



New Trends and Issues Proceedings on Humanities and Social Sciences



Volume 5, Issue 6 (2018) 01-17

www.prosoc.eu

ISSN 2547-8818

Selected Paper of 7th World Conference on Design and Arts (WCDA 2018), 28-30 June 2018, BAU International Berlin
University of Applied Sciences, Berlin – Germany

The role and impact of politics on the Art of Pakistan for undergraduates

Alia Hadi Ali*, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore, Pakistan

Suggested Citation:

Ali, A. H. (2018). The role and impact of politics on the Art of Pakistan for undergraduates. *New Trends and Issues Proceedings on Humanities and Social Sciences*. [Online]. 5(6), pp 01–17. Available from: www.prosoc.eu

Selection and peer review under responsibility of Prof. Dr. Ayse Cakir Ilhan, Ankara University, Turkey
©2018 SciencePark Research, Organization & Counseling. All rights reserved.

Abstract

There was a quantitative research done on role and impact of politics on the Art of Pakistan. Art students have an introduction to political scenario affecting art. The target audience chosen were the undergraduates of Art and Design College Punjab University and National College of Arts in Lahore. This paper works as a parameter. The students are aware that Art can be influenced, moulded and refaced with political influence. The selected audience is going to get affected by the policies and commandment of political structure which is present and affecting all professions of Pakistan. After the survey forms were filled by the student of bought institutions, the results of both institutions were compared. Furthermore, this paper helps in adding topics taught in the history of Art in graduate level in a way that what are the circumstances which can be requested by the government to look upon for the promotion of Art.

Keywords: First keyword, second keyword, third keyword, fourth keyword;

* ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE: **Alia Hadi Ali**, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Lahore, Pakistan.
E-mail address: aliahadi@hotmail.com / Tel.: +92 42 99232951

1. Survey design

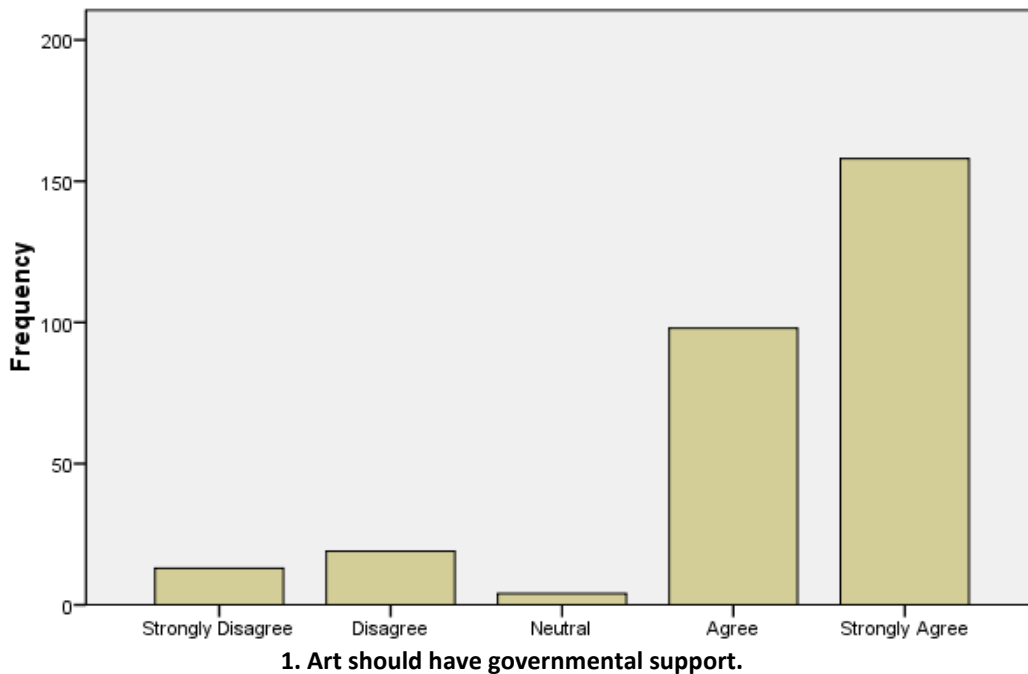
Data were collected by administering a 5-Point Likert Scale questionnaire that comprised of 12 items. The participants were undergraduate students that belonged to two art schools namely: National College of Arts and College of Art and Design, Punjab University. The total number of students were:

1. National College of Arts: 650
2. College of Art and Design: 570

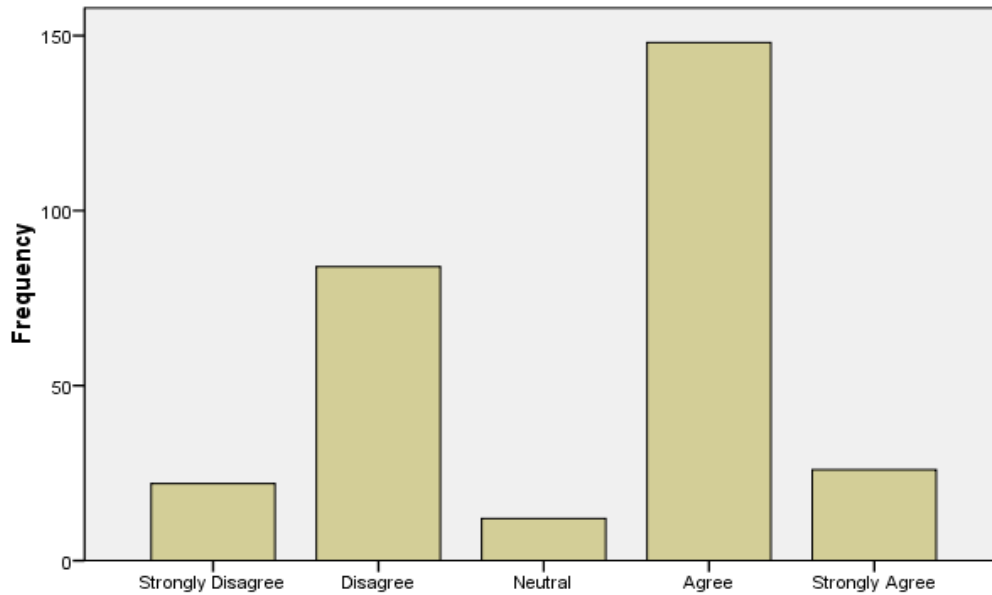
Therefore, the population was 1,220. Sample size was determined through an online sample size calculator <http://www.surveysystem.com/sample-size-formula.htm>. With a confidence level of 95% and the margin of error 5% which is widely accepted in humanities and social sciences. The sample size determined through this online calculator was 292. Therefore, 146 questionnaires were administered to each of the two art colleges. The response rate was 100%.

2. Data analysis

The data were analysed through SPSS (Statistical Program for Social Sciences) Version 16. The results have been graphically presented below in the form of bar charts and clustered bar charts. Moreover, a brief interpretation is given below for each figure. The results are as under:

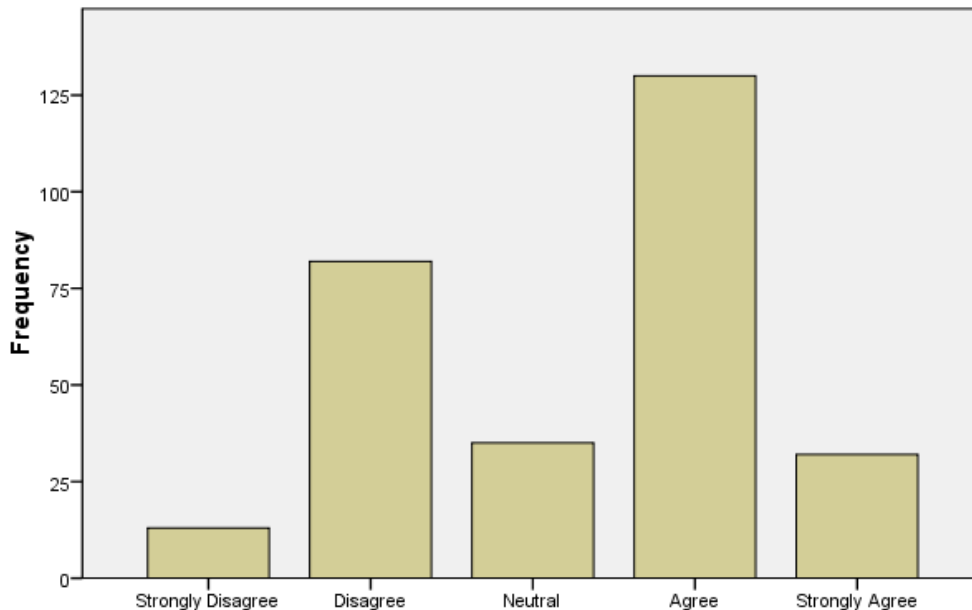


The graph overall shows both institutions strongly agreed on the statement. The scenario is related to overall connection between politics and art. The first question generated is to know students point of view that according to them is art and politics are connected? The art and politics have been regularly discussed with students when they are briefed about socio-political scenario while introducing art and its relationship with humanity.



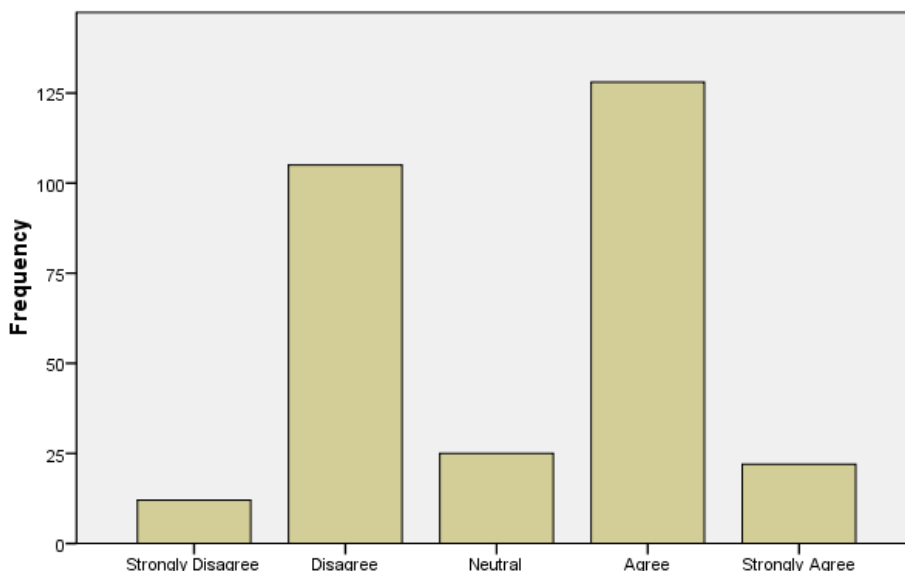
2. Art in Pakistan is influenced by political stability or instability.

There is approximately half of difference in overall reaction on the statement. The political stability and instability surrounds the art institution nowadays. Every day protests and political influence are taking over the mind set up of students in institutions. Their awareness about stability and instability is questioned in it. The reason to generate this question was to compare the point of view and whether they are aware or not. The frequency of disagreeing is half of agreeing which gives a result that students overall are considering the influence of politics. This gives the effect of politics is dominating on student's point of view. There is excessiveness of information for students in which their point of view can vary but this less acceptance of disagreement shows that they are aware on dominance of politics. Whereas strongly agree and disagree are almost equal in result. There are very few of the students who gave neutral point of view.



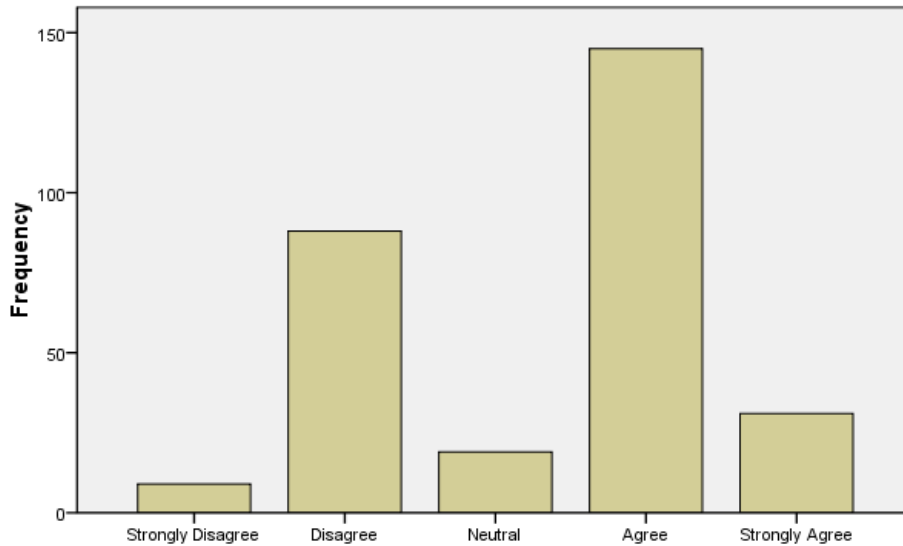
3. Pakistani leadership effects on Art in Pakistan.

The statement is agreed by more than 125% of students and disagreed by less than 100%. There has been a concept of leadership which is given to students when art patronage and development is briefed specially in art history. This information was somehow related to these students previous information which have been given to them. The other aspect of this question probed is about ideology behind the country in which these students are living and they are aware of the fact of leadership which is directly connected to the development of this country. This question analyses the point of view of students about art and politics can be modified by the political leadership. This question widened up the perspective from art to politics controlled more often by leadership ideologies.



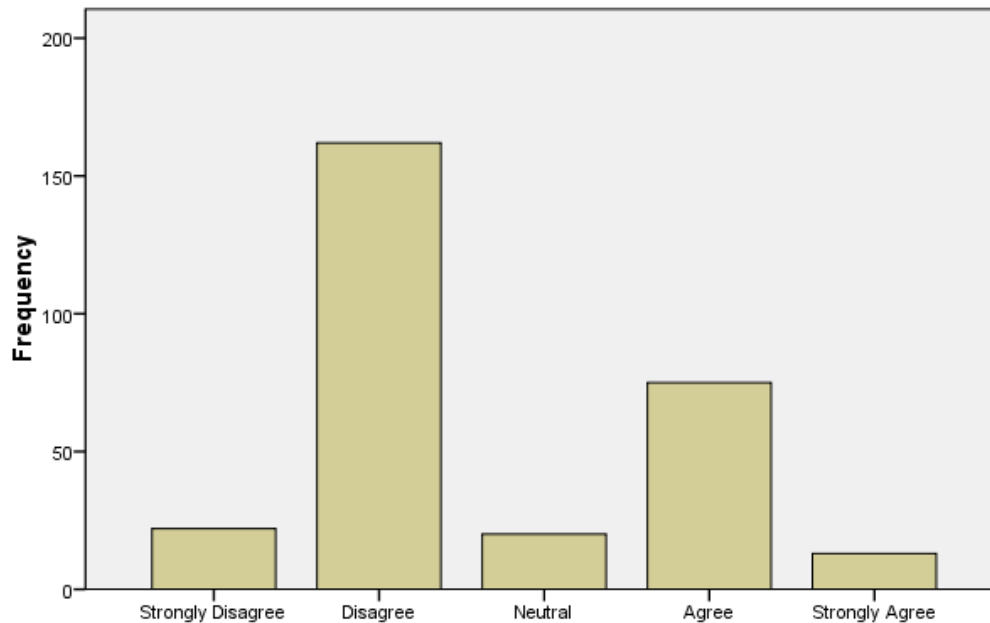
4. Art promotional activities have political concerns.

There is very reedy difference between agree and disagree for the statement. Both of the results agree and disagree are above 100. The students are almost equal in ratio. The political parties have activities in which youth is more and more engaged and addressed. The political infrastructure engages students for activities to gain support. The age groups present at bachelor level are professionals of tomorrow and these activities engage them directly from the political ideology and strategies. These art promotional activities play an engaging tool for students. These activities with political intentions are somehow modifying and convincing students to convert their ideologies according to political strategies. The disagreeing of students was mostly with this concept that art activities supported by politics have in direct didactic in it. It would be gathering of students to highlight work but in contrary preparing them for political. convention.



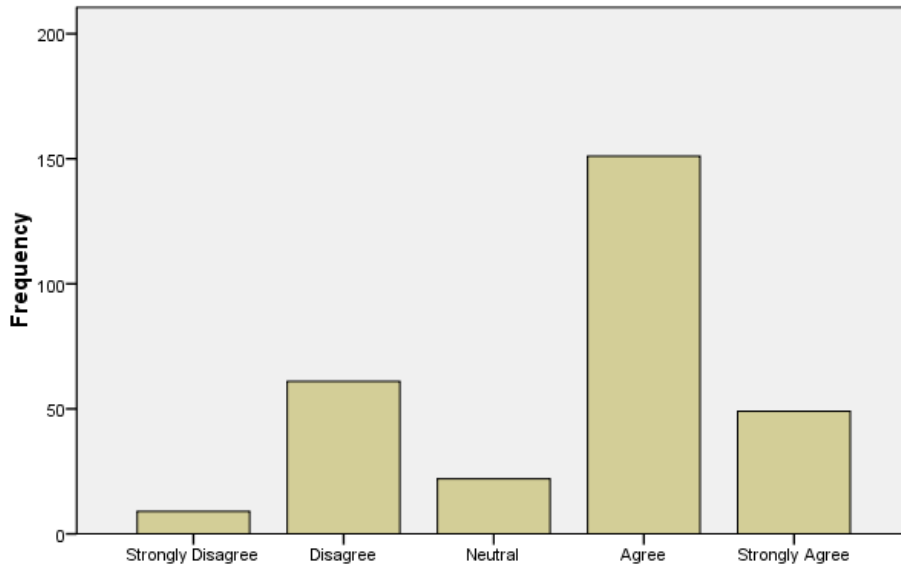
5. Do you think political issues are among the common topics painted by Pakistani artists?

The overall percentage of agree is on the highest scale according to the graph. This question was asked due to art have always been taken as propagation of kings, monarchs and politicians; this scenario was thousands and year back when there was a kingship. Art was a major tool to please or oppose politics. The current situation in which students are present: art is used as a tool to give political statement, e.g., musical jingles and specially postures. Agreeing and disagreeing with the political agendas is one aspect but art can be a political tool. The frequency chart was highest in rating as a large number of students agreed to it. They are aware that a lot can be achieved by giving political statement through art. The expression of politics is overall not pleasant but with interpretation through art vocabulary it will become more effective as comment.



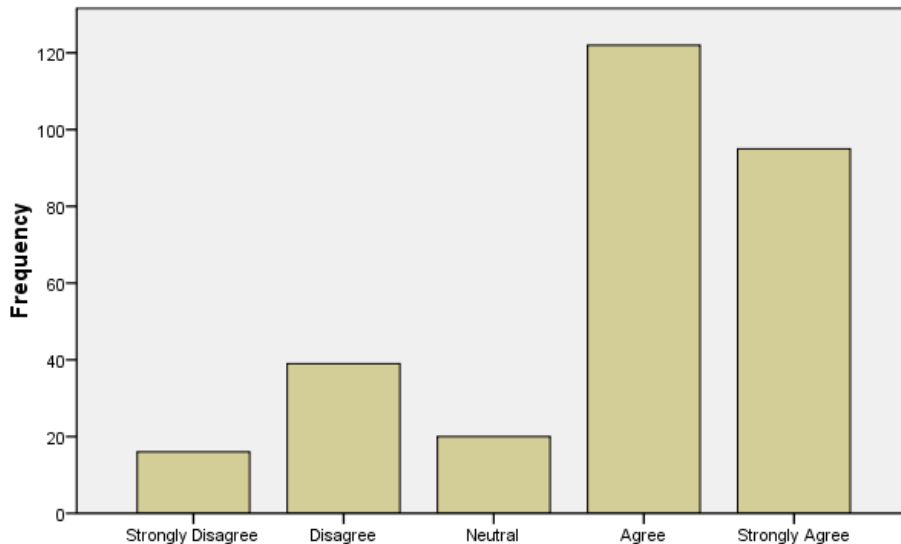
6. Do you think trends in Art are set by political intervention?

There is a disagreement scale high in the statement. The question was to know about student as politics trend setter in art. Art is not just related to politics, it has other dimensions which effect the trend settings in art. The politics can be a minor reason in it. Art and politics are intervened with one aspect but there are multiple reasons which set trends in art. The students were aware of this point and this is the reason that overall frequency of disagreement was high.



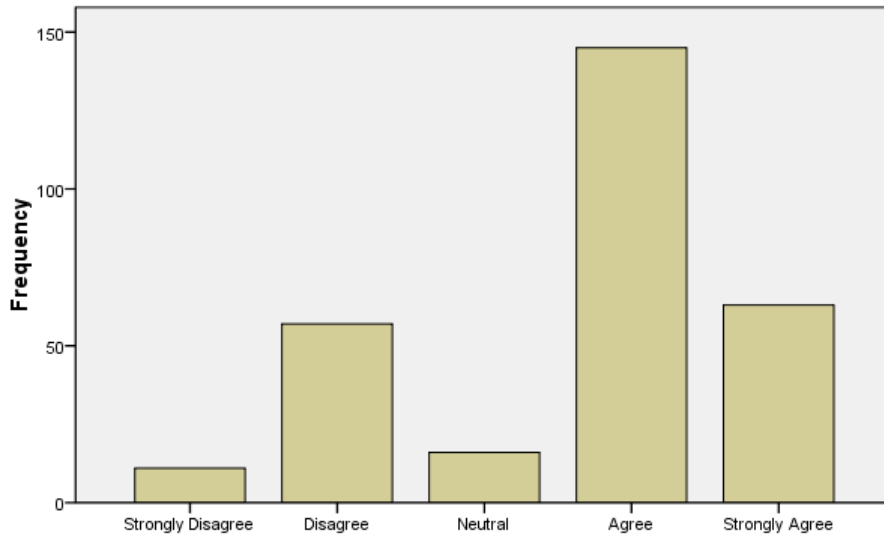
7. Political patronage can increase the value of Art.

The disagreement scale is on half of agreement whereas neutral scale is half of disagree scale. In any field, the economic or the financial statement is very important and the value of an art piece boost ups with political patronage. Around the world the art works present at political buildings are considered as valuable art pieces. This statement is agreed by the student on the highest scale. The result indicates awareness appreciation by the state towards art.



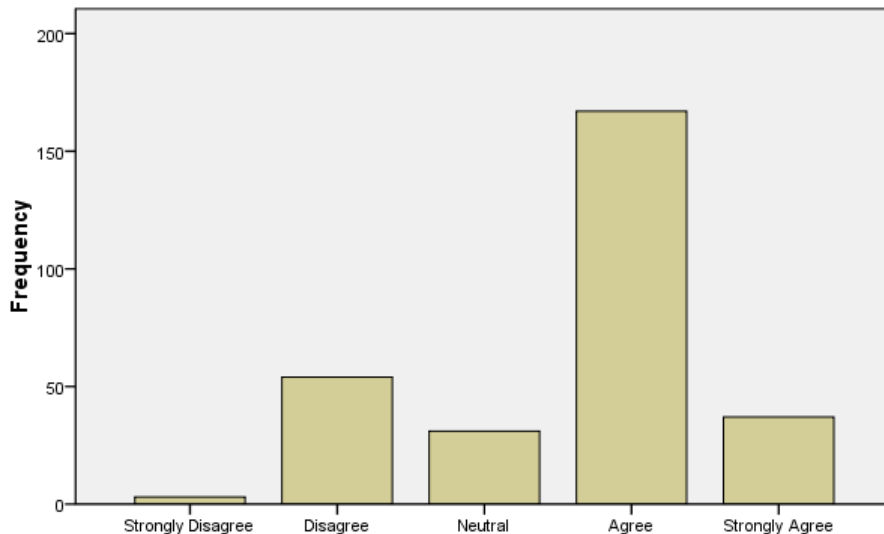
8. Government can play a vital role in constructing the true image of Art in society.

There is a strong agreed reaction on the question. The agreeing and strongly agree are on the highest rating among all of the questions asked by the students. Political strength can promote art in society by giving liberal ship in freedom in expression of art. The politics showing liberty for masses be evident by its patronage. The image of a country is boosted politically by interventions made in art representation. The artistic reformations had a strong influence of politics. In history, art played a vital role triggering in socio-political changes. The image of government strategies can be easily interpreted with art.



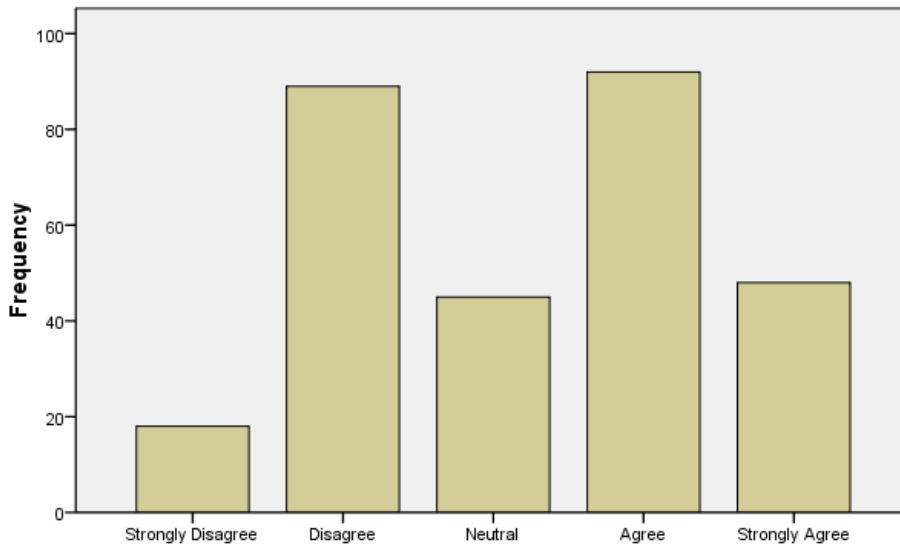
9. Economic instability in the country may have decreased the buying power for the Art.

Disagree and strongly agree are almost on same scale whereas agreed is reaching on the highest scale. The political stability develops economic reforms for commoner. The strategies which give a common person economic stability also allow that individual to appreciate art. This also increases the buying power of art. The art is highly dependent on socio-political stability. There have been events in which student display in institution is closed early due to security issues and from provisional government there was pressure on institute to shorten the time or close the displays. These issues have been known to effect student's work to have less exposure. This is one of the reasons that buying power decreases due to economic disability. There is less appreciation as buying power is on decline.



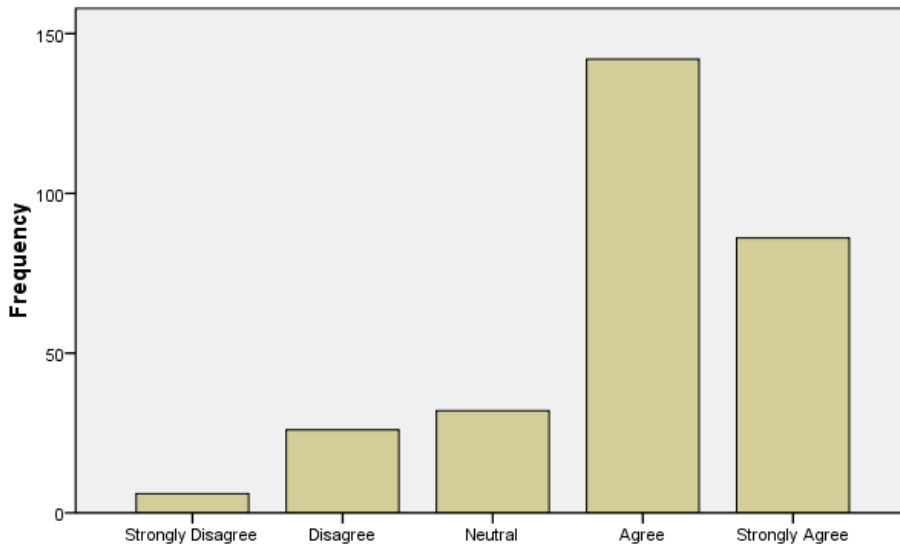
10. Involvement of Corporate sector as a political agent can establish the status of installation art in Pakistan.

There is agreed scale on the highest. Disagree and strongly agree are near to each other in their frequency, whereas strongly disagree is on the lowest scale. The installation art requires perpetual display area. The student can display their work for a longer time. There must be a sustainable area for them allotted by the government which will increase the status of the installation art. The permanent installation at different areas will give dynamism, and a public interest in art and visual effect is increased in urban areas.



11. Conserving the Artworks can only be possible through Governmental support.

This scale is one of the interesting finding in which neutral and strongly agree are equal; on the other hand, disagree and agree are almost on the same frequency. This question was one of the challenging questions to achieve result. The art conservation needs to be done with not just by the support of local government but there must be joint venture for governments around the world to collaborate for the awareness and training for bachelor level.

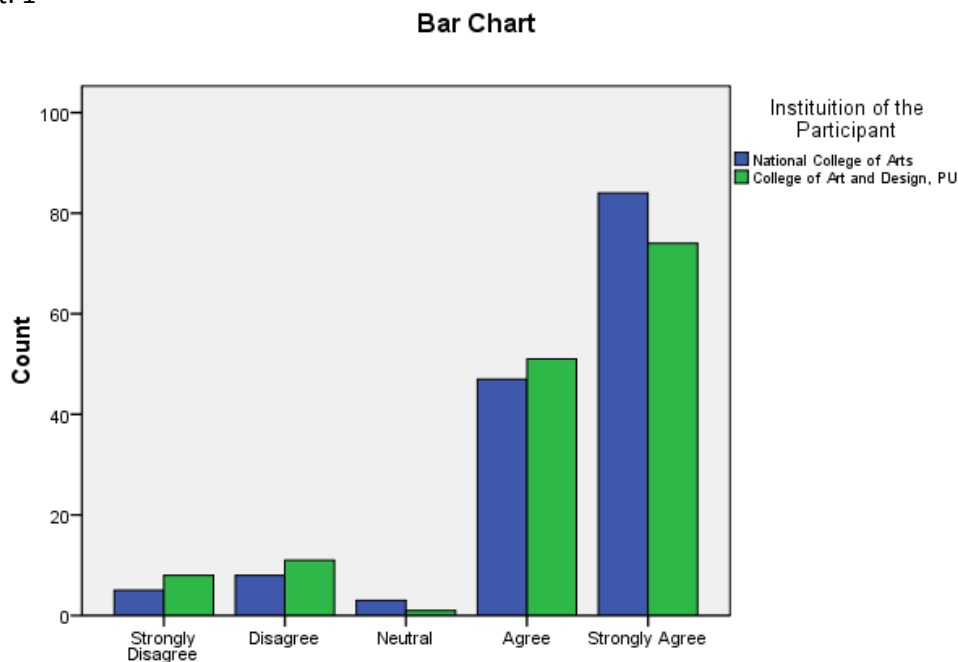


12. Different segments & platforms of Art world (like galleries, forums, biennale, etc.) can collaborate through Governmental support.

This scale indicates agree on the highest scale and strongly agree on the second scale. The categories of neutral and disagree are nearer to each other and strongly disagree is on the lowest scale. The art-related activities can only be triggered by the government support; this is due to a lot of resources are involved in art segments platforms require in which space and security are one of the major reasons. This why the frequency for student point of view on this is on agree and strongly agree.

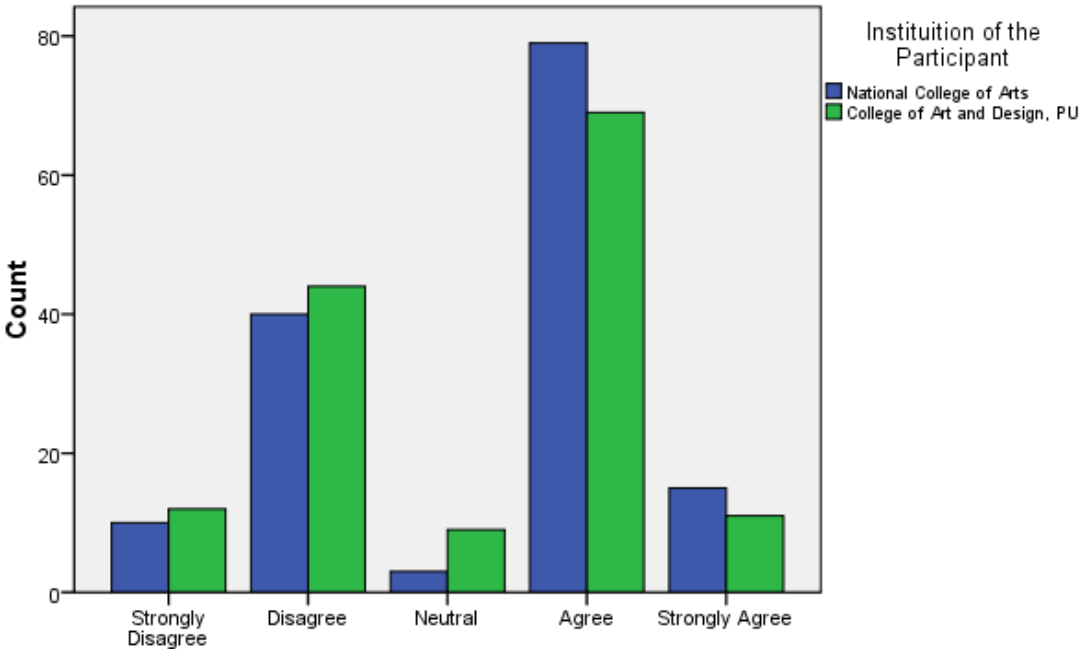
The overall concepts and answers of analytical review are given in the upper question with results. There were two populations which were chosen in the data collection, College of Art and Design and National College of Arts. These two institutions have been working with almost the same departments of Art and Design for more than 50 years. The reason to choose these institutes and depicting a comparative analysis in between the bought institutions has been affected by political stability and instability in the past years. The first question about Art must be supported by the government, the ranking was agreed on by both the institutions (See chart: 1). This gave an overview of the art and government being co-related according to students and the support by the government plays a vital role in the advancement of art in Pakistan. A similar result was with the second question that was about political stability and instability of art; this was rated almost the same by both institutions (See chart: 2). The other rating of disagreeing, neutral and highly disagree are less than 50% and the result of agree and the highest agreed are on the highest rating The third graph was about the influence of political leadership which gave a comparison that agreeing was 100% and disagreeing was 50% by the National College of Arts (See chart: 3). Whereas similar results occurred in results of the College of Art and Design, the agreeing was 60% and disagreeing was on 40%. The fourth graph in which art promotional activities supported by the government were asked, students have different point of view as the agreeing and disagreeing are on the same percentage by the National College of Arts; in comparison, the College of Art and Design have agreed 100% whereas the disagreeing is 50% (See chart: 4). For the first three questions asked by bought institutions, the results were almost the same but in the fourth question, there was a different ratio of agreeing and disagreeing with both of the institutions. The interesting information gathered by bought of the institution result gave that the bachelor level students have almost the same type point of view; however, National College of Arts is considered more liberal in approach this point of view is due to political unions present in University of Punjab College of Art and Design. There has been less influence of these parties exist now but remnants remain but the result of the bought institutions was the same.

Bar chart: 1



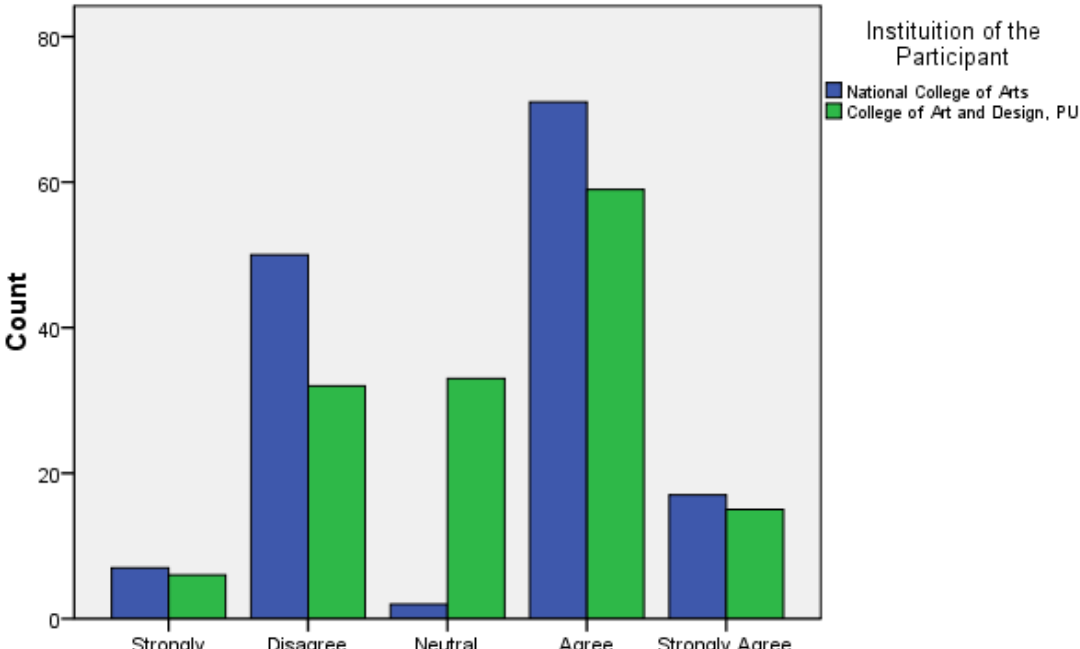
1. Art should have governmental support.

Bar Chart



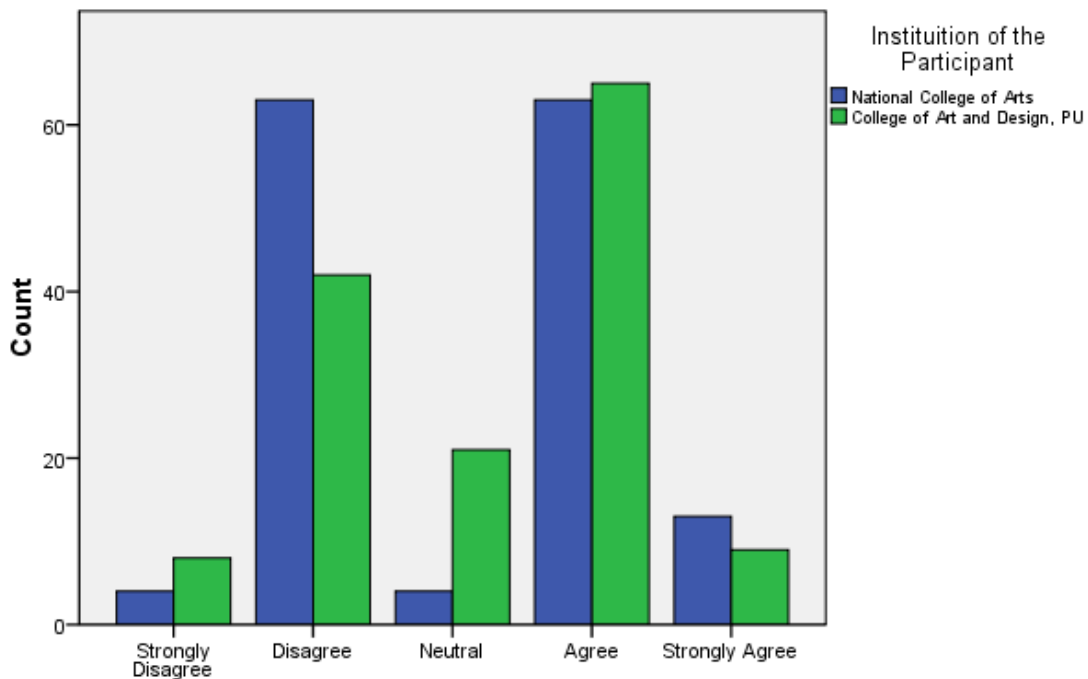
2. Art in Pakistan is influenced by political stability or instability.

Bar Chart



3. Pakistani leadership effects on Art in Pakistan.

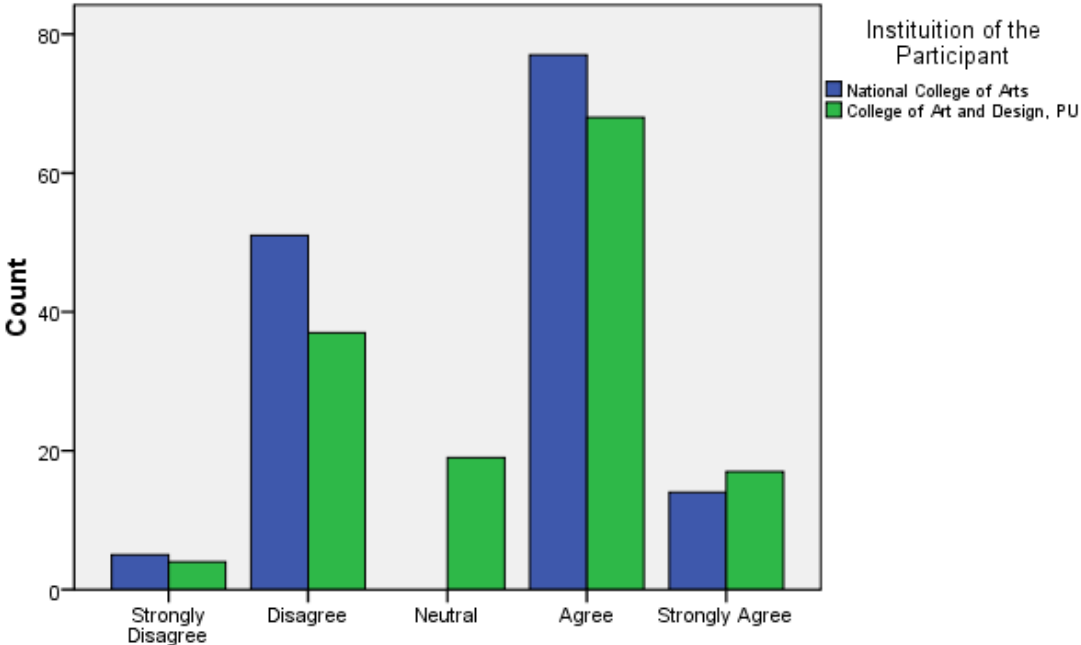
Bar Chart



4. Art promotional activities have political concerns.

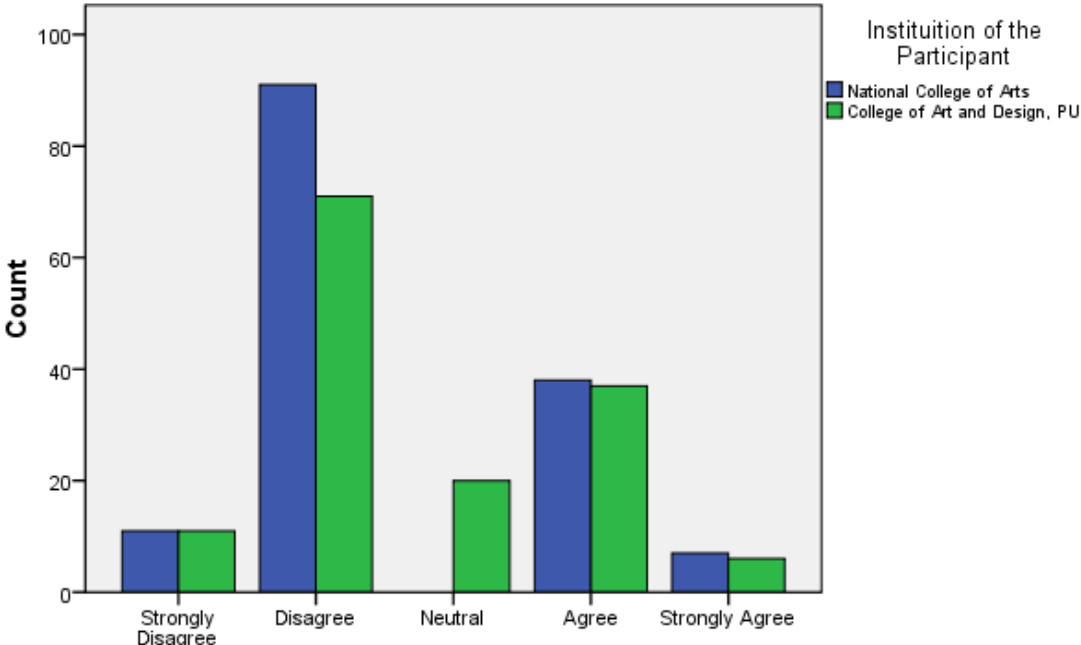
The fifth question about political issues was taken as a topic in their work. This question was less general in approach because it states the selection of a topic for their work. The percentage to agree by both of the institutions was 80%–70% whereas disagreeing was equally rated by both institutions on 50% (See chart: 5), the strongly agree and disagree are on 10%–25%. The sixth statement was setting trends by political intervention is disagreed by the National College of Arts by 90% and the College of Art and Design on 60%. The question was disagreed by the bought institutions. On agreeing, bought institutions were on the equal rating. The strongly agree 15%–10% and strongly disagree is on 10% and neutral was only responded by the College of Art and Design (See chart: 6). The seventh statement about political patronage in increasing the value of art was agreed by the bought institutions on the highest percentage 60%–80%. The disagree percentage is 40% by the National College of Arts and 30% by the College of Art and Design, in contrary, neutral and strongly disagree are on the lowest percentage (See chart: 7). The eighth statement government playing a vital role in constructing an image of Art in society was agreed by the National College of Arts from 80%, on the other hand, the College of Art and Design was 40% in contrary. The College of Art and Design is 50% and the National College of Arts is at 45%. The percentage of neutral and disagree for bought institutions gaged from 20% to 5% (See chart: 8).

Bar Chart



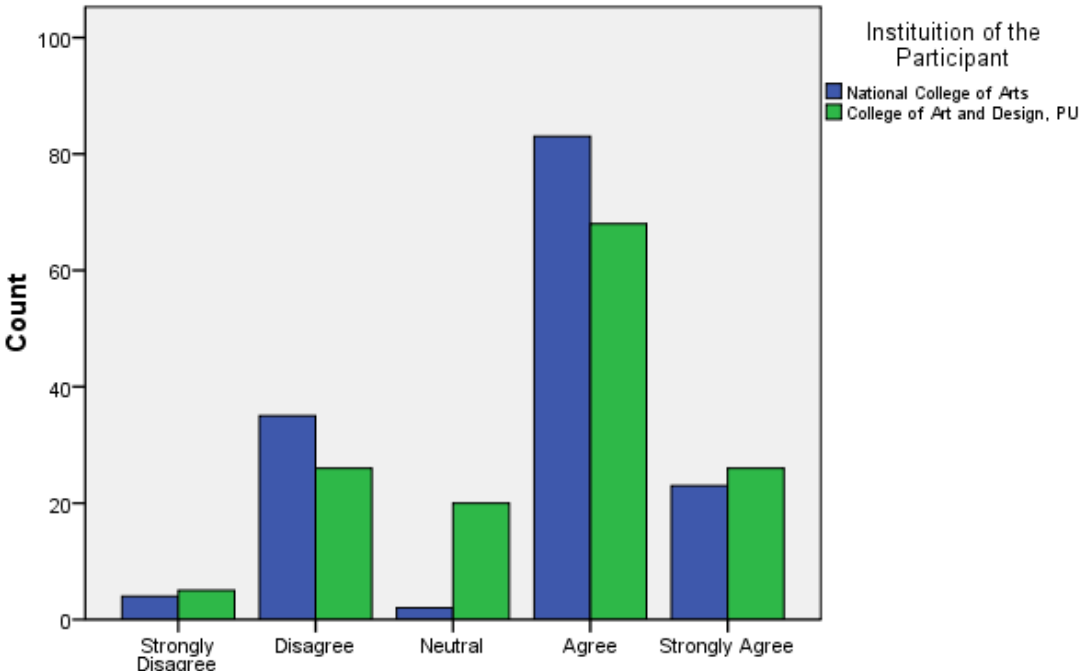
5. Do you think political issue are among the common topics painted by Pakistani artists?

Bar Chart



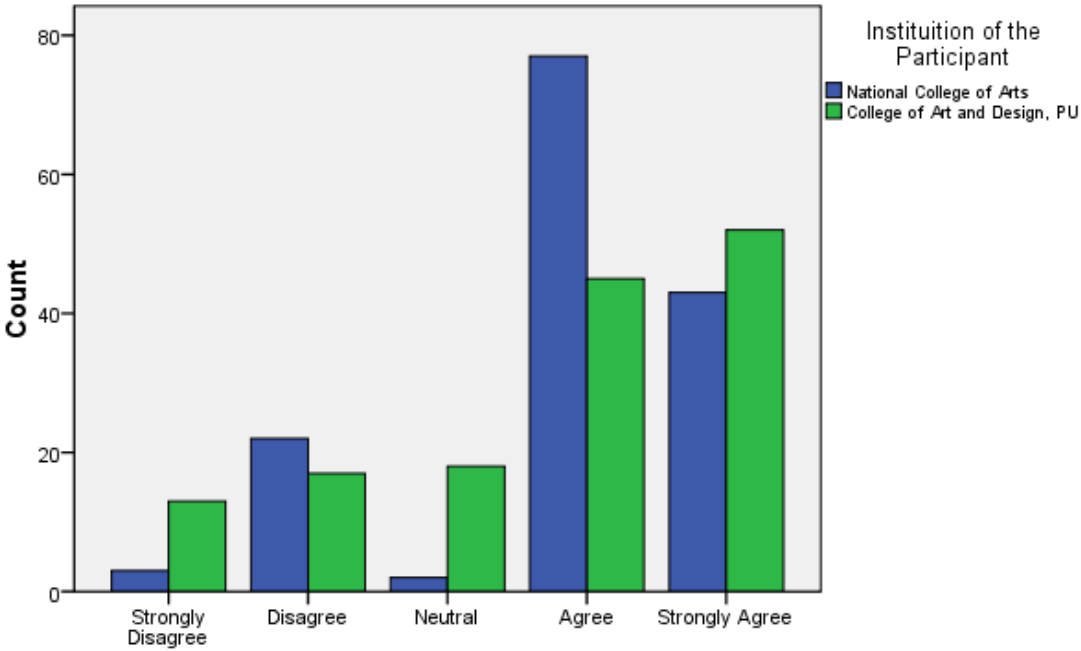
6. Do you think trends in Art are set by political intervention?

Bar Chart



7. Political patronage can increase the value of Art.

Bar Chart



8. Government can play a vital role in constructing the true image of Art in society.

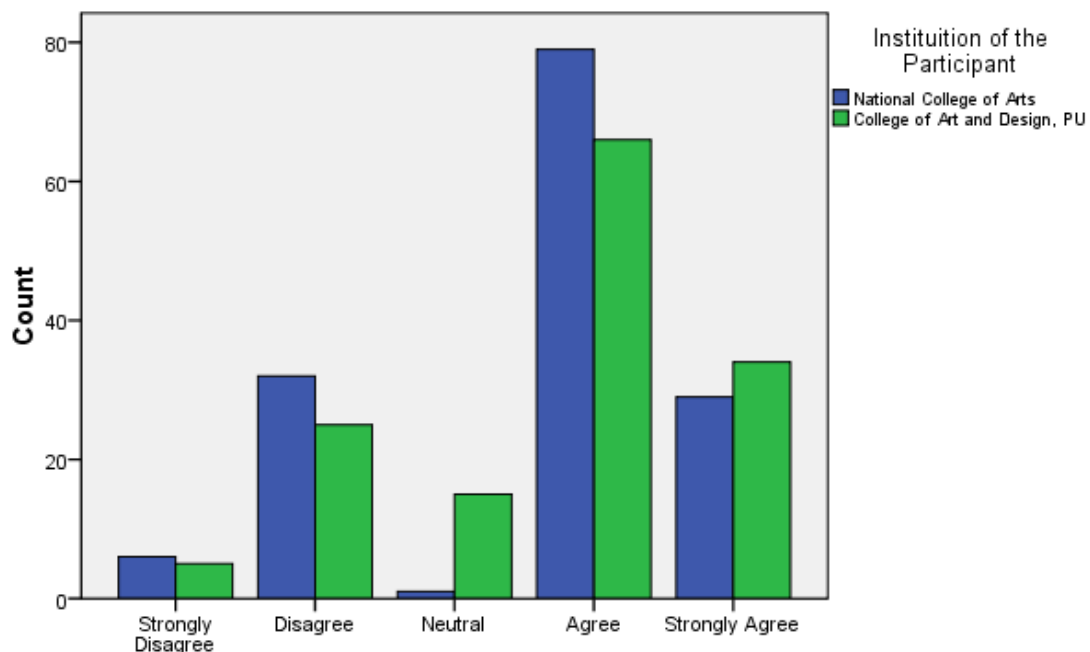
The last four statements amalgamated governmental responsibility in providing resources. These questions covered demands by students. The ninth statement was economic instability affecting the buying power of artwork by the common person in society, the students from the National College of Arts agreed 80% with the same result followed by the College of Art and Design on 75%. On contrary, the strongly disagreed statement was half in the percentage of the agreed statement ranking 40%–35%. The disagreed statement was on 35% from the National College of Arts and 25% from the College of Art and Design. The neutral gage was only answered by the College of Art and Design on 20% (See chart: 9).

The tenth statement was about the involvement of the corporate sector as a political agent can establish the status of installation art. This statement was agreed by the bought institutions around 80%–85%. The disagreement by the bought institution was on 40%–35% by bought of the institutions. The students with neutral and strongly agreed were on 15%–20%. The last one in strongly disagreed on the statement was not marked by the College of Art and Design in comparison with the National College Arts only 5% student replied (See chart: 10).

The eleventh statement concerning the conservation of artworks resulted in only 60% disagreed by the National College of Arts whereas the College of Art and Design was on 30%. This was the highest percentage. The agreed and strongly agreed was 50%–25% by the National College of Arts, and the College of Art and Design was at 40%–35%. The National College of Arts and College of Art and Design were on same rating of 10% on strongly disagreed statement. Whereas neutral was on 40% by the College of Art and Design, and the National College of Arts had the lowest percentage of 10% (See chart: 11).

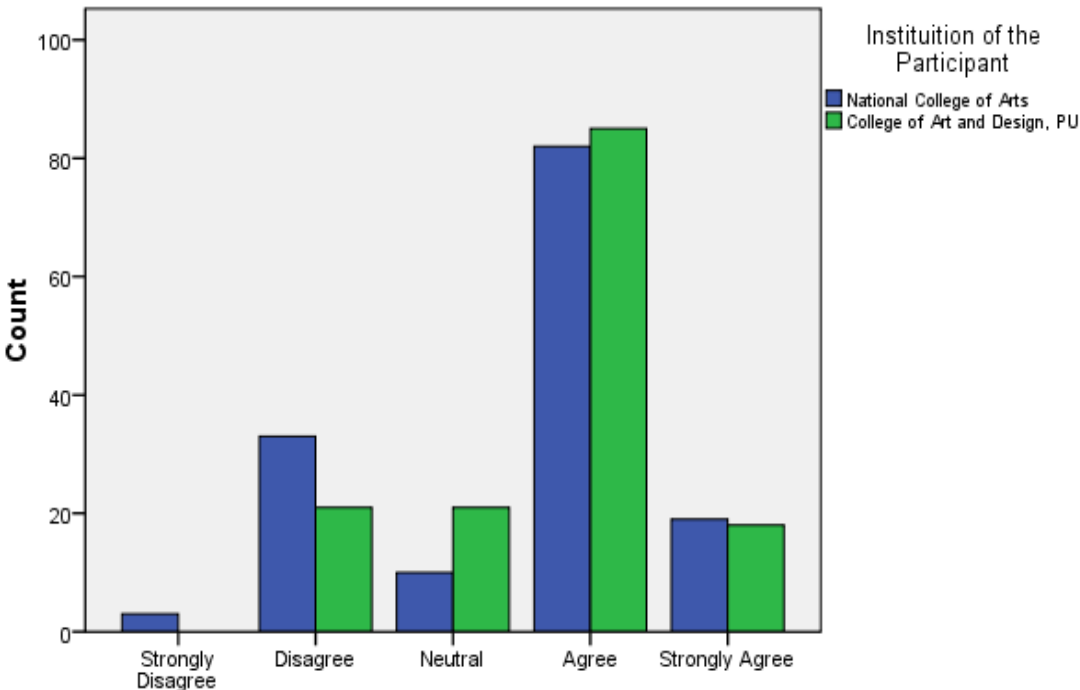
The twelfth statement arranging opportunities in the form of the biennale, providing segments platform and collaboration of different galleries were agreed and strongly agreed by bought of the institutions; in contrary, disagreed and strongly disagreed were on the lowest percentage 10%–20%. The neutral statement was only 5% by the National College of Arts and 30% by the College of Art and Design (See chart: 12).

Bar Chart



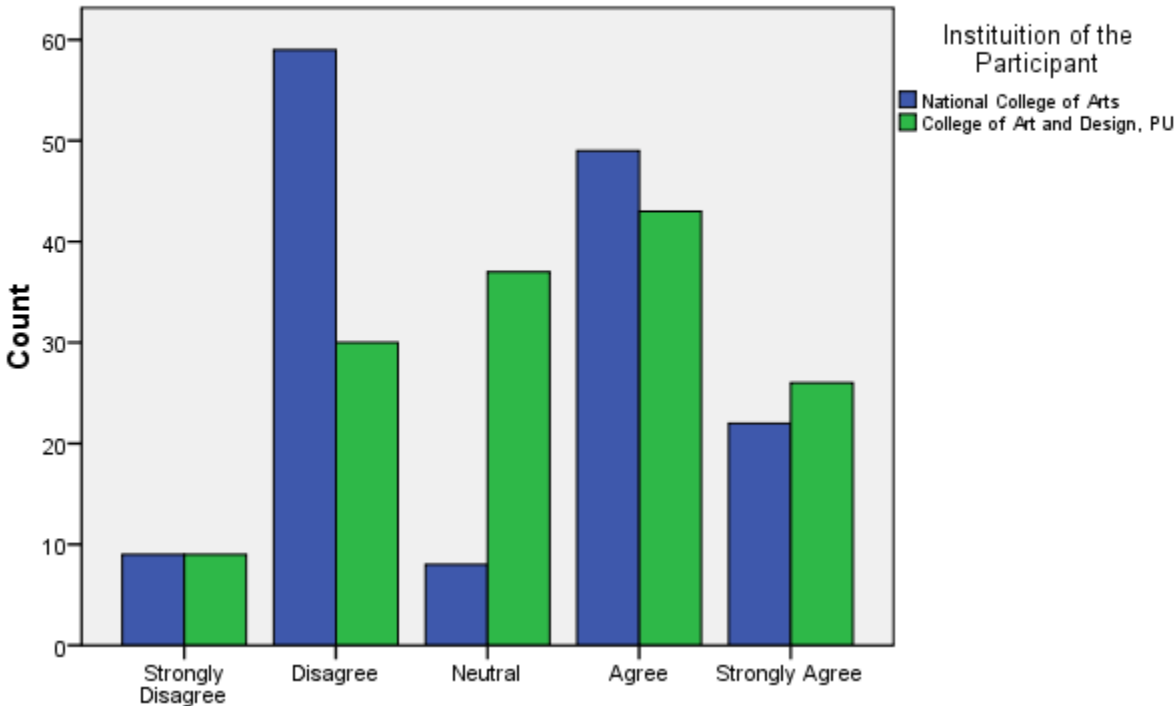
9. Economic instability in the country may have decreased the buying power for the Art.

Bar Chart

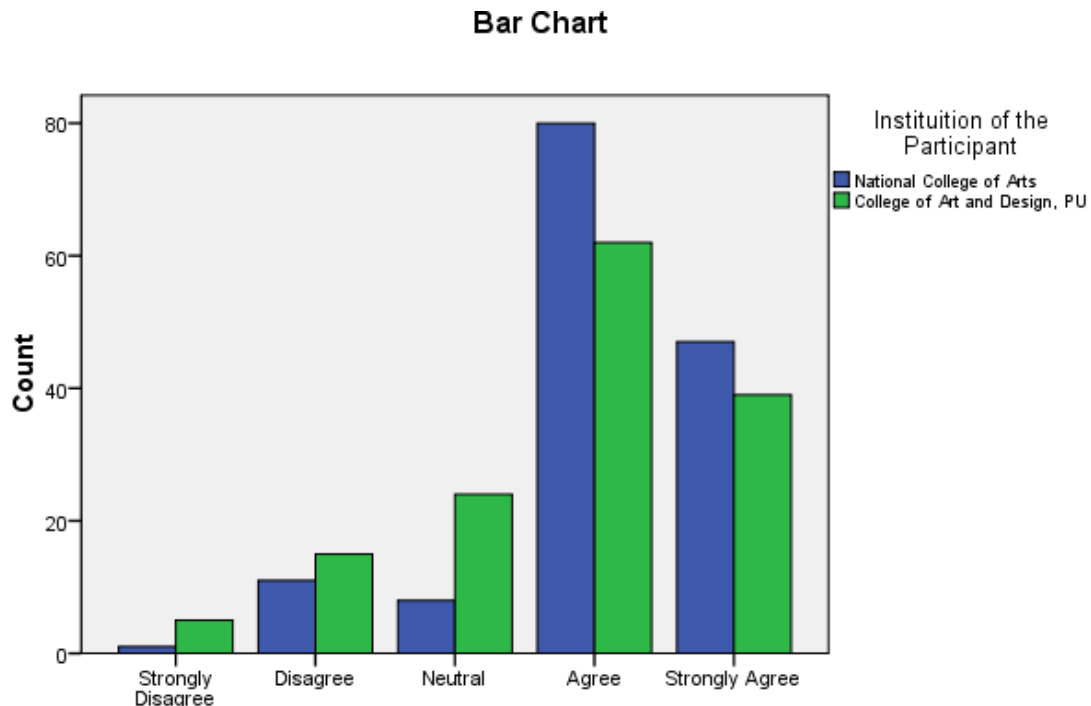


10. Involvement of Corporate sector as a political agent can establish the status of installation art i...

Bar Chart



11. Conserving the Artworks can only be possible through Governmental support.



12. Different segments & platforms of Art world (like galleries, forums, biennale, etc.) can collaborate through Governmental support.

3. Conclusion

The result was similar in both of the institutions. The National College of Arts and College of Art and Design have a different atmosphere in terms of the liberal ship in work and ideology but the students gave almost same answers in which the mental state of argument matches and the responsibility of government must be shared for having an art-oriented society which makes a society socially conscious.

The research paper has three levels in which it is segmented: the first part is the overall result of the two institutions and the reason is given by each statement which is queried by the student. The second part has the discussion on results of the two institutions what gage is been chosen by each of the institutions by discussing the results of the two institutions. The third part is the comparison of both of the institutions. In which the results were the same but in bar chart 11, there was a difference in opinion. There are four charts discussed in each analysis. Comparatively, the results were equal in the ratio for all statements. This was due to the same type of political scenario in which students exist. This research proved to be interesting that the National College of Arts is taken more liberal in its approach and atmosphere in comparison with the College of Art and Design, Punjab University. The result for the statements was equally answered in response. Students liked the topic of politics and Art and their relationship. They shared that some way they are a part of all of the questions which were being asked.

Ali, A. H. (2018). The role and impact of politics on the Art of Pakistan for undergraduates. *New Trends and Issues Proceedings on Humanities and Social Sciences*. [Online]. 5(6), pp 01-17. Available from: www.prosoc.eu

Further Readings

Ansari, A. (2016). Politics and method. *Modes of Criticism*, 42–67.

Hashmi, S. (Ed.). (2015). *The eye still seeks: Pakistani contemporary art*. Penguin Studio.

Jaine, C. *Political art in Pakistan*. Lahore, 04 06 2012. 08 08 2016. Retrieved from dawn.com

Khan, S. A. (2016). *Governance in Pakistan, Hybridism, political instability and violence*. Karachi: Oxford.

Whiles, V. (2010). *Art and polemic in Pakistan: cultural politics and tradition in contemporary miniature painting*. London: I.B.Tauris & Co Ltd.