

GENDER EQUALITY ATTITUDES STUDY IN GEORGIA



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



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UN WOMEN
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

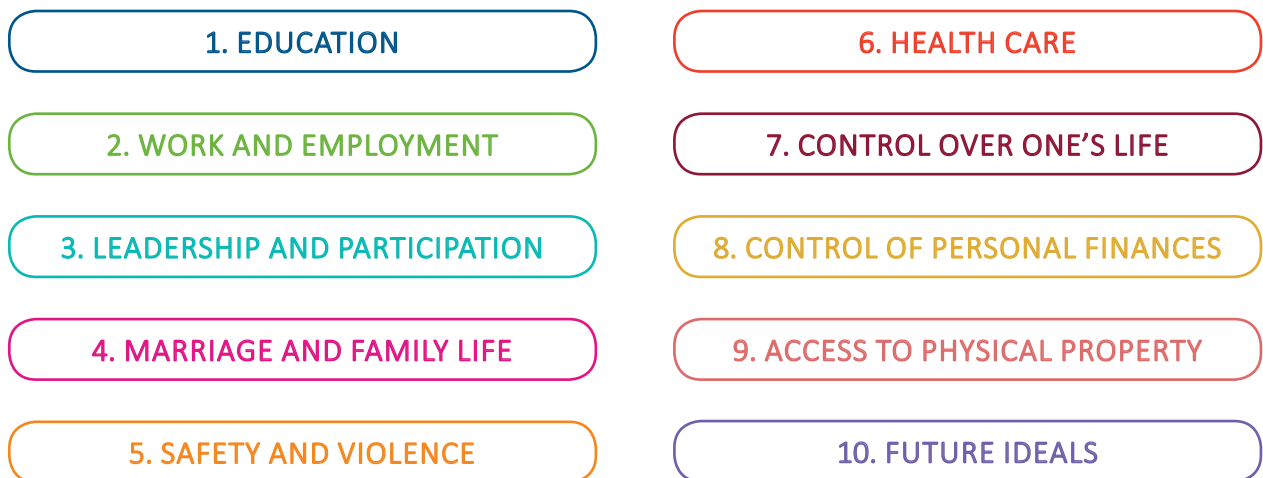
CRRC	Caucasus Research Resource Center
GEAS	Gender Equality Attitudes Study
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex
MP	Member of Parliament
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Gender Equality Attitudes Study (GEAS) in Georgia was commissioned by UN Women within the framework of the “Women’s Increased Leadership for Democracy in Georgia” (WILD) project generously supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The study was implemented by CRRG-Georgia from January to February 2024. The GEAS entailed a nationwide public opinion survey that was designed to measure the prevalence of discriminatory attitudes and gender-based stereotypes contributing to gender inequality in Georgia.

In total, 1,238 interviews were conducted with the population aged 16 and above in Georgia using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. The results can be generalized to the aforementioned population group in Georgia, with an average margin of error of 2.9 per cent.

The survey questionnaire captured attitudes and social norms related to gender equality in the following 10 key areas of interest:



Moreover, the survey allowed the researchers to measure perceived social norms and compare individual attitudes with social norms when it comes to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Key findings

1. Employment-related gender stereotypes are prevalent. While a majority of Georgia’s population (83 per cent) agrees that having a paid job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person, almost every second person (48 per cent) thinks that men’s access to employment should be prioritized over women’s access when work is scarce. Moreover, a majority of people (75 per cent) believe that women cannot take on certain professions, and every second person (54 per cent) believes that service jobs are better suited for women. Most people in Georgia also agree that women should work less for pay and devote more time to their families (71 per cent) and that when a mother works for pay and is not at home, her children suffer (69 per cent). In contrast, only 16 per cent agree that children suffer when their father works for pay and is not at home. Furthermore, a majority of the public agrees that in the Georgian media, men are portrayed as breadwinners, as providers for the family, as leaders or as businessmen (69 per cent), while women are depicted as wives, as mothers, as caregivers or in another supporting role (64 per cent). Women, the younger generation (under the age of 35), employed individuals and ethnic Georgians are more inclined towards gender equality when it comes to employment, equal pay and a more egalitarian division of roles and responsibilities at home and in the workplace.

- 2. Women’s political participation is perceived as beneficial yet difficult to attain.** A majority of the population (63 per cent) believes that increased involvement of women in politics would benefit the country, and 65 per cent think that women’s presence in the Parliament of Georgia will lead to them having greater influence on political priorities and policies. Every second person in Georgia (52 per cent) believes that involving more women in politics will have a positive influence on the country. Yet twice as many people hold the perception that running for elected office in Georgia is more difficult for women (22 per cent) than it is for men (11 per cent). Family obligations (49 per cent) and traditional views on women’s and men’s roles in society (27 per cent) are perceived as the biggest obstacles to women’s engagement in politics. These traditional views are further confirmed by the survey results, which demonstrate that while a majority of Georgia’s population (57–72 per cent) declares that a person’s sex does not matter when considering his/her candidacy for President, Prime Minister, MP or mayor, among those preferring one sex over another, men are preferred in every role. As a counterbalance to caregiving and family-related obligations being the most identified barrier to women’s engagement in politics, the Georgian public (48 per cent) identifies family support as the best means of encouraging women to participate in politics (48 per cent), followed by good financial resources (22 per cent) and increased public support for women in politics (21 per cent). Women are more likely than men to believe that increased female representation in politics would benefit the country, while ethnic minorities are more likely than ethnic Georgians to agree that men are better political leaders. Moreover, rural residents are more likely than Tbilisi residents to agree that in general, people in their community believe that men are better political leaders than women. Moreover, there is a mismatch between individual attitudes and perceived social norms in this regard: While half of the public (50 per cent) personally believes that men make better political leaders than women, slightly more people (58 per cent) perceive this belief to be prevalent in their community.
- 3. Gender stereotypes about family life remain prevalent.** Every second person (52 per cent) believes that men should have the final say in the family and that responsibilities related to childcare are solely the mother’s responsibility—with notably more men than women agreeing with both statements. Aligning with this belief, a majority of the public (56 per cent) agrees that if a child is sick, the mother should take the day off to care for the child, rather than the father. The study documented a mismatch between individual attitudes and perceived social norms: While a minority of individuals (43 per cent) agree with the traditional idea that men should be the primary earners while women take on caregiving responsibilities, a majority (57 per cent) perceives that their community endorses this perspective.
- 4. Intersectional discrimination is perceived to exacerbate inequalities.** Gender discrimination is not experienced in isolation but is influenced by the intersection of various social identities, such as ethnicity, sexuality and disability. Indeed, 47 per cent of Georgia’s population believes that it is difficult for women in general to be hired as skilled workers, but an even greater share think that getting hired is more difficult for ethnic minority women (50 per cent), women with disability (71 per cent) and LGBTQI+ individuals (61 per cent), indicating that the impact of gender discrimination can be more complex and severe for individuals who belong to multiple marginalized groups. The same trend is true when asked about running for elected office in Georgia: While only 22 per cent of the population believes that it is difficult for most women in Georgia to run for elected office, this share increases to 39 per cent when asked about ethnic minority women and to 57 per cent when asked about LGBTQI+ individuals who do not hide their gender identity.
- 5. A majority of the public (82 per cent) does not have any preference regarding their child’s sex,** even if they only had one child. However, of those who do have a preference regarding the sex of an only child, 13 per cent prefer having a boy, compared to 5 per cent preferring to have a girl. Although a significant majority of the public agrees that the sex of an only child does not matter to them, perceived social norms are somewhat different: 38 per cent of the public, including 34 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men, believes that people in their community would prefer having a boy over a girl.

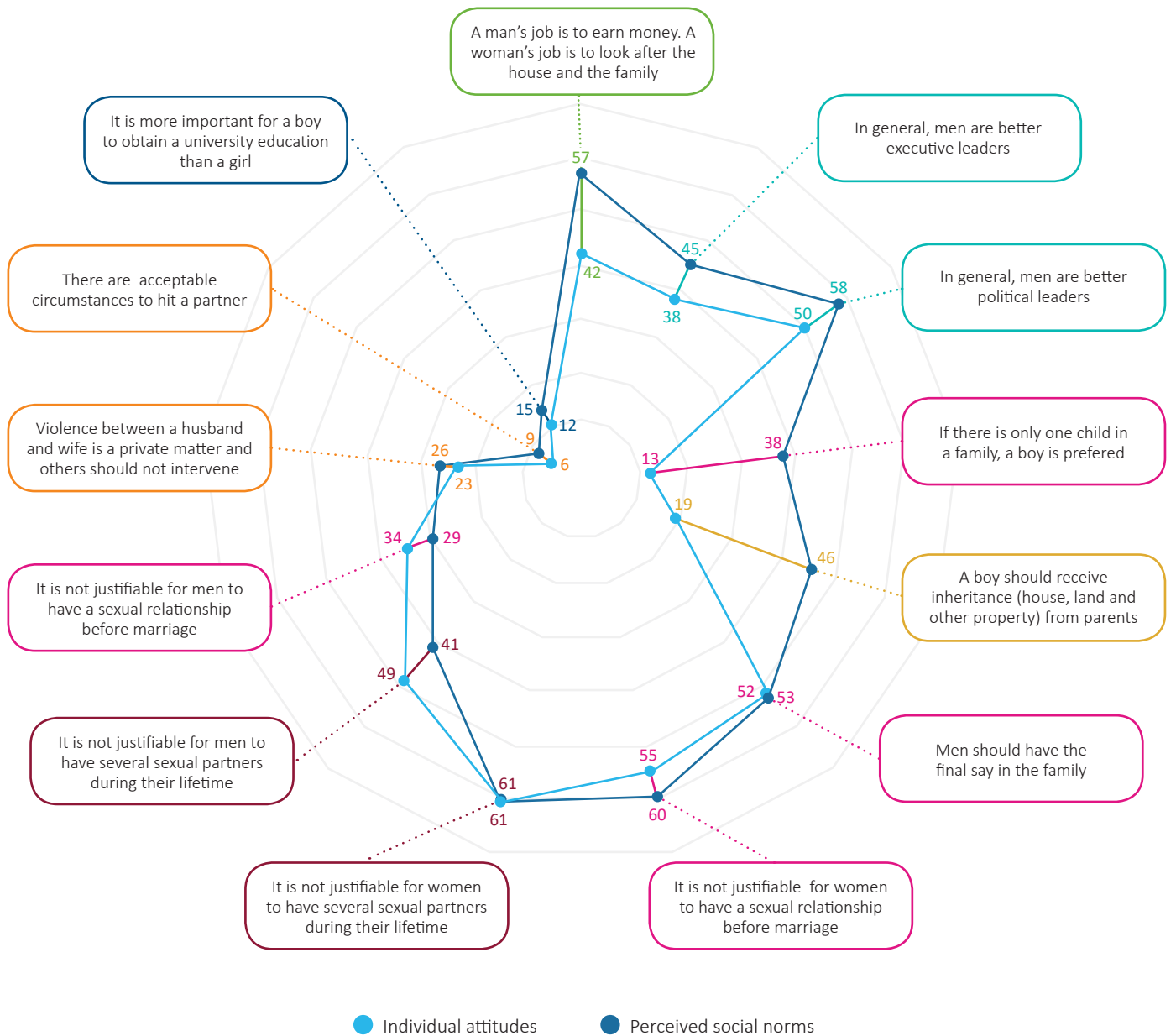
- 6. Public attitudes towards violence against women are mixed.** While only a few people (6 per cent) agree that there are acceptable circumstances for someone to hit their partner or spouse, almost every fourth person (23 per cent) believes that violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and that others should not intervene. Interestingly, more men (28 per cent) agree with this statement than women (19 per cent). Moreover, Georgia's population perceives men to be safer from physical, mental and emotional harm both at home (67 per cent) and in public spaces (62 per cent), compared to women (48 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively). The perceived social norms regarding approval of domestic violence and intervening when it occurs are more negative compared to individual attitudes. While 91 per cent of the public believes that there are no acceptable circumstances to hit a partner, fewer individuals (78 per cent) agree that their community thinks the same. Similarly, 74 per cent disagree that violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and others should not intervene, but fewer (59 per cent) agree that their community holds the same opinion.
- 7. Women are perceived to have less control over their own lives, compared to men, especially when it comes to their sexual autonomy.** About half of the population (51 per cent) believes that most women have a lot of control over their own lives, while more people (65 per cent) agree with the same statement in regard to most men. Similarly, 82 per cent of the public agrees that men have a lot of influence over whom they marry, while 69 per cent say the same about women. Women, ethnic minorities and persons with lower levels of education are less likely to say that women have a lot of influence over their decision of whom to marry. Interestingly, while 91 per cent of the public agrees that women should be free to make choices regarding when and whom they will marry, fewer people (72 per cent) believe that the same opinion is shared by their community. Moreover, one's sexual autonomy is perceived as largely dependent on one's sex: More than half of the Georgian public (51 per cent) agrees that it is justifiable for men to have a sexual relationship before marriage, while 30 per cent believe the same for women. Regarding attitudes towards women having premarital sex, the public perceives society to have more conservative beliefs compared to their own beliefs. Only 18 per cent think that society finds it acceptable for women to engage in premarital sex, while in fact, 31 per cent of the public considers it justifiable. Similarly, only 15 per cent believe that their community considers having several sexual partners during one's lifetime justifiable for a woman, while in fact, more (24 per cent) consider it justifiable. Interestingly, perceived social norms on men having sexual relations before marriage or having several sexual partners during their lifetime are less strict and more aligned with 'reality' or what the public reports as their individual attitudes.
- 8. Men are perceived to have a greater degree of control over their personal and family finances than women.** A larger share of Georgia's population believes that men have a greater degree of control over their personal finances (67 per cent) than women (58 per cent). Moreover, while most (70 per cent) believe that major financial decisions, such as taking out a loan or pledging property, are typically done equally by men and women in their community, every fifth person (18 per cent) believes that the men in their community usually decide such matters. Similarly, while most of the Georgian public (79 per cent) believe that inheritance should be split equally between both male and female heirs, every fifth person (19 per cent) believes that inheritance should only be given to a son. There is a trend towards gender equality in inheritance views among women, ethnic Georgians and urban residents, while traditional views on male inheritance prevail among other groups. Additionally, although most (79 per cent) believe that inheritance should be shared equally among heirs, 46 per cent perceive that their community favours sons receiving more of an inheritance. People living outside Tbilisi, older individuals and those who are not employed are more likely to perceive social gender norms as more traditional and discriminatory in this regard.
- 9. A majority (88 per cent) of Georgia's population disagrees that it is more important for a boy to obtain a university education than a girl, but the perceived social norms on this topic are more conservative.** Only 69 per cent believe that most people in their community would agree with them. Moreover, a higher percentage of ethnic minorities (30 per cent) report that in their community, it is more important for boys to receive a university education than girls, compared to ethnic Georgians (13 per cent).

10. While the majority of Georgia’s public (73 per cent) agrees with the importance of women having access to family planning services, their appraisal of the quality of family planning services in the country is mixed. While more than a quarter of people (26 per cent) believe that the aforementioned services are excellent, a greater share of the public (30 per cent) suggests that these services are only adequate. Men have less awareness about family planning services compared to women. Ethnic minorities and men are more likely to respond with “do not know” rather than agree when asked about the importance of women having access to family planning services, compared to ethnic Georgians and women.

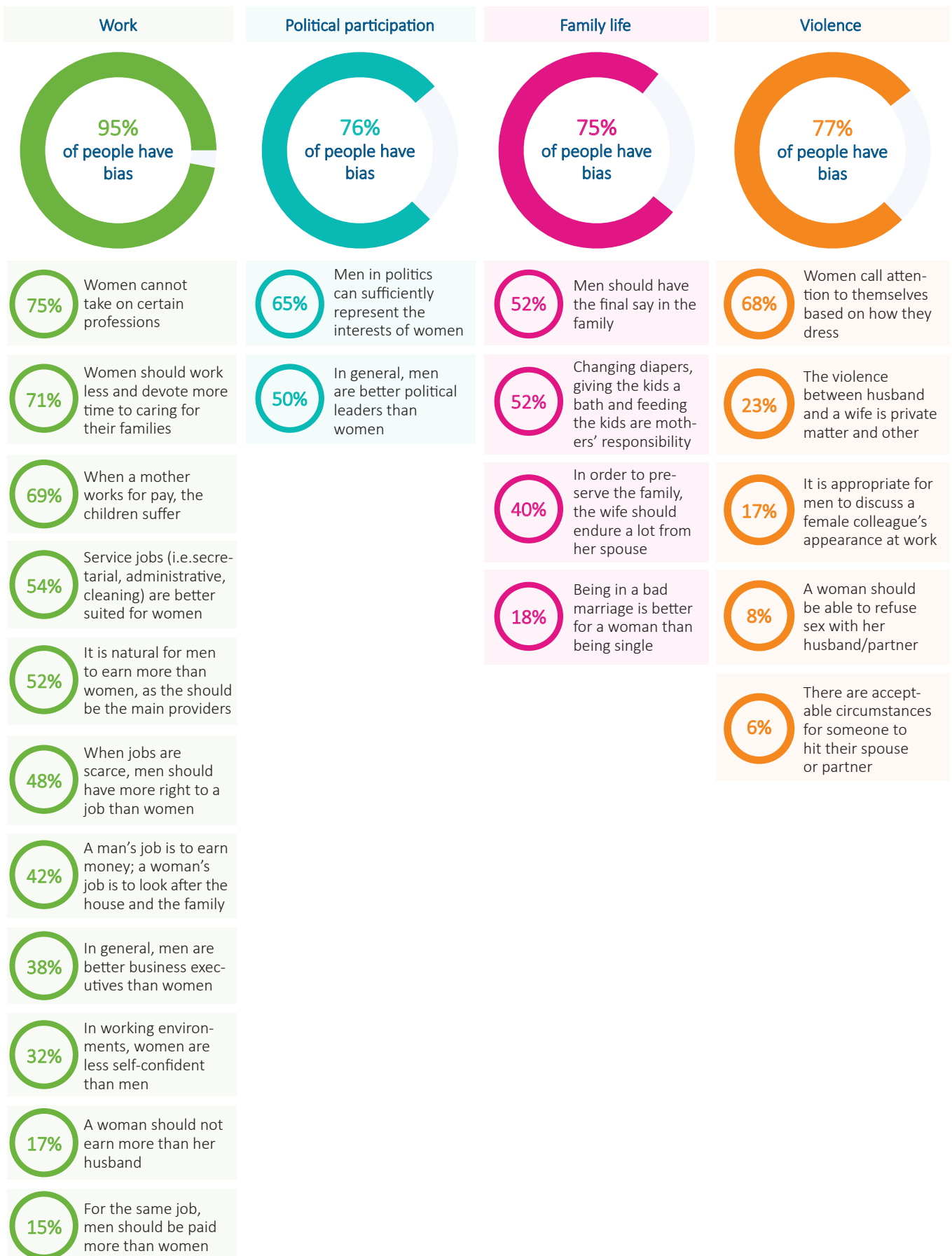
11. The survey found that women as a group, young people, employed individuals and those with a higher education are in favour of gender equality and women’s empowerment. Men, senior citizens, rural populations and ethnic minorities tend to hold more traditional, conservative beliefs when it comes to gender equality. Compared to men, women are less likely to support a gender pay gap and discriminatory gender roles at work; they are also less likely to believe that men are better political leaders than women and that violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and others should not intervene. Ethnic minorities, compared to ethnic Georgians, are more likely to support a gender pay gap and discriminatory gender roles, more likely to believe that men are better political leaders than women and more likely to perceive premarital sex for women as not justifiable. People over the age of 35 have more conservative views about gender roles, pay and family responsibilities than younger generations. Employed individuals and individuals with a higher education are more supportive of workplace gender equality and reject the opinion that women should prioritize family care over paid work. They are also less likely to agree that there are acceptable circumstances to use physical violence against a spouse or partner, compared to those not working or those with lower education levels. Ethnic Georgians, younger people and residents of Tbilisi hold more progressive views on marriage and family responsibilities. In contrast, men, people over the age of 35, urban and rural residents and the unemployed often view childcare as primarily the mother’s responsibility. Women, younger individuals, Tbilisi residents and the employed tend to have more egalitarian views on parenting responsibilities.

For an illustration summarizing the mismatch between individual attitudes and social norms and prevalence of gender biases see the diagrams on the next pages.

Georgian population's individual attitudes versus perceived social norms (percentage of "agree" responses)



Biases are prevalent across all dimensions of gender social norms¹



1. INTRODUCTION



Gender equality, a fundamental human right crucial for sustainable development and peaceful societies, remains elusive worldwide despite persistent efforts. Gender stereotyping, labelled by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as a significant barrier to gender equality and women’s empowerment, persists. Discriminatory social norms not only hinder gender equality but also impede the social, economic and sustainable development of nations worldwide.

The Gender Equality Attitudes Study (GEAS) was designed to measure the prevalence of discriminatory attitudes and gender-based stereotypes contributing to gender inequality in Georgia. The survey methodology was informed by UN Women and the Unstereotype Alliance’s Gender Equality Attitudes Study, which is regularly conducted by UN Women in 20 countries.² The survey, tailored to the Georgian context, encompasses the following 10 key areas³ of interest from the point of view of gender norms and stereotypes:



The study provides a holistic understanding of the factors contributing to gender inequality by incorporating questions regarding social norms in conjunction with individual-level attitudes. Social norms represent widely held beliefs about what is typical and appropriate in a social group, while attitudes reflect individual evaluations of persons, beliefs or behaviours. Social norms may influence behaviours even when attitudes contradict them and thus are as crucial to explore as personal attitudes.⁴

The findings from this study are meant to inform policymakers, donors, representatives from academia, private sector leaders, civil society and other decision makers on the prevalence of discriminatory attitudes and norms that perpetuate gender inequality.

The structure of this report continues with the study’s methodology. The study findings are divided into nine sections, each analysing the attitudes and gender-based stereotypes in a specific area: education, work and employment, leadership and participation, marriage and family life, safety and violence, health care, control over one’s life, control of personal finances and access to physical property, and finally, future ideals.

The study was commissioned by UN Women and implemented by CRRC-Georgia within the framework of the “Women’s Increased Leadership for Democracy in Georgia” (WILD) project generously supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

2. METHODOLOGY



The survey fieldwork was carried out from 20 January to 19 February 2024 by CRRC-Georgia. Respondents were selected using a multi-stage stratified cluster sampling method. In total, 1,238 interviews were conducted with the population aged 16 and above in Georgia. The interview response rate was 21 per cent, which is commonly observed in nationwide population surveys and did not impact the reliability of the data. This suggests that, on average, five attempts were needed to complete one interview. The interviews were conducted in the Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. All interviews were administered face to face using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. The findings presented are based on weighted data derived from the 2014 National Census and are representative of the whole population of Georgia as well as the populations of Tbilisi, other urban areas and rural areas. The average margin of error is 2.9 per cent. Table 2.1 presents the demographic profile of the survey respondents.

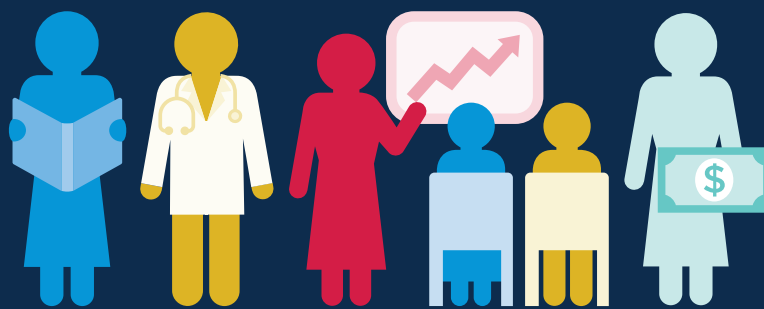
TABLE 3.1

Demographic profile of survey respondents (unweighted data)

Demographic characteristics		Percentage
Sex	Women	67
	Men	33
Age group	16–24	9
	25–34	13
	35–44	16
	45–54	15
	55+	48
Settlement type	Capital (Tbilisi)	41
	Urban areas	31
	Rural settlements	28
Ethnicity	Georgian	92
	Armenian	3
	Azerbaijani	2
	Other	3
Education	Secondary or lower	37
	Vocational	23
	Completed or incomplete higher education	40
Employment status	Unemployed	41
	Employed	59

For data analysis, CRRC-Georgia used descriptive and inferential statistics. To identify statistically viable differences between groups, binary and multinomial regression models were used. These models control for respondents' key demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment. Due to rounding errors, the percentages displayed in the figures and tables may not sum up precisely to 100 per cent.

3. FINDINGS





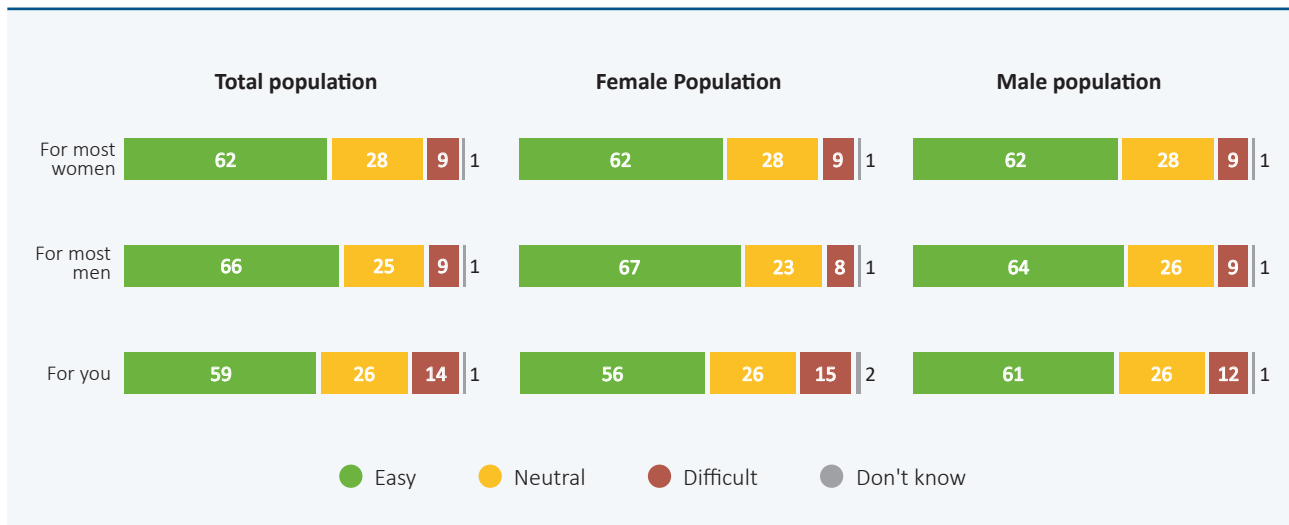
3.1 Education

The prevailing belief among the population of Georgia is that access to quality education is equal and relatively easy to obtain for the majority of men and women, as well as for themselves.

Sixty-two per cent of women and men agree that it is easy for women to receive a quality education (Figure 3.1). A slightly larger majority of the population (66 per cent) and women (67 per cent) believe that the same is true for men, while 64 per cent of men agree. Fewer women (56 per cent) than men (61 per cent) think that a quality education is easily accessible to them in Georgia.

FIGURE 3.1

In general, how easy is it for most women / most men / you to get a quality education in Georgia? (percentage)



Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “difficult”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “neutral”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “easy”.

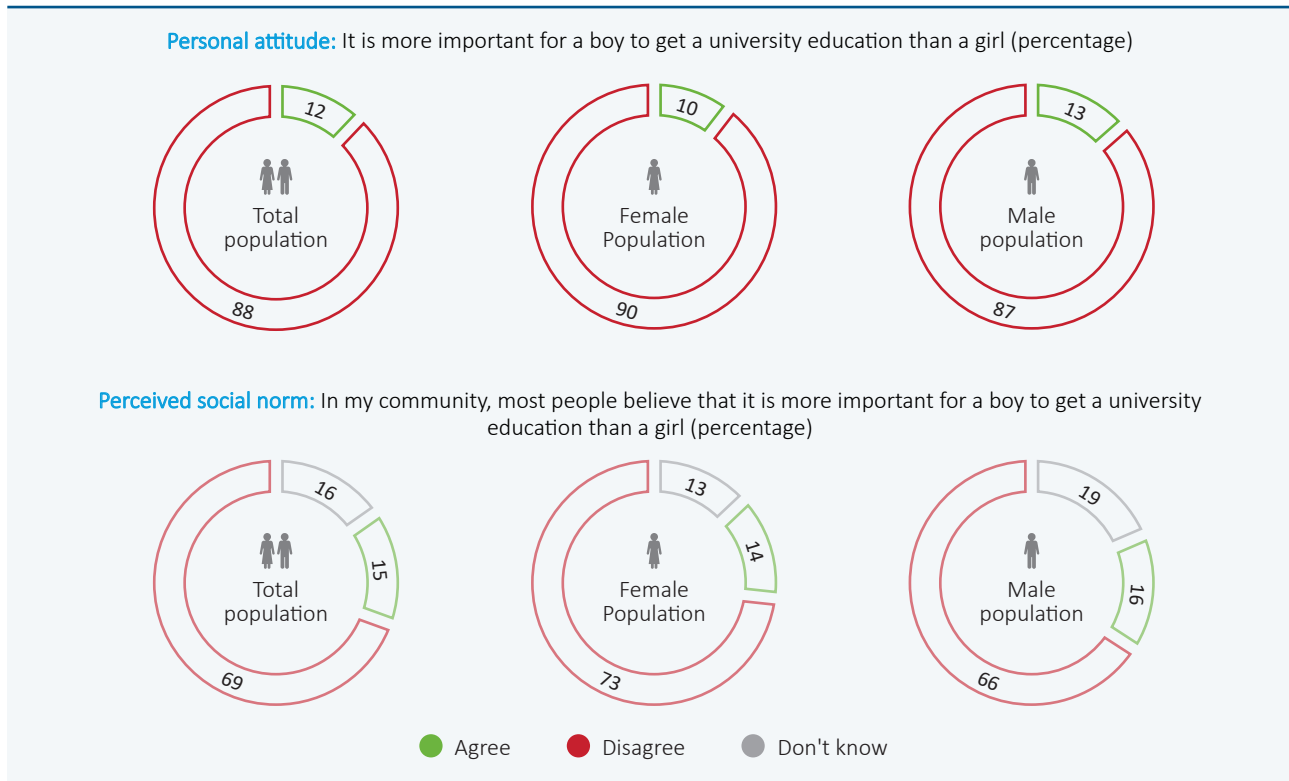
The majority (88 per cent) of the population disagrees with the statement that it is more important for a boy to obtain a university education than a girl. A slightly higher percentage of women (90 per cent) than men (87 per cent) disagree with this statement (Figure 3.2).



Perceived social norms only slightly contrast with personal attitudes regarding whether it is more important for a boy to receive a university education than a girl. The results indicate that slightly more people (15 per cent) than those who share this opinion themselves (12 per cent) believe that the perceived social norms—about education being more important for boys than girls—are widespread in their community. A slightly higher share of women (73 per cent) than men (66 per cent) disagree with the statement that in their community, it is more important for boys to get an education than girls.

FIGURE 3.2

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement:



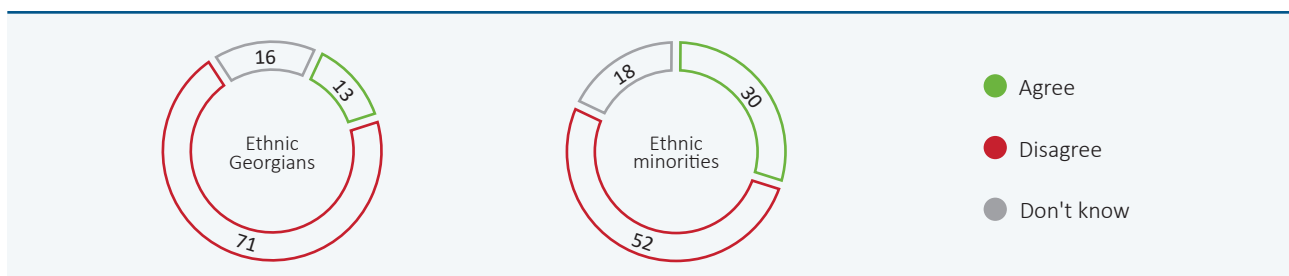
Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

Demographic factors such as employment status, age, ethnicity and type of settlement significantly influence individuals’ perceptions of access to education.⁵ The unemployed population and those aged 35–44 are less likely to find it easy for women to access quality education, compared to employed individuals or younger age groups. Ethnic minority populations, urban dwellers and employed people perceive men’s access to quality education as easier rather than neutral, compared to the perceptions of the ethnic Georgian population, those living in the capital and unemployed individuals.

Interestingly, a higher percentage of ethnic minorities (30 per cent) than ethnic Georgians (13 per cent) report that in their community, it is more important for boys to receive an education than girls (Figure 3.3).⁶

FIGURE 3.3

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: In my community, most people believe that it is more important for a boy to get a university education than a girl. (percentage, by respondents’ ethnicity)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.



3.2 Work and employment

Overall, the public of Georgia is in agreement that being hired as a skilled worker is difficult, regardless of one's sex, ethnicity, disability status or sexual orientation, without any significant contrast in perceptions based on an individual respondent's sex.

Slightly less than half (47 per cent) of the Georgian public believes that it is difficult for most women to be hired as skilled workers (Figure 3.4). Slightly fewer people (41 per cent) believe the same to be true for most men. Women and men agree that it is more difficult for most women to be hired as skilled workers (49 per cent and 45 per cent, respectively). When speaking on their own experience, 39 per cent claim that it is difficult for themselves to be hired as a skilled worker. More men (42 per cent) than women (36 per cent) believe this to be the case.

The public is mostly in agreement that being hired as skilled workers is difficult for ethnic minority women and men (50 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively), women with a disability and men with a disability (71 per cent and 70 per cent, respectively) and LGBTQI+ individuals (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) who are public about their sexual orientation (61 per cent).

FIGURE 3.4

In general, how easy is it for most women / most men / you / ethnic minority women / ethnic minority men / women with disability / men with disability / sexual minority women (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or intersex) who do not hide their sexual orientation / sexual minority men (gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or intersex) who do not hide their sexual orientation to be hired as skilled workers in Georgia? (percentage)

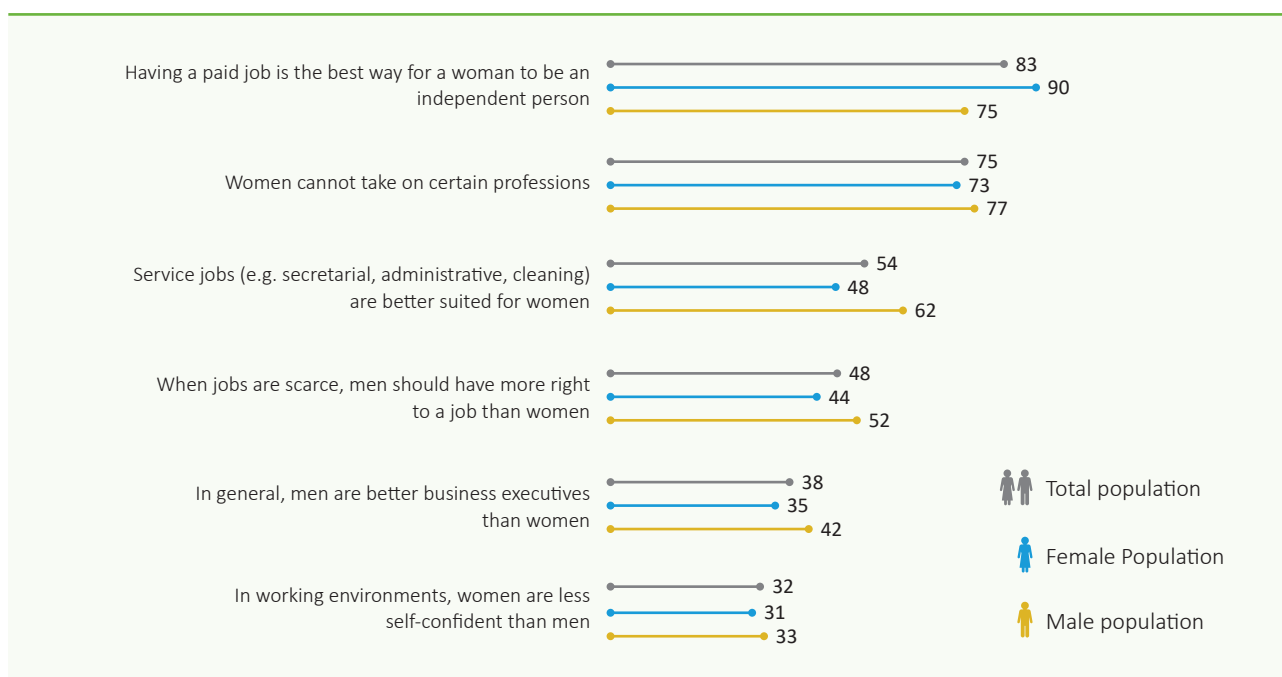


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “difficult”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “neutral”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “easy”.

A majority of Georgia’s population (83 per cent) agrees that having a paid job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person (Figure 3.5). More women (90 per cent) than men (75 per cent) agree with this statement. However, close to half of the population (48 per cent) agrees that men’s access to employment should be prioritized over women’s access when work is scarce. This idea is supported by 52 per cent of men and 44 per cent of women. Moreover, a majority of people (75 per cent), including both men and women, believe that women cannot take on certain professions, and 54 per cent believe that service jobs are better suited for women. Notably, a higher percentage of men (62 per cent) agree that women are more suited for jobs in the service industry, whereas 48 per cent of women agree. One third (32 per cent) of the population, including both women and men, thinks that women are less self-confident than men in a work environment.

FIGURE 3.5

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

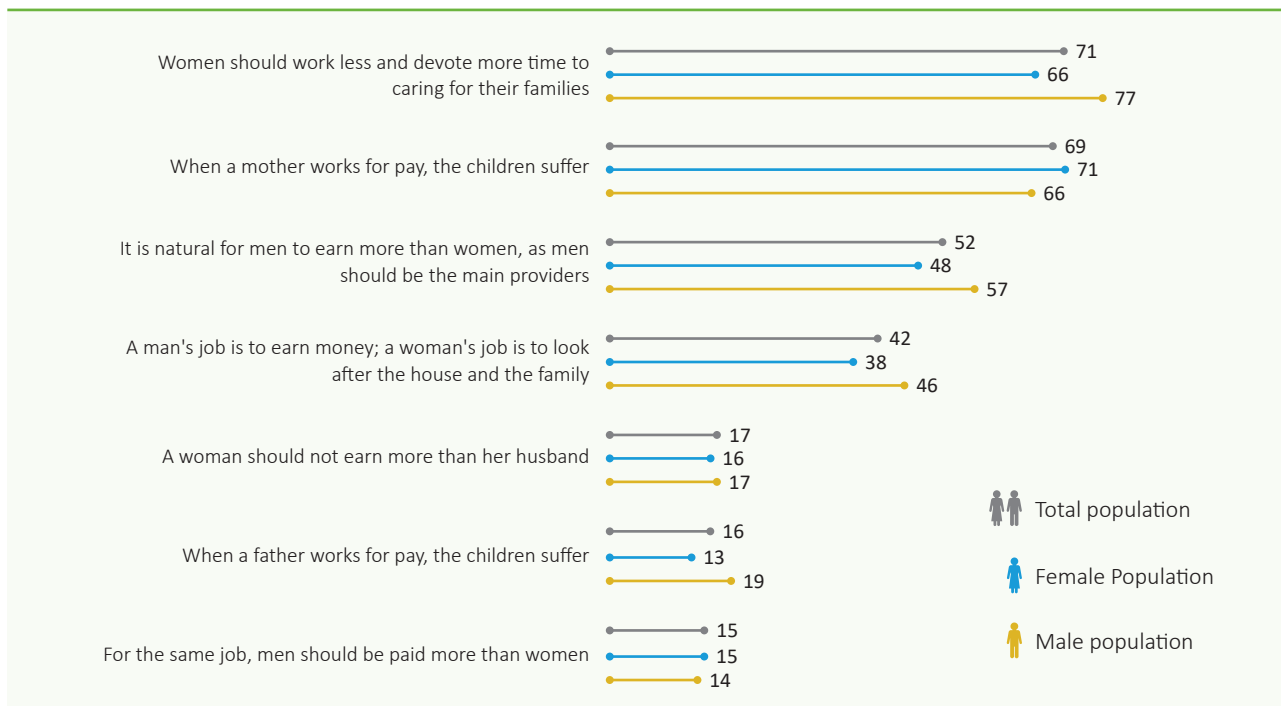
A majority of the population (71 per cent) agrees that women should work less and devote more time to their families (Figure 3.6). More men (77 per cent) support this statement than women (66 per cent). Additionally, slightly more than half of the population (52 per cent) agrees that it is natural for men to earn more than women as men should be the primary providers, with more men (57 per cent) supporting this opinion than women (48 per cent).

Moreover, 69 per cent of the population believes that when a mother works for pay, her children suffer, while only 16 per cent agree that children suffer when their father works. Interestingly, 71 per cent of women support the statement that children suffer when a mother works for pay, compared to 66 per cent of men. Conversely, regarding fathers, slightly more men (19 per cent) agree with the statement than women (13 per cent).

A minority of the population, both men and women, agrees that men should be the primary income earners (42 per cent), a woman should not earn more than her husband (17 per cent), and men should be paid more than women for the same job (15 per cent).

FIGURE 3.6

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)



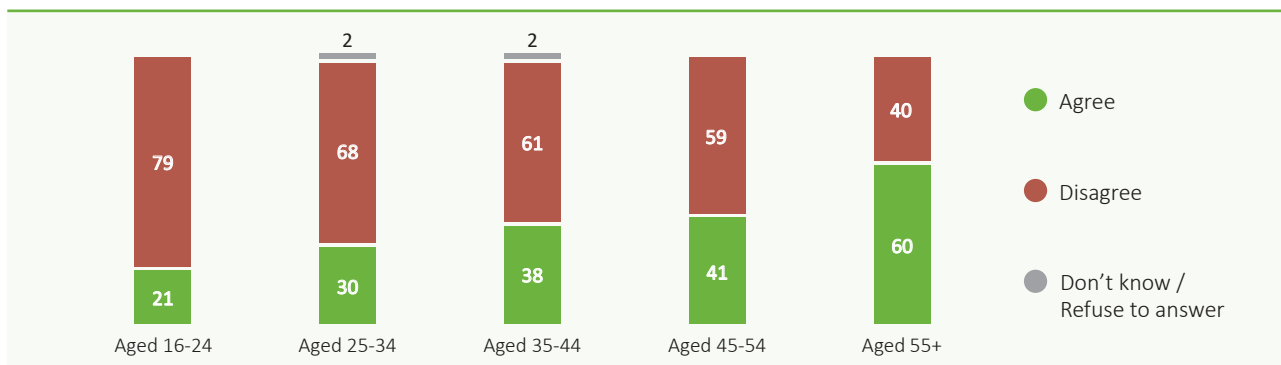
Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

According to the regression analyses, women and ethnic Georgians are less likely to support a gender pay gap and discriminatory gender roles, compared to men and ethnic minority populations. They are more inclined towards gender equality in terms of job opportunities, pay and the perception of roles in the family and workplace. Additionally, employed individuals (regardless of sex) tend to adhere less to traditional gender roles and stereotypes than those who are not employed. The employed are more supportive of gender equality in the workplace and reject the idea that women are less capable or that women should prioritize family care over paid work.⁷

People over the age of 35 have more conservative views about gender roles, pay and family responsibilities, compared to younger generations (Figure 3.7). Older generations believe more in traditional gender roles where men are the primary providers while a woman’s role is to look after the home and family.⁸

FIGURE 3.7

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: A man’s job is to earn money; a woman’s job is to look after the house and the family. (percentage, by respondents’ age)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

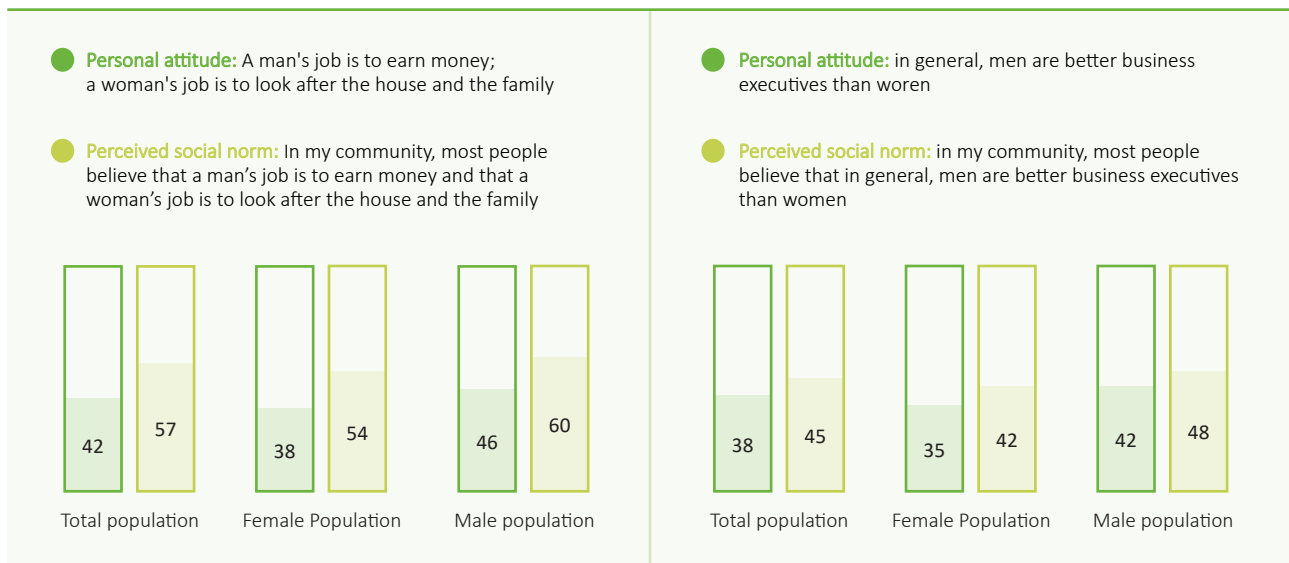


In certain contexts, Georgia’s population perceives traditional gender roles to be more widespread than is demonstrated by reported personal attitudes and vice versa. There is a notable contrast between perceived community and personal beliefs regarding the roles of men and women in terms of employment and familial care.

While a minority of individuals (42 per cent) agree that men should be the primary income earners while a woman’s job is to care for the family, a majority of people (57 per cent) perceive that their community supports this statement (Figure 3.8). Additionally, 38 per cent believe that men are better executive leaders, while 45 per cent perceive that their community supports this view.

FIGURE 3.8

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

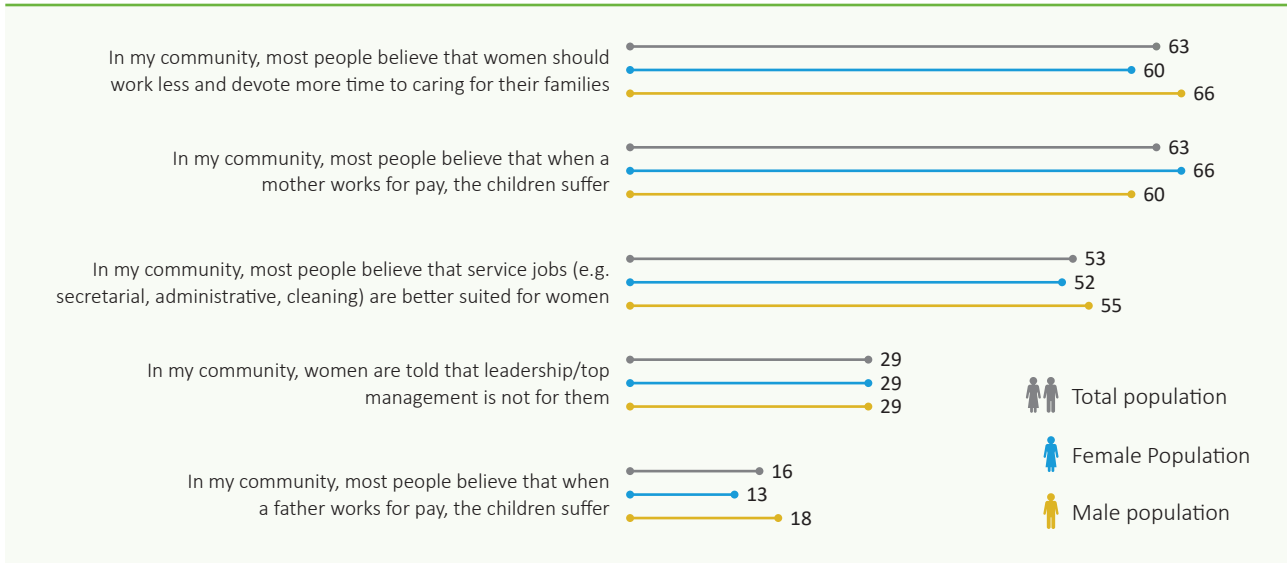
In other statements, personal attitudes and perceived social norms are mixed. In some cases, they are the same, while they differ in other statements. While individuals may hold mixed values on gender roles, in some cases they believe that their community’s opinion either differs from or aligns with their own, without consistency.

According to the regression analyses, there are variations in perceived social norms based on settlement type, employment status and age. For example, people living in rural areas, older individuals and those who are not employed are more likely to say that in their community, people hold traditional discriminatory beliefs about gender roles and responsibilities.⁹

Overall, demographic characteristics such as sex, age, ethnicity, settlement type, education level and employment status significantly influence individuals’ perceptions of gender norms and stereotypes related to work and employment. There is a trend towards more progressive views on gender equality among women (Figure 3.9), younger individuals, those who are employed and those with higher education levels, while older individuals, rural populations and ethnic minorities tend to hold more conservative beliefs regarding gender roles and stereotypes.¹⁰

FIGURE 3.9

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

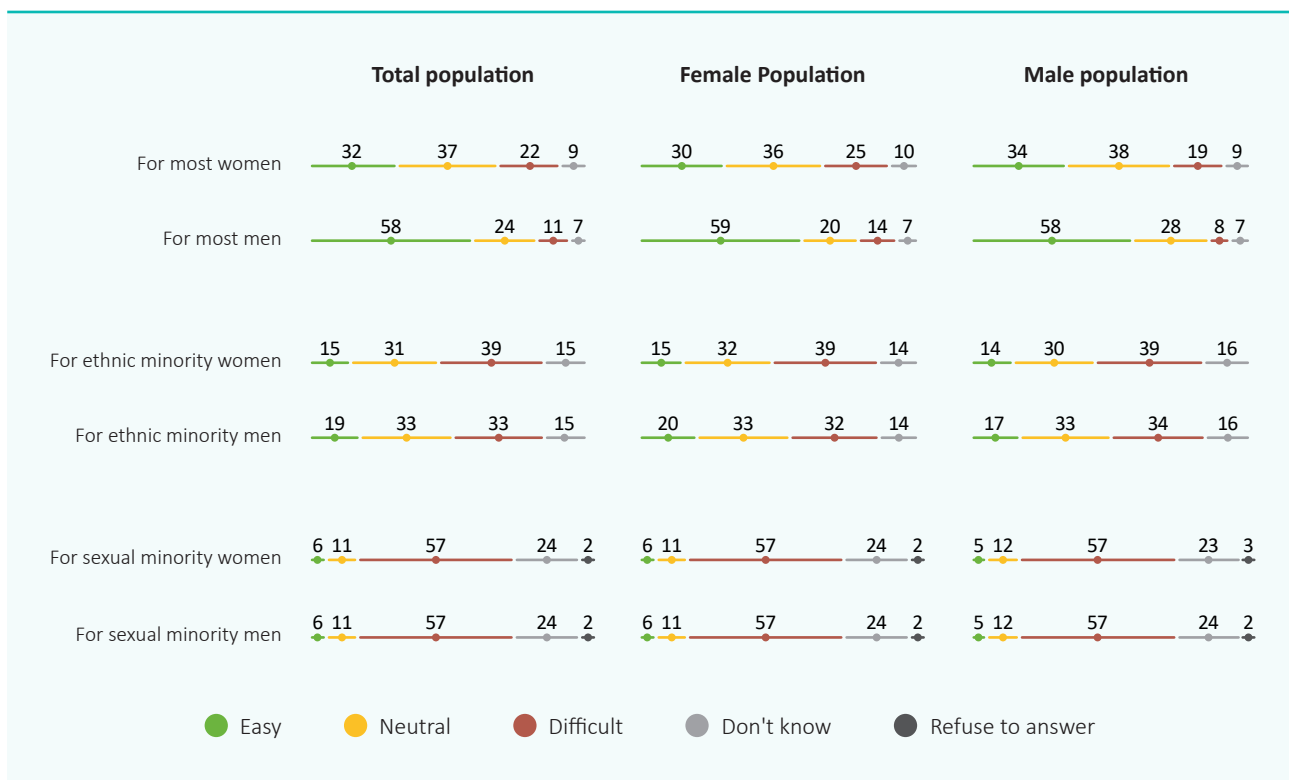


3.3 Leadership and participation

Only 11 per cent of the Georgian public believes that it is difficult for most men to run for elected office in the country (Figure 3.10). However, twice as many people (22 per cent) believe that it is difficult for most women to do the same. Thirty-three per cent believe that it is difficult for ethnic minority men, and 39 per cent hold the same belief regarding ethnic minority women. A majority (57 per cent) believes that it is difficult for LGBTQI+ individuals who do not hide their orientation.

FIGURE 3.10

In general, how easy is it for women / men / ethnic minority women / ethnic minority men / sexual minority women (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or intersex) who do not hide their sexual orientation / sexual minority men (gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or intersex) who do not hide their sexual orientation to run for elected office in Georgia? (percentage)

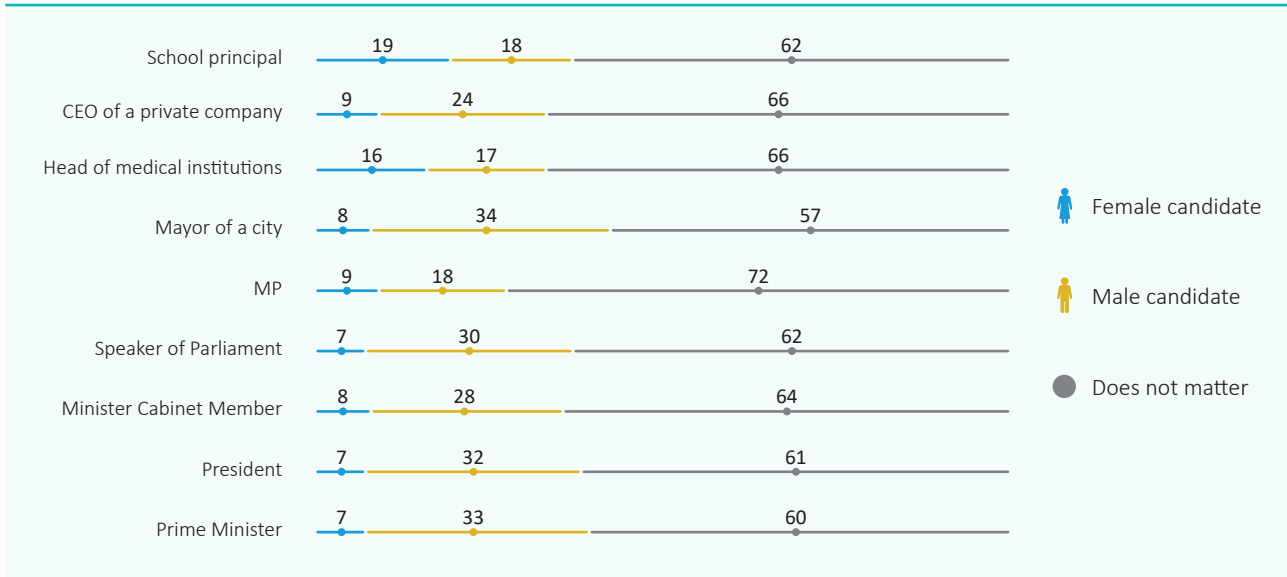


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “difficult”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “neutral”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “easy”.

Assessing the perceived sex alignment of positions of leadership, most of the public (57–72 per cent) suggest that a person’s sex does not matter when considering his/her candidacy (Figure 3.11). However, with the exception of school principal, among those preferring one sex over another, men are preferred in every role. For the role of mayor of a city, for example, among those preferring one sex over another, a man is favoured by 26 percentage points more than a woman.

FIGURE 3.11

All things being equal, would you support candidates from various groups for the following positions? (percentage)

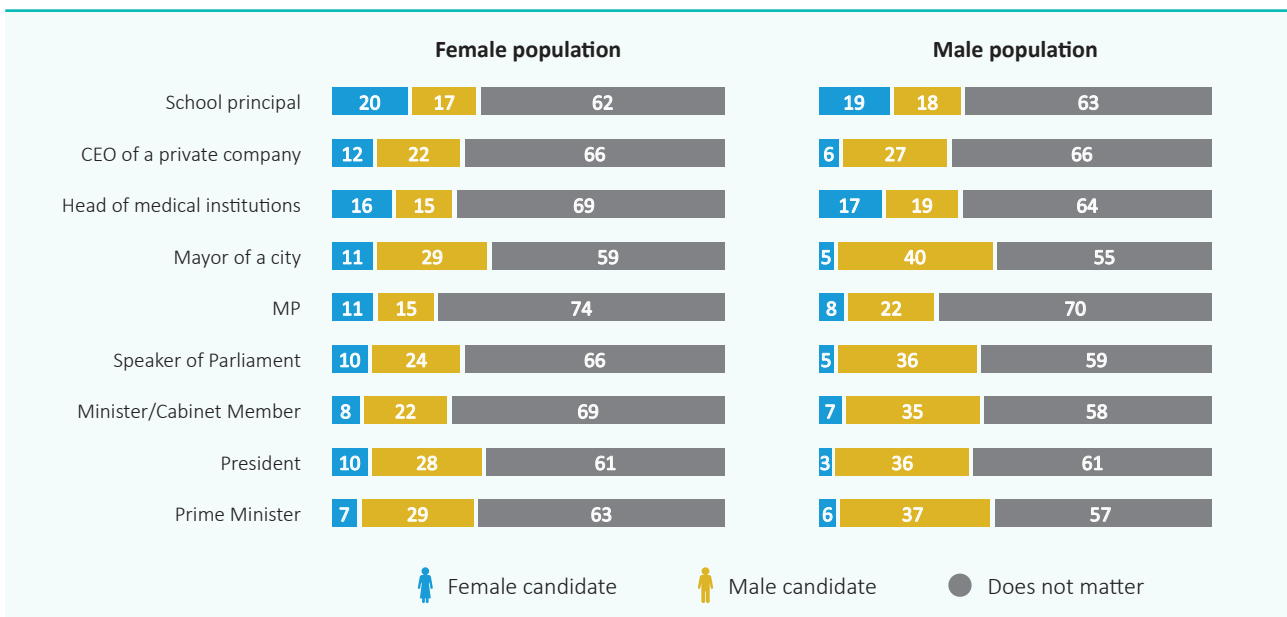


Note: Due to the small portion of respondents selecting “don’t know” or “refuse to answer”, these categories are not shown in the figure.

When it comes to differences based on sex, generally, more women than men support female candidates. For instance, 10 per cent of women express support for a female president, whereas only 3 per cent of men share the same sentiment (Figure 3.12).

FIGURE 3.12

All things being equal, would you support candidates from various groups for the following positions? (percentage of population)



Note: Due to the small portion of respondents selecting “don’t know” or “refuse to answer”, these categories are not shown in the figure.

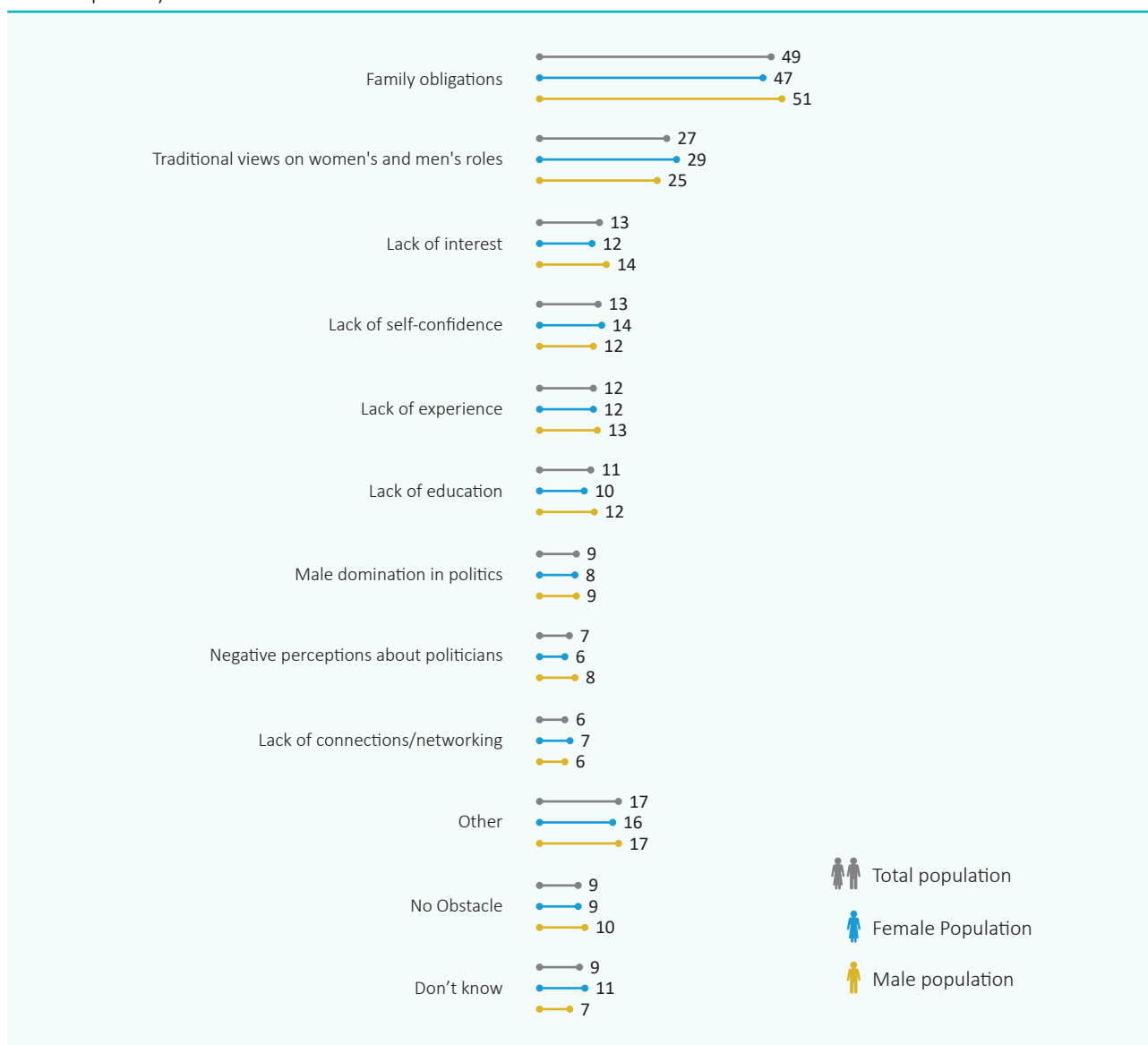
Notably, older age groups, particularly those aged 55 and above, are generally more supportive of male candidates for leadership roles such as mayor of a city, MP or Prime Minister, compared to younger age groups. Moreover, ethnic minorities in Georgia are more inclined to support men over women in certain leadership positions, compared to the general Georgian population. Specifically, ethnic minorities are more likely than

ethnic Georgians to express support for men as school principals and CEOs of private companies. Conversely, women are generally more supportive of female candidates for various leadership roles, such as school principals, CEOs, MPs and presidents, compared to men.¹¹

Considering that the Georgian public believes it is easier for most men to engage in politics than most women, the survey identified a variety of obstacles preventing women’s participation. The obstacle most highlighted is family obligations (49 per cent), followed by traditional views of women’s and men’s roles (27 per cent). Nine per cent of the public believes that there are no obstacles (Figure 3.13).

FIGURE 3.13

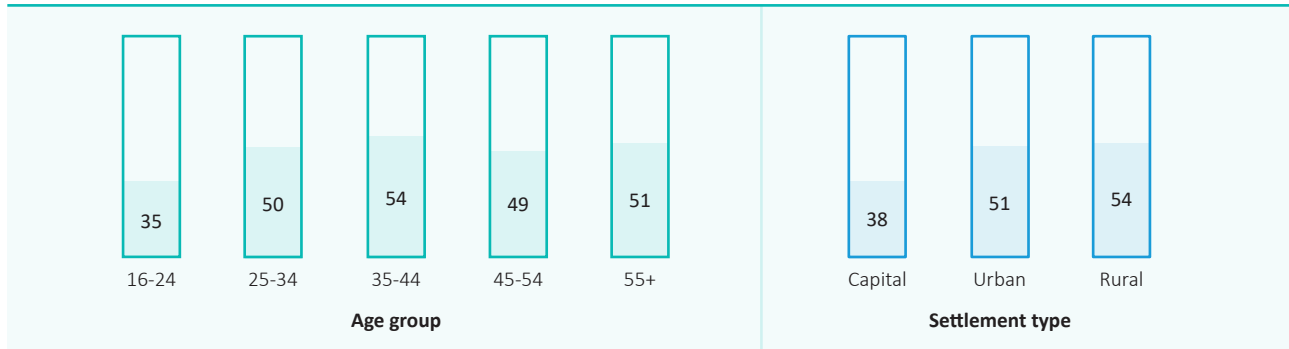
In your opinion, what are the biggest obstacles to women’s engagement in politics in Georgia? (percentage, up to three responses)



Interestingly, people living in rural areas and those aged 35–44 and 55 and older are more likely to name family obligations as the biggest obstacle to women’s engagement in politics, compared to urban dwellers and younger people (Figure 3.14).¹²

FIGURE 3.14

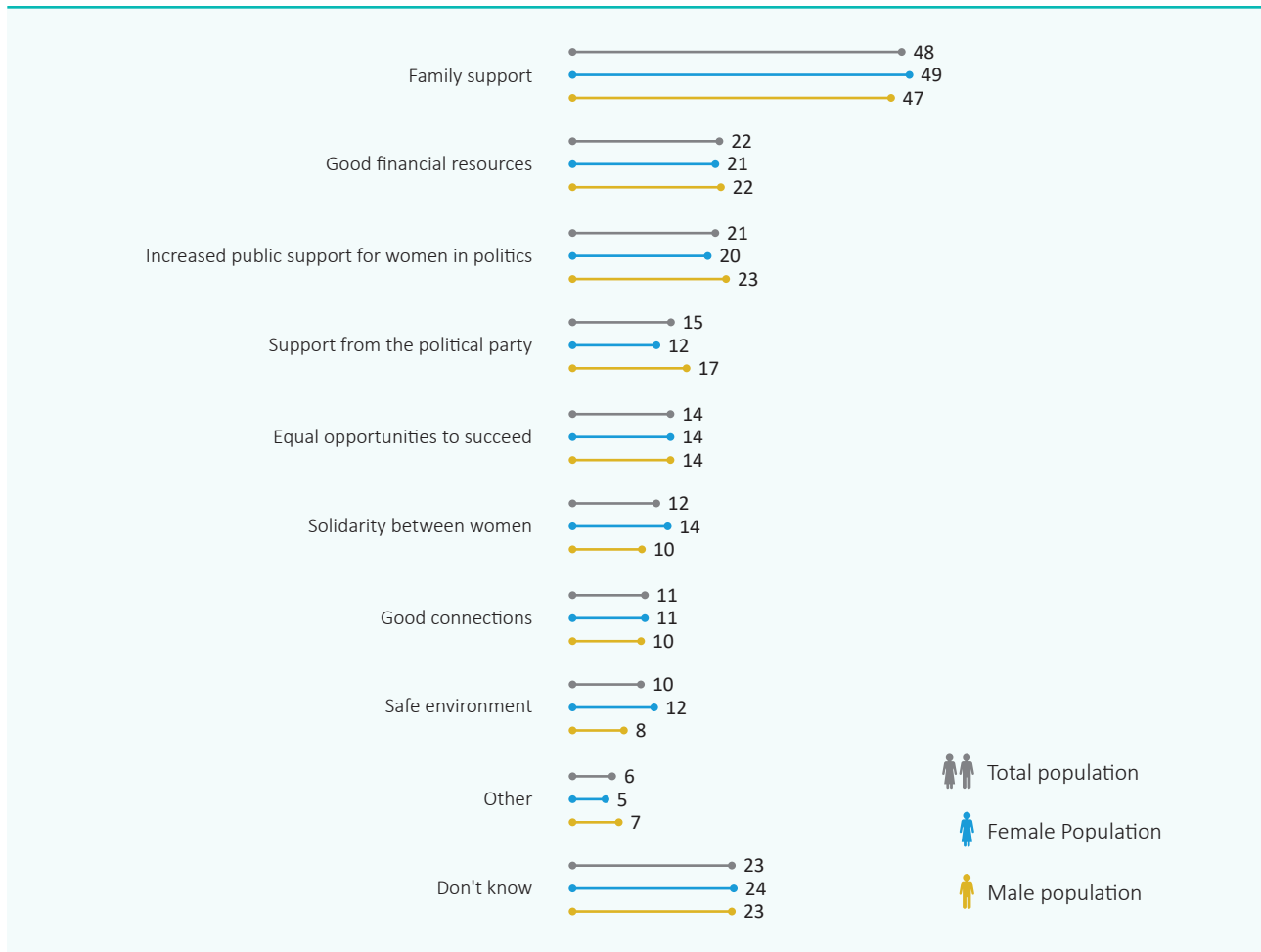
In your opinion, what are the biggest obstacles to women’s engagement in politics in Georgia? (percentage of “family obligations”, by respondents’ age and settlement type)



Matching family obligations as the most identified barrier to women’s engagement in politics, a majority of the Georgian public (48 per cent) identifies family support as a means of encouraging women to participate in politics, while more than one fifth name good financial resources (22 per cent) and increased public support for women in politics (21 per cent) (Figure 3.15). Nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of the public does not know what factors would increase women’s engagement in politics. Overall, there is no significant difference between the sexes on the factors that may encourage women’s participation in this sphere.

FIGURE 3.15

In your opinion, what would encourage more women to engage in politics? (percentage, up to three responses)

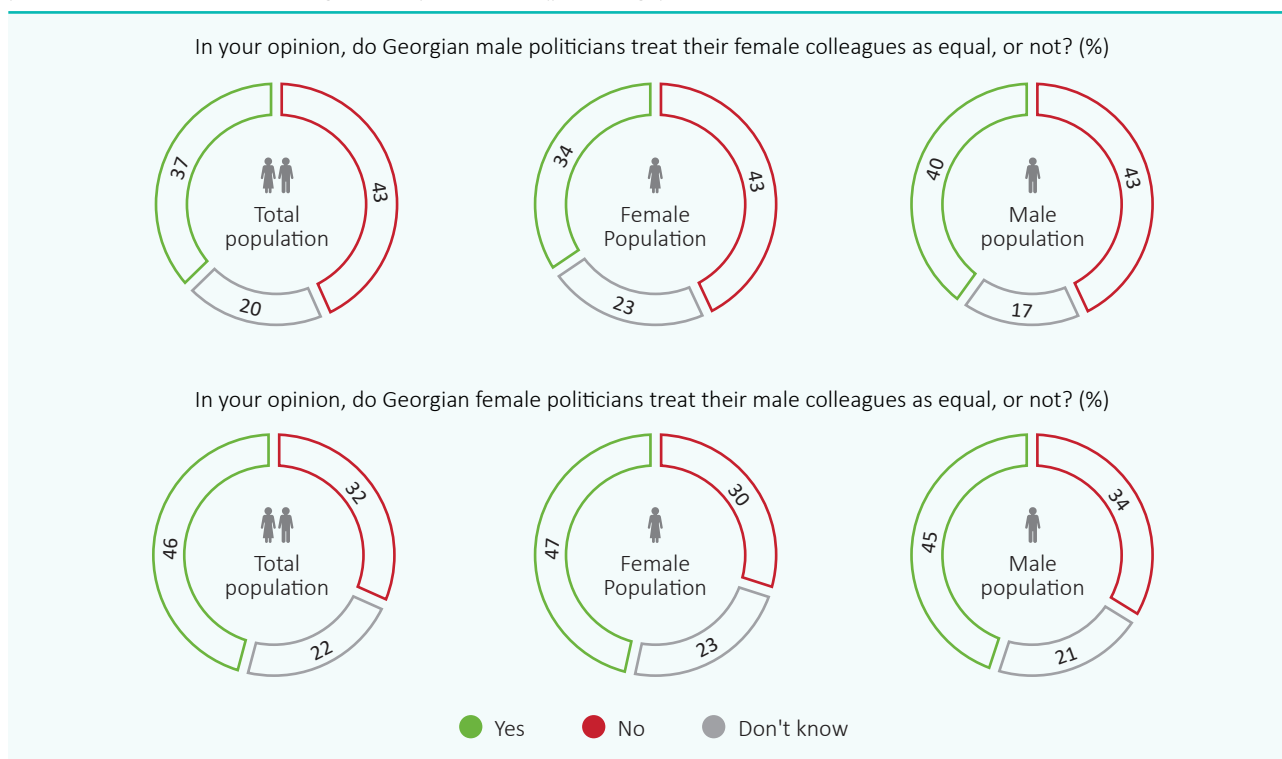


Overall, 43 per cent of the public believes that women politicians are not treated equally by their male peers (Figure 3.16). Forty per cent of men believe that female politicians are treated equally, compared to 34 per cent of women stating the same.

Conversely, female politicians are perceived as treating their male colleagues equally by a greater proportion of the public (46 per cent). Thirty per cent of women believe that female politicians treat their male counterparts unequally, with 34 per cent of men stating the same.

FIGURE 3.16

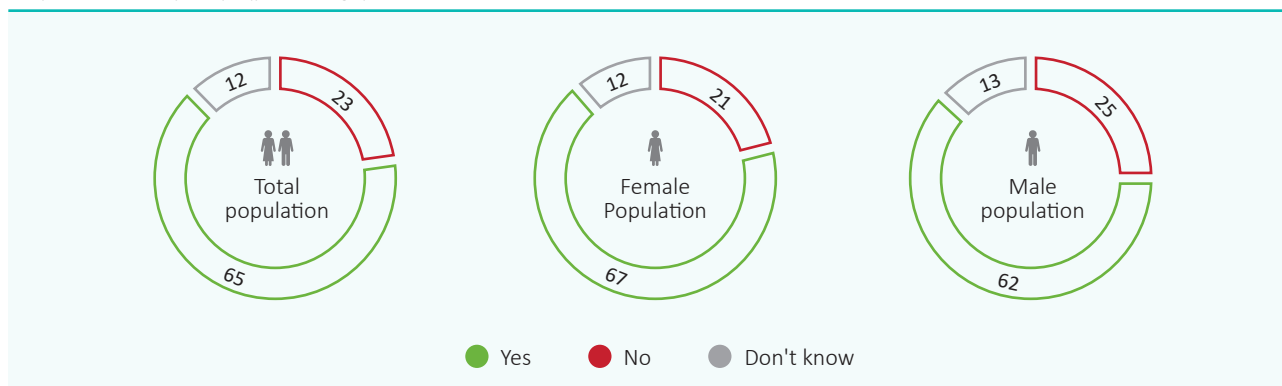
In your opinion, do Georgian male politicians treat their female colleagues as equals or not? In your opinion, do Georgian female politicians treat their male colleagues as equals or not? (percentage)



A majority of the public (65 per cent), including both sexes, agrees that women’s presence in the Parliament of Georgia will lead to them having greater influence on political priorities and policies (Figure 3.17). In total, nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of the population disagrees.

FIGURE 3.17

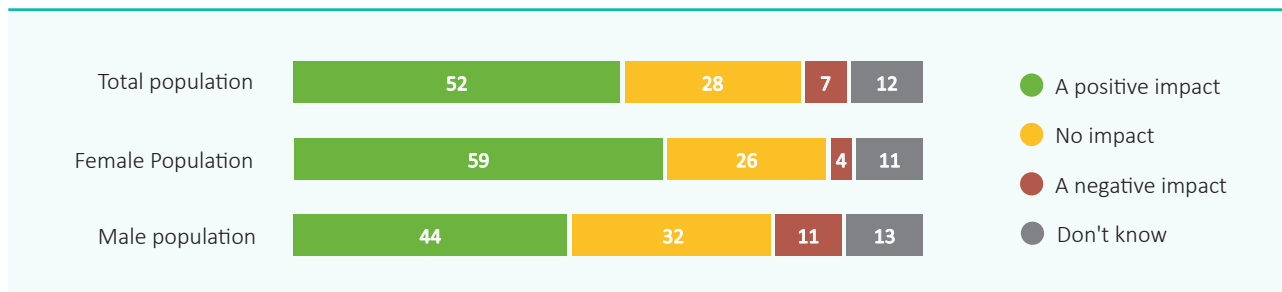
Do you agree with the statement that the more women there are in Parliament, the greater the influence they will have on political priorities and policy? (percentage)



While most agree that women’s participation in Parliament would result in their greater influence, opinions on whether this level of involvement would be positive or negative are divided. Fifty-nine per cent of women agree that this impact would be positive, compared to 44 per cent of men (Figure 3.18). Eleven per cent of men believe that this impact would be negative, compared to 4 per cent of women. Overall, 28 per cent of the population believes that there would be no impact.

FIGURE 3.18

What kind of impact would an increased number of women in politics have on Georgia? (percentage)

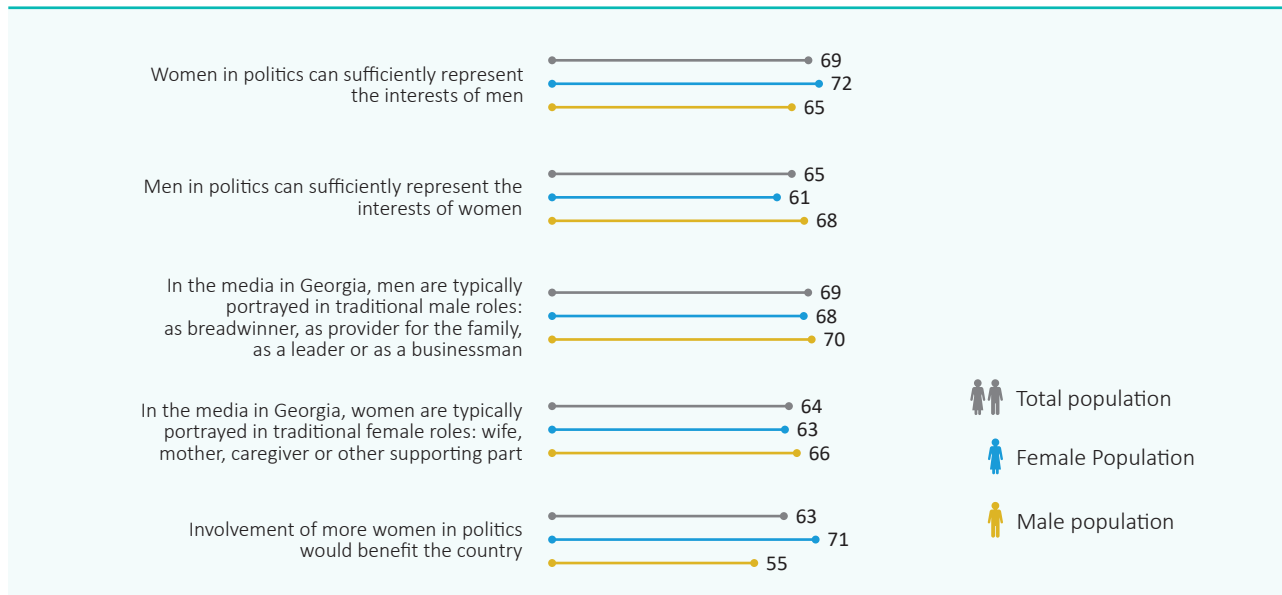


Sixty-three per cent of the population believes that increased involvement of women in politics would benefit the country (Figure 3.19). Notably, a higher percentage of women (71 per cent) than men (55 per cent) agree with this statement. Additionally, a majority agree that women in politics can sufficiently represent the interests of men (69 per cent) and that, similarly, men can do the same (65 per cent). Interestingly, slightly more women (72 per cent) than men (65 per cent) agree that women in politics can sufficiently represent men’s interests. Conversely, more men (68 per cent) than women (61 per cent) agree that men in politics can sufficiently represent women’s interests.

A majority of the public, including both women and men, agrees that in the media in Georgia, men are portrayed as breadwinners, as providers for the family, as leaders or as businessmen (69 per cent), while women are depicted as wives, as mothers, as caregivers or in another supporting role (64 per cent).

FIGURE 3.19

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.



There is a slight difference between personal attitudes and perceived social norms regarding the belief that, in general, men are better political leaders than women. Half of the public (50 per cent) agrees with this statement, while slightly more (58 per cent) perceive that this view is shared by their community (Figure 3.20).

FIGURE 3.20

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)

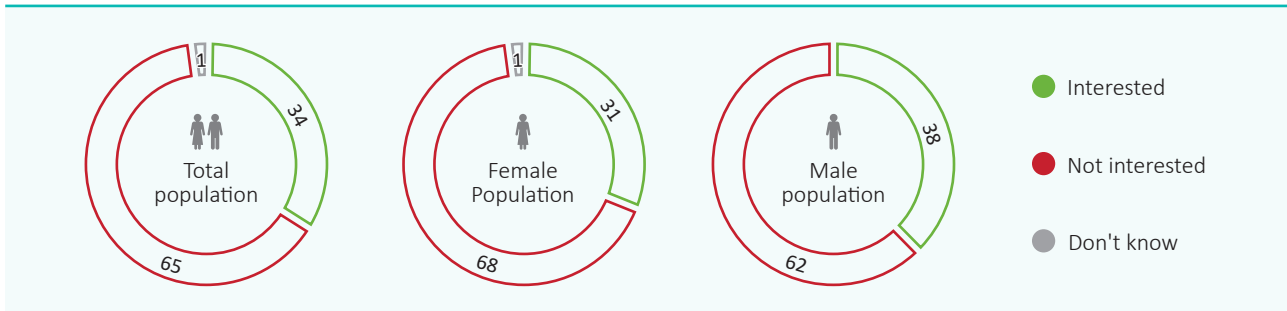


Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

There is a slight difference in general interest in politics based on sex. Men (38 per cent) show a greater interest in politics compared to women (31 per cent). However, a majority (65 per cent) of the Georgian public, including both women and men (68 per cent and 62 per cent, respectively), identify as not being interested in politics (Figure 3.21). In addition, people with a vocational or higher education are more likely to be interested in politics than those with a lower education, while people aged 35–44 are less likely than other age groups to say that they are interested in politics.¹³

FIGURE 3.21

How interested would you say you are in politics? (percentage)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Very interested” and “somewhat interested” were categorized as “interested”, while “not very interested” and “not at all interested” were categorized as “not interested”.

As the regression analyses demonstrate, demographic characteristics such as sex, age, ethnicity, education level and settlement type play significant roles in political perceptions and preferences within Georgian society. Women are more likely than men to believe that increased female representation in politics would benefit the country. Women also tend to believe that they can adequately represent the interests of men in politics, while men are more likely to disagree with this opinion. Ethnic minorities are more likely than ethnic Georgians to agree that men are better political leaders. It is also notable that women are less likely than men to agree with this opinion.¹⁴ Regarding perceived social norms, rural residents are more likely than Tbilisi residents to agree that in general, people in their community believe that men are better political leaders than women.¹⁵

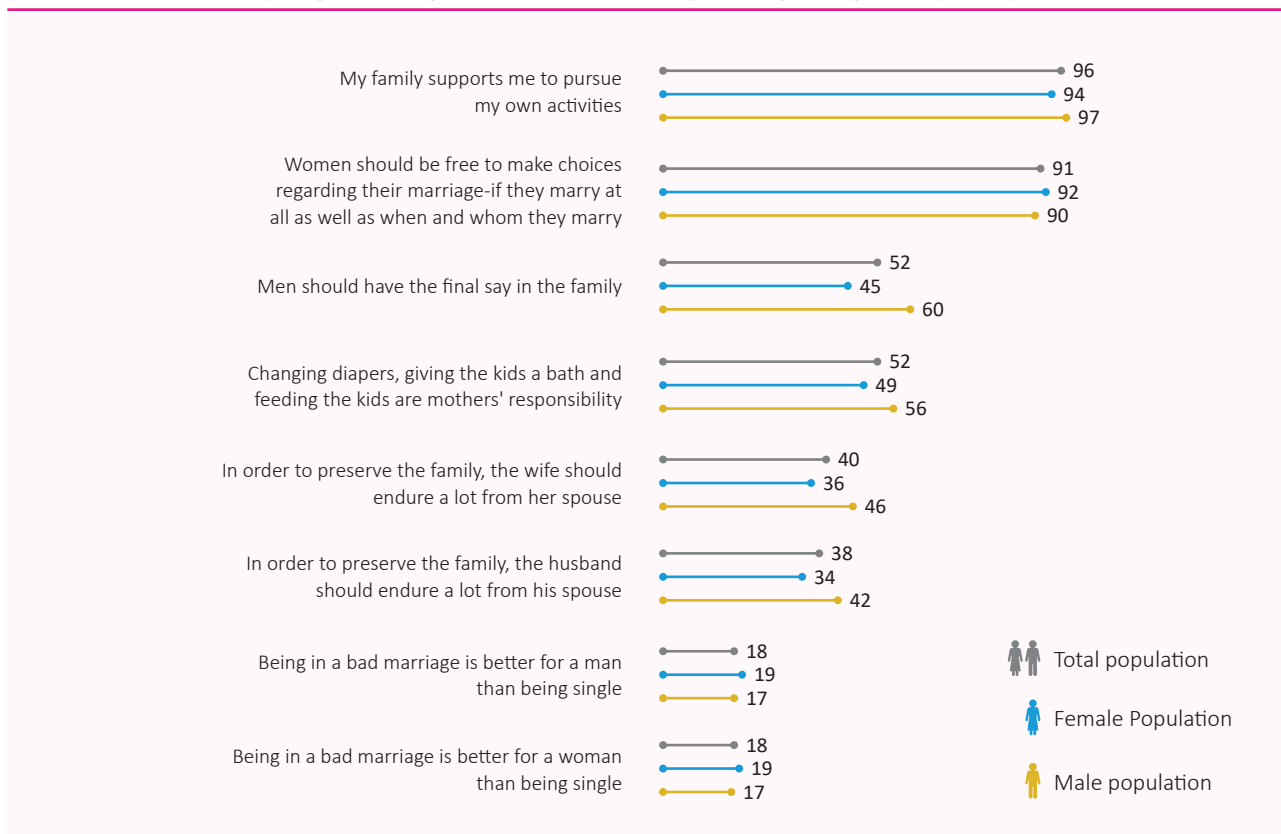


3.4 Marriage and family life

On matters of one’s autonomy within a family, opinions both align and differ between the sexes depending on the subject of the question. Although both men and women agree that being in a bad marriage is not better for either sex (18 per cent), they differ on other issues (Figure 3.22). A majority of men (60 per cent) agree that they should have the final say in family decision-making; comparatively, a minority of women (45 per cent) support the statement. Most men (56 per cent) also agree that responsibilities related to childcare are solely the mother’s responsibility, while a slight minority of women (49 per cent) agree.

FIGURE 3.22

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)

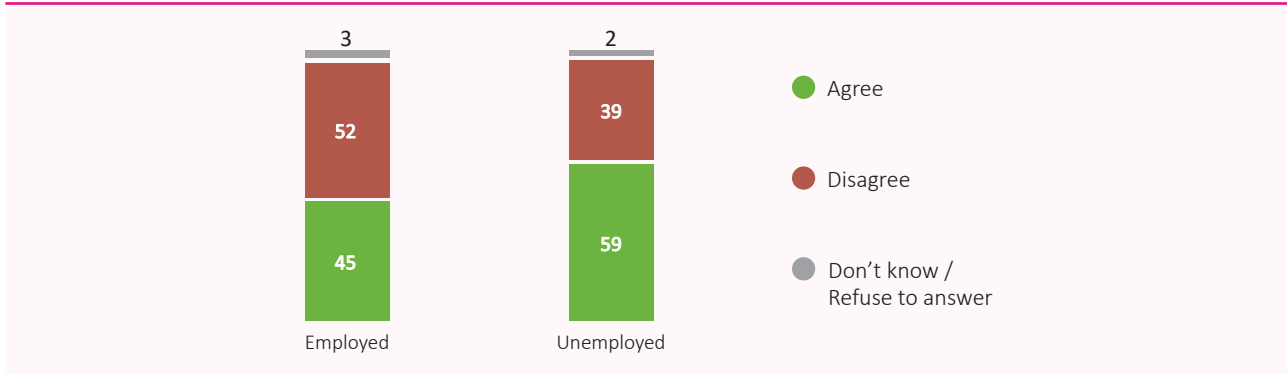


Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

Moreover, men, older individuals (aged 45 and above), ethnic minorities, residents of urban and rural areas and unemployed individuals are more likely to support the traditional view that men should have the final say in family matters, according to the regression analyses (Figure 3.23). On the contrary, women, younger individuals, ethnic Georgians, residents of the capital city and employed individuals are less likely to hold this belief.¹⁶

FIGURE 3.23

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Men should have the final say in the family. (percentage, by respondents' employment status)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree".



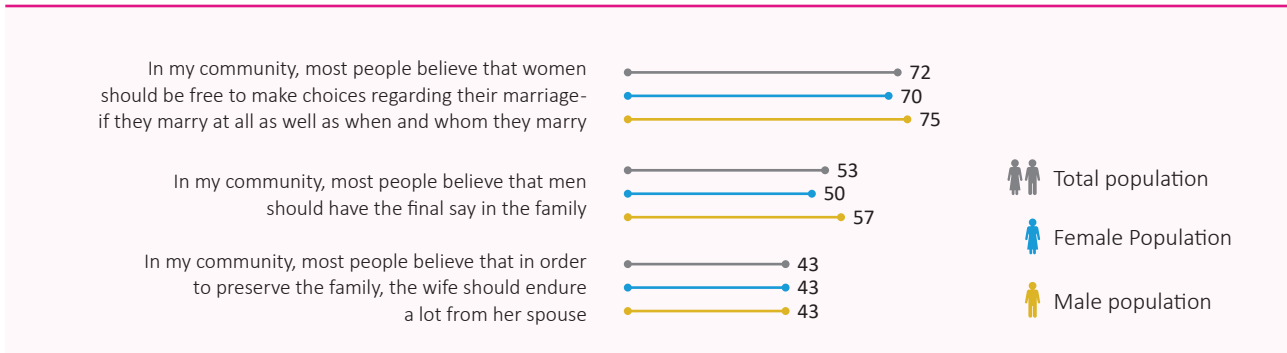
How one perceives one's community to understand men's and women's roles in family decision-making mostly aligns with one's own personal attitudes. Although some variation exists, less than half of women (45 per cent) agree that men should be the final decision makers in a family, while slightly more women (50 per cent) agree that this is a common social norm in their community (Figure 3.24).

Furthermore, among individuals, 91 per cent agree that women should be free to make choices regarding when and whom they will marry, while only 72 per cent believe that the same opinion is shared by their community.

There are variations in perceived social norms based on sex and employment status. Individuals who are not working and residents of urban and rural areas are more likely to agree that most people in their community believe that wives should endure challenges in order to preserve the family and that men should have the final say in family matters.¹⁷

FIGURE 3.24

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of "agree" responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree".

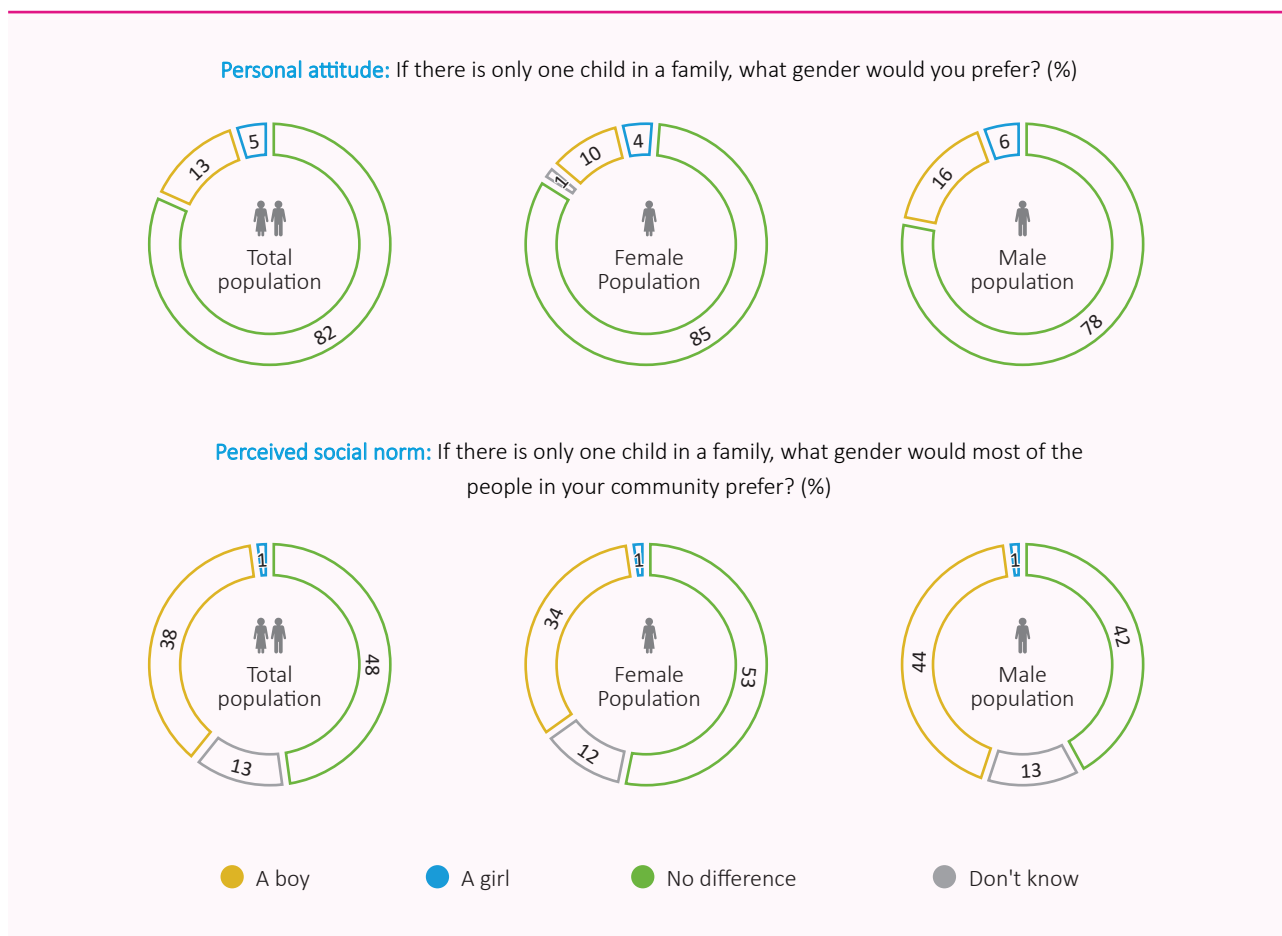
A majority (82 per cent) of the Georgian public does not have any preference regarding their child's sex, even if they only had one child (Figure 3.25). However, of those who do have a preference regarding the sex of an only child, 16 per cent of men prefer having a boy, compared to 6 per cent preferring to have a girl. Likewise, 10 per cent of women would rather have a boy, while 4 per cent would rather have a girl. According to the regression analyses, women and employed individuals are more likely to believe that the gender of an only child in a family does not matter, compared to men and unemployed individuals, who tend to prefer a boy.¹⁸



Although a significant majority of the public (82 per cent) agrees that the sex of an only child does not matter to them, 38 per cent of the public, including 34 per cent of women and 44 per cent of men, believe that people in their community would prefer having a boy over a girl.

FIGURE 3.25

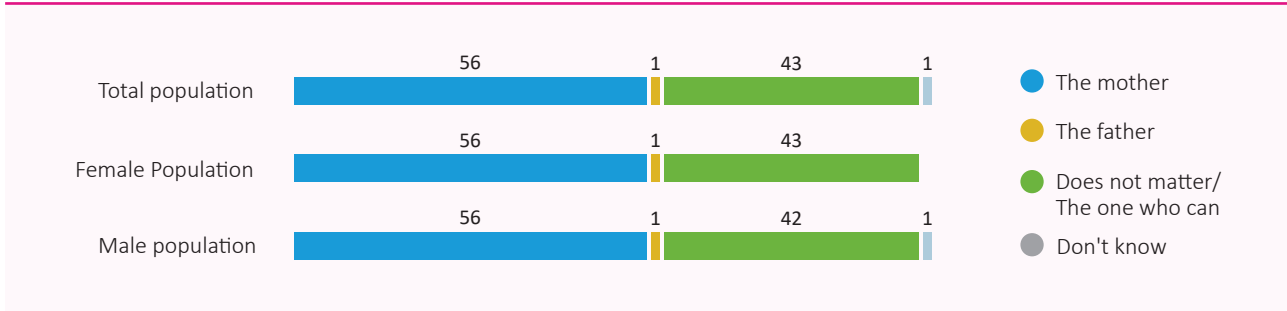
If there is only one child in a family, what gender would you prefer? If there is only one child in a family, what gender would most of the people in your community prefer? (percentage)



Aligning with men's belief that women are primarily responsible for childcare, a majority of the public (56 per cent), regardless of sex, agrees that if a child is sick, the mother should take the day off to care for the child, rather than the father (Figure 3.26). Forty-three per cent of the public agrees that it does not matter which parent takes the day off to care for an ill child.

FIGURE 3.26

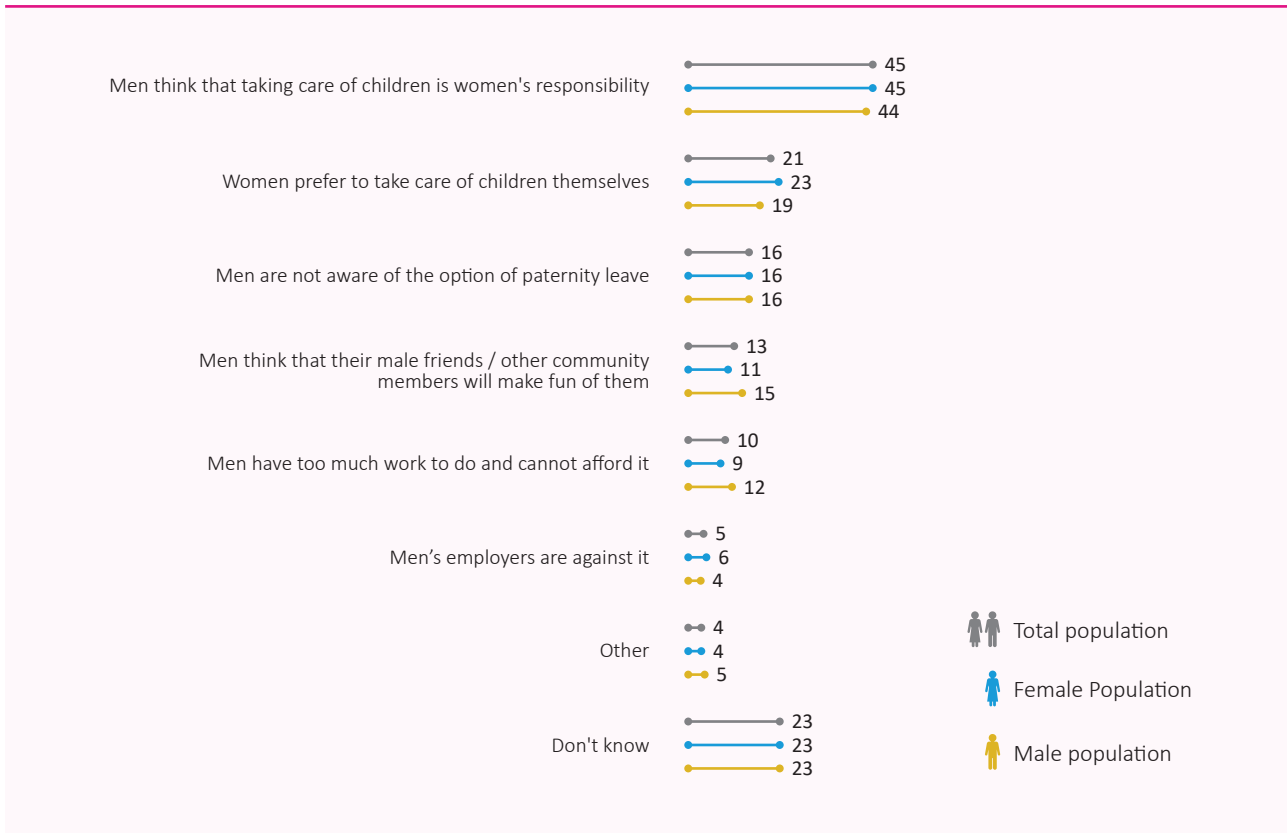
In the event that both parents are working, who should take the day off/sick leave if their child gets sick? (percentage)



Regarding men’s role in childcare, most of the public (52 per cent) agrees that responsibilities related to childcare are solely the mother’s responsibility. A plurality (45 per cent) believes that the reason why men do not take paternity leave is that they think that childcare is the responsibility of women (Figure 3.27). Nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of the public, on the other hand, do not know why men forgo paternity leave. Twenty-three per cent of women state that this is due to women preferring to take care of their child themselves, compared to 19 per cent of men supporting the statement. Sixteen per cent of Georgians agree that it is due to men not knowing that paternity leave is an option. A slight variation based on sex exists regarding the community’s reaction to a man taking paternity leave. Fifteen per cent of men suggest that men will be ridiculed by other males for taking paternity leave, while 11 per cent of women believe this to be a factor.

FIGURE 3.27

Today in Georgia, men rarely take paternity leave to take care of their children. What do you think is the reason why men do not take paternity leave? (percentage, multiple responses)

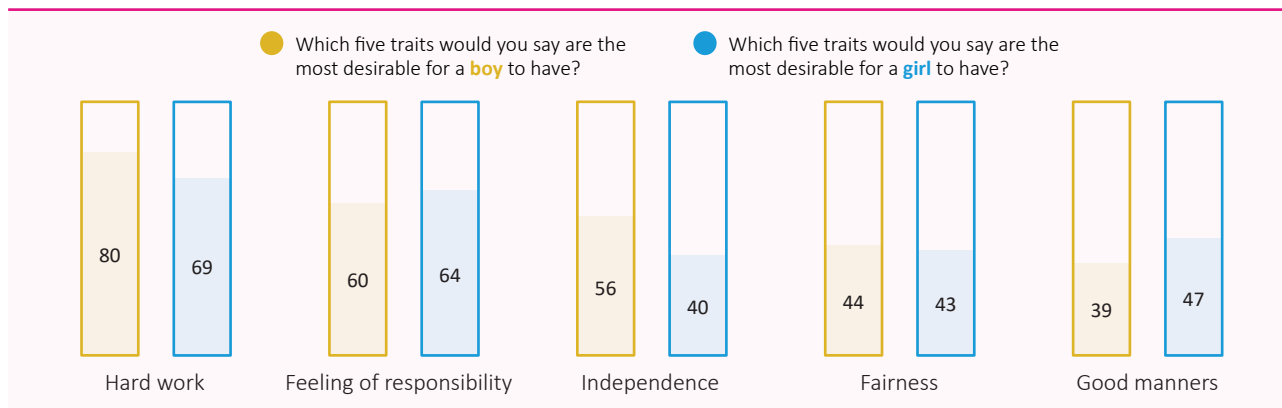


The top two traits considered desirable for boys and girls, such as being hardworking and responsible, are somewhat consistent, regardless of the child's sex. Hard work is praised most for boys (80 per cent) and girls (69 per cent). This is followed by having a sense of responsibility—60 per cent for boys and 64 per cent for girls (Figure 3.28).

However, differences emerge among other traits, such as being fair and independent and having good manners. For boys, independence is more valued than fairness, while good manners is the least prioritized trait. For girls, on the other hand, having good manners is preferred over fairness and independence.

FIGURE 3.28

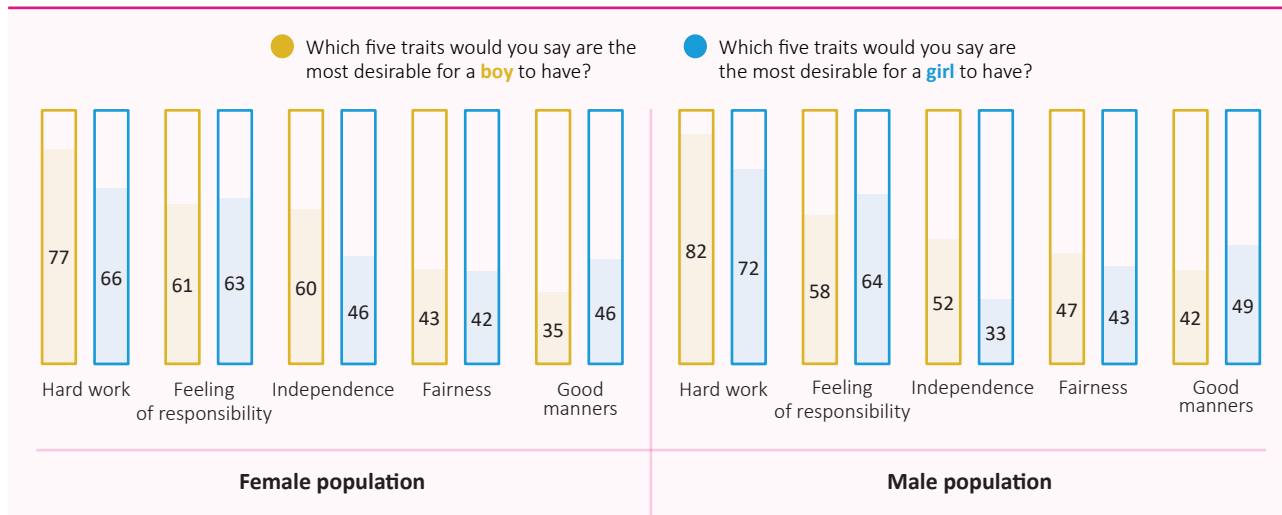
Which five traits would you say are the most desirable for a girl to have? For a boy to have? (percentage, up to five responses)



Interestingly, 46 per cent of women think that independence is most desirable for a girl to have, while 33 per cent of men think the same (Figure 3.29).

FIGURE 3.29

Which five traits would you say are the most desirable for a girl to have? For a boy to have? (percentage, by respondents' sex, up to five responses)



In general, the regression analyses suggest that there are complex dynamics at play regarding sex, ethnicity, education level and employment when it comes to perceptions of marriage and family life. In general, ethnic Georgians, younger people and those living in Tbilisi hold more progressive views towards marriage and family responsibilities. Men, older individuals (aged 35 and above), residents of both urban and rural areas and un-employed individuals often view childcare tasks as primarily the responsibility of mothers. Conversely, women, younger individuals, residents of the capital city and employed individuals tend to have more egalitarian views on parenting responsibilities.¹⁹

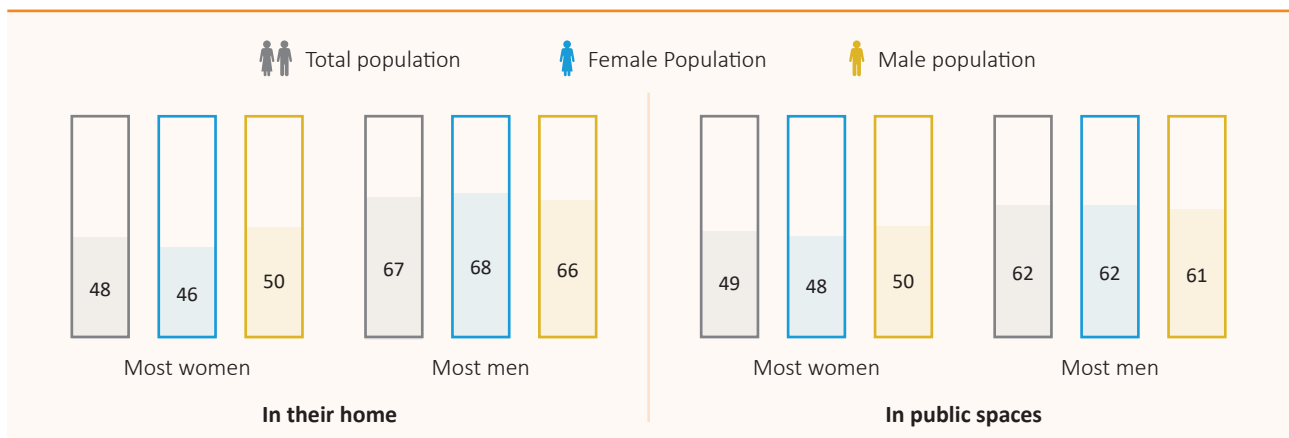


3.5 Safety and violence

Perceptions of safety at home and in public spaces vary significantly based on sex. A majority of the population (67 per cent) believes that most men are safe when at home, whereas 48 per cent believe the same for most women (Figure 3.30). Similarly, in public spaces, 62 per cent believe most men to be safe, while only 49 per cent deem most women to be safe.

FIGURE 3.30

In general, how safe are most women/men in Georgia when they are in their home? In general, how safe are most women/men in Georgia when they are in public spaces? By safe, we mean free from physical, mental or emotional harm. (percentage of “safe” responses)

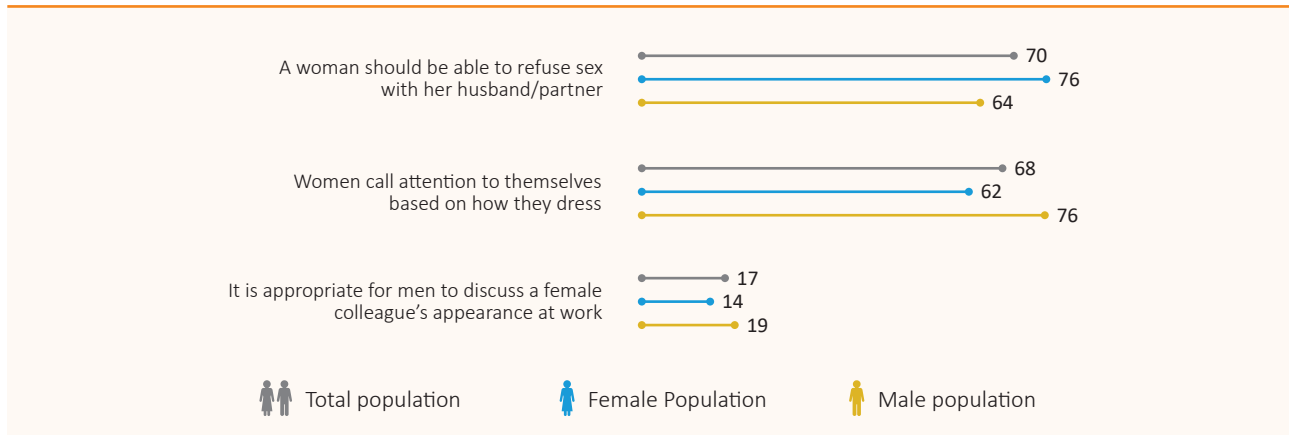


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “unsafe”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “adequate”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “safe”.

A majority of the public (70 per cent) agrees that a woman should maintain her bodily autonomy while in a relationship, reserving the right to refuse sex with her partner or husband (Figure 3.31). More women (76 per cent) agree with this opinion than men (64 per cent). Most of the Georgian public (68 per cent) agree that women call attention to themselves based on how they dress, with more men (76 per cent) than women (62 per cent) sharing this opinion.

FIGURE 3.31

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage of “agree” responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

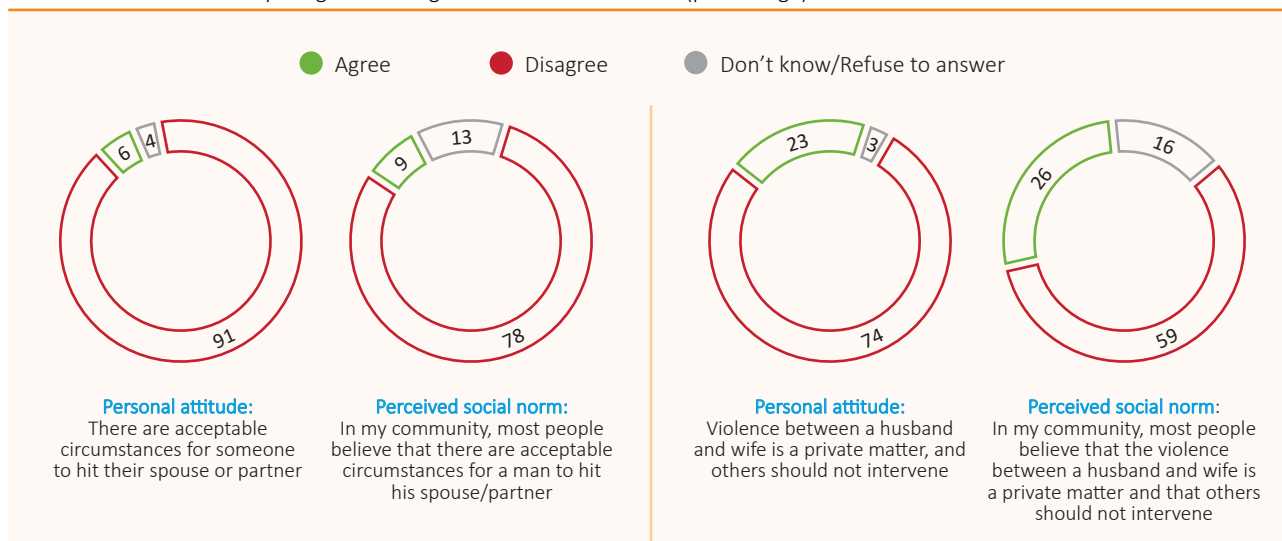
Acts of physical violence towards a partner or spouse, however, are generally not approved of. Only 6 per cent of the public agrees that there are acceptable circumstances for someone to hit their partner or spouse (Figure 3.32). Regarding domestic violence, a significant minority, 23 per cent, states that such acts are private and that others should not intervene. Interestingly, more men (28 per cent) agree with this statement than women (19 per cent).²⁰



The perceived beliefs of one's community regarding approval of domestic violence and intervening when violence occurs are more negative compared to individual attitudes. While 91 per cent of the public believes that there are no acceptable circumstances to hit a partner, fewer individuals (78 per cent) agree that their community thinks the same. Similarly, while 74 per cent disagree that violence between a husband and wife is a private matter only, but fewer (59 per cent) agree that their community holds the same opinion (Figure 3.32).

FIGURE 3.32

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement. (percentage)



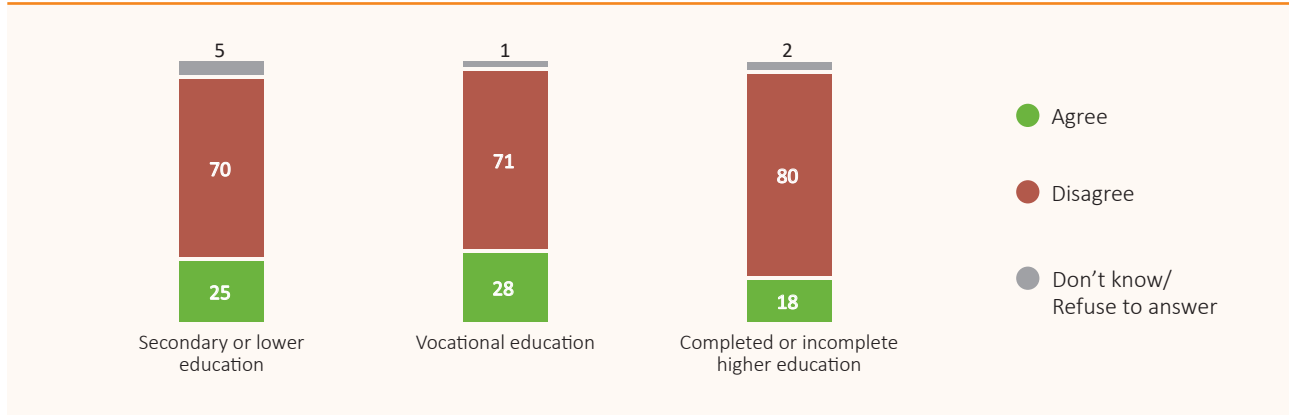
Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree".

The analysis shows that demographic characteristics such as sex, age and education level play a significant role in attitudes towards dress, acceptance of violence, views on domestic violence and perceived social norms.

Regarding physical violence, individuals who are employed or have a vocational education are less likely to agree that there are acceptable circumstances for someone to hit their spouse or partner, compared to those who are not working or have lower education levels. Similarly, women and individuals with a higher education are less likely to agree that violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and that others should not intervene, in contrast to men and those with lower education levels (Figure 3.33).²¹

FIGURE 3.33

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: Violence between a husband and wife is a private matter. (percentage, by respondents' education level)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree".

Perceived social norms vary based on sex, age and education level. Women and employed individuals are more likely to agree that in their community, most people believe that there are acceptable circumstances for a man to hit his spouse or partner, compared to men and unemployed individuals. Additionally, those with a higher education are more likely to disagree that in their community, most people believe that domestic violence between a husband and wife is a private matter and that others should not intervene, compared to those with lower education levels.²²

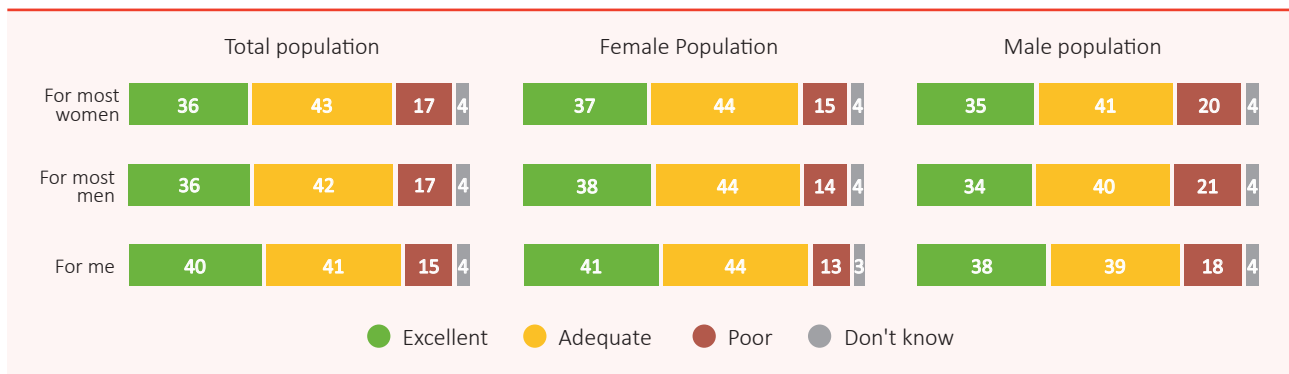


3.6 Health care

Approximately one fifth of Georgia’s population rates the quality of basic healthcare services as poor for most women (17 per cent) and most men (17 per cent). Generally, more men than women perceive the quality of basic health care as poor (Figure 3.34).

FIGURE 3.34

In general, how would you rate the quality of basic health care for most women / most men / you in Georgia? (percentage of “poor” responses)

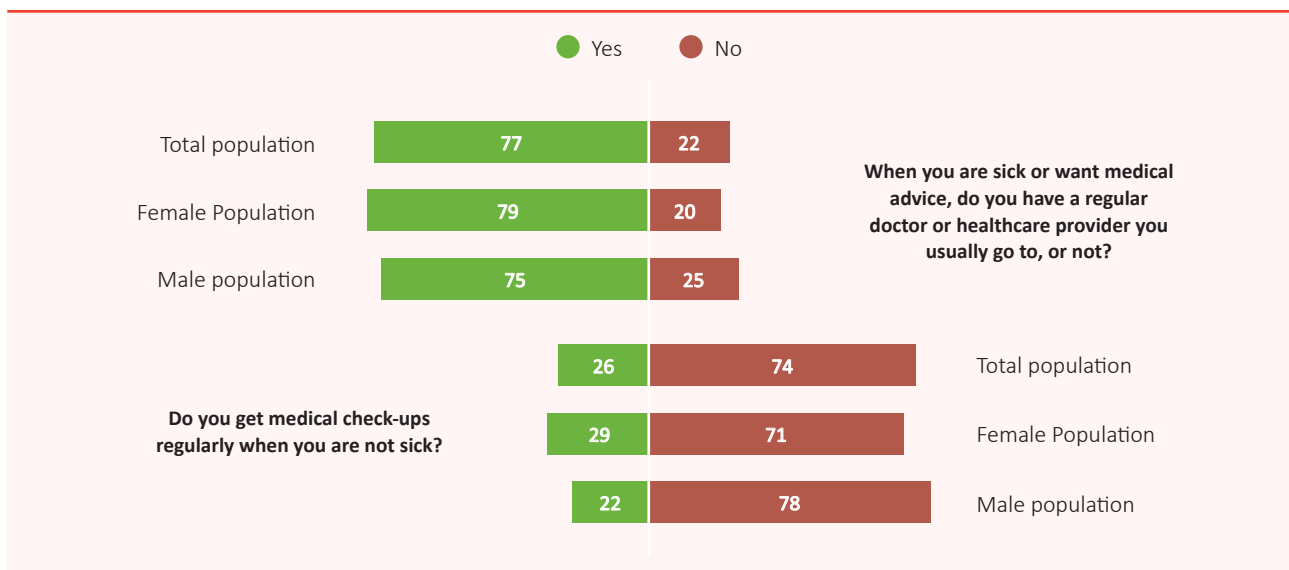


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “poor”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “adequate”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “excellent”.

The majority of the public (77 per cent), including both women (79 per cent) and men (75 per cent), report having a regular doctor or healthcare provider they usually visit when sick or in need of medical advice (Figure 3.35). However, less than one third of the population (26 per cent), including women (29 per cent) and men (22 per cent), indicates that they undergo regular medical check-ups when they are not sick.

FIGURE 3.35

When you are sick or want medical advice, do you have a regular doctor or healthcare provider you usually go to or not? Do you get medical check-ups regularly when you are not sick? (percentage)

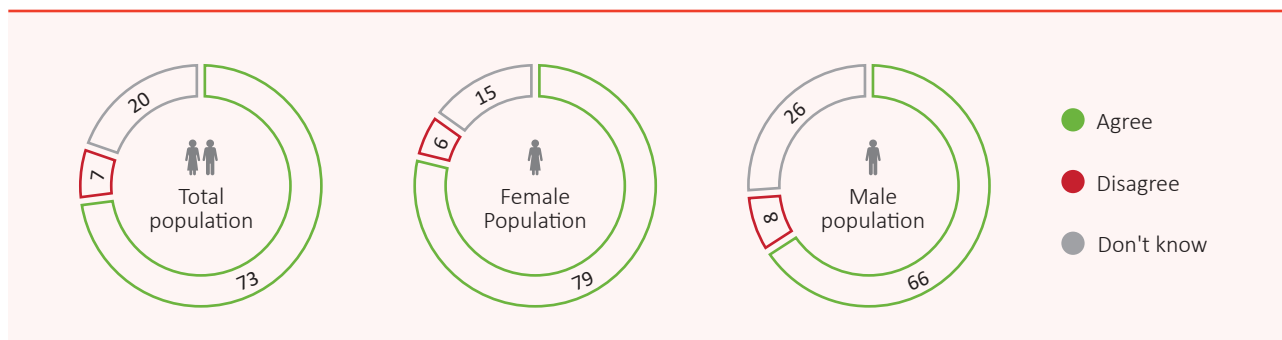


Note: Due to the small portion of respondents selecting “don’t know” or “refuse to answer”, these categories are not shown in the figure.

A majority of Georgia’s public (73 per cent) agrees with the importance of women having access to family planning services (Figure 3.36). Fewer men (66 per cent) than women (79 per cent) agree with this statement. Twenty-six per cent of men do not know about women’s access to family planning, compared to 15 per cent of women.

FIGURE 3.36

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: It is important for women to have access to family planning. (percentage)

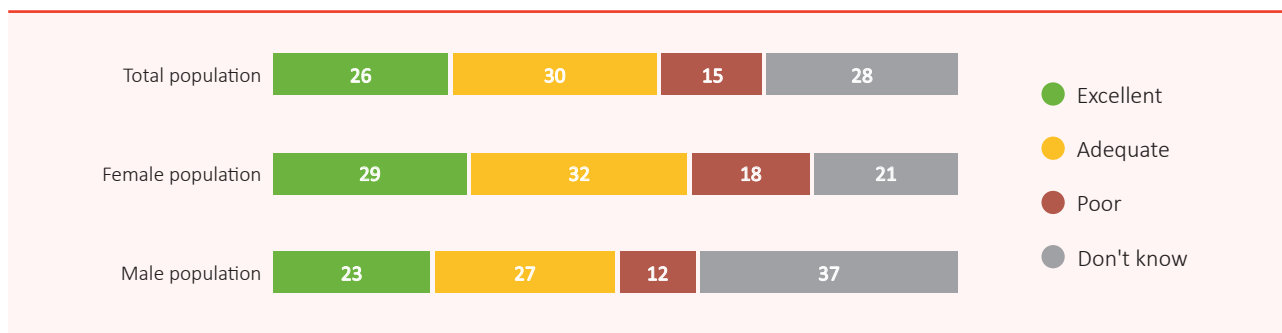


Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”.

The Georgian public’s appraisal of the quality of family planning services in the country is mixed. Overall, just over a quarter of individuals (26 per cent) believe that the existing services are excellent (Figure 3.37). On the other hand, a greater share of the public (30 per cent) suggests that these services are only adequate. Eighteen per cent of women assess the services as poor, compared to 12 per cent of men. Additionally, 37 per cent of men do not know how they would rate the quality of family planning services in Georgia, compared to 21 per cent of women.

FIGURE 3.37

How would you rate the quality of family planning services (for example, the quality of consultation with a gynaecologist that involves providing information on the use of contraceptives, pregnancy planning and abortion, etc.) in Georgia? (percentage)



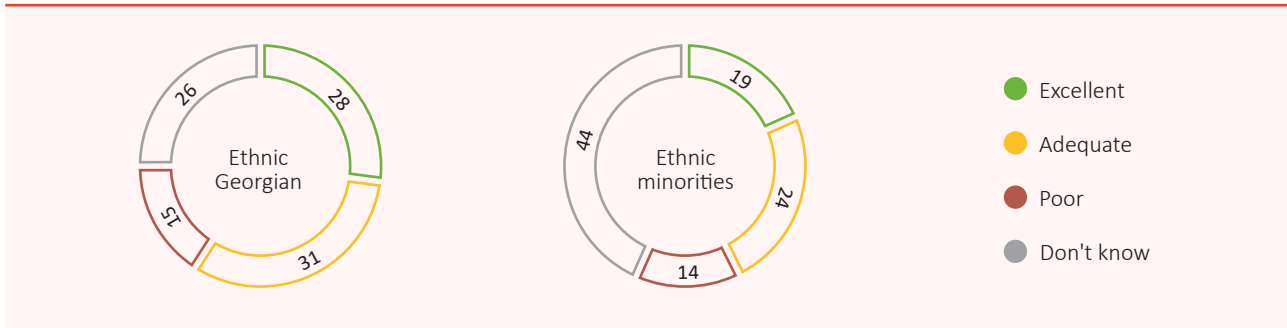
Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “poor”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “adequate”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “excellent”.

Overall, demographic factors such as age play a significant role in shaping people’s assessments of basic health care in Georgia. It appears that individuals over the age of 25 are more inclined to assess basic health care as poor for women, men and themselves, compared to younger individuals.²³

Men generally have less awareness about family planning services compared to women.²⁴ Ethnic minorities and men are more likely to respond with “do not know” rather than agree when asked about the importance of women having access to family planning services, compared to ethnic Georgians and women (Figure 3.38)²⁵

FIGURE 3.38

How would you rate the quality of family planning services (for example, the quality of consultation with a gynaecologist that involves providing information on the use of contraceptives, pregnancy planning and abortion, etc.) in Georgia? (percentage, by respondents' ethnicity)



Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “poor”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “adequate”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “excellent”.

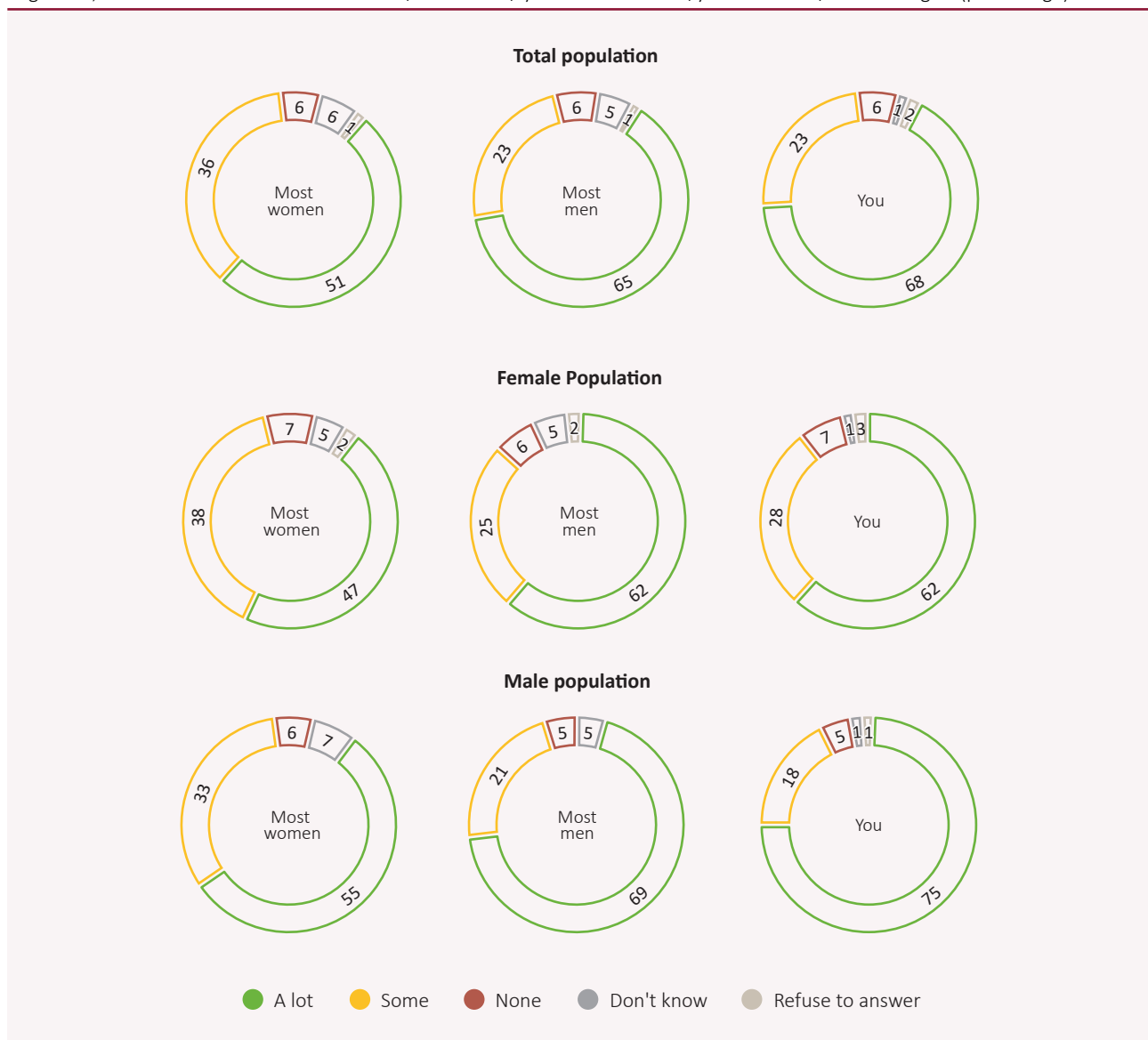


3.7 Control over one's life

A majority (68 per cent) of the Georgian public believes that they have a high degree of control over their own lives (Figure 3.39). However, a smaller share of women (62 per cent) than men (75 per cent) think that they have a lot of control over their own lives. About half of the public (51 per cent) believe that most women have control over their own lives, while more people (65 per cent) agree with this sentiment regarding men having a lot of control over their own lives. Although a slight majority of men (55 per cent) believe that most women have control over their own lives, only 47 per cent of women agree with this sentiment.

FIGURE 3.39

In general, how much control do most women / most men / you have over their/your own lives/life in Georgia? (percentage)



Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”.

Influence over whom someone will marry in Georgia is believed to be an individual's decision among most of the Georgian public (75 per cent) when speaking about themselves (Figure 3.40). However, a higher percentage of men (83 per cent) than women (68 per cent) feel that they have significant influence over whom they marry. Furthermore, 82 per cent of the public agrees that men have a lot of influence over this decision, while 69 per cent say the same about women.

FIGURE 3.40

In general, how much influence do most women / most men / you have on their/your decision of whom to marry in Georgia? (percentage)

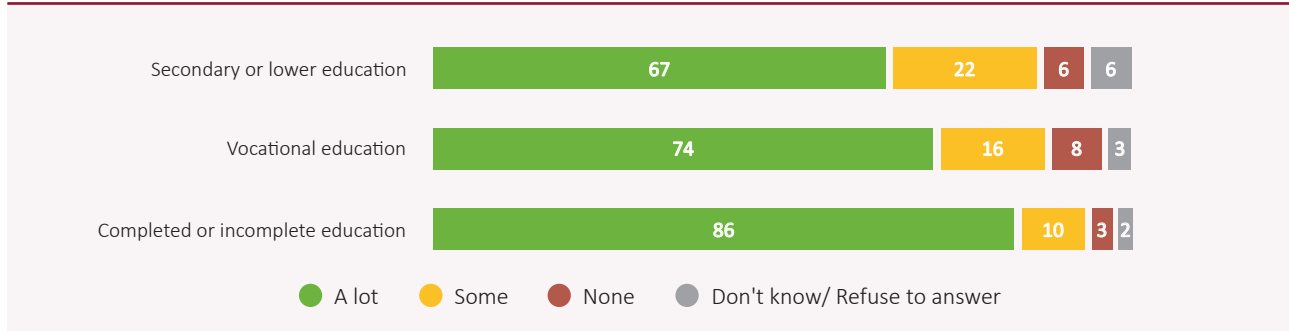


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”.

As the regression analyses show, women are less likely than men to report that it is easy for them to have a say in their decision of whom to marry. Georgians are more likely than ethnic minorities to believe that it is easy for women to have a say in their marriage decision-making. Individuals with higher education levels are more likely to feel that they have an easier time making decisions around whom to marry, compared to those with lower education levels (Figure 3.41).²⁶

FIGURE 3.41

In Georgia, how much influence do you have on your decision of whom to marry? (percentage, by respondents' education level)



Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”.

However, the opinions and beliefs of Georgia’s public vary when surveyed on the justifiability of a person engaging in sexual activities, such as premarital sex and having more than one sexual partner in their lifetime. The data suggest a division between personal liberties and one’s sexual autonomy.

Despite confidence in people’s degree of self-control in Georgia, one’s sexual autonomy is largely dependent on one’s sex. More than half of the Georgian public (51 per cent) agrees that it is justifiable for men to have a sexual relationship before marriage, while 31 per cent believe the same for women (Figure 3.42). A minority of men (27 per cent) believe that it is justifiable for women to have a sexual relationship before marriage. Women, with just an 8 percentage point difference, agree that a woman engaging in premarital sex is justifiable. On the other hand, a majority of men (52 per cent) believe that it is justifiable for a man to have sexual relations before marriage. Women, albeit a slight minority (49 per cent), state the same.

Although a slight majority believes that it is somewhat justifiable for people, particularly men, to engage in premarital sex, attitudes are even more critical on having multiple sexual partners over one’s lifetime. Most people believe that having several sexual partners is not justifiable; 36 per cent believe that it is justifiable for men, while 24 per cent think the same for women. Opinions on this topic in regard to both sexes, however, do not substantially differ between men and women.



The Georgian public assesses society to be more conservative on the issue of premarital sex, compared to their own personal beliefs. Overall, only 18 per cent think that their community considers it justifiable for women to engage in sexual relations before marriage (Figure 3.42). This contrasts drastically with society’s perceived allowance for men to engage in the same activity, as 47 per cent believe that their community considers premarital sex justifiable for men.

When assessing their community’s opinion on the subject of having several sexual partners, the public’s views towards men having multiple sexual partners in their lifetime mostly align with the perceptions of society; specifically, every third person (34 per cent) thinks that their community justifies men having several sexual partners during their lifetime. However, only 15 per cent believe that their community considers the same activity justifiable for women.

FIGURE 3.42

In your opinion, how justifiable is it for women/men to have a sexual relationship before marriage? In your community, how justifiable is it for women/men to have a sexual relationship before marriage? In your opinion, how justifiable is it for women/men to have several sexual partners during their lifetime? In your community, how justifiable is it for women/men to have several sexual partners during their lifetime? (percentage of “somewhat justifiable” and “completely justifiable” responses)

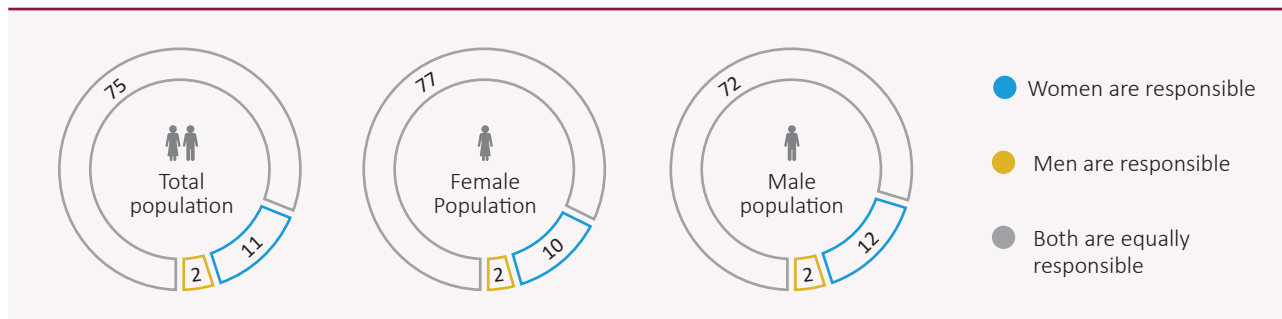


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”.

While the Georgian public generally grants women limited rights to sexual autonomy, compared to men, the responsibility of avoiding pregnancy is considered to be shared by both sexes. A majority (75 per cent) agrees that both sexes are equally responsible (Figure 3.43). Only 2 per cent of men and women suggest that men carry the responsibility, while 11 per cent state exclusively that women do.

FIGURE 3.43

Who is responsible for avoiding pregnancy? (percentage)

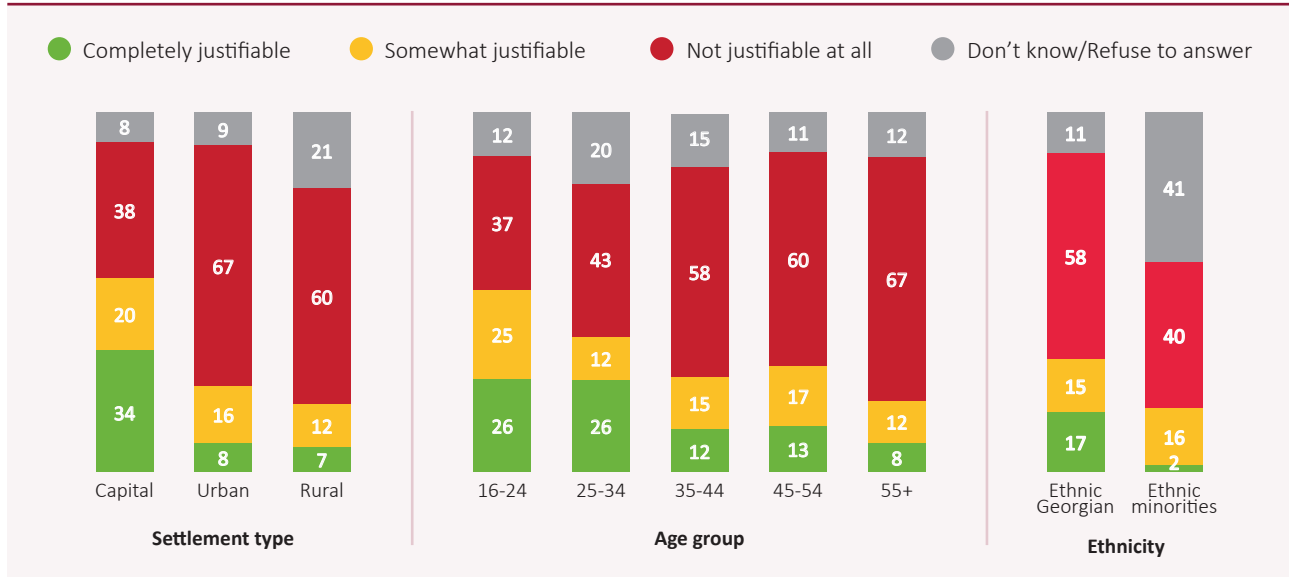


Note: Due to the small portion of respondents selecting “don’t know” or “refuse to answer”, these categories are not shown in the figure.

There are noticeable differences in attitudes based on factors like ethnicity, age, sex, education level and urban or rural residency when it comes to attitudes towards premarital sex and views on having multiple sexual partners. Urban dwellers (aside from those living in the capital), rural populations, older individuals aged 35 and above and ethnic minorities are more likely to perceive premarital sex for women as less justifiable, compared to those living in the capital, younger people and ethnic Georgians (Figure 3.44). Interestingly, women are more likely to see premarital sex for men as somewhat justifiable rather than completely justifiable.²⁷

FIGURE 3.44

How justifiable is it for women to have a sexual relationship before marriage? (percentage, by respondents' settlement type, age and ethnicity)



Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “not justifiable”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “somewhat justifiable”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “completely justifiable”.

Men, urban and rural residents and older individuals aged 55 and above are less likely to consider it justifiable for women to have multiple sexual partners, compared to women themselves, younger individuals and those living in the capital. However, those with higher education levels are more inclined to find it completely justifiable for women to have multiple sexual partners than individuals with lower education levels.²⁸

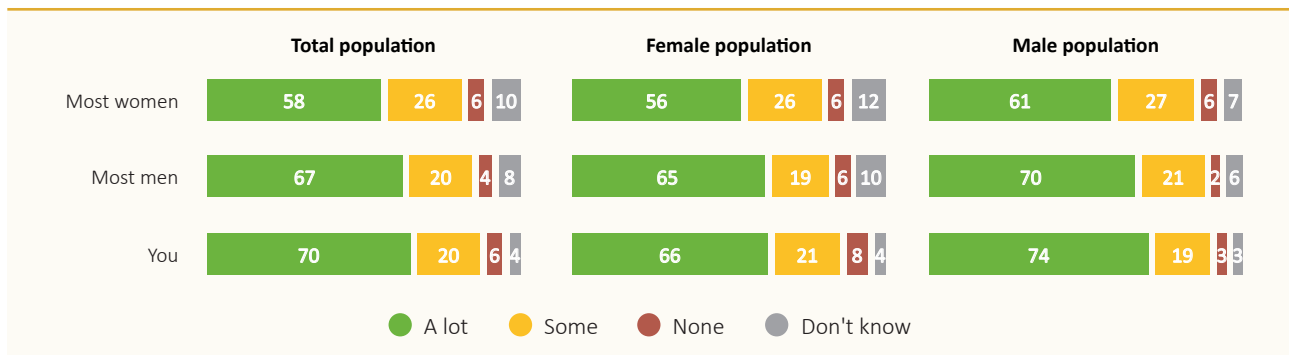


3.8 Control of personal finances and access to physical property

The attitudes of the Georgian public towards themes and questions concerning one’s rights to physical property and personal finances somewhat vary depending on the sex of the question’s subject. Most of the public, 70 per cent, claims that they have “a lot” of control over their personal finances, with more men (74 per cent) agreeing with this statement than women (66 per cent) (Figure 3.45). Having a greater degree of control over one’s personal finances, however, is considerably more ascribed to men (67 per cent) than women (58 per cent).

FIGURE 3.45

In general, how much control do most women / most men / you have over their/your personal finances in Georgia? (percentage)

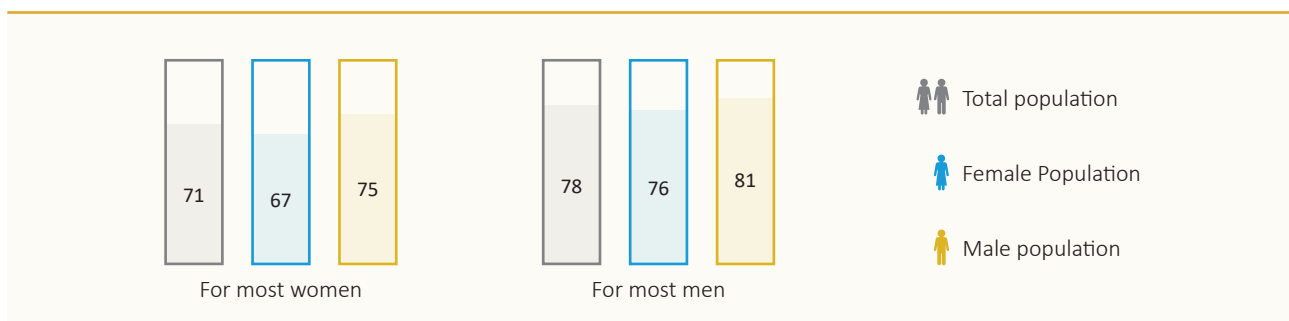


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”; scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”; and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”.

In terms of purchasing property, the majority of the public states that it is easy for men (78 per cent) and for women (71 per cent) to do so (Figure 3.46). Sixty-seven per cent of women think that it is easy for women to buy property in their own name, while 76 per cent believe the same for men.

FIGURE 3.46

In general, how easy is it for most women/men in Georgia to buy property in their own name? (percentage of “easy” responses)

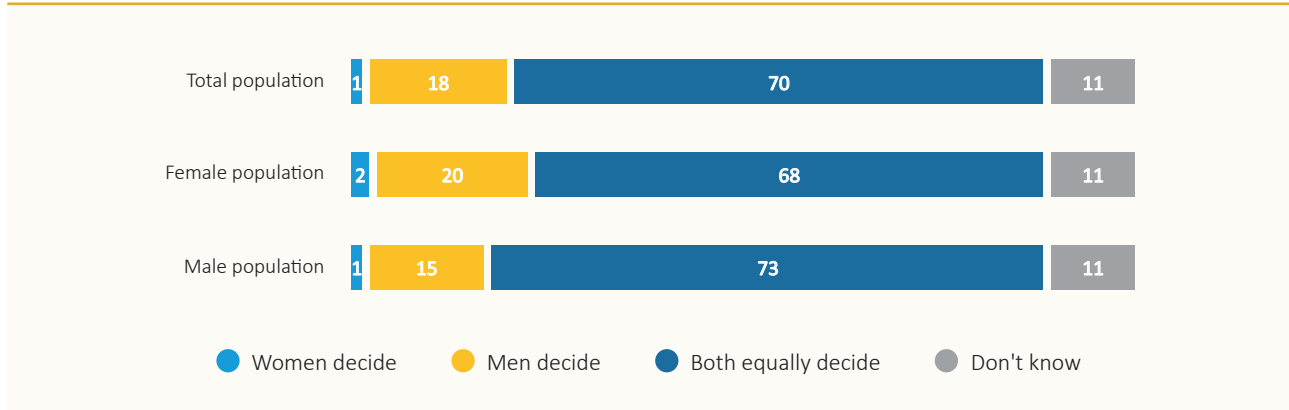


Note: The 11-point scale was recoded into three categories: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “difficult”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “neutral”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “easy”.

Although there is variation in the degree to which one has control over one’s own personal finances (based on sex), when considering the attitude of their community, 70 per cent of Georgia’s population believes that major financial decisions, such as taking out a loan or pledging property, are typically done equally by men and women (Figure 3.47). However, every fifth person (18 per cent) suggests that in their community, men decide such matters.

FIGURE 3.47

In your community, who decides matters like taking out a loan or pledging property to secure a loan? (percentage)



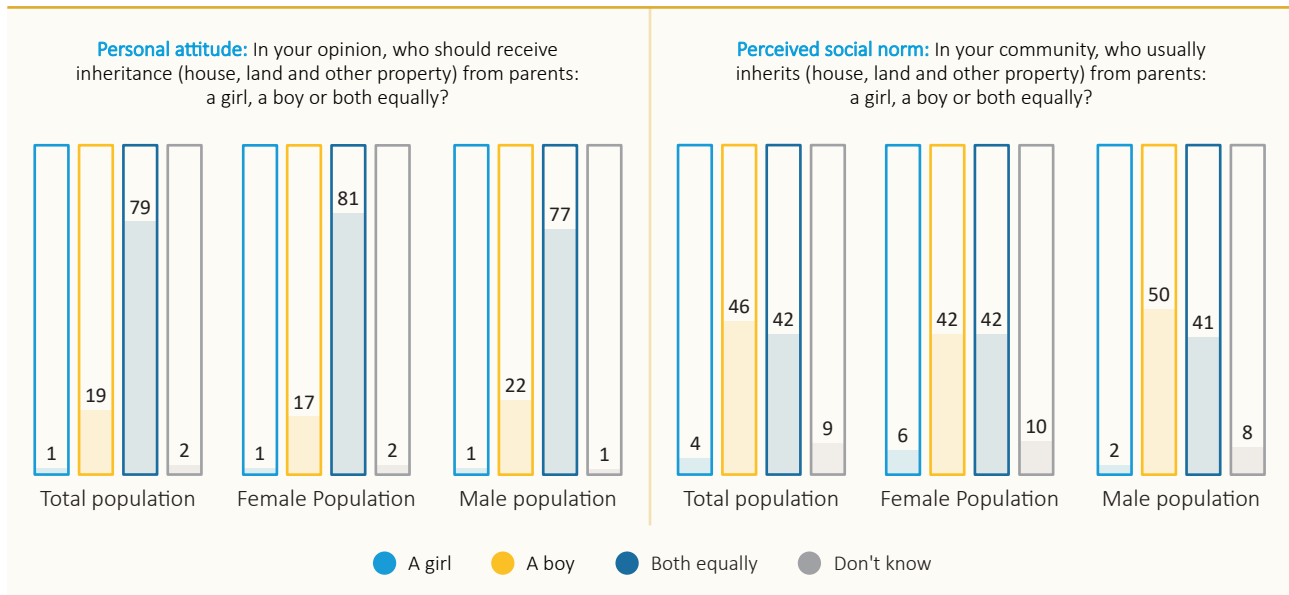
Regarding inheritance from parents, most of the Georgian public (79 per cent) believes that it should be split equally between both male and female heirs (Figure 3.48). Although most are in favour of an equal distribution of inheritance regardless of the child’s sex, a considerable minority (19 per cent) believes that inheritance should only be given to a son.



Despite a majority (79 per cent) of the public believing that inheritance from parents should be shared among all offspring equally, they believe that society thinks otherwise. A plurality (46 per cent) believes that their community prefers boys to receive inheritance from their parents. Forty-two per cent, on the other hand, believe that their community supports sharing inheritance equally, regardless of sex.

FIGURE 3.48

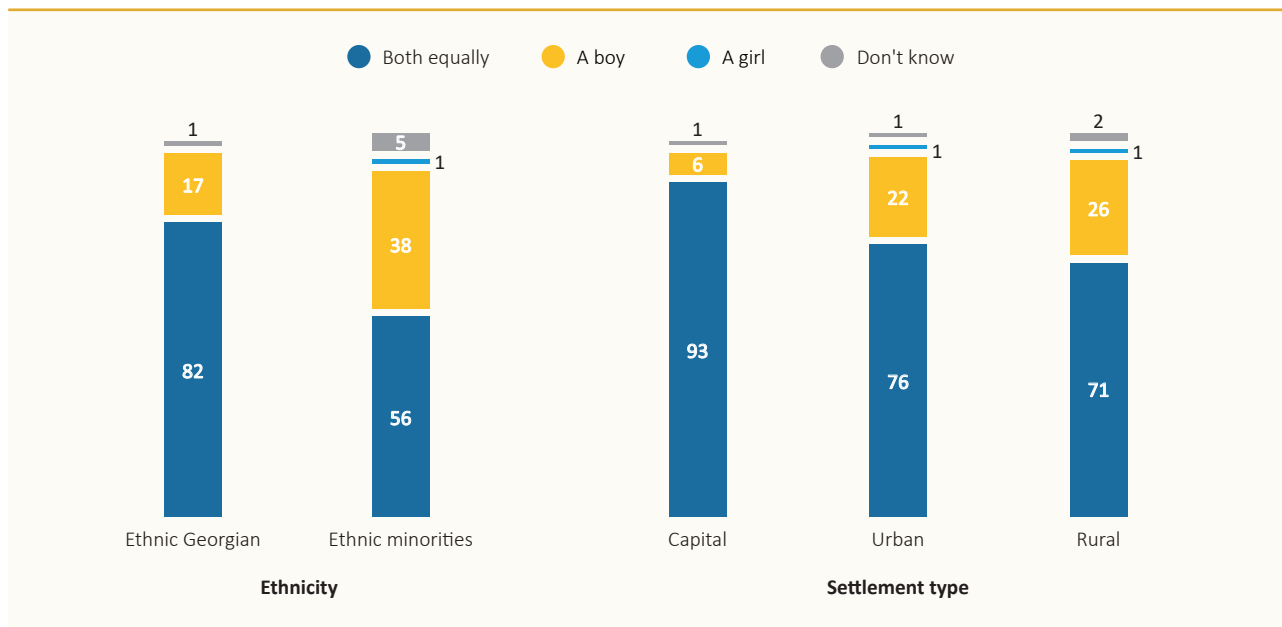
In your opinion, who should receive inheritance (house, land and other property) from parents: a girl, a boy or both equally? In your community, who usually inherits (house, land and other property) from parents: a girl, a boy or both equally? (percentage)



The regression analyses revealed variation in attitudes and perceptions based on sex, ethnicity and settlement type (urban/rural). Men generally feel more in control over their finances,²⁹ while attitudes towards inheritance and financial decision-making vary among different demographic groups. There is a trend towards gender equality in inheritance views among women, ethnic Georgians and Tbilisi residents, while traditional views on male inheritance prevail among other groups (Figure 3.49). Additionally, ethnic minorities perceive that men are more dominant than women when it comes to financial decision-making.³⁰

FIGURE 3.49

In your opinion, who should receive inheritance (house, land and other property) from parents: a girl, a boy or both equally? (percentage, by respondents' ethnicity and settlement type)



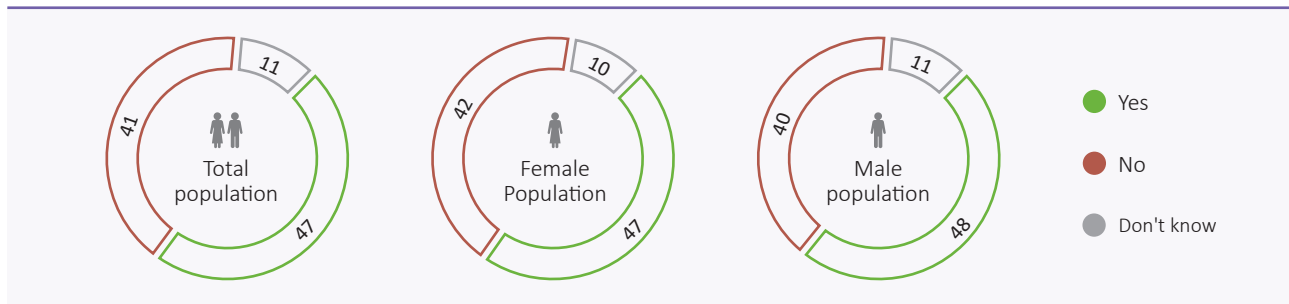


3.9 Future ideals

Slightly less than half of the Georgian public (47 per cent), including women (47 per cent) and men (48 per cent), believes that there is gender equality in Georgia (Figure 3.50). Forty-one per cent think the opposite, while 11 per cent are unsure. Interestingly, the opinions of women and men on this subject are quite similar.

FIGURE 3.50

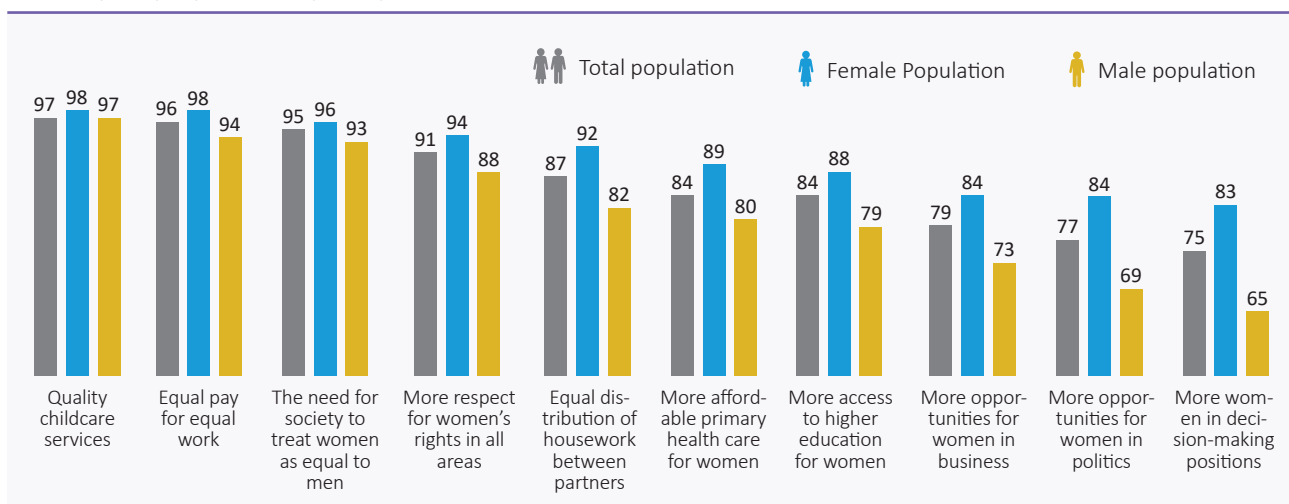
In your opinion, is there gender equality in Georgia? (percentage)



A majority of the Georgian public agrees that it is important for the country to develop policies that promote gender equality and encourage women’s involvement in and access to various professional spheres. According to 97 per cent of the public, it is most important for the country to develop quality childcare services (Figure 3.51). This is followed by equal pay for equal work (96 per cent) and the need for society to treat women as equal to men (95 per cent). The country’s encouragement of women in business (79 per cent), in politics (77 per cent) and in decision-making positions (75 per cent) has a strong base of support with both men and women.

FIGURE 3.51

In your opinion, how important is each of the following to your country’s future success? (percentage of “somewhat important” and “completely important” responses)



Note: The four-point scale was recoded into two categories: “Completely important” and “somewhat important” were categorized as “important”, while “somewhat unimportant” and “not at all important” were categorized as “unimportant”.

Overall, women consistently prioritize various aspects of gender equality and empowerment, including opportunities in business and politics, access to education and health care, respect for women’s rights, equal pay and the equal distribution of household responsibilities.³¹

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS



Despite areas of improvement and some promising indicators, the GEAS findings demonstrate that discriminatory social norms and attitudes continue to hinder progress for women and girls in Georgia. When asked about it, the majority of the population agrees that it is important for the country to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, yet gender stereotypes and antiquated attitudes across various areas of life endure. From reinforcing unpaid care responsibilities, gender pay gaps and job segregation, to the persisting disparities in leadership and participation opportunities, there is an urgent need to advance attitudes towards gender equality across all dimensions measured.

The study also found that while gender stereotypes are still prevalent among Georgia's population, perceived social norms are even more discriminatory. The results documented a mismatch between personal attitudes and perceived social norms, indicating that Georgia's population holds more progressive views on gender equality in a number of life domains, compared to what they perceive as social norms in their community. In the field of social psychology, this phenomenon is known as **pluralistic ignorance**—incorrectly perceiving others' attitudes and behaviours as different from one's own when in fact they are not.³²

Understanding the perceptions of social norms is important because individuals' behaviour is often influenced by these perceptions, even when these perceived social norms are different from their own attitudes and beliefs. However, there are two important details about perceived social norms: The first is that our perceptions of others' attitudes or behaviours are often incorrect,³³ and second, we tend to overestimate the prevalence of negative social norms or negative practices and underestimate the prevalence of positive social norms or positive practices in our communities. As a result, these (mis)perceptions make us change our own behaviour, to approximate the perceived social norms—and usually not for the better. We may leave our only house to our son, even though we believe that the inheritance should be split equally between our son and daughter, simply because we perceive our community to support giving inheritance to sons only.

To break this vicious cycle, it is important to be aware of, and make others aware of, the real social norms and how they differ from our perceptions. While some gender stereotypes are prevalent in Georgia, for others, their actual prevalence is lower than their perceived prevalence. According to the social norms approach, presenting the public with this information and making it clear that some gender stereotypes might not be as prevalent as they think, should encourage them to more freely express their beliefs and attitudes that support gender equality, without fear of community sanctions. This, in turn, would eventually and gradually lead to a reduction in discriminatory social norms and practices and help build a more gender-equal, just and inclusive society in Georgia.

Compared to international data, at a glance, gender attitudes in Georgia appear to be somewhat in line with attitudes across many other parts of Europe.³⁴ For example, 95 per cent of respondents in Georgia believe that it is essential for society to treat women and men as equals, compared to 91 per cent in France and 91 per cent in Spain. Moreover, 96 per cent of Georgians believe that men and women should be paid equally for equal work, while 89 per cent of the Swedish population thinks the same. Interestingly, while Georgians seem to support declarative statements on gender equality, they continue to hold rather conservative views on gender relations and women's role at home and in public life. For example, 69 per cent of Georgians think that when a mother works for pay, the children suffer, compared to only 19 per cent in France who think the same. Furthermore, 50 per cent of Georgians think that men are better political leaders than women, compared to 21 per cent of Austrians. Nearly 40 per cent of respondents in Georgia believe that men are better business executives than women, compared to 10 per cent in Spain and 20 per cent in Austria.

Finally, the GEAS shows that there have been clear, positive improvements in attitudes and practices compared to similar studies conducted in the past.³⁵ As evidenced by this study, men and women in the younger generation show more non-discriminatory and progressive gender attitudes. This suggests that the concerted efforts to raise awareness and promote women's empowerment and rights in the country over the past decade are having a positive impact.

ENDNOTES

¹ The bias percentage is calculated by identifying the proportion of people who selected 'agree' or 'strongly agree' in at least one of the given statements.

Chapter 1

² UN Women. 2022. The Levers of Change: Gender Equality Attitudes Study 2022. <https://www.unstereotypealliance.org/en/resources/research-and-tools/the-levers-of-change-gender-equality-attitudes-study-2022>

³ It should be noted that the GEAS has 12 key areas, which, in the current report, were reduced to 10 as attitudes towards stereotypical gender roles and people's roles in society were integrated into various thematic sections. To enrich the survey methodology, the study incorporates questions on perceived social norms alongside individuals' attitudes.

⁴ Alexander-Scott, M., E. Bell and J. Holden. 2016. DFID Guidance Notes: Shifting Social Norms to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. London: VAW Helpdesk.

Section 3.1

⁵ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents' beliefs towards access to education. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as "difficult", scores of 4–6 were categorized as "neutral", and scores of 7–10 were categorized as "easy". The options "neutral" and "don't know" were grouped together. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

⁶ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree". Due to the high percentage of responses under "don't know", this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.2

⁷ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree". Answer option "don't know" was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

⁸ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree". Answer option "don't know" was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

⁹ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: "Strongly agree" and "agree" were categorized as "agree", while "disagree" and "strongly disagree" were categorized as "disagree". Due to the high percentage of responses under "don't know", this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹⁰ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Answer option “don’t know” was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.3

¹¹ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents’ preferences based on the sex of candidates for various leadership positions. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹² Differences were identified using a binary regression model. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹³ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Very interested” and “somewhat interested” were categorized as “interested”, while “not very interested” and “not at all interested” were categorized as “not interested”. Answer option “don’t know” was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹⁴ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Due to the high percentage of responses under “don’t know”, this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹⁵ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Due to the high percentage of responses under “don’t know”, this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.4

¹⁶ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Answer option “don’t know” was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹⁷ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Due to the high percentage of responses under “don’t know”, this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹⁸ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents’ preferences towards children’s sex. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

¹⁹ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Answer option “don’t know” was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.5

²⁰ According to the 2022 National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia, overall, 50.1 per cent of women aged 15–69 had experienced one or more of the seven types of violence in their lifetime. More specifically, 8.5 per cent of women had experienced child sexual abuse and 19.7 per cent had experienced physical and/or emotional abuse as children before the age of 18. In addition, 22.9 per cent of women had experienced intimate partner violence. In terms of non-partner violence since the age of 15, 6.5 per cent of women had ever experienced physical violence, and 1.5 per cent had ever experienced sexual violence. Moreover, 24.5 per cent of women had experienced sexual harassment, and 8.5 per cent had experienced stalking in their lifetime. See: UN Women. 2023. National Study on Violence against Women in Georgia 2022. https://georgia.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/updated_vaw_eng_web4-2.pdf

²¹ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Answer option “don’t know” was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

²² Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Due to the high percentage of responses under “don’t know”, this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.6

²³ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents’ assessment towards basic health care in Georgia. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “poor”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “adequate”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “excellent”. The options “neutral” and “don’t know” were grouped together. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

²⁴ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents’ assessment towards family planning services in Georgia. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “poor”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “adequate”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “excellent”. Due to the high percentage of responses under “don’t know”, this category was treated as a fourth option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

²⁵ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Strongly agree” and “agree” were categorized as “agree”, while “disagree” and “strongly disagree” were categorized as “disagree”. Due to the high percentage of responses under “don’t know”, this category was treated as a third option. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.7

²⁶ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents’ assessment towards how much influence one has on the decision of whom to marry in Georgia. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

²⁷ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents' assessment towards how justifiable it is to have sex before marriage. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “not justifiable”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “somewhat justifiable”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “justifiable”. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

²⁸ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents' assessment towards how justifiable it is to have several sexual partners. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “not justifiable”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “somewhat justifiable”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “justifiable”. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.8

²⁹ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model predicting respondents' assessment towards how much control one has over one's personal finances. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: Scores of 0–3 were categorized as “none”, scores of 4–6 were categorized as “some”, and scores of 7–10 were categorized as “a lot”. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

³⁰ Differences were identified using a multinomial regression model. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Section 3.9

³¹ Differences were identified using a binary regression model. To ease interpretation of the results, the dependent variable was coded as follows: “Completely important” and “somewhat important” were categorized as “important”, while “somewhat unimportant” and “not at all important” were categorized as “unimportant”. Answer option “don't know” was dropped from analysis due to the small number of respondents. Predictors include standard demographic characteristics such as sex, age, settlement type, ethnicity, employment status and educational attainment.

Chapter 4

³² Miller, D. T. and C. McFarland. 1987. “Pluralistic ignorance: When similarity is interpreted as dissimilarity.” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 53 (2), pp. 298–305. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0022-3514.53.2.298>

³³ Berkowitz, A. D. 2005. “An Overview of the Social Norms Approach.” In *Changing the Culture of College Drinking: A Socially Situated Health Communication Campaign*. L. C. Lederman and L. P. Stewart (Eds.). Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press, Inc., pp. 193–214.

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