

VALUES AND ATTITUDES SURVEY ON 70 YEARS' OF INDEPENDENCE IN SRI LANKA

TOPLINE REPORT

1948

70

2018

FEBRUARY 2019

CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES – SOCIAL INDICATOR

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INTRODUCTION

This study aims to capture public opinion on areas pertaining to governance, democracy, political ideology, international relations, peace and reconciliation - following 70 years' of Independence in Sri Lanka. In particular, the youth vote and the extent to which there is a democratic deficit between this sector and their electoral representatives. The overarching idea of the survey is to map out what Sri Lanka may look like once it celebrates 100 years of independence with the millennials in charge of government and governance.

Since 1948 Sri Lanka, considered to be one of Asia's oldest democracies, carved its own path towards nation building – experiencing many achievements as well as many trials in the process. On the one hand, the country managed to maintain relatively high social indicators, especially in comparison to its South Asian neighbours, whilst on the other, it suffered civil unrest (the Southern Marxist resurrection) and a protracted civil conflict (ethnic conflict between the State and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) that lasted nearly three decades. Despite an end to the civil conflict in May 2009, the country still struggles to find a lasting solution to the long years of suffering and destruction.

Although Sri Lanka celebrates a completion of 70 years' of independence, it is evident that the country continues to attract ethnic politics, which in turn results in sporadic violence within communities. Despite experiencing an uninterrupted democratic history with regular elections involving a wide participation among citizens, the attraction for authoritarian leadership does not seem to have faded away. Although there have been numerous attempts of reforming the country's constitution- these efforts have subsequently failed. The Sri Lankan society continues to experience a rapid transformation as a result of globalisation, emerging global and regional powers, and various other political and economic realities. The current behaviour as well as the policies advocated by political parties do not appear to be strong enough to address the deepening challenges faced by contemporary Sri Lanka.

It is in this context that this survey was conducted to assess the opinion of the citizens of Sri Lanka, and their stance on key issues related to democracy and governance. As such, this study intends on enhancing ongoing political debate by influencing policy makers to understand the different dynamics prevalent among various groups, thereby helping people of authority advocate suitable policy reform. In addition, this study provides a snapshot of the attitudes and perception of the public at a time when the country contemplates the drafting of a new constitution. This top-line report of the study shares the findings of the survey in a descriptive form, in order to invite multiple interpretations from various stakeholders. Social Indicator aims to produce its full report with expert analysis and interpretations in the months to come.

This study is conducted by Social Indicator the survey research arm of Centre for Policy Alternatives, which has been conducting public opinion polls since 1999 on a wide range of social and political issues, in order to provide a channel through which the general public can voice their concern on issues that matter.

The survey team comprised of Dr.Pradeep Peiris, M. Krishnamoorthy and Sakina Moinudeen. Research assistance and support was provided by Hasini Lecamwasam and Shashik Dhanushka assisted with the data analysis.

Social Indicator would like to thank Dr.Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu for his valuable input and guidance throughout this study and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the financial assistance that it provided to complete this study.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was carried out using a semi structured questionnaire administered through face to face interviews with 2300 respondents in both Sinhala and Tamil languages across all 25 districts. The sample size was determined in order to produce results within a 2% error margin at a 95% confidence level and distributed considering the district and ethnic and age population using the Simple Random Sampling technique. Fieldwork for the entire study was conducted from 10th of August to the 10th of October 2018. A total of 60 field researchers, consisted of both male and female, from the three ethnic communities – Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim were participated in this study. In order to ensure the quality of the data, accompany visits, spot-checks and back-checks were done during and after field work. The dataset was weighted in order to reflect actual district, ethnic and age proportion of the population. The data set was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ❖ There appears to be an overall majority of Sri Lankans (77.5%) who believe that corruption is harmful and should be eradicated completely.
- ❖ In terms of development, Sri Lankans feel that the government should prioritise budget allocations to the education sector, development of the agricultural sector and the health sector.
- ❖ A significant proportion of Sri Lankans (83.2%) believe that the English language should be given a wider focus in schools' curriculum, in order to prepare individuals to achieve better employment opportunities in the future.
- ❖ In general, a majority (59.2%) of Sri Lankans remain dissatisfied with the manner in which law and order is currently being maintained in the country. From an ethnic perspective, it is mostly the Sinhala community (64.3%) who hold this view.
- ❖ On death penalty, an overwhelming majority of Sri Lankans (70.9%) approve of enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ On the use of various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp – interestingly a majority of Sri Lankans (50.8%) indicate that they have never used these platforms. However, it is mostly the youth population (57.7%) in comparison to the non-youth population (13.3%) who indicate that they use these platforms on a daily basis.
- ❖ While a majority of Sri Lankans (53.3%) are dissatisfied with the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka - it is mostly the youth population (60%) who hold this view.
- ❖ On truth seeking, a majority of Sri Lankans (72.4%) believe that it is important to know the truth about alleged crimes against humanity committed by all parties during the three decade long conflict. However from an ethnic perspective, it is mostly the minority communities more so than the majority Sinhala community who hold this view. This pattern recurs in the opinion of the respondents towards accountability and seeking redress for victims affected by civil unrest in the past.
- ❖ As for governance, a majority of Sri Lankans (74%) indicate that democracy is preferable than to any other kind of government.
- ❖ A higher percentage of Sri Lankans disagree with the private sector involvement in health services - it is mostly the Muslim community (61.3%) who hold this view. This pattern continues in response to the private sector involvement in education as well.
- ❖ A majority of Sri Lankans (50.2%) believe that the number of government employees should not be reduced, even though it impacts high government spending. Interestingly this view is held by mostly the youth population (51.3%) in comparison to the non-youth population (49.6%).

- ❖ On the status of religion in the constitution of Sri Lanka – a majority of Sri Lankans believe that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution – 36.5% believe that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution. It is important to note that, it is mostly the Sinhala community who indicate that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution – whilst it is the minority communities who believe that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution.
- ❖ Interestingly, it is mostly the youth population (42%) who believe that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution.
- ❖ When asked about their preferred form of governance, a clear majority (84.2%) are in favour of democracy - however, there is significant support towards a strong leader who can make decisions without having to worry about the parliament and elections as well as towards a form of governance by experts who could make decisions according to what they believe is best for the country, without having to worry about the parliament or elections.
- ❖ Japan (24.7%) and Singapore (19.5%) were indicated as countries that Sri Lanka should use as role models - India was highly ranked by the Up Country Tamil and Tamil communities, whilst Saudi Arabia was highly ranked among the Muslim community. Interestingly, Western countries were ranked very low, despite the fact that a majority of Sri Lankans (52.5%) recognised the United States of America as the most powerful country in the world, and rated Australia as the top country they would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka).

SURVEY FINDINGS

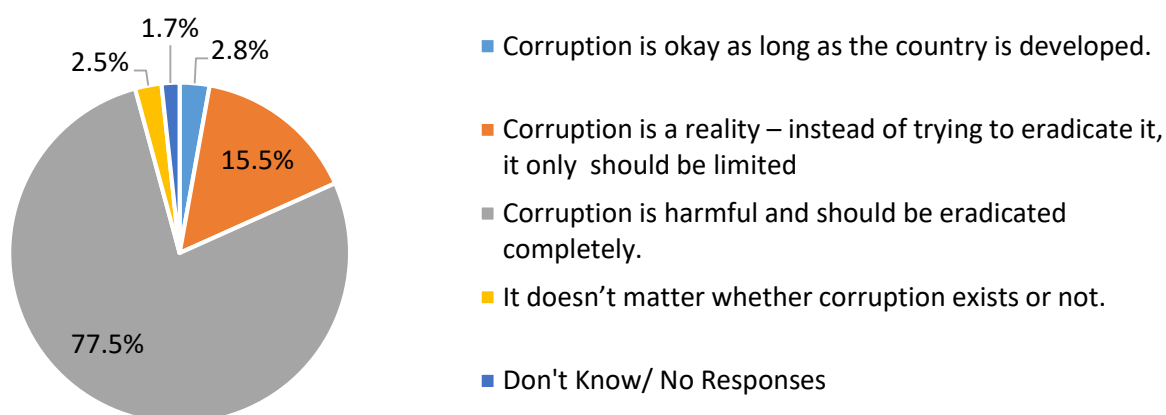
1. CORRUPTION

Perception on Corruption

Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of Sri Lankans (77.5%) believe that corruption is harmful and that it should be eradicated completely.
- ❖ Nearly 16% of Sri Lankans believe that corruption is a reality, instead of trying to eradicate it, it only should be limited.

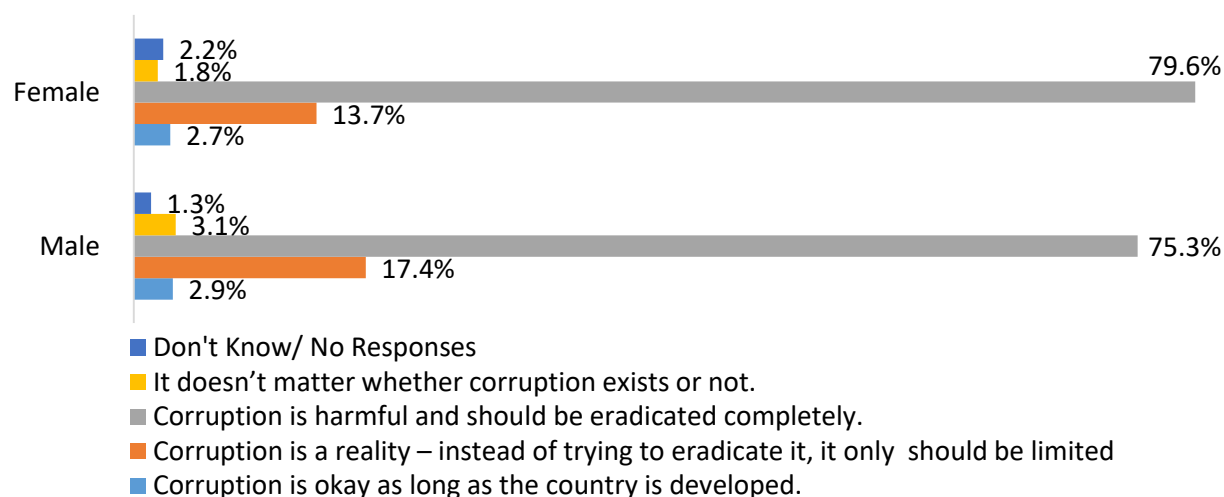
Graph 1.1: Perception of Corruption on a National Level



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of both males (75.3%) and females (79.6%) believe that corruption is harmful and should be eradicated completely.

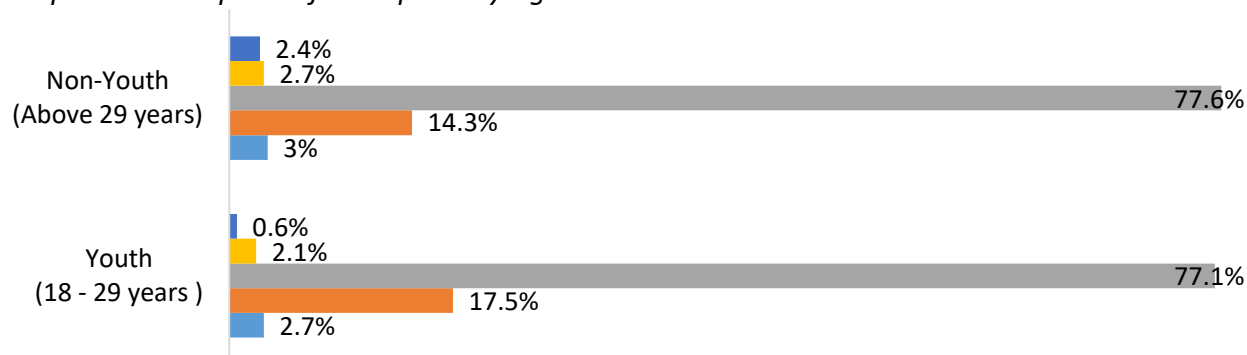
Graph 1.2: Perception of Corruption by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ There appears to be a sense of tolerance towards corruption among the youth population, in comparison to the non –youth population. This is evident as 17.5% of the youth and 14.3% of the non- youth population are of the opinion that corruption is a reality - instead of trying to eradicate it, it only should be limited.

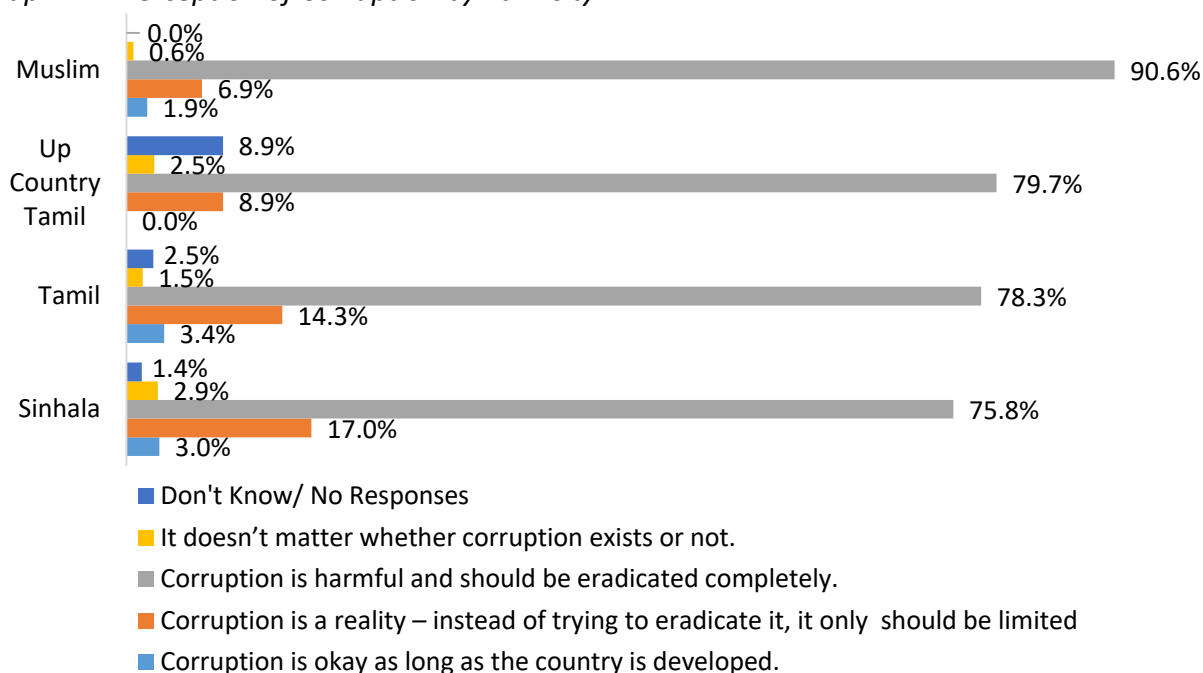
Graph 1.3: Perception of Corruption by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ Whilst it is mostly the Muslim community (90.6%) who indicate that corruption is harmful and should be eradicated completely, it is mostly the Sinhala community (17%) who indicate that corruption is a reality- instead of trying to eradicate it, it only should be limited.

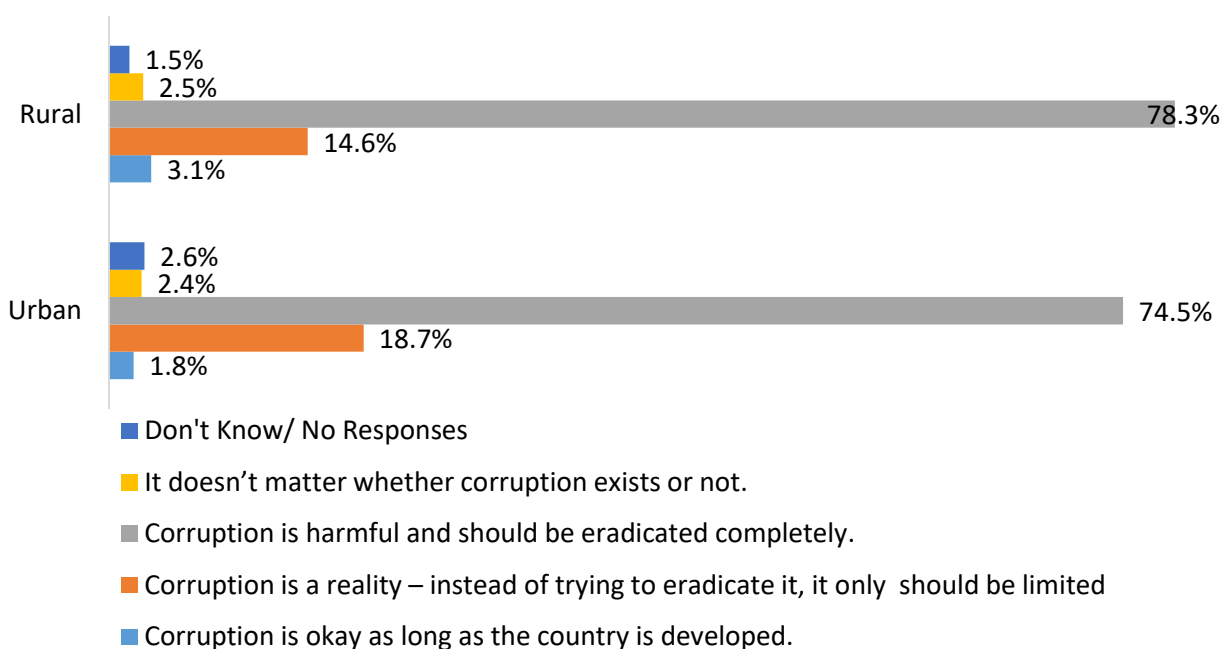
Graph 1.4: Perception of Corruption by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ Overall, a significant majority of respondents from both the urban (74.5%) and rural (78.3%) areas indicate that corruption is harmful and should be eradicated completely.
- ❖ There appears to be a sense of tolerance towards corruption in the urban areas, in comparison to the rural areas. As such, whilst 18.7% from the urban population indicate that corruption is a reality and that instead of trying to eradicate it, it only should be limited - a lesser percentage of the rural population (14.6%) hold this view.

Graph 1.5: Perception of the urban and rural population in relation to Corruption



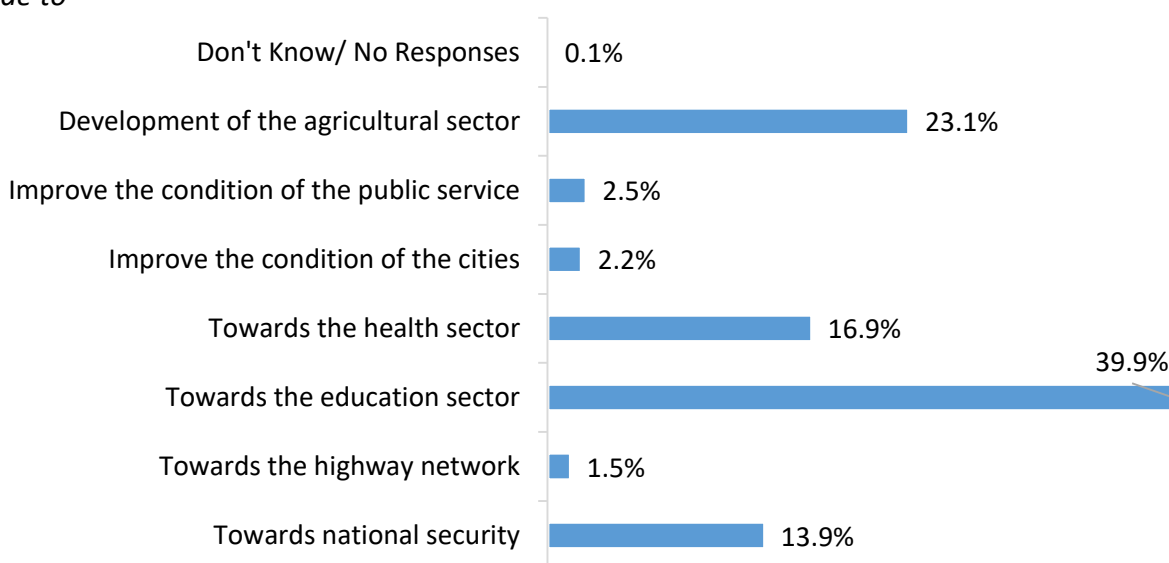
2. DEVELOPMENT

Perception on the Government's Priority Areas

Key Facts

- ❖ The top three areas of the national budget that Sri Lankans indicate that they would make allocations to are, the education sector (39.9%), the development of the agricultural sector (23.1%) and the health sector (16.9%).

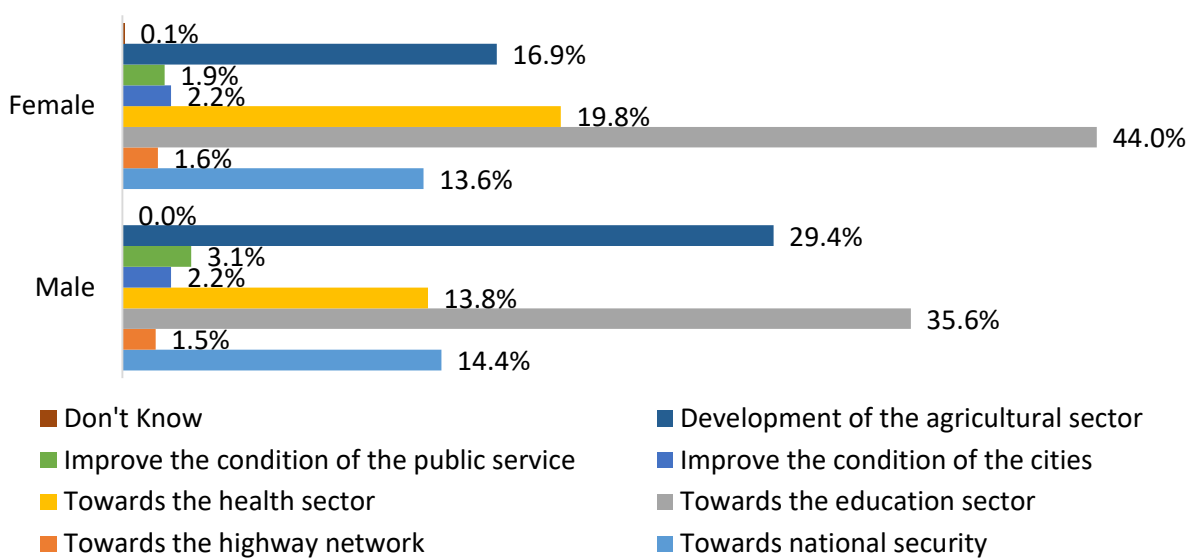
Graph 2.1: National Level perception on the top three sectors that budget allocations should be made to



Key Facts

- ❖ Education is the highest priority for both males (35.6%) and females (44%).
- ❖ Whilst the health sector is of second priority for the females (19.8%), development of the agricultural sector is of second priority for the males (29.4%).
- ❖ National security is of third priority for the males (14.4%) whilst for females (16.9%), the development of the agricultural sector is considered to be the third.

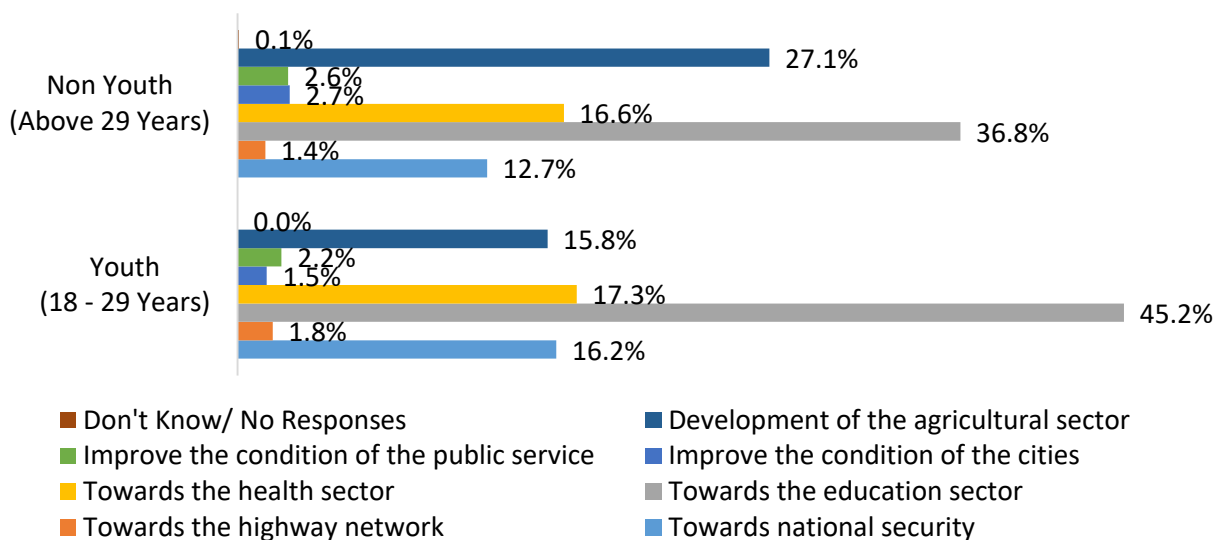
Graph 2.2: Perception on the top three sectors that budget allocations should be made to by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ It is important to note that the youth population (45.2%) consider budget allocations towards the 'education sector' as their first choice.
- ❖ While the youth population select the 'health sector' as their second choice (17.3%), development of the agricultural sector is selected as the second most important area by the non- youth population (27.1%).
- ❖ There appears to be a comparatively higher interest towards national security among the youth population (16.2%) in comparison to the non- youth population (12.7%).

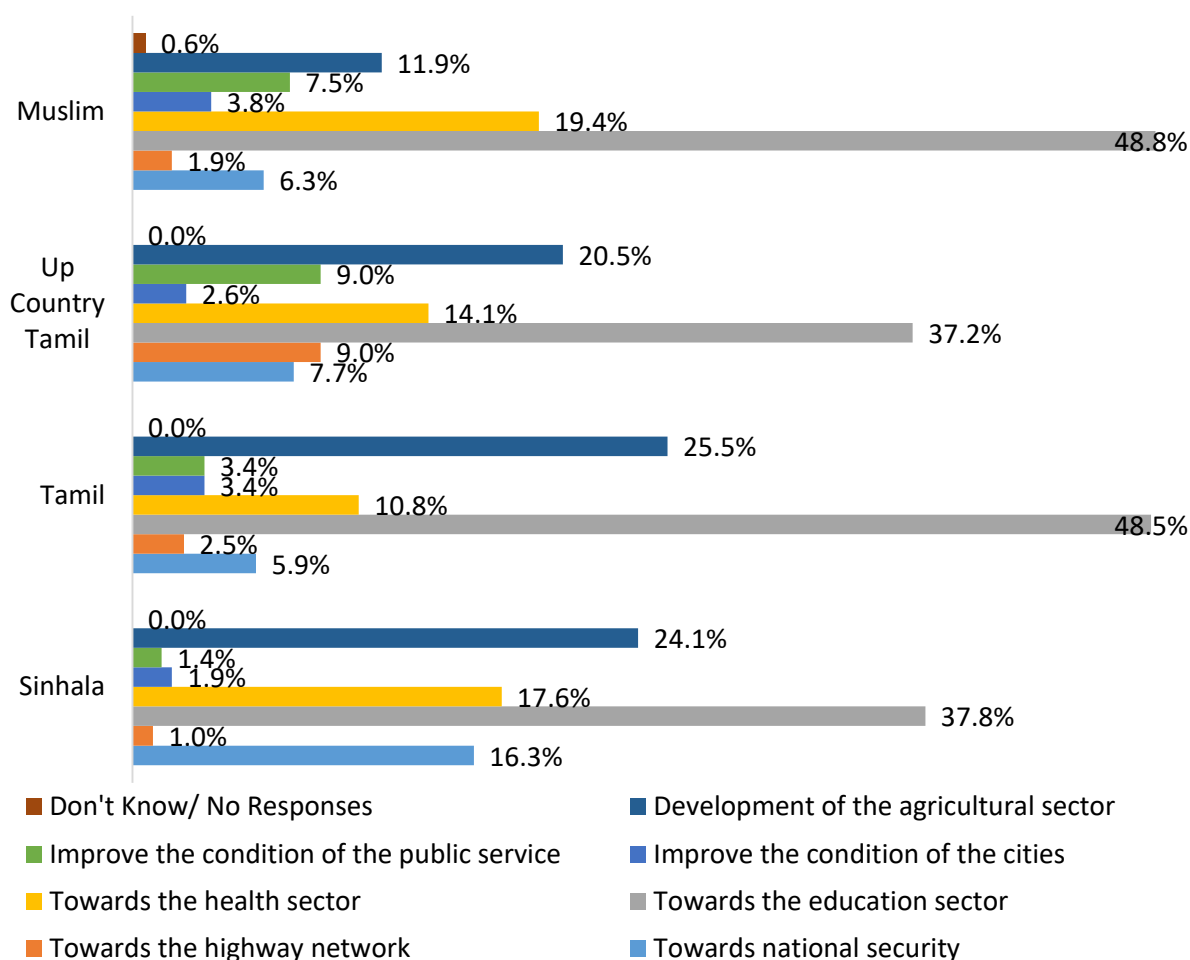
Graph 2.3: Perception on the top three sectors that budget allocations should be made to by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ Education is ranked the highest among all four ethnic communities.
- ❖ Development of the agricultural sector is the second most important area for the Sinhala (24.1%), Tamil (25.5%) and Up Country Tamil (20.5%) communities except for the Muslim community (11.9%).
- ❖ The Health sector is the third most important area for the Sinhala (17.6%), Tamil (10.8%) and Up Country Tamil (14.1%) communities – except for the Muslim community (19.4%) who prioritised it to be the second most important area.
- ❖ National security is considered to be less important across all four ethnic communities - especially among the Muslim (9%) and the Up Country Tamil (7.5%) communities, who are of the opinion that more importance should be given towards improving the condition of the public service.

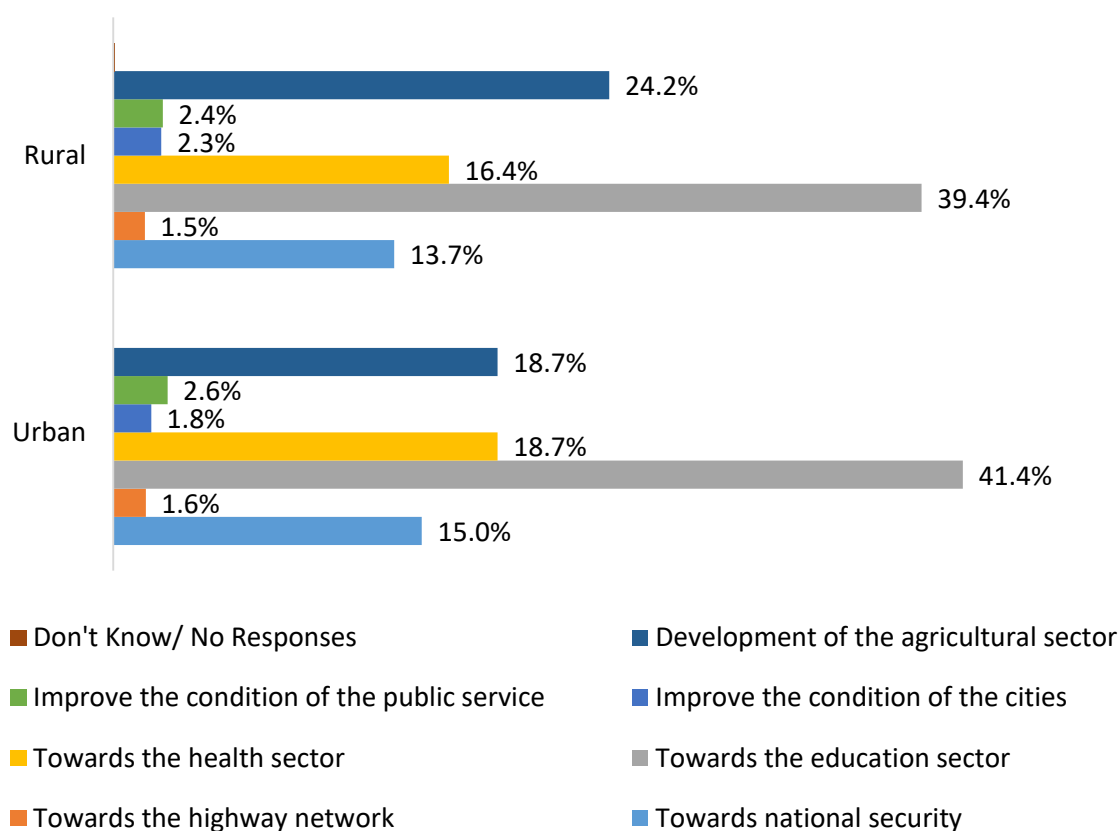
Graph 2.4: Perception on the top three sectors that budget allocations should be made to by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ For the urban population, the top most priority area was the education sector (41.4%), followed by development of the agricultural sector (18.7%) and the health sector (18.7%). The third most prioritised area was to improve the condition of the cities (15%).
- ❖ From the rural population, the top most priority area was the education sector (39.4%). This was followed by development of the agricultural sector (24.2%) and the health sector (16.4%).

Graph 2.5: Perception of the urban and rural population on the top three sectors to which budget allocations should be made to

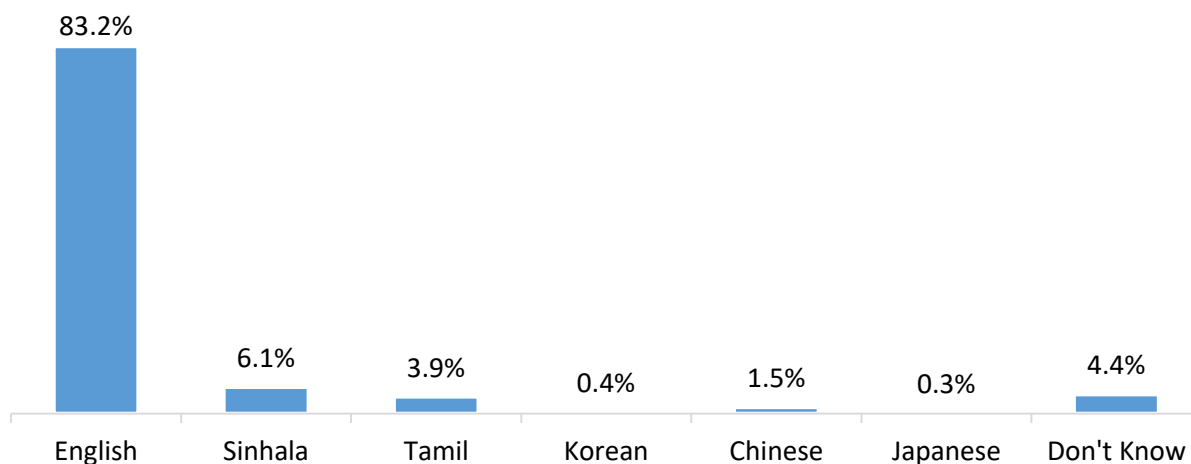


3. LANGUAGE

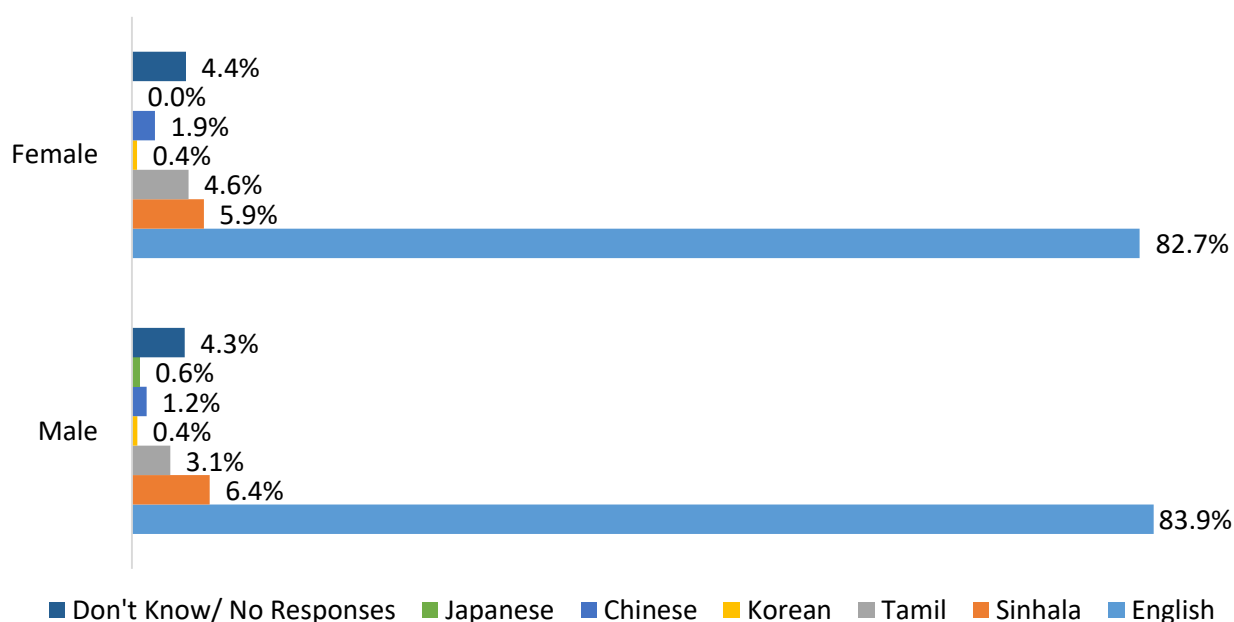
Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of Sri Lankans (83.2%) believe that English should be given a wider focus in schools' curriculum, as it helps prepare an individual to achieve better employment opportunities in the future in Sri Lanka.

Graph 3.1: National Level Perception on which Language should be given priority in schools' curriculum



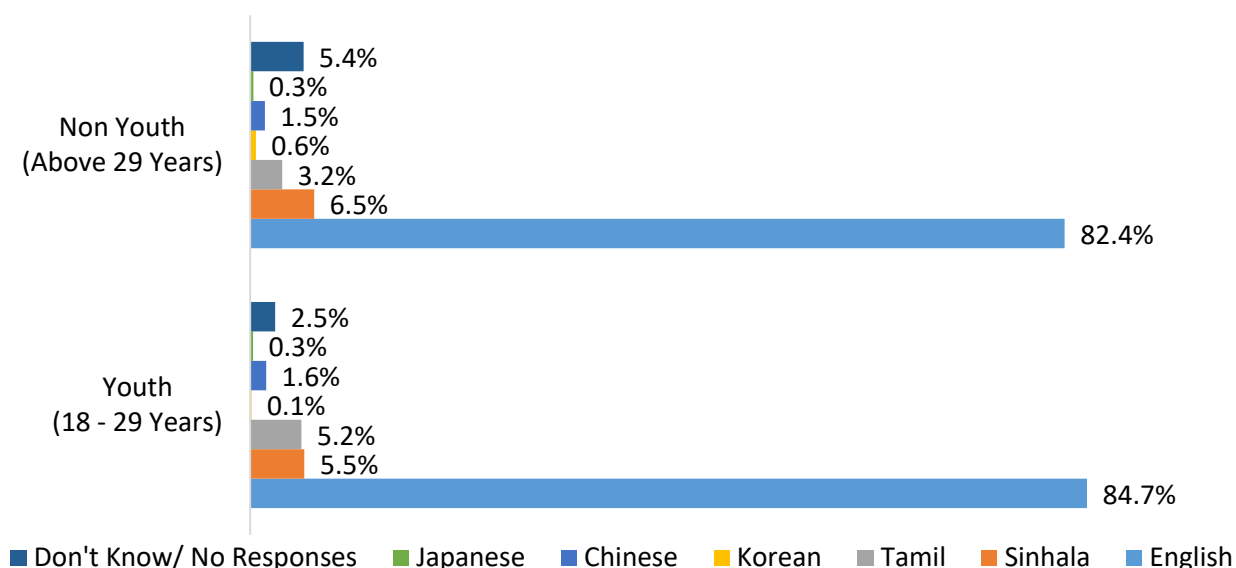
Graph 3.2: Perception on which language should be given priority in schools' curriculum by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of both, the youth (84.7%) and the non-youth population (82.4%) believe that the English language should be given a wider focus in schools' curriculum, as it helps prepare an individual to achieve better employment opportunities in the future in Sri Lanka.

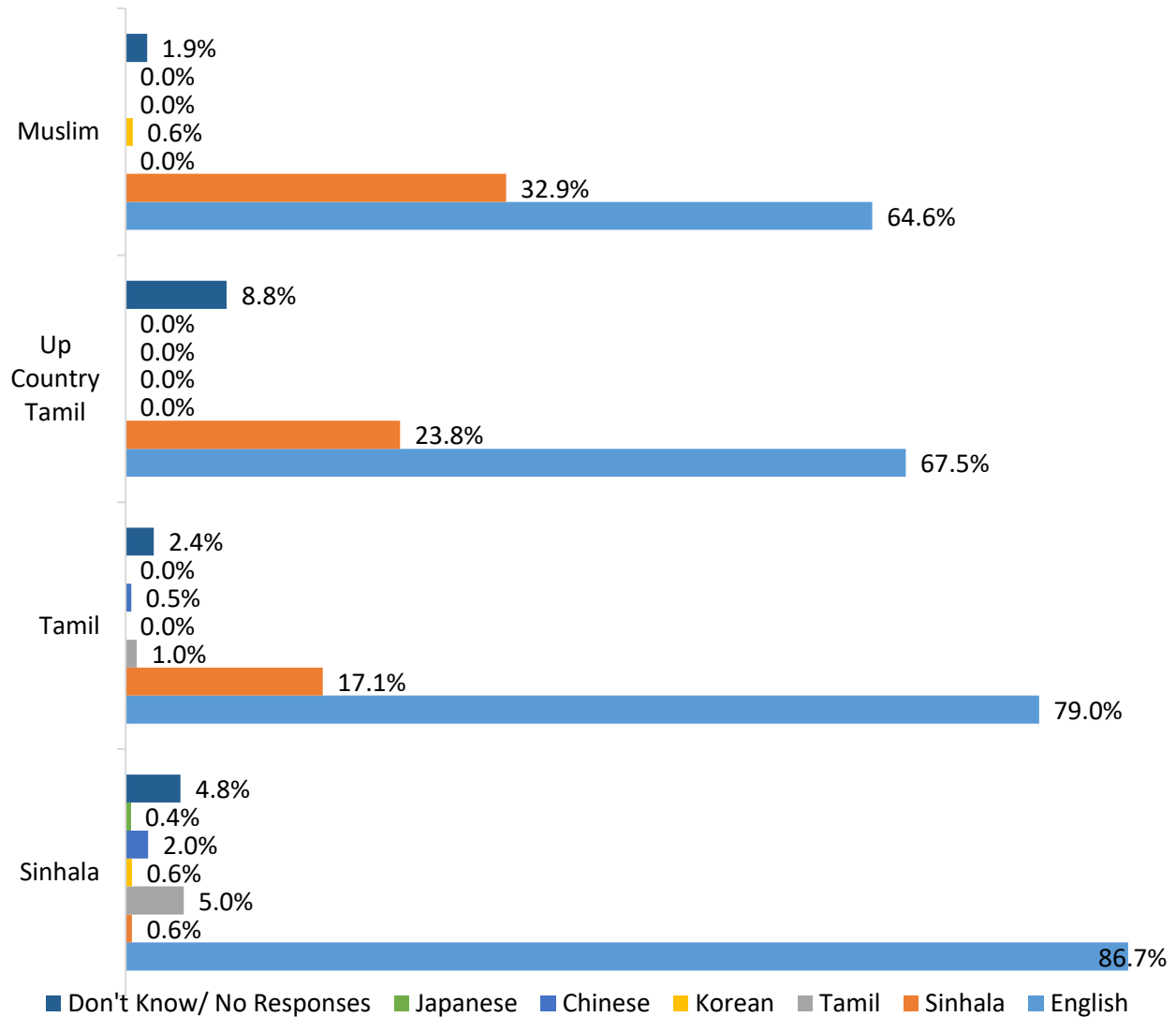
Graph 3.3: Perception on which language should be given priority in schools' curriculum by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant proportion of the Sinhala community (86.7%) indicates that English should be given priority in schools' curriculum, as it helps prepare an individual to achieve better employment opportunities in the future. As for the minority communities, it is both English and Sinhala languages that they indicate should be given priority in schools' curriculum.

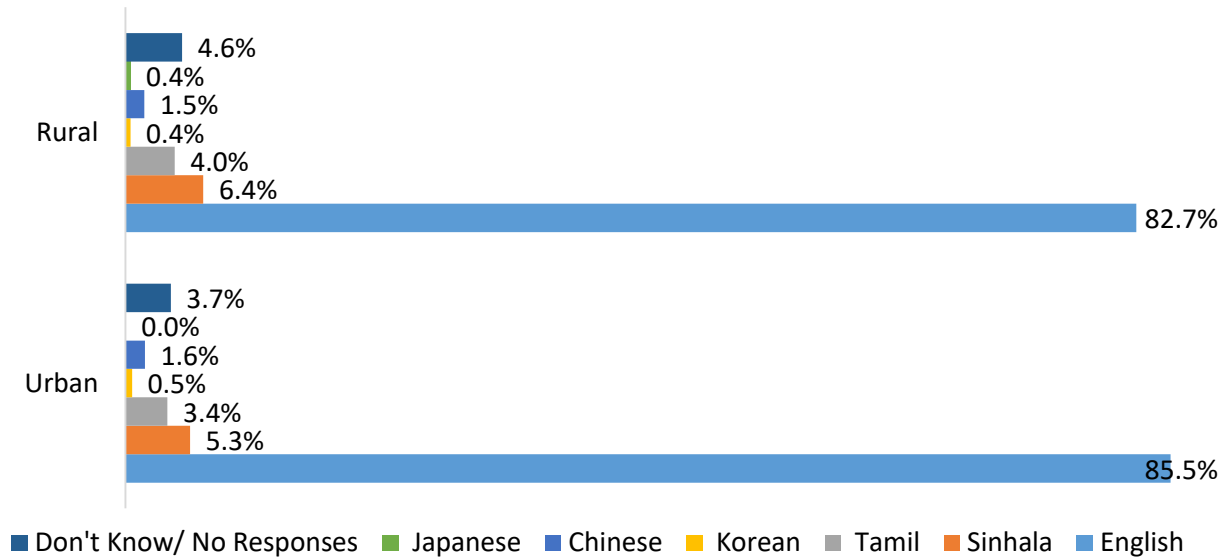
Graph 3.4: Perception on which language should be given priority in schools' curriculum by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of both the urban (85.5%) and the rural (82.7%) population feel that English should be given priority in schools' curriculum, as it helps prepare an individual to achieve better employment opportunities in the future in Sri Lanka.

Graph 3.5: Perception of the urban and rural population on which language should be given priority in schools' curriculum



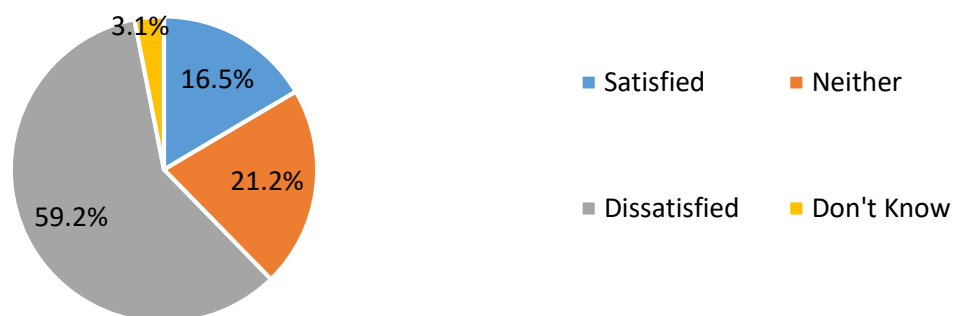
4. LAW AND ORDER

Satisfaction on Maintaining Law and Order in the Country

Key Facts

- ❖ The respondents were asked to indicate their level satisfaction in relation to the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country. While a majority of Sri Lankans (59.2%) are dissatisfied, 16.5% remain satisfied.
- ❖ It is important to note that 21.2% of Sri Lankans are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

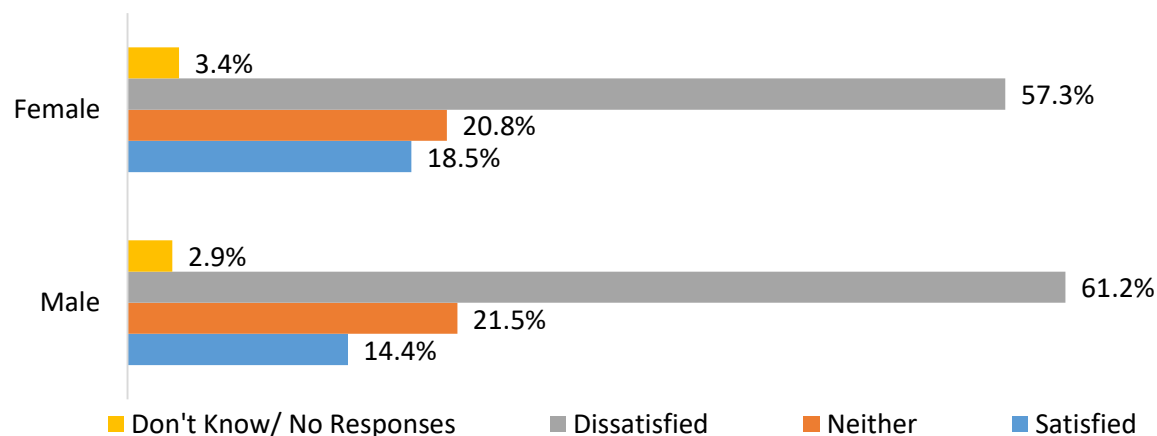
Graph 4.1: National level perception on the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of both males (61.2%) and females (57.3%) are dissatisfied with the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country.
- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of females (18.5%) than males (14.4%) indicate that they are satisfied.

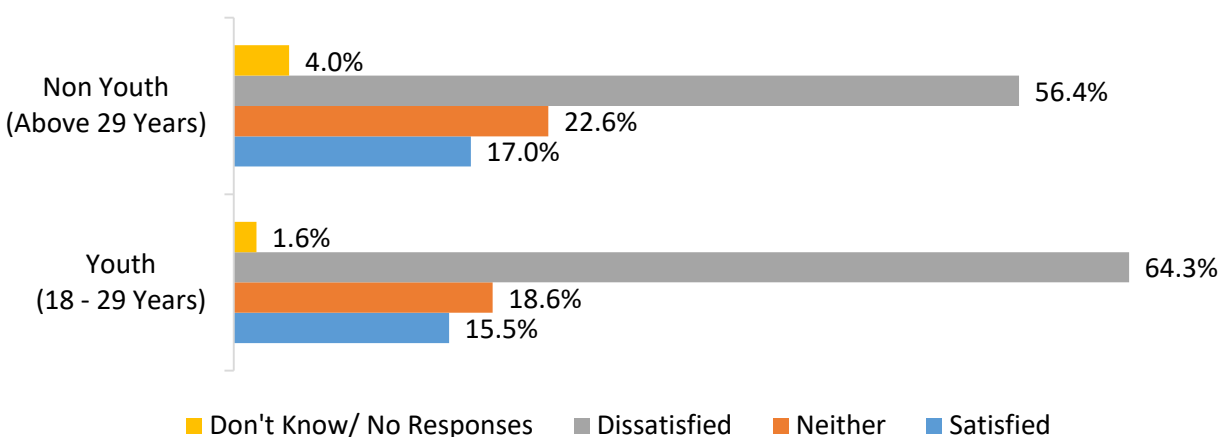
Graph 4.2: Perception on the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ There appears to be a high percentage of dissatisfaction across the youth population (64.3%) with regard to the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country.
- ❖ Although it is a lesser proportion in comparison to the youth population - there appears to be a significant proportion among the non –youth population (56.4%) who remain dissatisfied with the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country.

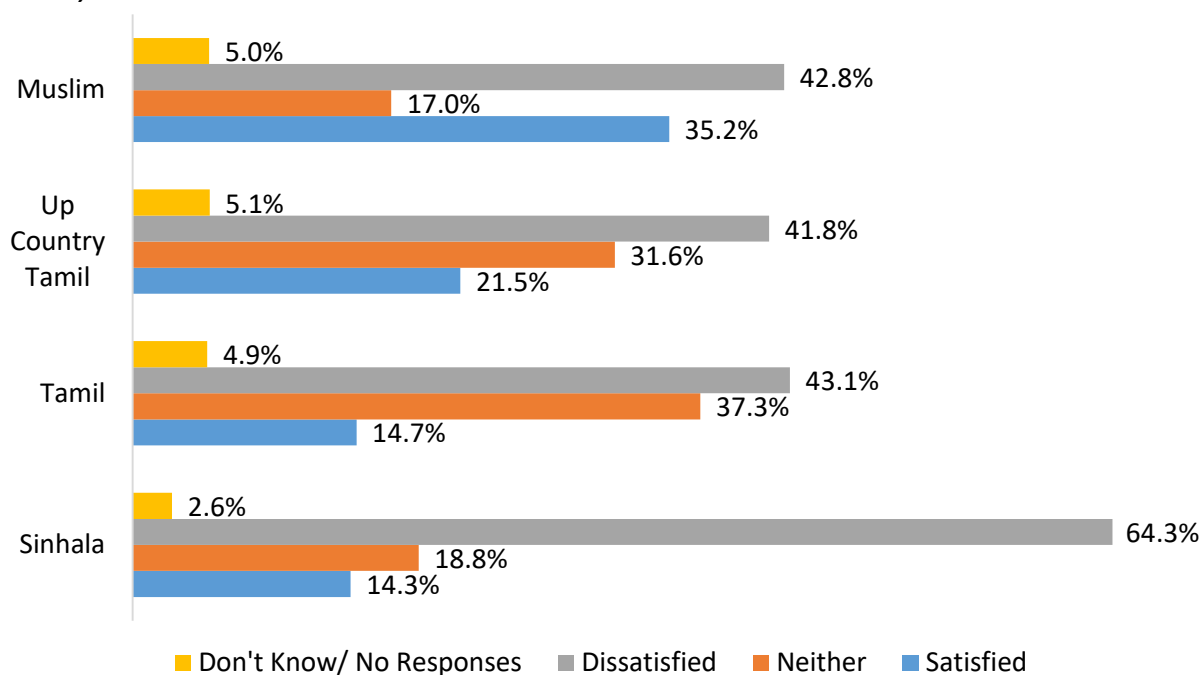
Graph 4.3: Perception on the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ From an ethnic perspective, it is mostly the Sinhala community who remain dissatisfied (64.3%) with the manner in which law and order is currently being maintained in the country. From those who indicate that they are satisfied, it is mostly the Muslim community (35.2%).

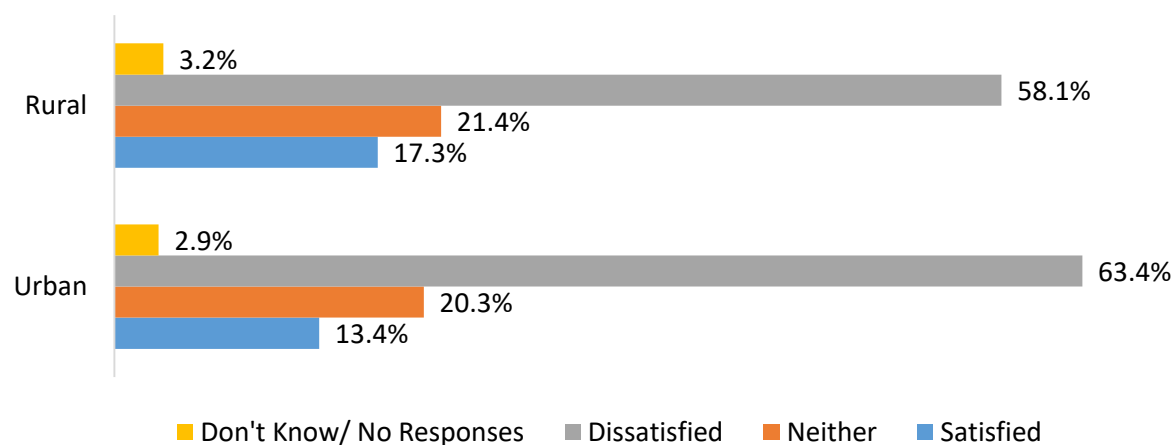
Graph 4.4: Perception on the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the urban (63.4%) and the rural (58.1%) population are dissatisfied with the manner in which the current government maintains law and order in the country.

Graph 4.5: Perception of the urban and rural population on the manner in which law and order is maintained in the country



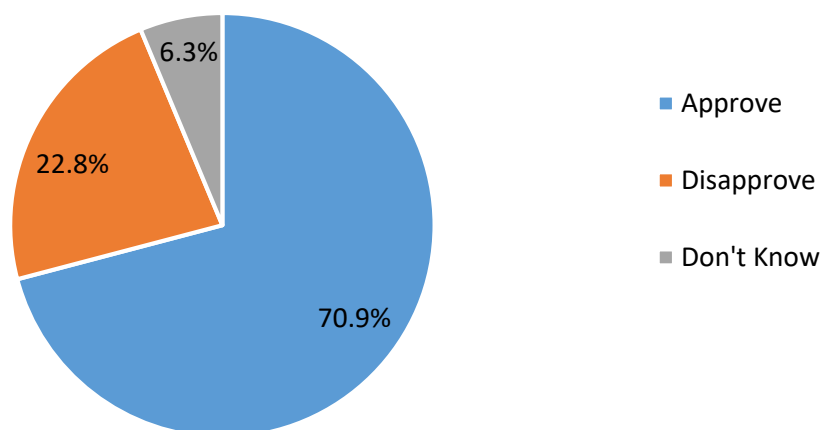
5. DEATH PENALTY

Enforcement of the Death Penalty in Sri Lanka

Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of Sri Lankans (70.9%) approve the enforcement of the death penalty in Sri Lanka whilst only 22.8% disapprove of it.

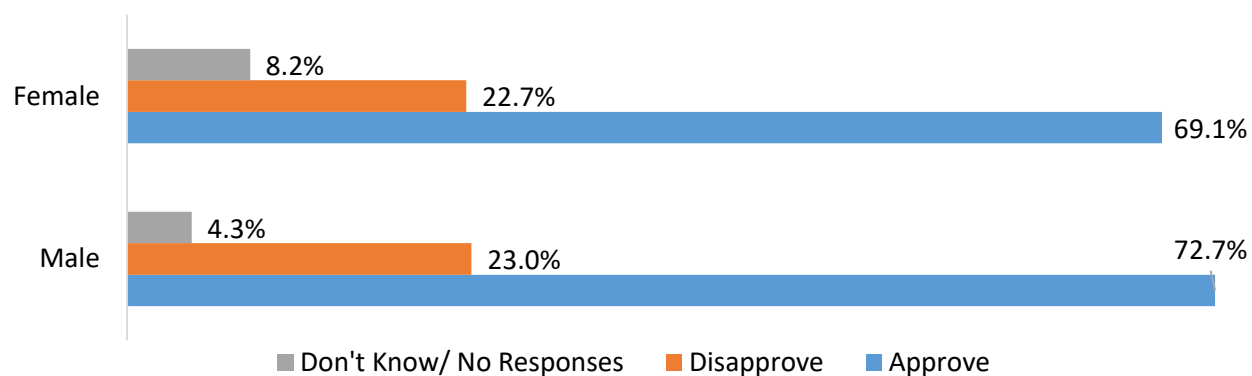
Graph 5.1: National Level perception on enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka



Key Facts

- ❖ It is evident that a similar proportion of both males (72.7%) and females (69.1%) approve of enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka.

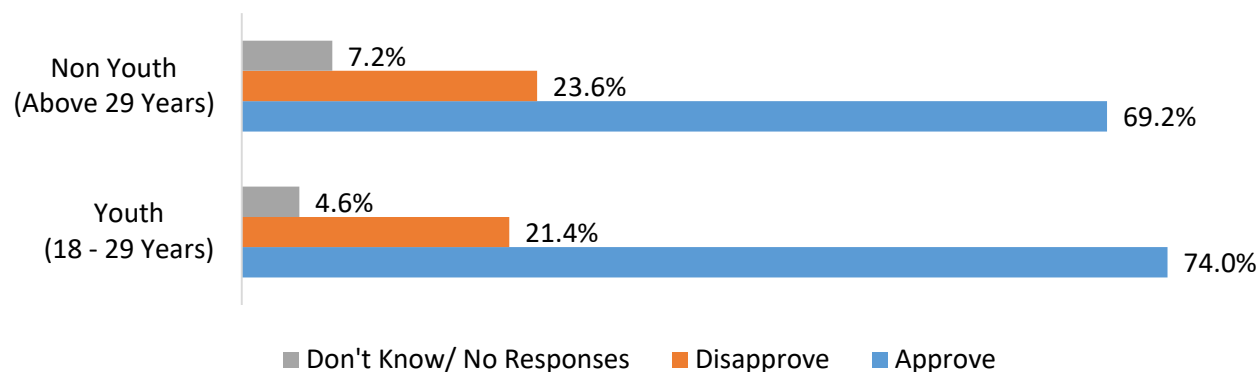
Graph 5.2: Perception on enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ It is evident that the youth population (74%) approve of enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka, slightly more than those from the non-youth population (69.2%).

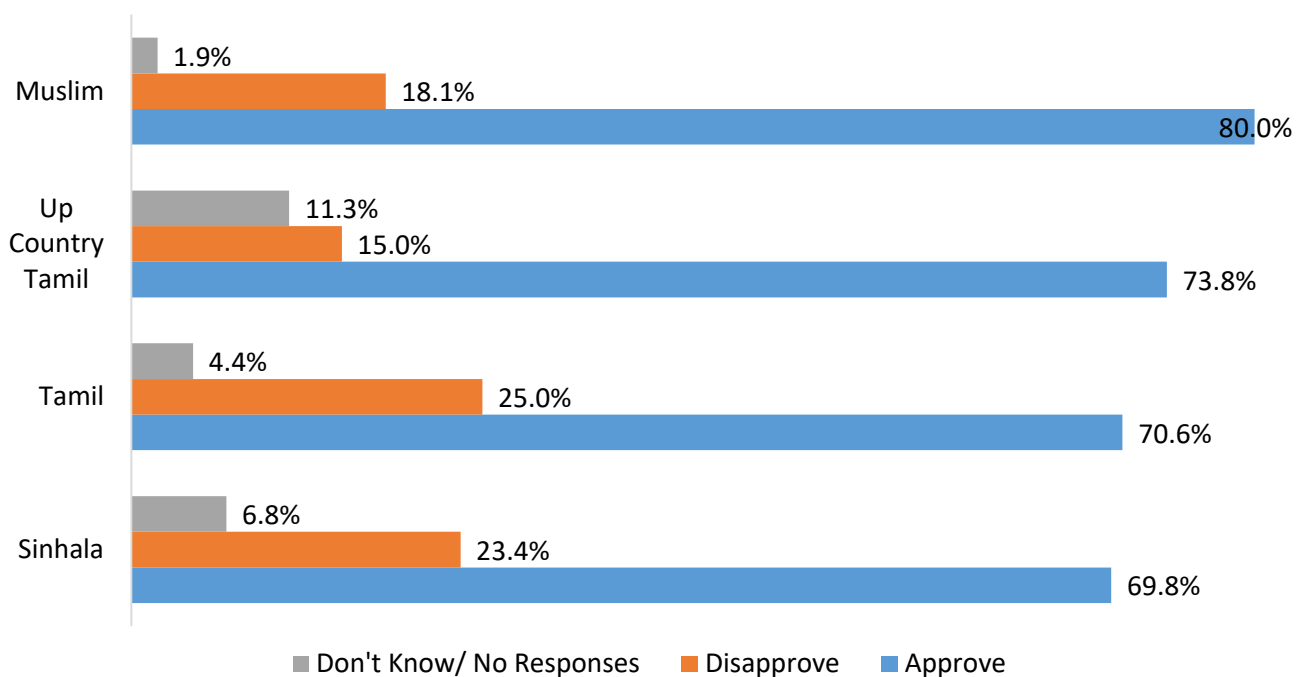
Graph 5.3: Perception on enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka by Age



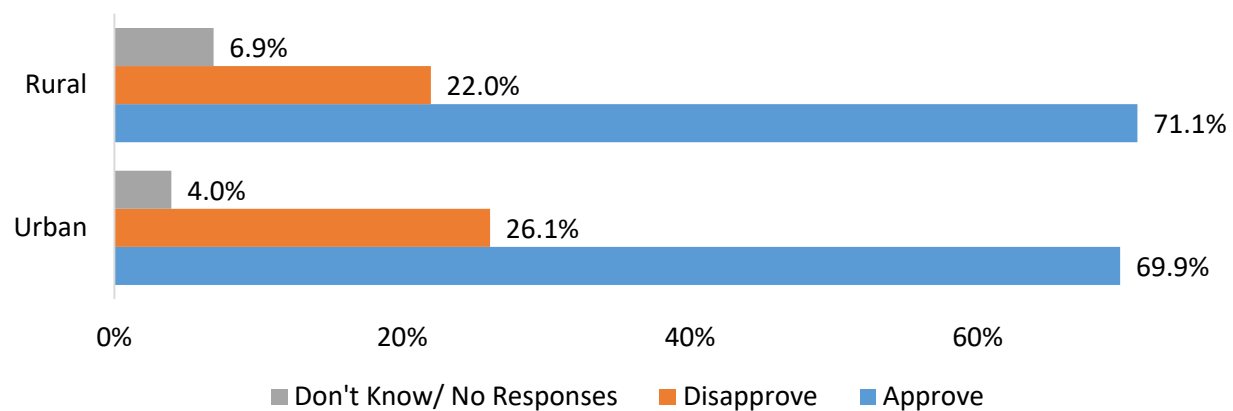
Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority across all four ethnic communities approve the enforcement of the death penalty in Sri Lanka.

Graph 5.4: Perception on enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Graph 5.5: Perception of the urban and rural population in relation to enforcing the death penalty in Sri Lanka



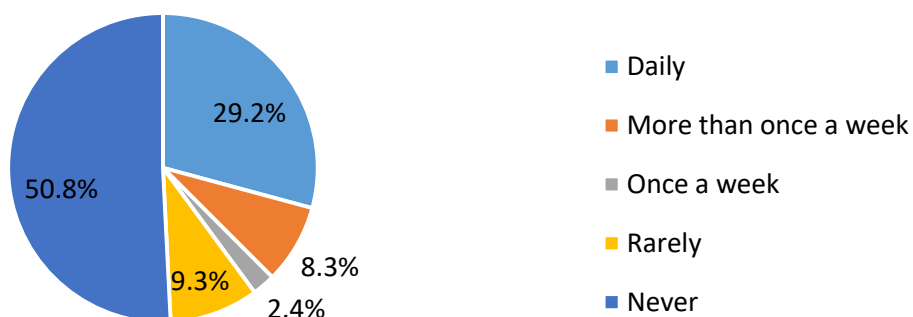
6. SOCIAL MEDIA CONSUMPTION

The Use of Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp)

Key Facts

- ❖ It is important to note that a majority of Sri Lankans (50.8%) indicate that they never use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp - whilst 29.2% of Sri Lankans indicate that they use these platforms on a daily basis.

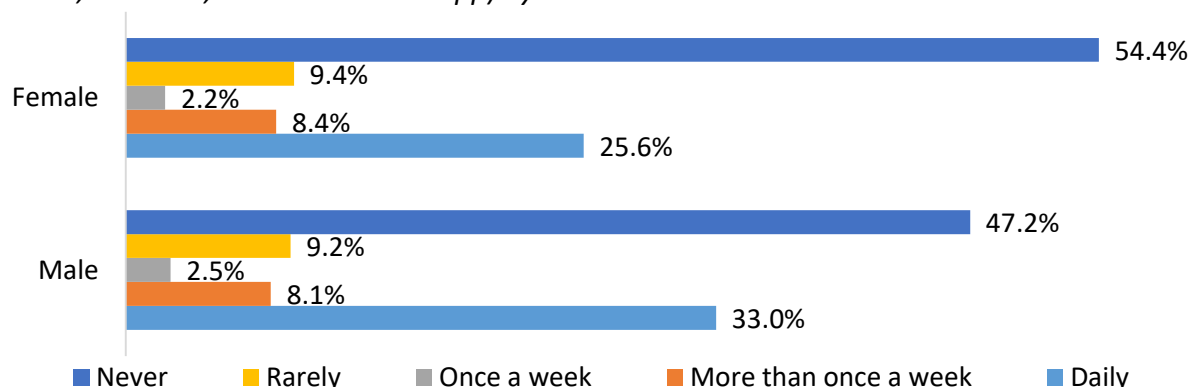
Graph 6.1: National Level perception on how often Sri Lankans use various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp)



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant percentage of both females (54.4%) and males (47.2%) indicate that they never use social media platforms such as, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp
- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of males (33%) than females (25.6%) indicate that they use these social media platforms.

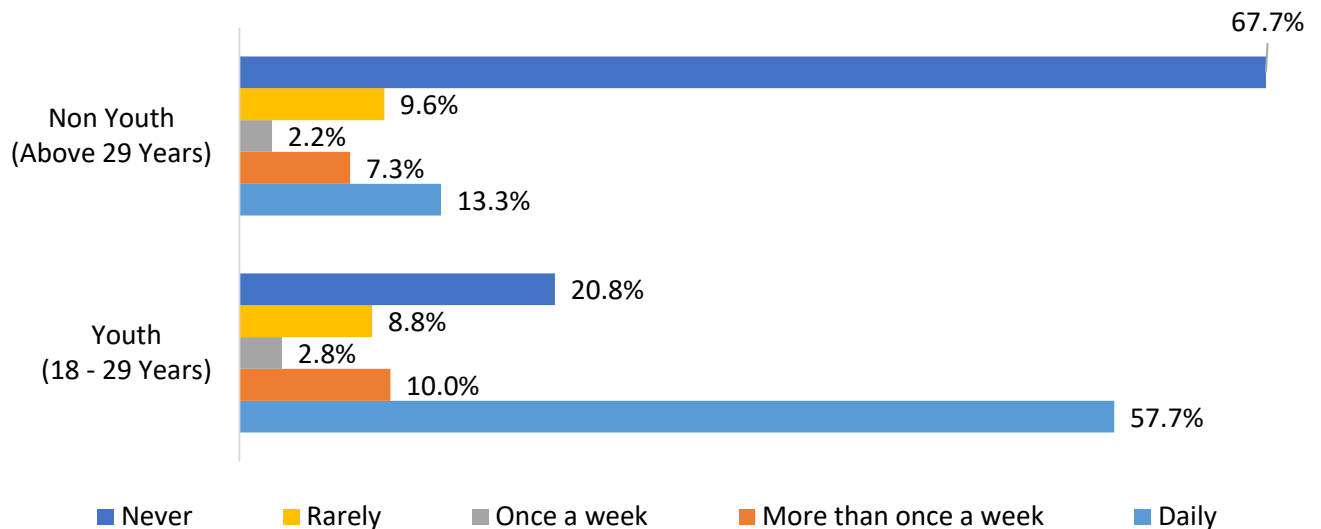
Graph 6.2: Perception on how often Sri Lankans use various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp) by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A higher percentage of the non-youth population (67.7%) indicates that they never use Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp – whilst a majority of the youth population (57.7%) indicates that they use these social media platforms on a daily basis.

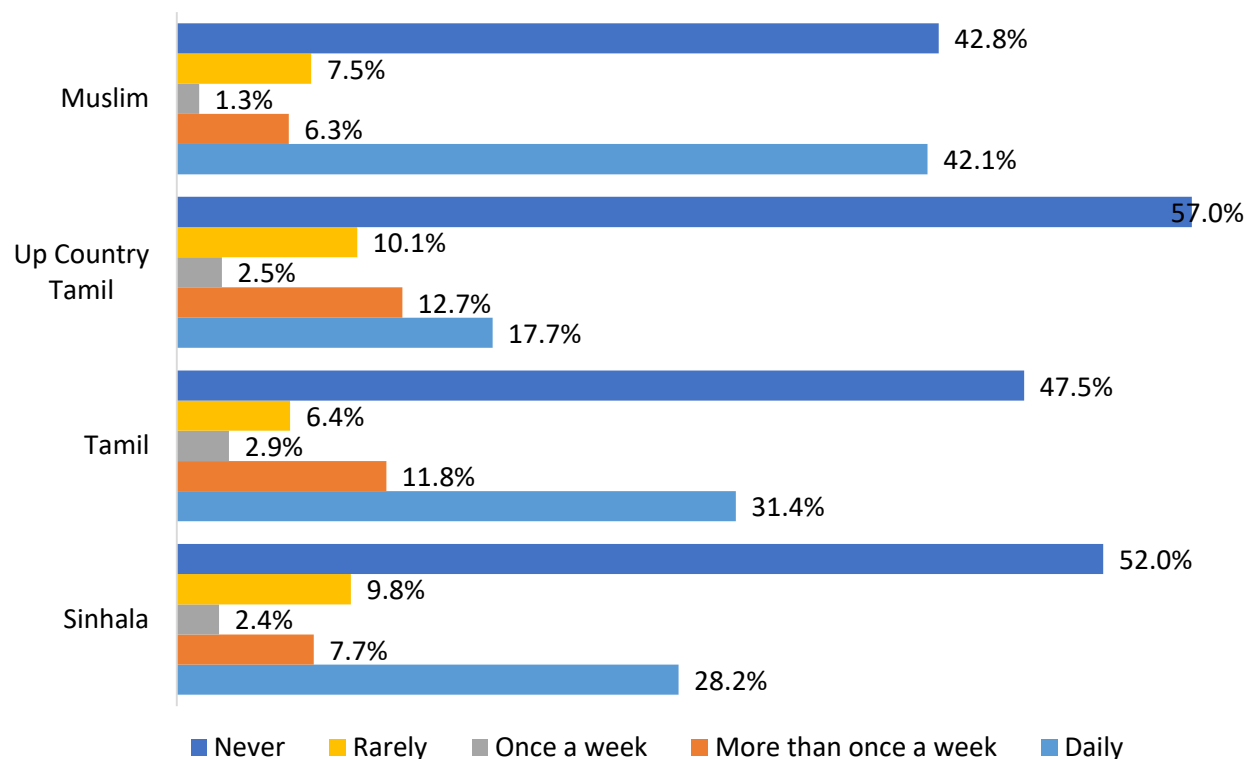
Graph 6.3: Perception on how often Sri Lankans use various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp) by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Muslim community (42.1%) who indicate that they are very frequent users of various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp). From those who indicate that they rarely (10.1%) or never (57%) use these social media platforms, it is mostly the Up Country Tamil community who hold this view.

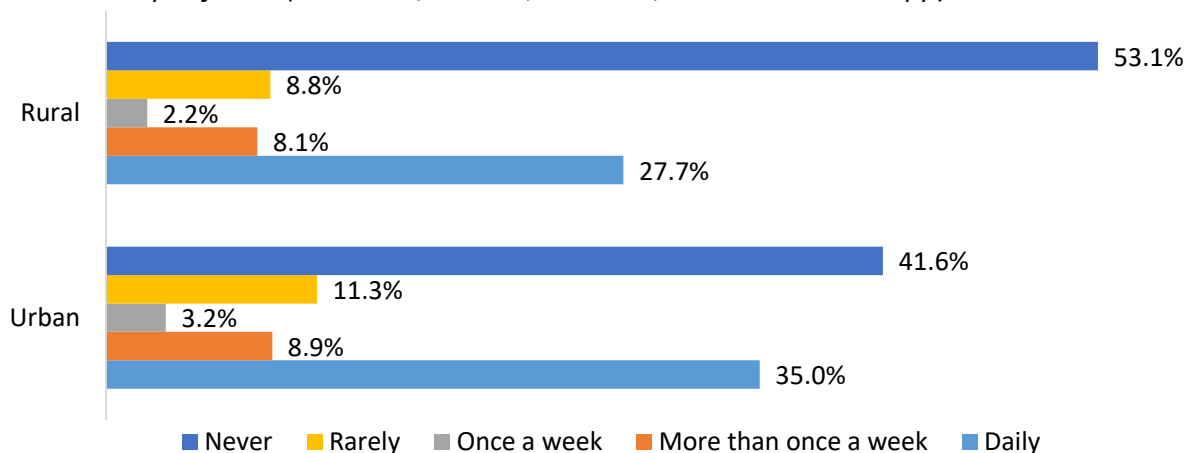
Graph 6. 4: Perception on how often Sri Lankans use various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp) by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ Whilst a higher percentage of the urban population (35%) indicate that they are frequent users of various social media platforms, the rural population state otherwise (27.1%)

Graph 6.5: Perception of the urban and rural population on how often Sri Lankans use various social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Viber and WhatsApp)



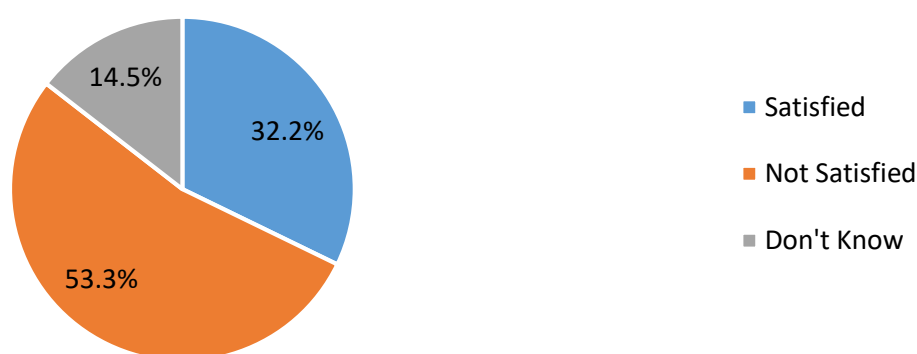
7. RECONCILIATION

Perception on the Government's Progress on Addressing Post War Reconciliation

Key Facts

- ❖ When the respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction on the current government's progress on addressing post war reconciliation, a majority of Sri Lankans (53.3%) indicate that they are dissatisfied, whilst 32.2% indicate that they are satisfied.

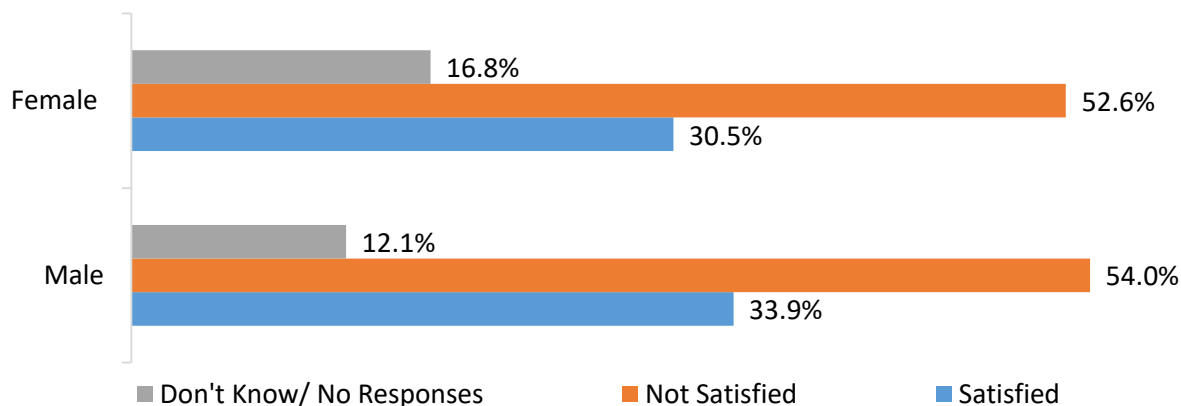
Graph 7.1: National Level perception on satisfaction towards the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both males (54%) and females (52.6%) are not satisfied with the government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka.

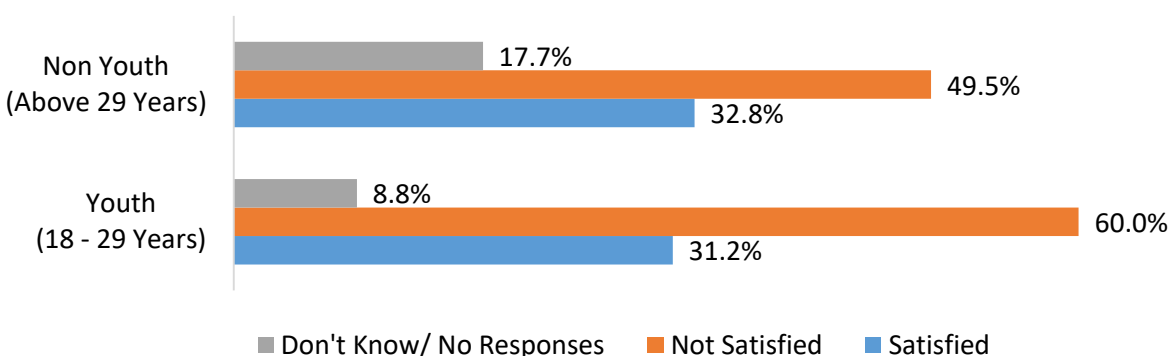
Graph 7.2: Perception on satisfaction towards the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ It is evident that the youth population (60%) remain more dissatisfied, than those from the non- youth population (49.5%) - in relation to the government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka.
- ❖ In terms of satisfaction levels, an almost equal proportion of both the youth (31.2%) and the non- youth population (32.8%) remain satisfied.

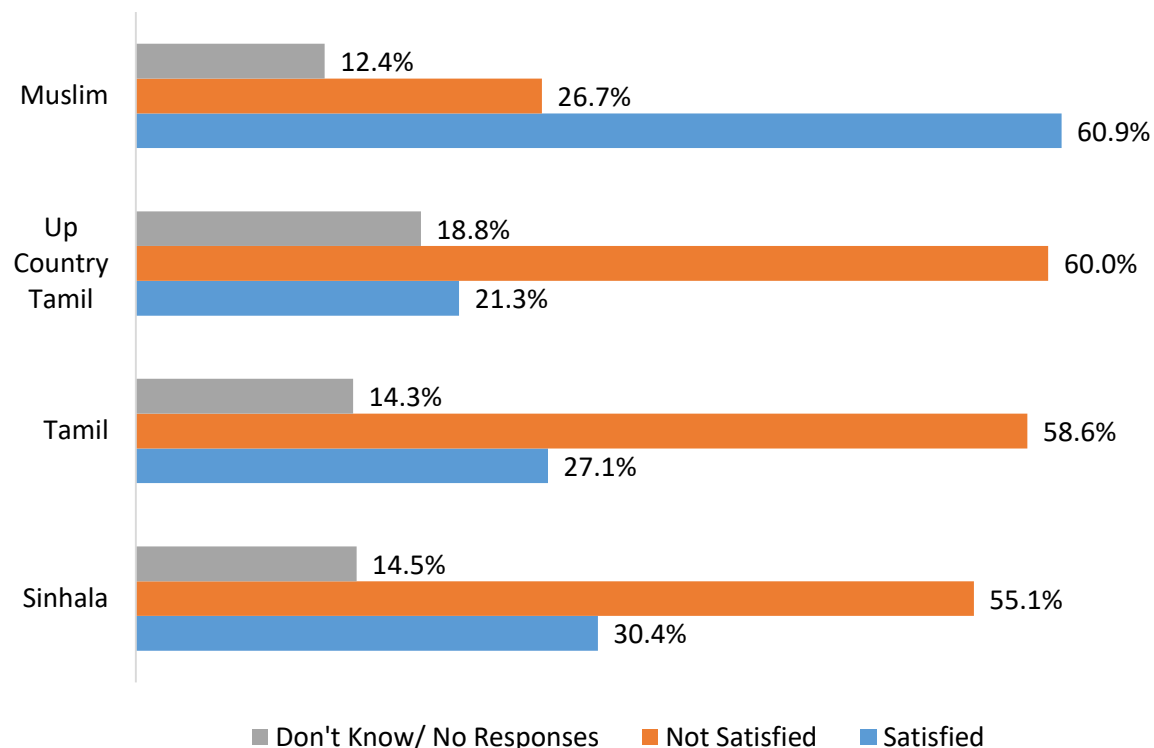
Graph 7.3: Perception on satisfaction towards the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ From the four main ethnic communities, it is mostly the Muslim community (60.9%) who indicate that they are satisfied with the current's government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It is mostly the Up Country Tamil community (60%) who are dissatisfied – this figure is closely followed by the Tamil community (58.6%).

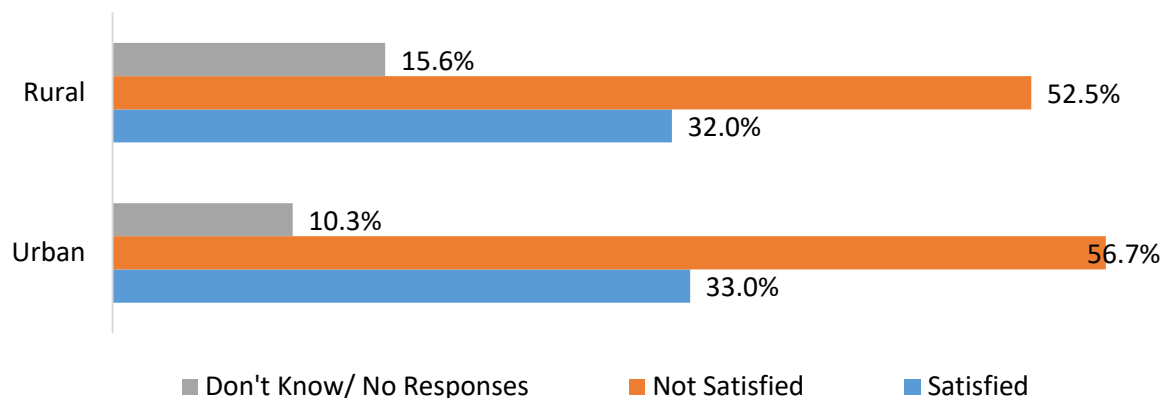
Graph 7.4: Perception on the satisfaction towards the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A slightly higher majority of respondents among the urban population (56.7%) in comparison to the rural population (52.5%) remain dissatisfied with the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka.

Graph 7.5: Perception of the urban and rural population on the satisfaction towards the current government's progress on addressing reconciliation in post war Sri Lanka

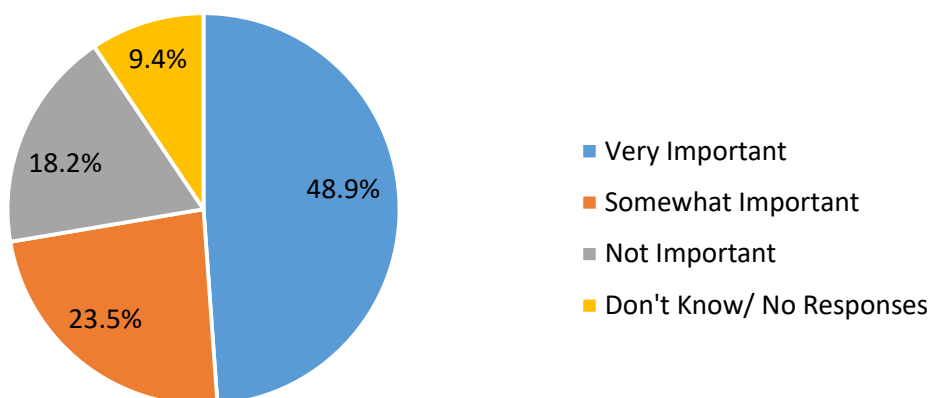


Perception on the importance of truth seeking in post war reconciliation

Key Facts

- ❖ On truth seeking, an overall 72.4% of Sri Lankans believe that it is important to know the truth about alleged crimes against humanity committed by all parties during the three decade long conflict in Sri Lanka – whilst 18.2% believe it is not important.

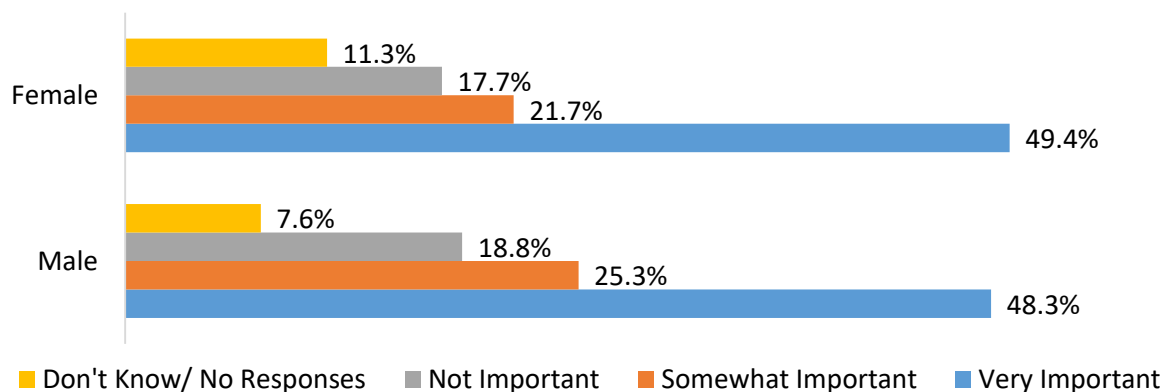
7. 6: National Level perception on truth seeking in post war Sri Lanka



Key Facts

- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of females (49.4%) in comparison to males (48.3%) believe that it is very important to know the truth about alleged crimes against humanity committed by all parties during the three decade long conflict in Sri Lanka.

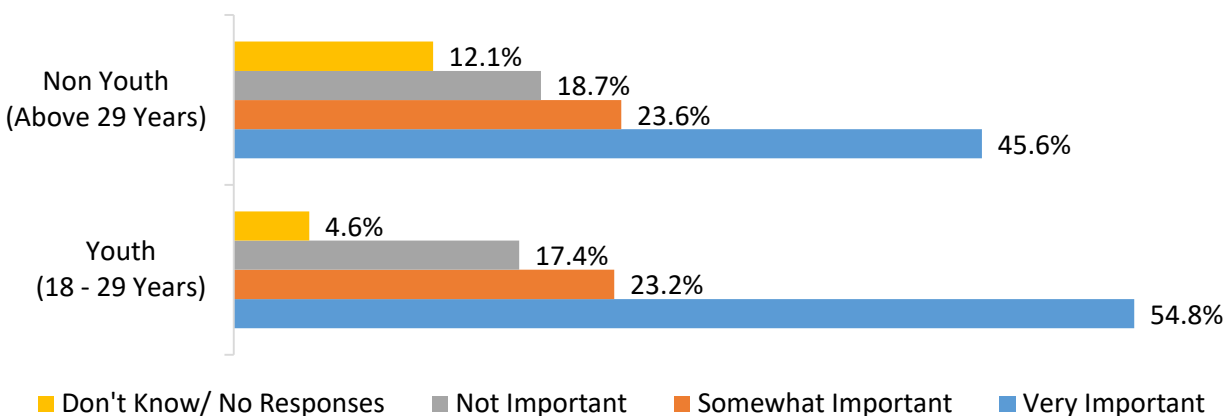
7. 7: Perception on truth seeking in post war Sri Lanka by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ On truth seeking, more than the non- youth population (45.6%) – it is mostly the youth population (54.8%) who believe that it is very important to know the truth about alleged crimes against humanity committed by all parties during the three decade long civil conflict in Sri Lanka.

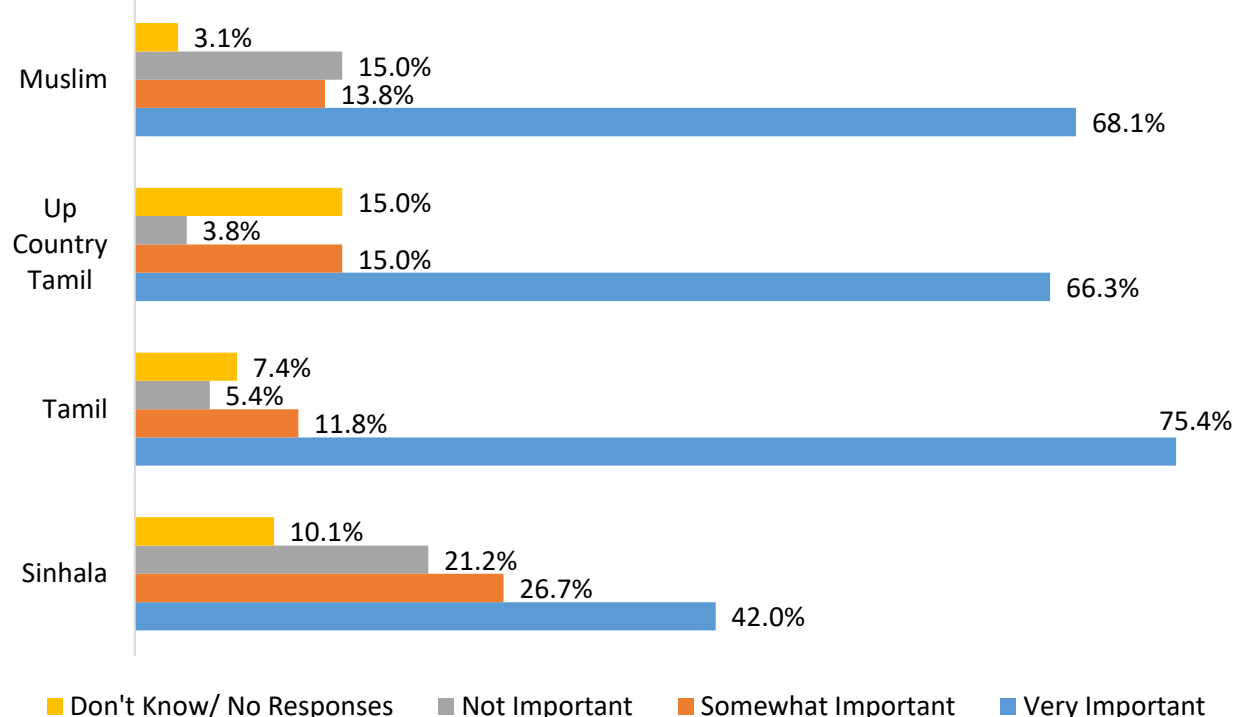
7. 8: Perception on truth seeking in post war Sri Lanka by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ Overall, it is mostly the minority communities who believe that truth seeking is very important.
- ❖ It is mostly the Tamil community (75.4%) who indicate that it is very important to know the truth about alleged crimes against humanity committed by all parties, during the three decade long civil conflict in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ From those who indicate that it is not important, it is mostly the Sinhala community (21.2%) who hold this view.

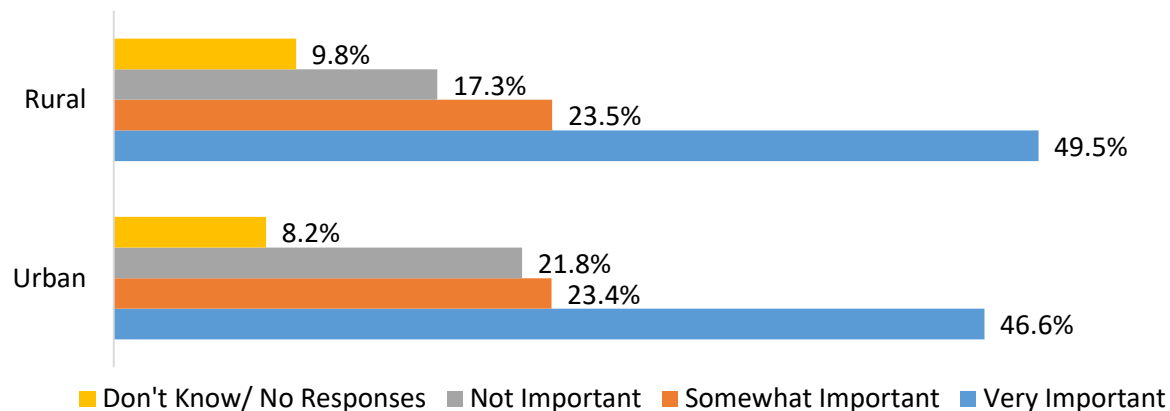
7. 9: Perception on truth seeking in post war Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of the rural population (49.5%) in comparison to the urban population (46.6%) believe that it is very important to know the truth about alleged crimes against humanity committed by all parties, during the three decade long civil conflict in Sri Lanka.

7. 10: Perception of the urban and rural population on truth seeking in post war Sri Lanka

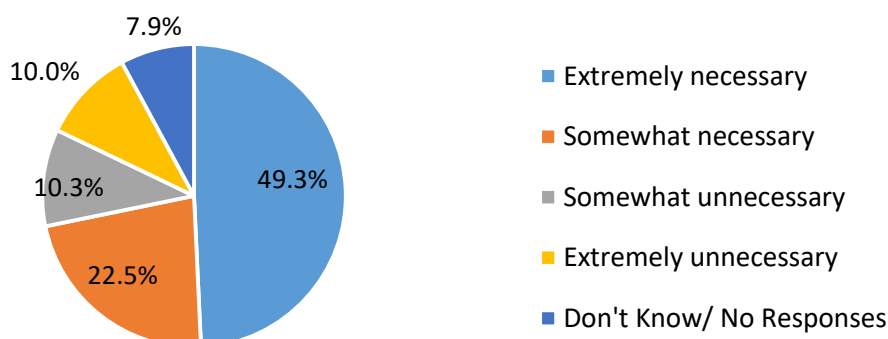


Perception on Accountability in Post War Reconciliation

Key Facts

- ❖ As a measure of seeking redress for victims affected by civil unrest in the past, 49.3% of Sri Lankans believe that it is extremely necessary, while 22.5% believe that it is somewhat necessary to investigate into, and hold those accountable before the law.

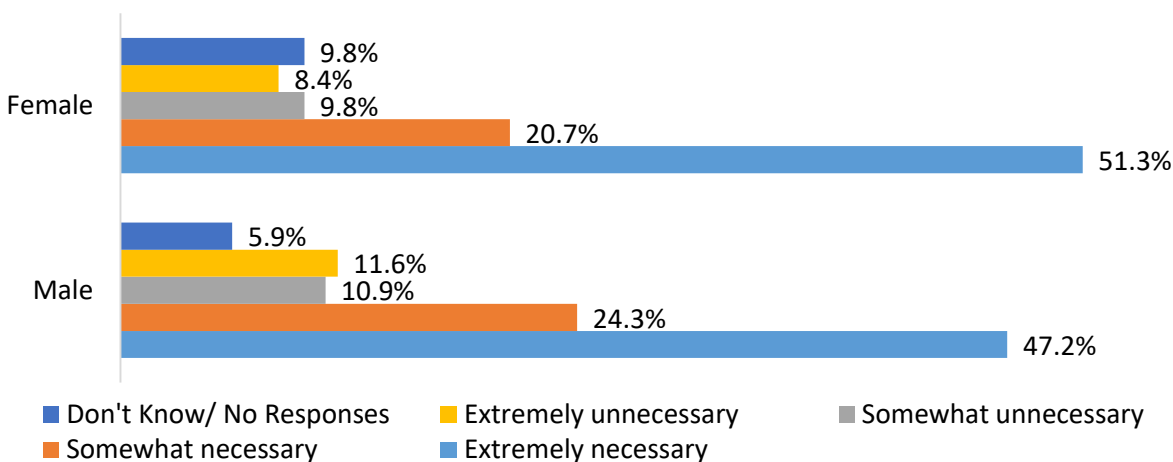
7. 11: National Level perception on accountability in post war Sri Lanka



Key Facts

- ❖ There appears to be an overall majority of both males (71.5%) and females (72%) who believe that as a measure of seeking redress for victims due to civil unrest in the past, it is necessary to investigate into, and hold those accountable before the law. (these figures are a combination of both extremely necessary and somewhat necessary responses)

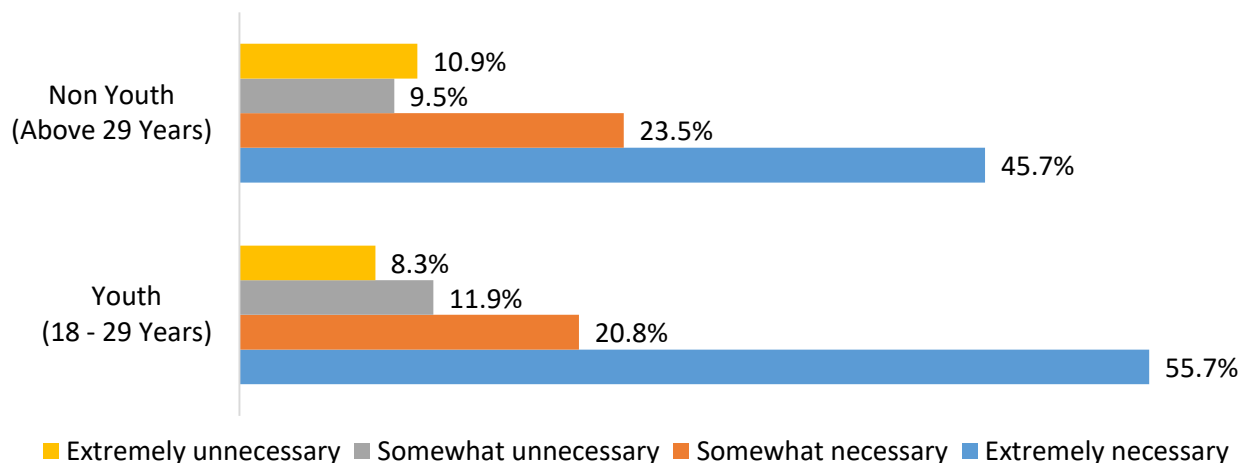
7. 12: Perception on accountability in post war Sri Lanka by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the youth population (76.5%), in comparison to non- youth population (69.2%) who believe that as a means of seeking redress for victims of civil unrest in the past, it is necessary to investigate into, and hold those accountable before the law. (these figures are a combination of both extremely necessary and somewhat necessary responses)

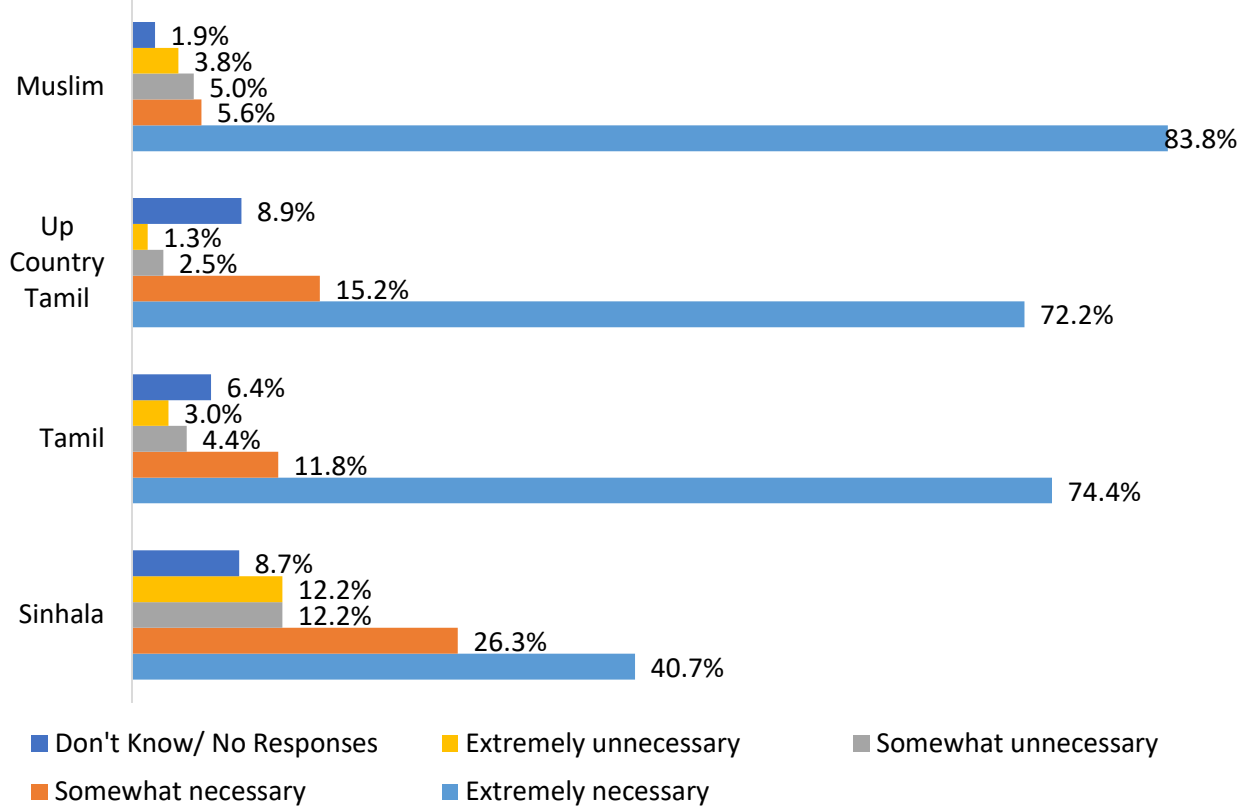
7. 13: Perception on accountability in post war Sri Lanka by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of respondents from all the minority communities are of the opinion that as a means of seeking redress for victims of civil unrest in the past, it is necessary to investigate into and hold those accountable before the law. [Muslim community (89.4%), Up Country Tamil community (87.4%) and Tamil community (86.2%)].

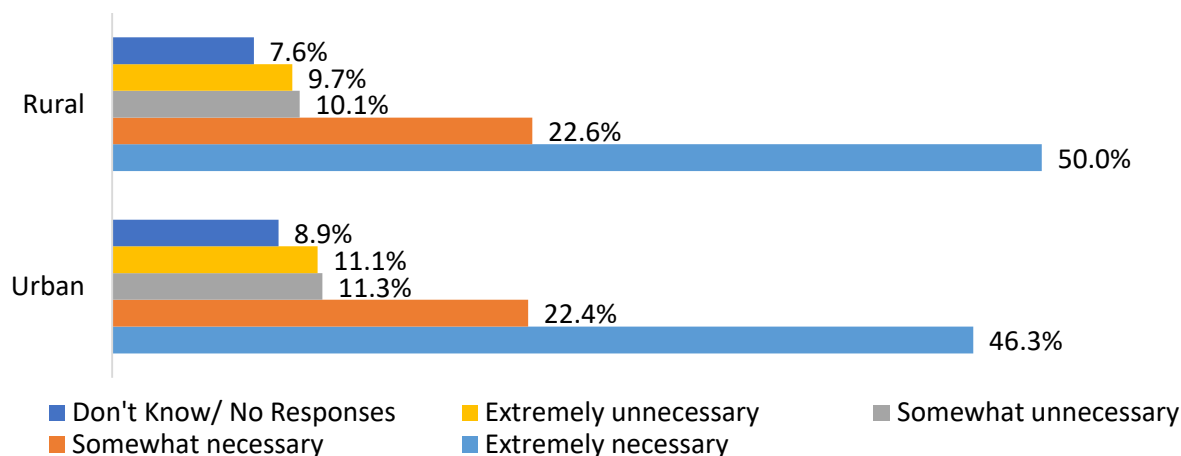
7. 14: Perception on accountability in post war Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the urban (68.7%) and rural (72.6%) population are of the opinion that as a means of seeking redress for victims of civil unrest in the past, it is necessary to investigate into and hold those accountable before the law. (these figures are a combination of both extremely necessary and somewhat necessary responses)

7. 15: Perception of the urban and rural population on accountability in post war Sri Lanka



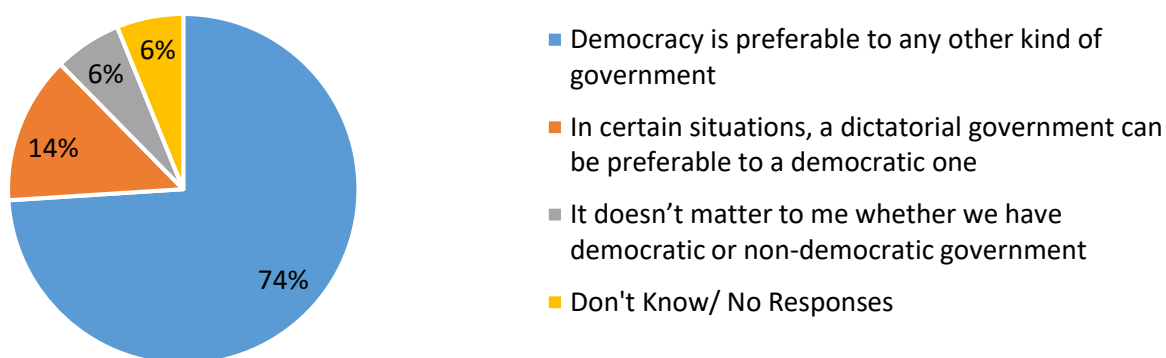
8. GOVERNANCE

Forms of Governance

Key Facts

- ❖ While 74% of Sri Lankans indicate that democracy is preferable than to any other kind of government, 14% indicate that in certain situations, a dictatorial government can be preferable than that of a democratic one.

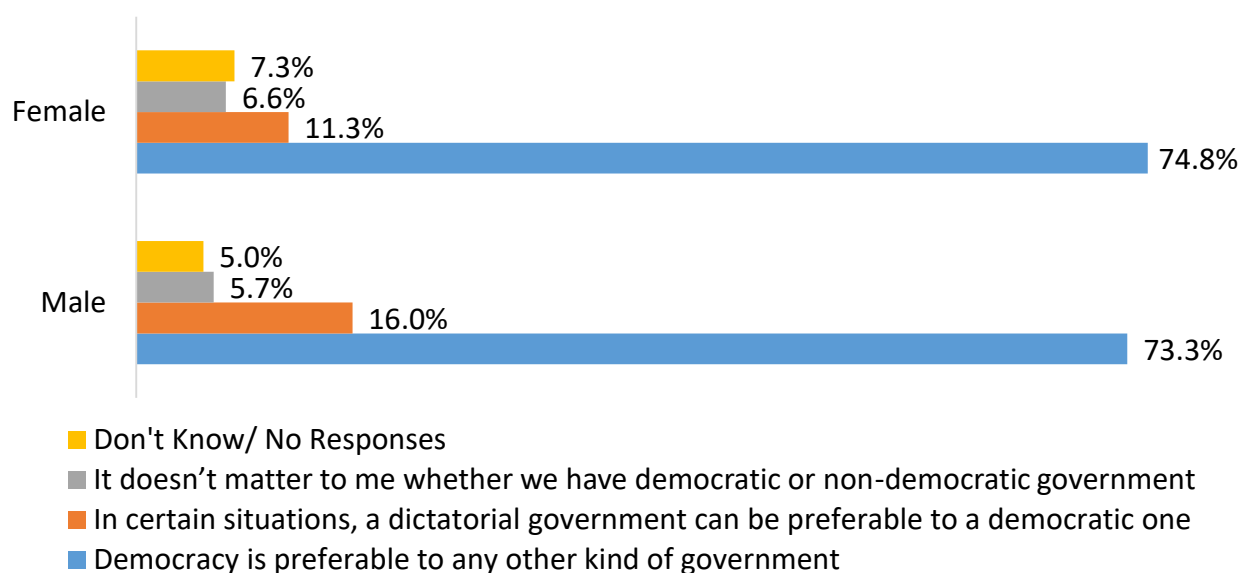
Graph 8.1: National Level perception on the forms of governance



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both men (73.3%) and women (74.8%) believe that democracy is preferable than to any other kind of government.

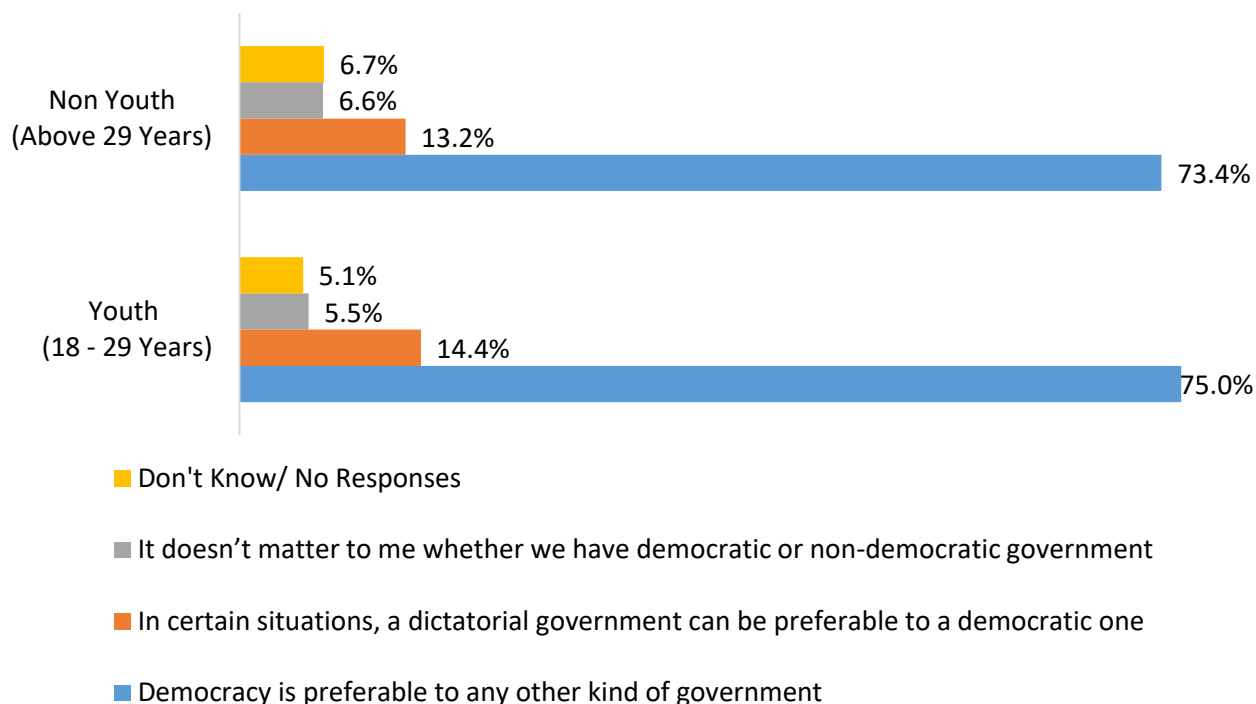
Graph 8.2: Perception on the forms of governance by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of both the youth (75%) and the non-youth population (73.4%) indicate that democracy is preferable than any other kind of government.

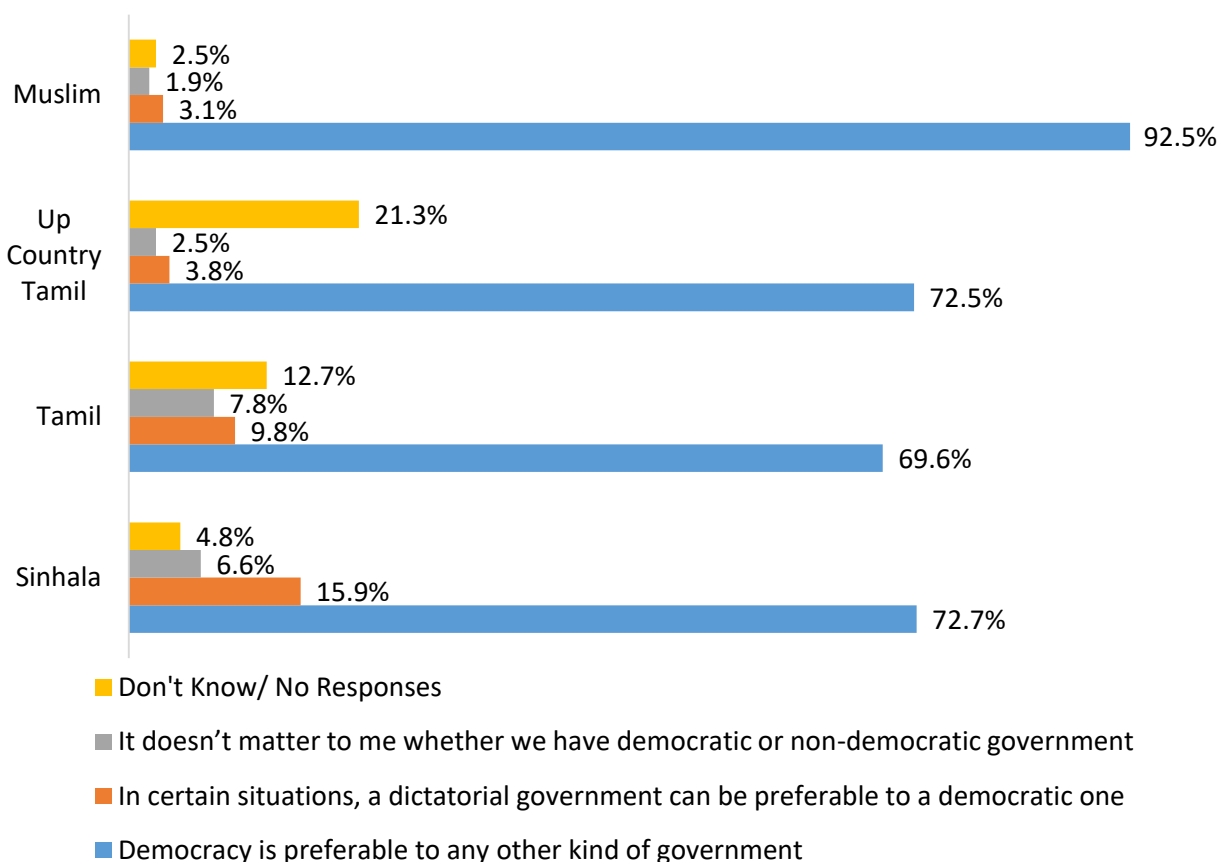
Graph 8.3: Perception on the forms of governance by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ From an ethnic perspective, a significant majority of all four ethnic communities agreed that democracy is preferable than to any other alternative.
- ❖ An overwhelming majority from the Muslim community (92.5%) agreed that democracy is preferable than to any other kind of government.
- ❖ From those who indicate that in certain situations, a dictatorial government can be preferable to a democratic one, it is mostly the Sinhala community (15.9%) who hold this view.

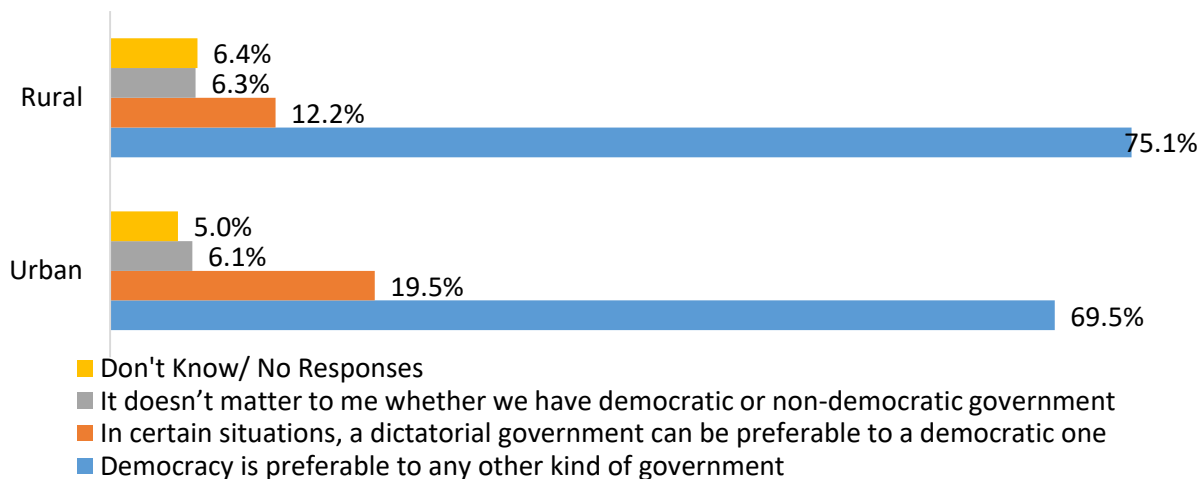
Graph 8.4: Perception on the forms of governance by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ In comparison to the rural population (12.2%) a slightly higher percentage of the urban population (19.5%) indicate that in certain situations a dictatorial government is preferable than that of a democratic one.

Graph 8.5: Perception of the urban and rural population on the forms of governance

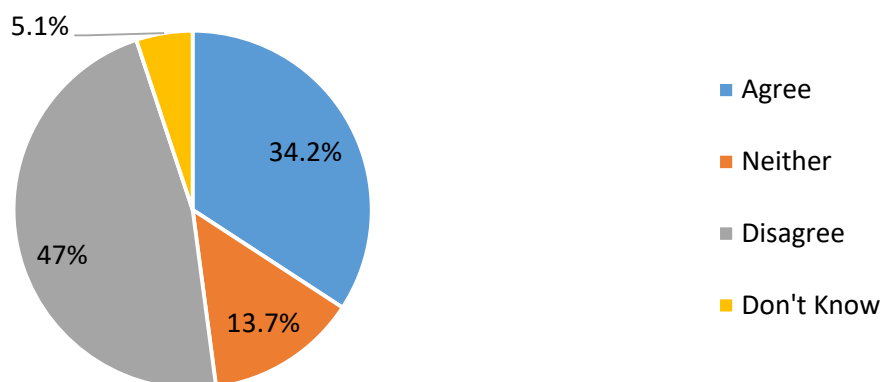


Public Perception on the Involvement of the Private Sector in Health Services

Key Facts

- ❖ It is evident that a higher percentage of Sri Lankans (47%) disagree, whilst a lesser percentage (34.2%) agree with the private sector's involvement in health services.

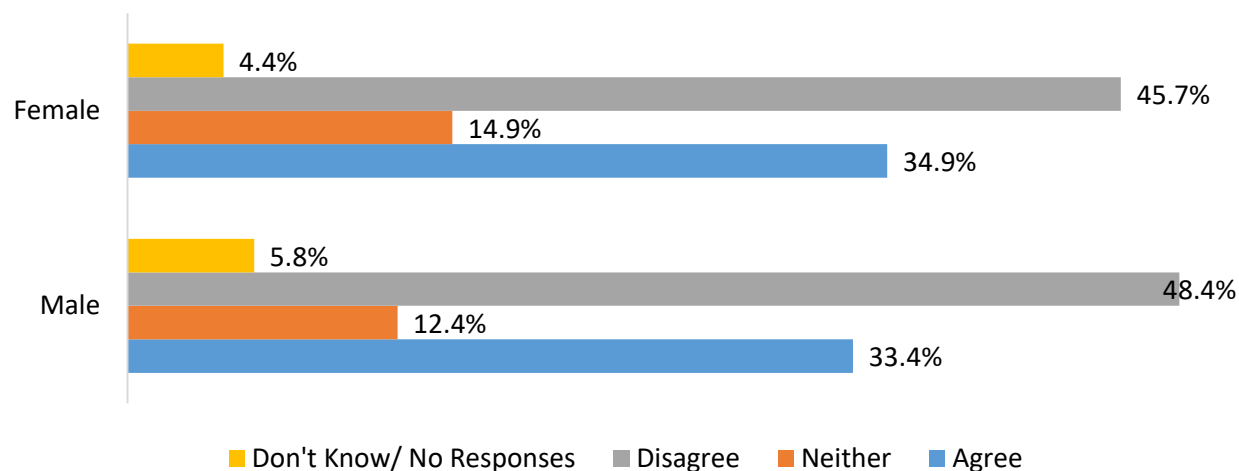
Graph 8.6: National Level perception on the involvement of the private sector in health services



Key Facts

- ❖ Overall, both males (48.4%) and females (45.7%) disagree with the private sector's involvement in health services.

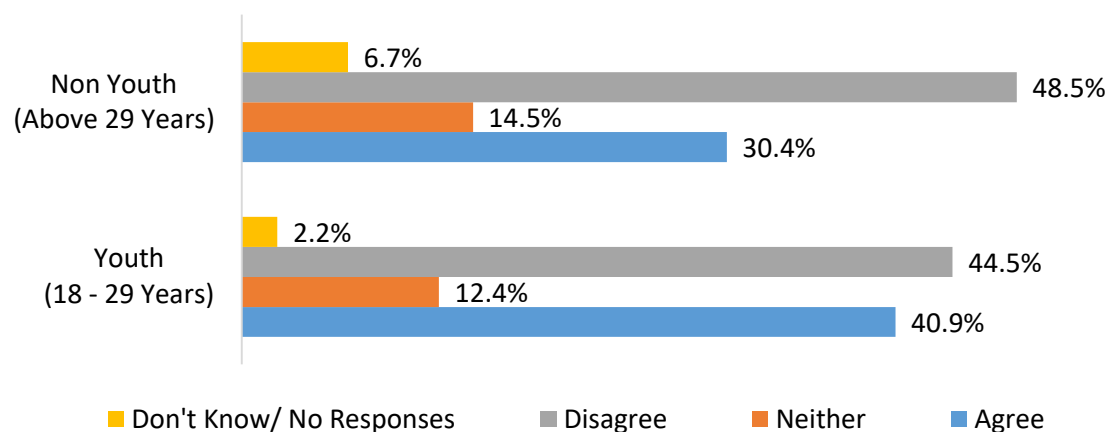
Graph 8.7: Perception on the involvement of the private sector in health services by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A higher percentage of the youth population (40.9%) agree to the involvement of the private sector in health services in comparison to non- youth population (30.4%).

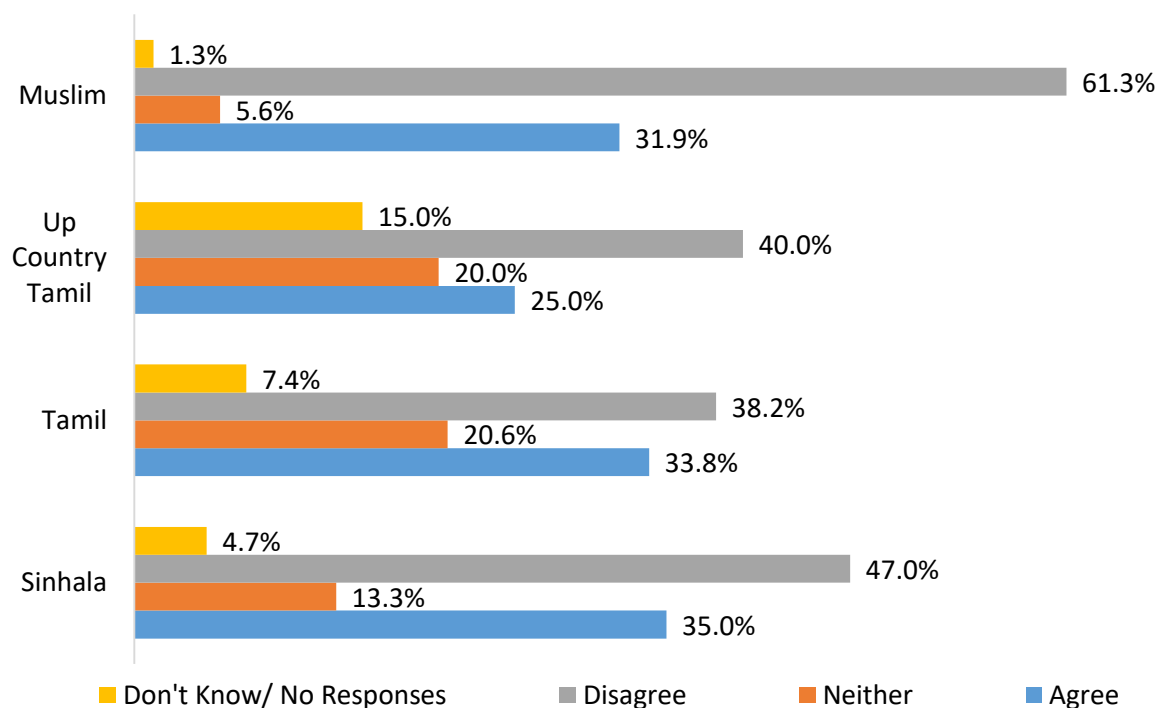
Graph 8.8: Perception on the involvement of the private sector in health services by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Sinhala community (35%) who agree with the private sector's involvement in health services, whilst it is mostly the Muslim community (61.3%) who disagree with the same.

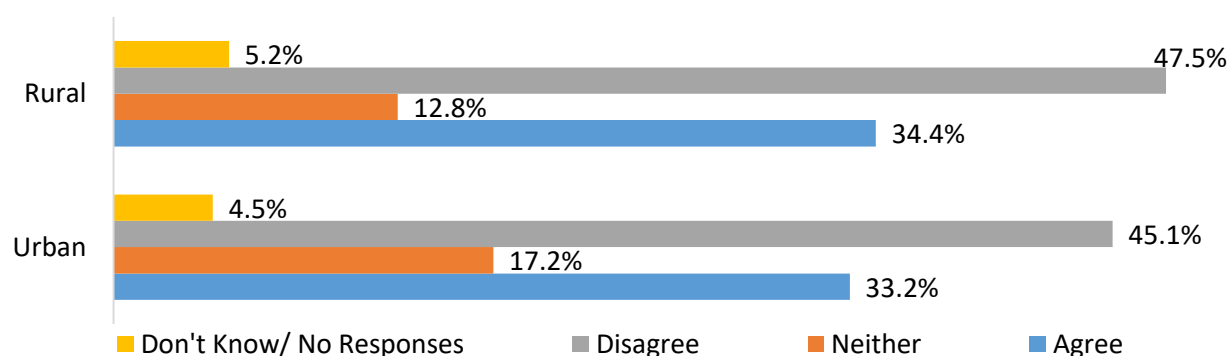
Graph 8.9: Perception on the involvement of the private sector in the health services by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of the rural population (47.5%) than those from the urban population (45.1%) disagree with the involvement of the private sector in health services.

Graph 8.10: Perception of the urban and the rural population on the involvement of the private sector in health sector

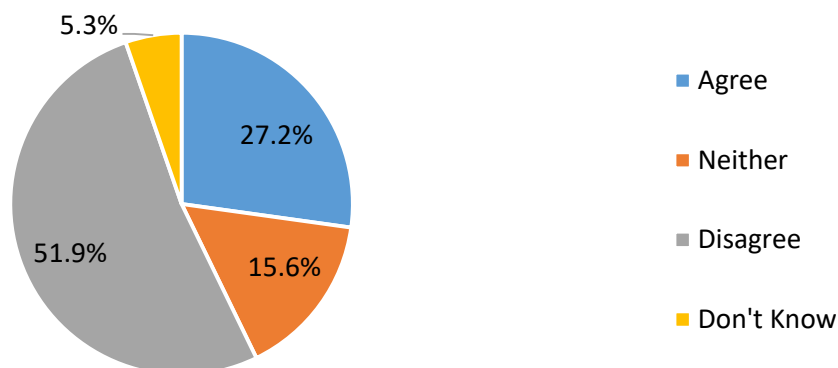


Public Perception on the Involvement of the Private Sector in the Education Sector

Key Facts

- ❖ A majority (51.9%) of Sri Lankans disagree with the private sector's involvement in education. Only 27.2% of Sri Lankans agree with it.

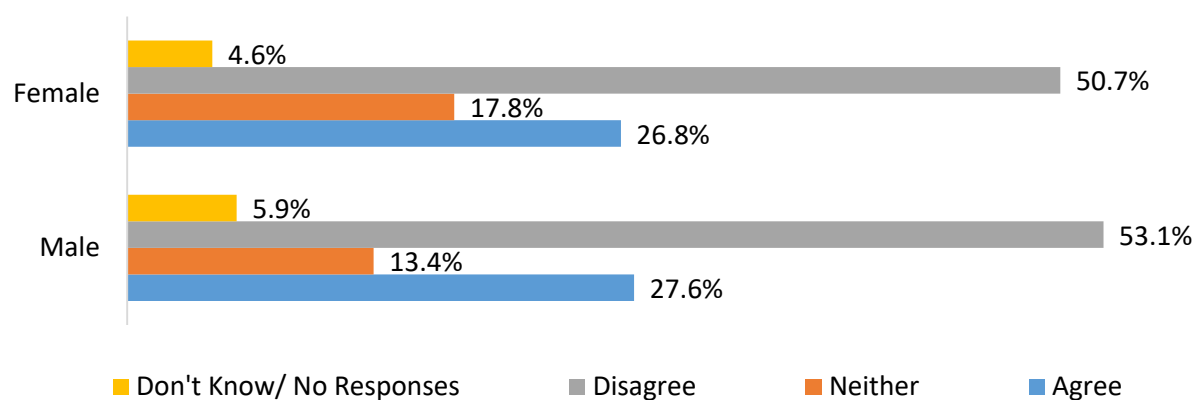
Graph 8.11: National Level perception on the involvement of the private sector in education



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both males (53.1%) and females (50.7%) disagree with the involvement of the private sector in education.

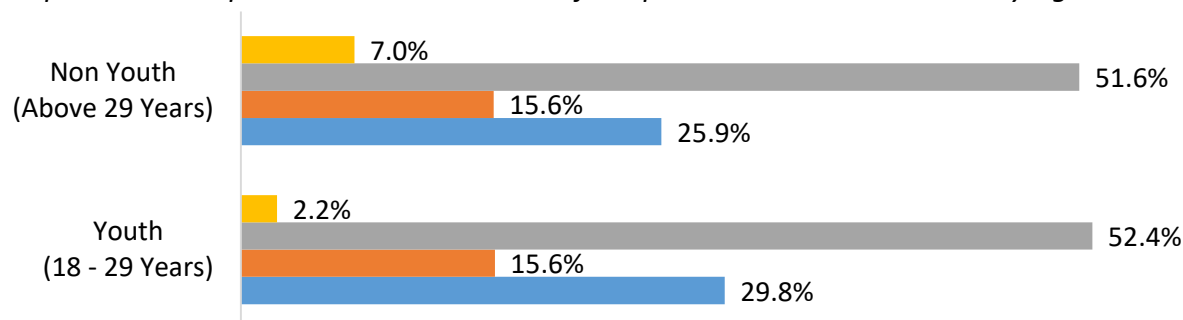
Graph 8. 12 : Perception on the involvement of the private sector in education by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority from both the youth (52.4%) and the non –youth population (51.6%) disagree with the involvement of the private sector in education.
- ❖ An equal percentage of both the youth (15.6%) and the non-youth population (15.6%) neither agree nor disagree with the involvement of the private sector in the education sector.

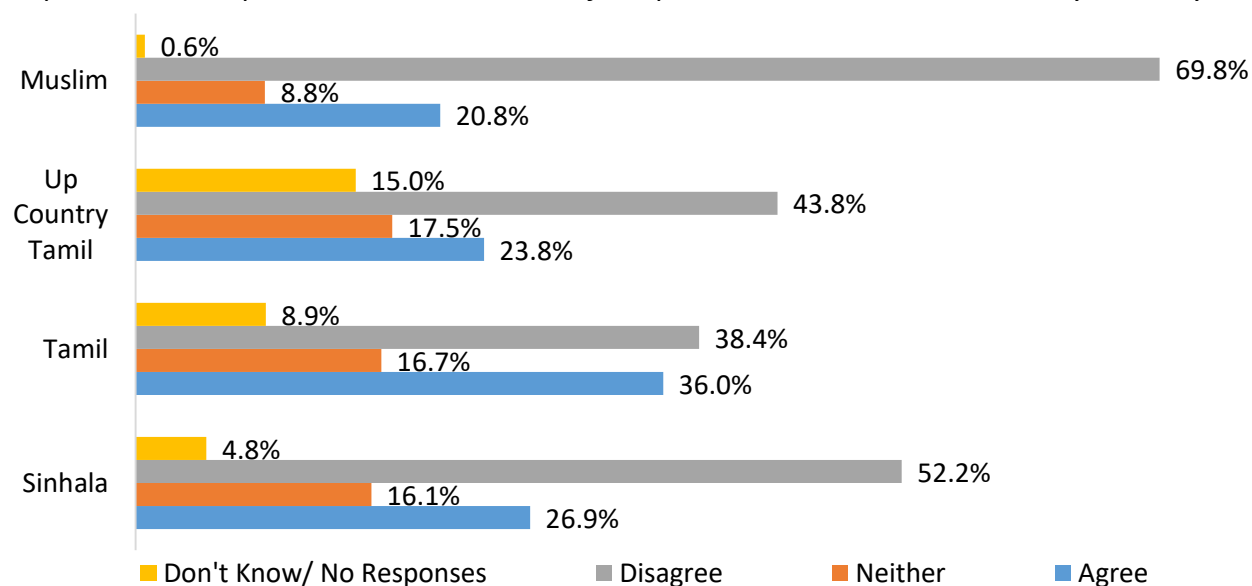
Graph 8.13: Perception on the involvement of the private sector in education by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Muslim community (69.8%) who disagree with the private sector's involvement in education.
- ❖ From those who agree, it is mostly the Tamil community (36%) who hold this view.

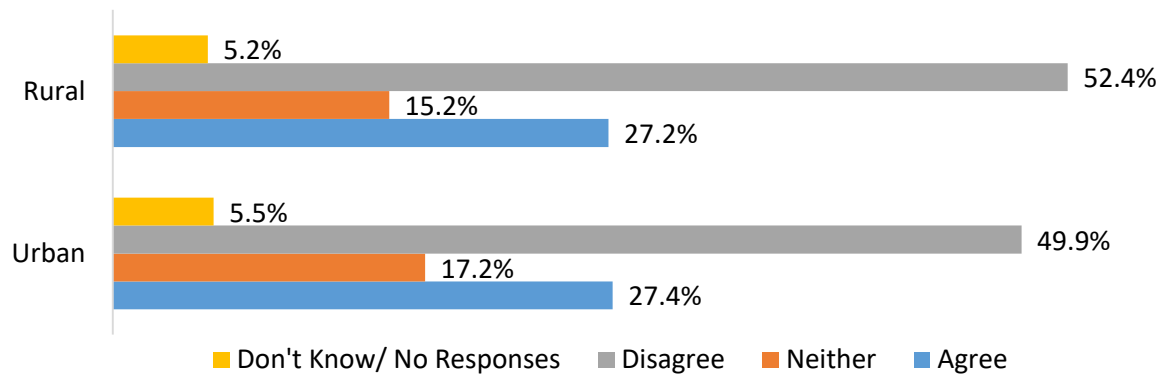
Graph 8. 14 : Perception on the involvement of the private sector in the education by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of the rural population (52.4%) disagree with the involvement of the private sector in education.

Graph 8.15: Perception of the urban and the rural population on the involvement of the private sector in education

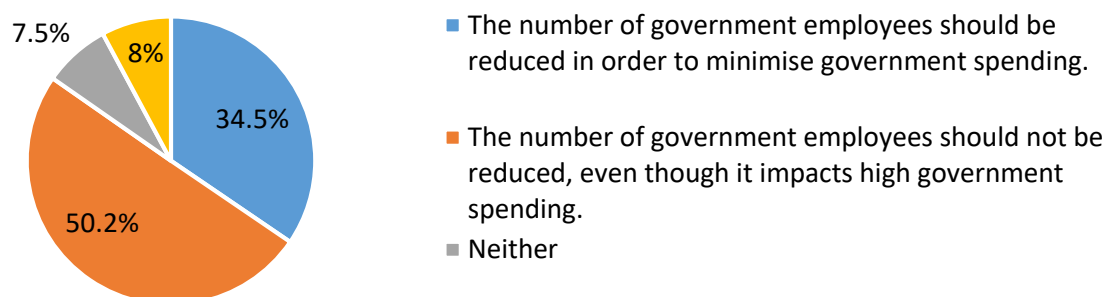


Public Perception on the number of Government Employees

Key Facts

- ❖ While a majority of Sri Lankans (50.2%) believe that the number of government employees should not be reduced, even if it impacts high government spending, 34.5% of Sri Lankans believe that the number of government employees should be reduced in order to minimise government spending.

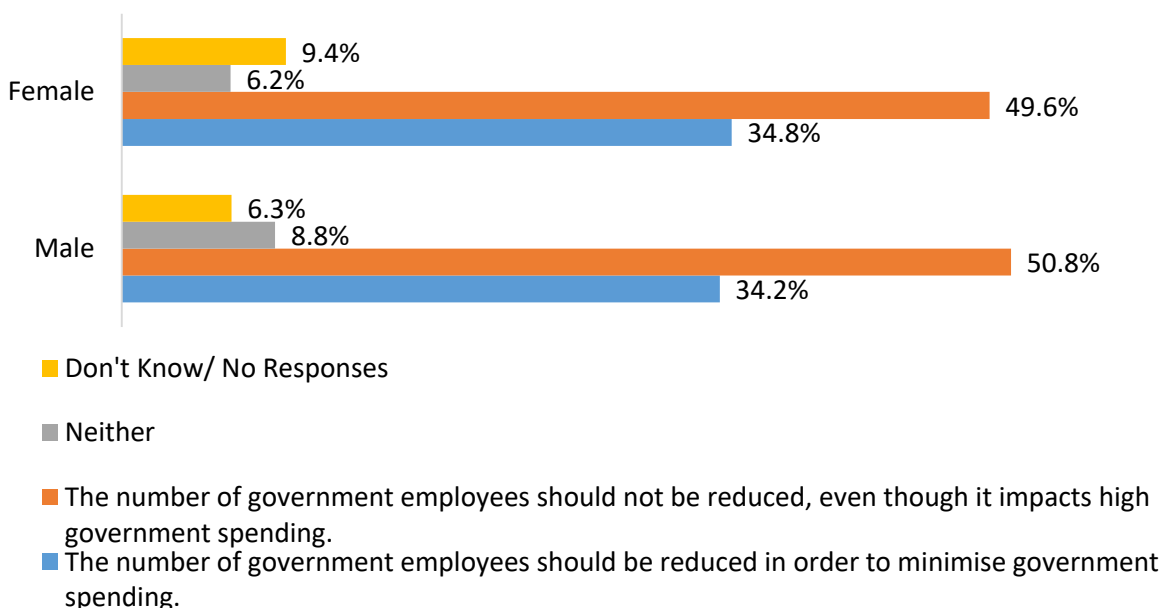
Graph 8. 16 : National Level perception on the number of government employees



Key Facts

- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of males (50.8%) in comparison to the females (49.6%) believe that the number of government employees should not be reduced, even though it impacts high government spending.

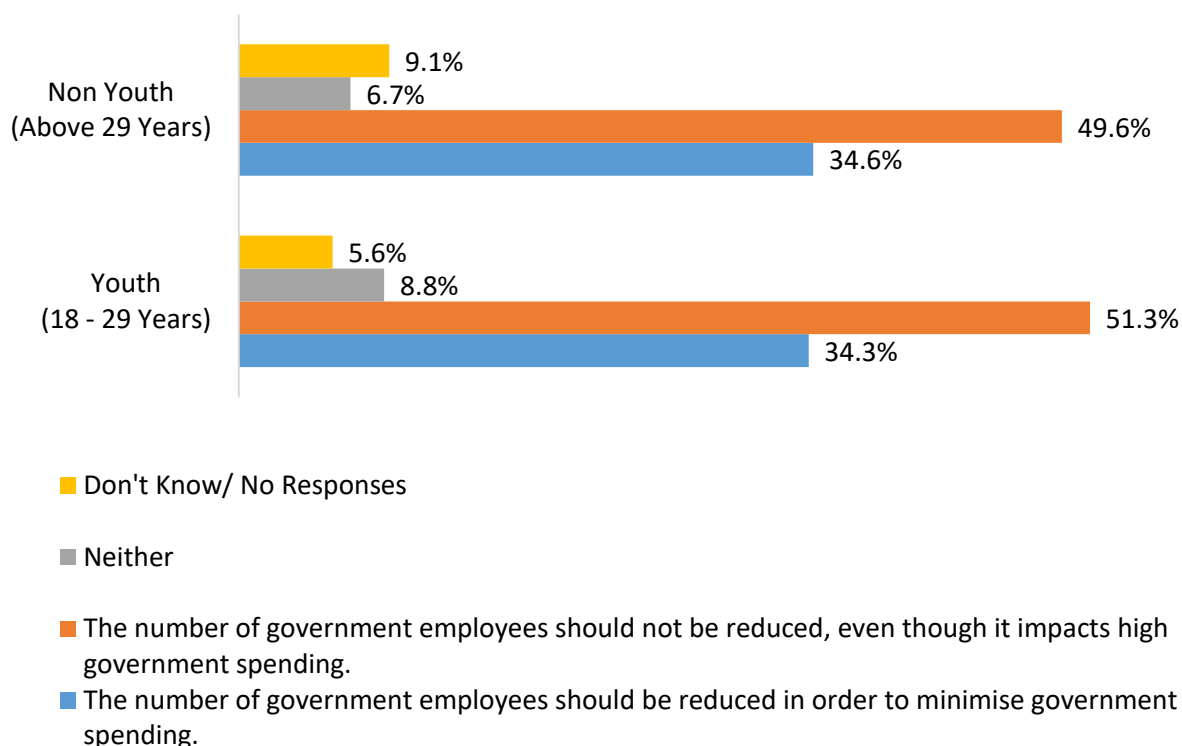
Graph 8.17: Perception on the number of government employees by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of the youth population (51.3%) believe that the number of government employees should not be reduced, even though it impacts high government spending.
- ❖ An almost equal percentage of both the youth (34.3%) and the non-youth population (34.6%) believe that the number of government employees should be reduced in order to minimize government spending.

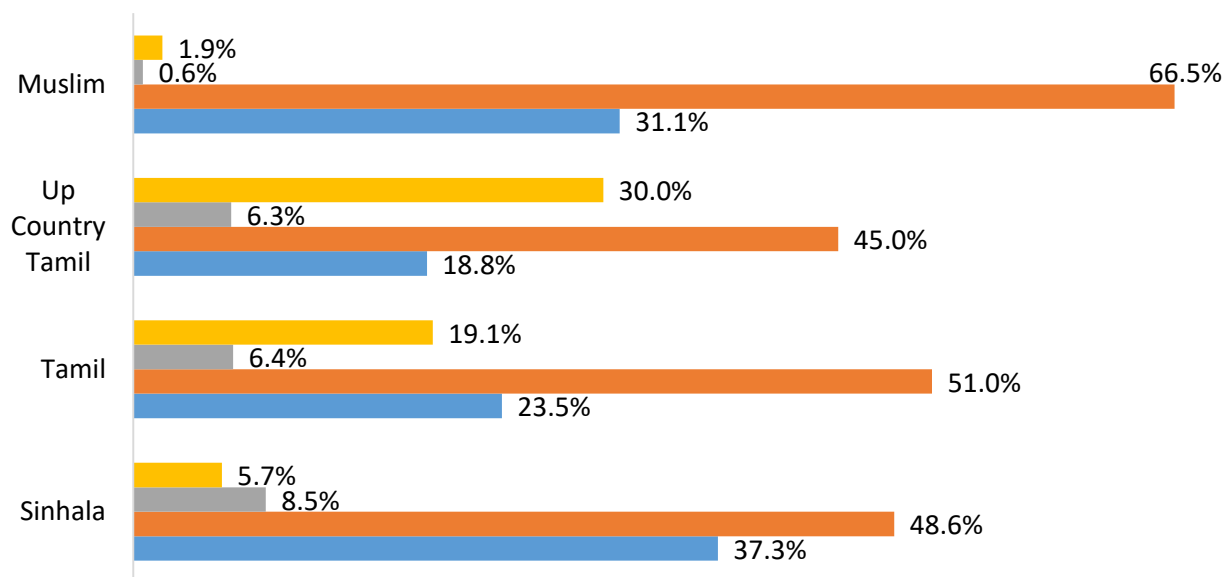
Graph 8.18: Perception on the number of government employees by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ From an ethnic perspective, it is mostly the Sinhala community (37.3%) who believe that government employees should be reduced in order to minimize government spending, whilst from those who believe that the number of government employees should not be reduced, even though it impacts high government spending – it is mostly the Muslim community (66.5%) who hold this view.

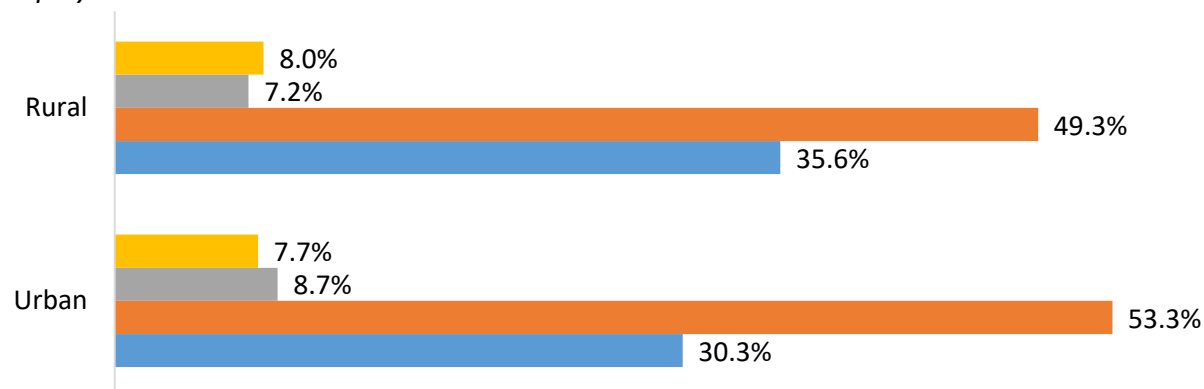
Graph 8.19: Perception on the number of government employees by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority from the urban population (53.3%) believe that the number of government employees should be reduced in order to minimise government spending.

Graph 8.20: Perception of the urban and rural population on the number of government employees



■ Don't Know/ No Responses

■ Neither

■ The number of government employees should not be reduced, even though it impacts high government spending.

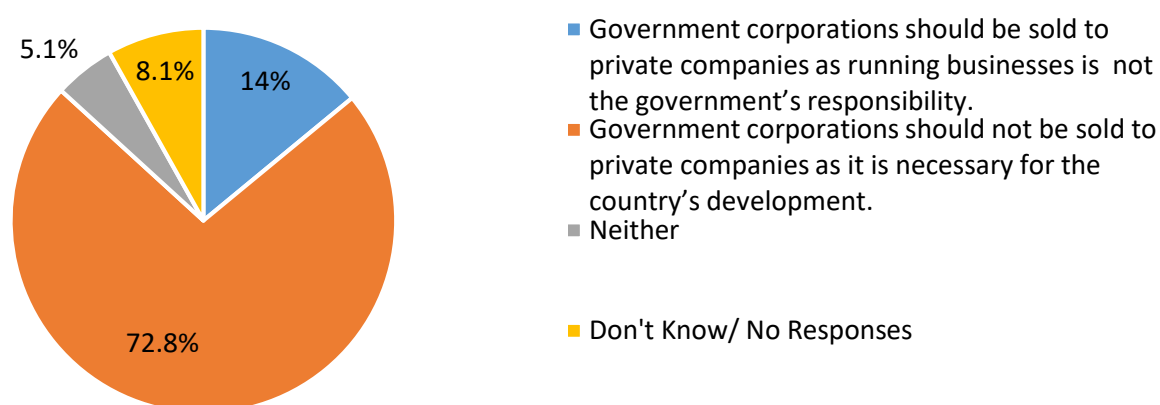
■ The number of government employees should be reduced in order to minimise government spending.

Public Perception on Government Corporations

Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of Sri Lankans (72.8%) believe that government corporations should not be sold to private companies as it is necessary for the country's development.
- ❖ Only 14% indicate that government corporations should be sold to private companies as running businesses is not the government's responsibility.

Graph 8. 21: National Level perception on government corporations



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both males (74.1%) and females (71.5%) are of the opinion that government corporations should not be sold to private companies as it is necessary for the country's development.

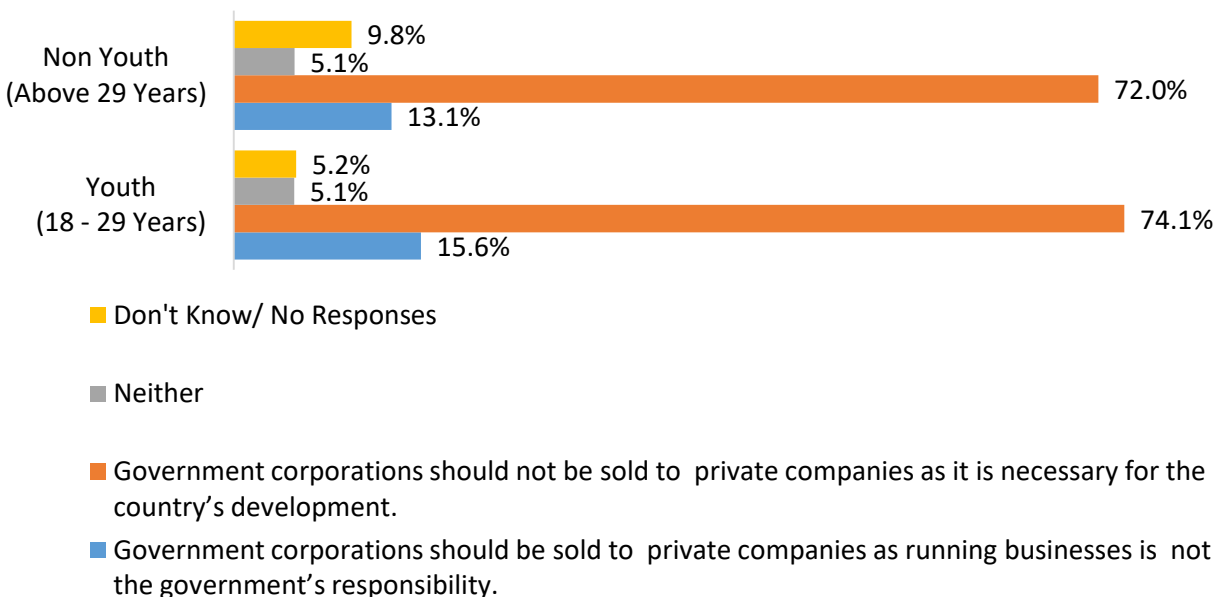
Graph 8. 22 : Perception on government corporations by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of both the youth (74.1%) and the non-youth (72%) population indicate that government corporations should not be sold to private companies as it is necessary for the country's development.
- ❖ From those who indicate that government corporations should be sold to private companies as running businesses is not the government's responsibility - 15.6% are from the youth and 13.1% are from the non-youth population.

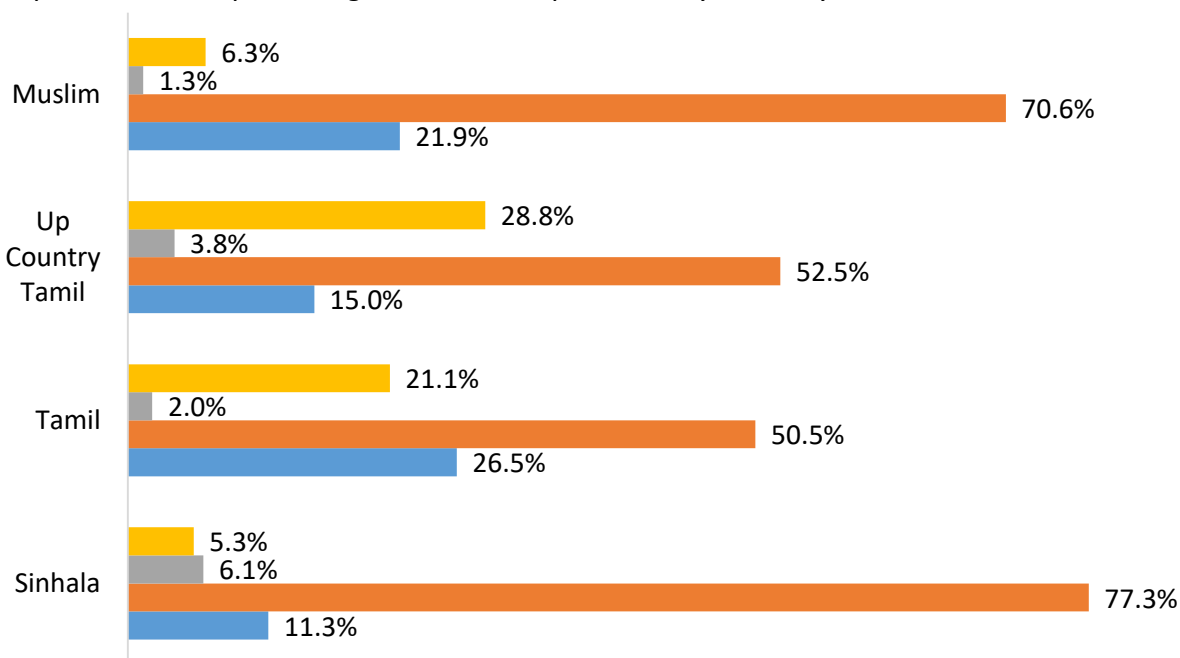
Graph 8. 23 : Perception on government corporations by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Tamil community (26.5%) who believe that government corporations should be sold to private companies as running businesses is not the government's responsibility.
- ❖ From those who believe that government corporations should not be sold to private companies as it is necessary for the country's development, it is mostly the Sinhala community (77.3%) who hold this view.

Graph 8. 24 : Perception on government corporations by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the urban (70.8%) and the rural population (73.3%) are of the opinion that government corporations should not be sold to private companies as it is necessary for the country's development.

Graph 8. 25 : Perception of the urban and the rural population on government corporations



■ Don't Know/ No Responses

■ Neither

■ Government corporations should not be sold to private companies as it is necessary for the country's development.

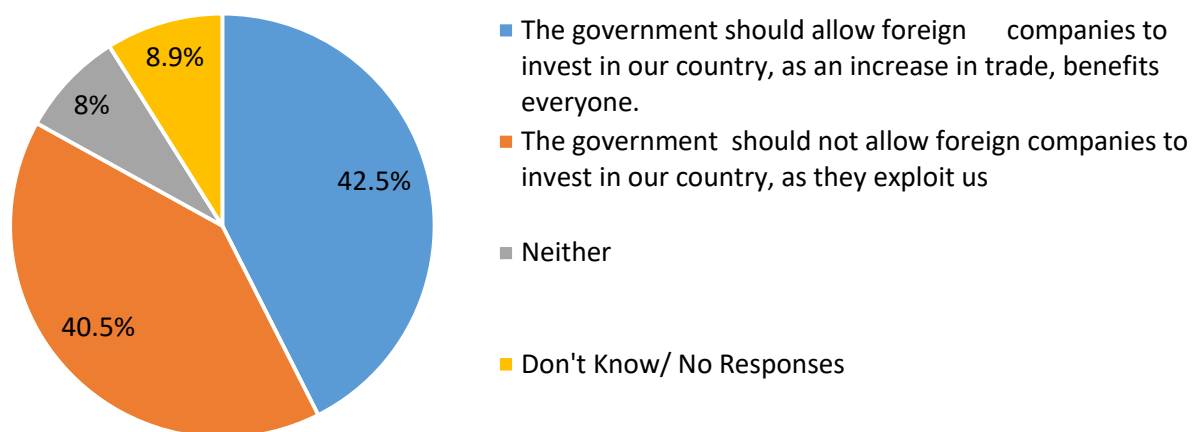
■ Government corporations should be sold to private companies as running businesses is not the government's responsibility.

Public Perception on Foreign Investment

Key Facts

- ❖ While 42.5% of Sri Lankans believe that the government should allow foreign companies to invest in our country as an increase in trade benefits everyone - 40.5% believe that the government should not allow foreign companies to invest in our country, as foreign companies exploit the country.

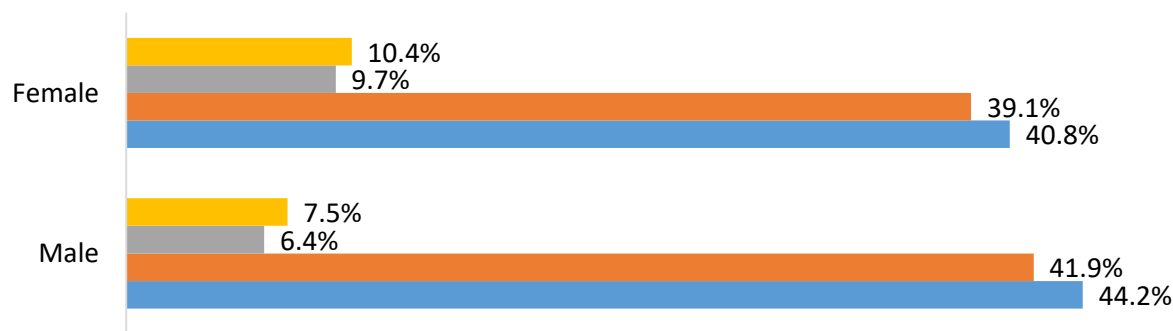
Graph 8. 26 : National perception on foreign investment in Sri Lanka



Key Facts

- ❖ A higher percentage of males (41.9%) than of females (39.1%) indicate that the government should not allow foreign companies to invest in our country, as foreign companies will exploit the country.
- ❖ Interestingly, from those who indicate that foreign companies should be allowed to invest in our country as it increases trade and benefits everyone – it is mostly the males (44.2%) who hold this view.

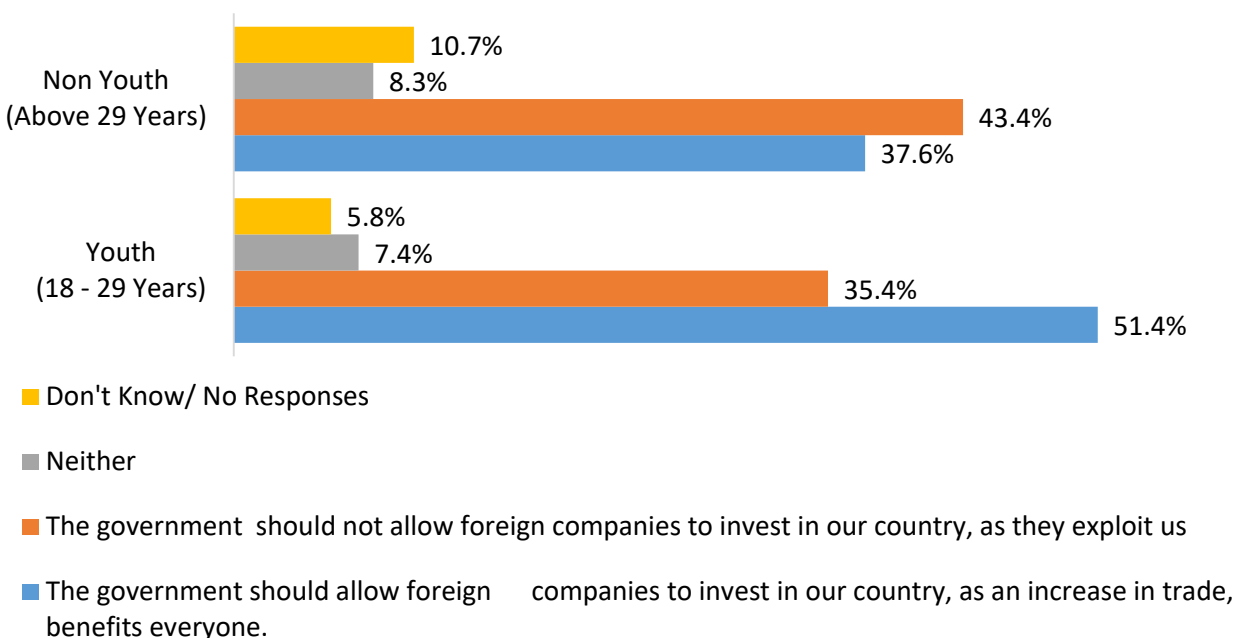
Graph 8. 27 : Perception on foreign investment in Sri Lanka by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of the youth population (51.4%) believe that the government should allow foreign companies to invest in our country as an increase in trade, benefits everyone.
- ❖ A higher percentage of respondents among the non- youth population (43.4%) indicate that the government should not allow foreign companies to invest in our country as foreign companies will exploit the country.

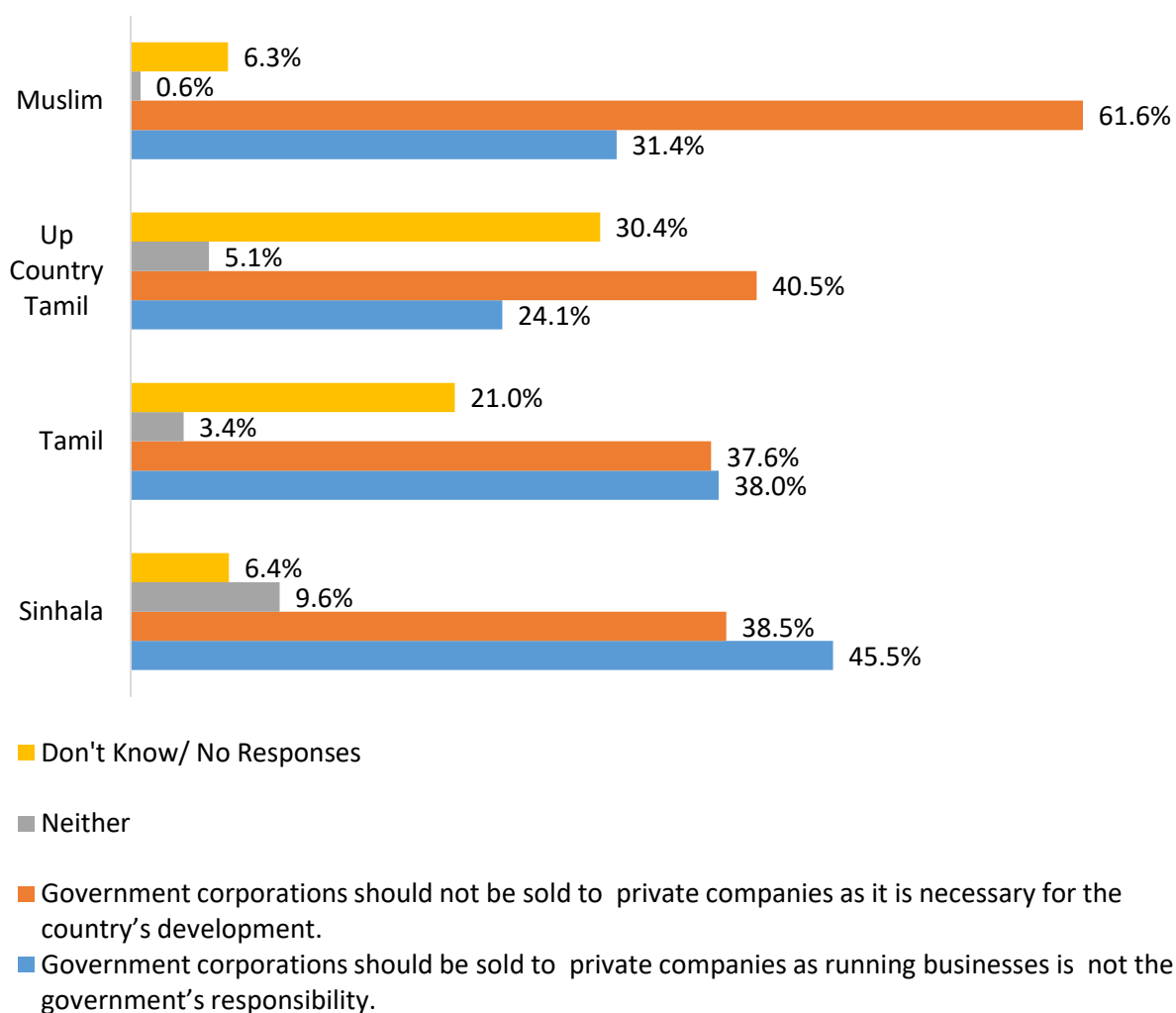
Graph 8. 28 : Perception on foreign investment in Sri Lanka by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Sinhala community (45.5%) who believe that the government should allow foreign companies to invest in our country as an increase in trade benefits everyone.
- ❖ From those who believe that the government should not allow foreign companies to invest in our country as foreign companies will exploit the country, it is mostly the Muslim community (61.6%) who hold this view.

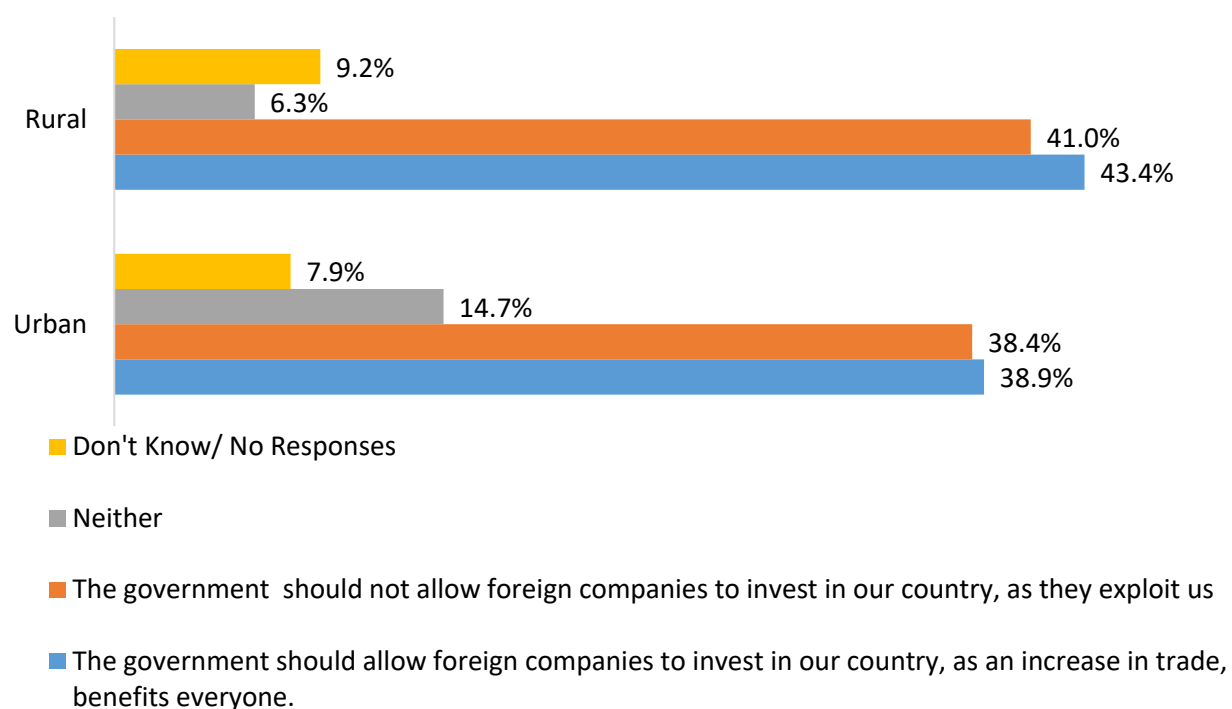
Graph 8. 29 : Perception on foreign investment in Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ There appears to be a divided opinion on the government allowing foreign companies to invest in the country, within both the urban and the rural communities.
- ❖ As for the urban population, 38.9% of respondents indicate that the government should allow foreign companies to invest in the country, as an increase in trade benefits everyone – whilst 38.4% oppose the government allowing foreign investment in the country as foreign companies will exploit the country.
- ❖ As for the rural population, similar to the urban population a slightly higher percentage of respondents (43.4%) indicate that the government should allow foreign companies to invest in the country, as an increase in trade benefits everyone – whilst 41% oppose this, as they believe that the foreign companies will exploit the country.

Graph 8. 30 : Perception of the urban and the rural population on foreign investment in Sri Lanka

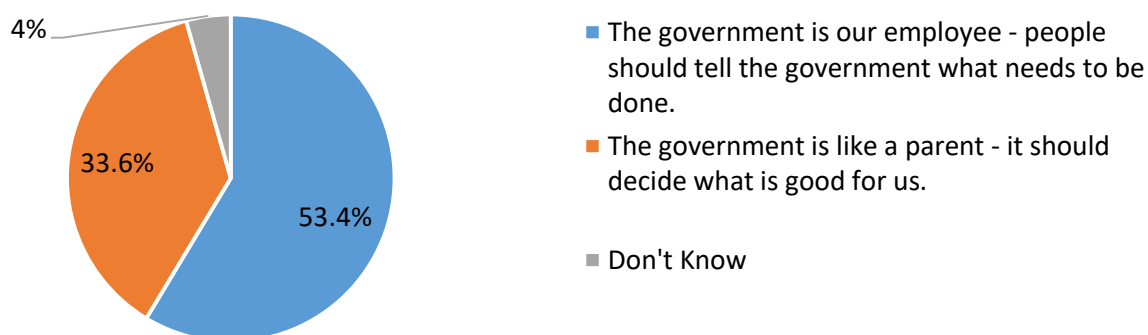


Perception on the Role of the Government

Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of Sri Lankans (53.4%) believe that the government is their employee and as a result people should tell the government what needs to be done - whilst 33.6% of Sri Lankans believe that the government is like a parent, it should decide what is good for the people.

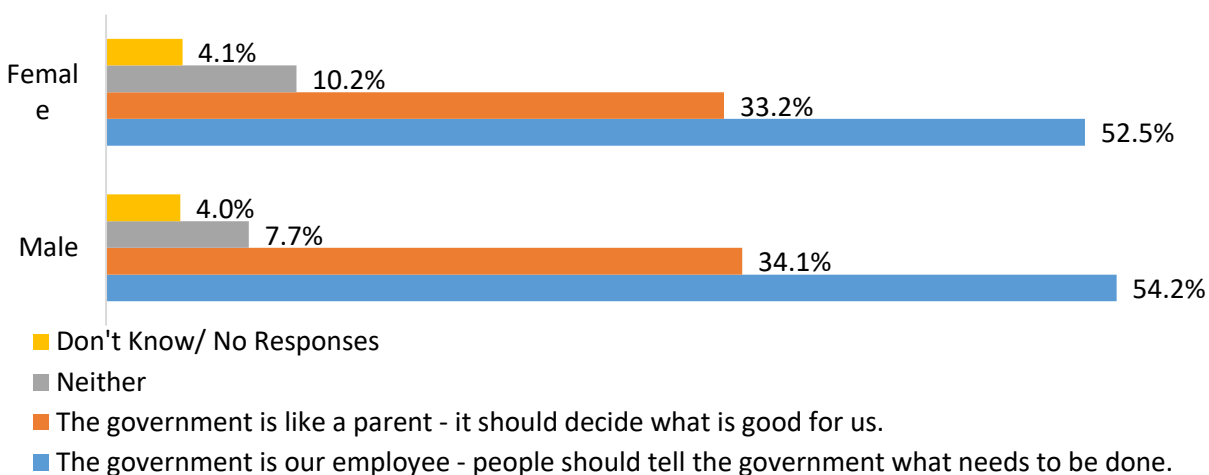
Graph 8. 31 : National Level perception on the role of the government



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both males (54.2%) and females (52.5%) believe that the government is their employee, and as a result people should tell the government what needs to be done.
- ❖ 33.2% of females and 34.1% of males are of the opinion that the government is like a parent – it should decide what is good for the people.

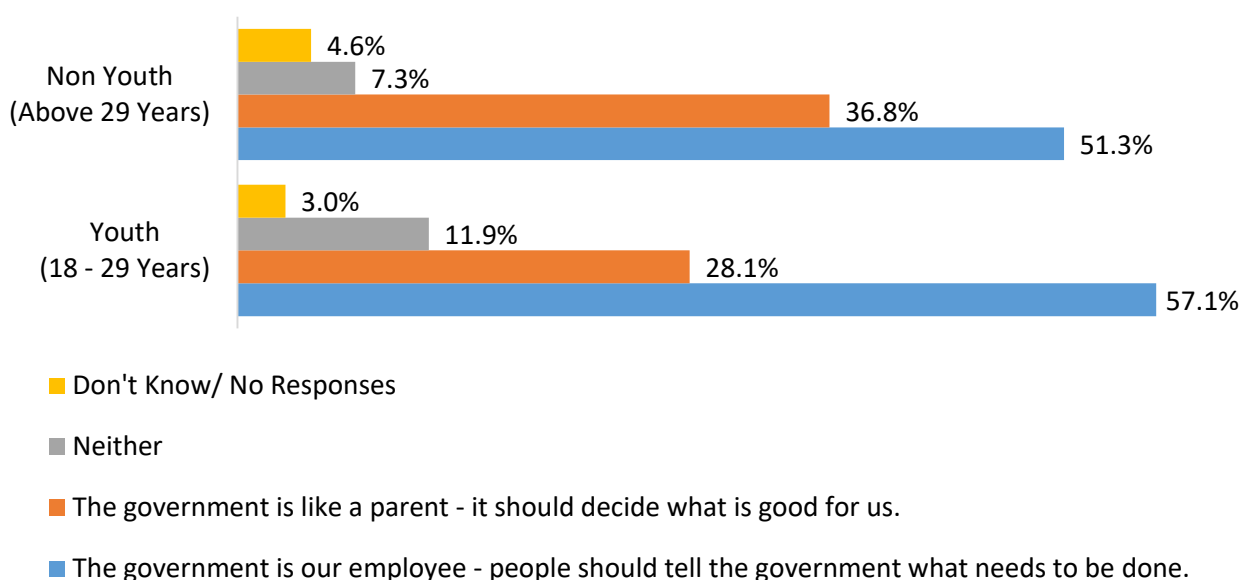
Graph 8.32: Perception on the role of the government by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the youth (57.1%) and the non- youth population (51.3%) are of the opinion that the government is their employee and as a result the people should tell the government what needs to be done.
- ❖ From those who believe that the government is like a parent - it should decide what is good for us, it is mostly the non-youth population (36.8%) who hold this view.

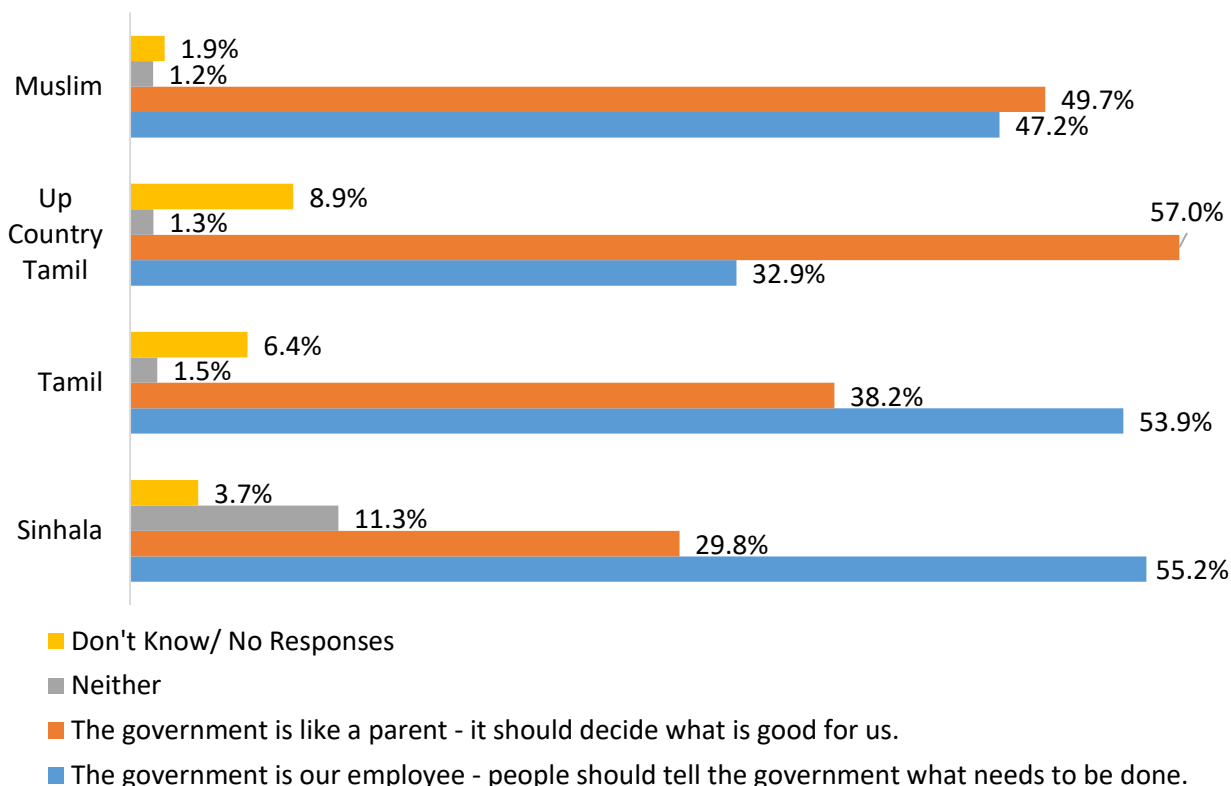
Graph 8.33: Perception on the role of the government by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Sinhala (55.2%) and Tamil (53.9%) communities who are of the opinion that the government is their employee and as a result the people should tell the government what needs to be done.
- ❖ From those who believe that the government is like a parent – it should decide what is good for the people, it is mostly the Up Country Tamil (57%) and Muslim (49.7%) communities who hold this view.

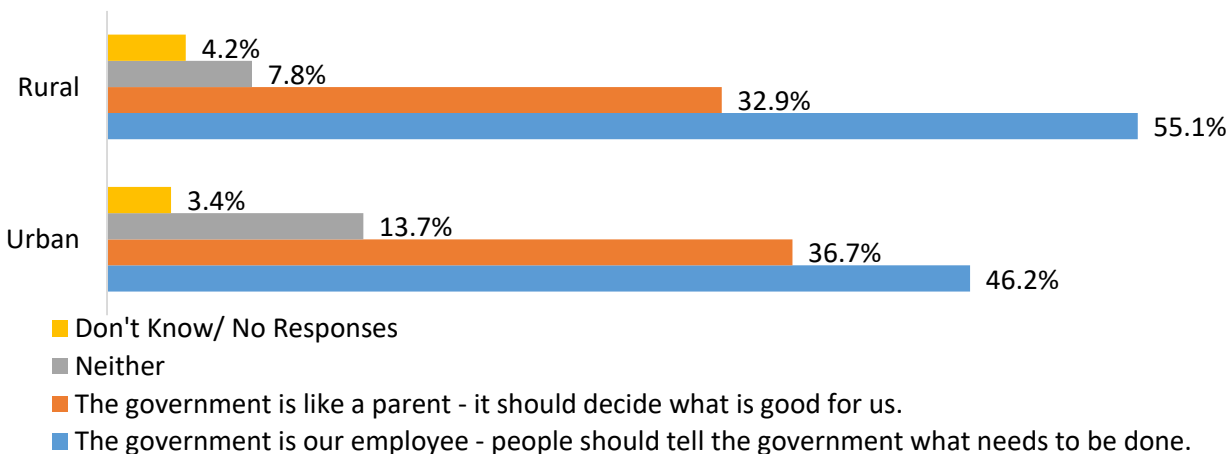
Graph 8. 34 : Perception on the role of the government by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the rural population (55.1%) in comparison to the urban population (46.2%) who are of the opinion that the government is their employee and as a result the people should tell the government what needs to be done.
- ❖ A higher percentage of the urban population (36.7%) in comparison to the rural population (32.9%) are of the opinion that the government is like a parent – it should decide what is good for the people.

Graph 8. 35 : Perception of the urban and rural population on the role of the government

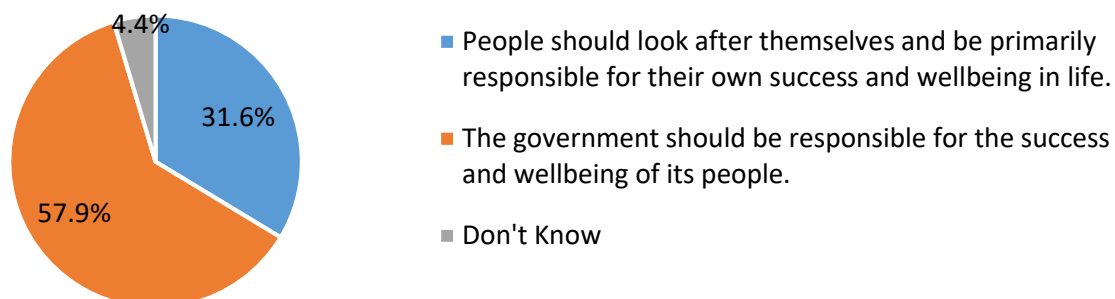


Perception on the Government's Role towards Citizens' Wellbeing and Success

Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of Sri Lankans (57.9%) believe that the government should be responsible for the success and wellbeing of its people – whilst 31.6% of Sri Lankans believe that people should look after themselves and be primarily responsible for their own success and wellbeing in life.

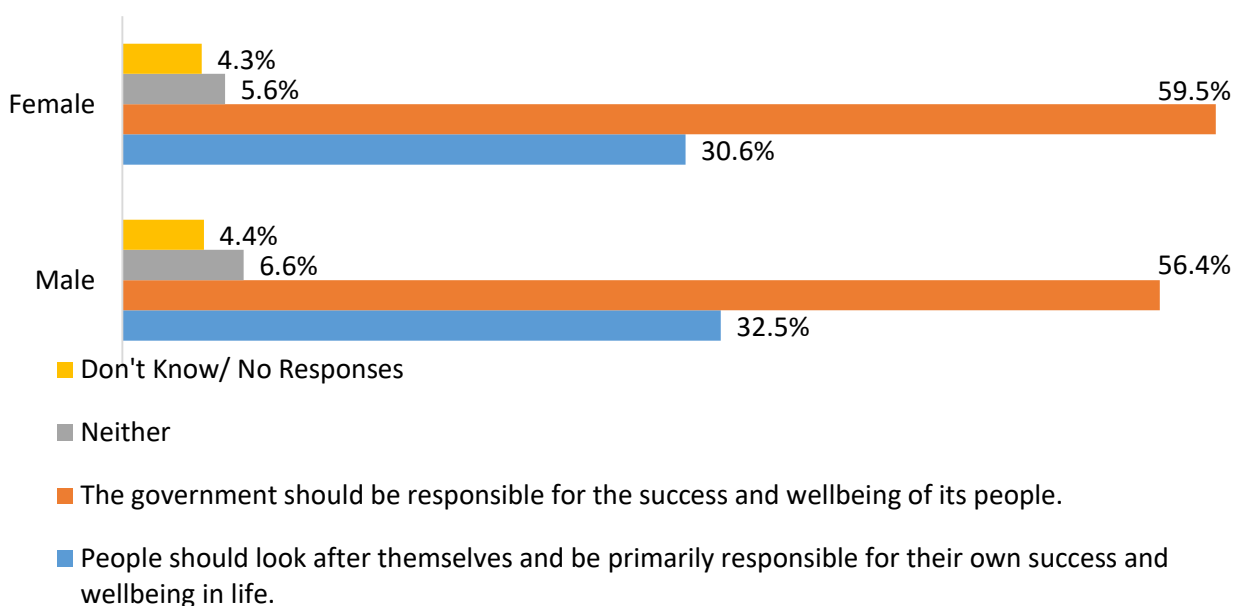
Graph 8.36: National Level perception on the government's role towards citizens' wellbeing and success



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both males (56.4%) and females (59.5%) indicate that the government should be responsible for the success and the wellbeing of its people.

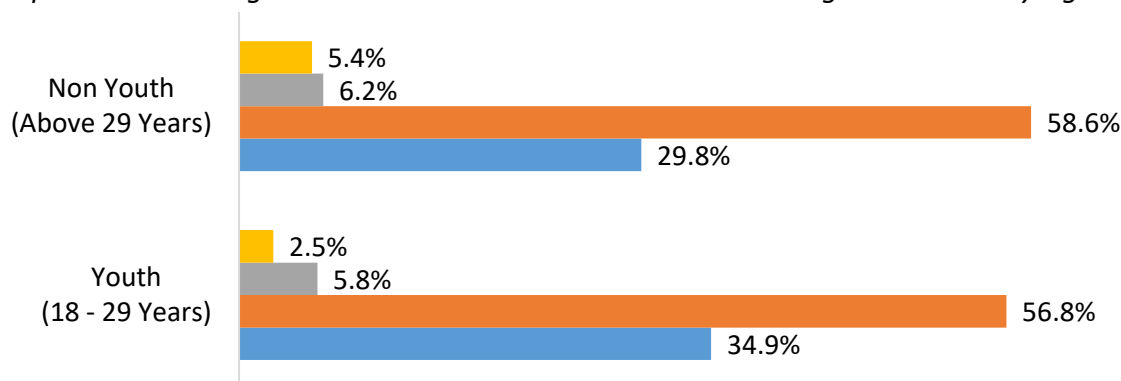
Graph 8. 37 : On the government's role towards citizens' wellbeing and success by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of respondents from both the youth (56.8%) and the non-youth population (58.6%) indicate that the government should be responsible for the success and wellbeing of its people – in comparison to the 34.9% from the youth and 29.8% from the non-youth population who indicate that people should look after themselves and be primarily responsible for their own success and wellbeing in life.

Graph 8. 38: On the government's role towards citizens' wellbeing and success by Age



■ Don't Know/ No Responses

■ Neither

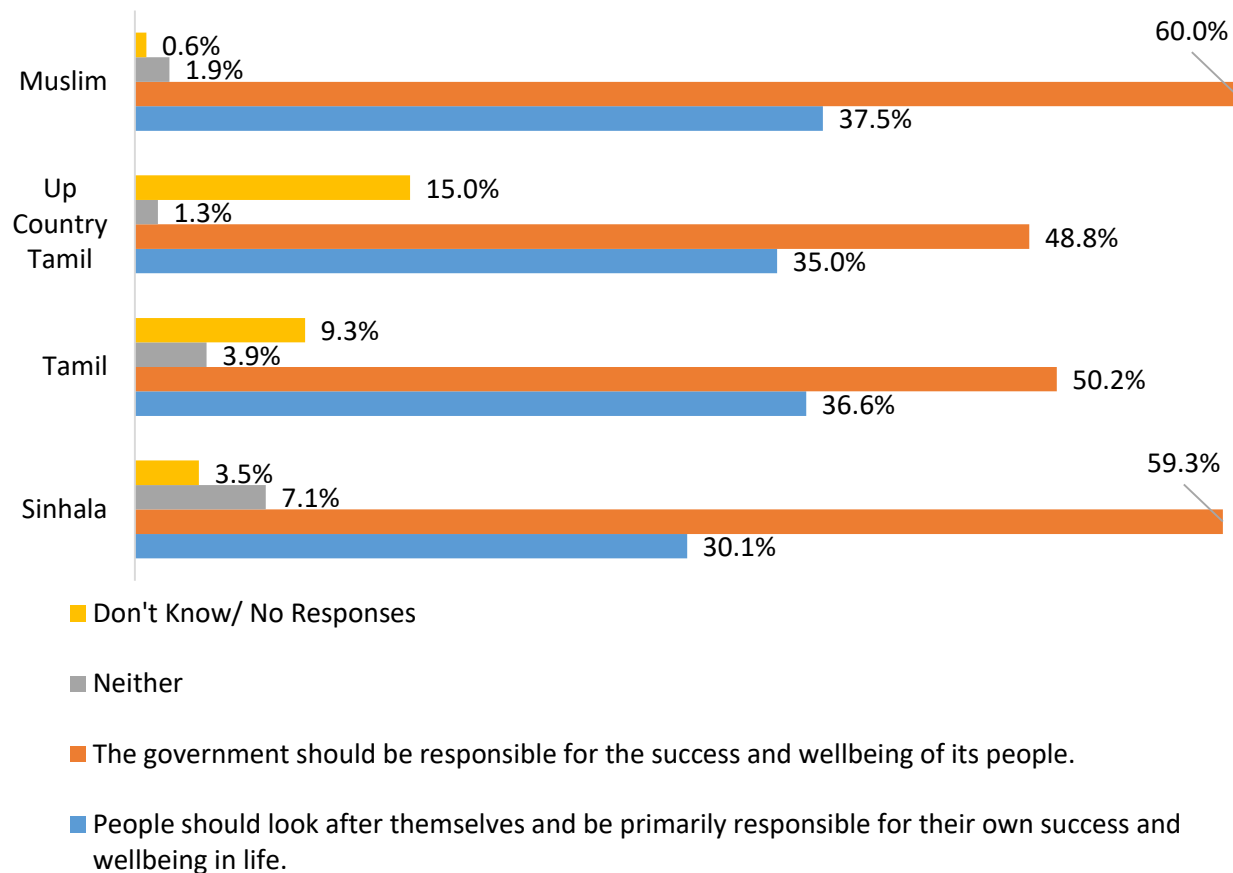
■ The government is like a parent - it should decide what is good for us.

■ The government is our employee - people should tell the government what needs to be done.

Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Muslim community (60%), closely followed by the Sinhala community (59.3%) who believe that the government should be responsible for the success and wellbeing of its people.

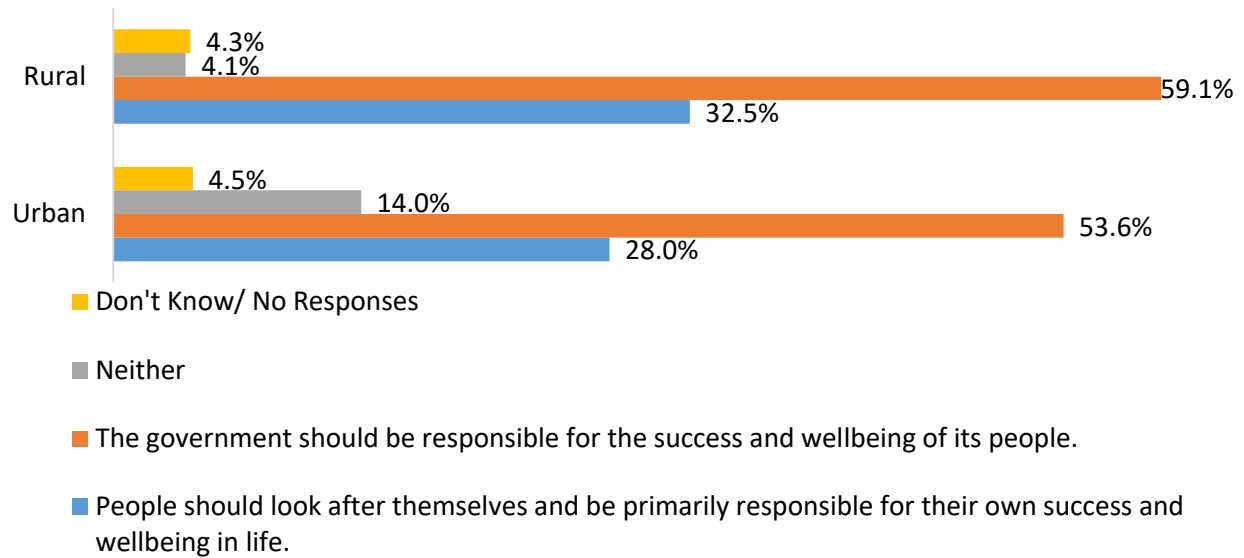
Graph 8. 39 : On the government's role towards citizens' wellbeing and success by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the urban and the rural population are of the opinion that the government should be responsible for the success and the wellbeing of its people.

Graph 8. 40: Perception of the urban and the rural population on the government's role towards citizens' wellbeing and success

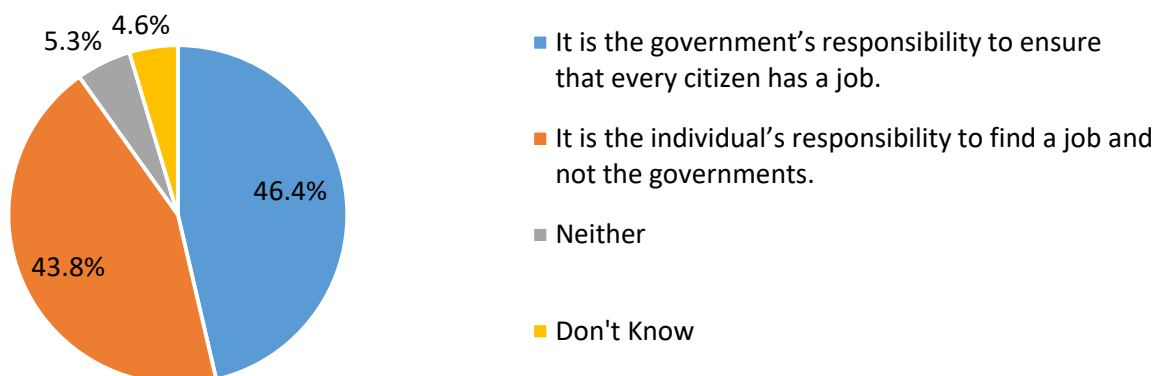


Perception on the Role of the Government in Ensuring Employment to Its Citizens

Key Facts

- ❖ It is evident that 46.4% of Sri Lankans believe that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that every citizen has a job - whilst 43.8% of Sri Lankans believe that it is the individual's responsibility to find a job and not the governments.

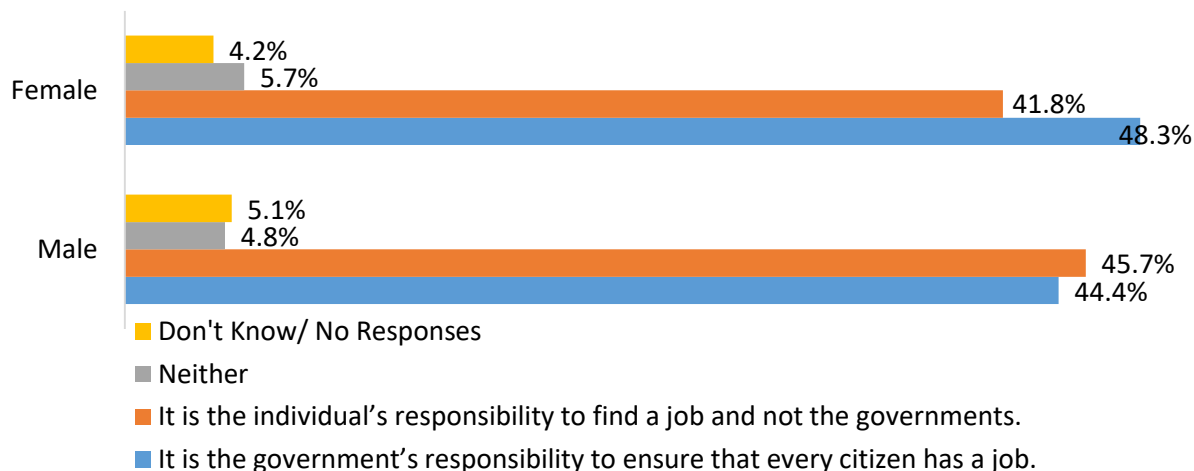
Graph 8. 41 : National Level perception on the government's role in ensuring employment to its citizens



Key Facts

- ❖ A higher percentage of females (48.3%) in comparison to males (44.4%) indicate that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that every citizen is employed.
- ❖ It is mostly the males (45.7%) in comparison to the females (41.8%) who believe that it is an individual's responsibility to find employment and not the governments'.

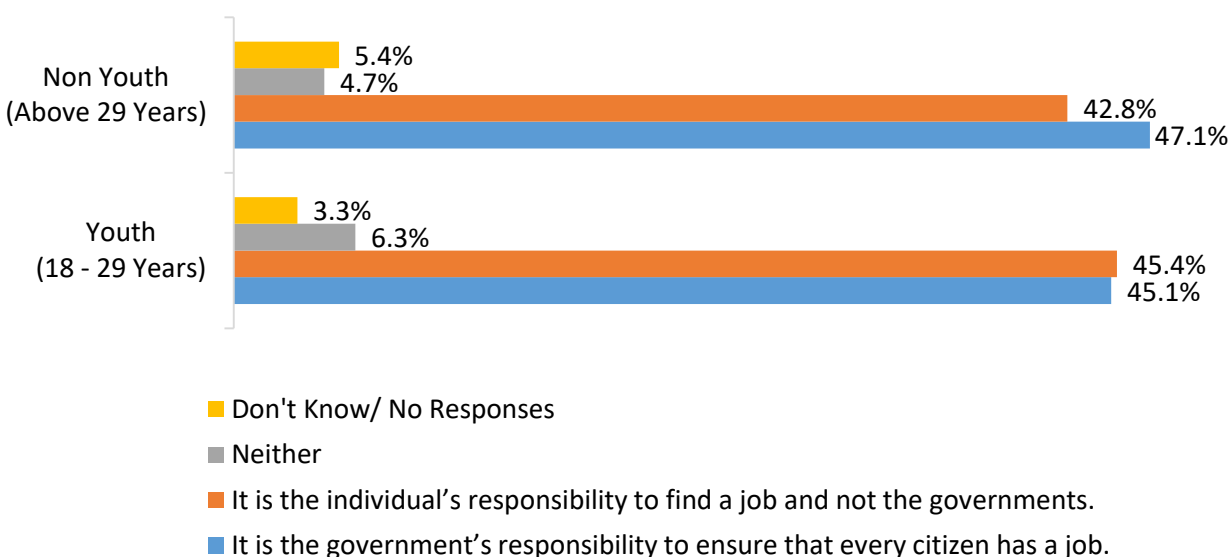
Graph 8.42: Perception on the role of the government in ensuring employment to its citizens by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ An almost similar percentage from both the youth (45.1%) and the non-youth (47.1%) population believe that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that every citizen has a job – Whilst 45.4% from the youth and 42.8% from the non-youth population indicate that it is the individual's responsibility to find a job and not the governments.

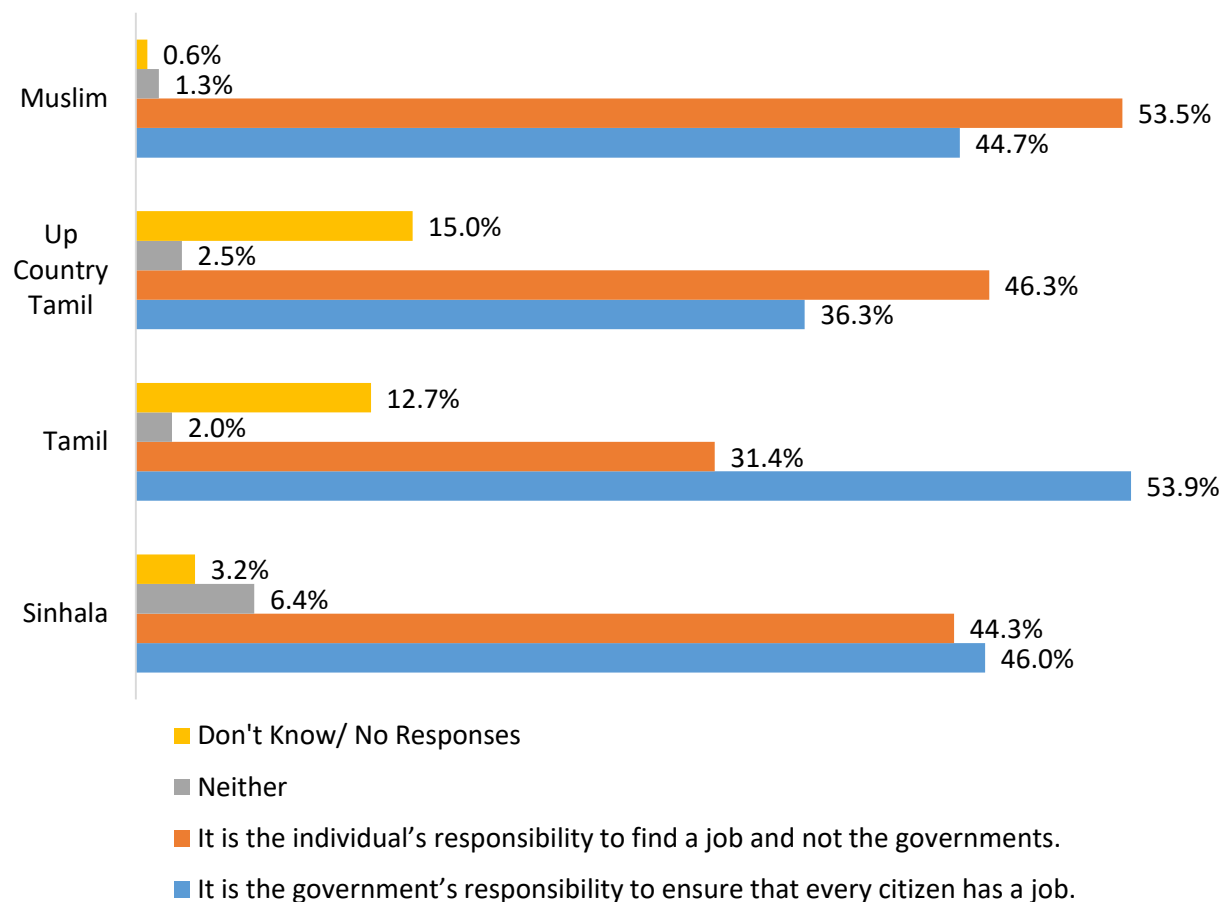
Graph 8. 43 : Perception on the role of the government in ensuring employment to its citizens by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ From an ethnic perspective it is mostly the Tamil community (53.9%) who indicate that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that every citizen has employment - whilst it is mostly the Muslim community (53.5%) who indicate that it is the individual's responsibility to find employment and not the government's.

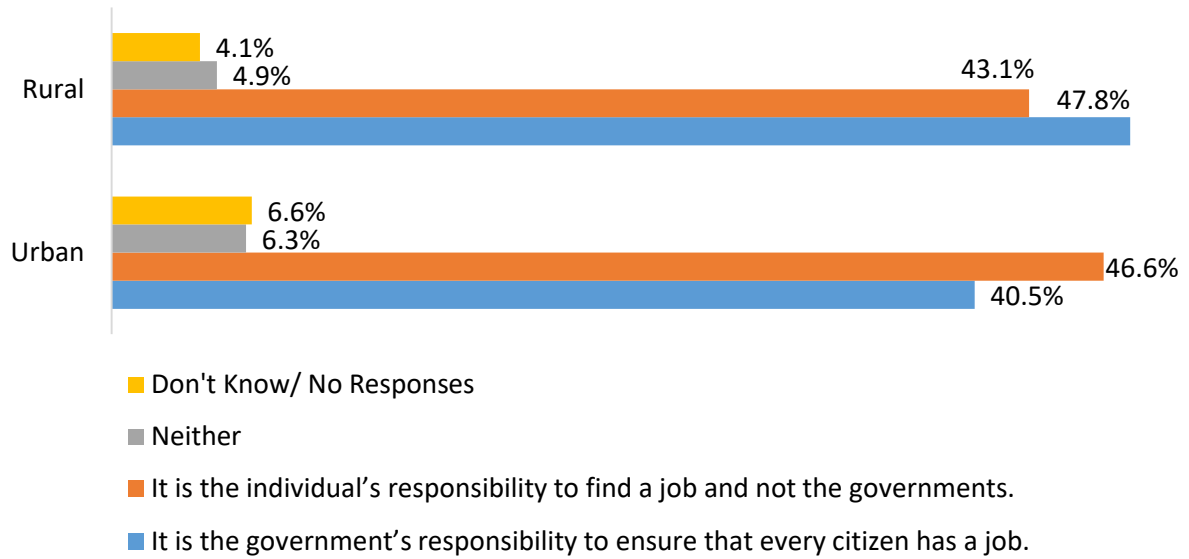
Graph 8. 44 : Perception on the role of the government in ensuring employment to its citizens by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the rural population (47.8%) who indicate that it is the government's responsibility to ensure that every citizen is employed.
- ❖ It is mostly the urban population (46.1%) who indicate that it is the individual's responsibility to find employment and not the government's.

Graph 8. 45 : Perception of the urban and rural population on the role of the government in ensuring employment to its citizens

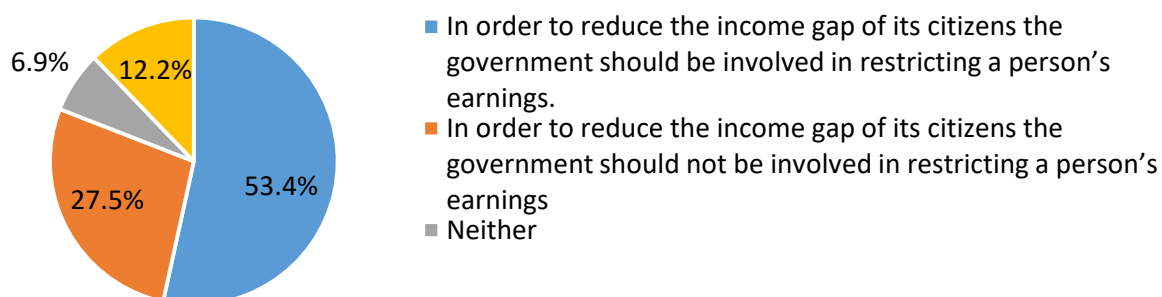


Perception on the Government's Involvement in Reducing the Income Gap

Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of Sri Lankans (53.4%) indicate that in order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should be involved in restricting a person's earnings, whilst 27.5% of Sri Lankans indicate that in order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should not be involved in restricting a person's earnings.

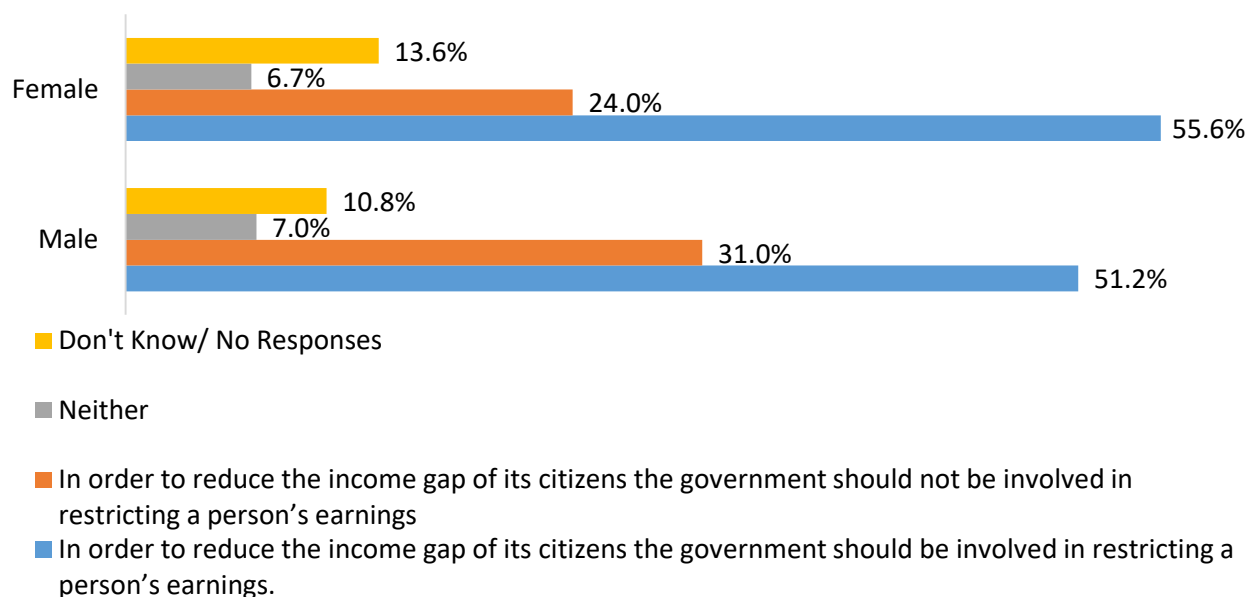
Graph 8. 46 : National Level Perception on the government's involvement in reducing the income gap



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both females (55.6%) and males (51.2%) believe that in order to reduce the income gap of the citizens, the government should be involved in restricting a person's earning.

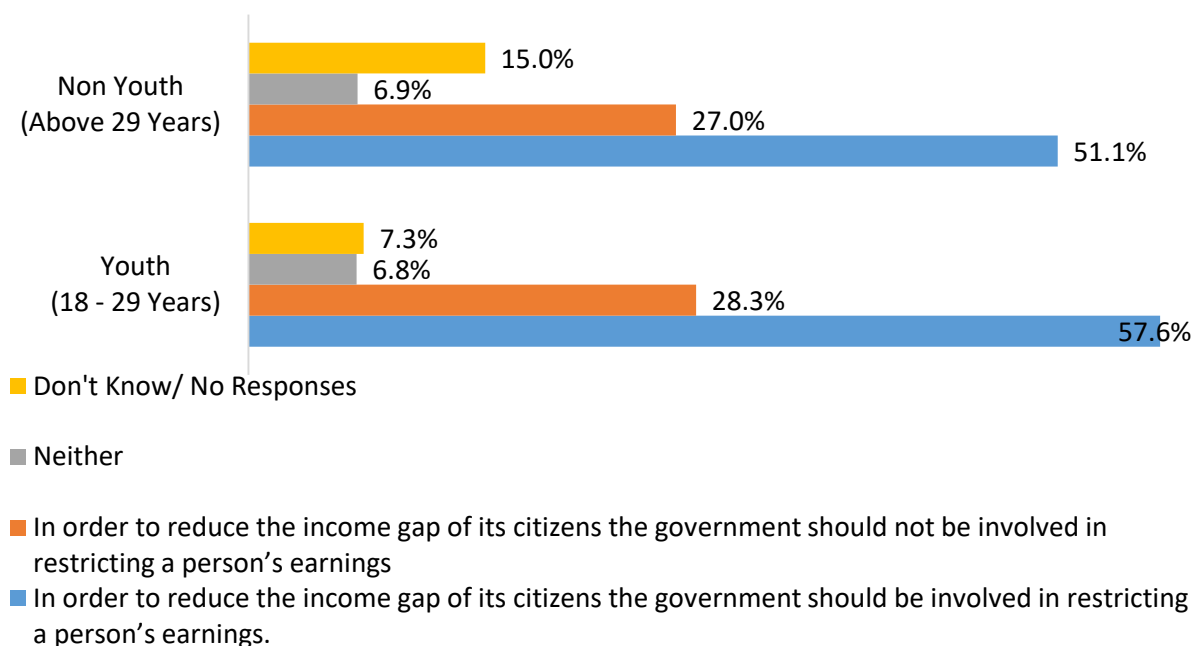
Graph 8. 47 : Perception on the government's involvement in reducing the income gap by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of respondents from both the youth (57.6%) and non-youth population (51.1%) indicate that in order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should be involved in restricting a person's earnings.
- ❖ 28.3% from the youth and 27% from the non-youth population indicate that in order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should not be involved in restricting a person's earnings.

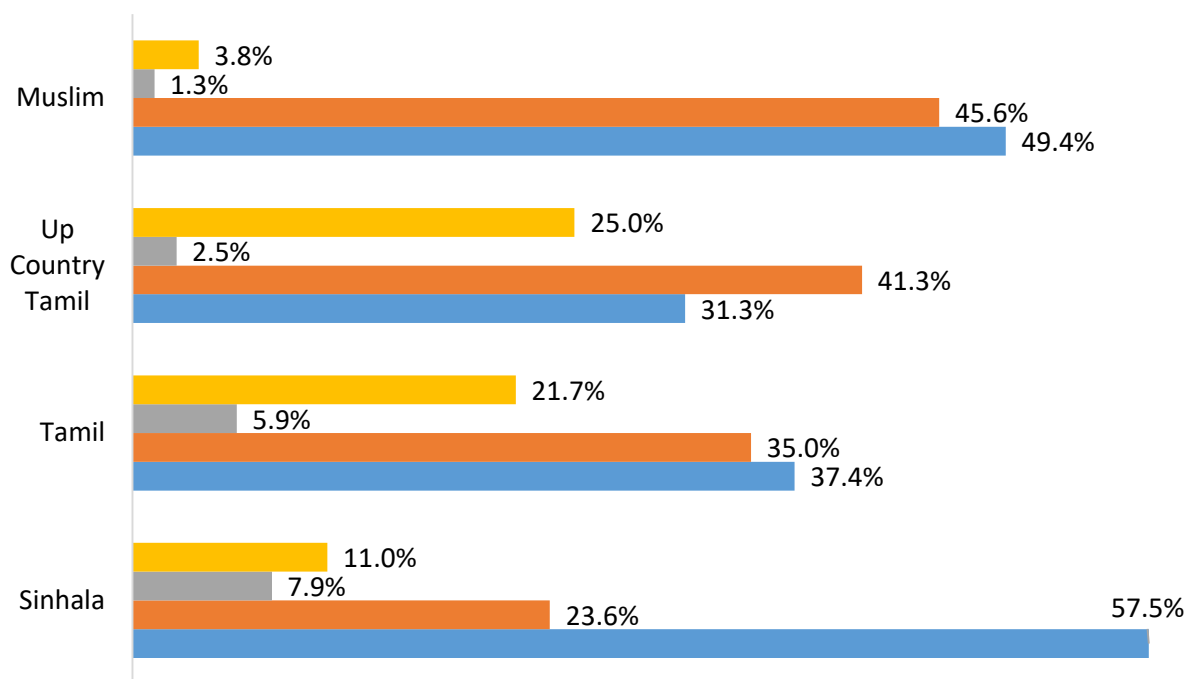
Graph 8. 48 : Perception on the government's involvement in reducing the income gap by Age



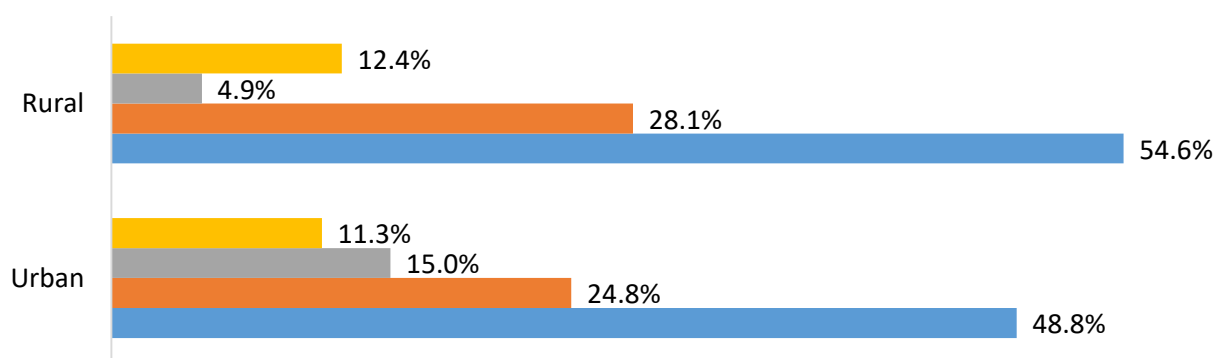
Key Facts

- ❖ It is mostly the Sinhala community (57.5%) who indicate that in order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should be involved in restricting a person's earnings.
- ❖ It is mostly the Muslim community (45.6%) who indicate that in order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should not be involved in restricting a person's earnings.

Graph 8. 49: Perception on the government's involvement in reducing the income gap by Ethnicity



Graph 8. 50: Perception of the urban and rural population on the government's involvement in reducing the income gap



■ Don't Know/ No Responses

■ Neither

■ In order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should not be involved in restricting a person's earnings

■ In order to reduce the income gap of its citizens the government should be involved in restricting a person's earnings.

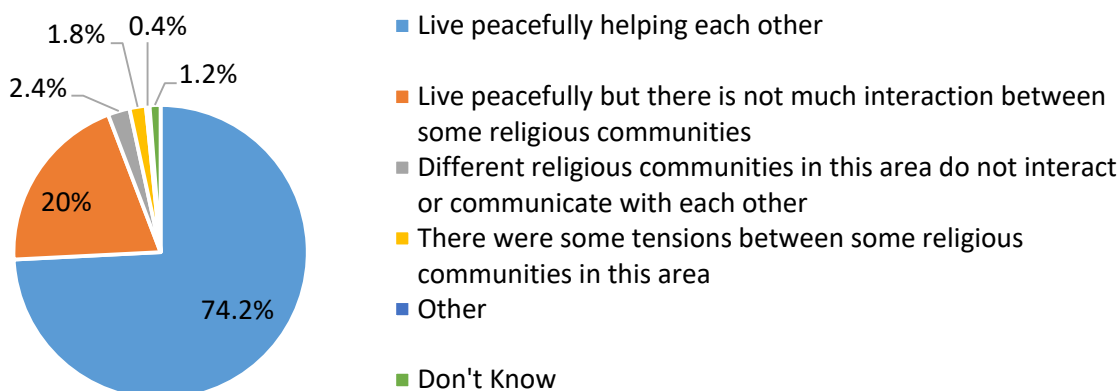
9. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Perception on Co-Existence among Communities

Key Facts

- ❖ A significant proportion of Sri Lankans (74.2%) believe that the communities in their respective areas live peacefully.
- ❖ 20% of Sri Lankans indicate that they live peacefully but there is not much interaction between some religious communities.

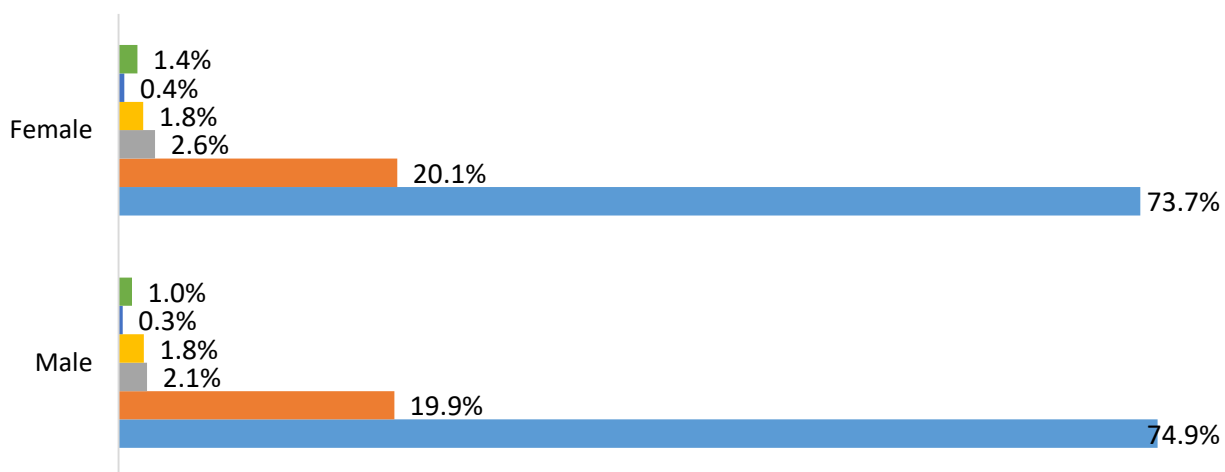
Graph 9. 1: National Level perception on co-existence among communities



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both males (74.9%) and females (73.7%) indicate that they live peacefully helping each other.
- ❖ An almost equal percentage of both males (19.9%) and females (20.1%) believe that they live peacefully but there is not much of interaction between some religious communities.

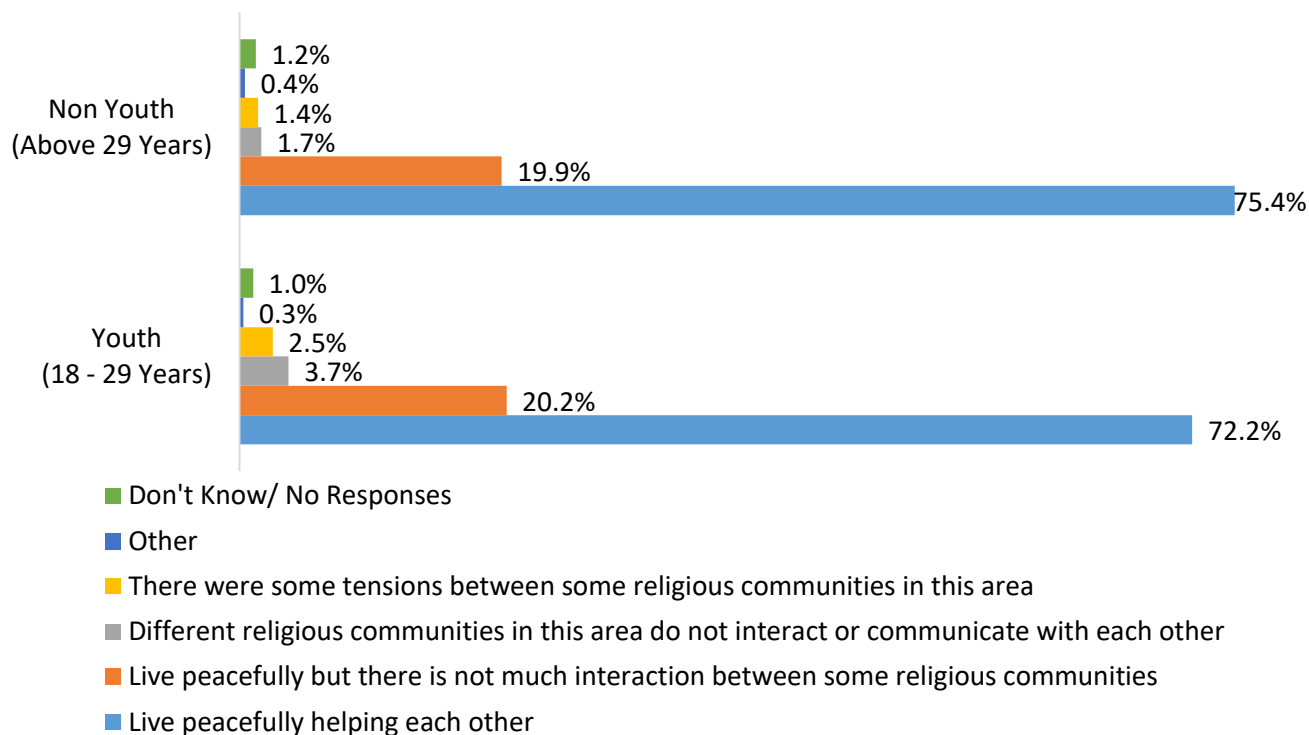
Graph 9. 2: Perception on co-existence among communities by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ Overall both the youth (72.2%) and the non-youth (75.4%) indicate that they live peacefully with each other.

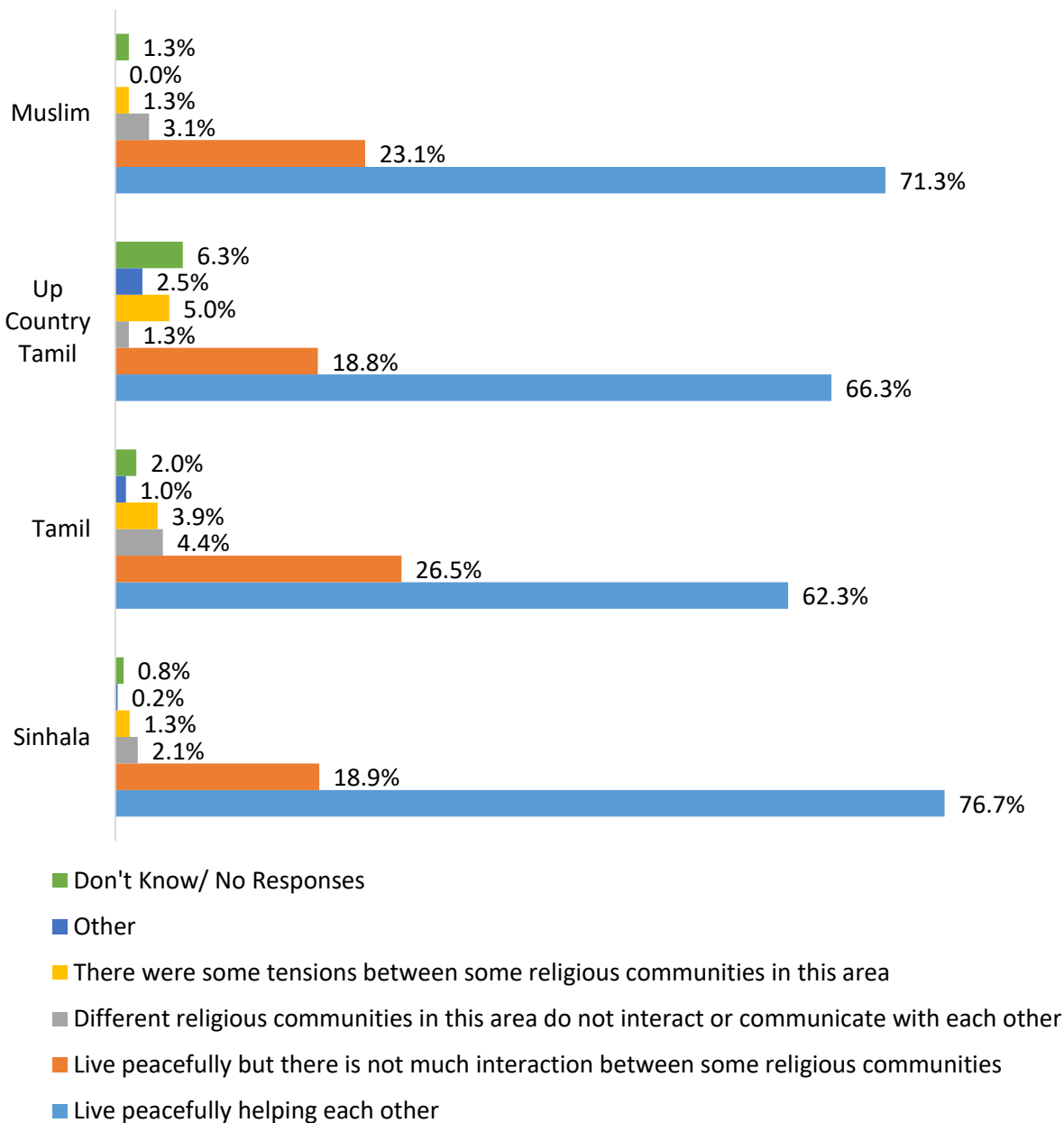
Graph 9. 3: Perception on co-existence among communities by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority across all four ethnic communities indicate that they live peacefully helping each other.
- ❖ It is mostly the Tamil community (26.5%) who indicate that they live peacefully but there is not much interaction between some religious communities.

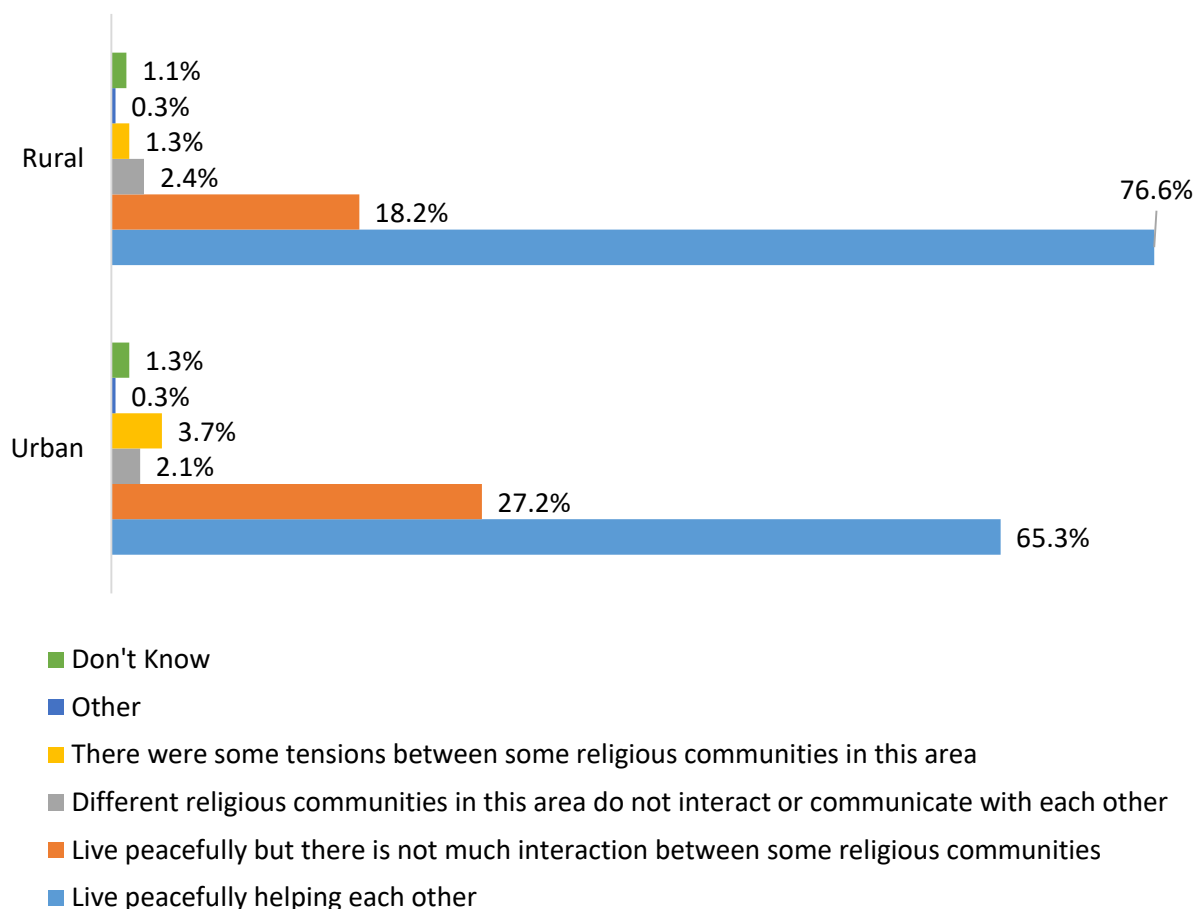
Graph 9. 4: Perception on co-existence among communities by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority across both the urban and the rural population indicate that they live peacefully helping each other.
- ❖ A higher proportion of the urban population (27.2%) than those from the rural population (18.2%) believe that they can live peacefully but there is not much interaction between some religious communities.

Graph 9. 5: Perception of the urban and rural population on co-existence among communities

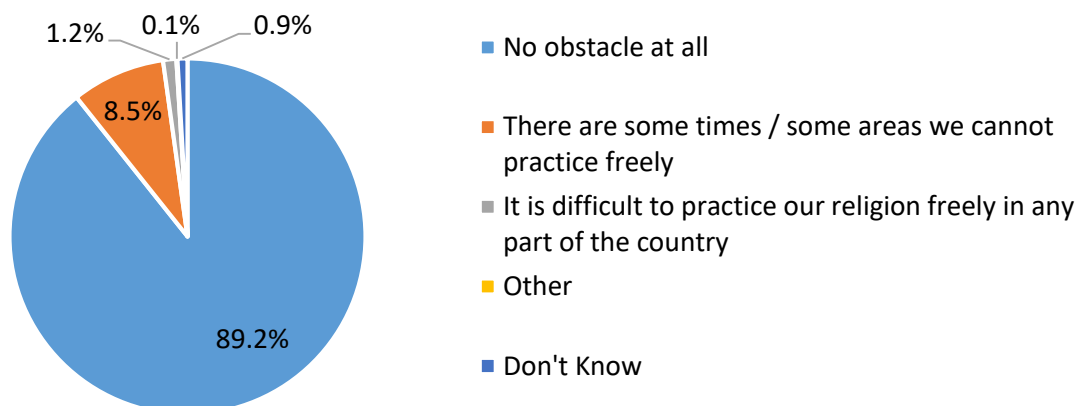


Perception on Religious Practice

Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of Sri Lankans (89.2%) believe that there is no obstacle at all in practicing their respective religious activities.

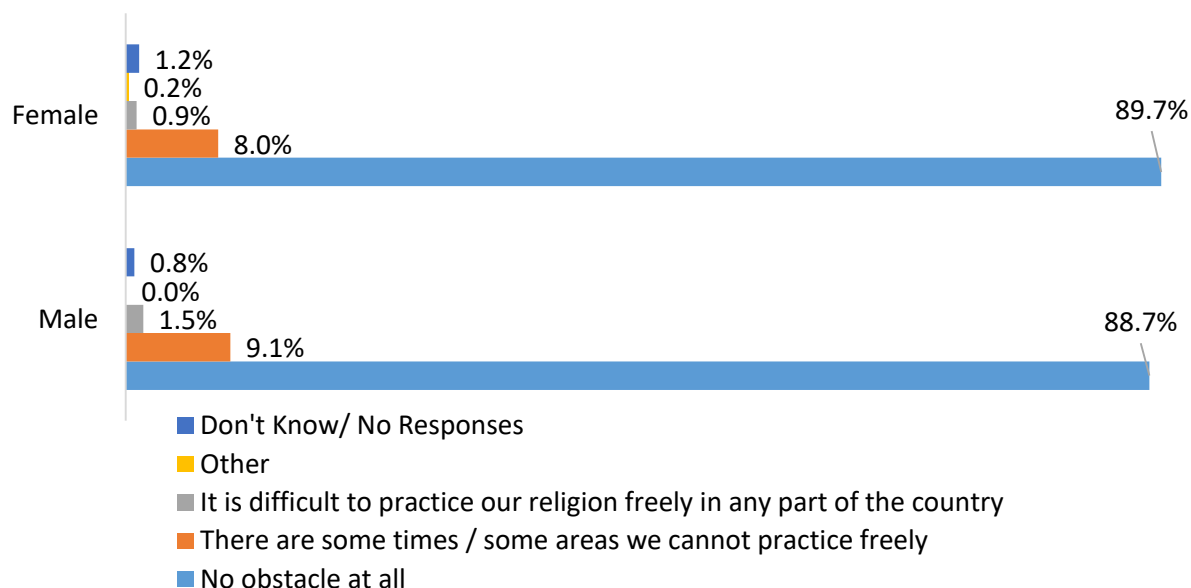
Graph 9. 6: National Level perception on religious practice



Key Facts

- ❖ An almost equal proportion of both males (88.7%) and females (89.7%) indicate that there are no obstacles at all, when having to practice their various religious activities of their respective religions.

Graph 9. 7: Perception on religious practice by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ An almost equal proportion of both the youth (89.7%) and non-youth population (89.1%) indicate that there are no obstacles at all, when having to practice their various religious activities of their respective religions.

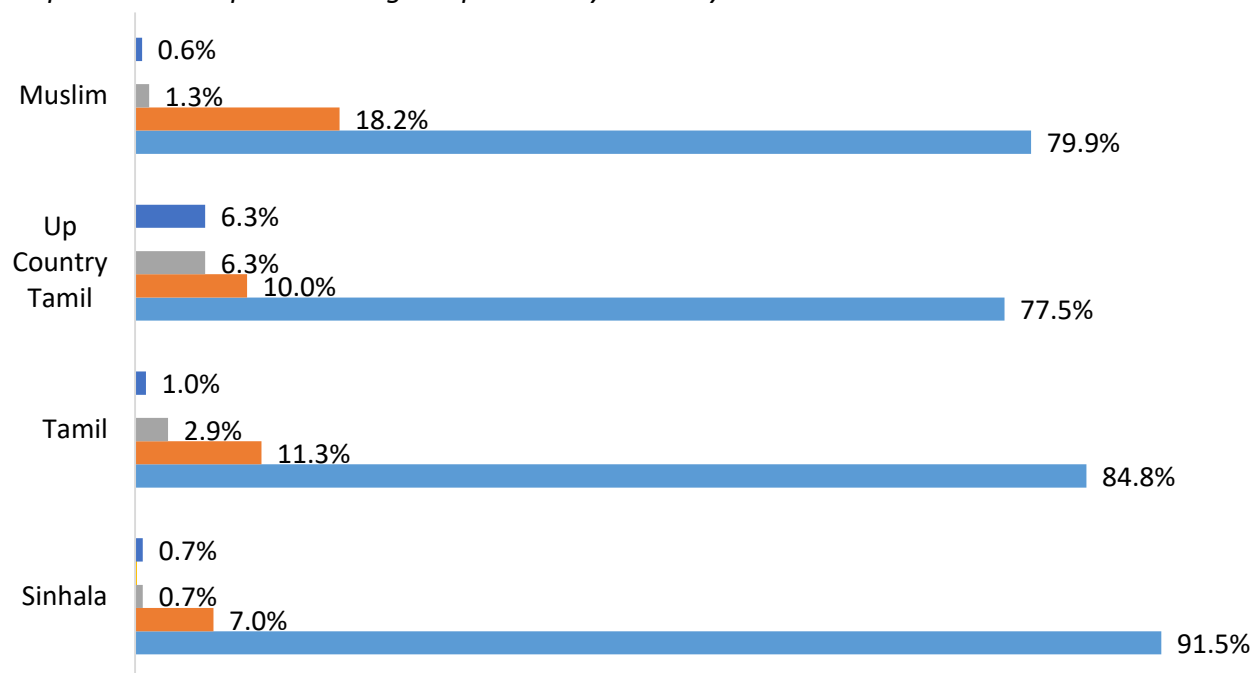
Graph 9. 8: Perception on religious practice by Age



Key Facts

- ❖ From those who indicated that there are some times/ some areas where they cannot practice their respective religious activities, it is mostly the Muslim community (18.2%) who hold this view.

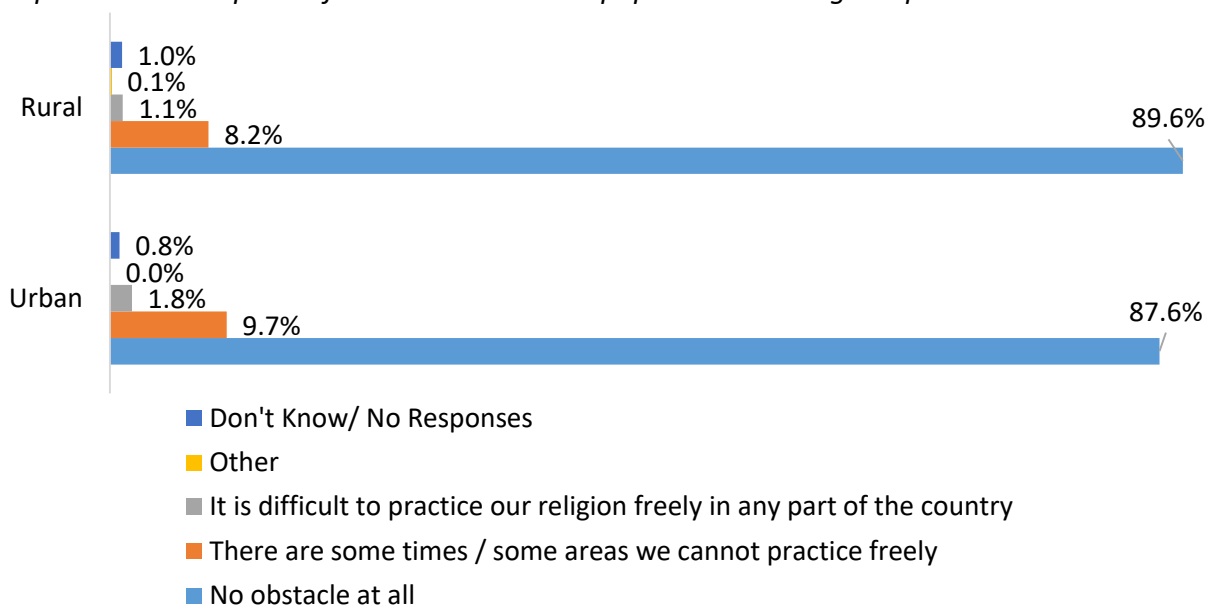
Graph 9. 9: Perception on religious practice by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the urban and the rural population indicate that they have no obstacle at all when practicing their various religious activities of their respective religions.

Graph 9. 10: Perception of the urban and rural population on religious practice

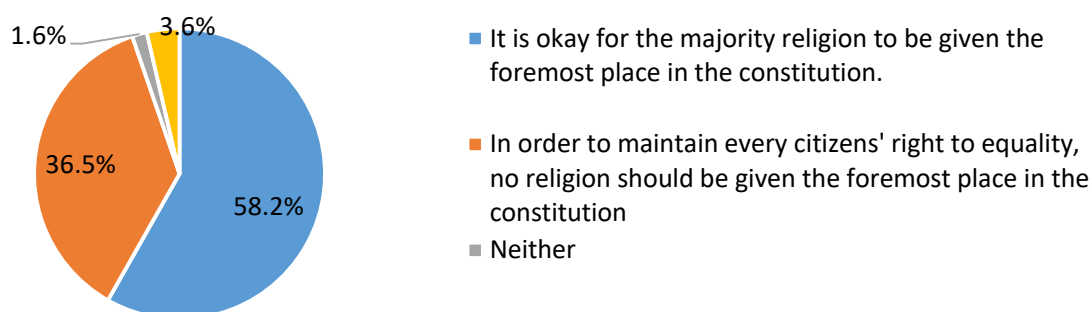


Perception on the Status of Religion in the Constitution of Sri Lanka

Key Facts

- ❖ A majority of Sri Lankans (58.2%) indicate that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution.
- ❖ 36.5% of Sri Lankans indicate that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution.

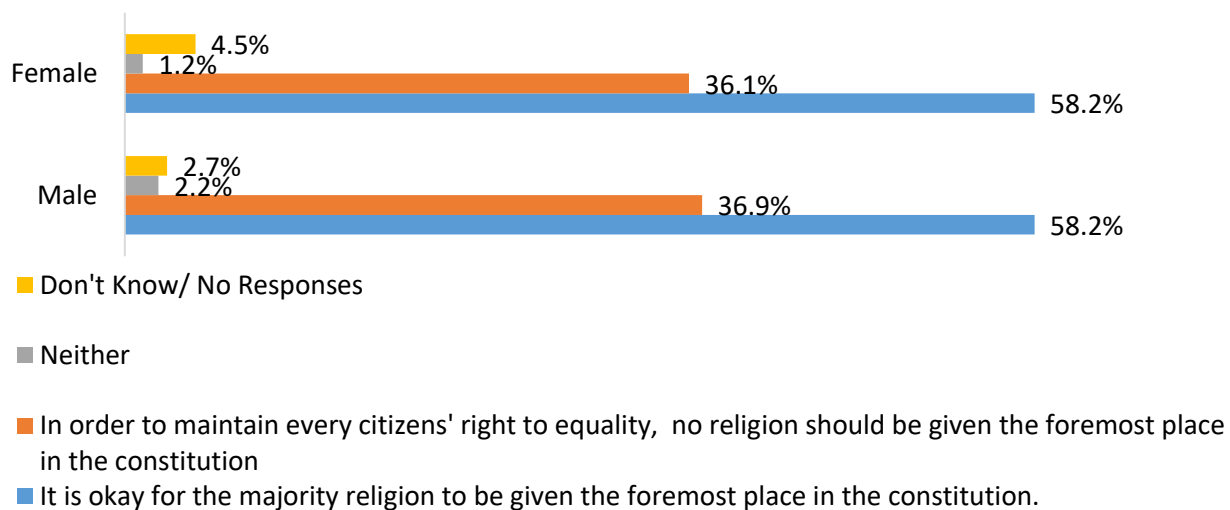
Graph 9. 11: National Level perception on the status of religion in the constitution of Sri Lanka



Key Facts

- ❖ An equal majority of both males (58.2%) and females (58.2%) indicate that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution.
- ❖ Interestingly, an almost equal percentage of both males (36.9%) and females (36.1%) are of the opinion that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution.

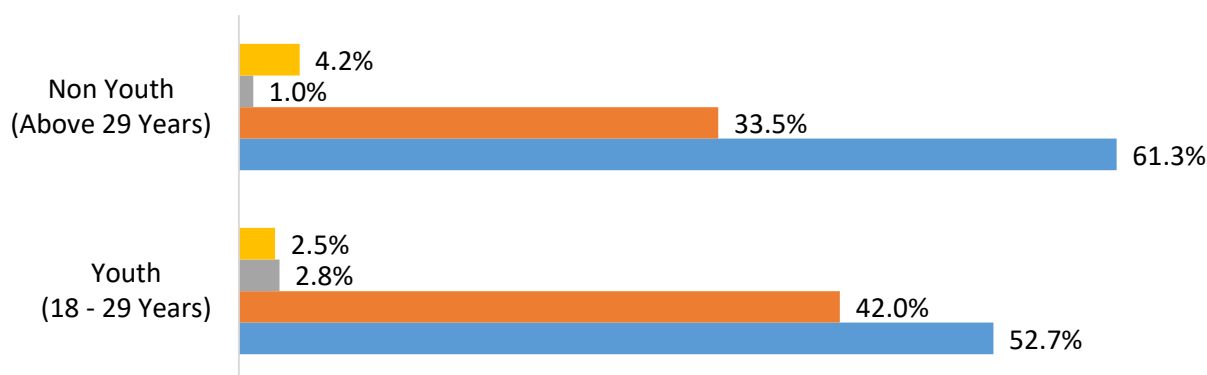
Graph 9. 12: Perception on the status of religion in the constitution of Sri Lanka by Gender



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of respondents from both the youth (52.7%) and the non-youth population (61.3%) indicate that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution.
- ❖ It is mostly the youth population (42%) who believe that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution.

Graph 9. 13: Perception on the status of religion in the constitution of Sri Lanka by Age



■ Don't Know/ No Responses

■ Neither

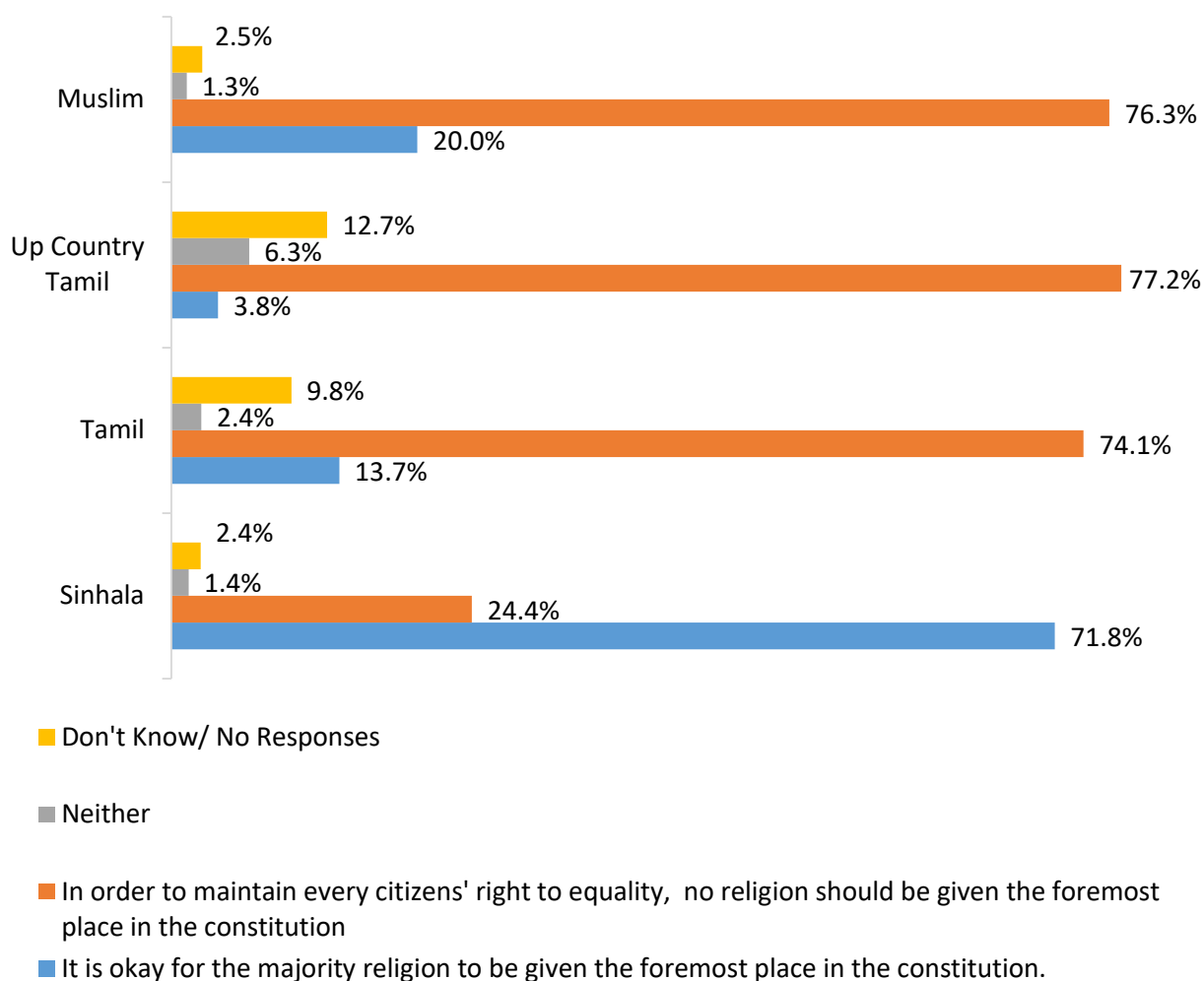
■ In order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution

■ It is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution.

Key Facts

- ❖ From an ethnic perspective, it is mostly the Sinhala community (71.8%) who believe that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution.
- ❖ It is mostly the Up Country Tamil community (77.2%) closely followed by the Muslim community (76.3%) who believe that in order to maintain every citizens' right to equality, no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution.

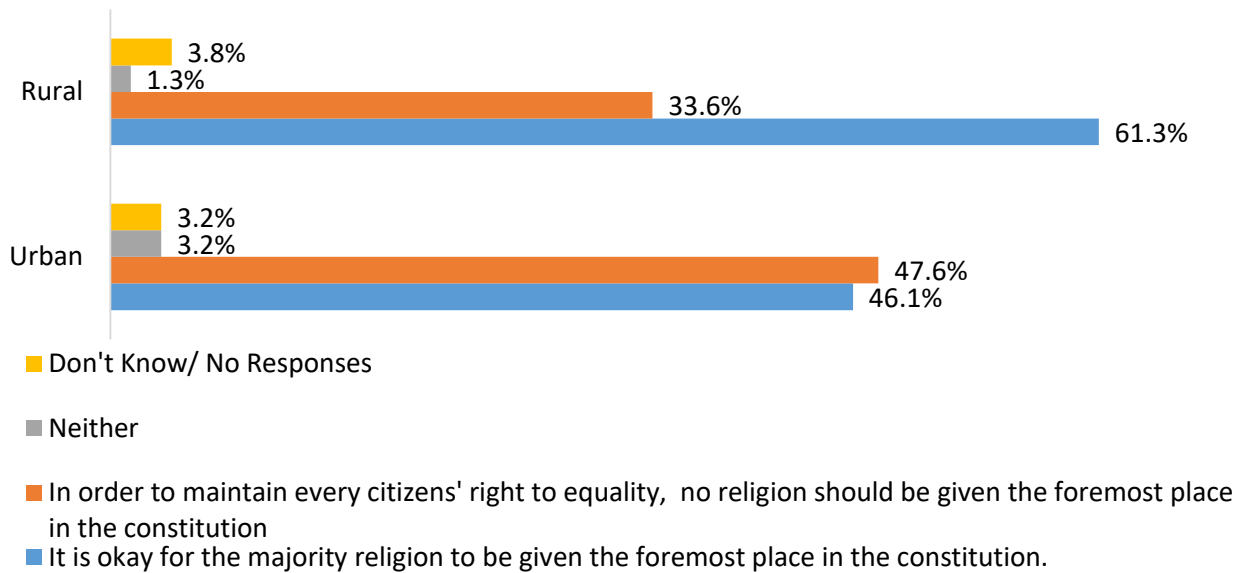
Graph 9. 14: Perception on the status of religion in the constitution of Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ It is evident that from those who indicate that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution – it is predominantly the rural population (61.3%) that hold this view.
- ❖ As for the urban population there appears to be an almost equal percentage between respondents who believe that it is okay for the majority religion to be given the foremost place in the constitution (46.1%) and those who believe that no religion should be given the foremost place in the constitution as every citizens' right to equality should be maintained (47.6%).

Graph 9. 15: Perception of the urban and rural population on the status of religion in the constitution of Sri Lanka



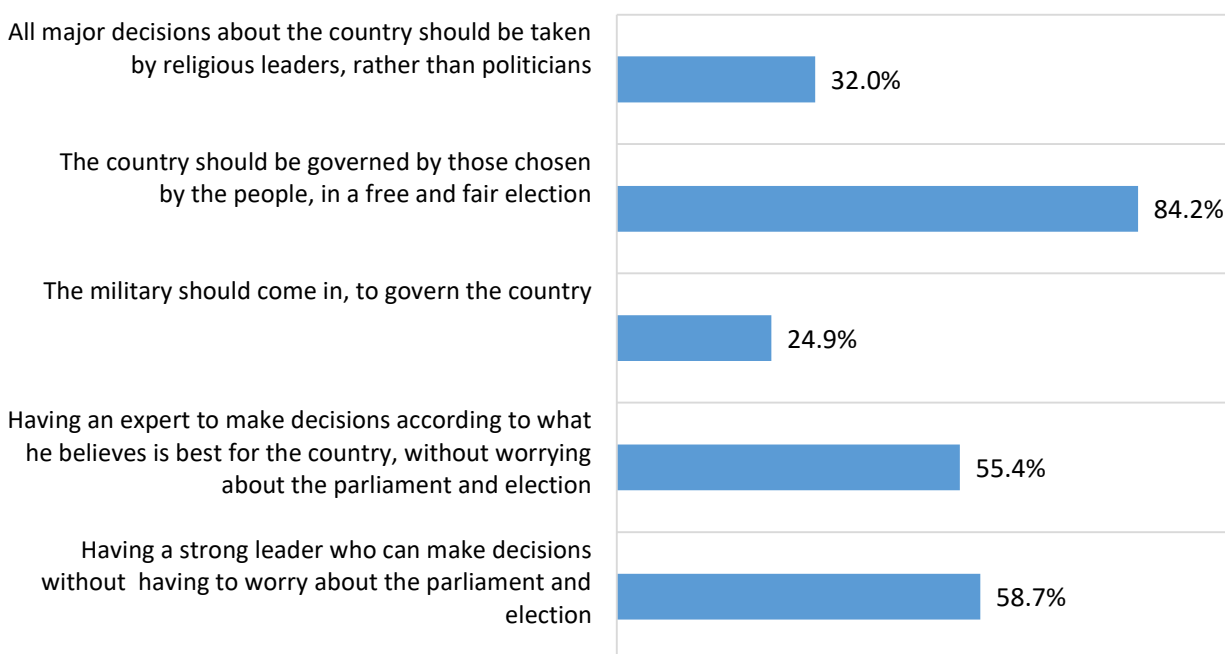
10. SUPPORT FOR DIFFERENT FORMS OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

Perception on the Form of Political Leadership in Governance

Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of Sri Lankans (84.2%) believe that the country should be governed by those who are chosen by the people, in a free and fair election.
- ❖ While 58.7% of Sri Lankans believe the country should be governed by a strong leader who can make decisions without having to worry about the parliament and elections, 55.4% of Sri Lankans believe that the country should be governed by an expert who would make decisions according to what he/ she believes is best for the country, without having to worry about the parliament and elections.

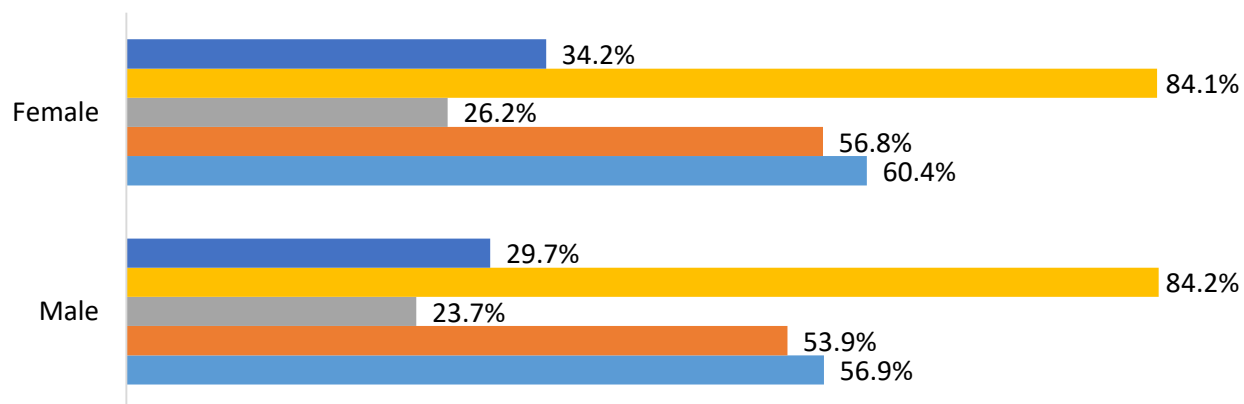
Graph 10. 1: National Level perception on forms of political leadership



Key Facts

- ❖ A significant majority of both males (84.2%) and females (84.1%) believe that the country should be governed by those chosen by the people, in a free and fair election.
- ❖ 60.4% of females and 56.9% of males believe that the county should be governed by a strong leader who can make decisions without having to worry about the parliament and elections.

Graph 10. 2 : Perception on forms of political leadership by Gender



■ All major decisions about the country should be taken by religious leaders, rather than politicians

■ The country should be governed by those chosen by the people, in a free and fair election

■ The military should come in, to govern the country

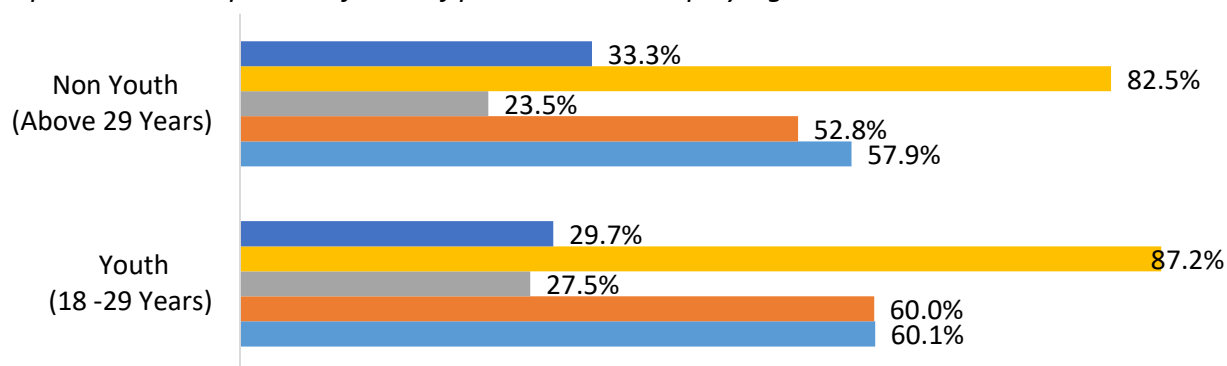
■ Having an expert to make decisions according to what he believes is best for the country, without worrying about the parliament and election

■ Having a strong leader who can make decisions without having to worry about the parliament and election

Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of both the youth (87.2%) and the non- youth (82.5%) population believe that the country should be governed by those chosen in a free and fair election.
- ❖ A higher percentage of the youth population (60%), than those from the non-youth population (52.8%) indicate that the country should be governed by experts who can make decisions according what they believe is best for the country, without worrying about parliament or elections.

Graph 10. 3 : Perception on forms of political leadership by Age

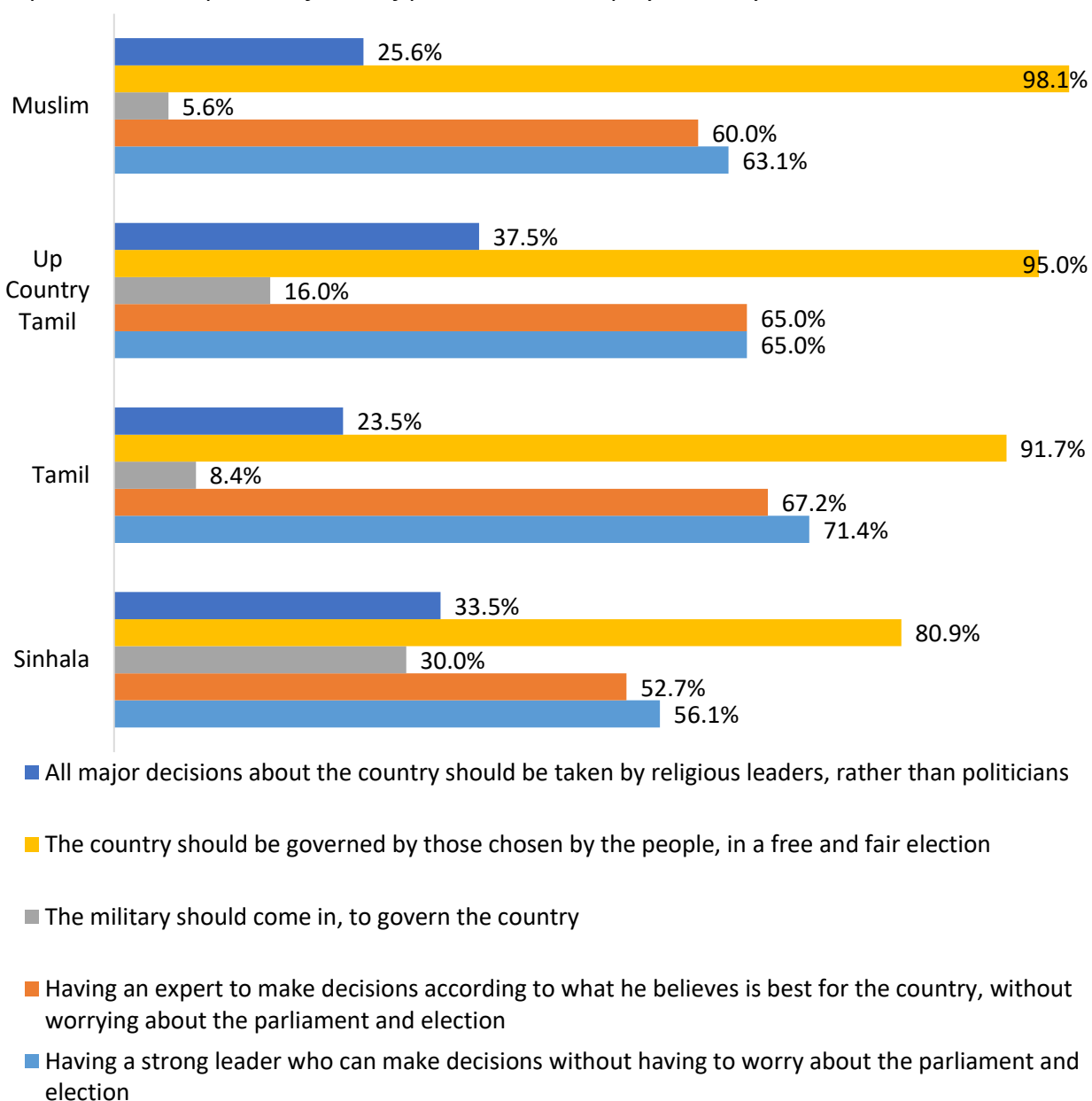


- All major decisions about the country should be taken by religious leaders, rather than politicians
- The country should be governed by those chosen by the people, in a free and fair election
- The military should come in, to govern the country
- Having an expert to make decisions according to what he believes is best for the country, without worrying about the parliament and election
- Having a strong leader who can make decisions without having to worry about the parliament and election

Key Facts

- ❖ An overall majority of respondents from the four ethnic communities are of the opinion that the country should be governed by those chosen by the people in a free and fair election.
- ❖ It is mostly the Up Country Tamil community (37.5%) followed by the Sinhala community (33.5%) who believe that all major decisions about the country should be taken by religious leaders, rather than politicians.

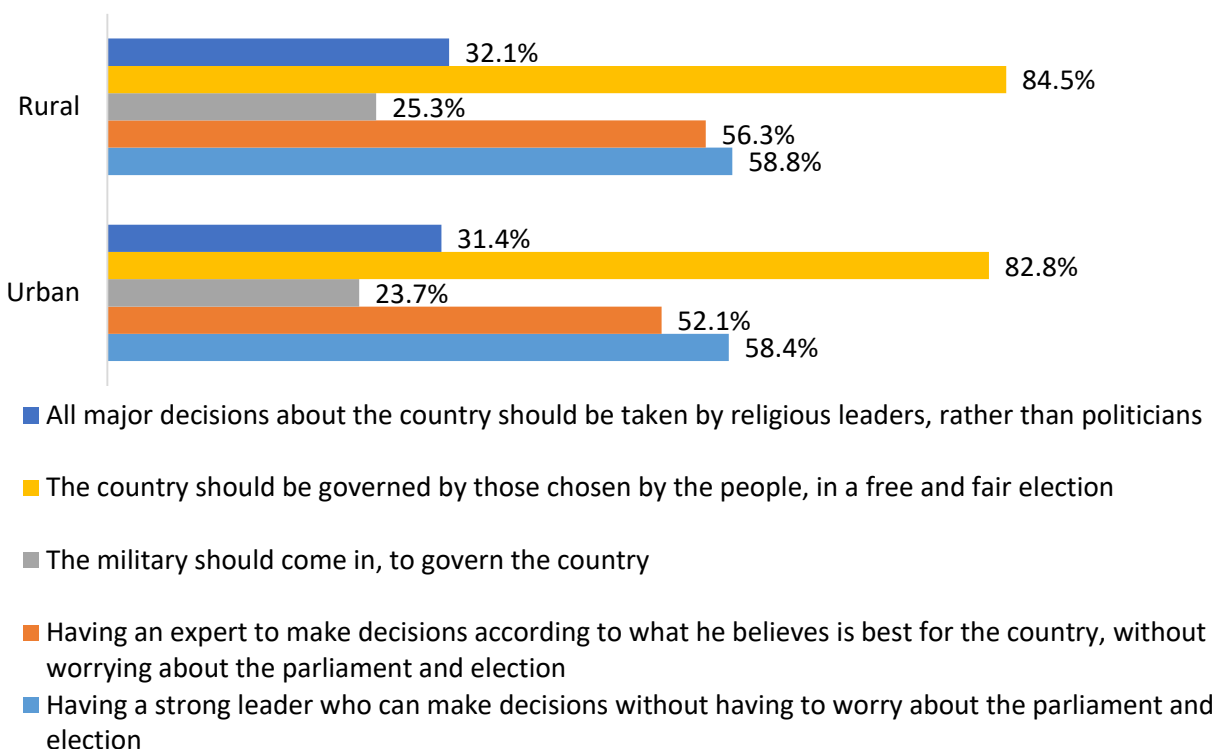
Graph 10. 4 : Perception on forms of political leadership by Ethnicity



Key Facts

- ❖ A slightly higher percentage of the rural population (56.3%), in comparison to the urban population (52.1%) are of the opinion that the country should be governed by experts who can make decisions according what they believe is best for the country, without worrying about parliament or elections.

Graph 10. 5 : Perception of the urban and rural population on forms of political leadership by



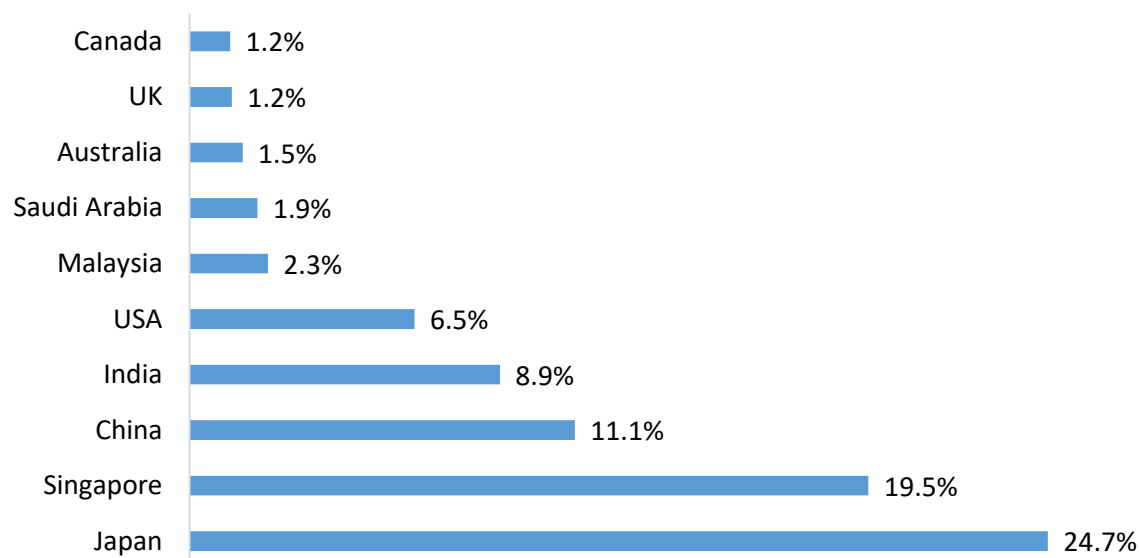
11. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Perception on Sri Lanka's Role Model

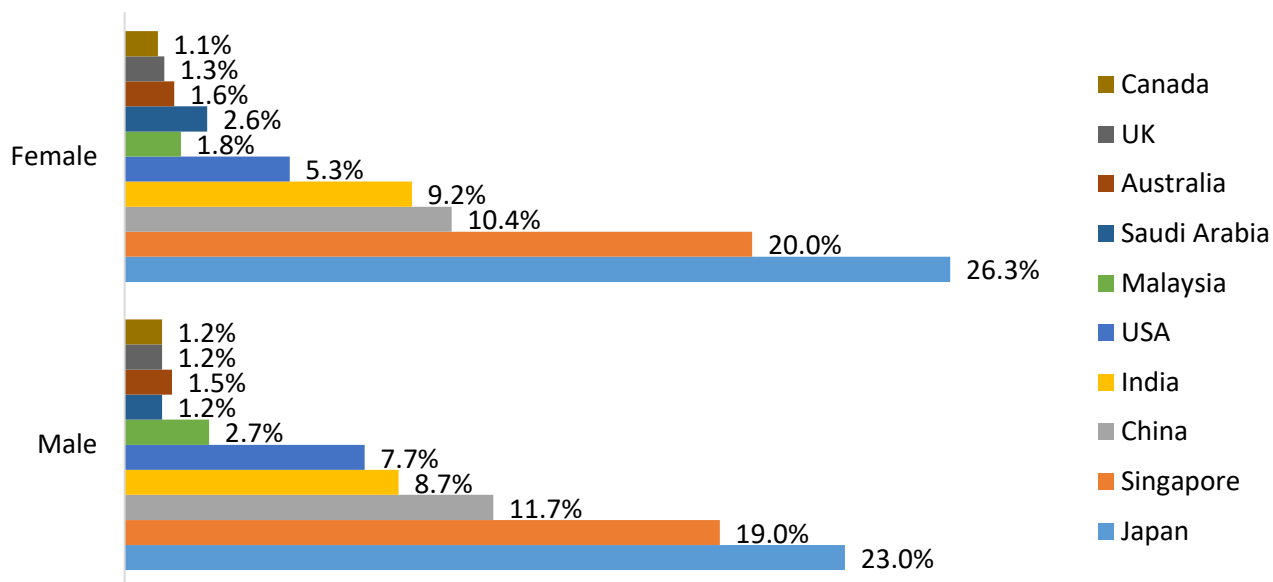
Key Facts

- ❖ The below graphs depict the top ten countries that Sri Lankans feel Sri Lanka should use as its role model.

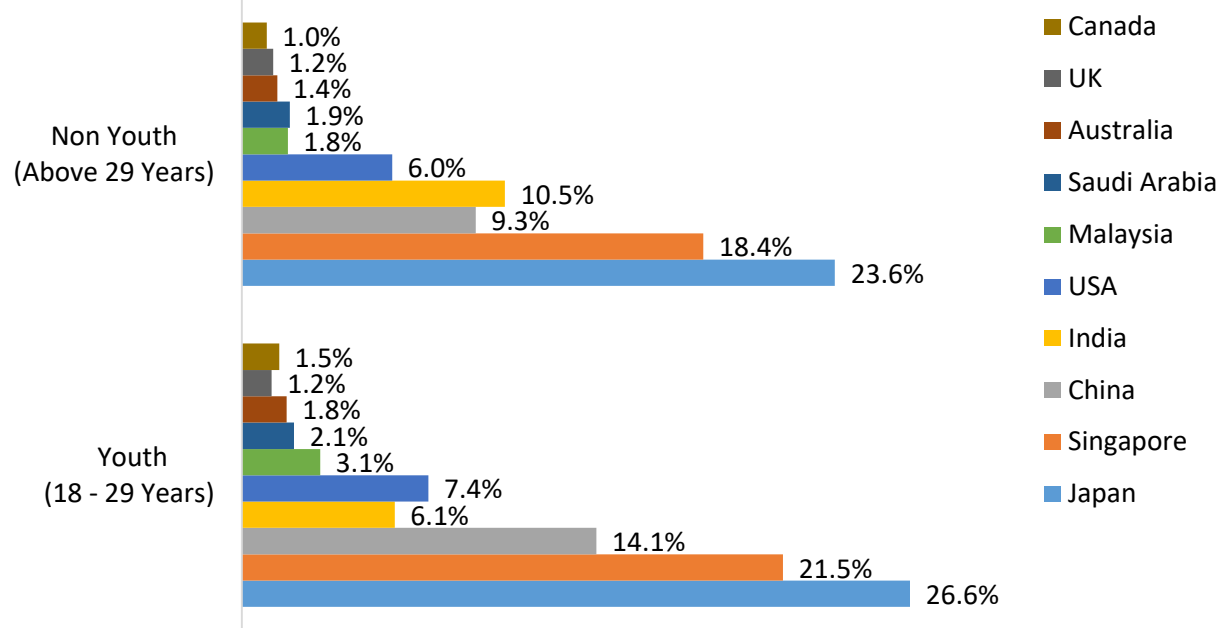
Graph 11. 1: National Level perception on which country Sri Lanka should use as its role model



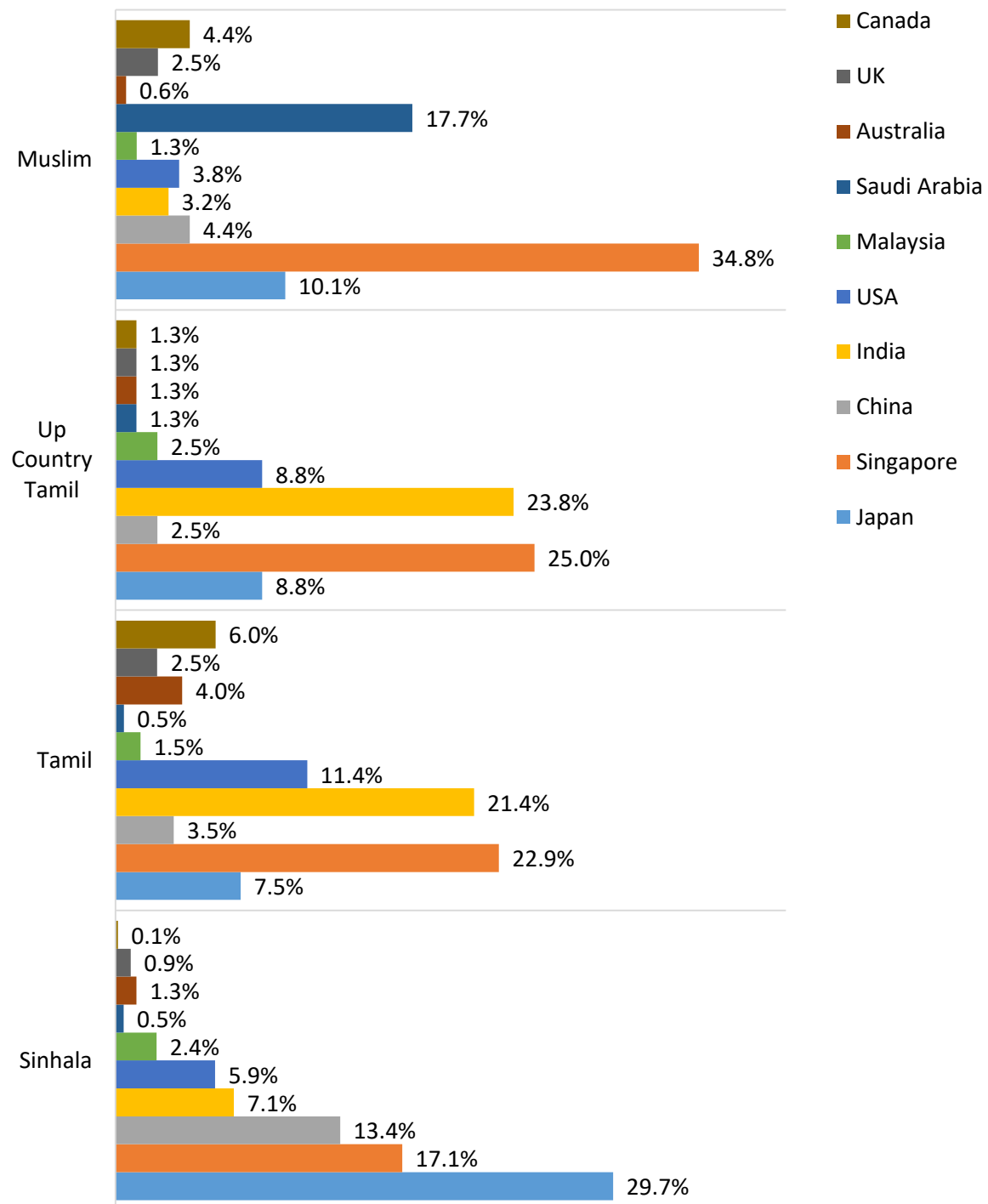
Graph 11. 2 : Perception on which country Sri Lanka should use as its role model by Gender



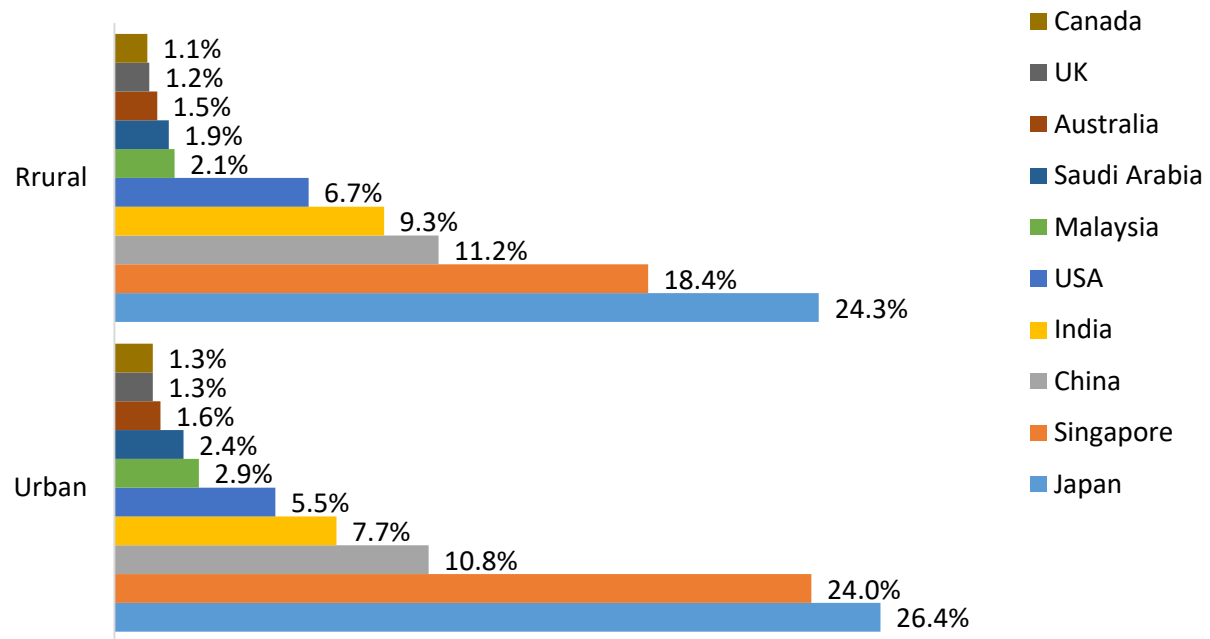
Graph 11. 3 : Perception on which country Sri Lanka should use as its role model by Age



Graph 11. 4 : Perception on which country Sri Lanka should use as its role model by Ethnicity



Graph 11. 5 : Perception of urban and rural population on which country Sri Lanka should use as its role model

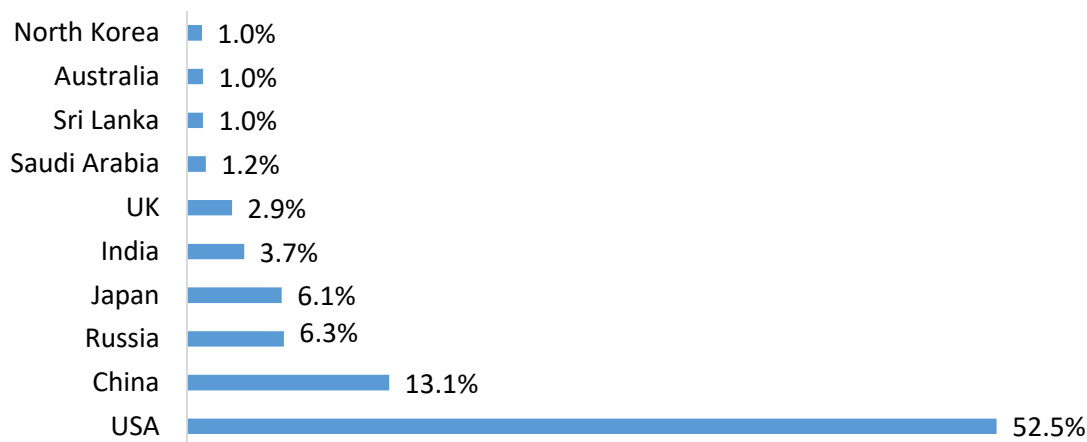


Perception on the Most Powerful Country in the World

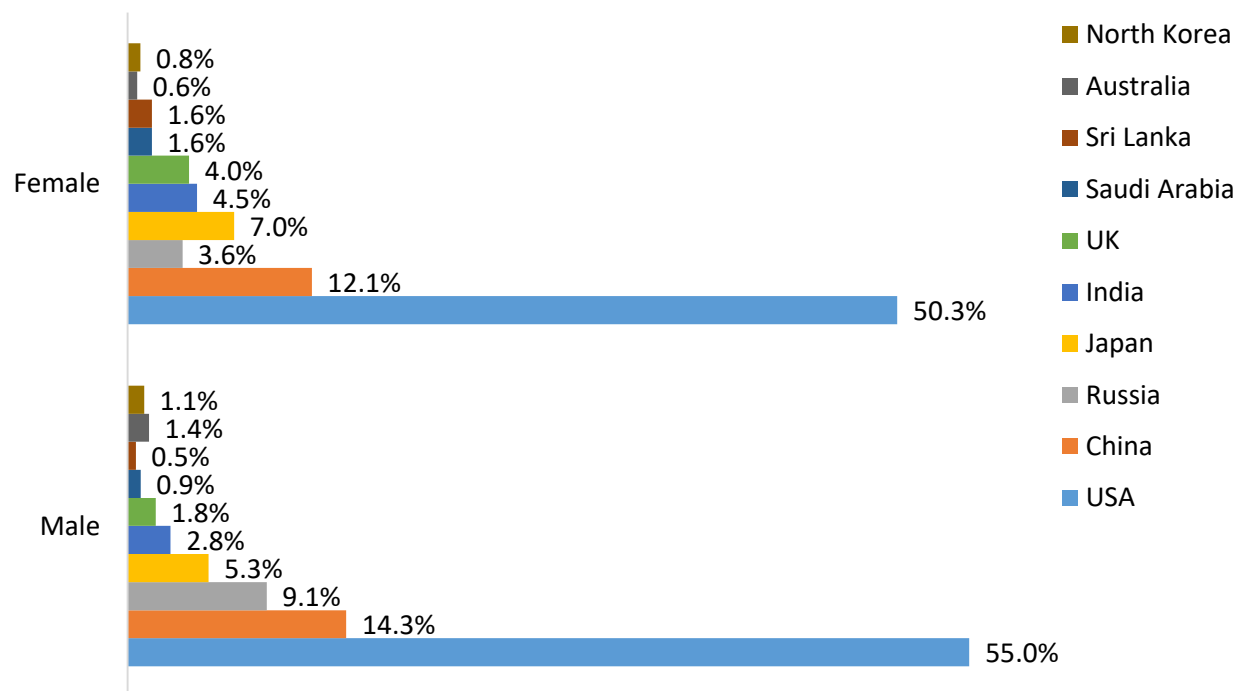
Key Facts

- ❖ The below graphs depict the top ten countries that Sri Lankans feel are the most powerful countries in the world.

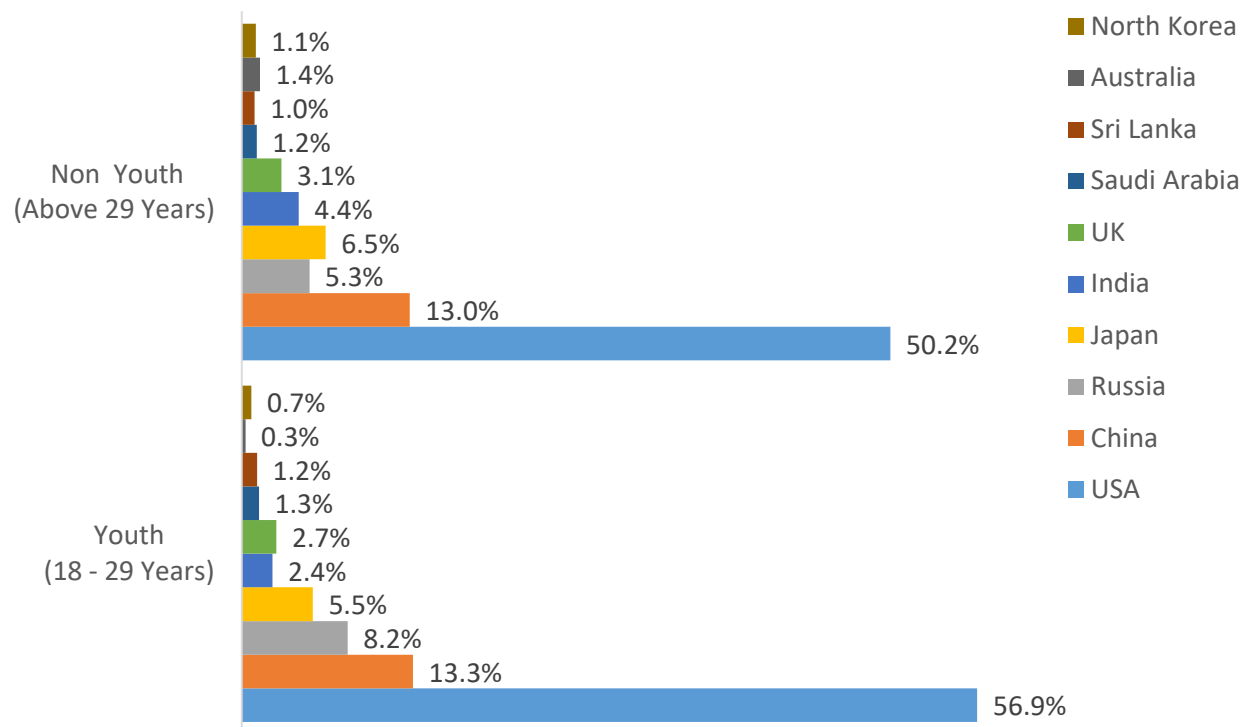
Graph 11. 6 : National Level perception on the most powerful country in the world



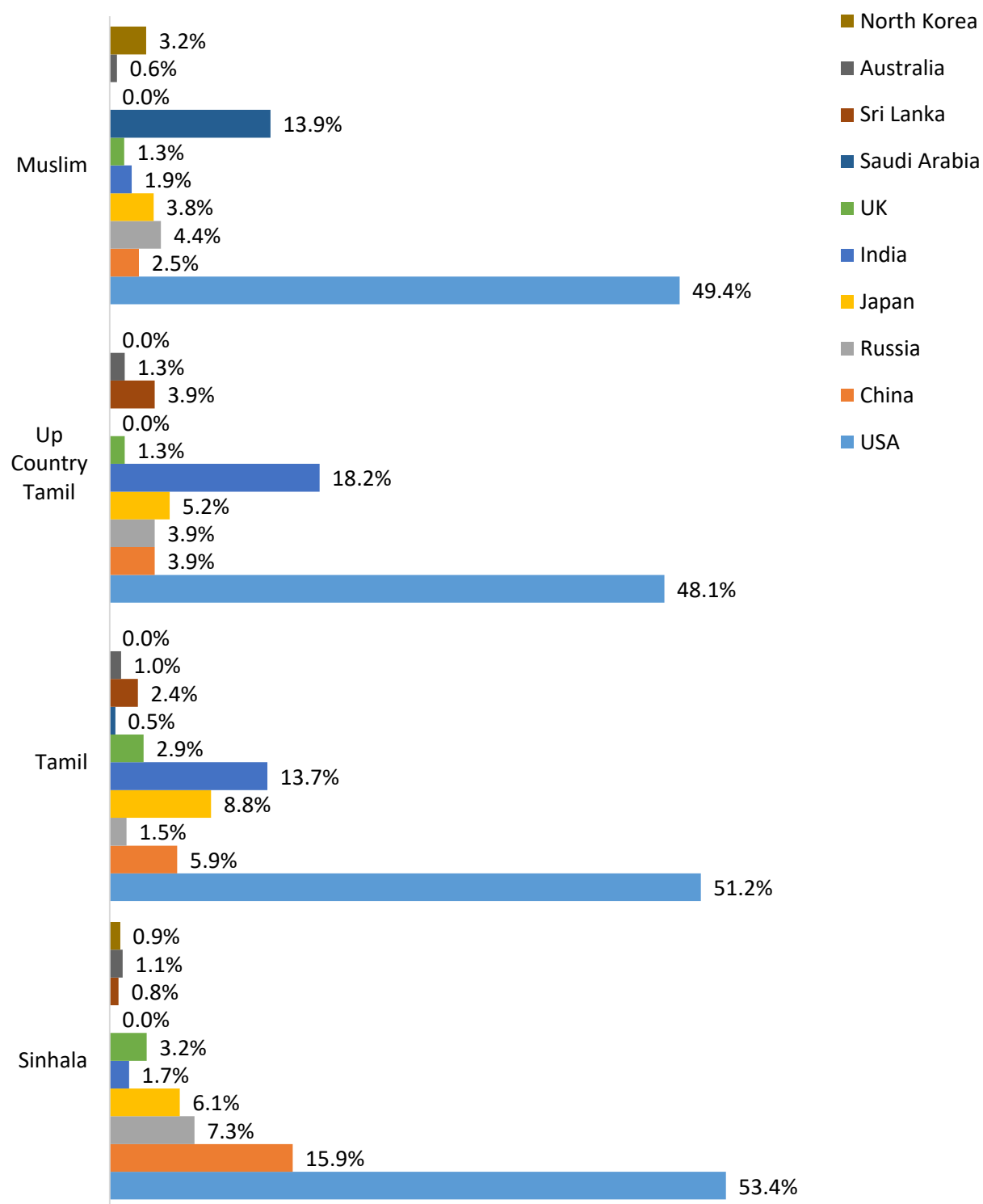
Graph 11. 7 : Perception on the most powerful country in the world by Gender



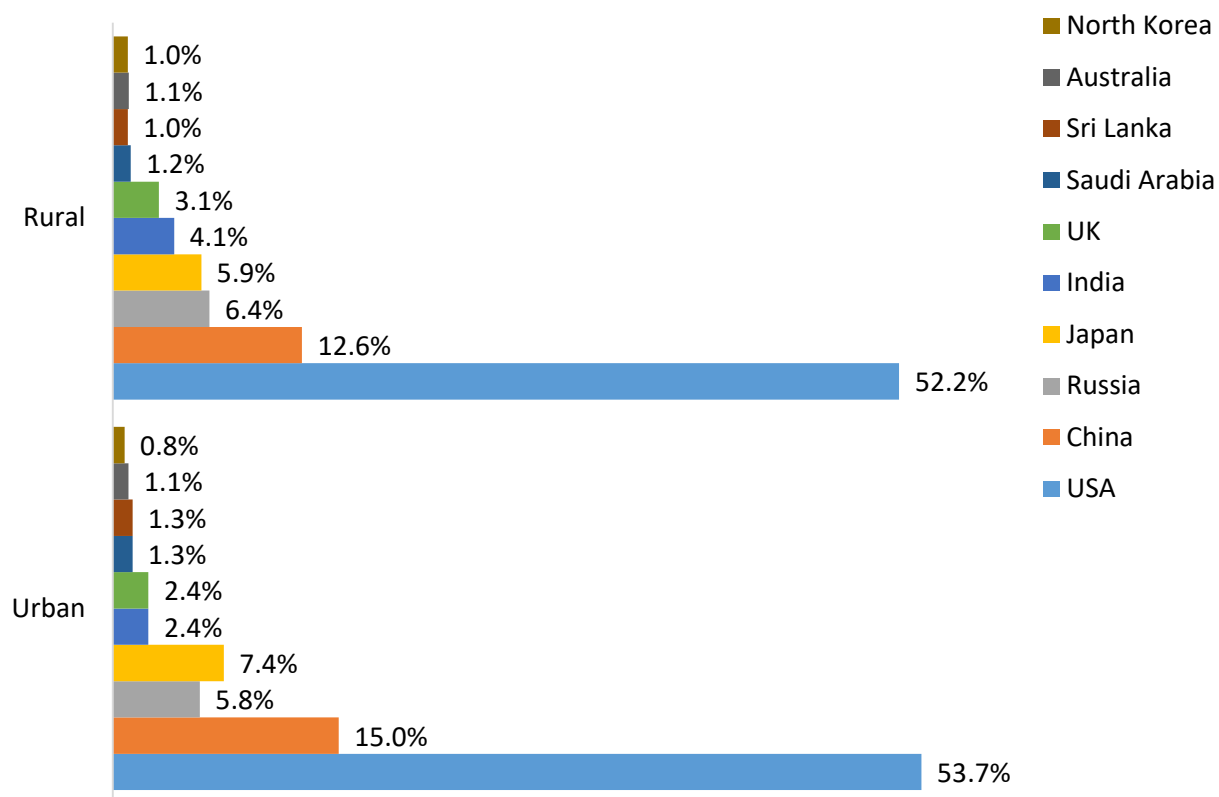
Graph 11. 8 : Perception on the most powerful country in the world by Age



Graph 11. 9 : Perception on the most powerful country in the world by Ethnicity



Graph 11. 10 : Perception of the urban and the rural population on the most powerful country in the world

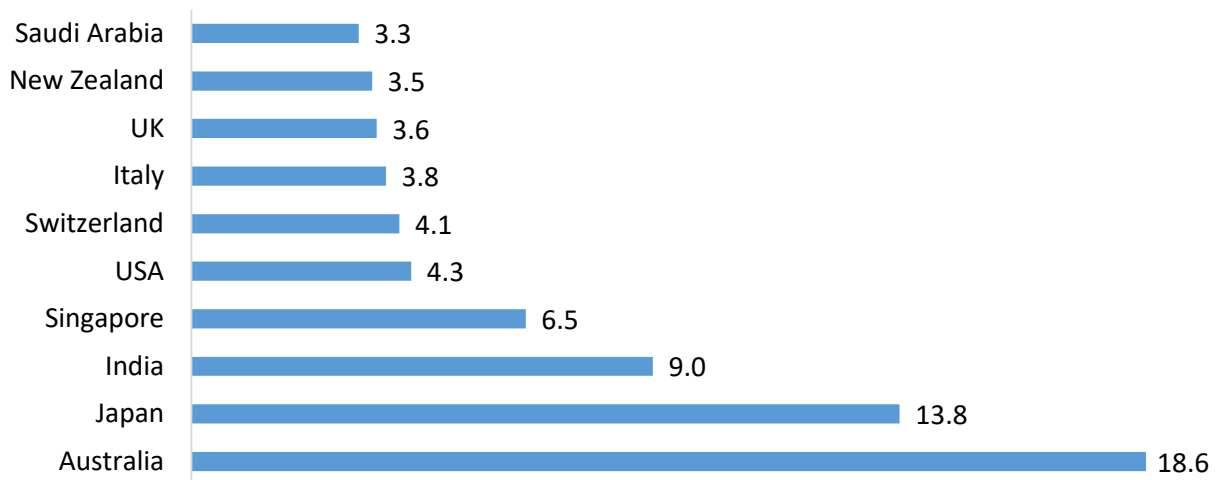


Perception of a Country (Apart From Sri Lanka) in which Sri Lankans Would Like To Live In

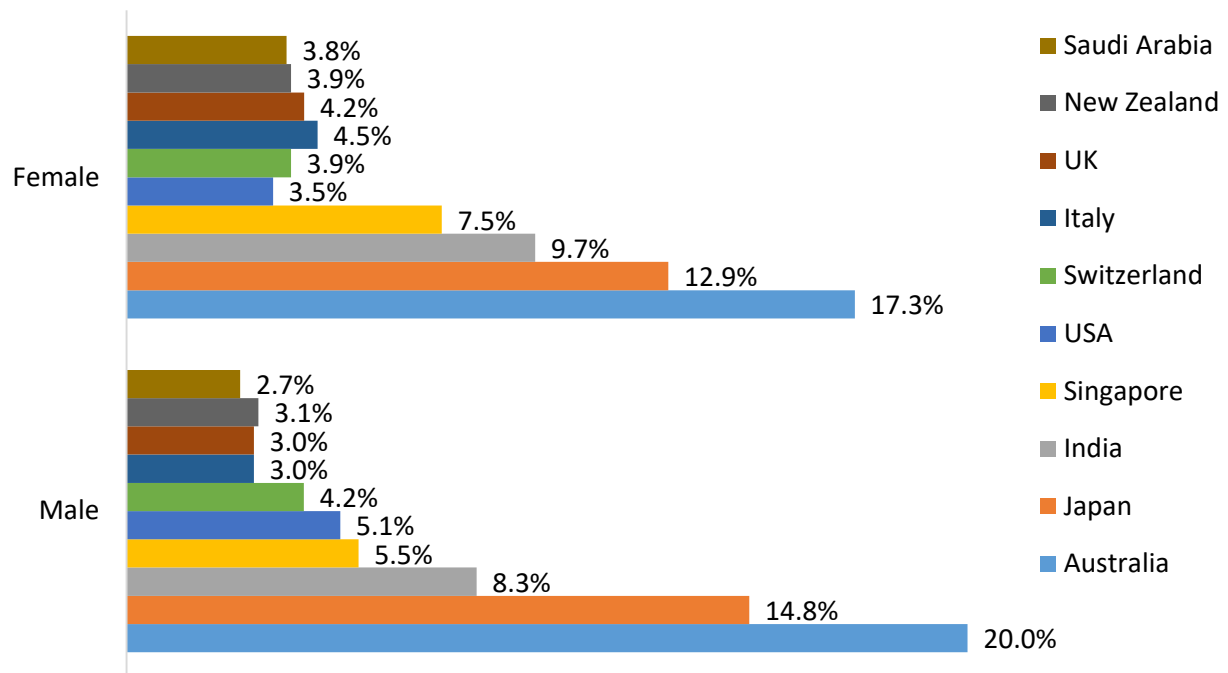
Key Facts

- ❖ The below graphs highlight the top ten countries that Sri Lankans would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka)

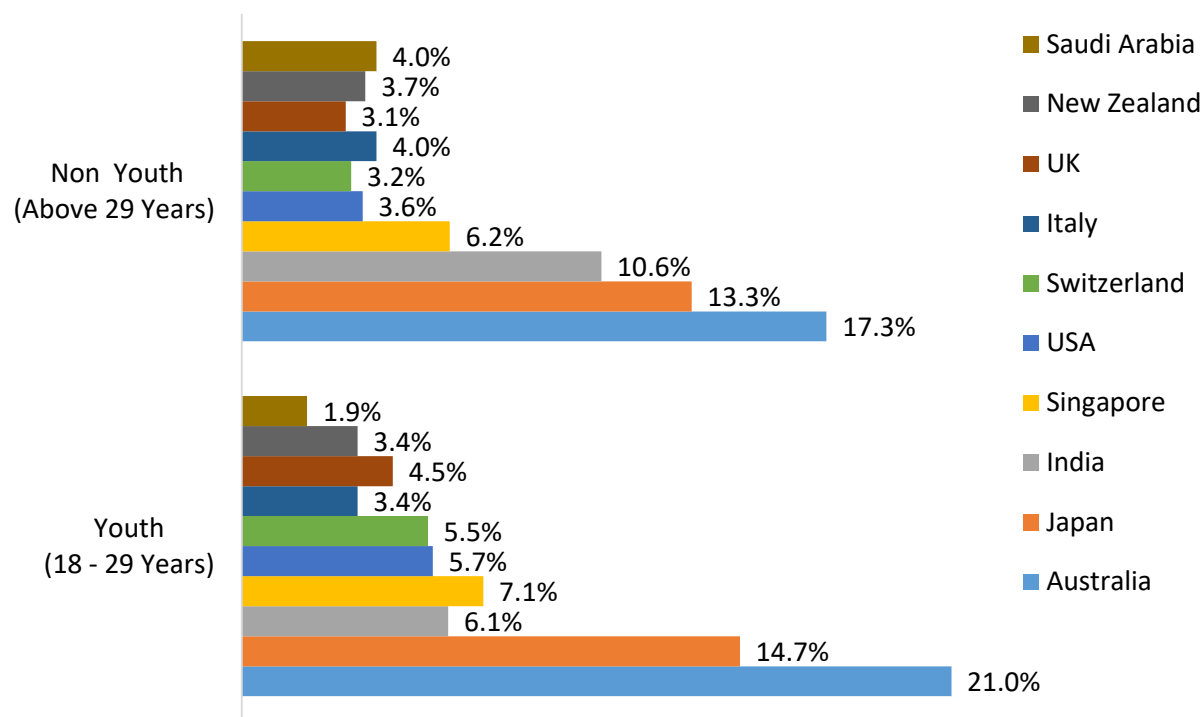
Graph 11. 11: National Level perception on the top ten countries that Sri Lankans would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka)



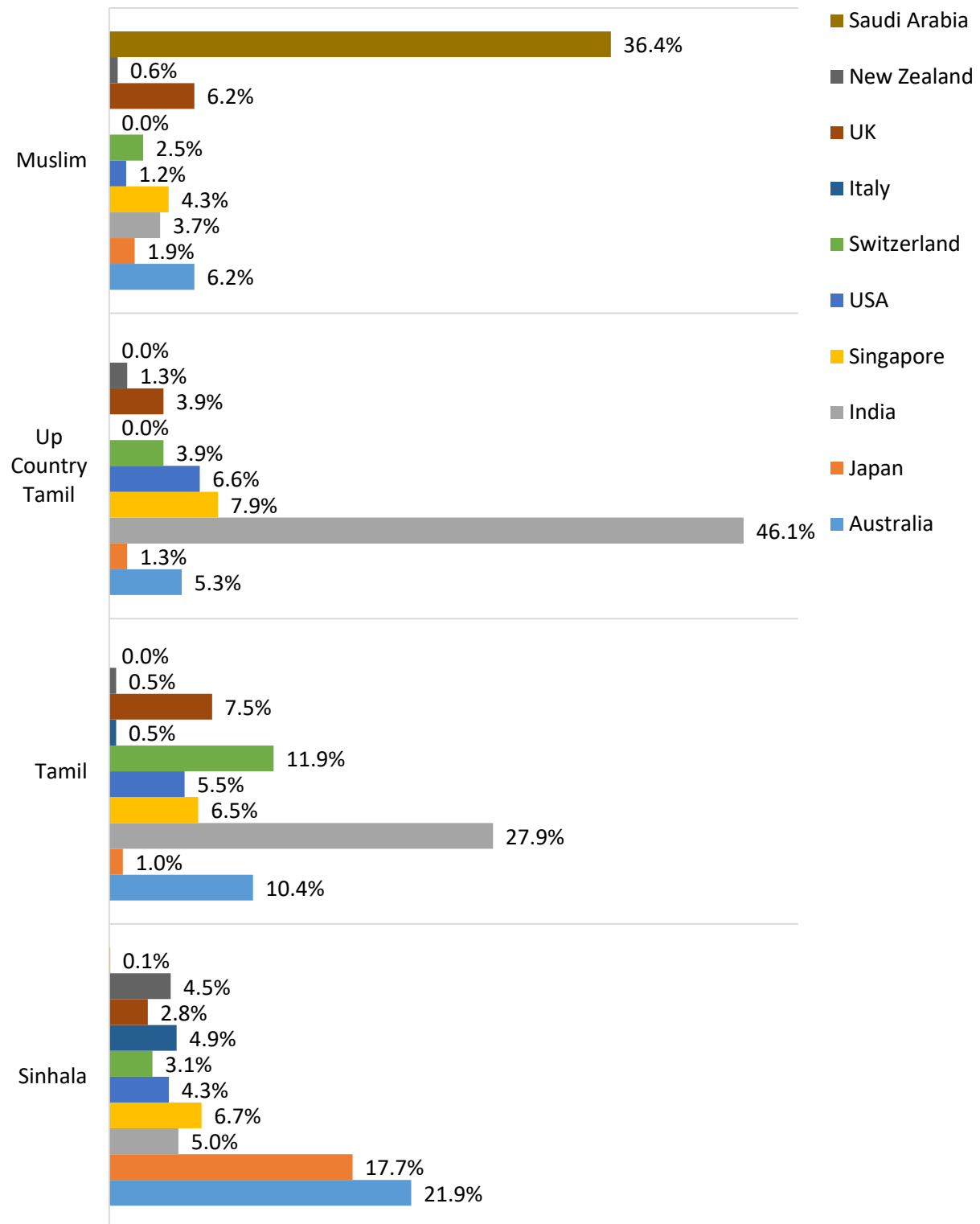
Graph 11. 12: Perception on the top ten countries that Sri Lankans would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka) by Gender



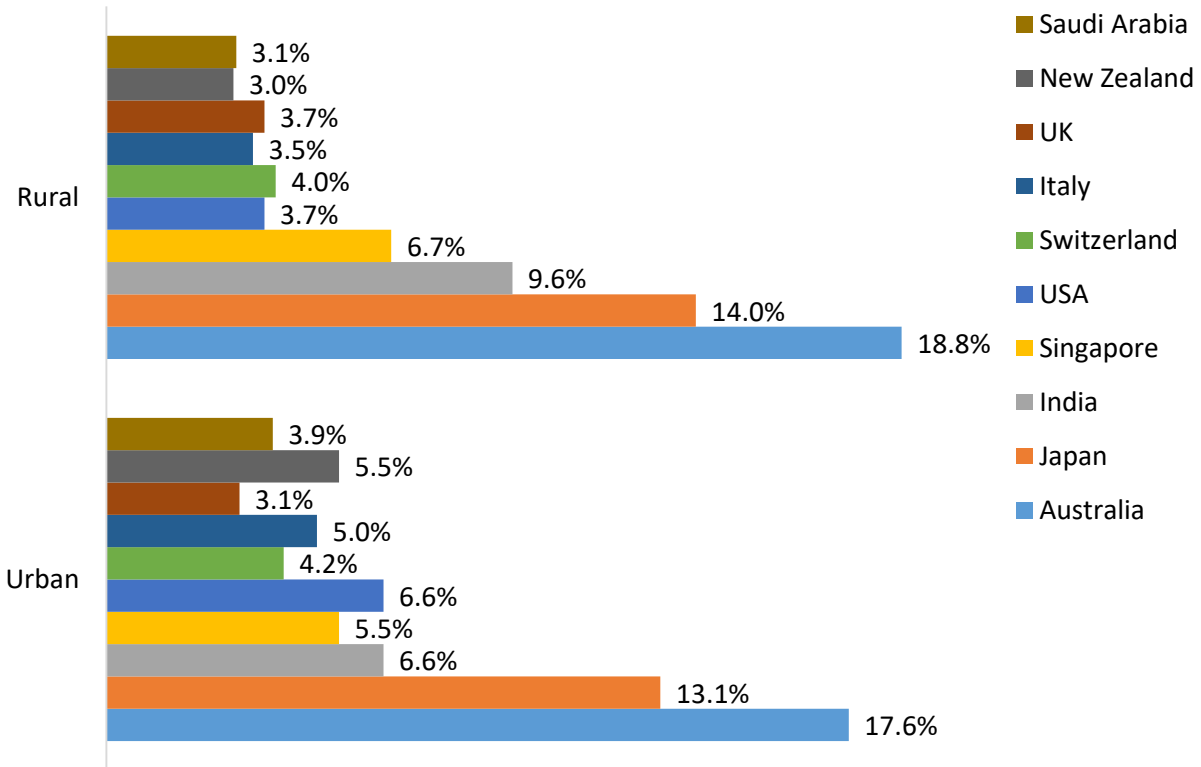
Graph 11. 13: Perception on the top ten countries that Sri Lankans would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka) by Age



Graph 11. 14: Perception on the top ten countries that Sri Lankans would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka) by Ethnicity



Graph 11. 15: Perception of the urban and rural population on the top ten countries that Sri Lankans would like to live in (apart from Sri Lanka)

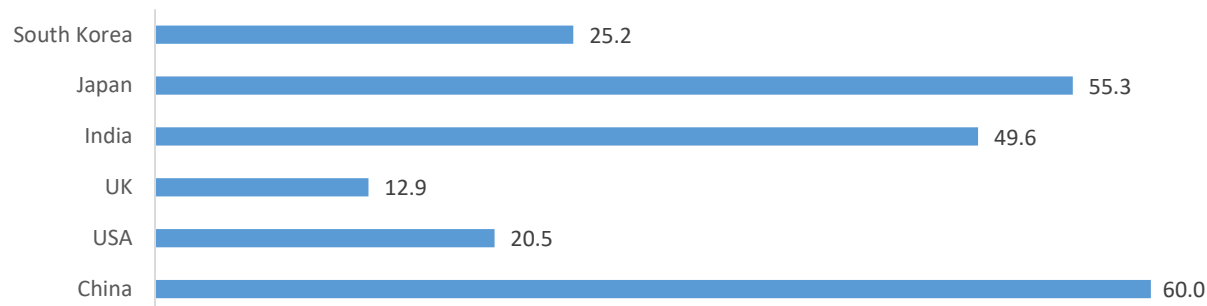


Perception on Countries that are Supportive towards the Interest of Sri Lanka

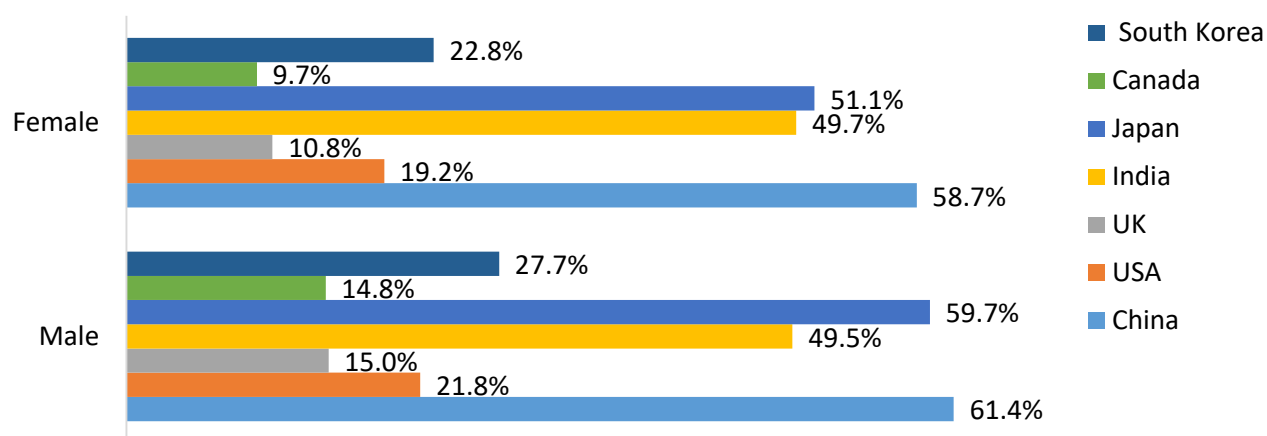
Key Facts

- ❖ The below graphs depict public perception on the countries that are supportive towards interest of Sri Lanka.

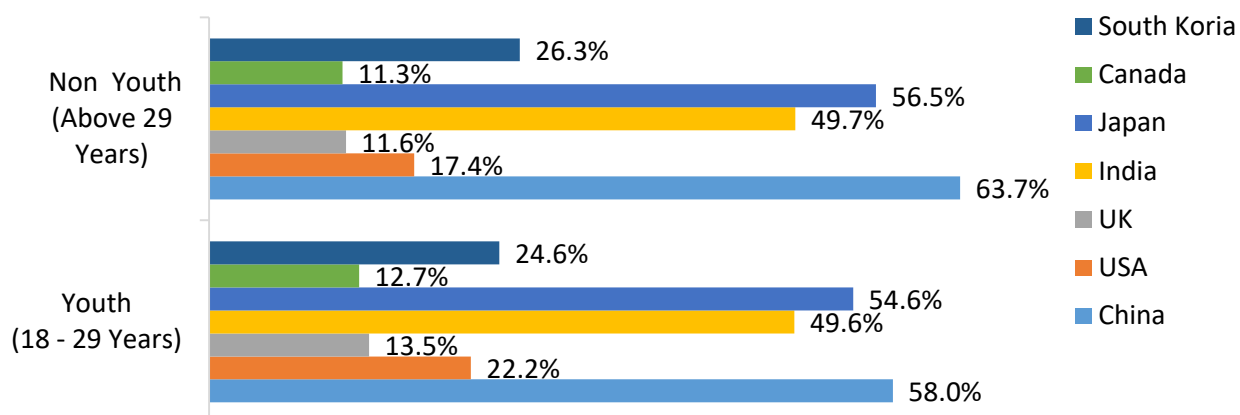
Graph 11.16: National Level perception on the countries that are supportive towards the interest of Sri Lanka



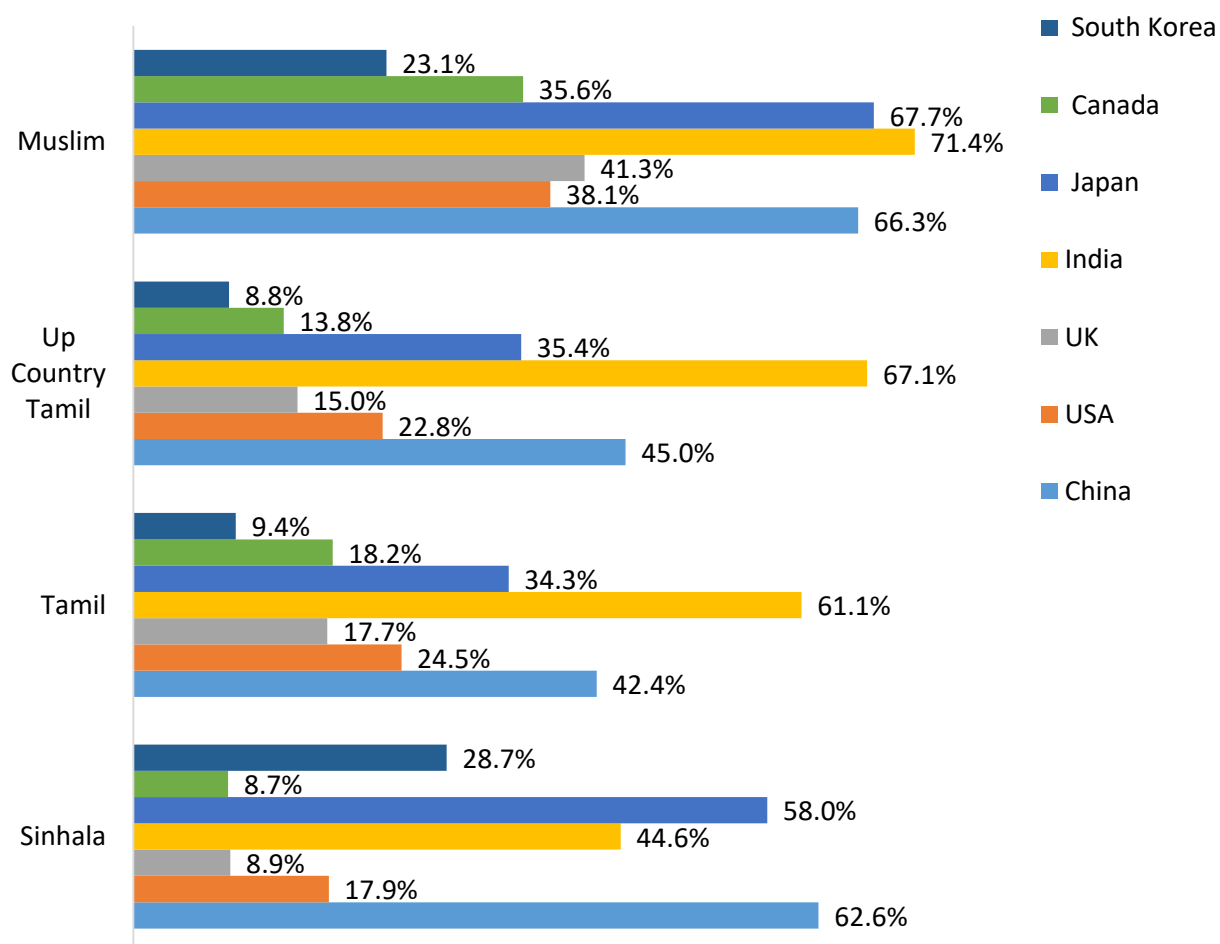
Graph 11.17: Perception on the countries that are supportive towards the interest of Sri Lanka by Gender



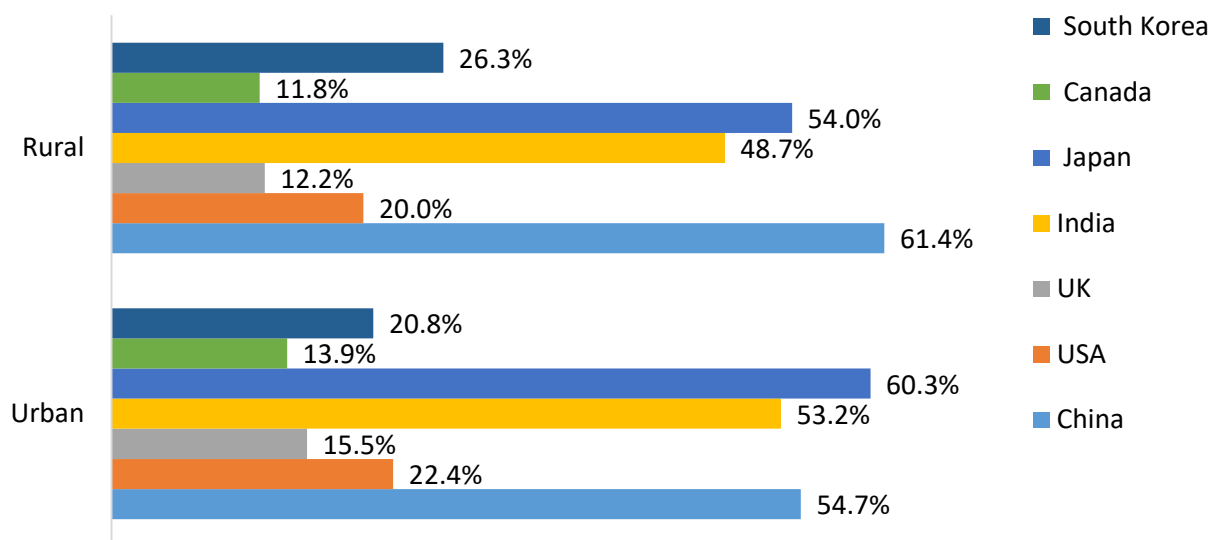
Graph 11.18: Perception on the countries that are supportive towards the interest of Sri Lanka by Age



Graph 11.19: Perception on the countries that are supportive towards the interest of Sri Lanka by Ethnicity



Graph 11.20: Perception of the urban and rural population on countries that are supportive towards the interest of Sri Lanka





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