the results of the study broadly indicating the impact of SVEEP in shaping the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of voters and the conclusions drawn from the results will be useful in policy making.

6.1: Voter/ election campaign run by Election Commission of India

Table 6.1 shows the frequency of the respondents who could recall seeing or reading the election-related campaign of Election Commission of India. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that nearly half of the respondents [52.6 percent] could recall the campaign run by the Election Commission of India. About 25.9 percent said that they cannot recall any campaign and 21.5 percent are unaware of any campaign run by the Election Commission of India.

Table 6.1: Frequency of respondents to recall seeing or reading any voter/election related campaign of Election Commission of India

Response	Number	Percent
No	1686	25.9%
Yes	3429	52.6%
Don't know	1400	21.5%
Total	**6515**	**100.0%**
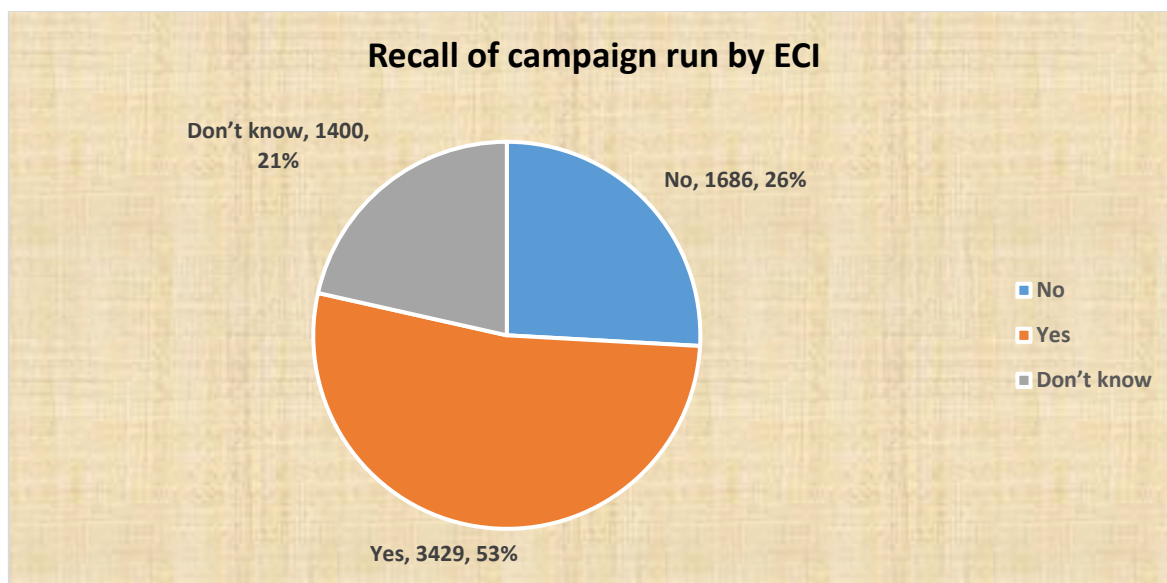
Figure 6.1: Frequency of respondents to recall seeing or reading any voter/election related campaign of Election Commission of India

6.2: Media used by respondents to receive election related information

Table 6.2 shows the sources from which the respondents received the information related to the elections. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 73.3 percent of respondents receive information about the elections through TV advertisements and programs followed by activities such as Rallies, *Prabhat Pheris*, and loudspeaker announcements [44 percent]. More than 43 percent of the respondents receive information through posters, hoardings and publicity materials and about 37.6 percent use newspapers or magazines to receive the information. Moreover, about 11.3 percent of respondents prefer to use the internet and 5.2 percent of respondents receive the election-related information at the polling station.

The assessment of the survey responses has also revealed that the traditional way of dissemination of election-related information such as radio, advertisement in cinemas, Cultural/entertainment programs, Government offices circular, NGO and Civil society Group, SMS, Pledge letters, *Sankalp Patras* through school students in the family are not much used by the respondents.

Table 6.2: Media use by respondents to receive the election related information

Response (N=3429)	Number	Percent
Newspapers/magazines	1290	37.6%
TV advertisements and programmes	2512	73.3%

Response (N=3429)	Number	Percent
Radio and FM channels	244	7.1%
Advertisement in Cinemas	6	0.2%
Activity like Rallies, *Prabhat Pheris*, loudspeaker announcement	1508	44.0%
Cultural/entertainments programmes	21	0.6%
Government offices circulars	58	1.7%
Posters, hoardings and publicity materials	1505	43.9%
NGO and Civil society Groups	105	3.1%
Internet/social Media/ WhatsApp	389	11.3%
SMS	63	1.8%
Pledge letters/*Sankalp Patras* through school students in the family	3	0.1%
At Polling Stations	178	5.2%
Others (please specify)	2	0.1%

Source use by respondents to receive information (n=3429)

- TV advertisements and programmes — 73.30%
- Activity like Rallies, PrabhatPheris, loudspeaker… — 44.00%
- Posters, hoardings and publicity materials — 43.90%
- Newspapers/magazines — 37.60%
- Internet/social Media/ Whatsapp — 11.30%
- Radio and FM channels — 7.10%
- At Polling Station — 5.20%
- NGO and Civil society Group — 3.10%
- SMS — 1.80%
- Government offices circular — 1.70%
- Cultural/entertainments programmes — 0.60%
- Advertisement in Cinemas — 0.20%
- Pledge letters/Sankalp patras through school students… — 0.10%

Figure 6.2: Source use by respondents to receive information

6.3: Voter information/messages received by the respondents

Table 6.3 shows the information or the messages received by the respondents. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that majority of the respondents (81 percent) could recall "*Voting is my right and duty*", followed by "*Cast vote as per choice and without taking any inducement*" by 69.5 percent respondents and "*Date of voting and schedules*" by 61.7 percent of the respondents. 12.9 percent respondents recall "*12 identity documents allowed for Voting*" followed by "*Priority Voting for old and PwDs*" by 9.4 percent

respondents, *"≠Go Verify* or *Verify name in Voter list"* by 8.5 percent respondents, *"≠Go Register or Register"* by 7.4 percent respondents, and *"Facilities provided at Polling Station"* by 4.9 percent respondents.

The information or messages about, "*Voter helpline 1950 or Voter Helpline App*", "*cVIGIL App related*" and "*NVSP portal*" are not recalled by the voters.

Table 6.3: Main Voter information/messages received by the voters

Response (N=3429)	Number	Percent
Date of voting and schedules	2116	61.7%
Voting is my right and duty	2776	81.0%
Cast vote as per choice and without taking any inducement	2382	69.5%
≠Go Register or Register	255	7.4%
≠Go Verify or Verify name in Voter list	292	8.5%
12 identity documents allowed for Voting	443	12.9%
Facilities provided at Polling Station	167	4.9%
Priority Voting for old and PwDs	322	9.4%
Voter helpline 1950 or Voter Helpline App	18	0.5%
cVIGIL App related	2	0.1%
NVSP portal	5	0.1%
Others (please specify)	3	0.1%
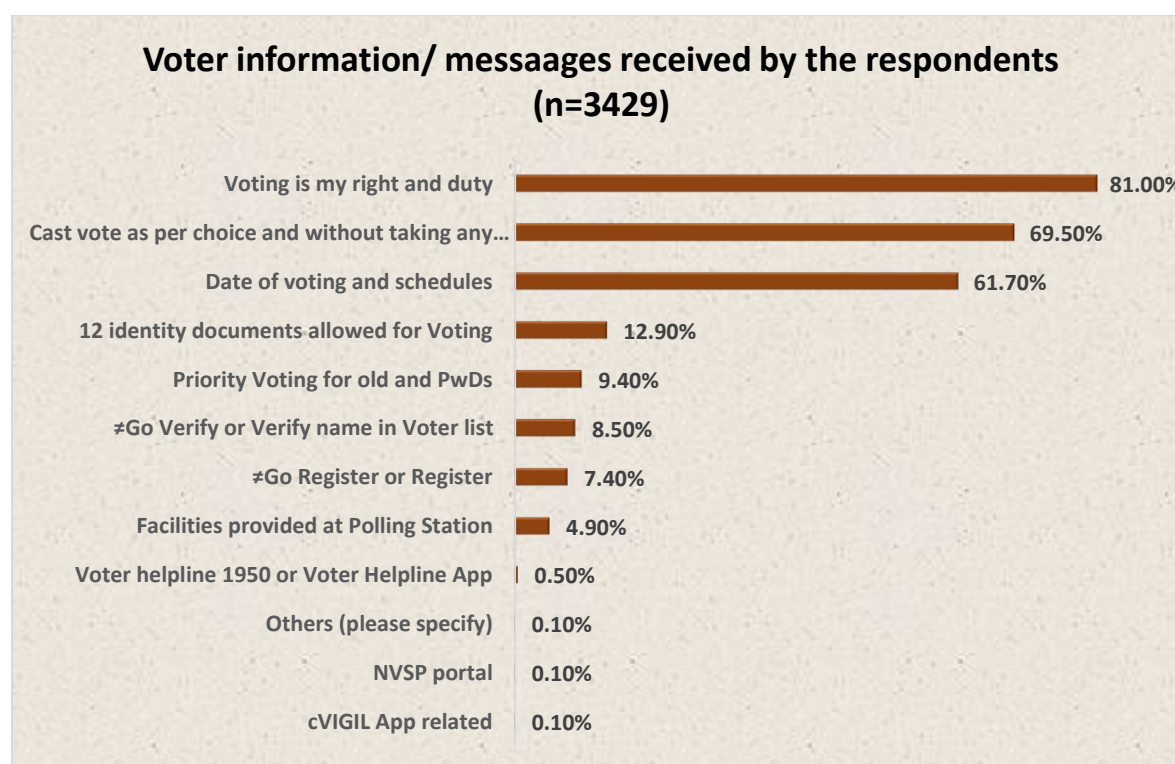
Figure 6.3: Voter information/messages received by the respondents

6.4: Taglines used in the campaign

Table 6.4 shows the frequency of respondents who were able to recall the tagline used during the campaign. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that nearly half of the respondent was able to recall the taglines, "*Desh ka Mahatyohar*" and "*No Voter to be Left Behind/Koi Matdata Na Chootey*".

However, about 89.2 percent of the voters were not able to recall the tagline, "≠ Go Register, ≠ Go verify or ≠ Go Vote".

Table 6.4: Frequency of respondents able to recall tagline of the campaign during this election

Response (N=3429)	No		Yes	
	No	%	No	%
Desh ka Mahatyohar	1711	49.9%	1718	50.1%
No Voter to be Left Behind/Koi Matdata Na chootey	1712	49.9%	1717	50.1%
≠ Go Register, ≠ Go verify or ≠ Go Vote	3060	89.2%	369	10.8%
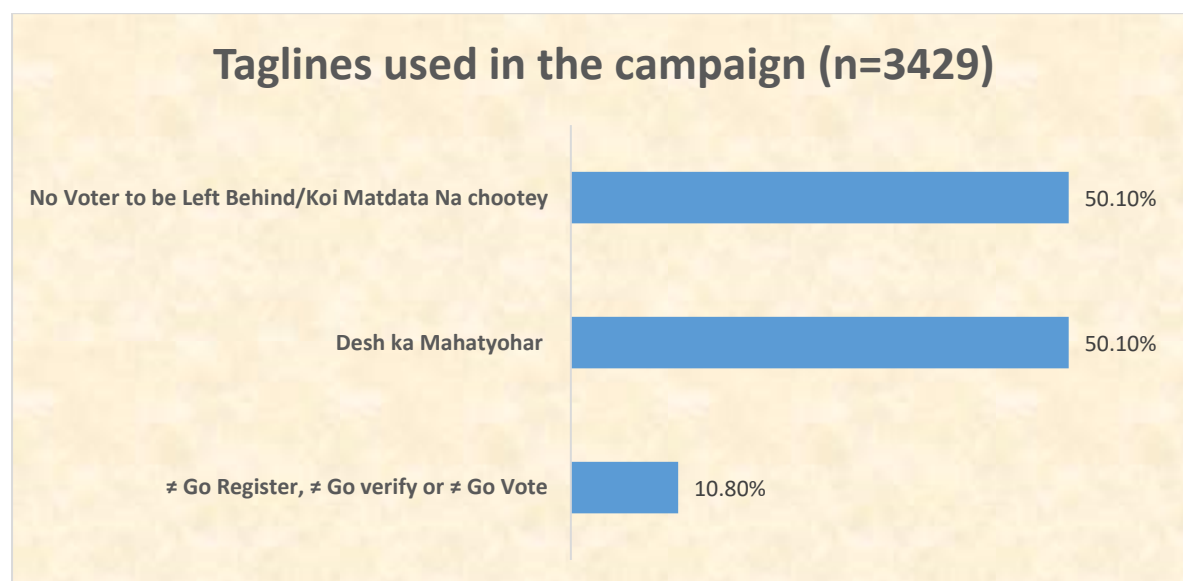
Figure 6.4: Taglines used in the campaign

6.5: Celebrities in the election

Table 6.5 shows the frequency of the respondents who recall celebrities/Icons who gave a message for voting. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that the respondents were able to identify or recall M.S. Dhoni [32.4 percent] followed by Aamir Khan [25.8

percent], Saina Nehwal [11.5 percent] and Mary Kom [9.2 percent]. A very small number of respondents recall Amitabh Bacchan, Sharda Sinha, and Virat Kohli.

Table 6.5: Frequency of the respondent who recall the message given by the celebrities

Response (N=3429)	Number	Percent
M.S. Dhoni	1112	32.4%
Mary Kom	316	9.2%
Saina Nehwal	395	11.5%
Aamir Khan	886	25.8%
Amitabh Bachchan	50	1.5%
Sharda Sinha	10	0.3%
Virat Kohli	7	0.2%
Others	13	0.4%
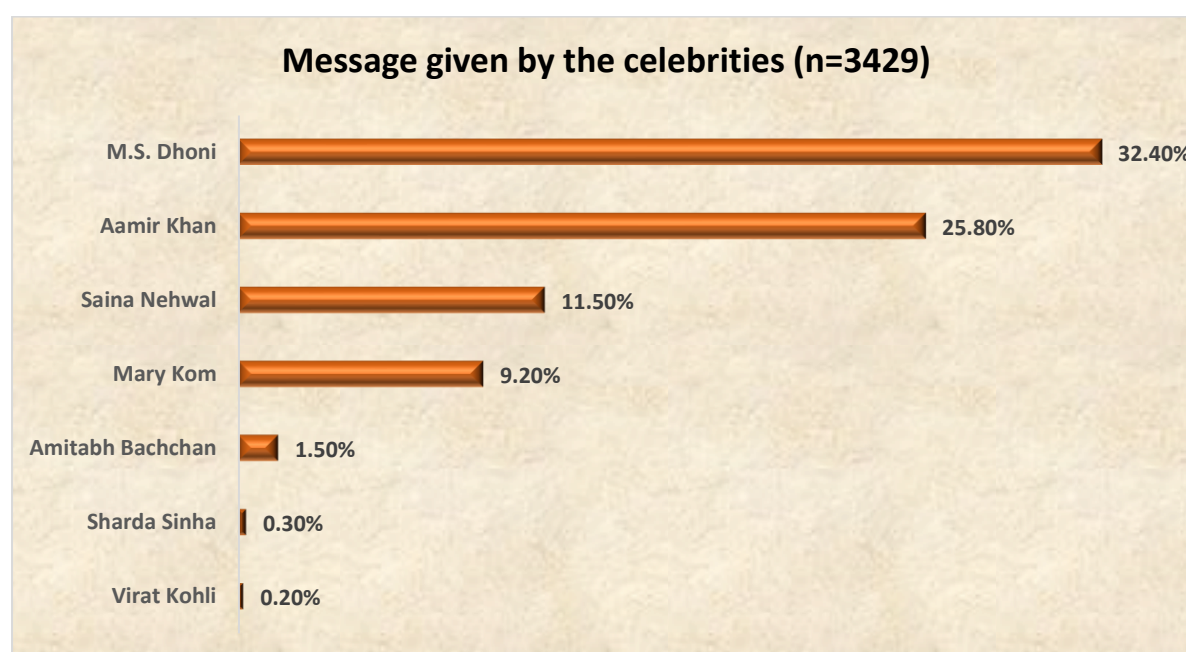
Figure 6.5: Message given by the celebrities

6.6: Usage of the website www.nvsp.in

Table 6.6 shows the frequency of respondents who have accessed www.nvsp.in. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 83.4 percent of the respondents do not know about the website *www.nvsp.in*. Only 1.1 percent of the respondents said that they accessed www.nvsp.in. About 15.5 percent of the respondents are unaware of such a website.

Table 6.6: Frequency of respondents who have accessed www.nvsp.in

Response	Number	Percent
No	2859	83.4%

Yes	38	1.1%
Don't know	532	15.5%
Total	**3429**	**100.0%**
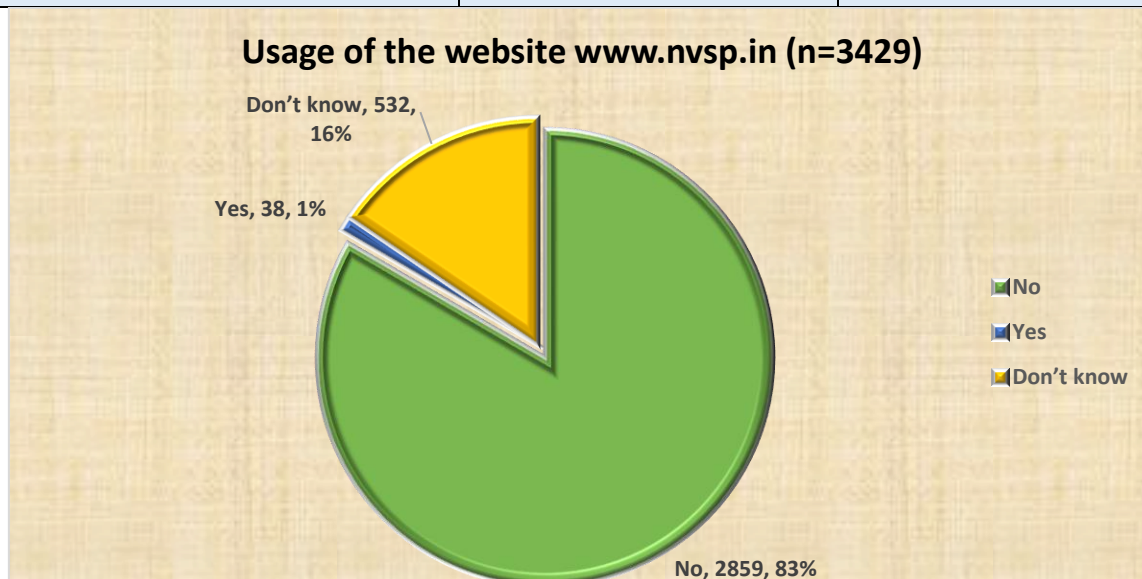
Figure 6.6: Usage of the website www.nvsp.in

6.7: Reason for using the website www.nvsp.in

Table 6.7 shows the details for which the website www.nvsp.in was used by the respondents. Out of 6615 respondents, only 38 used the website www.nvsp.in. Out of 38 people, 23 respondents [60.5 percent] used the website to search name and other details on the Electoral Roll. Total 6 respondents [15.8 percent] used the website to register/ make modifications online and 3 respondents [7.9 percent] used the website to know polling station details.

Table 6.7: Purpose for using the websitewww.nvsp.in.

Response	Number	Percent
To search name and other details on the Electoral Roll	23	60.5%
To register/ make modifications online	6	15.8%
To download registration forms	0	0.0%
To know polling station details	3	7.9%
No Response	6	15.8%
Total	**38**	**100.0%**
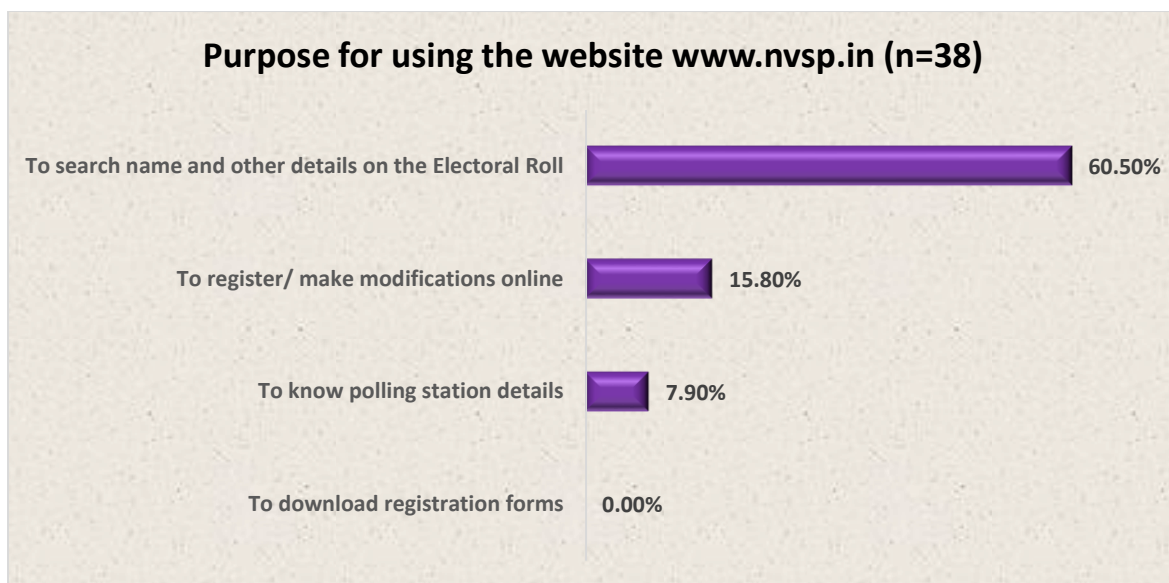
Figure 6.7: Purpose for using the website www.nvsp.in

6.8: Satisfactory experience using the website www.nvsp.in

Table 6.8 shows the experience of the respondents who used the website www.nvsp.in. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 20 respondents [52.6 percent] are satisfied by using the website. 6 respondents [15.8 percent] felt somewhat satisfactory while using the website.

Table 6.8: Satisfactory experience of the respondents who used the website

Response	Number	Percent
No	0	0.0%
Somewhat	6	15.8%
Yes	20	52.6%
No Response	12	31.6%
Total	**38**	**100.0%**
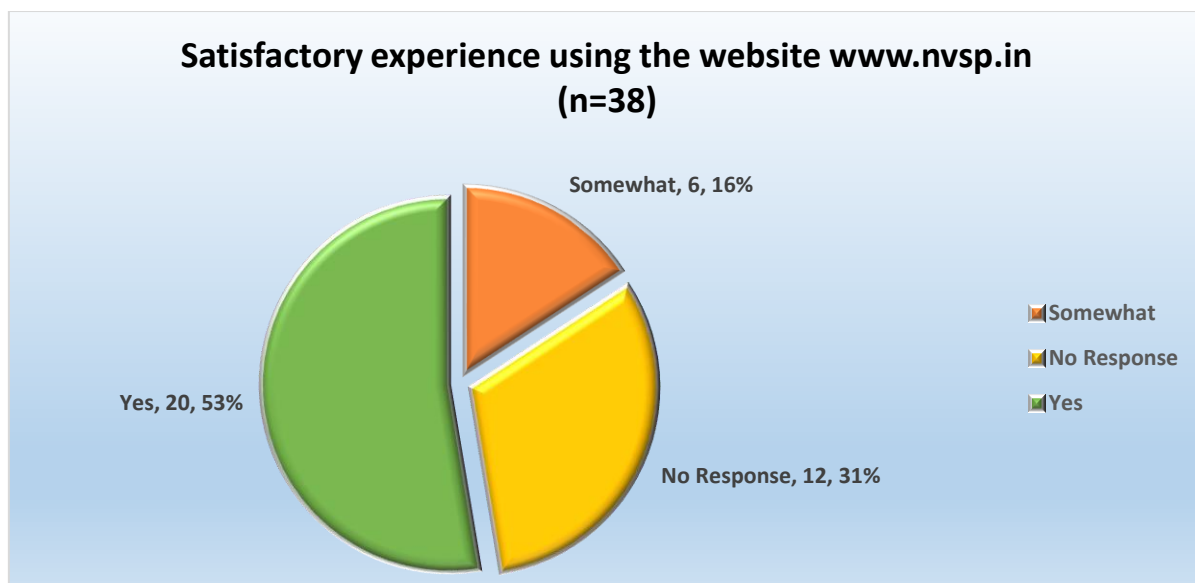
Figure 6.8: Satisfactory experience of using the website www.nvsp.in

6.9: Usage of Voter Helpline No 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App

Table 6.9 shows the details of the respondents who have used respondents who have used Voter Helpline No 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App. Out of 6615 respondents, 3429 responded to the question. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 99.5 percent of the voters have not used Voter Helpline No 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App. Voter Helpline No 1950 was used by 13 respondents, Voter Helpline App is used by 3 respondents and only 2 respondents have used both Voter Helpline No 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App.

Table 6.9: Respondents who have used Voter Helpline No 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App

Response	Number	Percent
None of the two	3411	99.5%
Voter Helpline No 1950	13	0.4%
Voter Helpline App only	3	0.1%
Both of them	2	0.1%
Total	**3429**	**100.0%**
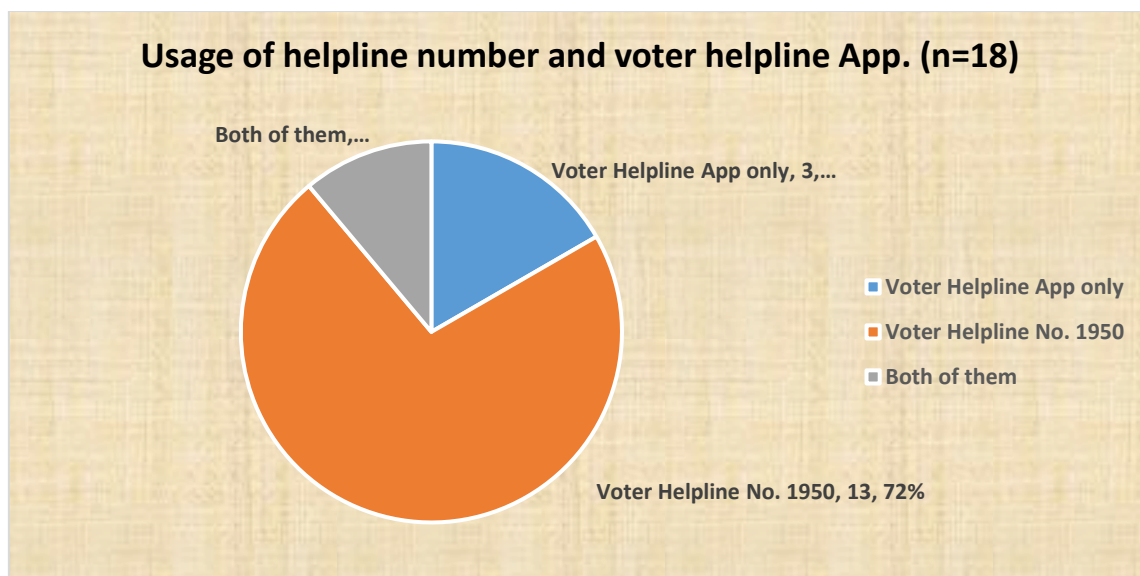
Figure 6.9: Usage of voter helpline number and voter helpline application

6.10: Purpose for which the Voter Helpline Number and App. were used

Table 6.10 shows the information about the purpose for which the respondents used the Voter Helpline No 1950 or the Voter Helpline App. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that out of the total 18 respondents, 9 respondents [50 percent] used the service to know about registration or voting process, 5 respondents [27.8 percent] used the service to verify the name on the voter list, and 2 respondents [11.1 percent] used the service to register a complaint. One respondent [5.6 percent] each used the service to know the polling station and details of the BLO.

Table 6.10: Reasons behind using Voter Helpline No 1950 or Voter Helpline App

Response	Number	Percent
To know about registration or voting process	9	50.0%
To verify name on voter list	5	27.8%
To know my polling station	1	5.6%
To know details of my BLO	1	5.6%
To register a complaint	2	11.1%
Total	**18**	**100.0%**
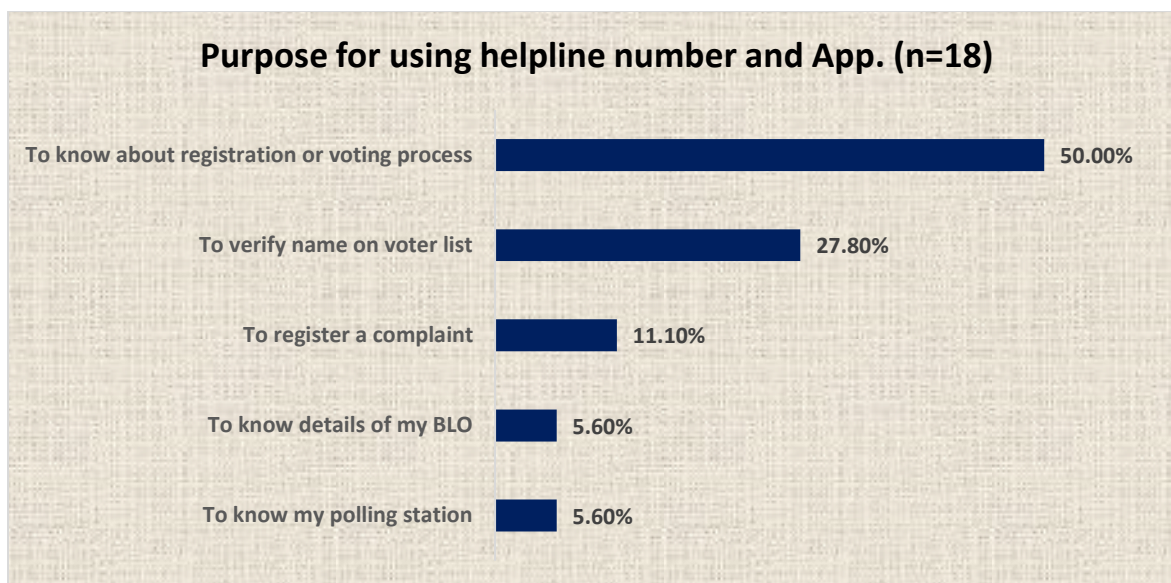
Figure 6.10: Purpose for using voter helpline number and voter helpline application

6.11: Satisfactory experience of respondents using helpline number and App.

Table 6.11 shows the experience of the respondent who has used Voter Helpline No. 1950 or Voter Helpline App. The assessment of the survey responses has revealed that 77.8 percent of the respondents who have used Voter Helpline No 1950 or Voter Helpline App have a satisfactory experience. About 16.7 percent of the respondents said that the experience was not satisfactory while 5.6 percent said that that experience was somewhat satisfactory.

Table 6.11: Experience of the respondents who used Voter Helpline No. 1950 or Voter Helpline App (in addressing the problem satisfactorily)

Response	Number	Percent
No	3	16.7%
Somewhat	1	5.6%
Yes	14	77.8%
Total	**18**	**100.0%**
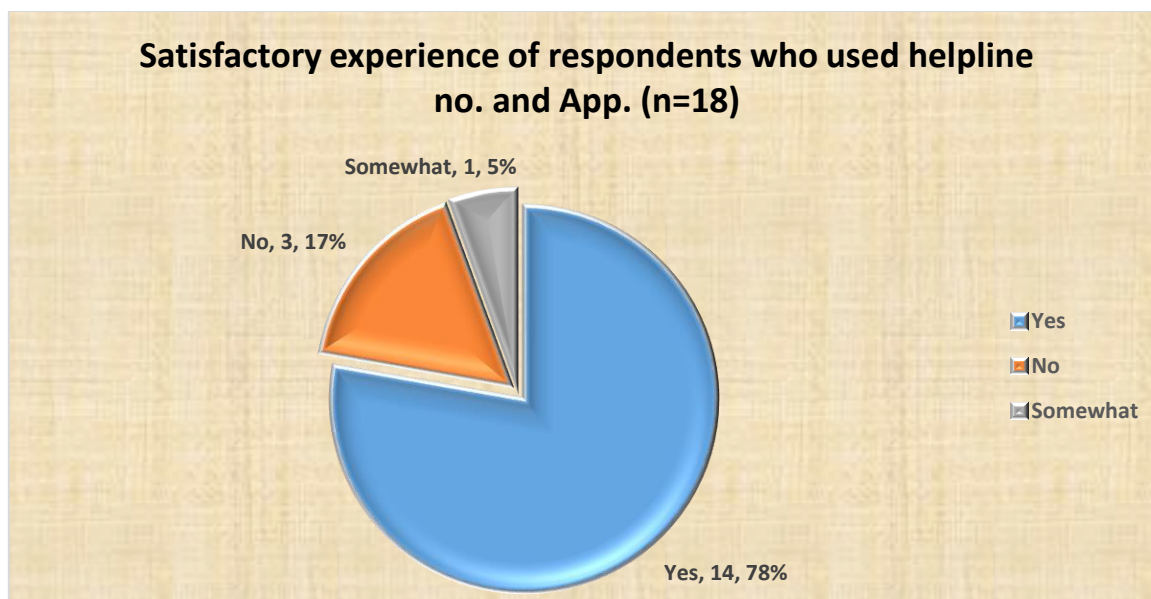
Figure 6.11: Satisfactory experience of respondents who used Voter Helpline No 1950 or Voter Helpline App.

Conclusion

Awareness is the most important factor in deciding the voter turnout. It has a direct influence on behavior, initiation, cognitive processing, determining the consequences and improving the practice level of the electorate so as to enable them to participate in the electoral process and to exercise their right without fail. All the sampled respondents of this study were requested to identify the motivating factors which had influenced them to cast their votes.

More than 50% of respondents have reported that they can recall seeing or reading any voter/election-related campaign of Election Commission of India. This study also assessed the frequency of the respondents who could recall celebrities/Icons who gave a message for voting. It was found that the respondents were able to identify or recall M.S. Dhoni (32.4 percent) followed by Aamir Khan (25.8 percent), Saina Nehwal (11.5 percent) and Mary Kom (9.2 percent). Previous studies have also confirmed that messages are concise and more effective with minimum words that appeared in posters conveying the content of Voters' Education Campaign. It has left an impression among the electorates and as best as possible to have optimum recall rate. This study has also found that 77.8 percent of the respondents who have used Voter Helpline No 1950 or Voter Helpline App have a satisfactory experience.

The next Chapter details the aspects related to the Involvement of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the election processes.

Chapter- 7

Involvement of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the Election

Introduction

People who are differently abled form a small but integral part of our society. Indian Constitution grants them equal rights to participate in the democratic processes of the country. The Election Commission of India has undertaken several measures to increase participation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in the elections. Provision of wheel chair and creation of ramp at the polling stations has been mandated by ECI to help such voters. During this survey, some questions were administered to the PwDs to understand the issues faced by them during registration and voting process. Field observations reveal that the PwDs have desire and motivation to participate in the election. However, they face barriers.

7.1 Assessment of aspects related to involvement of PwDs in the Electoral Process

This research study attempts to assess the outreach of publicity or voter edutainment materialaimed at participation of PwDs in the election process. When enquired, only 9 respondents out of 132were able to recall having come across such information material encouragingpersons with disabilities to vote.Hence, the ECImay step-up its efforts to ensure wider dissemeniation of suchinformation to the target audience.When enquired if the BLO of their area had contacted them, 52 respondents replied in affirmation. The third question was to know the difficulties faced by PwDs in the registration process. Some voters informed that they found it difficult to travel long distance to get their name registered in the voter's list. Other voters felt that they did not get proper help from the officers of the Election Department in the district. Some respondents said that they had to approach the office of the District Magistrate to get their name enrolled.When asked about the difficulties faced by PwDs during the voting process, people gave multiple responses which have been enlisted hereunder:

- No vehicle to commute between residential area and the polling booth
- No help from BLO
- Long queue at the booth
- No separate line for PwDs at the booth

- No arrangement of drinking water at the booth
- Had to travel long distance to cast vote
- No wheel chair available at the booth
- Ramp not available at the booth

Figure 7.1: Photographs of Field Investigator (FI) with PwDs

Conclusion

The main aim of voter education is to provide all the requisite information for electoral participation effectively and efficiently to all constituents of democratic polity. While, many categories of voters are covered under formal voter education programmes including the outreach, there are special groups especially the PwDs which need strategically well designed powerful outreach, specially focused campaigns for voter information, motivation and facilitation in electoral participation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that about 15 percent of the world's population has a disability, with 80 percent of these persons living in developing countries. PwDs may also include various ethnic, religious, socio-economic and gender groups. Elections provide them an equal opportunity, with other citizens, to exercise their preferences and shape political outcomes (ECI 2018)[1].

Accordingly comprehensive directions/guidelines have been issued by the Commission for removal of barriers; motivating, facilitating and enhancing participation by PwDs on equal basis. Good lot of work has been done by different stakeholders. This study concludes that it is the need of the hour to consolidate and move further.

---

[1] Conference Reader of the International Conference on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Electoral Processes, 2018 at New Delhi

Chapter- 8

Conclusion and Recommendations

This chapter provides overall conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of the survey conducted in this study. The main objectives of the study entitled, "Conduct of Endline Survey of Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Citizens in Bihar" includes measuring the effectiveness of the voter registration process, identifying the key factors responsible for the participation of voters in the elections, understanding the awareness and attitude of the voters, and identifying the exposure of SVEEP interventions to the voters.

The outcome of the survey reflects the ground realities - the perception, information, and understanding of the voters about the overall electoral system, and the current status of the measures taken by the Election Commission of India. These outcomes help in designing effective campaigns that will strengthen the bond between voters and Election Commission of India, which is the prerequisite to ensure higher voters participation in elections, increasing the awareness and knowledge of voters and making the SVEEP interventions effective.

The outcome of the survey will help the Election Commission of India to undertake structural measures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the election processes. At the same time, understanding the knowledge, attitude, and reasons for voting or not voting in the election will help to design the targeted behavioural change campaigns resulting in the refinement of the overall election process.

The important conclusions that came out of the current study are outlined below-

Socio-Economic Demographic Profile

- Educational distribution of the respondents shows that those who are illiterate (38.5%) constitute the major chunk of total respondents, followed by people receiving education up to primary (19.5%), high school (15%), and higher secondary (13.8%) levels.

- Occupation-wise distribution of respondents shows that the highest proportion of respondents belong to labourer, cultivator and agriculture & allied activities categories (43.4%) followed by homemakers (27.6%), enterprise owners (10.6%), people in private services (5.3%), government service (4.4%), and students (3.5%).

- Marital status wise distribution of the respondents shows that the highest proportion of respondents are married (85.6%) followed by respondents who are single (6.9%), and widowed (6.3%) respectively.

- Social group distribution of respondents shows that OBC respondents (50.3%) take a major share among the total respondents followed by General (26.4%), SC (19.6%) and ST (3.7%) respectively.

- The reading habits of the respondents reveal that the respondents who do not read the newspaper or magazine at all constitute the highest proportion (61.8%) followed by respondents who read almost every week (25.4%).

- The media listening habits of the respondents reveal that the respondents who do not listen to the radio at all (91.4%) constitute the highest proportion followed by respondents who listen almost every week (4.8%).

- The media watching habit of the respondents reveals that the respondents who watch Television almost every week constitute the highest proportion (48%) followed by respondents who do not watch Television at all (39.7%).

- The Internet usage habits of the respondents reveal that the respondents who do not use the internet at all (68.6%) constitute the highest proportion followed by respondents who read almost every week (24.5%).

- At the aggregate level, Media exposure of the respondents shows that Television (50%) is the most significant medium in diffusing elected related information

followed by information sharing by friends/family/relatives (40.7%), newspaper/magazines (18%), mobile phone (11.5%), and radio (6.5%) respectively.

Voter Registration

- More than 91% of the sampled respondents lived in a particular residential area since birth while only 0.2% of the population lived in a residence for less than a year.

- Approximately, 1.2% of the respondents got their names deleted from the voter list of previous AC. The majority of the voters either don't know about the process or they just do not know that they need to get their names deleted from the voter list of previous polling station.

- Total 95.5% of the respondents are currently enrolled in the voter list while 1.3% of respondents say that their application process is in progress. About 85.1% of the respondents are enrolled at the right polling booth.

- About 97.3% possess their voter ID card while 2.7% of respondents do not have their voter ID card.

- Visit of the BLO to the respondents' residence (45.3%) was the major motivation medium for enrolment among the respondents followed by special enrolment drives (26.7%) and local voter enrolment centres (18.5%) respectively.

- Around 80% of the respondents feel that the enrolment procedure is easy.

- Not being aware of the enrolment procedure was the major reason for not enrolling in the voter list.

Voter Participation

- Around 88.6% of the respondents voted while 11.4% of the respondents didn't vote in the Lok Sabha election 2019.

- About 80.1% of the respondents voted as they believe that "voting is their right", followed by 60.9% of the respondents who believe that "voting is their duty", and 49.3% of respondents voted as they believe that "their vote matters". The majority of the respondents who voted have a sense and feel that voting is important and seems to

be aware of their voting rights. This shows that they are motivated intrinsically more than the other extrinsic factors. It is also evident that the respondents are not influenced by others. A negligible amount of respondents voted due to threats or suggestions from their friends.

- More than 89% of the respondents noted separate queues for women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens and 56.8% noted separate entry and exit in the polling booth. 76.8% of the respondents noted that water was available and 67% of the respondents were able to recall the presence of toilets in the polling booth. 45.4% of the respondents also recall the presence of a help desk at the polling booth. 42.7 percent of the respondents recalled the presence of voter facilitation poster and 37.5 percent recall the signage for directions during the election.

- More than 72% of the respondents indicated the absence of Wheelchairs and 63.2% indicated the absence of chairs/ benches for the pregnant women or elderly.

- About 84.4% of the respondents did not face problems during the election while 15.6 percent of the voters faced some sort of problem during the election.

- The difficulties faced by the respondents include, "standing in the long queue", "no separate queue for senior citizens", and "lack of basic facilities including drinking water, toilet, and ramp". The other problems faced by the voters include "standing in sunlight", "no facility to protect voters from sunlight", "polling booth is situated at a large distance", "rush at the polling booth", "more than one polling booth at the same place", "lack of arrangement for physically challenged", "voter slip not obtained", etc.

- The two main reasons for not voting in the election include the absence of the name of the voter in the electoral roll and the unavailability of the voter in the constituency.

Voter awareness and attitudes

- It is observed that around 66.4% of the respondents are aware of the minimum age of registration to be a voter.

- The awareness about the qualifying date for registration in the electoral list is very low. The majority of the respondents (70.7%) do not know the qualifying date for

registration followed by respondents (17.3%) who said 18th birthday. Only 12% of the respondents were aware of the qualifying date for registration as January 1st.

- The awareness about the National Voters' Day is very low. The majority of the respondents (90.1%) do not know when the National Voters' Day is celebrated. Only 6.6% of the sampled respondents are rightly aware of the National Voters' Day as January 25th.

- Though NOTA option is present for the past few years, the majority of the respondents (55.8%) are not aware of such an option followed by the respondents (26.8%) who said that they saw it when they voted last time.

- The majority of the respondents (73.5%) are not aware of the presence of Braille provision for visually impaired voters on EVM's followed by the respondents (16%) who said that they saw it when they voted.

- The majority of the respondents (49.3%) are not aware about the VVPAT; followed by the respondents (36.8%) who said that they saw it when they voted.

- Respondents have a positive sentiment for the statements, "Every vote counts", "Elections are conducted freely and fairly in India", "Voting should be made compulsory", and "EVMs provide accurate results".

- Respondents have a mixed opinion for the statement, "The influence of money and muscle is increasing in elections".

- Respondents have a negative opinion for the statements, "Women should consult male members or elders before voting in elections", "Voting is cumbersome chore", and "I do not intend to vote in the upcoming elections".

Exposure to SVEEP interventions

- The majority of the respondents (52.6%) could recall the last campaign run by the Election Commission of India while 25.9% percent of the respondents said that they do not recall any campaigns.

- The majority of the respondents (73.3%) receive information about the elections through TV advertisements and programs followed by activities such as Rallies,

Prabhat Pheris, and loudspeaker announcements (44 %), Posters, hoardings and publicity materials (43.9%), and newspapers or magazines (37.6%) respectively.

- The traditional way of dissemination of election-related information such as radio, advertisement in cinemas, Cultural/entertainment programs, Government offices circular, NGO and Civil society Group, SMS, Pledge letters, *Sankalp Patras* through school students in the family are not much used by the respondents.

- 81% of the respondents received the information or the message "Voting is my right and duty", followed by "Cast vote as per choice and without taking any inducement" by 69.5% of the respondents and "Date of voting and schedules" by 61.7% of the respondents.

- The information or messages about, "Voter helpline 1950 or Voter Helpline App", "cVIGIL App related" and "NVSP portal" could not be recalled by the voters.

- 50.1% of the respondent was able to recall the taglines, "*Desh ka Mahatyohar*" and "No Voter to be Left Behind/*Koi Matdata Na Chootey*". However, 89.2 percent of the voters were not able to recall the tagline, "# Go Register, # Go verify or # Go Vote".

- Respondents were able to identify or recall the celebrities who gave messages related to elections. M.S. Dhoni (32.4%) seems to be the most appealing/ motivating followed by Aamir Khan (25.8%), Saina Nehwal (11.5%) and Mary Kom (9.2%).

- The majority of the respondents (83.4%) have not used the Election Commission/Chief Electoral Officer website. Only 1.1% of the respondents used the official website of ECI. However, respondents used the website to search their name and other details on the Electoral Roll, register/ make modifications online and to know polling station details. Respondents recall having satisfactory experience using the website.

- Voter Helpline No. 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App was not used by 99.5% of the respondents. A very small number of respondents used them to know about registration or voting process, verify the name on the voter list, and to register a complaint. Respondents recall having satisfactory experience using the Voter Helpline No. 1950 or used the Voter Helpline App.

Recommendations

- Urban voters can be informed, educated and motivated to vote through digital campaigns using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.

- Rural voters can be targeted using rallies, loudspeaker announcements, posters, *Prabhat Ferry*, and special campaigns before the elections.

- TV advertisements and Newspapers are one of the prominent sources to spread election-related campaigns. TV advertisements by celebrities (especially by Cricket legends like M.S. Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar or Virat Kohli) may help in spreading more awareness.

- Educational institutes can be used to spread awareness related to NOTA, Braille on EVM's, VVPAT, National Voters' Day, qualifying date for registration, etc.

- Schools and colleges can provide information about the students who are going to be voters soon. Schools and colleges must educate the students that they have to register once they turn 18 years of age. Students must be informed that the qualifying age to be eligible to vote is calculated on 1 January of the year. National Voters' day must be celebrated at schools and officials from the election department should visit schools to give information about the electoral process to the students.

- Modify the school curriculum to incorporate information about the electoral process. Young children will spread the information in family and neighbourhood which will surely help in spreading awareness and reducing misconceptions about the electoral process.

- Special campaigns must be run at the polling booths where the voters boycotted the elections. Knowing the specific reasons and making them aware of the importance of voting will help in conducting future elections smoothly.

- The registration process through special drives must be done regularly. The process of updating/ correction of names or other details of voters in the EPIC or voter list must be made simpler.

- Migrants who are illiterate face enormous difficulty in getting enrolled as they were not able to provide adequate documents. A special drive for such migrants is required to delete their names in previous AC and add the names in current AC.

- The provision of basic facilities at the polling booth will definitely help in increasing voter turnout. Sitting arrangements for pregnant ladies and elderly voters and the presence of ramp and wheelchair will help in high voter turnout.

- Arrangement of separate queue for senior citizens may be ensured at polling stations

- The usage of voter helpline number and the website www.nvsp.in is negligible. Special targeted campaigns need to be designed specifically to target urban and rural voters.

- Dissemination of edutainment material to the voters is negligible. A drive can be run by the department to distribute such material.

- Few communities do not allow women to participate in voting. ECI must identify such areas and run a special drive to educate the voters. The presence of women staff at such a polling booth during the election would increase the participation of females.

- A keen eye on the voting expenditure done by the candidates will help in reducing the money and muscle power.

- NGOs and groups of motivated students can participate along with the government officials to raise awareness about the election process. The special drive may be conducted to target PwDs and informing them about the options such as Braille on EVM's, usage of Sign Language and availability of ramp and wheelchair at the polling booth.

- Voter slip must be distributed to the voters well in advance of the elections as it is one of the major reasons to vote.

- Multi-lingual campaigns (especially in local dialects) might be required in the border areas. While preparing posters, hoardings or performing loud speak announcements it must be kept in mind that the information must reach the voter in the native language.

- Urban and rural areas cannot be targeted in the same way. In this regard, the election department should design a need-based campaign for specific areas.

- Election department must conduct special drives around the year to enrol the names of the persons who are eligible and remove the names of the persons who have died, married and located to other places or completely migrated. The regular refinement of the voter list will help in conducting fair and transparent elections.

- The research team observes that almost all the polling stations where the voter turnout was high during the recent election, two factors – active role of BLO and location of the booth in vicinity, played important role.

- The role of BLO is very important. He must:

  o Know every person currently enrolled at the polling booth

  o Visit the households and educate them about the electoral process

  o Distribute voter slip well before the election, and

  o Help to update the voter list

Annexure-I

Questionnaire in Hindi

Questionnaire number ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐   Confidential when filled

Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Endline Survey for Lok Sabha Election 2019

परिचय एवम् सहमतिः नमस्ते! मेरा नाम .... है। मैं चन्द्रगुप्त प्रबंध संस्थान पटना के लिए काम कर रहा हूँ। यह संस्थान पटना में स्थित है और विभिन्न सामाजिक, आर्थिक एवं राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर सर्वेक्षण का कार्य करती है। वर्तमान में हम बिहार राज्य के ....(गांव ⁄ षहर का नाम) में लोगों का साक्षात्कार कर रहे हैं और चुनाव में उनकी भागीदारी से संबंधित जानकारी इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं। चुनाव संबंधित पंजीकरण एवं भागीदारी के विषय में आपसे कुछ प्रष्न पुछूंगा। कुछ प्रष्न व्यक्तिगत भी हो सकते हैं। परंतु मैं आपको विष्वास दिला दू कि आपकी उत्तर पूर्ण रूप से गोपनीय रखी जायेगी। सभी प्रष्न का जवाब देने की कोई बाध्यता नहीं है और आप किसी भी प्रष्न का जवाब यदि न देना चाहें तो ऐसा कर सकते हैं। यदि आप प्रष्नों के उत्तर देने में असहज महसूस करते हैं तो आप किसी भी समय साक्षात्कार को समाप्त कर सकते हैं। इस साक्षात्कार से इन्कार करने पर कोई दंड नहीं है और न ही भागीदारी के लिए कोई प्रोत्साहन है। हालांकि आपके ईमानदार जवाबों से हम बेहतर तरीके से समझ सकेंगे कि लोग कैसे सोचते हैं। इस सर्वेक्षण में भाग लेने के लिए हम आपकी बहुत सराहना करते हैं। सर्वेक्षण में करीब 30 मिनट का समय लगेगा। क्या आप अपनी सहमति देते हैं?

Section A: Identification and quality control

Q No.	प्रष्न	उत्तर	Code	Skip

A1	सहमति	प्राप्त नहीं	0	►END
		प्राप्त	1	
A2	राज्य / केन्द्र शा० प्रदेश का नाम तथा जनगणना कोड			
A3	जिला का नाम तथा जनगणना कोड			
A4	आवास का प्रकार	ग्रामीण	0	
		शहरी	1	
A5	विधान सभा क्षेत्र का नाम एवं कोड			
A6	पोलिंग बूथ का नाम तथा भाग संख्या			
A7	गाँव / षहरी क्षेत्र (ब्लॉक) का नाम तथा कोड			
A8	घर के नजदीकी सीमांकन चिन्ह (लैंडमार्क)			

Subsection A(i): Details of interview

A9	साक्षात्कार की तारीख	(In DD-MM format) 2019		
A10	साक्षात्कार शुरू होने का समय	(In HH:MM, 24 hour format)		
A11	साक्षात्कार खत्म होने का समय	(In HH:MM, 24 hour format)		
A12	साक्षात्कार परिणाम कोड	पूर्ण	1	
		पूरा घर लम्बे समय से अनुपस्थित	2	
		स्थगित	3	
		मना किया (कृपया कारण बताएं)	4	
		घर / आवास खाली	5	
		घर / आवास का पत्ता नहीं चला	6	
A13	सर्वे करनेवाले का नाम तथा पहचान कोड			
A14	पर्यवेक्षक का नाम तथा पहचान कोड			

Subsection A(ii): Quality control

A15	फिल्ड : पिछली जाँच (Back check)	नहीं	0	
		हाँ	1	
A16	फिल्ड : जाँच (Scrutiny)	नहीं	0	
		हाँ	1	
A17	डाटा इंट्री : दोहरी प्रविष्टि (Double entry)	नहीं	0	
		हाँ	1	

Section B: Selection of respondent

Q No.	Question	Response	Code
B1	आपको मिलाते हुए इस घर में सामान्यतः कितने लोग निवास करते हैं?		
B2	कितने लोग 18 साल से अधिक उम्र के है? (1 जनवरी 2019 तक)		

Subsection B(i): Household (HH) roster

<u>नोटः घर के मुखिया से प्रारंभ करते हुए 18 वर्ष से बड़े वैसे सभी व्यक्तियों की सूची बनायें जो कि समान छत् एवम् समान चूल्हा साझा करते हैं। **Household (HH) Roster (B3)** में की गयी प्रविष्टियों की संख्या **B2** के समान होनी चाहिए।</u>

B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	B10	B11

क्रम सं०	नाम	घर के मुखिया के साथ संबंध		लिंग	उम्र (वर्ष में)	विकलांग	पिछले साल में पलायन	पिछले लोकसभा चुनाव में वोट दिया	पिछले विधान सभा में वोट दिया
1		0	1						
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

CODE LIST FOR HH ROSTER:

B5 **Relationship with HH head**: Head =01; Wife/husband=02; Son/Daughter=03; Daughter-in-law/Son-in law=04; Grandchild=05; Father/Mother=06; Brother/Sister=07; Father-in-law/Mother-in-law=08; Nephew/Niece=09; Brother-in-law/Sister-in- law=10; other relatives=11; Servant/Others=12

B6 **Sex**: Male=1; Female=2; Third gender =3

B8 **Disabled**: No=0; Yes (in seeing)=1; Yes(in speech)2; Yes(in hearing)=3;Yes(in movement)=4;

B9 **Migrated in last 1 year**: No=0; Yes=1

• **Enrolled**: No=0; Yes (application in progress)=1; Yes(currently enrolled)=2

B10 & B11Voted in last Lok Sabha/Assembly election: No=0; Yes=1

Subsection B (ii): Kish grid

प्रश्नावली के अंतिम अंक	घर में योग्य उत्तरदाताओं की कुल संख्या							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
0	1	2	2	4	3	6	5	4
1	1	1	3	1	4	1	6	5
2	1	2	1	2	5	2	7	6
3	1	1	2	3	1	3	1	7
4	1	2	3	4	2	4	2	8
5	1	1	1	1	3	5	3	1
6	1	2	2	2	4	6	4	2
7	1	2	1	4	1	2	6	4
8	1	1	2	1	2	3	7	5
9	1	1	2	1	2	3	7	5

<u>INSTRUCTIONS TO SELECT RESPONDENTS FROM KISH GRID:</u> Look at the last of the questionnaire number on the cover page. This is the row number you should circle. Check the total number of eligible respondents from the household roster or B2. This is the column number you should circle. Find the box where the circled row and the circled column meet and circle the number that appears in the box. Record this in B12. This is the selected respondent to whom you should administer the questionnaire. For example, if the household questionnaire number is '3716', go to row 6 and circle the row number ('6'). If there are three people eligible for an interview in the household (it does not

matter if they are available for interview or not), go to column 3 and circle the column number ('3'). Draw lines from row 6 and column 3 and find the box where the two meet, and circle the number in it ('2'). This means you have to select the second eligible person.

Q No.	Question	Response	Code	Skip
B12	किश ग्रीड से चुने गये संख्या	किष ग्रीड से कोड की प्रविष्टि		
B13	चुने गये उत्तरदाता की क्रम संख्या	घर के रोस्टर से कोड/B3 की प्रविष्टि		

Section C: Voter registration

Q No.	Question	Response	Code	Skip
C1	अपने मौजूदा आवास पर कब से निवास कर रहे हैं **कोड 00 −1साल में कम के लिये** **कोड 98 −जन्म से रहने के लिये**	वर्ष में (.....................)		If coded 98 → C3
C2	फार्म 6 के भाग−4 के प्रस्तावना को भरकर आप आपने पूराने क्षेत्र से मतदाता सूची से नाम हटवाये?	नहीं	0	
		हाँ	1	
		पता नहीं	9	
C3	आप मतदाता सूची में रजिस्टर्ड हैं?	कभी नहीं	0	→ C8
		हाँ आवेदन दिया है।	1	→ C5
		हाँ रजिस्टर्ड हैं।	2	
C4	**IF CODED 2 IN C3**: क्या आपके पास मतदाता पहचान पत्र है?	नहीं	0	
		हाँ	1	
C5	**IF CODED 1 OR 2 IN C3**: आप किस मतदान केन्द्र में जुड़ने के लिए आवेदन दिया है/अभी जुड़े हुए हैं? *NOTE: CROSS VERIFY FROM A6*	गलत मतदान केन्द्र	0	
		सही मतकेन्द्र	1	
C6	**IF CODED 1 OR 2 IN C3**: आपने कैसे नामांकित करवाया?	विशेष नामांकन अभियान के दौरान	01	
		घर पर मतदान केन्द्र स्तर के अधिकारी आये थे	02	
		स्थानीय मतदाता नामांकन केन्द्र पर जाकर	03	
		राज्य मतदान कार्यालय में जाकर	04	
		ऑनलाईन/राष्ट्रीय मतदाता सेवा पोर्टल	05	
		राजनीतिक पार्टी के मदद से	06	
		सामुदायिक सेवा कार्यालय/संघ/व्यक्ति के मदद से	07	
		पता नहीं	99	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		
C7	**IF CODED 1 OR 2 IN C3**: नामांकन के प्रक्रिया को आप कैसे मूल्यांकन करेंगे?	आसान	1	Also H3 for persons with
		ना ही आसान, ना ही कठिन	2	
		कठिन	3	

				disabilities
C8	**IF CODED 0 IN C3:** कभी आपने आप से नामांकन कराने का कोषिष किया है?	पता नहीं	9	→ C10
		नहीं	0	
		हाँ	1	
C9	**IF CODED 1 IN C8:** अगर आपने कोषिष किया, तो अभी आवेदन की स्थिति क्या है?	अभिस्वीकृति प्राप्त हुई	01	
		मतदान कर्मचारी यहाँ आये हैं	02	
		अभिस्वीकृति के लिये इंतजार	03	
		पता का प्रमाण अस्वीकृति/पूर्ण नहीं	04	
		उम्र का प्रमाण/अन्य दस्तावेज अस्वीकृत/अपूर्ण	05	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		
C10	**IF CODED 0 IN C8:** अपने आप को मतदाता सूची में जुड़वाने की कोषिष क्यों नहीं की?	मुझे प्रक्रिया पता नही है	01	
		बहुत जटिल प्रक्रिया है	02	
		आवास का कोई प्रमाण नहीं है?	03	
		इच्छुक नहीं।	04	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		

Section D: Voter participation

Q No.	Question	Response	Code	Skip
D1	क्या आप हाल के लोकसभा के चुनाव में मतदान किया? *** B10 या B11 से मिलान करे**	नहीं	0	→ D6
		हाँ	1	
D2	**IF CODED 1 IN D1:** इस मतदान में आपके मतदान करने क्या कारण थे? ***एक से अधिक कोड संभव**	मेरा मत मायने रखता है	01	
		मतदान मेरा अधिकार है	02	
		मतदान मेरा कर्त्तव्य है	03	
		इलेक्षन कमीषन के द्वारा सक्षम (स्वतंत्र एवं उचित) एवं वातावरण बनाये के कारण	04	
		पहुँच वाले मतदान केन्द्र के कारण	05	
		मैं मतदाता सूची से जुड़ गया	06	
		मुझे मतदान पर्ची प्राप्त हुई	07	
		उम्मीदवार अच्छा था	08	
		मैं एक राजनीतिक पाटी को वोट दिया	09	
		धमकी एवं दबाव के कारण वोट दिया	10	
		मेरा परिवार मुझसे बोला	11	
		मेरा मित्र मुझसे बोला	12	
		मेरे पास **NOTA** का विकल्प था	13	

		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		
D3	IF CODED 1 IN D1: क्या आपने कभी मतदान केन्द्र पर इन मूलभूत सुविधायें में से कोई भी सुविधा पाया? * CODE LIST: No=0; Yes=1; Don't know=9	महिलाओं, विकलांग और वरिष्ठ नागरिक के लिये अलग कतार		
		पीने का पानी		
		कुर्सीयाँ / बेंच		
		प्रसाधन		
		सहायता केन्द्र		
		मतदान केन्द्र के अन्दर जाने और निकलने का अलग–अलग रास्ता		
		रैम्प		
		व्हील चेअर		
		दिशा निर्देष पट्टी		
		मतदाता सुविधा पोस्टर		
		बहरे मतदाताओं के लिए सांकेतिक भाषा में पोस्टर		
		स्वयं सेवक		
D4	IF CODED 1 IN D1: आपको इस मतदान में किसी भी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ा?	नहीं	0	→ E1
		हाँ	1	
D5	IF CODED 1 IN D4: कौन सा कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ा? *एक से अधिक कोड संभव	लम्बी कतार	01	Also H4 for persons with disabilities
		वरिष्ठ नागरिक के लिये अलग से कोई कतार नहीं	02	
		पीने के पानी, शौचालय, रैप की सुविधा का अभाव	03	
		राजनीतिक पार्टी के तरफ से दबाव / धमकी	04	
		मेरे मतदान केन्द्र का पता लगाने में कठिनाईयाँ	05	
		मतदान केन्द्र पर मतदाता सूची में मेरा नाम खोजने में कठिनाई	06	
		मतदान कर्मियों से कोई मार्गदर्षन नहीं	07	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		
D6	IF CODED 0 IN D1: इस चुनाव में आपके मतदान नहीं करने का कारण?	मेरा नाम मतदाता सूची में नहीं था	0108	
		मैं अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में नहीं था	02	
		मेरे पास मतदाता पहचान पत्र नहीं था	03	
		मुझे अपने मतदान केन्द्र का पता नहीं था	04	
		मतदान केन्द्र दूरी पर था (जाने आने की समस्या)	05	
		लम्बी कतार थी और मेरे पास समय नहीं था	06	
		मतदान केन्द्र पर जाने में मैं असुरक्षित महसूस कर रहा था	07	
		मेरे विकल्प / पसन्द का कोई	08	

		उम्मीदवार नहीं था		
		मै, यू हीं मतदान नहीं देना चाहा, कुछ भी बदलने वाला नहीं है। राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में विष्वास नहीं।	09	
		राष्ट्रीय चुनाव में मतदान करने से कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता, मैं सिर्फ विधान सभा और स्थानीय चुनाव में मतदान करता हूँ	10	
		मतदान केन्द्र पहुँच में नहीं था	11	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		

Section E: Voter awareness and attitudes

Q No.	Question	Response	Code			Skip
E1	एक मतदाता होने के लिये न्यूनतम उम्र क्या है? **पता नहींके लिये Code 99**	वर्ष में (......................)				
E2	मतदान करने के लिए मतदाता सूची में नामांकित होने के लिए कौन सा तारीख को उपयुक्त उम्र होता है?	18वाँ जन्मदिन	0			
		1 जनवरी	1			
		पता नहीं	99			
E3	राष्ट्रीय मतदाता दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?	गलत तारीख	0			
		सही तारीख	1			
		पता नहीं	99			
E4	क्या आप जानते है? a) इवीएम पर दिये हुए NOTA विकल्प/इनमें से कोई नहीं के बारे में, जिसे अगर कोई भी उम्मीदवार को आप पसन्द नहीं करते है तो उपयोग करते हैं। b) EVM के पटल पर उम्मीदवार का नाम ब्रेल में अंकित होता है? c) मतदाता पत्र सत्यापण प्रति (VVPAT) जो आपके मतदान के सत्यापन में सहायता करता है?	**Response**	a.	b.	c.	
		(1) हाँ, मतदान करते समय देखा	1	1	1	
		(2) हाँ, मतदाता साक्षरता प्रोग्राम में देखा	2	2	2	
		(3) हाँ, इसके बारे में सुना है/पढ़ा है		3	3	3	
		(4) नहीं	4	4	4	
E5	अंत में, मैं कुछ कथन पढ़ने जा रहा हूँ उससे आपका सुझाव चाहिए कृपया बताये, अगर आप **[पूरी तरह असहमत है–1, असहमत–2, ना ही सहमत ना ही असहमत–3, सहमत–4, पूरी तरह सहमत–5]** कोई भी उत्तर सही या गलत नहीं होता, इसलिये कृप्या मुझे ईमानदारी से अपना विचार बताये।	हर एक मत का महत्व है				
		मतदान को अनिवार्य कर देना चाहिये				
		मतदान एक जटिल/झंझट वाला कार्य है।				
		भारत में मतदान स्वतंत्र और अच्छे से होता है				
		इवीएम सही परिणाम देता है				
		मतदान करने से पहले, महिलाओं को पुरुष से या किसी				

		बुजुर्ग से सुझाव लेना चाहिए		
		चुनाव में धन–बल का प्रभाव बढ़ रहा है।		
		मैं आगामी चुनाव में मतदान नहीं करना चाहता हूँ		

Section F: Exposure to SVEEP interventions

F1	क्या आप याद कर सकते है भारतीय चुनाव आयोग के मतदाता चुनाव से संबंधित किसी प्रचार को जिसे आपने देखा हो या पढ़ा है	नहीं	0	➜ G1
		हाँ	1	
		पता नहीं	9	➜ G1
F2	आप किस माध्यम से चुनाव से संबंधित जानकारियों को प्राप्त करते हैं?	समाचार पत्र / पत्रिका	1	
		टी०वी० पर प्रचार और कार्यक्रम	2	
		रेडियो और एफ एम चैनल	3	
		सिनेमा में प्रचार	4	
		क्रियाकलाप जैसे–रैली, प्रभात फेरी, लाउडस्पीकर से उदघोषणा	5	
		सांस्कृतिक / मनोरंजन कार्यक्रम	6	
		सरकारी कार्यालय के दिषा–निर्देष	7	
		पोस्टर, हॉर्डिंग और प्रचार की वस्तुएँ	8	
		गैर–सरकारी संस्था और स्थानीय सामाजिक समूह	9	
		इंटरनेट / सोषल मिडिया / वाट्सअप	10	
		एस एम एस (SMS)	11	
		घर में स्कूली बच्चों के द्वारा शपथ पत्र / संकल्प पत्र	12	
		मतदान केन्द्र पर	13	
		अन्य (कृपया निर्दिष्ट करें)		
F3	आपको कौन–कौन से मतदाता सूचना / संवाद मिला? **एक से अधिक कोड संभव**	मतदान की तारीख तथा तिथिवार	01	
		मतदान मेरा अधिकार और कर्त्तव्य है	02	
		स्वेच्छा से मतदान करना है और बिना किसी प्रलोभन के	03	
		≠ Go Register or Register	04	
		≠ Go verify or verify name in voter list	05	
		वोट देने के लिए मान्य 12 पहचान दस्तावेज	06	
		मतदान केन्द्र पर मिलने वाली सुविधा	07	
		बुजुर्ग और विकलांग के लिय मतदान करने में प्राथमिकता	08	
		मतदाता सेवा 1950 या मतदान सेवा एप्प	09	
		cVIGIL एप्प से संबंधित	10	
		राष्ट्रीय मतदाता सेवा पोर्टल (NVSP)	11	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		

F4	इस चुनाव के समय के किसी टैगलाइन को याद कर सकते है? **(हाँ के लिये 1 ना के लिये 0)** **(राज्य विषेष टैगलाइन को बताने के लिये बोले)**	a. देश का महात्यौहार है		
		b. कोई मतदाता ना छूटे		
		c.≠रजिस्टर करो ≠सत्यापन करो या ≠वोट करो		

F5	आप किसी हस्ति/चेहरे को याद कर सकते हैं, जो मतदान के लिये कोई संवाद दिया हो? **(हाँ के लिये 1, ना के लिये 0)** **(क्षेत्रीय चेहरे को बताने के लिए बोले)**	एम०एस० धोनी		
		मैरी कौम		
		साईना नेहवाल		
		आमिर खान		
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		
F6	आपने www.NVSP.in का कभी उपयोग किया है?	नहीं	0	➜ F9
		हाँ	1	
		पता नहीं	9	➜ F9
F7	**हाँ,** तो किस उद्देष्य के लिये बेवसाईट का उपयोग किया?	मतदाता सूची में नाम तथा अन्य जानकारी ढूढ़ने के लिये	1	
		पंजीकरण करने के लिये/ऑनलाईन परिवर्तन करने के लिये	2	
		पंजीकरण फार्म डाउनलोड करने के लिये	3	
		मतदान केन्द्र के बारे में जानने के लिये	4	
F8	क्या आपका अनुभव संतोषप्रद रहा?	नहीं	0	
		थोड़ा–थोड़ा	1	
		हाँ	2	
F9	क्या आपने कभी मतदाता सेवा 1950 पे कॉल किया है या मतदाता सेवा एप्प का प्रयोग किया?	दोनों में कोई नहीं	0	➜ G1
		मतदाता सेवा 1950	1	
		सिर्फ मतदाता सेवा एप्प	2	
		इनमें से दोनों	3	
F10	**अगर हाँ,** आप किस उद्देष्य से कॉल किया?	पंजीकरण या मतदान प्रक्रिया के बारे में जानकारी के लिये	1	
		मतदाता सूची में नाम की सत्यापन के लिये	2	
		अपने मतदान केन्द्र के बारे में जानने के लिये	3	
		अपने BLOके बारे में जानने के लिये	4	
		एक षिकायत दर्ज करने के लिये	5	
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)		
F11	क्या आपका अनुभव संतोषप्रद रहा/आपके समस्या का संतोषप्रद समाधान किया गया?	नहीं	0	
		थोड़ा–थोड़ा	1	
		हाँ	2	

(States can add more options in Section F questions but only after the options given herewith e.g. if State wants to add another option in F3 based on specific message/slogan that was used in the current election, it can be added as option '12' before Others. Also additional questions in F section may be included after F11.)

Section G: Background information

Q No.	Question	Response	Code			
G1	आपका शैक्षिक योग्यता क्या है?	निरक्षर	1			
		प्राथमिक विद्यालय	2			
		उच्च विद्यालय	3			
		उच्च माध्यमिक	4			
		डिप्लोमा/डिग्री	5			
		स्नातक या उसके ऊपर पेषेवर/तकनीकी कोर्स	6			
G2	आपका पेषा क्या है?	विद्यार्थी	1			
		बेरोजगार	2			
		बेरोजगार, काम के इंतजार में	3			
		सरकारी सेवा	4			
		प्राईवेट सर्विस	5			
		अपना उद्यम	6			
		मजदूर/कृषक/खेती और उससे जुड़े कार्य	7			
		गृहिणी	8			
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)				
G3	आपका वैवाहिक स्थिति क्या है?	शादी नहीं हुई	1			
		शादी हुई, गौना नहीं	2			
		शादीषुदा	3			
		विधवा	4			
		अलगाव/तलाक	5			
G4	आपका सामाजिक वर्ग कौन सा है?	अनुसूचित जाति	1			
		अनुसूचित जनजाति	2			
		अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग	3			
		अन्य	4			
G5	आप कितनी बार :	उत्तरदाता	a.	b.	c.	d.
	a) समाचार या पत्रिका पढ़ते हैं?	(1) लगभग रोज	1	1	1	1
	b) रेडियो सुनते है?	(2) कम से कम सप्ताह में एक बार	2	2	2	2
	c) टेलीविजन?	(3) सप्ताह में एक बार से कम	3	3	3	3
	d) इंटरनेट (फेसबुक, वाट्स एप्प ... आदि)	(4) कभी नहीं	4	4	4	4
G6	चुनाव के समय में आप कौन से माध्यम पर चुनाव तथा राजनीतिक समाचार प्राप्त करने के लिये भरोसा करते है?	समाचार पत्र/मैगजीन	1			
		टेलीविजन	2			
		रेडियो	3			

		इंटरनेट	4
		मोबाईल फोन	5
		परिवार / संबंधि / मित्र	6
		अन्य (निर्दिष्ट करें)	

Section H: Only for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

Q No.	Question	Response	Code
H1	आपने कभी विकलांग के भाग लेने से संबंधित प्रचार / मतदान जागरूकता सामग्री पाया / देखा?	नहीं	0
		हाँ	1
H2	क्या आपके क्षेत्र के BLO ने आपसे संपर्क किया?	नहीं	0
		हाँ	1
H3	**अगर C7 में कोड 3 है तोः** पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया में झेले गये परेशानी के बारे में बताये।		
H4	**अगर D4 में कोर्ड 1 है तो :** मतदान प्रक्रिया के समय झेले गये परेशानी के बारे में बताएँ।		

Annexure- II

Qualitative Observations from Field

The table below lists salient points that emerged while discussing with the locals, respondents and other functionaries during field visits. Such information are being presented district-wise.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Araria	48-Forbesganj	61	R	Madhya Vidyalay Kamta, East Part	Voters were satisfied with the facilities provided at the booth during Lok Sabha election. The community is aware of their rights. Women participated with high enthusiasm. Most of the voter have faith in their leader and they voted collectively.
Araria	48-Forbesganj	69	R	Madhya Vidyalay Rangdaha Majhua, North Part	Voters belong to different communities. They are highly aware of their voting rights. Most of them stay in the locality and hence, voter turnout is high. All the required facilities, except wheelchair, were available at the polling booth.
Araria	48-Forbesganj	102	U	Nibandhan Karyalay Forbesganj, South Part	The booth condition was very congested on the election day. Voting was conducted in a narrow room with a single door (single entry and exit for the voters). BLO does not fully cooperate with the voters.
Araria	48-Forbesganj	134	U	Dwijadaini Smarak Ucch Vidyalay Naya Bhawan Forbesganj, South Part	The majority of the voters have migrated. During election, they come to cast their votes. Distance of the booth and day-time temperature are other reasons for low voting.
Araria	49-Araria	38	R	Prathamik Vidyalay Chararani	The majority of the voters belong to a particular caste. They are very active during the election. Facilities at the booth were adequate.
Araria	49-Araria	178	U	Azad Academy Araria (East Part)	Most of the voters are Muslims. As the election date coincided with Ramzan's 1st Roza, only a few male voters came to cast their votes.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					Voters prefer elections not being held during Ramzan.
Araria	49-Araria	179	U	Rajkiy Kanya Madhya Vidyalay Araria (East Part)	Booth lacked basic resources. Facilities like drinking water, wheelchair, and shed were not available on election day.
Araria	49-Araria	193	U	Prathamik Vidyalay Basantpur Dhar	The voter turnout was high because majority of the voters stay in the area and work locally.
Banka	161-Banka	42	U	Rani Mahakam Kumari High School Banka Paschim Bhag)	Low voting was observed on this polling both because around 40-45% of the voters have migrated for livelihood. The women voters generally do not take much interest in election process. Also, some voters have their name enlisted at two places. Hence, they go to their village for voting. Yet another reason for low voting was lack of suitable candidate as desired by people.
Banka	161-Banka	62	R	Primary School, Windi	This booth witnessed high voting during General Election-2019. People said that there is dominance of a particular caste group and hence, voters belonging to other caste are not able to vote freely. It was also reported that there was a situation of booth capture and few people voted on behalf of other voters.
Banka	161-Banka	110	R	Upgraded Middle School, Pokhariya	There was high voting because the booth is in vicinity and all the voters reside in the same area. Also voters, panchayat members, and BLO – all are aware and active. During last Assembly Election people boycotted voting for non-providence of some basic amenities. Since their compliance have been heard, people were active this time for voting.
Banka	161-Banka	171	R	Middle School Khadahara (North Wing)	There was low voting on this polling both because most of the voters stay out of the locality for livelihood. Another reason for low voting is that majority of voters belong to a particular caste group whereas the booth is located in an area dominated by different caste group and community. Hence, female voters generally stay away

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					from voting.
Banka	162-Katoria ST	2	R	Upgraded Middle School Budhwabathan Left Wing	This booth is located in a forest area and there is low awareness among the voters. Here, the voters are concentrated in 10-12 tolas and average distance from the booth is of 2 km. Many tribal voters stay out of the area in need of livelihood. They take less interest in election process and hence voting is low.
Banka	162-Katoria ST	112	R	Primary School Dogachcha	This booth has witnessed high turnout. There are quite a few reasons for the same. The BLO and BLAs are very active. Voters are also active and aware. Since there is equal proportion of ST and non ST voters, there is a sense of competition and both groups vote actively. They also ensure that those people who reside outside the area are informed well in advance to come and vote.
Banka	162-Katoria ST	167	R	Upgraded Middle School Durgapur	The voters and BLO are very active. BLO resides locally and is known to all. The booth is in the village which is densely populated. Since most of the voters remain in the village, the voting percentage is high.
Banka	162-Katoria ST	201	R	Upgraded Middle School Kajikairi (Middle Wing)	This booth witnessed low turnout of voters. Many voters reside outside the locality for livelihood. This apart, the BLO who was posted earlier was not active. People also reported that around 10-15 percent of the eligible voters are missing from the voters list. There is discrepancy in the names, age and sex of the voters.
Begusarai	146-Begusarai	41	R	Utkrmit Madhy Vidhyalay Parra, Purvi Bhag	There was high turnout of voters on this booth because majority of the voters are poor and stay in the locality. Only a few have moved out for seeking work. The BLO also belongs to the locality and has been working in the area since 10-11 years. He ensures that voting slips are distributed well in advance. A general problem reported by people is that the updation of voters' list is not happening.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Begusarai	146-Begusarai	100	R	Madhya Vidyalay, Chhapaki	339 Males and 294 females are registered for this booth. Out of these, 272 males and 250 females voted in the election. The majority of the voters are Hindus and belong to OBC. BLO is not a local resident, but he is active. Voters are aware and responded to the charged-up election environment. Political campaigning by different parties also helped in increasing voting percentage.
Begusarai	146-Begusarai	218	U	Utkrmit Madhy Vidhyalay Paharchak Dakshin Bhag	This booth is situated around 4 kilometres from the main city. Most of the voters are literate and aware. Hence, in the charged-up election environment at Begusarai, people came out in large numbers and voted for their favourite candidate.
Begusarai	146-Begusarai	297	U	Nagarpalika Office Begusarai Pachhim Bhag Baya Bag	The majority of the voters are Muslims and quite a sizeable number of them have migrated to Gulf countries for jobs. Those who are available on the voting day exercise their rights. Another reason for low voting is that recently the booth has been split into two booths – 296 and 297. Consequently, there was a confusion among voters members of the same family were split and enlisted at different booths. Adding to woes is the BLO who is a Headmaster and is posted at a distant school. He is not able to visit the area regularly.
Begusarai	147-Bakhri (SC)	64	R	Panchayat Bhavan.Pir Nagar Sthit Majanupur	The voters of the booth are active and aware. People belonging to all caste and community voted in the election. The BLO also played his role in distributing voting slips and encouraging people to vote.
Begusarai	147-Bakhri (SC)	69	R	Prathamik Vidyalay. Dumariya	The majority of the votes belong to Schedule Caste category and reside in the locality where polling station is located. They are active in voting. The BLO assigned to the booth is also active. Hence, voting percentage is high here.
Begusarai	147-Bakhri (SC)	155	U	Lakshmi Udit Narayan Uchcha Vidyalay,	This booth witnessed low turnout of voters. A large chunk of voters belong to General Category. They normally do not go out to vote. It

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
				Shakarapura(Purvi Bhag)	is more so with the women, who mostly remain indoors. Also, the voters have to travel approximately 2 km to reach the polling booth.
Begusarai	147-Bakhri (SC)	191	R	Madhy Vidylya Parihara Bandh Se Sate Purv. Dakhsin Bhag	This booth witnessed low voting percentage. Some families reported that their names appear in more than one voter list. Also, the BLO was recently assigned the charge of this booth. He was not able to manage things properly.
Bhojpur	194-Arrah	97	U	Prathamik Vidyalay Dhanupara Ara (Pashchimi Bhag)	During the general election of 2019, this booth witnessed a high turnout of voters. The prime reason for this is the booth is located in the vicinity. This apart, there is a dominance of a particular caste group that unanimously decided to vote for a particular candidate and hence, the voting percentage is high.
Bhojpur	194-Arrah	99	U	Prathamik Vidyalay Dhanupara Ara (Madhya Bhag)	
Bhojpur	194-Arrah	299	U	Karyalya Sahayak Abhiyanta Path Pramandal (Uttari Bhag Bihari Mil Rod Aniath)	There was low voting on this booth because booth is located at distance from the voters. This apart, voters from the same family have been listed on different polling booths. Therefore, they are not able to go and vote. The BLO assigned to the booth teaches in a school which is located at a distance of 10 kms from this booth. He is, therefore, not able to visit the area regularly.
Bhojpur	194-Arrah	300	U	Karyalya Sahayak Abhiyanta Path Pramndal (Uttari Madhya Bhag Bihari Mil Rod Anaith)	
Bhojpur	194-Arrah	301	U	Vyapar Mandal Udanvanatanagar, Anaith Ara Pashicham Bhag	People have lost faith in politicians. Parties do not have a good/honest/intellectual candidate who can listen to their problems and work for development. Hence, even educated people do not vote.
Bhojpur	196-Tarari	29	R	Prathamik Vidyalay Chilabiliya	The BLO is from the same locality and he is active as well. Much before the polling day, he visits homes to make people aware and to distribute the voting slips. Hence, the voting percentage is high.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Bhojpur	196-Tarari	76	R	Madhya Vidyalay, Narayanpur (Uttari Bhag)	There was low voting on this polling both because most of the voters stay out of the locality for livelihood. People suggested that if elections are held around festival time, then the voting percentage will increase.
Bhojpur	196-Tarari	121	R	Utkramit Madhy Vidhalay , Basauri (Uttari Bhag)	There was low voting on this polling both because most of the voters stay out of the locality for livelihood.
Bhojpur	196-Tarari	79	R	"Uchcha Vidyalay Jamodhi (Baya Bhag)"	There was low voting on this polling both because most of the voters stay out of the locality for livelihood. This apart the BLO is not from the locality. He works in a different school and many voters do not recognize him. Due to these reasons, the voting percentage is low.
Darbhanga	82-Darbhanga Rural	97	R	Middle School, Sonki, South Part	Majority of the voters are from socially backward castes. People are well aware of their electoral rights and take active participation in the voting process. All the required facilities, except wheelchair, were present at the polling booth on election day.
Darbhanga	82-Darbhanga Rural	194	R	Madhya Vidyalay, Makaranda Purvi Bhag	This polling booth has a low voting turnout. The major reason for this is migration of people for livelihood for jobs and daily wages. The required facilities were present at the polling booth on election day.
Darbhanga	82-Darbhanga Rural	212	R	Kanya Uchcha Vidyalay Nehara Uttari Bhag	This polling booth has a low voting turnout. The voters from this village have suggested that to increase voting turnout the polling booth is required to be changed from the current which is at Girls High School, Nehara to Middle School, Nehara which is in the middle of the village and is accessible by all. Currently, the voters have to cross the main road to reach their polling booth. This is accident prone. Hence, old people, ladies, and girls don't want to go to the polling booth due to this reason. Another reason of low

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					turnout is migration of service class people. They are in sizeable numbers.
Darbhanga	82-Darbhanga Rural	224	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Chakachintamanipur Pashchimi Bhag	As reported, approximately 80% of the voters are from a particular caste. The community collectively decides and votes in the favour of a particular candidate. This is the sole reason behind the high voter's turnout at this polling booth. The condition of the polling booth is good. All the required facilities, except wheelchair, were present at the polling booth on election day.
Darbhanga	87-Jale	120	R	Phalahul Muslim Madarsa Nagardih, Purvi Bhag	The name of the polling booth is wrongly written. As per the secretary of the Madarsa, correct name of the polling booth should be 'Muslim Phalahul Madarsa' but the polling booth is named 'Phalahul Muslim Madarsa'. Most of the voters live at Kazi Behra (ward 2) which is very far from this place. For this reason, the voters don't show their interest in the polling process; due to which the voter turnout is low.
Darbhanga	87-Jale	129	R	Madhya Vidyalaya Jahagir Tola Uttari Bhag	Most of the voters have migrated from this place to earn their livelihood because of which they could not cast their vote on the polling day. There are approximately 65% Muslim voters at this booth. On election day during the last general elections, they had their first Roza. While the male voters could cast their votes in the morning, many female voters could not do that due to intense heat during day-time. Hence, the voter turnout remained low.
Darbhanga	87-Jale	165	R	Madhya Vidyalaya Tataila, Dakshani Bhag	The majority of the voters of this polling station belong to the marginalized sections of the society. They are living in social harmony and treat election day as a festival day. Due to this approach even though they are employed elsewhere, on the voting day they turned out in large numbers. Hence, the voting percentage

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					is high.
Darbhanga	87-Jale	178	R	Samudayik Vikas Bhawan Ahilyaasthan, Uttari Bhag	The name of the polling booth is not mentioned on the building. The name of the building is "Panchayat Secretary Office". There are two polling booths in the same room at this polling centre and all the voters enter the booths through a common door which creates confusion and chaos. As suggested by the locale, nearby buildings belonging to 'Sanskrit College' and 'Itiyog Bhawan' can be used to make polling booths.
Gaya	227-Imamganj (SC)	9	R	Primary School, Anbaran Salaiya	The majority of the voters belong to SC, ST, and OBC category. This area is surrounded by hills. The distance of this booth from the city is around 70 km. Villagers requested to shift the polling booth to Aurangabad. Some voters have to travel 50-60 km by road [or 15-20 km in the forest] to reach the polling booth. Road connectivity in the area is very poor. A bomb was placed near the polling booth during the last Lok Sabha election. Due to security reasons, voting was done under a Banyan tree. All these factors led to low turnout of voters.
Gaya	227-Imamganj (SC)	122	R	Samudaik Vikas Bhavan,Tetariya	The polling booth is situated near to the residence of the voters. Majority of the voters belong to the marginalized section of the society. The voting is one sided - for a particular party. Voters belonging to other castes and communities also vote in the similar fashion. Hence, due to nearness of the booth and collective voting, the voting percentage is high here.
Gaya	227-Imamganj (SC)	127	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Kosamah	The polling booth is situated in the centre of the village. Majority of the voters belong to a particular caste. There is collective voting. During election, people who have left the village for work or education also come to cast their vote. If they fail to come, other

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					family members cast votes in their names. Hence booth location and 'special' interest in voting leads to high voting percentage.
Gaya	227-Imamganj (SC)	237	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Jatahi, Kothilava	The majority of the voters belong to SC and ST category. Majority of them are uneducated. They collect wood and mahua from the forest and sell them for living. This area has a Naxal influence and is located about 6-8 km interior from the main road. Due to security reasons, the polling booth was shifted from Jatahi to Madhya Vidyalay, Didhasin. Distant booth, lack of transport facilities to reach the polling booth and daily wage earning led to low voting.
Gaya	230-Gaya Town	17	U	Kanya Prathamik Vidyalay, Kharkhura	Majority of the voters are Railway staff and residents of the Railway colony. Their name is in the voting list but many of them have been transferred. Due to non-updation of the voters' list, their name still appears on the electoral roll. Another reason for low voting is that the polling booth is far from the colony. Hence, few people vote.
Gaya	230-Gaya Town	23	U	R. M. P. School, Kharkhura (Pashchimi Bhag)	The polling booth is located far away from the residential area. There is difficulty of conveyance to the booth. Hence, women and elderly generally do not go to cast their votes.
Gaya	230-Gaya Town	181	U	Shahmir Takiya Madhya Vidyalay Saptam Varg Sankul Kendra	The majority of voters are literate and aware of their voting rights. A significant number of voters belongs to Scheduled Caste category. They are also active and are aware of their voting rights.
Gaya	230-Gaya Town	191	U	Urdu Madhya Vidyalay, Gewal Bigha	The majority of voters are literate and belong to the Muslim community. Voters are aware of their voting rights.
Gaya	231-Tikari	156	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Mahimapur	The polling booth witnessed high turnout of voters because there is social harmony and elections are held in peaceful environment. The BLO is also active and timely distributes the voter slip to households.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Gaya	231-Tikari	234	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Kuseta Harijan Tola	There was a mass boycott of the general election at this booth on the issue of scarcity of drinking water. Hence, voting percentage was low. This is native village of an ex-M.L.A. of Kurtha. Only people to vote were are his family members and his few supports.
Gaya	231-Tikari	270	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, (Harijan) Malhaiya Tola Murgi Bigha	The majority of voters belong to the same caste and reside nearby to the polling station. There is social harmony and coordination. Therefore, voting is done peacefully and turnout is high.
Gaya	231-Tikari	296	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Paluhad (Pashchimi Bhag)	Here is a mixed population and voters belong to various categories. The polling booth is far from their residence and means of travel are restricted. Also, the voting slip was not distributed to all the voters. Hence, they were unable to cast vote.
Jamui	241-Jamui	51	R	Utkarmit Madhay Vidyalay Khadasari, Paschimi Bhag	There was low voter turnout at this booth for quite a few reasons. Some voters reside far away from the polling booth and there is no proper means to commute. So, elderly voters were unable to cast their vote. Some other voters said that they were scared and believed that there may be violence at the polling booth. Hence, they did not vote. Yet another group of voters were disenchanted with the electoral process. They said that since there is no development of the area, what is so sacred about voting. Hence, they did not vote.
Jamui	241-Jamui	239	R	Urdu Madhya Vidyalay Banpur East Side	
Jamui	241-Jamui	108	U	Utkarmit Madhay Vidyalay, Shahapur, Purab Bhag	These booth witnessed high turnout of voters because majority of people are literate and are aware of their voting rights. They think voting in the election will result in the development of India. Elderly voters were keen to participate in the election. Some social workers helped the elderly to reach the booth on election day.
Jamui	241-Jamui	237	R	Utkarmit Madhay Vidyalay Chancho	
Jamui	243-Chakai	155	R	Prathmik Vidhyalay Rajadumar	The polling booth falls in a naxal prone area. Hence, people fear to vote and they choose to stay away from the election process. The

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					polling booth is located at a place which is far off and people have to cross hills and jungle to cast their vote. Hence, voter turnout is low.
Jamui	243-Chakai	177	R	Navin Prathmik Vidayalaya Simra	There was high turnout of voters on these two booths. The main reasons that can be attributed to this are literacy and activeness of
Jamui	243-Chakai	271	R	Utkramit Madhy Vidyalay Golachakai	the voters. They were aware of their voting rights and exercised the same. The polling booth is in non- naxal prone area and hence, people voted without fear. Elderly voters are helped by local social workers.
Jamui	243-Chakai	275	R	Utkramit Madhy Vidyalay Jalakhariya	There was boycott of the general election. People reside in jungle and on hill. Accessability to the area is difficult. Elected representatives have not fulfilled their promises. Hence, there was low voting.
Jehanabad	218-Makhdumpur (SC)	8	R	Prathamik Vidyalay Bhadaseri	This booth has voters from two villages – Bhadesari and Munichak. The reason for low voting on this booth is twofold. First, majority of voters belong to Bhadesari village. Due to migration and low interest in voting, the turnout is low. Second, the voters of Munichak have to travel 4-5 km to cast their votes. Many of them are daily wage earners. Hence, there is low voting. People of Munichak suggested that shifting their booth to Gopalpur will help increase voting.
Jehanabad	218-Makhdumpur (SC)	57	R	Prathamik Vidyalay Bharthua	There was high voter turnout at this booth. Majority of voters belong to a particular caste. They are able to influence other voters as well. As informed by people, the Election Personnel and the party agents also influenced voting in favour of a particular candidate. People requested to create a new polling station for fair elections.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Jehanabad	218-Makhdumpur (SC)	67	R	Angan Bari Kendra Khapura	The polling booth witnessed high voter turnout because there is dominance of a particular caste and voting is one sided. In addition, the booth is near to the bazar. This also helps in high voter turnout.
Jehanabad	218-Makhdumpur (SC)	241	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Bhaikh	Majority of the voters are not educated and are less aware of their voting rights. Therefore, their participation in electoral process is low. Those who are educated have migrated and do not come to vote.
Kaimur	205-Bhabua	79	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Karamichak	Majority of the voters belong to a particular caste and are uneducated. They prefer to vote in favour of a leader who belongs to their caste. Due to this one sided polling, the voting percentage is high.
Kaimur	205-Bhabua	131	U	Nagar Palika Madhya Vidyalaya Bhabhua Ward No. 7	This booth is located in an urban area where people are educated and aware. The area receives adequate campaigning from political parties and Election Commission. Still, voting was low due to indifference of people towards electoral process due to lack of development, lack of good candidates, etc.
Kaimur	205-Bhabua	137	U	Jila Pashupalan Padadhikari Ka Karyalay, Bhabhua Ward No.-8 (Dakshini. Bhag)	The polling station has large number of Muslim voters. Majority of them have migrated. This is the main reason for low turnout of the voters.
Kaimur	205-Bhabua	270	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Pandeypur	This booth witnessed high voter turnout because the voter list is update and most of the voters reside in locality. Also, there is lots of campaigning by political parties. Local politicians also promote awareness during the elections.
Kaimur	206-Chainpur	19	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Konahara	There was high voting on these booths because a large number of voters belong to a particular caste and they collectively vote for a

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Kaimur	206-Chainpur	119	R	New Prathmik Vidyalay Ujari Dadwan	particular leader who belongs to their castes. Moreover, the voters are generally uneducated and most of them live in the locality and are available for voting. Hence the voting percentage is high.
Kaimur	206-Chainpur	231	R	Van Vibhag Vishram Grih, Karakatagadh	This booth is located in the hilly region of Chainpur Block. Road connectivity to this polling booth is not good. Majority of the voters belong to ST, SC, BC, and EBC categories. During election, the current booth was merged with another booth which is approximately 12 km away. This led to lower voting.
Kaimur	206-Chainpur	235	R	Anusuchit Jati, Anusuchit Jan Jati, Avasiy Madhya Vidyalay, Semra	This booth is also located in the hilly region of Chainpur Block. The road connectivity is poor. Forest road developed by the Forest Department is used by people. Majority of the voters belong to SC, ST, and EBC categories. They are generally uneducated and live on daily wages. During election, this booth was merged with another booth at Jhairya which is at far off distance from the five villages that this booth caters to. Large distance and intense heat made it difficult for voters, especially women and elderly, to approach the polling station. These factors resulted in lower voting.
Kishanganj	54-Kishanganj	163	R	Chamane Mustafa Madarsa Bansbadi	There was low voter turnout at this booth. Road connectivity in the area is poor. People report that on the day of election, there was no proper arrangement of light at the booth and the villagers had to make the arrangements. They were also dissatisfied with the work of the BLO assigned to the booth. Yet another reason for low voting is that some voters of this booth have been shifted to the polling station at Damalbari which is at a distance of 4 kilometers. Similarly, some voters of that booth have been enlisted at this booth. Hence, due to distance and confusion, low voting occurred.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Kishanganj	54-Kishanganj	193	R	Upgraded Middle School Maheshbathna North Part	This Village is situated at 5 kilometers distance from Kishanganj district headquarter. Due to proximity from the district headquarter, the voters are very much aware of their voting rights and they enthusiastically participated in the election process. Because of the awareness among the voters, the voter turnout was high.
Kishanganj	54-Kishanganj	245	U	Middle School Ashalata (South Building)	This polling station is situated in the main market of Kishanganj. This polling booth caters to areas like Railway Colony, Gidhdha Ganchhi, and Paswan tola. Gidhdha Ganchhi was inhabited on the Railway's land. After evacuation, the voters of this locality have migrated elsewhere. Hence, they could not vote. The voters of Railway colony are enrolled at different polling booths. Many of them were engaged in election duty as well. Also, in some cases, members of the same family have been enlisted on different booths. Hence, only few people voted. The voters of Paswan Tola dwell on a piece of land being claimed by Indian Railways Bihar Government, both. The matter is sub-judice and the outcome is uncertain for these people as they stand to face evacuation. Hence, they showed little interest in the election. All these factors led to low voting on this booth.
Kishanganj	54-Kishanganj	262	U	Upgraded Middle School. Pothia Dhekabhinja North Part	The voting percentage was high at this polling booth because the voters are generally aware of the importance of voting and actively participate in the electoral process. There were awareness campaigns by social activists and members of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). In addition, location of a Board Security Force (BSF) camp nearby ensured that polling was peaceful.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Kishanganj	55-Kochadhaman	95	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidhalya Jhantibadi Uttar Bhag	There was low voting on this booth for a quiet of few reasons. First, the adjoining booth number 96 witnessed clashes and malfunctioning of EVM. As a result, voting on this booth was also affected. Second, this booth is located at a distance of 3 to 6 kilometres from the voters. Hence, women and elderly could not turn up in adequate numbers. Moreover, many families have their members enlisted at different booths. Also, migration for jobs has affected the voter turnout. During data collection, it was observed that most of the households do not possess television or radio. They come to know about the polling day only when the BLO and the ward member distribute voting slips to the families.
Kishanganj	55-Kochadhaman	96	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidhalya Jhantibadi Dakshin Bhag	The election was disturbed for 2 hours due to the malfunctioning of the EVM. It was also affected by altercation at the polling station. Hence, there was low voting. Other reasons for low voting are migration for livelihood and lack of awareness among voters. Since most of the families do not have televisions or radios, they come to know about the polling day through the slip distributed by the ward member. People were dissatisfied with the work of the BLO.
Kishanganj	55-Kochadhaman	212	R	U.M.S. Lahra Fulbadi North Part	Due to the proximity of this area with district headquarter, the village has unban traits. The voters are aware of their voting rights and they participated enthusiastically in the last general election. Even the malfunctioning of the voting machine could not dampen their spirit. People were happy with the work of BLO. The headmaster of the school also motivated people to cast their votes during the election.
Kishanganj	55-Kochadhaman	224	R	P.S. Noniyantoli	This village is 8 to 10 kilometres far from the district headquarter. The majority of the voters of this village are Shershahwadi

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					(Bangladeshi). Due to National Registration (NRC) issue in Assam, these voters were very alert to cast their vote. Even those family members who have migrated for jobs were informed about the election day so that they could come and vote. The election officials and election personal at this booth stopped the voters to cast their vote after seeing the huge turnout. They informed the voters that if the voting percentage is more than 90% then the election at this booth will get cancelled. As per the voters, the work of BLO is satisfactory. He personally distributed the voter slips to each household and informed everyone about the election date.
Madhepura	72-Singheshwar (SC)	47	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Sinheshwar, Madhya Bhag	This polling booth is about 8 kilometres from the district headquarter and is close to a market place. Majority of voters belong to business class. Owing to inclination for a particular party, voters withstood daytime heat and long queue to vote. Hence, the polling was high. At this polling station, some voters complained that their names have been removed from the voter list, irrespective of the fact that they possess EPIC and reside in the locality. An example of such omission is Mr. Hari Ram (Voter Id. Card No. - SAJ1994607) who claims that the name of his family members has been missing from the voter list. Such voters alleged that the BLO demands money to get their names reinserted on the electoral roll.
Madhepura	72-Singheshwar (SC)	175	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Puraini Baya Bhag	Situated at about 45 kilometres from Madhepura, this booth saw low turnout of voters in the general election. Here, majority of the voters are from minority community. Migration for livelihood and lack of interest in the electoral process are the main reasons for low voting. During interaction, people informed that the BLO did not distribute voting slips before the election day. They also alleged that

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					he charges money for making the EPIC card and adding name in the voter list.
Madhepura	72-Singheshwar (SC)	278	R	Panchayat Bhavan, Rahata, Baya Bhag	This polling station is along the National Highway. Majority of the voters are from OBC category. Owing to inclination for a particular party, they turned out in large numbers to vote. The BLO assigned to the booth is active. He distributed voter slips to the households before the election and conducted 'Prabhat Pheri' to motivate them.
Madhepura	72-Singheshwar (SC)	291	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Lakshmipur Chandisthan, Left Side	This booth witnessed low voting because a large number of young voters have migrated outside the state for livelihood. Majority of them belong to SC and OBC categories. During interaction, people expressed satisfaction with the work of the BLO of this booth. However, there were complaints about the BLO assigned to the adjoining Booth No. - 290. He does not update the voters' list and hence, people are not able to vote.
Madhubani	36-Madhubani	10	U	Prathamik Vidhayalay Bhakharouli	The majority of the voters are daily wagers who reside in the locality and seek work in Madhubani. Due to low migration, voter turnout was high on the election day.
Madhubani	36-Madhubani	17	U	Jagadish Nandan Mahavidhalay Madhubani Danya Bhag	The voting percentage is low at this booth because many people have migrated outside the area along with family members. Some were living as tenants and have moved to other places. To get a fair voting percentage, the voter list should be updated to reflect upon the actual number of eligible voters on this booth.
Madhubani	36-Madhubani	305	R	Urdu Maktab Sima Madhya Bhag	Majority of the voters on this booth belong to SC category. They are uneducated and live in the area and vote. They informed that polling is peaceful at this booth. However, there was dissatisfaction with the work of new BLO. He rarely visits the area and hence, problems of the voters remain unaddressed.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Madhubani	36-Madhubani	320	R	Prathmik Maktab Bhawanipur Banya Bhag	This polling booth observed high turnout of voters. Most of the voters are Muslims and have been rehabilitated on land provided by the government. Since they have migrated here from a nearby place and many of them are relatives as well, voting is done after taking unanimous decision in favour of a particular candidate or party.
Madhubani	37-Rajnagar (SC)	2	R	Madhya Vidhalay Shivipatti Naya Bhavan	Majority of the voters registered at this booth have migrated in search of jobs or for higher studies. They do not turn up to cast their votes. Out of a total of 949 registered voters, about 150 even do not belong to the area. Their whereabouts are unknown. All those who stay in the locality, vote. Some people said that although their details has been corrected in the voter list after application through Form-8, they are yet to receive their corrected voter card.
Madhubani	37-Rajnagar (SC)	16	R	Prathmik Vidyalay Blha Hindi Karhiya Baya Bhag	There was low voting on this booth due to two main reasons – migration for livelihood or higher studies and apathy towards electoral process. Even educated people do not cast their vote.
Madhubani	37-Rajnagar (SC)	258	R	Prathmik Vidyalay Madna Goth Laheri Tol Daya Bhag	There was high voting percentage due to active participation of voters and hard work of the BLO. Irrespective of erratic power supply, intense heat, long queues and lack of facilities on the election day, people came out to vote. The BLO also visited the households to distribute voter slip and motivate people to vote. A general complaint was that the applications for updating of voter list and correction of names were not processed quickly at the district level.
Madhubani	37-Rajnagar (SC)	280	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Dumara Urdu	This booth observed sizeable voting percentage mainly because the voters generally reside in the locality. Those who have migrated for livelihood also turned up because of marriage ceremonies and crop harvesting season.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Muzaffarpur	91-Bochahan (SC)	38	R	Prathamik Vidhyalay, Shekhapur, Paschim Bhag	These two booths witnessed low turnout of voters due to various reasons. The school has four polling stations and only three rooms to accommodate the same. Hence, there is chaos and long queue. This deters people from going to vote. Another reason is that the voter list has not been updated. People who are dead or have migrated are still enlisted. It is also reported that persons from the
Muzaffarpur	91-Bochahan (SC)	39	R	Prathamik Vidhyalay, Shekhapur, Paschim Madhay Bhag	same family have their names enlisted at different booths. There are many voters whose names are common in the voter list of booth numbers 39 and 40. Also, some voters are registered here but go to their ancestral place to vote. All these reasons have led to decrease in voting percentage at these polling stations. As per people, relocation these two booths to Jimalal Ram Chowk would lead to high voting.
Muzaffarpur	91-Bochahan (SC)	85	R	Prathamik Vidyalaya, Nanhuchak Tola Mushahari	This polling booth was earlier located in Nanuchak. Now, it has been shifted to Radha Nagar. Due to this, voters find it convenient to vote and voting percentage has increased. However, some voters told that there was lack of amenities like wheelchair and drinking water.
Muzaffarpur	91-Bochahan (SC)	86	R	Uttakramit Madhya Vidhyalay Daya Bhag , Mushahari	Voter turnout was high on this booth mainly due to the determination of people to vote. Many of them travelled 3 km to cast vote. There was no separate line for elderly and weak. Since multiple booths are located at this school, there is large gathering and chaos. People requested to shift the polling booth to Prathamik Vidyalaya, Anjar Tola for better turnout.
Muzaffarpur	94- Muzaffarpur	1	U	Muzaffarpur Institue Of Technology Brahampura, Purwi Bhag	Low voter turnout was registered here because many voters are employees of MIT. Transfer of job or retirement has made them leave the area. Hence, they did not vote. Some of the voters enlisted

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					at this polling station are not of the area. Even the BLO is unaware about them. Due to these reasons, voting was low.
Muzaffarpur	94-Muzaffarpur	110	U	Madhya Vidhyalay, Gokhalepuri, Islamapur	There was high voting at this booth because it is located in the vicinity and people are aware of their voting rights.
Muzaffarpur	94-Muzaffarpur	292	R	Madhya Vidhyalay , Pakari Ismail Uttar Bhag	During interaction with voters, it was found that people are aware and active about elections. They were motivated to vote for their party irrespective of the fact that the polling station at distance for some.
Muzaffarpur	94-Muzaffarpur	299	R	Prathamik Vidhyalay, Dumari, Pashchimi Bhag	The main reason behind the high voting percentage at this booth is the awareness of voters and inclination for a particular party.
Nalanda	172-Biharsharif	82	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Pachasa, (Daya Bhag)	The reason for high voting is awareness of the voters. Even those who live outside also came to vote.
Nalanda	172-Biharsharif	99	R	Utkarmit Madha Vidhalay Mirjapur	Voters were aware and enthusiastic about the elections and their voting rights. Therefore, voting was high. As informed, facilities like drinking water, ramps, toilets, and other amenities were available for the voters at the polling booth.
Nalanda	172-Biharsharif	235	U	Rajaswa Kachahari Garh par Uttar Bhag	The main reason of low voting was change of booth address for general election. At the new booth, elderly voters found it difficult to climb and vote.
Nalanda	172-Biharsharif	322	U	Bajar Samiti Ka Madhya Bhag Ke Uttari Bhag	The voters of this booth live at distance from the booth. This was the main reason behind the low voter turnout.
Nalanda	175-Hilsa	23	R	Uttakramit Madhya Vidyalay Mohiuddinapur Chak	The voters are aware and active about elections and they exercised their voting right. Hence, voting percentage was high.
Nalanda	175-Hilsa	138	U	P H E D Karayalay Hilsa	Most of the voters go to their native villages to cast votes. Some

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
				Purbi Madhya Bhag	were not aware about the location of their booth. Hence, voting percentage was not encouraging.
Nalanda	175-Hilsa	139	U	Prakhand Karyalay Hilasa Ke Sate Purav Bhavan	The reason for high voting is awareness of the voters. Even those who live outside also came to vote.
Nalanda	175-Hilsa	196	R	Prathmik Vidyalay, Noniya Bigaha	The people from the village have informed that the current polling booth is at a distance of 2 kilometres. The assembly election in 2015 saw violence at this booth. Therefore, the voters chose to stay away. They requested that since the village has got a school, it should be made their polling booth.
Patna	178-Mokama	52	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidhyalay Kajichak(Purvi Bhag)	There was low turnout of voters because many people have, since long, migrated to cities for work and education. During field visit, lot many houses were found locked. In some households, only older people reside. The voter list should be updated to reflect upon the actual number of voters.
Patna	178-Mokama	55	R	Madhya Vidyalay Khajurar (Dakshini Bhag)	Almost 60% of voters belong to the minority community. The issue of migration is significant at this polling booth. This apart, ladies from the well-to-do families are reluctant to move out of house and cast their votes. For these reasons, voting percentage is low.
Patna	178-Mokama	216	R	Prathmik Vidhyalay Ganga Serpur	The voters of both the polling booths are from Rajesh Nagar locality. Majority of them belong to a specific caste of OBC category. As reported, voting was peaceful. There was inclination for a particular party and vote were casted even for those who were not present on the day of election. Hence, the voting percentage was high.
Patna	178-Mokama	217	R	Prathmik Vidhyalay Fatakawa Tola	
Patna	183-Kumhrar	228	U	Madrasa Islamiya Samsul Hoda Kaniy Musalahpur (Madhy Bhag)	Low voter turnout at this booth was primarily due to apathy of the voters for electoral process.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Patna	183-Kumhrar	251	U	Rajkiya Buniyadi Abhyashala Mahendru (Kamra No.3)	The voter turnout at these two booth was high due to awareness and enthusiasm among the voters.
Patna	183-Kumhrar	271	U	Urdu Madhya Vidyalay Khanamirza (Purwi Bhag)	
Patna	183-Kumhrar	343	U	Sai I.T.I,Sansthan Sector-8 (Purwi Bhag)	Many voters on this booth are uneducated, poor and are daily wage earners. They move out for daily work and are not able to vote. There seemed some errors in the voter list. However, the BLO lacked clear information about the voters on the booth.
Patna	189-Masaurhi (SC)	70	U	Registry Office Masaurhi (Purwi Bhag)	The polling percentage of this booth was low. The probable reasons could be lack of interest among the voters and migration for livelihood. Also, some families reported that members of the same family have their names registered on different polling stations. Therefore, they could not vote.
Patna	189-Masaurhi (SC)	97	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Keshochak	The polling percentage of this booth was high. The BLO is active. Also, majority of the voters belong to a particular caste and vote for a specific party. Voters were very conscious about the election. And the polling station was accessible to all. Hence, turnout was high.
Patna	189-Masaurhi (SC)	98	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Puranachak	The voting turnout at this booth was high mainly due to awareness of the voters and proximity of the booth from the registered voters.
Patna	189-Masaurhi (SC)	182	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Pipala, Urdu (Purwi Bhag)	Majority of the registered voters are Muslims. Many of them migrated outside the country for jobs. Hence, voting turnout was low.
Purnia	59-Banmankhi (SC)	78	R	Madhya Vidyalay Masuriya Mushari	As reported, the candidate contesting from this parliamentary constituency is a popular figure in the area. Moreover, majority of voters on this booth belong to his caste. These could be the probable reasons for high voter turnout on this polling station.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Purnia	59-Banmankhi (SC)	90	R	Madhya Vidyalay Akhtiyarpur Purv	Most of the voters on this booth belong to a particular caste. There is collective decision on the candidate followed by one-sided voting. Hence, voting percentage is high.
Purnia	59-Banmankhi (SC)	249	R	Madhya Vidyalay Moujampatti Uttar Bhag	The area witnessed murder of three people days before the election. Fearing backlash and disturbance, some families moved out of the locality for a couple of days. The atmosphere remained tense and hence, low voter turnout was observed on election day.
Purnia	59-Banmankhi (SC)	253	R	Madhya Vidyalay Shishva Uttar Bhag	The registered voters of both the polling booths are residents of Sishwa and Rajghat villages. Owing to poor development of the area, people of Sishwa village completely boycotted the general election. Hence, voting percentage was low at these booths. Whatever turnout has been recorded, it is due to the voting done by people of Rajghat.
Purnia	59-Banmankhi (SC)	254	R	Madhya Vidyalay Shishva Dakshin Bhag	
Purnia	62-Purnia	2	U	Madhya Vidhyalay Refugee Colony (Purab Bhag)	Total number of registered voters at this booth are 535. During field survey, the BLO informed that around 300 listed names are unknown to him. They are not from the locality. Due to these fictitious voters, the voting percentage is low.
Purnia	62-Purnia	44	U	Purniyo Kolej Purniyo Pashchim Bhag	During field survey, people informed that the BLO of this booth is not active in the area and allocates the work on someone else. Due to this reason, problems of voters remain unsolved.
Purnia	62-Purnia	198	U	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Uthari Pokhariya Abdullanagar Uttar Purav Bhag	This booth has been attached with urban area quite recently. As reported by people, lack of facilities were observed at this booth during recent Lok Sabha election.
Purnia	62-Purnia	256	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Daliya Husainavad	This polling station witnessed high voter turnout because most of the voters stay in the village for their livelihood.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Purnia	62-Purnia	265	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Duanniya Rampur Uttar Bhag	This polling station saw high turnout of voters. There are quite a few reasons for this. The majority of the voters stay in the locality and work in nearby areas. Almost all the voters are of same community and they are active during the election. The recent issue of NRC in Assam could also be a probable reason for high voting percentage.
Saran	117-Marhaura	3	R	Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalay Mothha Madhya Bhag	This school has three booths. Booth number 3 has low voting. This booth was formed just before the general election and many of the voters were unaware of the booth. Hence, turnout was low here.
Saran	117-Marhaura	59	U	Kanya Madhya Vidyalay Marhaura, Daya Bhag	High voting was observed at this booth. This booth is located in the market area of the city. The majority of the voters are residents of this area for many years. This booth had all the basic facilities on the election day. People voted without any fear.
Saran	117-Marhaura	61	R	Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalay Bhawalpur Purab Bhag	This booth is located far from the residential area of voters. Some caste-based conflicts were also observed before the election. Therefore, voting was low. Voters demand a new booth in the area.
Saran	117-Marhaura	129	R	Prathmik Vidyalay Shishwan Musahar Toli	High voting was observed at this booth. Majority of the voters of this polling station belong to a single caste and the booth is located close to the residential area.
Saran	118-Chapra	1	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Semariya Khurd Pashchim Bhag	The main reason for low voting is that the booth is located at a general distance of 2-3 kilometres from the residential area of voters. This apart, majority of the Muslim voters didn't vote during Ramzan.
Saran	118-Chapra	37	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Mukrera	High voting was observed on this booth. The booth has voters of all castes. They are aware of their voting rights and vote actively.
Saran	118-Chapra	152	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Methwalia	High voting was observed here. This booth is located in middle of a dense population of voters. People participated actively.

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Saran	118-Chapra	217	U	Ambedakar Trust Parisar , Nai Bazar Kamra No-4	Low polling was observed on this booth mainly because the enlisted voters are scattered and are at an average distance of 1.5 to 2 km.
Siwan	105-Siwan	163	R	Prathmik Vidhalay Devapali	Voters are highly active and aware of their voting rights. Majority of the voters belong to same caste and have inclination for a particular political party. Migrated people also come back to cast their votes during elections. Hence, the voting percentage is high.
Siwan	105-Siwan	216	U	D. A. V. Satabdi Public School Kabirmath Kandhwara Paschim Bhag	There was low turnout of voters at this polling station because the voter list has names of voters who have permanently migrated. Also, some people have temporarily migrated for livelihood. They did not come to vote during general election. The booth has witnessed disturbances in the past. Some people still carry that effect and do not vote out of fear.
Siwan	105-Siwan	223	U	Jila Nibandhan Karyalay Siwan Baya Bhag	Low polling was observed at this booth. Voters of this polling station are spread from Majahrool Haq Bus Stand to Daha River. Those who reside near the bus stand have to travel quite a distance to cast their votes. Elderly people face more difficulty. Hence, voting is less. People requested to change their booth to a school near the bus stand. Migration for work or higher studies is another reason for low voting.
Siwan	105-Siwan	294	U	Vidyut Karyalay Makhdum Saray Daya Bhag	Voting percentage was high at this booth because the voters are active and aware of their voting rights. Many of them are businessmen and stay in the area. The daily wagers also seek jobs in local market only. Migration is negligible in this area. Hence, voting is high.
Siwan	108-Raghunathpur	60	R	Utakramit Madhya Vidyalay,Taenghara (Daya	This polling booth witnessed high voting percentage because migration is negligible and daily wage earners generally seek work

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
				Bhag)	in Siwan town. Also, people are aware of their voting rights.
Siwan	108-Raghunathpur	142	R	Maktab Usri Buzurg,Baya Bhag	People are active and aware of their voting rights. The polling booth is situated in a local market and majority of the voters are traders. Migration is negligible. Due to these reasons, voting is high here.
Siwan	108-Raghunathpur	231	R	Aanganbadi Kendra Nikhati Kala (Daya Bhag)	A sizeable number of voters have migrated in search of job or higher education. Some have migrated permanently. However, their name continues to exist in voter list. Hence, voting percentage was low on these booths.
Siwan	108-Raghunathpur	234	R	Utakramit Madhya Vidyalay, Nikhati Kla (Left Side)	
Supaul	43-Supaul	91	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay Ghogharariya	One reason of low turnout of voters was disenchantment of people with the elected representatives who have not solved problems of general public.
Supaul	43-Supaul	102	R	Madhya Vidyalay, Piprahari	The majority of the voters are aware of their voting rights. They participate enthusiastically during elections. Hence, voting is high.
Supaul	43-Supaul	113	R	Panchayat Bhawan Bairiya Sthit Malhad	The reason behind the increase in voting percentage is enthusiasm of voters to vote for a particular party. Also, the voter list is updated on this booth. Addition and deletion of names occurs regularly.
Supaul	43-Supaul	146	U	Utkarmit Madhya Vidyalay Kharail Punarwas (Pashchim Bhag)	There was low voter turnout at this booth because many voters are registered at two different places. Some people vote here and remaining at the other booth.
Supaul	44-Triveniganj (SC)	18	R	Utkramit Kanya Madhya Vidyalaya Bhawanipur Uttar	People are dissatisfied with the elected candidates because their problems have not been addressed. Hence, there is little interest in politics and electoral process and people do not vote actively.
Supaul	44-Triveniganj (SC)	146	R	Madhya Vidyalaya, Daparkha (Dakshin Bhag)	

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
Supaul	44-Triveniganj (SC)	217	R	Utkarmit Madhy Vidyalay Lakshmaniya (Hindi) (Pashchim Bhag)	High voter turnout was observed at this booth because the contestant of general election is a resident of the village and belongs to the same polling station. Hence, people participated enthusiastically.
Supaul	44-Triveniganj (SC)	232	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Parwaha (Dakshin Bhag)	During field data collection, people informed that the main reason for high voting percentage was door-to-door campaigning by the current elected representative. He was very active in this area during the election and people voted enthusiastically.
West Champaran	2-Ramnagar (SC)	88	U	Madhya Vidyalay, Harinagar Nepali Tola Pashchami Bhag	Voter turnout was low at this polling booth. There were various reasons for the same. Some voters have migrated in search of a job or for higher studies. Due to Ramzan, lesser number of Muslim voters came out to vote. In absence of lady election officers at the polling station, burqa-clad Muslim voters did not come out to vote. There were two booths at the same place. This led to large gathering. People informed that the booth lacked basic facilities like drinking water.
West Champaran	2-Ramnagar (SC)	123	R	Prathmik Vidyalay, Jogiya, Hindi,Utri Bhag	Low voting was observed at this polling station. It was learnt that many Muslim women didn't vote due to traditional custom. It was a hot summer day but this booth lacked basic resources to bring relief from heat. Hence, voters faced difficulty during the election. Another reason for low voting is migration of people in search of livelihood or for higher studies.
West Champaran	2-Ramnagar (SC)	179	R	Rajakiy Prathamik Vidyalay, Tahakaul	There was high turnout of voters at this booth for multiple reasons. All the voters live within 600-700 metre around the booth. Many block-level functions are regularly held at this school in which the residents in the nearby area actively participate. BLO took the initiative to conduct 'Prabhat Pheri' to create awareness among

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
					voters before the election. Local politicians also help in creating awareness. Majority of the voters are 'Tharu' villagers who have not migrated outside the area for work. They earn their wages in the nearby places only and are available for voting.
West Champaran	2-Ramnagar (SC)	197	R	Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay, Manguraha, Purvi Bhag	High voting percentage was observed at this polling station because all the voters live within 600-700 metre around the booth. Before election, a live demo of EVM was displayed to the voters. Local party workers also help in spreading awareness. There is no or low migration. Majority of the voters belong to the "Tharu" community and they work in nearby areas. There is social peace and harmony and the same is reflected on the election day as well.
West Champaran	8-Bettiah	76	U	Madhya Vidyalay, Gandak Coloni,2 Betiya, Purv Bhag	The voting percentage at these booths has generally remained low. Majority of the voters have migrated to cities in search of a job or for higher studies. Some voters have settled elsewhere after selling their property. Many voters have their names enlisted at their native places also. So, they vote there. Some voters remain involved in election duty and are not able to vote. At the same time, their women also do not go to cast vote. Some people have their names or photographs wrongly imprinted on the EPIC. Hence, they do not vote. It was also reported that to gain advantage in the Panchayat Elections, some local politicians have got the names of their close associates enlisted at this booth, even though they are not a resident of the area. For increasing the voting percentage, updating of voter list is required to reflect upon the number of genuine voters. Disabled persons faced difficulty on Booth No-126. There was only one way for entry and exit.
West Champaran	8-Bettiah	126	R	Audyogik Prashikshan Sansthan Jayaprakash Nagar Dakshini Bhag	

District	AC	PS No	PS Type	PS Name	Observations
West Champaran	8-Bettiah	155	R	Madhya Vidyalay, Shekhauna Math	There was high voting at these two booth due to various similar reasons. These booths are in vicinity and many official functions are regularly held here. Hence, people are aware and active. Officials and political functionaries keep spreading awareness regarding elections. Updating of voters' list is regularly taken up. Migration is low and mostly seasonal. So, people are available on election day.
West Champaran	8-Bettiah	163	R	Prathamik Vidyalay, Pipara	

Annexure- III

Photographs taken during research study

स्वंय पढ़ें,औरों
अज्ञानता का अं

आपका मतदान देश का निर्माण

20-सारण लोकसभा आम निर्वाचन-2019
वि॰स॰ नि॰क्षे॰-सं॰ एवं नाम- 118,छपरा
म॰ के॰ सं॰ एवं नाम-37,उ॰म॰ वि॰ मुकरेड़ा
बी॰एल॰ओ॰ का नाम-संत कु॰ गुप्ता,न॰-9771136926
पुरुष म॰-482,महिला म॰-573,कुल-1055
मतदान का दि॰-06-05-2019
समय- 07 बजे सुबह से 05 बजे शाम तक

लोकसभा निर्वाचन-2019
06, मधुबनी लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र
36, मधुबनी विधानसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र
भाग सं. एवं नाम - 10 प्रा. वि. भरदरौली
BLO का न. एवं मो. नं. - मो. मुमताज -7004189161
मतदान की तिथि-6-5-2019