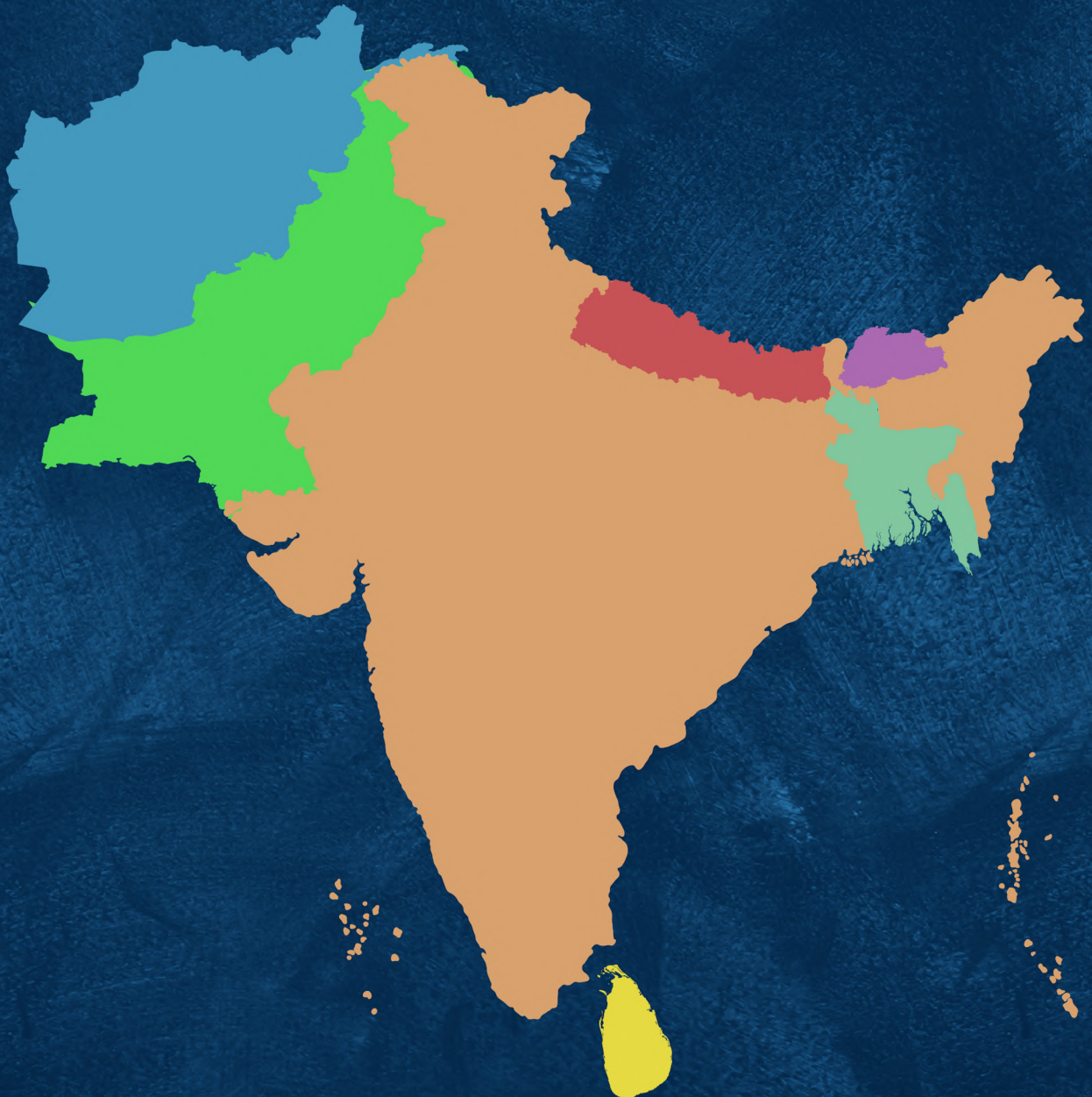


PIONERA'23

Political Illiteracy In South Asia



INTRODUCTION

To

The Idea Bank is the research core of Pioneers Youth. From panel discussions and competitions to reading nights and movie nights, the Idea Bank strives to educate volunteers and spread awareness on pressing issues related to the South Asian region by giving the youth of South Asia a platform to voice their thoughts, opinions, and most importantly, solutions.

Through **Pionera**, the Idea Bank aimed to create awareness by demonstrating the extent of political illiteracy in the South Asian region. We thank each and every participant for their efforts that made this project a success.

TABLE OF Contents

Political Illiteracy in India

Abstract	06
Introduction	06
Literature Review	07
Methodology	08
Findings	09
Discussion	12
Recommendations	12
Conclusion	13
References	15

Political Illiteracy in Pakistan

Abstract	17
Introduction	17
Background	18
Antithesis	20
Methodology	20
Literature Review	20
Results and Findings	21
Conclusion	22
References	23

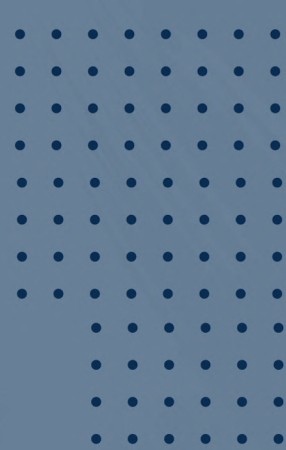


TABLE OF Contents

Political Illiteracy in Nepal

Abstract	25
Introduction	25
Causes Of Political Illiteracy	26
Result Of Political Illiteracy	27
Discussion	27
Conclusion	27
References	29

Political Illiteracy in Sri Lanka

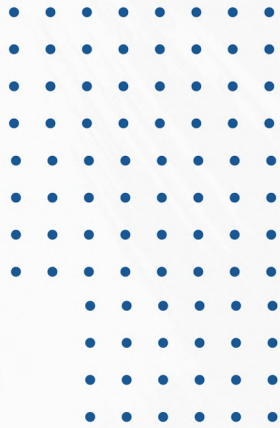
Abstract	31
Introduction	31
Historical/modern relevance	33
Data Collection and Methodology	34
Current State	35
Issues	36
Survey Observations	45
Solutions	46
Conclusion	49
Survey Questions	50
References	51



POLITICAL ILLITERACY

India

**Tshering Yangchen Lhamo, Hafsa Rizvi,
Rinoza Jiffry, and Garima Joshi.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jn', is written over the word 'ILLITERACY'.

Abstract

Political literacy is crucial for any democratic nation, especially in India, with over 1.4 billion citizens and more than 900 million registered voters. However, the political literacy rate in India could be higher due to the lack of public awareness and resources available. Many people believe their votes do not matter when every vote counts. This research paper aims to examine the root causes of political illiteracy in India by examining whether the absence of political education in schools and limited access to reliable information contribute to the problem. A mixed methods approach was adopted to address this issue, and data was collected through internet research and a survey questionnaire. Thematic and statistical analyses were used to analyze the data. The study found that lack of education and responsiveness were the primary causes of political illiteracy. Based on these findings, several recommendations were proposed to increase political literacy in India. This research paper contributes to understanding political literacy in India and provides valuable insights for policymakers and educators to improve political education and engagement in the country.

Keywords: Political illiteracy, voter count, awareness

Introduction

Political literacy is an essential aspect of any democratic society. The knowledge, skills, and abilities enable citizens to participate actively in the political process. In a democracy, it is imperative for citizens to be politically literate to exercise their right to vote and participate in the government's decision-making process. India, a “**parliamentary secular democratic republic**”, is no exception to this rule.

The democratic system of India can trace its roots back to the Harappan period when assemblies enjoyed free voting rights. However, monarchs ruled India from the later Vedic period until 1858, during which voting was out of the question. The British rule that followed lasted for almost two centuries, and it was only after their departure in 1947 that voting rights were restored to the Indians. Unfortunately, many Indians lacked the

necessary education to understand how the government functioned, which hindered their ability to participate in the democratic process.

The central idea of democracy is the principle that all people are equal. Politics is the means by which people with common goals and interests can work together to achieve them and ensure that society has access to the resources required for their well-being. The decisions made through politics directly impact people's lives; thus, it is crucial for all citizens to be politically literate.

This research paper aims to discuss the causes and consequences of political illiteracy in India. Additionally, it seeks to identify possible solutions to improve the current situation and raise awareness about the importance of political literacy. By examining the factors that contribute to political illiteracy in India and proposing solutions, this paper aims to facilitate informed and active participation in the democratic process.

Literature Review

Political illiteracy, which refers to the lack of knowledge and understanding of political concepts, processes, and systems, has emerged as a significant challenge in India. Extensive research has identified various factors that contribute to this phenomenon, including education, social and economic factors, media, and political culture.

Education is one of the critical factors affecting political literacy in India. Several studies have found a positive correlation between education levels and political literacy. For instance, a survey conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) found that individuals with higher levels of education were more likely to participate in political activities and had a better understanding of political issues (Yadav, 2017). However, rural areas in India have considerably lower political literacy rates than urban areas.

Social and economic factors, such as poverty and caste, also act as significant barriers to political literacy. These factors limit an individual's access to education and information, resulting in an inability to engage in political activities. For instance, the

National Election Study (NES) revealed that individuals from lower castes were less likely to participate in political activities and had lower levels of political knowledge (Chhibber & Verma, 2017).

Media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and disseminating information about political issues. However, studies have shown that media bias and lack of objectivity in India can lead to misinformation and political polarization (Iyengar, 2015).

Political illiteracy can result in a lack of political engagement and low voter turnout, undermining the democratic process. In the 2019 General Elections, only 67% of the eligible 914 million voters turned up for the final voting. Moreover, it can lead to ineffective governance and poor decision-making as citizens are unable to make informed decisions about who to vote for and which policies to support. Furthermore, political illiteracy creates a situation where marginalized communities need more representation in the political process. It can also spread misinformation and corruption, compromising the integrity of the democratic system. For instance, the India Corruption Survey 2019 revealed that 51% of respondents admitted to paying bribes. Furthermore, India witnessed a 214% increase in cases relating to fake news in the previous year.

In conclusion, political illiteracy in India is a multifaceted issue that demands a comprehensive approach. This approach should aim at improving access to education and information, promoting media objectivity, addressing social and economic inequalities, and promoting a more transparent and accountable political culture. These efforts are critical to the development of a strong and effective democratic system in India.

Methodology

A mixed-method research approach was employed to ensure the reliability, validity, and authenticity of the study. This approach involved using both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. The study aimed to explore the views and understanding of Indian citizens and citizens of neighboring countries regarding political

literacy. The data was collected through three tools, namely the internet, a survey questionnaire, and face-to-face interviews. The survey was administered to a total of nine participants, consisting of Indian law students and Sri Lankan professionals. Google Forms and Excel Sheets were used to analyze the quantitative data, while the qualitative data were analyzed manually. The subjective meanings and experiences shared by the participants formed the core data for the analysis, following the guidelines of Creswell (2009).

Ethical Considerations

The study accorded a high ethical consideration so that it ensured the safety of the participants and the data by safekeeping the responses and maintaining the anonymity of the research participants.

Findings

This section analyzed the data received from the survey. Some of the important points of discussion included the views of the participants on the cause and consequences of political illiteracy in India. The detail of the responses to the questionnaire are given in Figure 1 to Figure 5

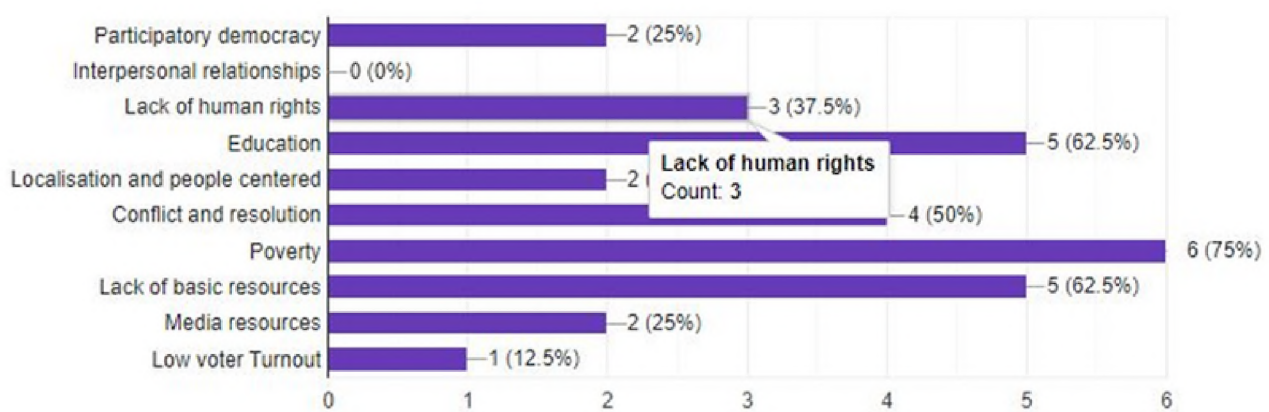


Figure 1. Causes of political illiteracy



Figure 2. Reasons for low rates of political illiteracy in rural areas

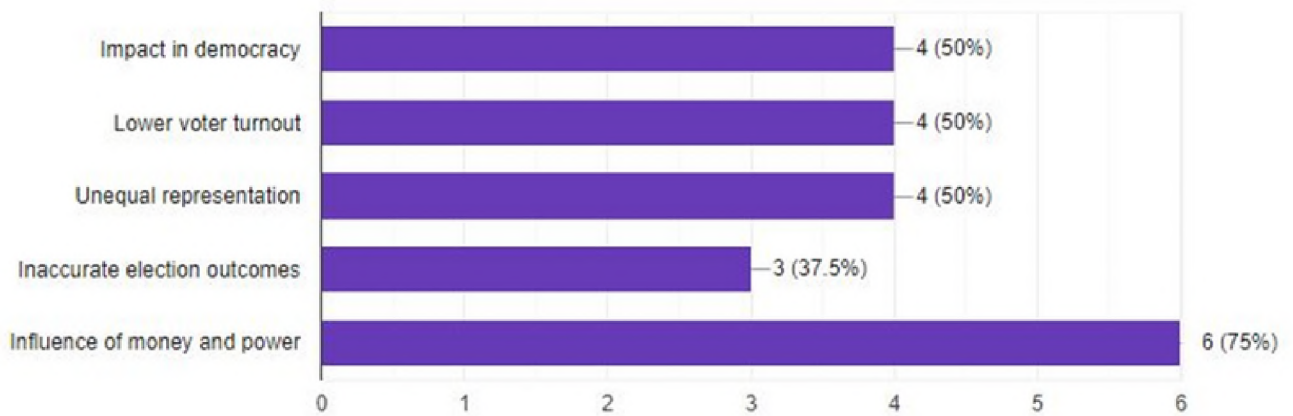


Figure 3. Impact on elections

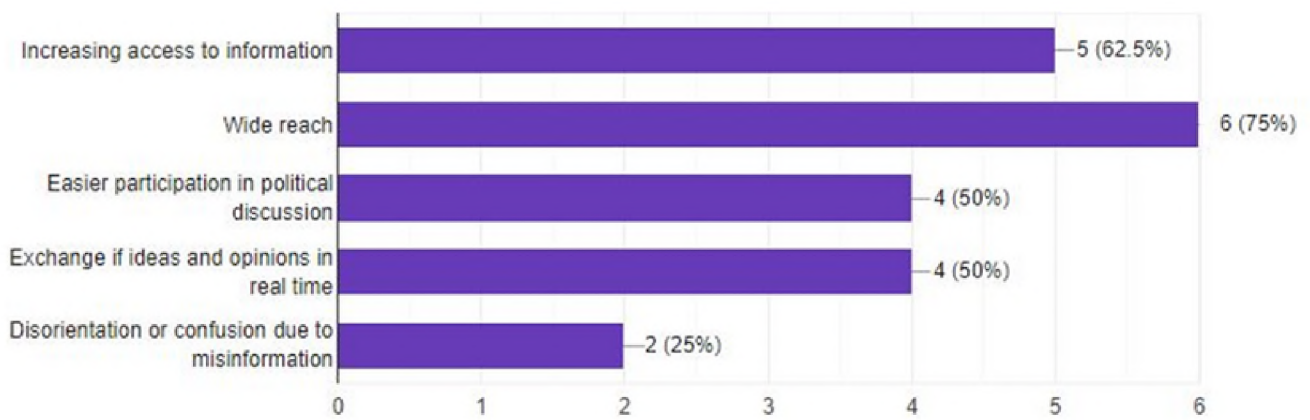


Figure 4. Impact of media

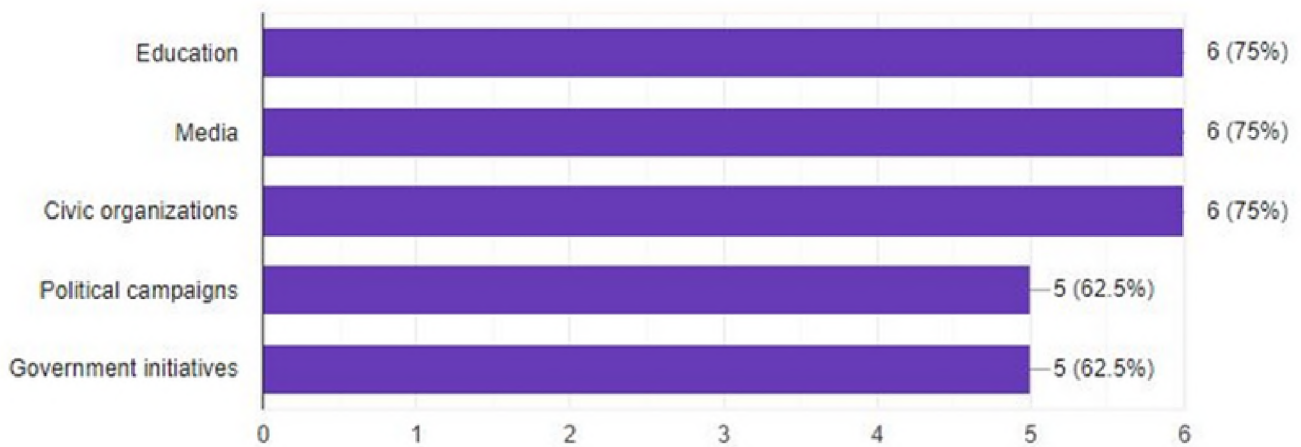


Figure 5. Ways to promote political literacy in India

The following are the responses to the additional questions from the survey:

1. Suggest how to improve political literacy in rural areas of India.
 - Create awareness using digital methods for Digital India.
 - Education and schooling.
 - Promote digital literacy

2. What can the government do to improve political literacy in India?
 - Creating awareness camps for the elderly.
 - Proper introduction of democracy in the curriculum.
 - Recruiting educated people in political parties and public office.
 - Educating the illiterate.
 - Introducing technology to the people so that they can use it effectively and limit the digital divide

3. How can the media promote political literacy in India?
 - Stop conveying false information.
 - Share reliable and knowledgeable information to enhance awareness.
 - Create awareness and motivate people to promote political literacy.

Discussion

The findings of this study add to the existing literature on political illiteracy in India, highlighting the importance of education, poverty and lack of reliable information as significant factors that contribute to political illiteracy. The participants' responses strongly suggest that political illiteracy is a widespread issue in India and its neighboring countries, which can have severe consequences for the democratic process and governance. The results also indicate a significant difference in political literacy rates between urban and rural areas, with urban areas having better access to resources and quality education. The digital divide in rural areas is a significant barrier to promoting political literacy, and efforts should be made to address this issue.

Furthermore, the findings of this study demonstrate that political illiteracy can have severe consequences, such as lower voter turnout and a weakened government due to uninformed voting. These consequences can potentially undermine the integrity of the democratic process and contribute to corruption and misinformation. This study emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to address political illiteracy in India and its neighboring countries. This approach should focus on improving access to quality education and reliable information, promoting objectivity of media, and addressing social and economic inequalities to encourage a more transparent and accountable political culture. Such efforts are critical to the development of a strong and effective democratic system in the region.

Recommendations

In India, promoting political literacy is particularly important, given the size and diversity of the country's population, as well as the challenges faced by its democratic institutions. The following are some ways to promote political literacy in India:

Education

Schools and universities should include courses on political science and civic education in their curriculums. This will help students understand the importance of

participating in the democratic process and equip them with the skills to do so effectively.

Media literacy

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion. Citizens should be taught to critically evaluate media sources and fact-check information before forming opinions.

Civic engagement

Encouraging citizens to engage in civic activities such as attending public meetings, contacting elected representatives, and volunteering for political campaigns can also increase political literacy. This will help citizens understand how the political process works and give them a sense of ownership over it.

Transparency and accountability

The government should try to increase transparency and accountability in its functioning. This can be done through measures such as making information easily accessible to citizens, ensuring that elected representatives are answerable to their constituents, and punishing corruption.

Community Outreach

Community outreach programs that provide information and training on political issues can be an effective way to promote political literacy. This can be done through local organizations, NGOs, and government agencies.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has shed light on promoting political literacy in India. The findings highlight various factors contributing to political illiteracy, including education, poverty, and lack of reliable information. The study also revealed that urban areas tend to be more politically literate than rural areas, and the digital divide is a significant hurdle to advocating for political literacy.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that efforts should be made to promote political literacy through education, media literacy, civic engagement, transparency, and community outreach. These strategies can help empower citizens with the knowledge and

skills to participate effectively in the democratic process and contribute to strengthening India's democratic institutions.

Overall, the study underscores the importance of political literacy in ensuring a vibrant and inclusive democracy. By promoting political literacy, India can ensure that all its citizens are equipped to participate effectively in the democratic process and that the country's democracy remains solid and sustainable.

References

- Chhibber, P. K., & Verma, P. (2017). *Indian Democracy: Origins, Trajectories, and Contestations*. Routledge.
- Iyengar, S. (2015). Political behavior: A review for research and teaching. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 48(1), 80-87.
- Jayachandran, J. (2018). *Media Literacy and Education in India*. Sage Journals.
- Mander, H. (2019). *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto*. Penguin Random House India.
- Nussbaum, M. (2019). *Political Emotions: Why Love Matters for Justice*. Harvard University Press.
- Parihar, H. (2019). Is the Great Indian Election Worth Celebrating with Low Political Literacy? *ED Times*.
- Yadav, Y. (2017). *The Everyday State and Society in Modern India*. C. Hurst & Co. Publishers.

POLITICAL ILLITERACY

Pakistan

**Kinley Bidha, Nida Shams, Partyus, Premiya,
and Muhammad Naqi.**

Abstract

Worldwide, people are unaware of their country's governmental system. It is also due to the ignorance of people which leads to political illiteracy around the world. In this research, we will be seeing the political situation in Pakistan and how the political process of Pakistan is affected. This study made some significant recommendations to the government regarding the need for action to reduce illiteracy rates, particularly in Baluchistan. We will examine the key concerns related to the low education rate, the gender gap, the inadequate infrastructure, and the lack of awareness. In order to eradicate or at least lower the illiteracy rate, the National Literacy Campaign has also started programs in rural parts of Pakistan, such as tehsils and districts. We chose this subject to analyze the problems associated with Pakistan's slow educational growth. Those who lack literacy are far from being informed about new social policies that are being implemented. Nonetheless, Pakistanis are aware that one of the reasons for the nation's underwhelming performance on all fronts is illiteracy. Illiteracy is one of Pakistan's biggest issues. The aforementioned obstacles to educating its citizens will eventually have an impact on the nation in all facets of life. Even if the majority of the populace lacks literacy, democracy can thrive and be a success because it will eventually teach people the skill of citizenship via experience. To improve the operation of democracy in Pakistan, some changes must be made, such as changing the educational system, advancing gender equality, increasing investment in education, eradicating sectarianism and religious fanaticism, etc.

Introduction

A lack of knowledge and comprehension of a nation's political structure, institutions, and procedures is referred to as political illiteracy. Political ignorance in Pakistan is a serious issue that hinders democracy and development in the nation.

Pakistan is a democratic nation, yet many of its people lack even a rudimentary understanding of politics. Because of this lack of education, political leaders and parties

are frequently blindly followed without comprehending their programs and objectives. While voters are frequently persuaded by emotional appeals rather than intellectual reasoning, it also creates a favorable environment for political manipulation and propaganda.

It is additionally challenging to forge a national consensus on topics as a result of the fragmentation of political discourse brought on by Pakistan's diverse cultural and linguistic terrain. Political ignorance in Pakistan has serious repercussions. It has caused a lack of confidence in the political process, which has contributed to low voter turnout and a frail civil society. The checks and balances on government power have been further eroded by the absence of a strong civil society, making it simpler for leaders to pursue their interests.

Pakistan first came on the international map in 1947 amid a flurry of progressive optimism and visions of a glorious future. Only 17.9% of the workforce in this fledgling state is skilled, according to a 1951 survey. According to the report, there are 18.64 million workers that are not skilled.

The number of skilled workers was anticipated to rise soon. Yet this didn't happen; instead, the number of unskilled workers increased more than expected. According to estimates, there were more than 50 million untrained Pakistanis in 1998, and that figure has been rising ever since. The rise in the number of unskilled workers suggests that Pakistan's government was unable to provide them with the education and training they needed to become contributing members of society.

Background

One of the nations with a very low rate of literacy is Pakistan. Several factors contribute to the nation's low literacy rate, including individual disabilities, personal issues, enduring feudalism, political corruption, a weakened economy, and corruption in the Department of Education. The weak teaching-learning process is another important factor, and without strengthening this process, it will be impossible to raise the nation's

literacy rates. Pakistan's education system has experienced numerous crises since gaining independence from Britain and separation from India in 1947, leaving it with no time to better itself in practice. Even though there are various political parties in power, the education system is.

As a result of Pakistan's divided educational system, youth are left in a state of disarray and confusion that ranges from liberal cosmopolitanism to religious fanaticism. To increase political engagement, we need to reevaluate the socio-political dynamics. Young Pakistanis are becoming disengaged and disillusioned from politics. As a result, there is little interest in politics and little participation and knowledge of politics. Understanding that knowledge and interests are directly correlated in all we do is the first step in developing political literacy.

Additionally, the government should dispatch its instructors and students to other nations where religious tolerance is practiced so that they can observe.

Consensus estimates from 2012 put Pakistan's literacy rate at 56%, which includes males and females from both rural and urban areas. A literacy rate of 56% is extremely low; this means that almost half of the population is illiterate and can only make a very small contribution to economic progress, which is largely facilitated by education. Although having a fairly low average literacy rate, there are certain exceptional locations, such as Lahore, Islamabad, and Karachi, where the percentage is very high. Over 75% of people in these cities are literate, significantly more than in tribal areas where getting a modern education is frowned upon because of religious fundamentalism.

In Pakistan, girls are not permitted to attend school and the literacy rate in certain places can be as low as 9%. Males alone accomplish this and find employment thanks to their schooling. The main driver of a nation's economic growth and the development of its national economy is education. Hence, it is the duty of both the government and the people of Pakistan to ensure that their children receive an education to increase the literacy rate and, ultimately, improve the situation and status of the nation.

Antithesis

This subject was chosen to find the problems associated with political ignorance in Pakistan. The authors will be investigating the key problems linked to the low education rate. Researchers think about the key contributing factor to the problems on political illiteracy. Our main goal is to highlight the factors that are acting as a passive and deterrent force against the establishment of a strong political system that could potentially attract more people to solve this issue.

Methodology

The authors will employ a mixed-method research approach for their work, which combines qualitative and quantitative techniques. They will strive to determine what steps the government and other organizations should take to eliminate those issues through information collecting and inspection. Researchers will also get in touch with people who were never given the chance to learn and those who didn't want to study. Additionally, they shall also hear about those who have knowledge's point of view and will also inquire about the opinions of the professors and regular residents.

Literature Review

The persistent problem of political illiteracy in Pakistan has major repercussions for the stability and advancement of its political system. An overview of the academic research on this subject is intended to be provided in the literature review that follows.

Pakistan's low level of education is put to the test when compared to developing countries. Pakistan has one of the lowest rates of education in the OIC, despite having one of the lowest illiteracy rates in the region. To understand why this is, we accept that the following are the main causes:

- Population Growth
- Gender inequality
- Lack of awareness

- Economic factors
- High Illiteracy rate

Results and Findings

We looked into political illiteracy in Pakistan from a range of viewpoints, including those of residents, teachers, and students. The important conclusions from these various perspectives are listed below.

Teacher Perspective

According to teachers, a lack of access to high-quality education, a limited comprehension of democratic values, and a lack of civic involvement are the root causes of political illiteracy in Pakistan. Moreover, political ignorance contributes to a political culture of passivity and a weak civil society.

Gender Perspective

Studies have shown that political illiteracy in Pakistan is gendered. The lack of political resources and access to education are two major obstacles that women in particular confront when trying to participate in politics. Because of this, there is a noticeable gender disparity in political literacy, with women being less politically literate than men.

Uneducated individuals' perspective

Many people in Pakistan lack formal education, and their views on politics are shaped by factors such as religion, culture, and family. Gender is also one of the factors that lead to people's lack of education.

Educated individuals' perspective

Educated individuals may have a higher level of political literacy, but they may still face challenges in navigating the complex political landscape of Pakistan. Many are ignorant of what is going on around them.

Since there is a dearth of information and statistics on political illiteracy in Pakistan, various studies and surveys have been carried out to shed light on the scope of the problem. The literacy rate in Pakistan is 60%, according to the Pakistan Social and Living Standards Measurement Study (PSLM) 2019–2020, with significant variance across provinces and genders. Balochistan has the lowest literacy rate at 45% while Islamabad has the highest at 86%. With 48% versus 71%, respectively, the literacy rate for women is much lower than that for men.

42% of respondents to a survey by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) in 2018 were unable to name the Pakistani Prime Minister at the moment, while 64% were unable to name any member of parliament from their district. Just 17% of respondents to the same survey had a thorough understanding of the political system and how it functions.

Conclusion

It is clear from a detailed review of Pakistan's political illiteracy that the political system and governance of the nation are significantly impacted by this problem. Citizens' lack of awareness and comprehension of fundamental political ideas has caused them to become disengaged from the democratic process and develop authoritarian tendencies.

Political ignorance has serious repercussions since it undermines democracy, encourages the election of dishonest and dishonest leaders, and prevents the growth of a politically active and knowledgeable populace. Government, civil society, the media, and political parties must work together in a concerted effort to raise political education and awareness among the populace. In conclusion, Pakistan's political illiteracy is a major issue that needs to be addressed right away. The government must place a high priority on education and fund programs that increase public understanding of politics. As a result, the democratic process will be strengthened, qualified leaders will be elected, and a politically active and informed society will be created.

References

- Akmal, S. (September 17, 2017). is our youth politically illiterate? International The News.
- Mustfa Ghulam, N. M. (2020, June). The Dynamic Relationship between Democracy and Education in Pakistan.
- Nauman, K. A. (2020). Illiteracy in Pakistan . Pakistan Review of Social sciences .
- Rehman Abdul, J. L. (2015, November). The Province-wise Literacy rate in Pakistan and its Impact on the Economy. Volume, issue 3, pp. 140-144.

POLITICAL ILLITERACY

Nepal

**Sneha Adhikari, Sehba Aziz, Syed Muhammad
Haroon Mumtaz, Luthfi Pasha, and Abhiman
Bikram Pajiyar.**

Abstract

This research paper analyzes the issue of political illiteracy in Nepal. Political literacy in Nepal has become a major problem in rural areas due to a lack of education and the limitation of information. And also, political illiteracy refers to the lack of understanding of the political system as well as the responsibilities of citizens towards the country. The main goal of this research is to depict, why political literacy is needed in Nepal and how to minimize political illiteracy in Nepal. Secondary data-gathering methods such as websites, articles, et cetera have been used to explain the concepts.

Introduction

Nepal is a democratic republic with a multi-party system. Even though many projects were in action to improve political literacy, it remains low in Nepal. Political literacy refers to the knowledge and understanding that an individual or group of individuals have towards the political system of a country. Many citizens don't understand their responsibilities and how the government functions. One of the major reasons for political illiteracy is the country's history of political instability. Due to the changes in government have led many citizens to lose trust in the government. Education is also a primary factor that could improve political understanding.

As mentioned before the main objective of this research is to analyze why there is low political literacy and why political understanding is needed. Improving the political understanding in Nepal is essential for long-term growth and development. To do that a concerted effort from the government is needed government and the citizens. Implementing awareness programs to people can improve the different mindsets of people towards the proper path. Despite these efforts, there are still challenges to improving political literacy in Nepal, including limited access to education and information, low levels of political trust and accountability, and a lack of effective mechanisms for citizen participation and engagement in decision-making processes.

Causes Of Political Illiteracy

Political illiteracy in Nepal can influence in various forms such as inadequate education, poverty, social inequality and due lack of transparency in the political system. Nepal's education system has traditionally focused on rote learning rather than critical thinking, which has contributed to a lack of awareness and engagement in political issues. Additionally, poverty and social inequality have limited access to education and civic participation for many Nepalese citizens.

1. Political instability and corruption: Nepal has experienced significant political instability in recent years, with frequent changes in government and a history of corruption among political leaders. This can contribute to political illiteracy by eroding trust in political institutions and discouraging citizens from engaging in the political process (Karki & Shrestha, 2017).
2. Lack of civic education: Civic education is not widely taught in Nepal, and many citizens have limited knowledge about the political system and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. This can contribute to political illiteracy by making it difficult for citizens to engage in political processes or hold their elected officials accountable (Sharma, 2015).
3. Limited media freedom: While Nepal has made progress in recent years in terms of press freedom, there are still concerns about government censorship and restrictions on the media. This can contribute to political illiteracy by limiting access to diverse perspectives and information about political issues (Freedom House, 2021).
4. Lack of civic education: Civic education is not widely taught in Nepal, and many citizens have limited knowledge about the political system and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. This can contribute to political illiteracy by making it difficult for citizens to engage in political processes or hold their elected officials accountable (Sharma, 2015).

Result Of Political Illiteracy

The consequences of political illiteracy in Nepal have significant impacts on the country's governance and development. Some of the consequences of political illiteracy in Nepal include a lack of participation in the democratic process, social inequality, inability to address important societal issues, etc. Furthermore, political illiteracy can lead to a lack of trust in democratic institutions and a culture of apathy and disengagement among the populace. It is important for individuals to educate themselves about the political system and to participate in the democratic process to help, to build a more equitable and prosperous society.

Discussion

The government can take to improve civic education in schools and provide opportunities for political participation and engagement such as communities or youth groups. Addressing political illiteracy in Nepal requires a multi-faceted approach that involves education and institutional reforms. Additionally, transparency and accountability in the political system can be increased through measures such as anti-corruption policies and increased access to information. Finally, civil society and media organizations can play an important role in promoting political literacy through information campaigns, public forums, etc.

Conclusion

In conclusion, political illiteracy can have significant negative consequences in Nepal. When people do not understand the political system, they may make decisions that are not in their best interest, leading to corruption, inequality and other issues. Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort from the government, civil society, and the media to promote political education, civic engagement, and institutional reform.

Ultimately, political illiteracy is a challenge that requires a multifaceted solution, involving the government, civil society, and citizens themselves. With sustained effort and commitment, we can work towards a more politically literate and engaged country, where every citizen has the knowledge and skills needed to participate fully in the democratic process and help to shape the future of their country.

References

- Freedom House. (2021). Nepal. Retrieved from <https://freedomhouse.org/country/nepal/freedom-world/2021>
- Karki, J., & Shrestha, N. (2017). The challenge of corruption and democracy in Nepal. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*.(PDF)
- Sharma, M. R. (2015).Challenges to democracy and citizenship education in Nepal. *International Journal of Education and Development using Information and Communication Technology*



**POLITICAL
ILLITERACY**

In

Sri Lanka

**Theja Amarasiri, Senali Joseph, Fakhra Bano,
Sahibzada Ahmad, and Mike Royar.**

Abstract

Political consciousness or a politically conscious citizenry and a politically literate citizenry are two different things. One can be politically literate, and therefore it is very likely that a politically literate person will also be politically conscious and have a perspective in line with the ideals and benchmarks of political ideals. He will be able to make sense of a political process” - Dr. Mahim Mendis

Introduction

What is Political Literacy?

When a member of society is considered to possess the necessary capacity and capability to contribute and participate in a nation's system of governance (as a participant of governance or simply as a member of civil society) in a meaningful manner, s/he can be considered a politically literate person. In this context, the term ‘political literacy’ can be interpreted as the complete understanding of a system of governance, alongside the skills to evaluate and analyze certain situations from diverse points of view.

What is Political Illiteracy?

When the above-mentioned values in a ‘politically literate’ individual are absent and that individual fails to present a considerable contribution to a nation's system of governance (even as a citizen), s/he can be considered as a ‘politically illiterate’ citizen.

STATUS QUO ANALYSIS

How does political illiteracy affect the status-quo?

Political illiteracy can be considered a main contributor to many failed democracies. Within a nation's system of governance, without the meaningful contribution of its citizens, several instances of malpractice within governance due to the lack of a proper checks and balance system, improper representation, and even the result of a complete dictatorship are considered possibilities. These mainly occur due to a society’s inability to

enact its values of popular sovereignty within the administration system. With this understanding in mind, the presence of political illiteracy within a nation can be analyzed as significant cancer within a democratic system, which in turn becomes a definite cause of its inevitable collapse.

Why is political illiteracy present?

There are several contributors to a nation's political illiteracy level, some of which will be listed below but will be explored in more detail further within this research paper,

Poverty. This is a root cause of many issues of political illiteracy, especially within the South Asian Region. Many families that cannot afford reasonable living standards are relatively not affiliated with a decent education, which in turn results in their lack of awareness within their nations' respective political spectrum, which is also passed down by generations and created as the norm.

Lack of proper educational facilities/unemployment. With the rising norm of obtaining a decent living standard by becoming an employed individual as the only objective within one's schooling career, the lack of basic political and critical knowledge for the younger generations has become yet another critical issue within societies that results in a rise of political illiteracy.



Youth Unemployment Rate (1991 - 2023)

The above graph denotes the percentage of total labor force ages while the horizontal axis denotes the years. Based on the graph there is a fluctuation in the youth unemployment rate. In recent years, the unemployment rate has slightly increased while there was a significant drop down in the rate during the year of 1995 and then 2005.

Historical/modern relevance

As a post-colonial state, Sri Lanka was subjected to many different colonial reforms which mostly favored the establishment and advancement of political elitism (The presence of limited franchise within our voting system) and cultural representation and segregation. As Sri Lanka was introduced to noticeable exposure in both legislative and executive matters relatively late into its political history, not only were local leaders politically illiterate themselves, but the earlier established trend of political elitism continued. The universal franchise granted to us by the British did not result as a remedy, as proper forms of national administration and public intervention did not emerge, even during recent times which can be seen within the imbalanced power structure within our government alongside constant constitutional amendments, in which one of the most democratic changes to the constitution (17th amendment) was not even practically implemented. Such political tragedies can be connected to the emergence of a minority of politically affiliated individuals that clash for power, alongside the majority that does not view politics as an essential sector of their life, let alone possess a foundational understanding of its affairs.

Data Collection & Methodology

Though Political literacy cannot be measured directly if people understand basic political concepts and party differences we consider them as politically literate. (Cassel.A.,Celia.C.,1997) The importance of political literacy is to create rationalized citizens and an ideal democratic system in a country. From the past research conducted, it has been proven that it is crucial to educate an individual on political events not just with the terms but also internalize those concepts.

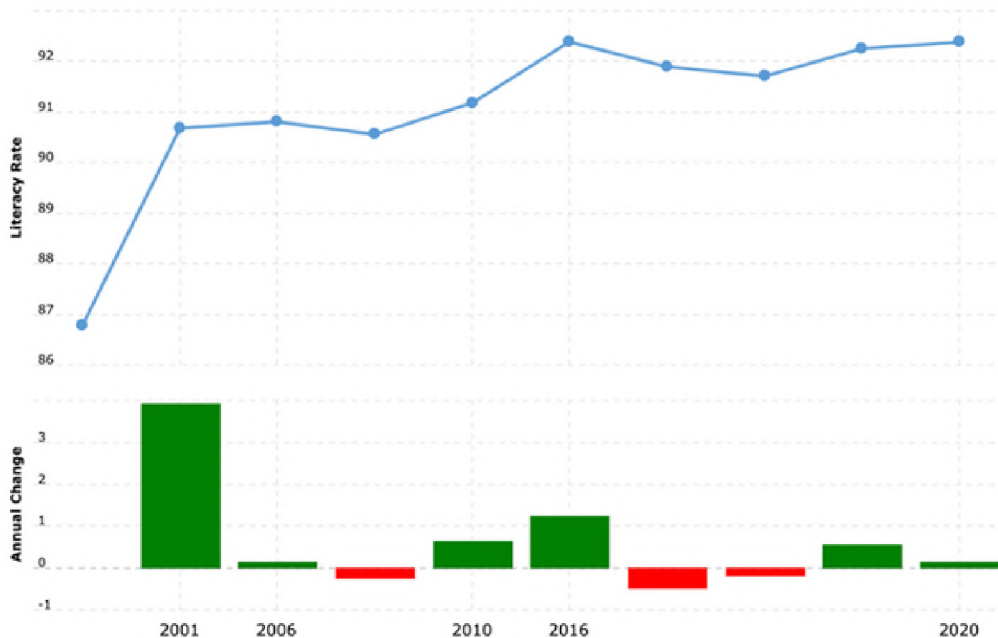
Even though the main data collection was by a secondary method which is referring to past research, and articles on related topics. As a primary data collecting tool, an interview and mini survey has been conducted with 10 participants to gain their opinion about the state of political literacy in Sri Lanka. The link of the survey has been circulated among the peer group and data has been collected through Google Forms which contains questions that assesses one's perspective on the impact of the education system, media, and current political situation in relation to the political literacy of the Sri Lankans. Similarly, An advanced survey was conducted with 5 professional experts to get insight from their points of points and then, based on the results obtained from the survey, graphs and pie charts were made for data analysis.

The survey questionnaire contains 8 questions that address the issues in the Sri Lankan education system, political knowledge of the citizens, and how false information is presented in the media in relation to political illiteracy. In addition, the participants were also asked to provide their suggestions in order to improve political literacy in Sri Lanka.

The only difference between the advanced survey conducted with the professionals compared to the normal one is the key terms, the way questions are coined and the in-depth in-depths of the responses.

Current State

According to UNESCO, Sri Lanka's literacy rate is among the best in South Asia. It is estimated that 92.38% of Sri Lankans can read and write by the year 2020, with an increase of 0.13% from 2019, making it one of the most literate countries in South Asia.



Sri Lanka's Literacy Rate (1981 - 2022)

The above graph denotes the annual change in the literacy rate. The horizontal axis denotes the years while the vertical axis denotes the literacy rate. Based on the graph the literacy rate was higher in 2001 while in 2020 there is only a slight increase in the literacy rate.

But surprisingly enough when it comes to Sri Lanka's Financial Literacy, it is only 35%, Although this is still the highest in South Asia, it stands to be the largest gap between Print Literacy and Financial Literacy in the region.

Sri Lanka is already a third world country with intense poverty, with the ongoing economic downturn Sri Lankans are going through even more severe poverty in their day-to-day life. In such a backdrop, It is crucial that Sri Lankans start to act more towards the Political Landscape so that their fundamental rights are fulfilled accordingly.

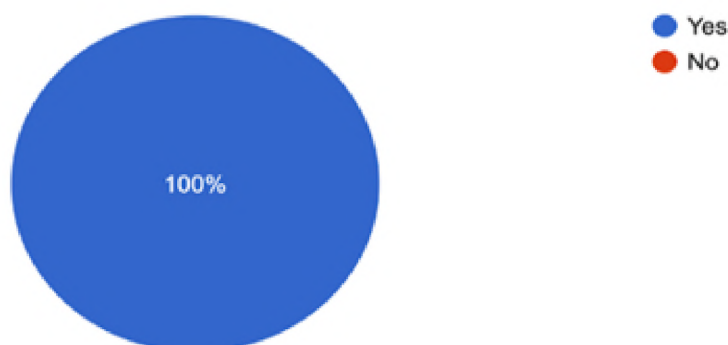
But for that, Sri Lankans need to be educate d not only in terms of reading and

writing, but also in terms Political Literacy, Financial Literacy, Fundamental Rights, Decision Making etc.

The reply we got through our survey justifies this.

i) Do you believe that a majority of Sri Lankans lack basic political knowledge?

8 responses



Source: Our survey on Political Illiteracy

The above chart denotes the percentage of response to a question we asked in the survey we conducted. The question was “Do you believe Sri Lankans are Politically Illiterate?”.

Based on the graph we can see that there is a significant belief that Sri Lankans are Politically Illiterate.

Issues

What are the issues pertaining to Political Literacy or in other words Political Illiteracy among the citizens of Sri Lanka?

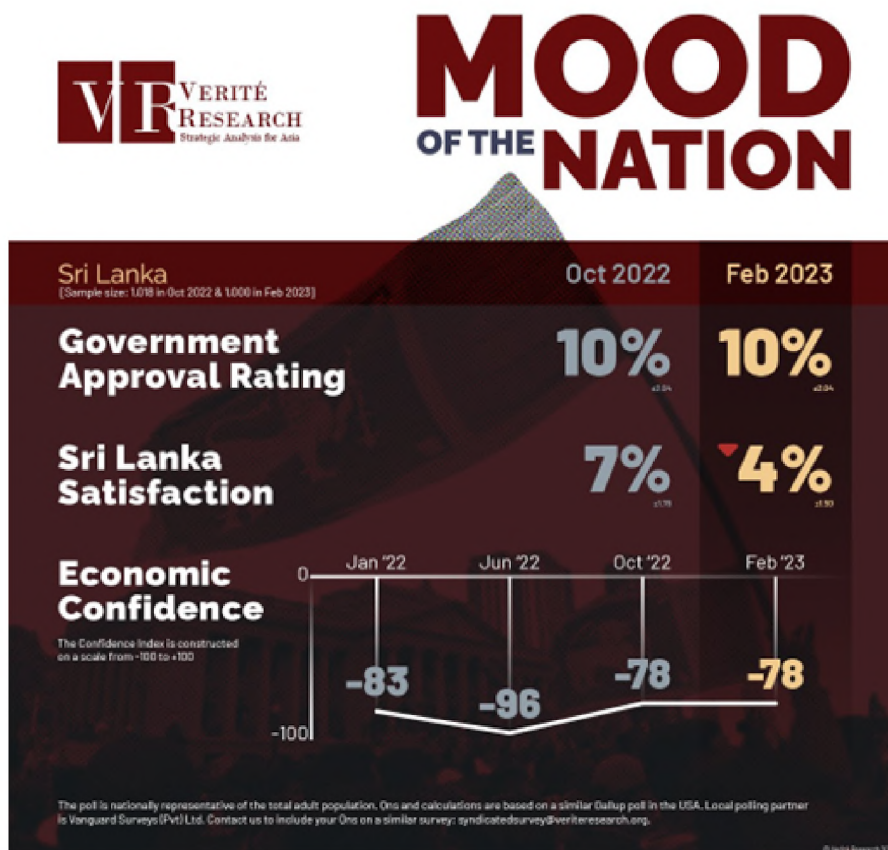
Instability of the political landscape

One such reason is the prevailing instability of the Political Landscape. A political landscape involves state actors and non-state actors.

Sri Lanka's state actors have been running the country ever since they attained dominion status in 1948. Since then the country has taken a rollercoaster-like trajectory which has led to instability.

The malpractices of the state actors i.e. bureaucrats and state representatives are rooted at all levels which means that the political landscape itself is corrupted fully, so there is little to no space for development.

State representatives have already been in many infamous circumstances which has led to the public to not care much about politics anymore. Specifically, there was a time in Sri Lanka, where there were two active prime ministers back in 2019. Some more examples can be how the President of Sri Lanka says that the election is not a legal procedure whereas the election commission is of contrasting opinions.



Source: Verité Research

The above graph denotes the government approval rating, Sri Lanka satisfaction, economic confidence while the horizontal axis denotes the months of Jan '22, Jun '22, Oct '22 & Feb '23. Based on the graph there is a fluctuation in approval rating, Sri Lanka satisfaction, economic confidence in recent months.

Executive Presidency is also another factor which makes the Political Landscape powerful over the citizens of the country where the President has immense power over its

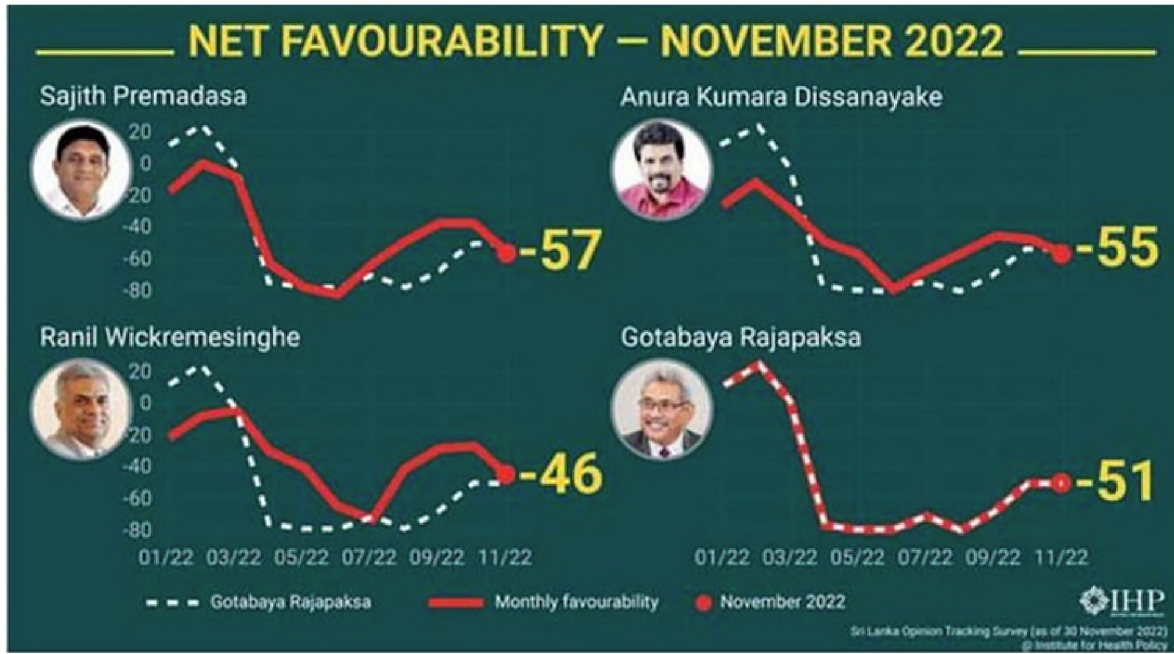
citizens. With this much power under the president, it makes no difference to an authoritarian government, which makes the public less interested in politics.

But what people usually did until now, when it comes to elections, is just like in many other countries they vote for one party, and never for the other. They can also be considered as each party's "voter base". By which analysts can guarantee a lump of votes even before the election results are out.

"The voting is based on various affiliations including family tradition and for benefits, and this creates a block vote of a certain percentage for key/feudal parties. Also, there are ethnicity/religion driven political parties. There are very limited assessments on political ideologies and blueprints that influence voters. The current response to the financial/political crisis and the manner of responding reflects the absence of sound political understanding including complex realities. The lack of literacy is also demonstrated in the absence of a questioning culture. The public has not as a practice demanded accountability, transparency from their representatives, have not taken responsibility for the choices they make at the electoral level, such as wanting assets disclosures and/or criminal antecedents. Habitual voting has not been replaced by enlightened voting based on a conscious assessment of political requirements of the broader electorate, and often been influenced by personal gain or traditional choices. The public has hardly attempted to assess party policies, their economic and social focus when making electoral choices." a senior political commentator and lawyer said.

But the aforementioned issue has slightly gone to a good position or a position which benefits the citizens or in other words there is a high probability that future representatives will have accountability & transparency in their to-do list at least to survive in the political

landscape if not they will be ousted like seen in the recently held “Aragalaya” or the recent civil unrest where the President was ousted for not fulfilling the public’s fundamental rights. As you can see below, the net favorability of each candidate has been going down, which means either the public is starting to realize the power they hold.



Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey 2022

The above graph denotes the net favorability of the leaders of the 4 major parties in Sri Lanka. Based on the graph there is a fluctuation in net favorability of the leaders of the 4 major parties in recent months. Which goes to say that the people are getting engaged in Politics in a more moral approach. (Source: Institute for Health Policy Sri Lanka Opinion Tracker Survey).

Alongside several instances of political tragedies within Sri Lanka’s political spectrum as mentioned above, this acts as a significant contributor to the advancement of a politically illiterate society. This fact is mainly due to the establishment of a blurred political and democratic spectrum that does not function according to its constitution (in certain instances) and its effect on society to not only obtain a false and improper understanding of politics but also warp a nation’s administration to create a failed democracy alongside a politically illiterate civil society.

Post-war turmoil

To remain in power, the only successful method used by the representatives when contesting in an election was and still is an ethnicity/religion-driven politics.

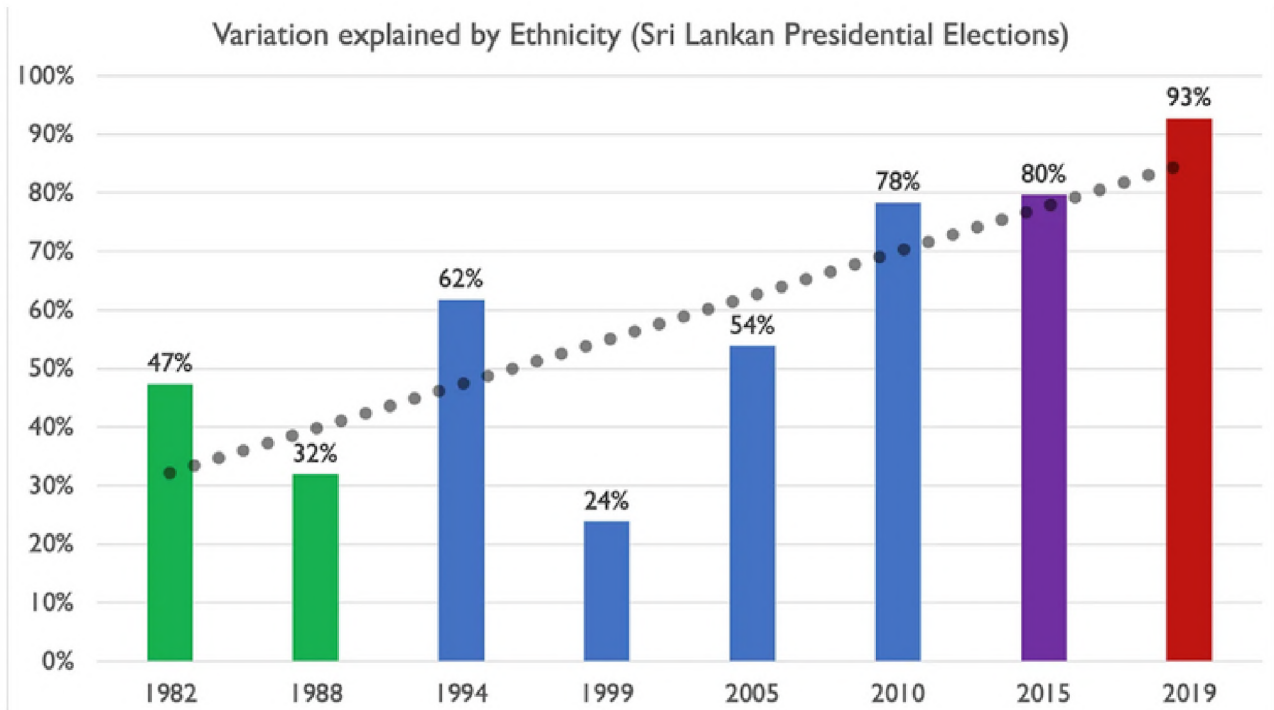
The reason behind the start of this unfortunate 30-year-long Civil war, was for the same issue, it started as a response against prejudiced and unjust behavior towards the minority by the majority-dominated Sri Lankan government.

Due to the 30 year long Civil war the nation had to endure a turmoil, which eventually led to racism trending up, which could be observed in election campaigns and in media reports specifying one's race or religion when reporting.



The above post denotes the ethnicity/religion based reports from the media in Sri Lanka. Based on that we can say that the media is not regulated properly in terms of media ethics. (Source: Veritè Research).

While ethnicity/religion driven politics seems to have been a strong predictor of voting patterns ever since Sri Lankans got the right to vote, it increased from “very significant” to “completely dominant”.



The above graph denotes the variation explained by ethnicity while the horizontal axis denotes some of the years from 1982 - 2019. Based on the graph there is a steep increase in racism or variation by ethnicity since 1982. (Source: Have we gotten more “Racist”? - Nuwan I. Seneratne).

The major issue seen here is the voter’s inability to identify this factor as one that is being used for political advantage. Which brings us to the lack of knowledge with regards to voter’s fundamental rights.

Lack of education

Sri Lankans lack knowledge of their fundamental rights. There are 6 active sections inclusive of subsections under Fundamental Rights within the Sri Lankan constitution. Most Sri Lankans aren’t aware of it. That's because of the current education system in Sri Lanka.

“It's very clear that our formal education process from primary to secondary to the tertiary level, we do not clearly have a formal curriculum aimed at political literacy and for that matter on education relating to democracy.” - Dr. Mahim Mendis

When comparing Sri Lanka to Western countries like the United States of America, the education system has fallen far behind, specifically because they provide political insights on the government and the country's history at their secondary and tertiary level education as a requirement. From the time of the American Independent struggle, the evolutionary process of development of democracy and what a Democratic way of life entails has been formally a matter for the education process in America, but not in Sri Lanka.

The level of education or literacy relating to politics is so evident in Sri Lanka due to the nature of the candidates who are being nominated to act as public representatives by the people's mandate.

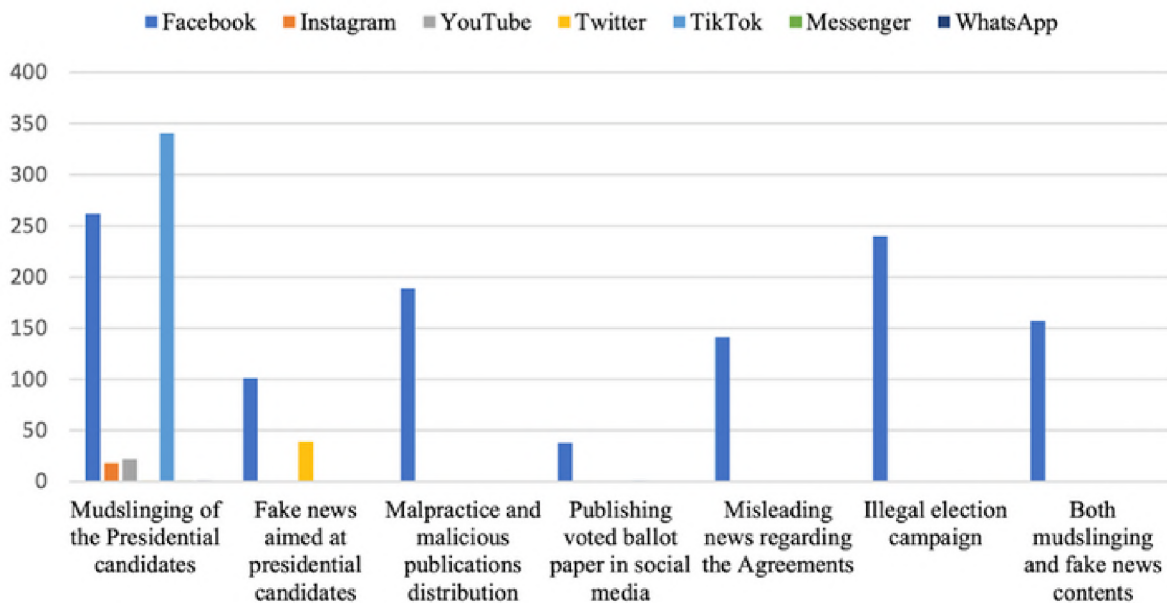
If we take a scenario that a Politically Literate person with Political Consciences contests for election, he/she might not get the majority despite the level of literacy or knowledge, whereas an actor or a person who is famous contests for Election, he/she will get the majority, despite the candidate being unfit to become a public representative. This is where Media comes into play.

Media's role in political literacy

“Media has played both a positive and negative role. Media in its beneficial role has promoted accountability and transparency through accountability/investigative journalism. There still is some form of journalism that promotes and calls for accountability and the fixing of Sri Lanka's governance crisis. On the other hand, media including social media which is extremely influential, has shown political leanings, promoting party agendas. Part of the dilemma is the media ownership here, with political backers owning or controlling many key media organizations. They do not want to promote political literacy or demand governance as they use the mainstream media to serve only as mouthpieces of the political interests they serve at the time. Social media,

hugely influential though, too have often served direct or indirect political agendas. They also represent trends in the quicksand of national politics and hence, are not independent and cater to their own political biases and audiences reflecting the same political leanings.” - a senior political commentator and lawyer said.

During the last election held in 2019, the media's (including social media's) role in promoting candidates and providing authentic and fake news to support the decision that the people had to take was huge.



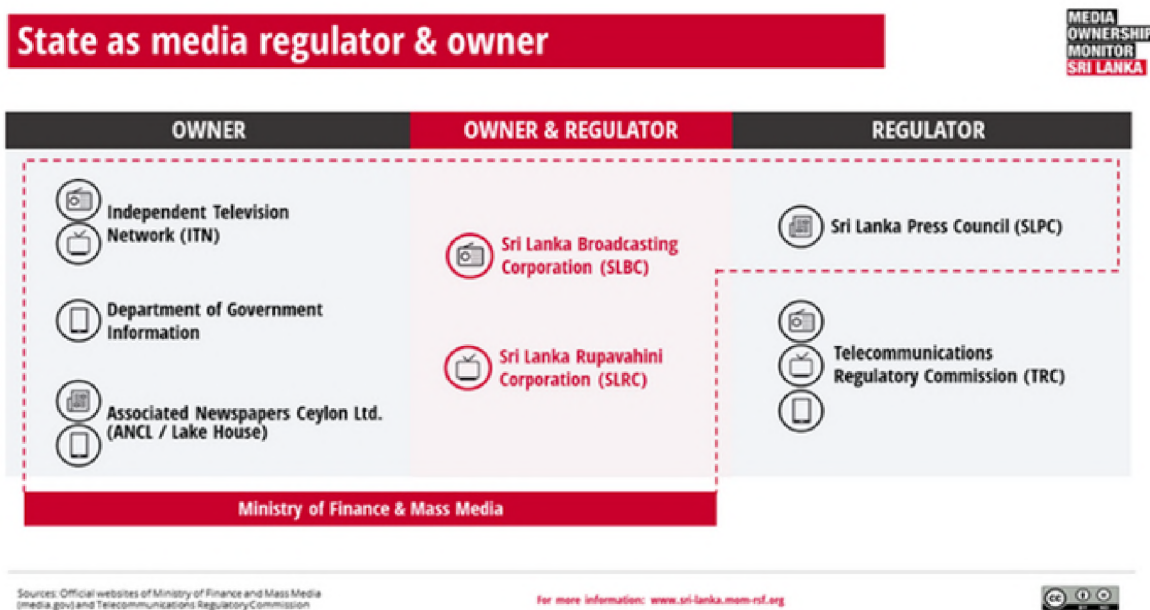
Misuse of Social Media for the 2019 presidential election

The above graph denotes ITSSL's Social Media Monitoring Report on Misuse of Social Media for the 2019 presidential election while the horizontal axis denotes the months of Jan '22, Jun '22, Oct '22 & Feb '23. Based on the graph there is a Misuse of Social Media for the 2019 presidential election. [Source: ITSSL Social Media Monitoring Report (2019)].

“Misinformation plays a significant role in coloring opinions of all kinds, including politics. This is easy because misinformation targets people's own confirmation biases and serves as an echo chamber. In Sri Lanka, as well as in most other authoritarian regimes, disinformation and propaganda is driven politically. The largest disinformation campaigns in most such countries are driven by the state itself, much more than interest groups.” - a

senior political commentator and lawyer said. But wasn't the media regulated? Wait, that can never happen. Why?

Because when it comes to the Sri Lankan media landscape, the state acts as both the regulatory body and the major owner of the media outlets, which means that it is a player in the game as well as a referee and a rule-maker. In a deeper context, the state runs at least 30 media outlets; the state remains the major player across print, television, radio and online media.



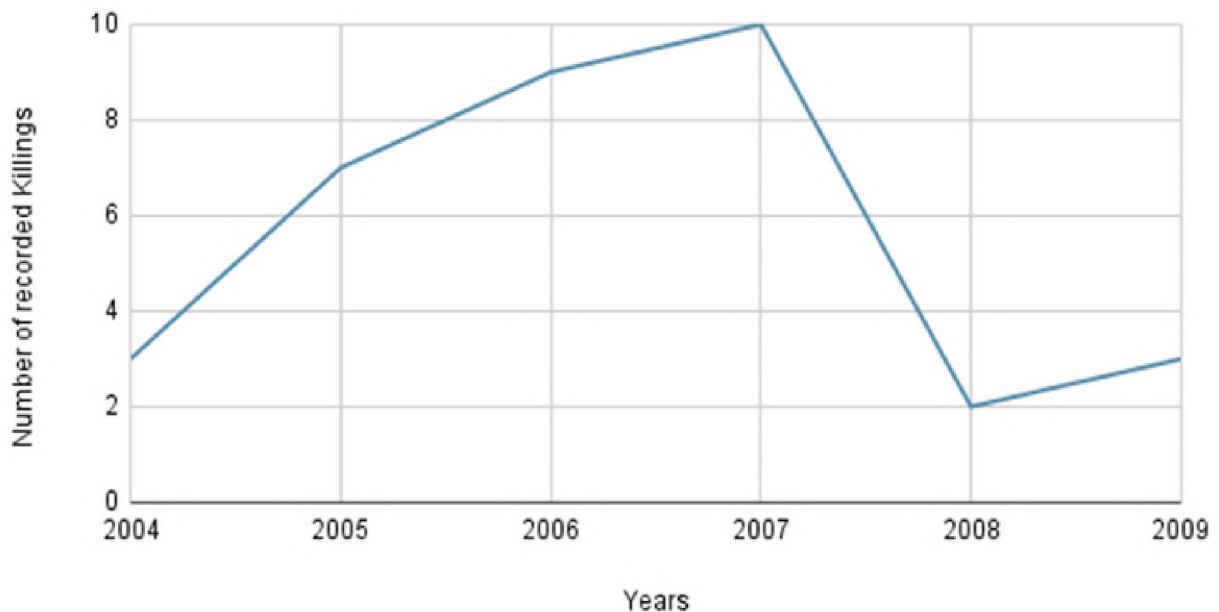
The above post denotes the Media Ownership in Sri Lanka. Based on the post we can say that the monopoly when it comes to media is the state. (Source: Media Ownership Monitor Sri Lanka).

On the other side of the coin, due to the manner in which the country has been led for decades in terms of media and reporting, there is a threat to those who produce politically literate reports.

Journalists who produce reports which benefit the public or develop their questioning culture towards the government's malpractices may face severe consequences such as being killed or abducted.

Recorded number of Killings of Journalists and Media Workers

2004–2009



The above graph denotes the recorded number of killings of journalists and media workers in Sri Lanka while the horizontal axis denotes the years from 2004 - 2009. Based on the graph we can say that the recorded number of journalists and media workers was at a high record. (Source: Journalists Killed & Missing in Sri Lanka - Colombo Telegraph).

Survey Observation

According to the responses to the survey, the majority of the participants believe that Sri Lankans lack political knowledge. It is also remarkable that the issues that are discussed above also have been implied in the responses as a cause for political illiteracy in the country. For instance, many responses strongly criticize the education system for not providing enough practical knowledge of political concepts which is a possible flaw in the system. The most interesting part of conducting this mini-research is that most of the participants could not understand some questions and responded in a confused manner and left some questions unanswered. Such a scenario clearly shows that even these participants have similar limitations of political knowledge, hence, the political illiteracy of

these participants itself is questionably low. Therefore, as firsthand evidence, this research concludes that unfortunately, it is certain that despite how knowledgeable one claims to be, most Sri Lankans are politically illiterate.

Solutions

Since the research has found the current state of political literacy among Lankans and the barriers to it, the following suggestions are made as solutions to overcome those burdens in the country.

Education

Establishing a foundational stepping stone for a society with a higher level of political literacy compared to the status quo would be a major contribution to Sri Lanka's political state in a positive aspect. With this in mind, possible amendments to Sri Lanka's present education system were analyzed with the aid.

With the present norm of education, being a stepping stone exclusively for employment employment-orientated major issue within a nation's political literacy. Noting that Sri Lanka's education system is no stranger to such circumstances, it is vital for such a belief to be abolished within the school curriculum, while also providing the necessary foundation for the youth to develop critical analysis and thinking skills so that they can fulfil their role of an active member of society that aids the political spectrum.

Alongside abolishing an employment-oriented education for the youth and focusing on their practical skill outside of being an employed citizen, it is vital to create a curriculum that caters to their political knowledge and understanding which can be used to apply their skills in situational analysis.

With regard to political knowledge and practical understanding and analysis skills, one aspect within an individual would be meaningless without the other in improving a citizen's political literacy. Thus, it is essential to establish an educational base for the youth that will cater to both aspects mentioned earlier.

When discussing the institutes and individuals in charge of providing this education to the youth of Sri Lanka, we believe that the educators in charge of the youth possess a significantly impactful role in their lives, as they have the opportunity to influence their political beliefs and understanding of a nation's political structure.

Making sure that such educators possess a relatively acceptable political understanding through a special orientation procedure (Which will be limited to political awareness, which includes but is not limited to understanding a nation's constitution. Such special procedures will not influence their political beliefs or views) and prepare them for their involvement with the youth.

Political instability

It is important to note that with political instability present within a nation's political framework, it becomes a greater challenge for the average citizen to obtain a complete understanding of their political status quo. With this process in mind, we believe that discussing a method of stabilizing Sri Lanka's politics and administrative method is essential to create an environment that is suitable for advancing a highly politically literate society.

Establishing a proper system of separation of powers within the government while not leaving room for one branch to intervene with another to a greater extent that is not democratically plausible would influence the development of a more democratic system of governance. It should be noted that a relationship of responsibility and cooperation between the main branches of the government is essential for a governing body to thrive. However, when such interventions reach an extent that causes a disruption within the administrative process, political instability becomes a highly probable outcome.

With the introduction of the executive presidency as a novel feature in the 1978 republican constitution, the concept of separation of power faced a major deterioration within Sri Lanka's government. With a president that could intervene in legislative discussions and even provide for a rejected bill to be passed via a referendum if it is in their interest. Thus, the executive presidency can be identified as an extremely power-orientated

body that also undermines the legislative supremacy of the parliament, alongside a very narrow margin of accountability.

Preparing a feasible system of checks and balances for all levels of hierarchy is yet another important issue within Sri Lanka's political stability. This issue will be mainly focused on the executive presidency of Sri Lanka. Alongside a relatively infeasible and elongated impeachment process of the presidency and the president not being affected by the dissolving of the cabinet of ministers (Despite the president being recognized as the head of the cabinet), the president can be seen to possess a significantly large scale of political impunity within Sri Lanka. This form of political tragedy within the constitution is a probable cause of political instability and unrest as well as civil unrest, which can be seen in recent history. Alongside the issue of accountability, it is also a feasible belief that creating a more socially inclusive norm within a political party's mandate when contesting for elections and having a system of accountability to the promises made by political parties would also improve the political stability within the nation and maintain a sense of hope within Sri Lanka's failed democracy.

Media

Reviewing the modern censorship legislation and creating a flexible boundary for instances of hate speech and similar aspects of media which would incite political and social progress and not violence/conflict is a main priority in the context of reviewing the media's role within a nation's political literacy. However, it should be noted that this form of novel legislation should be formed with the right to freedom of speech and information in mind, and should not by any means, violate those rights unless it is acceptable under the 'limitations of fundamental rights' subsection of the constitution of Sri Lanka.

Within the context of censorship, reviewing and reforming media accountability laws to be held accountable for the content which is both portrayed and has been censored/completely withdrawn from the media is another method of maintaining an unbiased political awareness within civil society is another step in regulating the media to aid in improving a society's political awareness and understanding. This solution would

allow for the media portrayed to be reviewed by relevant bodies.

Adding to the points of biased and corrupt media within a political spectrum, implementing up-to-date and feasible guidelines on political media campaigning to narrow the opportunity for the spread of misinformation and hate speech with the possibility to spark violence.

Urging the cooperation between election monitors and fact-checking/social media monitoring bodies to combat the spread of false or problematic information that would create a false understanding during the sensitive time period of an election is yet another method of combating misinformation, which is a major cause of political illiteracy or indirectly opens a gateway to it. Through this, we may create a better structure for citizens to obtain an unbiased view of the nation's political spectrum and obtain an opportunity to apply their views and beliefs freely.

Conclusion

To sum up: Third world countries like Sri Lanka think of literacy as a concept that only refers to the ability to read and write. However, political literacy is a concept that goes beyond that. Within a democracy, people identify various aspects of voting including the value of their voting process, and whether their vote becomes enforced, whether the elected person represents voters' needs and interests.

To stress again, Political literacy is very important because it helps individuals to access and exercise various rights and entitlements provided to them under the constitution. Thus, we'll work towards that and make Sri Lankans literate and question the Political Landscape for the betterment of them and the future generations to come.

Survey Questions

01. To what extent is it evident that the people in Sri Lanka are Politically illiterate?
02. Do you believe that the education system plays a role in a nation's political literacy? If so, how is the system present within Sri Lanka falling short?
03. What type of stance does the media hold in the context of political illiteracy?
04. With the sudden rise of civil unrest within Sri Lanka, has there been any noticeable change in Sri Lanka's political awareness?
05. How does misinformation play a role in relation to Sri Lanka's political awareness?
06. In your own perspective, how do you believe the modern trends surfacing within the present political party system provide a positive or negative influence on Sri Lanka's political literacy?
07. In your opinion, what are the possible resolutions that can prove to be effective when combating political illiteracy within Sri Lanka?

References

- Cassel, C.A. and Lo, C.C. (1997). Theories of Political Literacy. *Political Behavior*, 19(4), pp.317–335. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1023/a:1024895721905>.
- Daily Mirror (2023). Daily Mirror on Instagram: "LG polls not legally declared: President Local government election has not been declared legally and therefore, there is no question of a postponement, President Ranil Wickremesinghe stated today. "An election has not been declared legally as there has not been a quorum when the election commission members decided on the date. "There has been only two members present when the decision has been made on the date while the two members present had decided on the date and then inquired the view of the remaining members who were not present. The quorum of the election commission meeting is three legally therefore no official declaration of the local government elections legally," the President said. "Also the funds for the local polls has not been requested from the election commission. The request letter has been s.... [online] Instagram. Available at: https://www.instagram.com/p/Co_tH4rLnSj/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link [Accessed 24 Feb. 2023].
- Institute for Health policy (2022). Sri Lankans continue to hold unfavorable views of all political party leaders.
- Kaluarachchi, C., Nagahawatta, R. and Warren, M. (2019). SRI LANKAN POLITICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA PARTICIPATION A CASE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2019. [online] Available at: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/7867235.pdf>.
- kumaradasan, R. (2022). Journalists Killed & Missing In Sri Lanka. [online] Colombo Telegraph. Available at: <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/journalists-killed-missing-in-sri-lanka/> [Accessed 12 Feb. 2023].
- Macrotrends (2013). Sri Lanka Literacy Rate 1981-2020. [online] www.macrotrends.net. Available at: <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/LKA/sri-lanka/literacy-rate>.

Macrotrends (2023). Sri Lanka Youth Unemployment Rate 1991-2022. [online] www.macrotrends.net. Available at: <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/LKA/sri-lanka/youth-unemployment-rate>.

Senaratna, N.I. (2023). Have we gotten more 'Racist'? [online] On Politics. Available at: <https://medium.com/on-politics/have-we-gotten-more-racist-11e0d5e43f1a> [Accessed 21 Feb. 2023].

Verite Research (2023). State-Owned Media. [online] Media Ownership Monitor. Available at: <https://sri-lanka.mom-gmr.org/en/findings/state-run-media/> [Accessed 25 Feb. 2023].

veriteresearch (2023). Verité Research on Instagram: " The Mood of the Nation survey results for February 2023 are finally out! Sadly, the satisfaction level of Sri Lanka has further declined to 4%, from the 7% recorded in October 2022. The Government's approval rating is still low at 10%. The economy's confidence remains at (-78), the same as it was in October 2022. Mood of the Nation survey checks whether people approve or disapprove what the government is doing, how satisfied they are with the way things are going in the country, and how confident they are about the economy. #MoodOfTheNation #SriLanka #SurveyResults #GovernmentApproval #EconomicConfidence #CountrySatisfaction". [online] Instagram. Available at: https://www.instagram.com/p/Co3W9SEo02U/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link.

world Atlas (2019). 10 Most Literate Asian Countries. [online] World Atlas. Available at: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/10-most-literate-asian-countries.html>.