



# Bala Janaagraha:

## Impact Assessment 2015-16

Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy

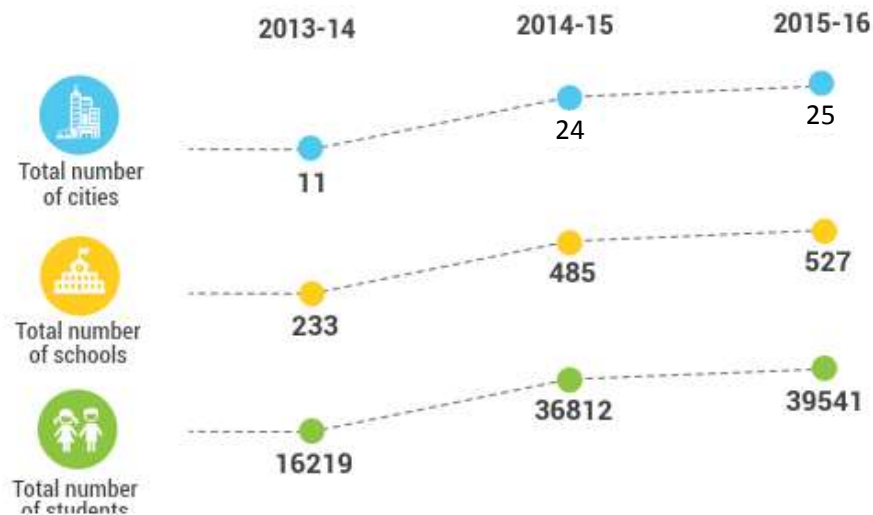
June 2016

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# Programme Overview

In 2002, the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy (JCCD) started the Bala Janaagraha programme, a civic education programme, which aims to **transform today's children into informed, responsible and active citizens**



Today, the Bala Janaagraha programme is conducted with Grade 8 students across private, state government, municipal government, government aided and Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) schools spread across 25\* cities in India in 6 languages.

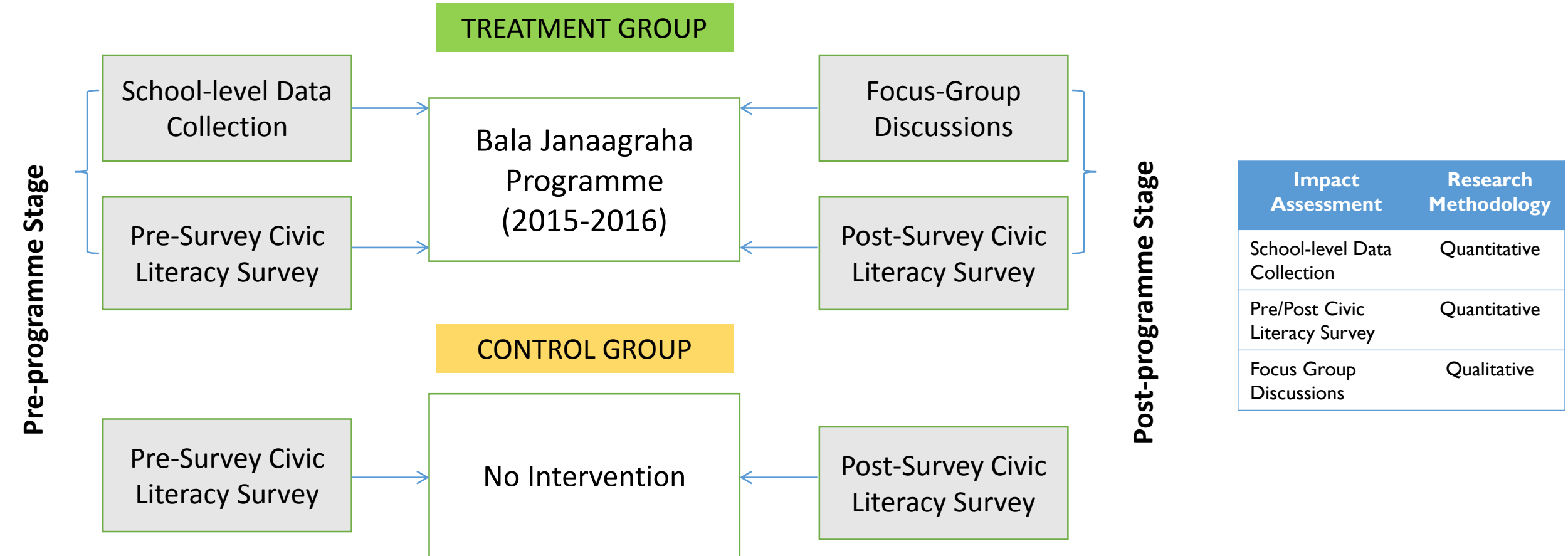


The programme aims to increase Civic Literacy & Civic Participation among participants to help them transform into responsible and active citizens

- Includes 12 classroom sessions on concepts ranging from understanding rights and duties to sustainability
- Also includes two e-module sessions ("I Change My City")
- Six sessions on a Civic Project
- And finally, ends with Civic Fests

\*the cities Mumbai & Navi Mumbai have been considered as one

# Impact Assessment Design



# Detailed Findings – Pre & Post Surveys



The final achieved sample, on which the results of the pre and post surveys are based, include a total of 10,543 students in Treatment Schools i.e. Bala-Janaagraha Schools and 239 students in the Control Schools i.e. non Bala-Janaagraha Schools.

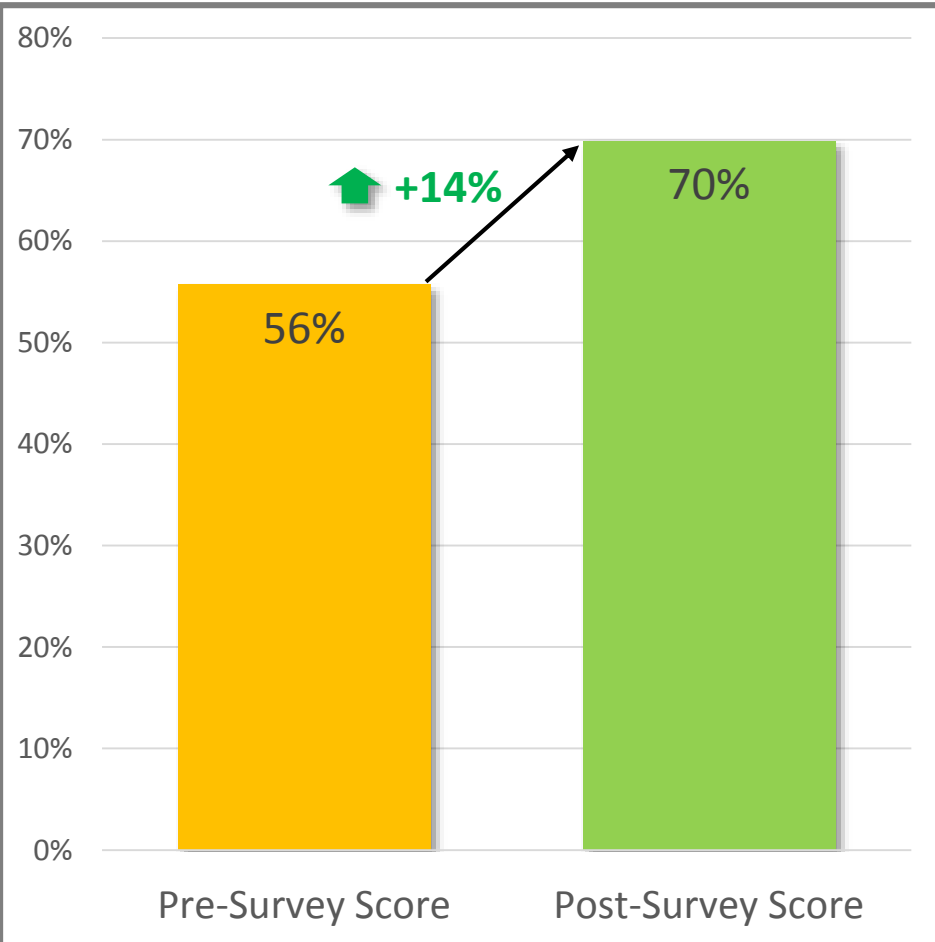
- Treatment Schools – 213 schools spread across 25\* cities chosen through stratified random sampling (6 different instruction mediums and 5 different types of schools)
- Control Schools – 10 schools in Bangalore chosen purposively (2 instruction mediums and 3 types of schools)

\*the cities Mumbai & Navi Mumbai have been considered as one

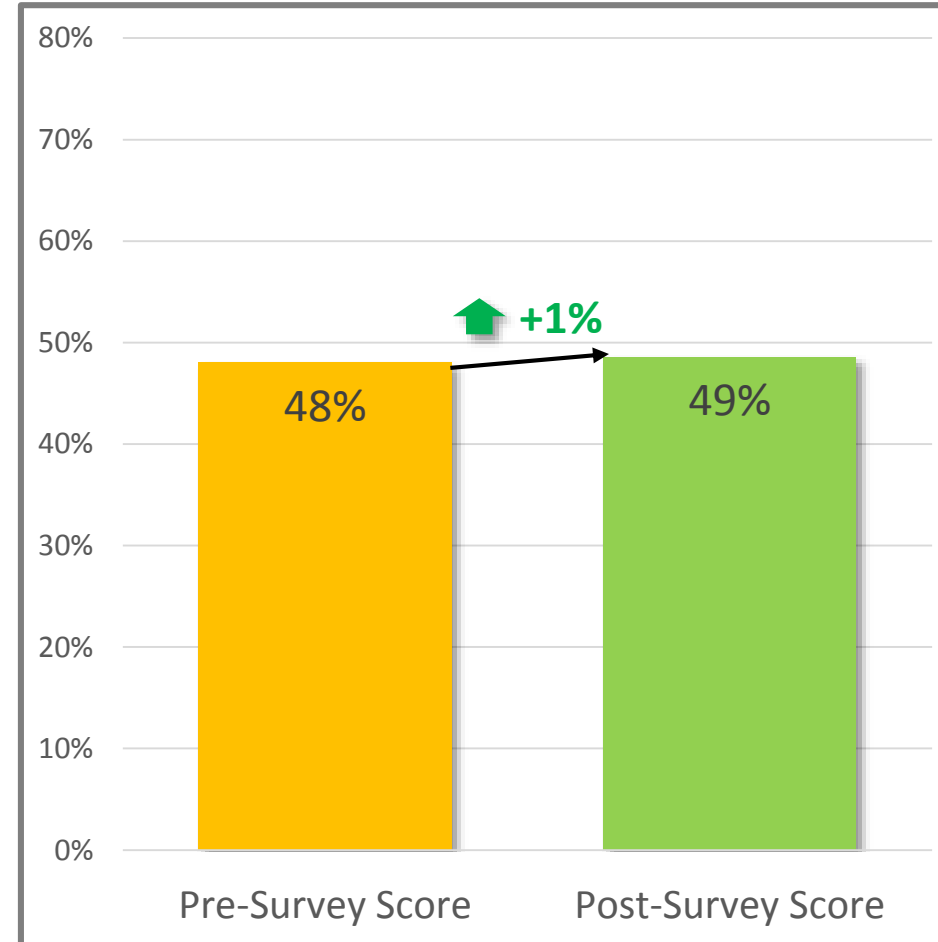
# Civic Literacy Scores – All Cities & Schools

Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha

Control Group – No Intervention



N = 10,543



N = 239 (all control group schools belong to Bangalore)

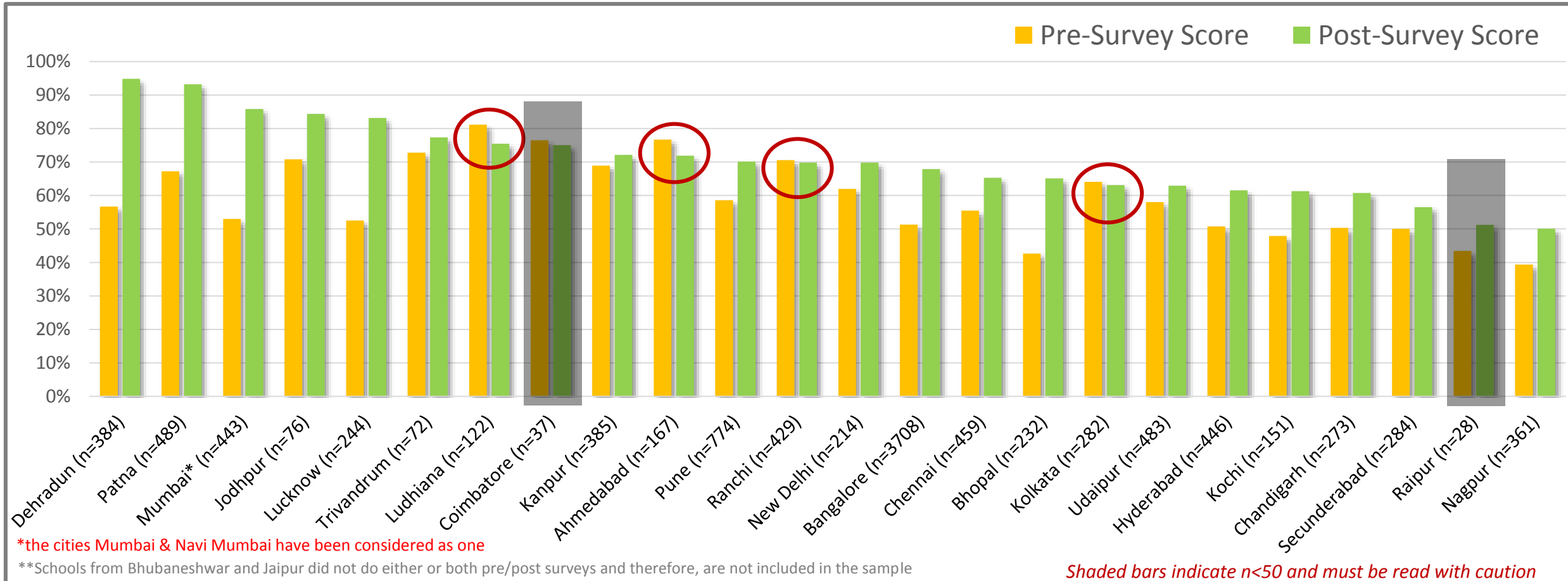
Bala-Janaagraha Schools saw an increase of 14% in Civic Literacy scores compared to just 1% in Non Bala Janaagraha Schools



# Civic Literacy Scores – By Cities

## Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha

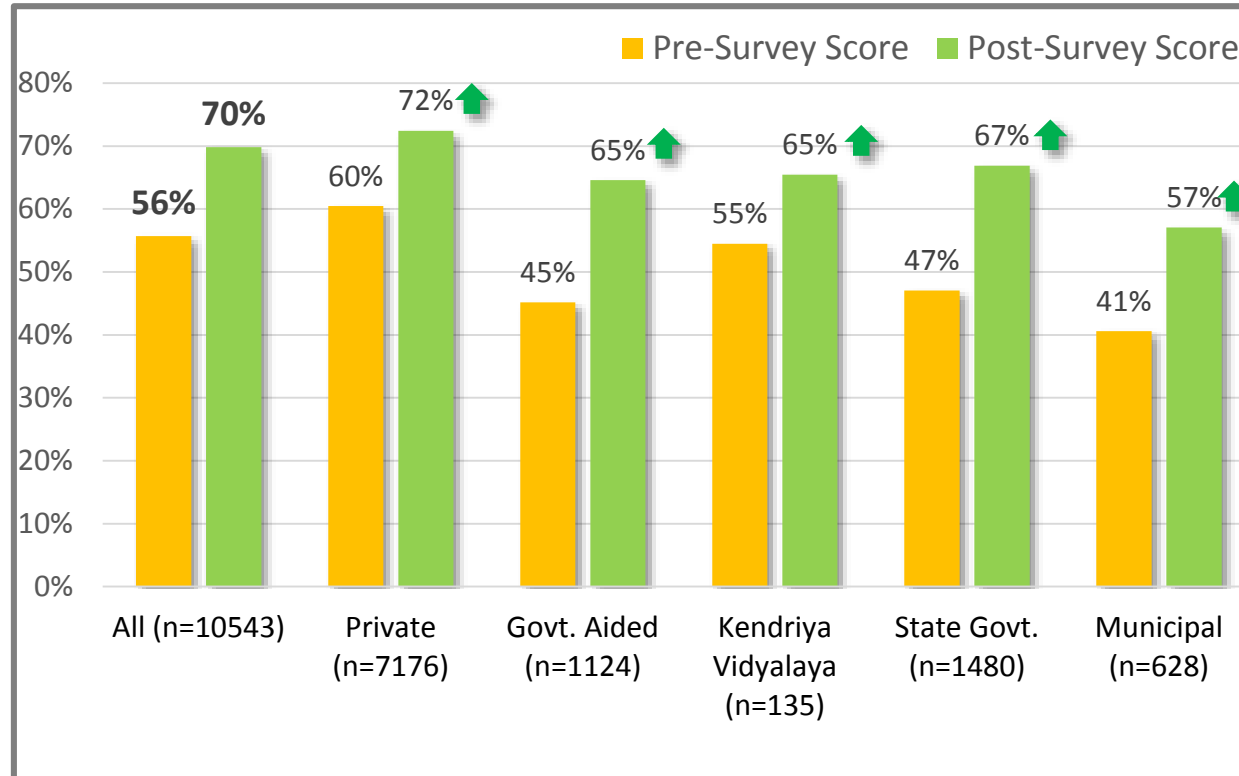
Control Group scores not shown here as they are the same as shown in the 'All Cities' slide



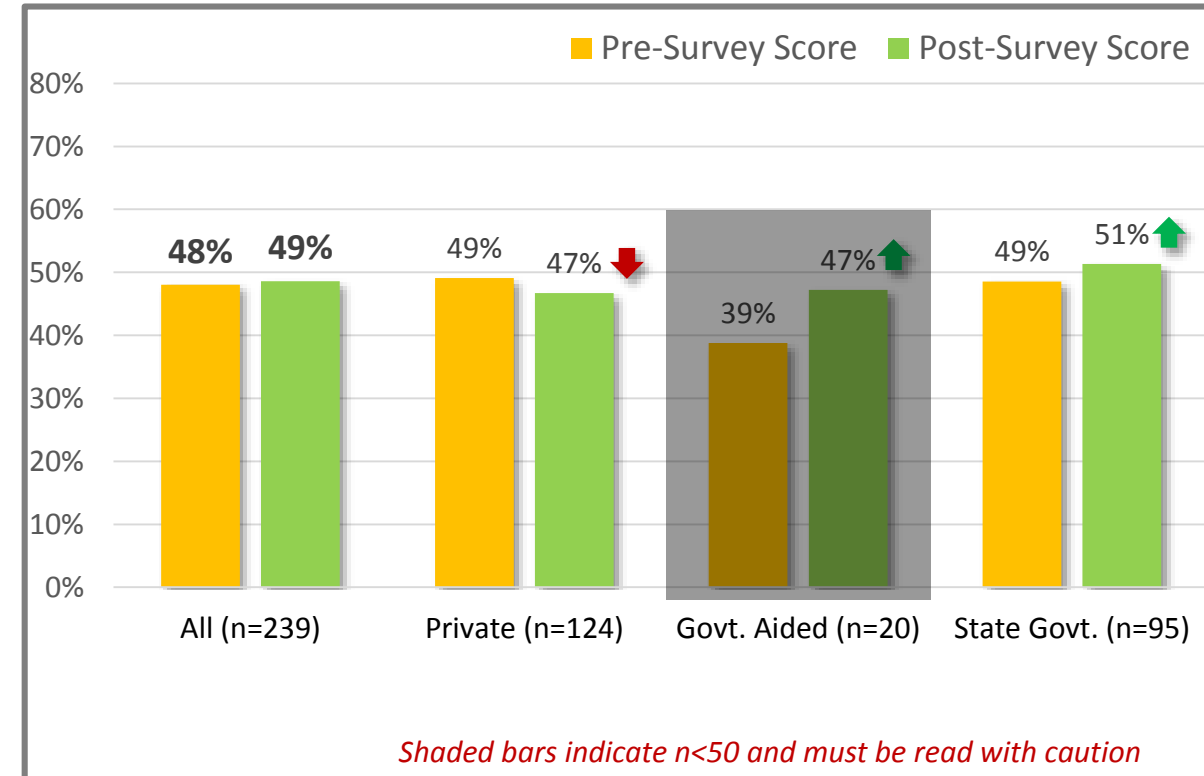
All cities, except for five, saw an increase in civic literacy scores; out of these five, two cities saw a drop of less than one percentage point and all five had high pre-survey scores (64% to 81%)

# Civic Literacy Scores – By School Type

Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha



Control Group – No Intervention



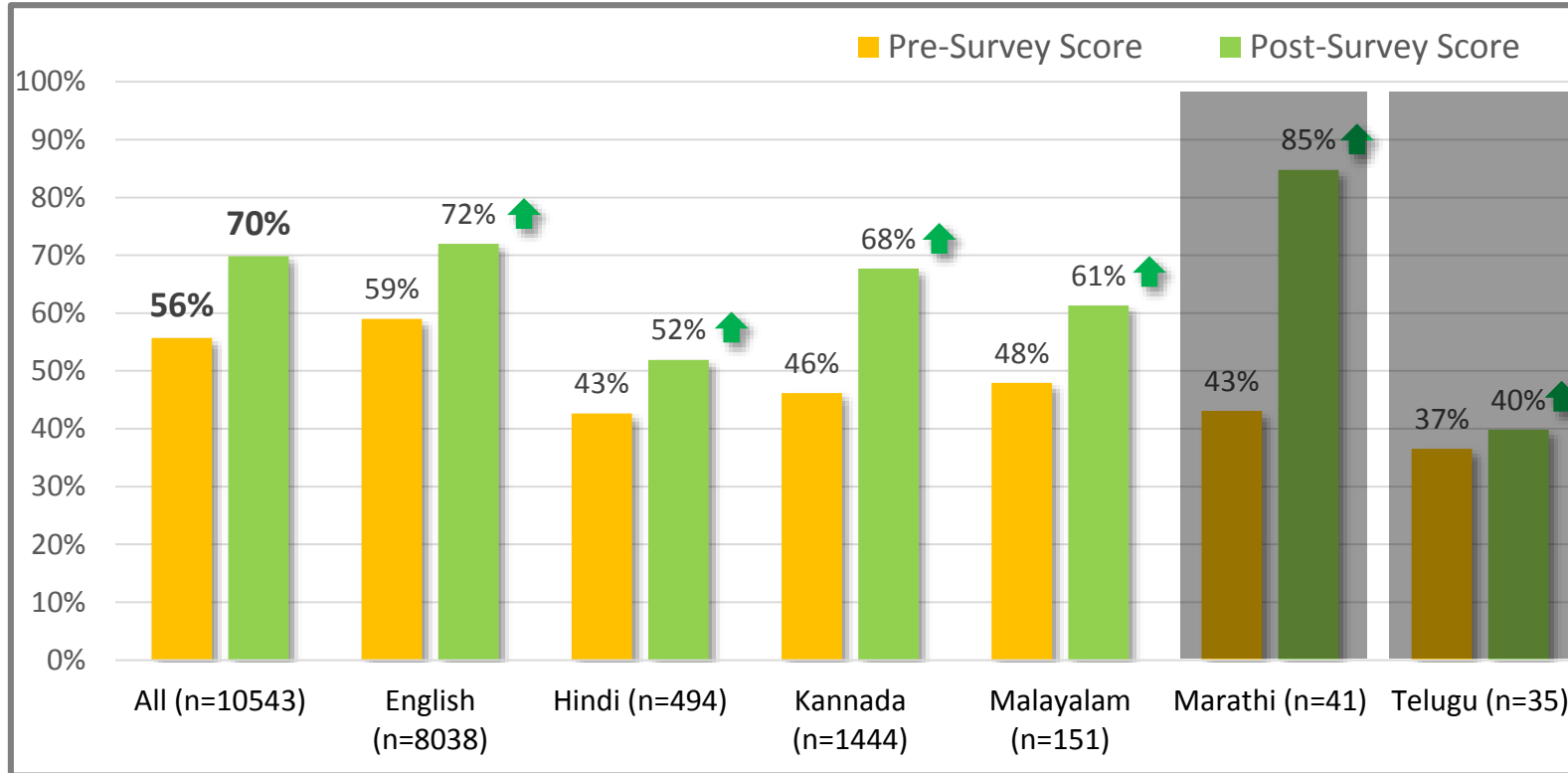
A look at scores by school types reveals that the proportional increase is larger in children studying in Govt. and Govt. Aided schools. Children in Private schools see the one of the lowest increase, second only to the lone KV school; this difference can also be observed in the Control Group where students in Private schools see a decline in scores. Since a similar effect can be seen in both Treatment and Control groups, it appears to be driven by something external to the program



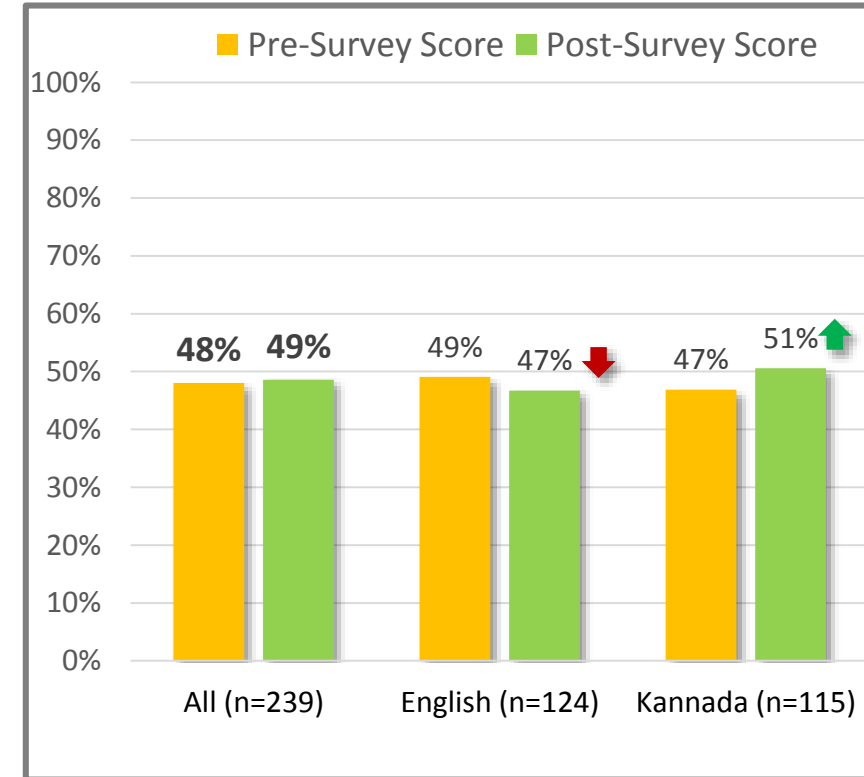
# Civic Literacy Scores – By Language

## Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha

*Shaded bars indicate n<50 and must be read with caution*



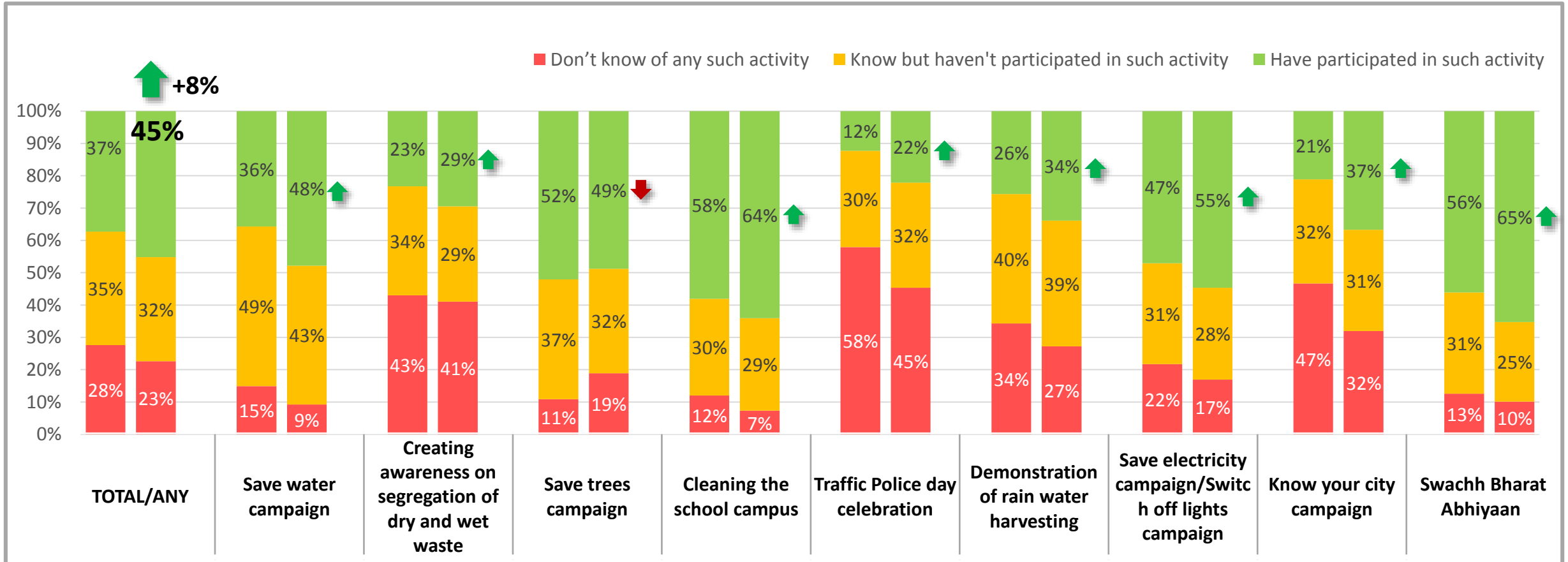
## Control Group – No Intervention



Proportional change is higher in non-English schools and can also be seen in the Control Group where English schools actually see a drop in score; since a similar effect can be seen in both Treatment and Control groups, it appears to be driven by something external to the program

# Civic Participation

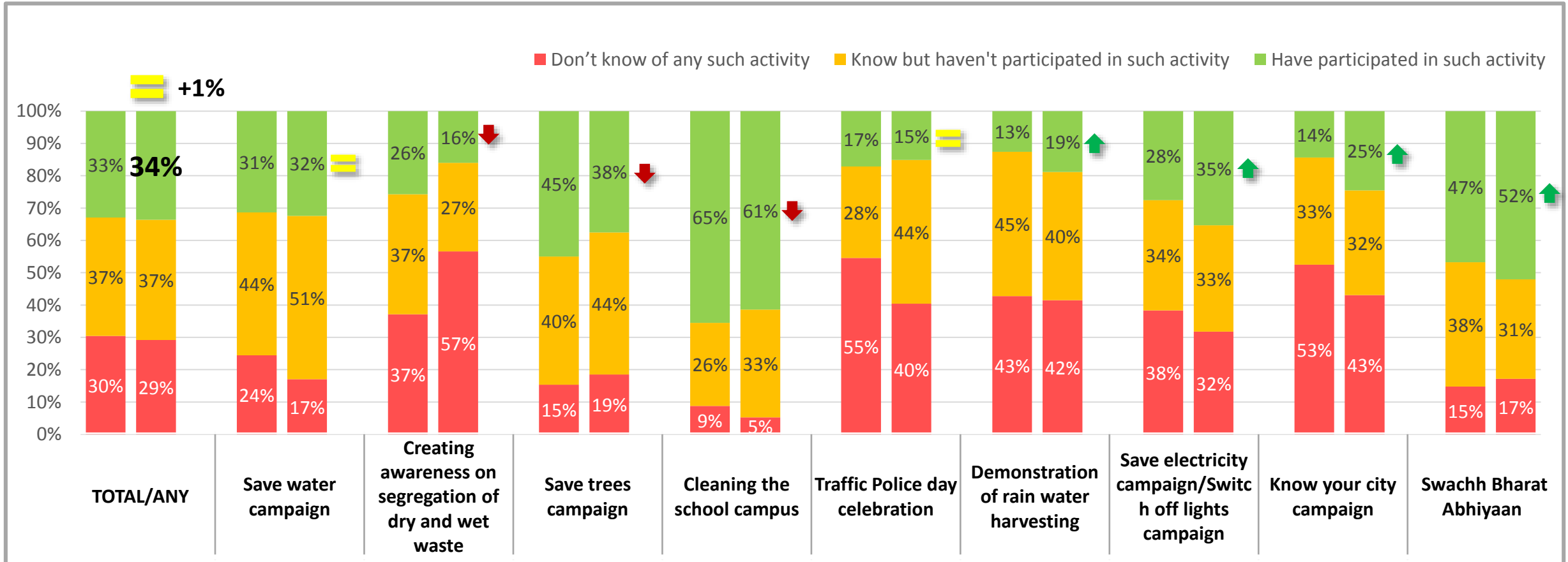
## Pre and post survey participation in civic activities for the Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha



Bala Janaagraha Schools saw participation levels rise by 8%; except for one activity type, all saw an increase in participation levels

# Civic Participation

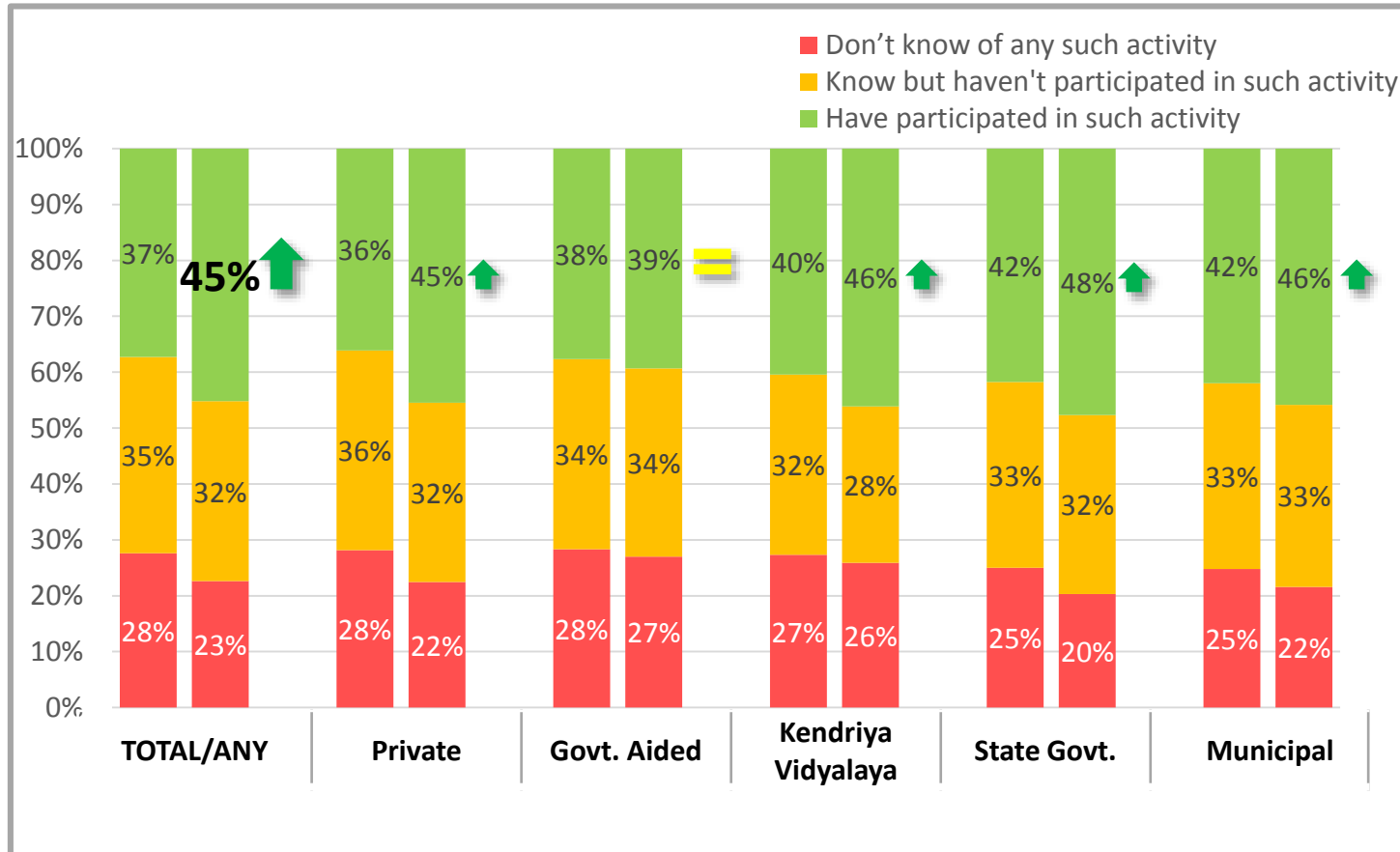
## Pre and post survey participation in civic activities for the Control Group – Non Bala Janaagraha



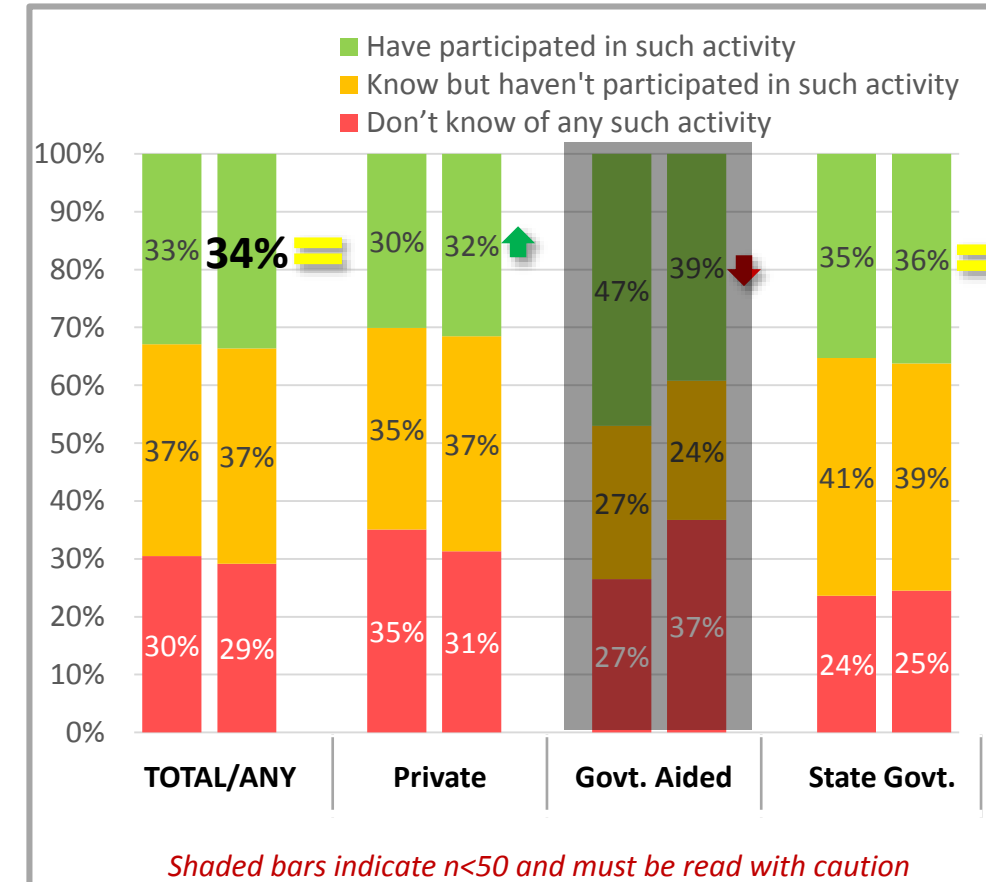
The control group saw very little movement in overall participation levels

# Civic Participation – Overall; by School Type

Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha



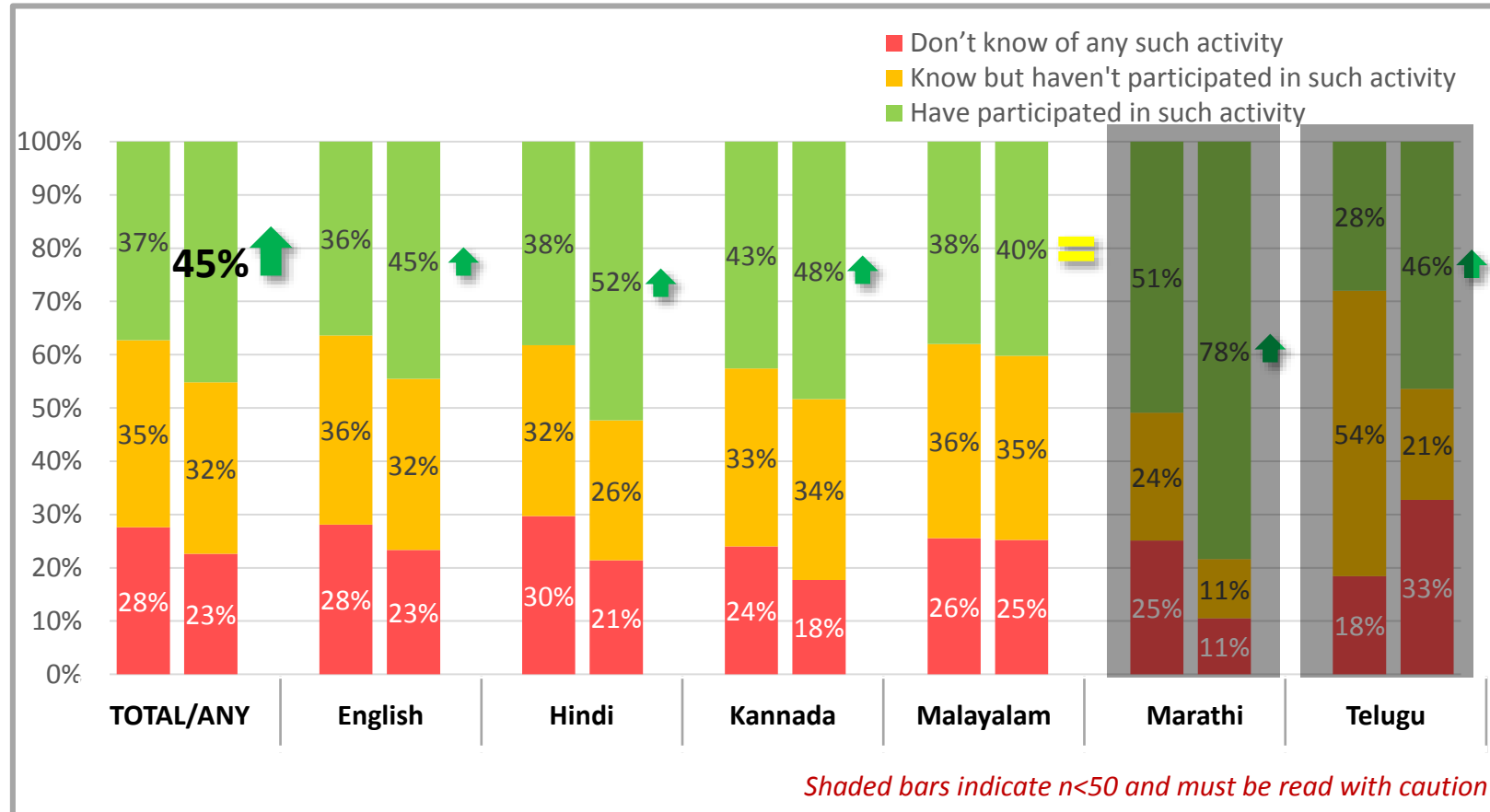
Control Group – No Intervention



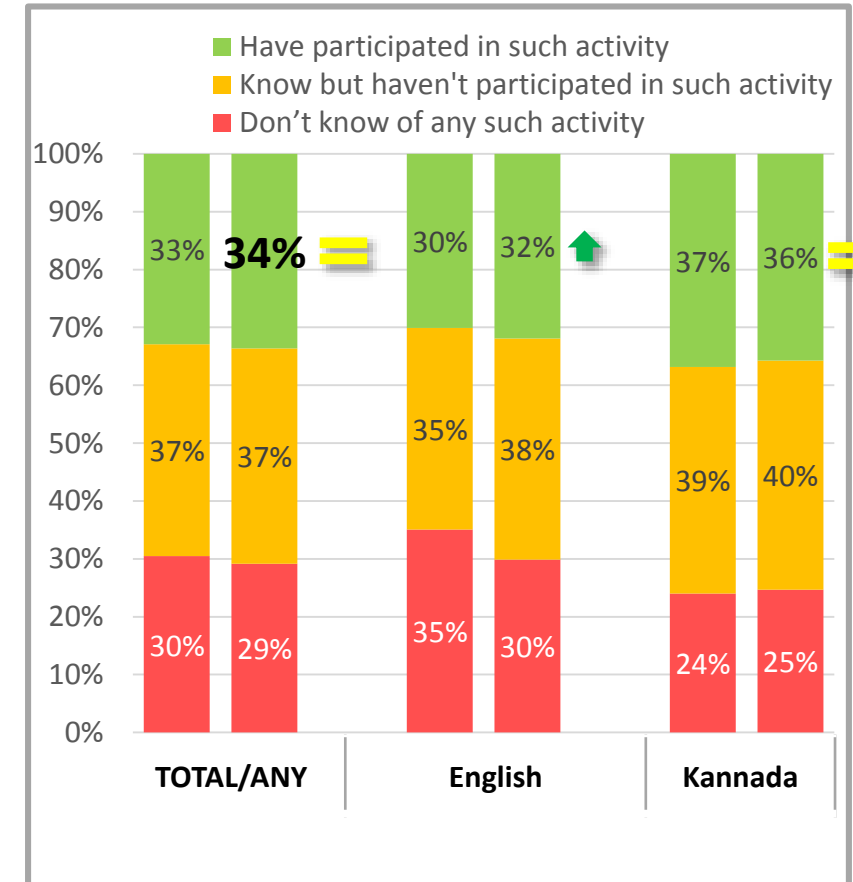
Participation levels increased most in Private Schools in the treatment group; this can also be observed in the control group

# Civic Participation – Overall; by Language

## Treatment Group – Bala Janaagraha



## Control Group – No Intervention



When looked at by the medium of instruction, Hindi Schools saw the highest proportional increase followed by English and Kannada. Even in the control schools, English saw a larger proportional increase

# Detailed Findings – FGDs



Four FGDs were conducted with the finalists of the Bala Janaagraha National Civic Fest on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016 (the eve of the National Civic Fest). Each group discussion comprised between 10-15 participants with an even mix of students from each school team at the Fest.

Participants were posed questions pertaining to their perceptions of the programme, specifically targeted to draw out changed behaviours and attitudes in terms of civic learning.



# Focus Groups (FGDs)

Overall, dialogue in the focus group discussions was overwhelmingly positive, emphasising the engaging and empowering nature of the programme. Students also identified personal challenges they faced, as well as some concerns with the programme

- **Bala Janaagraha has developed participants' civic knowledge and awareness**
  - *"We travel on the roads every day but we never know who is taking charge of everything. It makes you realize that it is your responsibility, at the end of the day, to look after your environment"*
- **Bala Janaagraha fostered learning through action**
  - *"it's important to go to interact with the local government and go to the roads and actually implement our ideas"*
- **Bala Janaagraha has stimulated participants' personal development**
  - *"In a way, the project taught us what adults can't do.... it's we as thirteen year olds who have that courage to go and speak to them."*
- **Bala Janaagraha has fostered participants as active citizens**
  - *"Bala Janaagraha makes even a student of eighth standard to be like an adult, who is taking part in society, making a change in the issues."*
- **Bala Janaagraha has taught participants about the importance of systemic change**
  - *"I thought it was all very easy what they do", but through the programme he discovered that it was "much more complex"*
- **Concerns (future improvements) – improving inclusivity in Civic Fests and text book layout**
  - *"We've gone through three competitions and in all three of them, despite the level of the school, all three were in English."*
  - *"You can order it in a more appealing way, like with bullet points, because it's already pretty deep"*

# Summary



# Summary

The goal of the Bala Janaagraha programme is to transform today's children into informed, responsible and active citizens with a focus on urban governance and planning. **Evidence shows that the programme is impacting on students in this way.**

- Across all schools and students participating in the programme in 2015-16, civic literacy survey scores increased on average by 14 percent from pre to post survey, compared with just a one percent increase in control schools.
- Participation in civic activities went up by 8 percent at post survey for those participating in the programme compared with a 1 percent increase in the control schools.
- The focus group discussions add further evidence for the impassioned way in which students have embraced the programme ideals, empowering them to lead change in their communities.

*"In a way, the project taught us what adults can't do.... it's we as thirteen year olds who have that courage to go and speak to them."*

*"We travel on the roads every day but we never know who is taking charge of everything. It makes you realize that it is your responsibility, at the end of the day, to look after your environment"*

*"it's important to go to interact with the local government and go to the roads and actually implement our ideas"*

# Thank You!

