1. Record Nr. UNINA9910585963403321 Autore Sanyal Paromita Titolo Oral democracy: deliberation in Indian village assemblies / / Paromita Sanyal, Vijayendra Rao [[electronic resource]] Cambridge:,: Cambridge University Press,, 2019 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-108-57722-9 1-108-65070-8 1-139-09571-4 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xi, 215 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Collana Theories of institutional design Disciplina 320.8/40954 Gram sabha - India Soggetti Direct democracy - India Discourse analysis - Political aspects India Politics and government 21st century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 04 Jan 2019). Includes bibliographical references. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Discursive political culture -- Political construction, state enactments. and citizen performances -- The role of literacy in deliberative democracy -- Conclusion : oral democracy. Oral Democracy studies citizens' voices in civic and political Sommario/riassunto deliberations in India's gram sabhas (village assemblies), the largest deliberative institution in human history. It analyses nearly three hundred transcripts of gram sabhas, sampled within the framework of a natural experiment, allowing the authors to study how state policy affects the quality of discourse, citizens' discursive performances and state enactments embodied by elected leaders and public officials. By drawing out the varieties of speech apparent in citizen and state interactions, their analysis shows that citizens' oral participation in development and governance can be improved by strengthening deliberative spaces through policy. Even in conditions of high inequality and illiteracy, gram sabhas can create discursive equality by developing the 'oral competence' of citizens and establishing a space in which they can articulate their interests. The authors develop the concept of 'oral

democracy' to aid the understanding of deliberative systems in non-

Western and developing countries. This title is also available as Open Access.