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Politics of Public Opinion

Opinion polls are in their real sense are referred to as a poll or survey having one or more open-ended questions that can be asked by a particular sample to know their response about a specific phenomenon. They are usually designed to reflect the people’s opinions about something by undertaking a series of questions and then inferring the general response from the sample. Opinion polls are helpful in many ways especially in the context of significant impact involving the majority of people, e.g. in the matters of politics (Quinnipiac University, 2019). They play a key role in politics and should not be ignored. They are used to assess the performance of the selected and elected candidates in the eyes of people.

Recently a poll was conducted from 3 to 5th of March 2019 in which many Americans were selected as a sample by their gender, age, race, family income, census region and ideology (Realclearpolitics, 2019). The question which was asked from them is currently a debated topic in the United States of America, i.e., "Direction of Country." It was related to the direction of the country currently from an economic and political point of view as due to the change in government, many rules and laws are recently revised. Trump Government is selected for the first time, and he brought many drastic changes to the country. There three options are given to select from, and the first option was, “Generally headed in the right direction," second being as "Off on the wrong track," and the third option was provided as "Not sure." The sample was randomly selected from within the country, and the universe of the poll was the total population currently present in the United States of America.

The results were revealed to be 36.9% opting for the right direction while 56.6% of the people in the sample considered it to be the wrong direction. Generally, states pay for this kind of polls where the government performance is concerned so that they could know what people are thinking about governance (Pollingreport.Com, 2019). In a democratic country like the United States of America, it is essential to understand what the majority is supporting and what actions they consider are wrong.

The poll was conducted by Economist, Monmouth, Politico, Reuters, Rasmussen Reports, IBD, Harvard-Harris and Emerson. These organizations that were involved in the survey were either news organization, research, and data analytics firms or multinational firms, etc. These types of polls are state-funded; this is why extra measures are taken to undertake a good survey with no significant errors (Gallup, 2019). But uncertainties are sometimes there that often affects the results of the polls (CBS News Polls, 2019). Likewise, their surveys might not have provided accurate results due to the racial makeup, political ideology, and party support, as well as technical issue in the methodology of the poll.

Politicians should necessarily listen to the results of the poll and should get to know what people are saying. Policymakers should also keep an eye on the public views by differentiating between the facts and the distorted arguments. Polls are the easiest way to get to know what the public wants and perform accordingly so that they could select the same candidates in the next elections too. Policymakers should analyze everything in the answers of the survey and then complete review and reassessment on the policies they have implemented on the general public. Often it happens that policymakers are in the delusion that their plans are useful for the whole population while the reality tells the other thing. Politicians and policymakers should work together to satisfy the citizens so that society could prosper.

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