# Think Tank Initiative
# 2018 Policy Community Survey

## *Final Report on South Asia*

June 28, 2018

Think Tank Initiative

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**Project: 2976**

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# Introduction and Objectives

In 2010/1 and 2013, GlobeScan, a global stakeholder research consultancy, was commissioned by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) as part of the Think Tank Initiative (TTI) to conduct a survey of policy stakeholders in three regions: Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

In 2018, the IDRC once again engaged GlobeScan to carry out the Think Tank Initiative Policy Community Survey in the same three regions.

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 South Asian survey.

A global report will be prepared which presents an overview of the findings of the studies undertaken in all regions once they are completed.

# Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

**Information needs of policy community have slightly changed, while ease of access has declined**

Over the past eight years, information needs of policy makers have evolved slightly, with information related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new metric for 2018, ranking highest. Meanwhile, information on poverty alleviation, the environment, and economic/fiscal issues, are less sought after than in 2013. There is also a demand from the vast majority of stakeholders for research relating to gender equality and women's empowerment. Policy stakeholders now appear to be more selective in their information needs, having selected a more narrow range of topics of importance to them than in previous years. Additionally, since the last wave of the study, the ease of obtaining information related to policy making has slightly declined for most issues, particularly for economic, gender, poverty alleviation and trade or industry issues. This indicates room for improvement, particularly around topics of high importance to stakeholders, such as the SDGs or economic issues, where less than half of respondents consider this information easily accessible.

**Websites and reports/publications remain the most useful formats, however, interest in social media is growing**

Websites, print, and email remain the most useful formats for receiving information on national policy development, however, the perceived usefulness of all three of these formats has declined from 2013, while perceived usefulness of social media has increased.

Consistent with 2013 findings, publications/reports, databases, and expert consultations are the most commonly utilized sources for increasing understanding of national policy. While the rankings of these information sources have remained consistent, all sources have dropped considerably which indicates that stakeholders are more focused in the sources of information they use.

**Relevant government ministries/agencies have surpassed national think tanks as a top source of information on social and economic policy**

While national think tanks were the most preferred institutions for stakeholders to turn to for information on social and economic policy in 2013, government organizations have now surpassed them as the top choice in 2018. Respondents claim to turn to these institutions due to their credibility and relevance of research to needs, and in spite of comparatively low quality of research. The idea that stakeholders value alignment of research with particular needs over quality of research is further alluded to by the fact that international university-based research institutes have the highest quality of research, but are among the lowest institution types for use. This signifies that relevance is valued more highly than quality in driving usage of particular institution types.

# Executive Summary

**National think tanks have strong quality ratings, but could improve perceptions among stakeholders in Nepal as well as those in government and the private sector**

National think tanks are considered by the majority of stakeholders to provide excellent quality research, despite a slight decrease from previous ratings in 2011 and 2013. Ratings of research quality for national think tanks are particularly high among those in research/academia, NGOs, media, and multilateral institutions. National think tanks have much lower quality ratings among stakeholders from government or the private sector. National think tanks also enjoy much higher ratings of quality of research from stakeholders in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, while those in Nepal rate their quality much lower.

The perceived performance of tested national think tanks across South Asia has remained relatively unchanged since 2013. Quality of research and researchers are consistently rated highly among stakeholders, while partnership with policy actors other than government and innovative approaches to research are areas where perceived performance is lowest.

**Implications**

Overall, perceptions of national think tanks in South Asia are generally positive, with high usage and quality ratings.

- This research has demonstrated that stakeholders primarily value the relevance of research in dictating their usage. A significant opportunity for national think tanks is to focus efforts on relevance of research to stakeholder needs. This would include strengthening research efforts on the SDGs, economic, and gender issues. By providing stakeholders with the information of the utmost importance to them, usage will likely increase.
- Other opportunities for national think tanks include working toward improving the accessibility of research by utilizing formats and sources of information that stakeholders find most useful, such as websites and reports/publications, while simultaneously growing a social media presence. This will likely lead to greater familiarity with national think tanks, which is noted by elected government as one of the most important ways to improve performance.
- National think tanks should try to work towards strengthening efforts around innovation in research, while building stronger relationships with various policy actors, rather than just government; two areas where national think tank performance is relatively weaker.

# Methodology and Sample Composition

# Methodology

The survey of policy stakeholders was conducted through online, telephone, and face-to-face interviews in 5 South Asian countries from September 26th 2017 to February 12th 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.

| | | South Asia | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Bangladesh | Nepal | Pakistan | Sri Lanka | India |
| **Total** | 252 | 42 | 41 | 40 | 43 | 86 |
| **Online** | 39 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 13 |
| **Telephone** | 213 | 34 | 34 | 35 | 37 | 73 |

# 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 provided by the IDRC and its TTI grantee organizations, and were supplemented by GlobeScan. GlobeScan stakeholder names were reviewed by the IDRC and grantee organizations. To minimize bias, interviews were conducted with a mixture of stakeholders – some sourced by grantee organizations and some sourced by GlobeScan.

*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.

# Methodology: Sample Summary

Number of Stakeholders Interviewed by Country, 2018

| | | South Asia | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Bangladesh | India | Nepal | Pakistan | Sri Lanka |
| Total | 252 | 42 | 86 | 41 | 40 | 43 |
| Government, elected | 35 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Government, non-elected | 38 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 6 |
| Media | 32 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Multilateral/bilateral | 30 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 3 | 6 |
| NGO | 41 | 6 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Private sector | 36 | 6 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Research/academia | 40 | 6 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 6 |

# Think Tanks Tested in Each Country and Number of Respondents Rating Each Think Tank

South Asia, 2018

| Country | Think tank | Sample size |
|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) | 42, 42 |
| Nepal | Institute for the Social and Environmental Transition - Nepal (ISET-N) | 33 |
| Pakistan | Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) | 31, 37 |
| Sri Lanka | Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) | 39, 42 |
| India | Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), Centre for Policy Research (CPR), Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Indian Institute of Dalit Studies (IIDS), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Public Affairs Centre (PAC) | 36, 36, 36, 35, 36, 36, 36 |

Please see the companion document entitled “Think Tank Fact Sheets – South Asian Countries” for an overview of the key performance measures of specific think tanks in each country.

# 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.

These views provide the basis for reflection within the organizations supported by the TTI on how the organization's current performance is perceived by key stakeholders, and on ways in which the organization may enhance its organizational capacity to undertake policy-relevant research.

As was done for the South Asian survey in 2010/11 and 2013, we set a target of 40 respondents per country with a balanced quota of responses across different stakeholder categories.

Balanced quotas in each country were achieved with varying degrees of difficulty encountered in the data collection process.

**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 South Asia: Type, Accessibility, Format

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

## Types of Information Required

### South Asia Level

- The types of information that members of the policy community desire have seen slight changes over the past three waves of this study, with poverty alleviation falling from first rank to fourth, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new metric for 2018, ranking highest. Foreign affairs continues to rank the lowest over all three waves of this study.
- When prompted, the vast majority (90%) of surveyed stakeholders believe that there is a demand for research relating to gender equality and women's empowerment.

### Stakeholder Level

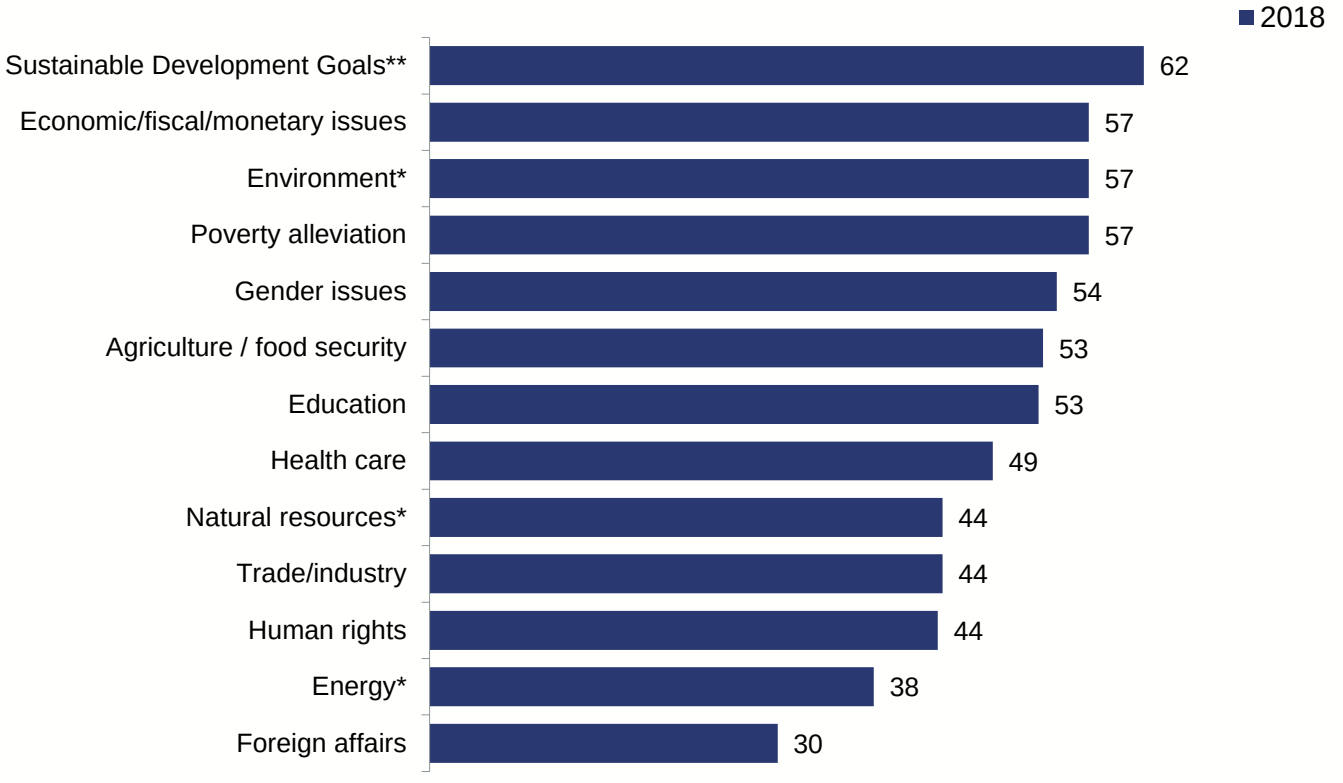
- Elected government officials and media representatives are primarily interested in environmental and agricultural/food security issues, while private sector stakeholders are primarily focused on information related to trade and industry. Non-elected government officials, NGOs, and multilateral organizations are primarily interested in information regarding the SDGs.
- Non-elected government officials are far more likely to be interested in receiving information relating to natural resources than elected government officials.
- Non-elected government officials, NGOs, and media representatives are the most likely to agree that there is demand for information related to gender issues and women's empowerment.

### Country Level

- At the country level, respondents in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India prioritize information related to the SDGs with regards to policy making. Respondents from Nepal and Bangladesh desire information on environmental issues far more than their counterparts in other countries, while respondents in Sri Lanka are more likely to seek information on economic/fiscal issues.

# Types of Information Required for Policy Making

## Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, South Asia, 2011–2018




| | % Total Mentions | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 2011 |
| Sustainable Development Goals** | NA | NA |
| Economic/fiscal/monetary issues | 78 | 82 |
| Environment* | 69 | 80 |
| Poverty alleviation | 83 | 86 |
| Gender issues | 76 | 72 |
| Agriculture / food security | 66 | 77 |
| Education | 69 | 78 |
| Health care | 64 | 72 |
| Natural resources* | 65 | 80 |
| Trade/industry | 61 | 71 |
| Human rights | 62 | 68 |
| Energy* | 62 | 80 |
| Foreign affairs | 43 | 53 |

The Sustainable Development Goals have surpassed poverty alleviation as the most prominent type of information required for policy making.

* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2011 (selected by 80% of respondents), but were segmented in 2013.

** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

# Types of Information Required for Policy Making

## Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection
Second selection

| | Overall average | | | Elected government | | | Non-elected government | | | Media | | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | | NGO | | | Private sector | | | Research/ academia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| SDGs** | 62 | - | - | 46 | - | - | 68 | - | - | 81 | - | - | 77 | - | - | 66 | - | - | 42 | - | - | 58 | - | - |
| Economic/fiscal issues | 57 | 78 | 82 | 40 | 82 | 83 | 53 | 77 | 79 | 81 | 87 | 83 | 63 | 80 | 76 | 56 | 73 | 80 | 69 | 90 | 89 | 43 | 64 | 87 |
| Environment* | 57 | 69 | 80 | 54 | 64 | 78 | 58 | 70 | 76 | 88 | 79 | 94 | 47 | 80 | 70 | 59 | 73 | 83 | 61 | 79 | 91 | 38 | 43 | 63 |
| Poverty alleviation | 57 | 83 | 86 | 49 | 86 | 83 | 53 | 87 | 84 | 78 | 76 | 83 | 57 | 83 | 88 | 59 | 92 | 98 | 42 | 93 | 86 | 65 | 70 | 82 |
| Gender issues | 54 | 76 | 72 | 34 | 77 | 65 | 47 | 77 | 61 | 75 | 82 | 75 | 60 | 77 | 82 | 61 | 90 | 90 | 47 | 59 | 54 | 58 | 66 | 74 |
| Agriculture / food security | 53 | 66 | 77 | 51 | 68 | 91 | 55 | 57 | 74 | 84 | 76 | 92 | 37 | 63 | 70 | 49 | 73 | 85 | 47 | 59 | 63 | 50 | 61 | 71 |
| Education | 53 | 69 | 78 | 40 | 64 | 83 | 45 | 70 | 74 | 81 | 87 | 89 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 56 | 71 | 83 | 58 | 62 | 71 | 43 | 64 | 76 |
| Health care | 49 | 64 | 72 | 40 | 68 | 70 | 53 | 70 | 68 | 72 | 74 | 81 | 47 | 53 | 55 | 51 | 67 | 85 | 50 | 72 | 80 | 33 | 45 | 63 |
| Human rights | 44 | 62 | 68 | 29 | 68 | 74 | 39 | 57 | 50 | 75 | 76 | 83 | 50 | 47 | 70 | 61 | 92 | 93 | 31 | 55 | 66 | 28 | 34 | 45 |
| Natural resources* | 44 | 65 | 80 | 20 | 68 | 78 | 58 | 63 | 76 | 78 | 84 | 94 | 30 | 57 | 70 | 44 | 67 | 83 | 50 | 69 | 91 | 33 | 48 | 63 |
| Trade/industry | 44 | 61 | 71 | 37 | 64 | 70 | 37 | 73 | 82 | 72 | 89 | 78 | 43 | 60 | 45 | 24 | 37 | 66 | 72 | 69 | 91 | 33 | 48 | 66 |
| Energy* | 38 | 62 | 80 | 23 | 68 | 78 | 34 | 57 | 76 | 75 | 87 | 94 | 27 | 53 | 70 | 34 | 57 | 83 | 50 | 79 | 91 | 30 | 39 | 63 |
| Foreign affairs | 30 | 43 | 53 | 23 | 55 | 61 | 29 | 40 | 47 | 72 | 68 | 81 | 13 | 43 | 33 | 27 | 33 | 59 | 39 | 41 | 51 | 13 | 30 | 42 |

* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2011, but were segmented in 2013.
** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

# Types of Information Required for Policy Making

## Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018

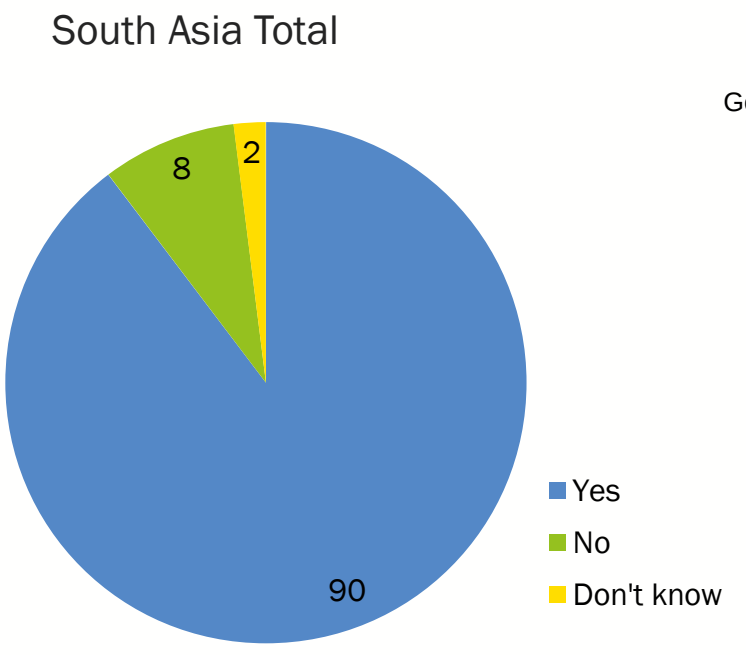
Top selection
Second selection

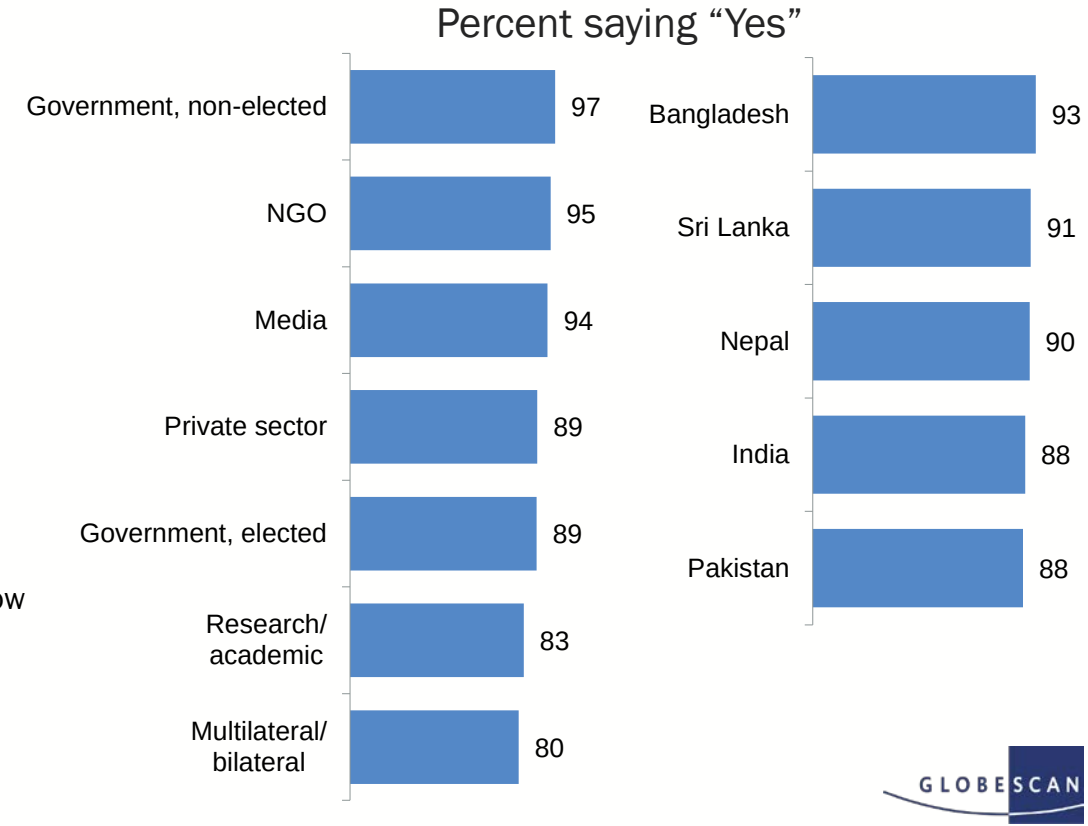
| | Overall average | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | | Pakistan | | | Sri Lanka | | | India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| SDGs** | 62 | - | - | 71 | - | - | 73 | - | - | 45 | - | - | 58 | - | - | 62 | - | - |
| Economic/fiscal issues | 57 | 78 | 82 | 60 | 78 | 93 | 54 | 66 | 88 | 45 | 85 | 85 | 65 | 88 | 85 | 59 | 75 | 73 |
| Environment* | 57 | 69 | 80 | 60 | 75 | 98 | 80 | 76 | 93 | 38 | 70 | 74 | 49 | 71 | 78 | 58 | 61 | 68 |
| Poverty alleviation | 57 | 83 | 86 | 55 | 88 | 95 | 61 | 80 | 93 | 43 | 75 | 79 | 63 | 90 | 90 | 60 | 84 | 81 |
| Gender issues | 54 | 76 | 72 | 57 | 80 | 88 | 61 | 83 | 78 | 40 | 80 | 74 | 56 | 78 | 60 | 56 | 68 | 67 |
| Agriculture / food security | 53 | 66 | 77 | 48 | 60 | 88 | 76 | 63 | 85 | 35 | 70 | 72 | 58 | 68 | 73 | 51 | 68 | 74 |
| Education | 53 | 69 | 78 | 55 | 75 | 88 | 51 | 68 | 80 | 45 | 83 | 85 | 49 | 66 | 80 | 58 | 61 | 68 |
| Health care | 49 | 64 | 72 | 60 | 65 | 85 | 49 | 66 | 76 | 30 | 68 | 69 | 49 | 66 | 70 | 52 | 59 | 67 |
| Human rights | 44 | 62 | 68 | 45 | 78 | 83 | 46 | 66 | 73 | 35 | 75 | 74 | 40 | 46 | 68 | 49 | 55 | 57 |
| Natural resources* | 44 | 65 | 80 | 33 | 58 | 98 | 73 | 85 | 93 | 25 | 53 | 74 | 40 | 63 | 78 | 48 | 65 | 68 |
| Trade/industry | 44 | 61 | 71 | 43 | 65 | 85 | 41 | 44 | 83 | 35 | 73 | 77 | 56 | 76 | 78 | 45 | 54 | 54 |
| Energy* | 38 | 62 | 80 | 31 | 68 | 98 | 59 | 66 | 93 | 23 | 60 | 74 | 33 | 56 | 78 | 43 | 60 | 68 |
| Foreign affairs | 30 | 43 | 53 | 29 | 60 | 65 | 39 | 34 | 56 | 23 | 48 | 64 | 35 | 44 | 53 | 28 | 36 | 42 |

* “Environment,” “natural resources,” and “energy” were combined in one response option in 2011, but were segmented in 2013.
** ”Sustainable Development Goals” was added as a new metric in 2018

# Demand in Your Country for Information on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Percent of Stakeholders, by Stakeholder Type and Country, South Asia, 2018



# Is there a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research, and why?

## Open-end Responses, South Asia, 2018

**Those who said that there was a demand for gender equality and female empowerment research in their country gave the following as reasons why:**

- Improved access to resources in education for women and girls
- Financial empowerment of women through career opportunities, equal pay and property ownership
- To improve the social and cultural conditions of women in society
- Empowerment of women in rural and marginalized communities
- Address the impact of religious extremism on the suppression of women
- More inclusive roles for women in politics particularly in leadership and decision-making roles
- To help counter violence against women in society
- To improve access to health care services for women and young girls

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

- It is not a prevalent issue in their country as women already have equal career opportunities in various sectors
- There are other social issues in their country that are a higher priority
- It is not the role of research, but rather a legal issue that law and politics is already dealing with
- There is already too much research on this topic

> "The issue is that policy does not seem to be working for women's empowerment, so there is a need for research there. – *Research/Academia, Bangladesh*"

> "Critical examination of gender equality policies and it's success (or failure) at the implementation level is very important.– *NGO, Nepal*"

> "Equal rights to education and improving the educational environment. It should start from rural areas and then come to city areas. – *Private Sector, Nepal*"

> "Economic empowerment, women in decision making, religious extremism and the impact on women. – *63, Government non-elected, Pakistan*"

> "Because the women are already empowered; they have share in jobs, in legislature, in media etc. and are involved in policy planning.– *Research/Academia, Pakistan*"

> "The law itself ensures most of the time women are getting equality. – *Media, Sri Lanka*"

> "Its not such a big issue in Sri Lanka as compared to other countries. – *Multilateral/Bilateral, Sri Lanka*"

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

## Accessibility of Information

### South Asia Level

- Since the last wave of the study in 2013, the ease of obtaining information related to policy making has slightly declined for most issues. The most notable declines are for ease of obtaining information related to economic/fiscal issues, gender issues, poverty alleviation and trade/industry.
- The majority of respondents do not consider it "easy" to obtain information related to policy development across all topic areas. Although information related to education is considered the easiest to obtain.

### Stakeholder Level

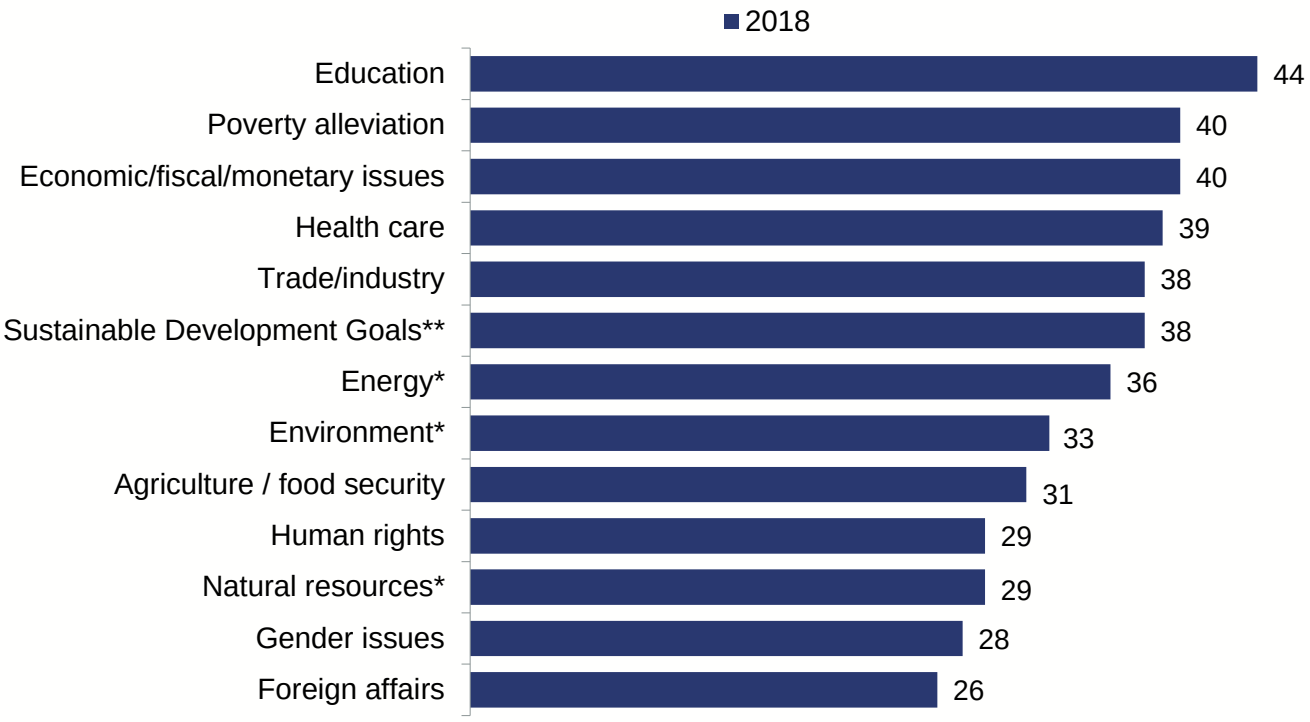
- Non-elected government officials and researchers/academics are likely to view information on economic/fiscal issues as most accessible, while those from media and NGOs report that information on education is the most easy to obtain.
- Respondents from the private sector report that they have a much easier time finding information on human rights than other stakeholders. However, private sector stakeholders have a much harder time obtaining information on the SDGs relative to nearly all other stakeholder groups.

### Country Level

- The ease of obtaining information varies by topic area at the country level, with stakeholders from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka finding it easier to obtain information on education, while stakeholders from Nepal are more likely to easily find information on health care. Stakeholders from India report that it is easiest to obtain information on trade/industry and energy.

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

## Percent Selecting "Easy" (4+5), South Asia, 2011–2018




| | % Total Mentions | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 2011 |
| Education | 47 | 43 |
| Poverty alleviation | 47 | 31 |
| Economic/fiscal/monetary issues | 48 | 30 |
| Health care | 33 | 29 |
| Trade/industry | 50 | 33 |
| Sustainable Development Goals** | NA | NA |
| Energy* | 34 | 32 |
| Environment* | 26 | 32 |
| Agriculture / food security | 36 | 28 |
| Human rights | 28 | 19 |
| Natural resources* | 25 | 32 |
| Gender issues | 41 | 32 |
| Foreign affairs | 30 | 20 |

Information on education is more likely to be considered "easy" to obtain by stakeholders from NGOs, multi-lateral organizations and media.

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=100–279 in 2011, *n*=133–281 in 2013, *n*=72–182 in 2018)
"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2011 (32% selected "easy" (4+5)) but were segmented in 2013.
** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018

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

Think Tank Initiative

## Percent of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection
Second selection

| | Overall average | | | Elected government | | | Non-elected government | | | Media | | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | | NGO | | | Private sector | | | Research/ academia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Education | 44 | 47 | 43 | 36 | 50 | 48 | 41 | 52 | 54 | 58 | 52 | 41 | 47 | 33 | 44 | 52 | 49 | 47 | 33 | 39 | 20 | 35 | 46 | 45 |
| Economic/fiscal issues | 40 | 48 | 30 | 36 | 39 | 22 | 50 | 57 | 59 | 46 | 64 | 16 | 11 | 54 | 36 | 39 | 25 | 15 | 32 | 38 | 22 | 65 | 64 | 39 |
| Poverty alleviation | 40 | 47 | 31 | 41 | 47 | 42 | 30 | 62 | 50 | 44 | 48 | 20 | 53 | 44 | 20 | 50 | 42 | 28 | 13 | 30 | 26 | 42 | 58 | 39 |
| Health care | 39 | 33 | 29 | 36 | 40 | 25 | 15 | 48 | 50 | 57 | 39 | 31 | 43 | 19 | 33 | 43 | 39 | 23 | 22 | 5 | 15 | 62 | 35 | 25 |
| Trade/industry | 38 | 50 | 33 | 31 | 43 | 44 | 43 | 36 | 36 | 52 | 65 | 33 | 38 | 50 | 53 | 30 | 22 | 15 | 27 | 65 | 25 | 46 | 52 | 40 |
| SDGs** | 38 | - | - | 31 | - | - | 42 | - | - | 50 | - | - | 43 | - | - | 41 | - | - | 27 | - | - | 22 | - | - |
| Energy*† | 36 | 34 | 32 | 38 | 47 | 22 | 23 | 41 | 45 | 42 | 33 | 35 | 13 | 25 | 30 | 50 | 32 | 32 | 33 | 26 | 19 | 42 | 35 | 37 |
| Environment* | 33 | 26 | 32 | 32 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 38 | 45 | 46 | 23 | 35 | 43 | 21 | 30 | 42 | 33 | 32 | 23 | 17 | 19 | 13 | 26 | 37 |
| Agriculture / food security | 31 | 36 | 28 | 44 | 40 | 33 | 24 | 41 | 47 | 37 | 28 | 21 | 9 | 26 | 35 | 30 | 47 | 17 | 24 | 6 | 5 | 40 | 52 | 40 |
| Human rights | 29 | 28 | 19 | 40 | 40 | 12 | 33 | 29 | 42 | 25 | 34 | 26 | 20 | 29 | 9 | 32 | 22 | 19 | 45 | 31 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 18 |
| Natural resources*† | 29 | 25 | 32 | 29 | 33 | 22 | 41 | 37 | 45 | 36 | 22 | 35 | 33 | 12 | 30 | 33 | 27 | 32 | 6 | 25 | 19 | 15 | 19 | 37 |
| Gender issues | 28 | 41 | 32 | 25 | 35 | 33 | 39 | 39 | 52 | 42 | 48 | 30 | 11 | 26 | 22 | 36 | 48 | 35 | 12 | 35 | 22 | 22 | 41 | 25 |
| Foreign affairs† | 26 | 30 | 20 | 25 | 50 | 21 | 36 | 33 | 39 | 26 | 35 | 20 | 25 | 31 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 8 | 14 | 17 | 17 | 60 | 23 | 20 |

Subsample: Those who say they require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=100–279 in 2011, *n*=133–281 in 2013, *n*=72–182 in 2018)
"Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2011 (26% selected "easy" (4+5)) but were segmented in 2013.
** "Sustainable Development Goals" was added as a new metric in 2018
† Small sample sizes for some issues within some stakeholder groups (*n*<10).

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

## Percent of Respondents Selecting "Easy" (4+5), by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection

Second selection

| | Overall average | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | | Pakistan | | | Sri Lanka | | | India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Education | 44 | 47 | 43 | 61 | 57 | 62 | 43 | 50 | 45 | 61 | 48 | 39 | 57 | 41 | 43 | 26 | 41 | 30 |
| Economic/fiscal issues | 40 | 48 | 30 | 44 | 35 | 27 | 45 | 30 | 19 | 28 | 53 | 30 | 46 | 53 | 35 | 35 | 58 | 31 |
| Poverty alleviation | 40 | 47 | 31 | 65 | 54 | 47 | 36 | 48 | 26 | 35 | 50 | 26 | 44 | 49 | 34 | 31 | 40 | 28 |
| Health care | 39 | 33 | 29 | 40 | 31 | 24 | 50 | 33 | 26 | 42 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 48 | 28 | 33 | 23 | 28 |
| Trade/industry | 38 | 50 | 33 | 39 | 42 | 33 | 29 | 22 | 24 | 36 | 55 | 40 | 46 | 61 | 38 | 38 | 53 | 31 |
| SDGs**† | 38 | - | - | 43 | - | - | 33 | - | - | 44 | - | - | 52 | - | - | 28 | - | - |
| Energy*† | 36 | 34 | 32 | 23 | 15 | 33 | 42 | 33 | 32 | 33 | 58 | 42 | 36 | 39 | 29 | 38 | 29 | 29 |
| Environment* | 33 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 13 | 33 | 21 | 35 | 32 | 47 | 25 | 42 | 52 | 31 | 29 | 26 | 27 | 29 |
| Agriculture / food security | 31 | 36 | 28 | 40 | 33 | 40 | 39 | 35 | 20 | 21 | 43 | 29 | 24 | 32 | 34 | 30 | 37 | 23 |
| Human rights | 29 | 28 | 19 | 26 | 29 | 18 | 32 | 44 | 20 | 29 | 33 | 31 | 41 | 32 | 7 | 24 | 14 | 18 |
| Natural resources* | 29 | 25 | 32 | 29 | 9 | 33 | 23 | 37 | 32 | 20 | 29 | 42 | 53 | 38 | 29 | 24 | 15 | 29 |
| Gender issues | 28 | 41 | 32 | 50 | 47 | 52 | 20 | 41 | 28 | 38 | 44 | 24 | 38 | 47 | 33 | 13 | 31 | 24 |
| Foreign affairs | 26 | 30 | 20 | 17 | 25 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 4 | 22 | 47 | 16 | 53 | 11 | 30 | 25 | 41 | 28 |

Subsample: Those who require information about this particular issue for their work (*n*=3–32 in 2011, *n*=3–35 in 2013, *n*=2–33 in 2018)

- "Environment," "natural resources," and "energy" were combined in one response option in 2011, but were segmented in 2013.
- ** "Sustainable Development Goals" were added as a new metric in 2018

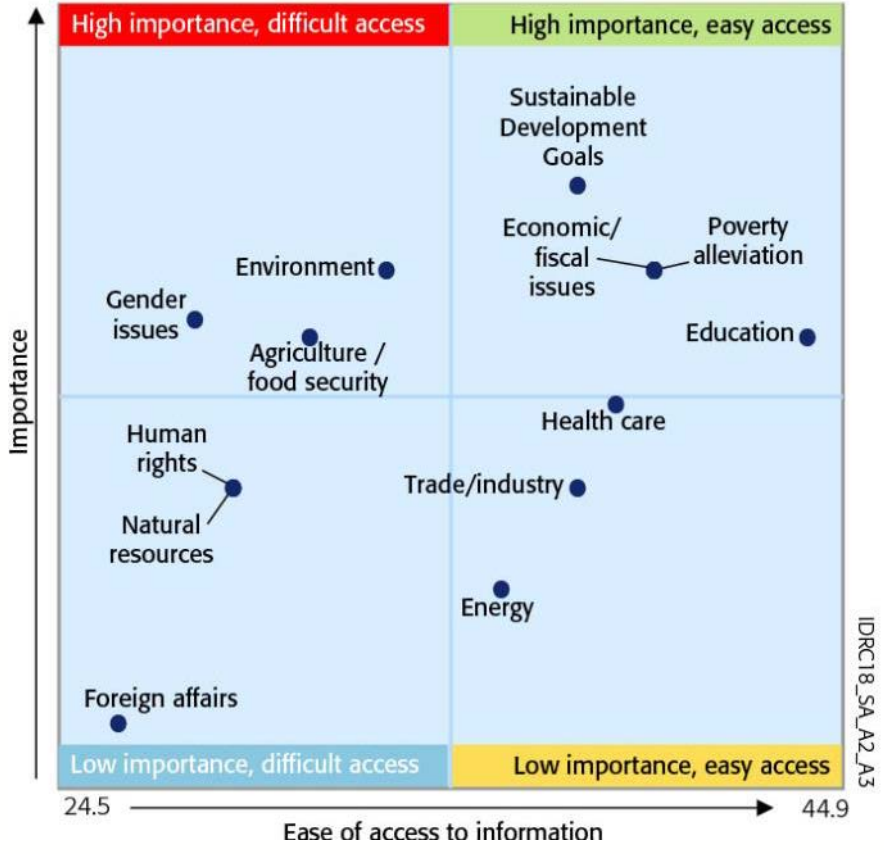
† Small sample sizes for some issues within some country groups (*n*<10).

# Importance vs Ease of Access to Information

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

The information that stakeholders require most for their work in national policy tends to also be the information that is most easily obtainable, such as information on the SDGs, poverty alleviation and education.

However, information on environment, gender issues, and agriculture or food security, topics of relatively high importance, are relatively less easy to obtain than other issues of lower importance.



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

## Preferred Format of Information

### South Asia Level

- Websites, print, and email remain the most useful formats for receiving information for national policy development. However, perceived usefulness for all three of these formats has declined somewhat, particularly with regard to websites and print. Meanwhile, reported usefulness of social media has slightly increased since 2016.

### Stakeholder Level

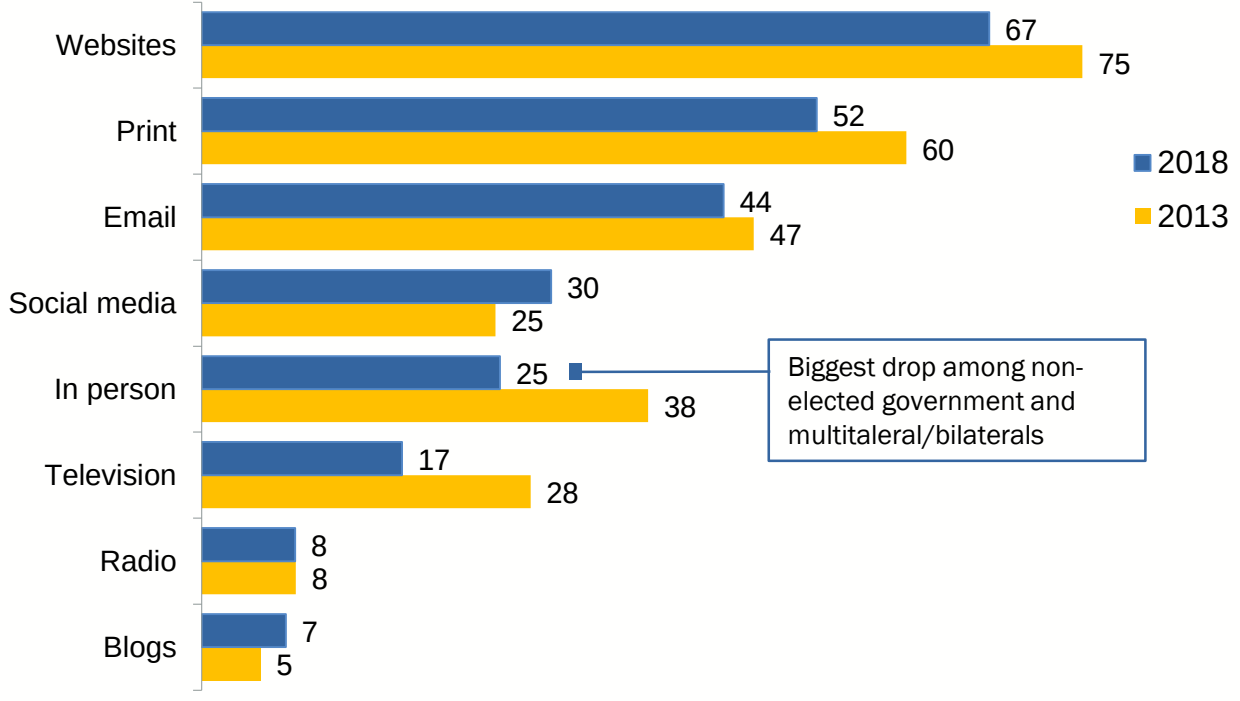
- Stakeholders from research/academia are most likely to find information from print as useful for policy development, while those from all other stakeholder groups are more likely to favour websites. Radio and blogs are viewed by most stakeholders as the least useful formats for receiving information for national policy development.
- Social media is considered far more useful among private sector stakeholders than those from research/academia.

### Country Level

- Websites are consistently seen as the most useful format for information for policy development across all countries. Respondents in Sri Lanka and India are more likely to find information from email useful compared to their counterparts in other surveyed countries. Respondents in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan are more likely to find information from social media useful than those respondents in Sri Lanka and India. Meanwhile, radio and television appear to still hold some sway as a useful format for stakeholders in Nepal compared to all other countries.

# Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, South Asia, 2013–2018



# Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

| | Overall average | | Elected government | | Non-elected government | | Media | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | NGO | | Private sector | | Research/ academia | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 |
| Websites | 67 | 75 | 60 | 77 | 61 | 83 | 66 | 61 | 83 | 83 | 68 | 73 | 67 | 69 | 68 | 80 |
| Print | 52 | 60 | 34 | 59 | 42 | 63 | 53 | 61 | 70 | 67 | 63 | 53 | 25 | 59 | 78 | 61 |
| Email | 44 | 47 | 34 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 41 | 37 | 40 | 30 | 56 | 45 | 31 | 52 | 50 | 61 |
| In person (face to face or telephone) | 25 | 38 | 23 | 32 | 13 | 37 | 34 | 45 | 20 | 47 | 39 | 37 | 19 | 31 | 28 | 36 |
| Television | 17 | 28 | 14 | 23 | 29 | 27 | 13 | 34 | 17 | 33 | 10 | 29 | 28 | 41 | 10 | 14 |
| Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) | 30 | 25 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 23 | 38 | 34 | 27 | 20 | 27 | 33 | 47 | 28 | 18 | 9 |
| Radio | 8 | 8 | 14 | 18 | 0 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 14 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Blogs | 7 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 15 | 4 | 14 | 10 | 8 | 7 |

# Most Useful Format for Receiving Information for National Policy Development

Prompted, Could Select Up to Three Responses, by Country, South Asia, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

| | Overall average | | Bangladesh | | Nepal | | Pakistan | | Sri Lanka | | India | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 |
| Websites | 67 | 75 | 71 | 70 | 63 | 78 | 58 | 68 | 77 | 85 | 66 | 74 |
| Print | 52 | 60 | 67 | 65 | 51 | 61 | 40 | 63 | 47 | 46 | 55 | 63 |
| Email | 44 | 47 | 43 | 50 | 34 | 37 | 35 | 63 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 41 |
| Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) | 30 | 25 | 38 | 35 | 37 | 29 | 33 | 25 | 21 | 20 | 26 | 20 |
| In person (face to face or telephone) | 25 | 38 | 17 | 30 | 29 | 34 | 33 | 38 | 35 | 46 | 20 | 40 |
| Television | 17 | 28 | 24 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 20 | 38 | 5 | 29 | 13 | 23 |
| Radio | 8 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 27 | 24 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 10 | 1 | 3 |
| Blogs | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 9 | 10 |

# Information Required for Policy Making in South Asia: Source and Quality

# Information Required for Policy Making in South Asia: Source and Quality

## Preferred Source of Information

### South Asia Level

- Reports and publications remain the primary information source used by stakeholders to increase their understanding of national policy. Databases and consulting with experts are also relied on by a majority of stakeholders.
- While the ranking of these information sources has remained consistent since 2013, reported usage of all sources has dropped considerably. This likely indicates that relative to 2013, stakeholders are more focused in the sources of information they use.
- As in 2013, newsletters/bulletins and books are the sources selected least by stakeholders.

### Stakeholder Level

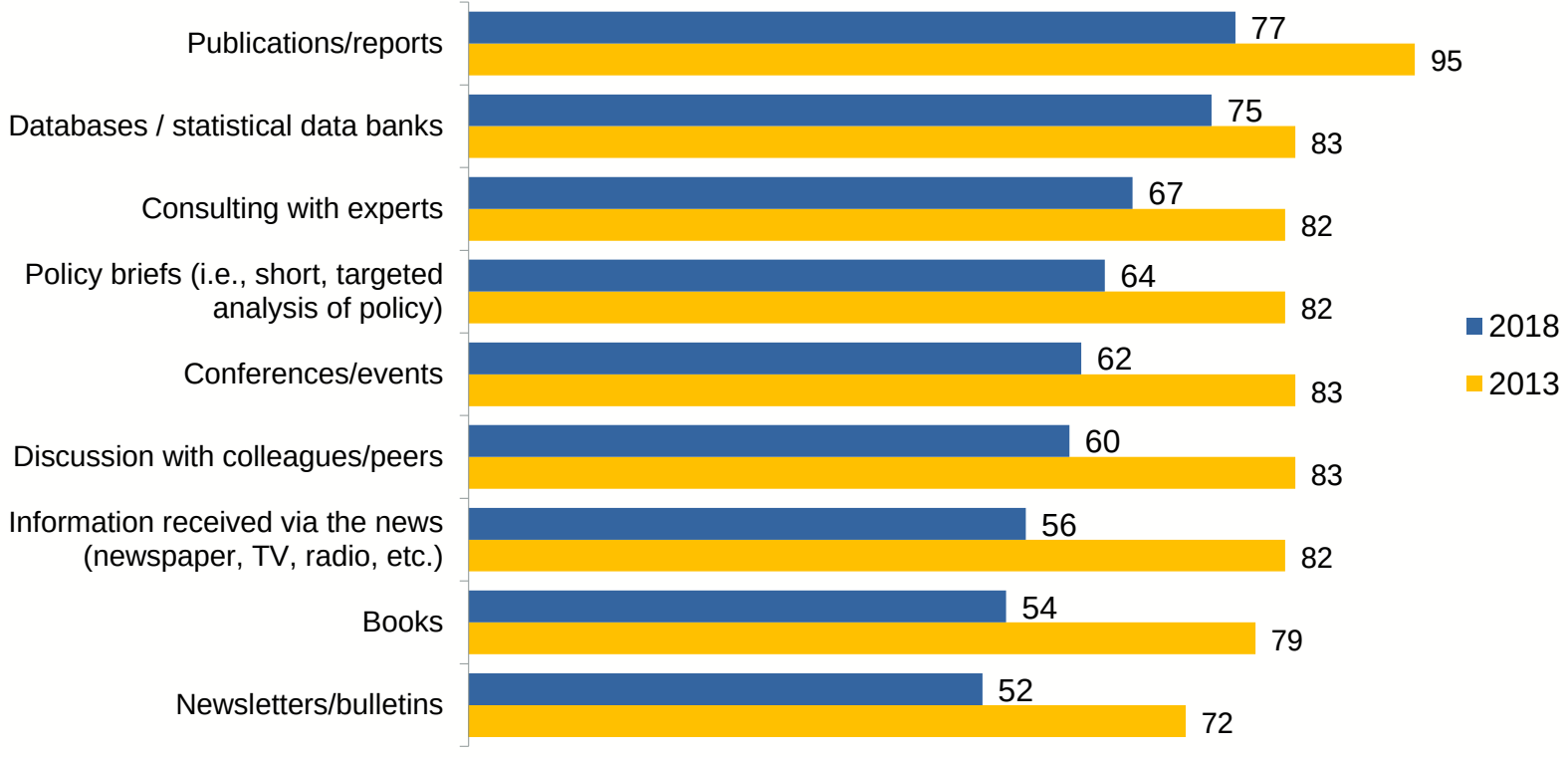
- Elected and non-elected government as well as private sector stakeholders are most likely to utilize databases, while stakeholders from multilateral organizations, NGOs, and research/academia are more likely to prefer publications/reports to deepen their understanding of national policy. Stakeholders from media are most likely to choose expert consultations as the primary information source to widen national policy knowledge.
- Policy briefs, publications/reports and conferences/events are utilized far more by non-elected government than by elected government.

### Country Level

- Information received via databases are preferred by respondents in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan, while information from publications/reports are favoured by those in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and India.
- Interest in policy briefs from stakeholders in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Nepal has dropped significantly from 2013.

# Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, South Asia, 2013–2018



# Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

| | Overall average | | Elected government | | Non-elected government | | Media | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | NGO | | Private sector | | Research/ academia | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 |
| Publications/reports | 77 | 95 | 57 | 95 | 71 | 97 | 78 | 95 | 90 | 100 | 93 | 100 | 58 | 86 | 90 | 91 |
| Databases / statistical data banks | 75 | 83 | 69 | 91 | 79 | 83 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 90 | 78 | 78 | 67 | 83 | 78 | 84 |
| Consulting with experts | 67 | 82 | 57 | 86 | 58 | 93 | 97 | 84 | 67 | 90 | 76 | 80 | 50 | 79 | 65 | 70 |
| Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy) | 64 | 82 | 34 | 82 | 61 | 93 | 78 | 79 | 73 | 83 | 76 | 90 | 56 | 72 | 70 | 73 |
| Conferences/events | 62 | 83 | 37 | 95 | 63 | 80 | 72 | 82 | 63 | 97 | 76 | 78 | 50 | 86 | 68 | 75 |
| Discussion with colleagues/peers | 60 | 83 | 31 | 86 | 53 | 90 | 81 | 79 | 67 | 97 | 73 | 84 | 58 | 79 | 60 | 75 |
| Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.) | 56 | 82 | 37 | 77 | 50 | 67 | 69 | 92 | 57 | 87 | 71 | 88 | 61 | 90 | 48 | 73 |
| Books | 54 | 79 | 31 | 91 | 53 | 93 | 72 | 79 | 60 | 70 | 59 | 78 | 50 | 62 | 55 | 84 |
| Newsletters/bulletins | 52 | 72 | 37 | 91 | 45 | 60 | 63 | 74 | 70 | 87 | 51 | 76 | 53 | 76 | 48 | 55 |

# Information Source Used to Increase Understanding for National Policy Development

Prompted, Multiple Responses Allowed, by Country, South Asia, 2013–2018

Most Used
Least Used

| | Overall average | | Bangladesh | | Nepal | | Pakistan | | Sri Lanka | | India | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 | `18 | `13 |
| Publications/reports | 77 | 95 | 83 | 93 | 80 | 100 | 58 | 95 | 79 | 98 | 80 | 93 |
| Databases / statistical data banks | 75 | 83 | 88 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 65 | 75 | 67 | 93 | 73 | 84 |
| Consulting with experts | 67 | 82 | 69 | 85 | 71 | 90 | 60 | 80 | 67 | 85 | 66 | 76 |
| Policy briefs (i.e., short, targeted analysis of policy) | 64 | 82 | 81 | 80 | 66 | 90 | 40 | 78 | 53 | 90 | 71 | 76 |
| Conferences/events | 62 | 83 | 69 | 75 | 68 | 83 | 38 | 93 | 56 | 85 | 69 | 81 |
| Discussion with colleagues/peers | 60 | 83 | 67 | 83 | 68 | 83 | 55 | 90 | 51 | 85 | 60 | 80 |
| Information received via the news (newspaper, TV, radio, etc.) | 56 | 82 | 74 | 85 | 59 | 76 | 38 | 93 | 51 | 83 | 57 | 79 |
| Books | 54 | 79 | 67 | 88 | 59 | 78 | 28 | 78 | 40 | 80 | 65 | 76 |
| Newsletters/bulletins | 52 | 72 | 69 | 68 | 56 | 83 | 35 | 83 | 44 | 73 | 52 | 64 |

# Information Required for Policy Making in South Asia: Source and Quality

## Preferred Organizations for Research-Based Evidence

### South Asia Level

- In 2013 national independent policy research institutes were the most preferred institutions that stakeholders turned to when they required information related to social and economic policies. However, relevant government ministries/agencies are now the top organizations that stakeholder turn to.
- Government-owned research institutes and national independent policy research institutes are the second most selected organizations used as a primary source by over half (60%) of all stakeholders.
- Credibility and relevance of research to needs are the top two reasons why stakeholders turn to a specific type of organization as their primary source of information. As in previous years, low familiarity is the main reason why some stakeholders never use national think tanks when looking for research-based evidence.

### Stakeholder Level

- Stakeholders from media, multilaterals, and research/academia are more likely to rely on national independent policy research institutes for information on social and economic policies. Meanwhile, both elected and non-elected government officials are more likely to look inwards and rely heavily on relevant government ministries/agencies.
- Government-owned research institutes are favoured far more by stakeholders from non-elected government, multilateral/bilaterals and research/academia.

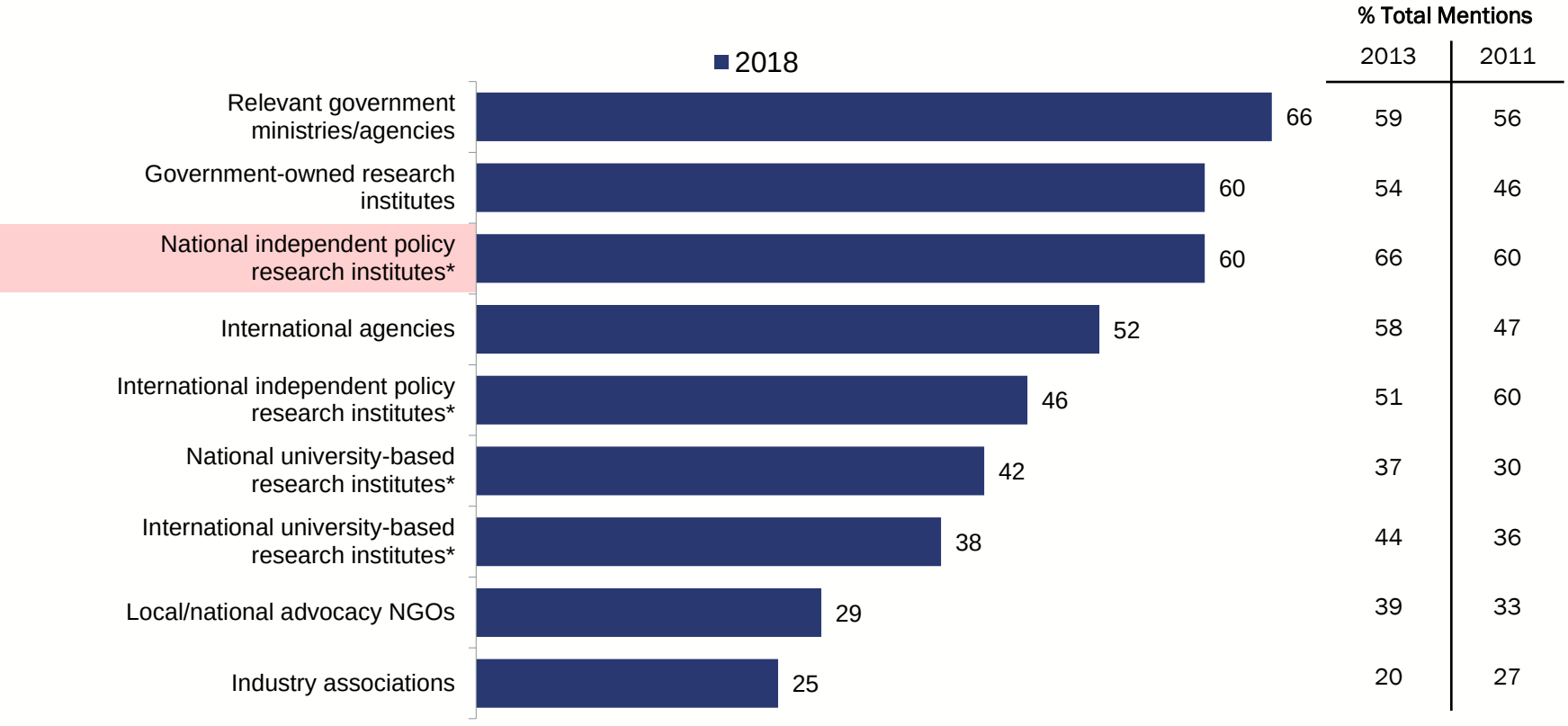
### Country Level

- Stakeholders in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka primarily turn to national independent policy research institutes for information regarding social and economic policy, while those from Nepal are least likely to do so.
- Respondents in Nepal have a strong preference for government-owned research institutes, while those in India are most likely to prefer relevant government ministries/agencies.

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

Think Tank Initiative

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), South Asia, 2011–2018




* "Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

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

Think Tank Initiative

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2011-2018

Most Used
Least Used

| | Overall average | | | Elected government | | | Non-elected government | | | Media | | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | | NGO | | | Private sector | | | Research/ academia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Relevant government ministries/agencies | 66 | 59 | 56 | 80 | 77 | 78 | 76 | 73 | 71 | 59 | 66 | 55 | 63 | 47 | 48 | 61 | 57 | 41 | 58 | 41 | 45 | 63 | 57 | 55 |
| Government-owned research institutes | 60 | 54 | 46 | 57 | 59 | 65 | 76 | 80 | 64 | 56 | 53 | 59 | 63 | 50 | 33 | 44 | 49 | 37 | 47 | 38 | 23 | 78 | 55 | 42 |
| National independent policy research institutes* | 60 | 66 | 60 | 54 | 68 | 39 | 58 | 63 | 45 | 66 | 68 | 61 | 63 | 57 | 82 | 59 | 71 | 49 | 56 | 48 | 63 | 68 | 80 | 76 |
| International agencies | 52 | 58 | 47 | 51 | 64 | 57 | 53 | 80 | 40 | 63 | 50 | 42 | 53 | 67 | 73 | 37 | 43 | 32 | 47 | 52 | 40 | 60 | 64 | 53 |
| International independent policy research institutes* | 46 | 51 | 60 | 26 | 45 | 39 | 42 | 47 | 45 | 56 | 45 | 61 | 47 | 60 | 82 | 51 | 57 | 49 | 36 | 34 | 63 | 60 | 64 | 76 |
| National university-based research institutes* | 42 | 37 | 30 | 34 | 50 | 26 | 32 | 77 | 47 | 31 | 32 | 38 | 50 | 17 | 24 | 37 | 29 | 27 | 44 | 17 | 20 | 65 | 48 | 26 |
| International university-based research institutes* | 38 | 44 | 36 | 23 | 55 | 17 | 37 | 57 | 40 | 31 | 26 | 32 | 43 | 50 | 39 | 34 | 37 | 31 | 39 | 31 | 20 | 60 | 59 | 58 |
| Local/national advocacy NGOs | 29 | 39 | 33 | 14 | 45 | 39 | 11 | 37 | 24 | 56 | 55 | 44 | 33 | 27 | 39 | 46 | 59 | 41 | 25 | 10 | 29 | 18 | 27 | 19 |
| Industry associations | 25 | 20 | 27 | 29 | 41 | 30 | 11 | 20 | 34 | 41 | 18 | 44 | 20 | 20 | 15 | 20 | 4 | 4 | 50 | 34 | 46 | 10 | 18 | 21 |



* "Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

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

Think Tank Initiative

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Primary Source" (4+5), by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018

Most Used
Least Used

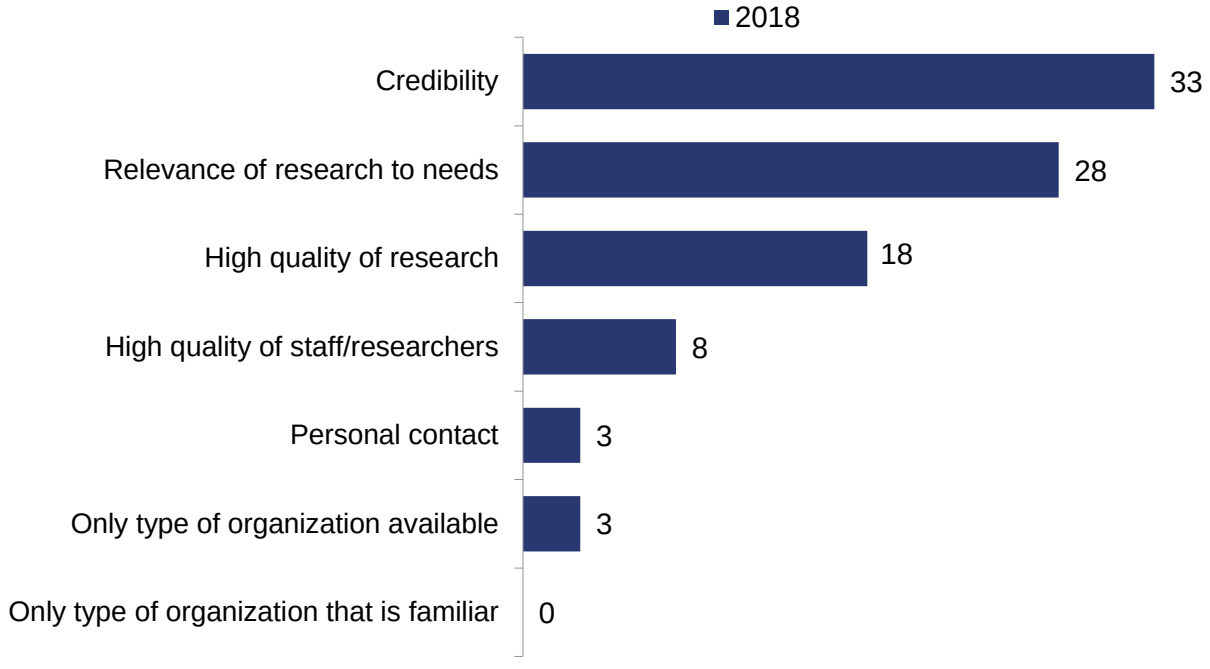
| | Overall average | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | | Pakistan | | | Sri Lanka | | | India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Relevant government ministries/agencies | 66 | 59 | 56 | 55 | 40 | 48 | 78 | 68 | 58 | 65 | 55 | 33 | 67 | 56 | 56 | 65 | 68 | 68 |
| Government-owned research institutes | 60 | 54 | 46 | 43 | 35 | 38 | 80 | 56 | 47 | 58 | 53 | 33 | 67 | 68 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 49 |
| National independent policy research institutes* | 60 | 66 | 60 | 62 | 83 | 76 | 46 | 56 | 42 | 70 | 60 | 64 | 79 | 76 | 68 | 52 | 63 | 56 |
| International agencies | 52 | 58 | 47 | 48 | 63 | 48 | 41 | 51 | 58 | 43 | 68 | 43 | 79 | 68 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 41 |
| International independent policy research institutes* | 46 | 52 | 60 | 55 | 58 | 76 | 15 | 44 | 42 | 45 | 68 | 64 | 65 | 56 | 68 | 47 | 43 | 56 |
| National university-based research institutes* | 42 | 37 | 30 | 40 | 38 | 18 | 51 | 41 | 37 | 50 | 43 | 18 | 40 | 41 | 35 | 36 | 31 | 37 |
| International university-based research institutes* | 38 | 44 | 36 | 38 | 48 | 30 | 27 | 37 | 51 | 48 | 65 | 26 | 30 | 49 | 40 | 44 | 34 | 32 |
| Local/national advocacy NGOs | 29 | 39 | 33 | 43 | 50 | 41 | 24 | 44 | 24 | 20 | 48 | 33 | 28 | 24 | 28 | 28 | 34 | 37 |
| Industry associations | 25 | 20 | 27 | 26 | 18 | 18 | 15 | 10 | 24 | 30 | 23 | 39 | 42 | 46 | 31 | 19 | 11 | 27 |

* "Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

# Reasons For Turning to National Think Tanks for Research-Based Evidence

Think Tank Initiative

Prompted, South Asia, 2011–2018




| % Total Mentions | |
|---|---|
| 2013 | 2011 |
| NA | NA |
| 34 | 31 |
| 42 | 41 |
| 10 | 10 |
| 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 10 |
| 2 | 0 |

Subsample: Those who have used national independent policy research institutes when looking for research-based evidence (*n*=39 for 2011, *n*=59 for 2013, *n*=39 for 2018)
Single mentions and "don't know" not included in the chart
* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2011, but was segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. For the 2011 data, all responses to "Independent policy research institute" were included for general comparability.

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# Reasons for Turning to Specific Organization Mentioned, as a Source of Research-Based Evidence

Prompted, by Organization Type, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection
Second selection

| | Overall average | | | Government-owned research institutes (*n*=73) | | | National university-based research institutes (*n*=32) | | | International university-based research institutes (*n*=21) | | | National independent policy research institutes* (*n*=39) | | | International independent policy research institutes* (*n*=30) | | | Relevant government ministries/ agencies (*n*=61) | | | International agencies (*n*=27) | | | Local / national advocacy NGOs (*n*=15) | | | Industry associations (*n*=15) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Credibility | 32 | - | - | 34 | - | - | 31 | - | - | 33 | - | - | 33 | - | - | 33 | - | - | 39 | - | - | 33 | - | - | 13 | - | - | 40 | - | - |
| Relevance of research to needs | 26 | 42 | 38 | 29 | 54 | 33 | 25 | 30 | 30 | 5 | 24 | 36 | 28 | 34 | 31 | 17 | 24 | 31 | 38 | 58 | 42 | 22 | 28 | 51 | 47 | 43 | 53 | 27 | 82 | 33 |
| High quality of research | 16 | 28 | 30 | 10 | 13 | 25 | 22 | 37 | 41 | 33 | 54 | 29 | 18 | 42 | 41 | 37 | 49 | 41 | 2 | 9 | 17 | 15 | 33 | 24 | 0 | 18 | 16 | 7 | 0 | 39 |
| High quality of staff/researchers | 7 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 0 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 14 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 13 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 16 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Only type of organization available | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 11 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Personal contact | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 7 | 21 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 6 |
| Only type of organization that is familiar | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 6 |



* "Independent policy research institute" was included as a response option in 2011, but was segmented further into "National" and "International " options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability.

# Information Required for Policy Making in South Asia: Source and Quality

## Quality Ratings of Organizations Providing Policy Information

### South Asia Level

- National think tanks are considered by over half (57%) of stakeholders to provide excellent quality research, a considerable drop from 2013 where 68% gave a rating of "excellent".
- International university-based research institutes and international independent policy research institutes are considered by stakeholders to have the highest quality of research. Meanwhile, local/national advocacy NGOs are perceived as having the lowest quality of research with less than 1 out of 4 stakeholders rating them as excellent.
- Despite government-owned research institutes and relevant government ministries being the most preferred sources for information on social and economic policies, the quality of their research is not perceived as highly as institutions that are less preferred, such as university-based research institutes, international agencies, and independent policy research institutes.

### Stakeholder Level

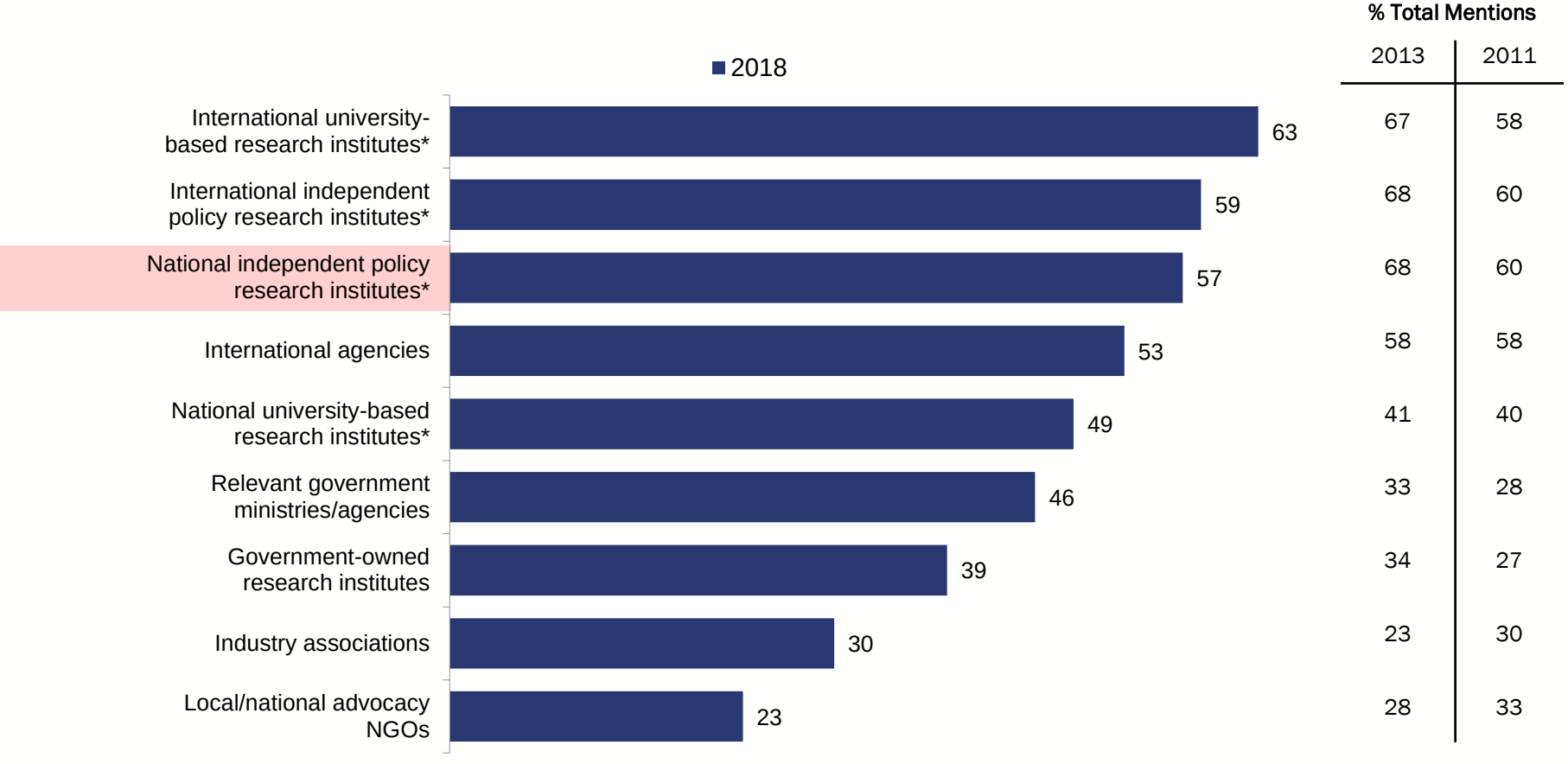
- Ratings of the quality of research for national think tanks are highest among those in research/academia, NGOs, media, and multilateral institutions.
- Elected-government have the highest confidence in the quality of research by relevant government ministries/agencies and government-owned research institutions.

### Country Level

- Stakeholders in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka give the highest quality ratings of research to national independent policy research institutions, while those in Nepal and Pakistan give the lowest ratings.
- Nepal, Pakistan, and India are most likely to offer high research quality ratings to international university-based research institutes, despite relatively low usage of this institution type.
- Respondents in Sri Lanka generally offer the highest quality ratings across most institutions types.

# Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

## Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), South Asia, 2011–2018




| | % Total Mentions | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2013 | 2011 |
| International university-based research institutes* | 67 | 58 |
| International independent policy research institutes* | 68 | 60 |
| National independent policy research institutes* | 68 | 60 |
| International agencies | 58 | 58 |
| National university-based research institutes* | 41 | 40 |
| Relevant government ministries/agencies | 33 | 28 |
| Government-owned research institutes | 34 | 27 |
| Industry associations | 23 | 30 |
| Local/national advocacy NGOs | 28 | 33 |

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=203-231 in 2011, *n*=203-234 in 2013, *n*=219–247 in 2018)

*"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "International" and "National" options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability

# Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

Think Tank Initiative

## Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection
Second selection

| | Overall average | | | Elected government | | | Non-elected government | | | Media | | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | | NGO | | | Private sector | | | Research/ academia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| International university-based research institutes* | 63 | 67 | 58 | 52 | 72 | 61 | 59 | 82 | 65 | 65 | 59 | 55 | 66 | 73 | 74 | 59 | 56 | 52 | 73 | 59 | 46 | 70 | 71 | 58 |
| International independent policy research institutes* | 59 | 68 | 60 | 39 | 55 | 53 | 43 | 75 | 53 | 71 | 61 | 63 | 60 | 80 | 72 | 62 | 73 | 53 | 67 | 54 | 65 | 70 | 70 | 62 |
| National independent policy research institutes* | 57 | 68 | 60 | 53 | 71 | 53 | 47 | 64 | 53 | 63 | 76 | 63 | 60 | 55 | 72 | 60 | 79 | 53 | 49 | 48 | 65 | 71 | 69 | 62 |
| International agencies | 53 | 58 | 58 | 65 | 53 | 60 | 42 | 66 | 71 | 67 | 59 | 63 | 57 | 59 | 65 | 31 | 53 | 43 | 59 | 48 | 52 | 58 | 66 | 57 |
| National university-based research institutes* | 49 | 41 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 47 | 50 | 57 | 53 | 59 | 52 | 57 | 52 | 30 | 27 | 32 | 35 | 28 | 55 | 24 | 42 | 53 | 43 | 30 |
| Relevant government ministries/agencies | 46 | 33 | 28 | 69 | 55 | 59 | 49 | 45 | 49 | 40 | 42 | 24 | 27 | 18 | 16 | 47 | 29 | 16 | 46 | 28 | 27 | 41 | 26 | 14 |
| Government-owned research institutes | 39 | 34 | 27 | 59 | 45 | 43 | 46 | 57 | 38 | 28 | 33 | 33 | 34 | 24 | 29 | 36 | 26 | 10 | 34 | 23 | 12 | 34 | 35 | 29 |
| Industry associations | 30 | 23 | 30 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 30 | 19 | 34 | 45 | 29 | 47 | 20 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 7 | 53 | 48 | 37 | 11 | 19 | 31 |
| Local/national advocacy NGOs | 23 | 28 | 33 | 12 | 32 | 33 | 14 | 24 | 27 | 37 | 40 | 45 | 10 | 7 | 40 | 43 | 38 | 43 | 28 | 19 | 24 | 15 | 28 | 13 |

Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=203-231 in 2011, *n*=203-234 in 2013, *n*=219–247 in 2018)

**"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "International" and "National" options in the 2013 survey. The 2011 data is therefore repeated across the National and International Samples for general comparability

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# Quality Ratings of Research Provided by…

## Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection
Second selection

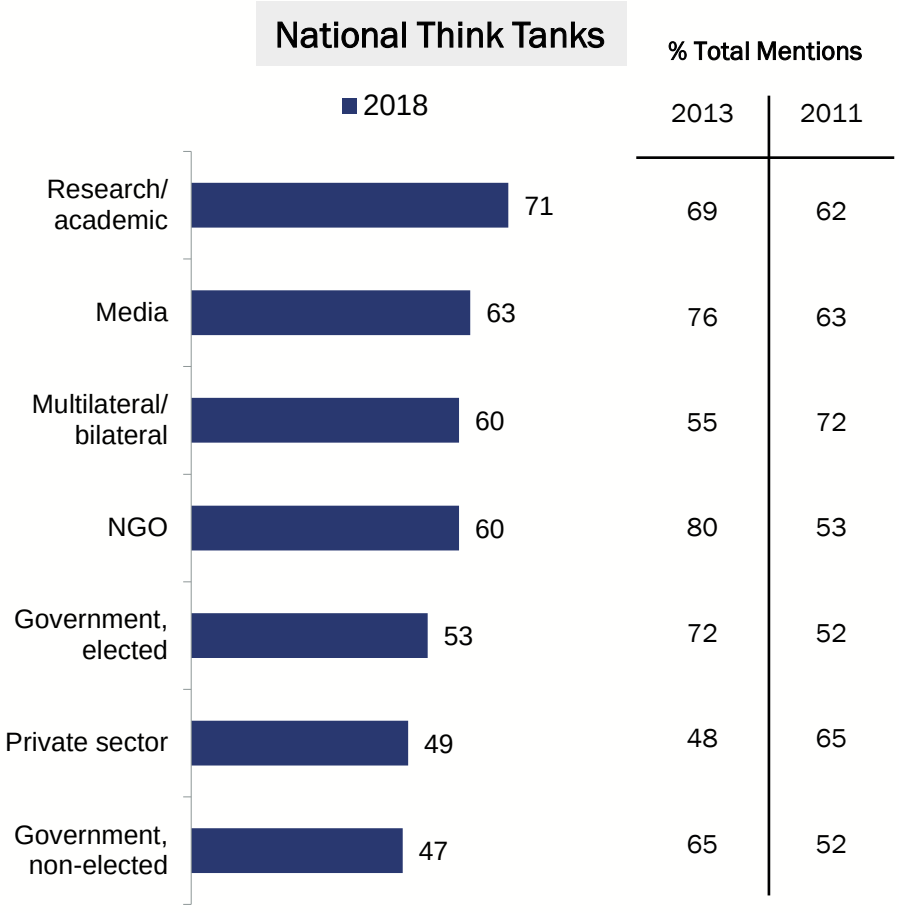
| | Overall average | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | | Pakistan | | | Sri Lanka | | | India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| International university-based research institutes* | 63 | 67 | 58 | 51 | 66 | 67 | 55 | 72 | 50 | 61 | 79 | 58 | 74 | 66 | 48 | 69 | 59 | 63 |
| International independent policy research institutes* | 59 | 68 | 60 | 56 | 66 | 69 | 51 | 68 | 46 | 45 | 73 | 54 | 79 | 64 | 61 | 60 | 69 | 66 |
| National independent policy research institutes* | 57 | 68 | 60 | 63 | 77 | 69 | 37 | 51 | 46 | 50 | 61 | 54 | 81 | 68 | 61 | 55 | 74 | 66 |
| International agencies | 53 | 58 | 58 | 49 | 65 | 57 | 40 | 50 | 61 | 49 | 54 | 61 | 72 | 74 | 51 | 53 | 53 | 60 |
| National university-based research institutes* | 49 | 41 | 40 | 43 | 31 | 29 | 42 | 47 | 49 | 55 | 37 | 32 | 60 | 56 | 42 | 46 | 39 | 42 |
| Relevant government ministries/agencies | 46 | 33 | 28 | 40 | 22 | 14 | 51 | 40 | 39 | 35 | 30 | 24 | 47 | 20 | 32 | 51 | 44 | 27 |
| Government-owned research institutes | 39 | 34 | 27 | 32 | 22 | 29 | 34 | 35 | 23 | 44 | 27 | 21 | 49 | 39 | 30 | 37 | 40 | 29 |
| Industry associations | 30 | 23 | 30 | 27 | 14 | 21 | 17 | 12 | 21 | 37 | 27 | 41 | 47 | 47 | 36 | 25 | 18 | 32 |
| Local/national advocacy NGOs | 23 | 28 | 33 | 31 | 21 | 46 | 13 | 33 | 28 | 18 | 34 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 31 | 33 |

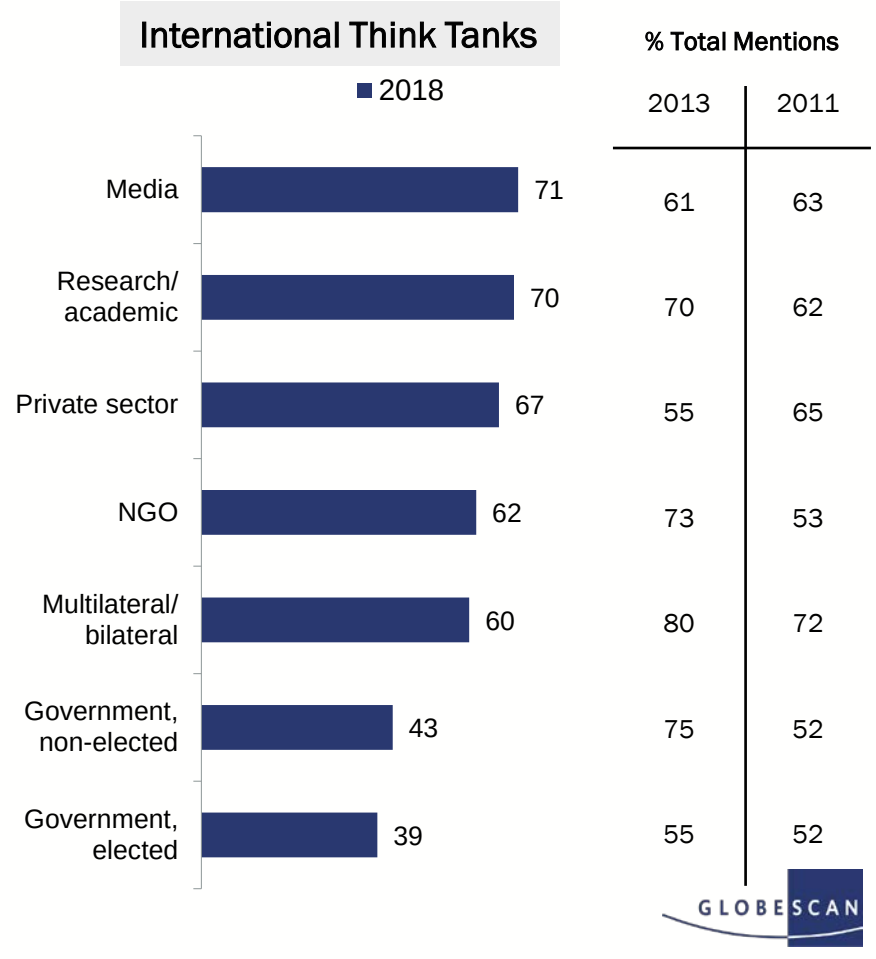
Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=203-231 in 2011, *n*=203-234 in 2013, *n*=219–247 in 2018)
***"Independent policy research institute" and "University-based research institute" were included as response options in 2011, but were segmented further into "International" and "National" options in the 2013 survey.

# Quality Ratings of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Think Tank Initiative

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2011–2018



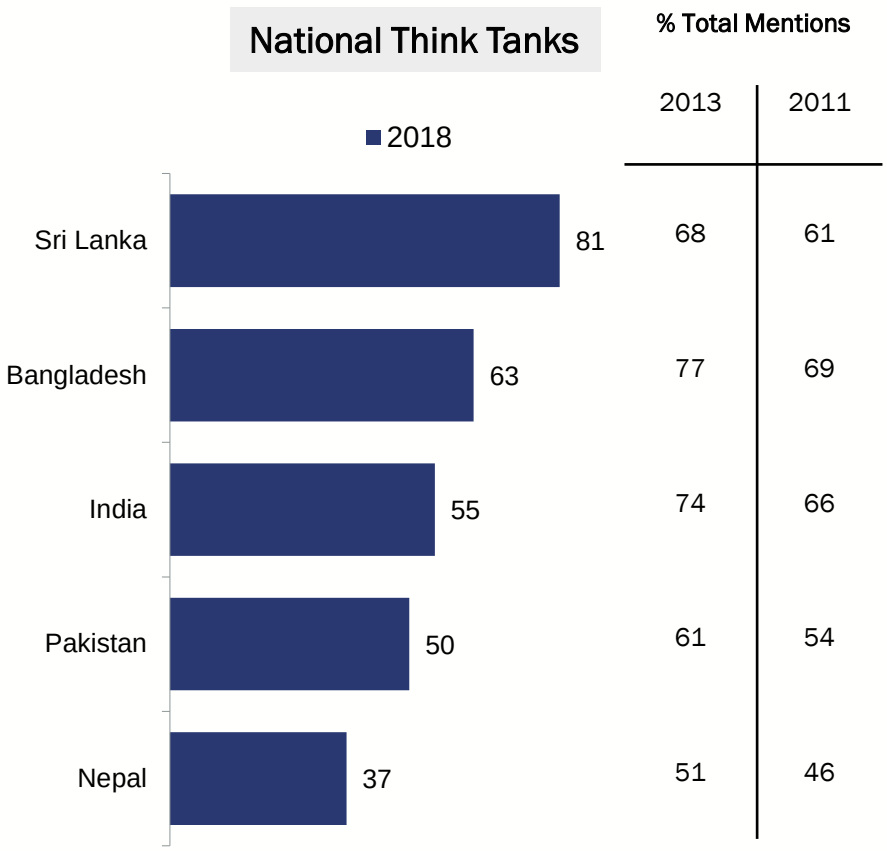

GLOBESCAN

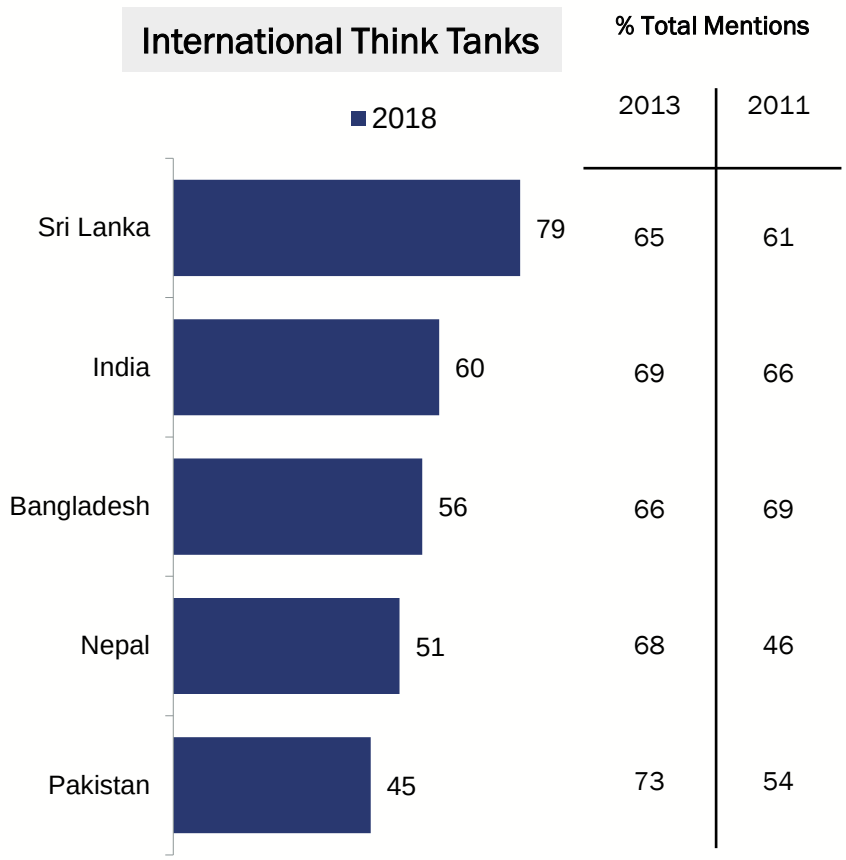
Subsample: Respondents who use national and international Independent policy research institutes (*n*=229 in 2011, *n*=229-234 in 2013, *n*=241–247 in 2018)

# Quality Ratings of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Think Tank Initiative

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5), by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018




GLOBESCAN

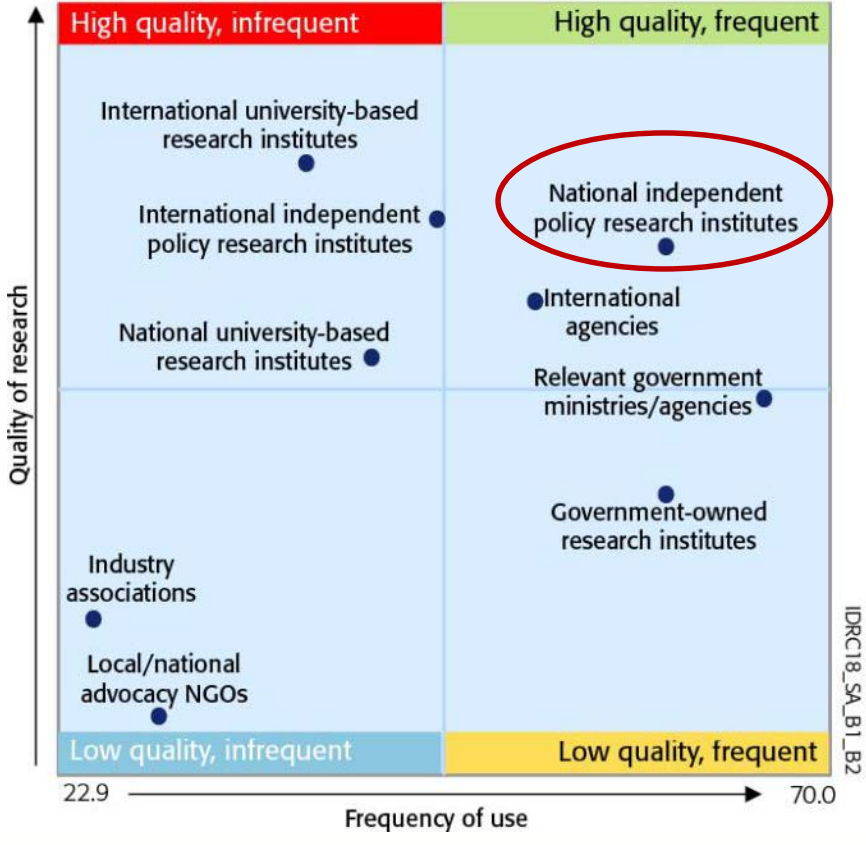
Subsample: Respondents who use Independent policy research institutes (*n*=229 in 2011, *n*=229-234 in 2013, *n*=241–247 in 2018)

# 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), South Asia, 2018

While government-owned research institutes are used frequently by respondents, they are considered to have relatively low quality research. Meanwhile, university based research institutes and international think tanks are perceived to have high quality research, yet are used much less frequently.

National think tanks are in an ideal position as frequency of use and quality of research are both high.




B2 Subsample: Those who use each type of organization (*n*=266–318)

# Quality vs Frequency of Use of Research Provided by Think Tanks

Think Tank Initiative

Percent of Respondents Saying Quality of Research "Excellent" (4+5) vs Use as a "Primary Source" (4+5), by Country, 2018

National Independent Think Tanks

International Independent Think Tanks

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B2 Subsample (*n*=283 for international independent think tanks, *n*=292 for national independent think tanks)

# Familiarity and Level of Interaction with Think Tanks

# Familiarity and Level of Interaction with Think Tanks

Think Tank Initiative

**Familiarity with Think Tanks**

- Respondents in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are generally much more familiar with the rated think tanks, while those in India are far less familiar.
- While familiarity with the rated think tanks has been consistently low in India, stakeholders from Pakistan and Nepal are far less familiar with the think tanks tested relative to 2013. Meanwhile, familiarity with think tanks in Bangladesh has increased significantly over the same period.

**Level of Interaction**

- Stakeholders who have interaction with the rated think tanks are most likely to see or hear them mentioned by a trusted colleague or contact, encounter their work in the media, or receive reports, publications or other forms of correspondence.
- A small minority of respondents familiar with the rated think tanks read their annual reports or attend events organized on a regular basis.

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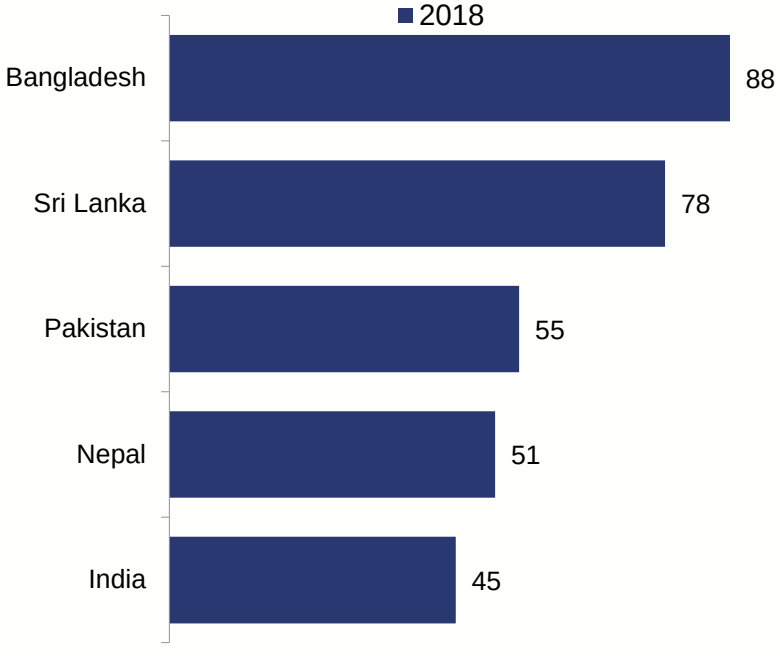
# Familiarity with Prompted Think Tanks

Percent of Respondents “Familiar” (4+5) with Prompted Think Tanks, by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018




% Total Mentions

| 2013 | 2011 |
|---|---|
| 57 | 65 |
| 85 | 65 |
| 72 | 58 |
| 64 | 30 |
| 43 | 44 |

# Number of Years Familiar with Think Tank's Work

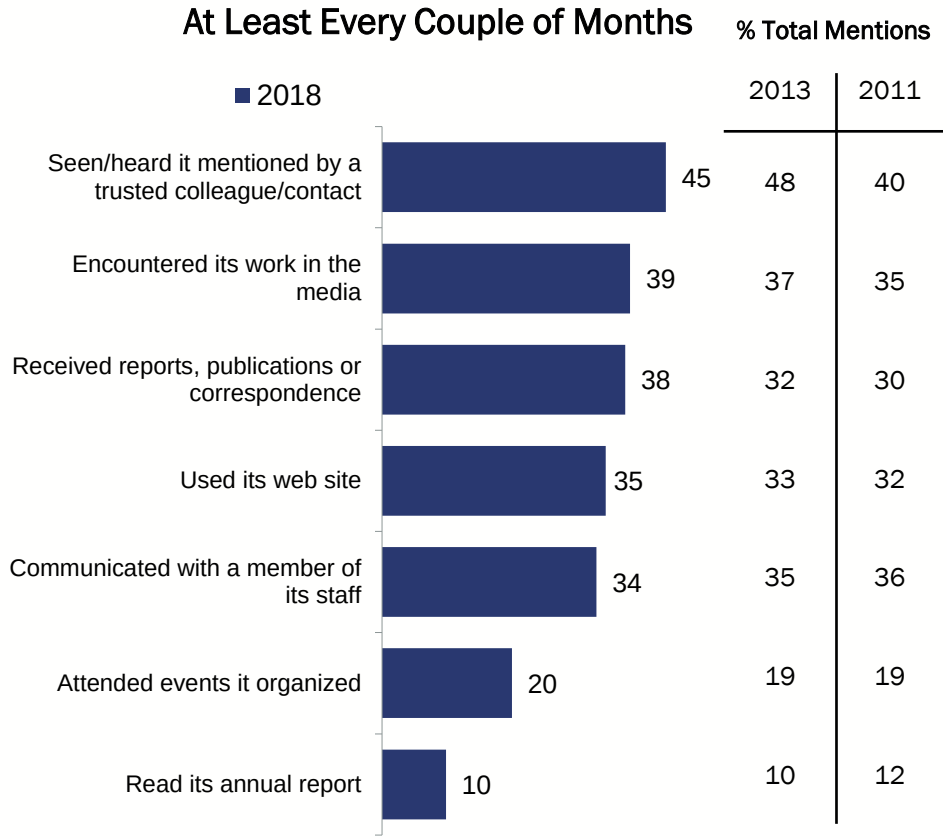
By Country, South Asia, 2018

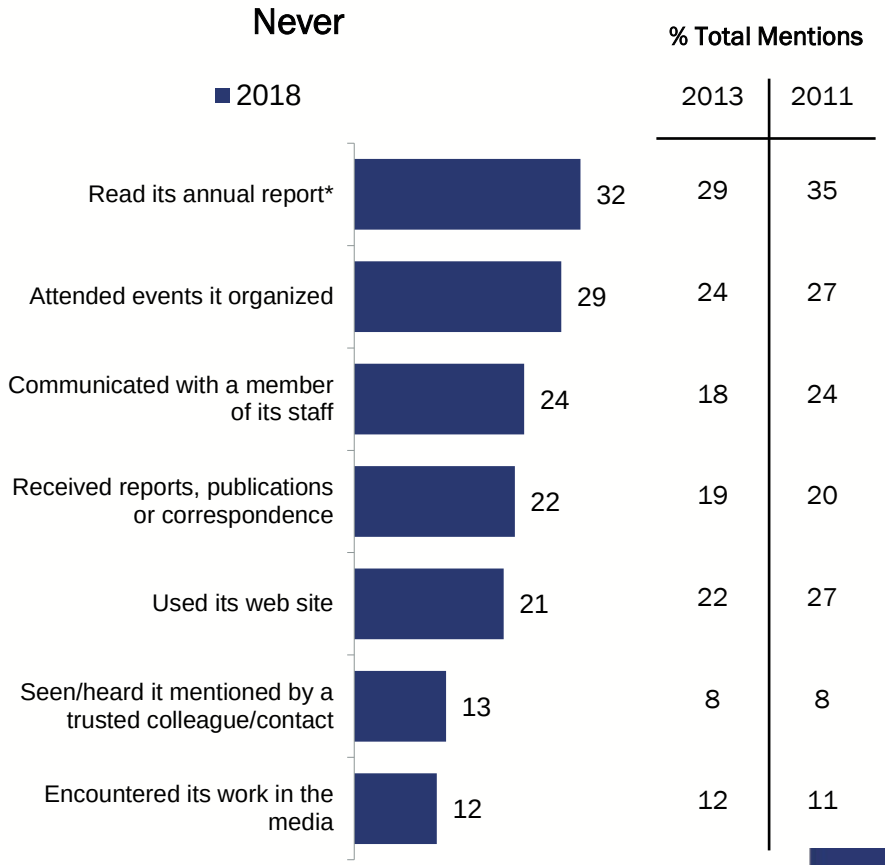
| | Bangladesh | Nepal | Pakistan | Sri Lanka | India |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Less than one year | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 1 to less than 5 years | 13 | 42 | 28 | 16 | 34 |
| 5 to less than 10 years | 24 | 9 | 22 | 17 | 24 |
| 10 to less than 20 years | 39 | 30 | 22 | 58 | 24 |
| 20 years or more | 24 | 9 | 26 | 8 | 10 |

Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank
Table does not include those saying "don't know"

# Frequency of Interaction with Think Tank via Various Channels

Average Responses Across All Rated Think Tanks, South Asia, 2011–2018




Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance Ratings

# Think Tank Performance Ratings

## South Asia – overall average*

- Perceived performance has remained relatively consistent across all think tanks tested since 2013. The quality of the research and researchers is consistently rated highest among stakeholders. Performance on research dissemination has significantly improved since 2013. Innovation in the approach to research and partnership with policy actors other than government is where perceived performance is lowest.

## Bangladesh

- Perceived performance of think tanks in Bangladesh are well above average in most areas, particularly with respect to performance on regional knowledge, where there has been a vast improvement since 2013. Clear communication of missions or programs is the only area where performance in Bangladesh does not exceed the South Asia average. Perceived performance in Bangladesh has improved across all attributes since 2013.

## Nepal

- Quality of research, quality of researchers and regional knowledge are the areas that enjoy the highest performance ratings. However, perceived performance of tested think tanks in Nepal is lower than the South Asia average across all metrics aside from partnering with policy actors other than government, where performance is tied. Nepal has experienced significant drops in performance from 2013 in several areas, most notably on having a focus on high-priority areas and having adequate infrastructure to function effectively.

*To view individual ratings of each think tank test, please refer to the companion document to this study titled, "Think Tank Fact Sheets – South Asia Countries" for an overview of key performance measures on specific think tanks in each country.

# Think Tank Performance Ratings

## Pakistan

- The think tanks tested in Pakistan are perceived to perform above the South Asia average on almost all metrics, particularly on gender equality/empowerment research, transparency, and clear communication of mission and programs. The highest perceived performance is on quality of research, regional knowledge, and knowledge of policy-making processes. Quality of researchers, is the only performance metric where perceived performance has dropped considerably since 2013.

## Sri Lanka

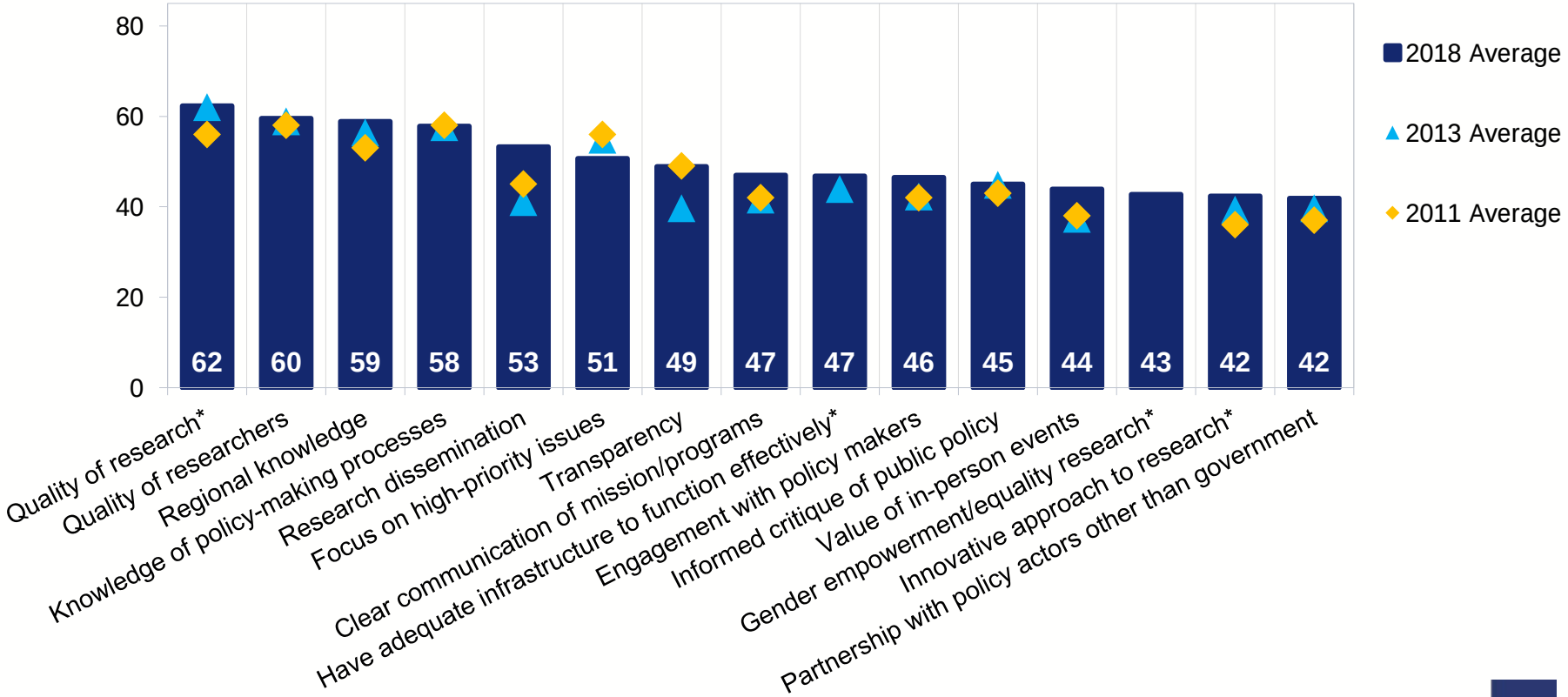
- Perceived performance of think tanks tested in Sri Lanka is above the South Asia average on all metrics and ratings of all measures have improved from previous years. Tested think tanks significantly outperform the South Asia average on quality of research, clear communication of mission/programs, and having adequate infrastructure for effective functionality.

## India

- Think tank performance ratings in India are considerably lower than the South Asia average across all metrics. Ratings have remained relatively consistent from 2013, aside from research dissemination and value of in-person events where there have been notable improvements. Having an innovative approach to research and partnering with policy actors other than government are the two areas where performance is perceived to be lowest, while quality of research and researchers is where performance is deemed highest.

# Think Tank Performance

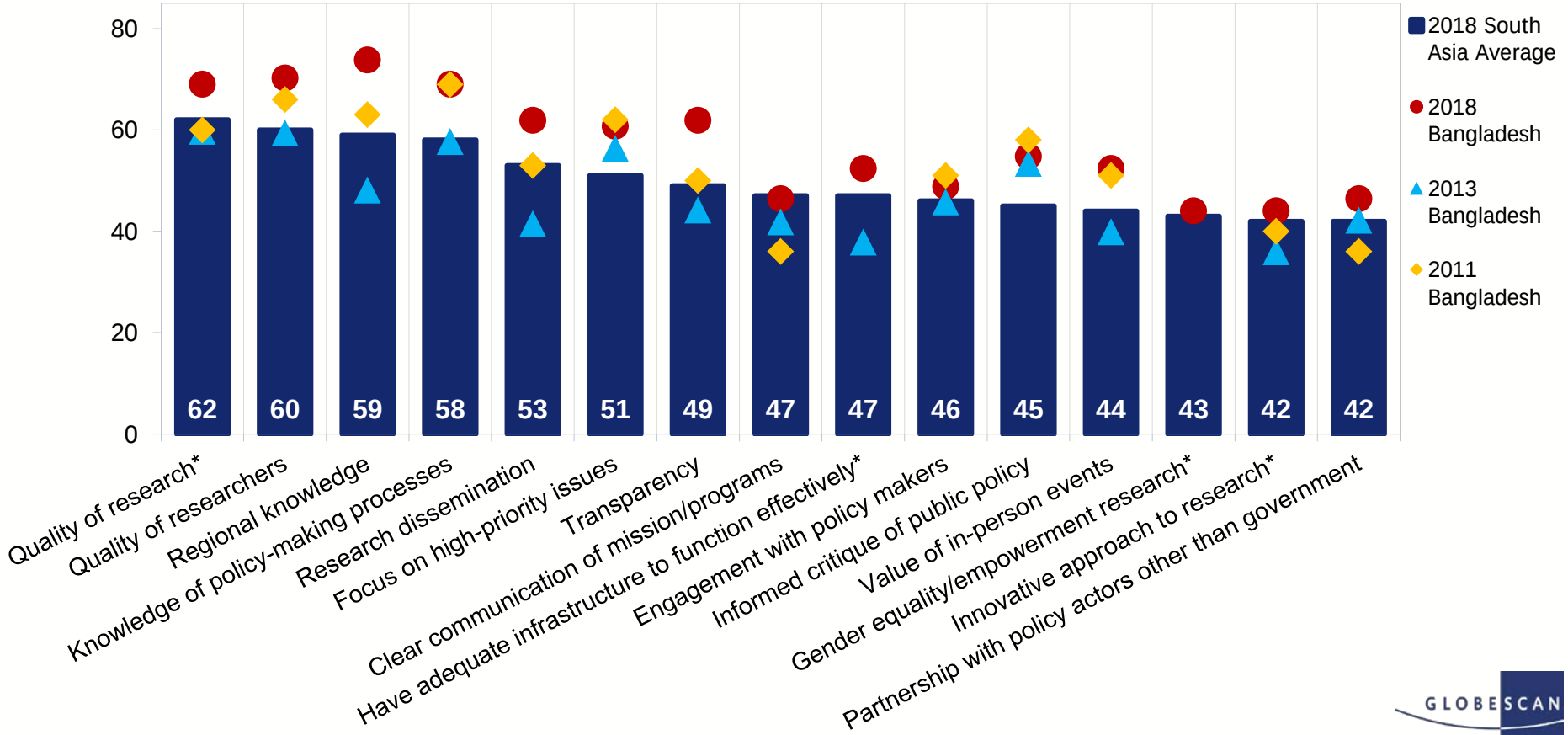
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, South Asia, 2011–2018




* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance

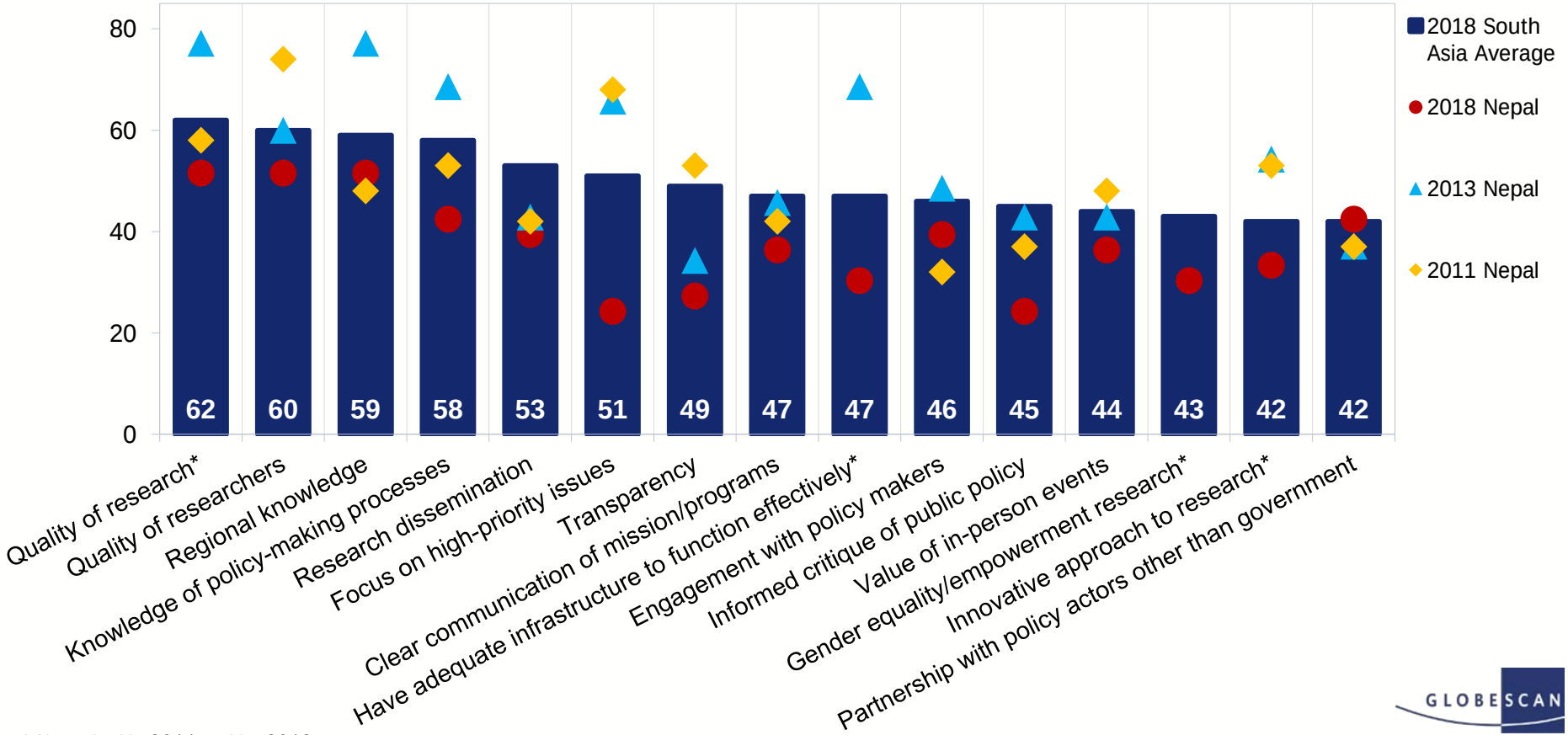
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Bangladesh, 2011–2018




* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Nepal, 2011–2018

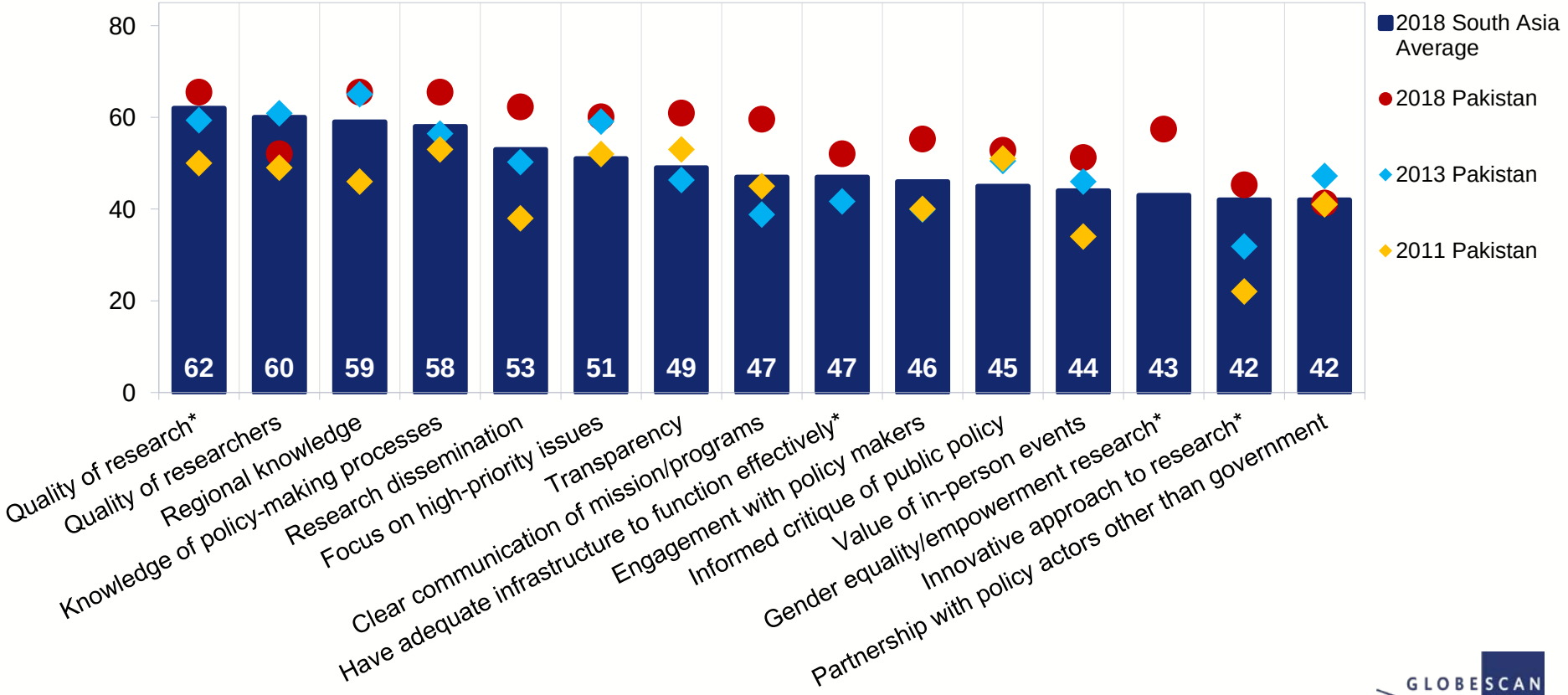



* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013

Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance

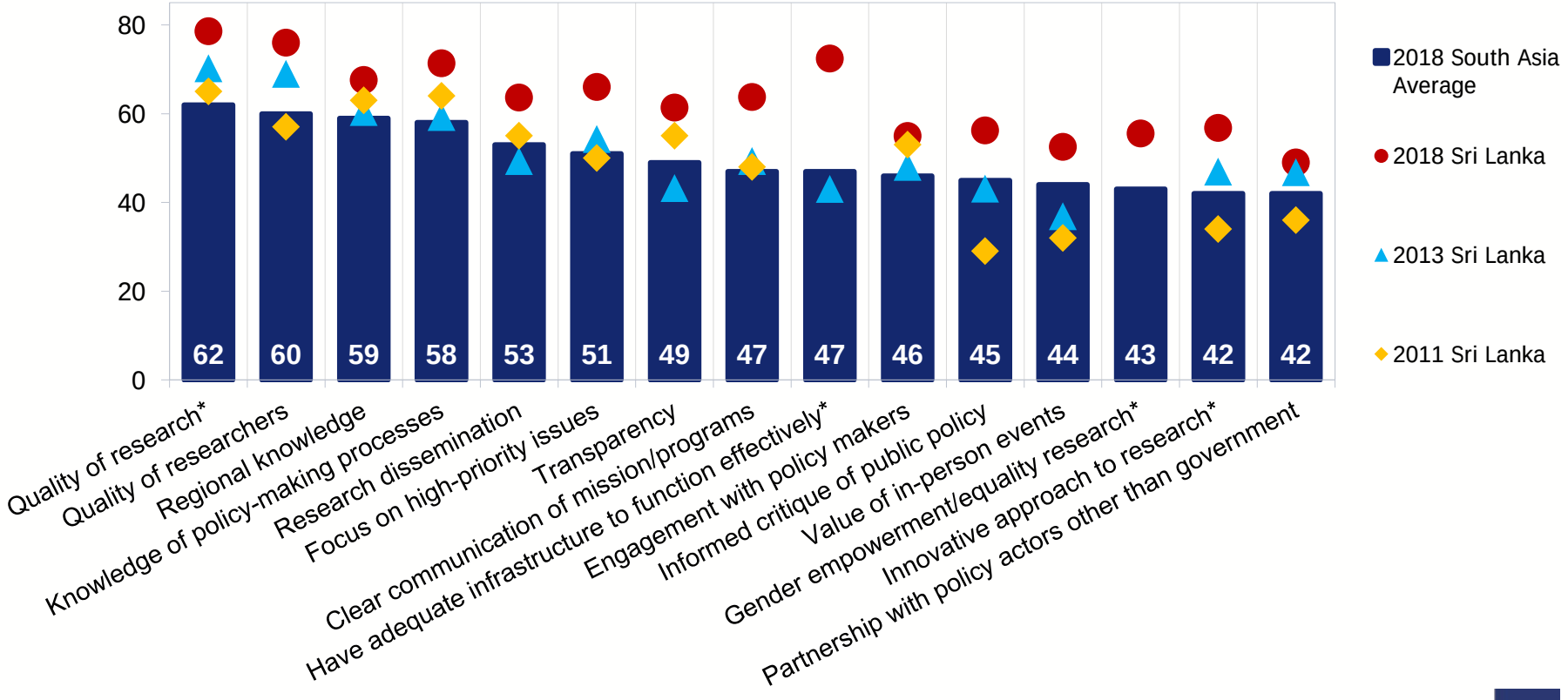
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Pakistan, 2011–2018




* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance

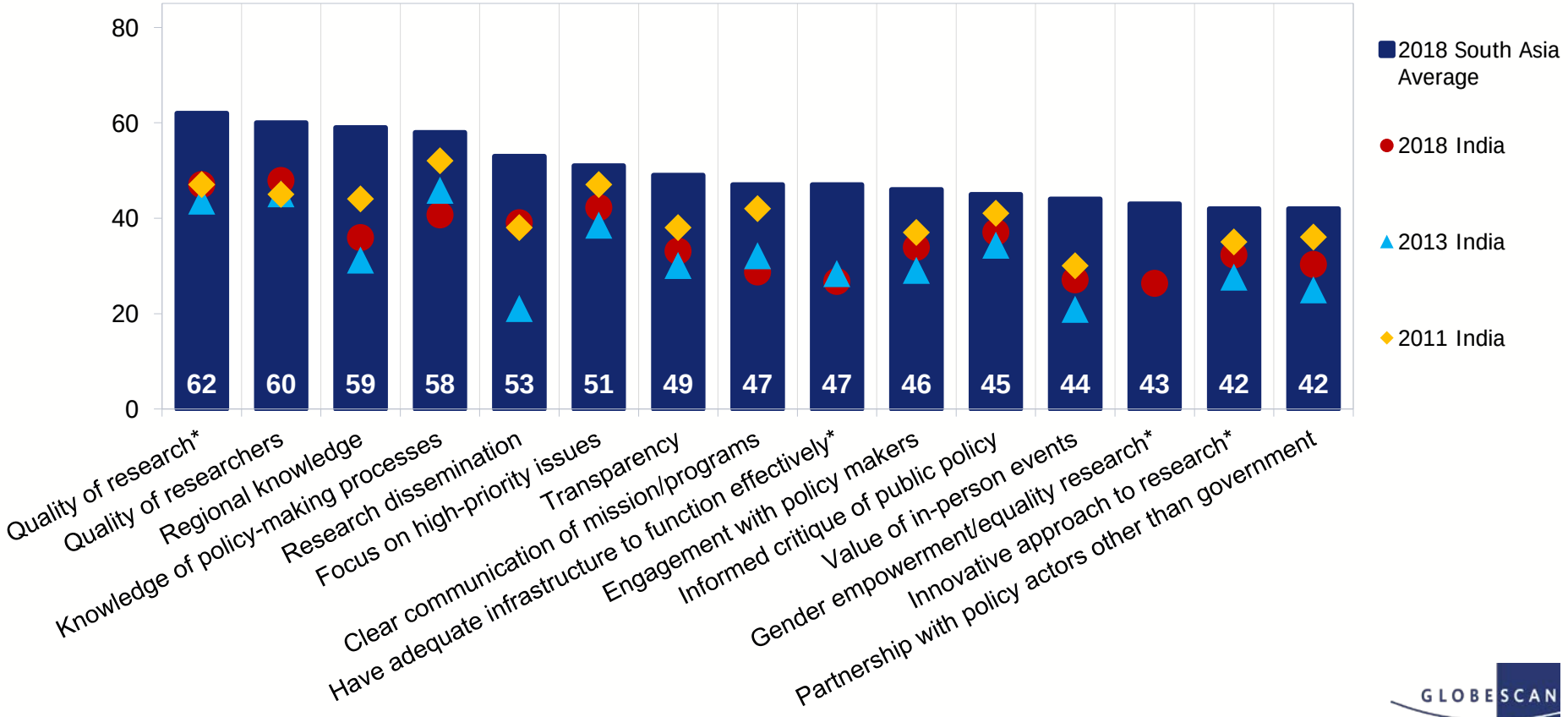
Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, Sri Lanka, 2011–2018




* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance

Percent of Respondents Selecting “Excellent” (4+5),
Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, India, 2011–2018




* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013
Subsample: Those who are familiar with a think tank

# Think Tank Performance

## Percent of Respondents Selecting "Excellent" (4+5), Average Across All Think Tanks Rated, by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018

Top selection

Second selection

| | Overall average | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | | Pakistan | | | Sri Lanka | | | India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Quality of research | 62 | 62 | 56 | 69 | 60 | 60 | 52 | 77 | 58 | 66 | 59 | 50 | 79 | 70 | 65 | 47 | 44 | 47 |
| Quality and expertise of researchers* | 60 | 59 | 58 | 70 | 59 | 66 | 52 | 60 | 74 | 52 | 61 | 49 | 76 | 69 | 57 | 48 | 45 | 45 |
| Regional/local knowledge | 59 | 56 | 53 | 74 | 48 | 63 | 52 | 77 | 48 | 66 | 65 | 46 | 68 | 60 | 63 | 36 | 31 | 44 |
| Knowledge of the policy-making process | 58 | 58 | 58 | 69 | 58 | 69 | 42 | 69 | 53 | 66 | 56 | 53 | 71 | 59 | 64 | 41 | 46 | 52 |
| Dissemination of research | 53 | 41 | 45 | 62 | 41 | 53 | 39 | 43 | 42 | 62 | 50 | 38 | 64 | 49 | 55 | 39 | 21 | 38 |
| Focus on high priority issues | 51 | 55 | 56 | 61 | 56 | 62 | 24 | 66 | 68 | 60 | 59 | 52 | 66 | 54 | 50 | 42 | 39 | 47 |
| Transparency/openness | 49 | 40 | 49 | 62 | 44 | 50 | 27 | 34 | 53 | 61 | 46 | 53 | 61 | 43 | 55 | 33 | 30 | 38 |
| Clear communication of its mission, programs and activities | 47 | 42 | 42 | 46 | 42 | 36 | 36 | 46 | 42 | 60 | 39 | 45 | 64 | 49 | 48 | 29 | 32 | 42 |
| Have adequate infrastructure in place to function effectively* | 47 | 44 | - | 52 | 38 | - | 30 | 69 | - | 52 | 42 | - | 72 | 43 | - | 27 | 28 | - |
| Effective engagement with policy makers | 46 | 42 | 42 | 49 | 46 | 51 | 39 | 49 | 32 | 55 | 40 | 40 | 55 | 48 | 53 | 34 | 29 | 37 |
| Providing informed critique of public policy | 45 | 45 | 43 | 55 | 53 | 58 | 24 | 43 | 37 | 53 | 51 | 51 | 56 | 43 | 29 | 37 | 34 | 41 |
| Value of its in-person events | 44 | 37 | 38 | 52 | 40 | 51 | 36 | 43 | 48 | 51 | 46 | 34 | 52 | 37 | 32 | 27 | 21 | 30 |
| Research on gender equality/women's empowerment* | 43 | - | - | 44 | - | - | 30 | - | - | 57 | - | - | 55 | - | - | 26 | - | - |
| Innovative approach to research | 42 | 39 | 36 | 44 | 36 | 40 | 33 | 54 | 53 | 45 | 32 | 22 | 57 | 47 | 34 | 32 | 28 | 35 |
| Effective partnering with public policy actors | 42 | 40 | 37 | 46 | 42 | 36 | 42 | 37 | 37 | 41 | 47 | 41 | 49 | 47 | 36 | 30 | 25 | 36 |

* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013

# Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

# Factors for Improving Think Tank Performance

## Importance of Factors for Improving Performance

### South Asia Level

- The importance of factors for improving national think tank performance have remained fairly consistent among stakeholders since 2011. Improved quality of research and increasing the availability of trained/experienced staff have been consistently rated as most "important," while more media coverage and increased volume of research conducted remain at lowest levels of importance.
- Greater awareness of services and the diversification of funding have experienced notable increases in ratings of "important" from 2013.

### Stakeholder Level

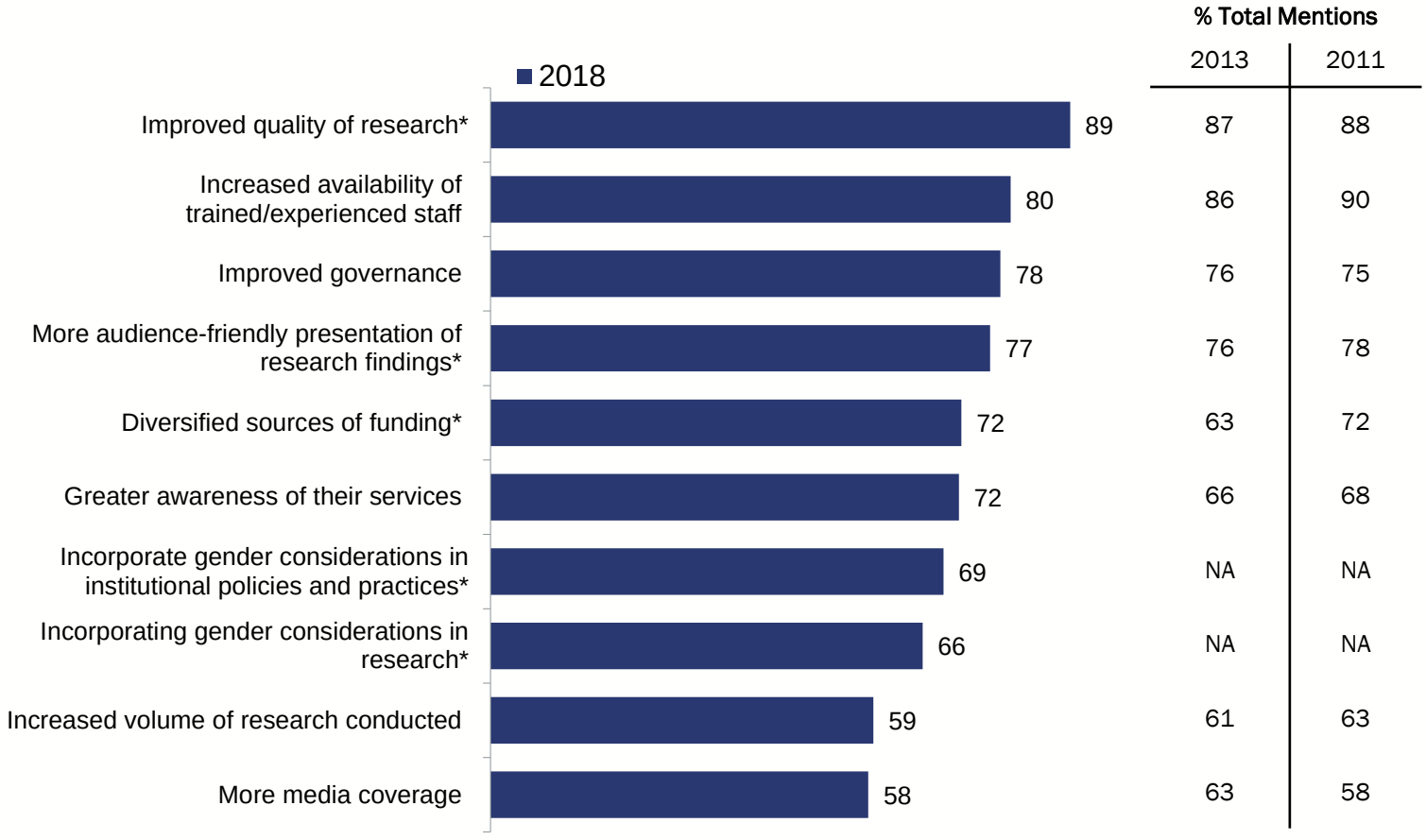
- Findings across stakeholder groups are consistent with the averages, as all stakeholder groups are highly likely to consider improved quality of research as most "important".
- Respondents in the private sector and elected government are more likely to consider improved governance as an important factor in improving national think tank performance, while NGO respondents are less likely to view this with as much importance.

### Country Level

- Improving the quality of research is considered the most important factor for improving national think tank performance across all surveyed countries, with particularly high importance from those respondents in Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Respondents in Pakistan and Sri Lanka are more likely to believe that improved governance and increased availability of trained staff are important factors for improving think tank performance than their counterparts in Nepal and India.
- The incorporation of gender considerations in research and institutional policies and practices are deemed more important in Bangladesh and Pakistan than in other countries.

# Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), South Asia, 2011–2018




* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013

# Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Stakeholder Type, South Asia, 2011–2018

Most important factor

Second most important factor

| | Overall average | | | Elected government | | | Non-elected government | | | Media | | | Multilateral/ bilateral | | | NGO | | | Private sector | | | Research/ academia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Improved quality of research | 89 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 73 | 92 | 89 | 87 | 95 | 91 | 89 | 92 | 90 | 87 | 85 | 88 | 92 | 78 | 83 | 90 | 86 | 93 | 89 | 95 |
| Increased availability of trained/experienced staff | 80 | 86 | 90 | 77 | 82 | 96 | 76 | 93 | 95 | 78 | 84 | 81 | 80 | 80 | 94 | 80 | 88 | 83 | 78 | 90 | 85 | 88 | 86 | 100 |
| Improved governance | 78 | 76 | 75 | 86 | 77 | 91 | 79 | 87 | 95 | 81 | 82 | 87 | 80 | 67 | 55 | 66 | 76 | 57 | 89 | 83 | 69 | 70 | 66 | 79 |
| More audience-friendly presentation of research findings* | 77 | 76 | 78 | 80 | 59 | 91 | 66 | 77 | 87 | 84 | 71 | 81 | 73 | 77 | 78 | 80 | 82 | 73 | 75 | 93 | 72 | 78 | 68 | 66 |
| Diversified sources of funding | 72 | 63 | 72 | 69 | 45 | 82 | 66 | 70 | 85 | 69 | 58 | 73 | 77 | 57 | 60 | 71 | 63 | 56 | 75 | 69 | 63 | 80 | 70 | 87 |
| Greater awareness of their services | 72 | 66 | 68 | 83 | 68 | 86 | 66 | 67 | 84 | 72 | 79 | 61 | 73 | 53 | 54 | 66 | 65 | 49 | 69 | 79 | 68 | 75 | 55 | 76 |
| Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices* | 69 | - | - | 80 | - | - | 71 | - | - | 59 | - | - | 67 | - | - | 80 | - | - | 64 | - | - | 63 | - | - |
| Incorporating gender considerations in research* | 66 | - | - | 69 | - | - | 61 | - | - | 59 | - | - | 77 | - | - | 68 | - | - | 56 | - | - | 75 | - | - |
| Increased volume of research conducted | 59 | 61 | 63 | 51 | 55 | 65 | 63 | 70 | 71 | 75 | 74 | 67 | 60 | 50 | 42 | 56 | 53 | 44 | 64 | 72 | 74 | 45 | 57 | 79 |
| More media coverage | 58 | 63 | 58 | 63 | 59 | 74 | 55 | 70 | 66 | 75 | 82 | 75 | 67 | 50 | 45 | 49 | 65 | 44 | 56 | 66 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 61 |

*Not asked in 2011 and/or 2013

# Importance of Factors for Improving Performance of Think Tanks in Respondent's Country

Percent of Respondents Selecting "Important" (4+5), by Country, South Asia, 2011–2018

Most important factor

Second most important factor

| | Overall average | | | Bangladesh | | | Nepal | | | Pakistan | | | Sri Lanka | | | India | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2018 | 2013 | 2011 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 | `18 | `13 | `11 |
| Improved quality of research | 89 | 87 | 89 | 93 | 83 | 93 | 83 | 85 | 85 | 98 | 90 | 95 | 88 | 83 | 85 | 86 | 93 | 87 |
| Increased availability of trained/experienced staff | 80 | 86 | 80 | 83 | 93 | 68 | 71 | 88 | 78 | 88 | 85 | 88 | 86 | 85 | 91 | 76 | 84 | 73 |
| Improved governance | 78 | 76 | 73 | 81 | 78 | 68 | 68 | 85 | 73 | 88 | 78 | 76 | 86 | 68 | 84 | 73 | 74 | 65 |
| More audience-friendly presentation of research findings | 77 | 76 | 43 | 81 | 80 | 55 | 76 | 76 | 29 | 88 | 68 | 38 | 81 | 78 | 40 | 67 | 76 | 46 |
| Diversified sources of funding | 72 | 63 | 72 | 67 | 63 | 73 | 66 | 66 | 71 | 80 | 63 | 72 | 84 | 59 | 80 | 69 | 64 | 68 |
| Greater awareness of their services | 72 | 66 | 65 | 67 | 63 | 55 | 63 | 59 | 65 | 85 | 55 | 76 | 74 | 76 | 78 | 71 | 73 | 50 |
| Incorporate gender considerations in institutional policies and practices* | 69 | - | - | 79 | - | - | 61 | - | - | 75 | - | - | 65 | - | - | 69 | - | - |
| Incorporating gender considerations in research* | 66 | - | - | 74 | - | - | 49 | - | - | 75 | - | - | 70 | - | - | 65 | - | - |
| Increased volume of research conducted | 59 | 61 | 64 | 74 | 58 | 55 | 54 | 63 | 70 | 60 | 73 | 66 | 56 | 59 | 78 | 55 | 58 | 50 |
| More media coverage | 58 | 63 | 59 | 64 | 63 | 50 | 56 | 71 | 48 | 60 | 60 | 71 | 65 | 73 | 71 | 51 | 55 | 54 |



* Not asked in 2011 and/or 2012

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

## Open-end Responses, South Asia, 2018

**Advice for think tanks is relatively consistent, with many people mentioning the same recommendations across the board. Advice for think tanks included the following:**

- Increase collaboration between think tanks, government organizations, local communities, and international stakeholders. These partnerships could make research and policies more relevant.
- Conduct studies that are more relevant to the current issues of the country so they can have a more beneficial and direct impact on members of society. Many respondents recommended undertaking primary, grassroots research in order to improve relevance and accuracy of findings.
- Avoid private sector or political influence to mitigate potential bias of research and maintain objectivity.
- Work towards being more transparent in research practices.
- Ensure accessibility and effective dissemination of research results.
- Hire professional, experienced staff in order to guarantee credibility.
- Expand research scope beyond traditional frameworks in order to be more innovative.

> Conduct high quality research and disseminate the findings in multiple ways - focusing on making the research more accessible in terms of language, and increasing access to the information.
> – *NGO, Nepal*

> The first step should be to identify the issue or problem in industry, policy institutes, government institutions. Then the second step is to conduct research.
> – *Government non-elected, Pakistan*

> To make research more participatory and focus on action research rather than theoretical.
> – *NGO, Nepal*

> They should be impartial and independent in giving their opinion and research.
> – *Government non-elected, Bangladesh*

> Long term engagement on particular issues, being flexible in approach, and engaging with multiple stakeholders to incorporate their concerns into proposal solutions or research.
> – *NGO, India*

GlobeScan is an insights and strategy consultancy, focused on helping our clients build long-term trusting relationships with their stakeholders. Offering a suite of specialist research and advisory services, we partner with business, NGOs and governmental organizations to meet strategic objectives across reputation, sustainability and purpose.

Established in 1987, GlobeScan has offices in Cape Town, Hong Kong, London, Paris, San Francisco, São Paulo and Toronto, and is a signatory to the UN Global Compact and a Certified B Corporation.

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