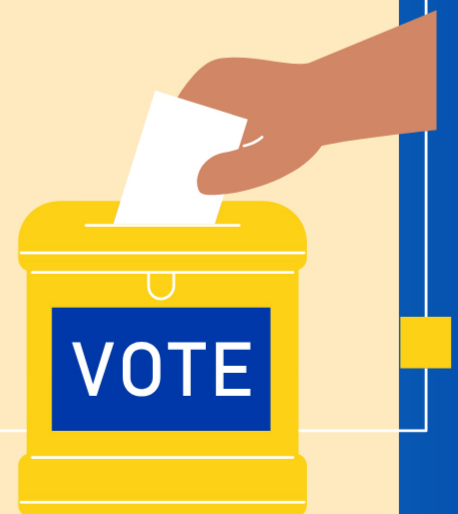




Endline Survey of Knowledge Attitude and Practices (KAP) of Citizens in Himachal Pradesh



ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT
HIMACHAL PRADESH



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of
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Himachal Pradesh**

**Economics & Statistics Department
Himachal Pradesh**

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ABBREVIATIONS

BCC	=	Behaviour Change Communication
BLO	=	Booth Level Officer
CA	=	Chartered Accountant
CAG	=	Comptroller and Auditor General
CBO's	=	Community Based Organizations
CSO's	=	Civil Society Organizations
cVIGIL App	=	Vigilant Citizen Application
ECI	=	Election Commission of India
EVM	=	Electronic Voting Machine
EPIC	=	Electors Photo Identity Card
FGD	=	Focus Group Discussion
IDI's	=	In- Depth Interviews
ID	=	Identification Detail
IEC	=	Information, Education and Communication
KYC	=	Know your candidate
MCA	=	Member of Legislative Assembly
MP'	=	Member of Parliament
MLA	=	Member of Legislative Assembly
MLC	=	Member of Legislative Council
NGO	=	Non Governmental Organizations
NOTA	=	None of the Above
NSVP	=	National Voter Service Portal
PWDs	=	Persons with Disabilities
RTI	=	Right to Information
SVEEP	=	Systematic Voter Education & Electoral Participation
VERC	=	Village Education Resource Centre
VVPAT	=	Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

Chapter-1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Democratic system rests the authority and power in the hands of people whose voices are heard through elections where they elect their representatives to make their concerns heard at the larger national level. Election is a process that provides an equal opportunity for every individual through the tool of a ballot through which voters decide their representatives to formulate policies and decisions that affect their lives. Therefore, in this regard, participation in elections is pertinent as it provides that space to question the system. In this sense, informed and conscious voters are necessary for good governance and increased participation within the system can restore faith in the system of electoral process and lead to better functioning of our democracy. Elections, powerful event in any democracy is held by an autonomous body in our country, Election Commission of India has incessantly played a key role in increasing voter's participation through many new initiatives undertaken for the conduct of free and fair elections in the country.

The Indian Constitution is a supreme document of the country adopted on 26th January 1950, details the governing principles and philosophy that guides the governance of the country. India, being one of the first post-colonial countries to adopt the democratic form of government bestowed a great deal of freedom and rights to every individual so as to ensure democratic participation in the functioning of the country. This provided impetus for the citizens of the country to participate fully in electing the representational government that reflects their aspirations. Elections are a key tool in a democracy that upholds the constitutional ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity. In India, Article 324 of the Constitution of India provides for the establishment of Election Commission of India (ECI), an autonomous, quasi-judiciary constitutional body, entrusted with the responsibility for 'superintendence, direction and control' of elections and to have every eligible voter exercise their democratic right of franchise. The electorates through free and fair elections elect people's representatives responsible for governing the country in national interests. The Election Commission exercises its powers to ensure and allow each and every citizen, the right to vote by all eligible citizens, which is most essential for Indian democracy.

Elections have been held at regular intervals as per the principles enshrined in the constitution and electoral laws. The number of citizens that enroll and participate in the electoral process indicates their belief in the political system of the country. Higher the number of people participating in the electoral process reflects the faith that citizens possess in the democratic system of the governance.

To make the electoral process of any country efficient and successful, number of factors plays a key role. First, to ensure that every eligible citizen of the nation is enrolled as a voter; second, revision of electoral roll at regular intervals to ensure accuracy so that every initiative of the Election Commission of India improves the electoral process and reaches the citizens in its spirit. In this connection, Article 325 of the of the Constitution mentions that 'No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex'. Thus, this article makes it mandatory for preparation of one general electoral roll so as to provide equal powers; and finally and most important factor is to make the whole process right from enrolment, voting, holding elections, declaring results, citizen friendly, safe and transparent. Through increased voter participation over the decades, the electoral processes and management has acclaimed great strength. However, there still persist lacunae concerning the voters' awareness and knowledge they have on electoral processes. In addition, since Indian society is heterogeneous having been stratified on the basis of varied structural constraints like gender, caste, ethnicity etc., there is an urgent need to realize the potential of making citizens aware of their democratic right of voting that is representational and proportional in nature and also necessary in driving away the cynicism that eligible voters carry.

The Election commission (ECI) has taken several new initiatives in the recent past to promote participation of the voter and ensure free and fair voting. Notable among these initiatives are providing adequate security, computerization of electoral rolls, providing electors with unique identity cards, and strict enforcement of Model Code of Conduct, that provides for a level playing field to contestants during the elections. In addition, to create awareness about importance of casting votes, BLO (Block Level Officers), VREC (Voter Registration and Epic Centres), EPIC (Electoral Photo Identity Card) delivery, etc. have been undertaken. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation program, better known as SVEEP, is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India. Since 2009, we have been working towards preparing India's electors and equipping them with basic knowledge related to the electoral process. SVEEP was introduced in late 2009 and has already gone through two phases. In its first phase it covered 17 General Elections to State Assemblies. Phase II concentrated on Lok Sabha election of 2014 and the assembly elections of 15 states and union territories. Based on the information on the last two phases, SVEEP-III was formulated and would be applicable for the elections held during the years 2016-22 with the agenda being "NO VOTERS TO BE LEFT BEHIND".

Election commission emphasizes the need for an integrated campaign, mass media initiatives, comprising mass media initiatives, and Information Education and Communication (IEC) dissemination and voter outreach. This campaign will focus on the following;

- Increasing voter turnout
- Informed and educated choice to the voter
- Ensuring ethical free from inducement

In order to develop the campaign, especially in terms of the key messages, target audience, and media, the Election Commission intends to undertake primary research to assess gaps in knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour, practice (KABP) amongst voters and the key influencers on issues related to the electoral process and voting.

1.2 HIMACHAL PRADESH- AN OVERVIEW:

1.2.1 Comprehensive Overview of Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh, derived from "Him" meaning snow and "Achal" meaning mountain, epitomizes a "snow-laden mountain province." It is one of the ten mountain States of India. Its history is woven with tales of ancient civilizations, dynasties, and cultural exchanges that have left an indelible mark on its identity. From the snow-clad summits of the Dhauladhar and Pir Panjal ranges to the lush green valleys of Kangra and Kullu, Himachal Pradesh offers a kaleidoscope of landscapes that enchant and inspire visitors from around the world.

1.2.2 Historical Evolution

The State of Himachal Pradesh came into being on 15th April 1948 as a centrally administered territory with the integration of 30 erstwhile princely States. In 1951, with four districts namely, Chamba, Mahasu, Mandi and Sirmaur covering an area of 25,839 square kilometres, it became a part of the "C" States under a Lt Governor with a 36-member Legislative Assembly and a three-member cabinet. In 1954, Bilaspur, another part 'C' State was merged with Himachal Pradesh, thereby increasing its Assembly's strength to 41. In 1956 it became a Union Territory covering an area of 29,847 square kilometres and a population of 11,09,446 persons (1951 Census).

On 1st November 1966, the districts of Kangra, Shimla, Kullu, Lahaul-Spiti, the Nalagarh tehsil of Ambala district, some parts of Una tehsil of Hoshiarpur district, and Dalhousie of Gurdaspur district from the then Punjab State were merged with Himachal Pradesh. With this merger, the total area of Himachal Pradesh increased to 55,673 square kilometres and its population increased to 28,12,463 (1961 Census). On 25th January 1971, Himachal Pradesh achieved statehood, becoming the 18th State of the Indian Union, encompassing 1.69 per cent of India's total area. Notably, the State's mountainous terrain adds a unique dimension to its spatial configuration, with its three-dimensional area assuming significant relevance in geographic analyses. According to calculations by the Centre for Geo-Informatics, Research & Training of Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar H.P. Agriculture University in Palampur, Kangra District, this area measures 86,384.77 square kilometres, marking a 56% increase over its two-dimensional area of 55,673 square kilometres.

1.2.3 Geographical Features

Himachal Pradesh, characterized by its predominantly mountainous terrain, boasts altitudes ranging from 350 meters to 7,026 meters above mean sea level situated between 30° 22'40" to 33° 12'40" North latitudes and 75° 45'55" to 79° 04'20" East longitudes, the State shares borders with Jammu and Kashmir to the north, Tibet to the northeast, Uttarakhand in the east/southeast, Haryana to the south, and Punjab to the southwest/west.

Physiographically, Himachal Pradesh can be categorized into five distinct zones, each characterized by its unique climatic and ecological features:

- **The Wet Sub-temperate zone:** Encompassing areas such as Palampur, Dharamshala, Jogindernagar, and Dalhousie, this zone experiences relatively high precipitation and mild temperatures, supporting luxuriant vegetation and rich biodiversity.
- **The Humid Sub-temperate zone:** Including regions like Kullu, Shimla, parts of Mandi, Solan, Chamba, Kangra, and Sirmaur districts, this zone experiences moderate temperatures and precipitation, fostering a diverse mix of flora and fauna.
- **Dry Temperate-Alpine Highlands:** Spanning major portions of Lahaul-Spiti, Pangi, and Kinnaur districts, this zone is characterized by harsh climatic conditions, with sparse vegetation adapted to extreme cold and aridity.
- **Humid Sub-tropical zone:** Encompassing regions like Bilaspur, the Bhattiyat valley in Chamba district, Nalagarh in Solan district, and Dehra-Gopipur and Nurpur in Kangra district, this zone experiences relatively warm temperatures and high humidity, supporting lush vegetation and agricultural activities.
- **Sub-humid Sub-tropical zone:** Including districts like Una, Sirmaur, and parts of Kangra, this zone experiences warm temperatures and moderate precipitation, supporting a mix of agriculture and horticulture activities.

1.2.4 Climate and Topography

Situated amidst the majestic Himalayan range, Himachal Pradesh's climate is profoundly influenced by this formidable geographical feature. The State's vast range of climatic conditions is a testament to its diverse topography, which spans from the low-lying plains to the towering peaks of the Himalayas. This results in a kaleidoscope of climates, ranging from hot and sub-humid tropical in the southern low tracts (350–900 meters) to cold and alpine in the northern and eastern high mountain ranges (2400–4800 meters). As elevation increases, temperatures gradually decrease, leading to distinct temperature zones across the State. Warm and temperate conditions (900–1800 meters) prevail in the mid-altitude regions, while cool and temperate climates (1900–2400 meters) characterize higher elevations. Beyond 2400 meters, the climate transitions to cold and alpine conditions, marked by freezing temperatures and perpetual snowfall, particularly above 3000 meters. By October, the onset of winter brings a noticeable drop in temperatures, with cold nights and mornings becoming the norm. Snowfall typically begins at elevations around 3000 meters, gradually increasing in intensity and duration as winter progresses. In the higher reaches, snow accumulation can reach up to 3 meters, lasting from the onset of

December until the end of March, contributing to the State's iconic snow-capped landscapes.

1.2.5 Administrative Structure

Since 1st September 1972, when two new districts of Una and Hamirpur were established, there have been no further alterations to the administrative framework of Himachal Pradesh, except for the delineation of new sub-divisions and sub-tehsils, as well as the upgrading of select sub-tehsils to full-fledged tehsils within existing district boundaries. To promote inclusivity for marginalized communities, it's crucial for administrative services to be easily accessible, even at their doorstep. Thus, the State government has been consistently establishing new administrative units in different regions to ensure better delivery of services. Over the years, the number of these units, such as sub-divisions, tehsils/sub-tehsils, development blocks, and gram panchayats, has doubled since 1970-71. However, despite these efforts, there are still challenging areas where people face difficulties in reaching the administration. This underscores the necessity of creating new sub-divisions and sub-tehsils in these regions. By doing so, the administration can effectively bridge the gap and ensure that even the most marginalized populations have convenient access to essential services and support.

A statistical overview of Himachal Pradesh's administrative landscape is presented in Table 1.1. The expansion of sub-divisions, tehsils, and development blocks over the decades illustrates the decentralization of administrative functions and the establishment of local governance structures to cater to the needs of a growing population and diverse geographical regions.

Table 1.1 Overview of Himachal Pradesh's Administrative Landscape

Sr. No.	Item	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2023-24
1.	Geographical Area (sq. kms)	55,673	55,673	55,673	55,673	55,673	55,673
2.	Districts (Nos.)	10	12	12	12	12	12
3.	Sub-Divisions (Nos.)	35	38	45	51	53	81
4.	Tehsils/Sub-Tehsils (Nos.) as on 31.03.2024	53	73	101	109	117	186
5.	Development Blocks (Nos.) (31.03.2023)	29	69	69	75	77	88
6.	Towns & Cities (Nos.) 2011 census	19	47	58	56	59	59
7.	No. of Gram Panchayats (31.03.2024)	2,062	2,597	2,597	3,037	3,243	3,615
8.	Inhabited villages (Nos.) 2011 census	16,916	16,807	16,997	17,495	17,882	17,882

1.2.6 Demographic Profile of the State

The demographic profile of Himachal Pradesh presents several opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development, as well as depicts its huge economic potential. The total population of Himachal Pradesh was 68.65 lakh as per 2011 census, with a density of 123 persons per square kilometre. The population of the State recorded a decadal growth of 12.94 % during the period from 2001 to 2011, compared to 17.54% in the preceding decade from 1991 to 2001, indicating a decline of 4.6 percentage points. As per projections, the population of Himachal Pradesh is expected to increase from 68.65 lakh to 75.05 lakh during the period from 1st March 2011 to – 2024 – representing an increase of 9.3 % over thirteen years, equivalent to a growth rate of 0.7 % annually.

Table 1.2 shows that there has been a remarkable improvement in literacy rates, with the total literacy rate increasing from 42.33% in 1981 to 82.80% in 2011, and a projected literacy rate of 93.3% by 2024. The improving literacy rates, particularly among women, indicate a growing educated workforce that can contribute to various sectors of the economy. It also highlights the need for skill development initiatives to equip the workforce with relevant skills for employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, and hospitality. The percentage composition of males and females in the population has remained relatively stable over the years. However, there has been a slight increase in the urban population percentage, reflecting ongoing urbanization trends, thereby presenting opportunities for infrastructure development to support the growing urban population. Moreover, the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has also increased over the years, reflecting a positive trend in social inclusion and representation.

Table 1.2 Demographic Trends during 1981-2011

Sr. No.	Item	Unit	1981 Census	1991 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census	Projected Population as of March 2024
1.	Population:						
	(a) Total	Lakh Persons	42.81	51.71	60.78	68.65	75.05
	(b) Male	Lakh Persons	21.70	26.17	30.88	34.82	38.05
	(c) Female	Lakh Persons	21.10	25.53	29.90	33.83	37.00
2.	Scheduled Castes	Lakh Persons	10.54	13.10	15.02	17.29	NA
3.	Scheduled Tribes	Lakh Persons	1.97	2.18	2.45	3.92	NA
4.	Density of Population per Square Kilometre	Persons	77	93	109	123	135
5.	Decennial Growth of Population	%	23.71	20.79	17.54	12.94	9.3
6.	Literacy Rate:						
	(a) Total	%	42.33	63.75	76.48	82.80	93.3
	(b) Male	%	53.19	75.36	85.35	89.53	94.9
	(c) Female	%	31.46	52.13	67.42	75.93	91.7
7.	Percentage Composition						
	(a) Male	%	50.7	50.6	50.8	50.7	50.7
	(b) Female	%	49.3	49.4	49.2	49.3	49.3
8.	Percentage Composition:						
	(a) Rural Population	%	92.40	91.31	90.20	89.97	NA
	(b) Urban Population	%	7.60	8.69	9.80	10.03	NA
9.	Percentage of Total Population:						
	(a) Scheduled Castes	%	24.62	25.34	24.72	25.19	NA
	(b) Scheduled Tribes	%	4.61	4.22	4.02	5.71	NA
10.	Sex Ratio	Females per 1000 Males	973	976	968	972	972

1.3 Political Scenario in Himachal Pradesh:

The socio-economic factors coupled with historical antecedents have all along shaped politics in Himachal Pradesh, particularly its electoral politics. The most significant impact of these factors has been the emergence of clear cut two party systems in the state since 1967. The contest for power in this state is only between the Congress and the BJP. There is no major regional party in the state and third party if any have only a nominal existence. The political scenario 2017 onward has been outlined below.

Table-1.3 State Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh-2017

Rank	Party	Seats won	Percent votes
1	Indian National Congress	21	41.68
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	44	48.79
2	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1	1.47
3	Independent and Others	2	8.06
	Total	68	100.00

Table-1.4 District wise electors in Himachal Pradesh-2017

Sr. No.	District	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
1	Bilaspur	1,52,003	1,46,818	1	2,98,882
2	Chamba	1,80,948	1,72,551	1	3,53,500
3	Hamirpur	1,88,956	1,91,677	0	3,80,633
4	Kangra	6,08,445	5,86,655	0	11,95,100
5	Kinnaur	28,069	27,321	0	55,390
6	Kullu	1,49,610	1,42,361	0	2,91,971
7	Lahaul-Spiti	11,692	11,539	0	23,231
8	Mandi	3,85,119	3,77,882	0	7,63,001
9	Shimla	2,80,784	2,61,883	0	5,42,667
10	Solan	1,95,480	1,80,278	7	3,75,765
11	Sirmour	1,85,278	1,65,659	1	3,50,938
12	Una	2,02,377	1,92,542	4	3,94,923
	Total	25,68,761	24,57,166	14	50,25,941

During the last Assembly Election 2017, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) gain full majority by winning 44 seats out of 68 total seats and the vote share was 48.79 percent which about 10 percent more as compared to Assembly results 2012. The

Indian National Congress won 21 seats and gain only 41.68 percent vote share, which about 1.32 per cent less as per 2012 election results. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) won only one seat by gaining about 1.47 percent vote share. The independent won 2 seats and gain 8.06 percent vote share.

Table-1.5 State Assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh, 2022

Rank	Party	Seats won	Percent votes
1	Indian National Congress	40	44.16
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	25	43.26
2	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	0	0.66
3	Independent and Others	3	11.92
	Total	68	100.00

During the last Assembly Election 2022, Indian National Congress gain full majority by winning 40 seats out of 68 total seats and the vote share was 44.16 percent which about 2.1 percent more as compared to Assembly results 2017. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 25 seats and gained only 43.26 percent vote share, which about 5.97 per cent less as per 2017 election results. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) won no seat and only gained about 0.66percent vote share. The independent won 3 seats and gained 11.92 percent vote share.

Table- 1.6 District wise general electors in Himachal Pradesh (ason 25-10-2022)

Sr. No.	Districts	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
1	Bilaspur	1,68,083	1,62,113	4	3,30,200
2	Chamba	2,03,938	1,95,806	3	3,99,747
3	Hamirpur	2,09,197	2,08,015	4	4,17,216
4	Kangra	6,80,875	6,53,661	6	13,34,542
5	Kinnaur	30,435	29,854	0	60,289
6	Kullu	1,68,122	1,63,377	1	3,31,500
7	Lahaul-Spiti	13,005	12,491	0	25,496
8	Mandi	4,34,629	4,25,685	3	8,60,317
9	Shimla	3,01,270	2,86,496	1	5,87,767
10	Solan	2,14,196	2,00,750	10	4,14,956
11	Sirmour	2,09,590	1,89,653	4	3,99,247
12	Una	2,21,605	2,09,944	2	4,31,551
	Total	28,54,945	27,37,845	38	55,92,828

Brief Information regarding electors in Himachal Pradesh

(a) Gender Ratio:

Projected Population year 2022 (as on 1-10-2022)			Electors as per draft published PER on 16-08-2022 (as on 1-10-2022) as per qualifying date			
Male	Female	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)	Male	Female	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)	Ratio of electors to population
39,10,074	38,14,432	976	27,23,841	26,64,568	978	698
General Electors for the conduct of Vidhan Sabha General Election-2022 (as on 25-10-22)			27,88,925	27,36,344	981	715

(b) State Age-Cohort wise Elector Information

18+ Projected population (2022) of State	per cent of 18+projected population to total projected population	Electors as per finally draft published roll (as on 16-08-2022)	per cent of Electors to total projected population	per cent of Eligible electors to registered electors
54,25,146	70.68	53,88,409	70.20	99.32

Projected population in the (Age-Group 18-19)	per cent of 18-19 age group population to total projected population	Electors in the age group 18-19 as per finally published roll (as on 10-10-2022)	per cent of 18-19 age group Electors to total projected population
2,49,566	3.23	1,86,681	2.42

Table-1.7 Lok Sabha Elections in Himachal Pradesh 2024.

Rank	Party	Seats won	Per cent votes
1	Indian National Congress	0	41.92
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	4	56.75
3	Independent and Others	0	1.33
	Total	4	100.00

During the last Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won all the 4 Lok Sabha seats and the vote share of this party was around 56.75 percent. The vote share of the Indian National Congress and Independents and others remained around 41.92 and 1.33 percent respectively. There has been a decline of 2.49 per cent in vote share of Independents and others from the Lok Sabha Elections results of 2019.

Table-1.8 Vidhan Sabha Bye Elections in Himachal Pradesh 2024

Rank	Party	Seats won	Percent votes
1	Indian National Congress	6	49.63
2	Bharatiya Janata Party	3	43.51
3	Independent and Others	0	06.86
	Total	9	100.00

During the Vidhan Sabha Bye Elections 2024, Indian National Congress has won 6 Vidhan Sabha seats and the vote share of this party was around 49.63 percent. The vote share of the Bharatiya Janata Party and Independents and others remained around 43.51 and 6.86 percent respectively.

Table-1.9 Parliamentary Constituency- wise general electors in Himachal Pradesh (as on 14-05-2024)

Sr. No.	Districts	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
1	Kangra	755878	746631	5	1502514
2	Mandi	685832	678225	3	1364060
3	Hamirpur	715681	716940	15	1432636
4	Shimla (SC)	690935	655422	12	1346369
	Total	2848326	2797218	35	5645579

Table-1.10 District wise general electors in Himachal Pradesh**(as on 14-05-2024)**

Sr. No.	Districts	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
1	Bilaspur	167881	166502	6	334389
2	Chamba	206967	202258	2	409227
3	Hamirpur	205653	212257	5	417915
4	Kangra	672711	665326	3	1338040
5	Kinnaur	29874	30069	0	59943
6	Kullu	169535	165423	1	334959
7	Lahaul-Spiti	12605	12668	0	25273
8	Mandi	432913	435193	2	868108
9	Shimla	304020	292791	2	596813
10	Solan	216387	206728	6	423121
11	Sirmour	210750	193908	4	404662
12	Una	219030	214095	4	433129
	Total	2848326	2797218	35	5645579

Brief Information regarding electors in Himachal Pradesh**(a) Gender Ratio:**

Projected Population year 2024			Electors for the conduct of Lok Sabha-2024 (as on w.r.t.01-04-2024 as qualifying date)				
Male	Female	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)	Male	Female	Third gender	Sex Ratio (females per 1000 males)	Ratio of electors to population
39,60,034	38,63,169	78,23,203	28,48,326	27,97,218	35	982	56,45,579

(b) State Age-Cohort wise Elector Information

18+ Projected population (2024) of State	per cent of 18+projected population to total projected population	Electors as per finally draft published roll (as on 27-10-2023)	per cent of Electors to total projected population	per cent of Eligible electors to registered electors
5517763	70.68	54,97,216	70.42	99.63

Projected population in the (Age-Group 18-19)	per cent of 18-19 age group population to total projected population	Electors in the age group 18-19 as per finally published roll (as on 05-01-2024)	per cent of 18-19 age group Electors to total projected population
252219	3.23	131527	2.38

Statistics of General Electors to Lok Sabha- 2024 :-

General Electors as on last date of filing nominations (14-05-2024)

Projected Population			General Electors as on 14-05-2024			
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
39,60,034	38,63,169	78,23,203	28,48,326	27,97,218	35	56,45,579

Gender Ratio (Census)	Gender Ratio (Electors)	Elector's Population Ratio Per Thousand	% of registered electors to 18+projected population	% of 18-19 age group population to total population	% of 18-19 age group Electors to total population
976	982	722	102.00	3.23	2.19%

Chapter-II

Research Methodology

2.1 Need and scope of the study

The purpose of this assignment is to understand the communication needs of the different sections of the society most notably, the voters and influencers viz. family members, community/religious leaders, civil society based groups, media etc. The same nature of study was conducted before the BCC campaign to design the module of campaign.

The main objective of the research is to provide inputs for an effective campaign strategy by understanding the realities and perceptions of voters in the state for future purposes.

2.2 Objective of the study

The main objective of this survey is to provide inputs and feedback for an effective campaign strategy by understanding the ground realities and perceptions of voters through a structured questionnaire. One specific aim of this End line survey of KAP was to understand the extent and level of the knowledge, belief, perception, readiness, trends, and factors, reasons of participation and non-participation of the registered voters in the election/voting process and were covered the following aspects:

- ❖ To gauge the extent of knowledge, attitude, behavior and practice of the voters at the time of exercising their votes.
- ❖ To assess the level of Awareness, Comprehension, Involvement and Satisfaction with the registration process and EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card).
- ❖ To ascertain the reasons for not having to cast the votes if any.
- ❖ To understand the reasons for people not coming forward for enrolment.
- ❖ To find out the factors that had influenced the voting pattern such as NOTA.
- ❖ To study the effectiveness of working of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) and using of ballot papers.
- ❖ To understand underlying reasons for low voter turnout in last election in the State and to identify the barriers to voting.
- ❖ To identify the demographics of electors segments with lower enrollment and lower participation during polls.
- ❖ To suggest logical and plausible measures to ensure higher enrolment and higher voter turnout based on the outcome of the survey.
- ❖ To assess the role and impact of various public interest groups in voter participation.

- ❖ To assess the role and impact of news media, CSO's and CBO's in creating awareness and participation amongst voters in general and youth, women in particular
- ❖ Also to make an assessment of the impact and influence of the afore mentioned groups in preventing unethical practices and promoting ethical voting.
- ❖ To assess the extent of unregistered voters, in the light of significant migration.
- ❖ Initiatives required to Increasing voters turn out.
- ❖ To spread information and educated choice to the voter.
- ❖ Ensuring ethical voting free from inducement.

2.3 Research Design

The Endline KAP survey of citizens of Himachal Pradesh was conducted with the questionnaire provided by the Election Commission of India and redesigned to include state specific questions according to the requirements of the State Election Department.

The research is designed to measure the knowledge, attitude and practices of the electorate by taking into consideration macro level electorate data such as rates of enrolment and voting. The KAP tool and the discussion guide to FGDs and In-Depth Interviews are used to design and elicit maximum information from the participants, in order to get the exact idea of general perceptions and opinion of the voters about the electoral process and the initiatives taken by the ECI. The KAP tool is in the form of a structured questionnaire with well specified code responses. It includes single response and multiple response questions and most of the questions are close ended to keep the study focused on the research objectives.

The questionnaire consists of different sections which are indicated below:

Section A: Identification particular of Constituency
Section B: Background information of respondents
Section C: Voters registration
Section D: Election-Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour, Belief and Practice
Section E: Voter's awareness and attitudes
Section F: Only for Person with disabilities (PwDs)
Section G: Voting Facilities
Section H: Inducement
Section I: Ballot papers versus EVM

2.4 Geographical coverage

The geographical coverage for the study is an important characteristic. While selecting the area to be covered, it is ensured that every district of the state and every section of society get equal representation. The Data have been collected to represent all the 12 districts. Seventeen Assembly Constituencies (ACs) have been shortlisted based on the probability proportional to size sampling listed below:

Sr. No.	Name of District	Total Constituencies	Selected constituencies	Name of Selected constituencies
1.	Bilaspur	4	1	Ghumarwin
2.	Chamba	5	1	Dalhausi
3.	Hamirpur	5	1	Barsar
4.	Kangra	15	3	1.Dehra
				2.Palampur
				3.Nagrotta
5.	Kinnaur	1	1	Kinnaur (ST)
6.	Kullu	4	1	Manali
7.	Lahaul-Spiti	1	1	Lahaul and Spiti (ST)
8.	Mandi	10	3	1.Sundernagar
				2. Nachan (SC)
				3.Jogindernagar
9.	Shimla	8	2	1.Theog
				2.Rohru (SC)
10.	Sirmaur	5	1	Paonta Sahib
11.	Solan	5	1	Kasauli
12.	Una	5	1	Haroli
Total		68		17

2.5. Research Methodology

After selection of the geographical area to be covered under the study, and ensuring that every section of the society gets an equal representation, the next step was to design a method which ensures that the research has covered its target groups and the motive behind the whole exercise could be achieved. For this, both quantitative and qualitative components are used. The team has extensively trained on how to use these tools in most effective way.

2.6. Coverage/Sample design:

- Primary data was collected from all twelve districts.
- Primary data was collected from all selected 17 constituencies.
- District was formed as first stage stratum and all selected 17 constituencies were formed second strata purposely and from each selected constituency at least four panchayats and one urban ward was selected randomly otherwise one additional panchayat in place of non availability of urban block.
- From each panchayat at least two sample villages and two urban blocks
- (Otherwise two villages) were selected by using random sampling technique.
- From the selected villages 10 persons of age 18 years and above per village/ward were selected purposely to fill the questionnaire by the investigator.

Multistage random sampling have been adopted for conducting the Endline KAP survey for selection of Assembly Constituencies, Panchayats, urban blocks, Villages, wards, households and respondents:

<u>Type of sampling methodology adopted</u>	<u>Multistage sampling method</u>
No. of Districts	12
No. of constituencies	17
No. of Panchayats/ Urban Wards	68
No. of Villages/ Urban Blocks	170
No. of respondents (Male-3, Female-3, Youth-3 and Special Abled-1)	1700

2.7 Reference period of survey:

The field work of the survey was conducted in the month of September and October 2024.

Chapter-III

Situation Analysis

The present study is to understand the reasons for the low/high voting turnout in the recently held elections in the state. The study was conducted across all the districts of Himachal Pradesh involving 17 constituencies with general population and opinion makers. The End line study was done to assess the knowledge, attitude behaviour and practices of Voter's behaviour in the state of Himachal Pradesh.

3.1 Section A: Profile of Respondents

3.1.1 Socio-economic and demographic Profile of the respondents

Himachal Pradesh is a somewhat stratified society both socially and economically. All major religious are found here including its community/ cast categories. The diversity in terms of educational attainment, occupation, class, etc. is minifies in Himachal Pradesh and in turn affect their voting behavior. An ideal sample should be representative of the larger society in all respects. It should be large enough to include the microcosm and extensive enough to include all geographical regions of Himachal Pradesh. This study satisfies this requirement in both ways.

❖ Section B: Background information

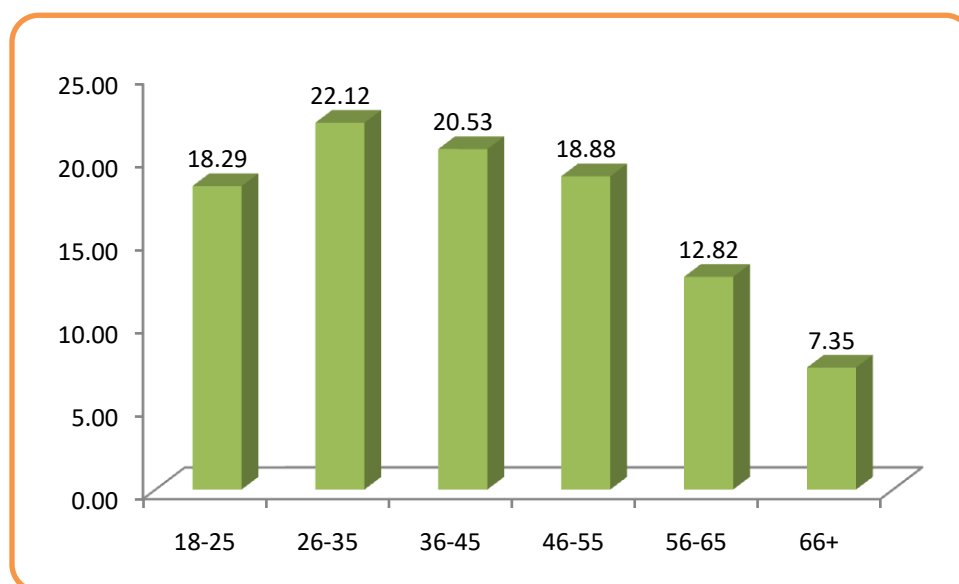
3.1.2 Age wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

Age wise distribution of respondents shows 18% of the sample population was between the age group 18-25 years, 22% belongs to 26- 35 age group, 21% was in the age group 36-45, 19% was in the age group 46-55, around 13% in the age group 56-65 and remaining 7% belongs to 66 years and plus age group (refer Table 3.1 & Fig.1).

Table-3.1 Distribution of Sample respondents across age groups

Sr. No.	Districts	Age (in years)						Total
		18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66+	
1	Bilaspur	25	14	14	21	13	13	100
2	Chamba	16	24	28	16	10	6	100
3	Hamirpur	22	22	20	24	11	1	100
4	Kangra	65	64	62	53	42	14	300
5	Kinnaur	8	29	15	24	18	6	100
6	Kullu	12	25	25	21	11	6	100
7	L&S	4	15	23	19	26	13	100
8	Mandi	66	67	64	45	37	21	300
9	Shimla	32	50	35	44	23	16	200
10	Sirmour	14	34	19	13	9	11	100
11	Solan	16	22	23	20	8	11	100
12	Una	31	10	21	21	10	7	100
	<i>Total</i>	311	376	349	321	218	125	1700
	<i>% to total</i>	18.29	22.12	20.53	18.88	12.82	7.35	100

Figure: 1 - Age wise distribution



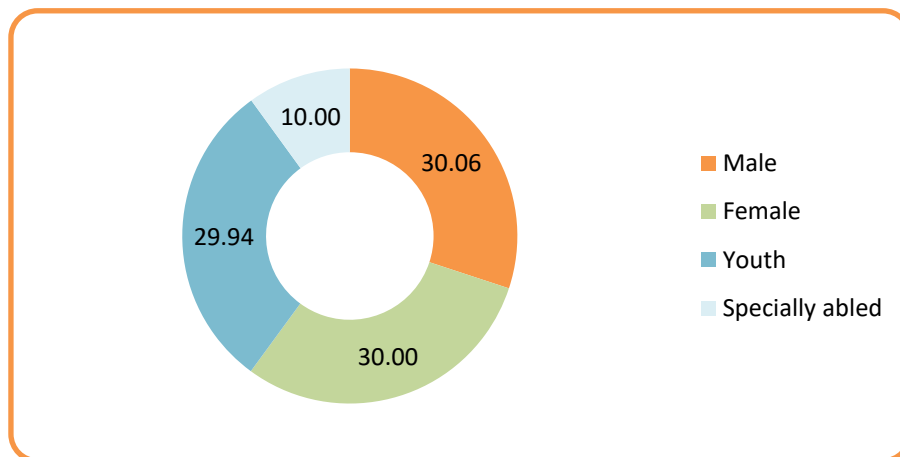
3.1.3 Selected category wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

Selected category wise distribution of respondents shows 30% of the selected sample respondents were male, female and youth each of them were also 30% and around 10% belongs to the category of specially abled persons (refer Table 3.2 & Figure 2).

Table-3.2 Selected category wise distribution of Sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Category				
		Male	Female	Youth	Specially abled	Total
1	Bilaspur	30	30	30	10	100
2	Chamba	30	30	30	10	100
3	Hamirpur	30	30	30	10	100
4	Kangra	90	90	90	30	300
5	Kinnaur	30	30	30	10	100
6	Kullu	30	30	30	10	100
7	L&S	30	30	30	10	100
8	Mandi	90	90	90	30	300
9	Shimla	60	60	60	20	200
10	Sirmour	31	30	29	10	100
11	Solan	30	30	30	10	100
12	Una	30	30	30	10	100
	Total	511	510	509	170	1700
	% to total	30.06	30	29.94	10	100

Figure: 2-Category wise distribution



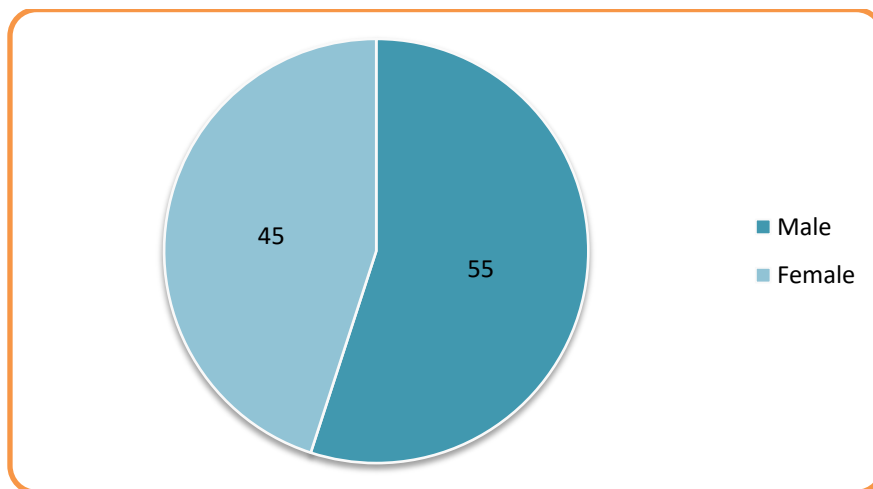
3.1.4 Gender wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

A total of 1700 respondents from across Himachal Pradesh have been interviewed using a structure questionnaire/schedule. The gender composition of the 1700 sample population was 55.00% males and 45.00% females (refer Table 3.3 & Figure 3).

Table - 3.3 Gender wise distribution of Sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Gender			
		Male	Female	Transgender	Total
1	Bilaspur	52	48	0	100
2	Chamba	51	49	0	100
3	Hamirpur	56	44	0	100
4	Kangra	168	132	0	300
5	Kinnaur	57	43	0	100
6	Kullu	57	43	0	100
7	L&S	53	47	0	100
8	Mandi	161	139	0	300
9	Shimla	116	84	0	200
10	Sirmour	56	44	0	100
11	Solan	56	44	0	100
12	Una	52	48	0	100
	Total	935	765	0	1700
	% to total	55	45	0	100

Figure: 3-Gender wise distribution



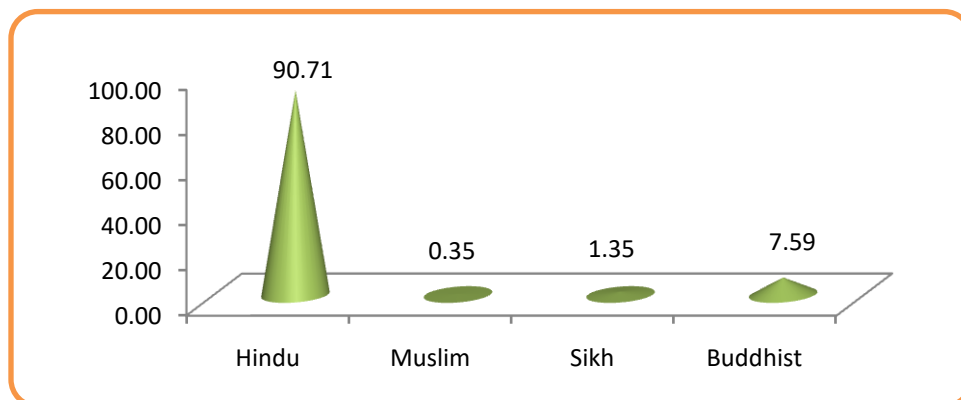
3.1.5 Religion wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

Religious affiliation of respondent's shows that majority 90.71% were Hindu followed by 7.59% Buddhists. The percentage of Muslims and Sikhs are 0.35 and 1.35 respectively (refer Table 3.4 & Figure 4).

Table -3.4 Religion wise distribution of Sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Religion						Total
		Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Christian	Buddhist	Other	
1	Bilaspur	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
2	Chamba	97	0	3	0	0	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
4	Kangra	300	0	0	0	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	71	0	0	0	29	0	100
6	Kullu	96	0	0	0	4	0	100
7	L&S	4	0	0	0	96	0	100
8	Mandi	298	1	1	0	0	0	300
9	Shimla	199	1	0	0	0	0	200
10	Sirmour	98	1	1	0	0	0	100
11	Solan	91	1	8	0	0	0	100
12	Una	88	2	10	0	0	0	100
	Total	1542	6	23	0	129	0	1700
	% to total	90.71	0.35	1.35	0	7.59	0	100

Figure: 4 - Religion wise distribution



3.1.6 Educational qualification wise distribution of sample respondents (in %)

The educational status of the respondent's shows that majority of the respondents i.e. 27.29% were Higher Secondary pass followed by 24.82% Graduate and above including Professionals and Technical course holders, 23.53% were High School pass, 12.12% were Primary pass, and 4.41% were Diploma/ Certificate holders. Over all 93.18% of the sample population canvassed were literate, while only 7.82% were illiterate (refer Table 3.5).

Table - 3.5 Educational qualification wise distribution of sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Educational Status						Total
		Illiterate	Primary school	High school	Higher Secondary	Diploma/ Certificate	Graduate & above including Professional/ Technical Courses	
1	Bilaspur	5	14	22	21	2	36	100
2	Chamba	7	17	24	33	1	18	100
3	Hamirpur	0	3	23	37	8	29	100
4	Kangra	28	38	82	92	17	43	300
5	Kinnaur	22	7	27	21	1	22	100
6	Kullu	6	12	21	30	1	30	100
7	L&S	20	16	19	13	0	32	100
8	Mandi	6	25	74	105	11	79	300
9	Shimla	15	28	36	49	8	64	200
10	Sirmour	14	15	19	10	17	25	100
11	Solan	6	10	26	28	3	27	100
12	Una	4	21	27	25	6	17	100
Total		133	206	400	464	75	422	1700
% to total		7.82	12.12	23.53	27.29	4.41	24.82	100

3.1.7 Occupation wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

The occupational status of the sample respondents shows that 28.12% were involved in labour work and cultivators/ agriculture & allied activities, 17.41% were involved in house based activities, 10.59% were in private services, 7.65% in government Jobs and 11.47% engaged in own enterprises, 6.88% were totally unemployed and 2.41% were those respondents who were unemployed but were available for work, 9.59% were students and the rest 5.88% of the respondents belongs to other occupations (refer Table 3.6).

Table-3.6 Occupation wise distribution of Sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Occupation									Total
		Student	Unemployed	Unemployed available for work	Govt. service	Private Service	Own enterprise	Labourer/ Cultivator/ Agriculture and allied activities	Home maker	Others	
1	Bilaspur	10	13	0	5	13	11	14	18	16	100
2	Chamba	9	6	3	6	13	17	21	25	0	100
3	Hamirpur	6	9	0	16	10	22	3	27	7	100
4	Kangra	37	24	7	23	50	32	47	72	8	300
5	Kinnaur	3	10	0	5	3	0	67	12	0	100
6	Kullu	8	7	2	5	10	10	32	17	9	100
7	L&S	3	2	6	11	8	1	54	1	14	100
8	Mandi	36	24	13	14	20	43	86	52	12	300
9	Shimla	23	5	1	25	16	18	73	23	16	200
10	Sirmour	5	8	4	6	13	15	41	0	8	100
11	Solan	9	4	1	8	14	10	19	29	6	100
12	Una	14	5	4	6	10	16	21	20	4	100
Total		163	117	41	130	180	195	478	296	100	1700
% to total		9.59	6.88	2.41	7.65	10.59	11.47	28.12	17.41	5.88	100

3.1.8 Marital Status wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

Out of the total sample respondents, 69.35% were married including no gauna, 26.88% were unmarried, 3.65% were widowed and rest 0.12% were separated/divorced (refer Table 3.7).

Table-3.7 Marital Status wise distribution of Sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Marital Status					Total
		Never married	Married, no gauna	Married	Widowed	Seperated / Divorced	
1	Bilaspur	36	1	59	4	0	100
2	Chamba	18	0	79	3	0	100
3	Hamirpur	27	0	70	3	0	100
4	Kangra	88	0	204	8	0	300
5	Kinnaur	25	0	74	1	0	100
6	Kullu	26	0	70	4	0	100
7	L&S	12	0	78	10	0	100
8	Mandi	84	0	206	8	2	300
9	Shimla	53	0	143	4	0	200
10	Sirmour	29	0	65	6	0	100
11	Solan	30	0	67	3	0	100
12	Una	29	0	63	8	0	100
	Total	457	1	1178	62	2	1700
	% to total	26.88	0.06	69.29	3.65	0.12	100

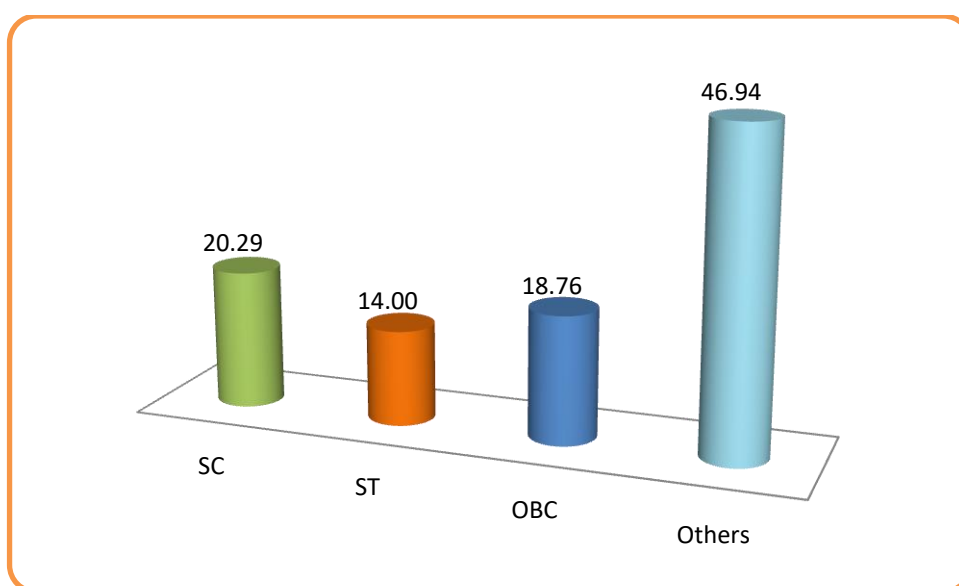
3.1.9 Social group wise distribution of Sample respondents (in %)

The social status of respondents shows that 46.94% of them belongs to General Category, 20.29% are Schedule Caste, 14.00% are Schedule Tribes and 18.76% are in the Other Backward Class category (refer Table 3.8 & Figure 5).

Table - 3.8 Social group wise distribution of Sample respondents

Sr. No.	Districts	Social Group				Total
		SC	ST	OBC	Others	
1	Bilaspur	32	0	2	66	100
2	Chamba	37	0	9	54	100
3	Hamirpur	27	0	6	67	100
4	Kangra	44	27	175	54	300
5	Kinnaur	4	96	0	0	100
6	Kullu	20	7	3	70	100
7	L&S	0	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	64	1	7	228	300
9	Shimla	47	2	0	151	200
10	Sirmour	10	0	68	22	100
11	Solan	39	4	0	57	100
12	Una	21	1	49	29	100
	Total	345	238	319	798	1700
	% to total	20.29	14	18.76	46.94	100

Figure: 5 - Social group wise distribution



3.1.10 Voter's Exposure to Media

Mass media plays a very important role in influencing public opinion. A majority of people watch TV and read newspapers in their free time. Most people cannot do without a newspaper in the morning or during their lunch break. TV also dominates the life of the family most of the time. The radio is turned on most of the time, creating permanent background noise. So Mass Media is becoming a very important part of our lives. With the emergence of internet, all the news, TV, radio broadcast can also be viewed or played online on the internet at any point of time.

In this section, we have taken up an in-depth analysis on the respondent's exposure to media like newspaper or magazine, radio, television and internet facilities i.e. social media (Facebook, WhatsApp etc).

3.1.10.1 Exposure to media-newspaper or magazine (in %)

The respondents have been asked that how often they read a newspaper or magazine. 25.06% of them said that they have read the same almost every day, 21.06% said that they have read the same at least once in a week, 12.00% said that they have read the same less than once a week. Large number of percentage 41.88 said that they have not read the same at all (refer Table 3.9).

Table 3.9 Exposure to media-newspaper or magazine

Sr. No.	District	Almost every day	At least once a week	Less than once a week	Not at all	Total
1	Bilaspur	41	18	11	30	100
2	Chamba	21	16	14	49	100
3	Hamirpur	38	9	4	49	100
4	Kangra	60	138	54	48	300
5	Kinnaur	1	6	2	91	100
6	Kullu	15	28	11	46	100
7	L&S	0	0	1	99	100
8	Mandi	131	66	34	69	300
9	Shimla	36	33	25	106	200
10	Sirmour	34	11	17	38	100
11	Solan	12	23	29	36	100
12	Una	37	10	2	51	100
	Total	426	358	204	712	1700
	% to total	25.06	21.06	12	41.88	100

3.1.10.2 Exposure to media-Radio (in %)

The respondents have further been asked that how often they listen to the radio. 7.18% of them said that they have listened the same almost every day, 10.35% said that they have listened the same at least once in a week, 13.41% said that they have listened the same less than once a week. Large number of informants 69.06% said that they have not listened the same at all (refer Table 3.10).

Table 3.10 Exposure to media-Radio

Sr. No.	District	Almost every day	At least once a week	Less than once a week	Not at all	Total
1	Bilaspur	7	1	7	85	100
2	Chamba	0	3	5	92	100
3	Hamirpur	15	4	1	80	100
4	Kangra	59	52	92	97	300
5	Kinnaur	0	0	0	100	100
6	Kullu	4	15	29	52	100
7	L&S	0	0	15	85	100
8	Mandi	6	65	32	197	300
9	Shimla	17	15	15	153	200
10	Sirmour	0	2	9	89	100
11	Solan	6	5	1	88	100
12	Una	8	14	22	56	100
	Total	122	176	228	1174	1700
	% to total	7.18	10.35	13.41	69.06	100

3.1.10.3 Exposure to media-Television (in %)

The respondents have further been asked that how often they watch the television. 73.71% of them said that they have watched the same almost every day, 16.71% said that they have watched the same at least once in a week, 5.94% said that they have watched the same less than once a week. 3.65% of respondents said that they have not watched the same at all (refer Table 3.11).

Table-3.11 Exposure to media-Television

Sr. No.	District	Almost every day	At least once a week	Less than once a week	Not at all	Total
1	Bilaspur	67	21	7	5	100
2	Chamba	87	7	4	2	100
3	Hamirpur	94	4	2	0	100
4	Kangra	153	96	42	9	300
5	Kinnaur	83	14	0	3	100
6	Kullu	86	11	1	2	100
7	L&S	74	15	7	4	100
8	Mandi	205	70	17	8	300
9	Shimla	156	22	9	13	200
10	Sirmour	92	1	2	5	100
11	Solan	81	13	4	2	100
12	Una	75	10	6	9	100
	Total	1253	284	101	62	1700
	% to total	73.71	16.71	5.94	3.65	100

3.1.10.4 Exposure to media-Internet, Social Media (Facebook, WhatsApp etc.)(in %)

The respondents have been further asked that how often they use internet, facebook, whatsapp etc. 74.41% of them said that they have used the same almost every day, 7.00% said that they have used the same at least once in a week, 3.41% said that they have used the same less than once a week. 14.88% of respondents said that they have not used the same at all (refer Table 3.12).

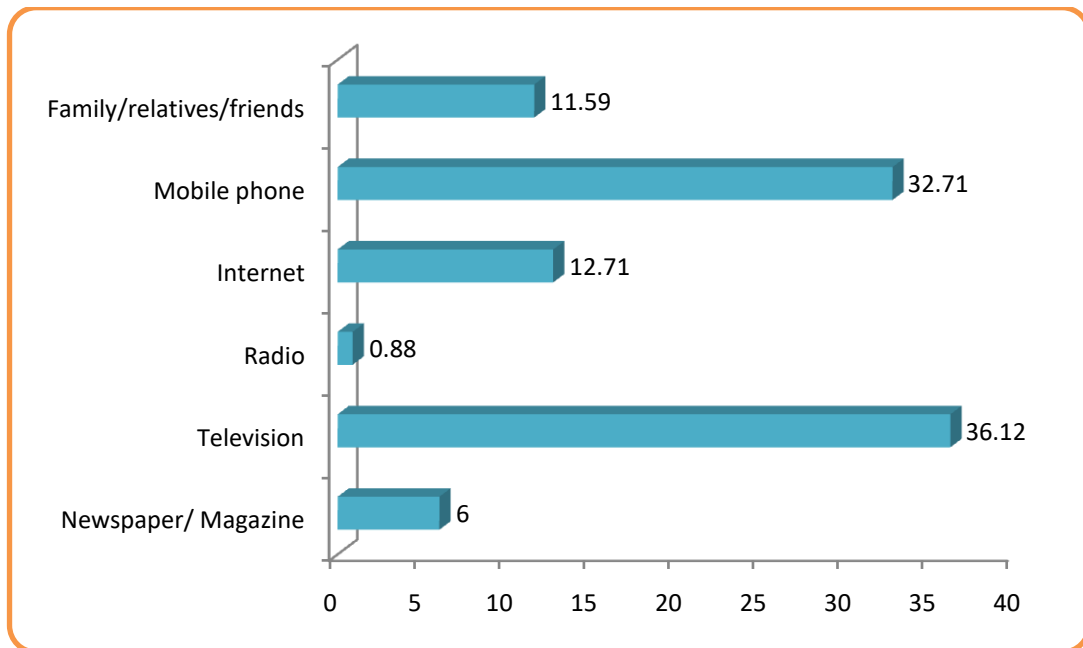
Table 3.12 Exposure to media-Internet, Social Media (Facebook, WhatsApp etc.)

Sr. No.	District	Almost every day	At least once a week	Less than once a week	Not at all	Total
1	Bilaspur	72	10	1	17	100
2	Chamba	84	6	2	8	100
3	Hamirpur	85	3	1	11	100
4	Kangra	179	64	10	47	300
5	Kinnaur	73	1	0	26	100
6	Kullu	80	9	1	10	100
7	L&S	56	3	19	22	100
8	Mandi	264	7	4	25	300
9	Shimla	159	8	9	24	200
10	Sirmour	73	1	0	26	100
11	Solan	82	1	0	17	100
12	Una	63	6	11	20	100
	Total	1270	119	58	253	1700
	% to total	74.71	7	3.41	14.88	100

3.1.11 Source of Media relied upon by voters during elections (in %)

Voter education is one of the interventions done by the Election Commission to increase electoral participation specifically designed to inform voters about the specifics of the voting process. The respondents were asked about the key sources of communication that informed the voters about the election and related information on which they rely the most on. 36.12% of them said that they rely the most on television for the same followed by 32.71% those who rely the most on mobile phone, 12.71% rely on internet and the rest of respondents 18.47% have been relying the most on different sources such as newspapers/ magazines, radio and friends and relatives to get news on elections and politics (refer Figure 6).

Figure: 6 Source of Media relied upon by voters during elections



❖ 3.2 Section C: Voter registration

Voter registration (or enrollment) is the requirement that a person otherwise eligible to vote register (or enroll) on the electoral roll before they will be entitled or permitted to vote. Registered person may need to register or update their registration if they change residence or other relevant information. The Election Commission of India periodically conducts a revision of voters list. An additional summary revision is conducted every year. Apart from this, citizen can request their inclusion in the voters list by applying through requisite forms.

This section focuses on the registration process which plays a very important role in conducting elections.

3.2.1 Possession of Voter's Card (in %)

When asked about possessing a voter card by an individual respondent, 99% of them said that they are having a voter card and only 1% of them do not have the voter card (refer Table 3.13).

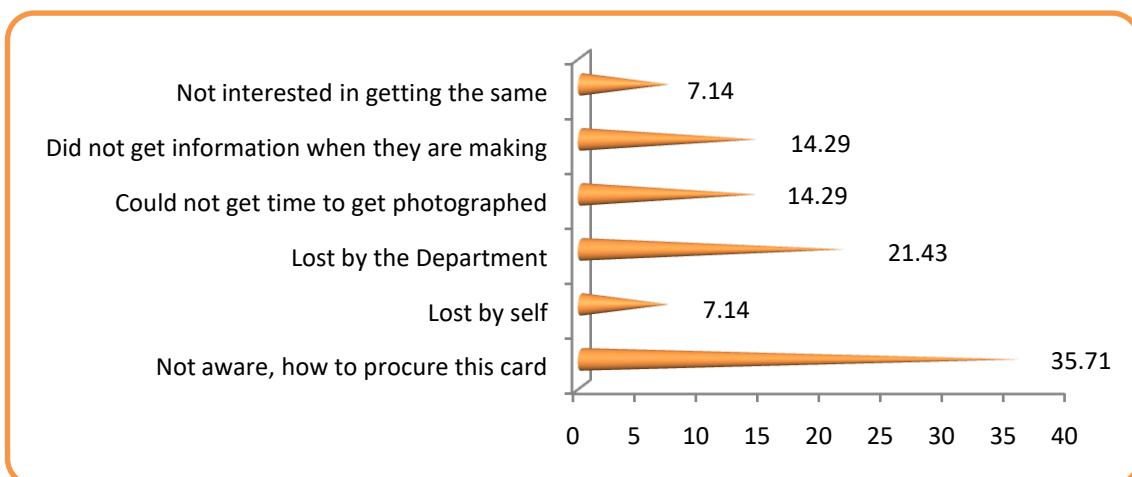
Table 3.13 Possession of Voter's Card

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	99	1	100
2	Chamba	100	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	99	1	100
6	Kullu	99	1	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	300
9	Shimla	197	3	200
10	Sirmour	98	2	100
11	Solan	100	0	100
12	Una	95	5	100
	Total	1686	14	1700
	% to total	99.18	0.82	100

3.2.2 Reason for not having Voter's Card (in %)

It has been observed that out of total 1700 respondents, only 14 (0.82%) responded that they don't have voters ID cards. On asking about the reasons for not having a voter's card, 35.71% said that they are not aware, how to procure the card, 14.29% said that they did not get information when the cards were prepared, 14.29% again said that they could not get the time to get photographed, 7.14% said that they have lost by self and rest 28.57% stated other reasons for not having a voters card (refer Figure 7).

Figure: 7 - Reason for not having Voter's Card



3.2.3 Awareness of voter's list (in %)

Awareness building drives usually focus only on voter registration process which we see in print media and electronic media. However, campaigns should also be launched to create awareness about the entire election process particularly about voting process. As regards the awareness of the respondents about the voters list, in this context the analysis shows that 99% of the respondents are well aware about voter's list and merely 1% are not aware about it (refer Table-3.14).

Table 3.14 Awareness of voter list

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Can't say/ do not know	Total
1	Bilaspur	100	0	0	100
2	Chamba	99	1	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	100
4	Kangra	300	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	99	1	0	100
6	Kullu	100	0	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	0	300
9	Shimla	199	1	0	200
10	Sirmour	100	0	0	100
11	Solan	98	1	1	100
12	Una	87	13	0	100
	Total	1682	17	1	1700
	% to total	98.94	1	0.06	100

3.2.4 Respondents registered in voter's list (in %)

In order to have a broader understanding about the inclusion of names in the voters list, an additional question have been asked whether your name has been included in voters list, 99.82% of the respondents those who were aware about the voters list said that their name have been enrolled in the voters list, only 0.18% said no that their name has been include or not (refer Table 3.15).

Table 3.15 Respondents registered in Voter's List

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Can't say/ do not know	Total
1	Bilaspur	100	0	0	100
2	Chamba	99	0	0	99
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	100
4	Kangra	300	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	99	0	0	99
6	Kullu	100	0	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	0	300
9	Shimla	197	2	0	199
10	Sirmour	99	1	0	100
11	Solan	98	0	0	98
12	Una	87	0	0	87
	Total	1679	3	0	1682
	% to total	99.82	0.18	0	100

3.2.5 Reasons for non inclusion of the name in voter's list (in %)

It has been observed that out of total 1700 respondents, only 3 (0.18%) responded who were not aware of the voter's list and they have been further asked that what was the reason that their name was not included in the voters list, 66.66% said that they don't know about it how to enroll and 33.34% said that they were not told to include the same in the list (refer Table 3.16).

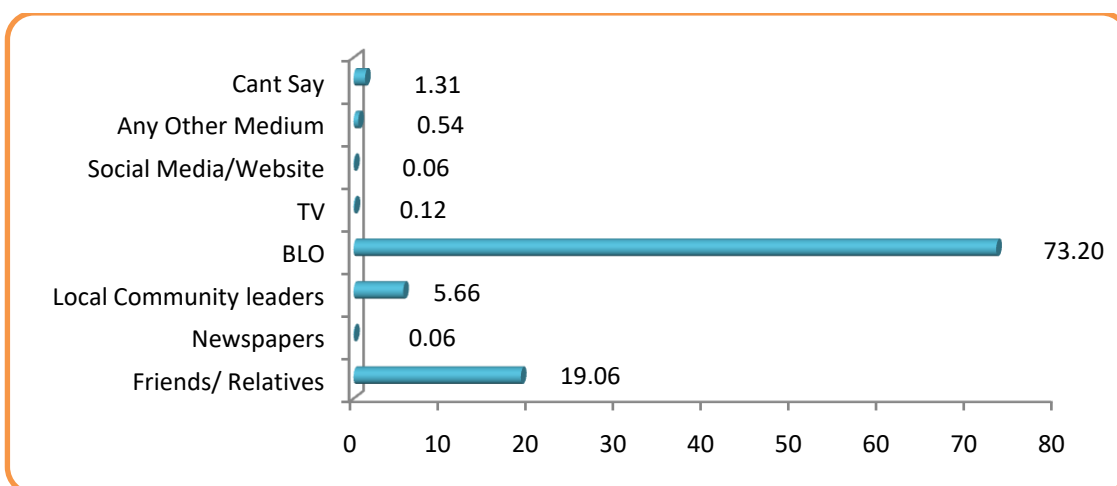
Table 3.16 Reasons for non inclusion the name in voter's list

Sr. No.	Districts	Did not know about it	Was not told	Can't say/ do not know	Was not interested	Total
1	Bilaspur	0	0	0	0	0
2	Chamba	0	1	0	0	1
3	Hamirpur	0	0	0	0	0
4	Kangra	0	0	0	0	0
5	Kinnaur	1	0	0	0	1
6	Kullu	0	0	0	0	0
7	L&S	0	0	0	0	0
8	Mandi	0	0	0	0	0
9	Shimla	1	0	0	0	1
10	Sirmour	0	0	0	0	0
11	Solan	0	0	0	0	0
12	Una	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	2	1	0	0	3
	% to total	66.66	33.34	0	0	100

3.2.6 Awareness of the respondents regarding enrolment (in %)

The target of the State Election Department is to get every citizen of the state who is above 18 years of age, to enroll for their Voter ID/ EPIC card. Despite the various methods used by the Election Department to successfully complete the enrollment. When asked about how they came to know that their name have to be enrolled in voters list. 73.20% said that they came to know through BLO, 19.06% through friends / relatives, 5.66% through local community leaders. 0.06% and 0.12% were those who came to know through newspapers and T.V. respectively. 1.31% were those who were not able to say anything (refer Figure 8).

Figure: 8– Awareness of the respondents regarding enrolment



3.2.7 Respondents name correctly written in voter's list (in %)

When asked from 1679 respondents that was their name correctly written in voter's list, 98.15% said that yes it was written correctly and only 0.71% said no for the said question. Still 1.13% were not able to say anything (refer Table 3.17).

Table 3.17 Respondents name correctly written in voter's list

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Can't say/ do not know	Total
1	Bilaspur	98	2	0	100
2	Chamba	96	3	0	99
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	100
4	Kangra	300	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	99	0	0	99
6	Kullu	100	0	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	297	1	2	300
9	Shimla	193	3	1	197
10	Sirmour	93	0	6	99
11	Solan	95	1	2	98
12	Una	77	2	8	87
	Total	1648	12	19	1679
	% to total	98.15	0.71	1.13	100

3.2.8 Are there members in your family who are 18+ years of age and not registered? (in %)

In order to have a broader understanding about the non-inclusion of names in the voters list, an additional question have been asked whether there is someone in his home other than him/her whose name is not included in the voters list who has attained the age of 18+ years. In total 1.82% replied that their family have unregistered members and 98.18% revealed that there family don't have unregistered members who had completed 18 years (refer Table 3.18).

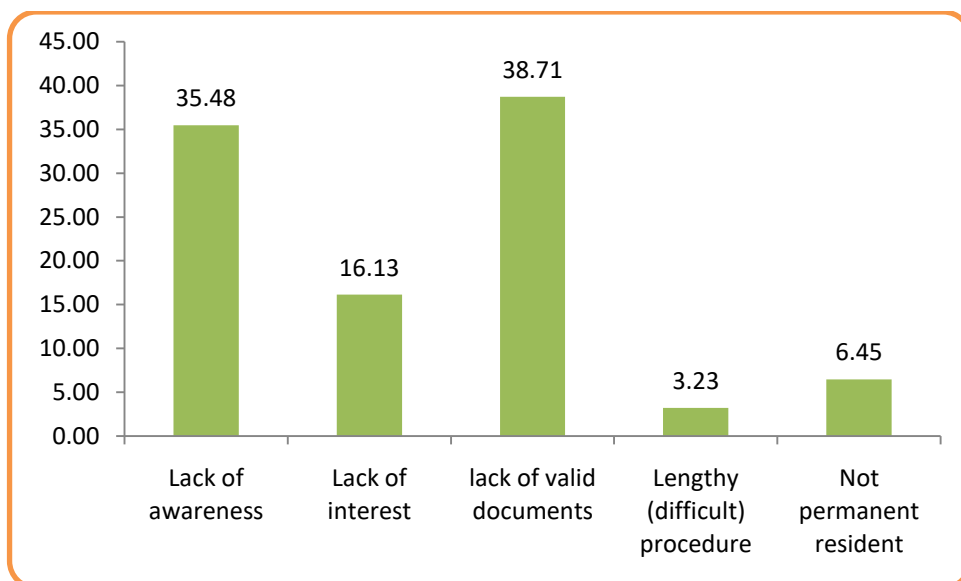
Table 3.18 Are there members in your family who are 18+ years of age and not registered

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	1	99	100
2	Chamba	0	100	100
3	Hamirpur	0	100	100
4	Kangra	4	296	300
5	Kinnaur	1	99	100
6	Kullu	2	98	100
7	L&S	1	99	100
8	Mandi	5	295	300
9	Shimla	3	197	200
10	Sirmour	1	99	100
11	Solan	1	99	100
12	Una	12	88	100
	Total	31	1669	1700
	% to total	1.82	98.18	100

3.2.9 Reasons for not enrolled in the voter's list (in %)

Out of total unregistered members, 38.71% are not able to enroll themselves in absence of valid document, 35.48% in lack of awareness, 16.13% due to lack of interest, 6.45% due to not being permanent resident and around 3.23% due to cumbersome procedure (refer Figure 9).

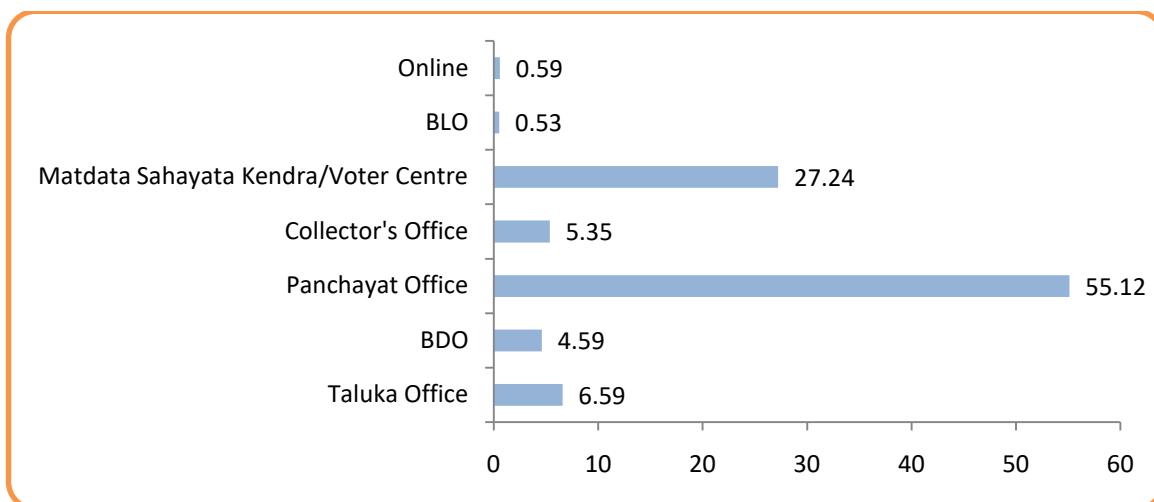
Figure: 9 - Reasons for not enrolled in the voter's list



3.2.10 Knowledge of respondents where to get registered as elector (in%)

When asked about that whether they know where to get registered as an elector, 55.12% said to register in Panchayat Office, 27.24% said that they can registered with Matdata sahayata Kendra/Voter Centre, 4.59% said in BDO office and rest 13.05% stated to register with different sources (refer Figure 10).

Figure: 10 - Knowledge of respondents where to get registered as elector



3.2.11 Awareness about the EPIC (Election Card) (in %)

While asking about the awareness regarding EPIC (Election Card) from the respondents. In this context 99.06% of the respondents were well aware about EPIC and merely 0.71% were not aware about it. 0.24% of the respondents said nothing about it (refer Table 3.19).

Table 3.19 Awareness about the EPIC (Election Card)

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Can't say	Total
1	Bilaspur	99	1	0	100
2	Chamba	100	0	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	100
4	Kangra	300	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	100	0	0	100
6	Kullu	100	0	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	0	300
9	Shimla	199	1	0	200
10	Sirmour	95	2	3	100
11	Solan	100	0	0	100
12	Una	91	8	1	100
	Total	1684	12	4	1700
	% to total	99.06	0.71	0.24	100

3.2.12 Possession of EPIC Card (in %)

When asked about possessing an EPIC by an individual respondent. 99.06% of them said that they are having an EPIC and only 0.94% of them do not have the EPIC (refer Table 3.20).

Table 3.20 Possession of EPIC Card

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	99	1	100
2	Chamba	100	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	99	1	100
6	Kullu	99	1	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	300
9	Shimla	197	3	200
10	Sirmour	98	2	100
11	Solan	100	0	100
12	Una	93	7	100
	Total	1684	16	1700
	% to total	99.06	0.94	100

3.2.13 When did you get the EPIC made? (in %)

Asking from 1684 respondents that when they get the EPIC made. 52.61% said that that they got it made before the assembly elections and 4.39% said that they got it made after last assembly elections. A large no. of 42.99% were of those who were not able to recall the same (refer Table 3.21).

Table 3.21 When did you get the EPIC made

Sr. No.	Districts	Before last assembly elections	After last assembly elections	Don't remember	Total
1	Bilaspur	45	0	54	99
2	Chamba	21	7	72	100
3	Hamirpur	31	3	66	100
4	Kangra	213	21	65	299
5	Kinnaur	25	0	74	99
6	Kullu	71	4	24	99
7	L&S	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	249	15	36	300
9	Shimla	25	20	152	197
10	Sirmour	15	1	82	98
11	Solan	12	2	86	100
12	Una	79	1	13	93
	Total	886	74	724	1684
	% to total	52.61	4.39	42.99	100

3.2.14 Time duration to receive the EPIC (in %)

Asking from 1684 respondents that after how many days they received the EPIC, 35.33% said that they received it within one month, 16.45% within six months, only 12.71% received it within 15 days. A large no. of 35.51% were of those who were not able to recall the same (refer Table 3.22).

Table 3.22 Time duration to receive the EPIC

Sr. No.	Districts	Within 15 days	Within 1 month	Within Six months	Don't know	Total
1	Bilaspur	3	41	28	27	99
2	Chamba	6	37	2	55	100
3	Hamirpur	15	36	15	34	100
4	Kangra	77	119	44	59	299
5	Kinnaur	0	18	10	71	99
6	Kullu	2	37	32	28	99
7	L&S	1	13	86	0	100
8	Mandi	44	129	33	94	300
9	Shimla	31	72	0	94	197
10	Sirmour	7	53	3	35	98
11	Solan	0	5	5	90	100
12	Una	28	35	19	11	93
	Total	214	595	277	598	1684
	% to total	12.71	35.33	16.45	35.51	100

3.2.15 Was it easy for you to get the EPIC? (in %)

1684 respondents were asked that was the process to obtain EPIC easy. 82.90% said that it was easy to get EPIC, whereas 0.36% respondents said that it was not easy. 16.75% were of those who could not say anything whether it was easy or not (refer Table 3.23).

Table 3.23 Was it easy for you to get the EPIC

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Can't say	Total
1	Bilaspur	85	5	9	99
2	Chamba	71	0	29	100
3	Hamirpur	62	0	38	100
4	Kangra	276	0	23	299
5	Kinnaur	99	0	0	99
6	Kullu	84	0	15	99
7	L&S	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	281	0	19	300
9	Shimla	107	0	90	197
10	Sirmour	79	0	19	98
11	Solan	74	0	26	100
12	Una	78	1	14	93
	Total	1396	6	282	1684
	% to total	82.90	0.36	16.75	100

3.2.16 Main problems witnessed while getting the EPIC (in %)

6 respondents were further asked that what were the main problems you witnessed while getting your EPIC. 33.33% of them said that the main problem was of long procedure to obtain the EPIC, 16.67% respondents told about unfriendly officials. 50% were those who could not say anything about it (refer Table 3.24).

Table 3.24 Main problems witnessed while getting the EPIC

Sr. No.	Districts	Long procedure	Unfriendly officials	Can't say	Inaccessibility of the concerned office	Total
1	Bilaspur	2	1	2	0	5
2	Chamba	0	0	0	0	0
3	Hamirpur	0	0	0	0	0
4	Kangra	0	0	0	0	0
5	Kinnaur	0	0	0	0	0
6	Kullu	0	0	0	0	0
7	L&S	0	0	0	0	0
8	Mandi	0	0	0	0	0
9	Shimla	0	0	0	0	0
10	Sirmour	0	0	0	0	0
11	Solan	0	0	0	0	0
12	Una	0	0	1	0	1
	Total	2	1	3	0	6
	% to total	33.33	16.67	50	0	100

3.2.17 Are you aware that you can vote with alternative ID?

While asking about the awareness regarding casting vote with alternate ID from the respondents. In this context, 94.53% of the respondents were well aware about this and merely 5.47% were not aware about it (refer Table 3.25).

Table 3.25 Awareness regarding casting vote with alternative ID

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	80	20	100
2	Chamba	93	7	100
3	Hamirpur	93	7	100
4	Kangra	300	0	300
5	Kinnaur	99	1	100
6	Kullu	99	1	100
7	L&S	92	8	100
8	Mandi	300	0	300
9	Shimla	197	3	200
10	Sirmour	90	10	100
11	Solan	95	5	100
12	Una	69	31	100
	Total	1607	93	1700
	% to total	94.53	5.47	100

3.2.18 If you did not have EPIC, which alternative ID did you use for voting? (in %)

On asking a straight question to the respondents about if you did not have EPIC, which alternative ID they used for voting. 55.05% of them said that they used voter slip for voting. 13.33% voted with license, 12.85% voted with the help of ration card. 0.34% voted with the help of opened bank account document and rest 18.42% voted by producing other alternative documents (refer Table 3.26).

Table 3.26 If you did not have EPIC, which alternative ID did you use for voting

Sr. No.	Districts	License	Ration Card	Opening Bank Account	Voter Slip	Any other	Total
1	Bilaspur	21	14	2	18	25	80
2	Chamba	2	23	0	57	11	93
3	Hamirpur	24	8		43	18	93
4	Kangra	70	50	0	145	35	300
5	Kinnaur	20	33	0	26	21	100
6	Kullu	9	1	0	73	16	99
7	L&S	0	0	0	92	0	92
8	Mandi	15	36	3	216	30	300
9	Shimla	11	22	0	131	33	197
10	Sirmour	22	0	0	0	78	100
11	Solan	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Una	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Total	194	187	5	801	268	1455
	% to total	13.33	12.85	0.34	55.05	18.42	100

3.2.19 Awareness about appointment of local persons by the Govt. / Election Office to help out for enrolment (in %)

On asking from the respondents about whether they know that Govt. / Election Office has appointed local persons to help for enrolment. Around 94% said that yes they know that local person has been appointed by the said authorities to help out us and nearly 6% denied for the same (refer Table 3.27).

Table 3.27 Awareness about appointment of local persons by the Govt. / Election Office

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	97	3	100
2	Chamba	79	21	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	290	10	300
5	Kinnaur	98	2	100
6	Kullu	92	8	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	300
9	Shimla	178	22	200
10	Sirmour	91	9	100
11	Solan	91	9	100
12	Una	81	19	100
	Total	1597	103	1700
	% to total	93.94	6.06	100

3.2.20 Designation of appointed person (in %)

From 1597 respondents it has been further asked that a person who has been appointed what is his/her designation. Majority 90.98% told that he/ she is a Booth level officer, 5.39% said of election agent, 0.44% for identification officer. 3.19% were not able to recall about it (refer Table 3.28).

Table 3.28 Designation of appointed person

Sr. No.	Districts	Booth Level Officer	Identification Officer	Election Agent	Don't know	Total
1	Bilaspur	93	0	1	3	97
2	Chamba	76	0	0	3	79
3	Hamirpur	97	1	0	2	100
4	Kangra	256	0	34	0	290
5	Kinnaur	86	0	0	12	98
6	Kullu	89	0	1	2	92
7	L&S	100	0	0	0	100
8	Mandi	292	1	7	0	300
9	Shimla	168	4	0	6	178
10	Sirmour	71	0	8	12	91
11	Solan	51	0	29	11	91
12	Una	74	1	6	0	81
	Total	1453	7	86	51	1597
	% to total	90.98	0.44	5.39	3.19	100

3.2.21 Has s/he ever visited your house/office? (in %)

It has been further asked from the respondents that whether that person (he/she) has ever visited your house/office. Majority 80.67% told yes that person has visited my house, 9.79% denied for the same & 9.54% were not able to say about it (refer Table 3.29).

Table 3.29 Has s/he ever visited your house/office

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Can't say	Total
1	Bilaspur	84	13	0	97
2	Chamba	47	17	36	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	100
4	Kangra	277	7	6	290
5	Kinnaur	83	3	14	100
6	Kullu	89	0	3	92
7	L&S	64	0	36	100
8	Mandi	275	15	10	300
9	Shimla	132	27	19	178
10	Sirmour	56	41	3	100
11	Solan	43	25	29	97
12	Una	69	12	0	81
	Total	1319	160	156	1635
	% to total	80.67	9.79	9.54	100

3.2.22 Do you know where your Polling booth is?

It has been further asked from the respondents that whether they know about the location of their polling booth. Majority 99.71% were knowing about the location of their polling booth, where as merely 0.29% were not aware about the same (refer Table 3.30).

Table 3.30 Awareness about polling booth

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	100	0	100
2	Chamba	100	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	100	0	100
6	Kullu	100	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	300
9	Shimla	200	0	200
10	Sirmour	99	1	100
11	Solan	99	1	100
12	Una	98	2	100
	Total	1695	5	1700
	% to total	99.71	0.29	100

❖ 3.3 Section D: Elections – Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour, Belief, And Practices

According to the definition from Wikipedia, “Attitude is a psychological construct, a mental and emotional entity that inheres in, or characterizes a person”. Attitude can be formed from the person’s past or present. In this chapter report briefing about the findings on the willingness of the respondents to register and turn out to vote are one of the key critical indicators which impact successful conduct of election procedure. A KAP survey is usually conducted to collect information on the knowledge (i.e., what is known), attitudes (i.e., what is thought), and practices (i.e., what is done) about general and/or specific topics of a particular population. In respect of election department, this section will talk about the practices conducted by the election department.

In this section, we have taken upon analysis on the respondent’s Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior, Belief and Practices on the entire election process.

3.3.1 Did you vote in previous Assembly Elections? (in %)

Voting being a fundamental right of every citizen in the country reflects the aspirations and inclinations of the respective voters. The Election commission (ECI) has taken several initiatives in the recent past to promote participation of the voters and ensure free and fair voting. A question has been asked from the respondents on casting their vote in last assembly elections. 97.35% of the canvassed population responded that they have cast their vote in the last elections, while 2.65% responded that they did not cast their vote (refer Table-3.31). This

proportion of canvassed population who have voted have become possible due to efforts of the ECI by making election process for voting more convenient such as to allow the voters to cast their vote with alternate documents, assured minimum facilities at polling stations, volunteers for aid and assistance, provision of ramp and wheelchair, transport to and from the booth, sign language interpreters and Braille EVMs and Postal Ballot facility when voters cannot physically reach the polling station, the polling station will reach out to them from enrolment to election etc.

Table 3.31 Did respondent vote in previous Assembly Elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	98	2	100
2	Chamba	99	1	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	98	2	100
6	Kullu	94	6	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	287	13	300
9	Shimla	193	7	200
10	Sirmour	99	1	100
11	Solan	95	5	100
12	Una	93	7	100
	Total	1655	45	1700
	% to total	97.35	2.65	100

3.3.2 Did you vote in 2024 Parliamentary Elections?

Total 98.59% of the canvassed population responded that they casted their vote in the recently held Parliament Election, while 1.41% responded that they did not cast their vote in the Parliament Election (refer Table 3.32).

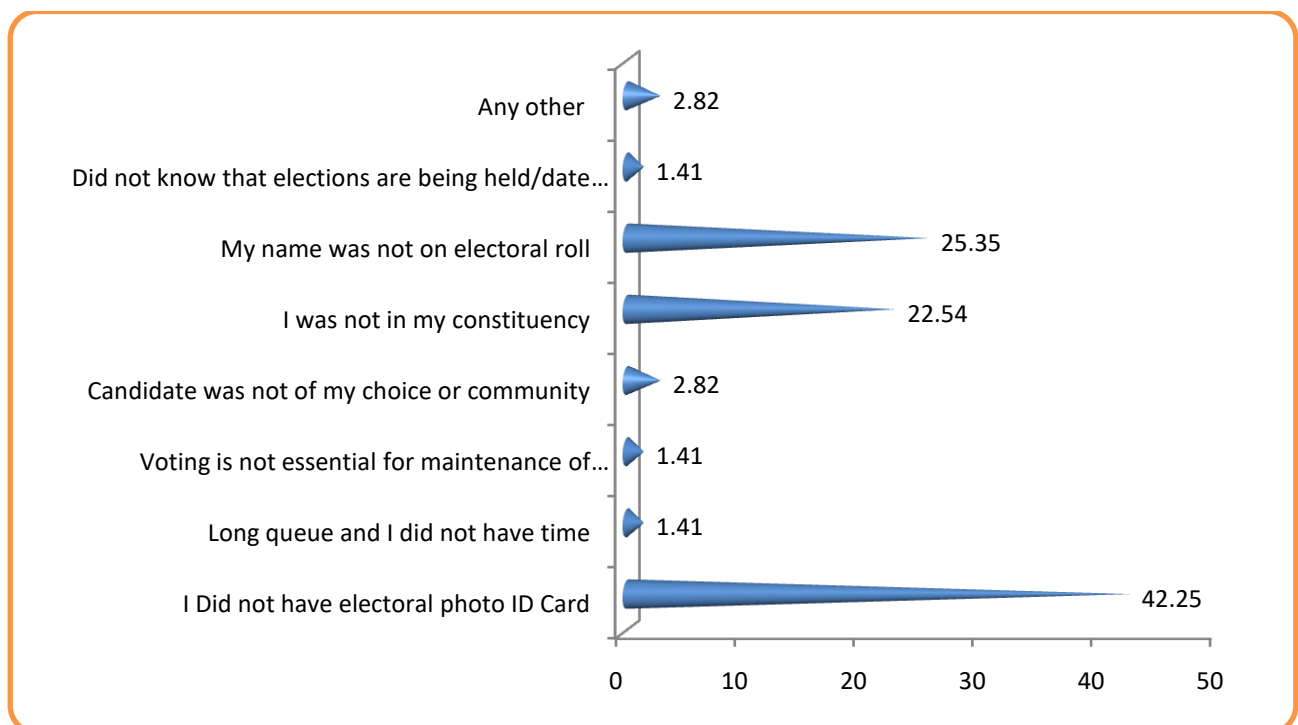
Table 3.32 Did respondent vote in 2024 Parliamentary Elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	99	1	100
2	Chamba	100	0	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	98	2	100
6	Kullu	100	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	295	5	300
9	Shimla	193	7	200
10	Sirmour	99	0	99
11	Solan	97	3	100
12	Una	95	5	100
	Total	1675	24	1699
	% to total	98.59	1.41	100

3.3.3 Reason for not casting vote in last assembly/parliament election:

Out of the total who have not casted their vote, 42.25% stated that they did not have electoral photo ID Card, 25.35% responded that their name was not on electoral roll, 22.54% stated that they were not in their constituency, 9.86% given other reasons (refer Figure 11).

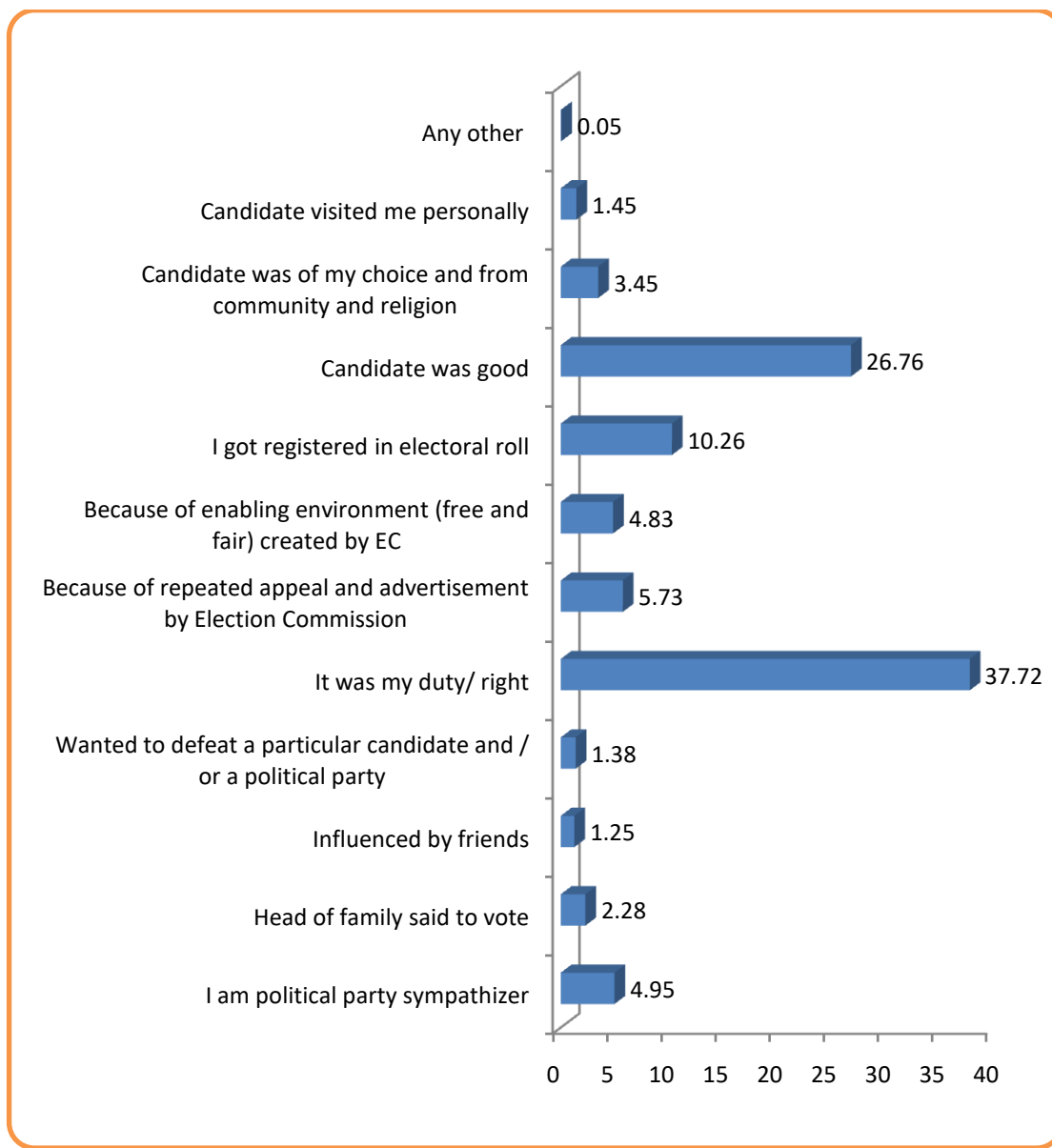
Figure: 11 – Reason for not casting vote in last assembly/parliament election



3.3.4 Reason for casting vote in last Assembly/Parliament election (in %)

Out of the total respondents who have casted their vote, 37.72% stated that they voted because voting is their duty/right, 26.76% stated that candidate was of their preference, 10% said that they got registered in electoral roll, and rest 26.22% stated other reasons for voting (refer Figure-12).

Figure: 12 – Reason for casting vote in last Assembly/Parliament election



3.3.5 Electoral experience during last assembly voting (in %)

On asking about the electoral experience during their last assembly voting from the respondents, 98% find it very convenient only 0.18% said that it was inconvenient, 0.06% said that it was taxing and 1.76% said that they could not remember the same (refer Table-3.33).

Table 3.33 Electoral experience during last assembly voting

Sr. No.	Districts	Convenient	Inconvenient	Taxing	Can't remember	Total
1	Bilaspur	97	1	1	1	100
2	Chamba	95	2	0	3	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	0	0	100
4	Kangra	299	0	0	1	300
5	Kinnaur	97	0	0	3	100
6	Kullu	93	0	0	7	100
7	L&S	96	0	0	4	100
8	Mandi	298	0	0	2	300
9	Shimla	198	0	0	2	200
10	Sirmour	98	0	0	2	100
11	Solan	98	0	0	2	100
12	Una	97	0	0	3	100
	Total	1666	3	1	30	1700
	% to total	98	0.18	0.06	1.76	100

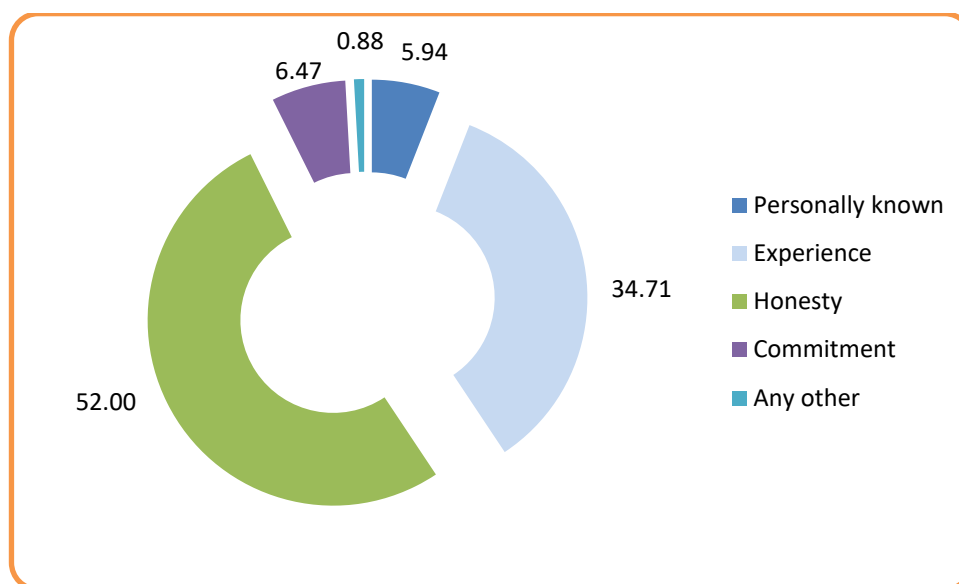
3.3.6 What motivated your choice of the candidate during last elections? (in %)

When asked about what matter the most while voting for a candidate in election from the sample respondents, it has been observed that 52% have given preference to candidate's honesty, as first choice, candidate's experience is considered by 34.71% and is ranked 2nd, candidates commitment ranked 3rd choice by 6.47%, candidate personally known ranked 4th by 5.94% and preference by other reasons ranked last by 0.88% (refer Table 3.34 & Figure 13).

Table 3.34 What motivated your choice of the candidate during last elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Personally known	Experience	Honesty	Commitment	Any other	Total
1	Bilaspur	6	25	48	16	5	100
2	Chamba	7	36	49	8	0	100
3	Hamirpur	5	49	45	1	0	100
4	Kangra	3	132	133	32	0	300
5	Kinnaur	2	20	78	0	0	100
6	Kullu	7	29	53	9	2	100
7	L&S	0	9	91	0	0	100
8	Mandi	34	84	157	22	3	300
9	Shimla	6	94	97	2	1	200
10	Sirmour	7	33	52	6	2	100
11	Solan	6	40	47	5	2	100
12	Una	18	39	34	9	0	100
	Total	101	590	884	110	15	1700
	% to total	5.94	34.71	52	6.47	0.88	100

Figure: 13–What motivated your choice of the candidate



3.3.7 Are there any family members eligible for voting who have not voted?

In order to get the broader picture of casting vote in last Assembly Election, a question has been asked, how many number in the respondent's family those who were eligible and did not cast their vote in the last election. A total of 38 (2.24%) persons out of 1700 did not cast their vote (refer Table 3.35).

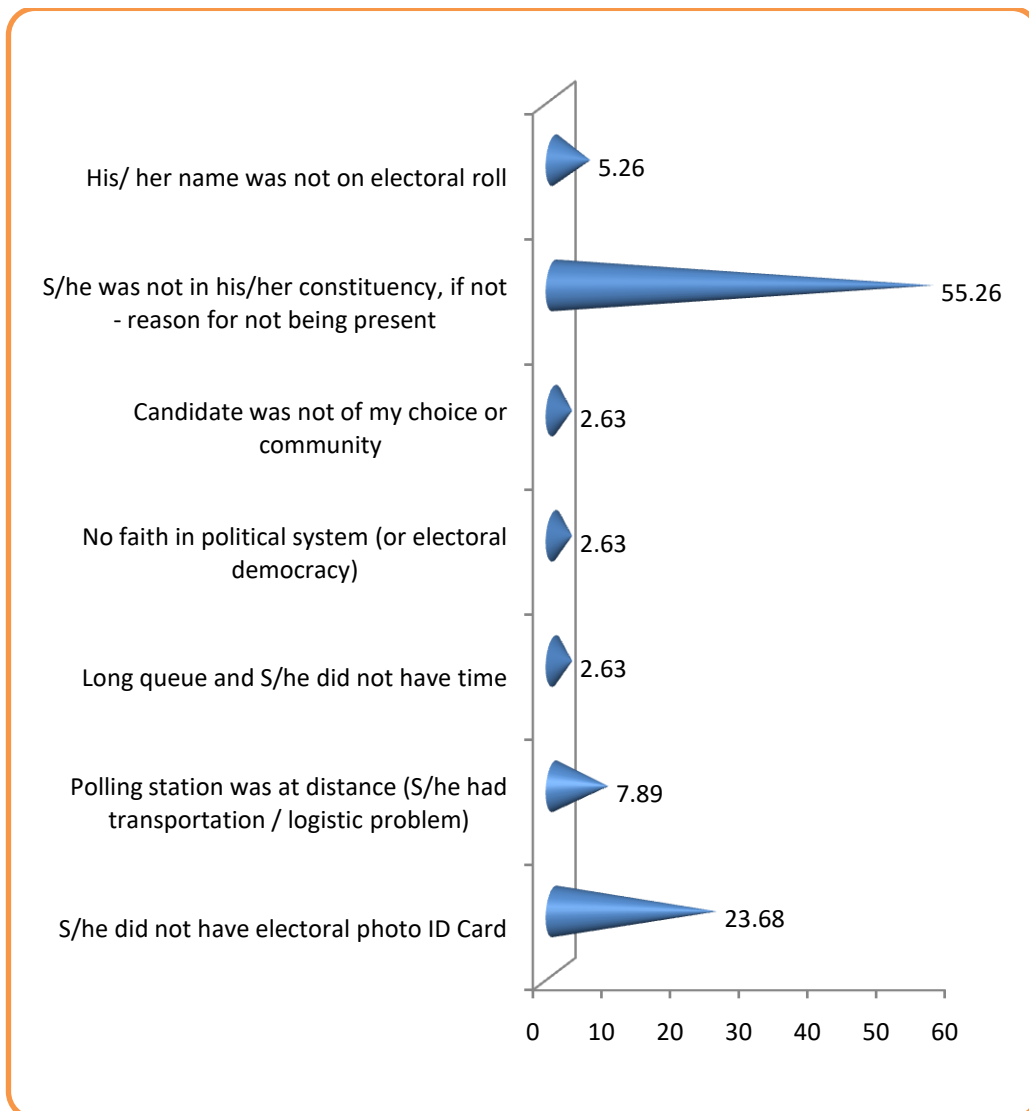
Table 3.35 Are there any family members eligible for voting who have not voted

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	4	96	100
2	Chamba	5	95	100
3	Hamirpur	1	99	100
4	Kangra	2	298	300
5	Kinnaur	2	98	100
6	Kullu	2	98	100
7	L&S	0	100	100
8	Mandi	4	296	300
9	Shimla	11	189	200
10	Sirmour	0	100	100
11	Solan	1	99	100
12	Una	6	94	100
	Total	38	1662	1700
	% to total	2.24	97.76	100

3.3.8 Reasons for not casting vote (in %)

Out of the total eligible members, who have not casted their vote they were asked to state the reasons for not casting their vote. 55.26% stated that they were no present in their constituency, 23.68% stated that they did not have electoral photo ID card, 7.89% stated that polling station was at distance (S/he had transportation / logistic problem), 2.63% stated that the candidate was not of their choice or community, 10.54% given other reasons (refer Figure 14)

Figure: 14 - Reasons for not casting vote



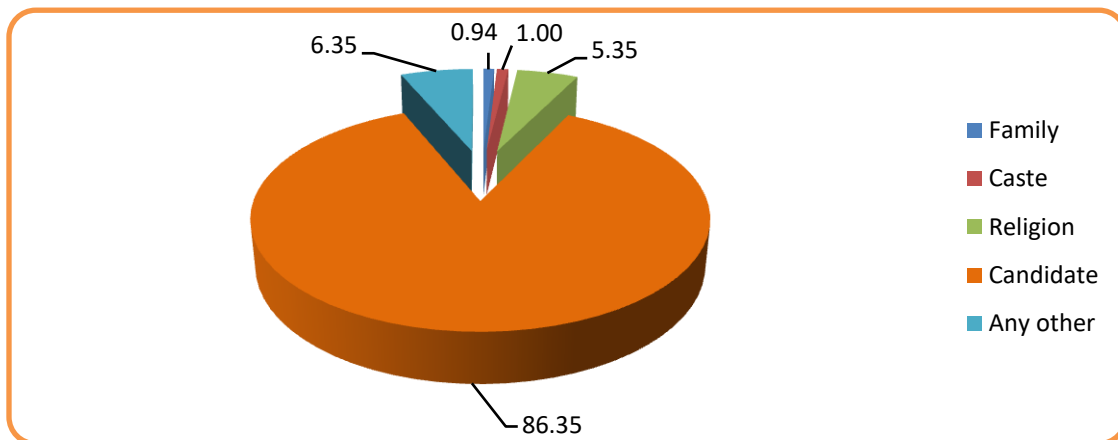
3.3.9 Most influencing factor that affects voting preference (in %)

When asked about what is the most influencing factor which affects their voting preference in election from the sample respondents, it has been observed that 86.35% have given preference to candidate. 0.94% to candidate's family, 5.35% to religion of the candidate, 1.00% to caste of the candidate and 6.35% stated towards other factors (refer Table 3.36 & Figure 15).

Table 3.36 Most influencing factor that affects voting preference

Sr. No.	Districts	Family	Caste	Religion	Candidate	Any other	Total
1	Bilaspur	9	1	74	12	4	100
2	Chamba	0	0	0	98	2	100
3	Hamirpur	2	0	0	97	1	100
4	Kangra	0	4	10	271	15	300
5	Kinnaur	1	0	0	98	1	100
6	Kullu	0	0	0	93	7	100
7	L&S	0	0	0	100	0	100
8	Mandi	0	12	7	260	21	300
9	Shimla	0	0	0	156	44	200
10	Sirmour	1	0	0	94	5	100
11	Solan	2	0	0	90	8	100
12	Una	1	0	0	99	0	100
	Total	16	17	91	1468	108	1700
	% to total	0.94	1	5.35	86.35	6.35	100

Figure: 15–Most influencing factor that affects voting preference



3.3.10 Factors influencing high Voter turnout (in %)

When asked about the factor that influenced high voter's turnout in election from the sample respondents, 76.59% said that good candidate have put an influence in high voters turnout, 18.18% have given the credit to voters awareness programme for high voter's turnout and 5.23% stated towards other factors (refer Table 3.37).

Table 3.37 Factors influencing high Voter turnout

Sr. No.	Districts	Money power	Muscle power	Both (1 & 2)	Good candidate	Voter Awareness Programmes	Any other	Total
1	Bilaspur	0	0	2	36	53	9	100
2	Chamba	0	0	0	79	19	2	100
3	Hamirpur	0	0	0	87	13	0	100
4	Kangra	0	0	0	213	87	0	300
5	Kinnaur	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
6	Kullu	0	0	1	69	30	0	100
7	L&S	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
8	Mandi	0	2	3	242	33	20	300
9	Shimla	0	0	0	109	51	40	200
10	Sirmour	0	0	0	86	13	1	100
11	Solan	0	0	0	88	4	8	100
12	Una	0	0	1	93	6	0	100
	Total	0	2	7	1302	309	80	1700
	% to total	0	0.12	0.41	76.59	18.18	4.71	100

3.3.11 Security threat during elections (in %)

On asking about the security threat during elections at any point from the respondents, 88.59% said that there was no security threat at all during elections, 6.29% said that it was somewhat, only 0.53% said that there was very much security threat, around 4.59% respondents could not say anything about it (refer Table-3.38).

Table 3.38 Security threat during elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all	Can't Say	Total
1	Bilaspur	1	18	74	7	100
2	Chamba	0	0	85	15	100
3	Hamirpur	0	0	93	7	100
4	Kangra	0	0	300	0	300
5	Kinnaur	0	47	45	8	100
6	Kullu	0	0	100	0	100
7	L&S	0	0	91	9	100
8	Mandi	0	0	287	13	300
9	Shimla	0	0	200	0	200
10	Sirmour	4	11	81	4	100
11	Solan	3	2	83	12	100
12	Una	1	29	67	3	100
	Total	9	107	1506	78	1700
	% to total	0.53	6.29	88.59	4.59	100

3.3.12 Do you think the deployment of police force was sufficient during the last elections? (in %)

Respondents have been asked that whether they think the deployment of police force was sufficient during the last elections, 78.88% said that there was sufficient deployment of police force during last elections, 17% said about somewhat, only 1.18% said that there was not at all sufficient, 2.94% respondents could not say anything about it (refer Table 3.39).

Table 3.39 Do you think the deployment of police force was sufficient during the last elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Very much	Somewhat	Not at all	Can't Say	Total
1	Bilaspur	62	25	9	4	100
2	Chamba	71	13	0	16	100
3	Hamirpur	95	4	0	1	100
4	Kangra	256	44	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	26	65	8	1	100
6	Kullu	82	15	0	3	100
7	L&S	89	1	0	10	100
8	Mandi	240	59	0	1	300
9	Shimla	193	7	0	0	200
10	Sirmour	95	4	0	1	100
11	Solan	85	5	2	8	100
12	Una	47	47	1	5	100
	Total	1341	289	20	50	1700
	% to total	78.88	17	1.18	2.94	100

3.3.13 Electoral experience in the last assembly elections (in %)

The Election commission has taken several initiatives in the recent past to promote participation of the voters and ensure free and fair voting and to feel them more comfortable at their pooling booth while voting. To improve the shortcoming in election process at polling booth a straight question was asked to share their experiences of the last assembly elections. 46.65% of the respondents find it very good, 51.53% said that it was good, 0.24% said that it was not so perfect, 1.59% respondents are not able to recall or can't say about it (refer Table 3.40).

Table 3.40 Electoral experience in the last assembly elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Very good	Good	Not so perfect	Not at all good	Can't Say/ Don't know	Total
1	Bilaspur	35	61	2	0	2	100
2	Chamba	22	76	2	0	0	100
3	Hamirpur	49	51	0	0	0	100
4	Kangra	53	246	0	0	1	300
5	Kinnaur	47	49	0	0	4	100
6	Kullu	59	39	0	0	2	100
7	L&S	68	23	0	0	9	100
8	Mandi	165	135	0	0	0	300
9	Shimla	117	83	0	0	0	200
10	Sirmour	88	12	0	0	0	100
11	Solan	52	40	0	0	8	100
12	Una	38	61	0	0	1	100
	Total	793	876	4	0	27	1700
	% to total	46.65	51.53	0.24	0	1.59	100

3.3.14 Whether the polling staff was cooperative during the election process?

Successful smooth conduct of any election particularly at a polling booth depends upon the behavior of the polling staff. On asking from the respondents on this aspect of the staff during the election process, analysis shows that 49.35% of the respondents experienced that polling staff was very cooperative, 49.29% said that staff was cooperative, 0.24% said that they were not so cooperative, 1.12% respondents could not say anything about it (refer Table 3.41). Almost all of the respondents were satisfied with the behavior of the polling staff but still some more efforts must be put in to make elector feel more comfortable while voting.

Table 3.41 Whether the polling staff was cooperative during the election process

Sr. No.	Districts	Very Cooperative	Cooperative	Not so cooperative	Not at all cooperative	Can't Say	Total
1	Bilaspur	34	64	0	0	2	100
2	Chamba	15	83	2	0	0	100
3	Hamirpur	51	49	0	0	0	100
4	Kangra	185	115	0	0	0	300
5	Kinnaur	48	50	0	0	2	100
6	Kullu	72	28	0	0	0	100
7	L&S	1	91	0	0	8	100
8	Mandi	172	128	0	0	0	300
9	Shimla	100	100	0	0	0	200
10	Sirmour	85	15	0	0	0	100
11	Solan	47	46	0	0	7	100
12	Una	29	69	2	0	0	100
	Total	839	838	4	0	19	1700
	% to total	49.35	49.29	0.24	0	1.12	100

3.3.15 Any difficulty faced while voting (in %)

A straight question has been asked from the informants about the difficulties in voting, 0.47% were of the opinion that they faced the difficulty while voting compared to 99.53% of the those Informants who does not face any difficulty at the time of voting (Table-3.42).

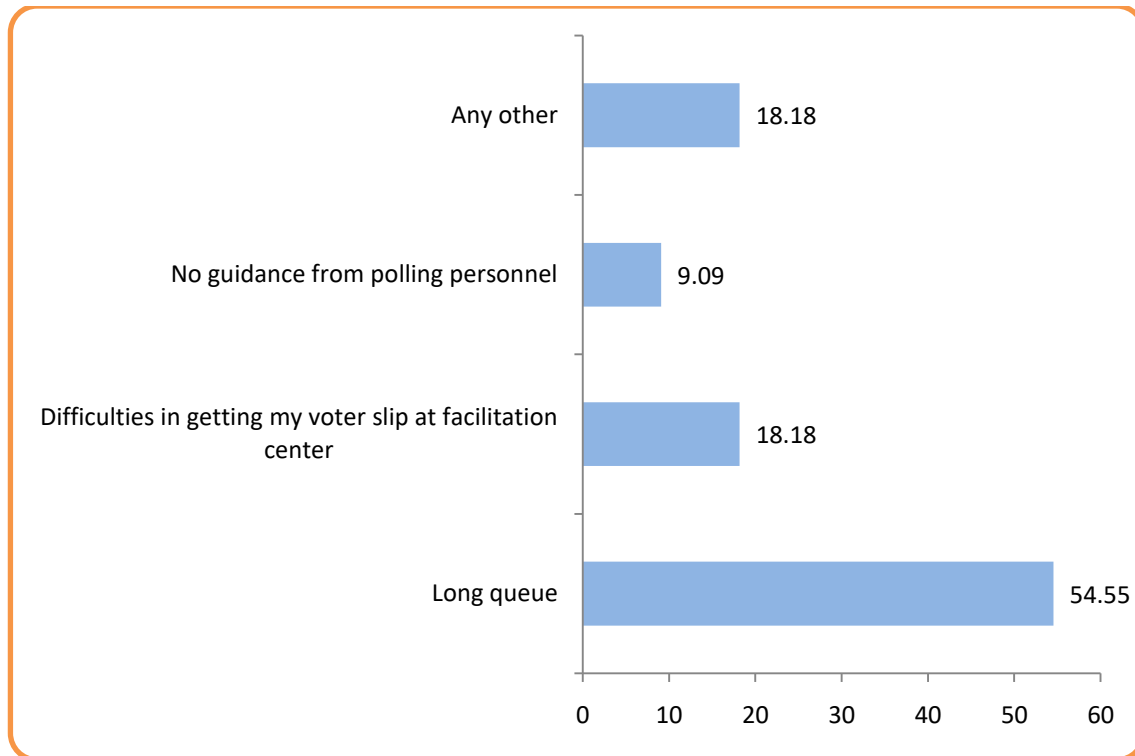
Table 3.42 Any difficulty faced while voting

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	2	98	100
2	Chamba	0	100	100
3	Hamirpur	0	100	100
4	Kangra	0	300	300
5	Kinnaur	0	100	100
6	Kullu	1	99	100
7	L&S	0	100	100
8	Mandi	1	299	300
9	Shimla	0	200	200
10	Sirmour	4	96	100
11	Solan	0	100	100
12	Una	0	100	100
	Total	8	1692	1700
	% to total	0.47	99.53	100

3.3.16 Type of difficulties faced in voting (in %)

Only half of the percent of the respondents stated that they faced difficulty while voting and they were asked to list the reasons for the same. It is seen from the Figure 16, that at the aggregate level, difficulty while voting with long queue (54.55%) came out to be the main impediment followed by **difficulties in getting their voter's slip at facilitation center** (18.18%). Further, around 9.09% said that they found difficulty of **no proper guidance from polling personnel at polling station** and rest 18.18% state do the reasons for the difficulties they faced while voting.

Figure: 16–Type of difficulties faced in voting



❖ 3.4 Section E: Voter awareness and attitudes

Public awareness is the public's level of understanding about the importance of the election system and its implications. Raising public awareness is not the same as telling the public what to do – it is explaining issues and disseminating knowledge to people so that they can make their own decisions. In a democracy, it is not enough to simply inform voters about election dates. In order to assist the electorate in taking an informed decision, it is quintessential to sensitize them about the importance of participating in the electoral process. Voters need to be educated about the process and be made aware of the political parties, their manifestoes, backgrounds of the contesting candidates and armed with several other information to help them cast an 'enlightened' vote.

In this section, we have taken up analysis on the respondent's awareness and also on the attitude of voters towards elections and their perceptions on the importance of participating in election process.

3.4.1 Awareness about the name of their assembly / parliamentary constituency

Elections provide the tool to voice their opinions about the country's governance and its functioning. In this respect, captures the awareness levels about the basic and most essential knowledge concerning the knowing the name of their assembly / parliamentary constituency and other aspects this section has been introduced. On asking about the name of their assembly / parliamentary constituency 96.12% of them were fully aware about the name and only 3.88% were ignorant about it (refer Table 3.43).

Table 3.43 Awareness about the name of their assembly/parliamentary constituency

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	87	13	100
2	Chamba	99	1	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	94	6	100
6	Kullu	100	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	292	8	300
9	Shimla	194	6	200
10	Sirmour	88	12	100
11	Solan	85	15	100
12	Una	96	4	100
	Total	1634	66	1700
	% to total	96.12	3.88	100

3.4.2 Awareness of the minimum age of registration to be a voter (in %)

In this respect, captures the awareness levels about the basic and most essential knowledge concerning the minimum age of registration to be a voter being 18 years of age. On asking about the minimum age of registration for voting from the sample respondents, 99.35% were fully aware about what age should be for registration as voter and only 0.65% were ignorant about it (refer Table 3.44).

Table 3.44 Awareness of the minimum age of registration to be a voter

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	96	4	100
2	Chamba	99	1	100
3	Hamirpur	100	0	100
4	Kangra	299	1	300
5	Kinnaur	100	0	100
6	Kullu	100	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	300	0	300
9	Shimla	200	0	200
10	Sirmour	100	0	100
11	Solan	98	2	100
12	Una	97	3	100
	Total	1689	11	1700
	% to total	99.35	0.65	100

3.4.3 What is the date for determining qualifying age for getting registered on the electoral roll/voting? (in %)

When asked about the date for determining qualifying age for getting registered on the electoral roll/voting from the sample respondents, 58.88% said that it is the 18th birthday and 25.82% were ignorant about it. The rest stated about different cut of dates for registrations (refer Table 3.45).

Table 3.45 What is the date for determining qualifying age for getting registered on the electoral roll/voting

Sr. No.	Districts	18th Birthday	1st January	1st April	1st July	1st October	Don't know	Total
1	Bilaspur	46	11	0	2	3	38	100
2	Chamba	49	1	2	2	1	45	100
3	Hamirpur	54	25	0	0	0	21	100
4	Kangra	279	6	5	5	4	1	300
5	Kinnaur	19	5	5	5	5	61	100
6	Kullu	62	6	15	1	1	15	100
7	L&S	45	12	13	0	0	30	100
8	Mandi	176	61	0	0	0	63	300
9	Shimla	166	20	0	0	0	14	200
10	Sirmour	72	0	3	0	0	25	100
11	Solan	16	1	1	0	0	82	100
12	Una	17	39	0	0	0	44	100
	Total	1001	187	44	15	14	439	1700
	% to total	58.88	11	2.59	0.88	0.82	25.82	100

3.4.4 Are you aware of Special Summary Revision every year?

When asked about the special summary revision of voters every year on the electoral roll/voting from the sample respondents, only 30.94% were aware about it and 69.06% were ignorant about it (refer Table 3.46).

Table 3.46 Awareness about Special Summary Revision

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	32	68	100
2	Chamba	22	78	100
3	Hamirpur	3	97	100
4	Kangra	230	70	300
5	Kinnaur	5	95	100
6	Kullu	61	39	100
7	L&S	45	55	100
8	Mandi	77	223	300
9	Shimla	0	200	200
10	Sirmour	26	74	100
11	Solan	2	98	100
12	Una	23	77	100
	Total	526	1174	1700
	% to total	30.94	69.06	100

3.4.5 When is the National Voters Day celebrated? (in %)

National Voters' Day is celebrated on January 25th of each year to mark the foundation day of 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. Sample respondents have been asked about when the National voter's day is celebrated, only 16.94% were aware about the correct date for the celebration of this prestigious day, 11.76% have answered incorrectly and 71.29% were totally ignorant about it (refer Table-3.47).

Table 3.47 When is the National Voters Day celebrated

Sr. No.	Districts	Incorrect date	Correct Date	Don't know	Total
1	Bilaspur	8	24	68	100
2	Chamba	4	33	63	100
3	Hamirpur	26	25	49	100
4	Kangra	81	44	175	300
5	Kinnaur	13	18	69	100
6	Kullu	17	19	64	100
7	L&S	0	4	96	100
8	Mandi	33	73	194	300
9	Shimla	6	25	169	200
10	Sirmour	7	16	77	100
11	Solan	4	4	92	100
12	Una	1	3	96	100
	Total	200	288	1212	1700
	% to total	11.76	16.94	71.29	100

3.4.6 Voter's exposure to NOTA, Braille & VVPAT

We have taken up an analysis on the respondent's exposure to NOTA, names of candidates available in Braille on the EVM and VVPAT as per the tables appended below.

3.4.6.1 Knowledge about NOTA (in %)

NOTA (None of the above) option is a ballot option designed and applicable in many countries with the sole purpose of the option being to indicate the disapproval of all candidates in a voting system. It represents discontent in the

representatives. NOTA were introduced in the Indian electoral system in 2013. Sample respondents have been asked that do they know about option of NOTA/none of the above on EVM that could be used if they don't like any candidate. 75.76% said that yes they know and they have seen it when they casted their vote, 17.18% said that yes, they have heard/ read about it 2.06% said that yes they have seen one in electoral literacy and 5% were totally ignorant about it (refer Table 3.48). These figures show the urgent intervention required by the Election Commission in enlightening about this option that allows voters to express dissent.

Table 3.48 Knowledge about NOTA

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	Yes, have heard/ read about it	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	78	1	4	17	100
2	Chamba	38	5	54	3	100
3	Hamirpur	87	1	11	1	100
4	Kangra	219	4	72	5	300
5	Kinnaur	88	0	7	5	100
6	Kullu	89	0	9	2	100
7	L&S	91	0	0	9	100
8	Mandi	207	20	65	8	300
9	Shimla	188	0	12	0	200
10	Sirmour	80	0	12	8	100
11	Solan	52	0	31	17	100
12	Una	71	4	15	10	100
	Total	1288	35	292	85	1700
	% to total	75.76	2.06	17.18	5	100

3.4.6.2 Knowledge about the names of candidates available in Braille on EVM (in %)

The Election Commission has initiated the Braille version on EVM's to assist the visually disabled individuals and rightly raise their concerns and aspirations to live a dignified life. Sample respondents have been asked that do they know about names of candidates available in Braille on the EVM. Only 26.47% said that yes they know and they have seen it when they casted their vote, 22.76% said that yes, they have heard/ read about it, 4.18% said that have known through electoral literacy programme and a large no of 46.59% were totally ignorant about it (refer Table 3.49).

Table 3.49 Knowledge about names of candidates available in Braille on the EVM

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	Yes, have heard/ read about it	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	5	0	3	92	100
2	Chamba	3	1	20	76	100
3	Hamirpur	38	2	3	57	100
4	Kangra	113	47	118	22	300
5	Kinnaur	8	2	38	52	100
6	Kullu	15	1	48	36	100
7	L&S	0	0	91	9	100
8	Mandi	0	5	24	271	300
9	Shimla	194	0	6	0	200
10	Sirmour	13	2	21	64	100
11	Solan	5	1	9	85	100
12	Una	56	10	6	28	100
	Total	450	71	387	792	1700
	% to total	26.47	4.18	22.76	46.59	100

3.4.6.3 Knowledge about Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail VVPAT (in %)

VVPAT (Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail) is an independent verification system designed to verify by voters that their vote was cast correctly by providing a means to audit their electoral results. This intends to prevent any electoral malpractices. Sample respondents have been asked that do they know about voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) that helps verify their vote. 83.71% said that yes they know and they have seen it when they casted their vote, 3.88% said that yes, they have heard/ read about it, 3.47% said that yes, they have seen one in electoral literacy and 8.94% were not knowing about it (refer Table 3.50). The need to make voters aware about this system is necessary especially in the wake of rumours concerning election rigging.

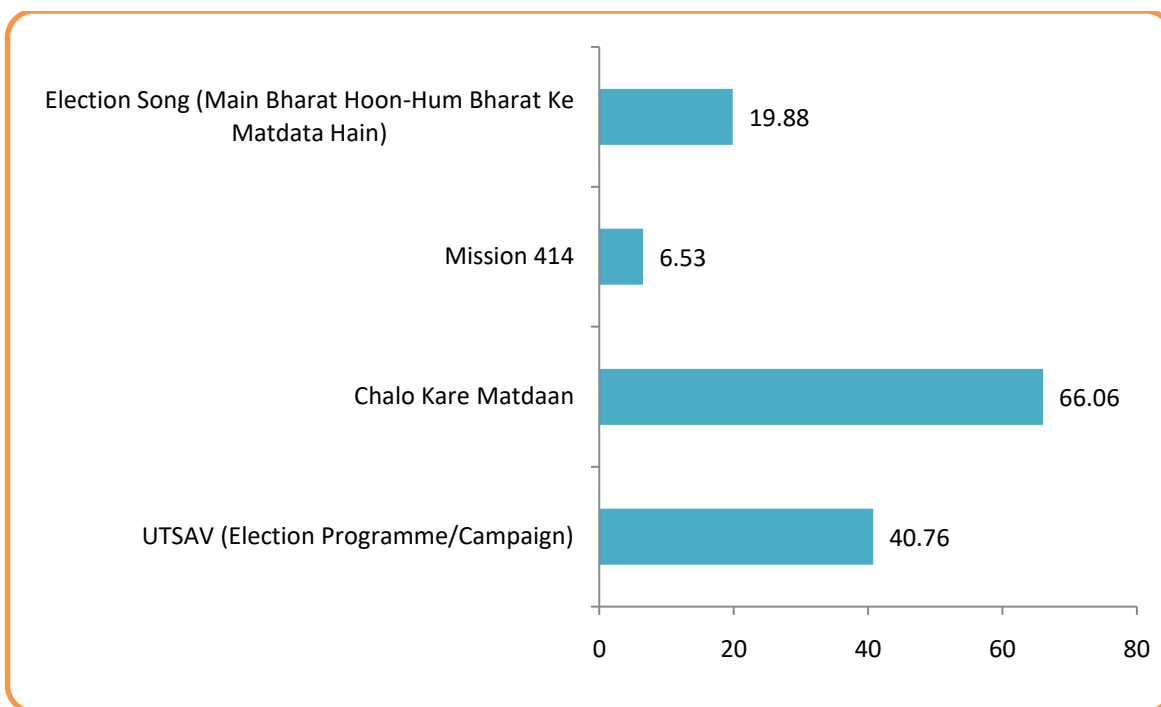
Table 3.50 Knowledge about Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail VVPAT

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	Yes, have heard/ read about it	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	77	5	3	15	100
2	Chamba	73	0	16	11	100
3	Hamirpur	68	1	0	31	100
4	Kangra	274	23	1	2	300
5	Kinnaur	96	0	0	4	100
6	Kullu	81	1	6	12	100
7	L&S	91	0	0	9	100
8	Mandi	270	17	5	8	300
9	Shimla	193	0	7	0	200
10	Sirmour	89	0	4	7	100
11	Solan	66	9	6	19	100
12	Una	45	3	18	34	100
	Total	1423	59	66	152	1700
	% to total	83.71	3.47	3.88	8.94	100

3.4.7 Recalling the tagline of the election campaign during this election- such as UTSAV, Chalo Kare matdaan, Mission 414 and Election Song (Main Bharat Hoon-Hum Bharat Ke Matdata Hain).

When respondents were asked to recall the election campaign tagline- Chalo Kare matdaan was recalled by 66.06%, UTSAV tagline by 40.76%, Election Song by 19.88% and tagline Mission 414 was recalled only by 6.53% informants (refer Figure 17).

Figure: 17 – Recalling the tagline of the election campaign



3.4.8 Recalling messages, Songs and jingles, motivation songs etc. conveyed by State Election Icons as a part of election campaign.

When Respondents have been asked to recall the State election icon giving message for voting Election motivation song "Loktantra Ra Parv Hamara, Asan Votan Dene Jana" has been highly recalled by 31.35%, followed by Songs and jingles of HP Police Band 31.18%, audio message conveyed by eminent election icon urging to voters to get prepared their voters cards through Voters Helpline App was recalled by 19.94%, Slogan given by another election icon "When I cast my vote, Why can't you" has been recalled by 10.47% respondents and the Slogan "When cycling can reach the world highest polling station Tasigang, why can't we came out to vote at the station which is nearer to our houses" given by youth cyclists Icon has been recalled by least 5.88 percentage of respondents (refer Figure 18).

Figure: 18 – Recalling messages conveyed by the State Election Icons for voting



3.4.9 Have you ever accessed voter portal or any other election related website.

Respondents were further asked whether they have ever accessed voter portal or any other election related website, only 19.65% replied affirmatively and 73.41% refused to ever accessing of this portal. Rest 6.94% were confused about it and replied by saying don't know (refer Table 3.51).

Table 3.51 Have you ever accessed voter portal or any other election related website

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
1	Bilaspur	17	75	8	100
2	Chamba	2	78	20	100
3	Hamirpur	6	86	8	100
4	Kangra	14	286	0	300
5	Kinnaur	11	88	1	100
6	Kullu	1	95	4	100
7	L&S	0	100	0	100
8	Mandi	219	36	45	300
9	Shimla	27	173	0	200
10	Sirmour	0	74	26	100
11	Solan	9	90	1	100
12	Una	28	67	5	100
	Total	334	1248	118	1700
	% to total	19.65	73.41	6.94	100

3.4.10 If yes, for what purpose did you access the website?

Out of the 334 respondents who have accessed this website a large 65.56% of informants used this website to search name and other details on the electoral roll, 17.22% to know polling station details, 7.95% to register/ make modifications online, 5.30% to download registration forms and remaining 3.97% assessed the website for other purposes (refer Table 3.52).

Table 3.52 Purpose for which you access the website

Sr. No.	Districts	To search name and other details on the Electoral Roll	To register/ make modification online	To download registration forms	To know polling station details	Others (Please specify)	Total
1	Bilaspur	10	2	3	1	1	17
2	Chamba	2	0	0	0	0	2
3	Hamirpur	5	1	0	0	0	6
4	Kangra	7	3	2	2	0	14
5	Kinnaur	8	0	0	1	2	11
6	Kullu	0	0	1	0	0	1
7	L&S	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Mandi	27	6	0	0	3	36
9	Shimla	7	0	0	20	0	27
10	Sirmour	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Solan	6	0	2	1	0	9
12	Una	27	0	0	1	0	28
	Total	99	12	8	26	6	151
	% to total	65.56	7.95	5.3	17.22	3.97	100

3.4.11 Are you aware that just having an EPIC does not provide you the right to vote unless until your name is included in the latest Electoral Roll?

A straight question has been asked from the informants about just having an EPIC does not provide you the right to vote unless until your name is included in the latest Electoral Roll. 79.47% of the Informants were well aware of this fact, whereas 20.53% of them were still there those who do not know about the same (Table-3.53).

Table 3.53 Awareness of the fact - just having an EPIC does not provide you the right to vote unless your name is included in the latest Electoral Roll

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	61	39	100
2	Chamba	49	51	100
3	Hamirpur	90	10	100
4	Kangra	249	51	300
5	Kinnaur	98	2	100
6	Kullu	100	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	214	86	300
9	Shimla	200	0	200
10	Sirmour	86	14	100
11	Solan	75	25	100
12	Una	29	71	100
	Total	1351	349	1700
	% to total	79.47	20.53	100

3.4.12 Are you aware that it is an offence to have your enrolment for more than one place?

Again a straight question has been asked from the informants that it is an offence to have your enrolment for more than one place. 85.82% of the Informants were well aware of this fact, whereas 14.18% of them were still unaware about this fact (Table-3.54).

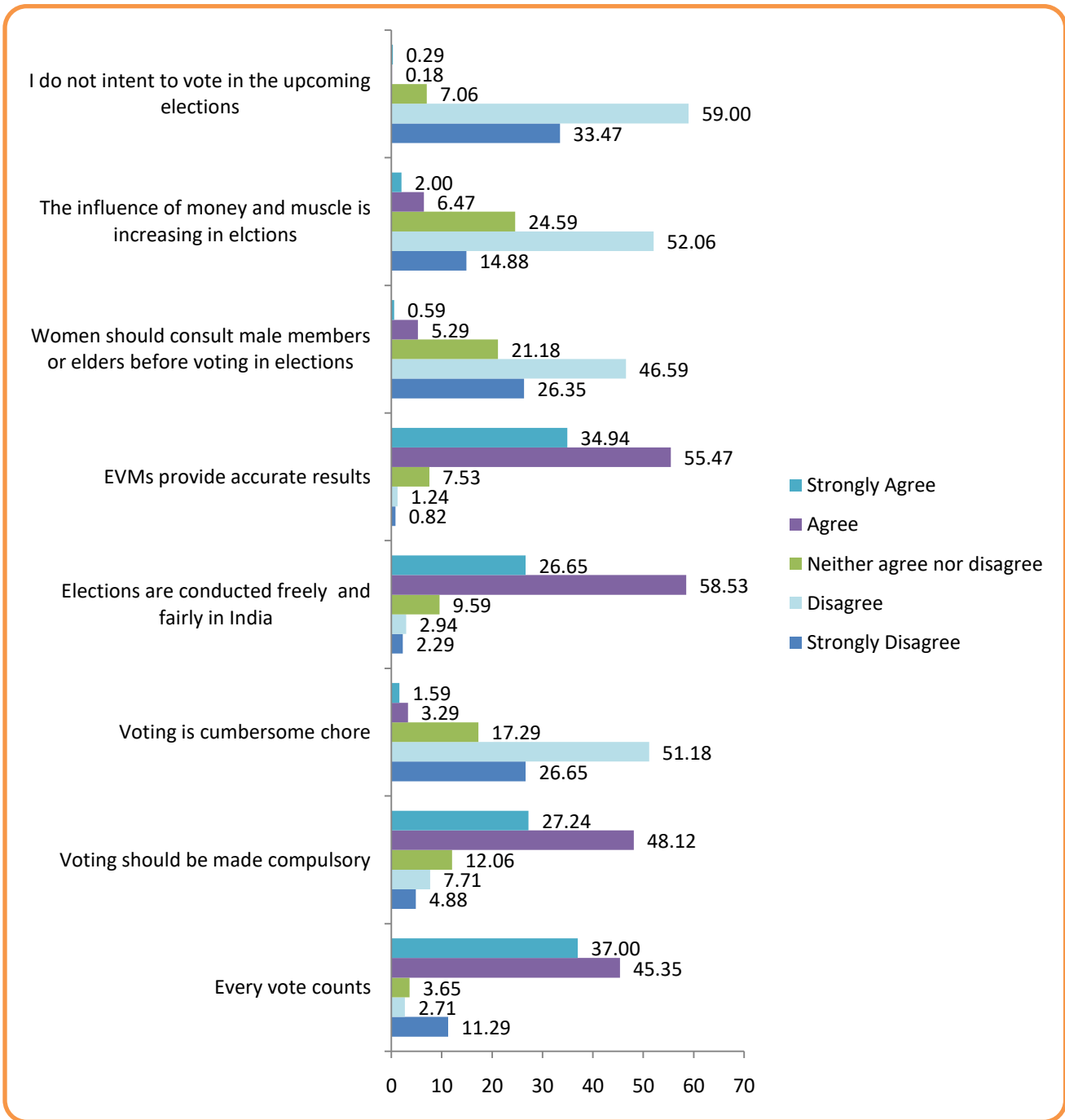
Table 3.54 Awareness of the fact – It is an offence to have your enrolment for more than one place

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	67	33	100
2	Chamba	57	43	100
3	Hamirpur	80	20	100
4	Kangra	250	50	300
5	Kinnaur	99	1	100
6	Kullu	100	0	100
7	L&S	100	0	100
8	Mandi	277	23	300
9	Shimla	200	0	200
10	Sirmour	94	6	100
11	Solan	66	34	100
12	Una	69	31	100
	Total	1459	241	1700
	% to total	85.82	14.18	100

3.4.13 Opinion on the statements (in %)

When asked about the multiple choices presented to sample respondents to express their opinion on the statements on elections to be replied in terms of strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree or disagree, agree and strongly agree. 45.35% were strongly agree with the statement that every vote counts, followed by 34.94% that EVMs provide accurate results and 27.24% that voting should be made compulsory, similarly 58.53% were agree with the statement that elections are conducted freely and fairly in India, followed by 55.47% that EVM provides accurate results. On the other hand there were 33.47% respondents who were strongly disagree with the statement that they do not intend to vote in upcoming elections, followed by 26.65% that Voting is cumbersome chore. Similarly, the other opinions for different statements have been stated in Figure 19.

Figure : 19 - Opinion on statements



❖ **3.5 Section F: Only for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)**

3.5.1 Have you come across any publicity/voter edutainment material aimed at participation of PwDs?

The individuals with special abilities form a small but integral part of society. The ECI takes special measures for ensuring participation of this special class of population in the election process. Thus, persons with special abilities (PwDs) were asked specific questions related to various issues pertaining to their participation in the election process. In the questionnaire, four questions were asked in order to find out what kinds of problems are being faced by people with special abilities in the overall process of election. The first question was regarding their awareness level about edutainment material prepared by ECI aimed at PwD's respondents for participating in election. When asked about whether the Persons with Disabilities come across any publicity/ voters edutainment material aimed at them, 50.59% replied affirmatively and 49.41% have denied for the same (refer Table 3.55).

Table 3.55 Publicity or voter edutainment material aimed at participation of PwDs

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	6	4	10
2	Chamba	4	6	10
3	Hamirpur	4	6	10
4	Kangra	23	7	30
5	Kinnaur	9	1	10
6	Kullu	5	5	10
7	L&S	10	0	10
8	Mandi	15	15	30
9	Shimla	5	15	20
10	Sirmour	1	9	10
11	Solan	2	8	10
12	Una	2	8	10
	Total	86	84	170
	% to total	50.59	49.41	100

3.5.2 Have you been contacted by the BLO of your area? (in %)

Further asking about whether the Persons with Disabilities were contacted by BLO of their area, 82.35% replied that they have been contacted by BLO, whereas 17.65% have denied for the same(refer Table 3.56).

Table 3.56 Have you been contacted by the BLO of your area

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	9	1	10
2	Chamba	9	1	10
3	Hamirpur	10	0	10
4	Kangra	26	4	30
5	Kinnaur	8	2	10
6	Kullu	10	0	10
7	L&S	10	0	10
8	Mandi	30	0	30
9	Shimla	9	11	20
10	Sirmour	8	2	10
11	Solan	5	5	10
12	Una	6	4	10
	Total	140	30	170
	% to total	82.35	17.65	100

3.5.3 Do you know about the Saksham app developed by ECI for PwD's?

A straight question has been asked from the PwD informants that did they know about the Saksham app developed by ECI for them. Only 4.71% of the Informants were aware about this App, whereas large 95.29 percentage of them were still unaware about the same (Table-3.57).

Table 3.57 Do you know about the Saksham app

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	1	9	10
2	Chamba	1	9	10
3	Hamirpur	0	10	10
4	Kangra	3	27	30
5	Kinnaur	0	10	10
6	Kullu	0	10	10
7	L&S	1	9	10
8	Mandi	0	30	30
9	Shimla	0	20	20
10	Sirmour	0	10	10
11	Solan	1	9	10
12	Una	1	9	10
	Total	8	162	170
	% to total	4.71	95.29	100

3.5.4 How you rate the process of registration (in %)

Further asking about the rating of enrolment process from the Persons with Disabilities, 82.35% of them replied that the process was easy, 15.88% said that the process was neither easy nor difficult and only 1.76% said that the process of getting registered was difficult (refer Table 3.58).

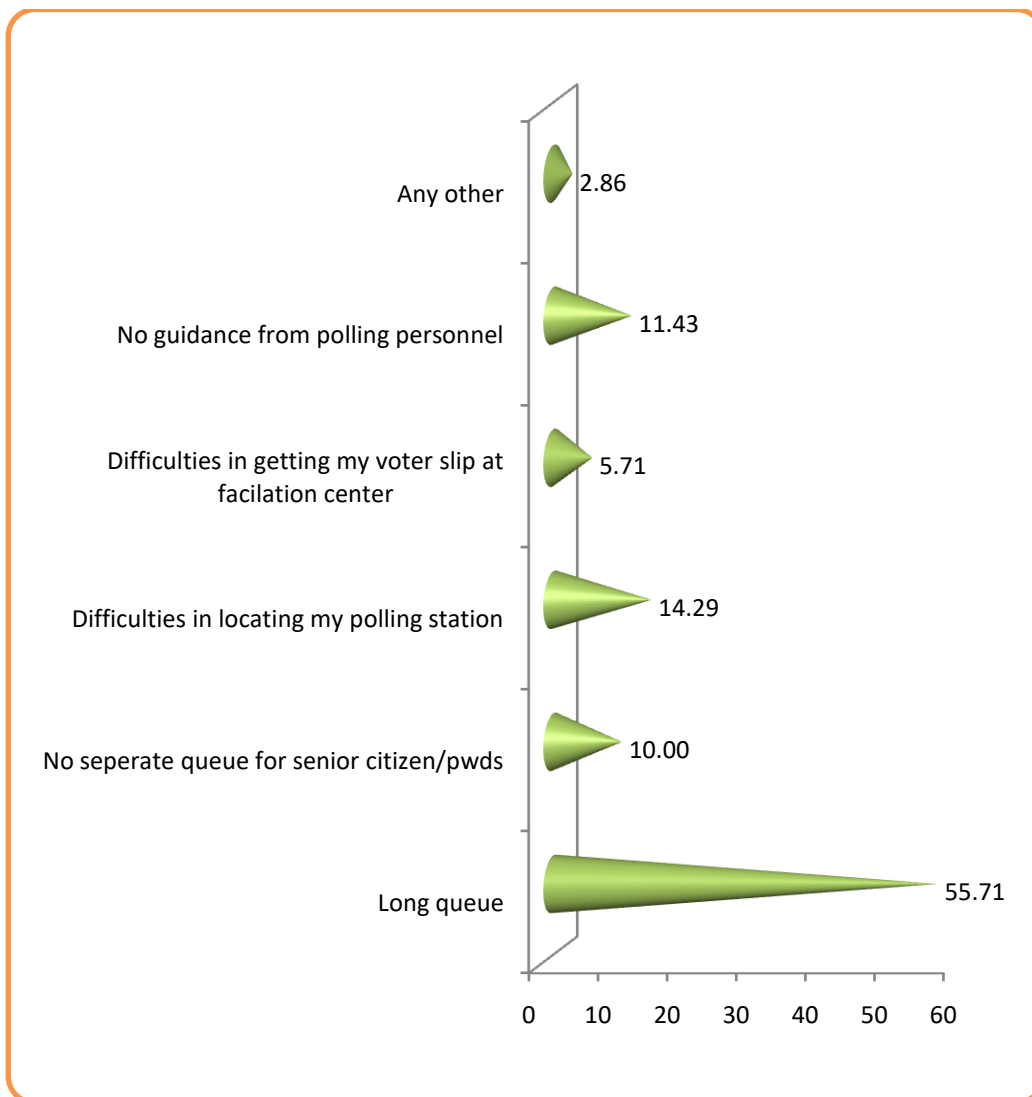
Table 3.58 How you rate the process of registration

Sr. No.	Districts	Easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Difficult	Total
1	Bilaspur	4	3	3	10
2	Chamba	10	0	0	10
3	Hamirpur	5	5	0	10
4	Kangra	30	0	0	30
5	Kinnaur	4	6	0	10
6	Kullu	6	4	0	10
7	L&S	10	0	0	10
8	Mandi	30	0	0	30
9	Shimla	14	6	0	20
10	Sirmour	9	1	0	10
11	Solan	8	2	0	10
12	Una	10	0	0	10
	Total	140	27	3	170
	% to total	82.35	15.88	1.76	100

3.5.5 Difficulties faced in the process of voting (in %)

Separate questions were asked to the people with disability, focusing on the problems faced by them in the process. It is observed that standing for long time in the queue (55.71%) followed by difficulties in locating their polling station, (14.29%), no guidance from polling personnel (11.43%) and no separate queue for senior citizen/pwds (10.00%). Further, around 5.71% of them said that they found difficulty in getting voter slip and this lacunae needs to be fixed by the administrative machinery. This requires wide dissemination of information about the same through varied channels considering the diverse character of the populace. Rest stated other problems faced by them at the time of voting (**Figure-20**).

Figure : 20 - Difficulties faced in the process of voting



3.5.6 Are you aware of the facility of postal ballots is extended to Senior Citizens above 85 years and Person with benchmark Disabilities?

Further asking about the awareness towards **the facility of postal ballots which was extended to Senior Citizens above 85 years and Person with benchmark Disabilities**, 72.94% of them were well aware about this facility extended to them, whereas 27.06% of the informants were still ignorant about the same (refer Table 3.59).

Table 3.59 Awareness about facility of postal ballots extended to Senior Citizens above 85 years

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	7	3	10
2	Chamba	2	8	10
3	Hamirpur	10	0	10
4	Kangra	28	2	30
5	Kinnaur	6	4	10
6	Kullu	8	2	10
7	L&S	10	0	10
8	Mandi	20	10	30
9	Shimla	17	3	20
10	Sirmour	4	6	10
11	Solan	8	2	10
12	Una	4	6	10
	Total	124	46	170
	% to total	72.94	27.06	100

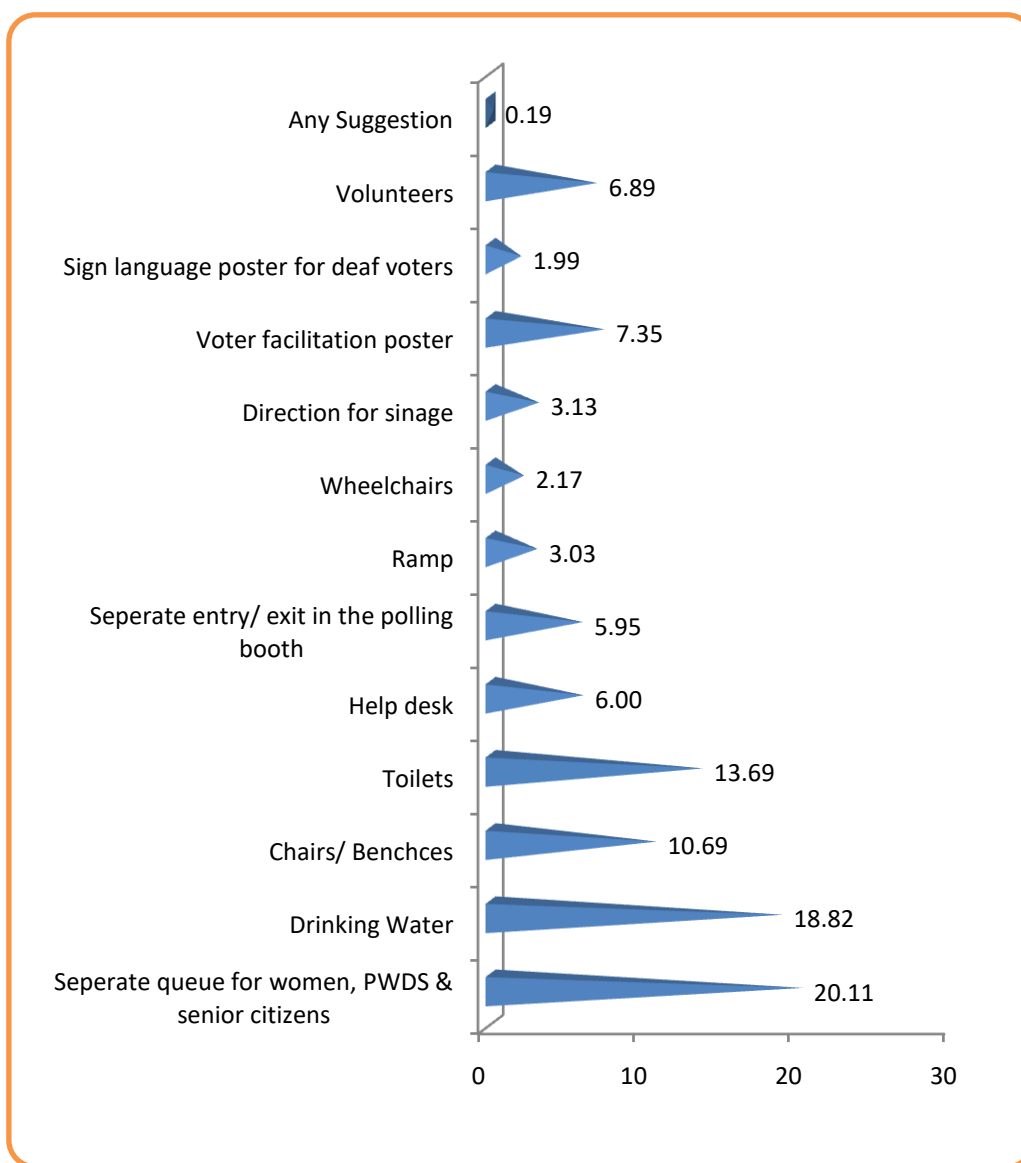
❖ 3.6 Section G: Voting Facilities

3.6.1 The Commission has directed that Basic Minimum facilities (BMF) shall be provided by the DEOs at each polling station at the time of polling. ECI has implemented several measures to ensure basic facilities at the polling stations making them conducive even for PWDs to cast their vote. Such facilities may create favorable, accessible and safe environment for voters when they enter the polling station to cast their vote. In this survey, questions were framed in the questionnaire seeking information from the respondents if they have seen any of the facilities listed in the questionnaire while casting their vote in the polling station during the last elections.

This section focuses on the voting facilities available at the polling stations which created favorable, accessible and safe environment for voters at the time of polling.

In the Figure below the facilities recalled by respondents seen in the polling station is some but satisfactory at aggregate level, the data shows that facilities such as separate queue for women, PwDs & senior citizens, drinking water, chairs/ benches, toilets, help desk were available, however ramps and wheel chairs, separate entry and exit in the polling booth that constitute the most essential facility for disabled and senior voters were found to be not available in adequate proportion. It is important here to ensure that while conducting elections it is imperative to fulfill the needs of the heterogeneity of the population.

Figure : 21–Facilities provided at the pooling booth on the day of polling



3.6.2 Is there any Person above 85 years in your family?

Asking from the respondents whether there is any person in their family above 85 years of age, about 6.24% replied affirmatively, whereas 93.76% have denied for the same (refer Table 3.60).

Table 3.60 Is there any person above 85 years in your family

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	11	89	100
2	Chamba	1	99	100
3	Hamirpur	5	95	100
4	Kangra	2	298	300
5	Kinnaur	5	95	100
6	Kullu	10	90	100
7	L&S	23	77	100
8	Mandi	29	271	300
9	Shimla	4	196	200
10	Sirmour	7	93	100
11	Solan	3	97	100
12	Una	6	94	100
	Total	106	1594	1700
	% to total	6.24	93.76	100

3.6.3 If yes, was home voting facility provided to him?

Further asking from the respondents whether **home voting facility provided to that person who is** above 85 years of age, majority 80.19% replied affirmatively, whereas 19.81% have denied for the same (refer Table 3.61).

Table 3.61 Was home voting facility provided

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	8	3	11
2	Chamba	0	1	1
3	Hamirpur	5	0	5
4	Kangra	2	0	2
5	Kinnaur	4	1	5
6	Kullu	9	1	10
7	L&S	23	0	23
8	Mandi	22	7	29
9	Shimla	2	2	4
10	Sirmour	4	3	7
11	Solan	3	0	3
12	Una	3	3	6
	Total	85	21	106
	% to total	80.19	19.81	100

3.6.4 Is there any Person with Benchmark Disability (PwDs) in your family?

Asking from the respondents whether there is **there any Person with Benchmark Disability (PwDs) in your family**. About 4.35% replied affirmatively, whereas 95.65% have denied for the same (refer Table 3.62).

Table 3.62 Is there any person with Benchmark Disability (PwDs) in your family

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	11	89	100
2	Chamba	0	100	100
3	Hamirpur	12	88	100
4	Kangra	17	283	300
5	Kinnaur	0	100	100
6	Kullu	1	99	100
7	L&S	10	90	100
8	Mandi	8	292	300
9	Shimla	1	199	200
10	Sirmour	2	98	100
11	Solan	11	89	100
12	Una	1	99	100
	Total	74	1626	1700
	% to total	4.35	95.65	100

3.6.5 If yes, was home voting facility provided to him?

Further asking from the respondents whether **home voting facility provided to that person who is having Benchmark Disability**. Majority 66.22% replied affirmatively, whereas 33.78% have denied for the same (refer Table 3.63).

Table 3.63 Was home voting facility provided to him who is having Benchmark Disability

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	8	3	11
2	Chamba	0	0	0
3	Hamirpur	7	5	12
4	Kangra	9	8	17
5	Kinnaur	0	0	0
6	Kullu	1	0	1
7	L&S	10	0	10
8	Mandi	4	4	8
9	Shimla	1	0	1
10	Sirmour	2	0	2
11	Solan	7	4	11
12	Una	0	1	1
	Total	49	25	74
	% to total	66.22	33.78	100

3.6.6 If yes, was this a good initiative taken by Election Commission of India (ECI)?

Further asking from both types of respondents whether **this is a good initiative taken by Election Commission of India (ECI)**. Majority 98.15% replied affirmatively, whereas 1.85% have denied for the same (refer Table 3.64).

Table 3.64 Was this a good initiative taken by ECI

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	13	0	13
2	Chamba	0	0	0
3	Hamirpur	12	0	12
4	Kangra	9	0	9
5	Kinnaur	4	0	4
6	Kullu	10	0	10
7	L&S	25	0	25
8	Mandi	24	2	26
9	Shimla	1	0	1
10	Sirmour	6	0	6
11	Solan	2	0	2
12	Una	0	0	0
	Total	106	2	108
	% to total	98.15	1.85	100

3.7 Section H: Inducement

It is regarded that elections are the litmus test for a true democratic political system, since in democracies, the government derives its legitimacy from the people, and going by this democracy means nothing if the people's will are bought or manoeuvred by inducement. It is an undeniable fact that elections in the country amongst other factors determine on who gets what, when and how, as the political office seekers in the process tend to adopt techniques and strategies to gain the heart of voters. There is the need for some ethical codes to be enacted for all elected officials and political office seekers to prohibit them from exhibiting stupendous wealth which gives negative signal to the people that election to public office gives one the rare opportunity to amass wealth and that political education should be given to the masses so as to bring about attitudinal change on the part of the electorates.

In this section, we have taken up an analysis on the respondent's awareness towards the incident of the inducements which occurs during elections and the efforts to tackle it through various interventions.

3.7.1 Were there any inducements from any groups to influence voting?

When asked about whether there was any inducements from any groups to influence voting, only 0.71% said yes inducement happened to influence the voting and majority 99.29% denied for the same (refer Table 3.65).

Table 3.65 Inducements in elections to influence voting

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	1	99	100
2	Chamba	3	97	100
3	Hamirpur	1	99	100
4	Kangra	0	300	300
5	Kinnaur	0	100	100
6	Kullu	4	96	100
7	L&S	0	100	100
8	Mandi	0	300	300
9	Shimla	2	198	200
10	Sirmour	0	100	100
11	Solan	1	99	100
12	Una	0	100	100
	Total	12	1688	1700
	% to total	0.71	99.29	100

3.7.2 Was there use of money power/muscle power by candidates/political parties to influence voters during the last elections? (in %)

The influence of money /muscle power is on the increase in each election. In order to get a deeper insight, a question has been asked: in your opinion how much is the use of money /muscle power by candidates/political parties to influence voters during the last elections?

On being probed as to how much the money/muscle power has been used to influence during the last elections. Only 1.65% responded that it has been used, while 98.35% replied that in their opinion it was not used (refer Table 3.66).

Table 3.66 Was there use of money power/muscle power by candidates/political parties to influence voters during the last elections

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	8	92	100
2	Chamba	3	97	100
3	Hamirpur	1	99	100
4	Kangra	0	300	300
5	Kinnaur	0	100	100
6	Kullu	4	96	100
7	L&S	0	100	100
8	Mandi	3	297	300
9	Shimla	2	198	200
10	Sirmour	2	98	100
11	Solan	1	99	100
12	Una	4	96	100
	Total	28	1672	1700
	% to total	1.65	98.35	100

3.7.3 Participation of respondents in rallies organized by political parties/ candidates (in %)

When asked about whether they participate in rallies organized by political parties/candidates, 22.76% said yes they participated and majority 77.24% denied for the same (refer Table-3.67).

Table 3.67 Participation of respondents in rallies organized by political parties/candidates

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	38	62	100
2	Chamba	3	97	100
3	Hamirpur	17	83	100
4	Kangra	43	257	300
5	Kinnaur	18	82	100
6	Kullu	33	67	100
7	L&S	46	54	100
8	Mandi	140	160	300
9	Shimla	14	186	200
10	Sirmour	12	88	100
11	Solan	7	93	100
12	Una	16	84	100
	Total	387	1313	1700
	% to total	22.76	77.24	100

3.7.4 Who bears the expenditure incurred on participating in those rallies? (in %)

When further asked from the informants about who have borne the expenditure incurred on participating in those rallies, 80.10% said that organising parties has borne the expenditure. Only 19.90% said that they have spent for these rallies from their own pockets (refer Table 3.68).

Table 3.68 Who bears the expenditure incurred on participating in those rallies

Sr. No.	Districts	Own expense	Organising party	Total
1	Bilaspur	6	32	38
2	Chamba	1	2	3
3	Hamirpur	3	14	17
4	Kangra	0	43	43
5	Kinnaur	2	16	18
6	Kullu	3	30	33
7	L&S	3	43	46
8	Mandi	39	101	140
9	Shimla	8	6	14
10	Sirmour	3	9	12
11	Solan	5	2	7
12	Una	4	12	16
	Total	77	310	387
	% to total	19.9	80.1	100

3.7.5 Do you know about CVIGIL App?

On asking about the awareness of the respondents towards **CVIGIL App**, Merely 4.35% of them were well aware about this App, whereas mostly 95.65% of the informants were ignorant about the same (refer Table 3.69).

Table 3.69 Awareness about CVIGIL App

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	0	100	100
2	Chamba	0	100	100
3	Hamirpur	3	97	100
4	Kangra	9	291	300
5	Kinnaur	0	100	100
6	Kullu	2	98	100
7	L&S	0	100	100
8	Mandi	42	258	300
9	Shimla	0	200	200
10	Sirmour	11	89	100
11	Solan	0	100	100
12	Una	7	93	100
	Total	74	1626	1700
	% to total	4.35	95.65	100

3.7.6 Do you know about KYC App?

Further asking about the awareness of the respondents about **KYC App**, only 11.24% of them were well aware about this App, whereas mostly 88.76% of the them were ignorant about the same (refer Table 3.70).

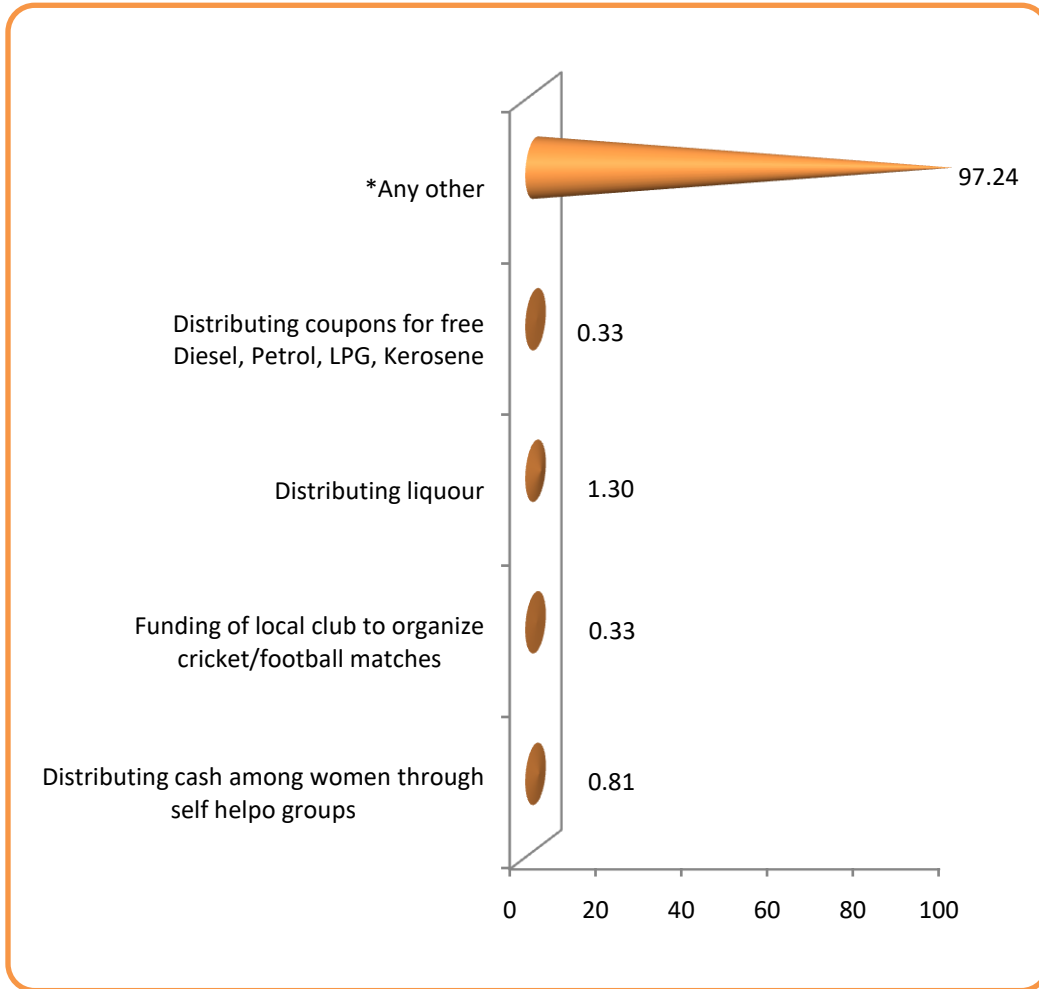
Table 3.70 Awareness about KYC App

Sr. No.	Districts	Yes	No	Total
1	Bilaspur	3	97	100
2	Chamba	0	100	100
3	Hamirpur	52	48	100
4	Kangra	10	290	300
5	Kinnaur	20	80	100
6	Kullu	4	96	100
7	L&S	0	100	100
8	Mandi	60	240	300
9	Shimla	8	192	200
10	Sirmour	22	78	100
11	Solan	5	95	100
12	Una	7	93	100
	Total	191	1509	1700
	% to total	11.24	88.76	100

3.7.7 Inducements used to lure during the last elections (in %)

Informants have further been asked that what kind of the inducement used to lure them during the last elections. 1.30% said about distribution of liquor, 0.33% funding of local club to organize cricket/football matches, 0.81% said about distribution of cash among women through self help groups. Rest said about other type of inducements used (refer Figure 22).

Figure: 22 - Inducements used to lure during the last elections



❖ 3.8 Section I: Ballot Papers versus EVM

Elections in India are conducted through Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and postal ballots nowadays. Elections in India are always a festive affair. It is the biggest proof of our democratic values and respect for the Constitution. People over 18 years of age are allowed to cast their votes and to choose their representatives through, making their citizenships count and develop the society. Election season has put together a series that seeks to deconstruct various aspects of the massive democratic exercise to make every citizen aware of its history, processes, rules and other relevant information. Free and fair elections are must for a thriving democracy, as it converts voter's preferences into a political mandate that forms the basis for policy making.

Election in India by using EVMs started more than 30 years after getting independence. Until then only ballots were used. Finding that there were many malpractices like vote rigging, forged voting, booth capturing with muscle powers, time consumption in getting the paper ballots packed and to avoid the wastage of tons of paper during election process, the Election Commission of India (ECI) thought of a better way of using voting rights by citizens and EVMs were introduced. EVMs in India was developed and tested by the Bharat Electronic Ltd and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. In this section, an analysis on the respondent's preference of voting system has been done.

3.8.1 Which system of casting vote do you prefer? (in %)

On being asked as to which system of voting the respondents prefer to cast their vote i.e. the Ballot or the EVM, 91.88% found EVM more preferred system of voting, while only 8.12% of the respondents still preferred the Ballot Paper method (refer Table 3.71). Campaigns should be launched to create awareness about use of EVMs.

Table 3.71 Which system of casting vote do you prefer

Sr. No.	Districts	Ballot Box	EVM	Total
1	Bilaspur	9	91	100
2	Chamba	8	92	100
3	Hamirpur	4	96	100
4	Kangra	20	280	300
5	Kinnaur	20	80	100
6	Kullu	12	88	100
7	L&S	9	91	100
8	Mandi	9	291	300
9	Shimla	30	170	200
10	Sirmour	1	99	100
11	Solan	11	89	100
12	Una	5	95	100
	Total	138	1562	1700
% to total		8.12	91.88	100

3.8.2 Reasons for casting the vote through ballot paper (in %)

Out of total respondents who preferred ballot paper, 49.28% prefer because of simplicity, 36.96% because it cannot be manipulated, and 12.32% because they believe EVM can be manipulated (refer Table 3.72).

Table 3.72 Reasons for casting the vote through ballot paper

Sr. No	Districts	It is simple	I believe that it cannot be manipulated	I believe EVM can be manipulated	Any other specify	Total
1	Bilaspur	4	3	2	-	9
2	Chamba	4	4	0	0	8
3	Hamirpur	0	4	0	0	4
4	Kangra	10	10	0	0	20
5	Kinnaur	15	5	0	0	20
6	Kullu	7	3	2	0	12
7	L&S	9	0	0	0	9
8	Mandi	3	2	3	1	9
9	Shimla	3	17	9	1	30
10	Sirmour	1	0	0	0	1
11	Solan	7	3	1	0	11
12	Una	5	0	0	0	5
	Total	68	51	17	2	138
	% to total	49.28	36.96	12.32	1.45	100

3.8.3 Reasons for casting the vote through EVM (in %)

Out of total respondents who preferred EVM 62.48% because of simplicity, 14.34% because they believe EVM cannot be manipulated, 18.50% because of result can be known faster and 4.67% because of environment friendly (refer Table 3.73).

Table 3.73 Reasons for casting the vote through EVM

Sr. No	Districts	It is simple	I believe that it cannot be manipulated	The results can be known faster	It is environment friendly	Any other	Total
1	Bilaspur	57	7	25	2	0	91
2	Chamba	51	14	18	9	0	92
3	Hamirpur	55	22	19	0	0	96
4	Kangra	177	69	26	8	0	280
5	Kinnaur	79	0	1	0	0	80
6	Kullu	38	2	40	8	0	88
7	L&S	52	0	39	0	0	91
8	Mandi	197	41	34	19	0	291
9	Shimla	87	32	39	12	0	170
10	Sirmour	67	13	12	7	0	99
11	Solan	54	1	28	6	0	89
12	Una	62	23	8	2	0	95
	Total	976	224	289	73	0	1562
	% to total	62.48	14.34	18.5	4.67	0	100

Conclusion and Suggestions

The Commission has taken numerous new initiatives in the recent past in the process of electoral reforms. Prominent among these are, Electronic Media as a medium for broadcast, checking criminalization of politics, computerization of Electoral rolls, providing Electors with Identity Cards, un-complicating the formula for maintenance of financial records and filling of the same by candidates and stern compliance of Model Code of Conduct to provide common platform for contestants during the elections. It is apparent from the varying electoral system full of upheavals; the demand of time is to preserve and strengthen the Democracy with rationale, the EC is operational for the renovation of the election process.

The impact of initiatives taken by Election Commission in recent past to promote and increase participation of voters, providing adequate security, improvement/computerization/revision in electoral rolls, providing/delivering electors with Electors with Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC), Defining role and participation of BLO, motivational promos through print and electronic media do not seem to have the desired results on the electors of Himachal Pradesh due to many reasons. Election Commission of India's current flagship programme is Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India. There are a multiplicity of programmes and schemes and even larger numbers of implementing agencies, making it difficult for the Election Commission to effectively monitor and supervise these initiatives. While almost all the initiatives/programmes are targeted at the same set of beneficiaries, the existence of very large number of initiatives without an integrated focus, has led to each of them being implemented in a standalone mode. Adequate monitoring mechanism is either not instituted, or is not functioning as envisaged with regard to execution of schemes.

Himachal Pradesh is almost wholly mountainous with altitudes ranging from 350 meters to 6,975 meters above the mean sea level. Election Commission has emphasized the need for an integrated campaign, mass media initiatives, information education and communication (IEC), dissemination and voter outreach. A large part of the state, with a literacy of 83 percent, does not have daily access to print media like newspaper and magazines. An alternative tool of mass communication needs to be devised for these initiatives, so that it can reach the common man.

Major findings

- 18% of the population canvassed were between the age group of 18-25, 22% were 26-35, 21% were 36-45, 19% were 46-55, 13% were 56-65 while the remaining 7% were in the age group of 66+.
- Of the total population canvassed, 55% were Males and 45% were Females.
- Of the selected category sample respondents were male, female and youth each of them were 30% and around 10% were specially abled category.
- 91% of the populations canvassed were Hindu, while 9% were from other community.
- Among the population canvassed 92% were literate and only 8% were illiterates. Out of literate's population, 12% were Primary Pass, 24% were High School pass, 27% were Higher Secondary pass and 25% were graduates and above including Professionals and Technical course holders and 4% were Diploma/ Certificate holders.
- 28% of the populations were involved in labour work and cultivators/ agriculture and allied activities, 11% were in private services, 17% were involved in house based activities, 8% in Government Jobs and 11% in small businesses.
- 69% of the canvassed population was married including (no gauna), 27% were unmarried while the remaining 4% were of other categories.
- The social status of respondents shows that 46.94% of them belong to General Category, 20.29% to Schedule Caste, 14.00% to Schedule Tribes and 18.76% to Other Backward Class category.
- 25.06% respondents have read the newspaper or magazine almost every day, 21.06% read the same at least once in a week, 12.00% in less than once a week. 41.88% have not read the same at all.
- The respondents has further been asked that how often they listen to the radio, 7.18% respondents have listened the radio almost every day, 10.35% listened at least once in a week, 13.41% listened the same less than once a week. 69.06% have not listened the same at all.
- 73.71% respondents have watched the television almost every day, 16.71% at least once in a week, 5.94% in less than once a week. 3.65% have not watched the same at all.
- 36.12% respondents rely the most on television to get news on elections and politics, 29.18% on mobile phone, 14.06% on friends and relatives and the rest 20.64% on different sources of information.
- As regards possessing a voter card by an individual respondent 99% are having a voter card and only 1% of them do not have the voter card.
- Analysis shows that 99% of the respondents are well aware about voter's list and merely 1% are not aware about it.

- As regards the awareness of respondents regarding EPIC (Election Card). 99.06% of them were well aware about EPIC and merely 0.71% were not aware. 0.24% respondents were not able to say anything about it.
- As asked about the main problems witnessed to procure EPIC. 33.33% of the respondents witnessed long procedure to obtain the EPIC as a main problem, 16.67% respondents told about unfriendly officials and 50.00% were those who could not say anything about it.
- On asking from the respondents whether they know where your polling booth was. Analysis shows that most of them 99.71% were well known to the location of their pooling booth. Only merely 0.29% were not known to their pooling booth.
- Analysis reveals that 97.35% of the canvassed population has cast their vote in the last assembly elections, while 2.65% responded that they did not cast their vote.
- Total 98.59% of the canvassed population responded that they cast their vote in the recent parliament elections in 2024 while 1.41% responded that they did not cast their vote.
- On being further probed on the reasons for voting in the last elections. 37.70% stated that they voted because voting is their duty/right, 26.08% stated that candidate was of their preference, 10% said that they got registered in electoral roll, and rest 26.22% stated other reasons for voting.
- It has been observed that 52% have given preference to candidate's honesty as first choice, candidate's experience is considered by 34.71% and was ranked 2nd, candidates commitment ranked 3rd choice by 6.46%, candidate personally known ranked 4th by 5.94% and preference by other reasons ranked last by 0.88%.
- On asking about the factor that influenced high voter's turnout in election from the sample respondents, 76.59% of the respondents were of the opinion that good candidate have put an influence in high voters turnout, 18.18% have given the credit to voters awareness programme for high voters turnout and 5.23% stated towards other factors.
- On being asked about the security threat during elections at any point from the respondents, 88.59% said that there was no security threat at all during elections, 6.29% said that it was somewhat, only 0.53% said that there was very much security threat, around 4.59% respondents could not say anything about it.
- 99.35% were fully aware about what age should be for registration as voter and only 0.65% were ignorant about it.
- Only 16.94% of the sample respondents were aware about the celebration of National Voter's Day, 11.76% told incorrect date and 71.29% were totally ignorant about it.
- 75.76% of the respondents known to the option of NOTA on seeing it while casting their vote, 17.18% know by hearing/ reading about it, 2.06% know by seeing it in electoral literacy and 5% were totally ignorant about it.
- As far as testing the knowledge about Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). 83.71% of the respondents knew it by seeing while casting their vote 3.88% know

by hearing/ reading about it, 3.47% knows by seeing it in electoral literacy and 8.94% were totally ignorant about it.

- On asking about to recall seeing or reading any voter/election related campaign of Election Commission of India from the sample respondents, 67.24% recalled the same and 28.65% of them said no about the campaign of ECI. Very few 4.12% of respondents were ignorant about it.
- On being asked to recall the campaign tagline during this election Chalo Kare matdaan was recalled by 66.06%, UTSAV tagline by 40.76%, Election Song by 19.88% and tagline Mission 414 was recalled only by 6.53% informants. During this election, around 41% have been able to recall the election tagline whereas majority 59% were not able to recall this tagline which was- Sahaj, Sugam, Surakshit Matdaan, only around 23% have been able to recall the election tagline whereas majority 77% were not able to recall this tagline.
- When respondent were asked to recall the election campaign tagline- Chalo Kare matdaan this was recalled by 66.06%, UTSAV tagline by 40.76%, Election Song by 19.88% and tagline Mission 414 was recalled only by 6.53% informants.
- When Respondents have been asked to recall the State election icon giving message for voting such as election motivation song "Loktantra Ra Parv Hamara, Asan Votan Dene Jana" has been highly recalled by 31.35%, followed by songs and jingles of HP Police Band by 31.18%, audio message conveyed by eminent election icon urging to voters to get prepared their voters cards through Voters Helpline App was recalled by 19.94%, slogan given by another election icon "When I cast my vote, Why can't you" has been recalled by 10.47% respondents and the slogan "When cycling can reach the world highest polling station Tasigang, why can't we came out to vote at the station which is nearer to our houses" given by youth cyclists Icon has been recalled by least 5.88 percentage of respondents.
- On being asked whether the respondents have ever accessed voter portal, only 19.65% replied affirmatively and 73.41% refused to ever accessing of the same. Rest 6.94% replied by saying that they don't know.
- On asking a straight question from the informants that it is an offence to have your enrolment for more than one place. 85.12% of them were well aware of this fact, whereas 14.18% were still unaware about this fact.
- On being proved about whether the Persons with Disabilities come across any publicity/ voter's edutainment material aimed at them, 50.59% replied affirmatively and have denied for the same.
- As regards making the contact by BLO with Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) of their area, 82.35% of them said that they have been contacted by BLO, whereas 17.65% have denied for the same.
- On asking a straight question from the PwD informants about knowing the Saksham app developed by ECI for them. Only 4.71% of the Informants were aware about this App, whereas large 95.29 percentage of them were still unaware about the same.
- Asking about the difficulties faced by persons with Disabilities (PwDs) while

- voting in election, 55.71% stated long queues at polling station as the reason, followed by 14.29% stated the difficulties in locating their polling station, 11.43% stated for no guidance from polling personnel, 10% stated no separate queue for senior citizens/PwDs, 14.71% stated No guidance from polling personnel. Further, around 5.71% of them said that they found difficulty in getting voter slips.
- On asking from the respondents whether home voting facility provided to the person who is above 85 years of age. Majority 80.19% replied affirmatively, whereas 19.81% have denied for the same.
 - On asking from the respondents whether home voting facility provided to the person who is having Benchmark Disability. Majority 66.22% replied affirmatively, whereas 33.78% have denied for the same.
 - Further asking from the both type of respondents whether this good initiative taken by Election Commission of India (ECI). Majority 98.15% replied affirmatively, whereas, very few 1.85 percent have denied for the same.
 - On asking about whether there were any inducements from any groups to influence voting, only 0.71% said about happening of inducement to influence the voting and majority 99.29% denied this fact.
 - On being probed as to how much the money/muscle power has been used to influence during the last elections, only 1.65% responded that it has been used, while 98.35% replied that in their opinion it was not used.
 - On being asked about the awareness of the respondents towards CVIGIL App, Merely 4.35% of them were aware about this App, whereas mostly 95.65% of the informants were ignorant about the same.
 - On asking about the awareness of the respondents about Know your Candidate App (KYC App), only 11.24% of them was well aware about this App, whereas mostly 88.76% of them were ignorant about the same.
 - On being asked as to which system of voting the respondents prefer to cast their vote i.e. the Ballot or the EVM, surprisingly 91.88% found EVM more preferred system of voting, while only 8.12% of the respondents still preferred the Ballot paper method.
 - As probed regarding the reasons for preference of EVM. 62.48% prefer it because of its simplicity, 14.34% because they believe EVM can't be manipulated, 18.50% because of result can be known faster, 4.67% because of environment friendly.

Suggestions

- Regarding improvements in the process it is suggested that involving youth in the registration process should be given higher priority. BLOs should visit every house to ensure registration of all eligible people.
- Digital devices with internet facility should be provided to BLOs for a more efficient registration process. Identity cards should be issued by BLOs themselves.
- The youth are of the opinion that to improve voting, the election process should be made transparent; and right candidates should contest in the election.
- The candidates should not have criminal background and educated candidates must be preferred. Candidates who bribe voters should be debarred from the election process.
- In order to improve turnout the elected representatives should fulfill the promise they make and address the problems of the people, especially of farmers and unemployed persons.
- Enrolment process being cumbersome is one of the main reasons for non-enrolment in voters list and this process needs to be made simpler by way of completing at the village level.
- 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 and special campaigns before the elections.
- Both Parliamentary and State Legislature elections should be conducted in same time to avoid wastage of time and resources.
- There is a need to improve the present election and voting system. In order to make election process fair and better the candidates should be literate, should be honest and should not have any criminal background
- Money and muscle power seems to have become a norm in elections and this should be contained through transparent political funding that is subject to public scrutiny. Political parties should not be allowed to accept donation / funds in cash. Stringent steps may be taken to curb the money power in elections.
- This is a menace for the citizens because candidates who win by muscle and money power would not work to improve development but will use the political background for his/her own benefit. This kind of practice if found, should be severely penalized and the law must take its own. Mechanisms such as the cVIGIL app should appropriately be used to curb the above menace.
- The growth of the Internet, satellite transmission, and mobile phone services has rendered it impossible to gauge the true extent of media outlet proliferation.

Awareness about voting and election day should be widely disseminated among the general population specially targeting the youth. Social media will be the key channel for effectively reaching the youth.

- All efforts should be made to have an inclusive, accessible and ethical election, with emphasis on facilitating PwDs (persons with disabilities), vulnerable and migrant groups to ensure free and fair elections.
- There is poor access of Election Website and minimal usage of Call Centres. These may require intervention by informing the said facilities to voters.
- Ramps and wheelchairs, separate entry and exit in the polling booth those that constitute the most essential facility for Disabled and senior voters must be available in adequate proportion at polling booth. It is important here to ensure that while conducting elections it is imperative to fulfill the needs of these sections of the society who can raise their voices through their vote.
- GPs should take major responsibility in disseminating information through campaigns and also been trusted with getting the voter registration done. The registration should be at the GP level itself and card should be issued immediately.
- Frequent updating of electoral list also ensuring zero error in the voters list.
- Voterslip distribution is the key in elimination of polling booth confusion and last minute panic in the minds of public.
- High Schools/Colleges should conduct voters' enrollment camps in the premises to those who crossed 18 years. Voters enrollment linked to Aadhar must be encouraged.
- Water facility is the foremost facility expected by the people at the polling station. Vehicle and refreshment arrangements from the village to the far away polling booth are the other facilities expected by the people.
- Adequate arrangements for first aid, ambulance and fire brigade should be made at polling stations.
- Special attention needs to be paid to the aged and the disabled such as providing them transport, wheel chairs and other facilitation help while voting.
- Television, Newspaper and Internet are one of the predominant sources of media which the respondents are highly exposed to. Therefore, election department should take this opportunity to use these media to a larger extent for sharing/providing any election related information.
- Advertisements should be broadcasted in the television about voting and election day and time at the evening hours, preferably in-between the popular TV serials.
- Appointment of volunteers by the election commission to guide the aged and disabled people at the booth level.
- State should make an arrangement for providing transport facilities to the aged and disabled, as well as people who reside away from the polling stations.
- Awareness about the importance of voting should be done by a political and respected person in the region (local area) apart from Celebrities (like film actors, and sports persons). This will influence the voters to cast their vote due to sheer respect.

- Democracy will be protected, preserved and enhanced only through universal participation in the elections; election commission must ensure this by providing proper facilities to the women and other needy people.
- Recall rate of the election related campaigns is poor and therefore more and effective campaigns through posters, rallies needs to be undertaken.
- TV advertisements and Newspapers are one of the prominent sources to spread election-related campaigns. TV advertisements by Local celebrities/icons like Pankaj Tripathi, Shalini Sharma and Muskan Thakur may help in spreading more awareness.
- To increase voting percentage transportation should be free for all workers, female and handicapped etc. from his working place/house to election booth.
- Most of People have no knowledge about national voter day and they have never participated in it. When asked about non participation and lack of knowledge about it we suggest that national voter day should be celebrated at Panchayat / Block level. In addition to this awareness program should be organized in rural areas.
- Workers or Laborers are reluctant to cast their vote as they fear lost of that day earning. Therefore there should be provision of daily for such workers. Many youths or person working outside the state for their livelihood, many of them do not come to cast their votes. There must online vote casting system or Postal Ballot system.
- The EC should be more vigilant against the increasing influence of money and liquor in election in the election process.
- Right to recall for those candidate who do not perform well in their respective constituency.
- EVM module should be publicized in a normal course of time not only at the time of elections, so that fear of handling EVM can be minimized among themselves. EVMs may be more user friendly, than the ballot unit.
- In all election centre and state should be strict law that one candidate contest election only from one constituency. We need to bring a new law which will restrict the candidate from contesting elections from not more than one constituency.
- It is mockery in India that even in recruitment of class IV employees there is requirement of minimum qualification but there is no minimum qualification for our policy makers. It is very strange that in our country no minimum qualifications have been laid down for the contesting candidate. Minimum qualification should be fixed for the candidates who are contesting Local Bodies, Legislative and Parliamentary election.
- The persons having disabilities need more cooperation from BLO's and need to be identified, so that they can be facilitated for casting votes.
- Assembly, Parliamentary and Local Bodies election should be conducted once in five years simultaneously. It will bring down the expenditure and reduce the time of model code of conduct due to repeated elections.

- Anti Defection & Pre coalition Partners: Anti defection laws should be effectively and forcibly enacted. Once a candidate elected on a party ticket or with a support from other party (Pre Poll alliance) if he changes his party he should be disqualified and certain cost of re-conducting the election be imposed as penalty.
- Manifesto should be binding on Political Parties: It will be a reformative step, if manifesto is made binding to the political parties. A law should be framed, where promises made by the ruling parties before the election should be fulfilled within the ruling period, otherwise the entire Cabinet of the ruling party may be debarred for fighting election.
- Participating in election process should be made mandatory to all: A person who do not cast vote, his/her family should be debarred from the Government concessions/subsidies i.e. PDS, Concessional Travelling Pass, LPG subsidy, Enrolment in Schools/Colleges/Professional or any facility provided by Government. To achieve this goal a photo generated certificate should be issued at the time of voting, which will be used for availing the Government concessions/subsidies.
- Educational institutes can be used to spread awareness related to NOTA, Braille on EVM's, VVPAT, National Voters' Day, qualifying date for registration, etc.
- Modify the school curriculum to incorporate information about the electoral process. Young children will spread the information in family and neighborhood which will surely help in spreading awareness and reducing misconceptions about the electoral process.
- 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.
- 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
- Help desks in all polling stations should be set up by election department to facilitate all the required facilities in adequate proportion in the polling booth, so that voting can take place autonomously and independently without the involvement of political parties to help the voters with their respective concerns.
- Initiatives to increase the voter registration and voter turnout can start of with the identification of assembly constituencies and polling stations that have history of low voter registration and low voter turnout.
- Special enrolment drive in universities and colleges to be held before elections to improve participation.
- Mahila Mandals & Youth Clubs must be involved to spread the awareness among the voters towards voting to increase the voter's turnout.
- Voter's helpline, cVIGIL app & NVSP related information needs to be disseminated more widely and also made available through wide media publicity so as to reach each and every voter of the state, so as to obtain awareness and knowledge before the next election commences.

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
ECONOMIC AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT**

**ENDLINE SURVEY OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE,
AND PRACTICES (KAP) OF CITIZENS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH**

The present study is to understand the reasons for the low/high voting turn out in the recently held elections in the state. The study is undertaken by the Department of Economic and Statistics, Government of Himachal Pradesh for the Election Commission, Government of Himachal Pradesh. The information collected from survey will be kept confidential. We request you to co-operate with the survey.

Section A : Identification Particular of Constituency

Q No.	Question	Response
A1	Name of State	
A2	Name of District	
A3	Name of Panchayat / M.C.	
A4	Name of Village / Ward	
A5	Landmark near house	
A6	Name of Parliamentary Const.	
A7	Name of Assembly Const.	
A8	Name of Booth and No.	
A9	Date of Interview	
A10	Time duration of Interview (hours: minutes)	

Section B: Background information

1. Name and Contact Number of respondent : _____

2. Age (Years)

3. Selected Category 18 years & above (Male-1; Female-2; Youth-3; Specially abled-4)

4. Sex (Male-1; Female-2)

5. Religion: (Hindu-1; Muslim-2; Sikh-3; Christian-4; Buddhist-5; Other-6)

Q No.	Question	Response	Code please tick (✓)
B1	What's your educational qualification?	Illiterate	1
		Primary school	2
		High school	3
		Higher secondary	4
		Diploma/ Certificate	5
		Graduate & above including Professional/Technical Courses	6

B2	What's your occupation?	Student	1			
		Unemployed	2			
		Unemployed available for work	3			
		Government Service	4			
		Private Service	5			
		Own enterprise	6			
		Labourer/ Cultivator/ Agricultural and allied activities	7			
		Home maker	8			
		Others (please specify)				
B3	What's your marital status?	Never married	1			
		Married, no gauna	2			
		Married	3			
		Widowed	4			
		Separated/divorced	5			
B4	What's your social group?	SC	1			
		ST	2			
		OBC	3			
		Others	4			
B5	How often do you:	Responses	a.	b.	c.	d.
	a. read a newspaper or magazine?	1. Almost every day	1	1	1	1
	b. listen to the radio?	2. At least once a week	2	2	2	2
	c. watch television?	3. Less than once a week	3	3	3	3
	d. Internet (Facebook, WhatsApp etc.)?	4. Not at all	4	4	4	4
B6	During elections, which of the following sources did you rely on the most to get news on elections and politics?	Newspaper/Magazine	1			
		Television	2			
		Radio	3			
		Internet	4			
		Mobile phone	5			
		Family/relatives/friends	6			
		Others (please specify)				

Section C: Voter registration

Q. No.	Question	Response
C1	Do you have a voter's card? (If registered as a voter) (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
C2	If no, why? (Write 1 = Not aware, how to procure this card; 2 = Lost by self; 3 = Not Received; 4 = Could not get time to get photographed;	

	<p>5 = Did not get information when they are making; 6 = Lack of time; 7 = Cumbersome procedure; 8 = Not Interested in getting the same)</p>	
C3	<p>Are you aware of 'Voter's List'?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No; 3 = Can't say/do not know)</p>	
C4	<p>If yes to Q-3, has your name been enrolled/ included in the voter's list?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No; 3 = Can't say/do not know)</p>	
C5	<p>If no to Q-3 what was the reason?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Did not know about it; 2 = Was not told; 3 = Can't say/don't know; 4 = Was not interested)</p>	
C6	<p>If yes to Q-4 how did you come to know that your name has to be enrolled?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Friends/Relatives; 2 = Newspapers; 3 = Local Community leaders; 4 = BLO; 5 = TV; 6= Social Media/Website) 7= Any other medium 8 = Can't say)</p>	
C7	<p>If yes to Q-4, was it correctly written in voter's list?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No; 3 = Can't say/do not know)</p>	
C8	<p>Are there members in your family who are 18+ years of age and not registered?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)</p>	
C9	<p>If yes to Q8, what are the reasons for them not to enroll in the voter's list?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Lack of awareness; 2 = Lack of interest; 3 = Lack of valid documents; 4 = Lengthy (difficult) procedure; 5 = Not permanent resident)</p>	
C10	<p>Do you know where to get registered as elector?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Taluka Office; 2 = BDO; 3 = Panchayat Office; 4 = Collector's Office;</p>	

	5 = Matdata Sahayata Kendra / Voter Centre; 6= VHA/NVSP/ECI website and EVI mobile app/through online methods	
C11	Are you aware of the EPIC (Election Card)? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No; 3 = Can't say)	
C12	Do you have your EPIC? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
C13	If yes to Q12, when did you get the EPIC made? (Write 1 = Before last assembly elections; 2 = After last assembly elections; 3 = Don't remember)	
C14	How many days did it take for you to get the EPIC? (Write 1 = Within 15 days; 2 = Within 1 month; 3 = Within six months; 4 = Don't know)	
C15	Was it easy for you to get the EPIC? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No; 3 = Can't say/ don't remember)	
C16	If no, what were the main problems you witnessed while getting your EPIC? (Write 1 = Long procedure; 2 = Unfriendly officials; 3 = Can't say; 4 = Inaccessibility of the concerned office)	
C17	Are you aware that you can vote with alternative ID? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
C18	If you did not have EPIC, which alternative ID did you use for voting? (Write 1 = License; 2 = Ration Card; 3 = Opening Bank account; 4 = Voter Slip; 5 = Any other)	
C19	Do you know that Govt. /Election office has appointed local persons to help for enrolment? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
C20	If yes, to Q19 then what is his/her designation? (Write 1 = Booth Level Officer; 2 Identification Officer; 3 = Election Agent; 4 = Don't know)	

C21	Has s/he ever visited your house / office? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No; 3 = Can't say)	
C22	Do you know where your Polling booth is? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	

Section D: ELECTIONS – KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE, BEHAVIOUR, BELIEF, AND PRACTICES

Q. No.	Question	Response
D1	Did you vote in previous Assembly Elections? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
D2	Did you vote in 2024 Parliamentary Elections? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
D3	If no to question D1 or D2 what were the reasons? (Can record more than one reasons) (Write 1 = I did not have electoral photo ID Card; 2 = I did not know my polling station; 3 = Polling station was at distance (I had transportation logistic problem; 4 = Long queue and I did not have time; 5 = No faith in political system (or electoral democracy); 6 = Did not vote as community or religious leader said so; 7 = Head of family said not to vote; 8 = Voting is not essential for maintenance of democracy; 9 = There was no good candidate; 10 = Candidate was not of my choice or community; 11 = I just did not want to vote as nothing will change; 12 = I was not in my constituency a. Education b. Marriage c. Work d. Permanently shifted e. Temporary absence f. Other reasons (please specify) 13 = I was afraid/felt insecure to go to the polling station; 14 = My name was not on electoral roll; 15 = I was not aware of the poll date and time; 16 = I was not aware of the fact voting can be done with alternative document 17 = Any Other (Specify).....	
D4	If yes to D1 or D2 what were the reasons? (Can record more than one reasons) (Write 1 = I am political party sympathizer; 2 = Voted due to threat or coercion; 3 = Head of family said to vote;	

	<p>4 = Influenced by friends; 5 = Wanted to defeat a particular candidate and/or a political party; 6 = It was my duty/right; 7 = Because of repeated appeal and advertisement by Election Commission; 8 = Because of enabling environment (free and Fair) created by Election Commission; 9 = I got registered in electoral roll; 10 = Candidate was good; 11 = Candidate was of my choice and from community and religion; 12 = Candidate visited me personally; 13 = Money / Liquor was offered; 14 = Any Other (Specify).....</p>	
D5	<p>How did you find the electoral experience during your last assembly voting?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Convenient; 2 = Inconvenient; 3 = Taxing; 4 = Can't remember)</p>	
D6	<p>What motivated your choice of the candidate during last elections?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Personally known; 2 = Experience; 3 = Honesty; 4 = Commitment; 5 = Any other specify.....)</p>	
D7	<p>Are there any family members eligible for voting who have not voted?</p> <p>(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)</p>	
D8	<p>If yes to Q7, specify possible reasons:</p> <p>(Write 1 = S/he did not have electoral photo ID Card; 2 = S/he did not know the polling station; 3 = Polling station was at distance (S/he had transportation /logistic problem; 4 = Long queue and S/he did not have time; 5 = No faith in political system (or electoral democracy); 6 = Did not vote as community or religious leader said so; 7 = Head of family said not to vote; 8 = Voting is not essential for maintenance of democracy; 9 = There was no good candidate; 10 = Candidate was not of his/her choice or community; 11 = S/he just did not want to vote as nothing will change; 12 = S/he was not in his/her constituency, if not-reason for not being present; 13 = S/he did not get voter slip even on polling day at the booth; 14 = S/he was afraid/felt insecure to go to the polling station; 15 = His/her name was not on electoral roll; 16 = Any Other (Specify).....</p>	

D9	Which is the most influencing factor that affects your voting preference? (Write 1 = Family; 2 = Caste; 3 = Religion; 4 = Candidate; 5 = Any other)	
D10	The Factor influencing high Voter turnout is: (Write 1 = Money power; 2 = Muscle power; 3 = Both (1 & 2); 4 = Good Candidate; 5= Voter Awareness Programmes; 6 = Any other)	
D11	Do you feel there was security threat during elections at any point? (Write 1 = Very much; 2 = Somewhat; 3 = Not at all; 4 = Can't say)	
D12	Do you think the deployment of police force was sufficient during the last elections? (Write 1 = Very much; 2 = Somewhat; 3 = Not at all; 4 = Can't say)	
D13	What was your experience at the polling booth during last assembly elections? (Write 1 = Very Good; 2 = Good; 3 = Not so good; 4 = Not at all good; 5 = Can't Say)	
D14	Whether the polling staff was cooperative during the election process? (Write 1 = Very Cooperative; 2 = Cooperative; 3 = Not so cooperative; 4 = Not at all cooperative; 5 = Can't say)	
D15	Did you face any difficulties in voting? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
D16	If Yes to Q 15, then difficulties were (can record more than one option) (Write 1 = Long queue; 2 = No separate queue for senior citizen; 3 = Lack of facilities including drinking water toilet and ramp; 4 = Coercion/threat by political party booth operators; 5 = Difficulties in locating my polling station; 6 = Difficulties in getting my voter slip at facilitation center; 7 = No guidance from polling personnel; 8 = Any other, specify.....)	

Section E: Voter awareness and attitudes

Q. No.	Question	Response	Code please tick (✓)		
E1	Do you know name of your assembly constituency / Parliamentary Constituency	1= Yes			
		2= No			
E2	What is the minimum age of registration to be a voter? * Code 99 FOR DON'T KNOW	In years			
E3	What is the date for determining qualifying age for getting registered on the electoral roll/voting?	18 th Birthday	0		
		1 st January/1 st April/1 st July/1 st October	11		
		Don't know	99		
E4	Are you aware of Special Summary Revision every year?	1= Yes			
		2= No			
E5	When is the National Voters' Day celebrated?	Incorrect Date	0		
		Correct date	1		
		Don't Know	99		
E6	Do you know about: a. option of NOTA/none of the above on EVM that could be used if you don't like any candidate b. names of candidates available in Braille on the EVM? c. Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail VVPAT, that helps verify your vote?	Responses	a.	b.	c.
		1. Yes, saw it when I cast my vote	1	1	1
		2. Yes, have seen one in electoral literacy	2	2	2
		3. Yes, have heard/read about it	3	3	3
		4. No	4	4	4
E7	Do you recall tagline of the campaign during this election? (1 for yes, 0 for No) * MULTIPLE CODING POSSIBLE	a. UTSAV (Election Programme/campaign)			
		b. Chalo Kare Matdaan			
		c. Mission 414			
		d. Election Song (Main Bharat Hoon-Hum Bharat Ke Matdata Hain)			
E8	Which of the following messages do you recall conveyed by State Election Icons for voting? (1 for yes, 0 for No) * MULTIPLE CODING POSSIBLE	1. An audio message urging voters to get their voters ID Card via Voters Helpline App. on Big FM Radio			
		2. Songs and jingles of H.P. Police Band as a part of election campaign			
		3. The Slogan "When I cast my vote, Why can't you" conveyed by specially abled youth icon			
		4. The Slogan "When cycling can			

		reach the world highest polling station Tasigang, why can't we came out to vote at the station which is nearer to our houses"? conveyed by the youth cyclists icon			
		5. Election motivation song " Loktantra Ra Parv Hamara , Asan Votan Dene Jana" sung by eminent iconic singer.			
E9	Have you ever accessed Voters Portal or any other election related website? 1. No, 2. Yes, 3. Don't know				
E10	If yes, for what purpose did you access the website? 1. to search name and other details on the Electoral Roll 2. to register/make modification online 3. to download registration forms 4. to know polling station details 5. others (please specify)				
E11	Are you aware that just having an Epic does not provide you the right to vote unless until your name is included in the latest Electoral Roll (1- Yes; 2-No)				
E12	Are you aware that it is an offence to have your enrolment for more than one place (1=Yes; 2-No)				
E13	Finally, I am going to read out a few more statements and I would like to know your opinion on them. Please tell me if you strongly disagree (=1), disagree (=2), neither agree nor disagree (=3), agree (=4) or strongly agree (=5). There are no correct or incorrect responses so please give me your honest opinion. * MULTIPLE CODING POSSIBLE	Every vote counts			
		Voting should be made compulsory			
		Voting is cumbersome chore			
		Elections are conducted freely and fairly in India			
		EVMs provide accurate results			
		Women should consult male members or elders before voting			
		The influence of money and muscle is increasing in elections			
I do not intend to vote in the upcoming elections					

Section F: Only for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)

Q. No.	Question	Response
F1	Have you come across any publicity/voter edutainment material aimed at participation of PwDs? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
F2	Have you been contacted by the BLO of your area? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
F3	Do you know about the Saksham app developed by ECI for PwD's? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
F4	How you rate the process of registration (Write 1 = Easy; 2 = Neither easy nor difficult; 3 = Difficult) If option 3 is chosen, please elaborate on the difficulties faced in the process of registration.	
F5	Please elaborate on the difficulties faced in the process of voting. (can record more than one option) (Write 1 = Long queue; 2 = No separate queue for senior citizen/pwds; 3 = Lack of facilities including drinking water toilet and ramp; 4 = Coercion/threat by political party booth operators; 5 = Difficulties in locating my polling station; 6 = Difficulties in getting my voter slip at facilitation center; 7 = No guidance from polling personnel; 8 = Any other, specify.....)	
F6	Are you aware of the facility of postal ballots is extended to Senior citizens above 85 years and Person with benchmark Disabilities. (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	

Section G: Voting Facilities

Q. No.	Question	Response	Response code
G1	What type of facilities you were provided on the pooling booth on the day of polling? * MULTIPLE CODING POSSIBLE	More than one option may be marked (Write 1 = Separate queue for women, PWDs & senior citizens 2 = Drinking water 3=Chairs/benches 4=Toilets 5=Help desk 6=Separate entry/exit in the pooling booth 7=Ramp 8=Wheelchairs 9=Direction for signage 10=Voter facilitation poster 11=Sign language poster for deaf voters 12=Volunteers 13=Any suggestion...)	
G2	Is there any Person above 85 years in your family?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
G3	If yes to Q2 was home voting facility provided to him ?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
G4	Is there any Person with Benchmark Disability (PwDs) in your family?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
G5	If yes to Q4 was home voting facility provided to him ?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
G6	If yes to Q3 & Q5 was this a good initiative taken by Election Commission of India(ECI) ?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	

Section H: Inducement

Q. No.	Question	Response	Response code
H1	Were there any inducements from any groups to influence voting?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
H2	Was there use of money power / muscle power by candidates / political parties to influence voters during the last elections?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
H3	Do you participate in rallies /meetings organized by political parties / candidates?	(Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
H4	If yes in H3, Who bears the expenditure incurred on participating in those rallies?	(Write 1 = Own expense; 2 = Organizing party)	

H5	Do you know about cVIGIL App? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
H6	Do you know about KYC App? (Write 1 = Yes; 2 = No)	
H7	Were any of the following inducements used to lure you during the last elections: [Multiple options Applicable] (Write 1= Distributing cash among women through self help groups; 2 = Funding of local club to organize cricket / football matches; 3 = Distributing TV, Radio, Projector etc. for small groups / communities / schools; 4 = Distributing Purse, Bangles, Vanity Case among women; 5 = Distributing liquor; 6 = Distributing food packets; 7 = Distributing coupons for free Diesel, Petrol, LPG, Kerosene; 8 = Distributing cash for construction of toilets, hand pumps and buying of mobile phones and laptops; 9 = Any other, specify.....)	

Section I: Ballot Papers versus EVM

Q. No.	Question	Response
11	Which system of casting vote do you prefer? (Ballot paper-1; EVM-2)	
12	If ballot paper, what was the reason? Write 1= It is simple; 2= I believe that it cannot be manipulated; 3= I believe EVM can be manipulated; 4 = Any other specify	
13	If EVM, what was the reason? Write 1= It is simple; 2= I believe that it cannot be manipulated; 3= The results can be known faster; 4 = It is environment friendly; 5 = Any other specify	

Any others Suggestions/Inputs

Date :

Name of the Investigator :

Signature :

Remarks by Investigator :

Date :

Name of the Supervisor :

Signature :

Remarks by Supervisor :

