

Bahrain –Overview

Bahrain was fielded from December 22nd, 2008 to February 7th, 2009. The achieved sample size was N = 483 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 18-65 from urban and rural locations.

Sample and Research Design

This was a CATI study built off of randomized numbers drawn from known exchanges. Respondents were selected using a “next birthday” method and a quota fill. Respondent substitution was not used to ensure no confusion with respondent selection existed.

Protection/Promotion of Women's Rights

Women's opinion is quite uniform over whether their rights under the UNCEAFDAW (United Nations Conventions to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) are protected under Sharia. One third of the women surveyed (33%) say their rights are very well protected under Sharia, with an additional 53% saying their rights are somewhat protected. Only 7% of women surveyed said their rights were 'not well protected' or 'not protected at all' under Sharia.

Employment

The majority of women surveyed (57%) are housewives who do not work outside the home. However, 17% of women are currently working outside the home with an additional 5% unemployed but actively seeking employment. This increasing financial access is reflected in the managing of household finances: 24% of women say they decides what purchases are made to meet daily household needs like food, clothing, and cleaning supplies, with an additional 22% of women saying they control the household savings.

Democracy

Although a constitutional monarchy, Bahrain holds onto a democratic spirit. Just over 59% of women surveyed affirmed they had voted in the last national election or referendum – bearing in mind that women were allowed to vote for the first time in 2002.

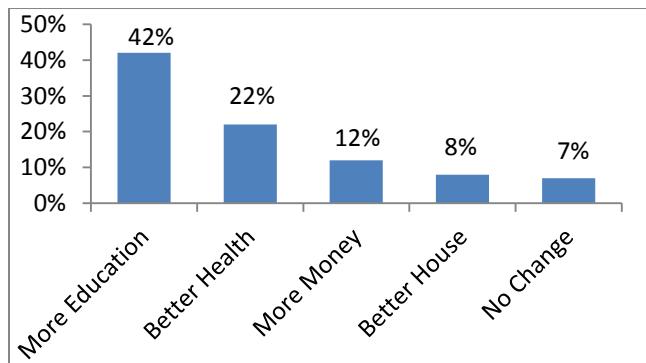
Education

Ten percent of Bahraini women mentioned having only religious instruction or no formal education at all. Just under a fifth (20%) of the women surveyed had not completed their secondary education. Thirty percent of the women surveyed had finished their secondary education, with an additional 29% having completed a four-year degree or some college. Around 8% of women pursued graduate level education or higher.

What Women Want

When asked if they could change one thing to make their life happier, a plurality of Bahraini women stated they would like to have better education (42%). Additionally, women stated they would like better health (22%), more money/greater income (13%), or a better house (8%). Seven percent of women stated that no change was necessary in their life.

Figure 1: What women would like to make their lives happier.



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