

Research: Opinion Survey on Contemporary Issues of Local Governance-2064 BS (Views of Citizens on Municipal Election)

Local bodies (DDCs, VDCs, Municipalities) have been run by local government staff for the last eight years as elections, has not been possible due to conflict. The absence of elected mechanism at the local bodies has affected the development and service delivery. At this backdrop, IGD conducted survey to undertake overall assessment of local bodies on present situation and find out opportunity to revitalize/ activate local bodies and to obtain information direct from the stakeholders regarding the various services being provided to citizens by services providing institutions.

The objectives of the Study were to assess whether citizens in municipalities were aware of announcement of the Municipality polls, to find out on what the citizens think of the possibility of the municipality election and to ascertain from the citizens' perspectives about what should be done to conduct polls peacefully

Methodology

The survey team developed three separate sets of questionnaires focusing to the respondents from concerned government authority, former peoples' representatives and local citizens. The methodology used in the survey was direct interview with the respondents based on the questionnaire developed by the team. The study was limited only in the Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur districts and random sample was used for selecting the primary respondents.

Altogether 5,170 samples (citizens: male/female) were included in the survey. All the respondents came from the municipalities who cast their ballots during the previous election. 75% of the respondents were male whereas 25% were female respondents.

The Major Key findings

- It has been found that 72% out of total respondents know the recent announcement of the Election Commission regarding the municipality election that is going to be conducted during February 2005
- Majority of respondents (58%) did not believe that the election is possible because of existing political conflict and lack of security
- More than 50% respondents pointed out that election can be conducted peacefully only after the settlement of the existing political stalemate and conflict