

Women's political participation in Yemen

Information and Opinion Survey Unit at Yemen Information Center (YIC) conducted a survey on the importance of women's political participation in reaching a political settlement and ending the conflict in Yemen, the extent of their participation, the most prominent obstacles and challenges that prevent Yemeni women from participating in politics.

The survey was conducted on a research sample of 513 participants from 18 Yemeni governorates out of 21. 52.8% were male, and 47.2% of them were female.

36.1% of them were 26-35 years old, 24.5% were 36-45 years old, 23.2% were 18-25 years old, 15.5% were 46-65 years old, and only 0.7% were 65 years of age and over.

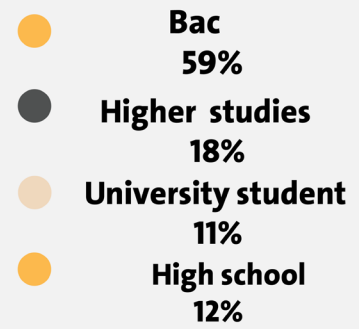
Regarding the academic qualification, 58.8% of the participants had a bachelor's degree, 18.5% had postgraduate degrees, 10.3% were university students, 3.8% had high school diplomas, and 1.7% had only a preparatory certificate.

The sample of the survey was from the following governorates: Aden 25%, Sana'a 24%, Taiz 18%, Hadhramout 8%, Ibb 7%, Marib 3%, Dhamar 2.6%, Hodeidah 2.1%, Hajjah 1.8%, Amran 1.8%, Abyan 1.4%, Lahj 1.4%, Sa'ada 1.3%, Al-Bayda 1%. Regarding Shabwa, Al-Mahwit, Al-Dhalea, and Socotra, they represented only 0.4% of the participants.

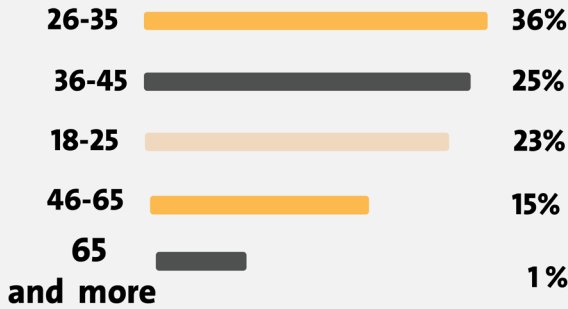
Gender



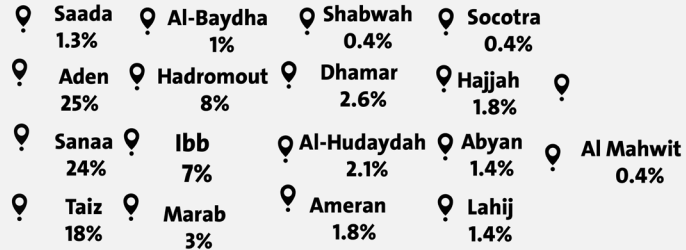
Educational Level



Age

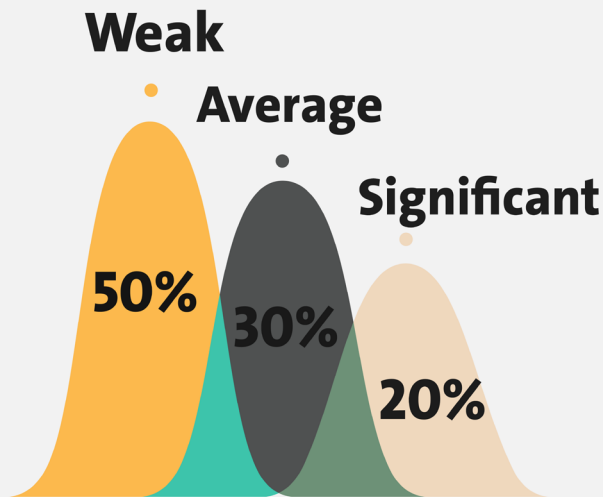


Governorate



According to the survey, 49.5% of respondents ranked Yemeni women's political participation in recent years as weak, while 30.3% of the respondents gave it a medium rating. Only 20.2% of the respondents think that Yemeni women have played a major role in terms of their political participation.

How do you evaluate the role of Yemeni women in political participation recently?



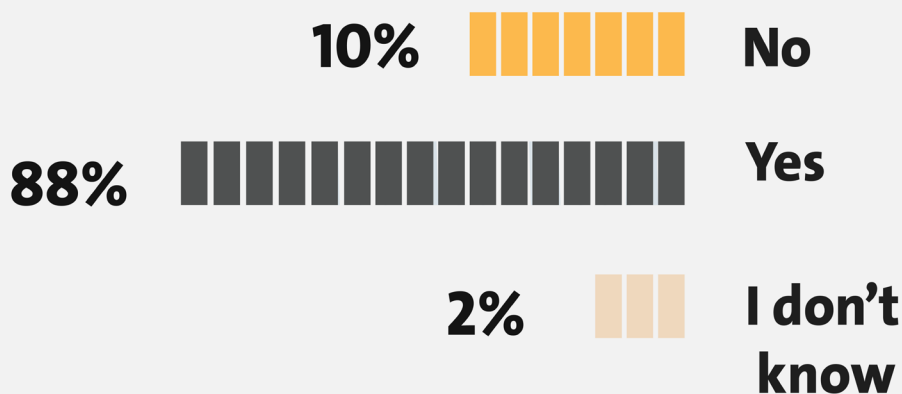
However, 77.3% of the respondents believe that Yemeni women will be able to play a significant role in the political settlement and ending the conflict in Yemen if they are politically empowered and included in the peacemaking process. On the other hand, 17.6% of the respondents think that their presence in the political field does not make a difference and that they will not be able to contribute significantly to the political settlement. Whereas, 5.1% of the respondents said that they have no idea whether Yemeni women are able to contribute to the political settlement and end the conflict or not.

Is it possible for Yemeni women to play an active role in the political settlement and ending the conflict in Yemen?



87.6% of respondents believe that women make a significant political contribution to society's advancement and development because they see women as essential to societies' renaissances, and they believe that the advancement they seek is heavily reliant on the position of women and the degree to which they can fulfill a variety of roles in society. Whereas, 10.3% of the respondents disagree with that opinion, and only 2.1% said that they do not know whether women's political participation will contribute to the development of society or not.

Does women's political participation contribute to the development of society?



According to the respondents, the advancement of women's roles in society, particularly in politics, must be given the utmost significance and care. This is due its importance and its positive impacts on the various social, economic and cultural dimensions of society. 51.5% of the respondents believe that this can be achieved by working to empower women in various fields. On the other hand, 30.6% of the respondents believe that enhancing the role of women in political participation comes through enhancing their access to decision-making positions, while 17.9% of the respondents believe that enhancing women's participation in political parties is the best solution to empower women politically and enhance their role.

Women's political participation can be enhanced by:

51%

Empowering women in various fields

31%

Enhancing women's access to decision-making positions

18%

Enhancing women's participation in political parties

In conclusion, when the respondents were asked about the main obstacles that hinder women's political participation, 55.8% of them believe that this is due to weak political awareness, while 44.2% of the respondents believe that the main obstacle to women's political participation is the lack of democracy and freedom of political action in Yemen.

What are the obstacles to women's political participation in Yemen?

