

Women in Music in Yemen

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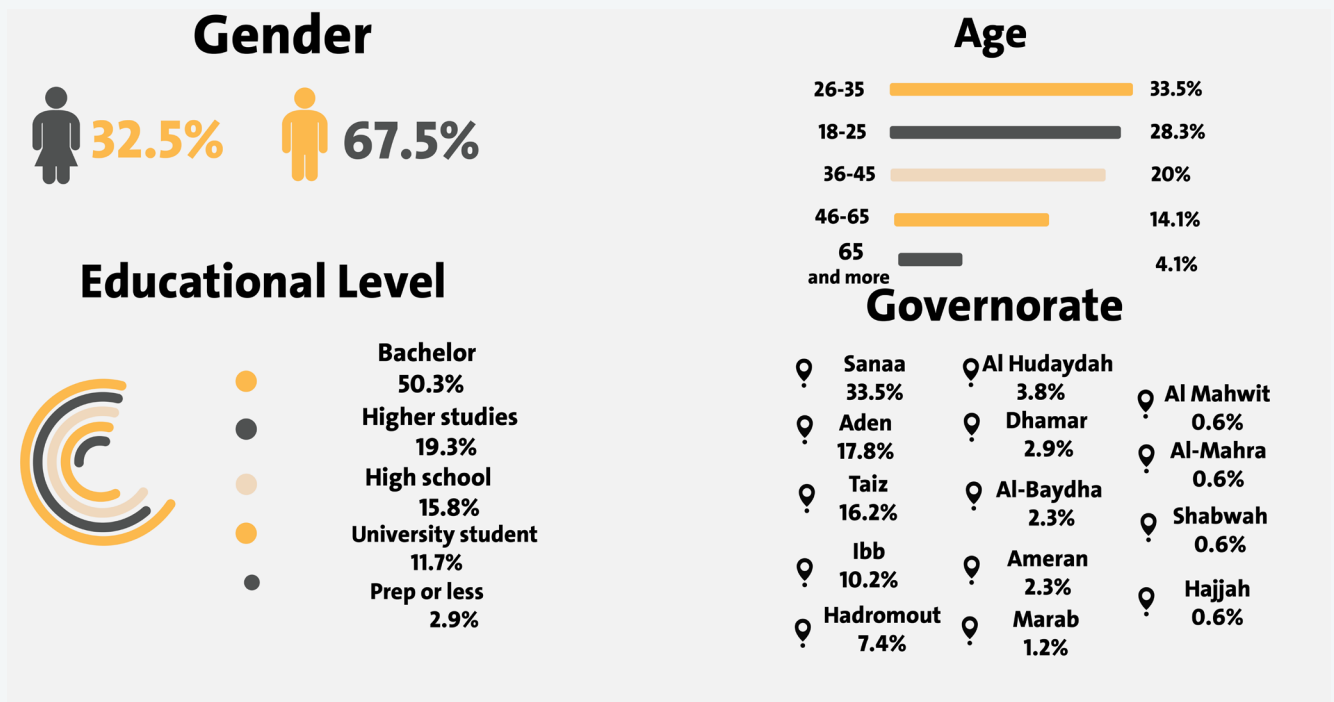
Music is a cornerstone of Yemeni culture and identity, boasting a rich and diverse history marked by distinct rhythms and unique musical styles that vary across regions. Women, in particular, play a crucial role in Yemen's musical landscape - taking center stage as singers at numerous social and cultural occasions. Through their performances, Yemeni women's songs articulate a range of emotions, thoughts, and beliefs, ultimately reflecting the cultural identity of the Yemeni people as a whole. Indeed, singing represents a powerful medium for expressing love, sadness, and joy, and serves as a vital means of preserving Yemeni folk traditions.

Despite the important role that women play in Yemeni musical art, they continue to face significant challenges within Yemen's conservative cultural and social context. Social norms often discourage women from pursuing careers as artists, and gender discrimination is still prevalent within the field. These challenges are further compounded by the ongoing conflict in Yemen, which has led to a lack of resources and support for Yemeni art in general, and lyrical art in particular. To better understand Yemeni society's attitudes toward women's participation in musical art, "Yemen Information Center's" Information and Opinion Survey Unit conducted a survey on the topic.

The survey was conducted on a research sample of 508 individuals, consisting of 67.5% males and 32.5% females. The age distribution of the participants was varied, with 28.3% falling within the 18-25 age range, 33.5% in the 26-35 age range, 20% in the 36-45 age range, 14.1% in the 46-65 age range, and only 1% being aged 65 or older.

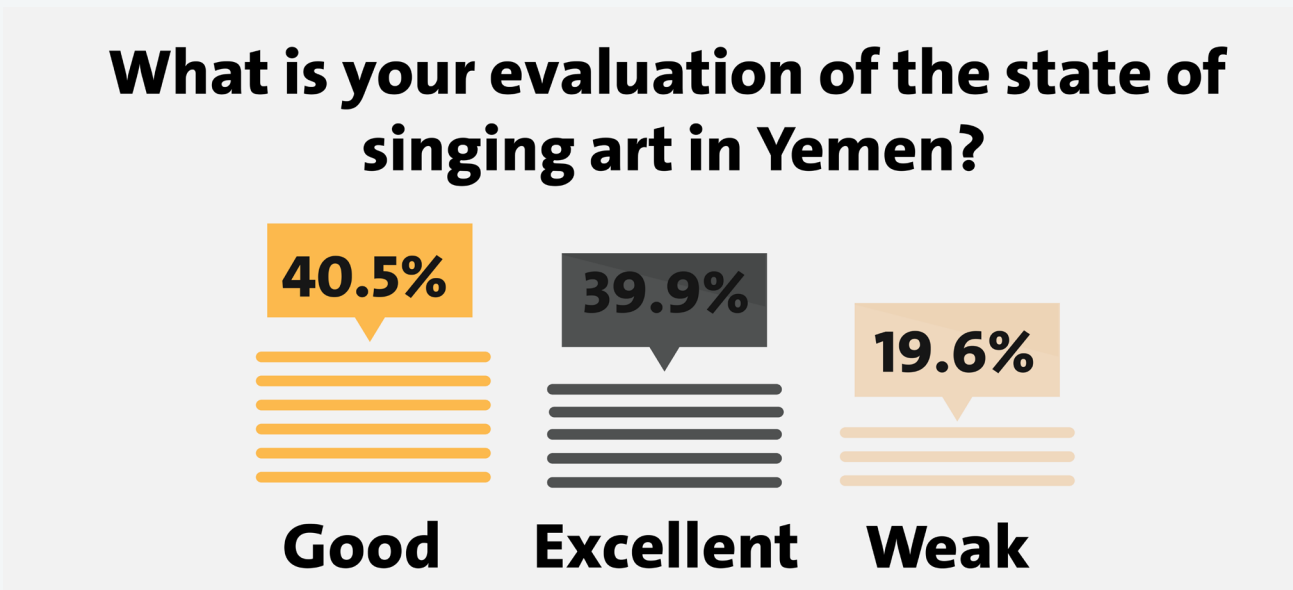
In terms of academic qualifications, the majority of participants in the survey held a bachelor's degree at 50.3%, followed by individuals with higher degrees at a percentage of 19.3%. Those with a high school diploma represented 15.8% of the sample, while university students comprised 11.7%. Finally, those with a preparatory certificate represented the smallest population at only 2.9%.

The survey was conducted in fourteen out of twenty-one Yemeni governorates, representing a wide geographical scope. The governorates included in the sample are as follows: Sana'a 33.5%, Aden 17.8%, Taiz 16.2%, Ibb 10.2%, Hadhramout 7.4%, and Hodeidah 3.8%. The sampled participants also included those from Dhamar 2.9%, Al-Bayda 2.3%, Amran 2.3%, and Ma'rib 1.2%. Additionally, the sample included participants from Al-Mahweet, Al-Mahra, Shabwah, and Hajjah, with each governorate representing only 0.6% of the total sample.

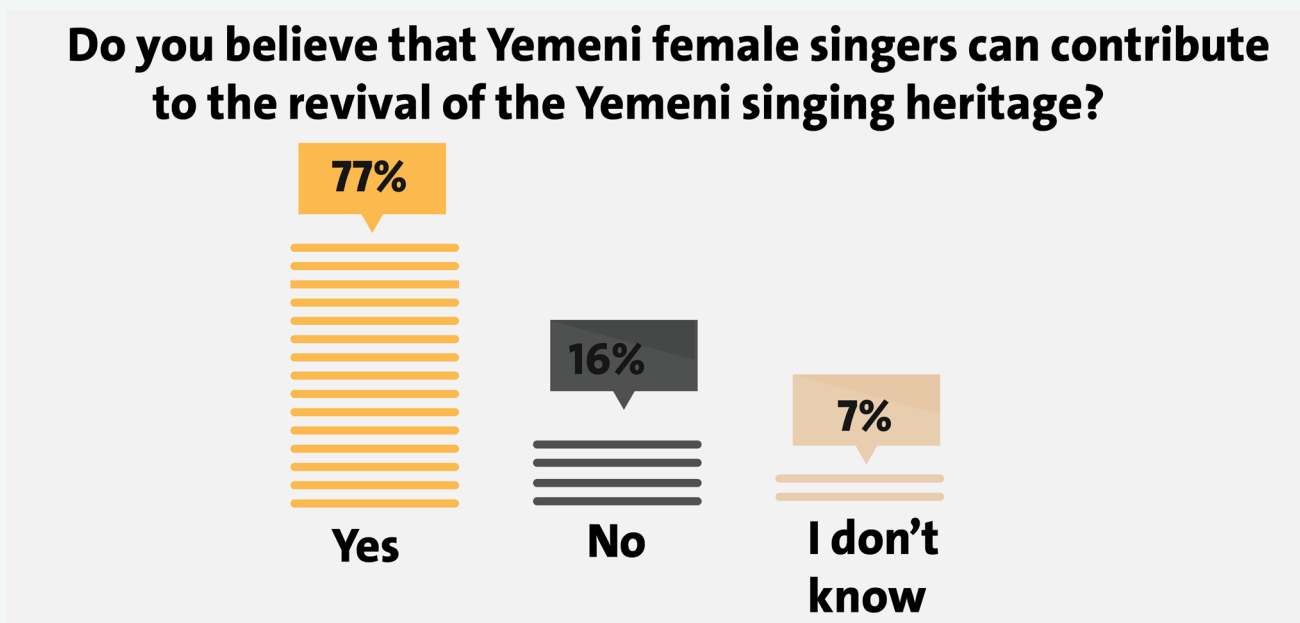


Main Results

At the outset of the survey, participants were asked to evaluate musical art in Yemen. The results were as follows: 40.5% rated it as good, 39.9% rated it as excellent, and 19.6% rated it as weak.



Next, participants were asked whether they believed the presence of women in singing would contribute to the revival of Yemeni singing heritage or not. 77% of the participants answered yes. They believed that having women as artists in musical art would significantly contribute to the revival of Yemeni singing heritage. Another 16% responded with no, stating their belief that the presence of women in the singing art would not contribute to its revival. The remaining 7% preferred not to give a specific response, indicating their lack of knowledge regarding the impact of women's presence in musical art on the Yemeni singing heritage.



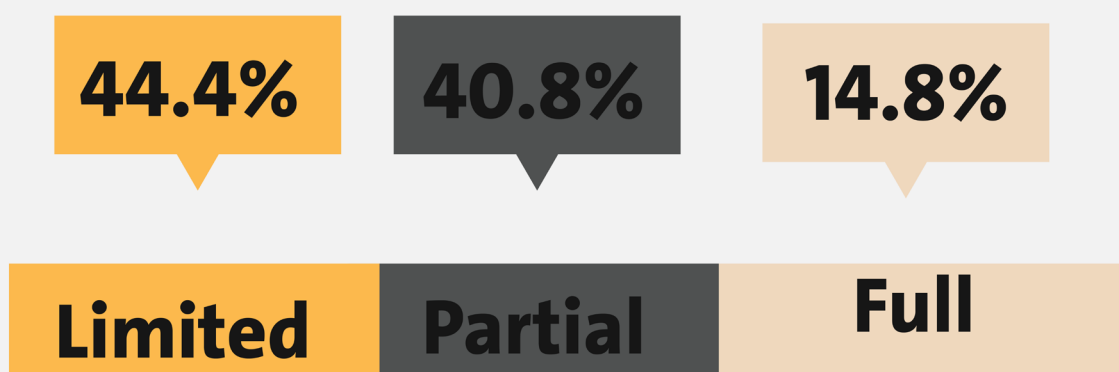
The participants were also asked about their level of acceptance regarding women's work as singers and artists. Out of the total participants surveyed, 80.7% said that they accept women's work in the field of singing; while 19.3% expressed that they do not accept it.

What is your opinion on the presence of women in Yemeni singing art?



Out of all the participants, 44.4% believed that the presence of women in popular songs is minimal, 40.8% stated that it is moderate, and 14.8% expressed that the presence of women in popular songs is significant and impactful.

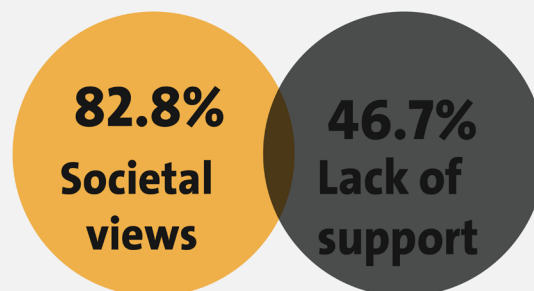
To what extent are women present in Yemen popular music?



The survey asked participants to identify the obstacles and problems that Yemeni female singers encounter. Each answer to this question was analyzed as a separate sample, with an estimated response rate of 100% for this multiple-choice question. The two most common responses were as follows:

- 82.8% of the participants cited the societal view of female singers as a major obstacle.
- 46.7% of the participants mentioned the lack of support for female singers as another challenge they face.

What do you believe are the main obstacles and challenges facing Yemeni female singers in pursuing their musical careers? (Multiple-choice question)



We also asked participants in the survey about the extent to which the conflict in Yemen has affected the decline of musical art. Their responses were grouped into three categories, with the following estimated response rates:

- 70% of the participants described the impact as significant.
- 22.2% of the participants rated the impact as moderate.
- 7.8% of the participants thought the impact was minor.

To what extent do you believe the ongoing conflict in Yemen has impacted the presence of Yemeni women in the music industry?

