

Political culture



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Political Culture and Political Ideology

- The term '**political culture**' refers to historically-based, **widely-shared beliefs, feelings, and values about the nature of political systems**, which can serve as a **link between citizens and government**.
- The term '**political ideology**' refers to **a code of beliefs or views** about governments and politics that may influence the way we **vote or whether or not we support certain legislative actions**.

Difference between Political Culture and Political Ideology

- Two people can **share a political culture, but have different political ideologies.**
- For example, a right-wing conservative can be from the same political culture as a left-wing liberal.
- In other words, political culture is **something we share**, while a political ideology is something we use to **define ourselves and make political decisions.**

Types of political culture

- In 1963, two political scientists, **Gabriel Almond** and **Sydney Verba**, published a study of the political cultures associated with five democratic countries: Germany, Italy, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- According to Almond and Verba, there are three basic types of political culture, which can be used to explain why people do or do not participate in political processes. They are:
 - ▣ Parochial political culture
 - ▣ Subject political culture
 - ▣ Participant political culture

Types of political culture

- In a **parochial political culture**, like Mexico, citizens are mostly **uninformed and unaware of their government and take little interest** in the political process.
- ▣ In a **subject political culture**, such as those found in Germany and Italy, citizens are **somewhat informed and aware of their government and occasionally participate** in the political process.
- ▣ In a **participant political culture**, like the United Kingdom and the United States, **citizens are informed and actively participate in the political process.**

Theories

- Political culture takes root and is transferred from generation to generation through **political socialization** and include Seymour Martin Lipset's **formative events theory**, which describes the **long-lasting effects of key events** that took place when a country was founded
- Louis Hartz's **fragment theory**, which explains the long-lasting effects of **European colonization on countries and societies**.
- Roger Inglehart's **post-materialism theory**, which explains the long-lasting effects of childhood economic and social conditions.

Post-materialism

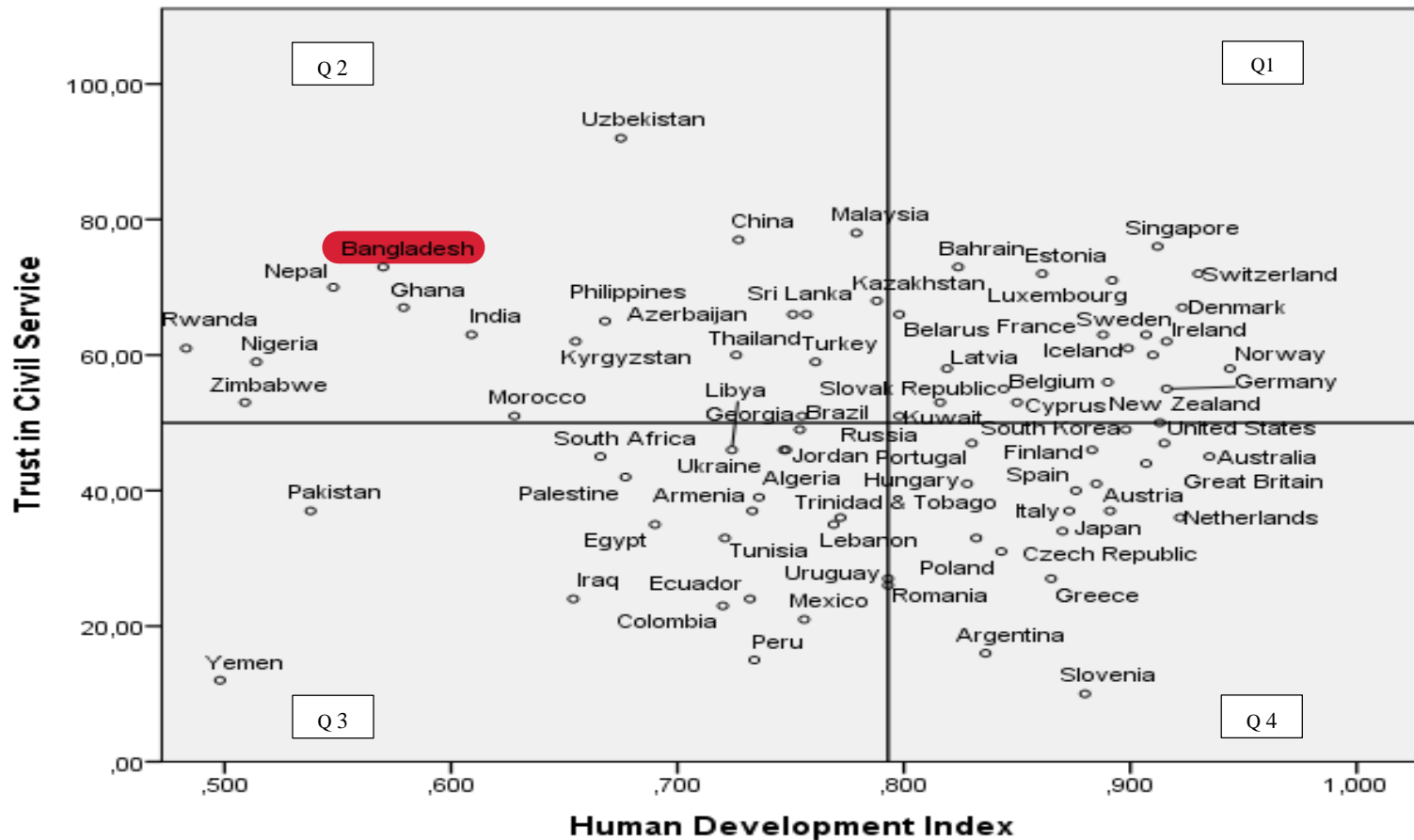
- It mainly indicates **the rise of self-expressive citizens** who are critical of their government's performance.
- Citizens with post-materialist values **increasingly challenge elitist rule and reject authority.**
- They are **less satisfied with the performance** of institutions than are the materialists.
- When this happens, post-materialist citizens' do not concern about **traditional socio-economic development, rather tend to demonstrate interest on different issues like political rights and liberty, equality, tolerance, participation, cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism, environmental concerns and human rights issues.**

Theoretical Arguments to Explain Trust in Civil Service

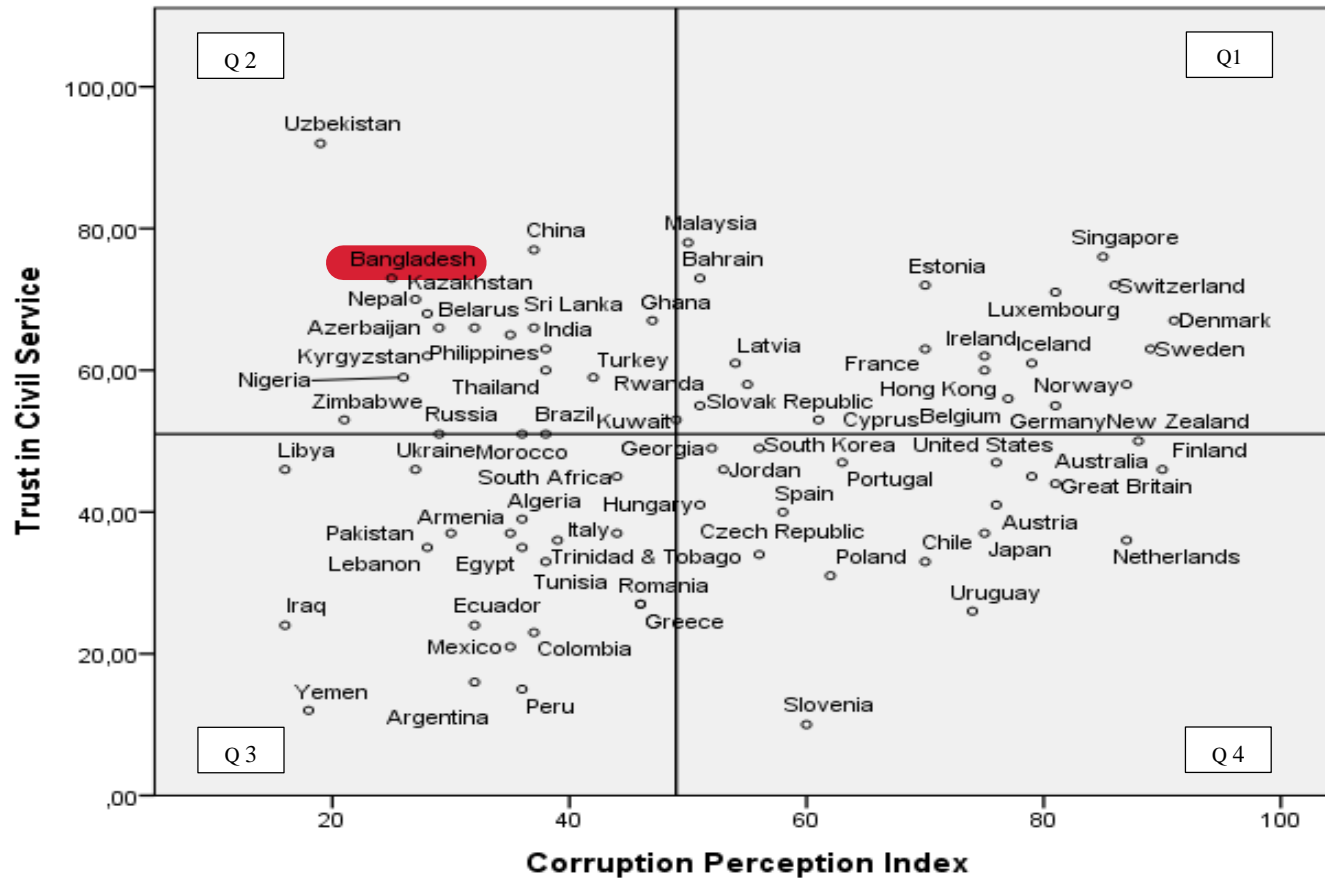
- Performance
 - ▣ Economic Performance
 - ▣ Political Freedom
 - ▣ Quality of Governance (neutrality and fairness)

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- What do you expect for Bangladesh in terms of trust?

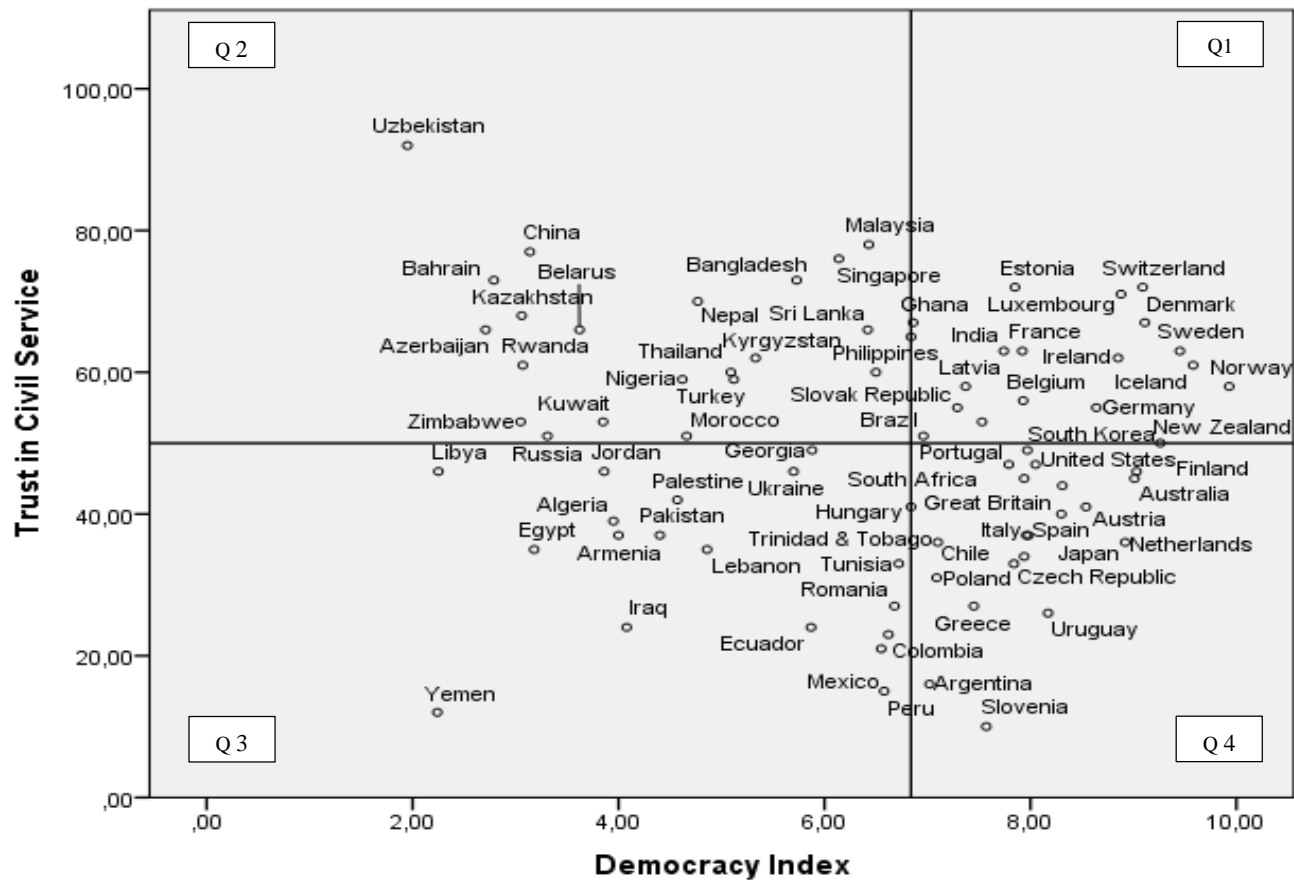
Empirical Evidences



Empirical Evidences (Contd.)



Empirical Evidences (Contd.)



Trust in Civil Service (WVS 6)

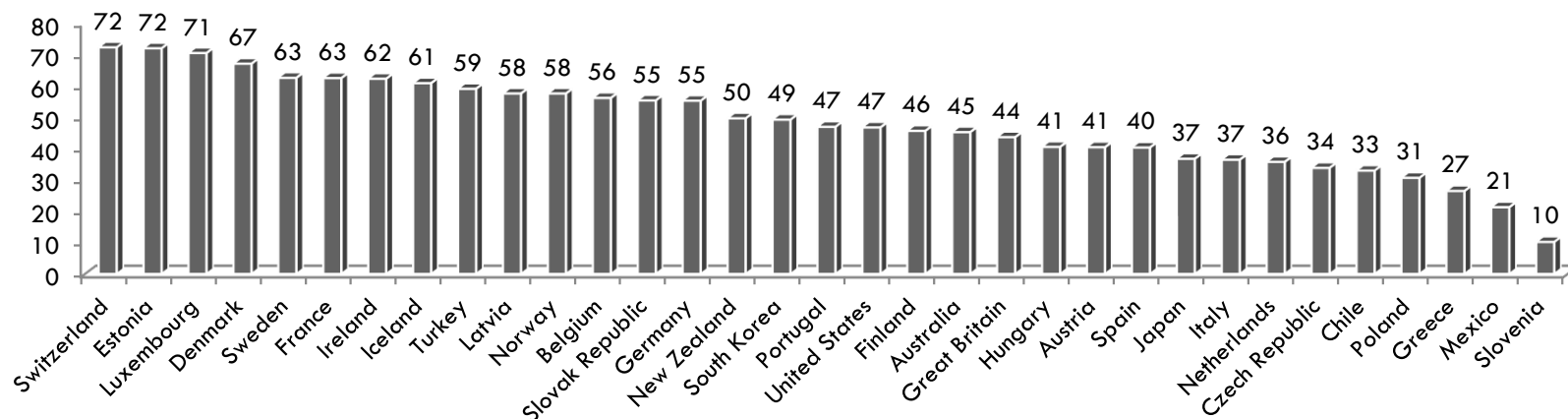


Figure: Confidence in Civil Service in OECD countries

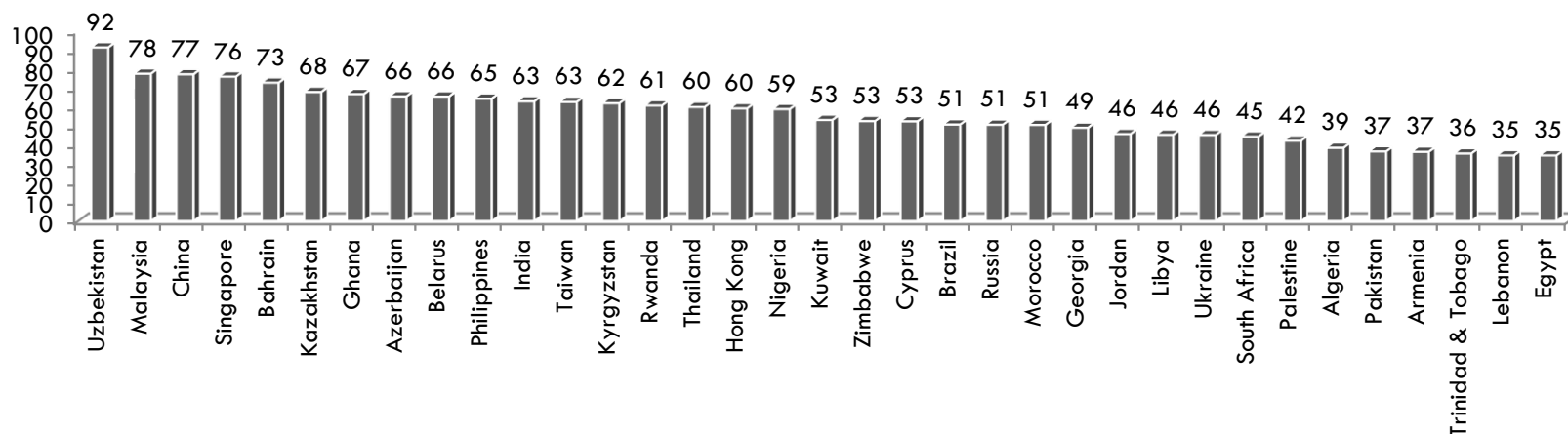
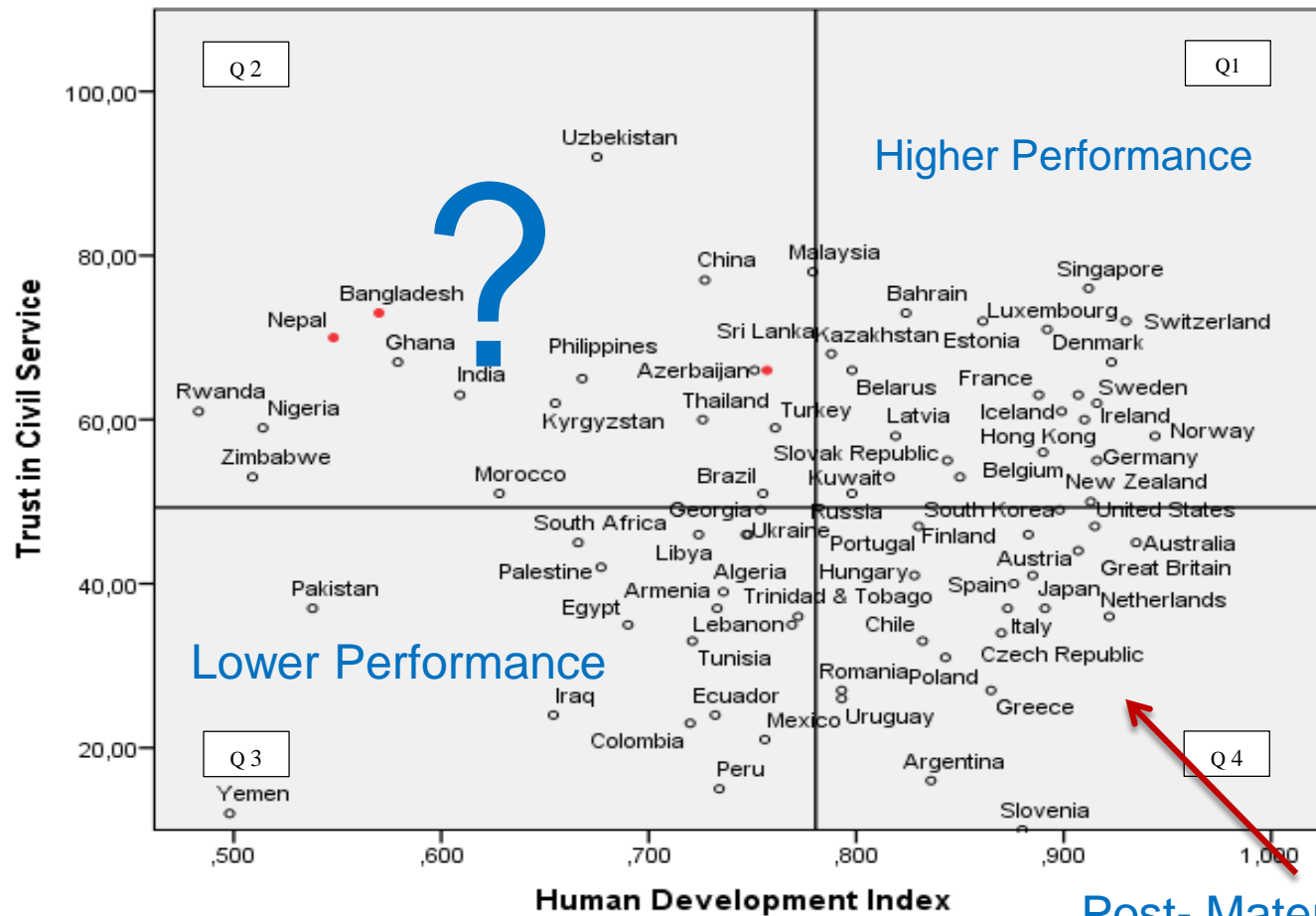


Figure: Confidence in Civil Service in non-OECD countries

Research Puzzle?



Theoretical Explanation and the concept

- Authoritarian Cultural Orientation may matter
- This concept indicates **unquestioning obedience** and reliance on authorities and this authority can be government, political leaders, teachers, elders or any one with higher social ranking and reputation (Ma and Yang, 2014).

Operationalization of the Concept

- Authoritarian Cultural Orientation Index
- Two statements:
 - ▣ Even if parent's demands are **unreasonable**, children still should do what their parents ask/suggest and
 - ▣ It is natural that those with **power, money and belonging** to a **high status family background** should be **respected and obeyed**.
- Respondents choose one option between 1-4 while 1 = strongly disagree and 4 = strongly agree.

Analytical Framework

- Citizens' degree of assertiveness
 - ▣ Low
 - ▣ High
- Measurement:
 - ▣ Statement 1: The government is like a **parent**. It should decide which is good for us and
 - ▣ Statement 2: The government is like our **employee**. We are the bosses and should tell government what to do.

Methodology

- 5th round of Afrobarometer
 - ▣ Year: 2015
 - ▣ 34 countries
 - ▣ Survey response from 51,587 samples

t-test on the variation of institutional trust based on individual's degree of assertiveness(N= 51,587)

Key Institutions	Degree of Assertiveness	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Trust key leadership figure (President/Prime Minister)	High		1.135	.009	-25.760	.000	-.302
	Low		1.065	.008			
Trust parliament/national assembly	High		1.086	.008	-20.084	.000	-.230
	Low		1.056	.008			
Trust national electoral commission	High		1.128	.009	-16.274	.000	-.199
	Low		1.077	.008			
Trust tax department	High		1.078	.009	-16.164	.000	-.189
	Low		1.063	.008			
Trust your elected local government council	High		1.081	.009	-20.546	.000	-.239
	Low		1.049	.008			

t-test on the variation of institutional trust based on individual's degree of assertiveness(N= 51,587)

Key Institutions	Degree of Assertiveness	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Trust the ruling party	High	1.41	1.136	.009	-23.834	.000	-.285
	Low	1.70	1.089	.008			
Trust opposition political parties	High	1.19	1.064	.008	-3.126	.002	-.036
	Low	1.22	1.046	.008			
Trust police	High	1.44	1.121	.009	-24.431	.000	-.282
	Low	1.72	1.091	.008			
Trust army	High	1.97	1.081	.008	-8.060	.000	-.090
	Low	2.06	1.026	.007			
Trust courts of law	High	1.77	1.062	.008	-11.946	.000	-.132
	Low	1.90	1.029	.007			

t-test on the variation of different aspects of governance based on individual's degree of assertiveness(N= 51,587)

Key Governance Indicators	Degree of Assertiveness	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Corruption: office of the President/Prime Minister	High		.872	.007	19.672	.000	.192
	Low		.853	.007			
Corruption: Members of Parliament	High		.801	.007	14.408	.000	.128
	Low		.792	.006			
Corruption: government officials	High		.790	.006	15.925	.000	.139
	Low		.801	.006			
Corruption: police	High		.878	.007	15.364	.000	.146
	Low		.880	.006			
Corruption: tax officials	High		.853	.007	9.925	.000	.096
	Low		.858	.007			
Corruption: judges and magistrates	High		.829	.007	8.606	.000	.080
	Low		.846	.006			
Unequal treatment	High		.990	.008	11.707	.000	.122
	Low		.992	.007			

t-test on the variation of different aspects of governance based on individual's degree of assertiveness(N= 51,587)

Key Performance Indicators	Degree of Assertiveness	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Extent of democracy	High		.920	.007	-.24.225	.000	-.235
	Low		.905	.007			
Freeness and fairness of the last national election	High		1.118	.009	-.21.205	.000	-.244
	Low		.998	.007			
Managing the economy	High		.954	.007	-17.587	.000	-.177
	Low		.943	.007			
Improving living standards of the poor	High		.893	.007	-15.415	.000	-.145
	Low		.890	.006			
Creating jobs	High		.864	.007	-21.072	.000	-.194
	Low		.884	.006			
Keeping prices down	High		.819	.006	-20.648	.000	-.181
	Low		.852	.006			
Narrowing income gaps	High		.832	.007	-18.091	.000	-.162
	Low		.858	.006			
Reducing crime	High		.986	.008	-8.645	.000	-.089
	Low		.967	.007			

t-test on the variation of different aspects of governance based on individual's degree of assertiveness(N= 51,587)

Key Performance Indicators	Degree of Assertiveness	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Improving basic health services	High		.940	.007	-12.922	.000	-.125
	Low		.905	.006			
Addressing educational needs	High		.956	.007	-11.010	.000	-.108
	Low		.905	.006			
Providing water and sanitation services	High		.970	.008	-9.475	.000	-.096
	Low		.950	.007			
Ensuring enough to eat	High		.897	.007	-14.867	.000	-.141
	Low		.904	.006			
Fighting corruption	High		.990	.008	-16.637	.000	-.176
	Low		.963	.007			
Resolving violent conflict between communities	High		.964	.008	-11.431	.000	-.118
	Low		.929	.007			
Combatting HIV/AIDS	High		.924	.007	1.298	.194	0.13
	Low		.884	.006			
Maintaining roads and bridges	High		1.010	.008	-9.577	.000	-.101
	Low		.984	.007			
Providing reliable electric supply	High		1.009	.008	-7.212	.000	-.078
	Low		.996	.007			
Empowering women	High		.951	.008	-3038	.000	-.30
	Low		.904	.007			

t-test on the variation of the willingness to pay taxes based on individual's degree of assertiveness (N= 51,587)

	Degree of Assertiveness	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t	Sig (2-tailed)	Mean Difference
Need to pay taxes	High	15,004	2.14	1.235	.010	5.124	.000	.065
	Low	18,344	2.07	1.062	.008			

Suggested readings

- Baniamin, H. M., Jamil, I., & Askvik, S. (2019). Mismatch between lower performance and higher trust in the civil service: Can culture provide an explanation?. *International Political Science Review*, 0192512118799756.
- Baniamin, H. M. (2019). Linking socio-economic performance, quality of governance, and trust in the civil service: does culture intercede in the perceived relationships? Evidence from and beyond Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration*, 41(3), 127-141.
- Baniamin, H. M. (2020). Linking trust, performance, and governance quality: What can explain the incongruity? Trustgov-A joint project by University of Southampton and Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. Available online at:
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