

Perspectives on Attitudes and Behaviors of Pashtun Women in Afghanistan and Pakistan

By Anne Pessala

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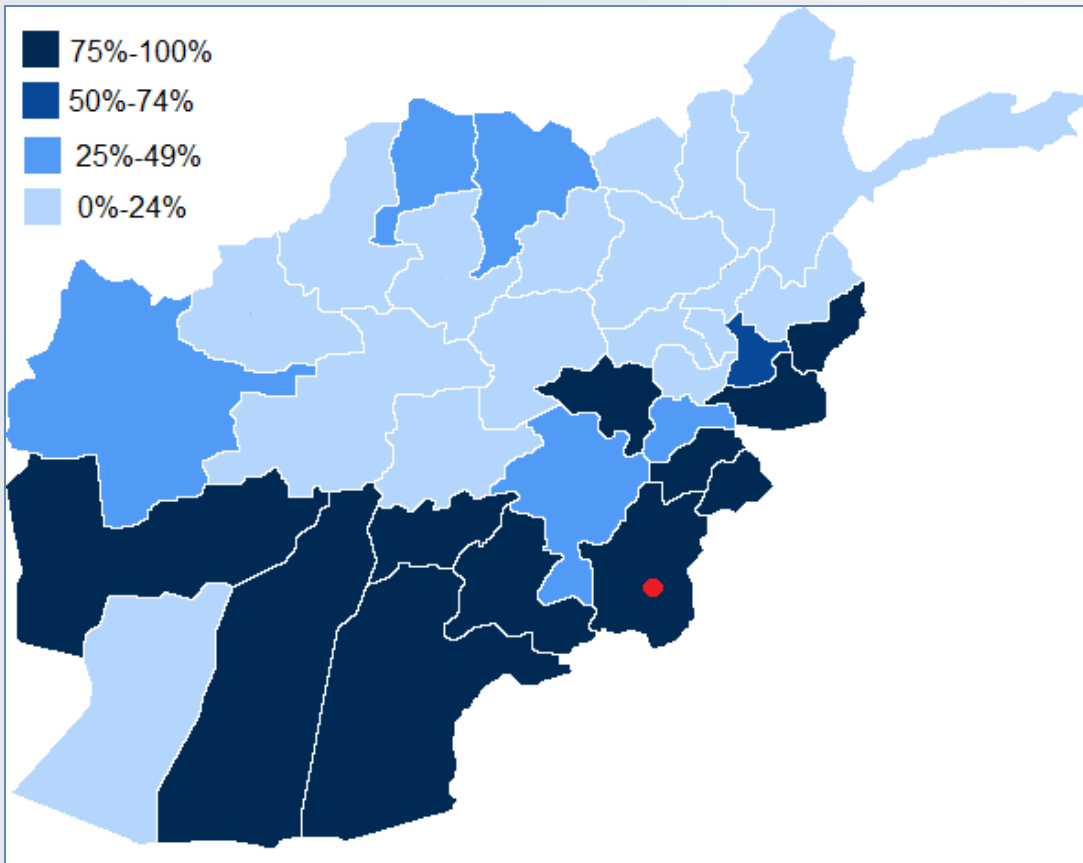
- Who are the Pashtun people?
- Methodology
- Access to healthcare and education
- Attitudes towards women's rights
- Finances
- Voting behavior
- Media behavior
- Future research

Who are the Pashtun People?

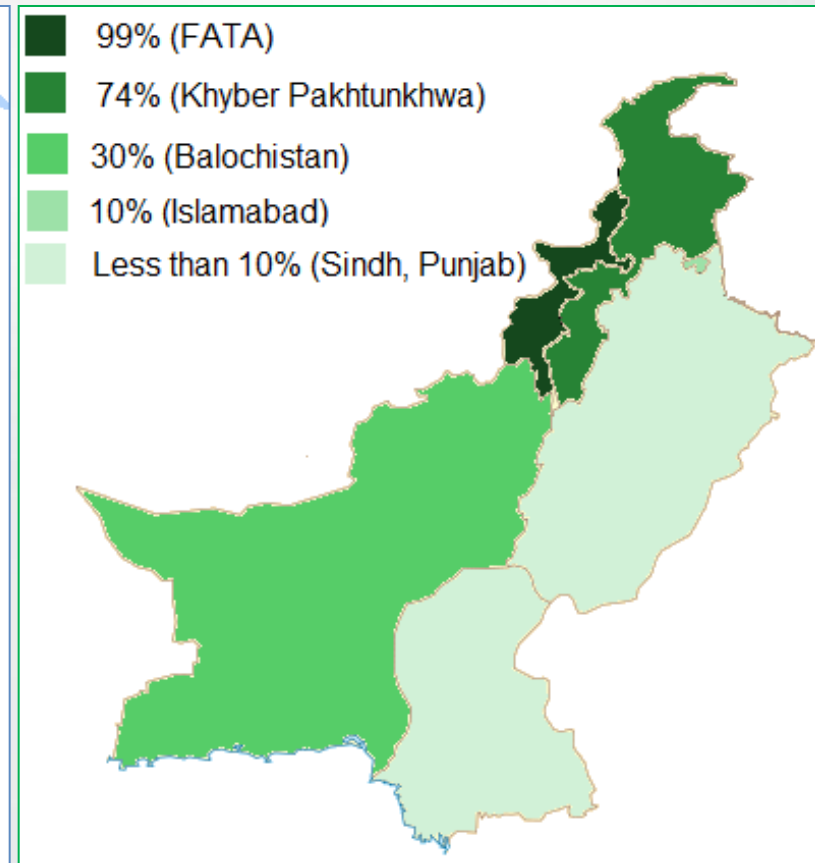
- Largest populations are in Pakistan (approx. 21 million) and Afghanistan (approx. 10 million)
- Distinguished by language (Pashto) and adherence to *Pashtunwali*
- Many principles of *Pashtunwali* direct the treatment and behavior of women
- Rural population

Geographic Distribution of Pashtun Population

Afghanistan



Pakistan



What traits do Pashtuns share?

- Per capita GDP in Afghanistan is \$501 and \$1,019 in Pakistan
- Slightly higher incomes relative to general population
- Role in government
- Security

About the studies

- 2007
 - Afghanistan: 2,346 randomly selected Afghans in 34 provinces from March 7th-14th, 2007 (502 Pashtun women)
 - Pakistan: 2,065 randomly selected Pakistanis in four provinces from March 17th-March 30th (102 Pashtun women)
- 2012
 - Afghanistan: 2,018 randomly selected Afghans in 34 provinces from January 24th-February 3rd, 2012 (383 Pashtun women)
 - Pakistan: 2,065 randomly selected Pakistanis in four provinces from March 19th-March 30th (133 Pashtun women)

Access to Healthcare and Education

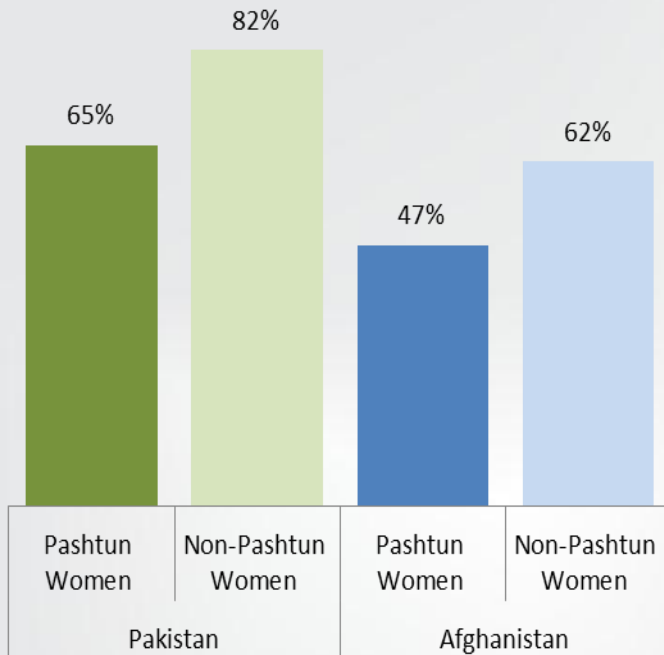
Access to Healthcare

- Afghanistan:
 - 1,400 maternal deaths out of every 100,000 live births
 - 14% of births attended by a trained medical professional
- Pakistan:
 - 260 maternal deaths out of every 100,000 live births
 - 39% of births attended by a trained medical professional

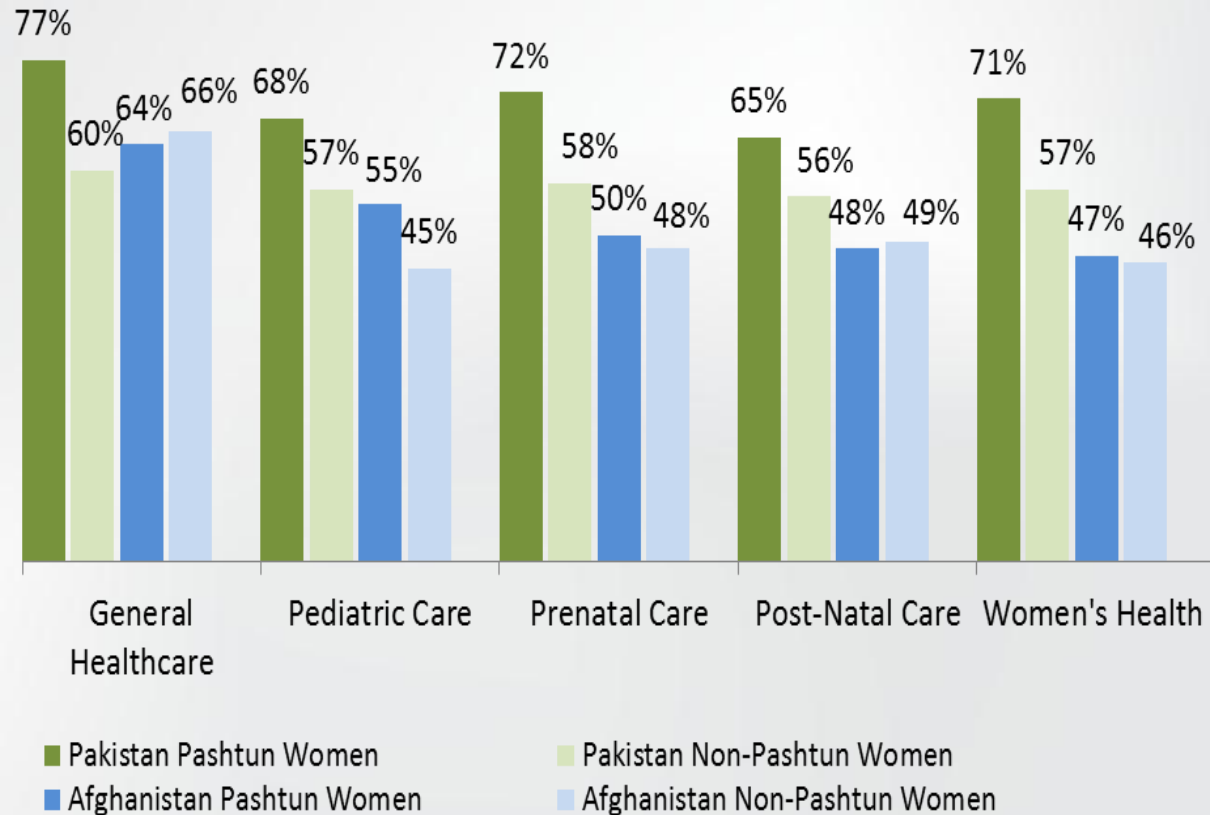
Source: World Statistics 2011 (World Health Organization)

Access to Healthcare

Equal rights regarding healthcare



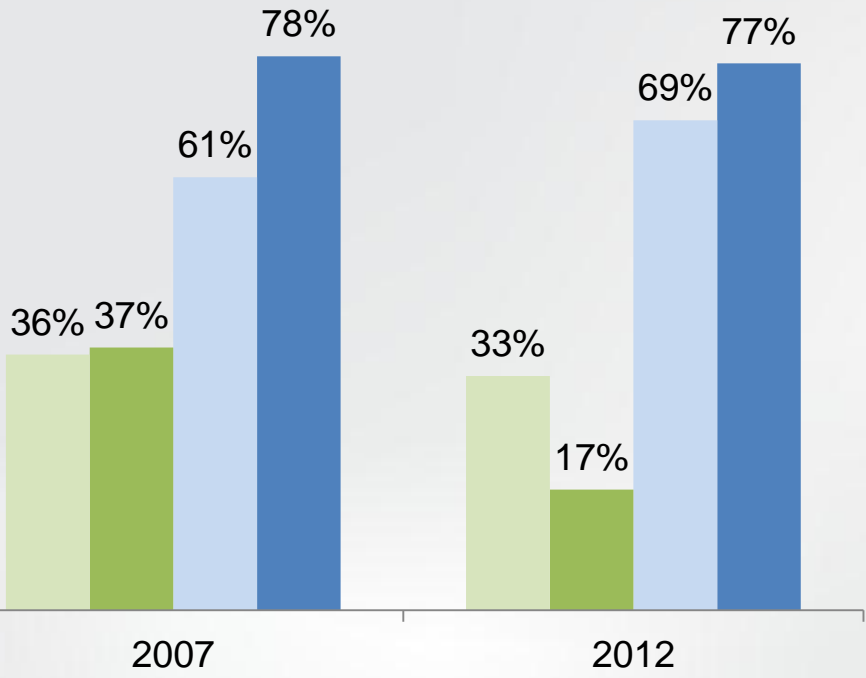
"Very adequate" or "Somewhat adequate" Access



Afghan Pashtun Women (APW) n=383 Pakistani Pashtun Women (PPW) n=133
 Afghan Non-Pashtun Women (ANPW) n=603 Pakistani Non-Pashtun Women (PNPW) n=828

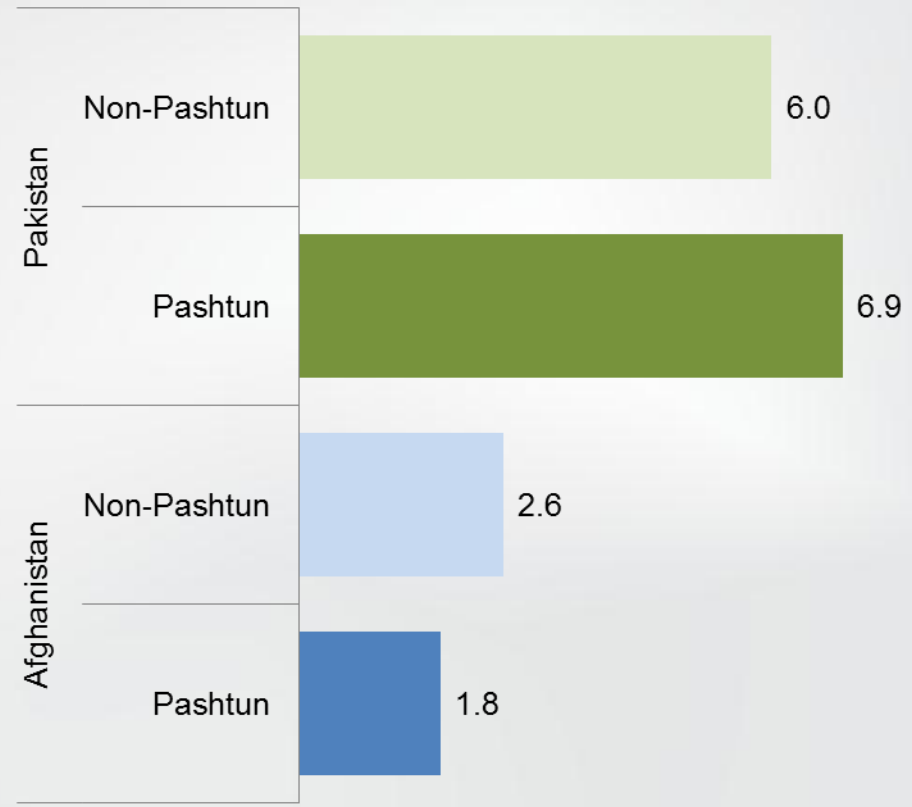
Education

% Illiterate



■ Afghanistan Pashtun ■ Afghanistan Non-Pashtun
■ Pakistan Pashtun ■ Pakistan Non-Pashtun

2012 Average Years of Education

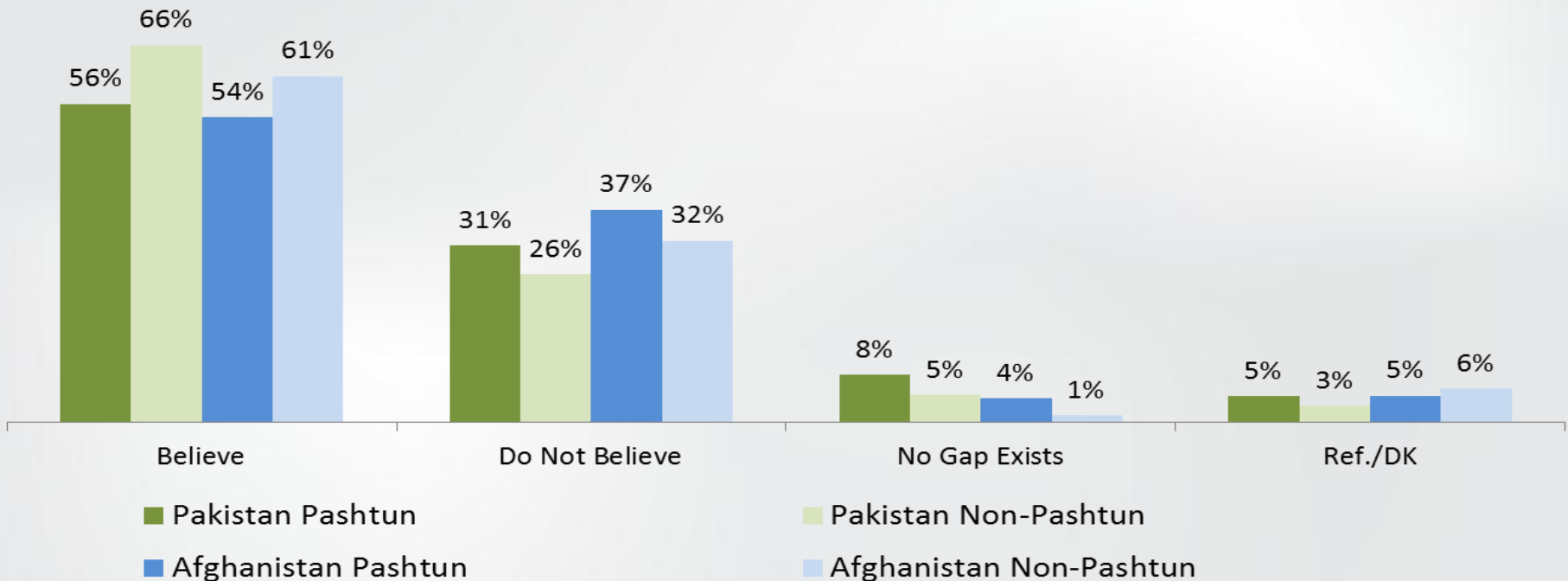


2007 Afghan Pashtun Women n=502 Pakistani Pashtun Women n=102
 2007 Afghan Non-Pashtun Women n=673 Pakistani Non-Pashtun Women n=858
 2012 Afghan Pashtun Women (APW) n=383 Pakistani Pashtun Women (PPW) n=133
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Attitudes Toward Women's Rights

Attitudes towards women's rights

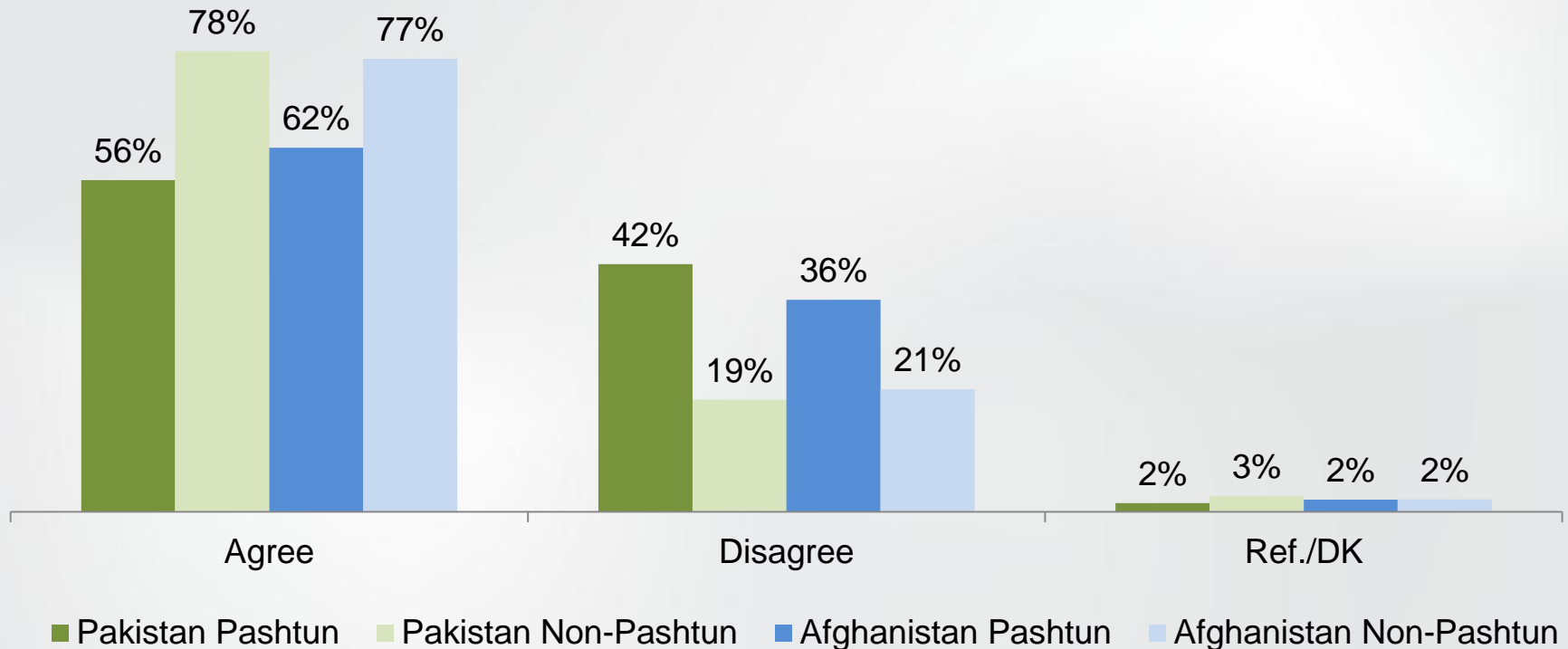
Do you believe that your country is closing the gap in inequality between men and women?
2012



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Attitudes towards women's rights

Do you agree that you personally are entitled to the same rights as men in this country?
2012

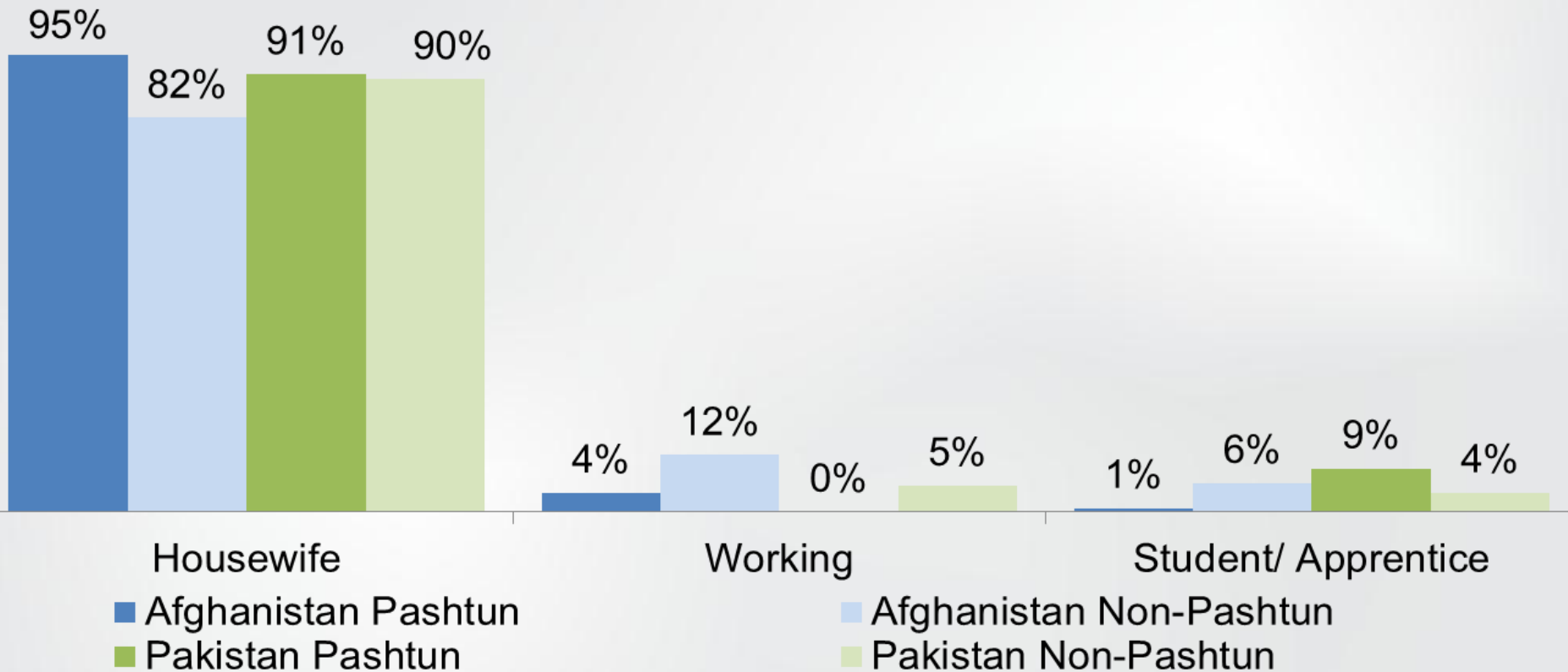


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Household Finance

Employment

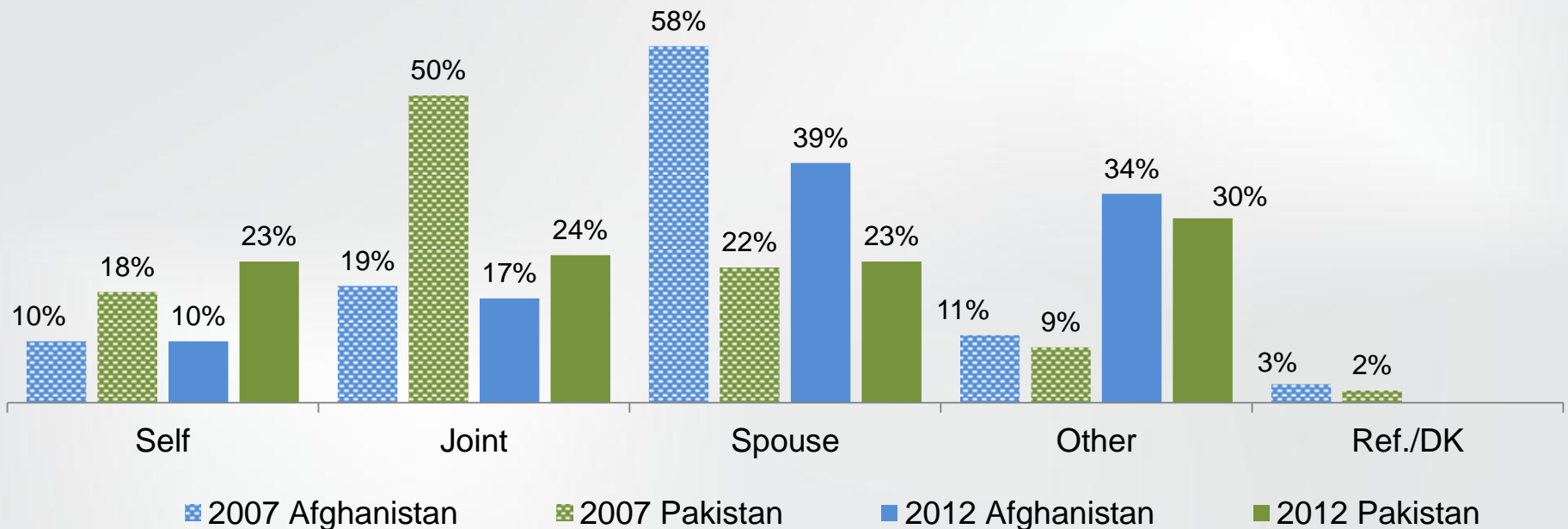
What is your job status now?
2012



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Finance

Who in your household decides what purchases are made to meet daily household needs like food, clothing and cleaning supplies? (Pashtun women only)

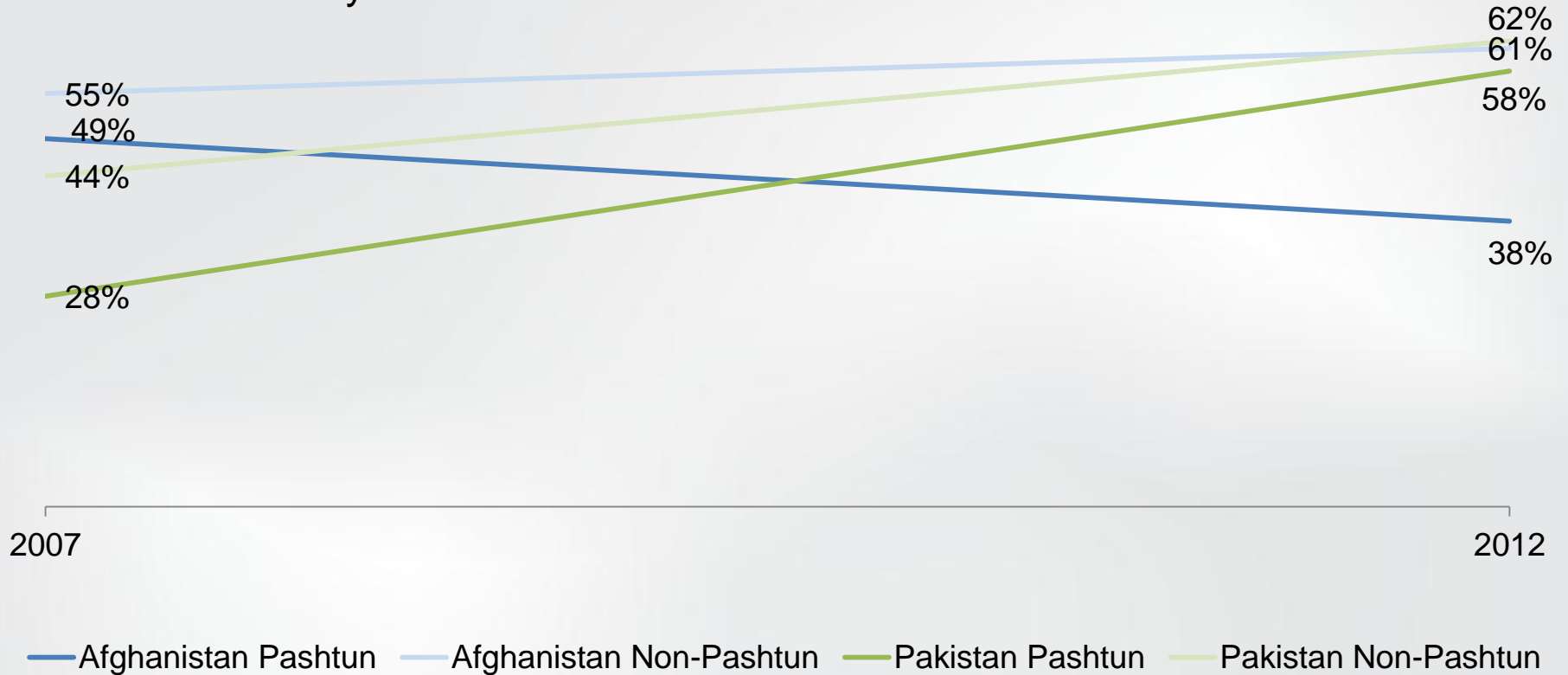


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Voting

Voting behavior

Did you vote in the last national election or referendum?

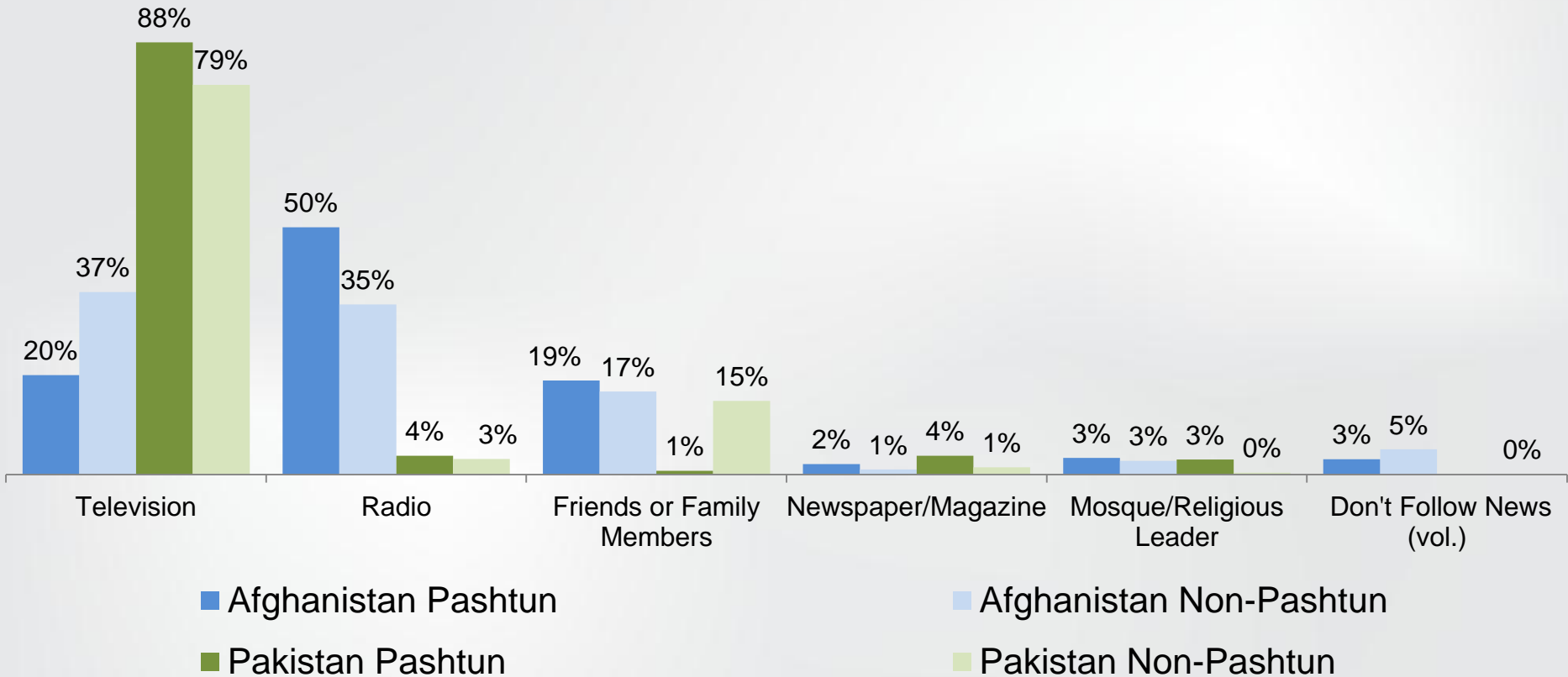


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Media Behavior

Media Behavior

Which source do you rely on most for news?
2012



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Summary

- Pashtun women in both countries feel they have inferior access to services and fewer rights than men, although they are also more likely than non-Pashtun women to say they are entitled to fewer rights.
- Pakistani Pashtun women's access to health and education relative to non-Pashtun women is higher.
- Limited access to education persists among Afghan Pashtun women, although the trend could change with the rising generation of girls who reached school age after the fall of the Taliban.

Future Research

- Do Pashtun women in homogenous communities have greater influence and freedom of movement?
- Television viewing
- How will attitudes about women's rights be affected by the transition in Afghanistan?

For More Information
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