



L O K N I T I NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008

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Editor's Note,

I am happy to bring out the Lokniti Newsletter of the month and highlight our activities during the month of May 2008. I would also be happy if our Lokniti members could contribute some information of their activities and achievements in each and every month, so that we all can share the information through our Newsletter.

Rajiv Kshetri, Editor

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY ELECTION STUDY – 2008

The Karnataka Assembly Election Study was conducted in two waves - a pre-poll and a post-poll survey as part of a panel design. Both the waves of the survey were conducted in 75 of the 224 assembly constituencies of Karnataka. A total of 9000 randomly selected respondents were approached for face-to-face interviews. In the pre-poll 5124 interviews were successfully completed, while in the post-poll 6041 interviews were successfully completed. The samples for both the waves were representative of the states' social and demographic diversity.

The fieldwork for the pre-poll was carried out for one week (April 13-19), while the post-poll was conducted after polling ended in each of the three phases of the election. The first phase of the post-poll was conducted between May 11th and 16th in 30 of the 89 assembly constituencies that went for elections on May 10th, the second phase was conducted between May 17th and 20th in 22 of the 66 assembly constituencies that went for elections on May 16th, and third and last phase of the post-poll was conducted between May 23rd and 25th in 23 of the 69 assembly constituencies that went for elections on May 22nd. Besides the pre-poll and post poll, on May 22nd an exit-poll of 4348 respondents was conducted in 23 assembly constituencies that went for election on that day.

A total of 150 field investigators, mostly students from different universities, collected the data in both the waves of the survey. Another 92 field investigators conducted the exit poll. All the field investigators were given training in survey research and data collection at workshops held in different regions of the state. A total of five workshops were held to train these field investigators. Three supervisors, Veena Devi, Javeed and Jayaprakash Mavinakulli, supervised the fieldwork for the survey. B.S Padmavati of International Academy for Creative Teaching coordinated the fieldwork for the survey. Sanjay Kumar of Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) Delhi directed the survey.

Findings of the survey could be available at CSDS Data Bank.

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO VISIT
BY PROFESSOR SUHAS PALSHIKAR,**
Professor Suhas Palshikar, Co-Director of Lokniti, visited University of Chicago at the invitation of the Committee on South Asian Studies, for three weeks in May 08 and gave a seminar there on 'Making Sense of Caste-Politics Interaction in Contemporary India' on 15 May 2008.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Lokniti, at present, has two students under the UKEIRI exchange programme, each for two months. Annie Bird is a current LL.M student in International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex. As a recipient of the UKEIRI grant, and with the assistance of CSDS, she will be conducting a survey of children in Kashmir in order to better understand the impact of the conflict on children's rights. She will also participate in a fact-finding mission of the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-Administered Kashmir. In the fall, she will begin a Ph. D in Government at the London School of Economics, focusing on issues of transitional justice.

Edzia Carvalho is doing her Ph. D on public health policy in India in the Department of Government at the University of Essex. She has an MA in Human Rights (Essex 2006), and an MA in International Relations (Mumbai 2003). She has worked for the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi, and in particular on a project entitled the State of Democracy in South Asia.

ENVIRONMENT SURVEY

The Outlook-CNN-IBN-CSDS survey on "State of Environment in Indian Cities" was conducted with an attempt to assess the level of awareness, attitudes, perception and concerns of the common people about the state of environment in India. Finding of the survey is based on interviews among a total of 1732 respondents spread across 36 locations in six cities of India, namely Mumbai (270 interviews), Chennai (308 interviews) Delhi (288 interviews), Kolkata (296 interviews), Bangaluru (268 interviews) and Hyderabad (302 interviews)

The survey adopted a purposive sampling method. Since this was mainly aimed to be an urban survey, these six cities were selected. The second stage of sample selection was selection of locations in each of the selected six cities. In each city, six locations were selected keeping in mind that in the sample we have at least two locations each from the lower, middle and upper income group. These locations were also selected purposively. The respondents at each of these selected locations were selected randomly, at regular intervals taking into consideration total number of household at each selected locations. No more than 50 respondents were interviewed at each location.

The respondents were interviewed from May 7-14 mostly at their house, using a structured interview schedule, which, was translated in different local languages. The interview schedule was designed with inputs from CNN-IBN and Center for Science and Environment (CSE). All the investigators, mainly students from different universities, were trained in methods of survey research and interviewing before sending them to the field.

Findings of the survey will be shown in a special programme on **CNN-IBN** from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on 5th June 2008 and a detailed report on the findings will also be published in the issue of 6 June 2008, **Outlook**.

CONFERENCE ON CHILD PROTECTION MECHANISMS

Under the aegis of the United Kingdom-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI) project **Child Rights and Democracy in India and UK**, the first India Conference titled *Child Protection Mechanisms* was organised on the 23rd and the 24th May 2008 at the International Centre, Dona Paula, Panjim. The conference was inaugurated by the former CBI director Dr R K Raghavan and Inspector General of Police, Goa Mr. Kishan Kumar. This was followed by an Introduction to the Project by the Principal Investigator of the study Dr. Sarada Balagopalan from CSDS. Salgaocar Law College Principal Dr Marian Pinheiro, CRG Legal Officer Emidio Pinho and CSDS (Delhi) researcher Banasmita Bora, who visited the UK as part of the UKIERI programme, shared the findings of their research.

CRG and VM Salgaocar College of Law are partners with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, and the Human Rights Centre and Children's Legal Centre, University of Essex, UK, under the United Kingdom-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI), an initiative to facilitate learning and research exchange between the UK and India. A publication outlining changes recommended in child protection mechanisms in Goa by the conference will be released shortly.

List of Publications:

- 2008: Mapping the Votes, <http://features.ibnlive.com/election2008/karnataka/politicalmap.php>
- Cong clear leader in race for Karnataka Assembly, <http://www.ibnlive.com/news/cong-clear-leader-in-race-for-karnataka-assembly/64195-3.html>

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