A Profile of the Indian American Population in North Texas

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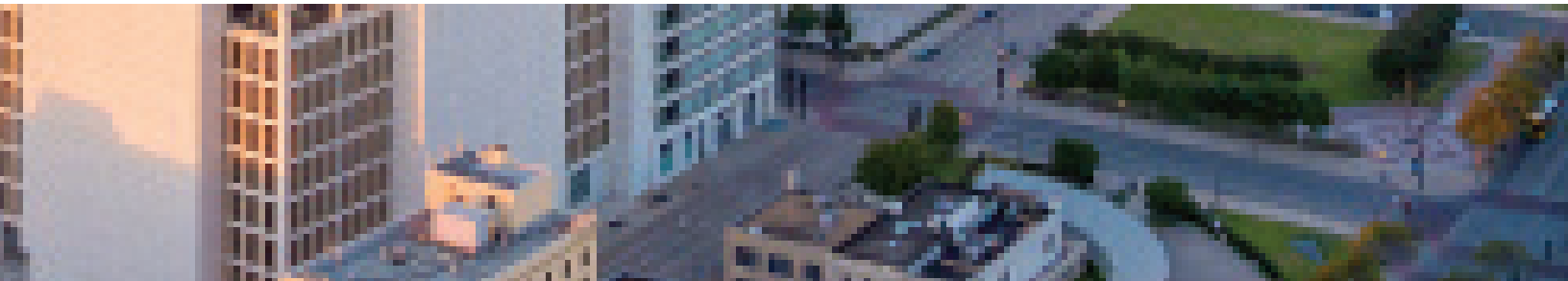

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About This Report

This report, funded by the Indian American Chief Executive Officer (IACEO) organization, was produced by the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas. We are grateful to the many members of the community who shared their perspectives with us in the course of conducting this research.

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Introduction

Indian Americans, numbering more than 4.16 million, have appeared as a significant political constituency in the United States.[1] Indian Americans constitute a total voter population of 1.9 million, or 0.82 percent of the total voter population. Despite their rising political profile, the political views of the Indian American community are understudied. According to a recent poll by YouGov, 72 percent of Indian Americans leaned Democrat, and 22 percent leaned Republican in the 2020 presidential elections.[2] Indian Americans constitute a relatively young population with a median age of 40 compared to 46 for all other immigrants.[3] About two-thirds of Indian Americans reached the United States after 2000. Because of their relatively young status and recent arrival, it is possible that the full political impact of the Indian American community has not been fully realized.

Indian Americans are among the highest median-income earners of all immigrants. In 2019, the annual median household income of Indian Americans was $119,000, significantly higher than that of all Asian groups combined at $85,800.[4] The pattern of higher-than-average median income for Indian Americans is replicated across various other economic indicators, including poverty rate and homeownership rate. Besides high-income status, Indian Americans are also the highest educated and fastest growing racial group in the United States.

In this study, we use both quantitative and qualitative analyses to examine the economic, political, and social characteristics of the Indian American community in the North Texas region. Using data collected and provided by various government agencies, we analyze the demographic, market, education, and workforce characteristics of the Indian American population in the North Texas region and conduct further analysis in the context of the state and the nation. The study also highlights individual and group examples of successful engagement within the Indian American community and the opportunities those successes highlight for other racial groups.

Secondary Data Analysis

Using data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample, we draw estimates for the Indian American community in the areas of average wage, educational attainment, occupation, courses of study, and employment status. We make comparisons with two other racial categories: other Asians and Whites. For drawing these estimates, the geographic area of focus is the Dallas-Fort Worth region. This constitutes the counties of Dallas, Collin, Tarrant, and Denton. Estimates are at the individual level instead of at the household level.[5]

Mean Wage

Indian Americans earn a higher average wage than most other racial groups. Table 1 depicts the 2019 average wage for various racial groups in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. As shown, the average

1 Budiman, A. (2021). *Indians in the U.S. Fact Sheet*. Pew Research Center.
2 Badrinathan, S., Kapur, D. & Vaishnav, M. (2020). *How Will Indian Americans Vote? Results from 2020 Indian Attitudes Survey*. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
3 Hanna, M. & Batalova, J. (2020). *Indian Immigrants in the United States*. Migration Policy Institute.
4 Budiman, A. (2021)
5 One caveat worth mentioning is that for the purpose of drawing these estimates, we consider the various racial categories on a stand-alone basis. Thus, estimates for the category of Indian American would imply that it is for Indian American alone, and not Indian American in combination with other racial groups. Similarly, estimates for white and African American categories would represent white alone and African American alone, respectively.

Table 1. Mean wage by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, 2019.

Race/Ethnicity	Mean Wage
Indian American	$58,879
Other Asian	$36,301
White	$39,895
All other groups	$27,986

wage for Indian Americans was USD 58,879 compared to USD 36,301 for other Asians and USD 39,895 for White persons. The average wage for all other racial groups was reported at USD 27,986. In other words, Indian Americans earn about 48 percent more than their white counterparts and 62 percent more than other Asians.[6]

Educational Attainment

Table 2 shows education attainment by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Of the racial categories included in the analysis, Indian Americans have the highest proportion of population with a 4-year college degree or a graduate degree. Specifically, more than one-in-four Indian Americans has a 4-year college degree, compared to about one-in-five whites. Other Asians are comparable to Indian Americans, with 23.7 percent holding a 4-year degree. More than 60 percent of Indian Americans in North Texas have a four-year or graduate degree. One-in-three Indian Americans in the Dallas-Fort Worth area have a graduate degree, compared to about one-in-ten whites and one-in-five other Asians. Overall, about 60 percent of Indian Americas have a college degree of some sort. Indian Americans in North Texas have a slightly higher level of education than their peers elsewhere in Texas (54 percent with a bachelors or graduate degree) and elsewhere in the United States (58 percent).[7]

Occupation

Compared to their overall number in the workforce, Indian Americans are overrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations in North Texas. Table 3 shows occupations by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for 2019. Almost one-in-three Indian Americans works in computer and mathematical occupations, which is far higher than other Asians, Whites, and others. Compared to other Asians, Indian Americans are twice as likely to work in management occupations, outpacing Whites, too, by two percentage points. While a clear plurality of Indian American workers are in the computer and mathematics field, no other racial group has such a clear preference. White workers show some concentration in white-collar positions (sales, management, etc.). Other Asians show an even wider variety in their preference structures. Other occupations in which Indian Americans have a higher representation than other racial groups include management, business and financial operations, architecture and engineering, and healthcare practitioners. It is interesting to note that more than one-half of Indian American employees work in only three industries: computer and mathematical, management, and healthcare practitioners. No other group shows such a prevalent clustering. This patterns is only slightly exaggerated in North Texas when compared to the rest of the country. While more than 53 percent of Indian American in North Texas

6 US Census Bureau, "American Community Survey Public Use Microsample Data" (US Census Bureau, 2020), https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata.html.

7 Ibid.

Table 2. Education attainment by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, 2019.

	No Formal Ed.	Less Than HS	Some HS	HS Grad.	Some Coll.	4-Year Coll. Grad.	Grad. Degree
Indian American	3.2%	18.7%	4.8%	6.2%	7.3%	25.2%	34.6%
Other Asians	5.3%	15.0%	8.4%	14.4%	16.1%	23.7%	17.1%
White	3.5%	19.1%	9.3%	17.7%	22.5%	19.2%	8.8%
All Others	4.5%	20.9%	11.5%	12.3%	24.1%	11.7%	6.1%

Table 3. Occupations by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, 2019.

	Indian American	Other Asians	White	All Others
Computers & Mathematics	29.7%	9.2%	3.5%	2.8%
Management	14.8%	7.8%	12.5%	7.0%
Healthcare Practitioners	9.2%	9.5%	4.4%	4.3%
Business & Financial Ops.	9.2%	8.3%	7.2%	5.3%
Sales	8.9%	9.6%	11.5%	10.5%
Office & Admin. Support	4.6%	9.1%	10.3%	13.5%
Architecture & Engineering	3.8%	3.9%	2.0%	1.3%
Education Inst. & Library Svc.	2.9%	4.9%	6.6%	4.5%
Production	2.3%	6.7%	4.1%	5.8%
Food Prep & Serving Related	2.1%	6.0%	6.1%	6.3%
Healthcare Support	1.9%	2.8%	1.9%	4.0%
Transportation	1.4%	2.5%	3.3%	5.8%
Personal Care & Service	1.3%	6.7%	2.5%	2.6%
Arts, Design, Ent., & Sport	1.2%	1.8%	2.1%	1.0%
Life, Physical, & Social Sci.	0.9%	1.5%	0.6%	0.4%
Material Moving	0.9%	2.6%	3.3%	7.5%
Installation, Maint., & Repair	0.9%	1.9%	3.1%	2.4%
Community & Social Service	0.7%	0.4%	1.3%	1.8%
Construction & Extraction	0.7%	0.6%	6.7%	5.6%
Legal	0.6%	0.8%	1.3%	0.5%
Protective Services	0.3%	0.4%	1.4%	2.1%
Building & Grounds Cleaning	0.2%	2.1%	3.6%	4.2%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Military Specific	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%

Table 4. Courses of study by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, 2019.

	Indian American	Other Asians	White	All Others
Engineering	26.8%	14.4%	7.9%	7.6%
Computer & Network Science	18.1%	7.6%	3.2%	3.6%
Business	17.8%	25.4%	26.7%	28.2%
Medical Services	5.6%	9.2%	6.1%	8.4%
Physics	5.2%	4.2%	2.7%	3.3%
Biology	4.4%	7.0%	3.5%	4.0%
Social Sciences	4.0%	5.8%	5.9%	6.4%
Engineering & Technology	3.5%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%
Education	1.8%	2.1%	6.7%	4.5%

work in Computers & Mathematics, Management, and Healthcare Practitioners, in the rest of the United States the number is less than 45 percent. Compared to Indian Americans in North Texas, peers elsewhere in Texas are twice as likely to work in Architecture and Engineering or Educational Instruction.[8]

Courses of Study

Table 4 depicts fields of study by race for students at the bachelor's level in colleges and universities. As shown, Indian Americans have a strong representation in STEM fields. About 27 percent of Indian Americans in North Texas have a degree in engineering, compared to about 14 percent of other Asians and 8 percent of whites. Similarly, about 18 percent of Indian Americans studied computer science, compared to about 3 percent of whites and 8 percent of other Asians. Beyond Engineering and Computer Science, one-in-five North Texas Indian American graduates hold a degree in business. Other Asians and Whites were more likely to have business as a field of degree (25 percent and 27 percent, respectively).

These patterns hold generally for Indian Americans elsewhere in Texas and the US. Outside of Texas, Indian Americans have a slightly greater representation in the fields of medicine and biology.[9]

Employment Sector

Table 5 depicts employment sectors by race for individuals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for 2019. As the table shows, about 80 percent of Indian Americans work for a private, for-profit company or business, compared to about 74 percent of other Asians and 74 percent of Whites. Indian Americans are less likely to work for not-for-profit companies or charitable organizations as compared to other racial groups, with only 4.5 percent of them working in those companies and organizations, compared to 5.6 percent of Whites. This pattern is less pronounced elsewhere in the United States. While only 4.5 percent of North Texas Indian Americans work in the non-profit or charitable sector, 8.2 percent of Indian Americans elsewhere in Texas do.

As for entrepreneurship, Indian Americans in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are less likely to be self-employed in their own incorporated or unincorporated business (8 percent), compared to other Asians (11 percent) and Whites (10

8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.

Table 5. Employment sector by race in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, 2019.

	Indian American	Other Asian	White	All Others
Private, For-Profit Company	80.1%	74.2%	73.5%	76.9%
Private, Nonprofit or Charitable Comp.	4.5%	4.9%	5.6%	4.4%
Local Government Employee	1.8%	3.2%	6.3%	6.0%
State Government Employee	2.3%	2.7%	2.1%	2.6%
Federal Government Employee	1.6%	2.3%	1.4%	2.4%
Self-Employed in Unincorp. Business	2.8%	7.3%	6.8%	4.7%
Self-Employed in Inc. Business	5.0%	4.1%	3.6%	1.8%
Working Without Pay in Family Bus.	0.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%
Unemployed and last worked 5 years ago or earlier, or never worked	1.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%

percent). Elsewhere in Texas and elsewhere in the United States, Indian Americans displayed similar patterns of self-employment.[10]

Immigration Status

According to data from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), in 2020, immigrants from India comprised 6 percent of new arrivals in the United States, behind Mexico, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, and China. In 2019, 2,050 individuals from India obtained lawful permanent resident status in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, comprising 6 percent of Dallas-Fort Worth's lawful permanent resident approvals. These 2,050 individuals represent 4 percent of everyone of Indian descent who were awarded lawful permanent resident status in the United States. Dallas-Fort Worth received the 4th-highest number of individuals of Indian descent, behind New York City (8,221), Chicago (3,344), and San Francisco (2,972).

Data on H-1B visas demonstrate that workers from India make up the majority of both petitions and approvals for temporary work in the United States. In FY2019, 313,944 petitions from individuals of Indian origin comprised 74 percent of the 421,276 petitions received by the USCIS. Petitions from India are more than six times the number from the second-largest country of birth—China (at 49,917 petitions).[11] In the same year, 278,491 of those petitions were approved, accounting for nearly 72 percent of all H-1B approvals. Again, China had the next most approvals with 50,609—roughly 13 percent.[12]

Business Ownership

According to the US Census Bureau Survey of Business Owners and Self-Employed Persons in 2012 (the latest version), Indian Americans owned 5.3 percent of all businesses in Collin, Denton, Dallas, and Tarrant counties, representing more than one-third of all Asian American businesses. The combined sales receipts of all Indian American businesses was just over $10 billion, or 2.27 percent of all business receipts (and 43 percent of all Asian-owned business receipts). Indian American businesses were most prevalent in Collin County, representing 7.5 percent of all businesses and 4.4 percent of all sales receipts.

Focus Group and Key Informant Interviews

In addition to the secondary data analysis, we conducted a focus group and key informant interviews of Indian American leaders based in the North Texas region. These leaders mainly were C-suite executives or working in upper management positions in private organizations.

Methodology

Snowball sampling was used to recruit participants for the focus group and key informant interviews. This sampling method involves acquiring an initial sample that then recruits their social contacts to participate in the study. Snowball sampling is typical in research involving minority populations.[13] However, this sampling method runs the risk of biasing results if the

10 Ibid.

11 US Citizenship and Immigration Services, "H-1B Petitions by Gender and Country of Birth Fiscal Year 2019," 2020, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/ddocument/data/h-1b-petitions-by-gender-country-of-birth-fy2019.pdf

12 US Citizenship and Immigration Services, "Characteristics of H-1B Specialty Occupation Workers: Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report to Congress" (US Department of Homeland Security, March 5, 2020).

13 Kalton, G. & Anderson, D. W. (1986). *Sampling Rare Populations*. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society. 149(1), 65-82.

initially selected sample is too homogenous. This can occur if the initially selected sample includes individuals who are more likely to speak about their experiences than those not selected, thus leading to a selection bias. Moreover, snowball sampling might underrepresent isolated individuals as they are not referred for participation in the study.[14] The research proposal was submitted for review with the University of Texas at Dallas Institutional Review Board and was approved for following all protocols involving research on human subjects.

The research proposal was submitted for review with the University of Texas at Dallas Institutional Review Board and was approved for following all protocols involving research on human subjects.

To be recruited for participation in the study, participants had to self-identify as Indian American and be residing in the North Texas region. Fulfilling these two criteria was necessary as the study focuses on experiences particular to the Indian American community in North Texas. If any candidates for the study did not meet one of the two criteria or both, they were not selected for participation.

The research team facilitated the focus groups and key informant interviews in English using a focus group or key informant interview instrument. Responses were recorded, and recording transcriptions were used to inform these results. The instruments were developed to ascertain participants' input on the political, economic, and sociocultural impacts of the Indian American community in the North Texas region and situate the analysis in the context of the state and the nation. The included topics were broad and intended to assist the participants in discussing their experiences in as much or as little detail as they deemed necessary. Topics included participants' perceptions of issues that might hold value to their community in electoral politics, factors contributing to their economic well-being, and social or cultural networks that promote civic participation on behalf of Indian Americans. For copies of the instruments, see Appendix A.

Recordings from the key informant interviews and focus groups were transcribed verbatim and anonymized with pseudonyms to protect participants' identities. A thematic content analysis was performed to identify common themes across the transcripts.[15] The material was searched organically and annotated with keywords or labels to help organize data into categories and subcategories. Any hierarchies within the data categories were determined and aligned with the secondary data analysis on the topic.

Results

The six key informant interviews averaged 28 minutes (ranging from 16 to 46 minutes) and comprised 20 percent female and 80 percent male participants. The focus group comprised 4 participants with an equal representation of male and female participants and lasted for 60 minutes. All participants were over 30 years of age and employed at C-suite or executive-level positions.

Several interconnected themes were identified. Some themes explicitly related to participants' personal experiences, but others highlighted shared experiences across the Indian American community. These themes are delineated below, along with some anonymized quotes.

Coming Together as Second-Generation Indian Americans

A prominent theme that emerged in interviews and focus group discussions was the higher political and civic engagement rates among second-generation Indian Americans compared to first-generation immigrants. This might be attributable to structural factors (e.g., citizenship status) that may impede new immigrants from participating in civic activities.

14 Gray, A. E., et al. (2015). F*inding the Hidden Participant: Solutions for Recruiting Hidden, Hard-to-Reach, and Vulnerable Populations*. International Journal of Qualitative Methods. 14(5).

15 See Saldaña, J. (2021). *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers (4th Edition)*. Sage Publishing.

Image: shutterstock/stockimagefactory.com

> "It takes forever to become a US citizen for Indians. And, you know, if you are spending 10 to 15 years just not being actively involved because you are not being able to influence any of those decision makings (sic), then you're not in the game of thinking about participating and being active in the politics." -Research participant, first-generation Indian American female

Some participants who are first-generation Indian Americans described how their children who are born in the United States are more in tune with societal issues and are more engaged in politics than they are.

> "My [children who were born here] are more political, you know, because they identify US as their country. They are very much into changing the world as opposed to, you know, I think my generation is. Our drivers are different than their drivers are. I mean, they have had it made. We worked hard to provide that like for them (sic). So, they can afford to go past the basic needs and focus on politics. I see them getting more involved than I was." -Research participant, first-generation Indian American female

Understanding Indian American Economic Exceptionalism

Oft-cited reasoning for Indian Americans earning higher than other racial and ethnic groups in the United States is the selection bias that occurs through the US immigration system vetting higher-earning professionals from India to come to the United States. This cherry-picking of highly skilled and highly educated individuals makes an income comparison of the Indian American community with other ethnic groups somewhat problematic.

> "I think there is a selection bias, for lack of a better word, where I think a lot of people, like myself and my family included, tend to be in professions or have education in certain areas that just, on the average, tend to be at higher income levels. When you think about doctors, engineers, etc., that is just the sort of the nature of the population that ends up coming here." -Research participant, first-generation Indian American female

Despite the economic strength exhibited by most Indian Americans, the community itself is not immune to poverty. About 6 percent of Indian Americans live below the federal poverty line, indicating that the economic gains are distributed unevenly across community members. Participants indicated several challenges to the continued economic success of the Indian American diaspora, with immigration delays being most frequently cited.

Using Social Capital to Advance Civic Participation

Another notable theme discussed among research participants was leveraging social capital to advance civic participation rates among Indian Americans. Active and involved membership in voluntary organizations, clubs, groups, and associations was mentioned as a significant contributor to creating social capital and promoting civic engagement activities. Some participants lamented that Indian Americans suffer from low levels of civic engagement because of their lack of engagement at the local level.

"I think we shouldn't talk about engagement purely from a political perspective, but we need to think about it from a societal standpoint. Engagement starts at a local level. For Indian Americans whose children are in schools, you will find that very few parents are even engaged in PTA. To be visible and be engaged is a very important aspect of being part of society." –Research participant, first-generation Indian American male

Participants talked about sports' social significance and benefit and how they can facilitate social capital development within the Indian American community. Participation in sports typically involves interacting with other individuals who may have experiences different from one's own, with the social interaction even allowing room for civic conversations to occur.

"We had a cricket league that I was a part of, and I think one of the things that I enjoyed about it was the fact that we actually brought together people from a whole lot of different countries, including the US, interestingly enough, to sort of come together and play a sport that we all enjoyed, but really to exchange ideas and create awareness, and make sure that people understand that you can have differences but also there are a lot of commonalities." –Research participant, first-generation Indian American female

Mentoring is another form of social capital that was frequently discussed as a hitherto untapped resource that could help the next generation of Indian American leaders. Seeking input from someone who has had experiences different from the individual's can help broaden horizons and expose the person to circumstances that they could not have otherwise perceived, allowing learning to occur.

Image: shutterstock/Asia Images Group

"I've grown the most, both professionally and personally, when I've been the most uncomfortable, right. When it is something that's completely unfamiliar to me is when I've really expanded my horizons the most. And I think that is the key. I think if you do not have that, I don't think you can be successful personally, professionally, politically, or in any other way. I think staying insular has its limitations." –Research participant, first-generation Indian American female

Indian American Organizations

Participants mentioned several organizations and professional associations working to advance the economic and cultural interests of the Indian American community. Most of these organizations fall into two main categories—regional and religious—and reflect the diversity that Indian Americans describe as the fundamental characteristic of their culture. A few notable organizations mentioned include the Kerala Association of Texas, the Telugu Association of North Texas, the Indian American Chamber of Commerce, the Punjabi Cultural Society, the Gujrati Association, and the Bengali Association of Greater DFW. Occasionally, these organizations also involve themselves in charitable activities, such as blood drives or raising funds for India's charitable cause. Participants mentioned leveraging resources through these organizations to assist in COVID-19 relief efforts in India.

There was some concern among participants about most current organizations serving the Indian American community. Some participants were dissatisfied that the current organizations are too parochial in nature, in that they mainly revolve around religion and region.

> **"Right now, the associations are either focused on … temples and mosques, or they are focused on regions. You know, the Telugu Association, or the Punjabi Association, or the Gujrat Association. What is lacking is something that is more general to India and Texas." –Research participant, first-generation Indian American male**

Participants expressed a desire to interact with organizations that transcend regional and religious boundaries. Additionally, participants stated that these boundaries are the identities that the first-generation immigrants might associate more with than the second-generation ones do, and to capture the interest of newer generations, new organizations and associations should be formed based on a collective identity as an Indian American instead of regional and religious identities.

Image: Shutterstock/Monkey Business Images

Conclusion and Future Directions

The tale of Indian Americans coming to the United States is unique on several fronts. Demographically, Indian Americans represent the fastest-growing immigrant group in the United States. Economically, they are among the highest median-income earners of all immigrants. And sociologically, they are the best-educated ethnic group in the country.

Our study highlights the disparity in political participation between the first- and second-generation Indian Americans. This calls for a strategy that differentially impacts the civic participation rates of the two generations. For the first generation, assistance can be provided by resolving some immigration delays at the federal level that make it harder for newcomers to rehabilitate in the United States. Additionally, there are ways in which first-generation Indian Americans can have their voices heard even when they are not eligible to vote. This can be done through voter outreach efforts such as knocking on doors, encouraging others eligible to vote, and encouraging others eligible to run for public office. For the second-generation Indian Americans, civic participation can be increased by diversifying Indian American organizations and associations' status and allowing new networks to form that transcend the boundaries of religion and region. Indian American organizations already play an essential role in building trust in the community by organizing activities for various causes ranging from entertainment to philanthropy. Expanding the reach of these organizations and creating a more unified platform rather than piecemeal organizations could be ways to enhance their appeal among the next generation of Indian Americans.

Politically, the population reflects the same polarization of the broader American population, and civic and political engagement is much higher among US-born Indian Americans than those who have naturalized. According to the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey, about 1 in 5 Indian Americans report having performed community service in the previous year and 1 in 4 among those born in the US. On the other hand, only 13 percent report attending a public meeting, and 11 percent a protest, march, or demonstration. For those born in the US, the numbers are 17 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Nearly half (45 percent) reported discussing politics with family and friends in the previous year, but only 14 percent reported contributing money to a candidate, campaign, or party. Similarly, 12 percent reported contacting a representative, and 9 percent reported volunteering for a campaign. About one-third of respondents said they engaged in none of the civic or political activities listed.[16]

Overall, civic engagement efforts, such as voting, volunteering, and community activities, can help build trust and promote social cohesion. Civic participation also can be increased through mentoring and participation in group activities such as sports. Providing avenues for members to conduct formal group activities, including through established organizations and associations, and informal group activities—book clubs, bike rider clubs, and the like—is essential to facilitate social capital formation and decrease social isolation among community participants.

With the onset of COVID-19, Indian-Americans, like those in other communities, face new challenges that threaten their health and economic status. While there is no current evidence that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted Indian-Americans, a skills-employment strategy could be effective at retraining workers whose jobs and occupations have been affected by the pandemic. Moreover, the link between employment and health coverage may necessitate new public health strategies to ensure the broader health of this population.

16 Sumitra Badrinathan Vaishnav Devesh Kapur, Jonathan Kay, Milan, "Social Realities of Indian Americans: Results From the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, accessed December 15, 2021, https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/06/09/social-realities-of-indian-americans-results-from-2020-indian-american-attitudes-survey-pub-84667.

Appendix A

IACEO Focus Group Questions

Contributions to the United States

- In what ways does the Indian American diaspora contribute to the US economy?

Political Impacts

- Indian Americans have emerged as a significant political constituency in the US elections. What policy issues hold value to the Indian American community?
- How has the Indian American community made their voices heard in electoral politics? Are you aware of any Indian Americans holding public office or running for one in your community or in the state of Texas?
- What are some of the strengths of Indian American leaders in the political realm?
- What special interest groups and pressure groups exist that advance political activism on behalf of Indian Americans? How do these groups operate, and how successful have they been?

Economic Impacts

- Indian Americans are among the highest median-income earners of all immigrants. What do you think contributes to their economic well-being?
- In what ways do Indian Americans contribute to the Texas economy?
- Identify the industries, if any, that the Indian American workers are mainly concentrated in.
- What economic opportunities exist between the governments of India and the state of Texas?
- What resources remain available but untapped that the Indian American diaspora can utilize for economic advancement?

Social/Cultural Impacts

- What social and cultural networks exist that promote socioeconomic advancement of the Indian American diaspora? Are you part of any of these?
- How does the Indian American community make use of volunteerism to give back to their communities? Are there any major types of volunteer activities that they mainly engage in?

Future Directions

- What resources can be utilized to increase civic participation among Indian Americans?
- What type of support mechanisms do you think next-generation Indian American leaders need?

IACED Key Informant Interview Questions

Contributions to the United States

Economic:

- Indian Americans are among the highest median-income earners of all immigrants. What do you think contributes to their economic well-being?
- In what ways do you think Indian Americans contribute to the Texas economy?
- What economic opportunities exist between the governments of India and the state of Texas?
- What resources remain available but untapped that the Indian American diaspora can utilize for economic advancement?

Political:

- Indian Americans have emerged as a significant political constituency in US elections. As a member of the Indian American community, what policy issues hold value to you?
- Are you aware of any Indian Americans making their voices heard in electoral politics in your community or anywhere else in Texas? If yes, who are they?
- What special interest groups and pressure groups exist that advance political activism on behalf of Indian Americans? How do these groups operate and how successful have they been?

Social/Cultural:

- Have you volunteered before? If yes, how often have you done so and for what causes?
- In what other ways, if any, do you give back to your community? Have you made any recent efforts to help underprivileged communities in Texas or elsewhere in the United States?
- Have you been involved in any clubs or associations that seek to unite people for a common interest or goal [these could be social activities, clubs, hobbies, or sports clubs; economic, political, or religious organizations; or charity organizations]? If yes, what are they, and how have you been involved?

Ties with India

- Do you maintain active ties with any friends or relatives back in India?
- Do you plan to return to India (or move to another country) in the future? If yes, what are your reasons for doing so?

Future Directions

- What type of support mechanisms do you think the next generation of Indian American leaders need?
- In your opinion, what are some ways in which you can help improve connectivity among the next generation of Indian Americans?

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