# Political Representation of Dalit Persons in South Asia
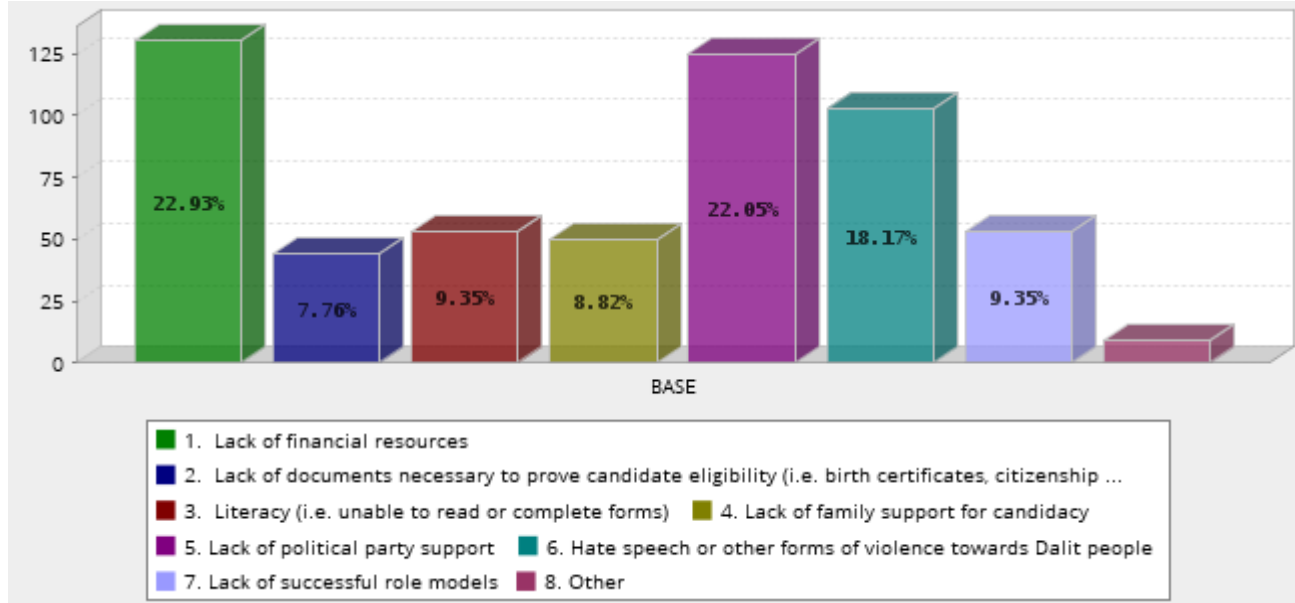
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# Survey Overview



**Completion / Dropout**

Completed = 113

Drop Out = 207

Completed = 113 ■ Drop Out = 207
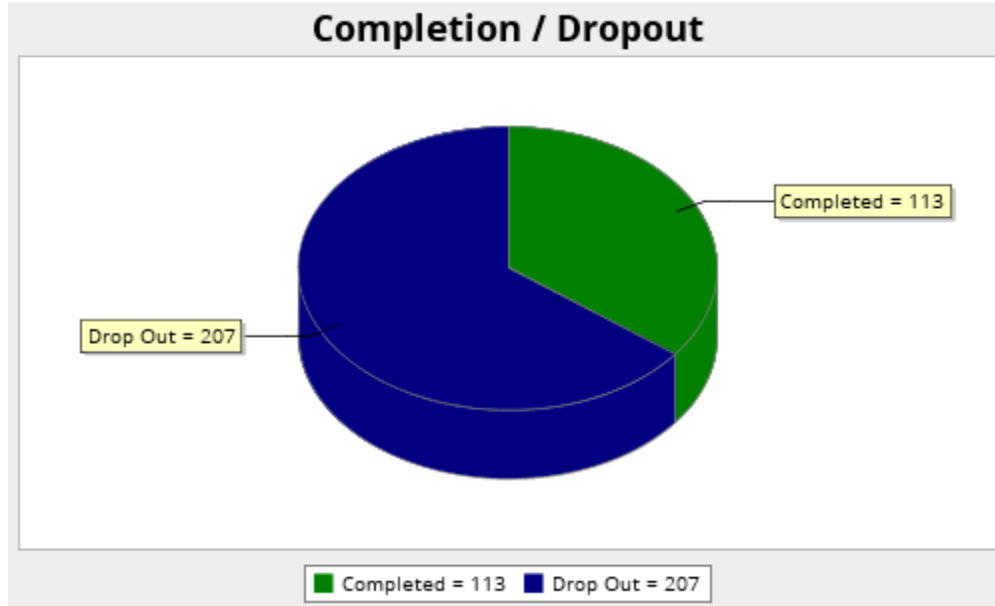
| Viewed | Started | Completed | Completion Rate | Drop Outs (After Starting) | Average Time to Complete Survey |
|--------|---------|-----------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 436 | 320 | 113 | 35.31% | 207 | 10 minutes |

**Q1. What barriers do Dalit people face when they seek to become candidates for elected office? (Pick as many as appropriate)**



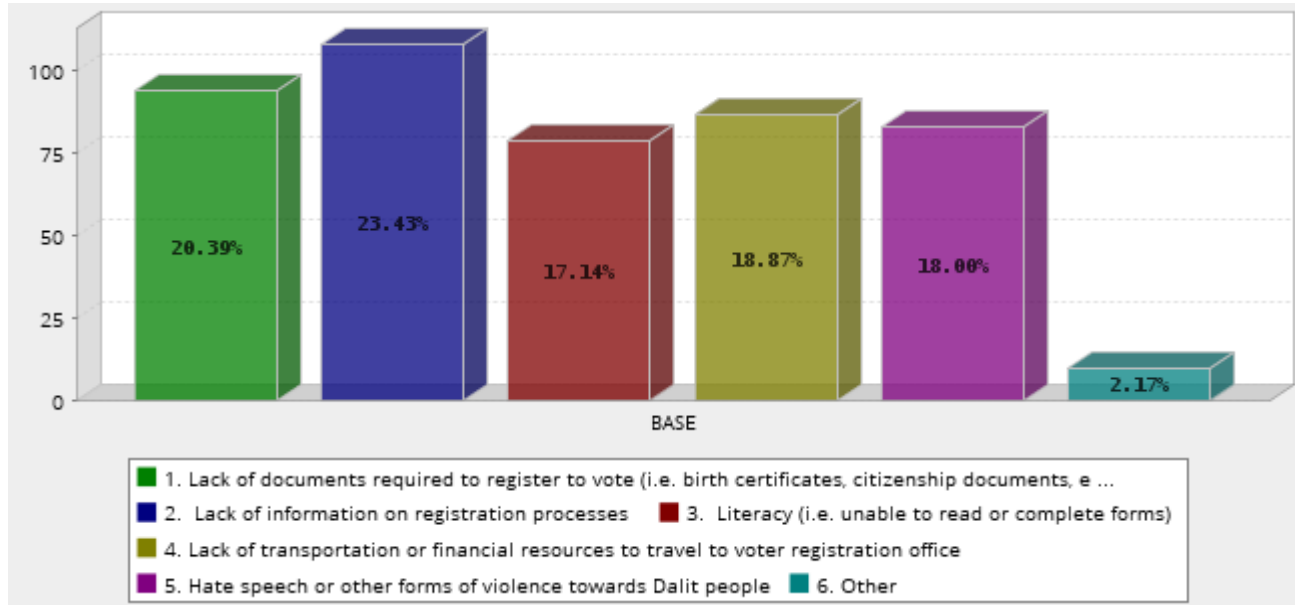| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Lack of financial resources | 130 | 22.93% |
| 2. | Lack of documents necessary to prove candidate eligibility (i.e. birth certificates, citizenship documents, etc.) | 44 | 7.76% |
| 3. | Literacy (i.e. unable to read or complete forms) | 53 | 9.35% |
| 4. | Lack of family support for candidacy | 50 | 8.82% |
| 5. | Lack of political party support | 125 | 22.05% |
| 6. | Hate speech or other forms of violence towards Dalit people | 103 | 18.17% |
| 7. | Lack of successful role models | 53 | 9.35% |
| 8. | Other | 9 | 1.59% |

| | | |
|---|---:|---:|
| Total | 567 | 100% |

**Q2. What barriers do Dalit candidates face when campaigning and during the election period? (Pick as many as appropriate)**
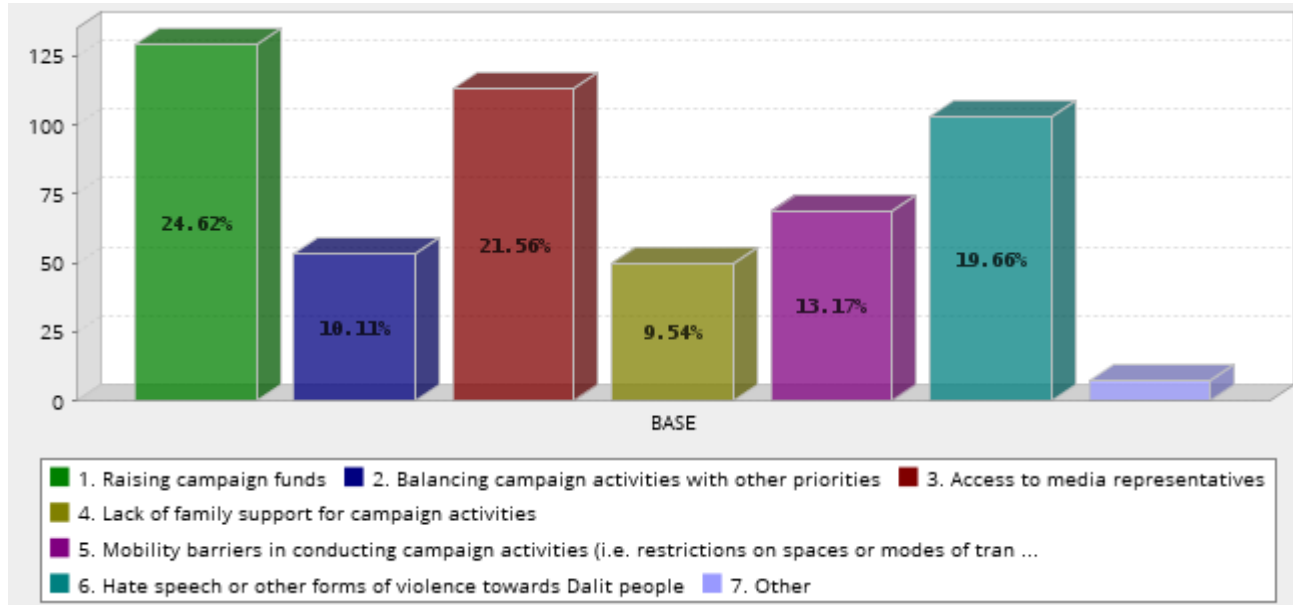


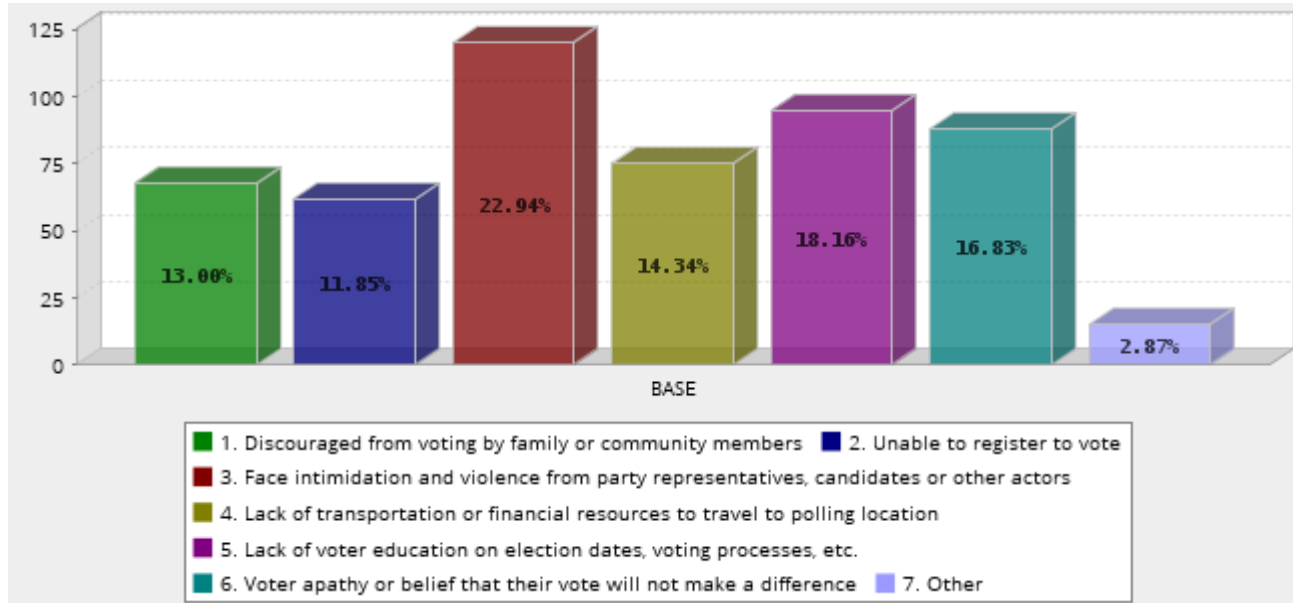| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Raising campaign funds | 129 | 24.62% |
| 2. | Balancing campaign activities with other priorities | 53 | 10.11% |
| 3. | Access to media representatives | 113 | 21.56% |
| 4. | Lack of family support for campaign activities | 50 | 9.54% |
| 5. | Mobility barriers in conducting campaign activities (i.e. restrictions on spaces or modes of transportation Dalit people are permitted to use) | 69 | 13.17% |
| 6. | Hate speech or other forms of violence towards Dalit people | 103 | 19.66% |
| 7. | Other | 7 | 1.34% |
| | Total | 524 | 100% |

**Q3. What barriers to Dalit people face in registering to vote? (Pick as many as appropriate)**
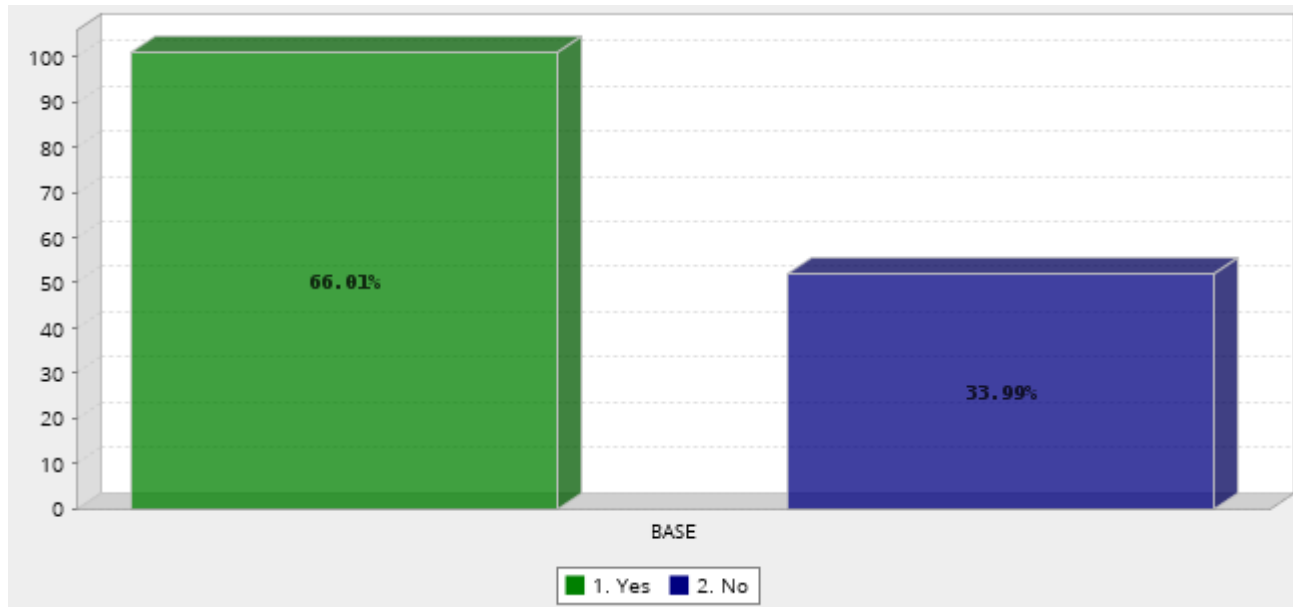


| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---:|---:|
| 1. | Lack of documents required to register to vote (i.e. birth certificates, citizenship documents, etc.) | 94 | 20.39% |
| 2. | Lack of information on registration processes | 108 | 23.43% |
| 3. | Literacy (i.e. unable to read or complete forms) | 79 | 17.14% |
| 4. | Lack of transportation or financial resources to travel to voter registration office | 87 | 18.87% |
| 5. | Hate speech or other forms of violence towards Dalit people | 83 | 18.00% |
| 6. | Other | 10 | 2.17% |
| | Total | 461 | 100% |

**Q4. What barriers do Dalit people face when voting? (Pick as many as appropriate)**
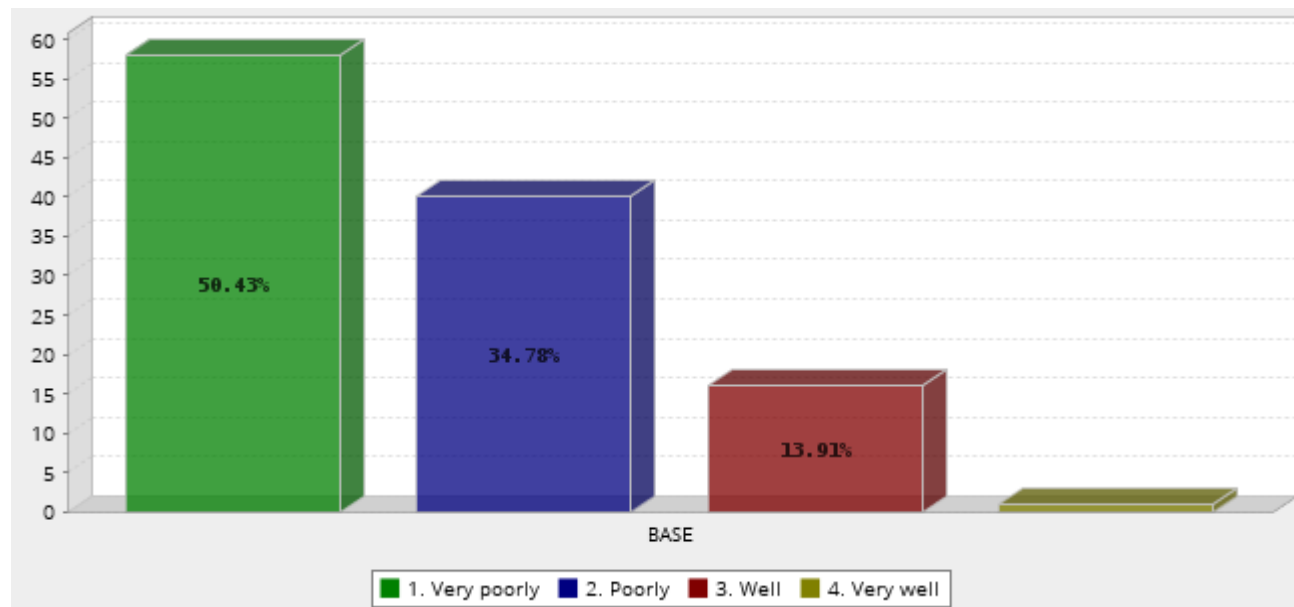


| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Discouraged from voting by family or community members | 68 | 13.00% |
| 2. | Unable to register to vote | 62 | 11.85% |
| 3. | Face intimidation and violence from party representatives, candidates or other actors | 120 | 22.94% |
| 4. | Lack of transportation or financial resources to travel to polling location | 75 | 14.34% |
| 5. | Lack of voter education on election dates, voting processes, etc. | 95 | 18.16% |
| 6. | Voter apathy or belief that their vote will not make a difference | 88 | 16.83% |
| 7. | Other | 15 | 2.87% |
| | Total | 523 | 100% |

## Q5. Are Dalit people sometimes prevented from voting?



| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Yes | 101 | 66.01% |
| 2. | No | 52 | 33.99% |
| | Total | 153 | 100% |

**Q7. How well or poorly are Dalit issues represented in national politics?**



| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Very poorly | 58 | 50.43% |
| 2. | Poorly | 40 | 34.78% |
| 3. | Well | 16 | 13.91% |
| 4. | Very well | 1 | 0.87% |
| | Total | 115 | 100% |

**Q8. How well or poorly are Dalit issues represented in subnational (state/province/local) politics?**
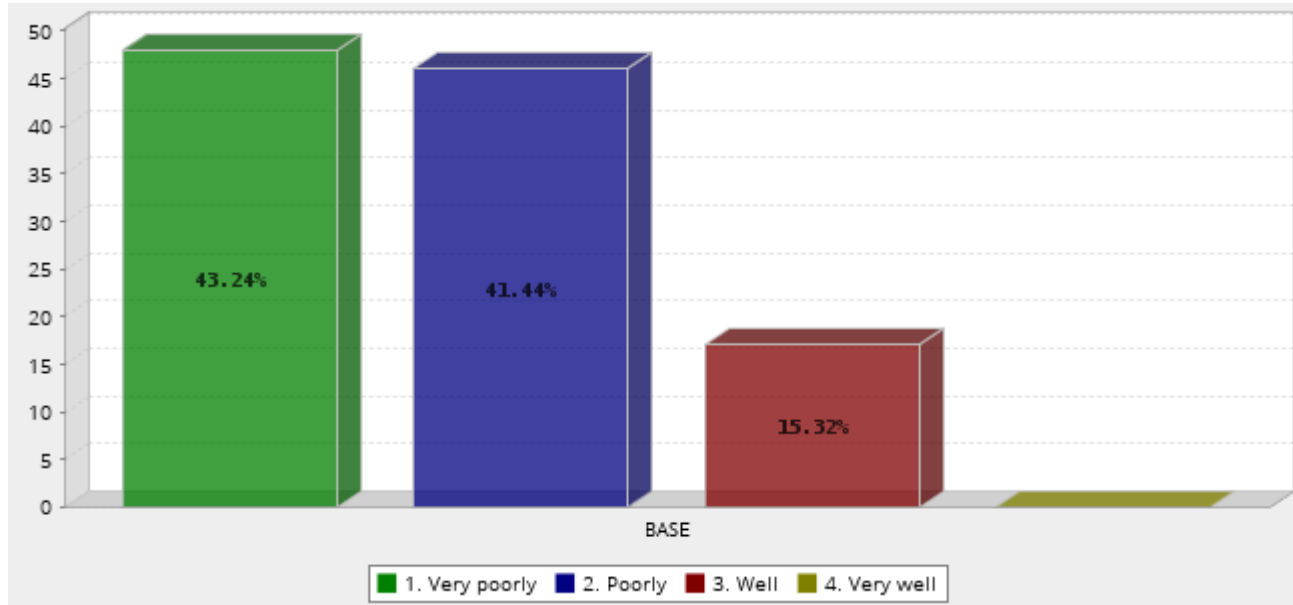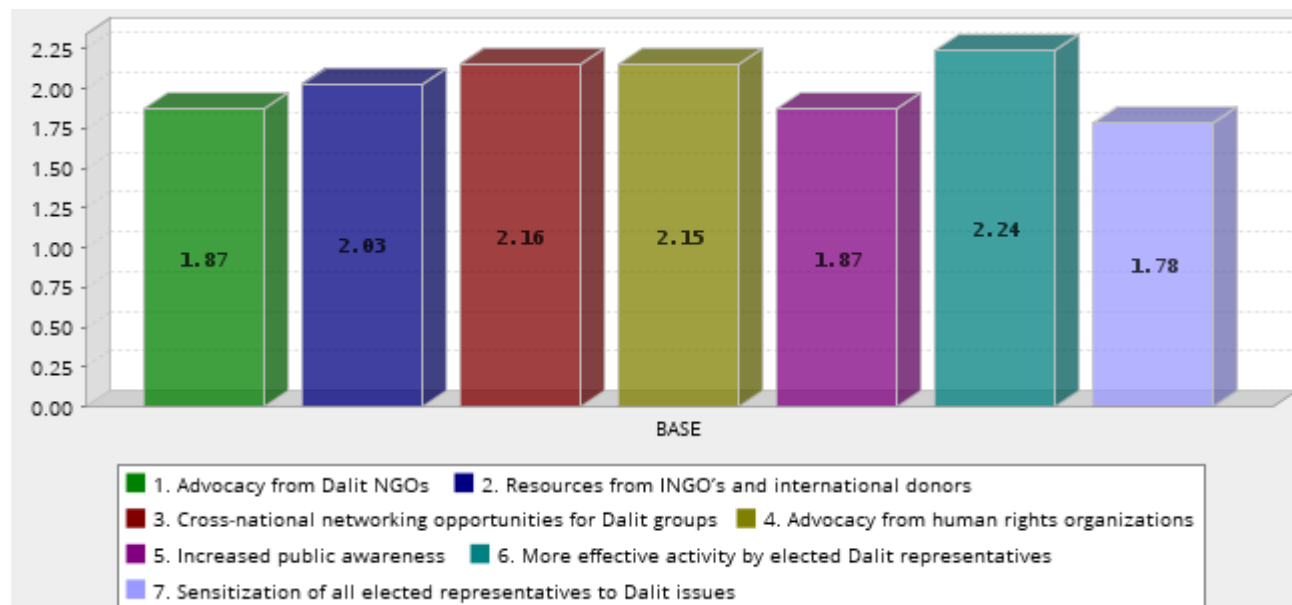


| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Very poorly | 48 | 43.24% |
| 2. | Poorly | 46 | 41.44% |
| 3. | Well | 17 | 15.32% |
| 4. | Very well | 0 | 0.00% |
| | Total | 111 | 100% |

**Q9. Of the following, which do you think would improve representation of issues important to the Dalit community? (Pick as many as appropriate)**
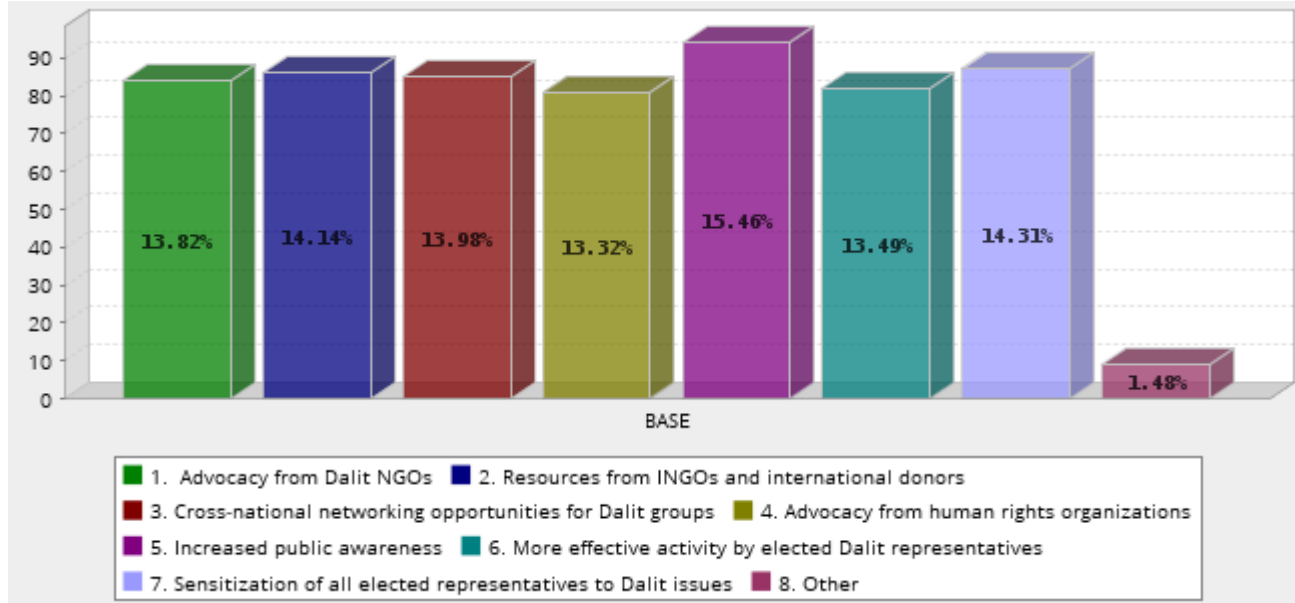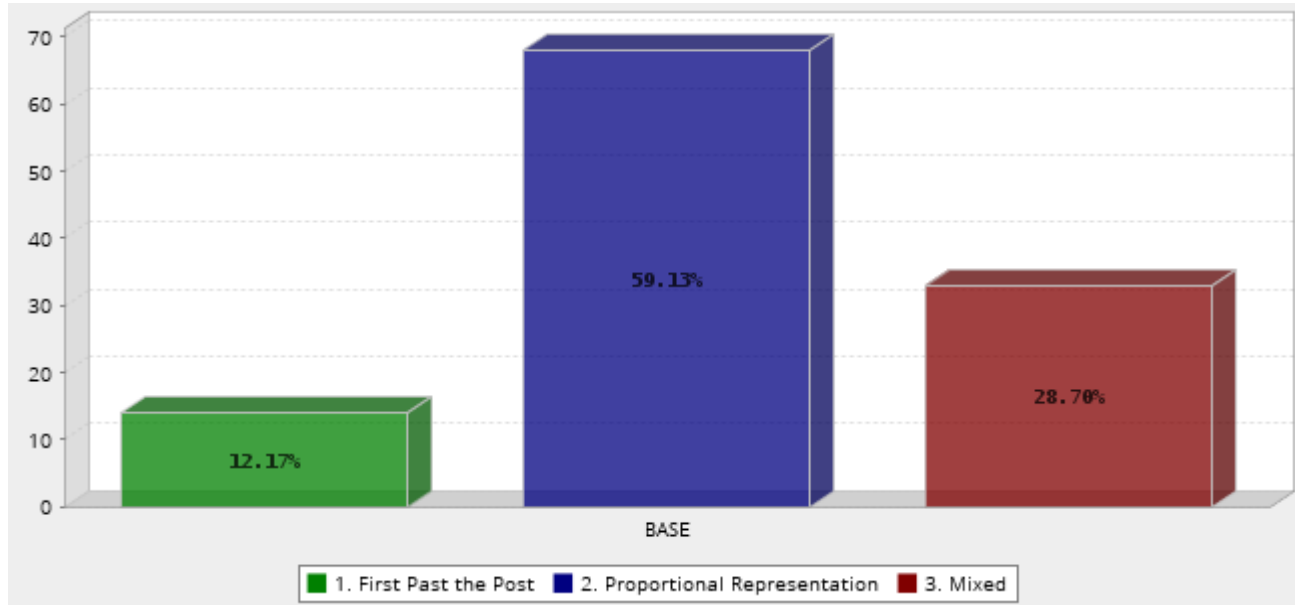


| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Advocacy from Dalit NGOs | 84 | 13.82% |
| 2. | Resources from INGOs and international donors | 86 | 14.14% |
| 3. | Cross-national networking opportunities for Dalit groups | 85 | 13.98% |
| 4. | Advocacy from human rights organizations | 81 | 13.32% |
| 5. | Increased public awareness | 94 | 15.46% |
| 6. | More effective activity by elected Dalit representatives | 82 | 13.49% |
| 7. | Sensitization of all elected representatives to Dalit issues | 87 | 14.31% |
| 8. | Other | 9 | 1.48% |
| | Total | 608 | 100% |

**Q9b. Of these initiatives/activities, which do you think is most important? And which is second most important? And which is third most important? Please use 1 for most important, 2 for 2nd most important, and 3 for 3rd most important.**



Chart values: 1.87, 2.03, 2.16, 2.15, 1.87, 2.24, 1.78 — BASE

Legend:
1. Advocacy from Dalit NGOs
2. Resources from INGO's and international donors
3. Cross-national networking opportunities for Dalit groups
4. Advocacy from human rights organizations
5. Increased public awareness
6. More effective activity by elected Dalit representatives
7. Sensitization of all elected representatives to Dalit issues

|  | 1st | | 2nd | | 3rd | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Advocacy from Dalit ... | 32 | 27.59% | 24 | 20.87% | 22 | 19.13% |
| Resources from INGO' ... | 16 | 13.79% | 27 | 23.48% | 18 | 15.65% |
| Cross-national netwo ... | 15 | 12.93% | 13 | 11.30% | 23 | 20.00% |
| Advocacy from human ... | 6 | 5.17% | 10 | 8.70% | 10 | 8.70% |
| Increased public awa ... | 20 | 17.24% | 13 | 11.30% | 14 | 12.17% |
| More effective activ ... | 7 | 6.03% | 18 | 15.65% | 17 | 14.78% |
| Sensitization of all ... | 20 | 17.24% | 10 | 8.70% | 11 | 9.57% |

**Q10. What is the best electoral system to ensure representation, in your opinion?**
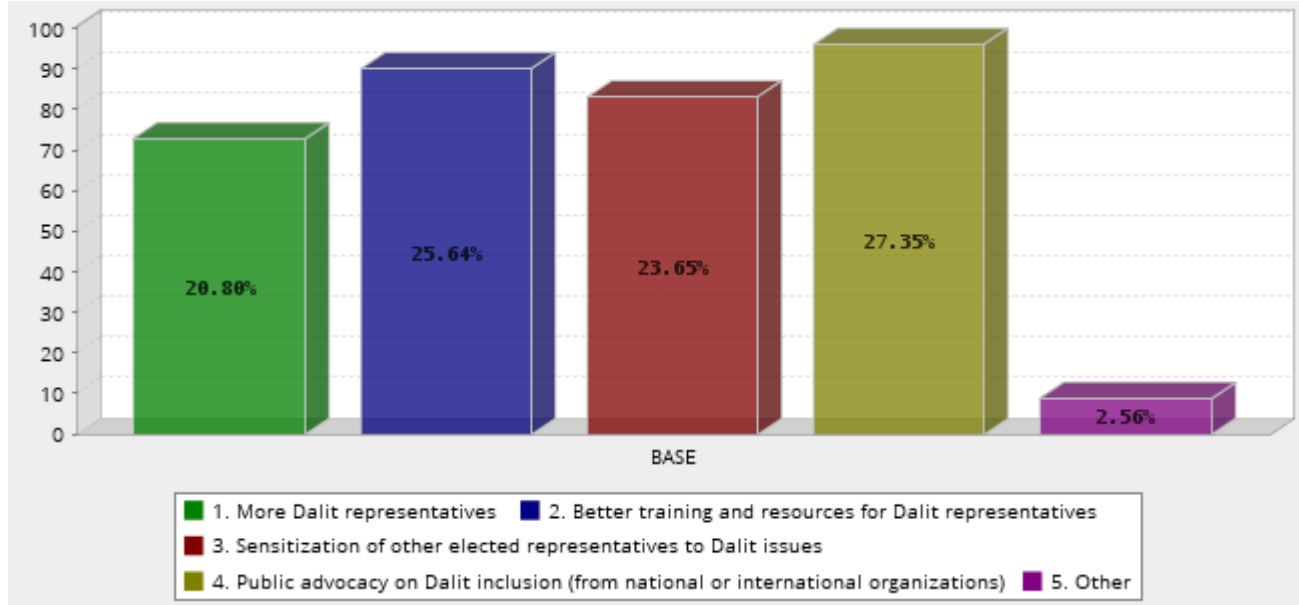


| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | First Past the Post | 14 | 12.17% |
| 2. | Proportional Representation | 68 | 59.13% |
| 3. | Mixed | 33 | 28.70% |
| | Total | 115 | 100% |

**Q13. Are there processes or high-level dialogues that elected Dalit representatives might be excluded from?**
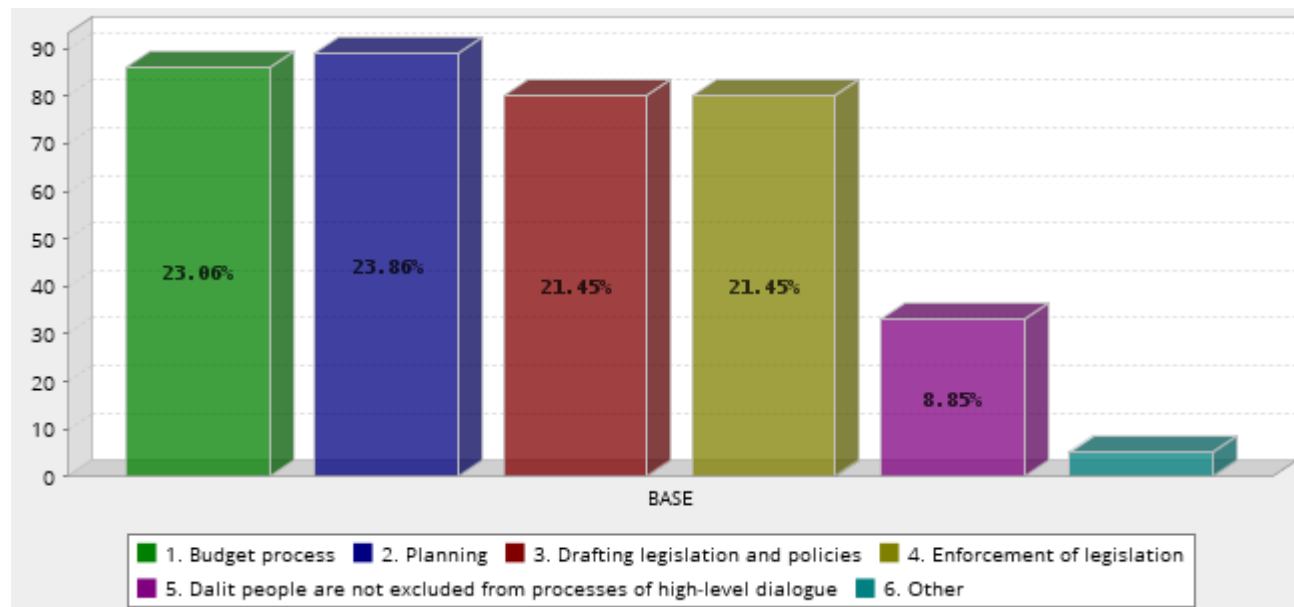


| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Budget process | 86 | 23.06% |
| 2. | Planning | 89 | 23.86% |
| 3. | Drafting legislation and policies | 80 | 21.45% |
| 4. | Enforcement of legislation | 80 | 21.45% |
| 5. | Dalit people are not excluded from processes of high-level dialogue | 33 | 8.85% |
| 6. | Other | 5 | 1.34% |
| | Total | 373 | 100% |

**Q14. Through which of the following ways can the quality of representation of Dalit issues in elected bodies be improved? (Pick as many as appropriate)**



| | Answer | Count | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | More Dalit representatives | 73 | 20.80% |
| 2. | Better training and resources for Dalit representatives | 90 | 25.64% |
| 3. | Sensitization of other elected representatives to Dalit issues | 83 | 23.65% |
| 4. | Public advocacy on Dalit inclusion (from national or international organizations) | 96 | 27.35% |
| 5. | Other | 9 | 2.56% |
| | Total | 351 | 100% |

**Q14a. Of these initiatives/activities, which do you think is most important? And which is second most important? Please use 1 for most important, and 2 for 2nd most important.**
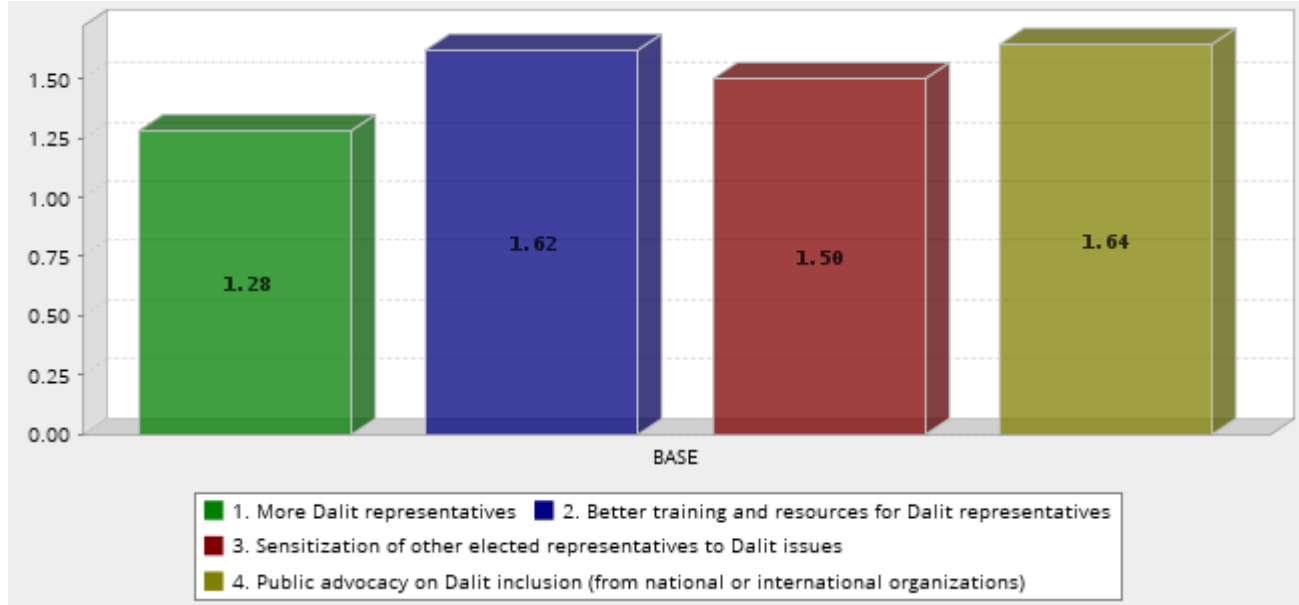


| | 1st | | 2nd | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| More Dalit represent ... | 48 | 42.11% | 19 | 16.52% |
| Better training and ... | 26 | 22.81% | 43 | 37.39% |
| Sensitization of oth ... | 24 | 21.05% | 24 | 20.87% |
| Public advocacy on D ... | 16 | 14.04% | 29 | 25.22% |