Governance and its implications for Democracy in India

Sandeep Shastri
Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University, India.
Asian Barometer  
A Comparative Survey of Democracy, Governance and Development  

Working Paper Series  
Jointly Published by 
Globalbarometer

The Asian Barometer (ABS) is an applied research program on public opinion on political values, democracy, and governance around the region. The regional network encompasses research teams from thirteen East Asian political systems (Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia), and five South Asian countries (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal). Together, this regional survey network covers virtually all major political systems in the region, systems that have experienced different trajectories of regime evolution and are currently at different stages of political transition.

The ABS Working Paper Series is intended to make research result within the ABS network available to the academic community and other interested readers in preliminary form to encourage discussion and suggestions for revision before final publication. Scholars in the ABS network also devote their work to the Series with the hope that a timely dissemination of the findings of their surveys to the general public as well as the policy makers would help illuminate the public discourse on democratic reform and good governance.

The topics covered in the Series range from country-specific assessment of values change and democratic development, region-wide comparative analysis of citizen participation, popular orientation toward democracy and evaluation of quality of governance, and discussion of survey methodology and data analysis strategies.

The ABS Working Paper Series supercedes the existing East Asia Barometer Working Paper Series as the network is expanding to cover more countries in East and South Asia. Maintaining the same high standard of research methodology, the new series both incorporates the existing papers in the old series and offers newly written papers with a broader scope and more penetrating analyses.

The ABS Working Paper Series is issued by the Asian Barometer Project Office, which is jointly sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences of National Taiwan University and the Institute of Political Science of Academia Sinica.

Contact Information  
Asian Barometer Project Office  
Department of Political Science  
National Taiwan University  
No.1, Sec.4, Roosevelt Road, Taipei, 10617, Taiwan, R.O.C.  
Tel: 886 2-3366 8456  
Fax: 886-2-2365 7179  
E-mail: asianbarometer@ntu.edu.tw  
Website: www.asianbarometer.org
GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY IN INDIA


LOKNITI NETWORK

November 7, 2013
Authored by: Sandeep Shastri
GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY IN INDIA


This paper is based on the second round of the India Component of the State of Democracy in South Asia (South Asia Barometer) study. It attempts to capture the public perceptions on Issues of Governance and its wider implications for the democratic processes in India. The paper is rooted in the basic premise that governance is about ‘access’ to the resources of the state. The paper attempts to look at ‘access from below’ – mounting its academic telescope, in the terrain of the ‘common public’. Citizen perceptions on the delivery of a select range of public services is assessed based on their response to specific questions in the survey. The range of services were carefully selected to be included in the survey based on past experience and an extensive dialogue on which services are perceived to be important. The public services identified include: a) Government Schools; b) Medical Facilities; c) Delivery of select Government Services; and d) Interaction with the Police and Local courts.

What are the implications of citizen response to the delivery of public services to the wider debate on the quality and capacities of Indian democracy are discussed at length.
GOVERNANCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

COMPARING THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN INDIA AND EAST ASIA: AN ASIAN BAROMETER SURVEY CONFERENCE
7 NOVEMBER 2013

SANDEEP SHASTRI
PRO VICE CHANCELLOR JAIN UNIVERSITY, BANGALORE, INDIA
NATIONAL COORDINATOR, LOKNITI NETWORK, CSDS, DELHI, INDIA

STATE OF DEMOCRACY IN SOUTH ASIA ROUND II (South Asia Barometer)
Presentation of India Study – GOVERNANCE
About the Study

India Component
22 states (covering 97% of population)

Field Work
21 Jan - 28 Feb 2013

Respondents identified through systematic random sampling on basis of Probability Proportionate to Size

Face to Face Interviews
184 Field Investigators
336 Different Locations

Questionnaire Translated into 12 languages
Training Workshop
Pre Testing

SDSA II (South Asia Barometer):
INDIA STUDY – GOVERNANCE
The `Window` to Approach Governance

Delivery of Public Services

Governance as `Access`

The South Asia Component of the Barometer

SDSA II (South Asia Barometer):
INDIA STUDY – GOVERNANCE
• Basis of Analysis
  Data from India Component of South Asia Barometer Questionnaire

Select Range of Public Services

1. Perceptions about Government and Private Schools
2. Accessing Medical Facilities in Government Hospitals
3. Delivery of Government Services
4. Interaction with Police and Courts

SDSA II (South Asia Barometer):
INDIA STUDY – GOVERNANCE
• Public Services: Understanding Citizens Perspective
  A range of questions in the SDSA II Questionnaire

  - Present the broad findings
  - Identify the important differences

  - Are there common trends

  - Broader implications for the State of Democracy in India

  Continuing relevance of the role of the state and its institutions

  The promise and practice of Democracy
Understanding who and why do people send their children to government schools

Their experience with the government schools

Attitude towards government schools among those who sent their children to private schools

Those who sent their children to government schools `by choice` is marginally higher

More likely to say by choice if belonged to OBC, had access to education and belonged to Higher SES

Eight of every ten respondents stated that admission to government schools is easy

Sent children to government school by choice

- High SES: 77
- Low SES: 50
- Graduate and above: 69
- No formal education: 48
- OBC's: 58
- Scheduled Castes: 53
- Average: 55
Affordability and Physical Proximity appear to be the main factors. Important difference in Reporting Affordability across socio-economic groups.
Eight of every ten who sent their child to a private school said that they did so by choice.

Would you be willing to pay more for better education in government schools?

Free education. Am not willing to pay more.

Close to six of every ten supported the second view.

What was the reason you did not send the child to government school:

- Teaching was not good in government schools (32%)
- Private schools ensure better education (9%)
- Teachers/Staff not available/absent (22%)
- Other reasons (37%)
General Public must get free education in government schools. I am not willing to pay more.

Focus on the role/dependence on the state.

SDSA II (South Asia Barometer):
INDIA STUDY – GOVERNANCE
The more affluent, more educated, those living in cities and those from OBC’s and Forward Castes were more likely to say that they accessed government hospitals by choice rather than exercising the only choice available.

Explaining this trend:
WHY ACCESS GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

- Affordable: 26%
- Geographical Proximity: 52%
- Doctors and Staff Available: 10%
- Other: 12%

WHY DID NOT ACCESS GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

- Quality of Treatment not good: 26%
- Lack of facilities: 10%
- Doctors and Staff not available: 15%
- Staff not attentive and caring: 16%
- Other: 33%
General Public Must Get Free Medical Treatment in Government Hospitals

Two thirds of the respondents favoured the same

Scheduled Castes: 76
 Others: 60
SC: 74
 Others: 57
Graduate and above: 63
 18-34: 70
 Above 60: 67
Rural: 67
 Urban: 63
Low SES: 74
 High SES: 50
Average: 66
Ensuring Speedy Delivery of Government Service

Battery of five questions

- Following established rules and procedures: 54
- Approaching middle men/agents: 71
- Approaching politicians: 74
- Using Influential people’s reference: 79
- Giving Extra Money: 87
Are there critical variations?

Extra Money
- Role of Money
- Role of Influence
- Speedy Delivery
  - Role of Money
  - Role of Influence
- Perception of government/administration
  - Who is able to leverage government benefits

SDSA II (South Asia Barometer): INDIA STUDY – GOVERNANCE
Interaction with Police and Courts

Eight of every ten did not go to the police or courts

WHY AVOID POLICE
- Involvement of Police would complicate matters: 26%
- Police would extract money: 21%
- Police would not be fair: 19%
- Community leaders can resolve the issue: 13%
- Other reasons: 19%

WHY AVOID COURTS
- Expensive: 35%
- Too lengthy a process: 29%
- Community leaders can resolve the issue: 22%
- Other reasons: 14%
Do people see the police as impartial

**WILL POLICE BE IMPARTIAL**

- Differentiate between followers of majority and minority religion: 51%
- Differentiate on grounds of gender: 63%
- Differentiate between Upper Caste and Dalits: 84%
- Differentiate between rich and poor: 59%

**CRITICAL VARIABLES**

- Gender - Women: 62%
- Gender - Men: 57%
- Religion - Rural: 48%
- Religion - Urban: 60%
- Religion - Muslims: 56%
- Religion - Hindus: 51%
- Caste based - Forward Castes: 60%
- Caste based OBC's: 61%
- Caste Based - Dalits: 71%

SDSA II (South Asia Barometer): INDIA STUDY – GOVERNANCE
To sum up

The Context

- Citizen perception of Service delivery

Issues

- Important variations across different groups
- Continued focus on the role of the state

Implications

- The variance between the promise and practice of democracy
THANK YOU