

CHANDIGARH SURVEY REPORT - 2018

(A Brief Analysis of Voters' Priorities & Performance of Administration/Government on Governance Issues in Chandigarh)

REPORT BY ADR

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INTRODUCTION & METHODOLOGY

The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and RA Asterisc Computing & Data Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (RAAC) conducted perhaps the largest ever voter survey in any one country. The All India Survey was conducted across 534 Lok Sabha constituencies with 2,73,487 voters participating in this exercise spread among various demographics. The three main objectives of this survey were to identify the following: (i) voters' priorities on specific governance issues, (ii) voters' ratings of the administration's/government's performance on those issues and (iii) factors influencing voting behaviour. This survey was conducted between October 2018 and December 2018, prior to the General Elections to the Lok Sabha 2019.

Focusing on Chandigarh, this report provides an analysis of 10 most important governance issues as rated by the voters of Chandigarh (out of the 31 listed in the questionnaire). These voters' priorities are further examined in relation to the performance of the Administration/Government on those issues as perceived by the respondents. The survey covered approximately 500 respondents across Chandigarh.

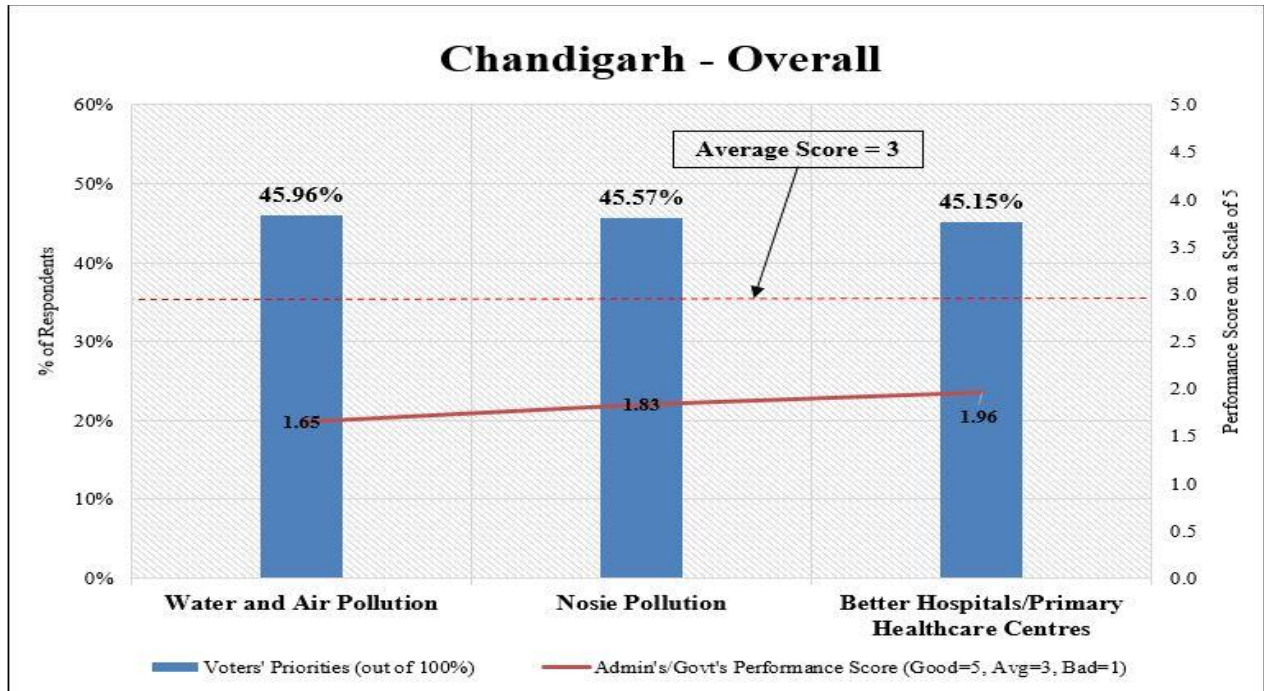
The key objective of this perception assessment is to provide an improved understanding of the important expectations of voters from the Administration/Government and how they assess its performance. In addition, it seeks to fill a vital gap in contemporary times, namely, evidence-based research and action on governance. For far too long we have depended entirely on ideology or the opinions of various experts. Though that is important, we also need to reflect on the priorities of the voters. These priorities and assessments will change over time, and hence there is a need to repeat this survey periodically.

Research Design: A cross-sectional, representative sample of the population over 18 was selected using a partially purposive sample selection procedure to ensure representation from various segments of the population like rural-urban, gender, caste, religion, and income groups. Every care was taken to make the samples unbiased and fully representative of the population. The accuracy of the survey is 95%, i.e., the true values are within 5% of the survey predictions.

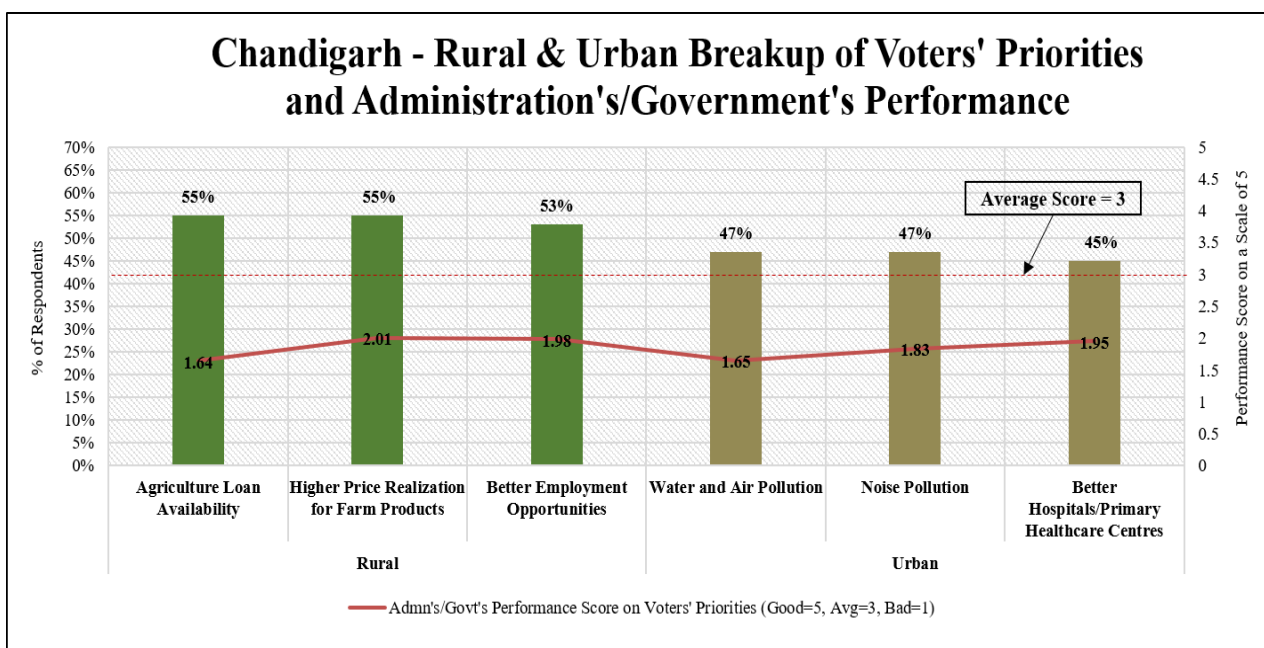
KEY FINDINGS

- The Chandigarh Survey 2018 shows that Water and Air Pollution (45.96%), Noise Pollution (45.57%) and Better Hospitals/Primary Healthcare Centres (45.15%) are the top three voters' priorities in overall Chandigarh.
- The performance of the administration/government on all top three voters' priorities of Water and Air Pollution (1.65 on a scale of 5), Noise Pollution (1.83) and Better Hospitals/Primary Healthcare Centres (1.96) was rated as Below Average.
- In rural Chandigarh, top most voters' priorities were Agriculture Loan Availability (55%), Higher Price Realization for Farm Products (55%) and Better Employment Opportunities (53%).
- The performance of the administration/government on rural voters' priorities of Agriculture Loan Availability (1.64 on a scale of 5), Higher Price Realization for Farm Products (2.01) and Better Employment Opportunities (1.98) was rated as Below Average.
- In addition, the administration/government has performed poorly on Sand and Stone Quarrying/Mining (1.87) and Electricity for Agriculture (1.97) in rural Chandigarh.
- For the urban voters in Chandigarh, the top most priorities were Water and Air Pollution (47%), Noise Pollution (47%) and Better Hospitals/Primary Healthcare Centres (45%).
- The performance of the administration/government on urban voters' priorities of Water and Air Pollution (1.65), Noise Pollution (1.83) and Better Hospitals/Primary Healthcare Centres (1.95) was rated as Below Average.
- In addition, the administration/government has performed poorly on Better Employment Opportunities (1.65) and Better Law and Order/Policing (2.23) in urban Chandigarh.

I. Top 3 Voters' Priorities and the Performance of Administration/Government in Chandigarh – Overall and Rural & Urban

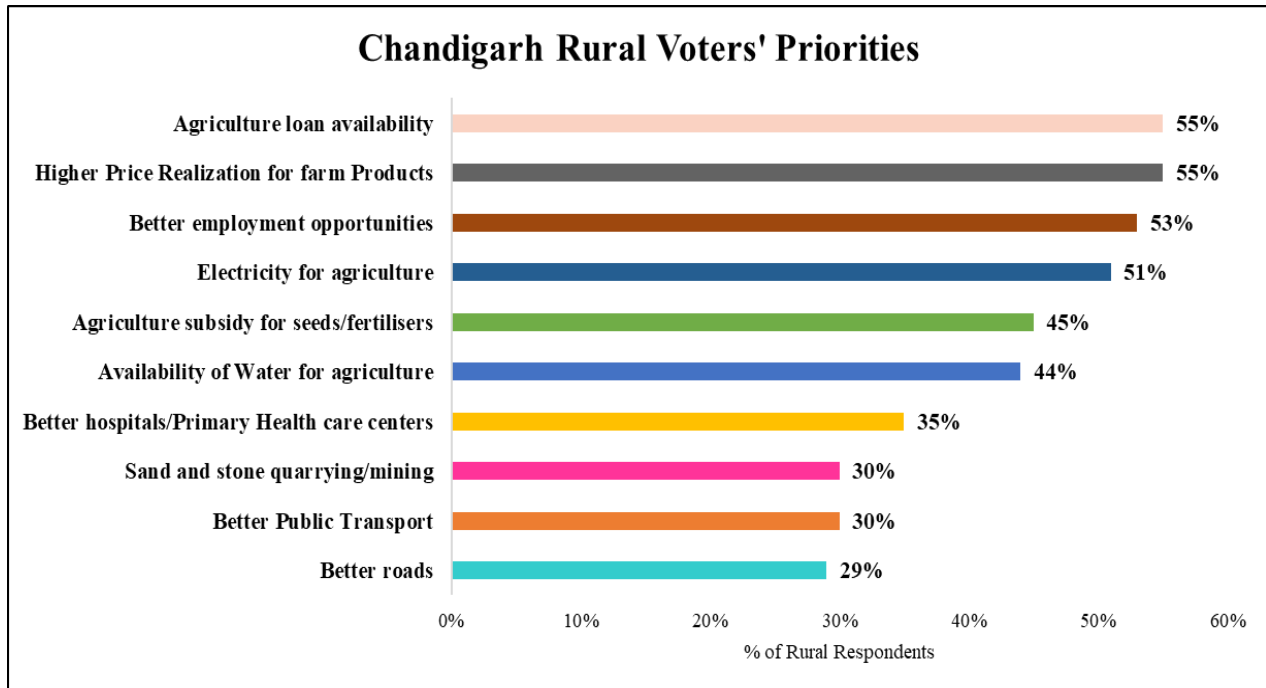


Graph 1: Chandigarh - Top 3 overall Voters' Priorities and Administration's/Government's Performance Scores

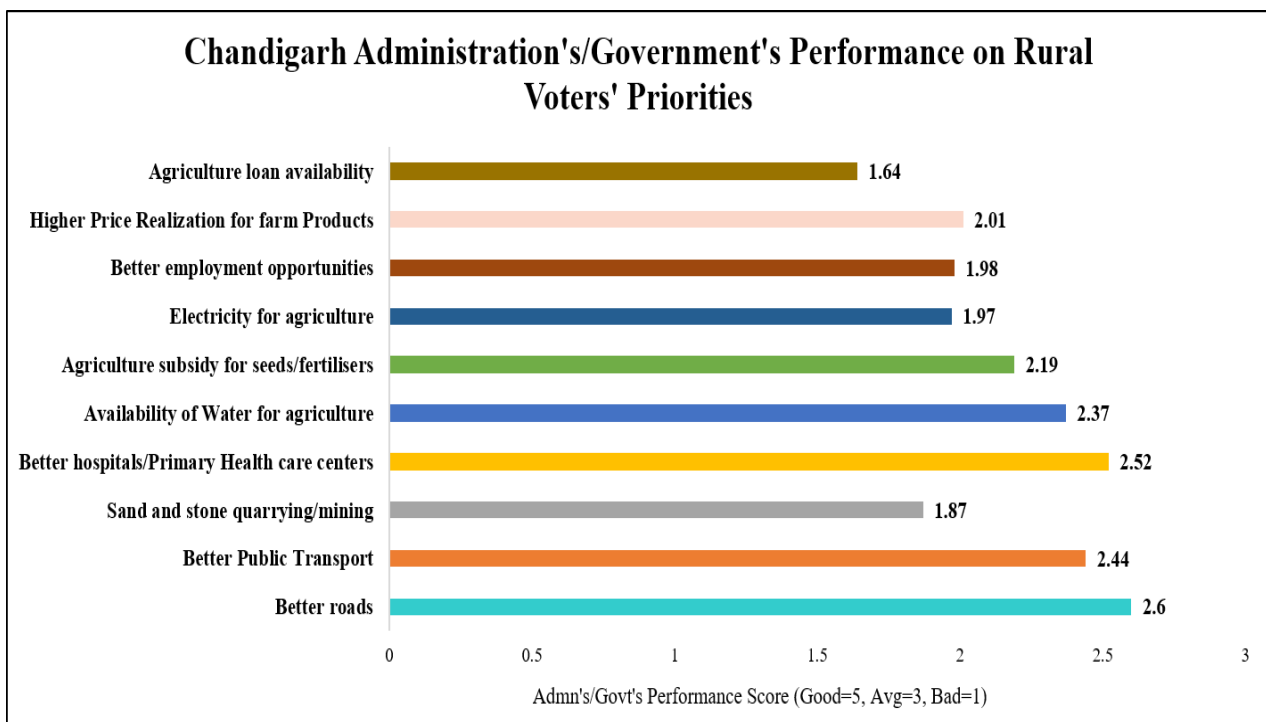


Graph 2: Chandigarh - Rural & Urban Breakup of Voters' Priorities and Administration's/Government's Performance Scores

II. Rural Voters' Priorities and the Performance of Administration/Government in Chandigarh

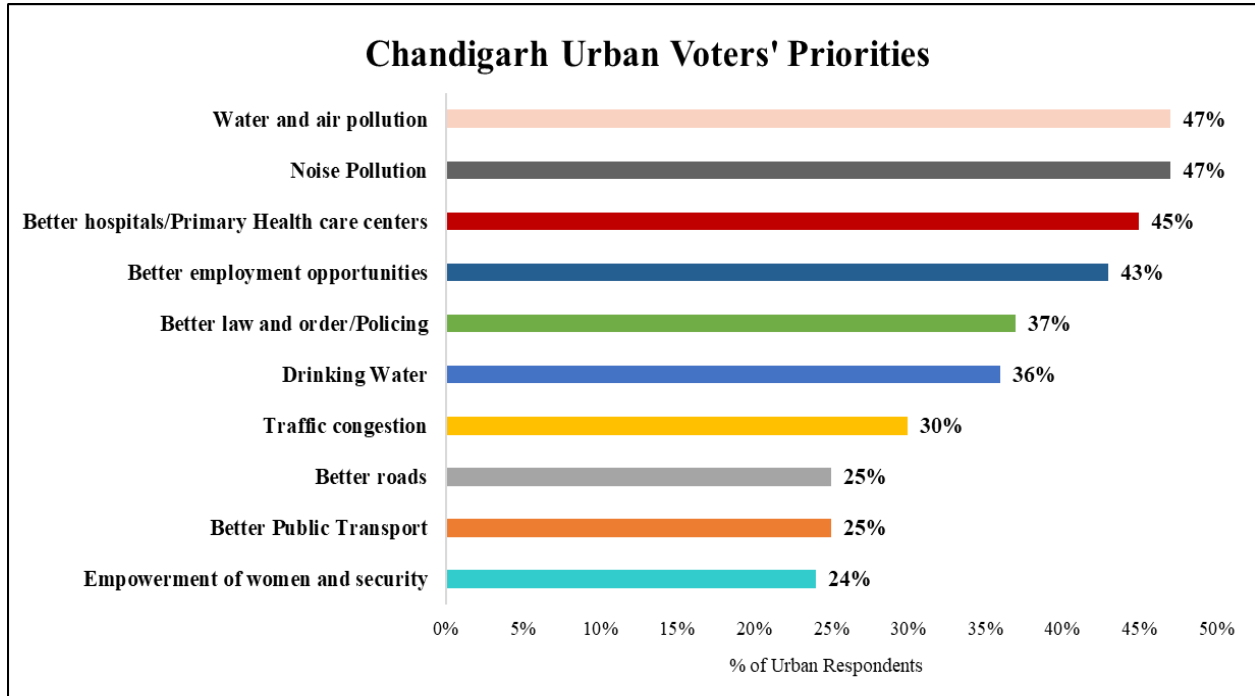


Graph 3: Rural Voters' Priorities in Chandigarh

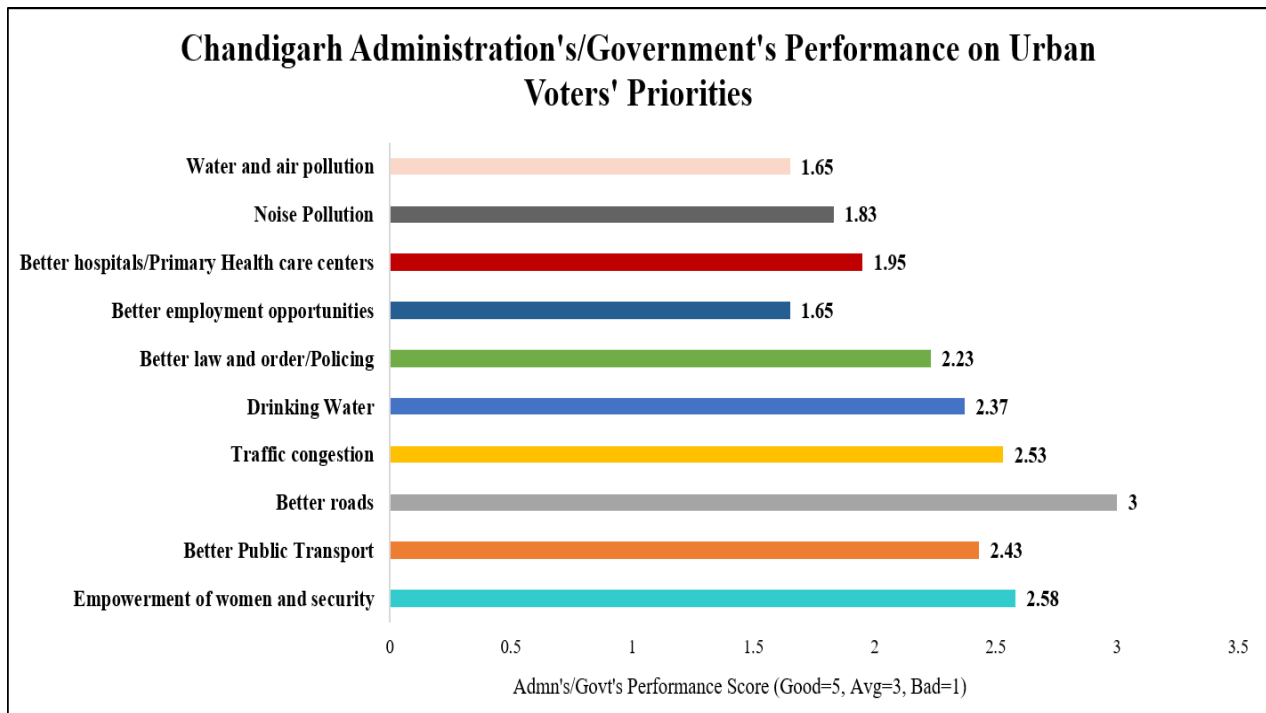


Graph 4: Performance of Administration/Government on Rural Voters' Priorities in Chandigarh

III. Urban Voters' Priorities and the Performance of Administration/Government in Chandigarh



Graph 5: Urban Voters' Priorities in Chandigarh



Graph 6: Performance of Administration/Government on Urban Voters' Priorities in Chandigarh

VOTING BEHAVIOUR

The survey tried to analyse the following aspects with respect to voting behaviour – (i) factors influencing voting behaviour, (ii) opinion regarding criminal candidates contesting in elections, and (iii) voter awareness regarding the role of crime and money.

To identify the factors that influence voting behaviour following queries were posed – “What are the reasons you vote for a candidate?” and “In an election, whose opinion mattered the most while deciding which candidate to vote for?”.

In order to comprehend voters’ opinion regarding criminal candidates contesting in elections, the two questions that were posed were – “Should someone with a criminal case be in Parliament or State Assembly?” and “Why do people vote for those with criminal records?”.

To assess voter awareness regarding the role of crime and money, the following questions were asked – “Do you know that distribution of cash/money/gifts etc. are illegal?”, “Are you aware of instances of distribution of cash/money/gifts/liquor in your constituency during the last election?”, and “Do you know that you can get information on criminal records of the candidates?”.

Salient Observations on Voting Behaviour in Chandigarh

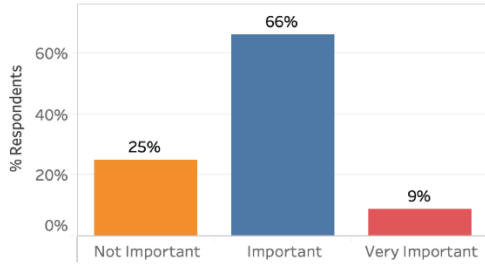
- According to Chandigarh Survey 2018, highest percentage of voters revealed that Candidate’s Party was the most significant reason (Important: 43% and Very Important: 50%) in voting for a particular candidate in an election, followed by the Candidate himself/herself (Important: 66% and Very Important: 9%).
- For 35% voters, distribution of cash, liquor, gifts etc. was an important (20%) and very important (15%) factor in voting for a particular candidate in an election.
- While deciding which candidate to vote for in an election, 84% of Chandigarh voters stated that their own opinion mattered the most, followed by voters for whom opinion of their Family

Members (5%) and their Spouse (3%) mattered the most.

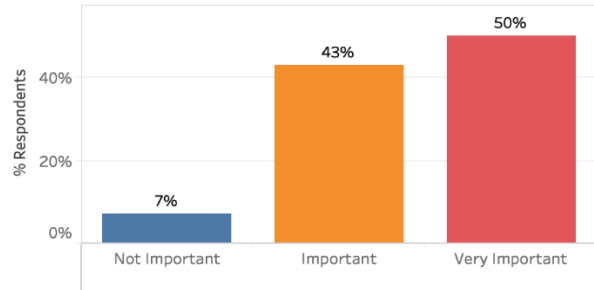
- A large number of voters (65%) knew that distribution of cash, gifts etc. was illegal.
- 69% of voters disclosed that they were aware of instances where such inducements were offered to the voters in return for their votes.
- 98% of voters felt that candidates with criminal background should not be in Parliament or State Assembly.
- 51% of voters knew that they could get information on criminal records of the candidates.
- In relation to voting candidates with criminal antecedents, 42% of voters felt that people vote for criminal candidates because they are unaware about the criminal records of these candidates.
- In the opinion of 39% voters, people vote for criminal candidates because they feel that the cases against such candidates are not of serious nature.
- Caste and religious considerations are also key factors for 39% voters in choosing candidates with criminal records.
- Other important factors in voting for criminal candidates were that the candidate had spent generously in elections (35%), candidate otherwise does good work (33%) and that candidate is powerful (31%).

Voter Behaviour I

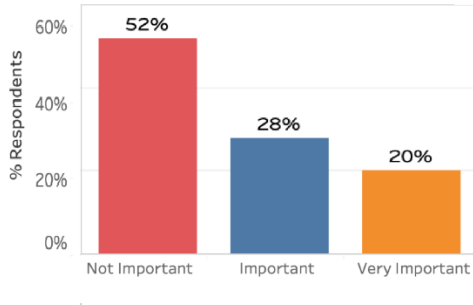
What are the reasons you vote for a candidate? -The Candidate



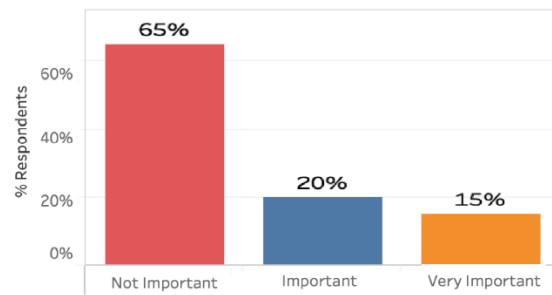
What are the reasons you vote for a candidate? -Candidate's Party



What are the reasons you vote for a candidate? -Candidate's caste or religion

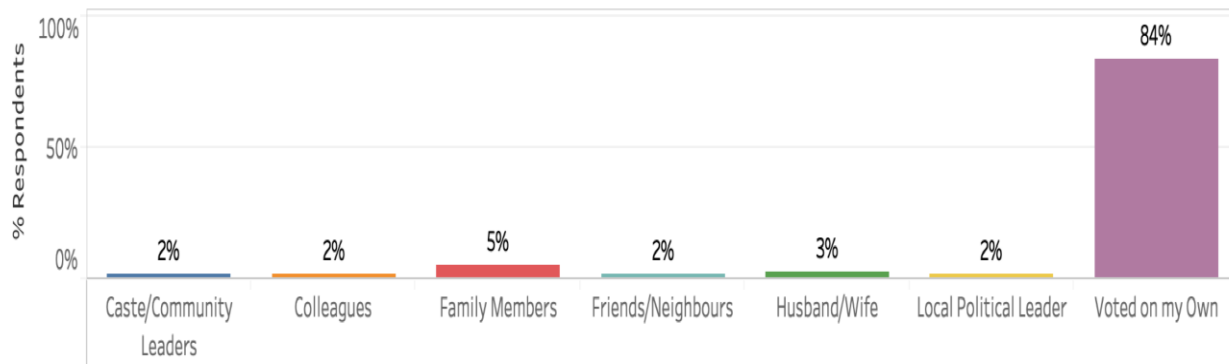


What are the reasons you vote for a candidate? -Distribution of cash liquor, gifts etc.

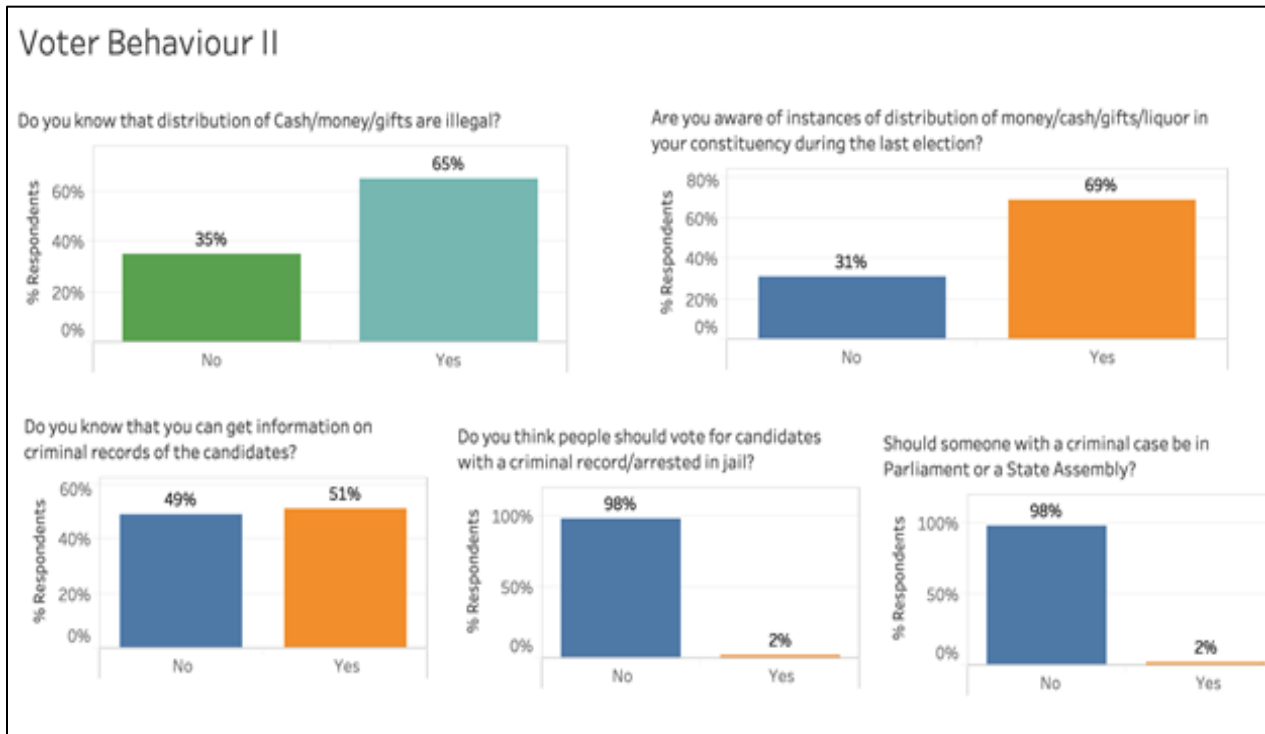


Graph 7: Factors Influencing Voting Behaviour

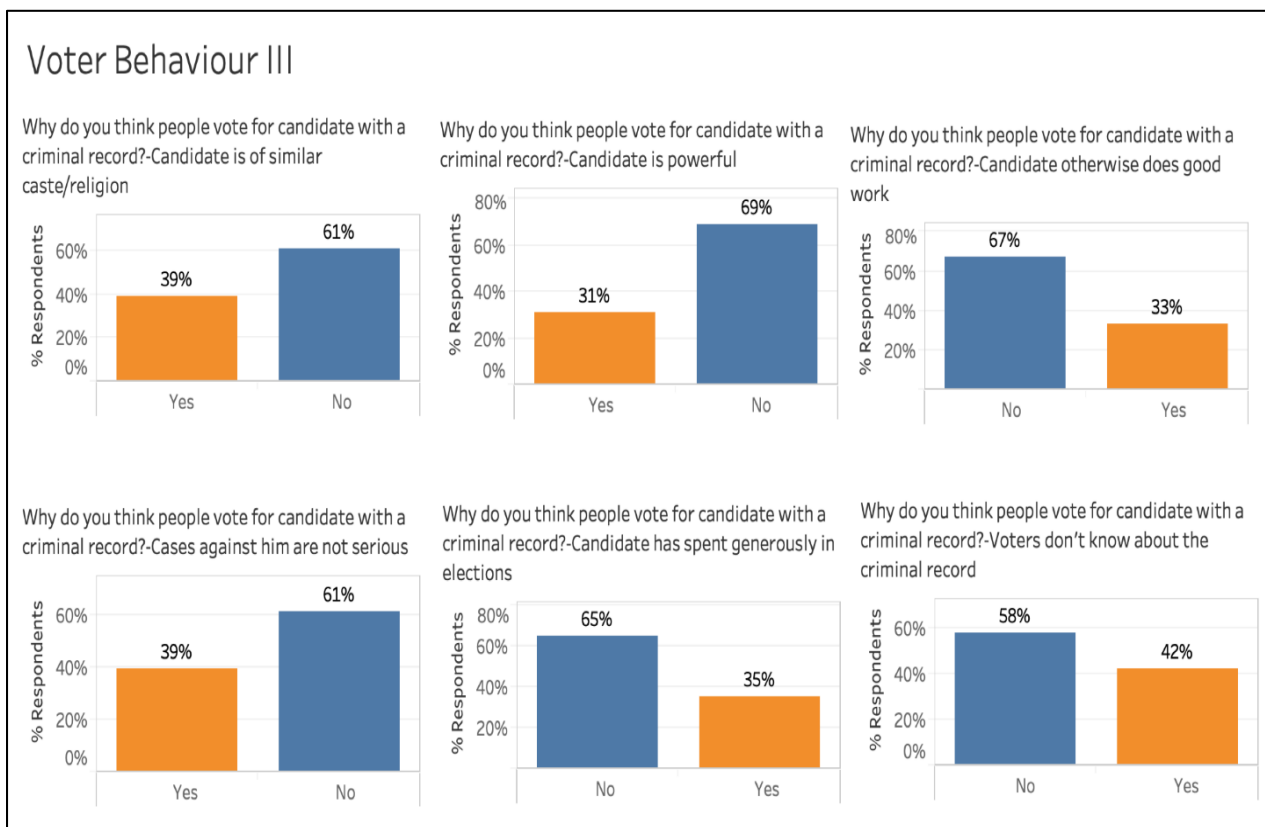
In deciding who to vote for in an election, whose opinion mattered the most?



Graph 8: In an election, whose opinion mattered the most while deciding which candidate to vote



Graph 9: Voter Awareness regarding the Role of Crime and Money in Elections

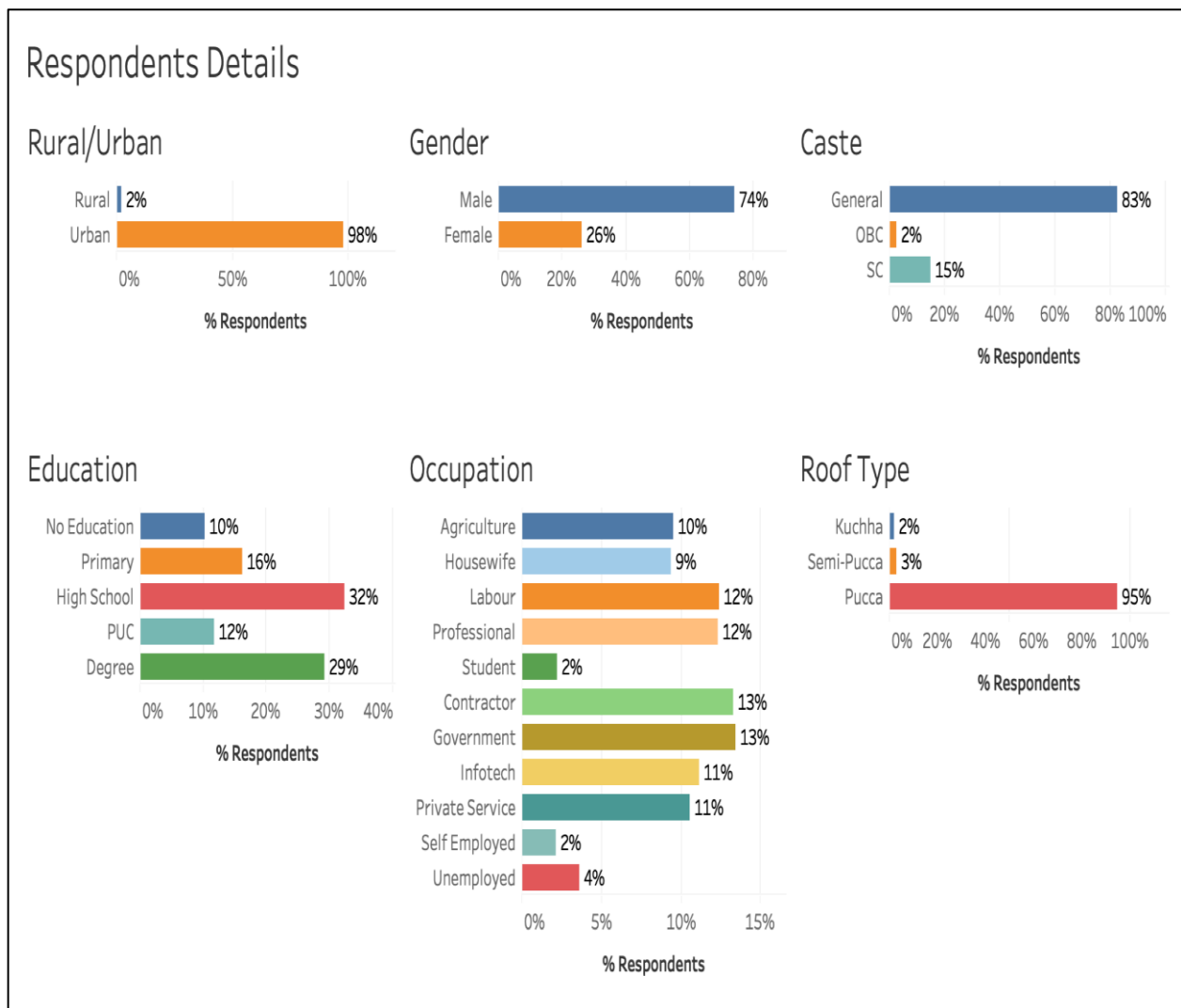


Graph 10: Voters' Opinion regarding Criminal Candidates Contesting in Elections

VOTERS' DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

- 2% of the voters surveyed were from rural areas and 98% were from urban areas.
- 74% were Males and 26% were Females.
- 83% were from General category, 15% SC and 2% OBC.

The other respondent details can be observed from the graphs below.



Graph 11: Voters' Demographic Details

CONCLUSION

The Chandigarh Survey Report 2018 points to the fact that voters' priorities in Chandigarh have been neglected by the administration/government in power. This is quite clear from the fact that the administration/government has performed poorly and underwhelmingly on almost all top ten governance issues as rated by the voters of Chandigarh. The analysis of the trend of voters' priorities and the administration's/government's performance in Chandigarh poses a few critical questions to the administration/government and the legislators –

- Are decisions related to public policies in different spheres like infrastructure, social and economic development etc. made in favour of certain sections of the society at the expense of overall social welfare?
- Is there a need for the Administration/Government to reallocate/plan budget expenditure as per the voters' priorities?
- How can political parties be made more accountable in delivering on the promises made in the manifesto?
- What policy changes need to be made to provide employment, better health care and drinking water to the deprived sections of the society?

The fact that the electorate has no role once the politician has been elected, allows the priority of the elected candidates to be determined by the political parties. It is then hoped that the electorate takes care to elect a better politician to represent them.

Political representation is about making constituents' preferences present in politics and governance. Behind these ratings is the daily reality that people living in our country face. The ratings try to capture this and help inform our administration/government what that number means and how the administration/government is perceived by the voters of this country.

DISCLAIMER

This survey was conducted to ascertain the most pressing governance issues that voters of India perceive to be affecting their daily lives and also to investigate whether the voters are happy with their respective administration/governments with regard to the addressing of those issues.

The survey was conducted using sound scientific techniques and the consequent findings and reports were prepared using recognized data analysis techniques. The inferences drawn in this report are based on the responses provided by the Indian voters.

This survey is a systematic and scientific attempt to study the gap between governance-demands of the voters of India and the delivery of the respective administration/governments as perceived by the Indian voters. This survey is in no way an attempt to appreciate or denigrate any administration/government(s) or political party or individual or any other organization or institution.

Every effort has been made by ADR to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data contained in this report.

Anyone using or quoting from this report should acknowledge the source as 'Chandigarh Survey Report - 2018'.



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