

The Mirror Cracked?

On Democracy, Welfare Politics & India's General Election

Some Findings from the 2024 General Election, India

Yamini Aiyar

Visiting Senior Fellow, Saxena Center & Watson Institute

The Indian Election Study

- Survey across 19 states and Delhi (representing 94% of constituencies)
- Sample 200 parliamentary constituencies
- Sample size = 36,222
- Good predictive performance: BJP at 37% and Congress at 21%
- Tailored for insights on key issues of democracy, welfare and citizenship

Media Diversification: Loss of Narrative Control

“If the Congress wins, it will be because of Dhruv Rathee” Ram Nagar in Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh

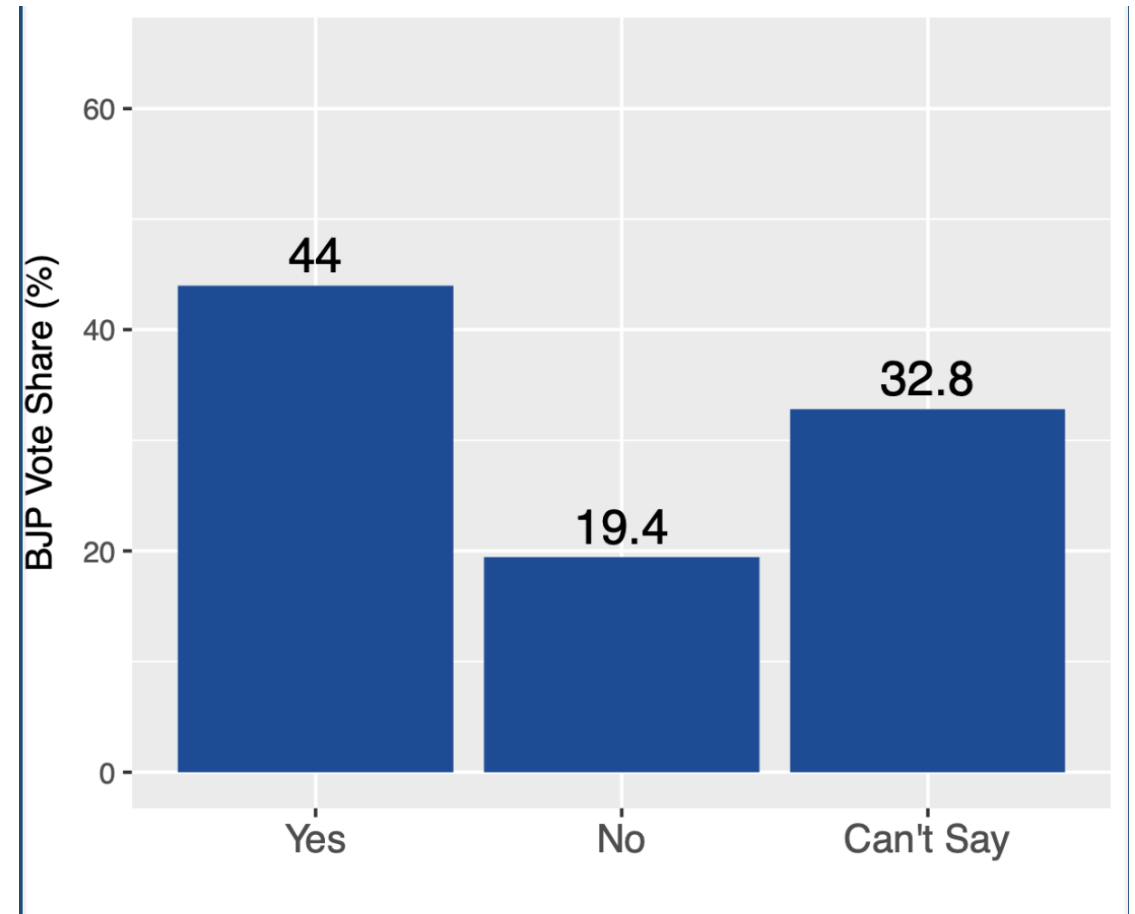
“I stay far away from politics. I see and hear everything. If I speak, I will have trouble.” Local Social Media Influencer, Mohanlalganj, Uttar Pradesh

- 58% of respondents agree that mainstream media only represents the views of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP
- 62% of respondents report a news source other than newspaper or television
- 40% of respondents have some form of social media or peer-to-peer connectivity as the primary source of news (compared to 45% for TV)

Democratic Redlines

Do you believe the EVM electoral process is fair?

- 62% say it is fair
- 22% say it is NOT fair
- 16% “can’t say” whether it is fair
- Strong correlation with support for BJP
- Implication: Democratic redlines for voters



The Constitution in the realm of mass politics



“Dr. Ambedkar means everything to us. We don’t think it’s too easy to change the Constitution, but we believe the BJP wants to change the constitution.” Chakkipat, Agra, UP

“The constitution matters because it protects us..... It gave us reservations. Humein Samvidhaan bachana hai (the Constitution must be protected).” Mohanlaganj, UP

Techno-Patrimonialism

- Labharthi politics – Tangible private goods via cash and DBT
- Category of A new “category” of “beneficiary” – woman/ unemployed youth, types of skills, age



Politics of attribution

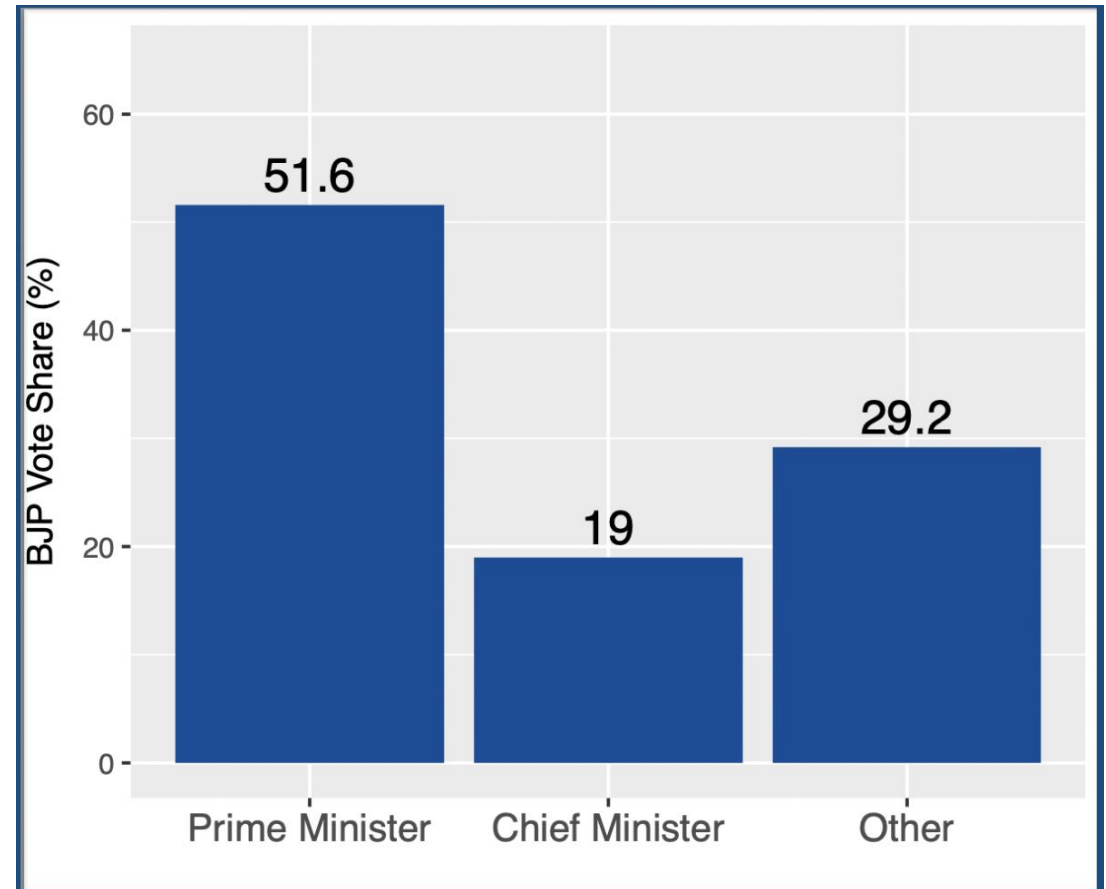
- Direct link to beneficiary, repeated reminders of the “patron”
- Deification of leadership(Vishwas politics)
- Removes the intermediary, enables centralized personalized leadership

Political Attribution

On Welfare Schemes

Who is most responsible for delivering benefits to you?

Strong correlation with support for BJP (51%)



Narratives on Corruption and Voter Choice

- In the last five years, do you believe corruption has come down? 43% said yes, strong correlation with voter choice: 61% (BJP)
- Do you have to pay a commission for DBT? 49% No; 32% Yes
- Is the contractor no longer taking a cut? Yes 43%, No 35%
- Intermediaries matter (44%) including MP/MLA but as agents of political leadership

Competitive Welfarism

The credit claiming, federal bargain of the coalition era vs direct attribution to national government



लाडली बहना योजना
महिलाओं को मिलेंगे **12,000 रुपये**

लाडली बहना योजना के लिए ऐसे करें अप्लाई?

Home Navratna Applications Dashboards Newsletters And Press Clips GOs And Circulars Learning Corner Login

All the Scheme Related GGMP Grievances will be resolved by the GVWV&V Honeranium to Churches (Pastors) The last date for completing registrat Please Click here for Water Tax Payment.

Click on below image for YSR UNIFIED BHIMA PORTAL

Click on below image for CSC Services

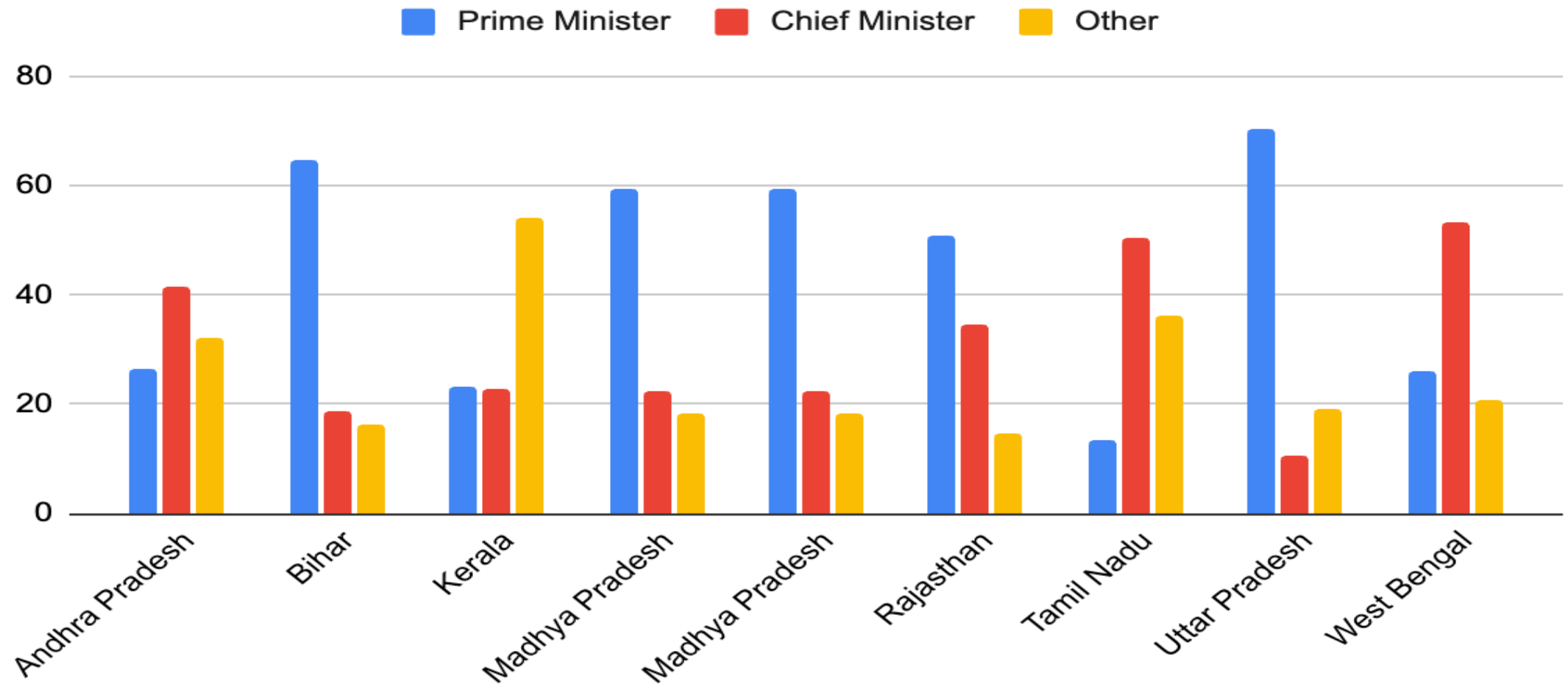
Click on below image to add Inventory

VSWS

The advertisement features a smiling woman in a yellow and white sari holding a stack of Indian Rupee notes. To her left is a large green Rupee symbol (₹). The text is in Hindi and English. At the bottom, there is a circular menu with various service icons and a central portrait of a man. The background is a light blue sky with green foliage.

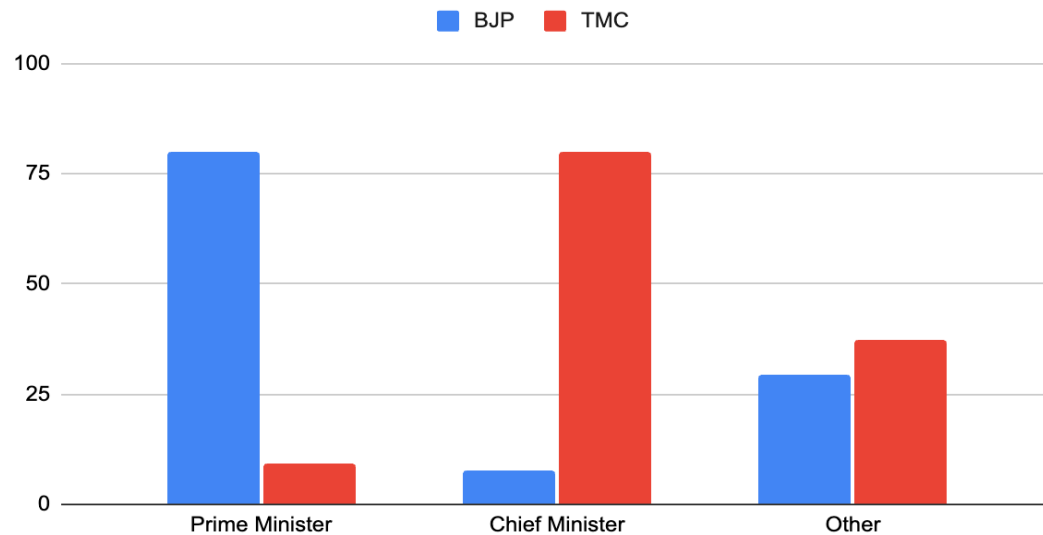
Federal dynamic

Political Attribution: Across States

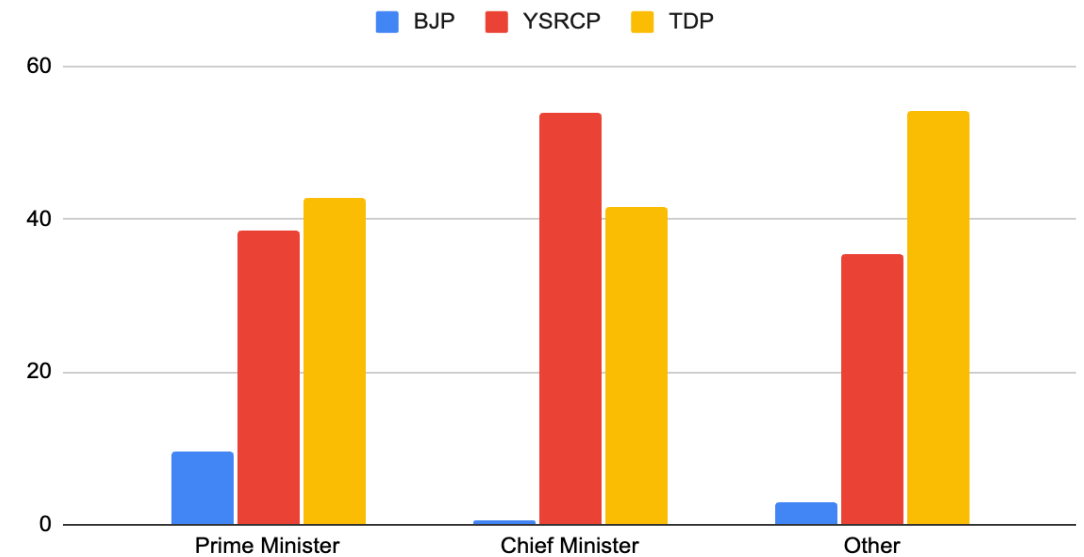


Does Political Attribution Shape Voter Choice?

Political Attribution and Voter choice: West Bengal

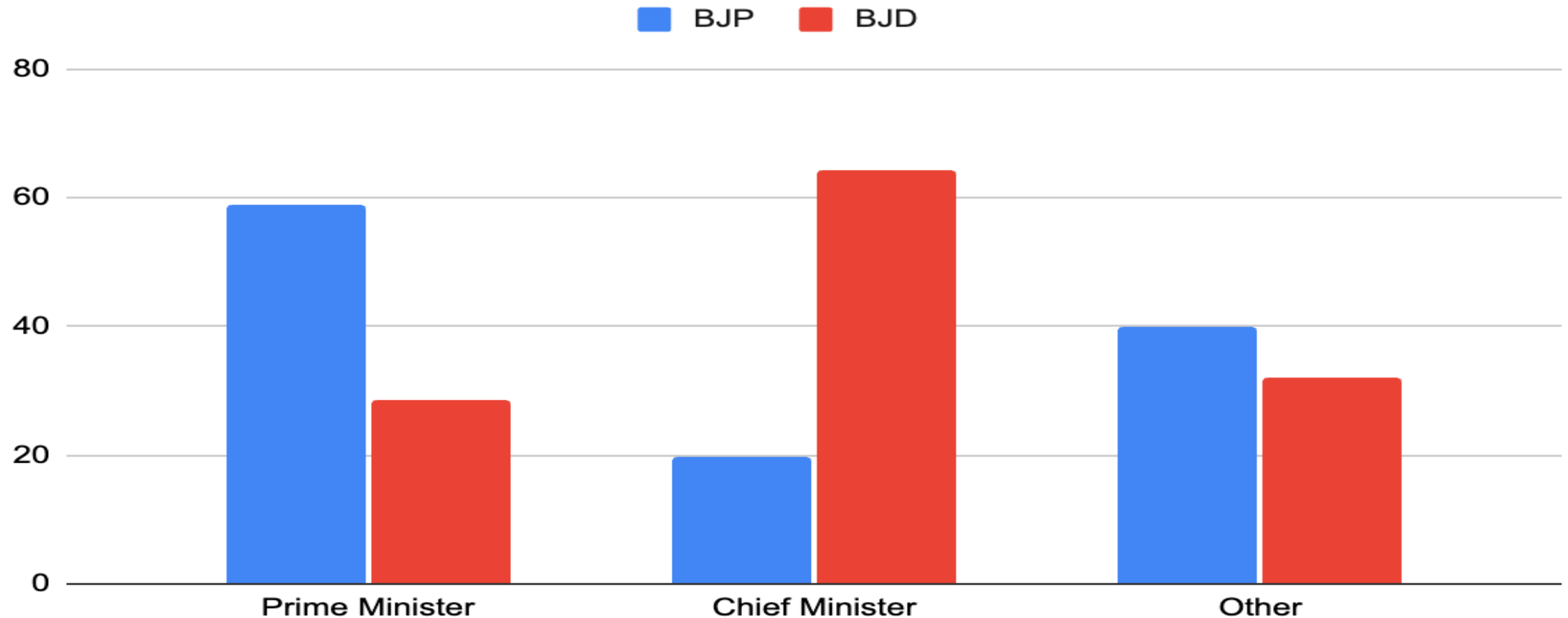


Political Attribution and Voter Choice: AP



Does Political Attribution Shape Voter Choice?

Political Attribution and Voter Choice: Odisha



On Social citizenship

On individual rights vs duties

