

Status of Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Health & Rights in Punjab-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.

Conceived and edited by: Zia ur Rehman

Prepared by: Marium Amjad Khan & Mehroze Yonus-AwazCDS-Pakistan

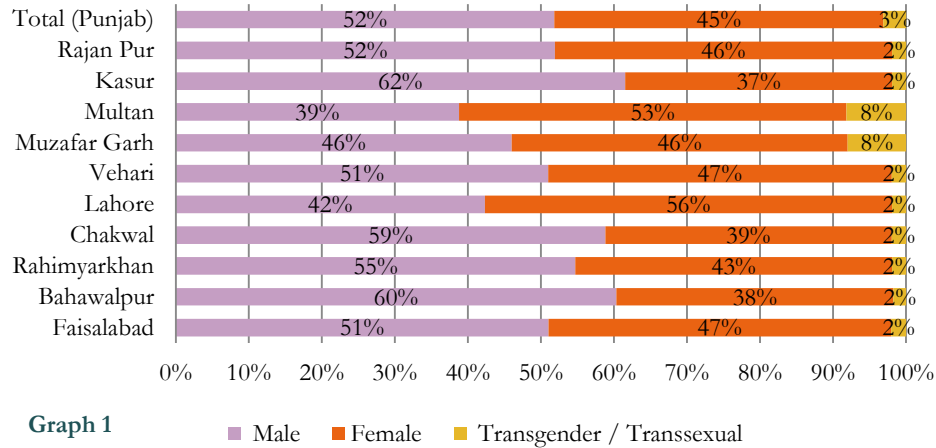
Supported by: Amplify Change

Designed by: Marium Amjad Khan & Mehroze Yonus-AwazCDS-Pakistan

Publishing Date: April 2020

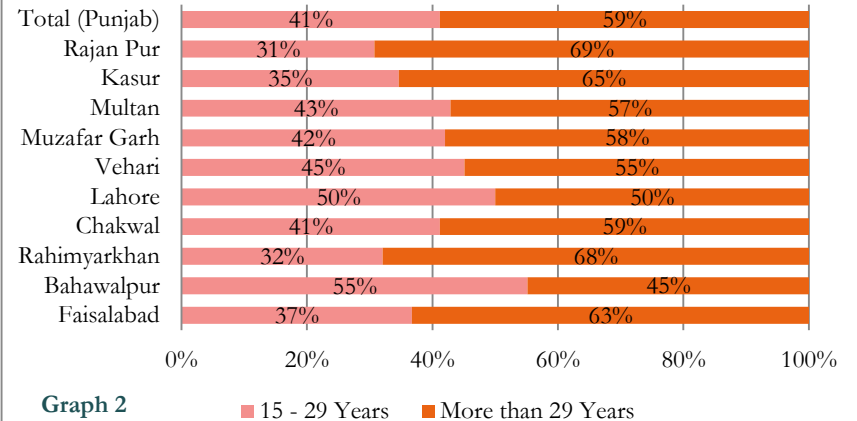
Demographic Information

Gender



Graph 1: Represents the percentage of gender of respondents who participated from total 10 districts of Punjab. The gender was categorized into sub-categories (male, female and transgender). Overall, the total percentage of male, female and transgender respondents were 52%, 45% & 3% respectively.
Note: we aimed for gender balance between two dominating genders but average remained as 52% (M) and 45% (F).

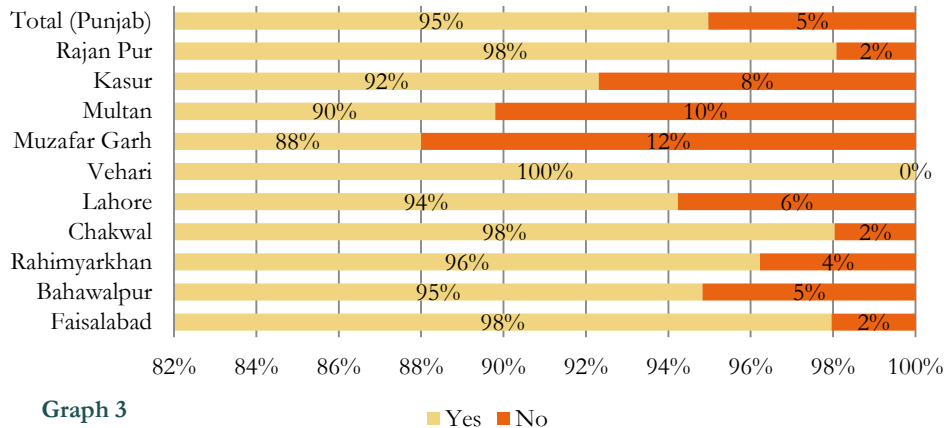
Age



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 Punjab, total 41% of the targeted audience was in between the age of 15-29 years and 59% of the respondents were adult. The district wise percentages of age of respondents are shown in graph.

Education

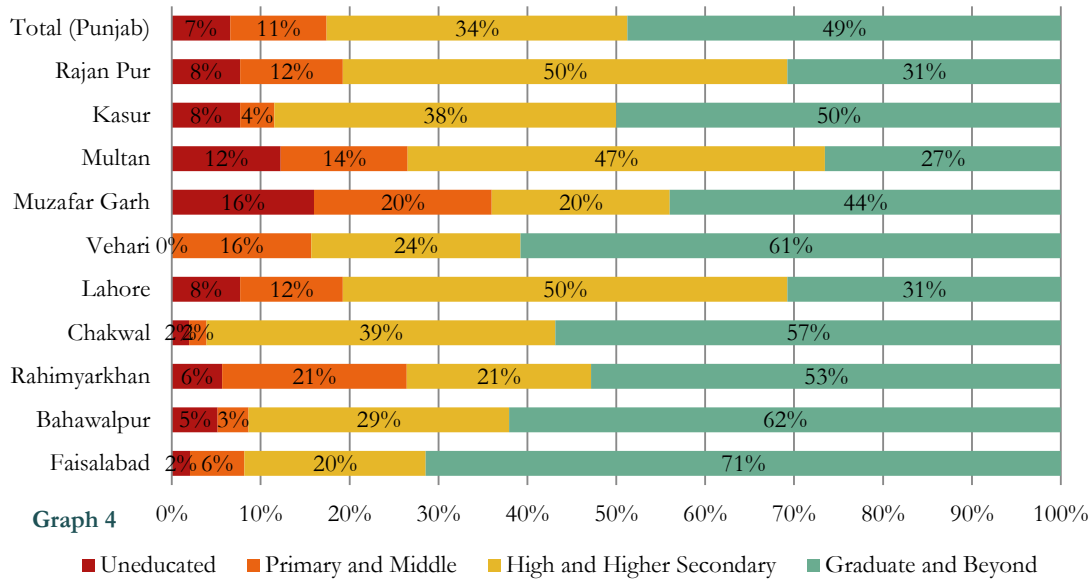


Graph 3 represents the education of the respondents:

Overall, in province Punjab, total 95% of the respondents had attended the school and 5% of the respondents had never been to the school.

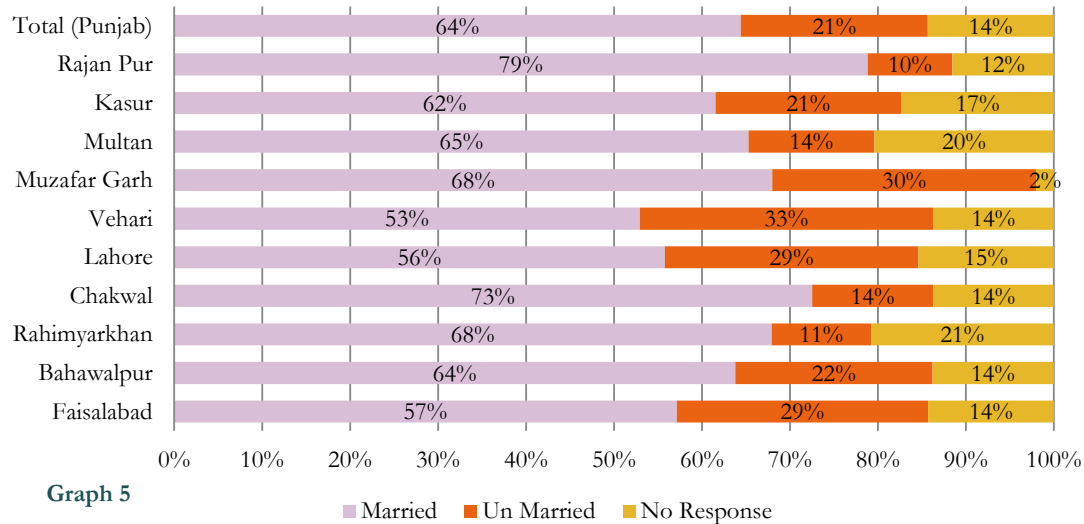
The district wise percentages of respondents' schooling in Punjab are shown in graph 3.

Highest Education



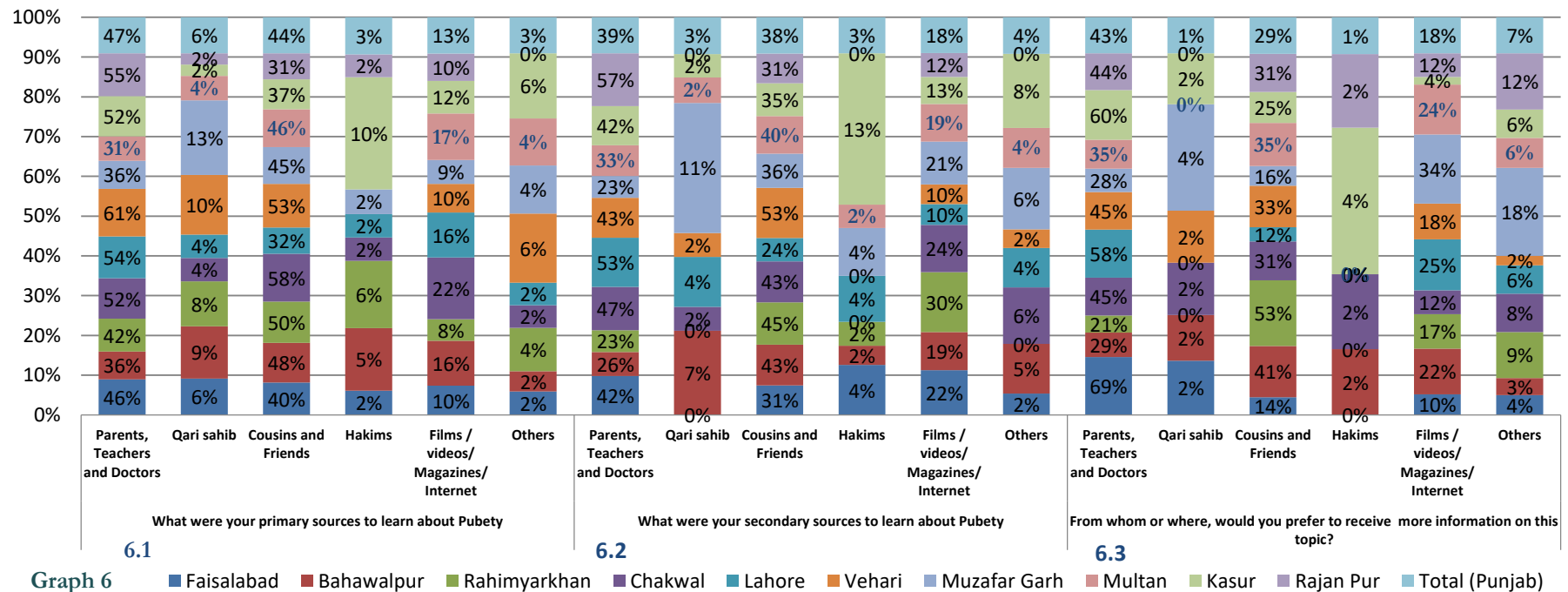
Graph 4 represents the highest education of the respondents. Overall in the province, total 7% of the respondents were uneducated, 11% were primary and middle-passed, 34% had done high and higher secondary education and 49% were graduated and above. The district wise percentages of highest education of respondents are shown in graph.

Relationship status



Graph 5 represents the relationship status of the respondents. In province Punjab, 64% of the respondents were married, 21% were unmarried and 14% of the respondents did not respond to the question.

Major Findings of Punjab

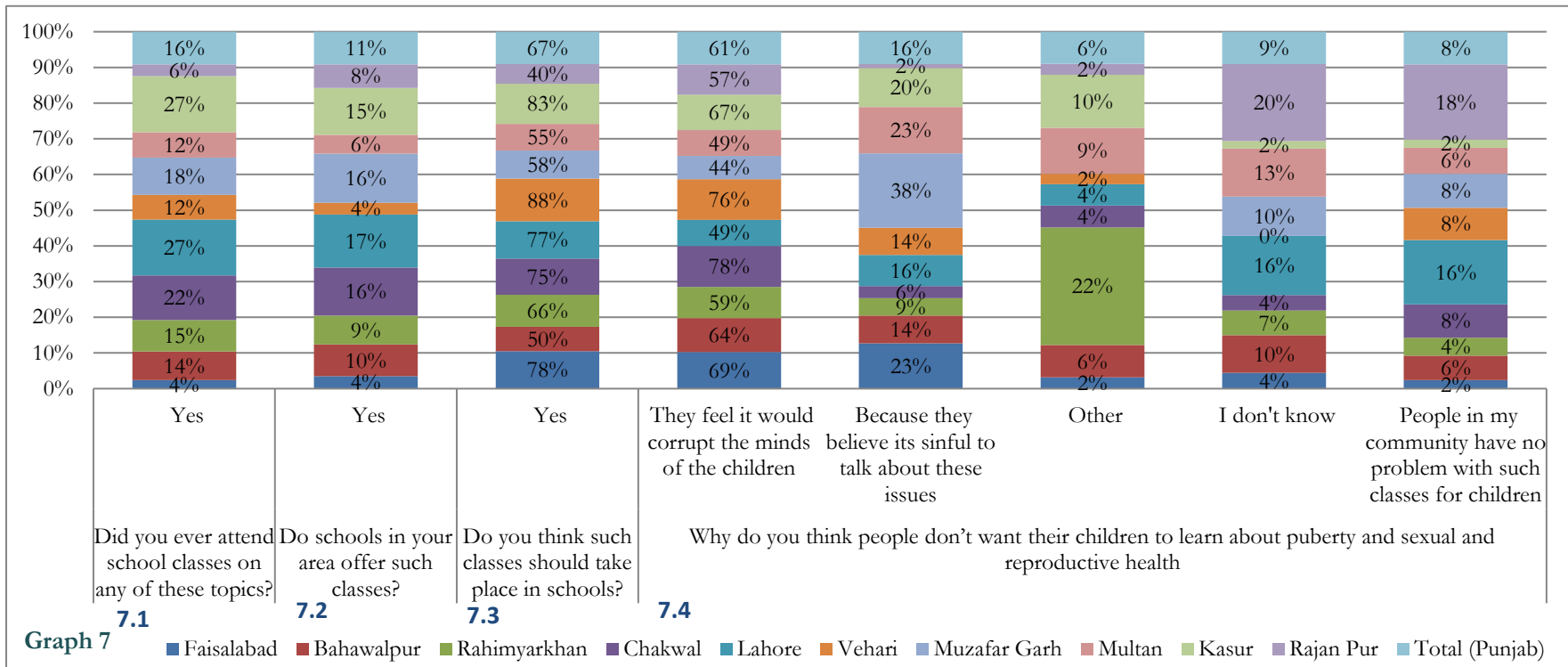


In section 6.1, respondents were asked regarding their primary source to learn about puberty. The highest percentages of 47%, 44% and 13% of the responses were received under categories 'Parents, Teachers and Doctors', Cousins and Friends' and 'Films/videos/magazines/internet' respectively. Further, under category 'Parents, Teachers and Doctors', from total 47% of the responses received, the highest percentages were observed in districts Vehari, Rajanpur and Lahore with 61%, 55% and 54% of the respondents in each district respectively. Under category 'Cousins and Friends', out of the average 44%, the highest percentage of 58% in Chakwal, 53% in Vehari and 50% in Rahim Yar Khan were observed where the respondents had learned about puberty primarily from 'Cousins and Friends' Similarly, out of average 13% of the responses received under category 'Films/videos/magazines/internet', highest 22% of the respondents from Chakwal, 17% from Multan and 16% from Bahawalpur and Lahore were observed.

In section 6.2, while asking from the respondents regarding their secondary sources to learn about puberty, the highest percentages of 39%, 38% and 18% of the responses were again received against categories 'Parents, Teachers & Doctors', 'Cousins and Friends' and 'Films/videos/magazines/internet' respectively. From total 39% of the responses received against category 'Parents, Teachers and Doctors', the highest percentage of the respondents belonged to districts Rajanpur, Lahore and Chakwal with 57%, 53% and 47% of the respondents in respective districts. Although, the highest % was received under category 'Parents, Teachers and Doctors', but it can be seen that the total average % received under second highest category 'Cousins and Friends' i.e. 38% is almost equivalent to first category. This high percentage is alarming as respondents also felt more comfortable and trust worthy to "Friends and Cousins" to learn more on puberty. Under the third highest category of 'Films/videos/magazines/internet' with 18%, majority of the respondents were belonged to districts Rahim Yar Khan, Chakwal and Faisalabad with percentages 30%, 24% and 22% respectively. If we look into % of "Friend/Cousin & Movies/ internet" categories so will get to know that 56% 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 Punjab the highest average percentages of the responses received against categories 'Parents, Teachers and Doctors', 'Cousins and Friends' and 'Films/videos/magazines/internet' are 43%, 29% and 18% 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 also 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 16% of the respondents in Punjab attended the classes on these topics. Out of average 16%, the high percentage of the respondents were from Lahore, Kasur, Chakwal and Muzaffar Garh with percentages 27%, 22% and 18% respectively. Whereas, we can understand that 84% of respondents were never educated on such self-protection and puberty related issues.

In section 7.2, only 11% of the respondents in Punjab said that the schools in their area offer such classes. Rest 89% of respondents have never availed this opportunity to get authentic and right information from RIGHT source e.g. Teachers and curriculum.

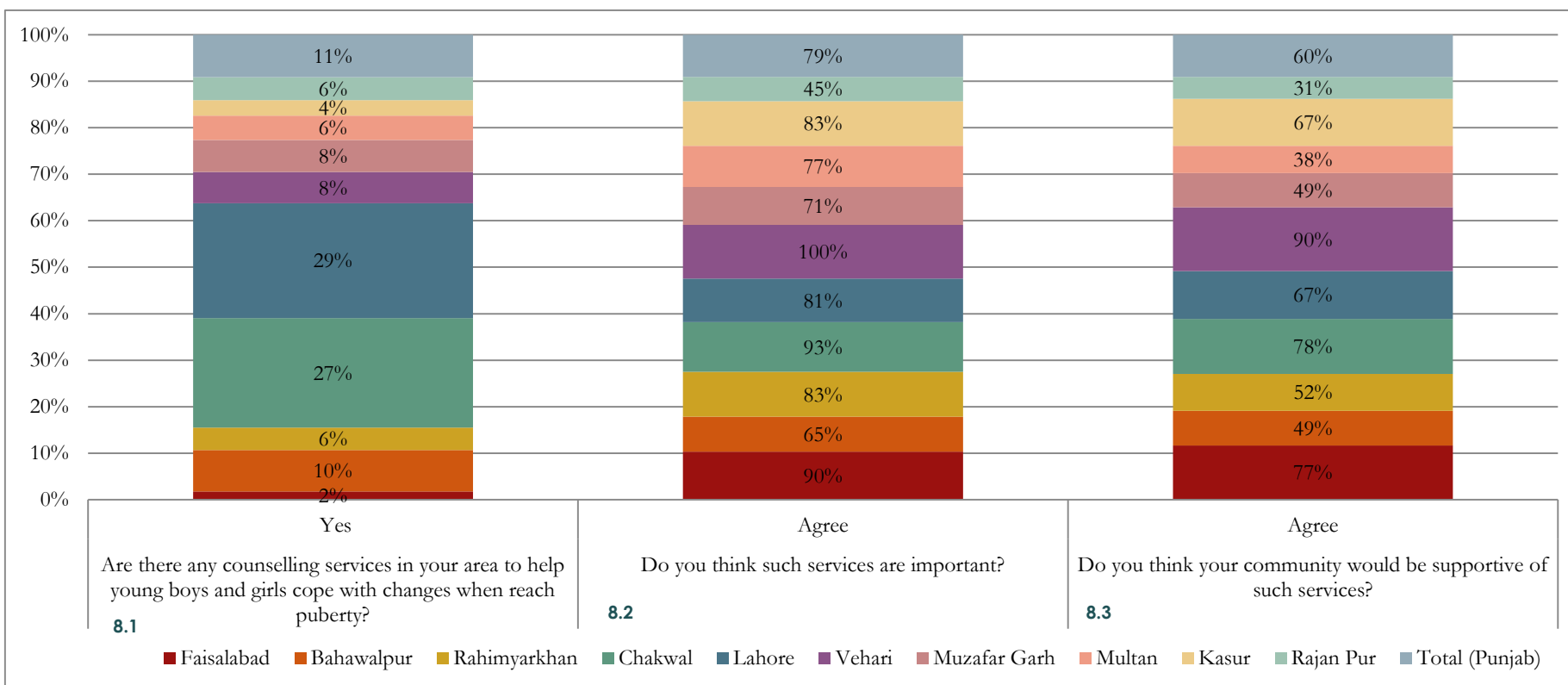
In section 7.3, while asking from the respondents if such classes should take place in schools, average 67% of the respondents in Punjab responded in favor of the statement. It means a high % is in favor of providing such information in schools so children so they may get aware and protected at Right age from Right Source.

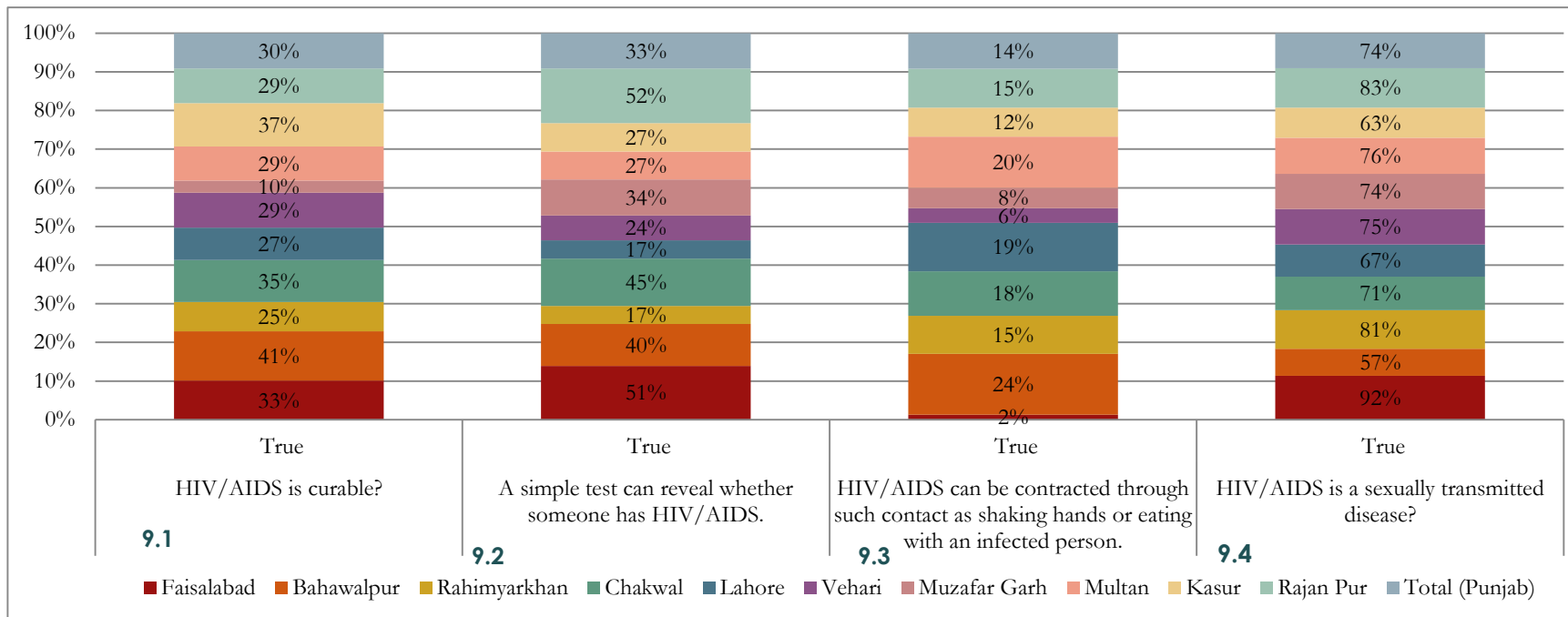
In section 7.4, the respondents were asked about reasons that why people do not want their children to learn about puberty and sexual reproductive health. Among all five categories, category 'it would corrupt the mind of children' has the highest 61% of the respondents who think that this is the main 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, 11% of the respondents in Punjab said that there are counseling 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 89% 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 counseling services are important. From every district, a high percentage of responses were received, with Vehari covering the highest percentage of 100%, Chakwal 93% and Faisalabad 90% of the respondents who believed that such services are important. Overall, in province Punjab, 79% of the participants agreed with the statement for having counseling services available in the area.

In section 8.3, average 60% of the respondents in Punjab agreed with the statement that their community would be supportive of such counseling services. However, among districts the highest percentages of the respondents were from Vehari, Chakwal and Faisalabad with percentages 90%, 78% and 77% respectively. It can be seen that as a good number of percentages are received from almost every district, which also draws an attention for the availability of counseling services related to puberty for young boys and girls in every district.



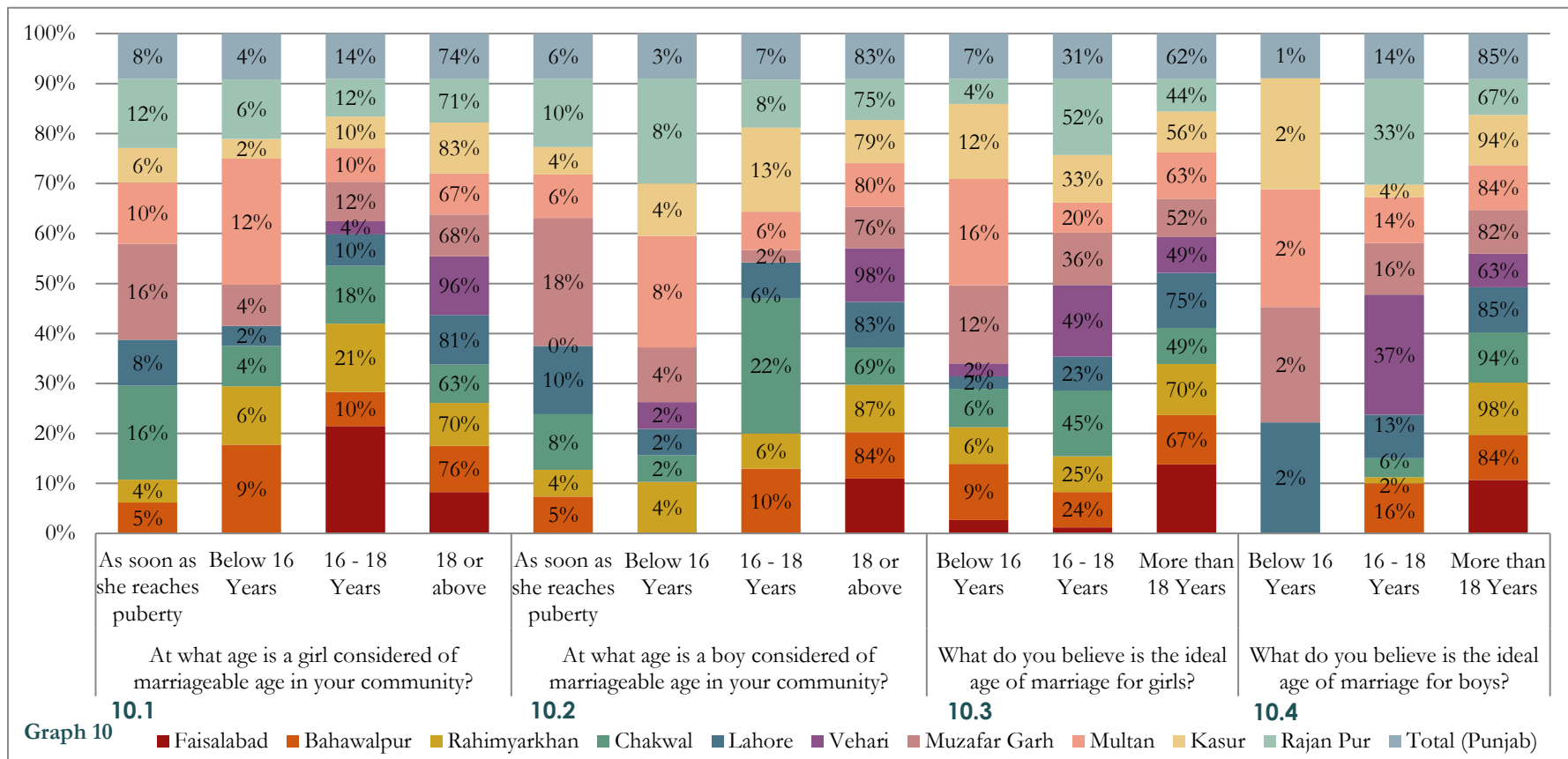


In section 9.1, respondents were asked if HIV/AIDS is curable. Overall in Punjab, 30% of the respondents believed that HIV/AIDS is curable. This misunderstanding prevails highest Bahawalpur, Kasur and Chakwal with 41%, 37% and 35% respectively. Although, different governments tried to educate public 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 Rajanpur and Faisalabad came out with 52% and 51% respectively. Whereas District Chakwal is with 45% who believed that HIV/AIDS can be diagnosed from simple test. District Rahim Yar Khan and Lahore showed the minimum misunderstanding on question with 17%.

In section 9.3, 14% of the respondents in Punjab believed that HIV/AIDS can blow out through contact like shaking hands or eating with an infected person. However, among districts, Bahawalpur, Multan and Lahore were observed to be on top with 24%, 20% and 19% of the respondents respectively. Remarkably Faisalabad came with least misunderstanding with 2%.

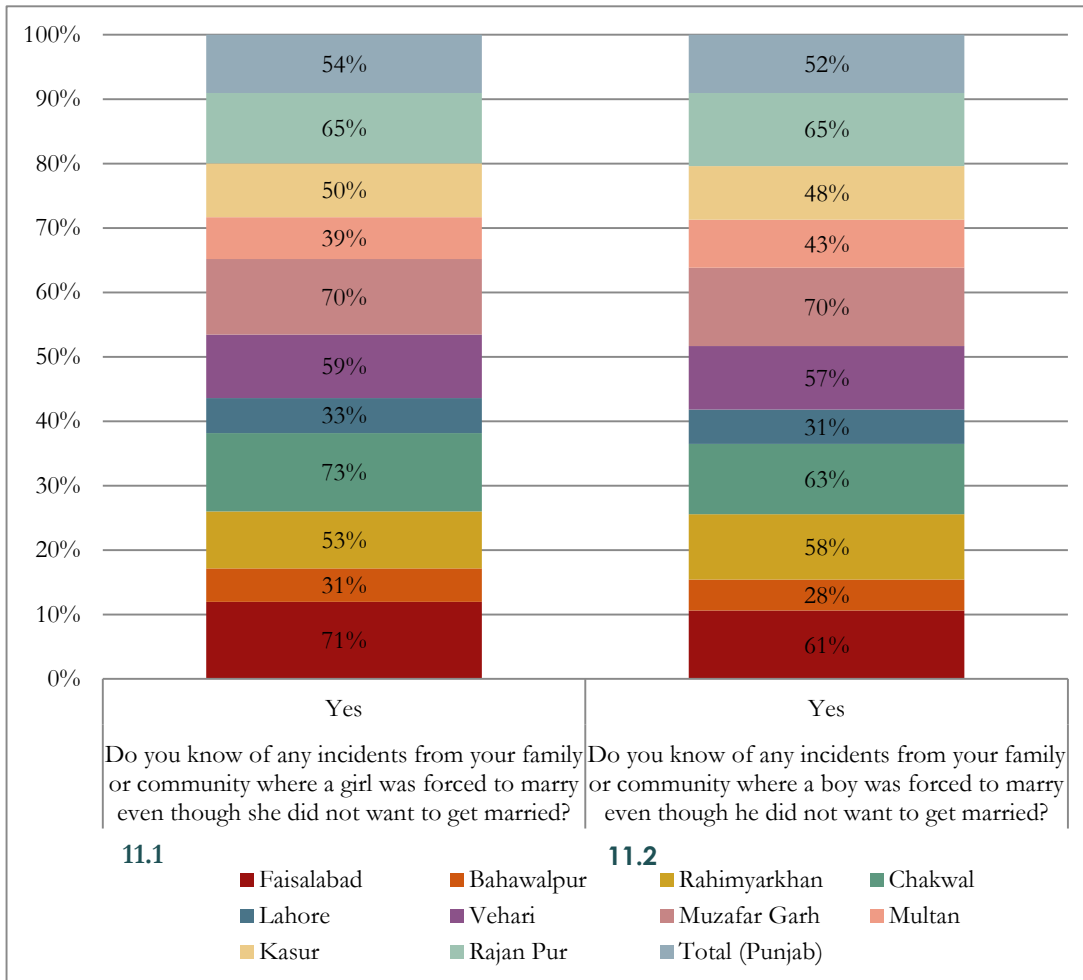
In section 9.4, the respondents were asked if HIV/AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease. While agreeing with the statement, a high percentage was received from all districts. However, district Faisalabad, Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan were observed to be on the top with percentages of 92%, 83% and 81% of the responses respectively. Average 74% percent of the respondents in Punjab agreed with the statement. It is observed that Faisalabad, Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan 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 74% were observed to be on top. Under this category, the high percentages of 96%, 83% and 81% responses were observed in districts Vehari, Kasur and Lahore respectively. Category 16-18 years was observed less demanded with 14% of the responses received from Punjab. 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 Punjab by considering the demand of 18 years or above.

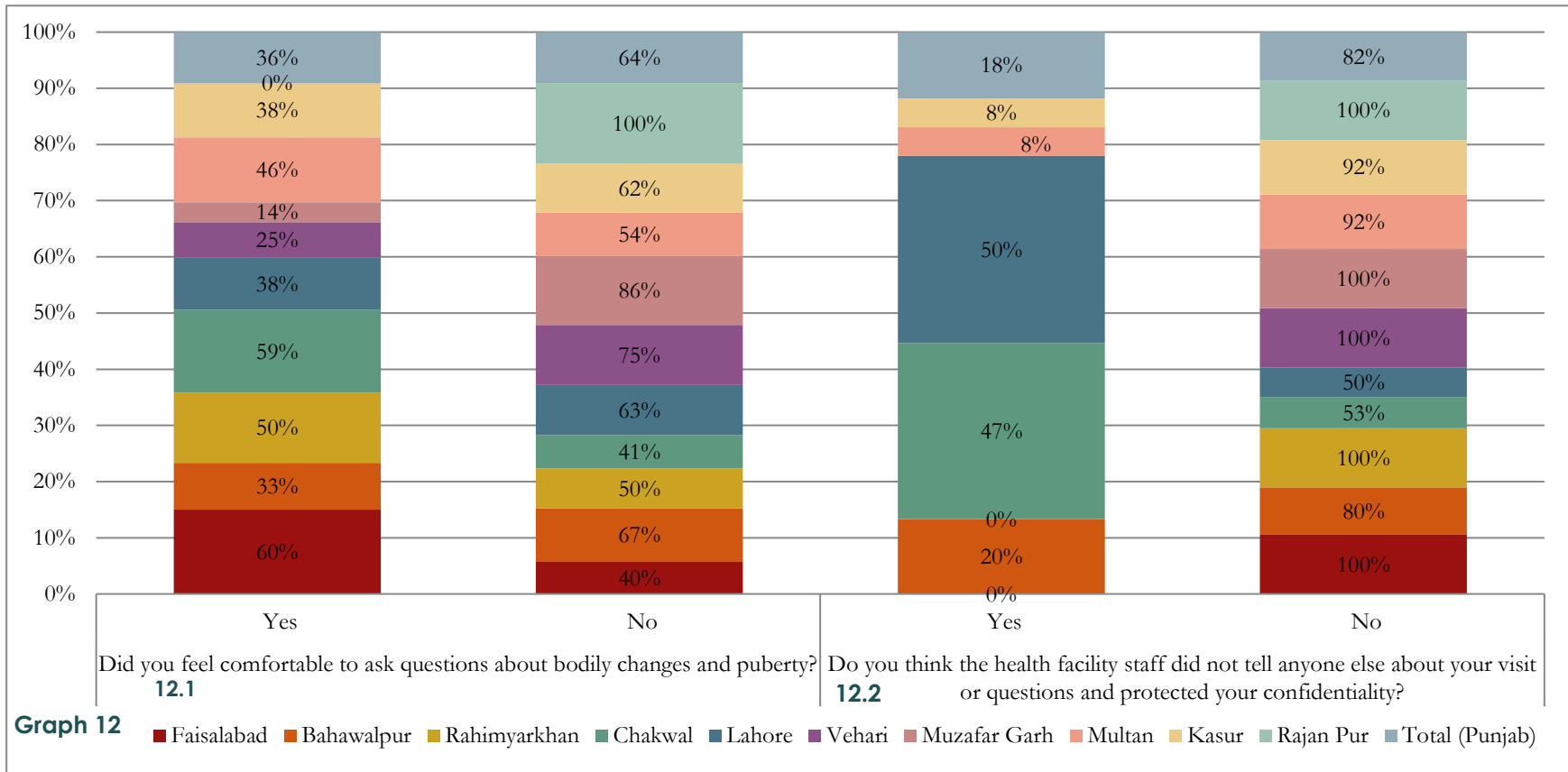
In section 10.2, respondents were asked regarding the considerable age for boys to get married in their respective community. The category '18 or above' was observed to be remained on top with the 83% of the respondents. Under this category, among districts, the high percentages of 100%, 98% and 87% were observed in Faisalabad, Vehari and Rahim Yar Khan respectively. Category 'below 16 years' was observed to be less required and less agreeable with 7% of the responses received from Punjab.

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 62% for girls and 85% for boys in Punjab. While Faisalabad, Lahore and Rahim Yar Khan came out with high demand for "more than 18 years" for girls with 94%, 75% and 70% respectively. However, results are even more amusing for boys with high % in Faisalabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Chakwal and Kasur with 100%, 98% and 94% respectively. This high % puts demand of child marriage restraint bill in Punjab by keeping the demand of more than 18 years for both girls and boys.



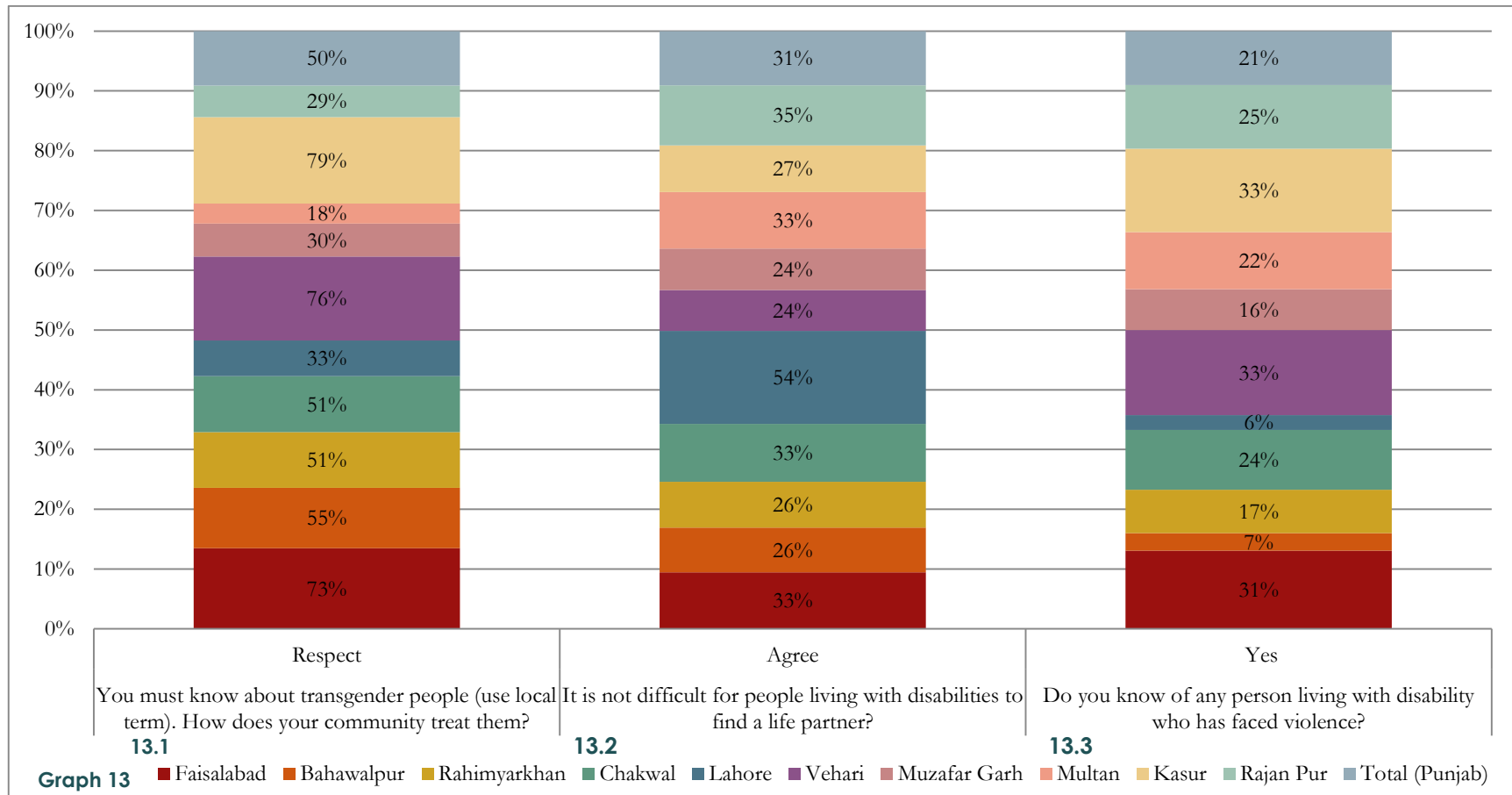
Graph 11.1 was categorized into two sub-sections. In section 11.1, the respondents were asked if they know about any incident in their family or community where a girl was forced to get married. The maximum responses received from majority of the districts were above 50%. However, the highest percentages of 73%, 71% and 70% were received from districts Chakwal, Faisalabad and Muzaffargarh respectively. Whereas, the total average of 54% of the respondents from Punjab 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. The highest percentages of 70%, 65% and 63% of the responses were received from districts Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur and Chakwal respectively. However total 52% of the responses were received from Punjab 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 Punjab, average 36% of the respondents said that they felt comfortable in asking such question; whereas 64% 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 Rajanpur said that they did not feel comfortable in asking such question. The percentages of responses received in districts Muzaffargarh, Vehari and Bahawalpur with percentages 86%, 75% and 67% 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 18% of the respondents in Punjab said that they think their confidentiality was maintained, whereas, 82% 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 Faisalabad, Rahim Yar Khan, Vehari, Muzaffargarh and Rajanpur where the respondents’ confidentiality was not maintained at all. The percentages of responses received from other districts were also observed high.



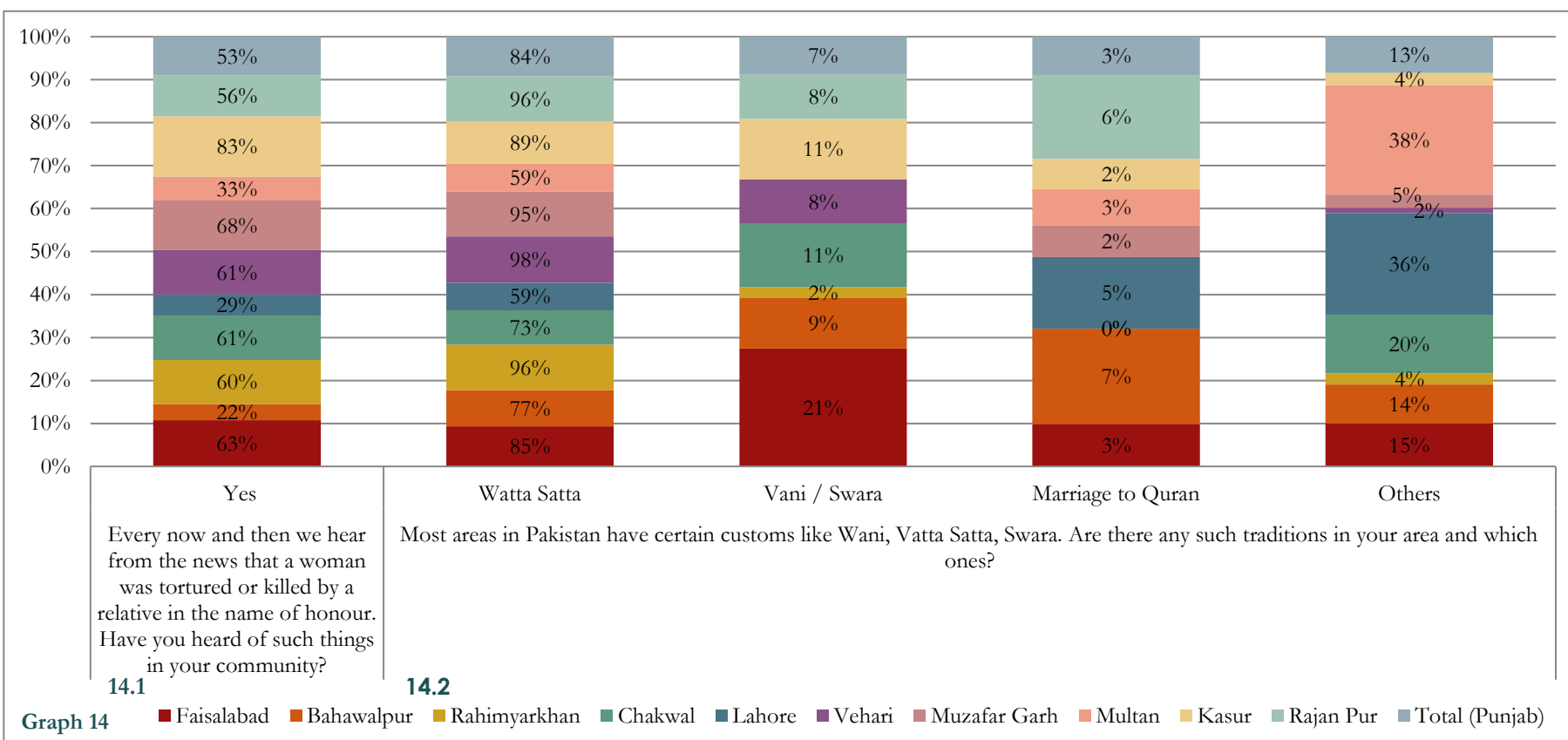
In section 13.1, respondents were asked if their respective community treats transgender with respect. Only 03 district came out with high percentages of 79%, 76% and 73% of respondents in district Kasur, Vehari and Faisalabad respectively who shared community treat them with respect. The percentages of respondent in other districts were observed to be in range of 50% or even below 50% in this regard. Overall, only 50% of respondents were observed in Punjab who said that their respective community treats transgender with respect, which shows that rest of 50% 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.

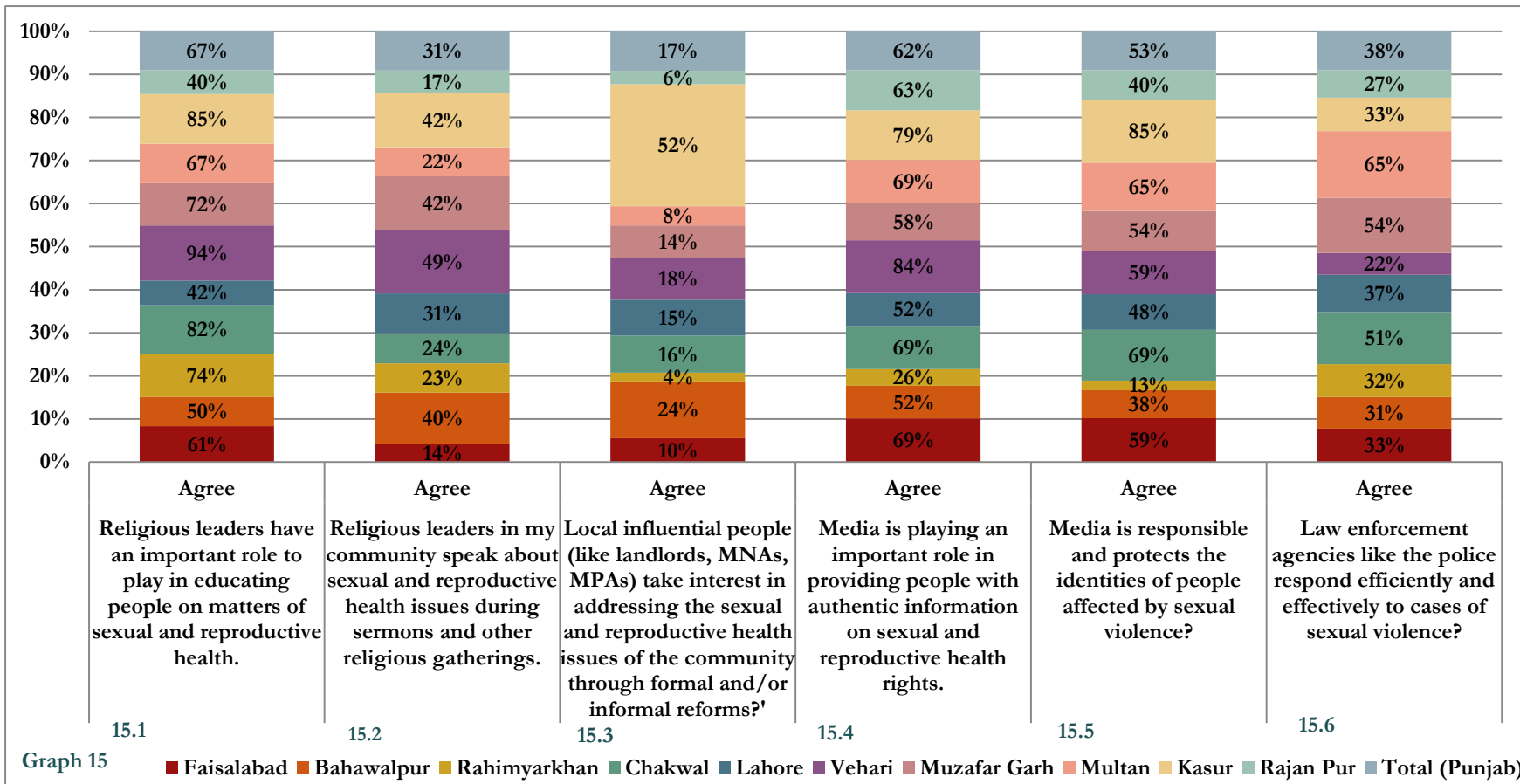
In section 13.2, only 31% of the respondents from Punjab said that it is not difficult for people living with disabilities to find a life partner. Whereas, 69% disagreed with the statement and consider a great difficulty for PWDs to find their life partner. Whereas district Lahore came out with high 54% of responses received in favor of the statement Though overall disagreement of 69% 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 Punjab, total 21% of the respondents said that they know such PWDs who have faced violence. However, among districts, percentage of respondents were seemed to be high in district Vehari and Kasur with 33%, Faisalabad with 31% and Rajanpur with 25% 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 83%, 68% and 63% were received from districts Kasur, Muzaffargarh and Faisalabad respectively. In other districts, the percentages of respondents in between 22% - 61% were observed who knew about such news. In Punjab the average 53% 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 Punjab.

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, 84% of the responses were received under category 'watta satta', in which huge percentage of respondents from every district was observed. Further, district Vehari, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur and Muzaffargarh covered the highest percentage of 98%, 96% and 95% of the respondents respectively in this regard. Percentages of respondents in other districts were observed to be in between 59% to 89%. Category 'Others' with average 13% of the respondents is observed at the second highest category, in which maximum percentage of the respondents belonged to district Multan , Lahore and Chakwal 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

■ Faisalabad ■ Bahawalpur ■ Rahimyar Khan ■ Chakwal ■ Lahore ■ Vehari ■ Muzaffargarh ■ Multan ■ Kasur ■ Rajan Pur ■ Total (Punjab)

In section 15.1, 67% 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 Vehari, Kasur and Chakwal were observed high with 94%, 85% and 82% 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 69% shared that religious figures did not speak about SRH issues during sermons and gatherings and only 31% agreed with engagement.

In section 15.3, only 17% of the respondents in Punjab 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 83% 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, 62% of the respondents agreed that media is playing important role in providing people authentic information on such topics whereas 38% did not agree. Whereas, districts Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalpur, Lahore and Muzaffargarh were found less satisfied with the role of media on providing authentic information on these topics with 26%, 52% and 58% respectively.

In section 15.5, 53% of the respondents agreed that media is responsible & protects the identities of people affected by sexual violence however 47% of respondent did not show their confidence. In section 15.6, only 38% 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 Punjab

Recommendations

Policy level

-Rules of business for all existing laws aimed at curtailing gender based and sexual violence ought to be formalized by Punjab 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 Punjab 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 GoP as laws are available but most women are not aware about them.

-Institutions and commissions like Punjab 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 Punjab



National Secretariat



Email: info@awazcds.org.pk, zia@awazcds.org.pk
Website: www.awazcds.org.pk