

A Survey of the Afghan People



AFGHANISTAN IN 2006



The Asia Foundation

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Preface

This report presents the findings of the single-largest, comprehensive public opinion poll conducted in Afghanistan. The survey was conducted by The Asia Foundation between June and August, 2006 and consisted of a random, representative sample of 6226 in-person interviews with Afghan citizens 18 years of age and above resident in Afghanistan (see Appendix 1). The survey sample was divided first according to urban and rural characteristics of Afghanistan.¹ The universe is divided into seven geographical regions consisting of 34 provinces out of which 32 provinces were covered in the survey. Uruzgan, representing 1.1 percent of the population of Afghanistan, and Zabul, representing 1.2 percent, were excluded from the sampling plan due to extreme security conditions during the fieldwork period of the survey. The margin of sampling error is 2.5 percent.

The survey report groups the country's 34 provinces into the following seven regions:

Central-Kabul (Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir); **Eastern** (Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan); **South Central** (Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktia, Khost); **South Western** (Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul); **Western** (Badghis, Herat, Farah, Nimroz); **Northern** (Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab); **Central-Hazarajat** (Uruzgan, Ghor, Bamyan, Day Kundi).

The sample was distributed proportional to geographical and residential characteristics of population per province. The interviews were completed using multi-stage random sampling. At the outset, the universe was divided into male and female sub-samples. Each region, province, and further strata was allocated an equal number of male and female respondents per sampling points. Field-force members of their respective gender covered the two sub-samples. The instability and frequent fighting in some provinces caused a few sampling points to be adjusted or replaced to keep interviewers out of areas with active violence. Full details on the methodology of the survey are available in Appendix 2 of this report. The survey questionnaire, with percentage of responses by question, can be found in Appendix 3.

This survey builds on prior Asia Foundation surveys conducted in Afghanistan in 2003 and 2004, as well as in Bangladesh (2006), Cambodia (2000), and Indonesia (2003) (see <http://www.asiafoundation.org/>). The survey also uses some questions from the East and South Asia Barometers conducted in Asia as well as the public opinion survey conducted in 2004 on political culture of democracy in Mexico, Central America, and Colombia (see <http://www.lapopsurveys.org/>).

These and other questions in the survey are looked at in greater and comparative detail by various experts to understand political and social progress, trust in state institutions, and human and development security in Afghanistan in a companion volume of five chapters (forthcoming December 2006).

¹The Sheharwali (municipal administration in Afghanistan) defines the urban population as those living within municipal limits. By default, the rural population comprises those who are living outside the municipal limits.

This survey will be of interest and use for a wide cross-section of individuals and institutions in public administration, politics, development, academia, and commerce who seek to gauge public views on subjects such as democratic governance and values, the role of political parties, civil responsibilities and rights, the place of religion in the evolving polity, development progress, and other issues in these politically turbulent times in Afghanistan.

The survey will also be of value because it provides up-to-date demographic information on a very large sample size of the population across Afghanistan. From the point of view of policy research and prescription, the survey's demographic information will significantly augment projections that use data from the 1979 census and issue/needs-based assessments done by donors and development-related organizations to better craft their programs of assistance.

For The Asia Foundation, this survey provides detailed, quantified information on the knowledge and attitude of Afghans concerning recent changes and trends in government performance, public policy, politics and political processes, and development progress. It also helps establish a baseline to measure changes in Afghan attitudes towards these issues in their country.

This survey was commissioned, developed, and managed by The Asia Foundation's Afghanistan office, with fieldwork conducted by the Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), Kabul, and with technical assistance for fieldwork design and initial analysis and writeup by AC Nielsen ORG-MARG in India. In addition to Asia Foundation and ACSOR staff, the survey questionnaire benefited from detailed comments provided by Sanjay Kumar at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in India, Russell J. Dalton at the Center for the Study of Democracy, University of California-Irvine, and various UN and U.S. government agencies in Kabul, Afghanistan.

An executive summary of the major findings of the report follows, with the findings in full thereafter.

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Key Findings

- The national mood was found to be positive on the whole, with 44 percent of Afghans saying the country is headed in the right direction. While 21 percent felt it is headed in the wrong direction, 29 percent had mixed feelings and four percent were unsure.
- Good security was cited as a reason for the country going in the right direction. For people who were disappointed with the direction, however, lack of security was not seen as one of the major reasons.
- The major national-level problems were identified as a poor economy, uncertain security situation, slow pace of reconstruction and development, and unemployment. Also of concern were corruption and the continued presence of Taliban, which are perceived to be detrimental to progress.
- At the local level, survey respondents thought the major problems were unemployment (34%), electricity (25%), water (18%), poverty (18%), poor economy (17%), and corruption (8%).
- Nearly half of the respondents felt free to express their political opinion. However, their attitude towards tolerance of the political views of others was mixed. Although, as a principle, 84 percent of the respondents felt that the government should allow peaceful opposition, on a personal level 63 percent said they would not allow political parties they disliked to hold meetings in their area.
- Although over 75 percent of the respondents felt that the government did not care much about their opinions, 75 percent of them also felt that voting could bring change.
- Asked to define democracy, 54 percent of the survey respondents defined it as freedom, while 37 percent defined it as peace.
- Seventy-seven percent of the respondents were satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan.
- Sixty-two percent of the respondents reported having voted in the parliamentary elections of 2005. Over half (54%) believed that the elections were free and fair. More than half believe that the next elections will also be free and fair.

- Though only 37 percent of those surveyed were aware of Community Development Councils (CDCs), 80 percent of those who knew about the CDCs were satisfied with their work.
- An overwhelming majority of survey respondents said they trusted the Afghan National Army (87%) and the Afghan National Police (86%).
- The survey found that the public perception of corruption as a national problem was widespread. However, people's actual experience of having encountered or engaged in corruption was lower.
- Though 80 percent felt poppy cultivation was wrong, they cited economic reasons for continued cultivation, and few made any linkage of poppy cultivation to terrorism, insecurity, or greater corruption.
- An overwhelming majority (86%) of Afghans surveyed said they agreed to the principle of 'equal rights regardless of gender, ethnicity, and religion.'
- A significant majority of survey respondents were in favor of women's rights to education and work.
- Almost half of the respondents felt that men and women should have equal representation in political leadership.
- Both men and women respondents identified the lack of education/illiteracy as the single biggest problem faced by women in Afghanistan.
- For reporting a crime, 63 percent of the survey respondents went to the police, while for resolving problems the preference was to go to elders of the local shura (44%), followed by the police (37%). While 61 percent felt religious leaders should be consulted on problems, most reported having resolved problems through local elders.
- Sixty percent of the Afghans surveyed felt that an Islamic nation can attain democracy without becoming westernized, while 35 percent felt democracy challenged Islamic values.
- Fifty-four percent of the Afghans surveyed felt that they are currently more prosperous than under the Taliban regime, while 26 percent felt less prosperous, and 12 percent felt that there has been no change in their prosperity.
- Radio remains the main source of information, but television has emerged as the second most important source, replacing word-of-mouth, which is the third most important means. The growth of local radio and television was much more evident than local print media.

1.2 Summary

Afghans remain optimistic about the direction in which the country is going, although the number of Afghans who feel optimistic is lower than on the eve of the 2004 presidential elections.² More people were decisive about the direction of the country, a finding that could also point to Afghan citizens' increased willingness to express opinions and make assessments about their own future. Good security, peace, and disarmament were cited as the main reasons for their optimism. Urban residents appeared more preoccupied with good security as opposed to rural residents, who appeared preoccupied with peace and the end of fighting.

Interestingly, lack of security was not the most decisive factor for shaping the opinion of those who felt the country was not moving in the right direction. Rather, the bad economy, lack of reconstruction, poor government performance, and unemployment were cited as the reasons for their pessimism. There were also greater variations in mood across regions than across ethnic communities. The four largest ethnic communities held similar views.

The survey revealed substantial differences between the perception of problems facing the country and the actual problems encountered on a daily basis by people in their local areas. While security was cited as the single largest national problem, it ranked sixth in local-level problems. Foremost among local problems were unemployment, lack of infrastructure, and services like electricity, safe drinking water, and health care.

Asked specifically about security in their area, two-thirds of the Afghans surveyed said it was excellent or good, while three-fifths said they rarely or never worried about safety. Here again regional variations were much larger than ethnic variations, with residents of the Central-Kabul, Northern, and Central-Hazarajat regions expressing greater satisfaction with security.

Most Afghans surveyed are aware of the significant levels of foreign aid being provided for development, particularly for education, re/construction of roads and bridges, demilitarization/de-mining, health care, and water supply. The countries easily identified as donors to Afghan development are, in order of finding, USA, Japan, Germany, India, Iran, UK, China, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan.

In contrast to development aid, the survey found that a relatively low proportion of respondents have ever heard of privatization. Once explained, two-fifths thought it was a good idea, mainly because it would create job opportunities.

²*Democracy in Afghanistan 2004: A Survey of the Afghanistan Electorate*, The Asia Foundation.

Not surprisingly, the main reason given for the cultivation of poppies was economic. Even though four-fifths of those surveyed felt it was wrong to cultivate poppies, less than one-tenth linked this to insecurity, terrorism, and corruption in Afghanistan.

While people continue to have faith in some of the traditional institutions for managing community affairs, like the local shura or elders of the community, there was also considerable trust in some of the relatively young institutions of state governance.

However, the extent of confidence in different institutions varied greatly. There was significant faith in the national army and the national police (who secured the confidence of over three-fourths of Afghans surveyed as opposed to local militias, which had the confidence of less than one-third of the respondents). Confidence in the justice system was not as high, with just over half of Afghans saying they trusted the formal courts to be fair and impartial. For resolution of problems, most respondents preferred to approach elders of their local shura or, as a second choice, the Afghan national police.

Enthusiasm for participation in the elections was quite high with more than three-fifths of the population saying they had participated. Of those who said they had not voted, the main reasons were lack of interest and lack of proper voting documents. Insecurity, as a reason for not voting, accounted for a very small number of respondents. However, the number of women who said they were not allowed to vote was significantly high and constituted more than one-fifth of the women's electorate.

More than half of those surveyed believed that the 2005 elections were free and fair, though there were considerable regional variations. More residents of the Eastern and Western regions believed the elections were not free and fair. Though the 2005 elections were conducted with international help, nearly two-thirds of the survey respondents felt that the Afghan government would be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own the next time. They had this confidence in the government despite the fact that a fairly large number of them also felt that there had been electoral malpractices like buying of votes and manipulation of counting during the last election.

While elections evoked much public enthusiasm, they were seen as only one of the characteristics of democracy and not the main one. Freedom, peace, government of the people, rights and law, and Islamic democracy were identified as the major characteristics as well as consequences of democracy.

Concepts of pluralistic democracy appear to be taking root, albeit slowly. Respondents said they were in favor of the government allowing peaceful opposition, but were less enthusiastic about allowing political parties they did not like to hold meetings in their locales.

In their perception of the relationship between government and the people, more than two-fifths felt that the government and the people were equal, while an equal number felt the government was a parent figure. Importantly, nearly half the people felt they had a lot or some impact on the government's decision-making process.

Three-fifths of the respondents felt that there was no contradiction between democracy and Islam, though more than a third felt that these were in opposition to each other. More than three-fifths felt religious leaders should be consulted in decision making, but nearly two-fifths felt religion and politics needed to be kept separate. Nearly four-fifths were satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan.

The concept of rule of law also appeared to be taking root. Nearly half the people felt free to express their political opinions and nearly two-thirds cited the constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech as a source of their confidence. Those who did not feel confident blamed it on security concerns. An overwhelming number were in favour of equal rights under the law regardless of gender, ethnicity, or religion.

Although it is a bit premature to assess the performance of elected representatives, the survey shows that respondents had approached their newly elected representatives both at the national and provincial level for help in securing development for their areas as well as resolving some problems. Elected representatives were approached most frequently for roads, water, power, education, and health-related needs, though there were significant regional variations in these needs. Interestingly, over 80 percent of those with knowledge of CDCs felt that their interests could be adequately represented by CDCs to provincial and national government.

On the issue of women's rights, a significant number of those surveyed favored equal rights for women in the area of education. A large number also said that women should be allowed to work outside their homes. While a majority were in favor of women's right to vote, nearly two-fifths of the respondents felt that men should decide for them or advise them on their vote.

More than half of the Afghans surveyed felt that both men and women should participate in political leadership. Interestingly, nearly one-tenth of men and one-eighth of women surveyed felt that political leadership should mainly be women, perhaps fallout of disenchantment with the violent politics of past decades. Even with a number of seats already reserved for women in parliament, more than two-fifths felt that they wanted more women members of parliament while an equal number said they did not. Most of those who wanted more women representatives said they did because it would help women advance.

However, those who did not want more women in parliament were mainly concerned about the fact that women were not equally educated and did not understand politics.

The survey revealed an important role for the media in creating awareness and educating people about issues including rights. Respondents with access to media were better informed about the functioning of different aspects of government and their rights, and more optimistic about the future. Respondents also had significant faith in media, with more than four-fifths saying they had trust in radio and television, while more than three-fourths had trust in print media.

Radio remains the number one source of information on national events in Afghanistan, but television showed a significant growth in outreach, replacing family and friends as the second largest source of information. The survey also revealed the growth of local media, with local radio stations vying with international stations for audience share. However, print media has a long way to go in terms of popular significance, capturing only one percent share of the audience surveyed.

2 The National Mood

2.1 Direction of the Country

In view of ongoing social, political, and economic shifts in the country, the survey tried to gauge the national mood. Respondents were asked if the country is moving in the right direction. Slightly less than half the Afghans surveyed (44%) said they were happy with the progress and believed the country was headed in the right direction while 29 percent said recent developments were a mix of the positive and the negative. Twenty-one percent of the respondents said the country was headed in the wrong direction and four percent were uncertain of how the country was progressing. Optimism was greater among rural respondents.

In 2004, nearly two-thirds (64%) said the country was headed in the right direction. Less than a fifth of the voting age population held negative or mixed opinions (11 % wrong direction, 8 % mixed) and only 16 per cent were uncertain. (All references to 2004 are from The Asia Foundation's survey titled " Democracy in Afghanistan 2004")

Generally speaking, do you think things in Afghanistan today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? (Q-9, base 6226)

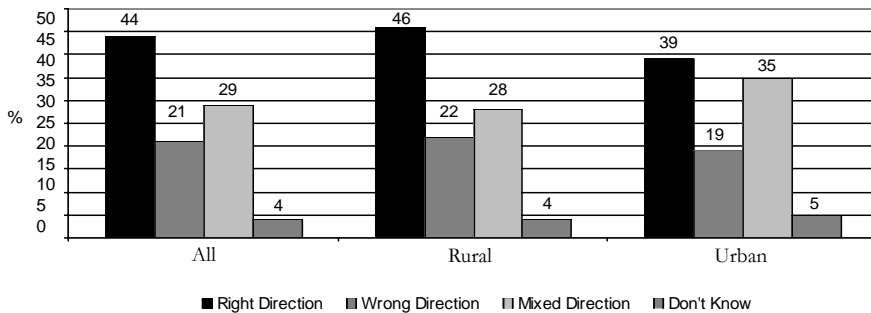


Fig. 2.1

There were substantial differences in opinion across geographic regions and by ethnicity. More respondents from Eastern (56%) and South Central (55%) regions were satisfied that the country was headed in the right direction. In other regions a high proportion of respondents felt the progress was a mixture of good and bad developments. Among the four largest ethnic groups- Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks, the response was almost identical and reflected the national average.

Greater access to information resulted in greater optimism about the direction of the country. About 47 percent of the respondents with access to mass media said the country was progressing in the right direction as compared to 37 percent of those who did not have media access. The level of education however resulted only in a marginal difference in opinion.

Factors cited for the country's progress

When asked, "Why do you say that things are moving in right direction?" the main reasons given were peace/end of war, good security, disarmament, rebuilding, and reconstruction.

Good security was identified as the main reason by the largest number of respondents (31%), followed by peace/end of war (29%), disarmament (26%), and rebuilding and reconstruction (21%). The other responses, mentioned by around 10 percent of the respondents each as the main reason, were good government, women's freedom, education for girls, democracy, refugee return, and international assistance.

Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? (Q-10 a-b, Base 2793)

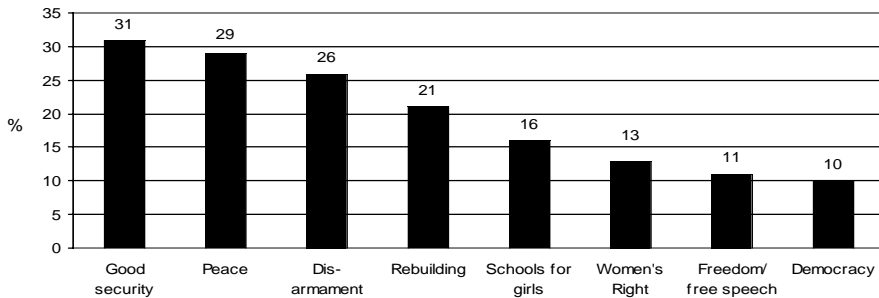


Fig. 2.2

There was a difference between urban and rural responses. More urban respondents (35%) cited security as compared to rural respondents (30%). More rural respondents cited peace/end of war (30%) as opposed to urban (26%). More rural respondents also cited disarmament (28%) compared to urban respondents (20%).

Citizens in the Central-Kabul and South Central regions were slightly more influenced by peace/end of the war and less focused on economic development. In the Western region, 34 percent cited reconstruction as the reason for the nation progressing in the "right direction", 13 percent higher than the national average. In the Eastern region, 47 percent cited good security as a main reason, which was 16 percent higher than the national average.

In 2004, more than half of those who said the country was headed in the right direction cited peace and the end of war (53%). Thirty-five percent mentioned disarmament and 20 percent referred to good security. Nine percent cited return of refugees while freedom to travel was mentioned by seven percent.

There were some ethnic variations in attitudes. While 36 percent of Hazaras mentioned peace and the end of the war as the major reason for the right direction, only 31 percent of Tajiks and 26 percent of Pashtuns mentioned it as a reason. Among Uzbeks, good security (39%) and disarmament (33%) were the main reasons; whereas only one fourth of Pashtuns and Tajiks mentioned disarmament. Good security was mentioned by 34 percent of Tajiks and 27 percent of Pashtuns.

Factors cited for lack of the country's progress

Among those who thought the country was moving in the wrong direction, the largest number (27%) cited poor economy as the main reason. A slightly larger number of urban respondents cited this as a reason (32%) compared to rural respondents (26%). The other major reasons for dissatisfaction were lack of reconstruction efforts (22%) and growing unemployment (21%). Unemployment was of greater concern in urban areas (31%) compared to rural areas (19%). Of the discontented, 22 percent mentioned the present government as a reason for the wrong direction of the country, while 15 percent mentioned the presence of too many foreigners and nine percent mentioned Western influence.

In 2004, pessimism about the direction of the country was primarily due to dissatisfaction with the performance of the Transitional Government (40%), slow reconstruction (35%) and the state of the economy (30%). More than a quarter of the discontented mentioned problems caused by neighboring countries (28%) as a reason for Afghanistan's troubles, while 14 per cent mentioned lack of education.

Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? (Q-11 a-b, Base 1296)

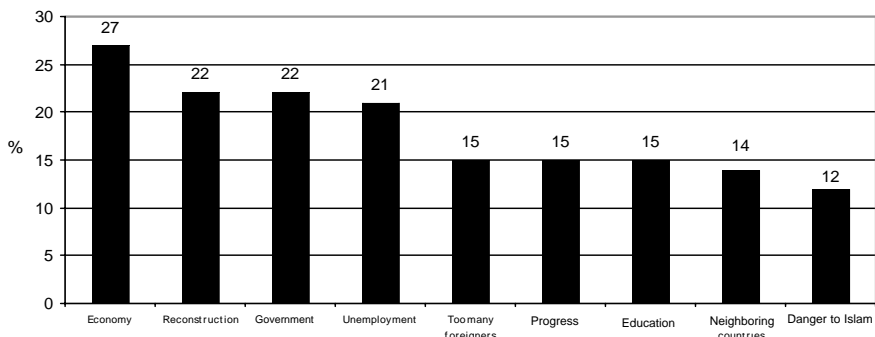


Fig. 2.3

While comparing the results across different regions, it was observed that almost 33 percent of the respondents from Central-Kabul region cited both bad economy and unemployment as main reasons for the wrong direction as compared to the national average of 27 percent (economy) and 21 percent (unemployment) respectively.

Most ethnic groups mentioned the bad economy as a major reason for the wrong direction-Pashtuns (27%), Tajiks (28%), Uzbeks (23%) and Hazaras (33%). Bad government was also mentioned as a major reason by Pashtuns (23%) and Hazaras (30%), while lack of reconstruction was mentioned by Tajiks (26%) and Uzbeks (31%).

2.2 Afghanistan's Biggest Problems: National Level

Respondents were asked to name the two biggest problems at the national level in Afghanistan. Security was identified as the biggest problem by 22 percent of the respondents, followed by unemployment, poor economy, and presence of Taliban, all three of which were identified by 12 percent each, of respondents as the biggest problems.

In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-12a, Base 6226)

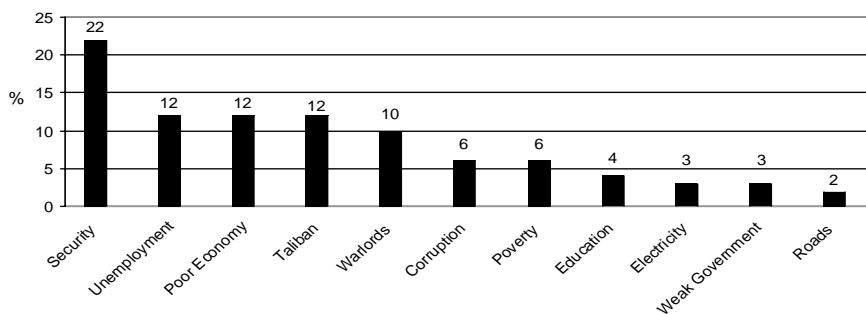


Fig. 2.4

Regional differences were also evident. Security concerns were more dominant in the South Western (37%) and Central-Hazarajat (36%) regions. Among the respondents from Central-Kabul (28%) and Central-Hazarajat (27%) regions, economy was more of a concern. Unemployment was of greater concern to respondents from Central-Kabul and Eastern regions.

Security was seen as the biggest problem facing the country by most of the larger ethnic groups - Pashtuns (25%), Tajiks (21%), and Hazaras (20%) - but less so by Uzbeks (14%). Uzbeks felt unemployment was the biggest problem (17%).

A combined analysis of the first and second biggest problems revealed unemployment to be the biggest problem (32%) followed by security (27%) and economy (24%).

In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-12a, Base 6226)
COMBINED WITH

After that what is the next biggest problem (Q-12b, Base 6226)

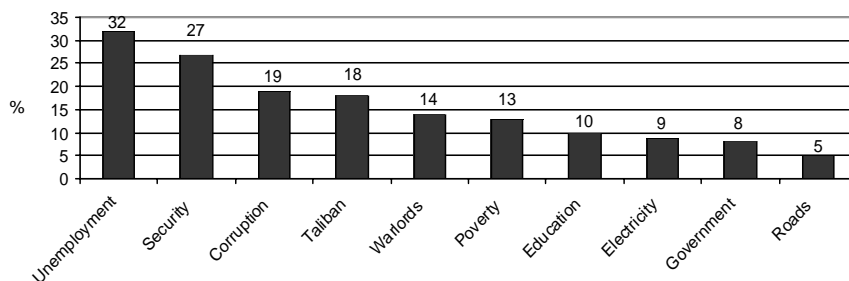


Fig. 2.5

At a slightly lower order of importance were the issues of corruption (19%), the presence of Taliban (18%), warlords (14%), and poverty (13%). Other concerns included the lack of adequate facilities for education, electricity, roads, health care, and water supply.

2.3 Afghanistan's Biggest Problems: Local Level

The biggest problems at the local level were identified as unemployment, lack of infrastructure and services like electricity, safe drinking water, health care, education, etc.

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a, Base 6226)

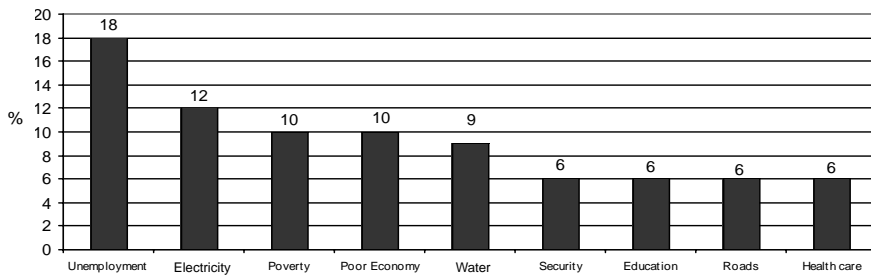


Fig. 2.6

Twelve percent mentioned a need for electricity connection followed by poverty and the poor economy (both by 10 percent) and safe drinking water by nine percent. Other issues like education, health care facilities, security, and roads were mentioned by about six percent each of the respondents. Taken together, infrastructure (reconstruction, education, electricity, health care, water, and roads) issues were cited as the biggest problems by more than 40 percent of the country's citizens. Respondents from urban and rural areas reported almost similar problems.

There were hardly any rural urban variations, but regional differences were evident. Security concerns were cited most often by the residents of the South Western region (22%) followed by the South Central region (16%). Poverty and unemployment were mentioned as the top two problems by respondents of the Western and Central-Hazarajat regions. Electricity and roads were priorities in Central-Kabul and the Northern regions whereas unavailability of safe drinking water was important in the Central-Hazarajat region.

In an analysis of the two most important problems, unemployment again emerged as the largest problem with 34 percent of the respondents mentioning it as the largest or second largest local problem.

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a, Base 6226)

COMBINED WITH

What is the next biggest problem? (Q-13b, Base 6226)

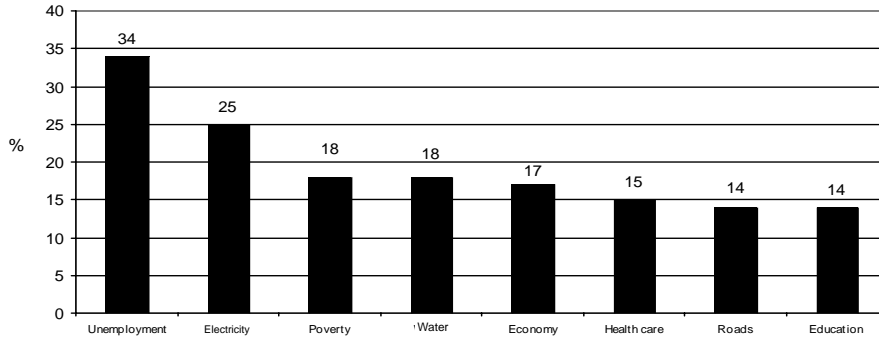


Fig. 2.7

Nearly 25 percent mentioned lack of electricity followed by safe drinking water (18%). Other issues like education, health care facilities and roads were each mentioned by about 15 percent of the respondents. Taken together, infrastructure (reconstruction, education, electricity, health care, water and roads) issues were cited as among the top two local concerns by more than 90 percent of Afghans surveyed.

2.4 Corruption as a Problem

Respondents were asked about corruption and their perception of its existence and impact on their daily lives, in their neighborhood, in the provincial government, and in Afghanistan.

- 77 percent of the respondents interviewed saw corruption as a major problem in Afghanistan.
- 66 percent believed corruption was a major problem in the provincial government.
- 42 percent said corruption was a major problem in their daily life and 40 percent said it was a major problem in their neighborhood.
- More urban respondents felt corruption was a problem in their daily life (51%) as compared to respondents from rural areas (40%).
- The public perception of corruption in daily life was much higher in the Eastern region (61%) than the national average.

Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in your daily life, in your neighborhood, in your provincial government, and in Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-24 a-d, Base 6226)

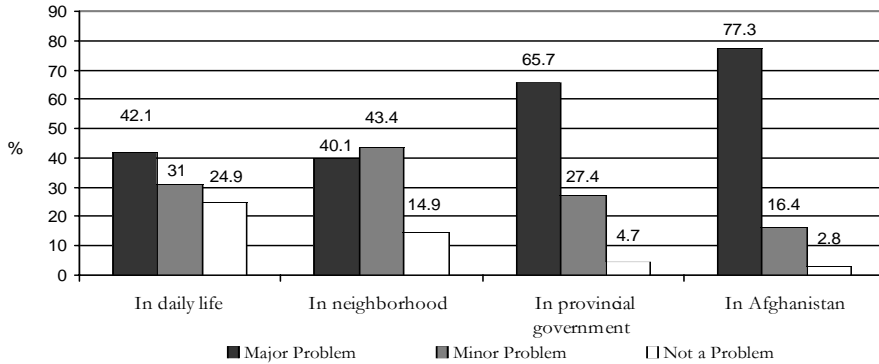


Fig 2.8

Sixty percent of the respondents believed that corruption had increased in the past year at the national level. Almost half were of the opinion that corruption at the provincial level had also increased. However, only one-fourth of the respondents reported an increase in corruption in their daily lives.

Compared to a year ago, do you think the amount of corruption overall—in your daily life, in your neighborhood, in your provincial government, and in Afghanistan as a whole—has increased, stayed the same or decreased? (Q-25a-d, Base 6226)

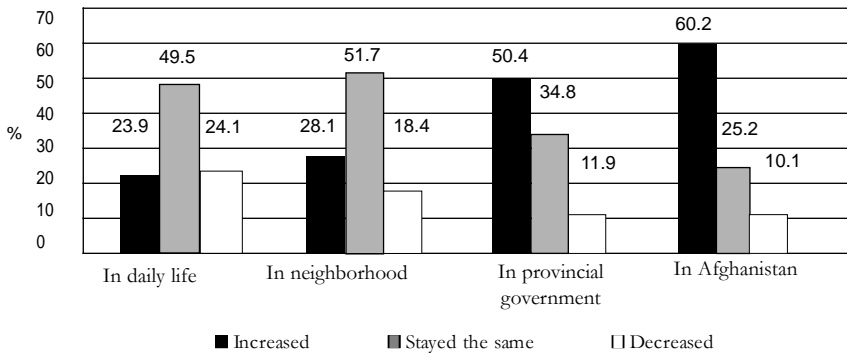


Fig 2.9

Corruption was seen as a major problem in their area by 43 percent of Pashtuns, 40 percent of Hazaras, 37 percent of Tajiks, and 36 percent of Uzbeks surveyed.

A substantially lower number of respondents acknowledged participating in bribery: between 21 and 37 percent reported offering an inducement to a public official in the past year (see Table 2.1). The level of corruption is comparably higher in the public health system, police and the courts, and vis-à-vis prospective employers or employment agencies.

Table 2.1: Whenever you have contacted government officials, how often in the past year have you had to give cash, a gift or perform a favour to an official? If you had contacts with such officials in the past year. Was it in all cases, most of the cases, in isolated or in no cases. (Q.26 a-g, Base 6226)

Institution	Always (%)	In most cases (%)	In isolated cases (%)	'Yes' (%)	'Yes' (those with contact) (%)	Never (%)	No contact (%)
Municipality	6	8	12	26	46	30	44
Customs office	5	9	7	21	32	29	50
Police	5	12	19	36	53	32	32
Courts	10	12	13	35	55	28	37
State electricity board	5	8	11	24	44	31	45
Public Healthcare	5	13	19	37	51	36	27
Applying for work	11	12	11	34	60	23	43

At first glance, it would seem that perceptions of levels of corruption exaggerate its actual prevalence. However, the rate of bribery increases considerably—to between 32 and 60 percent—if individuals who had contact with these institutions are considered only. These more nuanced measures indicate that 60 percent of respondents claimed to having paid a bribe in order to secure employment—a particularly distressing fact given that unemployment is cited as the most important problem facing the country in the survey (see figures 2.5-2.7).

3 Security, Economy, and Development

3.1 Security Situation

Public perceptions of the security situation in Afghanistan were good overall. Survey respondents rated the security situation in their area as either excellent (17%) or good (49%). A small proportion of the respondents (8%) said the security situation in their area was poor. Comparatively more respondents from urban areas (76%) rated the security situation as either excellent or good as compared to those from rural areas (63%).

How would you rate the security situation in your area: excellent, good, fair, or poor? (Q-16, Base 6226)

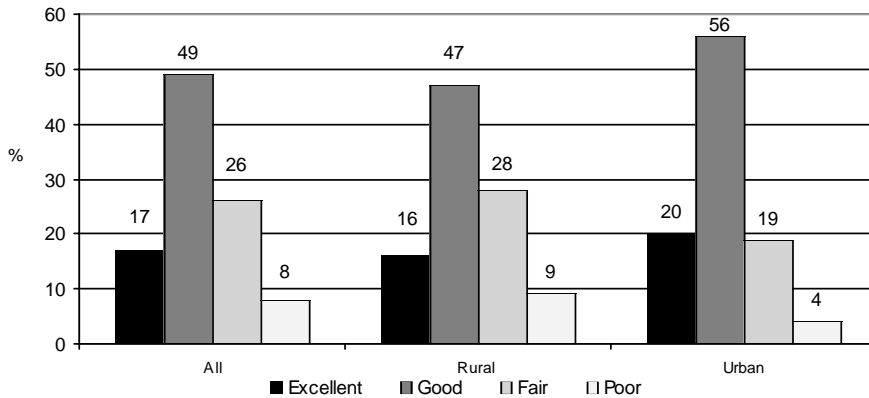


Fig 3.1

There were regional variations in people's perception about the security situation. Respondents from Central-Kabul (84%), Northern (76%), Central-Hazarajat (66%), West (58%), and Eastern (57%) regions said the security in their areas was excellent or good. Comparatively more respondents from South West (23%) and South Central (15%) regions said the security in their area was poor. The perception of poor security was higher among Pashtuns(14%) than other ethnic groups(2-5%).

Criminal victimization

Despite an overall perception of good security, the number of respondents who reported personal experience or knowledge of criminal victimization was higher than the number of those who said there was poor security. One in eight citizens (13%) reported that either a member of their family or someone in the community had been a victim of physical aggression or crime in the past year. Reports of criminal victimization were higher in rural areas (15%) compared to urban areas (8%).

Have you or has anyone in your family been a victim of violence or of some criminal act in your home or community in the past year? (Q-18, Base 6226)

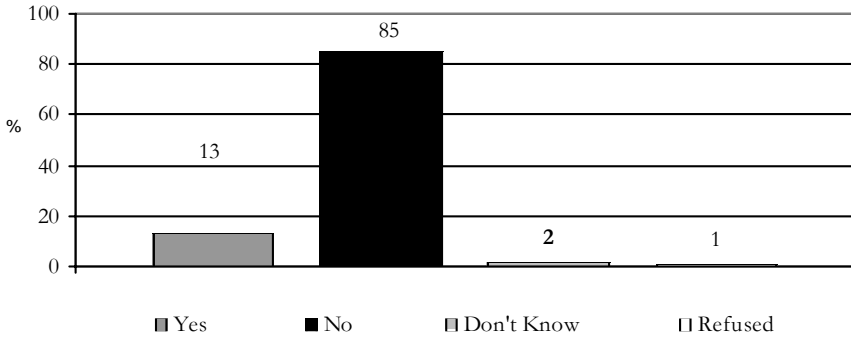


Fig 3.2

Reports of criminal victimization were higher in the Eastern (24%) and Western (19%) regions. There were also ethnic differences, with the largest ethnic community, the Pashtuns, reporting a considerably higher rate of criminal victimization (18%) compared with Tajiks (10%), Uzbeks (10%) and Hazaras (7%).

Concern about personal security

Three-fifths of the citizens reported feeling safe saying they rarely or never worried about their personal or family's safety, while 31 percent reported to be somewhat worried, and only nine percent reportedly worried about their personal or family's security. More urban people were worried about their safety (43%) than their rural counterparts (39%).

In 2004, almost two-thirds of citizens (64%) reported rarely or never worrying about their personal safety, while only 36 percent said they felt that way under the Taliban.

How often do fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days? Often, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Q-17, Base 6226)

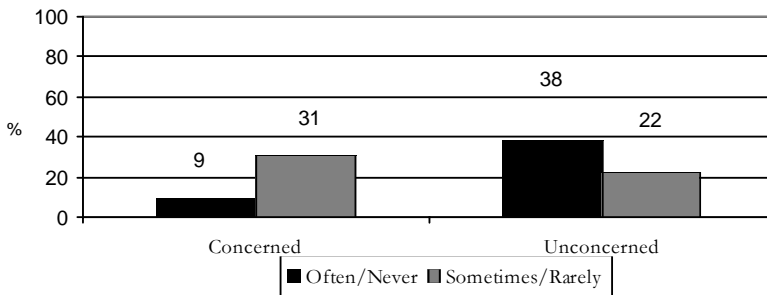


Fig 3.3

There were also considerable regional differences in the perception of safety. Residents of the Central-Hazarajat region (76%), Central-Kabul (71%), and Northern (63%) regions reported feeling safe. Comparatively more citizens from South Western (56%), Western (51%), Eastern (45%), and South Central (43%) regions reported feeling (sometimes or often) unsafe in their areas.

3.2 Critical Issues

Survey respondents were asked to rank the critical issues that need to be addressed on a priority basis. These issues included roads, power, water, sanitation, health care, education, and employment.

- Employment emerged as the most important issue (28.2%), followed by safe drinking water (15.7%), roads (15.2%), education (14.6%), and power (14.4%).

There was not much ethnic variation in opinions.

Availability of household electricity supply

Forty-two percent of Afghans surveyed do not have household electricity at all. Of those who do have access to electricity through various means, a large proportion use a personal generator (27%), while others get electricity occasionally from the government's grid (24%), or share generators (11%).

At this house where you live, which of the following kinds of electricity supply do you have? (Q-35, Base 6226)

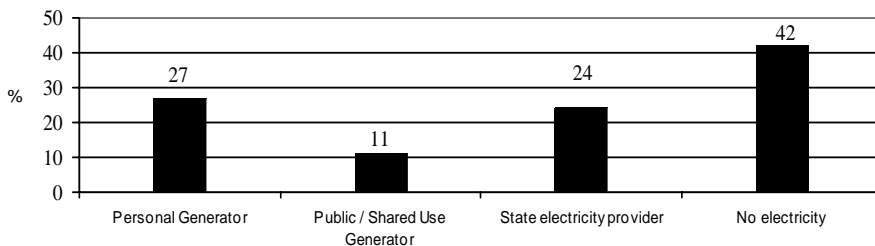


Fig 3.4

The survey did not ask about the regularity of electric supply for those respondents (58%) who could access electricity. So, while 89 percent of respondents in urban areas report having access to electricity, the finding does not speak about the regularity of electricity supply to them. Similarly, 49 percent of rural respondents report having access to electricity, but were not asked about the regularity of supply.

Access to Telephone Connections

Respondents were asked about the access to mobile or fixed line phones.

- Only two-thirds of Afghans surveyed reported to have ever made a phone call. In urban areas this figure was 88 percent whereas it was 59 percent in rural areas.
- 43 percent of Afghans have their own connection (mobile or fixed line) at home.
- Of those who do not own phones, 21 percent can access the nearest telephone facility within half an hour.
- Another 23 percent said it would take half an hour to one hour to access the nearest telephone facility, and 24 percent said it took them between one and two hours to access a telephone.

Table 3.1 Access to Telephone (Q-36, 37, 38)

Ever made a phone call	ALL	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Yes	65.2	58.7	87.7
No	34.5	41	11.7
Means for communication available at home			
A mobile phone	41.1	30.8	76.9
A fixed phone line	1.9	1.8	2.2
Neither fixed, nor mobile phone	53.5	63.7	17.8
Time to get to the nearest telephone (those who don't have telephones)			
N	3348	3109	239
Less than 10 minutes	8.3	6.7	28.3
From 10 to 30 minutes	20.6	19.4	35.7
From 31 minutes to 1 hour	22.9	23.5	16.2
From 1.01 hour to 2 hours	18.6	19.4	8.2
From 2.01 hours to 4 hours	11.1	11.9	0.9
From 4.01 hours to 8 hours	5.0	5.3	0.9
More than 8 hours	2.1	2.2	1.7

With respect to access to electricity and telephone, the Uzbek community appeared most affected. While 56 percent said they had no access to electricity supply, 75 percent did not own their own telephones.

3.3 Local Community Problems

The respondents were asked whether they had to face any problem at the local level for which they had needed to ask for help. More than one-fourth of the total said they had.

Asked who they approached for the resolution of problems, more than 44 percent of the respondents said they contacted the elders of the local shura for help, 37 percent sought help from the Afghan National Police, and 15 percent sought help from a religious leader.

Who did you ask for help? (Q-56, Base 1745)

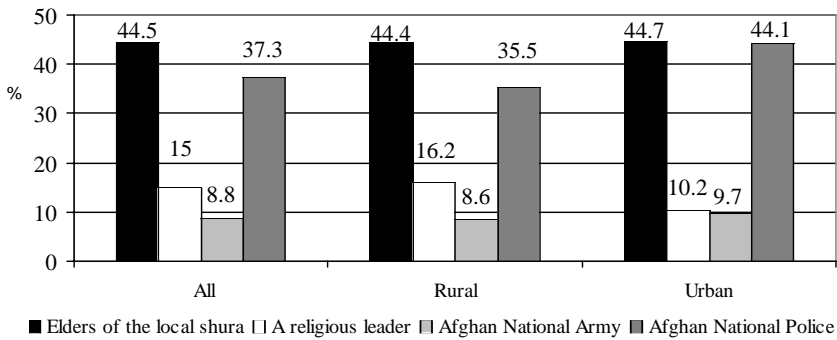


Fig. 3.6

3.4 Development Projects in Afghanistan

Respondents were asked whether they had ever heard of any project/program, implemented with foreign aid in their area/district.

- Around 59 percent said they had heard of the implementation of education projects in their areas, 56 percent had heard of reconstruction of roads and bridges, 44 percent had heard of health care, and 39 percent had heard of projects for water supply.

Speaking of the past 12 months, do you know of, or have heard of any project or program, implemented with the foreign aid in this area, district, in the following fields? (Q-31, Base 6226)

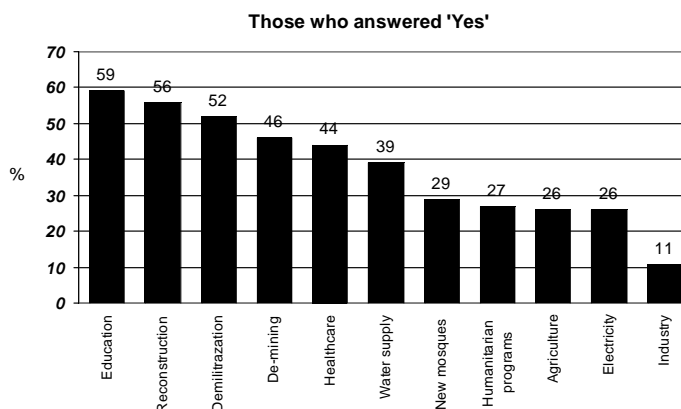


Fig 3.7

The sector-wise investment pattern reportedly varied in different regions with differing emphasis on different sectors. Education was among the two topmost priorities cutting across regions. Other top concerns included reconstruction and health care.

Table 3.2 Awareness of sectoral investment projects

	Eastern (%)	South Central (%)	Western (%)	Central Kabul (%)	South Western (%)	Northern (%)	Central Hazarajat (%)
Reconstruction of Roads and Bridges	80	56.7	75	49	56	52	19
Education	69	70	50	62	51	59	37
Health care	53	59	39.3	40.6	40	41	30
Water supply	39	53	49	32	55	32.2	14.8
Electricity	22.6	28.6	39.1	32	27.8	16.9	27.8
Demilitarization	64.3	51.1	42.3	46.7	40	67	18.3
De-mining	56.4	46.8	38	38.3	47	59	3.2

More among the Pashtuns were aware of different programs that were being implemented in their community. Over three-fifths of them mentioned knowing about reconstruction efforts (63%) and programs in the area of education (63%). Among the Tajiks, 57 percent spoke about educational projects and 54 percent spoke about reconstruction. Majority of the Uzbeks spoke about disarmament (65%) and de-mining activities (60%) in their area.

Source of funds

Survey respondents were questioned about their knowledge on the major sources of funding for different development projects, i.e., which country was providing most of the aid for these development projects.

- Nearly half said that most projects were being funded by the USA.
- 12 percent thought most projects were being funded by Japan, nine per cent by Germany and six percent by India.
- There was no major variation in the opinion of respondents from rural and urban areas.
- In Central-Hazarajat region, nearly two-thirds of the respondents had not heard of foreign aid for development projects, though most other regions identified the USA as the major funder of development projects.

Which country do you think has provided the most aid for the projects you mentioned to have been implemented in this area, district? (Q-32a, Base 6226)

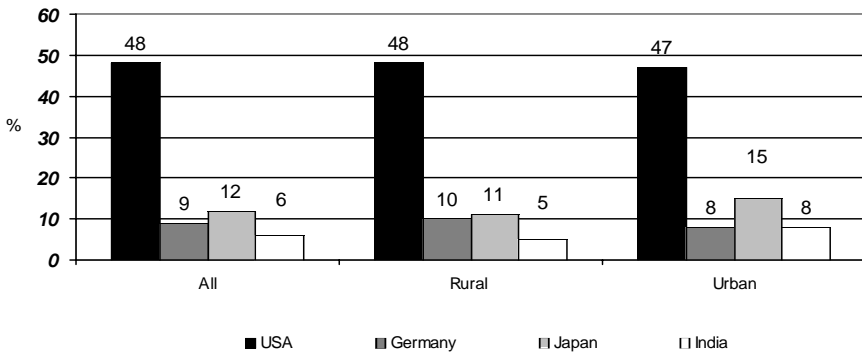


Fig 3.8

The respondents were further asked to mention the name of other countries that have provided any aid for developmental projects in their areas. In this question, multiple responses were allowed. The name of the countries was not read out and the investigators recorded all the spontaneous responses mentioned by the respondents.

Which other countries have provided aid for the projects in your area, district? (Q-32b, Base 6226)

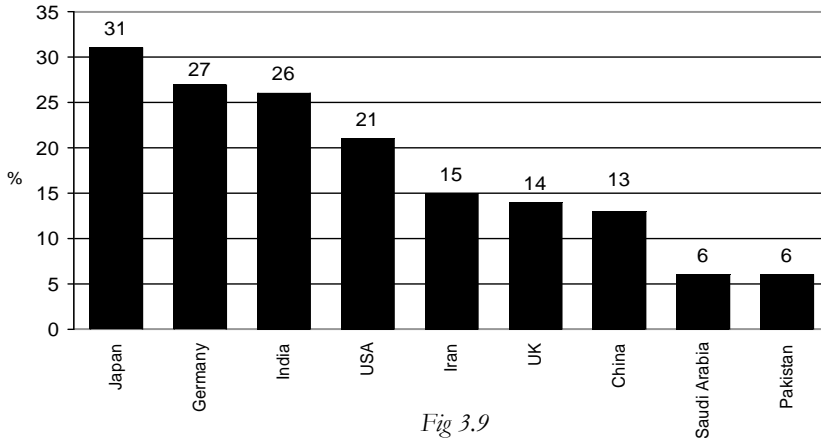


Fig 3.9

In addition to the four countries mentioned earlier, Iran, UK, China, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan were mentioned as the other funders of development projects.

3.5 Economic Prosperity

The respondents were requested to compare their current prosperity with that under the past Taliban regime.

- 54 percent perceived that their economic prosperity had increased since the fall the Taliban. The proportion of such respondents was higher in urban areas (59%) as compared to rural areas (52%).
- 26 percent believed that their family was less prosperous than earlier.
- 12 percent perceived no change in their economic status.
- More Uzbeks (66%) than Tajiks (61%) or Pashtuns (42%) said that they were more prosperous now.

Proportionately more respondents from Central-Kabul (67%) and Northern (63%) regions reported being more prosperous than those from Eastern (36%) and South Western (32%) regions.

Half the respondents said their economic fortune was much better than that under the Soviet occupation. A greater proportion of Tajiks (54%), Uzbeks (55%), and Hazaras (55%), than Pashtuns (44%) said that they were more prosperous now compared to the period under Soviet occupation.

Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-33, Base 6226). Now, going even farther back to the period of the Soviet occupation, if you think about your family then and now, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Soviet occupation government? (Q-34, Base 6226)

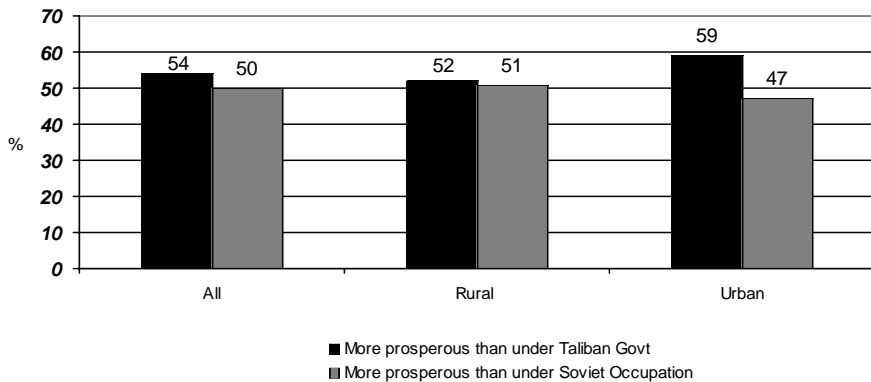


Fig 3.10

Poppy cultivation

Majority of survey respondents (80%) said that poppy cultivation was wrong and that the government should do more to stop it. But 15 percent of the respondents said that it was okay and the government should not worry too much about it. Proportionately more respondents from urban areas (88%) said that poppy cultivation was wrong as compared to their rural counterparts (78%).

There were ethnic differences with more Tajiks (83%) and Uzbeks (85%) saying poppy cultivation was wrong as compared to Pashtuns (76%).

Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view? (Q-42, Base 6226)

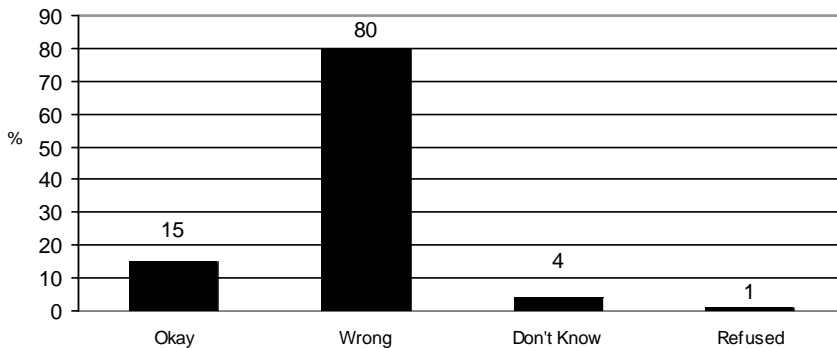


Fig 3.11

Respondents were further asked to state the reasons for their opinion regarding poppy cultivation. Those who were in favor of poppy cultivation said:

- Growing poppies was more profitable than growing other crops (49.8%).
- Labour rates on a poppy farm were more profitable than other jobs (44%).
- Poppy crops needed less water and this was critical in a country where irrigation was difficult (40%).
- Poppy crops were required for medicine production (19%).

Respondents against poppy cultivation gave the following major reasons:

- People get addicted to opium (56%).
- Poppy cultivation is against Islam and misleads youth/hampers education (33%).

Less than 10 percent of Afghans who said poppy cultivation was wrong gave other reasons, such as:

- Source of income for terrorists.
- Cause for insecurity in the country.
- Enhances corruption among officials.

Table 3.3 Reasons for and against poppy cultivation (Q43a-b, Q44a-b)

Reasons why poppy cultivation is okay	ALL	Rural	Urban
N	930	826	104
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Growing poppies is more profitable than growing other crops	49.8	49.3	53.4
Working on poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs	44.1	43.7	47.2
Needs less water	39.9	40.7	33.7
To make medicines from poppy	18.5	18.2	20.5
The Government doesn't pay attention to farmers	14.6	14.8	13.2
Unemployment	4.8	4.8	5.1
Reasons why poppy cultivation is wrong			
People become addicted to opium	56.3	56.3	56
In Islam, poppy cultivation is a sin (haram)	49.8	51.6	44.2
It misguides the youth /hampers education, job perspectives	33.0	32.6	34.0
It's detrimental to Afghanistan's reputation	14.7	13.6	18.1
It hurts other farmers	6.1	6.1	6.2
Poppy cultivation causes insecurity in our country	5.3	5.4	4.7

3.6 Privatization

Respondents were asked if they had heard of privatization. Thirty-nine percent of Afghans had heard of privatization with more from urban areas (48%) having heard of it in comparison with rural areas (37%).

Fig 3.12. Have you ever heard of the process called "privatization"? (Q-39a, Base 6226)

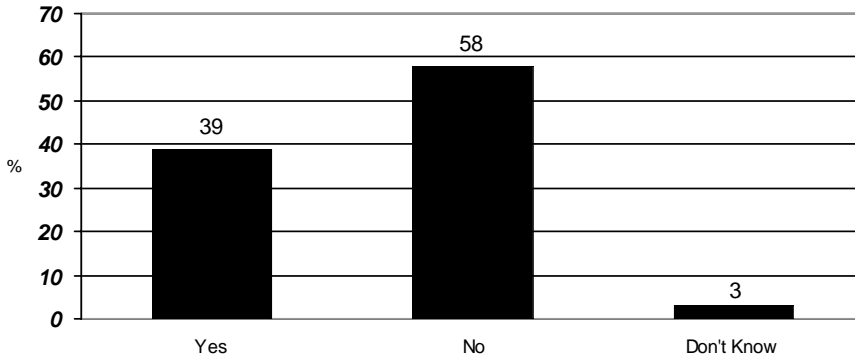


Fig 3.12

Perception of privatization

Respondents were then asked about their perception of whether privatization is a good idea for Afghanistan. Forty per cent of the respondents said privatization is good for Afghanistan, 33 percent said it is bad for the country, and 24 percent could not form an opinion on this issue. Respondents from both urban and rural areas had almost similar opinions.

Privatization means the selling of state owned businesses to private individuals. Do you think privatization is a good idea or is a bad idea for Afghanistan? (Q-39b, Base 6226)

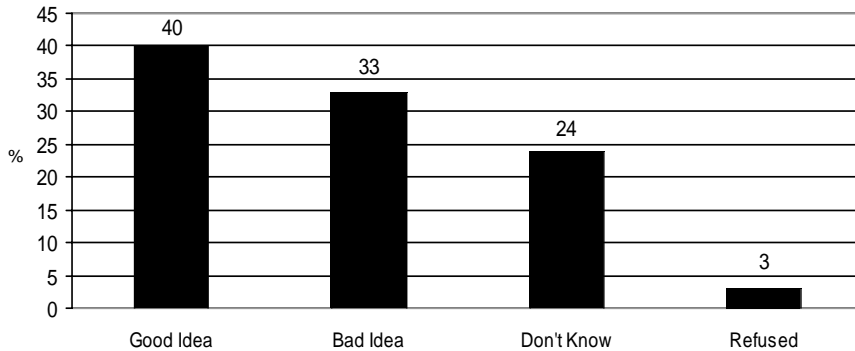


Fig 3.13

It was observed that respondents who thought privatization is a good idea for Afghanistan had better access to media (42%) as compared to the respondents who did not (34%). There was considerable regional variation in the opinion on privatization. The Central-Hazarajat region (52.4%) was more pro-privatization. The other regions, where about two-fifths of the citizens were for privatization, included the Western (43.5%), South Central (42.8%), Northern (41.7%), and Central-Kabul (39.2%) regions. In the Eastern region, 50.9 percent of the

respondents were against privatization and in the South Western region, 44 percent could not tell whether privatization would be good or bad for Afghanistan.

Reasons for believing privatization is a good idea for Afghanistan

The major reasons cited for believing privatization to be good for Afghanistan were:

- Creation of new job opportunities (50%), improvement of economic situation (40%), and reconstruction of Afghanistan (25%).

Table 3.4 Why do you say that privatization is a good idea? (Q-40 a-b, Base 2533)

	%
Will create job opportunities	49.5
Improves economic situation	40.1
It helps reconstruction of Afghanistan	24.6
Will provide a better business system in Afghanistan	19.7
Improves economic situation of the government	19.5
Don't know	17.4
Privatization paves the ground for investments	16.2
Products made by private businesses are of higher quality	9.3
Improves infrastructure	1.9

More rural respondents (23%) as compared to urban (10%) felt that privatization would bring positive change by improving the economic situation of the government.

Only 35 percent of Pashtuns thought privatization was good as compared to Uzbek (40%), Tajik (43%), and Hazaras (49%).

Reason for saying privatization was a bad idea for Afghanistan

Among those not favoring privatization, the major reasons put forward were:

- Privatization would benefit individuals rather than community (39%), reduce job opportunities (38%), widen the gap between rich and poor (35%), and the present situation was not conducive for privatization (25%).

Small differences were observed in the responses given by urban and rural respondents. While more urban respondents reported that the main reason was the widening gap between the rich and poor and reduced job opportunities, rural respondents felt that the main reason was that privatization would benefit only a few individuals (in view of the poor state of education, especially in the rural areas).

Table 3.5 Why do you say that privatization is a bad idea? (Q-41a-b, Base 2021)

	%
It's in the interests of one individual (not the community)	39.1
It will reduce job opportunities	38.1
The rich will become richer and the poor become poorer	35.4
Don't know	30.1
The current situation is not adequate for privatization	24.7
It will hurt the economy of the government	16.5
It will increase the prices	10.6
It creates ethnic discrimination	2.8

3.7 Trust in Public Institutions, Organizations, and Associations

Confidence in government and public institutions is a powerful indicator of the ability of public institutions and authorities to guide the development of society. Respondents were asked about their trust in different public institutions and organizations.

- The majority of Afghans reported that they trusted the Afghan National Army (87%).
 - 51 percent had a great deal of trust.
 - 36 percent said they had a fair amount of trust.
- The majority of Afghans also reported having trust in the National Police (86%)
 - 44.9 percent had a great deal of trust.
 - 40.8 percent said they had a fair amount of trust.
- Most of the Afghans reported having a lot of trust in the electronic media (84%)
 - 37.7 percent had a great deal of trust.
 - 46.1 percent said they had a fair amount of trust.
- More than half of those surveyed (57%) said they had trust in NGOs.
- Only 11 percent had a great deal of trust in political parties, while 33.4 per cent had a fair degree of trust.
- The trust in the judicial system was low, with only 11.2 percent having a great deal of trust and 26.8 percent reposing a fair degree of trust.
- The trust for local militia was also low, with only 9.8 percent having a great deal of trust and 20.6 percent having a fair degree of trust.

Please tell me how much trust you have in each of the domestic institutions and organizations and officials. Do you have a great deal of trust, a fair amount of trust, not very much trust, or no trust at all in... (Q-62, Base 6226)

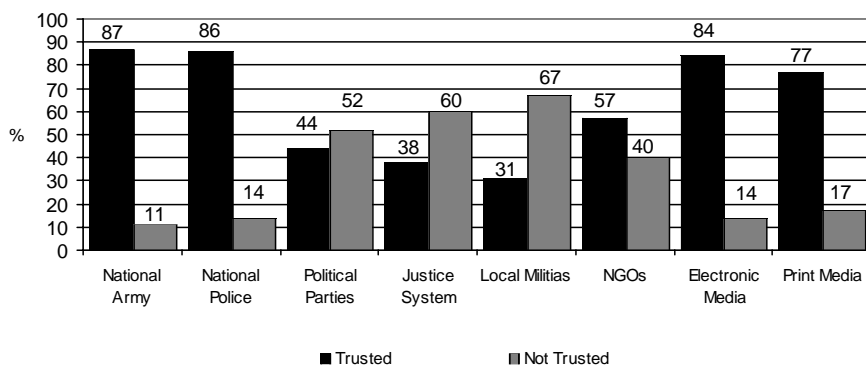


Fig 3.14

- Trust in the Afghan National Army was high in the Northern (91%), South Central (90%), Eastern (89%), and Central-Kabul (88%) regions.
- Trust in the Afghan National Police was found to be very high in Central-Hazarajat (91%) and Northern (90%) regions.
- Trust in political parties was found to be higher in the South Western (48.7%) and South Central (48.5%) regions, while trust in the judicial system was comparatively higher in South Central (42%), South Western (44%) , and the Northern (40%) regions.

The feelings of trust among the different ethnic groups are as expressed in table 3.6.

Table 3.6 Those saying they have a great deal of trust among various ethnic groups

	Pashtuns	Tajiks	Uzbeks	Hazaras
ANA	50%	49%	62%	54%
ANP	41%	45%	54%	49%
Political parties	11%	11%	10%	14%
Justice system	11%	11%	12%	8%
Local militias	11%	8%	10%	8%
NGOs	16%	16%	14%	14%
Electronic media like radio, TV	35%	42%	33%	39%
Newspapers, print media	28%	36%	33%	38%

4 Participation in Elections

4.1 Participation in 2005 Elections

A large number of Afghans turned out to vote during the last elections in 2005. This section examines why they voted, how they voted and their perceptions about the electoral process. Of the respondents, 62.2 percent reported having voted.³ Slightly more urban respondents voted (64%) compared to rural respondents (62%).

Now I would like to ask you some questions about the Parliamentary election in 2005. Did you vote in the Parliament elections in 2005? (Q-48, Base 6226)

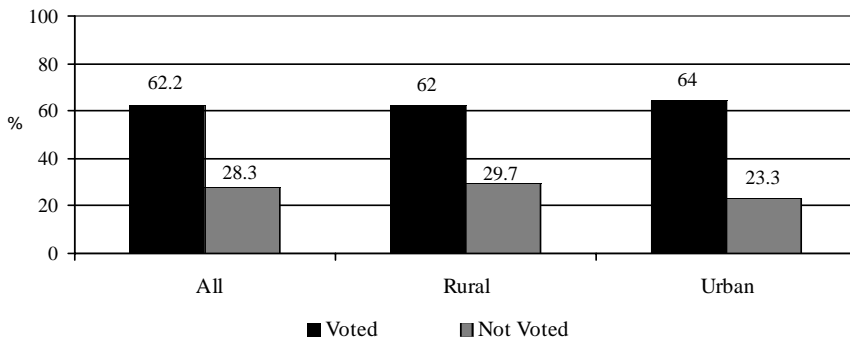


Fig 4.1

The analysis by regions shows that people of Central-Hazarajat region voted in large numbers (81%) in these elections, followed by residents of Northern (70%) and Western (66%) regions. The lowest level of voting was reported in the South Western (41%) region. Nearly three-fourths of the male respondents reported to have voted compared to 52 percent of women.

³Though the percentage of those who said they voted in the 2005 elections (62.2%) is higher than the polling figures reported by the Joint Electoral Management Board which conducted the elections (around 52%), this is not unusual. It is a universally recognized phenomenon that there is higher reporting of voting than actual turn-out in post-election surveys all around the world.

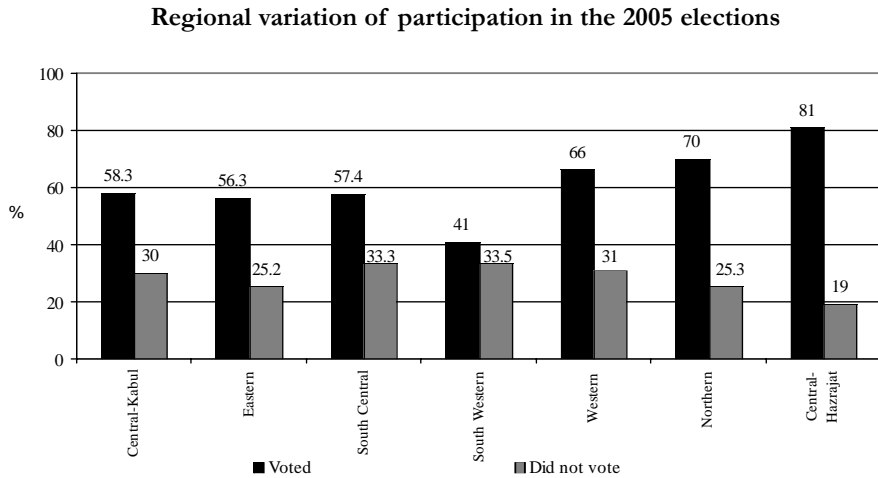


Fig 4.2

There were substantial ethnic variations: higher voter turnout was reported by Uzbeks (72%) and Hazaras (71%) compared to Tajiks (66%) and Pashtuns (54%).

4.2 Reasons for Non-Participation in 2005 Elections

Almost a third (28.3%) of the respondents said that they did not vote in the 2005 elections. The main reasons for non-participation were:

- Lack of interest in the elections (20%).
- Not permitted to vote (15%). Those not permitted to vote were all women and 23 per cent of women who did not vote cited this as a reason, especially in rural areas. The number of women not allowed to vote was particularly high in the South Central and South Western regions.
- Absence of required identity documents was cited by 15 percent of the people as the reason why they did not vote.

There were ethnic differences in the reasons for not voting. Women from the Pashtun and the Uzbek ethnic groups cited not being allowed to vote as a main reason for non-participation. Twenty-one percent of Hazaras and Tajiks, 19 percent of Pashtuns, and 18 percent of Uzbeks said they didn't vote as they were not interested. The other top reason among Tajiks was not having the voter identification card (18%). The main reason quoted by Uzbeks (21%) and Hazaras (22%) was also the lack of identification documents.

It was also noted that during the previous survey, the respondents were confused about the election process, especially the ballot papers. However, during this survey, only one percent of the respondents said papers they did not participate in these elections because of confusing ballot papers.

You did not vote in the Parliament Elections in 2005. Why didn't you vote?(Q- 49, Base 1722)

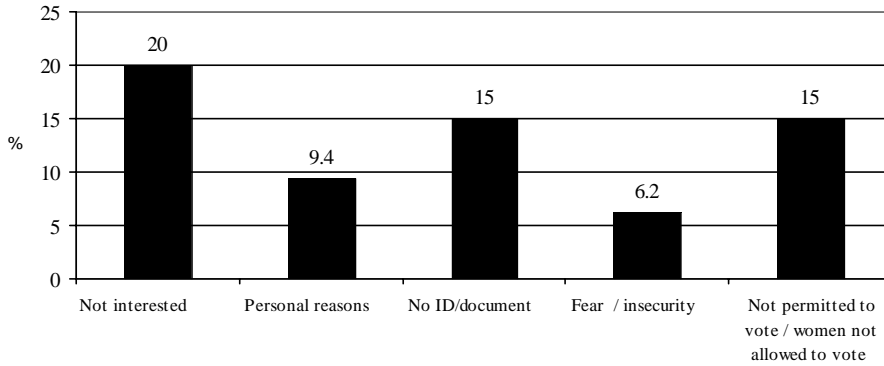


Fig 4.3

4.3 Perceptions towards Conduct of 2005 Elections

More than half (54%) believed that the 2005 elections were free and fair. However, there were major regional differences in perception. A majority of respondents in the Northern (61.7%), Central-Kabul (61.3%), and Central-Hazarajat (58.8%) regions thought the polls were fair as compared to a relative minority in the Western (37.9%) and Eastern (42.9%) regions.

Do you think the elections for the National Parliament last year were free and fair or do you think they were not free and fair? (Q-50, Base 6226)

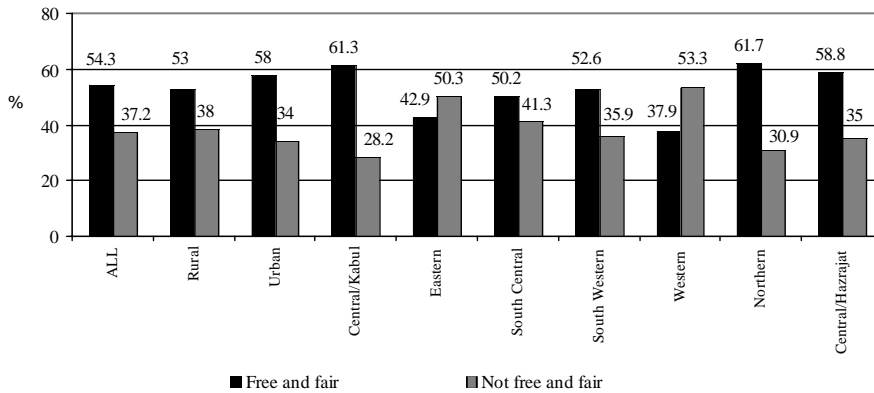


Fig 4.4

Comparatively fewer Pashtuns (49%) felt the 2005 elections were free and fair as compared to Uzbeks (63%), Hazaras (60%), and Tajiks (56%).

Participation in electoral campaigning

Electoral campaigning is a new phenomenon in Afghanistan. Thirteen percent of the respondents reported having worked for a candidate/party in the last elections. The highest participation was in the Eastern region (28%) and the lowest in the Central-Kabul region (7.8%). There were no notable differences among the various ethnic groups.

There are people who work for a party or candidate during electoral campaigns. Did you work for any candidate or party in the last presidential or parliamentary elections?(Q-58, Base 6226)

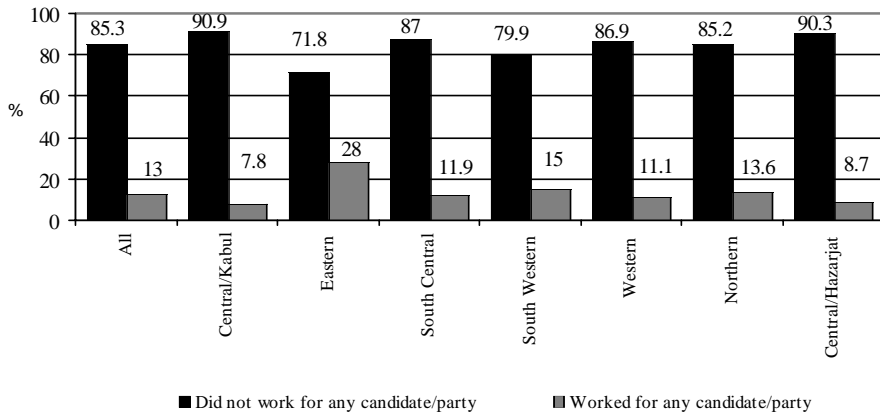


Fig 4.5

The respondents were further asked whether they had tried to convince people to vote for the candidate they thought the best. Eight percent of the respondents reported to have frequently tried to convince others.

Problems with 2005 Elections

Respondents were asked about the problems that occurred during the 2005 elections.

- 43 per cent considered cheating during the vote count as a critical problem in the 2005 elections, and 31 percent believed that this would continue to be a problem in the future as well.
- Buying of votes was also considered (33.5%) a problem in the 2005 polls, and it was believed it would remain (32%) a problem in the future.
- More than one-fourth of the respondents interviewed said the husband not allowing the wife to cast her vote was a problem and they felt this would remain a problem in the next elections as well.

4.4 Perceptions towards Future Elections

Since the elections were conducted with international help, respondents were asked whether they felt that in the future the Afghan government would be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own. More than 64 percent felt the Afghan government would be able to conduct the elections. Residents of Northern (74%), Eastern (70%), and Central-Hazarajat (64%) regions had more faith in the elected government's ability to conduct free and fair polls compared to other regions. In the Pashtun community, more people had faith in the 2005 elections (49.3%) than in the future elections, which 59 percent said might not be free and fair.

Women respondents (66%) were marginally more optimistic compared to their male counterparts (63%) about the elected government's ability to conduct free and fair elections in the future.

In the past, elections were managed jointly by international donors and the Afghanistan Government, but future elections will be managed entirely by the Afghanistan Government. How confident are you that the Afghan Government on its own will be able to conduct free and fair elections? (Q-51, Base 6226)

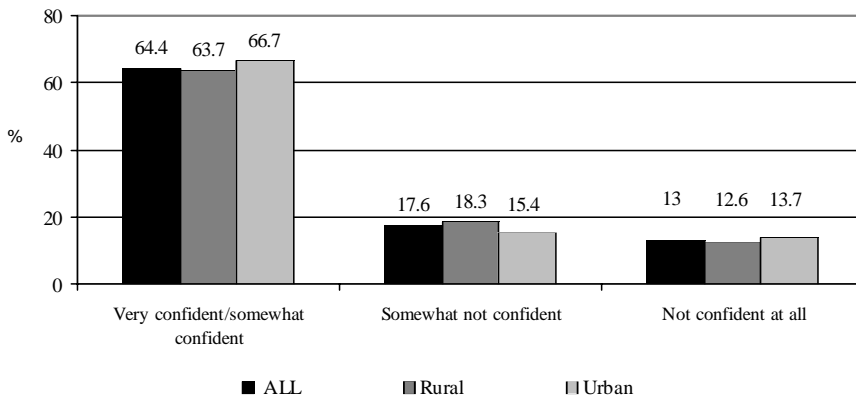


Fig 4.6

Respondents were asked whether local elections, if held, would be free and fair. About half the respondents from both urban and rural areas thought they would be free and fair. Respondents from Central-Kabul (61%), Northern (61%), and Central-Hazarajat (59%) regions were more optimistic than the residents of Eastern (50%) and Western (53%) regions.

Analysis by ethnic groups revealed that comparatively fewer Pashtuns (42%) were confident that the local elections would be free and fair than those from Uzbek (62%), Tajik (54%) and Hazara (54%) communities.

Table 4.1. I'm going to mention some problems that can happen during elections. For each one, tell me if to your knowledge it had happened in the last elections. Now, for each one, tell me if you think it can happen in future elections. (Q-53 and 54, Base 6226)

Problems	Last Elections (%)	Future Elections (%)
Intimidation against voters or party activists	23.4	20.2
Cheating in the vote count	43.2	31.1
Buying of votes	33.5	31.8
Finding out for whom people voted without their saying	19.6	22.5
Husbands not letting wives vote	27.6	27.3

Across the various ethnic groups, there was agreement that cheating during the counting of votes was the biggest problem during the last elections: Pashtuns (45%), Tajiks (42%), Hazaras (48%), and Uzbeks (39%). This problem was again identified as a significant problem with respect to future elections. The Pashtuns highlighted 'buying of votes' as most problematic for the next elections (36%). On the whole, cheating in the vote counts and buying of votes were perceived as the biggest problems during elections.

One-fourth of the Pashtuns believed that none of these problems would happen in the next elections. The Tajiks were even more positive for the future, and one-third of them said there would be no problems.

5 Democracy in Afghanistan

5.1 Perceptions of democracy

Respondents were asked what democracy meant to them. This was an open-ended, multiple-response question, and answers were not prompted. More than half the respondents said democracy meant freedom (54%). Others said democracy meant peace (37%), government of the people (33%), and rights and law (31%). Twenty-three percent said democracy meant Islamic democracy and 20 percent said women's rights.

In 2004, most respondents said democracy was freedom (39%), followed by rights and the rule of law (21%), government of the people (20%), women's rights (12%), and Islamic democracy (8%).

A lot of people in Afghanistan today are talking about democracy. If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you? (Q-63, Base 6226)

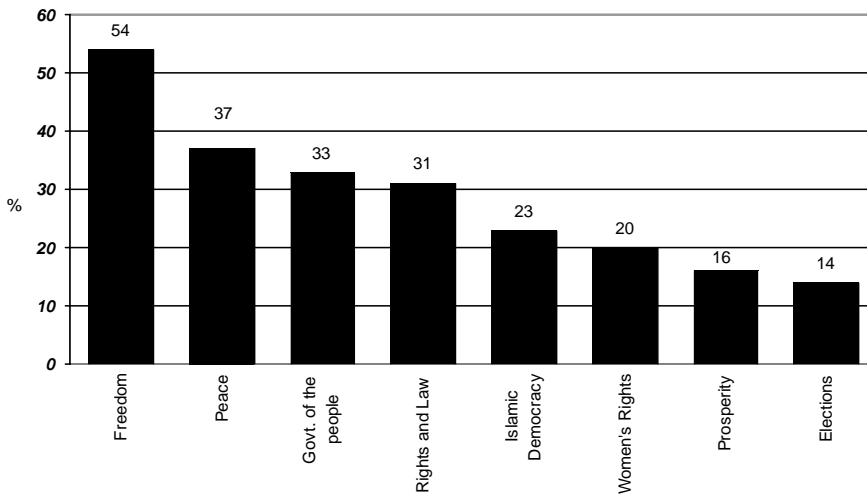


Fig 5.1

Though there were differences in the perception of different ethnic communities, the two largest ethnic communities, Pashtuns and Tajiks, had similar views.

Table 5.1 Meaning of democracy by ethnicity

	Pashtun	Tajik	Uzbek	Hazara
Freedom	52%	58%	43.7%	58.9%
Rights & Law	29%	32%	32.2%	32.7%
Govt. of the people	29%	36%	32%	41%
Peace	38%	39%	31.1%	40.1%

5.2 Personal Consequences of Democracy

Respondents were asked about personal benefits arising out of living in a democracy. This was an open-ended, multiple-response question. Most people (41%) thought democracy could bring them 'peace'. More than one-third of the respondents (37%) said freedom was a benefit of democracy. Other major personal benefits were rights and law, Islamic democracy, government of the people, women's rights, prosperity, and elections. There was not much difference in the public perception of personal benefits of democracy between urban and rural areas.

What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring you personally? (Q-64, Base 6226)

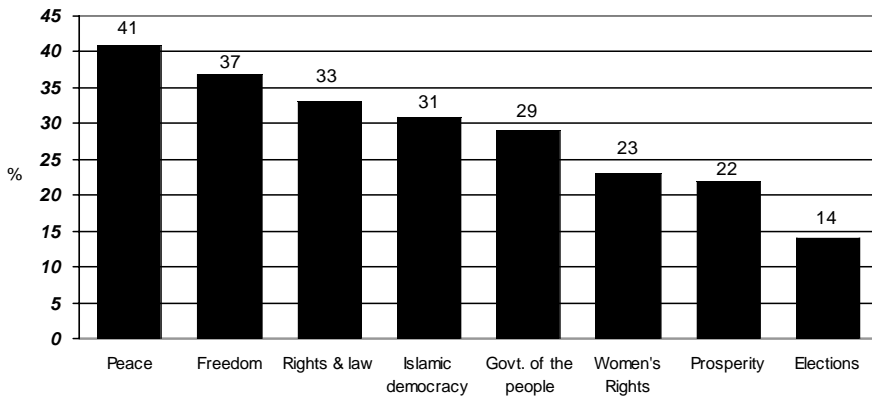


Fig 5.2

There were regional differences in the perceived benefits of democracy. Fifty-four percent of the respondents from Central-Hazarajat region and 49 percent from the Eastern region said freedom was a benefit of democracy compared to a national average of 37 percent. In the South Central region only 31 percent said freedom was a benefit. Fifty-nine percent of respondents in Central-Hazarajat region said peace was a benefit.

There was not much variation in the views of the different major ethnic groups about what democracy would bring to them personally. Hazaras were more positive about the benefits: 43 percent of them said democracy would bring them freedom, a feeling echoed by 39 percent of Tajiks and only 35 percent of Pashtuns.

5.3 Democratic Rights and Values

Peaceful political opposition

A large majority of the respondents (85%) either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with the view that the government should allow peaceful opposition. The proportion of such respondents was higher in urban (89%) than in rural areas (83%). More than 80 percent agreed to this concept in every region.

I'm going to read out an idea. Please tell me if you agree with it. "It is a good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition." (Q-67a, Base 6226)

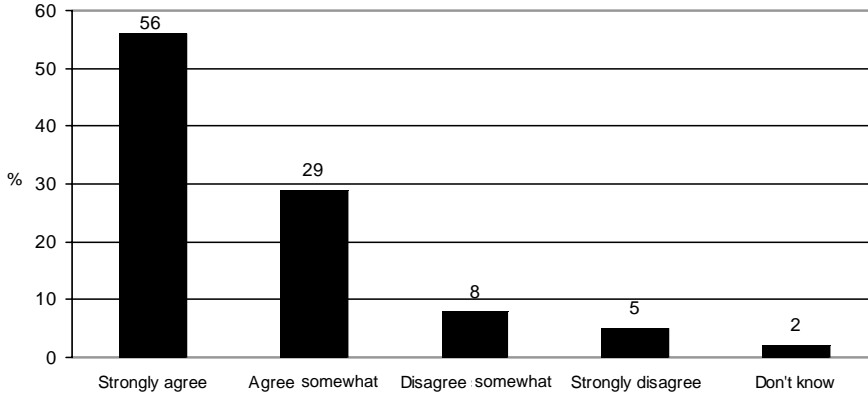


Fig 5.3

Equal rights under the law regardless of gender, ethnicity, and religion

Ninety percent of the respondents either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that everyone should have 'equal rights under the law regardless of gender, ethnicity and religion'. More urban respondents (96%) than rural respondents (89%) were in favor of equal rights.

I'm going to read out an idea. Please tell me if you agree with it. "Everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion;" (Q-67b, Base 6226)

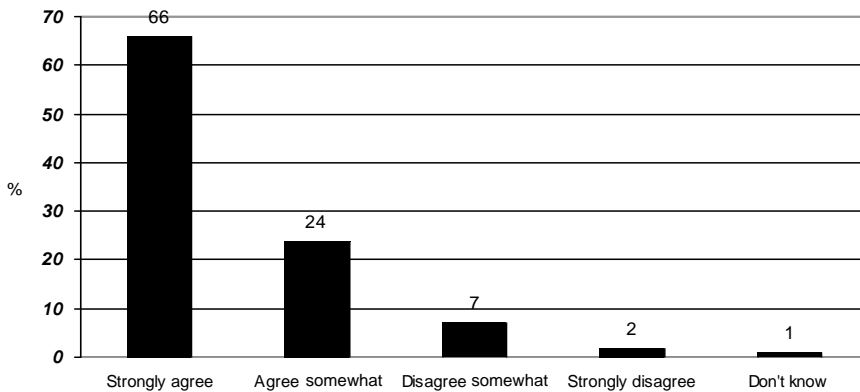


Fig 5.4

Equal and very large numbers of men and women (90%) supported equal rights under the law regardless of gender, ethnicity, or religion. By and large there was a consensus across various ethnic groups. Respondents from Hazara (97%), Pashtun (91%), Tajik (90%), and Uzbek (85%) groups said they strongly or somewhat agreed to the idea of equal rights under law irrespective of any distinctions.

5.4 Religious and Political Leadership

Asked whether 'religious leaders should lead people obeying obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run' most of the respondents said yes. Around 82 percent either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed to this viewpoint. There were no notable differences in the opinions of women and men on this issue. Similarly the major ethnic groups were in agreement on the issue.

I'm going to read out an idea. Please tell me if you agree with it. "Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run." (Q-67c, Base 6226)

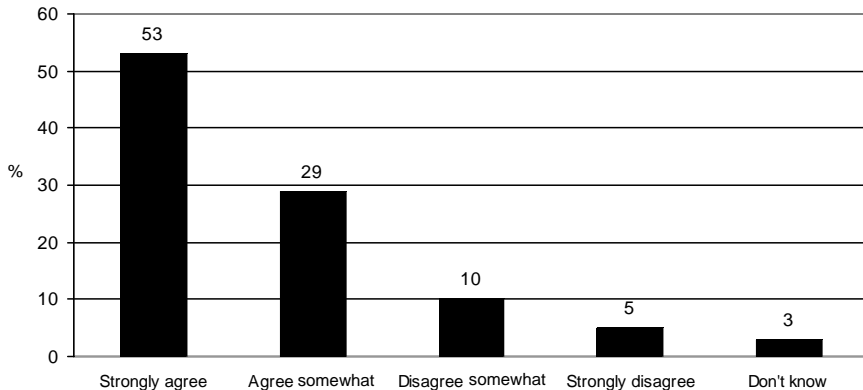


Fig 5.5

Respondents were asked whether religious leaders should be consulted for solving problems or whether politics and religion should be kept separate. Sixty-one percent of the respondents said religious leaders should be consulted in the decision-making process, while 37 percent said politics and religion should not mix.

Some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view? (Q-71, Base 6226)

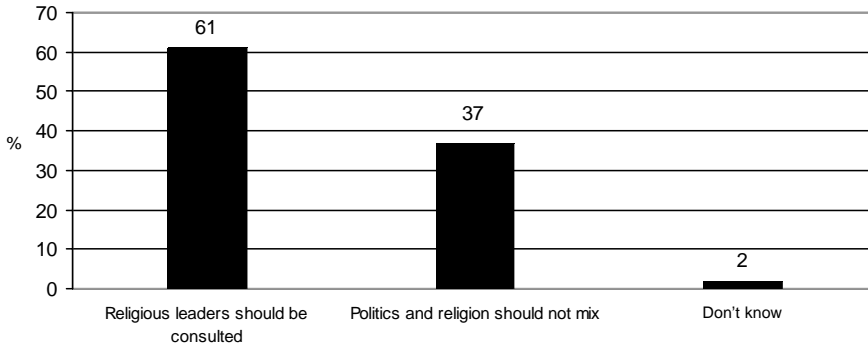


Fig 5.6

There were some differences observed while comparing the views from different regions. It was observed that more respondents in the Eastern and Central-Hazarajat regions wanted involvement of religious leaders in the decision-making process.

Some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view? (Q-71, Base 6226) BY REGIONS

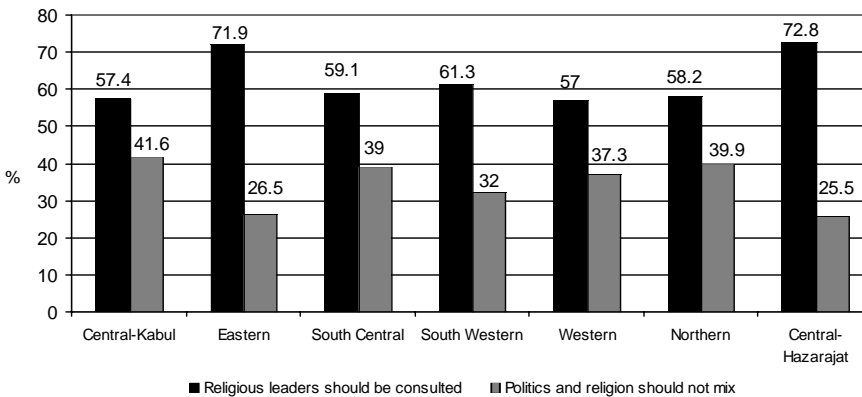


Fig 5.7

More respondents in the rural areas (63%) as opposed to 53% in urban areas were of the opinion that religious leaders should be consulted. There was not much difference among the views of the major ethnic groups.

5.5 Islam, Afghan Tradition, and Democracy

Respondents were asked whether they think democracy would bring westernization and too much freedom that could challenge Islamic values, or whether an Islamic nation could become democratic without becoming westernized and could preserve Islamic values.

- 60 percent of the respondents reportedly felt that an Islamic nation could be democratic without becoming westernized, but more than one third of the respondents felt democracy could challenge Islamic values.
- 67 percent of urban respondents as compared to 58 percent of rural respondents felt that an Islamic nation could be democratic as well.
- More respondents from the Eastern (50%) and Western (40%) regions felt that democracy challenges Islamic values (against a national average of 35%).

Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values." Which is closer to your view? (Q-68, Base 6226)

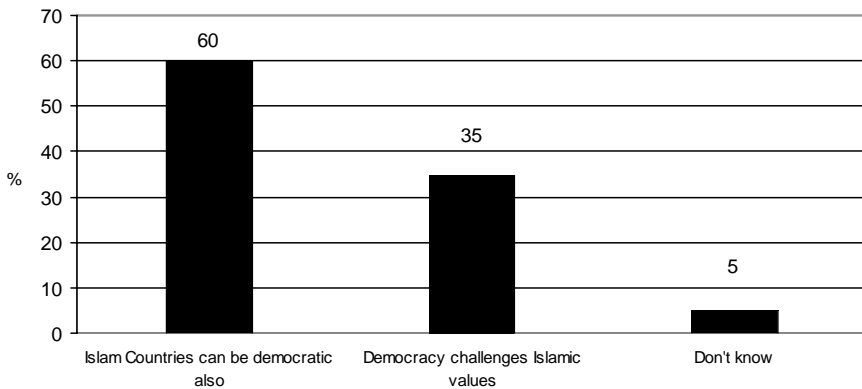


Fig 5.8

Comparing the views of ethnic groups, 64 percent of Uzbeks, 62 percent of Tajiks, 61 percent of Hazaras, and 58 percent of Pashtuns felt Islam was compatible with democracy.

5.6 Participation in Activities of Public Interest

All respondents were asked whether they would participate freely in different activities at local as well as at national level without fear.

- Two-thirds (65%) said they experienced no fear when participating in resolution at the local level.
- More than half (57%) said they experienced no fear when casting votes for the national level elections.

- More than one-third (35%) mentioned having no fear when participating in peaceful demonstrations, although an almost equal proportion did have some fear (37%).
- In all three instances, more urban respondents said they could participate without fear than those from rural areas.

Please, tell me, whether you would participate in - resolving problems in your community, vote in national election, participate in peaceful demonstration, and run for public office-with 'no fear', 'some fear' or a 'lot of fear'? (Q-27a-d, Base 6226)

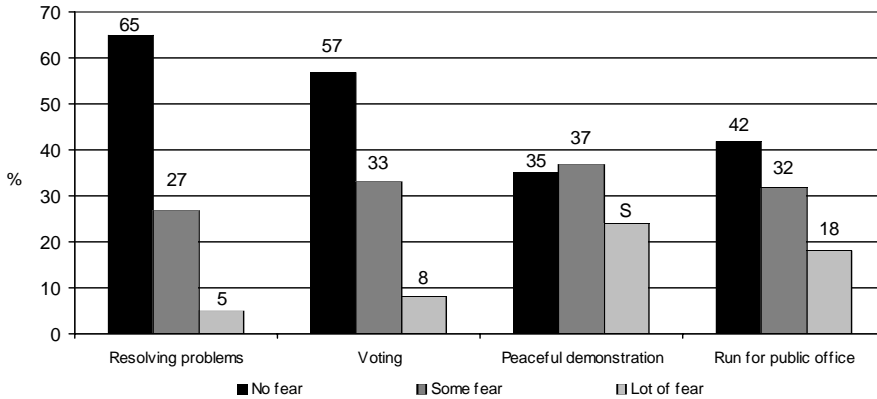


Fig 5.9

Differences in opinion were found to exist among respondents based on geography, social background, and exposure to media. Most respondents from Central-Kabul and Central-Hazarajat regions did not experience fear when participating in any activities related to the public interest, whereas citizens from the South Western region were very reluctant to do so. Fear of participating in peaceful demonstrations was higher in South Central (36%), Eastern (35%), and Northern (28%) regions compared to 22 percent in the South Western region. The level of fear for running for a public office was somewhat the same in the four regions (27%, 22%, 20%, and 27% respectively). On the other hand only one-third of the population in the South Western region reportedly could cast their vote without any fear, whereas in comparison almost three-fourths of respondents from Central-Kabul region could cast their vote without fear.

5.7 Associational Activity and Issues of Trust

A large majority of Afghans surveyed (67%) said they did not belong to organizations such as youth or student associations, NGOs, women associations, trade unions, and religious or farmers' associations.

A relative minority belonged to different organizations.

- 11 percent of those surveyed were associated with youth or student associations.

- Six percent with NGOs.
- Six percent of respondents from rural areas reportedly belonged to farmers' associations.
- Association with sports and recreational clubs, social clubs, and apolitical religious clubs was reported by a very small proportion of Afghans.

Respondents were asked to what extent they could trust most people, i.e., whether most people can be trusted or they needed to be very careful in dealing with people.

- Nearly two-fifths (38%) said they trust most people.
- 59 percent mentioned they would rather be careful in dealing with people.
- Another three percent were uncertain.

This perception of trust among Afghans was found to vary across different regions. Trust was the highest in the Northern region (46.7%), and to a slightly lesser extent in the South Central (39.7%), Central-Hazarajat (37%), Central-Kabul (36.5%), and Western (33.7%) regions. In the Eastern region, people overwhelmingly said they favored being cautious.

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people? (Q-60, Base 6226)

COMBINED WITH

Do you believe that in most instances people are only thinking about themselves or do you believe that in the most instances people try to help others? (Q-61, Base 6226)

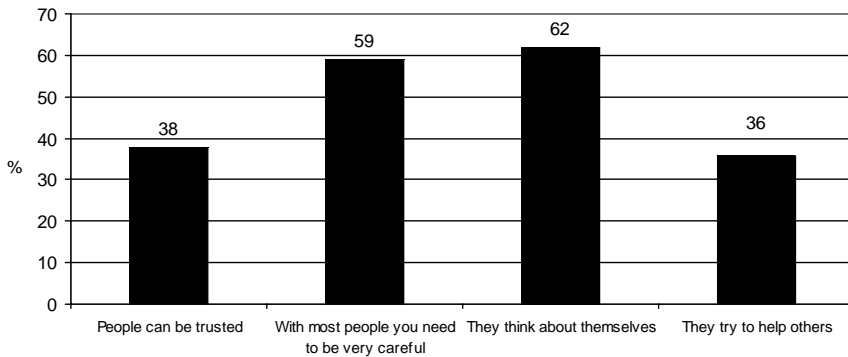


Fig 5.10

Respondents were asked whether they only think about themselves or they try to help others. Overall, 62 percent of respondents mentioned that they think about themselves, and this proportion was almost similar across rural-urban areas. Across regions, the impulse to help others in most situations was reportedly higher in the Northern (44.2%), Western (38.4%), and South Western (37.7%) regions as compared to the South Central (33%), Central-Hazarajat (32.5%), Eastern (24.6%), and Central-Kabul (29.4%) regions.

5.8. Satisfaction with Democratic Efforts in Afghanistan

Respondents were asked if they are satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. Almost 77 percent of the respondents were either very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. Proportionately more urban respondents (83%) reported their satisfaction with the way democracy works in Afghanistan than rural respondents (75%).

Satisfaction with the way democracy works varied across different regions of Afghanistan. More satisfaction with the way democracy works was reported by respondents from Central-Kabul (82%) and Northern (84%) regions. Comparatively less satisfied respondents were from the South Western (66%), Eastern (68%), and South Central (67%) regions.

On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan? (Q-75, Base 6226)

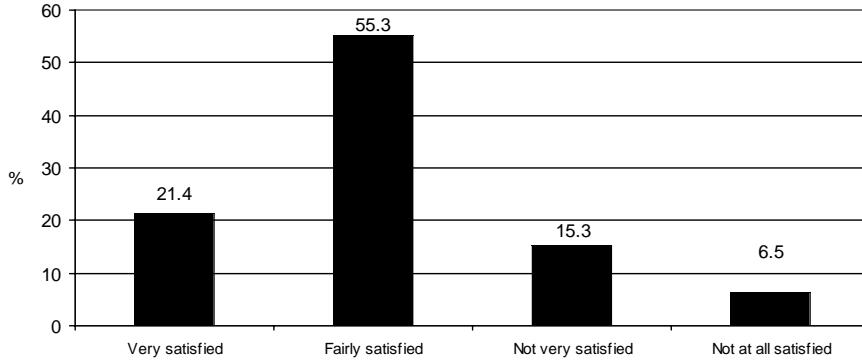


Fig 5.11

There were ethnic variations, with Pashtuns expressing the least satisfaction and Uzbeks the most.

On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan? (Q-75, Base 6226) ANALYSIS BY ETHNICITY

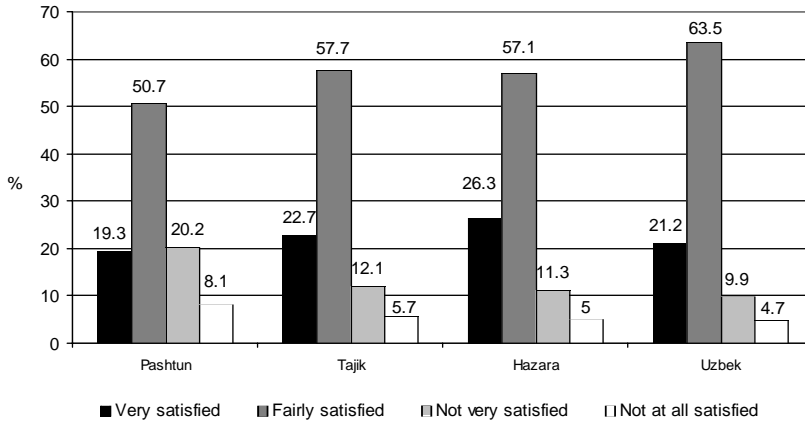


Fig 5.12

Respondents were further asked about their opinion about the relationship between the government and the people. The respondents could choose from three options that describe the relationship between the government and the people.

Almost equal proportions of the respondents perceived that the government and the people are equals (44%) and that the government is the father and the people are children (45%), while 11 percent felt the government should be like a boss and the people must simply obey.

Here are some different ways people think about the government. The first is that the people and government should be equals, and government should listen to the criticisms voiced by people. The second is that government should be like a father and the people like a child who he must look after. The third is that the government is like a boss and the people are like workers who must obey. Which of these is closest to your view of what the government should be? (Q-76, Base 6226)

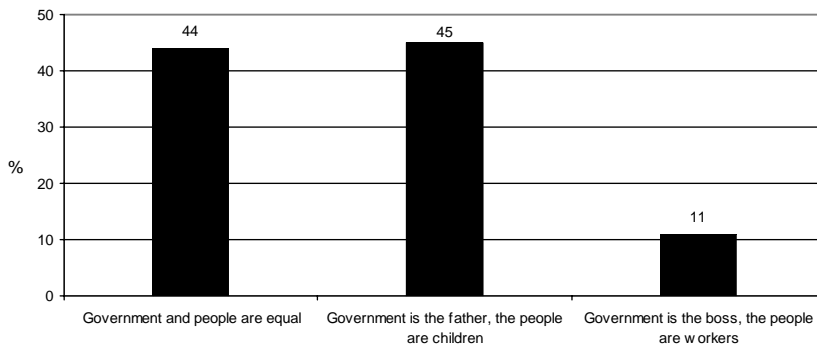


Fig 5.13

6 Democratic Values and Institutions in Afghanistan

6.1 Political Expression

To gauge people's perception of freedom of expression, respondents were asked whether they felt free to express their political opinion in the area where they lived. Almost half (49%) said they could freely express their political opinions, without any fear. More people from urban areas (57%) felt free to express their political opinion than their counterparts in rural areas (47%).

*Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?
(Q-28, Base 6226)*

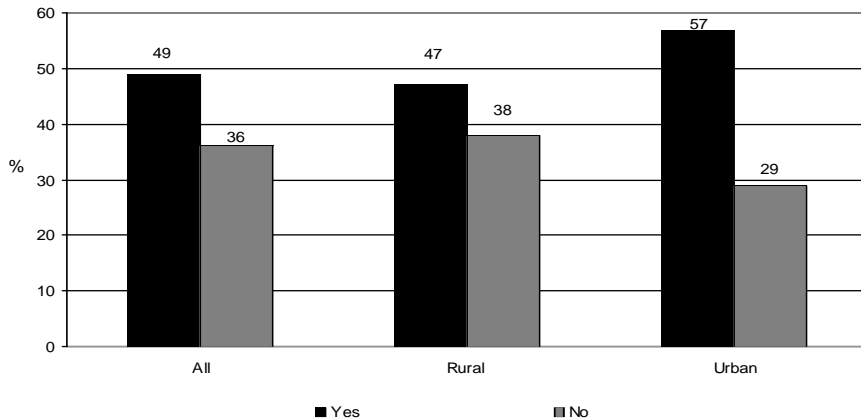


Fig 6.1

There were significant regional variations. Only 25 percent felt free to express their opinions in the South Western region, whereas 63 percent felt free in Central-Kabul region. People with better access to media were more confident about expressing their political inclinations. Men enjoyed more freedom than women in terms of voicing their political opinions.

Respondents were asked to give the main reasons why they felt greater freedom to express their opinion than in the past.

- Freedom of speech is guaranteed (64%).
- Good security conditions in the area (42%).
- Peace and democracy (40%).

Table 6.1 What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people to feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-29 a-b combined, Base 3003)

Reasons for being able to express political opinion	All (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Freedom of speech is guaranteed	63.6	62.9	65.5
Security conditions are good in the area	41.6	42.0	40.5
Peace and democracy	40.0	39.3	42.0
Having parliament and local shuras	8.5	8.3	9.0
Disarmament	8.4	9.4	5.4
Removal of local militias	5.7	5.8	5.4

For those who said that they did not have the freedom to express political opinions the major reasons were:

- Bad security conditions in their area (40%),
- Presence of warlords (33%),
- Fear for their safety (30%).

Other reasons included presence of Taliban in the area (16%), lack of real democracy (16%), and government not allowing freedom of expression (17%). While security problems were mentioned more by rural respondents (rural 42%, urban 31%), fear for safety was mentioned more by urban respondents (rural 26%, urban 48%).

Table 6.2 Why don't people in your area have the freedom to express their political opinions? (Q-30 a-b combined, Base 2317)

Reasons for not being able to express political opinion	All (%)	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
Security conditions are bad in the area	40.3	42.4	30.5
Presence of warlords	32.6	34.2	25.3
Fear for their safety	29.6	25.6	48.2
The government doesn't allow freedom	16.7	15.4	22.9
Presence of Taliban in the area	16.4	17.9	9.7
No real democracy exists here	15.9	15	20
People don't know about politics	8.3	9.7	1.6
No disarmament	6.9	7.2	5.7
Women are under the control of men	3.5	3.5	3.2

6.2 Political Tolerance

In order to gauge political tolerance, respondents were asked whether political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in their areas. Respondents were also asked whether they would allow meetings of all political parties, even the unfavorable ones, in their areas. Around 57 percent of the respondents didn't have a problem in allowing political parties to have meetings, whereas almost 39 percent were against it. There were no differences in opinion between urban and rural areas.

As per the 2004 report, less than one-third of Afghans polled (30%) thought that all political parties, including unpopular ones, should be allowed to hold public meetings in their communities, while almost half (47%) would bar such groups.

*Do you think that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?
(Q-65a, Base 6226)*

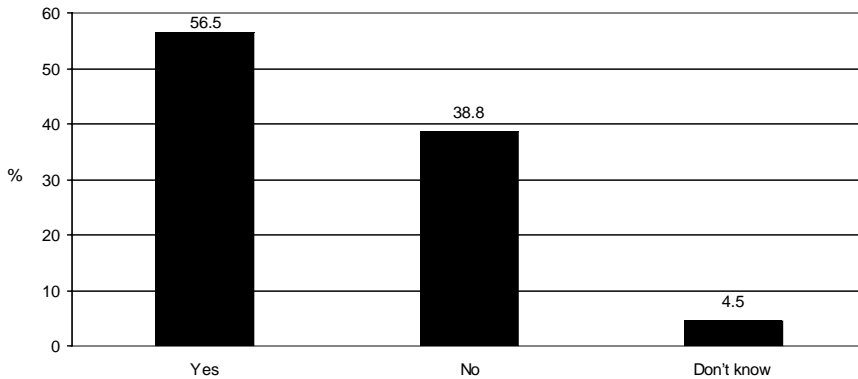


Fig 6.2

The regional analysis showed that more respondents from South Western (48%), Northern (45%), and Eastern (44%) regions were against political meetings in their area. However, there were no significant differences in the responses of different groups on the basis of ethnicity, gender, occupation, and media exposure.

When asked if they would allow a political meeting of the parties they don't like, only 32 percent said they would allow such meetings. There was not much of an urban-rural divide in this regard. More respondents from South Central (42%) and Western (40%) regions were open to the idea of meetings of all political parties regardless of personal preferences. The regions that were less tolerant of political activities or political parties were the Eastern and Northern regions, where only 25 percent mentioned that they would allow meetings of all parties irrespective of personal preferences.

Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area? (Q-65b, Base 6226)

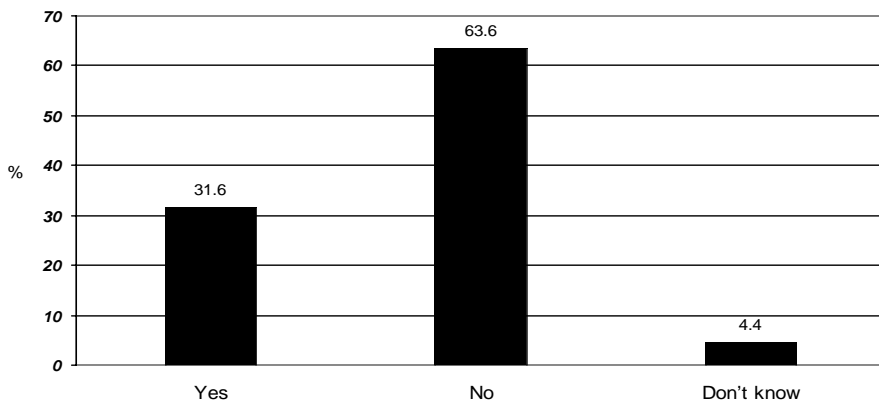


Fig 6.3

Among ethnic groups, 35 percent of Pashtuns and Hazaras, 29 percent of Tajiks, and 26 percent of Uzbeks felt that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings even if these were parties that they didn't like.

Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area? (Q-65b, Base 6226) BY ETHNICITY

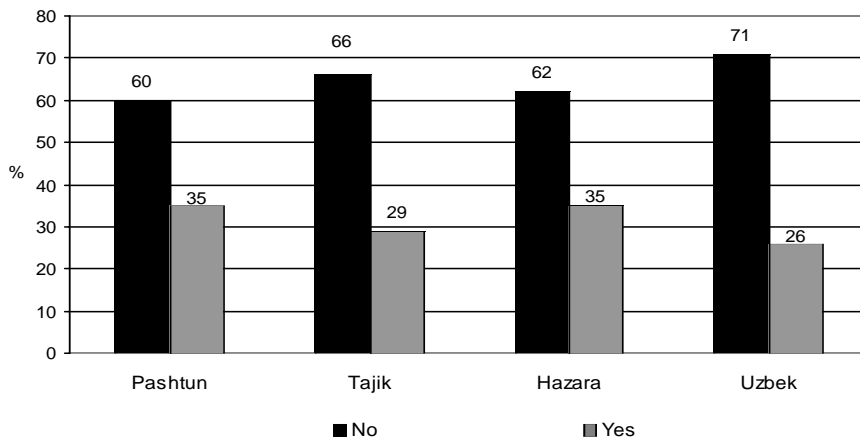


Fig 6.4

6.3 Political Efficacy

Asked whether they thought the government cared about their personal opinions, 77 percent of the respondents said they did not think the government cared. More urban respondents (82%) felt the government did not care than their counterparts in rural areas (76%).

Some people say, "I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Q-15, Base 6226)

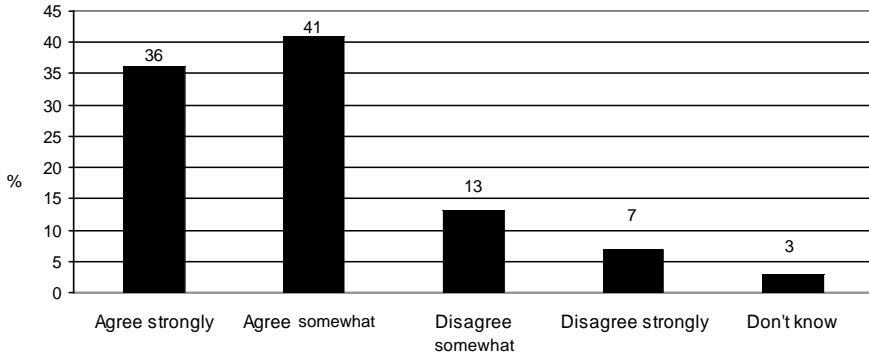


Fig 6.5

Eighty-two percent of Tajiks and 72 percent of Pashtuns thought the government did not care much for what they thought. Around 80 percent of Hazaras and the Uzbeks thought the same.

Some people say, "I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (Q-15, Base 6226) BY ETHNICITY

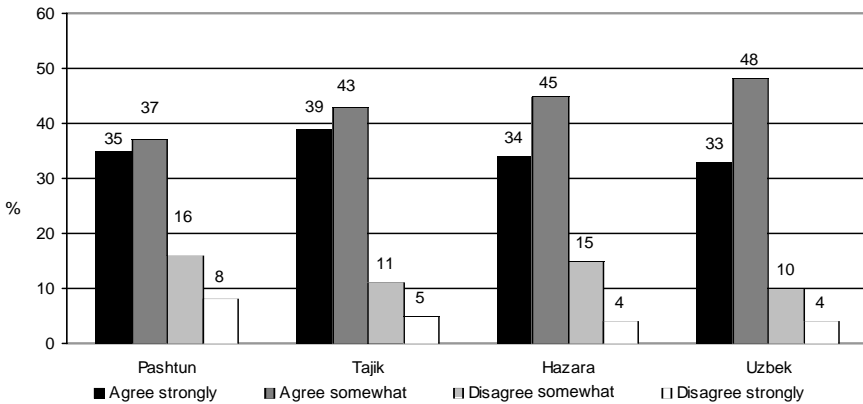


Fig 6.6

In terms of actual impact on the functioning of the government, a significant number of people felt they had a say. Forty-seven percent said they had 'a lot', or 'some' say. However, 49 percent felt they had little or absolutely no say. There was hardly any difference between rural and urban responses.

How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions—a lot, some, very little, or none at all? (Q-72, Base 6226)

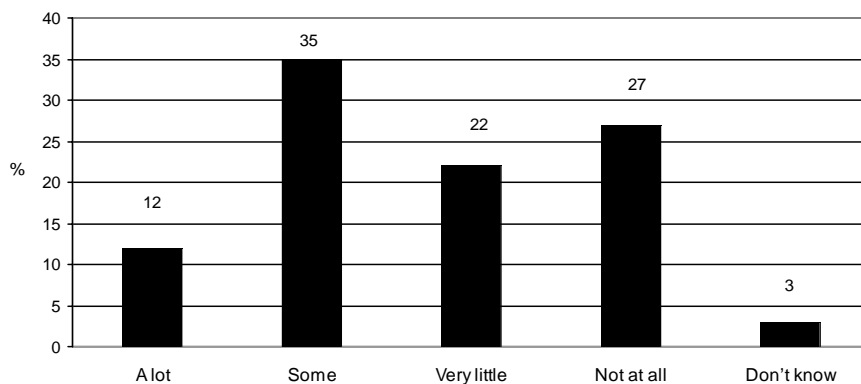


Fig 6.7

Respondents from the Western region perceived they had the greatest say in political decision making: 15 percent said they had a lot of influence and another 48 percent said that they had some influence. Among the larger ethnic groups there was no significant difference on this issue.

6.4 Attitude towards Elected Representatives

Respondents were asked whether their Member of Parliament (MP) addressed major problems of their respective constituencies in Parliament. One-third of Afghans surveyed strongly agreed that their MPs addressed major problems at the Parliament, while half said they agreed to a certain extent.

Respondents were asked whether they ever contacted their MPs for solving any personal or local problems. Ten percent said they had. Fewer respondents from Central-Hazarajat (8%) and South Western (8%) regions had contacted their MPs than those from Eastern, South Central, and Western regions, where around 14 percent had approached their MPs.

Respondents were also asked the reasons why they had contacted their MPs. It was an open-ended question. The responses revealed that most people went to their MPs for solving problems related to shortage of water and power supply (30%), followed by reconstruction of roads (19%), renovation/opening of new school buildings (17%), and better health care facilities (9%). More people from the Northern region sought help for water and power supply (38%), while more from Central-Hazarajat region sought reconstruction of roads (34%). More respondents from South Western region wanted educational facilities (24%) and one-third of respondents of the Eastern region sought better health care facilities (32%).

Table 6.3 Have you ever contacted your MP for help in solving any of your personal or local problems? (Q-78, Base 6226)

COMBINED WITH

For what kind of a problem did you contact the MP? (Q-79, Base 691)

BY REGIONS

	All Afghanistan	Central-Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central-Hazarajat
N	6226	1179	700	860	560	730	1738	459
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Respondents ever contacted Provincial Council	11.1	9.2	13.7	13.6	7.6	13.5	11.0	7.6
Type of Problems								
N	691	110	86	126	39	99	201	30
Water and power supply	29.6	35.5	19.5	26.3	7.2	27.9	38.4	26.4
Reconstruction of roads	19.3	19.6	14.9	24.1	26.1	11.2	18.4	34.5
Building of schools	16.8	19.8	11.3	19.6	23.8	18.6	13.6	16.6
Attention to health care	9.3	6.3	32.4	6.8	0	4.7	7.2	5.5
Creation of job opportunities	8.6	9.0	7.9	2.5	4.8	17.4	9.3	5.5
Helping in security sphere	5.5	0	4.5	11.9	12.0	7.8	2.6	5.9
Ethnic problems	5.0	0	4.7	0.9	19.1	2.2	8.9	5.7
Shop disputes	2.0	1.9	5.2	2.6	2.3	1.3	1.0	0

6.5 Attitude towards Provincial Councils

Afghanistan is divided into 34 provinces and each province has its own provincial council with elected representatives. Respondents were asked whether they ever contacted any representative of their provincial council for any help in relation to a personal or local problem. More respondents from the Western region had contacted their provincial council (14.6%), while the least contact with provincial council members was reported from Central-Hazarajat (7%) and South Western (7%) regions.

Water and electricity (26%), reconstruction of roads (25%), building of hospitals (11%), and improving the education system by renovating or opening new schools (10%), were the four main reasons why respondents had contacted their provincial council representatives.

There were major regional differences in these responses. Nearly 34 percent of the residents of Central-Kabul region sought help for water and power shortages, while only 12.5 percent sought help for the same in the South Western region. In the Eastern region, 62.3 percent sought help for reconstruction of roads, while 35 percent in the South Western region sought help for security-related matters.

Table 6.4 Have you ever contacted a representative on the Provincial Council for help in solving any of your personal or local problems? (Q-80, Base 6226)

COMBINED WITH

What kind of problem was it? (Q-81, Base 720)

BY REGIONS

	All Afghanistan	Central -Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central- Hazarajat
N	6226	1179	700	860	560	730	1738	459
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Respondents ever contacted MP	11.6	8.0	10.9	17.8	7.2	14.6	11.9	7.6
Type of Problems								
N	720	96	68	165	37	107	218	28
Water and electricity problems	26.1	33.9	15.6	18	12.5	31.1	32.3	22.4
Reconstruction of roads	25.3	23.3	62.3	21.5	5	22.3	23.2	19.9
Building hospitals	11.1	7.9	5.1	16.1	7.6	8.4	12.6	11.4
Education system	9.8	0	3.3	14.3	10	18.6	9.3	3
Family problems	8.8	7.2	11.6	8.5	10	15.1	2.9	28.9
Security situation in the area	8.1	1.1	0	11.8	35.0	4.1	9.1	2.8
Micro-finances for farmers	3.4	7.2	1.6	2.2	2.5	5.0	3	0
Job opportunities	2.8	2.2	0	0	5.1	2.0	6.4	0
Concerning house ownership	2.5	5.6	6.2	1.9	0	0	1.9	3
Setting up professional courses	2.5	4.8	1.6	1.3	0	1.2	3.8	2.8

6.6 Role of Community Development Councils

Community Development Councils (CDC) have been established across Afghanistan as part of the National Solidarity Program. The councils work as a bridge between government institutions and local people, and are responsible for implementation of different projects pertaining to development.

Representatives of various groups in a particular community are members of the CDC. Respondents were questioned on their awareness of the existence and activities of CDCs in their locales.

Thirty-seven percent of respondents were aware of the presence/formation of the CDC in their community. It was also observed that more respondents rural (40%) were aware of the presence of the CDC than their urban counterparts (24%).

Tell me, are you aware of an institution called Community Development Councils formed in your neighborhood/settlement? Such Councils have been established as part of the National Solidarity Program and members of the Council are representatives of various groups in your community. (Q-82, Base 6226)

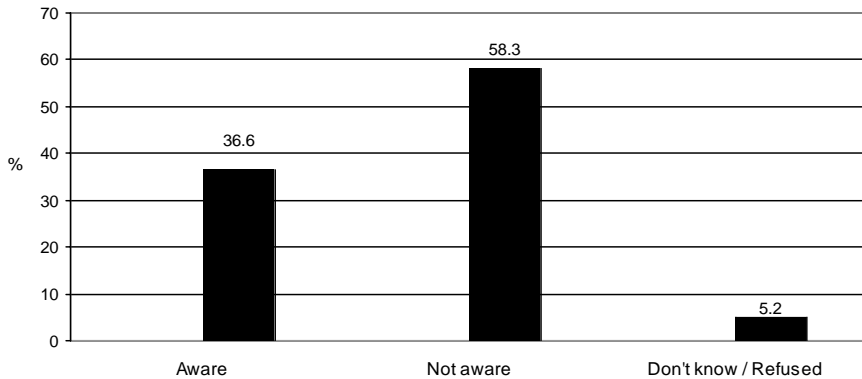


Fig 6.8

A large regional variation was observed in awareness about the CDCs. More than half (53%) of the population from the Western region was aware of the CDCs, followed by 44 percent from South Central and Central-Hazarajat regions. The lowest level of awareness about CDCs was reported from Central-Kabul region (22%).

Major initiatives taken by CDCs

Those who were aware of the existence of CDCs were asked to mention two big projects or initiatives undertaken by the CDC in their area. Almost half the respondents mentioned construction of roads. More than one-fifth each mentioned supply of drinking water and electricity.

Table 6.5 Which two major initiatives or projects in your neighborhood/settlement has this Council been tasked with to implement? (Q-83a-b combined, Base 2285)

	All Afghanistan	Central -Kabul	Eastern	South - Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central-Hazarajat
N	2285	278	321	381	63	359	683	200
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Road construction	49.1	47.6	63.0	28.8	44.2	60.3	56.1	26.1
Drinking water supply	23.8	16.6	34.3	38.2	17.5	24.7	17.9	9.3
Electricity supply	22.9	19.7	31.0	46.4	14.3	10.9	11.8	35.6
School rehabilitation	17.9	16.7	17.6	7.3	19.2	32.1	17.8	13.2
Irrigation projects (bringing water to farms)	11.9	9.8	18.9	27	11.2	4.6	7.1	5.4
Set up training programs on tailoring	5.5	4.9	1.9	9.8	4.9	3.1	6.9	2.4
Building mosques	5.4	0.8	1.9	1.3	0	22	3.5	0.5

Satisfaction with work of CDCs

The majority of respondents who were aware of the CDCs were satisfied with their work. No great regional variation was observed with the satisfaction level, except with respondents from Central-Hazarajat region, where one-third of the respondents were very dissatisfied with the work done by the CDCs.

How satisfied are you with the job this Community Development Council is doing? (Q-84, Base 6226)

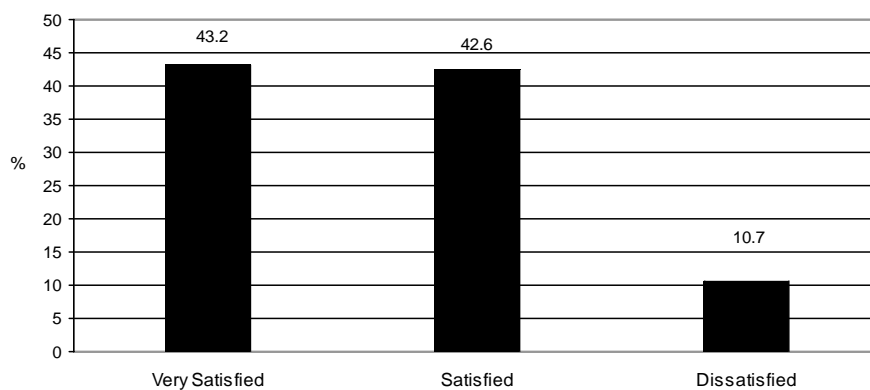


Fig 6.9

Capability of CDCs to represent community interests to higher authorities

Respondents were asked whether they felt CDCs could represent their interests before the provincial and national-level authorities. Over 88 percent said they felt confident that the CDCs were fully capable (48.1%) or somewhat capable (40.3%) of representing their interests before provincial authorities. Around 80 percent said the CDCs were capable of representing their interest before officials at the national level. Geographically, people from the Western region were very confident about the CDCs, while respondents from the Central-Hazarajat region were not. Ethnic differences were marginal.

Table 6.6 Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable of representing your interests before the provincial authorities? Do you think that it is capable a lot, somewhat, not so capable, or not capable at all to represent your interests before the provincial authorities? And how capable is this Council to represent your interests before the Government of Afghanistan? (Q-85a-b, Base 2285)

	All Afghanistan	Central-Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central-Hazarajat
N	2285	278	321	381	63	359	683	200
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Before provincial authorities								
Capable a lot	48.1	38.5	55.7	43.8	39.5	64.6	48.7	25.4
Somewhat capable	40.3	49.7	36.6	44.6	49.5	31.7	42.1	30.7
Not very capable	6.0	5.5	5.1	5.5	6.3	0	4.2	30.9
Not capable at all	2.7	3.2	0	3.0	3.2	1.8	1.8	11.4
Before the government of Afghanistan								
Capable a lot	34.8	33.4	37.6	34.5	38.2	37.5	37.3	15.8
Somewhat capable	44.9	43.3	49	43.8	35.2	51.5	45.0	31.9
Not very capable	9.4	9.2	8.8	10.3	9.4	6.6	9.0	16.5
Not capable at all	6.3	6.8	1.6	6.4	0	2.8	3.2	35.2

6.7 Attitudes towards Judiciary

This section focuses on the involvement of respondents in any dispute arising out of ownership of any property, or similar aspects, for which they approach any social/legal body to settle disputes. It surveys the confidence of Afghans in different social/legal institutes and their views on the efficacy of formal courts.

Involvement in any dispute

Respondents were asked whether they had ever been involved in any dispute in the last two years over any serious issues like land ownership or something similar. Over 12 percent said they had been involved. More respondents from South Central (19.3%) and Eastern (15.4%) regions were involved in disputes than people of other regions. More Pashtuns (15%) than Tajiks, Uzbeks, and Hazaras (11%) mentioned that they had had disputes in the last two years.

Have you been involved in any dispute in the last two years over something serious, like land ownership or something similar? (Q-86, Base 6226)

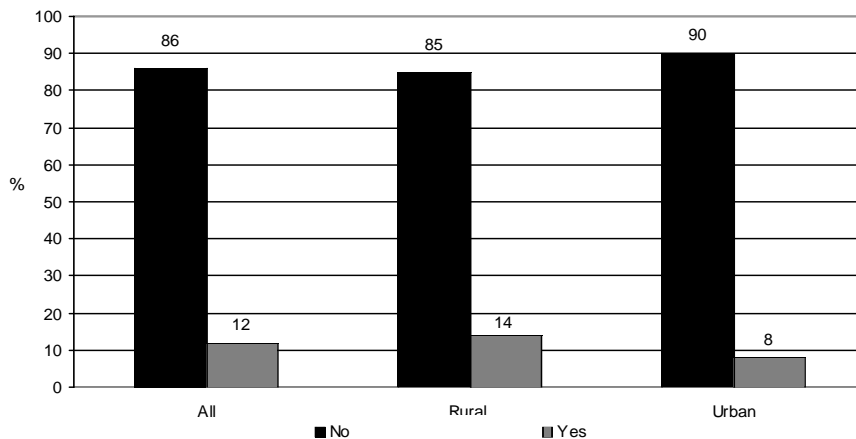


Fig 6.10

Kinds of disputes

The major disputes mentioned by the respondents were related to land.

- 62 percent of the problems related to the ownership of land.
- 13 percent pertained to ownership of houses.
- 9 percent to family disputes.
- 6 percent pertained to the ownership of shops.

People from the Eastern region reported the largest number of land dispute cases (71%). House ownership disputes were highest in the Western region (21%).

What kind of problem (dispute) was it (that you were involved in, in the last 2 years)? (Q-87, Base 742)

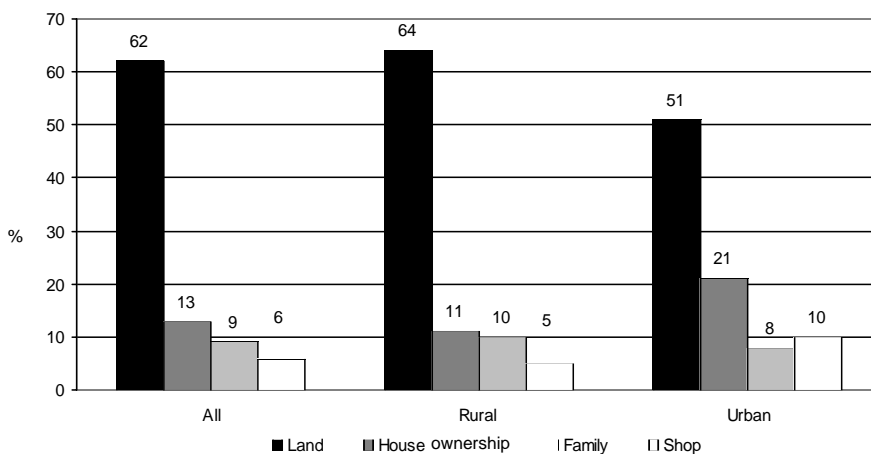


Fig 6.11

Settlement of disputes

The respondents were asked who they had approached to resolve disputes.

- Almost one-third of respondents approached local leaders for settlement of their problems.
- One-fifth approached tribal leaders.
- One-fifth approached formal government courts for settlement of disputes.

The table below indicates the proportion of Afghans who approached different social/legal institutions for possible settlement of disputes arising out of ownership of land, house, shop, or any family problems.

Table 6.7 Who did you approach that eventually helped you to settle the dispute? (Q-88, Base 742)

Approach to settle the dispute	All Afghanistan	Central-Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central-Hazarajat
N	742	86	95	163	52	64	236	46
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Local elders	32.5	36.1	24.1	32	30.5	40.9	34.8	21.2
Tribal elders	21.8	24.5	40.6	17	28.8	14.1	17	27.7
Formal government court	20.1	19.2	15.4	16.5	15.5	16.7	26.2	22.9
Local Shura	16.2	19.2	8.7	25	17.3	15.8	13.9	15.4
Did not approach anybody	4.6	6	6.1	3.5	2	6.3	4.2	4.4
Mullah	3.9	1.2	4	4.8	5.9	3.1	3.4	8.5
Other	0.1	0	1.2	0	0	0	0	0

Trust to resolve any dispute in general

All respondents (irrespective of whether or not they had been involved in a dispute) were asked whom they would approach to resolve any dispute that may occur in future.

- One-third had faith in local elders for resolving any problem.
- A considerable proportion of Afghans said they would approach tribal elders (19%) and local Shura members (16%) to resolve any dispute.
- Another 16 percent said they would approach government courts.

Who do you trust the most to resolve any dispute that you may have? (Q-89, Base 6226)

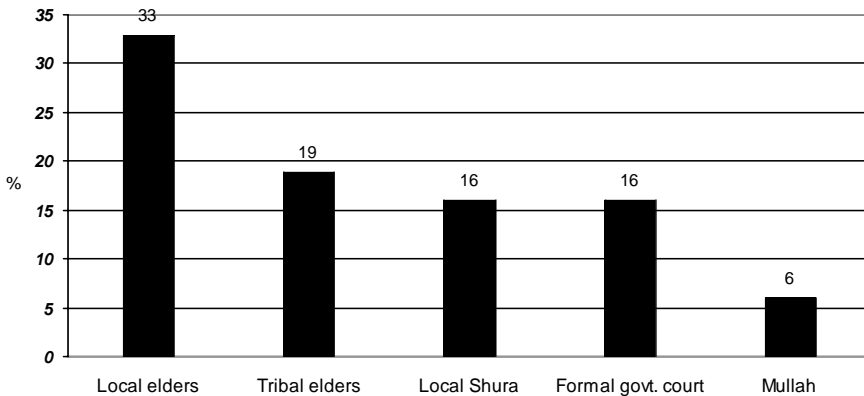


Fig 6.12

There were minor ethnic variations: 36 percent of Tajiks and 31 percent of Pashtuns said they would trust local elders. Tribal elders were trusted by 21 percent of Pashtuns and 17 percent of Tajiks.

Perception about courts' performance

Respondents were asked to what extent they believed that the formal government courts perform impartially. Measured by fairness and impartiality, about 55 percent of respondents were positive, saying that the courts performed very well (13%) and okay (42%).

The formal courts are responsible for administering justice fairly and impartially throughout Afghanistan. In general, in this area, how well do you think the courts perform this role? (Q-90, Base 6226)

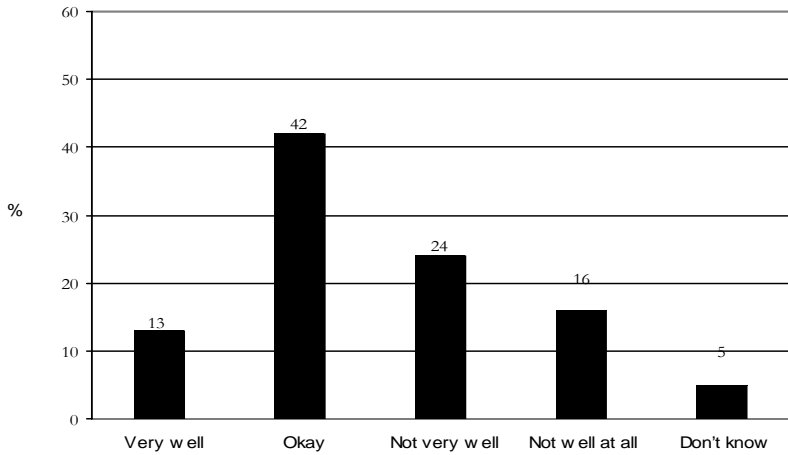


Fig 6.13

Regional variations were observed in the perception about the courts' functioning. About two-thirds of respondents from the Northern region had faith in the present judicial system, whereas less than two-fifths (38%) from the Eastern region were optimistic about the judgment of formal courts.

7 Women and Political Participation

This chapter explores the problems faced by women in Afghanistan, their voting rights, gender equality, decision making, and political leadership.

7.1 Problems Confronted by Women

Respondents were asked about the biggest problem confronted by women in Afghanistan. Twenty-four percent said lack of literacy was the biggest problem (26% of men and 21% of women). Lack of rights was mentioned by 18 percent, followed by forced marriages (10%), being under the control of men (9%), and not being able to leave home (9%). there was no significant difference of opinion between rural and urban areas.

What is the biggest problem facing women in this area today? (Q-92a, Base 6226)

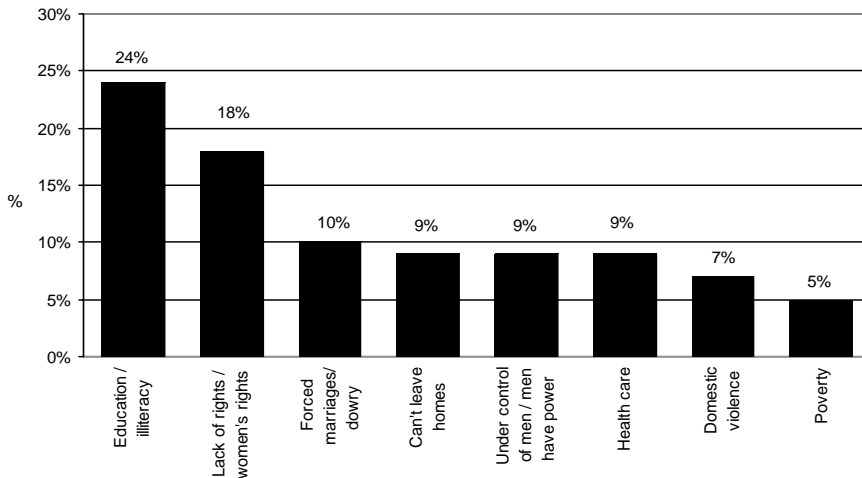


Fig 7.1

Respondents were also asked to name the next biggest problem. A combined analysis of the first and second biggest problems revealed that respondents thought illiteracy was the biggest problem (41%), followed by lack of rights (24%), forced marriage or dowry abuses (24%), and domestic violence (23%).

In 2004, respondents identified education and literacy (47%), women's rights (33%), and health care (32%) as the biggest problems confronting women. Other problems included control by men (21%), poverty (18%), forced marriages or dowry abuses (17%), and lack of permission to leave their homes (12%).

There were minor differences in the responses of men and women in analyzing problems of women. Forty-three percent of men thought illiteracy was a problem while 38 percent of women thought the same. Twenty-four percent of both men and women mentioned lack of women's rights as a problem. Domestic violence was mentioned by 26 percent of the women while 20 percent among men mentioned it.

What is the biggest problem faced by women in this area today? (Q-92a, Base 6226)

COMBINED WITH

And the next biggest? (Q-92b, Base 6226)

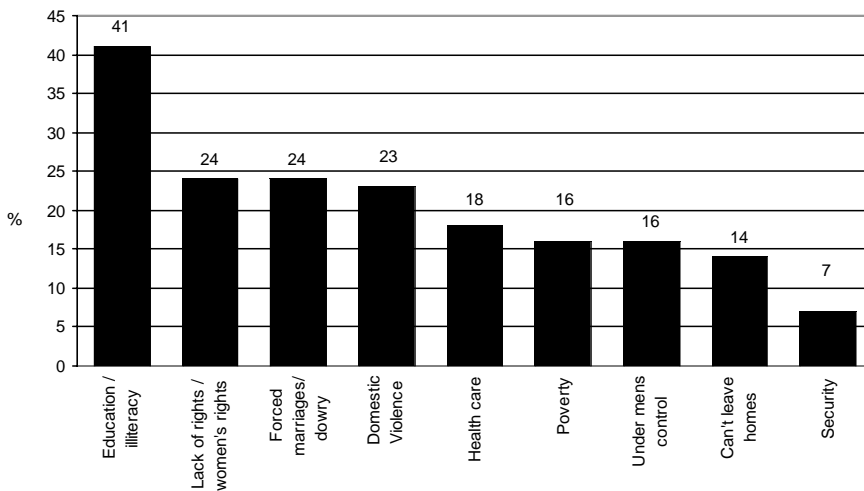


Fig 7.2

There were regional variations in the responses. Respondents of Central-Kabul region perceived illiteracy as the major concern (46%) as did respondents of Central-Hazarajat region (44%). Lack of women's rights was mentioned by 36 percent in the Central-Hazarajat region, whereas only 19 percent mentioned it as a problem in the Northern region. Respondents in Central-Hazarajat also identified forced marriage as a major problem (32%).

Forty-two percent of Tajiks and Uzbeks felt that women's illiteracy was the biggest problem, while the number was 39 percent among Pashtuns. Twenty-six percent of Tajiks and 22 percent of Pashtuns mentioned forced marriages as the biggest problem.

7.2 Women's Rights and Decision Making

Gender equality

Fifty-nine percent of the respondents strongly agreed to women's right to education and another 33 percent somewhat agreed to it. Only eight percent of the respondents disagreed with the idea.

Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (Q-93, Base 6226)

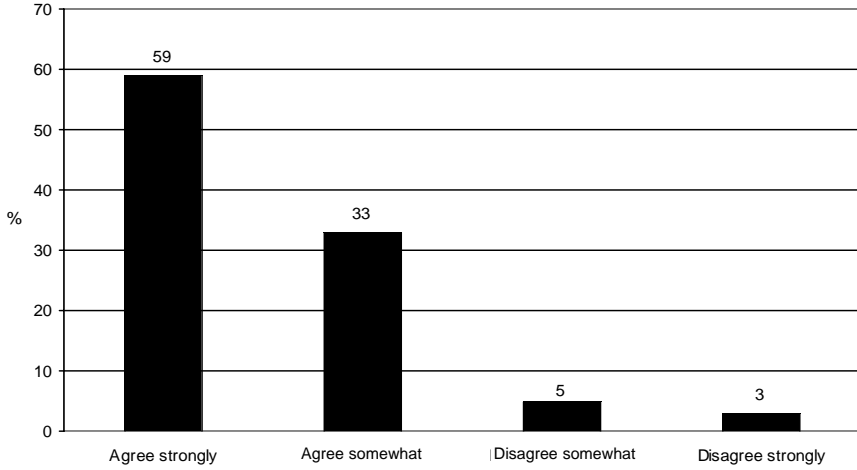


Fig 7.3

There were regional variations in the perception of women's right to education. For example, while 82 percent in Central-Hazarajat region were in favor, only 32 percent in the South Western region were in favor of women's right to education.

Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men for education. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?(Q-93, Base 6226) BY REGION

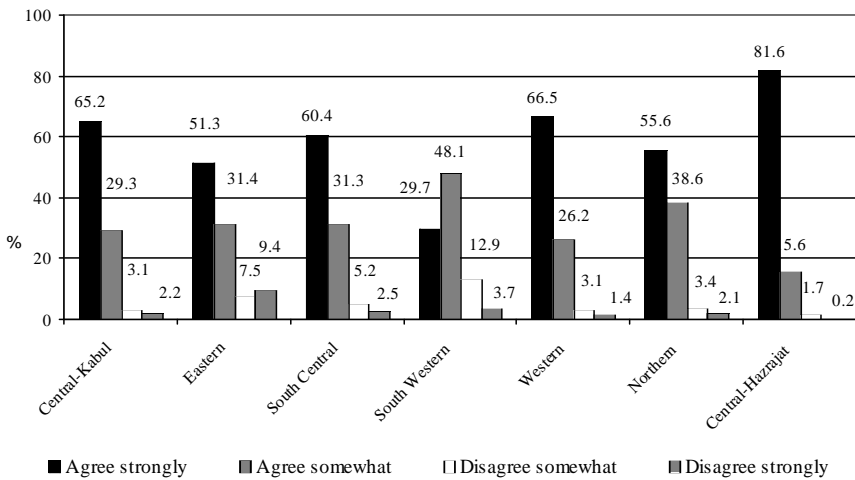


Fig 7.4

Among female respondents, 65 percent strongly agreed that women should have equal opportunities for education, while among men, 52 percent strongly agreed (89 percent men agreed overall).

A larger number of Hazaras (73%) and Tajiks (66%) strongly agreed that women should have equal opportunities. Fifty-one percent of Pashtuns and 49 percent of Uzbeks agreed as well.

Work outside the home

Respondents were asked whether women should be allowed to work outside their homes. Seventy-one percent agreed. Urban respondents were more open to this idea (80%) as compared to rural respondents (68%).

Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this? (Q-94, Base 6226)

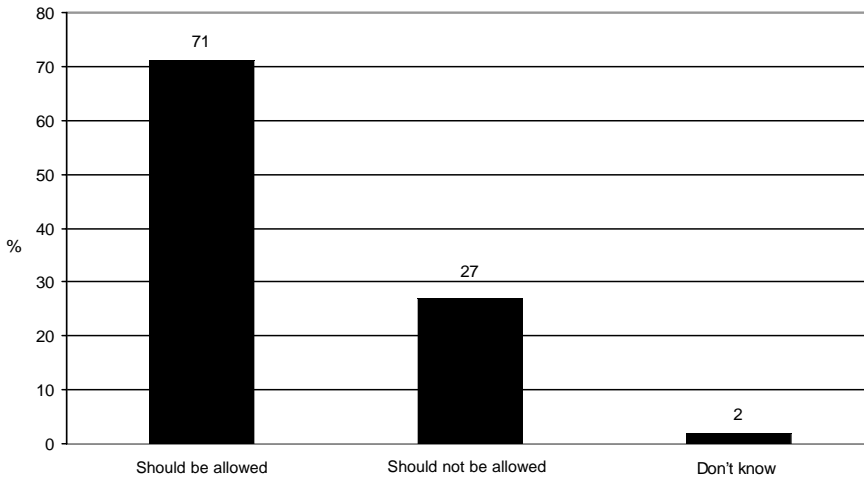


Fig 7.5

Seventy-nine percent of female respondents agreed that women should be allowed to work outside their homes, while only 62 percent of men agreed.

Among ethnic groups, Hazaras were most open to the idea, with 84 percent agreeing that women should be allowed. Three-fourths of Tajiks and Uzbeks and three-fifths of Pashtuns felt the same.

In the Eastern and South Western regions, respondents were not very open to the idea of women working outside their homes, with only about 57 percent of the respondents agreeing. In the Central Hazarajat region, 85 percent agreed.

Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (Q-93, Base 6226)

COMBINED WITH

Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this? (Q-94, Base 6226) BY REGION

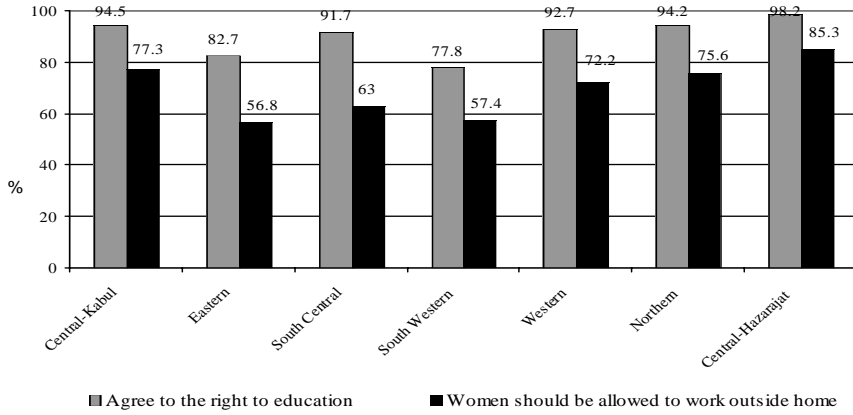


Fig 7.6

Women's voting rights

Asked whether men and women should have equal voting rights, 89 percent of the respondents favored the idea. Of them, 57 percent strongly agreed with it. More urban respondents (93%) supported equal voting rights as compared to rural respondents (88%).

The new constitution says men and women have equal rights, including the right to vote. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree or disagree? (Q-95, Base 6226)

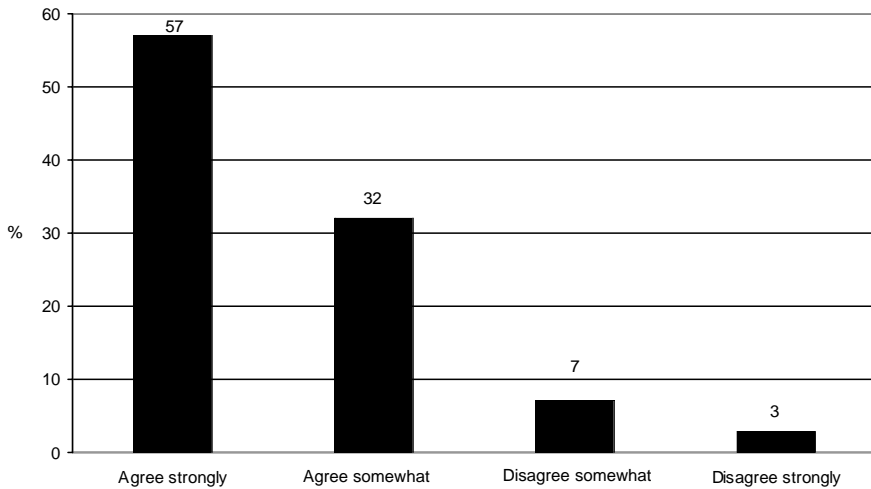


Fig.7.7

Among women, 65 percent strongly agreed to equal voting rights, while only half the men (49%) strongly agreed.

Regional analysis indicated that in the South Western region, only 36 percent of the respondents strongly agreed to 'women's right to vote' as compared to 79 percent from the Central-Hazarajat region. There were only marginal ethnic differences on this issue. While 91 percent of Tajiks favored the idea, 84 percent of Pashtuns also favored it.

Respondents were asked whether they thought women should decide for themselves about whom to vote for or whether the men should advise them.

- 57 percent believed that women should decide on their own.
- 19 percent thought that women should decide in consultation with men.
- 24 percent said that men should advise women on voting.

If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men? (Q-96, Base 6226)

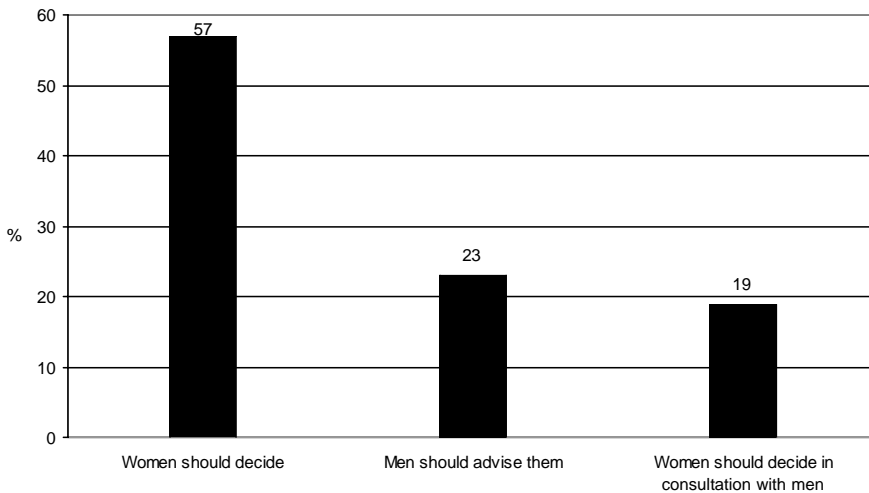


Fig.7.8

There were major regional variations. The least support to women's right to decide who to vote for was in the South Central region (43%), where 28 percent suggested that women should decide in consultation with men. The Central-Hazarajat region showed most support for women; two-thirds said that women should be able to decide for themselves.

Fifty-two percent of the male respondents and 62 percent of the female respondents felt that women should decide for themselves. Among men, 30 percent felt that they should be able to advise women, while only 18 percent among women felt that way.

Among Tajiks, 62 percent felt that women should be able to decide for themselves, while a lower proportion of Pashtuns (52 %) supported this idea.

7.3 Women and Political Leadership

Half the respondents felt political leadership should have equal representation from both men and women. Thirty-seven percent felt only men should participate in political leadership. Interestingly, 12 percent thought that mainly women should constitute the political leadership.

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership? (Q-98, Base-6226)

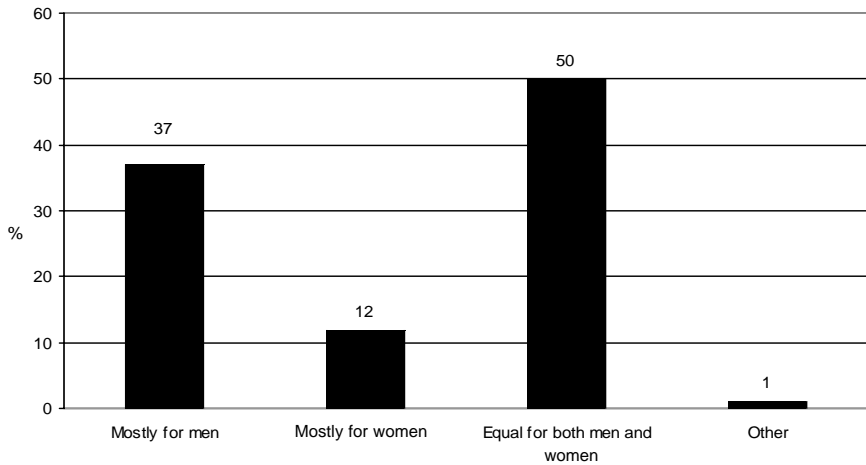


Fig.7.9

Fifty-eight percent of women and 41 percent of men surveyed thought that there should be equal opportunity for political leadership among men and women. Forty-nine percent of men and 25 percent of women felt that political leadership should be only for men. 15 percent of women and nine percent of men felt that political leadership positions should be mostly for women.

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in political leadership? (Q-98, Base 6226) BY GENDER

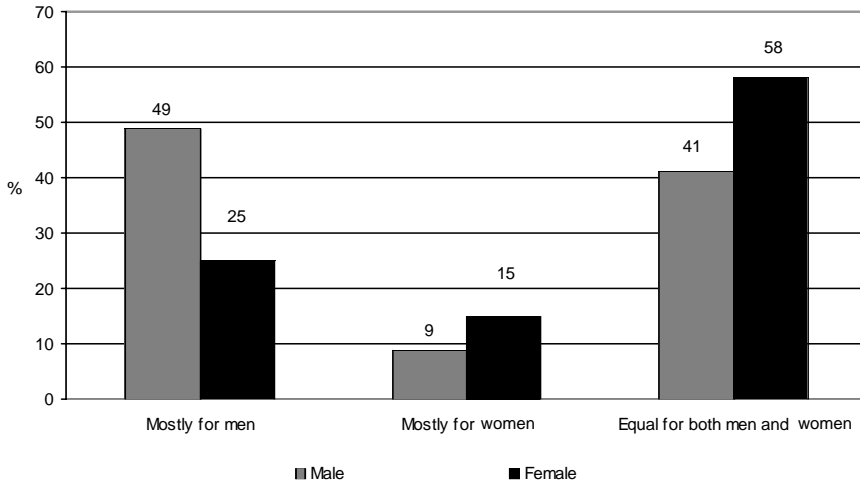


Fig.7.10

The respondents were further asked if they would like to see more women in parliament (either elected or through reserved seats). An equal number were for and against it (43% each). 12 percent didn't give an opinion on this issue.

Would you like to see more women as elected or reserve seat members of the National Parliament? (Q-99, Base 6226)

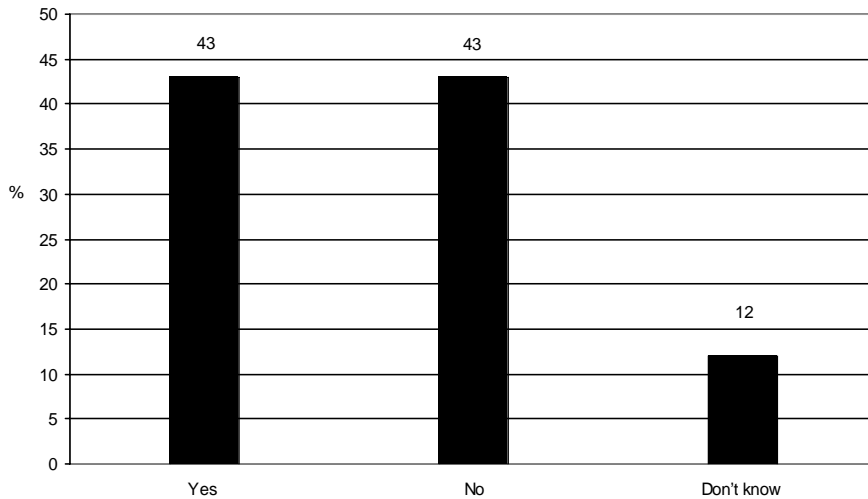


Fig.7.11

55 percent of men surveyed did not want more women in parliament, whereas 55 percent of women wanted more women in parliament.

Would you like to see more women as elected or reserve seat members of the National Parliament? (Q-99, Base 6226) BY GENDER

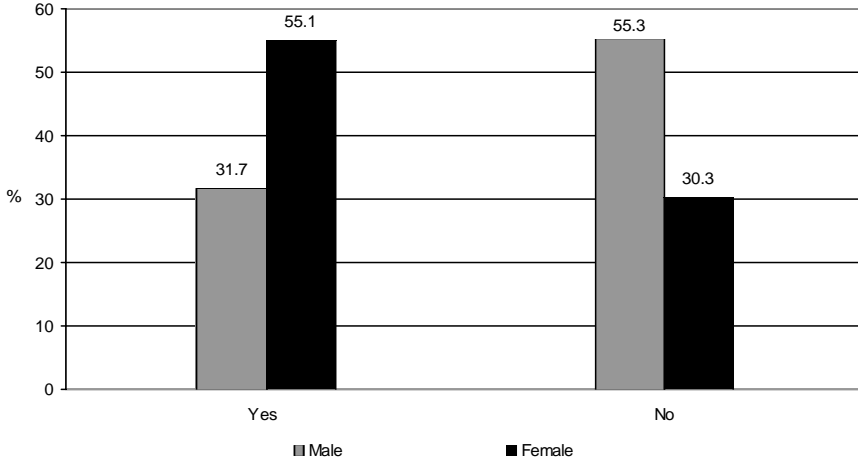


Fig.7.12

There were no notable ethnic differences.

Reasons for wanting more women in the National Parliament

Among those who said that more women should be in parliament, the major reason (52%) for saying so was to help women progress (women: 54% and men: 47%). The other major reasons cited were:

- 48 percent felt it would promote equality (women: 46% and men: 50%),
- 40 percent felt it would promote development (women: 42% and men: 37%),
- 29 percent felt it would give women confidence/power (women: 30% and men: 27%).

Table 7.1 Why do you say there should be more women elected (asked of those who said there should be more women elected to the National Parliament)? (Q-100a , Base 2720)

COMBINED WITH

Any other reason? (Q-100b, Base 2720)

Reason	(%)
To help women	52
Promote equality	48
Promote development	40
Give women confidence/power	29
Women are less aggressive/angry	20
Women are more active than men	3
Women don't commit crimes	1

Reason for not wanting more women in the National Parliament

Among those who said that more women should not be in Parliament, the major reason for saying so was the feeling that women didn't know enough about politics (72%). The other major reasons cited were that men are more educated in general (46%) and that politics keeps women away from their family (34%).

Table 7.2 Why do you not agree there should be more women elected (asked who those who said there should not be more women elected to the National Parliament)? (Q.101a, Base 2660)

COMBINED WITH

Any other reason? (Q-101b, Base 2660)

Reason	(%)
Women don't know enough about politics	72
Men are more educated in general	46
Politics keeps women away from their families	34
Women should not be allowed to work outside their homes	24
The current situation is not perfect for women	5
Women don't have courage	5
Afghan society is traditional	3

Asked if they would like to be represented by a man or a woman in parliament, 39 percent of the respondents preferred representation by men, whereas only 20 percent preferred representation by women. A major proportion of the respondents (40%) had no preference.

*Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the National Parliament?
(Q-102, Base 6226)*

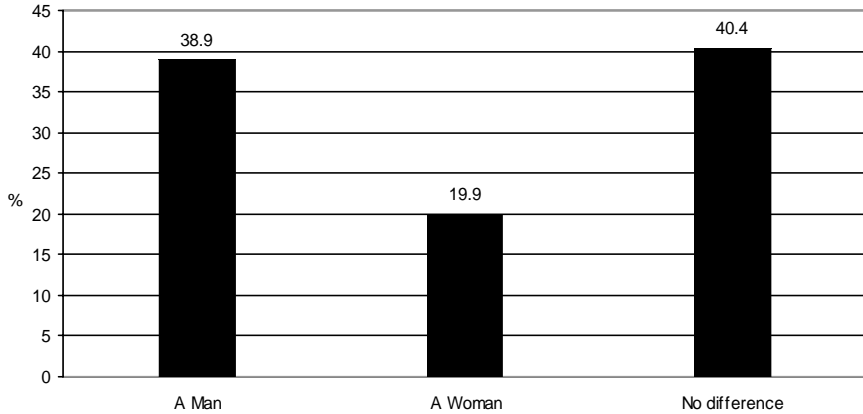


Fig.7.13

More male respondents preferred a man representing them in parliament (57%), whereas only 32 percent of the female respondents wanted a woman to represent them. Thirty-five percent of the men and 46 percent of the women said it did not make any difference whether they had men or women representing them in parliament.

*Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the National Parliament?
(Q-102, Base 6226) BY GENDER*

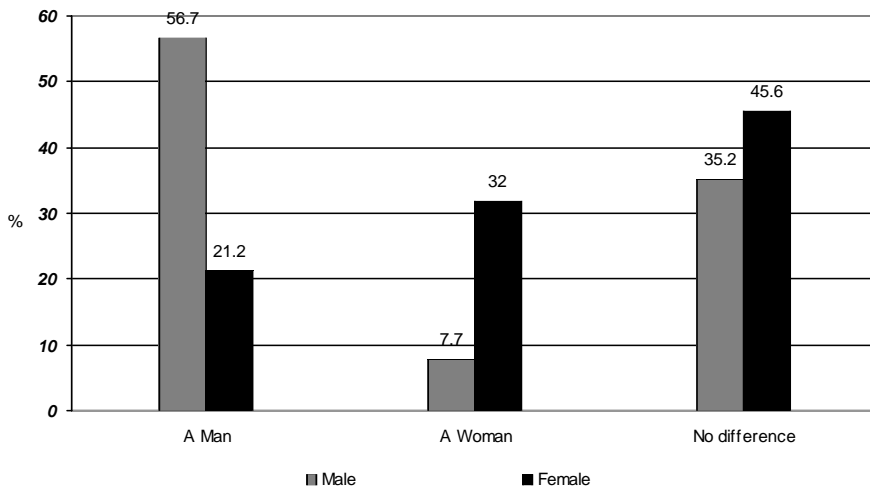


Fig.7.14

Among the Pashtuns, 41 percent said that they would prefer a man to represent them, while 38 percent of the Tajiks and 35 percent each of the Uzbeks and the Hazaras felt the same.

*Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the National Parliament?
(Q-102, Base-6226) BY ETHNICITY*

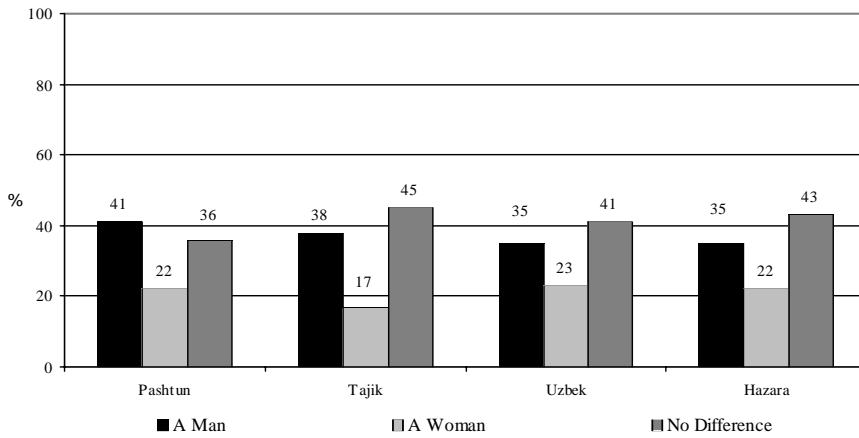


Fig.7.15

8 Information Sources and Media Use

8.1 Information Sources: National Events

Radio emerges clearly as the main source of information for Afghans. More than half (55%) of those surveyed said that they relied on radio as their primary source of information regarding current events and news of national importance. Television was the second major source of information (22%). Word-of-mouth, i.e., friends, family members, and neighbors was the next major source (15%). Village elders/leaders/chiefs were another major source of information, although only five percent relied on them for information on affairs outside the village. Newspapers were mentioned as a source of information by merely one percent.

In 2004, three in five (60%) said they relied on radio as their primary source of information regarding current events and news of national importance. Word-of-mouth, was next (16%), and television was the third major source of information (12%).

Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? (Q-7, Base 6226)

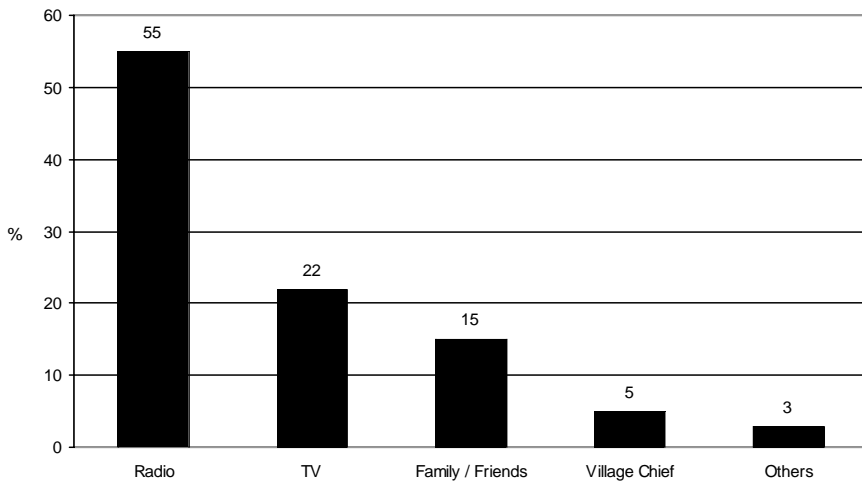


Fig.8.1

Although radio is the main news source for both men and women, more men (61%) rely on it than women (49%). On the other hand, women are more likely to rely on news via word-of-mouth (21%) than men.

Urban respondents relied more on television (54%) than rural inhabitants (12%), and rural respondents relied more on radio (61%) than their urban counterparts (33%).

In the Central-Kabul region, 45 percent said that their main source of information was television, whereas only five percent in the Central-Hazarajat region got their information from television. On the other hand, 78 percent of those in the Central-Hazarajat region got their information from radio, while only 39 percent of respondents in the Central-Kabul region got their information from the radio.

8.2 Information Sources: Local Events

Sources for local information were neighbors (34%), friends (28%), village chiefs (15%), community-level workers and co-workers (6%), mullahs (6%), and shopkeepers (4%). Women said they depended mostly on neighbors for news on local events (44%) while men reported relying more on friends. These patterns prevailed in every region of the country with a few variations: 55 percent of the respondents from Central-Hazarajat region said they relied on neighbors, far more than the national level, while only 20 percent from the Eastern region relied on neighbors for news on local events.

In 2004, local information sources included neighbors (39%), friends (17%), village chiefs (14%), co-workers (11%), and mullahs (6%).

If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you? (Q-8, Base 6226)

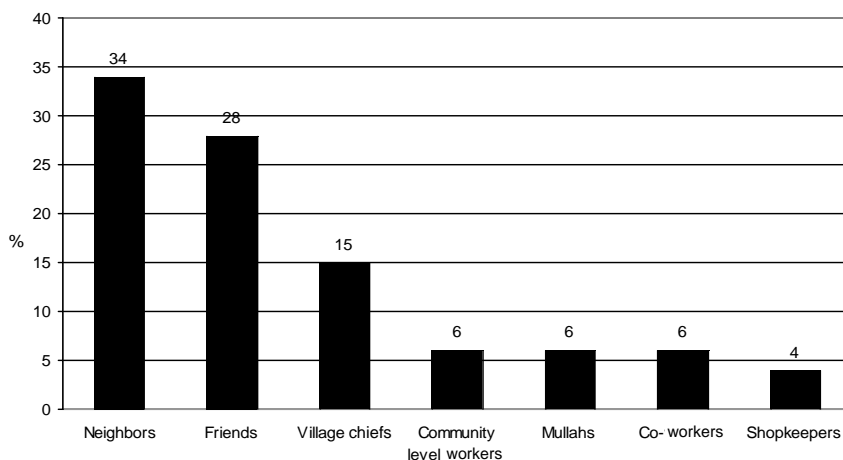


Fig.8.2

8.3 Radio Exposure

Three-fourths of the respondents said they listened regularly to the radio. This includes nearly 53 percent who reported listening every day or almost every day, and nearly 22 percent who listen three or four days a week. Although women's listenership is somewhat lower than men's, radio regularly reaches 78 percent of men and 70 percent of women. Geographically, the regularity of radio listenership is almost as high in rural areas (73%) as in the urban areas (78%). More than three-fourths of the residents of every region are regular listeners, except in the Northern region, where only 59 percent fall into this category.

In 2004, 72 percent of the respondents said they listen regularly to the radio.

How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any? (Q-1, Base 6226)

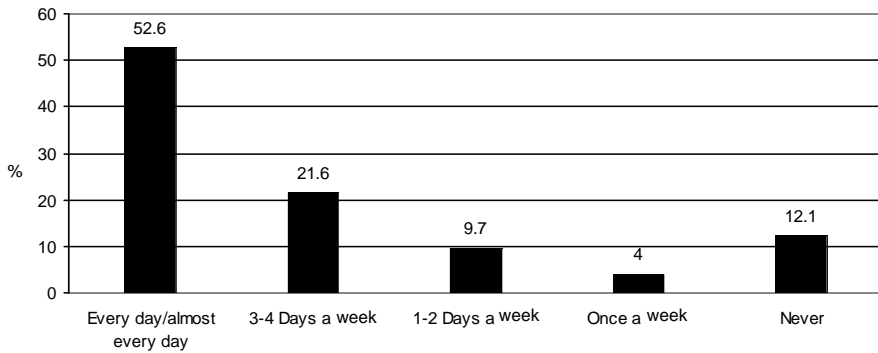


Fig.8.3

8.4 Time of Radio Listening

Radio listenership is concentrated during certain segments of the day. Peak listening hours are from mid-morning to noon (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.), when 29 percent of radio listeners say they tune in. Next come the evening hours (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.), when 24 percent listen in, followed by early morning hours (5 a.m. to 8 a.m.), with another 23 percent listening in. Seventy-six percent of listeners tend to tune in during these 12 hours.

What time of day do you most often listen to the radio? (Q-3, Base 5225)

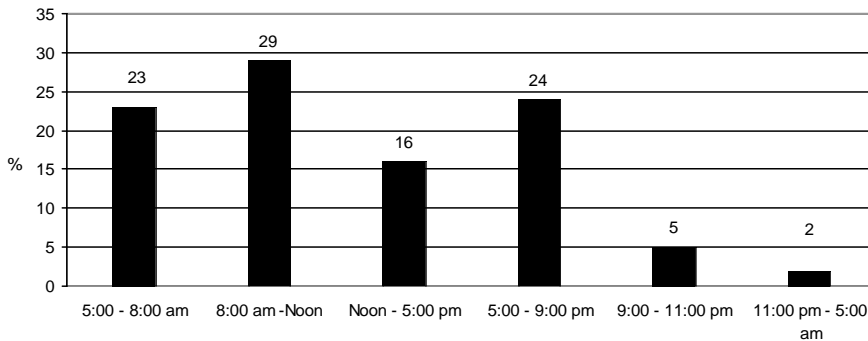


Fig.8.4

More men (29%) are likely to listen in the evening (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.), while more women (35%) are likely to listen in the morning (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.). The Western region is the only region where early morning (5 a.m. to 8 a.m.) listenership is the highest (33%). The evening slot (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.) has the highest listenership in the Central-Hazarajat region (44%), followed by South Central (36%) and South Western (32%) regions.

8.5 Radio Station Audiences

The largest reported audience share was of BBC (Farsi), with nearly 23 percent of listeners saying it was the radio station of first choice. It was followed by Arman FM with 14 percent listenership and BBC (Pashto) with 12 percent listenership. Radio Azadi (Dari) had 10 percent, Radio Azadi (Pashto) had seven percent, Voice of America-VOA (Dari) had six percent, and VOA (Pashto) had four percent listenership. Radio Afghanistan had an audience share of four percent. A further four percent also listened to other foreign stations as their first choice, mainly Iranian, Pakistani, and Indian broadcasts.

To which radio station do you listen most often? (Q-2a, Base 5225)

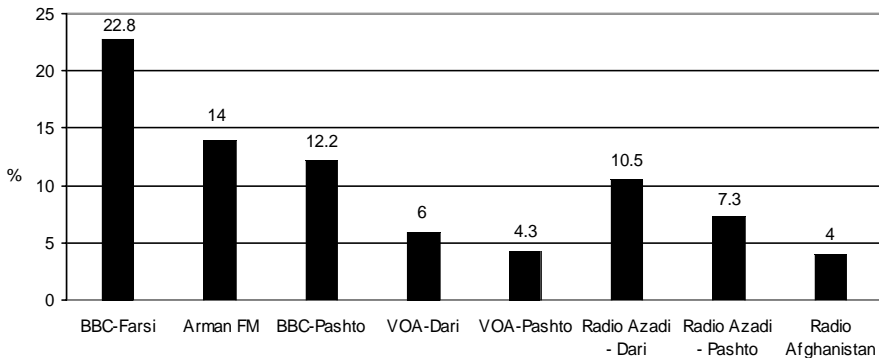


Fig 8.5

Across regions, BBC (Farsi) was popular in the Central-Hazarajat region (58%), followed by the Northern (34.6%) and Western (33.8%) regions. BBC (Pashto) was popular in the South Western region with 45.1 percent listenership. VOA (Dari) was listened to by 11 percent in the Central- Hazarajat region and 10.9 percent in the Northern region. VOA Pashto was listened to in the South Western (11.4%) and Eastern (9.4%) regions. Radio Arman had a listenership of 40.4 percent in the Central-Kabul region followed by 14.4 percent in the Eastern region.

Table 8.1 To which radio station do you listen most often? (Q-2a, Base 5225)

Foreign radio stations

	Central-Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central-Hazarajat
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
BBC-Farsi	15.1	10.1	8.4	3.1	33.8	34.6	58.1
BBC-Pashto	3.5	21.3	23.1	45.1	8.7	2.4	0.8
VOA-Dari	4.8	2.0	2.0	1.7	6.6	10.9	11.0
VOA-Pashto	1.6	9.4	8.4	11.4	3.4	1.1	0.0
Radio Azadi-Dari	9.3	4.2	6.1	1.7	10.2	18.6	14.8
Radio Azadi-Pashto	2.7	19.0	18.1	10.1	2.2	2.7	0.0

Men were more likely to listen to international radio stations than women. Radio Arman FM was slightly more popular among women (17%) than men (12%).

8.6 Television Exposure

Nearly fifty-four percent of the respondents never watch television, while 27 percent of the respondents watch television every day or almost every day.

How many days a week do you watch TV, if any? (Q-4, Base 6226)

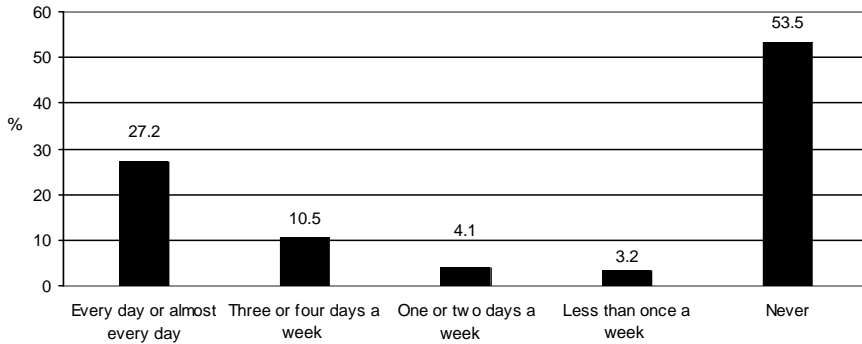


Fig 8.6

Television viewership was very low in rural areas compared to urban areas. 34 percent of rural respondents never watch television, whereas 68 percent of urban respondents watch television every day. A large number of respondents from the Central-Hazarajat (81%), Eastern (72%), and South Central (70%) regions never watch television. The maximum exposure to television was in the Central-Kabul region (57%) followed by the Western region (49%).

In 2004, the majority of urban residents surveyed (52%) reported watching television three days a week or more, compared to only 31 percent of respondents in rural areas.

How many days a week do you watch TV, if any? (Q-4, Base 6226) URBAN-RURAL

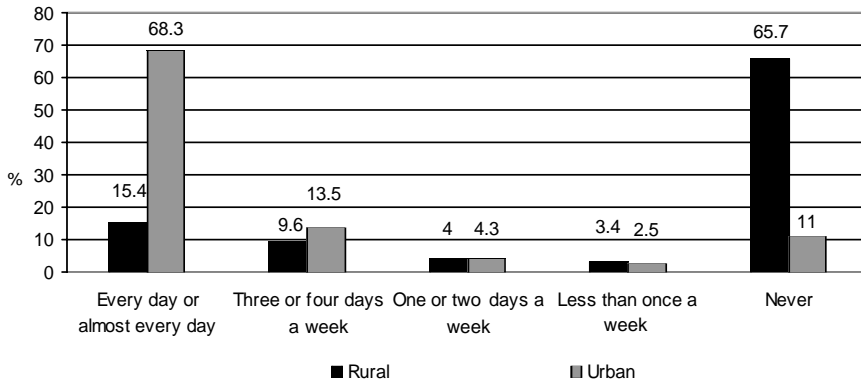


Fig 8.7

8.7 Time of Television Viewing

The prime time for viewing was found to be the evening (5 p.m. to 9 p.m.) when 51 percent watched television, followed by 20 percent respondents who viewed television later at night (9 p.m. to 11 p.m.).

What time of day do you most often watch TV? (Q-6, Base 2541)

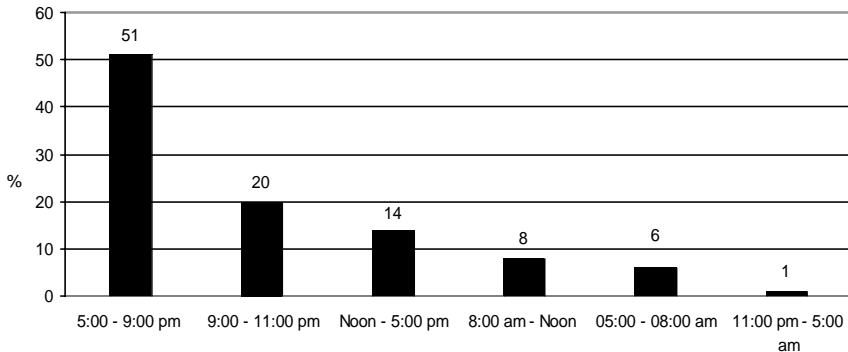


Fig 8.8

The television viewing slot in the evening (between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) was the favorite among both men (53%) and women (49%). More men (25%) watched television later on at night (between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.) than women (14%).

8.8 Television Station Audiences

Thirty-six percent of the respondents reported watching 'Tolo TV' most often. Other frequently watched stations were 'TV Afghanistan (Kabul)' at 24 percent and 'Aryana TV' at nine percent.

Tolo TV was watched most often by both urban (47%) and rural population (28%). Other popular channels are Aina TV- Jawzjan (8%) and TV Herat (5%). The figure below shows the 'most preferred channel' of respondents.

Which TV station do you watch most often? (Q-5a, Base 2541)

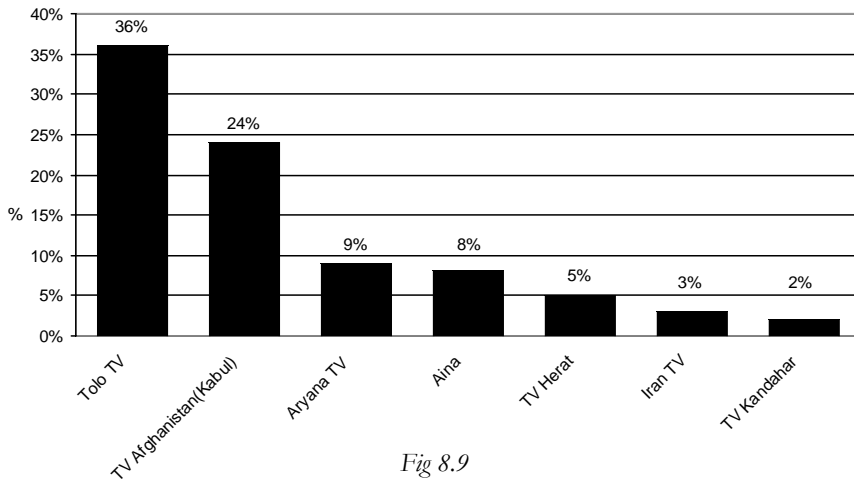


Fig 8.9

Tolo TV had a very high viewership base in the Central-Kabul region with 58 percent watching it most often. But in the Central-Hazarajat region, only 18 percent watched Tolo TV most often, while a majority (53%) watched TV Afghanistan. Other significant information from the provinces on the most often-watched TV channels are as below.

- In the Western region, 27 percent watched TV Afghanistan and 24 percent watched TV Herat most often.
- In the Northern region, 22 percent watched Tolo TV and 21 percent watched Aina TV-Jawzjan most often.
- In the South Western region, 29 percent watched TV Afghanistan and 26 percent watched TV Kandahar most often.
- In the Central-Hazarajat region, another 18 percent watched Iran TV most often.
- In the South Central region, 44 percent watched Tolo TV, 21 percent TV Afghanistan, and 20 percent watched Aryana TV most often.

9 Appendix 1: Target Demographics

A total of 6226 respondents were surveyed in the study, out of which 4888 (78.5%) were from the rural areas and 1338 (22%) were from the urban areas. Almost equal percentages of male and females were interviewed. The following tables provide demographic and socio-economic details of the respondents with gender classification. They also provide the educational status, religion, and ethnicity of the respondents.

Gender and Region

Characteristics	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Gender			
Male	49.9	49.9	50.1
Female	50.1	50.1	49.9
Region			
Central-Kabul	19.2	8.9	55.0
Eastern	10.1	11.1	6.6
South Central	14.9	18.7	1.5
South Western	8.2	8.3	7.8
Western	11.8	12.5	9.3
Northern	29.5	32.3	19.8
Central-Hazarajat	6.3	8.1	-

Employment Status and Age

Characteristics	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Employment			
Working	41.0	40.8	41.6
Retired	1.8	1.5	2.8
Housewife	40.1	41.7	34.3
Student	8.6	7.5	12.4
Unemployed	8.1	8.2	8.1
Age			
18-24	29.3	29.4	28.8
25-34	25.7	25.2	27.8
35-49	30.3	30.5	29.7
50+	14.7	14.9	13.8

Main Occupation

	All	Rural	Urban
N	2659	2068	591
Farmer (own land / tenant farmer)	28.5	34.8	7.3
Farm laborer (other's land)	8.7	10.4	3.1
Laborer, domestic, or unskilled worker	5.8	5.3	7.5
Informal sales/ business	12.1	11.2	15.1
Skilled worker/artisan	10.7	9.5	14.6
Office worker/ Clerical worker	13	9.5	24.8
Self employed professional	6.1	5.6	7.7
Small business owner	4.5	4.2	5.7
Executive or managerial	6.1	5.7	7.4
Military/ Police	3.1	2.3	5.9
Other	1.3	1.4	1

Base: Currently working and retired respondents

Farming Land

	All	Rural	Urban
N	761	719	42
Less than 1 Jerib	14.6	14.5	16.2
1 - 2 Jerib	22.1	22.5	16.6
2.1- 3 Jerib	22.9	23.2	18.6
More than 3 Jerib	39.5	39	48.5

* Base: Farmers who own land or tenant farmers

* Jerib: One Jerib is equal to one fifth of a hectare

Average Household Income

	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Less than 2,000 Afs	13.7	14.1	12.6
2,001 - 3,000 Afs	26	26.5	24.5
3,001 - 5,000 Afs	29.8	29.9	29.7
5,001 - 10,000 Afs	18.6	17.9	21
10,000 - 15,000 Afs	6.8	6.7	6.9
15,001 - 20,000 Afs	2.2	2	3.1
20,001 - 25,000 Afs	0.7	0.7	0.7
More than 25,000 Afs	0.3	0.3	0.4

Marital Status

	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Single	21.2	20.9	22.5
Married	75.7	76	75
Widower/ Widow	2.9	3.1	2.4

Academic Qualifications

	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Never went to school	51.7	57.3	32.2
Primary school, incomplete	10.2	10.3	9.9
Primary school, complete	7.9	7.8	8.2
Secondary education (Middle school)	8.8	7.8	12.1
High school	16.2	13.1	26.8
University or academy	4.6	3	10.3

Religion

	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Sunni	87.9	88.7	84.9
Shia	10.4	9.2	14.4
Ismaeli	1.2	1.4	0.3
Hindu	0.1	0.1	0.1
Buddhist	0.1	0.1	0
Sikh	0.1	0.1	0.1

Ethnicity

	All	Rural	Urban
N	6226	4888	1338
Pashtun	40.9	44.3	29
Tajik	37.1	32.8	51.9
Uzbek	9.2	10.1	6
Hazara	9.2	8.7	10.9
Turkman	1.7	1.9	0.8
Baloch	0.5	0.6	0.1
Nuristani	0.4	0.4	0.2
Aimaq	0.1	0	0.2
Arab	0.7	0.7	0.7
Pashayi	0.3	0.3	0.1

10 Appendix 2: Methodology

10.1 Distribution of Sampling Points by Region and Urban/Rural Strata

The survey was the first survey conducted in Afghanistan with a target of more than 6000 respondents in a single wave. Fieldwork for the survey was conducted by the Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), Kabul, between June 14 and June 29, 2006 by a team of 409 trained interviewers (196 women and 213 men). The survey consisted of a random, representative sample of 6226 in-person interviews with Afghan citizens 18 years of age and above resident in Afghanistan. The survey sample was divided first according to urban and rural characteristics of Afghanistan. The Sheharwali (municipal administration in Afghanistan) defines the urban population as those living within municipal limits. By default, the rural population comprises those who are living outside the municipal limits. The margin of sampling error is 2.5 percent.

The universe is divided into seven geographical regions consisting of 34 provinces, out of which 32 provinces were covered during fieldwork. The seven regions are:

Central-Kabul (Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir); **Eastern** (Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan); **South Central** (Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktia, Khost); **South Western** (Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul); **Western** (Badghis, Herat, Farah, Nimroz); **Northern** (Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab); **Central-Hazarajat** (Uruzgan, Ghor, Bamyan, Day Kundi).

Uruzgan, representing 1.1 percent of the population of Afghanistan, and Zabul, representing 1.2 percent, were excluded from the sampling plan due to extreme security conditions during the fieldwork period of the survey.

10.2 Selection/Replacement of Sampling Points

A stratified multi-stage sampling procedure was followed to select the sample. The sampling design followed to select the sampling points, households and finally the respondent is presented in the following sections. The sample was allocated to urban and rural areas of each province in proportion to the urban rural population of the province.

Within each province the districts were selected by the PPS systematic random sampling procedure. The districts were first listed in the descending order of population and then the required number of districts was selected from this list of districts in each province based on population size intervals.

Consistent with local cultural traditions, the universe at the outset was divided into male and female sub-samples. Each region, province and further strata was

allocated an equal number of male and female respondents per sampling points. The settlements within districts were selected randomly by the field director based on the lists of the existing settlements within each district.

The interviews among the male and female respondents were conducted by investigators of the same sex. The instability and frequent fighting in some provinces caused a few sampling points to be adjusted or replaced to keep interviewers out of areas with active violence, as follows:

- Helmand (Disho district changed to Lashkargah due to security reasons.)
- Ghazni (Ab Band changed to Gailan due to security reasons.)
- Ghazni (Rasheedan changed to Nawa.)
- Kapisa (Alasai changed to Kohband)
- Kandahar (Shawali Kot changed to Khakriz and Zhali)
- Logar (Kherwar changed to Arza)

10.3 Selection of Starting Points within Each Sampling Point

Each sampling point was assigned a starting point and given direction. The starting points were recognizable locations-such as mosques, schools, bazaars etc., within each of the selected settlements for the survey. The locations were verified by supervisors during the back-checking procedures.

10.4 Household Selection

In urban areas, from the given starting point, the interviewer headed in the assigned direction and stopped at the first street/lane on the right-hand side of his/her route. From there on, the first contacted household was the fourth house on the right from the beginning of the street. Further on, the selected household was each third inhabitable house on the right side of the interviewer route. In blocks of flats, the selection routine was each fifth apartment

In rural areas, the interviewer started from the center of the village or the bazaar, mosque, etc., and went to the right selecting each third inhabited house on his/her route. Compounds containing two or more houses behind a common wall were treated like detached houses counting them counter-clock-wise from the gate to the compound.

10.5 Respondent Selection and Substitution

In the selected household, the information about all the household members was collected first. From the list, all the members aged 18 years and above were arranged in descending order of age. One respondent was randomly selected using the KISH grid. In case the selected respondent refused to be interviewed or was not available after call backs, no replacement in the household was done. Instead the interviewer moved on to the next household according to the random walk procedures.

10.6 Call-backs (rate, method, and results)

Typically interviewers were required to make two call-backs before replacing the designated respondent. Due to security-related fears in previous projects the field force has had difficulty meeting the requirement of two call-backs prior to substitution in rural areas. In this survey, while the field force was able to complete some call-backs, the majority of the interviews were completed on the first attempt (94%), five percent of the interviews were completed on the second attempt, and one percent were completed on the third attempt. Due to the high rate of unemployment, and correct choice of the appropriate time of day for interviewing, completion on the first attempt is not unusual in Afghanistan. Many people are also close to their homes and families are willing to help summon a needed respondent to complete an interview.

10.7 Training of Interviewers

While the fieldwork supervisors were given a briefing/training in Kabul, the training for interviewers was conducted by fieldwork supervisors in their respective provinces. The briefing on the main questions was conducted by ACSOR project managers and field managers with Asia Foundation oversight. Issues emphasized during briefing(s):

- Proper household and respondent selection.
- Review of the questionnaire content.
- Appropriate interviewing techniques.
- Conducting pilot interviews to get a better understanding of the logic and concept of the questions.

10.8 Quality Assurance Mechanism

After the delivery of the questionnaires from the field, most of the completed questionnaires were subject to logical control for the proper administration.

Actual interviewing was monitored directly by a supervisor in 28 percent of the sample. Another 17 percent of the completed interviews were back-checked by a supervisor in person. One percent of the completed interviews were back-checked from the central office. The issues verified during in-person back-checks were proper household and respondent selection, as well as correct recording of answers to five randomly selected questions from the main body of the questionnaire. A total of 12 interviews in the survey were rejected and were not entered in the final data.

10.9 Weighting

In order to assist a more in-depth study of some provinces (forthcoming December 2006), the Asia Foundation over sampled populations in those provinces during fieldwork. The data used for this survey report has, therefore, been provided a weight according to the ratio of provincial population to national population. All the data provided in this report is weighted data, except for the bases mentioned in figures and tables, which are un-weighted i.e., they represent the actual number of respondents who were asked the particular question. This weighting was done to avoid results from the over-sampled provinces to distort national findings in any particular direction. The minimum weight is 0.37356 assigned to Nuristan, Nimroz, and Panjshir, while the maximum weight is 1.2452 assigned to Badghis. Below is the entire list of provinces sampled and the weights they were assigned.

Province	Weighting Factor
Kabul	1.061165673
Kapisa	1.05842
Parwan	1.156257143
Wardak	1.067314286
Logar	0.9339
Ghazni	1.067314286
Paktia	1.141433333
Paktika	1.05842
Khost	1.193316667
Nangarhar	0.918335
Laghman	1.12068
Kunar	1.12068
Nuristan	0.37356
Badakhshan	1.096961905
Takhar	1.028643478
Baghlan	1.08955
Kunduz	1.011725
Balkh	1.037666667
Samangan	0.9339
Juzjan	1.098705882
Sar-i-Pul	1.15102521
Faryab	1.0754
Badghis	1.2452
Herat	1.067314286
Farah	1.132
Nimroz	0.37356
Helmand	0.9339
Kandhar	0.8949875
Ghor	0.84051
Bamyan	0.941747899
Panjshir	0.37356
Day Kundi	0.800485714

11 Appendix 3: Interview Discussion Guide

Geographic Code

Villages	78%
Towns	4%
City	6%
Metro (Kabul)	12%

Region

Central-Kabul	19%
South Central	10%
Western	15%
Central-Hazarjat	8%
Eastern	12%
South Western	30%
Northern	6%

Province

Kabul	14%	Balkh	5%
Kapisa	2%	Samangan	1%
Parwan	3%	Jawzjan	2%
Wardak	2%	Sar-i-Pul	2%
Logar	2%	Faryab	4%
Ghazni	5%	Badghis	2%
Paktia	2%	Herat	7%
Paktika	2%	Farah	2%
Khost	2%	Nimroz	1%
Ningarhar	6%	Helmand	4%
Laghman	2%	Kandahar	5%
Kunar	2%	Zabul	0%
Nuristan	1%	Uruzgan	0%
Badakhshan	4%	Ghor	3%
Takhar	4%	Bamyan	2%
Baghlan	4%	Panjshir	1%
Kunduz	4%	Day Kondi	2%

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS:

REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A CONVERSATION. MAKE THE RESPONDENT COMFORTABLE. MAKE EYE CONTACT. DO NOT TRY TO LEAD THE RESPONDENT DURING THE INTERVIEW OR GET THE "DESIRED" ANSWERS FROM THEM.

MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM THAT THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS, YOU JUST WANT THEIR OPINIONS. DURING THE INTERVIEW, BE POLITE BUT INQUISITIVE. DO NOT ACCEPT ONE-WORD ANSWERS. DRAW OUT RESPONDENTS TO GIVE DETAILED RESPONSES BY FURTHER PROBING - SAY: "WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?" "ANYTHING ELSE?", "TELL ME MORE."

Introduction

Asalaam Valeikum, I am from ACSOR-Surveys, an independent research organization. We regularly conduct surveys among people like you to find out what people feel about issues of public interest. ACSOR-Surveys has no relation to the government. I just want to ask you some questions about "matters of interest to Afghans". I am interested in your opinion. Your answers will be kept confidential and your name will not be given to anyone and your views will be analyzed along with those of thousands of others.

I'll ask you some questions about your listenership of the radio. How many days

Q-1.* a week do you listen to the radio, if any?

Every day or almost every day	53%
Three or four days a week	22%
One or two days a week	10%
Less than once a week	4%
Never	12%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

Q-2a.* (Filtered. Ask if answered 'every day or almost every day ', 'three or four days a week' or 'one or two days a week ' in Q-1) To which radio station do you listen most often? (Single response. Code in the first column of the table below)

And then which other radio station do you next most often listen to?

Q-2b.* (Single response. Code in the second column of the table below)

Q-2a. Most Often	Q-2b. Next	Radio Stations	Q-2a. Most Often	Q-2b. Next	Radio Stations
23%	10%	BBC-Farsi	0%	1%	Radio Balkh
12%	5%	BBC-Pashto	0%	1%	Radio Laghman
6%	8%	VOA-Dari	0%	0%	Millie-Paygham Radio Station
4%	5%	VOA-Pashto	0%	0%	Taraj-Mir Radio Station
10%	11%	Radio Azadi - Dari	1%	1%	Radio Takhar
7%	6%	Radio Azadi - Pashto	0%	0%	Radio Nimroz
0%	0%	All India Radio-Pashto	0%	0%	Aryana Radio
1%	1%	All India Radio-Dari	0%	2%	Watandar Radio
1%	1%	Radio Pakistan-Pashto	0%	0%	Qarabagh Radio
2%	3%	Radio VIR Iran-Farsi	0%	0%	Jabel Saraj Radio
0%	0%	Radio Information-Dari	0%	0%	Nawa Radio
0%	0%	Radio VIR Iran-Pashto	0%	05	Tajikistan Radio
0%	0%	Radio Information-Pashto	0%	0%	Esteqlal Radio
0%	1%	Deutsche Welle-Dari	0%	0%	Amoo Radio
0%	0%	Deutsche Welle-Pashto	0%	0%	Paktika Radio
0%	0%	Radio Pakistan-Dari	0%	0%	Sheberghan Radio
0%	0%	Radio China International-Pashto	0%	1%	Ghaznawian Radio
14%	7%	Arman FM	0%	0%	Sabawoon Radio
1%	1%	Killid FM	0%	0%	Qoyash Radio
1%	1%	Radio Paktia	0%	0%	Zohra Radio
0%	1%	Radio Kunar	0%	0%	Jaihoon
0%	0%	Radio Samangan	0%	0%	Refused (volunteered only)
0%	0%	Radio Bamiyan	0%	0%	Don't know (volunteered only)
0%	0%	Radio Ghore			
0%	0%	Radio Farah			
1%	1%	Radio Ghazni			
1%	2%	Radio Herat			
0%	1%	Sahar Radio			
0%	1%	Radio Sada-I-Solh			
1%	2%	Radio Sharq			
0%	1%	Radio Nangarhar			
0%	0%	Voice of Afghan Women			
0%	0%	Kabul University Radio			
4%	13%	Radio Afghanistan			
0%	0%	Radio Azad Afghan			
0%	1%	Peace Radio			
1%	1%	Radio Kandahar			
1%	2%	Radio Khost			
0%	1%	Radio Helmand			
0%	0%	Radio Faryab			
0%	1%	Riarabia Balkh Women's Radio			

What time of day do you most often listen to the radio? **(Single response)**

Q-3.*

05:01 hrs - 08:00 hrs	23%
08:01 hrs - 12:00 hrs	30%
12:01 hrs - 17:00 hrs	16%
17:01 hrs - 21:00 hrs	24%
21:01 hrs - 23:00 hrs	5%
23:01 hrs - 05:00 hrs	2%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

(ASK ALL) Now I'll ask you some questions about your viewership of the

Q-4.* television. How many days a week do you watch TV, if any?

Every day or almost every day	27%
Three or four days a week	10%
One or two days a week	4%
Less than once a week	3%
Never	54%
Refused (volunteered only)	1%
Don't know (volunteered only)	1%

(Filtered. Ask if answered 'every day or almost every day', 'three or four days a week' or 'one or two days a week' in Q-4) Which TV stations do you watch most often? **(Single response. Code in the first column of the table below)**

Q-5a.*

Which TV station do you watch next most often? **(Single response. Code in**

Q-5b.* **the second column of the table below)**

Q-5a. Most Often	Q-5b. Next	TV Stations	Q-5a. Most Often	Q-5b. Next	TV Stations
0%	0%	Badakhshan TV	36%	19%	Tolo TV
5%	3%	TV Herat	9%	19%	Aryana TV
0%	0%	Ghoryan TV- Herat	0%	0%	Shamshad TV
8%	7%	Aeena TV - Jawazjan	1%	2%	Afghan TV (Private)
24%	23	TV Afghanistan - Kabul	0%	1%	Jalalabad TV
2%	2%	TV Kandahar	1%	0%	Charikar TV
1%	1%	TV Konduz	0%	0%	Gardez TV
0%	1%	TV Balkh - Mazar-e-Sharif	0%	0%	Farah TV
0%	0%	Baghlan TV -Pulkhomri	0%	0%	Shindand TV
0%	0%	Jawazjan TV- Shebrghan	0%	0%	Saqi TV
1%	1%	Takhar TV - Taloqan	0%	1%	Helmand TV

Q-5a. Most Often	Q-5b. Next	TV Stations	Q-5a. Most Often	Q-5b. Next	TV Stations
0%	05	TV Nimroz	1%	0%	Samangan TV
1%	2%	Al Jazeera TV	0%	0%	Zohra TV
1%	1%	Pakistan TV	0%	0%	Ghazni TV
1%	1%	Uzbekistan TV	0%	0%	Not asked
1%	1%	Zee TV	1%	1%	Other
1%	1%	Star TV	0%	5%	Don't know
0%	0%	CNN			
05	0%	BBCs			
3%	4%	Iran TV			
1%	1%	TV Tajikistan			

What time of day do you most often watch TV? (Single response)

Q-6.*

05:01 hrs - 08:00 hrs	6%
08:01 hrs - 12:00 hrs	8%
12:01 hrs - 17:00 hrs	14%
17:01 hrs - 21:00 hrs	51%
21:01 hrs - 23:00 hrs	20%
23:01 hrs - 05:00 hrs	1%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	1%

(ASK ALL) Which is the main source from where you normally get information

Q-7.* about what is happening in the country?

TV	22%
Radio	55%
Newspapers	1%
Village chief/community leaders	5%
Religious leader	2%
Friends and family and neighbors	15%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-8.* If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you?

Mullah	6%
Village chief/ Community leader	15%
Worker at community centers (school, health center, etc.)	6%
Friend	28%
Co-workers	6%
Shopkeepers	4%

Neighbors/ villagers	34%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-9.* Generally speaking, do you think things in Afghanistan today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction?

Right direction	44%
Wrong direction	21%
Some in right, some in wrong direction (vol.)	29%
Refused (volunteered only)	1%
Don't know (volunteered only)	4%

Q-10a.* (Filtered. If answered 'Right direction' in Q-9): Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer and then code in the first column below)**

Q-10b.* (Filtered. If answered 'Right direction' in Q-9): Why else? **(Write down answer and then code in the second column below)**

	Q-10a. 1st mentioned	Q-10b. 2nd mentioned
Peace / end of the war	23%	6%
Disarmament	15%	11%
Good security	20%	11%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	11%	10%
Free movement / travel possible	3%	6%
Economic revival	2%	4%
Freedom / free speech	4%	7%
Democracy / elections	4%	6%
Schools for girls have opened	5%	11%
Women can now work	2%	5%
Women have more freedom	2%	4%
Refugees return	3%	6%
Good government	4%	5%
International assistance	2%	6%
The country has developed a lot	0%	0%
Having Constitution	0%	0%
Freedom of press is guaranteed	0%	0%
Not asked	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	1%

Q-11a.* (Filtered. If answered "Wrong direction" in Q-9): Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction?
(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer and then code in the first column below)

Q-11b.* (Filtered. If answered "Wrong direction" in Q-9): Why else?
(Write down answer and then code in the second column below)

	Q-11a. 1st mentioned	Q-11b. 2nd mentioned
No reconstruction has happened	18%	4%
There is no progress	9%	6%
Lack of aid / no development assistance	4%	3%
Bad economy	13%	14%
Poor education system	5%	10%
Too many foreigners are getting involved	7%	8%
Foreign aid causes problems	1%	2%
Western influence is too great	4%	5%
There is danger to Islam	5%	7%
Neighboring countries cause problems	7%	7%
Bad government	11%	11%
There is unemployment	6%	16%
Presence of too many Taliban	2%	1%
Increasing administrative corruption	1%	1%
Insecurity	4%	2%
Comprehensive disarmament hasn't happened yet	1%	0%
The work is not given to relevant people	1%	1%
Not asked	0%	0%
Other	0%	1%
Don't know	0%	2%

Q-12a.* (ASK ALL) In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? **(Write down answer and then code in the first column below)**

Q-12b.* And after that, what is the next biggest problem? **(Write down answer and then code in the second column below)**

	Q-12a. First problem	Q-12b. Next problem
Security issues / attacks / violence	22%	5%
Presence of warlords	10%	4%
Presence of Taliban	12%	6%
Poor Economy	12%	12%
Poverty	6%	8%
Unemployment	12%	19%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	2%	4%
Education / schools / literacy	4%	6%
Government / weak government / central authority	3%	4%
Corruption	6%	12%
Scarcity of electricity	3%	6%
Roads	1%	4%
Health care / clinics / hospitals	1%	3%
Water	0%	2%
High prices	0%	1%
Interference of foreign countries	1%	1%
Shelter problems	0%	0%
Smuggling drugs	0%	0%
The work is not given to relevant people	0%	0%
Terrorism	0%	0%
Lack of attention to agriculture	0%	0%
Lack of production companies	0%	0%
Kidnapping of children	0%	0%
Lack of women rights	0%	0%
Islam is in danger	0%	0%
Disrespect for Afghan culture	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	0%

Q-13a.* What is the biggest problem in your local area? **Write down answer and then code in the first column below**

Q-13b.* And what is the next biggest problem in your local area? **(Write down answer and then code in the second column below)**

	Q 13a Biggest Problem	Q 13b Next Biggest Problem
Security issues / attacks / violence	6 %	2%
Presence of warlords	5%	2%
Taliban	4%	2%
Poor Economy	10%	7%
Poverty	10%	8%
Unemployment	18%	17%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	3%	5%
Education / schools / literacy	6%	8%
Government / weak government / central authority	1%	2%
Corruption	3%	6%
Electricity	12%	13%
Roads	6%	8%
Health care / clinics / hospitals	6%	9%
Water	9%	10%
High prices	0%	1%
No problems at all	0%	1%
No TV signal in the area	0%	0%
Transportation problems	0%	0%
Municipality doesn't pay attention	0%	0%
No garbage collection	0%	0%
Shelter problems	0%	0%
Danger of floods	0%	0%
Lack of local kindergartens	0%	0%
Lack of foreign aid	0%	0%
Ethnic discrimination	0%	0%
Kidnapping of children	0%	0%
Smuggling drugs	0%	0%
Lack of agricultural equipment	0%	0%
Women rights	0%	0%
Innocent people being killed by the Americans	0%	0%
Americans search houses without permission	0%	0%
Lack of gasoline	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	0%

Q-14 Which one of following issues is more critical or important to your needs at present? Please, rank in order of priority, whereby the most important rank as '1', the next important rank as '2' and so on, up to the least important as '7'. **(Show Card and read responses)**

	RANK-1	RANK-2	RANK-3	RANK-4	RANK-5	RANK-6	RANK-7
Roads	15%	15%	17%	16%	12%	10%	16%
Power	14%	18%	16%	15%	14%	14%	9%
Water	16%	12%	15%	14%	17%	14%	12%
Sanitation	4%	6%	9%	15%	17%	22%	28%
Health care	8%	12%	17%	17%	18%	18%	12%
Education	15%	19%	15%	14%	14%	14%	10%
Employment	28%	18%	12%	9%	9%	9%	14%

Q-15.* Some people say, "I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(WAIT FOR RESPONSE AND THEN ASK): Strongly, or somewhat?

Agree strongly	36%
Agree somewhat	41%
Disagree somewhat	13%
Disagree strongly	7%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	3%

Q-16.* How would you rate the security situation in your area: excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Excellent	17%
Good	49%
Fair	26%
Poor	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	

Q-17.* How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days? Often, sometimes, rarely, or never?

Often	9%
Sometimes	31%
Rarely	22%
Never	39%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-18.* Have you or has anyone in your family been a victim of physical aggression or of some criminal act in the home or community in the past year?

Yes	13%
No	85%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-19. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-18) You said that you've been a victim of physical aggression or some criminal act in the past year. Did you report it to any authority?

Yes	70%
No	29%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-20. (Filtered. Ask if answered "Yes" in Q-19) To what agency or institution did you report the crime? **(Multiple Response)**

Afghan National Army	11%
Afghan National Police	63%
Shura/ Elders	16%
Local militia (police)	6%
Tribal leader / Malik	21%
Local Commander or Warlord	6%
Mullah Saheb	5%
Local PRT	1%
Office of UN organization(s)	0%
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	3%
Governor or Local Government	10%
Central Government	4%
Public prosecutor	7%
Courts	4%
Press or other media	0%
Refused	0%
Don't Know	0%

Q-21. (Ask if answered "No" in Q-19) Why didn't you report the crime? **(Multiple Response)**

It makes no difference	18%
Danger or fear of retaliation	33%
Lack of evidence	8%
It wasn't serious	38%

Didn't know where to report it	14%
Refused	0%
Don't Know	0%

Q-22. (ASK ALL) If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it?
(Multiple Response)

Afghan National Army	14%
Afghan National Police	58%
Shura/ Elders	22%
Local militia (police)	5%
Tribal leader / Malik	21%
Local Commander or Warlord	6%
Mullah Saheb	8%
Local PRT	1%
Office of UN organization(s)	1%
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	5%
Governor or Local Government	11%
Central Government	4%
Public prosecutor	6%
Courts	5%
Press or other media	1%
Other	0%
No one	1%
Refused	0%
Don't Know	0%

Q-23. If you were a victim of assault or robbery, how much faith would you have that the law-enforcing and judicial systems would punish the guilty party?

A lot of faith	14%
Some faith	37%
A little faith	30%
No faith at all	16%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-24. Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in the following areas. (Circle '8' for Refused or '9' for Don't Know if volunteered.)

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Refused (vol.)	Don't Know (vol.)
In your daily life	42%	31%	25%	0%	2%
In your neighborhood	40%	43%	15%	0%	1%
In your provincial government	66%	27%	5%	0%	2%
In Afghanistan as a whole	77%	16%	3%	0%	3%

Q-25. Compared to a year ago, do you think the amount of corruption overall in..... has increased, stayed the same or decreased in the following areas?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased	Refused (vol.)	Don't Know (vol.)
In your daily life	24%	50%	24%	1%	2%
In your neighborhood	28%	52%	18%	0%	2%
In your provincial government	50%	35%	12%	0%	2%
In Afghanistan as a whole	60%	25%	10%	0%	4%

Q-26. Whenever you have contacted officials in the Municipality, how often in the past year you have had to give cash, gift or perform a favor to an official of your municipality? If you had contacts with such officials in the past year. Was it in all cases, most of the cases, in isolated or in no cases? And how about....
(Show Card. Rotate items on the list)

	In all cases	Most cases	Isolated cases	No cases	Had no contacts	Refused (vol.)	Don't Know (vol.)
Officials in the Municipality	6%	8%	12%	30%	44%	0%	1%
Customs office	5%	9%	7%	29%	50%	0%	1%
Police	5%	12%	19%	32%	32%	0%	0%
Judiciary / courts	10%	12%	13%	28%	36%	1%	1%
State electricity supply	5%	8%	11%	30%	45%	1%	1%
Public healthcare service	5%	13%	19%	36%	26%	0%	0%
When applying for a job	11%	13%	11%	23%	42%	1%	1%

Q-27. Now I will read you four different activities that you could participate in. Please, tell me, whether you would participate in the following activities with 'no fear', 'some fear' or a 'lot of fear'?

	No fear	Some fear	A lot of fear	Refused (vol.)	Don't Know (vol.)
a) When participating in resolving problems in your community	65%	27%	5%	1%	2%
b) Voting in a national election	57%	33%	8%	1%	1%
c) Participating in a peaceful demonstration	35%	37%	24%	1%	3%
d) To run for a public office	42%	32%	18%	1%	7%

Q-28.* Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?

Yes	49%
No	36%
Refused	2%
Don't know	13%

Q-29. (Filtered. Ask if 'Yes' in Q-28) What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people to feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? **Open ended.**

Write down up to two answers

Removal of local militias	6%
Freedom of speech is guaranteed	64%
Security conditions are good in the area	42%
Having Parliament and local shuras	9%
Peace and democracy	40%
Presence of ISAF & respect for human rights	1%
Disarmament	8%
Reconstruction	2%
Freedom of press is guaranteed	3%
People have become open-minded	2%
Having legal Constitution	2%
Presence of ISAF	1%
Human rights	2%
Not asked	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-30. (If answered "No" in Q-28) Why don't people in your area have the freedom to express their political opinions? Open ended. Write down up to two answers

Fear for their safety	30%
Women are under the control or men	4%
Security conditions are bad in the area	40%
Presence of Taliban in the area	16%
Presence of warlords	33%
The Government doesn't allow freedom of political opinions	17%
No real democracy exists here	16%
No disarmament	7%
People don't know about politics	8%
Fear from Coalition / foreign forces	3%
Elders and Mullahs do not allow	0%
Ethnic discrimination	0%
Not asked	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-31. (ASK ALL) Speaking of the past 12 months, do you know of, heard of any project or program, implemented with the foreign aid in this area, district, in the following fields?

	Yes	No	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
a) reconstruction/ building of roads, bridges	56%	43%	0%	1%
b) water supply	39%	59%	0%	1%
c) electricity supply	26%	73%	0%	2%
d) healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	44%	52%	1%	3%
e) education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	59%	39%	0%	2%
f) de-mining	46%	48%	0%	6%
g) demilitarization / disarmament	52%	42%	0%	5%
h) reconstruction/programs in agriculture	27%	67%	1%	6%
i) reconstruction/programs in industry	11%	82%	0%	6%
j) building new mosques	29%	67%	0%	4%
k) humanitarian programs - help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	27%	67%	1%	6%

Q-32a. Which country do you think has provided the most aid for the projects you mentioned to have been implemented in this area, district? **(Single response)**

USA	48%
United Kingdom (Britain)	4%
Germany	9%
Japan	12%
India	6%
Pakistan	1%
China	2%
Iran	3%
Saudi Arabia	2%
South Korea	0%
France	0%
Turkmenistan	0%
Turkey	0%
Government of Afghanistan	0%
Italy	0%
Tajikistan	0%
Canada	0%
Sweden	0%
Bangladesh	0%
Netherlands	0%
Int'l institutions and foundations (Agha Khan Foundation)	1%
Norway	0%
New Zealand	0%
Russia	0%
Uzbekistan	0%
Denmark	0%
Other	0%
Has not heard of any aid projects	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	5%

Q-32b. Which other countries have provided aid for the projects in your area, district? **PROBE:** Any other? **(Multiple response)**

USA	21%
United Kingdom (Britain)	14%
Germany	27%
Japan	31%
India	26%
Pakistan	6%
China	13%
Iran	15%
Saudi Arabia	6%
South Korea	0%
France	1%
Turkmenistan	0%
Turkey	1%
Government of Afghanistan	0%
Italy	0%
Tajikistan	0%
Canada	0%
Sweden	1%
Bangladesh	0%
Netherlands	0%
Int'l institutions and foundations (Agha Khan Foundation)	0%
Norway	0%
New Zealand	0%
Russia	0%
Uzbekistan	0%
Denmark	0%
Other	1%
Has not heard of any aid projects	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	12%

Q-33.* Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government?

More prosperous	54%
Less prosperous	26%
About as prosperous	13%
Absent during Taliban rule	7%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-34. Now, going even farther back to the period of the Soviet occupation, if you think about your family then and now, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Soviet occupation government?

More prosperous	50%
Less prosperous	27%
About as prosperous	11%
Absent during Taliban rule	11%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-35. At this house where you live, which of the following kinds of electricity supply do you have? **(Read out options. Code each that applies. Multiple response)**

Personal Generator	27%
Public / Shared Use Generator	11%
State electricity provider	24%
No electricity (vol.)	42%
Refused (volunteered only)	1%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

Q-36. Have you ever made a phone call, talked on the phone with someone else?

Yes	65%
No	35%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-37. At this house where you live, which of the following means for communication do you have?

A mobile phone	41%
A fixed phone line	2%
Neither fixed, nor mobile phone	53%
Refused (volunteered only)	2%
Don't know (volunteered only)	2%

Q-38. (Filtered. Ask if 'don't have any kind of phone, answer' in Q-37) How long does it take you from your home (in minutes or hours) to get to the nearest tele phone? It could be a public telephone or telephone at a neighbor's place.

Less than 10 minutes	8%
From 10 to 30 minutes	21%
From 31 minutes to 1 hour	23%
From 1.01 hour to 2 hours	19%
From 2.01 hours to 4 hours	11%
From 4.01 hours to 8 hours	5%
More than 8 hours	2%
Refused	1%
Don't know	10%

Q-39a. (ASK ALL) Have you ever heard of the process called "privatization"?

Yes	39%
No	58%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-39b. Privatization means the selling of state owned businesses to private individuals. Do you think privatization is a good idea is a bad idea for Afghanistan?

Good idea for Afghanistan	40%
Bad idea for Afghanistan	33%
Refused	3%
Don't know	24%

Q-40. (Filtered. Ask if 'Good idea for Afghanistan' in Q-39b): Why do you say that privatization is a good idea? **(Open ended. Write down up to two responses)**

Privatization paves the ground for investments	16%
Improves economic situation	40%
Will provide a better business system in Afghanistan	20%
Will create job opportunities	50%
It helps reconstruction of Afghanistan	25%
Products made by private businesses are of higher quality	9%
Improves infrastructure	2%
Improves economic situation of the government	20%
Will help educational system	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-41. (Filtered. Ask if answered "bad idea" in Q-39b): Why do you say that privatization is a bad idea? **(Open ended. Write down up to two responses)**

The rich will become richer and the poor become poorer	35%
It will reduce job opportunities	38%

The current situation is not adequate for privatization	25%
It will hurt the economy of the government	17%
It's in the interests of one individual (not the community)	39%
It will increase the prices	11%
It creates ethnic discrimination	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-42. Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view?

Poppy cultivation is okay	15%
Poppy cultivation is wrong	80%
Refused	1%
Don't know	4%

Q-43. (Filtered. Ask if 'Poppy cultivation is okay' in Q-42): Why do you say that poppy cultivation is okay? (Open ended. Write down up to two responses)

Growing poppies is more profitable than growing other crops	50%
Working on poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs	44%
To make medicines from poppy	19%
Needs less water	40%
The Government doesn't pay attention to farmers	15%
Instead of wine, we produce poppy	3%
Unemployment	5%
Don't know	1%

Q-44. (Filtered. Ask if answered "poppy cultivation is wrong" in Q-42): Why do you say that poppy cultivation is wrong? (Open ended. Write down up to two responses)

Poppy makes some people rich, but keeps most Afghans poor	
In Islam, poppy cultivation is a sin (haram)	3%
According to the laws poppy cultivation is a crime	50%
People become addicted to opium	4%
It misguides the youth /hampers education, job perspectives	56%
It causes high prices	33%
It's detrimental to Afghanistan reputation	4%
It's source of income for terrorists	15%
It creates corruption among government officials	4%
It's deterring international assistance	2%
Poppy cultivation causes insecurity in our country	3%
It hurts other farmers	5%
Poppy cultivation is in the interest of neighboring countries	6%
It's in the interest of smugglers	1%
Not asked	2%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-45.* (ASK ALL) Turning to another subject, tell me, in which language did you learn to speak, first? **(Single response)**

Pashto	40%
Dari	49%
Uzbeki	9%
Turkmeni	2%
Urdu	0%
Arabic	0%
Russian	0%
Baloochi	0%
Pashaye	0%
Hazara	0%
Other	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-46.* Which other languages do you speak, if any? **(Multiple response. Code each mentioned)**

Pashto	28%
Dari	37%
Uzbek	6%
Turkmeni	3%
Urdu	7%
Hindi	1%
English	8%
Arabic	2%
Russian	1%
None	14%
Pashaye	1%
French	0%
Baloochi	0%
Parachi	0%
German	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	16%

Q-47.* Which languages can you read? **(Multiple response. Code each mentioned)**

Pashto	33%
Dari	42%
Uzbeki	3%
Turkmeni	1%
Urdu	5%
Hindi	1%
English	12%
Arabic	8%
Russian	1%
None	29%
French	0%

German	0%
Pashaye	0%
Other	1%
Refused	1%
Don't know	19%

Q-48. Now I would like to ask you some questions about the Parliamentary election in 2005. Did you vote in the Parliament elections in 2005?

Yes	62%
No	28%
Refused	6%
Don't know	4%

Q-49. (Filtered. Ask if answered "No" in Q-48) You did not vote in the Parliament Elections in 2005. Why didn't you vote? (SINGLE CODE ONLY. ASK FOR MOST IMPORTANT REASON) (RECORD ANSWER: CODE POST FIELDWORK)

Didn't support any candidate / party	6%
Not interested	20%
Personal reasons: too old, sick, etc.	9%
Ballot too long / confusing	1%
Elections wouldn't make difference / disillusioned	3%
Lack of ID document	15%
Name was missing in the register	3%
Did not fulfill the age criteria	5%
Fear of intimidation / insecurity	6%
Didn't understand politics	5%
Was scared of voting	5%
Was not permitted to vote / women not allowed to vote	15%
Was out of the country	3%
Other	2%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-50. (ASK ALL) Do you think that the elections for the National Parliament last year were free and fair or do you think they were not free and fair?

Free and fair	54%
Not free and fair	37%
Refused	0%
Don't know	8%

Q-51. How confident are you that the Afghan Government on its own will be able to conduct free and fair?

Very confident	25%
Somewhat confident	40%
Somewhat not confident	18%
Not confident at all	13%
Refused	3%
Don't know	2%

Q-52.* Do you think the local elections will be free and fair or do you think they will not be free and fair?

Will be free and fair	50%
Will not be free and fair	38%
Refused	1%
Don't know	11%

Q-53.* I'm going to mention some problems that can happen during elections. For each one, tell me if to your knowledge it had happened in the last elections. **(Read out items from '1' to '5' and code each mentioned in the first column of the table below)**

Q-54.* Now, for each one, tell me if you think it can happen in future elections. **(Read out items from '1' to '5' and code each mentioned in the second column)**

	Q-53 Last elections	Q-54 Future election
Intimidation against voters or party activists	23%	20%
Cheating in the vote count	43%	31%
Buying of votes	33%	32%
Finding out for whom people voted without their	20%	22%
Husbands not letting wives vote	28%	27%
None of these happened/ none of these possible	29%	29%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	4%	10%

Q-55. Now, to change the subject. Sometimes people and communities have problems, related to an issue that concerns everybody in their area, that they can't resolve on their own and so they have to ask for the help of a government official or a government agency. Have you ever had such a problem in your area that you needed to ask for help or cooperation to resolve it?

Yes	28%
No	69%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-56. (Filtered. Ask if 'Yes' in Q-55): Who did you ask? (Multiple response. Code each mentioned)

A local militia leader.	4%
Elders of the local shura	44%
A member of Parliament	9%
A ministry, public office or government agency	11%
A religious leader	15%
Afghan National Army	9%
Afghan National Police	37%
Friends	0%
Malik	1%
Other	0%
Refused	0%

Q-57. (ASK ALL) During elections, some people try to convince others to vote for one candidate that they think will be the best. How often have you tried to convince others to vote for the candidate you think best? (READ OUT OPTIONS)

Frequently	8%
Once in a while	13%
Rarely	12%
Never	66%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-58. There are people who work for a party or candidate during electoral campaigns. Did you work for any candidate or party in the last presidential or parliamentary elections?

Yes	13%
No	85%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-59. Now I will read out a list of organizations or associations. As I mention each, please tell me if you belong to it. (Multiple response. Code each mentioned)

Youth association	5%
Student association	6%
NGO (only micro-credit)	3%
NGO (advocacy, awareness)	1%
NGO (micro-credit, others)	3%
Women association	5%
Sports and recreational club	5%

Social club	3%
Religious association (non-political)	3%
Trade union	1%
Farmer samity	5%
Non-religious charity group	1%
Trade association	1%
Teacher association	4%
Writer / journalist association	1%
Others	0%
None	67%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-60. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

Most people can be trusted	38%
With most people you need to be very careful	59%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-61. Do you believe that in most instances people are only thinking about themselves or do you believe that in the most instances people try to help others?

They think about themselves	62%
They try to help others	36%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-62. I would like to ask you about some officials, institutions and organizations in our country. I will read these out to you. As I read out each, please tell me how much trust you have in each of the domestic institutions and organizations and officials. Do you have a great deal of trust, a fair amount of trust, not very much trust, or no trust at all in

	A great deal of trust	A fair amount of trust	Not very much trust	No trust at all	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
a) Afghan National Army	51%	36%	9%	2%	0%	1%
b) Afghan National Police	45%	41%	11%	3%	0%	0%
c) Political parties	11%	33%	32%	20%	0%	3%
d) Justice system	11%	27%	31%	29%	0%	2%
e) Local police in your area	10%	21%	26%	40%	1%	3%
f) NGOs	16%	41%	25%	15%	0%	2%
g) Electronic media such as radio, TV	38%	46%	9%	5%	0%	2%
h) Newspapers, print media	32%	45%	12%	5%	0%	5%

Q-63.* Now I'd like to ask about something else. A lot of people in Afghanistan today are talking about democracy. If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you? (Probe): Anything else? (Open ended. Multiple response. Write down and then code each mentioned)

Freedom	54%
Rights and law	31%
Government of the people	33%
Peace	37%
Prosperity	16%
Elections	14%
Women's rights	19%
Communism	2%
Islamic democracy	23%
Security	0%
Democracy is a bad regime	0%
Education	0%
Job opportunities	0%
Others	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-64.* What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring you personally? (Probe): Anything else? (Open ended. Multiple response. Write down and then code each mentioned)

Freedom	37%
Rights and law	33%
Government of the people	29%
Peace	41%
Prosperity	22%
Elections	14%
Women's rights	22%
Communism	1%
Islamic democracy	31%
Security	1%
Job opportunities	1%
Removal of terrorism	0%
Positive influence on our culture	0%
Giving positions in the Govrnm't to relevant people	0%
Removal of ethnic discrimination	0%
Collecting of weapons	0%
Corruption	0%
Others	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-65a.* Do you think that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?

Yes	56%
No	39%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-65b.* Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?

Yes	32%
No	64%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-66.* Suppose a friend of yours supported a party you don't like. Would you accept that, or would it end your friendship?

Would accept it	54%
Would end friendship	38%
Refused	1%
Don't know	6%

Q-67.* I'm going to read some ideas. Please tell me if you agree with each. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask): Strongly or somewhat?**

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	DK (vol.)
a) It is a good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition	55%	29%	8%	5%	2%
b) Everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion	67%	23%	6%	2%	1%
c) Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run	53%	29%	10%	5%	3%

Q-68.* Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values". Which is closer to your view?

Democracy challenges Islamic values	35%
Islam can be democratic also	60%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-69. Now I would like to ask you about women in your community. Some people say that to respect Afghan traditions and Islam, women should usually wear a burkha outside the home, while others say that times are changing, and women should be able to move freely outside the home without a burkha. Which is closer to your view?

Women should usually wear a burkha	55%
Wearing a burkha is not necessary	44%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-70. Do you think that the use of the burkha in Afghanistan is more related to Afghan tradition and culture, or is it more related to the requirements of Islam?

Tradition and culture	56%
Duty of Islam	42%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-71. Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view?

Religious leaders should be consulted	61%
Politics and religion should not mix	37%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-72.* How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions - a lot, some, very little, or none at all?

A lot	12%
Some	35%
Very little	22%
None at all	27%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-73. Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change?

Vote can change things	75%
Things are not going to get better	22%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-74. Now I will read a series of statements about democracy. For each statement, tell me if you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask): Strongly or some what?**

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
Democracy may have its problems, but it is better than any other form of government.	44%	40%	8%	3%	0%	4%
Despite our differences, as Afghans we have many values that unite us.	57%	33%	7%	2%	0%	2%
Politicians seek power for their own benefit and don't worry about helping people.	51%	28%	12%	6%	0%	2%

Q-75. On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. Are you ...

Very satisfied	21%
Fairly Satisfied	55%
Not very satisfied	15%
Not at all satisfied	6%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-76. Here are some different ways people think about the government. The first is that the people and government should be equals, and government should listen to the criticisms voiced by people. The second is that government should be like a father and the people like a child who he must look after. The third is that the government is like a boss and the people are like workers who must obey. Which of these is closest to your view of what the government should be?

Government and people are equals	44%
Government is the father, the people are children	45%
Government is the boss, the people are workers	11%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-77. If you think about the persons elected to Parliament, suppose someone said: "My MP addresses the major problems of my constituency in Parliament". Do you agree or disagree? **(Wait for response and ask): Strongly or somewhat?**

Agree strongly	32%
Agree somewhat	47%
Disagree somewhat	11%
Disagree strongly	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-78. Have you ever contacted your MP for help in solving any of your personal or local problems?

Yes	11%
No	87%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-79. (Filtered. Ask if 'Yes' in Q-77): For what kind of a problem did you contact the MP? (Open ended. Write down answer)

Water and power supply	30%
Creation of job opportunities	9%
Building of school	17%
Shop dispute	2%
Aid for widows	1%
Reconstruction of roads	19%
Attention to healthcare	9%
Rehabilitation of public heating system	0%
Cleanliness of the place	1%
To set up professional courses	1%
Supporting national reconciliation system	0%
Helping in security sphere	5%
Helping returnees	0%
Ethnic problems	5%
Lack of disarmament	1%
Corruption in the government offices	1%
Drug problems	1%
Land issues	2%
Not asked	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-80. (ASK ALL) Now let's talk about Provincial Councils. Have you ever contacted a representative on the Provincial Council for help in solving any of your personal or local problems?

Yes	12%
No	87%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-81. (Filtered. Ask if 'Yes' in Q-80): What kind of problem was it? **(Open ended. Write down answer)**

Water and electricity problems	26%
Reconstruction	25%
Concerning house ownership	2%
Building hospitals	11%
Lack of attention of municipality to problems of the place	1%
Family problems	9%
Public heating system	1%
Setting up professional courses	2%
Micro-finances for farmers	3%
Job opportunities	3%
Security situation in the area	8%
Education system	10%
Corruption in the government offices	2%
Drug problems	1%
Transportation problems	1%
Refused	0%
Don't know	93%

Q-82. (ASK ALL) Are you aware of such institutions called Community Development Councils formed in your neighborhood?

Yes, aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement	37%
No, not aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement	58%
Refused	1%
Don't know	4%

Q-83. (Filtered. Ask if 'Yes, aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement' in Q-82):

Which two major initiatives, projects in your neighborhood, settlement has this council been taken with to implement?

Set up training programs on tailoring	5%
Carpentry projects	1%
Irrigation projects (bringing water to farms)	12%
Road construction	49%
Electricity supply	23%
No projects have been implemented	5%
School rehabilitation	18%
Drinking water supply	24%
Helping returnees	1%
Helping healthcare	4%
Reconstruction of heating system	1%
Cleanliness of the settlement	0%
Building mosques	5%
Rehabilitation of residential houses	1%
Micro-finances for women	1%
Improvement of women handicrafts	2%
Uniting people	3%
Establishing security	2%
Mine clearing	1%
Communication supply	1%
Disarmament process	0%
Stock-breeding	1%
Literacy	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	6%

Q-84. (ASK ALL) How satisfied are you with he job this community development council is doing?

Very satisfied	43%
Somewhat satisfied	43%
Somewhat dissatisfied	4%
Very dissatisfied	7%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-85. To what extent do you think this council is capable to represent your interest before the Provincial authorities? **(Open ended. Write down answer)**

	Capable a lot	Somewhat capable	Not much capable	Not capable at all	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
Before Provincial authorities	48%	44%	6%	3%	0%	3%
Before the Government of Afghanistan	35%	45%	9%	6%	0%	4%

Q-86. Have you been involved in any dispute in the last 2 years over something serious like land ownership or something similar?

Yes	12%
No	86%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-87. What kind of problem was it?

Land dispute	62%
Shop dispute	6%
Irrigation of the farm	3%
Traffic dispute	3%
Robbery	3%
Family dispute	9%
House ownership dispute	13%
Divorce	0%
Roads problems	0%
Healthcare	0%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-88. Who did you approach that eventually helped to settle the dispute?

Local elders (Rishtafidan/ Mohasen safidan)	32%
Local Shura	16%
Mullah	4%
Tribal elder	22%
Formal government court	20%
Other	0%
Did not approach anybody	5%
Refused	0%

Q-89. Who do you trust the most to resolve any dispute that you may have?

Local elders (Rishtafidan/ Mohasen safidan)	33%
Local Shura	16%
Mullah	6%
Tribal elder	19%
Formal government court	16%
Human rights organization	0%
National police	0%
Other	1%
Don't trust anybody	7%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-90. How well do you think the courts perform this role?

Very well	13%
Okay	42%
Not very well	24%
Not well at all	16%
Refused	1%
Don't know	5%

Q-91. You said that the formal courts are not administering justice well. Why did you say that?

There is discrimination	18%
There is a lot of delay/ it takes a lot of time	19%
There is a lot of corruption/ bribery	75%
The fees charged are high	14%
They don't have capability	0%
People use mediation	1%
Others	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-92a*(ASK ALL) Now let's talk specifically about women related issues. What is the biggest problem facing women in this area today? (Code in the first column of the table below)

Q-92b. And the next biggest? (Code in the second column below)

	Q-90a. Biggest	Q-90b. Next Biggest
Lack of rights / women's rights	18%	6%
Can't leave homes	9%	5%
Under control of men /men have power 10%	10%	7%
Education / illiteracy	24%	17%
Health care	9%	9%
Forced marriages/ dowry	10%	14%
Domestic violence	7%	16%
Poverty	5%	11%
Security	2%	5%
Unemployment	1%	1%
Lack of bakeries	0%	0%
Lack of kindergatherns	0%	0%
Transportation problems	0%	0%
Other	0%	0%
Women have no problems	4%	4%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	4%

Q-93.* Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (Wait for response and then ask): Strongly or somewhat?

Agree strongly	58%
Agree somewhat	33%
Disagree somewhat	5%
Disagree strongly	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-94.*Some people say that women should be allowed to work out side the home. What is your opinion about this?

Women should be allowed to work outside the home	71%
Women should not be allowed to work outside the home	27%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-95.* The new constitution says men and women have equal rights, including the right to vote. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree or disagree? (Wait for response and then ask): Strongly or somewhat?

Agree strongly	57%
Agree somewhat	31%
Disagree somewhat	7%
Disagree strongly	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-96. If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men?

Women should decide for themselves	57%
Men should advise them	24%
Women should decide for themselves but in consultation	19%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-97 In the election, everyone must vote for themselves. Men cannot vote in place of women. Women must vote for themselves. What do you think about this statement?

Agree strongly	65%
Agree somewhat	25%
Disagree somewhat	5%
Disagree strongly	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-98. Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women or do you think both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership?

Mostly for men	37%
Mostly for women	12%
Equal for both men and women	50%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q.99 Would you like to see more women as elected or reserve seat members of the National Parliament?

Yes	43%
No	43%
Refused	2%
Don't know	12%

Q.100a Why do you say there should be more women elected?

	Reason 1	Reason 2
To help women / help women progress	40%	11%
Promote equality with men	27%	21%
Give women confidence / power	11%	18%
Women are less aggressive / angry	7%	13%
Promoting development	11%	29%
Women don't commit crime	1%	0%
Women are more active than men	2%	2%
Women are honest	1%	1%
Other	1%	1%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	3%

Q.101a Why do you not agree there should be more women elected?

	Reason 1	Reason 2
Women Don't know (volunteered only) enough about politics	53%	19%
Men are more educated in general	19%	27%
Politics takes women from their families	11%	23%
Women should not be allowed to work out of home	9%	15%
Afghan society is traditional	1%	1%
Current situation is not perfect for women	3%	2%
Women "don't have courage"	2%	3%
Other	1%	1%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	1%

Q-102 (ASK ALL) Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the National Parliament?

A man	39%
A woman	20%
No difference	40%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

DEMOGRAPHICS

D-1. Gender.

Male	50%
Female	50%

D-2.* Are you now working, a housewife (**ask only women**), retired, a student, or looking for work?

Working	41%
Retired	2%
Housewife	40%
Student	9%
Unemployed	8%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

D-3.* (Filtered. Ask if working or retired): What is your main occupation? (**Write down and then code. If retired, ask for previous occupation and then code**)

Farmer (own land / tenant farmer)	28%
Farm laborer (other's land)	9%
Laborer, domestic, or unskilled worker	6%
Informal sales/ business	12%
Skilled worker/artisan	11%
Office worker/ Clerical worker	13%
Self employed Professional	6%
Small business owner	5%
Executive or managerial	6%
Military/ Police	3%
Other	1%
Don't know	0%

D-4. (Filtered. Ask if answered "Farming", in D-3) How much land do you farm?

Less than 1 Jerib	15%
1 - 2 Jerib	22%
2.1- 3 Jerib	23%
More than 3 Jerib	39%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	1%

D-5. (ASK ALL) *What is the highest level of school you completed? (Write down response and code)

Never went to school	52%
Primary School, incomplete	10%
Primary School, complete	8%
Secondary education (Middle school)	9%
High school	16%
University or academy	5%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

D-6.* What religion do you practice?

Sunni	88%
Shia	10%
Ismaeli	1%
Hindu	0%
Buddhist	0%
Sikh	0%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

D-7* Are you married or single?

Single	21%
Married	76%
Widower/ Widow	3%
Refused	0%

D-8.* Which ethnic group do you belong to? SINGLE RESPONSE ONLY

Pashtun	41%
Tajik	37%
Uzbek	9%
Hazara	9%
Turkmen	2%
Baloch	1%
Nuristani	0%
Aimak	0%
Arab	1%
Pashaye	0%
Other	0%

D-9.* For statistical purposes only, we need to know your average monthly household income. Will you please tell me which of the following categories best represents your average total family monthly income? (Show Card and read out)

Less than 2,000 Afs	14%
2,001 - 3,000 Afs	26%
3,001 - 5,000 Afs	30%
5,001 - 10,000 Afs	19%
10,000 - 15,000 Afs	7%
15,001 - 20,000 Afs	2%
20,001 - 25,000 Afs	1%
More than 25,000 Afs	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

D-16.* Age of the respondents

18 - 24 years	29%
25 - 34 years	26%
35 - 44 years	23%
45 - 54 years	14%
55+ years	6%
65+ years	3%



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