

A SURVEY OF THE NEPALI PEOPLE IN 2022

SURVEY REPORT | SUDURPASCHIM PROVINCE



 *inter disciplinary analysts*

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FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The data collection for the 2022 volume took place immediately after the local elections in May 2022. Consequently, many of the perceptions and experiences expressed could have been influenced by the performance of the second-tenure local governments. Among the respondents, more than three-

quarters reported they voted in the 2022 local elections. Nine out of 10 respondents believed that elections were free and fair and more than three-quarters were "very happy," and "happy" with the results.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The survey also measured the level of trust among Nepalis in government and nongovernmental institutions. There is a decline in the overall level of trust in the institutions mentioned in the survey. The top three most trusted institutions are the public service commission, the media, and Nepal Army while political parties are still the least trusted. In terms of sources to obtain information on government plans, programs, and budgets, more than half of the respondents cite friends, family, and neighbors

as the key sources, followed by local community leaders, television, and social media. Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the share of respondents who mentioned social media and the internet as a source of information for local government activities.

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

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the Survey of the Nepali People (SNP 2022) interviewed a nationally representative sample of 7,056 Nepalis randomly selected from 588 wards across all seven provinces. This Sudurpaschim Province brief, is based on answers from a sample of 1,008 respondents in 84 wards of Sudurpaschim 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 the Covid-19 pandemic.

The SNP survey series began in 2017 when the country was transitioning into a federal governance structure and the first local elections within the new political set-up had just been completed. Subsequent survey rounds were conducted in 2018 and 2020. SNP 2020 captured the perception of Nepalis just before the onset of Covid-19. SNP 2022, on the other hand, reflects opinions on the socio-economic impact of Covid-19 in the country. Data collection for SNP 2022 was completed in August of that year after the conduct of the second local election cycle held on May 13, 2022. Hence, the discoveries can additionally provide insights into the performance of the nation's federal, provincial, and local administrations over a span of five years, as perceived by citizens.

Between SNP 2020 and SPN 2022, Nepal witnessed the dissolution of the Parliament and its subsequent reinstatement following a Supreme Court ruling. The country 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.

Sudurpaschim Province was also affected by the fall of the K.P. Oli government, the division of the UML into the CPN (Unified Socialist) led by Madhav Kumar Nepal, and the resurgence of the former CPN Maoist Center. Despite Trilochan Bhatta from the Maoist Center leading the provincial government, there was another cabinet reshuffle. This time, the CPN-UML left the government, and a coalition comprising the CPN Maoist, Nepali Congress, and United Socialists formed the new provincial government. Sudurpaschim Province stands out as a province that experienced the entire tenure under a single chief minister. The outcome of the local election held on May 13, 2022 certainly also influenced public perception in Sudurpaschim Province.

In 2022, Sudurpaschim Province residents' outlook on the country's direction, economic conditions, and on political participation and governance was less optimistic than in survey previous rounds. In 2022, a lower share than in any of the previous survey rounds thought the country was moving in the right direction (46.9%). The socio-economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic were clearly reflected in the survey results, with people expressing the need for government support to aid their recovery in the following areas: improved health services, cash schemes, employment opportunities, and educational support for children. Furthermore, a smaller proportion of people in Sudurpaschim Province than in previous survey rounds reported an improved household financial situation compared to the previous year. Increased corruption, inflation, deteriorating economic conditions, and difficulties in securing employment were the most frequently mentioned challenges in Sudurpaschim in 2022. Additionally, optimism regarding the economic outlook in the region diminished with 22.6% of Karnali Province residents holding a positive economic outlook in 2022 compared to 53.0% in 2018.

People in Sudurpaschim Province held more positive views of local areas and local governments, mirroring the national level. While the share of respondents reporting improvements in local condition slightly declined compared to 2020, it still remained more than twice the level of optimism about the overall direction of the country. Trust in local governments continued to surpass that in federal and provincial governments.

Furthermore, in Sudurpaschim Province, there was an increase in the share of respondents who found it easy to receive services from local governments. Local governments were cited as the most responsive actor to manage Covid-19. Approximately two-thirds of respondents thought that the responsiveness of the local governments remained unchanged compared to the previous year. However, the level of public awareness and participation in local governance processes continued to remain low. Over time, there was a decline in the proportion of respondents who felt disadvantaged based on their gender, caste/ethnicity, and mother tongue when accessing public services or in their workplace. People held increasingly positive perceptions regarding gender roles and equality, especially in terms of women's control over income, freedom of movement and decision-making.

The survey findings revealed significant differences across variables such as ethnicity, gender, education, and geographical location of respondents. While the national brief provided key findings and notable differences across variables, this particular brief for Sudurpaschim Province aims to provide a more detailed provincial breakdown, specifically tailored to the characteristics of the province.

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), local elections, and taxation.

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

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

2. PUBLIC OUTLOOK AND NATIONAL MOOD

2.1 DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

In 2022, respondents in Sudurpaschim Province and Nepalis overall were less optimistic about the country's direction than in previous survey rounds. More people in Sudurpaschim Province, and in Nepal overall, were pessimistic about the direction of the country than were optimistic (Figure 2.1.1). In Sudurpaschim Province, a little over half of respondents (52.3%) thought that the country was headed in the wrong direction while 46.9% thought Nepal was moving in right direction.

Between 2020 and 2022, the share optimistic about the direction of the country decreased significantly, from 75.4% to 46.9%. The share of people who were pessimistic about the country's direction more than doubled in the same time period, from 20.7% to 52.3%.

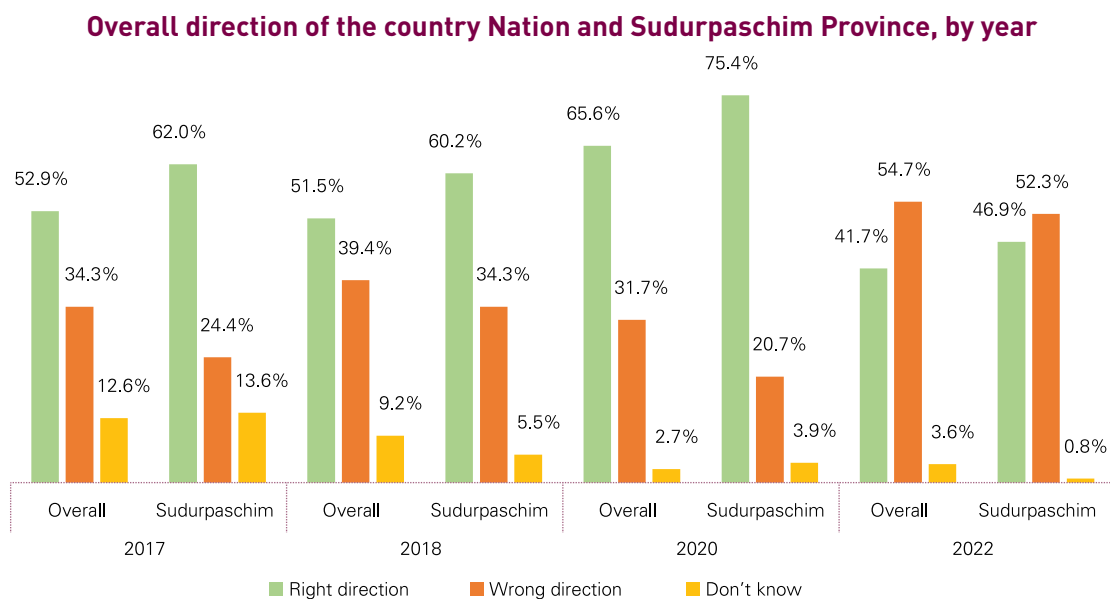


Figure 2.1.1: Q-B1a. Overall, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or do you think it is moving in the wrong direction? (N=1008)

More young people in the 18-24 age group (53.6%) had a positive outlooks than people age 55 and above (44.9%). Respondents with higher levels of education (those with Bachelor's degree and above) (36.8%) tended to be less optimistic than those without formal education (54.9%). People in rural municipalities (56.8%) were more optimistic than those in urban municipalities (40.7%). People in the Terai region (28.2%) were less optimistic than the people in the Hill (58.1%) and Mountain (69.0%) regions.

Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) respondents (31.6%) were less likely to think that the country was moving in the right direction than Hill Adibasi/Janajati (47.4%), Hill Caste (47.5%) and Hill Dalit (57.9%) respondents. A comparatively higher share of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (67.5%) respondents thought the country was moving in the wrong direction, followed by Hill Adibasi/Janajati (52.6%) and Hill Caste (52.2%) respondents.

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 2.1.2). More than two-thirds of respondents were positive about social (66.0%), cultural (69.4%), and physical infrastructure (66.8%), while fewer thought the economy (39.9%) and political sphere (35.0%) were headed in the right direction.

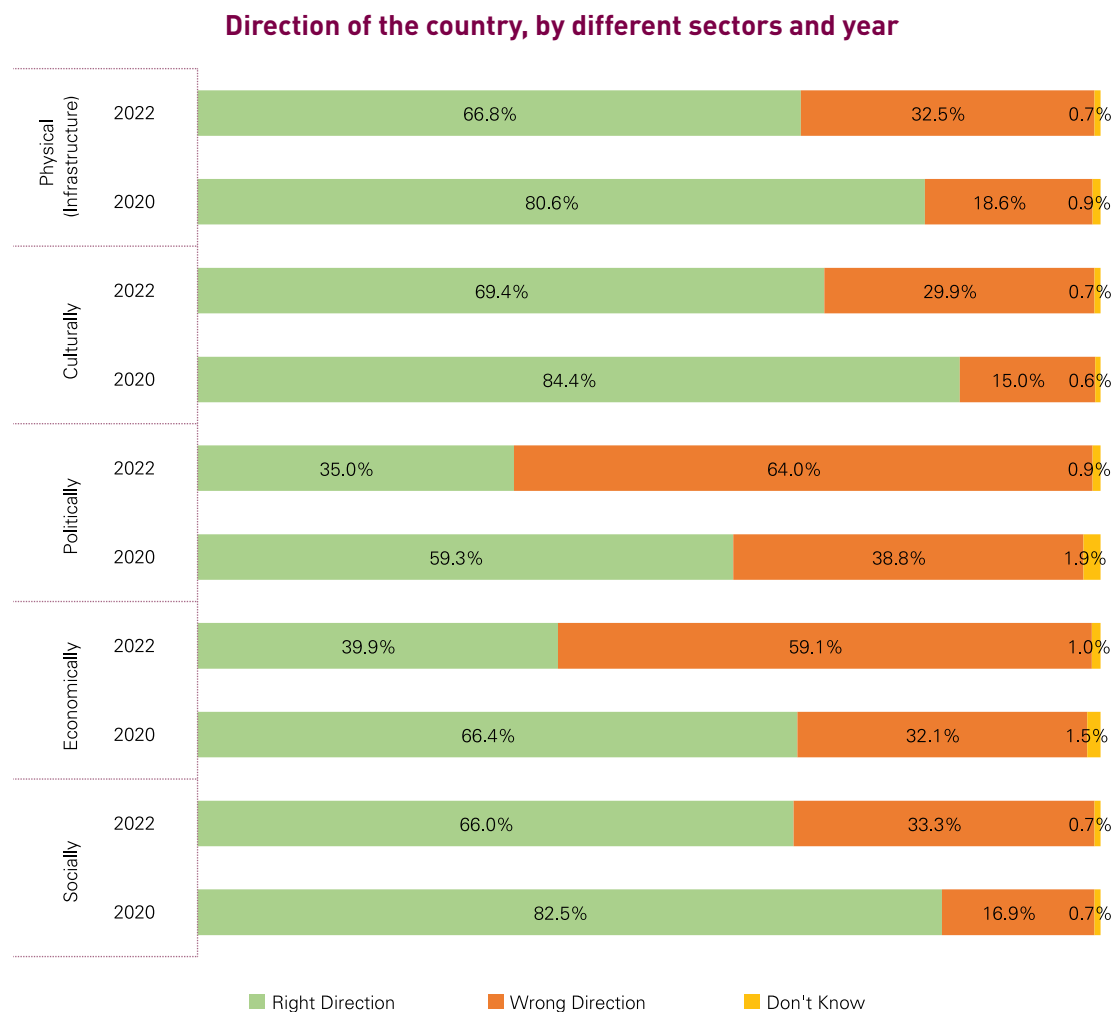


Figure 2.1.2: Q-B1b-f. Do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? Please answer considering the overall as well as social, economic, political, cultural, and physical (infrastructural) conditions of the country. (N=1008)

2.2 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Respondents who believed that Nepal was moving in the right direction (46.9%) were further asked to give reasons for their optimism. The most common answers were better roads (53.7%), better access to education (24.3%), improved supply of electricity (20.3%), better access to health services (17.1%), improved drinking water services/facilities (13.0%), and good social aspects of the country (10.2%) (Figure 2.2.1).

Improved roads and trails was the most common reason for optimism about the direction of the country in all four survey rounds but the share of respondents citing this reason fluctuated. It was highest in 2018 (58.3%) and lowest in 2017 (20.5%).

The shares mentioning access to education, improved supply of electricity, better access to health services, and improved drinking water services/facilities increased between 2017 and 2022. In contrast, the shares mentioning positive changes due to the new constitution, improved economic conditions of the country, or positive changes due to local elections, decreased noticeably between 2017 and 2022.

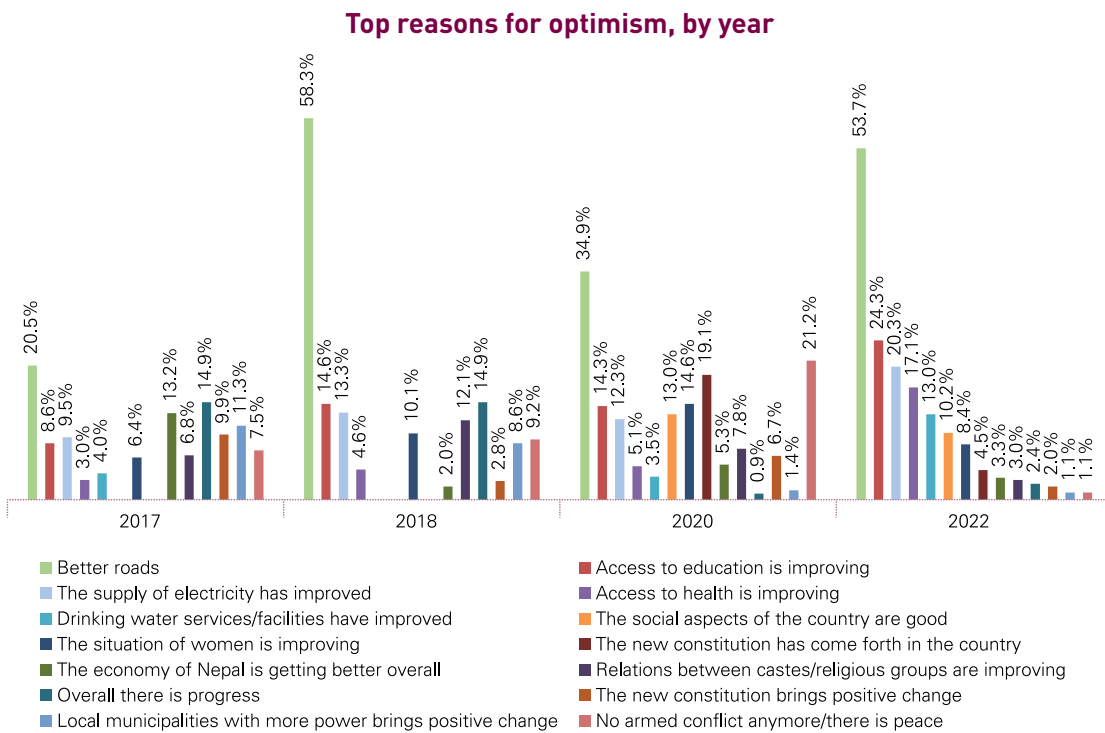


Figure 2.2.1: Q-B2. [If answered “Nepal is going in the right direction” to Q-B1] Why do you think that Nepal is going in the right direction? (N=472)¹

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

All respondents were asked what they considered to be the biggest problems in Nepal. While respondents used to mention difficulties finding work and making a living as major problems in 2017 and 2018, the proportion of respondents who identified rising corruption and extortion as a major concern increased drastically in 2020 and 2022, rising to the top of the list. In 2022, two-fifths (40.1%) of the people reported that corruption increased (Figure 2.3.1).

Apart from rising corruptions, significant proportions also mentioned difficulties finding work and making a living (23.5%), the deteriorating economic condition (17.9%), increased prices of essential goods (17.3%), bad road conditions (14.6%), and limited access to education (12.3%) in 2022.

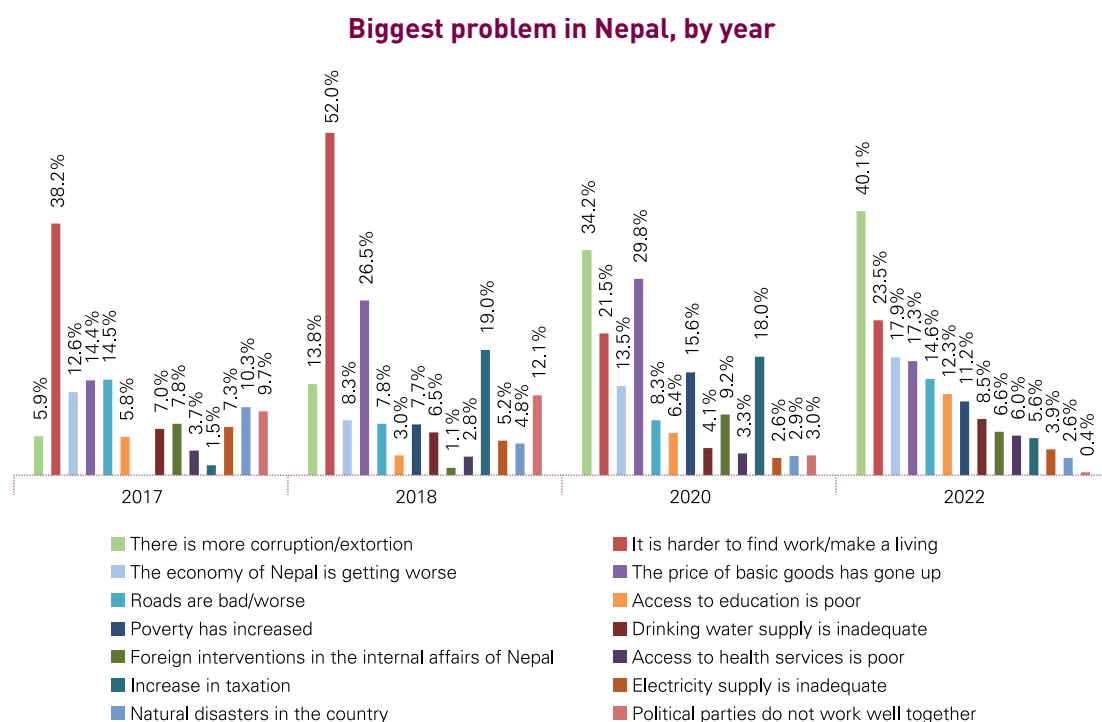


Figure 2.3.1: Q-B3. In your view, what are the two biggest problems facing Nepal as a whole? (N=1,008)²

2.4 LOCAL CONDITIONS

Slightly more than seven out of ten (72.8%) people in Sudurpaschim Province thought that the overall situation in their local area was improving in 2022. Over one quarter (26.6%) believed that things in their local area were getting worse.

Between 2018 and 2020, the share of respondents who thought that the overall situation of their local area was improving increased (up to 83.2% in 2020). In 2022, the share of respondents optimistic about the situation of their area decreased again (72.8%). On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who reported that the local situation was getting worse increased from 16.1% in 2020 to 26.6% in 2022 (Figure 2.4.1).

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

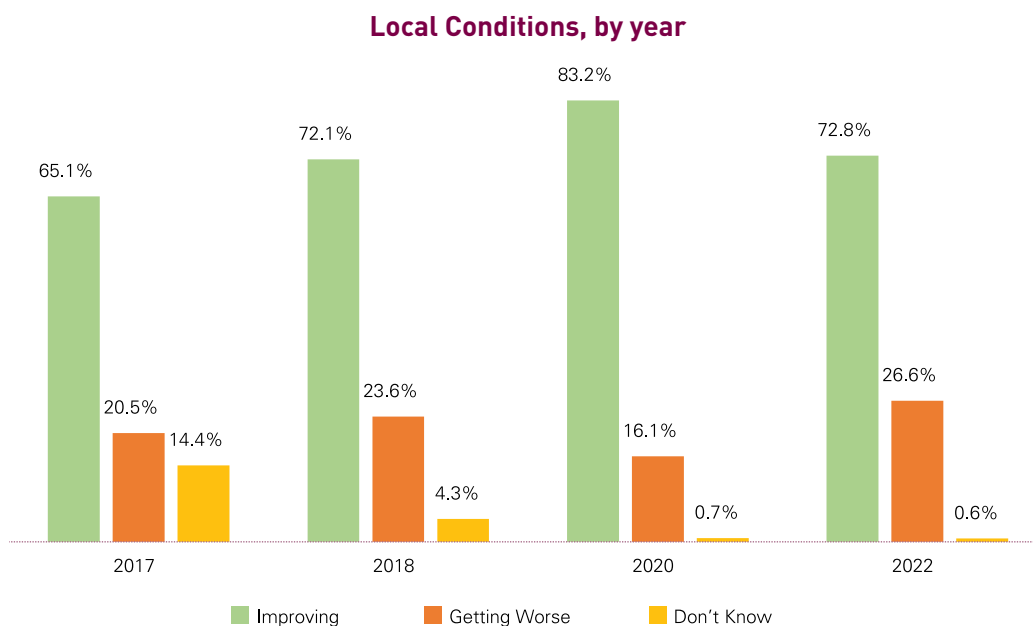


Figure 2.4.1: Q-B4a. Now I would like you to think about the area where you live and work most of the time. Do you think things in your area are improving, or do you think they are getting worse? (N=1,008)

Young people age 18-24 (75.8%) similarly optimistic about their local area as those age 55 and above (72.1%). Respondents with higher education (Bachelor's degree and above) (76.3%) were more optimistic than those with Secondary Education Examination (SEE) or equivalent (63.8%) and intermediate level education (64.7%). Both rural municipalities (73.5%) and urban municipalities (72.2%) displayed similar levels of optimism. Madhesi(Adibasi/Janajati) respondents (62.3%) expressed more optimism about local conditions than Hill Adibasi/Janajati respondents (52.6%). The optimism of Hill Caste and Hill Dalit communities (75.4% each) was only slightly higher than the provincial average (72.8%).

2.5 REASONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL CONDITIONS

Respondents who thought that the local situation in their area was improving were further asked to provide some reasons for their optimism. In 2022, people in Sudurpaschim Province thought that improved local conditions were due to better roads/trails (66.2%), improved drinking water supply (27.0%), increased access to health services (21.4%), improved electricity supply (21.1%), and better access to education (17.7%), among other reasons (Figure 2.5.1). Over the years, a growing share mentioned increased access to health services and better access to education as reasons for optimism about local conditions.

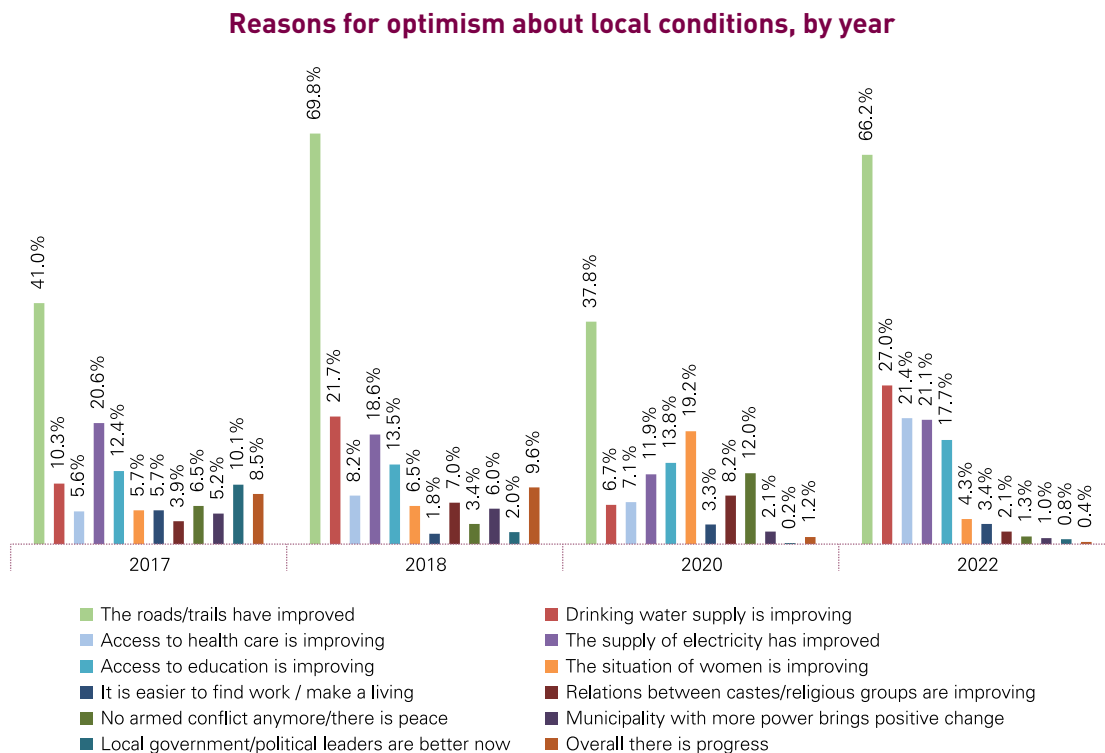


Figure 2.5.1: Q-B5. In your view what has improved in your area during the past year (N=734)³

2.6 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

All respondents were asked about the challenges and problems in their local area. The biggest problems, according to local respondents, were bad road conditions (33.4%), difficulties finding work and making a living (19.1%), inadequate improvements to drinking water facilities (18.8%), natural calamities (17.8%), rising poverty (16.5%), and rising prices of basic goods (15.0%) (Figure 2.6.1).

The shares mentioning deteriorating road conditions, challenges finding work, inadequate drinking water supply and rising prices of essential goods decreased compared to previous survey rounds – suggesting these were improvements in these areas. However, the shares mentioning natural disasters rose from 8.8% in 2017 to 17.8% in 2022. New challenges reported in 2022 were the poor management of drain/sewerage (4.9%) and solid waste (4.4%).

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.

Problems and challenges at the locality, by year

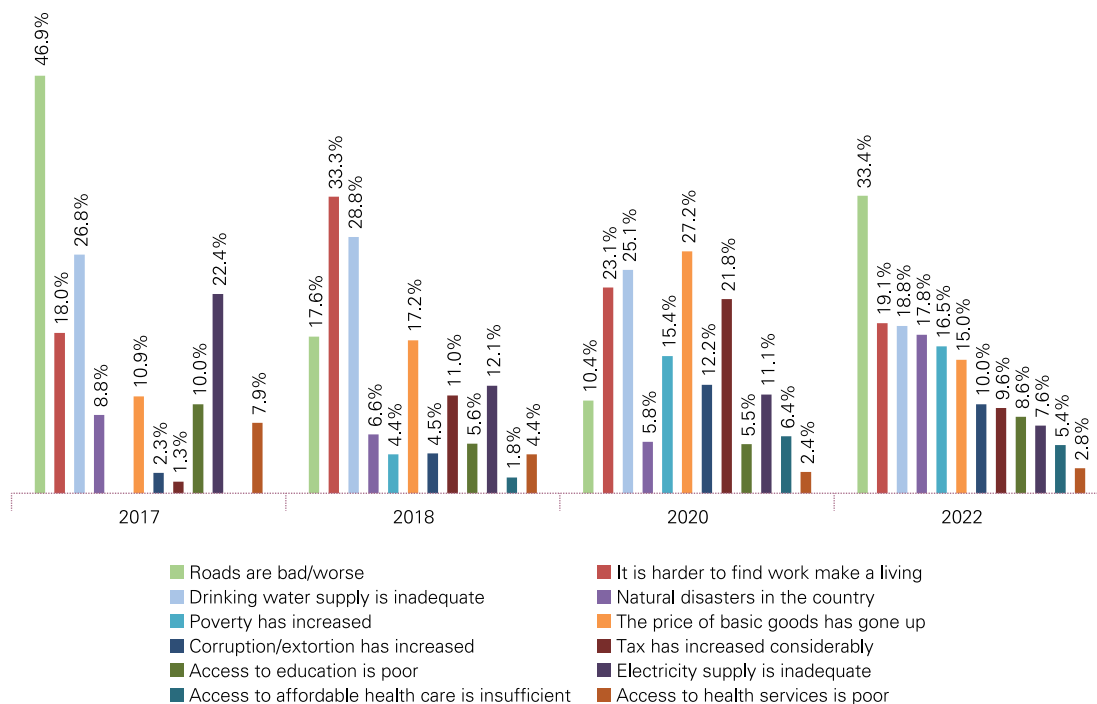


Figure 2.6.1: Q-B6. In your view what are the biggest problems in the area where you live and work most of the time? (N=1,008)⁴

Respondent from the Mountain region were comparatively more likely to mention the following local challenges: deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (36.2%), natural disasters (31.9%), difficulties finding work and making a living (20.2%), and rising prices of basic goods and necessities (15.5%). People in the Hill region were also more likely than the provincial average to cite deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (38.5%), inadequate improvements to drinking water supply/facilities (26.5%), and difficulties finding work and making a living (23.7%). People in the Terai region were less likely than the provincial average and people in the Hill and Mountain regions to mention deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (27.8%) but noticeably more likely to say that poverty increased (22.3%). They were also comparatively more likely to say that the price of basic goods and necessities increased (18.4%) and that corruption/extortion was more common (14.9%).

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). For all different aspects asked about, the largest share reported that their overall household situation in 2022 was the same as it was in the previous year. Larger shares reported that different aspects of their household situation improved than worsened. However, the shares reporting worsening conditions increased for the following aspects: access to drinking water (14.9%), health and well-being of family members (13.7%), access to electricity (9.2%), relations with local government and authorities (2.7%) relations with other people in the community (1.0%).

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

The share reporting that their household financial situation improved significantly decreased from 39.1% in 2020 to 29.2% in 2022 while the share reporting that their financial situation remained the same as the previous year grew.

In 2022, respondents were asked for the first time about access to markets and public transport. About one fifth of respondent in Sudurpaschim Province reported better access to markets (21.3%) and better access to public transport (23.7%) compared to the previous year.

Situation of the household, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
Financial situation of your household	Better	34.8%	29.5%	39.1%	29.2%
	Same	55.0%	65.8%	50.9%	59.8%
	Worse	10.1%	4.8%	10.0%	10.9%
Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	Better	25.0%	15.4%	28.6%	27.8%
	Same	69.6%	82.1%	66.5%	68.9%
	Worse	5.4%	2.5%	4.9%	3.2%
Health/well-being of your family members	Better	33.2%	16.8%	35.6%	30.3%
	Same	53.9%	72.0%	54.7%	56.0%
	Worse	12.9%	11.2%	9.7%	13.7%
Relations with other people in the community	Better	38.2%	27.0%	44.5%	42.2%
	Same	59.5%	71.3%	54.9%	56.7%
	Worse	2.1%	1.7%	0.6%	1.0%
Relations with local government and authorities.	Better	24.8%	24.6%	35.8%	33.3%
	Same	70.4%	68.7%	62.3%	64.0%
	Worse	1.9%	6.7%	1.8%	2.7%
Access to electricity.	Better	35.8%	39.0%	38.9%	34.7%
	Same	49.7%	58.2%	57.7%	56.1%
	Worse	14.2%	2.8%	3.4%	9.2%
Access to drinking water.	Better	21.0%	29.6%	31.2%	26.3%
	Same	54.8%	65.5%	58.4%	58.7%
	Worse	18.6%	5.0%	10.4%	14.9%

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=1,008)

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 was an increase in the share of respondents reporting "sometimes" for going without medical treatments (25.6%), not sending children to school (16.4%), and skipping a meal (9.2%) due to lack of money.

Household experience due to lack of money, by year

		Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Skipped a meal	2018	0.0%	0.4%	4.8%	94.8%
	2020	0.0%	0.0%	9.2%	90.8%
	2022	0.0%	0.0%	9.0%	91.0%
Gone without medical treatment	2018	0.1%	1.1%	17.8%	81.0%
	2020	0.0%	0.4%	22.2%	77.4%
	2022	0.3%	2.1%	25.6%	71.9%
Not been able to send children to school	2018	0.0%	0.4%	6.9%	92.7%
	2020	0.1%	0.2%	11.8%	87.9%
	2022	0.4%	0.5%	16.4%	82.7%

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=1,008)

3. PERSONAL SAFETY AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

3.1 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, CRIME AND JUSTICE

To examine whether or not respondents or members of their household were victims of violence or crime in the past one year, 17 different types of violence and criminal activities were read out to respondents one by one.

The vast majority of people in Sudurpaschim Province, did not report experiencing any type of violence or crime in the past year (Table 3.1.1). The largest share (4.2%) reported experiencing gender-based violence (including domestic violence, harmful practices like witchcraft, chaupadi). Some 3.9 % reported cheating in lending/borrowing or transactions, and 3.3 % experienced theft.

The shares reporting various types of violence or crime decreased between 2017 and 2022 except the share reporting gender-based violence which grew from 0% in 2017 to 4.2%.

Experience of violence and crime, by year

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Theft	4.5%	3.7%	4.7%	3.3%
Physical assault/beating	1.7%	1.1%	1.3%	0.6%
Assault with weapon	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%
Cheating in lending/borrowing or transactions	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	3.9%
Burglary / Breaking and Entering / Looting	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.4%
Extortion	1.2%	4.9%	1.8%	0.7%
Motor vehicle theft /property taken from vehicle or vehicle parts stolen	0.4%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%
Livestock theft	1.4%	1.7%	1.3%	0.6%
Experienced any form of violence during a political rally, protest or bandh	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Kidnapping	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Murder / murder attempt	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%
Sexual violence	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Human trafficking	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Gender-based Violence (Domestic Violence, harmful practices like witchcraft, chaupadi)	0.0%	2.2%	0.7%	4.2%
Physical Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.8%	0.4%	0.1%
Sexual Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Financial exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	2.3%	1.7%	0.6%

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=1,008)

3.2 JUSTICE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISMS

The survey also asked if people approached dispute resolution mechanisms over conflicts related to land, borrowing/debt, domestic violence, other forms violence or crime, and defamation/false accusation. In the year 2022, vast majorities of respondents reported that they had not encountered any disputes, or that it was not applicable to them. This was consistent across all issues, with only a small percentage (0.1% to 1.6%) reporting they sought help from an institution, official, or person for dispute resolution in the past one year, either for themselves or a family member (Figure 3.2.1).

Over time, a growing shares of people in Sudurpaschim Province said they or their family member were not affected by disputes. For instance, over one-third (34.6%) mentioned they were not affected by land dispute in 2020 compared to almost half (48.6%) in 2022.

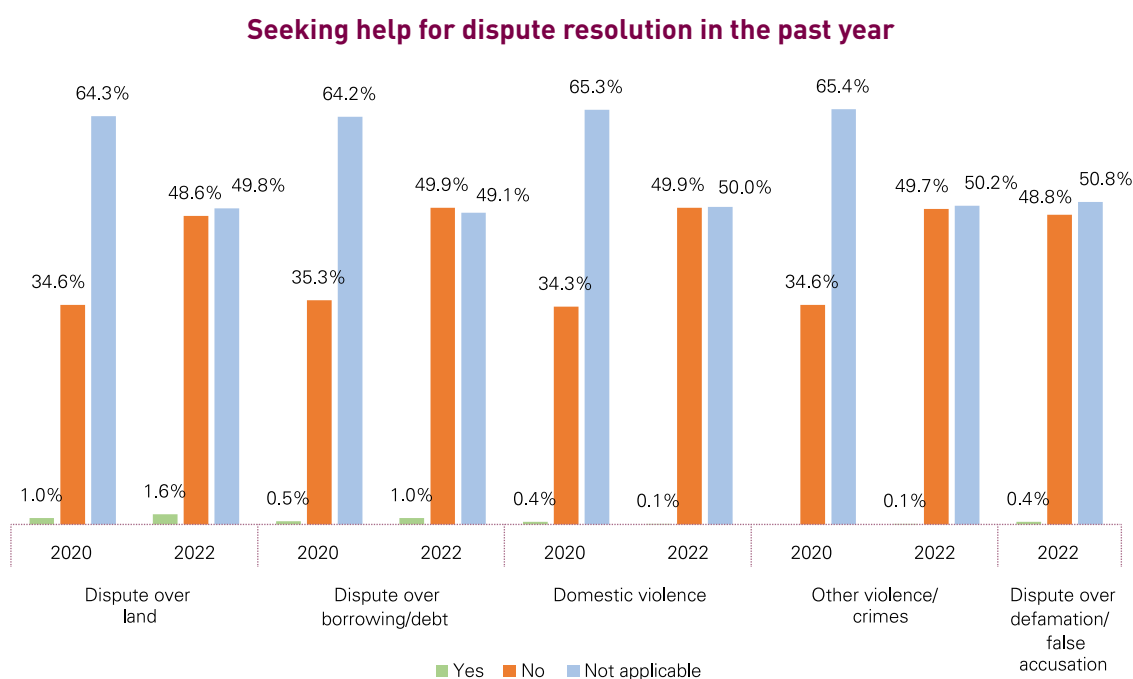


Figure 3.2.1: Q-C8A-E. In the past one year, have you or the members of your family been to any institution, official or person to seek help for dispute resolutions? (N=1,008)

4. IDENTITY

4.1 MOTHER TONGUE

Less than half of Sudurpaschim Province residents (45.0%) speak Nepali as their mother tongue – similar to the national average (48.3%)⁵. Some 55.0% speak a language other than Nepali as their mother tongue, for instance, 33.4% speak Doteli, 16.6% Tharu, 2.4% Baitadili, and 1.0% Achhami as their mother tongue.

Mother tongue

		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%
Sudurpaschim Province	Nepali	45.0%	81.0%	41.5%	32.9%
	Other than Nepali	55.0%	19.0%	58.5%	67.1%

Table 4.1.1: Q-D1. What is your mother tongue? (N=1,008)

4.2 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO MOTHER TONGUE OTHER THAN NEPALI LANGUAGE

The 55.0% of respondents who speak a language other than Nepali as their mother tongue, were further asked if they felt disadvantaged in various situations (Table 4.2.1).

Large majorities did not feel disadvantaged for having a mother tongue other than Nepali. Some 9.7% felt disadvantaged when reporting a problem at the police station, 8.9% when interacting with colleagues or clients at work, and 8.8% when obtaining government services. Fewer people felt disad-

5 According to the 2011 census, Nepali is spoken as mother tongue by 44.6% of the total population. The latest census data on mother tongues is not available in preliminary findings of the 2021 census.

vantaged when studying at a school or university (5.5%).

Over time, the share of people who reported feeling disadvantage because of their mother tongue decreased significantly for all situations.

Perceived disadvantages due to mother tongue other than Nepali language, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people	Disadvantage	22.4%	13.5%	11.9%	8.9%
	Not a Disadvantage	77.6%	86.5%	88.1%	91.1%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	17.1%	4.0%	11.8%	9.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	82.9%	96.0%	88.2%	90.3%
To obtain services in a government office	Disadvantage	18.8%	11.1%	9.4%	8.8%
	Not a Disadvantage	81.2%	88.9%	90.6%	91.2%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post	Disadvantage	16.6%	11.6%	7.6%	8.2%
	Not a Disadvantage	83.4%	88.4%	92.4%	91.8%
To study at a school or a university	Disadvantage	11.2%	9.1%	5.9%	5.5%
	Not a Disadvantage	88.8%	90.9%	94.1%	94.5%
When attending public events	Disadvantage	-	-	-	7.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	-	-	-	92.3%

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? ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' excluded) (N=555)

People with Dotili and Tharu languages as their mother tongues felt disadvantaged when interacting with people at work (6.6% and 15.2% respectively), reporting a problem at the police station (6.4% and 16.1% respectively), when obtaining public services (5.4% and 15.3%, respectively), and when accessing health services (4.4% and 15.2% respectively). Some 13.4% of Tharu speakers reported feeling disadvantaged when attending public events.

Tharu speakers were comparatively more likely to feel disadvantaged because of their mother tongue in various scenarios such as when interacting with people at work (15.2% respectively), reporting a problem at the police station (16.1% respectively), when obtaining public services (15.3%, respectively), when accessing health services (15.2% respectively). and when attending public events (13.4%).

4.3 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO CASTE/ETHNICITY

Nearly all respondents in Sudurpaschim Province (over 95%) said they did not feel disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity in all situations asked about. The proportion of people who felt disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity decreased over time (Table 4.3.1).

Some 3.8% felt disadvantaged when interacting with colleagues or clients at work, and 2.9% felt disadvantaged when reporting a problem at a police station. Smaller shares felt disadvantaged due to their caste/ethnicity when obtaining government services (1.7%), accessing health services (1.5%),

and studying at school or university (1.9%).

Feeling of disadvantage due to caste/ethnicity, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people	Disadvantage	5.6%	7.1%	5.3%	3.8%
	Not a Disadvantage	94.4%	92.9%	94.7%	96.2%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	2.8%	1.1%	3.2%	2.9%
	Not a Disadvantage	97.2%	98.9%	96.8%	97.1%
To obtain services in a government office	Disadvantage	3.5%	2.4%	2.9%	1.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	96.5%	97.6%	97.1%	98.3%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post	Disadvantage	3.6%	2.2%	2.4%	1.5%
	Not a Disadvantage	96.4%	97.8%	97.6%	98.5%
To study at a school or a university	Disadvantage	2.7%	3.6%	2.0%	1.9%
	Not a Disadvantage	97.3%	96.4%	98.0%	98.1%

Table 4.3.1: Q-D3a-e. Do you feel that your caste/ ethnicity is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=1,008)

People residing in rural municipalities and the Terai region of Sudurpaschim Province were more likely to feel that their caste/ethnicity was a disadvantage in the five situations asked about. Comparatively higher shares of Madhesi Caste (Level-2) (11.1%) and Hill Dalit (10.8%) reported feeling disadvantage when interacting with other people at work because of their caste/ethnicity.

4.4 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO GENDER

A relatively small proportion of women respondents – between 1.3% and 3.6% – felt that their gender put them at a disadvantage in various situations (Table 4.4.1)⁶ Women were most likely to feel disadvantaged when interacting with colleagues or clients at work (3.6%) and going to the police station to report a problem (2.4%). Fewer women felt disadvantaged while travelling in public transport when roaming/walking around public places (1.4% each), when obtaining government public services (1.5%), accessing health services (1.4%), and studying at school/university (1.3%).

Over time, the proportion of women reporting feeling disadvantaged in various situations decreased.

Gender as a disadvantage, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interacting with other people at work	Disadvantage	7.9%	6.3%	3.9%	3.6%
	Not a disadvantage	92.1%	93.7%	96.1%	96.4%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	9.5%	-	10.7%	2.4%
	Not a disadvantage	90.5%	-	89.3%	97.6%
To obtain a government services	Disadvantage	7.1%	2.1%	4.3%	1.5%
	Not a disadvantage	92.9%	97.9%	95.7%	98.5%

6 This question was asked only to women respondents.

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To access health services	Disadvantage	4.8%	1.1%	2.5%	1.4%
	Not a disadvantage	95.2%	98.9%	97.5%	98.6%
To study at school or the university	Disadvantage	4.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.3%
	Not a disadvantage	95.1%	98.4%	98.5%	98.7%
To travel in public transport	Disadvantage	-	7.8%	12.1%	1.4%
	Not a disadvantage	-	92.2%	87.9%	98.6%
To roam/walk around the public places	Disadvantage	-	-	7.6%	1.4%
	Not a disadvantage	-	-	92.4%	98.6%

Table 4.4.1: Q-D4a-g. Do you feel that your gender is a disadvantage in the following situations? (N=549) (Response as 'Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' excluded)

In Sudurpaschim Province, women from lower income households and from the Hill Dalit and Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati communities were more likely to regard their gender as a disadvantage. For instance, 7.8% of Hill Dalit and 4.6% Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati women reported that their gender was a disadvantage when interacting with other people at work.

4.3 SOCIAL VALUES

Perceptions of inter-caste marriage

Sudurpaschim province residents were asked how they felt about inter-caste marriage. Around three-fourths (73.6%) said they would agree to their son or daughter marrying someone from a different caste or ethnic group. One-fifth (26.15) said they would not accept an inter-caste marriage in their family (Figure 4.5.1).

Acceptance of inter-caste marriage was similar in between 2017 to 2020 but decreased slightly in 2022 while the share objecting to inter-caste marriages in the family increased slightly.



Figure 4.5.1: Q-D9. Would you accept if your son or daughter marry someone from a different caste? (N=1,008)

Respondents from Terai (77.9%) were more likely to accept inter-caste marriage than people in the Mountain (72.8%) and Hill (68.9%) regions. Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (93.0%) and Hill Adibasi/Janajati (89.5%) were more likely to accept inter-caste marriages than Hill Dalit (80.0%) and Hill Caste (66.0%) respondents.

4.6 THE POSITION OF NEPALI WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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

In 2022, 35.5% of respondents agreed (either strongly or somewhat) that women should not have control over their income, movement and other decision-making processes. Some 27.9% agreed that a husband has the right to punish his wife if she does not obey her and 23.4% agreed that male members of the family other than the husband have the right to punish a woman if she disobeys them (a significant increase from 6.8% who said so in 2020).

On the other hand, more than nine out of 10 respondents thought⁷ that women can engage in politics (90.9%) and should be encouraged to work outside their homes (91.3%). A significant proportion of respondents disagreed to the following statements: *sons are more important than daughters* (81.2%), *men should have the right to jobs when there are limited jobs* (86.7%), and *male members of the family other than the husband (father-in-law, brother-in-law) have the right to punish a daughter-in-law if she disobeys them* (76.6%) (Table 4.6.1). Over the years, the proportion of respondents who disagreed that it is solely the man's responsibility to fulfil the family's financial needs increased from 43.4% in 2018 to 78.2% in 2022.

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	6.2%	16.8%	23.4%	53.5%	0.1%
	2018	3.4%	6.6%	33.2%	56.8%	0.0%
	2020	1.7%	4.4%	13.2%	80.7%	0.0%
	2022	7.2%	11.6%	8.6%	72.6%	0.0%
Women should not be encouraged to work outside the home	2017	0.6%	6.7%	25.5%	67.2%	0.1%
	2018	2.2%	3.4%	32.3%	62.1%	0.0%
	2020	0.6%	2.2%	14.4%	82.7%	0.0%
	2022	3.6%	5.0%	17.8%	73.5%	0.0%
It is not suitable for women to engage in politics	2017	6.2%	9.0%	25.9%	58.8%	0.2%
	2018	2.3%	8.2%	32.0%	57.4%	0.0%
	2020	0.3%	2.9%	14.7%	82.0%	0.1%
	2022	2.5%	6.6%	18.1%	72.8%	0.0%

⁷ Combined figure for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree to the statements that women should not engage in politics and that women should not be encouraged to work outside the home.

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
Women should not have control over her income, movement and other decision making process	2018	27.8%	22.0%	26.2%	24.0%	0.0%
	2020	14.5%	6.4%	14.0%	65.0%	0.1%
	2022	13.0%	22.5%	15.7%	48.7%	0.0%
If a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her.	2018	11.3%	24.7%	31.2%	32.8%	0.0%
	2020	7.7%	13.7%	15.2%	63.5%	0.0%
	2022	4.2%	23.7%	18.9%	53.2%	0.0%
When job opportunities are limited, men should have more right to a job.	2018	7.2%	11.0%	33.8%	48.1%	0.0%
	2020	5.7%	8.8%	14.6%	70.9%	0.1%
	2022	2.0%	11.3%	21.7%	65.0%	0.0%
It is a man's responsibility to fulfil financial needs for his family.	2018	28.2%	28.4%	22.7%	20.7%	0.0%
	2020	14.4%	19.8%	10.7%	55.0%	0.0%
	2022	4.6%	17.2%	23.0%	55.2%	0.0%
Male members of family other than husband have right to punish the daughter in law if she disobeys them	2020	0.3%	6.5%	14.0%	79.2%	0.0%
	2022	5.2%	18.2%	21.9%	54.7%	0.0%

Table 4.6.1: Q-D10a–m. would you please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1008)

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 gender is not an important parameter for leadership positions; for all positions listed over seventy percent of respondents said the person should be capable regardless of their gender (Table 4.7.1). Between 2018 and 2022, there was an increase in people who believe a person should be capable of leadership roles regardless of gender. Of those who had a preference, higher shares wanted women in the various leadership positions than men. For instance, for the position of ward chairperson 19.0% preferred a women and 7.4% a man. Some 17.7% preferred a woman as chairperson of user groups while 7.0% wanted a male chairperson. For the position of chairperson of saving and credit cooperatives, 19.4% preferred a women and 5.7% a man.

Gender preference for leadership positions in different organisations/institutions, by year

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Chief Executive Position of Federal Government	2018	14.5%	14.6%	68.2%	2.8%
	2020	20.1%	9.2%	70.2%	0.4%
	2022	18.3%	8.0%	73.6%	0.2%
Chief Executive Position of Provincial Government	2018	13.1%	14.1%	69.0%	3.8%
	2020	17.5%	8.6%	73.5%	0.4%
	2022	15.9%	8.3%	75.1%	0.7%

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Chief Executive Position of Local Government	2018	13.8%	13.1%	69.7%	3.3%
	2020	17.2%	8.9%	73.8%	0.1%
	2022	17.8%	6.9%	75.2%	0.1%
Ward Chairperson	2018	18.6%	12.9%	68.4%	0.1%
	2020	20.1%	8.1%	71.8%	0.0%
	2022	19.0%	7.4%	73.6%	0.0%
Chairperson of Political Party	2018	14.6%	14.2%	70.9%	0.2%
	2020	14.2%	7.9%	77.9%	0.1%
	2022	16.4%	7.1%	76.5%	0.0%
Chairperson of User Groups	2018	25.8%	9.2%	64.9%	0.1%
	2020	18.0%	6.3%	75.5%	0.1%
	2022	17.7%	7.0%	75.3%	0.0%
Chairperson of Saving and Credit Cooperatives	2018	30.8%	7.8%	61.4%	0.1%
	2020	19.1%	5.3%	75.5%	0.1%
	2022	19.4%	5.7%	75.0%	0.0%
Chairperson of School Management Committee	2018	16.3%	14.8%	68.9%	0.1%
	2020	17.4%	6.4%	76.1%	0.1%
	2022	15.9%	8.7%	75.3%	0.0%
CEO of Private Company/Organization	2018	13.9%	16.9%	69.1%	0.1%
	2020	14.8%	7.0%	78.1%	0.1%
	2022	14.3%	9.2%	76.5%	0.0%

Table 4.71: Q-D11a-I. Thinking about leadership positions, please tell me, who would be more acceptable as leaders in the following organisation/ institutions? (N=1,008)

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. Over two-thirds (69.3%) of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province reported that local body restructuring improved the capacity of their local governments to deliver services. One-fourth (25.0%) thought restructuring neither improved nor deteriorated the capacity of a local bodies to deliver services. Some 5.5% thought the capacity of local governments to deliver services deteriorated after restructuring (Figure 5.1.1).

The share reporting that local body restructuring improved local bodies' capacity to deliver services increased between 2017 (36.6%) and 2020 (77.0%) but decreased again in 2022 (69.3%).

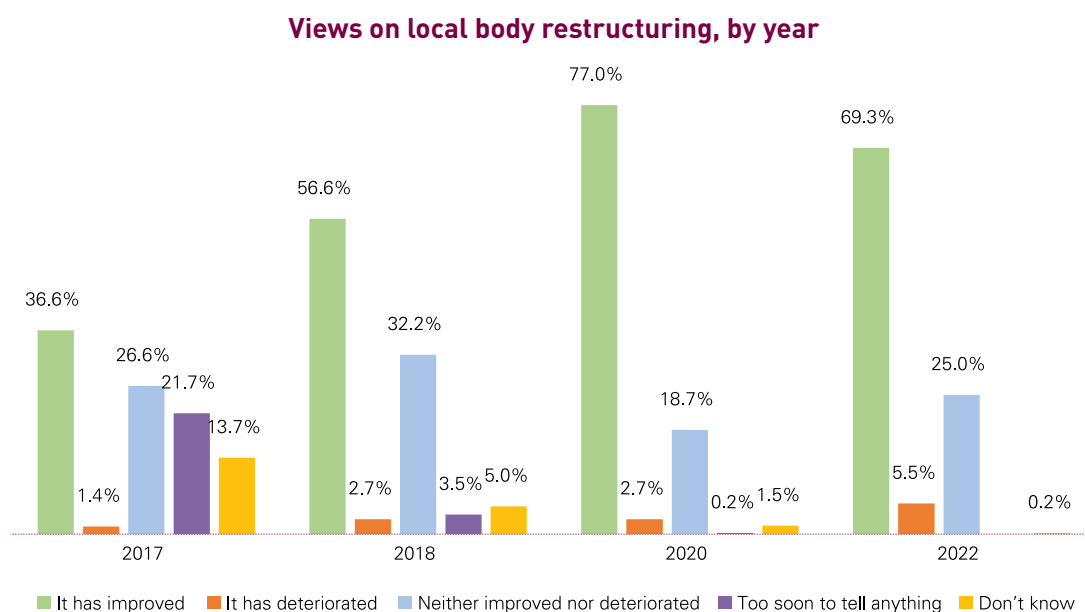


Figure 5.1.1: Q-E4. What kind of change have you felt/noticed in the capacity of local body to deliver services after restructuring of local body? (N=1,008)

People in rural municipalities of the Mountain (85.9%) and Terai (85.0%) regions were more likely to report that local restructuring helped increase the capacity of local governments to deliver services. Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati (73.7%) and Hill Adibasi/Janajati (72.2%) were more likely to report that local restructuring improved service delivery than Hill Dalit respondents (63.0%)

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 in Sudurpaschim Province had heard of senior citizen allowance (98.4%), single women allowance (97%), disability allowance (90.3%) and health insurance (81.2%), followed by the child protection grant (72.1%), child nutrition grant (74.7%), and unemployment allowance (65.2%). Fewer had heard of grants for Loponmukh Adivasi (25.4%) and contributions from employment (22.1%). The proportion of people who were aware of health insurance benefits increased from 63.3% in 2020 to 81.2% in 2022.

Those who were aware of various social security benefits were asked whether they or their family members had received any of the benefits. Most people had not received the benefits asked about. In 2022, one-quarter (25.5%) mentioned that their household had received the child nutrition grant. Less than one-fifth (18.5%) said they or someone in their family received senior citizen allowance, 17.2% received health insurance benefits, and 15% got contributions from employment. Lower shares said their family received the child protection grant (11.5%) or single women allowance (9.6%). Less than five percent received disability allowance, unemployment allowance, and the grant for Loponmukh Adivasi.

Compared to 2020, there was an increase in the shares who received unemployment allowance and health insurance benefits and a decrease in the shares who received senior citizen allowance, single women allowance, and the child protection and child nutrition grants.

Awareness and receiving social security benefits, by year

Social Security Provisions	Yes, I have heard		Yes, we have received	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
Senior Citizen Allowance	97.8%	98.4%	29.7%	18.5%
Single Women Allowance	96.7%	97.0%	19.6%	9.6%
Disability Allowance	89.1%	90.3%	3.0%	3.6%
Unemployment Allowance	60.0%	65.2%	0.4%	4.0%
Health Insurance Benefits	63.3%	81.2%	10.5%	17.2%
Child Protection Grant	69.0%	72.1%	29.7%	11.5%
Benefits on Contribution from employment	33.2%	22.1%	3.8%	15.2%
Child Nutrition Grant	68.5%	74.7%	29.8%	25.5%
Grant for Loponmuukh Adivasi	20.0%	25.4%	0.0%	0.6%

Table 5.2.1: Q-E8a1-10. Have you heard of? (N=1,008) Q-E8b1-10. Have you or the members of the family received?

Satisfaction with Current Social Security Benefits

The respondents who said they or their family member had received social security benefits were further asked about their level of satisfaction with the benefits received on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates not satisfied at all and 10 indicates very satisfied. On average, the level of satisfaction was 7.76 points, which is above the mean level. This shows that the level of satisfaction with social security benefits was relatively high. The average level of satisfaction in 2020 was 7.6 points.

5.3 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Respondents were asked how much they trust 19 different entities, including government and independent institutions. In Sudurpaschim Province, trust was highest in the Public Service Commission (96.1%) followed by the media (television, radio, newspapers) (94.4%), community-based organizations (Women's group, savings and credit group) (93.0%), religious/caste-based organizations (92.2%), government employees (91.7%) and the Nepal Army (91.0%). A large share of people also trust the Armed Police Force (88.5%), NGOs/human rights defenders (87.1%), municipal wards (86.7%), courts (85.4%), judicial committees (84.9%), local governments (84.0%) and the police (83.3%). More than half of respondents said they trust the federal government (63.9%) and provincial government (62.2%). Political parties (49.0%) were least trusted (Table 5.3.1).

Trust in institutions, by year

	Trust ⁸			
	2017	2018	2020	2022
The Federal Government	81.3%	71.6%	82.5%	63.9%
Provincial Government	NA*	66.7%	80.1%	62.2%
District Coordination Committee	NA*	70.1%	83.8%	67.5%
Municipality/Rural Municipality /Local Government	NA*	NA*	88.2%	84.0%
Municipal Wards	NA*	NA*	NA*	86.7%
Local Community Leaders/Tole Development Organization	NA*	NA*	90.0%	75.8%
Political Parties	75.1%	55.2%	71.6%	49.0%
Courts	94.0%	88.4%	94.7%	85.4%
Judicial Committees	NA*	84.4%	93.8%	84.9%
Police	90.9%	76.3%	93.8%	83.3%
Armed Police Force	88.5%	81.4%	95.1%	88.5%
Nepal Army	89.2%	87.7%	95.8%	91.0%
The Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers)	97.8%	96.6%	97.9%	94.4%
NGOs/Human Rights Defenders	91.2%	88.8%	88.4%	87.1%
Religious/Caste-Based Organizations	88.3%	86.1%	89.1%	92.2%
CBOs (Women's group, savings and credit group)	95.8%	94.4%	91.9%	93.0%
Public Service Commission	NA*	94.2%	94.7%	96.1%
Social Media (Facebook/ Twitter etc.)	NA*	NA*	79.4%	68.6%
Government Employee	NA*	NA*	91.7%	91.7%

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' excluded)

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

5.4 AWARENESS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Slightly more than three-fifths of respondents (62.9%) said they were aware of public services provided by local governments. Less than one-third (30.2%) were aware of the services provided by provincial governments, and 32.6% knew of services provided by the federal government.

Compared to 2020, the share of people who were aware of services provided by provincial and federal governments slightly increased in 2022. The percentage of people aware of the services offered by local governments also increased over time, from 51.9% in 2018 to 54.8% in 2020 to 62.9% in 2022.

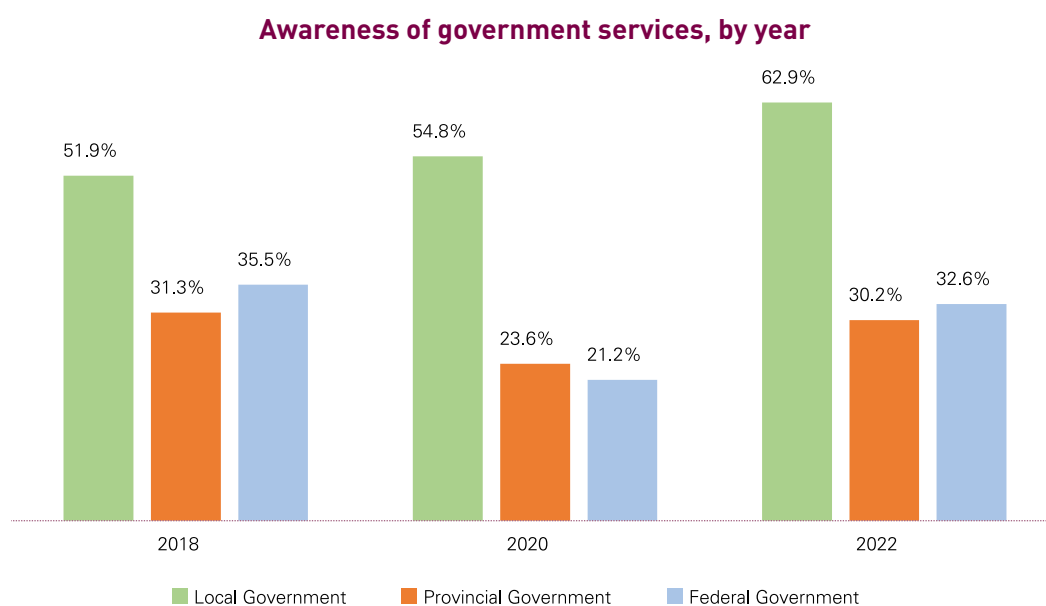


Figure 5.4.1: Q-E10AM-AO1. Are you aware about the Public Services provided by your local government? (N=1,008)

Women (55.0%) were considerably less aware than men (72.5%) about the services provided by local governments. People in rural (64.6%) and urban municipalities (61.8%) were similarly aware of the services provided by local governments. Hill Dalit (46.4%) respondents were less aware of services provided by local governments than Hill Caste (68.3%) and Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (60.5%) respondents.

Types of Public Services

The survey asked respondents who said they were aware of government services to name all services provided by each tier of government. The most widely known service areas of local governments were roads/physical infrastructure (84.8% aware), followed by education (59.4%), drinking water (55.2%), health services (50.3%), employment related services (30.5%), and electricity (26.0%).

Awareness of provincial government services showed a similar pattern, with most respondents (81.5%) saying they were aware of roads/physical infrastructure, followed by education (66.8%), drinking water (54.2%), employment-related services (49.8%), and electricity-related services (26.2%).

For federal government services, most respondents mentioned higher education (82.6%), national highways/physical infrastructure (81.4%), employment-related services (61.9%), large-scale electricity projects (51.8%), health-related policy and services (49.7%), large scale irrigation (45.4%) and social security (35.7%).

To those who did not know about local government services were asked to suggest effective channels of information about local government services (Figure 5.4.2). A large majority of respondents (70.0%) thought informal channels of communication such as friends, family, and neighbours were most effective. Far fewer suggested local community leaders (29.1%), Radio Nepal (27.9%), leaflets, pamphlets and posters (21.4%), or television (18.6%) (Figure 5.4.2).

Compared to 2020, the shares of respondents suggesting family, friends, and neighbors or leaflets, pamphlets, posters increased in 2022. The shares mentioning local community radio, Radio Nepal, television, local community leaders and community-based group as effective means of communication significantly decreased in 2022. Instead, slightly more people mentioned the internet (webpage of local governments) and social media.

Effective channels of information dissemination about local government services

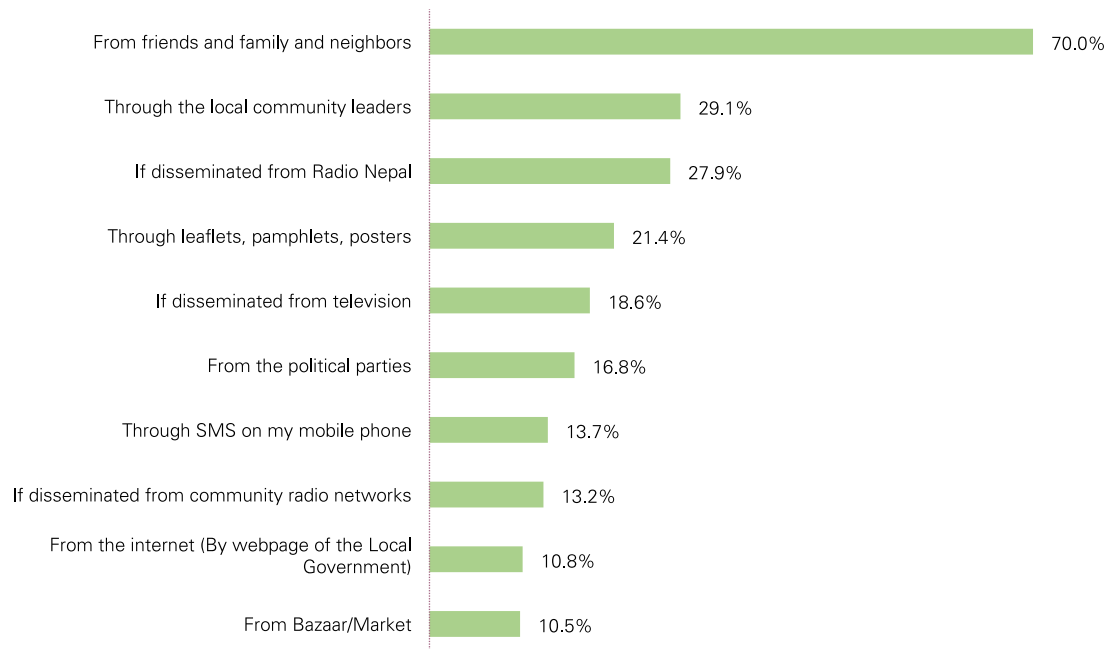


Figure 5.4.2: E10AM.3_1. [If "No" in Q-E10AM.1] How can your Local Government more easily inform you about the services they provide? (N=374)

5.5 EXPERIENCE ACCESSING PUBLIC SERVICES

People in Sudurpaschim Province were asked whether they had received 15 different types of public services provided by their rural or urban municipality in the past one year. They were also asked how easy it was to obtain the service(s).

Shares who had received services from their local government in the year prior to 2022 varied for the different types of services (Table 5.5.1). The share receiving health services was highest (97.1%), followed by services related to land tax/revenue (64.8%), admission in a government school (63.9%), tax work (50.3%) obtaining various certificates (41.5%), and receiving social security allowance (30.2%). Fewer people received other types of services (Table 5.5.1).

Generally, those who had accessed a service thought it was easy (combination of 'very easy' and 'easy') to receive it (ranging from 88.5% for receiving social security services to 100% for obtaining migration certificates) (Table 5.5.1). Ease of access somewhat increased between 2020 and 2022 for many types of services but decreased for obtaining a recommendation for citizenship, social security allowance (Single woman, senior citizen, disable) and birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, migration certificate.

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	2022	2020	2022
	Easy ⁹			
Recommendation for citizenship	23.1%	38.2%	95.5%	89.1%
Social security allowance (Single woman, senior citizen, disable)	31.9%	30.2%	96.2%	88.5%
Birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, migration certificate	24.4%	41.5%	98.5%	97.4%
Migration certificate	NA	9.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Services related to employment	3.5%	19.9%	71.4%	93.9%
Services given by judicial committee	2.2%	20.4%	85.8%	96.6%
Services related to land tax/revenue	52.9%	64.8%	95.4%	97.9%
For admission in government school	59.4%	63.9%	98.2%	99.7%
For health checkup in government health post/hospital	81.5%	91.7%	96.4%	97.3%
Receiving service from police	5.9%	15.8%	87.0%	94.9%
Business license	3.2%	13.6%	74.2%	94.7%
Tax related work	26.1%	50.3%	93.9%	98.2%
Recommendation for other government work	5.3%	25.7%	87.4%	98.3%
For disability specific services	NA	15.4%	0.0%	99.0%

Table 5.5.1: Q-E10a-n. Did you receive the services through the municipality office, including ward office in the past one year? Q-E10a-p. Based on your experience of past one year, how easy or difficult is it to obtain the following public services at the local level?

5.6 VIEWS ON EDUCATION

School type and quality of education

In Sudurpaschim Province, many more respondents had a child/children enrolled in public schools (69.3%) than in a private schools (20.8%). People in rural municipalities were more likely to enrol children in government schools (86.9%) than people in urban municipalities (59.1%). More than 9 out of 10 people in the Mountain region had children in government schools (93.8%) compared to 88.2% in the Hill region and 44.2% in the Terai. Hill Dalit respondents (82.2%) were more likely to have children in public school than Hill Caste respondents (69.5%).

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

Child enrolled in public/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%
Sudurpaschim Province	71.3%	68.0%	69.3%	22.0%	21.5%	20.8%	6.6%	10.5%	9.9%

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? ('Not Applicable' excluded).

Some 94.9% of children enrolled in public schools and 98.6% of children going to private schools lived within one hour's distance to the school. Only a small proportion of respondents reported a duration of more than one hour for their children to reach school from home.

More than four-fifths of parents rated the quality of education in both public and private schools as either "very good" or "good". The proportion of respondents who rated the quality of education as "very good" decreased for public schools (from 5.1% in 2018 to 1.6% in 2022) and for private schools (from 13.1% in 2018 to 5.6% in 2022).

Views on the quality of education, by year

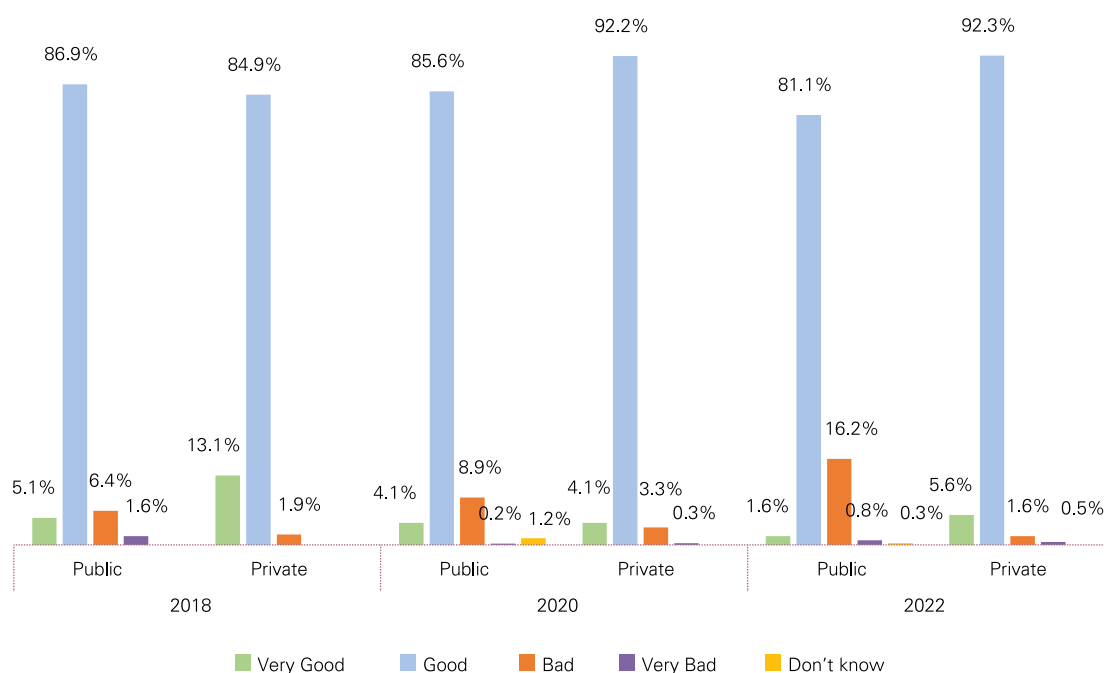


Figure 5.6.1: Q-E11b and Q-E11Aii. How would you rate the quality of the education at that school? (N=604 respondents with child/children in public school, N=233 respondents with child/children in private school)¹⁰

Entities Responsible for the Quality of Education

Most parents considered the local government to be responsible for maintaining the quality of education in both public and private schools (91.8% and 92.9%, respectively) (Table 5.6.2). Over the years, an increasing number of respondents reported that local government is primarily responsible for maintaining the quality of education in their area. Only very small shares of respondents thought

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

that the school management committee, teachers, or parents are responsible for maintaining the quality of education in public schools.

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of education, by year

	Public School				Private School ¹¹		
	2017	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Local government	77.1%	78.2%	78.6%	91.8%	65.5%	92.5%	92.9%
Provincial government	0.0%	2.7%	2.0%	1.5%	1.5%	2.5%	3.9%
Federal government	5.6%	8.8%	6.5%	3.4%	8.4%	0.0%	3.3%
Others (School management committee, teachers, parents)	1.6%	3.7%	5.3%	0.0%	22.1%	1.6%	0.0%
Don't know	15.8%	6.7%	7.7%	3.3%	2.5%	3.4%	0.0%

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=604 respondents with child/children in public school, N=233 respondents with child/children in private school)

Suggestions for the Improvement of Quality of Schools

The survey asked all respondents for suggestions on how to improve the quality of education in schools. Most respondents mentioned ensuring the quality of school management (62.0%), proper management of staff (57.8%), and good teaching methods (54.3%). The share of respondents mentioning improved teaching methods to ensure quality education at schools grew over time while fewer people thought needy students should get scholarships (Table 5.6.3).

Suggestions for the improvement of quality of schools, by year

Suggestions	2020	2022
Improved/ good teaching methods	50.0%	54.3%
The quality of school management should be good	62.2%	62.0%
Management of the staffs should be good in the school	64.2%	57.8%
The quality of curriculum/syllabus should be improved	36.2%	39.0%
Needy students should get scholarship	43.9%	30.2%
The price of books, copies and uniforms should be less	34.5%	19.4%
The quality of school building should be good	49.1%	50.4%
My children should be able to learn in English	23.5%	8.8%
The schools where my children go should be near	14.9%	12.4%
Teachers should be trained in inclusive education and be able to teach children with diverse impairments.		14.1%
Should be flexible enough to address the diverse need of children including children with different impairments.		2.9%
The teaching learning methods should be accessible and flexible enough to address the need of children with diverse need		3.0%
Should be accessible for all children including children with disabilities.		2.9%
Don't know/can't say		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=1,008)

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

5.7 PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19

In 2022, the survey included questions for respondents from households with school-going children about the schools' performance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Private schools (46.1%) were thrice as likely to have provided alternative classes as public schools (18.2%). Both public and private schools of Sudurpaschim Province were less likely to have provided alternative classes than in Nepal overall (private 53.8%, public 23%).

Schools in urban municipalities were more likely to report to have provided alternative classes during the pandemic than schools in rural municipalities. Similarly, respondents from Terai were more likely to report that schools provided alternative classes during the pandemic than people in the Mountain and Hill regions.

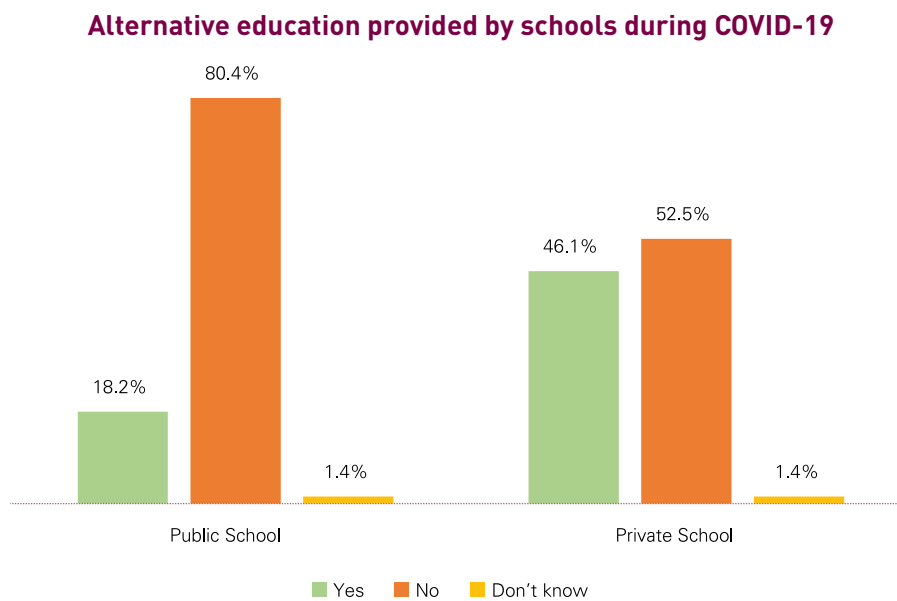


Figure 5.71: Q-E11f_1_A and Q-E11g.1 Did the school in which your child/children are admitted to provide any alternative education options during COVID-19 period? (Online, home visits, community classes, or other) (N=604 respondents with child/children in public school, N=233 respondents with child/children in private school)

Teaching online was the most common method for providing alternative classes in both public and private schools. Public schools also opted for community-based learning through teacher visits and community-based education. Most children attended alternative classes where they were provided. The biggest barriers to attending alternative/online classes were the timing of online classes and not having hardware/access. Parents were generally satisfied with the alternative classes provided during the pandemic period with little difference in the rating of classes provided by either public or private schools.

5.8 VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Distance to the Nearest Public Health Post/Hospital

Over the years, a rising share of people in Sudurpaschim Province reported living within less than one hour's distance to the nearest health post/hospital (76.9% in 2017, 90.4% in 2022).

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

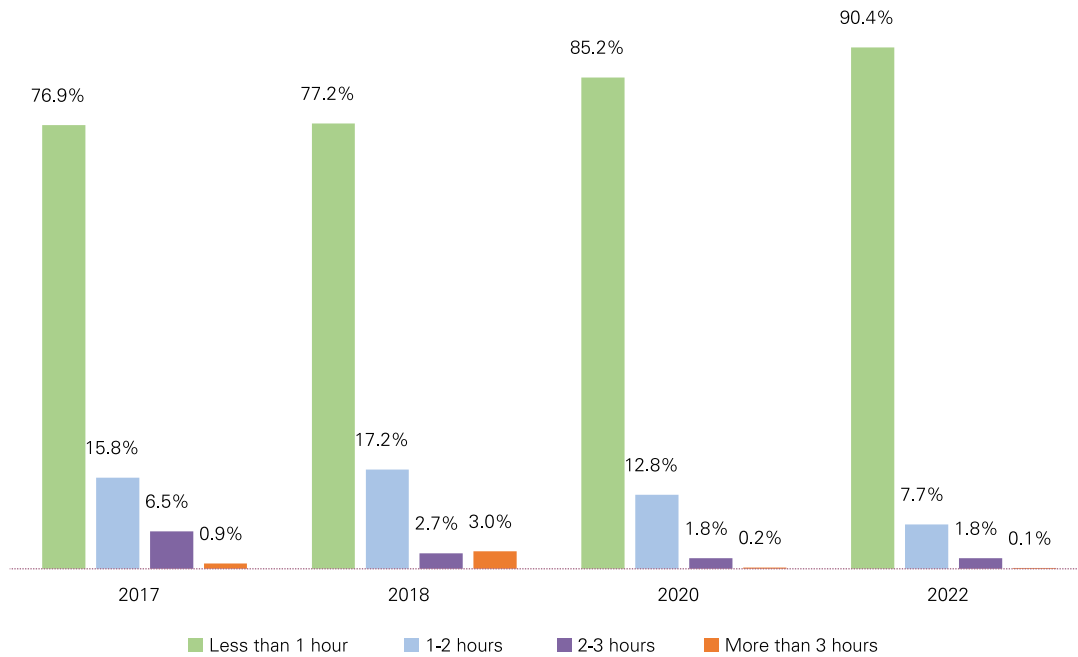


Figure 5.8.1: Q-E12a. How much time would it take you to go from home to the nearest public health post/hospital? (N=1,008)

Views on Quality of Health Services

In Sudurpaschim Province, 88.4% of respondents thought the quality of healthcare in their vicinity was “good,” while 0.9% considered it to be “very good”. In contrast, 9.4% thought it was “not good” and 0.5% said it was “not good at all” (Figure 5.8.1).

The share of respondents rating the quality of health services as “good” increased over the years while the share rating health services as “very good” decreased (Figure 5.8.2). The proportion of respondents who believed that the quality of health services was “not good” grew between 2018 and 2022 (from 4.6% to 9.4%) but remained lower than in 2017 (15.8%).

Views on the quality of public health care, by year

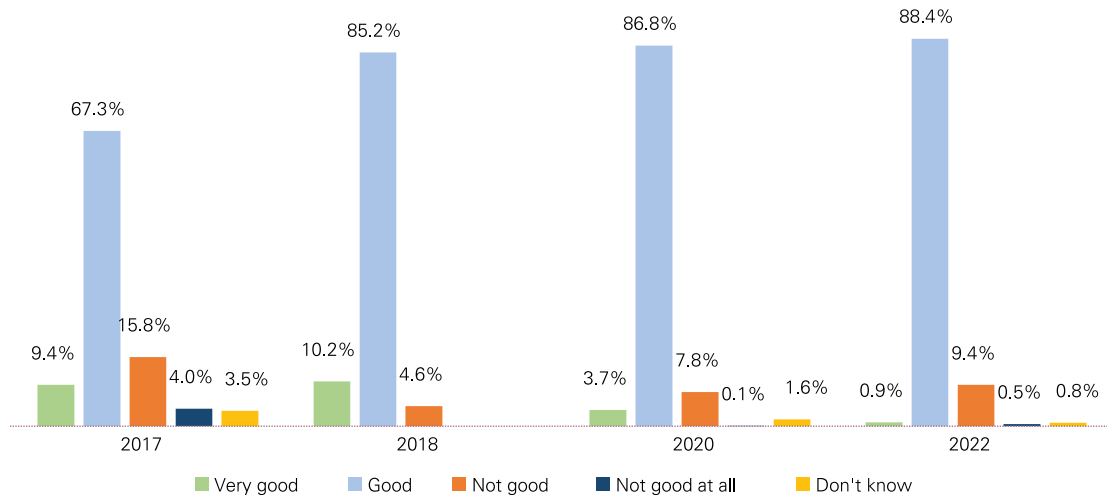


Figure 5.8.2: Q-E12b. How would you rate the quality of public health care in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1,008)

Responsible Entity for Maintaining the Quality of Healthcare

Most people (87.3%) believed that the local governments are responsible for maintaining the quality of health services. Over the survey rounds, the share of respondents who thought so increased (Figure 5.8.3).

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of healthcare, by year

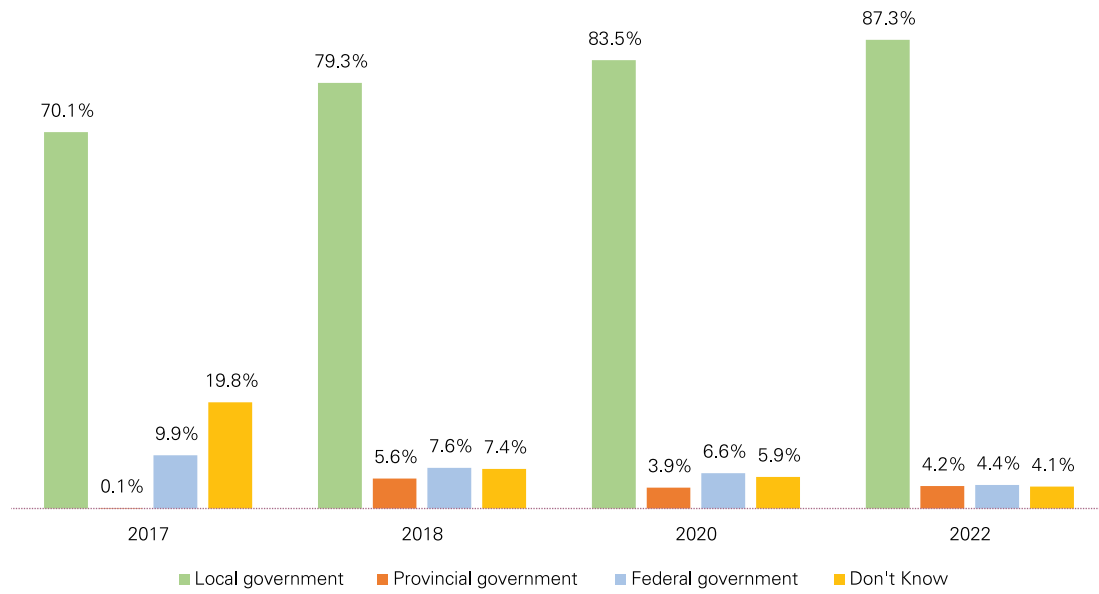


Figure 5.8.3: Q-E12c. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of health services being provided to you? (N=1,008)

Respondents were asked whether healthcare in their area changed positively, negatively or stayed the same over the past year. In 2022, slightly less than two-thirds (64.4%) mentioned positive changes in the quality of public healthcare (compared to 59.5% in 2020 and 41.4% in 2017).

Changes in the quality of health service, by year

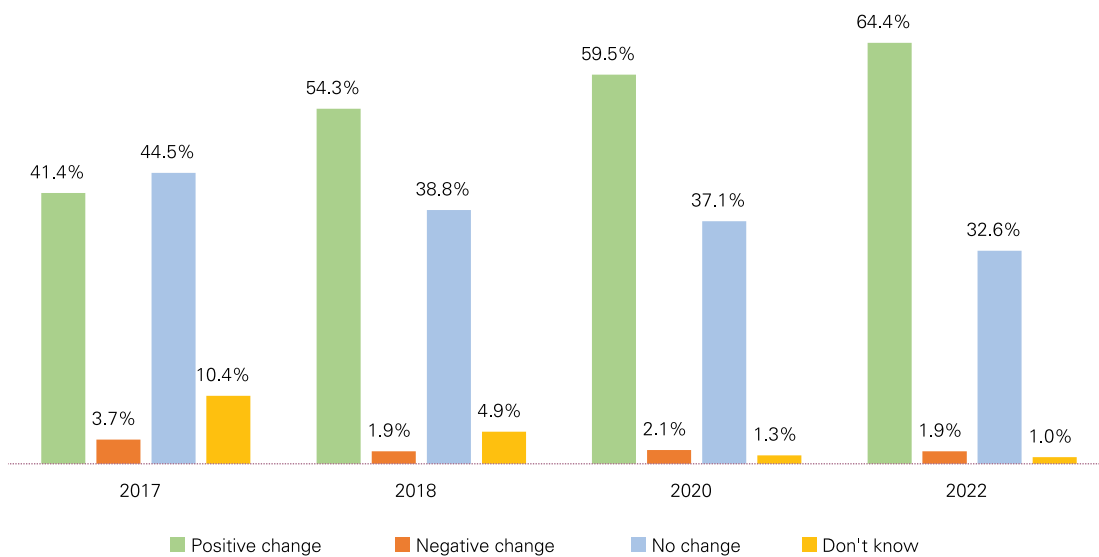


Figure 5.8.4: Q-E12d. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of health services in your municipality/rural municipality during the past year? (N=1,008)

People in the Terai region (70.1%) of Sudurpaschim Province were more likely to report positive changes in the quality of health services in their respective municipality than people in the Hill (55.1%) and Mountain (69.6%) regions.

Reasons why people thought the quality of public healthcare had improved were: quality health service provided by health centres (50.8%), proper management of the health service centre (46.6%), establishment of new health service centres (44.4%), improvement in staff management (43.4%), readily available medicines (33.7%) and proximity of health service centres (30.3%).

The survey asked all respondents what needs to be done to improve the quality of health service provided by the health centre in their local area (municipality/rural municipality). Most mentioned good medical facilities (74.8%), qualified and trained health workers (61.3%), good laboratories (57.6%), and proper practice of diagnostic methods (53.2%). Other suggestion to improve the quality of health service provided in their area were the proper management of health staff (37.6%), good infrastructure of health centre (33.4%), free health services (29.3%) and health workers who can communicate in the local language/local health workers (13.5%).

5.9 VIEWS ON ROADS

Quality of Roads

Six out of ten respondents (60.0%) thought the quality of roads in Sudurpaschim Province was “good,” while one-third (33.7%) thought it was “not good”, and a few (5.4%) report roads as “not good at all”. The share reporting that roads were “good” increased between 2017 and 2020 but decreased again in 2022 while the share who said the quality of roads was “not good” increased (Table 5.9.1).

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

	Very good	Good	Not good	Not good at all	Don't know
2017	5.0%	39.3%	36.0%	19.4%	0.3%
2018	4.3%	76.9%	15.5%	3.2%	0.1%
2020	1.9%	83.4%	14.4%	0.3%	
2022	0.9%	60.0%	33.7%	5.4%	

Table 5.9.1: Q-E13a. How would you rate the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1,008)

A majority of respondents (86.8%) believed that the local government is the primary entity responsible for maintaining roads—a response that was consistent with responses of 2018 (87.2%) and 2020 (89.3%).

Responsible entity for maintenance of roads, by year

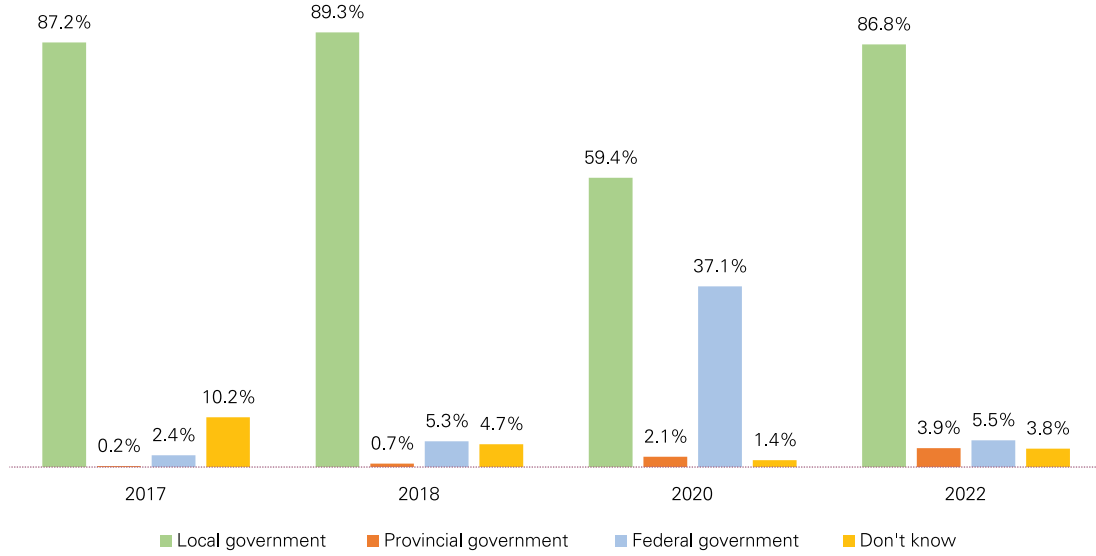


Figure 5.9.1: Q- E13b. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for building and maintaining roads? (N=1,008)

Changes in the Quality of Road Services

Respondents were asked whether the quality of roads in their area improved or worsened over the past year. In 2022, the share reporting positive changes (57.9%) decreased compared to 2020 while the share reporting no changes (30.3%) or negative changes (11.8%) increased compared to previous survey rounds (Figure 5.9.2).

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

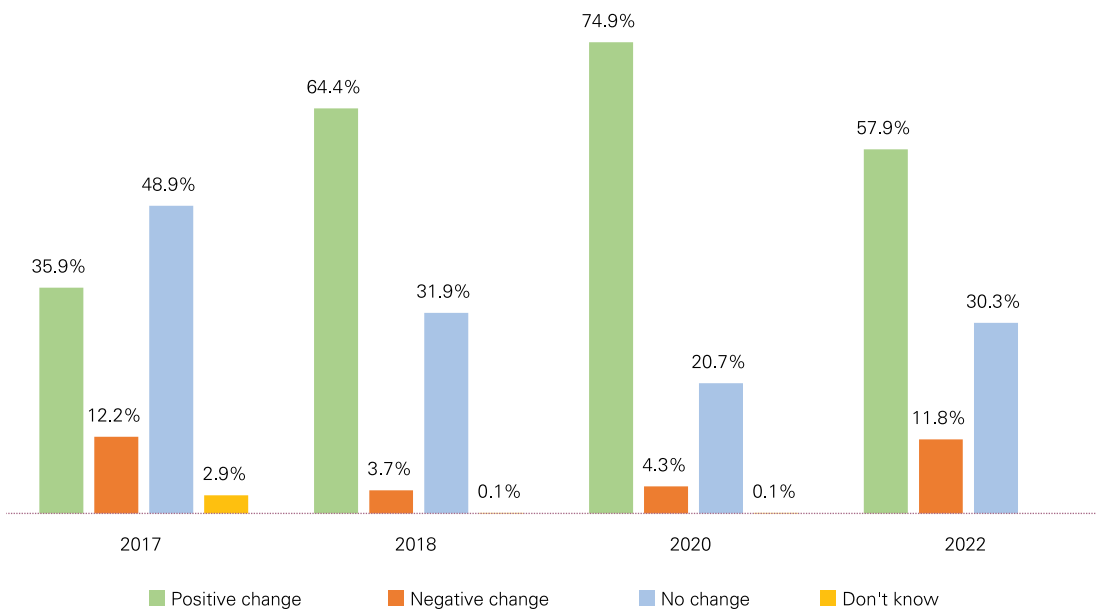


Figure 5.9.2: Q-E13c. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality during the past year? (N=1,008)

Reasons for Positive Changes in the Quality of Roads

The survey further asked the 57.9% of respondents reporting that the quality of roads had improved over the past year for the reasons. Responses were left open-ended, allowing for multiple responses. Over half (56.7%) mentioned "construction of roads" as the major reason, followed by prompt action taken by the government for the maintenance of damaged roads (40.6%), more black-topped roads (30.9%) and properly upgrading conditions of existing roads (29.0%). Other reasons were the government impartially selecting which roads to upgrade (19.7%), roads being upgraded broader and wider (19.5%) and the involvement of the public during the planning and discussion of road projects (18.3%).

Reasons for Negative Changes in the Quality of Roads

The 11.8% of respondents reporting that the quality of roads has worsened were also asked for the reasons why they thought there had been negative changes. Most cited deteriorating conditions of existing roads (68.8%), the government delaying the maintenance of damaged roads (63.8%), and the roads that need to be constructed not being made (61.6%). Other reasons were floods/landslides (24.0%), not including the public during the planning and discussion of the road projects (20.1%) and the bias of the government when selecting which roads to upgrade (19.6%).

Suggestions to Improve the Quality of Roads

All respondents were asked what needed to be done to improve the quality of road services in their area. Most believed that black-topping roads (73.2%), prompt maintenance of damaged roads (65.7%) and proper upgrading of existing roads (47.1%) should be done to improve the quality of roads in their local area. Other suggestions were the inclusion of the local public when planning and discussing road projects (39.3%) and properly designing existing roads (24.1%).

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 fifty percent of people in Sudrupalaschim Province paid one or more form of tax in the past year. Land tax (80.0%), vehicle tax (52.5%), property tax (71.4%), business tax (29.3%) and individual income tax (17.3%) were the most commonly paid taxes. Other less commonly paid taxes were house rent tax (9.7%), land registration tax (4.4%), remuneration tax (3.6%), entertainment tax (1.1%), and advertisement tax (0.8%).

The share of respondents who said they paid some type of tax in the previous year increased between 2018 and 2020. While most respondents reported being unaware about changes in the current level of taxation for most types of taxes, a large share of those who reported having paid property tax, business tax, vehicle tax, land taxes and institutional income tax said that the current level of taxation was more than the year before.

Views on the current level of taxation¹², by year

Type of tax	Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year?			If yes, do you think current level of taxation is appropriate?				
	2018	2020	2022	N	More than last year	Less than last year	Same as last year	Don't know
Property tax	10.5%	64.5%	71.4%	591	72.2%	0.6%	21.8%	5.4%
House rent tax	4.9%	5.9%	9.7%	42	53.3%	0.0%	18.6%	28.1%
Individual Income tax	2.4%	13.4%	17.3%	94	55.6%	0.8%	37.5%	6.1%
Business tax	52.4%	24.6%	29.3%	111	81.6%	4.4%	10.6%	3.4%
Vehicle tax	2.5%	41.8%	52.5%	212	88.7%	0.0%	8.8%	2.4%
Land registration tax	1.5%	17.6%	4.4%	22	78.7%	0.0%	21.3%	0.0%
Entertainment tax	0.3%	23.2%	1.9%	9	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Land tax	0.2%	69.8%	80.0%	758	71.7%	0.9%	21.1%	6.4%
Advertisement tax	2.1%	6.2%	0.8%	3	62.1%	0.0%	37.9%	0.0%
Agriculture Income tax	4.5%	3.1%	4.4%	22	60.8%	0.0%	35.8%	3.4%
Institutional Income tax	5.3%	5.9%	1.5%	4	83.2%	0.0%	16.8%	0.0%
Remuneration tax	0.6%	35.1%	3.6%	38	43.7%	0.0%	39.3%	17.0%

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

Most of those who reported paying taxes during the previous year said that the process of paying the tax/service charge/fee was easy (98.0%). A small minority (2.0%) reported feeling inconvenienced while paying the taxes. More people in 2022 than in 2020 (96.4%) reported that paying taxes or a service charge or fees was easy.

The 2.0% of respondents who said that paying taxes/service charges was difficult were further asked what could be done to ease the process. Most said that there should be facilities for paying all kinds of taxes/fees from the ward office alone (69.6%), the provision of door-to-door collection of the taxes/fees (44.4%) and the provision of online payments (41.5%).

Views on Taxation

A large majority of Sudurpaschim Province residents said they did not have a clear understanding of taxes and could use 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 (Table 5.10.2).

Most respondents agreed (combination of agree and strongly agree) that they could use additional information on the following: how the different levels of the government collect taxes from the people (98.1%), how the government spends its collected taxes (98.2%); and what benefits citizens get in return for paying taxes (98.8%). Slightly less than half of respondents (39.2%) believe that the tax they pay is being properly utilized—similar to past survey responses.

¹² 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 in 2022 were included in the analysis.

Views on taxation, by year

	Year	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I wish I had clearer information or understanding of taxes that I am supposed to pay for federal, provincial and local government.	2018	88.9%	10.5%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%
	2020	82.0%	17.7%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	2022	82.1%	16.0%	1.3%	0.5%	0.1%
I wish I had more information on how the government spends taxes.	2018	89.2%	10.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
	2020	82.2%	17.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
	2022	80.4%	17.8%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%
As a citizen I wanted to know clear information on what benefits we get in return for paying the taxes.	2018	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2020	82.2%	17.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	2022	81.4%	17.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.1%
I believe that the tax I paid is being properly utilized.	2018	24.3%	22.3%	28.5%	18.9%	6.0%
	2020	36.7%	35.3%	19.7%	6.6%	1.7%
	2022	19.5%	19.7%	25.7%	16.0%	19.1%

Table 5.10.2: Q-E16ai-iv. To what extent do you agree/strongly agree/disagree/strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1,008)

Less than 1% of respondents from Sudurpaschim Province reported that they had had to pay extra cash or some type of gift (other than the amount fixed by the government) to someone while paying taxes.

Willingness to Pay More Local Taxes for Better Services

In 2022, 66.0% said they were willing to pay more local taxes if the quality of services were to improve, a lower share than in all three previous survey rounds. One third (33.7%) said that they were not willing to pay more tax, more than in previous years (Figure 5.10.2).

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

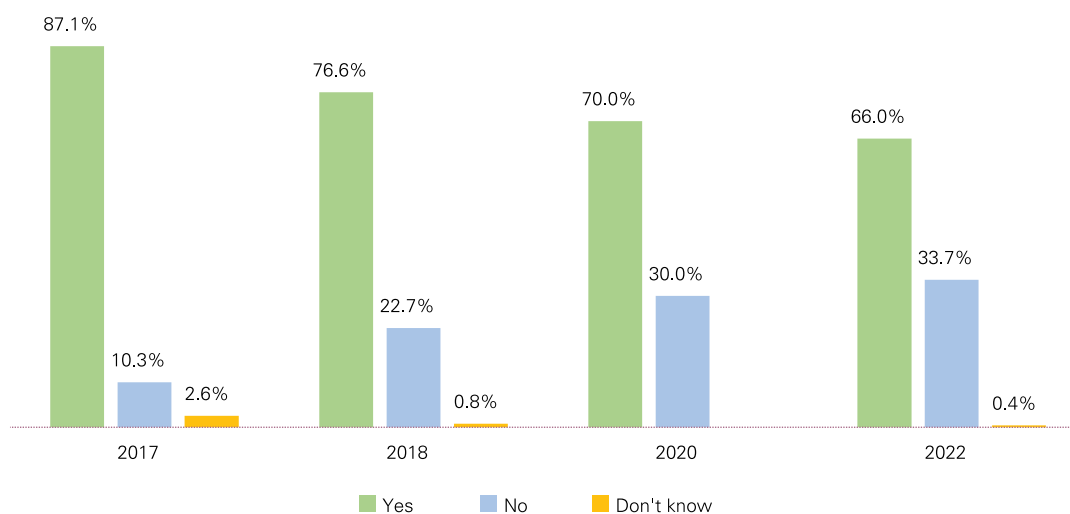


Figure 5.10.1: Q-E16. Would you be willing to pay more local taxes or fees if the quality of services like road maintenance, education or healthcare were improved? (N=1,008)

5.11 CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked if they have 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.

In 2022, only a marginal share of people from Sudurpaschim Province (between 0.3% to 2.0%) said they had to pay bribes to receive any of the nine services asked about. The shares paying bribes were lowest in 2022 compared to previous survey rounds. The majority reported that they 'did not need this type of service'.

Around 1.5% paid a bribe to get admission into school or university, 1.3% to receive health service and 1.2% to get vehicle related services (Table 5.11.1). Less than one percent said they had to pay a bribe to get other services.

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	10.9%	3.1%	3.1%	1.0%	4.5%	0.3%	0.2%		
2018	14.6%	6.7%	6.6%	1.8%	4.5%	0.0%	0.2%		
2020	2.0%	2.1%	5.5%	5.4%	3.4%	0.8%	0.9%	5.7%	2.9%
2022	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	1.3%	1.5%	1.2%	0.3%

Table 5.11.1: Q-E17 (A-I). 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=1,008)

5.12 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

More than two-thirds (69.6%) of people in Sudurpaschim Province said they were unaware of any development projects or budgets planned by their local governments for the current fiscal year. Some 30.4% said they were aware.

The share of people who were aware of local development projects planned by their local government increased was similar in 2018 and 2020 and decreased in 2022 (Figure 5.12.1).

Awareness of local government development projects, by year

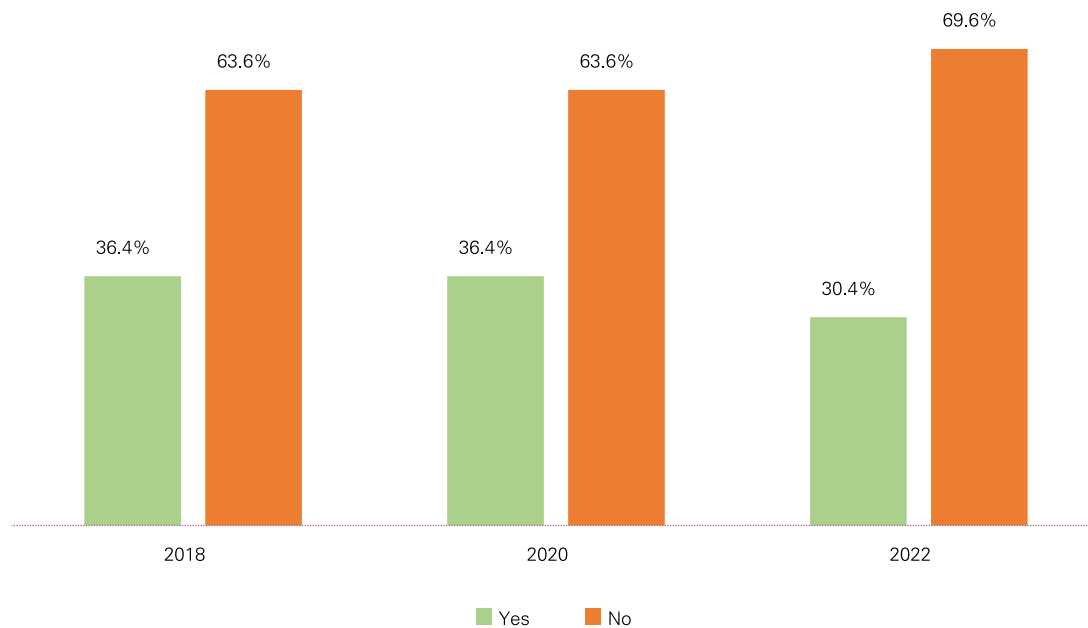


Figure 5.12.1: Q-E18. Are you aware of any development projects/budget planned for execution by your local government in the current fiscal year? (N =1,008)

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 people thought education should be the priority of local governments (33.8%), followed by road/physical infrastructure (26.7%), employment (11.9%), health (9.3%) and drinking water related services (7.9%).

Over the years, the share of people who believe that their local government should prioritize education steadily increased from 15.1% in 2018 to 33.8% in 2022. The share prioritizing roads and other physical infrastructure and health related services also slightly increased over time. On the other hand, there was a significant decrease in the proportion of people who mentioned employment (from 21.5% in 2018 to 11.9% in 2022) and drinking water (from 15.4% in 2018 to 7.9% in 2022).

Local government services that should get first priority, by year

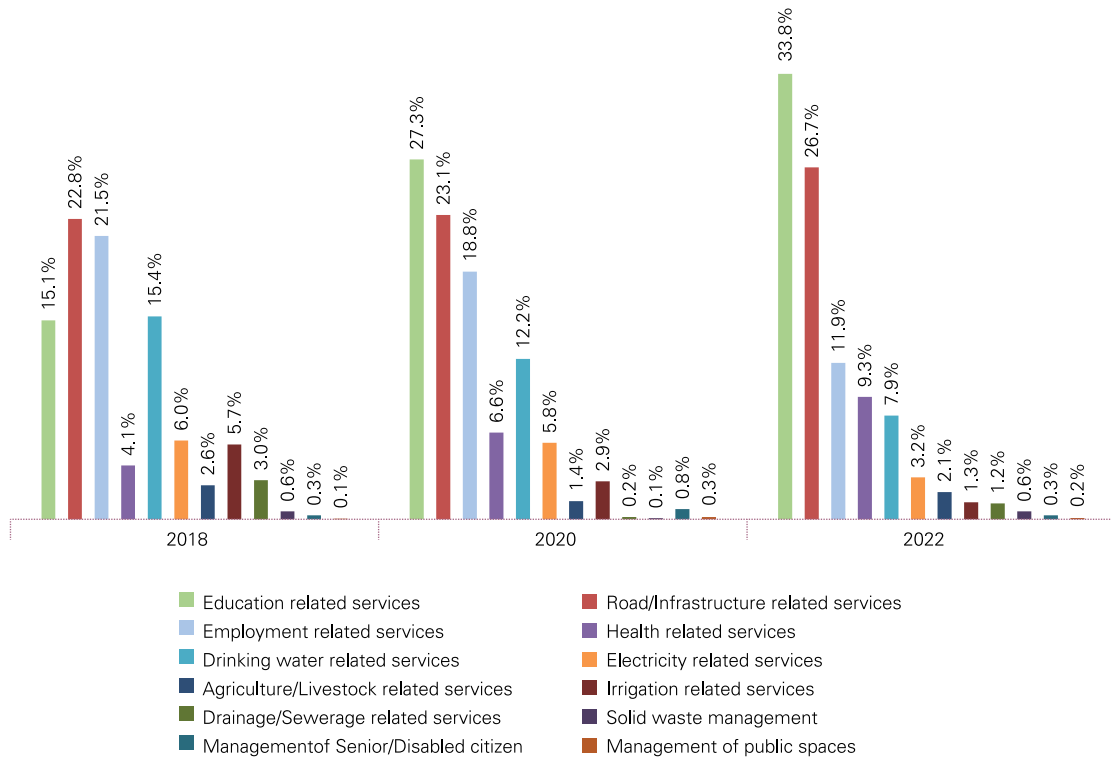


Figure 5.12.2: Q-E19. In your opinion, which service should get first priority from your local government? (N=1,008)

Awareness of and Participation in Public Hearings

More than one-third of respondents (36.0%) said there was at least one public hearing in their ward or municipality in the past year, consistent with 2020.

Awareness of public hearing in the municipality/rural municipality, by year

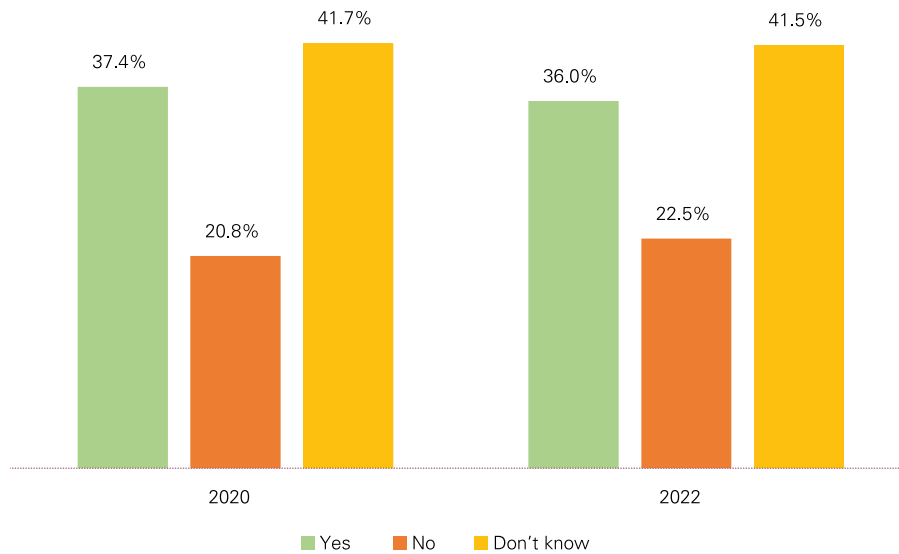


Figure 5.12.3: Q-E20. In last one year have there been any public hearing in your rural municipality/ municipality, including in your ward? (N=1,008)

Respondents who said that there had been one or more public hearings in their rural/urban municipality were asked about their participation in such hearings. Some 67.0% said they have never participated in any public hearing over the past year but 28.1% said they participated in some of the hearings. Only a small minority (4.9%) said they participated in most of these events. Participation in public hearings conducted in the rural/urban municipality increased noticeably since 2018.

Participation in public hearing in the municipality/rural municipality, by year

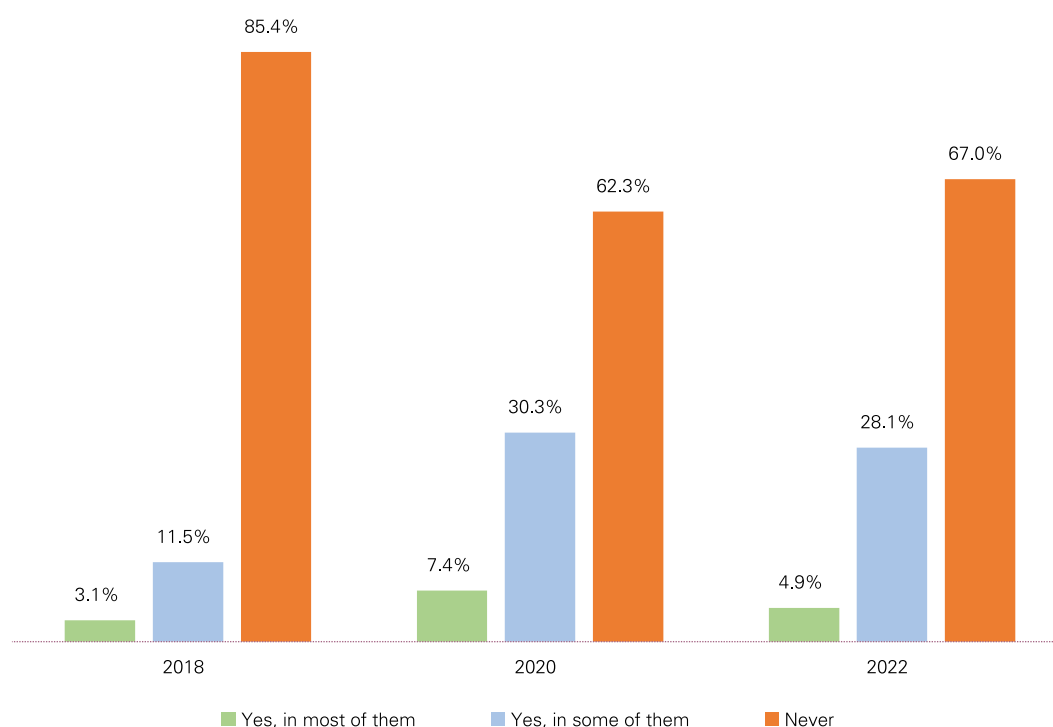


Figure 5.12.4: QE20_a. Did you participate in any of the public hearings that was conducted in your rural municipality/municipality or in your ward? N=1008

Awareness of and Participation in Public Audits

All respondents were asked whether there had been public audits of community development programs in their rural/urban municipality in the past year. More than one-fourth (28.6%) knew of at least one such public audit taking place, down from 32.8% who said so in 2020 but still much higher than in 2018 (13.9%). A slightly lower share (25.3%) said no audits had taken place. Less than half of respondents (46.1%) were unsure about public audits in their area (Figure 5.12.5).

The 28.6% of respondents who said there had been public audits of community development programs in their rural/urban municipality in the last year were asked about their participation. More than seven out of ten (73.1%) respondents said they did not participate in any public audits of community development programs. Some 22.3% participated in some of the public audits and 4.6% participated in most of them. The share participating in some of the public audits decreased from 32.9% in 2020 to 22.3% in 2022.

Awareness of and Participation in public audit programs, by year

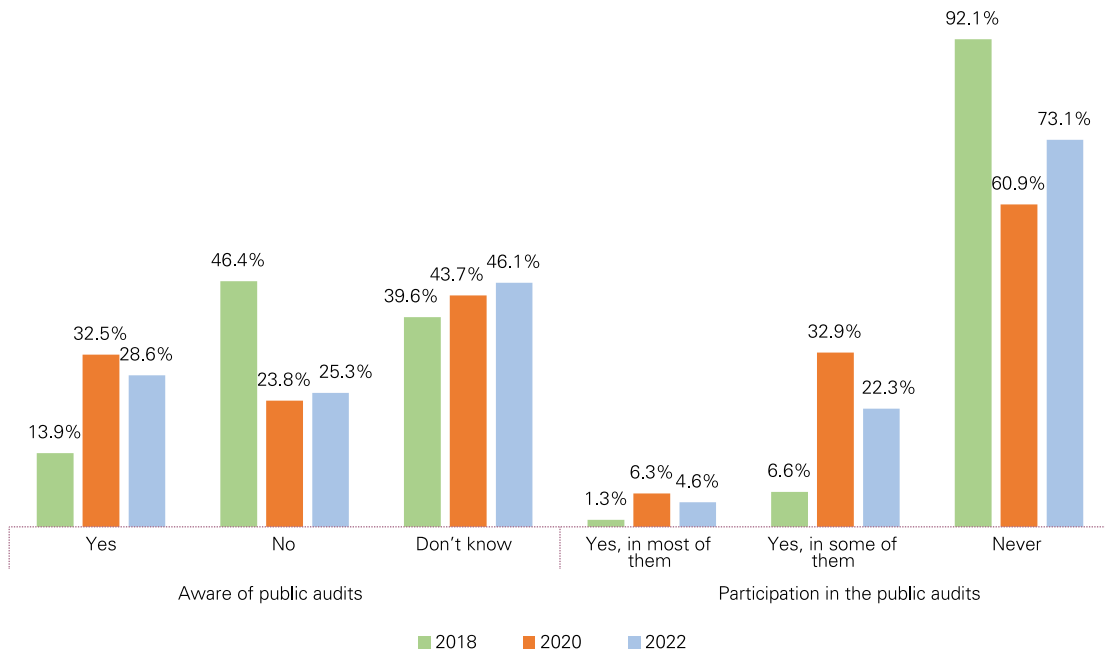


Figure 5.12.5: Q-E21. In last one year have there been any public audit in your rural municipality/ municipality/ward? (N=1,008) and Q-E22. [If "Yes" in Q-E21] Did you participate in any of the public audits of the community development programs that was conducted in your rural municipality/municipality/ward?

Participation in Local Development Plans

When asked if they had participated in preparing local development plans in their ward/municipality in the past year, or while implementing those plans, a large majority (85.7%) said they never participated in such activities. Some 12.6% said they participated in some local planning events while a small share (1.8%) participated in most of them. Compared to 2020, the share of respondents who participated in some of the preparations and implementation processes of local development plans decreased in 2022 (Figure 5.12.6).

Participation in local development plans in the past year, by year

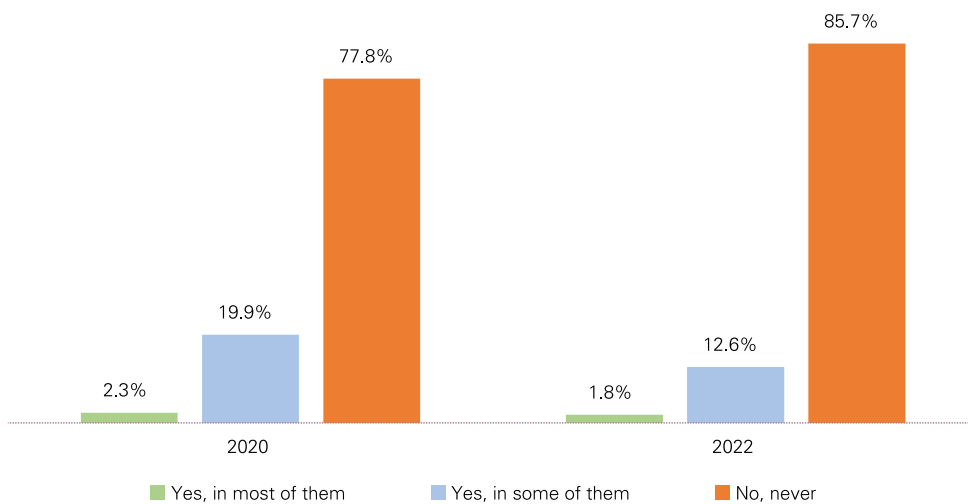


Figure 5.12.6: Q-E23. In the past one year, did you participate in preparing the local development plans of your rural municipality/municipality/ward or while implementing those plans/programs? (N=1,008)

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 are related to roads and other physical infrastructure (81.2%), drinking water related (31.8%), education related (24.7%), health related (14.5%) and agriculture and livestock related (12.2 %). Further, one out of ten respondents have participated in preparing the local development plans of their rural municipality/ municipality/ward or while implementing those plans/programs such as management of community buildings/space (10.9%), electricity related (10.4%), irrigation related (10.1%) and waste management related (10.0%) plans and programs

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.

Majorities thought that the various elected officials 'somewhat care' but only a relatively small percentage thought that elected officials 'strongly care' about the public. People were most likely to think that ward chairpersons (55.8%) and ward members (53.9%) care (either 'somewhat care' or 'strongly care') while levels of trust were lower for mayors (46.9%) and deputy mayors (48.2%). Almost one in five (18.3% each) thought that deputy mayors and mayors do not care at all about the people.

Confidence that elected officials care, by year

	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/ Can't say
Mayor	7.8%	46.9%	24.9%	18.3%	2.0%
Deputy Mayor	6.6%	48.2%	24.8%	18.3%	2.0%
Ward Chairperson	14.0%	55.8%	15.7%	14.0%	0.6%
Ward Members	14.0%	53.9%	17.2%	14.4%	0.4%

Table 5.13.1: QF1i-F1iii. What do you think about the people who are elected to the following government bodies? Do you think they care about local people? (N=1008)

Contact with Elected Local Representative

About one fifth of respondents (19.8%) in Sudurpaschim Province said they contacted their elected officials to discuss personal or community issues. The vast majority (80.2%) never contacted their elected representatives. Over the years, the proportion of people who tried to contact elected representative increased from 13.2% in 2017 to 19.8% in 2022.

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

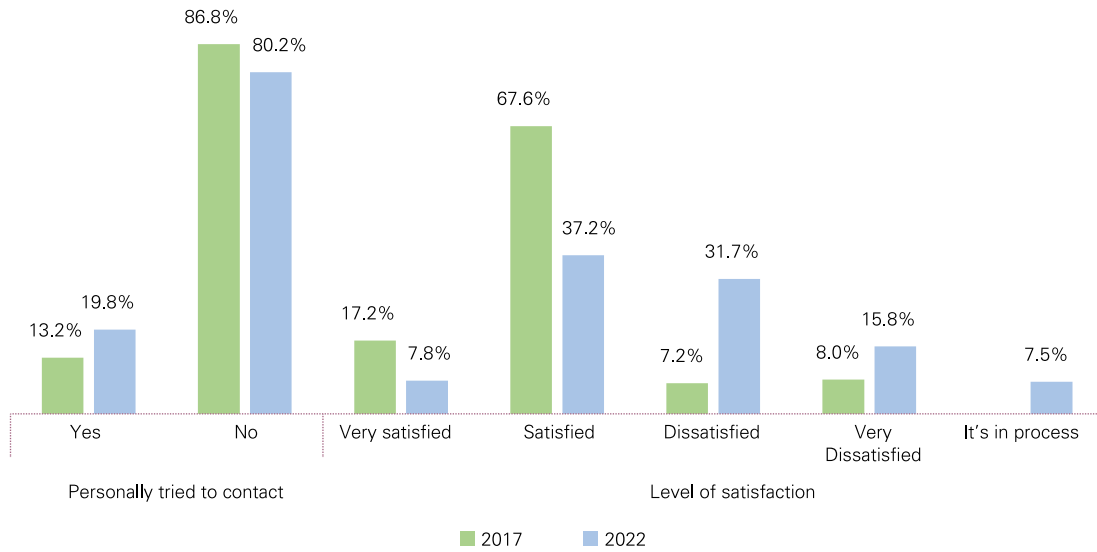


Figure 5.13.1: Q-F8. Have you personally tried to contact one of your elected local representatives for help in solving any of your personal or community problems in the past year? (N=1,008). Q-F9. How satisfied were you with the result of this contact?

The 19.8% of respondents who said they had approached their elected local representatives for help were further asked how satisfied they were with the outcome of this contact. More than one-third (37.2%) were somewhat satisfied and 7.8% were very satisfied. On the other hand, 31.7% were dissatisfied and 15.8% were very dissatisfied.

5.14 VIEWS ON THE RESPONSIVENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In 2022, 66.6% of respondents reported that the local government’s responsiveness remained the same compared to the previous year. Some 30.9% believed that the responsiveness of local government improved—a sharp decline from 65.4% in 2020 and 57.2% in 2018 who said so.

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

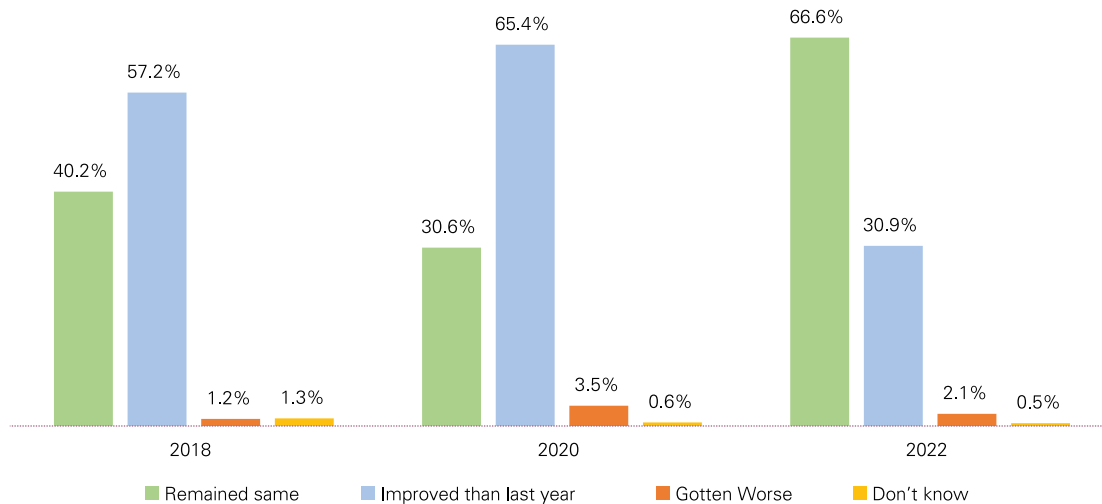


Figure 5.14.1: Q-F1A. To what extent do you think the Local Government has become responsive to the needs of people compared to last year? (N=1,008)

Overall Satisfaction with Services Delivered by the Local Government

In Sudurpaschim Province, about three-fifths of respondents (61.2%) were satisfied with services delivered by their local government, but a sizeable share (38.8%) were not satisfied (up from 18.9% in 2020).

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

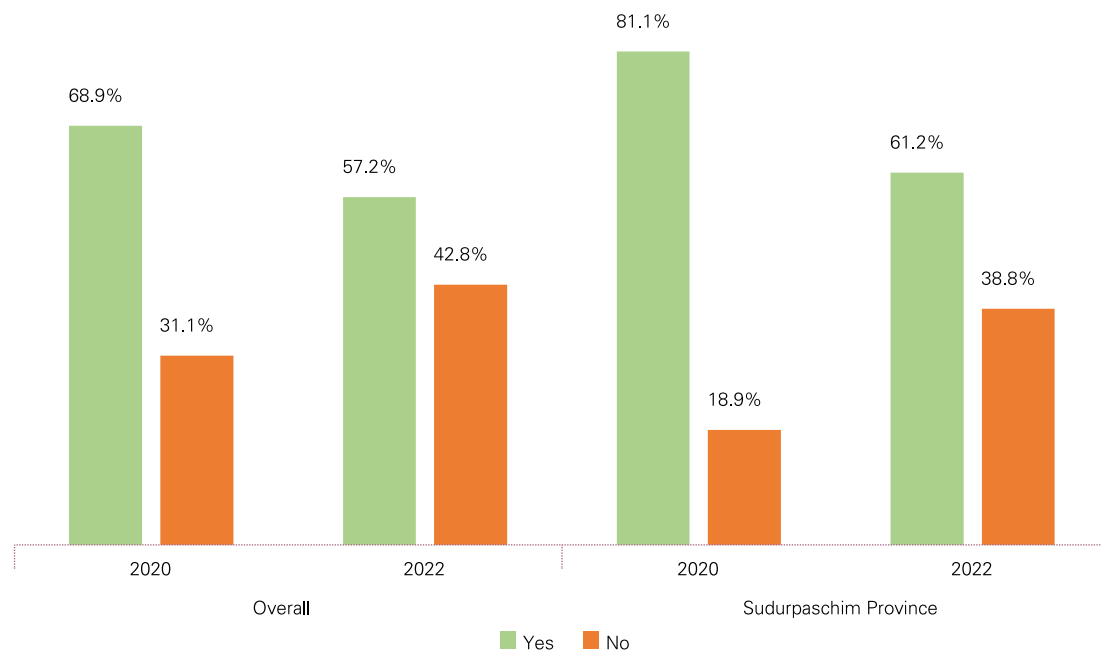


Figure 5.14.2: Q-E13g. Overall, are you satisfied from the services delivered by the local government (rural municipality / urban municipality) of your area? (N=1,008)

People in rural municipalities (57.7%) were slightly less satisfied with the services delivered by local government than the people in urban municipalities (63.6%). People in the Mountain (65.6%) and Hill (64.4%) region were more satisfied than people in the Terai (56.8%). Compared to Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) groups (54.4%), Hill Dalit (58.7%) and Hill Caste (62.9%) communities were more satisfied with the services delivered by their local government.

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

The survey also asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with the services provided by their local government in the education, health, and road sectors. They ranked it on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing "highly dissatisfied," and 10 representing "highly satisfied." The average satisfaction level of people residing in Sudurpaschim Province for these services ranged from 5.7 to 6.6 (Figure 5.14.3). Average levels of satisfaction of people residing in Sudurpaschim Province decreased for education (7.0 in 2020 to 6.4 in 2022), health (7.1 in 2020 to 6.6 in 2022), and road (6.9 in 2020 to 5.7 in 2022) services delivered by local government.

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

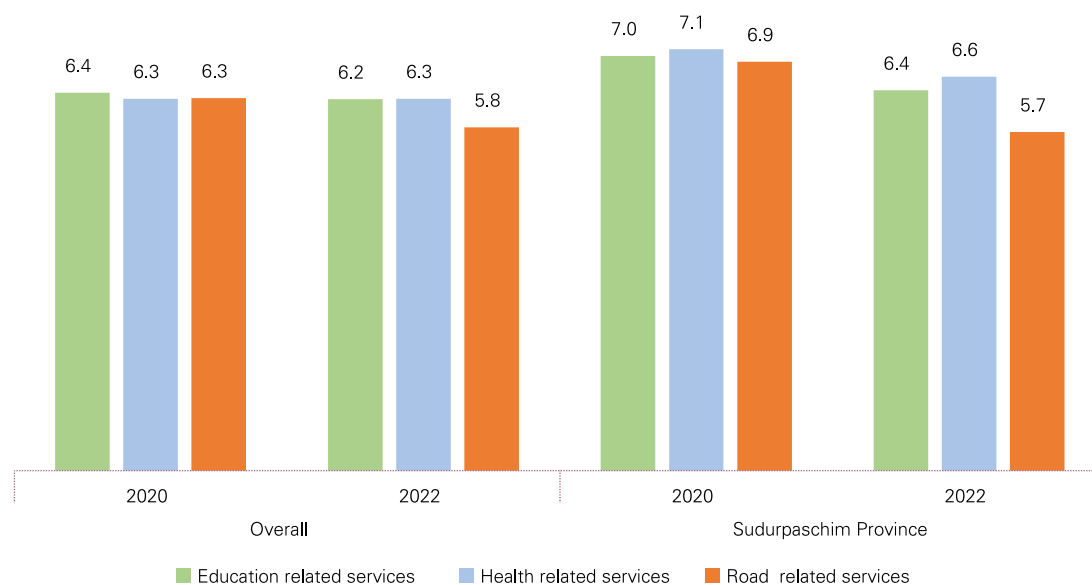


Figure 5.14.3: Q-E10Ha,b,c. How satisfied are you with the education, health and road related services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? [Rate the level of your satisfaction in a scale of 0 to 10; while 0 represent highly dissatisfied, 5 represent neither dissatisfied nor satisfied and 10 represents extremely satisfied] (N=1,008)

5.15 LOCAL ELECTIONS

The survey asked people about their participation in the local elections held on May 13, 2022. It also asked about satisfaction with the results of the election, expectations, whether the elections were free and fair, reasons for voting, and access to polling booths.

Three-fourth (74.1%) of eligible voters in Sudurpaschim Province said they voted in the elections while one-fourth (25.9%) said they did not vote¹³. No remarkable difference was observed for the share of respondents who voted in the local elections of 2017 (75.3%) and in 2022 (74.1%).

The large majority of people (94.9%) considered the elections of 2022 to have been free and fair – as in the 2017 elections (96.4%). Only 2.2% said they thought the elections were not free and fair. The people who thought the elections were not free and fair said this was due to problems or disputes (43.2%) and the use of force, money and bribery (39.7%).

Some 89.6% of respondent were happy or very happy with the result of election 2022. When asked about the impacts of local elections on their lives, 57.6% thought it will improve their quality of life and 36.1% thought it will not have any impact.

The respondents who report that local elections will improve their quality of life gave the following reasons: local leaders addressing the needs of the community (68.0%), improved public service delivery (53.4%), and better accountability of leaders (41.8%) (Figure 5.15.1).

13 According to the Election Commission of Nepal, 64% of registered voters had cast their vote in the local election of 2079. In SNP 2022 more a higher share of people reported voting during the local elections that year.

Reasons for expected improvement in the quality of life

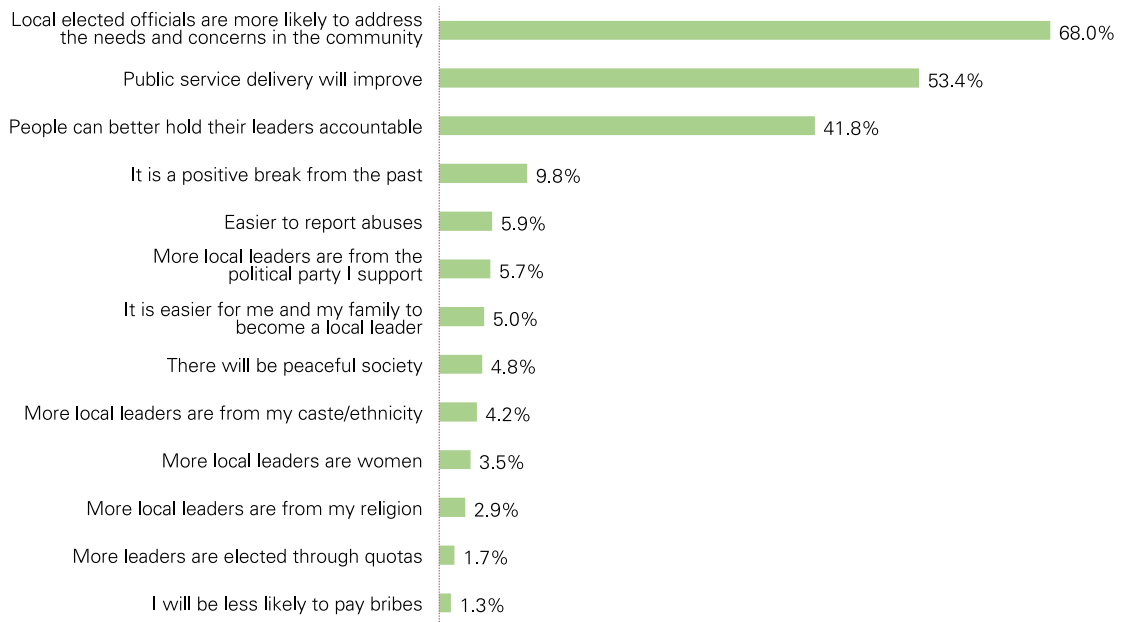


Figure 5.15.1: Q-F6. Why do you think that quality of life will improve?

Basis of Voting

The 74.1% of respondents who had voted in the 2022 local elections were asked on what basis they chose their candidate. More than one-third (36.6%) said they believe the political party/candidate will bring development and provide services in their area. A similar share (35.2%) liked the candidate who stood from the political party. Some 31.7% liked the independent candidate and the principles he/she stood for. One-fifth (21.2%) said they voted for their candidate because his/her political party stands for change, another 21.2% liked the candidate's principles and vision, and 19.5% personally knew the candidate they voted for. Some 12.8% thought the party/candidate is working for people's rights and 11.7% voted based on their friends and family members' guidance.

Basis of Voting, by year

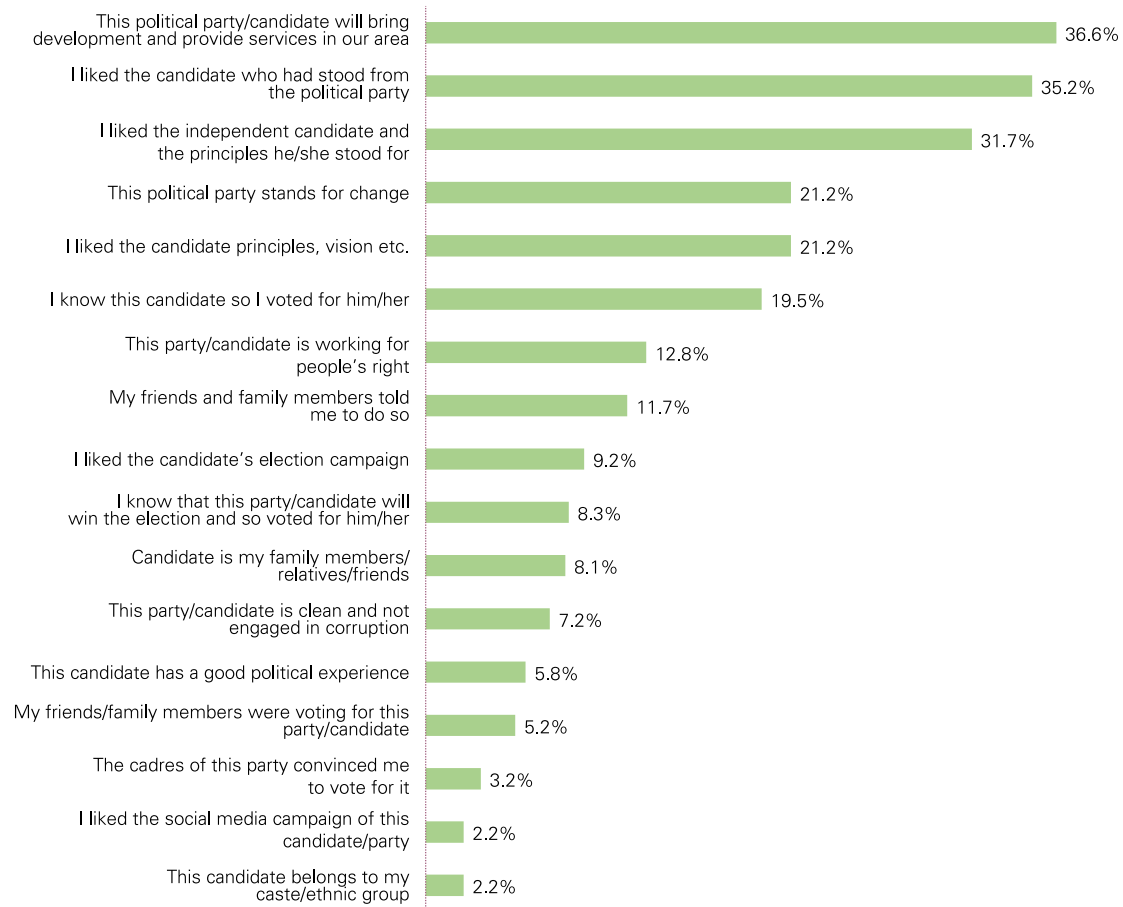


Figure 5.15.2: Q-F71. On what basis did you decide who to vote for?

Ease of Voting

The survey further asked the respondents who voted in the local elections (74.1%) how easy the process was for them in their respective polling booth. The majority (83.7%) of people in Sudurpaschim Province said it was easy for them to cast their vote at their respective polling stations, while 12.9% said it was very easy. However, 3.0% thought it was difficult and 0.4% said it was very difficult.

Reasons why people felt the process was easy were proximity to polling booths (54.8%), separate lines for different category of people (41.4%), helpful security personnel (28.6%), accessible polling booths (24.7%), easily understandable ballot paper (20.5%) and helpful election commission representatives (10.0%).

6. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND OPPORTUNITIES

6.1 PERCEPTION OF LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In 2022, more than one-fifth (22.6%) of Sudurpaschim Province residents reported that economic conditions were improving in their municipality/rural municipality. Nearly three-quarters (74.7%) reported unchanged economic conditions and a marginal share (1.3%) said local economic conditions had worsened.

The share of respondents reporting improving economic conditions had increased gradually, from 14.2% in 2017 to 53.0% in 2020, but decreased significantly to 22.6% in 2022. Yet, the share reporting worsening conditions only marginally increased – instead noticeably more people reported stable conditions (Figure 6.1.1).

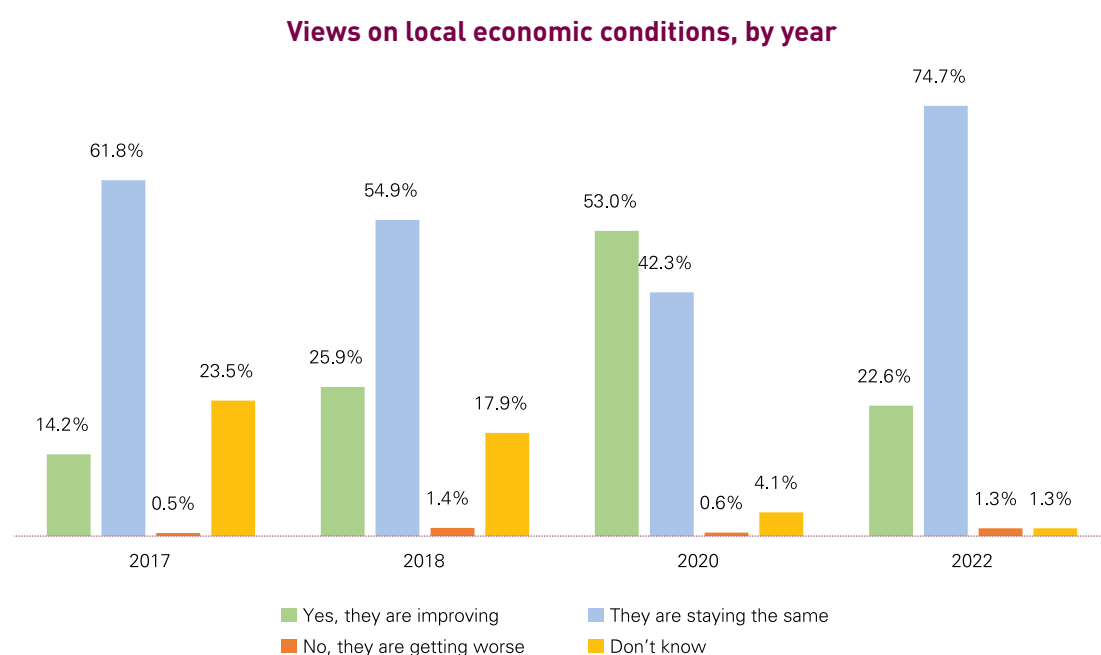


Figure 6.1.1: Q-G1. Do you think economic conditions in your urban municipality/rural municipality are improving? (N=1,008)

People in urban municipalities were more likely to report that economic conditions in their area were improving than people in rural municipalities. The shares reporting unchanged economic conditions was similar in the Mountain (72.0%), Hill (78.0%) and Terai (73.3%) regions.

The 22.6% of respondents who reported that economic conditions in their municipality were getting better were asked to provide reasons for saying so. They said their optimism was due to better infrastructure (75.8%), improved water supply (36.5%), more budget allocated by the federal government for municipalities (16.3%), easy access to work (8.6%), less corruption/bribes (7%) and increasing investment opportunities (5%).

Reasons why local economic conditions are improving, by year

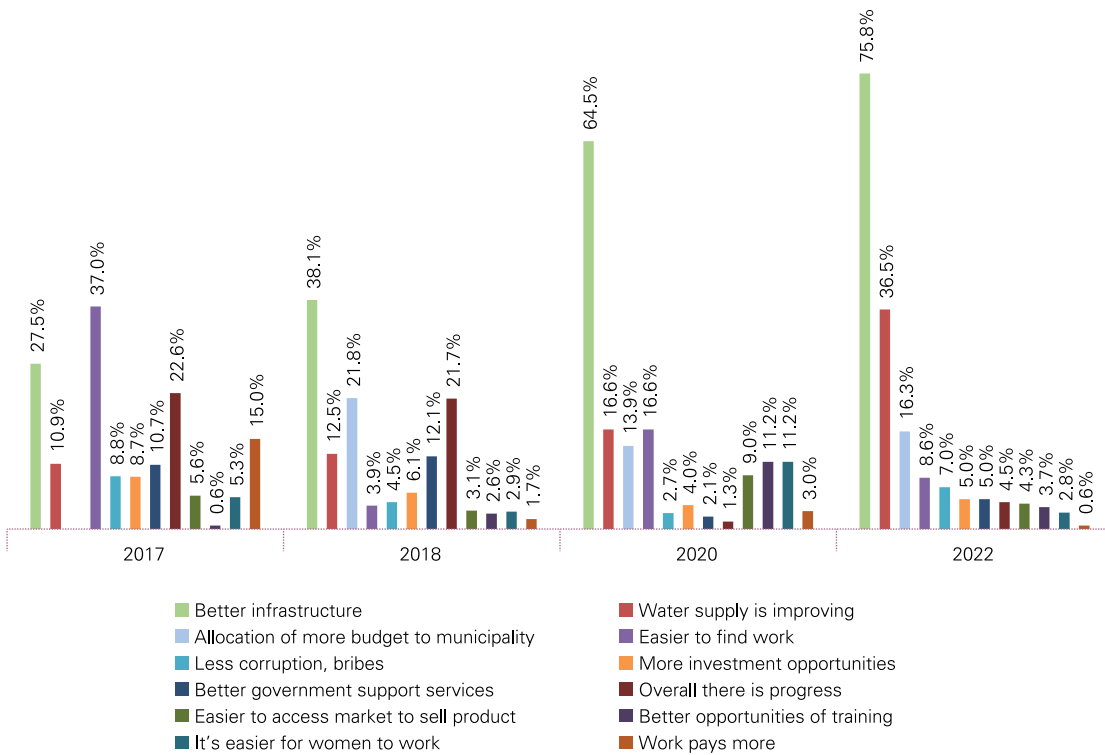


Figure 6.1.2: Q-G2. [If 'Yes, economic conditions are improving' in Q-G1] Why do you think that economic conditions are improving in your municipality /rural municipality?¹⁴

Reasons why people reported worsening economic conditions were corruption (34.3%), deteriorating infrastructure (32%), fewer employment opportunities (20%), harder to find work (19.9%) and worsening government support services (12%). While corruption remained the most commonly cited reason for worsening economic conditions, it decreased significantly from 87.1% in 2020 to 34.3% in 2022.

14 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were limited to give the two major reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, however in 2020 and 2022 respondent were allowed to give multiple responses. To compare responses over the four survey rounds, only the first two responses of respondents in 2020 and 2022 were considered and analyzed.

6.2 HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL INCOME

The survey asked respondents to report their personal and household incomes in brackets.

Less than two-fifths (38.8%) of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province reported that their average household earning is more than NPR 20,000 a month. Some 44.7% report said they had a household income of NPR 10,000-19,999 a month. Fewer people (16.2%) said their monthly household income was less than NPR 10,000 (Figure 6.2.1).

The share with a monthly household income less than NPR 10,000 is decreasing. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents with monthly incomes of NPR 40,000 and more increased.

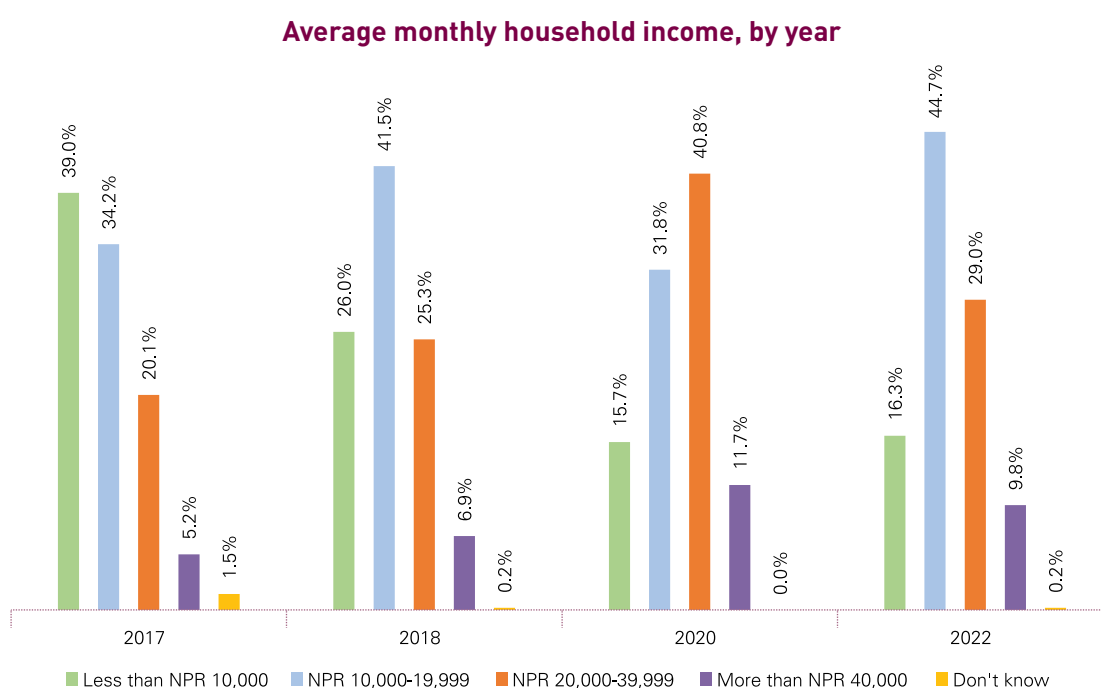


Figure 6.2.1: Q-G4. Approximately how much was your household income per month in the last year? (N=962) ('Refused to Answer' excluded)

In urban municipalities more households (11.0%) reported that their average monthly household income was over NPR 40,000 than in rural municipality (7.9%). The share of respondents with monthly household incomes between NPR 10,000 and NPR 19,999 was the same in rural and urban municipalities (44.9% each). In the Mountain region, people were earning less: 27.3% report said their average household income was under NPR 10,000 a month and 50.4% said it was between NPR 10,000 and NPR 19,999.

Some 7.1% of Hill Dalit respondents had an income of NPR 40,000 or above – a much lower share than Hill Caste (13.1%). Some 54.4% of respondent from Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) group reported having an income of NPR 10,000 to NPR 19,999 a month compared to 41.0% of Hill Caste and 47.8% of Hill Dalit communities.

Change in Household Income over the Last Year

The majority of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province (69.7%) reported that their monthly household income was the same as the year before. One-fifth (19.5%) said their household income increased and 10.6% said it decreased.

The biggest increase in household income compared to the previous year was seen in 2017. In 2022, there was a sharp drop of those reporting increased household income while the share reporting unchanged incomes increased. People with higher education and higher incomes were more likely to report increased household incomes than those with less education and lower incomes.

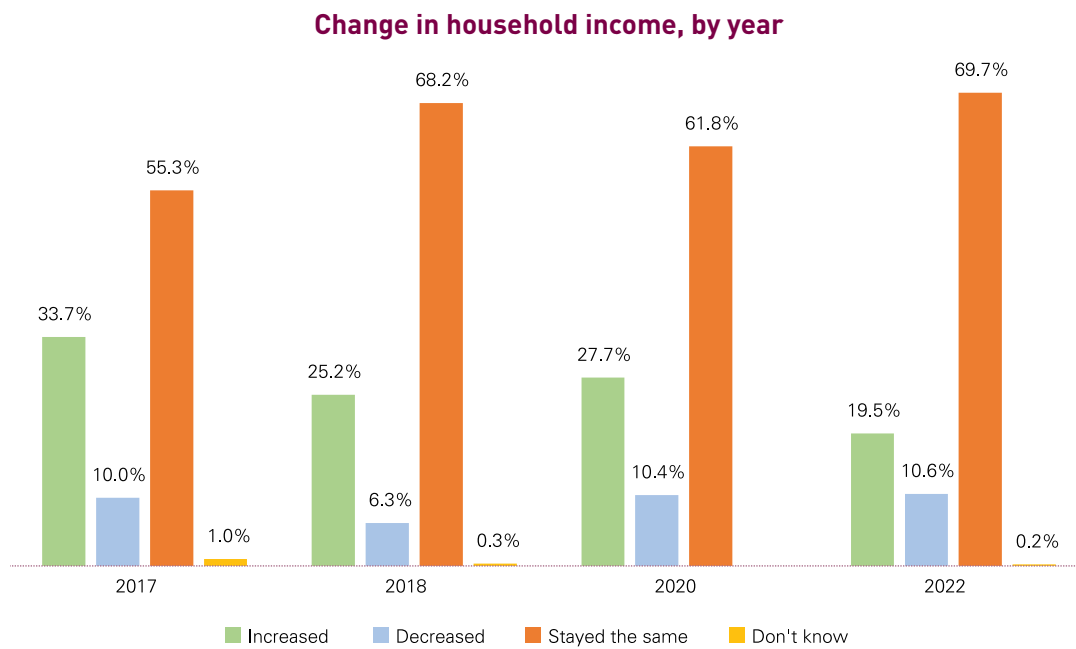


Figure 6.2.2: Q-G5. How has your household income changed in the last year? (N=1,008)

Personal Income

In addition to household incomes, the survey also asked about respondents' personal monthly incomes. Around one third of respondents (35.2%) either refused to answer this question or mentioned no source of monthly income. On closer look, these respondents were mainly students and people engaged in agriculture or household work. Women were twice as likely to refuse to answer as males.

Of those who reported their personal monthly income, 20.2% said they earned NPR 20,000 or more – 13.3 percentage points less than the overall share of respondent included in the national survey in 2022 (33.5%). On the other hand, the share of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province earning less than NPR 10,000 (49.8%) was higher than the national figure (37.0%) and almost twice as high as the share of respondent earning more than NPR 20,000 (20.2%) (Figure 6.2.3).

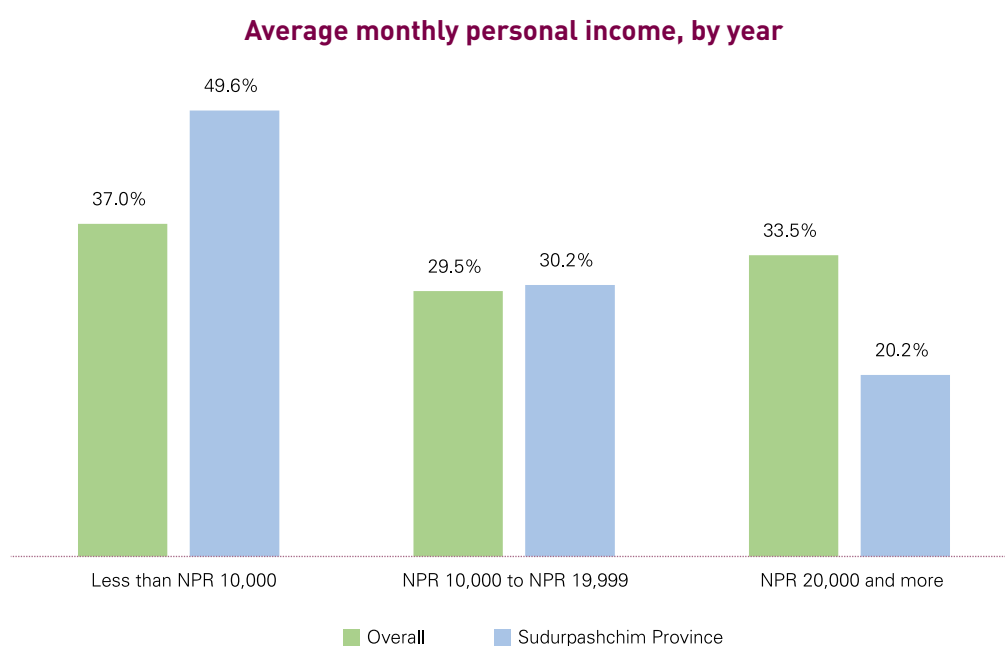


Figure 6.2.3: Q-G6C. What is your present level of personal income that you earn in a year? (N=1,008)

In Sudurpaschim Province no remarkable difference was observed in the level of personal income between people residing in rural and urban municipalities. The share of respondent who earn between NPR 10,000 to 20,000 a month was similar in the Mountains (36.5%) and Terai (32.4%), but less in the Hill region (22.1%). In the Hill region, more people (29.7%) earned NPR 20,000 and more than in the Mountains (17.4%) and Terai (14.3%).

Some 57.4% of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati), 50.0% of Hill Dalit and about half of Hill Caste respondents (45.7%) said they earned less than NPR 10,000 a month. On the other hand, 23.9% of people from Hill Caste respondents reported personal incomes higher than NPR 20,000 a month compared to just 8.6% of Madhesi Adibasi/Janajati and 21.2% of Hill Dalit people. In Sudurpaschim Province, as elsewhere, higher incomes were associated with higher levels of education.

6.3 MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

In 2022, about one third (33.1%) of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province reported having at least one family member working in a foreign country; this is less than in past survey rounds (Figure 6.3.1).

Having a family member working in a foreign country, by year

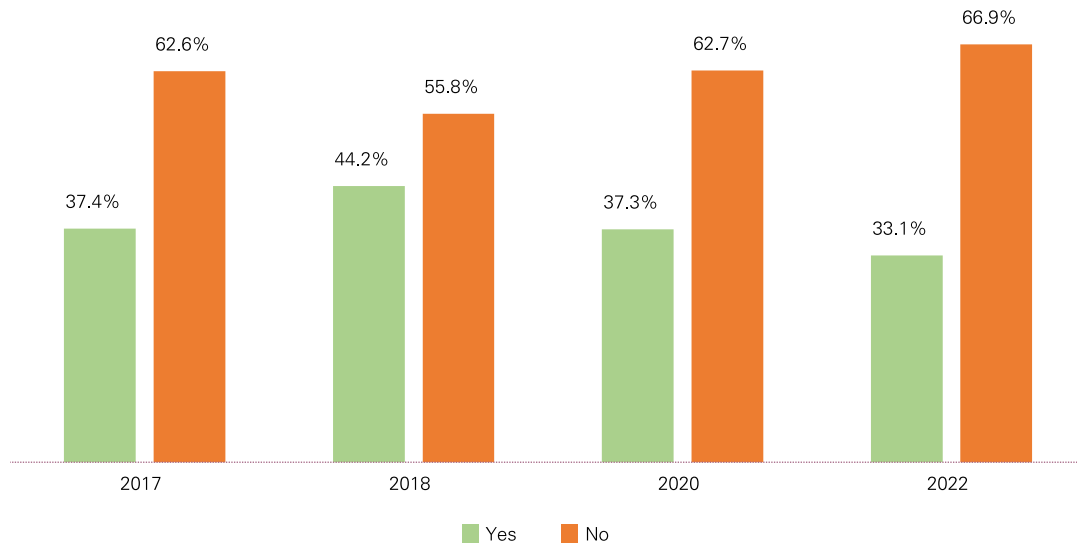


Figure 6.3.1: Q-G12. Is anyone in your family currently in a foreign country for work? (N=1,008)

The 33.1% of the respondents with a family member working abroad were further asked if their family members faced any problems. A majority (92.6%) mentioned they did not face any problems; a small proportion cited physical injuries or illness (3.3%), extreme working conditions (1.8%), differences in the payment than what was agreed upon (1.6%), or different work than what was promised (1.2%).

The survey attempted to understand whether respondents encouraged their family members, friends, relatives, and other people they know to seek foreign employment. In 2022, people in Sudurpaschim Province were less likely to encourage people they know to seek foreign employment than in 2020 (Figure 6.3.2).

Encouragement to seek foreign employment, by year

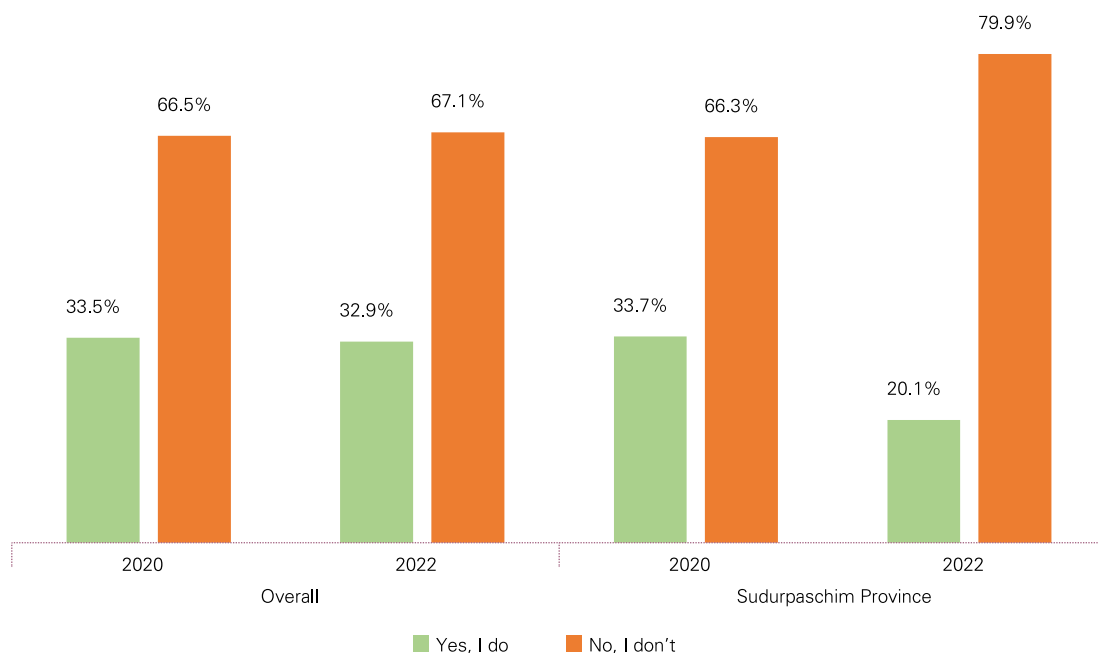


Figure 6.3.2: Q-G12.4. Do you encourage your family members, friends, relatives, and other people you know to go to the foreign employment? (N=1,008)

Remittances

The proportion of respondents receiving remittances from outside Nepal was similar in 2020 (28.5%) and 2022 (27.1%). The share receiving remittances from inside Nepal also remained stable (12.8% in 2020 and 12.1% in 2022). About 3.2% received remittance from both inside and outside the country in 2022, compared to 1.9% in 2020 (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
2020	12.8%	28.5%	1.9%	9.4%	47.4%
2022	12.1%	27.1%	3.2%	10.9%	46.8%

Table 6.3.1: Q-G13. Have you or your family members ever received remittance from inside or outside the country? (N=1,008)¹⁵

Hill Dalit were much more likely than the provincial average to receive remittances from outside the country (38.1%) and less likely to receive remittances from inside the country (2.4%).

Changes in Remittances

The survey asked the 42.4% 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, about one-fifth (16.4%) said that the remittance they received increased – this share is lower than in 2017 (20.2%), 2018 (19.1%) and 2020 (28.2%). Share of respondent to report that the remittance they receive decreased was more or less consistent over the survey years (8.5% in 2017, 8.4% in 2018, 5.5% in 2020, and 8.1% in 2022) (Figure 6.3.2).

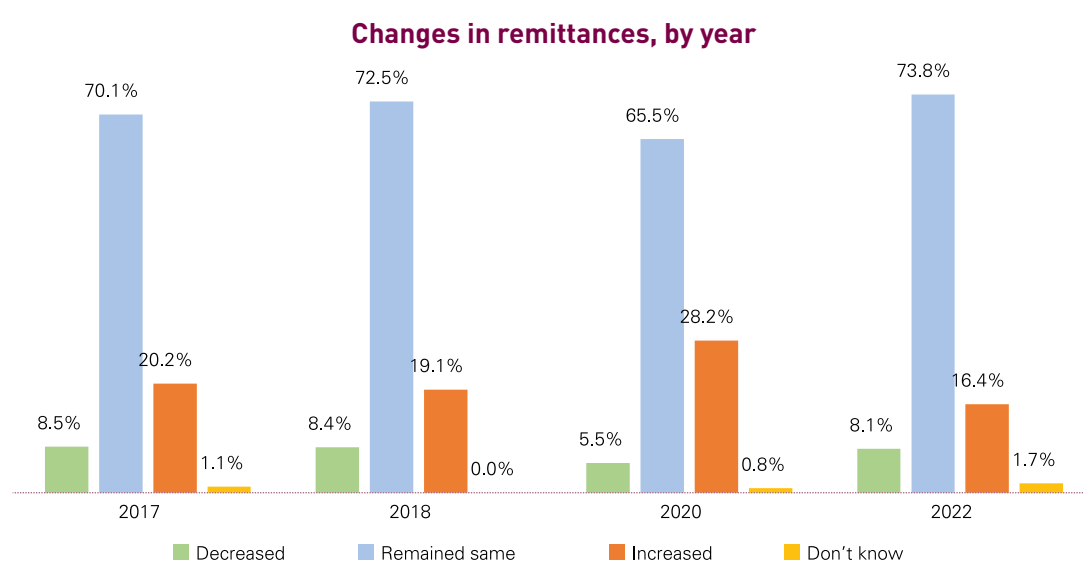


Figure 6.3.2: Q-G14. Compared to the previous year, has the amount of remittance that your household have been receiving increased, remained same or decreased? (N=427)

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

Purpose of Remittances

The survey asked the 42.4% of respondents who reported receiving remittances for the main purpose of the remittance money. Most used it for their daily life expenses (92.4%), healthcare and medical expenses (75.7%), and children's education (67.3%). People also used it to pay off loans (31.6%), build a home (10.9%) or purchase land (8.4%). Between 2020 and 2022, share of respondents who used remittances for household expenses and healthcare increased (Figure 6.3.3).

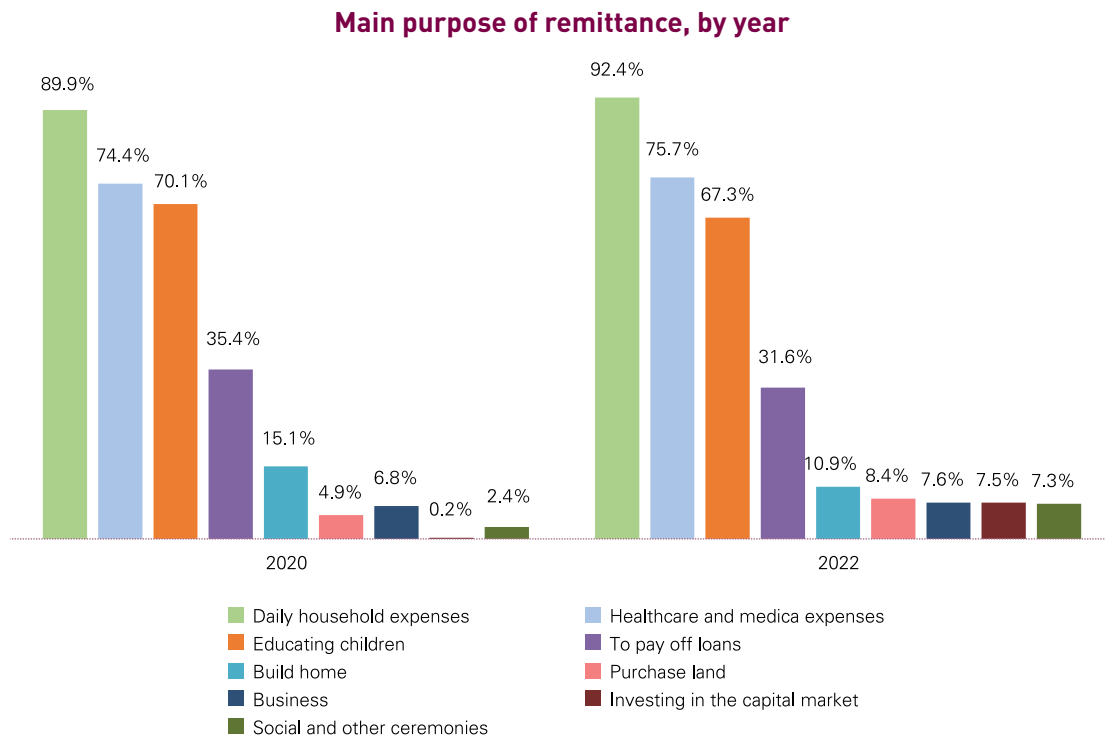


Figure 6.3.3: Q-G14A. Generally for what purpose do you spend the remittance money that you or your family members receive? (N=427)

6.4 AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO INSURANCE

Some 86.0% of all respondents in Sudurpaschim Province said they were aware of insurances in 2022. The survey asked these respondents whether they had heard of different types of insurance read out to them by the enumerators (Table 6.4.1).

People were most likely to have heard of life insurance (89.6%), health insurance (91.7%), and livestock insurance (80.6%), followed by motor vehicle insurance (77.2%), agricultural insurance (75.8%) and personal/accident insurance (72.3%). They were least likely to have heard of travel (43.3%) and property insurance (53.9%).

Awareness and Ownership of various types of insurance, by year

	2018		2020		2022	
	Aware	Own	Aware	Own	Aware	Own
Life Insurance	98.4%	14.7%	96.1%	26.1%	89.6%	21.9%
Personal/Accident Insurance	64.3%	3.7%	85.4%	10.0%	72.3%	9.9%

	2018		2020		2022	
	Aware	Own	Aware	Own	Aware	Own
Auto Insurance	63.6%	12.1%	80.2%	17.1%	77.2%	22.3%
Health Insurance	79.3%	6.2%	92.6%	10.9%	91.7%	16.9%
Agricultural Insurance	48.8%	1.1%	68.5%	1.1%	75.8%	1.3%
Livestock Insurance	65.5%	1.2%	68.5%	4.2%	80.6%	3.2%
Property Insurance	43.9%	0.7%	57.8%	1.4%	53.9%	1.4%
Travel Insurance	48.8%	0.9%	64.5%	5.8%	43.3%	1.0%

Table 6.4.1. Q-G21B.A1-H1. Have you heard of the following insurance? (N=1,008) 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' excluded)

The survey also attempted to know whether respondents took the insurance they were aware of. A higher proportion of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province had taken motor vehicle insurance (22.3%), life insurance (21.9%) and health insurance (16.9%).

Results show an increase in ownership of all eight types of insurance over time, while a considerable increase could be seen for motor vehicle insurance (12.1% in 2018, 22.3% in 2022), health insurance (6.2% in 2018, 16.9% in 2022), and life insurance (14.7% in 2018, 26.1% in 2020, 21.9% 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 were likely to have life insurance compared to respondents who were illiterate.

6.5 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

Around eight out of ten of Nepalis in Sudurpaschim Province reported that both employment opportunities (78%) and income generation opportunities (79.3%) in their locality had not changed compared to the past year. A relatively smaller proportion said that there were more employment opportunities (10.4%) and income generation opportunities (9.6%) compared to the previous year. Some 11.1% of people thought there were fewer job opportunities and 10.6% said there were fewer income generation opportunities in their area than a year ago (Figure 6.5.1).

Over time, the shares reporting increased employment and income generation opportunities decreased while the shares reporting less opportunities, although small, increased over time (Figure 6.5.1).

Employment and income generation opportunities in local area, by year

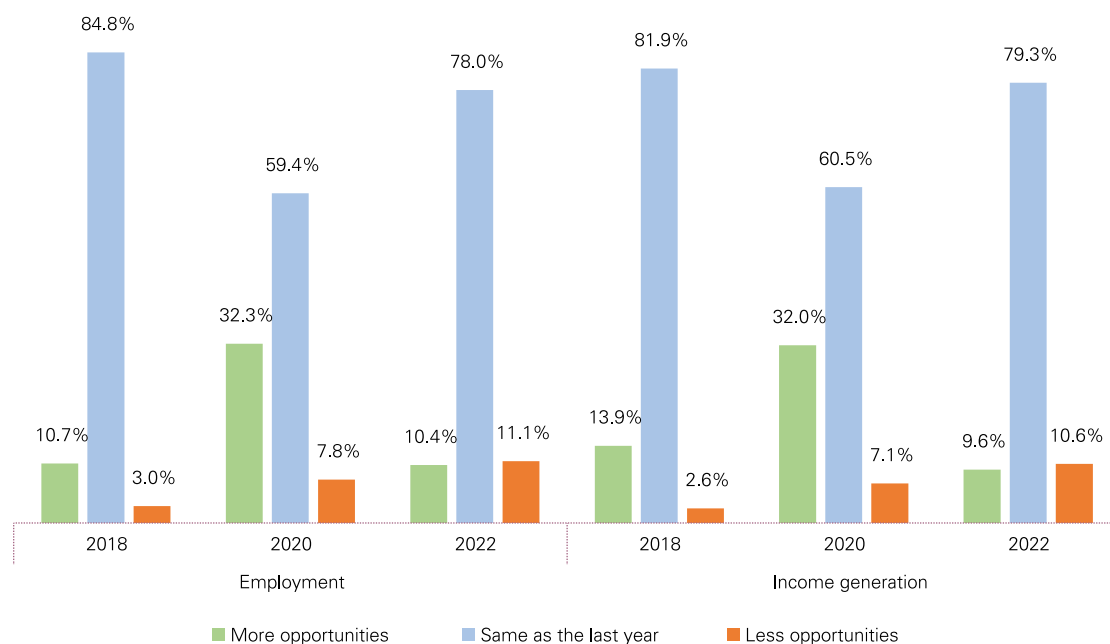


Figure 6.5.1: Q-G23a and Q-G23b. How do you consider the situation of employment opportunity and income generation opportunity in your local areas? (N=1,008)

People residing in the Mountain region (4.0%) were less likely to report decreased availability of employment opportunities in their locality than people residing in the Hills (9.5%) and Terai (15.6%). People in the Terai (6.0%) were less likely to report increased availability of employment opportunities in their locality. More people from the Terai (15.3%) felt that income generating opportunities in their local area had decreased compared to people in the Mountain (4.0%) and Hill (8.3%) regions.

People aged 18–24 (11.3%) were much more optimistic about income generating opportunities in their locality than people aged 50 and above (6.1%). Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (85.1%) were more likely to report no change in the income generating opportunities in their locality than Hill Caste (78.1%) and Hill Dalit (79.4%) respondents.

6.6 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

People of Sudurpaschim Province reported that friends, family, and neighbors were their primary source of information on local governments' plans, initiatives, and budget (73.4%), followed by local community leaders (27.2%), political parties (25.2%), Radio Nepal (21.7%), government officials (18%) and social media (15.9%) (Figure 6.6.1).

The share who got information from local community leaders dropped from 44.1% in 2020 to 27.2% while the shares receiving information from personal contacts (family and friends), political parties, government officials and social media increased.

Source of information for local government activities, by year

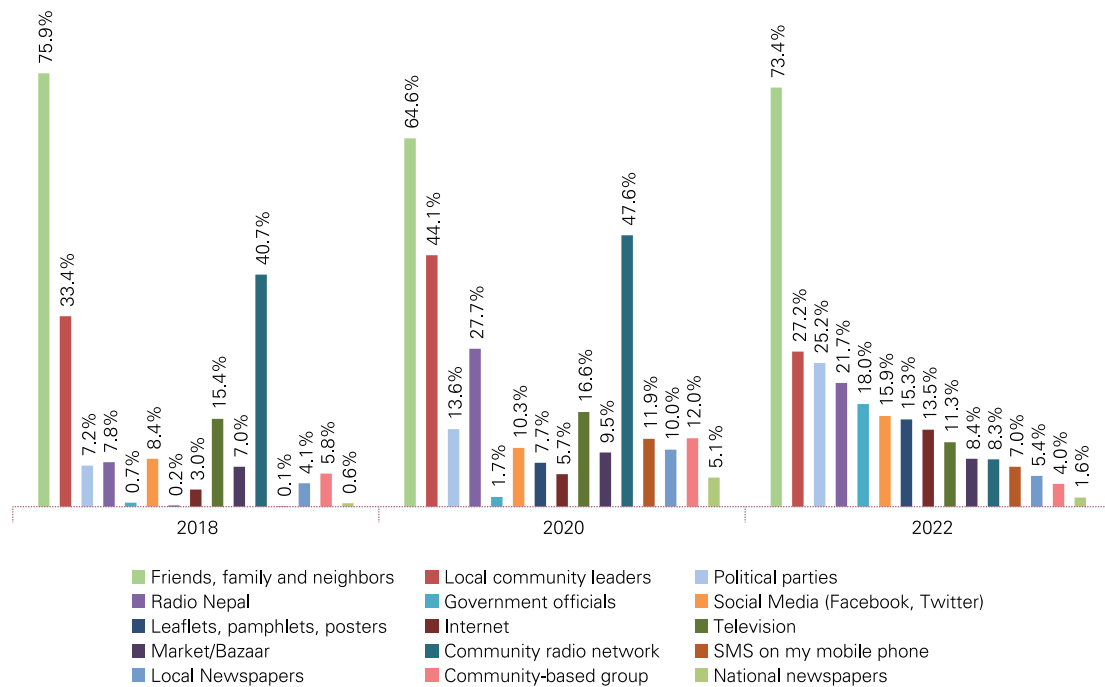


Figure 6.6.1: Q-H5. How do you normally get information about the plans, programs, and budget of local government? (N=1,008)

Respondents with higher levels of education considered social media to be their main source of information, followed by friends, family, and neighbors and television. In contrast, respondents with no education at all, or no formal education were more likely to access information from friends, family, and neighbors and local community leaders and local radio. Younger people were more likely to get information from friends, family, and neighbors, social media and the internet.

Expected Information from the Local Government

Respondents were asked what sort of information, they expected their municipality or their rural municipality to provide on a regular basis. Less than half (45.5%) said they expected employment related information from the local government. People also wanted information on budget and programs (36.2%), education (35.8%), health (35.3%), livelihood (32.1%) and agriculture and trade (30.5%). A similar proportion of respondents said they expected information on plans and projected (29.9%) and notices (28.2%) from their local government (Figure 6.6.2).

Expected information from the local government, by year

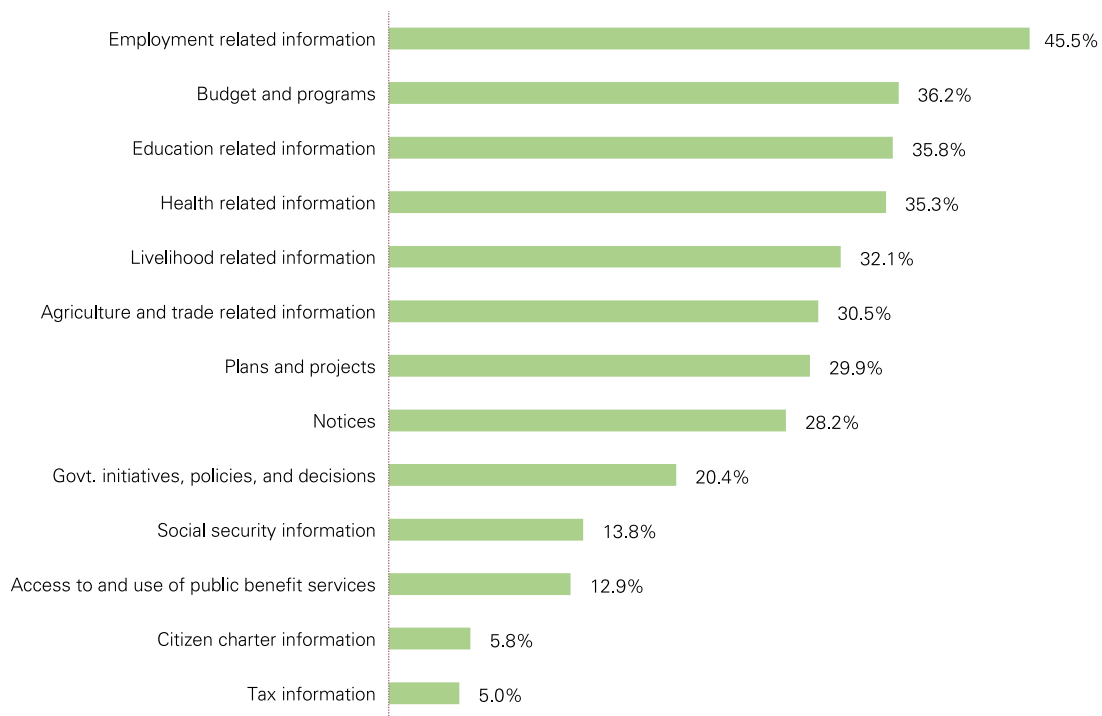


Figure 6.6.2: Q-H6. What kind of data, and information do you expect your municipality, the rural municipality should provide people and make that public, regularly? (N=1,008)

Satisfaction with Access to Information

A majority of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province (56.0%) were dissatisfied with the data and information made available by their local government. A little more than one-third (39.3%) were satisfied and about one fourth 4.6% were unsure.

Only a small minority (13.1%) had made efforts to access information. Those who tried to get information said they wanted information on employment (31.3%), agriculture and trade (30.7%), budget and programs (30.6%), access to and use of public benefit services (electricity, sewage, road, etc.) (25.1%), education (23.9%), health (21.1%) and government plans and projects (21.0%). Most of those who tried to access information did so by talking to the relevant government agency (70.3%). Some took the help of family and friends (40.5%), contacted local political leaders (31.5%) and used the government's website (12.6%) to access information.

7. EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

7.1 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE

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 adequate.

Although most respondents believed that the response from all three levels of government was appropriate, a considerably larger proportion (43.6%) felt that the local level's response was either "sufficient" or "very sufficient." About two-fifths (43.7%) thought the local government's response was appropriate. Fewer people assessed the provincial and federal governments' response positively (Figure 7.1.1).

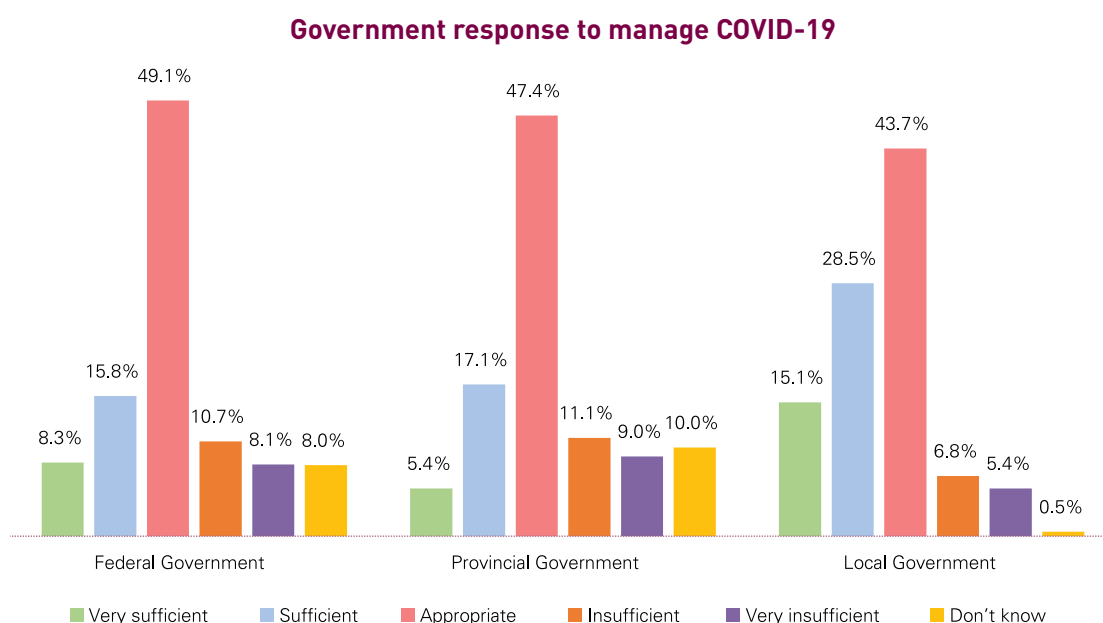


Figure 7.1.1: Q-13. How sufficient was the government's response to manage COVID-19 crisis—very sufficient or sufficient or appropriate or insufficient or very insufficient? (N=1,008)

Rating of Government Response

On a scale of 0 to 10, respondents were asked to rate the measures taken by the government to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19; where 0 represents “not effective at all” and 10 represents “very effective”. Most respondents considered the government’s responses and measures to have been “effective”. The government’s enforcement of the use of masks and social distancing (mean 8.29 points), and their movement and travel restrictions (mean 8.04 points) ranked highest (Table 7.1.1).

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	1,008	1,008	1,008	1,008	1,008	1,008	1,008	1,008
Mean	8.04	8.29	6.99	7.5	7.32	6.9	6.95	7.28

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? (‘Refused to Answer’ excluded)

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 socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Large shares suggested that the government should improve health services (69.9%), expedite the vaccination process (56.6%), and create more employment opportunities (41.3%). Considerable shares mentioned information access to government plans and programs (23.8%), educational support for children (28.1%), government support programs (18.2%), cash schemes to households (17.3%), and distributing relief packages for affected businesses (15.3%) (Figure 7.1.2).

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

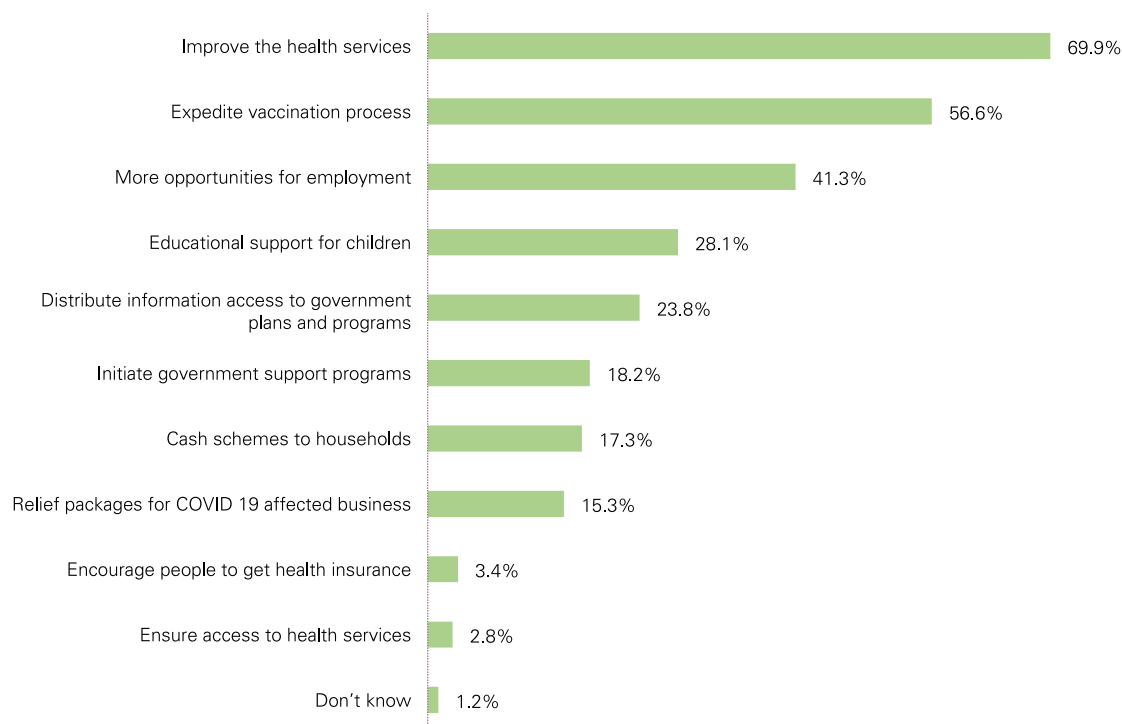


Figure 7.1.2: Q-16. To support socio-economic recovery from COVID-19, what could the government do more to support its citizens? (N=1,008)

Responsive Actors during COVID-19 pandemic

In the 2022, respondents were asked who had been most active during the pandemic within their community. Almost two-thirds (66.9%) of respondents said that their local government had been most responsive. Far fewer people mentioned community volunteers (13%), local leaders (12.3%), public hospitals/health facilities (3.6%), and community-based organizations (2.6%)

Major Problems and Coping Strategies

About two-thirds (67.4%) of respondents in Sudurpaschim Province reported facing one or more problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions; 32.6% said they did not face any problems.

Those who reported facing problems reported that they struggled due to increased food prices (71.3%), difficulties accessing basic services (63.3%), loss of employment or other main source of income (37.9%), decreased income/profits (33.6%), increased non-food necessity prices (28.7%), and serious illness (11.3%). Some 2.4% of respondents reported the death of a household member.

The survey also asked respondents about their coping strategies during the pandemic period. Some 15.1% said they did not do anything to cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Considerable proportions used savings (40.3%), bought food on credit (34.5%), received assistance from relatives/neighbors (31.8%), reduced food consumption (24.3%), acquired loans from money lenders (20.8%) or sold livestock and assets (11.4%) Table 7.3.1).

Coping strategies during COVID-19

Coping strategies	%
Did nothing	15.1%
Used savings	40.3%
Bought food on credit	34.5%
Received assistance from relatives/neighbors	31.8%
Reduced food consumption	24.3%
Acquired loans from money lenders	20.8%
Sold livestock	16.1%
Bought non-food items on credit	11.0%
Reduced non-food consumption	10.2%
Acquired bank loans	8.4%
Acquired loans from Cooperatives	4.2%
Acquired loans from micro-finance	3.3%
Migrated to find work elsewhere	1.4%
Sold assets (land, building, ornaments, furniture, machinery)	1.3%
Adopted new profession/business	0.6%
Received financial assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.)	0.5%
Received in-kind assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.)	0.4%

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=1,008)

