

A Statistical Study on Political Awareness among Youngsters in India

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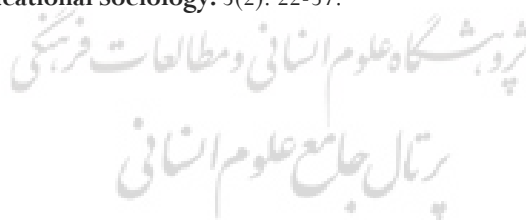
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Nowadays, young people are spending the majority of their time on social media, using various platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, etc. It is a common perception that these media have become the new sources of information, which progressively converts into knowledge. It is interesting to check whether they use those sources to achieve knowledge or not. The main focal point of this study is to understand the political engagement, knowledge, and outlook of college-studying youngsters in India. It studies the factors influencing political awareness and examines the influence of politics and politicians on the involvement of youngsters in politics. The findings show that social media has a significant influence on political issues, but they are also more corrupted.

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1. Introduction

Politics, political activity, and political awareness are all very significant in society's lives; they infiltrate every element of daily life (Al-Khaza'leh and Lahiani 2021, Badaru and Adu 2021). Awareness is the whole amount of an individual's comprehension, knowledge, and assessment of events. In truth, as a person's life unfolds and as a result of the different cultural influences that influence them, awareness increases and develops. To put it another way, the better a person's political culture is, the higher his or her political awareness is (Abonu et al. 2013).

Political awareness, in particular, is one of the main pillars on which the social and political system is set up, and ignoring it during the process of building the state will almost certainly result in a foundation less structure that will collapse in the face of any crisis connecting the state or civilization, regardless of the size of the political or demographic construction (Fairbrother, 2003).

A democratic civilisation requires political consciousness. As a result, every democracy seeks citizen participation to ensure its continuous development and existence. By being aware of the government's actions, initiatives, and policies, politically aware societies contribute to the support of democracy. Citizens who are politically knowledgeable should be able to hold their government and other public workers accountable for how the country's affairs are conducted. In other words, political engagement refers to all acts that citizens undertake in order to influence the government's and officials' decisions and policies. Political awareness aids in the analysis of political realism without relying on emotional perceptions. Political engagement allows the government to better understand the needs and desires of its population, while dynamic participation in party politics forces the government to fulfil its constitutional obligations (Ahmed et al. 2015). True democracy requires political knowledge because it permits politicians and the country's leadership to be held accountable (Kizilbash, 2010).

Students' involvement in political activities would provide them a better understanding of how governments work and what role they have to play in resolving the socioeconomic and political issues that face their country. Students' involvement in politics would thus aid in drawing the government's attention to critical issues that need to be addressed in such a way that the impact of governance becomes positive and visible (Sozhiya and Jasmin, 2018). As a result, political knowledge is critical for students who want to participate in local and national political processes. Learning about politics and being able to make informed decisions about elections, candidate selection, and political party membership would also be advantageous. Thanks to the media and digital technology, students' awareness of political interaction and participation in political activities has skyrocketed (Anwar and Jan, 2010).

Political knowledge is a democratic evaluation. It is also an important aspect in democratic nationality, influencing public attitudes and opinions and, as a result, political performance. According to available studies, political knowledge tends to influence the amount of beliefs people hold, making it easier to make decisions and define behavioural goals. If political knowledge is a key determinant of political involvement, we'll need a set of measures to compare the effects of different strategic and institutional choices on political knowledge. This is especially true of young people's political participation. Youth political involvement has declined in almost all democracies in recent decades, but the rate of reduction varies widely.

When everyone, individually and collectively, becomes concerned and takes action, our communities and democratic system become more present and sensible. The fact that such donations are a tradition like any other is one justification for focusing on youth civic engagement. When all young people develop healthy civic habits, skills, and devotion, our democracy will thrive. This will happen as more and more diverse young people have the right to take advantage of opportunities that help them develop their skills and knowledge while also giving them the power to make a difference; decision-making will become more delegated, and communities will rally behind them.

Young people play an important role in the decisions that shape the country. Education, healthcare, the environment, immigration, housing, gun violence, and foreign policy that may send them or their peers to war are all topics that affect kids, and many of them affect youth differently or individually. Young people

may provide significant insights to these issues and play an active role in moulding their future when they vote and participate in civic life.

Students must recognize that they are the country's future leaders, and it is their duty to serve and offer their all to the country. By becoming a student of political conscience, they can develop the maturity necessary to become future leaders. As a result, it is thought that if students are aware of political issues, they will feel more connected to the public and the realities of life, rather than being trapped in their own world (Rahman and CheHamdan, 2019).

Political socialization is an important aspect of an individual's development in a democratic society. However, the compartmentalized educational structure and exam-driven system have produced literate kids who have not been educated. The student of the twenty-first century is cut off from the rest of the world. The goal of this research was to find out how politically aware college students are.

Analysis of Personal Variables

The electronic opinion poll was created using Google forms, and the survey invitation URL was distributed via email and social media. A cover note was put on the first page of each internet survey to describe the study's goal, which was well received by the respondents' sample of 130 college students from Kerala, India. Among the respondents, 109 students are in the age group of 18–20, one of them is below 18–20, and the rest are above 20. Table 1 consolidates the data.

Table 1. Age Distribution

Age	No. of students
Below 18	1
Between 18 and 20	109
Above 20	20
Total	130

Of the 130 college students who participated in this survey, 98(75%) were female and 32(25%) were male. Table 2 consolidates the associated data.

Table 2. Gender Status

Gender	No of students	Percentage
Male	32	25
Female	98	75

Analysis of Variables Associated with Political Awareness

This section aims to identify and analyze various variables that influence political awareness, as well as the impact of politics and politicians on young people's involvement in politics.

We can learn about what is going on in the country and throughout the world thanks to the media. In today's world, there are two sorts of media: print and electronic. Electronic media, which comprise television, radio, computers, mobile phones, and the internet, make up modern media. Today, the media acts as a buffer between political realities and political discontent. People's perceptions, priorities, and thinking about politics and politicians are all shaped by the media. The news channels make us aware of the changes in rules, policies, and laws. Table 3 shows that about 62% of the students follow news channels, and about 26% do not follow news channels.

Table 3. Follow news channels

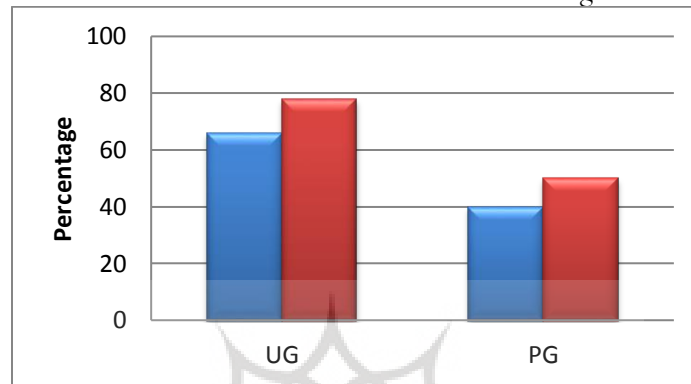
Follow news channels	No of students	Percentage
Agree	80	62
Disagree	34	26
No comments	16	12

Out of 119 UG students, 66% read newspapers regularly and 78% watch news channels regularly. 40% of PG students read newspapers regularly and 50% of PG students watch news channels regularly.

Table 4. Association between Courses studied and usage of news media

Category	UG(Percentage)	PG(Percentage)
Read newspapers regularly	66	40
Watch news channels regularly	78	50

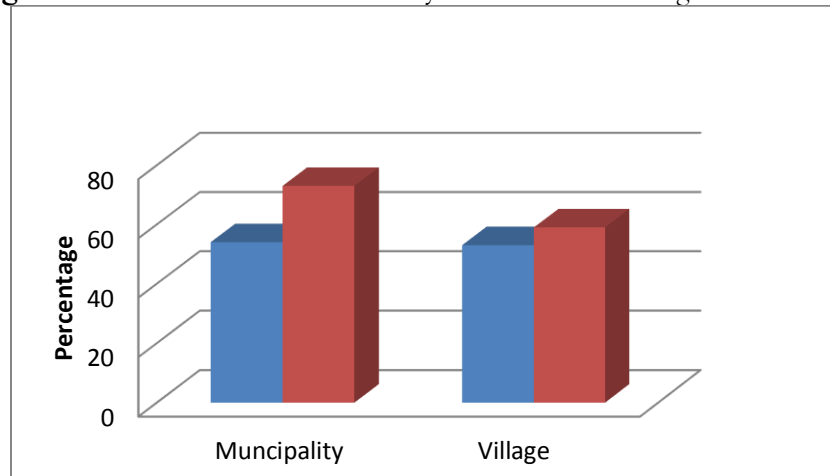
Figure 1. Association between Courses studied and usage of news media



54% of students living in the municipality read newspapers regularly, and 73% of them watch news channels regularly. 53% of students living in the village read newspapers regularly, and 59% of them watch news channels regularly.

Table 5. Association between Locality of residence and usage of news media

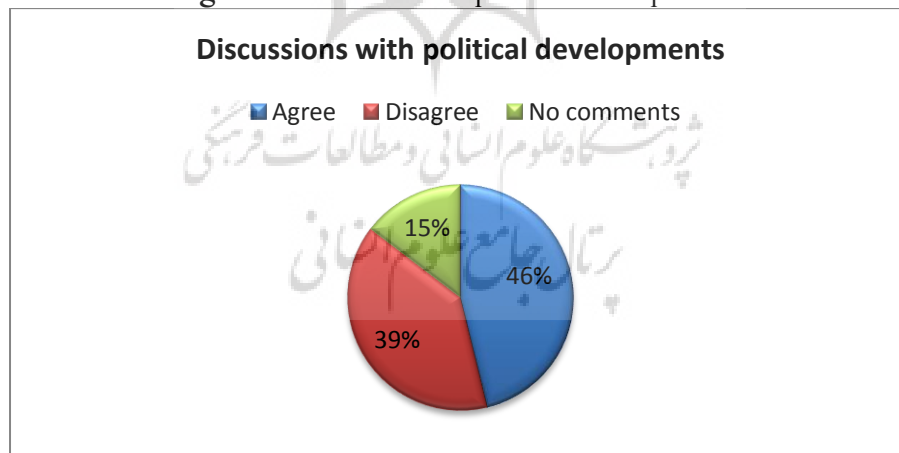
Category	Municipality (26 students)		Village (100 students)	
	Number of students	Percentage	Number of students	Percentage
Read newspapers regularly	14	54	53	53
Watch news channels regularly	19	73	59	59

Figure 2. Association between Locality of residence and usage of news media

Young people's participation in political talks with their parents and friends is an important part of their political socialization and can be viewed as an activity in which they develop certain fundamental democratic abilities. From Table 6 and Figure 3, around 46% of students discuss political developments with their friends, and around 39% of students do not discuss political developments with their friends. It can be concluded that fewer than 50% of students regularly discuss political developments with their friends.

Table 6. Discussions on political developments

Opinion about discusses political developments with friends	No. of Students	Percentage
Agree	60	46
Disagree	51	39
No comments	19	15

Figure 3. Discussions on political developments.

A democracy is a type of governance in which the people have the power to debate and decide legislation, or to elect representatives to do so on their behalf. A democratic system of government is one in which the people hold supreme authority and exercise it directly or indirectly through a system of representation, which usually includes free elections on a regular basis. From Table 7, around 81% of students believe in democracy, and 8% do not believe in democracy. It can be noted that most of the students trust in democracy.

Table 7. Belief in democracy

Believe in democracy.	No. of Students	Percentage
Agree	105	81
Disagree	10	8
No comments	15	11

The Indian Independence Movement consisted of a series of historic events aimed at ending British rule in India. The first nationalistic revolutionary movement for Indian independence emerged from Bengal. Out of the 130 students who participated in the service, a majority of them had a better understanding of the freedom struggle movement in India. Table 8 consolidates the data.

Table 8. Understand the freedom struggle movements in India

Understand the freedom struggle movements in India	No of students	Percentage
Agree	112	86.1
Disagree	7	5.4
No comments	11	8.5

Out of the 130 students who participated in the survey, the majority of them agreed with the fact that they had a better understanding of the succession of governance in India. Table 9 consolidates the associated data.

Table 9. Recognize the succession of governments in India

Recognize the succession of governments in India	Number of students	Percentage
Agree	99	76.1
Disagree	11	8.5
No comments	20	15.4

Regarding the opinion on the succession of governments in Kerala, the majority of the students agreed, and only 7% of the students disagreed. Table 10 consolidates the associated data.

Table 10. Opinion on succession of governments in Kerala

Know succession of governments in Kerala	No of students	Percentage
Agree	53	75
Disagree	5	7
No comments	13	18

Federalism is a form of governance in which authority is split between the central government and its constituent portions, such as states and provinces. From Table 11, 53% of the students agreed that they understood union federalism and 20% of the students disagreed.

Table 11. Understood union federalism

Understood union federalism	No. of students	Percentage
Agree	38	53
Disagree	19	20
No comments	13	27

Regarding the understanding of fundamental rights and duties of citizens, the majority of students agreed with the fact and only a few disagreed. Table 12 consolidates the associated data.

Table 12. Understand the fundamental rights and duties of citizen

Understand the fundamental rights and duties of citizen	No. of students
Agree	65
Disagree	1
No comments	6
Total	72

Pluralism is a political theory that recognizes and affirms diversity within a political entity, allowing different interests, convictions, and lifestyles to live peacefully. From Table 13, around 56% of students believe in the plurality of political parties, and around 20% of students do not believe in the plurality of political parties.

Table 13. Belief in the plurality of political parties

Believe in the plurality of political parties	No. of Students	Percentage
Agree	73	56
Disagree	26	20
No comments	31	24

Liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, feminism, nationalism, fundamentalism, and multiculturalism are common ideas that can constitute a central part of a political party's character. From Table 14, around 47% of students claim that they know the ideology of different political parties, and around 29% of students do not know the ideology of different political parties.

Table 14. Understand the ideology of different political parties.

Understand the ideology of different political parties.	No. of Students	Percentage
Agree	61	47
Disagree	38	29
No comments	31	24

Of the 130 students who participated in this survey, 33% agreed that college union elections should be politicized, and about 35% disagreed.

Table 15. Opinion about college union elections

College union elections should be politicized	No of students	Percentage
Agree	43	33
Disagree	46	35
No comments	41	32

India is a parliamentary democratic republic, with the president as head of state and the prime minister as head of government. It is based on the federal government framework. From Table 16, around 56% of students have compared India's political system with other countries, and 21% have not compared the Indian political system with other countries.

Table 16. Comparison of Indian political system with other countries

Comparison of Indian political system with other countries	No. of Students	Percentage
Agree	73	56
Disagree	27	21
No comments	30	23
Total	130	100

Kerala is an Indian state where the unicameral Kerala legislative assembly wields federal legislative power. The numerous pre-poll and post-poll alliances have dominated the multilateral system since 1956. From Table 17, around 48% of students have compared the Kerala political system with other countries, and 28% have not compared the Kerala political system with other countries. We can conclude that around 50% of students compare the political systems of their state and nation with those of other countries.

Table 17. Comparison of Kerala political system with other countries

Comparison of Kerala political system with other countries	No. of Students	Percentage
Agree	62	48
Disagree	37	28
No comments	31	24
Total	130	100

Secularism is the principle of conducting human affairs in accordance with secular and naturalistic principles. Regarding the opinion on the pure secular mindset, the majority of students agreed with the fact, and only 7% of students disagreed with the opinion. Table 18 consolidates the data.

Table 18. Opinion about Secularism

Pure secular mindset	No. of students	Percentage
Agree	83	64
Disagree	9	7
No comments	38	29

Gender equality, also known as sexual equality or sex equality, is the state of having equal access to resources and opportunities, including economic participation and decision-making, independent of gender. Approximately 92% of students agreed that gender equality is important, while 2% disagreed. Table 19 consolidates the data.

Table 19. Belief in gender equality

Belief in gender equality	No. of students	Percentage
Agree	120	92
Disagree	2	2
No comments	8	6

Government officials abusing their lawfully granted authority for personal gain is referred to as political corruption. Regarding the opinion on the corruption of politicians in India, the majority of the students, 46% agreed with the fact, and only 10% disagreed. Table 20 consolidates the associated data.

Table 20. Opinion about Political corruption

Politicians are corrupted in India	No. of students	Percentage
Agree	60	46
Disagree	13	10
No comments	58	44

Regarding the opinion on the corruption of politicians in Kerala, about 45% of the students agreed with the fact, and 44% of the students disagreed. Table 21 consolidates the data.

Table 21. Opinion about Kerala Political corruption

Politicians are corrupt in Kerala	No of students	Percentage
Agree	59	45
Disagree	14	11
No comments	57	44

The ethics and morality of politics are declining nowadays. Today, our society is facing the challenge of inequality and political degradation of moral values. From Table 22, about 54% of the students agreed that ethics and morality are deteriorating and only 5% disagreed with the fact.

Table 22. Ethics and Morality in politics

Ethics and Morality in politics has deteriorated since independence	No of students	Percentage
Agree	70	54
Disagree	7	5
No comments	53	41

Regarding the opinion that politicians always favour the rich in Kerala, about 46% of students agreed with the fact and 20% of the students disagreed. Table 23 consolidates the data.

Table 23. Opinion on politicians favour rich

Politicians always favours rich	No. of students	Percentage
Agree	59	46
Disagree	26	20
No comments	45	34

From Table 24, about 35% of the students agreed that politicians have a narrow outlook and 20% of the students disagreed with the fact.

Table 24. Opinion about Politicians narrow outlook

Politicians have narrow outlook	No of students	Percentage
Agree	45	35
Disagree	26	20
No comments	59	45

Table 25 to Table 31 and Figure 4 to Figure 9 depict the different political concepts such as corruption in public places, bureaucratic redtapism, non-utilisation of manpower and material resources, predominance of cast, creed and religion, lack of stable policies for agriculture, animal husbandry and industry, lack of determination and high politisation of governments in developments in India and Kerala.

Table 25. Corruption at Public Places

Rank	Frequency (in India)	Percentage	Frequency (in Kerala)	Percentage
1	63	49	63	49
2	14	11	19	15
3	16	12	15	11
4	9	7	10	8
5	8	6	5	4
6	7	5	3	2
7	13	10	15	11
Total	130	100	130	100

Figure 4. Corruption at Public Places

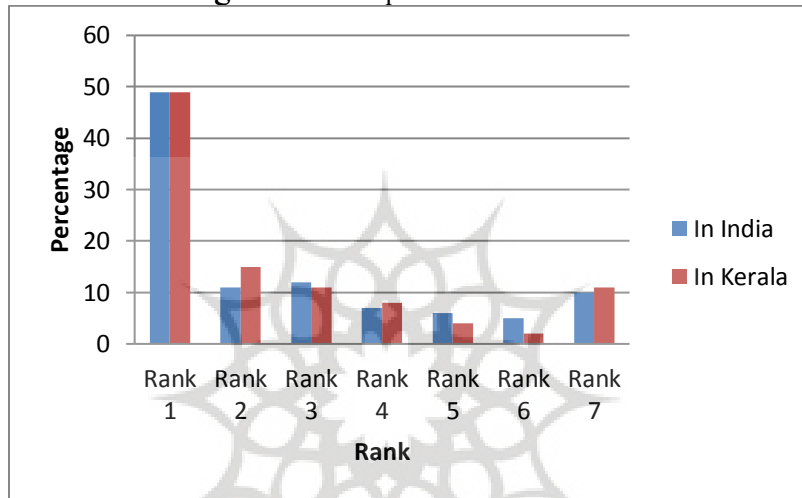
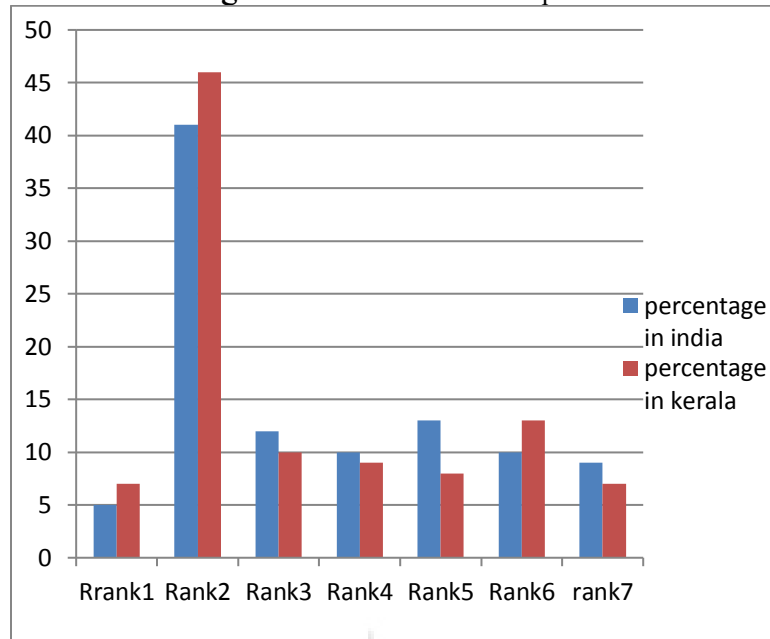


Table 26. Bureaucratic Redtapis

Rank	Frequency (in India)	percentage	Frequency (in Kerala)	percentage
1	7	5	9	7
2	53	41	59	46
3	15	12	13	10
4	13	10	12	9
5	17	13	11	8
6	13	10	17	13
7	12	9	9	7
Total	130	100	130	100

Figure 5. Bureaucratic Redtapism**Table 27.** Non utilisation of man power and material resources

Rank	Frequency (in India)	Percentage	Frequency (in Kerala)	Percentage
1	9	7	7	5
2	9	7	16	12
3	50	39	51	40
4	20	15	23	18
5	16	12	19	15
6	23	18	11	8
7	3	2	3	2
Total	130	100	130	100

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Figure 6. Non utilisation of man power and material resources

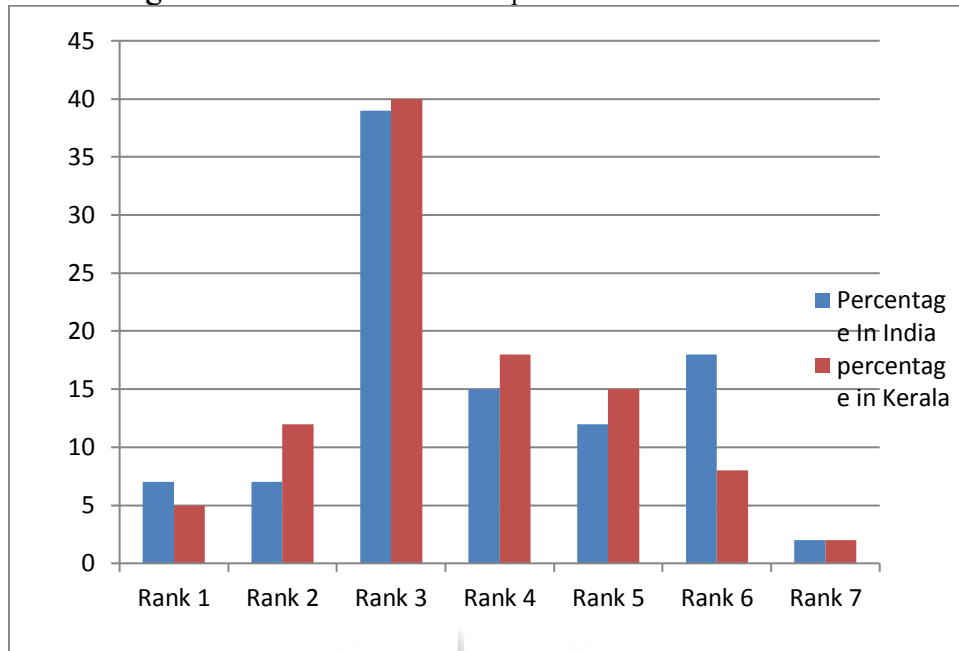


Table 28. Predominance of cast, creed and religion

Rank	Frequency	Percentage in India	Frequency	Percentage in Kerala
1	12	9	10	7
2	10	7	7	5
3	11	8	11	8
4	57	45	54	43
5	16	13	20	15
6	12	9	12	9
7	12	9	16	13
Total	130	100	130	100

Figure 6. Predominance of cast, creed and religion

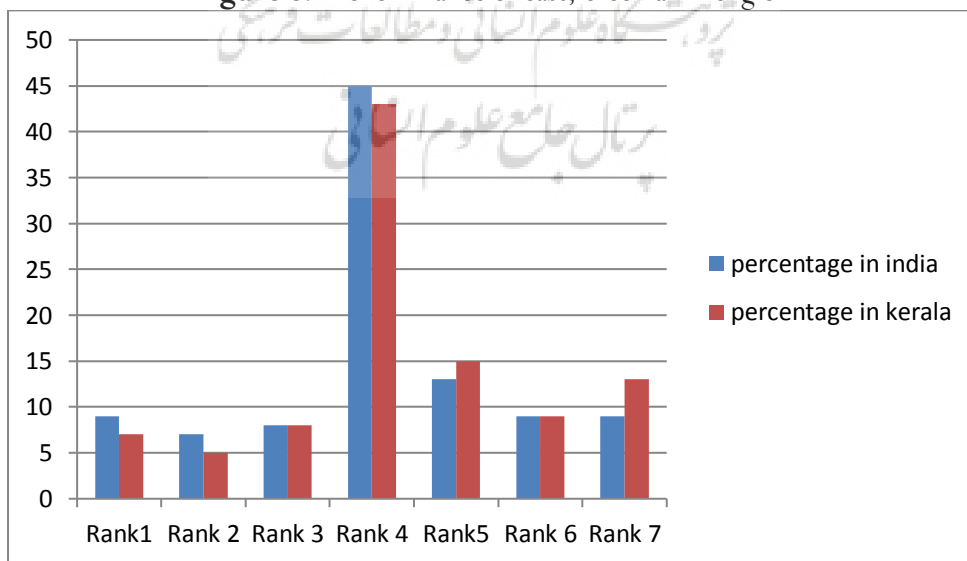
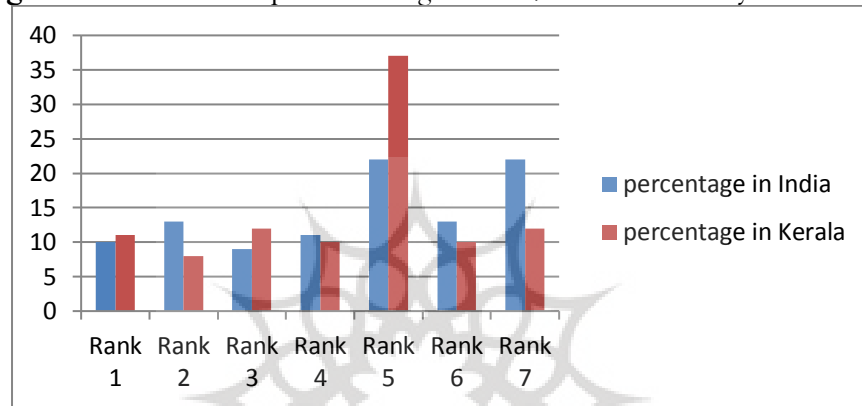


Table 29. Lack of stable policies for agriculture, animal husbandry and industry

Rank	Frequency (in India)	Percentage	Frequency (in Kerala)	Percentage
1	13	10	14	11
2	17	13	10	8
3	12	9	15	12
4	14	11	14	10
5	28	22	49	37
6	17	13	13	10
7	29	22	15	12
Total	130	100	130	100

Figure 7. Lack of stable policies for agriculture, animal husbandry and industry**Table 30.** Lack of determination and high politisation of governments

Rank	Frequency	Percentage in India	Frequency	percentage in Kerala
1	8	6	11	9
2	15	12	13	10
3	13	10	12	8
4	12	8	16	12
5	11	9	10	8
6	52	40	53	41
7	19	15	15	12
Total	130	100	130	100

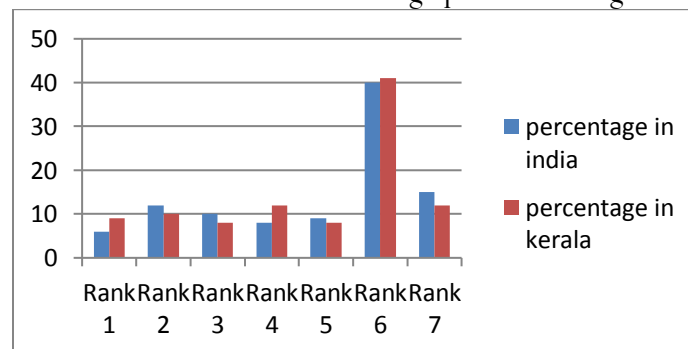
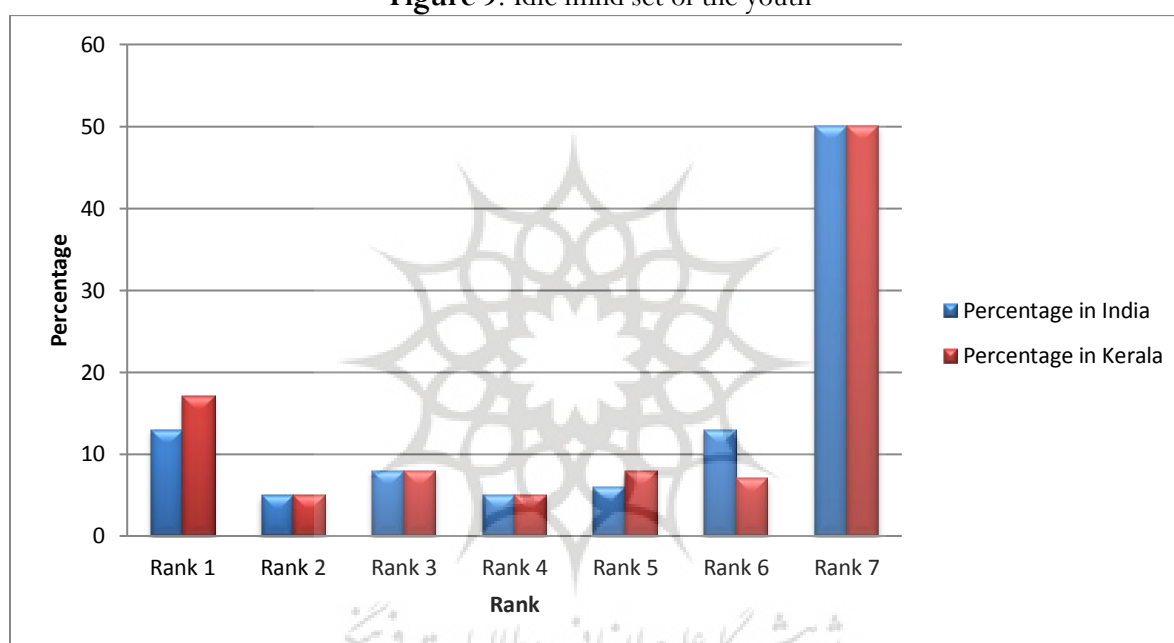
Figure 8. Lack of determination and high politisation of governments

Table 31. Idle mind set of the youth

Rank	Frequency (in India)	Percentage	Frequency (in Kerala)	Percentage
1	17	13	22	17
2	7	5	7	5
3	10	8	10	8
4	6	5	6	5
5	8	6	10	8
6	17	13	9	7
7	65	50	66	50
Total	130	100	130	100

Figure 9. Idle mind set of the youth

Individuals' political participation is determined by their level of political awareness. For a democratic society to be built on accountability, openness, and effective governance, political knowledge is critical. Political awareness is thought to be the result of five factors: political knowledge, political wisdom, political values, political perceptions, and political consciousness.

Political knowledge is a key factor in political engagement. Individuals with a high level of political knowledge engage in activities that are beneficial to a well-functioning democracy, such as having more stable political ideas, displaying better ideological restriction, knowing more about political candidates, and voting appropriately.

Political wisdom was a form of practical wisdom or discretion, with the purpose of politics being the happiness or well-being of society, referred to as the common good. The good life—that is, a life conformable to the inherent demands and dignity of human nature, a life both morally straight and happy—is this common good. Compassion, empathy, humility, tolerance, and a readiness to compromise; a sense of humour; creativity, temperance, self-discipline, passion, and courage appear to be particularly significant characteristics and values for practicing political wisdom in today's society.

Political values are a person's or a group's set of views and principles that determine their general conduct toward political objects including leaders, events, and ideologies. Political values have been evaluated based on two factors: belief in the plurality of political parties and knowledge of political party philosophy. These factors aid in the prioritization of a person's political views.

Political perceptions can be defined as the process by which people form opinions about other countries' traits and positions, as well as their foreign policy. These perceptions could be influenced by public opinion in both the United States and abroad. The mass media, as well as new digital media, have the ability to sway people's political opinions.

One's political state of mind is referred to as political consciousness. This state of mind is founded on one's personal political knowledge, one's place in the political system and history, and the actions one perceives as available to alter the political reality in which one operates. Political consciousness is linked to notions such as political identity, political involvement, political culture, and the idea of a people-government social compact.

Table 32. Political Awareness

	Mean	Standard error	Level of Degree	Conclusion
Political Knowledge	1.2	0.0067	1.2	Medium
Political Wisdom	1.19	0.036	1.19	Medium
Political Values	1.315	0.000625	1.315	Medium
Political Perceptions	1.282	0.020	1.282	Medium
Political Consciousness	1.468	0.0039	1.468	Medium

Political awareness is one of life's most important requirements since it aids in the evolution of societies and lays the path for civil society institutions to be active within these communities, which necessitates ongoing effort. To summarize, it may be concluded that students have a basic level of political awareness and knowledge. The findings revealed that students have a high level of political awareness. Gender, academic level, and other factors all influenced the degree. According to the findings, college students have a high level of political awareness.

Conclusion

The study, in conclusion, reveals that the political consciousness among youth is very low, but their political interest is still high. Young people criticize the government for failing to maintain law and order, causing political conflicts, scarcity, job losses, and a variety of other problems. But they don't dynamically contribute to politics even after various measures taken by civil society organizations. This may be due to their state of mind about politics, which is created by the active politicians. The results reveal that when used for political activities, social media may increase political efficiency, political awareness, and political involvement. Civil society organizations must cover the political awareness among college students with much greater concern.

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