

Status of Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Health & Rights in Balochistan-2019



AwazCDS-Pakistan: Established in 1995 and is registered as not for profit organization with registrar joint stock companies under Societies Registration Act 1860 and enjoys special consultative status with United Nation's Economic & Social Council (UN ECOSOC). AwazCDS-Pakistan's core mission is to develop integrated and innovative solutions in cooperation with partners at all levels to secure the future of marginalized communities especially by creating rightful spaces and choices of life. For more information, please visit www.awazcds.org.pk.

Ujala: is national network for creating rightful spaces & choices of life. Ujala is comprised of 50 civil society organizations working together for the rights of children, women, young people, person with special abilities & transgender communities through grassroots mobilization and suggesting legislative reforms in the country regarding Gender Based Violence, Life Skills Based Education, Youth Friendly Health Services, Early Age Marriages and issues related to Stigma & Discrimination. Network is being managed by Awaz Foundation Pakistan: Centre for Development Services.

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Background

This fact based informative booklet is construed from a study based on primary data gathered from 10 districts of Balochistan that includes Quetta, Pishin, Noshki, Khuzdar, Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Loralai, Lasbella, Sibi and Kohlu.

The study reached out to three core groups, i.e. Adults (including parents, SRHR experts, media personnel, religious scholars, policy makers, transgender individuals and people living with disabilities who were 29years or above); Healthcare Providers and Young People (between the ages of 15 – 29 years).

The study aimed to investigate the knowledge, attitude and behaviors of the communities regarding Reproductive Health Rights and Gender Based Violence. Balochistan based booklet will give an idea on current situation and lead towards a more enabling environment in Pakistan at the levels of policymaking and implementation; community acceptance, practice and implementation of SRHR through increased awareness among stakeholders from local government officials, media, religious groups, parents, school community, civil society organizations and parliamentarians.

Link of the complete study: <http://awazcds.org.pk/status-of-sexual-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-pakistan/>

Status of **SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE** Health and Rights in Pakistan



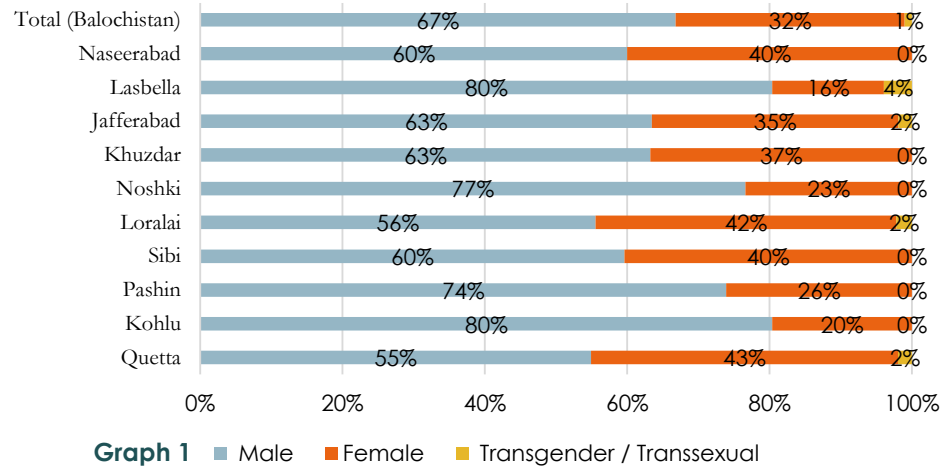
For Creating Rightful Spaces & Choices of Life

Awaz Foundation Pakistan



Demographic Information

Gender

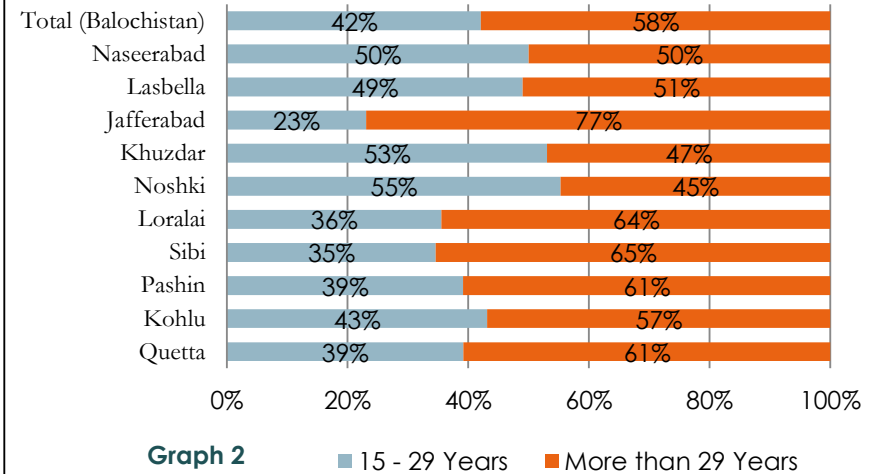


Graph 1: Represents the percentage of gender of respondents who participated from total 10 districts of Balochistan. The gender was categorized into sub-categories (male, female and transgender).

Overall, the total percentage of male, female and transgender respondents were 67%, 32% & 1% respectively.

Note: we aimed for gender balance between two dominating genders but average remained as 67% (M) and 32% (F).

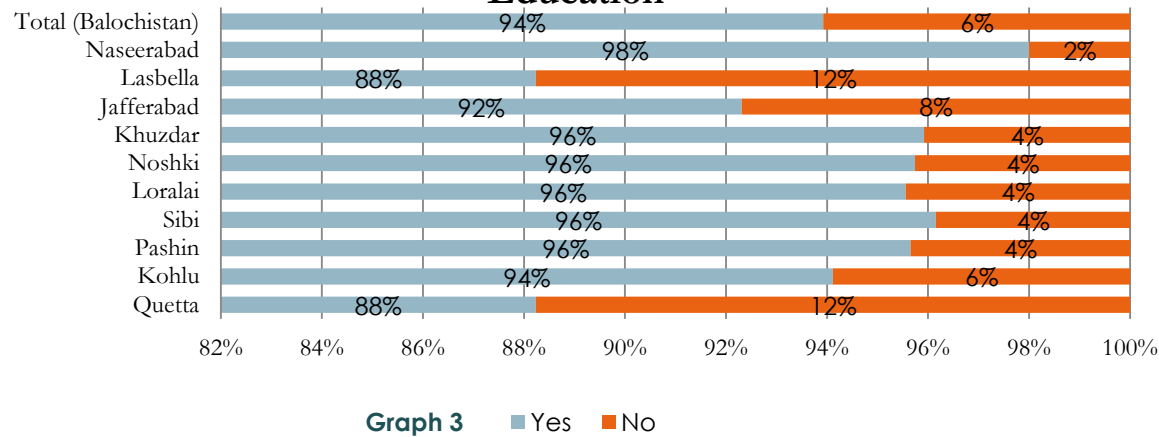
Age



Graph 2: Age was further categorized into two sub-categories; respondents within the age of 15-29 years (young people) and more than 29 years (Adults).

In province, total 42% of the targeted audience were in between the age of 15-29 years and 58% of the respondents were adult. The district wise percentages of age of respondents are shown in graph 2

Education

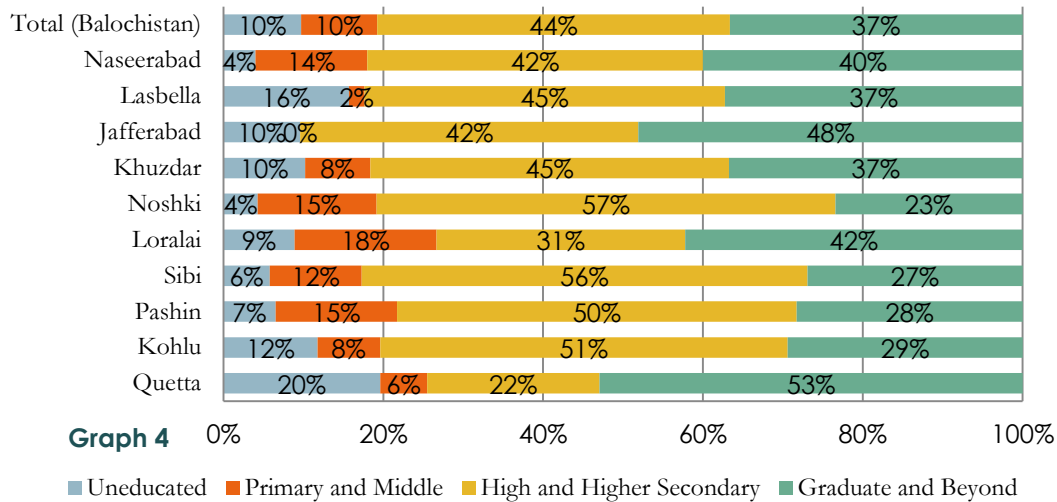


Graph 3 represents the education of the respondents:

Overall, in province Balochistan, total 94% of the respondents had attended the school and 6% of the respondents had never been to the school.

The district wise percentages of respondents' schooling in Balochistan are shown in graph 3.

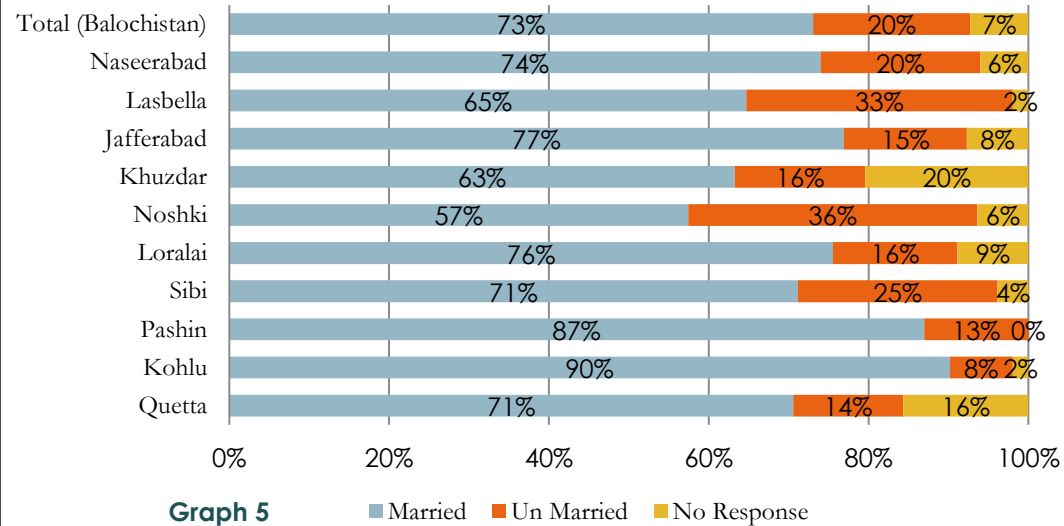
Highest Education



Graph 4 represents the highest education of the respondents.

Overall in province, total 10% of the respondents were uneducated, 10% were primary and middle-passed, 44% had done high and higher secondary education and 37% were graduated and above. The district wise percentages of highest education of respondents are shown in graph.

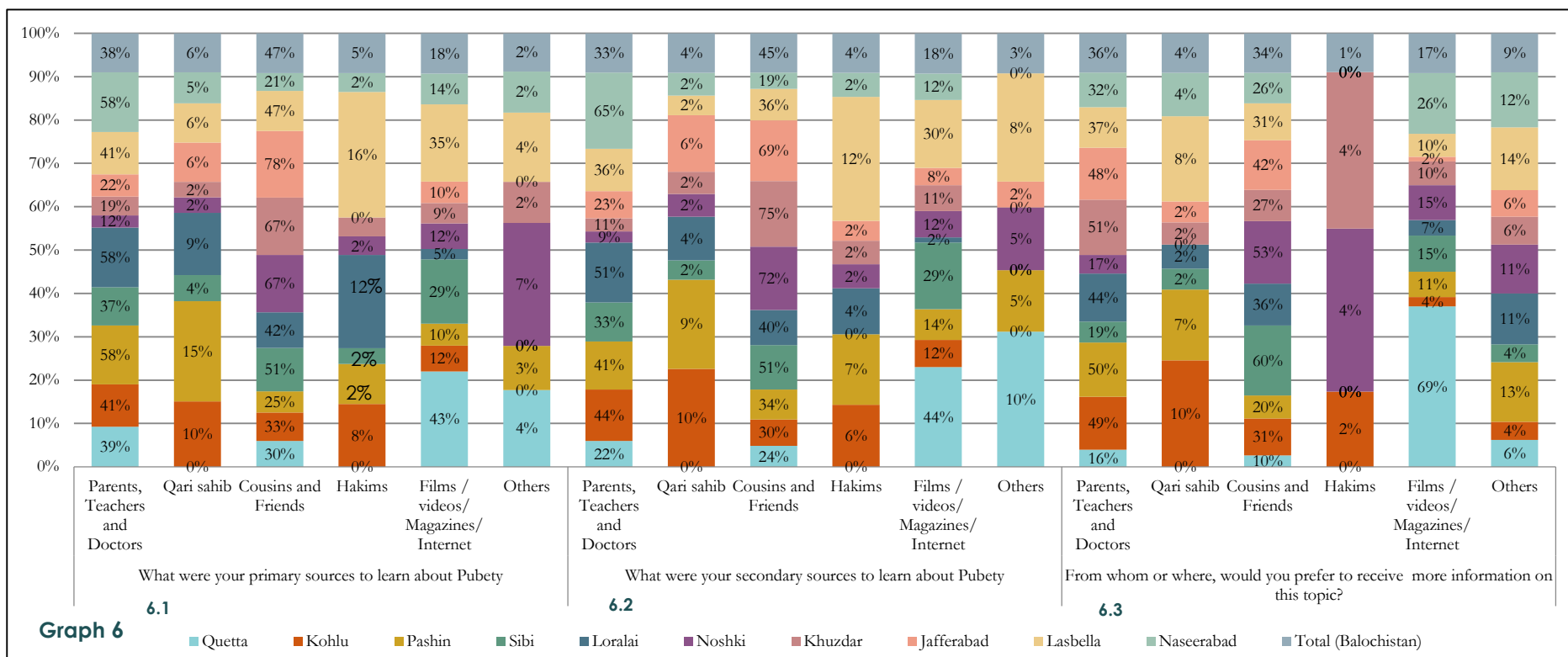
Relationship status



Graph 5 represents the relationship status of the respondents.

In province Balochistan, 73% of the respondents were married, 20% were unmarried and 7% of the respondents did not respond to the question.

Major Findings of Balochistan

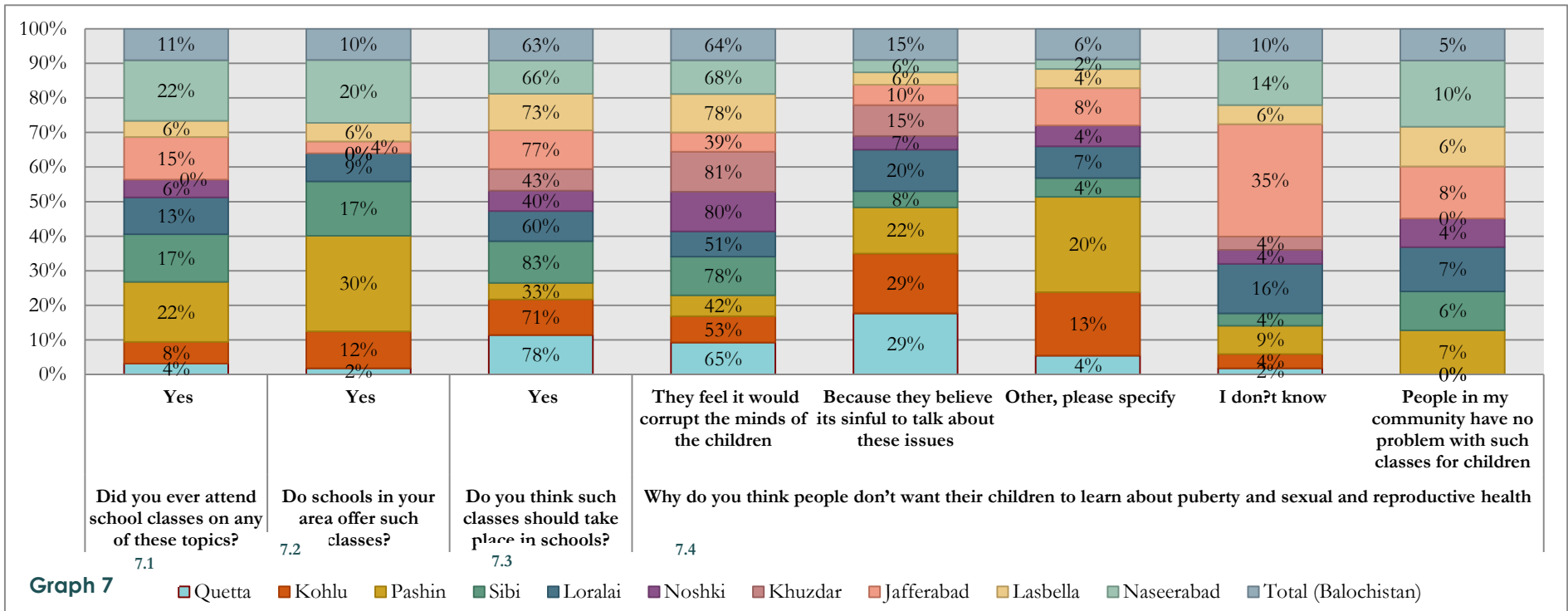


In section 6.1, respondents were asked regarding their primary source to learn about puberty. The highest percentages of 47%, 38% and 18% of the responses were received under categories ‘Cousins and Friends’, ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’ and ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ respectively. Further, under category ‘Cousins and Friends’, out of the average 47%, the highest percentage of 78% in Jafferabad and 67% in Noshki and Khuzdar respectively were observed where the respondents had learned about puberty primarily from ‘Cousins and Friends’. From total 38% of the responses received under category ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’ the highest percentages were observed in districts Pishin, Loralai and Naseerabad with 58% of the respondents in each respective district. Similarly, out of average 18% of the responses received under category ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’, 43% of the respondents were from Quetta, 35% from Lasbella and 29% were from Sibi.

In section 6.2, while asking from the respondents regarding their secondary sources to learn about puberty, the highest percentages of 45%, 33% and 18% of the responses were again received against categories ‘Cousins and Friends’, ‘Parents, Teachers & Doctors’ and ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ respectively. This high percentage is alarming as respondents felt more comfortable and trust worthy to “Friends and Cousins” to learn more on puberty. 33% of the responses received against category ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’, the highest percentage of the respondents belonged to districts Naseerabad, Loralai and Kohlu, with 65%, 51% and 44% of the respondents in respective districts. Under the third highest category of ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ with 18%, majority of the respondents were belonged to districts Quetta, Lasbella and Sibi with percentages 44%, 30% and 29% respectively. If we look into % of “Friend/Cousin & Movies/ internet” categories so will get to know that 63% people preferred to learn about puberty from unauthentic sources.

In section 6.3, respondents were asked that from whom they would prefer to receive more information on puberty. From all over Balochistan, the highest average percentages of the responses received against categories ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’, ‘Cousins and Friends’ and ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ are 36%, 34% and 17% respectively.

The highest % from category ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’ shows that as respondents grew younger they realized the authentic and safest means for information. But at the same time, the second highest % of category “Cousins & Friends” is still high. And if we add second & third highest categories so it would be more than the % of authentic means of information.



In section 7.1, the respondents were asked if they had ever attended school classes on topics related to puberty, child protection and reproductive health issues. Average 11% of the respondents in Balochistan attended the classes on these topics. Out of average 11%, the high percentage of the respondents were from Pishin, Naseerabad, Sibi, Jafferabad and Loralai with percentages 22%, 17%, 15% and 13% respectively. Whereas, we can understand that 89% of respondents were never educated on such self-protection and puberty related issues.

In section 7.2, only 10% of the respondents in Balochistan said that the schools in their area offer such classes. Rest 90% of respondents have never availed this opportunity to get authentic and right information from RIGHT source e.g. Teachers and curriculum.

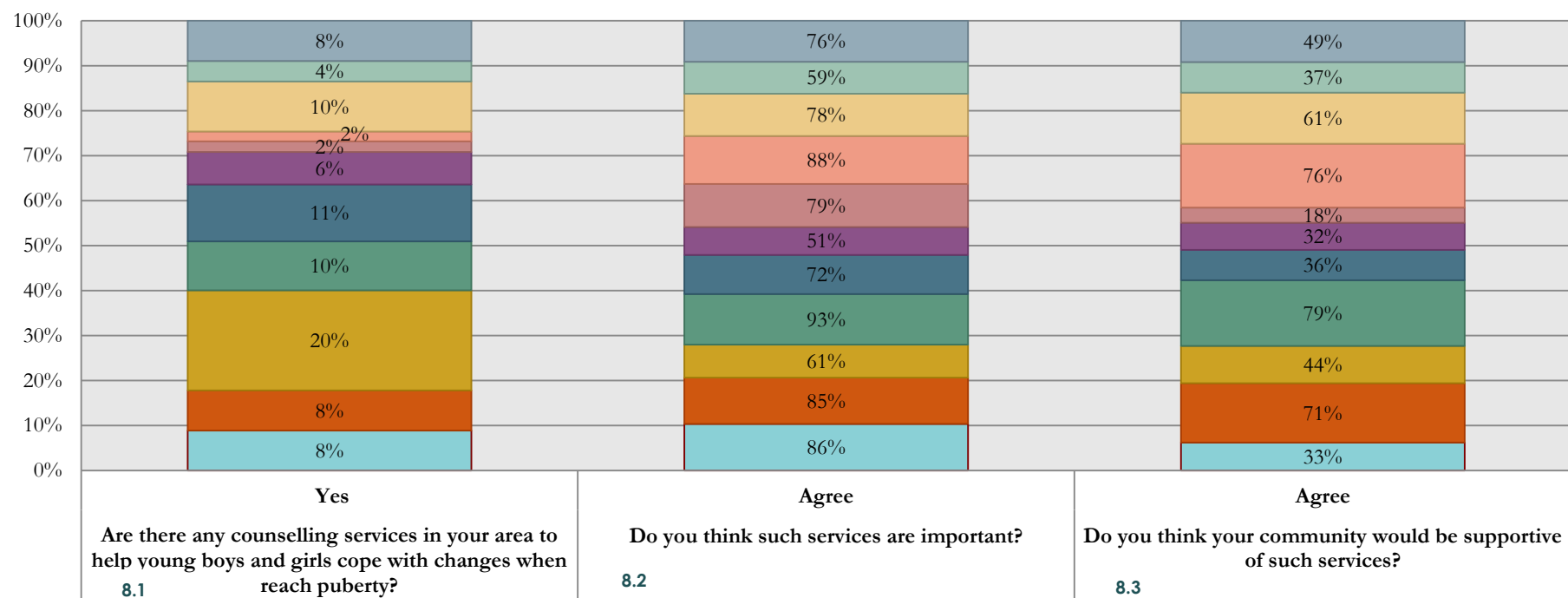
In section 7.3, while asking from the respondents if such classes should take place in schools, average 63% of the respondents in Balochistan responded in favor of the statement. It means a high % is in favor of providing such information in schools so children so they may get aware and protected at Right age from Right Source.

In section 7.4, the respondents were asked about reasons that why people do not want their children to learn about puberty and sexual reproductive health. Among all five categories, category 'it would corrupt the mind of children' has the highest 64% of the respondents who think that this is the main reason why people do not want their children to learn about such topics. It also shows that respondents also have misinterpretation about puberty and child protection related topics which makes them shy and concerned which is mainly misunderstanding about issues.

From below section 8.1, 8% of the respondents in Balochistan said that there are counselling services available in their areas to help young boys and girls cope with changes when reach puberty. This shares a demise picture for having no such facility for 92% of respondents which in results increasing trends of consulting quacks and indulging into other risky behaviors.

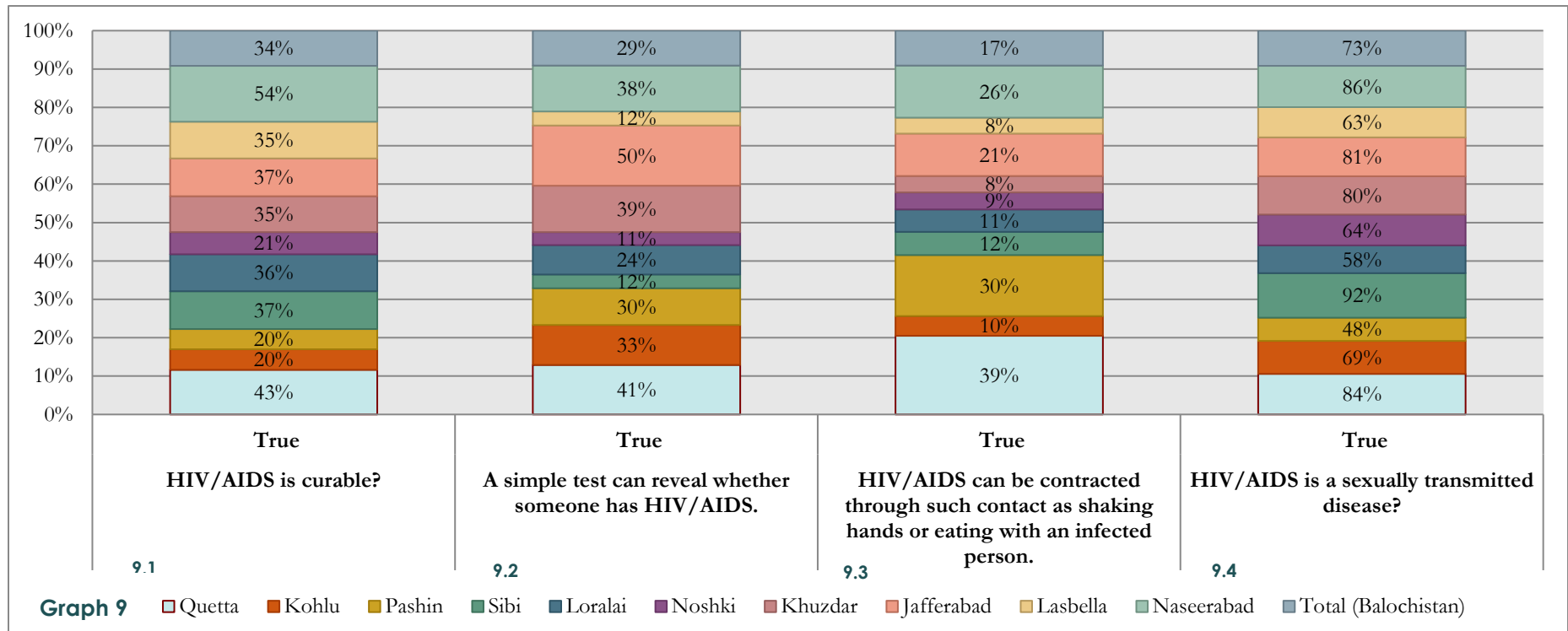
In section 8.2, the respondents were asked if such counselling services are important. From every district, a high percentage of responses were received, with Sibi covering the highest percentage of 93%, Jaffarabad 88%, Quetta 86% and Kohlu 85% of the respondents who believed that such services are important. Overall, in province Balochistan, 76% of the participants agreed with the statement for having counselling services available in the area.

In section 8.3, average 49% of the respondents in Balochistan agreed with the statement that their community would be supportive of such counselling services. However, among districts the highest percentages of the respondents were from Sibi, Jaffarabad and Kohlu with percentages 79%, 76% and 71% respectively. Interestingly, districts who are near to Sindh are more confident about community's positive attitude towards counselling centres comparatively to other Balochistan districts. It could also be because Sindh has more multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies that makes them more open towards rightful spaces.



Graph 8

Legend: Quetta, Kohlu, Pashin, Sibi, Loralai, Noshki, Khuzdar, Jafferabad, Lasbella, Naseerabad, Total (Balochistan)

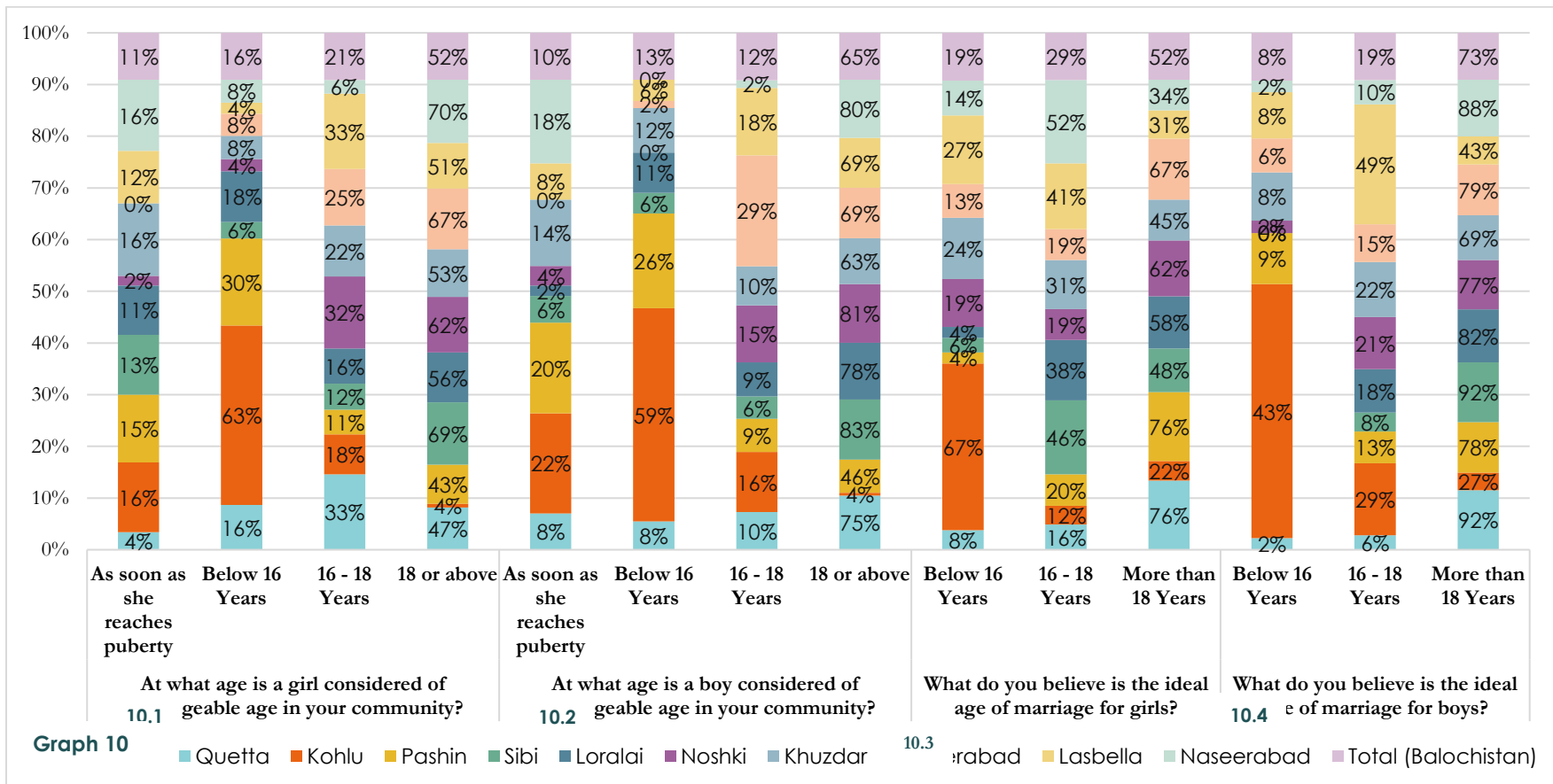


In section 9.1, respondents were asked if HIV/AIDS is curable. Overall in Balochistan, 34% of the respondents believed that HIV/AIDS is curable. This misunderstanding prevails highest in Sibi and Quetta with 54% and 43% respectively. Although, different governments tried to educate public through media but it still needs a lot more investment in terms of educating people so they may remain safe from such life taking diseases.

In section 9.2, while asking from the respondents if a simple test can reveal whether someone has HIV/AIDS. Hence very disappointing % of District Jaffarabad and Quetta came out with 50% and 41% respectively. Whereas District Khuzdar is with 39% who believed that HIV/AIDS can be diagnosed from simple test. District Lasbella and Sibi showed the minimum misunderstanding on question with 12%.

In section 9.3, 17% of the respondents in Balochistan believed that HIV/AIDS can blow out through contact like shaking hands or eating with an infected person. However, among districts, Quetta, Pishin and Naseerabad was observed to be on top with 39%, 30% and 26% of the respondents respectively. Remarkably, Khuzdar came with least misunderstanding with 8%.

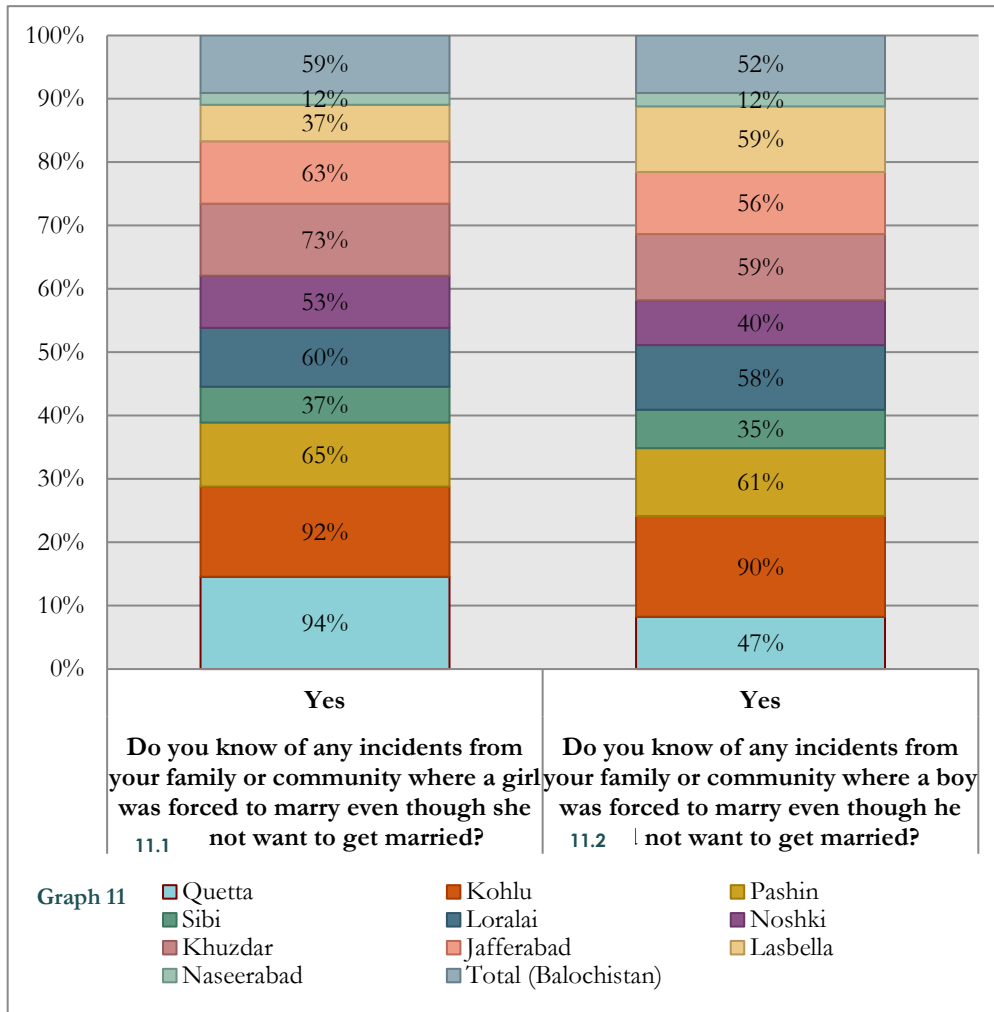
In section 9.4, the respondents were asked if HIV/AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease. While agreeing with the statement, a high percentage was received from all districts. However, district Sibi, Naseerabad and Quetta were observed to be on the top with percentages of 92%, 86% and 84% of the responses respectively. Average 73% percent of the respondents in Balochistan agreed with the statement. It is observed that Quetta and Sibi agreed on all sources of dissemination that shows incomplete knowledge on HIV/AIDS.



In section 10.1, respondents were asked regarding the considerable age for girls to get married in their respective community. Among four categories, the category '18 or above' with average 52% were observed to be on top. Under this category, the high percentages of 70%, 69% and 67% responses were observed in district Naseerabad, Sibi and Jaffarabad respectively. Category 16-18 years was observed less demanded with 21% of the responses received from Balochistan. Which means people do not think 16-18 years of age is desirable for girls' marriage. It also deserves our attention in law making for Child Marriages in Balochistan by considering the demand of 18 years or above.

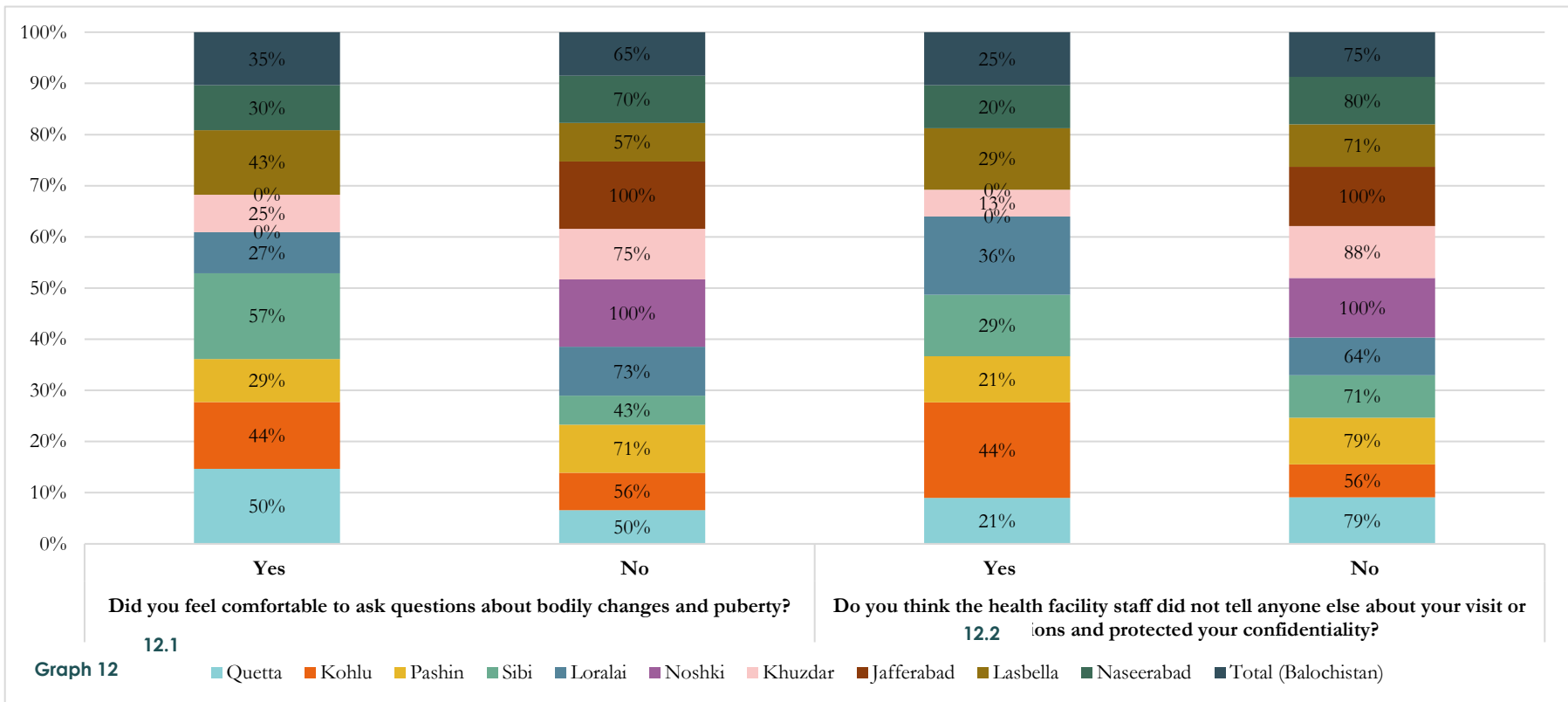
In section 10.2, respondents were asked regarding the considerable age for boys to get married in their respective community. The category '18 or above' was observed to be remained on top with the 65% of the respondents. Under this category, among districts, the high percentages of 83%, 81% and 80% were observed in Sibi, Noshki and Naseerabad respectively. Districts Naseerabad and Sibi scored highest % for category 18 or above for both girls & boys. Category 'below 16 years' was observed to be less required and less agreeable with 13% of the responses received from Balochistan.

In section 10.3 & 10.4, participants were asked regarding the ideal age for girls and boys to get married. The responses received against category ‘more than 18 years’ covered the highest percentage of 52% for girls and 73% for boys in Balochistan. While Quetta, Pishin and Jaffarabad came out with high demand for “more than 18 years” for girls with 76%, 76% and 67% respectively. However, results are even more amusing for boys with high % in Quetta, Sibi and Naseerabad with 92%, 92% and 88% respectively. This high % puts demand of child marriage restraint bill in Balochistan by keeping the demand of more than 18 years for both girls and boys.



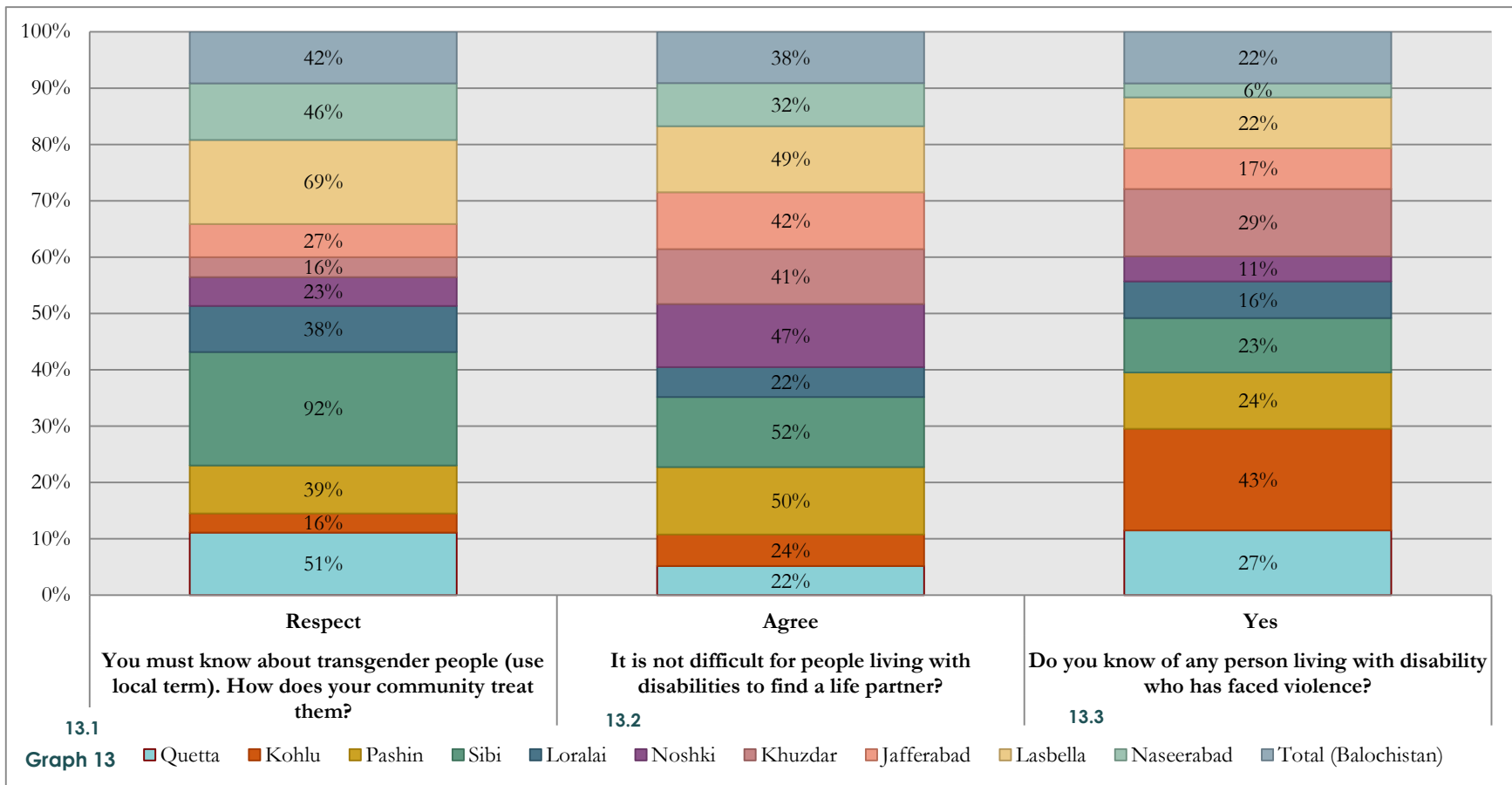
Graph 11.1 was categorized into two sub-sections. In section 11.1, the respondents were asked if they know about any incident in their family or community where a girl was forced to get married. The maximum responses received from majority of the districts were above 50%. However, the highest percentages of 94%, 92%, 73%, 65%, 63% and 60% were received from districts Quetta, Kohlu, Pishin, Jaffarabad and Loralai respectively. Whereas, the total average of 59% of the respondents from Balochistan said that they know such cases where girls were being forced to get married, even they did not want to get married.

Similarly, in section 11.2, the same question was asked for boys where they were forced to get married. Majority of the responses received in this section were also observed to above 50%. Whereas, the highest percentages of 90%, 61% and 59% of the responses were received from districts Kohlu, Pishin, Khuzdar and Lasbella respectively. However total 52% of the responses were received from Balochistan where the respondents knew such cases. Such inhuman and brutal practices with young people leads to insensitivity for GBV in society. This high % also draws attention of Policy Maker for bringing enabling legislation where YP can exercise their right to choose and marry with their own consent.



In section 12.1, respondents were asked if they feel comfortable in asking questions about bodily changes and puberty. In overall results of Balochistan, average 35% of the respondents said that they felt comfortable in asking such question; **whereas 65% of the respondents did not feel comfortable in asking questions to Health Care Provider related to bodily changes and puberty.** Whereas 100% respondents from districts Noshki and Jafferabad said that they did not feel comfortable in asking such question. The percentages of responses received in districts Pishin, Loralai, Khuzdar and Naseerabad were also observed to be high where respondents did not feel comfortable in asking questions related to bodily changes and puberty. **That shows the high need of capacity building for health care providers on issues like “Youth Friendly Health Services” so people could visit them without hesitation and rather being going towards quacks etc.**

In section 12.2, while asking from respondents regarding their confidentiality being kept by the health facility staff, the average of total 25% of the respondents in Balochistan said that they think their confidentiality was maintained, whereas, 75% of the respondents informed that their confidentiality was not maintained by the health facility staff. However, the high percentages of 100% were observed in districts Noshki and Jafferabad where the respondents’ confidentiality was not maintained at all. The percentages of responses received from other districts were also observed high.



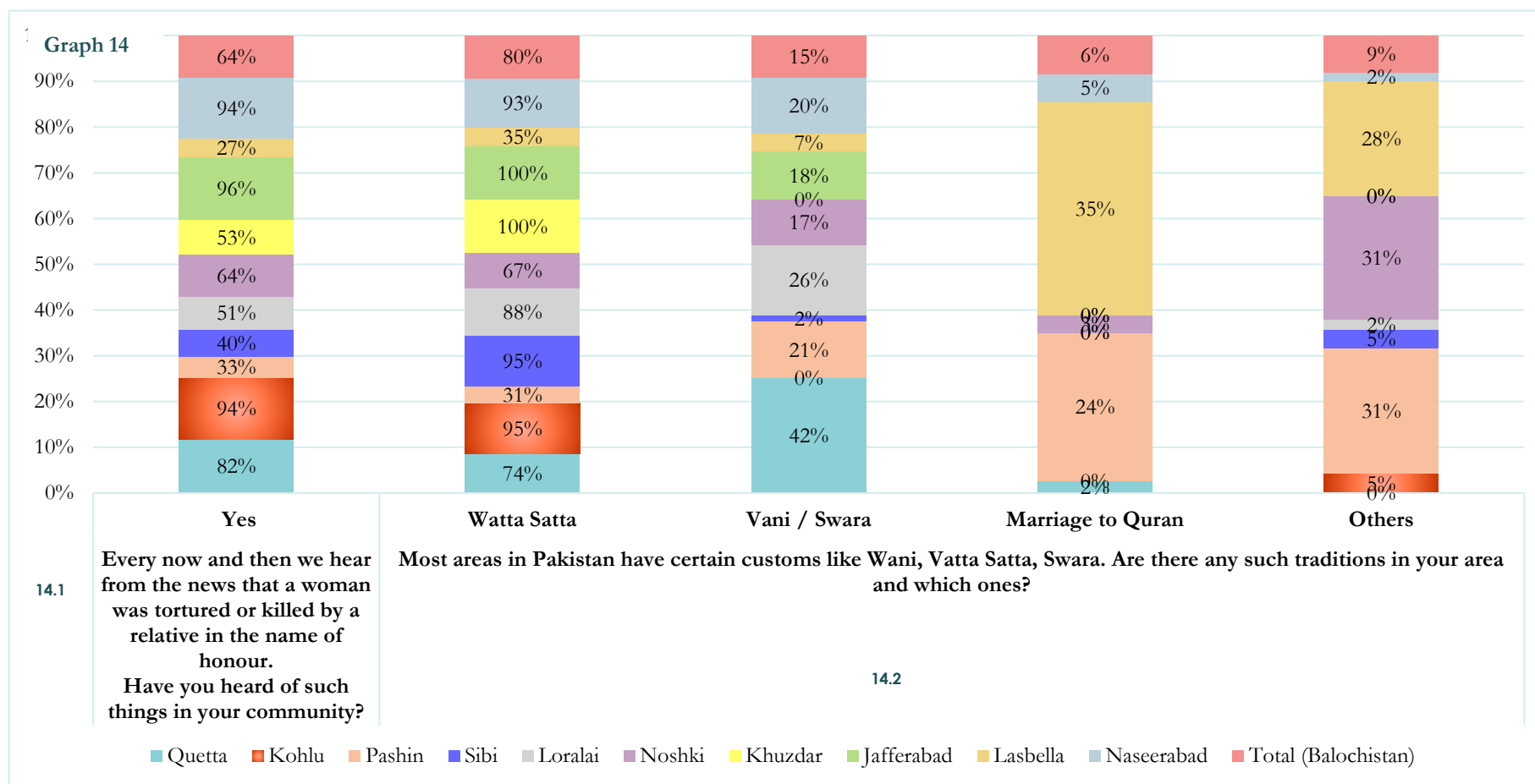
In section 13.1, respondents were asked if their respective community treats transgender with respect. Only 03 district came out with 92%, 69% and 51% of respondents in district Sibi, Lasbella and Quetta respectively who shared community treat them with respect. The percentages of respondent in other districts were observed even below 50% in this regard. Overall, only 42% of respondents were observed in Balochistan who said that their respective community treats transgender with respect, which shows that 58% agreed that they are not treated either equally or respectfully. It also highlights the need of proper legislation in province to give them respect and other opportunity equally as any other Citizen of Pakistan.

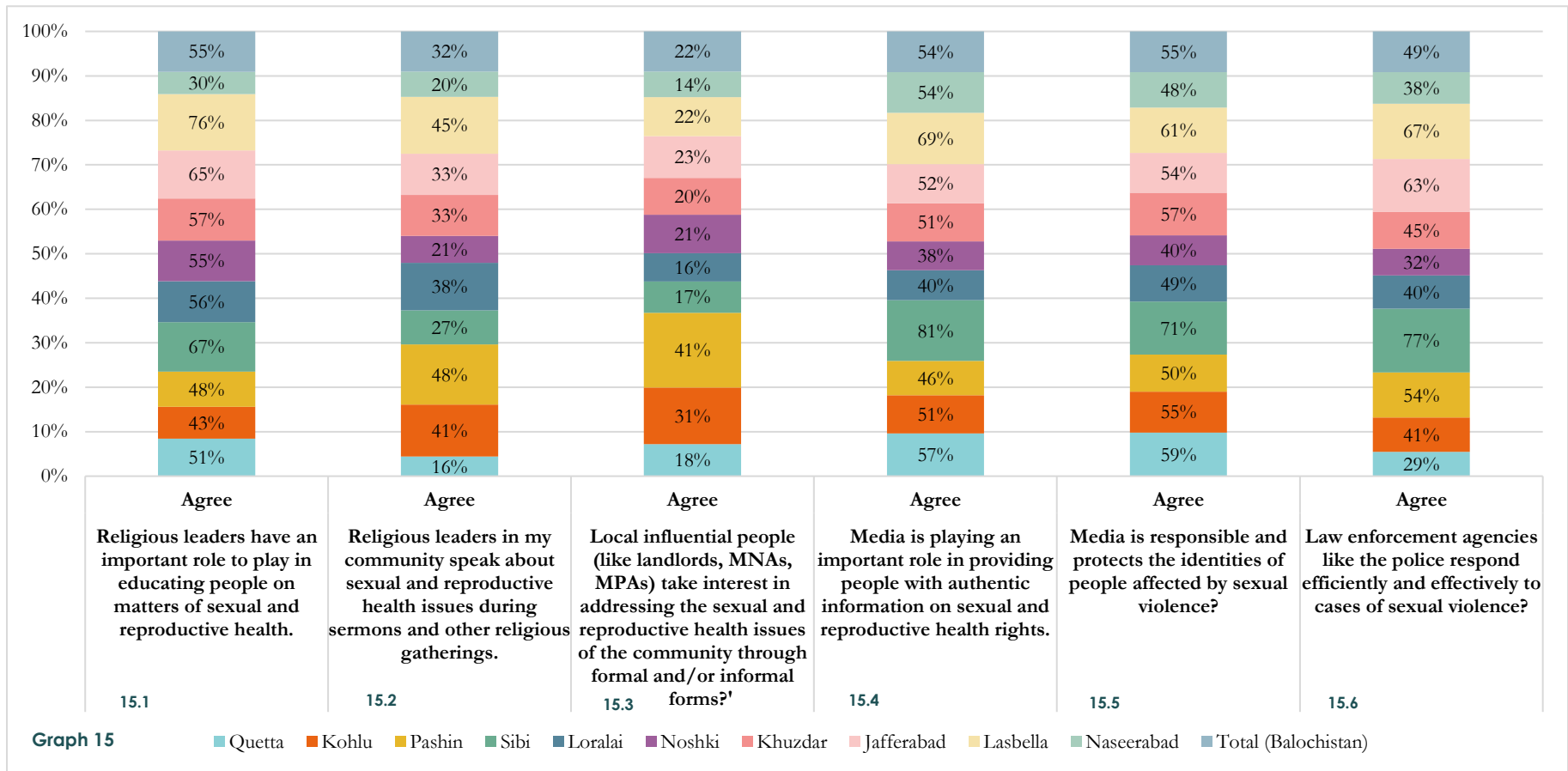
In section 13.2, only 38% of the respondents from Balochistan said that it is not difficult for people living with disabilities to find a life partner. Whereas, 62% disagreed with the statement and consider a great difficulty for PWDs to find their life partner. Whereas districts Sibi, Pishin and Lasbella came out with high % of disagreement with 52%, 50% and 49% correspondingly. Though overall disagreement of 62% also indicates towards proper legislation for creating supportive environment where they can enjoy rightful spaces. Other than legislation, it also requires behavior change education that needs to be introduced exclusively.

In section 13.3, while asking from the respondents if they know any person living with disability faced violence. In Balochistan, total 22% of the respondents said that they know such PWDs who have faced violence. However, among districts, percentage of respondents was seemed to be high in district Kohlu with 43% of the responses received in this regard. Whereas, it is alarming that every district agreed to asked question which shows the less interest in providing them proper protection.

From below Graph 14, section 14.1 represents the percentage of respondents who have heard about the news in which woman was tortured or killed in the name of honor. The highest percentages of 96%, 94% and 82% were received from districts Jaffarabad, Kohlu, Naseerabad and Quetta respectively. In other districts, the percentages of respondents in between 27% - 64% were observed who knew about such news. In Balochistan, the average 64% of the respondents responded in agreement in this regard. This high % also pays our attention towards the week implementation of Domestic Violence Act introduced in Balochistan before any other province.

In section 14.2, respondents were asked if cruel traditional practices like Vani, Watta Satta, Sawara exists in their respective districts. Out of the four categories, 80% of the responses were received under category 'watta satta', in which huge percentage of respondents from every district was observed. Further, district Khuzdar, Jaffarabad, Kohlu, Sibi and Naseerabad covered the highest percentage of 100%, 95% and 93% of the respondents respectively in this regard. Percentages of respondents in other districts were observed to be in between 35% to 88%. Category 'Vani/Sawara' with average 15% of the respondents is observed at the second highest category, in which maximum percentage of the respondents belonged to district Quetta, Loralai and Naseerabad with 42%, 26% and 20% of the respondents respectively. It also shows the painful side of violence women are still facing with so called society's justified reasons which only has basis with Violation of Human Rights that requires rigorous policy making and implementation means.





Graph 15

■ Quetta ■ Kohlu ■ Pashin ■ Sibi ■ Loralai ■ Noshki ■ Khuzdar ■ Jafferabad ■ Lasbella ■ Naseerabad ■ Total (Balochistan)

In section 15.1, 55% of the respondents said that religious leaders do have an important role to play in educating people on matters related to sexual and reproductive health. Among districts, percentages of respondents in Lasbella, Sibi and Jafferabad were observed high with 76%, 67% and 65% respectively. But in section 15.2, Despite agreement that religious leaders had an important role vis-à-vis SRH education the majority of the respondents of 68% shared that religious figures did not speak about SRH issues during sermons and gatherings and only 32% agreed with engagement.

In section 15.3, only 22% of the respondents in Balochistan agreed with the statement that local influential people do take interest in addressing the sexual and reproductive health issues of the community through formal and/or informal reforms which shows that 78% respondents are negating with statement. Therefore, we also see a lesser amount of legislation on such agendas and weak implementation if any related law is there.

In section 15.4, 54% of the respondents agreed that media is playing important role in providing people authentic information on such topics whereas 46% did not agree. Whereas districts like Noshki, Loralai and Pishin were found less satisfied with the role of media on providing authentic information on these topics with 36%, 40% and 46% respectively.

In section 15.5, 55% of the respondents agreed that media is responsible & protects the identities of people affected by sexual violence however 45% of respondent did not show their confidence. In section 15.6, only 49% of the respondents agreed that law enforcement agencies like police respond effectively to cases of sexual violence. Majority of the respondents indicated low levels of confidence in their ability to respond such cases.

Recommendations for Balochistan

Recommendations

Policy level

- Rules of business for all existing laws aimed at curtailing gender based and sexual violence ought to be formalized by Balochistan Government on priority to ensure their immediate implementation.
- Implementation of Domestic Violence Act should be monitored for curbing violence incidents that mostly happen with women.
- Legislation on Child Marriages with minimum age of 18 years needs to be done in province on priority basis.
- Legislation on transgender rights demand legal amendments to discourage the dismal plight of this community and to ensure their maximum education by giving them preferential seats.
- Government policies and laws aimed at enhancing the quality of life of people living with disabilities must factor in their access to their basic human rights including quality Reproductive Health services.
- Government must have mandatory Education classes on Life Skills Based Education including Confidence, Human rights, Gender, Self-Protection and Puberty to keep our children safe from any violence and sexual assault or unfortunate instances for being misused. The changes should be promulgated through proper law making and reforms.
- Anti-sexual harassment Act 2010 must be implemented at all public, private institutions in letter and spirit.

Practice Level

- Government and civil society organizations need to run behavior change campaigns to make communities more receptive to the idea of Life Skills Based Education for their children.
- Comprehensive and prolonged behavior change campaigns on positive versus toxic masculinity need to be introduced by Government of Balochistan and other civil society organizations to inspire behavior change among men and to empower women to assume decision-making roles at par with their husbands.
- A sense of acceptance and empathy needs to be inculcated through media among the masses regarding Person with special abilities and transgender community.
- Awareness campaigns targeting both men and women regarding various laws, including laws against domestic violence, sexual harassment and cyber bullying need to be launched by GoB as laws are available but most women are not aware about them.
- Institutions and commissions like Balochistan Commission on the Status of Women should be functional and play their role more vigorously by making amendments in current policies and laws and sensitizing communities through long term campaigning.
- Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) must ensure the strict observation of the code of conduct that protects the identities of those impacted by sexual violence.
- Media wings and Religious leaders must be sensitized and engaged as part of the solution on Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Health issues.

**Article 25 of the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees
Equality of Citizens**

- (1). All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law.
- (2). There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex.
- (3). Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the protection of women and children.

Ujala Partners from Balochistan



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