
ADR-DAKSH SURVEY REPORT FOR 2014 MAHARASHTRA ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Daksh have conducted a voter perception survey of over 20,000 respondents across all the 288 Assembly constituencies in Maharashtra. The survey collected demographic information of respondents, along with their ratings on the relative importance of various issues in the run-up to the elections. Respondents have also rated the performance of the status of governance on these issues in the past five years, reflecting a sort of “performance rating”.

The larger purpose of this survey is to highlight voter priorities so that they are reflected in the election agenda and manifestos of political parties. And also so that electoral debates are on voter issues rather than agenda imposed by parties. It is hoped that the manifestos of future Government will reflect these voter priorities.

The key objectives of this perception assessment is to generate:

- An improved understanding of the important needs and expectations of the voters.
- Momentum among key stake holders for addressing priority issues
- Enable comparison of governance indicators and ratings across constituencies and districts
- Provide a richer understanding of ground level issues.

The findings of the survey:

The results of the Perception Assessment shows the striking difference between the priorities of the voters and the performance on those issues and highlights the overall inadequate efforts of all institutions in fulfilling their role in providing what the voters really need.

The primary aim of the assessment is therefore to evaluate the effectiveness of elected representatives, government institutions, mechanisms etc. in terms of planning and providing

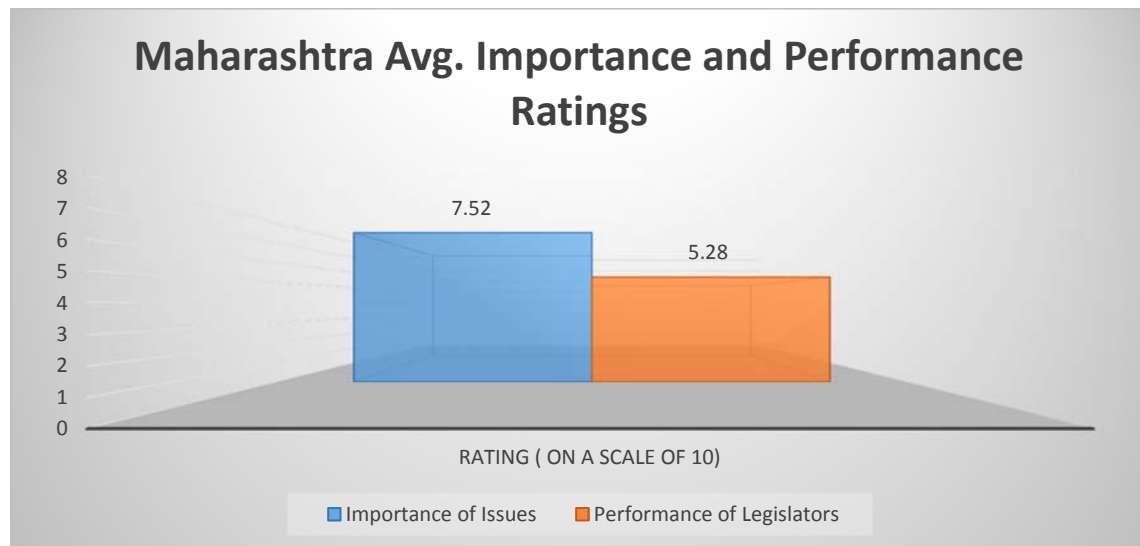
for the needs of the country and fostering transparency and integrity. In addition, it seeks to promote the assessment process as a springboard for action among the government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in terms of policy reforms, evidence based advocacy, or further in-depth evaluations of specific governance issues. This assessment should serve as a basis for key stakeholders to advocate for sustainable and effective reforms.

The average performance rating of the legislators from **Maharashtra**, as perceived by the voters is **5.28** on a scale of **10**.

The average importance of issues was rated as **7.52** on a scale of **10** by the voters. Thus, as we can see, there is a huge gap between the voter's expectations on governance issues and performance of the legislators on those issues.

Table - I

Maharashtra	Rating (on a scale of 10)
Importance of Issues	7.52
Performance of Legislators	5.28



Top pressing issues for voters. To identify what are voter priorities in terms of governance issues like water, electricity, roads, food, education, health etc., a list of 35 items was given to the voters and they were asked to rate the importance of the issues.

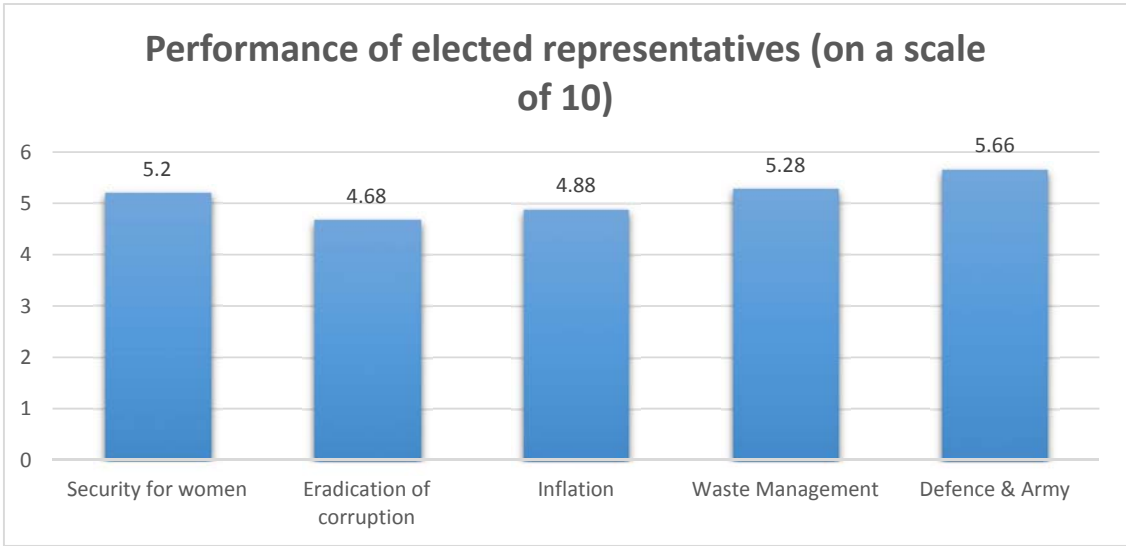
Security for Women, Eradication of Corruption and Inflation are the Top 3 issues in Maharashtra, as perceived by the voters. However, the performance of the legislators on these top issues is below average. (Average = rating of 6 on a scale of 10)

Table II depicts the overall most pressing issues for the people of Maharashtra which they want their legislators to focus on.

Overall Top issues in Maharashtra & Performance of elected representatives

Table -II

Top issues	Performance(on a scale of 10)
Security for women	5.2
Eradication of corruption	4.68
Inflation	4.88
Waste Management	5.28
Defence & Army	5.66



The voting behavior of people in Maharashtra

The survey also tried to identify the most important factors that people take into account before voting for a particular Candidate.

People in Maharashtra gave more importance to the trustworthiness of the candidate than any other factors like the candidate's party, religion etc. The CM candidate of a party and caste/religion of the candidate were the 4th and 5th most important factors which voters considered before voting.

Table III depicts important factors which people consider before voting for a candidate:

Table - III

Trustworthiness	86.84%
The Candidate	82.72%
Candidates Party	75.82%
The Party's CM Candidate	66.10%
Candidate's Caste/ Religion	28.59%
Distribution of money, Liquor, Gifts	18.73%

