



Youth Inclusion and Democratic Consolidation in Mauritius

Dissemination of Findings Workshop

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The project “Youth Inclusion and Democratic Consolidation in Mauritius” aims to promote and enhance the contribution of youth in politics and policy formulation.

The main objectives of the study are:

- To assess the political awareness of young people
- To measure the extent to which they are politically mobilised

Methodology

- A mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods comprising of:

A structured questionnaire and Focus group discussions

Population Sample

The target population was 455 youth of 16 – 29 years old from secondary schools, universities, working youth and youth from Rodrigues

Secondary Schools:

- Islamic Cultural College FVI (B&G)
- Modern College (B&G)
- Hamilton College (B&G)
- Loretto College Q.Bornes (G)
- Saint Esprit College (B)

Universities:

- University of Mauritius
- University Technology of Mauritius
- Charles Telfaire Institute
- Université des Mascareignes

Working Youth: Private and Public Sectors

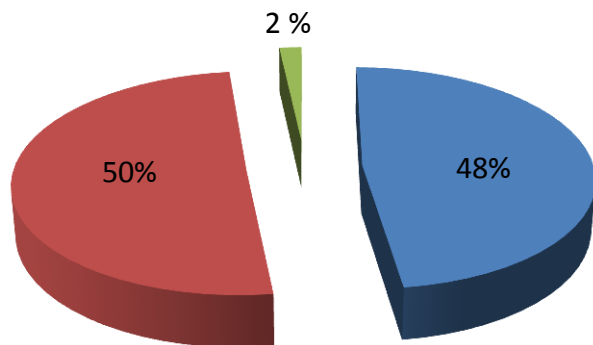
50 Youth from Rodrigues

Structure of Questionnaire

The questionnaire is divided into four different themes comprising of 174 questions.

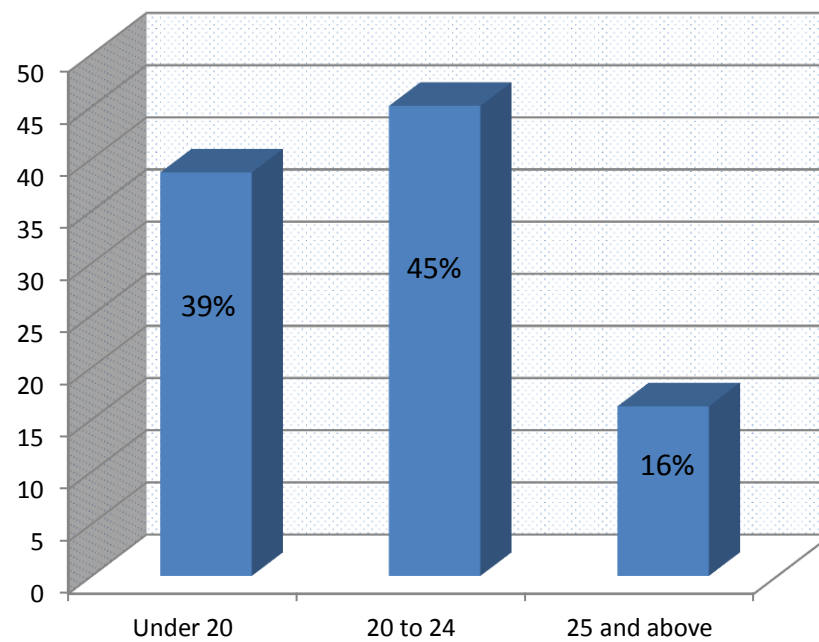
1. Voting Behaviour and Political Engagement
 - a. Electoral indicators
 - b. Voting/Political preferences
 - c. Political Participation & practice
 - d. Indicators of Political voice
2. Youth, Media and Social media
 - a. The Relevance of the Media
 - b. Forms of Media
 - c. Frequency of Media Used
 - d. Platform for political deliberation
3. Political literacy and knowledge of the system
 - a. Tools about politics
 - b. Political and civic knowledge
 - c. The Mauritian political system
4. Youth Mobilisation and Transformation

Gender



- Male
- Female
- LGBT

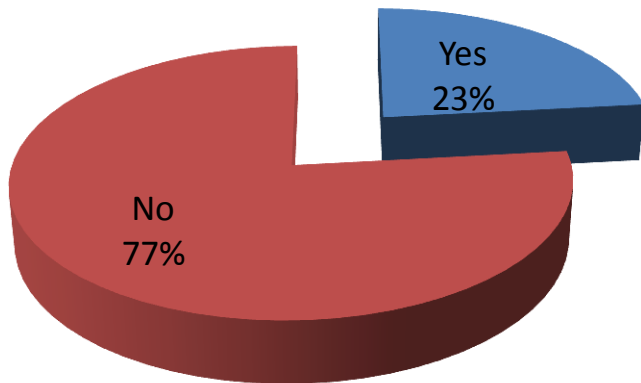
Age



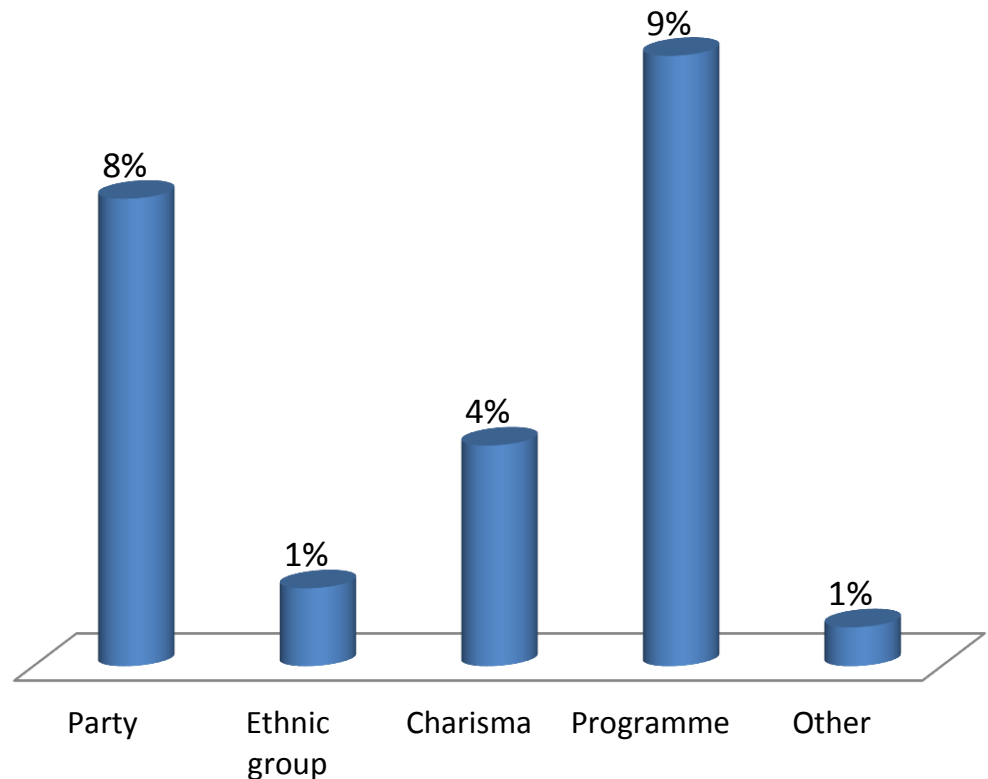
1. Voting Behaviour and Political Engagement

A. Electoral Indicators

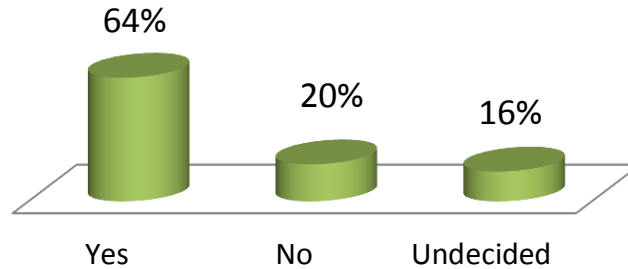
Did you vote at the last General Election, 2010?



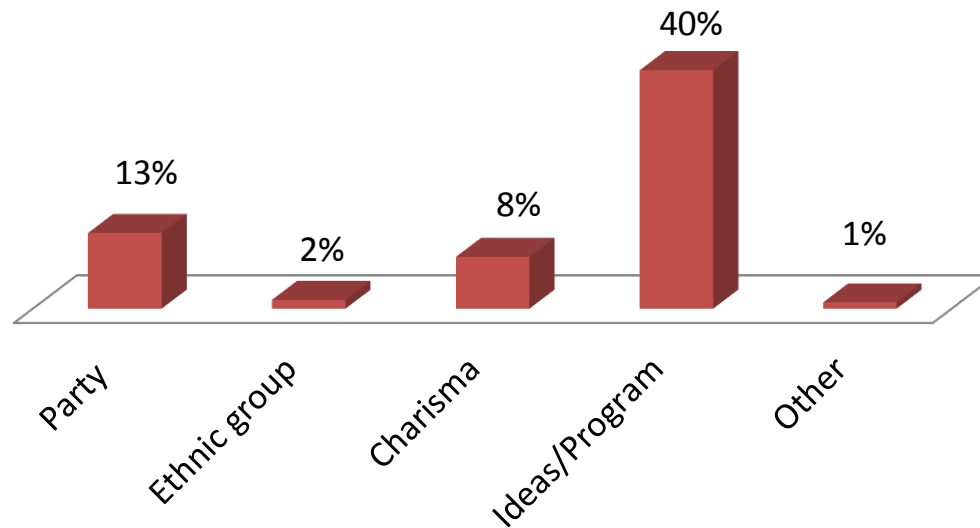
If You voted, You casted your vote according to:-



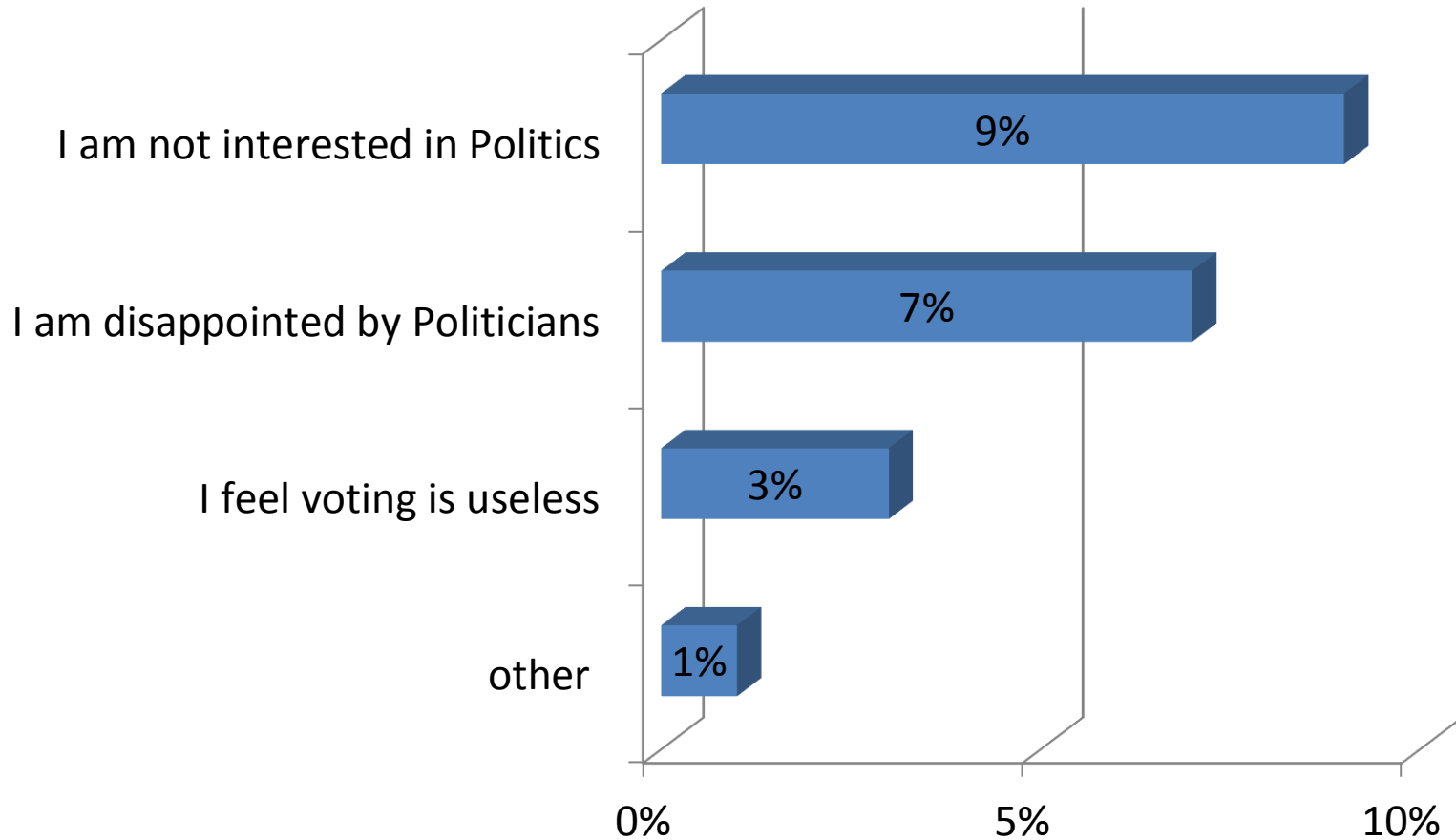
Do you intend to vote at the next General Elections?

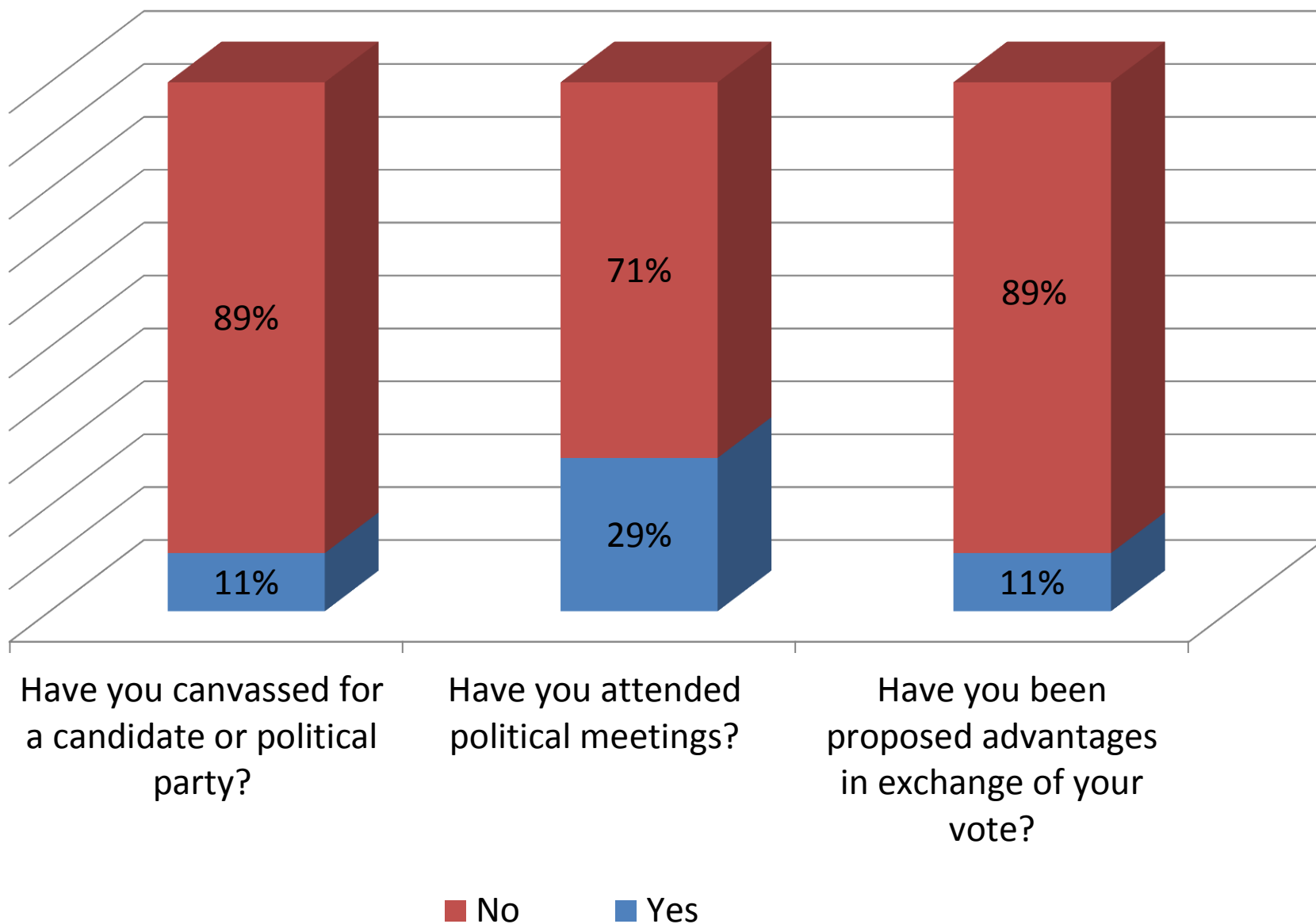


If you intend to vote for the next general elections, You would cast your vote according to?



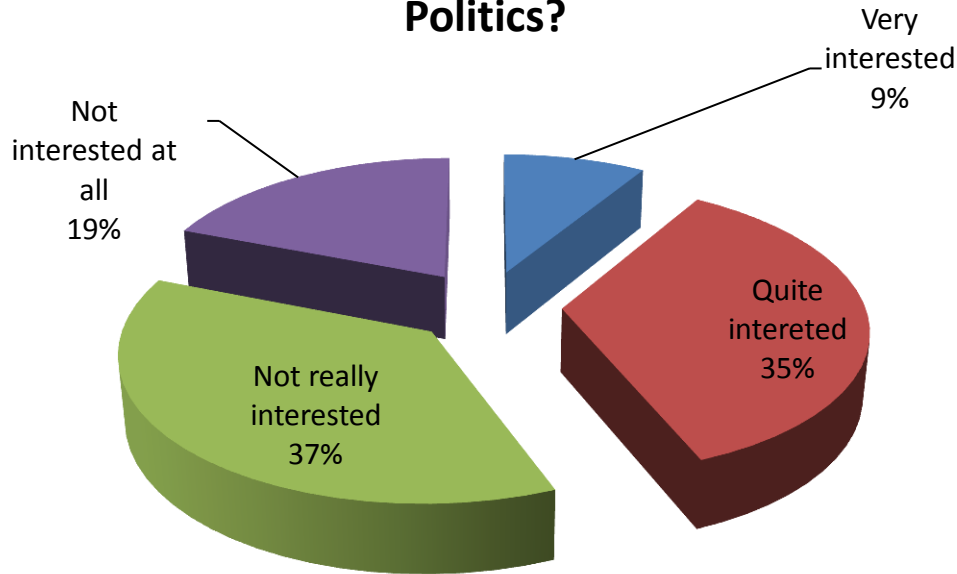
Why you do not intend to vote?



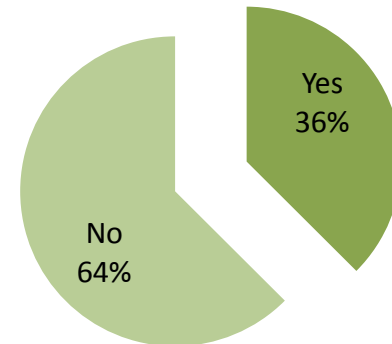


B. Voting/Political Preferences

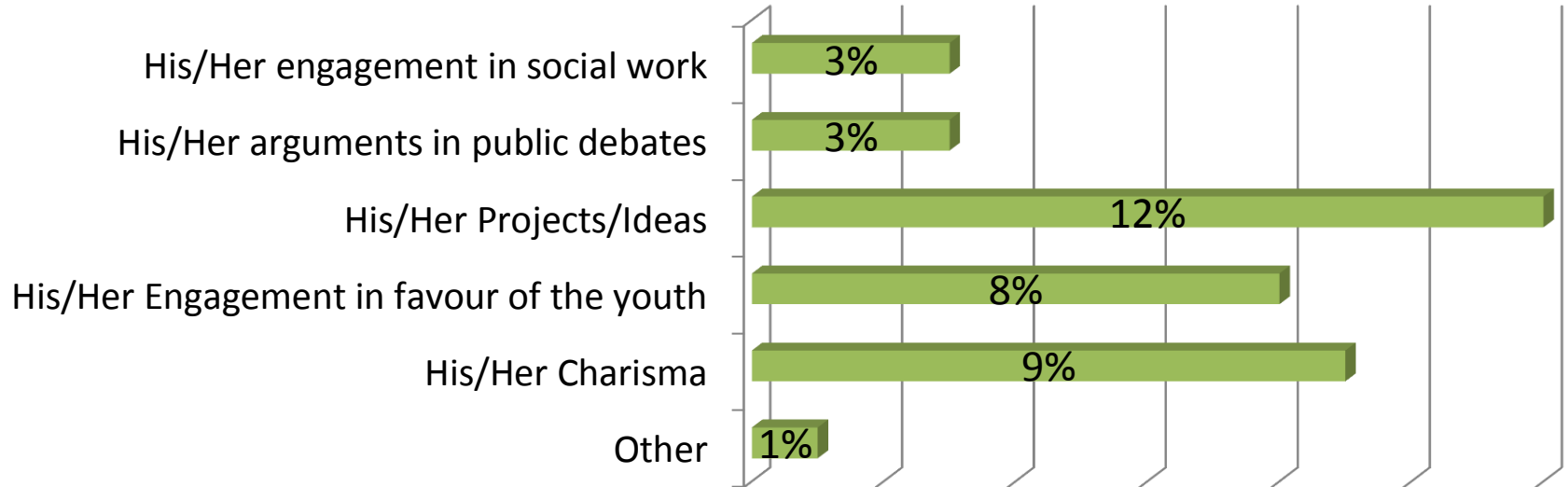
To what extent are you interested in Politics?



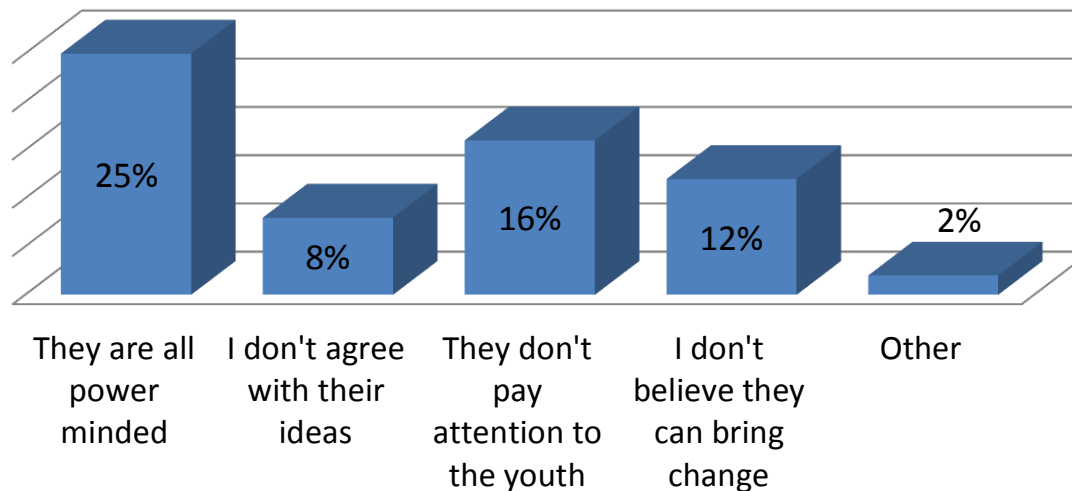
Do you have a preference for somebody as a Leader?



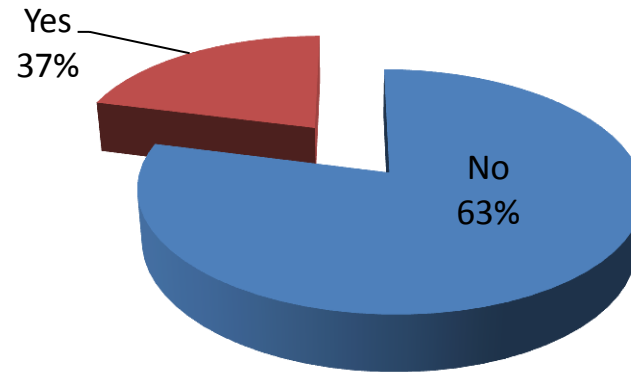
If Yes, What do you appreciate in this person?



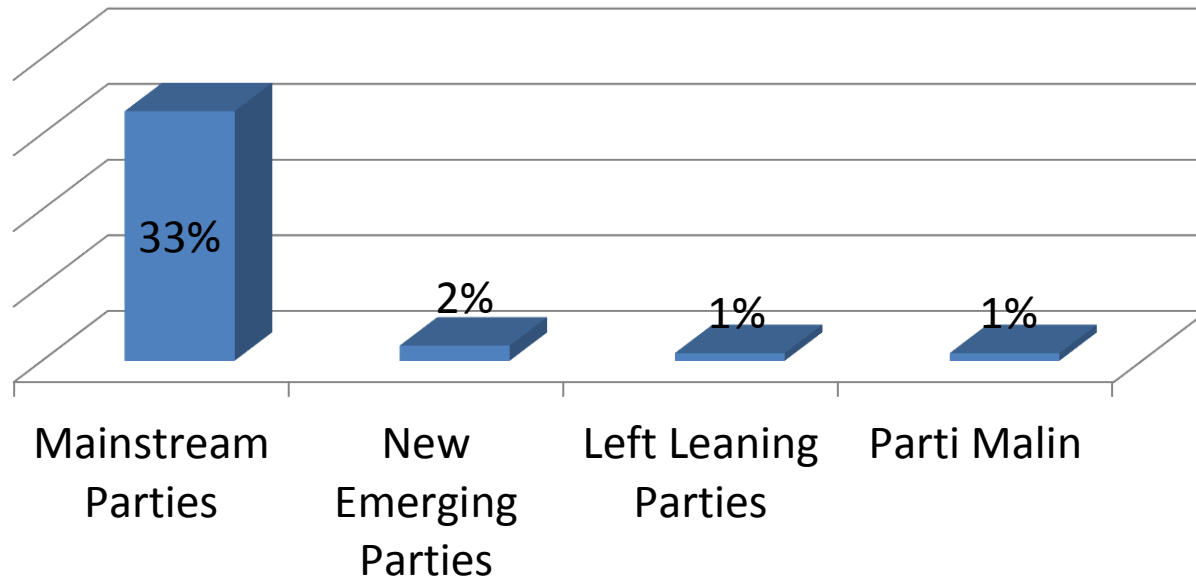
If No, Why you do not have any preference for a Leader?



Preference for any Political Party

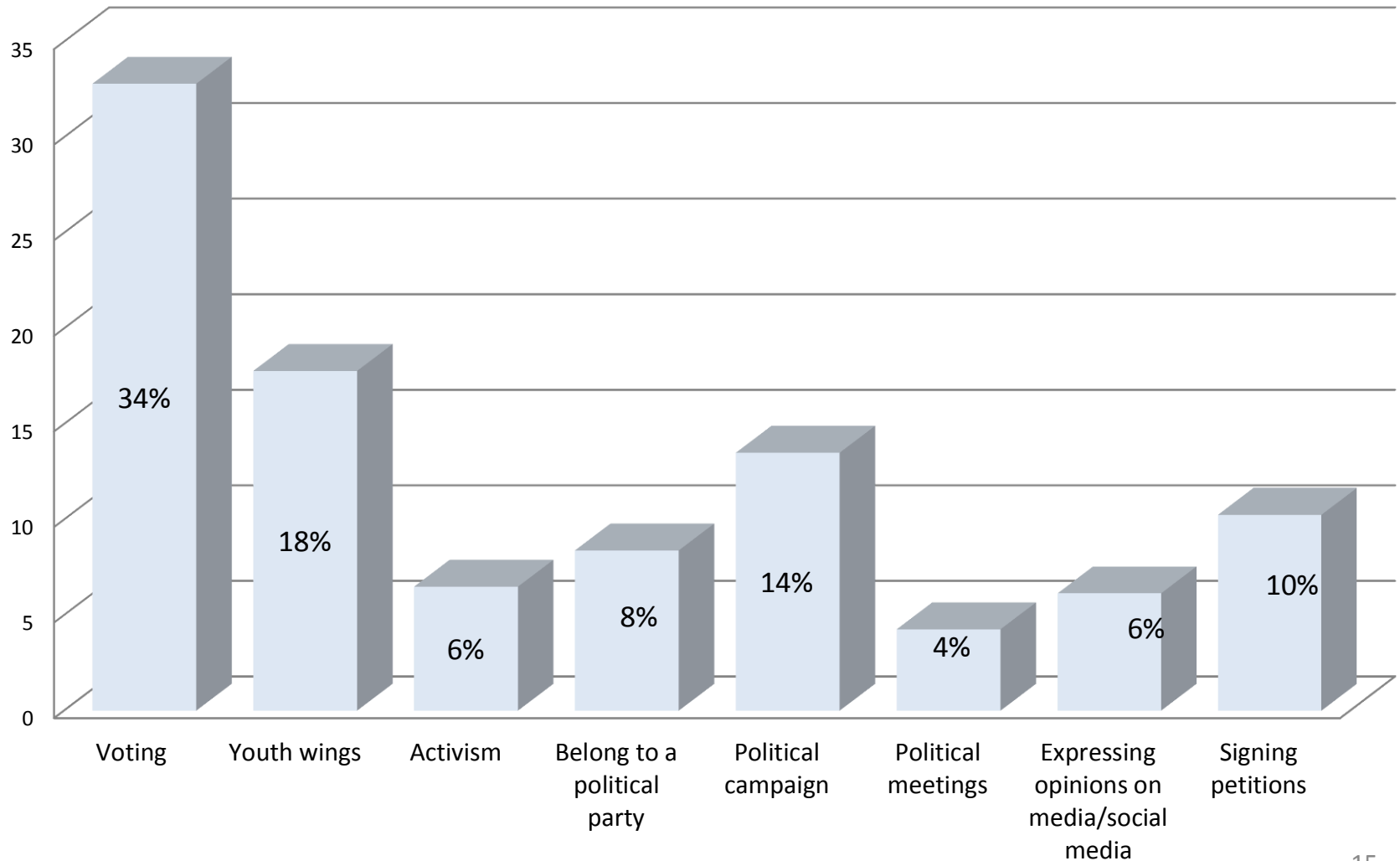


If Yes, Which Political Party do you have a preference for?

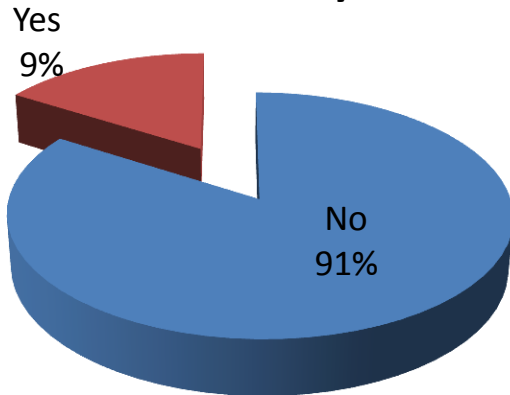


C. Political Participation and Practice

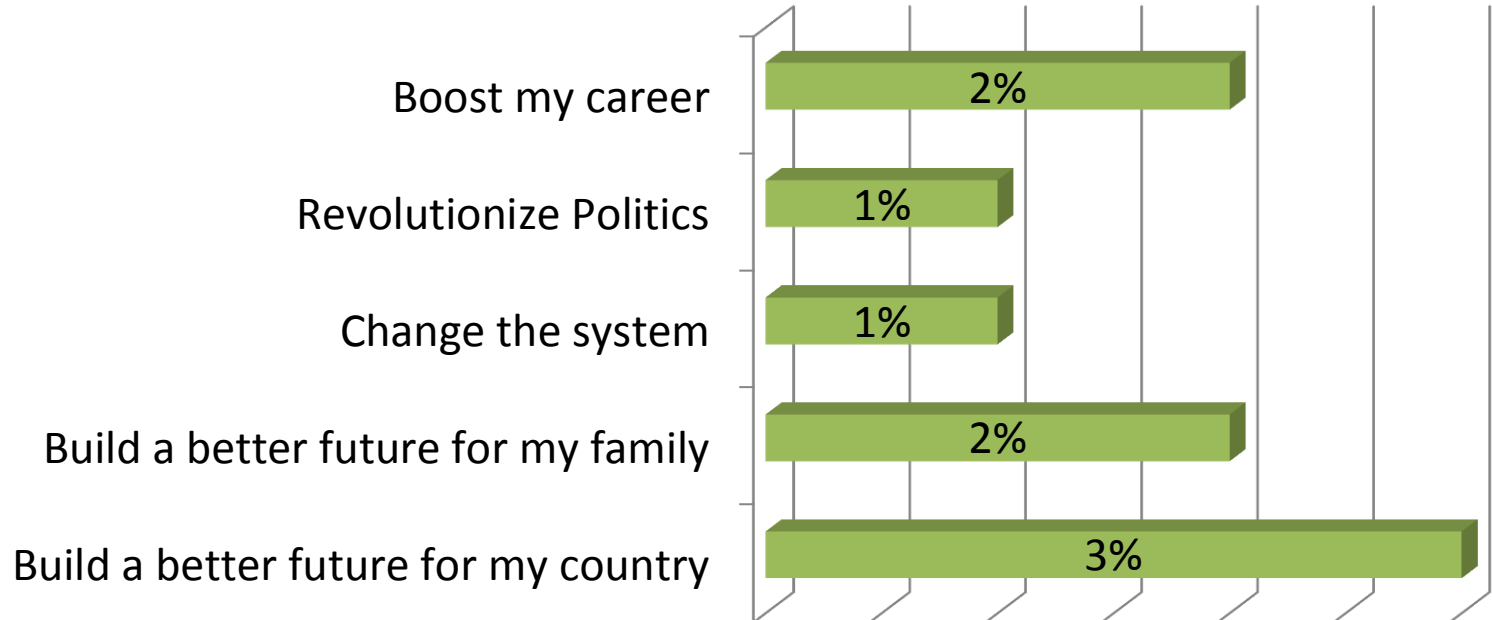
What are the Platforms available to you as a young person?



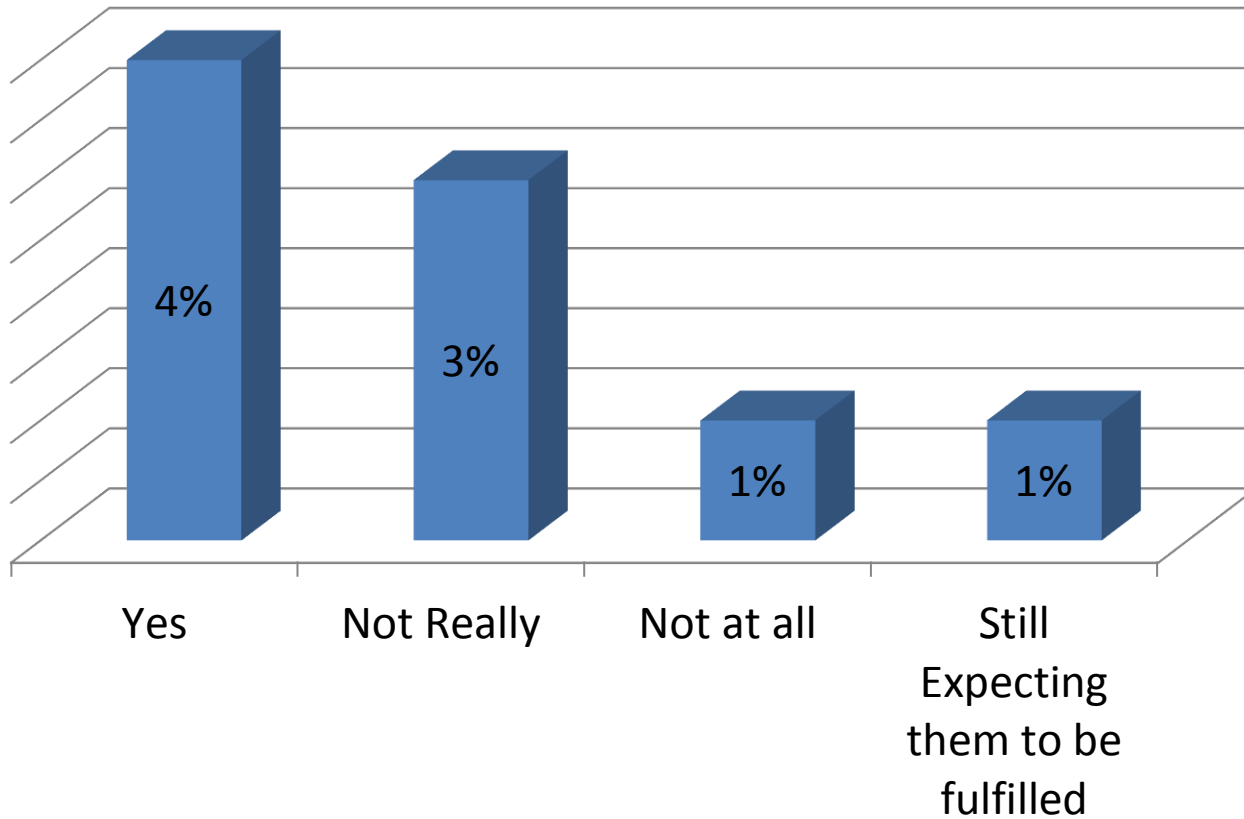
Do you belong to a Political Party?



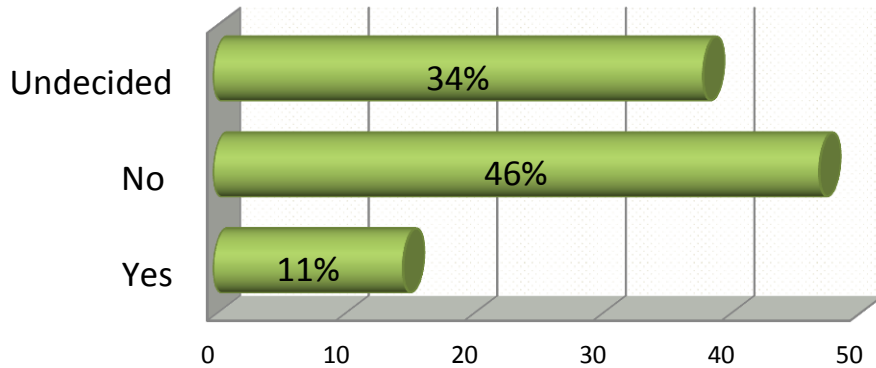
If Yes, What were your motivations in engaging in politics?



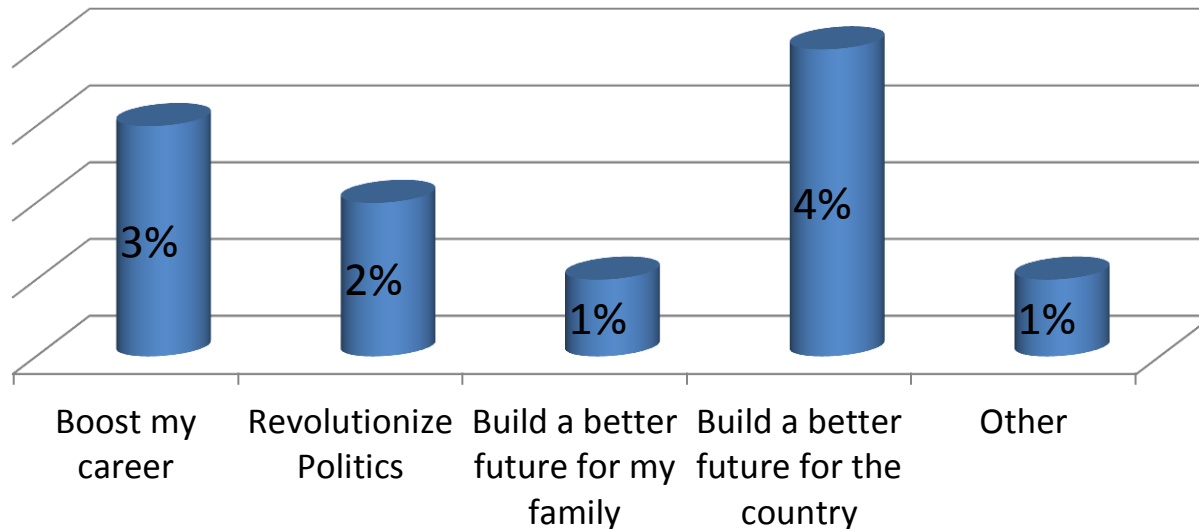
If Yes, Were your expectations fulfilled?



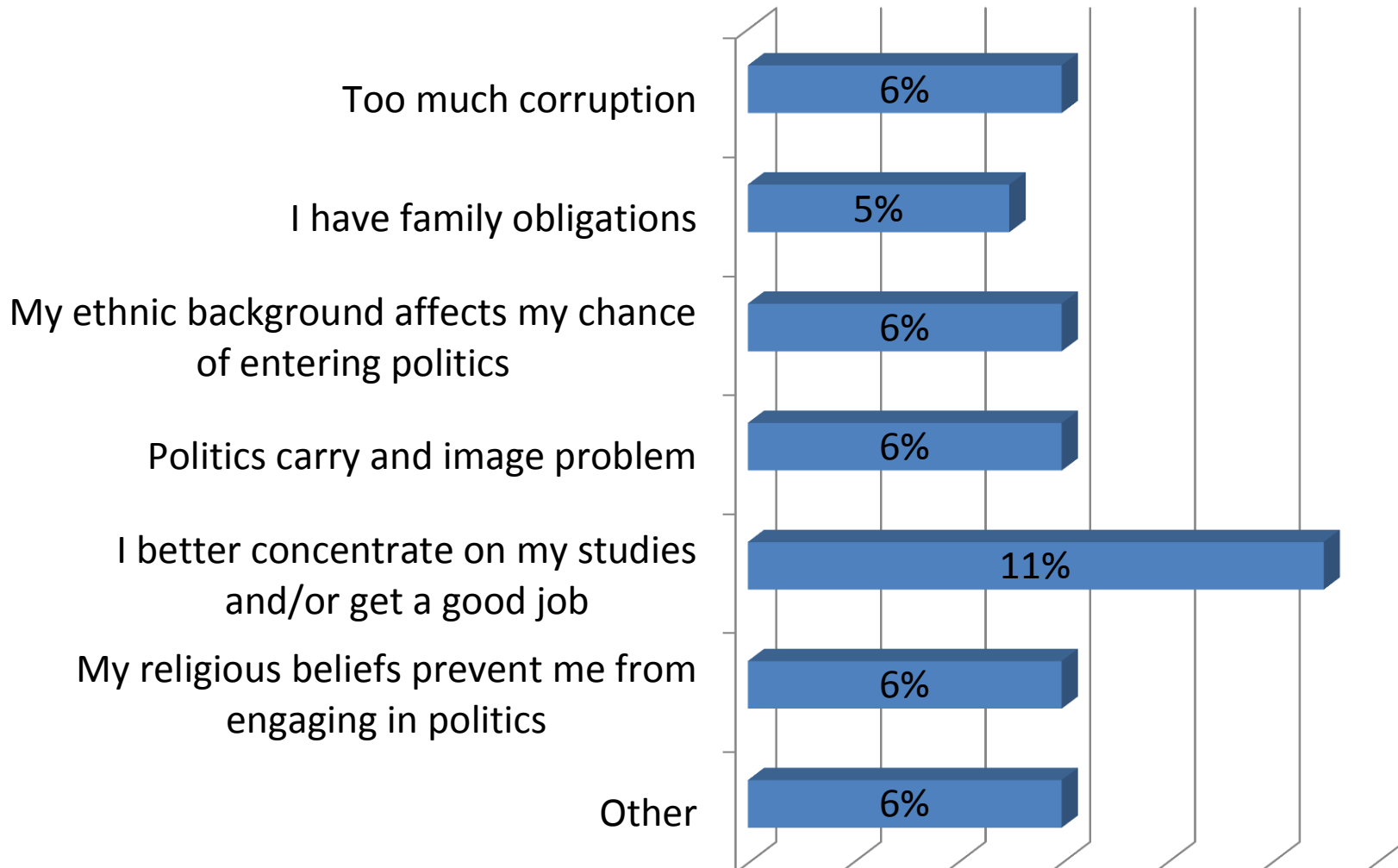
If You do not belong to a political party, Do you plan to engage in politics in the future?



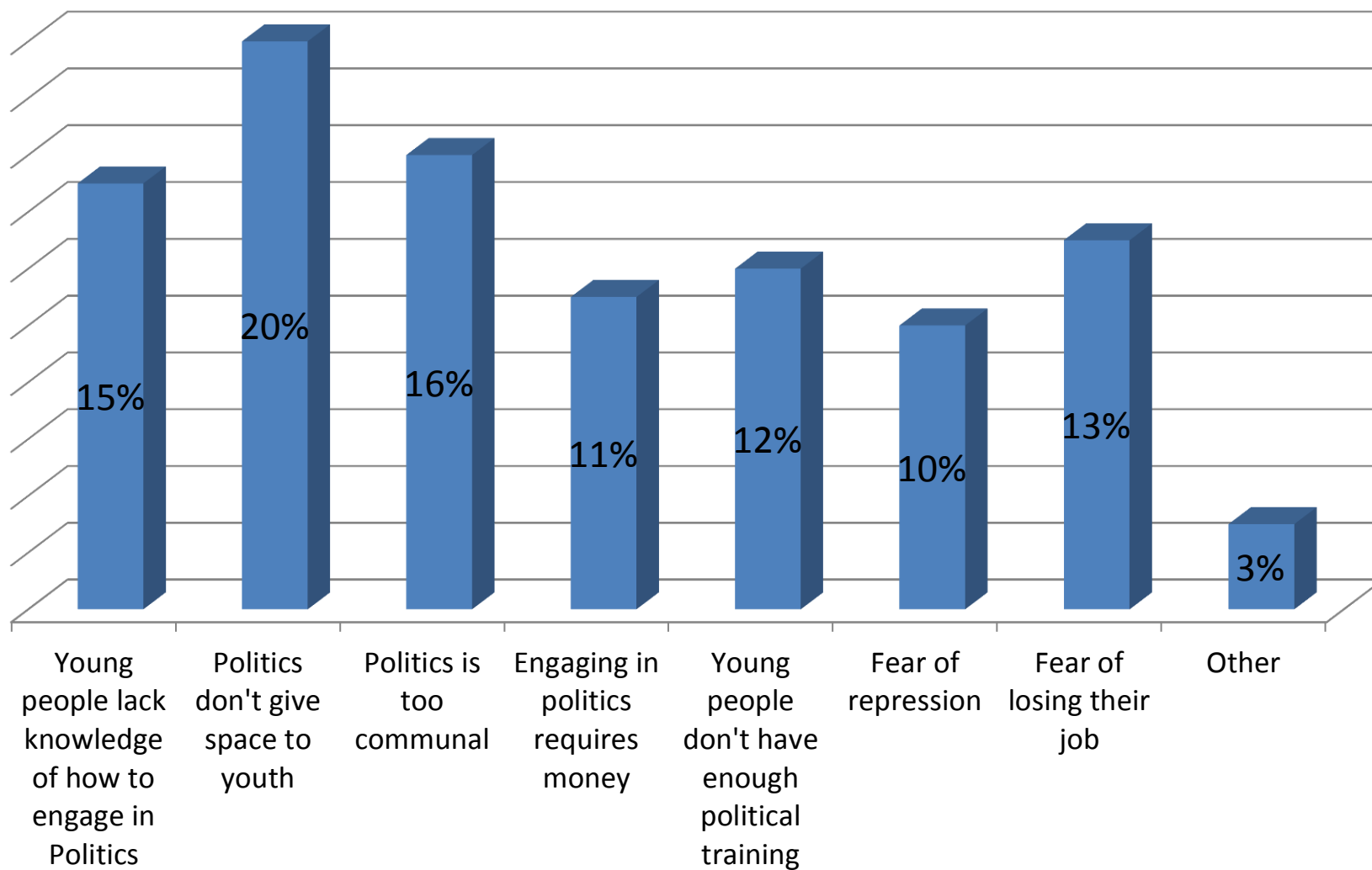
If Yes, What would be your motivation in engaging in politics?



If No, What are the reasons why you are not wishing to join politics?

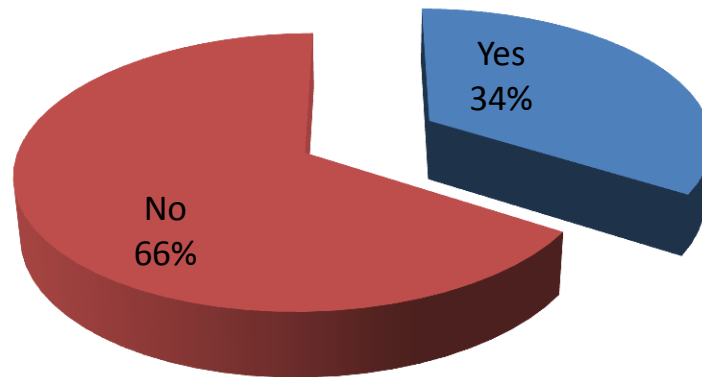


According to you, What are the reasons young people do not want to engage in politics?

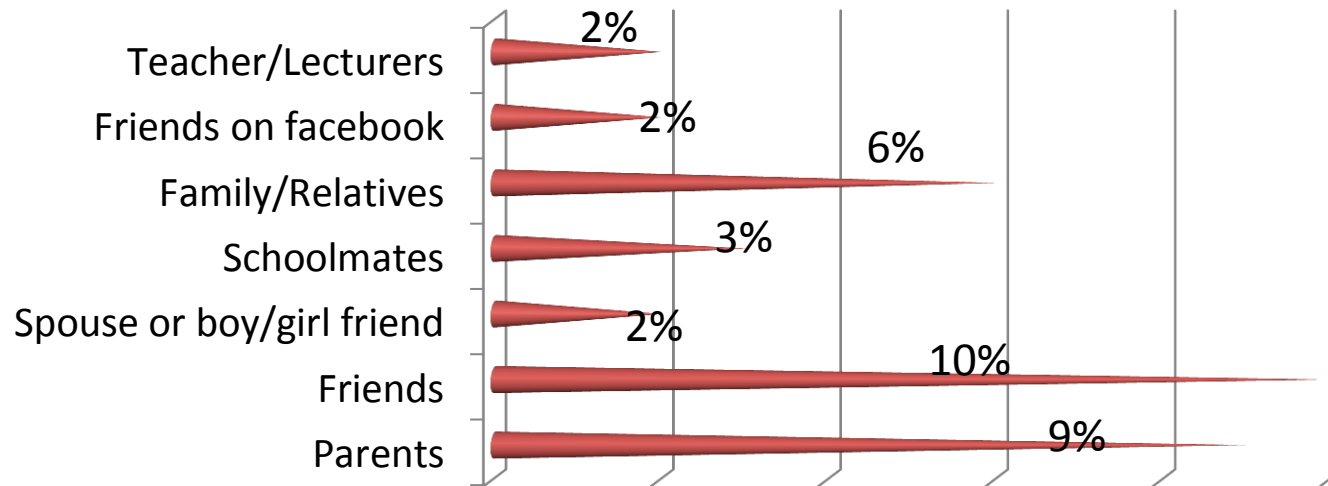


D. Indicators of Political Voice

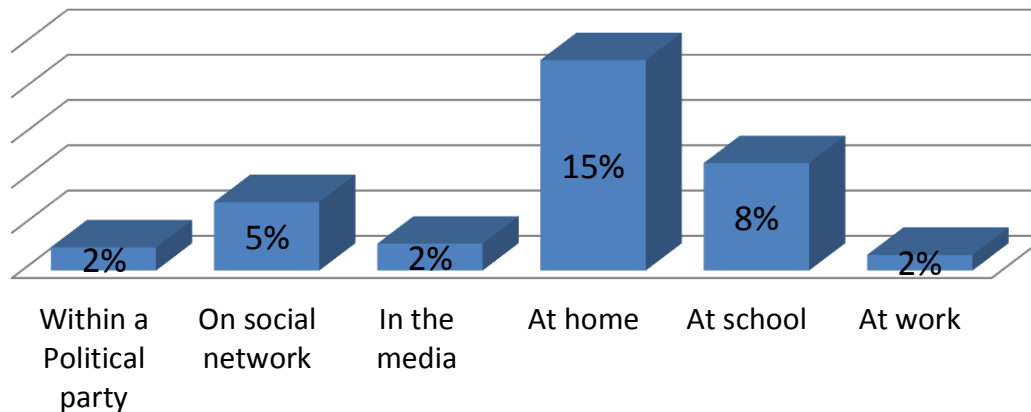
Do you debate over Politics?



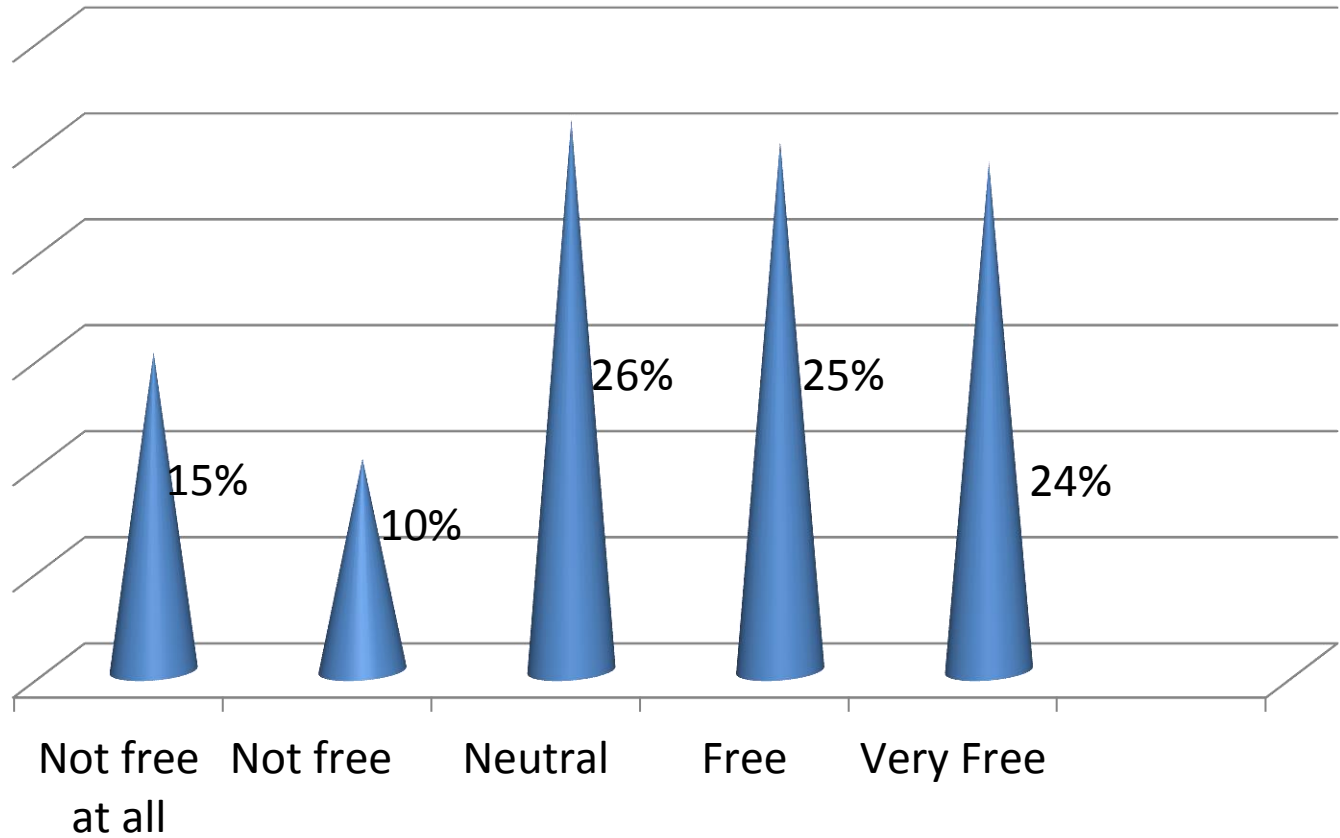
If Yes, with whom do you debate/discuss politics?



If Yes, Where do you express your political opinions?



How free do you feel to express your political opinion?

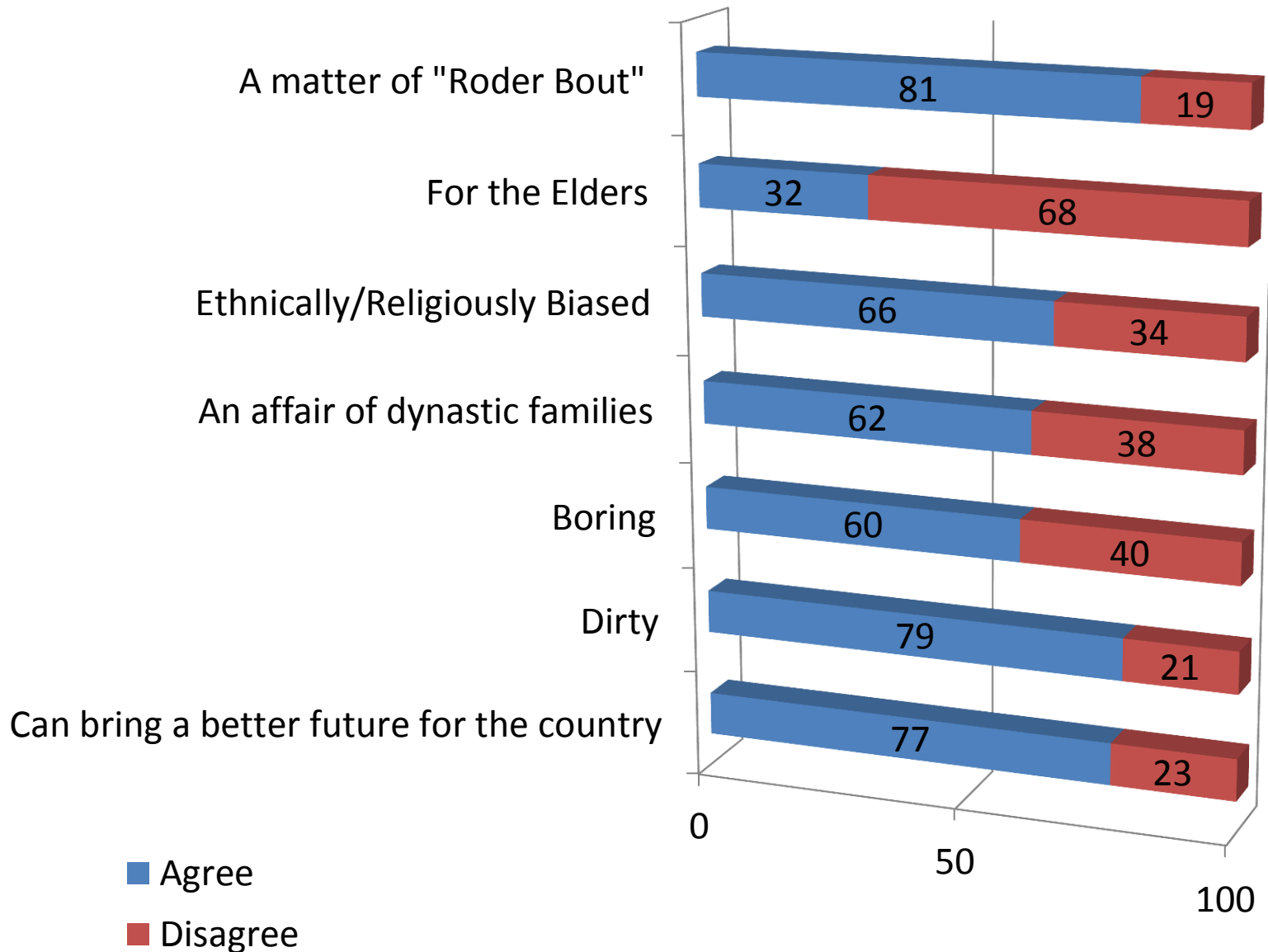


Methods/Platforms to express views and opinions

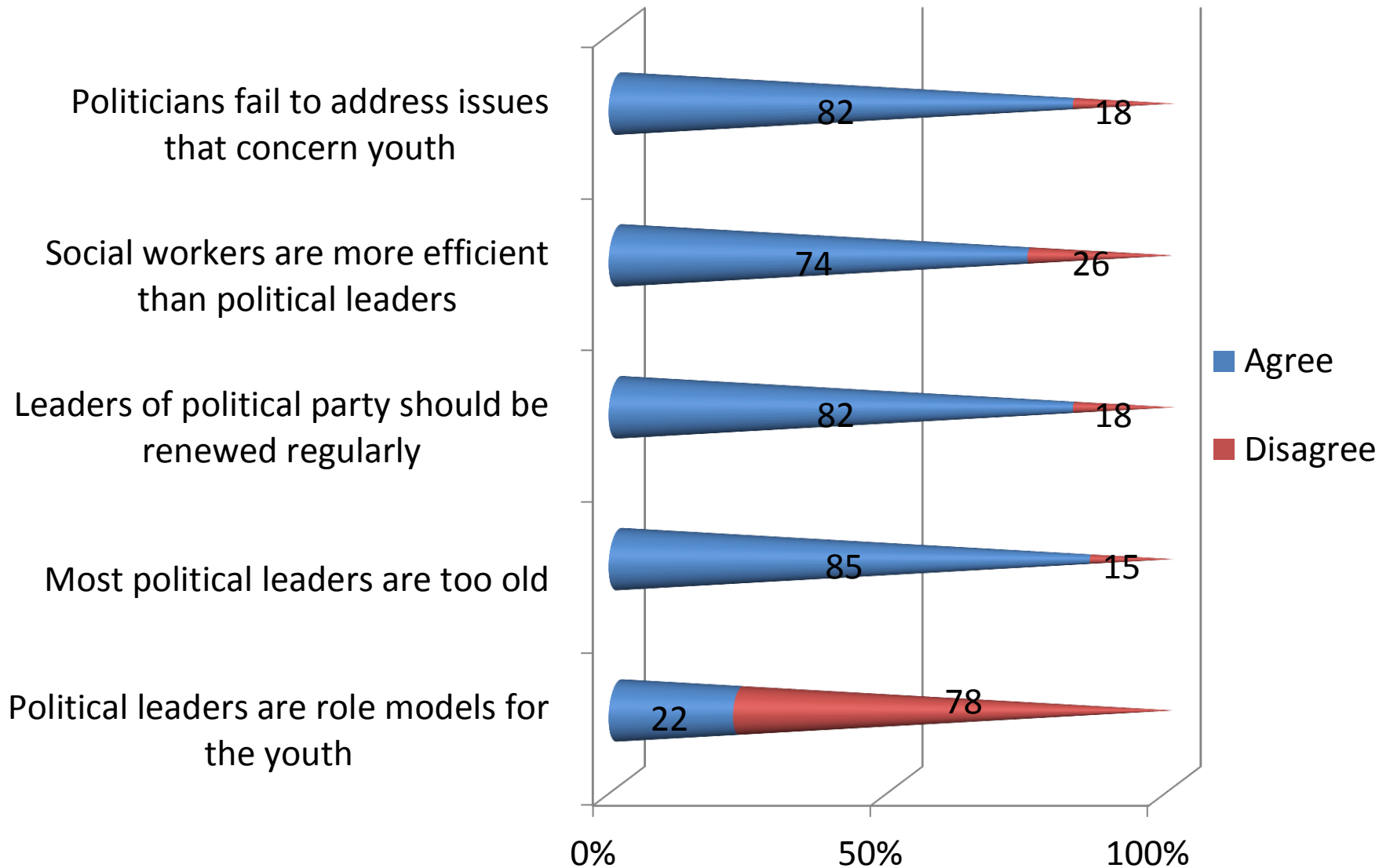
Only 20% of the respondents express their views by:

- Taking part in protest, march or demonstration
- Signing a written or email petition
- Attending conferences on political issues
- Participate in organizing political events

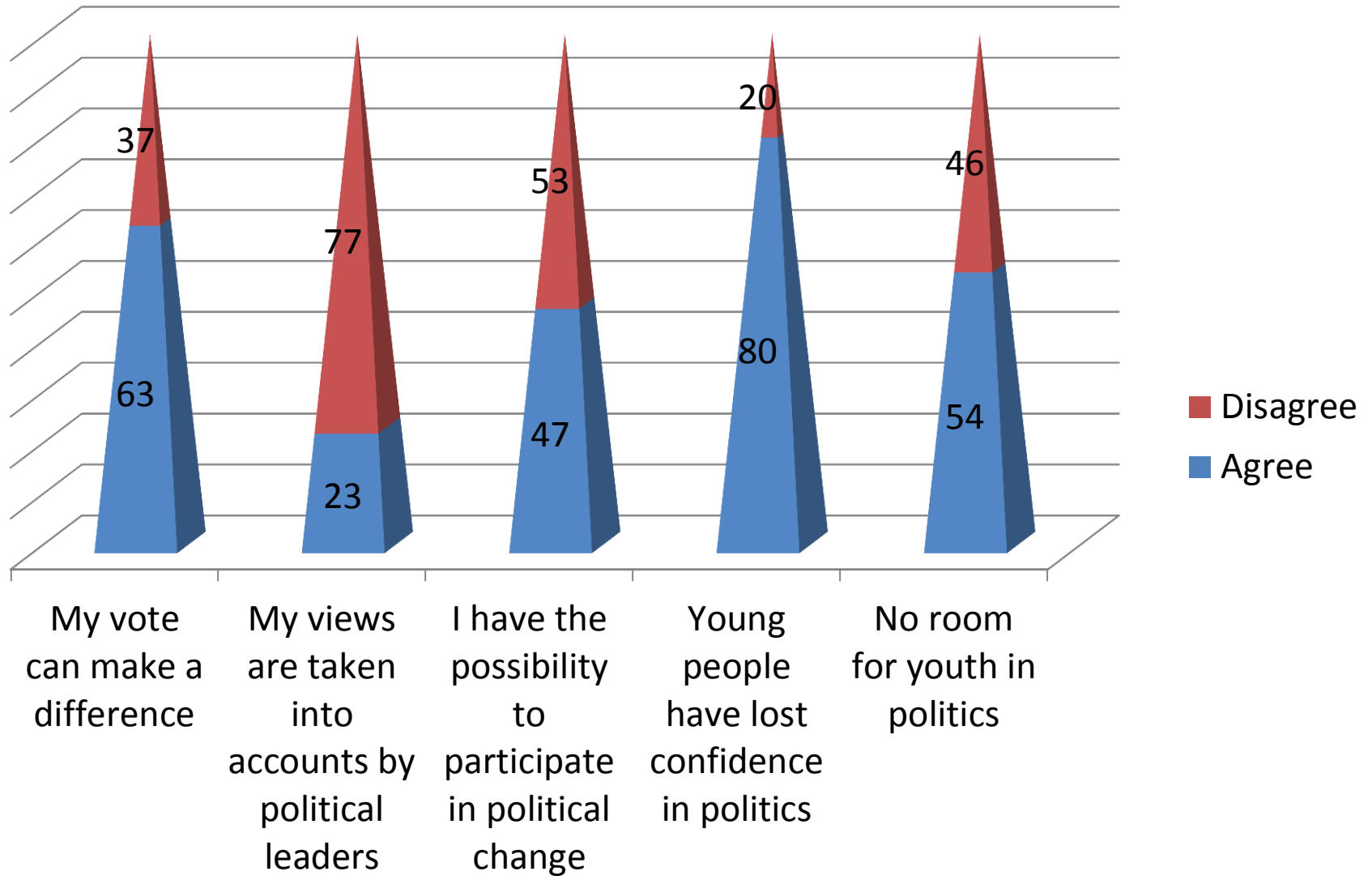
VIEWS ON POLITICS



VIEWS ON POLITICIANS

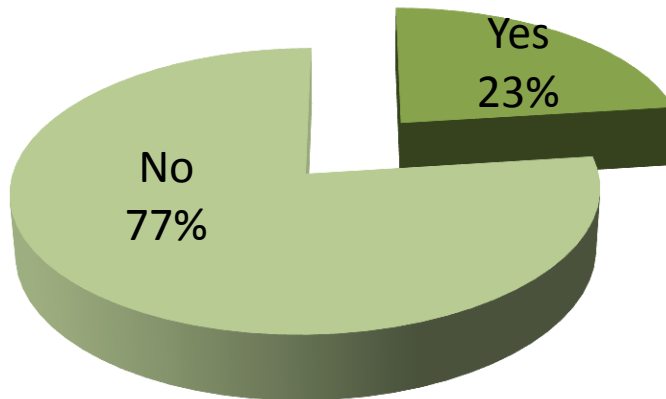


YOUTH AND POLITICS

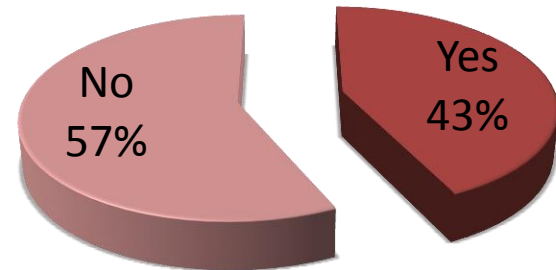


2. Youth, Media and Social Media

Do you follow politics in the media?

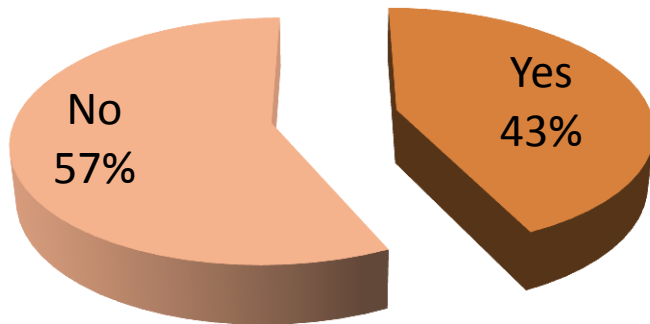


Do you follow politics on social media?

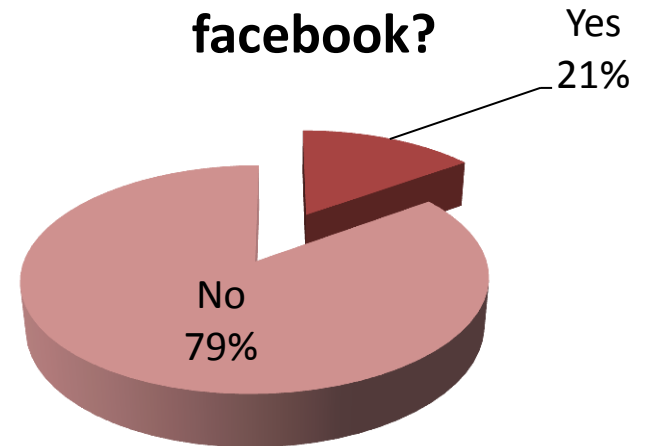


Out of these 23%, only 8% follow politics more than one times a week

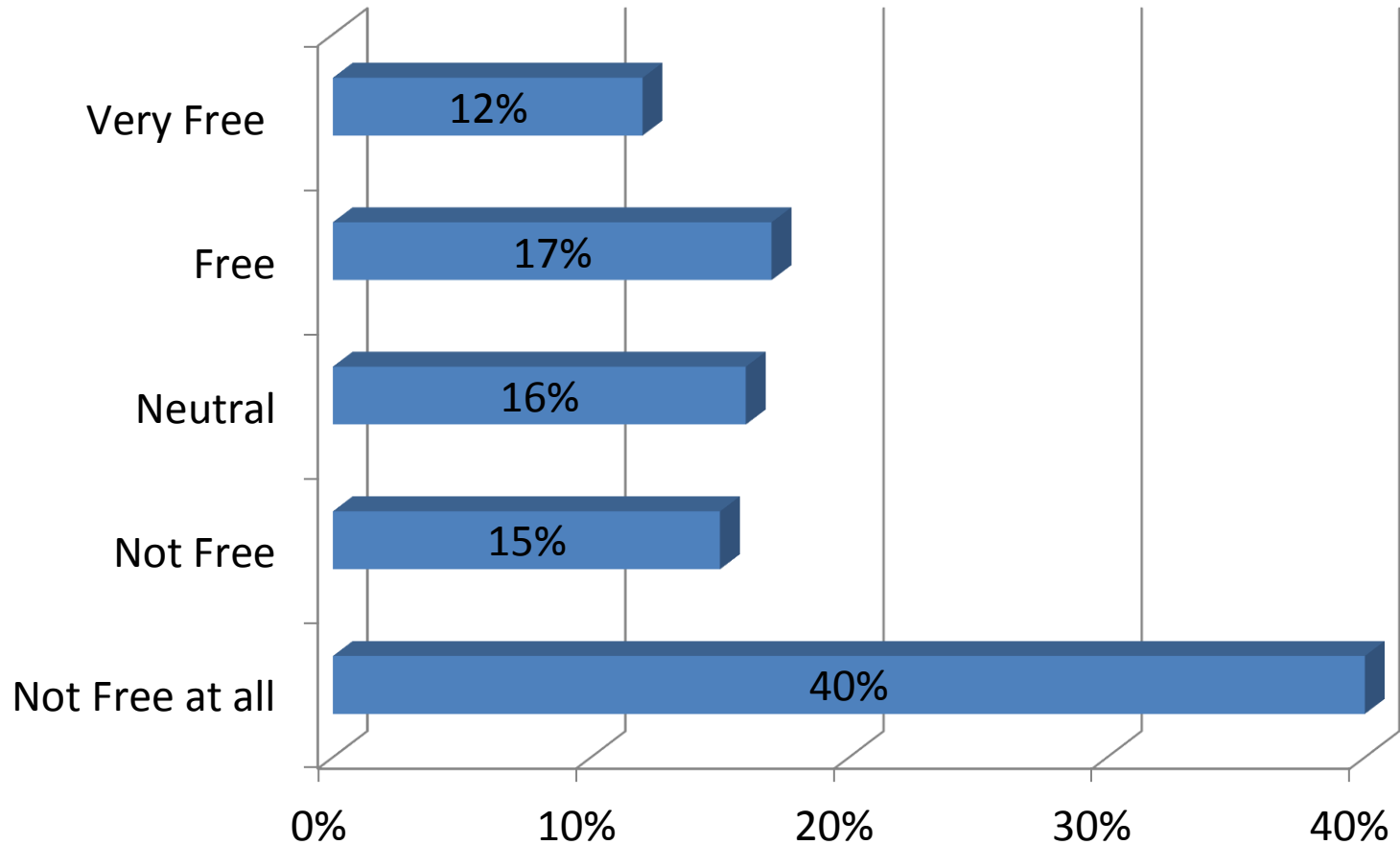
**Do you debate over
politics on social media?**



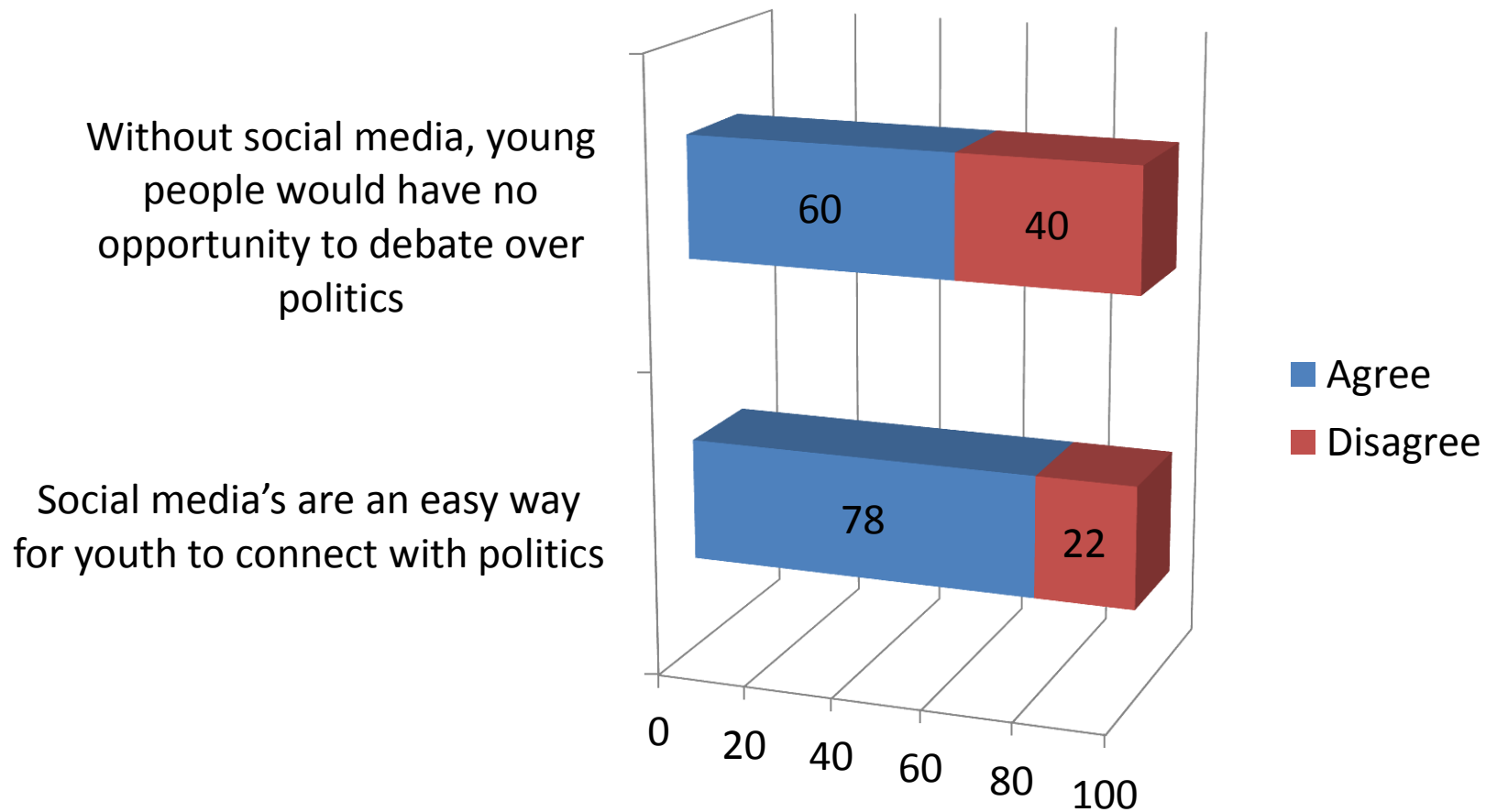
**Do you follow any
political group on
facebook?**



How free do you feel to express yourself on political issues on facebook?



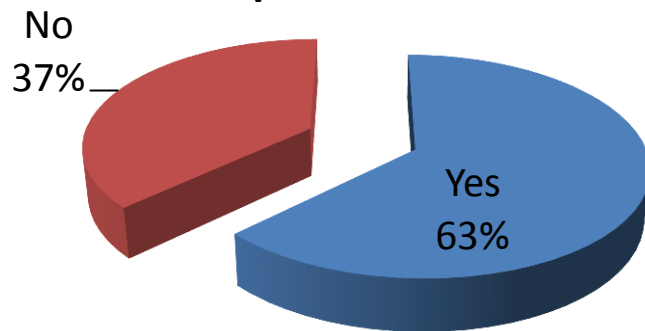
- Importance of Social Media



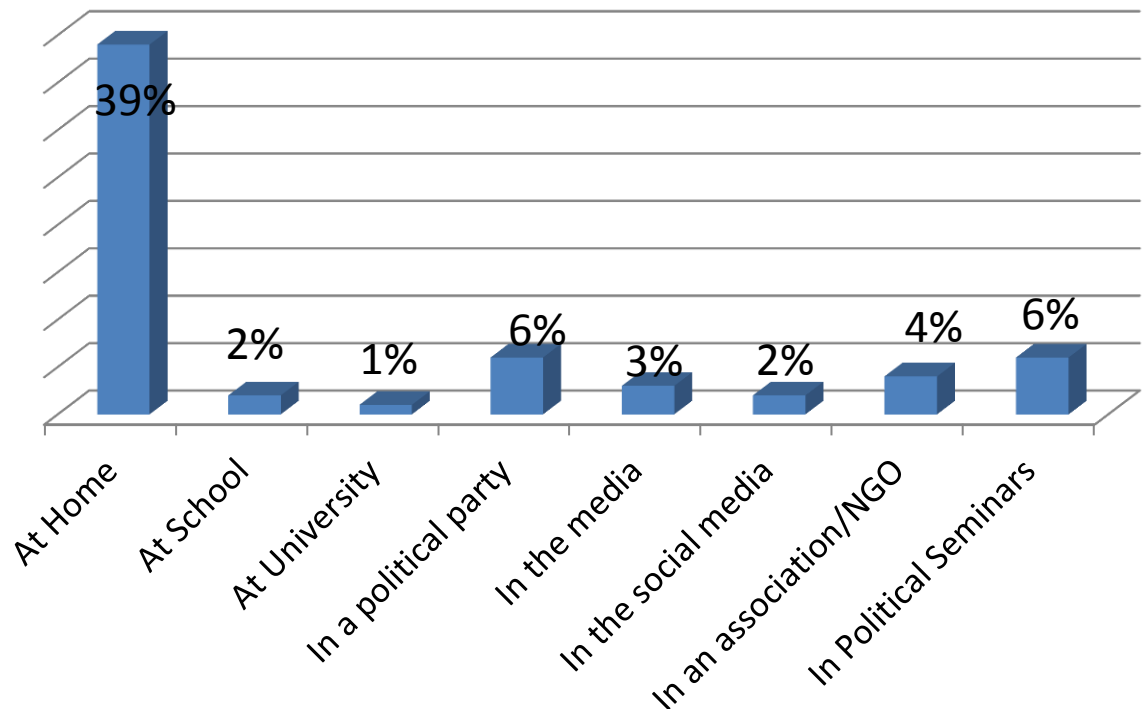
3. Political Literacy and Knowledge of the System

A. Tools about politics

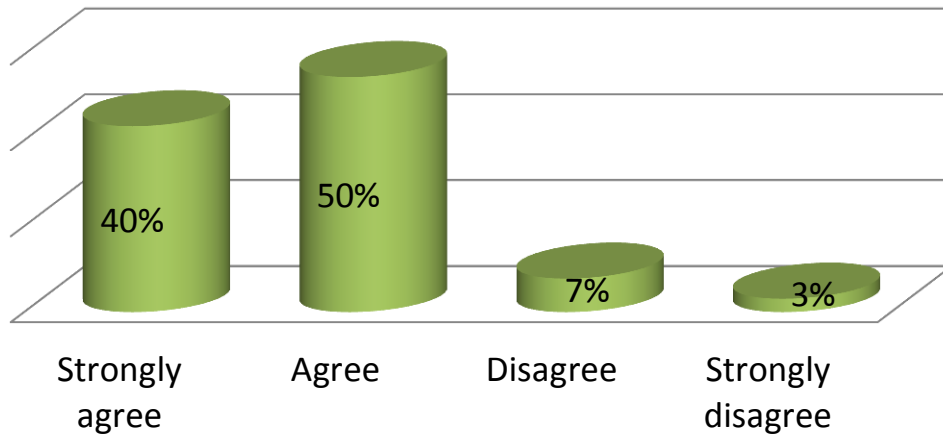
Have you been provided knowledge about politics?



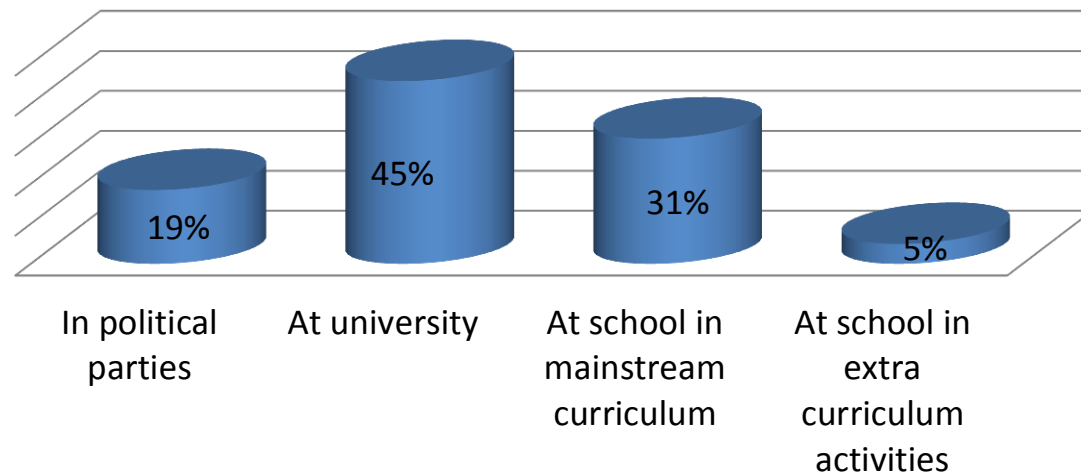
Where have you been provided this knowledge about politics?



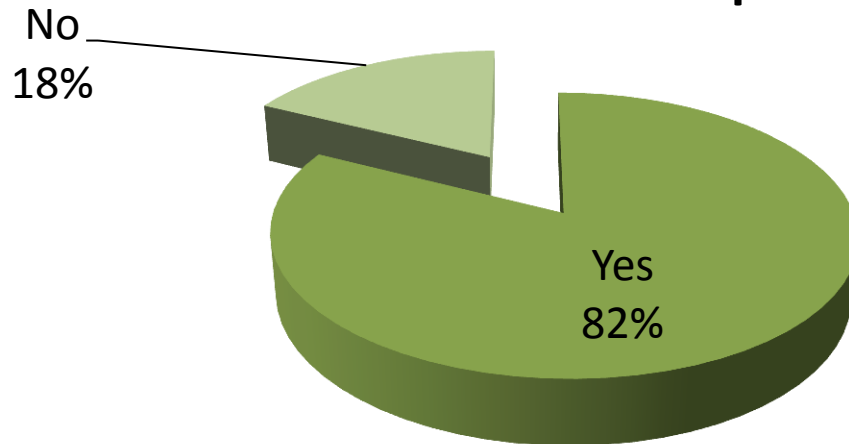
Do you agree that there is a Lack of Political education?



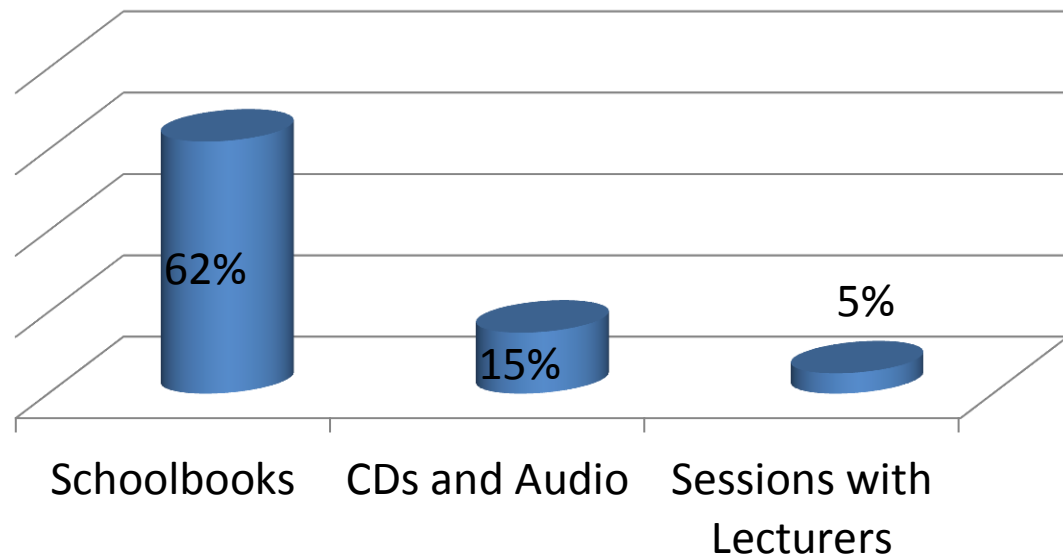
Where do you think knowledge about politics should be imparted?



Do you think that there is a need for more tool to understand politics?



If Yes, What kind of tools?



B. Political and Civic Knowledge

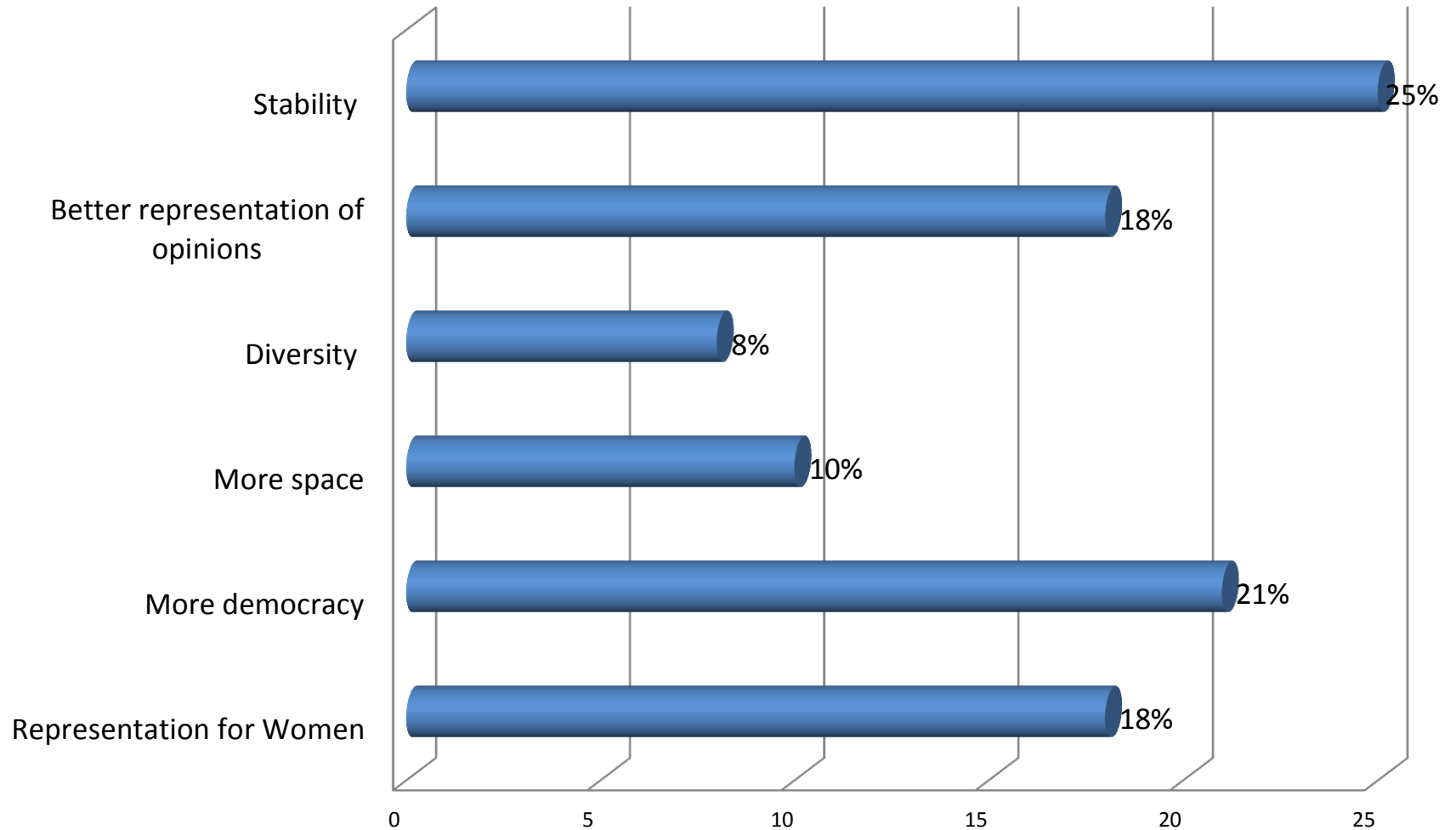
Key Terms	Approximate Answer	Good Answer	Wrong Answer	No Answer
Constitution	20%	18%	9%	53%
Democracy	27%	29%	7%	37%
Republic	14%	6%	16%	64%
Electoral Manifesto	14%	6%	16%	64%
Role of Executive	5%	4%	9%	82%
Role of Legislative	10%	6%	12%	72%
Constituencies	5%	7%	10%	78%
Private Notice Question	3%	3%	14%	80%
Best Loser System	8%	6%	15%	71%
First Past the Post	2%	5%	2%	91%

Questions	Good Answer	Wrong Answer	No Answer
When did MRU became a Republic?	30%	23%	47%
List the 3 Branches of the State	6%	12%	82%
How many constituencies are there in MRU?	16%	16%	68%
How many candidates does a citizen vote for?	40%	6%	54%
How many Best Loser Seats are attributed?	11%	14%	75%

4. Youth Mobilisation and Transformation

- 85% - An electoral reform is necessary
- 83% - Electoral reform will help bring political change in the country
- 82% - It is important to publicly debate about the electoral reform
- 86% - An alternative political force is necessary in order to improve our democracy

According to you, what should the electoral reform promote in priority



Highlights from Focus Group Discussions

- Interest to engage in politics – a tool that enable them to implement their vision for the country
- Not enough opportunities for the youth in politics.

- Youth Wings are very archaic – Replicating what older politicians do
- They need to be more active, creative and propose new ways of doing politics

- Voted:
 - *Only for an experience
 - *Civic Right
 - *To contribute for the betterment of the country
 - *Giving a chance to the political party which is in line with their ideologies
 - *Pressure from parents to vote for specific parties.

- Political meetings: Very monologue
- Electoral bribery – Food, Money, Work, Permit (Taxi, Business..)

Concluding Remarks

- Youth disengagement/apathy cannot be ignored.
- Enhance Political literacy and awareness. Use formal education as well as civil society platforms to engage in delivery of relevant training.

- Political parties should ensure that they create a space for the youth.
- Politics should not be Business as usual. Mauritian Youth have a voice and want and need to be heard.
- Democratic consolidation cannot happen without the inputs of the young people of the Republic of Mauritius.

Thank You!