

Victims' Opinion on Post-Conflict Peace Process in Nepal

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Motivation/Research Question(s)

- How does civil war affect citizens?
- What are the different types of civil war victims?
- Do all victims share similar opinion on post-conflict peace process, specifically, Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs)?

Previous/Ongoing research

- Traditional normative argument, emphasis on need for TJ process after war (Hayner 2001 De Greiff 2006; Roht-Arriaza and Mariezcurrena 2006; Teitel 2000 Minow 2000 and several others)
- Recent argument on the need for a victim centered approach (David and Choi 2005, Laplante and Theidon 2007, Robins 2011, 2012)
- Growing studies within civil war context (Samii 2011; Reiter, Olsen & Payne 2013, Hall et al., 2017, and many more)
- We contribute to the recent effort to understand victims' needs

The Argument

- Civil wars affect citizens in many different ways
- Harms/losses can be grouped into three broad categories:
 - Personal loss
 - Intangible loss
 - Material loss
- Opinion on TRC can vary by victims types

Nepal context

- Maoist insurgency (1996-2006)
- Approximately 13,000 killed, 2,289 disappeared (INSEC, MOPR)
- Conflict ended with a CPA, promised a TRC and a Commission on Disappeared Persons
 - TRC and a Commission on Enforced-Disappearance instituted in 2015
 - Provision of amnesty for perpetrators
 - The two commissions have yet to conclude investigations

Data

- Individual-level survey conducted in 2017
 - Random sample from a list of victims maintained by Informal Sector Service Center (INSEC)/cross verified with government record
 - In person survey in three Midwest districts
 - Mugu 81
 - Rolpa 293
 - Bardiya 343
- Total 717**

Measures of loss/ harms:

Independent Variables:

- **Personal loss:** kidnapped/injured/jailed/orphaned/physical attack/disabled/widowed/family member killed (yes/no)
- **Intangible loss:** job loss/forced out of school/forced labor (y/n)
- **Material loss:** crop loss/forced to provide food, shelter/land seized/property loss/cattle seized/forced donation/house damaged (y/n)
- **Displacement:** (y/n)
- **Controls:** compensation, elevation, literacy, caste, party, gender, age

Results

Dependent variable:

Do you believe that the TRC is fair? (y/n)

Probit Analysis of Individual Opinions Towards TRC

Variables	Model	Marginal Effects	Model 2	Marginal Effects
PERSONAL LOSS	-.24** (.11)	-.09**	-.21** (.12)	-.07**
INTANGIBLE LOSS	-.57** (.14)	-.19**	-.71** (.15)	-.23**
MATERIAL LOSS	1.15** (.12)	.40**	.80** (.15)	.28**
DISPLACED	.28** (.13)	.11**	.28* (.14)	.10**
RECEIVED COMPENSATION	.01 (.18)	.002	.08 (.20)	.03
ELEVATION			.22* (.13)	.08*
LITERATE			-.50** (.14)	-.18**
BRAHMIN/CHHETRI			.33* (.19)	.12*
MAOIST PARTY			-.001 (.12)	-.01
DALIT			.30 (.25)	.11
MINORITIES			.17 (.17)	.06
MALE			.29** (12)	.10**
AGE			-.03 (.02)	-.01
AGE SQUARE			.0003 (.0002)	.0001
CONSTANT	-.85** (.09)		-.07 (.51)	
N	707		690	

Implications

- Those who suffered personal and intangible loss have negative opinion on TRC
- Those who suffered material loss and those who were displaced have a positive opinion
- **Future research:** Unpack victims types
- **Policy implications:**
 - There are differences in how conflicts affect societies
 - TJ processes would benefit from recognizing different types of harms

Thanks!

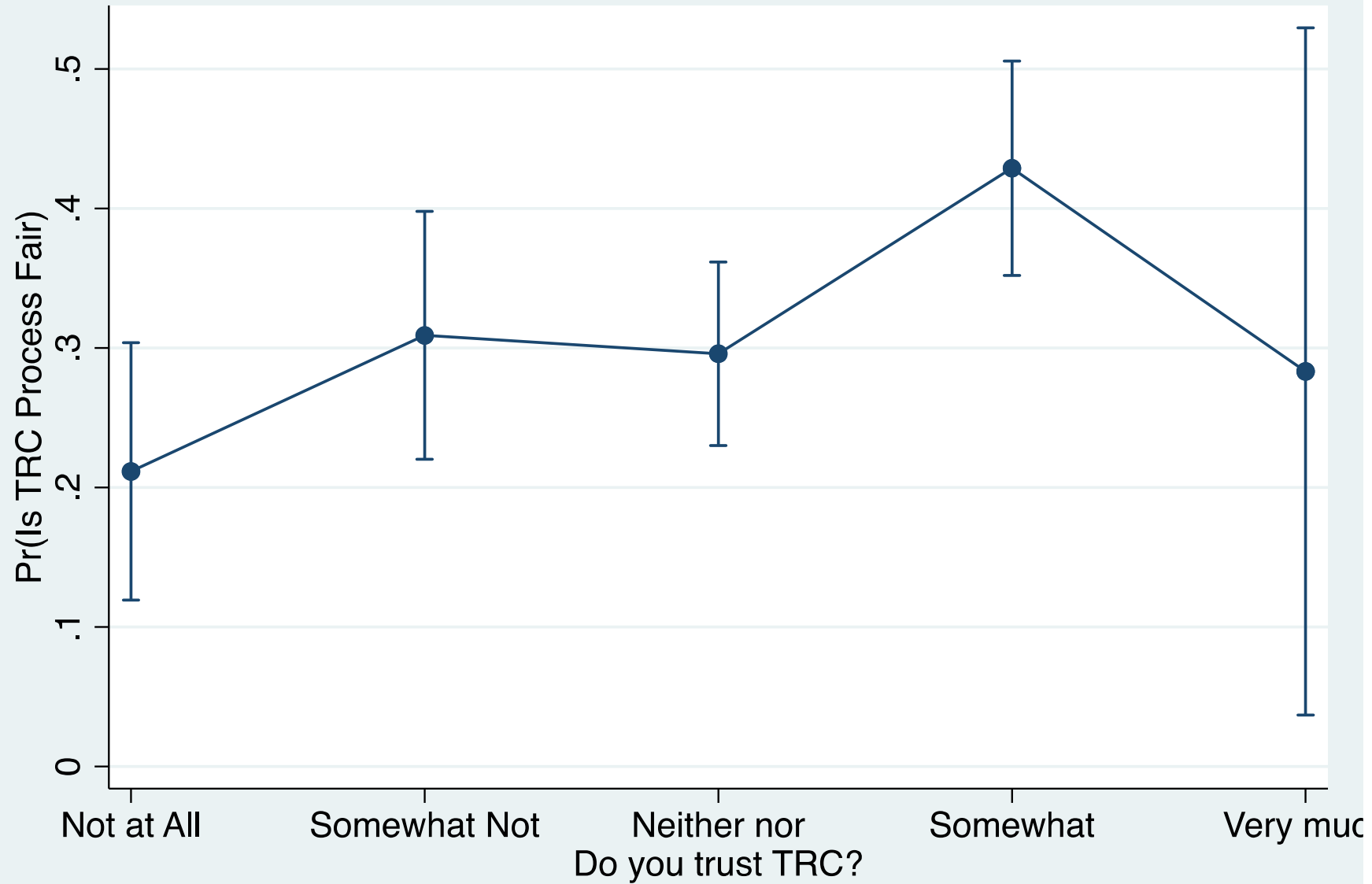
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intangibleloss							
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1 0 1	0	(empty)					
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1 1 1	-.1338415	.2006305	-0.67	0.505	-.5270701	.2593872	
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gotcomp	.1043486	.1999913	0.52	0.602	-.2876272	.4963243	
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brahminchhetri	.3100288	.1979299	1.57	0.117	-.0779067	.6979642	
maoist	.0287413	.1221484	0.24	0.814	-.2106653	.2681478	
dalit	.2013402	.2536787	0.79	0.427	-.2958609	.6985413	
janajati	.0552956	.1797217	0.31	0.758	-.2969525	.4075438	
gender	.2965218	.1185977	2.50	0.012	.0640746	.5289691	
age	-.0414571	.0201826	-2.05	0.040	-.0810142	-.0019	
agesq	.000424	.0002106	2.01	0.044	.0000112	.0008368	
_cons	-.1294671	.5172475	-0.25	0.802	-1.143253	.8843193	

Probit Analysis of Individual Attitudes Towards TRC

Variables	Model 1	Marginal Effects	Model 2	Marginal Effects
PERSONAL LOSS	-.24** (.11)	-.09**	-.24** (.13)	-.09**
INTANGIBLE LOSS	-.57** (.14)	-.19**	-.66** (.15)	-.21**
MATERIAL LOSS	1.15** (.12)	.40**	.75** (.15)	.26**
DISPLACED	.28** (.13)	.11**	.30* (.14)	.11**
RECEIVED COMPENSATION	.01 (.18)	.002	.12 (.20)	.05

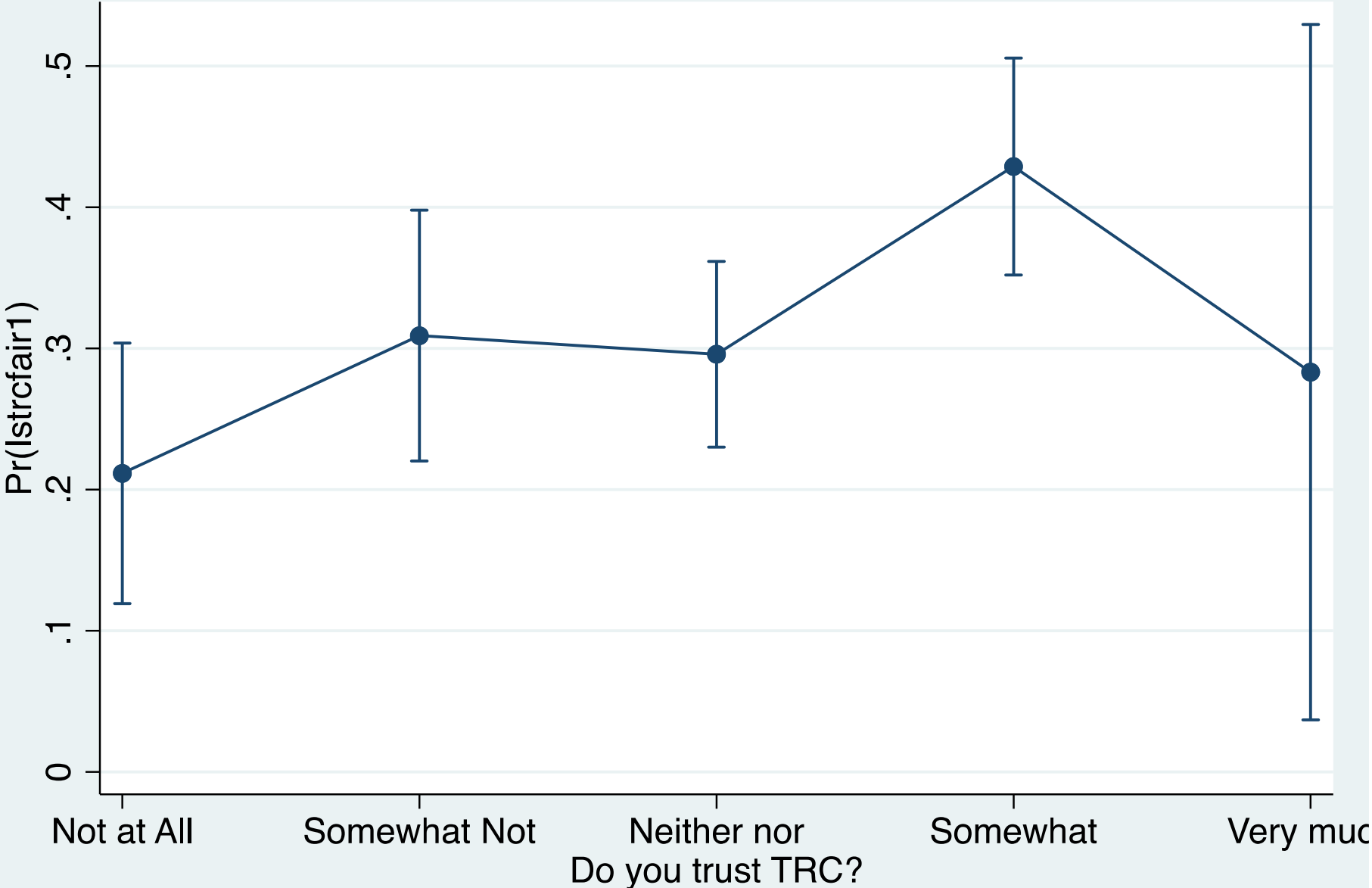
ELEVATION			.25* (.13)	.09*
LITERATE			-54** (.14)	-.20**
BRAHMIN/CHHETRI			.35* (.20)	.13*
MAOIST PARTY			-.02 (.12)	-.01
LOWER CASTE			.26 (.25)	.10
MINORITIES			.13 (.17)	.05
MALE			.29** (12)	.11**
AGE			-.04** (.02)	-.02**
AGE SQUARE			.0005* (.0002)	.0002**

Adjusted Predictions of trctrust with 95% CIs



Districts	Topographic Region	Total violations (INSEC)	Total Violations (MOPR)	Sample
Mugu	Mountain	87	418	81
Rolpa	Hill	841	6941	293
Bardiya	Plain	577	1596	343
Total		1505	8955	717

Adjusted Predictions of trctrust with 95% CIs



21% among Not at all

31% among somewhat

30% among Neither nor

43% among Somewhat

28% among Very much