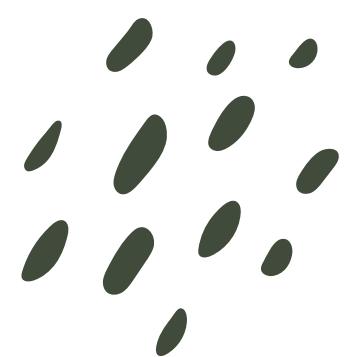




Presented by Gallup Pakistan

Understanding the School Landscape in Pakistan

July 20th, 2026



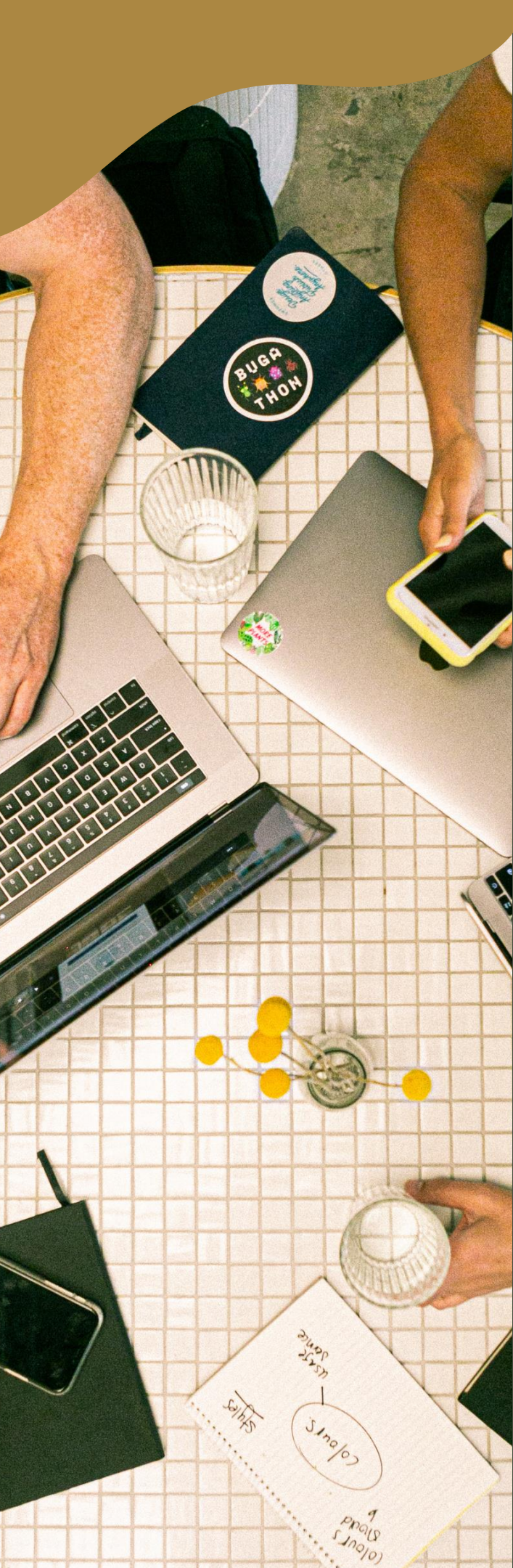


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Executive Summary

>> Background and Methodology

This report presents findings from a nationwide survey exploring parents' experiences, perceptions, and expectations regarding school education in Pakistan. The study covers children's access to schooling, educational aspirations, school quality, affordability, safety, parent-school engagement, digital learning, and awareness of different education systems.

The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan through Telephone Interviews between **May 18 and May 31, 2026**. A nationally representative sample of **1,002 respondents** was interviewed across Pakistan. The sample included an equal proportion of men and women, with 64% of respondents from rural areas and 36% from urban areas. The survey carries an estimated margin of error of approximately $\pm 2-3\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

Parents with at least one child aged 5–17 years were included in the study. Overall, 53% reported having at least one child currently studying in school.

>> Major Findings

Strong Belief in Education and High Aspirations

Parents demonstrate near-universal faith in education: 99% agreed that education is important for success, while 96% agreed that a good school can change a child's future.

Parents view education as a route to both economic opportunity and character development. Securing a good job was identified as the leading priority by 30%, followed closely by learning good manners at 29%.

Career aspirations are also high. One-quarter of parents want their child to become a doctor, followed by a teacher or businessperson. While 63% prefer their child to work in Pakistan after completing education, 65% would send their child abroad for higher education if given the opportunity.

School Access Is Generally Convenient, but Transport Demand Is High

Walking is the main mode of travel to school, used by 77% of children. The average journey takes 19 minutes, while half of children take 15 minutes or less.

Despite this, 73% of parents said they would use school- or government-provided public transport. This reflects

strong demand for safe, affordable, and reliable school transport, particularly for younger children and families living farther from schools.

High Satisfaction with Schools and Teachers

Overall satisfaction with children's schools is strong, with 90% of parents satisfied, including 60% who are very satisfied.

Satisfaction is particularly high with teaching quality and homework practices, both at 93%, followed by books and communication with parents at 92%, and academic studies and discipline at 91%.

Parents also express strong confidence in teachers. Large majorities believe teachers communicate well with children, treat them respectfully, are well educated, and pay attention to weaker students.

School Facilities Lag Behind Academic Performance

Ratings of school facilities are positive but lower than those of teaching and academic practices. Satisfaction stands at 85% for bathroom cleanliness, 82% for fans and heat protection, 78% for drinking water, 75% for playgrounds, and 72% for libraries..

Libraries receive the lowest rating and are more frequently reported as unavailable. These findings indicate a need for continued investment in sanitation, drinking water, ventilation, libraries, and recreational facilities.

Affordability Remains a Concern

Among parents whose children attend private schools, 66% consider school fees reasonable, while 34% describe them as high.

Although most parents find fees manageable, education costs remain a concern for about one-third of private-school households. This burden may increase when combined with expenses for books, uniforms, transport, tuition, and digital devices.

Student Safety Requires Continued Attention

Most parents reported no direct complaints of unfairness or mistreatment. However, 7% said their child had complained about mistreatment at school, most commonly involving teachers' behaviour or misbehaviour by other children.

The findings highlight the importance of clear child-protection policies, non-violent discipline, complaint mechanisms, and stronger measures against bullying and discrimination.

Parent-School Engagement Is Inconsistent

Only 57% of parents reported that their child's school had held a parent-teacher meeting during the previous three months, while 42% said no such meeting had taken place.

Schools also communicate through phone calls, WhatsApp, and SMS. More regular and structured parent-teacher interaction could improve communication about academic performance, behaviour, and children's learning needs.

Digital Learning Is Not Yet Routine

Many schools have used digital methods at some point, but recent use is limited. While 73% reported that assignments had previously been shared through SMS or WhatsApp, only 27% said this had occurred during the previous month.

Similarly, 58% said schools had previously conducted online classes or used computers and tablets, but only 15% reported recent use. Digital tools therefore appear to be used more for occasional communication than as a regular part of teaching.



Low Awareness of O-Levels

Awareness of O-Levels is limited, with 81% of respondents saying they had not heard of the system.

Among those aware, perceptions are generally favourable: 50% consider O-Levels better than Matric, while 45% believe O-Levels offer better prospects for a child's success.

Low Parental Education Is a Structural Challenge

Parental education levels remain low. Illiteracy stands at 35% among children's fathers and 47% among mothers, while only a small proportion have completed graduate or higher education.

Limited parental education may affect families' ability to support homework, understand school communication, use digital platforms, and make informed educational choices. However, parents continue to hold strong aspirations for their children, creating an opportunity for schools to engage them through accessible communication and community support.



>> Overall Conclusion

The findings present a broadly positive picture of parental attitudes toward education in Pakistan. Parents strongly value education, maintain ambitious aspirations for their children, and express high satisfaction with schools, teachers, and academic practices.

However, important gaps remain in school transport, physical infrastructure, affordability, student safety, parent-teacher engagement, and routine digital learning. Low parental education, particularly among mothers, also limits families' ability to support children's schooling.

Future education initiatives should build on parents' strong commitment while prioritizing safe and affordable access, improved facilities, child protection, regular parent-school communication, and more effective use of digital learning tools.

Section 1: **Child's Schooling Profile & Access**





Is any of your child currently studying in school?*



53%

have a child currently in school.



***NOTE:** Parents who had at least one child aged 5–17 years were included. They were then asked whether any of their children were currently studying in school.



Which class is your child studying in?*

***NOTE:** Asked only of respondents whose child studied in school.

Pre-school (Playgroup, Nursery, Prep / KG)



Primary (Class 1 to 5)



Middle (Class 6 to 8)



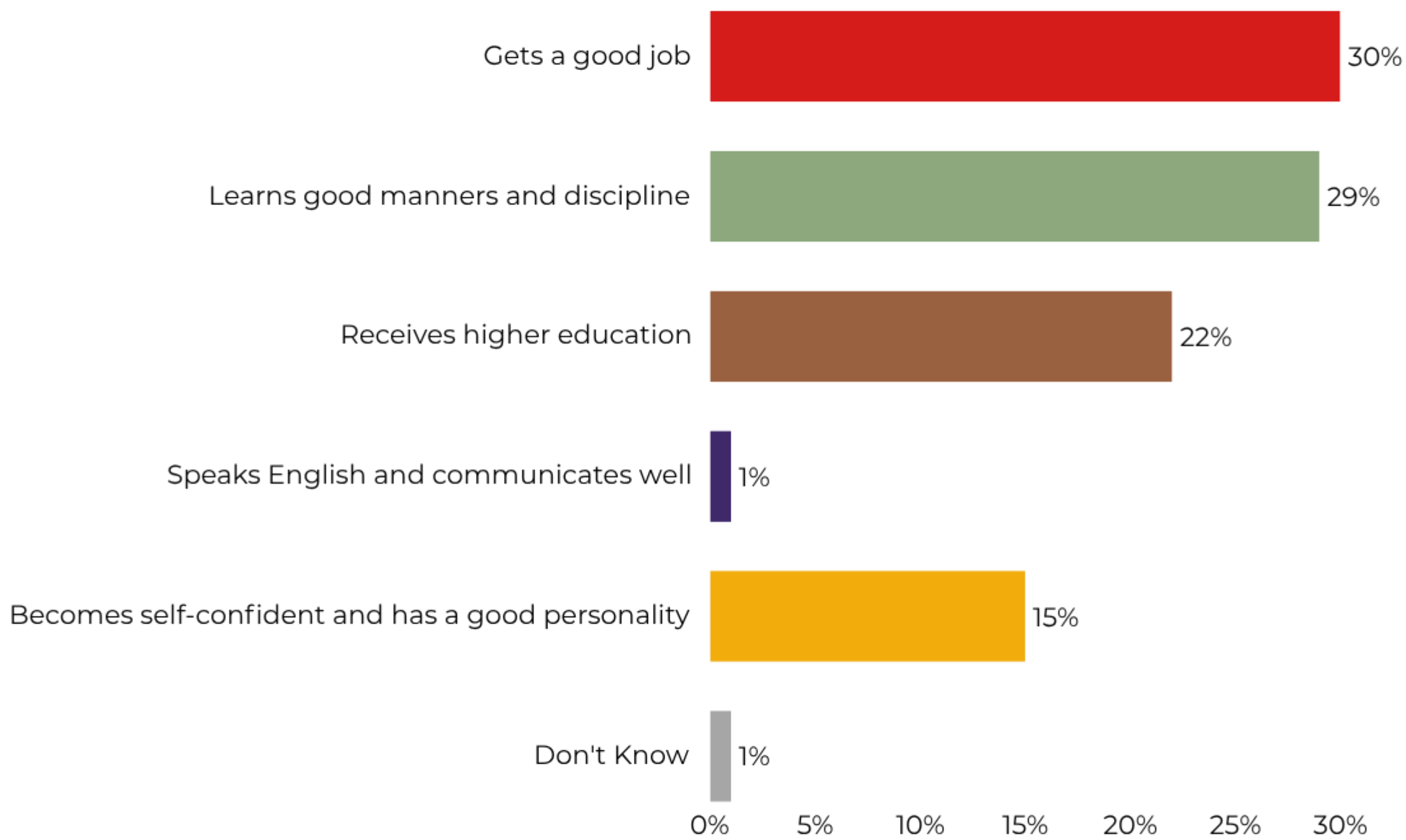
Secondary (Class 9 to 10)



0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%



Please tell what is most important to you regarding your child receiving education?



Top Priority
Good Job
30%

Manners follow closely at 29%.



Which of the following modes of transportation does your child usually use to go to school?



77%



Walking



3%



Car/Carry van



11%



Motorcycle



2%



Bicycle



1%



School bus



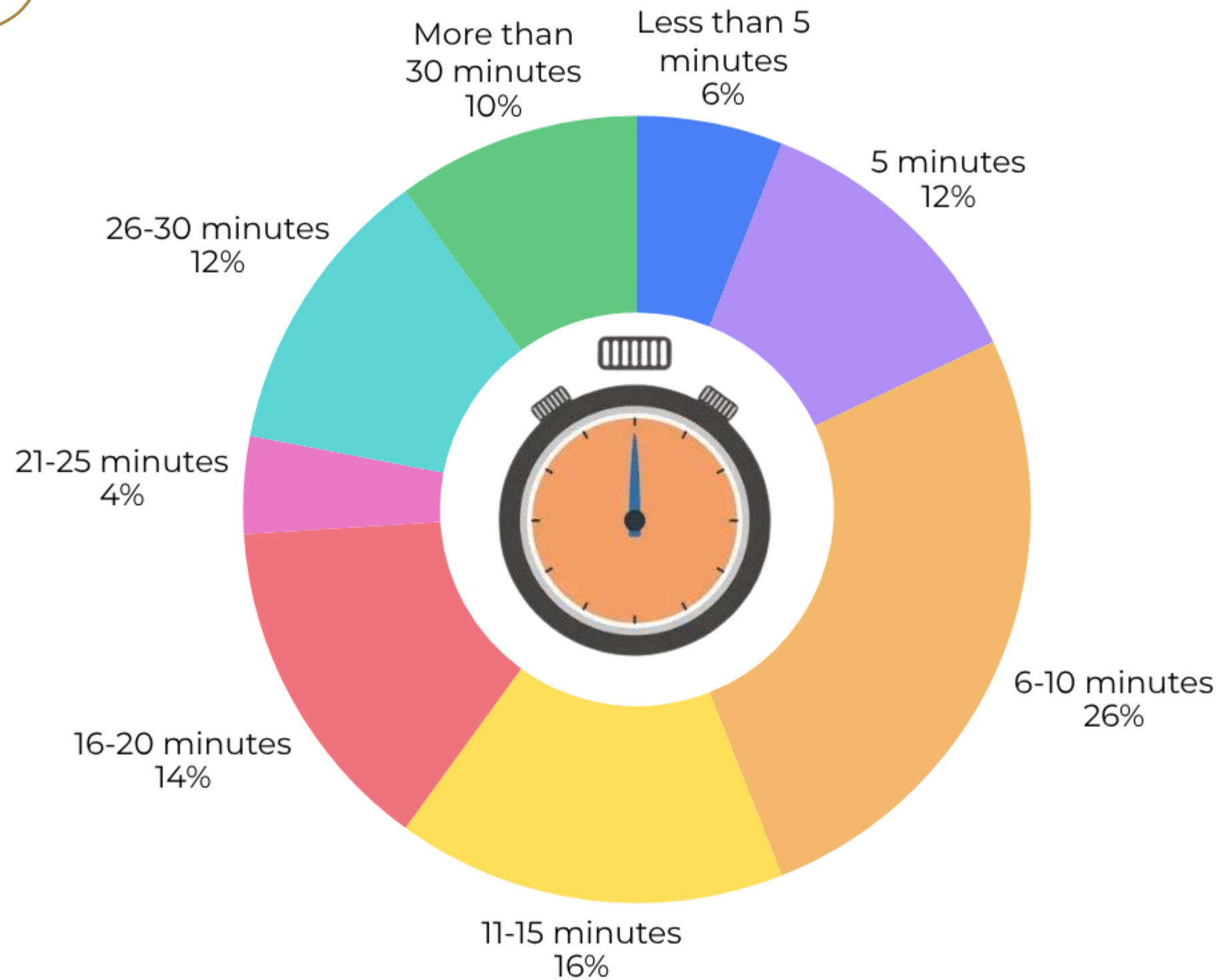
6%



Public transport

(such as taxi, bus, rickshaw, metro bus)

Approximately how much time does it take your child to go to school?



26%

of children
takes

6–10 minutes

to reach school.

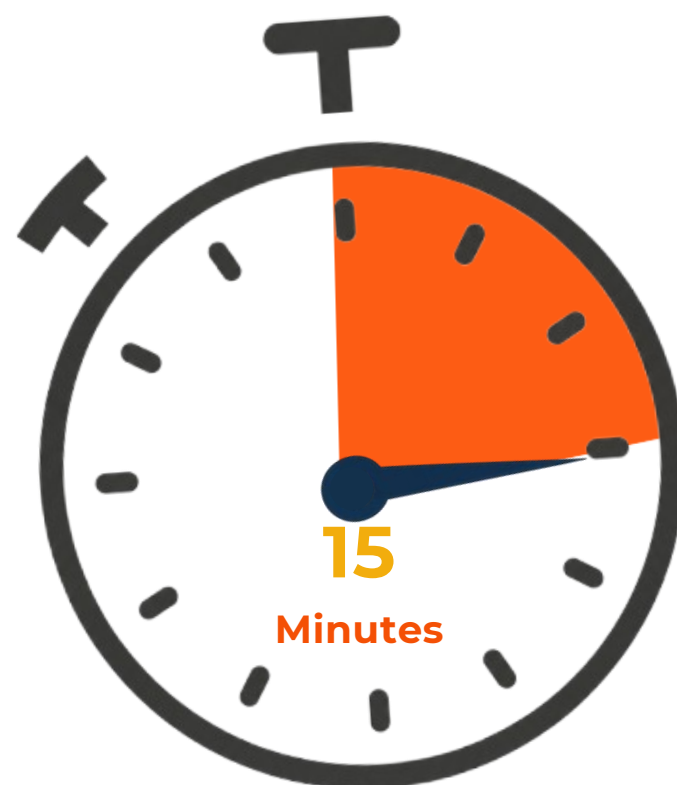
Children taking shorter (less than 6 minutes) or longer (11+ minutes) commutes make up the remaining 74% of the population.



The Average Time to Reach School



Mean



Median



Mode

19 minutes

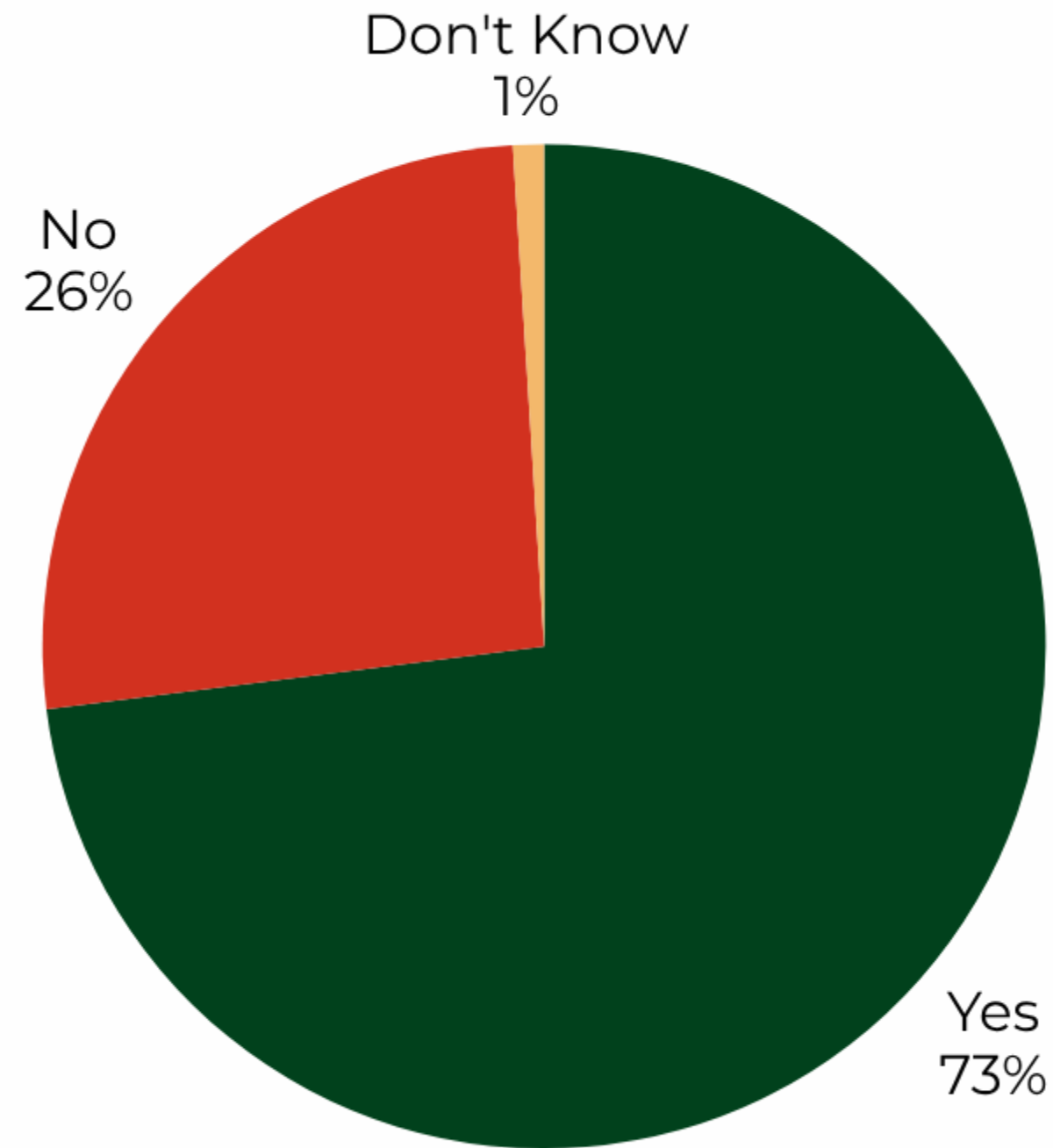
is the average time children take to reach school.

Half take 15 minutes or less, while 10 minutes is the most common travel time.





Suppose if the school or government provided a facility such as public transport, would you use it to send your child to school?



73%

would use government public transport.

Strong demand for safe, affordable school transport.

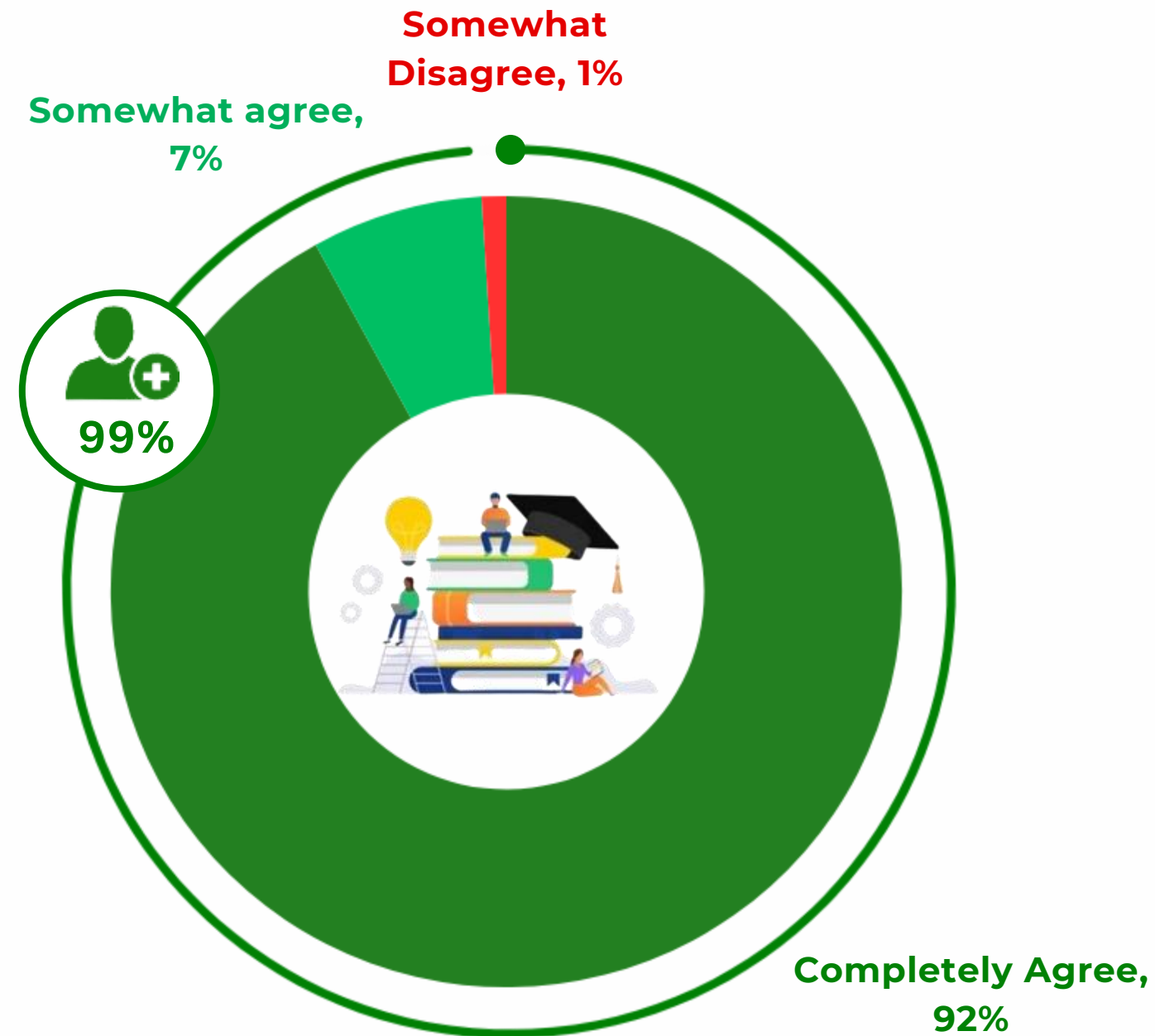


Section 2:

Attitudes Toward Education & Educational Aspirations



Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement **“Education is very important for success”**?



92%

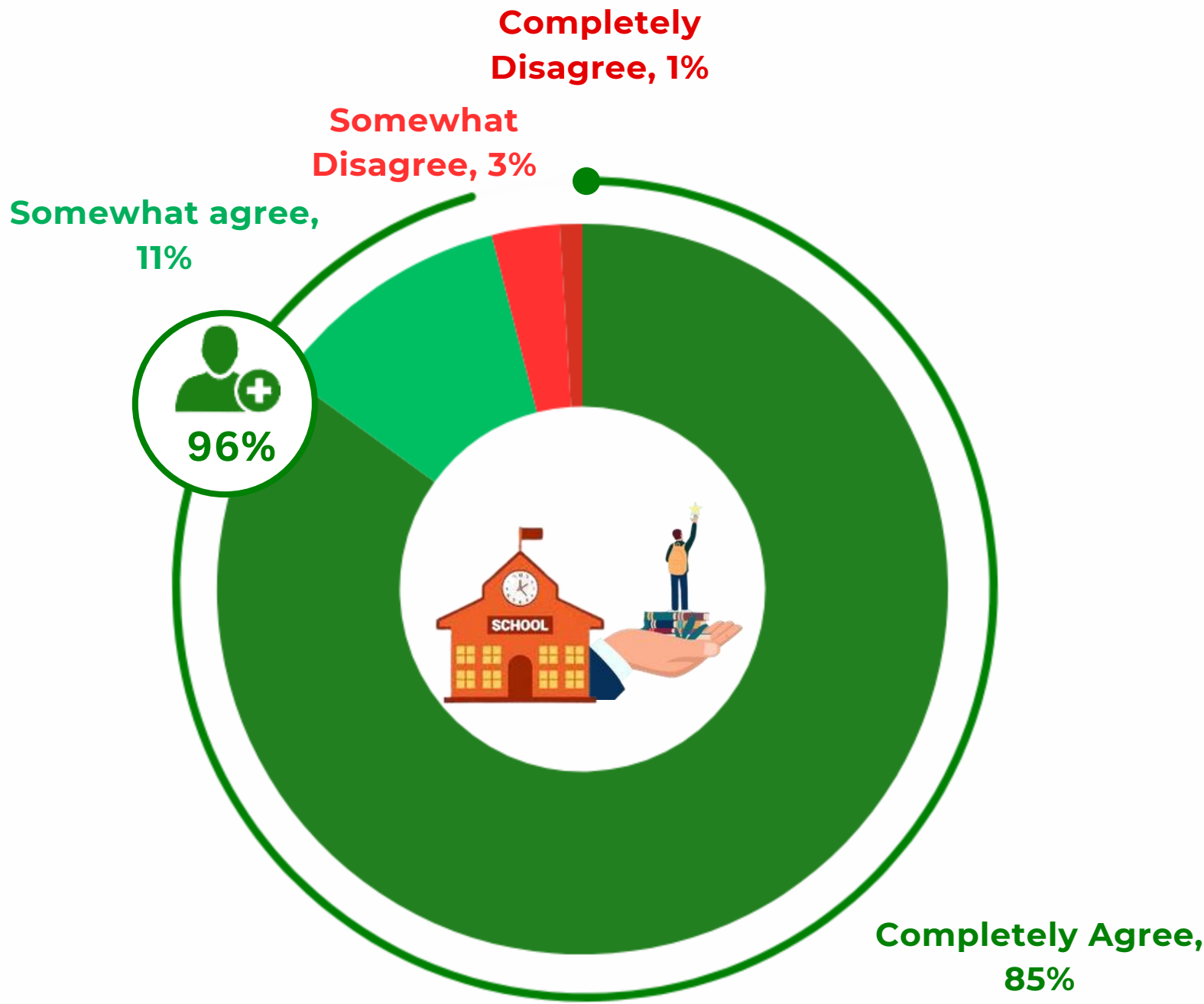
Completely agree education is key to success.

Near-universal belief in the power of education.





Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement “A good school can change a child’s future”?



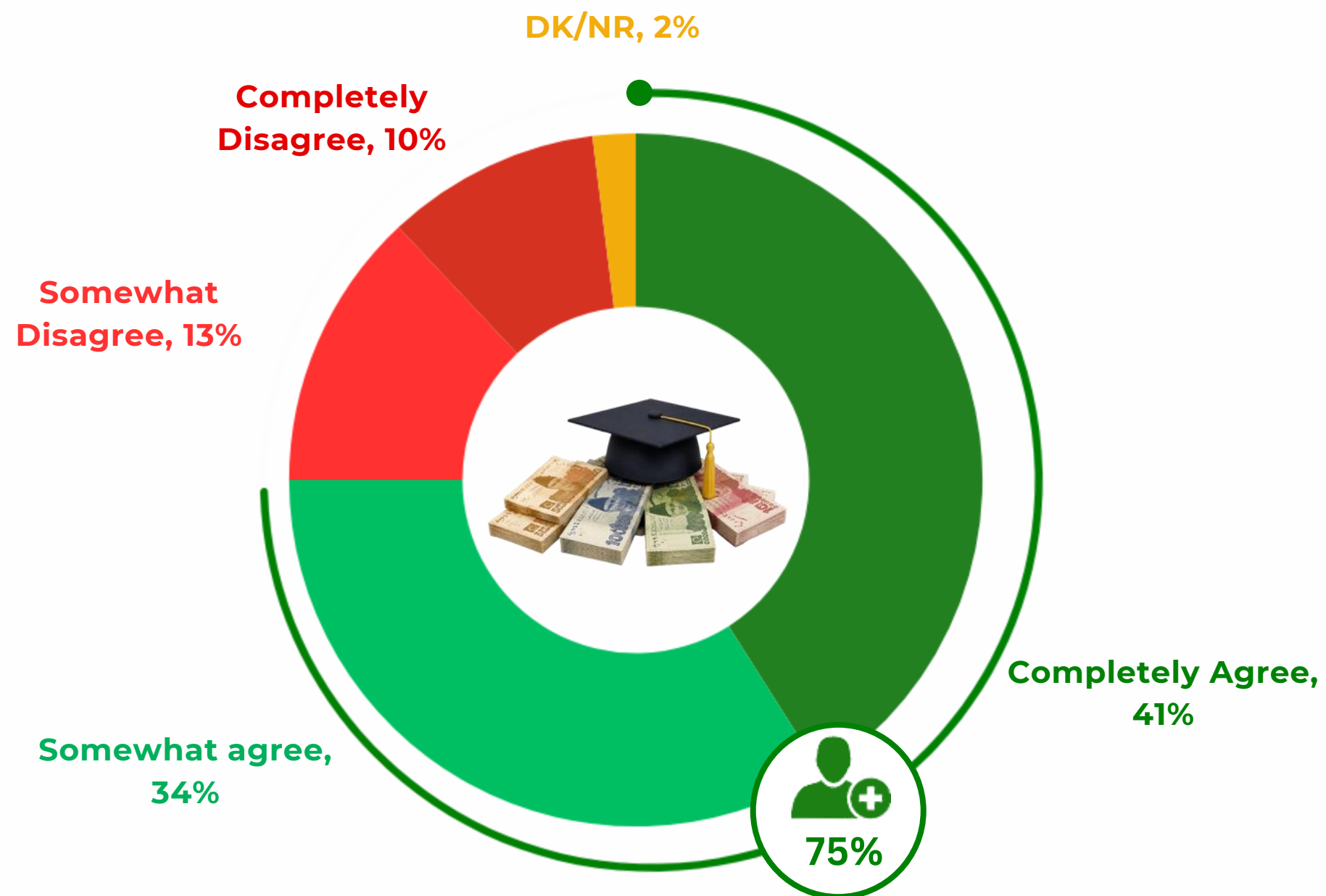
85%

Completely agree a good school changes a child's future.

Strong faith that quality schools drive life outcomes.



Please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement
“Expensive schools generally provide better education”?



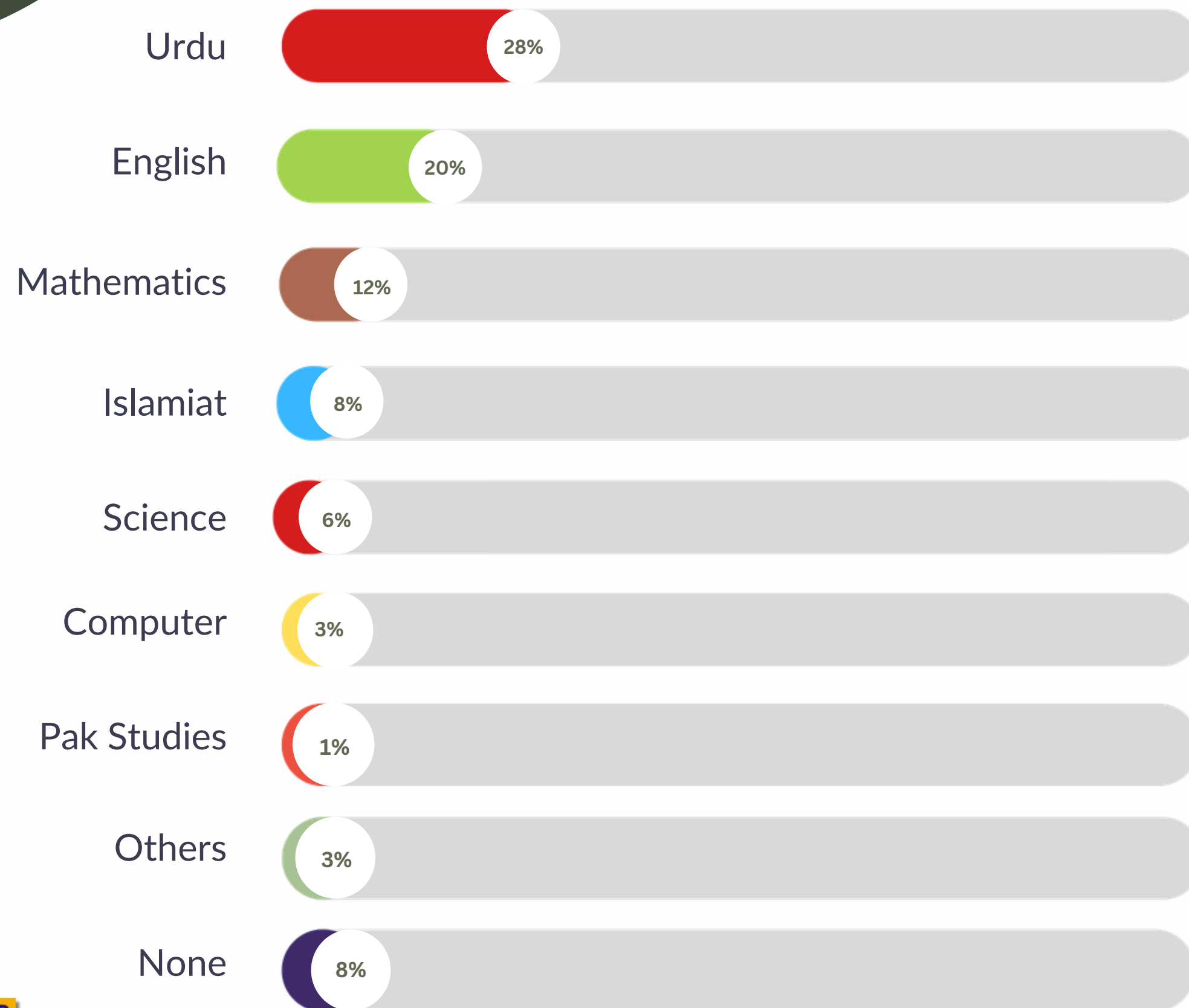
75%

Agree (completely + somewhat)
that cost signals quality.

*23% disagree — notable
skepticism about fee-quality link.*



Please tell which subject does your child like the most?



28%

like Urdu the most.

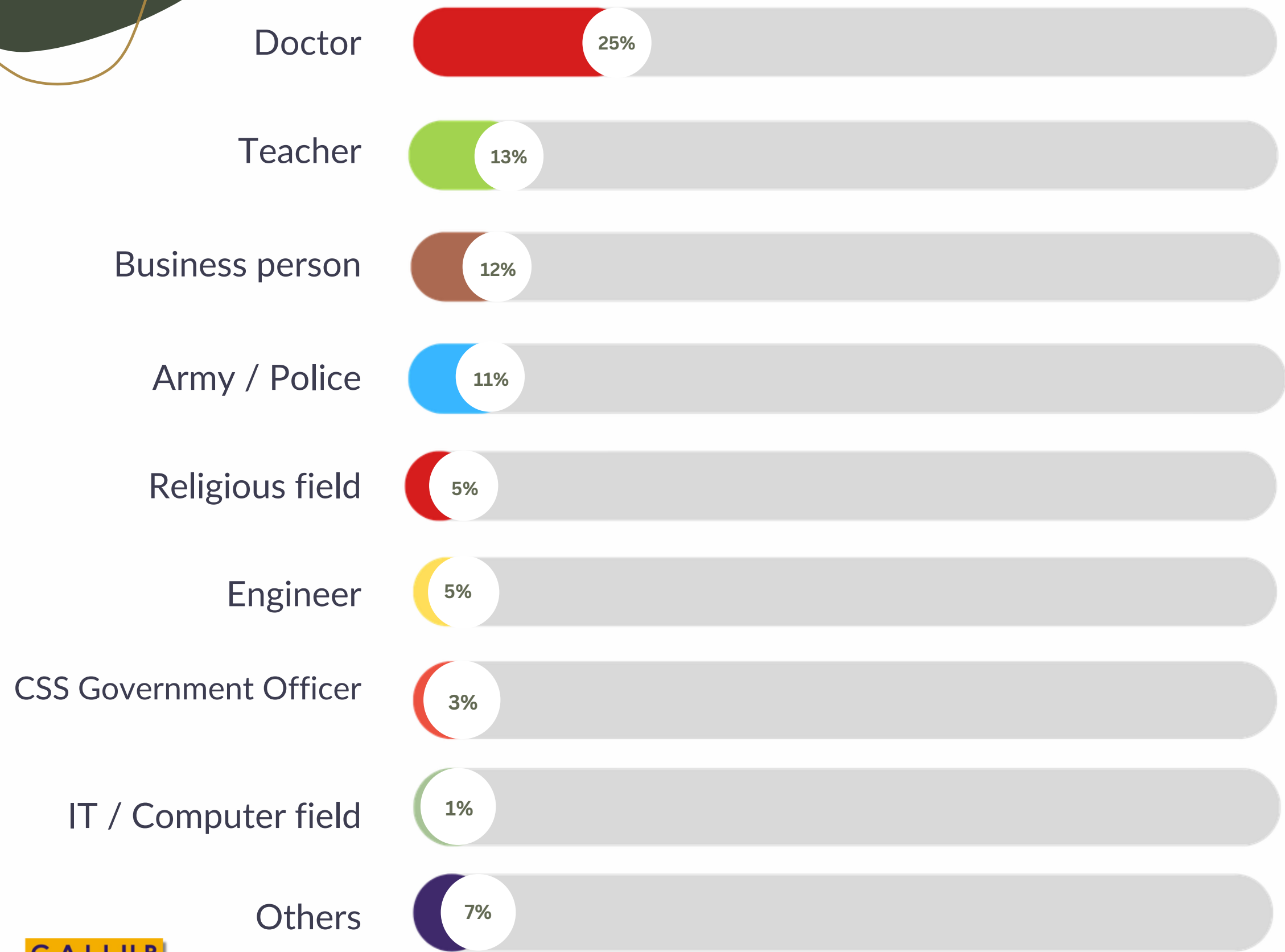
English and Mathematics follow with 20% and 12% respectively, while other subjects are preferred by fewer children.



*The balance from 100% is Don't Know/No Response.



What would you like your child to become when he/she grows up?



25%

of parents want their child to become a Doctor when they grow up.

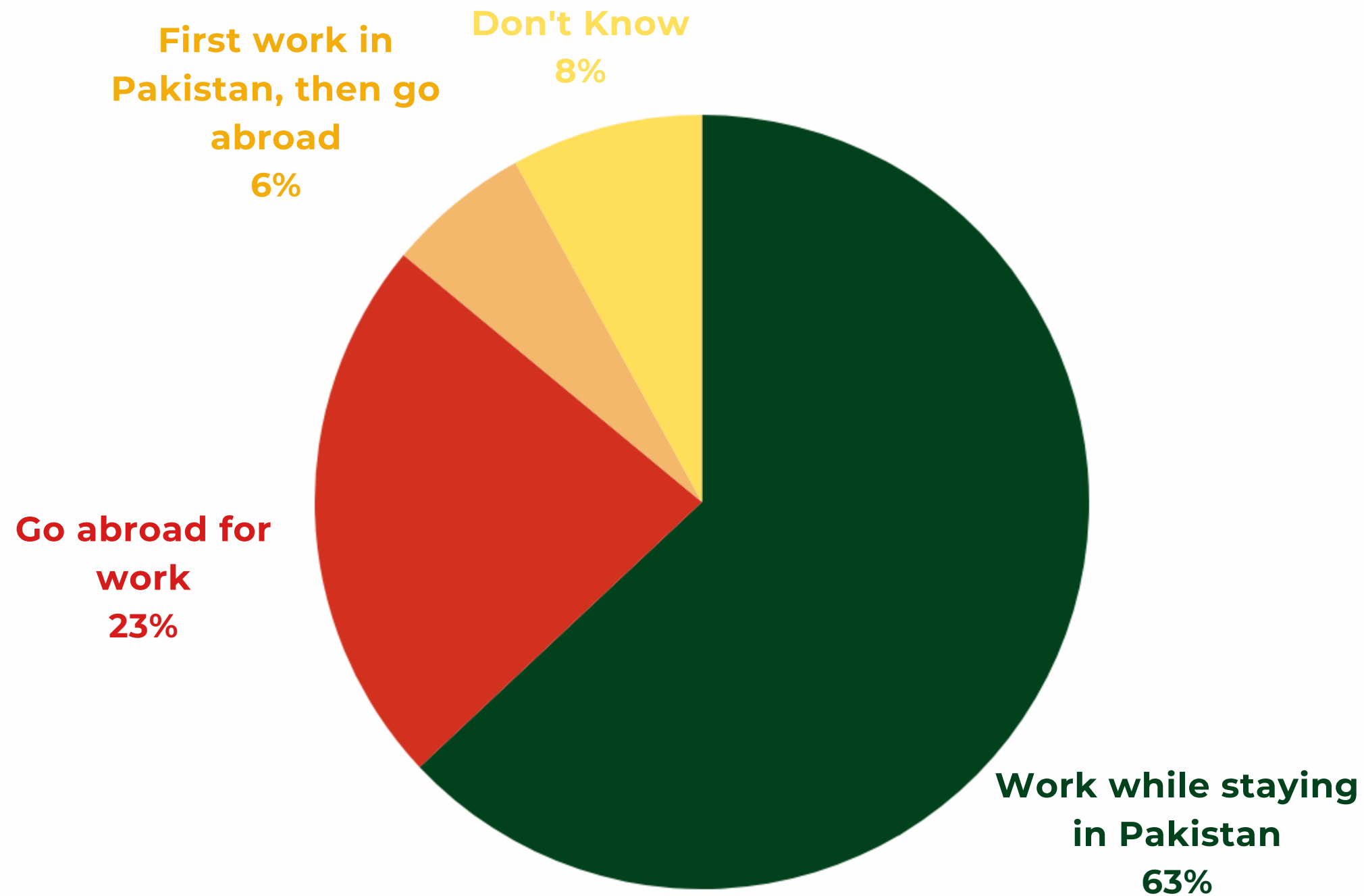
Doctor is the top aspiration by a wide margin, followed by Teacher and Business Person.



*The balance from 100% is Don't Know/No Response.



What would you prefer: should your child work in this country after completing education, or go abroad for work?

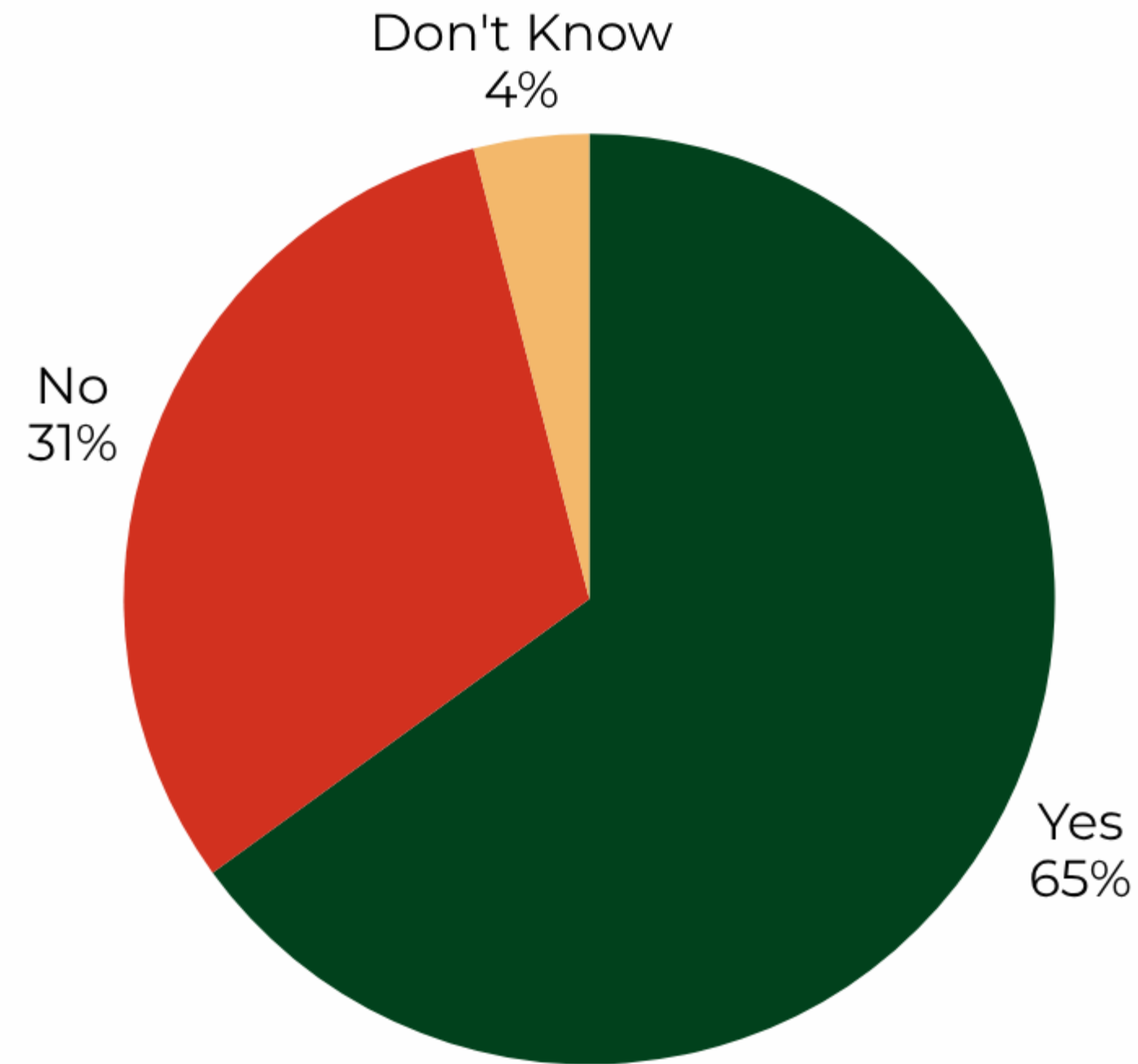


63%

Prefer child works in Pakistan.

23% prefer child goes abroad.

If given the opportunity, would you want your child to go abroad for higher education?



65%

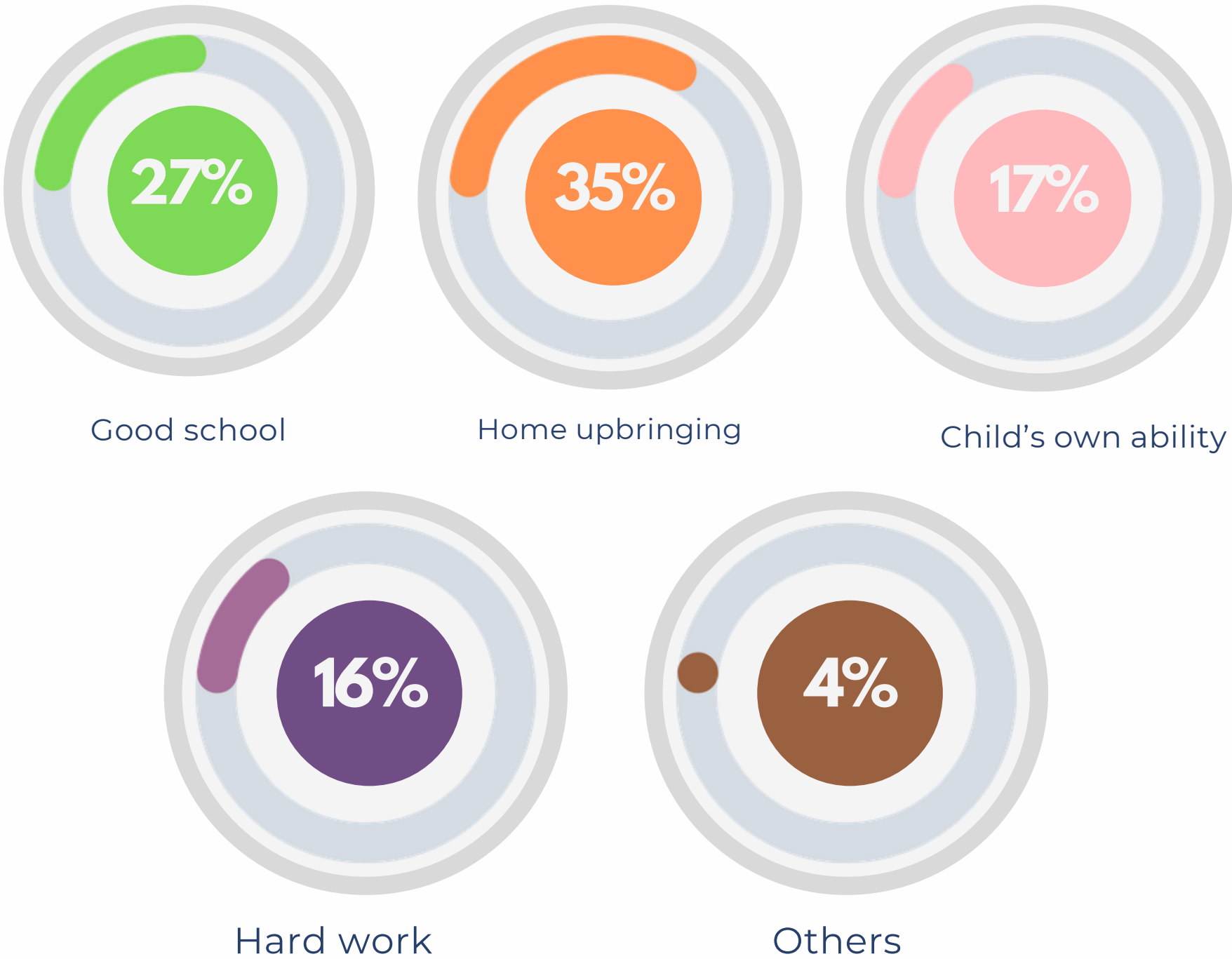
Would send child abroad for higher education.

Aspiration gap: work at home but study abroad.





In your opinion, what is the most important thing for a child’s success?



35%
Home Upbringing

27%
Good School

17%
Own Ability

*The balance from 100% is Don't Know/No Response.

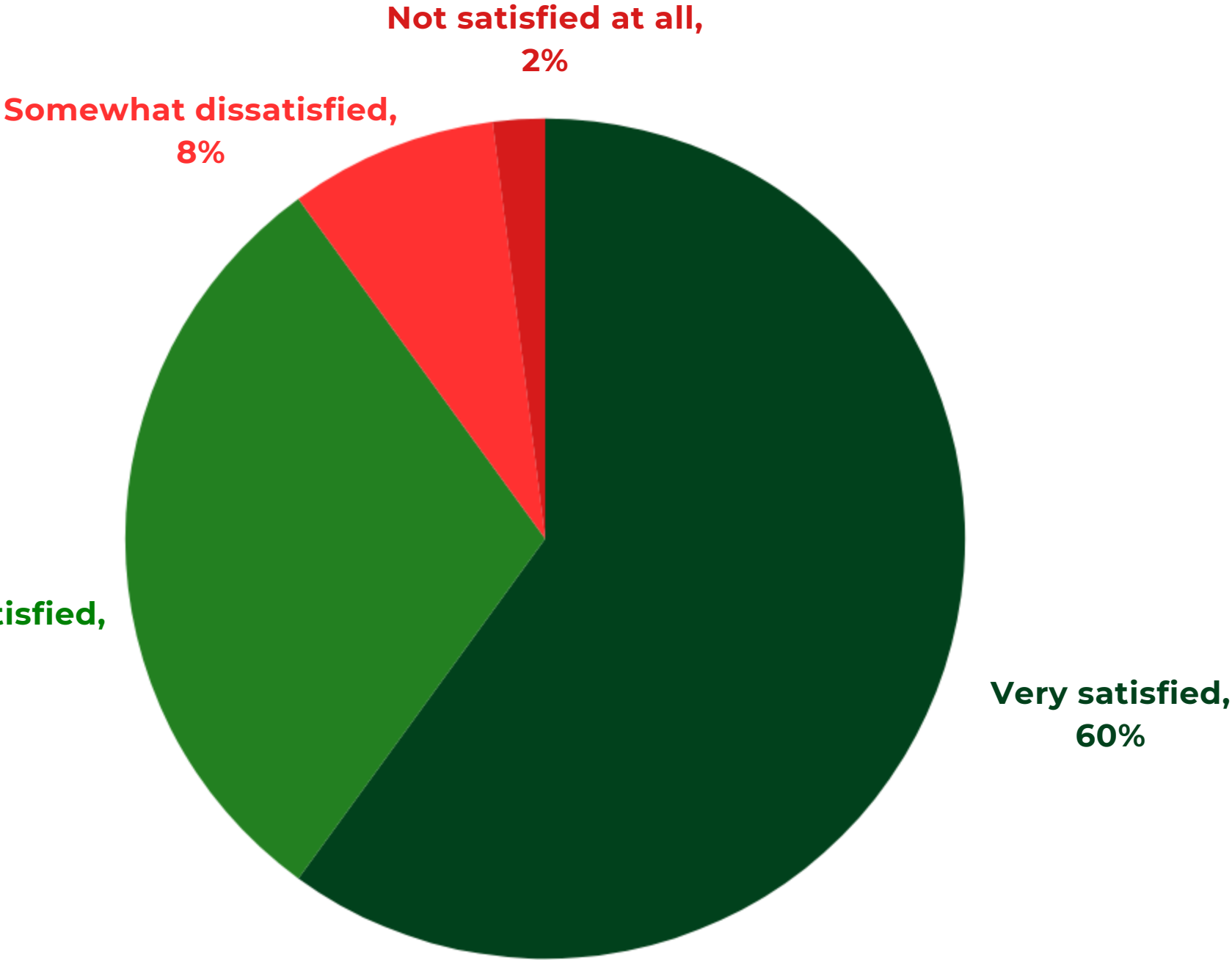


Section 3:

School Quality & Learning Environment



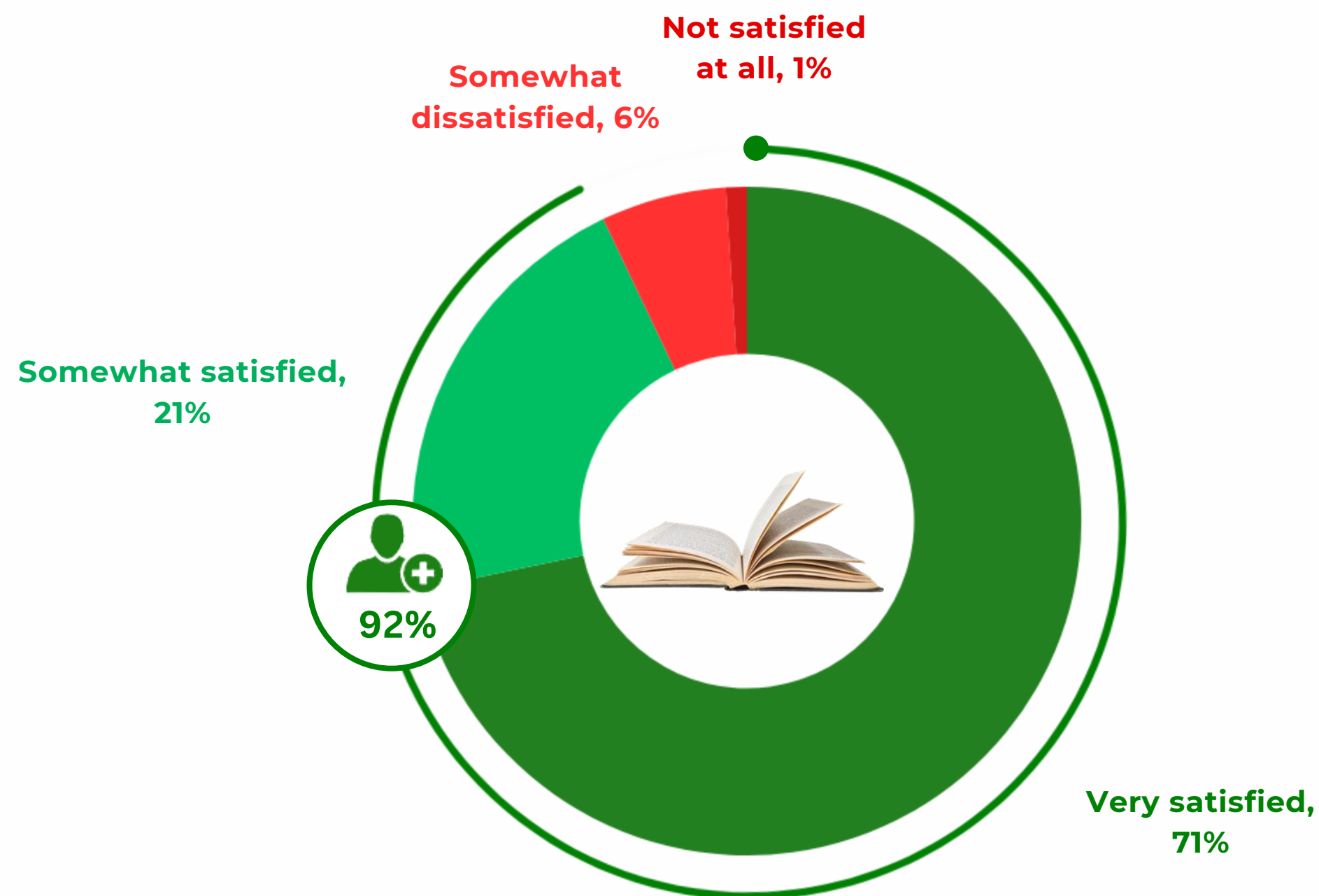
Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's school?





Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Quality of books”



92%

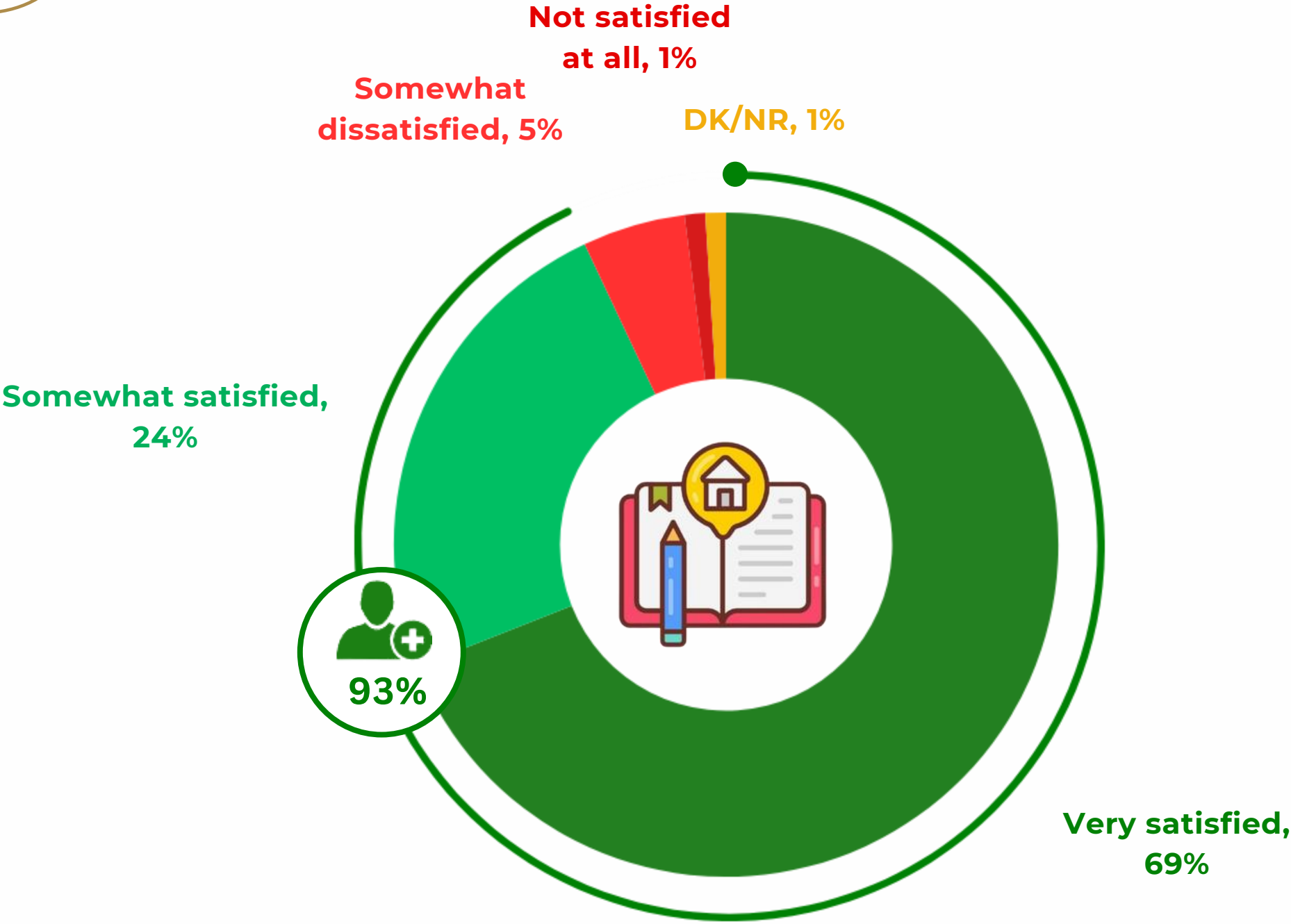
parents are satisfied with the quality of books at their child's school.

Most parents (71%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in educational resources.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Giving and checking homework”



93%

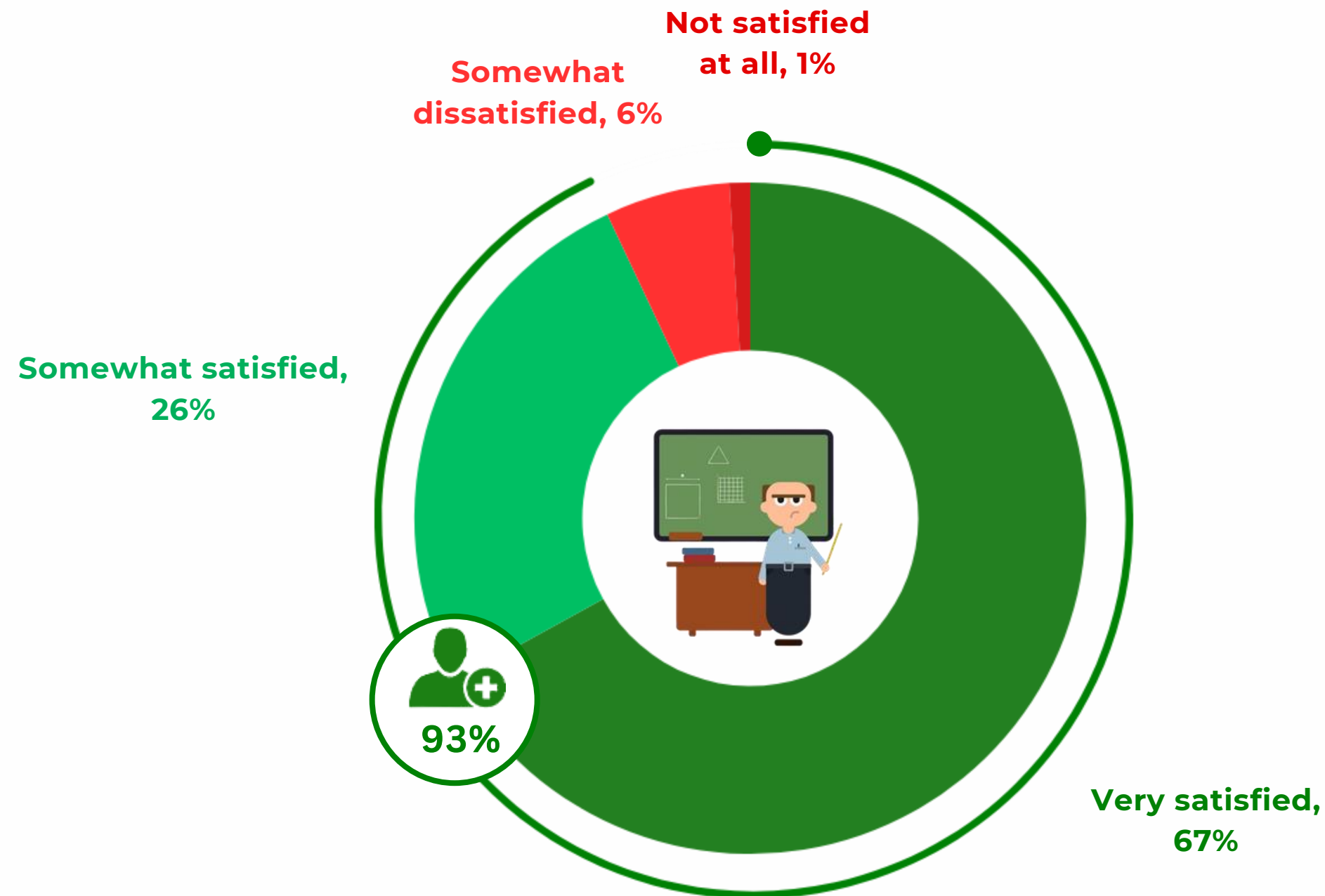
parents are satisfied with how homework is given and checked at their child’s school.

Most parents (69%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in homework practices.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Teaching quality”



93%

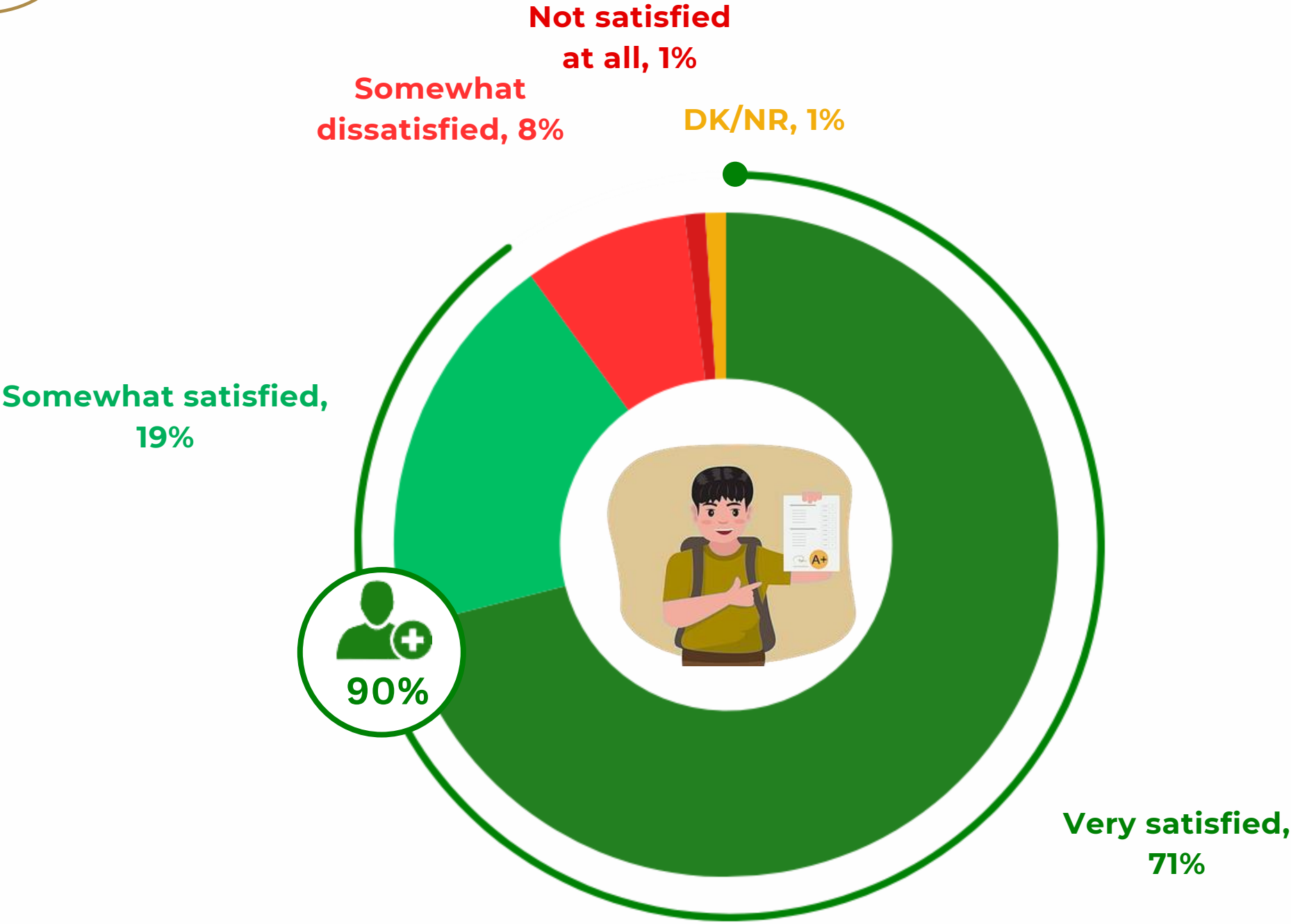
parents are satisfied with the teaching quality at their child's school.

Most parents (67%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the quality of instruction.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Exams and results”



90%

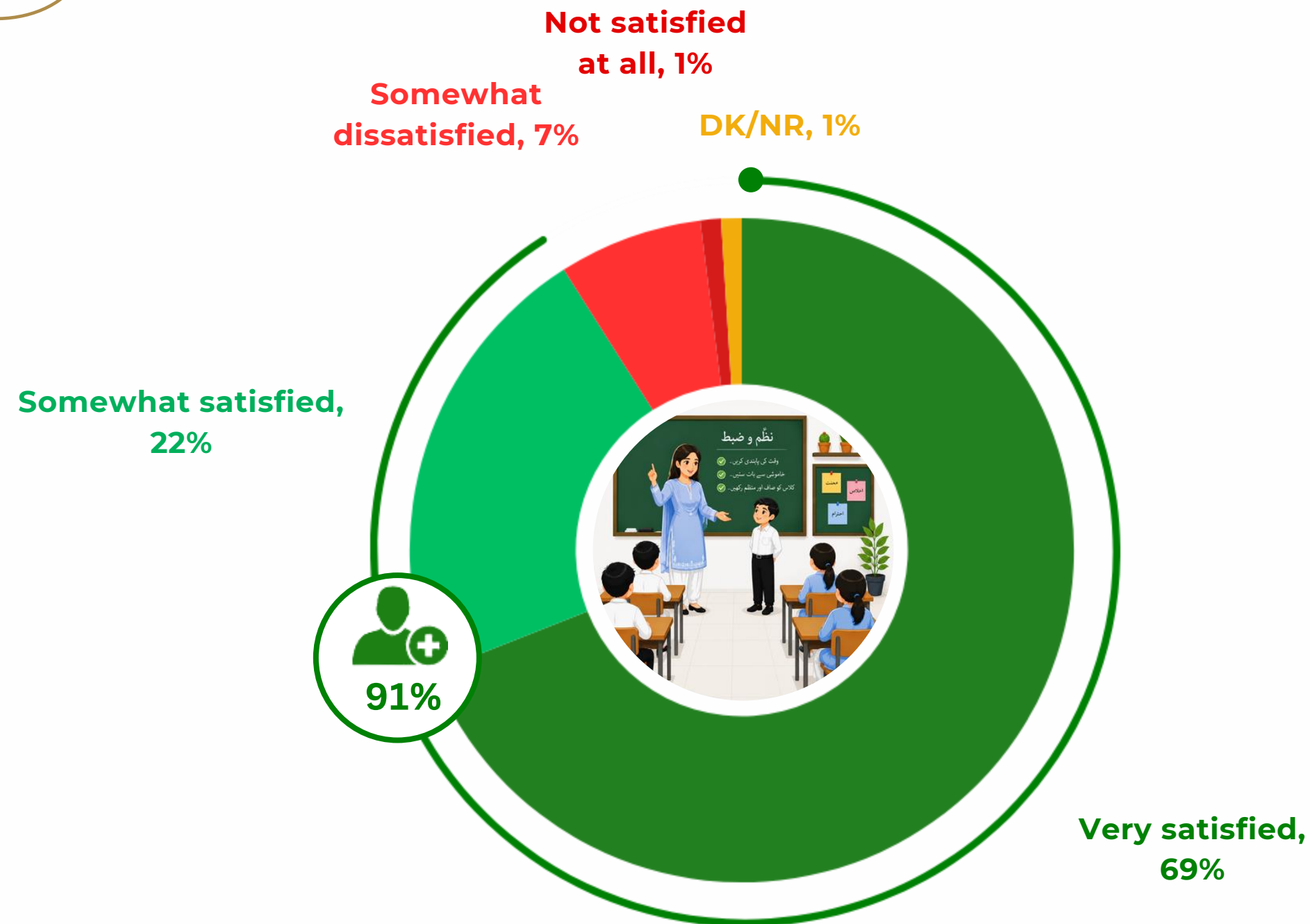
parents are satisfied with how exams are conducted and results are communicated at their child’s school.

Most parents (71%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school’s assessment and evaluation practices.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Studies”



91%

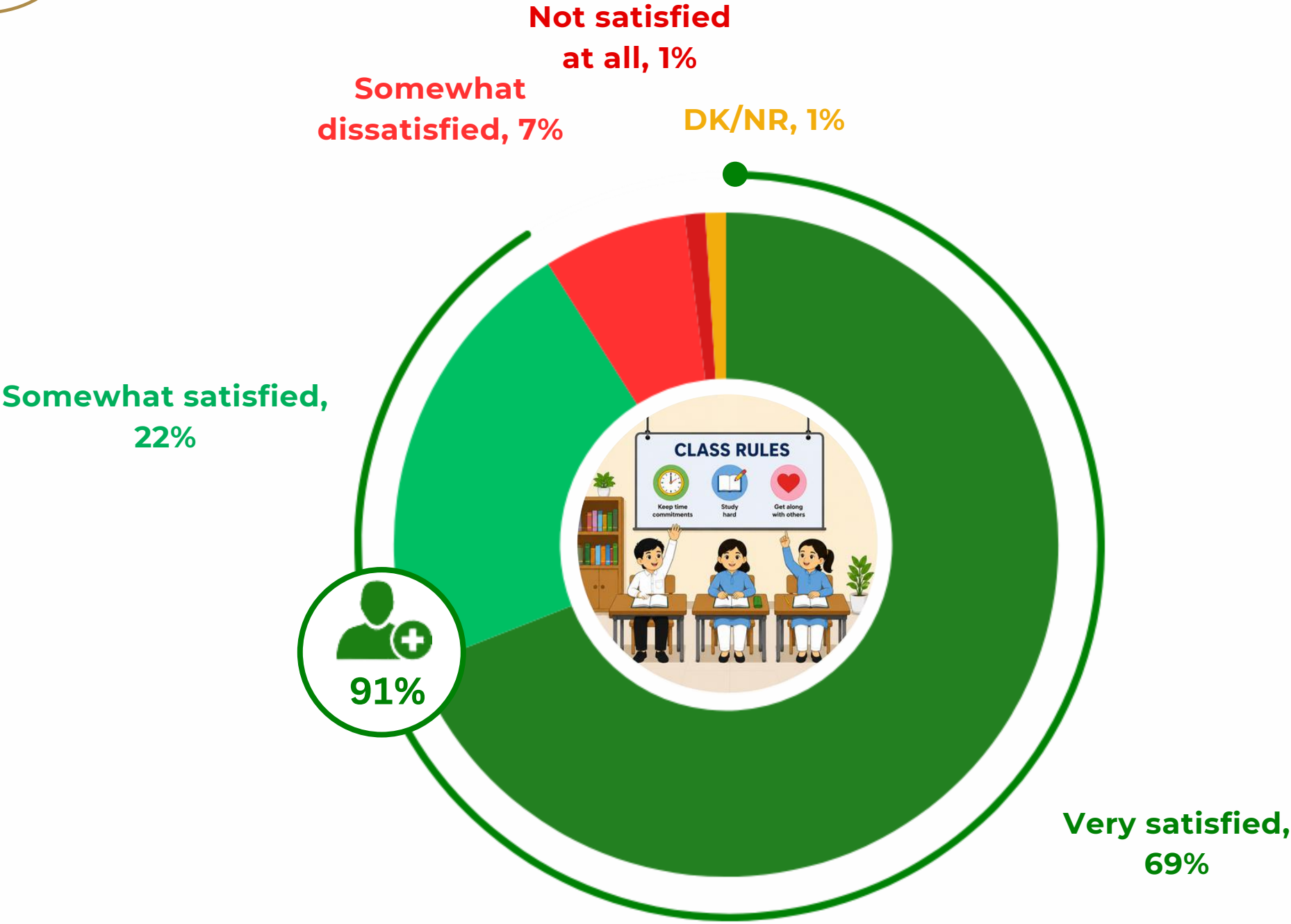
parents are satisfied with academic studies at their child's school.

Most parents (69%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school's teaching and learning quality.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Discipline”



91%

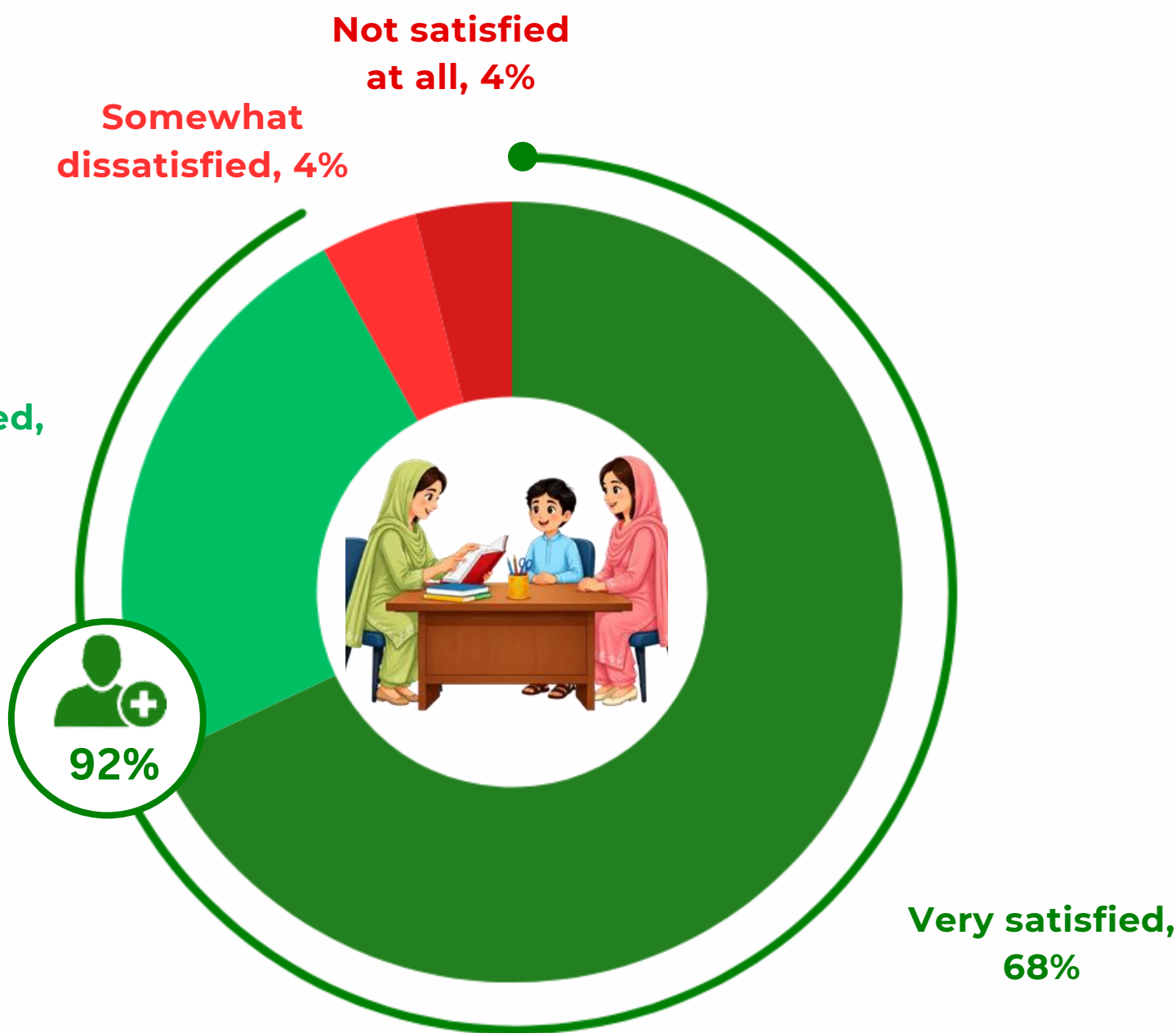
parents are satisfied with discipline at their child’s school.

Most parents (69%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school’s classroom management and behavior practices.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Communication with parents”



92%

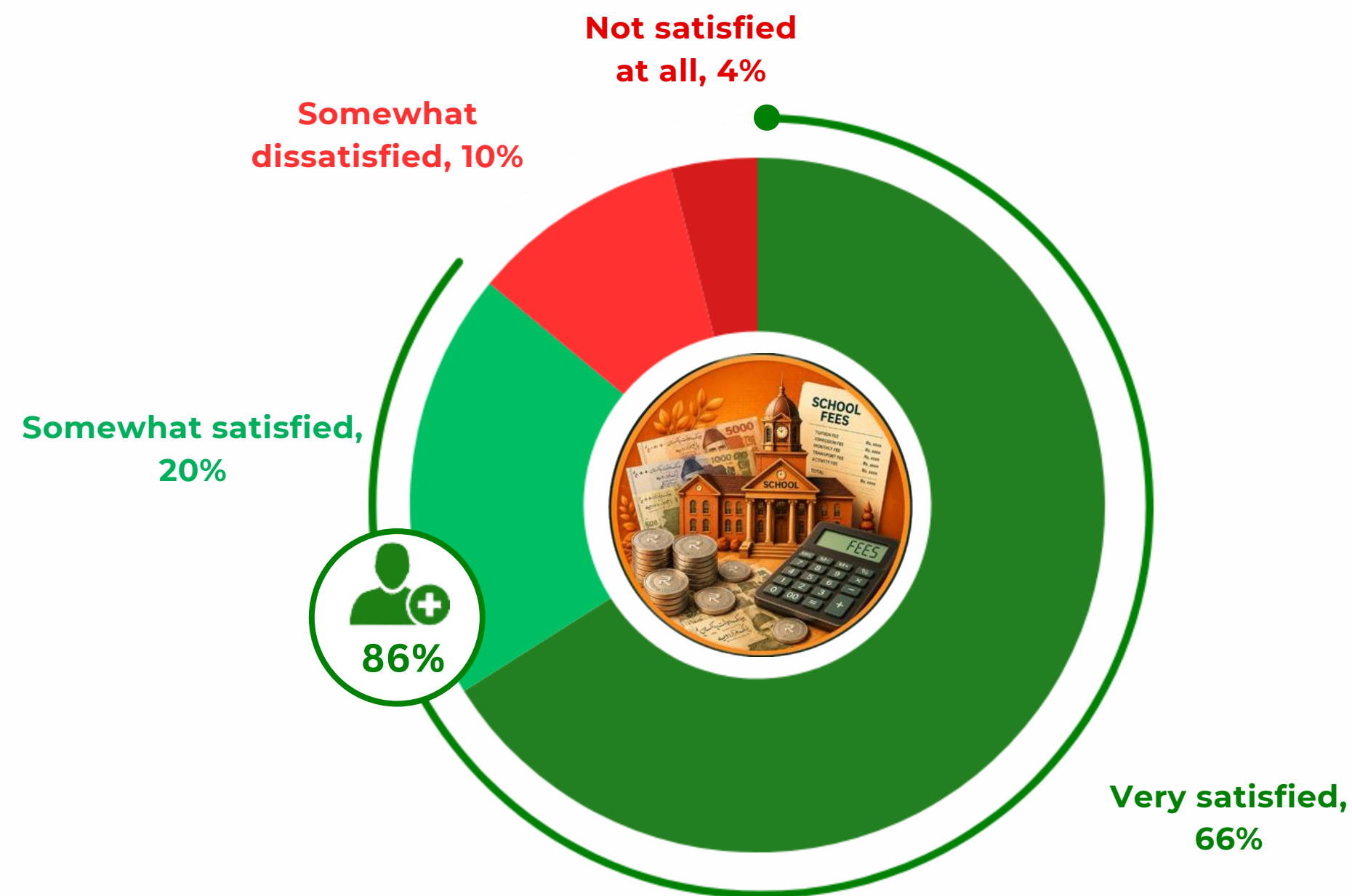
parents are satisfied with communication at their child's school.

Most parents (68%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school's parent engagement practices.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

“Fees”



86%

parents are satisfied with school fees at their child's school.

Most parents (66%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school's fee structure and affordability.

Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the following educational facilities and performance aspects?

Net Rating *(Satisfied minus Dissatisfied)*

Giving and checking homework



87%

Teaching quality



86%

Quality of books



85%

Communication with parents



84%

Studies



83%

Discipline



83%

Exams and results



81%

Fees



72%

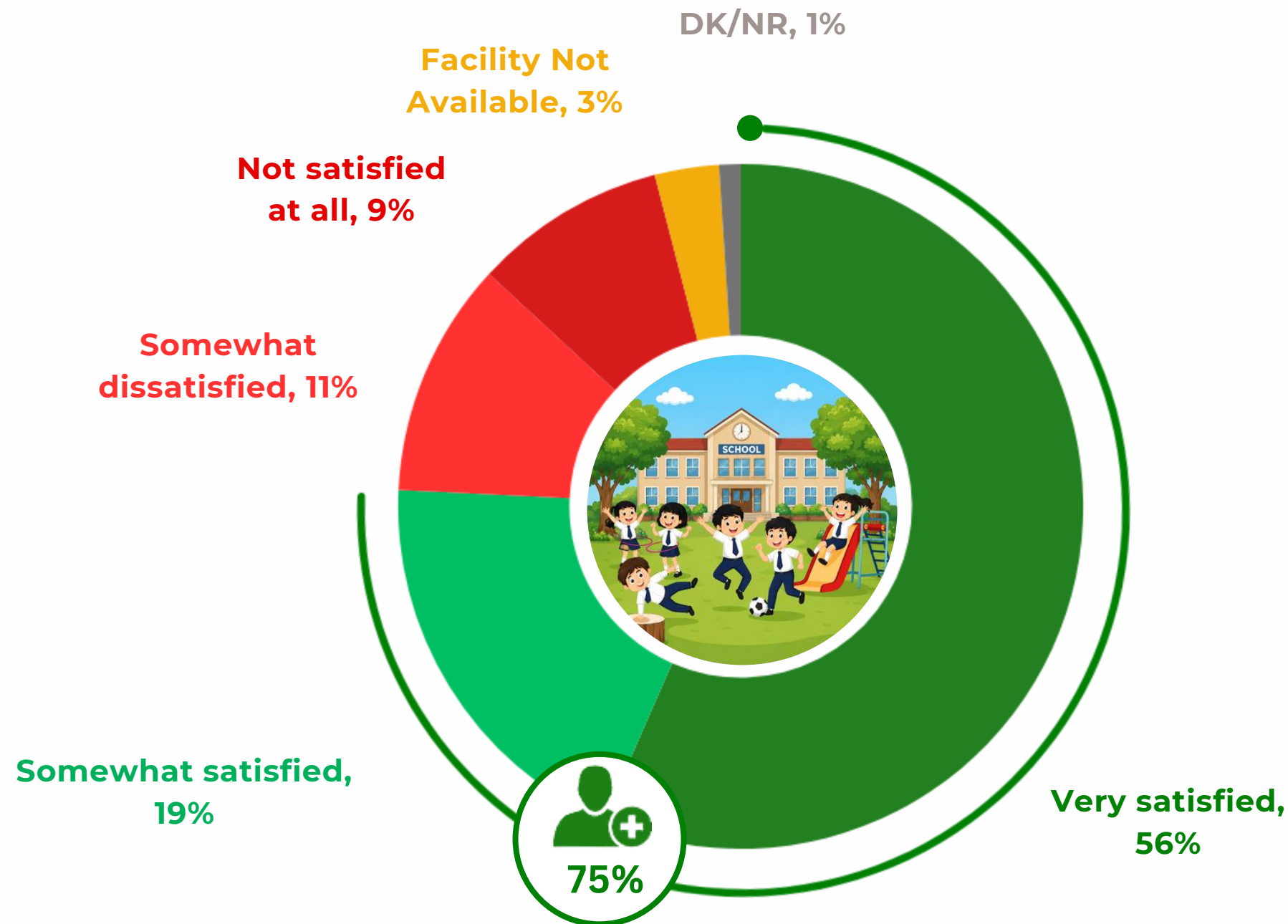
0%

100%

37

Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are regarding the following school facilities?

“Playground/playing area”



75%

satisfied with the playground or playing facilities at their child's school.

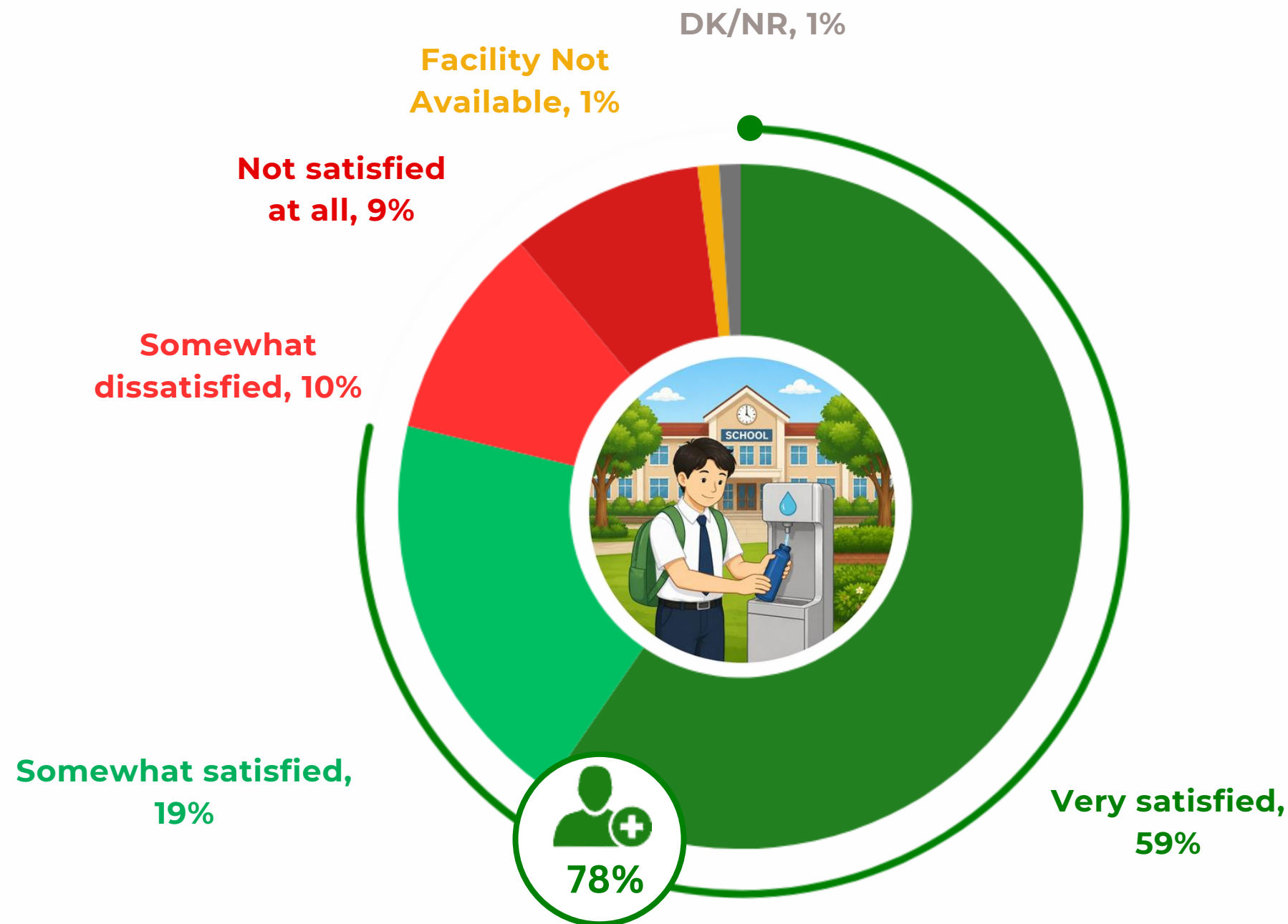
Most parents (56%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the quality of recreational resources.





Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are regarding the following school facilities?

“Drinking water”



78%

satisfied with the drinking water facilities at their child's school.

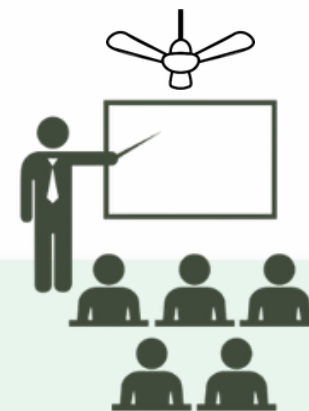
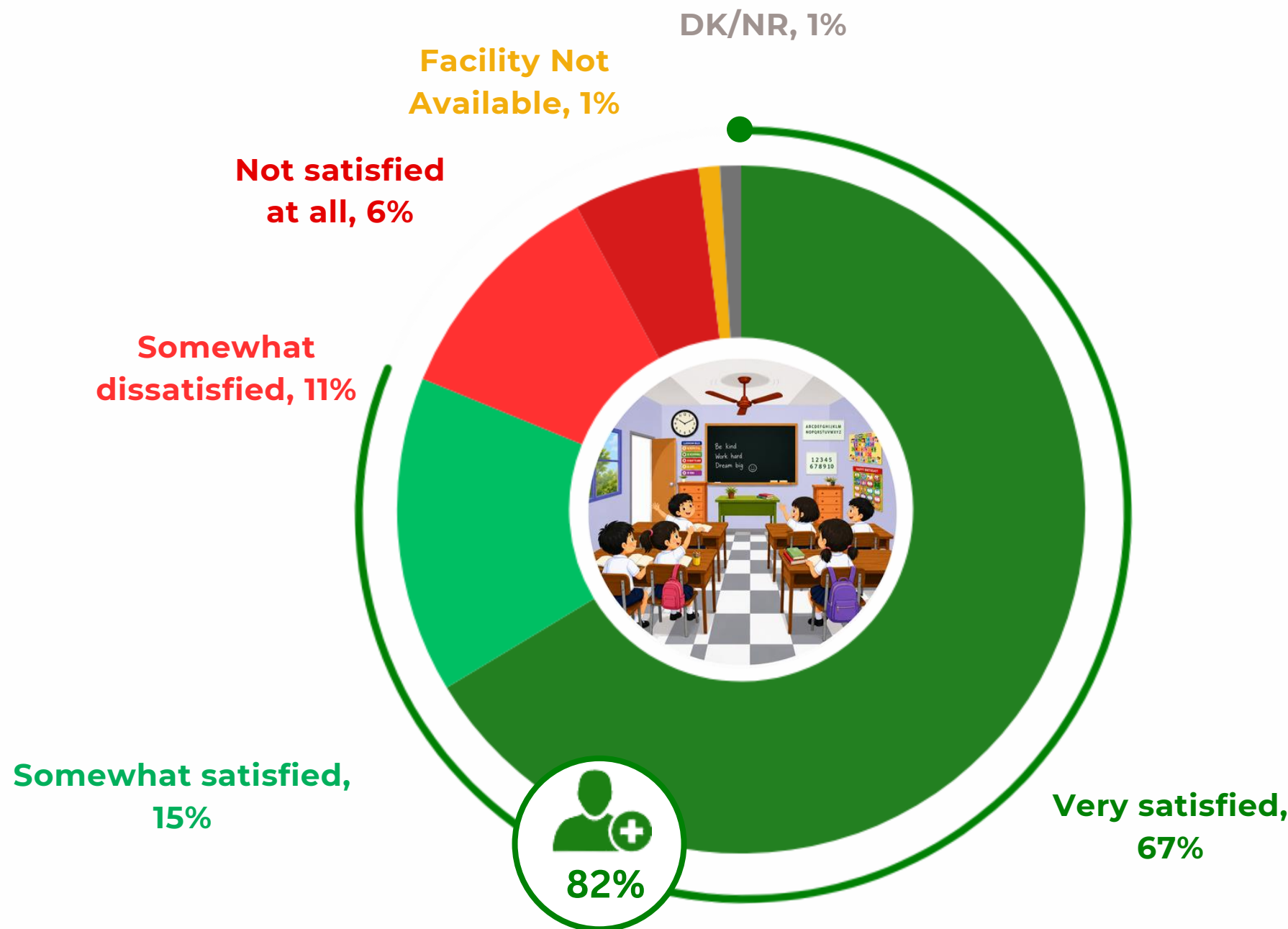
Most parents (59%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the availability and quality of water at school.





Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are regarding the following school facilities?

“Fans for protection from heat”



82%

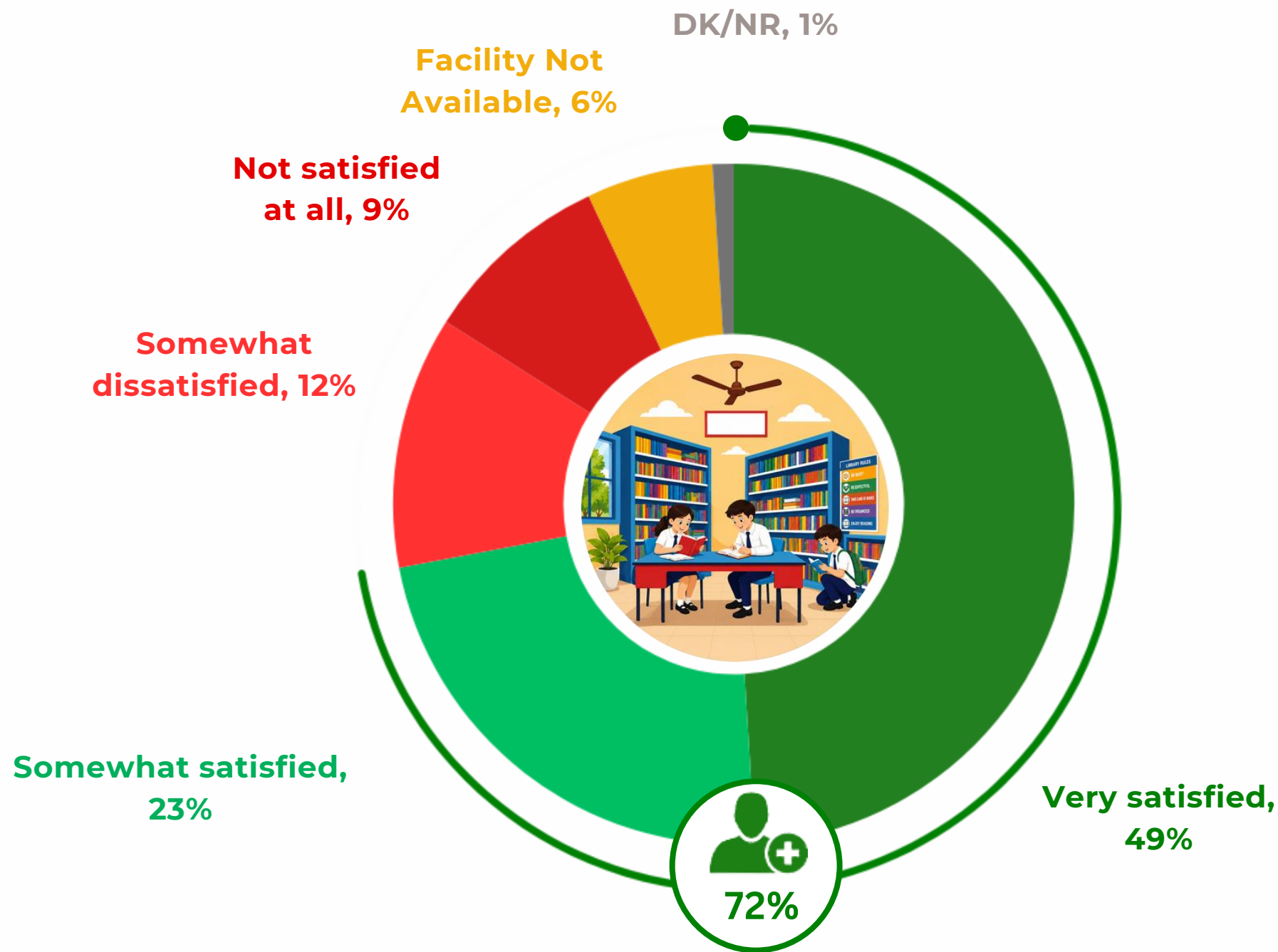
satisfied with the availability and functioning of fans at their child's school.

Most parents (67%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school's measures to protect students from heat.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are regarding the following school facilities?

“Library”



72%

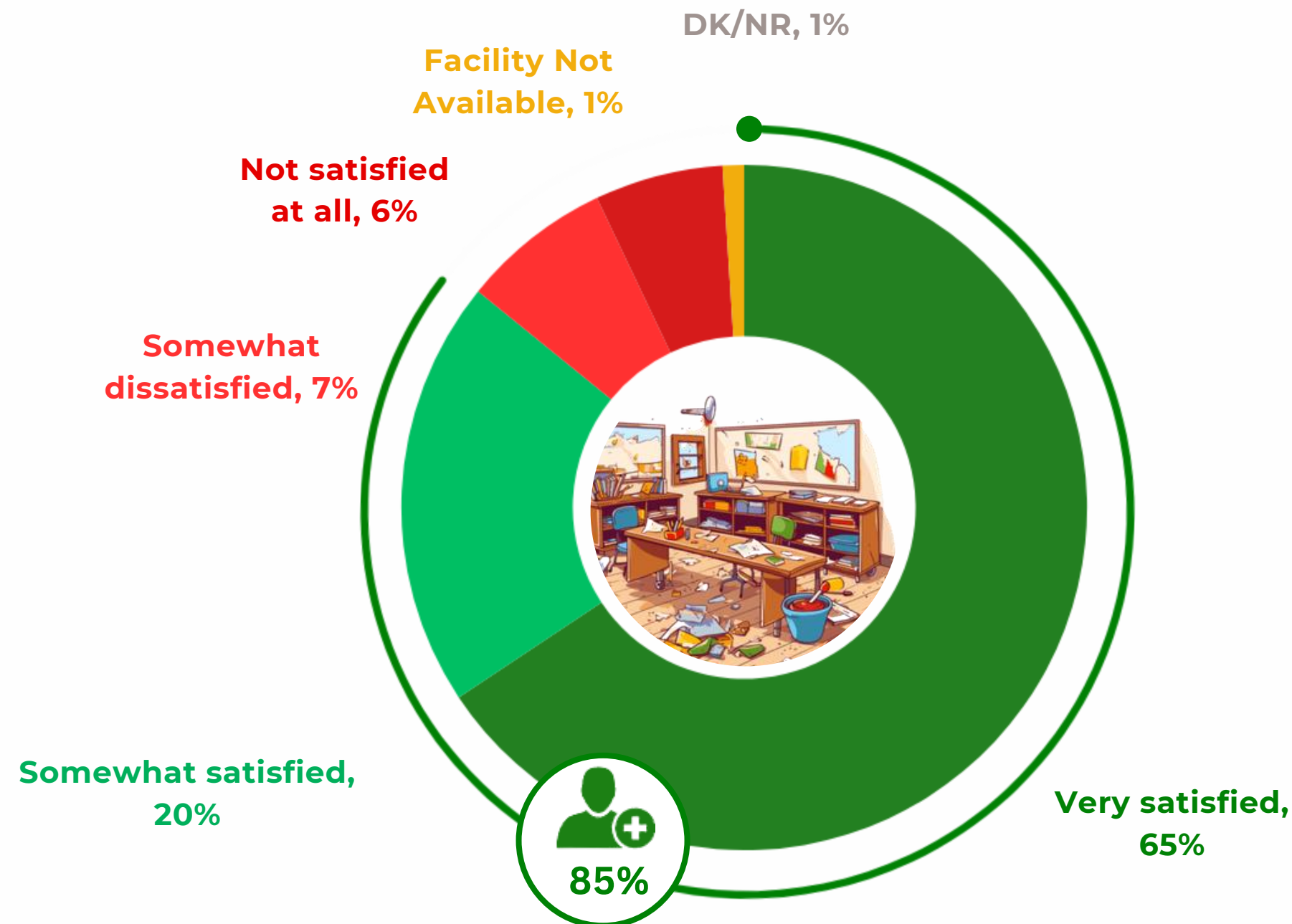
satisfied with the availability and quality of the library at their child’s school.

Most parents (49%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school’s learning resources and reading facilities.



Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are regarding the following school facilities?

“Bathroom/cleanliness”



85%

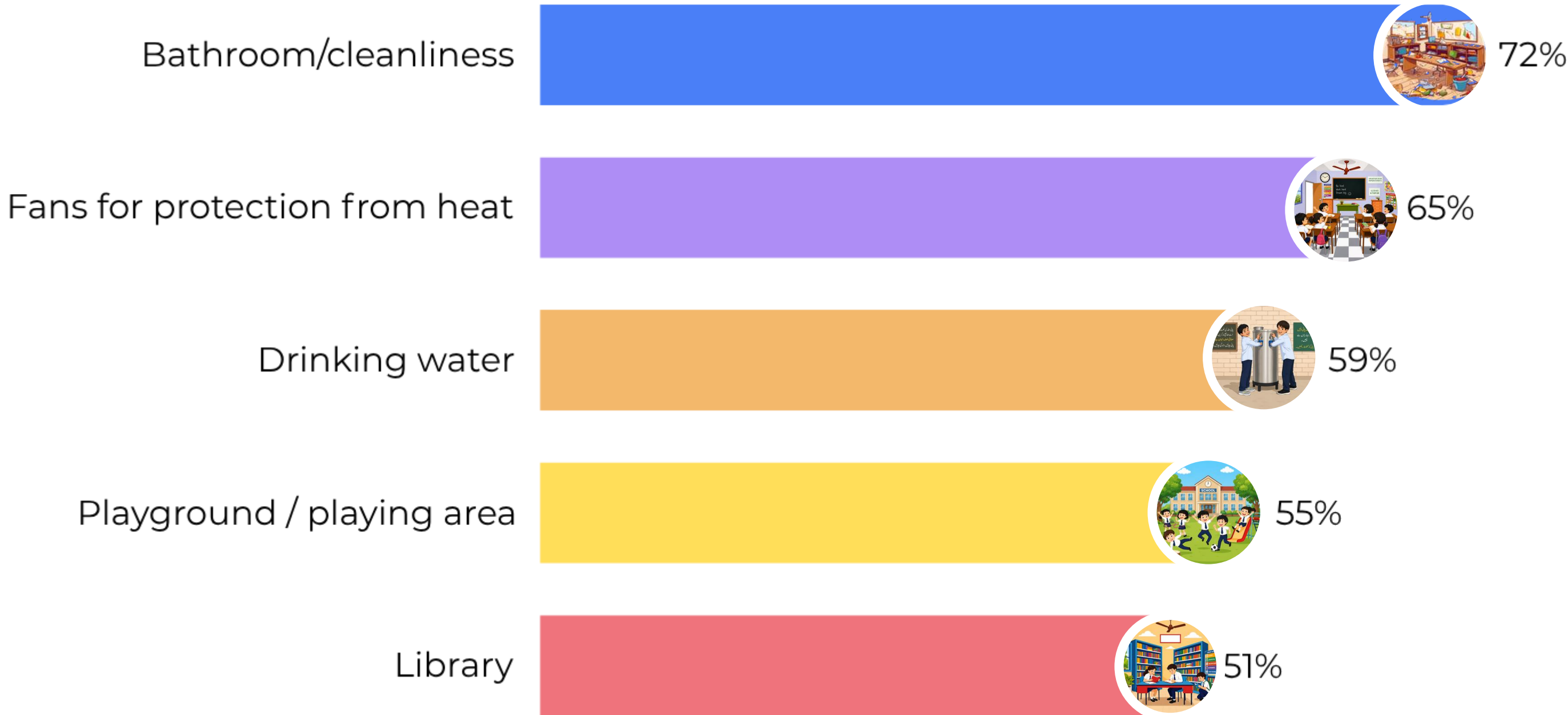
satisfied with the cleanliness and availability of bathrooms at their child's school.

Most parents (65%) are very satisfied, reflecting strong confidence in the school's hygiene and sanitation measures.

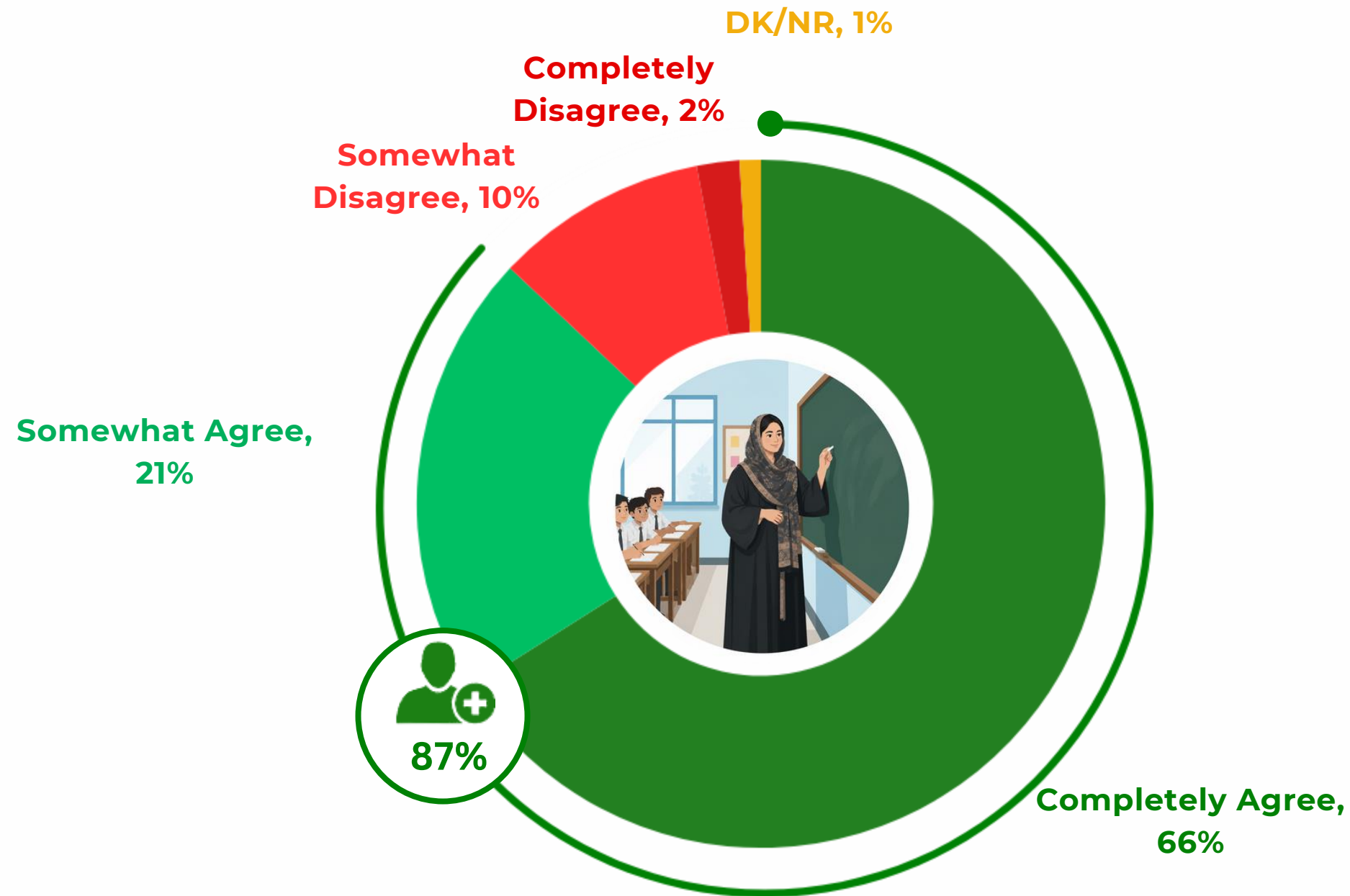


Thinking about your child's school, please tell how satisfied or dissatisfied you are regarding the following school facilities?

Net Rating *(Satisfied% minus Dissatisfied%)*



Thinking about your child school's teachers, please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement that **"School teachers are highly educated"**?



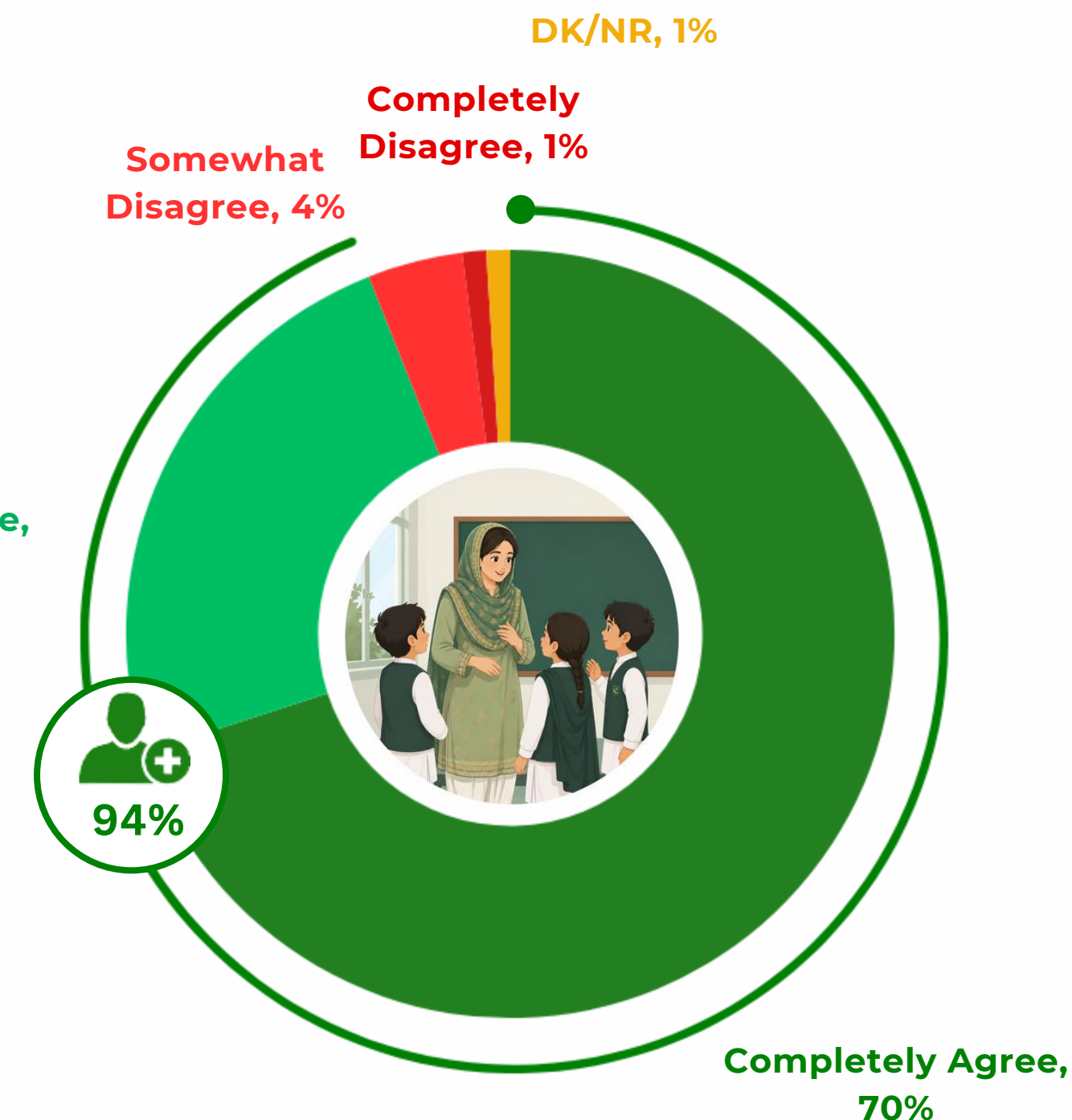
87%

agree that school teachers are highly educated.

Most parents (66%) completely agree, reflecting strong confidence in the qualifications and expertise of teachers at their child's school.



Thinking about your child school's teachers, please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement that **“School teachers communicate well with children”**?



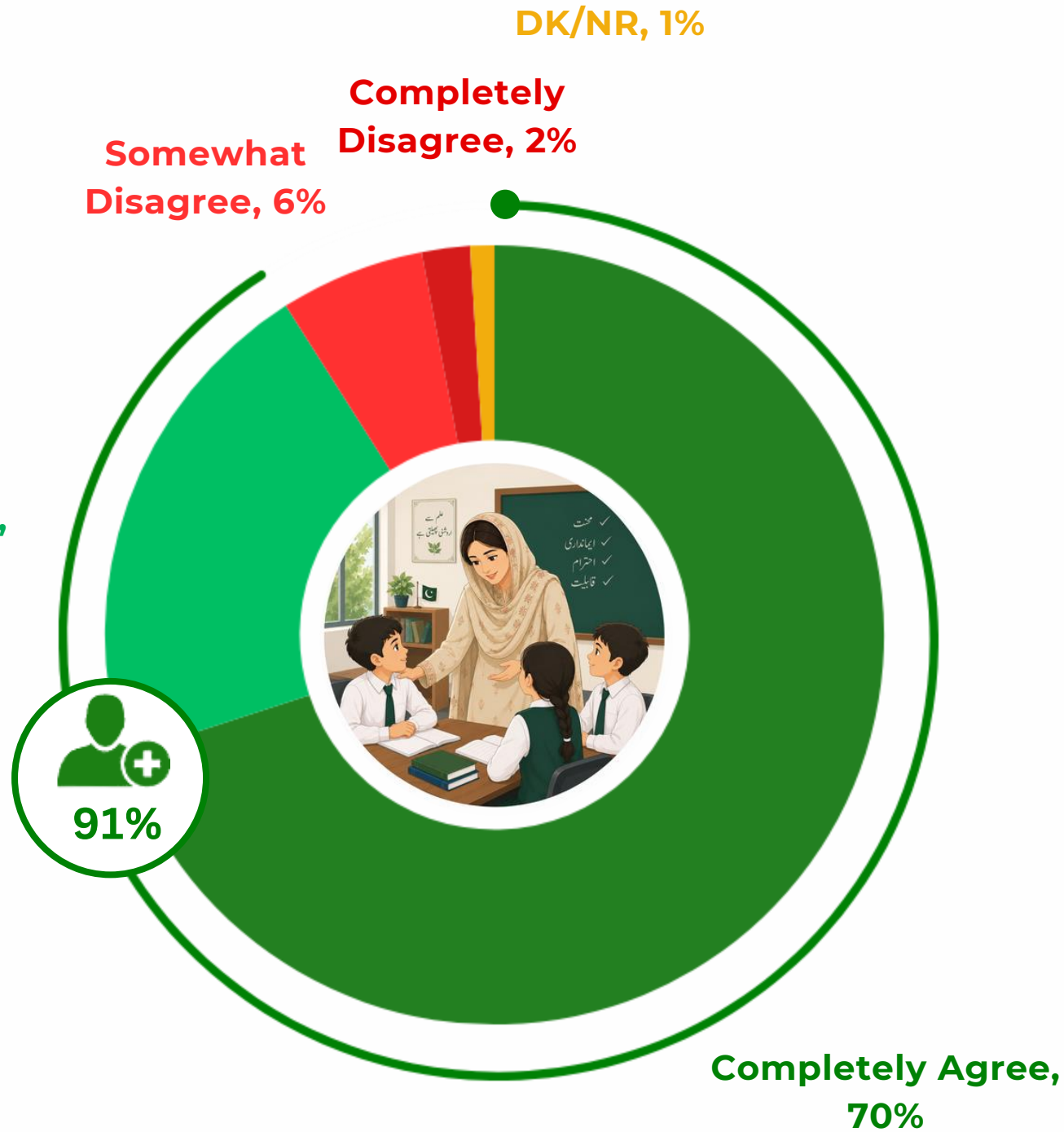
94%

agree that school teachers communicate well with children.

Most parents (70%) completely agree, reflecting strong confidence in teacher-student communication at their child's school.



Thinking about your child school's teachers, please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement that **"School teachers treat children respectfully"**?

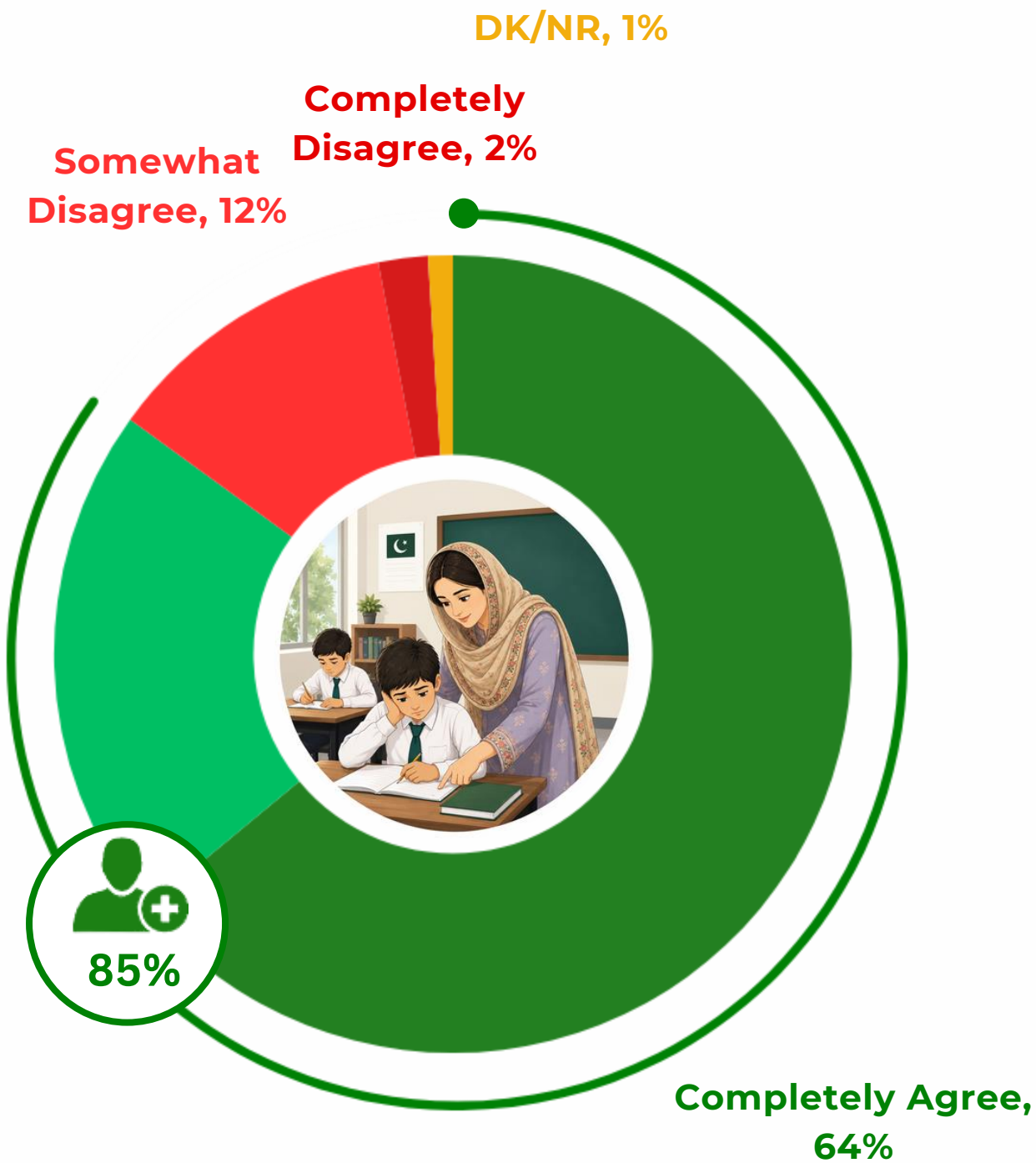


91%

sagree that school teachers treat children respectfully.

Most parents (70%) completely agree, reflecting strong confidence in the teachers' behavior and respectful interactions with students.

Thinking about your child school's teachers, please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the statement that **"School teachers pay more attention to weak students"**?



85%

agree that school teachers pay more attention to weak students.

Most parents (64%) completely agree, reflecting strong confidence in the support teachers provide to struggling students.

Thinking about child school's teachers, please tell to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements that school teachers _____?

Net Rating

(Agree% minus Disagree%)

Communicate well with children



39%

Treat children respectfully



33%

Highly educated



75%

Pay more attention to weak students



71%

0%

100%

48

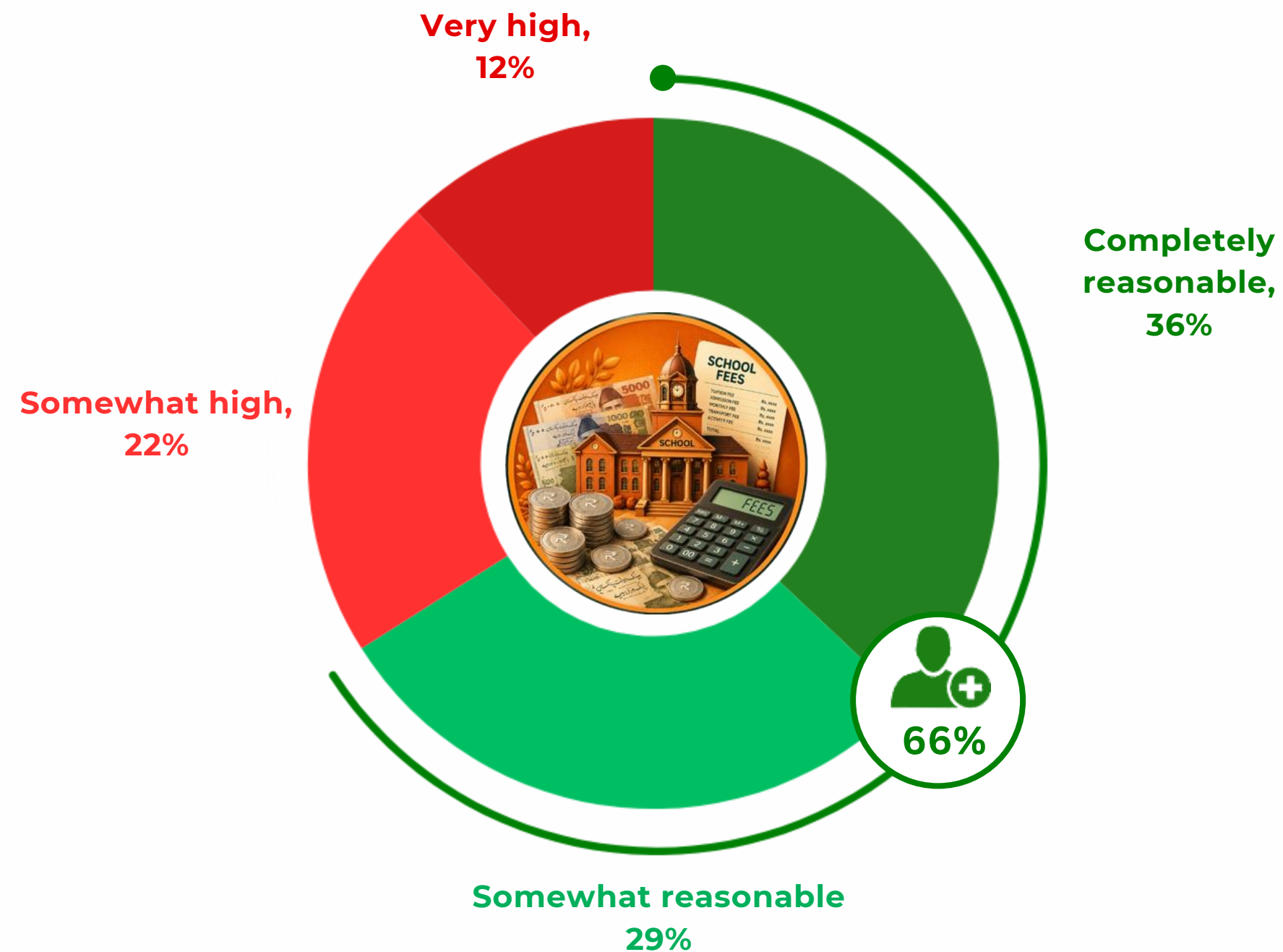
Section 4:

School Affordability and Convenience



Please tell whether the school fee of your child is reasonable?*

*NOTE: Asked only of respondents whose child studied in a private school.



66%

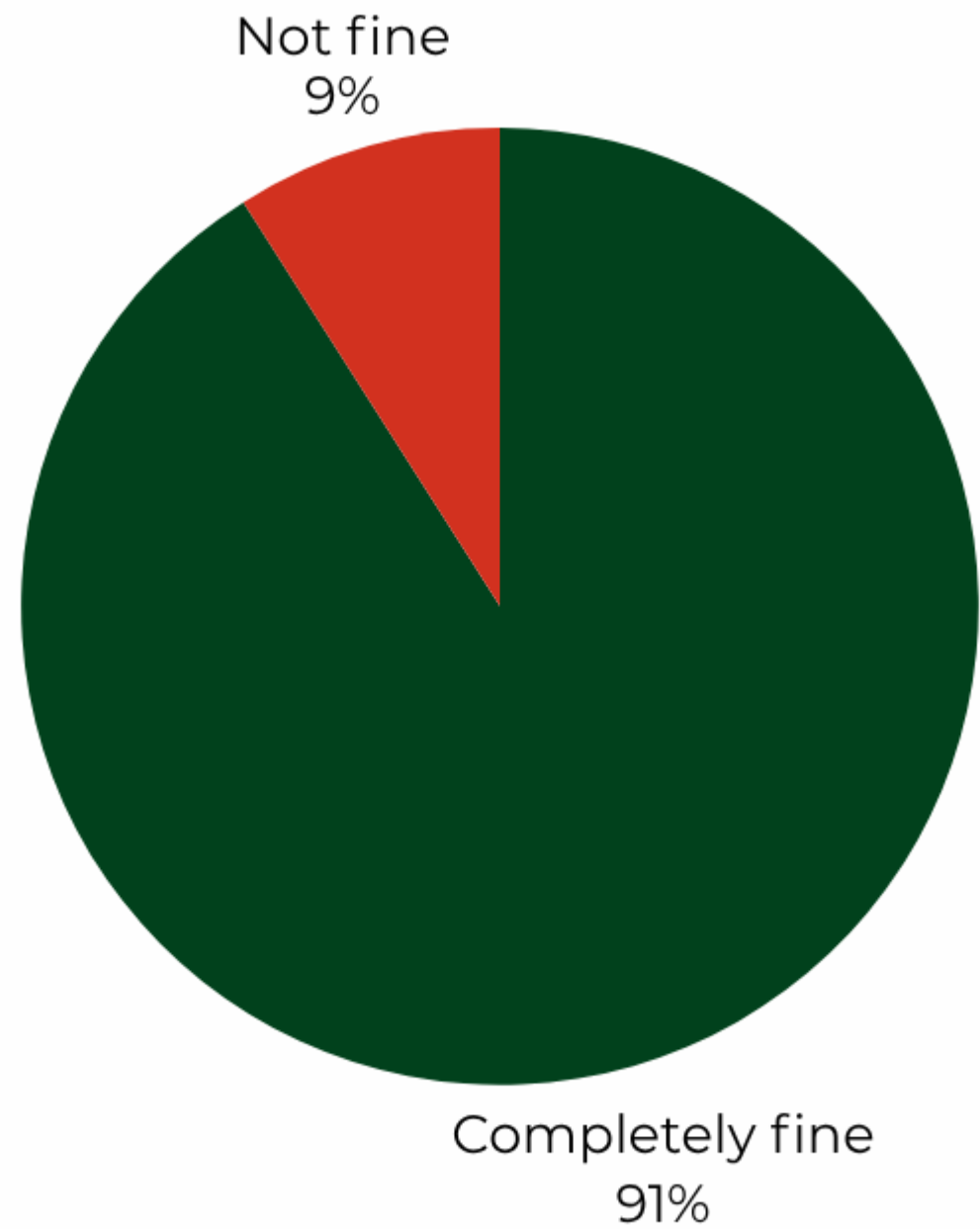
Find fees reasonable
(completely + somewhat).

34%

Consider fees high.



In your opinion, how is the school timing of your child?



91%

Find school timing
completely fine.

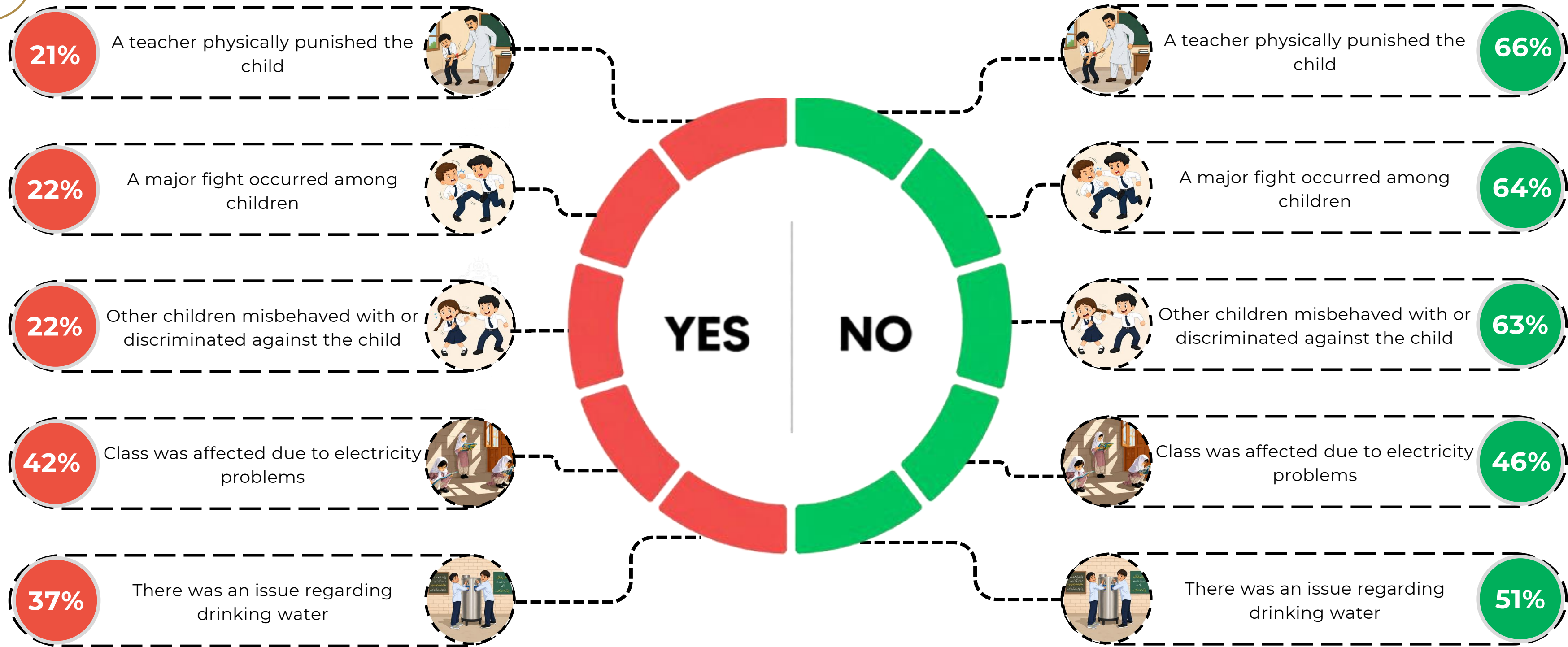
*High parental approval
of school schedules.*

Section 5:

Student Safety and Well-being



Thinking about your child's school, please tell whether any of the following incidents have occurred in the school?



*The balance from 100% is Don't Know/No Response.

Thinking about your child's school, please tell whether any of the following incidents have occurred in the school?

Net Rating (No% minus Yes%)

A teacher physically punished the child



A major fight occurred among children



Other children misbehaved with against the child



There was an issue regarding drinking water

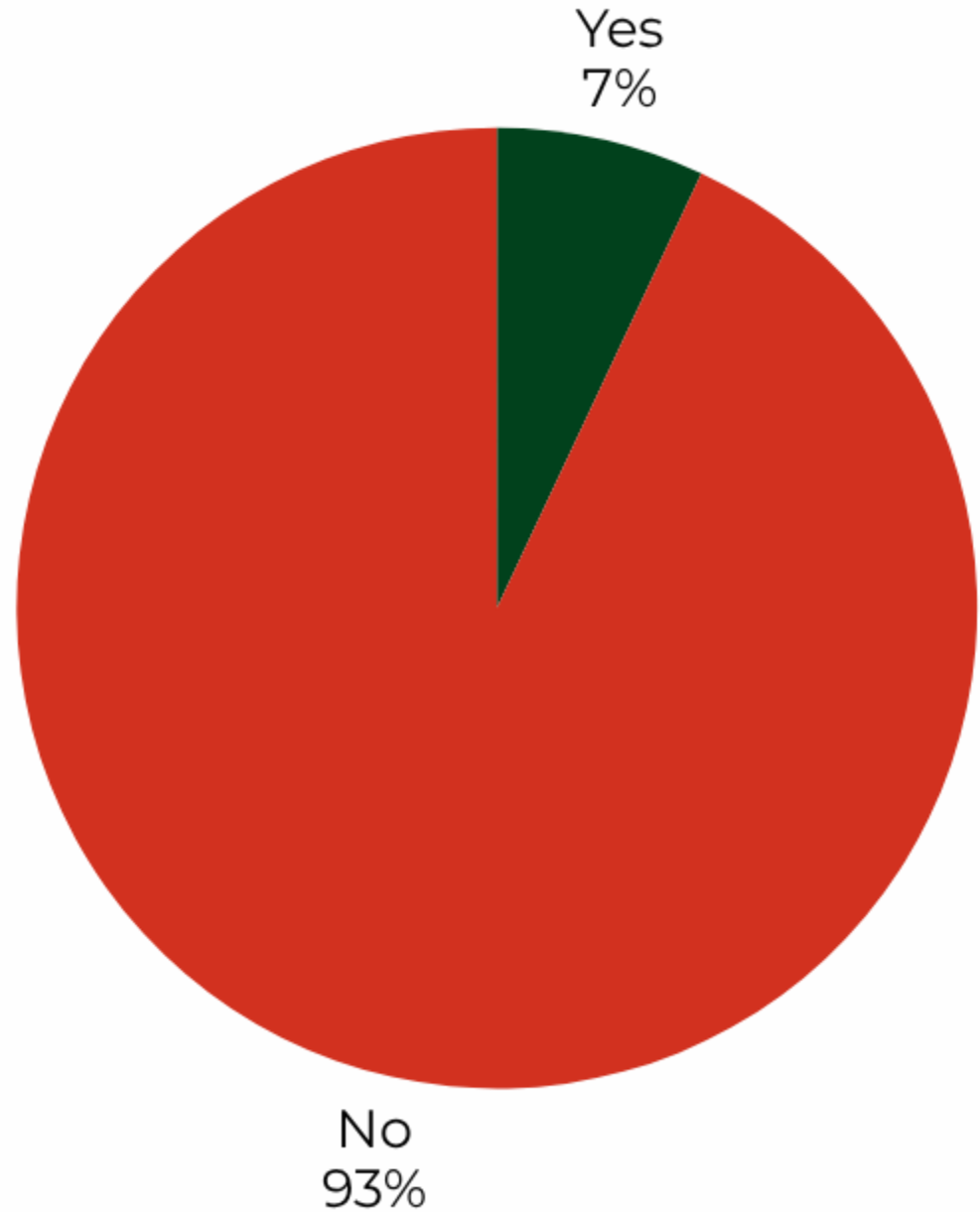


Class was affected due to electricity problems



0%

Please tell whether your child has ever complained about unfairness or mistreatment at school?



7%

Children have complained about mistreatment.

92% report no issues — but 7% is still significant.

If Yes, then what type of complaint was made?

About teachers' behavior	38%
About misbehavior by other children	31%
About school administration	6%
Others	11%
Don't Know	15%

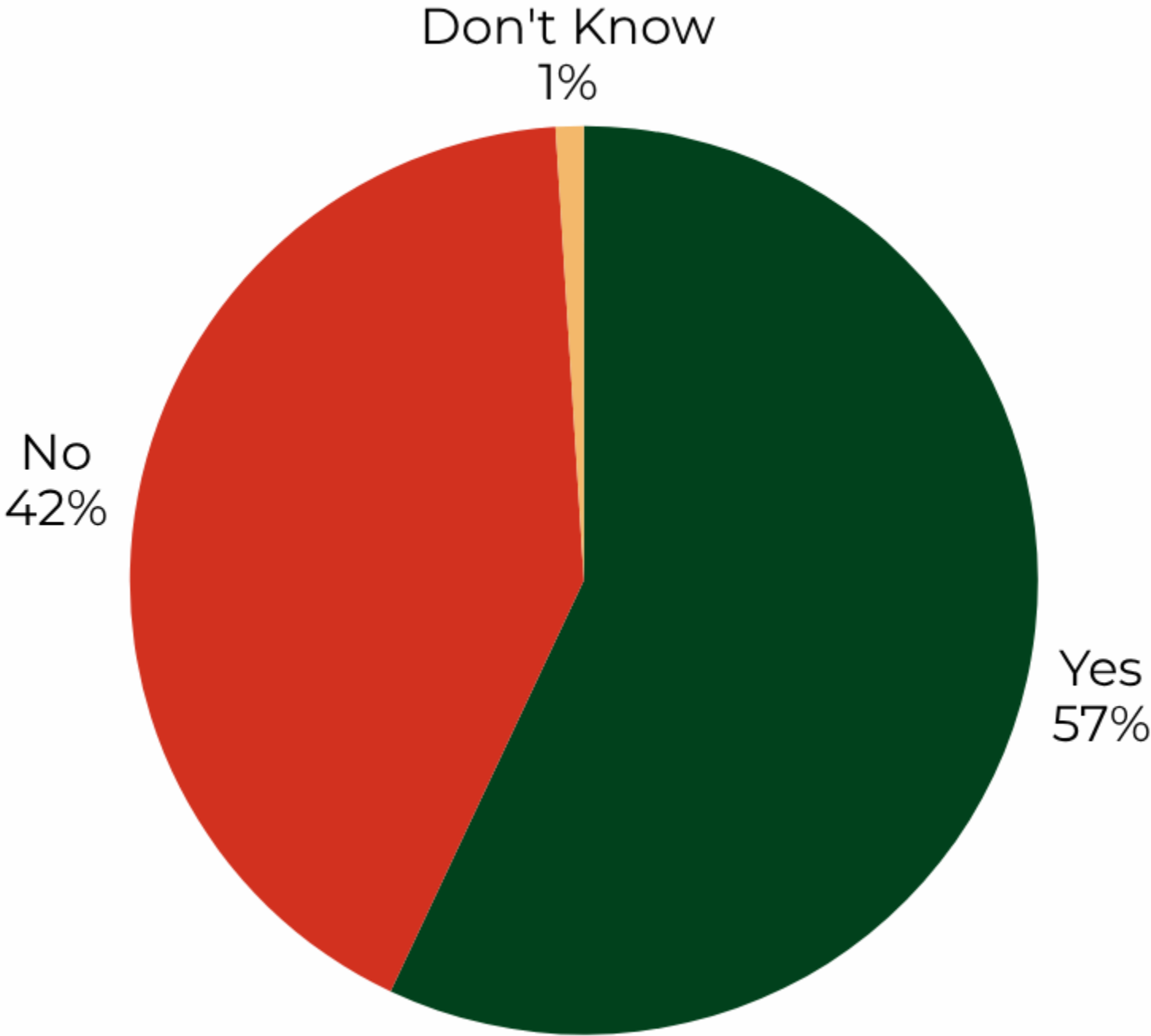
Section 6:

Parent-School Engagement & Digital Learning





Please tell whether a parent-teacher meeting was held during the last 3 months, i.e., a meeting in which the child’s academic performance, behavior, and extracurricular activities are discussed?



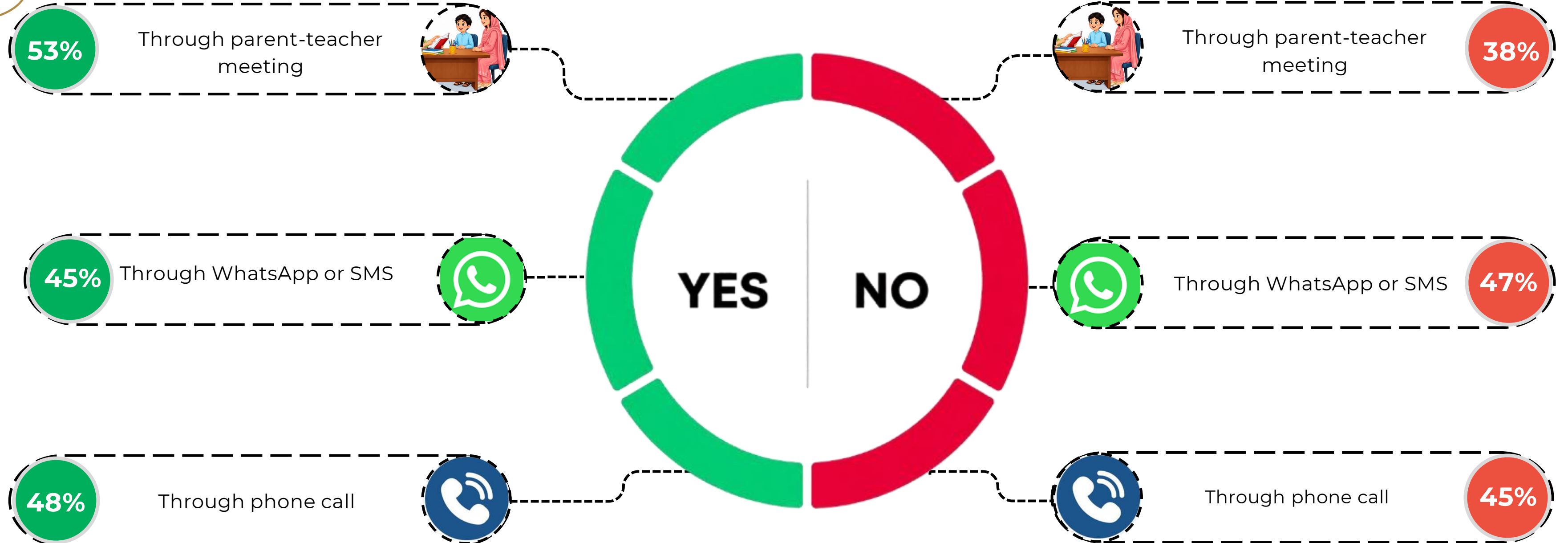
57%

Schools held a PTM in last 3 months.

42% schools did NOT hold a parent meeting.



During the last one month, did your child's school contact you through any of the following means?

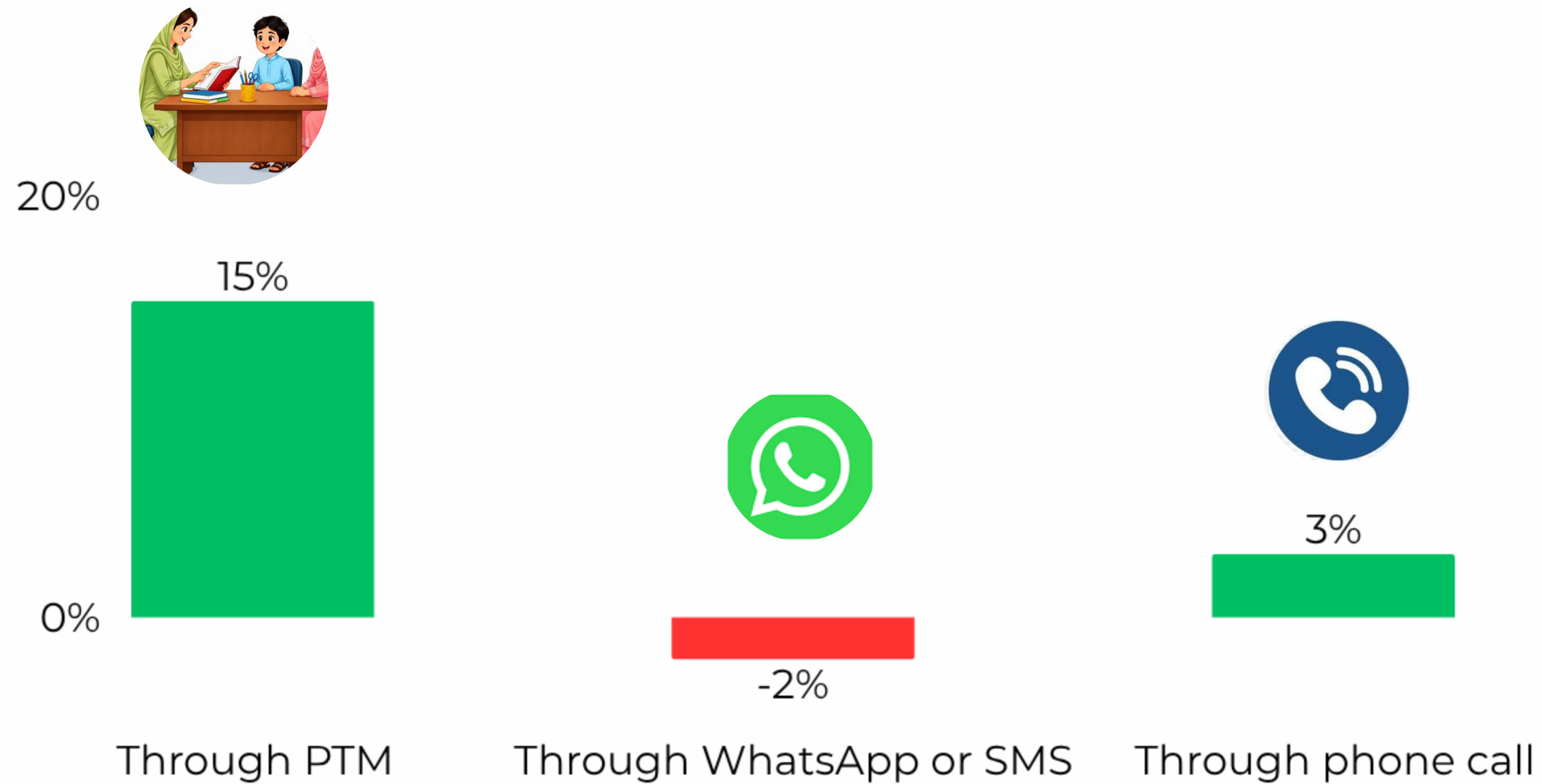


*The balance from 100% is Don't Know/No Response.

During the last one month, did your child's school contact you through any of the following means?

Net Rating

(Yes% minus No%)



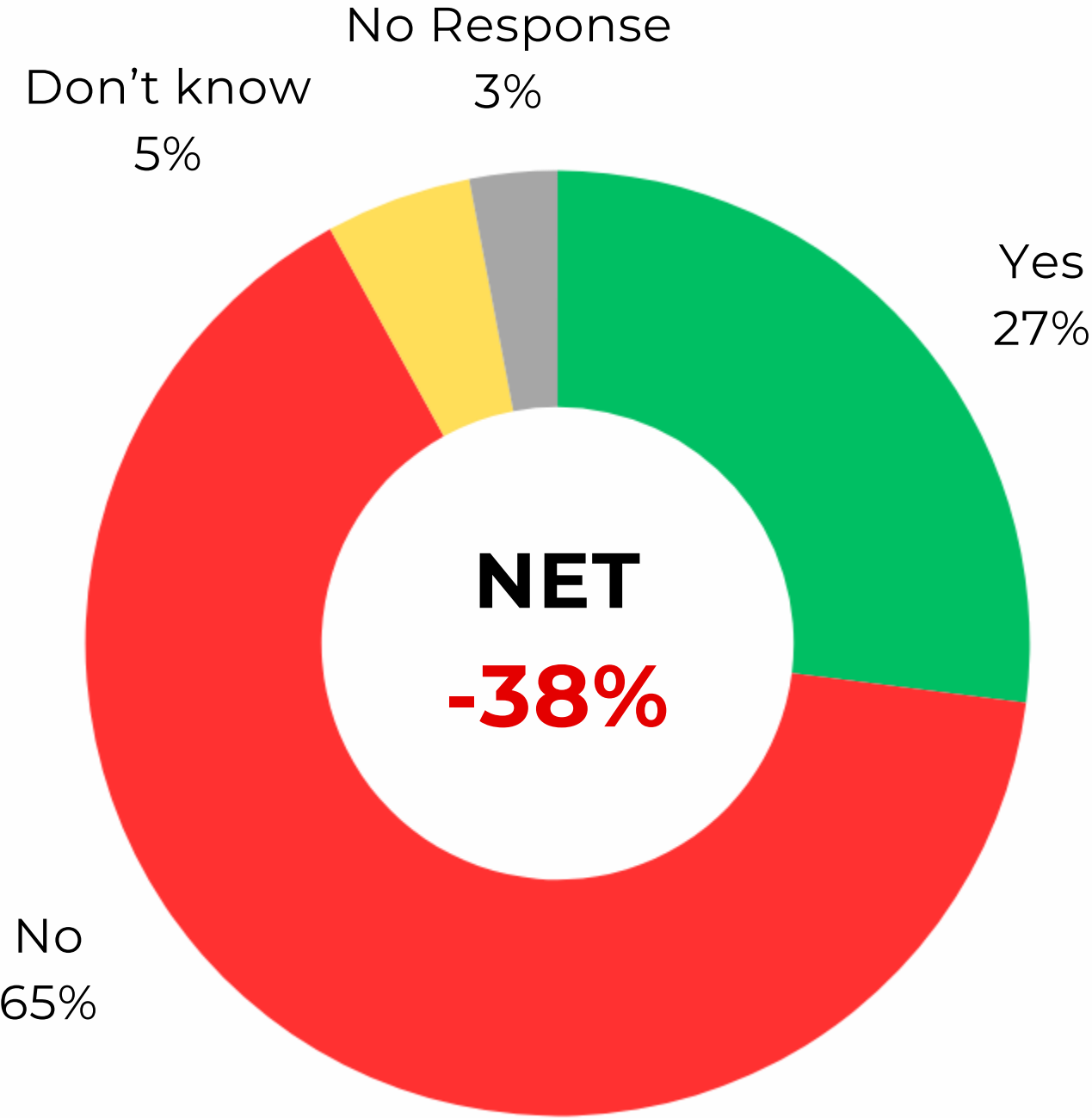
Communication

Meeting is the most preferred channel — but digital (WhatsApp/Phone) close behind.



Please tell whether your child’s school used the following methods regarding education?

“Sent assignments through SMS/WhatsApp”



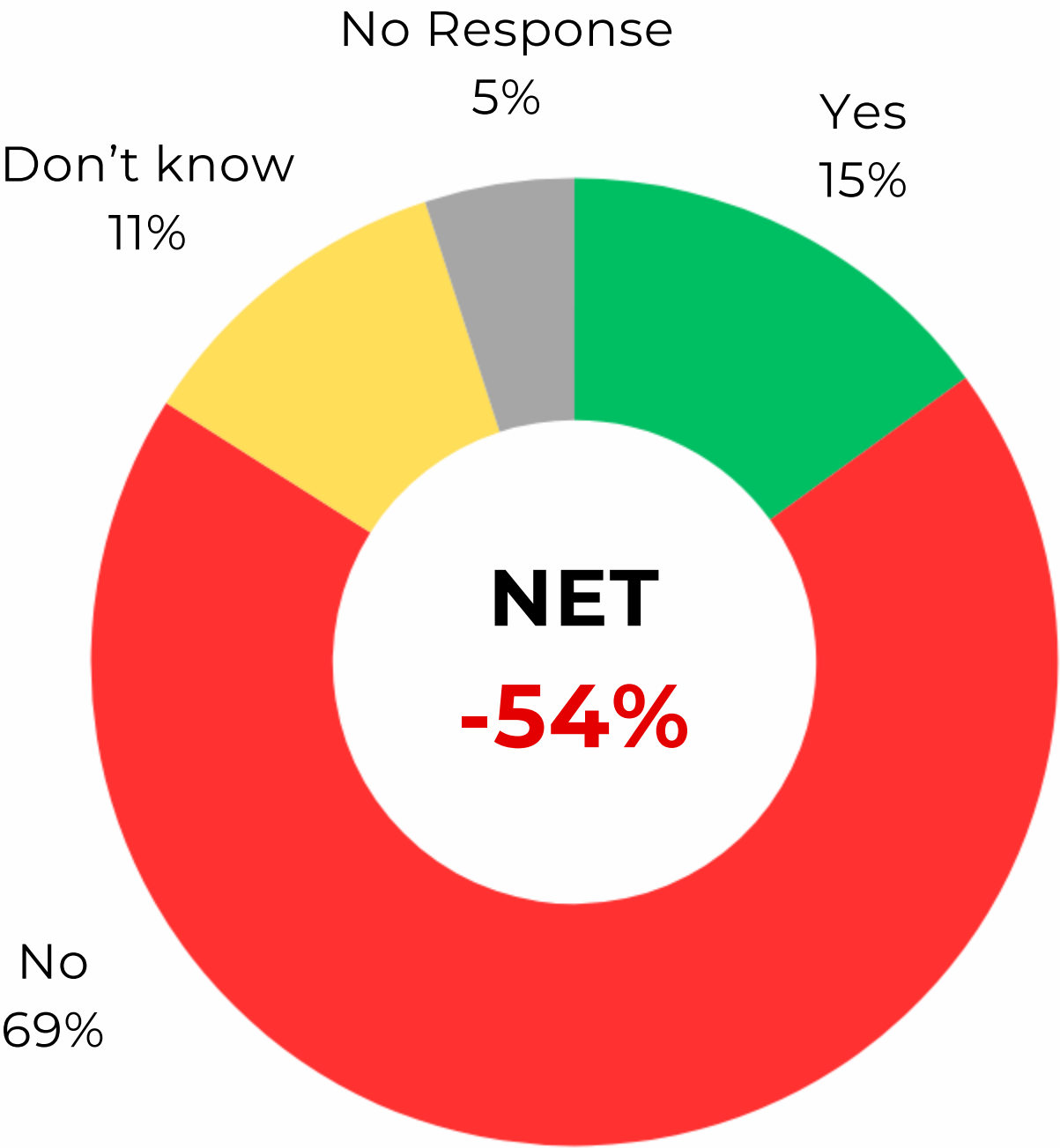
If yes, Please tell whether during the last one month your child’s school used this method?

Yes	73%
No	24%
Don't Know	4%



Please tell whether your child’s school used the following methods regarding education?

“Conducted online classes”



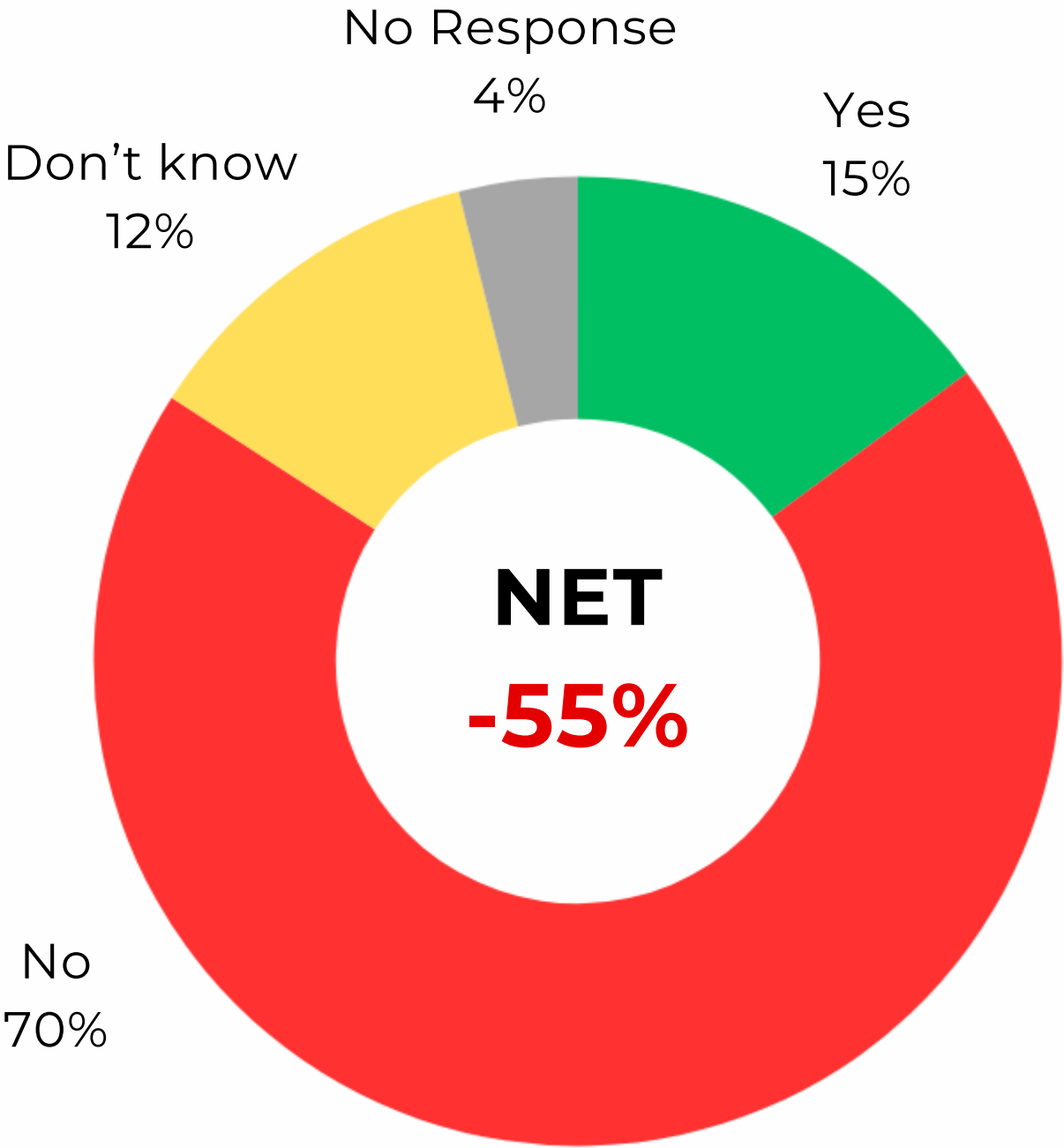
If yes, Please tell whether during the last one month your child’s school used this method?

Yes	58%
No	35%
Don't Know	7%



Please tell whether your child’s school used the following methods regarding education?

“Conducted studies through tablet or computer”



If yes, Please tell whether during the last one month your child’s school used this method?

Yes	58%
No	33%
Don't Know	9%

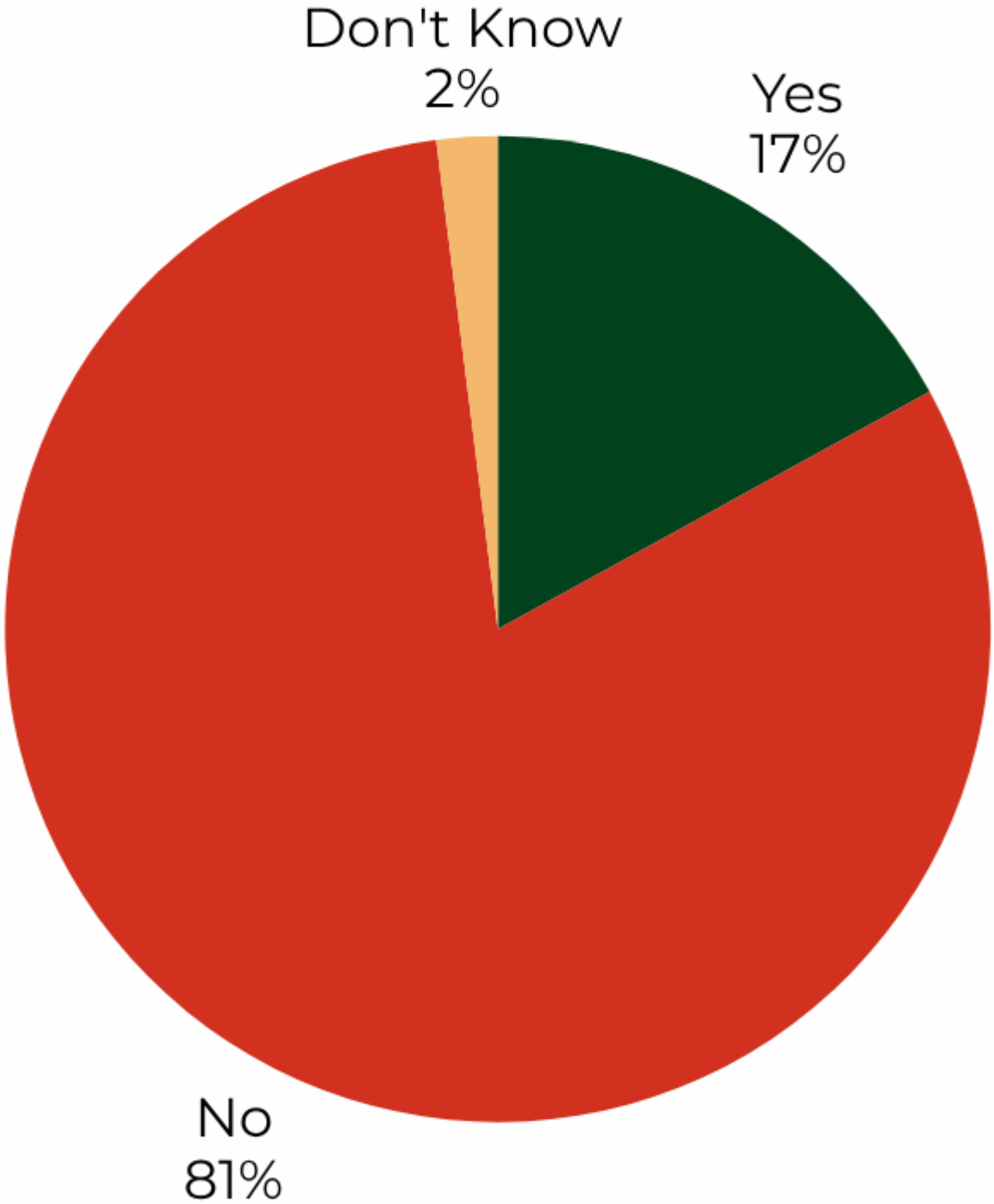
Section 7:

Educational Awareness





Please tell whether you have heard of O-Levels?



81%

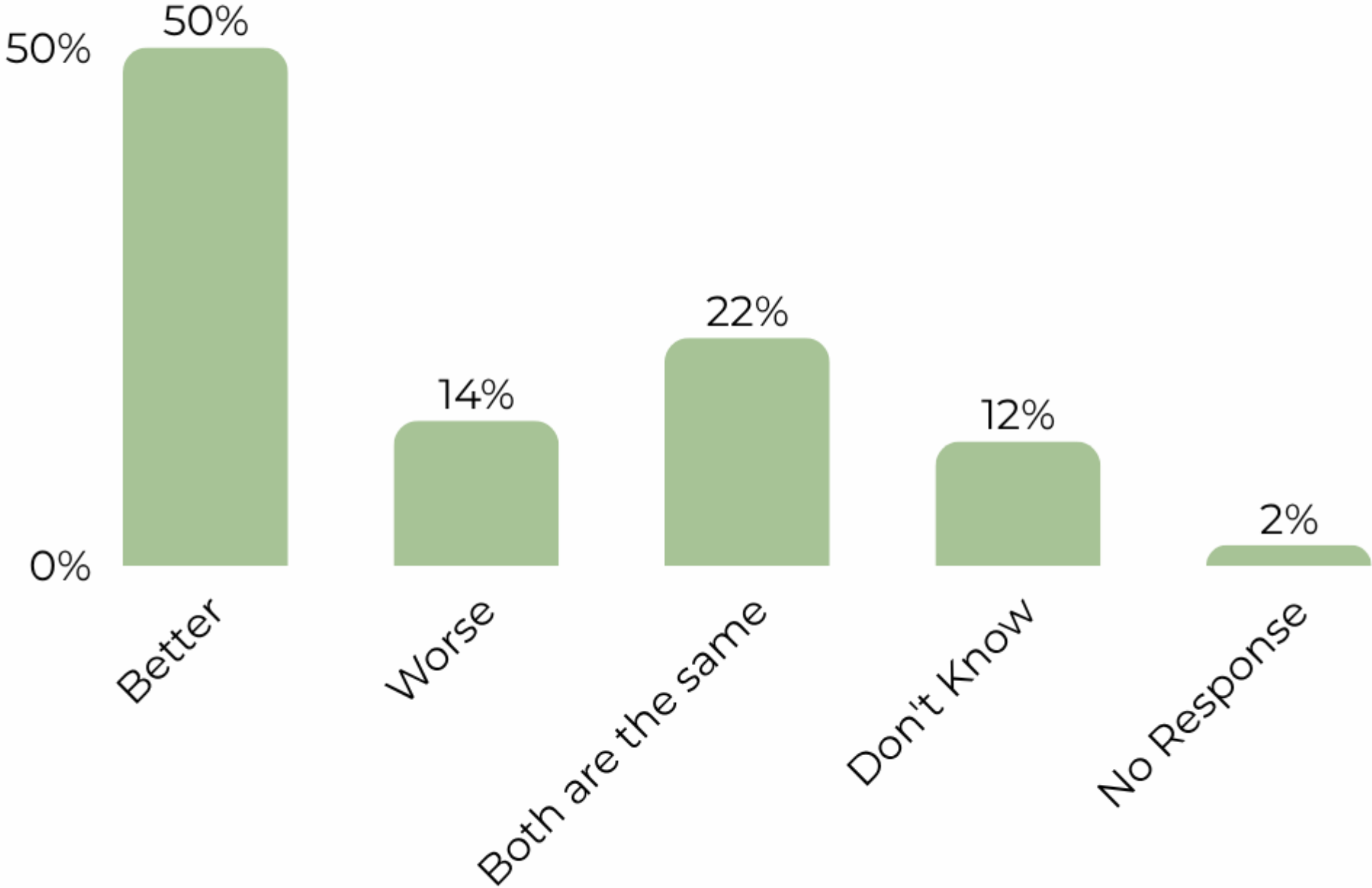
Have NOT heard of O-Levels.

Low awareness of international curriculum options.



In your opinion, compared to the local board (Matric), are O-Levels better, worse, or are both the same?*

*NOTE: Asked from those who had awareness about O levels



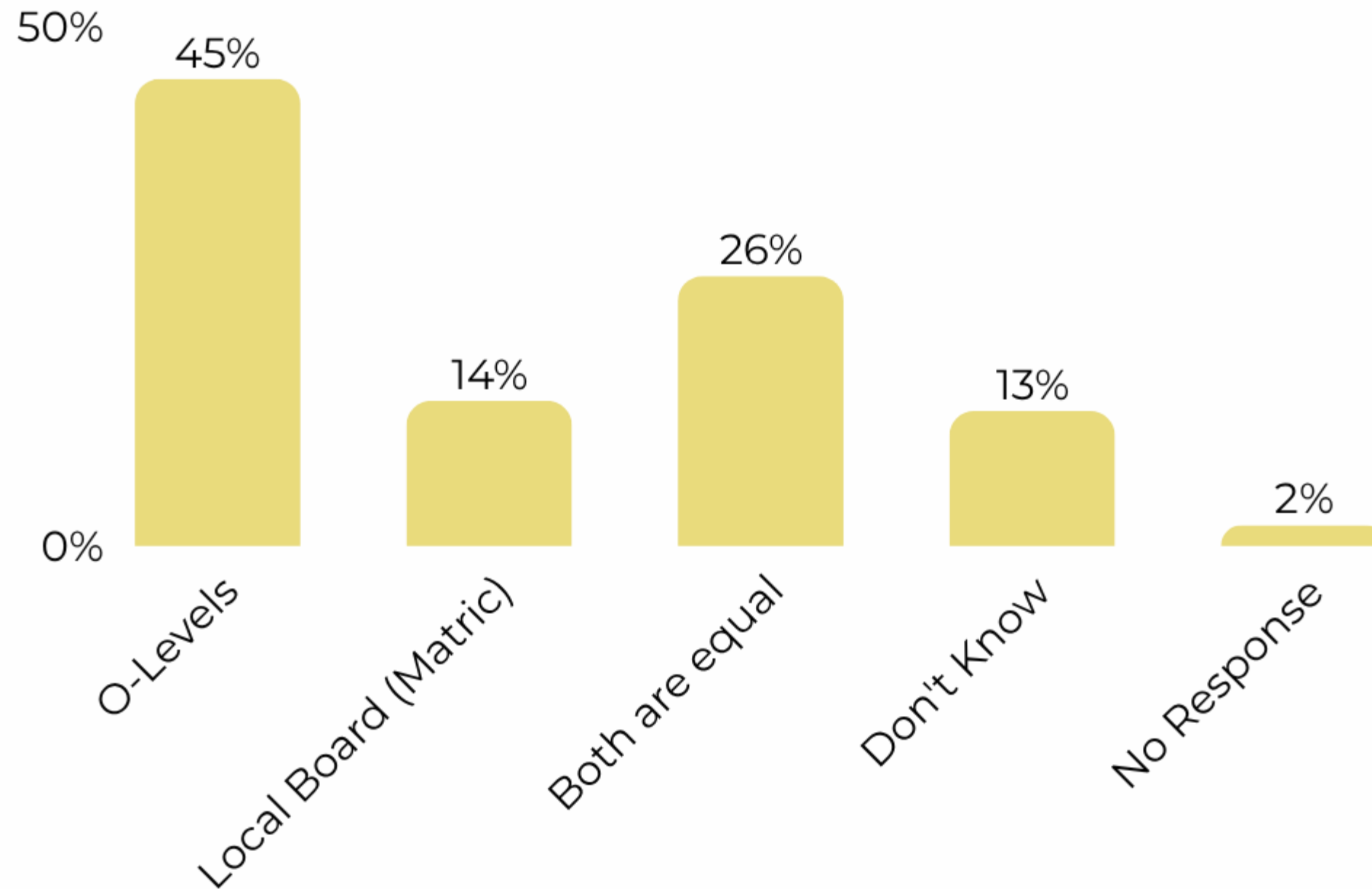
50%

Consider O-Levels better than Matric.

Among those aware, O-Levels have a positive reputation.

In your opinion, which is better for making a child successful: Local Board (Matric) or O-Levels?*

*NOTE: Asked from those who had awareness about O levels



45%

believe O-Levels are better for making a child successful.

14% prefer the Local Board (Matric), while 26% feel both are equally good, indicating a strong preference for O-Levels among parents.

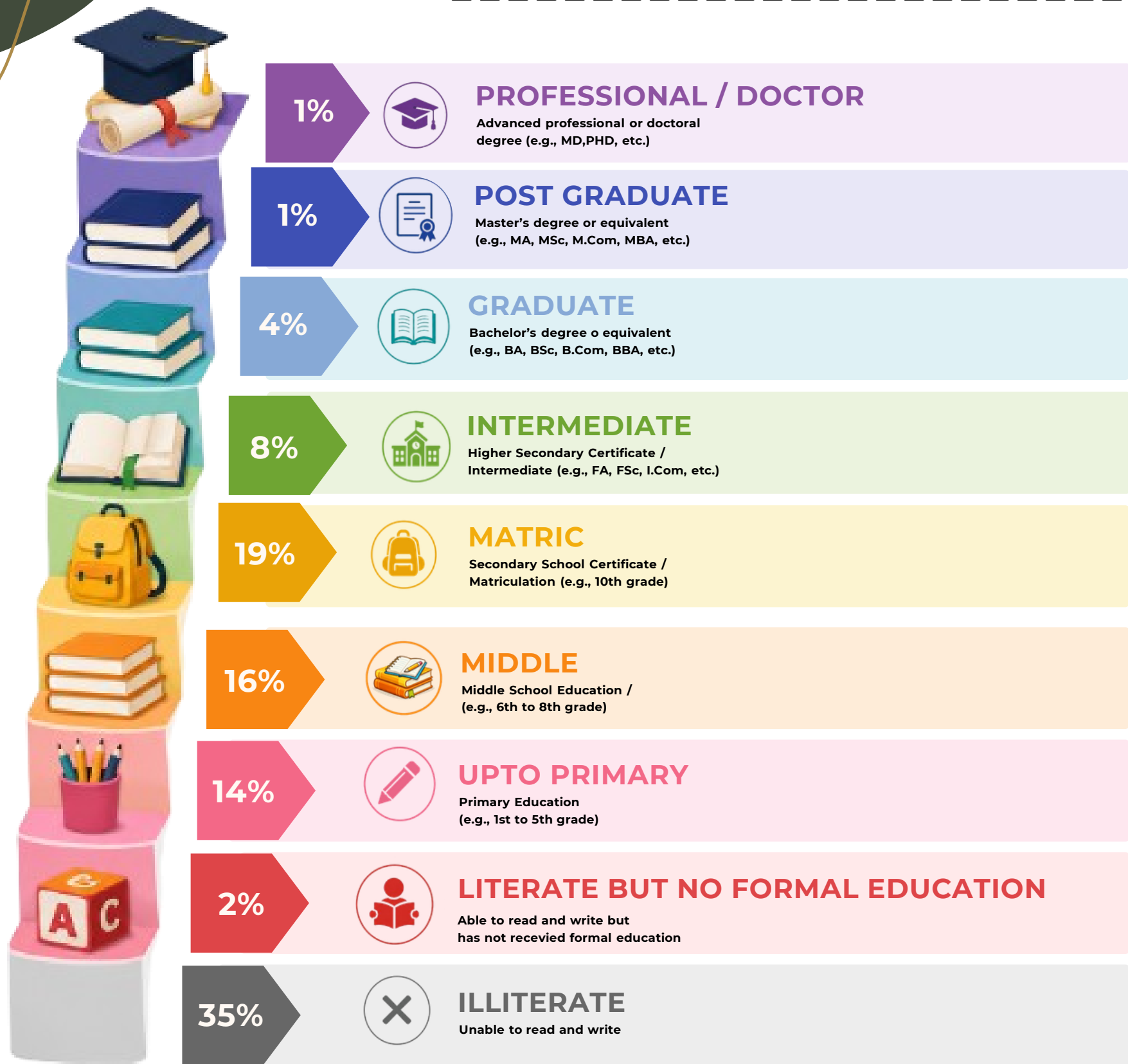


Section 8:

Parents' Educational Background



How much education has the child's father received?

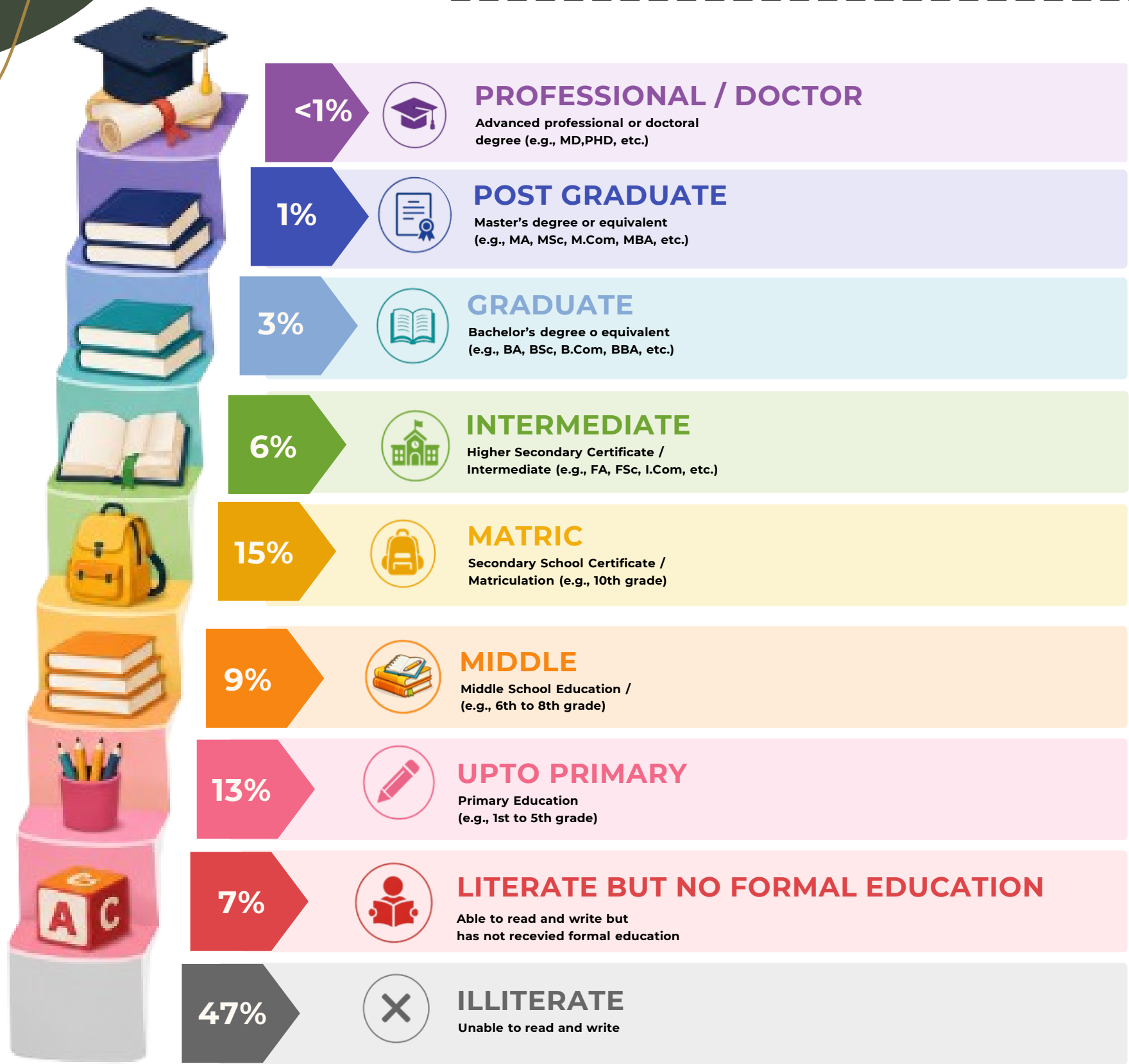


35%

Of children's fathers have received no formal education (Illiterate).

Only 6% of fathers hold a graduate-level or higher qualification, highlighting a significant education gap.

How much education has the child's mother received?



47%

Of children's mothers are illiterate — unable to read or write.

Mothers show even lower education levels than fathers, with illiteracy 12% points higher.





DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE SIZE
1002 Respondents



CATI RANDOM
INTERVIEWS

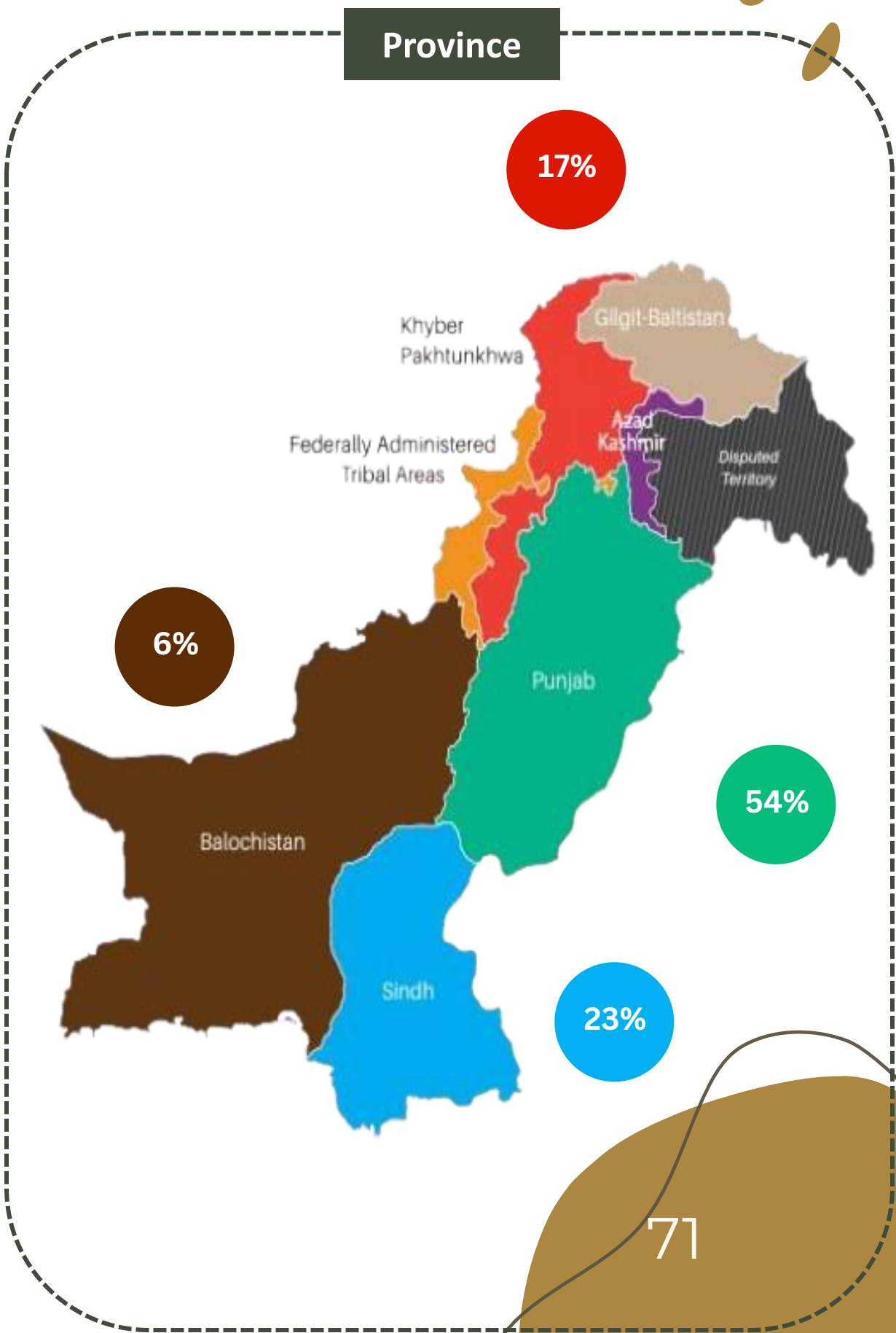
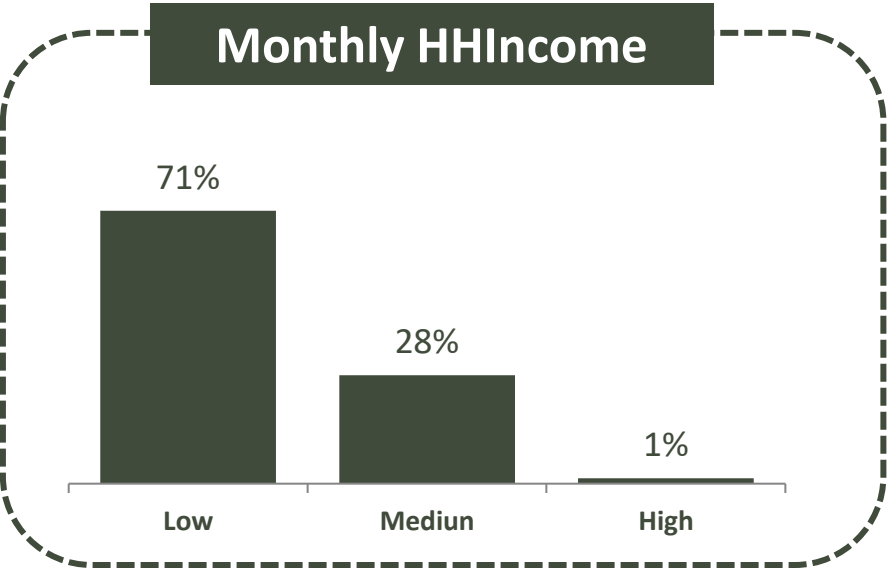
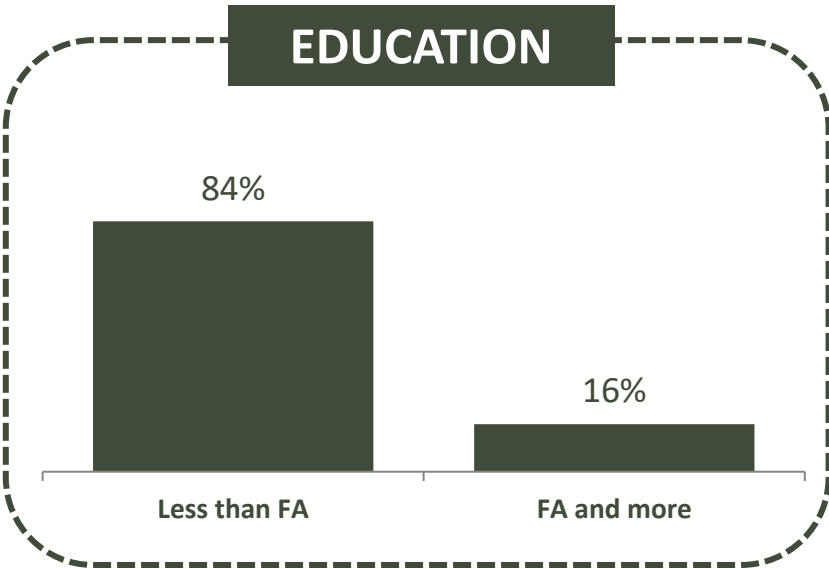
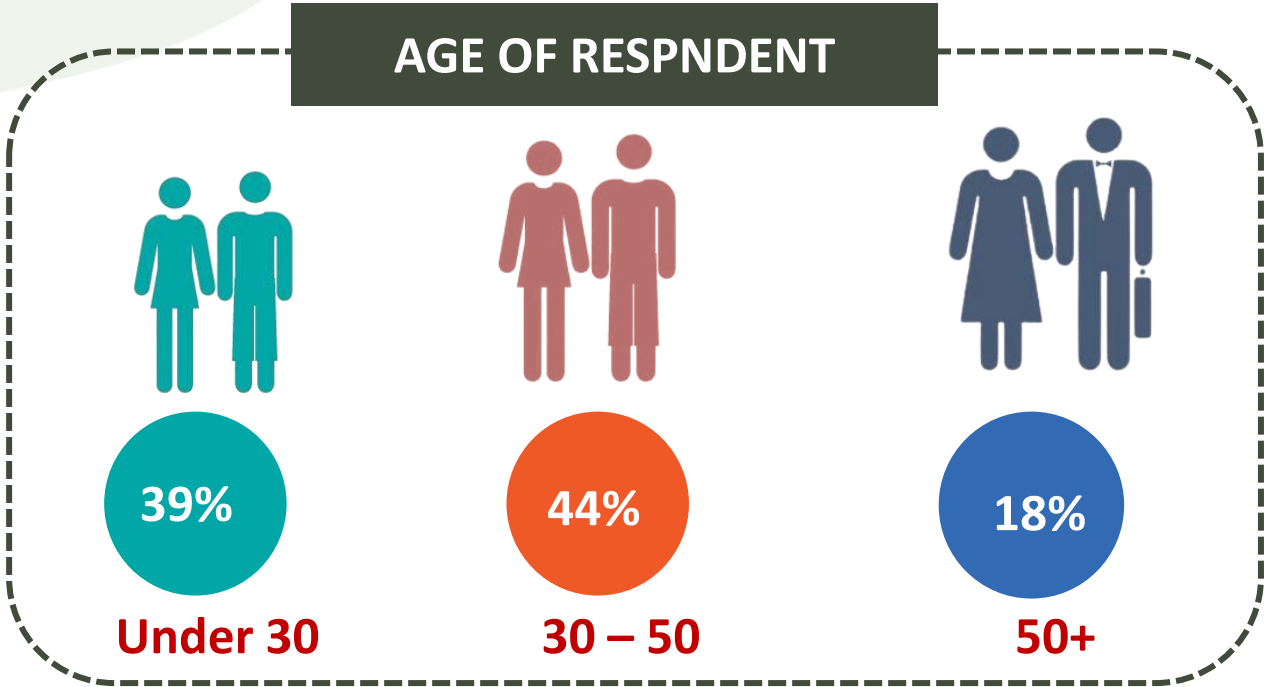
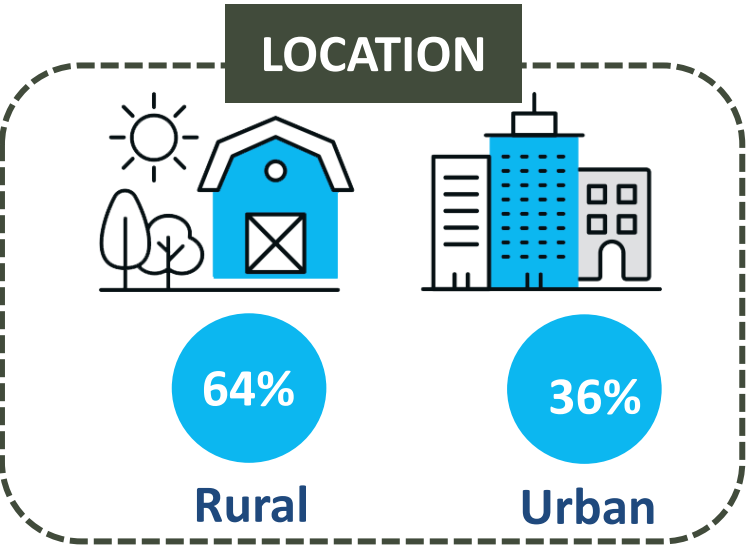
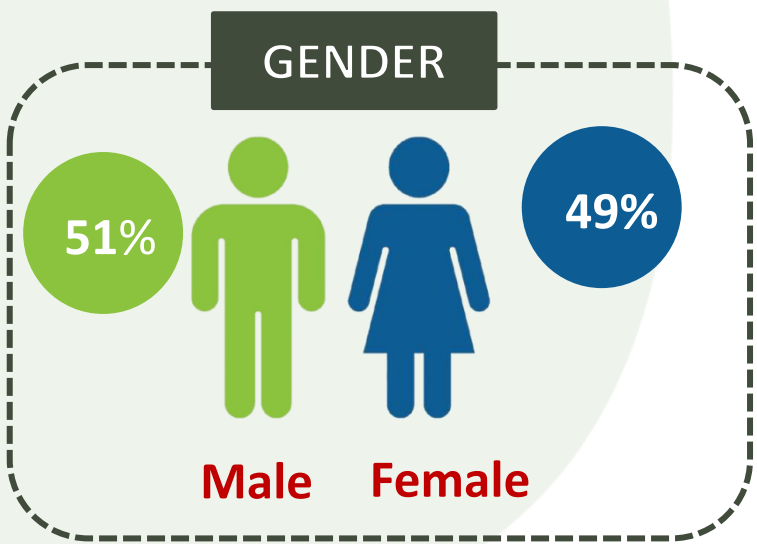


May 18– May 31,
2026



ERROR MARGIN
±2-3% at 95% confidence
level

Sample Profile



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