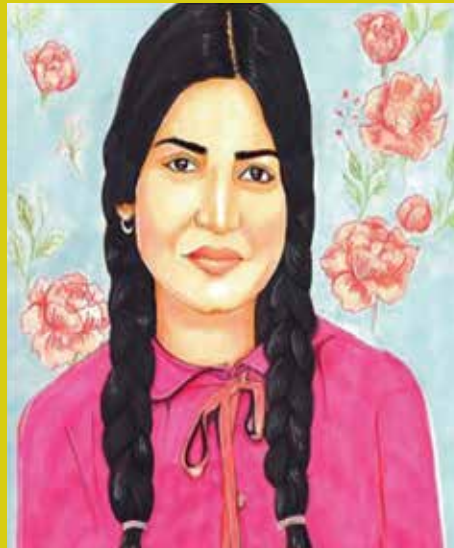
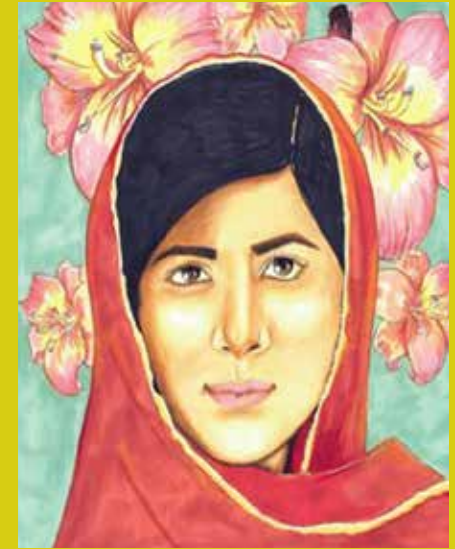


Status of Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Health & Rights in Sindh-2019



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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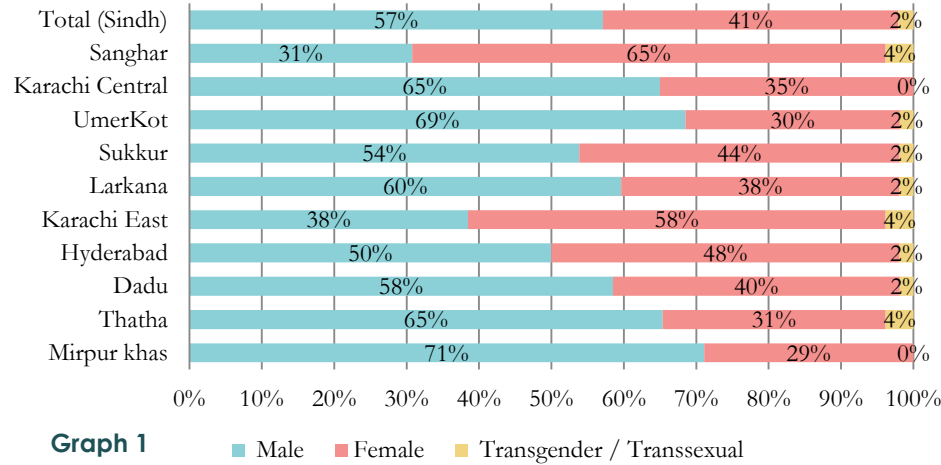
Supported by: Amplify Change

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

Publishing Date: April 2020

Demographic Information

Gender

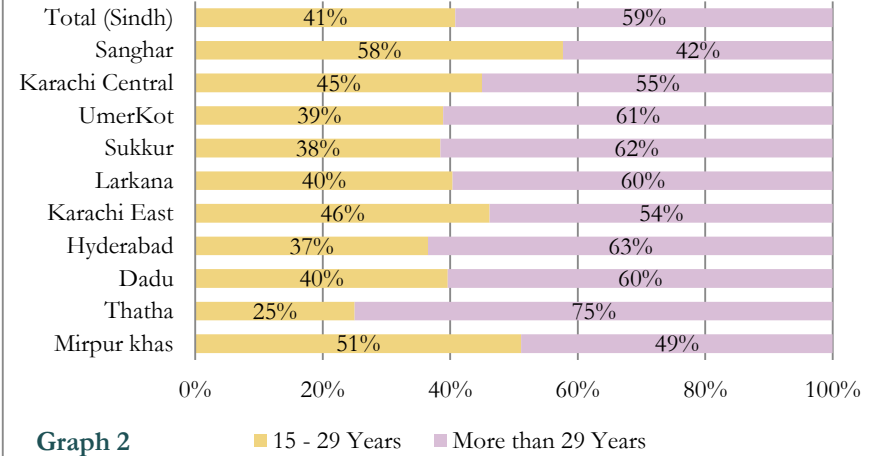


Graph 1: Represents the percentage of gender of respondents who participated from total 10 districts of Sindh. The gender was categorized into sub-categories (male, female and transgender).

Overall, the total percentage of male, female and transgender respondents were 57%, 41% & 2% respectively.

Note: we aimed for gender balance between two dominating genders but average remained as 57% (M) and 22% (F).

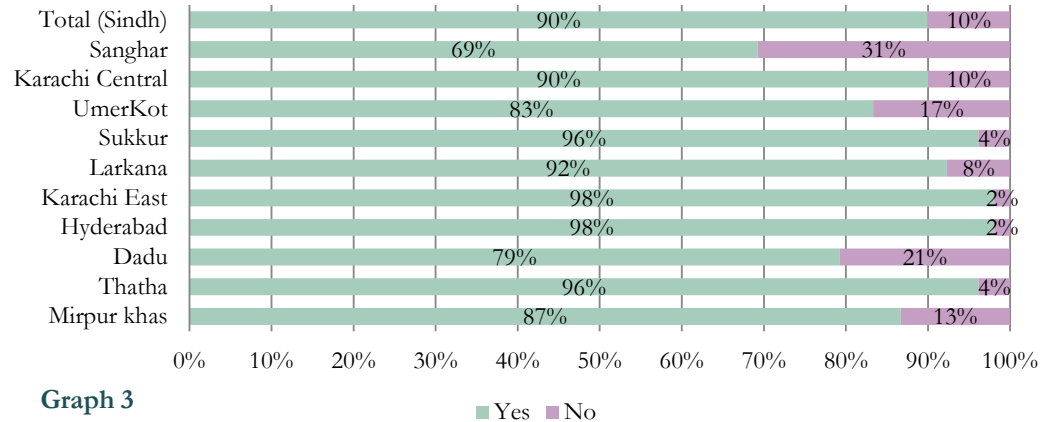
Age



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 Sindh, total 41% of the targeted audience were 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

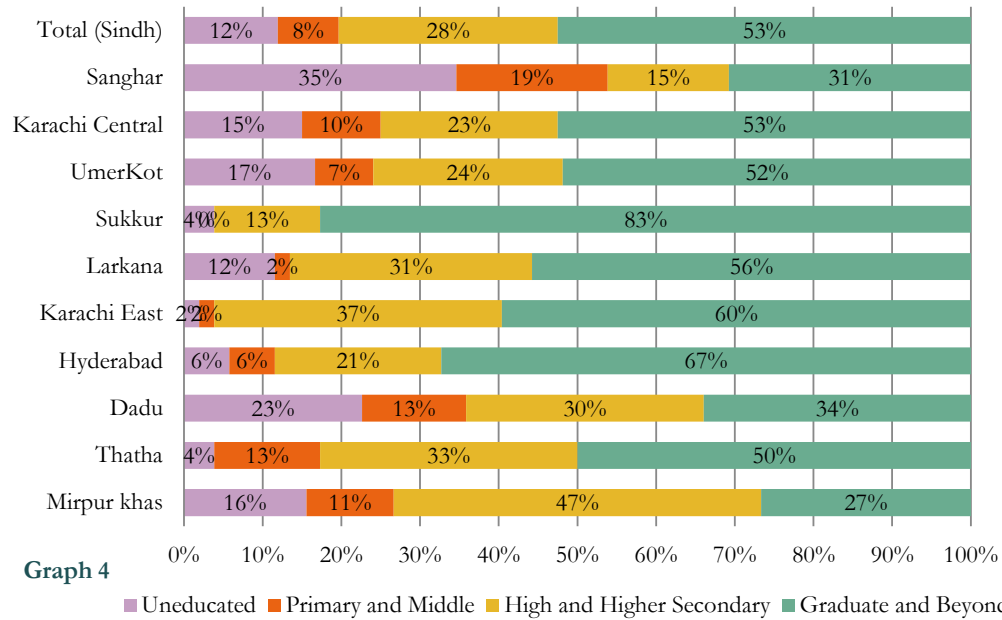


Graph 3 represents the education of the respondents:

Overall, in province Sindh, total 90% of the respondents had attended the school and 10% of the respondents had never been to the school.

The district wise percentages of respondents' schooling in Sindh are shown in the graph.

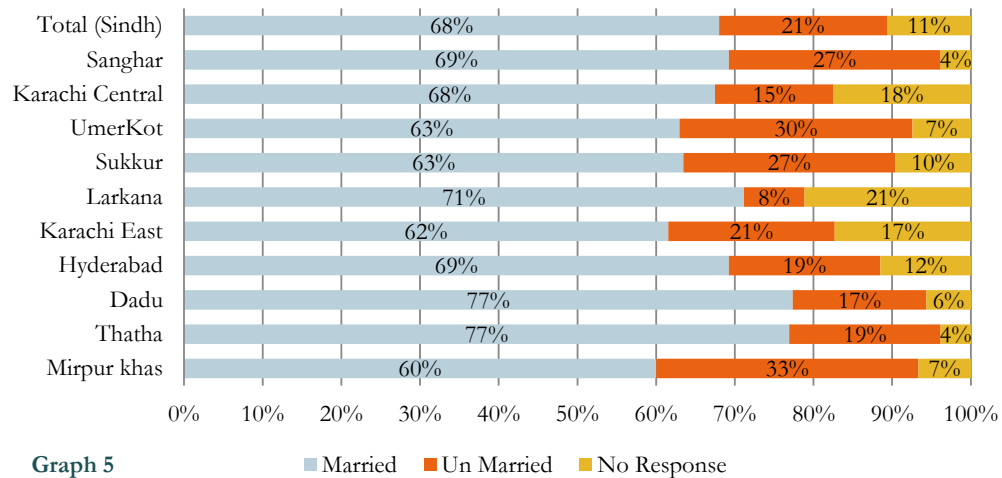
Highest Education



Graph 4 represents the highest education of the respondents.

Overall in province Sindh, total 12% of the respondents were uneducated, 8% were primary and middle-passed, 28% had done high and higher secondary education and 53% were graduated and above. The district wise percentages of highest education of respondents are shown in graph 4.

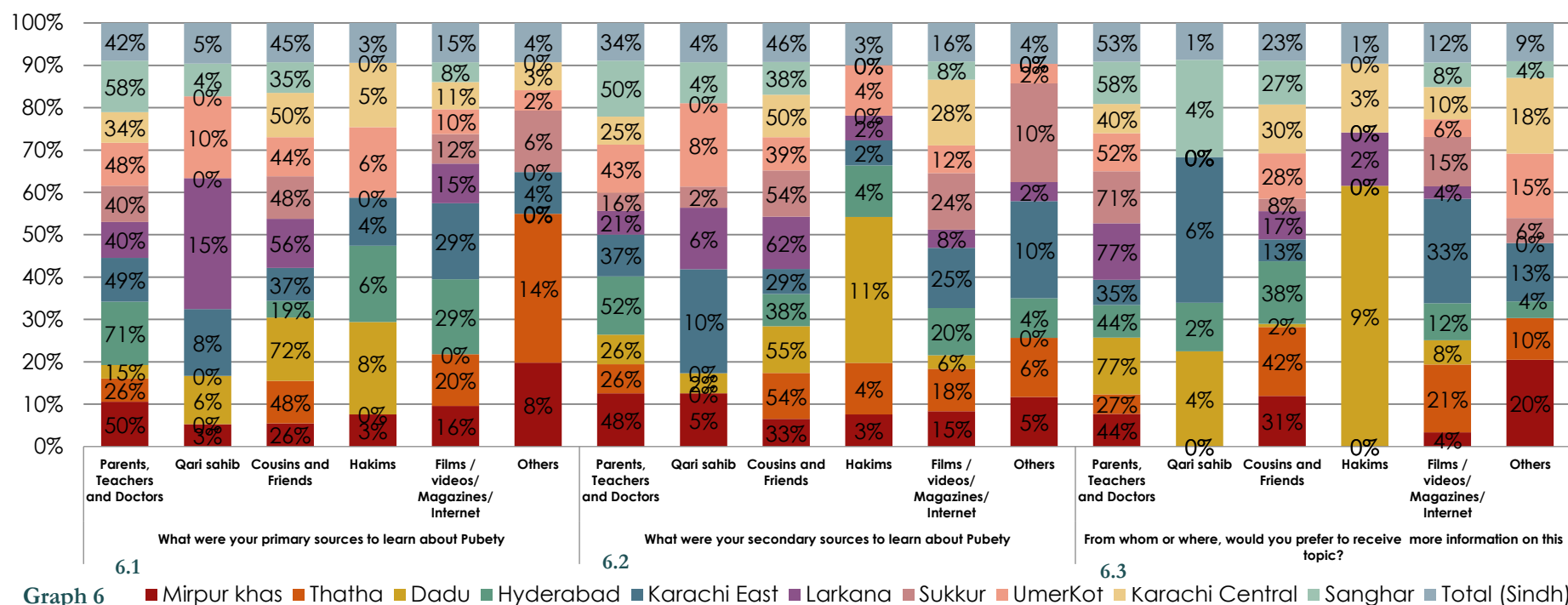
Relationship Status



Graph 5 represents the relationship status of the respondents.

In province Sindh, 68% of the respondents were married, 21% were unmarried and 11% of the respondents did not respond to the question.

Major Findings of Sindh

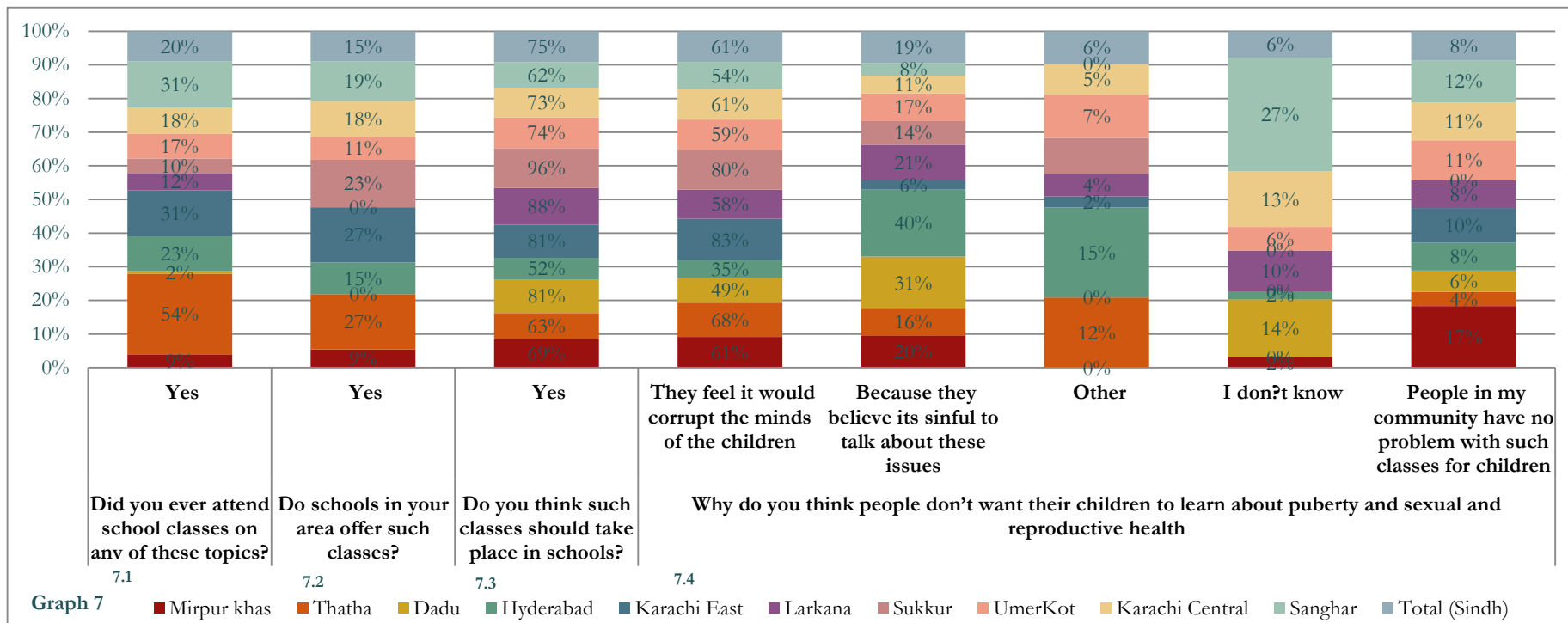


In section 6.1, respondents were asked regarding their primary source to learn about puberty. The highest percentages of 45%, 42% and 15% of the responses were received under categories ‘Cousins and Friends’, ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’ and ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ respectively. Further, under category ‘Cousins and Friends’, out of the average 45%, the highest percentage of 72% in Dadu, 56% in Larkana and 50% in Karachi Central were observed where the respondents had learned about puberty primarily from ‘Cousins and Friends’. From total 42% of the responses received under category ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’ the highest percentages were observed in districts Hyderabad, Sanghar and Mirpur Khas with 71%, 58% and 50% of the respondents in each respective district. Similarly, out of average 15% of the responses received under category ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’, 29% of the respondents were from Hyderabad and Karachi East, 20% from Thatta and 16% were from Mirpur Khas.

In section 6.2, while asking from the respondents regarding their secondary sources to learn about puberty, the highest percentages of 46%, 34% and 16% 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. Out of average 34% of the responses received against category ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’, the highest percentage of the respondents belonged to districts Hyderabad, Sanghar and Mirpur Khas with 52%, 50% and 48% of the respondents in respective districts. Under the third highest category of ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ with 16%, majority of the respondents were belonged to districts Karachi Central, Karachi East and Sukkur with percentages 28%, 25% and 24% respectively. If we look into % of “Friend/Cousin & Movies/ internet” categories so will get to know that 62% 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 Sindh, the highest average percentages of the responses received against categories ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’, ‘Cousins and Friends’ and ‘Films/videos/magazines/internet’ are 53%, 23% and 12% respectively.

If we add second & third highest categories so it would be less than the % of authentic means of information. This means that the highest % from category ‘Parents, Teachers and Doctors’ shows that as respondents grew younger they realized the authentic and safest means for 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 20% of the respondents in Sindh attended the classes on these topics. Out of average 20%, the high percentages of the respondents were from Thatta, Karachi East, Sanghar and Hyderabad with percentages 54%, 31% and 23% respectively. Whereas, we can understand that 80% of the respondents were never educated on such self-protection and puberty related issues.

In section 7.2, only average 15% of the respondents in Sindh said that the schools in their area offer such classes. Rest 85% of respondents have never availed this opportunity to get authentic and right information from RIGHT source e.g. Teachers and curriculum.

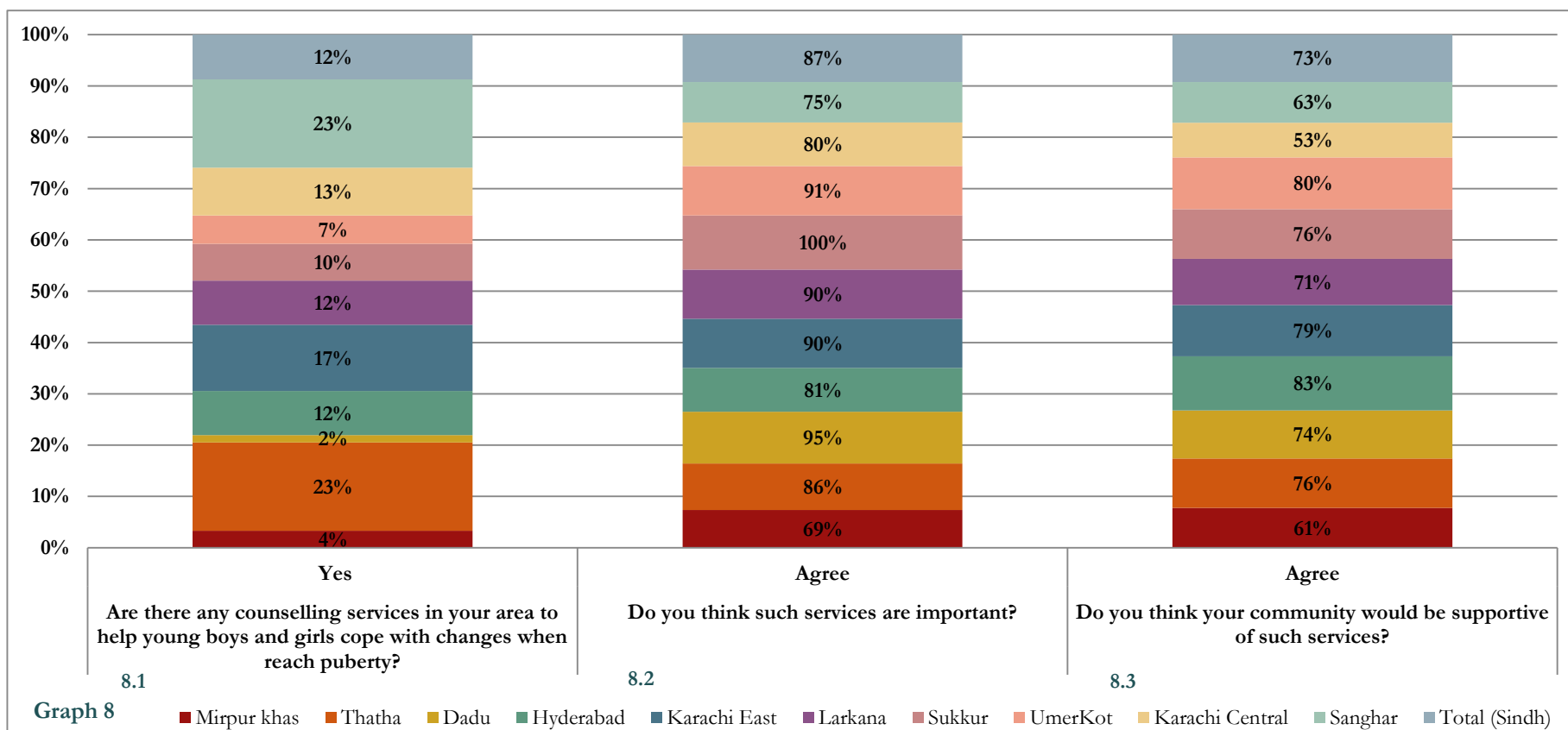
In section 7.3, while asking from the respondents if such classes should take place in schools, average 75% of the respondents in Sindh responded in favor of the statement. It means a high % is in favor of providing such information in schools so children so they may get aware and protected at Right age from Right Source. A high percentage of respondents were received from every district, however, Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu and Karachi East remained on high with 96%, 88% and 81% of the responses received respectively.

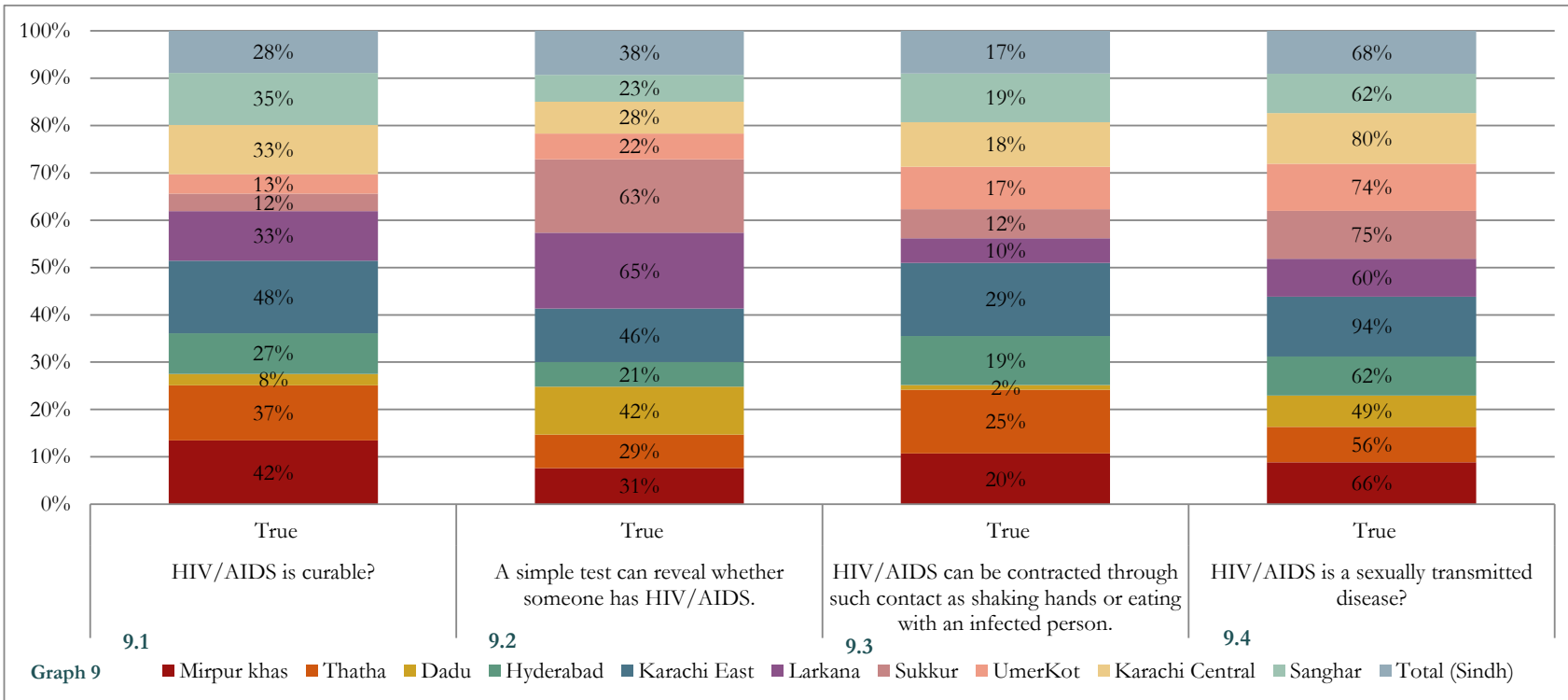
In section 7.4, the respondents were asked about reasons that why people do not want their children to learn about puberty and sexual reproductive health. Among all five categories, category 'it would corrupt the mind of children' has the highest 61% of the respondents who think that this is the main 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, average 12% of the respondents in Sindh 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 88% 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 Sukkur covering the highest percentage of 100%, Dadu 95%, Umer Kot 91% and Karachi East and Larkana with 90% of the respondents who believed that such services are important. Overall, in province Sindh, 87% of the participants agreed with the statement for having counseling services available in the area.

In section 8.3, average 73% of the respondents in Sindh 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 Hyderabad, Umer Kot and Karachi East with percentages 83%, 80% and 79% respectively. The reason for receiving high percentage of responses from every district could also be because Sindh has more multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies that makes them more open towards rightful spaces.



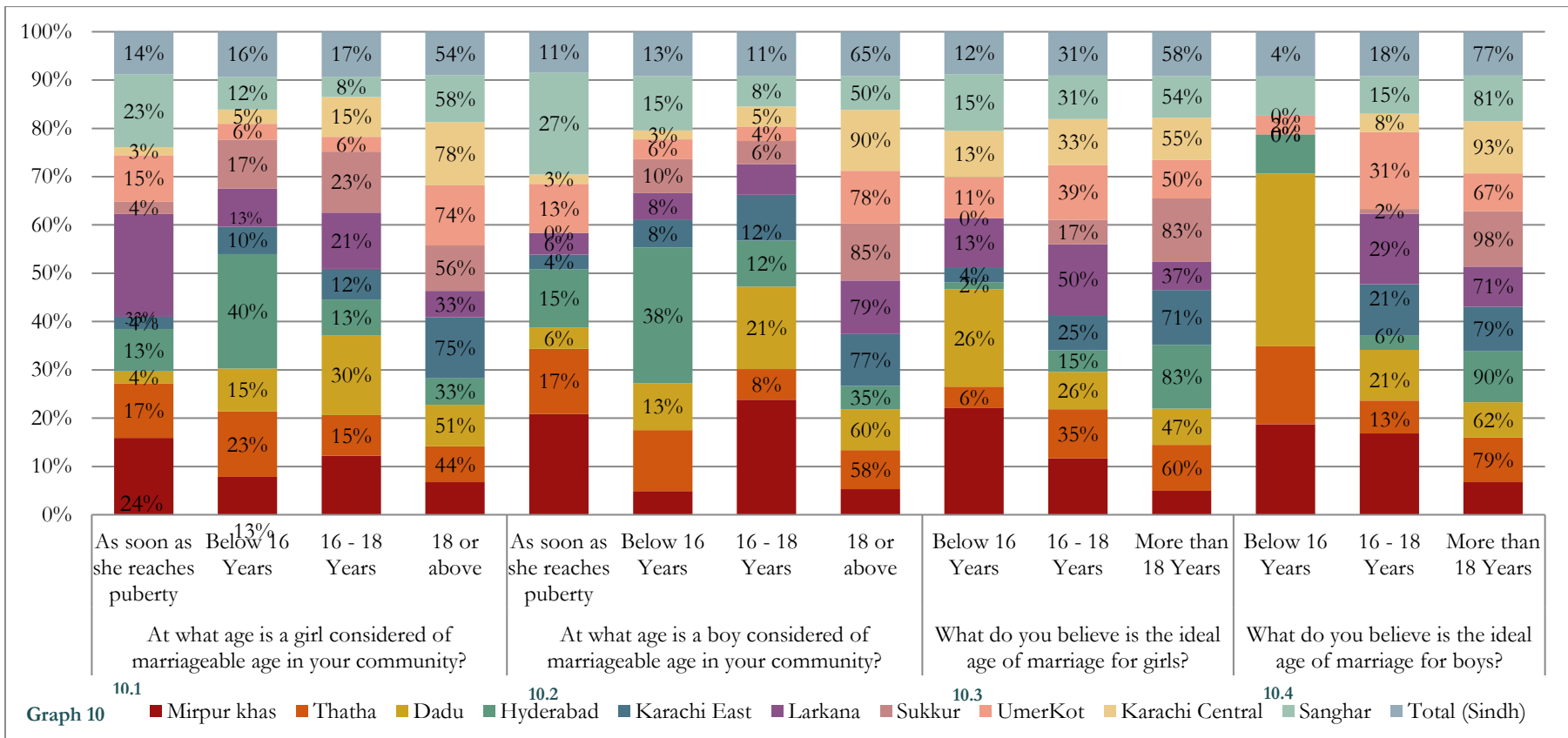


In section 9.1, respondents were asked if HIV/AIDS is curable. Overall in Sindh, average 28% of the respondents believed that HIV/AIDS is curable. This misunderstanding prevails highest in Karachi East and Mirpur Khas with 48% and 42% respectively. Although, different governments tried to educate public 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 Larkana and Sukkur came out with 65% and 63% respectively. Whereas District Karachi East is with 46% who believed that HIV/AIDS can be diagnosed from simple test. District Umer Kot and Hyderabad showed the minimum misunderstanding on question with 22% and 21% respectively.

In section 9.3, average 17% of the respondents in Sindh believed that HIV/AIDS can blow out through contact like shaking hands or eating with an infected person. However, among districts, Karachi East, Thatta and Mir Pur Khas were observed to be on top with 29%, 25% and 20% of the respondents respectively. Remarkably, Dadu came with least misunderstanding with 2%.

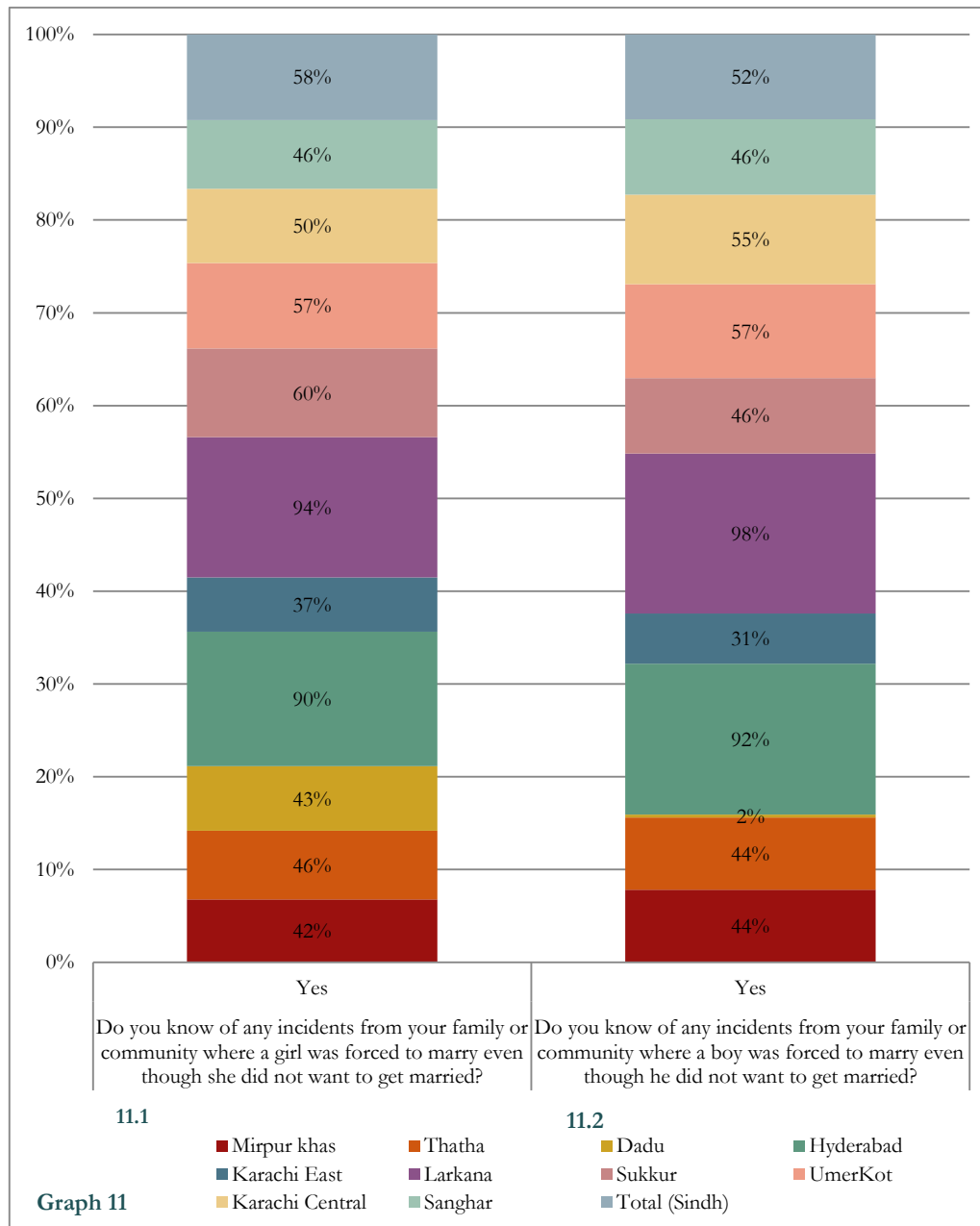
In section 9.4, the respondents were asked if HIV/AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease. While agreeing with the statement, a high percentage was received from almost all districts. However, district Karachi East, Karachi Central and Sukkur were observed to be on the top with percentages of 94%, 80% and 75% of the responses respectively. Average 68% percent of the respondents in Sindh agreed with the statement. It is observed that Karachi East and Mirpur Khas 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 54% were observed to be on top. Under this category, the high percentages of 78%, 75% & 74% responses were observed in districts Karachi Central, Karachi East and Umer Kot respectively. Category 16-18 years was observed less demanded with 17% of the responses received from Sindh which means people do not think 16-18 years of age is desirable for girls’ marriage. It also deserves our attention towards strong implementation of Child Marriage Restraint Act.

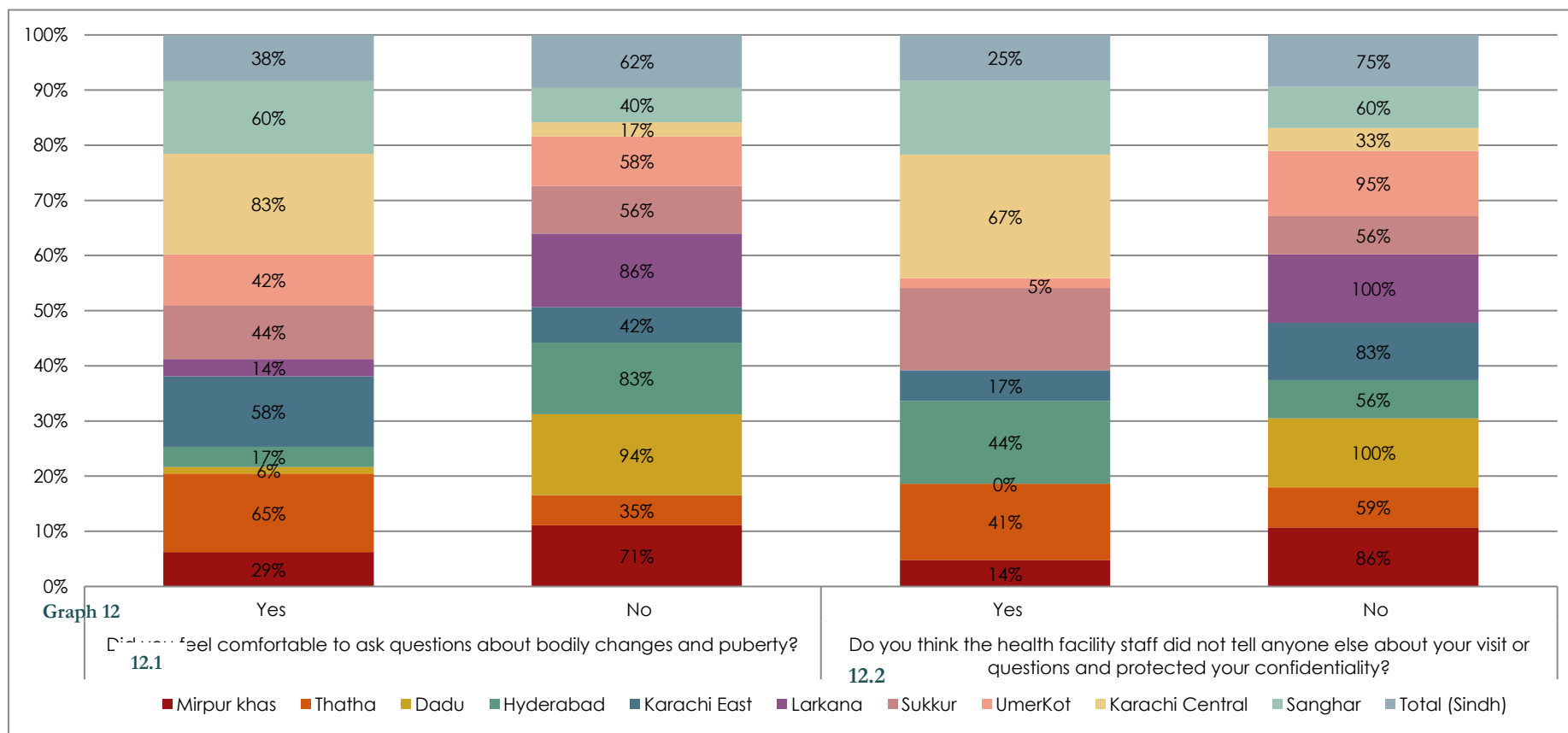
In section 10.2, respondents were asked regarding the considerable age for boys to get married in their respective community. The category ‘18 or above’ was observed to be remained on top with the 65% of the respondents. Under this category, among districts, the high percentages of 90%, 85% and 79% were observed in Karachi Central, Sukkur and Larkana and respectively. District Karachi Central 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 Sindh.

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 58% for girls and 77% for boys in Sindh. While Hyderabad, Sukkur, Karachi East and Thatta came out with high demand for “more than 18 years” for girls with 83%, 71% and 60% respectively. However, results are even more amusing for boys with high % in Sukkur, Karachi Central and Hyderabad with 98%, 93% and 90% respectively.



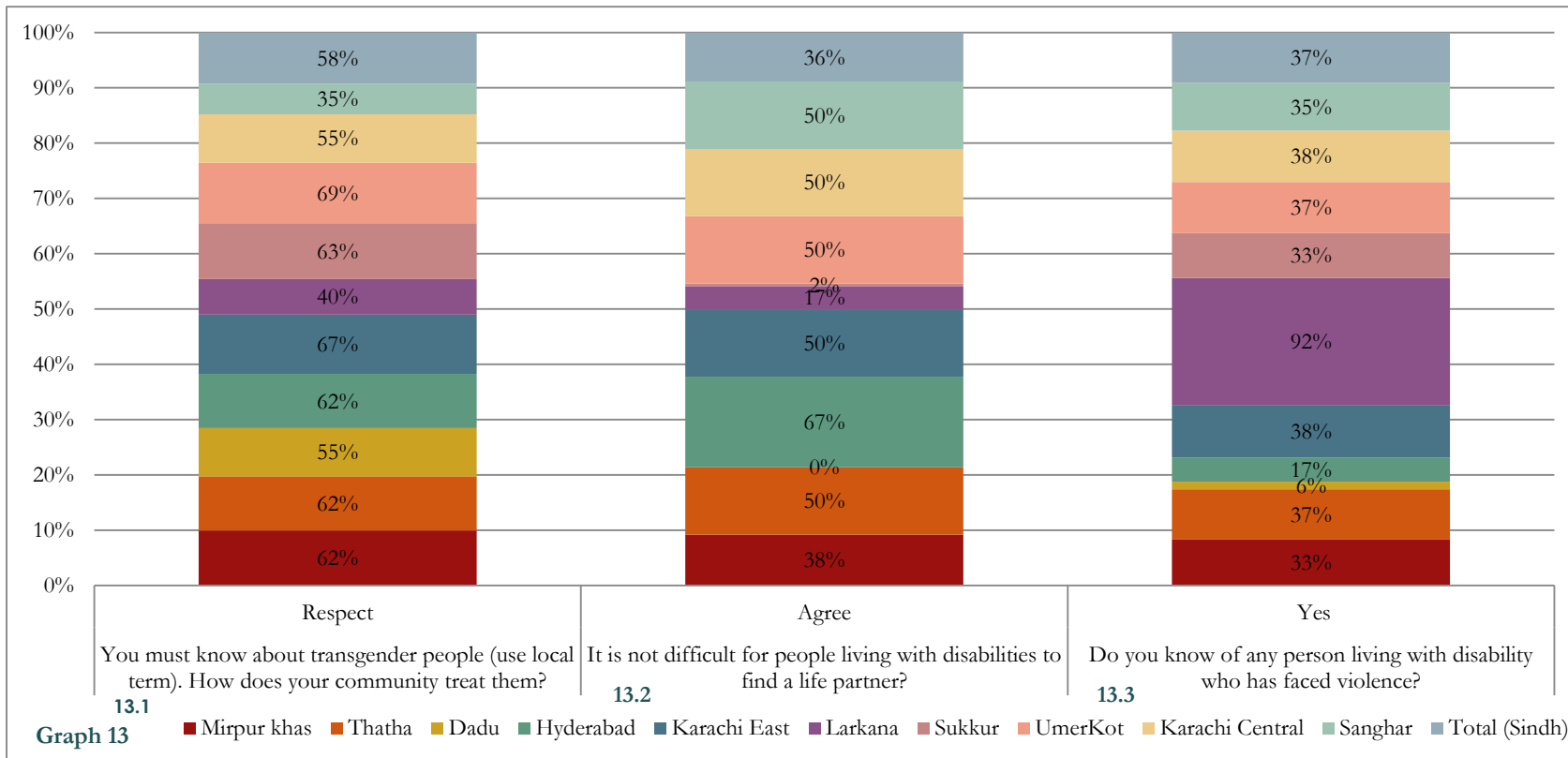
Graph 11 was categorized into two sub-sections. In section 11.1, the respondents were asked if they know about any incident in their family or community where a girl was forced to get married. The highest percentages of 94%, 90% and 60% were received from districts Larkana, Hyderabad and Sukkur respectively. Whereas, the total average of 58% of the respondents from Sindh 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 98%, 92% and 57% of the responses were received from districts Larkana, Hyderabad and Umer Kot respectively. However total 52% of the responses were received from Sindh 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 Sindh, average 38% of the respondents said that they felt comfortable in asking such question; whereas 62% of the respondents did not feel comfortable in asking questions to Health Care Provider related to bodily changes and puberty. The percentages of responses received from districts Dadu, Larkana, Hyderabad and Mirpur Khas were 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 Sindh 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 Dadu and Larkana where the respondents’ confidentiality was not maintained at all. The percentages of responses received from other districts were also observed high.



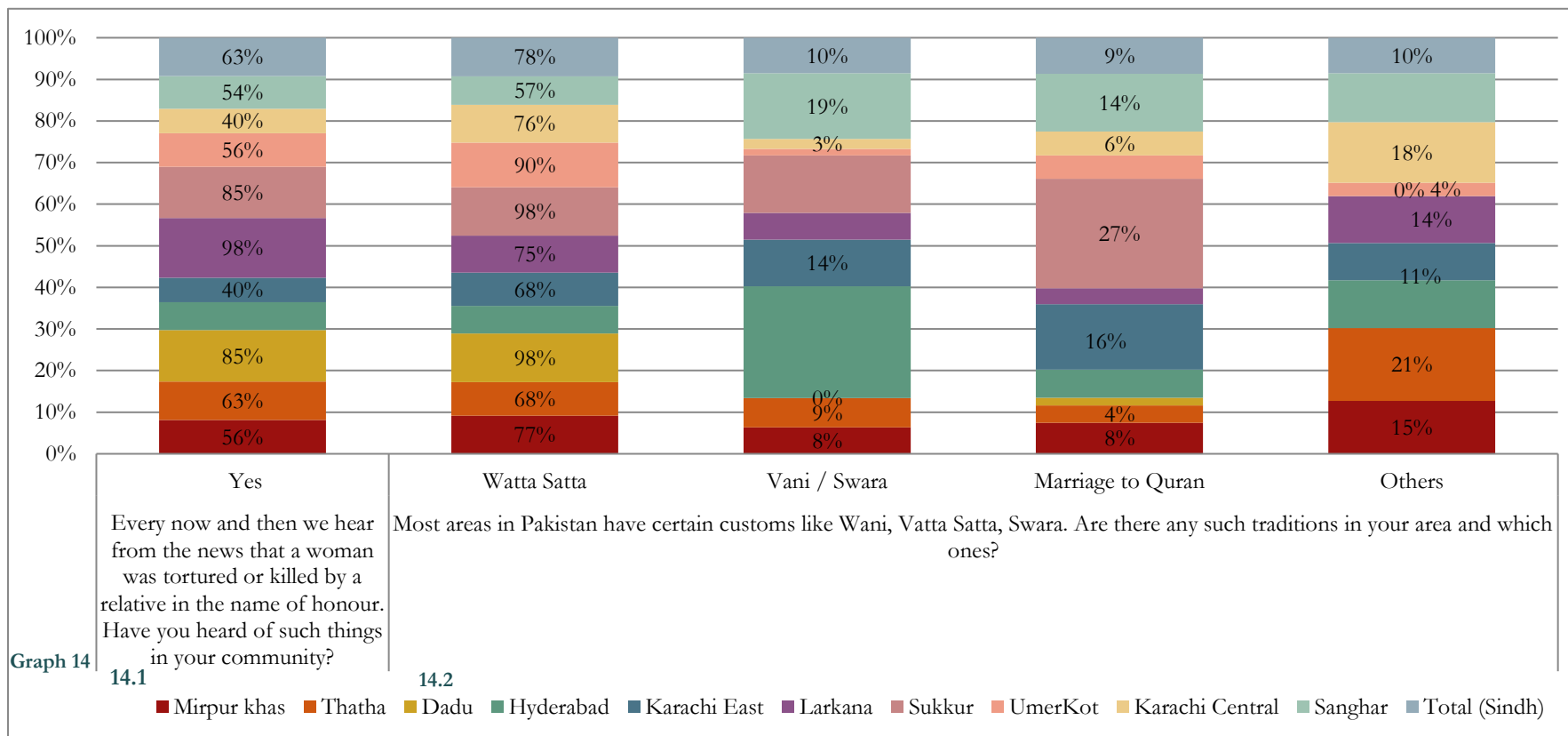
In section 13.1, respondents were asked if their respective community treats transgender with respect. The percentages received from every district was above 50%, except from district Sanghar and Larkana where 35% and 40% of the respondents shared that their community treats transgender with respect. However, overall, only 58% of respondents were observed in Sindh who said that their respective community treats transgender with respect, which shows that 42% 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.

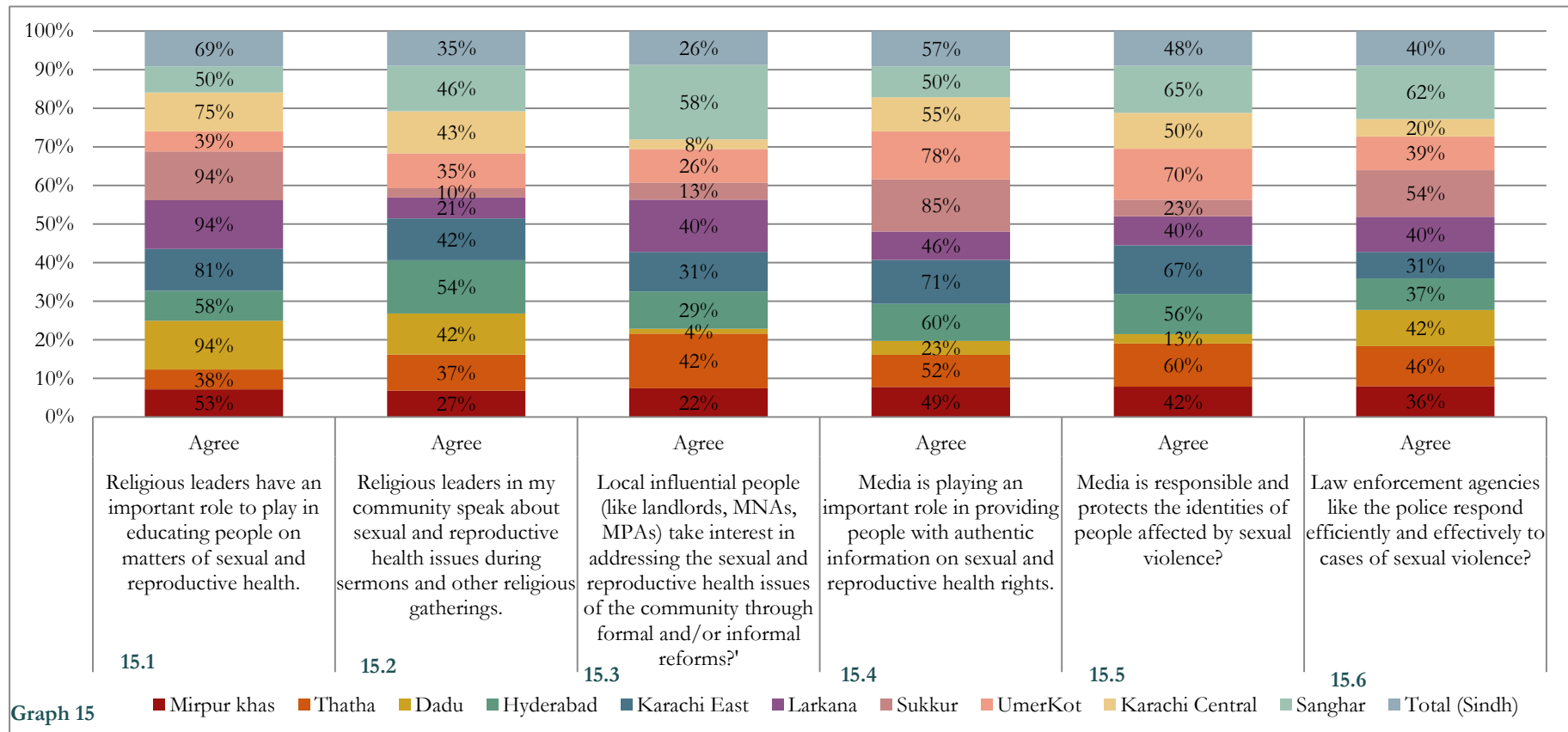
In section 13.2, only 36% of the respondents from Sindh said that it is not difficult for people living with disabilities to find a life partner. Whereas, 64% disagreed with the statement and considered a great difficulty for PWDs to find their life partner. It can be seen that from districts Thatta, Karachi East, Umer Kot, Karachi East and Sanghar 50% of the respondents agreed with the statement, however, district Hyderabad came out to be with highest % of 67% of the respondents who agreed with the statement. Though overall disagreement of 64% 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 Sindh, total 37% 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 Larkana with 92% 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 98%, 85% and 63% were received from districts Larkana, Dadu, Sukkur and Thatta respectively. In other districts, the percentages of respondents in between 40% - 56% were observed who knew about such news. In Sindh, the average 63% 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 Sindh 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, 78% of the responses were received under category 'watta satta', in which huge percentage of respondents from every district was observed. Further, districts Dadu, Sukkur, Umer Kot and Mirpur Khas covered the highest percentage of 98%, 90% and 77% of the respondents respectively in this regard. Percentages of respondents in other districts were observed to be in between 56% to 76%. Category 'Vani/Sawara' and 'Others' with average 10% of the respondents are observed to be at the second highest number. Under category 'vani/Swara', the highest percentages were observed in districts Hyderabad, Sanghar and Sukkur with 33%, 19% and 17% of the responses received respectively. Under category 'others' the highest percentages 21%, 18% and 15% were received from districts Thatta, Mirpur Khas and Karachi central 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

In section 15.1, 69% 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 Dadu, Larkana, Sukkur, Karachi East and Karachi Central were observed high with 94%, 81% and 75% 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 65% shared that religious figures did not speak about SRH issues during sermons and gatherings and only 35% agreed with engagement.

In section 15.3, only 26% of the respondents in Sindh 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 74% 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, 57% of the respondents agreed that media is playing important role in providing authentic information on such topics whereas 43% did not agree. Whereas districts like Dadu, Larkana & Mirpur Khas, were found less satisfied with the role of media on providing authentic information on these topics with 23, 46% and 49% respectively.

In section 15.5, 48% of the respondents agreed that media is responsible & protects the identities of people affected by sexual violence however 52% of respondent did not show their confidence. In section 15.6, only 40% 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 Sindh

Recommendations

Policy level

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

-Institutions and commissions like Sindh 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 Sindh



SINDH DESERT DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION, UMERKOT



National Secretariat



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