Think Tank Initiative
Policy Community Survey
South Asia

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Project: 2411, GlobeScan®

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Introduction & Objectives

- As part of IDRC's Think Tank Initiative GlobeScan has been engaged to conduct a survey of policy stakeholders in three specific regions. In 2009 / 2010 GlobeScan conducted the Think Tank Initiative Policy Community Survey in Africa. In 2010 / 2011 the survey was repeated in South Asia and Latin America.

- Through the Policy Community Survey, the Think Tank Initiative aims to:

  - Develop an understanding of the policy community in specific countries

  - Understand the strengths and weaknesses of particular think tanks, as perceived by a subset of the policy community

  - Understand what activities are associated with the success of think tanks in order to help prioritize support strategies—e.g., funding, training, and technical assistance

  - Create a benchmark against which future surveys can be compared to indicate broad changes in the policy community and perceptions of think tanks in selected countries.

- This report presents the results of the South Asia survey.

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Methodology

- The survey was conducted using a mix of online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews; 12 respondents took the survey online, and the rest (232) took the survey either by telephone or face-to-face interviews in 5 South Asian countries

- South Asian countries included: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

- Other details:

  - The survey was offered in English.

  - The survey ran from December 2nd, 2010 to February 11th, 2011.

  - Respondents were contacted by phone and given the option to complete the interview over the phone or online. Where necessary, face-to-face interviews were conducted.

  - In India, a larger sample of 80 respondents was gathered due to the large number of think tanks evaluated in the survey.

	Total	South Asia				
		Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Total	**244**	**40**	**84**	**41**	**39**	**40**
Online	**12**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**3**	**5**
Offline	**232**	**40**	**80**	**41**	**36**	**35**
Telephone	214	40	62	41	36	35
Face-to-face	18	0	18	0	0	0

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Respondent Description

- Respondents are from the following sectors:

    - **Government:*** Senior officials (both elected and non-elected) who are directly involved in or influence policy making.

    - **Non-governmental organization:** Senior staff (local or international) whose mission is related to economic development, environmental issues, and/or poverty alleviation.

    - **Media:** Editors or journalists who report on public policy, finance, economics, international affairs, and/or development, who are knowledgeable about national policy issues.

    - **Multilateral/bilateral organization:** Senior staff from organizations run by foreign governments either individually (bilateral e.g. DFID, USAID, etc.), or as a group (multilateral e.g. UN agencies, World Bank, etc.)

    - **Private sector:** Senior staff working at large well-known national and multinational companies.

    - **Research/Academia:** Senior staff at universities, colleges, research institutes, and/or think tanks.

- Stakeholders surveyed are active members of the national policy community, meaning that they develop or influence national government policy.

*Note: Government officials are referred to as Government-elected and Government-non-elected throughout this report. Which category government stakeholders belong to is determined by their answer to a survey question.

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Sample Summary

Number of stakeholders, by stakeholder group, by country, South Asia, 2011

	Total	South Asia				
		Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Total	244	40	84	41	39	40
Government-elected	23	5	8	5	2	3
Government-non-elected	38	5	13	5	8	7
Media	36	6	12	6	6	6
Multilateral/bilateral	33	6	11	5	5	6
NGO	41	6	16	7	6	6
Private sector	35	6	12	7	5	5
Research/academia	38	6	12	6	7	7

Number of stakeholders, by source list, South Asia, 2011

	Total	South Asia				
		Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Total	244	40	84	41	39	40
GlobeScan	83	0	41	20	13	9
IDRC SARO	6	1	5	0	0	0
TTI grantee organizations	155	39	38	21	26	31

Approach

- The approach of this study was designed to gather views of *senior* level policy actors within national policy communities on their needs for research, perceptions of research quality, and think tank performance. The study was not intended to gather perceptions of a larger, representative subset of the policy community which could generate statistically significant findings on demand for research. This approach was chosen consciously, recognizing the limitation it brings to the survey, but acknowledging the value of perceptions of individuals in senior positions within each national policy community who often are very difficult to reach.

- These views then provide the basis for reflection within the organizations supported by the TTI on how the organization's current performance is perceived by key stakeholders, and on ways in which the organization may enhance its organizational capacity to undertake policy-relevant research.

- As was done for the Africa survey in 2010, we set a target of 40 respondents with a balanced quota of responses across different stakeholder categories. The exception was India where the total number of interviews was increased to 80 to reflect the difference in the size of the policy community, while maintaining consistency with the sample sizes in other countries.

- In a number of countries it proved difficult to achieve the target of 40 stakeholders even though a long list of contact names had been generated. Balanced quotas in each country were achieved with varying degrees of difficulty encountered in the data collection process. For example, in Pakistan and Bangladesh (and in certain countries in Africa and Latin America), it was challenging to reach the target quotas of certain stakeholder groups.

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Findings and emerging questions

PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICY-MAKING PROCESS

- Overall, South Asian stakeholders see room for improvement regarding the quality of policy-making processes in their countries.

- Stakeholder ratings on the quality of the policy-making process tend to be mainly 'neutral', and in most countries, stakeholders are more likely to rate it 'poor' rather than 'excellent'.

- Government stakeholders (i.e., those closest to policy-making) offer the most positive assessments of the quality of policy-making processes, especially in comparison to NGO stakeholders who are among the most critical.

- Emerging questions:

  ➢ What specific elements of the current policy-making process are driving stakeholders to offer these neutral ratings?

  ➢ Why do certain stakeholders (e.g. NGOs) offer a particularly critical view of policy-making processes, and are there implications for different forms of engagement by think tanks with such actors??

      o Do these stakeholders want a greater role in the process than they currently have?

      o Do they want to see greater transparency than currently exists?

      o Do they want more consultation in the process?

  ➢ What role, if any, can think tanks play in helping improve the quality of policy-making processes in South Asia, which could lead to improved perceptions of quality?

  ➢ What contextual factors can help explain the less positive perceptions of the quality of policy-making processes in Pakistan and Sri Lanka?

Findings and emerging questions

KEY INFORMATION NEEDS

- Across all countries surveyed, stakeholders are most likely to say they require information on **poverty** alleviation, **economic** issues, and the **environment** for their work in national policy.

- Stakeholders are much less likely to say they need information on **foreign affairs** for their policy work.

- Stakeholders differ in their stated need for information across the topic areas prompted in the survey, and in some cases these differences likely reflect the influence of their sector (e.g., private sector stakeholders are the most likely to say they require information on trade & industry, NGOs on human rights).

- There are also notable differences in stated need for information by country: There is higher than average demand in Nepal and Bangladesh, while demand in India is lower (especially on foreign affairs, trade, and economic / fiscal issues).

- Emerging questions:

  ➢ What is driving the differences in stated need for information across countries – i.e., higher in Nepal and Bangladesh and relatively lower in India?

    o To what extent does the development context in these particular countries drive higher or lower stakeholder needs for information across the prompted topic areas?

INFORMATION ACCESS & USEFULNESS

- Stakeholders find it somewhat challenging to access information on a range of topic areas that help support their work in policy development: overall, stakeholders are more likely to give neutral or negative ratings rather than positive ratings on their ease of access to information on most topic areas prompted in the survey. Private sector stakeholders report the most difficulty in accessing information in all areas, especially in comparison to non-elected government stakeholders.

- On the positive side, on types of information that are considered important to their policy-making work (e.g., on poverty alleviation, environment, and economic issues), stakeholders report relatively easier access, when compared with other types of information.

- Stakeholders have mixed views on the overall usefulness of information they obtain to support policy development: in five of ten topic areas prompted in the survey, less than a majority of stakeholders say it is useful.

- Despite these mixed opinions, stakeholders give relatively positive usefulness ratings to those areas they consider most important for policy-making (e.g., poverty alleviation, environment, and economic issues).

- While multi/bilateral stakeholders report about-average access to most topic areas, they are among the least likely to think it is useful.

- Notably, non-elected government stakeholders are much more likely than their elected counterparts (and all other stakeholders) to report ease of access to information and to find this information useful.

- Emerging questions:

  ➢ Is information being sufficiently shared between elected and non-elected government stakeholders?

  ➢ Do differences in elected and non-elected government stakeholders' access to and perceived usefulness of information have any impact on the neutral ratings of the quality of policy-making processes in the region?

  ➢ In what ways do stakeholders think the usefulness of information can be improved?

  ➢ How might think tanks facilitate better access to information?

  ➢ What role can think tanks play in improving the perceived usefulness of this information?

  ➢ What can think tanks do to specifically address the challenges the private sector faces in accessing information?

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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Overall, think tanks are the primary source of research-based evidence for stakeholders in South Asia, but with notable exceptions across countries and stakeholder groups.

- In India and Nepal, think tanks are less likely to be a primary source of information for stakeholders (instead, government ministries and agencies are the primary source in these countries). This is a notable finding in India, since stakeholders here have a very positive view on the quality of research from think tanks.

- Overall, government stakeholders are much less likely than others to turn to outside sources, mostly relying on information from government ministries / agencies (perhaps reflecting the relative ease of access to these internal resources). In contrast, NGO stakeholders tend to draw upon a wide variety of sources for research-based evidence.

- Emerging questions:

  ➢ What deters government stakeholders from accessing more information from outside sources? If government stakeholders accessed information more regularly from outside sources, would this have any impact on stakeholder perceptions of the quality of policy making processes in the region?

  ➢ What can think tanks do to facilitate greater use of their research by government stakeholders?

  ➢ What is driving Indian stakeholders' relatively lower use of think tanks for research-based evidence?

PERCEIVED QUALITY OF INFORMATION

- Think tanks get top ratings from stakeholders on providing quality research (along with international university-based research institutes and international agencies). Stakeholder views are especially positive in Bangladesh and India. Lower quality ratings in Nepal may reflect stakeholders' lower than average familiarity with think tanks.

- Nearly all stakeholders have a relatively low opinion of research from government ministries/agencies. The exception is government stakeholders, who in fact rate the quality of government-derived research more favorably than do other stakeholders. This is a troubling finding, given that this is the primary source of information for government stakeholders.

- Emerging questions:

  ➢ What is the cause of the relatively negative views of research produced by government ministries/agencies?

  ➢ What can think tanks in South Asia learn from this?

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Findings and emerging questions, cont'd

FORMS OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- All stakeholders tend to prefer user-driven, self-directed forms of information exchange (e.g., databases, online/electronic publications, and print publications/reports) over in-person and interactive forums, such as online forums and consulting advice.

- The perceived usefulness of online publications / reports varies significantly across stakeholder groups: more than three-quarters of private sector respondents, compared to less than one-third of elected government respondents, say these are useful to support their involvement in national policy.

- Relatively few stakeholders (i.e., less than 20% overall) consider policy briefs to be a useful form of information exchange.

- Emerging questions:
  - What can think tanks do to adequately meet the demand for both print and online publications?
  - Why are databases more preferred than reports (both online and print)?
  - Are stakeholder preferences of databases over print and online publications connected to stakeholder concern about audience-friendly presentation of results?
  - Why do stakeholders find policy briefs among the least useful forms of information exchange? How are stakeholders currently using policy briefs to support policy-making?
  - How are policy briefs understood as a form of publication?
  - How much do policy briefs vary significantly from context to context / organization to organization?

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STRENGTHS & AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Across the five countries, think tanks are consistently awarded good marks for their regional knowledge and for the quality of their researchers. Given this regional knowledge, it is not surprising that stakeholders also believe think tanks excel in focusing on high priority issues.

- Stakeholders give lower ratings to think tanks on using innovative approaches to research and partnering with other policy actors and on the value of in-person events.

- The two most important things that stakeholders believe can improve think tank's performance are greater availability of trained / experienced staff and improved research quality.

- Stakeholders clearly value quality and dependable research: When asked unprompted what think tanks can do to better assist their work, the most frequent advice is to improve the quality, accuracy and reliability of their research.

- Emerging questions:

  ➢ What is the best way for think tanks to improve the quality of their research?

  ➢ What opportunities are there for think tanks to further engage with policy makers in the region?

  ➢ Are there joint venture or multi-party opportunities for think tanks to pursue – e.g., in research, community consultations, etc. – to help improve their collaboration with other policy actors?

  ➢ What is driving lower than average ratings of in-person events organized by think tanks?

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Summary of Key Findings

	5-country South Asia average	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Overall quality of policy-making processes % of stakeholders selecting "Excellent" (4+5)	23%	25%	25%	29%	18%	18%
Overall access to information % of stakeholders selecting "Easy" (4+5)	30%	36%	27%	24%	31%	31%
Perceived usefulness of information % of stakeholders selecting "Excellent" (4+5)	46%	49%	45%	52%	43%	43%
Primary source of information	–	Think tanks	Relevant government ministries	Relevant government ministries & International agencies	Think tanks	Think tanks
Quality of think tank research % of stakeholders selecting "Excellent" (4+5)	60%	69%	66%	46%	54%	61%

Below 5-country South Asia average

5-country South Asia Average

Above 5-coutnry South Asia average

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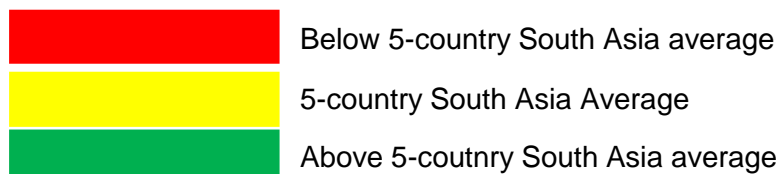
Information and policy making in South Asia

Most stakeholders in all countries give policy-making process neutral ratings.

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Quality of current policy-making processes in your country

% of total respondents, by country, South Asia, 2011
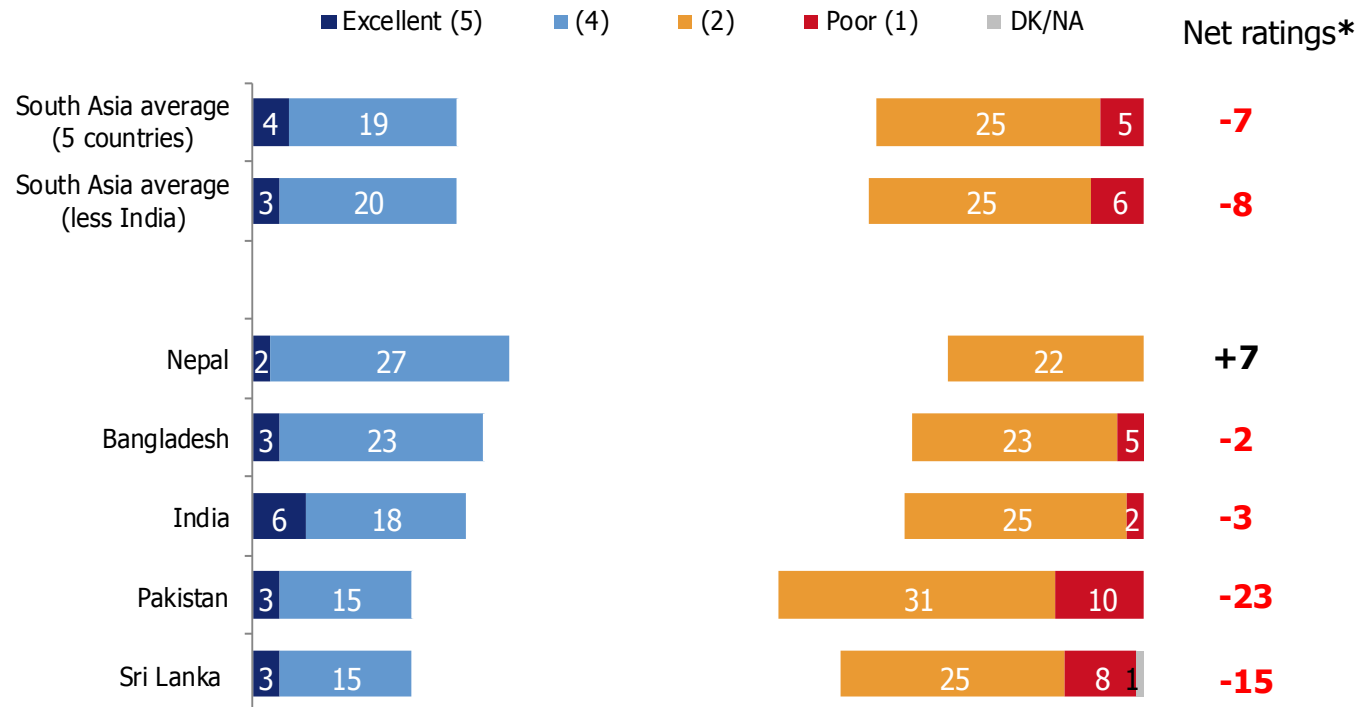
Legend: ■ Excellent (5) ■ (4) ■ (2) ■ Poor (1) ■ DK/NA

Net ratings*

Country	Excellent (5)	(4)	(2)	Poor (1)	DK/NA	Net ratings*
South Asia average (5 countries)	4	19	25	5		**-7**
South Asia average (less India)	3	20	25	6		**-8**
Nepal	2	27	22			**+7**
Bangladesh	3	23	23	5		**-2**
India	6	18	25	2		**-3**
Pakistan	3	15	31	10		**-23**
Sri Lanka	3	15	25	8	1	**-15**

Definition of quality given to respondents: factors such as existence and use of mechanisms for national policy making and implementation; competency reputation of technocrats; participation by individuals other than policymakers in policy processes; openness of policy makers to expert (or technical advice); use of evidence in policy debates and formulation; transparency of the policy-making process.

*"Excellent" (4+5) minus "Poor" (1+2)
Full sample *n*=244;
Country sample sizes range from *n*=39–84

The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
A1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the current policy making process in your country?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."

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Government actors perceive the quality of policy-making process to be higher compared to other stakeholders.

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Quality of current policy-making processes in your country

% of total respondents, by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ Excellent (5) ■ (4) ■ (2) ■ Poor (1) ■ DK/NA

Stakeholder	Net ratings*
South Asia average (5 countries)	**-7**
South Asia average (less India)	**-8**
Non-elected government	**+34**
Elected government	**+30**
Private Sector	**-3**
Media	**-22**
Multilateral/bilateral	**-15**
Research/Academia	**-18**
NGO	**-37**

Chart values:
- South Asia average (5 countries): Excellent 4, (4) 19, (2) 25, Poor 5
- South Asia average (less India): Excellent 3, (4) 20, (2) 25, Poor 6
- Non-elected government: Excellent 8, (4) 37, (2) 8, Poor 3
- Elected government: Excellent 4, (4) 39, (2) 13
- Private Sector: Excellent 3, (4) 20, (2) 23, Poor 3
- Media: Excellent 3, (4) 14, (2) 28, Poor 11
- Multilateral/bilateral: Excellent 3, (4) 12, (2) 27, Poor 3, DK/NA 3
- Research/Academia: (4) 13, (2) 26, Poor 5
- NGO: Excellent 5, (4) 7, (2) 44, Poor 5

*"Excellent" (4+5) minus "Poor" (1+2)
Full sample *n*=244;
Stakeholder sample sizes range from *n*=23–41
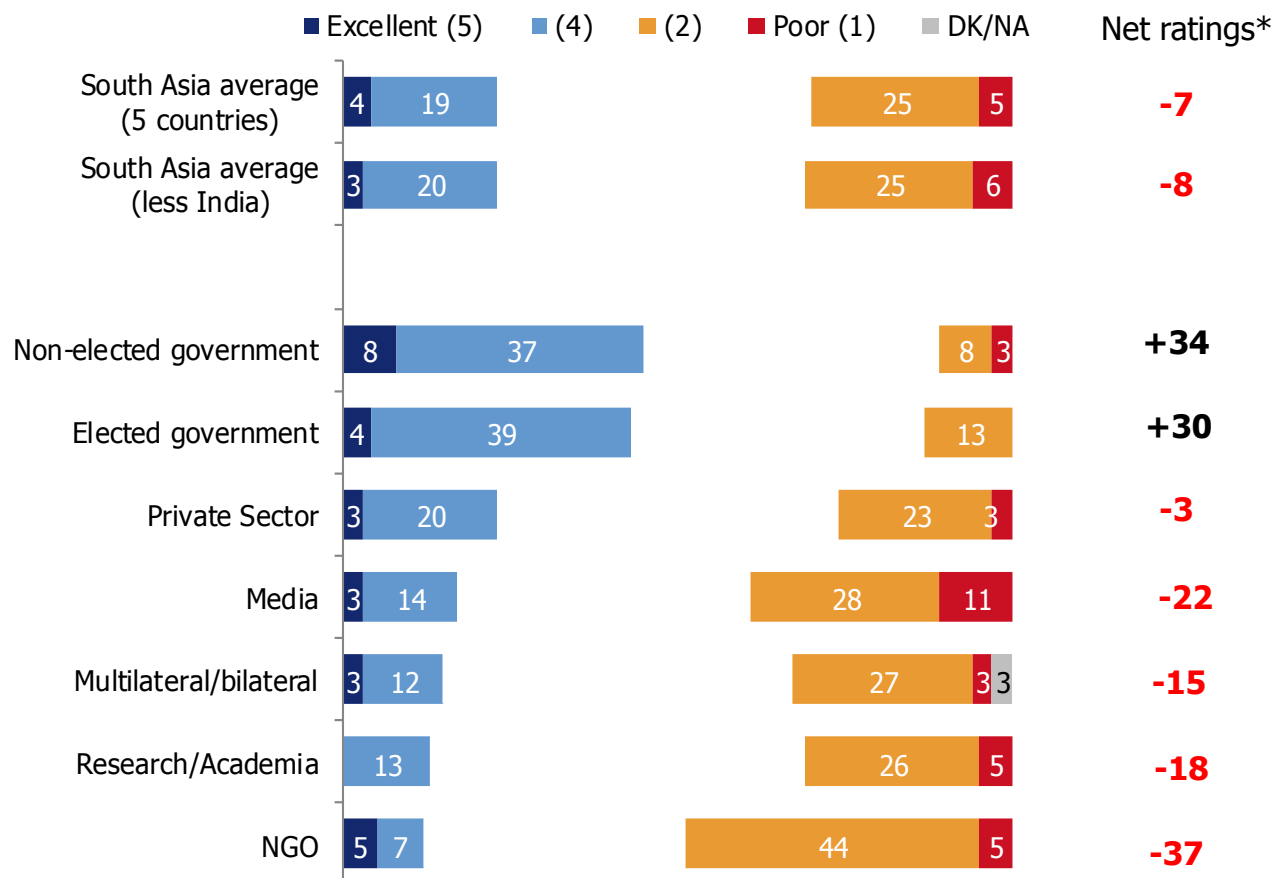
The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
A1. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the current policy making process in your country?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."

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Quality of current policy-making processes

SLIDE 18

- Near majorities of stakeholders surveyed in South Asia tend to give neutral ratings when asked about the quality of current policy-making processes in their own countries.

- Nepal is the only country in which the quality of policy-making receives a positive net rating.

- The policy-making processes in Pakistan and Sri Lanka receive the lowest net ratings in terms of quality.

SLIDE 19

- Both elected and non-elected government stakeholders give the highest ratings to current policy-making processes in their respective countries, while those outside of government tend to be much more critical.

- NGO stakeholders are the most critical of the quality of current policy-making contexts.

Definition of quality given to respondents: factors such as existence and use of mechanisms for national policy making and implementation; competency reputation of technocrats; participation by individuals other than policymakers in policy processes; openness of policy makers to expert (or technical advice); use of evidence in policy debates and formulation; transparency of the policy-making process.

The perceived ease of obtaining information varies by topic.

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Ease of obtaining information to support policy development

% of respondents, by type of information, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ Very easy (5)　■ (4)　■ (2)　■ Very difficult (1)　■ DK/NA

Topic	Very easy (5)	(4)	(2)	Very difficult (1)	DK/NA
Education	7	36	21		2
Trade/industry	7	26	21	2	1
Environment / natural resources / energy	7	25	27	6	
Gender issues	6	26	20	8	1
Poverty alleviation	9	22	20	8	
Economic/fiscal issues	8	22	25	6	
Health care	7	22	22	5	
Agriculture / food security	10	18	25	6	1
Foreign affairs	5	15	37	15	2
Human rights	4	15	30	19	2
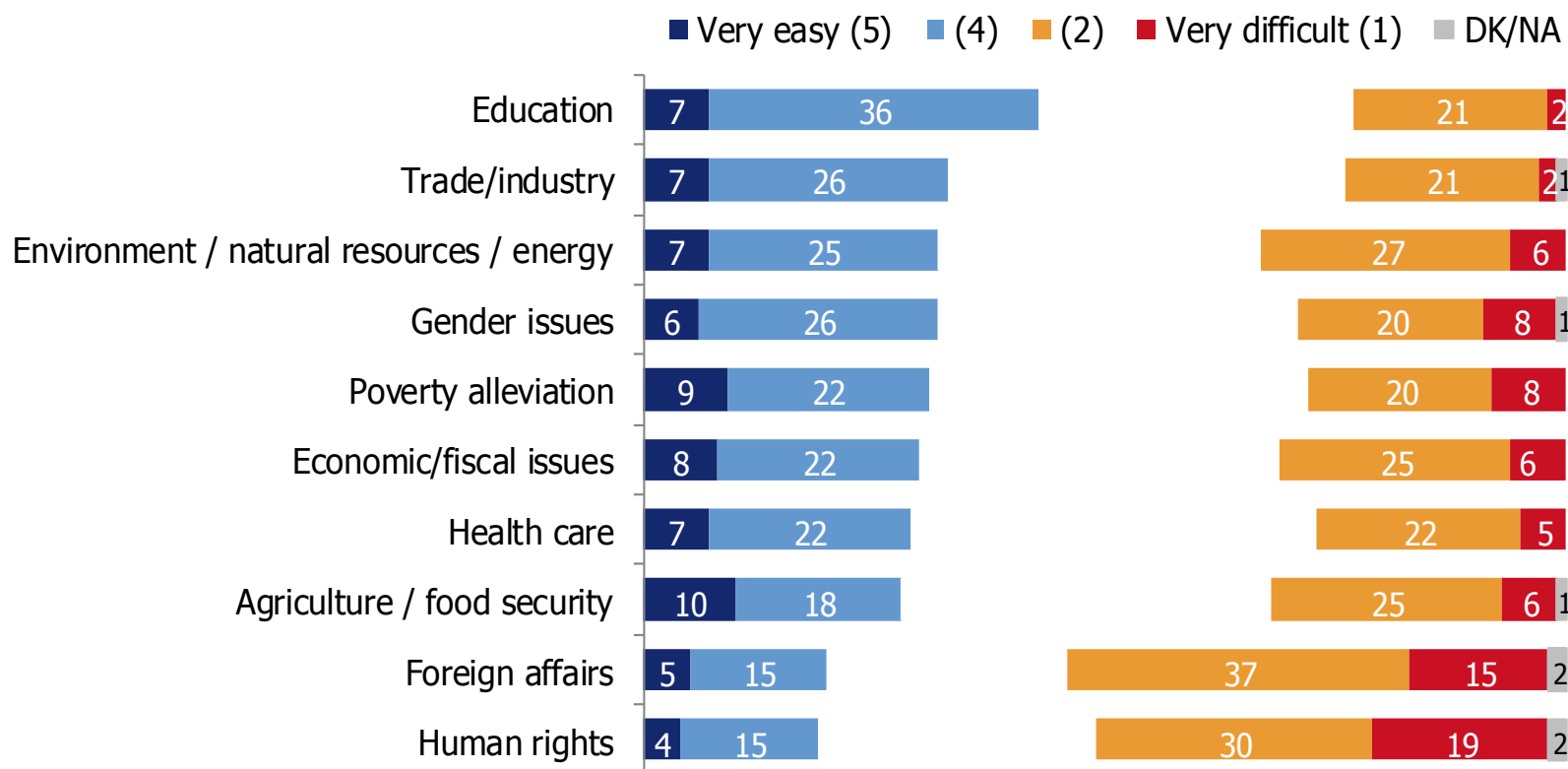
Subsample: Those who require information about each issue for their work; *n*=129–211

The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
A3. How easy or difficult is it to obtain information to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?

21 *Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very difficult" and 5 is "Very easy."*

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Non-elected government stakeholders report the greatest ease in accessing information.

Ease of obtaining information to support policy development

% of respondents selecting "Easy" (4+5), by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral /bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research /academia
Education	43	48*	54	41	44	47	20	45
Trade/industry	33	44*	36	33	53*	15	25	40
Gender issues	32	33*	52	30	22	35	22*	25
Environment / natural resources / energy	32	22*	45	35	30	32	19	37
Poverty alleviation	31	42*	50	20	20	28	26	39
Economic/fiscal issues	30	22*	59	16	36	15	22	33
Health care	29	25*	50	31	33*	23	15	25
Agriculture / food security	28	33	47	21	35	17*	5	40
Foreign affairs	20	21*	39*	20	18*	8	17*	20*
Human rights	19	12*	42*	26	9	19	9	18*
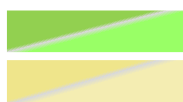
■ Easiest

■ Most difficult

Note: two shades of green and yellow have been used when very little differences exist between the bottom or top two responses

Subsample: Those who require information about each issue for their work (Total *n*=129–211)
*Small sample sizes for some issues within some stakeholder groups (n<20)

A3. How easy or difficult is it to obtain information to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very difficult" and 5 is "Very easy."

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Information about human rights is perceived as among the most difficult to obtain across all countries.

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Ease of obtaining information to support policy development

% of respondents selecting "Easy" (4+5), by country, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Education	43	62	30	45	39	43
Trade/industry	33	33	31	24	40	38
Gender issues	32	52	24	28	24	33
Environment / natural resources / energy	32	33	29	32	42	29
Poverty alleviation	31	47	28	26	26	34
Economic/fiscal issues	30	27	31	19	30	35
Health care	29	24	28	26	37	28
Agriculture / food security	28	40	23	20	29	34
Foreign affairs	20	19	28	4	16	30
Human rights	19	18	18	20	31	7

Easiest

Most difficult

Note: two shades of green and yellow have been used when very little differences exist between the bottom or top two responses

Subsample: Those who require information about each issue for their work (Total *n*=129–211)

A3. How easy or difficult is it to obtain information to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?
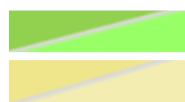*Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very difficult" and 5 is "Very easy."*

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Ease of obtaining information to support policy development

SLIDE 21

- Stakeholders, in general, find it challenging to get access to information they require: of 10 areas tested, the highest rated (education) is considered easy to access by only 43 percent of respondents.

- Among those who require the various types of information for their work in policy development, access to education-related information is consistently the easiest to obtain.

- In comparison, stakeholders across the region express much more difficulty in accessing information on human rights and foreign affairs (a majority or more say both types of information are 'difficult' to access).

SLIDE 22

- Across stakeholder groups, respondents generally express the same ease and difficulty in accessing information on topic areas (i.e., education as the easiest, human rights / foreign affairs the most difficult).

- However, private sector stakeholders consistently express the greatest difficulty in accessing all types of information (especially in comparison to non-elected government stakeholders).

SLIDE 23

- Across countries, reported ease of information access is generally similar, although in Pakistan and Bangladesh, stakeholders perceive information in several areas easier to obtain than stakeholders in other countries (Pakistan–environment, health care, human rights; Bangladesh–education, gender issues, agriculture)

- Access to information on human rights is stated to be notably easier to access in Pakistan than in other countries.

- In Nepal, information on foreign affairs is perceived as especially difficult to obtain.

- In India, no one issue stands out as especially easy to obtain. When compared to the other four South Asian countries, ease of access to most kinds of information is relatively similar, including information on economic / fiscal issues.

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Human rights, gender, and foreign affairs information considered least useful to support policy development.

Usefulness of information to support policy development

% of respondents, by type of information, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ Very useful (5)　■ (4)　■ (2)　■ Not very useful (1)　■ DK/NA

Type of information	Very useful (5)	(4)	(2)	Not very useful (1)	DK/NA
Education	21	35	12	2	1
Trade/industry	20	32	13		1
Economic/fiscal issues	22	30	17	2	
Poverty alleviation	22	29	15	2	
Environment / natural resources / energy	21	30	18	2	
Health care	16	32	13	2	1
Agriculture / food security	22	24	15	4	1
Human rights	16	22	17	7	4
Gender issues	13	25	19	3	3
Foreign affairs	16	16	29	6	3
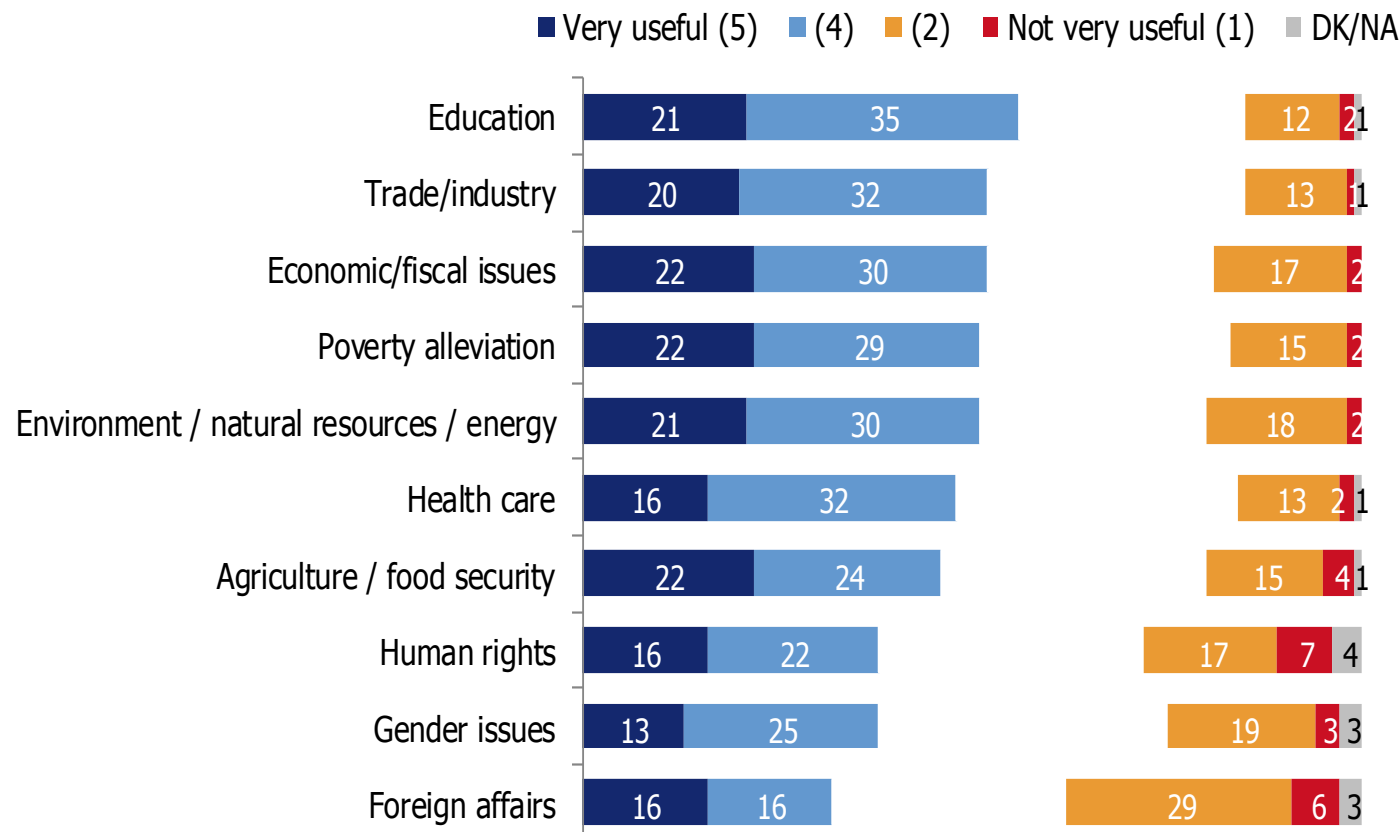
Subsample: Those who require information about each issue for their work; *n*=129–211

The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).

A3a. How useful is the information you obtain to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?

Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not very useful" and 5 is "Very useful."

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Significant differences across stakeholders in terms of perceived utility of information received.

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Usefulness of information to support policy development

% of respondents selecting "Useful" (4+5), by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral/ bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research/ academia
Education	56	69*	64	72	47	47	36	52
Trade/industry	52	75*	61	67	46*	23	47	48
Economic/fiscal issues	52	69*	65	60	36	36	55	48
Environment / natural resources / energy	51	61*	62	50	39	30	56	42
Poverty alleviation	51	68*	60	57	38	43	46	58
Health care	48	62*	54	58	39*	38	36	59
Agriculture / food security	46	67	45	54	31	34	46	48
Gender issues	38	60*	43	44	23	41	37*	25
Human rights	38	41*	47*	53	9	43	39	18*
Foreign affairs	32	50*	39*	35	27*	21	34*	27*
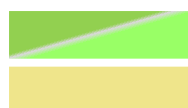
Most useful

Least useful

Note: two shades of green and yellow have been used when very little differences exist between the bottom or top two responses

Subsample: Those who require information about each issue for their work (Total *n*=129–211)
*Small sample sizes for some issues within some stakeholder groups (n<20)

A3a. How useful is the information you obtain to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?

26   *Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not very useful" and 5 is "Very useful."*

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Perceived usefulness of information varies by country.

Usefulness of information to support policy development

% of respondents selecting "Useful" (4+5), by country, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Education	56	60	56	57	48	53
Trade/industry	52	50	53	50	57	48
Economic/fiscal issues	52	54	45	61	54	50
Environment / natural resources / energy	51	46	49	58	45	55
Poverty alleviation	51	63	44	58	38	58
Health care	48	44	44	55	48	53
Agriculture / food security	46	68	40	55	28	38
Gender issues	38	40	31	54	45	21
Human rights	38	39	42	42	31	29
Foreign affairs	32	23	43	34	32	25

Most useful

Least useful

Subsample: Those who require information about each issue for their work (Total *n*=129–211)

A3a. How useful is the information you obtain to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not very useful" and 5 is "Very useful."

27

Usefulness of information to support policy development

IDRC ✳ CRDI

SLIDE 25

- The perceived usefulness of information to support policy development is average at best: the percent of stakeholders who rate the usefulness of each type of information a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale ranges from 32 to 56 percent. In five of the ten areas, less than a majority of stakeholders say it is useful in supporting their work in policy development.

- Information about human rights, gender issues, and foreign affairs are generally considered the least useful, which stakeholders also describe as the most difficult to access.

SLIDES 26 and 27

- Government (both elected and non-elected) and media stakeholders are the most positive about the information they receive, and multi/bilateral stakeholders are among the most critical.

- Across all stakeholder groups, foreign affairs and human rights information tend to be perceived as the least useful.

- Government (elected and non-elected), media, multilateral, and NGO stakeholders find similar types of information to be most useful to support policy development—mainly information on education, trade, and economic issues.

- Private sector stakeholders find sources about the environment most useful, followed closely by economic issues.

- Research/academia stakeholders find information sources about health care most useful, followed by information on poverty alleviation.

- Perceived usefulness of information varies by country. The usefulness of information on agriculture / food security in Bangladesh is notable,

GLOBESCAN

Information on poverty and economic issues most required by stakeholders.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Information required for your work in public policy

Combined mentions, South Asia, 2011

Category	Value
Poverty alleviation	86
Economic/fiscal issues	82
Environment / natural resources / energy	80
Education	78
Agriculture / food security	77
Gender issues	72
Health care	72
Trade/industry	71
Human rights	68
Foreign affairs	53
Other	20

Other includes…
Infrastructure/ development (6%)
Politics/legislation (3%)
War / violence / security (3%)
Social/cultural information (3%)
Other (4%)

Total full sample *n*=244
A2. What information do you require for your work in national policy? Information related to …
Select all that apply.

GLOBESCAN
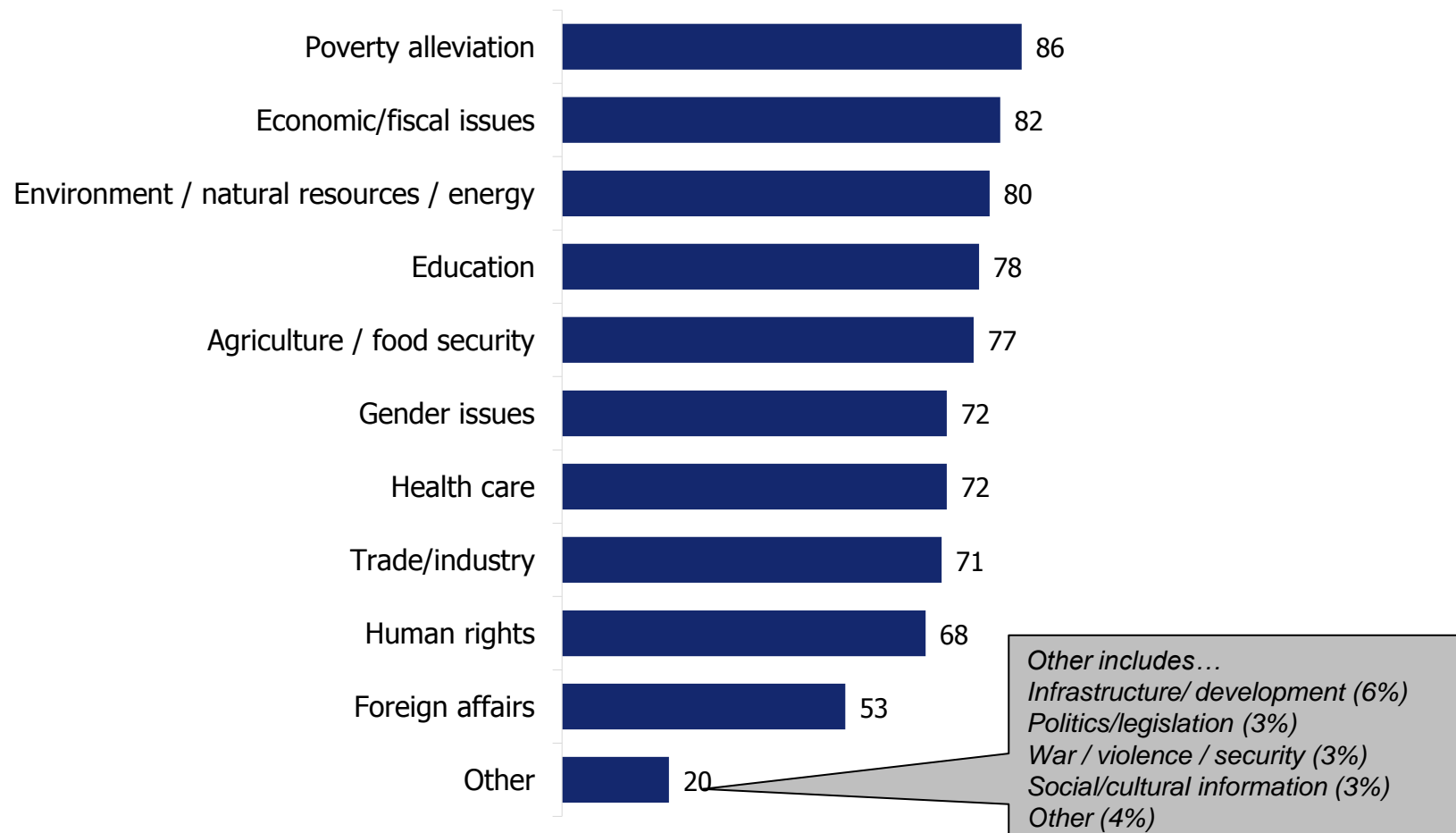
Information needs vary across groups, but information on poverty alleviation is consistently needed.

IDRC ❋ CRDI

Information required for your work in public policy

Combined mentions, by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral/ bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research/ academia
Poverty alleviation	86	83	84	83	88	98	86	82
Economic/fiscal issues	82	83	79	83	76	80	89	87
Environment / natural resources / energy	80	78	76	94	70	83	91	63
Education	78	83	74	89	70	83	71	76
Agriculture / food security	77	91	74	92	70	85	63	71
Gender issues	72	65	61	75	82	90	54	74
Health care	72	70	68	81	55	85	80	63
Trade/industry	71	70	82	78	45	66	91	66
Human rights	68	74	50	83	70	93	66	45
Foreign affairs	53	61	47	81	33	59	51	42
Other	20	22	24	14	27	22	9	24

Top mention

Second mention

Total full sample *n*=244
A2. What information do you require for your work in national policy? Information related to …
Select all that apply.

GLOBESCAN

Little difference is reported in required information across countries.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Information required for your work in public policy

Combined mentions, by country, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Poverty alleviation	86	95	81	93	79	90
Economic/fiscal issues	82	93	73	88	85	85
Environment / natural resources / energy	80	98	68	93	74	78
Education	78	88	68	80	85	80
Agriculture / food security	77	88	74	85	72	73
Gender issues	72	88	67	78	74	60
Health care	72	85	67	76	69	70
Trade/industry	71	85	54	83	77	78
Human rights	68	83	57	73	74	68
Foreign affairs	53	65	42	56	64	53
Other	20	23	13	27	18	28

Top mention

Second mention

GLOBESCAN

Stakeholders' most important information needs are generally accessible, except on agriculture.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Importance vs ease of access to information

Combined mentions vs respondents selecting "Easy" (4+5), South Asia, 2011

A2. What information do you require for your work in national policy? Information related to … *Please select all that apply.*
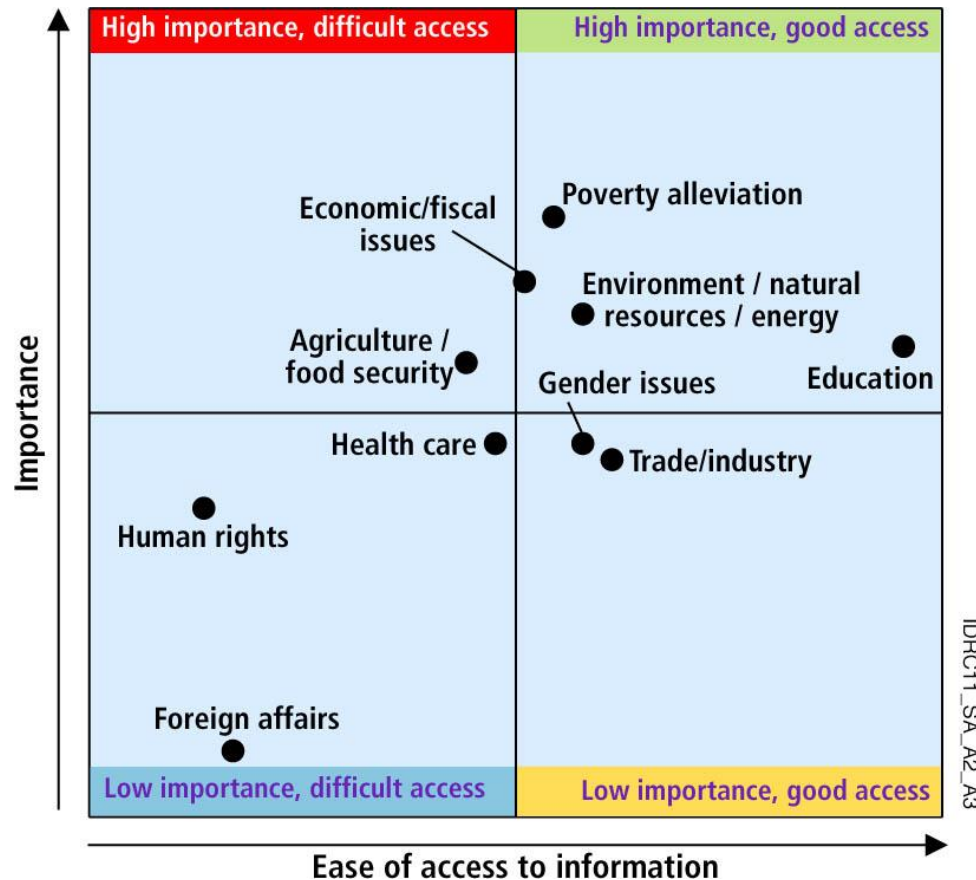
A3 Subsample: Those who require this information for their work (*n*=129–211)

A3. How easy or difficult is it to obtain information to support policy development in each of the following areas currently?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Very difficult" and 5 is "Very easy."

GLOBESCAN

Obtaining information to support policy development

IDRC ✳ **CRDI**

SLIDE 29

- Information on poverty alleviation is in high demand among policy community stakeholders in South Asia. Majorities of stakeholders also want information on economic issues, the environment, education, and agriculture.

- Stakeholders express less of a need for information about foreign affairs to support stakeholders' work in national policy (this is fortunate, given the difficulty in accessing this information and its perceived usefulness).

SLIDE 30

- Information needs vary across stakeholder groups. However, information about poverty and economic issues are near the top of the list for all stakeholders.

- Elected government stakeholders tend to need a wider variety of information than other groups.

- Media stakeholders report primarily needing information about the environment and agriculture.

- Private sector stakeholders are more likely than others to require trade/industry information, along with environment and economic information.

SLIDE 31

- Information needs vary across countries. However, information about poverty and economic issues are near the top of the list in all countries
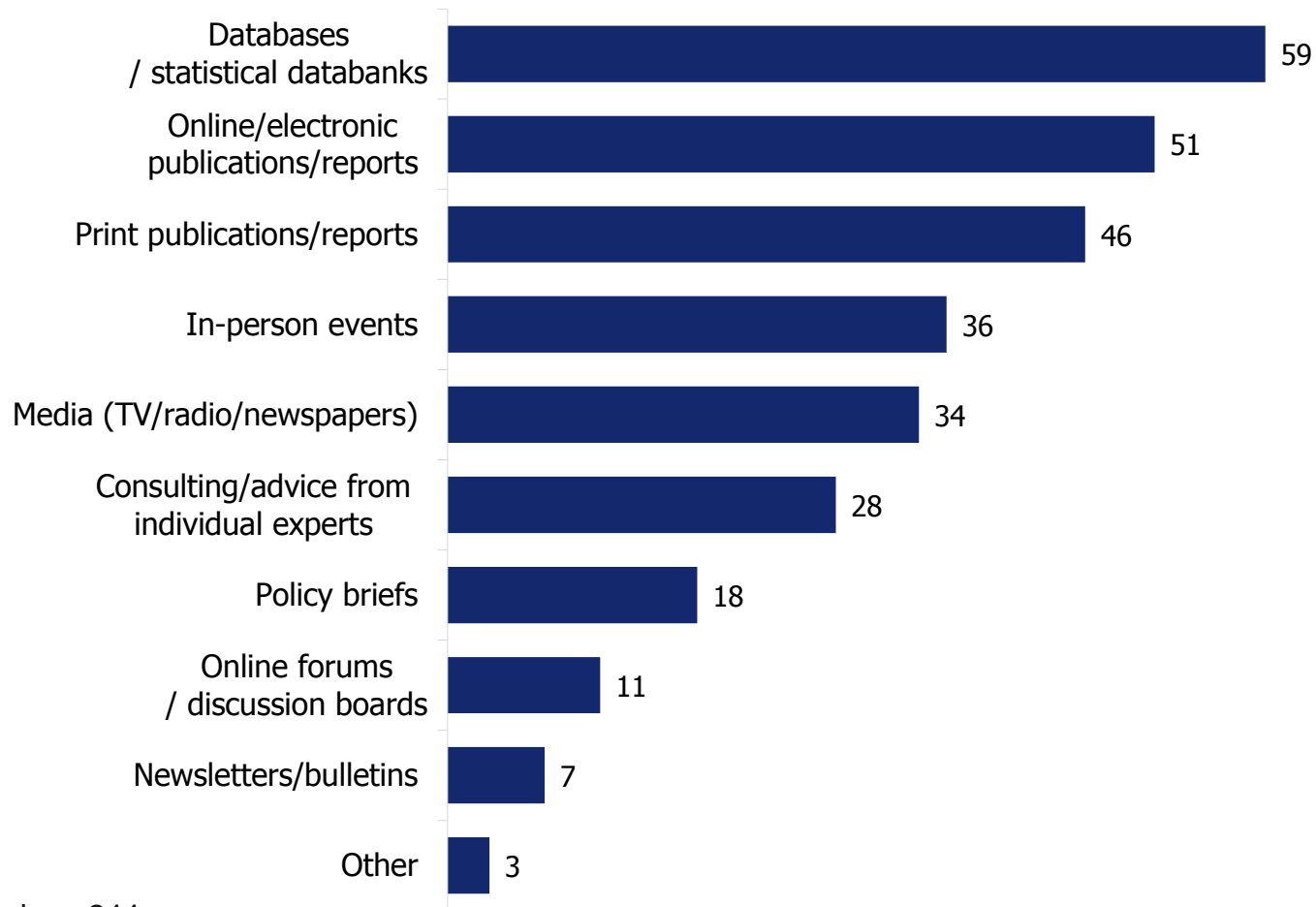
GLOBESCAN

Obtaining information to support policy development

SLIDE 32

- The chart on slide 32 is a graphical representation of how the need for the information required (vertical axis) relates to how easy it is to access this information (horizontal axis).

- The top right box, highlighted in green, contains those areas that are both important and ***relatively*** easier to access (since reported access is generally low). Poverty alleviation, economic issues, and environment each fall into this quadrant.

- The top left box, highlighted in red, contains topic areas that are important, but less accessible. Information on agriculture and food security falls into this category, suggesting this is a priority area for further investigation and improvement.

- The bottom right box, highlighted in yellow, contains those areas that are easily accessible but considered less important. Gender issues and trade/industry information fall into this category.

- The bottom left box, highlighted in blue, contains topic areas that are less important and also less accessible. Human rights, health care, and foreign affairs are in this quadrant. These are areas to monitor and work toward raising their profile, as they become more important to stakeholders over time.

- While the types of information considered most important to support national policy development are relatively accessible (i.e., information related to poverty alleviation, economic issues, and environment), it is important to note that most stakeholders say that their current access to these critical areas is either average or difficult.

Databases, online reports, and print publications are perceived as most useful to stakeholders.

Forms of information exchange useful to support involvement in national policy

Combined mentions, South Asia, 2011

Form	Value
Databases / statistical databanks	59
Online/electronic publications/reports	51
Print publications/reports	46
In-person events	36
Media (TV/radio/newspapers)	34
Consulting/advice from individual experts	28
Policy briefs	18
Online forums / discussion boards	11
Newsletters/bulletins	7
Other	3

Total full sample *n*=244;

35

A4. What format(s) of information exchange is most useful to support your involvement in national policy? *Select up to three.*

GLOBESCAN
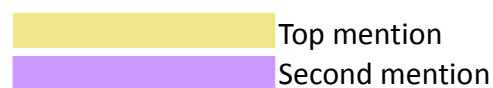
Stakeholder groups find different forms of information exchange useful.

Forms of information exchange useful to support involvement in national policy

Combined mentions, by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral/ bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research/ academia
Databases / statistical databanks	59	57	66	39	42	73	60	74
Online/electronic publications/reports	51	30	45	42	48	54	80	53
Print publications/reports	46	52	47	47	45	37	40	55
In-person events	36	35	24	39	55	22	37	45
Media (TV/radio/newspapers)	34	35	21	67	21	39	40	16
Consulting/advice from individual experts	28	35	42	33	27	24	20	16
Policy briefs	18	22	24	8	33	22	6	16
Online forums / discussion boards	11	22	8	11	9	15	14	5
Newsletters/bulletins	7	4	3	8	15	7	0	13

Top mention

Second mention

Total full sample *n*=244; Stakeholder sample sizes range from *n*=23–41

A4. What format(s) of information exchange is most useful to support your involvement in national policy? *Select up to three.*

Online forums and newsletters and bulletins are consistently found to be among the least useful across all countries.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Forms of information exchange useful to support involvement in national policy

Combined mentions, by country, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Databases / statistical databanks	59	60	50	80	62	55
Online/electronic publications/reports	51	40	56	39	56	60
Print publications/reports	46	55	52	41	41	33
In-person events	36	43	27	34	46	40
Media (TV/radio/newspapers)	34	48	29	37	33	30
Consulting/advice from individual experts	28	30	21	29	31	35
Policy briefs	18	13	25	17	15	15
Online forums / discussion boards	11	5	13	15	8	15
Newsletters/bulletins	7	8	10	5	8	5

Top mention
Second mention

Total full sample *n*=244; Country sample sizes range from *n*=39–84

A4. What format(s) of information exchange is most useful to support your involvement in national policy?
Select up to three.

GLOBESCAN

Useful forms of information exchange

SLIDE 35

- Stakeholders generally prefer user-driven, self-directed information exchanges over in-person and interactive forums, such as consulting advice from individual experts and online discussion boards.

- Databases and online publications are perceived as the most useful forms of information exchange.

- More informal communication channels, such as newsletters and online forums are considered much less useful.

- Also notable is the relatively low perceived usefulness of policy briefs by all stakeholder groups.

SLIDES 36 & 37

- Stakeholders find different forms of information exchange useful to their work. While most turn to databases first, stakeholders from the media turn first to other media as a source, multilaterals prefer in-person events, and the private sector finds online sources most useful.

- The private sector is by far the most likely to find online reports useful. Elected-government find it least useful.

- Online reports are considered somewhat less useful in Bangladesh and Nepal. In these two countries, print publications are considered more useful than online publications.

- In all countries, newsletters and online forums are not considered very useful to support stakeholder involvement in policy development.

GLOBESCAN

Think tanks are perceived as the primary source of research-based evidence for stakeholders in South Asia.

IDRC ❋ CRDI

Types of organizations used as a source of research-based evidence

% of total respondents, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ One of your primary sources (5) ■ (4) ■ (2) ■ Never use (1) ■ DK/NA

Organization	(5)	(4)	(2)	(1)	DK/NA
Independent policy research institutes	16	44	7	3	3
Relevant government ministries/agencies	22	34	12	5	1
International agencies	15	32	14	4	2
Government-owned research institutes	23	23	15	7	1
International university-based research institutes	6	30	21	12	4
Local/national advocacy NGOs	8	25	17	7	2
National university-based research institutes	11	19	23	13	4
Industry associations	7	20	26	12	3

Note: Think tanks referred to as independent policy research institutes in questionnaire.
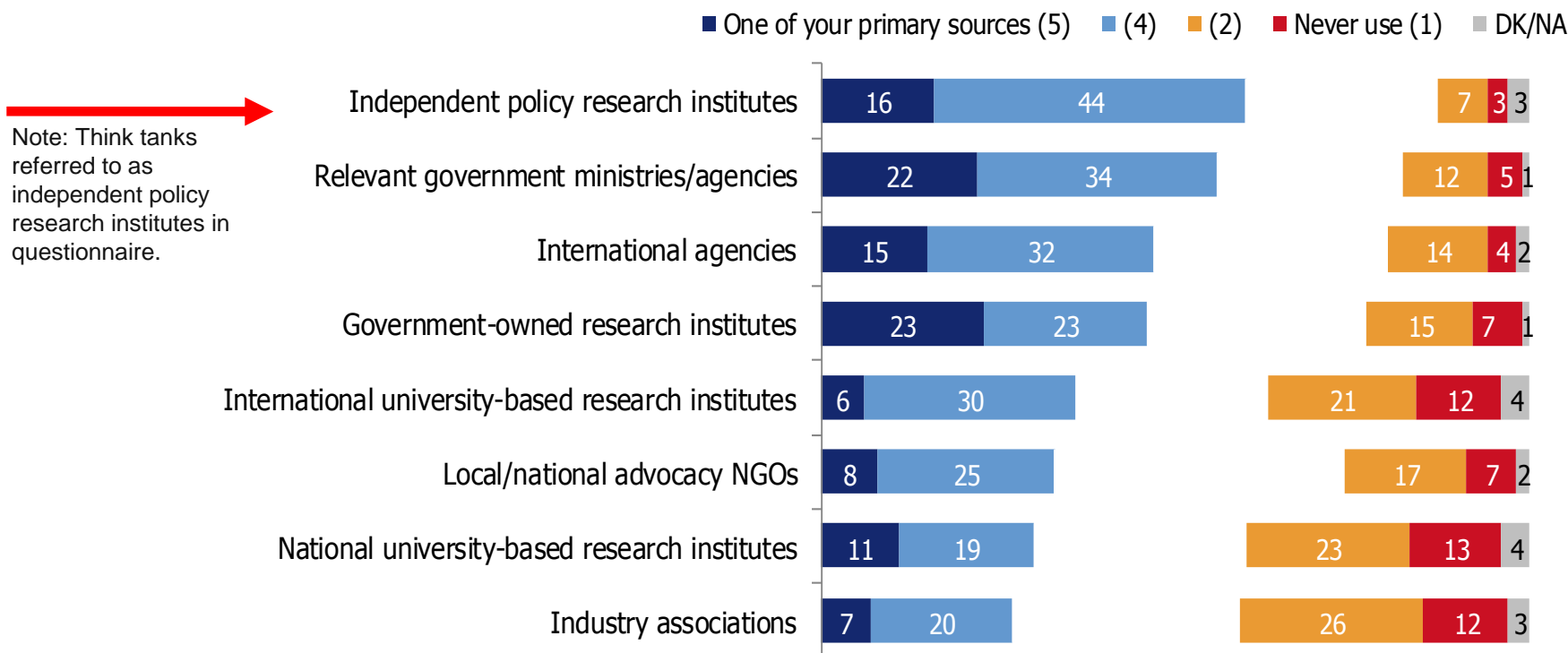
Total full sample *n*=244
The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
B1. When you require information related to social and economic policies, what types of organizations do you typically turn to for research-based evidence?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Never Use" and 5 is "One of your primary sources."

GLOBESCAN

All stakeholder groups, with the exception of government stakeholders, say think tanks are their primary source for information related to social / economic policies.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Types of organizations used as a source of research-based evidence

% of total respondents selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral/ bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research/ academia
Independent policy research institutes	60	39	45	61	82	49	63	76
Relevant government ministries/agencies	56	78	71	55	48	41	45	55
International agencies	47	57	40	42	73	32	40	53
Government-owned research institutes	46	65	64	59	33	37	23	42
International university-based research institutes	36	17	40	32	39	31	20	58
Local/national advocacy NGOs	33	39	24	44	39	41	29	19
National university-based research institutes	30	26	47	38	24	27	20	26
Industry associations	27	30	34	44	15	4	46	21

☐ Type of organization used most often

Total full sample *n*=244
B1. When you require information related to social and economic policies, what types of organizations do you typically turn to for research-based evidence?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Never Use" and 5 is "One of your primary sources."

40

GLOBESCAN

In most countries, think tanks are perceived as a primary source of research-based evidence.

Types of organizations used as a source of research-based evidence

% of total respondents selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by country, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Independent policy research institutes	60	76	56	42	64	68
Relevant government ministries/agencies	56	48	68	58	33	56
International agencies	47	48	41	58	43	48
Government-owned research institutes	46	38	49	47	33	56
International university-based research institutes	36	30	32	51	26	40
Local/national advocacy NGOs	33	41	37	24	33	28
National university-based research institutes	30	18	37	37	18	35
Industry associations	27	18	27	24	39	31

Type of organization used most often

Total full sample *n*=244

B1. When you require information related to social and economic policies, what types of organizations do you typically turn to for research-based evidence?

Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Never Use" and 5 is "One of your primary sources."

41

Relevance and quality of research are primary reasons given for choosing an information source.

IDRC ❋ CRDI

Reasons for turning to specific organization mentioned

% of respondents, by organization type, South Asia, 2011

	Government-owned research institutes (n=55)	Relevant government ministries/ agencies (n=53)	Independent policy research institutes (n=39)	International agencies (n=37)	National university based-research institutes (n=27)	Local/national advocacy NGOs (n=19)	Industry associations (n=18)	International university-based research institutes (n=14)
Relevance of research	33	42	31	51	30	53	33	36
High quality research	25	17	41	24	41	16	39	29
Only / one of few organizations of this type	18	11	10	5	0	0	0	0
High quality of staff/researchers	4	4	10	3	15	16	0	0
Personal contact	4	8	5	0	0	5	6	14
Only organization of this type I am familiar with	4	2	0	0	4	0	6	7
Other	11	17	3	14	7	11	11	14

Subsample: Those who say they use type of institute as a primary source (5 on a 5-point scale)

Top mention
Second mention

B1b. Why do you turn to this specific organization most often?

GLOBESCAN

Lack of awareness of think tanks is the main reason why they are not chosen

Reasons for not turning to think tanks for research-based evidence

2011

> **Only 7 respondents said they do not turn to think tanks**
>
> - **3 said "not familiar enough with any such institution"**
> - **2 said "research not relevant to needs"**
> - **1 said "quality of research does not meet needs"**
> - **1 gave a reason classified as "other", stating "a lack of resources"**

Subsample: Those who have never used independent policy research institutes (*n*=7)

B1b. Why is it that you never use independent policy research institutes when you are looking for research-based evidence?

GLOBESCAN

Types of organizations used as a source of research-based evidence

SLIDE 39

- Of the prompted types of organizations, independent policy research institutes (think tanks) and government ministries/agencies are the most frequently used sources of research-based evidence.

SLIDE 40

- Stakeholders tend to draw on their own organization more heavily than others (e.g. academics on international university research institutes, multi/bi-laterals on international agencies, private sector on industry associations, government on ministries).
- Use of think tanks is particularly high among NGO stakeholders.
- Although multilateral stakeholders are the most likely to use think tanks as a primary source, when comparison is made across organizations, they are also the most likely to use information from international agencies.

SLIDE 41 & 42

- In Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, stakeholders turn to think tanks as a primary source. This is not the case in India and Nepal (who both turn to government ministries/agencies as their primary source).
- The most frequently cited reasons why stakeholders say they turn to **any** of these organizations is because they provide high quality and relevant research.

Think tanks are rated the highest in research quality of all organizations included in the survey.

IDRC ❊ CRDI

Quality ratings of research provided by…

% of respondents, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ Excellent (5) ■ (4) ■ (2) ■ Poor (1) ■ DK/NA

Organization	Excellent (5)	(4)	(2)	Poor (1)
Independent policy research institutes	11	49	5	
International university-based research institutes	16	42	10	
International agencies	13	45	6	2
National university-based research institutes	10	30	16	2
Local/national advocacy NGOs	5	28	21	1
Industry associations	5	25	26	3
Relevant government ministries/agencies	6	22	24	3
Government-owned research institutes	7	20	26	4

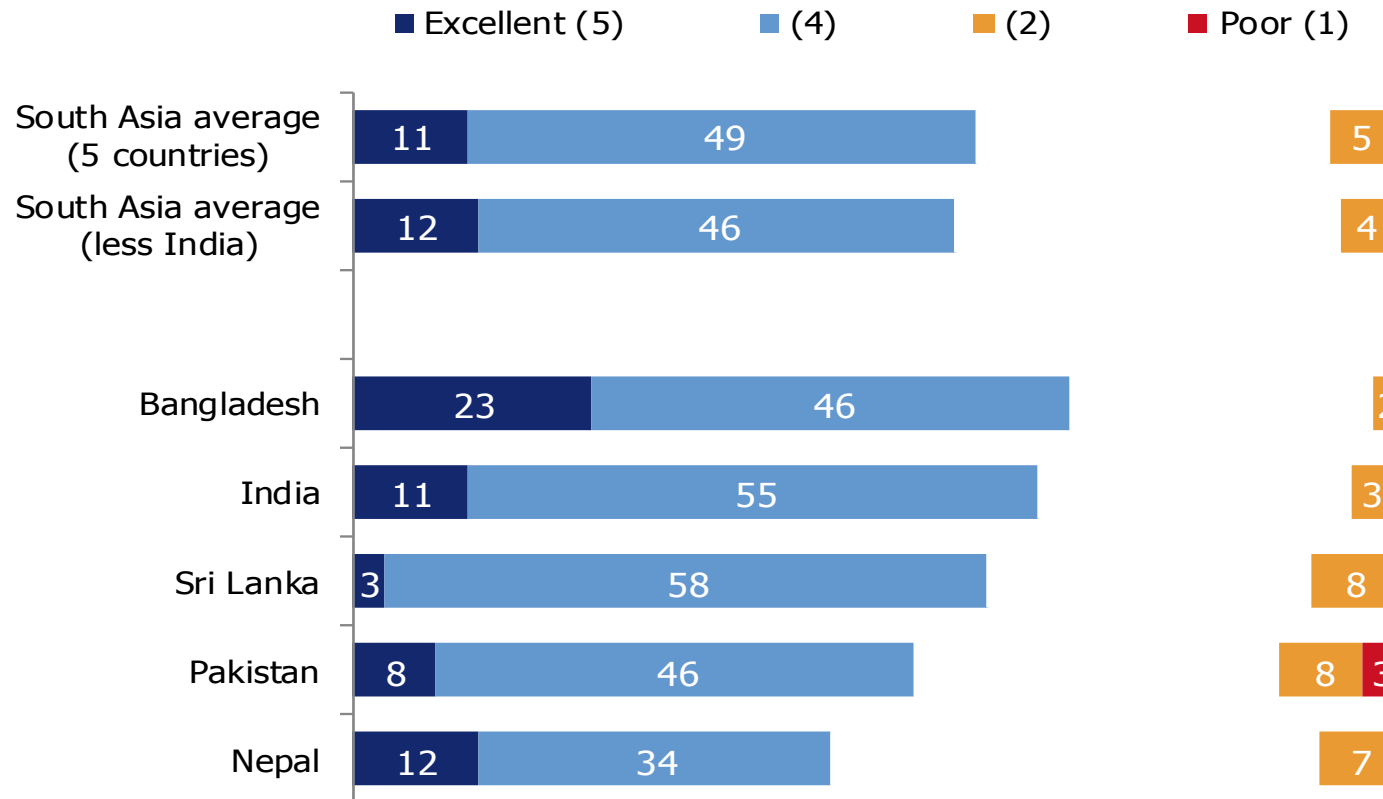Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=203–231)

The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
B2. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of the quality of research provided to work on policy issues in your country? *Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."*

45

GLOBESCAN

Perceptions of quality of research of think tanks are highest amongst stakeholders in Bangladesh.

Quality ratings of think tanks

% of respondents, by country, South Asia, 2011

■ Excellent (5)   ■ (4)   ■ (2)   ■ Poor (1)

Country	Excellent (5)	(4)	(2)	Poor (1)
South Asia average (5 countries)	11	49	5	1
South Asia average (less India)	12	46	4	1
Bangladesh	23	46	2	
India	11	55	3	1
Sri Lanka	3	58	8	
Pakistan	8	46	8	3
Nepal	12	34	7	

Subsample: Respondents who use independent policy research institutes (Total n=229; *n*=37–74)
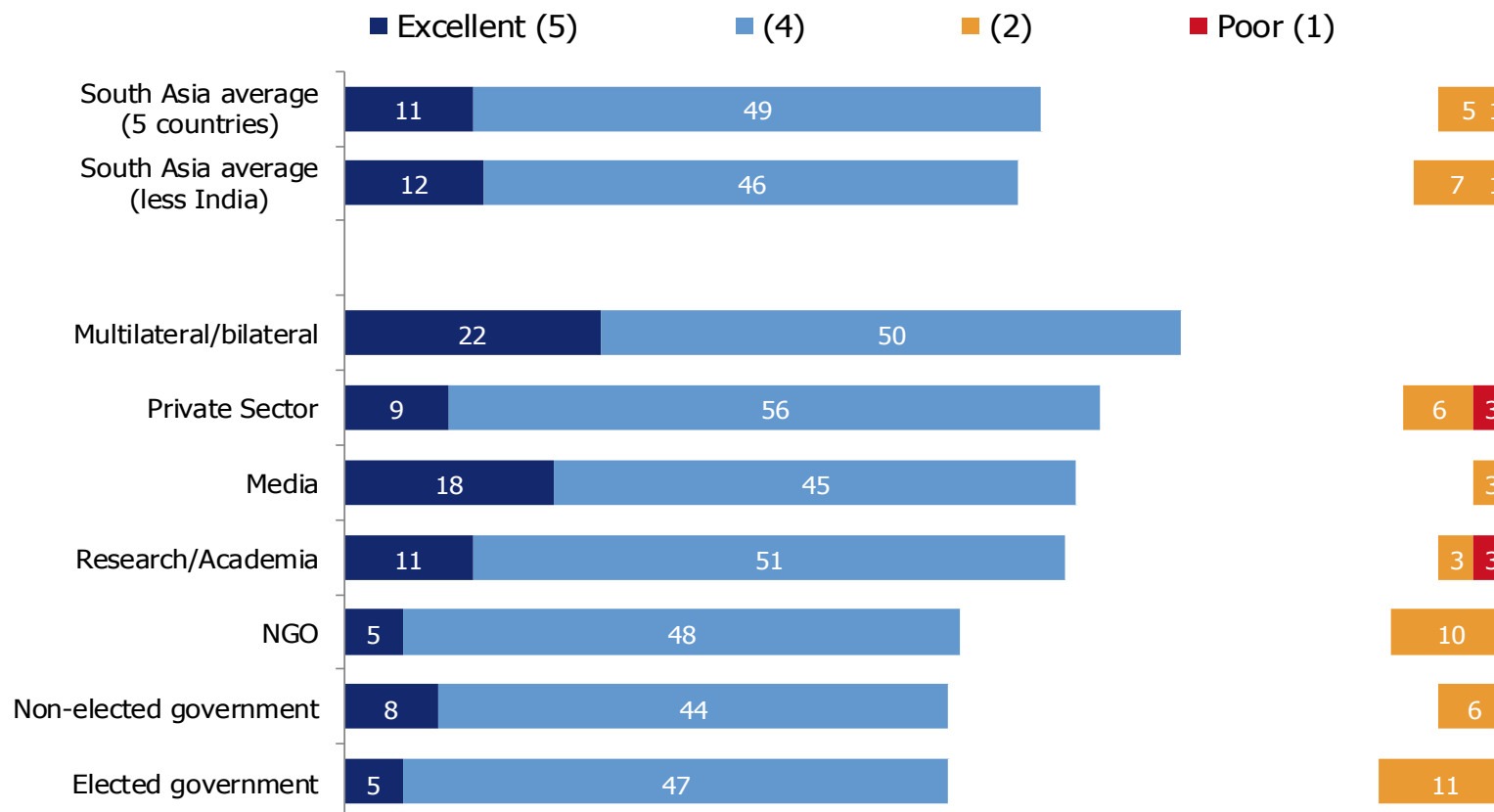
The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).

B2. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of the quality of research provided to work on policy issues in your country?

Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."

46

Majorities in all stakeholder groups give high ratings to think tanks on quality of research.

Quality ratings of think tanks

% of respondents, by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ Excellent (5)　■ (4)　■ (2)　■ Poor (1)

Stakeholder	Excellent (5)	(4)	(2)	Poor (1)
South Asia average (5 countries)	11	49	5	1
South Asia average (less India)	12	46	7	1
Multilateral/bilateral	22	50		
Private Sector	9	56	6	3
Media	18	45	3	
Research/Academia	11	51	3	3
NGO	5	48	10	
Non-elected government	8	44	6	
Elected government	5	47	11	

Subsample: Respondents who use independent policy research institutes (Total n=229; *n*=19–40)

The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
B2. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of the quality of research provided to work on policy issues in your country?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."

GLOBESCAN

Government stakeholders give higher quality ratings to government sources of information compared to other stakeholders.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Quality ratings of research provided by…

% of respondents selecting "Excellent (4+5), by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral/ bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research/ academia
Independent policy research institutes	60	53*	53	63	72	53	65	62
International university-based research institutes	58	61*	65	55	74	52	46	58
International agencies	58	60	71	63	65	43	52	57
National university-based research institutes	40	47	53	57	27	28	42	30
Local/national advocacy NGOs	33	33	27	45	40	43	24	13
Industry associations	30	32*	34	47	16	7	37	31
Relevant government ministries/agencies	28	59	49	24	16	16	27	14
Government-owned research institutes	27	43	38	33	29	10	12	29

▨ Top mention

▨ Second mention

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (Total *n*=203–231)
Small sample sizes for some organizations within some stakeholder groups (n<20)

B2. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of the quality of research provided to work on policy issues in your country?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."

GLOBESCAN

Perceptions of quality of research

SLIDE 45

- The quality of research from think tanks is very well regarded in South Asia, on par with views of university-based research institutes and international agencies.

- While stakeholders frequently draw on government ministries/agencies and government-owned research institutes for information, there are clear concerns about the quality of research from these organizations (both are rated as excellent by less than 30% of respondents who use them).

SLIDE 46

- Perceptions of the quality of think tanks in specific countries vary. Stakeholders in Bangladesh and India give the highest quality ratings to think tanks, while stakeholders in Nepal give the lowest. However, stakeholders in Nepal tend to give neutral ratings, rather than negative ratings.

SLIDE 47

- Among government stakeholders, perceptions of the quality of think tanks are least positive. However, very few stakeholders, including those in government, give stakeholders negative ratings on quality, instead they tend to give neutral ratings.

SLIDE 48

- Government stakeholders give higher quality ratings to relevant government ministries, and government-owned research institutes, when compared with all other stakeholders.
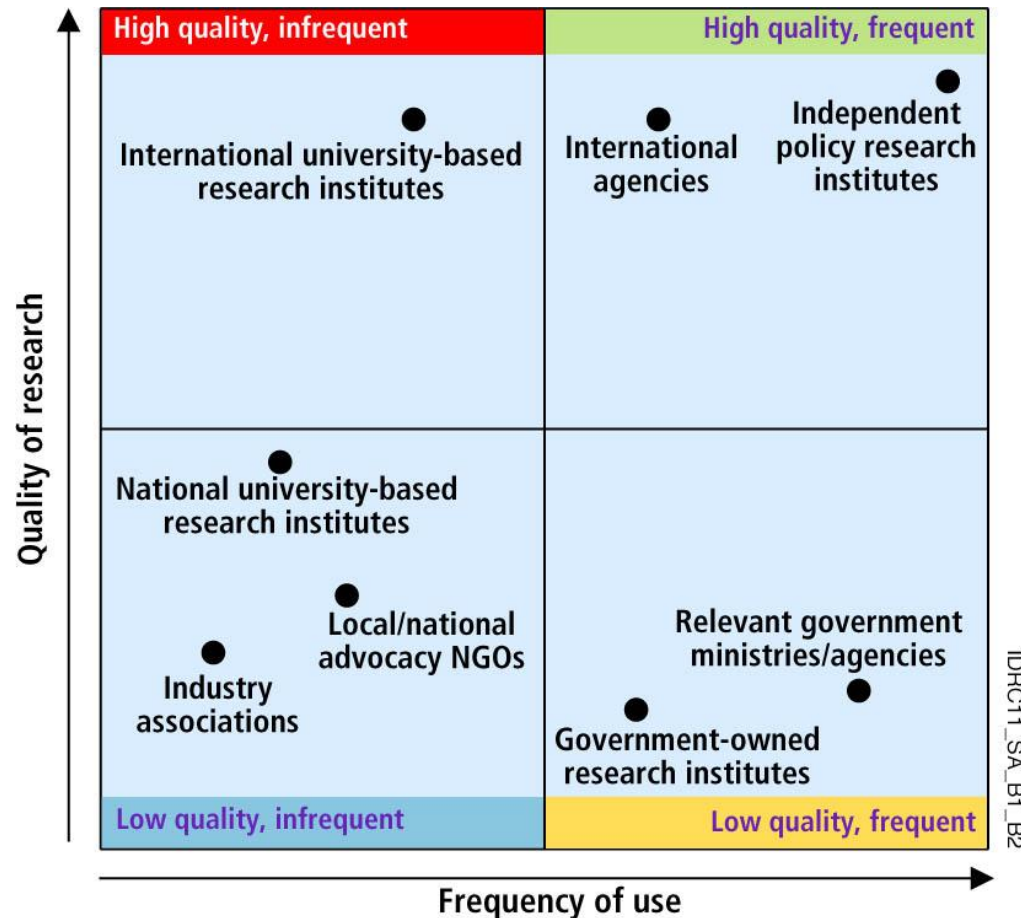
GLOBESCAN

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Quality vs frequency of use of research

% of respondents selecting "Excellent" (4+5) vs "Primary Source" (4+5), South Asia, 2011

B2 Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=203–2231)

B2. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of quality of research provided to work on policy issues in your country? *Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."*

B1. When you require information related to social and economic policies, what types of organizations do you typically turn to for research-based evidence?
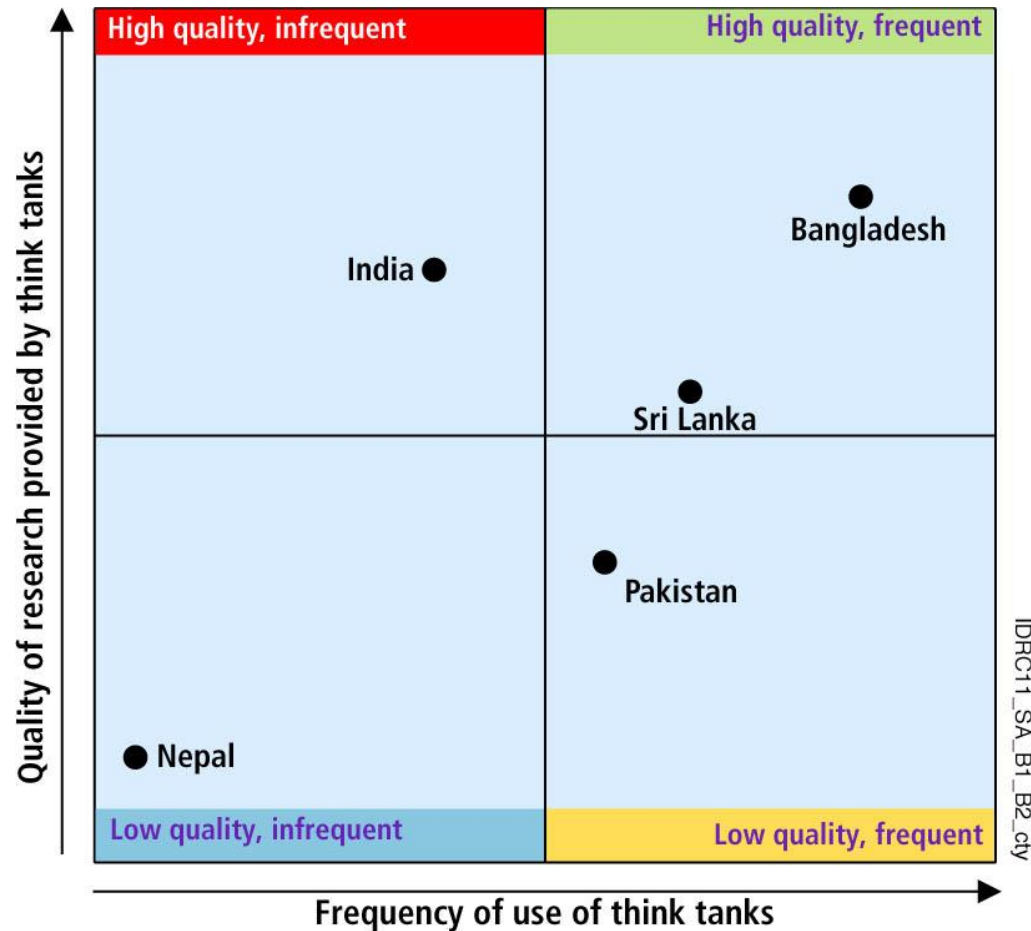*Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Never Use" and 5 is "One of your primary sources."*

GLOBESCAN

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Think tanks: Quality vs frequency of use of research provided by…

% of respondents selecting "Excellent" (4+5) vs "Primary Source" (4+5), South Asia, 2011

B2 Subsample: Those who use independent policy research institutes (*n=37–74*)

B2. How would you rate each of these sources in terms of quality of research provided to work on policy issues in your country?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Poor" and 5 is "Excellent."

B1. When you require information related to social and economic policies, what types of organizations do you typically turn to for research-based evidence?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Never Use" and 5 is "One of your primary sources."

GLOBESCAN

Perceived quality vs use of research

SLIDE 50

- The chart on slide 50 is a graphical representation of how the perceived quality of research from the organization (vertical axis) relates to how frequently the organization is used as a source of research (horizontal axis).

  - The top right box, highlighted in green, contains those organizations used frequently and considered to deliver high quality research. Both international agencies and think tanks fall into this category.

  - The bottom left box, highlighted in blue, contains those organizations which are considered to have lower quality research and are used less frequently. This quadrant contains national university-based institutions, local/national NGOs, and industry associations.

  - The top left box, highlighted in red, contains those organizations which are perceived to deliver relatively high quality research, and are used less frequently. International university-based research institutes are located in this quadrant.

  - The bottom right box, highlighted in yellow, contains lower quality research, yet are used frequently. Both government sources (research institutes and relevant ministries) fall into this category.   The higher than average frequency of use is likely due to a combination of frequent use by government stakeholders and its moderate to high access by other stakeholder due to their accessibility.

- Overall, think tanks are in an ideal position – they are used frequently and are seen to delivery high quality research.

Perceived quality vs use of research

IDRC ✳ CRDI

SLIDE 51

- The chart on slide 51 shows the relationship between the perceived quality of research provided by think tanks and the frequency of use at the country level.

  - Quality and frequency of use of think tanks are linked.

  - Higher perceptions of quality are associated with higher frequency of use (e.g., Bangladesh and Sri Lanka).

  - Conversely, in countries with lower levels of use (Nepal), stakeholders are less certain about the quality of research from think tanks.

  - In India, there are very positive views of the quality of research from think tanks, yet use of think tanks is lower than the South Asia average. Results suggest that stakeholders here may benefit from additional information about how to access information from think tanks.

- What opportunities are there to replicate the successful context of think tanks in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (i.e., high quality, high usage) in other South Asian countries, especially in Nepal?
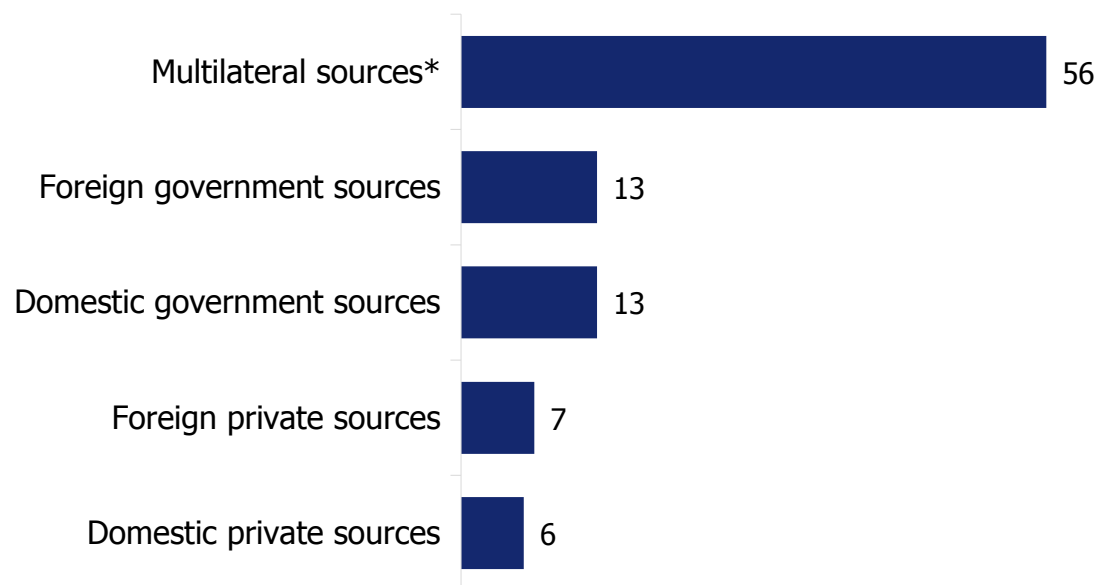
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The role and contribution of think tanks in South Asia

Stakeholders think most funding for independent think tanks comes from multilateral sources.

Most likely source of funding

% of respondents, South Asia, 2011

Source	%
Multilateral sources*	56
Foreign government sources	13
Domestic government sources	13
Foreign private sources	7
Domestic private sources	6

*Includes organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations
Total full sample *n*=244

C1. In your opinion, which of the following is the most likely source of funding for independent policy research institutes in your country?
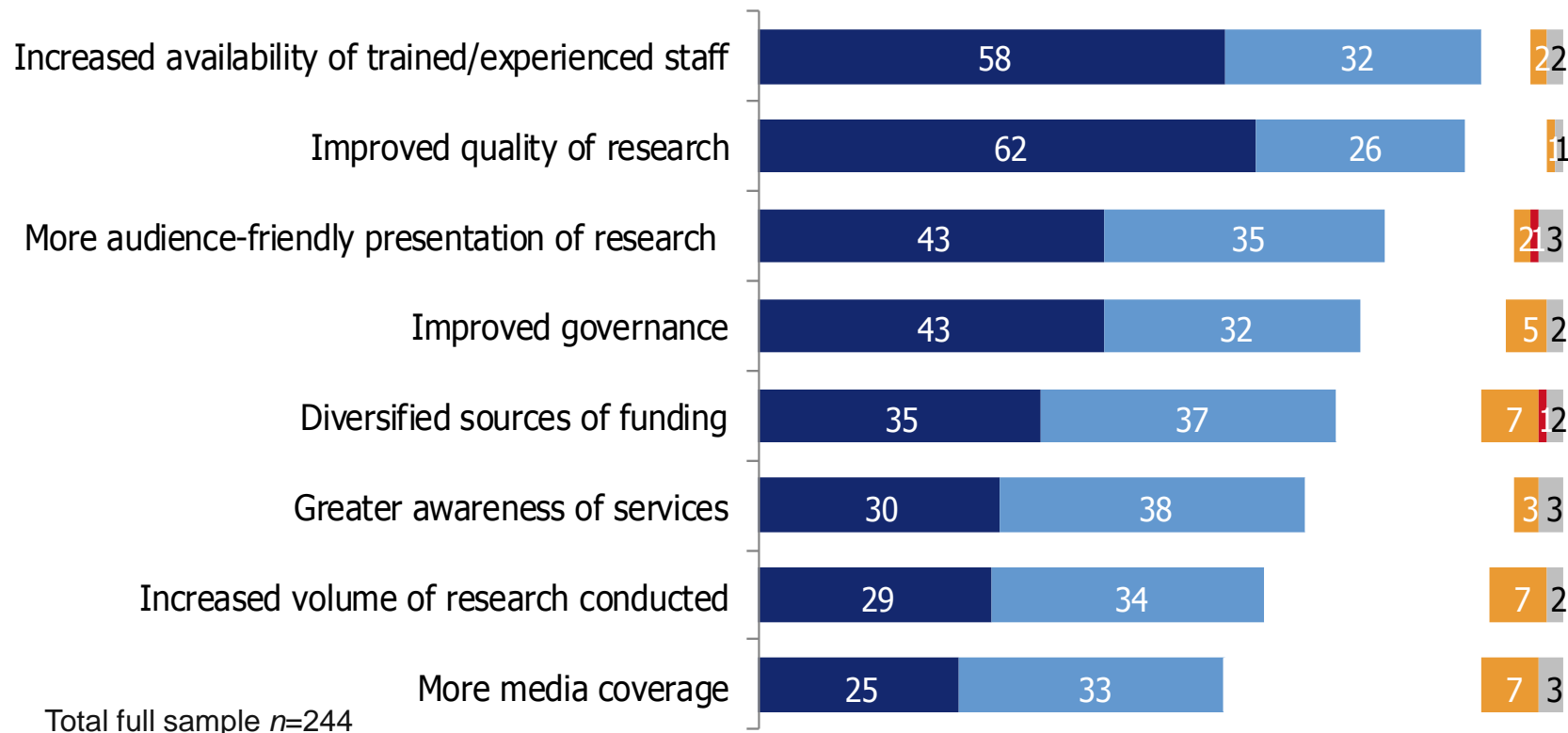
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Most likely source of funding

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• A majority of stakeholders believes that funding for think tanks would come from multilateral sources, including organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations.

• A very small percentage of stakeholders believe private sources (either domestic or foreign) to be a source of funding for think tanks (6% and 7%, respectively). Although still small in comparison to multilateral sources, a slightly larger percentage believes funding to come from government sources (13% for both foreign and domestic governments sources)..

Think tank performance is perceived to be most enhanced by better access to trained staff & improved research quality.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Importance of factors for improving performance of think tanks

% of total respondents, South Asia, 2011

Legend: ■ Highly important (5) ■ (4) ■ (2) ■ Not at all important (1) ■ DK/NA

Factor	Highly important (5)	(4)	(2)	Not at all (1)	DK/NA
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	58	32	2		2
Improved quality of research	62	26	1		1
More audience-friendly presentation of research	43	35	2	1	3
Improved governance	43	32	5		2
Diversified sources of funding	35	37	7	1	2
Greater awareness of services	30	38	3		3
Increased volume of research conducted	29	34	7		2
More media coverage	25	33	7		3

Total full sample *n*=244

The white space in this chart represents ratings of (3).
C2. How important are each of the following factors for improving the performance of independent policy research institutes in your country?
Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not at all important" and 5 is "Highly important."

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All stakeholder groups indicate that more access to trained & experienced think tank staff is important.

IDRC ❋ CRDI

Importance of factors for improving performance of think tanks

% of total respondents selecting "Important" (4+5), by stakeholder type, South Asia, 2011

	Total	Elected government	Non-elected government	Media	Multilateral/ bilateral	NGO	Private sector	Research/ academia
Increased availability of trained/experienced staff	90	96	95	81	94	83	85	100
Improved quality of research	88	92	95	92	85	78	86	95
More audience-friendly presentation of research	78	91	87	81	78	73	72	66
Improved governance	75	91	95	87	55	57	69	79
Diversified sources of funding	72	82	85	73	60	56	63	87
Greater awareness of services	68	86	84	61	54	49	68	76
Increased volume of research conducted	63	65	71	67	42	44	74	79
More media coverage	58	74	66	75	45	44	48	61

Most important factor

Second most important factor

Total full sample *n*=244; Stakeholder sample sizes range from *n*=23–41

C2. How important are each of the following factors for improving the performance of independent policy research institutes in your country?

Scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Not at all important" and 5 is "Highly important."

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Quality and reliable research is perceived as key for stakeholders.

IDRC ✳ CRDI

Advice for think tanks

Unprompted, % of total respondents, South Asia, 2011

Category	%
Improved quality/accuracy/reliability	22
Focus on specific / high priority issues	14
Improve research dissemination process	11
Improve engagement with government / policy makers	11
Be objective/independent/non-partisan	9
Collaborate with non-government stakeholders	8
Improve training for staff/researchers	6
Expand scope / research areas	4
Clarify / change funding sources*	4
Create awareness / media engagement	3

*Advice in this category is related to sources of funding. Respondents give advice regarding where funding should come from or, alternatively, where it should not.

Total full sample *n*=244
C3. What advice would you have for independent research institutes in your country so that they might better assist your work?

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Improving performance of think tanks

SLIDES 57 & 58

- The two most important things that stakeholders believe can improve think tanks' performance are greater availability of trained/experienced staff and improved research quality.

- While improving the user-friendliness of their research is also frequently mentioned, stakeholders clearly want greater access to think tank staff and for this staff to be experienced and trained.

- Government stakeholders (both elected and non-elected) and media stakeholders put greater emphasis on improved awareness and increased media coverage.

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- When asked unprompted what think tanks could do to better assist their work, stakeholders similarly emphasize research quality, accuracy, and reliability.

- Stakeholders put less emphasis on greater media engagement, expanding the scope of research, and advice regarding where funding should and should not come from.

- It is clear that what matters most to stakeholders is quality and dependable research.

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