A SURVEY OF THE NEPALI PEOPLE IN 2022

SURVEY REPORT | KOSHI PROVINCE

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A Survey of the Nepali People in 2022 was implemented with support from the Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade –The Asia Foundation Partnership on Subnational Governance in Nepal and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The findings and any views expressed in relation to this activity do not reflect the views of the Australian Government, Swiss Government or those of The Asia Foundation.

Published by
School of Arts, Kathmandu University
G.P.O.Box 6250, Hattiban, Lalitpur, Nepal
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FOREWORD

The survey of Nepali people, conducted for the first time in 2017, is being conducted under the leadership of Kathmandu University School of Arts (KUSoA) in collaboration with Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA). The fourth volume of the report, *A Survey of the Nepali People 2022 (SNP)* presents Nepalis' perception of the country's direction, the situation of their household, local conditions, security, identity and social relations, governance, public service delivery, elections, political participation, and economic outlook. For this volume, the survey reached 7,056 respondents aged 18 years and older, following a sample selection from 588 wards of seven provinces in Nepal.

The SNP 2022 is a comparatively shorter national report and is complimented by seven provincial reports that attempt to compare findings included in the previous three volumes (SNP 2017, 2018, and 2020). As such, the reader will find a comparative analysis, including charts and tables, as well as descriptions related to the various themes raised in this survey. Further, we will release a thematic report on one overarching theme based on the data generated by SNP 2022 and qualitative research.

Survey data have their own limitations, such as the selection of the right sample size for a survey of this scale is almost always a challenge. There are always possibilities of encountering sampling, nonresponse, coverage, and measurement errors. Therefore, the researchers need to be conscientious while cleaning the data for analysis. And another is the timing of the survey period.

In each round of the survey of Nepali people, the context of the data collection period has been detrimental to people's perceptions. The first volume of SNP (2017) documented the findings of a nationwide survey conducted after the first-ever local election under the federal governance structure in Nepal. The survey collected opinions and expectations of the people on issues, such as gender, ethnicity, and language in the evolving polity, national and local level problems, the service delivery of local and provincial governments, economic and social development, access to information, safety and dispute, governance, political participation, and local election.

While the 2018's survey took place after the first Federal and Provincial election. That year's survey attempted to capture people's opinions based on their experience of having lived for a year under the new governance system. It also documented their aspirations and expectations for the days to come.

While SNP 2020 captured the perception of Nepalis just before the onset of Covid-19. The data collected captured the national mood in the pre-Covid time and thus serves as a strong reference point for comparisons in a post-Covid world.

The 2022 survey, being the first post-pandemic time survey, provided an opportunity to assess the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic in the country and also ways to move forward in the post-Covid context. The survey team decided that including questions on the government's response to Covid-19 would be critical, as it would likely impact people's views on the overall performance of the government and the direction the country was moving in.

The data collection for the 2022 volume took place immediately after the local elections in May 2022. Consequently, many of the perceptions and experiences expressed could have been influenced by the performance of the second-tenure local governments. Among the respondents, more than three-quarters reported they voted in the 2022 local elections. Nine out of 10 respondents believed that elections were free and fair and more than three-quarters were "very happy," and "happy" with the results.

While this provincial brief presents the provincial trends in detail, I am presenting a quick snapshot of the national-level data which will help the readers compare the national outlook with the provincial perceptions. This year, only 41.7% of surveyed Nepalis, the lowest percentage yet, think that the country is moving in the right direction. The respondents cited better roads, increased access to education, and improved electricity supply as the top three indicators of the country's progress. Issues such as corruption, rising prices of necessities, and tax hikes are the three most mentioned problems ailing the country. For the youth (18-24 age group) difficulty in finding work/earning a living is the major problem.

In comparison in 2020, people's perception of a positive economic outlook has also dropped; it's 20.7% compared to 40.1% in 2020. The result, to some extent, reflects the impact of Covid-19 on people's perceptions, as the pandemic negatively impacted almost all economic activities in the country.

The findings, however, are not all bleak, Nepal seems to be a safer place as 92 % of the respondents report that they or their family have not encountered any violence or criminal acts in the past year. Theft is the most reported crime, followed by financial fraud and physical assault. The survey found that the majority of Nepalis prefer the police as their first choice to resolve disputes on land, debt, crime, and defamation or false accusation. For the resolution of domestic violence disputes, Nepalis go to their ward chairpersons or ward members. This is an encouraging indication of people's trust in the local government and significant evidence from the survey on the effectiveness of the newly restructured state mechanism.

The 2022 survey findings document more such evidence; in terms of the government's social security benefits, the survey findings showed that the majority of the respondents have heard of Senior Citizen Allowance, Single Women Allowance, and Disability Allowance. The survey also found that the proportion of households receiving health insurance nearly doubled in 2022 compared to 2020.

In the social context, while respondents still report feeling disadvantaged while obtaining public services and at their workplace due to their gender, caste/ethnicity, and mother tongue other than Nepali, there is a decline in the proportion of respondents, over the years. Similarly in 2022, more respondents said they would approve of inter-caste marriage of their children compared to the previous years. Only about one-fifth of the respondents didn't approve of inter-caste marriage.

The data also shows that over the years, there has been a significant increase in people who believe a person should be capable of leadership roles regardless of gender. The longitudinal data indicates that the share of people with this view increased significantly in 2020 as compared to 2018 but has remained the same this year. However, data states that women are less preferred to give executive positions compared to community-related status even if three out of four believe that both men and women are equally capable of leading different institutions/organizations.

The survey also measured the level of trust among Nepalis in government and nongovernmental institutions. There is a decline in the overall level of trust in the institutions mentioned in the survey. The top three most trusted institutions are the public service commission, the media, and Nepal Army while political parties are still the least trusted. In terms of sources to obtain information on government plans, programs, and budgets, more than half of the respondents cite friends, family, and neighbors as the key sources, followed by local community leaders, television, and social media. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the share of respondents who mentioned social media and the internet as a source of information for local government activities.

The SNP team believed that in-depth analysis of the survey data is crucial to inform the government of the reasons and contexts behind people's perceptions of the state of the nation and the governance mechanisms. Thus, in the coming years, the survey of Nepali people needs to add qualitative analysis to help explain the quantitative data. We hope the data presented provides insight into the performance of the governments at all three levels, i.e., federal, provincial, and local.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to making the survey successful and to producing this National Brief Report of SNP 2022. First and foremost, the team at The Asia Foundation made funds available via two grant agreements: one from the Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and another from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Then, I would like to acknowledge Interdisciplinary Analysts, particularly for their assistance in designing the questionnaire, conducting fieldwork, and compiling the data. Equally important is the contribution of the distinguished steering committee members who helped guide the project with their critical insights during every step of the process. They deserve our deepest appreciation. The colleagues from KUSOA who took on the challenge of SNP 2022 and saw it through successful completion culminating in writing this report, I acknowledge their effort and dedication. Last but not least, I would like to sincerely thank the enumerators and the Nepali people without whose participation the survey would not have been possible.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the Survey of the Nepali People (SNP 2022) interviewed a nationally representative sample of 7,056 Nepalis randomly selected from 588 wards across all seven provinces. This Koshi Province Brief, is based on answers from a sample of 1,010 respondents in 84 wards of Koshi Province. The Brief presents findings on peoples' views on the country's direction, the situation of their household, local conditions, security, identity and social relations, governance, public service delivery, elections, political participation, economic outlook, and the socio-economic impact of Covid-19.

The SNP survey series began in 2017 when the country was transitioning into a federal governance structure and the first local elections within the new political set-up had just been completed. Subsequent survey rounds were conducted in 2018 and 2020. SNP 2020 captured the perception of Nepalis just before the onset of Covid-19. SNP 2022, however, reflects opinions on the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 in the country. Data collection for SNP 2022 was completed in August 2022 after the conduct of the second local election cycle held on May 13, 2022. Therefore, findings may also serve as a five-year report card of the country's federal, provincial, and local governments, as seen through the lens of its people.

Since SNP 2020, there have been significant events, both in Nepal and worldwide. The country witnessed the dissolution of the Parliament and its subsequent reinstatement following a Supreme Court ruling. Nepal also experienced new electoral coalitions, an impeachment motion against the Chief Justice, a series of corruption scandals, nationwide Covid-19 lockdowns, and disruptions in supply chains and rising inflation due to the global economic downturn and the Russia-Ukraine war. These events have had huge impacts on the trajectory of Nepal's development and the daily lives of its citizens, as reflected in the survey results. However, the survey findings only reflect a snapshot of perspectives from a sample of citizens at the time of data collection.

The collapse of the government headed by K.P. Oli and the effects of the splintering of UML into CPN (Unified Socialist) led by Madhav Kumar Nepal could also be seen in Koshi Province. The UML which had till then led the Koshi Province government collapsed and a new government led by CPN (Unified Socialist) supported by CPN Maoists and Nepali Congress was formed. On behalf of the alliance, Rajendra Kumar Rai of CPN (Unified Socialist) was then appointed as the Chief Minister on November 2, 2021. The fact that the local elections were held on time on May 13, 2022 and the outcome of the local elections have also affected the public's opinion in Koshi Province.

The previous surveys showed steady optimism about the overall direction of the country, including the functioning of the federal structure and local governments. Contrary to the earlier rounds, this year, the survey findings for Koshi Province depict a less optimistic outlook of the country's direction, economic conditions, and on political participation and governance. Nepalis living in Koshi Province who think that the country is moving in the right direction stand at its lowest among all surveys, at 45.7%. The share of people with a positive economic outlook also dropped noticeably to just 28.8% (down from 43.0% in 2018).

The socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on the country and on individual households is quite evident in the survey results, and people expect support from the government through improved health services, cash schemes, employment opportunities, and educational support for children to aid their recovery. Fewer Nepalis in Koshi Province state that their household financial situation is better compared to the previous year. Increased corruption, inflation, deteriorating economic conditions, and difficulties getting jobs are the most frequently reported problems in Koshi Province in 2022. Political parties continue to remain the least trusted institution.

Despite the lower levels of optimism, survey data indicates slightly favorable opinions about local areas and local governments in Koshi Province as is the case at the national level. While there is a slight drop in percentages reporting local conditions are improving compared to 2020, the figure is still more than double compared to the outlook on the country's direction. Local government continues to garner more trust than federal and provincial governments. Likewise, overall satisfaction with services delivered by the local government is at 67.5%.

In Koshi Province, the share of respondents who report ease in receiving services from local governments has increased. Local governments were cited as the most responsive actor to manage Covid-19. More than two-thirds of respondents report that the local government's responsiveness has remained the same compared to last year. However, the level of public awareness of and participation in the local governance processes continue to remain low. Over the years, there is a decline in the proportion of respondents who report feeling disadvantaged while obtaining public services and at their workplace due to their gender, caste/ethnicity, and mother tongue other than Nepali. There are increasingly favorable views on gender roles and equality when it comes to women's control over income, movement, and decisions.

Differences across variables, such as ethnicity, gender, education, and geographical location of respondents are fairly pronounced in the findings. While the national brief only presented the key findings and significant variations across variables, this Brief from Koshi Province aims to capture provincial disaggregation in more detail.

This Provincial Brief presents key findings around the following six broad topics:

Public outlook and national mood. Views on the general direction of the country, conditions in the area where they live, and the situation of their household; what has improved and what problems remain.

Security and dispute resolution. People's sense of safety and experience of crime and violence, preferred avenues for dispute resolution, and level of confidence in those institutions to deliver justice.

Identity. Views on patterns of discrimination, social values, and leadership positions.

Governance and political participation. Views on local-level restructuring; trust in institutions; awareness on government services and the quality of public service delivery (education, health care, and roads); and local elections, and taxation.

Economic outlook and access to information. Views on local economic conditions, household income, migration and remittances, awareness and access to insurance, and preferred sources of information.

Impact of Covid-19. Government responsiveness to manage Covid-19, coping strategies, and what needs to be done for socio-economic recovery.

2. PUBLIC OUTLOOK AND NATIONAL MOOD

2.1 DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

In 2022, residents of Koshi Province were noticeably less optimistic about the country's overall direction than in to previous years. When asked, "Do you think the country is moving in the right direction or do you think it is moving in the wrong direction?," only 45.7% of respondents said it is moving in the right direction, and 50.4% said the wrong direction. Some 3.9% of the respondents had no opinion or could not say clearly. Compared to 2020, the share of respondents who believed that the country is moving in wrong direction increased by 16.4 percentage points in 2022.

Overall direction of the country, by year

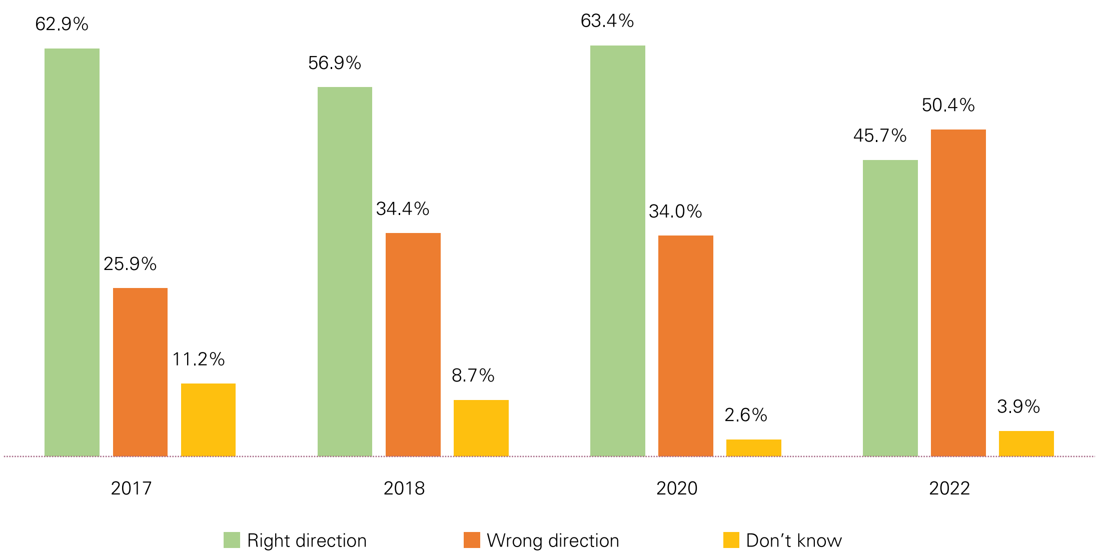

Figure 2.1.1: Q-B1a. Overall, do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? (N=1010)

In Koshi Province, and nationwide, the shares of respondents reporting optimism about direction of the country had decreased in 2022 compared to previous years (Figure 2.1.2).

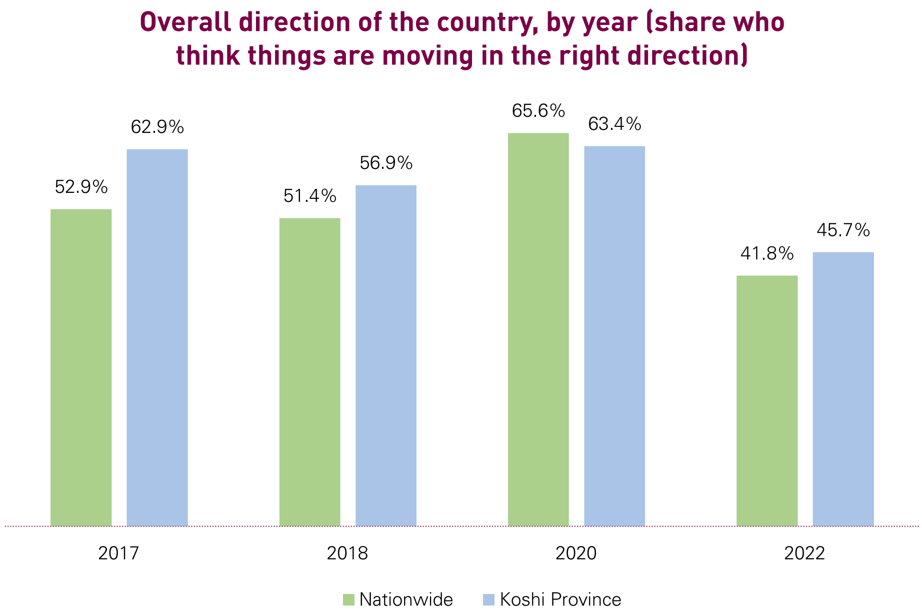

Figure 2.1.2: Q-B1a. Overall, do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction?

The share of people in Koshi Province who were optimistic about the direction of the country shrunk by 17.7 percentage points in the year 2022 compared to 2020.

Some of the differences in opinion are associated with the demographic characteristics of the respondents. For example, more young people in the 18-24 age group (51.8%) have positive outlooks than those in the 45 and above age group (44.1%). Meanwhile, respondents with higher level of education (those with Bachelor's degree and above) (46.1%) tend to be less optimistic than those who have non-formal education (64.6%). Similarly, respondents from rural municipalities (53.5%) are more optimistic than those from urban municipalities (41.8%).

Compared to the national average (45.7%), a smaller proportion of from the Madhesi Dalit group in Koshi Province (35.7%) are positive that the country is moving in the right direction. Responses from those in the Hill group (56.5%) are more optimistic than the national figure (45.7%), whereas responses from the Terai group (38.6%) are less optimistic than the national average. Responses from the Mountain group (47.4%) are broadly in line with the national figure.

In addition to the overall direction of the country, the survey also asked respondents about their outlook on the status of the of social, economic, political, cultural, and physical infrastructure sectors across the country. Respondents seemed less positive in 2022 across all sectors compared to 2020 (Figure 2.1.3). More than half of respondents seemed positive about social (57.9%), cultural (56.5%), and physical infrastructure (65.4%), while fewer consider the economy (30.2%) and political sphere (21.7%) to be headed in the right direction.

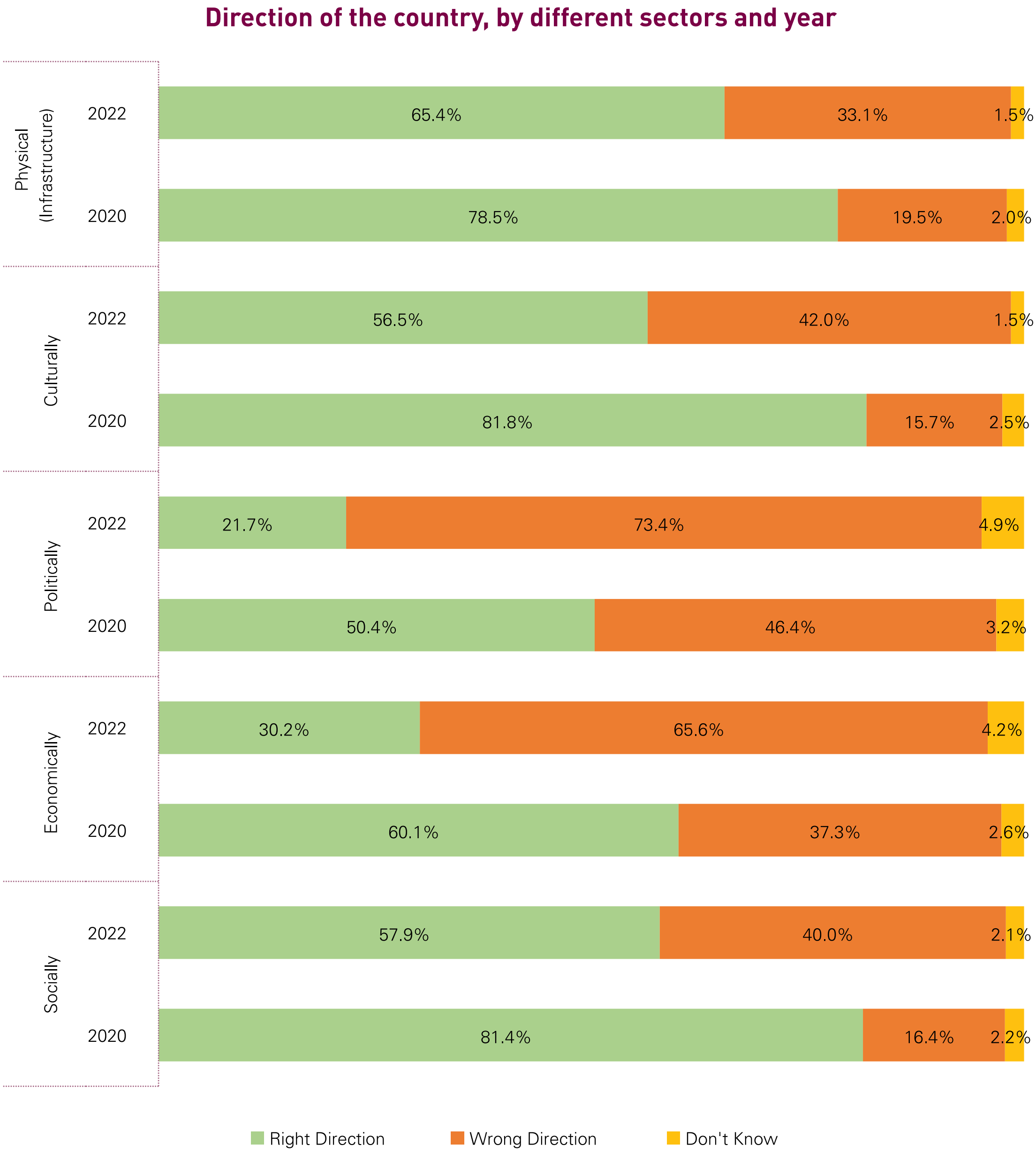

Figure 2.1.3: Q-B1b-f. Do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? Please answer considering the overall as well as social, economic, political, cultural, and physical (infrastructural) conditions of the country. (N=1010)

2.2 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Respondents who believed that Nepal is headed in right direction (45.7%) were asked to identify the main reasons for their optimism. In 2022, the most commonly cited reasons were better roads (46.9%), access to education (23.2%), the promulgation of the constitution (16.5%), access to health services (13%), and the end of the decade long conflict (11.8%) (Figure 2.2.1).

Throughout all survey years, improvement of roads and trails remained the most frequently cited reason why people believed the country was moving in the right direction. The share of respondents citing better access to education has increased over time. Notably, the shares mentioning better access to health services increased by 11.3 percentage points between 2017 and 2022, and by 9.1 percentage points between 2020 and 2022.

Top reasons for optimism, by year (%)

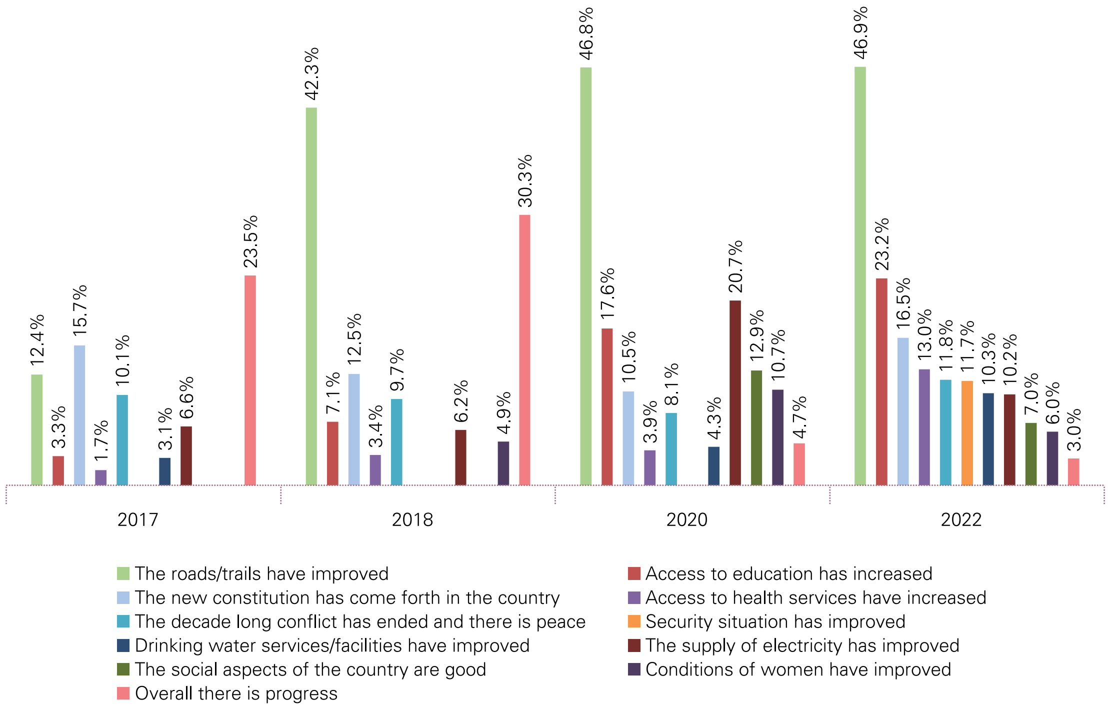

Figure 2.2.1: Q-B2. [If answered "Nepal is going in the right direction" to Q-B1] Why do you think that Nepal is going in the right direction? (N=461)[1]

2.3 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

The survey respondents, regardless of their outlook, considered corruption/extortion (43.9%), the rise in prices of essential goods (26.5%), the deteriorating economic condition of the country (17.7%), and difficulties to work and find jobs (13.8%) to be their most pressing problems in 2022.

In the first two survey years, i.e., 2017 and 2018, not many respondents cited corruption as a problem. In 2020, however, there was a stark increase with many more considering corruption a problem; from 11.5% in 2018 to 51.5% in 2020. By 2022, the shares concerned about corruption decreased again, but remained high with 43.9% of respondents concerned about it.

The share of respondents who mentioned difficulties finding jobs decreased by 7 percentage points in 2022 compared to 2020. The shares of people citing the increasing price of essential goods as a problem increased between 2017 and 2018 but has remained almost constant since then.

1 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were limited to cite the two reasons for their optimism but in 2020 and 2022 respondent were allowed to give multiple responses. To compare the optimism of respondents across the four years, first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

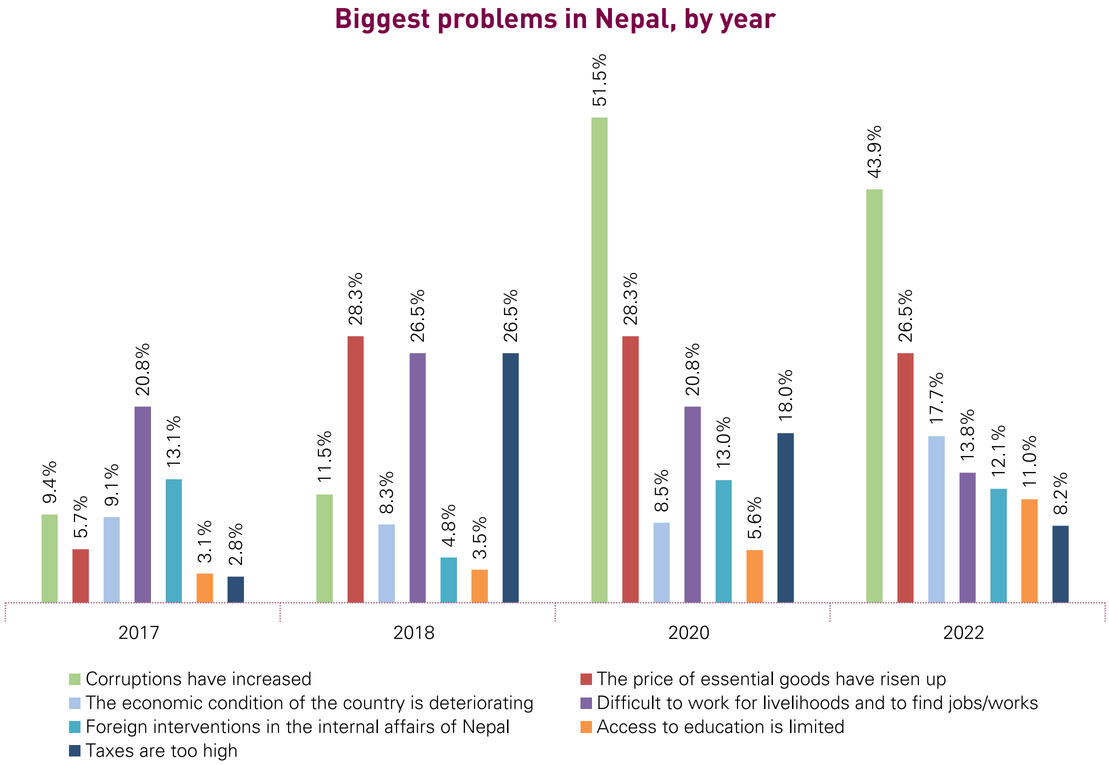

Figure 2.3.1: Q-B3. In your view, what are the two biggest problems facing Nepal as a whole? (N=1010)[2]

2.4 LOCAL CONDITIONS

The survey also examined the opinions of respondents regarding the locality where they live and work most of the time.

Overall, people in Koshi Province were optimistic about local conditions. More than three-quarters (78.8%) thought the situation of their local areas was improving; while 19.7% believed that local conditions were getting worse. The shares who mentioned that the general situation of their localities was improving increased steadily from 69.6% in 2017 to 71.2% in 2018 and 79.5% in 2020, and remained high in 2022 (78.8%).

2 In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

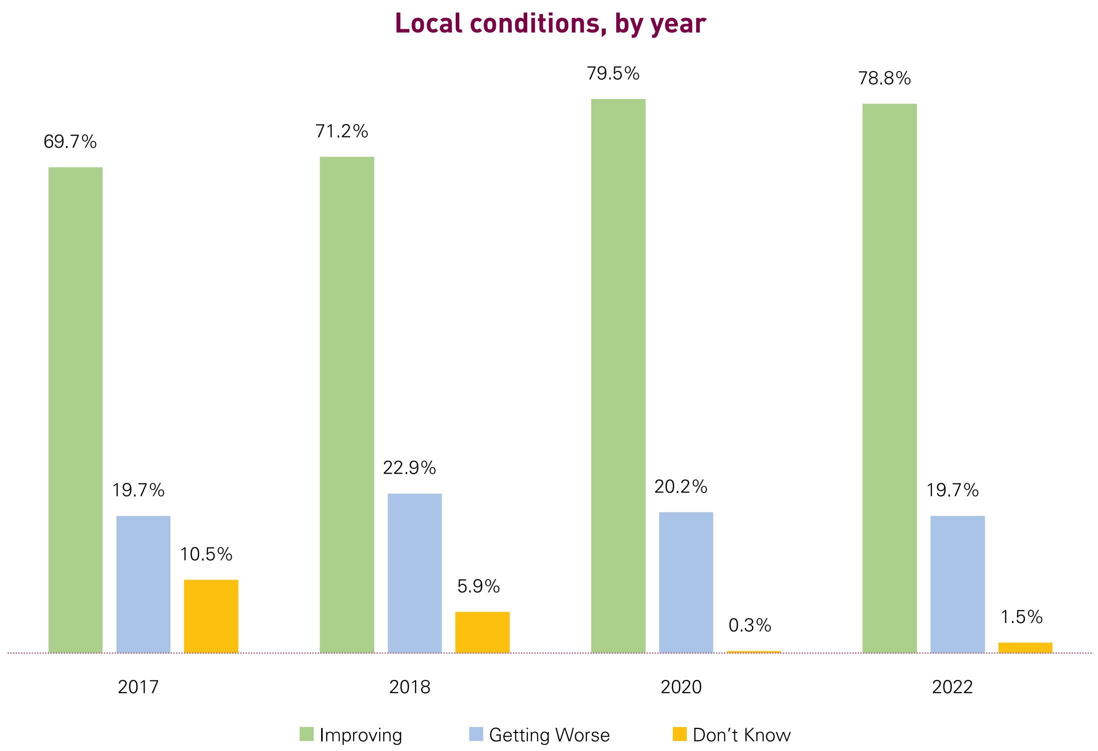

Figure 2.4.1: Q-B4a. Overall, Now I would like you to think about the locality where you live and work most of the time. Do you think things in your locality are improving, or do you think they are getting worse? (N=1010)

Respondents from rural municipalities (82.6%) gave a slightly more positive assessments of local conditions than those in urban municipalities (77.0%). Likewise, more respondents from the Hill region (83.8%) believed that their local conditions are improving, compared to respondents from the Mountain (72.3%) and Terai regions (76.5%).

Reasons for Improvement in Local Conditions

Reasons for optimism about local conditions were similar to the reasons for an optimistic national outlook. Of the respondents who believed conditions in their local areas were improving (overall 78.8% of respondents in Koshi Province), about half (49%) mentioned improved conditions of roads and trails as the main reason, followed by access to education (16.5%) and peace at the local level (16.1%). Improved drinking water facilities (13.8%), supply of electricity (12.1%) and access to health services (11.1%) were other reasons cited for improving local conditions (Figure 2.4.2).

In each survey round, the most frequently mentioned reason for improving local areas was better roads. Between 2018 and 2022, however, the shares citing this very reason decreased from 65% to 49%. A steady increase, on the other hand, can be seen in the shares citing better access to education as reason for improving local areas. Some 16.1% of residents – more than in previous survey rounds – cited peace at the local level as reason for optimism about local conditions in 2022.

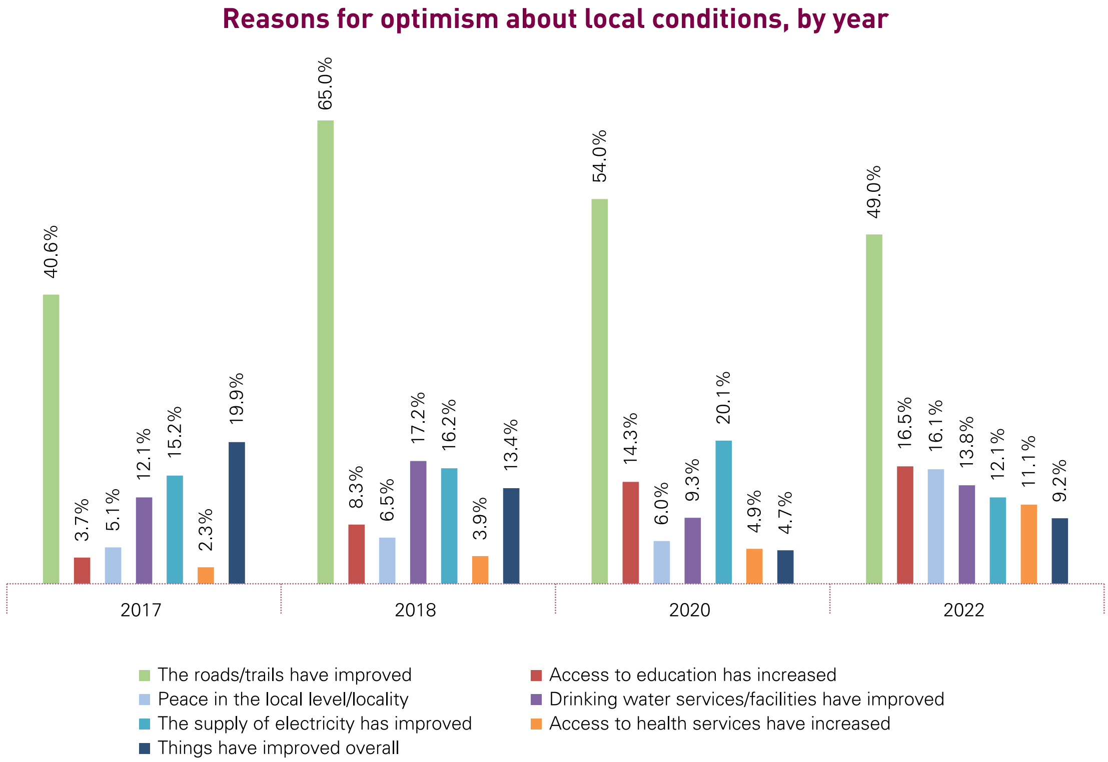

Figure 2.4.2: Q-B5. [If improving] In your view what things have improved in your area (municipality/rural municipality) compared to the past year? (N=793)[3]

Problems and Challenges at the Local Level

All respondents were asked about the major problems and challenges in their local area. In Koshi Province, rising prices of essential goods (29.8%) was the most common challenge, followed by difficulties finding jobs (20.9%) and deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (19.1%). Corruption, high local taxes, and inadequate improvements to drinking water facilities were mentioned less frequently (Figure 2.6.1.).

Over the years, there was a sharp decline in the shares mentioning bad road conditions (49.5% in 2017 to 19.1% in 2022). Conversely, the share of people who cite increasing prices of basic goods and corruption as problems has been rising steadily.

3 In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

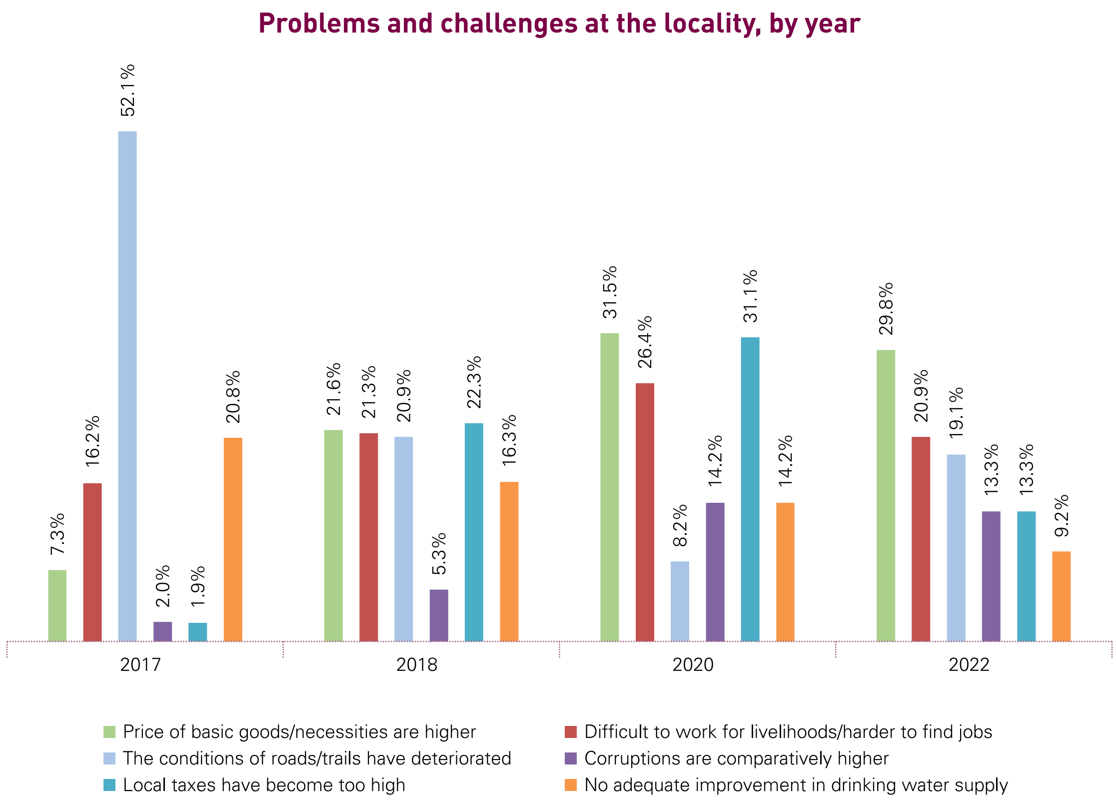

Figure 2.6.1: Q-B6. In your view what are the biggest problems in the area where you live and work most of the time? (N=1010)[4]

2.5 SITUATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Respondents were asked nine questions about various aspects of the evolution of household over the past year (Table 2.5.1).

In 2022, the share of respondents who said that 'things are same' noticeably decreased for all questions compared to previous survey rounds. Instead, noticeably more people said that the situation got worse for nearly all questions. The shares reporting improvements increased only slightly compared to SNP 2020.

The shares saying that the health and well-being of their family members has gotten worse almost doubled since 2020 (from 10.6% in 2020 to 20.5% in 2022). Similarly, a noticeable increase can be seen in the share of respondents who mention that both their financial situation and the physical situation of their household has gotten worse.

4 In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

Situation of the household, by year

	Year	Better	Same	Worse
Financial situation of your household	2017	30.6%	60.3%	9.1%
	2018	25.0%	63.4%	11.6%
	2020	28.7%	64.3%	7.0%
	2022	29.4%	55.9%	14.6%
Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	2017	15.0%	82.1%	3.0%
	2018	13.2%	83.6%	3.2%
	2020	20.9%	75.4%	3.7%
	2022	25.0%	66.8%	8.2%
Health/well-being of your family members	2017	15.9%	70.3%	13.8%
	2018	10.9%	77.7%	11.4%
	2020	17.3%	72.0%	10.6%
	2022	20.0%	59.8%	20.1%
Relations with other people in the community	2017	26.2%	72.8%	0.9%
	2018	19.0%	79.8%	1.2%
	2020	25.6%	73.1%	1.3%
	2022	26.0%	69.2%	4.8%
Relations with local government and authorities	2017	22.0%	75.9%	1.8%
	2018	12.9%	84.6%	2.4%
	2020	20.3%	78.2%	1.5%
	2022	21.3%	73.5%	5.2%
Access to electricity	2017	28.3%	56.7%	15.0%
	2018	20.8%	73.9%	5.3%
	2020	29.7%	67.3%	3.1%
	2022	33.1%	60.0%	7.0%
Access to drinking water	2017	14.5%	69.1%	16.4%
	2018	17.6%	76.8%	5.5%
	2020	21.6%	73.8%	4.6%
	2022	30.2%	60.2%	9.6%
Access to markets	2022	27.4%	63.0%	9.5%
Access to public transport	2022	31.3%	60.1%	8.5%

Table 2.5.1: Q-B7a-g. Compared to last year, would you say that the situation for your household has gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse? (Base=1010)

2.6 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCES

When asked whether they had to skip a meal, go without medical treatment or medicine, and/or keep their children home from school due to financial constraints, a vast majority selected "never." However, over the years, there has been an increase in the share of respondents reporting "sometimes" for going without medical treatments (16.7%), not sending children to school (13%), and skipping a meal (11.4%) due to lack of money.

Household experience due to lack of money, by year

	Year	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Skipped a meal	2018	0.3%	0.7%	9.1%	90.0%
	2020	0.0%	0.0%	4.4%	95.6%
	2022	0.0%	0.0%	11.4%	88.6%
Gone without medical treatment	2018	0.3%	3.0%	17.1%	79.6%
	2020	0.0%	1.0%	11.2%	87.8%
	2022	0.2%	1.6%	16.7%	81.4%
Not been able to send children to school	2018	0.0%	0.6%	10.2%	89.2%
	2020	0.0%	0.2%	7.1%	92.7%
	2022	0.3%	1.7%	13.0%	85.0%

Table 2.6.1: Q-B8. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how often have you or your household ...... because you didn't have money? (N=1010)

3. PERSONAL SAFETY AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

3.1 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, CRIME AND JUSTICE

To examine whether or not a respondent and the members of their household in Koshi Province have been victims of different types of violence or criminal activities in the past one year, around 17 different types of activities or situations related to violence and crime were read out to respondents one by one.

The majority of households did not report experiencing any kind of violence or criminal activities in the past one year. Theft was reported most commonly (3.8%). Some 3.3% cited that they have been cheated in lending/borrowing or monetary transactions, and 0.9% mentioned extortion. Less than one percent of respondents cited other types of violence.

Over the years, the shares of people who said someone of their family was the victim of violence and crime has been decreasing; however, in 2022, a slight increase could be seen (Table 3.1.1)

Household experiences of violence and crime under different situations

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Theft	4.8%	6.2%	2.0%	3.8%
Physical assault/beating	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%
Assault with weapon	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%
Cheating in lending/borrowing or transactions	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	3.3%
Burglary/Breaking and Entering/Looting	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Extortion	0.4%	6.2%	0.3%	0.9%
Motor vehicle theft /property taken from vehicle or vehicle parts stolen	1.5%	1.1%	0.4%	0.6%
Livestock theft	0.7%	0.6%	1.5%	0.6%
Experienced any form of violence during a political rally, protest or bandh	0.8%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Kidnapping	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Murder/murder attempt	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%
Sexual violence	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Human trafficking	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Gender-based Violence	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Physical Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%
Sexual Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Financial exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	5.7%	2.0%	0.8%
Others	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 3.1.1: Q-C3. Have you or has anyone in your household been the victim of the following types of violence or criminal act in the past year? (Base=1010)

3.2 JUSTICE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

The survey also asked if people have approached dispute resolution mechanisms over conflicts related to land, borrowing/debt, domestic violence, other forms violence or crime, and defamation/false accusation (Figure 3.2.1).[5]

Only small shares reported getting help from an institution, official or person to resolve a conflict. The largest share (4.8%) sought help for land disputes – up from 1.9% in 2020. Some 2.1% asked for help with disputes over borrowing/debt, and around one percent of respondents went to look for help for disputes related to domestic violence, defamation/false accusation or other types of violence and crime.

Around half of the respondents said that the question was not applicable as they did not encounter any of the types of dispute mentioned. The rest reported they did not seek help. Since 2020, the share of people who said that seeking help to resolve disputes is not applicable to them has decreased, for any of the types of disputes listed.

5 The question related to defamation/false accusation was introduced only in 2022.

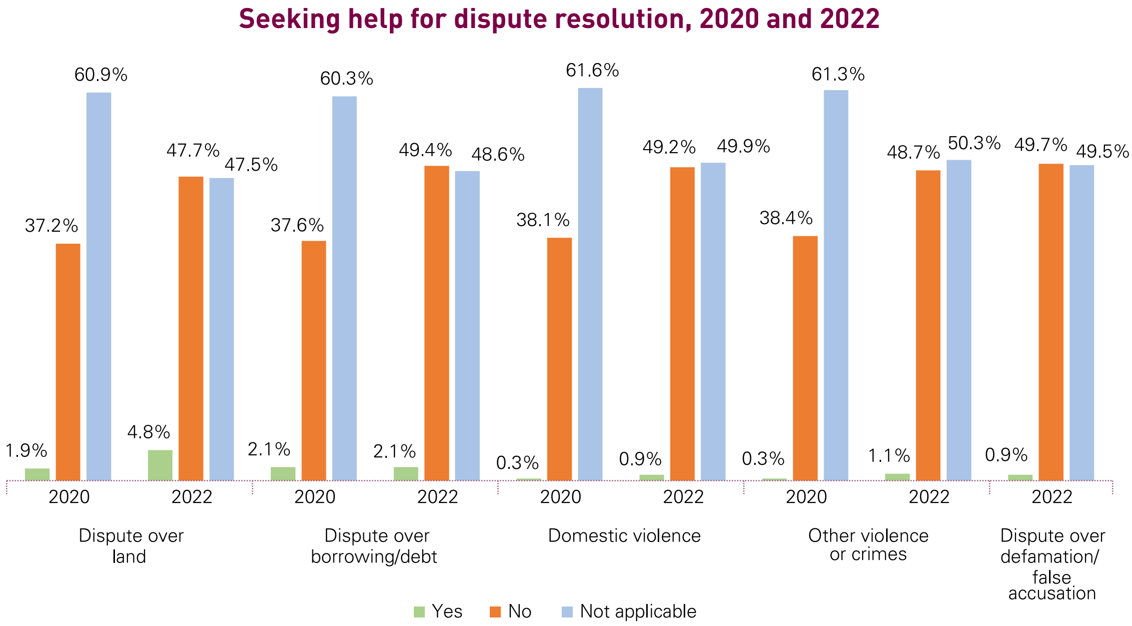

Figure 3.2.1: Q-C8. In the past one year, have you or the members of your family been to any institution, official or person to seek help for dispute resolution in each of the following cases? (N=1010)

The respondents who said that they sought help for a particular type of dispute were further asked about the types of institutions, officials or persons they approach in order to resolve the disputes.

For land disputes, people mostly went to ward chairpersons/members (36.9%) and mayors/rural municipality chairs (28.4%). For dispute over borrowing or debt, respondents mostly approached civil servants in the village or the municipal office (34.9%). For domestic violence, they went to members of the state assembly (68.8%). For dispute over defamation/false accusation they approached the police (51.9%).

It is noticeable that the small percentage of people who did seek help, approached more different kinds of institutions, officials and people in 2022 than in 2020.

Of the 4.8% of respondents who had approached an institution or individual for help with land disputes, 66.6% said they received justice, 12.8% said it is still in process and 20.6% said they did not receive justice.

4. IDENTITY

4.1 MOTHER TONGUE

In Koshi Province, around three-fifths of respondents (60.8%) said that Nepali is their mother tongue, while nearly two-fifths (39.2%) reported that they have another language as mother tongue. Nation-wide, more than half of respondents (51.7%) reported a language other than Nepali as their mother tongue.[6]

Nepali was the most commonly reported mother tongue across Koshi Province (60.8%), followed by Maithili (8.7%), Rai (6.7%) and Limbu and Tharu (4.9% each). In the Terai region of Koshi Province, 56.3% said Nepali is their mother tongue. The shares reporting Nepali as mother tongue were higher in the mountain (61.7%) and hill (67.7%) regions of the province.

Mother tongue, by province and ecological region

		Overall	Ecological Region		
			Mountain	Hill	Terai
Across the Country	Nepali	48.3%	69.6%	66.9%	29.4%
	Other than Nepali	51.7%	30.4%	33.1%	70.6%
Koshi Province	Nepali	60.8%	61.7%	67.7%	56.3%
	Other than Nepali	39.2%	38.3%	32.3%	43.7%

Table 4.1.1: Q-D1. What is your mother tongue? (N=1010)

6 According to the 2011 census, Nepali is spoken as mother tongue by 44.6 percent of the total population. But the latest census data with regards to mother tongue is not available in preliminary findings of the 2021 census.

4.2 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO MOTHER TONGUE

The 39.2% of respondents from Koshi Province who reported a language other than Nepali language as their mother tongue were further asked if they feel disadvantaged in different situations because Nepali is not their mother tongue – when interacting with colleagues or clients at work, when they go to the police station to report a problem, while going to government offices to obtain a public service, when accessing health services, and when studying at school or university.

In all five situations, the overwhelming majority of respondents did not feel disadvantaged for having a mother tongue other than Nepali in 2022. The largest share felt disadvantaged when interacting with their colleagues or clients at work (8.3%) or when obtaining public services (7.1%). Around five percent each of respondents felt disadvantaged when attending public events (5.2%), while obtaining an education (4.7%), or when accessing health services at a health post/ hospital (4.5%). Much fewer people felt disadvantaged when interacting with police to report a problem (1.3%).

Mother tongue as a disadvantage, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people	Disadvantage	22.7%	7.1%	7.3%	8.3%
	Not a Disadvantage	77.3%	92.9%	92.7%	91.7%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	21.6%	3.5%	3.7%	1.3%
	Not a Disadvantage	78.4%	96.5%	96.3%	98.7%
To obtain services in a government office	Disadvantage	20.8%	6.7%	5.5%	7.1%
	Not a Disadvantage	79.2%	93.3%	94.5%	92.9%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post	Disadvantage	18.9%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%
	Not a Disadvantage	81.1%	95.5%	95.5%	95.5%
To study at a school or a university	Disadvantage	16.2%	3.8%	3.4%	4.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	83.8%	96.2%	96.6%	95.3%
When attending public events	Disadvantage				5.2%
	Not a Disadvantage				94.8%

Table 4.2.1: Q-D2a–e. [If "No, Nepali is not my mother tongue" to Q-D1] Do you feel disadvantaged because you cannot use your mother tongue, instead of Nepali, in the following situations? (N=396)

The shares of respondents who felt disadvantaged in various situations decreased significantly between 2017 and 2022. For example, those who felt at a disadvantage reporting a problem in a police station decreased from 21.6% in 2017 to only 1.3% in 2022. Similarly, the shares who were feeling disadvantaged while interacting with colleagues or clients at work decreased from 22.7% in 2017 to 8.3% in 2022.

Respondents with Maithali and Tharu languages as their mother tongue were comparatively more likely to report disadvantages – especially while interacting with people at work (16.5% and 16.7%, respectively), when obtaining public services (14.6% and 12.7%, respectively), and when accessing health services (6.7% and 11.9%, respectively). Nepalis with Rajbansi as mother tongue mostly felt disadvantaged while going to a government office to obtain public services (8.7%). Some 11.4% respondents with Rai languages as mother tongue report disadvantages while attending public events.

4.3 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO CASTE/ETHNICITY

Nearly all of the respondents in Koshi Province (over 99%) did not feel disadvantaged because of their caste or ethnicity in any of the five situations asked about (Table 4.3.1). The share of respondents who felt disadvantaged noticeably decreased in 2022 compared to previous survey rounds.

Caste and Ethnicity as disadvantage, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people	Disadvantage	6.8%	2.5%	2.3%	0.9%
	Not a disadvantage	93.2%	97.5%	97.7%	99.1%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	5.0%	1.6%	2.1%	0.5%
	Not a disadvantage	95.0%	98.4%	97.9%	99.5%
To obtain services in a government office	Disadvantage	6.0%	1.6%	1.9%	1.0%
	Not a disadvantage	94.0%	98.4%	98.1%	99.0%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post	Disadvantage	5.1%	1.7%	1.5%	0.8%
	Not a disadvantage	94.9%	98.3%	98.5%	99.2%
To study at a school or a university	Disadvantage	4.9%	1.7%	1.3%	0.5%
	Not a disadvantage	95.1%	98.3%	98.7%	99.5%

Table 4.3.1: Q-D3a-e. Do you feel that your caste/ ethnicity is a disadvantage in the following situations?

4.4 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO GENDER

A small proportion of women respondents reported that their gender puts them at a disadvantage in the situations mentioned in the survey.[7] The share of women who felt their gender was a disadvantage was small and further declined compared to previous years. Women mostly felt disadvantaged while travelling in public transport (6.3%), and when roaming/walking around public places (3.2%) (Table 4.4.1).

Gender as a disadvantage, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interacting with other people at work	Disadvantage	4.7%	2.9%	2.1%	1.2%
	Not a disadvantage	95.3%	97.1%	97.9%	98.8%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	4.4%	1.6%	2.9%	1.6%
	Not a disadvantage	95.6%	98.4%	97.1%	98.4%
To obtain a government services	Disadvantage	4.5%	2.2%	1.7%	1.1%
	Not a disadvantage	95.5%	97.8%	98.3%	98.9%
To access health services	Disadvantage	4.1%	2.2%	1.6%	1.1%
	Not a disadvantage	95.9%	97.8%	98.4%	98.9%
To study at school or the university	Disadvantage	3.5%	0.9%	2.0%	1.3%
	Not a disadvantage	96.5%	99.1%	98.0%	98.7%

7 This question was asked only to women respondents.

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To travel in public transport	Disadvantage	-	10.9%	5.3%	6.3%
	Not a disadvantage		89.1%	94.7%	93.7%
To roam/walk around the public places	Disadvantage	-	-	5.0%	3.2%
	Not a disadvantage			95.0%	96.8%

Table 4.4.1: Q-D4a–g. Do you feel that your gender is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=530; asked only to female respondents) (Response as 'Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' are excluded)

More women respondents from the Hill region (8.3%) reported feeling disadvantaged because of their gender while travelling in public transport, than those from Terai region (5.0%). Yet, women from the Madhesi Caste (Level-2) community and from lower income households were more likely to regard their gender a disadvantage. Some 13.2% of Madhesi Caste (Level-2) women said that their gender is a disadvantage while travelling in public transport and roaming around public place.

4.5 SOCIAL VALUES

Perception on Inter-caste Marriage

Respondents were asked how they felt about inter-caste marriages. Four-fifth of the respondents (80.1%) in Koshi Province would accept inter-caste marriage if their son or daughter got married to someone from a different caste/ethnic group. Slightly less than one-fifth (17.3%) said that they would not accept a son-in-law or a daughter-in-law from a different caste/ethnic group.

In 2022, there has been decrease in the increasing trend of acceptance of inter-caste marriage that could be seen in three prior survey years i.e., from 80.2% in 2017, to 85.9% in 2018 and 86.5% in 2020 back down to 80.1% in 2022. Conversely, the share of respondents who reject inter-caste marriage increased from 11.5% in 2020 to 17.6% in 2022.

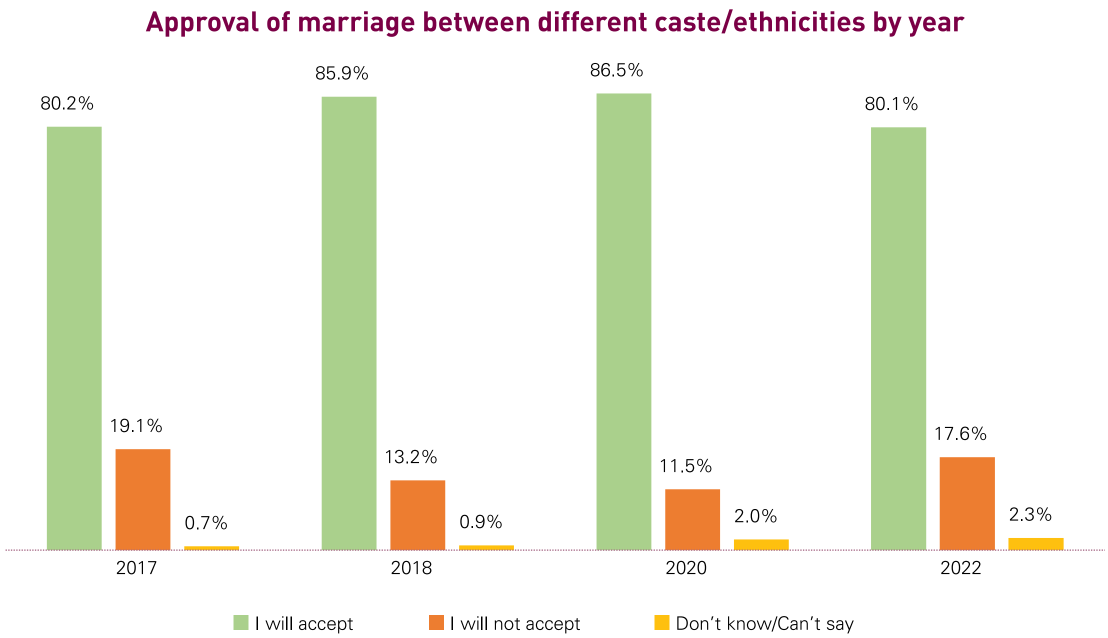

Figure 4.5.1: Q-D9. Would you accept if your son or daughter marry someone from a different caste? [N=991]

Acceptance of inter-caste marriage was higher among respondents in the mountain region (95.6%), rural municipalities (85.0%), from the Hill Dalit community (92.2%), and from the Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati community (88.6%). In contrast, 100% of Muslim respondents would disapprove if their children get married to someone from another caste.

The acceptance of inter-caste marriage is directly associated with respondents' educational levels; 12.2% of respondents with a bachelor's degree report disapproving of an inter-caste marriage compared to 20.6% of uneducated respondents.

4.6 THE POSITION OF NEPALI WOMEN IN SOCIETY

In order to assess views on the position of women, gender equality, gender identity, and gender roles, respondents were presented with thirteen statements to which they could 'strongly agree,' 'somewhat agree,' 'strongly disagree,' or 'somewhat disagree.' There were wide variations in responses across the statements.

Nine out of 10 respondents disagreed that sons are more important than daughters (91.3%)[8]. A majority also disagreed that women should not be encouraged to work outside their homes (94.3%), and that women should not engage in politics (93.3%). One in ten believed that women should not have control over their own income, movement, and decisions, and if a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her (10.4% each).

Views on gender roles and gender equality, by year

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It is more important for a family to have a son than a daughter	2017	1.2%	7.5%	36.2%	55.1%
	2018	1.5%	9.4%	41.5%	47.7%
	2020	2.5%	9.3%	21.9%	66.3%
	2022	3.6%	5.0%	5.5%	85.8%
Women should not be encouraged to work outside the home	2017	1.0%	3.4%	30.0%	65.6%
	2018	1.2%	3.8%	51.9%	42.8%
	2020	0.6%	7.9%	23.5%	68.0%
	2022	2.5%	2.7%	9.0%	85.3%
It is not suitable for women to engage in politics	2017	12.3%	8.7%	26.3%	52.4%
	2018	2.1%	9.7%	46.7%	41.1%
	2020	0.6%	7.4%	23.3%	68.7%
	2022	1.9%	4.0%	11.0%	82.3%
Women should not have control over her income, movement and other decision making process	2018	12.3%	39.4%	35.9%	10.9%
	2020	4.1%	19.5%	22.3%	54.1%
	2022	2.7%	7.7%	11.6%	77.2%
If a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her.	2018	1.2%	25.0%	40.3%	32.7%
	2020	1.5%	7.4%	25.2%	65.9%
	2022	3.7%	6.7%	10.9%	78.7%

8 Combined figure for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
When job opportunities are limited, men should have more right to a job.	2018	2.9%	19.1%	50.6%	26.4%
	2020	2.4%	13.2%	24.2%	60.0%
	2022	2.9%	7.0%	12.7%	77.1%
It is a man's responsibility to fulfil financial needs for his family.	2018	12.8%	45.4%	30.7%	10.9%
	2020	7.2%	22.3%	18.2%	52.3%
	2022	2.9%	8.0%	13.6%	75.5%
Male members of family other than husband(father in law, brother in law) have right to punish the daughter in law if she disobeys them	2020	0.9%	2.3%	24.4%	72.4%
	2022	3.1%	5.4%	7.5%	84.0%

Table 4.6.1: Q-D10a–m. Would you please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1010)

4.7 VIEWS ON LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Respondents were asked whether they would prefer a man or a woman for various leadership positions in different types of organizations or institutions – or whether they prefer a capable person regardless of their gender. The highest shares preferred a capable person for all then positions asked about: more than three-fourths expressed that they would accept either a woman or a man as long as s/he is capable. Of those who had a preference of a particular gender, slightly higher shares preferred women than men for 9 of the ten positions (Table 4.7.1).

Over time, the shares of respondents who think that a capable person should be trusted with various leadership positions, irrespective of their gender, has gone up significantly for all types of organization/institutions.

Views on leadership positions

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Chief Executive Position of Federal Government	2018	41.3%	39.3%	19.4%	0.0%
	2020	14.7%	16.7%	68.6%	0.0%
	2022	11.7%	7.4%	78.9%	2.0%
Chief Executive Position of Provincial Government	2018	41.6%	36.9%	21.5%	0.0%
	2020	12.8%	15.2%	72.0%	0.0%
	2022	9.9%	7.0%	81.0%	2.1%
Chief Executive Position of Local Government	2018	42.2%	38.8%	19.0%	0.0%
	2020	12.9%	14.5%	72.6%	0.0%
	2022	11.3%	7.0%	80.8%	0.9%
Ward Chairperson	2018	43.6%	39.3%	17.1%	0.0%
	2020	16.7%	15.7%	67.5%	0.0%
	2022	11.1%	7.9%	80.7%	0.3%

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Chairperson of Political Party	2018	31.4%	44.8%	23.8%	0.0%
	2020	12.2%	15.3%	72.5%	0.0%
	2022	7.8%	9.7%	81.9%	0.5%
Chairperson of User Groups	2018	51.1%	31.8%	17.1%	0.0%
	2020	20.5%	9.0%	70.5%	0.0%
	2022	8.8%	5.6%	85.0%	0.6%
Chairperson of Saving and Credit Cooperatives	2018	61.2%	22.7%	16.0%	0.0%
	2020	22.9%	6.5%	70.5%	0.0%
	2022	10.6%	5.6%	81.5%	2.3%
Chairperson of School Management Committee	2018	42.6%	39.7%	17.7%	0.0%
	2020	12.0%	15.7%	72.3%	0.0%
	2022	9.4%	6.2%	84.1%	0.4%
CEO of Private Company/Organization	2018	36.6%	41.3%	22.1%	0.0%
	2020	11.0%	11.8%	77.3%	0.0%
	2022	8.8%	5.8%	82.2%	3.1%

Table 4.7.1: Q-D11. Thinking about leadership positions, who would be more acceptable either man or woman to you as leaders in these types of organizations/ institutions? (N=1010)

5. GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

5.1 LOCAL BODY RESTRUCTURING

As Nepal completed five years of implementation of federalism, the survey assessed the impact of local body restructuring on the efficiency of the local government's service delivery. Almost two-thirds of respondents (60.4%) thought that restructuring has increased the capacity of their local government to deliver services. A little less than a quarter (23%) reported that local body restructuring neither improved nor deteriorated service delivery. A small share of people (7%) thought that restructuring has deteriorated the capacity of local governments to deliver services.

The shares of people who thought that local body restructuring helped to increase the capacity of local governments to deliver services has steadily increased: from 39.7% in 2017 to 60.4% 2022. Conversely, the share of people who said it was too soon to say anything was highest in 2017 (38.6%), and has drastically decreased over time to just 2% in 2022.

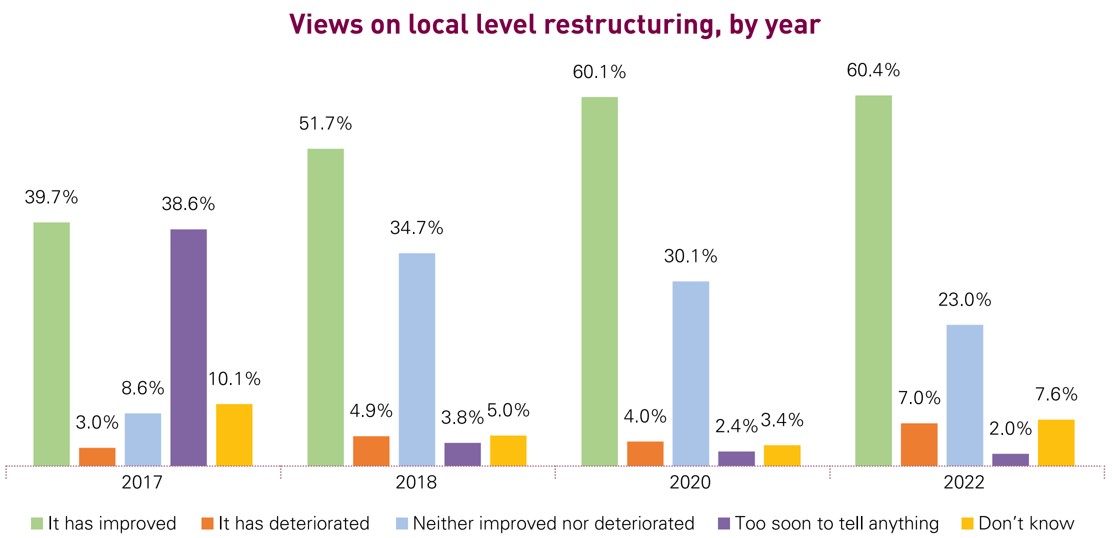

Figure 5.1.1: Q-E4. What kind of change have you felt/noticed in the capacity of local body to deliver services after restructuring of local body? (N=1010)

5.2 SOCIAL SECURITY

Awareness and Receiving Social Security Benefits

The survey assessed respondents' awareness of ten different social security benefits (listed in the Table 5.2.1) initiated by the government of Nepal and asked whether they have received those benefits.

Nearly all respondents had heard about senior citizen allowance (96.7%) and single women allowance (92.3%). Over four-fifths were aware of the disability allowance (88.0%) and health insurance benefits (85%). More than half of the respondents had heard of unemployment allowance (57.8%), child nutrition grants (59.8%), and child protection grants (63.1%). Less than half had heard about the grant for *Loponmukh Adivasi* (45.1%) and contributions from employment (38.1%).

The shares of respondents who had heard about the child protection grant, the child nutrition grant and health insurance benefits increased noticeably between 2020 and 2022.

Awareness and receiving social security benefits, by year

	Yes, I have heard		Yes, we have received	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
Senior Citizen Allowance	98.5%	96.7%	36.7%	20.1%
Single Women Allowance	94.8%	92.3%	20.4%	10.6%
Disability Allowance	88.1%	88.0%	4.7%	5.1%
Unemployment Allowance	59.2%	57.8%	0.3%	1.5%
Health Insurance Benefits	69.4%	85.0%	18.9%	41.3%
Child Protection Grant	45.3%	63.1%	8.8%	3.7%
Benefits on Contribution from Employment	33.3%	38.1%	1.5%	7.1%
Child Nutrition Grant	42.8%	59.8%	5.0%	8.4%
Grant for Loponmuukh Adivasi	42.7%	45.1%	0.3%	1.5%

Table 5.2.1: QE8a. (E8a.1- E8a.10) Have you heard about these social security benefits initiated by the Government of Nepal? QE8b. (E8b.1-E8b.10) Have you or the members of your family received any social security benefits initiated by the Government of Nepal? (N=1010)

The respondents who were aware of government social security programs were further asked whether or not they or their family members have received any of these benefits. Health insurance benefits is the only social security benefit where the shares of respondents who report receiving it has increased: from 14.7% in 2020 to 41.3% in 2022.

Satisfaction with Current Social Security Benefits

Respondents who reported that they or someone in their family had received a social security benefit, were asked to rate their level of satisfaction on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 represents highly dissatisfied, and 10 represents extremely satisfied. Satisfaction levels in Koshi Province are identical to the national average (7.06 points) indicating that people are satisfied with the social security benefits they received.

5.3 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Respondents were asked how much trust they had towards 19 different entities, including government and independent institutions. In Koshi Province, Nepal Army (89.2%), media organizations (88.3%), Armed Police Force (87.8%), followed by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) (87.1%) score the highest levels of trust in 2022. Large shares of people also trust their municipal wards (83.9%), and their current municipality/rural municipality (82.5%). As much as 71.9% of respondents trust their local community leaders. On the contrary, Political Parties were the least trusted institutions (36.7%). Only half (57.6%) of respondents said they trust the provincial government. These findings were similar to previous survey rounds with relatively few changes in levels of trust in these different entities.

Trust in institutions, by year

	Trust[9]			
	2017	2018	2020	2022
The Federal Government	65.4%	66.5%	65.4%	66.3%
Provincial Government	NA*	60.5%	67.2%	57.6%
District Coordination Committee	NA*	77.1%	74.0%	62.3%
Municipality/Rural Municipality /Local Government	NA*	NA*	NA*	82.5%
Municipal Wards	NA*	NA*	NA*	83.9%
Local Community Leaders- Tole Lane Development Organization	NA*	NA*	NA*	71.9%
Political Parties	78.2%	53.4%	55.9%	36.7%
Courts	87.8%	84.4%	87.1%	76.3%
Judicial Committees	NA*	83.6%	84.6%	73.8%
Police	85.9%	70.5%	82.4%	83.5%
Armed Police Force	87.8%	83.7%	87.7%	87.8%
Nepal Army	88.9%	92.0%	92.8%	89.2%
The Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers)	93.9%	93.9%	93.1%	88.3%
NGOs/Human Rights Defenders	90.7%	82.2%	74.4%	65.1%
Religious/Caste-Based Organizations	86.0%	75.8%	79.8%	75.6%
CBOs (Women's group, savings and credit group)	93.5%	96.1%	93.3%	87.1%
Public Service Commission	NA*	91.5%	92.7%	85.0%
Social Media (Facebook/ Twitter etc.)	NA*	NA*	77.3%	55.6%
Government Employee	NA*	NA*	83.6%	80.0%

Table 5.3.1: Q-E9a-v. Now I am going to ask you about certain people and institutions in Nepal. For each of them, I would like you to tell me if you fully trust them, moderately trust them, don't quite trust them, or don't trust them at all to have the best interest of Nepalis at heart. (N=1010)

5.4 AWARENESS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

More than three-fifths of respondents (64.1%) were aware of the services provided by their local government, compared to half (50.8%) in 2018. Fewer people were aware of the services provided by provincial governments (30.0%) and federal government (46.2%). Over time, awareness of services provided by all three layers of government has increased (Table 5.4.1).

9 Figure for "Trust" is derived by adding the figure of "Fully Trust" and "Moderately Trust"

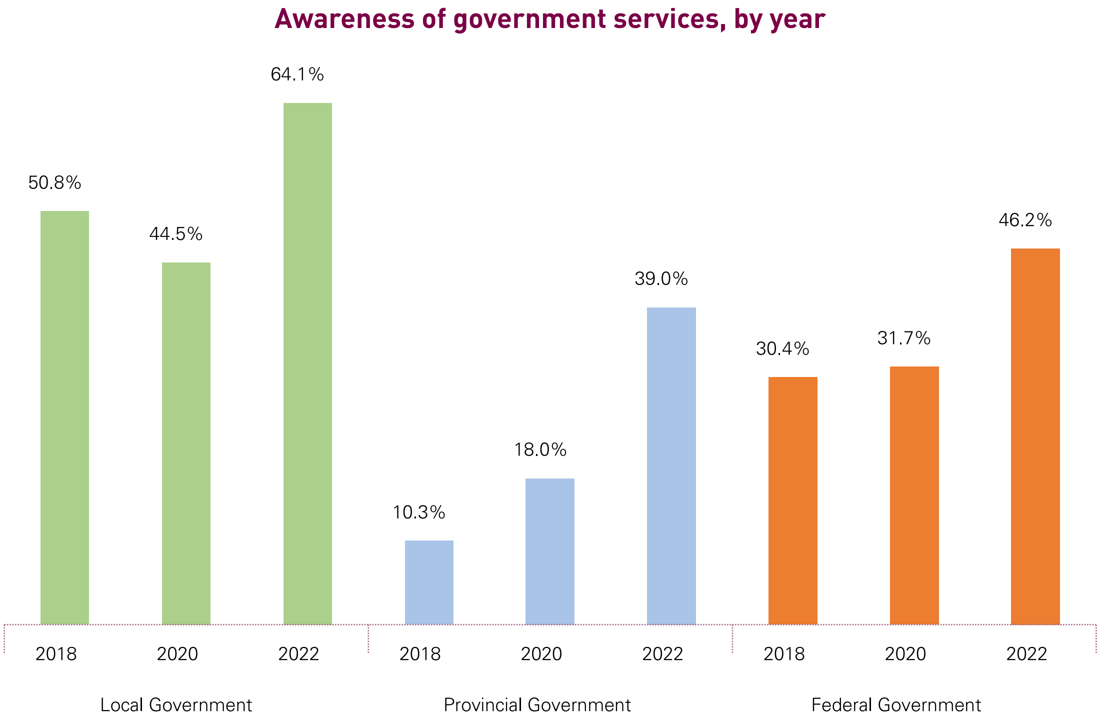

Figure 5.4.1: Q-E10AM-AO1. Are you aware about the Public Services provided by your local government? (N=1010)

Women (57.8%) were considerably less aware than men (71.1%) when it comes to services provided by local governments. People from rural municipalities (71.7%) were more aware than people from urban areas (60.3%). Respondents residing in the Hill region (69.3%) were comparatively more aware than those in the Terai (61.0%). People from Hill Castes (74.2%) were more likely to be aware of services provided than Hill Dalits (55.6%).

Types of Public Services

The survey asked respondents who said they were aware of the services provided by governments to name all services provided by each tier of government. The most widely known service of local governments was roads/physical infrastructure (72.5%), followed by drinking water services (43.5%), health services (40.5%), education related services (39.6%), and documentation-related services (27.8%). Compared to 2020, the shares of respondent aware of local government services such as drinking water, health, education, and electricity has increased in 2022.

Awareness of provincial government services shows a similar pattern, with most respondents mentioning provincial level roads and physical infrastructure (68.0%), followed by education (42.6%), health (35.9%), drinking water (34.8%), and employment-related services (22.9%).

Regarding federal government services, most respondents mentioned higher education (66.7%), followed by national highways/physical infrastructure (64.0%), health-related policy and services (41.2%), and large-scale electricity (39.4%).

To those who did not know about local government services, the survey further asked for suggestions on effective channels of information dissemination about local government services. A majority of respondents (47.4%) suggested informal sources, like friends, family, and neighbours, followed by radio (40.5%) and television (35.1%). People also cited internet (20.1), local community leaders (18.4%) and social media (15.5%) as effective channels of information dissemination about local government services.

Compared to 2020, a substantial increase of 20.1 percentage points can be seen in the share of respondents who have mentioned that information about public services could be spread via Radio Nepal (Table 5.4.2). Similarly, an increase of 17.1 percentage points can be seen in the share of people who mentioned from the market. The share mentioning internet also increased noticeably.

Effective channels of information to disseminate local government services, by year

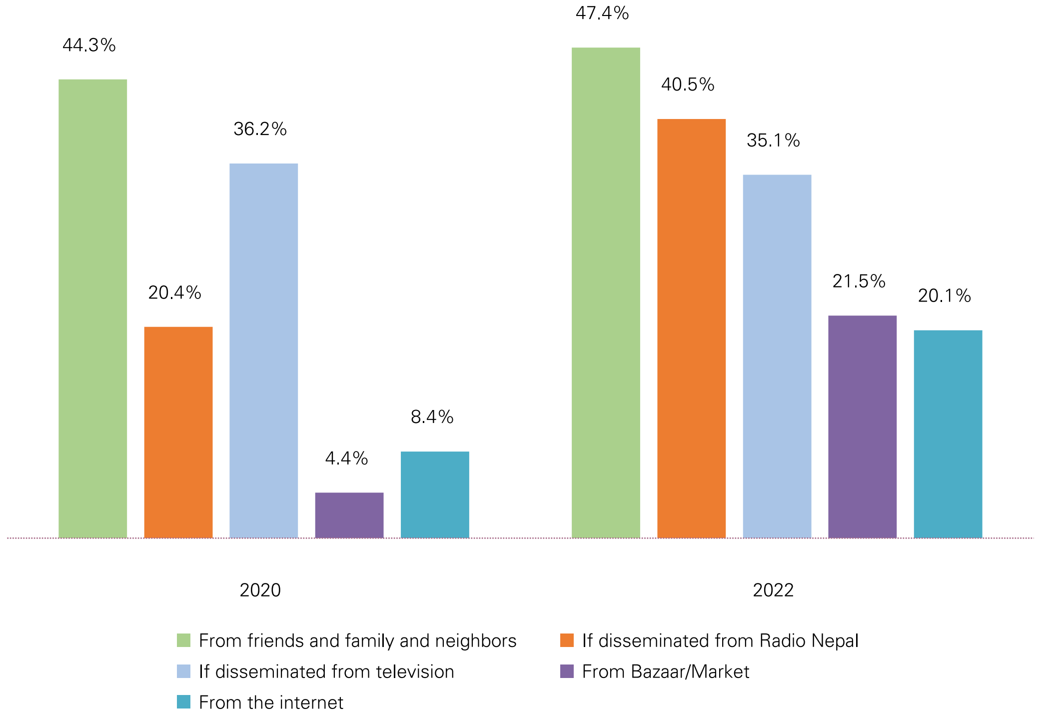

Figure 5.4.2: Q-E10AM.3. What needs be done to make you easily aware about the services provided by the local government in your area? (N=363)

5.5 EXPERIENCE ACCESSING PUBLIC SERVICES

People were asked to report their experiences while accessing 15 different public services provided by their rural/urban municipality in the past one year. Services such as to obtain recommendation for citizenship; to obtain recommendations for social security services (disability, senior citizen, etc.); to obtain social security allowance (single woman, senior citizen, disable); to obtain birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, divorce certificate, disability ID card; to obtain admission in government school; to obtain health checkup in government health post/hospital etc. are included in the questionnaire (Table 5.1.1). Further they were asked how easy it was to obtain these services.

The majority of respondents reported that they have not received any service. For those who have received at least one service provided by their rural/urban municipality in the past one year, responses indicated that obtaining most of these services is generally "easy," (90.8% for recommendation for citizenship, 83.5% for employment-related services and 99.6% for school admissions). Not much difference can be seen in the shares of respondents who said that it was easy when comparing 2020 and 2022.

Services received through local government and feeling of ease of receiving the services, by year

Types of services	Services received through local government in the past one year		If yes, ease of receiving the services in the urban municipality/ rural municipality	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
			Easy[10]	
Recommendation for Citizenship	26.4%	25.9%	91.8%	90.8%
Social security allowance (Single woman, senior citizen, disable)	28.0%	23.6%	94.3%	88.0%
Birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, migration certificate	26.2%	22.0%	94.8%	92.9%
Migration certificate	NA	2.6%	NA	92.8%
Services related to employment	4.1%	7.7%	92.7%	83.5%
Services given by judicial committee	4.2%	3.2%	88.4%	97.6%
Services related to land tax/revenue	45.2%	50.6%	96.2%	95.0%
For admission in government school	45.9%	43.3%	99.0%	99.6%
For health checkup in government health post/hospital	77.1%	77.8%	95.7%	95.1%
Receiving service from police	14.9%	12.1%	93.1%	85.7%
Business license	5.4%	7.2%	89.4%	84.7%
Tax related work	41.8%	45.8%	97.5%	94.4%
Recommendation for other government work	12.5%	19.4%	92.6%	88.9%
For disability specific services	NA	14.6%	NA	99.0%

Table 5.5.1: Q-E10a-n. Did you receive the services through the municipality office, including ward office in the past one year? (N =1010) and Q-E10a-p. Ease of receiving the services in the urban municipality/rural municipality

Respondents who reported having a 'difficult' experience while trying to obtain any service from the local government cited the following reasons: "complicated process/hassle to receive services," "delay in service," and "officials' irresponsible attitude." Other concerns include discriminatory behavior while accessing police service, political influence in employment-related services and inaccessible physical infrastructure or services for health checkup in government health post/hospital.

5.6 VIEWS ON EDUCATION

Child in a Public vs. Private School

More respondents report having a child enrolled in a public school (51.6%) than in a private school (44.1%). More people from rural municipalities report having children enrolled in government school (67.9%) than people from urban municipalities (43.8%).

10 Combined responses of two categories: "Very easy" and "Easy"

Child enrolled in a public/private school, by province and year

	Public School			Private School			Both School		
	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Overall	56.6%	55.3%	57.2%	35.7%	36.8%	35.6%	7.7%	7.9%	7.2%
Koshi Province	52.2%	54.9%	51.6%	41.8%	40.2%	44.1%	6.1%	4.9%	4.3%

Table 5.6.1: Q-E11. Do you have children in your family who are studying in the government school? (Q-E11A. Do you have children in your family who are studying in private school? (Response as 'Not Applicable' is not included). (N=570)

Distance to School and Quality of Education

Most children enrolled in public (93.9%) or private (98.8%) schools live within one hour's distance to the school. Only a small proportion of respondents report a duration of more than one hour for their children to reach school from home.

Most parents rate the quality of education in both public and private schools as either "very good" or "good"—a trend that has increased gradually over the years, despite a marginal fall in the quality rating of public school education observed in 2022 (Table 5.6.1).

Views on the quality of education, by year

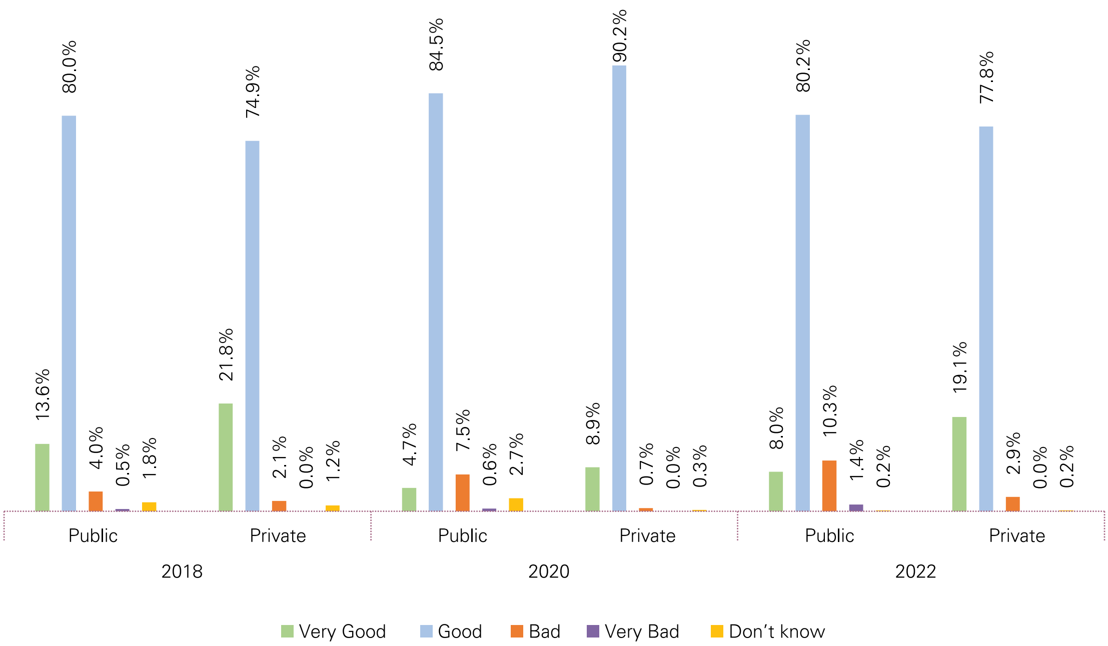

Figure 5.6.1: Q-E11b and Q-E11Aii. How would you rate the quality of the education at that school? (N=318 respondents with child/children going to public school, N=275 Respondents with child/children going to private school[11])

Entities Responsible for the Quality of Education Provided at the School

Most parents regarded the local government as the responsible government entity for maintaining the quality of education in both public and private schools (83.3% and 81.7%, respectively).

11 Respondents were not asked to assess the quality of private school education in SNP 2017.

Over the years, an increasing number of respondents reported that local government is primarily responsible to maintain the quality of education in their area. Very few of the respondents believed the school management committee, teachers, or parents are responsible for maintaining the education quality in public schools.

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of education, by year

	Public School				Private School[12]		
	2017	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Local government	88.5%	74.6%	80.3%	83.3%	62.0%	73.0%	81.7%
Provincial government	0.3%	1.2%	2.8%	4.1%	2.0%	3.5%	2.2%
Federal government	7.7%	12.0%	8.2%	10.5%	10.3%	7.5%	7.0%
Others (School management committee, teachers, parents)	0.4%	1.4%	3.7%	0.0%	16.8%	11.8%	7.8%
Don't know	3.1%	10.8%	5.0%	2.1%	9.0%	4.2%	1.3%

Table 5.6.2: Q-E11c and Q-E11Aiii. Who in the government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of education that is being provided (to your children) by the schools in your areas? (N=318 respondents with child/children going to public school, N=275 Respondents with child/children going to private school)

Suggestions for the improvement of quality of schools

The survey asked all respondents about their perception on what helps improve the quality of education in schools, and respondents cited good teaching methods (61.6%), ensuring the quality of school management (57.0%), and proper management of staff (43.2%). In 2022, the proportion of respondents who felt that teaching methods and quality of school management should be good increased by 19 and 9.2 percentage points, respectively, compared to 2020.

Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of schools, by year

	Year	%
Improved/good teaching methods	2020	42.6%
	2022	61.6%
The quality of school management should be good	2020	47.8%
	2022	57.0%
Management of the staffs should be good in the school	2020	44.1%
	2022	43.2%
The quality of curriculum/syllabus should be improved	2020	41.7%
	2022	44.2%
Needy students should get scholarship	2020	33.1%
	2022	38.0%
The price of books, copies and uniforms should be less	2020	24.2%
	2022	18.4%
The quality of school building should be good	2020	23.6%
	2022	40.1%

12 Respondents were not asked to mention who they thought was the responsible entity for maintaining the quality of private school education in SNP 2017.

	Year	%
My children should be able to learn in English	2020	24.0%
	2022	14.1%
The schools where my children go should be near	2020	23.7%
	2022	19.1%
Teachers should be trained in inclusive education and be able to teach children with diverse impairments.	2022	7.2%
Should be flexible enough to address the diverse need of children including children with different impairments.	2022	4.7%
The teaching learning methods should be accessible and flexible enough to address the need of children with diverse need	2022	4.0%
Should be accessible for all children including children with disabilities.	2022	4.9%
Don't know/can't say	2022	1.7%

Table 5.6.3: Q-E11g. What needs to be done to improve the quality of the government/private schools in your area? (N=1010)

5.7 PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOL DURING COVID-19

This year, the survey included questions for respondents from households with school-going children to gauge both public and private schools' performance during the COVID-19 period. The first question asked about the provision of alternative classes during the COVID-19 period.

During the pandemic, private schools (63.8%) were twice as likely to have provided alternative classes as public schools (36.7%). Both public and private schools of Koshi Province were more likely to have provided alternative classes than the national average (Figure 5.7.1).

Respondents from urban municipalities, and the Hill region were more likely to report that schools provided alternative classes during the pandemic compared to rural municipalities, and Mountain and Terai regions.

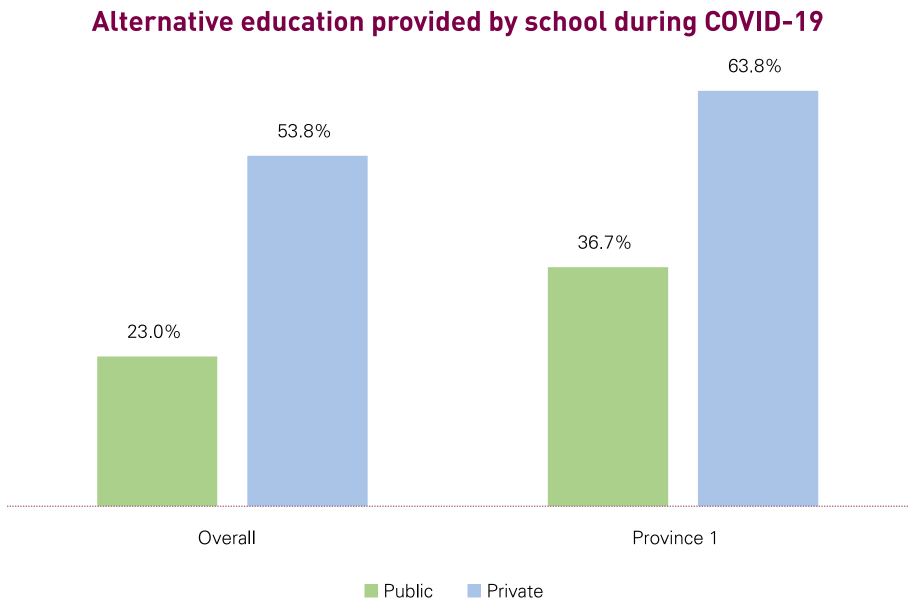

Figure 5.7.1: Q-E11f.1 and Q-E11g.1 Did the school in which your child/children are admitted to provide any alternative education options during COVID-19 period? (Online, home visits, community classes, or other) (N=318 Children going to public school, N=275 Children going to private school)

For those respondents who reported that their children received alternative education, teaching through online classes was the most common method in both public and private schools. Public schools also opted for home-based learning through teacher visits and community-based education.

Respondents with public school-going children were slightly more likely to provide a positive assessment (78.9%) of alternative classes provided by the school than those with private school-going children (70.4%).

5.8 VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Distance to the Nearest Public Health Post/Hospital

Over the years, more respondents reported living closer to public health posts/hospitals (73.1% in 2017; 94.8% in 2022). There was a considerable decline in the time taken to reach the nearest health facilities.

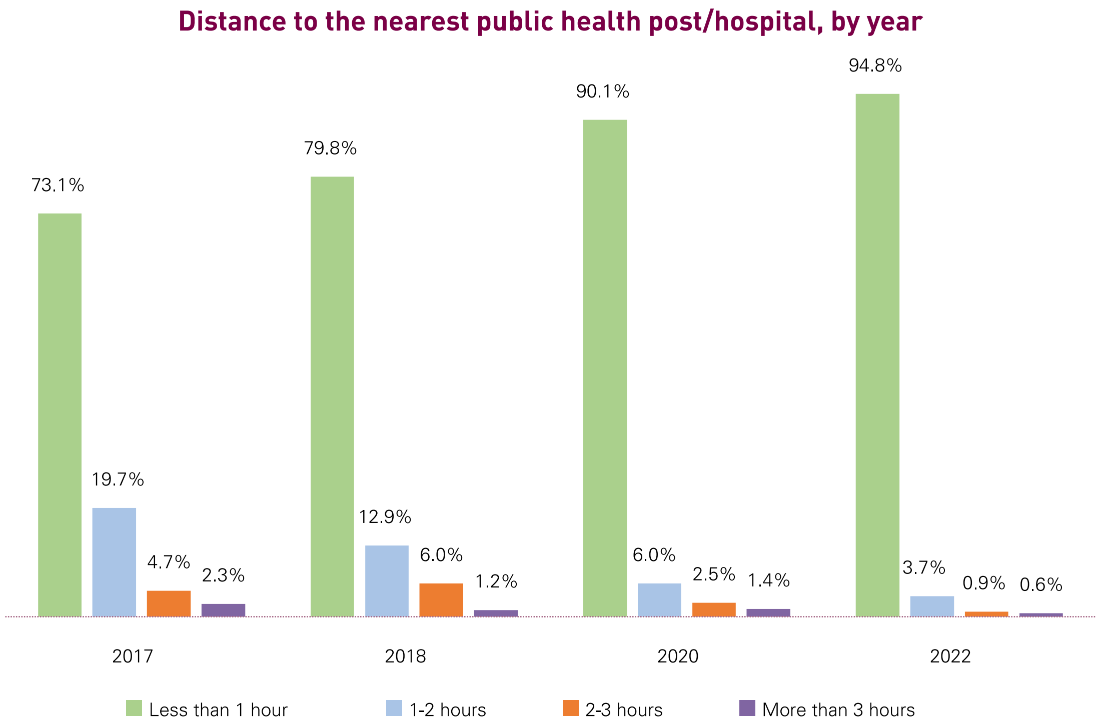

Figure 5.8.1: Q-E12a. How much time would it take you to go from home to the nearest public health post/hospital? (N=1010)

Views on Quality of Health Services

More than four-fifths of respondents (82.8%) regarded the quality of healthcare in their vicinity as "good," while 4.2% considered it to be "very good". In contrast 1.2% regarded it as "bad" and 3.7% reported it to be very bad.

Over the years, the share of respondents showing optimism about the quality of health services increased gradually from 75.1% in 2017 to 82.8% in 2022 (Figure 5.8.1). Notably, people's perception of the quality of health services as being "very good" declined. Likewise, the proportion of respondents who believed that the quality of health services has become "bad" was lesser than to 2020.

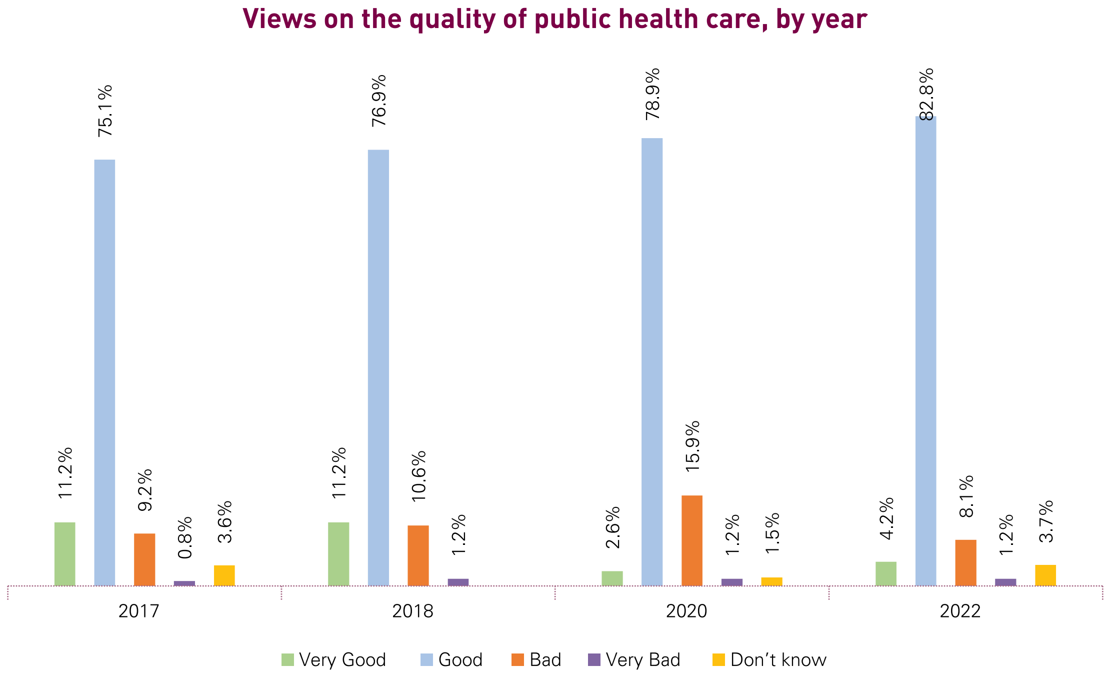

Table 5.8.2: Q-E12b. How would you rate the quality of public health care in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1010)

The Entity Responsible for Maintaining the Quality of Healthcare

The large majority of respondents believed it was their local government's responsibility to maintain the quality of healthcare services. In 2022, 85.8% believed so, compared to 82.6% in 2020 and 81.0% in 2018. A nominal share of respondents thought it was the role of provincial and federal government (Figure 5.8.2).

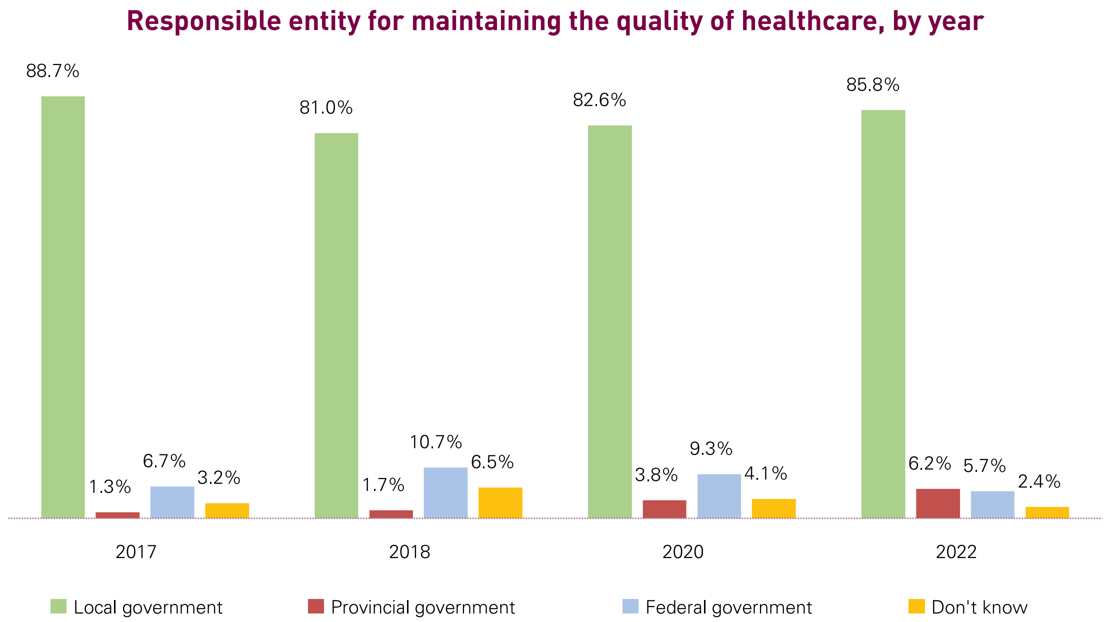

Figure 5.8.3: Q-E12c. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of health services being provided to you? (N=1010)

In 2022, more respondents thought there were positive changes in the quality of public health care than in previous years (Table 5.8.2): 65.7% in 2022 compared to between 43/1% and 48.4% in previous survey rounds. The health service centre being managed properly (43.9%) and, closeness of the health service centre (42.5%) were the primary reasons why people thought there were changes in the quality of public health care.

Changes in the quality of health service, by year and provincial regions

Year	Positive change	Negative change	No change	Don't know
2017	44.4%	5.5%	44.1%	6.0%
2018	48.4%	6.1%	40.3%	5.2%
2020	43.1%	2.2%	52.2%	2.4%
2022	65.7%	1.7%	26.7%	5.9%

Table 5.8.2: Q-E12d. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of health services in your municipality/rural municipality during the past year? (N=1010)

The survey asked all respondents about their perception on what needs to be done to improve the quality of health service provided by the health centre in their local area (municipality/rural municipality). Slightly more than three-fifths of respondents (63.5%) cited facilities of medicine should be good and quality health workers should be available (61.3%). Other suggestions to improve the quality of health service in their local area were the provision of good laboratories (58.3%) and proper diagnostic methods (54.4%).

5.9 VIEWS ON ROADS

Quality of Roads

Many respondents were satisfied with the quality of roads in their municipality/rural municipality. Almost two-thirds (63.1%) thought the quality of roads is "good," but one-quarter (25.3%) reported that the road quality is "not good"' and a small share (0.9%) thought roads were "not good at all."

Each year from 2017 to 2020, a higher share of respondents reported the quality of roads to be "good." However, compared to 2020 (73.6%) this share declined by 10.5 percentage points in 2022. Similarly, in 2022 there has was an increase in the proportion of respondents who said that the quality of roads in their local area is "not good" (25.3%). This share was higher than in 2020 (18.5%) and 2018 (17.7%).

Views on the quality of roads in the urban municipality/ rural municipality, by year

Year	Very good	Quite good	Not good	Not good at all
2017	7.0%	61.5%	23.2%	8.3%
2018	8.7%	69.8%	17.7%	3.7%
2020	7.0%	73.6%	18.5%	0.9%
2022	10.7%	63.1%	25.3%	0.9%

Table 5.9.1: Q-E13a. How would you rate the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1010)

A majority of respondents (89.1%) believed that the local government is the primary entity responsible for maintaining roads—a response that is consistent across all survey rounds.

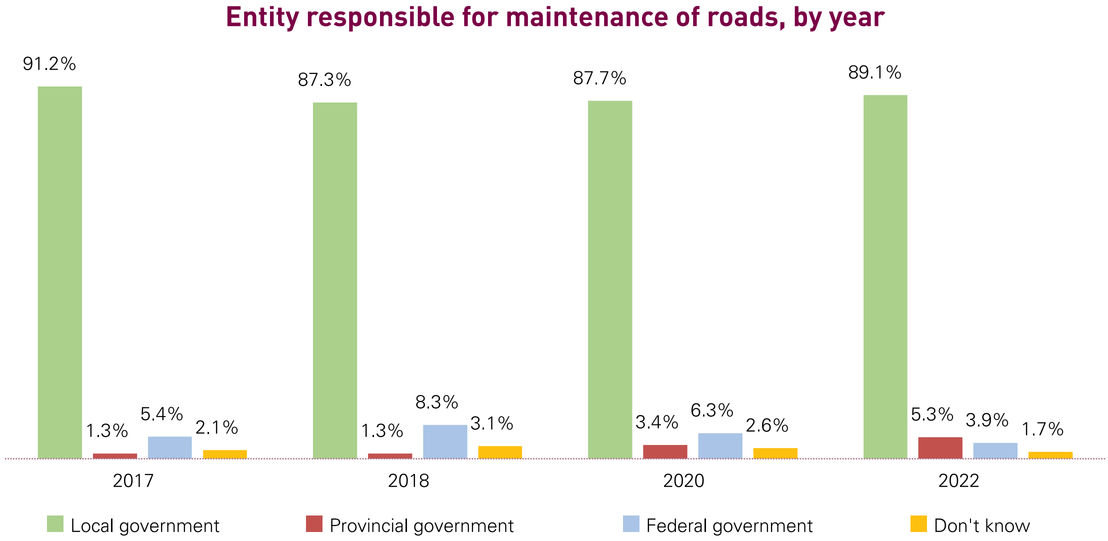

Figure 5.9.1: Q- E13b. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for building and maintaining roads? (N=1010)

Positive and Negative Changes in the Quality of Road Services

Respondents' perceptions of positive changes in the quality of roads decreased in 2022, at 64.1% compared to 68.1% in 2020. Conversely, the share reporting the condition of roads was getting worse increased (5.9% in 2022 compared to 1.8% in 2020). The share reporting no change in road quality in the past year was consistent with 2020. In 2022, across the provinces, Koshi Province had highest share of respondents reporting positive changes in the quality of roads during the past year.

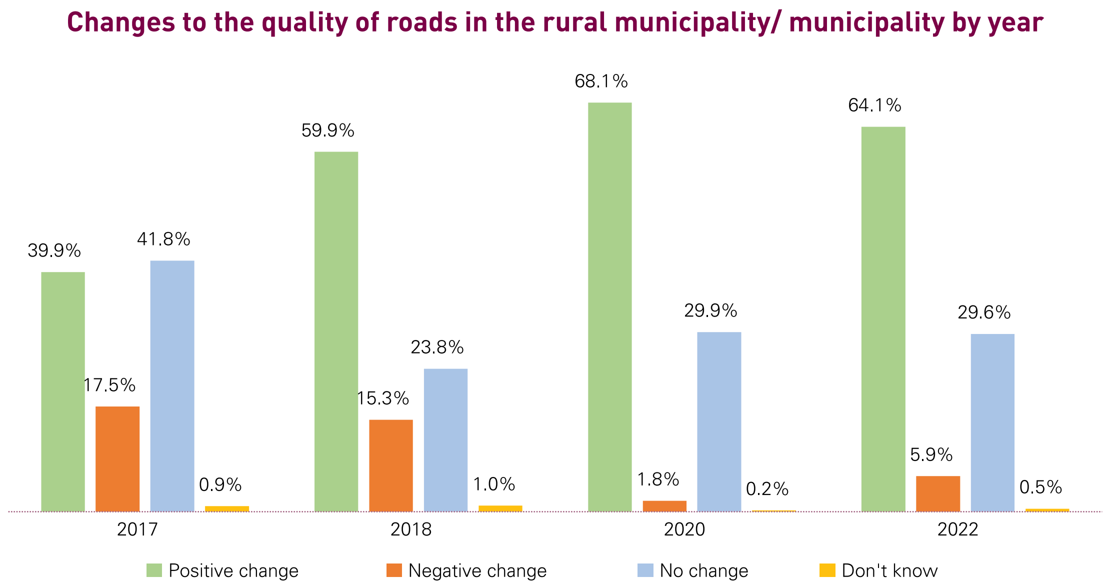

Figure 5.9.2: Q-E13c. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality during the past year? (N=1010)

Reasons for Positive Changes in the Quality of Roads

The survey further asked the respondents reporting a positive change in the condition of roads (64.1%) for the reasons. Responses were left open-ended, allowing for multiple responses. "Construction of roads" was the most commonly cited reason for perceived positive changes to road conditions (48.6%). Other reasons included roads being widened (42.1%), more roads being black-topped (35.5%), the government having properly upgraded the conditions of existing roads (29.3%), and prompt action taken by the government for maintenance of damaged roads (26.0%).

Reasons for Negative Changes in the Quality of Roads

The survey also asked the respondents reporting negative changes to road conditions (7.3%) for the reasons. Most cited deteriorating conditions of existing roads (71.4%), followed by delays in the maintenance of damaged roads by the government (61.2%), damages due to floods and landslides (40.8%), and lack of road construction (29.9%).

Suggestions to Improve the Quality of Road Service

Most respondents believed that black-topping roads (75.1%), proper upgrading of existing roads (58.4%), and prompt maintenance of damaged roads (51.8%) should be carried out to improve the quality of roads in their local area. Other commonly cited suggestions were proper designing of roads (31.1%), and the inclusion of the local public in planning and discussions about road projects (22.8%).

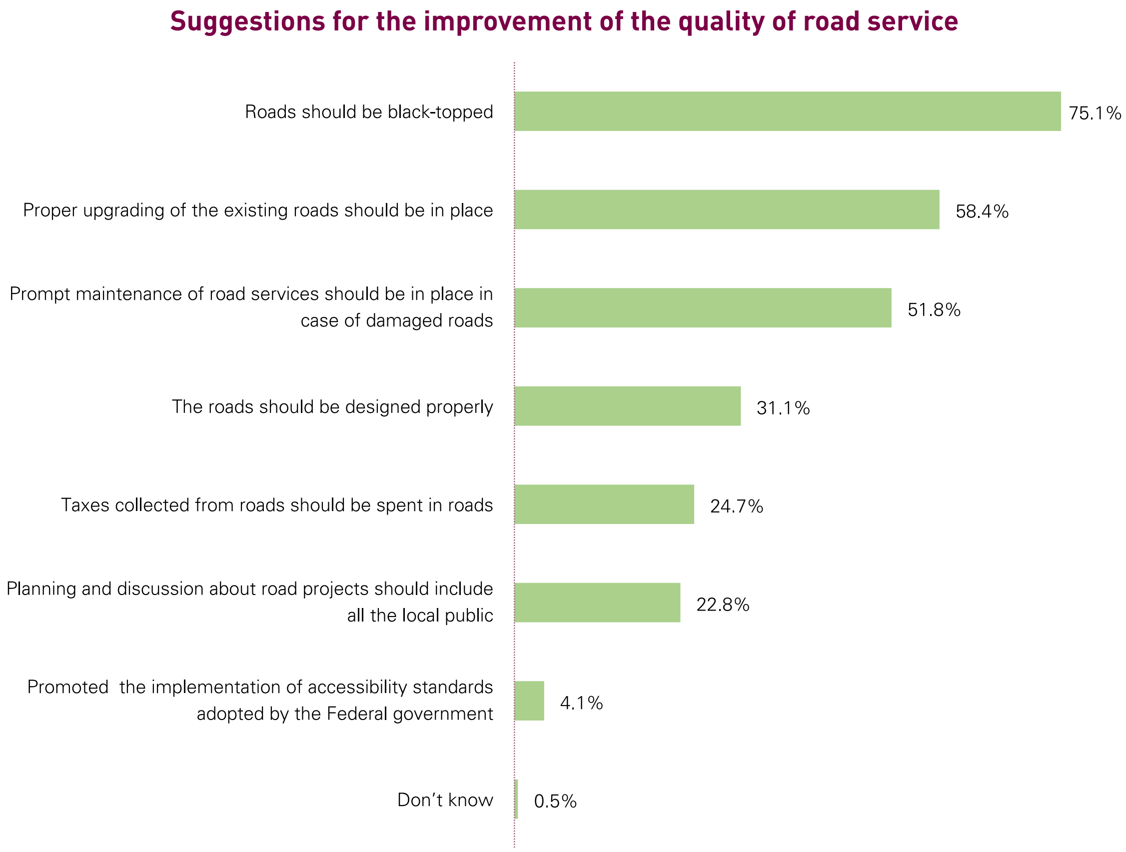

Table 5.9.3: Q-E13f. What needs to be done to improve the quality of road services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? (N=1010)

5.10 TAXATION

To understand Nepali people's perception about taxation in the country, the survey asked respondents about the different types of taxes, including whether or not the respondents had paid any of these taxes in the past year. They were also asked for their views on the amount of tax currently prevailing, and their opinion on a few tax-related statements.

About 85.5% of respondent paid one or more form of tax within the past one year. Vehicle tax (79.6%), land tax (76.4%), property tax (66%), entertainment tax (62.9%), and business tax (51.7%) were the most commonly paid taxes by residents of Koshi Province. Other less commonly paid taxes were house rent tax (29.6%), land registration tax (36.3%), individual income tax (29.9%), and remuneration tax (38.0%) (Table 5.10.1).

Views on the current level of taxation[13], by year

Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year?				If yes, do you think current level of taxation is appropriate?				
Type of tax	2018	2020	2022	N	More than last year	Less than last year	Same as last year	Don't know
Property tax	5.1%	55.1%	66.0%	556	72.3%	1.1%	16.8%	9.8%
House rent tax	1.8%	15.4%	29.6%	56	58.6%	1.4%	32.6%	7.4%
Individual Income tax	8.6%	22.5%	29.9%	69	48.0%	4.2%	42.7%	5.2%
Business tax	58.2%	29.6%	51.7%	120	65.3%	5.6%	15.4%	13.6%
Vehicle tax	2.2%	54.7%	79.6%	331	84.8%	0.0%	11.8%	3.4%
Land registration tax	2.8%	47.0%	36.3%	88	83.1%	2.5%	6.3%	8.0%
Entertainment tax	0.1%	49.1%	62.9%	331	68.9%	1.2%	19.3%	10.6%
Land tax	0.1%	68.5%	76.4%	601	72.6%	0.8%	16.8%	9.8%
Advertisement tax	1.2%	15.6%	13.0%	15	94.7%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%
Agriculture Income tax	13.8%	7.3%	7.0%	18	84.0%	4.5%	7.2%	4.4%
Institutional Income tax	15.8%	13.5%	7.7%	8	81.3%	9.2%	9.5%	0.0%
Remuneration tax	0.4%	14.0%	38.0%	109	24.2%	0.7%	49.7%	25.5%

Table 5.10.1: Q-E15Ai-Mi. Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year? E15A-M. [If yes in Q-E15 Ai-Mi] Do you think current level of taxation is appropriate? (Response as 'Not Paid Local Tax', 'Not Applicable' and 'Refused to Answer' is not included)

Since 2018, the share of respondents who report paying some kind of taxes in the past year has increased. For example, while 5.1% reported paying property tax in 2018, 55.1% said so in 2020, and 66% in 2022. Similarly, a larger share of respondents also reported paying vehicle tax, land tax, house rent tax, and individual income tax in 2022 than they did in 2018 and 2020 (Table 5.10.1).

While most respondents reported being unaware of changes in the current level of taxation for most types of taxes, a large share who reported having paid property, vehicle, and land taxes in 2022 said that the current level of taxation was more than last year. A considerable share of respondents who paid house rent tax, individual income tax, land registration tax, business tax, and entertainment tax also report an increase compared to the previous year (Table 5.10.1).

13 During the survey questions E15A were asked to all the respondents regardless of whether or not they had paid the taxes in the last one year. The possible choices of the question E15A were: more than last year, less than last year, not paid local tax, Not applicable, refused, and don't know. While analyzing the question- E15A-M, only the response of those who said Yes in E15Ai-Mi were included in the analysis.

Most respondents who reported paying taxes in the past year said that the process of paying the tax/service charge/fee was easy (64.1% down from 82.5% in 2020). A small minority (10.7%) reported feeling inconvenienced while paying the taxes.

The 10.7% of respondents who said that paying taxes/service charges was difficult were further asked what could be done to ease the process. The two most-cited reasons were the provision of door-to-door collection of taxes/fees (57.3%) and deploying employees in the ward office for taxation (56.9%)

Views on Taxation

A vast majority of Nepalis residing in Koshi Province agreed that they do not have a clear understanding of taxes and could utilise clearer information by different levels of government on tax collection and on how the government spends it. The survey analyzed the understanding of an average Nepali on the issue of taxation and presented respondents with four statements that they could agree, strongly agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with.

Most respondents from Koshi Province agreed (combination of 'agree' and 'strongly agree') that they could use additional information on the following: how the different levels of the government collect taxes from the people (97.2%); how the government spends its collected taxes (98.1%); and what benefits citizens get in return for paying taxes (98%). Slightly less than half of respondents (46.1%) believed that the tax they pay is being properly utilized—similar to past survey responses.

Experience of Paying Extra Cash/Gift while paying a Tax

Around two out of 100 respondents report that they have had to pay some extra cash or some type of gift (other than that fixed by the government) to someone while paying taxes. These 2.2% of people who said they paid extra cash or some type of gift reported paying it to a third party/broker (56.8%), employees of local government (36.1%), elected representatives (18.5%), employee of federal government (14.8%), and employees of provincial government (18.6%).

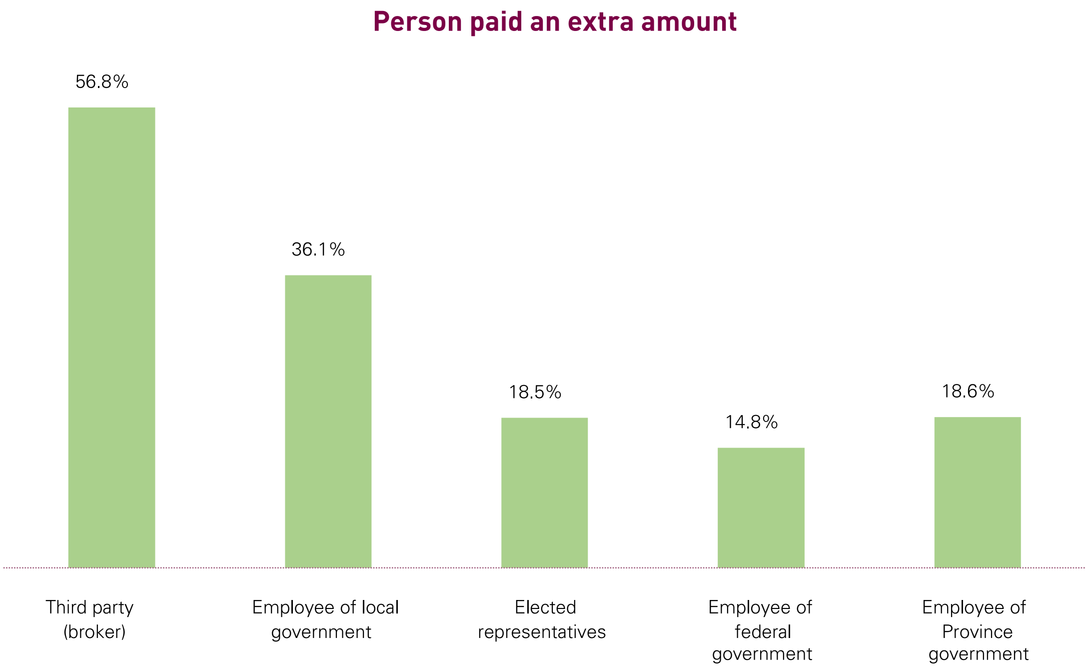

Figure 5.10.1: Q-E16b.1. [If answered 'Yes' in E16b] To whom did you have to pay extra amount? (N=159)

Willingness to pay more Local Taxes for Better Services

Some 63.9% of respondents said that they would be willing to pay more local taxes if the quality of services were to improve; this proportion declined since 2017. Conversely, there has been an increase in the share of respondents who express their unwillingness to pay more taxes even if quality of services were to improve (from 8.9% in 2017 to 54.0% in 2020 and 32.4% in 2022). In 2020, the share of respondents saying they would pay more taxes/fees in exchange for better services was lowest (44.0%) compared to other years.

Willingness to pay more local taxes for better services, by year

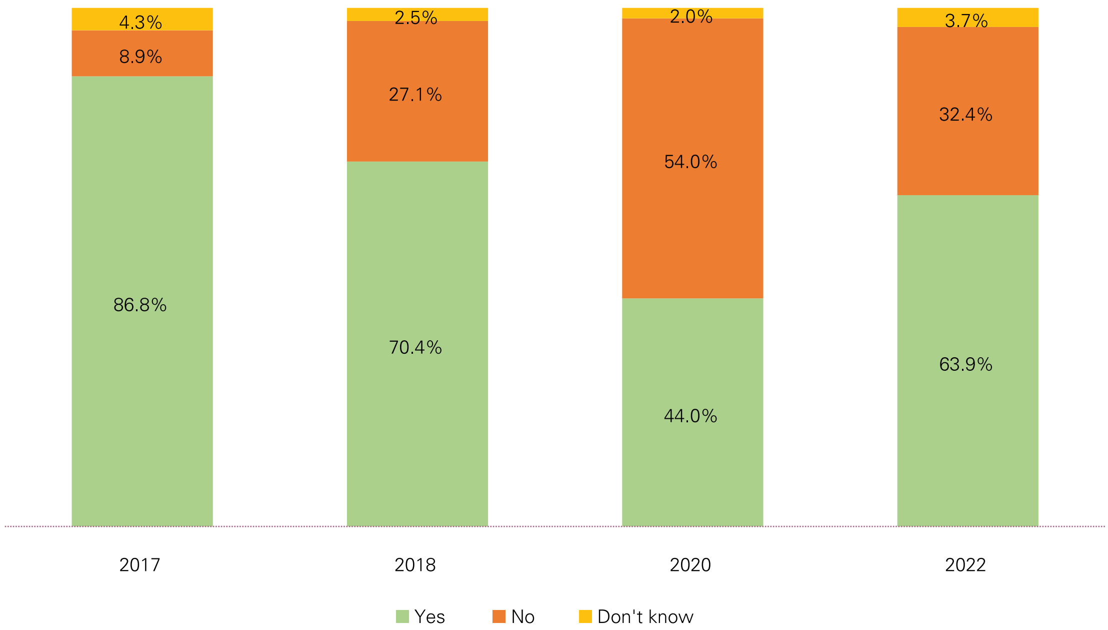

Table 5.10.4: Q-E16. Would you be willing to pay more local taxes or fees if the quality of services like road maintenance, education or healthcare were improved? (N=1010)

5.11 CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked if they have had to give money, gifts or perform a favour to receive different services: to obtain vehicle related services; to receive land related services; to receive various documents; to receive banking related services; to receive service from police; to receive service from court; to receive service for employment; to receive health service from the government; and to get admission in school or university.

This question was asked to all respondents. For 7 out of 9 services listed, the majority of people reported that they 'did not need this type of service'. The highest share of respondents said that they did not need services from the court (80.4%), services from police (77.6%), and searching for employment (74.9%).

Only a marginal share of people said that they had to pay bribes to receive one or more of the nine services (0.2% to 1.8%). Some 1.8% mentioned having paid a bribe for land-related services (buying, selling, transferring land, or paying land taxes, plotting, etc.), 1.6% for vehicle-related services (obtaining/renewing license/bluebook, name transfer, etc.), and 0.5% for vital registration/documentation-related services (citizenship, birth, marriage, death certificates, etc.) (Table 5.11.1).

Bribe in exchange for services, by year

	To get land related services	To get various documents	To take service from police	To take service from court	In search for employment	To Receive health service	To get admission in school or university	To get vehicle related services	To take Banking related services
2017	9.9%	5.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.0%	1.0%	0.9%		
2018	4.0%	2.2%	2.4%	1.9%	4.0%	0.1%	0.0%		
2020	3.0%	1.5%	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%	4.2%	2.1%
2022	1.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.9%	0.8%	1.6%	0.6%

Table 5.11.1: Q-E17a-g. During the past year, please tell me if you ever had to give money or a gift or perform a favor to obtain services from officials in these situations? (N=1010)

5.12 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

About three-fourths (72.4%) of people in Koshi Province were unaware of any development projects or budgets planned by their respective local government for the current fiscal year. A little over a quarter (27.6%) of respondents were aware of projects or planned budgets of their local municipality/rural municipality.

Over the years, from 2018 to 2022, there has not been any significant changes in the shares of the respondents who said that they were aware of local development projects planned by their local governments, i.e., 28.1% in 2018, 29.5% in 2020, and 27.6% in 2022. The proportion of respondents who said they were aware of projects budgeted and implemented by their local government decreased slightly in 2022 compared to 2020 (Figure 5.12.1)

Awareness of local government development projects, by year

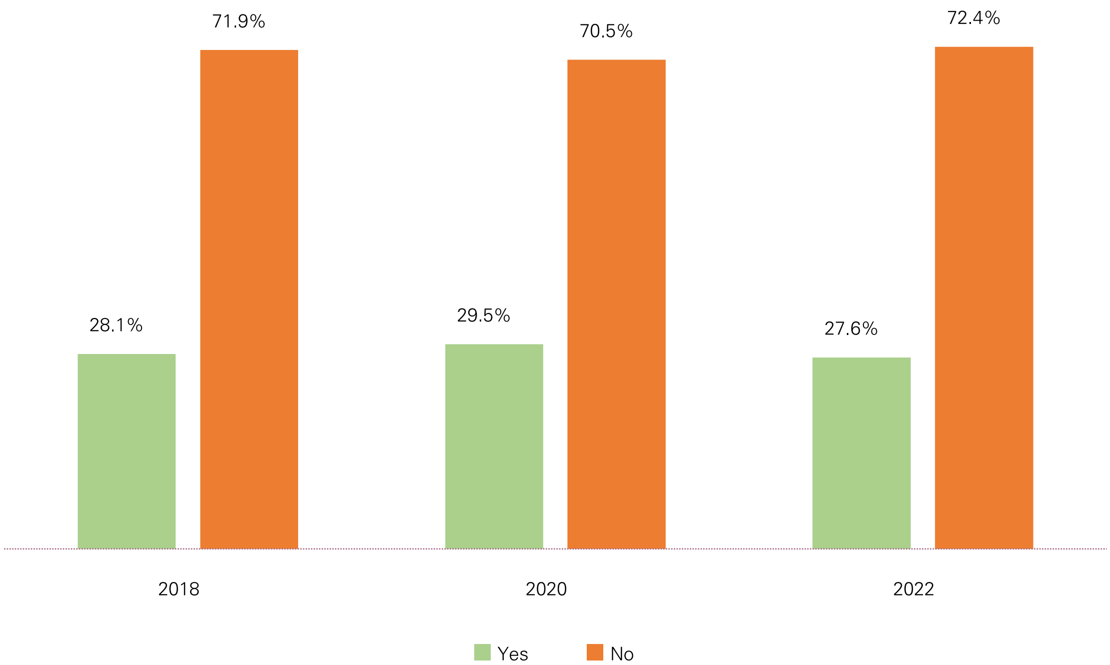

Figure 5.12.1: Q-E18. Are you aware of any development projects/budget planned for execution by your local government in the current fiscal year? (N=1010)

Priorities for Local Government Services

The survey enumerators read out a list of 16 different services that local governments are supposed to provide, including health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, etc., and asked the respondents what the main priority of their respective local government should be.

The respondents reported education-related services (30.5%), roads and physical infrastructure (27.4%) and health related services (17.9%) as their preferences for local government's top priorities. Other frequently cited services that should be prioritized were drinking water and employment-related services (8.3% each).

Since 2018, the shares of respondents who mentioned roads as their priority has declined (from 44.2% in 2018 to 31.6% in 2020, to 27.4% in 2022). On the other hand, an increase can be seen in the proportion of respondents who cited 'education related services' and 'health related services' in 2022, compared to 2018 and 2020, indicating changing priorities of the people.

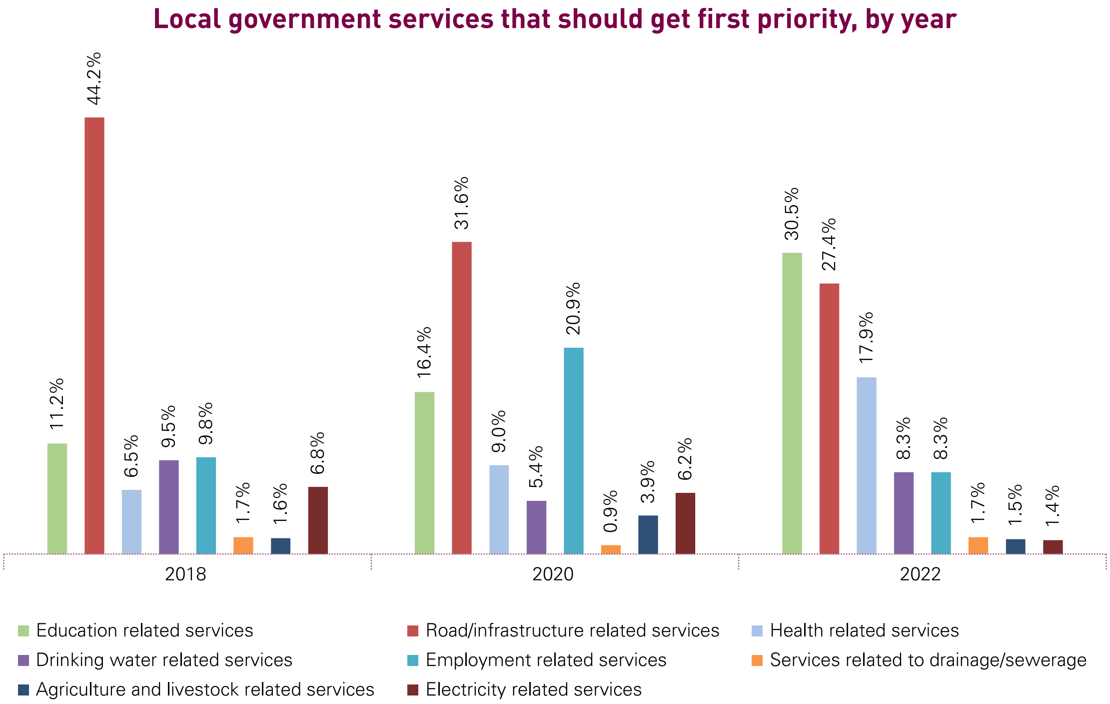

Figure 5.12.2: Q-E19. In your opinion, which service should get first priority from your local government? (N=1010)

Participation in Public Hearings

Less than one-fifth of respondents (17.6%) said there has been at least one public hearing in their ward or municipality in the past year, while 58.3% were unsure whether such hearings took place. Of those who said one or more public hearings took place, 43.7% did not participate in the hearing, 18.2% participated in most of the public hearings, and 38.1% reported that they occasionally participated in the public hearings conducted in their local municipalities.

In Koshi Province, more respondents from Mountain areas (26.3 %) were more aware of public hearings in their ward or municipality in the past year than those from the Terai region (16.7%). The proportion of respondents aware of public hearings in their ward or municipality is similar in rural (17.4%) and urban municipalities (17.7%).

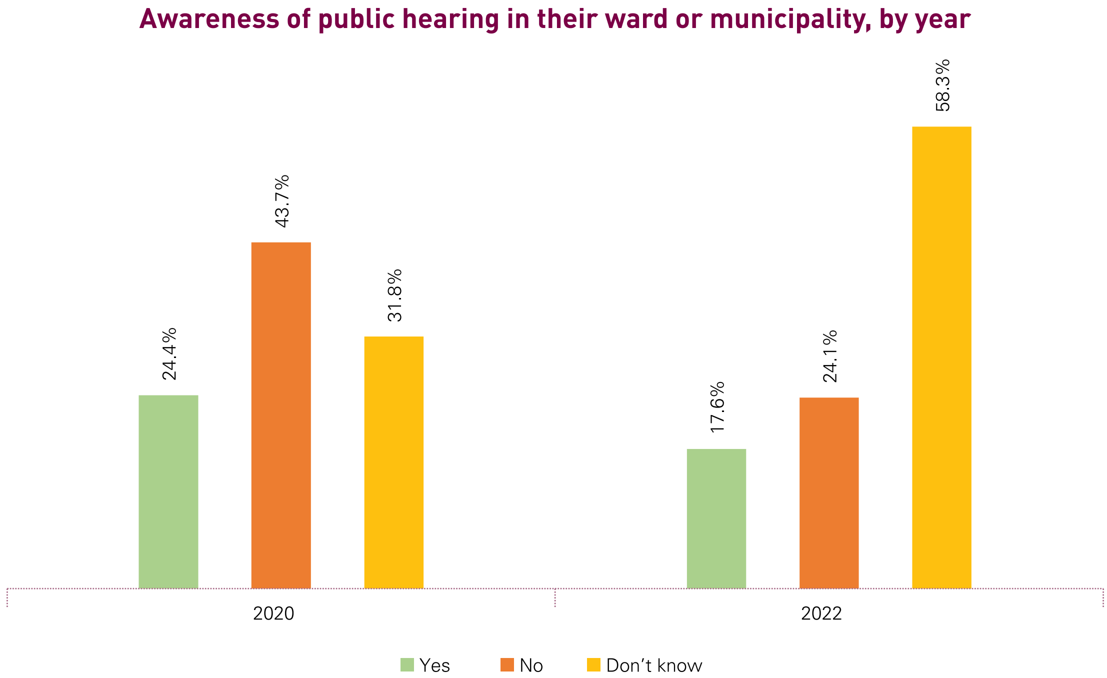

Figure 5.12.3: Q-E20. In last one year have there been any public hearing in your rural municipality/ municipality, including in your ward? (N=1010)

It is interesting to note that share of respondent who never participated in any public hearings decreased between 2018 and 2022 (91.7% in 2018, 58.2% in 2020, and 43.7% in 2022). Conversely the proportion of people reporting attending most or some of the hearings has increased (Figure 5.11.4).

Participation in Public Audits

Just over one in ten respondents (12.2%) affirmed that there had been at least one public audit in their ward or municipality in the past year. Of those aware of public audits taking place in their locality, 38.9% never participated in any such audits, 26.3% frequently participated, while 34.8% occasionally joined the audits. Over time, the share of respondents who never participated in any public audits of community development programs decreased significantly from 96.9% in 2018 to 66.7% in 2020 to 38.9% in 2022. As in the case of public hearings, participation in public audit programs is increasing.

Participation in public audit programs, by year (%)

Survey Year	Aware of public audits			Participation in public audit		
	Yes	No	Don't know	Yes, in most of them	Yes, in some of them	No, never
2018	4.1%	65.1%	30.8%	0.5%	2.6%	96.9%
2020	16.1%	48.5%	35.4%	9.7%	23.6%	66.7%
2022	12.2%	24.2%	63.6%	26.3%	34.8%	38.9%

Table 5.12.1: Q-E21. In last one year have there been any public audit in your rural municipality/ municipality/ward? Q-E22. Did you participate in any of the public audits of the community development programs that was conducted in your rural municipality/municipality/ward?

Participation in Local Development Plans

When asked if they had participated in preparing local development plans in their ward/municipality or while implementing those plans, 14.6% of all respondents said they participated in some or most of such activities relating to local planning or budget execution. Some 8.6% of respondents said they participated in some of them, while only 5.7% reported participating in most of the preparation and implementation process. Fewer women report participation compared to men. The level of participation has remained more or less the same as in 2020.

Based on the responses of those who said they participated in development planning, the plans and programs that elicited the highest levels of public participation were related to roads and other physical infrastructure (61.5%), drinking water (39.5%), education (36.1%), electricity (26.5%) and health services (25.4%).

5.13 LOCAL ELECTION AND VIEWS ON ELECTED OFFICIALS

Confidence that Elected Officials' Care

Respondents were asked if they thought that the people who are elected as mayor, deputy mayor, ward chairperson and ward members care about them.

Most people thought that elected people somewhat care about the general public but they seem to be more confident that ward members and chairpersons care about them than mayors and deputy mayors (Figure 5.13.1). Slightly less than half of the respondents thought their ward members (46.8%) and ward chairpersons (45.4%) 'somewhat care' about the general public, and 39.4% respondent indicated that their deputy mayors somewhat care about the general public, while 37.9% thought the mayor cared. Over a quarter of respondents were confident that ward representatives cared strongly. On the contrary, over a quarter of respondents thought that the mayor (28.6%) and that the deputy mayor (28.8%) did not care much about the people. Around one in ten thought they did not care at all. The shares who thought ward representatives did not care were much lower.

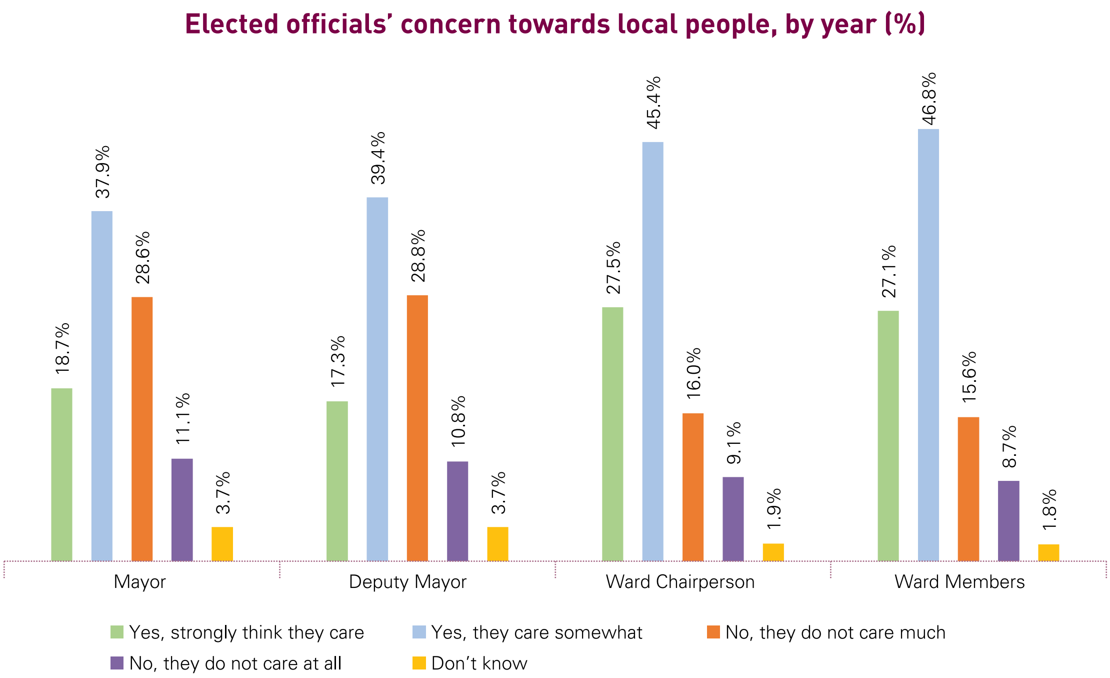

Figure 5.13.1: Q-F1i-F1iv. What do you think about the people who are elected to the following government bodies? Do you think they care about local people? (N=1010)

5.14 VIEWS ON RESPONSIVENESS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

More than two-thirds of respondents (62.3%) reported that the local government's responsiveness has remained the same compared to last year. One in five respondents (27.6%) believed that the responsiveness of local governments has improved—a sharp decline from 52.0% in 2020 and 51.5% in 2018.

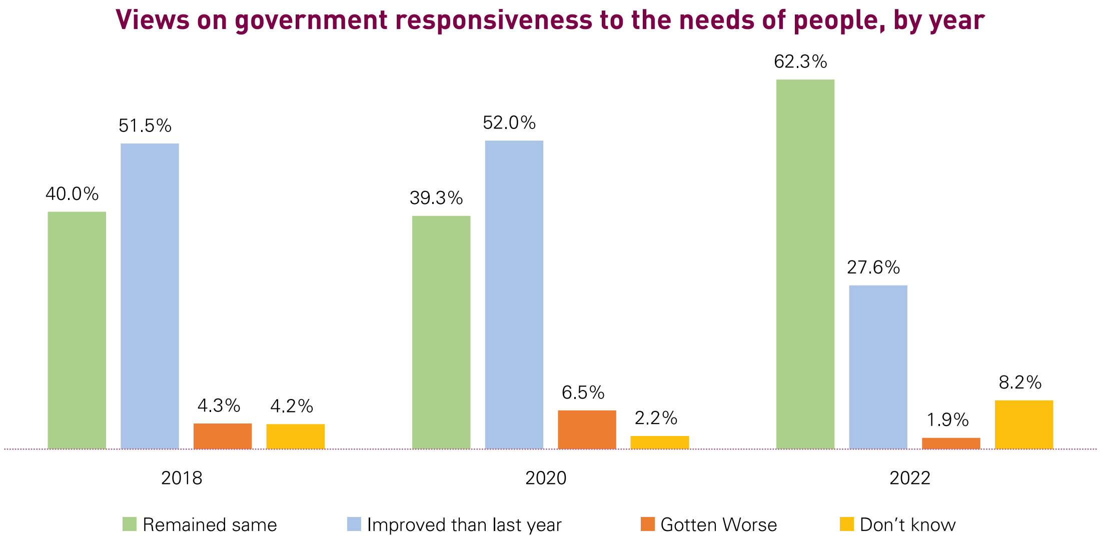

Figure 5.14.1: Q-F1A. To what extent do you think the Local Government has become responsive to the needs of people compared to last year? (N=1010)

Overall Satisfaction with Services Delivered by the Local Government

More than two-thirds of respondents (67.5%) said they were satisfied with services delivered by their local government, a sizeable share (32.5%) were not satisfied. The share who were satisfied with services delivered by their local government increased from 65.9% in 2020 to 67.5% in 2022, while the proportion of those who were dissatisfied decreased from 34.1% in 2020 to 32.5% in 2022.

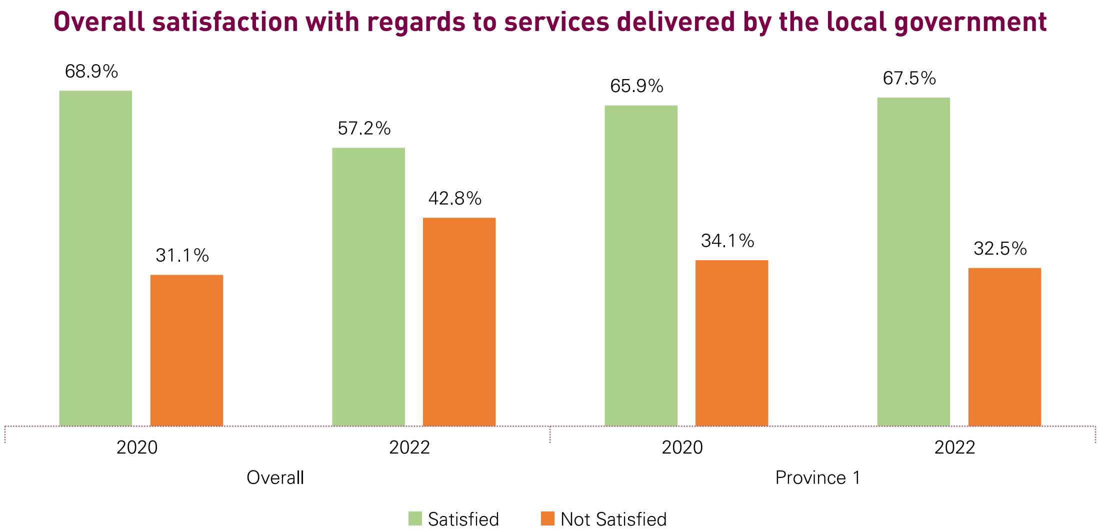

Figure 5.14.2: Q-E13g. Overall, are you satisfied from the services delivered by the local government (rural municipality / urban municipality) of your area? (N=1008)

Satisfaction with Education, Health, and Road Services Delivered by Local Government

The survey also asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with the service provided by their local government in the education, health, and road sectors. They were asked to rank their satisfaction on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing "highly dissatisfied," and 10 representing "highly satisfied." In Koshi Province, the average satisfaction level for these services ranged from 6.0 to 6. 5 – higher than the national average (Figure 5.14.3).

Average level of satisfaction with education, health, and road-related services, by year

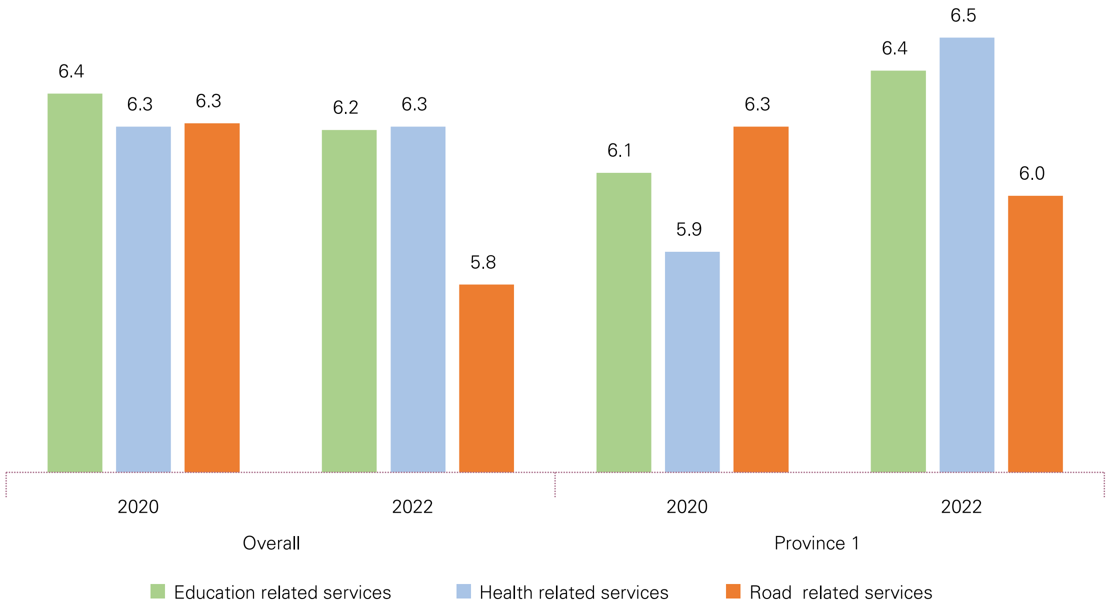

Figure 5.14.3: Q-E10Ha,b,c. How satisfied are you with the education, health and road related services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? [Rate the level of your satisfaction in a scale of 0 to 10; while 0 represent highly dissatisfied, 5 represent neither dissatisfied nor satisficed and 10 represents extremely satisfied] (N=1010)

Local Elections

The large majority of the respondents of Koshi Province (82.9%) voted in the local elections. No significant difference can be seen between the shares of respondents who voted in 2017 (80.9%) and in 2022 (82.9%). Huge shares (91.5%) considered the election of 2022 to have been free and fair – but slightly less than in 2017 (96.9%). Only 1.0% thought the election was not free and fair and reported that this was due to use of force, money and bribery (75.%) and because the security was not good (57.9%).

Overall, 85.5% of respondent from Koshi Province were happy or very happy with the result of election in 2022. When asked about the impacts of local elections on their lives, slightly more than half of respondents (64.0%) believed that it will improve their quality of life and one fourth (25.4%) reported that it will not have any impact. The respondents who reported that local elections will improve the quality of their life gave the following reasons: improvement in public service delivery (70.6%), better accountability of leaders (49.1%), and local leaders' incline towards addressing the needs of the community (33.7%).

Reason for expected improvement in the quality of life

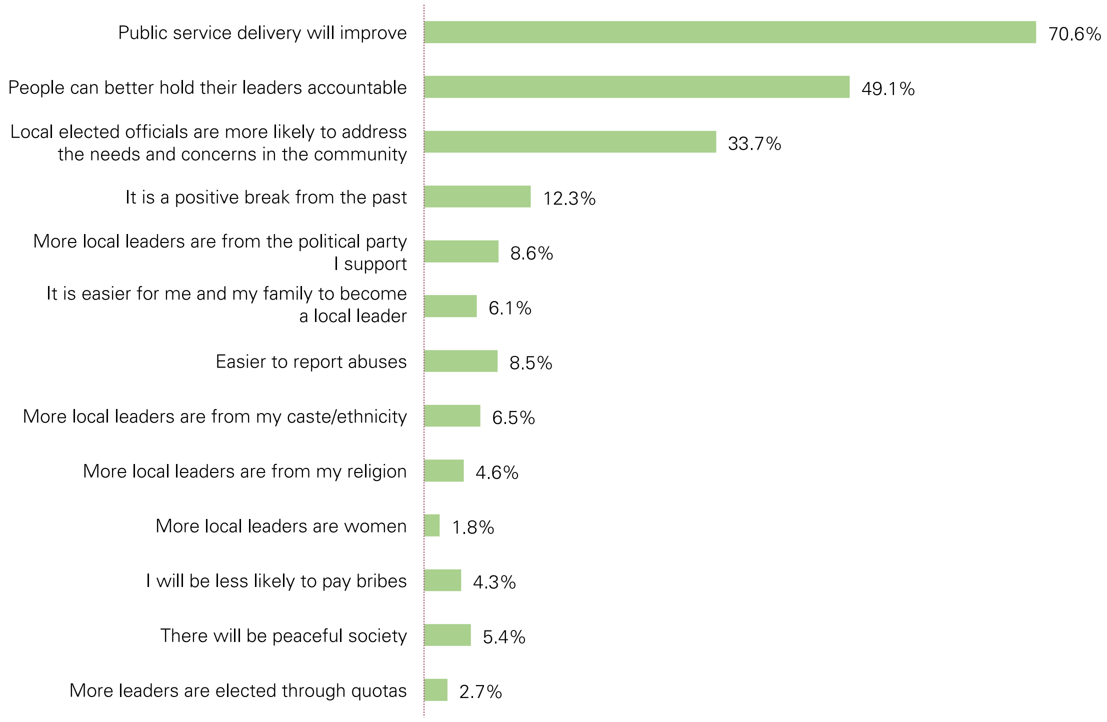

Table 5.15.1: Q-F6. Why do you think that quality of life will improve? (N=643)

Basis of voting

The respondents who said that they voted in the local elections were again asked how they decided who to vote for. As the top three responses, the residents of Koshi Province said they voted because they liked a certain candidate who stood from a certain political party (41.2%), they voted because they knew the candidate (26.3%), and they voted because they believed certain political party/ candidate will bring development and provide services in their area (25.8%).

Slightly less than a quarter of the respondents (20.1%) also said that they voted because they thought that a certain political party stood for change, liked the independent candidate and the principles s/he stood for (19.1%) and that a party/candidate was working for people's right (18.7%)

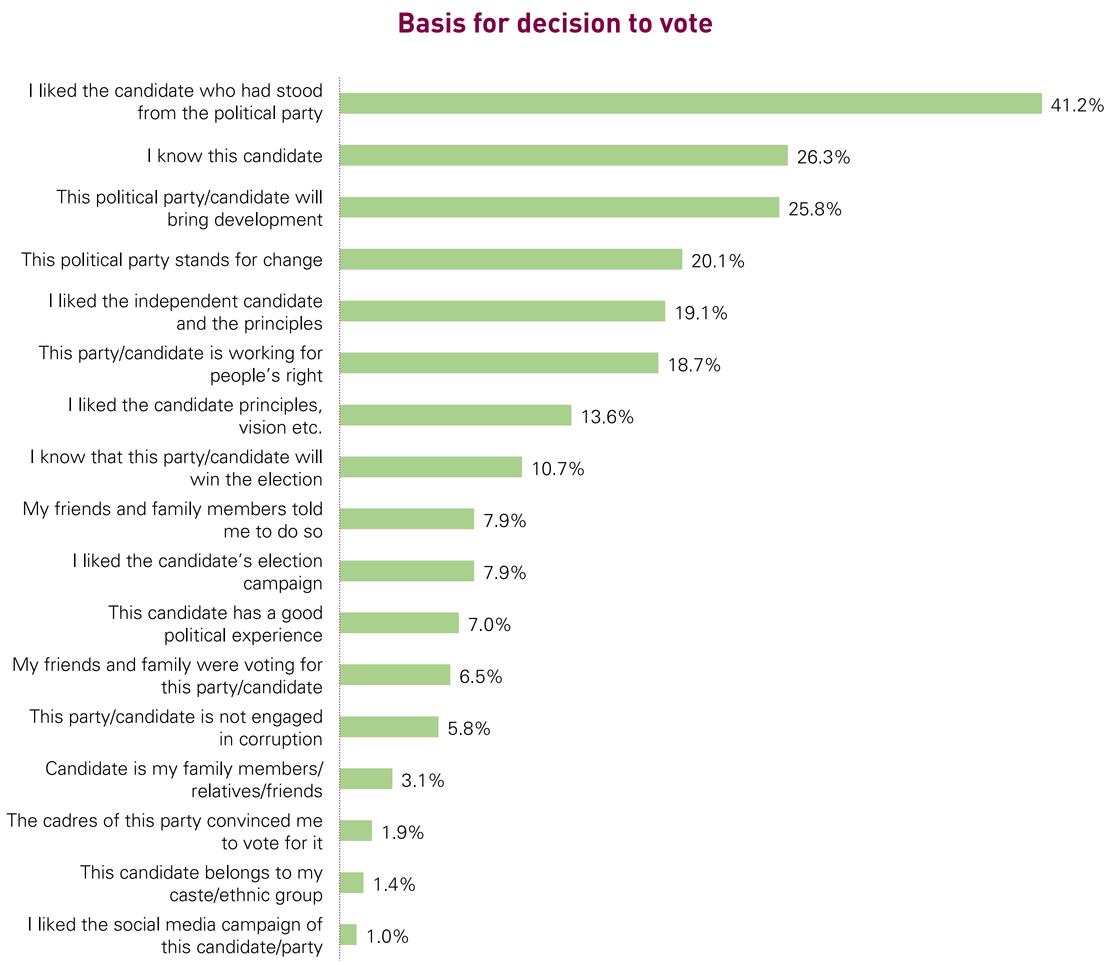

Figure 5.15.2: Q-F7.1. On what basis did you decide who to vote for? (N=835)

Access to Polling Booth

The survey further asked the respondents who voted in the local elections (i.e., 82.9% of all respondents in Koshi Province) about how easy the process was for them in their respective polling booth.

Most respondents reported "very easy" (27.5%) and "easy" (68.1%) polling experiences. According to them the reasons they felt the process was easy were proximity to polling booths (57.1%), easy accessibility of polling booths (38.0%), and easily understandable ballot paper (31.3%).

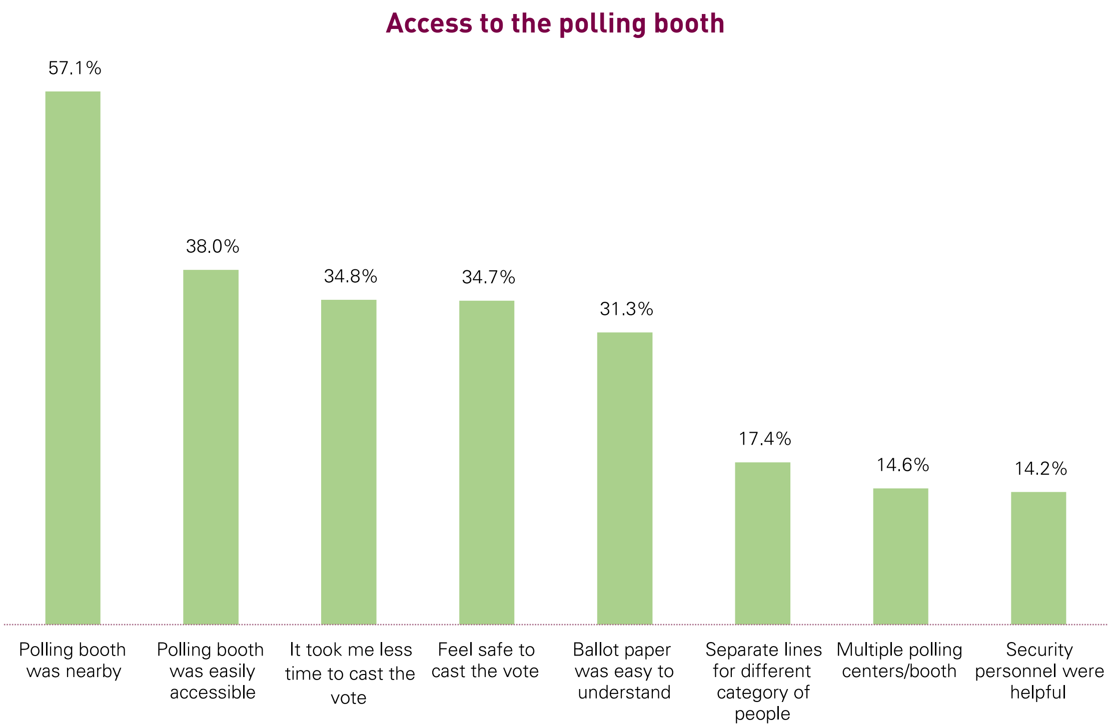

Figure 5.15.3: Q-F7.3. What made it easier for you to vote? (N=799)

6. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1 PERCEPTIONS OF LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITION

SNP 2022 has analyzed respondents' views on the local economic condition in their urban municipality or their rural municipality. Slightly less than two-thirds (62.7%) of the respondents in Koshi Province reported that the local economic condition has remained the same. Little more than a quarter (28.8%) mentioned that the economic conditions have improved, while only a marginal share of 1.4% said that the economic condition is getting worse.

Out of all four survey years, 2022 has the highest percentage of respondents who have said that economic conditions have remained the same. On the other hand, a gradual decrease can be seen in the proportion of respondents who reported their local economic condition to be improving; it was the highest in 2018 at 43.0% and decreased to 36.0% in 2020 and further decreased to 28.8% in 2022. Except for the year 2020, the proportion of respondents who reported that their local economic condition is getting worse remained consistent across all survey years.

Views on economic conditions in the urban municipality/rural municipality, by year

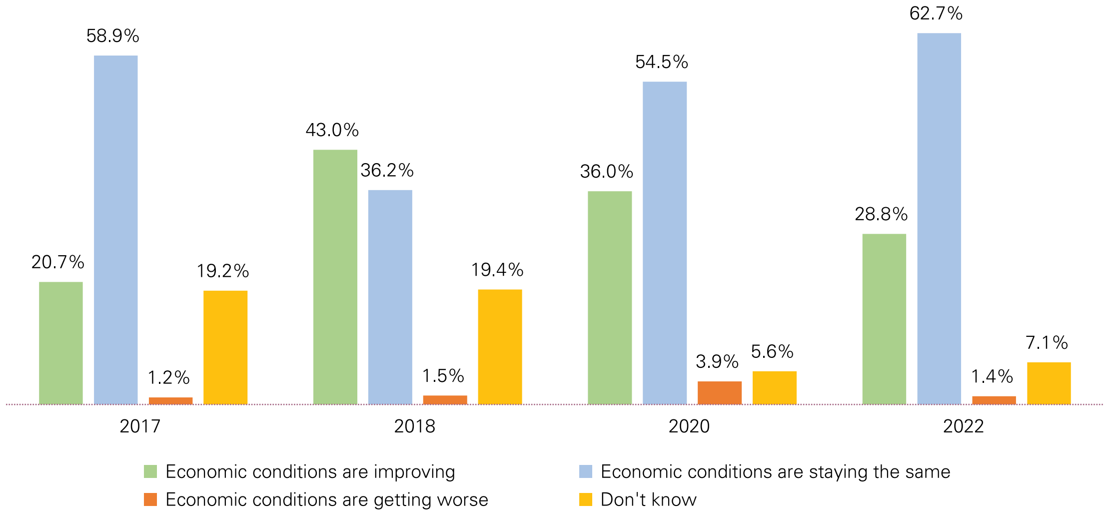

Figure 6.1.1: Q-G1. Do you think economic conditions in your urban municipality/rural municipality are improving? (N=1010)

Education background and income level seem to have some implications on respondents' perspectives towards the local economic condition. Optimism with regards to the economic conditions increased with respondents' education and income level.

The 28.8% of respondents who said that economic conditions in their municipality are getting better were further asked to provide their reasons for saying so. Frequently cited reasons for a positive economic outlook included better infrastructure (58.1%), improving water supply (33.6%), and increased municipal budget (16.6%).

Reasons why local economic conditions are improving

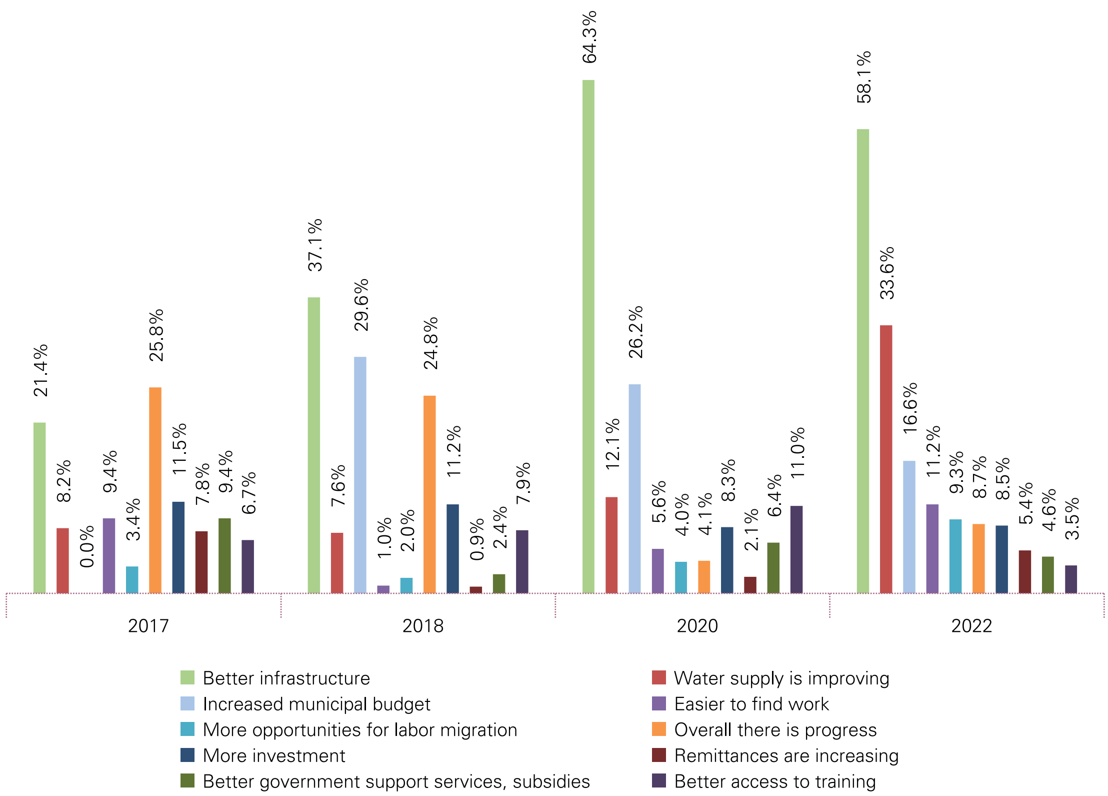

Figure 6.1.2: Q-G2. [If 'Yes, economic conditions are improving" in Q-G1] Why do you think that economic conditions are improving in your municipality /rural municipality? (N=348)[14]

6.2 PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The survey measured the levels of personal and household incomes of respondents by asking them to disclose their monthly personal and household income brackets in intervals.

Overall, slightly more than half (54.9%) of people from Koshi Province reported that their average household earning was more than NPR 20,000 a month and one third of respondents (32.7%) reported that it was between NPR 10,000-19,999 in a month. The share of respondents who reported having an earning of less than NPR 10,000 in a month was 12.0%.

14 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were limited to give the two major reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, however in 2020 and 2022 respondents were not limited to cite the two major reasons and were allowed to give multiple responses. To compare the responses of people regarding the main reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, across the four different survey periods, the first two responses of respondents in 2020 and 2022 were considered and analyzed.

Over the survey years, the proportion of respondent who mentioned that their monthly household income is less than NPR 10,000 per month has decreased. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents whose household income is NPR 40,000 per month or more is increasing. Those who said their household income range is NPR 10,000-19,999 a month was highest in 2018 (43.4%) and has since declined.

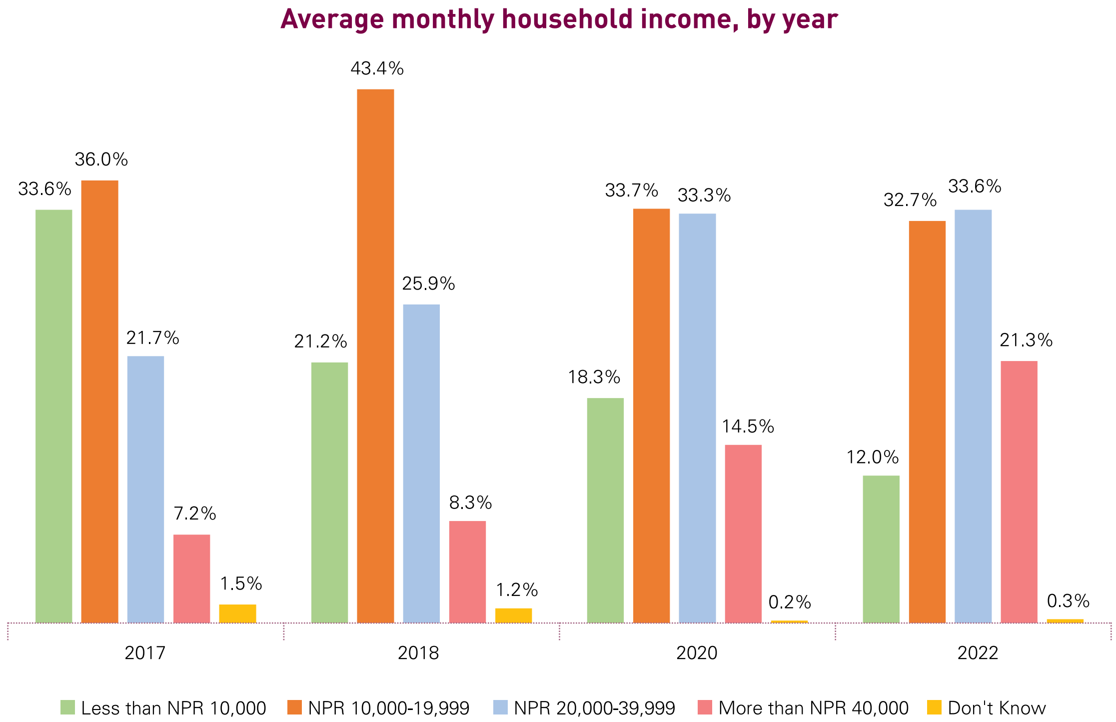

Figure 6.2.1: Q-G4. Approximately how much was your household income per month in the last year? (N=979) ('Refused to Answer' is not included)

In Koshi Province, residents of the Terai (60.9%) and Hill (49.6%) regions are more likely to have a monthly household income of NPR 20,000 and above than residents of the Mountain region (34.1%). Residents of the Mountain region (27.5%) are twice as likely as to report that their household's monthly income is less than NPR 10,000 than the average Nepali (13.7%).

A third (33.3%) of people from the Madhesi Dalit group report having a monthly income of NPR 40,000 or above; this share is more than two times higher than Hill Dalits (14.6%). All Madhesi Caste (Level 1) respondents, followed by Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (40.0%), and Madhesi Caste (Level 2) (30.6%), reported that their monthly household income was between NPR 20,000-40,000. However, respondents from Madhesi Caste (Level 2) (5.6%), were less likely to have a household income below NPR 10,000 a month than Hill Dalits (18.0%).

Changes in Household Income

Household incomes remained the same for most respondents in Koshi Province (71.2%) compared to the previous year. However, more respondents reported increased household incomes (17.3%) than decreased incomes (12.2%). Once again, more educated people and those with higher incomes were more likely to report an increase in household income than those with less education and lower incomes.

Over the survey years, there has been a steady incline in the share of respondents who have reported that their household income has remained the same (52.2% in 2017 to 61.7% in 2018 to 65.1% in 2020 and 71.2% in 2022). Conversely, in 2022, there was a decline of 13.9 percentage points in the proportion of respondents who said that their household income has increased, when compared to 29.6% of responses of respondent in 2020. On the other hand, there was a noticeable increase in the percentage of respondents who mentioned a decline in their household income – from 5.2% in 2020 to 12.2% in 2022.

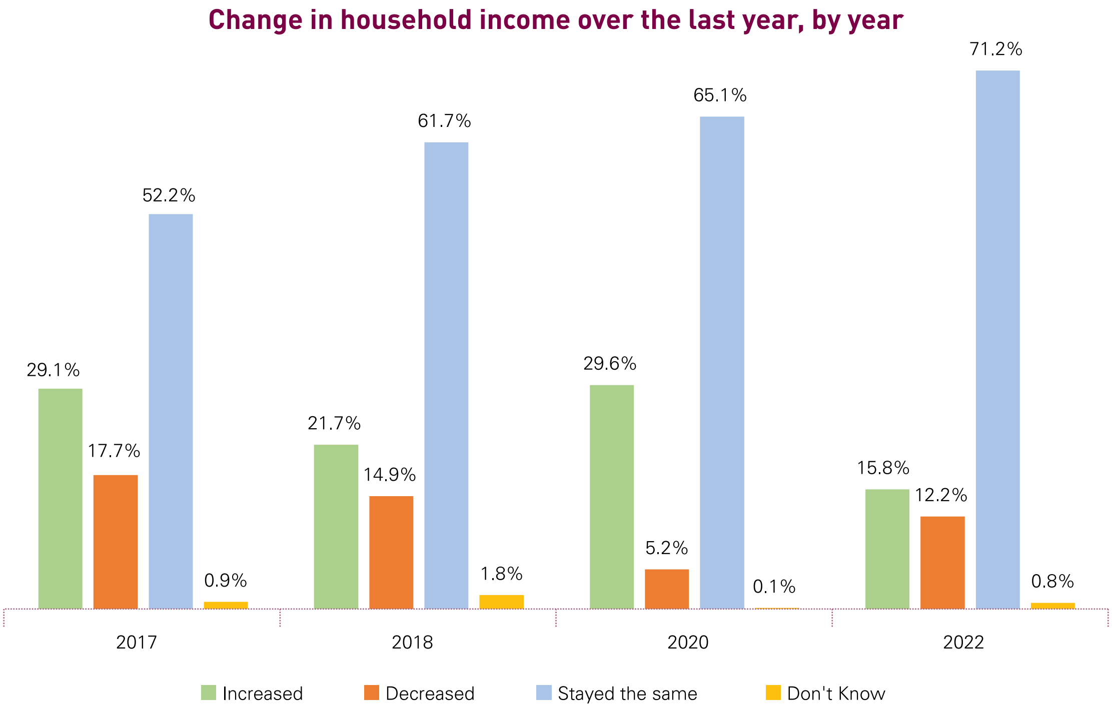

Figure 6.2.2: Q-G5. How has your household income changed in the last year? (N=1009, SNP 2022)

Personal Income

Besides the monthly household income, the survey also asked about the personal monthly income of the respondents. For this question, many respondents (30.5%) either refused to answer or mentioned no source of monthly income. These respondents were mainly students and people who are engaged in agriculture or household work. Women were twice as likely to refuse to answer personal monthly incomes as men.

Of those respondent who reported their personal income, slightly more than one third said they had a personal monthly income of NPR 20,000 or more (38.6%) – this is more (by 5.1 percentage points) than the national-level share of respondents reporting the same. In contrast, the share of respondent earning less than NPR 10,000 in Koshi Province is less than the national figure (Figure 6.2.3).

Figure 6.2.3: Q-G6C. What is your present level of personal income that you earn in a year? (N=701) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Respondent from urban municipalities (43.4%) were much more likely to earn more than NPR 20,000 a month than people residing in rural municipalities (29.9%). A higher share of respondent from rural municipalities (36.9%) reported that their personal income was less than NPR 10,000 compared to people residing in urban municipalities (24.5%). Likewise, a higher share of respondent from Mountain areas (48.7%) earned less then NPR 10,000, whereas in the Terai, the highest share of respondents (43.3%) earned more than NPR 20,000.

The highest share of Hill Dalits earned less than NPR 10,000 while the highest share of Madhesi Dalits (44.4%) had a personal income of more than NPR 20,000 a month. Higher personal incomes were again associated with higher levels of education. For instance, four-fifths of the respondents (81.0%) with a Bachelor's degree and above reported a personal income of more than NPR 20,000 a month, while only 16.3% of respondents without formal education reported the same.

6.3 MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

About one quarter of people from Koshi Province (24.0%) reported having at least one family member working in a foreign country; this is a similar to past years, with a marginal increase in 2022 (Figure 6.3.1).

The 24.0% of the respondents with a family member working abroad were further asked if their family members faced any problems. The large majority (89.1%) mentioned they did not face any problems. A small proportion cited differences in the payment than what was agreed upon (4.2%), physical injuries or illness (2.9%), and different work than what was promised (1.7%) as problems the migrating family member(s) had encountered.

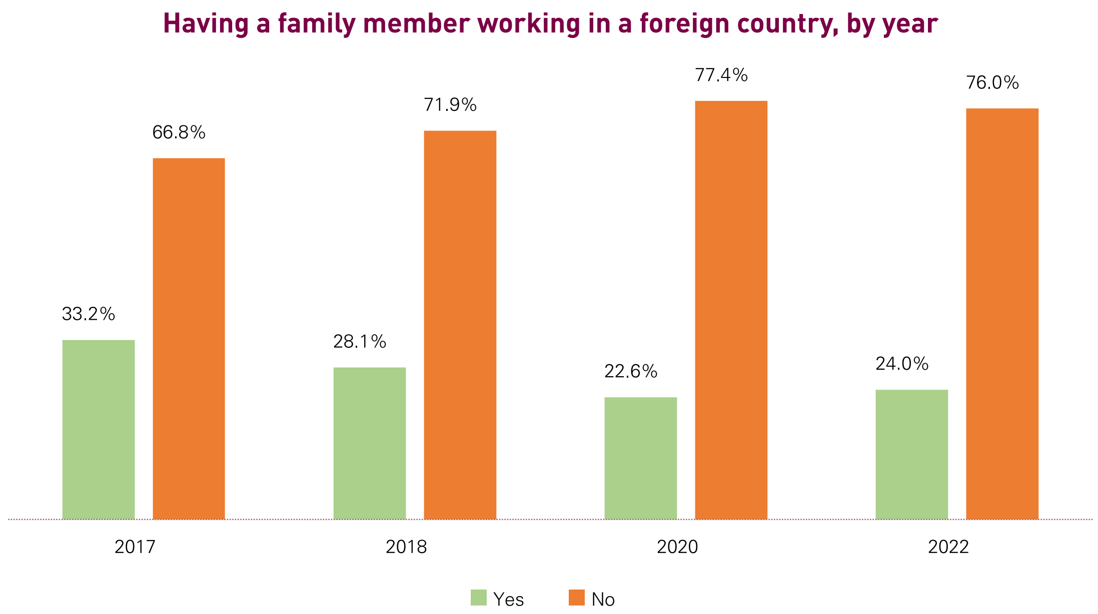

Figure 6.3.1: Q-G12. Is anyone in your family currently in a foreign country for work? (N=1010)

The survey attempted to understand whether respondents encouraged their family members, friends, relatives, and other people they know to seek foreign employment. Residents of Koshi Province were more inclined to say that they encourage their friends and family to seek foreign employment than residents of other provinces. People from Koshi Province were a little more likely to encourage people they know to seek foreign employment in 2022 (43.4%) than in 2020 (39.4%).

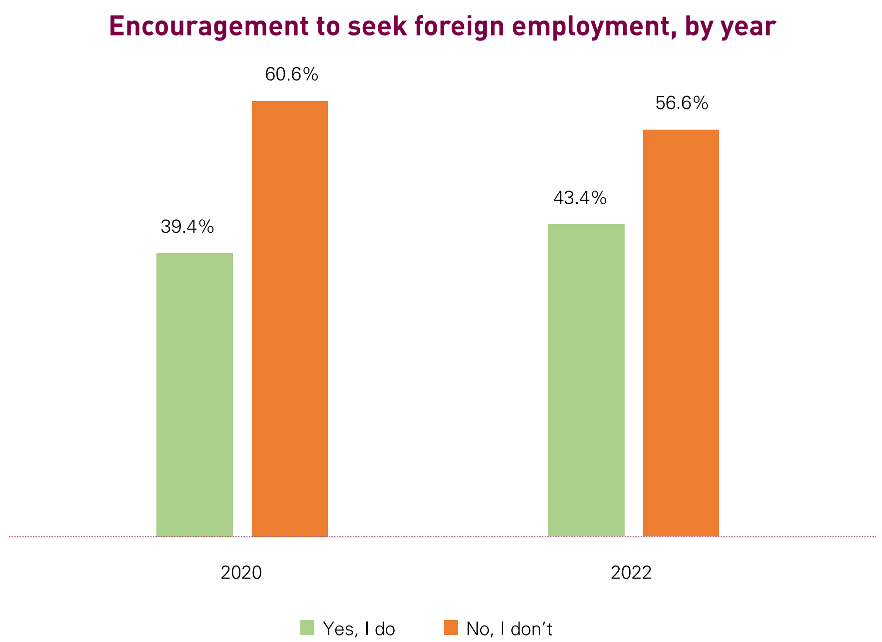

Figure 6.3.2: Q-G12.4. Do you encourage your family members, friends, relatives, and other people you know to go to the foreign employment? (N=999) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Remittances

The survey data shows the trend of Nepalis receiving remittances from within the country is slowly increasing, at 13.2% in 2022 compared to 11.0% in 2020. Meanwhile, 17.2% reported receiving remittances from outside Nepal in 2022, the lowest since SNP started recording this data. There was a gradual drop in the respondents who reported that remittance is not applicable to them **(Table 6.3.1).**

Receipt of remittances, by year

	Year	From inside	From outside	From both inside and outside	Remittance, not yet received	Not applicable	Don't know/ can't say
Koshi Province	2020	11.0%	19.4%	1.1%	6.4%	62.0%	0.1%
	2022	13.2%	17.2%	3.6%	6.8%	58.9%	0.3%

Table 6.3.1: Q-G13. Have you or your family members ever received remittance from inside or outside the country? (N=1003)[15] (Responses as 'Don't Know', 'Remittance Not Yet Received' are not presented and Response as 'Refused to Answer' is not included))

Across ecological regions, respondents from the Terai (19.2%) were more likely to receive remittance from outside the country. People from the Hill region (14.3%) were more likely to receive remittance from inside the country. Across caste/ethnic groups, the highest share of respondent to receive remittances from outside the country were Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (30.4%), followed by Hill Dalit (17.8%). In contrast, people from Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (5.2%), and Hill Dalit (6.7%) groups were least likely to receive remittances from inside the country.

Changes in Remittances

The survey asked the 34.0% of respondents who said they received remittance from within the country, from outside the country, or both, to further assess the changes in levels of remittances they received over the past year.

In 2022, one-third of the respondent (33.2%) from Koshi Province reported that the remittance they received increased – slightly more than in previous survey rounds (Table 6.3.2).

Changes in remittances, by year

	Decreased	Remained same	Increased	Don't know
2017	7.1%	72.2%	20.4%	0.3%
2018	10.7%	66.5%	16.0%	6.7%
2020	10.5%	60.5%	27.5%	1.5%
2022	5.6%	60.4%	33.2%	0.8%

Table 6.3.2: Q-G14. Compared to the previous year, has the amount of remittance that your household have been receiving increased, remained same or decreased? (N=341)

15 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were asked "Have you or your family ever received remittance from inside or outside the country?", however in 2020 and 2022 they were asked "In the past one year, have you or the members of your family received remittance from outside or inside of the country?"

Purpose of Remittances

The survey asked the 34.0% of respondents who reported receiving remittance about the main purpose of the remittance.

Most people from Koshi Province mentioned using the remittance for their daily life expenses (63.8%), for children's education (39.8%), healthcare and medical expenses (38.0%), followed by building a home (28.8%) and to pay off loans (15.3%). A few said they used the remittance for savings in the bank (12.7%). Between 2020 and 2022, share of respondents who used remittance for household expenses, healthcare, education, and to pay off loans decreased. The share of people who used it to build a house increased from 16.2% in 2020 to 28.8% in 2022.

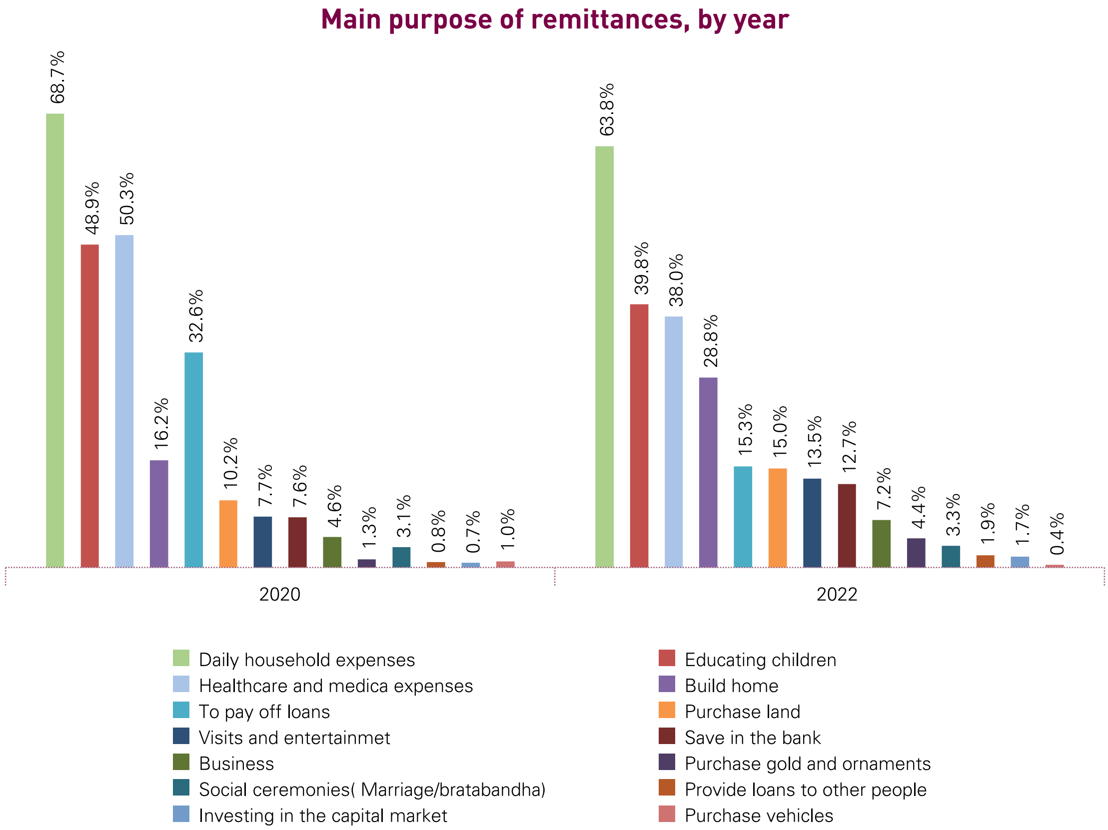

Figure 6.3.3: Q-G14A. Generally for what purpose do you spend the remittance money that you or your family members receive? (N=341)

6.4 AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO INSURANCE

The survey asked the respondents whether or not they heard about the different types of insurance read out to them by the enumerators. The vast majority of people in Koshi Province (93.2%) said they had heard of them. Over time, the share of respondent who had heard of the different types of insurance decreased very slightly from 94.8% in 2018 to 93.2% in 2022.

Awareness of insurance, by year

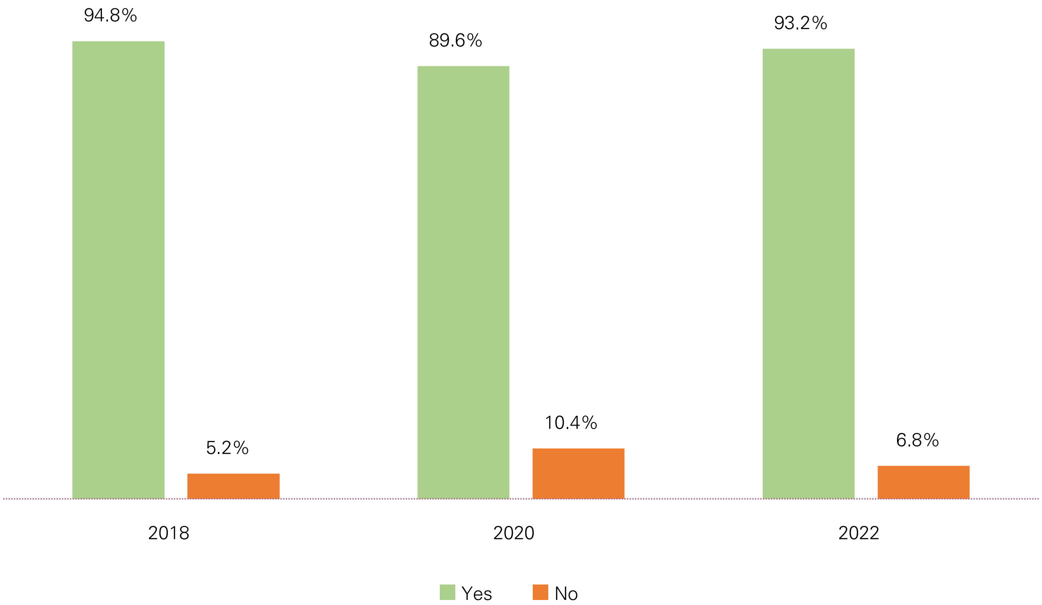

Figure 6.4.1: Q-G21.a Have you ever heard of any kind of insurance?
('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' not included) (N=1,210)

The survey found that health insurance (96.4%), life insurance (95.2%), and motor vehicle insurance (85.3%) were the most well-known types of insurance, while property insurance (64.6%) and travel insurance (55.2%) were among the least known insurance types.

Awareness and ownership of various types of insurance, by year

	2018		2020		2022	
	Aware	Own	Aware	Own	Aware	Own
Life Insurance	97.0%	18.2%	94.9%	16.9%	95.2%	26.7%
Personal/Accident Insurance	77.4%	3.4%	79.8%	5.3%	81.8%	6.8%
Auto Insurance	77.8%	20.4%	82.6%	22.4%	85.3%	27.6%
Health Insurance	84.7%	7.7%	92.1%	18.4%	96.4%	40.9%
Agricultural Insurance	63.4%	0.9%	64.8%	2.0%	74.4%	2.5%
Livestock Insurance	70.0%	2.1%	73.6%	4.0%	83.0%	12.0%
Property Insurance	52.2%	1.2%	48.1%	1.3%	64.6%	1.5%
Travel Insurance	57.4%	1.8%	56.1%	3.4%	55.2%	14.4%

Table 6.4.1. Q-G21B.A1-H1. Have you heard of the following insurance? (N=1010, SNP 2022) and Q-G21.B. B1-H1
[If "Yes" in Q-G21.B. A1-H1] Do you have the following insurance?

The survey also attempted to know whether respondents had taken the insurance they were aware of. A significantly higher proportion of respondents in Koshi Province (40.9%) were likely to have a medical insurance than the overall average (23.5%). Motor vehicle insurance (27.6%), and life insurance (26.7%) were the most widely taken insurance by respondents in Koshi Province.

Results show an increase in ownership of all eight types of insurance over time, while a considerable increase can be seen in the purchase of medical insurance (7.7% in 2018 to 40.9% in 2022), followed by motor vehicle insurance (20.4% in 2018 to 27.6% in 2022), and life insurance (18.2% in 2018 to 26.7% in 2022).

Awareness and ownership of different types of insurance increased with people's education level. For instance, a higher proportion of respondents with a bachelor's degree and above (57.3%) were likely to have health insurance compared to respondents who are illiterate (31.8%). Likewise, health insurance was owned by 46.9% of respondents in urban municipalities compared to 28.2% in rural municipalities. More people in the Terai region (30.5%) took health insurance than in the Mountain region (13.3%).

6.5 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

About three-fifths of Nepalis in Koshi Province, believed that both employment opportunities (59.3%) and income generation opportunities (61.4%) in their locality had not changed in the past year. A smaller proportion said that there were more employment opportunities (11.4%) and income generation opportunities (11.1%) in their locality compared to the previous year. About one-fourth of respondents thought that both types of opportunities had declined (Figure 6.5.1).

The proportion of respondents who believed that employment opportunities in their location had remained similar has decreased slightly over time (68.6% in 2018 to 64.0% in 2020 to 59.3% in 2022). In contrast, the share of respondents who thought there were less employment opportunities increased by 16.5 percentage points in 2022 (21.7%) compared to 2020 (7.8%).

Compared to previous survey rounds, the lowest share of respondents in 2022 felt there were more income generation opportunities available in their local area (27.2% in 2018, 28.7% in 2020, and just 11.1% in 2022). With each round, more people said there were fewer income generation opportunities in their local area (from 3.3% in 2018, to 7.1% in 2020, to 21.7% in 2022).

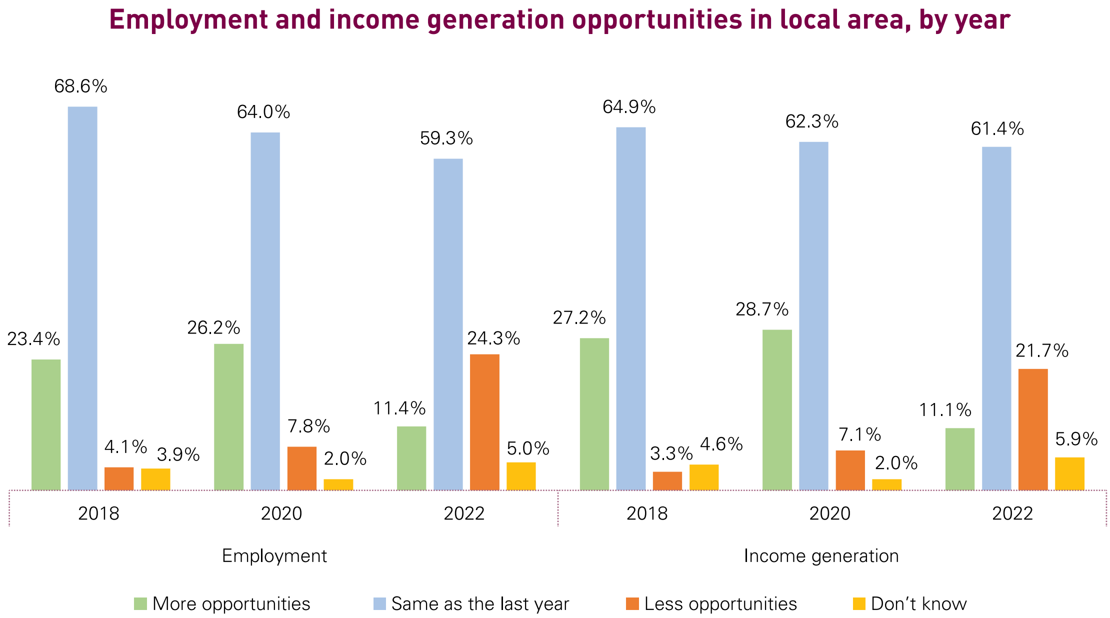

Figure 6.5.1: Q-G23a and Q-G23b. How do you consider the situation of employment opportunity and income generation opportunity in your local areas? (N=1009) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

In Koshi Province, younger age groups were more optimistic about employment and income generating opportunities in their locality. The higher the level of education, the more optimistic respondents were about employment and income generating opportunities in their locality. Nepalis engaged in social services were more likely to say employment and income generating opportunities have increased, whereas those engaged in foreign employment were more likely to say opportunities have decreased.

6.6 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Residents of Koshi Province were asked how they normally get information about the plans, programs, and budgets of local government. Most got this information from friends, family, and neighbors (55.8%); television (26.7%); radio Nepal (22%) and social media 21.6% (Figure 6.6.1).

There was a slight decrease of 7% in the share of respondents who mentioned that they get information through friends, family and neighbors in 2022 (55.8%) compared to 2020 (62.8%). In 2020, almost half of the total respondents (42.5%) said they access information through local radio networks, but only 15.9% said so in 2022. The share of people who cited television as information source increased between 2018 and 2020 but has remained more or less same since then.

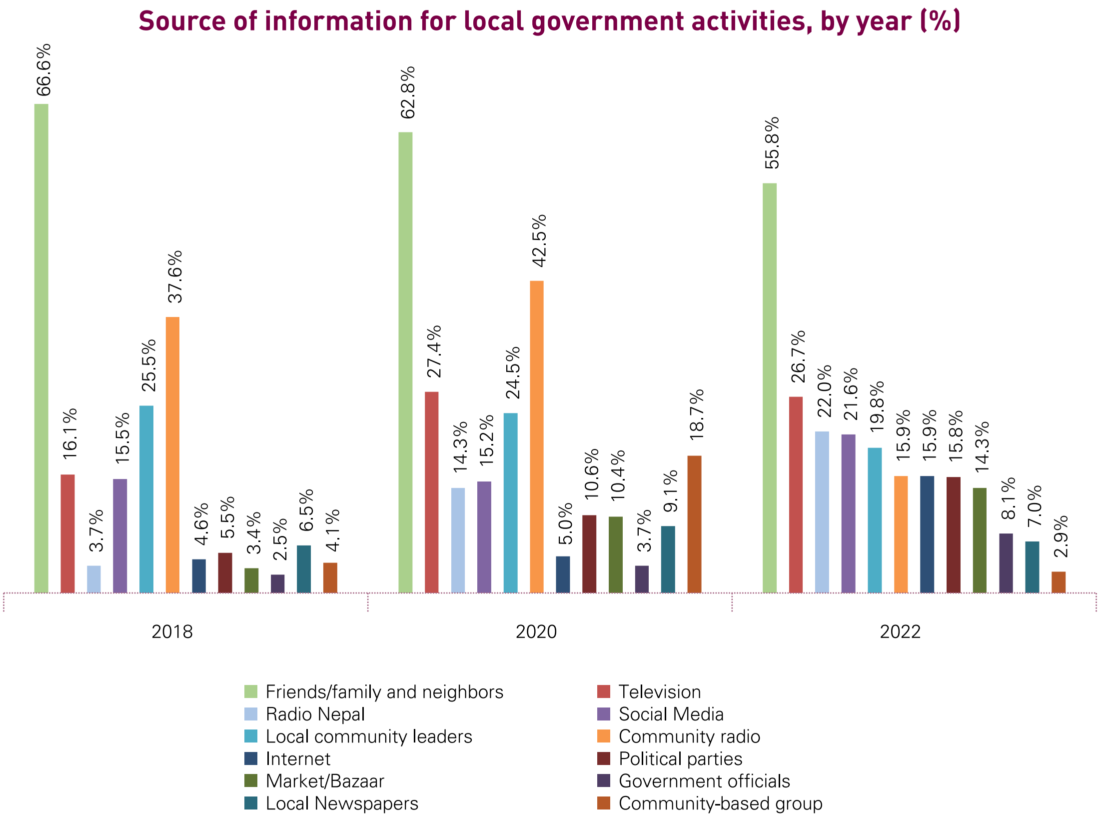

Figure 6.6.1: Q-H5. How do you normally get information about the plans, programs, and budget of local government? (N=1009) (Refused to answer not included)

Respondents with higher levels of education considered social media to be the main source of information, followed by friends, family, and neighbors and television. In contrast, respondents with no education at all, or no formal education were more likely to consider their friends, family, and neighbors as their main source of information followed by local community leaders and local radios.

Respondents in higher income brackets were more likely to cite television as their main source of information, whereas those from lower income groups said friends, family, and neighbors were their main source of information. Younger people were comparatively more likely to get information from friends, family, and neighbors, social media and the internet.

Expected Information from the Local Government

Koshi Province residents were asked what sort of information, they expected their municipality or their rural municipality to provide to them on a regular basis. A little less than a half (44.2%) said 'notices', 37.1% said budget and programs, and 26% of them said they expected the municipality/rural municipality to provide health related information (Figure 6.6.2).

Significant shares of respondents also mentioned they would like their municipality/rural municipality to provide information about government initiatives, policies and decisions (25.3%), and about education (24.9%). Just under one-fifth of respondents wanted employment related information (19.0%) or information on social security (18.1%).

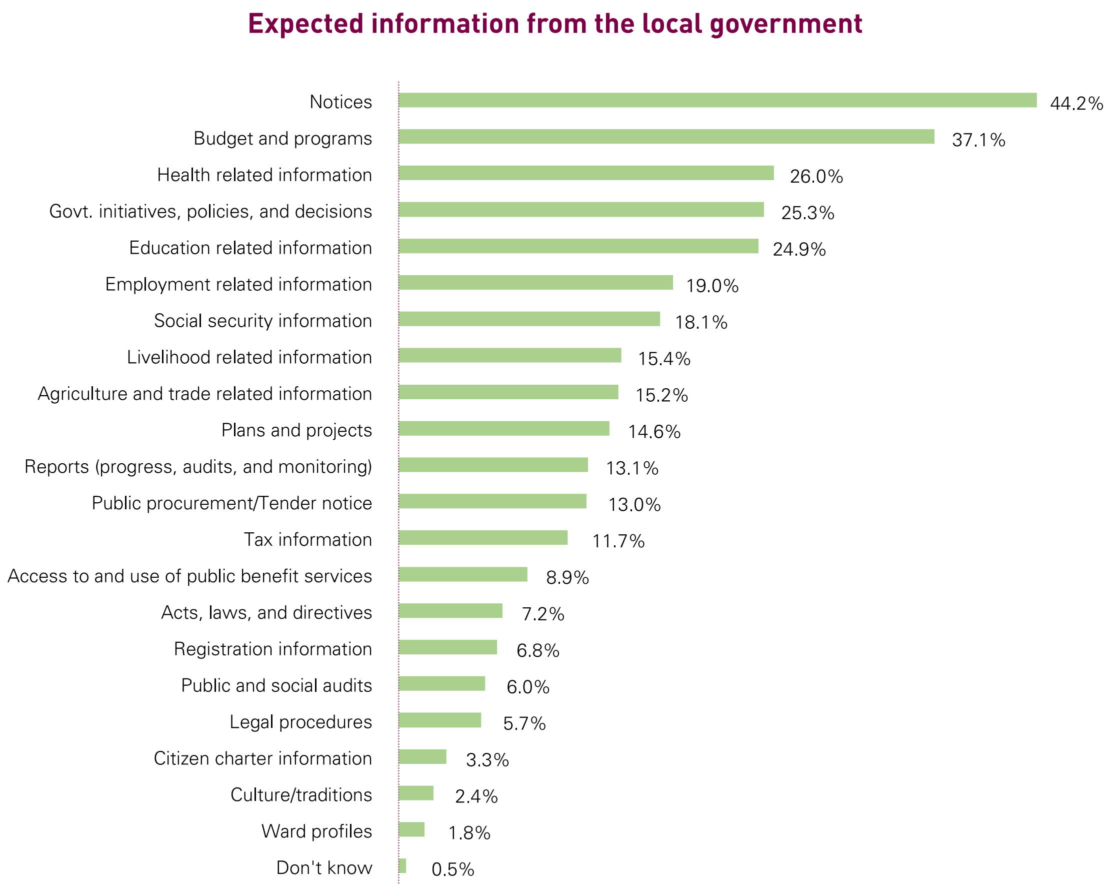

Figure 6.6.2: Q-H6. What kind of data, and information do you expect your municipality, the rural municipality should provide people and make that public, regularly? (N=1010)

Satisfaction with Access to Information

About one-third of respondents (31.4%) expressed that they were satisfied with the data, and information that were made public by their local government. The share of respondents from Koshi Province who said they were satisfied was 31.1% and the share of those who did not know was 28.0%.

Respondents were also asked if they had tried to access data/information from their local government. The majority (83.0%) had not accessed data/information from their local government. Only around one in ten (11.7%) reported that they had accessed information from the local government and the remaining share (5%) did not know.

Those who reported accessing information or data from the local government said they tried to acquire information about budgets and programs (34.1%), followed by information of notices (32.5%), and information related to acts, laws, and directives (22.1%) and public government initiatives, policies, and decisions (18.7%). Most respondents said that that they tried to access information by talking to the relevant government agency (45.2%), followed by taking the help of family and friends (44.5%), and through the help of local political leaders (43.2%).

Among those who tried to access information, half of the respondents (52.3%) said that they got the necessary information, slightly more than one quarter (27.2%) reported that the time taken to respond was too long, and 23.4% said that government officials were uncooperative. Many said that the information provided was out of date (26.1%) and the agency lacked sufficient knowledge to answer their query (20.1%).

7. EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19

7.1 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO MANAGE COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all three levels of government implemented measures to prevent and control COVID-19 and to minimize its socio-economic impacts. The survey asked all respondents whether they thought the government response was sufficient.

Most respondents believed that the response from all three levels of government was "appropriate". Compared to satisfaction levels with provincial and federal governments, a considerably larger proportion (43.5%) felt that the local level's response was sufficient (either "sufficient" or "very sufficient"). Much smaller shares of respondents thought it was as "insufficient" and "very insufficient" (Figure 7.1.1).

Government response to manage COVID-19

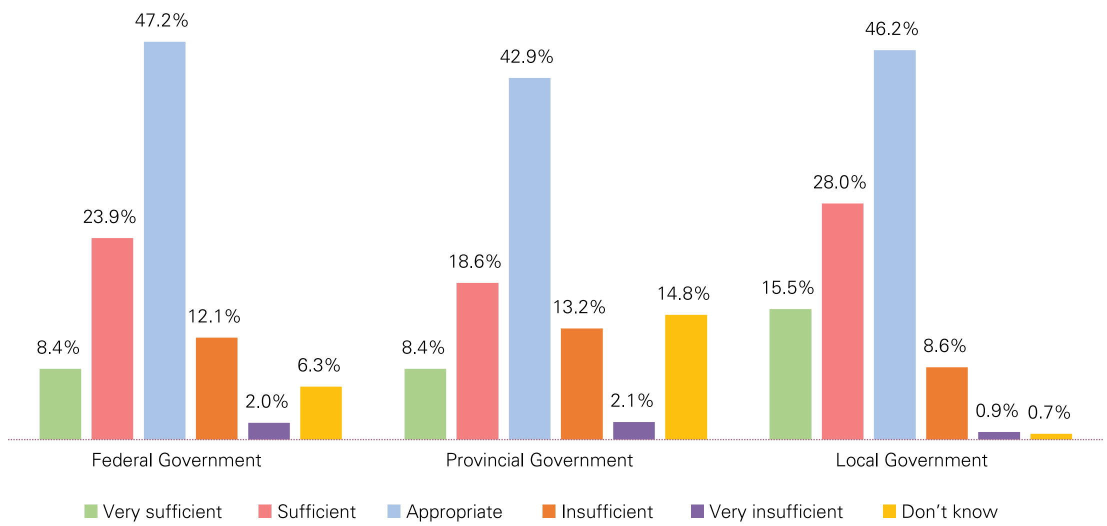

Figure 7.1.1: Q-I3. How sufficient was the government's response to manage COVID-19 crisis- very sufficient or sufficient or appropriate or insufficient or very insufficient? (N=1,210) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Rating of Government Response

On a scale of 0 to 10, respondents were asked to rate the measures taken by the government to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19; 0 representing "not effective at all" and 10 representing "very effective". Most people in Koshi Province considered the government's responses and measures to have been "effective" (Table 7.1.1).

Among the highest ranked government prevention and control measures, considered "highly effective," were the government's enforcement of the use of masks and social distancing (mean 7.91 points), and their restriction in mobility and travel (mean 7.79 points).

	Mobility and travel restrictions to reduce spread of virus	Enforcing use of masks and social distancing to reduce the spread	Enforcing business closures / openings	COVID -19 testing	Quarantine facilities	COVID -19 treatment (hospitals, ICU beds, etc)	Response to support vulnerable population suffering loss of livelihoods	Migrant workers returning to Nepal
N	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010
Mean	7.79	7.91	6.72	6.71	6.48	6.16	5.7	5.82

Table 7.1.1: Q-I4.A-H. How do you rate the government's following response to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19? ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Expected Action of Government for the Socio-Economic Recovery from COVID-19

The survey asked all respondents about their views on which areas the government could further support for socio-economic recovery and to mitigate the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19.

Most respondents mentioned improvement in health services (69.3%), and expediting the vaccination process (52.1%). A considerable share also mentioned creating more employment opportunities (44.6%), initiation of government support programs (32.5%), cash schemes for households (18.0%), and educational support for children (26.1%) to better support the socio-economic recovery from COVID-19.

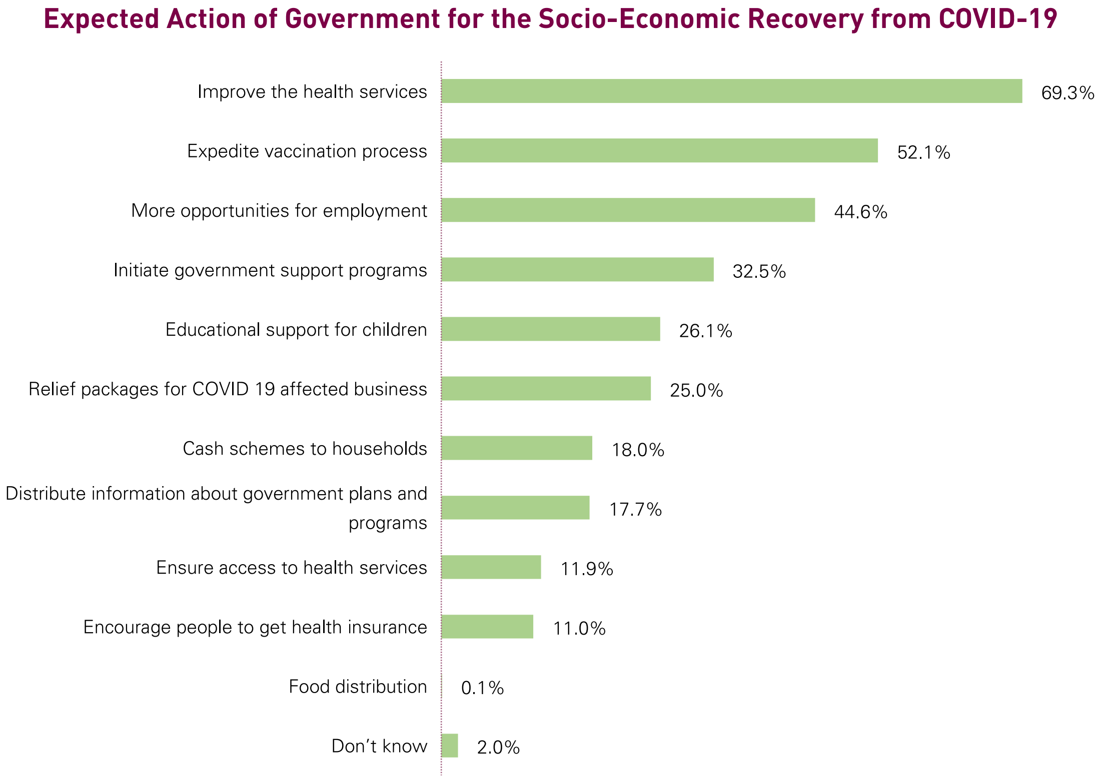

Figure 7.1.1: Q-I6. To support socio- economic recovery from COVID- 19, what could the government do more to support its citizens? (N=1010)

7.2 RESPONSIVE ACTORS DURING COVID-19 AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Respondents were asked who was most active in managing COVID-19 within their community. The majority of the respondents i.e., almost three-fourths (74.3%) mentioned that their local government was most responsive. Much smaller shares mentioned local leaders (7.4%), community volunteers (5.3%), community-based organizations at (2.7%) and public hospitals (2.4%).

7.3 MAJOR PROBLEMS AND COPING STRATEGIES DURING COVID-19

Just over half of Nepalis from Koshi Province (53.9%) reported facing problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions. The other half (46.1%) report not having faced any problems.

Of those facing problems, the majority reported difficulties acquiring basic services (41.5%), increased food prices (34.6%), loss of employment or other main source of income (28.2%) and decreased income/profits (25.7%) that they or their family members faced due to the pandemic.

The study asked respondents who reported facing some problems due to COVID-19 (53.9%) about their coping strategies. More than one quarter (27.0%) responded that they did not do anything to cope with the impacts of COVID-19. A quarter opted to use their savings (25.4%). Considerable shares bought food on credit (16.4%), took assistance from relatives/neighbors (12.9%), acquired loans from money lenders (15.6%), or sold livestock and assets (9.3%). Nearly one in ten Nepalis (9.7%) also said that they reduced their food consumption during the pandemic.

Coping strategies during COVID-19

Coping strategies	%
Did nothing	27.0%
Used savings	25.4%
Bought food on credit	16.4%
Acquired loans from money lenders	15.6%
Received assistance from relatives/neighbors	12.9%
Reduced food consumption	9.7%
Sold livestock	9.3%
Sold assets (land, building, ornaments, furniture, machinery)	9.3%
Reduced non-food consumption	8.6%
Bought non-food items on credit	8.6%
Acquired bank loans	4.4%
Acquired loans from Cooperatives	3.8%
Received in-kind assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.)	2.1%
Adopted new profession/business	1.8%
Migrated to find work elsewhere	1.7%
Received financial assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.)	1.4%
Acquired loans from micro-finance	0.5%

Table 7.3.1: Q-I10. How did you cope up with the above problems (during the lockdown and in the months after the lockdown)? (N=545)