

## The Indian Perception of the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States - Donald Trump

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**ABSTRACT:** This study aims to find out the Indian perception of the 45th President of the United States - Donald J. Trump, through the survey method of research. Trump has built a friendly relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The United States is a beneficiary to the Indian IT sector, has a good trading relationship with India and is home to more than two million Indians. So any decision made with regard to immigration, defense, and trade by President Trump will affect them. There is a need to find out the opinion of the Indian public with regard to this new, unpredictable President, who constantly flip-flops on his policies, as any decision made will determine the future of Indians living in the United States and those in their home country.

**KEYWORDS** – Donald Trump, American Presidential elections, India, United States, International relations

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### I. INTRODUCTION

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Donald J. Trump announced his candidacy for the 2016 presidential elections. With no prior political experience, he chose to run as a Republican. Trump was not a new name to the American people, as he was a tabloid favourite for his many scandals in the late 1990s. His popular TV show ‘The Apprentice’, which he hosted on NBC, made him a household name.

Born and raised in New York, Donald Trump succeeded his father’s business, and took over the Trump Organization. He was the Chairperson and CEO of the Trump Organization, until he was elected President. From the date of his campaign announcement, until today, he has been mired in controversy. His campaign has gained him media attention on a worldwide scale.

### II. THE RISE OF DONALD TRUMP

Trump began receiving media attention the moment he announced his candidacy. But he grasped the attention of both the public and the media for his comment on Mexicans. “They are not our friend, believe me,” he said, before disparaging Mexican immigrants: “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”<sup>1</sup>

Trump had a history of making racist comments as a New York real-estate developer in the 1970s and ‘80s.<sup>2</sup> The promise to build a wall on the Southern border of the United States, further enhanced the public’s interest in him. President Trump stated: “I will build a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words.”<sup>3</sup>

### III. TRUMP AND TWITTER

Following this, Trump began his campaign in full swing, using Twitter, the social media platform as a weapon. Trump has used this social media app to get his opinion on various issues across to the world. He has attacked several celebrities, talk - show hosts and even former American President Barack Obama. Trump had constantly tweeted that Obama was born in Kenya. And when he began his campaign, he continued to use it to his advantage. Though he mentioned that he may not use Twitter frequently when he becomes President, he still tweets on a regular basis. Whether its threatening North Korea, insulting his political rivals and banning the trans community from serving in the American military, all of this was done via twitter.

Donald Trump used this platform of unfettered communication during his first year as commander in chief. His tweets have the power to shape international relations, sent stock prices up — or down — and galvanize the American public.<sup>4</sup>

Since the election on Nov. 8, 2016, the president has tweeted 2,461 times as of Tuesday - November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (including retweets and deleted tweets). That adds up to, on average, about six to seven tweets per day.

Still, that's less than half the number of times compared to the previous year. From Nov. 8, 2015, to Nov. 8, 2016, he tweeted 4,994 times, an average of about 13-14 tweets a day.<sup>5</sup>

#### **IV. TRUMP VS. THE MEDIA**

Trump began his feud with the media, making several personal attacks on numerous renowned journalists, as they had written or made scathing comments about him. His first dispute began with former Fox News anchor, Megyn Kelly. The feud between Trump and Kelly started Aug. 6, 2015, at the first Republican presidential debate, when the two had a contentious back-and-forth. In a question directed at Trump, Kelly said: "You've called women you don't like fat pigs, dogs, slobes and disgusting animals". Trump fired back on Twitter after the debate. "Wow, @megynkelly really bombed tonight. People are going wild on twitter! Funny to watch". Trump continued to criticize the Fox News host in the days after the debate, telling CNN, "There was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever." In an interview with ABC News' "This Week" two days later, Trump said he meant Kelly's nose when he said "wherever."<sup>6</sup>

This incident commenced the war Trump had with the media. His eccentric behaviour ensured that he received a lot of media coverage. The fact that he kept winning the primaries, also added to his media coverage. In those open primaries, Trump has come out ahead in 13 out of 16 states. In states with closed primaries, Trump won only six out of 14 states. Overall, Trump has won closed states about half as often as he's won those open states.<sup>7</sup>

During the early stages of the 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump was the center of press attention. Each month from the time he announced his candidacy until he received his party's presidential nomination, he was the most heavily covered candidate. It wasn't even close. During that period, Trump received 63 percent of the coverage compared to 37 percent for his most heavily covered rival.<sup>8</sup>

Many left-wing media outlets gave Trump a lot of news coverage. According to the Media Research Center Survey, a full day of CNN coverage found that 92 percent of the news time was spent on Trump stories. CNN featured 96 critics and just seven supporters.<sup>9</sup>

In response, Donald Trump has often lashed out at the media on Twitter for criticizing him. He started attacking the media while he was still campaigning. Other candidates, either Democratic, Republican or Green Party were overshadowed by Trump. This gave Trump a lot of tangibility, resonating his 'Make America Great Again' slogan to the world. This coverage only helped reiterate Trump's message to all ends of the political spectrum. As right-wing news media outlets also began supporting him, the right-wing crowd further identified with him. According to the independent news outlet, Vox<sup>10</sup>, Fox News which is owned by Rupert Murdoch, had to go from chastising Trump to idolizing him, because of plummeting ratings. Fox News noticed that their ratings were high whenever they covered Trump on a positive note. This new pattern continued even during the general election period. All the news channels were telecasting everything Trump was tweeting and saying in his rallies. Week after week, Trump got more press attention than did Clinton. Overall, Trump received 15 percent more coverage than she did. Trump also had more opportunities to define Clinton than she had to define him. When a candidate was seen in the news talking about Clinton, the voice was typically Trump's and not hers. Yet when the talk was about Trump, he was again more likely to be the voice behind the message. "Lock her up" and "make America great again" were heard more often in the news than "he's unqualified" and "stronger together."<sup>11</sup>

Many new voters – those who are voting for the first time, decided to vote for Trump. About one in 10 Americans who plan to cast a vote this election will do so for the first time in years, if ever, and Trump holds a decided edge with them, according to polling by Reuters/Ipsos. In Reuters/Ipsos polling from June to December 2015, 27.3 percent of these "new" voters said they would vote for Trump, higher than his poll numbers among independents and Republicans who regularly vote.<sup>12</sup>

As Trump surged ahead in the primaries, he began targeting different communities for votes. He addressed the African – American and Hispanic community by telling them – "What do you have to lose by trying something new, like Trump?"

Despite targeting these two minorities, the national exit polls show that Mrs. Clinton drew 65 percent of the Latino vote compared with 29 percent for Mr. Trump.<sup>13</sup> Some 88 per cent of African-American voters supported Clinton, versus 8 per cent for Donald Trump.<sup>14</sup>

#### **V. CANDIDATE TRUMP AND INDIA**

Trump began targeting the votes of Indian Americans during his campaign. However, he has made quite a few derogatory comments about India.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016, Donald Trump used a fake Indian accent to mock a call center representative in India. At the same time, he described India as a great place, asserting that he is not angry with Indian leaders.<sup>15</sup>

Eventually, Trump changed his position on India. He began to speak favourably about Indians, and even attended a few functions to address the Indian population. The Republican Hindu Coalition in New Jersey

held a charity event on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016, titled 'Humanity United Against Terror', with Donald Trump as the chief guest. The event featured performances from Indian celebrities across the Indian film fraternity. There were fliers portraying the current president of India's opposition party - Sonia Gandhi, and Trump's political rival, Hillary Clinton as evil beings out to frame Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. The intent of this event was to prove that Trump was supporting India.

In contrast to the first statement, Trump had this to say to the Indian community in the US, during the event: "If I'm elected President, the Indian and Hindu community will have a true friend in the White House. That I can guarantee you. I'm involved in two massive developments in India...and that is because I have great confidence in India. Generations of Indian and Hindu Americans have strengthened our country...your values of hard work, education and enterprise have truly enriched our nation."<sup>16</sup>

The bizarre phrasing, and all the absurd antics that took place at that rally, was much analyzed by Indian-Americans and the Indian press in the weeks after the charity event.<sup>17</sup>

On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016, he released a 30 second video message and even attempted to speak Hindi as to appeal to the Indian voters. However, his attempt proved to be fruitless.

The Pew Research Center (2014) states that Indian Americans lean left. Nearly, 65 per cent of Indian Americans were Democrats or leaned toward the Democrats, making them the Asian-American subgroup most likely to identify with the Democratic Party.<sup>18</sup>

Sure enough, Indian Americans voted left. Seventy-seven percent of Indian-Americans voted for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, while only 16 percent voted for Trump, according to the National Asian American Survey.<sup>19</sup>

## **VI. PRESIDENT TRUMP AND INDIAN AMERICAN APPOINTEES**

Despite receiving a lukewarm response from the Indian American community during the elections, Donald Trump has appointed a couple of Indian Americans in his administration in high posts. On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Donald J. Trump was inaugurated as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Trump has appointed or nominated at least seven people to his administration who are of Indian descent, including Ajit Pai, chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Neomi Rao, administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, and Seema Verma, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Trump also tapped Vishal J. Amin, a senior counsel on the House Judiciary Committee, as the White House's new intellectual property enforcement coordinator, and Neil Chatterjee, an energy adviser for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, as a member of the federal energy regulatory commission. Krishna R. Urs, a career member of the Foreign Service, was nominated to be the ambassador to Peru.<sup>20</sup>

The new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, is thought to be the first Indian-American woman appointed to a cabinet-level position. Other than Haley, there are currently only three other people of color in the Trump administration's 24 cabinet or cabinet-level positions.<sup>21</sup>

## **VII. PRESIDENT TRUMP AND PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI**

US President Donald Trump and Indian PM Narendra Modi met for the first time in 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, at Washington DC, vowing to fight terrorism together while issuing a warning to Pakistan. The two leaders, who hugged each other in front of reporters, also praised their countries' warm relations. They discussed increasing trade links and security co-operation. Mr Modi was also the first foreign dignitary to have dinner at the White House with Mr Trump. "The relationship between India and the United States has never been stronger, never been better," said Mr Trump, who describes himself and Mr Modi as "world leaders in social media".<sup>22</sup>

Mr Modi was also the first foreign dignitary to dine with Mr Trump at the White House. Prior to the meeting, Mr Trump spoke by phone with Mr Modi twice. The first call happened just a couple of days after Mr Trump's inauguration. The pair agreed they must stand "shoulder to shoulder in the global fight against terrorism". The US president also rang Prime Minister Modi in August to mark the anniversary of India's independence.<sup>23</sup>

## **VIII. INDIA AND TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION POLICY**

India's \$146 billion IT outsourcing industry has been a beneficiary of the temporary US work visas that are required by skilled foreign workers to work in the country.<sup>24</sup> However, once Trump became President, there was no guarantee that these visa holders could continue working in the United States.

Trump pledged to create jobs for Americans throughout his entire campaign. He reiterated on his 'America first' policy. Keeping America first means creating more jobs for Americans. That means less number of work visas would be granted for foreigners.

During the Presidential Elections, the issue of alleged misuse of the H-1B visa program by Indian software companies has been brought up constantly. On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Trump made the following statement on US job creation: "We're going to create jobs. I said that I will be the greatest jobs producer that God ever

created. And I mean that, I really—I'm going to work very hard on that. You can't allow policies that allows business to be ripped out of the United States like candy from a baby."<sup>25</sup>

The constant fear Indian visa holders had once Trump got elected came true. On December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017, *McClatchy DC Bureau reported that*, the Department of Homeland Security is considering new regulations that would prevent H-1B visa extensions, according to two U.S. sources briefed on the proposal. The measure potentially could stop hundreds of thousands of foreign workers from keeping their H-1B visas while their green card applications are pending.<sup>26</sup>

"The agency is considering a number of policy and regulatory changes to carry out the President's Buy American, Hire American Executive Order, including a thorough review of employment-based visa programs," said Jonathan Withington, chief of media relations for USCIS. "The proposal is part of a series of new regulations the Trump administration is taking at the same time a bipartisan group of lawmakers moves forward on legislation to tighten rules that award visas to H-1B holders. The administration also has announced plans to end work eligibility for spouses of H-1B holders. In addition, the administration is considering changes to the allocation of H-1B visas to give priority to more highly educated and skilled workers."<sup>27</sup>

Trump flip-flopped over this issue. Amid reports of the United States planning to toughen up H-1B visa extension rules, the Trump administration - in a huge relief to over 7,50,000 Indians working in the US - said it is not considering any proposal that would force H-1B visa holders to leave the country.<sup>28</sup>

On 16th January 2018, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Nielsen mentioned that Trump was discussing immigration "from a merit-based perspective" and that he wanted immigrants "with skills who can assimilate and contribute to the United States, moving away from country quotas and to an individual merit system."<sup>29</sup>

This obviously invoked a great sense of relief among the Indian American community, who wish to further their career, and get green cards to permanently settle in the U.S. At least 800 Indian-origin people participated in a march outside the White House on Saturday, raising slogans in support of U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to implement a "merit-based" immigration system, and demanding discontinuation of country quotas for green card approvals. Indian applicants are at a disadvantage under the current approval system that limits the number of green cards issued to individual countries at 9,800, while more than 50,000 of them newly join the queue each year. The Trump administration has not indicated its views on this issue, but marchers said its preference for "merit-based" immigration would tilt the balance in their favour.<sup>30</sup>

### **IX. INDIA'S STANCE ON JERUSALEM**

In January 2018, Trump declared that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel. He made this bold declaration and decided to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This invoked rage from Palestine, as they also consider it their capital.

The issue was taken up in the United Nations. Approximately, 128 countries voted in favor of a UN General Assembly resolution rejecting U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This included India, which voted against the United States and carried forward New Delhi's principled position on the issue – a month before Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's scheduled visit to India.<sup>31</sup>

Having a strong relationship with both countries, India is in favour of two – states and one capital situation between the two countries. However, displeased with the response, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, warned that the United States would keep the vote in mind, and will withdraw funding or refuse to help those countries who voted against them in the future. India was obviously included in this message as well.

### **X. PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SANCTION ON PAKISTAN**

Trump had this to say on India and Pakistan – "The India Pakistan conflict is one of the great conflicts in the world right now. Hopefully everything will work out but there is tremendous conflict between India and Pakistan. There has been for quite some time."<sup>32</sup>

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the U.S. State Department announced that the US was freezing most military aid to Pakistan. The administration has declined to specify the exact amount of funds it will cut off, but the suspension could freeze up to \$1.3 billion in aid.<sup>33</sup> This move is vital to help reduce the terror threat it faces when terrorists attack the Indian state of Kashmir. This has improved India's relationship with America, and simultaneously ruined Pakistan's relationship with both countries.

U.S. ambassador to India Kenneth Juster met with the Indian foreign secretary S. Jaishankar for the first time after Washington indicated that it has decided to withhold at least \$900 million in military aid to Pakistan. There has been no official statement about the meeting, neither has there been any response from the Indian government on the US announcement about suspension of military assistance to Pakistan.<sup>34</sup>

However, the U.S. cutting military aid to Pakistan, may not affect them on a large scale. According to The Hindustan Times, China provides 60 to 70% of Pakistan's military equipment today. Its proposed \$60



billion investments in Pakistan dwarf anything the US has to offer. Nonetheless, any friction between the US and Pakistan is a positive for India.<sup>35</sup>

## **XI. TRUMP CRITICIZES INDIA ON HIGH TARIFFS IMPOSED ON HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORBIKES**

During a meeting with congressional leaders on trade, Trump said that “a great man from India” — presumably Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with whom he chatted by telephone Feb. 8 — recently called him to say that India was cutting its steep import tariffs on Harleys to 50 percent — “that’s 5-0,” Trump noted. These still-high fees make India the latest in a list of nations such as China that “come into our country and rob us blind,” Trump said. Most of the 4,500 Harley Davidsons sold in India each year are actually assembled in India, which means the buyer can avoid the pricey tariffs. “I’m not blaming India. I think it’s great that they can get away with it. I don’t know why people allowed them to get away with it. But there’s an example that’s very unfair,” Trump said, saying the United States should impose a “reciprocal tax” on other countries in return.<sup>36</sup>

In conclusion, Trump’s fondness for Modi, and the President’s view on India’s high import tariffs, Trump’s position on H1B and his mockery of Indian accents are just some examples of juxtaposition that exists in the Trump administration today.

## **XII. THE NEED TO DISCERN THE INDIAN OPINION**

Approximately, 2.4 million Indian immigrants are residing in the United States as of 2015. This makes the foreign born from India the second-largest immigrant group, accounting for almost 6 percent of the 43.3 million foreign-born population.<sup>37</sup>

Thus, all their lives are at stake. Though Donald Trump may argue that countries are sending unqualified individuals to the U.S., this is not the case with Indians. According to the Pew Research Center, nearly 40 per cent of Indian immigrants are postgraduates. About 41 per cent of those who are foreign – born also have postgraduate degrees. They also contribute to the economy, as 65 per cent of them are employed and the Median Annual household income of Indians, both U.S. and foreign - born is approximately, \$100,000. Only four per cent of Indians are unemployed. Almost 55 per cent of Indians are homeowners.<sup>38</sup> Indian-origin scientists and engineers in the U.S. grew 85 per cent between 2003 and 2013, says a report by the National Science Foundation.<sup>39</sup>

There are a lot of Indian students who wish to pursue their higher studies in the United States. Antagonizing or making disparaging comments regarding the Indian community will ensure that colleges will lose the funds they get from Indian students. For universities who took a hit during the recession, foreign students are a boon. Last year (2016), new foreign students spent \$15.5 billion on a US education—back in 2008, they’d contributed about a third of the amount.<sup>40</sup>

From 2004 to 2016, the number of Indian students have increased from 80,464 to 165,918. They currently make up 15.9% of all international students in the USA.<sup>41</sup> The Indian community is clearly doing well for themselves. As stated earlier, Indians are present in Silicon Valley, the medical field, universities and the American government. Needless to say, Indians - foreign or American born are an integral part of the American society. Their contributions can go unpraised, but they cannot go unnoticed or be dismissed. Any racist or unfavorable behavior towards them would encourage Indian visa holders to emigrate from the U.S., which would obviously prove detrimental to the economy, labor force and the diversity of the United States.

Since Trump’s election, the number of Indian-born residents in the United States searching for jobs back in India has climbed more than tenfold, consulting firm Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu found. Six hundred people were searching in December, and the number spiked in March to 7,000. Four out of 10 U.S. colleges say they’ve seen a sharp drop in international applicants for the fall term, especially among applicants from India and China, the top sources for international students.<sup>42</sup>

As for Indian Americans, they hold American citizenship. Their opinion palpably matters, simply because they are American citizens. Their voices must be heard, and if discriminated against, these voters will determine the course of the next elections. As stated earlier, Hillary Clinton got majority of the Indian American votes. Thus, ignoring the opinion of a minority group that is so vital to U.S., will only prove to be inimical in the future. Not to mention, it is hard to decipher what Trump’s stance on India is, and will be in the future. With his constant flip - flopping, there is a possibility of India having a falling out with the U.S. As all of this confusion ensues, it is important to understand what Indians are thinking, as they are affected by Trump’s policy decisions. Any unfavorable decisions taken by Trump, will endanger their livelihood. Hence, finding out their opinion on the 45th President of the United States is imperative.

## **XIII. OBJECTIVES**

1. To find out whether Indians have a positive, negative or are unsure about their opinion on Donald Trump’s personality.

2. To find out whether Indians have a positive, negative or are unsure about their opinion on Candidate Donald Trump.
3. To find out whether Indians think Donald Trump is fit to be the President of the United States.
4. To find out whether Indians believe Donald Trump's foreign policy is good, bad or if they are unsure of their opinion on his policies.
5. To find out whether Indians think India - U.S. relations have improved under Donald Trump's presidency.

#### **XIV. METHODOLOGY**

For this study, the survey method was administered to understand the opinion of Indians about Donald Trump. A questionnaire consisting of 25 questions regarding Donald Trump was given to approximately 56 respondents. The survey was administered on cross - sectional respondents consisting of Indians of all ages, professions, political inclinations and gender. The 25 questions covered five major areas:

- 1) Indians opinion on Trump's personality.
- 2) Indians opinion on Candidate Trump.
- 3) Indians opinion on Trump's ability as President.
- 4) Indians opinion on Trump's foreign policy.
- 5) Indians opinion on U.S. – India relations under Trump.

All 25 questions are multiple choice questions. Out of 25 questions, 22 of them have three multiple choice options: 'yes', 'no' and 'not sure'. One question has three options: 'No- Hillary', 'Yes- Trump' and 'neither'. Another question had five options: 'defense/military', 'trade', 'visa/immigration', 'making India a permanent member of the security council' and 'economy'. The last question has 'no rating', 'bad', 'good', and 'mediocre'.

The questions were posted online, with the multiple-choice options, and an essay text box placed under each question. This was done in order to allow the respondents to leave any additional comments or justify their answer. The total number of responses for each question under each section were tabulated. The results were obtained by adding the number of 'yes', 'no', 'positive' and other multiple-choice options chosen by the respondents for all the questions, subsequently multiplying them by 100 and dividing them by 56 - which is the total number of responses obtained.

As there are five questions under each section, if the majority, that is if three or more number of questions under each section has a similar response, then the overall majority is taken into consideration, and mentioned in the analysis of each section. So, if three out of five questions have a positive response, in one section, then it is mentioned in the results.

#### **XV. ANALYSIS**

The survey on the 'The Indian Perception Of the 45<sup>th</sup> President Of The United States - Donald Trump' which consists of 25 questions was administered on 56 individuals from all ends of the political spectrum. They each were instructed to answer every question and choose one response from the multiple-choice options provided for each respective question.

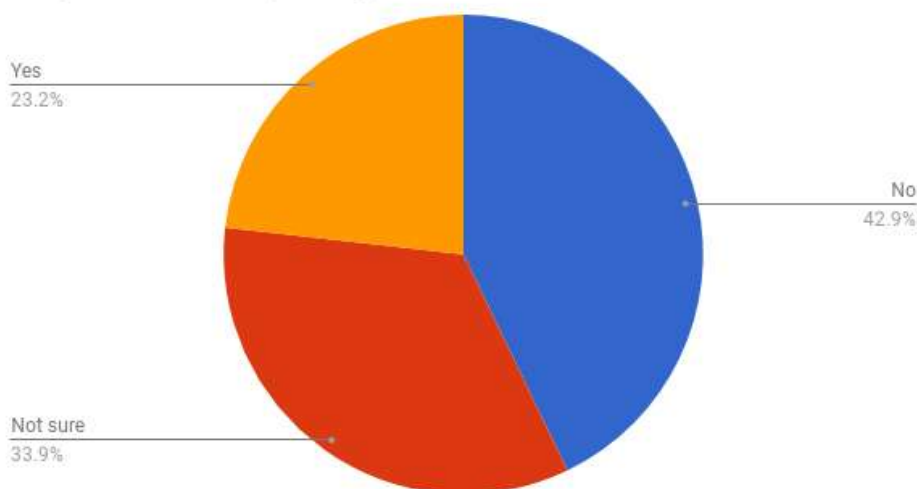
These 25 questions were categorized into five sections. Each section consisted of five questions, covering all aspects of President Trump.

##### **1.1 Section - A**

Section - A consisted of questions regarding Trump's personality. The first question asked was on Trump's ability as a speaker. President Trump is known for pleasing his base. His speeches have often led to many minority groups being offended. Trump has often been criticized for not talking about policy, but desecrating several communities and making false promises to his fan base.

When asked if Trump was a good orator, 42.9 per cent of the respondents said 'no'. Nearly 33.9 per cent are 'not sure' about his oratory skills. Approximately, 23.2 per cent of respondents stated 'yes' and believe that he is a good orator.

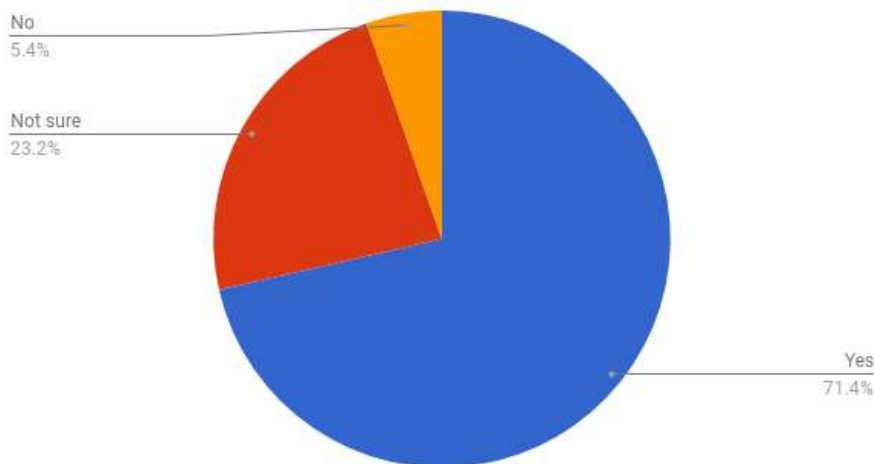
Do you think Trump is a good orator?



**Figure 1: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump is a good orator.**

The second question asked was regarding Trump's behaviour towards women. The respondents were asked about Trump's comments regarding women in the Access Hollywood tape that was leaked in October 2016. They were also asked if he was guilty of sexual assault. Almost 71.4 per cent of respondents stated 'yes'. About 23.2 per cent responded that they were 'not sure' as the allegations haven't been proved yet. A mere 5.4 per cent stated 'no', that he was not guilty of sexual assault.

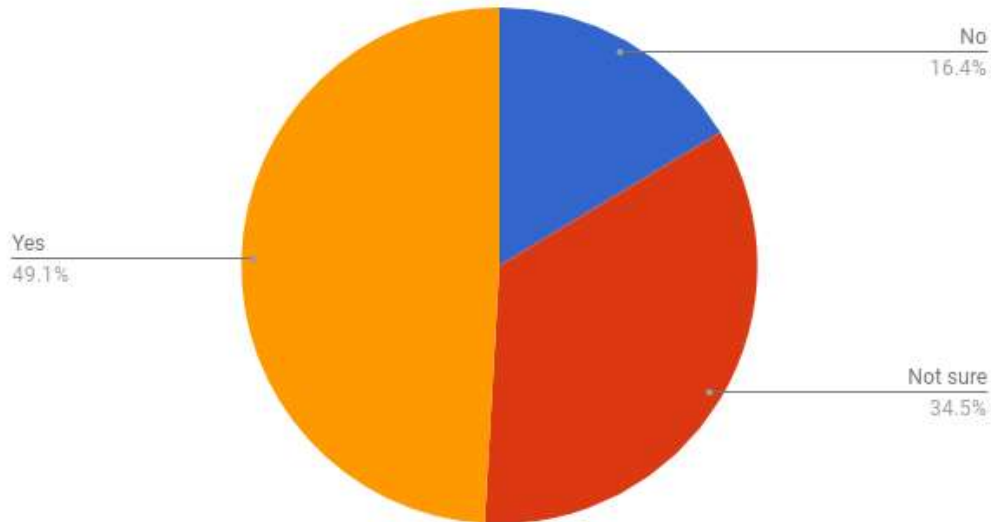
Do you think Trump is guilty of sexual assault?



**Figure 2: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump is guilty of sexual assault.**

The third question was about Trump's mental stability. According to Michael Wolff, the author of 'Fire and Fury', a book on Trump, the author claims that the current president is mentally unstable. The respondents were asked if Trump was of sound mind. Almost 49.1 per cent of respondents said 'yes' – he is mentally stable. Almost 34.5 per cent of the respondents were 'not sure' of the claims, and 16.4 per cent of the respondents said 'no'. They believed that he was mentally unstable.

Do you think Trump is mentally stable?

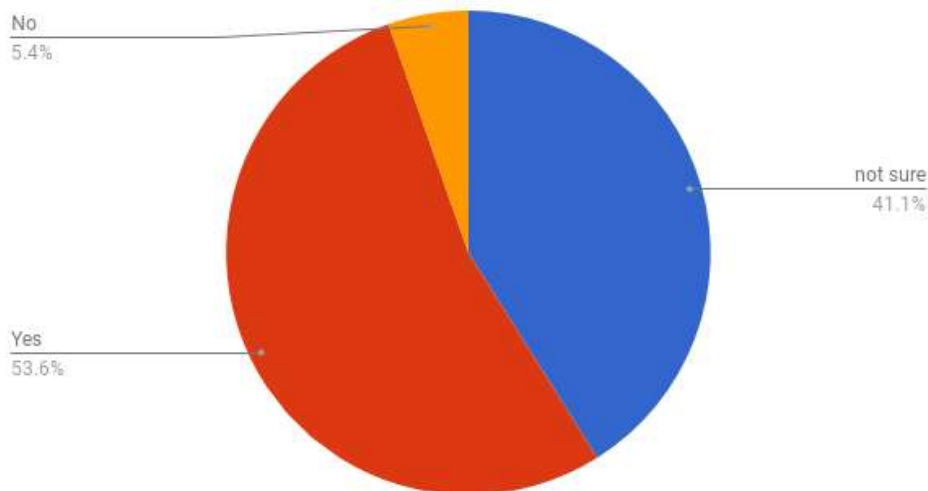


**Figure 3: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump is mentally stable.**

The fourth question was about Trump's honesty. In August 2016, Trump's campaign chairman, Paul Manafort resigned after reports showed that he had ties to pro-Russian politicians in Ukraine. Eventually, news about Trump's collusion with Russia spread like wildfire among the media. Former FBI Director James Comey who was investigating this collusion, was fired by Trump on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 - which questioned Trump's innocence in the investigation.

The 56 respondents were asked if they thought Trump was guilty of colluding with Russia or not. About 53.6 per cent of them believed that Trump *was guilty* of colluding with Russia, whilst 41.1 per cent were '*not sure*'. Only 5.4 per cent believed that he was *innocent*.

Do you think Trump is guilty of colluding with Russia?



**Figure 4: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, who think that Trump is guilty of colluding with Russia.**

The final question asked in this section was about Donald Trump's ability to handle media criticism. When asked if Trump could handle criticism, the majority of the respondents, which is 57 per cent stated '*no*'. They didn't think that he was capable of handling media criticism. About 23 per cent said '*yes*', that Trump was



capable of handling the heavy backlash he received from the press. Nearly, 20 per cent said that they were ‘not sure’.

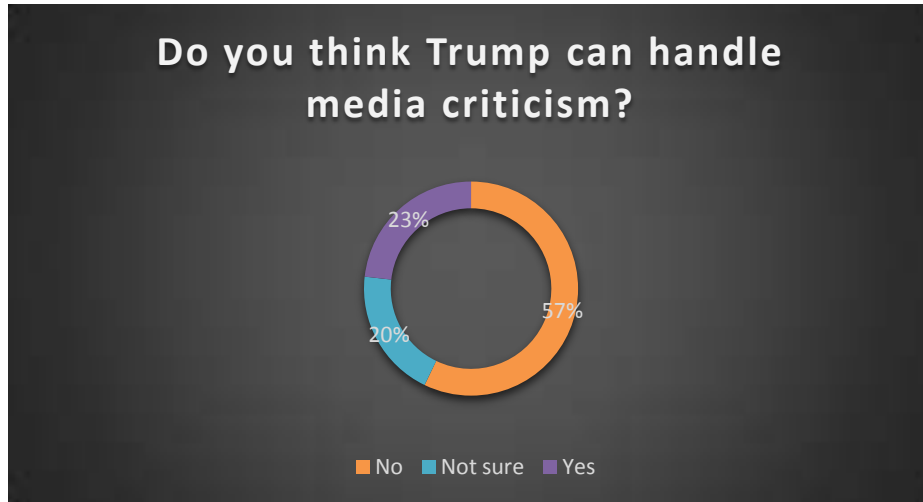


Figure 5: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump can handle criticism.

Out of the five questions in this section, majority of the respondents have provided a negative response for four questions on Trump’s personality.

### 1.2 Section – B

Section - B consists of questions regarding the Indian opinion on Candidate Donald Trump. The first question was about Trump’s worthiness as a presidential candidate. In this question, the respondents were asked whether they think if Trump was a worthy presidential candidate, or whether it was Hillary. They were given a third option of choosing neither candidate.

According to 56.4 per cent of the respondents, *Hillary Clinton* was the most deserving and worthy presidential candidate in the 2016 elections. Approximately, 23.6 per cent believe that *Trump* is more deserving of a candidate than Hillary. Nearly, 20 per cent believe that neither candidates are worthy of being President.

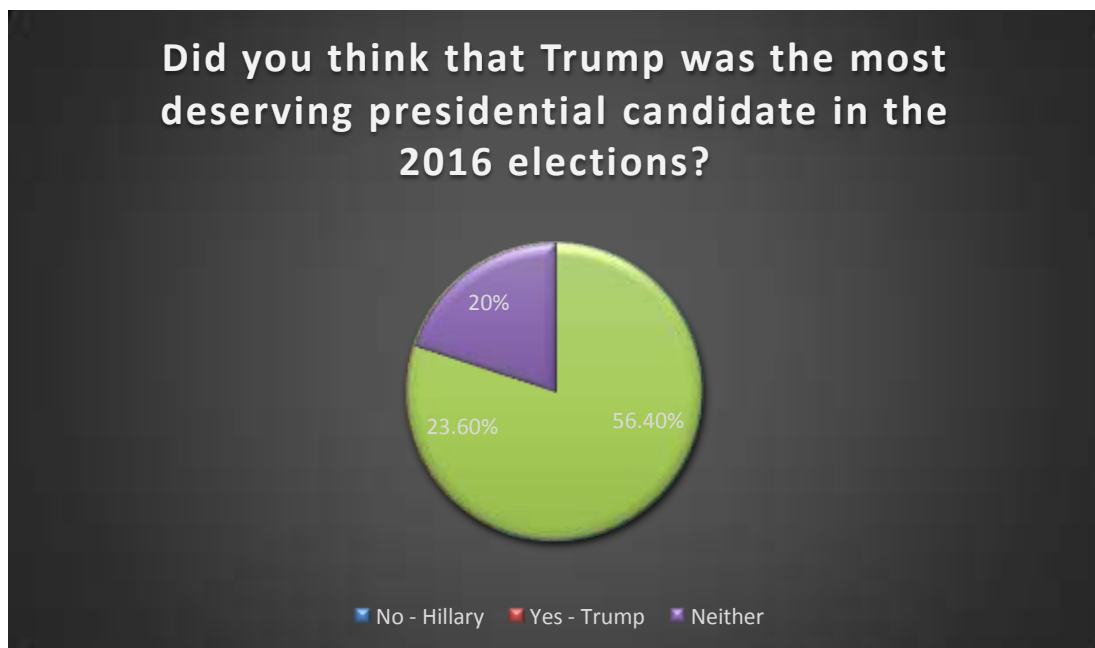
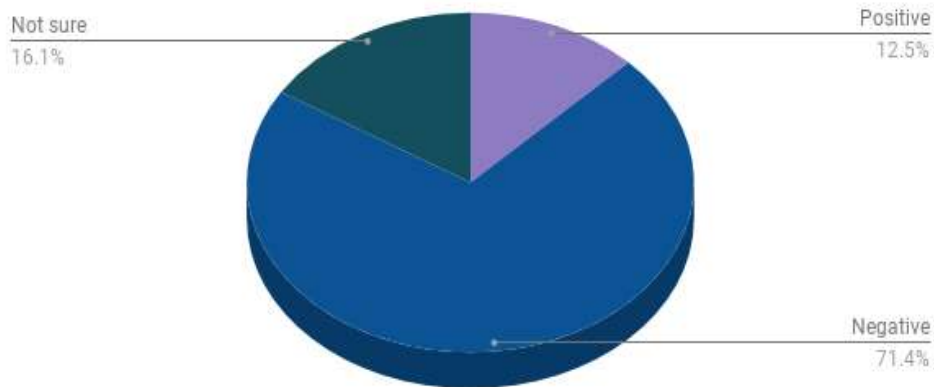


Figure 6: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on who they think was the most deserving presidential candidate in the 2016.

The second question asked was whether the respondents had a positive, negative, or were unsure of the exact opinion they had about Donald Trump during the campaign. Approximately, 71.4 per cent of respondents had a *negative* opinion about him, whilst 16.1 per cent of them were *unsure* of whether they had a positive or negative opinion. Only 12.5 per cent of respondents had a *positive* opinion about him.

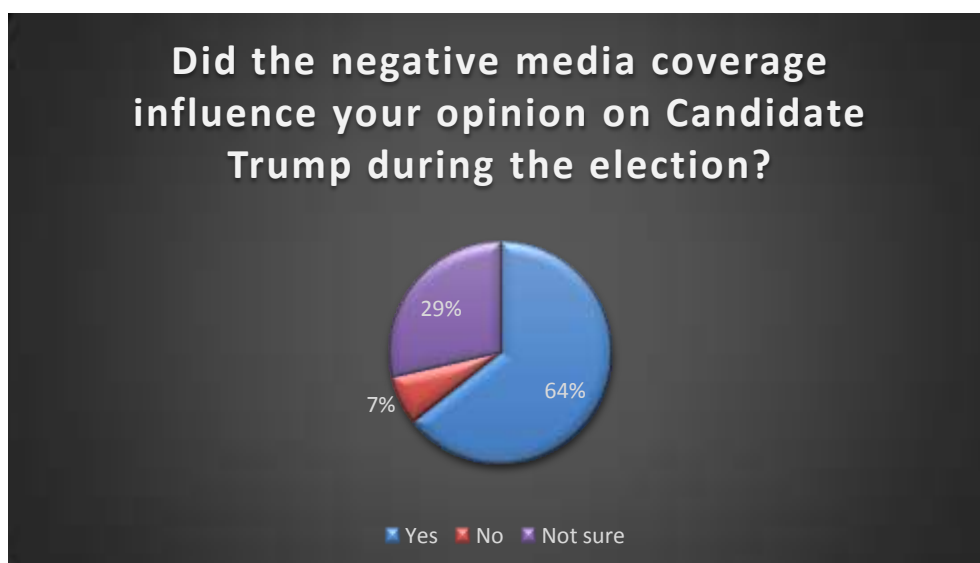
What was your opinion on Donald Trump during the election campaign?



**Figure 7: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on what their opinion was about Trump during the election campaign.**

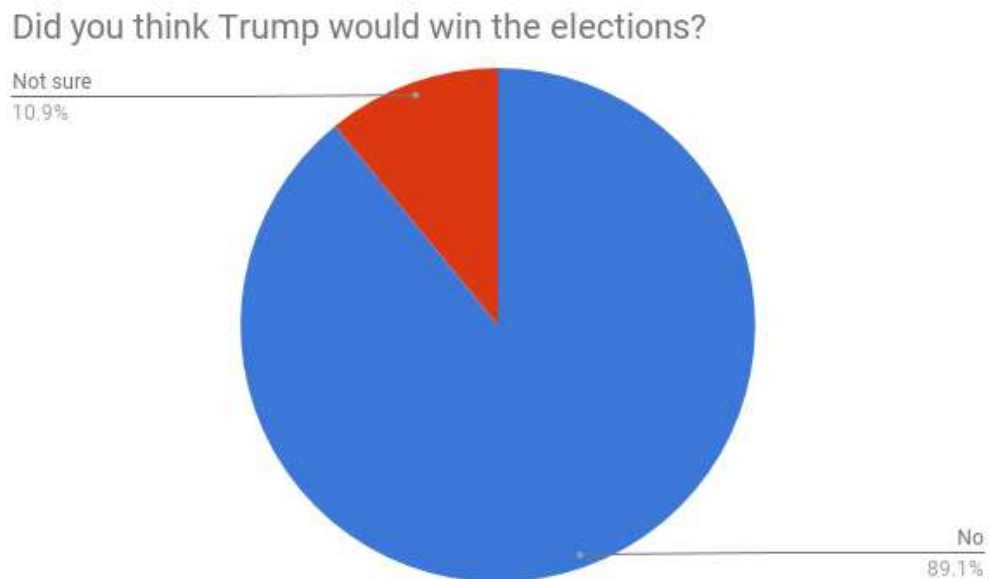
The third question was on whether the respondents' opinion on Candidate Trump was influenced by the negative media coverage (both Indian and foreign). About 64.3 per cent of respondents *have* been influenced to form their opinion on Trump based on the negative media coverage he received during the campaign.

Nearly 28.6 per cent stated that they are *not sure* about the role the media had played in influencing their opinion on Trump. About 7.1 per cent of respondents confirm that their opinion on Trump *has not* been influenced by media outlets. The 7.1 per cent have formed their opinion based on listening to his speeches and observing his behavior.



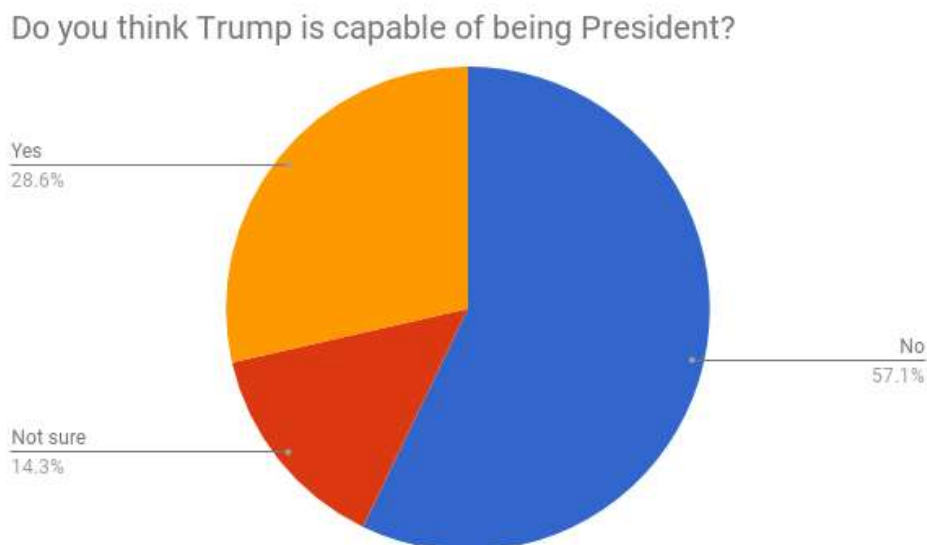
**Figure 8: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether the media coverage influenced their opinion on Candidate Trump during the campaign.**

The fourth question asked was whether they expected Candidate Trump to win the election. Approximately, 89.1 per cent of the respondents did *not* expect Trump to win at all, and only 10.9 per cent of the respondents were '*not sure*' whether he would win or lose during the campaign. However, *none* of the respondents expected him to win.



**Figure 9: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they thought that Trump would win the elections.**

The fifth question was about whether Trump has the capacity to be the President of the United States. About 57.1 per cent of the respondents believe that Trump is *not* capable of being President. In comparison, 28.6 per cent of respondents think that he *is capable* of being the President. Nearly, 14.3 per cent are *unsure* of his capabilities.

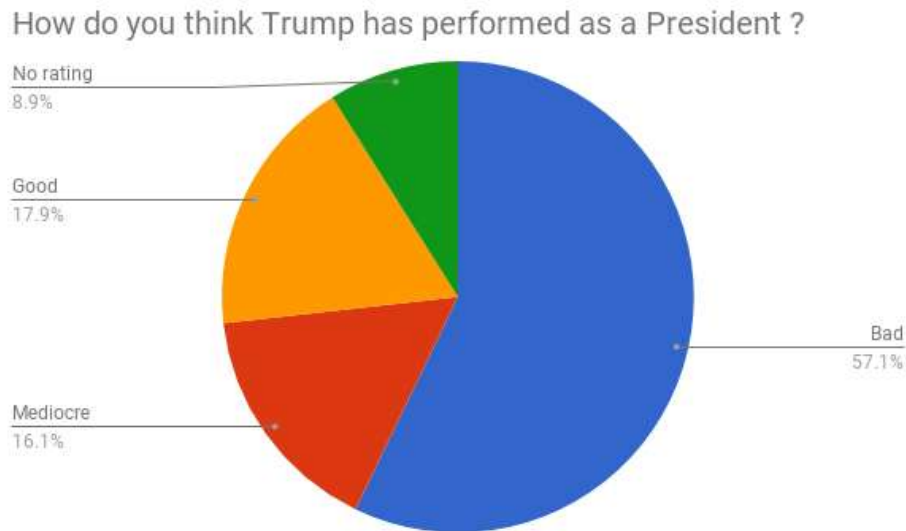


**Figure 10: The pie chart represents the percentage of opinion of respondents, on whether they think Trump is capable of being President.**

Out of the five questions in this section, majority of the respondents have provided a negative response for five questions on Candidate Trump.

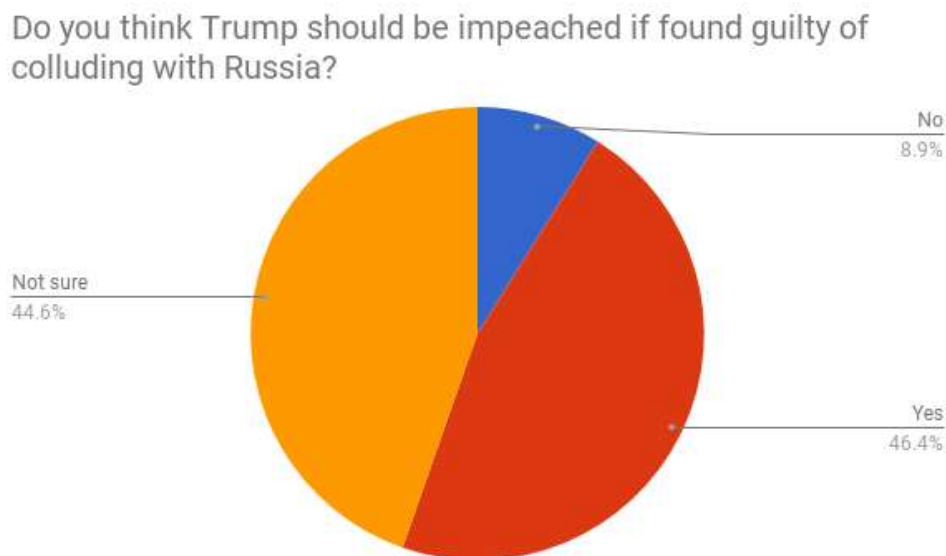
### 1.3 Section – C

Section - C covers Trump's ability as President. The first question required the respondents to rate Trump's performance after one year as the President of the United States. They were asked to choose whether his performance was good, bad, or mediocre. They also had the option of choosing 'no rating' as well. Almost 57.1 per cent of the respondents think Trump has done a *bad* job as President so far. Nearly 17.9 per cent think that he has done a *good* job, while 16.1 per cent believe he's done a *mediocre* job. About 8.9 per cent of respondents did not give him a rating.



**Figure 11: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on how they think Trump has performed as President.**

The second question asked was whether Trump should be impeached if he was found guilty for colluding with Russia. Though colluding with a foreign adversary is not a crime in the United States, the respondents were asked if Trump should be impeached. Nearly 46.4 per cent of respondents said 'yes'. Almost 44.6 per cent were 'not sure' whether he should be impeached or not. Approximately, 8.9 per cent of them were *against* the idea of impeaching Trump.



**Figure 12: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump should be impeached if found guilty of colluding with Russia.**

The third question was about Trump's tweeting habits. The respondents were asked if they wanted him to continue tweeting. Almost 52.7 per cent of the respondents *do not* want Trump to continue tweeting.

Approximately, 32.7 per cent of respondents are *not sure* of their position on this matter, and only 14.5 per cent believe that he *should* continue tweeting.

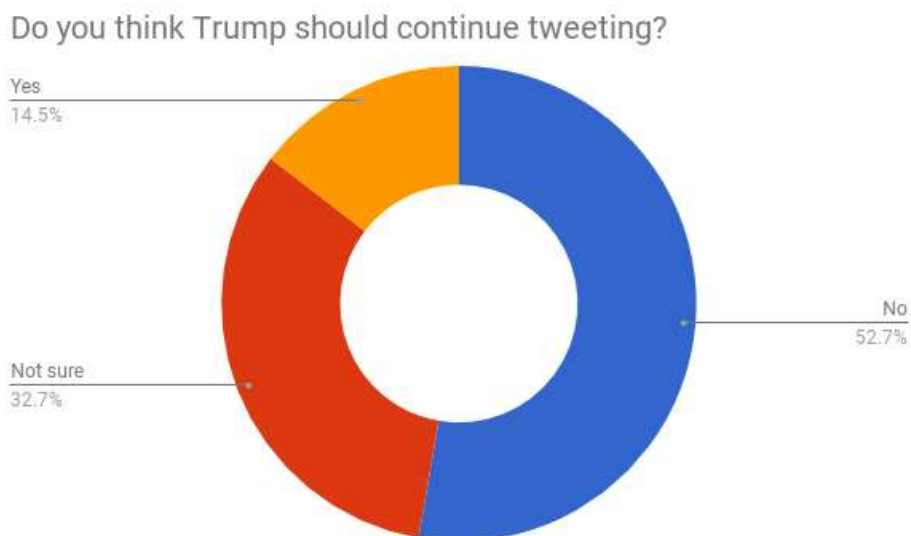


Figure 13: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump should continue tweeting.

The fourth question was whether Trump's administration was organized or not. Nearly 36.4 per cent believe that Trump's administration is *not* organized. Approximately, 38.2 per cent have a contrary opinion. So far, after firing seven high profile members of his administration, and five members resigning, Indians still believe that his administration is *organized*. Nearly 25.5 per cent are *unsure*.

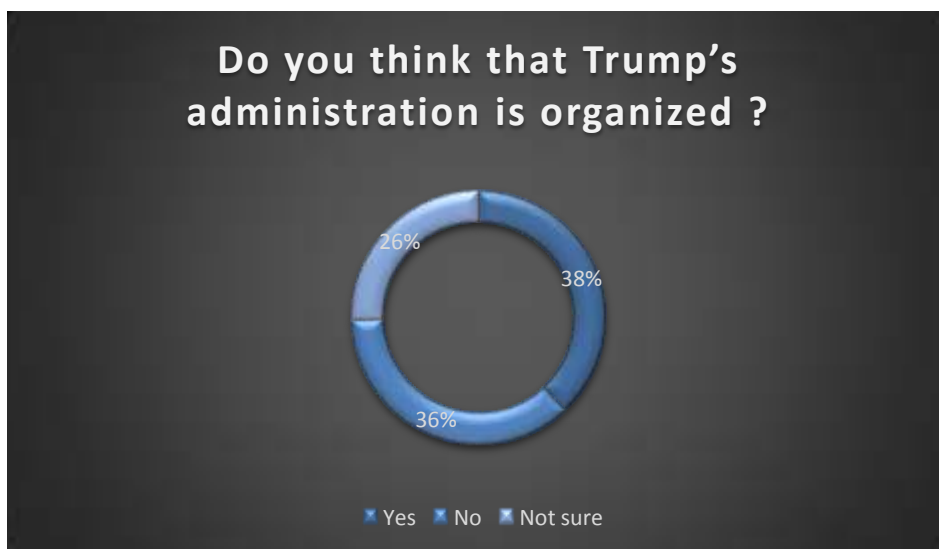
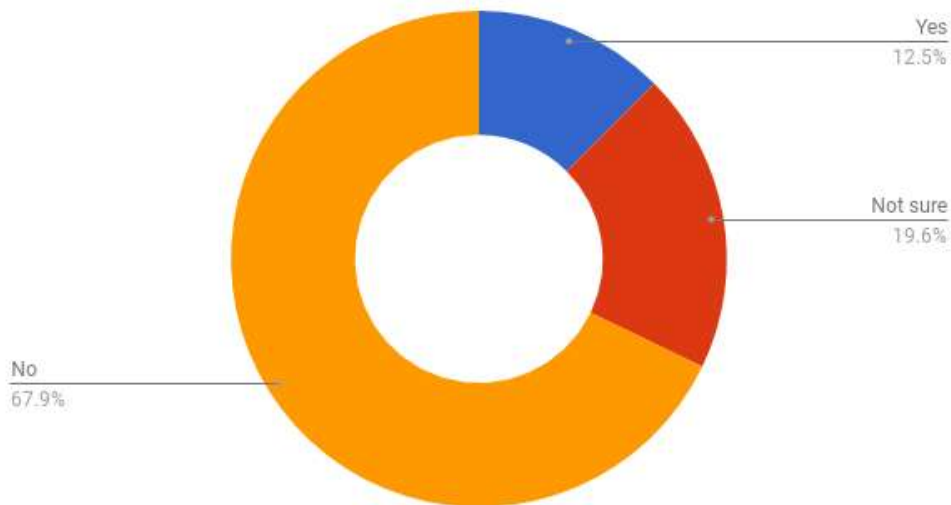


Figure 14: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents on whether they think Trump's administration is organized.

The fifth question asked was whether the United States had elected the right candidate or not. Nearly 67.9 per cent of respondents believe that Americans elected the wrong candidate, as they responded with a 'no'. About 19.6 per cent of the respondents were not 'not sure', while only 12.5 per cent of respondents believe that America elected the right candidate. So they responded with a 'yes'.



Do you think America elected the right candidate?



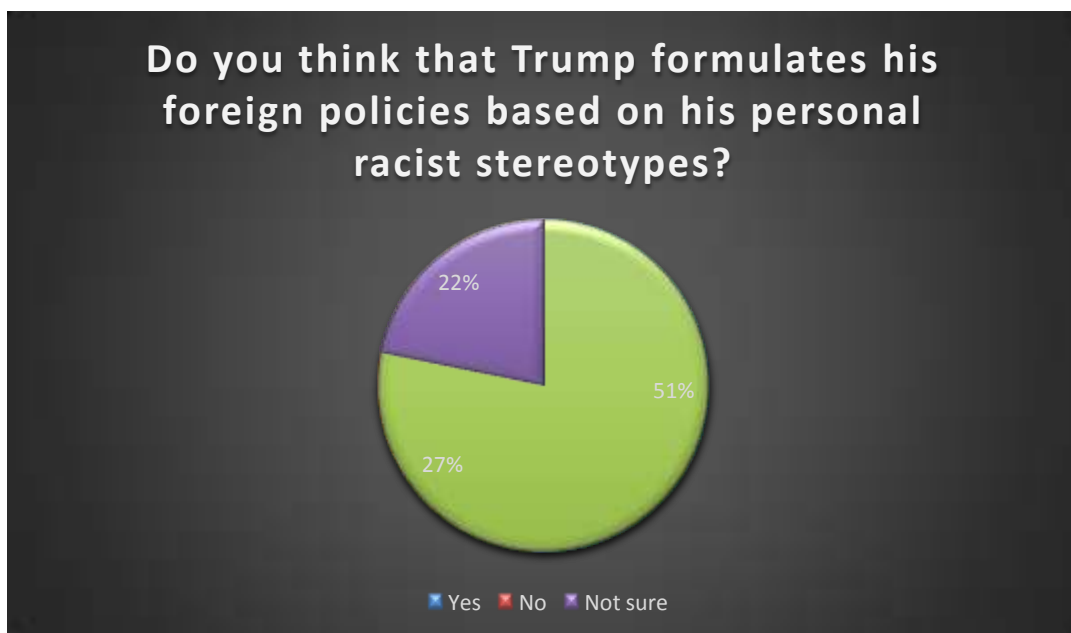
**Figure 15: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think America elected the right candidate.**

Out of the five questions in this section, majority of the respondents have provided a negative response for four questions on Trump's ability as President.

#### 1.4 Section – D

Section – D has questions regarding Trump's foreign policy. Ever since he commenced his election campaign, Trump has been talking about foreign policy. Irrespective of whether its Mexico, North Korea or China – Trump has a foreign policy tailor - made for each of them.

The first question focuses on *how* Trump formulates his foreign policies. The respondents were asked if they think that Trump decides on his foreign policies based on his personal racist stereotypes. Approximately, 50.9 per cent of them were *sure* that Trump is racist and makes policies based on this. Almost 27.3 per cent said '*no*', and 21.8 per cent were *unsure*.



**Figure 16: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump is racist or not.**

The second question the respondents had to answer in this section, was about Trump declaring that the United States was moving their embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Hence, the respondents were asked if Trump had ruined the peace in the Middle East by declaring Jerusalem as Israel's capital. About 56.4 per cent of the respondents were *unsure* whether this decision had worsened the situation in the Middle East or not, as tension has always existed between the two countries. Nearly 23.6 per cent believe that Trump *hasn't* worsened the situation. Only 20 per cent believe that he *has* worsened the situation between Israel and Palestine.

Do you think Trump worsened the situation between Israel and Palestine?

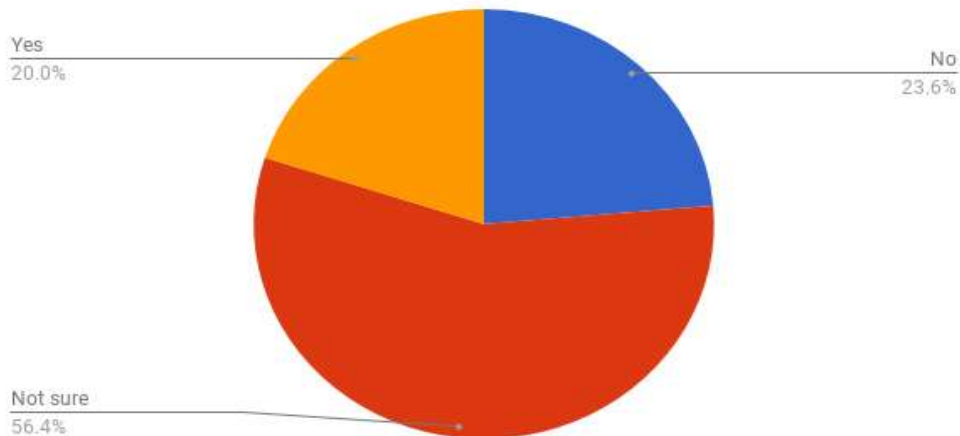


Figure 17: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump has worsened the situation between Israel and Palestine.

The third question asked was regarding Trump's campaign promise to build a border wall between Mexico and the United States. The respondents were asked whether building a wall would keep illegal immigrants out of the United States. Nearly, 83.6 per cent of respondents stated that building a wall *would not* keep out illegal immigrants. About 12.7 per cent of them were *unsure*, and only 3.6 per cent were *sure* that the border wall would reduce the number of illegal immigrants entering the United States border.

Do you think Trump's decision to build a wall will help reduce illegal immigration?

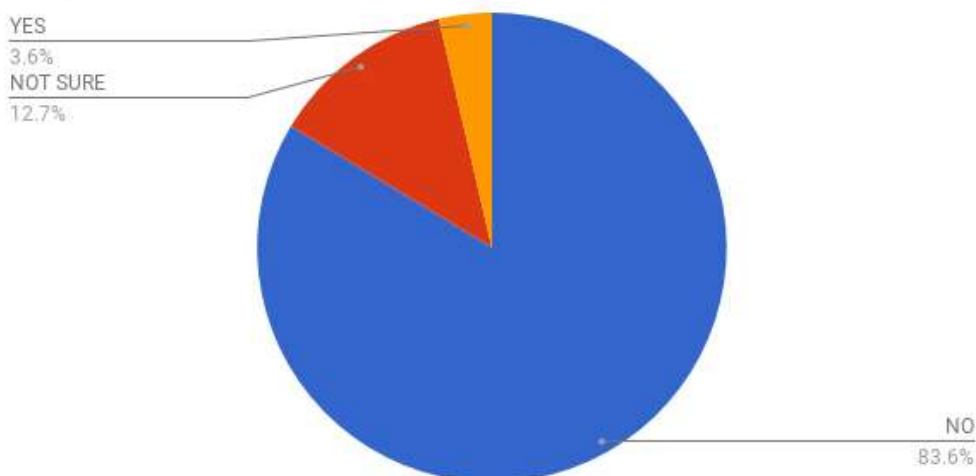
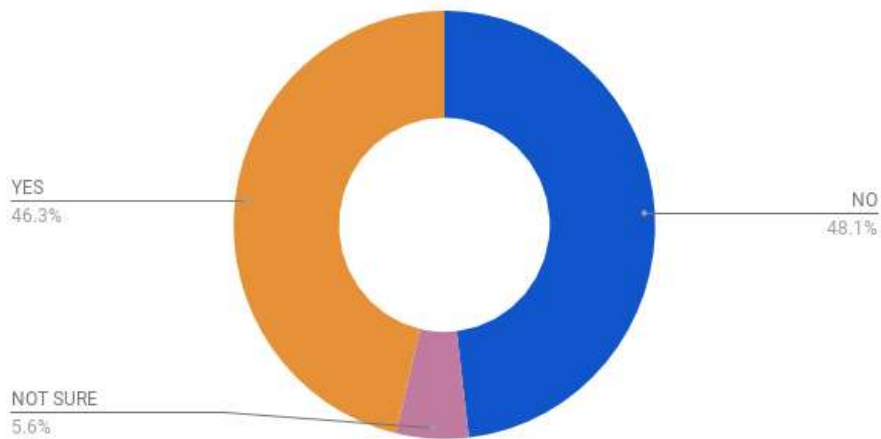


Figure 18: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump's decision to build a wall will reduce illegal immigration.

The fourth question was about whether Trump's decision to build a border wall would negatively affect the relationship the United States has with Mexico. Approximately, 48.1 per cent of the respondents believe that Trump's border wall *will not* ruin the relationship between Mexico and the United States. But nearly 46.3 per cent of the respondents are of the opinion that Trump's wall *will* affect America's relationship with Mexico. Only 5.6 per cent of the respondents were *unsure* of U.S. – Mexico relations after the construction of the border wall.

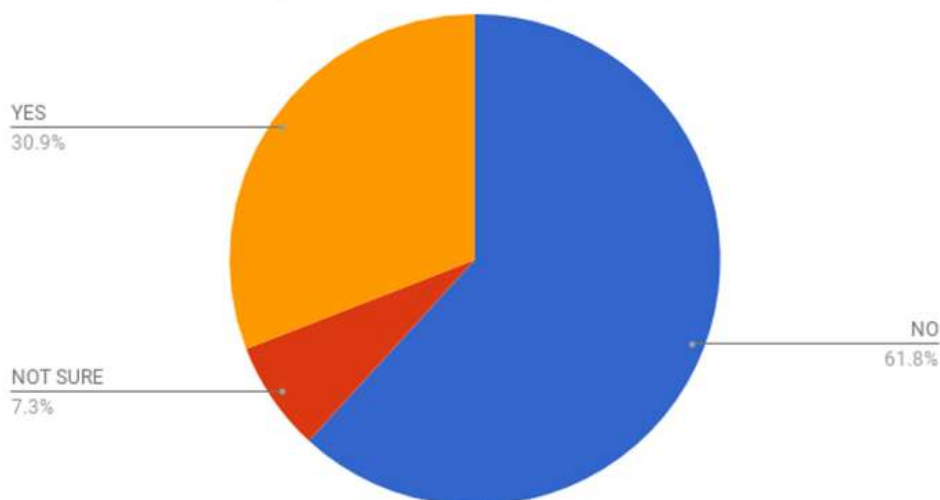
Do you think America's relationship with Mexico will be affected due to Trump building the border wall?



**Figure 19:** The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think America's relationship with Mexico will be affected due to Trump's border wall.

The final question asked in this section is about Trump's travel ban on the seven Muslim majority countries. An overwhelming majority of the respondents, which is 61.8 per cent are of the opinion that the travel ban was a bad idea. They were staunchly *against* the Muslim ban instated by Trump. About 30.9 per cent of the respondent *supported* this ban, and only 7.3 per cent of the respondents were *unsure* of the stance on the Muslim ban.

Do you think Trump's travel ban is a good idea?



**Figure 20:** The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump's travel ban is a good idea.

Out of the five questions in this section, majority of the respondents have provided a negative response for four questions on Trump's foreign policy.

1.5 Section – E

Section – E covers the current India – U.S. relationship. The first question the respondents were asked, was whether Trump wants to build a stronger relationship with India. However, his feelings regarding India is rather ambiguous. Hence, they were asked if Trump’s foreign policy is targeted to strengthen ties between the U.S. and India.

Almost 48.2 per cent of the respondents are *unsure* whether Trump wants to build a stable international relationship among the two countries. Approximately, 33.9 per cent of the respondents believe that Trump *does not* want to build a strong relationship with India. Only 17.9 per cent of respondents believe that Trump *wants* to have a friendly and stable relationship with India.

Do you think Trump really wants to strengthen India - U.S. relations?

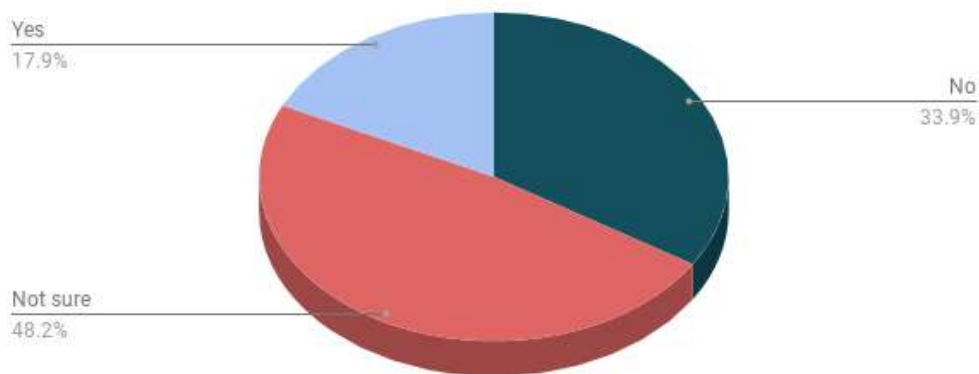


Figure 21: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether Trump really wants to strengthen India- U.S. relations.

For the second question, the respondents were asked whether Indo – U.S. relations have improved since Trump become President. Almost 55.4 per cent of the respondents were *unsure* if Indo – American relations have improved. Nearly, 35.7 per cent of them believed the relationship between India and America has remained *unchanged* since the Obama administration, and there was no evident difference. Only 8.9 per cent of the respondents believe that the relationship between India and America *has improved* under the Trump administration.

Do you think Indo - American relations have improved?

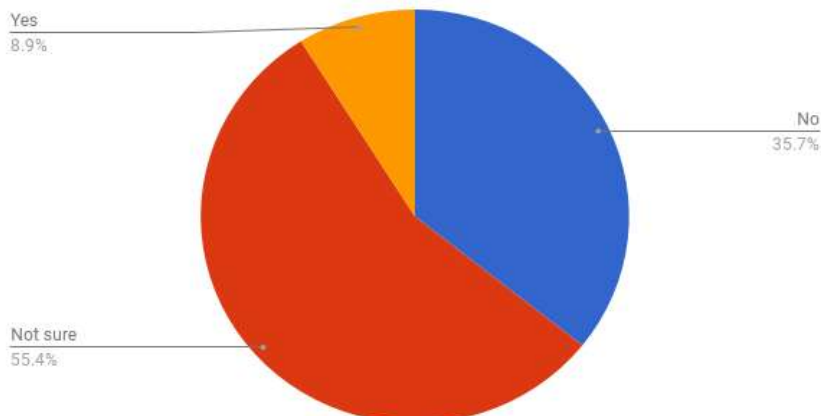


Figure 22: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether Indo- American relations have improved under the Trump administration.

The third question is about what Trump can do for India as President. The respondents were asked to choose between six options: ‘defense/military’, ‘trade’, ‘visa/immigration’, ‘making India a permanent member of the security council’, ‘nothing’ and ‘economy’. An overwhelming majority of the respondents, that is, 63 per cent are convinced that Trump *cannot do anything* for India. Whilst 22 per cent of them believe that Trump can relax the strict immigration rules for India, making it easier to obtain a visa or green card. About seven per cent of them believe that Trump can help India develop its military and nuclear defense system. Whereas, four per cent of the respondents believe that he can further develop the Indian Economy. Another four per cent believe that he can campaign to make India a permanent member of the Security Council in the United Nations.

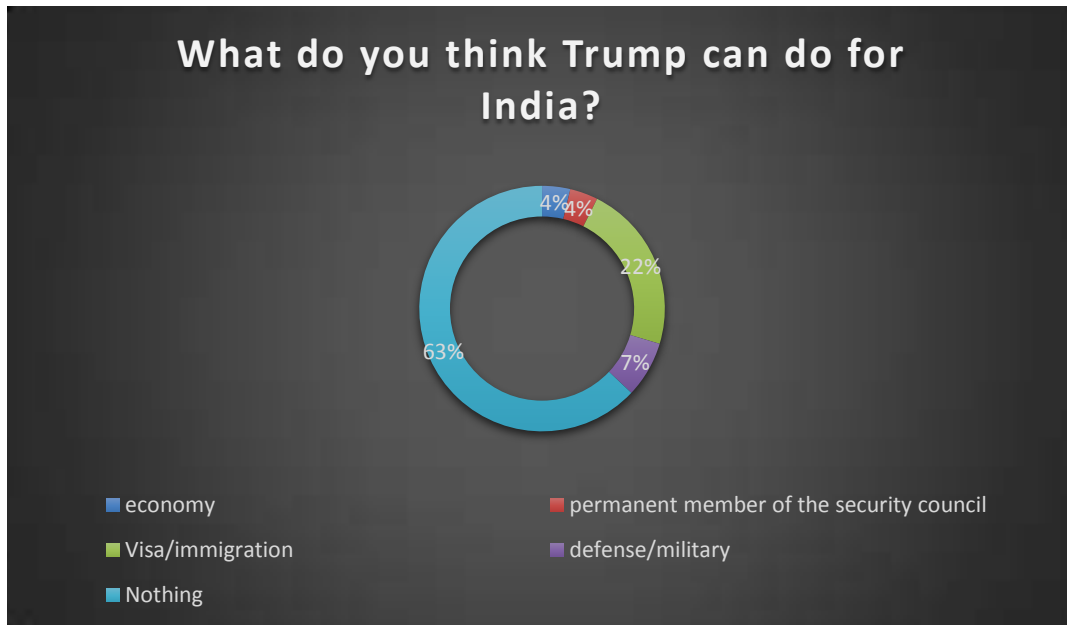


Figure 23: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on what they think Trump can do for India.

The fourth question is about Trump ceasing financial aid to Pakistan. The respondents were asked if this move could help reduce the terror threat India constantly faces. Precisely 58.2 per cent of the respondents stated that stopping aid to Pakistan *would not* help diminish the terror threat to India. Only 23.6 per cent of the respondents gave an affirmative response stating that *this could* lessen the terror threat to some extent. Whereas, 18.2 per cent of them were *unsure and sceptical* whether withholding aid to Pakistan could decrease the terror threat.

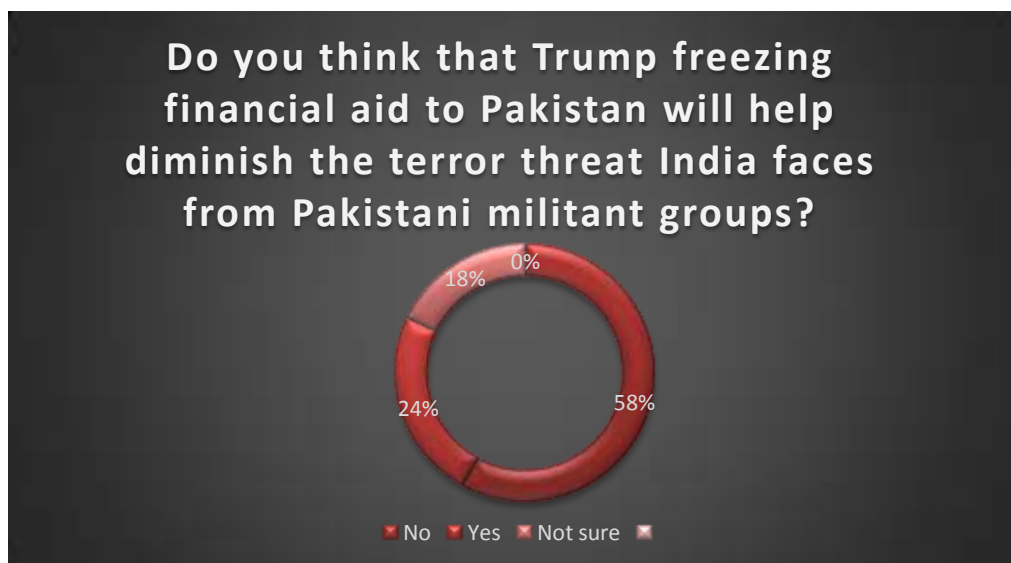
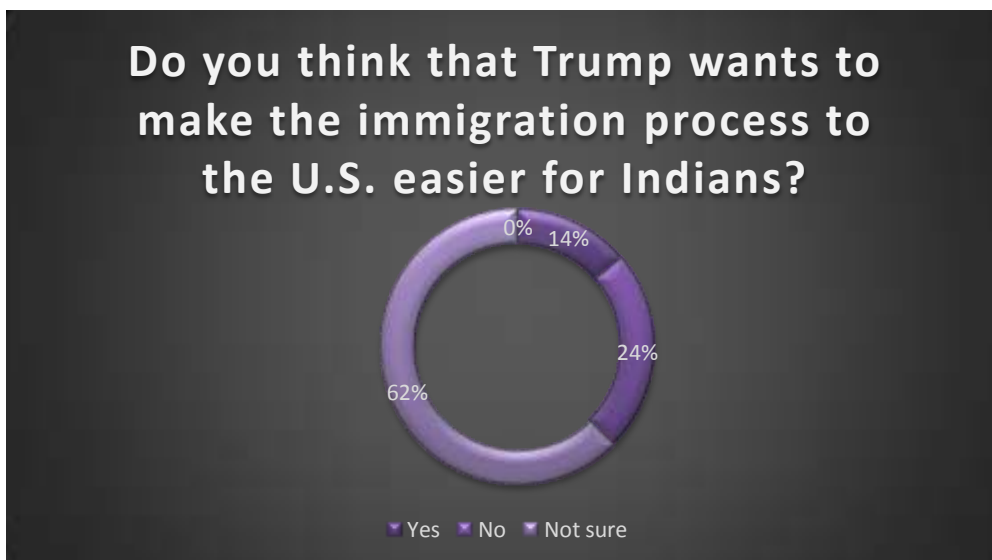


Figure 24: The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents, on whether they think Trump freezing financial aid to Pakistan can help reduce the terror threat for India from Pakistani militant groups.



The fifth question is about Trump's immigration policy, specifically with regard to the H1B work visa. As there have been reports on visa restrictions and a refusal to renew the H1B visa, the respondents were asked about this. Nearly 62.5 per cent of the respondents are *unsure* whether Trump wants to make immigration easier for Indians who wish to work in the United States. While 23.2 per cent are sure that he *does not want* to encourage Indians to work in the United States, as he has an America first policy. Only 14.3 per cent of the respondents affirm that he *wants* to help Indians immigrate.



**Figure 25:**The pie chart represents the opinion of the respondents on whether they think Trump wants to make the immigration process to the U.S. easier for Indians.

Out of the five questions in this section, majority of the respondents have provided unsure responses for three questions regarding the Indo - American relationship under the Trump administration.

## **XVI. CONCLUSION**

- 1) Indians have a negative opinion on Trump's personality.
- 2) Indians have a negative opinion about Candidate Trump.
- 3) Indians believe that Trump is not fit to be President.
- 4) Indians believe that Trump's foreign policies are bad.
- 5) Indians are not sure if the India – U.S. relationship has improved under the Trump administration.

## **XVII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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