



# STUDY ON THE NEEDS AND PRIORITIES OF ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN THE KVEMO KARTLI REGION



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UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports United Nations Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the United Nations system's work in advancing gender equality.

*The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of UN Women, United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.*

The study was published in the framework of the UN Women Project "Women for Equality, Peace and Development," with the financial support of the Government of Norway. The study was conducted by the Institute for Social Studies and Analysis (ISSA), Tbilisi.

A special thanks to the chairperson of the Institute for Social Studies and Analysis (ISSA), Iago Kachkachishvili, and researcher, Khatia Nadaraia. We would also like to thank the UN Women Georgia Country office team: Tamar Tavartkiladze, Tamar Sabedashvili and Ana Pashalishvili for their supervision and assistance.

This publication has used data from the study on "Social and Economic Conditions and Attitudes of Kvemo Kartli Population" that was conducted by the Institute for Social Studies and Analysis (ISSA) in 2011 with the support of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

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**Photo:** Maka Gogaladze

**Printed** by Ltd "Fountain Georgia"

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ISBN978-9941-0-6490-6

# FOREWORD

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Global experience shows that women and girls belonging to ethnic, racial or religious minorities generally have less access to education, resources, and employment and health services. In addition, men discriminate against them in their own communities, especially when gender stereotypes and entrenched practices impeding female advancement persist. Minority women, who face multiple forms of discrimination, for example limited access to education, paid jobs and health care, are more likely experience violence, including domestic violence.

In 2013 UN Women Georgia, in cooperation with the Institute for Social Studies and Analysis (ISSA), Tbilisi, conducted a study on *The Needs and Priorities of Ethnic Minority Women in the Kvemo Kartli Region*. The study provides an overview of the challenges and barriers preventing ethnic minority women from participating in public life and in decision-making processes. The findings confirm the fact that ethnic minority women around the globe have to confront numerous similar problems. These include lack of knowledge of the majority language, lack of access to basic social and

legal services, and a high school drop-out rate among girls due to the practice of early marriage. They also indicate particularities, such as the lack of pre-school facilities that prevent women from searching for gainful jobs (since they have to take care of their children), or the limited cooperation between women's groups and local government bodies.

The primary goal of the study was to document and analyze the needs and challenges of women from ethnic minority groups, and to provide policy recommendations to relevant institutions and decision-makers responsible for advancing the rights of ethnic minorities, promoting tolerance and equal opportunities. We also hope that the findings will become a useful source for evidence-based advocacy for civil society actors working on minority rights and gender-equality issues in Georgia. Finally, the study's findings will inform demand driven technical assistance provided by UN Women to its partners in Georgia.

**Erika Kvapilova**

UN Women Representative in Georgia

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The aim of the survey was to reveal the needs and priorities (social, economic, legal and political) of ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli region. The study also contains an analysis of the availability of a variety of social and legal services to ethnic minority women; the identification of the barriers preventing ethnic minority women from participating in public life and decision-making; an assessment of the influence of the current housework division model and of attitudes towards notions of gender equality and gender equality-related policies.

The study involves **both quantitative** and **qualitative** components. Qualitative research was conducted using the focus group method (group discussions). The qualitative research had an auxiliary function to the quantitative research: its purpose was to identify empirical indicators for quantitative research.

Quantitative sociological research was carried out using a survey, namely, the **face-to-face interview method**. A questionnaire was used for research. Women (18 years and above) living in the Kvemo Kartli region in Bolnisi, Dmanisi, Gardabani, Marneuli, Rustavi, Tetritskaro and Tsalka cities were interviewed. The sample size totals 500 respondents. The sampling design was multistage stratified (cluster) sampling, a model ensuring that geographic and demographic characteristics are included.

The survey was conducted in September 2013.

The survey was conducted with the financial support of UN women, in the frameworks of the project “Women for Equality, Peace and Development” (WEPD).

The main findings of the research are as follows:

## Socio-demographic profile

- The percentage of illiterate women among ethnic minorities is 7%; 33% have incomplete secondary education; 45% - completed secondary education; 10% - have secondary vocational education; 1.4% are students in a higher education institutions; and 5% have completed their higher education.
- Lack of knowledge of the Georgian language, including the inability to communicate in that language, represents an important problem for ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region. A total of 63.4% of women cannot read, write or understand Georgian. The percentage of Azeri women who do not know Georgian is higher compared to Armenian women (65% among Azeri women do not speak Georgian compared to 59% for Armenians). The number of women who knows the Georgian language is higher among urban residents than among rural residents. Knowledge of Georgian also varies by districts, the lowest degree of knowledge occurring in Marneuli and Bolnisi districts.
- The main source of information is television (91%). The share of other principal sources of information is insignificant (neighbours and friends - 4.5%, family members - 1.8%, Internet 1.7%, etc.). Most women (54%) stated that they mainly watch Azeri-language TV programmes. Georgian language television is mainly watched by 6% of women.
- The employment situation among ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli region is described based on the women’s subjective evaluation rather than on objective criteria. According to the data collected, only 14% of women consider themselves to be employed.
- The average monthly income of ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region, according to their own assessment, is reported to be GEL 290.

The average monthly income of 5% of families is under GEL 100. The average monthly income of 40% of such women is between GEL 100-200. The majority of women (59%) have no personal monthly income, 37% report that home-grown agricultural products are the main source of income for their families, and another 30% report their pensions as their main stay. The main part of a family's income is spent on food and taxes. Most of the income of the urban population is spent on taxes (41%), while in rural areas it is spent on medicines (49%).

## Attitudes to gender equality

- Gender stereotypes largely prevail among ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region. The majority of women (74%) agree with the statement that asserts that having a family and children is of primary importance for a woman, whereas career and making money are of prime importance for men. The persistence of gender stereotypes among ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli region is also revealed in their following belief: 47% of women think that divorce is unacceptable whatever the circumstance, even if a husband abuses his wife. On the other hand, only 18% agree with the statement that it is better to employ men than women because men do a better quality job. It would seem that the women's attitude to gender equality is determined by their environment. As for women's self-esteem, one cannot describe it as low.
- Early marriages are a common practice among ethnic minority women: 32% of married women state that they got married before reaching 18 years. Five per cent of marriages occur between the ages of 13-14, while 16% of respondents married at 15-16 years.
- The main breadwinners are men: 43% of women stated that the sole breadwinner in their family is their husband. Only 6% of women interviewed said they were breadwinners for their family. The majority of ethnic minority women (72%) are economically dependent on their husbands. Twelve per cent of women stated that they were partially or totally independent on their husband.
- It is clear that men do not participate very much in housework. Their main responsibility is to financially support their family and to make financial decisions on their behalf.

## Domestic violence

- Three per cent of women admitted having a conflict with their husbands almost weekly. Six per cent admitted to such conflicts several times a month.
- Fifty-one per cent of women reported not experiencing any kind of physical domestic violence over the past year.
- Despite the sensitivity of the issue, interviewees disclosed different violent practices used against them:
  - Shouting is the most common form of domestic violence with 62% of respondents stating that their husbands had shouted at them at least once in the last 12 months (3% of respondents refused to answer).
  - Verbal assault is a more or less common practice with 27% of women stating that they experienced verbal assaults from their husband at least once in the last 12 months (5% of respondents refused to answer).
  - Ten per cent stated expressly that their husbands had pushed them at least once during the last 12 months (6% of respondents refused to answer).
  - Six per cent of women stated that during the last 12 months their husband had hit them, throwing something at them and acted in the way to cause physical pain (5% of respondents refused to answer).
  - Three per cent of women said that they had been threatened with a firearm or a knife at least once in the last 12 months (4% of respondents refused to answer).
  - Another 1.4% said their husbands had locked them in a room or closed space (4% of respondents refused to answer).
  - Six per cent admitted having their husbands had humiliated them in public.
  - Twenty per cent said their husband had not allowed them to buy an item they wanted.



## Accessibility, awareness of and involvement in different institutions and services/ programmes

- Preschool education: Kindergarten is inaccessible for 80% of women whose children need access to preschool education. As many as 83% of women stated that their settlement had no kindergarten, whereas 9% stated that the kindergarten was far away and they could not afford for the transport. School education: 99% of women with school-age children stated that a school education was accessible for their children. One per cent of women with children for whom a school education is inaccessible said their inability to buy shoes, clothes or the necessary school items as the main reason for not going to school. Higher education: The vast majority of respondents (89%) noted that neither they nor their family members had studied/are studying at an higher education institution, the main reason being lack of motivation (49% of respondents), or lack of time (14% of respondents).
- The majority of ethnic minority women (69%) have not heard about the Georgian Government's initiative to provide ethnic minorities with the right to enroll in a higher education institution under preferential conditions. However, on the positive side, 8% of respondents have used/are using this government programmes.
- The female respondents were not very well informed about the educational programmes in Georgia. However, they were aware of the programmes providing public school students with free manuals (49%); 11% knew about the state programmes for improving the teaching of ethnic minority languages in public schools.
- Fourteen per cent of respondents said that their children used the intensive English language programmes (summer school), as well as the programmes supporting gifted young people and children. Ethnic minority women do not use the government programmes, entitled "Professional education for employment." The respondents do not use the educational programmes, largely due to lack of knowledge, or late receipt of information.
- Educational and cultural institutions (libraries, theatres, cinemas, educational centers for adults, art circles, etc.) are inaccessible for most ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli (from 56% to 72%); the main reason is the absence of educational or cultural institutions at their place of residence.
- The majority of women (69%) had health problems in the last 12 months: 38% suffered from a chronic disease requiring prolonged/regular systematic treatment and 31% suffered from minor health problems.
- The great majority of respondents have not heard about government health programmes. Compared to the other programmes, respondents said they were better informed about the Programmes for Emergency Assistance and Medical Treatment (37% of respondents said they had heard about the programmes). A total of 20-21% of respondents were aware of several programmes, including the Drug Abuse Programmes, the Village Doctor Programmes, and the Programmes for the Medical Examination of Conscripts.
- Out of the agricultural programmes implemented by the Georgian Government, respondents are more aware of the Spring Agricultural Works Support Programmes for Small Farmers and the Preferential Agro-Credit Programmes. In particular, the majority of respondents (53.1%) were aware of the Spring Agricultural Works Support Programmes with 75.6% involved in the programme and 75.5% aware of the Preferential Agro-Credit Programme. Of this percentage only 23.4% are users of the programme in question.
- A total of 73.7% of respondents are aware of the government programme providing assistance to vulnerable families. One-fifth of respondent families had applied for social assistance, and 26% were going to apply. The total number of respondents currently receiving cash assistance is 5.6% and the percentage total number of respondents currently receiving medical insurance for the vulnerable is 0.9%. This means that approximately 6.5% of respondents are socially-vulnerable persons.
- A total of 77.6% of respondents had no information on the activities and responsibilities of local government and self-government bodies. The level of awareness was found to be lower in rural areas compared to urban ones (81.4% vs. 66.4%).

## Important problems for the population

- The survey revealed which issues were problematic for the population of Kvemo Kartli. Employment was the prime concern (93.6%). Respondents also cited the lack of entertainment, such as cinemas or theatres (84.5%), the absence of educational institutions, such as libraries and museums (81.8%), and functioning sewerage system (75.3%), the absence, or unsatisfactory teaching at preschools, like kindergartens and nurseries (66.1%), rehabilitation of roads (57.8%), the need for outdoor lighting (56.8%) and waste disposal (54.9%).
- Relatively more frequent problems include refusals to grant social assistance (7%), incorrectly charged utility bills (6.9%), illegal termination or non-payment of social assistance (5.6%), theft of domestic animals (4.1%), cheating consumers in shops/selling of low quality goods (3.3%), refusal to provide medical services/provision of low quality services/making mistakes whilst providing medical services (2.3%), stealing things in the yard, street, etc., (2.1%).
- The population of Kvemo Kartli rarely approaches the police or the courts to resolve legal problems. For example, the police have been approached by only 3.6% of respondents and the court by 2.3% of them.
- Respondents said that distrust stopped them from approaching the police because (43.6%), or else they thought different disputes/problems should be resolved without police involvement (38.3%). They do not use the courts because of lack of knowledge of legal procedures (60.7%), or due to financial difficulties (19.1%).
- A total of 91.5% of respondents had no knowledge of the free legal service available within the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance, which in fact has not been used by 97.6% of respondents.

# 1. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The aim of the survey was to reveal the needs and priorities of ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region.

## Key objectives of the research:

- Revealing the social, economic and political needs women from ethnic minorities.
- Revealing the accessibility of social, economic and legal services for ethnic minority women.
- Identifying the barriers preventing ethnic minority women from participating in public life and decision-making.
- Assessing the influence of the current housework division model on ethnic minority women.
- Revealing ethnic minority women's attitudes and dispositions towards gender equality ideas and gender equality support policies.

The study involves quantitative and qualitative components.

## 1.1 Quantitative research methods

**Sample:** Women living in the Kvemo Kartli region (18 years and above)

**Type of research:** Quantitative research

**Research method:** Face to face interview

**Research instrument:** Questionnaire

**Sample size:** 500 respondents

**Table no. 1:**  
Sample distribution

Administrative units	Number of interviews
Rustavi	24
Bolnisi	100
Gardabani	100
Dmanisi	35
Marneuli	195
Tetritskaro	12
Tsalka	34
Total	500

**Sample base:** Georgia's voting lists for 2012.

**Sampling design:** Multistage stratified (cluster) sampling. This model ensures the representation of geographic and demographic characteristics in the research.

At the initial stage of the research a detailed sampling plan was designed in which the respondents were divided by districts, cities and villages. During the fieldwork respondents in families were selected on the basis of their last birthday. This kind of sampling design ensures a maximum level of randomness thereby ensuring representative data.

**Questionnaire:** The research questionnaire was developed parallel to the development of the sample design, and contained different types of structured, semi- structured and open questions.

**Data processing and analysis:** At the initial stage the questionnaires completed during the fieldwork were coded and formalized. This was followed by data capture. After data cleansing, the data were processed using the SPSS programme. For the purpose of data processing and analysis the following bivariate and univariate analysis methods were used: univariate frequency distribution, central tendency characteristics and correlational analysis.

## 1.2 Qualitative research methods

Qualitative research was conducted using the **focus group** method (group discussions).

**The aim of focus groups:** The purpose of qualitative research was to identify empirical indicators for quantitative research.

**Instrument:** Semi-structured questionnaire (guide-line).

Three group discussions (focus groups) were held within the framework of the qualitative component of the given research. These took place in Marneuli and Tsalka. Target groups for focus groups were composed of Azeri and Armenian women, as well as NGO representatives operating in the Kvemo Kartli

region. The selection of focus group members was carried out using the snowball method. Socio-demographic criteria were identified prior to the selection of focus group members. The “community mapping” technique was used to guide the discussion.

The group discussions lasted 90 minutes on average. All the focus group meetings were video recorded. The research questionnaire was amended on the basis of the detailed decoding of the initial data (transcripts).



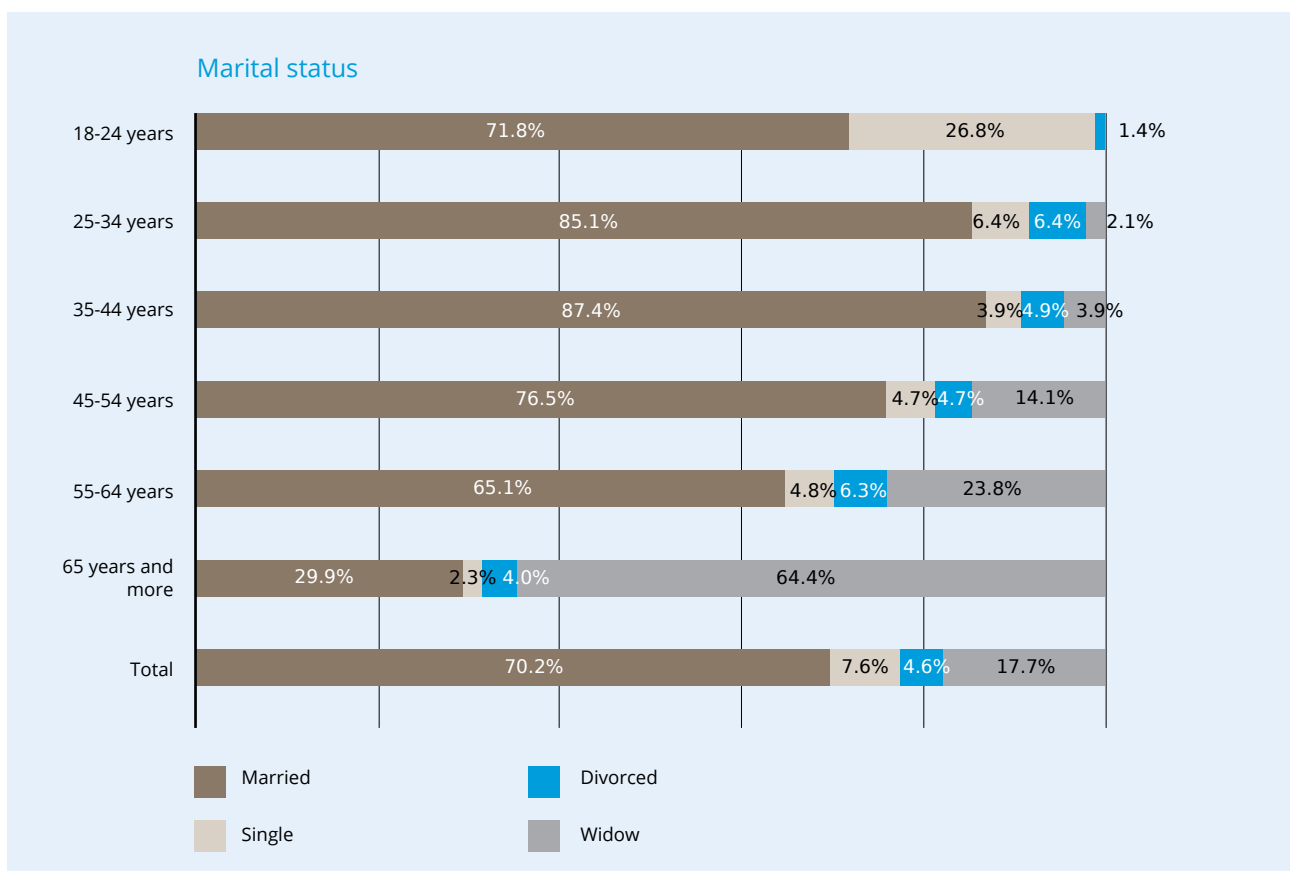
## 2. SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN IN THE KVEMO KARTLI REGION

The age distribution of female respondents was as follows: 14.2% of respondents were 18-24 years old, 18.9% - 25-34 years old, 20.3% - 35-44 years old, 16.7% - 45-54 years old, 12.6% - 55-64 years old and 17.2% were 65 years old and above.

Eighty-six percent of female respondents were ethnic Azeris, 12% were ethnic Armenians, 2.3% were

ethnic Russians. In terms of religion 86% were Muslim, 13% - Gregorian, and 1.3% - Orthodox Christian. About two-thirds of ethnic minority women are married (71%). The marital status of women from different age groups shows the prevalence of early marriages, a trend reflected by the fact that 72% of young women 18-24 are married (see Diagram no. 1).

**Diagram no. 1:**  
Women's marital status by age groups

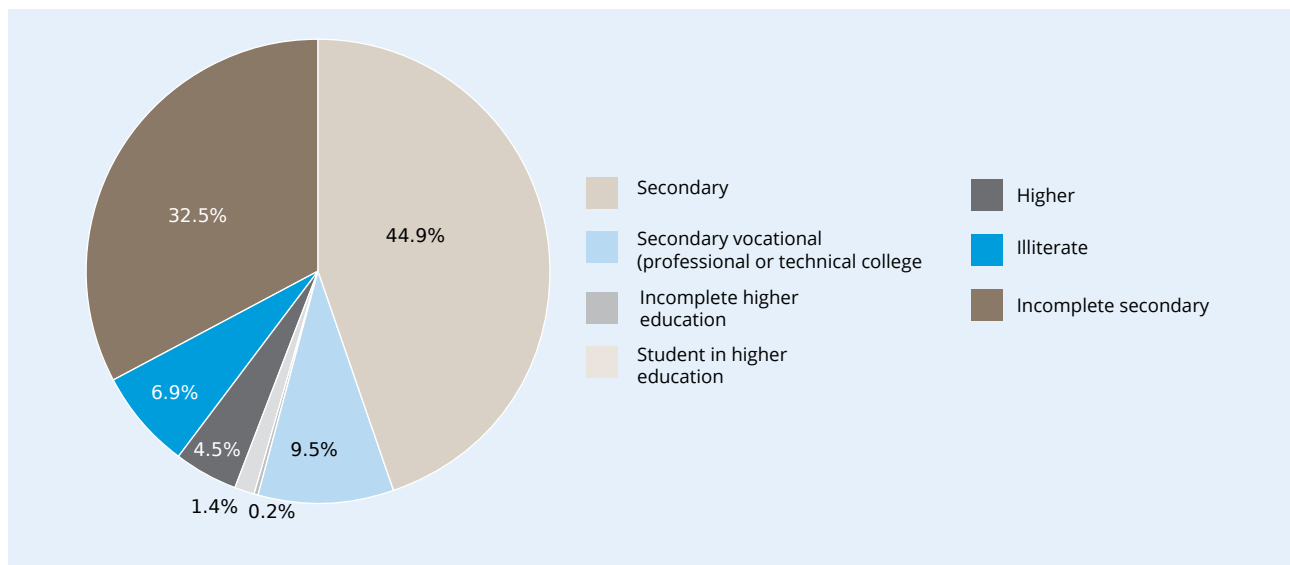


## 2.1 Education and Employment. Extent of knowledge of Georgian language

### 2.1.1 Education level achieved

Ethnic minority women have mainly finished secondary school (45%.) Only 5% have graduated from a higher educational institution. Seven per cent of women are illiterate women, 33% did not complete their secondary education, 10% completed their secondary vocational education and 1.4% students are in higher education (see Diagram no. 2).

**Diagram no. 2:**  
Education level achieved



Education level achieved correlates with the respondents' age (see Table 2):

**Table no. 2:**  
Relationship between education level and age groups

Age groups	Illiterate	Incomplete secondary	Secondary	Secondary vocational (professional or technical college)	Incomplete higher / higher
18-24	-	14,7%	16,4%	10,4%	20,0%
25-34	11,4%	22,7%	17,8%	14,6%	20,0%
35-44	2,9%	12,3%	28,0%	22,9%	23,3%
45-54	14,3%	13,5%	18,2%	22,9%	13,3%
55-64	25,7%	8,0%	12,9%	22,9%	6,7%
65 and above	45,7%	28,8%	6,7%	6,3%	16,7%
Total	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

## 2.1.2 Knowledge of Georgian

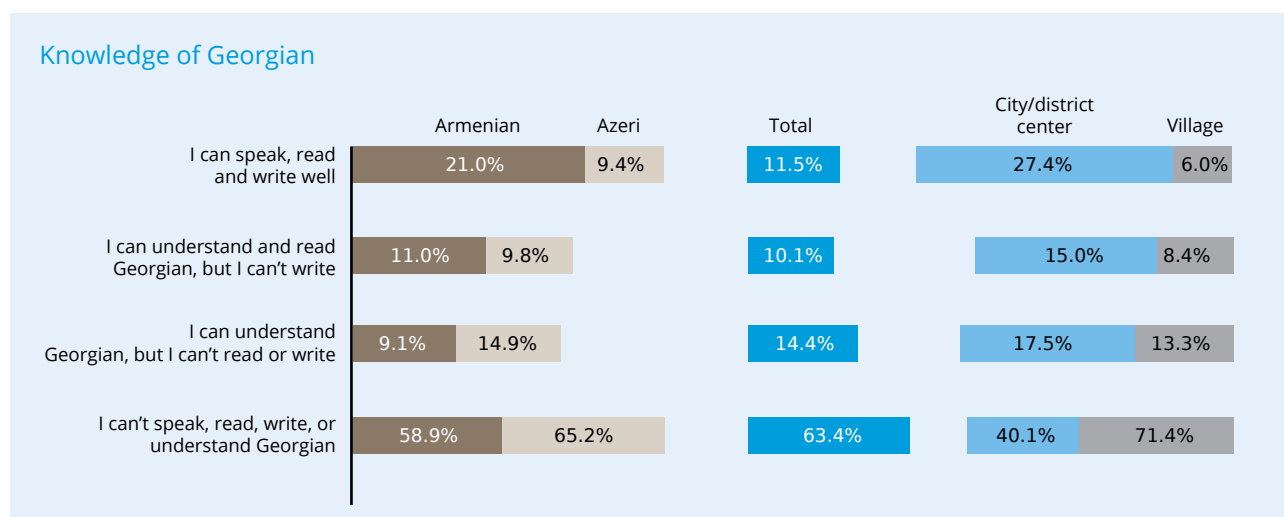
Lack of knowledge of Georgian language among ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region is a serious problem: 63.4% of women cannot read, write or understand Georgian. The survey results show that knowledge of Georgian is related to the following two variables:

- Ethnic affiliation – the level of knowledge of Georgian language among Azeri women is lower than among Armenian women.

- Place of residence – Women in rural areas have a poorer knowledge of Georgian than their urban counterparts.

The percentage of Azeri women who do not know Georgian is higher than among Armenian women (65% versus 59%). The level of knowledge also varies according to the type of settlement. The number of women who know Georgian is higher among urban residents than among those in rural areas (see Diagram no. 3).

**Diagram no. 3:**  
Knowledge of Georgian by settlement type and ethnic identity



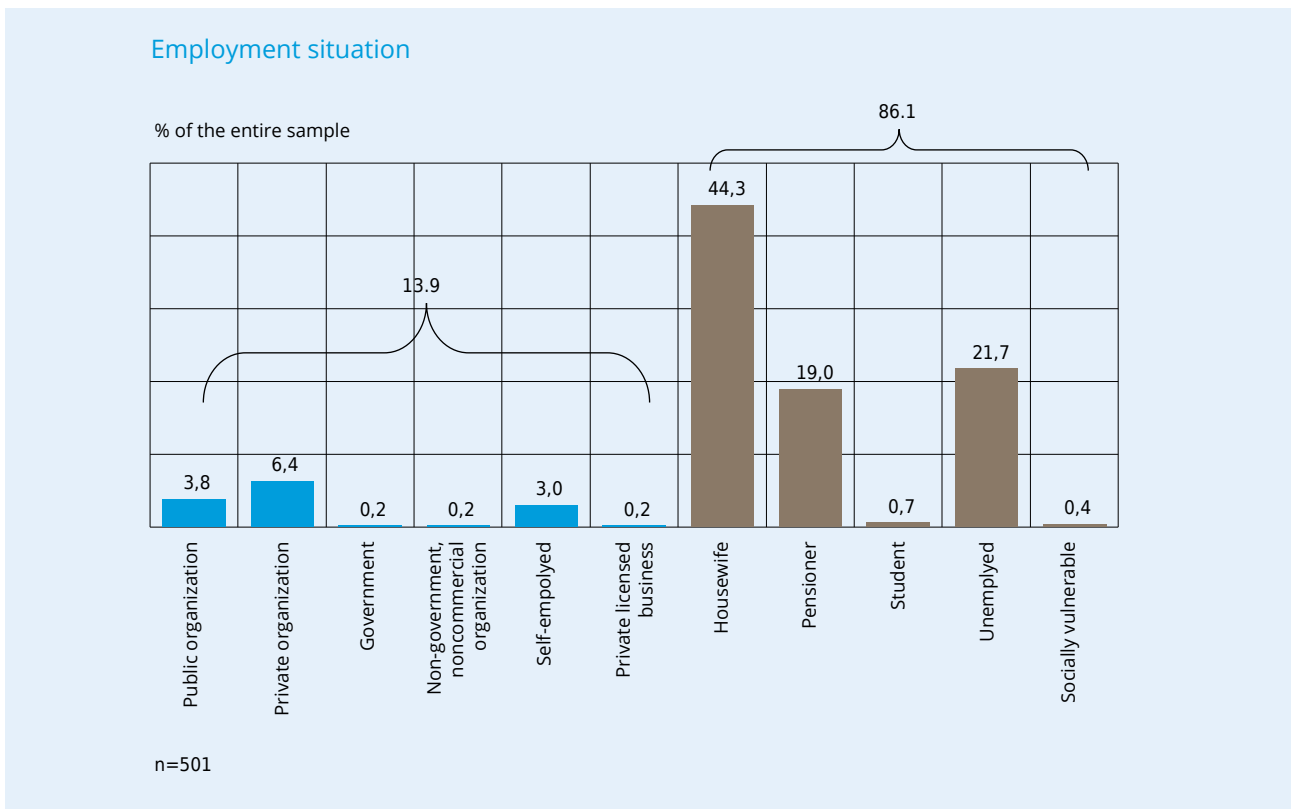
Knowledge of Georgian varies by districts. The lowest level was demonstrated in Marneuli and Bolnisi districts.

## 2.1.3 Employment

To reveal ethnic minority women's needs it becomes extremely important to describe their employment situation. However, some difficulties exist with defining their employment status. Within the framework of the given survey the employment status among ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli district is cited based on their own evaluation rather than according to standard criteria. According to the respondents' own self-assessments only 14% were employed (see Diagram no. 4).

**Diagram no. 4:**

Employment situation among ethnic minority women according to their own self-evaluations



Employment situation correlates with respondents' education level:

- People with incomplete secondary education are mainly housewives (46%).
- The majority of people with secondary education are housewives (52%).
- Among women with higher education 46% are employed in the public sector.





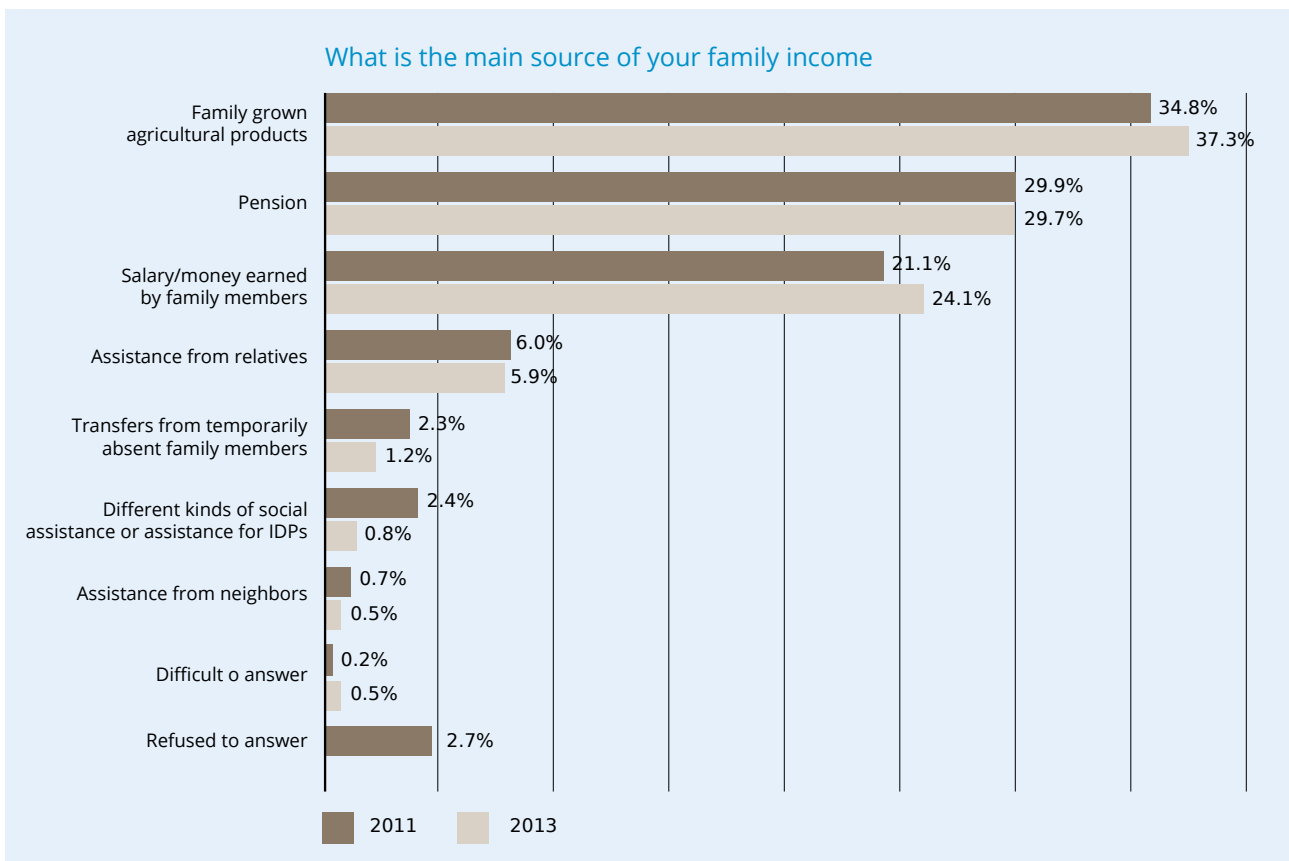
# 3. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF FAMILIES

The main source of family income are agricultural products and a pension. Thirty seven per cent of women said that the main source of income for their families is home-grown agricultural products, while for 30% pensions are the main source of income. However, the main source of family income does not correlate with any of the demographic variables. A comparison with data from 2011<sup>1</sup> shows the growing number of women who cite the main source of their family income as being their family members' salary or other income earned by family members. Back in 2011, 21% of women said that the money/salaries

earned by family members was the main source of their family income. However, by 2013 the figure had increased to 24% of women (see diagram no. 5).

- According to the majority of city residents or those in district centers (57%) the salaries/money earned by family members is the main source of income.
- For the residents of rural areas the agricultural products grown by the household constitute the main source of family income is. A total of 42% of women living in rural areas cite subsistence farming as their main source of income.

**Diagram no. 5:**  
Main source of family income



<sup>1</sup> In 2011 Institute of Social Studies and Analysis conducted a survey in the Kvemo Kartli region. The survey covered the population's socio-economic situation and

attitudes to identify the region's social and economic profile. The research was supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

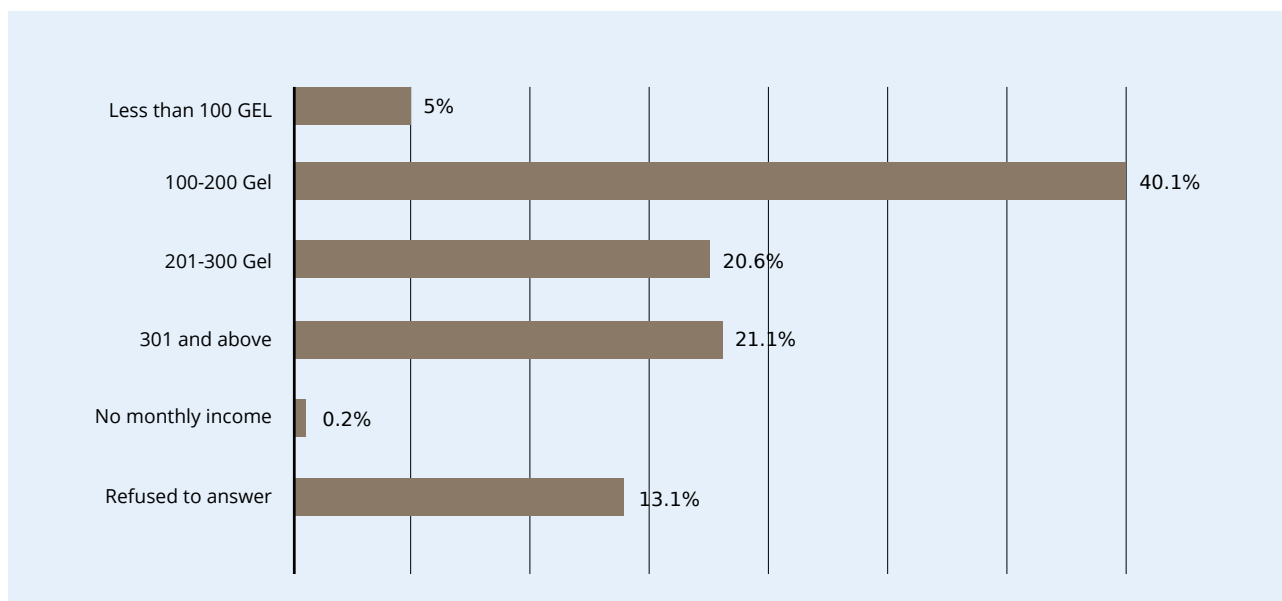
The average monthly income of ethnic minority women living in Kvemo Kartli region is 290 GEL. The average income of 5% of families is below 100 GEL. Furthermore, the average monthly income of 40% is 100-200 GEL (see Diagram no. 6).

The average monthly income of those respondents with subsistence farming as main source of family income totals 100-200 GEL (47%).

Rural residents' average monthly income is lower than that of their urban counterparts.

- 43% of rural residents state that their family's average monthly income is 100-200 GEL.
- 32% of urban residents state that their income total 100-200 GEL, while 34% state that their average family monthly income is 301 GEL and above.

**Diagram no. 6:**  
Family's average monthly income



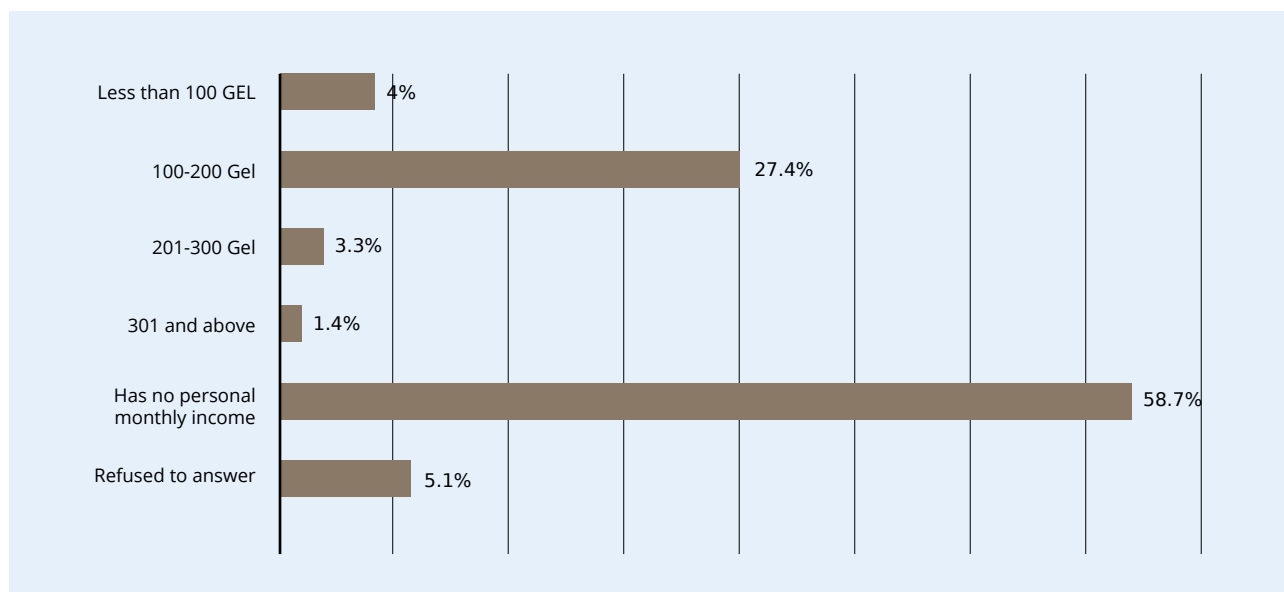
The main share of a family income is mostly spent on food, taxes and medicine. Thirty-nine per cent of respondents stated that the majority of their income was spent on food; another 31% said it was spent on taxes and 17% on medicine. A comparison with data from 2011 did not show any significant difference in spending patterns, although in 2011 21% of respondents in 2011 said they spent the main part of their income on medicine.

In urban areas, the basic part of family incomes are spent on taxes (41%), whereas the majority of family incomes in rural areas are spent on medicine (49%).

With regard to women's monthly income, 59% do not have any personal monthly income, 27% have an average personal monthly income of 100-200 GEL, only 3.3% have a monthly income of 201-300 GEL, only 1.4% have an income exceeding 300 GEL (see Diagram no. 7).

**Diagram no. 7:**

Average personal monthly income evaluation

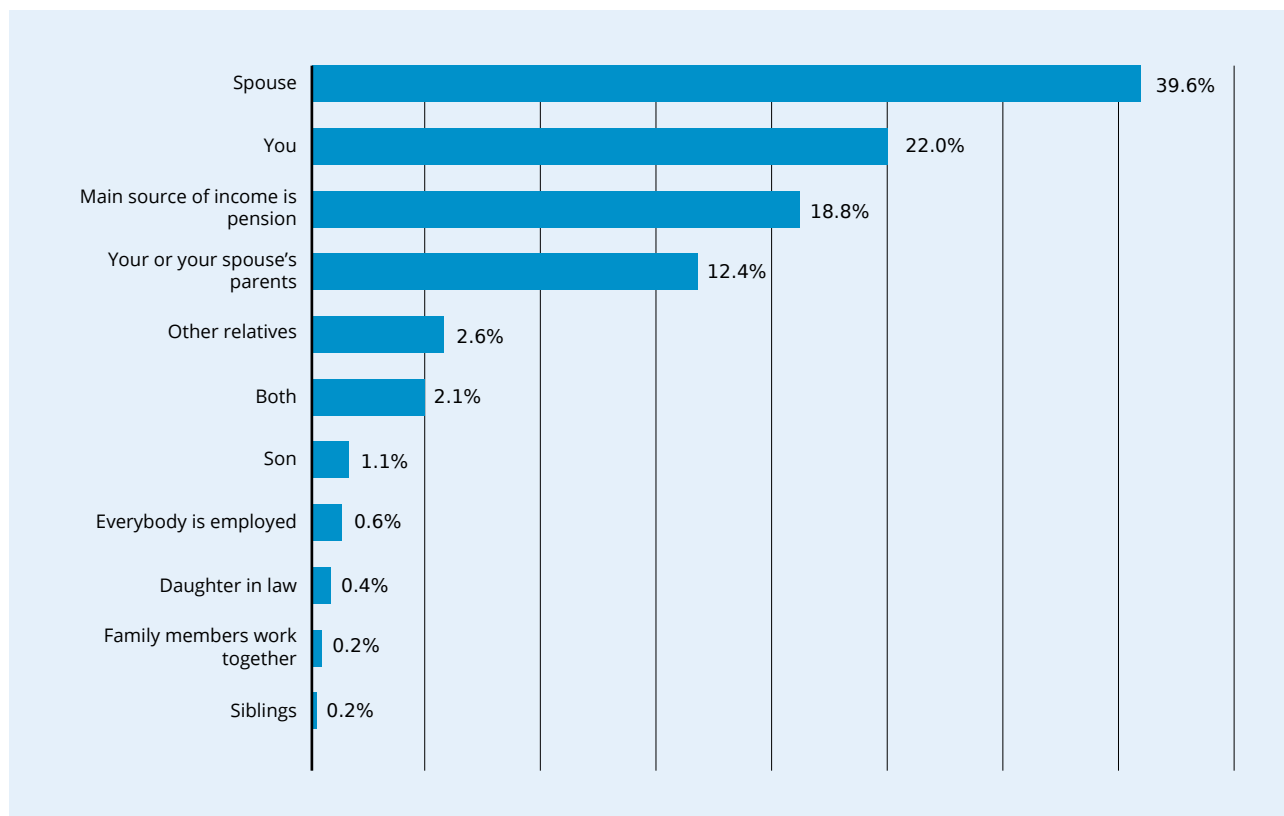


The data shows that men are breadwinners in 40% of cases; in 22% of cases women are the breadwinners. Pensions are the main source of income for 19% of

respondents, while 12.4% said they were mainly supported by their own parents or parents-in-law (see Diagram no. 8).

**Diagram no. 8:**

Breadwinners in the family

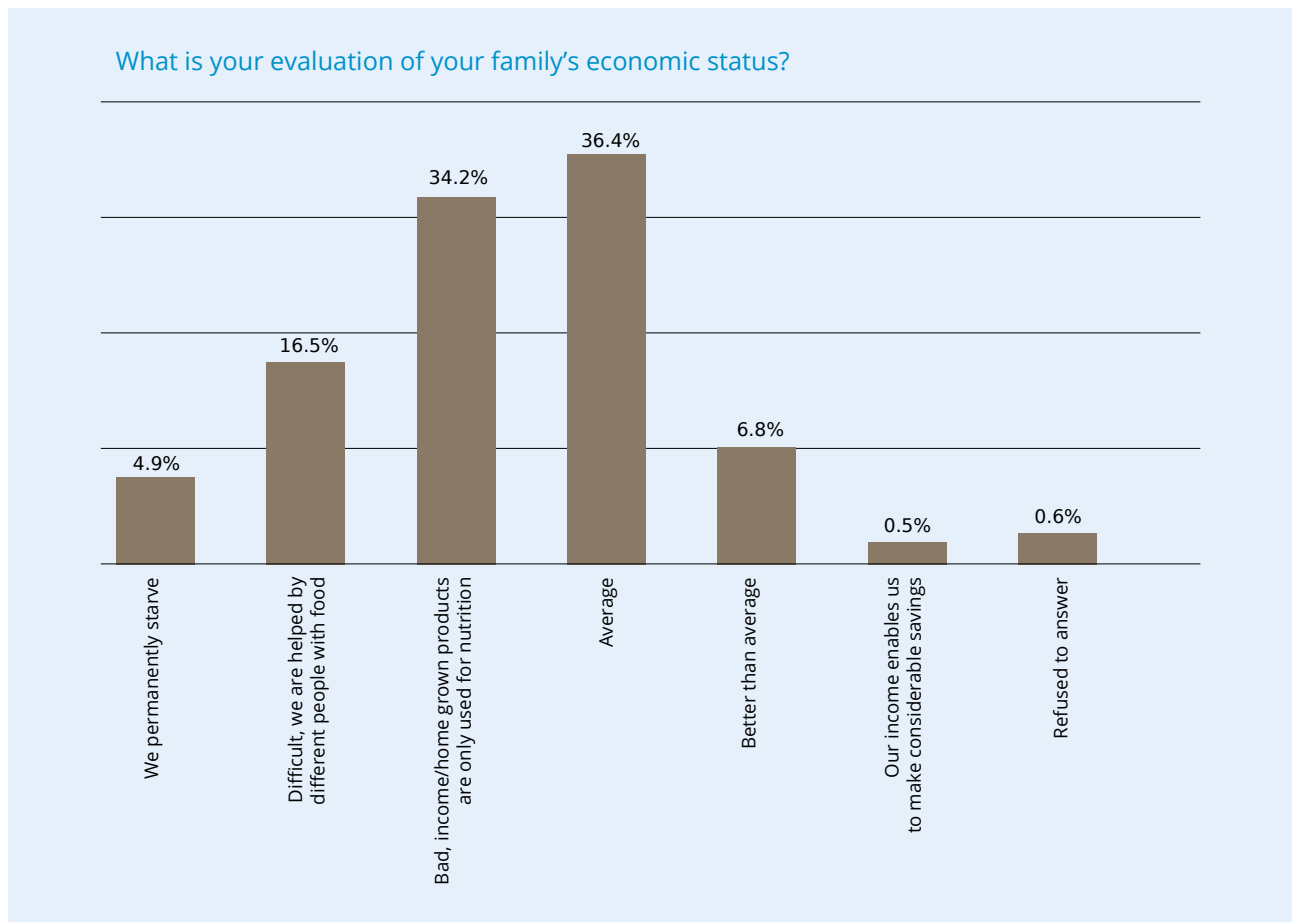


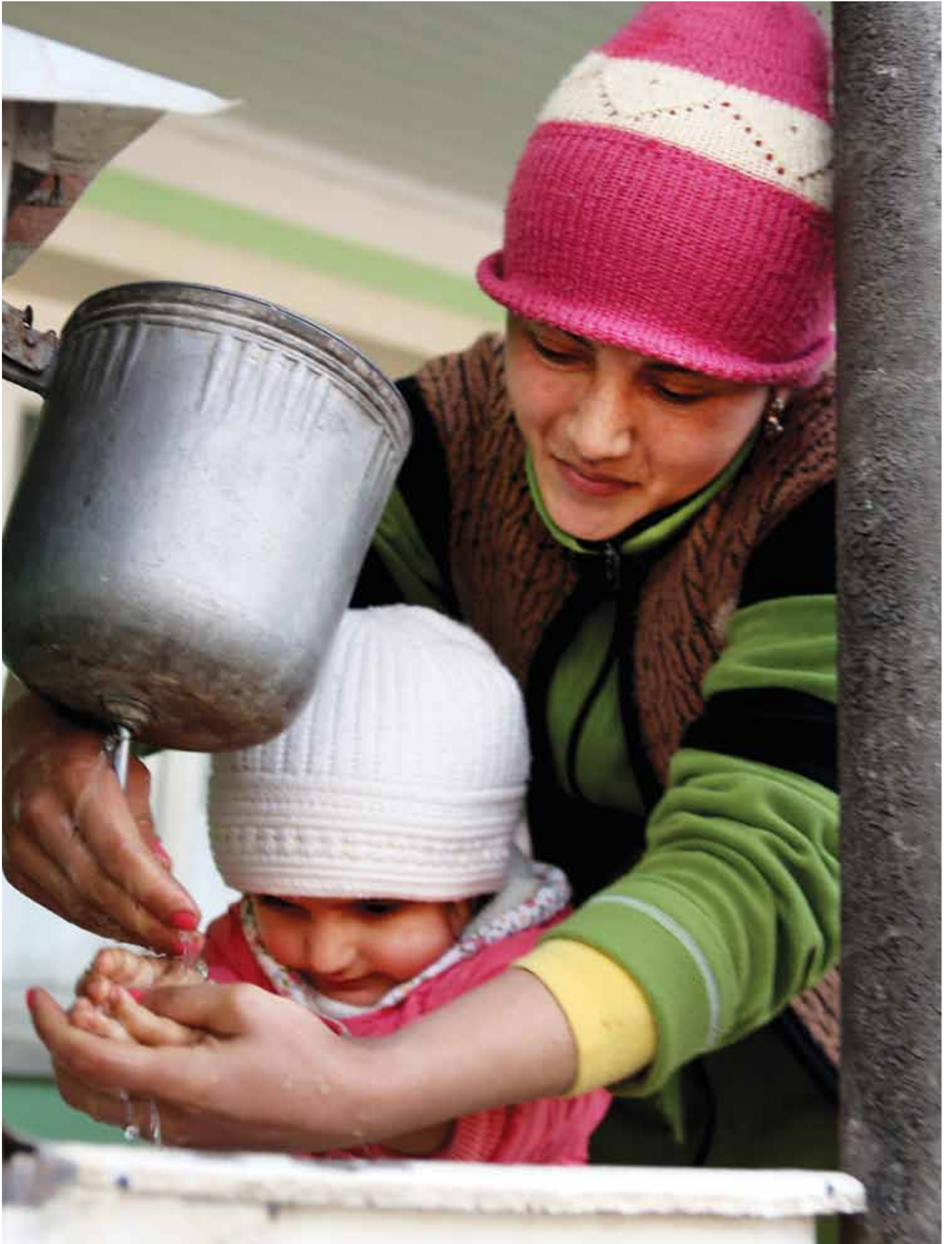


Most women (56%) assess their family's economic situation as 'bad', 'difficult', or 'very difficult'. Less than 10% of families consider their economic situation to be above average (see Diagram no. 9). The above

data reflect respondents' subjective evaluation of their economic status, rather than an objective assessment.

**Diagram no. 9:**  
Subjective evaluation of the family's economic status



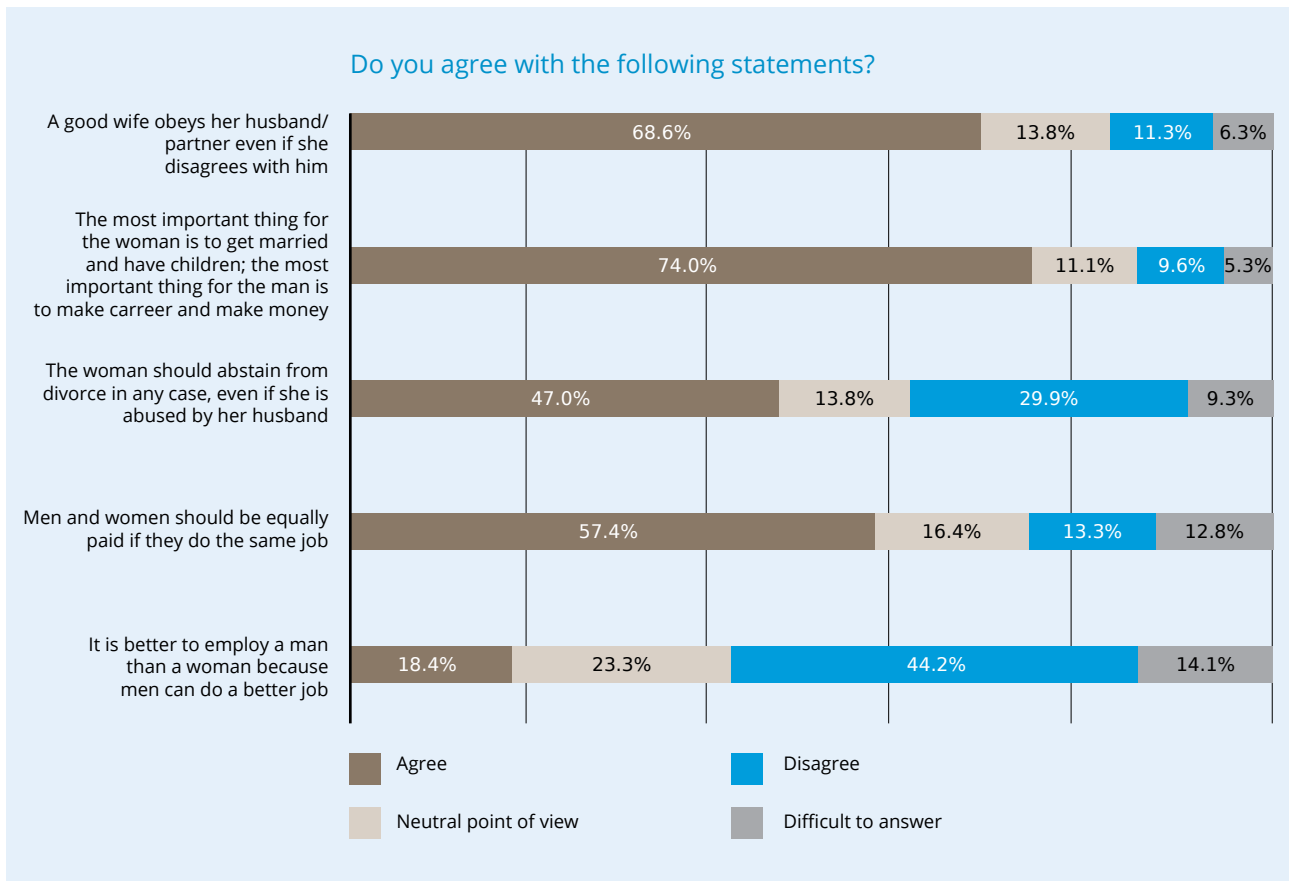


# 4. ATTITUDES TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY

Gender stereotypes prevail among the ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region. The majority of women (74%) agree with the statement that having a family and children is most important for woman, whereas career and money-making are most important for men. However, only 18% of respondents agreed with the statement that it is better to employ men than women because men

do a better quality job. It seems that the women's attitude to gender equality is determined by their environment. As for the women's self esteem, it cannot be described as low. The prevalence of gender stereotypes among ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region is also revealed by the fact that 47% of women deem divorce to be unacceptable, even if a husband abuses his wife (see Diagram no. 10).

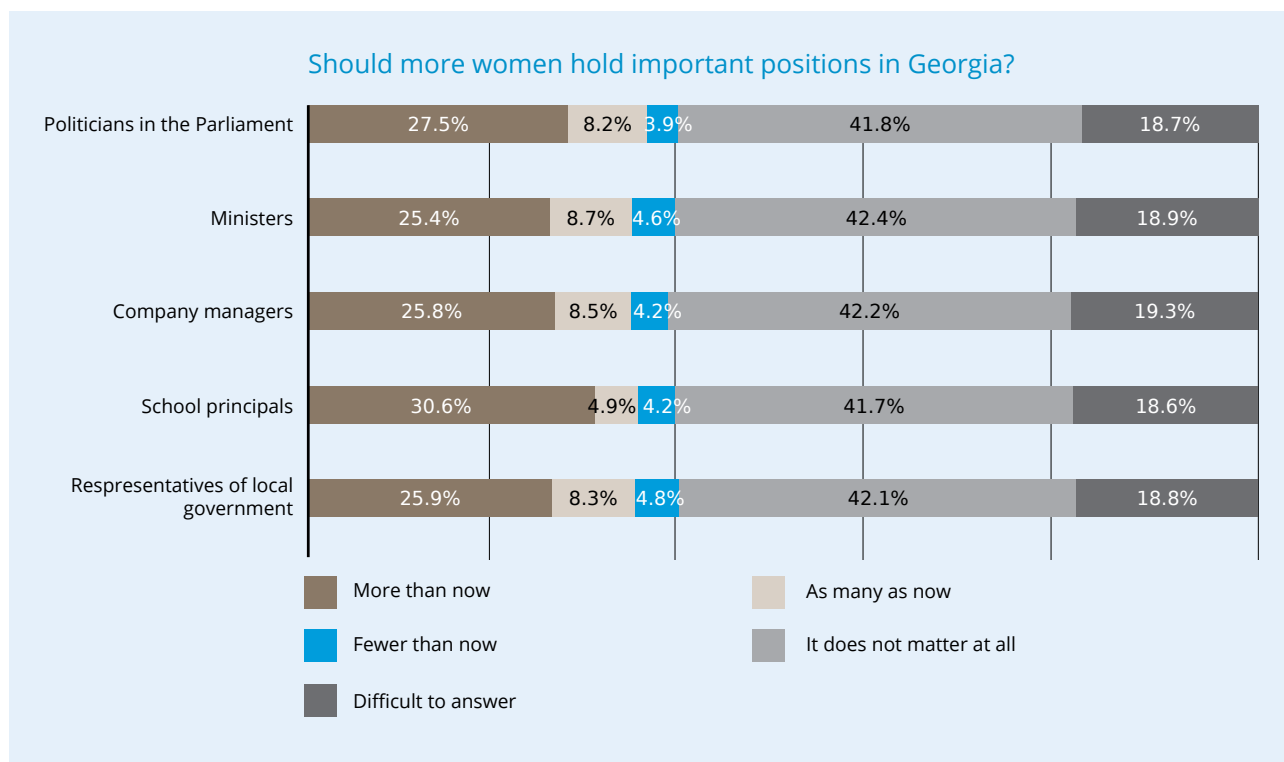
**Diagram no. 10:**  
Attitudes towards gender equality



Forty-two per cent of respondents said it did not matter at all if more women were elected to Parliament (i.e. more than their current number) or not. The same percentage stated that it did not matter whether more women were appointed as ministers

or school principals or more worked in local government (see Diagram no. 11). It seems that women approve of appointments that are made based on skills and knowledge (rather than on gender), or they have a neutral view of the issue.

**Diagram no. 11:**  
Attitude to women's involvement in politics



The majority of women (78-95%) have not experienced work-related gender discrimination. Two per cent of women stated that sometimes their proposals

and opinions were given less attention than men's. Another 2.3% said they very often found themselves in similar situations.





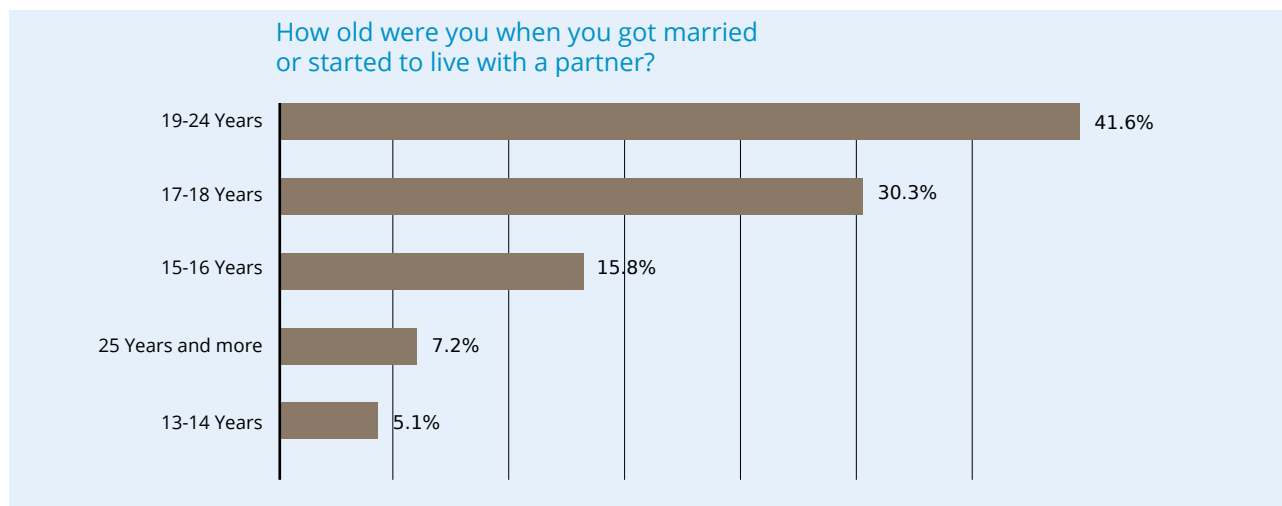
## 5. FAMILY RELATIONS

Early marriages are a common practice among ethnic minority women with 32% of married women stating that they got married before 18 years. Five percent

of marriages are early marriages (below 13-14 years), whereas 16% of respondents said they married at between 15-16 years (see Diagram no. 12):

### Diagram no. 12:

Age of marriage among ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region

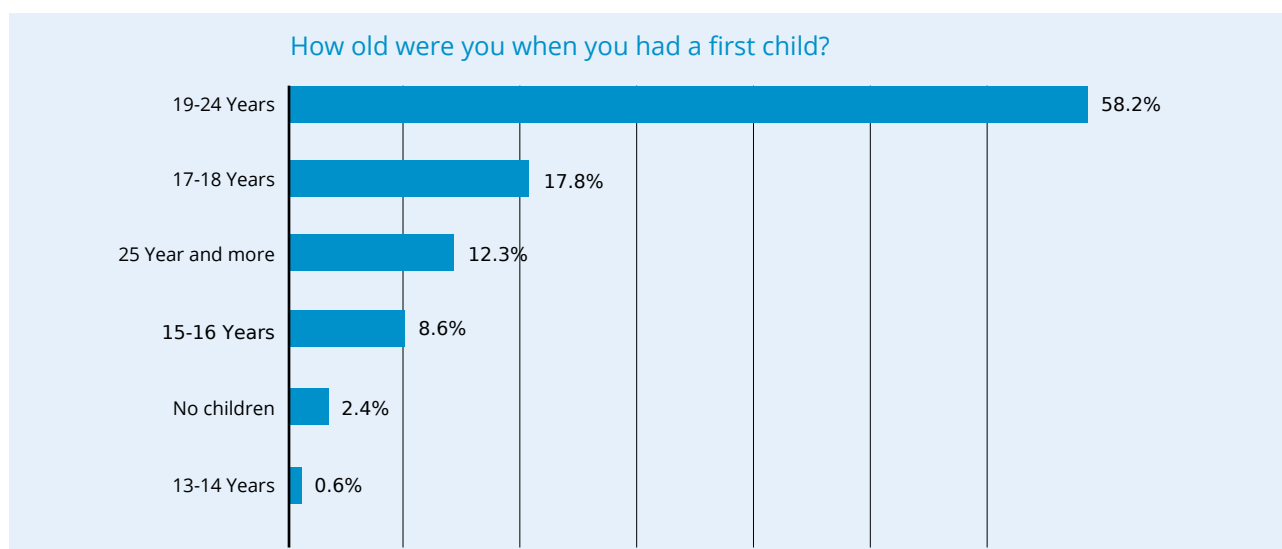


A total of 17% of ethnic minority women had their first child before 18 years, while 9% of married women said they had the first child at 15-16 years (see Diagram no.13).

Ten per cent of women had 4-5 children and 2% - six or more children. The majority, 74%, had 2-3 children. Only 14% had one child.

### Diagram no. 13:

When did respondents have their first child



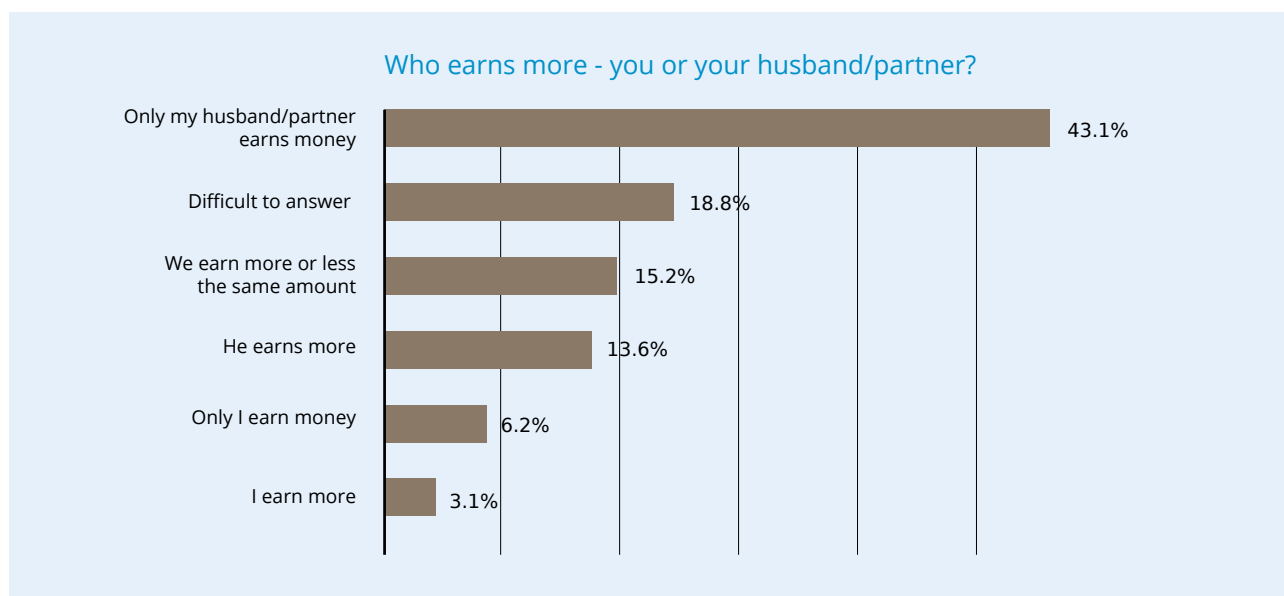


Ninety-nine per cent of women said they had been married only once. Only 1% (4 women) had been married twice.

Women’s evaluations of their current relations with their husbands/partners tended to be positive. Only 1% deemed their relationship to be negative. The majority (52%) gave positive rather than negative evaluations, and 29% gave a positive evaluation.

The main breadwinners in the family are men, and 43% of women said that their husband was the sole breadwinner in the family. Only 6% of female interviewees said they were breadwinners in the family (see Diagram no. 14). The majority of ethnic minority women (72%) rely economically on their husbands. The share of women who state that they were partially or totally independent from their husband was 12%.

**Diagram no. 14:**  
Which spouse earns more



Given the positive/or relatively positive evaluation of their relationship with their current husband/partner (81%) and considering that the men are the family breadwinners, an examination of the models of housework division and decision-makers in the family provides some interesting insights.

The following areas where men make most of the important decisions have been identified:

- Taking loans from a bank/micro-financial organization (43% claimed that such decisions are taken by male family members, while 7% said such decisions were taken by women).
- Business/economic issues, such as buying fertilizers and pesticides, procurement/leasing of agricultural equipment, etc.) -- 40% of respondents reported that men make such decisions while 9% stated that such decisions were taken by women).

Although, in the 49% of cases, female and male family members make joint decisions regarding budget

management for everyday needs, male members make independent budgetary decisions more often than women (29% against 15%). The same can be said about health care and medical treatment expenses. In 26% of cases decisions are independently made by male members as opposed to 9% of female family members.

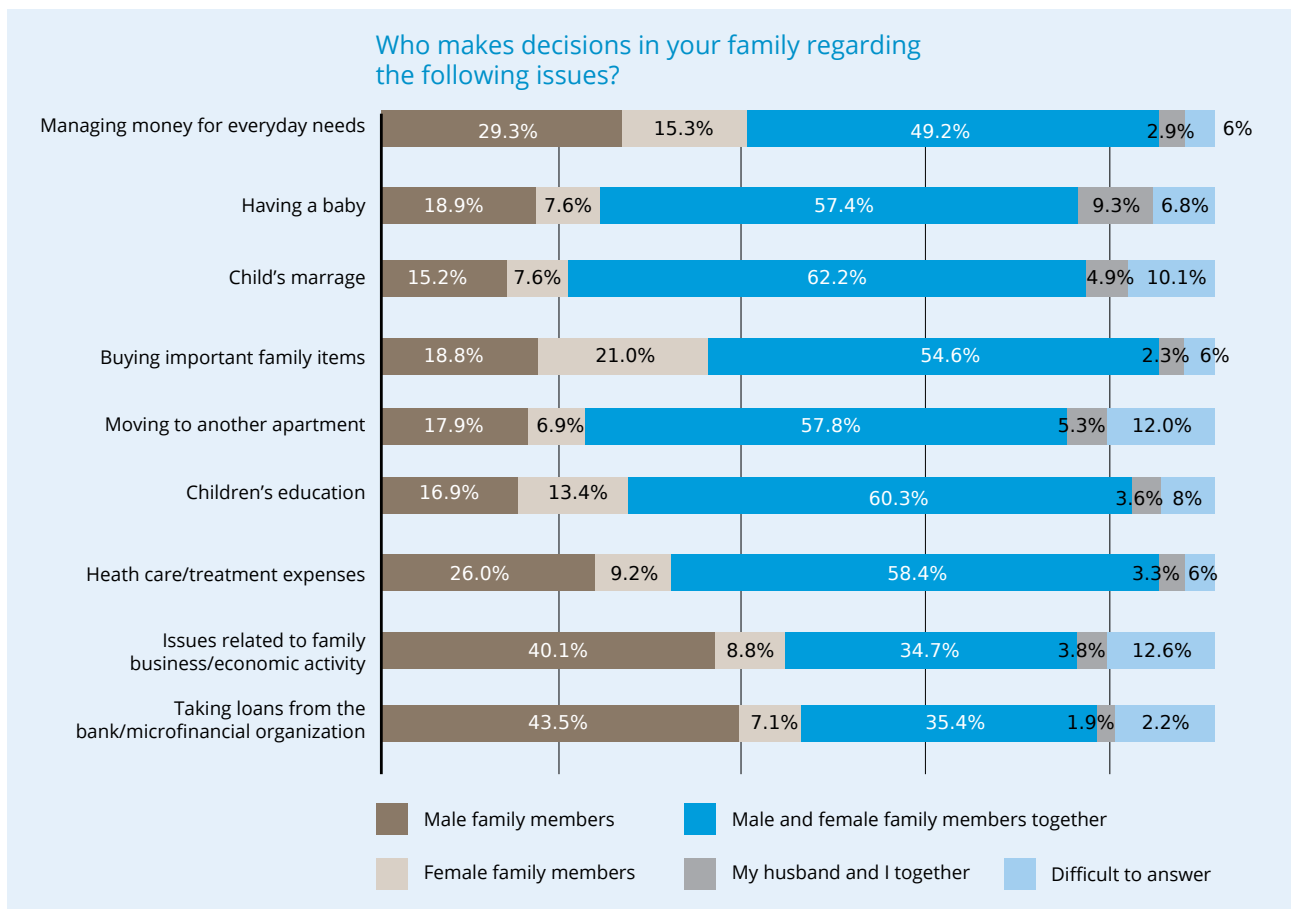
Respondents stated that joint decisions were mostly made in regard to the following issues:

- Having a baby
- A daughter or son’s marriage
- Buying important items for the family
- Moving to another apartment
- Children’s education
- Education/health care expenses

Women largely take decisions regarding the purchase of important family items (see Diagram no.15)

**Diagram no. 15:**

Decision-makers regarding different issues



It is clear that men are less involved in housework. Their main responsibility is to financially support their family and take decisions on the family's financial issues.

The pattern of housework division points to a clear separation between 'female' and 'male' work. Women's main responsibilities include:

- Cleaning the house
- Fetching water
- Doing laundry

- Cooking
- Taking care of children (and helping the children with homework)
- Looking after sick family members (and looking after the elderly).

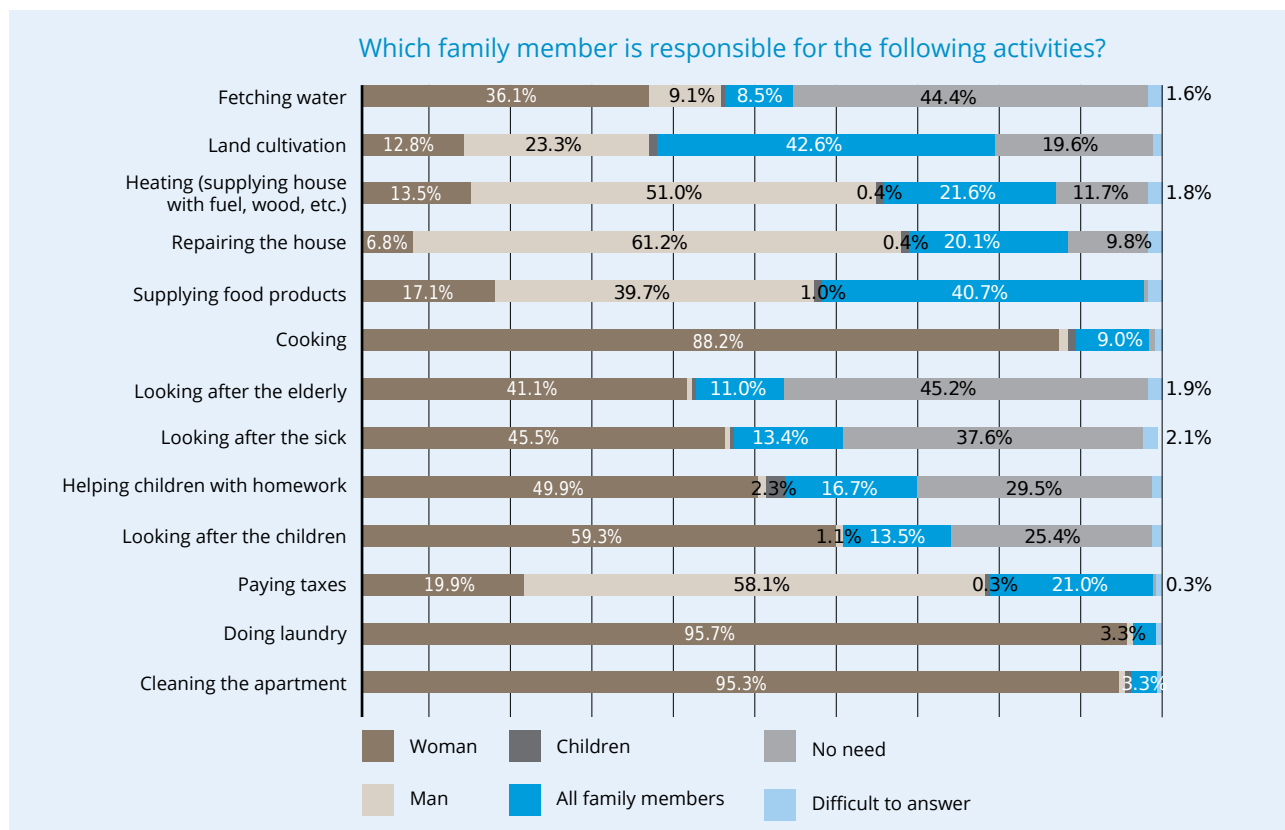
In the case of necessity, men take responsibility for the following activities:

- Heating the house
- Repairing the house

See detailed information in Diagram no. 16.

**Diagram no. 16:**

The pattern of housework division between women and men



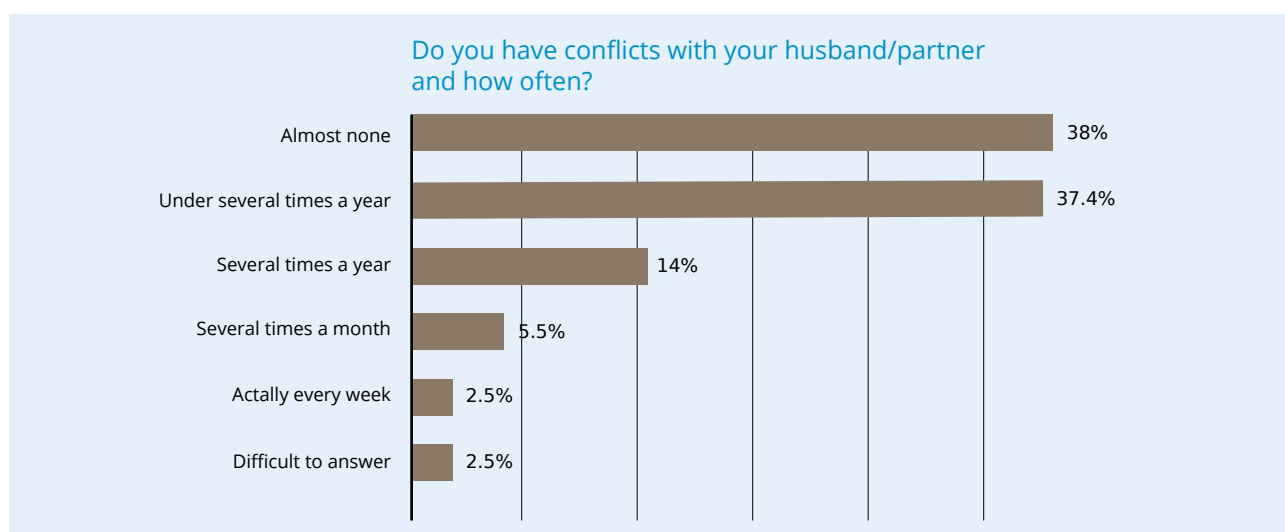
The present pattern of decision-making and housework division opens up questions regarding the relationship between family members. In response to the question, *what kind of relationships do you have in your family?* 72% said that they were good or mostly

good. Only 4% said there was conflict or that conflict largely prevailed.

As reported by 3% of women, they have a conflict with their husbands almost every week. 6% has like conflicts several times a month (see Diagram no.17).

**Diagram no. 17:**

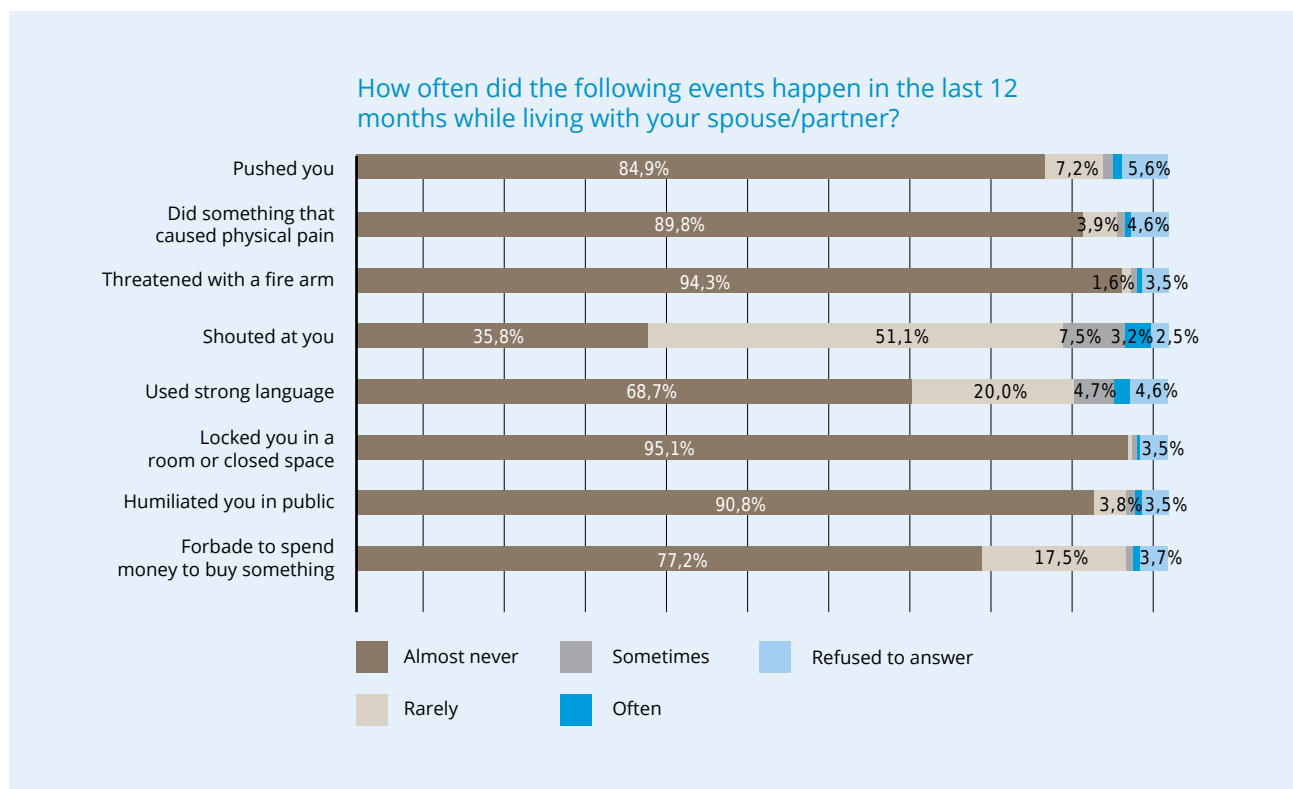
Frequency of conflict with spouses



Judging by responses to the statements describing domestic violence, most women had not experienced physical violence at home for the last 12 months. The figures were as follows: 10% stated unequivocally that they were pushed by their husband at least once during the last 12 months (6% - refused to answer); 6% of women stated that during the last 12 months their husband treated them in the way that caused physical pain (hitting, throwing something at his wife, etc.) (5% - refused to answer). More violent behaviour is a rarer practice; 3% of women said they had such even experienced cases like being threatened with firearms or a knife at least once in the last 12 months (4% - refused to answer).

Psychological violence is the most common practice against women in the family. Among the forms of psychological violence shouting is encountered most often: 62% of respondents state that their husband has shouted at them at least once during the last 12 months (3% - refused to answer). Verbal assault is also a common practice with 27% of women stating that they experienced verbal assault from their husband at least once during the last 12 months (5% refused to answer). Only 1.4% stated that they have been locked by their husband in the room or another closed space (4% - refused to answer); 6% noted that they have been humiliated in public by their husband; 20% reported that their husband had forbidden them to spend money to buy an item they wanted (see Diagram no.18).

**Diagram no. 18:**  
Frequency of domestic violence practices





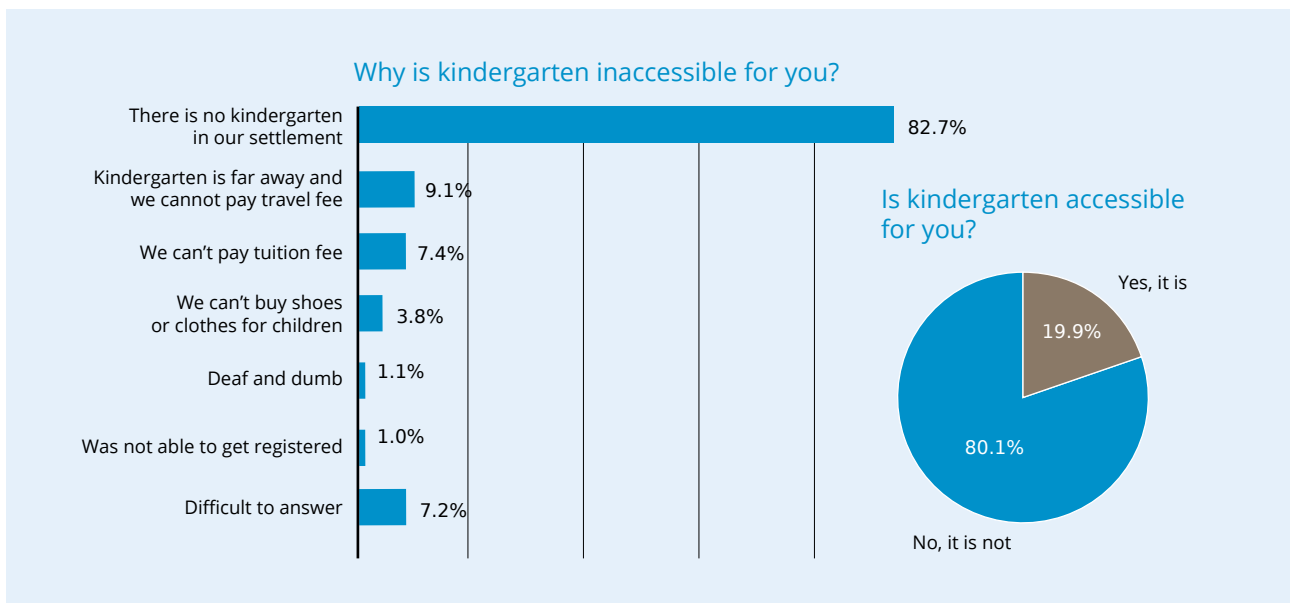


# 6. ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Kindergarten is inaccessible for 80% of women whose child needs to get preschool education: 83% of women for whom kindergarten is inaccessible

stated that their settlement has no kindergarten, whereas 9% stated that the kindergarten was far away and they could not afford to pay for transport (see Diagram no.19).

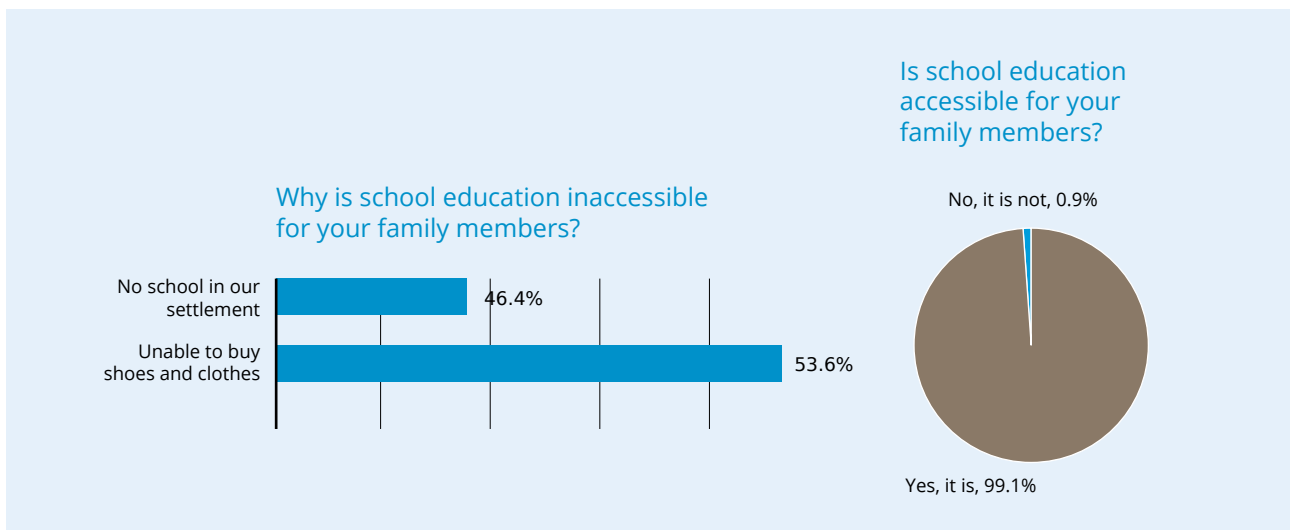
**Diagram no. 19:**  
Accessibility of kindergarten



Ninety-nine per cent of women with school age children stated that school education was accessible for their children, and 1% of women with children for whom a school education said the main reason for

being unable to attend school was that they could not afford to buy shoes and clothes or the necessary school items (see Diagram no. 20).

**Diagram no. 20:**  
Accessibility of school education



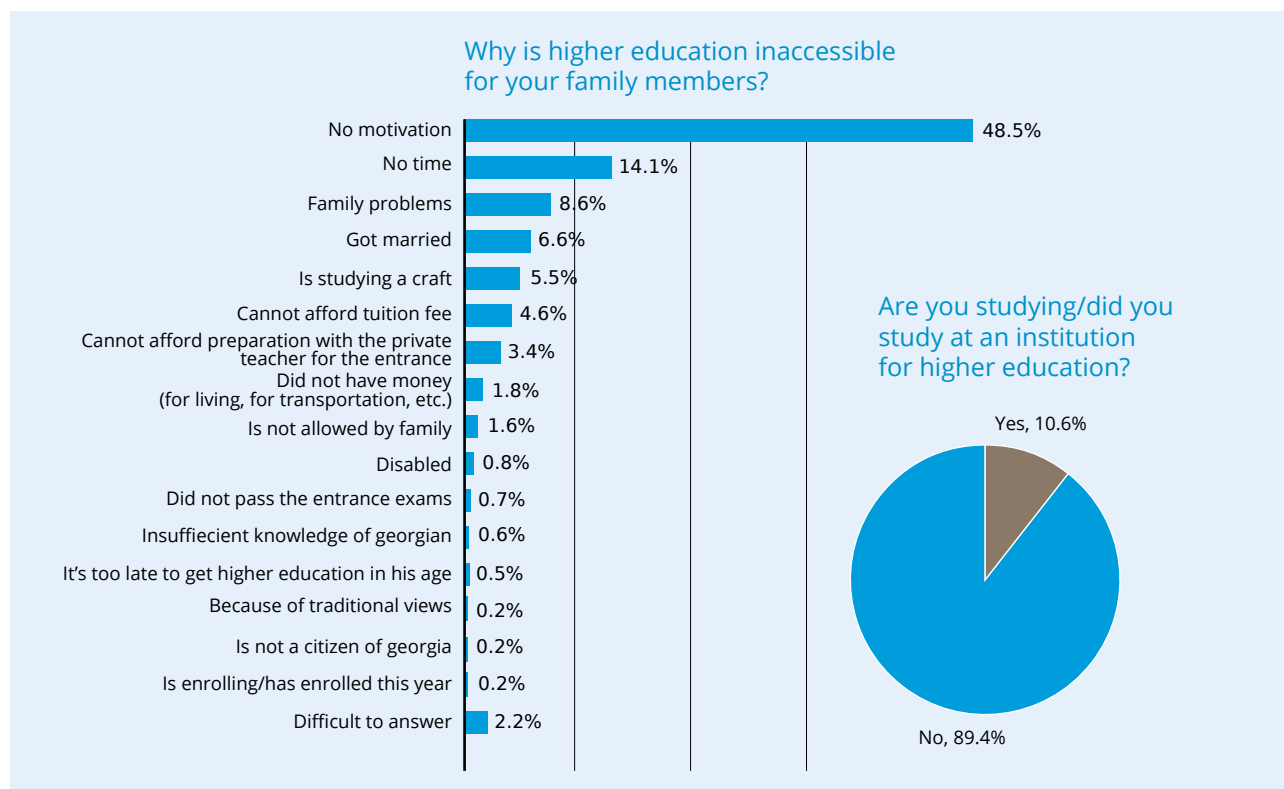


The vast majority of respondents (89%) reported that neither they nor their family members have studied at an higher education institution, the main reason

being lack of motivation (49% of respondents), or lack of time (14% of respondents) (see Diagram no. 21).

**Diagram no. 21:**

Findings for receiving higher education and the reason for not getting higher education



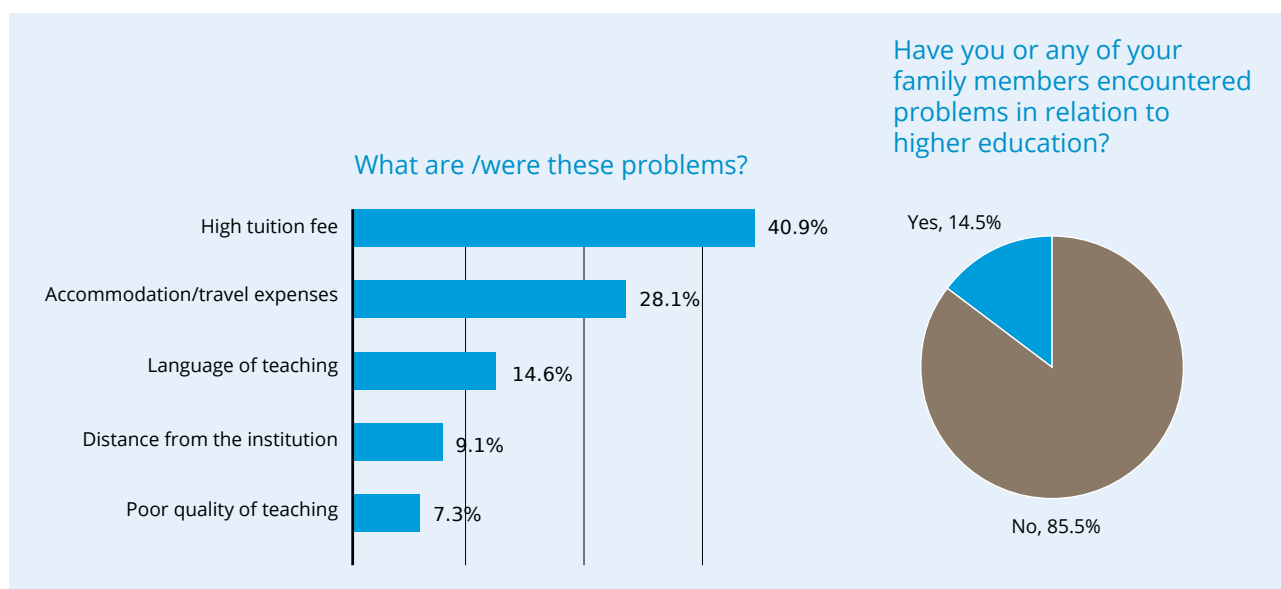
The ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli region mostly receive their higher education in Azerbaijan (47%) and Tbilisi (28%). Fifteen per cent of respondents receive their education in Armenia.

Another 15% of respondents stated that they/their family members encountered problems when studying at an institution for higher education. Respondents mainly cited two problems:

- High tuition fees.
- Accommodation and travel expenses.

In the case of 41%, tuition fees were the main problem pertaining to higher education, whereas for 28% - accommodation and travel expenses were the main impediments (see Diagram no. 22).

**Diagram no. 22:**  
Types of problems related to higher education



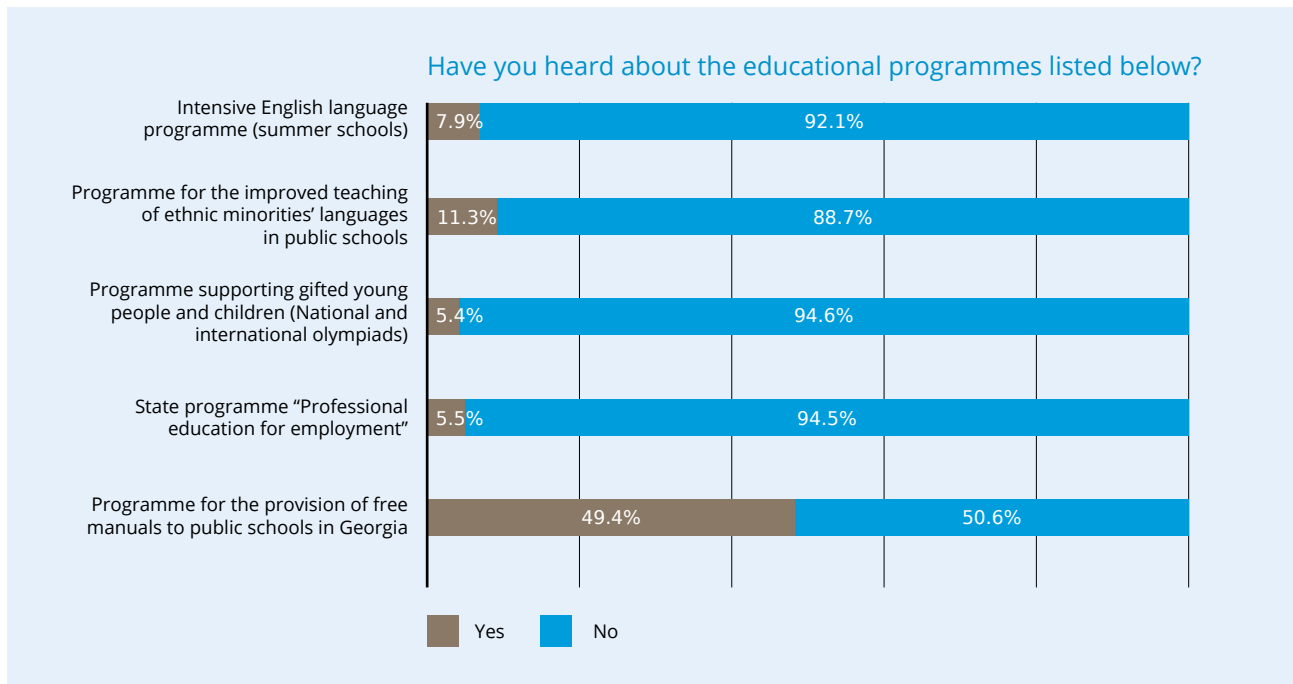
## 6.1 Awareness of and involvement in educational programmes

The majority of ethnic minority women (69%) had not heard about the Georgian Government’s initiative on providing ethnic minorities with the right to enrol in an institution for higher education under preferential conditions. As shown by the 2011 data 81% of women declared that they have not heard about the mentioned initiatives, 8% of respondents family members have used/are using the Government programme, whereas 2011 data showed that 4 % used the programme.

Women were not very well informed about the educational programmes run in Georgia. However, they did know about the provision of public school students with free textbooks. Compared to other educational programmes they were better informed about the programme to improve the teaching of ethnic minorities’ languages in public schools (11%) (see Diagram no. 23).

**Diagram no. 23:**

Ethnic minority women's awareness of the educational programmes run in Georgia

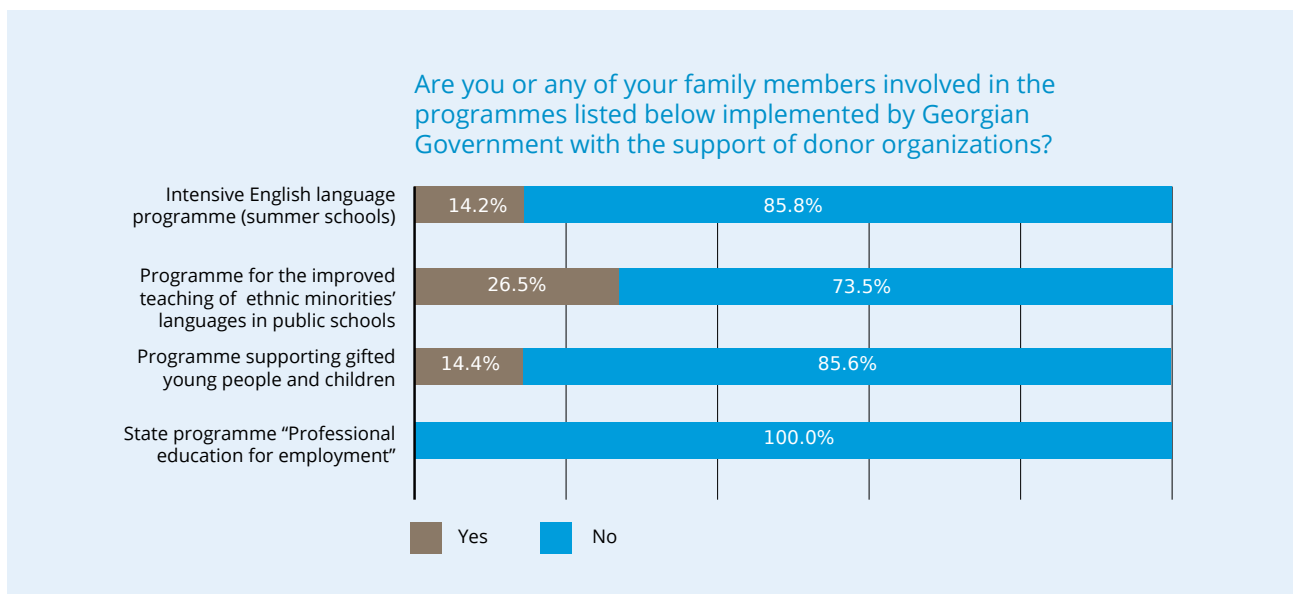


Another figure, 14% of women stated that their children used both the intensive English language programme (summer school and the programme supporting gifted young people and children).

Ethnic minority women did not use the government programme, entitled "Professional education for employment" (see Diagramno.24).

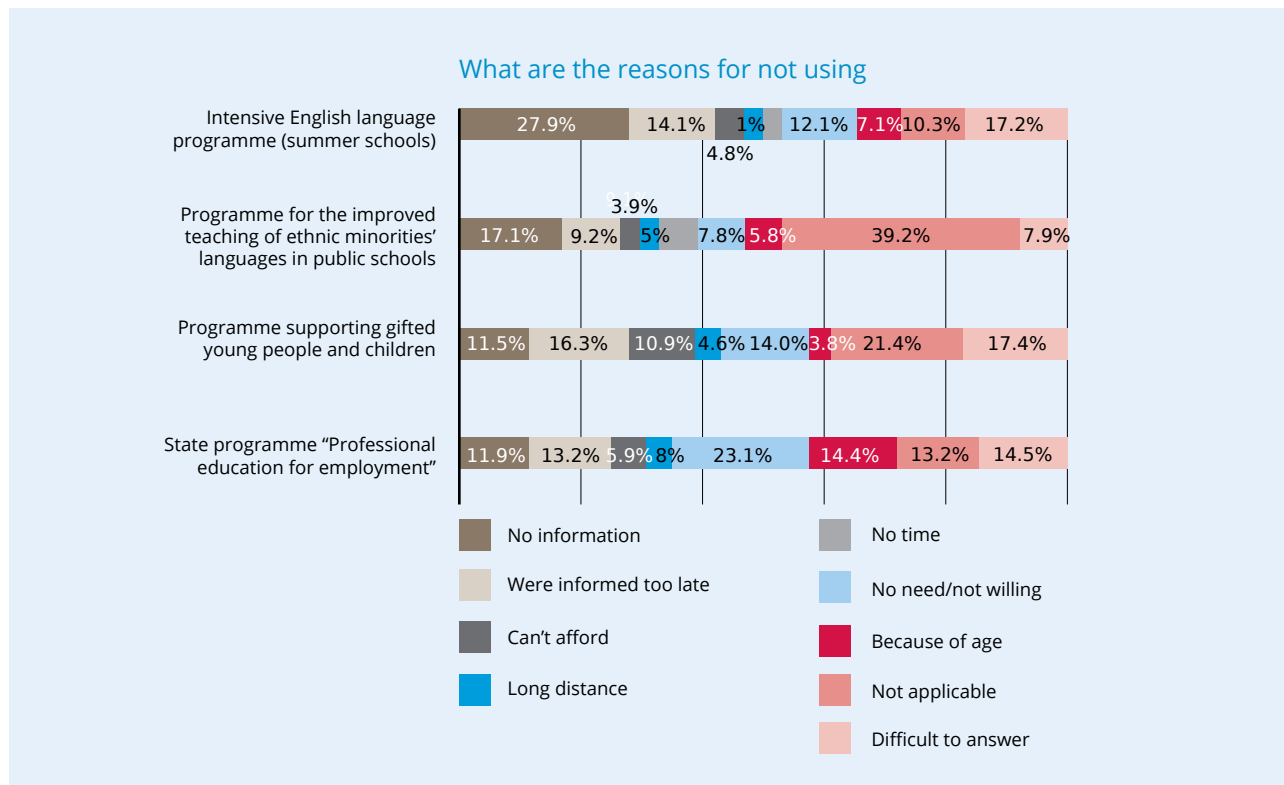
**Diagram no. 24:**

Respondents' involvement in different educational programmes



The failure of respondents to use programmes is mostly due to unawareness or to late receipt of information (see Diagram no. 25)

**Diagram no. 25:**  
Main reasons for not using the educational programmes

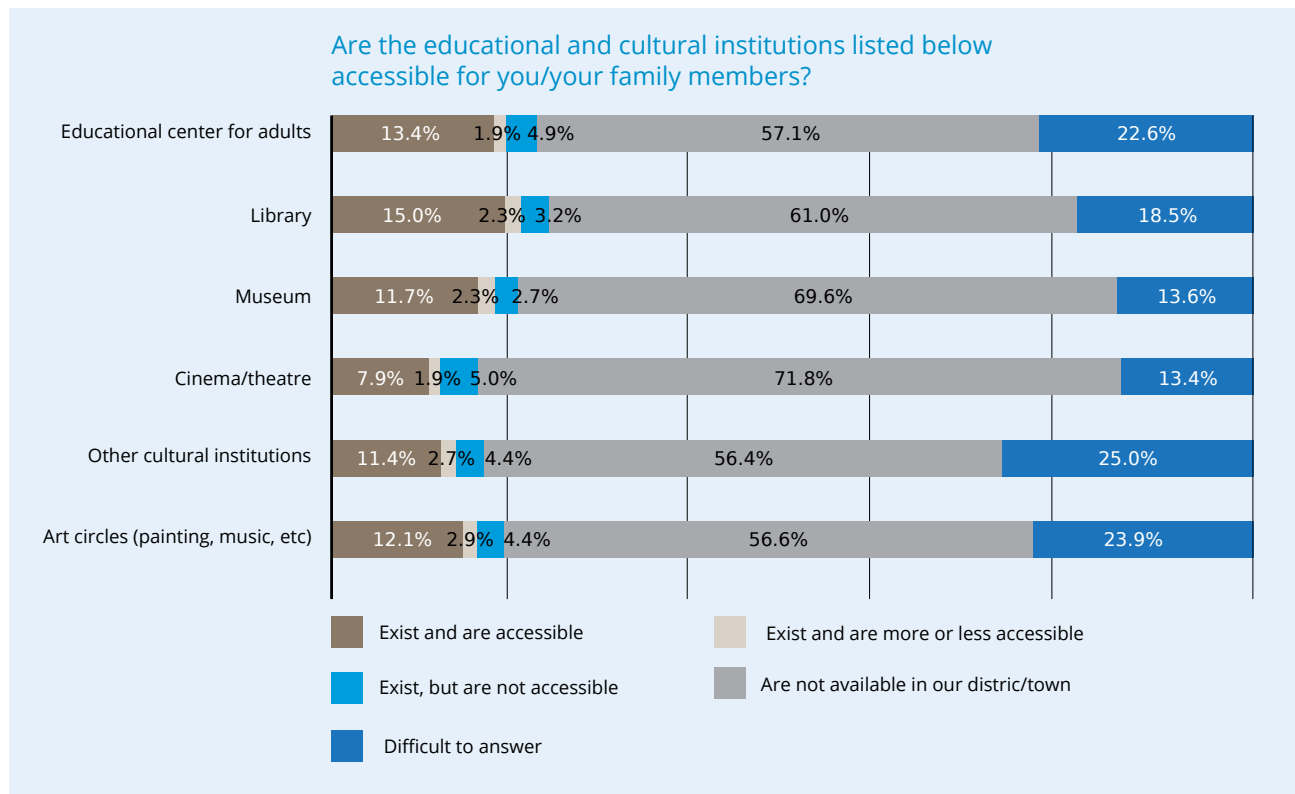


## 6.2 Accessibility of different educational and cultural institutions

Educational and cultural institutions (libraries, theatres, cinemas, educational centres for adults, art circles, etc.) are inaccessible for most ethnic minority women. The main reason is the absence of educational or cultural institutions at their places of residence (see Diagram no. 26)

**Diagram no. 26:**

Accessibility of educational and cultural institutions for ethnic minority women





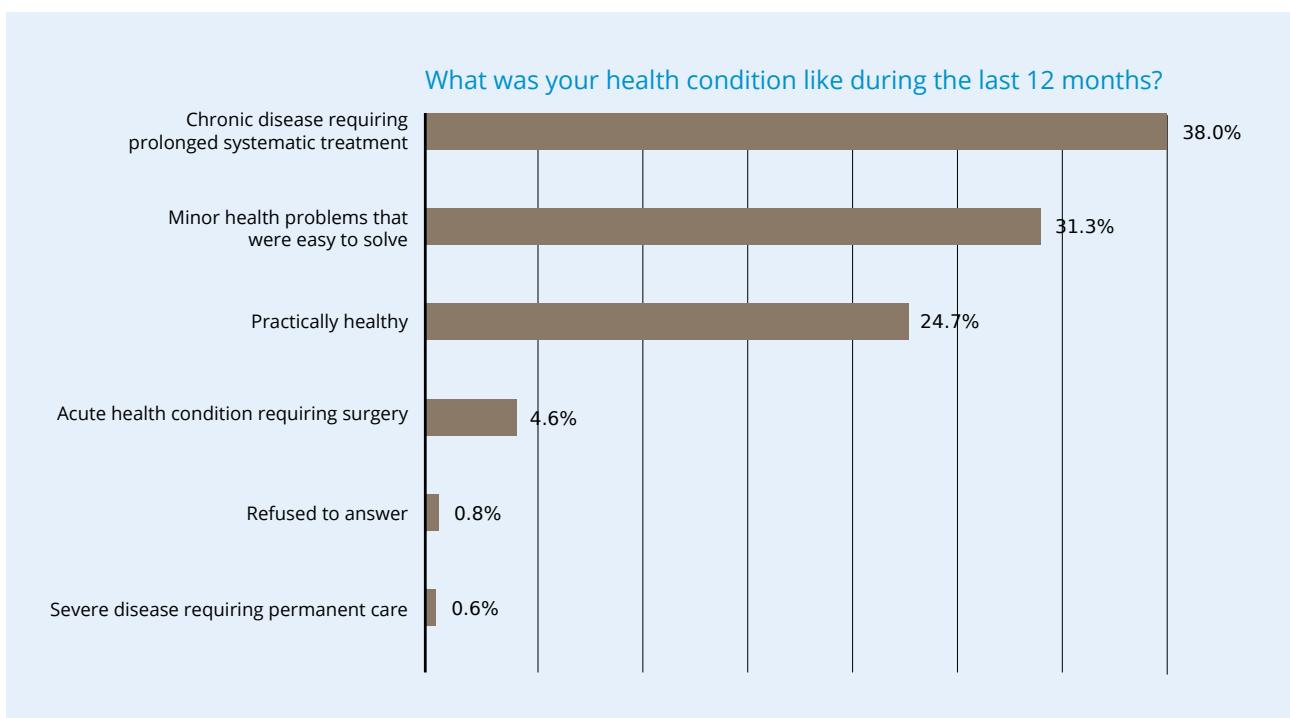


# 7. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE PROGRAMMES

The majority of women (69%) had health problems during the last 12 months, 38% suffered from a chronic disease requiring prolonged treatment; 31%

suffered from minor health problems; and 25% of women considered themselves healthy (see Diagram no. 27).

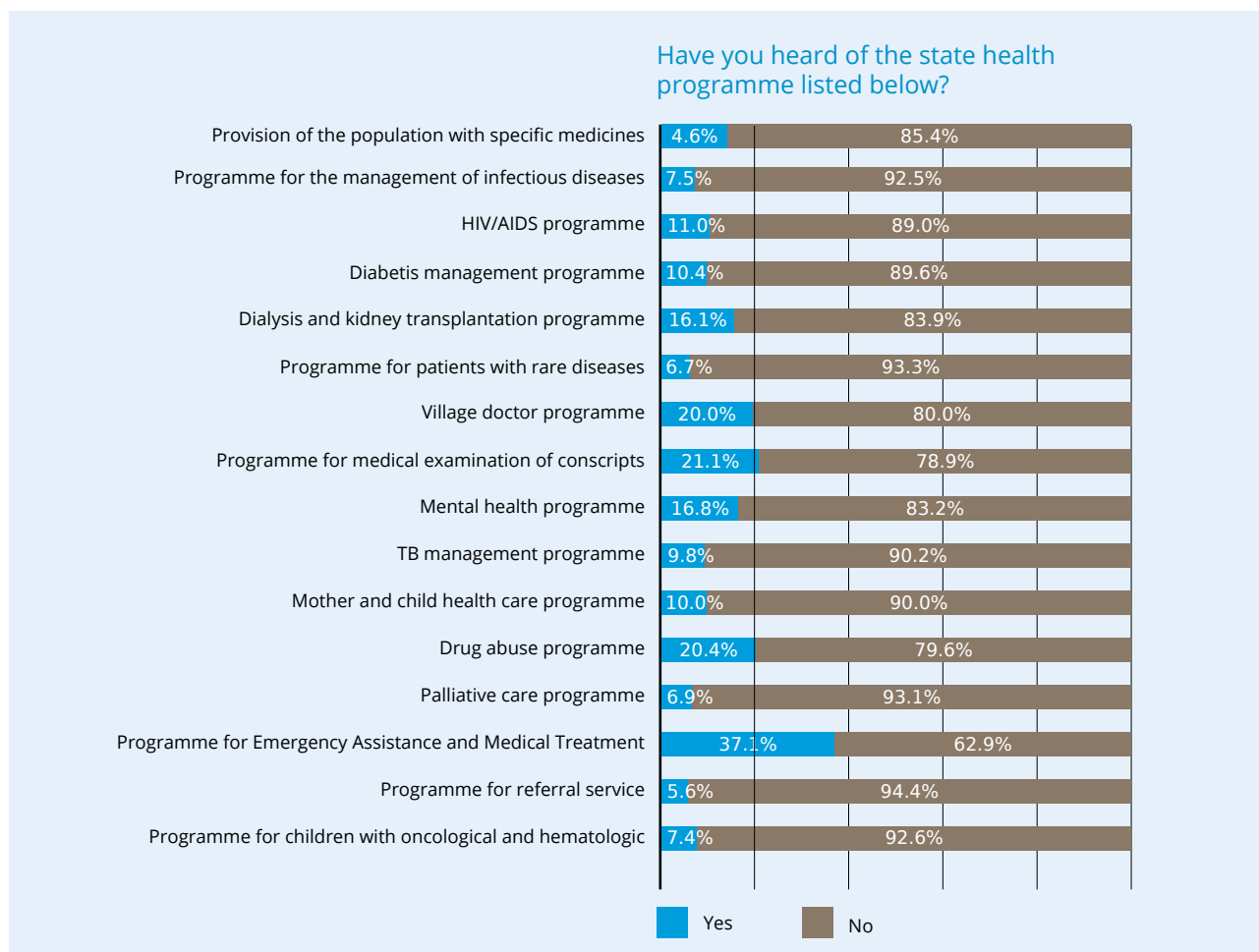
**Diagram no. 27:**  
Women's health status during the last 12 months



The majority of respondents had not heard about government health programmes. Compared to the other programmes they were more aware of the Programme for Emergency Assistance and Medical Treatment (37% of respondents said they have

heard about the programme). Another 20-21% were aware of the Drug Abuse Programme, Village Doctor Programme or the Programme for the Medical Examination of Conscripts (see Diagram no. 28).

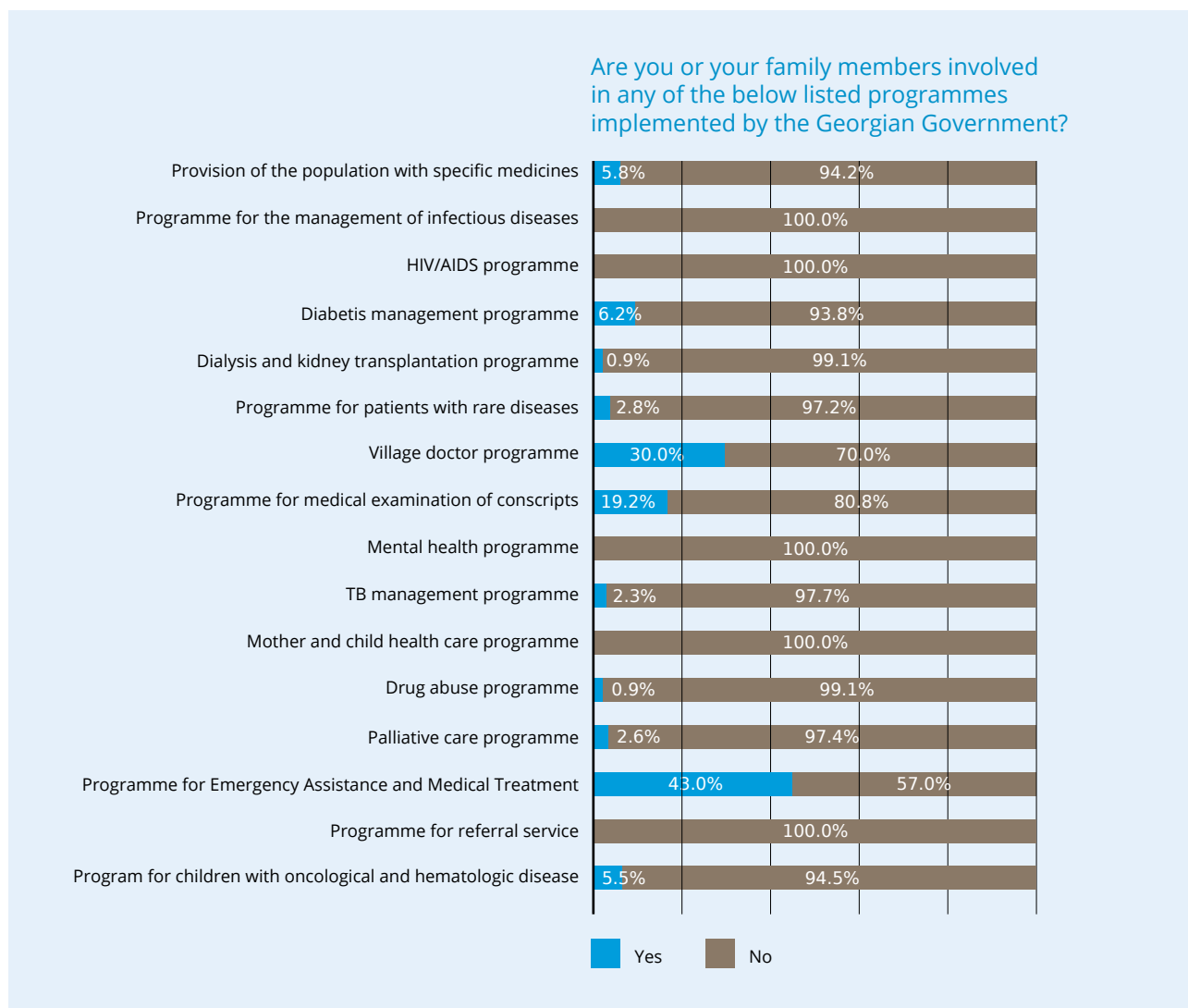
**Diagram no. 28:**  
Awareness of government health programmes



Respondents' answers demonstrate that they and their family members use only some health programmes, namely the Emergency Assistance and

Medical Treatment programme, the Village Doctor Programme and the Programme for the Medical Examination of Conscripts (see Diagram no. 29).

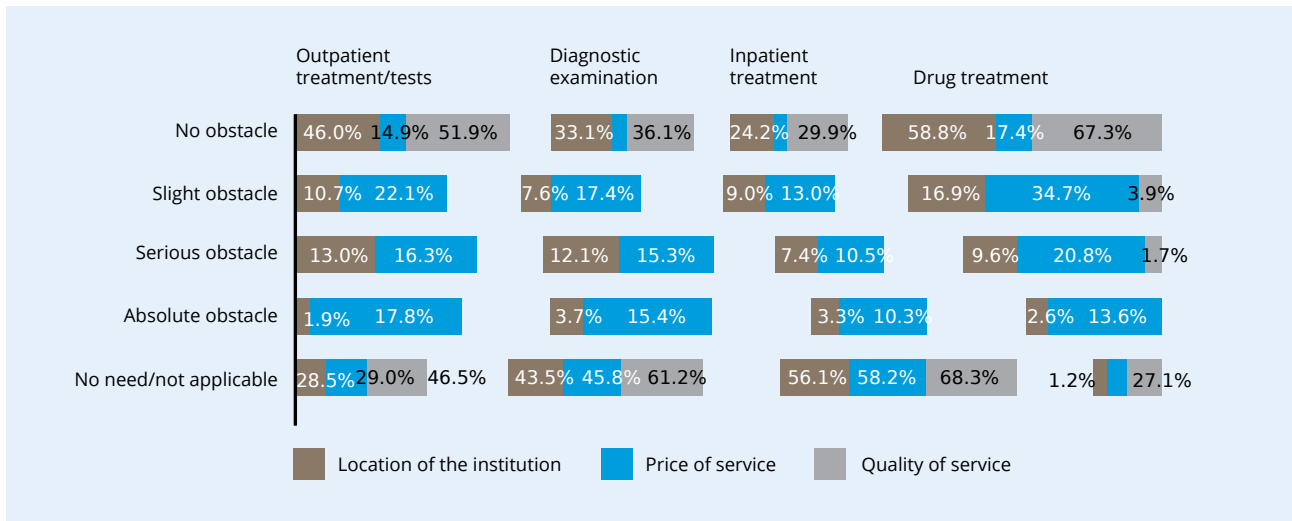
**Diagram no. 29:**  
 Respondents' involvement in government health programmes



The price of medical services is main obstacle to receiving medical assistance (outpatient treatment, diagnostic examination, in-patient treatment and treatment with medicines) (see diagram no. 30).

**Diagram no. 30:**

To what extent did the factors listed below prevent you/your family members from receiving the needed medical service during the last 12 months



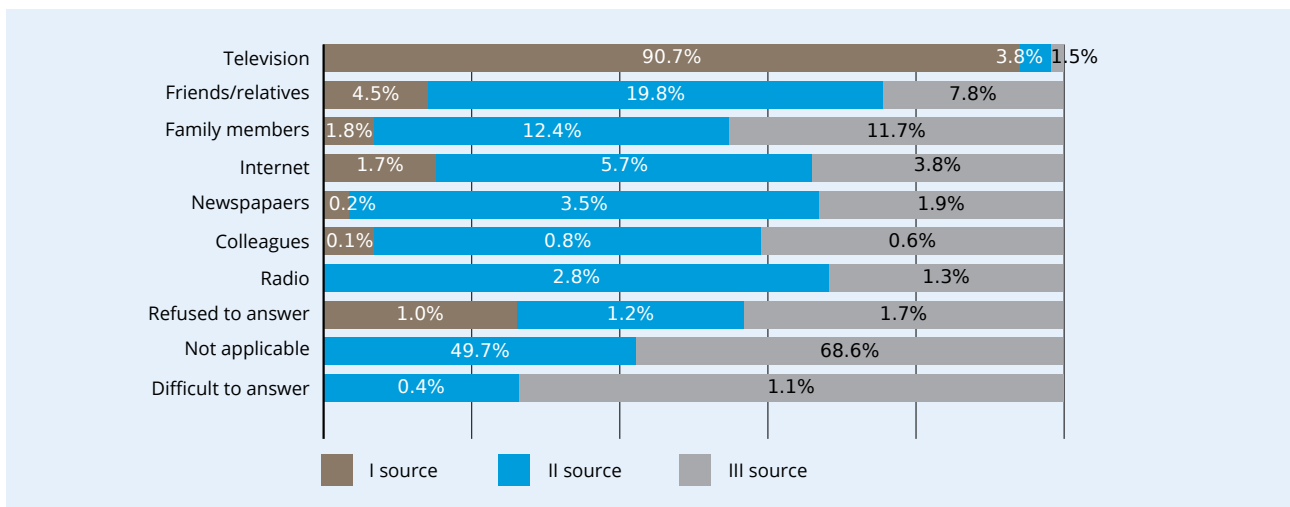


# 8. MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Television is the main source of information for 91% of women; 4.5% stated they received information from relatives and neighbours; 1.8% - from fam-

ily members; and only 1.7% used the Internet as a source of information (see Diagram no. 31).

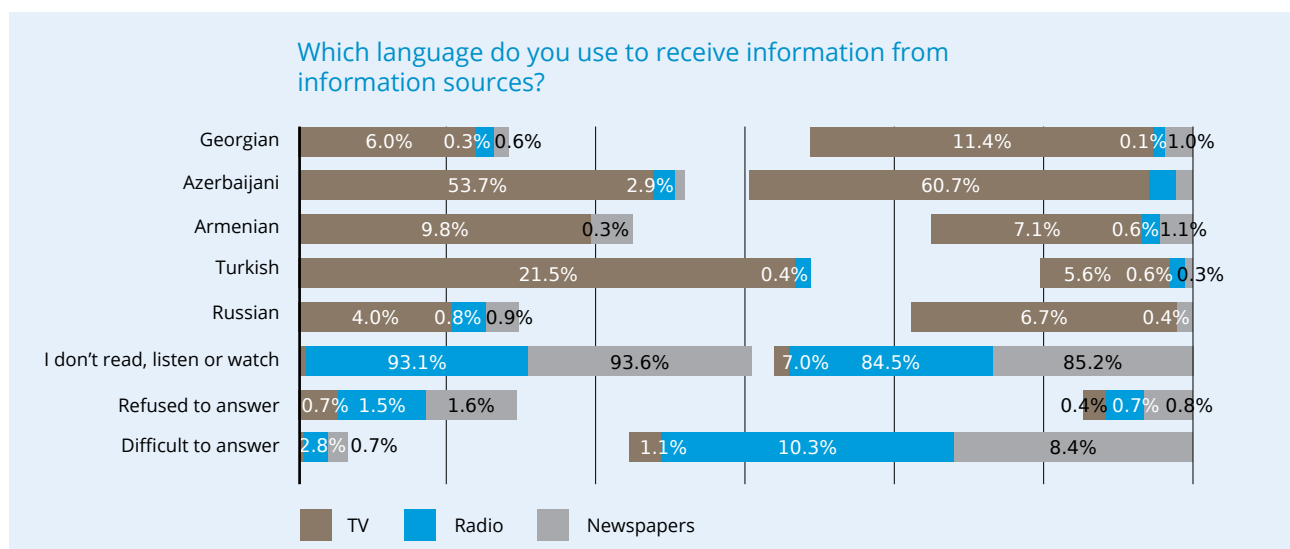
**Diagram no. 31:**  
Main sources of information



Fifty-four per cent of women get their information on TV in the Azerbaijani language, 6% mainly received information in Georgian and 22% got their information in Turkish. According to data from 2011, 61%

of women obtained their information on TV in Azerbaijani, 11% in Georgian, 7% in Armenian and 6% in Turkish. It seems that more people listened to TV in Turkish in recent years (see Diagram no. 32).

**Diagram no. 32:**  
Languages used to receive information by information sources







# 9. AGRICULTURE

Of the agricultural programmes implemented by Georgian Government for the rural population, respondents were more aware of the Spring Agricultural Works Supporting Programme for Small Farmers and Preferential Agro-Credit Programme than the programme, Information and Consulting Services for Farmers. The Kvemo Kartli population had greatest knowledge of the Preferential Agro-Credit Programme and least aware of the Information and Consulting Services for Farmers (see Diagrams no. 33 and no 34). The survey revealed the following:

- The majority of respondents (53.1%) were aware of the Spring Agricultural Works Support Programme. Of this number, 75.6% were involved in the programme. The population involved mostly gave a positive evaluation of the programme (90%). Non-users explained that they had no detailed information about the programme (30.3%), or were not able to obtain timely needed information to participate in the

programme (21.1%). Almost one-third found it difficult to name the reasons for non-involvement (32.5%).

- A total of 75.5% were aware of the Preferential Agro-Credit Programme. Of this percentage only 23.4% used the programme. The individuals involved mostly gave positive evaluations of the programme (82%). Those not involved cited their own unwillingness to participate (20.8%). About one-fifth had no detailed information.
- A total of 91.5% were not aware of the programme, Information and Consulting Services for Farmers. Of the informed population only 36.1% were users. Those who were non-users said they did not need the programme (22.1%), some had no detailed information (16.8%) or were not able to obtain the needed information to get involved in the programme (15.7%). Quite a large number of respondents (20.9%) found it difficult to answer the question.

**Diagram no. 33**

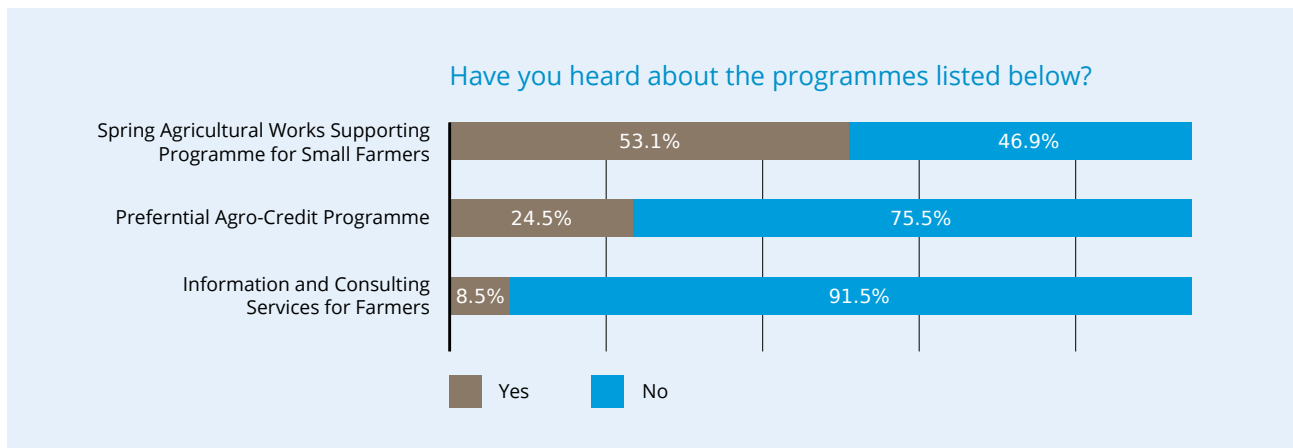
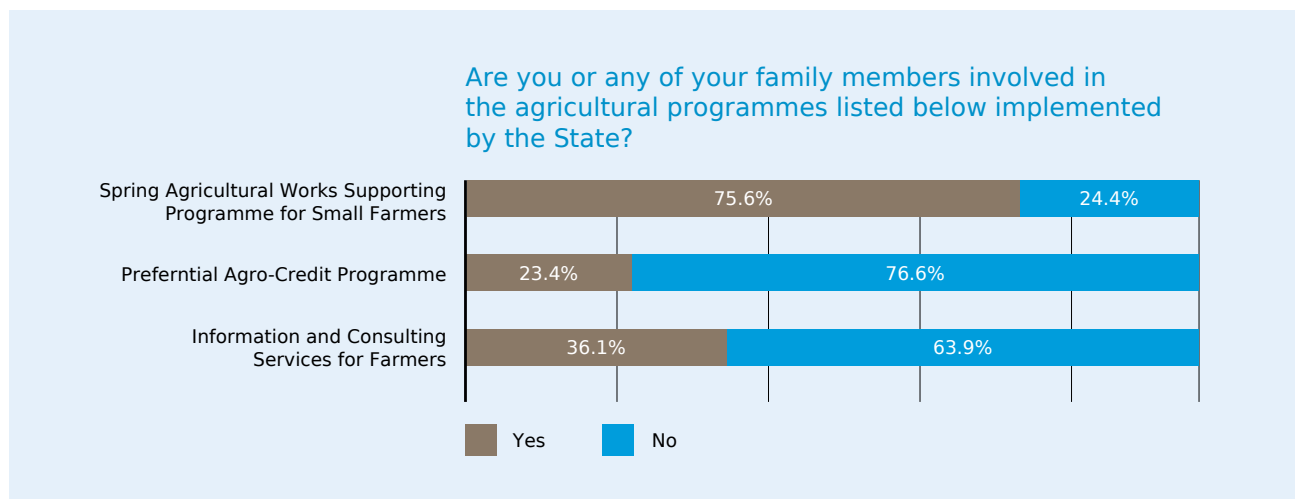


Diagram no. 34





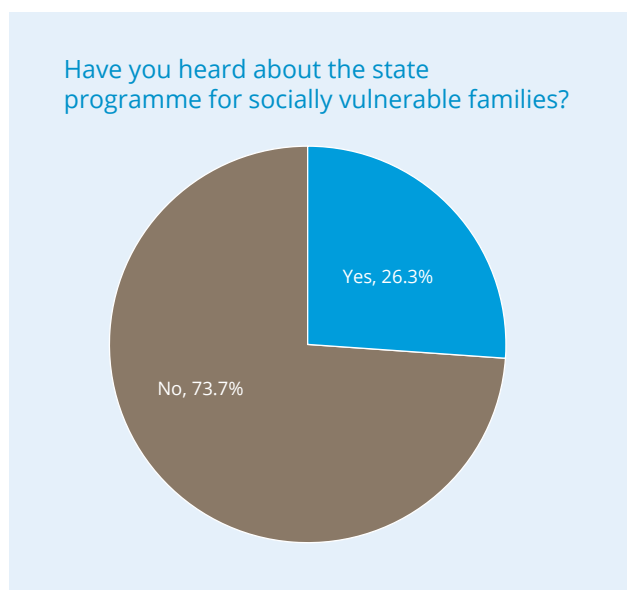


# 10. ASSISTANCE FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES

The social assistance programme was launched in 2006<sup>2</sup>. The vulnerable families identified within the targeted social assistance programmes received cash assistance and a medical insurance policy. In to-

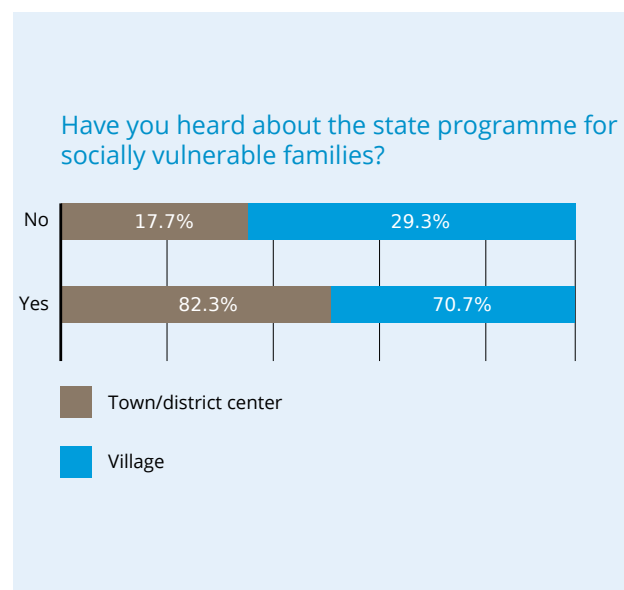
tal, 73.7% knew about the government programme providing assistance to vulnerable families (see Diagram no.35).

**Diagram no. 35**



The urban population was found to be better informed about the government programme

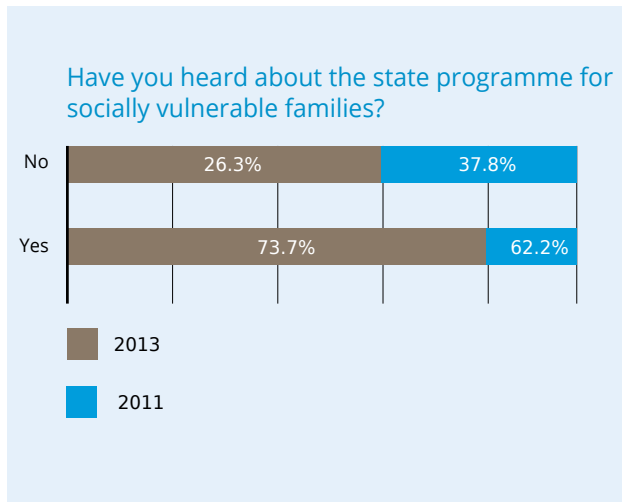
**Diagram no. 36**



for socially-vulnerable families than their rural counterparts (82.3% vs. 70.7%) (see Diagram no. 36).

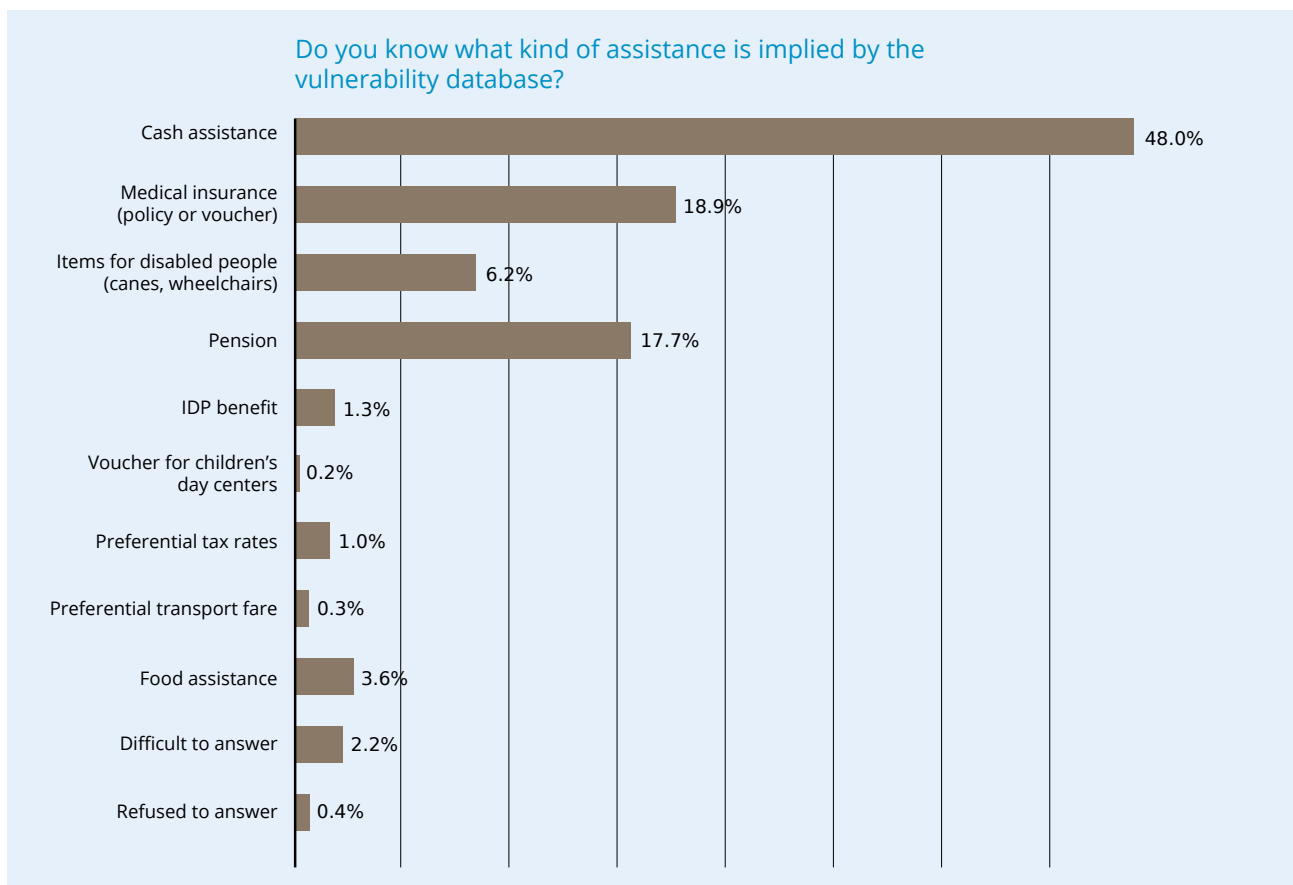
<sup>2</sup> Resolution of the Government, 28 July 2006 (No. 9145) on social assistance

**Diagram no. 37**



The survey also shows how adequate the information on social assistance available to ethnic minority women was. The respondents claiming to possess information about the social assistance in fact had no sound information. For example, they wrongly assumed that pension, items necessary for disabled people and similar forms of assistance formed part of social assistance programmes (see Diagram no. 38).

**Diagram no. 38**



Almost one fourth of respondent families had applied for social assistance). The total number of respondents currently receiving cash assistance was 5.6%, and total number of respondents currently receiving medical insurance for the vulnerable is

0.9%. Thus approximately 6.5% of respondents are socially vulnerable. **Of those people who had heard about and applied for social assistance, 30.8% confirmed receiving cash assistance** (see Diagrams nos. 39, 40, 41 and 42).



Diagram no. 39

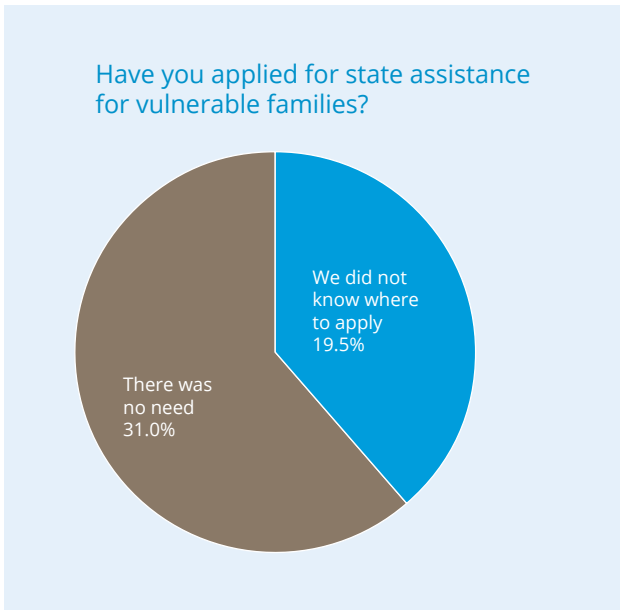


Diagram no. 40

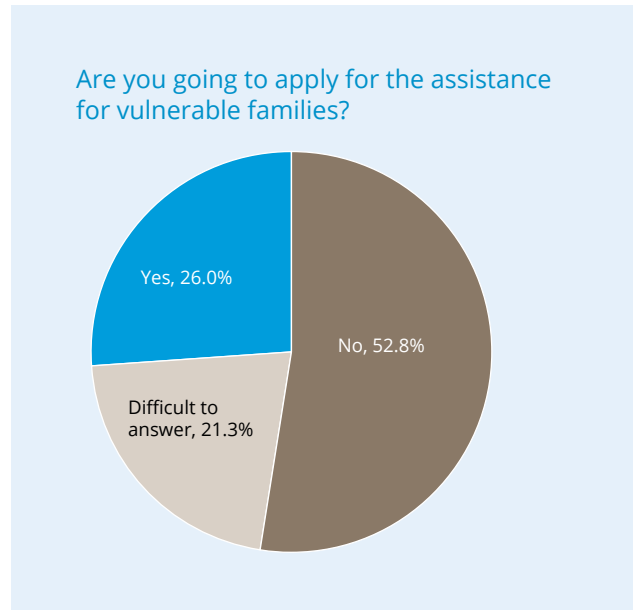
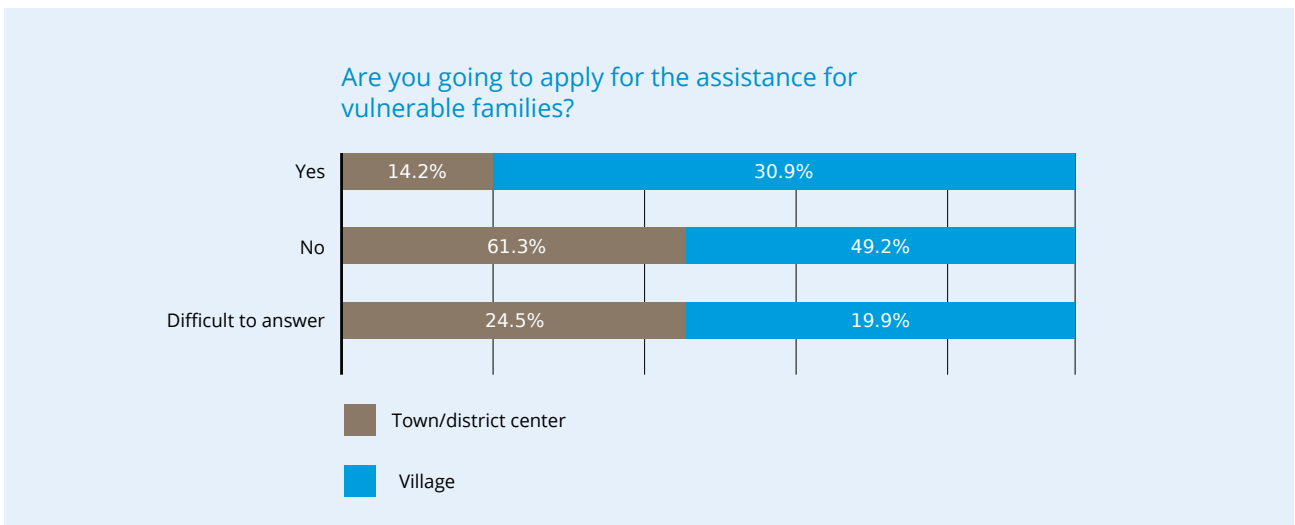


Diagram no. 41



One-third of respondents who had not applied for social assistance for vulnerable families said the main reason for not doing so was that they did not need

such benefits (31%). An information deficit was also cited as an important reason ("I did not know where to apply") (see Diagram no. 43).

Diagram no. 42

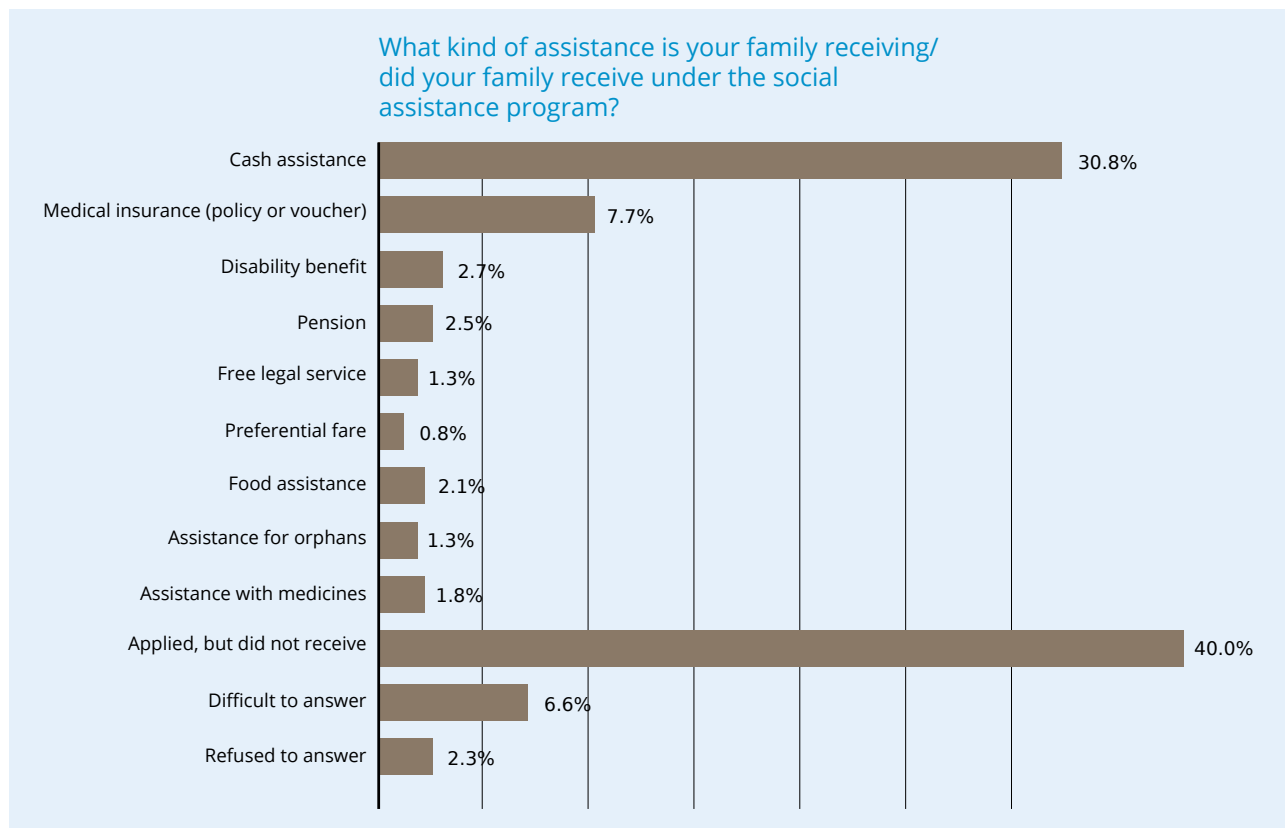
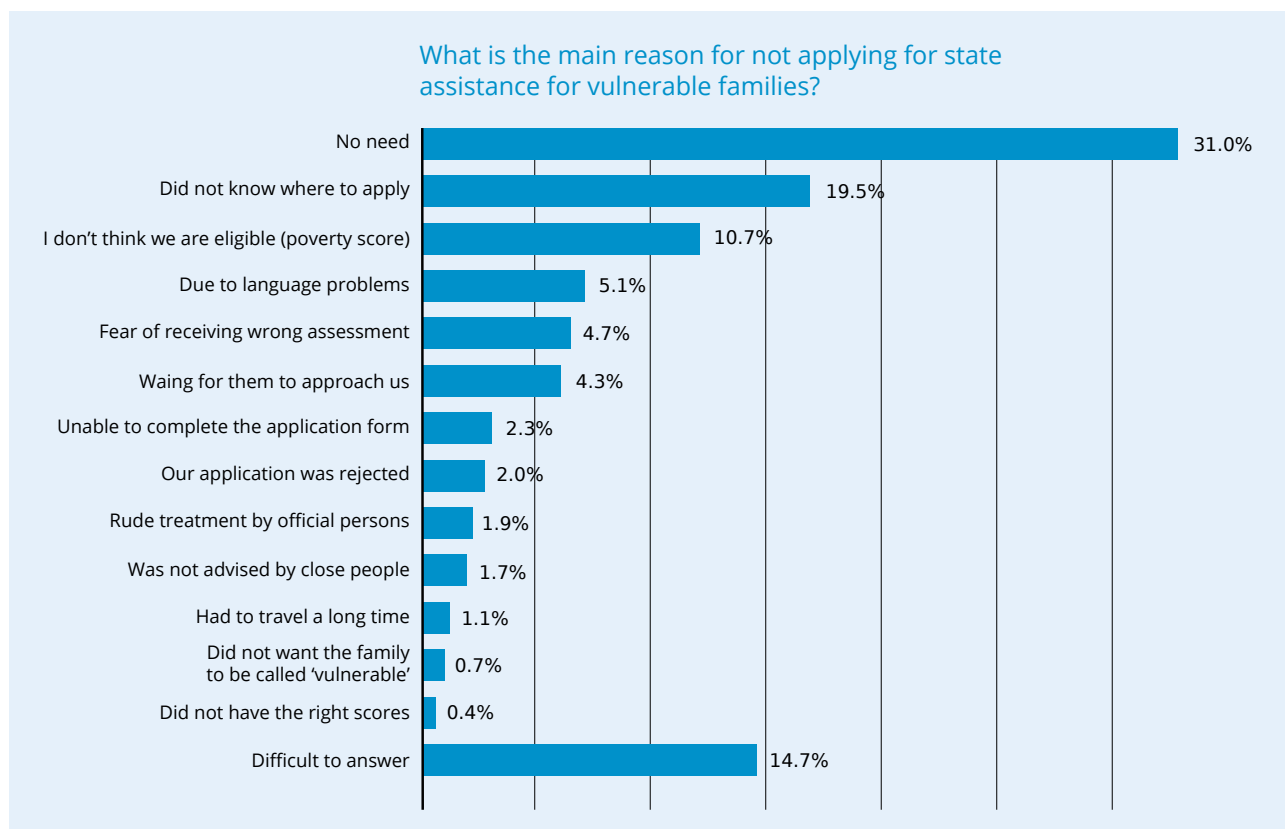


Diagram no. 43





# 11. INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL POLITICS AND IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR SETTLEMENT

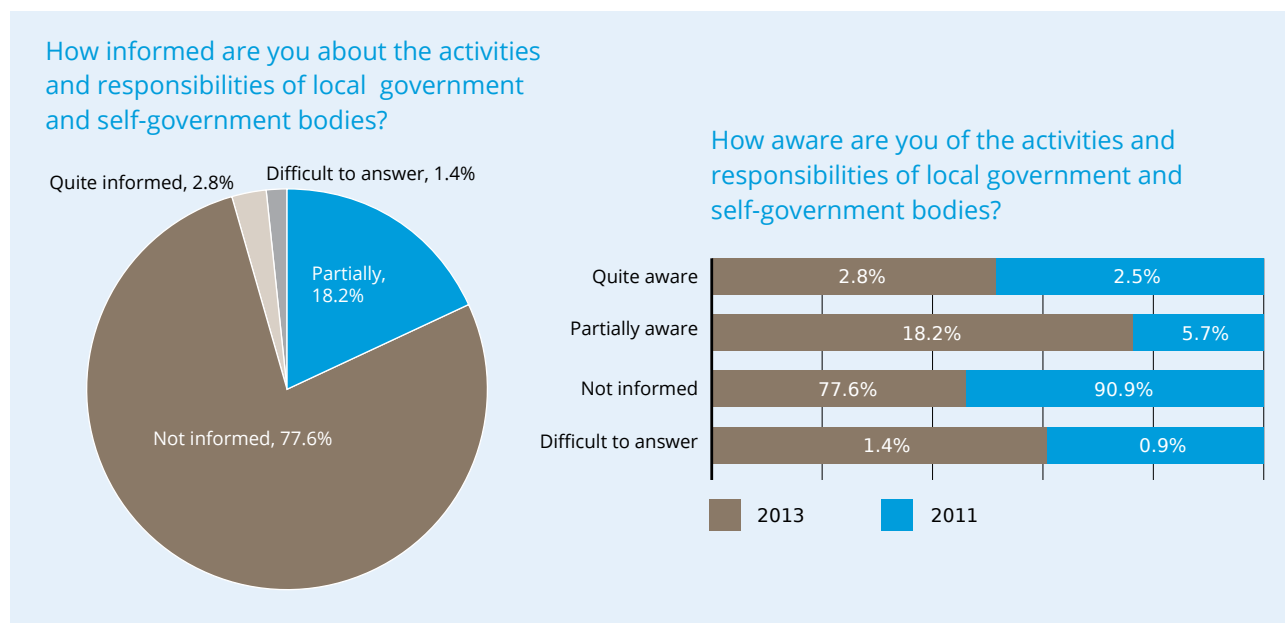
A total of 77.6% of respondents were uninformed about the activities and responsibilities of local government and self-government bodies. Awareness was lower in rural areas than in urban ones (81.4% vs. 66.4%) (See Diagram no. 44).

The Institute of Social Studies and Analysis conducted a survey in 2011 on the activities and responsibilities of the local government and self-government bodies. The findings show that 5.7% of respondents considered themselves to be partially informed, whereas 90.9% of respondents said they were uninformed in general. A comparison of the 2011 and 2013 study findings clearly show an increase in partially in-

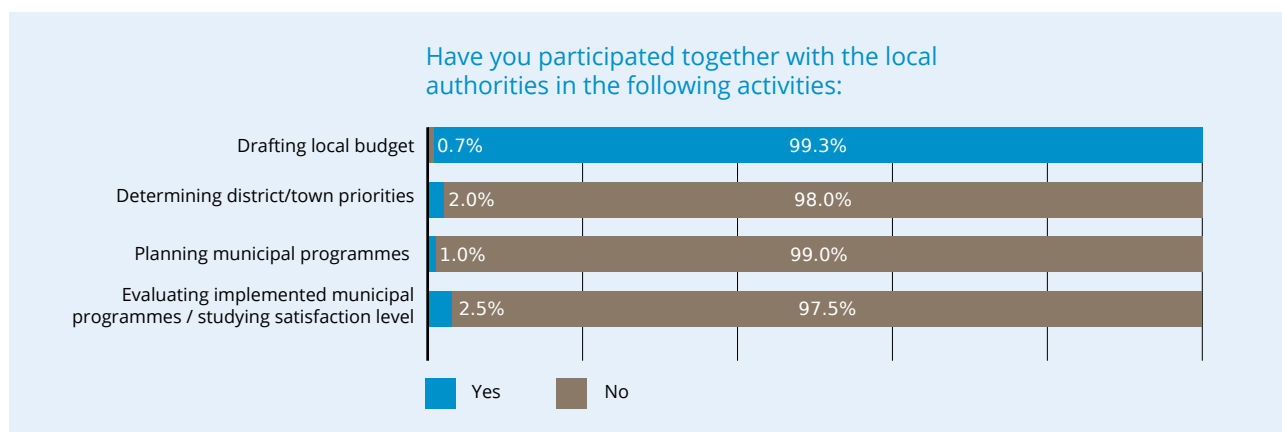
formed respondents (18.2% in 2013). The number of those unaware of the activities and responsibilities of local government and self-government bodies decreased (77.6% in 2013) (see Diagram no. 45). These findings clearly demonstrate an increase in the awareness level.

Several questions were used to measure involvement in the political processes. The findings showed that majority did not take part in the drafting of local budget, determining district/town priorities, planning municipal programmes or evaluating implemented municipal programmes/studying the satisfaction level (see Diagram no. 46).

Diagram no. 44, 45



**Diagram no. 46**

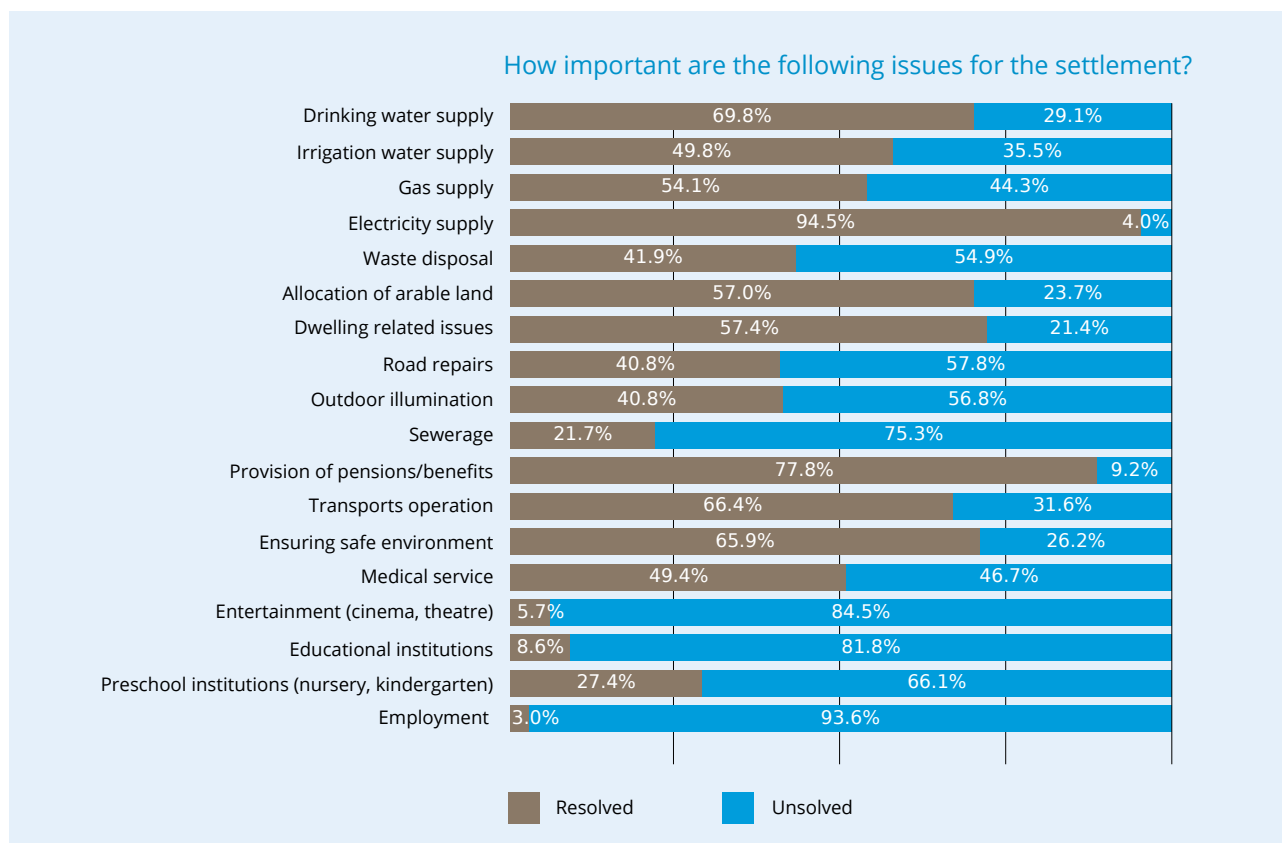


The survey revealed the issues that were problematic for the Kvemo Kartli population. Employment (93.6%) was the prime concern. Respondents also named lack of entertainment venues, like cinemas or theatres (84.5%), absence of educational institutions, such as libraries and museums (81.8%), operation of the sewerage system (75.3%), absence of and/or unsatisfactory work of preschool institutions, like kindergartens and nurseries (66.1%), road repairs

(57.8%), outdoor illumination (56.8%) and waste disposal (54.9%).

Respondents considered the following issues resolved: electricity supply, provision of pensions/benefits, drinking water supply, transport, ensuring a safe environment, quality of drinking water, problems related living space, allocation of arable land and gas supply (Diagram no. 47):

**Diagram no. 47**



Another important point is that the urban population had fewer problems than their rural counterparts. In particular, the number of problems named by over half of the urban population was smaller than those cited by the same percentage of

their rural counterparts. According to respondents, employment, entertainment and educational issues are least solved in urban areas as are issues on arrangement of meetings/public demonstrations (see Table no. 3).

**Table no. 3**

Unresolved problems		
	Urban population	(%)
1	Employment	89.3
2	Entertainment	65.3
3	Educational institutions	57.1
4	Sewerage system	40.7
5	Medical services	38
6	Outdoor illumination	36.6
7	Waste disposal	36.5
8	Irrigation water supply	34.3
9	Quality of drinking water	29.1
10	Roads	26.4
11	Drinking water supply	25.2
12	Availability/operation of preschool institutions ( kindergarten, nursery)	23.7
13	Transports operation	21.3
14	Safe environment	16.9
15	Gas supply	10.7
16	Problems related to the place of dwelling	7.3
17	Allocation of arable lands	3.7
18	Electricity supply	2.4
19	Provision of pensions/benefits	2.3

Unresolved problems for the village population are as follows: Employment (95.2%), places for entertainment (91.4%), educational institutions (90.4%), operation of the sewerage system (87.3%), availability/op-

eration of preschool institutions (80.7%), unrepaired roads (68.6%), outdoor illumination (63.8%), waste disposal (61.2%) and gas supply (56%) (See Table no. 4):



**Table no. 4**

Unresolved problems		
	<b>Rural population</b>	<b>(%)</b>
1	Employment	95.2
2	Entertainment	91.4
3	Educational institutions	90.4
4	Sewerage system	87.3
5	Availability/operation of preschool institutions (kindergarten, nursery)	80.7
6	Roads	68.6
7	Outdoor illumination	63.8
8	Waste disposal	61.2
9	Gas supply	56
10	Medical services	49.7
11	Irrigation water supply	35.9
12	Transports operation	35.2
13	Allocation of arable lands	30.6
14	Drinking water supply	30.5
15	Quality of drinking water	30.2
16	Safe environment	29.5
17	Problems related to the place of dwelling	26.3
18	Provision of pensions/benefits	11.6
19	Electricity supply	4.6

The findings show that employment, entertainment and educational are serious problems in both urban and rural areas.

Ethnic minority women in the Kvemo Kartli region think that infrastructure related problems have been resolved. Women in urban areas are satisfied with the electricity and gas supply, transport, etc. The same scenario exists in rural areas (see Tables nos. 5 and 6):

**Table no. 5**

Resolved problems		
	Urban population	(%)
1	Electricity supply	96.9
2	Gas supply	88.4
3	Transports operation	76.6
4	Provision of pensions/benefits	76.5
5	Drinking water supply	73.9
6	Problems related to the place of dwelling	72
7	Safe environment	71
8	Availability/operation of preschool institutions (kindergarten, nursery)	68.8
9	Roads	62.9
10	Outdoor illumination	60.4
11	Quality of drinking water	60.1
12	Waste disposal	58.1
13	Sewerage system	57.7
14	Medical services	56
15	Allocation of arable lands	42.7
16	Educational institutions	27
17	Arranging meetings/public demonstrations	19.1
18	Drinking water supply	17.9
19	Entertainment	15.3
20	Employment	6.6

**Table no. 6**

Resolved problems		
	Rural population	(%)
1	Electricity supply	93.7
2	Provision of pensions/benefits	78.3
3	Drinking water supply	68.4
4	Safe environment	64.1
5	Quality of drinking water	63.2
6	Transports operation	62.9
7	Allocation of arable lands	62
8	Drinking water supply	60.9
9	Problems related to the place of dwelling	52.8
10	Medical services	47
11	Gas supply	42.2
12	Waste disposal	36.3
13	Outdoor illumination	33.9
14	Roads	29.7
15	Availability/operation of preschool institutions (kindergarten, nursery)	13.1
16	Sewerage system	9.2
17	Arranging meetings/public demonstrations	4.7
18	Entertainment	2.4
19	Educational institutions	2.3
20	Employment	1.8

Both the rural and urban populations believe the electricity supply, provision of pensions/benefits, trans-

ports operation, ensuring safe environment believes these have been resolved.

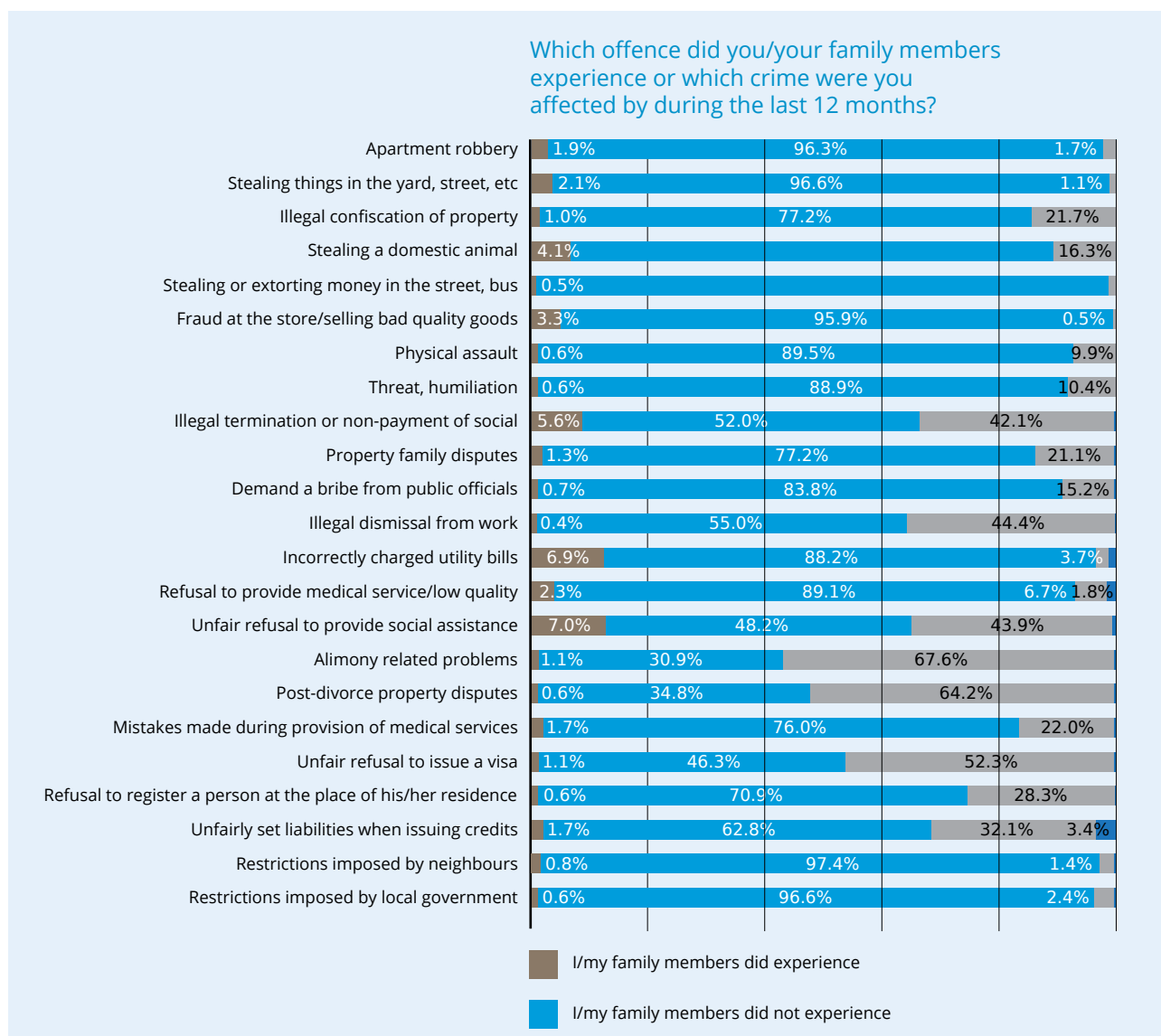


## 12. LEGAL PROTECTION

Research showed that the Kvemo Kartli population rarely faces legal problems. Ethnic minority women most frequently discuss the following problems: Refusal to provide social assistance, incorrectly charged

utility bills, illegal termination or non-provision of social assistance, theft of domestic animals, fraud at the store/ sale of low quality goods, etc. (see Diagram no. 48).

Diagram no. 48



As already discussed, legal problems vary according to whether respondents live in urban or rural areas. For example, ethnic minority women in urban areas are

mostly concerned about illegal termination of social assistance, fraud at the store/sale of defective goods, or incorrectly charged utility bills (see Table no. 7).

**Table no. 7**

Legal problems faced by respondents	
Urban population	(%)
Illegal termination or non-payment of social assistance	6.5
Fraud at the store/sale of bad quality goods	5.5
Incorrectly charged utility bills	4.6
Unfair refusal to provide social assistance	3.5
Mistakes made during provision of medical service	2.6
Mistakes made during provision of medical service/refusal to provide medical service/ poor quality medical service	2.2
Stealing things in the yard, street	1.6
Physical assault	0.9
Threat, humiliation	0.9
Unfair refusal to issue a visa	0.9
Property family disputes (heritage, saving, investment, debt, etc.)	0.8
Apartment robbery	0.8
Restrictions imposed by neighbours	0.8
Alimony-related problems	0.6

As for women residing in rural areas, here too, they mostly encounter the unfair refusal to provide social assistance and incorrectly charged utility bills (see Table no. 8).

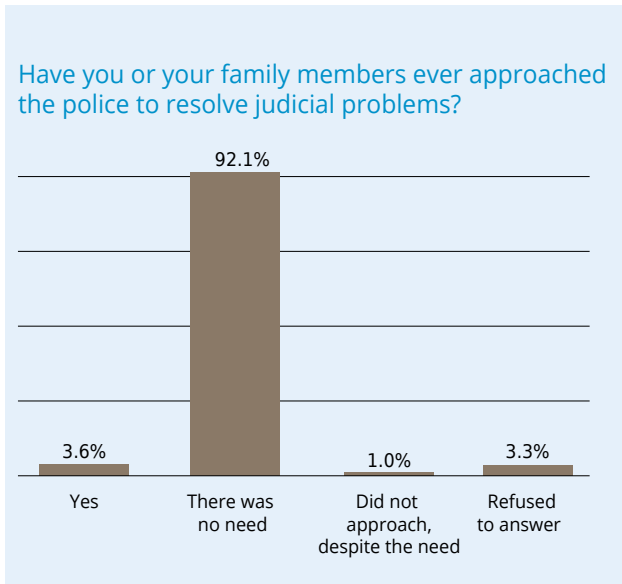
**Table no. 8**

Legal problems faced by respondents	
Rural population	(%)
Unfair refusal to provide social assistance	8.3
Incorrectly charged utility bills	7.7
Theft of domestic animals	5.5
Illegal termination or non-payment of social assistance	5.2
Fraud at the store/selling bad quality goods	2.6
Mistakes made during provision of medical service/refusal to provide medical service/ poor quality medical service	2.4
Apartment robbery	2.3
Stealing things in the yard, street	2.3
Unfairly set liabilities when issuing credits/banks put in an advantageous position/ high interest rate and difficult conditions for credit repayment	2.3
Mistakes made during provision of medical service;	1.4
Property family disputes (heritage, saving, investment, debt, etc.)	1.4
Illegal confiscation of property	1.3
Alimony related problems	1.2
Unfair refusal to issue a visa	1.1
Public servants asking for a bribe to provide a service	0.9
Post-divorce property disputes	0.8
Refusal to register a person at the place of residence;	0.8
Restrictions imposed by neighbors	0.8
Restrictions by local government	0.8
Stealing or extorting money in the street, bus	0.7
Illegal dismissal from work	0.5
Physical assault	0.5
Threat, humiliation	0.5

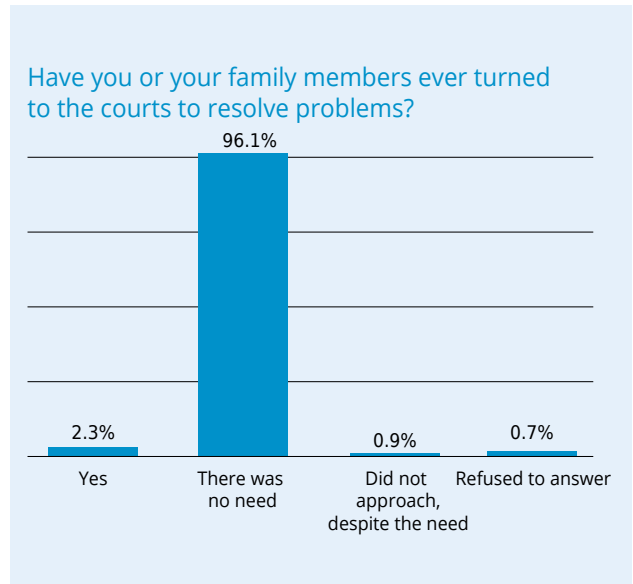
The data shows that rural and urban populations are equally concerned about the problems with social assistance, utility bills, fraud at the store and medical services. However, the Kvemo Kartli population rarely approaches the police or the court to resolve

legal problems. For example, the police have been approached by only 3.6% of the respondents and the court has been approached by 2.3% (see Diagram nos. 49 and 50).

**Diagram no. 49**



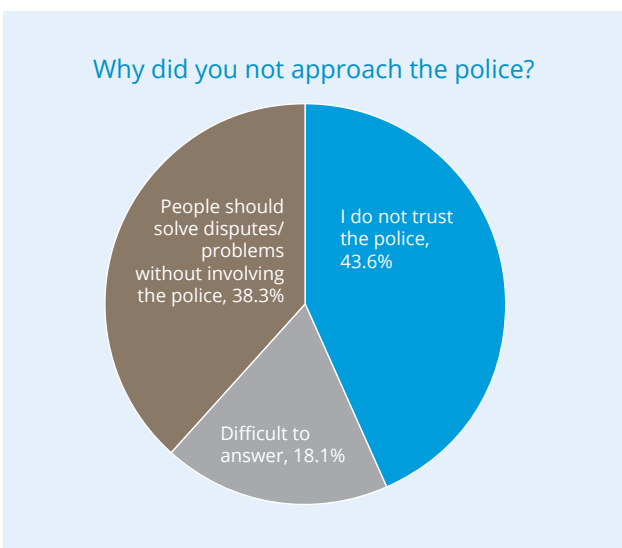
**Diagram no. 50**



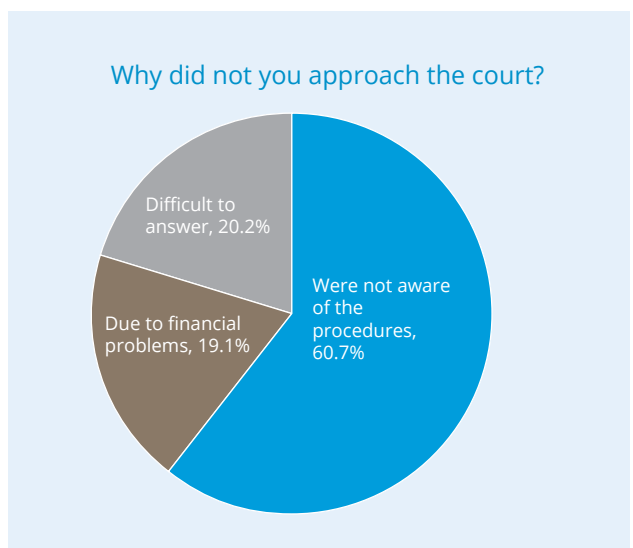
Respondents noted that they did not approach the police because of distrust (43.6%) or think that different disputes/problems should be resolved without police involvement (38.3%). They do not use

the courts because they lack knowledge of the judicial procedures (60.7%) or have financial difficulties (19.1%) (see Diagrams nos. 51 and 52).

**Diagram no. 51**



**Diagram no. 52**

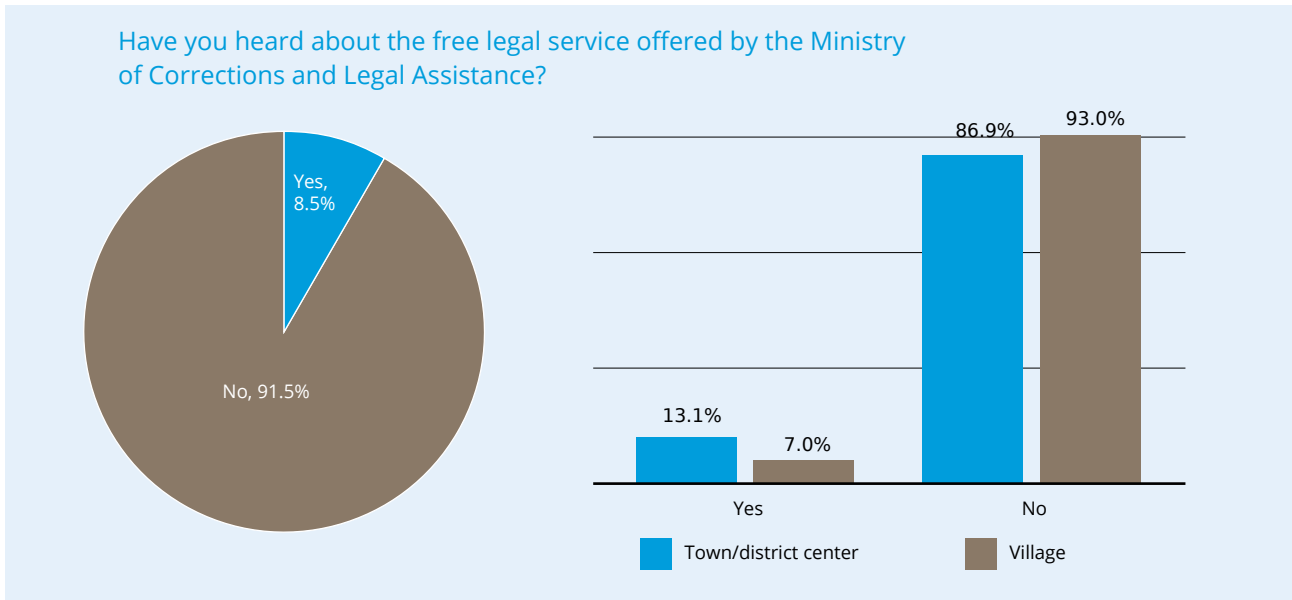




A total of 91.5% of the population is not aware of the free legal service available at the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance. In addition, out of the informed respondents only several have used

the service. Another important fact is that the urban population is more aware of this programme than the rural population (see Diagram nos. 53 and 54).

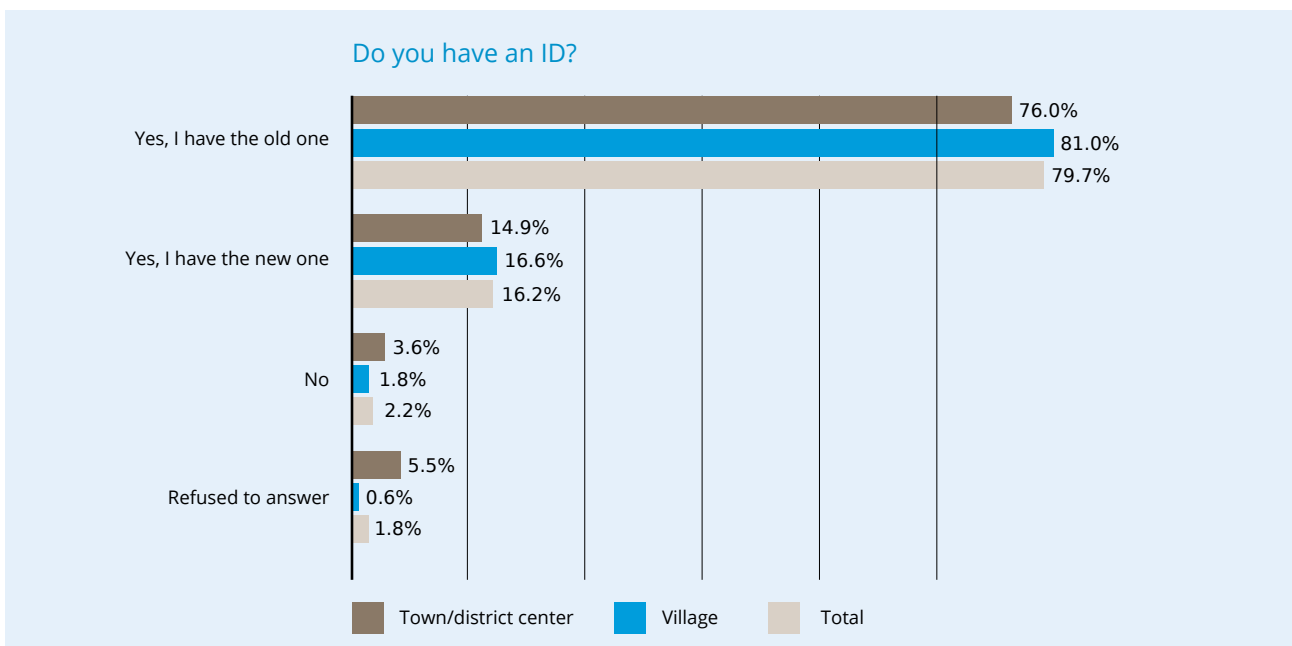
**Diagram no. 53, 54**



Most of the ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli region have old IDs. New IDs are possessed only by 16.2% of population (see Diagram no. 55). To be noted

is that the possession of an ID correlates with age. The new ID is possessed by 28% of the population aged 18–24 and 24.4% of population aged 25–34.

**Diagram no. 55**



# SOME RECOMMENDATIONS

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- **Raise awareness on the State Programme on the Enrolment of Ethnic Minorities in Higher Education Institutions** – only 5% of ethnic minority respondent women have higher education. The vast majority of women, 69%, have no information on the state programme **on Enrolment of Ethnic Minorities in Higher Education Institutions**. Therefore, raising awareness of women on the aforementioned programme will be one of most important preconditions for increased enrolment of ethnic minority women in higher education institutions.
- **Improvement of the Georgian language-learning programme** – knowledge of Georgian is one of the most important problems for ethnic minority women in Kvemo Kartli. A significant majority of female respondents, 63%, do not speak Georgian. Because of the language barrier women lack access to information on various state programmes and services, which results in a low participation rate in these programmes. As it turns out, current state programmes in Kvemo Kartli to teach Georgian are either insufficient or ineffective. A systemic approach to improve knowledge of the Georgian language should be developed. Interest in learning Georgian among ethnic minority women will increase if knowledge of the language will bring additional benefits to them in the long run. It is feasible to develop special programme for teaching Georgian and after completing the course participants can transmit the knowledge (i.e. the so-called teach and learn principle).
- **Providing preschool education facilities to the local communities/villages** – the absence of kindergartens in the villages is one of the most acute problems for the vast majority of women. Kindergartens are not available for 80% of women who have preschool age children. On the hand, 83% of women for whom kindergartens are not available say that there is no kindergarten in their community; 9% say that kindergarten is too far away and they cannot afford transport costs. One recommendation is to provide kindergartens in closer proximity and to use existing resources and infrastructure to increase access to kindergartens.
- **Plan a campaign against early marriage** – early marriages are a common practice among ethnic minority women and 32% of married women marry before the age of 18. Five per cent married between 13-14 and 16% at 15-16 years. Early marriages in the long run often result in women's poor health, lack of opportunities to receive a proper education and advance socially. The results of the survey show that the vast majority of women (69%) living in Kvemo Kartli suffered from health-related problems during the past 12 months; 38% of them had a chronicle disease that required lengthy and regular treatment. Therefore, when planning the campaign against early marriage special emphasis should be made on its side effects –its negative impact on women's and their possibility for social advancement.
- **Build a culture of preventive health care and raise awareness on health care programmes** – the number of women with various health-related problems is significantly higher among ethnic minority women with 38% of women suffering from different chronicle diseases. To prevent such diseases among women it is important to promote preventive medical check-ups. This can be partially achieved by providing information on different health care programmes in their local language. The vast majority of women had little, if any, knowledge about government health care programmes, and only 37% had knowledge about the universal health care programme.
- **Increase trust in state institutions and raise awareness about their services** – ethnic minority women lack information on various state institutions and their programmes that directly affect their everyday life. In all, 78% of respondents were not aware of the work and responsibilities of the local municipalities. Lack of information, together with some other factors, was one of the major barriers to increased involvement of women in policy-making at the local level. Additionally, lack of information also affects women using the court system. The main reason for 61% of women failing to use the court is the lack of information on

requisite procedures. A government institution like the police enjoys less trust among ethnic minority women. A total of 44% of those with legal problems said lack of trust in the police deterred them from approaching the force, and 38% believed different problems/disputes should be solved without police involvement.

- It is important to provide information on the work and responsibilities of different state institutions in their native language. In particular, women should receive information on the rights and responsibilities of the local authorities and possible ways of female engagement in the decision-making process. Moreover, it is also important to provide information on the requisite procedures for using the court system. This could be achieved by popularization of the Legal Aid Services of the Ministry of Correction and Legal Assistance. For the time being, 92% of female respondents have no information on free Legal Aid Services provided by the Ministry of Correction and Legal Assistance.



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