

LOKNITI-CSDS BIHAR PRE POLL SURVEY 2020

Methodology note

Lokniti-CSDS conducted a pre-poll survey in Bihar between October 10 and 17, 2020. The survey was conducted at 148 locations (polling stations) spread across 37 Assembly Constituencies of the State among 3731 respondents (voters). The sampling design adopted was multi-stage random sampling. First, 37 assembly constituencies were sampled using the probability proportionate to size method, and then four polling stations within each of the sampled constituencies were sampled using the systematic random sampling method (selecting polling stations at fixed intervals). Over 70 field investigators (all male) conducted the survey and were imparted training for this purpose in an online training workshop. In the field, the field investigators conducted face-to-face interviews of voters in Hindi asking them a set of standardized questions using a specially designed phone application. The interviews were conducted at every fifth house of a polling station in order to ensure randomness and only one interview per household was taken. The interviews were conducted only after confirming with the respondent that he/she was aged 18 years or above and had enrolled his/her name in the voter list. Around 25-26 interviews were conducted at each polling station. The interview duration was about 15 minutes on average. In order to help attain representativeness of age and gender, each investigator was provided with an age-group and gender format with specific quotas being assigned to each age and gender category as per Census 2011 data. The final data set was weighted by Census 2011 figures for age-group, gender, locality and community. The error margin for the overall sample is plus or minus 3% points.

Sample profile

	Share in achieved raw sample (%)
Gender	
Men	60
Women	40
Locality	
Rural	90
Urban	10
Age group	
18-25 years	14
26-35 years	29
36-45 years	15
46-55 years	15
56+ years	17
Community	

Upper castes	16
OBC (Hindu)	51
SC	18
Muslim	14

The survey was supervised by a team of 6 supervisors associated with Lokniti's team in Bihar - Dr. Rakesh Ranjan (Assoc. Prof., Patna University), Dr. Kumar Rakesh Ranjan (Asst. Prof., L.N.D. College, Motihari), Prof. Vijay Kumar Singh (V.M. College, Pawapuri), Dr. Mukesh Kumar Rai (Asst. Prof., S.U. College, Hilsa), Dr. Md. Irshad Ali (Asst. Prof., B.N. College, Bhagalpur University), Dr. Rajnish Kumar (Asst. Prof., Jamuni Lal College, Hajipur) and Rakesh Kumar (Chainpur, Kaimur). The survey data has been analysed by Shreyas Sardesai and Himanshu Bhattacharya from Lokniti under the guidance of Prof. Suhas Palshikar and Prof. Sandeep Shastri. The survey was directed by Prof. Sanjay Kumar of CSDS.

In order to ensure the safety of the field investigators amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and also of those around them, field investigators were provided with masks and sanitizers for the fieldwork and it was ensured that the interviews were conducted following proper physical distancing and mask rules. Before going to the field FIs were made to sign an undertaking that they are not showing any of the Covid-19 symptoms and that they would take all the necessary precautions in the field.

Survey details in a nutshell

Assembly Constituencies covered	37
Polling stations covered	148
Sample achieved	3731
Fieldwork dates	October 10-17, 2020
Sampling method	Multi-stage Systematic Random Sampling
Mode of data collection	In-person/Face-to-face
Weights applied on raw sample	Gender, Locality, Age group, Caste & Community
Error Margin (for overall sample)	+/- 3% points