Impact of Education Level on Satisfaction with Federal Government

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Abstract

In capitalist countries, popular satisfaction with the federal government often determines whether the incumbent party wins elections. In this paper we explore the 2019 CES dataset, which was a non-probability survey[1] conducted in the lead-up to the 2019 Federal Election. We found that people's education level is closely related to their satisfaction with the federal government. Our findings have certain reference value to the governing party's re-election.

Introduction

Education has been influencing human development and progress since ancient times. In today's society, education has become particularly important for both individuals and countries. Scientific research has shown that higher education can not only improve the happiness index, but also reduce the crime rate in the society[2]. In this paper, through the study of 2019 CES data[3], we find that education level affects people's satisfaction with the federal government. The implications of this finding are not only for the general election but also for raising the importance of education.

According to the study of the educational background of the respondents and their satisfaction with the government, we find that more than 80 percent of the respondents have a college degree or a bachelor's degree, and less than 5 percent have a diploma below the high school level. At the same time, there is a big difference in the satisfaction of the respondents with the government. Only less than 9 percent of the respondents are very satisfied with the government, and over 50 percent of respondents are dissatisfied with the government. We, therefore, classify the respondents into those with below high school education and those with above high school education, and find that the lower the educational level of the respondents, the lower their satisfaction with the government.

In conclusion, the level of education determines people's satisfaction with the federal government and indirectly indicates the possibility of the ruling party's re-election. For example, our analysis shows that people with less than a high school degree are far less satisfied with the government than those with more education. That said, in order to increase the possibility of being re-elected, governing party should increase investment in education and make higher education more affordable. On the other hand, I recognize that the results of the current analysis are preliminary study of the limitations inherent in such a large public record. In addition to the limitations of using large public data sets, this study was limited by the design of non-randomized studies. Moreover, in this paper, a large amount of data was removed when calling filter function which results in a less predictable model. However, the results of this study should work as a reference into prediction of Canada Election.
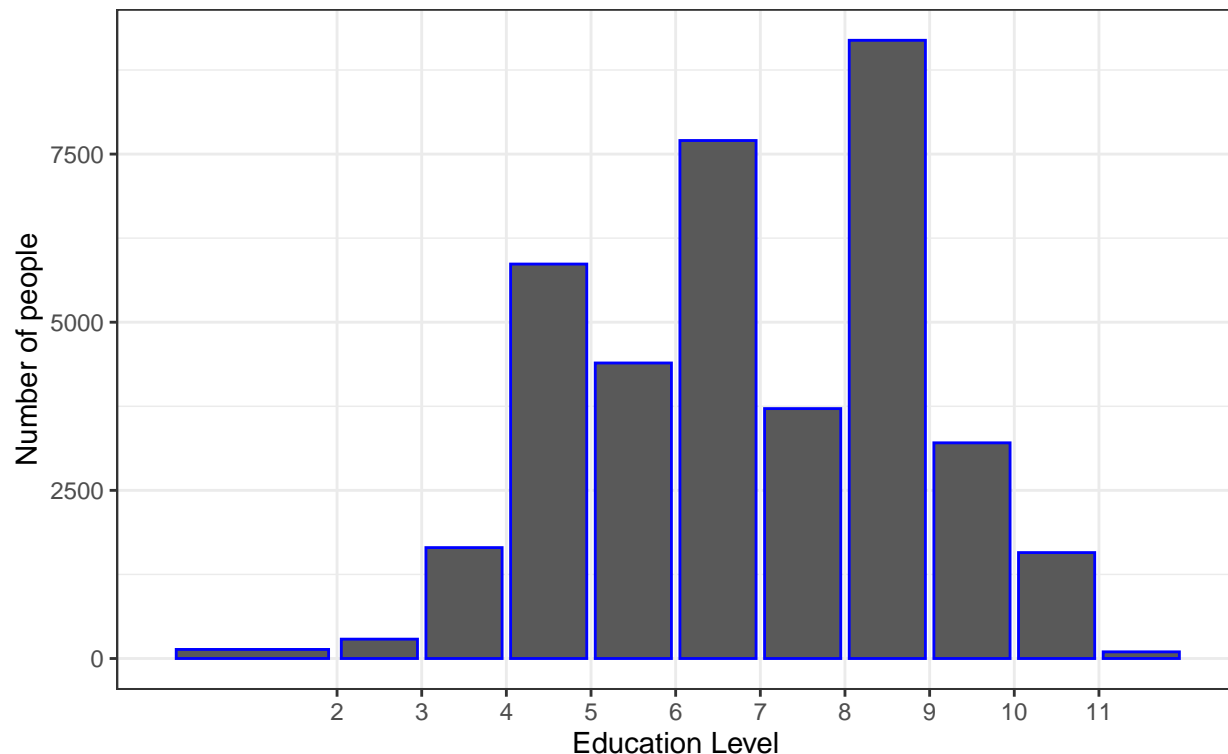
Data

The data was collected from 2019 Canadian Election Study with 620 variables. These variables include the respondent's demographic characteristics, political status, economic level, educational background and other aspects[4]. In this paper, we will focus on **cps19_education** and **cps19_fed_gov_sat** theses two variables to determine the relationship between education level and government satisfaction. For the convenience of observation, we replaced the educational background of the respondents with figures. For example, 1 represents illiteracy, 2 primary school education, 3 junior high school education, 4 high school education but not complete, 5 high school education, and so on[5].

As shown in graph 1, More than 50 percent of respondents have a college degree or above, and nearly a quarter of respondents have a bachelor's degree. In contrast, less than 8 percent of respondents had less than a high school diploma.
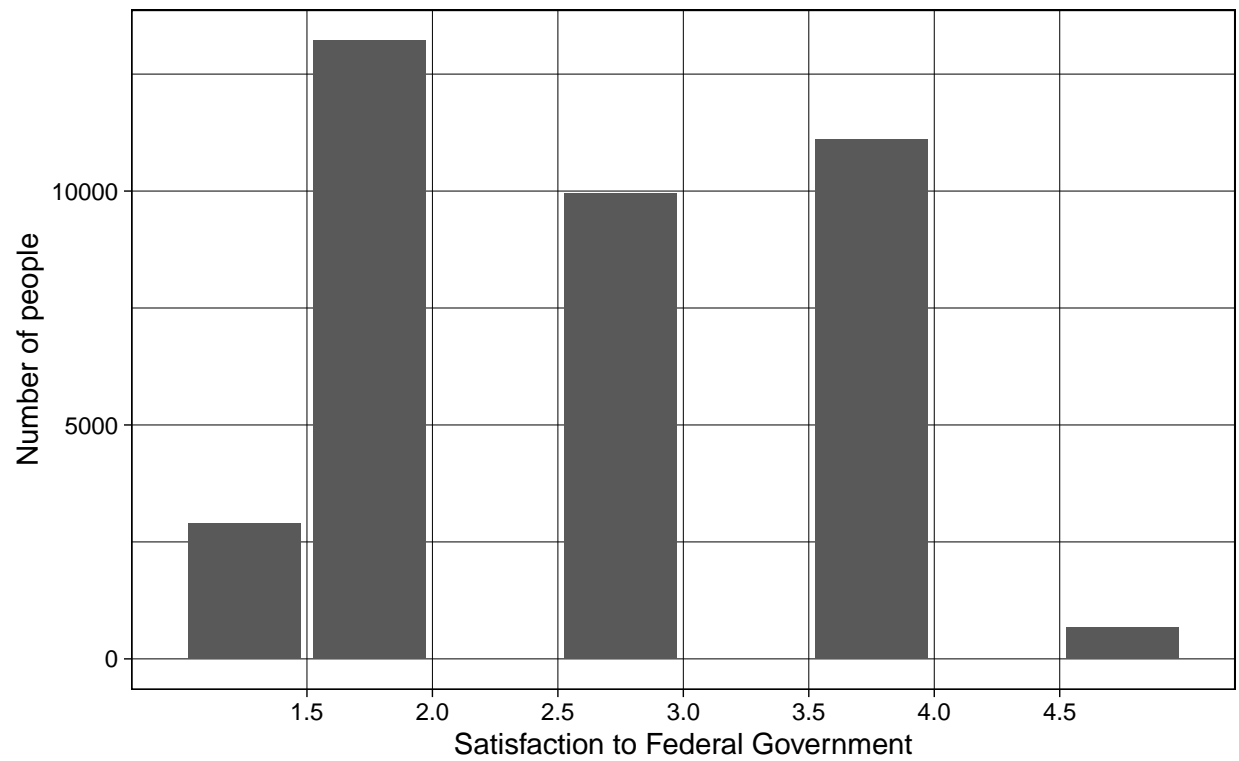
From graph 2, It is not difficult to find that more than 50 percent of respondents are dissatisfied with the performance of the government, and nearly 30 percent of respondents are very dissatisfied with the performance of the federal government. In addition, less than 8 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the government's work.

Grap1: Education level among respondents

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Graph2: Respondents'Satisfaction with Federal Government