

Yemen – Overview

Data collection in Yemen was from January 22, 2009 to February 26, 2009. The achieved sample size was N = 468 face-to-face interviews, 108 of which were with Yemeni expatriates. The topics included media, women's rights, democratic participation, and household dynamics. The sampling methodology was a multistage random sample of female Muslim adults age 18-99 from urban and rural locations.

Sample and Research Design

The sample is divided proportionally by urbanity and assigned by region. Within each governorate there exist a number of administrative districts. These districts are in turn selected through a PPS basis. Using detailed maps, interviewer routes are pre-determined. Interviews use a Kish grid to select individual respondents within an eligible household.

Protection/Promotion of Women's Rights

Women's opinion are split over whether their rights under the UNCEAFDAW (United Nations Conventions to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) are protected under Sharia. Over half of those surveyed (N=468), 54%, believe their rights are very well protected and promoted under Sharia law, with at least an additional 33% believing that they are somewhat protected. Moreover, only 14% of women ever reported being denied necessary healthcare because they are a woman.

What Women Want

When asked if they could change one thing to make their life happier (N=468), a slight majority of Yemeni women stated they would like to have a better education (51%). Additionally, women stated they would like better health (22%), more money (12%), or are content (8%).

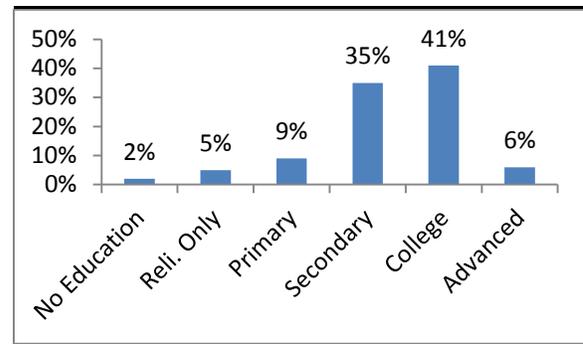
Democracy

Since 1991, Yemen has been a constitutional republic with a bicameral legislature. The

majority of women, however, do not participate in the electoral process as only 45% of women surveyed affirmed they had voted in the last national election or referendum.

Education

Figure 1: Number of years of formal education completed (aggregated)



Interestingly, despite their desire for more education, Yemeni women have particularly high levels of education, even when compared to other countries of similar economic standing in the region. Only 2% of women received no formal education and 5% had religious instruction only. Nine percent received up to 8 years of Primary education and another 35% received 4 more years of secondary education. Impressively, about 41% received some college education or higher; and an additional 6% of those received advanced degrees (MA/MBA/PhD).

Family

The majority of the women surveyed fulfill traditional roles. We see that 61% of the women have been married, and 53% of all those surveyed are homemakers. In the household, purchasing (32%) and savings (38%) are largely controlled jointly, followed shortly after by the women themselves (30% and 25% respectively).

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