

Women's Participation in Security and Defense in Yemen

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Women are an indispensable pillar of any society, with their presence in various fields playing a crucial role in fostering a cohesive society, particularly in conflict-affected countries. Their contribution is integral to enhancing security, stability, and achieving sustainable peace. Yemen, facing prolonged conflict for over nine years, grapples with significant security challenges that necessitate the participation of all society members in maintaining security. Strengthening the presence of women in the security and military services is thus an important step toward addressing these challenges.

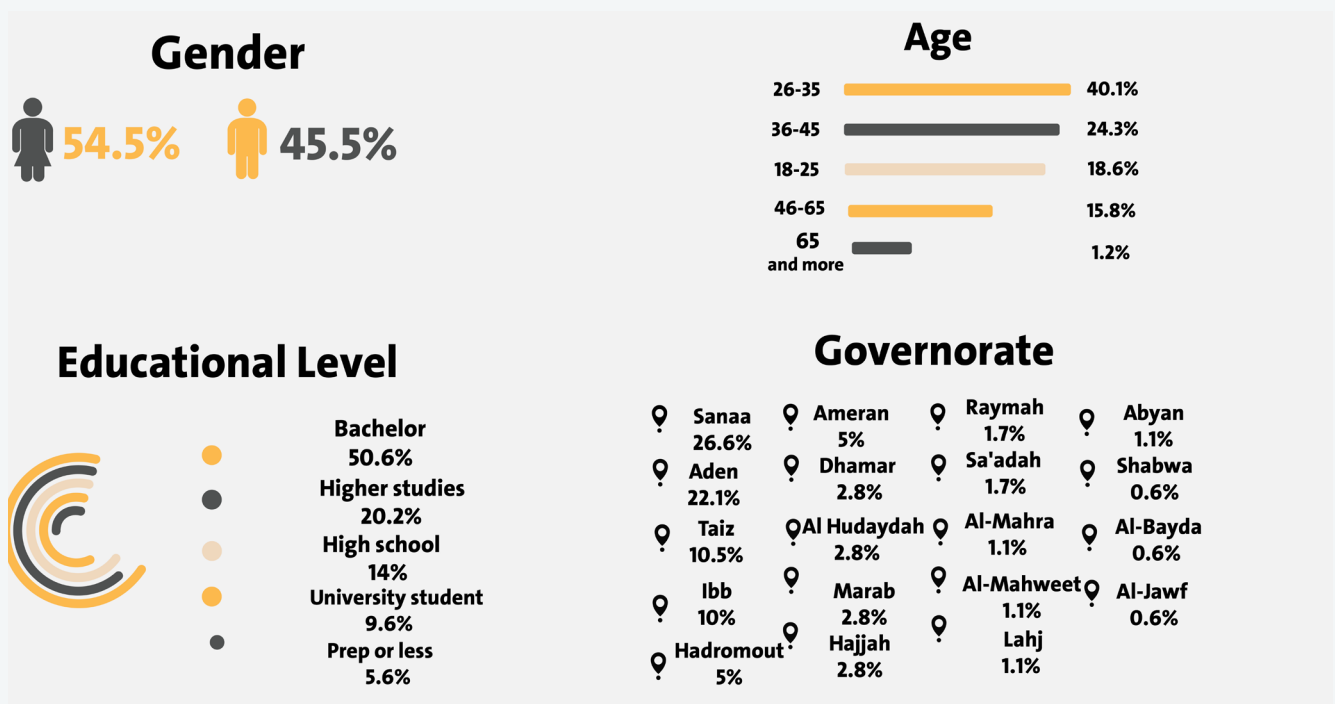
In Yemen, women hold diverse positions within security and defense agencies, including the police, army, and other security forces. Yemeni women in these roles possess several characteristics that enhance their effectiveness. They demonstrate the ability to address social issues and resolve conflicts, alongside possessing strong analytical and strategic skills. Additionally, their presence fosters trust-building between security forces and the local community, further contributing to the pursuit of social justice and human rights. Despite these positive aspects, women working in security and military roles face numerous obstacles and challenges, such as societal perception and gender discrimination.

In consideration of the aforementioned factors, Yemen Information Center's Information and Opinion Survey Unit conducted a survey to explore the importance of women's participation in Yemen's security and defense apparatus. The survey aimed to study Yemeni society's perspective on the extent of women's participation and to identify the significance of their involvement in achieving social justice and maintaining security. Additionally, the survey sought to uncover the prominent obstacles and problems that hinder women working in the military and security forces.

The survey encompassed 313 participants, with the majority (54.5%) being females, compared to 45.5% males. The respondents spanned various age groups, including 40.1% young individuals aged between 26-35 years, 24.3% aged between 36-45 years, 18.6% aged between 18-25 years. Participants aged 46-65 years constituted 15.8%, whereas those aged 65 and above comprised only 1.2%.

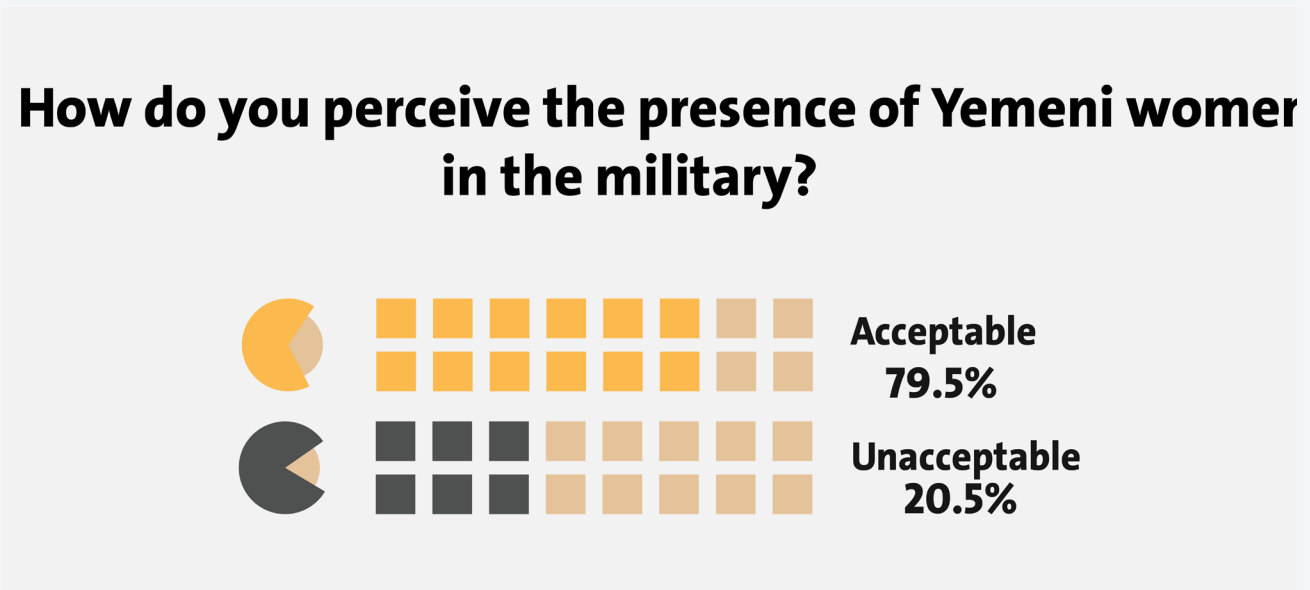
Regarding academic qualifications, the majority of participants held a bachelor’s degree (50.6%), followed by postgraduate degrees (20.2%), high school diplomas (14%), university students (9.6%), and individuals with a middle school certificate (5.6%).

The survey was conducted across nineteen out of twenty-one Yemeni governorates. The distribution of the sample reflects the following percentages for each governorate: Sana’a (26.6%), Aden (22.1%), Taiz (10.5%), Ibb (10%), Hadhramout and Amran (5% each), Hodeidah, Dhamar, Ma’rib and Hajjah represented 2.8% each, followed by Raymah and Sa’adah (1.7% each), and Al-Mahra, Al-Mahweet, Lahj, and Abyan (1.1% each). Shabwa, Al-Bayda, and Al-Jawf constituted only 0.6% each.

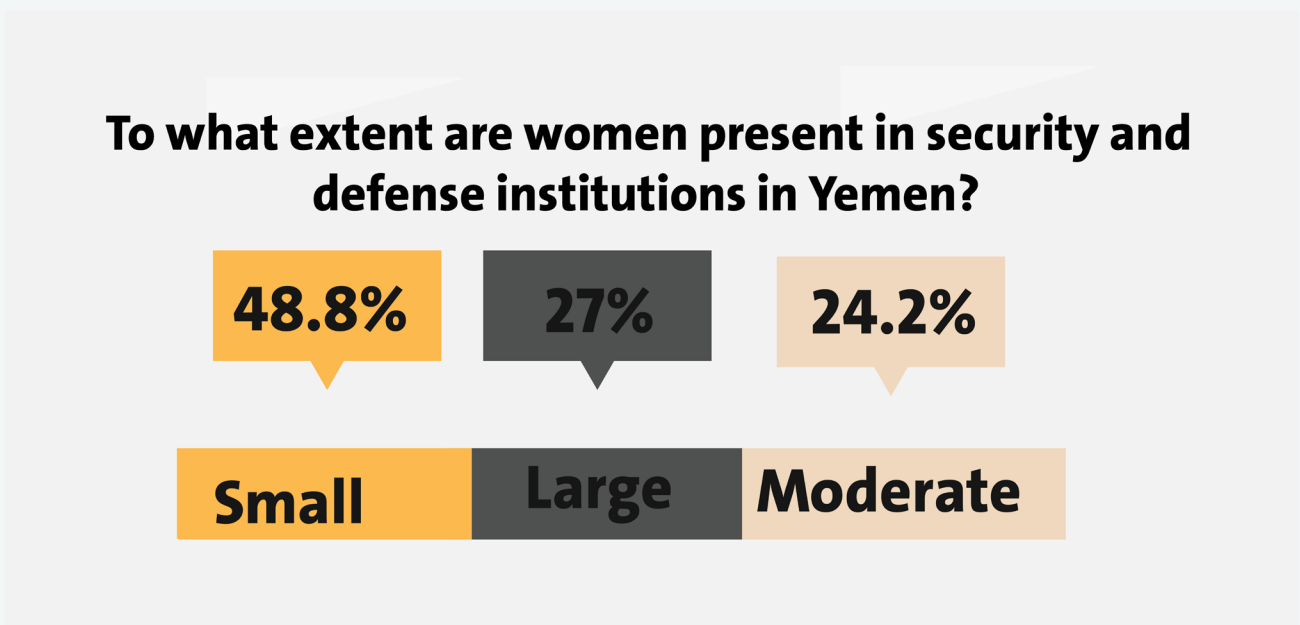


Main Results

Initially, 79.5% of the respondents expressed acceptance of women's work in the military and security services, while the remaining 20.5% held the belief that such work is not suitable for them.

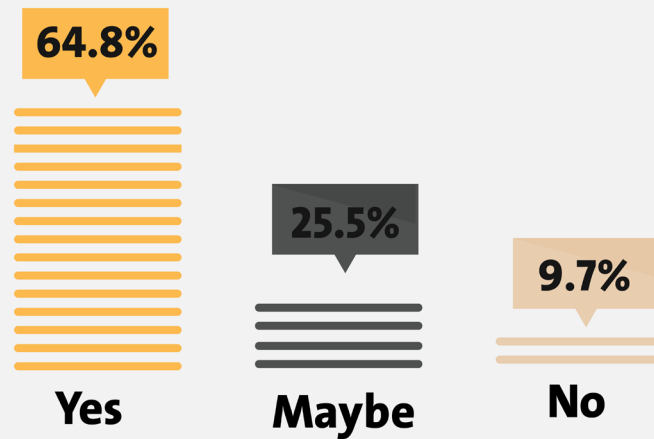


When questioned about the extent of women's presence in security and defense institutions, the respondents' opinions were as follows: 48.8% believed that their presence is minimal, 27% considered it substantial, and the remaining 24.2% perceived the presence of Yemeni women in these institutions as average.



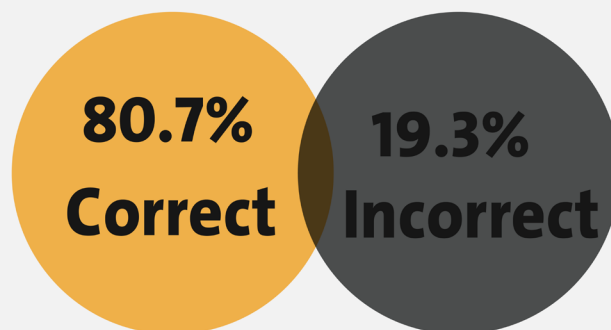
Regarding the impact of women's work in the security and military corps on societal stability, 64.8% believed that it would affect her societal stability, 25.5% thought it might have some influence but not a major one, and only 9.7% stated that it does not affect their societal stability at all.

Do you believe that women's involvement in the military will have a negative impact on societal stability?



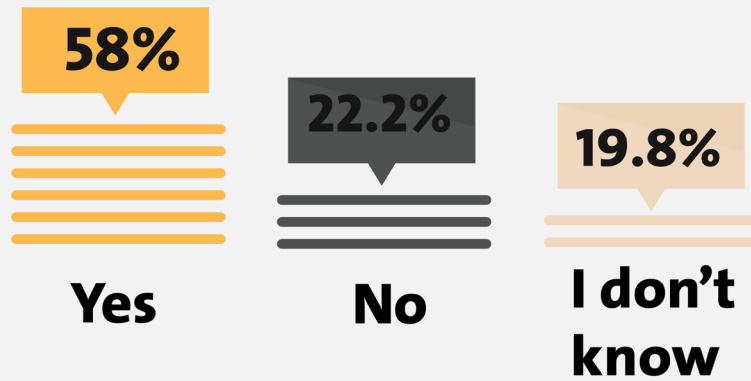
Despite this, the participants believed that the presence of women in the security and military corps will contribute to preserving societal peace, with a majority of 80.7%, while only 19.3% held the opposite view.

In your opinion, how true is the belief that "The presence of women in the military will contribute to preserving societal peace"?



Regarding the conflict's impact on the presence of women in these institutions, 58% responded that the conflict had a significant impact, 22.2% believed it had no effect at all, and only 19.8% expressed uncertainty on the matter.

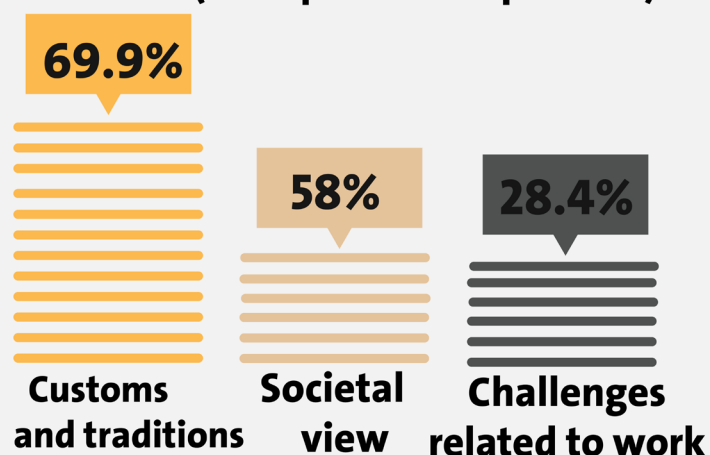
Has the ongoing conflict affected the presence of women in security and defense institutions in Yemen?



When addressing the obstacles faced by women working in security and defense institutions in Yemen, the respondents highlighted the following factors as major challenges (each answer analyzed separately as a multiple-choice question with an estimated rate of 100%):

- 69.9% cited customs and traditions.
- 58% pointed to societal views.
- 28.4% mentioned the difficulty of work compared to women's psychological and physiological abilities.

What are the primary obstacles that women face when working in security and defense institutions in Yemen?(Multiple-choice question)



In conclusion, the participants emphasized the essential role Yemeni women play in the security and defense apparatus, contributing to the country's security and stability. However, they also acknowledged the significant challenges that obstruct their progress and development in this field. To overcome these obstacles and promote gender equality, the government and local community must collaborate to provide equal opportunities and advocate for women's rights in the security and defense services.