



# Think Tank Initiative 2018 Policy Community Survey

*Final Report on Indonesia*  
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**Project: 2976**



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# Introduction and Objectives



In 2010/11 and 2013, GlobeScan, a global stakeholder research consultancy, was commissioned by the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) to conduct a survey of policy stakeholders in three regions: Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

In 2018, TTI once again engaged GlobeScan to carry out the Policy Community Survey (PCS) in the same three regions, along with Myanmar and Indonesia.

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 such as funding, training, and technical assistance;
- Benchmark and track broad changes in the policy community and perceptions of think tanks in selected countries.

This report presents the results of the Indonesia survey. Please also refer to the global report for an overview of the findings of the studies undertaken across the three core regions.

# Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

## **Strong alignment between information needs and accessibility, with education and economic issues most desirable and most accessible**

The most highly desired types of information among members of the policy community are economic/fiscal/monetary issues and education. These are also considered to be the most easy to obtain information on, indicating an alignment between information needs and accessibility. The main exception to this alignment is information on gender issues, which is considered to be fairly important to stakeholders but is also one of the most difficult topics on which to obtain information. Additionally, nearly three-quarters (73%) of stakeholders agree that there is demand for research on gender issues in Indonesia, highlighting a need to improve research accessibility on the topic.

## **Websites and in-person contact are considered the top formats for policy information, while publications and reports are the most-used sources**

Websites are considered to be far more useful than all other formats for receiving policy information. In-person contact is also considered to be quite useful by respondents, while radio is considered to be the least useful source of information. Stakeholders primarily rely on reports/publications, consulting with experts, and databases to increase their understanding of policy development. Books and newsletters are selected the least by stakeholders.

## **Evidence-based research and robustness of methodology and data are the most important aspects of quality of research**

The most important aspects of quality of research are considered to be the robustness of the methodology and data in the research study, as well as an evidence-based approach. Ease of reading and transparency of funding are considered to be the least important aspects in quality of research.

## **The quality of research by national think tanks is deemed relatively high and frequency of use is also quite high**

Relevant government ministries/agencies are the only organizations that are more likely to be utilized by members of the policy community than national think tanks. However, perceived quality of government institutions is relatively low compared to national think tanks. Meanwhile, international research institutions are considered to be of higher quality than national institutions, but this does not appear to correlate with frequency of usage.

## **Quality of research and availability of trained staff are most critical in improving think tank performance**

In improving think tank performance, respondents view all factors as relatively important, however, improving the quality of research and availability of trained/experienced staff are perceived to be most critical.

## Implications

Findings show that national think tanks in Indonesia are generally regarded highly by members of the policy community. However, there is an opportunity for national think tanks to further inform national policy making by focusing their efforts in the following areas:

- Continue to make information accessible for the most-desired topic areas, such as education, poverty, and economic issues, and dedicate extra effort toward improving the ease of access to information on gender issues, which is relatively more difficult to access than most other topic areas but is clearly an area of high interest for the policy community.
- Further utilize the preferred formats of receiving information such as websites and in-person contact. National think tanks should also focus on delivering publications/reports and providing databases/data banks in order to cater more effectively to the needs of policy community members.
- Finally, focus efforts on continuously improving the quality of research, which is already fairly high, while also improving the availability of experienced and trained staff, all while ensuring that research is firmly evidence-based and that both methodology and data processes are robust.

# Methodology and Sample Composition



# Methodology and Sample Composition for Indonesia and South Asia

The survey of policy stakeholders in Indonesia was conducted through online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews in Indonesia from May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 to November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018. The survey was offered in English and Bahasa.

The survey of policy stakeholders in the rest of South Asia was conducted through online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews in five countries from September 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 to February 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. The participating South Asian countries are Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and India. The survey was offered in English, Bengali, Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil.

	Indonesia	South Asia				
		Bangladesh	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	India
<b>Total</b>	45	42	41	40	43	86
<b>Online</b>	10	8	7	5	6	13
<b>Telephone/In-person</b>	35	34	34	35	37	73

# Methodology and Sample Composition for Indonesia and South Asia

Number of Stakeholders Interviewed by Country, 2018

	Indonesia	South Asia				
		Bangladesh	India	Nepal	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Total	45	42	86	41	40	43
Government, elected	6	6	11	6	6	6
Government, non-elected	5	6	12	6	8	6
Media	6	6	10	5	5	6
Multilateral/bilateral	6	6	11	4	3	6
NGO	8	6	16	6	6	7
Private sector	4	6	12	6	6	6
Research/academia	10	6	14	8	6	6

# Methodology: 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 such as DFID, USAID) or as a group (multilateral such as UN agencies, World Bank).
- **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 senior-level staff in their organizations and active members of the national policy community, meaning that they develop or influence national government policy.

Stakeholder sample lists were prepared by GlobeScan and approved by TTI.

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

# A Note on the Approach

**Views are not representative of the whole policy community.** The study was designed to gather views of *senior*-level policy actors within national policy communities on their research needs and their perceptions of think tanks' research quality and 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.

As in other countries, we set a target of 40 respondents for Indonesia with a balanced quota of responses across different stakeholder categories.

Note that for comparison purposes, several charts include the 2018 five-country average scores from the PCS survey in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka).

## **A Note on Charts:**

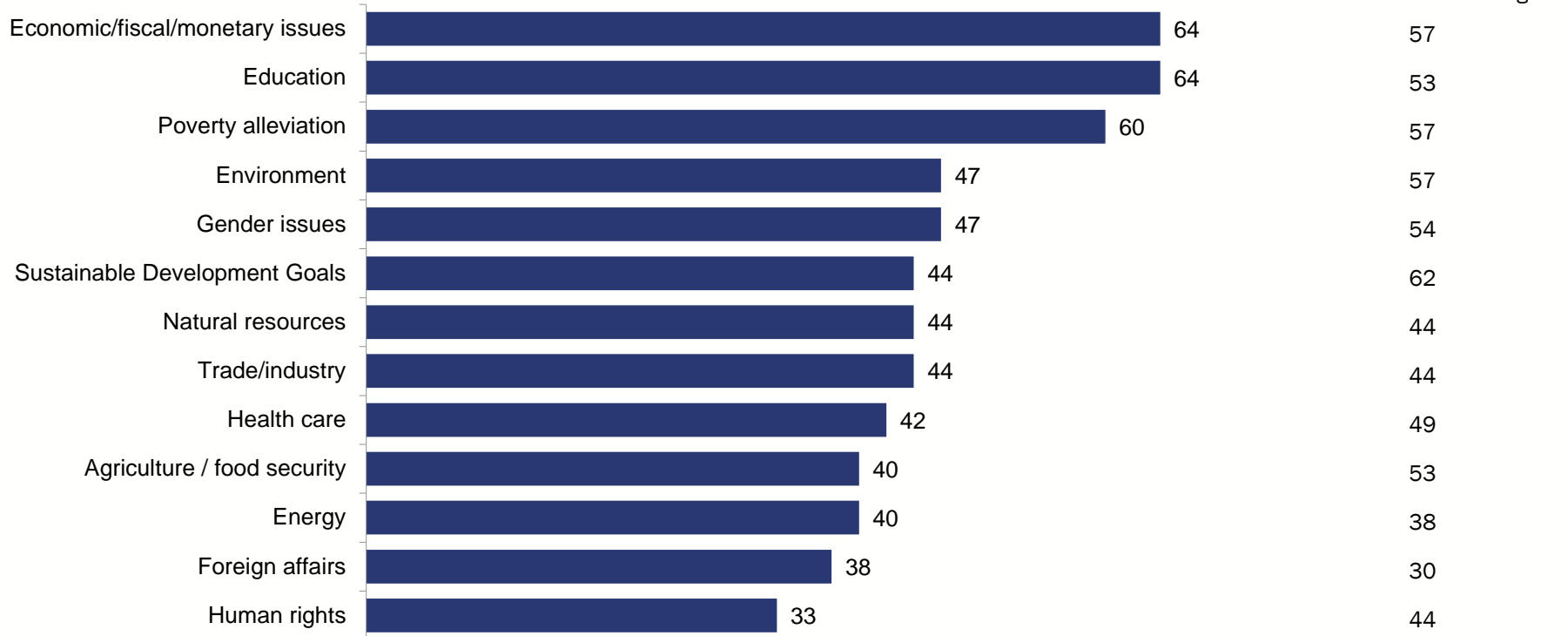
All figures reported in the charts are expressed in percentages, unless otherwise noted. Some percentages may not add up to 100% due to the rounding of individual response categories or due to the fact that respondents could give multiple answers to a particular question (“total mentions” is then reported).

Please refer to the notes section on each slide to review actual question wording.

# Information Required for Policy Making in Indonesia: Type, Accessibility, Format

# Types of Information Required for Policy Making

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Indonesia, 2018



Information on economic/fiscal issues and education are the most highly desired by members of the policy community. Information on poverty alleviation is also highly sought after among stakeholders, while foreign affairs and human rights are ranked as the least-required types of information.

# Demand for gender equality and female empowerment research

Open-end Responses, Indonesia, 2018

Those who said that there was a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research in their country mention the following as topic areas of interest:

- Workplace equality and economic empowerment
- Equal access to education
- The inclusion of women in government decision-making roles and politics
- Improvement of access to health care services, including sexual and reproduction health and HIV awareness and treatment
- Compensation for women's work including care workers and domestic work

Respondents who did not believe that there was a demand for this research argued alternatively, that:

- There are other issues of higher priority in the country
- It is not an issue as women are already treated equally to men

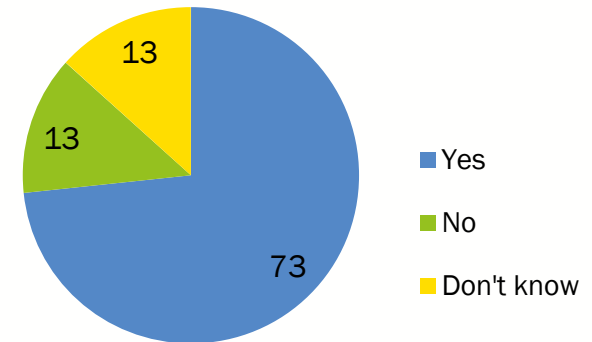
“ Unfortunately, gender is not the main concern of the government.  
– *Multilateral/Bilateral* ”

“ There are no problems with gender here.  
– *Private sector/Industry association* ”

“ Equality of work between men and women in all fields.  
– *Government, elected* ”

In your country, is there a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research?

Percent of Stakeholders, Indonesia, 2018



“ Women in public decision-making in government, because women's problems can be accommodated with political institutions. ”

– *Research/Academia*

“ Labour rights for unpaid care workers, home-based workers, domestic and international migrant workers ”

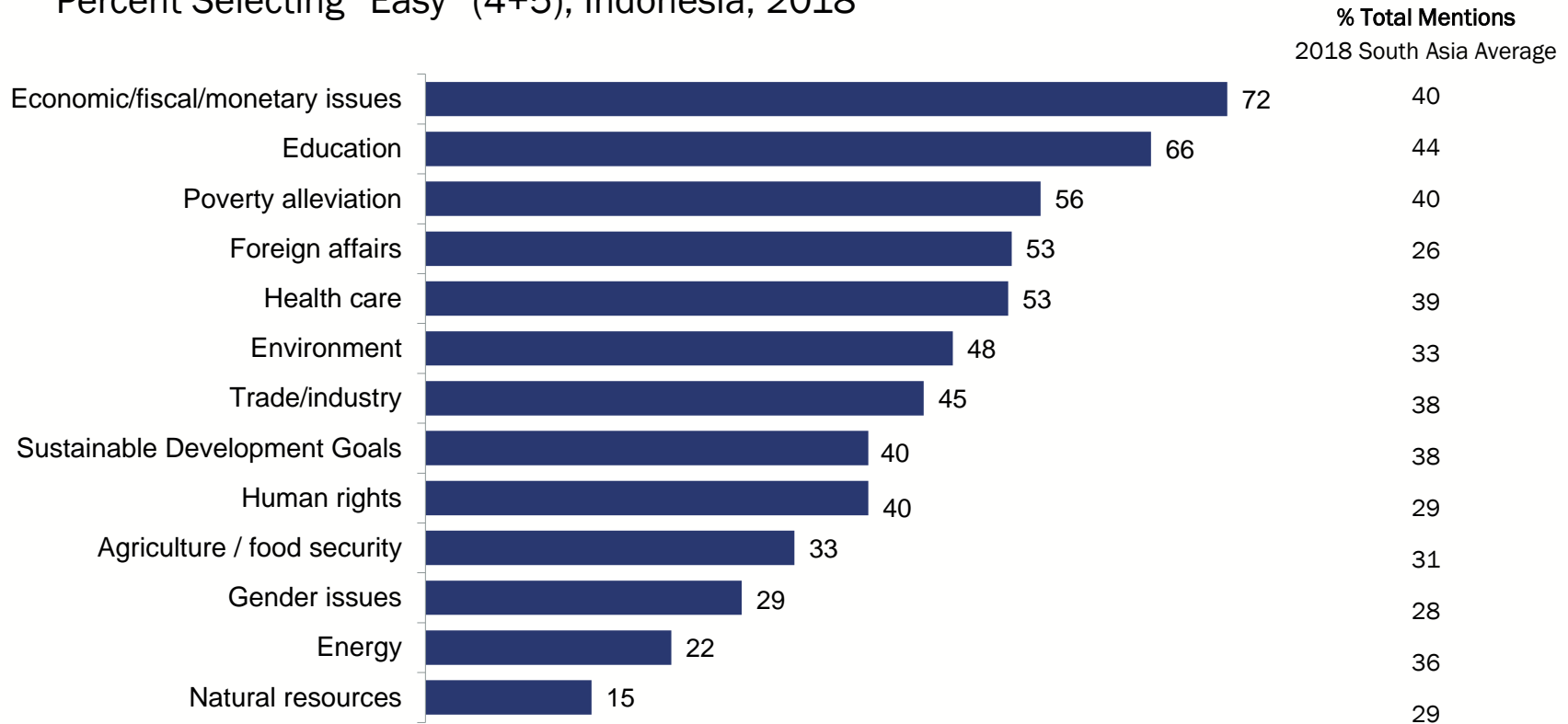
– *Research/Academia*

“ Financial inclusion of women and sexual and reproductive health ”

– *Multilateral/Bilateral*

# Ease of Obtaining Information to Support Policy Development in Following Areas

Percent Selecting “Easy” (4+5), Indonesia, 2018

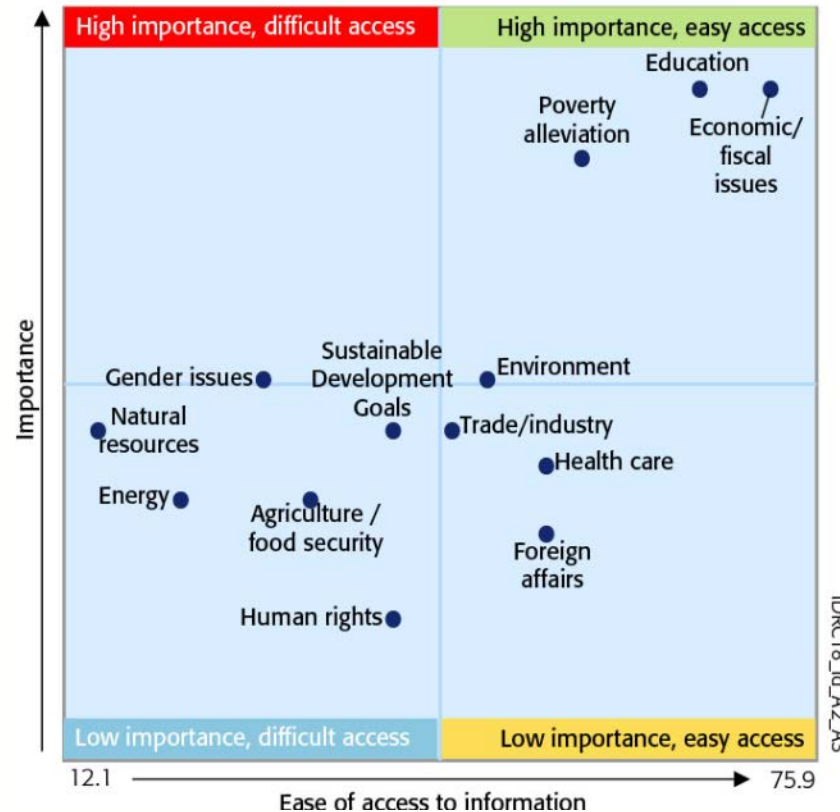


Information on economic/fiscal issues and education is considered to be the most easy to obtain, followed by poverty alleviation. Gender issues, energy, and natural resources are the least easy topics to obtain information on.



# Importance vs Ease of Access to Information

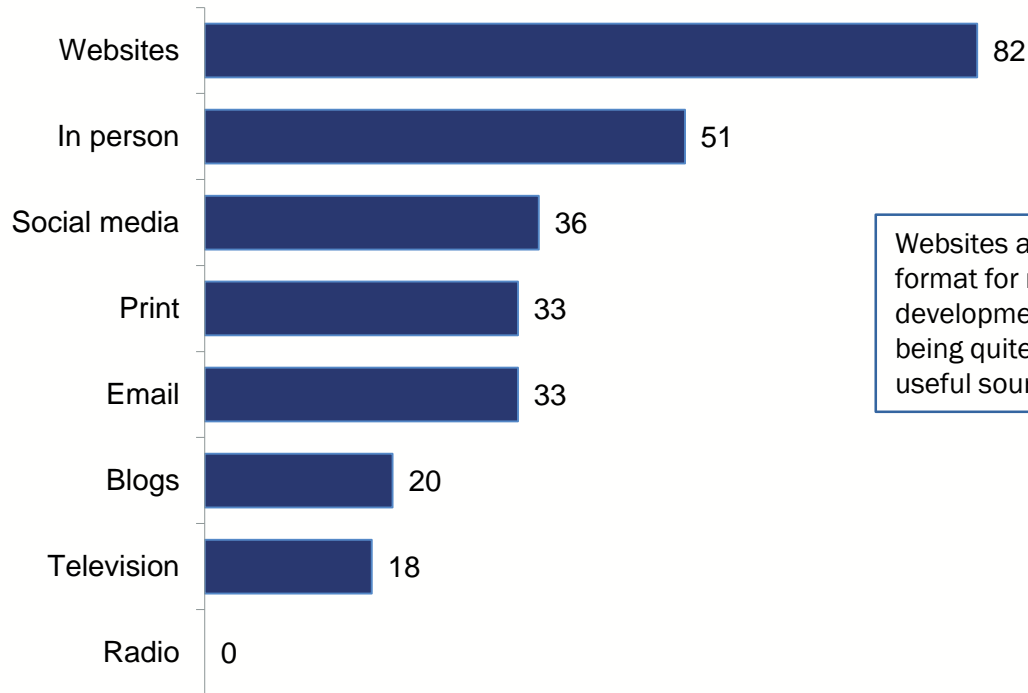
Total Mentions of Information Topic vs Respondents Selecting “Easy” (4+5), Indonesia, 2018



Overall, the information that respondents require the most for their work in national policy tends to be the information that is most easily obtainable, such as education, poverty alleviation, and economic/fiscal issues. The exception is information on gender issues, which is deemed fairly important, but relatively difficult to access.

# Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, Indonesia, 2018

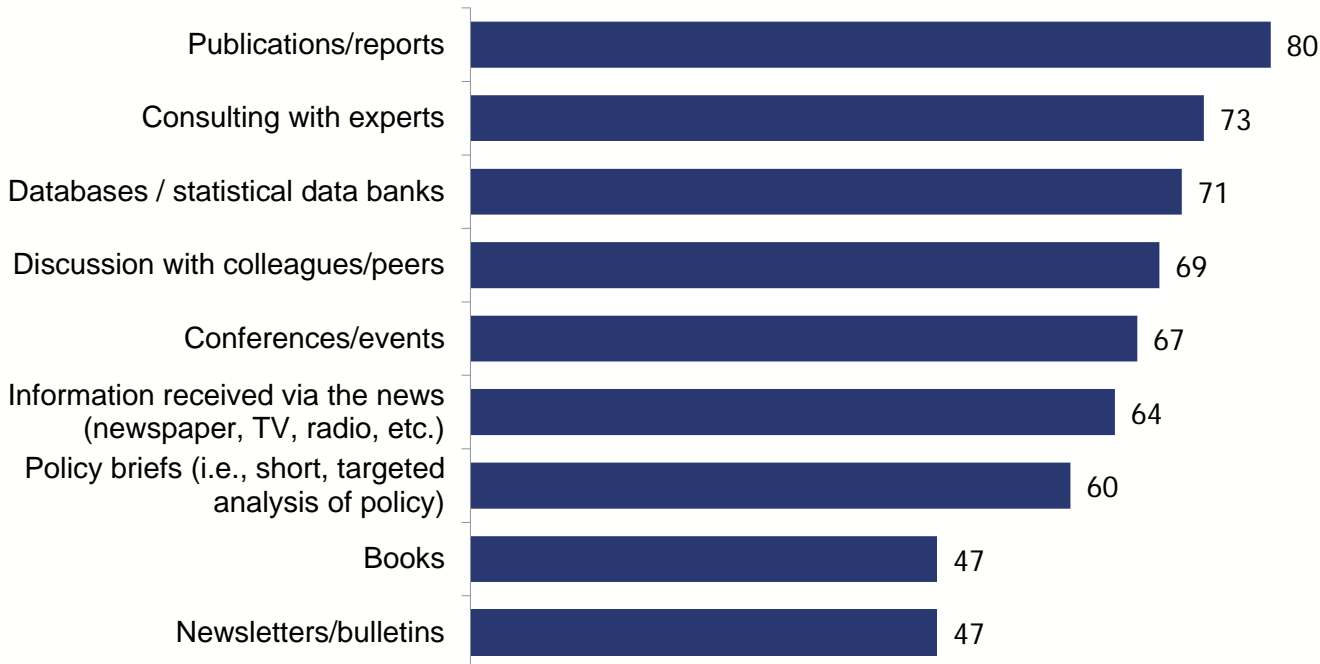


Websites are considered to be the most useful format for receiving information for national policy development by far. In-person contact is also seen as being quite useful, while radio is viewed as the least useful source of information.

# Information Required for Policy Making in Indonesia: Source and Quality

# Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Indonesia, 2018

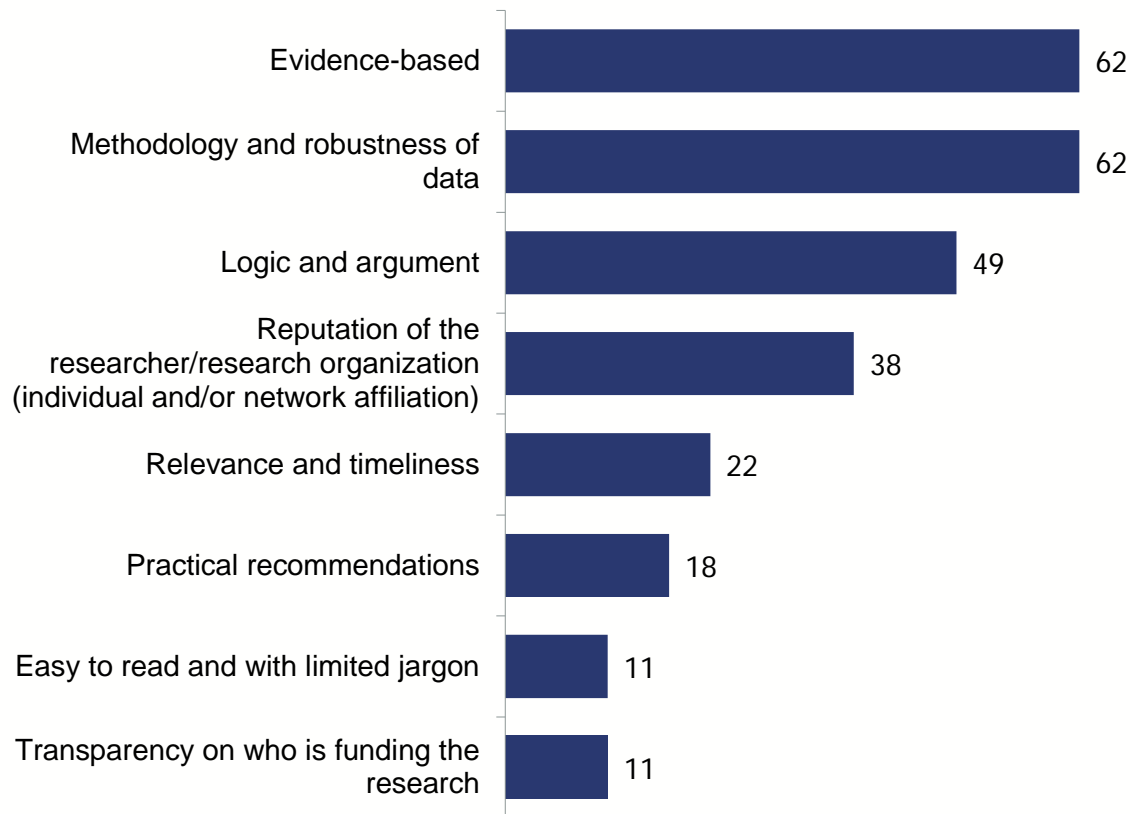


Members of the policy community generally rely on a wide variety of information sources to increase their understanding of national policy development.

Reports and publications are the most utilized information sources by stakeholders to increase their understanding of national policy. Consulting with experts and databases are also relied upon by the majority of stakeholders, while books and newsletters are selected the least.

# Most Important Aspects of Quality in Research

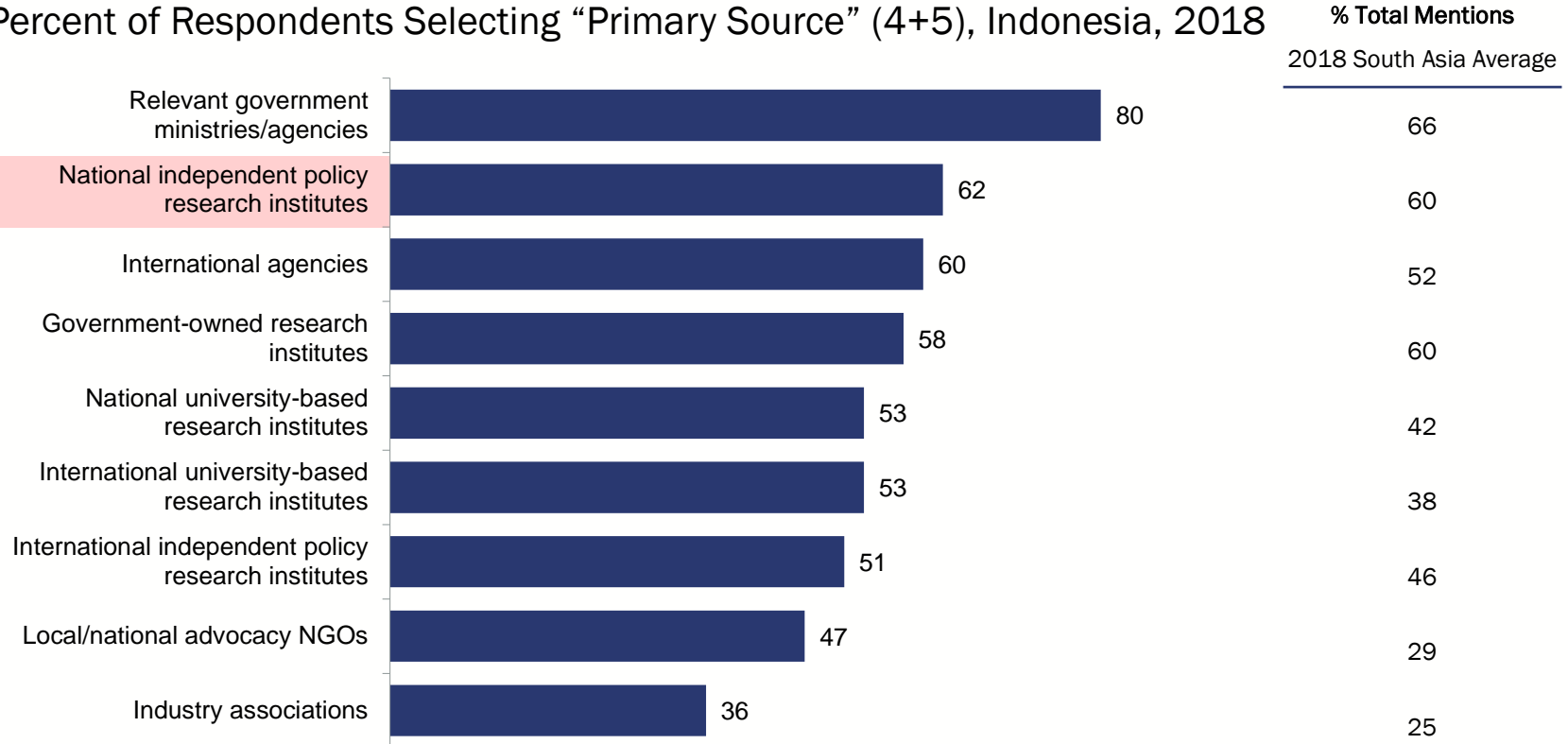
Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, Indonesia, 2018



The most important aspects of quality in research are considered to be having a robust data and methodology process and employing evidence-based research. Ease of reading and transparency of funding are considered the least important aspects of quality in research.

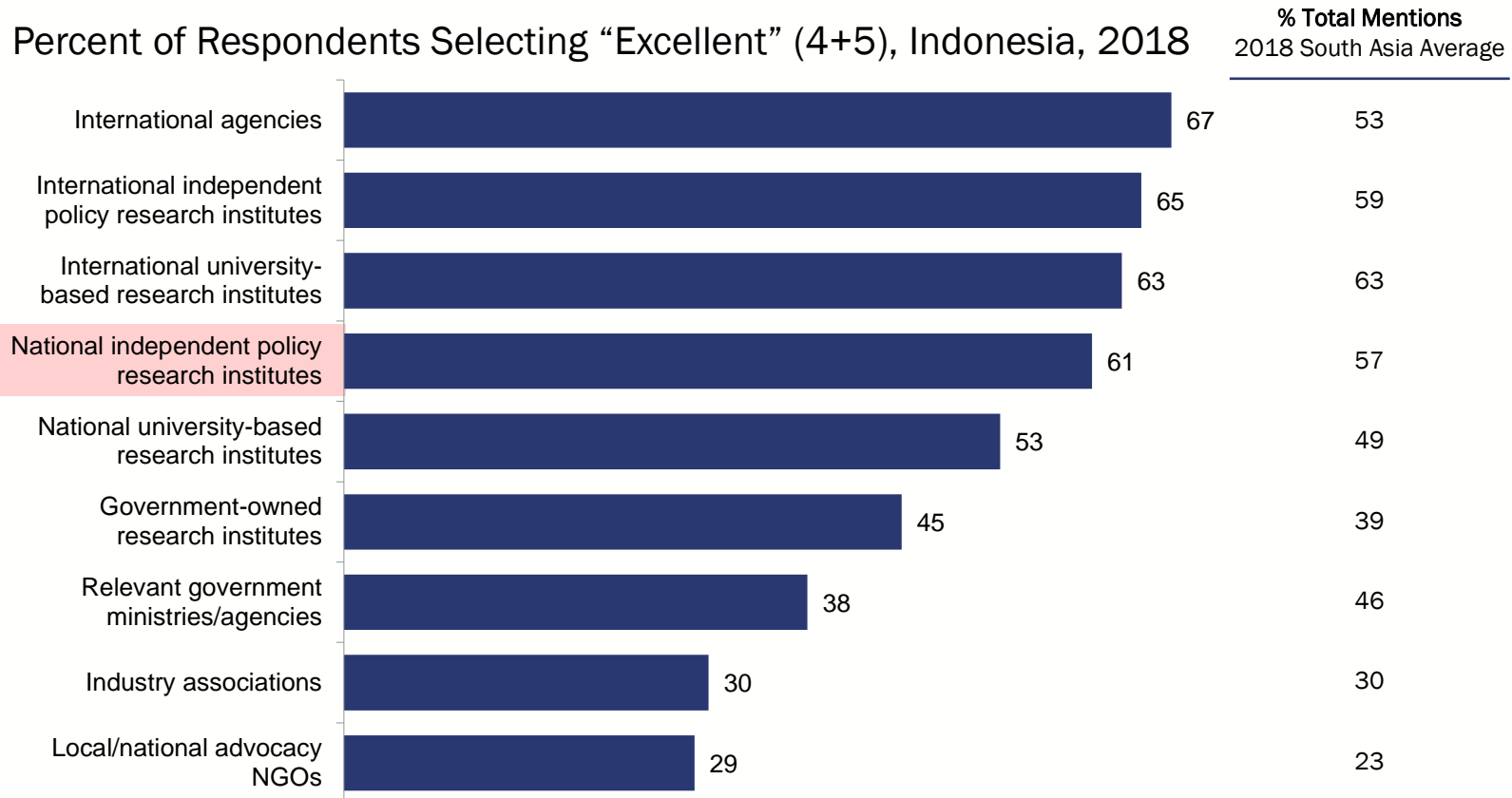
# Types of Organizations Used as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Primary Source” (4+5), Indonesia, 2018



Relevant government ministries/agencies are the most-preferred institutions used as a source of research-based evidence. National think tanks and international agencies are also preferred by stakeholders, while industry associations are the least utilized organizations.

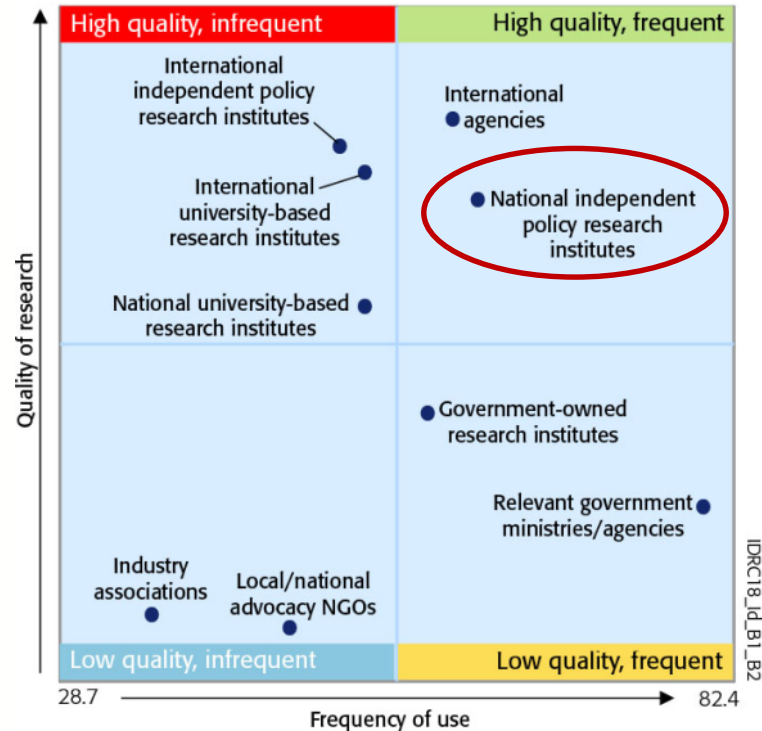
# Quality Ratings of Research Provided by...



International research is generally considered to be of higher quality than national research, with international agencies, think tanks, and university-based research institutes considered to have the highest quality research. National think tanks are also rated quite well for quality, while industry associations and local/national NGOs receive the lowest quality ratings.

# Quality of Research vs Frequency of Use

Percent of Respondents Saying Quality of Research “Excellent” (4+5) vs Use as a “Primary Source” (4+5), Indonesia, 2018



National think tanks are used relatively more frequently than other organizations and are seen as having high-quality research. They are utilized more frequently than international think tanks and agencies, despite the latter two having a perceived higher quality of research.

University-based research institutes are considered to have high-quality research but are used quite infrequently, while government sources are considered to have relatively lower quality research but are used frequently.

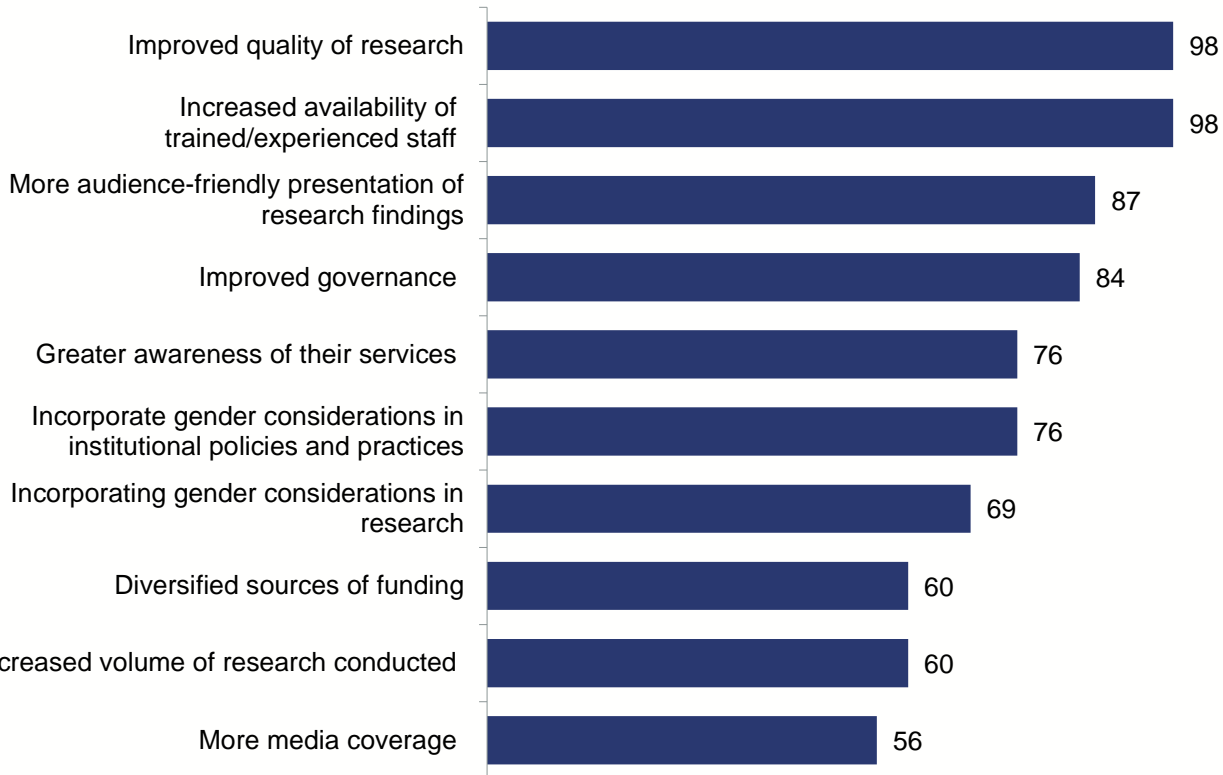


# Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

# Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Indonesia

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Important” (4+5), Indonesia, 2018

■ 2018



The majority of respondents view all factors as relatively important in improving think tank performance, however, improved quality of research and increasing the availability of trained/ experienced staff are perceived to be most important. Increased media coverage is considered relatively less important than other factors in improving performance.

# Advice for independent policy research institutes to better assist stakeholders in their work

## Open-end Responses, Indonesia, 2018

Advice for think tanks is fairly consistent, with many people mentioning the same recommendations across the board. Advice for think tanks focused on the following:

- Research studies should be based on relevant issues within the country
- Avoid external influences on research such as investors or political pressure to mitigate bias
- General improvement of the quality of research
- Ensure research results are accessible and understandable to the public
- Hire professional, experienced and adequately trained staff in order to guarantee accurate and credible results
- Utilize trusted and proven methodologies
- Ensure research is transparent and independent in order to improve relevance and accuracy of findings
- Collaborate with other research institutions, academics, local communities, etc.

“ Transparent, independent, unbiased and straightforward, according to the reality on the ground, not made in accordance with the facts in the field.  
– *Government, Elected* ”

“ Accuracy of data, methodology that can be trusted, professional experts and results must be accurate.  
– *Private Sector/industry association* ”

“ The research quality should be up to the mark, accurate, independent, easy to read and must not be influenced by political or private sectors.  
– *NGO* ”

“ Collaboration between research institutions and researchers, cooperation must be energetic.  
– *Research/Academia* ”

“ Increase public availability of reports and publications with transparent methods and data sources.  
– *Research/Academia* ”



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