

Methodology of Lokniti-IBN Tracker Round II

The findings presented here are based on a tracker survey conducted in 18 States of India by Lokniti, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi between January 5 and January 15, 2014. The data for the survey was collected through face to face interviews amongst 18,591 voters spread across 1081 locations of 291 randomly selected Parliamentary constituencies in 18 States. 267 of the 291 parliamentary constituencies were the same as those sampled for the first round of tracker survey conducted by Lokniti in July 2013. 24 constituencies were sampled additionally for the second round. In each state, the Parliamentary constituencies and assembly segment/segments within a selected Parliamentary Constituency were randomly selected using the Probability Proportionate to Size sampling technique (PPS). In each Assembly segment three to four polling stations (differed from state to state) were selected using the systematic random sampling technique. A total of 27,025 voters randomly selected from the most updated electoral rolls were approached for the interview, of which 18,591 could be successfully interviewed. In round two, interviews in 267 parliamentary constituencies were conducted among the same set of respondents who were sampled for round one of the tracker survey (*see Table 1*)

Table 1: Lokniti-IBN Tracker (Round 2) - Distribution of Targeted and achieved sample

States	Number of PCs surveyed	No of ACs surveyed	Number of polling stations surveyed	Targeted sample	Achieved sample size
Andhra Pradesh	24	25	75	1875	1506
Assam	7	7	28	700	462
Bihar	24	25	75	1875	1317
Chhattisgarh	9	9	36	900	542
Delhi	7	12	48	1200	951
Gujarat	13	13	52	1300	836
Haryana	8	8	32	800	559
Jharkhand	10	11	44	1100	972
Karnataka	13	13	52	1300	830
Kerala	11	12	48	1200	807
Madhya Pradesh	15	17	51	1275	936
Maharashtra	30	30	90	2250	1224
Odisha	15	15	60	1500	978
Punjab	9	9	36	900	704
Rajasthan	17	17	51	1275	960
Tamil Nadu	16	16	60	1500	909
Uttar Pradesh	41	42	168	4200	2834
West Bengal	22	25	75	1875	1264
TOTAL	291	306	1081	27025	18591

Women comprise 44.2 per cent of the sample. 19.2 percent of the sample consists of Scheduled Caste respondents and 7.4 per cent is made up of Adivasis. Muslims constitute 11.6 per cent of the sample and respondents from urban areas are 24.5 per cent of the sample. These numbers, when compared with actual Census figures by and large reflect the representative nature of the sample, although there is a slight over representation of SCs and a slight under representation of women and STs. The underrepresentation of these categories as well as Urban was taken into account while doing the analysis (see Table 2).

Table 2: Tracker Round 2 - Sample profile compared to Census

Categories	Share in Survey sample (%)	Actual Share in population of 18 states surveyed (average %)
Urban	24.5	34.7
Women	44.2	48.6
Muslim	11.6	11.8
SC	19.2	16.2
ST	7.4	9.7

Figures for actual proportion of SCs, STs, Women and Urban in the total population are from Census 2011. Figures for actual proportion of Muslims in the total population are from Census 2001.

Figures

The interview was conducted face to face at the place of residence of the respondent using a standard structured questionnaire in the language spoken and understood by the respondent. The voting question was asked using a dummy ballot paper and dummy ballot box to ensure secrecy. The estimate of vote shares for different political parties are based on a careful analysis of the respondents' stated preference of voting for a party as marked on the ballot paper, which carried the elections symbols of all the major political parties in the State. Since all surveys suffer from the problem of over-estimation of votes for big parties and underestimation for smaller parties, the estimate of vote shares was made after carefully adjusting the vote share of smaller parties and independents as base. A comparison of the proportion of important social categories in the total survey sample of a State with their actual proportion in the population of that State was also made while deciding the state-wise estimate of vote shares.

The total of 18,591 completed interviews is not uniformly spread in all the 18 states where the survey was conducted. The sample in big states like Uttar Pradesh (2834), Maharashtra (1224), Andhra Pradesh (1506), West Bengal (1264), Bihar (1317), Madhya Pradesh (936) is bigger compared to some smaller states like Haryana (559) Chhattisgarh (542) and Assam (462). While reading the table of vote shares, it may be appropriate to remind the reader that there is greater confidence on the vote share estimates for parties in States where the sample is bigger, compared to states where the sample is small.

The survey was designed and analysed by a team of researchers at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. The team included Anuradha Singh, Ashish Ranjan, Dhananjai Kumar Singh, Himanshu Bhattacharya, K.A.Q.A Hilal, Kanchan Malhotra, Jyoti Mishra, Nitin Mehta, Rahul Verma, Shreyas Sardesai and Vibha Attri. Professor Suhas Palshikar and Professor Sandeep Shastri provided their suggestions during the entire exercise. The survey was directed at the national level by Sanjay Kumar.

The survey was coordinated by scholars from the Lokniti Network: E Venkatesu (Andhra Pradesh), Subhrajeet Konwar (Assam), Rakesh Ranjan (Bihar), Anupama Saxena and Shamshad Ansari (Chhattisgarh), Biswajeet Mohanty (Delhi), Bhanu Parmar and Mahashweta Jani (Gujarat), Kushal Pal (Haryana) , Harishwar Dayal (Jharkhand), Veena Devi and Reetika Syal (Karnataka), Sajad Ibrahim (Kerala), Yatindra Singh Sisodia (Madhya Pradesh), Nitin Birmal (Maharashtra), Prabhat Mohanty and Pramod K Ray (Orissa), Jagroop Singh Sekhon (Punjab), Sanjay Lodha and Nidhi Seth (Rajasthan), Ramajayam (Tamil Nadu), A.K. Verma, Asmer Beg, and Sudhir Kumar (Uttar Pradesh), Suprio Basu (West Bengal) .