

Culinary Heritage in Yemen and its Role in Social Cohesion

(Results Summary)

Prepared and designed by:

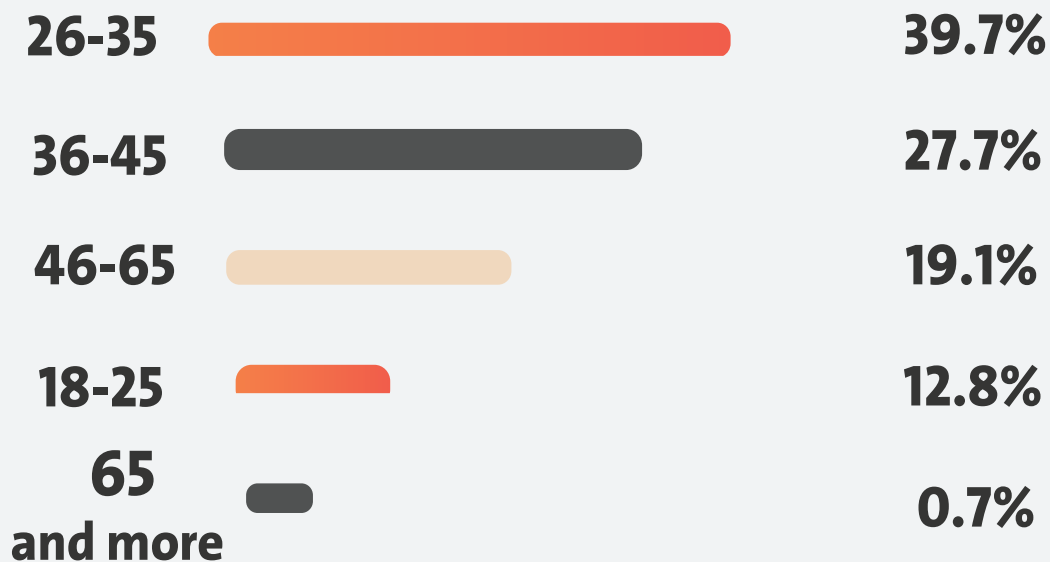
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The survey was conducted on a sample of 219 individuals, predominantly females (55.3%) compared to males (44.7%).



Respondents' age groups were diverse, with 39.7% between 26-35 years, 27.7% between 36-45 years, 19.1% between 46-65 years, 12.8% between 18-25 years, and only 0.7% over the age of 65.



Popular foods hold a significant role in enriching cultural identity as they embody the history, traditions, and social values of a community, acting as a tangible representation of its local culture. These culinary delights not only provide sensory pleasure but also offer a gateway to cultural heritage and ancestral narratives. Through the consumption of popular foods, individuals savor the essence of their cultural roots and gain insights into the historical narratives that have shaped their society. Moreover, popular foods serve as catalysts for communication and social bonding within communities. The process of preparing and cooking these cherished dishes often involves active participation and knowledge-sharing among individuals, fostering stronger familial and social connections. When people gather to share a meal, the act of communal dining enhances communication and interaction, promoting a sense of unity among individuals.

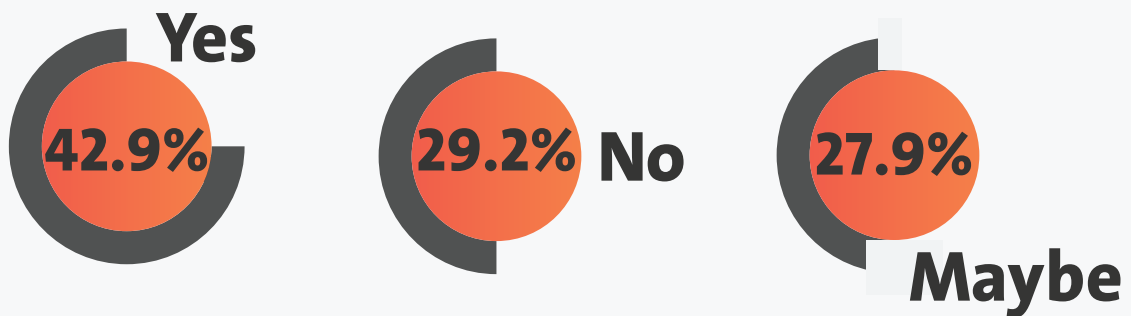
Yemen, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, history, and diversity, exemplifies this interplay between cuisine and social fabric. Yemeni cuisine is a testament to the country's vibrant diversity, with each province boasting its own distinct and varied culinary traditions. The Yemeni culinary heritage has played a pivotal role in fostering social cohesion, transcending societal differences and uniting all segments of Yemeni society around a shared table.

In light of these considerations, the Information and Opinion Survey Unit at "Yemen Information Center" conducted a comprehensive survey to explore Yemeni society's perspective on the significance of Yemeni popular food in strengthening social cohesion. The study aimed to examine the role of Yemeni culinary heritage in fostering a sense of unity and community cohesion within Yemen.

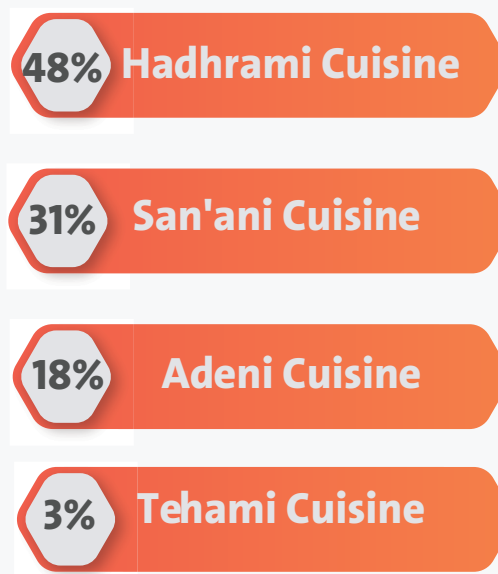
Main Results

The survey commenced by inquiring about the impact of Yemeni cuisine's diversity on social cohesion within Yemen. Out of the respondents, 42.9% acknowledged that this diversity had a significant positive impact, strengthening social cohesion. Conversely, 29.2% believed the opposite, while 27.9% remained uncertain about the impact of Yemeni cuisine's diversity on social cohesion.

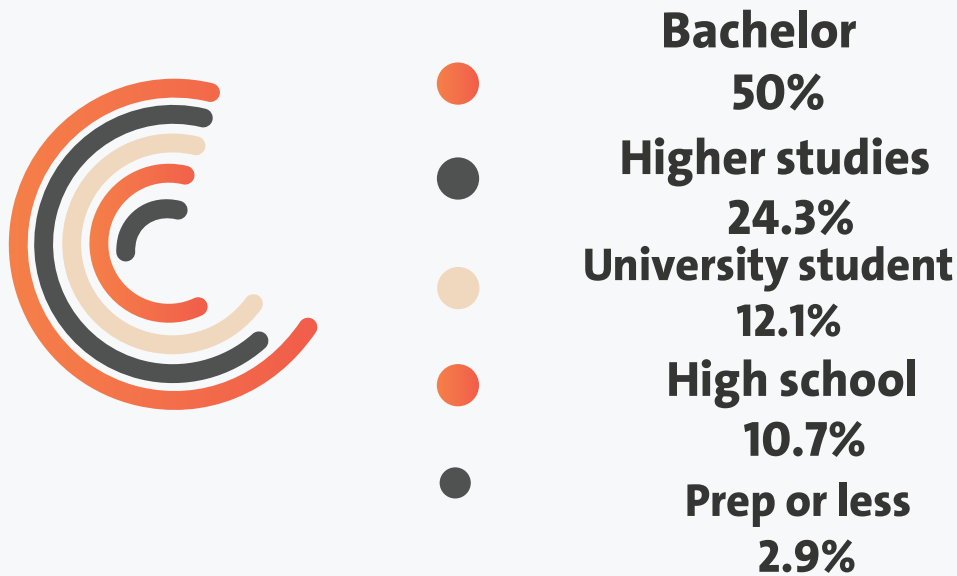
Has the diversity of Yemeni cuisine impacted the social fabric in Yemen?



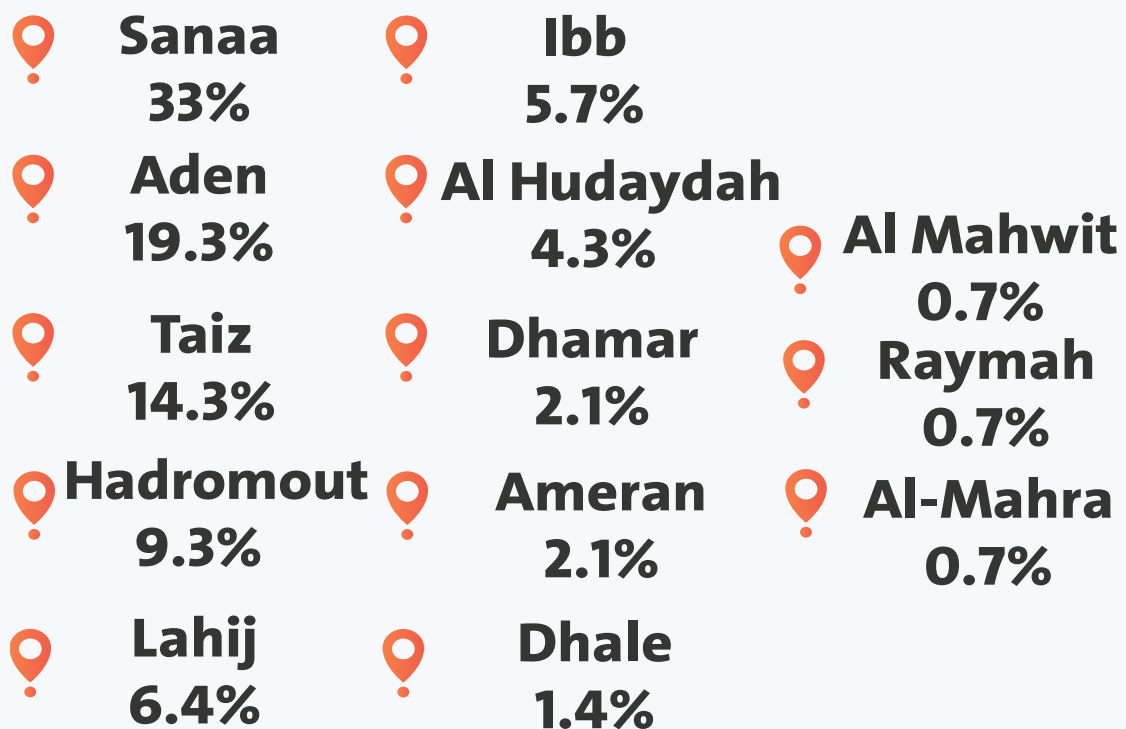
When asked about their preferred Yemeni governorate cuisines, the participants provided the following responses: 48% favored Hadhrami cuisine, 31% preferred Sanaani cuisine, 18% chose Adeni cuisine, and 3% expressed a preference for Tahami cuisine.



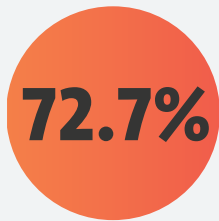
Regarding the participants' educational qualifications, the majority held a bachelor's degree (50%), followed by postgraduate degrees (24.3%), high school certificate (12.1%), university students (10.7%), and those with middle school certificate (2.9%).



The survey covered thirteen out of twenty-one Yemeni governorates, specifically: Sana'a (33%), Aden (19.3%), Taiz (14.3%), Hadhramout (9.3%), Lahj (6.4%), Ibb (5.7%), Hodeidah (4.3%), Dhamar and Amran (2.1% each), Al-Dhalea (1.4%), and Al-Mahweet, Raymah, and Al-Mahra (0.7% each).



Regarding the potential for spreading the Yemeni culinary heritage, respondents believe that the following approaches could contribute (each answer considered as a separate sample with an estimated rate of 100%):



**Supporting content creators
focused on Yemeni
culinary heritage**

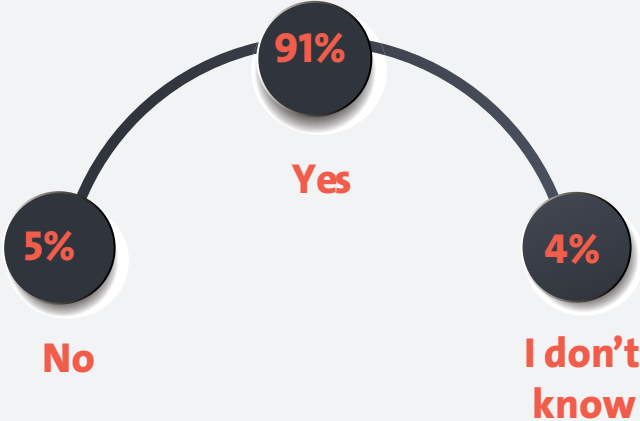


**Promoting Yemeni culinary
heritage through media**

In conclusion, survey participants strongly believe that Yemeni traditional food enhances social cohesion by promoting cultural identity, communication, social gatherings, social and family relations, and cultural interaction between communities. They also emphasized the vital role of these foods in reviving cultural heritage, fostering a sense of belonging, and promoting the social fabric's cohesion.

Amidst conflict and worsening economic conditions, Yemeni families have embraced home-based food projects to boost their income. When asked about the impact of these projects, 90.7% acknowledged their significant contribution, 5% disagreed, considering the contribution to be insignificant, and 4.3% expressed uncertainty regarding the matter.

Do household projects based on popular foods contribute to raising the income level of some families?



Yemeni cuisine has greatly contributed to spreading Yemeni culture and heritage worldwide through traditional restaurants. The survey examined the impact of these restaurants on the revival of Yemeni folklore. Here are the participants' responses (each answer representing a separate sample, estimated at 100%):

