

Afghanistan: An Overview

WIMC Afghanistan was fielded from January 24th to February 2nd of 2012. The achieved sample size was N = 971 of face-to-face interviews. The topics included women's rights, healthcare, and education. The sampling methodology was a multistage random sample of female Muslim adults age 18+ from urban and rural locations. Data from Afghanistan in 2007 (N = 1175) and 2010 (N = 1952) are available.

Sample and Research Design

The sample is stratified by province and districts are selected through a proportional to population systematic random sample (PPS). Villages and settlements are selected through a simple random sample. Clusters are then distributed randomly within each settlement. A random walk method with a fixed sampling interval was performed from a starting point. Interviews use a Kish grid to select individual respondents within an eligible household.

Improved Women's Rights

Almost three quarters of Afghan women (73%) believe that, overall, the rights of women in Afghanistan have improved since the start of the U.S. presence. Of women that believe that the rights of women have improved, 43% believe that the Afghan government is most responsible for this improvement while 29% give credit to the United States. Of women who believe women's rights have declined, 30% blame the United States while 14% blame the Taliban.

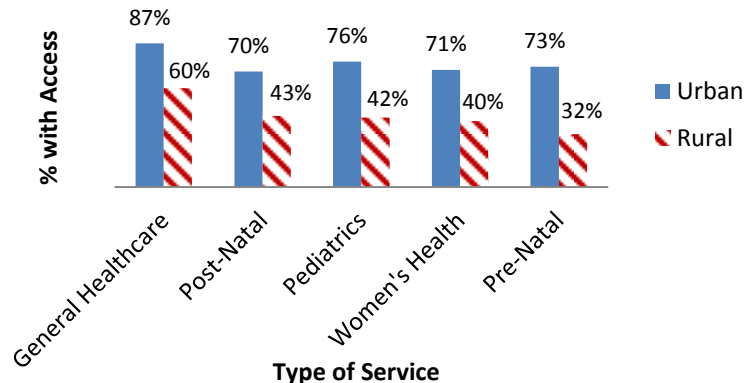
What Women Want

Since the first study was conducted in 2007, there has been a shift in what women say they would want to change most in their life from more money to better health. In March 2007 34% of women stated that they would like more money/greater income to make their life happier and 19% stated better health. Today, the desire for a greater income has dropped to 26%, while the percentage of those wishing for 'better health' has risen to 26%.

Healthcare

There is a deep divide between urban and the rural communities of Afghanistan when it comes to access to and quality of healthcare.

Figure 1: Access to Adequate Health Services



n=971, MoE +/-3%

Education

Since the first study in 2007, the percentage of the female Afghan population with no education has remained steady at around 70%. When women who did not receive a college education were asked why they did not attend school or dropped out before attending college, 1/3 stated that it was because their family would not allow them to continue, 15% stated that it was because no school was available and an additional 11% stated that they became married or had a child which prohibited them from continuing their education.

Table 1: Education of Afghan Women, 2007-2012

	<i>Afghan Women</i>
Literate	30%
Illiterate	70%

Outlook

A slight majority of Afghan women (57%) believe that their country is headed in the right direction.

For more information on how to participate or access the data please contact
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