

Central Asia – Overview

WIMC - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan were fielded between November 14th and 28th, 2007. The achieved sample size was N=1121 for Kazakhstan, N=1027 for Kyrgyzstan and N=999 for Tajikistan. All interviews were conducted face-to-face using pen and paper questionnaires. 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.

Sample and Research Design

The sample for each country is stratified by region and urban and rural population size based on each country's population statistics. Districts within each region were randomly selected through a simple random sample. Sampling points were then selected through a simple random sample. Clusters are then distributed randomly within each sampling points. A random walk method with a fixed sampling interval was performed from a starting point. For Kazakhstan, interviewers used the "last birthday" method for selecting respondents, the "closest birthday" method was used for the remaining countries.

What Women Want

Greater income is the primary concern of women in Kazakhstan with 42% stating that it would be the one thing they would change in their life to make themselves happier. In Kyrgyzstan, a plurality of women (36%) state that improved healthcare would improve their lives. In Tajikistan, responses are varied from better health (25%), increased income (24%), improved housing (20%) and better education (20%)

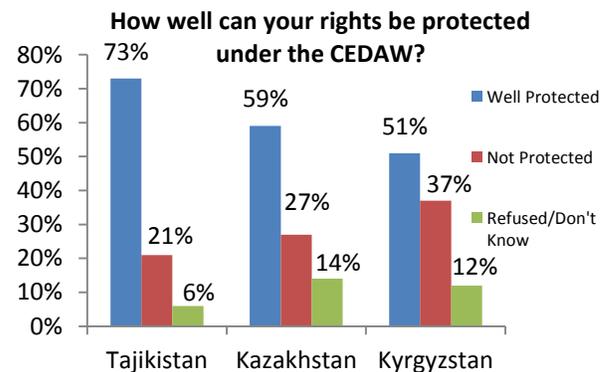
Structural Independence

Kazakhstan has the highest proportion of women with the characteristic that would identify them as independent and self-sufficient – a job. Forty-five percent of Kazakh women are employed compared to 30% of those in Kyrgyzstan and 16% in Tajikistan. Of those working, 99% of Kazakh women receive wages directly instead of given to a male in the

household compared to 93% of Kyrgyz women and only 80% of Tajik women. Not surprisingly, unemployed women in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan want more opportunity, with 48% and 42% respectively stating they would be interested in taking advantage of training or startup money if it was available, compared to 35% of those in Kazakhstan.

Protection of Rights

A majority of women in each country believe that their rights can be effectively protected under the UNCEDAW (73% Tajikistan, 59% Kazakhstan and 51% Kyrgyzstan). Kyrgyzstan has the highest levels of pessimism concerning the UNCEDAW with 36% stating that their rights cannot be effectively protected under the CEDAW.



Education

The level of education among women in Central Asia is fairly high, especially in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. In Kazakhstan, the average number of years of formal education is just under 13 years, in Kyrgyzstan it is around 12 years. However, in Tajikistan, the average years of formal education is under 10 years.

Information Outreach

Women in both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan receive news and information from television (75% and 73% respectively; Tajikistan 58%). However, a larger proportion of women in Tajikistan (28%) receive news and information from friends or family compared to just under 5% in Kazakhstan (4.9%) and Kyrgyzstan (4.6%).

For more information on how to participate or access the data please contact WIMC@d3systems.com

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