

A SURVEY OF THE NEPALI PEOPLE IN 2022

SURVEY REPORT | MADHESH PROVINCE



 *inter disciplinary analysts*

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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.

Ekku M. Pun

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| FOREWORD | V |
| CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| CHAPTER 2 PUBLIC OUTLOOK AND NATIONAL MOOD | 6 |
| 2.1 Direction of the Country | 6 |
| 2.2 Reasons for Optimism | 8 |
| 2.3 Problems and Challenges | 9 |
| 2.4 Local Conditions | 9 |
| 2.5 Reasons for Improvement in Local Conditions | 10 |
| 2.6 Problems and Challenges at the Local Level | 11 |
| 2.7 Situation of the Household | 12 |
| 2.8 Household Experiences | 13 |
| CHAPTER 3 PERSONAL SAFETY AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION | 15 |
| 3.1 Household Experience of Violence, Crime, and Justice..... | 15 |
| 3.2 Justice and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms | 16 |
| CHAPTER 4 IDENTITY | 17 |
| 4.1 Mother Tongue | 17 |
| 4.2 Perceived Disadvantages due to Mother Tongue | 17 |
| 4.3 Perceived Disadvantages due to Caste/Ethnicity | 18 |
| 4.4 Perceived Disadvantages due to Gender | 19 |
| 4.5 Social Values | 20 |
| 4.6 The Position of Nepali Women in Society | 21 |
| 4.7 Views on Leadership Positions | 22 |
| CHAPTER 5 GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION | 24 |
| 5.1 Local Body Restructuring..... | 24 |
| 5.2 Social Security | 25 |
| 5.3 Trust in Institutions | 26 |
| 5.4 Awareness of Public Services | 27 |
| 5.5 Experience Accessing Public Services..... | 28 |
| 5.6 Views on Education..... | 29 |
| 5.7 Performance of Schools during COVID-19 | 32 |
| 5.8 Views on Public Health Services | 32 |
| 5.9 Views on Roads..... | 35 |
| 5.10 Taxation | 37 |
| 5.11 Corruption | 40 |
| 5.12 Public Awareness and Participation in Local Governance Processes..... | 40 |
| 5.13 Local Elections and Views on Elected Officials | 43 |
| 5.14 Views on the Responsiveness of the Local Government | 44 |
| CHAPTER 6 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION | 49 |
| 6.1 Perceptions of Local Economic Conditions..... | 49 |
| 6.2 Personal and Household Income..... | 50 |
| 6.3 Migration and Remittances..... | 53 |
| 6.4 Awareness of and Access to Insurance | 56 |
| 6.5 Employment and Income Generation Opportunities | 56 |
| 6.6 Sources of Information..... | 57 |
| CHAPTER 7 EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19 | 60 |
| 7.1 Government's Response to Manage COVID-19 | 60 |
| 7.2 Responsive Actors during COVID-19 at the Local Level..... | 62 |
| 7.3 Major Problems and Coping Strategies during COVID-19..... | 62 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | | |
|---------------|---|----|
| Figure 2.1.1 | Q-B1a. Overall direction of the country, by year..... | 6 |
| Figure 2.1.2 | Q-B1b-f. Direction of the country, by different sectors and year | 7 |
| Figure 2.2.1 | Q-B2. Top reasons for optimism, by year | 8 |
| Figure 2.3.1 | Q-B3. Biggest problems in Nepal, by year | 9 |
| Figure 2.4.1 | Q-B4a. Local conditions, by year | 10 |
| Figure 2.5.1 | Q-B5. Reasons for optimism about local conditions, by year | 11 |
| Figure 2.6.1 | Q-B6. Problems and challenges at the locality, by year | 12 |
| Figure 4.5.1 | Q-D9. Approval of marriage between different caste/ethnicities, by year | 20 |
| Figure 5.1.1 | Q-E4. Views on local level restructuring, by year..... | 24 |
| Figure 5.4.1 | Q-E10AM-AO1. Awareness of government services, by year | 27 |
| Figure 5.4.1 | Q-E10AM3. Effective channels of information to disseminate local government services | 28 |
| Figure 5.6.1 | Q-E11b and Q-E11Aii. Views on the quality of education, by year..... | 30 |
| Figure 5.7.1 | Q-E11f.1 and Q-E11g.1. Alternative education provided by school during COVID-19..... | 32 |
| Figure 5.8.1 | Q-E12a. Distance to the nearest public health post/hospital, by year | 33 |
| Figure 5.8.2 | Q-E12b. Views on the quality of public health care, by year..... | 33 |
| Figure 5.8.3 | Q-E12c. Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of healthcare, by year | 34 |
| Figure 5.9.1 | Q-E13b. Entity responsible for maintenance of roads, by year..... | 35 |
| Figure 5.9.2 | Q-E13c. Changes to the quality of roads in the rural municipality/municipality, by year | 36 |
| Figure 5.9.3 | Q-E13f. Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of road service..... | 37 |
| Figure 5.10.4 | Q-E16. Willingness to pay more local taxes for better services, by year | 39 |
| Figure 5.12.1 | Q-E18. Awareness of local government development projects, by year | 41 |
| Figure 5.12.2 | Q-E19. Local government services that should get first priority, by year | 41 |
| Figure 5.12.3 | Q-E20. Awareness of public hearing in their ward or municipality, by year..... | 42 |
| Figure 5.13.1 | Q-F8. Contact with elected local representatives and level of satisfaction, by election year ... | 44 |
| Figure 5.14.1 | Q-F1A. Views on government responsiveness to the needs of people, by year | 44 |
| Figure 5.14.2 | Q-E13g. Overall satisfaction with regards to services delivered by the local government | 45 |
| Figure 5.14.3 | Q-E10Ha,b,c. Average level of satisfaction with education, health, and road-related services, by year | 46 |
| Figure 5.15.1 | Q-F6. Reason for expected improvement in the quality of life | 47 |
| Figure 5.15.2 | Q-F71. Basis of voting | 48 |
| Figure 6.1.1. | Q-G1 Views on economic conditions, by year | 49 |
| Figure 6.1.2: | Q-G2. Reasons why local economic conditions are improving..... | 50 |
| Figure 6.2.1: | Q-G4. Average monthly household income, by year..... | 51 |
| Figure 6.2.2: | Q-G5. Change in household income over the last year, by year | 52 |
| Figure 6.2.3: | Q-G6C. Personal income in 2022..... | 52 |
| Figure 6.3.1: | Q-G12. Having a family member working in a foreign country, by year..... | 53 |
| Figure 6.3.2: | Q-G12.4. Encouragement to seek foreign employment, by year | 54 |
| Figure 6.3.3: | Q-G14A. Main purpose of remittances, by year..... | 55 |
| Figure 6.5.1: | Q-G23a and Q-G23b. Employment and income generation opportunities in local area, by year | 57 |
| Figure 6.6.1: | Q-H5. Source of information for local government activities, by year | 58 |
| Figure 6.6.2: | Q-H6. Expected information from the local government..... | 58 |
| Figure 7.1.1: | Q-I3. Government response to manage COVID-19 | 60 |
| Figure 7.1.1: | Q-I6. Expected Action of Government for the Socio-Economic Recovery from COVID-19..... | 62 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | | |
|---------------|---|----|
| Table 2.7.1: | Q-B7a-g. Situation of the household, by year | 13 |
| Table 2.8.1: | Q-B8. Household experience due to lack of money, by year..... | 14 |
| Table 3.1.1: | Q-C3. Household experiences of violence and crime under different situations, by year..... | 15 |
| Table 4.1.1: | Q-D1. Mother tongue, by province and ecological region | 17 |
| Table 4.2.1: | Q-D2a-e. Mother tongue as a disadvantage, by year | 18 |
| Table 4.3.1: | Q-D3a-e. Caste and Ethnicity as disadvantage, by year..... | 18 |
| Table 4.4.1: | Q-D4a-g. Gender as a disadvantage, by year..... | 19 |
| Table 4.6.1: | Q-D10a-m. Views on gender roles and gender equality, by year..... | 21 |
| Table 4.7.1: | Q-D11. Acceptable leadership positions in different organizations/institutions, by year | 22 |
| Table 5.2.1: | QE8a. Awareness and receiving social security benefits, by year | 25 |
| Table 5.3.1: | Q-E9a-v. Trust in institutions, by year | 26 |
| Table 5.5.1: | Q-E10a-n. Services received through local government and ease of receiving the services, by year | 29 |
| Table 5.6.1: | Q-E11. Child enrolled in a public or private school, by year | 29 |
| Table 5.6.2: | Q-E11c and Q-E11Aiii. Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of education, by year.... | 30 |
| Table 5.6.3: | Q-E11g. Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of schools, by year | 31 |
| Table 5.8.1: | Q-E12d. Changes in the quality of health service, by year and provincial regions..... | 34 |
| Table 5.9.1: | Q-E13a. Views on the quality of roads in the urban municipality/ rural municipality, by year ... | 35 |
| Table 5.10.1: | Q-E15Ai-Mi. Views on the current level of taxation, by year..... | 38 |
| Table 5.11.1: | Q-E17a-g. Bribe in exchange for services, by year | 40 |
| Table 5.13.1: | Q-F1i-iv. Confidence that elected officials care, by province..... | 43 |
| Table 6.3.1: | Q-G13. Receipt of remittances, by year | 54 |
| Table 6.3.2: | Q-G14. Changes in remittances, by year | 55 |
| Table 6.4.1: | Q-G21B.A1-H1. Awareness and ownership of various types of insurance, by year..... | 56 |
| Table 7.1.1: | Q-I4.A-H. Mean Rating for the government response during COVID-19 | 61 |
| Table 7.3.1: | Q-I10. Coping strategies during COVID-19..... | 63 |



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 Madhesh Province Brief, is based on a sample of 1,009 respondents in 84 wards of Madhesh Province. This 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. While SNP 2020 had captured the perception of Nepalis just before the onset of Covid-19, SNP 2022 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 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.

As the government of Madhesh Province was formed in the alliance of parties focused on Madhesh Province, the government of Madhesh Province could not face the impact of the breakdown of the central government led by UML leader KP Oli. Madhesh Province is the only province that was ruled by only one chief minister for a whole term. However, the local elections held on May 13, 2022, and their results seem to have affected the public's opinion of Madhesh Province, as reflected in survey results.

Previous survey rounds showed steady optimism about the overall direction of the country, including the functioning of the federal structure and local governments. Contrary to SNP 2018 and 2020,

SNP 2022 depicted a less optimistic outlook on the country's direction, economic conditions, and on political participation and governance. The share of Nepalis living in Madhesh Province who thought that the country is moving in the right direction was lowest in 2022, at 42.5%. The socio-economic impact of Covid-19 on the country and on individual households was also evident with people expecting support from the government through improved health services, cash schemes, employment opportunities, and educational support for children to aid their recovery. Fewer Nepalis in Madhesh Province stated that their household financial situation improved compared to the previous year. Increased corruption, inflation, deteriorating economic conditions, and difficulty getting jobs were the most frequently reported problems in Madhesh Province in 2022. Political parties continued to remain the least trusted institution. The share with a positive economic outlook dropped from 28.1% in 2018 to 14.5% in 2022.

People in Madhesh Province held more favorable opinions about local areas and local governments, as was the case at the national level. While there was a slight drop in percentages reporting local condition were improving, the figure was still more than double compared to people's outlook on the country's direction. Madhesh Province residents trusted local government continued more than federal and provincial governments and 39.4% were satisfied with services delivered by the local government. Further, the share of respondents who reported ease in receiving services from local governments had increased. Local governments were cited as the most responsive actor to manage Covid-19.

The level of public awareness of and participation in local governance processes, however, continued to remain low. Over the years, there was a decline in the proportion of respondents who reported feeling disadvantaged while obtaining public services and at their workplace due to their gender, caste/ethnicity, or mother tongue (other than Nepali). Views on gender roles and equality were increasingly favorable with regards to women's control over income, freedom of movement, and decision-making.

Differences across variables, such as ethnicity, gender, education, and geographical location of respondents were fairly pronounced in the findings. While the national brief only presented key findings and significant variations across variables, this Brief from Madhesh 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 the year 2022, more than two-fifths (41.8%) of Nepalis believed that the nation is heading in the right direction. A similar proportion of respondents in Madhesh Province (42.5%) thought the same.

Between 2017 and 2020, more and more residents from Madhesh Province thought that the country is headed in the right direction. In 2020 a higher share of people in Madhesh Province (71.2%) were of the opinion that the country is headed in the right direction than the national figure (65.6%). In 2022, however, there was a significant drop in the proportion of respondent – both at the national level and in Madhesh Province – who reflect that the country is headed in the right direction.

Overall direction of the country, by year

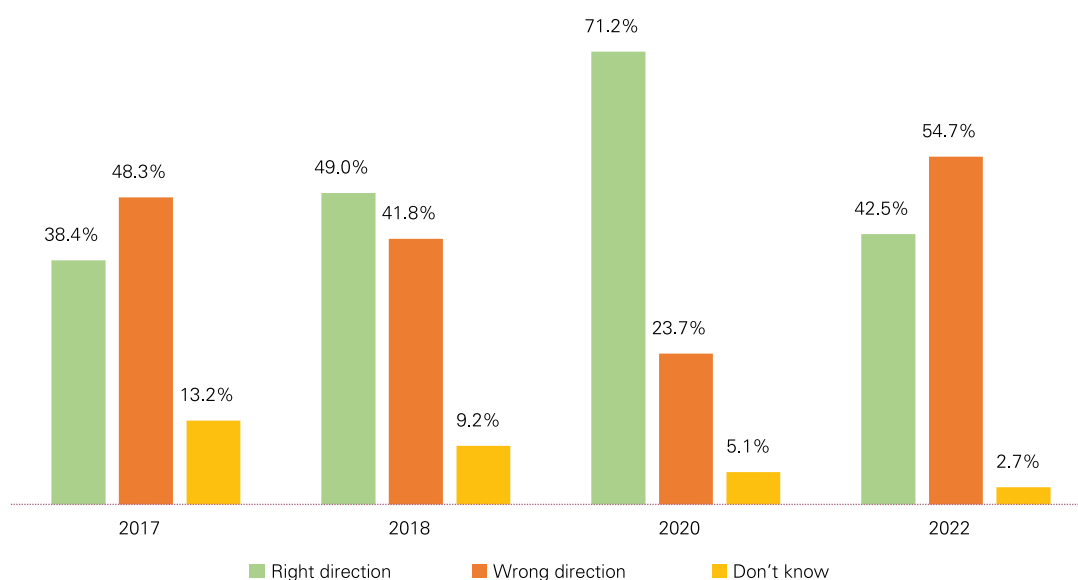


Figure 2.11: Q-B1a. Overall, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or do you think it is moving in the wrong direction? (N=1,009)

The proportion of respondents who believed that the country is heading in the wrong direction, on the other hand, more than doubled in 2022 (54.7%) compared to the previous year 2020 (23.7%).

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 (52.1%) had a positive outlook than those in the 55 and above age group (38.5%). Meanwhile, respondents with higher levels of education (those with Bachelor’s degree and above, 24.5%) tended to be less optimistic than those who have no education (40.7%). Similarly, respondents from rural municipalities (44.4%) were more optimistic than those from urban municipalities (41.8%).

Hill caste community members were less likely to express that the country is moving in the right direction than the Hill Adibasi/Janajati groups. Compared to the provincial average (42.5%), a smaller proportion of Hill Dalit (37.9%) were positive about the country’s direction.

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 (49.8%), cultural (56.4%), and physical infrastructure (59.9%), while fewer saw the economy (40.0%) and political sphere (32.2%) heading in the right direction.

Direction of the country, by different sectors and year

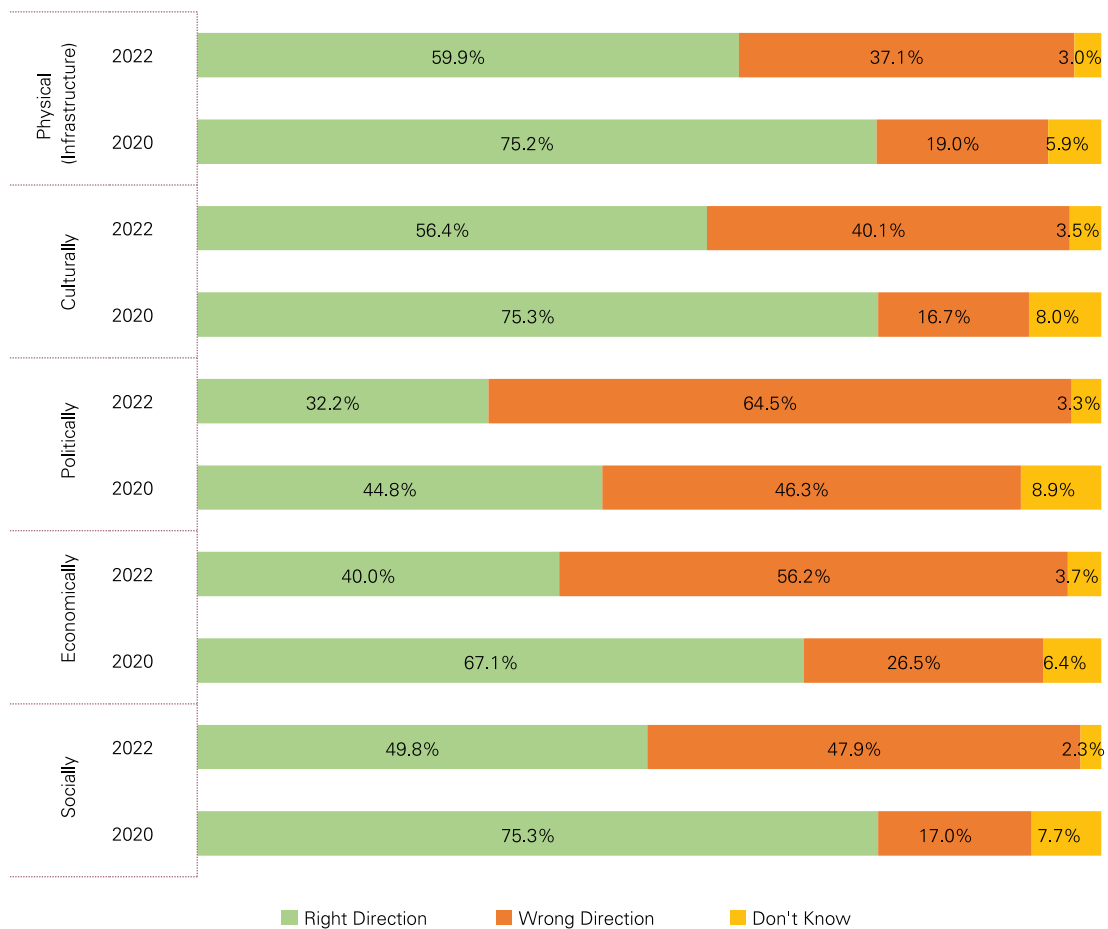


Figure 2.1.2: Q-B1b-f. Do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? Please answer considering the overall as well as social, economic, political, cultural, and physical (infrastructural) conditions of the country. (N=1,009)

2.2 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Respondents of Madhesh Province who believe that the country was moving in the right direction (42.5%) were further asked to identify the primary reasons for their optimism. The most commonly cited reasons were better roads (56.9%) followed by improved supply of electricity (25.9%), increase in access to education (24.5%), the promulgation of the new constitution in the country (9.8%) and the end of the decade long conflict (9.2%) (Figure 2.2.1).

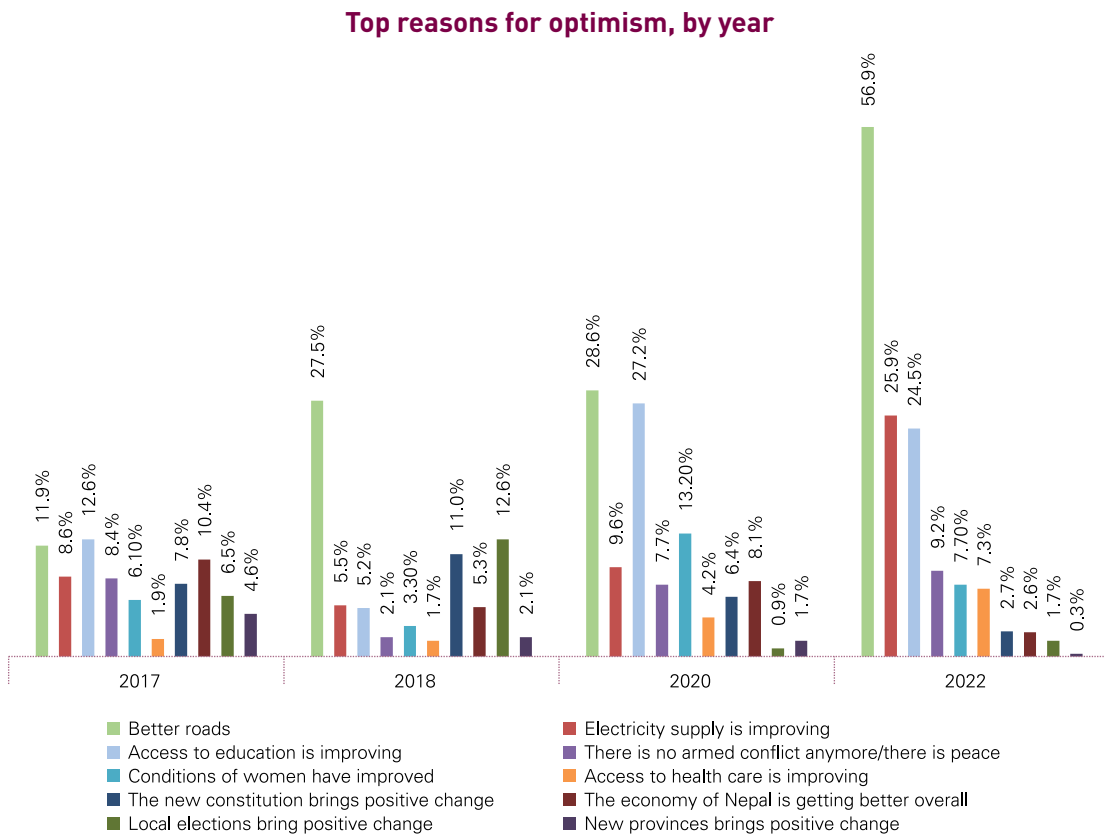


Figure 2.2.1: Q-B2. [If answered “Nepal is going in the right direction” to Q-B1] Why do you think that Nepal is going in the right direction? (N=429)¹

In all four survey years, improvement of roads and trails was one of the top 3 most-cited reason for optimism. In 2022, however, the share of respondents from Madhesh Province who mentioned improvements of roads and trails nearly doubled (56.9%) compared to 2020 (28.6%) and 2018 (27.5%).

Shares mentioning increasing access to electricity as a reason for optimism also increased noticeably from 9.6% in 2020 to 25.9% in 2022. In 2020, many saw increasing access to education, the promulgation of new constitution and improvement in womens condition as reasons for optimism but in 2022, the shares citing these reasons declined.

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.

2.3 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

Respondents were asked about what they considered to be major problems facing the country. Respondents of Madhesh Province thought the increase in corruption/extortion (45%), increasing prices of basic goods (23.8%), and limited access to education (17.1%) were the most pressing problems in Nepal. The shares reporting the increase in corruption as one of the biggest problems increased noticeably after 2017 (13.2%) and 2018 (7.3%), to 39.4% in 2020 and 45.0% in 2022 (Figure 2.3.1).

Compared to 2017, 2018, and 2020, there has also been a sharp increase in the share of respondents who believe that limited access to education is an important problem in Madhesh Province. The proportion of the respondents who think this is a problem increased from 5.4% in 2017 to 17.1% in 2022. Fewer respondents cited difficulties finding work and making living (14.3%) compared to 2018 (40.7%).

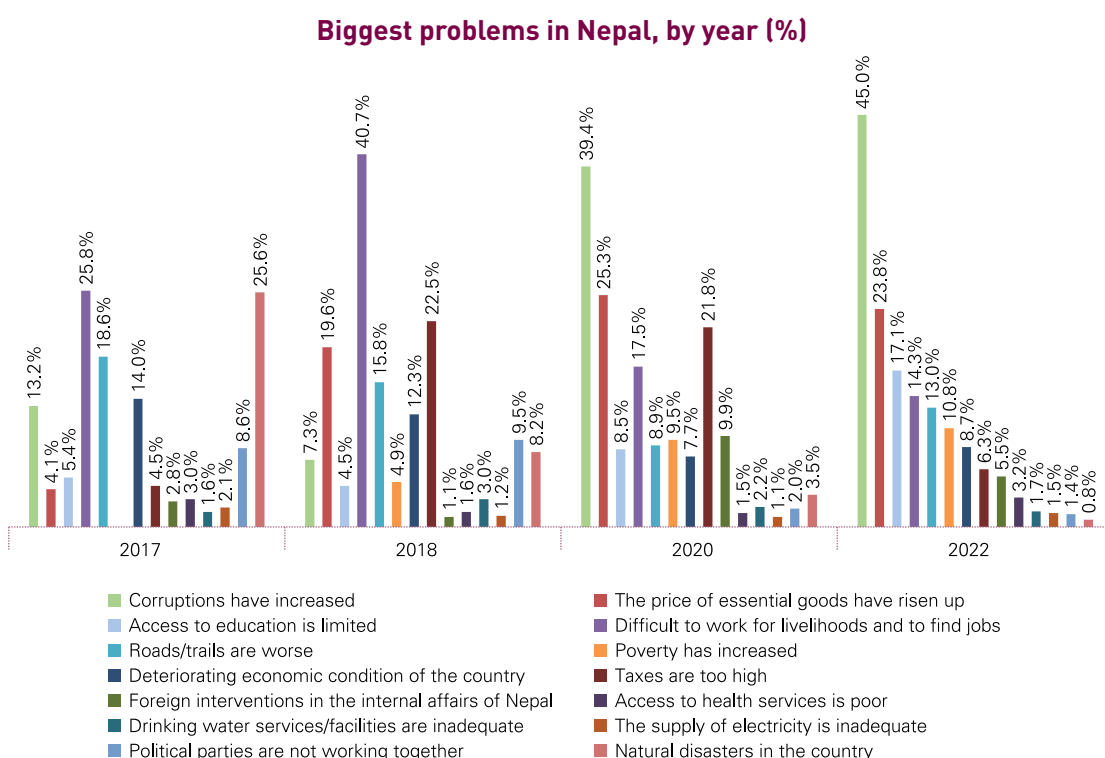


Figure 2.3.1: Q-B3. In your view, what are the two biggest problems facing Nepal as a whole? (N=1,009)

2.4 LOCAL CONDITIONS

People from Madhesh Province were more optimistic about the situation in their local area than the overall direction of the country. In 2022, three-fifths (59.7%) of the people residing in Madhesh Province believed that the situation of their local area was improving whereas slightly less than two-fifths (37.5%) were of the opinion that it was getting worse. People in Madhesh Province were less optimistic about local conditions than the national average: 70.4% of Nepalis who thought that things in their local area were improving compared to 59.7% in Madhesh Province.

From 2017 to 2020, the share of respondents who reported that the general situation in their localities was improving increased steadily. After 2020, however, there was a decline in the number of people who said things in their locality were improving – while 68.5% reported this in 2020, 59.7% said so in 2022.

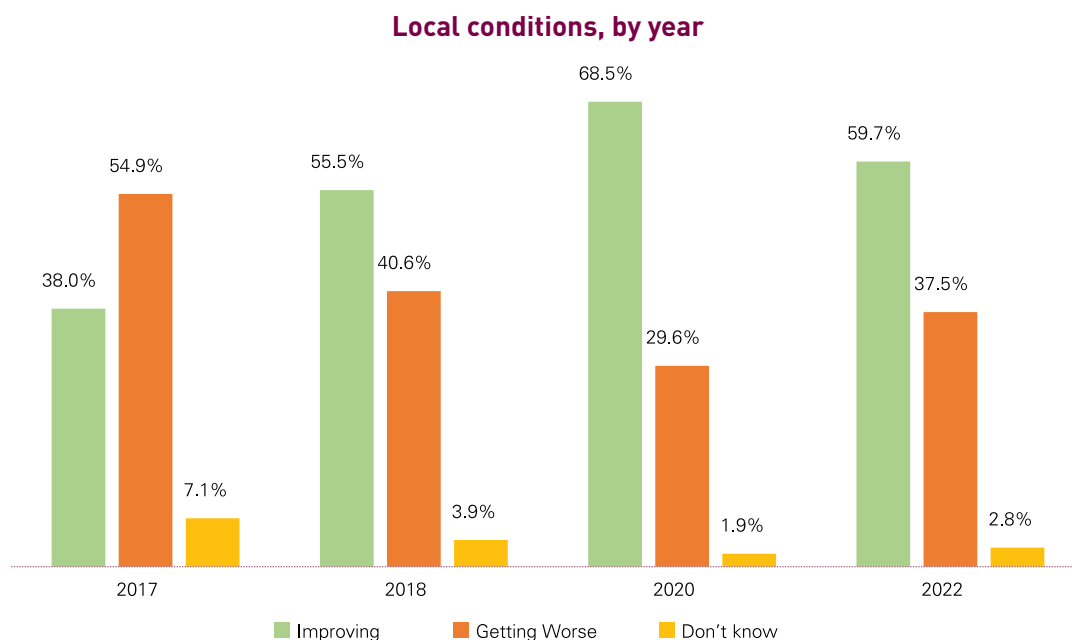


Figure 2.4.1: Q-B4a. Now I would like you to think about the area where you live and work most of the time. Do you think things in your area are improving, or do you think they are getting worse? (N=1,009)

Respondents from rural municipalities (61.8%) were only slightly more positive in their outlook on local conditions than those in urban municipalities (59.0%). Respondents aged 18-24 (64.6%) were more likely to believe that local conditions were improving, compared to those aged 55 and above (56.3%).

2.5 REASONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL CONDITIONS

The respondents who believed conditions in their local areas were improving (59.7%) were further asked to provide reasons.

Reasons for similar to those given for optimism about the direction of the country. The majority cited better roads (65.0%) as the main reason for improving local conditions, followed by the improved supply of electricity (20.1%) and better access to education (19.0%). As shown in Figure 2.5.1, better access to health services (8.1%), good social aspects (8.0%) and peace in local communities were also cited as reasons for improving local conditions.

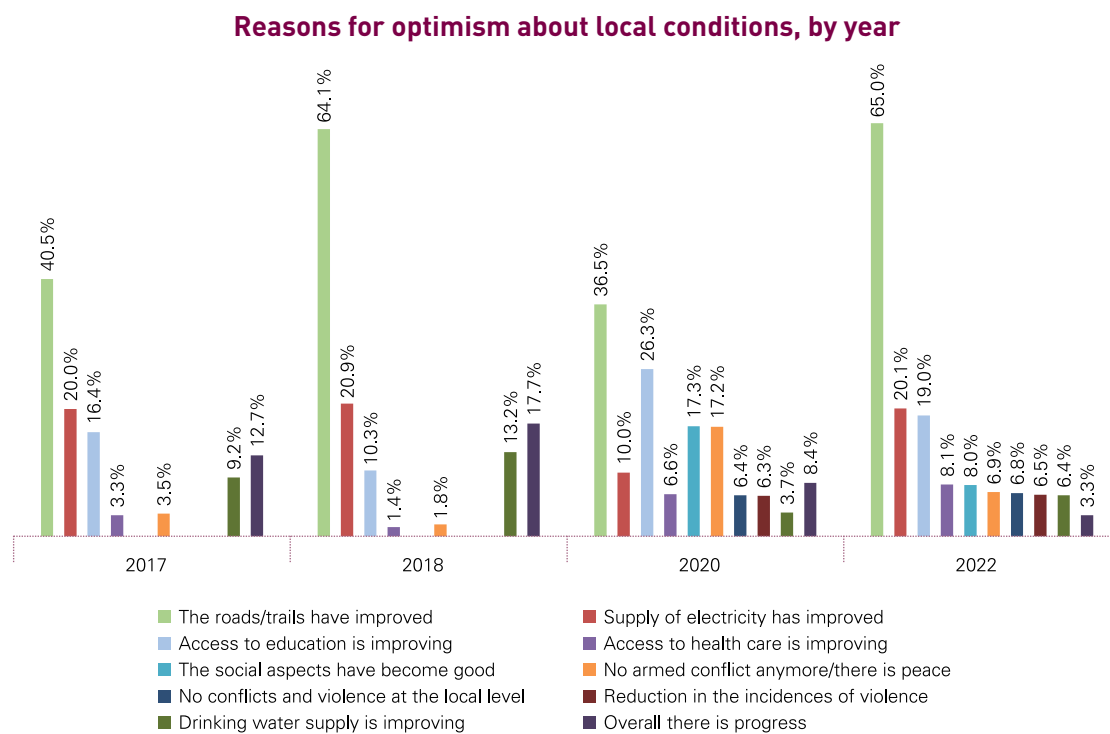


Figure 2.5.1: Q-B5. In your view what has improved in your area during the past year (N=602)²

For four consecutive surveys, better roads were registered as the most frequently mentioned reasons for people's optimism about local conditions. Though it remains the most frequently cited reason, it has fluctuated over the four survey rounds – it was 40.5% in 2017, 64.1% in 2018, 36.5% in 2020, and 65.0% in 2022. Over the years, a steady increase can be seen in the share of respondents who mentioned increased access to health services.

2.6 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

All respondents were asked about the major problems and challenges in their local area. According to people of Madhesh Province, major problems and challenges at the local level were bad or deteriorating conditions of roads (30.2%), rising prices of essential goods (19.0%), poor access to education (16.7%), difficulties in finding a job and making a living (16.6%), and corruption and extortion (14.4%) (Figure 2.6.1).

Over the survey rounds, the share of people who mentioned bad roads as a problem fluctuated. On the other hand, the share of people citing lack of access to basic education has increased steadily in Madhesh Province.

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.

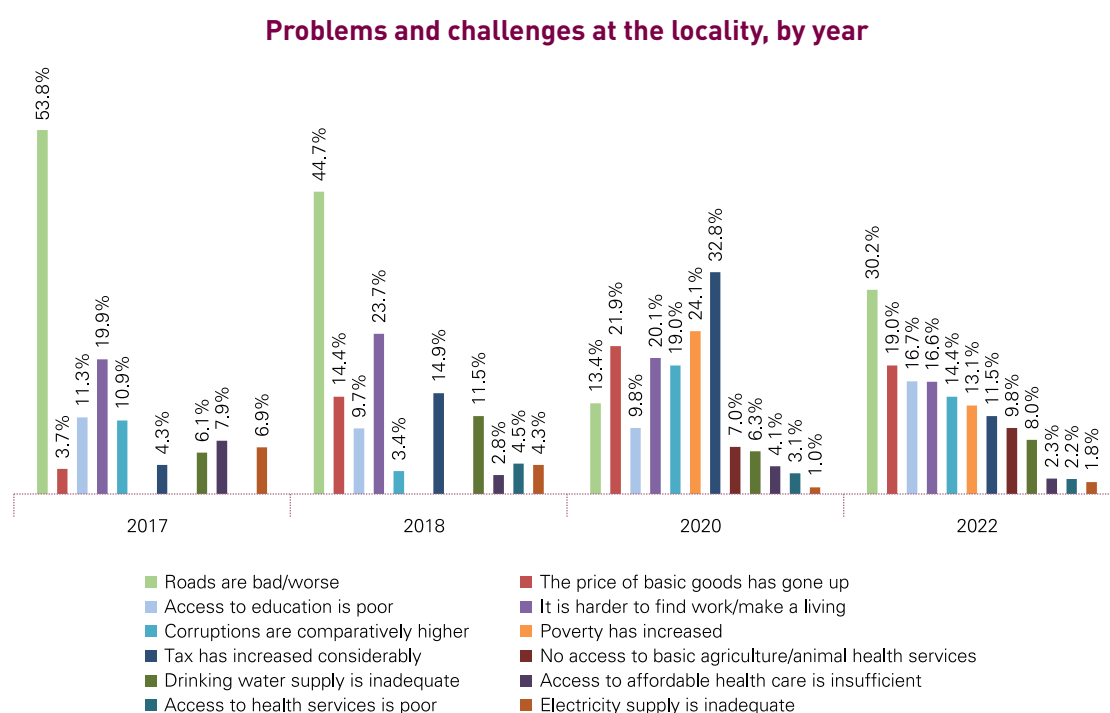


Figure 2.6.1: Q-B6. In your view what are the biggest problems in the area where you live and work most of the time? (N=1,009)³

2.7 SITUATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Respondents were asked nine questions about various aspects of the evolution of their household over the past year (Table 2.7.1).

The largest shares of respondents reported that their overall household situation was the same as last year for all the different aspects asked about. Higher shares reported that it got better than that it got worse. However, the share reporting that the financial situation of the household had gotten worse more than doubled between 2020 (5.0%) and 2022 (13.1%) – after it had previously steadily declined between 2017 and 2020. Conversely, the share of people reporting an improvement in the financial situation of their household declined noticeably from 55.3% in 2020 to 35.9% in 2022.

Between 2020 and 2022, the proportion of respondents who mentioned that things have gone better for them decreased across all household aspects.

Situation of the household, by year (%)

| | Year | Better | Same | Worse | % |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Financial situation of your household | 2017 | 36.4% | 46.3% | 17.2% | 0.1% |
| | 2018 | 29.6% | 59.5% | 10.9% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 55.3% | 39.7% | 5.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 35.9% | 51.0% | 13.1% | 0.0% |

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.

| | Year | Better | Same | Worse | % |
|---|------|--------|-------|-------|------|
| Physical conditions of your house/dwelling | 2017 | 21.9% | 65.0% | 13.1% | 0.0% |
| | 2018 | 18.7% | 74.8% | 6.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 37.2% | 60.6% | 2.2% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 33.5% | 59.0% | 7.5% | 0.0% |
| Health/well-being of your family members | 2017 | 17.6% | 65.1% | 17.2% | 0.1% |
| | 2018 | 21.7% | 69.2% | 9.1% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 41.5% | 50.5% | 8.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 37.3% | 55.1% | 7.5% | 0.0% |
| Relations with other people in the community | 2017 | 21.9% | 75.1% | 3.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2018 | 26.9% | 71.0% | 2.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 46.1% | 53.1% | 0.9% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 42.4% | 55.7% | 1.9% | 0.0% |
| Relations with local government and authorities | 2017 | 11.6% | 81.8% | 3.6% | 3.1% |
| | 2018 | 16.6% | 79.9% | 3.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 42.4% | 56.1% | 1.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 29.9% | 67.4% | 2.7% | 0.0% |
| Access to electricity | 2017 | 29.1% | 52.9% | 17.7% | 0.3% |
| | 2018 | 30.3% | 63.1% | 6.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 56.7% | 41.5% | 1.7% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 38.4% | 58.5% | 3.1% | 0.0% |
| Access to drinking water | 2017 | 13.4% | 76.7% | 9.9% | 0.0% |
| | 2018 | 20.0% | 74.8% | 5.2% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 27.0% | 67.9% | 5.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 15.2% | 77.2% | 7.6% | 0.0% |
| Access to markets | 2022 | 28.1% | 69.1% | 2.8% | 0.0% |
| Access to public transport | 2022 | 29.5% | 66.3% | 4.3% | 0.0% |

Table 2.71: Q-B7. Now I would like you to think about the situation of your household. Compared to last year, would you say that the situation for your household has gotten better, remained the same or gotten worse with respect to the following? (N=1,009)

2.8 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 issues, 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 (28.8%), not sending children to school (21.9%), and skipping a meal (14.2%) due to lack of money.

Household experience due to lack of money, by year

| | Year | Always | Often | Sometimes | Never |
|--|------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Skipped a meal | 2018 | 3.5% | 3.2% | 14.5% | 78.8% |
| | 2020 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 10.8% | 89.2% |
| | 2022 | 0.0% | 0.0% | 14.2% | 85.8% |
| Gone without medical treatment | 2018 | 3.6% | 3.3% | 17.6% | 75.5% |
| | 2020 | 0.0% | 2.5% | 25.0% | 72.6% |
| | 2022 | 1.1% | 5.7% | 28.8% | 64.3% |
| Not been able to send children to school | 2018 | 4.0% | 2.9% | 15.7% | 77.4% |
| | 2020 | 0.0% | 3.7% | 21.4% | 74.9% |
| | 2022 | 1.5% | 5.1% | 21.9% | 71.5% |

Table 2.8.1: Q-B8. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how often have you or your household because you didn't have money? (N=1,009)

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 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 vast majority of respondents in Madhesh Province did not report any type of violence or crime in the previous year. Some 4% reported that they or their household members experienced theft, 2.2% said they were cheated in lending/borrowing or transactions, and another 1.6% faced physical assault and beating. Another 1.0% mentioned that they were victims of motor vehicle theft/stolen vehicle parts or faced financial exploitation in the course of foreign employment respectively (Table 3.1.1).

For all types of crimes or violent activities listed, the proportion of respondents who shared that they experienced it was lower in 2020 than in 2018 and 2017. In 2020, however, it again increased slightly. For instance, the share people who reported theft was 2.6% in 2018, 2.1% in 2020 but nearly double to 4.0% in 2022. Similarly, the share of respondents who said they experienced physical assault and beating was lowest in 2020 (0.3%) but significantly increased in 2022 (1.6%).

Experience of violence and crime, by year

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Theft | 4.1% | 2.6% | 2.1% | 4.0% |
| Physical assault/beating | 1.9% | 1.4% | 0.3% | 1.6% |
| Assault with weapon | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| Cheating in lending/borrowing or transactions | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.6% | 2.2% |
| Burglary / Breaking and Entering / Looting | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.6% |
| Extortion | 1.6% | 1.3% | 0.0% | 0.5% |
| Motor vehicle theft /property taken from vehicle or vehicle parts stolen | 1.1% | 0.3% | 0.6% | 1.0% |

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| Livestock theft | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.7% | 0.3% |
| Experienced any form of violence during a political rally, protest or bandh | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| Kidnapping | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| Murder / murder attempt | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| Sexual violence | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Human trafficking | 0.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.1% |
| Gender-based Violence (Domestic Violence, harmful practices like witchcraft, chaupadi) | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 0.3% |
| Physical Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Sexual Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.2% |
| Financial exploitation faced in course of foreign employment | 0.0% | 1.1% | 0.7% | 1.0% |

Table 3.1.1: Q-C3A-R. Have you or has anyone in your household been the victim of the following types of violence or criminal acts in the past year? (N=1,009)

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).

Many did not encounter conflicts or disputes ('not applicable') and most did not seek help with disputes. Only a relatively small proportion of respondents – between 0.3% to 4.5% – said they themselves or their family members sought the help of an institution, official or person to resolve a dispute in the past one year. The largest share sought help for land disputes (4.5%). Less than 1% of respondents reported that they or their family members sought help to resolve disputes over borrowing/debt, domestic violence, other forms of violence, and defamation cases.

Between 2020 and 2022, the share of people who responded that they have not encountered any of the mentioned types of dispute or conflict ('not applicable') declined while increasing shares reported that they did not seek help from any institutions or individual for help.

4. IDENTITY

4.1 MOTHER TONGUE

In Madhesh Province, 9 out of 10 respondents (91.0%) said a language other than Nepali is their mother tongue – a much higher share than the national average (51.7%). About one in ten respondents (9.0%) in Madhesh Province said Nepali is their mother tongue – much lower than the national average (48.3%).⁴ In Madhesh Province, the highest share of respondents said Maithali is their mother tongue (51.6%) followed by Bhojpuri (29.6%), and Bajika (8.4%) as their mother tongue.

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% |
| Madhesh Province | Nepali | 9.0% | - | - | 9.0% |
| | Other than Nepali | 91.0% | - | - | 91.0% |

Table 4.1.1: Q-D1. What is your mother tongue? (N=1,009)

4.2 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO MOTHER TONGUE

The 91.0% of respondents from Madhesh Province who reported they speak a language other than Nepali 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.

⁴ According to 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.

The majority of respondents did not feel disadvantaged because of their mother tongue. However, between 16.1% and 21.8% reported feeling disadvantaged in different situations. Slightly more people felt disadvantaged going to a government office to obtain a public service (21.8%), going to police station to report problem (20.0%) and interacting with other people at work (20.0%) than in other situations (Table 4.2.1).

Between 2017 and 2022, the proportion of people who felt disadvantaged due to their mother tongue decreased significantly for all situations.

Feeling of disadvantage due to mother tongue other than Nepali language, by year (%)

| | | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
|--|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| To interact with other people | Disadvantage | 45.9% | 29.0% | 27.8% | 20.0% |
| | Not a Disadvantage | 54.1% | 71.0% | 72.2% | 80.0% |
| To report a problem in police station | Disadvantage | 38.4% | 22.7% | 29.2% | 20.0% |
| | Not a Disadvantage | 61.6% | 77.3% | 70.8% | 80.0% |
| To obtain services in a government office | Disadvantage | 39.9% | 25.8% | 25.1% | 21.8% |
| | Not a Disadvantage | 60.1% | 74.2% | 74.9% | 78.2% |
| To access health services in a hospital/ health post | Disadvantage | 37.6% | 21.4% | 22.6% | 19.1% |
| | Not a Disadvantage | 62.4% | 78.6% | 77.4% | 80.9% |
| To study at a school or a university | Disadvantage | 31.1% | 13.8% | 19.1% | 16.1% |
| | Not a Disadvantage | 68.9% | 86.2% | 80.9% | 83.9% |
| When attending public events | Disadvantage | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 16.4% |
| | Not a Disadvantage | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 83.6% |

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=918)

4.3 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO CASTE/ETHNICITY

The large majority of respondents in Madhesh Province (over 95%) said they did not feel disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity in all five situations asked about (Table 4.3.1). In 2022, the share of respondents who reported feeling disadvantaged because of caste/ethnicity noticeably decreased compared to previous survey years – in line with national level findings.

Caste and Ethnicity as Disadvantage, by year

| | | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
|---|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| To interact with other people | Disadvantage | 9.5% | 10.0% | 9.3% | 4.1% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 90.5% | 90.0% | 90.7% | 95.9% |
| To report a problem in police station | Disadvantage | 5.9% | 6.3% | 9.9% | 4.2% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 94.1% | 93.7% | 90.1% | 95.8% |
| To obtain services in a government office | Disadvantage | 7.4% | 8.1% | 8.2% | 4.4% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 92.6% | 91.9% | 91.8% | 95.6% |

| | | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
|---|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| To access health services in a hospital/ health post | Disadvantage | 6.2% | 6.8% | 7.2% | 3.8% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 93.8% | 93.2% | 92.8% | 96.2% |
| To study at a school or a university | Disadvantage | 3.7% | 5.2% | 4.8% | 3.4% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 96.3% | 94.8% | 95.2% | 96.6% |

Table 4.3.1: Q-D3a-e. Do you feel that your caste/ ethnicity is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=1,009)

People in rural municipalities of Madhesh Province were comparatively more inclined to report that their caste/ethnicity is a disadvantage in any given situation. Musalman (9.1%) followed by Madhesi Dalit groups (8.8%) were more likely to report feeling disadvantaged because of their caste or ethnicity when interacting with other people at work. Some 11.6% of Madhesi Dalits reported feeling disadvantaged while obtaining services from a government office and 7.5% reported feeling disadvantaged while accessing health services – higher shares than the average.

4.4 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO GENDER

A relatively small proportion of women respondents – between 3.9% and 8.0% – reported that their gender puts them at a disadvantage in different situations (Table 4.4.1)⁵. The shares of women who felt their gender was a disadvantage had declined noticeably compared to previous years for all situations, especially compared to 2020 when the shares reporting disadvantages were highest. Women were twice as likely to say that their gender felt like a disadvantage when reporting a problem at the police station (8%) than when studying at school or university (3.9%).

Gender as a disadvantage, by year

| | | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
|--|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| To interacting with other people at work | Disadvantage | 11.6% | 14.8% | 19.6% | 6.9% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 88.4% | 85.2% | 80.4% | 93.1% |
| To report a problem in police station | Disadvantage | 7.9% | 10.5% | 25.7% | 8.0% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 92.1% | 89.5% | 74.3% | 92.0% |
| To obtain a government services | Disadvantage | 9.7% | 15.3% | 20.9% | 7.2% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 90.3% | 84.7% | 79.1% | 92.8% |
| To access health services | Disadvantage | 6.5% | 11.9% | 17.9% | 6.7% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 93.5% | 88.1% | 82.1% | 93.3% |
| To study at school or the university | Disadvantage | 4.0% | 10.2% | 14.1% | 3.9% |
| | Not a disadvantage | 96.0% | 89.8% | 85.9% | 96.1% |
| To travel in public transport | Disadvantage | - | 14.0% | 16.1% | 6.9% |
| | Not a disadvantage | | 86.0% | 83.9% | 93.1% |
| To roam/walk around public places | Disadvantage | - | - | 17.0% | 5.8% |
| | Not a disadvantage | | | 83.0% | 94.2% |

Table 4.4.1: Q-D4a-g. Do you feel that your gender is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=513) ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' not included)

5 This question was asked only to women respondents.

Women from lower income households and from the Musalman and Madhesi Dalit communities were more likely to say their gender is a disadvantage. For instance, 10.4% of Madhesi Dalit women reported that their gender is a disadvantage when obtaining a government services and 9.4% felt disadvantaged when accessing health services in a hospital/ health post – higher shares than the average.

4.5 SOCIAL VALUES

Perceptions of Inter-Caste Marriage

Respondents were asked how they felt about inter-caste marriages. More than half of respondents (54.6%) in Madhesh Province said they would accept it if their son or daughter married someone from a different caste/ethnic group while 42.3% said they would not accept it.

The share accepting inter-caste marriages in the family was highest in 2018 (59.0%) and lowest in 2017 (47.9%). It has remained stable between 2020 (55.6%) and 2022 (54.6%) but the share rejecting inter-caste marriages increased in the same time period; from 35.2% in 2020 to 42.3% in 2022 (Figure 4.5.1).

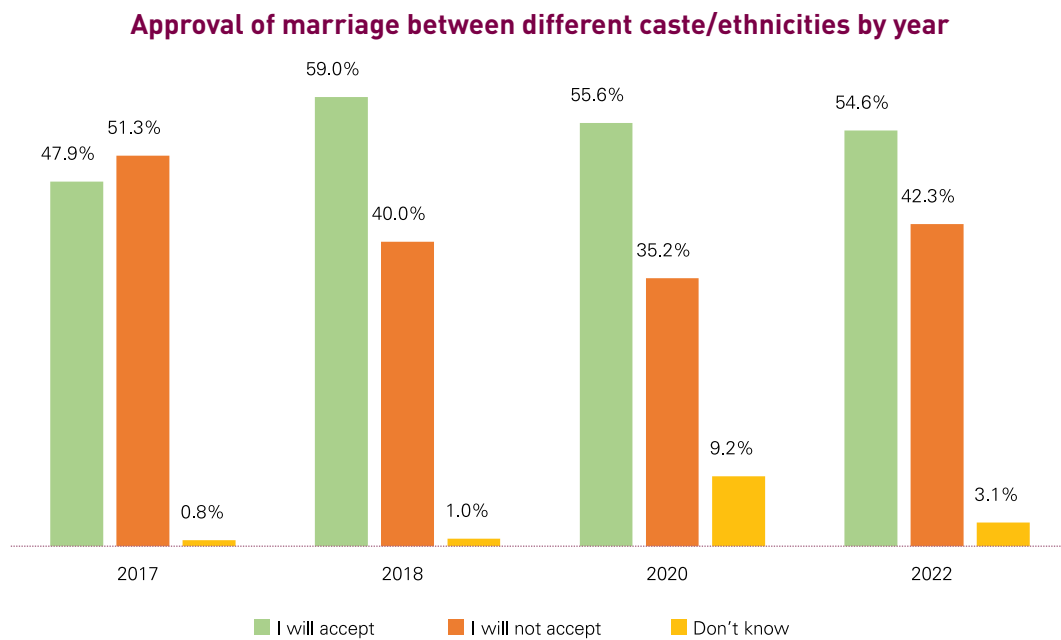


Figure 4.5.1: Q-D9. Would you accept if your son or daughter marry someone from a different caste? (N=1,009)

Acceptance of marriages outside one's own caste/ethnic group is directly linked to educational levels; only 11.3% of respondents with a bachelor's degree or higher reported disapproving an inter-caste marriage compared to 55.7% of those without formal education. Acceptance was also higher among Hill Adibasi/Janajati (84.3%) and Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati (70.8%) groups. In contrast, 62.7% of Muslim respondents from Madhesh Province said they would disapprove if their children got married to someone from another caste/ethnic group.

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 was wide variation in responses across the statements.

Nine out of 10 respondents disagreed⁶ that sons are more important than daughters (84.6%). Most also disagreed that women should not be encouraged to work outside their homes (87.2%), and should not engage in politics (88.9%). However, 17.2% of respondents believed that women should not have control over their own income, movement, and decisions, and 15.8% agreed that if a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her (Table 4.6.1). Yet, the shares agreeing that women should be controlled and punished have decreased compared to previous years.

Generally, a trend towards increasing acceptance of women's roles and responsibilities outside the home, women earning their own incomes, and women controlling their own movements and financial resources can be observed; the shares disagreeing with the different statements listed have increased over time, while the shares agreeing have decreased.

Views on gender roles and gender equality, by year

| | Year | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| It is more important for a family to have a son than a daughter | 2017 | 3.5% | 15.3% | 38.3% | 42.8% | 0.1% |
| | 2018 | 2.1% | 16.8% | 35.5% | 45.4% | 0.2% |
| | 2020 | 7.7% | 12.4% | 17.1% | 62.6% | 0.2% |
| | 2022 | 4.3% | 11.1% | 9.5% | 75.1% | 0.0% |
| Women should not be encouraged to work outside the home | 2017 | 6.3% | 16.1% | 43.2% | 34.0% | 0.4% |
| | 2018 | 9.4% | 14.5% | 45.7% | 30.1% | 0.4% |
| | 2020 | 4.3% | 10.2% | 20.0% | 65.2% | 0.2% |
| | 2022 | 3.1% | 9.6% | 12.9% | 74.3% | 0.1% |
| It is not suitable for women to engage in politics | 2017 | 6.4% | 13.9% | 37.4% | 41.7% | 0.6% |
| | 2018 | 17.6% | 29.4% | 30.7% | 21.7% | 0.6% |
| | 2020 | 4.6% | 9.4% | 18.5% | 67.1% | 0.5% |
| | 2022 | 3.9% | 7.1% | 14.1% | 74.8% | 0.1% |
| Women should not have control over her income, movement and other decision making process | 2018 | 14.8% | 37.0% | 25.8% | 21.8% | 0.7% |
| | 2020 | 9.7% | 13.1% | 15.6% | 61.1% | 0.4% |
| | 2022 | 4.2% | 13.0% | 9.9% | 72.8% | 0.1% |
| If a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her. | 2018 | 3.9% | 29.0% | 29.9% | 36.5% | 0.6% |
| | 2020 | 6.7% | 15.4% | 12.4% | 65.3% | 0.3% |
| | 2022 | 2.5% | 13.3% | 18.0% | 66.2% | 0.1% |

6 Combined figure for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

| | Year | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| When job opportunities are limited, men should have more right to a job. | 2018 | 4.0% | 30.3% | 28.5% | 34.7% | 2.6% |
| | 2020 | 5.4% | 14.6% | 13.4% | 66.0% | 0.6% |
| | 2022 | 1.4% | 12.6% | 16.8% | 68.6% | 0.6% |
| It is a man's responsibility to fulfil financial needs for his family. | 2018 | 16.6% | 39.9% | 20.5% | 22.4% | 0.6% |
| | 2020 | 10.1% | 25.9% | 13.2% | 50.6% | 0.3% |
| | 2022 | 6.9% | 14.0% | 17.5% | 61.5% | 0.1% |
| Male members of family other than husband have right to punish the daughter in law if she disobeys them | 2020 | 5.7% | 12.3% | 12.7% | 69.1% | 0.3% |
| | 2022 | 0.4% | 9.6% | 24.6% | 65.2% | 0.1% |

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=1,009) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

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. Most respondents thought that a person's gender is not an important parameter for leadership positions. Over three-fourths (ranging from 75.7% to 80%) of respondents said the person should be capable, irrespective of their gender.

Slightly higher shares of respondents preferred women in the nine leadership positions asked about than men. For instance, women were preferred as chairpersons of user groups (12.7%) over men (6.2%).

From 2018 to 2022, the proportion of people who believe a person should be capable regardless of their gender to take on organizational leadership roles increased significantly across all types of organizations/institutions while the shares preferring a particular gender declined. In 2018, higher shares said they would like women to be in various leadership positions than in 2022.

Acceptable leadership positions in different organisations/institutions, by year

| | Year | Women | Men | Capable Person | Don't know |
|---|------|-------|-------|----------------|------------|
| Chief Executive Position of Federal Government | 2018 | 30.5% | 48.6% | 20.9% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 12.7% | 21.1% | 66.2% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 10.6% | 8.5% | 76.6% | 4.3% |
| Chief Executive Position of Provincial Government | 2018 | 25.8% | 53.6% | 20.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 6.4% | 24.8% | 68.7% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 10.0% | 8.4% | 77.2% | 4.3% |
| Chief Executive Position of Local Government | 2018 | 29.7% | 48.9% | 21.4% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 8.8% | 19.1% | 72.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 10.2% | 9.3% | 77.3% | 3.2% |

| | Year | Women | Men | Capable Person | Don't know |
|---|------|-------|-------|----------------|------------|
| Ward Chairperson | 2018 | 30.2% | 47.0% | 22.8% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 12.3% | 22.9% | 64.8% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 13.6% | 10.4% | 75.7% | 0.4% |
| Chairperson of Political Party | 2018 | 26.2% | 47.9% | 25.9% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 7.5% | 23.0% | 69.4% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 10.9% | 10.3% | 76.5% | 2.3% |
| Chairperson of User Groups | 2018 | 38.7% | 40.2% | 21.1% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 22.9% | 18.1% | 59.0% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 12.7% | 6.2% | 78.0% | 3.1% |
| Chairperson of Saving and Credit Cooperatives | 2018 | 41.7% | 38.7% | 19.6% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 31.7% | 15.8% | 52.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 12.7% | 7.6% | 77.3% | 2.4% |
| Chairperson of School Management Committee | 2018 | 27.1% | 48.2% | 24.7% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 9.6% | 23.6% | 66.8% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 11.3% | 7.4% | 80.0% | 1.3% |
| CEO of Private Company/Organization | 2018 | 25.7% | 48.4% | 25.9% | 0.0% |
| | 2020 | 7.7% | 24.2% | 68.1% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 10.1% | 7.5% | 79.3% | 3.1% |

Table 4.7.1: Q-D11a-l. Thinking about leadership positions, please tell me, who would be more acceptable as leaders in the following organization/institutions? (N=1,009) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

5. GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

5.1 LOCAL BODY RESTRUCTURING

The survey assessed the impact of local body restructuring on the capacity and efficiency of local governments to deliver services. Respondents were asked if they noticed any changes in local governments' service delivery. Slightly more than two-fifths (41.4%) said that restructuring has helped increase the capacity of their local government to deliver services. Around 3 in 10 people (31.7%) reported that service delivery remained unchanged. A small share of people (12.7%) was of the opinion that the capacity of local governments to deliver services had deteriorated after restructuring.

Views on local body restructuring, by year

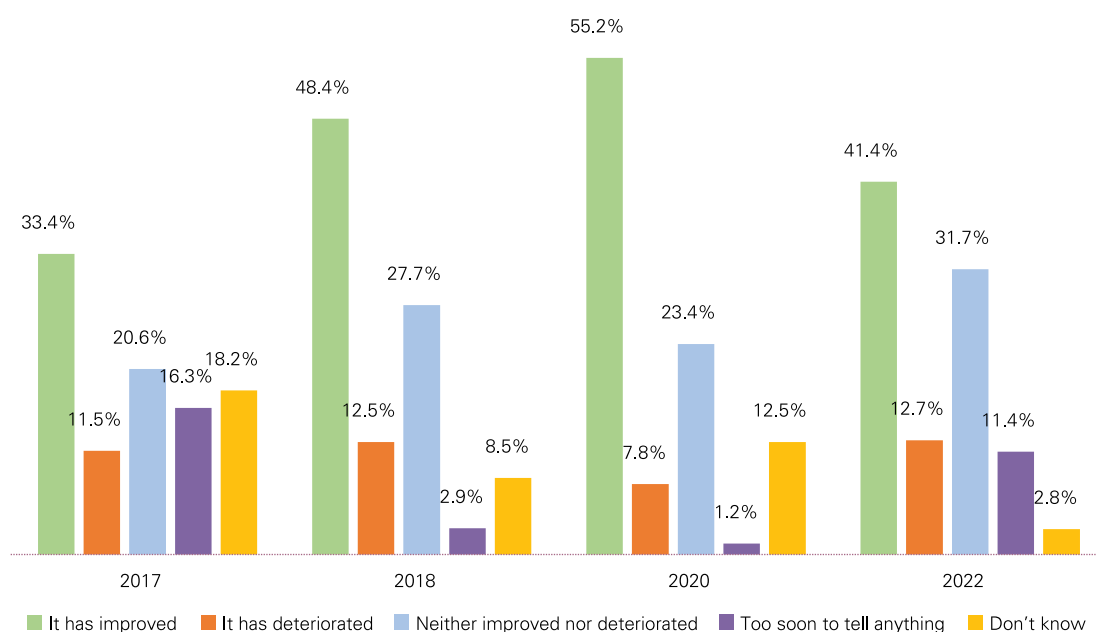


Figure 5.11: Q-E4. What kind of change have you felt/noticed in the capacity of local body to deliver services after restructuring of local body? (N=1,009)

The proportion of respondents who believed that local body restructuring helped improve their local government's capacity to deliver services increased steadily between 2017 (33.4%) and 2020 (55.2%) but decreased again by almost 14 percentage points in 2022 (41.4%). On the other hand, the proportion holding the opinion that service delivery "neither improved nor deteriorated" increased in 2022 compared to 2020. The share of respondents who thought it was too soon to say anything had decreased from 16.3% in 2017 to 1.2% in 2020, but increased again to 11.4% in 2022.

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 had received those benefits.

The vast majority of people had heard of senior citizen allowance (92.9%), single women's allowance (88.9%), disability allowance (79.8%), and child nutrition grants (79.0%). More than half said they had heard of health insurance benefits (58.1%) and child protection grants (54.1%). Around two-fifths said they were aware of unemployment allowance (41.1%). Just under one in five said they had heard of contributions from employment (19.7%) and the grant for *Loponmukh Adivasi* (19.8%).

The share of respondents who said they had heard of child nutrition grants increased sharply in 2022. The share of respondent who were aware of health benefits and child protection grants increased marginally in 2022. The shares of respondents aware of other types of social security benefits decreased slightly in 2022.

Awareness and receiving social security benefits, by year

| | Yes, I have heard | | Yes, we have received | |
|--|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| | 2020 | 2022 | 2020 | 2022 |
| Senior Citizen Allowance | 98.0% | 92.9% | 25.9% | 20.9% |
| Single Women Allowance | 92.3% | 88.9% | 11.6% | 8.8% |
| Disability Allowance | 84.7% | 79.8% | 2.3% | 2.5% |
| Unemployment Allowance | 43.9% | 41.1% | 1.0% | 0.6% |
| Health Insurance Benefits | 42.6% | 58.1% | 3.0% | 11.6% |
| Child Protection Grant | 53.0% | 54.1% | 9.4% | 13.3% |
| Benefits on Contribution from employment | 21.8% | 19.7% | 0.4% | 5.8% |
| Child Nutrition Grant | 52.3% | 79.0% | 15.1% | 28.5% |
| Grant for Loponmuukh Adivasi | 19.8% | 15.4% | 0.5% | 1.0% |

Table 5.2.1: Q-E8a.1- E8a.10. Have you heard about these social security benefits initiated by the Government of Nepal?(N=1009) E8-b.1- E8b.10. Have you or the members of your family received any social security benefits initiated by the Government of Nepal? (N=1009)

The respondents who were aware of a particular social security program were further asked whether they or anyone in their family had ever benefited from it. In 2022, we can see a significant increase in the proportion of respondents who said they had received child nutrition grant and health insurance benefit compared to 2020. More than quarter (28.5%) of respondents who were aware of the child nutrition grant said they/their family had received it. Similarly, about one-fifth (20.9%) of those aware of senior citizen allowance said they/their family received it. A smaller number of respondents said someone of their family received the child protection grant (13.3%), health insurance benefit (11.6%), and single women allowance (8.8%).

Satisfaction with Current Social Security Benefits

The proportion of respondents who said someone in their family received social security benefits were further asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the benefits on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 represents not satisfied at all and 10 means completely satisfied. On average, the level of satisfaction was 6.4 points, which is above the mean level, indicating that people are fairly satisfied with government social security benefits. Compared to 2020, however, the average level of satisfaction declined slightly in 2022.

5.3 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Respondents were asked how much they trust 19 different entities, including government and independent institutions. In Madhesh Province, trust was highest in the Nepal Army (92.5%), followed by the Public Service Commission (92.3%), Religious/Caste-Based Organization (87.1%). Trust was also high for the Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers) (86.7%), CBOs (Women's group, savings and credit group) (85.8%), Armed Police Force (82.2%) and Courts (81.9%). Around three-quarters said they trust the Municipal Wards (74.8%). Trust in Political Parties was lowest (49.9%).

Levels of trust in most entities declined slightly in 2022 compared to previous survey rounds. The Nepal Army and the Public Service Commission have remained the most trusted institution over time.

Trust in institutions, by year

| | Trust ⁷ | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
| The Federal Government | 73.4% | 67.5% | 71.2% | 62.0% |
| Provincial Government | NA* | 69.3% | 73.8% | 56.7% |
| District Coordination Committee | NA* | 74.7% | 76.1% | 59.2% |
| Municipality/Rural Municipality /Local Government | NA* | NA* | NA* | 69.6% |
| Municipal Wards | NA* | NA* | NA* | 74.8% |
| Local Community Leaders- Tole Lane Development Organization | NA* | NA* | NA* | 65.4% |
| Political Parties | 59.1% | 59.8% | 58.7% | 49.9% |
| Courts | 85.4% | 82.2% | 85.5% | 81.9% |
| Judicial Committees | NA* | 83.8% | 82.4% | 79.6% |
| Police | 87.9% | 80.2% | 85.5% | 74.1% |
| Armed Police Force | 91.5% | 82.6% | 84.8% | 82.2% |
| Nepal Army | 91.8% | 88.1% | 87.9% | 92.5% |
| The Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers) | 93.5% | 85.6% | 88.4% | 86.7% |
| NGOs/Human Rights Defenders | 84.6% | 74.1% | 82.6% | 73.8% |
| Religious/Caste-Based Organizations | 85.2% | 76.4% | 83.4% | 87.1% |
| CBOs (Women's group, savings and credit group) | 94.8% | 83.8% | 89.7% | 85.8% |
| Public Service Commission | NA* | 84.1% | 90.2% | 92.3% |
| Social Media (Facebook/ Twitter etc.) | NA* | NA* | 76.5% | 68.7% |
| Government Employee | NA* | NA* | 83.0% | 76.4% |

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. ('Don't Know' and 'Refused to Answer' not included) (N=1009)

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

5.4 AWARENESS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Almost half of the respondents (49.6%) said they were aware of the public services provided by their local government – slightly less than the national average of 54% but noticeably more than in 2020 (35.3%). Far lower shares of respondents reported being aware of the services provided by the provincial government (18.8%) and federal government (18.2%). Over time, awareness of the services provided by all three layers of government has increased, especially of local government services.

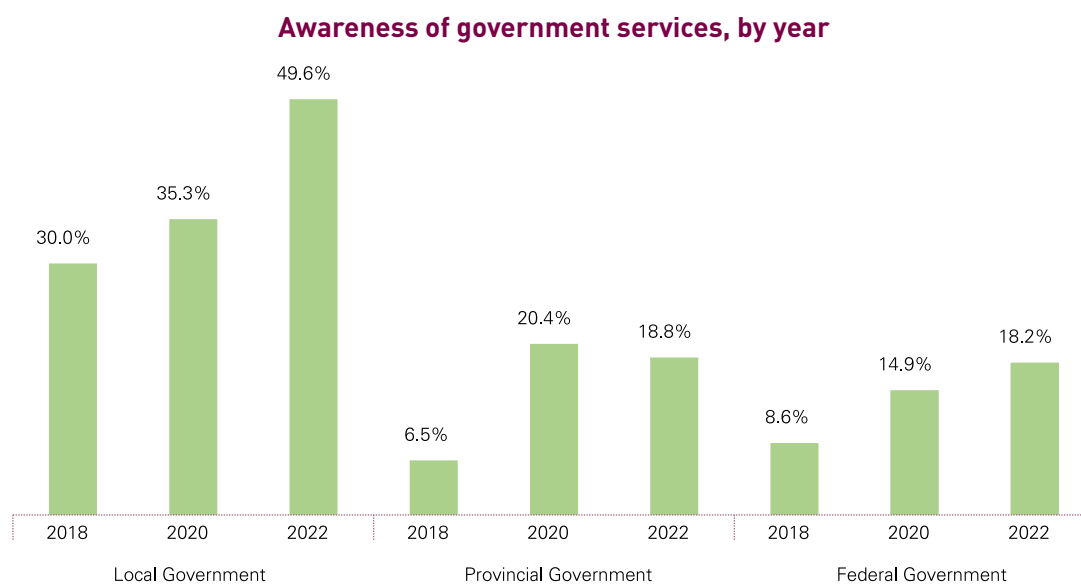


Figure 5.4.1: Q-E10AM-AO1. Are you aware about the Public Services provided by your local government? (N=1,009)

In Madhesh Province, women (41.4%) were considerably less aware of local government services than men (58.0%). People from rural municipalities (52.7%) were more aware than people from municipalities (48.5%). Those from Madhesi Caste Level-1 (73.5%) were much more likely to be aware than respondents from Other Cultural Groups (25.0%).

Awareness of the Types of Services Provided by the Government

The survey asked respondents who said they were aware of government services to name the services provided by each tier of government.

For local government, the most widely known service area was roads/physical infrastructure (83.3%), followed by education (44.8%), documentation-related services (36.2%), health services (30.9%), and electricity-related services (23.7%).

Awareness of provincial government services showed a similar pattern, with most respondents (71.2%) mentioning roads/physical infrastructure, followed by education (59.7%), health (36.9%), employment-related services (34.8%) and drinking water services (30.5%). Two out of 10 respondents mentioned electricity-related services (20.3%).

Regarding federal government services, most respondents mentioned higher education (76.9%), followed by national highways/physical infrastructure (64.0%), social security (51.5%), employment (49.5%), health-related policy and services (49.2%), and large-scale electricity infrastructure (29.6%).

Those unaware of local government services, were asked for suggestions about effective channels for the dissemination of information about government services. The majority of respondents (44.1%) suggested informal sources, such as friends, family, and neighbors, followed by leaflets, pamphlets and posters (22.9%), radio/television (23%), and social media (17.2%).

Effective channels for information dissemination about local government services

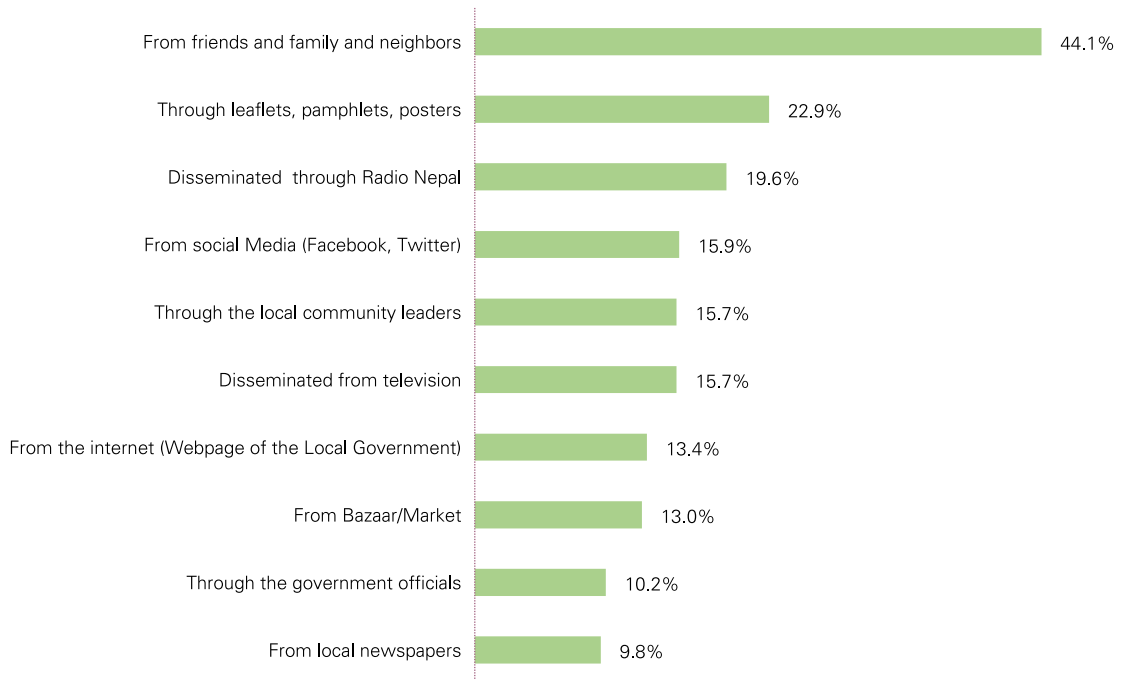


Figure 5.4.2: E10AM.3_1. [If "No" in Q-E10AM.1] How can your Local Government more easily inform you about the services they provide? (N=509)

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. They were also asked how easy it was to obtain the service(s).

The majority of respondents reported that they did not receive any service in the year prior to 2022 (Table 5.5.1). Most of those who had received at least one service from their rural/urban municipality indicated that obtaining the service was "easy" (99.1% for school admission, 100% for a migration certificate, 95.4% for tax-related work, 91.0% for birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, migration certificate). Obtaining other paper-related services was also generally considered to be "easy," (77.5% for recommendation for citizenship, 79.8% for employment-related services). No notable differences were observed in the shares reporting ease of access to services in 2020 and 2022.

Services received through local government and 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 [N = 1009] | 2022 [N=1009] | N | 2020 | 2022 |
| | | | | Easy ⁸ | |
| Recommendation for citizenship | 16.4% | 22.9% | | 80.9% | 77.5% |
| Social security allowance (Single woman, senior citizen, disable) | 15.5% | 11.6% | | 98.0% | 94.1% |
| Birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, | 17.0% | 19.8% | | 92.4% | 91.0% |
| Migration certificate | NA | 2.2% | | NA | 100.0% |
| Services related to employment | 1.9% | 4.3% | | 75.1% | 79.8% |
| Services given by judicial committee | 1.6% | 2.5% | | 91.0% | 78.3% |
| Services related to land tax/revenue | 22.7% | 23.4% | | 94.8% | 90.0% |
| For admission in government school | 26.2% | 21.4% | | 100.0% | 99.1% |
| For health checkup in government health post/hospital | 46.4% | 47.7% | | 96.6% | 93.4% |
| Receiving service from police | 6.0% | 10.0% | | 72.8% | 85.4% |
| Business license | 1.1% | 3.0% | | 77.8% | 83.7% |
| Tax related work | 14.6% | 16.1% | | 95.4% | 95.4% |
| Recommendation for other government work | 7.3% | 4.7% | | 95.4% | 92.1% |
| For disability specific services | NA | 11.0% | | NA | 97.0% |

Table 5.5.1: Q-E10a-E10p. Now I would like to ask you about your experience in accessing certain public services in your municipality/rural municipality. Based on your experience of past one year, how easy or difficult is it to obtain the following services? (N=1,009)

5.6 VIEWS ON EDUCATION

School type and quality of education

More respondents (50.4%) reported having a child enrolled in a public school than in a private school (37.6%). More people from rural municipalities (56.4%) enrolled children in government schools than people from urban municipalities (48.1%). Comparatively higher shares of respondents from Hill Dalit (68.4%), Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (66.7%) and Madhesi Dalit (65.7%) enrolled their children in public school.

Child enrolled in a public or private school, by 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% |
| Madhesh Province | 54.0% | 56.9% | 50.4% | 30.9% | 28.7% | 37.6% | 15.1% | 14.5% | 12.0% |

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=640)

8 Combined responses of "Very easy" and "Easy"

Nearly all children enrolled in public (99.3%) and private (96.8%) schools lived within one hour's distance to school. Only a small proportion of respondents reported a duration of more than one hour for their children to reach school from home.

Most parents rated 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. The share rating the quality of education as "bad" was significantly higher for public schools than private education in all survey rounds.

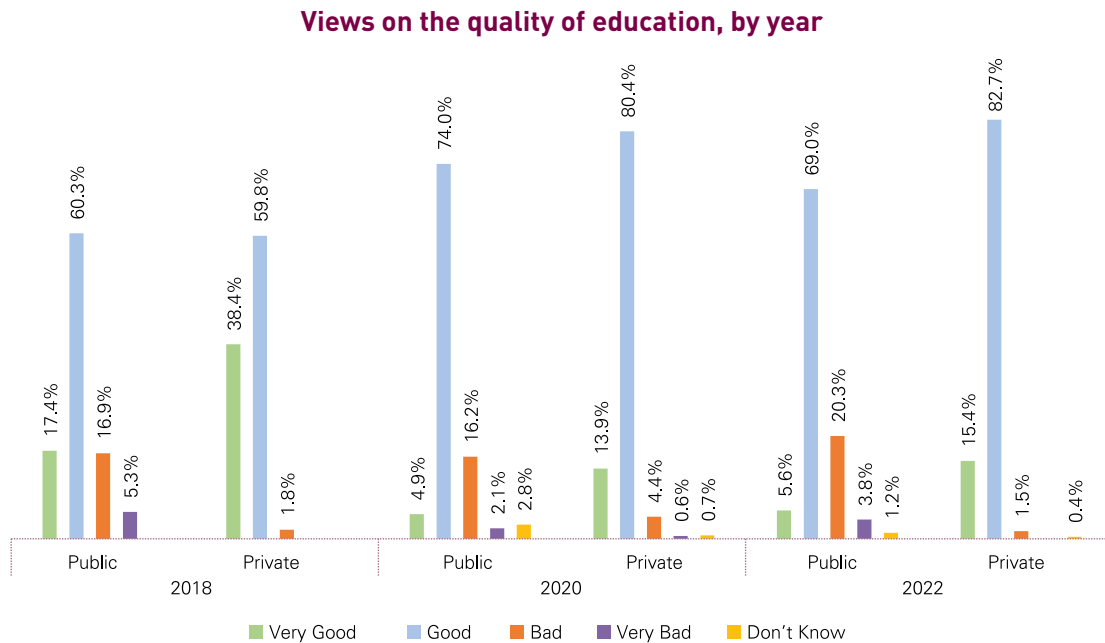


Figure 5.6.1: Q-E11b and Q-E11Aii. How would you rate the quality of the education at that school? (N=399 respondents with child/children going to public school; N=318 respondents with child/children going to private school⁹)

Entities Responsible for the Quality of Education Provided at the School

Most parents considered the local government the responsible government entity for maintaining the quality of education in both public and private schools (92.93% and 84.5%, respectively).

Over the years, an increasing number of respondents held the opinion that local government is primarily responsible for maintaining the quality of education in their area. Much fewer people thought the school management committee, teachers, or parents are responsible for the quality of education.

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of education, by year

| | Public School | | | | Private School ¹⁰ | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 2017 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 |
| Local government | 83.9% | 83.6% | 84.2% | 92.9% | 80.5% | 61.4% | 84.5% |
| Provincial government | 0.5% | 2.6% | 8.3% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 8.4% | - |

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

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Federal government | 9.2% | 4.6% | 1.5% | 2.9% | 1.1% | 4.3% | 0.7% |
| Others (School management committee, teachers, parents) | - | 0.5% | 1.1% | - | 8.8% | 9.6% | 9.7% |
| Don't know | 6.4% | 8.7% | 4.8% | 4.1% | 9.6% | 16.3% | 5.1% |

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=399 respondents with child/children going to public school; N=318 respondents with child/children going to private school)

Suggestions for the Improvement of Quality of Schools

The survey asked all respondents for their thoughts on what helps improve the quality of education in schools, and respondents cited good teaching methods (60.8%), ensuring the quality of school management (53.9%), and proper management of staff (38.2%).

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

| Suggestions | Year | % |
|--|------|-------|
| Improved/good teaching methods | 2020 | 53.6% |
| | 2022 | 60.8% |
| The quality of school management should be good | 2020 | 48.6% |
| | 2022 | 53.9% |
| Management of the staffs should be good in the school | 2020 | 47.0% |
| | 2022 | 38.2% |
| The quality of curriculum/syllabus should be improved | 2020 | 36.9% |
| | 2022 | 39.5% |
| Needy students should get scholarship | 2020 | 39.0% |
| | 2022 | 27.0% |
| The price of books, copies and uniforms should be less | 2020 | 31.6% |
| | 2022 | 30.1% |
| The quality of school building should be good | 2020 | 34.9% |
| | 2022 | 34.7% |
| My children should be able to learn in English | 2020 | 28.5% |
| | 2022 | 16.3% |
| The schools where my children go should be near | 2020 | 28.0% |
| | 2022 | 17.9% |
| Teachers should be trained in inclusive education and be able to teach children with diverse impairments. | 2022 | 7.5% |
| Should be flexible enough to address the diverse need of children including children with different impairments. | 2022 | 1.1% |
| The teaching learning methods should be accessible and flexible enough to address the need of children with diverse need | 2022 | 0.6% |
| Should be accessible for all children including children with disabilities. | 2022 | 0.1% |
| Don't know/can't say | 2022 | 5.3% |

Table 5.6.3: Q-E11g. What needs to be done to improve the quality of the government/private schools in your area? (N=1,009)

5.7 PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19

In 2022, 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.

During the pandemic, private schools (23.8%) were twice as likely to have provided alternative classes as public schools (11.8%). Both public and private schools of Madhesh Province were much less likely to have provided alternative classes than the national average (private 53.8%, public 23%). Respondents from urban municipalities were more likely to report that schools provided alternative classes during the pandemic than those in rural municipalities.

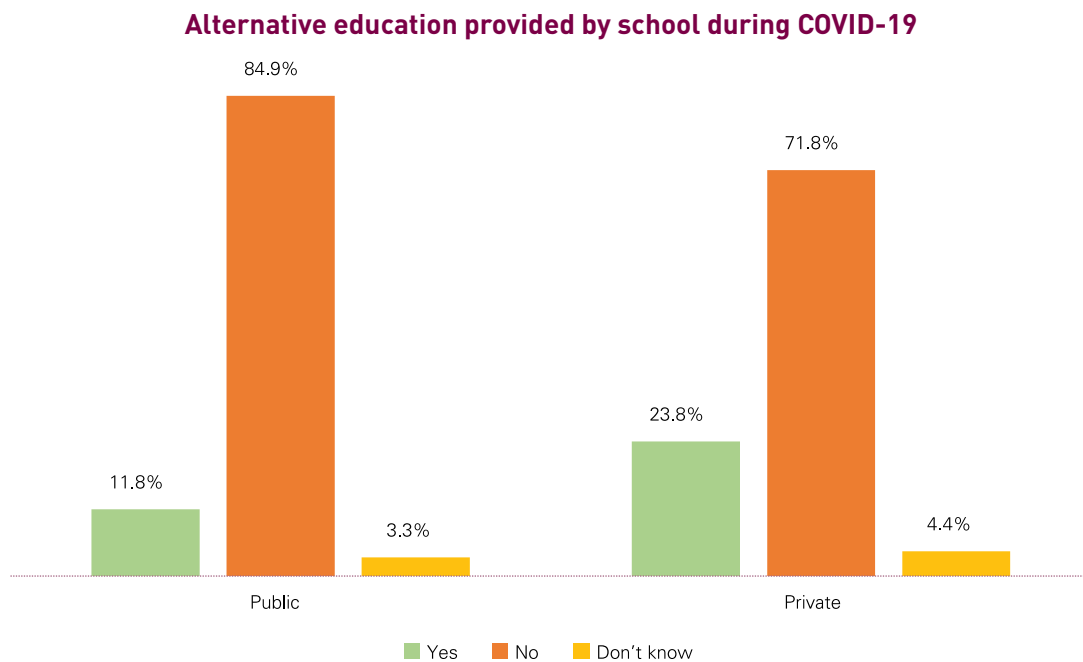


Figure 5.71: Q-E11f_1_A and Q-E11g.1 Did the school in which your child/children are admitted to provide any alternative education options during COVID-19 period? (Online, home visits, community classes, or other) (N=399 children going to public school, N=318 children going to private school)

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 more likely to give a positive assessment (97.9%) of alternative classes provided by the school than respondents with private school-going children (85.0%).

5.8 VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Distance to the Nearest Public Health Post/Hospital

Over the years, increasing shares of respondents live closer to a public health post/hospital (89.2% in 2017 compared to 99.0% in 2022). There was a considerable decline in the time taken to reach the nearest health facility.

Distance to the nearest public health post/hospital, by year

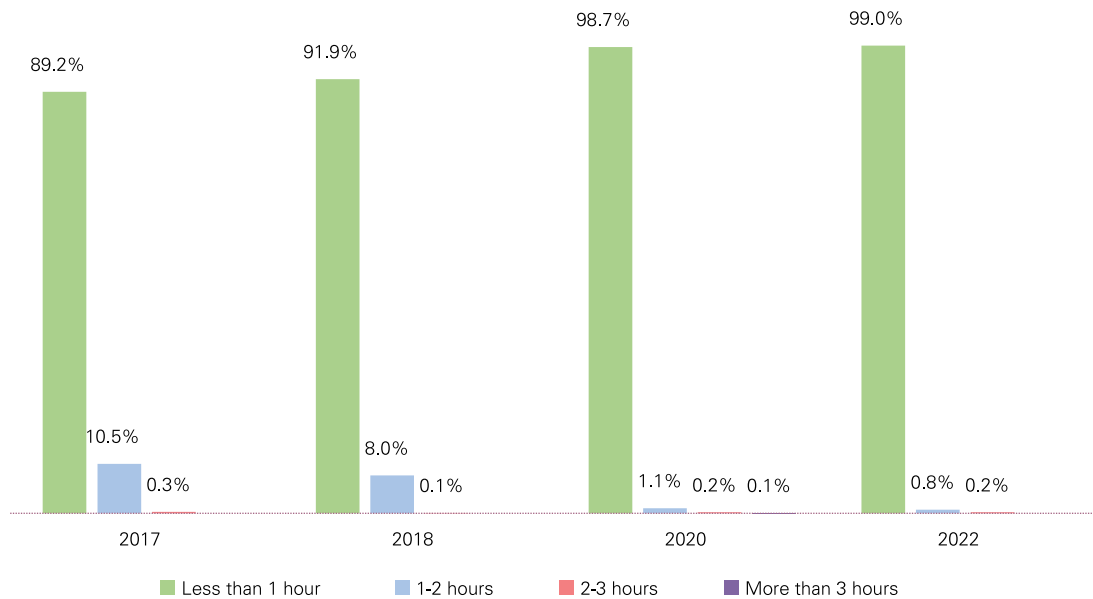


Figure 5.8.1: Q-E12a. How much time would it take you to go from home to the nearest public health post / hospital? (N=1,009)

Views on Quality of Health Services

Slightly less than three-quarters of respondents (73.7%) thought the quality of healthcare in their vicinity was “good,” while 4.7% considered it to be “very good”. In contrast, 18.0% thought it was “bad” and 1.6% very bad.

Over the years, the share of respondents showing optimism about the quality of health services increased gradually from 64.4% in 2017 to 78.4% in 2022 (Figure 5.8.1). In 2020, fewer people rated the quality of health services as “very good” compared to 2018.

Views on the quality of public health care, by year

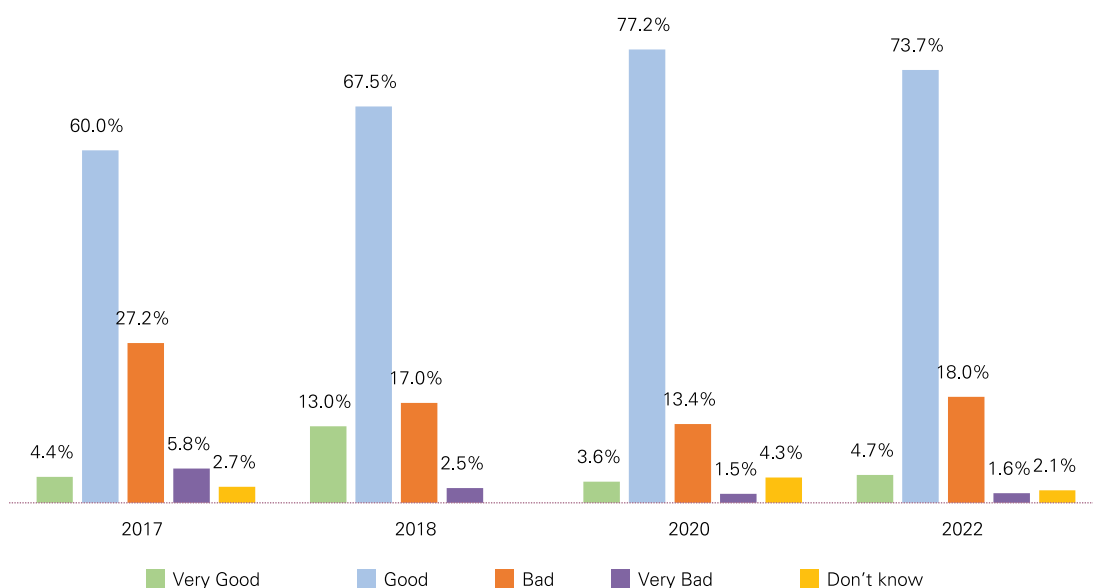


Figure 5.8.2: Q-E12b. How would you rate the quality of public health care in your urban municipality/rural municipality? (N=1,009)

Responsible Entity for Maintaining the Quality of Healthcare

Most people believed that it is their local government’s responsibility to maintain the quality of health-care services – this share has increased over the years. In 2022, 94.2% believed so, compared to 84.6% in 2017. A nominal share of respondents thought it was the role of provincial or federal government (Figure 5.8.3).

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of healthcare, by year

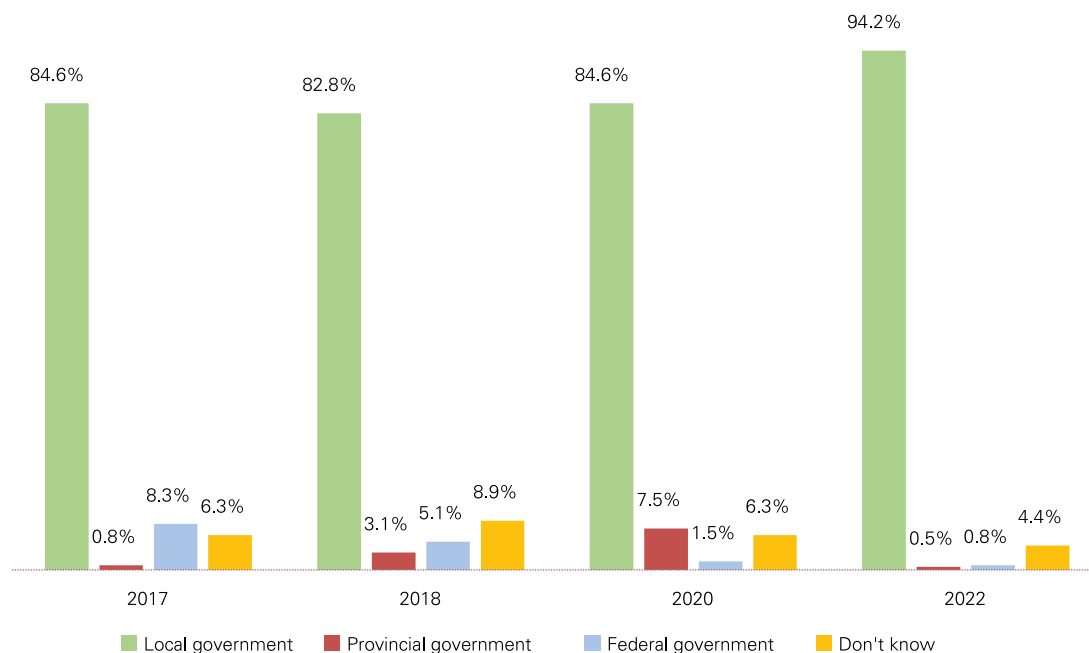


Figure 5.8.3: Q-E12c. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of health services being provided to you? (N=1,009)

In 2022, most people believed that the quality of health services was either changing positively or remaining unchanged. Far fewer thought that there had been negative changes (Figure 5.8.1). In 2022, over two-fifths of respondents (45.1%) mentioned positive changes in the quality of public healthcare – a slight decline compared to 2020 but more than in 2017 (35.5%).

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

| Year | Positive change | Negative change | No change | Don't know |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| 2017 | 35.5% | 20.0% | 39.8% | 4.7% |
| 2018 | 34.3% | 12.6% | 43.1% | 10.0% |
| 2020 | 56.2% | 12.0% | 23.6% | 8.2% |
| 2022 | 45.1% | 4.3% | 46.3% | 4.3% |

Table 5.8.1: 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=1,009)

The survey asked all respondents what needs to be done to improve the quality of healthcare provided by the health centre in their local area (municipality/rural municipality). Four-fifths of respondents said facilities of medicine should be good (79.9%) and there should be provision of good laborato-

ries (52.9%). Other suggestions to improve the quality of health service provided by the health centre in their local area were proper diagnostic methods (52.5%), qualified and trained health workers (49.3%), and proper management of health staff (30.7%).

5.9 VIEWS ON ROADS

Quality of Roads

Almost three-fifths of respondents (59.1%) thought the quality of roads was “good,” but more than one-quarter (27.9%) said it was “not good”. Only a few (5.4%) said roads were “not good at all.”

Between 2017 and 2020, the share of respondents who said the quality of roads was “good” had increased steadily. In 2022, however, it declined again by 9.1 percentage points compared to 2020 (68.2%). Conversely, the proportion of respondents who said that the quality of roads in their local area was “not good” increased between 2020 and 2022 as did the small share of respondents who said roads were “very good”.

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

| Year | Very good | Good | Not good | Not good at all | Don't know |
|------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------------|------------|
| 2017 | 1.5% | 38.5% | 39.4% | 20.6% | 0.1% |
| 2018 | 12.0% | 49.2% | 26.3% | 10.9% | 1.5% |
| 2020 | 3.7% | 68.2% | 22.8% | 5.2% | 0.1% |
| 2022 | 7.2% | 59.1% | 27.9% | 5.4% | 0.3% |

Table 5.9.1: Q-E13a. How would you rate the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1,009)

A majority of respondents (95.4%) believed that the local government is the primary entity responsible for maintaining roads—a response that remained consistent across all survey rounds.

Entity responsible for maintenance of roads, by year

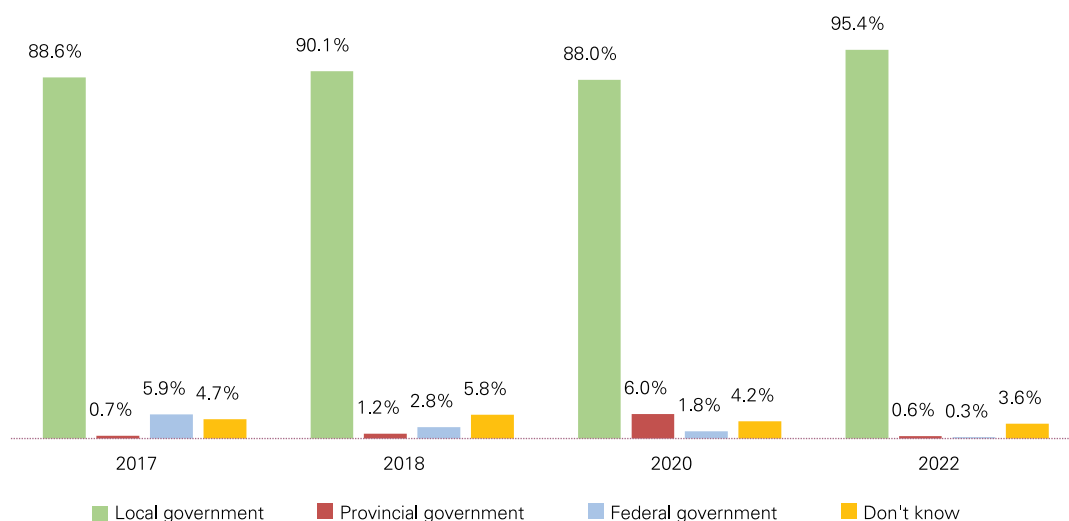


Figure 5.9.1: Q- E13b. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for building and maintaining roads? (N=1,009)

Changes in the Quality of Roads

Compared to 2020, fewer people reported positive changes in the quality of roads in 2022 (51.4%) but the share reporting negative changes also decreased in the same time period. Instead, a high share said road conditions remained unchanged (41.0%). The share of respondents reporting worsening road quality has gradually decreased over time from 36.2% in 2017 to just 6.4% in 2022.

Changes to the quality of roads in the rural municipality/municipality, by year

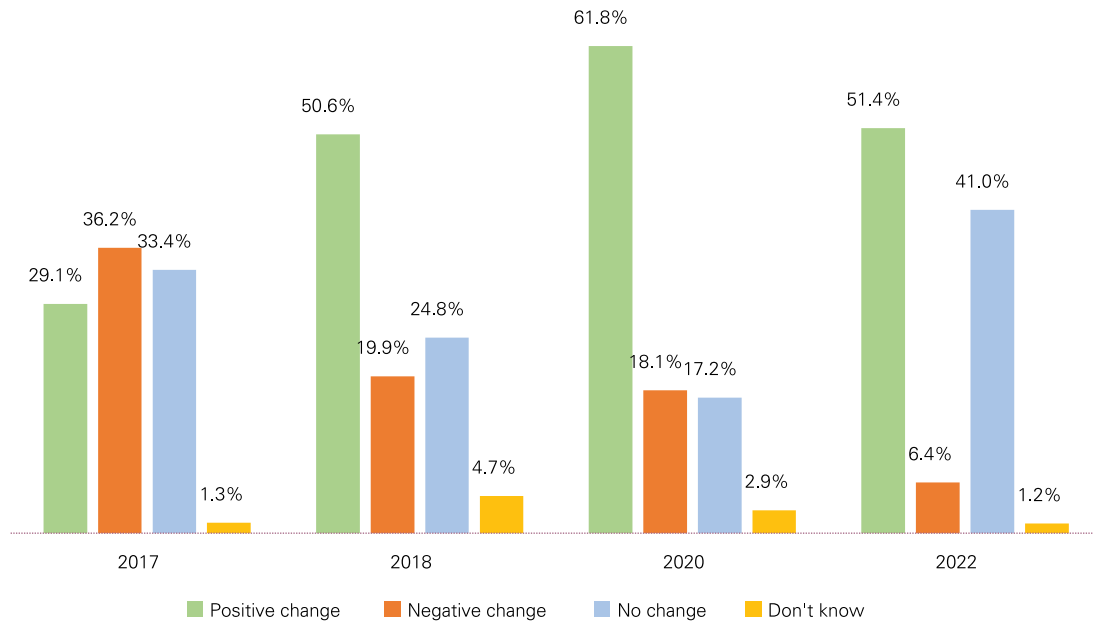


Figure 5.9.2: Q-E13c. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of roads in your urban municipality/rural municipality during the past year? (N=1,009)

Reasons for Positive Changes in the Quality of Roads

Those who thought there had been positive change to the conditions of roads (51.4%) were asked for the reasons. Responses were left open-ended, allowing for multiple responses. Construction of roads was the most-cited reason (51.6%) followed by properly upgraded conditions of existing roads (28.2%), prompt action taken by the government for maintenance of damaged roads (27.1%) and involvement of the public during the planning of road projects (23.7%). Other reasons were more roads being black-topped (17.0%), and roads being upgraded broader and wider (16.7%).

Reasons for Negative Changes in the Quality of Roads

The survey also those reporting negative changes with regards to the quality of roads (6.4%) for the reasons. Most respondents mentioned deteriorating conditions of existing roads (59.3%), and roads that needed to be constructed had not yet been made (58.3%). Other reasons cited by respondents were the delay in the maintenance of damaged roads by the government (30.4%) and the bias of government selecting roads to be upgraded (13.7%).

Suggestions to Improve the Quality of Road Services

All respondents were asked what needed to be done to improve the quality of road services in their area. More than half of respondents believed that black-topping roads (57.6%) and prompt maintenance of damaged roads (54.1%) should be carried out to improve the quality of roads. Just under half recommended proper upgrading of existing roads (49.1%). Less than one in three people thought that the local public should be included in planning and discussions of road projects (31.8%) to improve road quality.

Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of road service

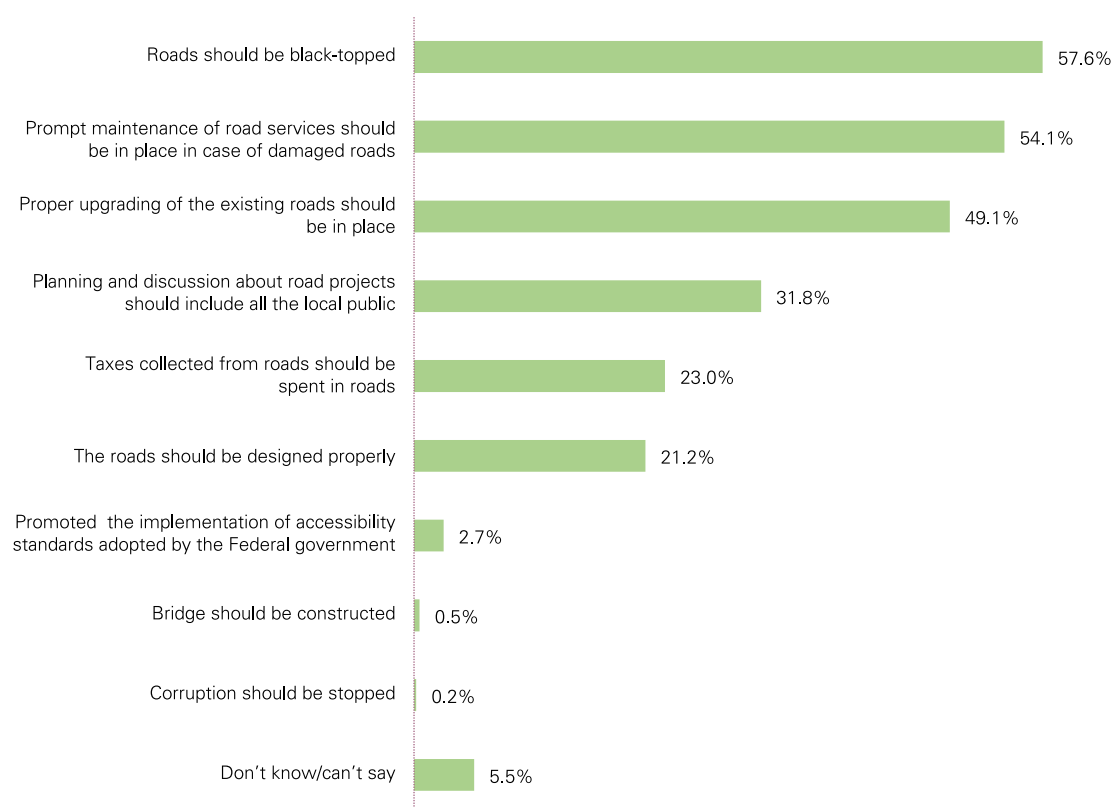


Table 5.9.3: Q-E13f. What needs to be done to improve the quality of road services provided by the rural municipality/municipality in your areas? (N=1,009)

5.10 TAXATION

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

More than four-fifths of people in Madhesh Province (84.0%) said they paid one or more form of tax in the past year (Table 5.10.1). Most commonly, people paid land tax (44.1%), vehicle tax (42.2%), property tax (30.9%), business tax (10.8%) and entertainment tax (10.1%). Less common was individual income tax (8.4%), land registration tax (8.3%), remuneration tax (7.2%) and house rent tax (6.1%). Over the past three survey rounds, there was an increase in the share of respondents who said they paid some form of tax in the past year.

Most respondents said they were unaware of changes in the current level of taxation for most types of taxes. However, many forms of taxes seem to be increasing. A significant share of those who paid property, vehicle, and land taxes said that the level of taxation had increased compared to the previous year. A considerable share of respondents who paid house rent tax, individual income tax, land registration tax, business tax, and entertainment tax also reported that it was more than before.

Views on the current level of taxation¹¹, by year

| Type of tax | Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year? | | | N | If yes, do you think current level of taxation is appropriate? | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------|-------|-----|--|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| | 2018 | 2020 | 2022 | | More than last year | Less than last year | Same as last year | Don't know |
| Property tax | 1.5% | 30.6% | 30.9% | 376 | 36.8% | 1.6% | 9.8% | 51.8% |
| House rent tax | 1.0% | 10.2% | 6.1% | 42 | 7.4% | 2.6% | 2.4% | 87.6% |
| Individual Income tax | 4.9% | 11.8% | 8.4% | 81 | 7.5% | 1.1% | 7.3% | 84.1% |
| Business tax | 26.4% | 17.9% | 10.8% | 80 | 11.2% | 2.1% | 5.4% | 81.4% |
| Vehicle tax | 0.8% | 48.9% | 42.2% | 401 | 41.4% | 0.3% | 7.1% | 51.2% |
| Land registration tax | 0.9% | 20.6% | 8.3% | 78 | 13.8% | 0.5% | 2.9% | 82.8% |
| Entertainment tax | 0.0% | 39.5% | 10.1% | 70 | 1.8% | 2.1% | 8.9% | 87.3% |
| Land tax | 0.2% | 41.5% | 44.1% | 563 | 40.3% | 1.3% | 13.5% | 45.0% |
| Advertisement tax | 0.2% | 9.0% | 4.0% | 27 | 2.4% | 0.9% | 5.4% | 91.3% |
| Agriculture Income tax | 2.6% | 11.2% | 3.7% | 35 | 4.5% | 0.5% | 3.4% | 91.6% |
| Institutional Income tax | 12.5% | 13.3% | 1.4% | 9 | 1.5% | 0.8% | 2.0% | 95.7% |
| Remuneration tax | 0.2% | 16.3% | 7.2% | 63 | 3.5% | 0.5% | 7.1% | 88.9% |

Table 5.10.1: Q-E15Ai-Mi. Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year? N=1009. E15A-M. [If yes in Q-E15 Ai-Mij Do you think current level of taxation is appropriate? (Response as 'Not Paid Local Tax', 'Not Applicable' and 'Refused to Answer' not included)]

The vast majority of respondents who paid taxes in the past year said that the process of paying the tax/service charge/fee was easy (95.3%). A small minority (4.7%) reported feeling inconvenienced while making the payment. More people in 2022 than in 2020 (43.8%) reported that paying taxes or a service charge or fee was easy.

The 4.7% of respondents who said that paying taxes, service charges or fees was difficult were further asked what could be done to ease the process. The two most-cited answers were the provision of online payment of all kinds of taxes/fees (68.6%) and facilities of paying all kinds of taxes/fees at the ward office (29.3%).

Views on Taxation

A vast majority of Nepalis in Madhesh Province agreed that they did 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. To analyze respondents' understanding of taxation, they were presented with four statements that they could agree, strongly agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with.

¹¹ 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, only the response of those who said Yes in E15 were included in the analysis.

Most respondents agreed (combination of 'agree' and 'strongly agree') that they could use additional information on the following: how the different levels of government collect taxes from people (95.6%); how the government spends its collected taxes (95.6%); and what benefits citizens get in return for paying taxes (95.6%). Slightly less than half of respondents (45.5%) 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

Of those who said they paid one or more type of tax in the past year, 8.7% reported paying some extra cash or some type of gift (other than that fixed by the government) to someone while paying the taxes. Most paid extra to employees of local government (38.3%), elected representatives (29.7%), and a third party/broker (27.6%). Very few said they gave an additional amount or a gift to an employee of the provincial government (11.8%) or the federal government (5.4%).

Willingness to Pay More Local Taxes for Better Services

Over the years, fewer Nepalis residing in Madhesh Province – as well as nationwide – said they would be willing to pay more local taxes if the quality of services were to improve; this proportion has steadily declined every year.

In 2022, the share of respondents who said they would pay more taxes/fees in exchange for better services (45.1%) was lower than in previous survey rounds (Figure 5.10.4). Conversely, the share of respondents unwilling to pay more taxes even if quality of services were to improve increased (from 18.5% in 2017 to 50.4% in 2022).

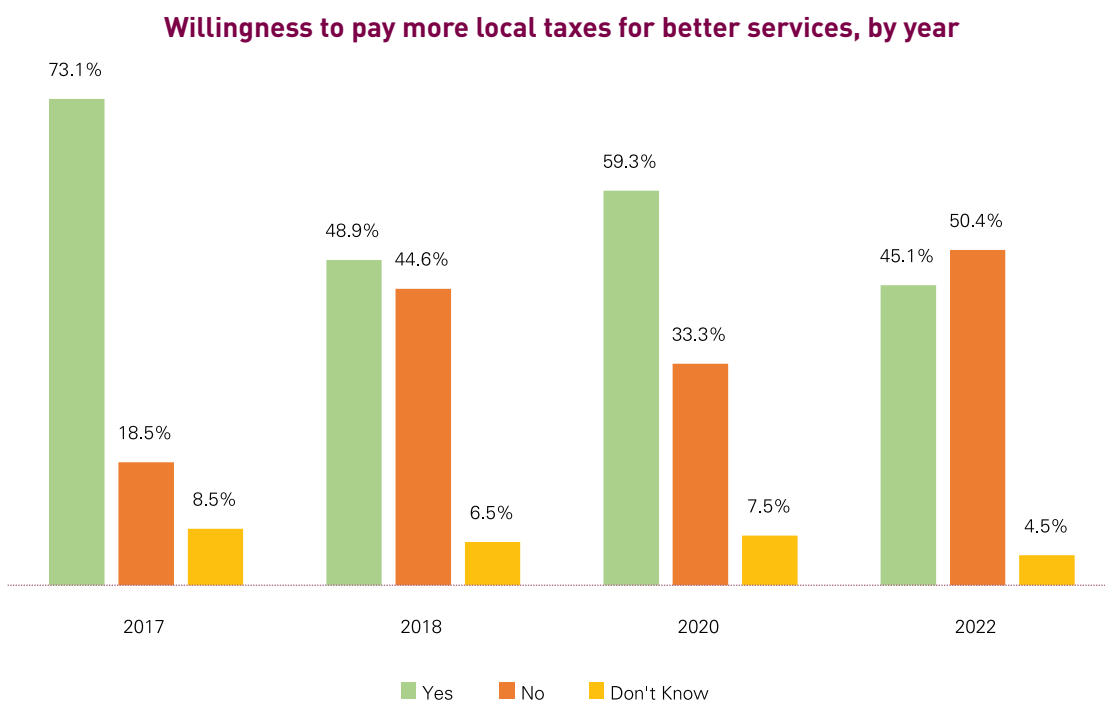


Figure 5.10.4: Q-E16. Would you be willing to pay more local taxes or fees if the quality of services like road maintenance, education or healthcare were improved? (N=1007) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

5.11 CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked if they had to give money, gifts or perform a favour to receive nine different services listed in Table 5.11.1. This question was asked to all respondents.

For three out of nine types services asked about, the majority of respondents 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 (86.2%), services from the police (82.4%), and help to look for employment (81.8%).

In 2022, only a marginal share of people in Madhesh Province said that they had to pay bribes to receive one or more of the nine different services (2.3% to 7.0%). Some 6.5% mentioned paying a bribe for land-related services (buying, selling, transferring land, or paying land taxes, plotting, etc.), 4.5% for vehicle-related services (obtaining/renewing license/bluebook, name transfer, etc.), and 7.0% for vital registration/documentation-related services (citizenship, birth, marriage, death certificates, etc.). In 2022, the share of respondents who said they paid bribes to receive services slightly decreased compared to 2020.

Bribe in exchange for services, by year

| 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 | 30.3% | 31.4% | 15.4% | 10.1% | 9.1% | 3.3% | 3.0% | | |
| 2018 | 20.2% | 18.0% | 11.5% | 6.9% | 3.6% | 1.9% | 2.1% | | |
| 2020 | 11.4% | 13.6% | 11.3% | 5.5% | 5.9% | 2.6% | 1.9% | 10.9% | 3.0% |
| 2022 | 6.5% | 7.0% | 3.1% | 2.6% | 2.5% | 2.3% | 2.3% | 4.5% | 3.2% |

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=1008) ('Don't Know' and 'Refused to Answer' not included)

5.12 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

Awareness of current local government development projects was lowest in Madhesh Province where less than one in ten people said they were aware of such projects and related budget planning (9.5% aware, much lower than the national average of 19.6%) (Figure 5.12.1). Nine out of ten people in Madhesh Province (90.5%) reported being unaware of any development projects or budgets and planning for the current fiscal year in their area (compared to the national average of eight out of ten people, 80.4%).

Awareness of local government development projects, by year

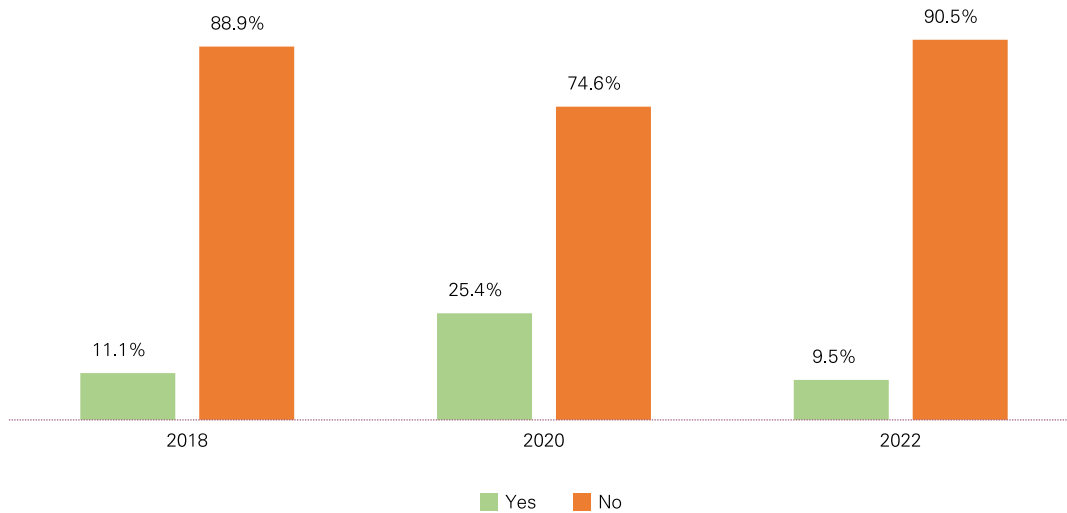


Figure 5.12.1: Q-E18. Are you aware of any development projects/budget planned for execution by your local government in the current fiscal year? (N=1,009)

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.

Most gave priority to education-related services (49.9%), followed by services related to roads and other infrastructure (31.3%), and health (6.3%). Less than 3% cited agriculture and livestock (2.6%) and employment-related services (2.5%). The share of people who believed that local government should prioritize education-related services gradually increased from 24.8% in 2018 to 32.7% in 2020 and 49.9% in 2022. In contrast, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of people who mentioned employment-related services in 2022.

Local government services that should get first priority, by year

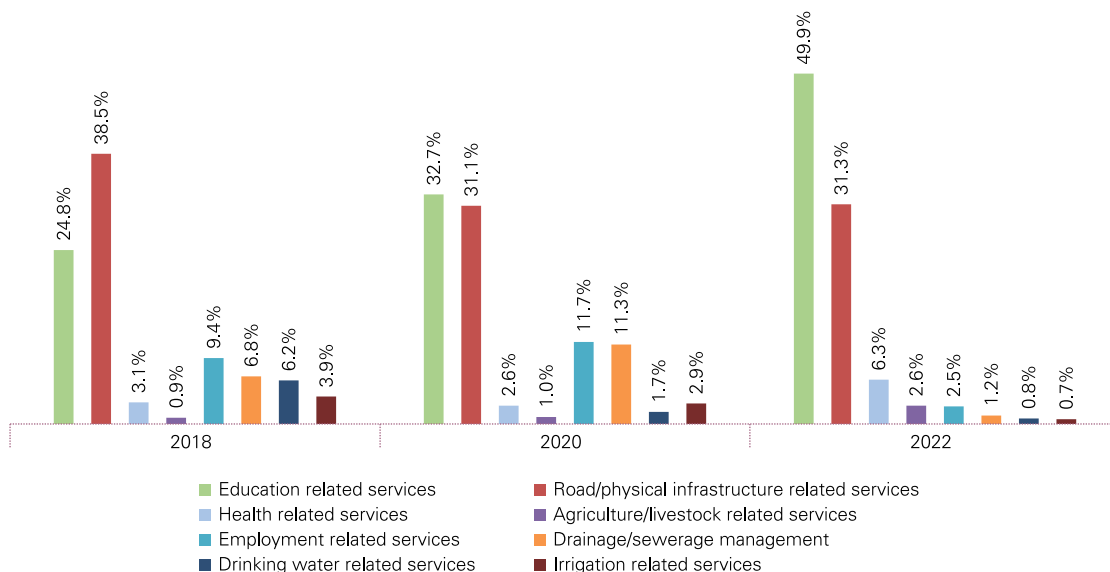


Figure 5.12.2: Q-E19. In your opinion, which service should get first priority from your local government? (N=1,009)

Participation in Public Hearing

One in ten respondents (9.9%) from Madhesh Province confirmed that there had been at least one public hearing in their ward or municipality in the past year. The share of respondents to report that there had been at least one public hearing decreased from 12.8% in 2020 to 9.9% in 2022.

Awareness of public hearing in their ward or municipality, by year

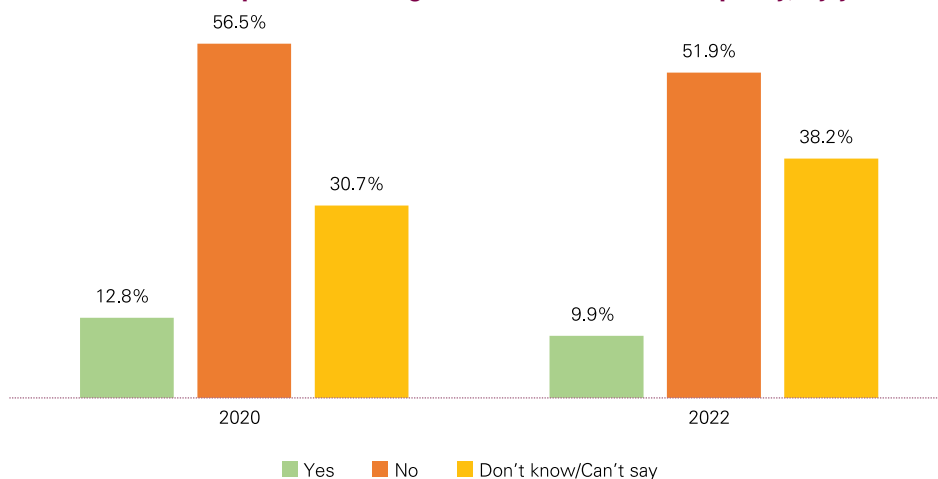


Figure 5.12.3: Q-E20. In last one year have there been any public hearing in your rural municipality/ municipality, including in your ward? (N=1,009)

Of those aware of at least one public hearing in their ward or municipality in the past year, 56.6% never participated in any such hearing, 7.7% participated in most of the hearings, and 35.7% participated occasionally. Over the survey rounds, the share of respondents who never attended any public hearing has dropped while the share who participated in some of the public hearing has increased.

The proportion of respondent who were aware of public hearings in their ward or municipality was similar in rural (10.4%) and urban municipalities (9.8%). Respondents aged 45–54 were more likely to participate than respondent from other age groups.

Participation in Public Audits

A large share of respondents was unaware of public audits taking place in their ward or municipality in the past year (39.9%) while around half said there was no public audit (52.5%). Only 7.6% of respondents were aware that there had been at least one public audits in their ward or municipality in the past year.

Of those aware of public audits taking place, 66.1% never participated in any such audits. 3.7% frequently participated and 30.3% occasionally participated in the public audits conducted in their local area.

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, 9.2% of respondents said they participated in either 'some' or 'most' of the activities related to local planning or budget execution (7.9% participated in 'some', but only 1.3% participated in 'most' of the activities). The level of participation remained similar to 2020.

Based on the responses of those who said they participated in any such activity, the plans and programs that elicited the highest levels of public participation were related to roads and other physical infrastructure (76.4%), drinking water (48.2%), education (42.1%), employment related (39.6%), health related (24.9%) and electricity (21.8%).

5.13 LOCAL ELECTIONS AND VIEWS ON ELECTED OFFICIALS

Confidence that Elected Officials Care

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the people elected as mayor, deputy mayor, ward chairperson and ward members cared about them. The majority of the respondents thought that their elected representatives 'somewhat care' about the general public. They were more likely to believe that their ward chairperson (35.6%) and ward members (33.1%) care than their mayor (29.8%) and deputy mayor (29.7%) (Table 5.13.1).

Only a small proportion of people held the opinion that elected officials "strongly care" about the general public. On the other hand, a slightly higher proportion of people believed that the elected officials do not care much.

Confidence that elected officials care, by province

| | Yes, strongly think they care | Yes, they care somewhat | No, they do not care much | No, they do not care at all | Don't know |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Mayor | 8.9% | 29.8% | 24.0% | 26.0% | 11.2% |
| Deputy Mayor | 8.9% | 29.7% | 23.6% | 26.5% | 11.2% |
| Ward Chairperson | 13.8% | 35.6% | 20.2% | 21.8% | 8.6% |
| Ward Members | 13.0% | 33.1% | 21.5% | 23.4% | 8.9% |

Table 5.13.1: Q-F1i-iv. If you think about the people elected to the rural/urban municipality, do you think they care about people like you? (N=1,009)

Contacts with Elected Local Representative and Level of Satisfaction

In 2022, only one in ten respondents (9.8%) reported contacting their elected officials to resolve problems experienced by them personally or in their community in the past year – a lower share than the national average (13.9%). The 9.8% of respondents who had approached an elected local representatives for help were further asked how satisfied they were with the result. The large majority was satisfied (28.7% very satisfied, 48.8% satisfied) (Figure 5.12.5).

Contact with elected local representatives and level of satisfaction, by election year

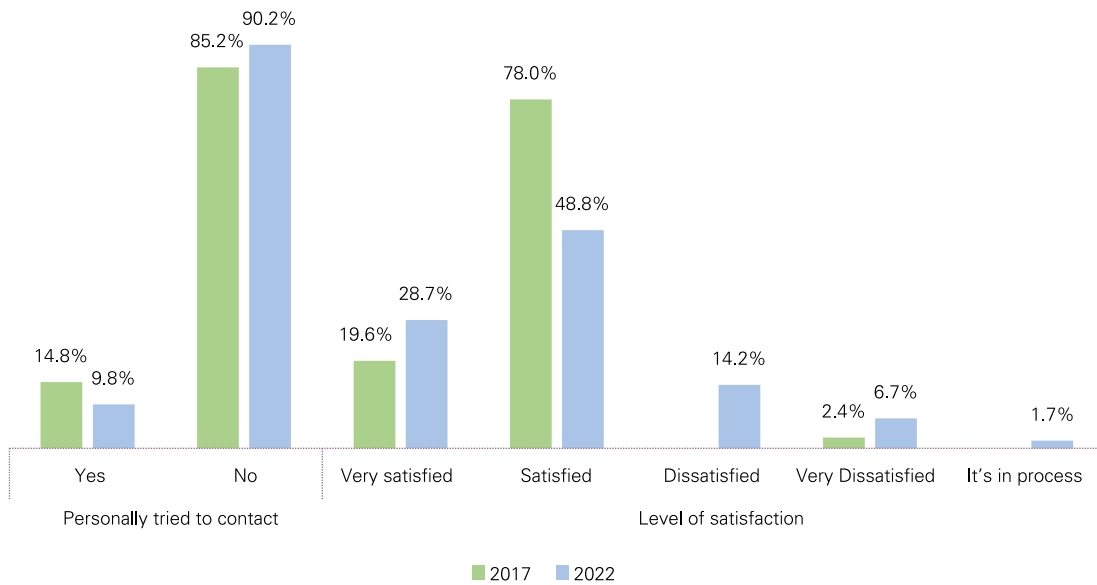


Figure 5.13.1: Q-F8. Have you personally tried to contact one of your elected local representatives for help in solving any of your personal or community problems in the past year? (N=1,009). Q-F9. How satisfied were you with the result of this contact? (N=141)

5.14 VIEWS ON THE RESPONSIVENESS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Slightly less than three-quarters of respondents (72.7%) reported that the local government’s responsiveness has remained the same compared to the previous year. Some 17.7% thought that the responsiveness of local government has improved—a sharp decline from 55.1% in 2020 and 50.0% in 2018.

Views on government responsiveness to the needs of people, by year

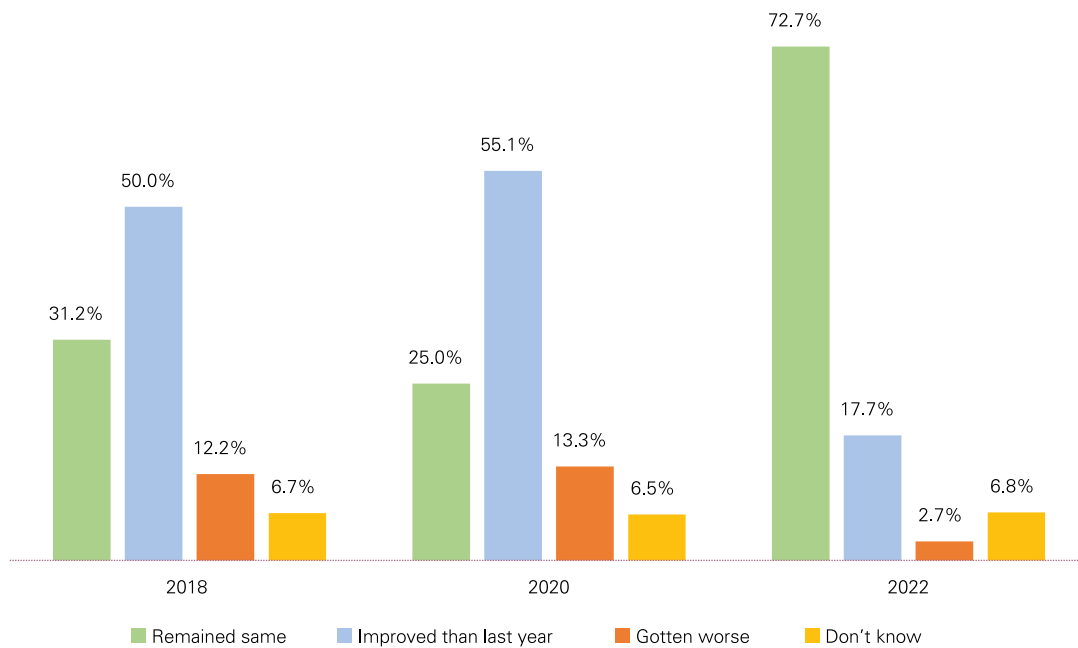


Figure 5.14.1: Q-F1A. To what extent do you think the Local Government has become responsive to the needs of people compared to last year? (N=1,009)

Overall Satisfaction with Services Delivered by the Local Government

The majority of respondents (60.6%) said they were not satisfied with the services delivered by their local government, but a sizeable share (39.4%) were satisfied. Dissatisfaction has increased between 2020 and 2022; while the share of those who were satisfied with services delivered by their local government decreased in this time period, the share of those who were dissatisfied increased (Figure 5.14.2). Levels of satisfaction were lower in Madhesh Province than in Nepal overall.

Overall satisfaction with regards to services delivered by the local government, by year

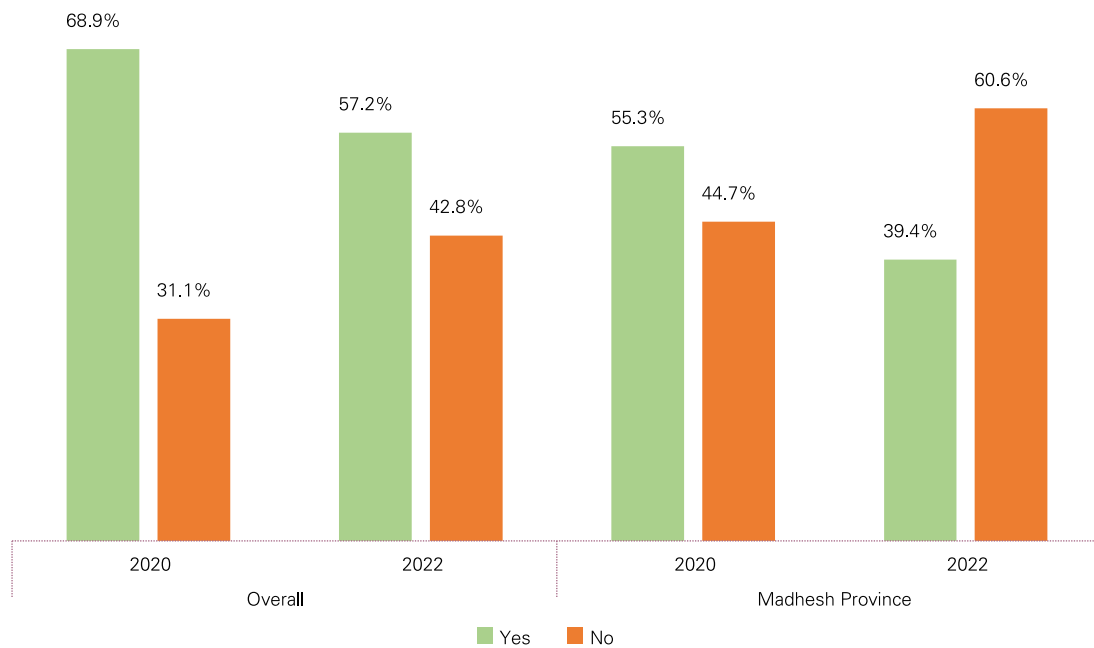


Figure 5.14.2: Q-E13g. Overall, are you satisfied from the services delivered by the local government (rural municipality / urban municipality) of your area? (N=1006) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

People in rural municipalities (42.9%) were slightly more satisfied with the services delivered by the local government than people in urban municipalities (38.2%). Across ethnic/caste groups, Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati (60.4%), followed by Hill Dalit (58.6%) were more satisfied with the services delivered by local government.

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

The survey also asked respondents to rate their levels of satisfaction with education, health, and road services provided by their local government on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing "highly dissatisfied," and 10 representing "highly satisfied." Average satisfaction levels of people in Madhesh Province for these services ranged between 5.4 and 5.7 (Figure 5.14.3) which is lower than the national average (overall) and lower than in 2020.

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

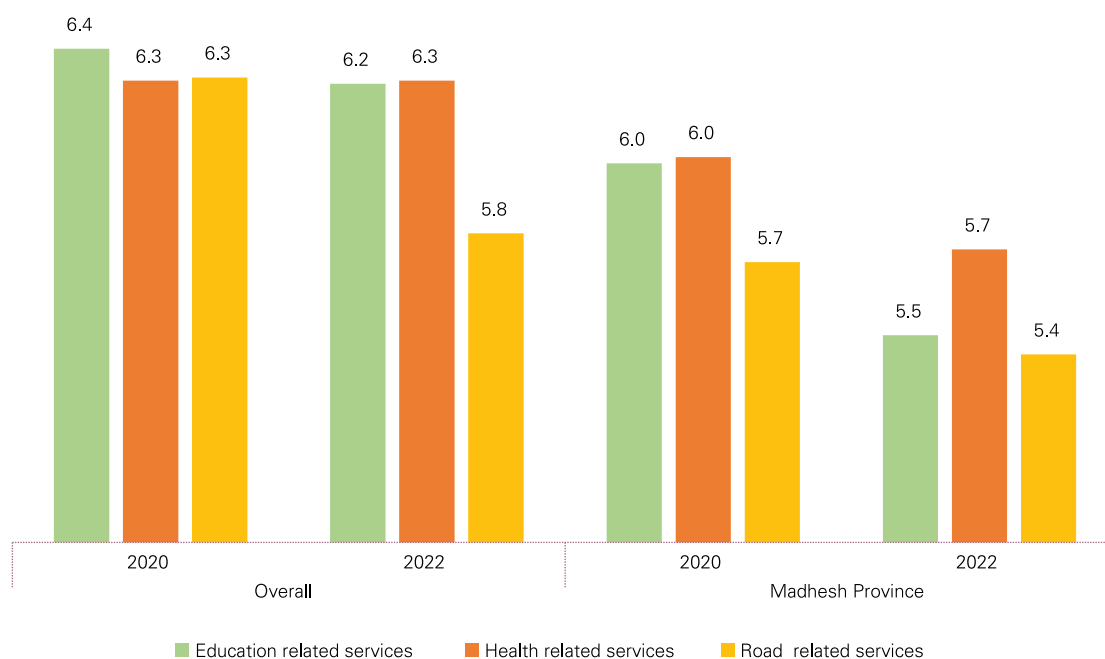


Figure 5.14.3: Q-E10Ha, b, c. How satisfied are you with the education, health and road related services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? [Rate the level of your satisfaction in a scale of 0 to 10; while 0 represent highly dissatisfied, 5 represent neither dissatisfied nor satisfied and 10 represents extremely satisfied] (N=1,009)

Local Elections

About four in five people (78.1%) in Madhesh Province had voted in recent local elections – in line with national-level findings. One-fifth (21.9%) of respondents said they did not vote.

There was a notable increase in the share of respondents who have voted between 2017 and 2020 with only 17.5% voting in 2017 and 78.1% voting in 2022. However, the proportion of respondents who did not vote in the elections also increased in 2022 (21.8%) compared to 2017 (3.4%). In 2017, most respondent reported that there had been no local election in their place.

A large majority (89.9%) thought the election of 2022 was free and fair – slightly less than in 2017 (95.4%). The small share of respondents who said the election was not free and fair (0.7%), said it was because of the use of force, money and bribery (91.0%), because there were problems or disputes (47.6%), due to lacking security (23.8%) and because people were threatened (14.8%).

Respondents in Madhesh Province were generally happy or very happy (84.1%) with the result of the 2022 elections. When asked about the impacts of local elections on their lives, slightly more than half (54.7%) believed that it would improve their quality of life while over one-quarter (27.8%) reported that it would not have any impact.

The respondents who thought that local elections would positively impact their quality of their life gave the following reasons: improvement in public service delivery (53.3%), better accountability of leaders (51.5%), and local leaders' incline towards addressing the needs of the community (37.8%) (Figure 5.15.1).

Reasons for expected improvement in the quality of life

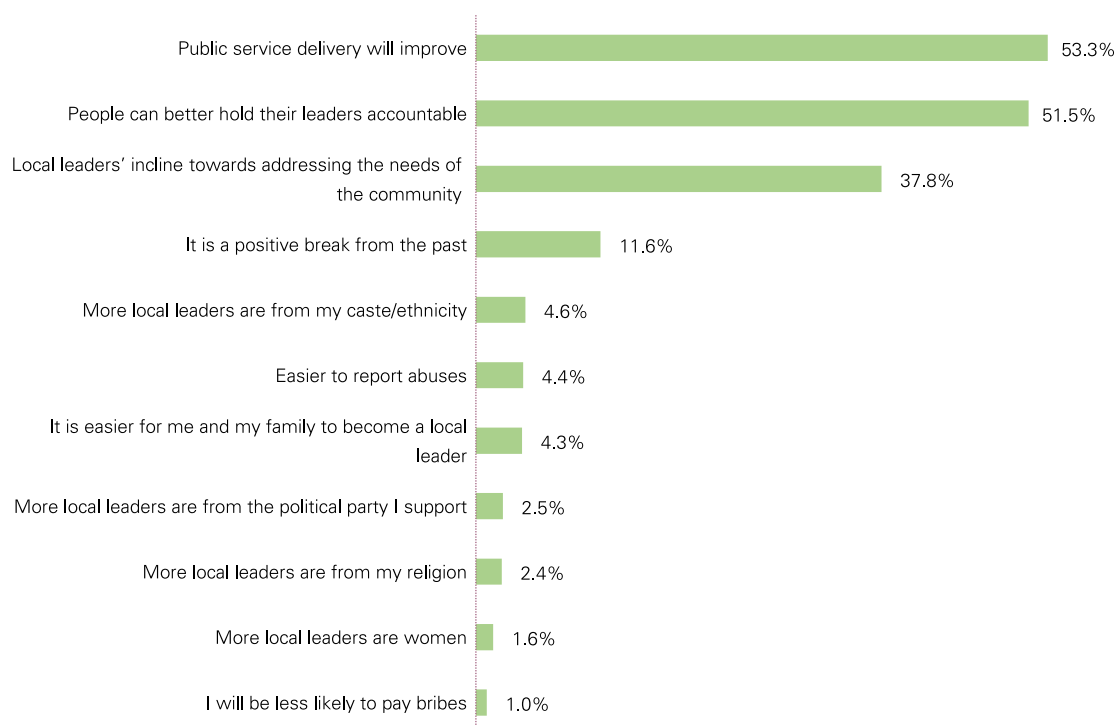


Figure 5.15.1: Q-F6. Why do you think that quality of life will improve? (N=551)

Basis of Voting

The respondents who said in 2020/21 that they had voted in local elections were asked how they decided who to vote for. The most-cited reasons were: they liked a certain candidate who stood from a certain political party (47.5%), the political party stands for change (26.0%), they liked the independent candidate and the principles s/he stood for (22.7%) and, they knew the candidate (22.0%) (Figure 5.12.3).

Smaller shares said that they voted because they liked the candidate's principles, vision etc. (16.6%), because they think a certain political party/candidate will bring development and provide services in the area (15.0%), because a certain party/candidate is working for people's rights (13.5%), and because a candidate has good political experience (9.3%).

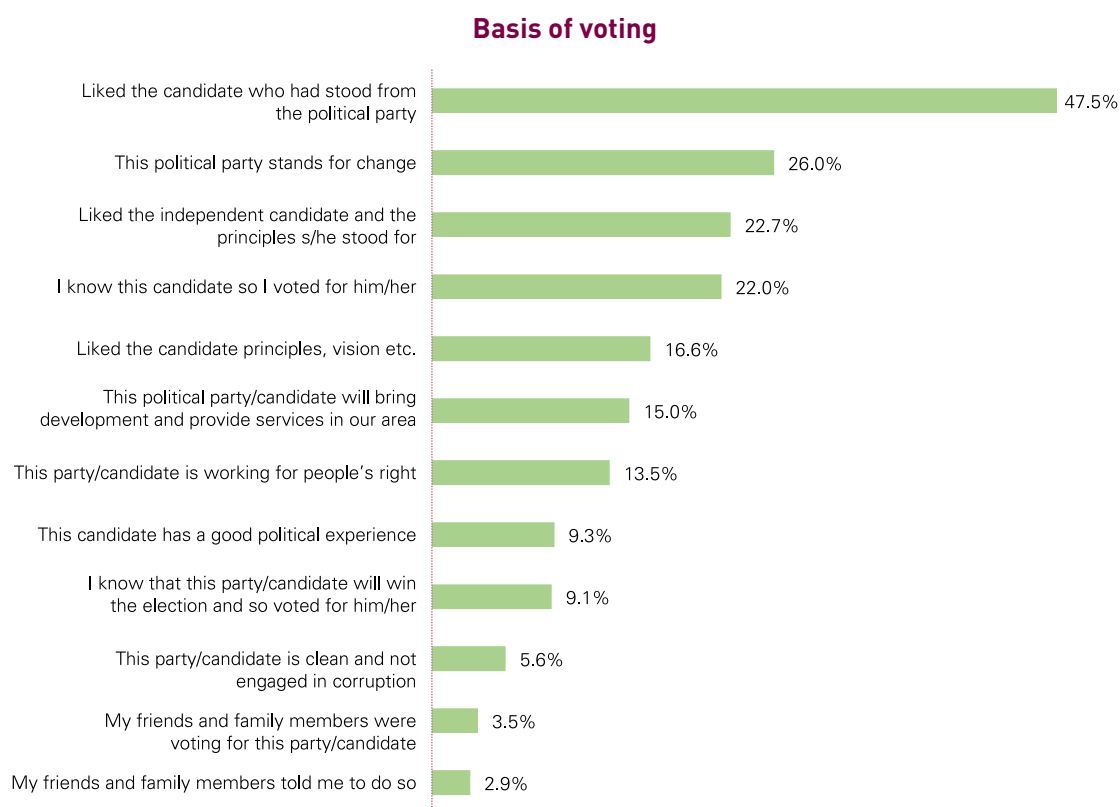


Figure 5.15.2: Q-F7.1. On what basis did you decide who to vote for? (N=786)

Ease of Voting

The survey further asked the respondents who voted in local elections (i.e., 78.1% of all respondents in Madhesh Province) how easy the process was for them at their respective polling booths. The majority (65%) said it was easy to cast their vote and nearly one-third (31%) said it was very easy. However, 2.9% expressed that it was difficult and 1% thought it was very difficult.

Most-cited reasons why they felt the process was easy were proximity to polling booths (62.5%), easily understandable ballot paper (52.8%), easy accessibility of polling booths (34.2%), and helpful security personnel (10.2%).

6. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1 PERCEPTIONS OF LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In 2022, 14.5% of people in Madhesh Province were optimistic that economic conditions in their rural municipality/municipality were improving, while most said that it was neither improving nor worsening (78.3%). Only a small minority (1.4%) reported that local economic conditions were getting worse (Figure 6.1.1).

The proportion of respondents who stated that economic conditions at the local level had remained stable was higher in 2022 than in previous survey rounds. However, the proportion of respondents who believed that local economic conditions were improving declined by more than half between 2020 (34.4%) and 2022 (14.5%) while the proportion of respondents who said economic conditions were worsening also declined between 2020 (9.8%) and 2022 (1.4%).

Optimism about local economic conditions increased with higher education and income levels.

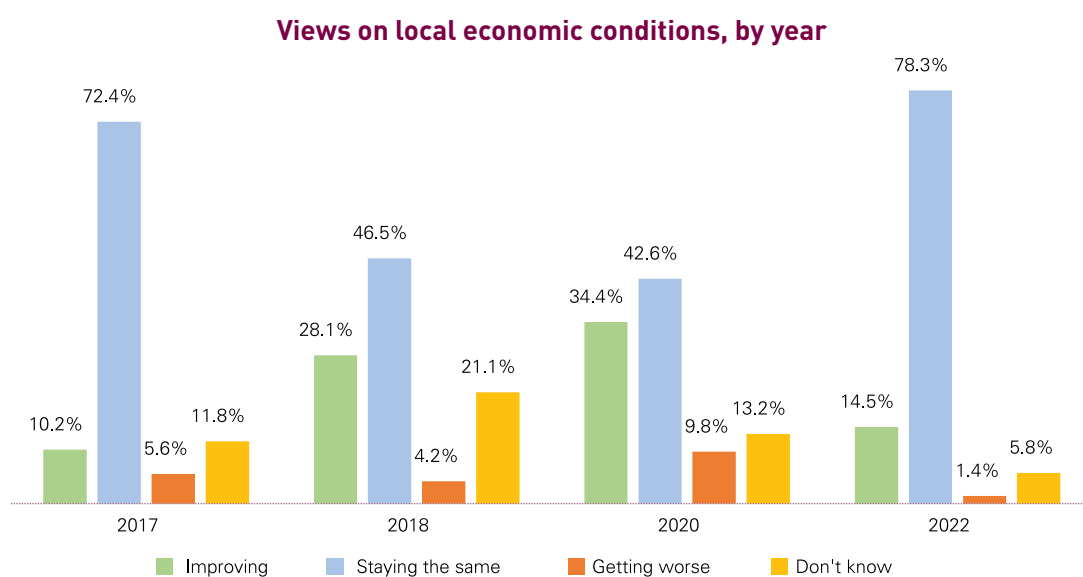


Figure 6.1.1: Q-G1. Do you think economic conditions in your urban municipality/ rural municipality are improving? (N=1,009) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

The 14.5% of respondents who said that economic conditions in their municipality were getting better were further asked to provide their reasons for saying so. Frequently cited reasons for a positive economic outlook included better infrastructure (67.3%), easier to find work (12.3%), improving water supply (12.1%), and increased municipal budget (9.0%).

Reasons why local economic conditions are improving

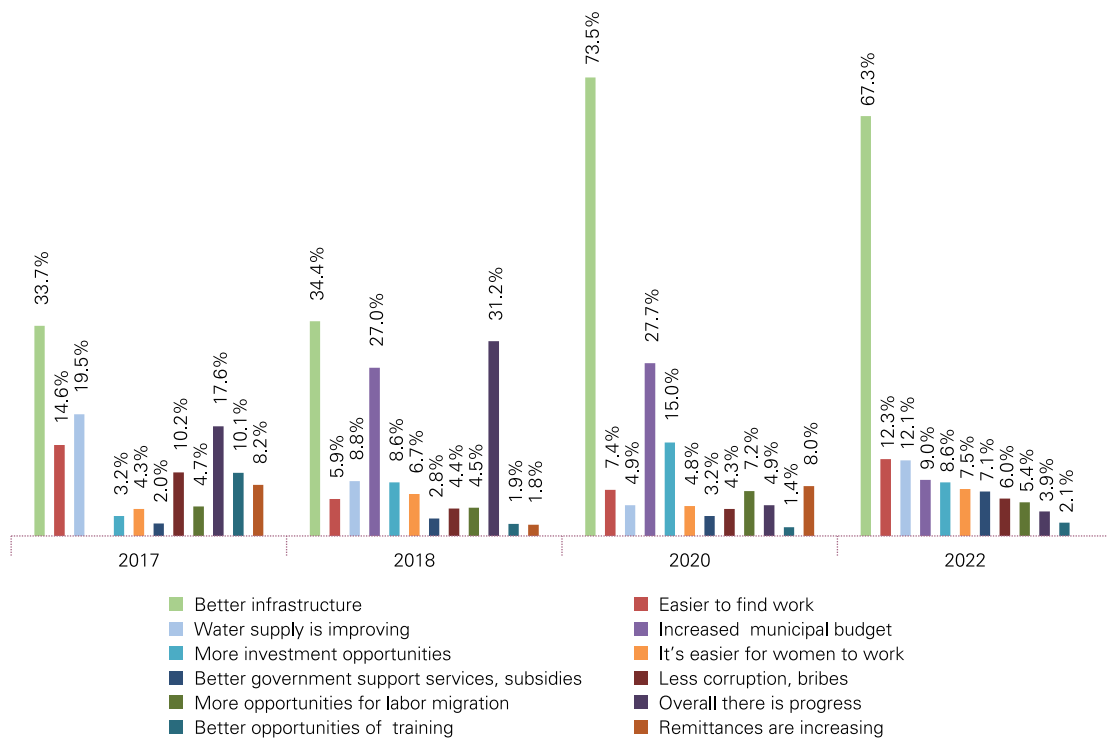


Figure 6.1.2: Q-G2. [If ‘Yes, economic conditions are improving’ in Q-G1] Why do you think that economic conditions are improving in your municipality /rural municipality? (N=210)¹²

6.2. PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

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

Just over half of people in Madhesh Province (58.5%) reported that their average household income was more than NPR 20,000 a month, and slightly more than one quarter (28.3%) said it was between NPR 10,000-19,999 a month. The share of respondents who report earning less than NPR 10,000 a month was 13.0% (Figure 6.2.1). Over the survey years, the share of respondent with a monthly household income below NPR 10,000 decreased, and the share with a monthly household income above NPR 40,000 increased.

12 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 respondent are not limited to cite the two major reason and are allowed to give multiple responses. To compare the responses of people regarding to main reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, in four different survey period, first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

Average monthly household income, by year

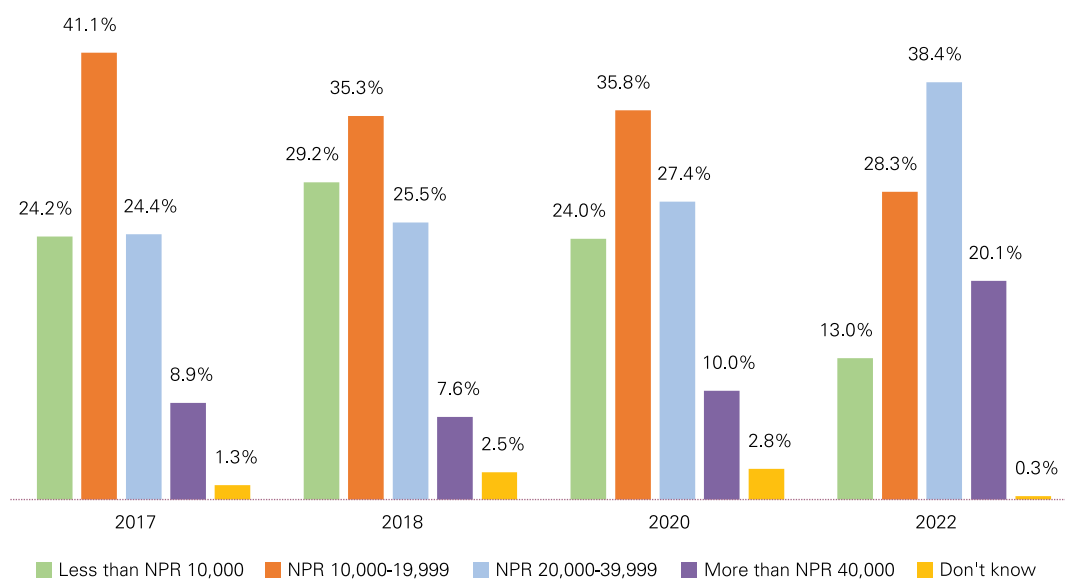


Figure 6.2.1: Q-G4. Approximately how much was your household income per month in the last year? (N=979) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

In Madhesh Province, no significance difference was observed in the average household income of people in rural and urban municipalities. Some 10.3% of the respondents from Hill Dalit groups reported having an income of NPR 40,000 compared to 20.3% of Hill Adibasi/Janajati groups (20.3%) reporting the same income level. Likewise, only 5.1% of Madhesi Dalit respondents reported having an income of NPR 40,000 or above compared to 28.6% of Madhesi Caste (Level 1) respondents. More than two-fifths of respondents from Hill Caste (42.1%), Hill Adibasi/Janajati (42.0%), Madhesi Caste (Level -1) (44.9%) and Madhesi Caste (Level - 2) (41.6%) reported that a monthly household income of NPR 20,000-40,000.

Changes in Household Income

Household incomes remained the same for most respondents over the previous year (73.9%). More respondents reported increased household incomes (18.8%) than a decrease (6.8%). Once again, people with more education or higher incomes were more likely to report an increase in household incomes.

This question was asked all four survey rounds. Between 2017 and 2022, the share reporting lower incomes became smaller while the share reporting stable incomes (income remaining the same) increased. On aggregate, the biggest increase in household income compared to the previous year was seen in 2020. In 2022, there was a drop of 19.1 percentage points in the proportion of respondents who said that their household income increased. The share of respondents decreased household incomes rose slightly, from 5.1% in 2020 to 6.8% in 2022.

Change in household income over the last year, by year

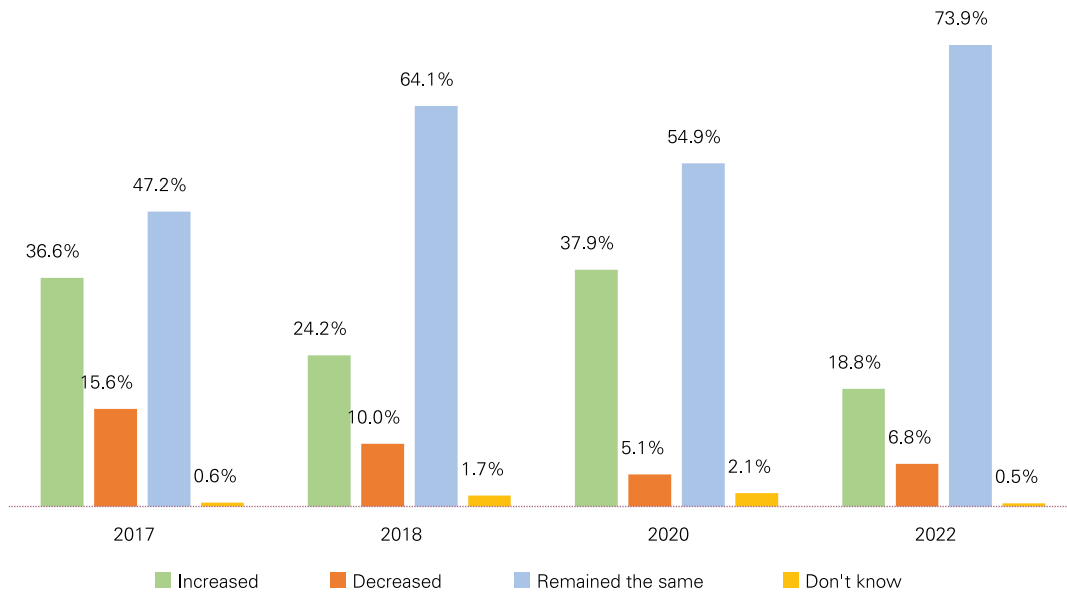


Figure 6.2.2: Q-G5. How has your household income changed in the last year? (N = 1007) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Personal Income

In addition to household incomes, the survey also asked about respondents' personal monthly incomes. Most respondents (35.3%) either refused to answer or mentioned no source of monthly income. Many of these respondents were students and people engaged in agriculture or household work. Women were twice as likely to refuse to answer this question as men.

Of those who answered this question, slightly more than two-fifths reported a personal monthly income of NPR 20,000 or more (45.8%) – more than the national-level share of respondents reporting the same (33.5%). A lower share of respondents in Madhesh Province reported earning less than NPR 10,000 compared to the national figure.

Personal income in 2022

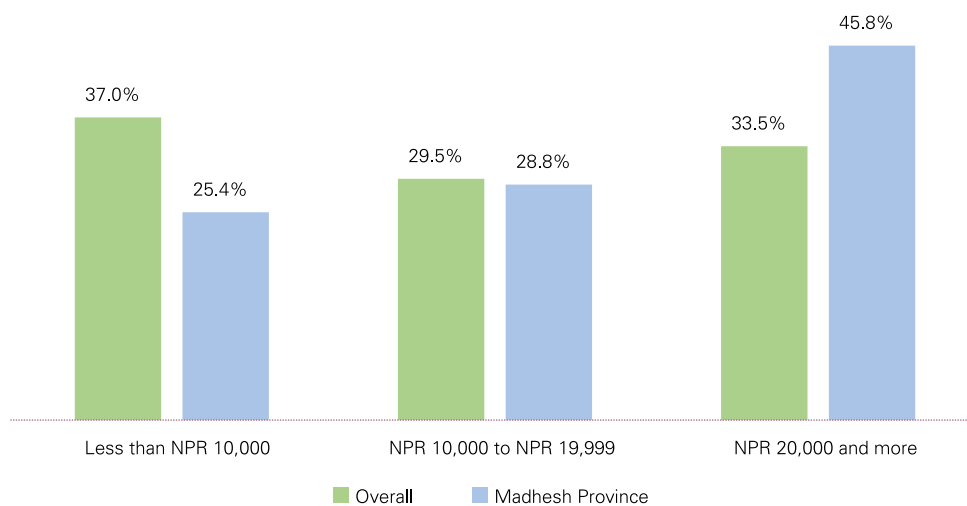


Figure 6.2.3: Q-G6C. What is your present level of personal income that you earn in a year? (N=653) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Higher incomes were associated with higher levels of education. For instance, 90.3% of respondents with a Bachelor's degree and above reported personal incomes above NPR 20,000 a month compared to 32.9% of respondents without formal education.

Across caste/ethnic groups, two-fifths of Madhesi Dalit groups (40.6%) earned less than NPR 10,000 compared to just 6.1% of people from Madhesi Caste (Level -1) groups. In contrast, the highest share of Hill Adibasi/Janajati (60.0%) have a personal income above NPR 20,000.

Respondent from urban municipalities (46.7%) were slightly more likely to earn more than NPR 20,000 than people residing in rural municipalities (43.2%). A slightly higher share (26.3%) of respondent from urban municipalities said their personal income was less than 10,000 compared to people residing in rural municipalities (22.8%) of Madhesh Province.

6.3 MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

About one quarter of people from Madhesh Province (22.8%) reported having at least one family member working in a foreign country; similar to past survey rounds, with a marginal decrease in 2022 as compared to 2017 (Figure 6.3.1).

The 22.8% of the respondents with a family member working abroad were further asked if their family members faced any problem; a majority (93.9%) mentioned they did not face any problems. A small proportion cited different work than what was promised (2.6%), differences in the payment than what was agreed upon (2.3%), physical injuries or illness (0.9%), and extreme working conditions (0.3%).

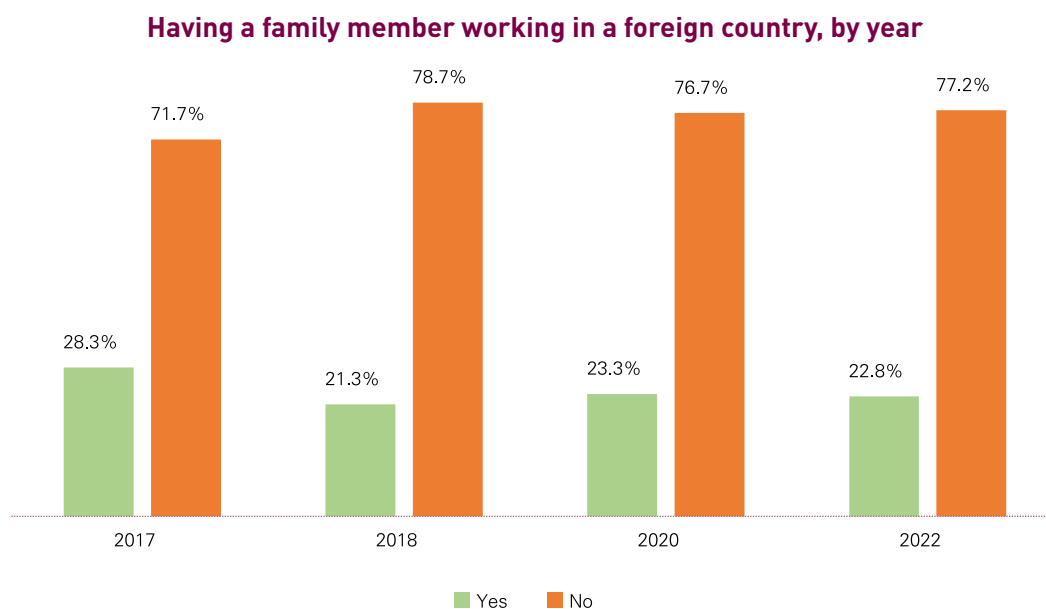


Figure 6.3.1: Q-G12. Is anyone in your family currently in a foreign country for work? (N=1,009) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

The survey asked respondents whether they encouraged their family members, friends, relatives, or other people they know to seek foreign employment. In 2022, 36% of respondents in Madhesh Province said they encouraged others to go seek employment abroad, up from 31.9% in 2020. People in Madhesh Province were slightly more inclined to say that they encouraged their friends and family to seek foreign employment than residents of other provinces.

Encouragement to seek foreign employment, by year

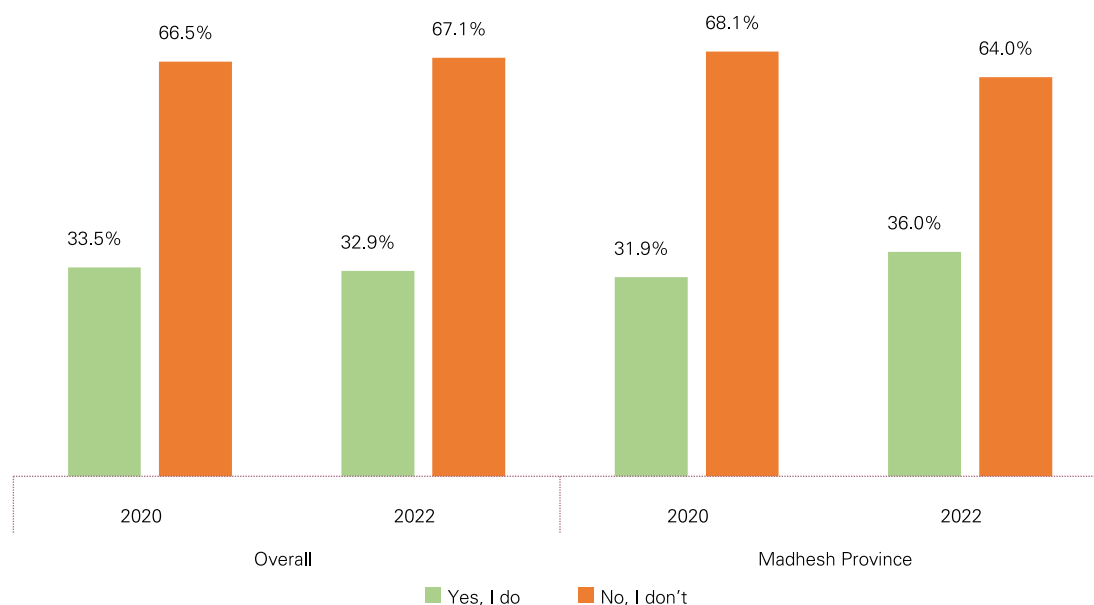


Figure 6.3.2: Q-G12.4. Do you encourage your family members, friends, relatives, and other people you know to go to the foreign employment? (N=1,009) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Remittances

The survey data shows a decrease in the shares of people from Madhesh Province receiving remittances from within the country, at 12.1% in 2022 compared to 16.6% in 2020. Meanwhile, 17.9% reported receiving remittances from outside Nepal in 2022, slightly more than in 2020 (16.7%) (Table 6.3.1).

Receipt of remittance, by year

| | Year | From inside | From outside | From both inside and outside | Remittance, not yet received | Not applicable | Don't know |
|------------------|------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| Madhesh Province | 2020 | 16.6% | 16.7% | 4.6% | 9.7% | 52.5% | 0.0% |
| | 2022 | 12.1% | 17.9% | 1.9% | 0.9% | 58.6% | 8.6% |

Table 6.3.1: Q-G13. Have you or your family members ever received remittance from inside or outside the country? (N=1008)¹³ ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Across caste/ethnic groups, the highest share of respondent to receive remittances from outside the country were Musalman (24.6%) followed by Madhesi Dalit (23.5%). In contrast, people from Hill Dalit (24.1%) were more likely to receive remittances from inside the country than people from Madhesi Caste (Level-1) (6.3%).

13 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?"

Changes in Remittances

The survey asked the 31.9% 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-quarter of the respondents (24.0%) from Madhesh Province reported that the remittance they received had increased – a share similar to 2020 (24.3%) and higher than in 2017 (20.3%) and 2018 (15.3%).

Changes in remittances, by year

| | Decreased | Remained same | Increased | Don't know |
|------|-----------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| 2017 | 16.7% | 60.7% | 20.3% | 2.3% |
| 2018 | 5.4% | 74.5% | 15.3% | 4.7% |
| 2020 | 6.1% | 69.6% | 24.3% | |
| 2022 | 5.8% | 66.4% | 24.0% | 3.8% |

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=321)

Purpose of Remittances

The survey asked the 31.9% of respondents who reported receiving remittances about the main purpose of the remittances they receive. People from Madhesh Province were mainly using the remittances for daily expenses (81.5%), healthcare and medical expenses (59.4%), children’s education (48.4%), to pay off loans (29.7%), build a home (20.9%), and savings in the bank (8.7%).

Between 2020 and 2022, the shares of respondents who use remittances for household expenses and for savings in the bank have increased, while the shares using remittances for healthcare, education, to pay off loans, and to build home have decreased.

Main purpose of remittances, by year

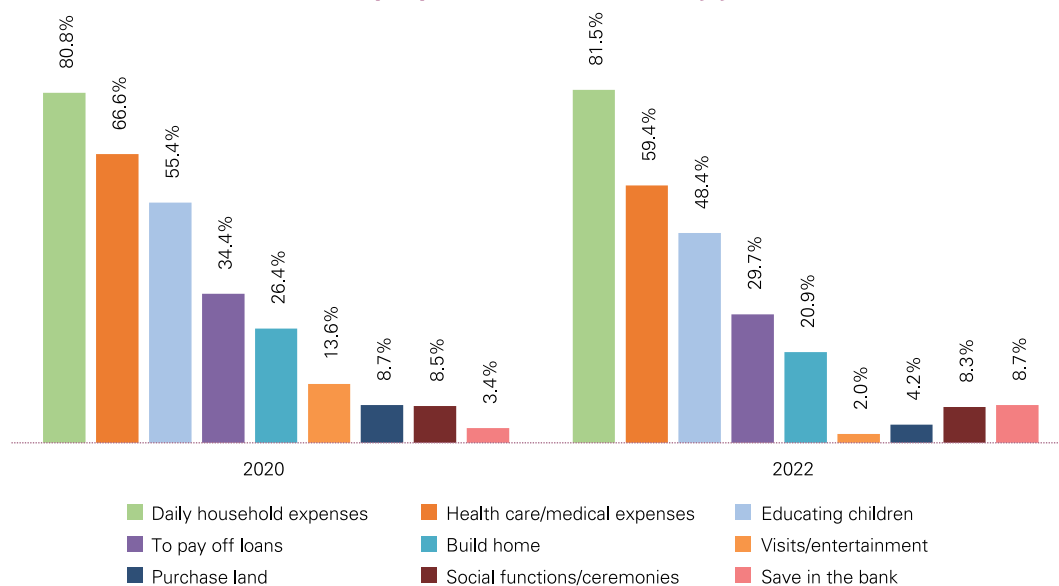


Figure 6.3.3: Q-G14A. Generally for what purpose do you spend the remittance money that you or your family members receive? (N=461)

6.4 AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO INSURANCE

The survey asked whether respondents had heard of different types of insurance read out to them by the enumerators. Most had heard of life insurance (89.4%), motor vehicle insurance (77.3%), health insurance (75.8%). Around half had heard of agricultural insurance (49.6%). Fewer people but still significant shares had heard of property insurance (36.3%) and travel insurance (36.1%).

Awareness and Ownership of various types of insurance, by year

| | 2018 | | 2020 | | 2022 | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Aware | Own | Aware | Own | Aware | Own |
| Life Insurance | 98.2% | 16.0% | 97.6% | 12.9% | 89.4% | 19.9% |
| Personal/Accident Insurance | 72.0% | 3.8% | 73.7% | 4.1% | 70.2% | 11.5% |
| Auto Insurance | 78.2% | 16.0% | 78.7% | 20.5% | 77.3% | 29.6% |
| Health Insurance | 67.8% | 1.6% | 71.2% | 4.8% | 75.8% | 12.0% |
| Agricultural Insurance | 57.2% | 0.8% | 45.2% | 2.2% | 49.6% | 1.2% |
| Livestock Insurance | 57.6% | 1.2% | 52.2% | 3.2% | 54.0% | 4.1% |
| Property Insurance | 55.8% | 0.5% | 30.2% | 3.7% | 36.3% | 2.3% |
| Travel Insurance | 59.0% | 3.0% | 43.1% | 5.5% | 36.1% | 10.3% |

Table 6.4.1. Q-G21B.A1-H1. Have you heard of the following insurance? (N=1009) and Q-G21.B. B1-H1 [If "Yes" in Q-G21.B. A1-H1] Do you have the following insurance? ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' not included)

Respondents who were aware of the different types of insurance were asked whether they owned this type of insurance. A significantly higher proportion of respondents had taken motor vehicle insurance (29.6%) and life insurance (19.9%).

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 motor vehicle insurance (16.0% in 2018 to 29.6% in 2022), followed by medical insurance (1.6% in 2018 to 12.0% in 2022), and life insurance (16.0% in 2018 to 19.9% 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 (47.7%) were likely to have life insurance compared to illiterate respondents (14.0%).

6.5 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

About three-fifths of Nepalis in Madhesh Province believed that both employment opportunities (65.5%) and income generation opportunities (65.1%) in their locality had remained unchanged in the past year. A relatively smaller proportion said that there were more employment opportunities and income generation opportunities (6.7% each) and about one fourth of respondents reported a decline (Figure 6.5.1).

While the shares reporting unchanged opportunities remained constant over the survey rounds, the share saying there were less employment opportunities grew by 11.9 percentage points in 2022 compared to 2018 (10.6%). In 2022, the share saying employment opportunities increased was lowest compared to previous years; 17.8% in 2018, 15.3% in 2020, and just 6.7% in 2022.

With each passing year, more Nepalis in Madhesh Province were reporting fewer income generation opportunities in their local area (from 10.5% in 2018, to 16.8% in 2020, to 22.8% in 2022).

Employment and income generation opportunities in local area, by year

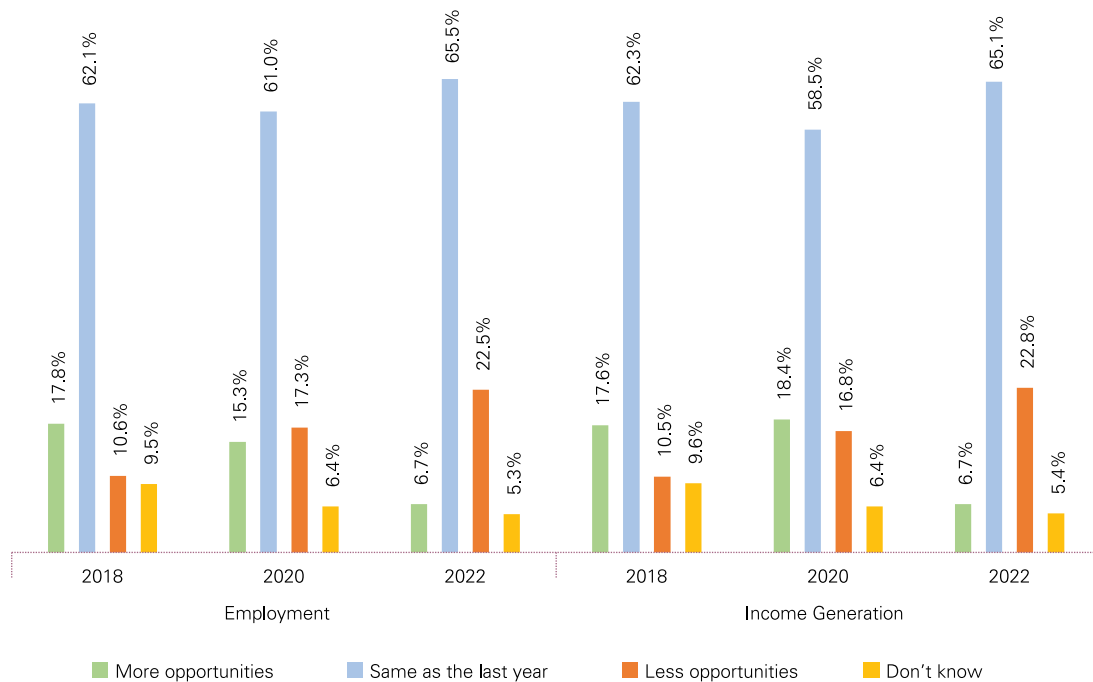


Figure 6.5.1: Q-G23a and Q-G23b. How do you consider the situation of employment opportunity and income generation opportunity in your local areas? (N=1009)

There was little difference in responses from people in rural municipalities and urban areas. People in the older age group (50 and above) were more optimistic about employment and income generating opportunities in their locality than younger groups. Further, the higher the level of education, the less optimistic respondents were about employment and income generating opportunities in their locality.

6.6 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

For residents of Madhesh Province, friends, relatives, and neighbors were the primary sources of information on local governments' plans, initiatives, and budgets. The survey reveals that more than half of the respondents (56.9%) got information from friends, relatives, and neighbors; followed by market/bazaar (17.8%), television (15.0%), and Radio Nepal (14.0%). Leaflets, brochures, and posters accounted for 13.1% of information sources.

Some 13.7% of respondents said they generally do not receive information on local government plans, initiatives, and budgets – up from 2.7% in 2020.

Source of information for local government activities, by year

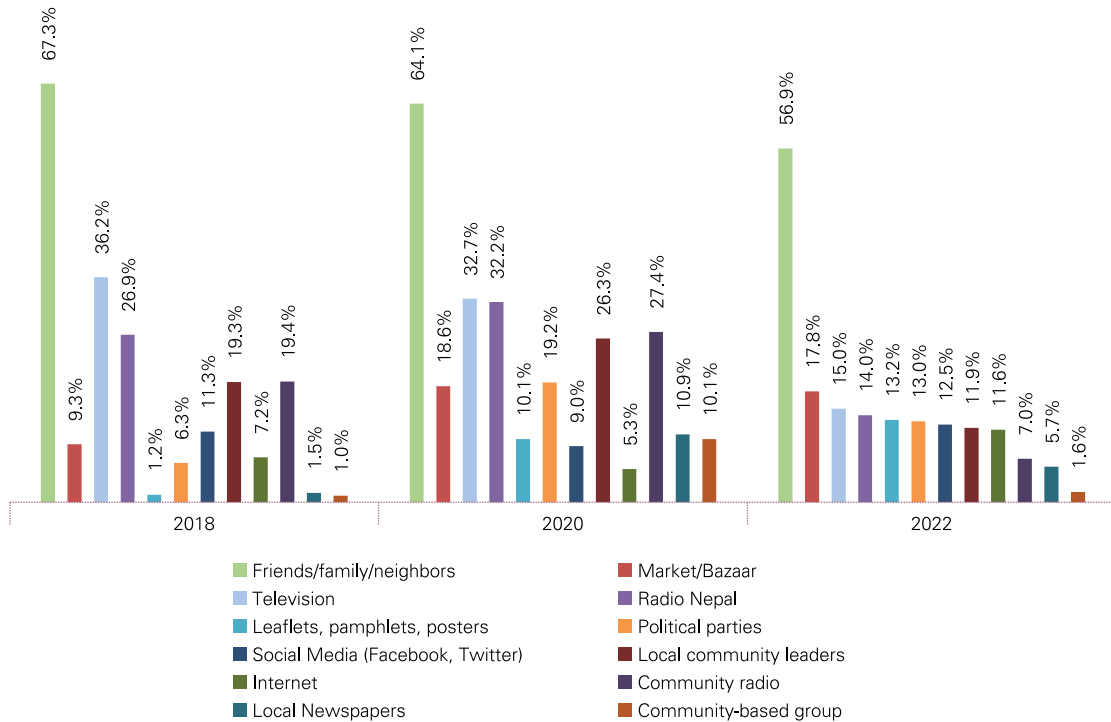


Figure 6.6.1: Q-H5. How do you normally get information about the plans, programs, and budget of local government? (N=1001) ("Refused to answer" not included)

Expected information from the local government

Madhesh Province residents were asked what sort of information, they expected their municipality or their rural municipality to provide to them on a regular basis. Nearly three-fifths (58.7%) thought that public notices should be regularly provided, followed by information related to health (16.5%) and social security (15.2%), budget and program (14.5%), agriculture and trade (14%), and education (13.4%), employment related (13.2%), plans and projects (12.2%), and livelihood related information (10.1%).

Expected information from the local government

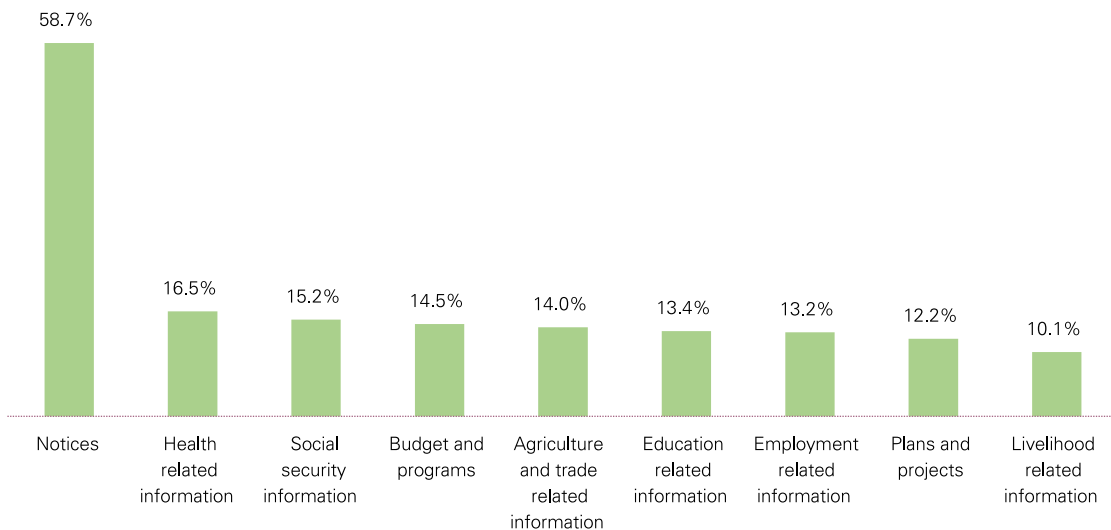


Figure 6.6.2: Q-H6. What kind of data, and information do you expect your municipality, the rural municipality should provide people and make that public, regularly? (N=1,009)

Satisfaction with Access to Information

A majority of respondents from Madhesh Province (64.6%) were dissatisfied with the data and information made available by their local government. A little more than one-fifth (22.2%) were satisfied and around 13.1% were unsure about it.

When asked do they had made attempts to access information from the local government, only a small minority of respondents (6.2%) said they did try to get information. They had tried to acquire information on notices (34.1%), budgets and programs (19.8%), agriculture and trade (19.5%) and health related information (15.8%).

Most respondents report that they tried to access information by talking to the relevant government agency (46.0%), followed by taking the help of family and friends (36.9%), and through the help of local political leaders (29.1%).

Among those who tried to access information, 35.9% reported that they got the necessary information, about one quarter (21.6%) thought that government officials were uncooperative. Around one in five thought that the time taken to respond was too long (18.9%). Others reported that the information provided was out of date (11.2%), and the agency lacked sufficient knowledge to answer their query (7.3%).

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.

Although most respondents believed that the response from all three levels of government was appropriate, a considerably larger proportion (31.9%) felt that the local level's response was either "sufficient" or "very sufficient." Only small shares respondents said it was "insufficient" (11.7%) or "very insufficient" (3.4%) (Figure 7.1.1).

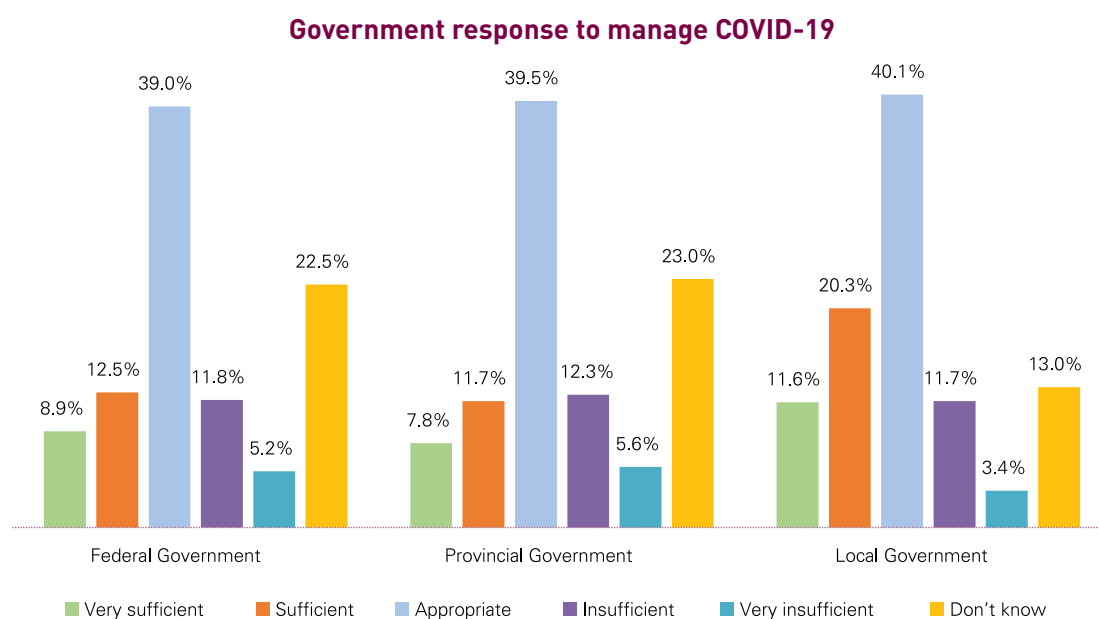


Figure 7.1.1: Q-13. How sufficient was the government's response to manage COVID-19 crisis- very sufficient or sufficient or appropriate or insufficient or very insufficient? (N=1,009)

Rating for Government Response

Respondents were asked to rate the measures taken by the government to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 represents “not effective at all” and 10 represents “very effective”. Most people rated the government’s responses and measures as “effective” (Table 7.1.1).

Among the highest-ranked government prevention and control measures were the government’s enforcement of the use of masks and social distancing (mean 8.31 points), and restrictions in mobility and travel (mean 7.95 points).

Mean rating for the government response during COVID-19

| | 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 | 1009 | 1009 | 1009 | 1009 | 1009 | 1009 | 1009 | 1009 |
| Mean | 7.95 | 8.31 | 6.84 | 6.84 | 6.76 | 6.17 | 6.39 | 6.87 |

Table 7.1.1: Q-14.A-H. How do you rate the government’s following response to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19? (N=1009)

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

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

Most people suggested improvement in health services (62.9%), and expediting the vaccination process (45.0%). A considerable share also mentioned initiation of government support programs (31.3%), creating more employment opportunities (26.0%), educational support for children (22.1%), and cash schemes for households (15.1%).

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

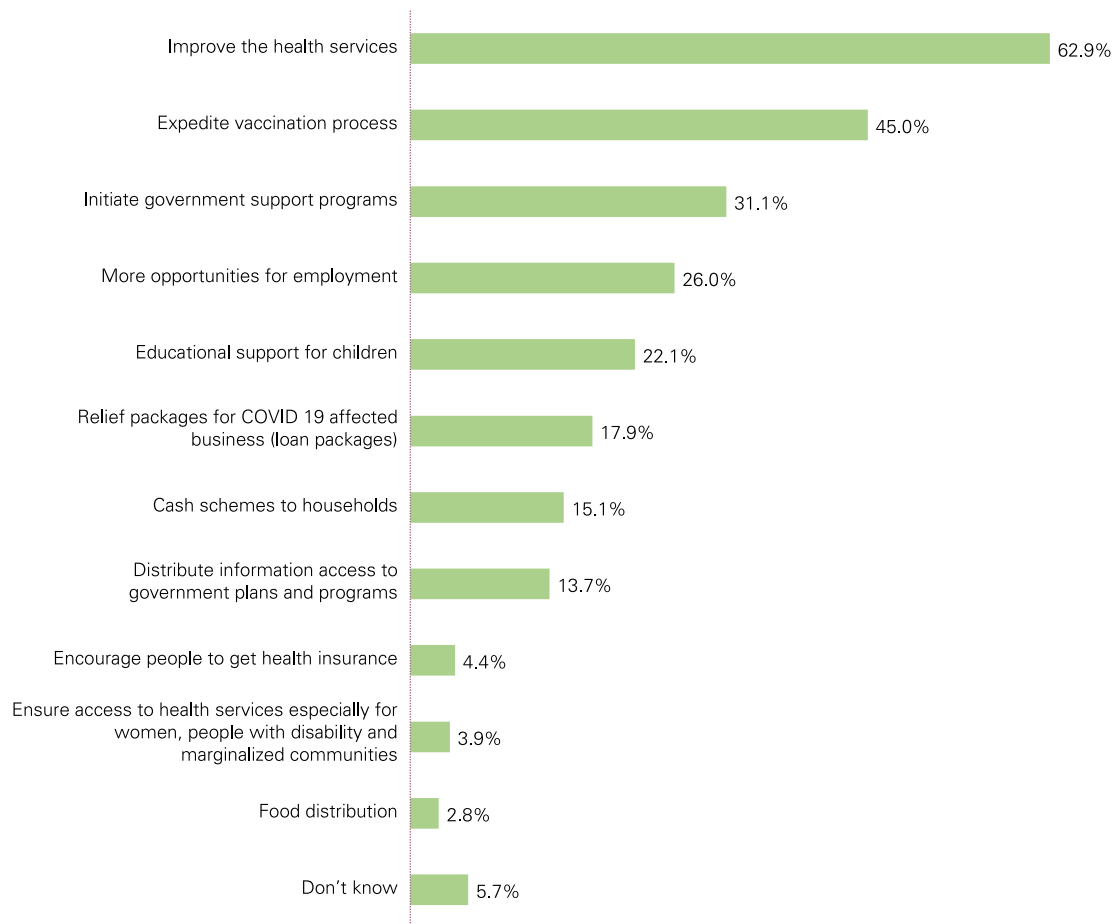


Figure 71.2: Q-16. To support socio- economic recovery from COVID- 19, what could the government do more to support its citizens? (N=1,009)

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. Almost three-fourths (72.0%) of respondents from Madhesh Province mentioned that their local government was the most responsive. Much fewer people mentioned public hospitals (9.0%), local leaders (5.2%), community volunteers (4.7%), community-based organizations at (1.8%).

7.3 MAJOR PROBLEMS AND COPING STRATEGIES DURING COVID-19

Just over half of people from Madhesh Province (54.5%) reported facing problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns and restrictions. The rest (45.5%) said they did not face any problems.

Those facing problems said this was because of increased food prices (62.7%), decreased income/profits (45.6%), increased non-food necessity prices (35.1%), difficulty in acquiring basic services (29.9%), loss of employment or other main source of income (19.6%) and serious illness (12.8%) that they or their family members faced due to the pandemic.

The study asked those respondents who had faced problems due to the pandemic about their coping strategies. Slightly less than one-third (30.4%) responded that they did not do anything to cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 7.3.1). A considerable proportion opted to acquire loans from money lenders (22.6%), received assistance from relatives/neighbors (19.2%), and reduced non-food consumption (13.8%) to cope with the impacts of the pandemic. A considerable share also mentioned buying food on credit (13.8%), reducing food consumption (12.6%), and selling livestock and assets (8.9%).

Coping strategies during COVID-19

| Coping strategies | % |
|--|-------|
| Did nothing | 30.4% |
| Acquired loans from money lenders | 22.6% |
| Received assistance from relatives/neighbors | 19.2% |
| Reduced non-food consumption | 13.8% |
| Bought food on credit | 13.8% |
| Bought non-food items on credit | 12.8% |
| Reduced food consumption | 12.6% |
| Sold livestock | 8.9% |
| Used savings | 8.7% |
| Acquired bank loans | 5.2% |
| Adopted new profession/business | 3.9% |
| Acquired loans from micro-finance | 3.2% |
| Sold assets (land, building, ornaments, furniture, machinery) | 1.6% |
| Acquired loans from Cooperatives | 1.5% |
| Received financial assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.) | 0.3% |
| Migrated to find work elsewhere | 0.1% |

Table 7.3.1: Q-110. How did you cope up with the above problems (during the lockdown and in the months after the lockdown)? (N=550)

