THE GENDERED EXPERIENCE IN PAKISTAN

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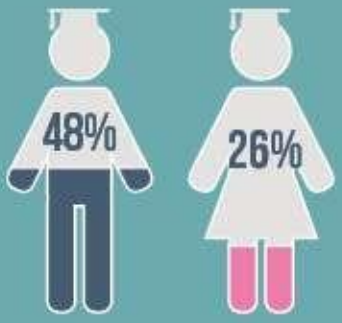
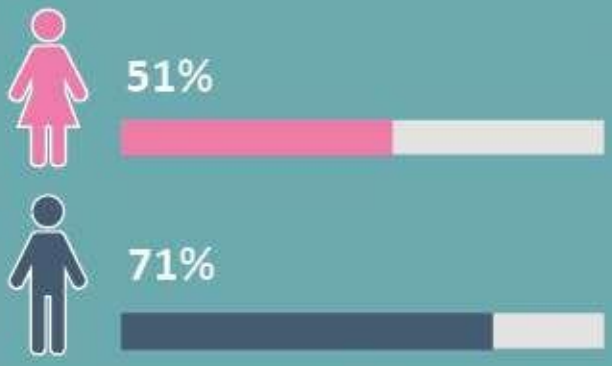
THE GENDERED EXPERINCE IN PAKISTAN | *Key Findings:*



In Pakistan, more men as compared to women agree that a university education is more important for a boy than a girl.

A significant **74%** of men believe that if a woman earns more money than her husband, it's almost certain to cause problems.

38% of men believe that women having the same rights as men is an essential characteristic of democracy



While women in Pakistan have started feeling safer in public spaces, with almost half (51%) of the female respondents stating that they feel safe while walking alone at night in their neighborhood, it is still **20%** less than the men

*According to the WIN Global report on gender, the male net index for achievement of gender equality at work is **42%** - this is a significant increase from the female net index of **27%**.*

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Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022
www.gallup.com.pk

Editor's Note

Niha Nazar an analyst at Gallup Pakistan who compiled the report says, "A cursory glance at the data available regarding gender roles in Pakistan would make one think that perhaps there is a certain cohesive consensus regarding the distribution of roles and functions within society. However, a deeper analysis unveils a startling difference between societal perception of gendered experiences as compared to lived experiences. Not only that, but it also uncovers nuances that makes one wonder if perhaps this cohesive consensus is the product of gender disparity during different life stages- making it impossible to conjure an alternate reality."

INTRODUCTION

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Introduction

The report delves into the multifaceted aspects of gender roles and equality within the country. By examining societal attitudes, perceptions, and lived experiences, the report uncovers significant disparities between men and women in various domains such as education, work, and politics. Despite some progress in the realm of gender equality, deeply ingrained cultural biases continue to shape the experiences and opportunities available to women. This report aims to highlight these issues, provide a nuanced understanding of the gender dynamics at play, and call for more inclusive and equitable societal changes. Through comprehensive data analysis and insights, it seeks to foster a deeper conversation on gender equality in Pakistan.

GENDERED PRIORITIES

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Gendered Priorities

A division of priorities into the categories of "Family", "Politics" and "Work", allows for an overview of how functions associated to these priorities are gendered. It is no surprise that "Family" remains important for both genders in Pakistan, considering the local context of the country whereby traditional familial values are entrenched within the culture. The disparities come into play with the remaining two categories. **8%** more men consider politics to be very important in their lives, as compared to women. Similarly, **25%** more men consider work to be very important in their lives. Such prioritization could lead one to the conclusion that women in Pakistan are satisfied with their roles within the private domain, with no particular interest in the public domain (concerning things such as politics or work)- making traditional gender roles an accepted, instead of enforced reality.

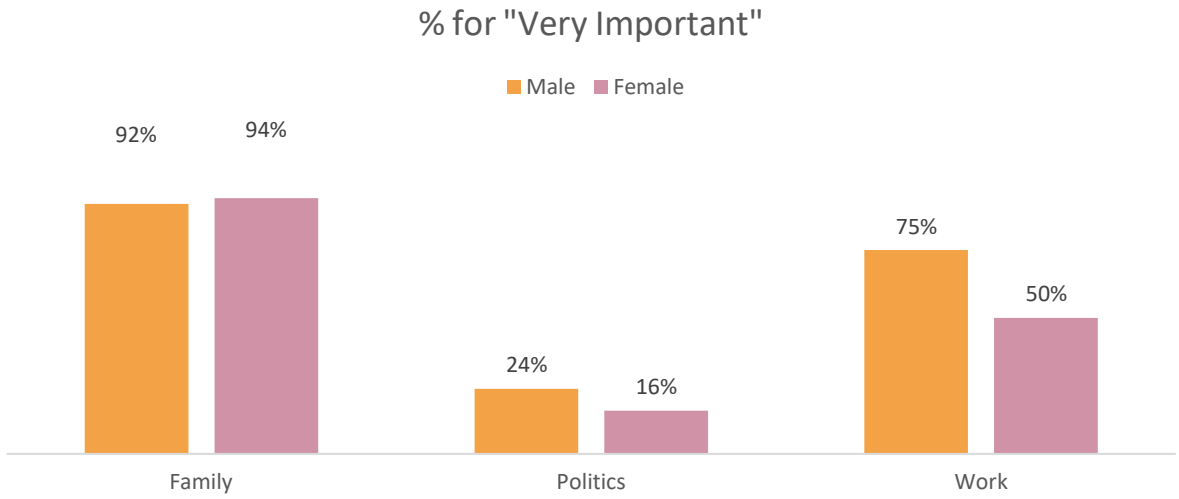

Figure 1
Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

However, disjunct starts to be apparent once gender biases are factored in, in terms of perceptions. For one to consider domains such as their career or politics significant, they must first believe that they either have an active stake in it, or can contribute to it effectively. Education is the gateway to both these considerations. Yet, in Pakistan, significantly more men agree that a university education is more for a boy than a girl. Only **32%** men disagree/strongly disagree with this- as compared to nearly half the female respondents (**47%**) who feel the same way. It is ironic then, that the same gender that believes they deserve higher education more than the other gender, also holds the opinion that they do better

in professional fields as compared to women- not acknowledging the significant handicap that a lack of university education could be to females.

Within age brackets, **70%** of the male respondents up to 29, agree/strongly agree with the notion that a university education is more important for a boy than a girl However, this sentiment decreases as the age increases- falling to **67%** for those between 30-49 and **59%** for those who are 50+.

For all those who agree/strongly agree, it is interesting to note that the gap (18%) between males (67%) and females (49%) is the largest in the 30-49 age bracket. The gap reduces to 10% in the 50+ age bracket, as the percentage of males who agree that a university education is more important for a boy than a girl, decreases by 8%- amounting to 59%.

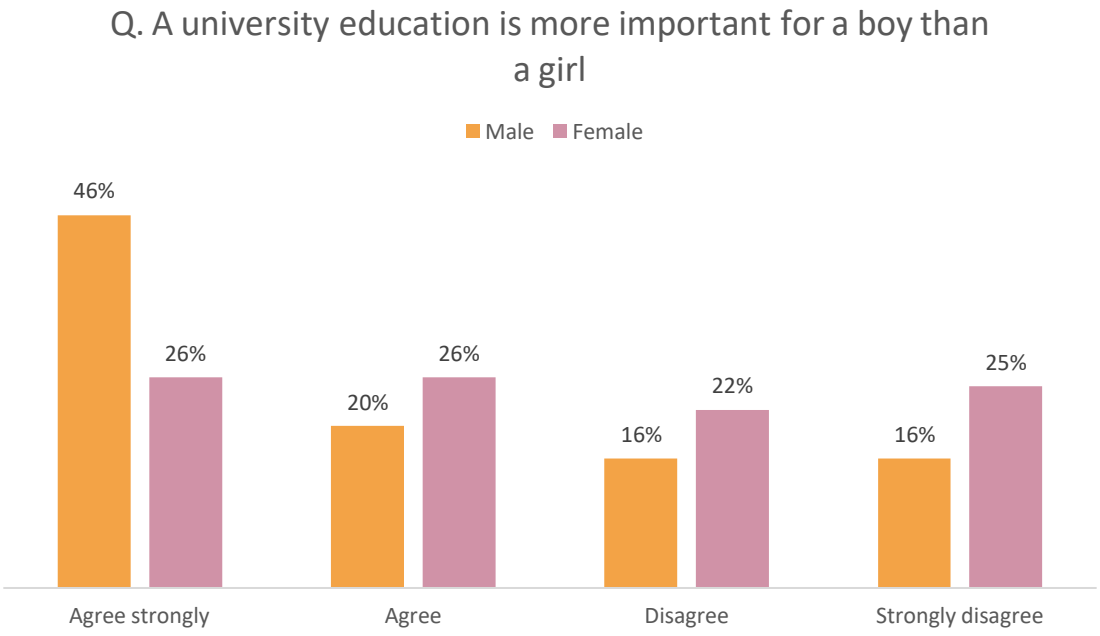

Figure 2

Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

Q. A university education is more important for a boy than a girl*: % of those who strongly agree/agree by gender and age*

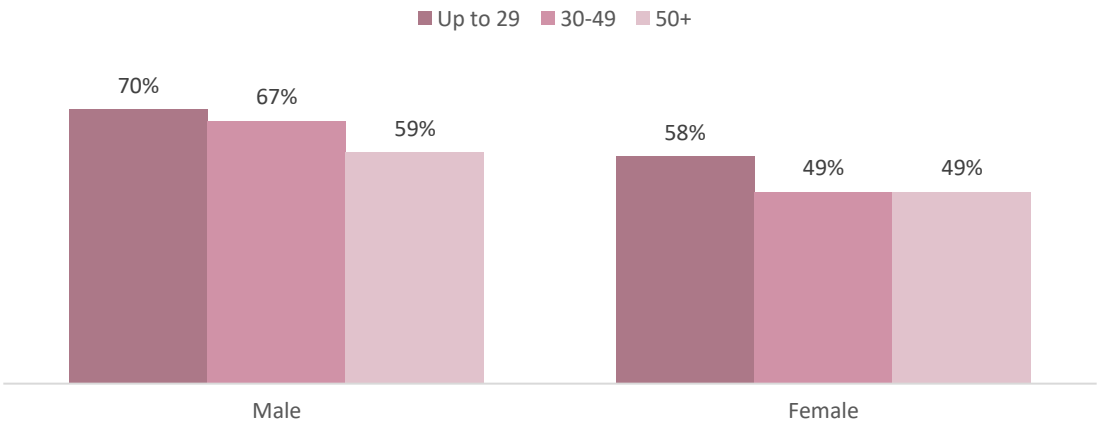

Figure 3

Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

Q. On the whole, men make better political leaders than women do

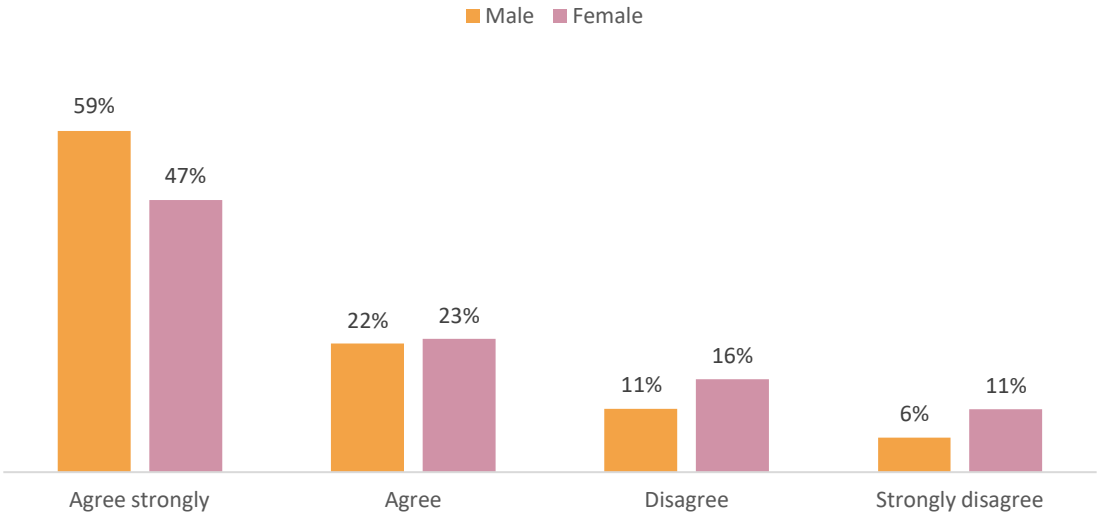

Figure 4

Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

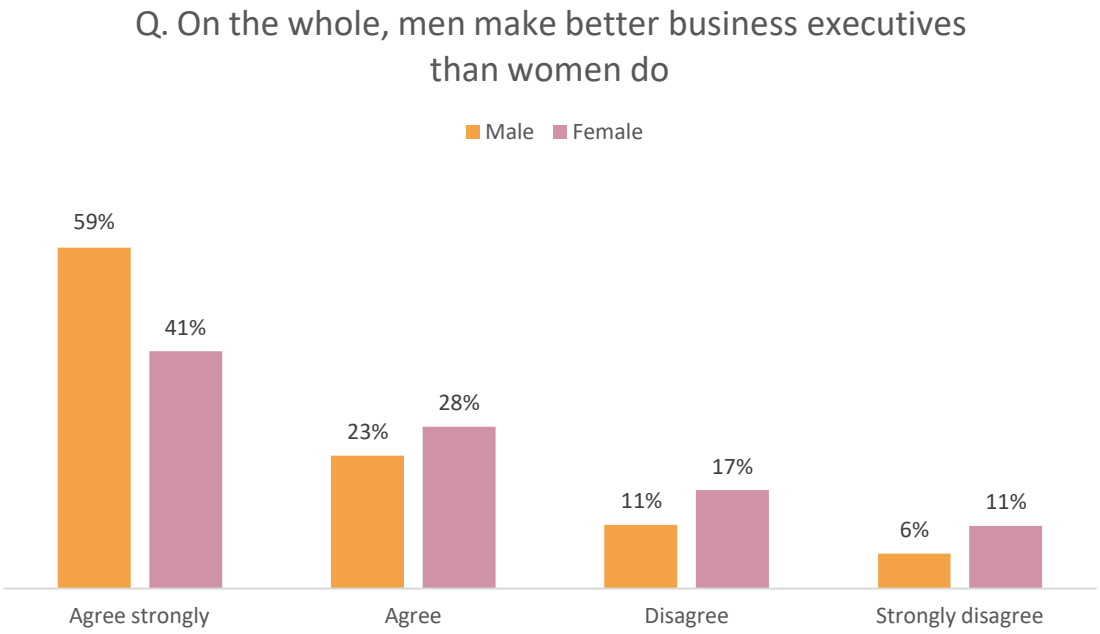

Figure 5

Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

This hypocritical perception is not just present for perception of job performance, but also apparent in *if* a woman should even be able to prioritize her career as compared to her domestic responsibilities. A significant **74%** of men believe that if a woman earns more money than her husband, it's almost certain to cause problems. There is no consideration that within a double income household, a higher income from any partner- barring the gender, would be beneficial for the family as a whole. Or even that the female partner may be better qualified or more hard-working at her job to deserve the higher compensation. Of course, when such a significant percentage of the male population considers a woman with a high paying job a detriment to their marriage- it does not necessarily create a conducive or supportive environment for the wife to be able to prioritize both her family and career. An option that is available for men, as seen in figure 1.

STATUS OF GENDER EQUALITY IN PAKISTAN

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Status of Gender Equality in Pakistan

What is interesting to note is that despite holding such opinions, men still seem to believe that gender equality is largely being achieved in Pakistan. According to the WIN Global report on gender, the male net index for achievement of gender equality at work is 42% - this is a significant increase from the female net index of 27%. This goes to show a difference between perceived gender equality and experienced gender equality. The data for women's salaries reinforces this. 14% men believe that women earn more than men in their workplace which is a stark comparison to the 1% of women who hold the same opinion.

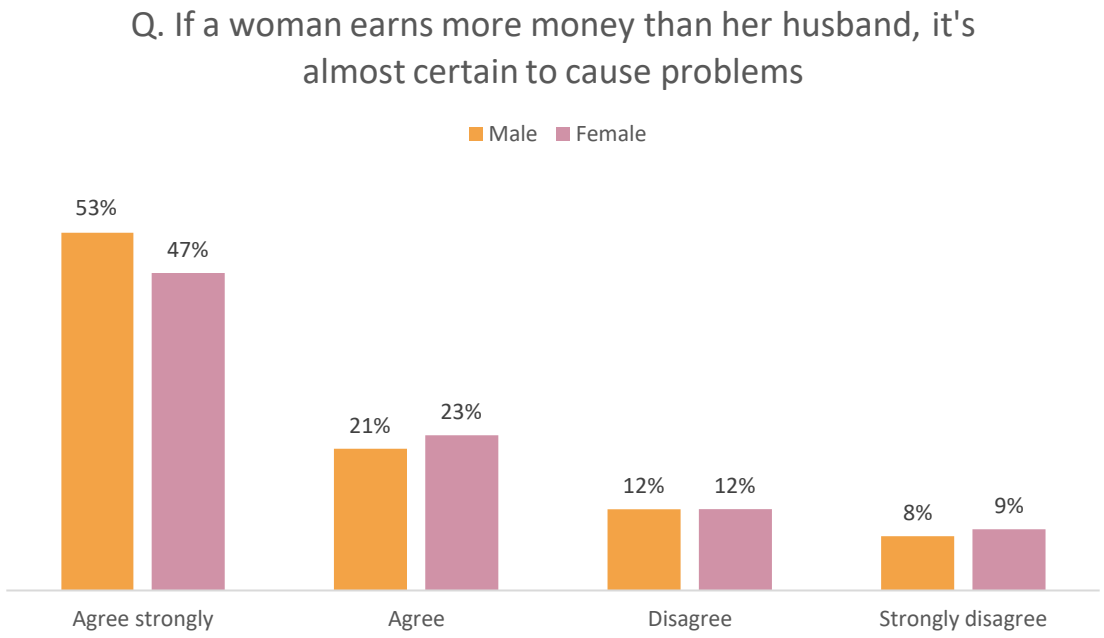

Figure 6
Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

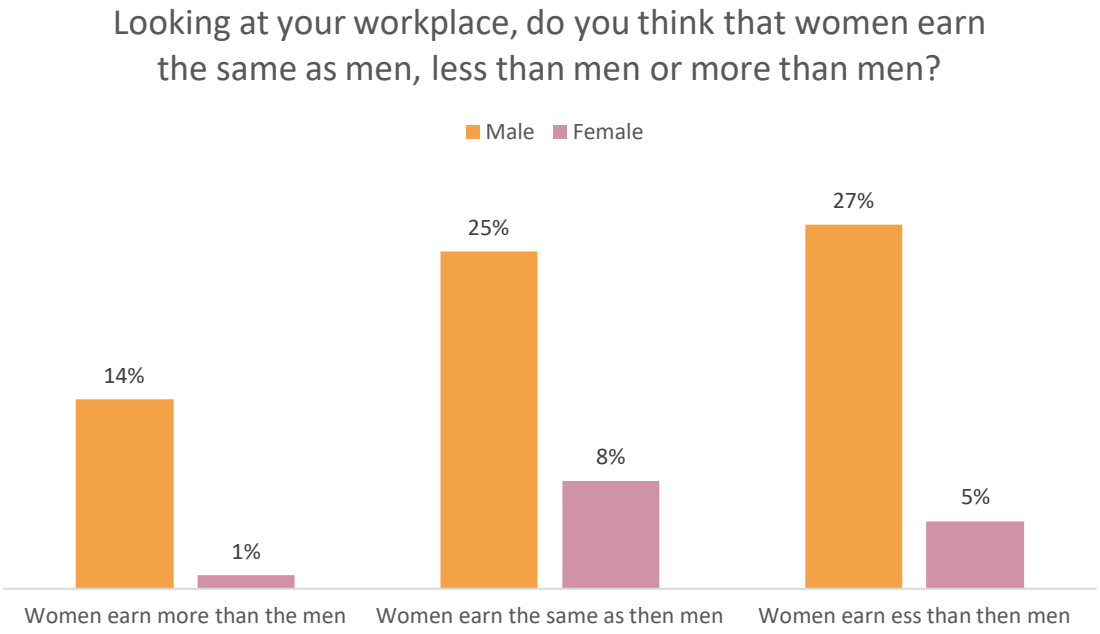

Figure 7
Source: WIN 2024. Data collection by Gallup Pakistan. Base: 1000 cases

Such perceptions could be symptomatic of a society that needs to rethink the position women should retain in today's day and age. Yet, there is no widespread recognition of anything being amiss for the most part. Women's organizations largely catalyze movements that cater to a shift in thought and attitude regarding gender issues. While more than half (56%) of women have a great deal/quite a lot of faith in such organizations, a similar sentiment is not mirrored in men. 46% of men state that they don't have much faith, or no faith at all in women's organizations.

What is interesting is that the disillusionment with such organizations happens over time for men. While 51% of male respondents up to 29, had quite a lot /great deal of confidence in women's organizations, the number falls to 38% for those above 50. A similar trend is also present for the female respondents, with 68% of those are up to 29, having faith in such organizations; which then decreases to 51% for those above 50. Some plausible reasons for this could be that younger individuals are more likely to be open to having their traditionally patriarchal worldview challenged as opposed to those who are older. Alternatively, it is also possible that with the passage of time, there is a certain disillusionment with the tangible, grass-roots level work that women's

organizations actually undertake. So, while they may agree with the principle behind such organizations, they might still find the inclusive, practical application of it lacking.

For a solution to be present, the problem must first be recognized, and while women are now learning to identify the pitfalls of a patriarchal society, there is very little that they can do if the patriarchs themselves refuse to acknowledge the wrongdoings of such a structure. Yet, perhaps it is not as hopeless of a situation as it appears to be- **38%** of men believe that women having the same rights as men is an essential characteristic of democracy.

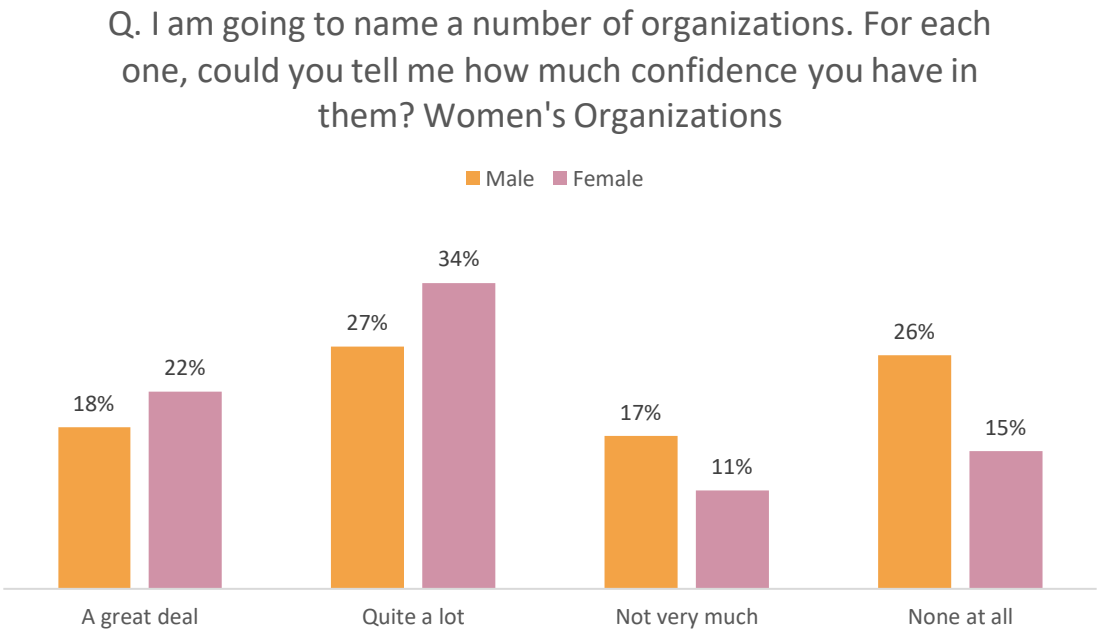

Figure 8
Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

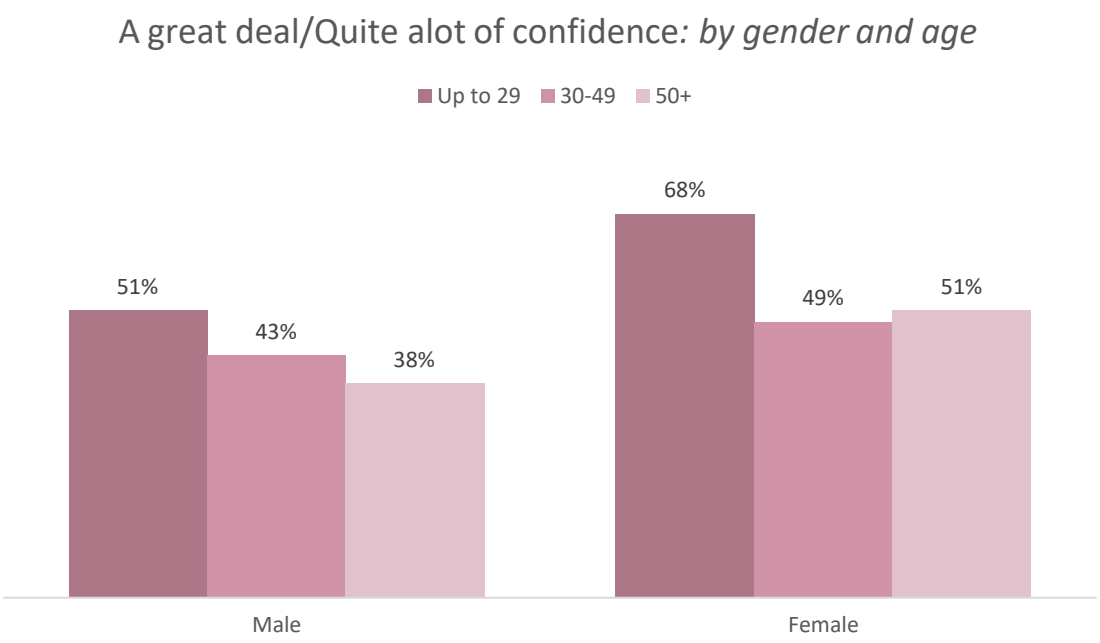

Figure 9
Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

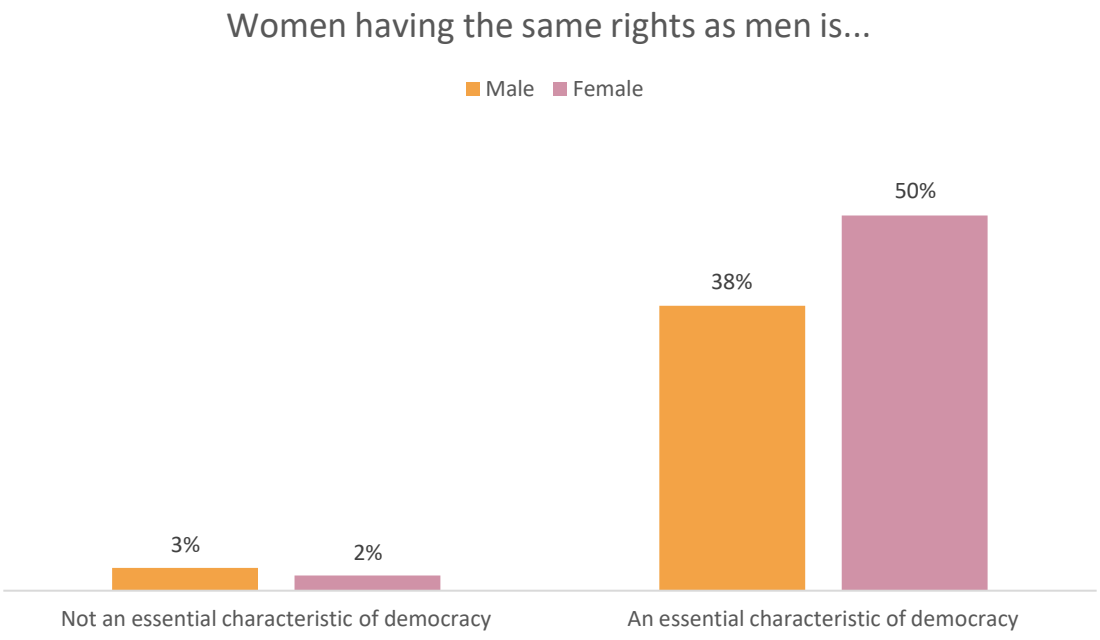

Figure 10
Source: World Values Survey Wave 7 2017-2022

CALL FOR INCLUSIVITY

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Call for Inclusivity

On a slightly different tangent, it is also important to remember that when the call for gender equality is voiced, it is meant to be an inclusive call- and perhaps that gets lost in the larger narrative of equality. While women in Pakistan have started feeling safer in public spaces, with almost half (51%) of the female respondents stating that they feel safe while walking alone at night in their neighborhood, it is still 20% less than the men. It is important to note that financial and social factors could also be influencing this experience. This is evidenced by the fact that while majority percentage within total population (80%) did not suffer any kind ofviolence, the uptakes in instances of violence are evident in the vulnerable or disenfranchised groups. 20% of the unemployed respondents and 17% of the housewives said that they have suffered any kind of violence.

Additionally, it is the older age group that tends to feel the most unsafe while in public spaces - with **42%** of those who are 65+ responding "No" when asked if they feel safe/confident walking around their neighborhood at night. Further, in regards to sexual violence, **12%** of the retired/disabled respondents stated that they had experienced it- which is a drastic uptake as compared to percentages as low as **0%** for students for **3%** for full-time employees.

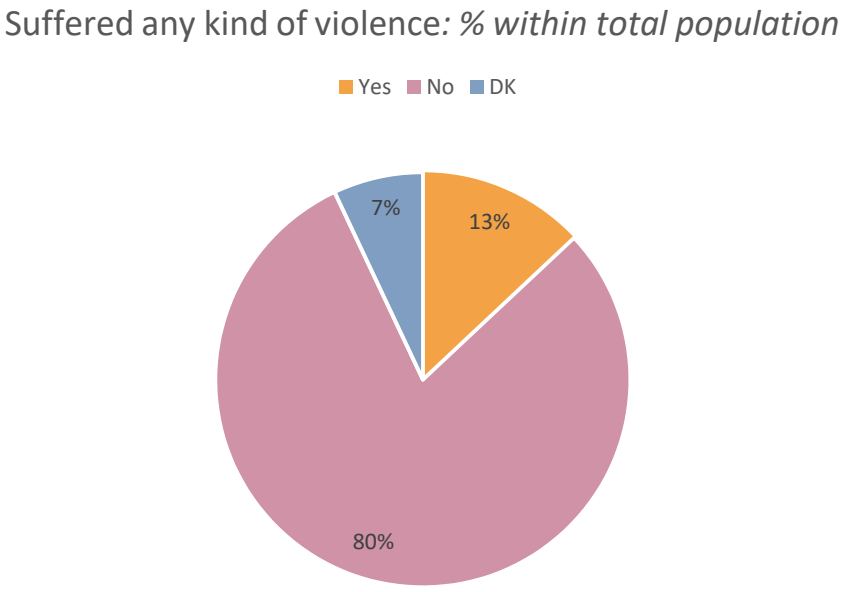
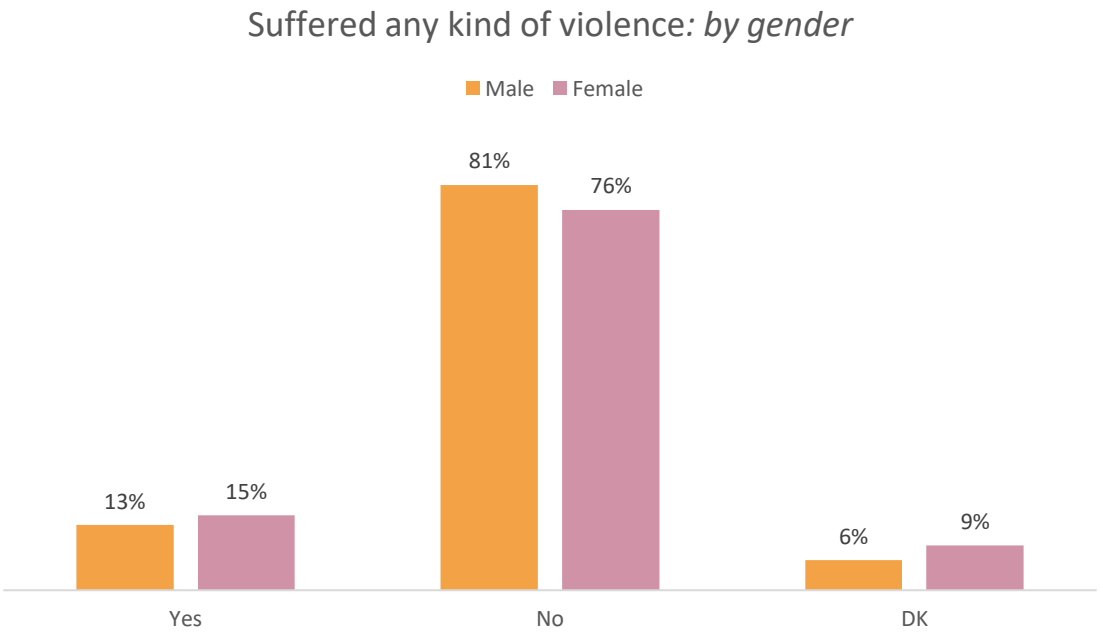


Figure 11
Source: WIN 2024. Data collection by Gallup Pakistan. Base: 1000 cases



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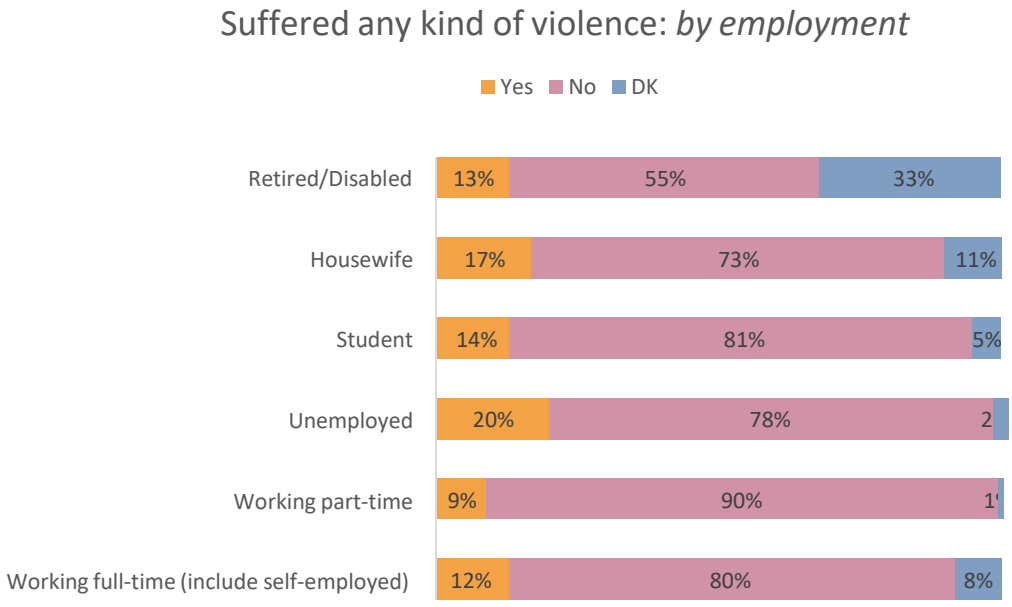

Figure 13

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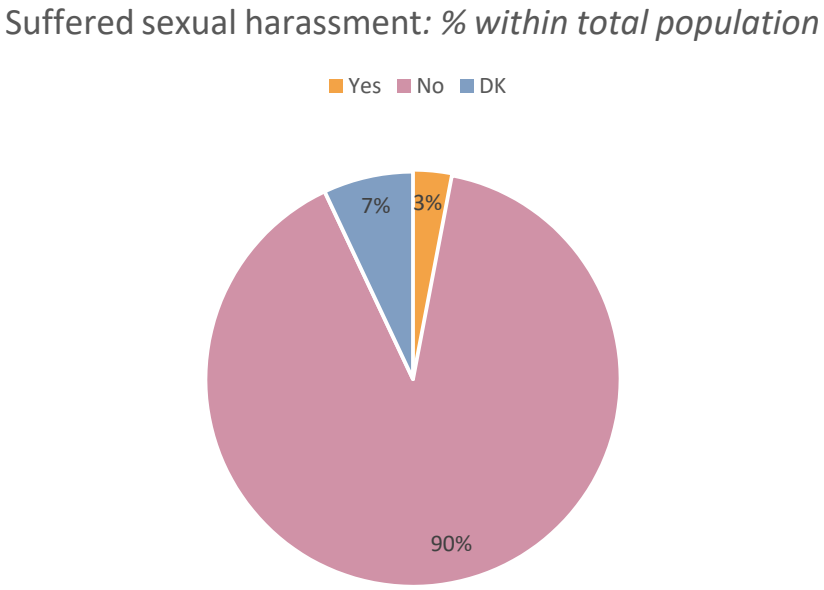

Figure 14

Source: WIN 2024. Data collection by Gallup Pakistan. Base: 1000 cases

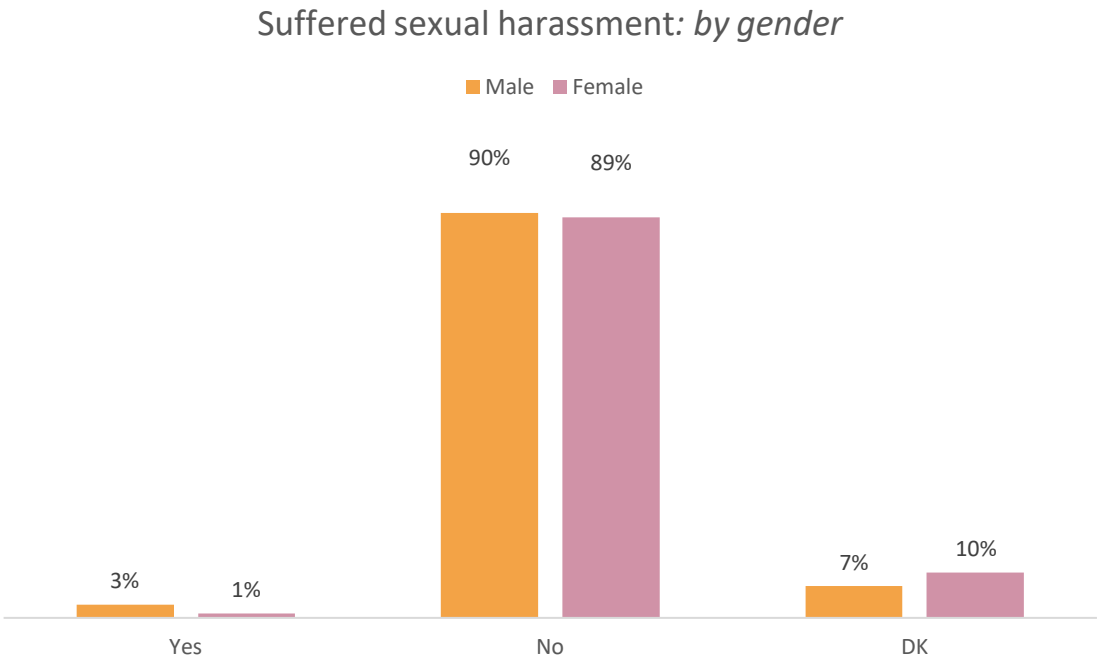

Figure 15

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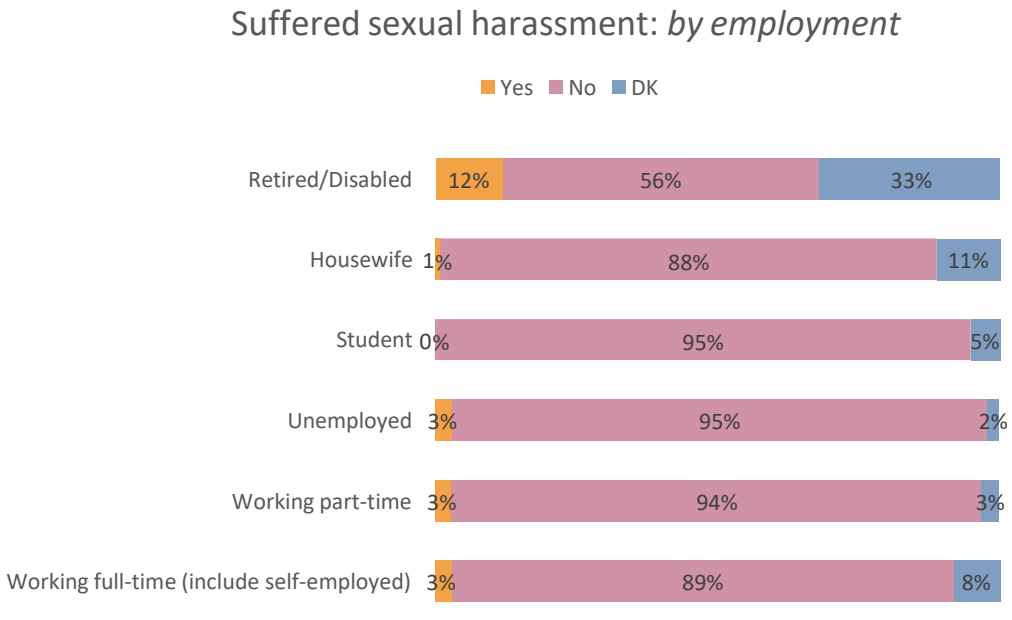

Figure 16

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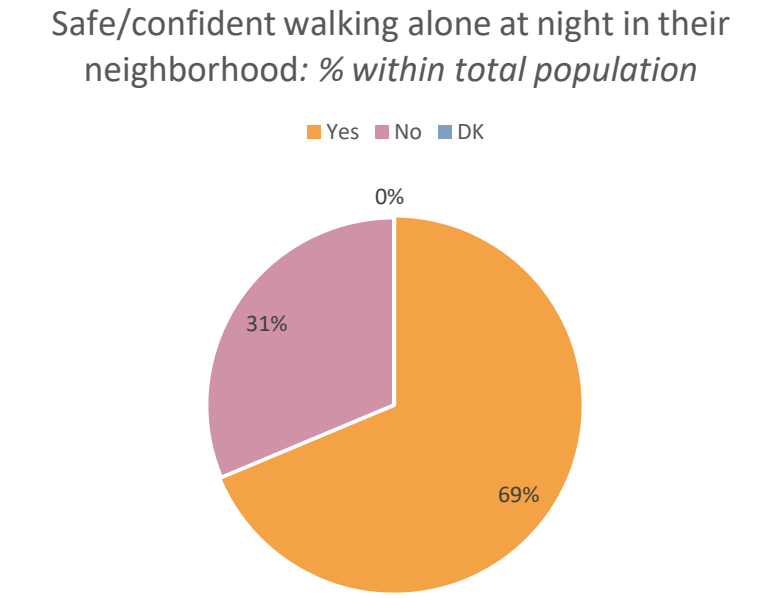

Figure 17
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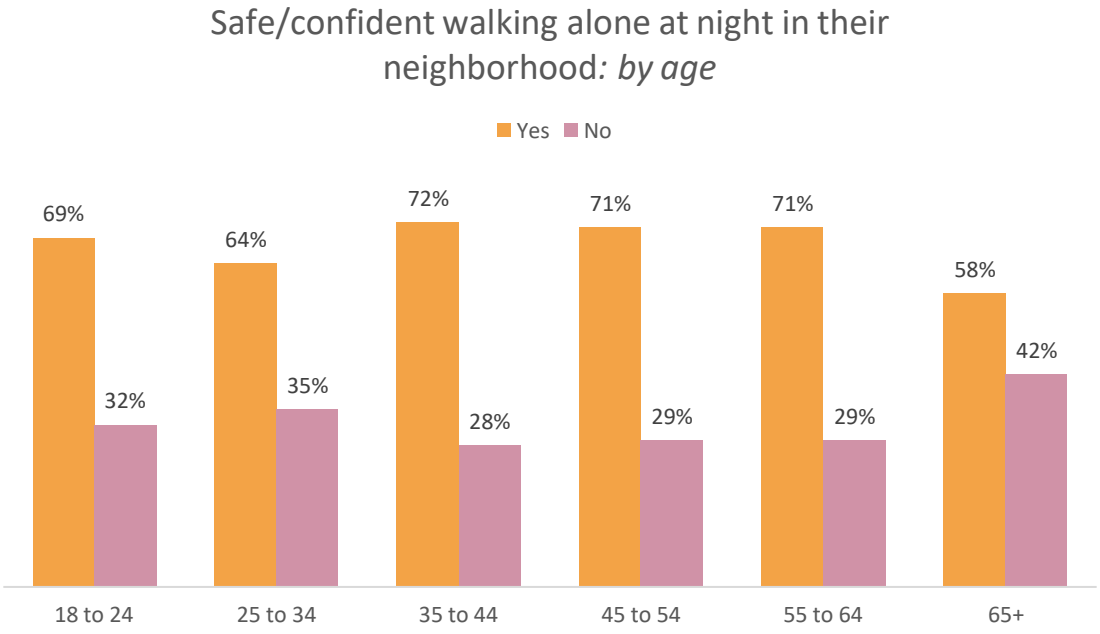

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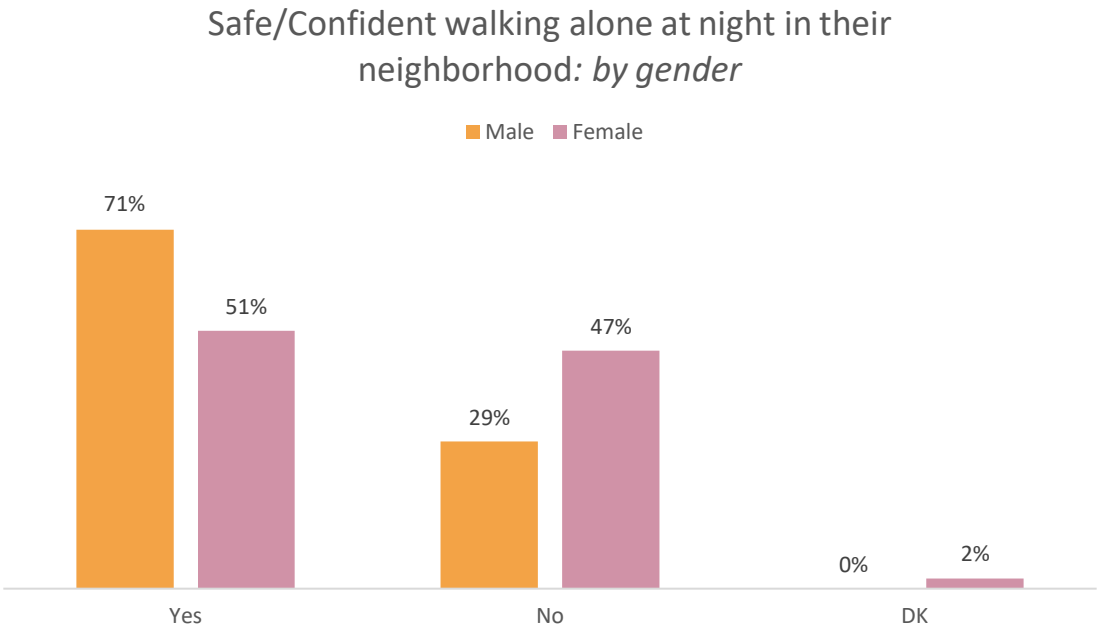

Figure 19

Source: WIN 2024. Data collection by Gallup Pakistan. Base: 1000 cases

CONCLUSION

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Conclusion

In terms of gender equality, there is much to be unpacked before it can truly be attained across different levels. The first thing is to understand that sustainable change starts from the grassroots- addressing symptoms only offers superficial change, instead of the shift in mindset that is required. The second thing is to acknowledge the difference that can exist between perceived experiences and lived experiences; not just across genders, but also across socio-economic factors. We are at a point where the significance of such conversations is coming to light and gender equality does appear to be on the rise. At this juncture, it is important to recognize that without gender *equity*, there is no sustainable e*quality*. Within this context, equity pertains to fairness and justice, taking into account the diversity of lived experiences, and not just focusing on cultivating the perceived *sameness* of an experience.

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METHODOLOGY

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Methodology

WORLD VALUE SURVEY WAVE 7 Pakistan

Sample Size	2000
Sampling Methodology	Step 1: The sample was drawn according to the method of Probability Sampling, Population Proportionate to Size (PPS). Pakistan was divided into 4 provinces. Every province was representative of its actual proportion in the total population. Step 2: The distribution between urban and rural was also proportionate to its proportion as per 1998 census, and re-weighted accordingly in the tabulated results. Step 3: Within the districts villages and urban circles were selected according to random sampling procedure. Step 4: Within selected villages or an urban circle a Household was selected randomly after a start on random walk and proceeding according to a standardized interval. Step 5: Within each Household respondent was selected through KISH method. Step 6: Households with a designated interval was contacted by using "Right hand Rule" technique
Field Dates	04/11/18 till 11/12/18

ANNUAL WIN WORLD SURVEY Pakistan

SAMPLE SIZE	1000
INTERVIEW METHOD	Random Digit Dialing Phone Survey Methodology
ERROR MARGIN	±2 to 3% at 95% confidence level for national level results
FIELDWORK DATES	3-17 January 2024
NOTE	Gallup Pakistan's usual approach of fieldwork is conductingface-to-face interviews in households using geographical sampling. The sampling is done using the census as the frame. Due to coronavirus lockdown, as well as health and safety concerns, we have halted all face-to-face interviews, therefore CATI methodology has been employed. This methodology uses Random Digit Dialing approach where all mobile phone numbers in Pakistan (130 million active sims) are the universe.
EXCLUSION IN SAMPLE	According to PSLM (a government survey), 90% of households in Pakistan claim someone in their household owns a mobile phone. This means that 10% households are excluded from the sample.

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