

## Saudi Arabia –Overview

Saudi Arabia was fielded from April 3, 2007 to April 17, 2007. The achieved sample size was N=511 of telephone interviews. The topics included women’s rights, general outlook, and education. The sampling methodology was a multistage random sample of female Muslim adults 18+ from urban and rural locations.

## Sample and Research Design

The sample was distributed by province proportional to population. Sample points were chosen by randomly selecting exchange numbers (first 3 digits of telephone numbers) in each province. A maximum of 10 interviews are conducted for each exchange, within each area code. The respondents were selected using the “Last Birthday” method, and there were no respondent substitutions made.

## What Women Want

When women in Saudi Arabia were asked what they would change to make their lives happier, the majority of women desire “better health” (36%) or “better education” (27%).

## Protection/Promotion of Women’s Rights

Saudi Arabia is a signatory of the *United Nations Conventions to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*. Opinions about whether women’s rights are protected under the convention and promoted within Shari’a (Islamic law) are optimistic among women in Saudi Arabia. The majority of women (64%) believe their rights are “very well protected” under the convention, while another 28% believe it is at least “somewhat protected.”

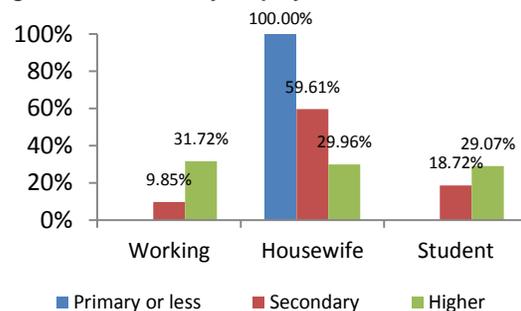
## Education

Sixteen percent of women have completed primary education or less (0-6 years). Another 40% have completed at least some secondary education (7-12 years), and 44% of women have completed at least some higher education (13+ years).

## Employment

Over half (53%) of women in Saudi Arabia say they are housewives who do not work outside the home. Eighteen percent say they are working, and another 20% say they are students. Five percent say they are unemployed and actively looking for a job. All women with primary or less education (100%, n=82) are housewives, compared to 60% of those with secondary education (n=203) and 30% of those with higher education (n=227).<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1: Education by Employment Status**



## Business Opportunities

Only 2% of women own their own business. However, 63% say they would be interested and able to take advantage of training and startup money if given the opportunity to start a business.

Those who are unemployed with primary or less education (21%, n=82) are more likely to believe that other factors would prevent them from starting a business, regardless of training or startup money, compared to those with secondary (18%, n=180) or higher education (13%, n=143).<sup>2</sup>

## Household Financial Situation

Forty-seven percent of women in Saudi Arabia say they control savings in their households, and 30% say their spouse controls the savings. Twenty-two percent of women say they have separate savings accounts from their spouses.

<sup>1</sup> Relationship is significant with 95% confidence.

<sup>2</sup> Relationship is significant with 95% confidence.

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