Methods

The data used to conduct the study came from the Civicus Enabling Environment Index 2013 (EEI). The EEI uses 71 secondary statistical data sources and 53 different indicators to compare and measure the “capacity of citizens (whether individually or collectively) to participate and engage in civil society” in 109 countries. The data was then studied using a quantitative research method. I analyzed the data and ran correlations and regression models on all the variables. The dependent variable is Tolerance, Independent Variable is Rule of Law, and Control Variable is Interest Groups.

Key Findings

The data found that an increase in the Rule of Law, when measured against the control variable, has a negative relationship with a cultures level of Tolerance. Because humans react negatively to potential threats it is imperative that citizens feel safe to possess differing opinions on politics, religion, etc. Cultures with a high level of Rule of Law may experience legal restrictions on the levels of diversity accepted and permitted. Heavy-Handed Rule of Law discourages differing from the accepted norms.

Interest Groups, which were not strongly correlated with Rule of Law, have a positive relationship, even when accounting for Rule of Law, with Tolerance in a society. Exposing a culture to a diverse range of ideas and cultures makes people more accepting of differences.

These findings are important as many societies think about methods of decreasing societal fractures and accommodating for an increasingly diverse population. This study indicates that increasing the Rule of Law is not an effective method of making society more tolerant. But, increasing Interest Groups may be an effective method of increasing Tolerance. Societies should think about ways of increasing Interest Groups as a tool of increasing Tolerance.

Sources and Acknowledgements

