

A Brief Quantitative Research:

# Civil and Political Rights of the LGBT Community Living in Sri Lanka



## Preface

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the research report of ‘A Brief Quantitative Research: Civil and Political Rights of the LGBT Community Living in Sri Lanka’ which is based on the latest research project conducted by Équité Sri Lanka. We believe that this research report would add a huge value to the efforts aimed at winning the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community living in Sri Lanka.

While the struggle to win the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community living in Sri Lanka is expanding at present, during the past seven years, we have won a number of things as a community. The support extended by community organizations working for the LGBTIQ+ community, civil society organizations, State institutions and other stakeholders, individual activists, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and various other institutions such as universities in this regard is immense.

During many recent discussions held with policymakers, public officials, and institutions and individuals engaged in legal reforms with regard to the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community, concerns were raised regarding the existence of scientific data pertaining to the matter. This research report would be immensely useful in future discussions on ensuring the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in education, employment, civil and political spheres, and health. In addition, this research report would enlighten civil society organizations, universities, and those that study the LGBTIQ+ community about the matters covered through the research project.

The entire LGBTIQ+ community thanks the Social Scientists Association which accepted Équité Sri Lanka’s invitation to conduct this research project. Being able to secure the participation of 856 respondents from a group of marginalized community networks that are hesitant to participate in researches and are not exposed to the larger society, should be identified as a huge victory that they have achieved.

We would also like to thank the board of advisors that supported us in the planning of this research project, selecting of the research areas, and responding to the draft research report.

We extend our gratitude to the Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka for funding the LGBTIQ+ community pride event 2023 in Nuwaraeliya and the cultural event held in Jaffna in celebration of the International Human Rights Day, in addition to this research project.

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## Acknowledgements

We express our sincere gratitude to respondents and enumerators from the LGBT community who participated in this survey. This study would not have been possible if not for the immense support extended to us by various organisations and individuals in networking and mobilising respondents from the LGBT community. We also would like to thank ÉQUITÉ for giving us the opportunity to collaborate in conducting a study of this sort.

Social Scientist Association of Sri Lanka

This research conducted and the report compiled by the Social Scientist Association of Sri Lanka

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## Executive Summary

- A higher percentage of youth from the transgender community (15.9%) claimed to be unemployed, in comparison to the 11.3% from the Cisgender community who held this view.
- When analysing data of those who claimed to be cisgender lesbians, gay or bisexual men or women- it is evident that it is mostly the cisgender lesbians (28.6%) who indicated that their sexual orientation or gender identity has been an issue when securing employment.
- From those who indicated that their current employment is not their desired one, but it is the only job that they could get - a higher proportion amongst the cis-gay respondents held this view.
- From the transgender community, those who indicated that they have been pressured to engage in their current employment – it is mostly those from the trans-bisexual (men/women) who indicated the same.
- Across both the Cis-lesbians, Cis-gay and Cis-bisexual men / women and Transgender-lesbians, Transgender -gay and Transgender -bisexual men/ women there is a notable percentage who indicated that they are not interested in politics.
- From the Cisgender respondents, it is mostly the Cis- lesbians (58.2%) and Cis-bisexual men/ women (54.9%) who indicated that they have not participated in political meetings / rallies in their area. As for the Transgender community, it is mostly respondents who were Trans-gay (62.1%) who held this view.
- A higher percentage of respondents who are cisgender lesbians claim to have not participated in protests than when compared to the Cisgender gay and bisexual men/women. As for the Transgender community, a notable majority across the Trans-lesbian, gay, bisexual men/ women and heterosexuals indicate that they have not participated in protests.
- From those who indicated that they have not met a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience, it is mostly the Cis-lesbians and Trans-heterosexuals, and trans-gay who hold this view
- From those who indicated that they have not participated in the Parliamentary elections held in August 2020, a higher percentage of respondents are from the Transgender community.
- From those who chose to explain the sort of difficulties they faced when voting during the last election (August 2020) they participated in revealed that they faced issues pertaining to discrimination due to their gender identity and sexual orientation and experienced a sense of lack of freedom.
- Additionally, a notable percentage across both the cisgender lesbians, gay and transgender lesbians, gay and heterosexuals are of the view that they have been sexually abused by persons at the polling station on previous occasions, and as a result they did not vote in the August 2020 Parliamentary elections.
  
- From Cisgender community, respondents who indicated they were treated badly by the Police, were mostly respondents who were Cisgender -gay who held this view.

- From those who indicated that they have avoided going to the Police to seek their assistance, it is mostly respondents from the cisgender lesbian and Trans-gay communities who indicate the same.
- From the respondents who avoided going to the Police despite having a need to - most respondents from the Cisgender community (44%) claim that they did so as they did not feel comfortable going to the Police.
- Overall, among the transgender lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual respondents, the most common reason for visiting the courts was because a case was filed against them (29%).
- More transgender respondents report that revealing their sexual orientation or gender identity would be disadvantageous when obtaining legal remedies (56%).
- It is mostly respondents from the Cis-gay community (31.5%) who indicate that they have felt unsafe to indicate their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation when confronting legal matters
- A higher percentage of trans-lesbian (35.3%) and trans-bisexual men or women (33.3%) reported difficulties in finding accommodation to live in.
- More respondents from the trans-gay (46.6%) and trans-bisexual (42.9%) communities reported that they have faced difficulties when taking public transportation due to their sexual orientation and gender identity.
- More Cisgender lesbians report it as "very difficult" (8.2%) or "somewhat difficult" (30.6%) to access public washrooms compared to Cisgender gay and cisgender bisexual respondents.
- When looking at the data by disaggregation, more trans-lesbians report it as "very difficult" (17.2%) or "somewhat difficult" (55.2%) to access public washrooms compared to trans-gay and trans-bisexual respondents. Similarly, more trans-lesbians report either "very difficult" (24.1%) or "somewhat difficult" (55.2%) to access changing rooms compared to trans-gay and trans-bisexual respondents.
- On access to healthcare services that support with gender transitioning surgeries and procedures, or access to healthcare providers that provide necessary medication such as hormone pills etc. that facilitate gender transitioning surgeries and procedures - a notable percentage of respondents from the transgender community indicated that it is difficult to obtain them.
- A notable proportion across both Cisgender and transgender communities are of the view that access to mental healthcare is difficult to obtain.

## Introduction

In recent years, there has been a notable progress in the status of the LGBTIQ+ community worldwide, marked by efforts taken to improve their rights and privileges. Despite differing societal norms regarding the treatment of LGBTIQ+ individuals across the globe, many countries have embarked on reformist paths to address concerns and rectify discriminatory policies and laws affecting this community. Particularly in South Asia, countries like India and Nepal have taken proactive measures to reform legislation that historically marginalised the community through laws introduced during the colonial period. Nepal stands as the first UN member state in Asia, the first country in South Asia, and the first least-developed country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage<sup>1</sup>. Such significant strides in the realm of LGBTIQ+ rights in the region highlight the importance in understanding the community's perspectives on their current civil and political rights in Sri Lanka.

There are multiple instances where inhuman practices persist and continue to violate the LGBTIQ persons' right to freedom from torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment despite protection provided to citizens in Article 11 of the Constitution – and Sri Lanka's international obligations through the ratification of the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Sri Lankan Penal Code criminalises same-sex sexual conduct through Sections 365 and 365A, discriminating against the LGBTIQ+ community by labeling them as criminals. Although sodomy laws are not consistently enforced, they contribute to societal prejudice. In March 2022, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) declared the criminalisation of consensual same-sex relationships between women in Sri Lanka as a human rights violation<sup>2</sup>, urging the government to decriminalise such relationships. During the 42nd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Sri Lanka, 19 countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Norway, and the Netherlands, recommended decriminalizing consensual same-sex conduct.

Additionally, the Penal Code Section 399 which refers to the offence described as “cheating by impersonation” and also the Vagrants Ordinance of 1841 are also widely used to arrest and detain members of the LGBTIQ+ community, especially the transgender community, cross dressing community, individuals whose appearance do not conform to the varying gender norms, and persons who engage in commercial sex work.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Salerno, R. (2024, January 2). *2023 World Same-Sex Marriage and LGBT Rights Progress – Part 3: Asia*. <https://76crimes.com/2024/01/02/2023-world-same-sex-marriage-and-lgbt-rights-progress-part-3-asia/>

<sup>2</sup> *Sri Lanka: Case before UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) | Human Dignity Trust*. (n.d.). [www.humandignitytrust.org](https://www.humandignitytrust.org). <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/what-we-do/cases/sri-lanka-case-before-un-committee-on-the-elimination-of-discrimination-against-women-cedaw/>

<sup>3</sup> *Sri Lanka's Vagrants Ordinance No. 4 of 1841: A Colonial Relic Long Overdue for Repeal A Briefing Paper*. (2021). <https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Sri-Lanka-Briefing-Paper-A-Colonial-Relic-Long-Overdue-for-Repeal-2021-ENG.pdf>



These discriminatory laws, compounded by cultural and social stigma, subject the LGBT community in Sri Lanka to various forms of discrimination, marginalisation, and violence. A report by EQUAL GROUND and Human Rights Watch in October 2020<sup>4</sup> revealed that since 2007, at least seven individuals faced forced physical examinations, including anal and vaginal examinations, to prove homosexual conduct. Conversion therapy, particularly targeting the transgender community and individuals with diverse gender identities, is also reported.

Despite recurring challenges, there have been efforts and interventions towards more inclusive legislative reform and the need for humane treatment of those from the LGBTIQ+ community by varying institutions, such as the Human Rights Commission and Police Department followed by multiple petitions lodged by the general public. In August 2022, a Private Members' Bill was introduced by a major political party in Sri Lanka, advocating for the decriminalisation of homosexuality and the amendment of Penal Code sections 365 and repeal of 365A<sup>5</sup>. Although the Bill faced legal challenges, the Supreme Court's approval in May 2023 affirmed its constitutionality, signaling a pivotal development in the country's legal landscape<sup>6</sup>. The Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists has opposed the notion that diverse gender identities and sexual orientations cause mental illness and has urged the government to decriminalise consensual same-sex conduct and implement protective policies in support of the LGBTIQ+ community.

Against this backdrop, ÉQUITÉ Sri Lanka approached the Social Scientists Association (SSA) to conduct a systematic scientific research study in order to strengthen their ongoing advocacy with empirical evidence. Building on a public perception survey conducted by SSA in 2020 for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, ÉQUITÉ commissioned SSA to undertake an all-island survey with the LGBT community in Sri Lanka. This survey, the first of its kind, aims to gauge the community's perspectives on matters most pertinent to them. It delves into various facets of their experiences, including political participation, access to justice, interactions with government institutions, education, accessibility to housing, and healthcare affordability. The overarching goal of the survey is to capture the voices and opinions of the LGBT community, with the intention of catalyzing broader policy-level changes to be pursued through future programming by ÉQUITÉ Sri Lanka. Meetings were held with an expert committee, and advice was sought during the study design stage and the compilation of this report.

This report is organised as follows: Chapter 1 provides an understanding of the profile of the respondents from the LGBT community who participated in the study, including their demographics. This chapter aims to familiarise readers with the group that has contributed to this report before delving into the findings. Chapter 2 examines the forms of employment the respondents from the LGBT community are engaged in – the chapter further explores the obstacles they face due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Chapter 3 focuses on political participation of the respondents assessing their level of activity across various forms of political engagement and identifies obstacles to effective and active political participation. Chapter 4 delves

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<sup>4</sup>Sri Lanka: *Forced Anal Exams in Homosexuality Prosecutions*. (2020, October 20). Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/20/sri-lanka-forced-anal-exams-homosexuality-prosecutions>

<sup>5</sup> Dantanarayana, R. (2023, August 23). *A ray of hope: proposed decriminalisation of LGBTIQ+ rights in Sri Lanka*. *Www.ibanet.org*. [https://www.ibanet.org/sri-lanka-proposed-decriminalisation-lqbtqi-rights#\\_edn22](https://www.ibanet.org/sri-lanka-proposed-decriminalisation-lqbtqi-rights#_edn22)

<sup>6</sup> Reuters. (2023, May 10). *Sri Lanka Supreme Court clears path to decriminalize homosexuality*. CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/05/09/asia/sri-lanka-decriminalize-homosexuality-supreme-court-intl-hnk/index.html>

into the accessibility of judicial services including the respondents' experiences when using these services. Chapter 5 highlights the educational experiences of the respondents, highlighting barriers and hurdles they have faced during their time in school or their level of education they have received. Chapter 6 explores the living situations, their access to public spaces and challenges in accessing these spaces. The final Chapter 7, highlights some of the concerns that respondents face when accessing relevant healthcare services for their sexual and reproductive health-related and general healthcare needs.

## Methodology

A semi structured questionnaire was administered with a total of 856 sample respondents from the LGBT community. Considering the fluidity and challenge in identifying varying gender identities, expressions and sexual orientations, the study only focused on analysing experiences and perceptions of those who identified themselves as being a Cis-gender lesbian, gay and bisexual man/woman, or Transgender- lesbian, gay, bisexual man/woman, and heterosexual.

Due to a (i) multitude of challenges and limitations in accessing and identifying respondents from the LGBT community, (ii) to maintain ethical research practices that prioritised safety, sensitivity and confidence/ confidentiality of the respondents, the SSA utilised a snowball sampling technique when selecting the sample respondents.

### Mobilising sample respondents

The mobilisation of respondents was done as follows,

- a) With the support of ÉQUITÉ's local network across the LGBT community, SSA recruited a total of 21 (Sinhala) and 03 (Tamil) enumerators for the study<sup>7</sup>. Respondents were recruited via these enumerators - particularly utilising their personal contacts/ networks<sup>8</sup>.
- b) The survey questionnaire was shared online across ÉQUITÉ's and SSA's network of local organisations/ individuals who advocate for, and work with those from the LGBT community.
- c) With the support of EQUITE, organisations working with the LGBT community introduced respondents to the survey for either face to face interviews, self-administered interviews or telephone interviews.

### Survey Questionnaire

The survey questionnaire assessed the respondents' perception on political participation, employment, education, judicial systems and rule of law, engagement with government institutions and processes, residency, and health. Considering the nature of the study there were some questions that were gender specific<sup>9</sup>. The survey questionnaire was administered in English, Sinhala and Tamil languages. Considering the privacy and confidentiality of the respondents, they were provided with the option of self-administering the survey questionnaire. For those who required technical assistance, they were provided with required support. In an instance where

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<sup>7</sup> SSA found it immensely challenging to mobilise a larger number of enumerators, and in particular those of whom were Tamil speaking.

<sup>8</sup> The enumerators were from Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, Nuwaraeliya, Galle, Matara, Jaffna, Vavuniya, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura and Kegalle.

<sup>9</sup> Those from the Transgender community were asked to indicate whether they were in possession of official documents such as a gender recognition certificate, birth certificate, national identity card and passport that depicted their perceived gender identity. Additionally, those from the transgender community were also asked to indicate their access and affordability to obtain necessary medication such as hormone pills etc., gender transitioning surgeries and procedures that facilitate gender transitioning.

interviews were conducted online (via zoom) the research team was present along with the relevant field enumerator<sup>10</sup>.

### **Administering the survey questionnaire**

Prior to administering field work the enumerators were provided with extensive training on the research study, the survey research tool, field techniques and the online software used for data collection. In an instance where local organisations organised on-site data collection sessions, researchers from SSA along with ÉQUITÉ staff supported with interviewing respondents or providing them with any technical support they required to complete the survey questionnaire.

### **Challenges encountered during the research study and study limitations**

Considering various societal stigma, norms, cultural sensitivities and limited visibility of the LGBT community, it was challenging to gather the initial sample size of respondents for the study – particularly amongst the Tamil and Muslim respondents<sup>11</sup>. This resulted in (i) delays in completing field work during the anticipated timelines, (ii) limitations in obtaining a scientifically representative sample of the LGBT community, (iii) sorting after alternative methods of conducting data collection for those who had limited access to technology for which the SSA conducted on-site visits and provided support in terms of access to internet, digital devices and technical assistance as and when needed in order to complete the survey questionnaires<sup>12</sup>.

Since a snowball sampling technique was utilised and the respondents were not randomly selected, there is a probability that the sample may be biased wherein some groups may either be over-represented or under-represented. Furthermore, considering the non-random sample selection, generalising these findings across the LGBT community might be challenging.

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<sup>10</sup> In an instance where respondents did not have access to zoom, interviews were conducted via WhatsApp group calls wherein researchers and staff from both ÉQUITÉ and SSA were present for any technical assistance.

<sup>11</sup> The initial sample size for the study was 1000 respondents from the LGBT community.

<sup>12</sup> The study met with numerous challenges as a result of connectivity issues faced by the respondents. Alternative methods such as telephone interviews were conducted with those who found it hard to connect via zoom.

# 1

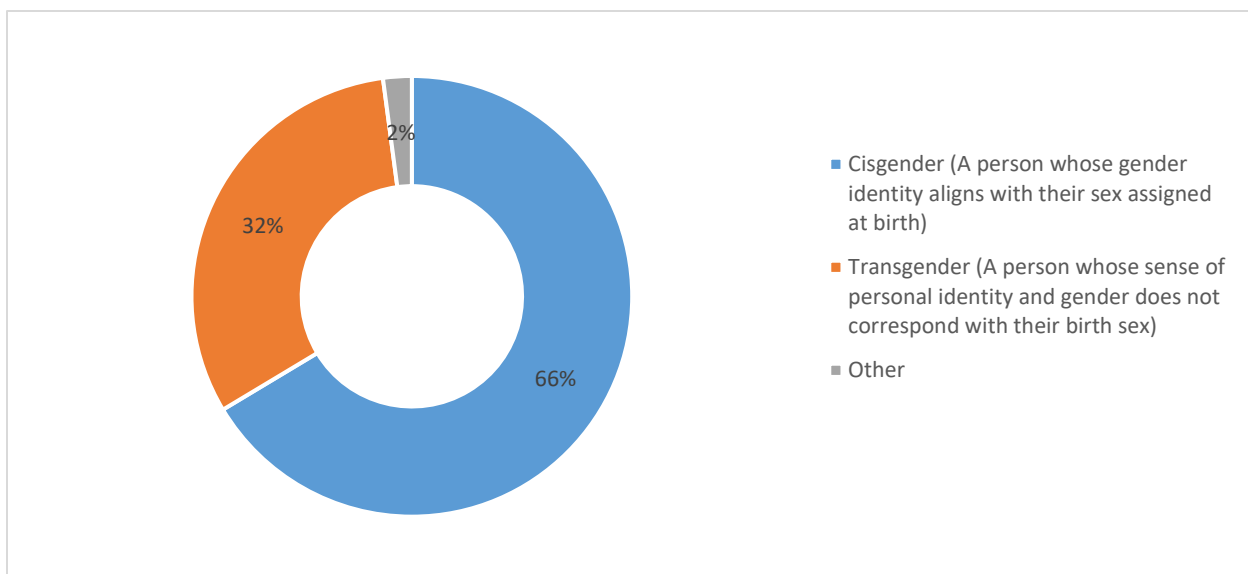
## Profile of the Respondents

*This chapter provides an overview of the respondents who participated in the survey, and as such highlights their perceived gender identities and sexual orientations<sup>13</sup>.*

### Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

From the overall sample of respondents who participated in the survey, nearly 65% identified themselves as being Cisgender persons whilst nearly 32% identified themselves as Transgender persons. Around 2% of the sample respondents identified themselves as neither Cisgender nor Transgender persons<sup>14</sup>. [Please see Figure 1 below]

*Figure 1: Breakdown of Gender Identity among Respondents*

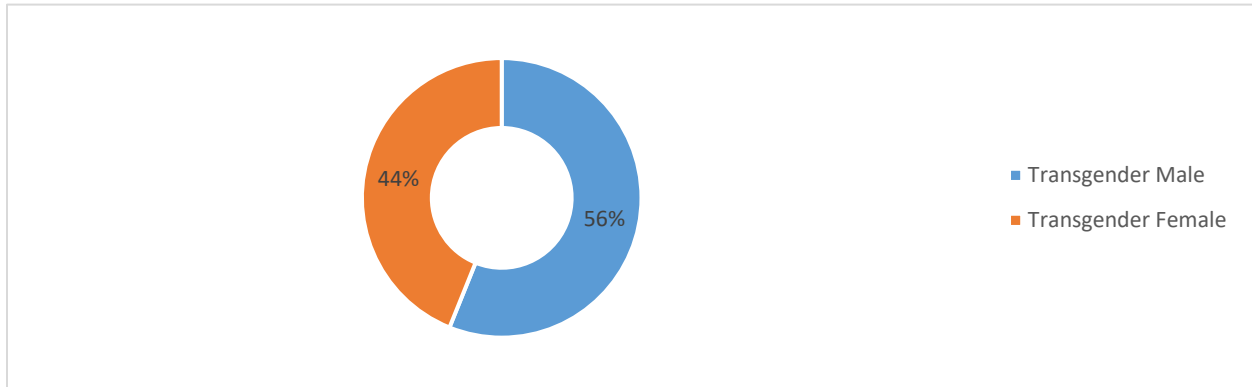


As for the Transgender community, from the total of 270 persons who participated in the survey, 221 sample respondents indicated that they were either Transgender male or females. From this,

<sup>13</sup> Due to various study limitations, the quantitative research only focuses on the respondents' perceived gender identity and sexual orientation. Gender expression is not taken into account in both the data analysis and the research report.

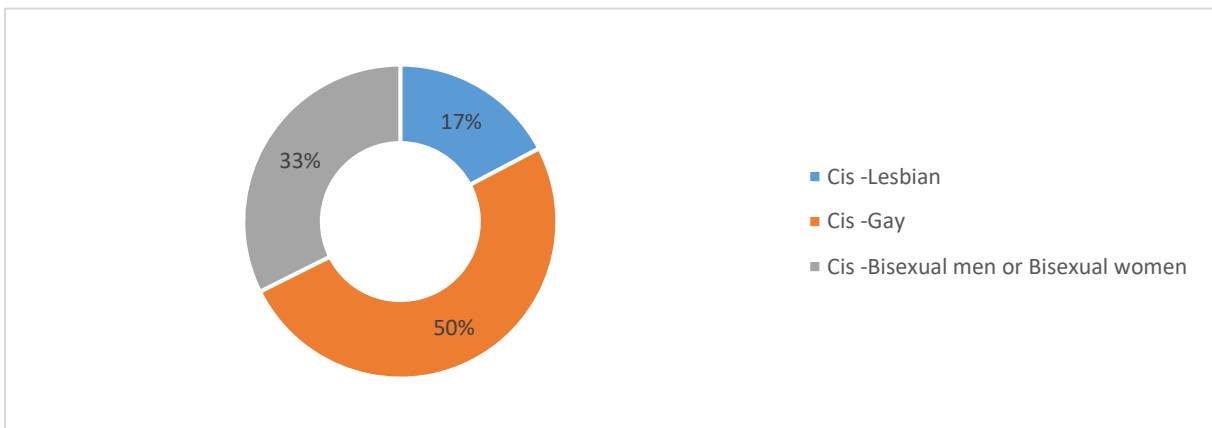
<sup>14</sup> This included respondents who identified themselves as Gender fluid, non-binary.

56.1% indicated that they were Transgender males whilst 43.9% indicated that they were Transgender females. [Please see figure 2 below] <sup>15</sup>



When analysing the identity and sexual orientation of respondents who participated in the survey, it is evident that 17.3% claimed to be Cis-lesbians, 50.4% claimed to be Cis-gay, and 32.4% claimed to be either Cis-bisexual men or women. [Please see figure 3 below]

Figure 3: Table 3: Breakdown of Sexual Orientation among Cisgender Respondents



From those who indicated that they were from the Transgender community, 10.7% claimed that they were Trans-lesbians, 21.5% claimed to be Trans-gay, 7.8% claimed to Trans-bisexual men or women and nearly 60% claimed to be Trans-heterosexuals. Approximately 8.1% of those who

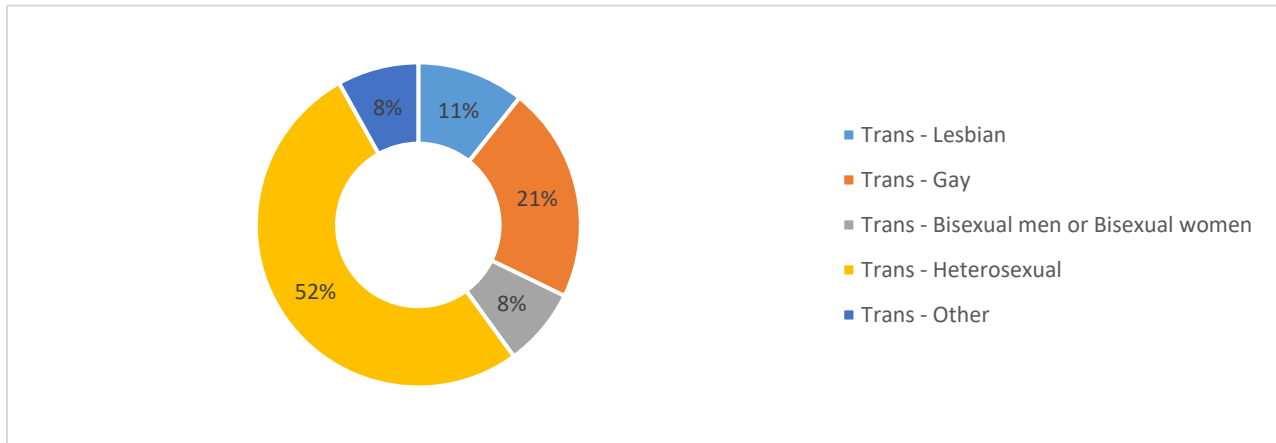
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<sup>15</sup> It must be noted that the question on selecting whether one was a Transman or Transwoman, was an optional one and the percentages mentioned herein are subject to those who indicated same. As such, the total percentage of this data disaggregation may not tally with the overall sample size of the Transgender persons of the sample.



claimed that they were from the Transgender community, had varying sexual orientations which were categorised as the ‘other’ category<sup>16</sup>. [Please see figure 4 below]

Figure 4: Breakdown of Sexual Orientation among Transgender Respondents



## Age

As for the age breakdown of the Cis-lesbian sample of respondents, a slightly higher percentage were between the ages of 40 to 49 years. As for the Cis-gay sample of respondents, a notable percentage were between the ages 18 to 29, and 30-39 years. In terms of the Cis- bisexual (both men and women) sample of respondents, most who participated in the survey were between the age of 18 to 29 years. [Please see Table 1 below]

Table 1: Breakdown of Age among Cisgender Respondents

	18-29 years	30-39 years	40-49 years	50-59 years	60+ years
Cis – Lesbian	15.5%	15.8%	24.6%	22.0%	25.0%
Cis- Gay	49.2%	54.9%	44.3%	46.3%	68.8%
Cis- Bisexual men or Bisexual women	35.3%	29.3%	31.1%	31.7%	6.3%
Base	317	133	61	41	16

As for the Transgender-lesbians, it is mostly those between the ages 18 to 29 and ages 50-59 who participated in the survey. From those who identified themselves as Transgender -gay, nearly 50% claim to have been between the ages 40 to 49 years, with notable numbers also between the ages 30 to 39 years and 50 to 59 years. As for the Transgender bisexuals (both men and women) most

<sup>16</sup> This included respondents who identified as pansexual, demisexual, queer.

appear to be between the ages of 50 to 59 years. From those who identified themselves as Transgender- heterosexuals most appear to be between ages 18 to 29 and 30 to 39 years. [Please see Table 2 below]

Table 2: Breakdown of Age among Transgender Respondents

	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60+
Trans - Lesbian	12.9%	4.0%	11.1%	12.5%	0.0%
Trans – Gay	13.5%	22.0%	47.2%	25.0%	83.3%
Trans - Bisexual men or Bisexual women	6.5%	12.0%	5.6%	25.0%	0.0%
Trans - Heterosexual	57.6%	52.0%	33.3%	37.5%	16.7%
Trans – Other	9.4%	10.0%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Base	170	50	36	8	6

## Ethnicity

Based on the sample of respondents that participated in the survey a majority were from the Sinhala community. [(Please see Tables 3 and 4 below)]

Table 3: Breakdown of Ethnicity among Cisgender Respondents

Ethnicity (Cisgender)	%
Sinhala	85.9%
Tamil	9.0%
Upcountry Tamil	0.9%
Muslim	3.5%
Burgher	0.7%
Base	568

Table 4: Breakdown of Ethnicity among Transgender Respondents

Ethnicity (Transgender)	%
Sinhala	87.0%
Tamil	7.0%
Upcountry Tamil	1.1%
Muslim	3.3%
Burgher	1.5%
Base	270

# 2

## Experiences with Employment

*The following section provides understanding of employment patterns and challenges faced by both Cisgender and transgender individuals within the LGBT community. It examines various aspects such as current employment status, obstacles encountered in securing employment, perceptions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity as barriers to job acquisition and salary negotiation, and the alignment of current employment with desired career paths.*

Overall, nearly one third (36.6%) of those who indicated that they were either Cis-lesbian, Cis-gay or Cis- bisexual men and women claim to be involved in formal full-time employment. Approximately 30% are either students or unemployed. [Please see Table 9 below]

From the sample of respondents who were Cis-lesbians, most claimed to be involved in formal full-time employment (30.6%) closely followed by those who claimed to be employed part-time (17.3%). As for the Cis-gay respondents, nearly 40% claimed to have been involved in formal full-time employment, followed by 15% who claimed to be students. As for the Cis- bisexual men and women - while 35.3% claimed that they were involved in formal full-time employment, a considerable percentage of the sample (21.7%) were students. [Please see Table 5 below]

Table 5: Current Employment of the Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Formal full-time	36.6%	30.6%	39.5%	35.3%
Part time	13.9%	17.3%	12.6%	14.1%
Informal part-time	7.2%	7.1%	8.0%	6.0%
Formal full time and informal part-time	4.4%	5.1%	4.5%	3.8%
Self employed	7.6%	8.2%	7.7%	7.1%
Helping out with domestic income generating activities	2.1%	5.1%	0.7%	2.7%
Student	16.9%	13.3%	15.0%	21.7%
Unemployed	11.3%	13.3%	11.9%	9.2%
Base	568	98	286	184

Overall, 26.3% from those who are Trans-lesbian, Trans-gay and Trans-bisexual (both men and women) claim to be involved in formal full-time employment, and nearly 22% claim to be employed part-time. Comparatively than when compared to those from the Cis-lesbian, Cis-gay and Cis-bisexual men and women, a slightly higher percentage of those from the Transgender

community claim to be unemployed (15.2%) or self-employed (13.7%). s[Please see Table 6 below]

From the sample of respondents who were Transgender-lesbians, most claim to be involved in formal full-time employment (24.1%) whilst a notable percentage indicate that they are either unemployed (31%) or self-employed (20.7%). As for the Transgender-gay respondents, a notable percentage claimed that they were employed part-time (36.2%) or formally full-time (27.6%). As for the Transgender-bisexual (both men and women) nearly 30% claim to be involved in formal full-time employment, with nearly 25% indicating that they are self-employed. As for the Transgender-heterosexuals, an almost equal percentage claim to be involved in formal full-time (25.7%) or part-time (22.1%) employment. [Please see Table 6 below]

Table 6: Current Employment of Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Formal full-time	26.3%	24.1%	27.6%	28.6%	25.7%	27.3%
Part time	21.5%	6.9%	36.2%	14.3%	22.1%	4.5%
Informal part-time	6.3%	0.0%	6.9%	0.0%	7.9%	9.1%
Formal full time and informal part-time	4.1%	3.4%	1.7%	9.5%	5.0%	0.0%
Self employed	13.7%	20.7%	6.9%	23.8%	14.3%	9.1%
Helping out with domestic income generating activities	0.7%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Student	12.2%	13.8%	6.9%	14.3%	12.1%	22.7%
Unemployed	15.2%	31.0%	12.1%	9.5%	12.1%	27.3%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

When examining data regarding forms of employment by age, it becomes apparent that a higher percentage of respondents, who were youth, in the 18-29 age bracket in the transgender community claim to be either unemployed or engaged in part-time employment. As such, when comparing youth from both communities - (15.9%) from the transgender community claimed to be unemployed, in comparison to the 11.3% from the Cisgender community who hold this view. Similarly, a higher percentage of respondents in the 18-29 age bracket within the transgender community claim to be self-employed (14.1%) than when compared to the Cisgender respondents (5.0%). A lower percentage of respondents in the 18-29 age bracket within the transgender community claim to be engaged in formal full-time employment (24.1%) than when compared to the Cisgender respondents (33.8%). [Please see Tables 7 and 8 below]

Table 7: Current Employment by Age, Cisgender Respondents

	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-59</b>	<b>60+</b>
Formal full-time	33.8%	47.4%	34.4%	36.6%	12.5%
Part time	12.0%	18.8%	18.0%	12.2%	0.0%
Informal part-time	5.7%	7.5%	9.8%	14.6%	6.3%
Formal full time and informal part-time	3.5%	7.5%	3.3%	2.4%	6.3%
Self employed	5.0%	10.5%	11.5%	9.8%	12.5%
Helping out with domestic income generating activities	1.3%	1.5%	6.6%	0.0%	12.5%
Student	30.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployed	8.8%	6.0%	16.4%	24.4%	50.0%
Base	317	133	61	41	16

Table 8: Current Employment by Age, Transgender Respondents

	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-59</b>	<b>60+</b>
Formal full-time	24.1%	32.0%	27.8%	37.5%	16.7%
Part time	15.9%	28.0%	36.1%	12.5%	50.0%
Informal part-time	6.5%	4.0%	5.6%	12.5%	16.7%
Formal full time and informal part-time	3.5%	4.0%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Self employed	14.1%	14.0%	8.3%	37.5%	0.0%
Helping out with domestic income generating activities	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Student	18.8%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployed	15.9%	16.0%	13.9%	0.0%	16.7%
Base	170	50	36	8	6

## Is Sexual Orientation and/or Gender Identity an obstacle to secure a job?

Overall, a notable percentage from both the Cisgender (77.6%) and Transgender (46.7%) community responded "No" when asked if their sexual orientation and/or gender identity posed an obstacle to securing a job. [Please see Figures 5 and 6 below]

When analysing data of those who claimed to be Cisgender lesbians, gay or bisexual men or women- it is evident that it is mostly the Cisgender lesbians (28.6%) who indicated that their sexual orientation or gender identity has been an issue when securing employment. Conversely, a higher percentage of respondents from the Cisgender bisexual men and women (87.5%) claim that their sexual orientation or gender identity has not been an obstacle when securing employment. [Please see Figure 5 below]

Interestingly, as for the Transgender community, nearly a majority (47.4%) indicate that their sexual orientation or gender identity has been an obstacle when securing employment which is a much higher percentage than when compared to the Cisgender respondents (16.9%). Although a higher percentage amongst those who are transgender heterosexuals (49.3%) are of the opinion that their sexual orientation and gender identity was an obstacle when securing employment – this perception is closely followed by respondents from the trans-lesbian and trans-gay communities. [Please see Figure 5 and 6 below]

Figure 5: If sexual orientation or gender identity has ever become an obstacle when securing a job among cisgender respondents

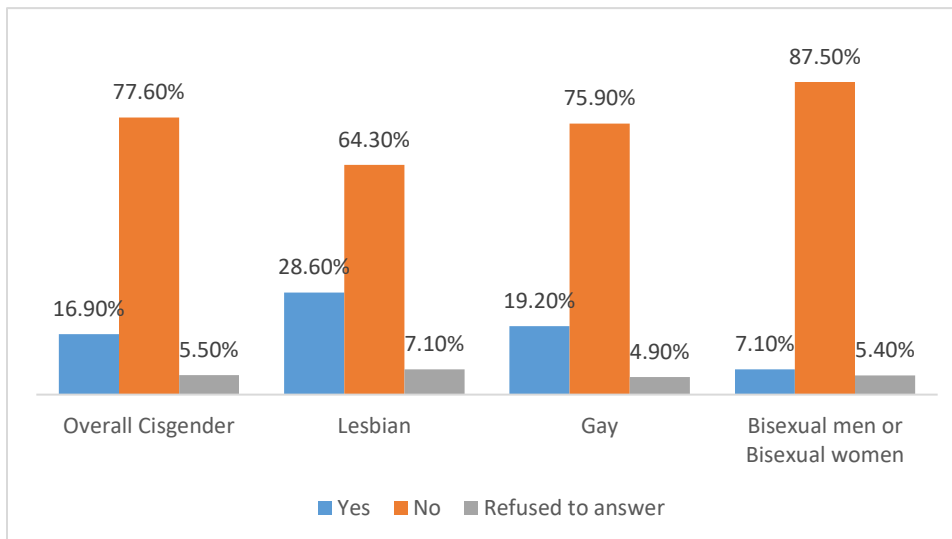
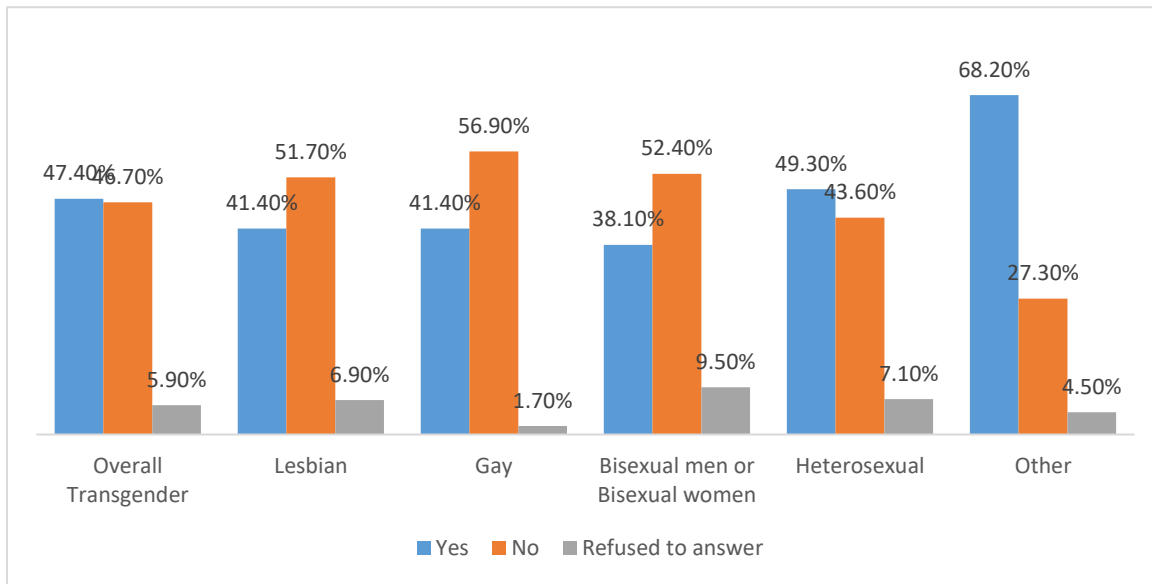




Figure 6: If sexual orientation or gender identity has ever become an obstacle when securing a job among transgender respondents



## Is Sexual orientation/gender identity an obstacle to get a competitive salary in the current or past workplace?

Overall, a significant proportion of both of Cisgender lesbian, gay, and bisexual (70.4%) and Transgender lesbian, gay, and bisexual men or women and heterosexual respondents (51.5%) are of the opinion that their sexual orientation or gender identity has not been an obstacle in getting a competitive salary either in their current or past places of work. [Please see Figure 7 below]

However, interestingly a higher percentage among the Transgender respondents (34.8%) claim to have faced obstacles in getting a competitive salary either in their current or past places of work - than when compared to the Cisgender respondents (16%). [Please see Figure 7 and 8 below]

From those who claim that they have faced obstacles in getting a competitive salary in their current or past workplace, it is mostly respondents who are transgender heterosexual (37.1%) or trans-gay (36.2%) who hold this view. [Please refer to Figure 8 below]

Figure 7: If sexual orientation and gender identity has been an obstacle to get a competitive salary at your current or in a past workplace among cisgender respondents

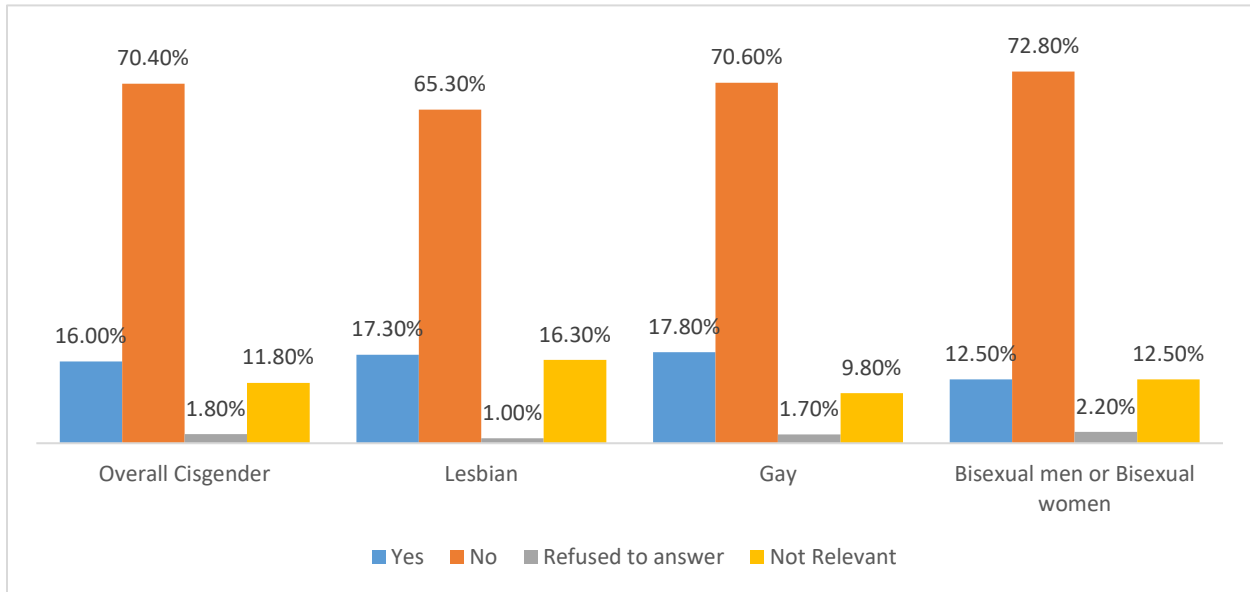
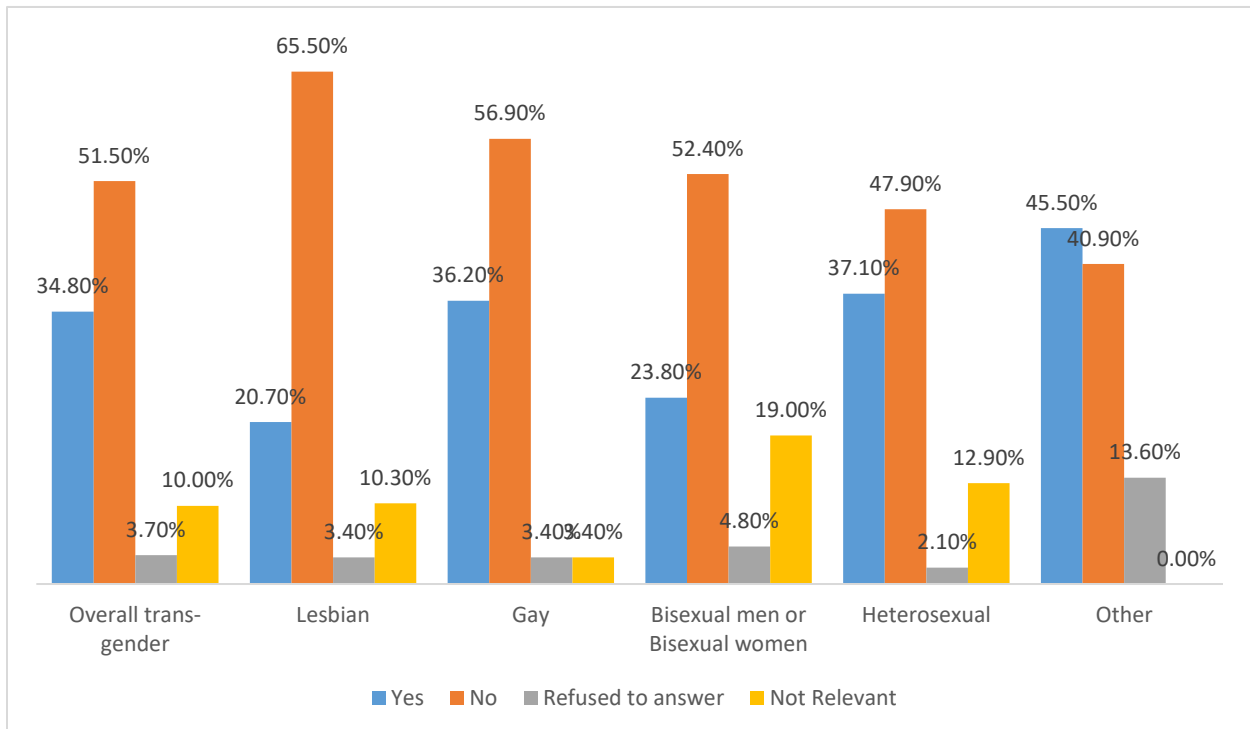


Figure 8: If sexual orientation and gender identity has been an obstacle to get a competitive salary at your current or in a past workplace among transgender respondents



## If currently employed, is your current job your desired form of employment or have you chosen this job due to a lack of options?

There appeared to be a similar pattern in responses from both the cisgender and transgender communities. As for the cisgender respondents, from those who indicated that *their current employment is not their desired one, but it is the only job that they could get* – a higher proportion amongst the cis-gay respondents hold this view. As for the transgender community, most respondents who were trans-lesbian (34.5%) or trans-gay (32.8%) were of the opinion that the jobs they are currently employed in are not their desired ones, but they are engaged in it, as it is the only one, they could get. From the transgender community, those who indicate that they have been pressured to engage in their current employment – it is mostly those from the trans-bisexual (men/women) who indicate the same. [Please refer to Tables 9 and 10 below]

Table 9: If currently employed, is your current job your desired form of employment or have you selected this job due to a lack of options among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Yes, this is my desired job	44.9%	52.0%	44.4%	41.8%
No, but I am doing this because this is the only job I was able to get	20.6%	12.2%	23.1%	21.2%
No, I have been pressured to engaged in this job	3.3%	3.1%	4.2%	2.2%
Not Relevant	23.9%	29.6%	21.0%	25.5%
Don't Know	7.2%	3.1%	7.3%	9.2%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 10: If currently employed, is your current job your desired form of employment or have you selected this job due to a lack of options among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Yes, this is my desired job	49.6%	24.1%	51.7%	38.1%	57.9%	36.4%
No, but I am doing this because this is the only job I was able to get	24.4%	34.5%	32.8%	23.8%	19.3%	22.7%
No, I have been pressured to engaged in this job	5.6%	3.4%	3.4%	9.5%	6.4%	4.5%
Not Relevant	16.3%	27.6%	8.6%	19.0%	14.3%	31.8%
Don't Know	4.1%	10.3%	3.4%	9.5%	2.1%	4.5%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

# 3

## Political Participation

*The respondents were provided with a selected list of political activities (from among the gamut of forms of political participation available) and were asked to indicate whether they had participated or not in any one of the mentioned. The research captured a few activities that could be considered critical when measuring the state of participatory democracy, and civic engagement that influences a system of governance that emphasizes the will of the people. Although this is not an exhaustive list, it provides a brief assessment on the sort of civic and political action people from this community opted to engage in.*

When analyzing the data, it is evident that respondents who were either Cisgender lesbian, gay or bisexual men or women appear to be more active than respondents from the Transgender (Trans-lesbians/ gay, bisexual men/ women and heterosexual) community in terms of participating in political meetings/ rallies held in their areas, participating in protests, meeting with a government official to either address an issue in their area or to lodge a complaint about an unjust experience/ discrimination faced. [Please see Tables 11 and 12 below]

*Table 11: Participation in various political activities among Cisgender Respondents*

<b>Cisgender</b>	<b>Yes %</b>	<b>No %</b>
Political meetings/rallies held in my area	45.1%	54.9%
Participated in a protest	50.9%	49.1%
Met with a government official to address an issue in my area	48.2%	51.8%
Met a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience that you had to face	26.4%	73.6
Base	568	

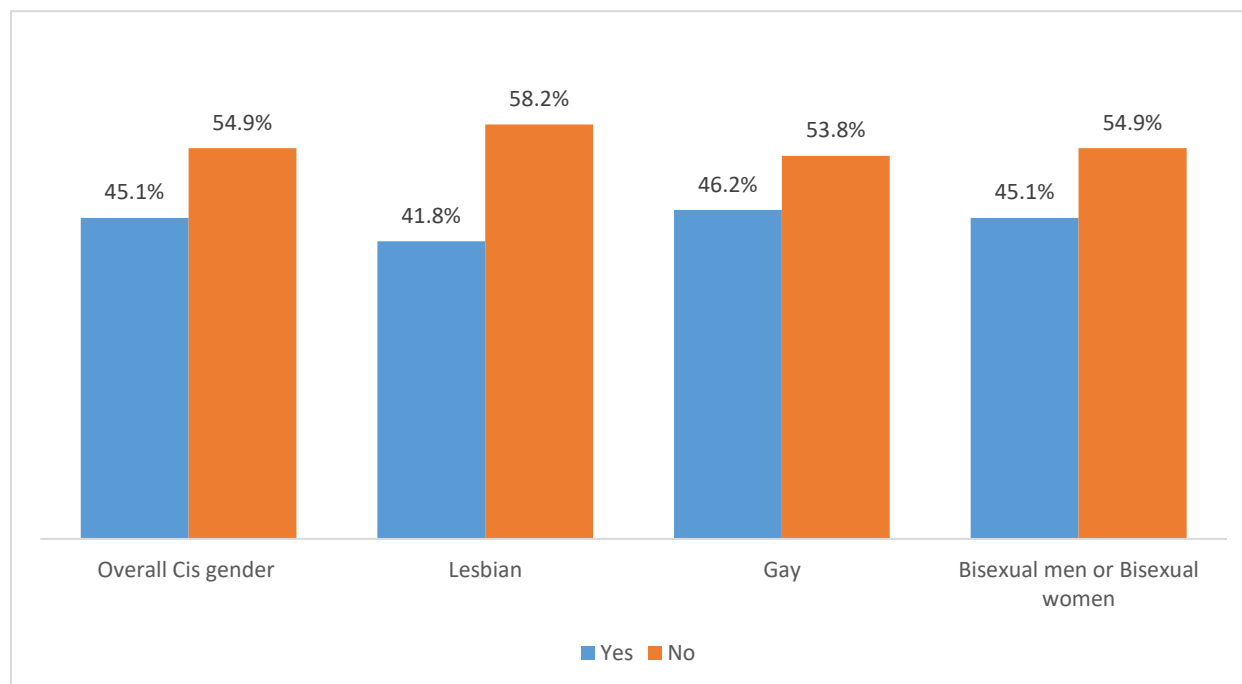
Table 12: Participation in various political activities among Transgender Respondents

Transgender	Yes	No
Political meetings/rallies held in my area	28.9%	71.1%
Participated in a protest	40.0%	60.0%
Met with a government official to address an issue in my area	33.7%	66.3%
Met a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience that you had to face	23.3%	76.7%
Base	270	

## Participation in political meetings/rallies

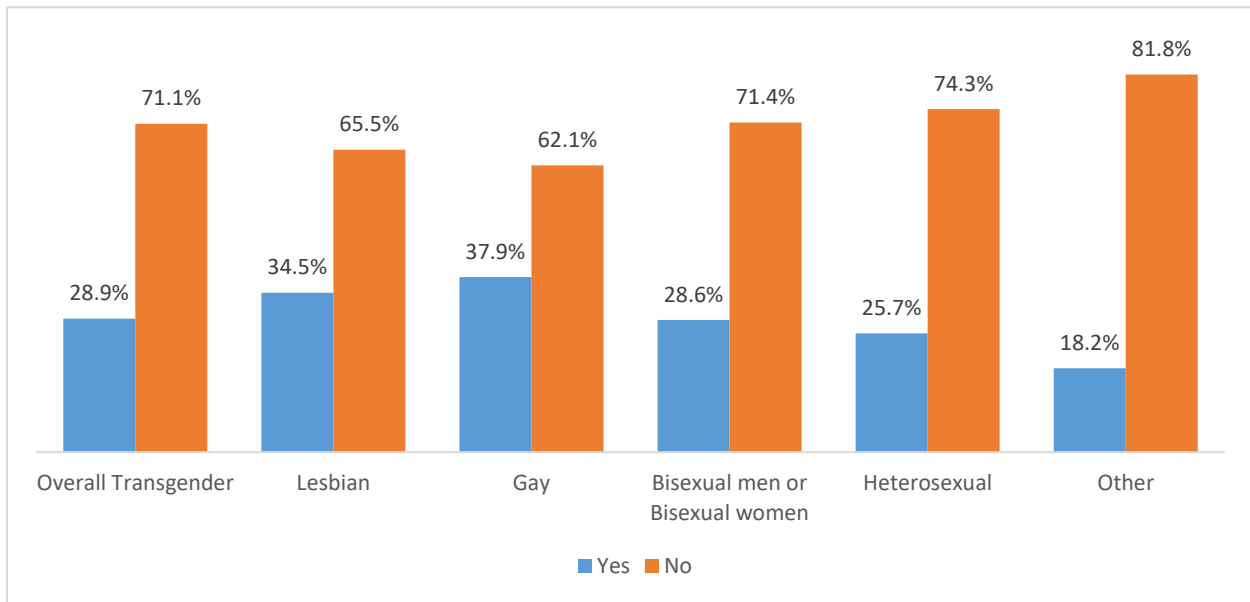
Whilst a higher percentage of respondents from the Transgender community indicated that they had not participated in political meetings/ rallies held in their respective areas - from the Cisgender respondents, it is mostly the Cis- lesbians (58.2%) and Cis- bisexual men/ women (54.9%) who held this view. As for the Transgender community, it is mostly respondents who were Trans-gay (62.1%) indicated the same.<sup>17</sup> [Please see Figure 9 and 10 below]

Figure 9: Participation in Political meetings/rallies among Cisgender Respondents



<sup>17</sup> Although the data analysis indicates a high percentage of 71.4% from the Trans-bisexual men or women respondents who are of the view that they have not participated in political meetings/ rallies in their area it must be noted that the base – the number of respondents who have responded to this question is 21.

Figure 10: Participation in Political meetings/rallies among Transgender Respondents



## Participation in protests

The data analysis highlights that a higher percentage of cisgender lesbians, gay and bisexual men or women are of the view that they have participated in protests. However, a higher percentage of respondents who are cisgender lesbians claim to have not participated in protests than when compared to the cisgender gay and bisexual men/women. As for the transgender community, a notable majority across the trans-lesbian, gay, bisexual men/ women and heterosexuals indicate that they have not participated in protests. [Please see Figure 11 and 12 below]

Figure 11: Participation in protests among Cisgender Respondents

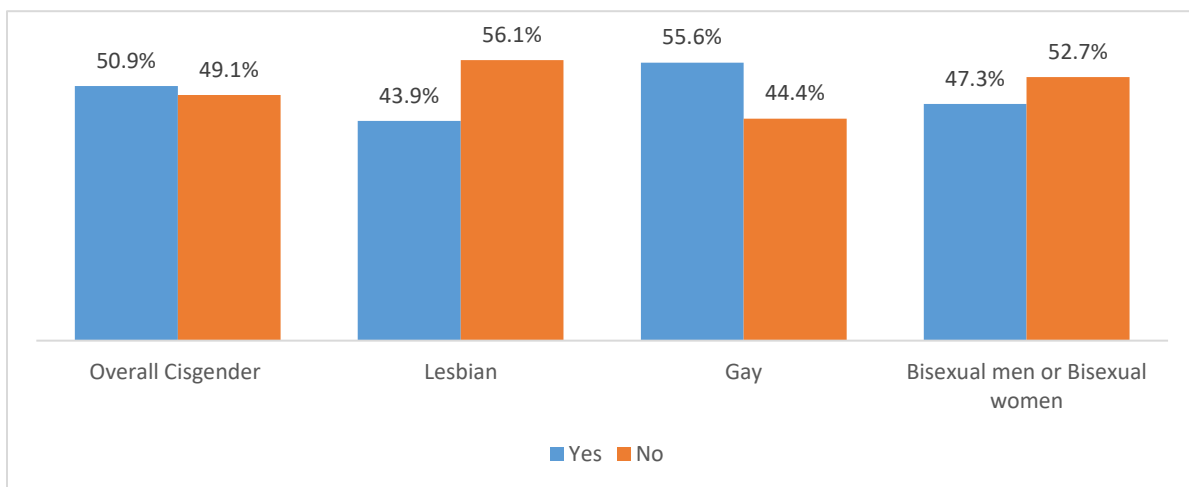
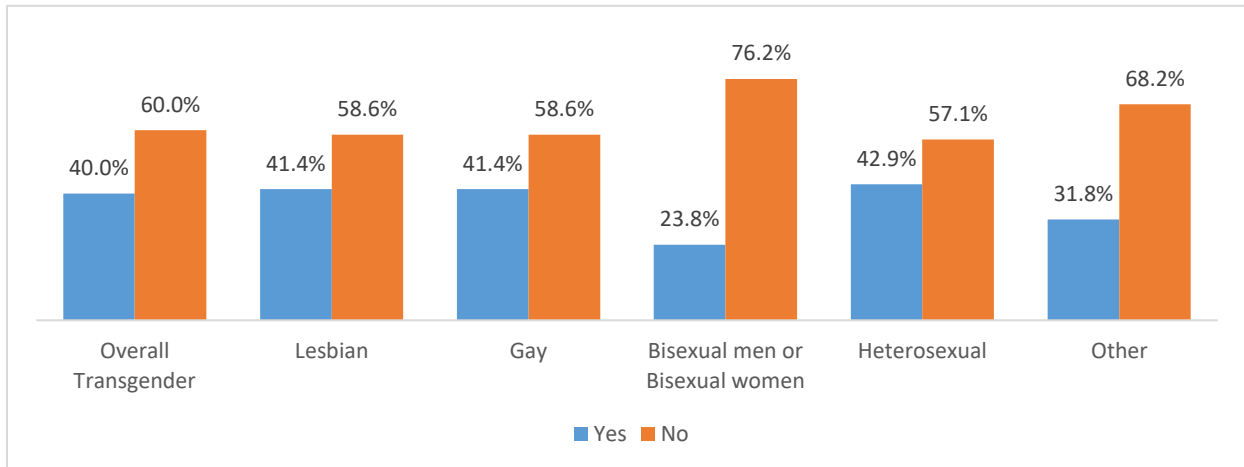


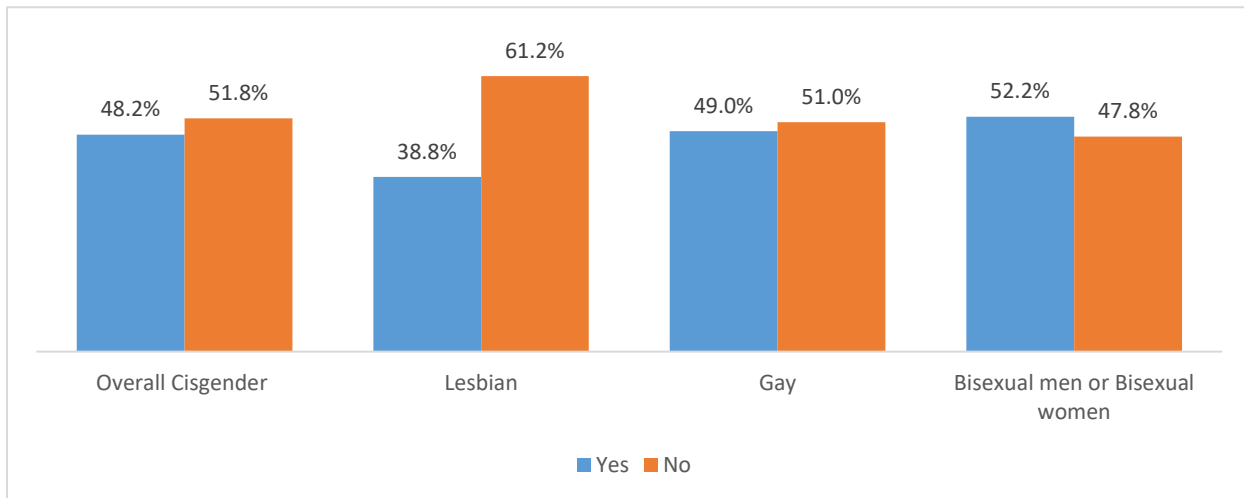


Figure 12: Participation in protests among Transgender Respondents



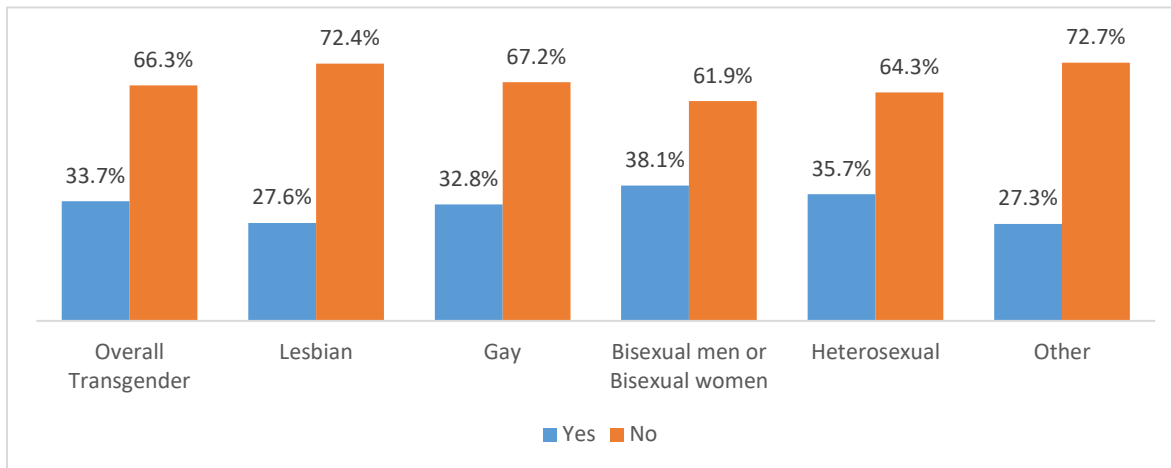
## Met with a government official to address an issue

A higher percentage of respondents among the cisgender community claim to have met a government official to address an issue in their area, than when compared to respondents from the Transgender community. It is mostly respondents who are cisgender lesbians (61.2%) who claim that they have not, although there is a considerable proportion amongst the respondents who are cisgender gay (51%) who hold this view. [Please see Figure 13 below]



Furthermore, a notable proportion of respondents who are trans-heterosexual and trans-gay indicate that they have not met with a government official to address an issue in their area. [Please see Figure 14 below]

Figure 13: Met with a government official to address an issue in their respective areas among Cisgender Respondents Figure 14:



Met with a government official to address an issue in their respective areas among Transgender Respondents

## Met a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience

A significant majority of respondents from the cisgender and transgender communities are of the view that they have not met with a government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience they have faced. From those who indicate that they have not, it is mostly the cis-lesbians and trans-heterosexuals, and trans-gay who hold this view. (Please see Figure 15 and 16 below)

Figure 15: Met a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience that you had to face among Cisgender Respondents

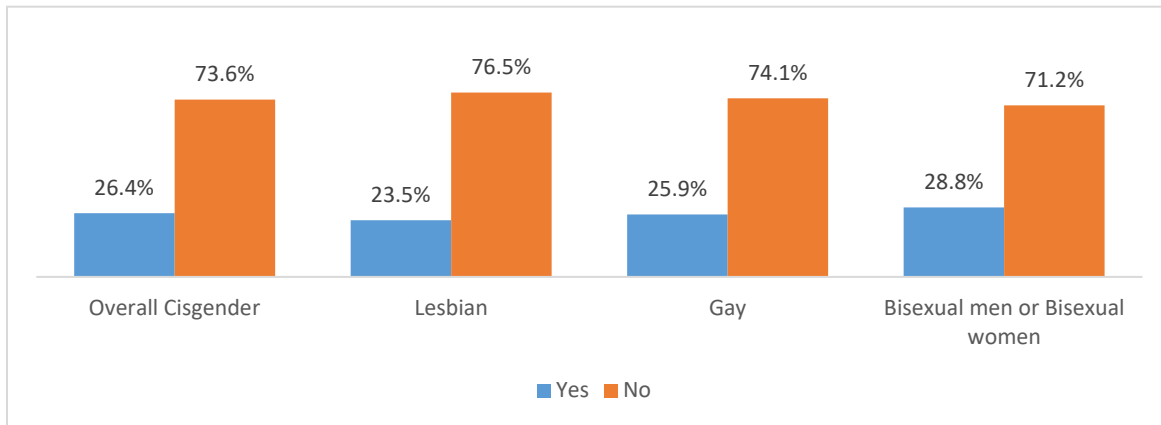
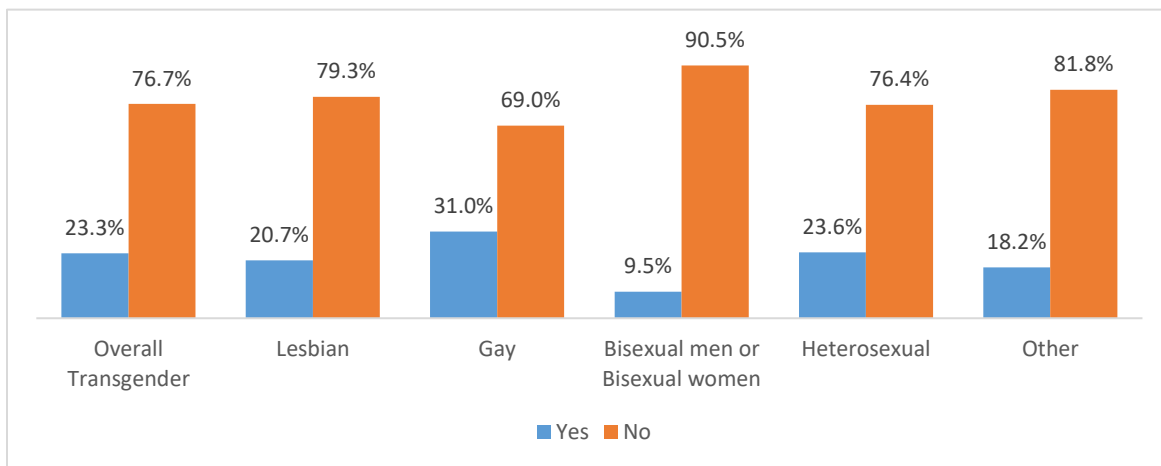


Figure 16: Met a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience that you had to face among Transgender Respondents



From those who indicated that they did not participate in either political meetings/ rallies in their area, protests, met with a government official to address an issue in their area or to lodge a complaint against discrimination or an unjust experience they'd had to face were asked to provide reasons as to why they did not to do so. A majority across both the cisgender (lesbian, gay and bisexual men/women) and transgender (lesbian, gay, bisexual men/women and heterosexual) communities were of the view that they were not interested in getting involved in the activities mentioned. However, overall, the respondents also claimed that they had a sense of social anxiety/ fear and also were afraid of being either physically or verbally abused – and as such, refrained from attending these. Interestingly it is respondents mostly from the cisgender lesbian, gay and bisexual communities who indicate that they have had pressure from either family or someone important/ close to them, and as such refrained from engaging in these activities. [Please see Tables 13 to 20 below]

Table 13: Reasons for not participating in Political meetings/rallies among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	82.3%	84.2%	80.4%	84.2%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	2.9%	5.3%	2.0%	3.0%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	4.5%	5.3%	5.2%	3.0%
Social anxiety / fear	9.3%	12.3%	9.8%	6.9%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	6.8%	14.0%	3.9%	6.9%
Other	5.8%	1.8%	7.8%	5.0%
Base	311	57	153	101

Table 14: Reasons for not participating in Political meetings/rallies among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	78.1%	94.7%	86.1%	93.3%	72.1%	66.7%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	7.3%	0.0%	8.3%	6.7%	6.7%	16.7%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	10.4%	0.0%	8.3%	6.7%	11.5%	22.2%
Social anxiety / fear	10.4%	5.3%	5.6%	0.0%	10.6%	33.3%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	6.3%	5.3%	2.8%	0.0%	6.7%	16.7%
Other	5.2%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%
Base	192	19	36	15	104	18

Table 15: Reasons for not participating in a protest among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	76.3%	70.9%	70.9%	86.6%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	5.0%	3.6%	7.1%	3.1%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	4.7%	5.5%	6.3%	2.1%
Social anxiety / fear	11.1%	10.9%	11.8%	10.3%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	11.5%	12.7%	12.6%	9.3%
Other	6.1%	7.3%	7.9%	3.1%
Base	279	55	127	97

Table 16: Reasons for not participating in a protest among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	75.3%	88.2%	79.4%	93.8%	67.5%	73.3%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	10.5%	0.0%	5.9%	6.3%	15.0%	13.3%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	10.5%	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	15.0%	20.0%
Social anxiety / fear	9.9%	0.0%	8.8%	6.3%	8.8%	33.3%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	4.9%	5.9%	2.9%	0.0%	6.3%	6.7%
Other	4.3%	5.9%	5.9%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Base	162	17	34	16	80	15

Table 17: Reasons for not meeting a government official to address an issue in the area among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	74.1%	71.7%	73.3%	77.3%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	2.4%	3.3%	1.4%	3.4%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	3.4%	6.7%	4.1%	0.0%
Social anxiety / fear	8.8%	8.3%	10.3%	6.8%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	6.8%	6.7%	6.2%	8.0%
Other	9.5%	10.0%	11.0%	6.8%
No trust in Sri Lanka politics	3.7%	5.0%	2.7%	4.5%
Base	294	60	146	88

Table 18: Reasons for not meeting a government official to address an issue in the area among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	71.5%	81.0%	71.8%	76.9%	72.2%	50.0%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	5.0%	4.8%	0.0%	15.4%	4.4%	12.5%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	9.5%	0.0%	2.6%	15.4%	12.2%	18.8%
Social anxiety / fear	10.6%	9.5%	15.4%	15.4%	4.4%	31.3%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	6.1%	4.8%	0.0%	7.7%	6.7%	18.8%
Other	7.3%	4.8%	10.3%	0.0%	8.9%	0.0%
No trust in Sri Lanka politics	3.4%	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%	2.2%	12.5%
Base	179	21	39	13	90	16

Table 19: Reasons for not meeting a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience that you had to face among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	69.1%	69.3%	66.0%	74.0%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	4.8%	10.7%	3.3%	3.8%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	6.2%	12.0%	6.1%	3.1%
Social anxiety / fear	12.0%	12.0%	11.3%	13.0%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	9.8%	14.7%	10.4%	6.1%
Other	2.2%	1.3%	2.8%	1.5%
No reason to meet a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience	6.7%	1.3%	7.5%	8.4%
Lack of trust in proper solution by politicians	1.9%	1.3%	2.4%	1.5%
Base	418	75	212	131

Table 20: Reasons for not meeting a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience that you had to face among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual man or Bisexual woman	Heterosexual	Other
I am not interested in getting involved in any political activity of that sort	72.9%	78.3%	67.5%	89.5%	71.0%	72.2%
I am scared that I will be physically abused	8.2%	13.0%	2.5%	5.3%	9.3%	11.1%
I am scared that I will be verbally abused	7.2%	8.7%	2.5%	10.5%	6.5%	16.7%
Social anxiety / fear	5.8%	8.7%	5.0%	10.5%	1.9%	22.2%
My family or somebody important to me told me not to take part	5.8%	8.7%	2.5%	0.0%	5.6%	16.7%
Other (specify)	2.9%	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%
No reason to meet a politician or government official to lodge a complaint about discrimination or an unjust experience	9.2%	8.7%	15.0%	0.0%	10.3%	0.0%
Lack of trust in proper solution by politicians	0.5%	0.0%	2.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Base	207	23	40	19	107	18

## Interest in Politics

Across both the cis-lesbians, cis-gay and cis- bisexual men / women and transgender-lesbians, transgender -gay and transgender -bisexual men/ women there is a notable percentage who indicate that they are not interested in politics. [Please see Figure 17 and 18 below]

Figure 17: Interest in Politics among Cisgender Respondents

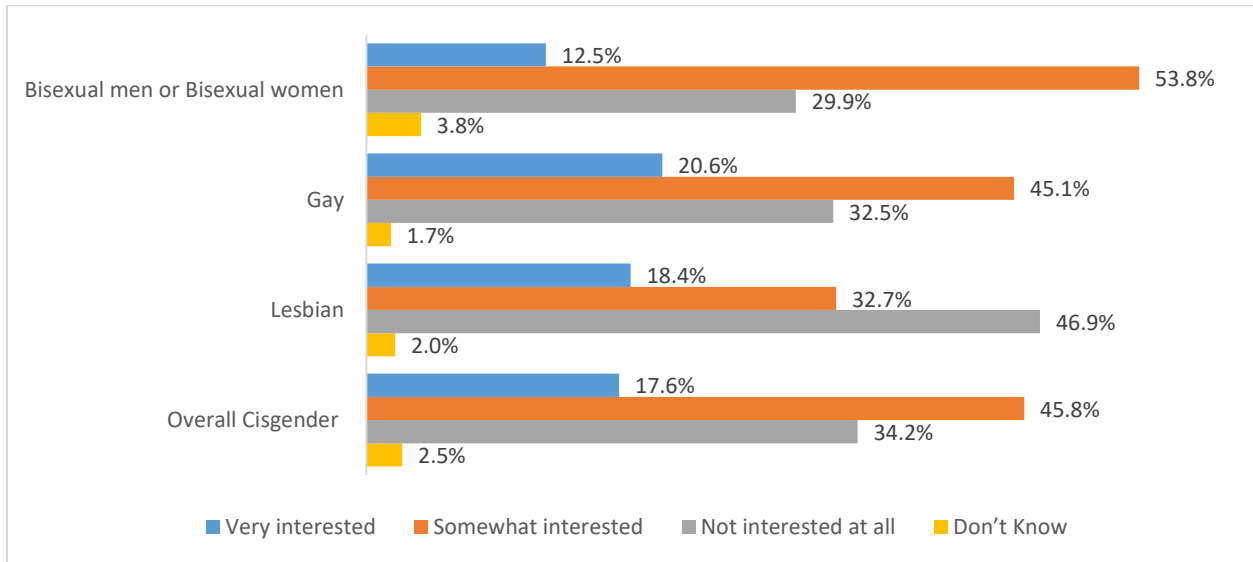
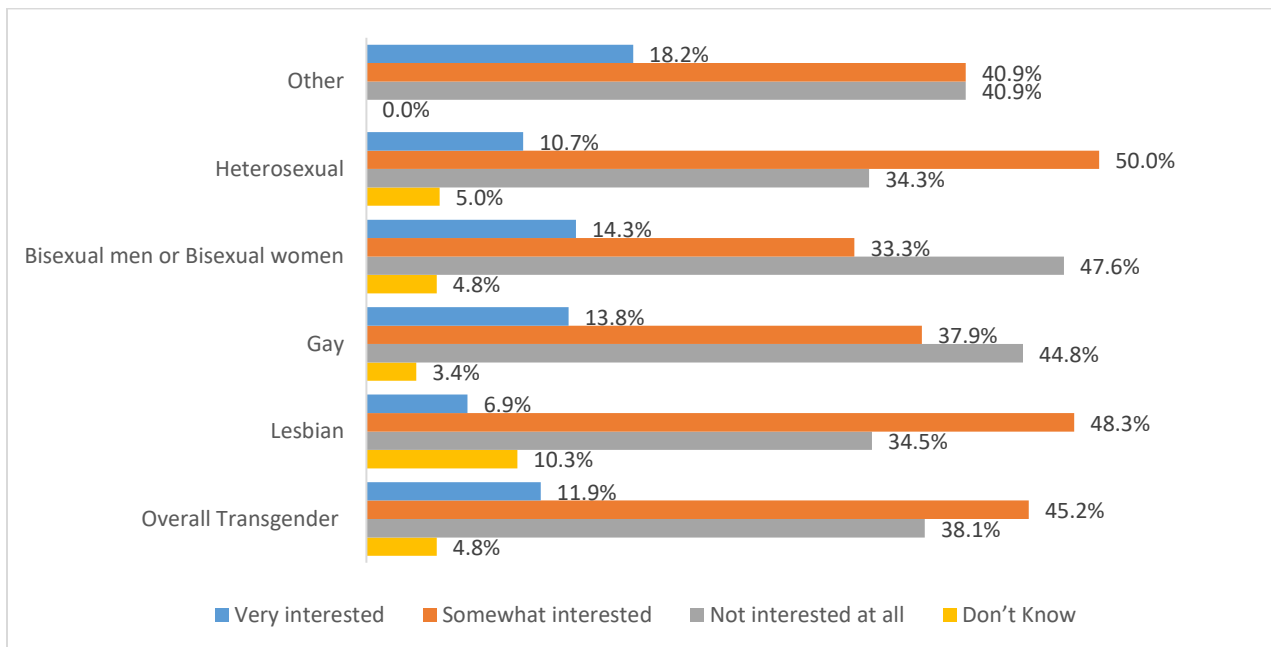


Figure 18: Interest in Politics among Transgender Respondents



## Participation in elections

A majority from both the cisgender lesbian, gay and bisexual (both men/ women) and transgender lesbian, gay, bisexual (both men/ women) and heterosexual respondents have participated in the Parliamentary elections held in August 2020. From those who indicated that they have not participated in the Parliamentary elections held in August 2020, a higher percentage of respondents are from the transgender community. [Please see Figures 19 and 20 below]

Figure 19: Participation in 2020 elections among Cisgender Respondents

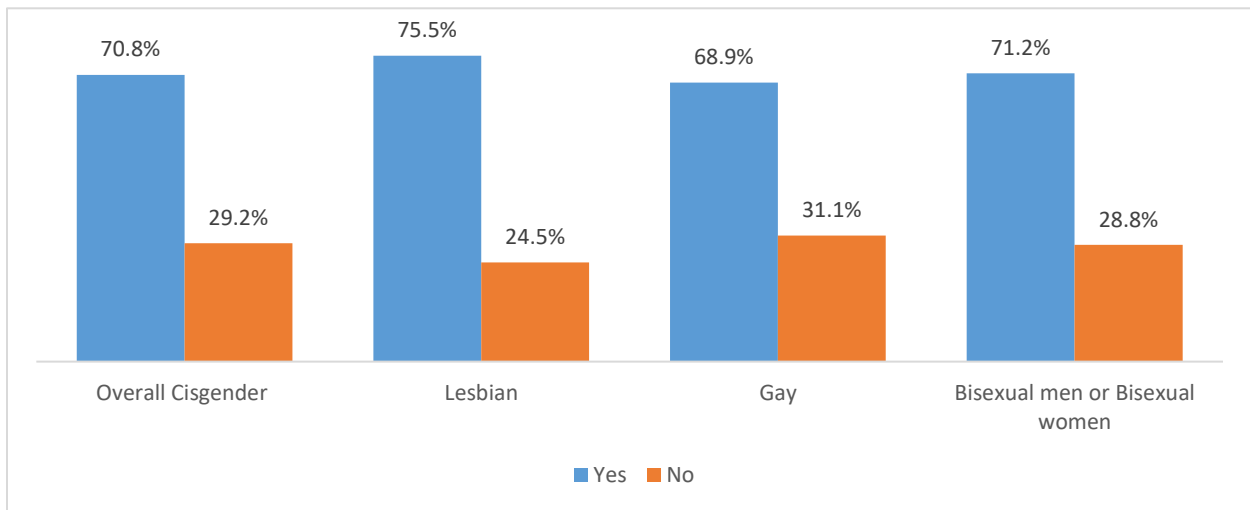
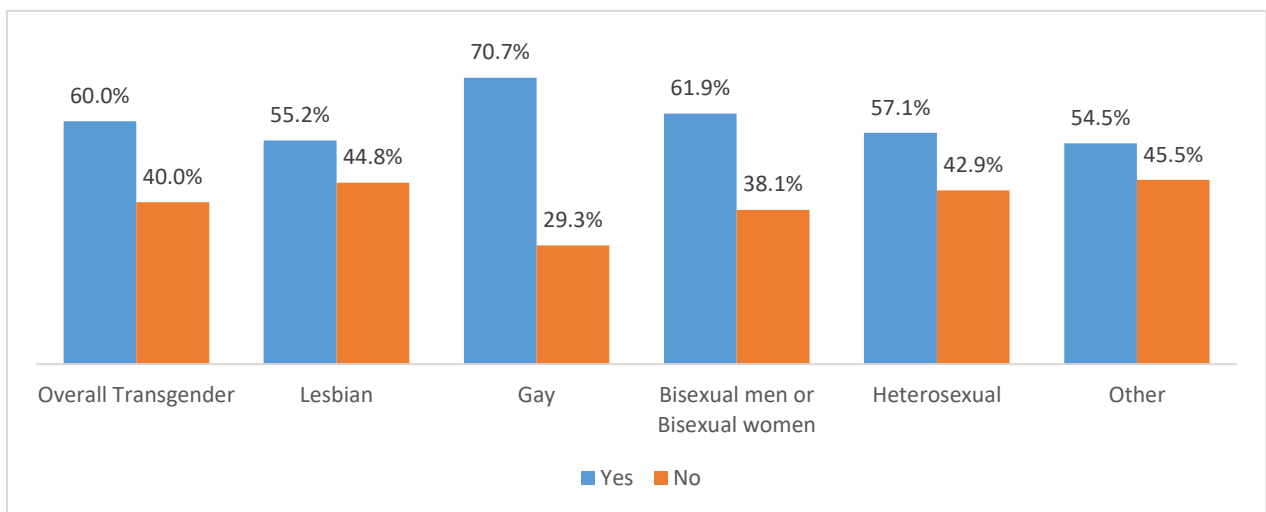


Figure 20: Participation in 2020 elections among Transgender Respondents





## Difficulties faced when voting

From those who indicated that they voted in the Parliamentary elections held in August 2020, a majority of respondents among both the cisgender (lesbian, gay and bisexual) and transgender (lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual) communities are of the view that they have not faced any difficulties when voting – comparatively, a slightly higher percentage among the transgender community claim to have faced difficulties when voting as opposed to those from the cisgender (lesbian, gay and bisexual) community. [Please see Figures 21 and 22 below]

Figure 21: Difficulties faced when voting at the 2020 election among Cisgender Respondents

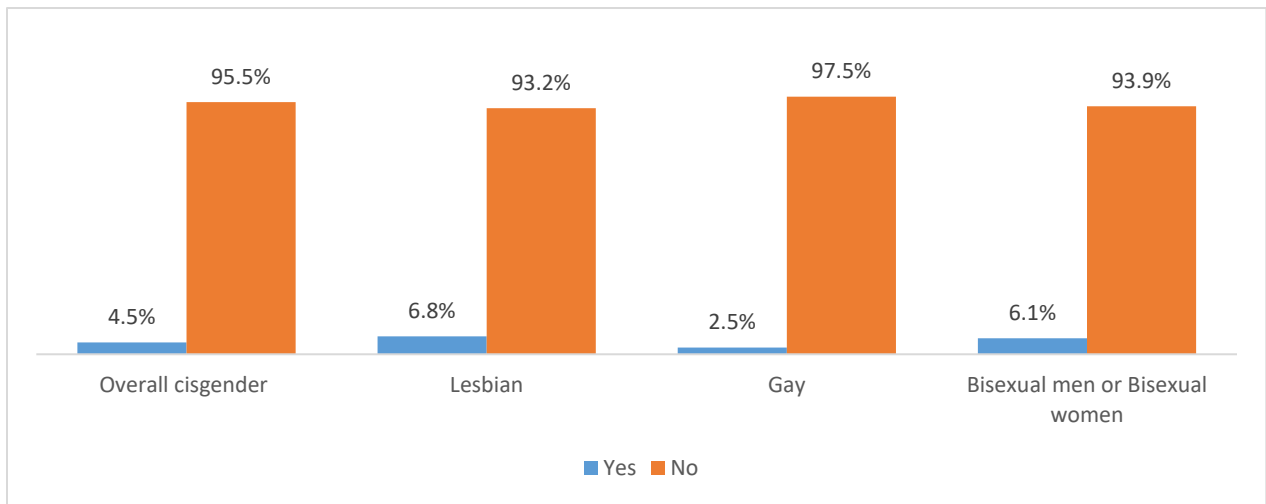
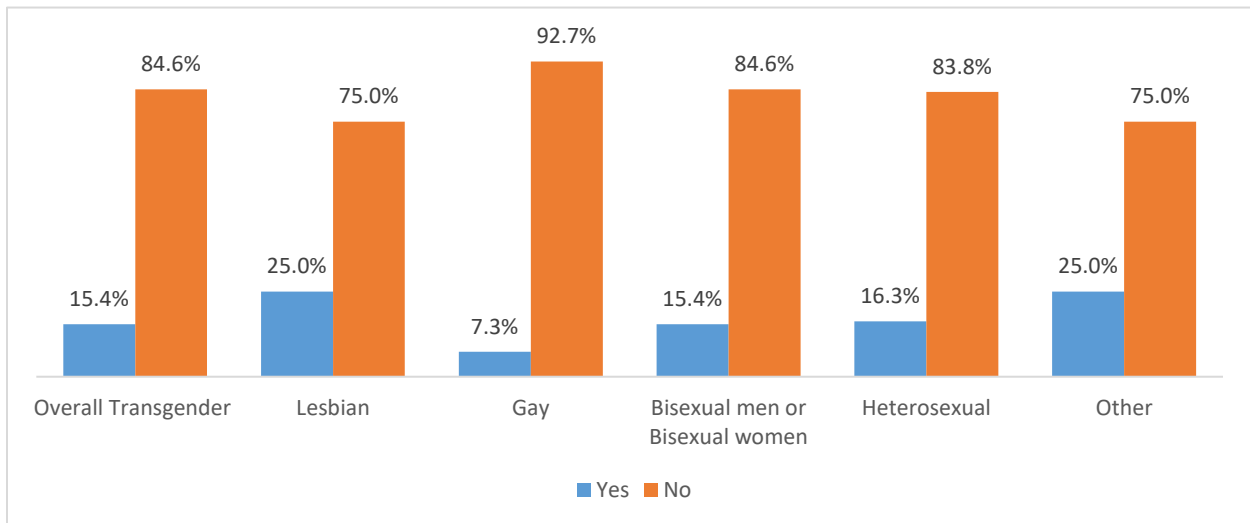


Figure 22: Difficulties faced when voting at the 2020 election among Transgender Respondents



From those who chose to explain the sort of difficulties they faced when voting during the last election (August 2020) revealed that they faced issues pertaining to discrimination due to their

gender identity and sexual orientation, and experienced a sense of lack of freedom. [Please see Tables 21 and 22 below]

Table 21: Types of Difficulties faced when voting at the 2020 Election among Cisgender Respondents<sup>18</sup>

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Other	33.3%	40.0%	20.0%	37.5%
Lack of freedom	33.3%	20.0%	60.0%	25.0%
Discrimination and harassment because of gender identity and sexual orientation.	33.3%	40.0%	20.0%	37.5%
Base	18	5	5	8

Table 22: Types of Difficulties faced when voting at the 2020 Election among Transgender Respondents<sup>19</sup>

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Other	20.0%	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%	15.4%	33.3%
Lack of freedom	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
Discrimination and harassment because of gender identity and sexual orientation.	80.0%	100.0%	66.7%	50.0%	84.6%	66.7%
Base	25	4	3	2	13	3

From those who indicated that they did not vote in the Parliamentary elections held in August 2020 – a higher proportion of respondents from the transgender community (25%) than when compared to the cisgender respondents (14.5%) are of the view that they could not vote as they were not in possession of any form of identification that depicted their gender identity or gender expression. It is mostly respondents from the cisgender community (14.5%) who indicate that they are not interested in politics/ politicians and as a result did not vote as opposed to respondents from the transgender community (2.8%). It is mostly respondents from the cis-gay (18%) and cis-bisexual (both men/women) (15.1%) who indicate that they have no interest in politics or politicians. Additionally, a notable percentage across both the cisgender lesbians, gay and transgender lesbians, gay and heterosexuals are of the view that they have been sexually abused by persons at

<sup>18</sup> It must be noted that the number of respondents who answered this question was low.

<sup>19</sup> It must be noted that the number of respondents who answered this question was low.

the polling station on previous occasions, and as a result did not vote in the August 2020 Parliamentary elections. [Please see Tables 23 and 24 below]

Table 23: Reasons for not voting at the 2020 Election among Cisgender Respondents

Reasons for non-participation	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
I could not vote as I did not have any form of identification that depicts my gender identity and gender expression	14.5%	8.3%	13.5%	18.9%
I have to vote in my area, but I have/ had to abandon it due to my sexual orientation, hence I could not vote	0.6%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
I have to vote in my area, but I have/ had to abandon it due to my gender identity and gender expression,	6.0%	0.0%	4.5%	11.3%
I have societal fear/ social anxiety to visit a polling station because of my gender identity and gender expression	2.4%	4.2%	1.1%	3.8%
I have societal fear/ social anxiety to visit a polling station because of my sexual orientation	1.8%	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%
My family does not allow me to cast my vote	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%
As I was underage at the time, I could not vote	40.4%	58.3%	39.3%	34.0%
My name is not represented in the voters' registry	15.7%	16.7%	12.4%	20.8%
I have been previously verbally abused by persons at the polling station	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
I have been previously sexually abused by persons at the polling station	7.2%	8.3%	10.1%	1.9%
No interest in politics/Politicians	14.5%	0.0%	18.0%	15.1%
Was abroad	4.2%	0.0%	5.6%	3.8%
No suitable candidate to vote for	1.2%	0.0%	1.1%	1.9%
Other	6.0%	0.0%	7.9%	5.7%
Base	166	24	89	53

Table 24: Reasons for not voting at the 2020 Election among Transgender Respondents

Reasons for non-participation	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
I could not vote as I did not have any form of identification that depicts my gender identity and gender expression	25.0%	23.1%	11.8%	50.0%	30.0%	0.0%
I have to vote in my area, but I have/ had to abandon it due to my sexual orientation, hence I could not vote	8.3%	7.7%	5.9%	0.0%	8.3%	20.0%
I have to vote in my area, but I have/ had to abandon it due to my gender identity and gender expression,	13.9%	0.0%	11.8%	0.0%	21.7%	0.0%
I have societal fear/ social anxiety to visit a polling station because of my gender identity and gender expression	8.3%	0.0%	5.9%	12.5%	11.7%	0.0%
I have societal fear/ social anxiety to visit a polling station because of my sexual orientation	4.6%	0.0%	11.8%	0.0%	3.3%	10.0%
My family does not allow me to cast my vote	5.6%	7.7%	5.9%	0.0%	5.0%	10.0%
As I was underage at the time, I could not vote	36.1%	23.1%	47.1%	50.0%	33.3%	40.0%
My name is not represented in the voters' registry	4.6%	15.4%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%
I have been previously verbally abused by persons at the polling station	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%
I have been previously mentally abused by persons at the polling station	1.9%	0.0%	5.9%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%
I have been previously sexually abused by persons at the polling station	9.3%	15.4%	17.6%	0.0%	6.7%	10.0%
No interest in politics/Politicians	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.3%	10.0%
Was abroad	3.7%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Other	1.9%	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%
Base	108	13	17	8	60	10

# 4

## Judicial System and Rule of Law

*This section explores the experiences of both cisgender and transgender individuals with law enforcement agencies – such as courts and the police. Data highlights perceptions pertaining to interactions with the police and courts, reasons for those interactions, treatment received, avoidance of seeking assistance from police and courts, and perceptions regarding disclosing gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation when seeking legal matters.*

### Experience with Police

A majority of respondents from both the cisgender community (59%) and transgender community (62.6%) claim that they have had experiences with interacting with the Police. From the cisgender community it is mostly respondents from the cis-gay community (60.8%) who indicate that they have, whilst from the transgender community it is mostly those from the trans-gay (70.7%) and trans-heterosexual communities (65%) who indicate that they have had interactions with the Police in the past. [Please see Figures 23 and 24 below]

Figure 23: Experience interacting with the Police among Cisgender respondents

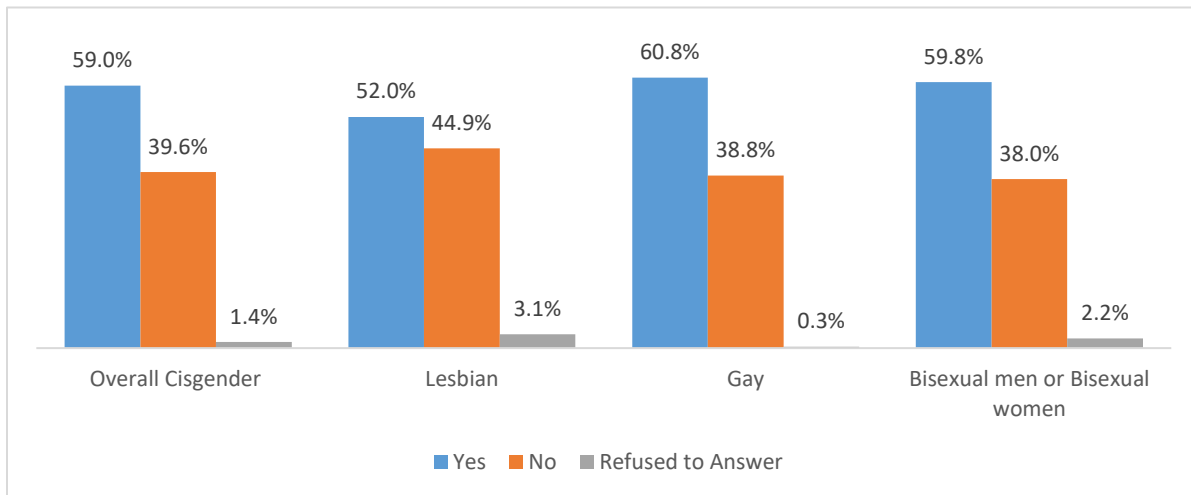
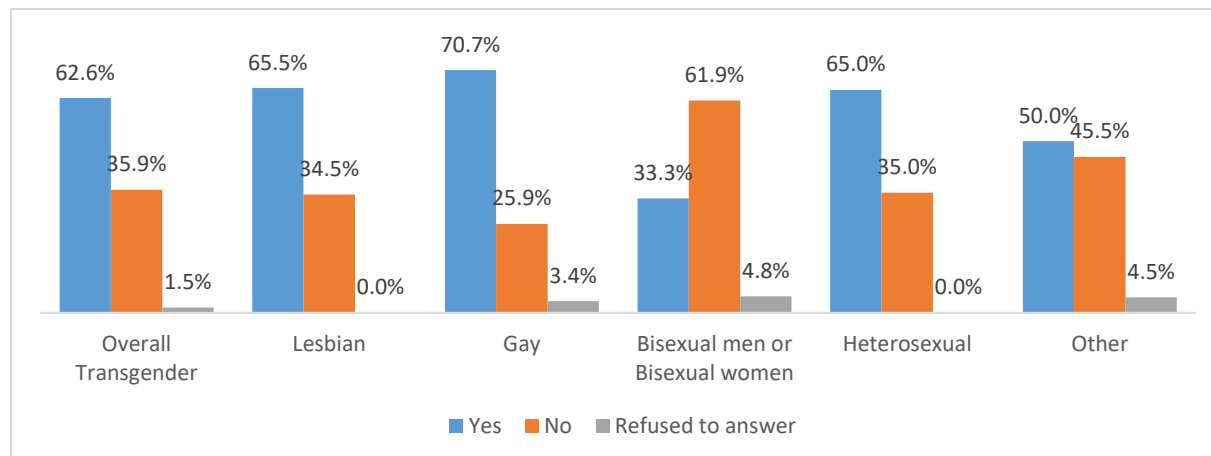


Figure 24: Experience interacting with the Police among Transgender respondents



### Reasons for the last interaction with Police:

When asked about the reason for their last interaction with the Police, a higher percentage of respondents from the cisgender lesbian (68.6%), gay (76.4%), and bisexual (78.2%) communities indicated that they approached the Police. From those who indicated that the Police approached them (i.e. arrested by the police etc.) it is mostly respondents who are cisgender-bisexuals (both men/women) who hold this view. From respondents who claimed that they were taken to the Police by someone else, it is mostly cisgender gay respondents who hold this view.

When asked about the reasons for interacting with the Police, more respondents from the transgender lesbian (68.4%), bisexual (85.7%), and heterosexual (62.6%) communities indicate that they approached the Police. Furthermore, 14.3% of transgender bisexual respondents claim that they were taken to the Police by someone else, which is a higher percentage of respondents when compared with the transgender lesbian (10.5%), gay (9.8%), and heterosexual (11.0%) communities who indicate the same. [Please see Tables 25 and 26 below]

Table 25: Reason for the last interaction with the Police among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
You approached the police (eg: To get a police certificate or for any other purpose)	75.8%	68.6%	76.4%	78.2%
Police approached me (eg: Arrested by the police)	11.3%	11.8%	10.3%	12.7%
I was taken to the police by someone else	6.0%	3.9%	7.5%	4.5%
Other	0.3%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Refused to answer	6.6%	13.7%	5.7%	4.5%
Base	335	51	174	110

Table 26: Reason for the last interaction with Police among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
You approached the police (eg: To get a police certificate or for any other purpose)	59.8%	68.4%	48.8%	85.7%	62.6%	45.5%
Police approached me (eg: Arrested by the police)	23.7%	15.8%	36.6%	0.0%	23.1%	9.1%
I was taken to the police by someone else	11.2%	10.5%	9.8%	14.3%	11.0%	18.2%
Other	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%
Refused to answer	4.7%	5.3%	4.9%	0.0%	2.2%	27.3%
Base	169	19	41	7	91	11

## Treatment by Police

While a majority of respondents across both the cisgender and transgender community are of the view that they have been treated well or somewhat well – from respondents who indicated that they have been treated badly, it is mostly respondents from the Transgender community who hold this view. From the cisgender respondents, it was mostly cis-gay respondents who indicated they were treated badly. From the transgender community, it was mostly respondents who were trans-heterosexuals and trans-gay who held this view. [Please see Figures 25 and 26 below]

Figure 25: Treatment by the Police during the last interaction among Cisgender Respondents

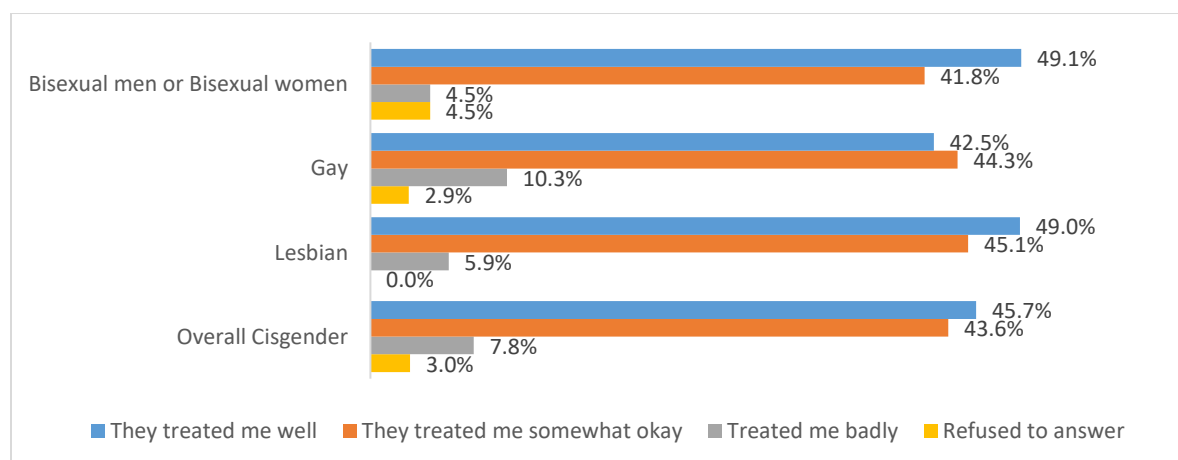
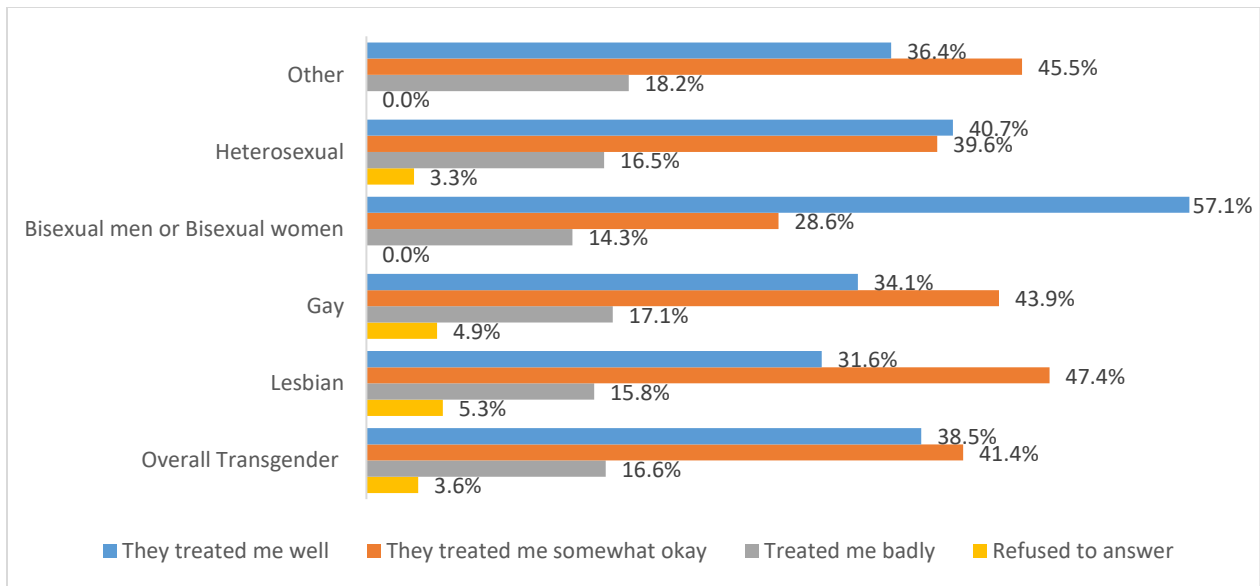


Figure 26: Treatment by the Police during the last interaction among Transgender Respondents



### What did you do if you were treated badly?

From those who were treated badly, a majority of respondents from the cisgender community (50%) indicated that they did not do anything about the negative treatment they experienced with the Police. Nearly 30% indicated that they did not know what to do – and were helpless. Similarly, this pattern is evident across the transgender community as well. [Please see Tables 27 and 28 below]

Table 27: What did you do if treated badly among? by Respondents<sup>20</sup>

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Complained to the senior police officers	11.5%	0.0%	11.1%	20.0%
Spoke to someone in order to seek third party assistance	19.2%	0.0%	22.2%	20.0%
I did not do anything	50.0%	100.0%	38.9%	60.0%
I did not know what to do, I was helpless in that situation	26.9%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%
Base	26	3	18	5

<sup>20</sup> It must be noted that the number of respondents who answered this question was low.



Table 28: What did you do if treated badly? by Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Complained to the senior police officers	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	26.7%	50.0%
Spoke to someone in order to seek third party assistance	14.3%	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	13.3%	0.0%
I did not do anything	35.7%	66.7%	28.6%	100.0%	26.7%	50.0%
I did not know what to do, I was helpless in that situation	35.7%	33.3%	42.9%	100.0%	33.3%	0.0%
Base	28	3	7	1	15	2

### Avoided going to the Police:

A majority of respondents from both the cisgender and transgender communities are of the view that if they have not avoided going to the Police to seek their assistance. From those who indicate that they have avoided going to the Police to seek their assistance, it is mostly respondents from the cisgender lesbian and trans-gay communities who indicate the same. [Please see Figures 27 and 28 below]

Figure 27: If avoided going to the Police? by Cisgender Respondents

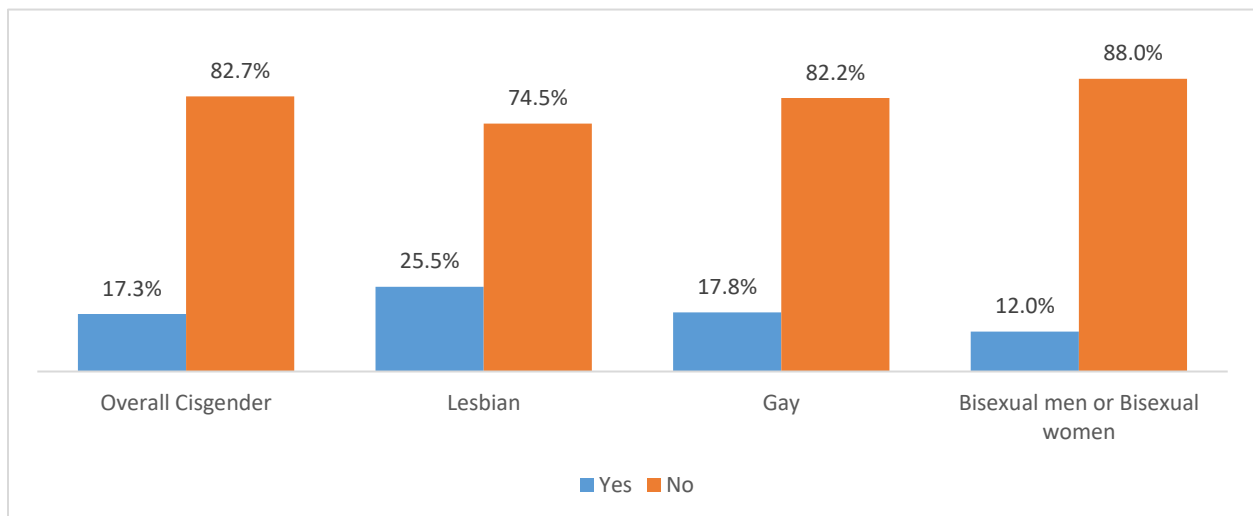
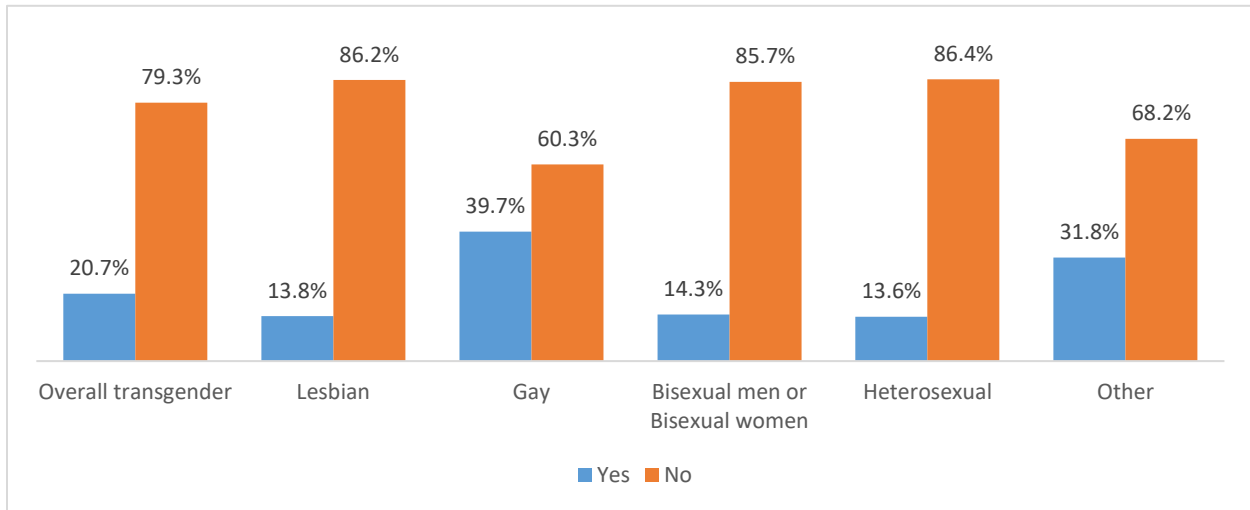


Figure 28: If avoided going to the Police? by Transgender Respondents



### Reasons for avoiding the Police

From the respondents who avoided going to the Police despite having a need to - most respondents from the cisgender community (44%) claim that they did so, as they did not feel comfortable going to the Police, followed by nearly 30% of respondents indicating that they felt unsafe because for their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression and nearly 24% claimed that revealing their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression would be disadvantageous to them and hence refrained from seeking assistance from the Police. [Please refer to Table 29 below]

Table 29: Reasons for avoiding the Police among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Feeling unsafe because of my sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression	29.6%	36.0%	29.4%	22.7%
Revealing my sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression would be disadvantageous	23.5%	28.0%	21.6%	22.7%
I did not feel comfortable going to the police	43.9%	44.0%	51.0%	27.3%
I did not know the procedure to fulfil my need	12.2%	4.0%	9.8%	27.3%
Not having sufficient financial resources	12.2%	4.0%	19.6%	4.5%
Other	3.1%	8.0%	0.0%	4.5%
Lack of trust in police procedures	6.1%	4.0%	3.9%	13.6%
Base	98	25	51	22

As for the transgender community, while a majority of respondents (55.4%) were of the view that they felt unsafe because of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression – nearly 40% were of the view that revealing their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression would be disadvantageous to them. Almost 30% were of the view that they did not feel comfortable in going to the Police and as such refrained from doing so. [Please refer to Table 30 below]

Table 30: Reasons for avoiding the Police among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Feeling unsafe because of my sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression	55.4%	50.0%	52.2%	66.7%	57.9%	57.1%
Revealing my sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression would be disadvantageous	39.3%	50.0%	34.8%	33.3%	36.8%	57.1%
I did not feel comfortable going to the police	28.6%	50.0%	21.7%	0.0%	31.6%	42.9%
I did not know the procedure to fulfil my need	14.3%	0.0%	17.4%	0.0%	15.8%	14.3%
Not having sufficient financial resources	8.9%	0.0%	8.7%	0.0%	10.5%	14.3%
Lack of trust in police procedures	3.6%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%
Base	56	4	23	3	19	7

### Seeking assistance from somewhere else if did not go to Police

From the respondents who indicated that they avoided going to the Police despite having a need to – a majority across both the cisgender and transgender communities indicate that they did not seek any assistance elsewhere be it from an individual or an organization. From the cisgender community it is mostly respondents who are cis-gay (75%) and trans-gay (47.8%) who are of the view that they avoided going to the Police despite having a need to – and they also did not seek assistance from either an individual or organization. [Please refer to Figure 29 and Table 31 below]

Figure 29: Did you seek assistance from elsewhere? by Cisgender Respondents

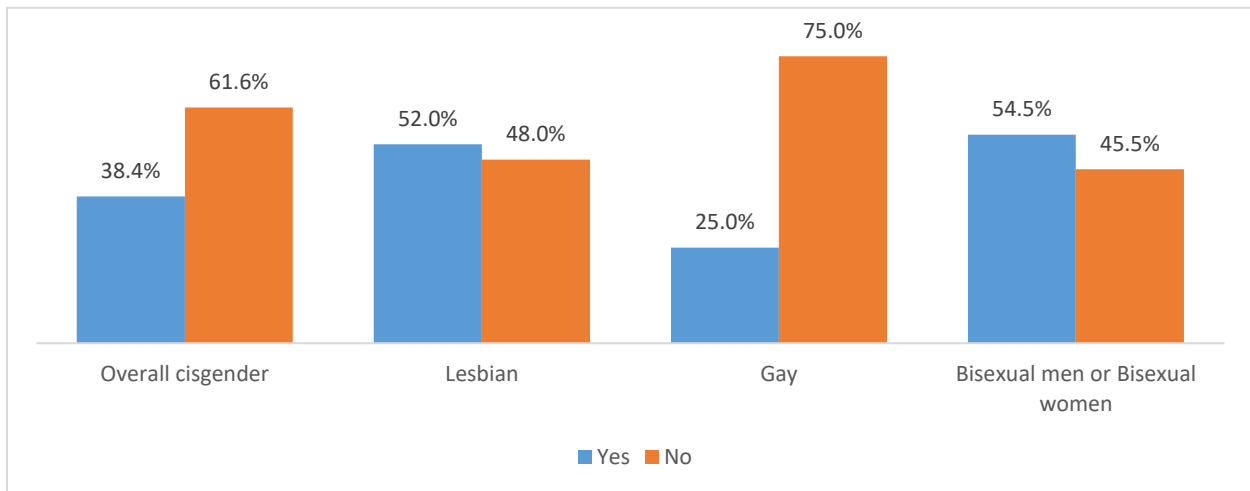


Table 31: Did you seek assistance from elsewhere? by Transgender Respondents<sup>21</sup>

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Yes	46.4%	25.0%	52.2%	100.0%	36.8%	42.9%
No	53.6%	75.0%	47.8%	0.0%	63.2%	57.1%
Base	56	4	23	3	19	7

<sup>21</sup> It must be noted that the number of respondents who answered this question was low.

## Experience with Court

More than 65% of respondents from both the cisgender and transgender communities claim that they have not gone to courts – nearly one third are of the opinion that they have visited the courts. [Please refer to Figures 30 and 31 below]

Figure 30: Experience interacting with the Courts among Cisgender Respondents

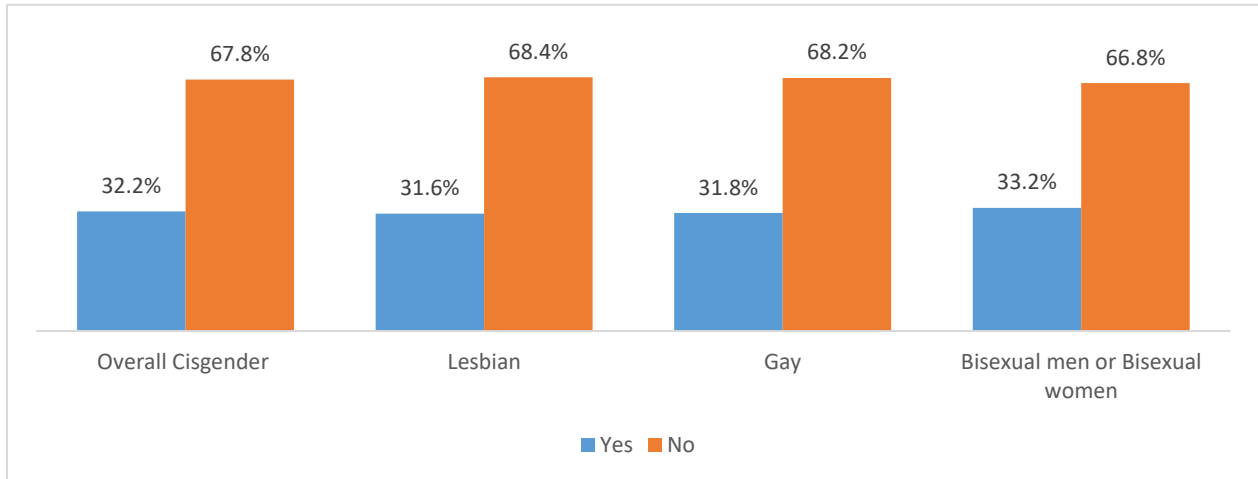
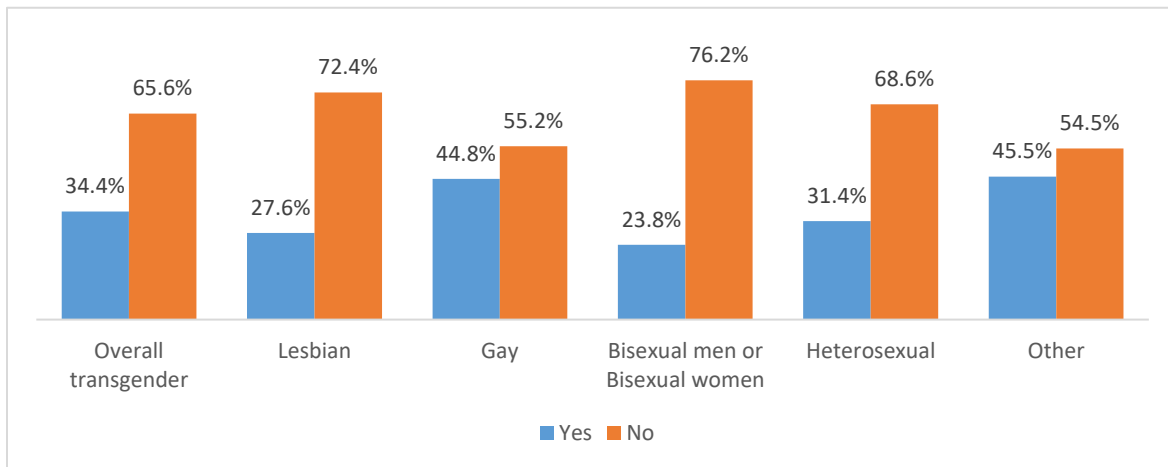


Figure 31: Experience interacting with the Courts among Transgender Respondents



## Reason for visiting the courts

Almost 30% of respondents from the cisgender community are of the view that they have visited the courts to file a case, and nearly 30% from the transgender community indicate that they have visited the courts due to a case being filed against them.

Overall, nearly 30% of cisgender lesbian, gay, and bisexual respondents report that they have filed a case. Overall, among the transgender lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual respondents,

the most common reason for having visited a court was because a case was filed against them (29%). [Please refer to Tables 32 and 33 below]

Table 32: Reason for visiting the Courts among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
I filed the case	27.9%	32.3%	26.4%	27.9%
I was the person against whom the case was filed	15.8%	19.4%	14.3%	16.4%
I was a witness	21.9%	22.6%	25.3%	16.4%
I was victim of a crime	5.5%	6.5%	3.3%	8.2%
Other	16.9%	12.9%	17.6%	18.0%
Refused to answer	12.0%	6.5%	13.2%	13.1%
Base	183	31	91	61

Table 33: Reason for visiting the Courts among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
I filed the case	11.8%	12.5%	15.4%	0.0%	4.5%	40.0%
I was the person against whom the case was filed	29.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	20.5%	10.0%
I was a witness	24.7%	0.0%	19.2%	40.0%	31.8%	20.0%
I was victim of a crime	11.8%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	22.7%	0.0%
Other	10.8%	12.5%	7.7%	20.0%	11.4%	10.0%
Refused to answer	11.8%	25.0%	3.8%	40.0%	9.1%	20.0%
Base	93	8	26	5	44	10

## Treatment by lawyers

A majority across both the cisgender and transgender communities indicate that the lawyers were very helpful. From those who indicate that the lawyers have been unhelpful it is mostly the cis-lesbian, cis-gay and cis-bisexual respondents who hold this view. [Please refer to Tables 34 and 35 below]

Table 34: Treatment by lawyers among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	50.3%	54.8%	46.2%	54.1%
Somewhat helpful	29.0%	25.8%	31.9%	26.2%
Somewhat unhelpful	1.6%	0.0%	1.1%	3.3%
Not helpful at all	4.9%	3.2%	4.4%	6.6%
Not Relevant	11.5%	12.9%	13.2%	8.2%
Don't Know	2.7%	3.2%	3.3%	1.6%
Base	183	31	91	61

Table 35: Treatment by lawyers among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	61.3%	62.5%	69.2%	80.0%	56.8%	50.0%
Somewhat helpful	18.3%	12.5%	23.1%	20.0%	11.4%	40.0%
Somewhat unhelpful	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	0.0%
Not Relevant	12.9%	25.0%	7.7%	0.0%	15.9%	10.0%
Don't Know	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Base	93	8	26	5	44	10

## Treatment by staff at the courts (court registry, mudaliyar, prison/Police official etc.)

A majority across both cisgender and transgender communities indicate that the staff at the courts have been helpful. From those who indicate that the staff in courts have not been helpful – from the cisgender community it is mostly the cis-gay respondents, and from the transgender community it is mostly the trans-gay respondents. [Please refer to Tables 36 and 37 below]

Table 36: Treatment by court staff at courts among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	32.2%	29.0%	35.2%	29.5%
Somewhat helpful	37.2%	41.9%	34.1%	39.3%
Somewhat unhelpful	2.7%	3.2%	2.2%	3.3%
Not helpful at all	9.3%	3.2%	12.1%	8.2%
Not Relevant	10.4%	16.1%	7.7%	11.5%
Don't Know	8.2%	6.5%	8.8%	8.2%
Base	183	31	91	61

Table 37: Treatment by court staff at courts among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	33.3%	25.0%	38.5%	60.0%	31.8%	20.0%
Somewhat helpful	28.0%	50.0%	15.4%	0.0%	27.3%	60.0%
Somewhat unhelpful	11.8%	0.0%	19.2%	20.0%	11.4%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	6.5%	0.0%	11.5%	0.0%	6.8%	0.0%
Not Relevant	15.1%	25.0%	11.5%	20.0%	13.6%	20.0%
Don't Know	5.4%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Base	93	8	26	5	44	10

### Treatment of Judges

A slightly higher percentage of respondents from the transgender community were of the view that the judges have been unhelpful. From those who held this view it was mostly respondents from the cis-bisexual men/ women and trans-gay communities who were of the opinion that the judges have been unhelpful. [Please refer to Tables 38 and 39 below]



Table 38: Treatment by Judges among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	29.0%	16.1%	29.7%	34.4%
Somewhat helpful	32.8%	32.3%	33.0%	32.8%
Somewhat unhelpful	2.2%	6.5%	1.1%	1.6%
Not helpful at all	8.2%	3.2%	6.6%	13.1%
Not Relevant	14.8%	19.4%	15.4%	11.5%
Don't Know	13.1%	22.6%	14.3%	6.6%
Base	183	31	91	61

Table 39: Treatment by Judges among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	35.5%	25.0%	34.6%	40.0%	36.4%	40.0%
Somewhat helpful	22.6%	37.5%	26.9%	0.0%	18.2%	30.0%
Somewhat unhelpful	8.6%	0.0%	11.5%	20.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	7.5%	0.0%	15.4%	0.0%	6.8%	0.0%
Not Relevant	16.1%	25.0%	3.8%	40.0%	15.9%	30.0%
Don't Know	9.7%	12.5%	7.7%	0.0%	13.6%	0.0%
Base	93	8	26	5	44	10

## Perception on avoiding going to courts

When the respondents were asked if they had ever avoided going to courts despite having a need to seek assistance – it is mostly respondents from the cis-lesbian and trans-gay communities who indicated the same. A notable percentage from the trans-heterosexual community also held this view. [Please refer to Figures 32 and 33 below]

Figure 32: Have you ever avoided going to the Courts? by Cisgender Respondents

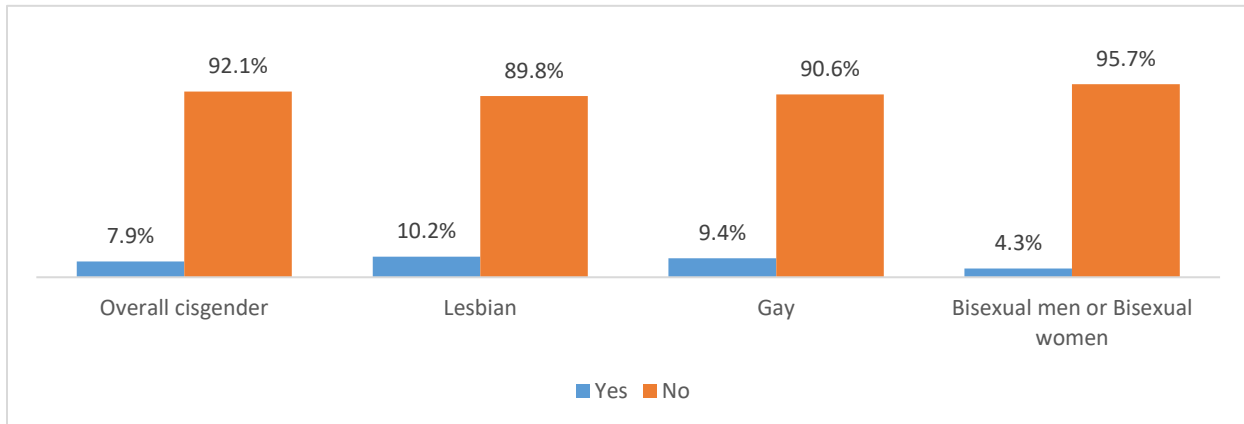
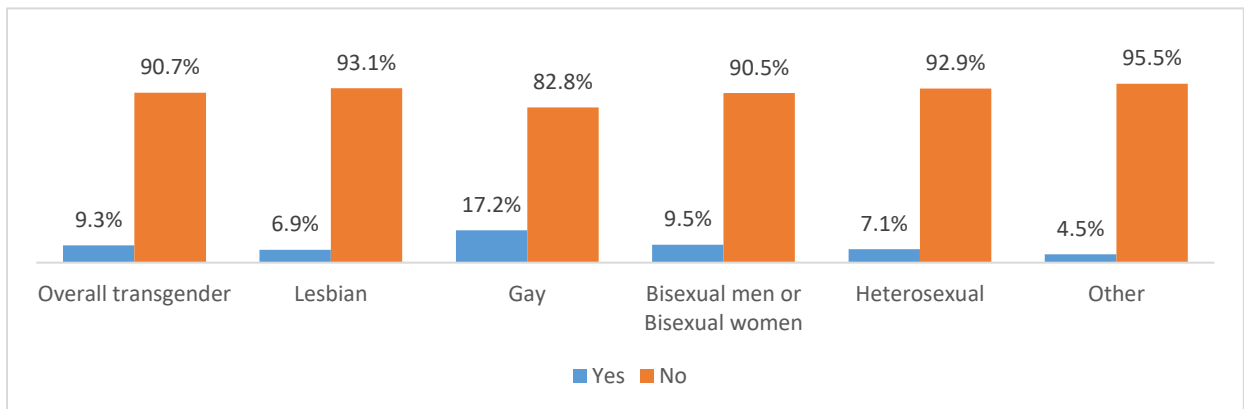


Figure 33: Have you ever avoided going to the Courts? by Transgender Respondents



## Reasons for avoiding going to the courts

More respondents from the cisgender community claim that they did not feel comfortable going to the courts (35.6%), followed by 26.7% of respondents each reporting feeling unsafe because of their sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression, and not having sufficient financial resources to go to the courts. [Please refer to Table 40 below]

Table 40: Reasons for avoiding going to the Courts among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Feeling unsafe because of my sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression	26.7%	30.0%	25.9%	25.0%
Revealing my sexual orientation, gender identity would be disadvantageous when obtaining legal remedies	15.6%	30.0%	14.8%	0.0%
I did not feel comfortable going to the Courts	35.6%	20.0%	44.4%	25.0%
I did not know the procedure	13.3%	10.0%	14.8%	12.5%
Not having sufficient financial resources	26.7%	20.0%	25.9%	37.5%
Other	11.1%	20.0%	7.4%	12.5%
Base	45	10	27	8

More transgender respondents report feeling that revealing their sexual orientation or gender identity would be disadvantageous when obtaining legal remedies (56%), followed by feeling unsafe because of their sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression (40%) when approaching the courts. Both of these percentages are comparatively high compared to the cisgender community. [Please refer to Table 41 below]

Table 41: Reasons for avoiding going to the Courts among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Feeling unsafe because of my sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression	40.0%	0.0%	40.0%	50.0%	40.0%	100.0%
Revealing my sexual orientation, gender identity would be disadvantageous when obtaining legal remedies	56.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	80.0%	0.0%
I did not feel comfortable going to the Courts	16.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
I did not know the procedure	16.0%	50.0%	10.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Not having sufficient financial resources	8.0%	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	8.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Base	25	2	10	2	10	1

### Perception on indicating one’s gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation when confronting legal matters

A majority across both the cisgender and transgender communities indicate that they feel safe to express their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. A higher percentage amongst the transgender community (40%) than when compared to the cisgender community (25.7%) indicate that they have felt unsafe to indicate their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation when confronting legal matters. It is mostly respondents from the cis-gay community (31.5%), trans-bisexual men/ women and trans-heterosexuals who indicated that they felt unsafe to reveal their gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation when confronting legal matters. (Please see Figures 34 and 35 below)

Figure 34: Feeling unsafe to indicate gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation when confronting legal matters among Cisgender Respondents

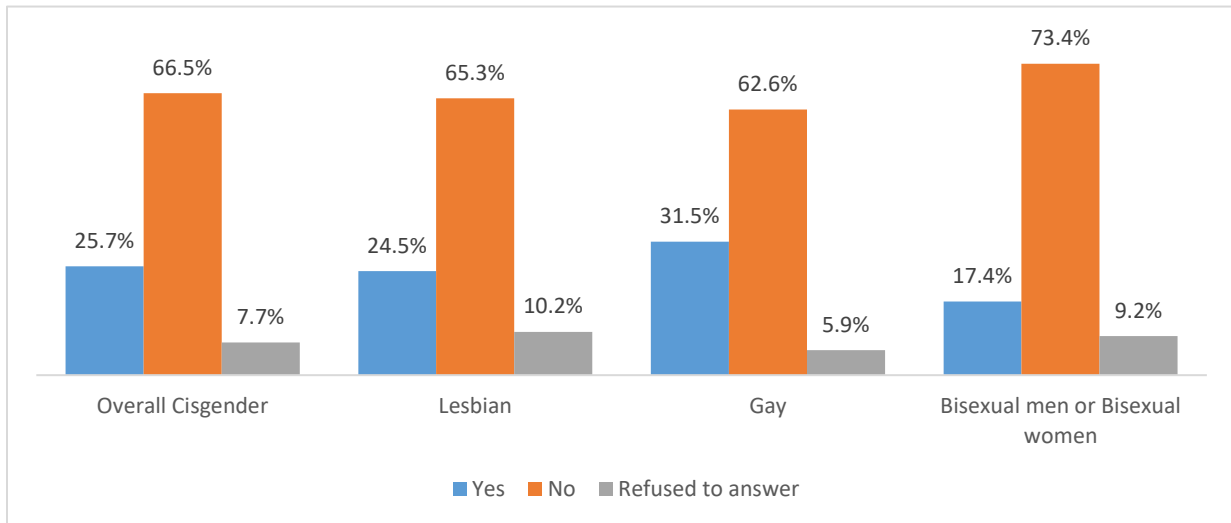
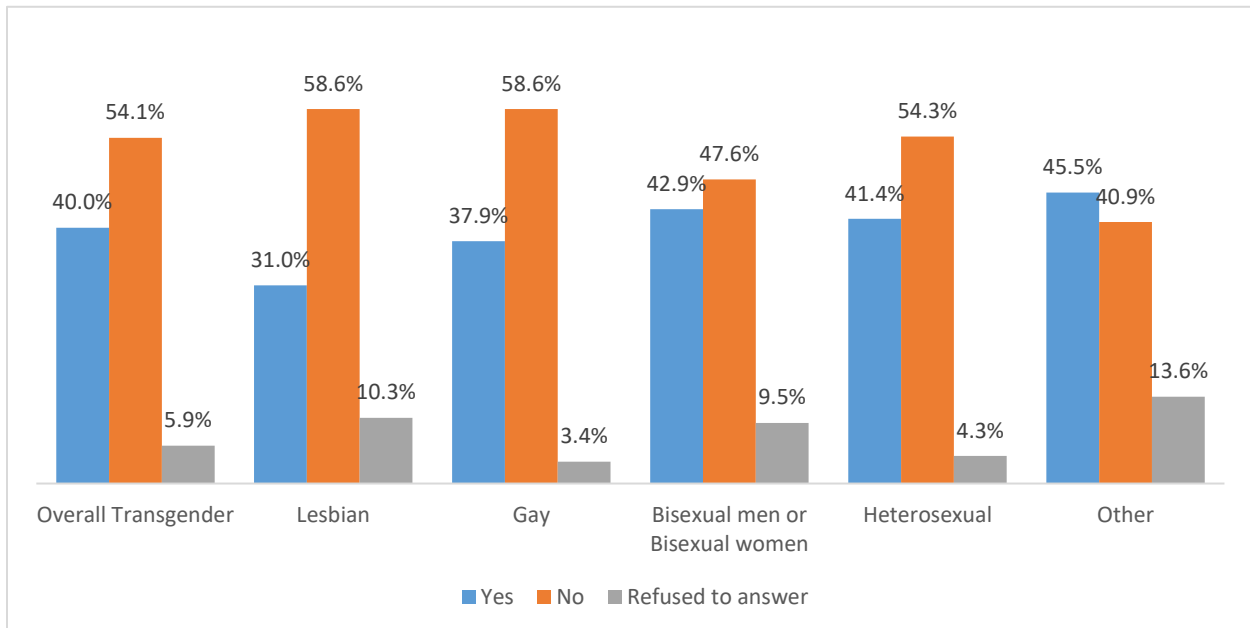


Figure 35: Feeling unsafe to indicate gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation when confronting legal matters among Transgender Respondents



# 5

## Experience engaging with government institutions and processes

*This chapter focuses on the nature of engagement respondents had with various government institutions such as the Grama Niladhari, Attorney General’s Department, Department of Immigration and Emigration etc.*

### Grama Niladhari (GN)

A majority among cisgender lesbians, gay and bisexual respondents indicate that they have visited the Grama Niladhari (GN) alone. Approximately 23% claim to have done so with someone accompanying them. From those who have visited the GN, a majority are of the view that the GN was helpful [Please see Figures 36, 38 and Table 42 below]

As for the transgender community, while a majority indicate that they have visited a GN, it is mostly respondents who are either trans-bisexuals or trans-heterosexuals who indicate that they have visited a GN with someone else. A majority across the transgender community indicate that the GN was helpful. [Please see Figures 37, 39 and Table 43 below]

Figure 36: Have you visited the Grama Niladhari? by Cisgender Respondents

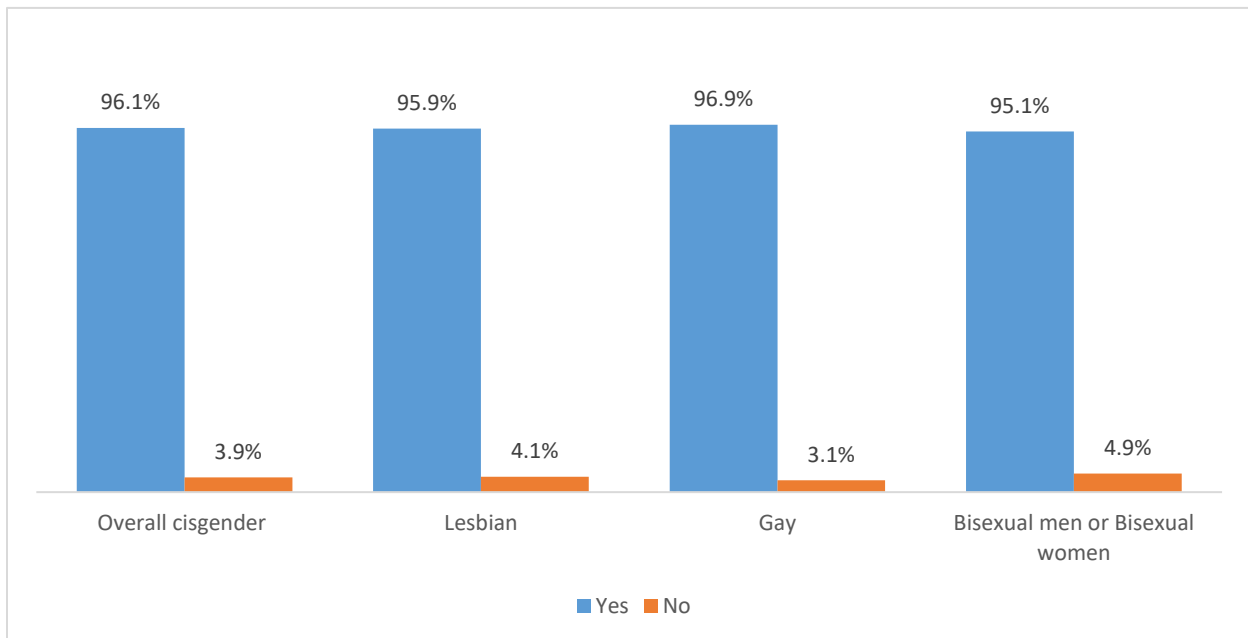


Figure 37: Have you visited the Grama Niladhari? by Transgender Respondents

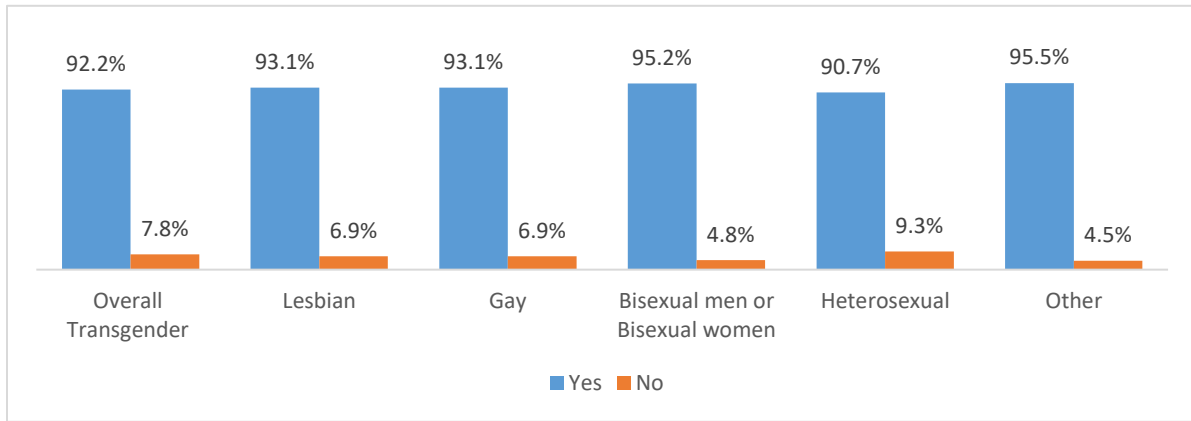


Figure 38: Did you visit the GN alone or with someone else? by Cisgender Respondents

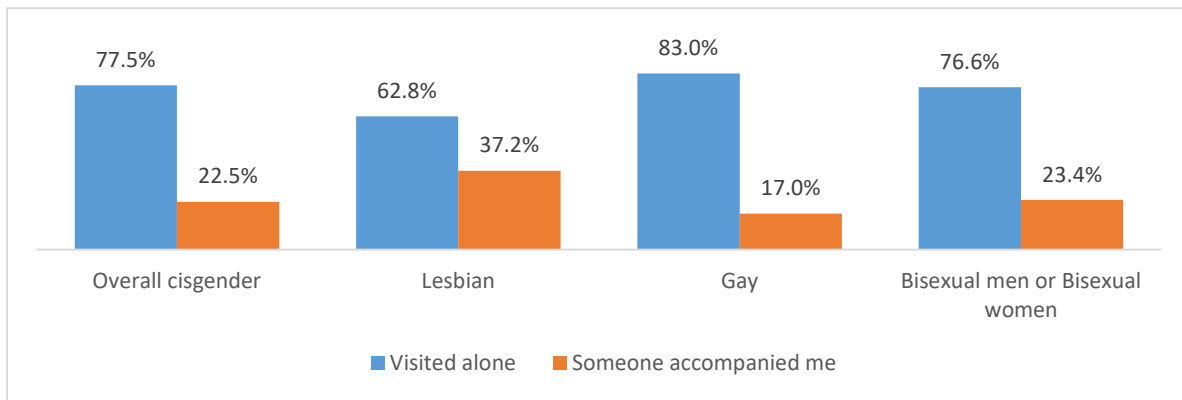


Figure 39: Did you visit the GN alone or with someone else? by Transgender Respondents

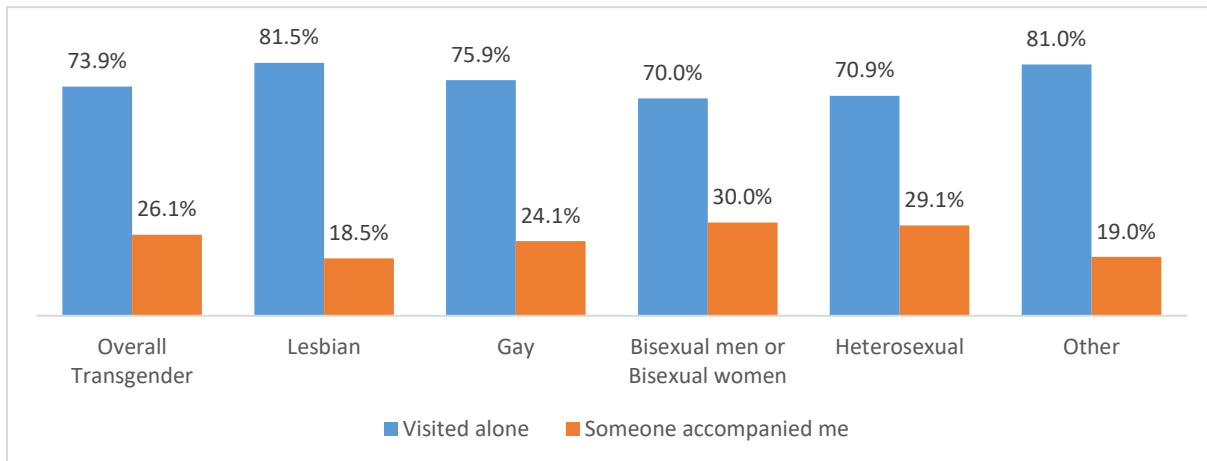


Table 42: How helpful was the GN during your last visit? by Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	68.9%	61.7%	71.5%	68.6%
Somewhat helpful	28.2%	35.1%	25.3%	29.1%
Somewhat unhelpful	0.9%	2.1%	1.1%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	0.7%	0.0%	1.1%	0.6%
Refused to answer	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	1.7%
Base	546	94	277	175

Table 43: How helpful was the GN during your last visit? by Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	70.3%	66.7%	72.2%	75.0%	69.3%	71.4%
Somewhat helpful	24.5%	22.2%	24.1%	25.0%	25.2%	23.8%
Somewhat unhelpful	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	0.8%	3.7%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Refused to answer	2.0%	7.4%	1.9%	0.0%	0.8%	4.8%
Base	249	27	54	20	127	21

## Government office (District Secretariat (DS), Attorney General (AG), Department of Immigration and Emigration)

An overwhelming majority of the cisgender lesbians, gay, bisexuals both men and women indicate that they have visited the DS, AG and Department of Immigration and Emigration with most indicating that they have visited these institutions alone. Nearly half (46.7%) of the respondents indicated that the officers were somewhat helpful. [Please see Figures 40, 42 and Table 44 below]

A majority of the transgender respondents indicate that they have visited the DS, AG and Department of Immigration and Emigration with most indicating that they have visited these institutions alone. Nearly half (41.5%) of the respondents indicated that the officers were somewhat helpful. [Please see Figures 41, 43 and Table 45 below]



Figure 40: Have you visited a Government Office? by Cisgender Respondents

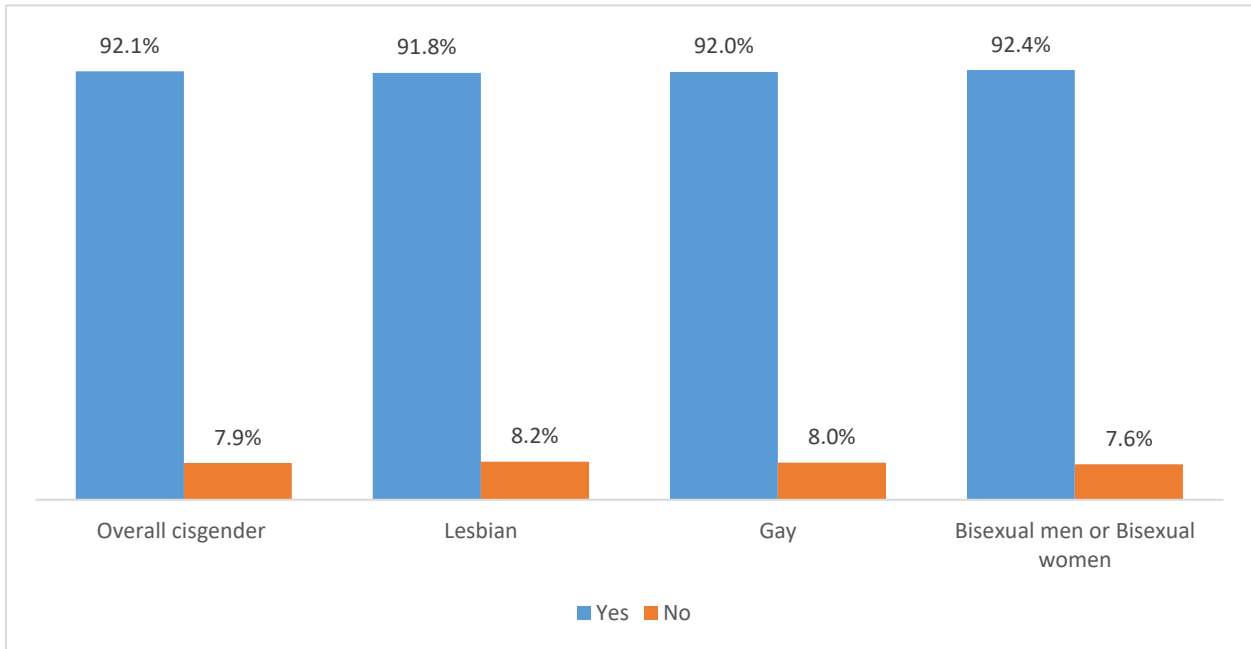


Figure 41: Have you visited a Government Office? by Transgender Respondents

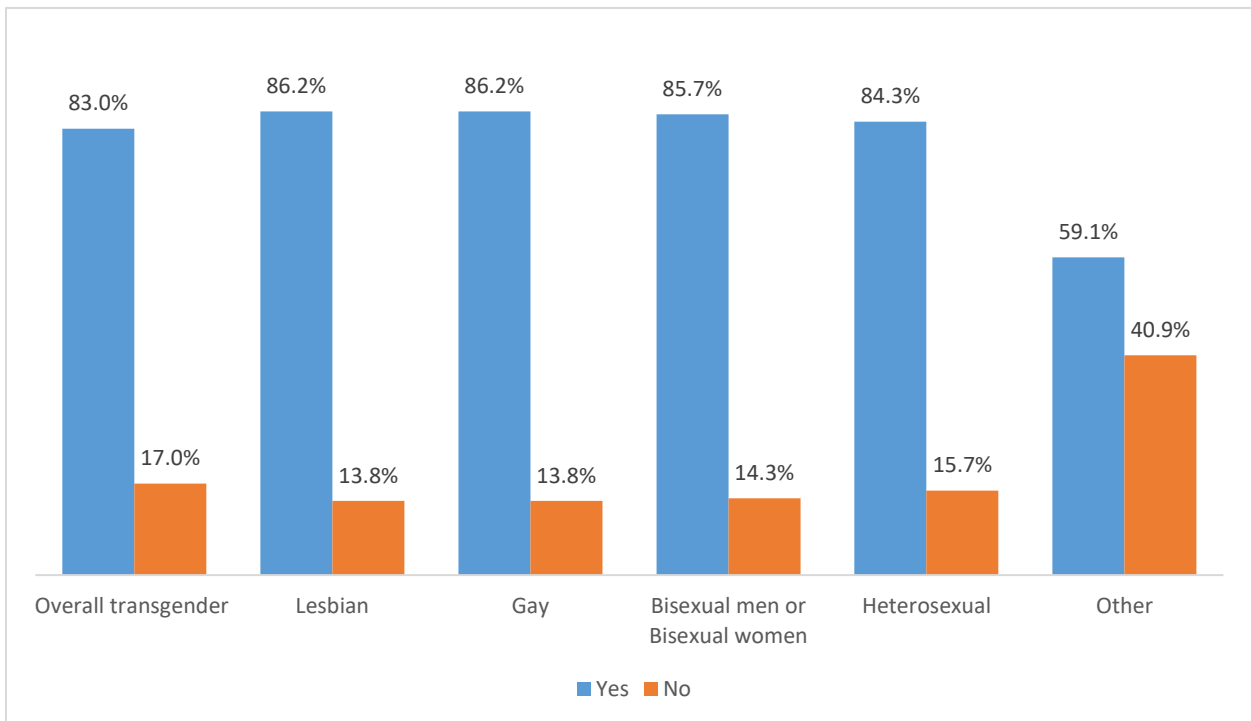


Figure 42: Did you visit the Government Office alone or with someone else? by Cisgender Respondents

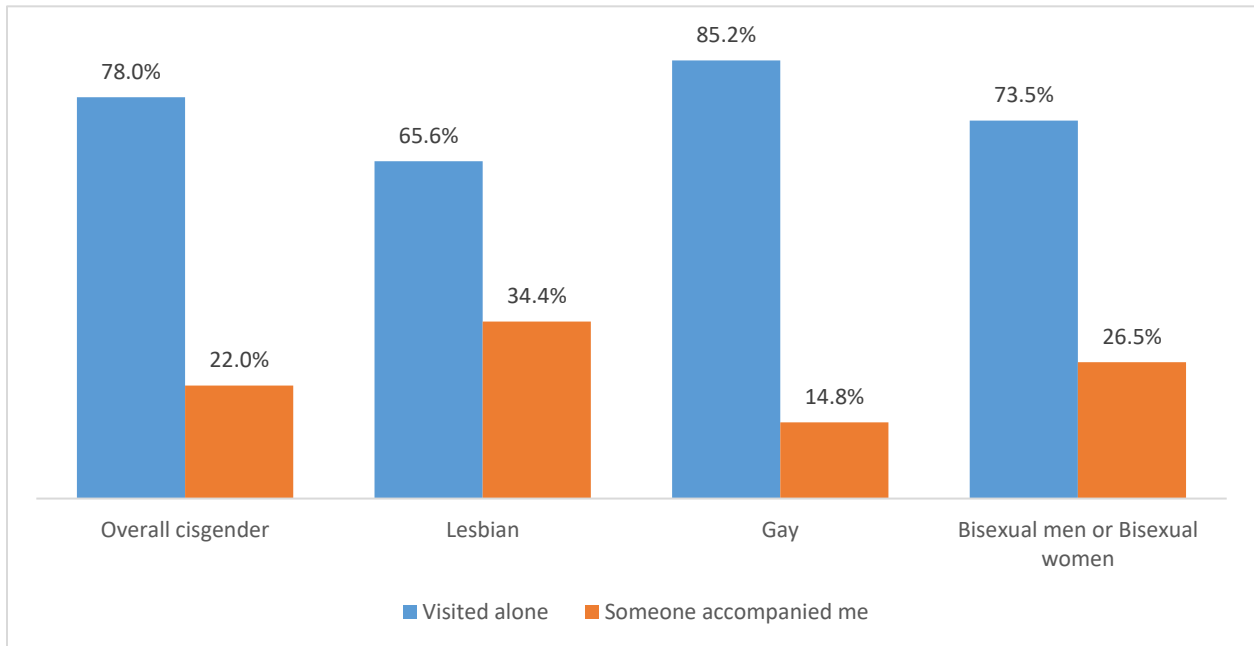


Figure 43: Did you visit the Government Office alone or with someone else? by Transgender Respondents

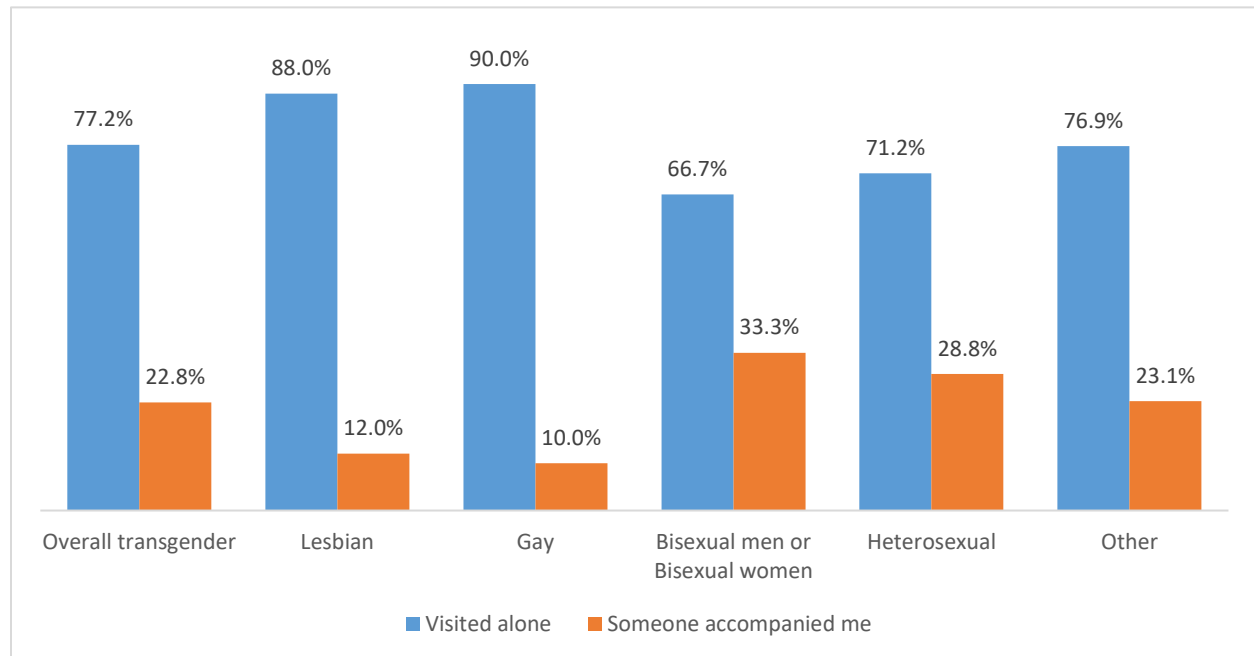


Table 44: How helpful were the officers at the Government Office during your last visit? by Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	50.1%	52.2%	50.2%	48.8%
Somewhat helpful	46.7%	45.6%	46.4%	47.6%
Somewhat unhelpful	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
Not helpful at all	1.3%	1.1%	0.8%	2.4%
Refused to answer	0.8%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%
Base	523	90	263	170

Table 45: How helpful were the officers at the Government Office during your last visit? by Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	54.5%	68.0%	52.0%	44.4%	55.1%	46.2%
Somewhat helpful	41.5%	28.0%	44.0%	55.6%	39.8%	53.8%
Not helpful at all	2.2%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%
Refused to answer	1.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%
Base	224	25	50	18	118	13

From those who indicated that they did not visit any government office (DS, AG, Dept of Immigration and Emigration) despite having a need to seek their services for work related to their identity card, birth certificate or passport, were asked as to why they did not visit these government institutions. A majority of the respondents either refused to answer or indicated that they had no reason to go to these institutions. From those who indicate that they did not go to these institutions due to fear of discrimination, discomfort or harassment – around 7% were from the cisgender and 15.2% from the transgender community. [Please see Tables 46 and 47 below]

Table 46: Reasons for not visiting a Government Office among Cisgender Respondents<sup>22</sup>

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Discrimination/Discomfort/Harassment/Fear	7.0%	12.5%	9.1%	0.0%
Refused to answer	27.9%	12.5%	22.7%	46.2%
No reason to go	60.5%	75.0%	59.1%	53.8%
Got help from a third party	4.7%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Base	43	8	22	13

Table 47: Reasons for not visiting a Government Office among Transgender Respondents<sup>23</sup>

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Discrimination/Discomfort/Harassment/Fear	15.2%	25.0%	0.0%	33.3%	18.2%	11.1%
Refused to answer	17.4%	25.0%	25.0%	0.0%	13.6%	22.2%
No reason to go	65.2%	50.0%	62.5%	66.7%	68.2%	66.7%
Lack of trust in the government institutions	2.2%	0.0%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Base	46	4	8	3	22	9

<sup>22</sup> It must be noted that the number of respondents who answered this question was low.

<sup>23</sup> It must be noted that the number of respondents who answered this question was low.

## Possession of Identity documentation:

From those who identified themselves as transgender were asked to indicate as to whether they were in possession of a national identity card, passport and birth certificate that highlighted their preferred gender identity. They were also asked to indicate if they were in possession of a gender recognition certificate.

A slight majority indicate that they are in possession of a national identity card and birth certificate that depicts their preferred gender identity with a near majority (46.3%) indicating that they are in possession of a gender recognition certificate. Merely 26.5% indicate that they are in possession of a passport that depicts their preferred gender identity. [Please see Figures 44 to 47]

Figure 44: Possession of a National Identity Card with preferred Gender Identity among Transgender Respondents

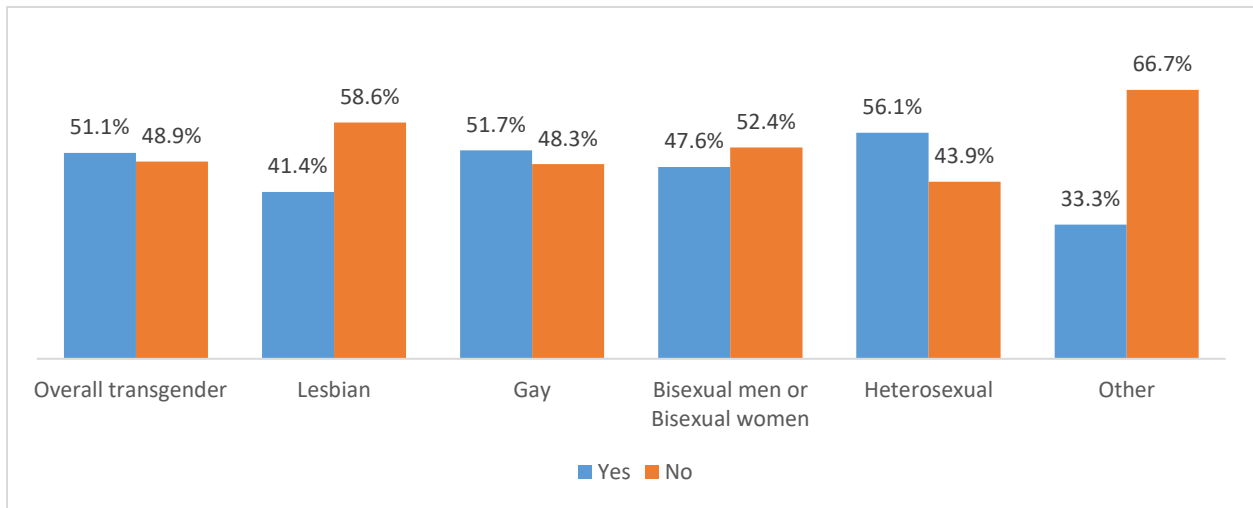


Figure 45: Possession of a Passport with preferred Gender Identity among Transgender Respondents

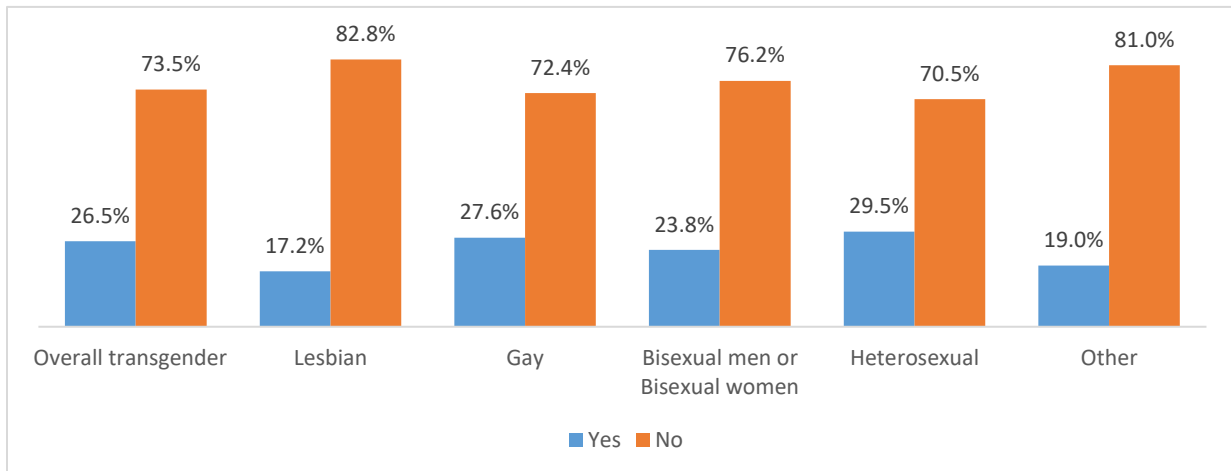
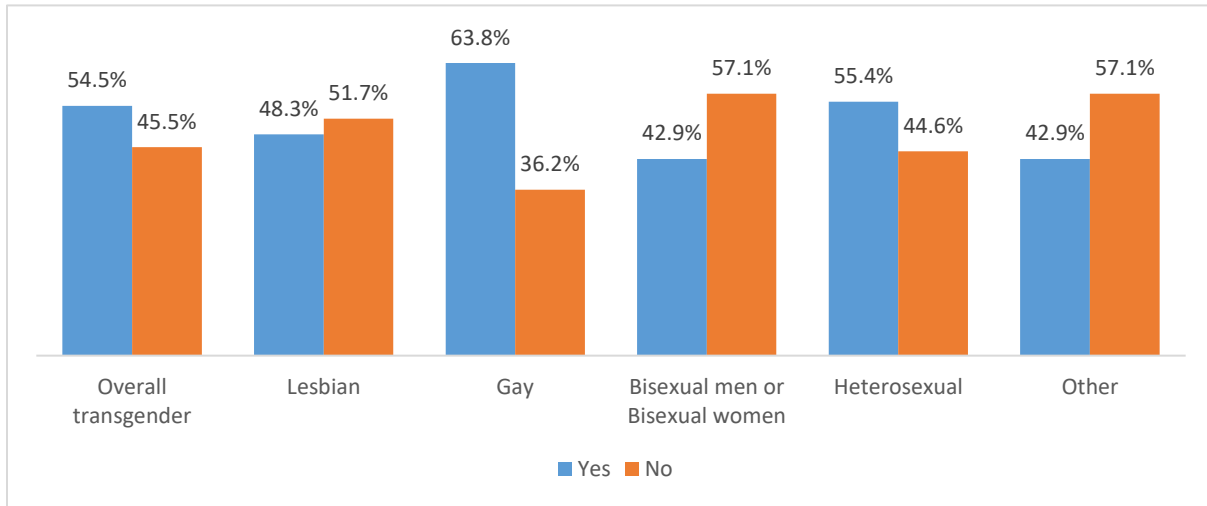
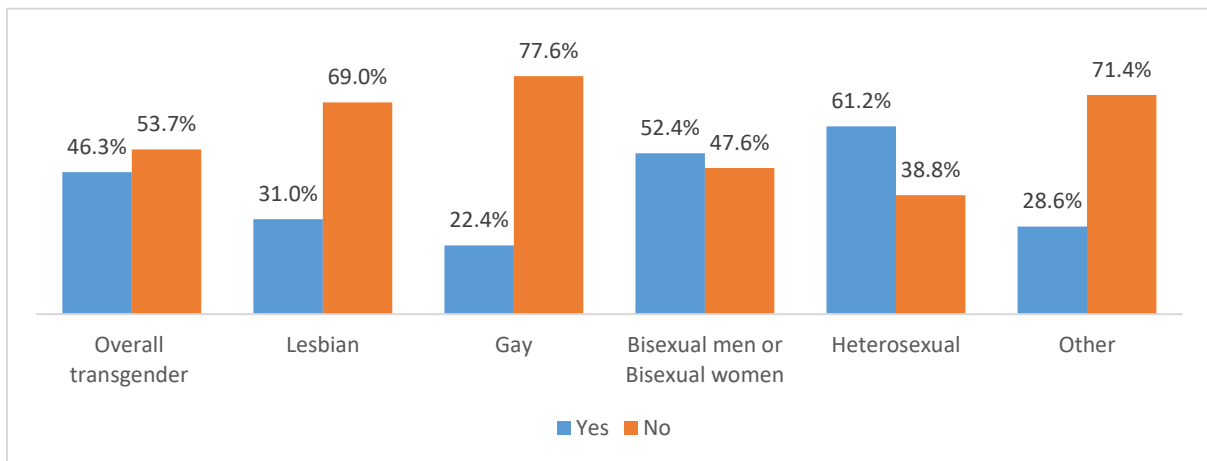


Figure 46: Possession of a Birth Certificate with preferred Gender Identity among Transgender



Respondents

Figure 47: Possession of a Gender Recognition Certificate with preferred Gender Identity among Transgender Respondents



# 6

## Education

*This section highlights the highest level of education or grade the respondents have studied up to, difficulties faced in continuing education, treatment experienced at school, and their participation in various school activities.*

Overall, among the cisgender respondents, 15.1% claim to have a diploma, followed by 13.6% indicate that have sat for A/L examinations, 12.9% indicate that they are undergraduates, and 12.1% claim that they have been educated up to A/Ls. [Please see Table 48 below]

Overall, more transgender respondents indicate that they have sat for A/L examinations (17.8%), while 15.6% have indicated that they have studied up to O/Ls, and 13% have sat for the O/L examinations. [Please see Table 49 below]

*Table 48: Highest level of education among Cisgender Respondents*

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Cannot read or write	0.7%	2.0%	0.3%	0.5%
Literate but no formal education	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%	1.1%
Up to grade 5	1.2%	1.0%	1.4%	1.1%
Grade 6-9	3.3%	4.1%	4.2%	1.6%
Up to O/L	9.3%	10.2%	9.8%	8.2%
Sat for O/L examination	10.0%	14.3%	11.2%	6.0%
Up to A/L	12.1%	12.2%	12.6%	11.4%
Sat for A/L examination	13.6%	12.2%	13.3%	14.7%
Diploma	15.1%	17.3%	13.6%	16.3%
Technical Colleges or Courses (VTO)	3.5%	3.1%	3.5%	3.8%
Professional Qualification (Lawyer/Medical/Accountant/Teaching etc.)	1.4%	1.0%	1.7%	1.1%
Graduate	11.8%	10.2%	12.2%	12.0%
Post Graduate	4.0%	3.1%	5.2%	2.7%
Undergraduate	12.9%	8.2%	10.1%	19.6%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 49: Highest level of education among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Cannot read or write	2.2%	0.0%	3.4%	4.8%	2.1%	0.0%
Up to grade 5	1.5%	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
Grade 6-9	6.3%	3.4%	10.3%	4.8%	5.7%	4.5%
Up to O/L	15.6%	3.4%	27.6%	4.8%	15.7%	9.1%
Sat for O/L examination	13.0%	20.7%	12.1%	4.8%	13.6%	9.1%
Up to A/L	10.4%	10.3%	8.6%	14.3%	12.1%	0.0%
Sat for A/L examination	17.8%	20.7%	13.8%	19.0%	13.6%	50.0%
Diploma	10.7%	10.3%	13.8%	4.8%	10.7%	9.1%
Technical Colleges or Courses (VTO)	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Professional Qualification (Lawyer/Medical/Accountant/Teaching etc.)	2.2%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%
Graduate	8.5%	17.2%	1.7%	23.8%	7.1%	9.1%
Post Graduate	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	1.4%	4.5%
Undergraduate	8.5%	13.8%	3.4%	9.5%	10.0%	4.5%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

In order to assess the respondent's ability to continue their education, they were provided a statement, *"Even though I had the ability to continue my education beyond the level of education mentioned above, but due to reasons beyond my control, I had to drop out"* and asked to indicate whether they either agree or disagree with this.

Overall, while a majority of respondents from the cisgender and transgender community indicate that they have not faced reasons beyond their control, that have had an adverse impact on their education – a higher percentage from the transgender community (37.8%) in comparison to the cisgender community (27.6%) indicate that though they had the ability to continue their education, due to reasons beyond their control, they had to halt pursuing further education. [Please see Figures 48 and 49 below]



Figure 48: "Even though I had the ability to continue my education beyond the level of education mentioned above, but due to reasons beyond my control, I had to drop out" by Cisgender Respondents

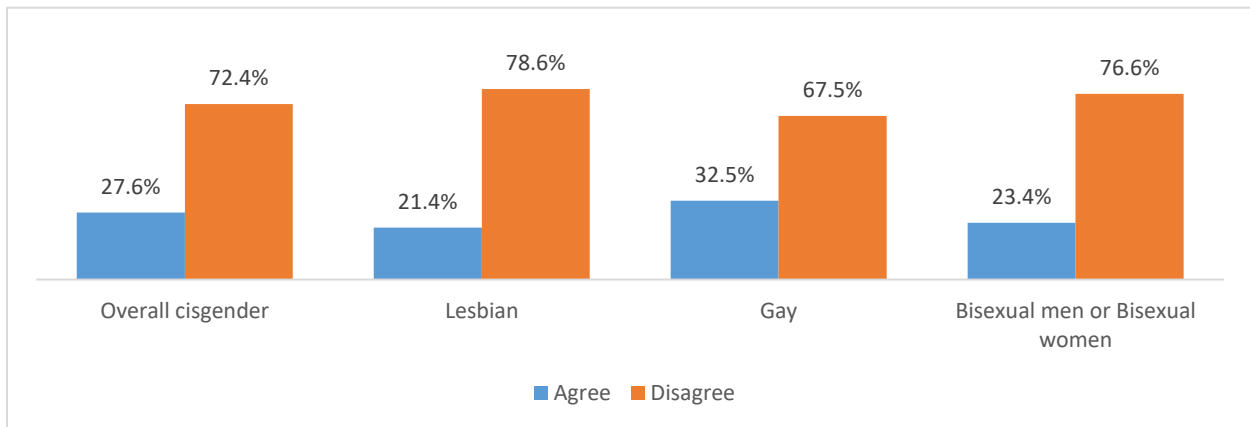
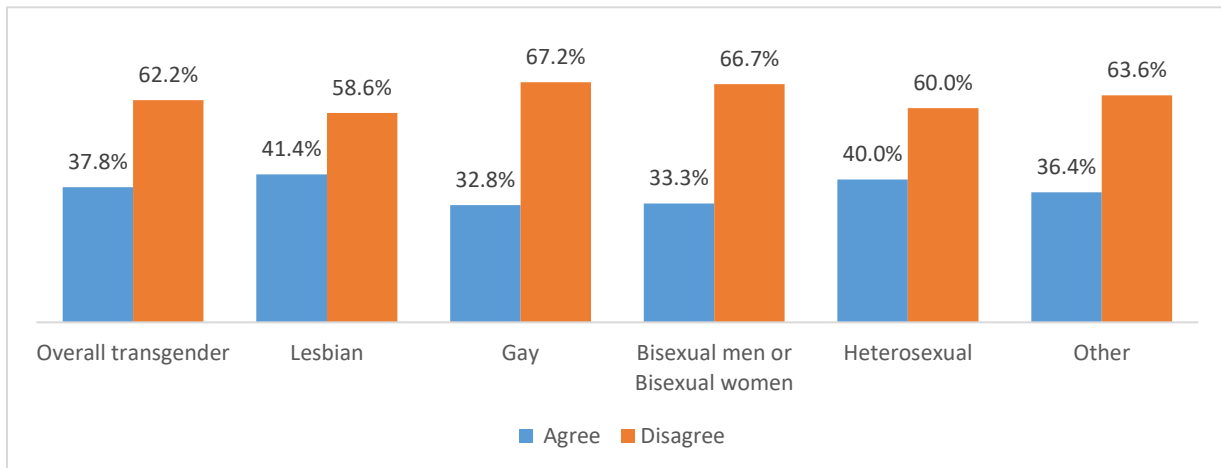


Figure 49: "Even though I had the ability to continue my education beyond the level of education mentioned above, but due to reasons beyond my control, I had to drop out" by Transgender Respondents



## Treatment in School

### Classmates

Overall, the majority of cisgender respondents claim to have been treated well (83.3%) by their classmates. Disaggregated data reveals that fewer cisgender gay respondents (81.1%) report being treated well compared to cisgender lesbians (89.8%) and cisgender bisexual respondents (83.2%). [See Figure 50 below]

Overall, a majority of transgender respondents claim that they were treated well (79.3%). However, this percentage is lower than the overall percentage of cisgender respondents in the study. Disaggregated data reveals that fewer trans-bisexual individuals (66.7%) report being treated well compared to other respondents. [See Figure 51 below]

Figure 50: Treatment by Classmates among Cisgender Respondents

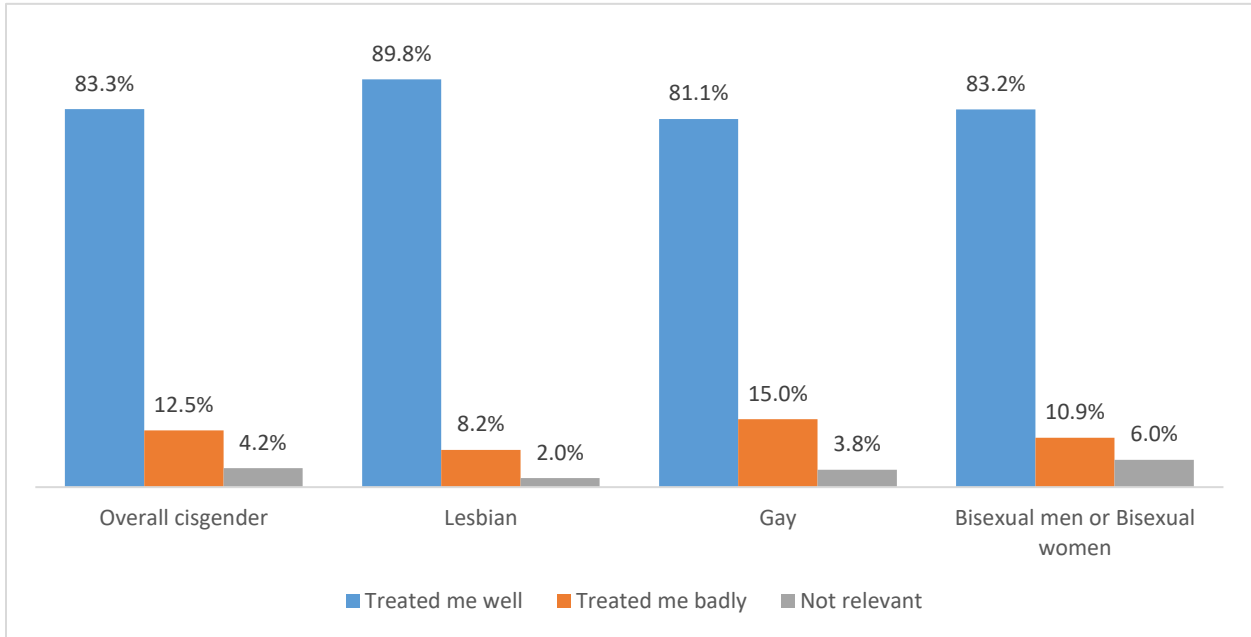
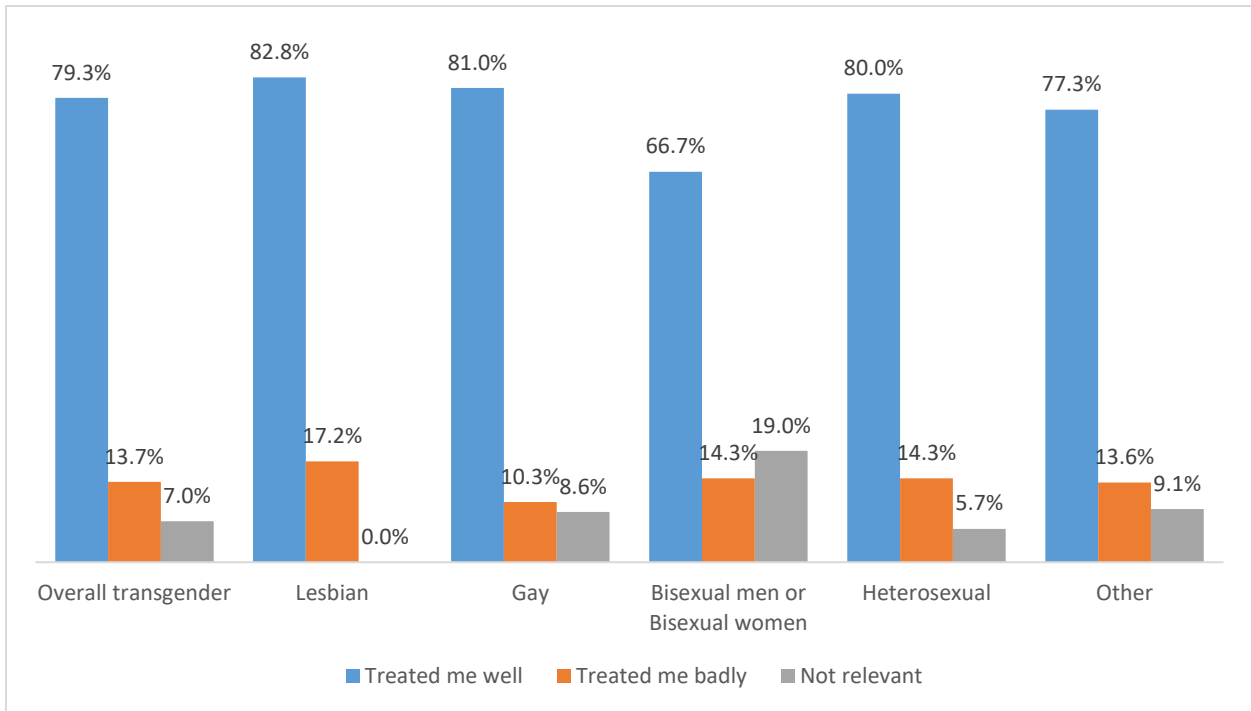


Figure 51: Treatment by Classmates among Transgender Respondents



## Senior Students in School

Overall, 78.3% of cisgender respondents report being treated well by their senior students. Disaggregated data reveals that fewer cisgender gay (75.9%) respondents report being treated well compared to cisgender bisexual (80.4%) and cisgender lesbian (81.6%) respondents. [See Figure 52 below]

Overall, 69.3% of transgender respondents report being treated well by their senior students. However, this percentage is comparatively lower than that reported by cisgender respondents. Disaggregated data reveals that fewer trans-bisexual respondents (57.1%) being treated well compared to the rest of the respondents from the transgender community. [See Figure 53 below]

Figure 52: Treatment by Senior Students among Cisgender Respondents

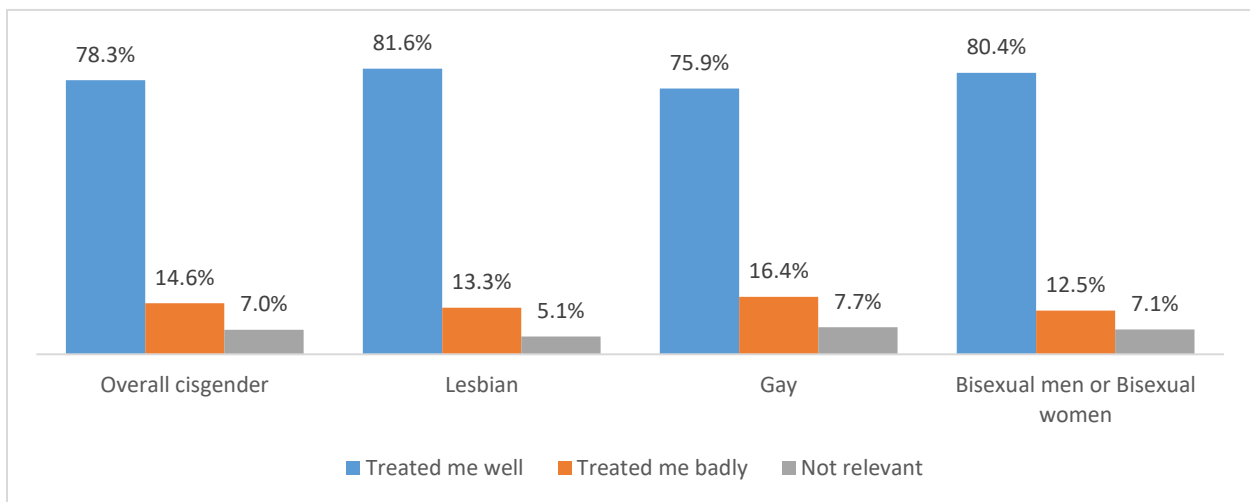
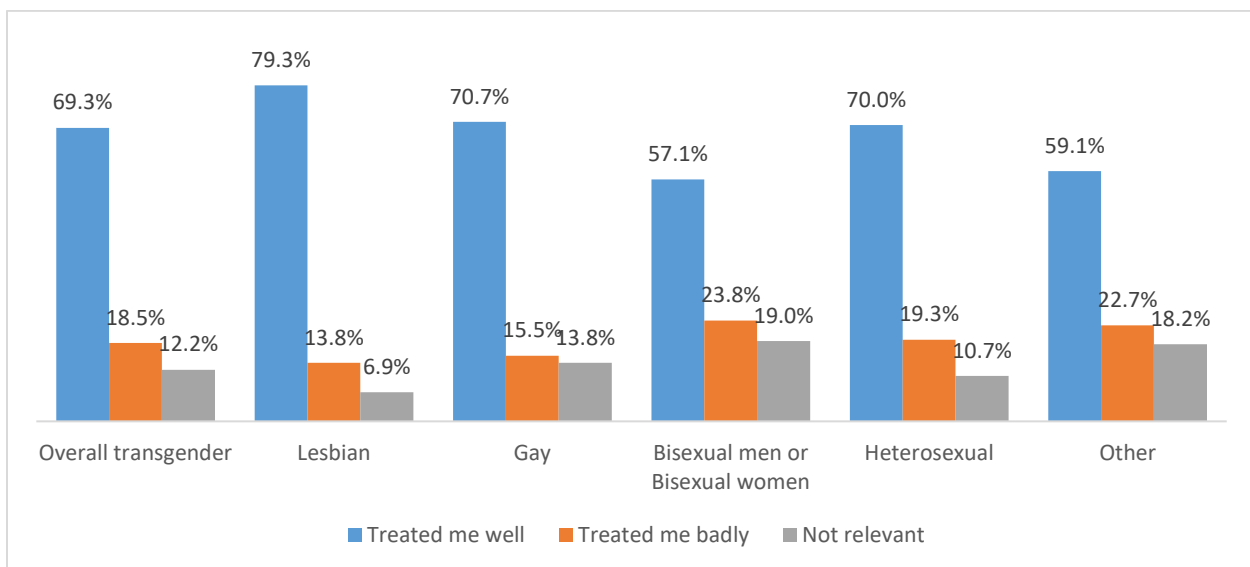


Figure 53: Treatment by Senior Students among Transgender Respondents



## Teachers

Overall, a majority (84.9%) of cisgender respondents report that they were treated well by their teachers. Disaggregated data reveals that comparatively fewer cisgender lesbians (80.6%) and cisgender bisexual (82.1%) respondents report being treated well compared to cisgender gay respondents (88.1%). [See Figure 54 below]

Overall, 73.7% of transgender respondents report being treated well by their teachers. However, this percentage is comparatively lower than the percentage of those reporting the same among cisgender respondents. Disaggregated data reveals that fewer trans-heterosexual respondents (68.6%) report being treated well by their teachers. [See Figure 55 below]

Figure 54: Treatment by Teachers among Cisgender Respondents

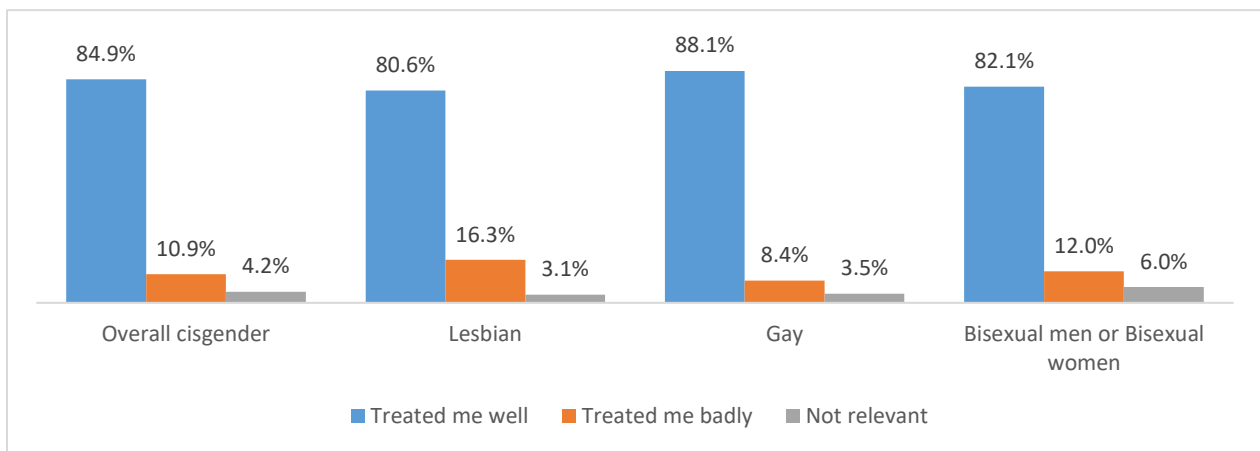
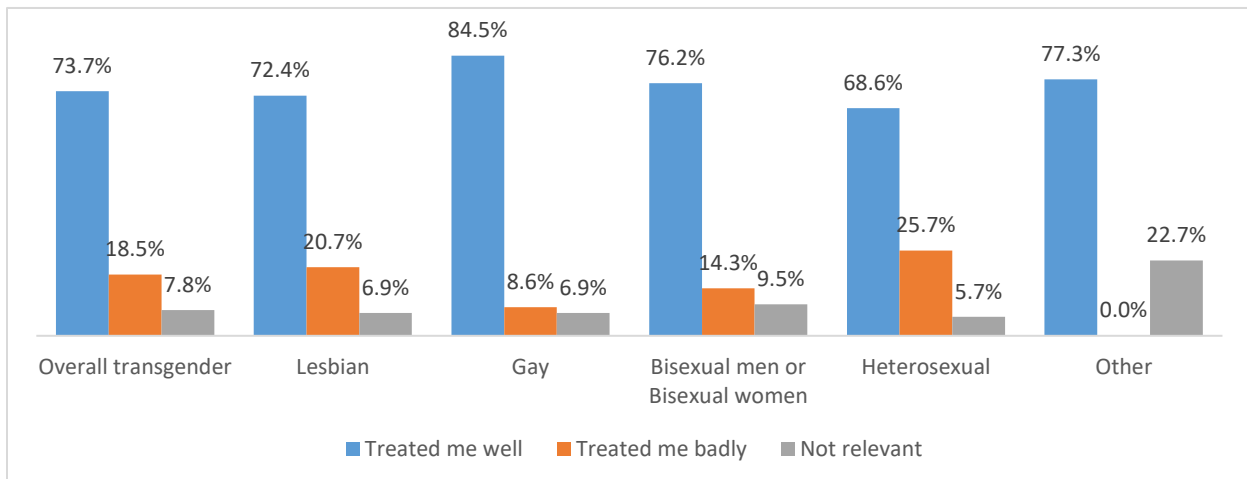


Figure 55: Treatment by Teachers among Transgender Respondents



## Non-Academic Staff

Overall, 83.5% of cisgender respondents report that non-academic staff treated them well. [See Figure 56 below]

Overall, 70% of transgender respondents reveal that non-academic staff treated them well. This percentage is comparatively lower than the percentage of those reporting the same among cisgender respondents. Disaggregated data reveals that fewer trans-heterosexual individuals (67.1%) report being treated well by non-academic staff in comparison. [See Figure 57 below]

Figure 56: Treatment by Non-Academic Staff among Cisgender Respondents

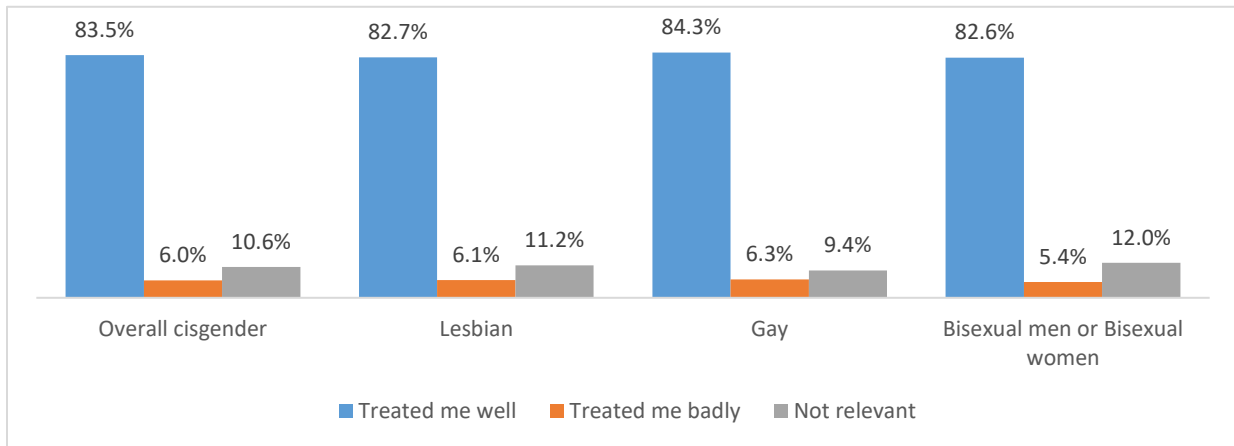
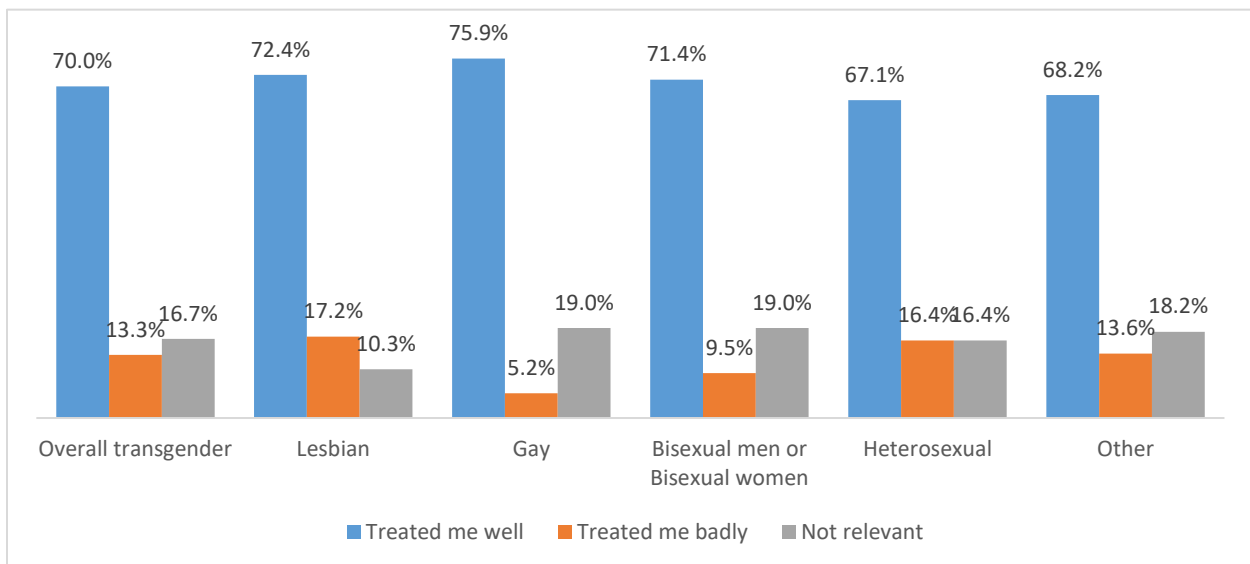


Figure 57: Treatment by Non-Academic Staff among Transgender Respondents



## Perception on worst experience at school

Overall, a near majority (49.3%) of cisgender respondents report not having any negative experiences, followed by 37.3% indicate that they have faced discrimination, harassment, or abuse because of their sexual or gender identity. When the data is disaggregated, more cisgender bisexual individuals (56.5%) report not having had a negative experience compared to cisgender lesbian and cisgender gay respondents. Additionally, 43.3% of cisgender gay respondents report facing discrimination, harassment, or abuse, which is comparatively higher compared to cisgender lesbian and cisgender bisexual respondents. [See Table 50 below]

Overall, 45.9% of transgender respondents report facing discrimination, harassment, or abuse, followed by 41.5% of transgender respondents indicating that they did not experience any negative encounters. When data is disaggregated, it is evident that more trans-lesbians (55.2%) report facing discrimination, harassment, or abuse when compared to other transgender respondents. [See Table 51 below]

Table 50: Worst experience in school among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
No bad experience	49.3%	44.9%	46.2%	56.5%
Discrimination/Harassment/Abuse	37.3%	37.8%	43.4%	27.7%
Cannot recall	1.6%	2.0%	1.7%	1.1%
Difficulty in Access/Affordability	2.8%	1.0%	2.1%	4.9%
Refused to answer	2.5%	4.1%	1.7%	2.7%
Not relevant	3.2%	7.1%	2.1%	2.7%
Difficulty in following the curriculum	2.1%	2.0%	1.4%	3.3%
Punished for breaking rules	1.2%	1.0%	1.4%	1.1%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 51: Worst experience in school among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
No bad experience	41.5%	41.4%	43.1%	38.1%	40.0%	50.0%
Felt sick/health concerns	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%
Discrimination/Harassment/Abuse	45.9%	55.2%	34.5%	47.6%	51.4%	27.3%
Cannot recall	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Difficulty in Access/Affordability	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%
Refused to answer	4.1%	0.0%	5.2%	4.8%	2.1%	18.2%
Not relevant	3.7%	3.4%	8.6%	4.8%	2.1%	0.0%
Difficulty in following the curriculum	2.2%	0.0%	5.2%	4.8%	1.4%	0.0%
Punished for breaking rules	1.5%	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

## Participating in School Activities

### Sports

Overall, 76.4% of cisgender respondents report that they have taken part in sports during their school time. When looking at disaggregated data it is evident that more cis-lesbian (82.7%) and cis-bisexual (79.3%) respondents report partaking in sports compared to cis-gay respondents (72.4%). [Please see Figure 58 below]

Overall, 73.3% of transgender respondents report participating in sports during their school years. This percentage is comparatively lower compared to those reporting the same among cisgender respondents. When examining the disaggregated data, it is evident that more trans-lesbian respondents (82.8%) report participating in sports compared to other transgender respondents. [Please see Figure 59 below]

Figure 58: Participation in Sports among Cisgender Respondents

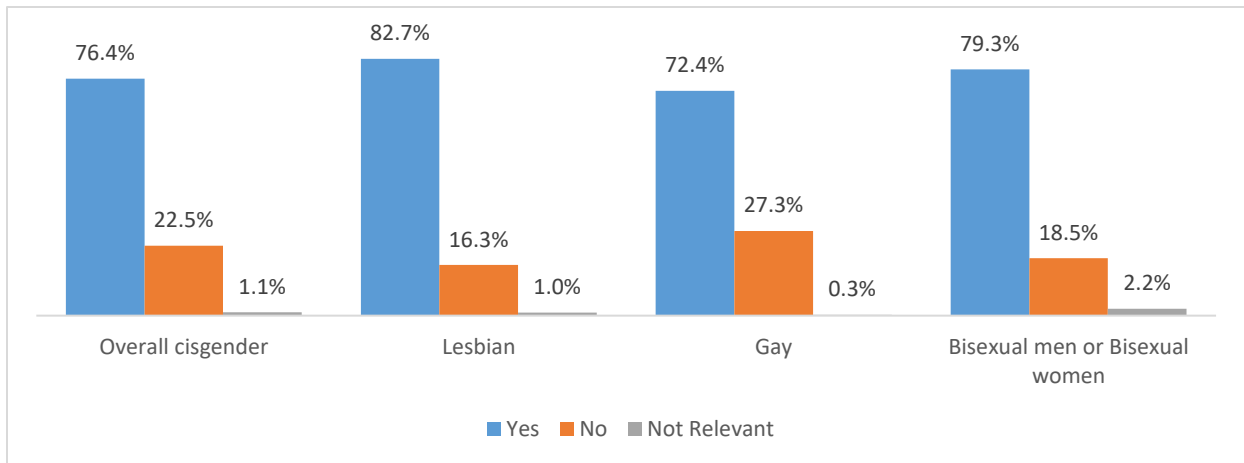
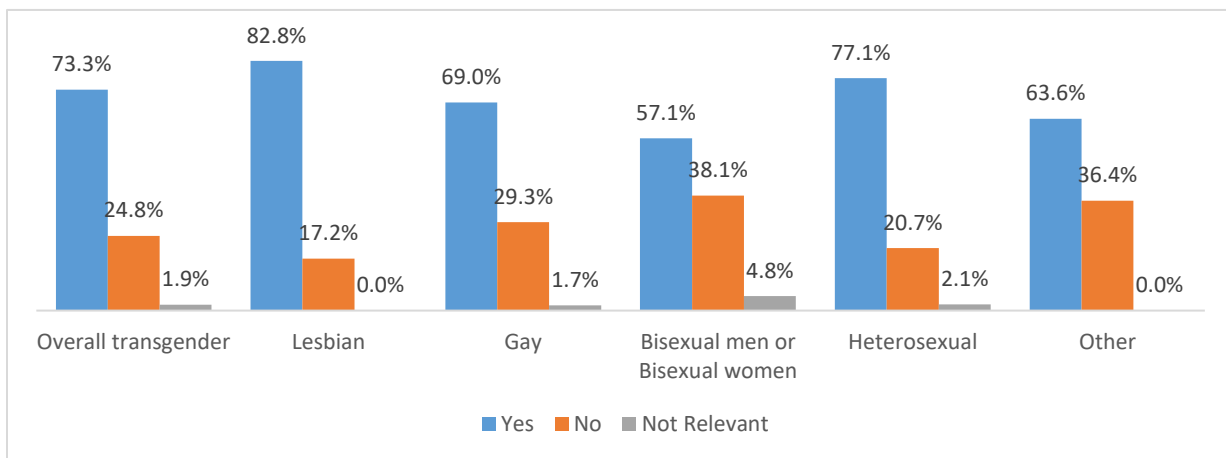


Figure 59: Participation in Sports among Transgender Respondents



## Associations and Societies

Overall, 81.2% of cisgender respondents report taking part in associations and societies. It is evident that more cis- bisexual respondents (83.2%) report taking part in associations and societies than when compared to others. [Please see Figure 60 below]

Overall, 67.4% report participating in associations and societies. This percentage is comparatively lower compared to the percentage of cisgender respondents reporting the same. Furthermore, it is evident that more trans-lesbians (82.8%) report to have participated in associations and societies than when compared to other transgender respondents. [Please see Figure 61 below]



Figure 60: Participation in Associations and Societies among Cisgender Respondents

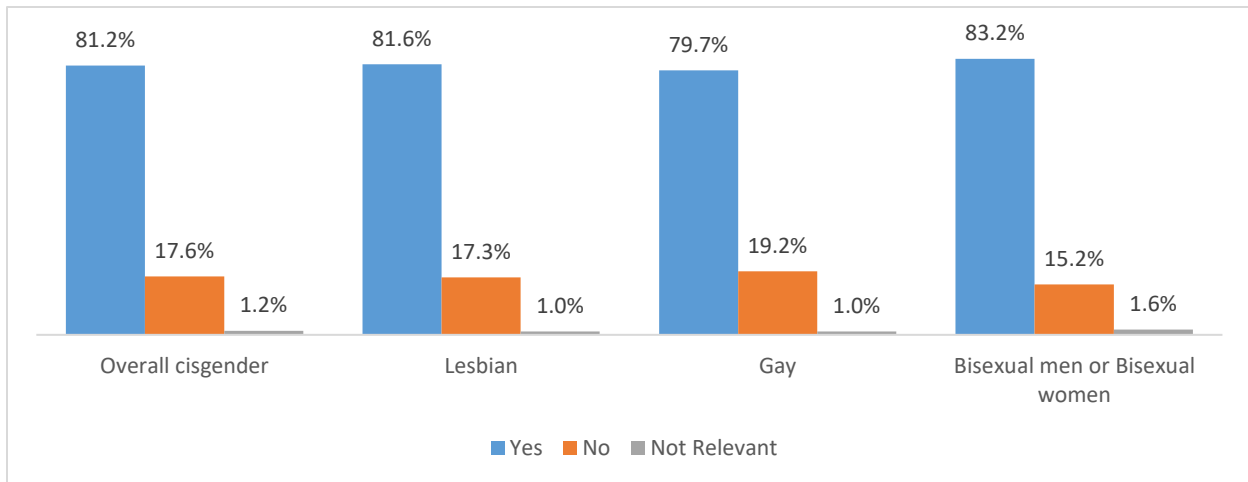
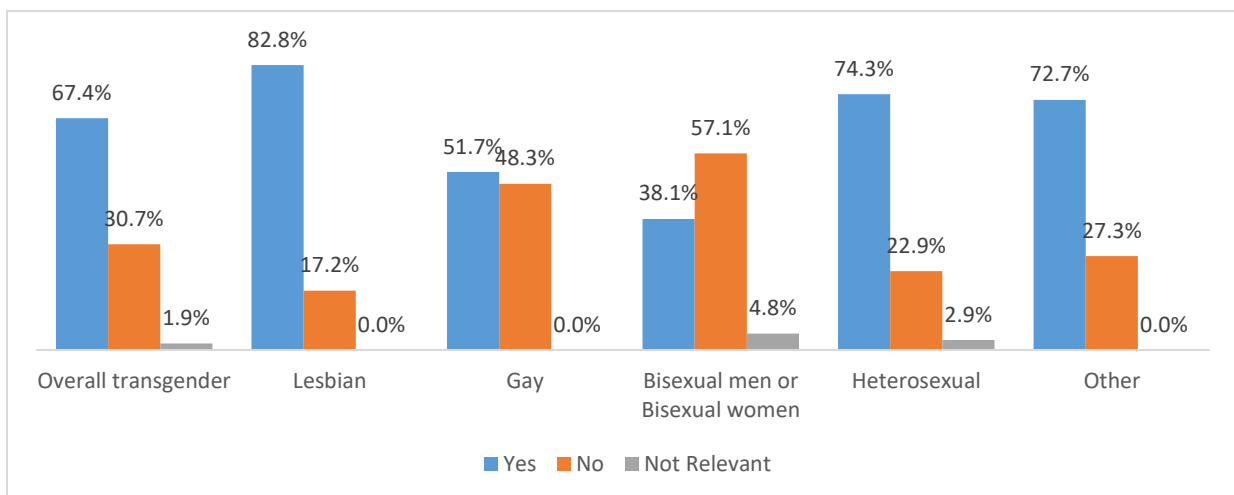


Figure 61: Participation in Associations and Societies among Transgender Respondents



## Various Competitions

Overall, 81% of cisgender respondents indicate that they have participated in various competitions. No significant patterns are observed among the disaggregated data. [Please see Figure 62 below]

Overall, 75.6% of transgender respondents report participating in various competitions. This percentage is comparatively lower compared to respondents reporting the same from the cisgender sample. [Please see Figure 63 below]

Figure 62: Participation in Various Competitions among Cisgender Respondents

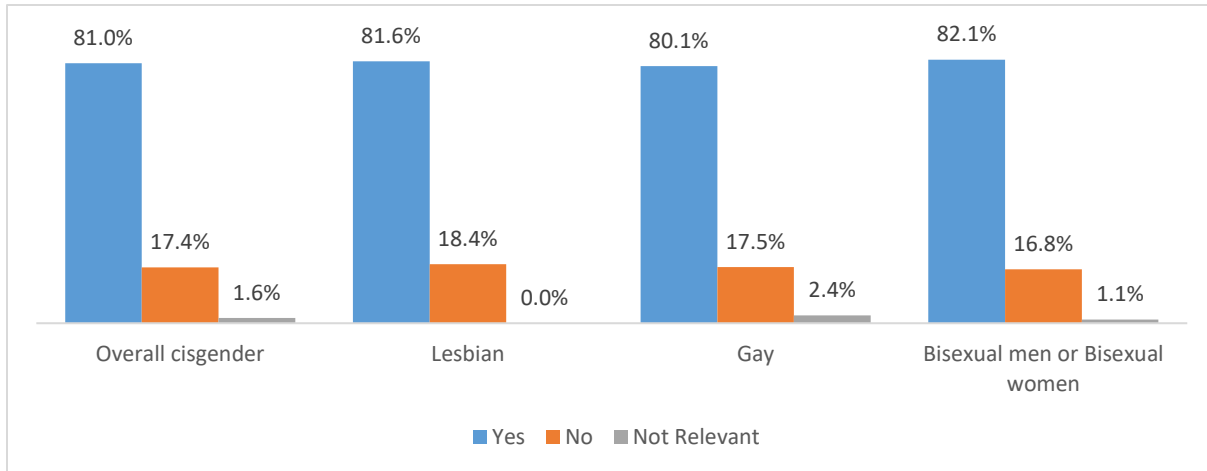
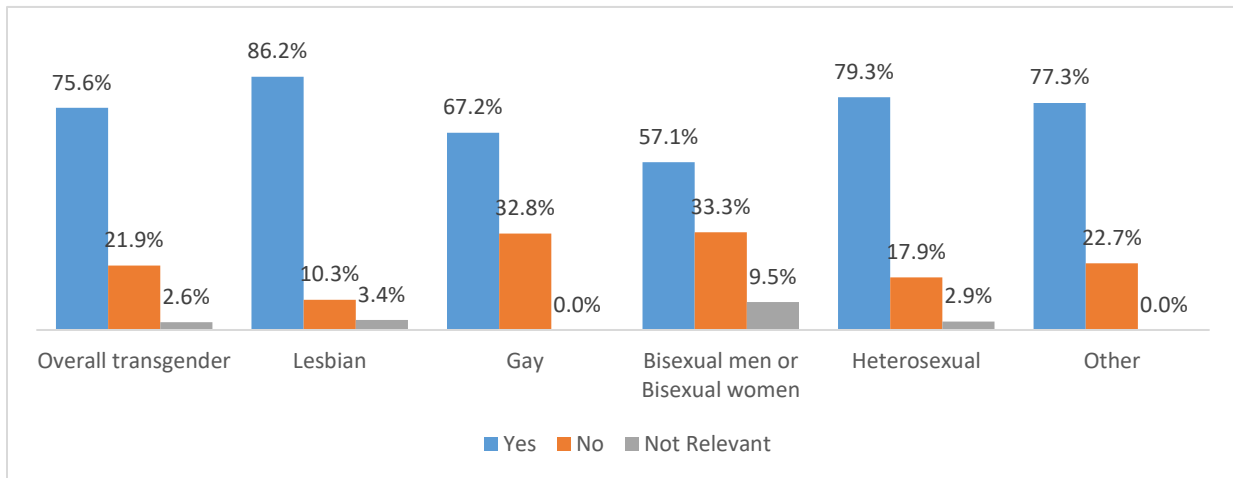


Figure 63: Participation in Various Competitions among Transgender Respondents



# 7

## Residence and Infrastructure

*This section highlights living arrangements, difficulties in accessing housing, using public transport, and other public spaces of the sample.*

### With whom do you live now?

Overall, more cisgender respondents report living with their family (60.9%), while 15.5% indicate that they live with a partner. Disaggregated data reveals that a slightly higher percentage of respondents from the cis-bisexual respondents report living with their family (62%) than cisgender lesbian (60.2%) and cisgender gay (60.5%) respondents. Among those who report living with a partner, a higher percentage of cisgender lesbians (28.6%) report living with a partner compared to cisgender bisexual (19%) and cisgender gay (8.7%) respondents. [Please refer to Table 52 below]

Overall, more transgender respondents report living with their family (49.6%), however, this percentage is comparatively low compared to the cisgender respondents. From those who indicate that they live alone, 19.3% hold this view – closely followed by 18.9% of respondents indicating that they live with a partner. Additionally, it is evident that fewer trans-lesbian respondents report living with family (41.4%), while a higher percentage of trans-bisexual community report living with their family (71.4%). Among those who report living alone, a higher percentage of trans-lesbians' report living alone (27%), compared to trans-heterosexual (20%) and trans-gay (19%) respondents. [Please refer to Table 53 below]

Table 52: With whom do you live now? by Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Partner	15.5%	28.6%	8.7%	19.0%
Family	60.9%	60.2%	60.5%	62.0%
Friend	3.9%	1.0%	5.2%	3.3%
Group of Friends	3.9%	5.1%	3.5%	3.8%
Alone	13.9%	4.1%	20.3%	9.2%
Accommodation provided by someone else	1.9%	1.0%	1.7%	2.7%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 53: With whom do you live now? by Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Partner	18.9%	20.7%	12.1%	9.5%	22.1%	22.7%
Family	49.6%	41.4%	53.4%	71.4%	45.0%	59.1%
Friend	5.6%	0.0%	5.2%	0.0%	8.6%	0.0%
Group of Friends	4.4%	6.9%	5.2%	9.5%	3.6%	0.0%
Alone	19.3%	27.6%	19.0%	9.5%	20.0%	13.6%
Accommodation provided by someone else	2.2%	3.4%	5.2%	0.0%	0.7%	4.5%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

## If currently not living with family, how easy or difficult was it to find accommodation?

Overall, a majority of cisgender respondents who currently do not live with their family, indicate that it was either very easy (33.3%) or somewhat easy (33.3%) to find accommodation. Comparatively, more cisgender bisexual men and women report that it was somewhat easy or very easy (42.9% reporting very easy and 32.9% reporting somewhat easy) compared to cisgender lesbian and cisgender gay respondents. [Please refer to Table 54 below]

Overall, nearly 50% of the sample of the transgender respondents report that it was either very easy (24.3%) or somewhat easy (24.3%) to find accommodation. This percentage is comparatively lower compared to those reporting the same among the overall cisgender respondents. More respondents in the transgender sample report it was very difficult (27.2%) to find accommodation. A higher percentage of trans-lesbian (35.3%) and trans-bisexual men or women (33.3%) indicate that it was very difficult to find accommodation when compared to other respondents from the transgender community. [Please refer to Table 55 below]

Table 54: If not currently living with family, how easy or difficult it was to find accommodation? by Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very Easy	33.3%	28.2%	29.2%	42.9%
Somewhat Easy	33.3%	33.3%	33.6%	32.9%
Somewhat Difficult	14.4%	23.1%	17.7%	4.3%
Very Difficult	11.7%	10.3%	12.4%	11.4%
Refused to answer	7.2%	5.1%	7.1%	8.6%
Base	222	39	113	70

Table 55: If currently not living with family, how easy or difficult was it to find accommodation? by Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very Easy	24.3%	5.9%	33.3%	33.3%	26.0%	11.1%
Somewhat Easy	24.3%	17.6%	40.7%	16.7%	22.1%	11.1%
Somewhat Difficult	20.6%	35.3%	7.4%	16.7%	23.4%	11.1%
Very Difficult	27.2%	35.3%	18.5%	33.3%	24.7%	55.6%
Refused to answer	3.7%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	11.1%
Base	136	17	27	6	77	9

## Difficulties in taking public transportation because of sexual orientation and/or gender identity

Overall, a majority of respondents from the cisgender respondents (83.6%) indicate "No" when asked if they have had difficulties when taking public transportation as a result of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. It is mostly respondents who are cis-lesbians who indicate that

they have faced difficulties due to their gender identity or sexual orientation when taking public transportation. [Please refer to Figure 64 below]

From the transgender community, an overall of 41.1% indicate that they have faced difficulties as a result of their gender identity and sexual orientation when taking public transportation. This percentage is comparatively higher when compared to the overall cisgender respondents reporting the same. When looking at the data by disaggregation, more respondents from the trans-gay (46.6%) and trans-bisexual (42.9%) communities report that they have faced difficulties. [Please refer to Figure 65 below]

Figure 64: Difficulties in taking public transportation because of sexual orientation and/or gender identity among Cisgender Respondents

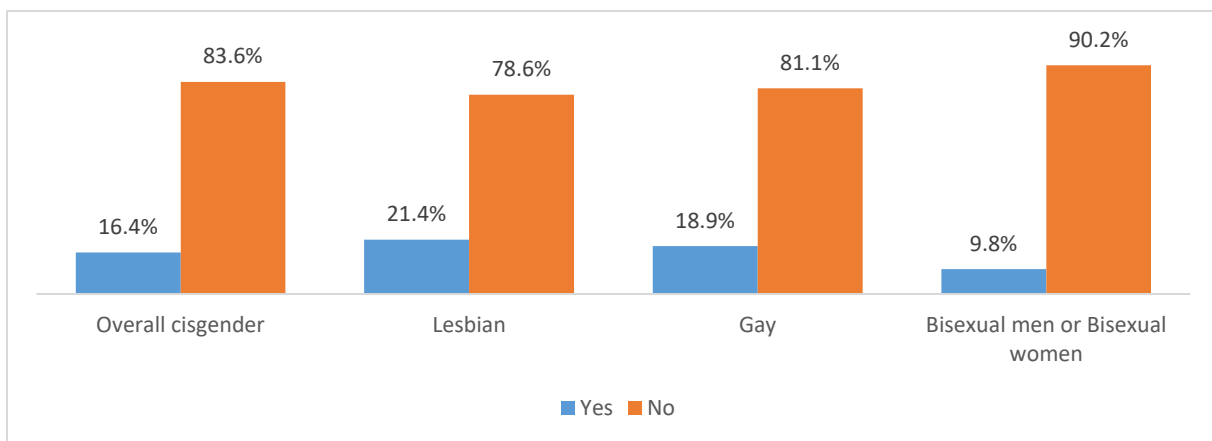
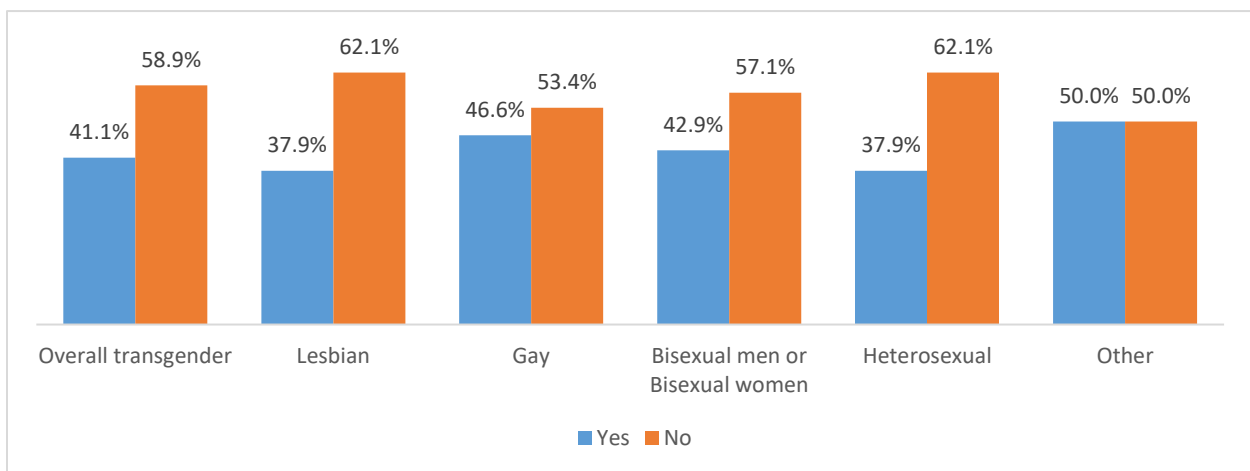


Figure 65: Difficulties in taking public transportation because of sexual orientation and/or gender identity among Transgender Respondents



## Accessing public washrooms, changing rooms and prayer rooms

Overall, a majority of cisgender respondents, more than 60%, report no difficulty at all when accessing public washrooms, changing rooms, and prayer rooms. However, a slightly higher percentage of cisgender respondents report it as "Somewhat difficult" to access public washrooms (21%) and changing rooms (17.6%) compared to prayer rooms (11.4%). When looking at the data by disaggregation, more cisgender lesbians report it as "very difficult" (8.2%) or "somewhat difficult" (30.6%) to access public washrooms compared to cisgender gay and cisgender bisexual respondents. Similarly, more cisgender lesbians report either "very difficult" (11.2%) or "somewhat difficult" (30.6%) to access changing rooms compared to cisgender gay and cisgender bisexual respondents. A similar pattern is observed in the case of prayer rooms as well, with more cisgender lesbians reporting it as "very difficult" (6.1%) or "somewhat difficult" (24.5%) compared to cisgender gay and cisgender bisexual respondents. [Please refer to Tables 56, 57 and 58 below]

Overall, more transgender respondents are of the view that it was either "Very Difficult" or "Somewhat Difficult" when accessing public washrooms, changing rooms, and prayer rooms than when compared to the cisgender respondents.

More trans-lesbians report it as "very difficult" (17.2%) or "somewhat difficult" (55.2%) to access public washrooms than when compared to trans-gay and trans-bisexual respondents. Similarly, more trans-lesbians report either "very difficult" (24.1%) or "somewhat difficult" (55.2%) to access changing rooms compared to trans-gay and trans-bisexual respondents. A similar pattern is observed in the case of prayer rooms as well, with more trans-lesbians reporting it as "very difficult" (10.3%) or "somewhat difficult" (48.3%) compared to trans-gay and trans-bisexual respondents. [Please refer to Tables 59, 60 and 61 below]

Table 56: Access to Public Washrooms among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very Difficult	6.7%	8.2%	7.7%	4.3%
Somewhat Difficult	21.0%	30.6%	19.6%	17.9%
No Difficulty at all	62.9%	50.0%	66.4%	64.1%
Refused to answer	4.0%	4.1%	3.5%	4.9%
Not relevant	5.5%	7.1%	2.8%	8.7%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 57: Access to Changing rooms among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very Difficult	5.1%	11.2%	4.9%	2.2%
Somewhat Difficult	17.6%	30.6%	16.1%	13.0%
No Difficulty at all	66.9%	42.9%	72.7%	70.7%
Refused to answer	4.8%	5.1%	3.5%	6.5%
Not relevant	5.6%	10.2%	2.8%	7.6%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 58: Access to Prayer rooms among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very Difficult	4.2%	6.1%	4.5%	2.7%
Somewhat Difficult	11.4%	24.5%	9.8%	7.1%
No Difficulty at all	73.6%	54.1%	80.1%	73.9%
Refused to answer	4.2%	7.1%	3.1%	4.3%
Not relevant	6.5%	8.2%	2.4%	12.0%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 59: Access to Public Washrooms among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very Difficult	29.3%	17.2%	32.8%	33.3%	28.6%	36.4%
Somewhat Difficult	38.1%	55.2%	34.5%	23.8%	39.3%	31.8%
No Difficulty at all	26.3%	24.1%	29.3%	33.3%	25.0%	22.7%
Refused to answer	1.9%	0.0%	3.4%	4.8%	1.4%	0.0%
Not relevant	4.4%	3.4%	0.0%	4.8%	5.7%	9.1%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22



Table 60: Access to Changing rooms among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very Difficult	31.9%	24.1%	27.6%	33.3%	33.6%	40.9%
Somewhat Difficult	39.6%	55.2%	41.4%	28.6%	39.3%	27.3%
No Difficulty at all	21.5%	17.2%	25.9%	28.6%	19.3%	22.7%
Refused to answer	3.0%	3.4%	5.2%	4.8%	2.1%	0.0%
Not relevant	4.1%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	5.7%	9.1%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

Table 61: Access to Public Washrooms among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very Difficult	15.2%	10.3%	15.5%	19.0%	16.4%	9.1%
Somewhat Difficult	31.1%	48.3%	32.8%	14.3%	28.6%	36.4%
No Difficulty at all	42.6%	31.0%	46.6%	52.4%	42.1%	40.9%
Refused to answer	3.3%	0.0%	3.4%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%
Not relevant	7.8%	10.3%	1.7%	14.3%	7.9%	13.6%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

# 8

## Health

*This chapter assesses the experience respondents had when seeking assistance from either government hospitals or public healthcare centers.*

While a majority of cisgender lesbians, gay and bisexual men /women indicate that they have not avoided going to a government hospital or public healthcare center, a mere 14.3% indicate that they have. From those who indicate that they have avoided going to a government or public healthcare center – a slightly higher percentage of transgender respondents hold this view. [Please refer to Figures 66 and 67 below]

*Figure 66: Have you ever avoided going to a government hospital or public health care center? by Cisgender Respondents*

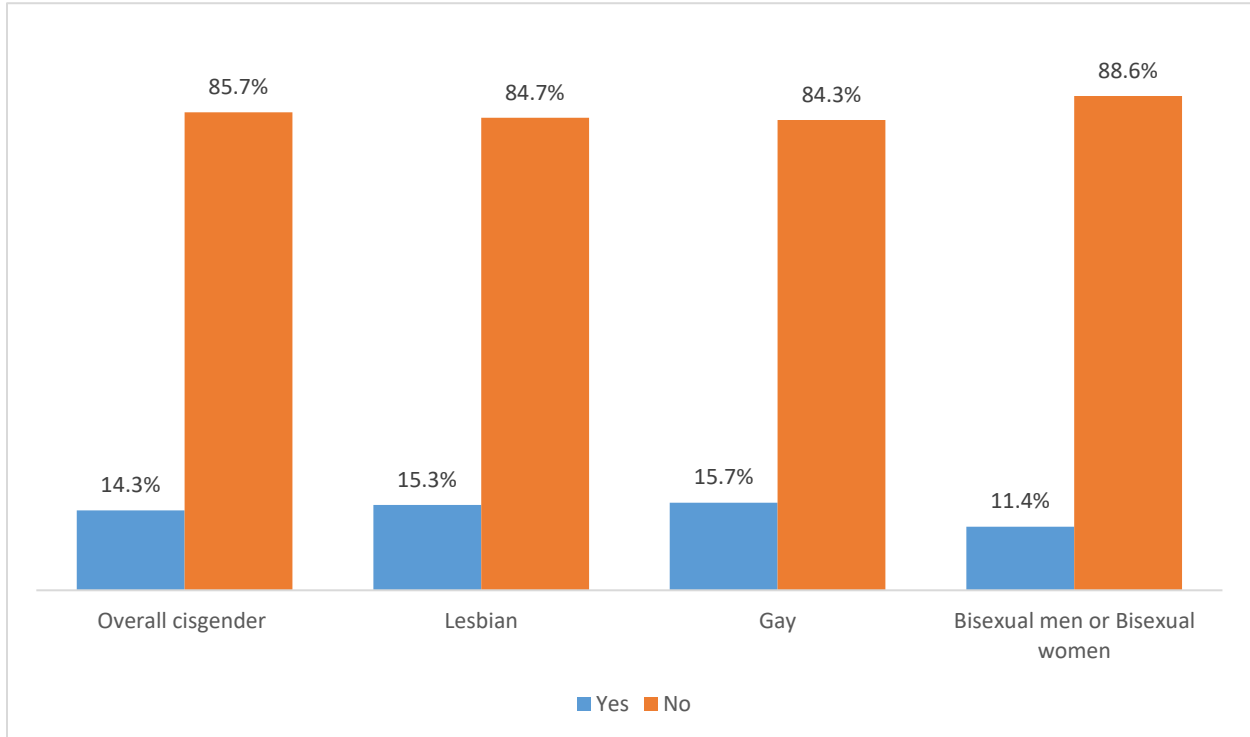
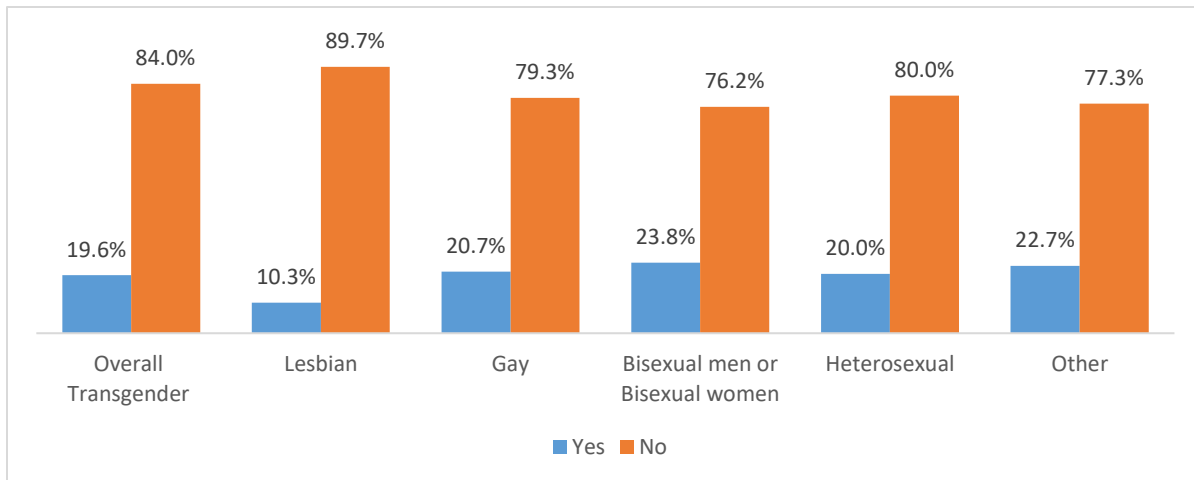


Figure 67: Have you ever avoided going to a government hospital or public health care center? by Transgender Respondents



A majority of both the cisgender and transgender respondents who have visited a government hospital or public healthcare center indicate that they have done so alone. A slightly higher percentage of respondents from the transgender community indicate that they have visited the hospitals or public healthcare centers with someone else. [Please refer Figures 68 and 69]

Figure 68: If visited alone or with someone else? by Cisgender

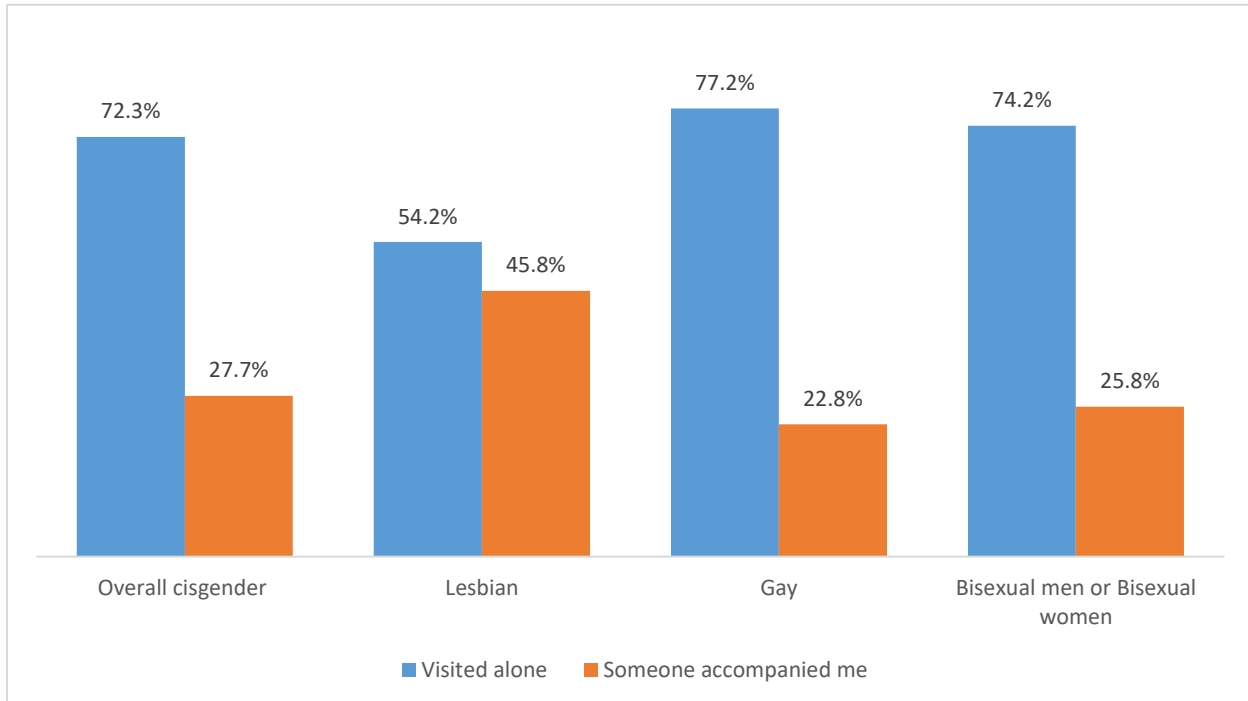
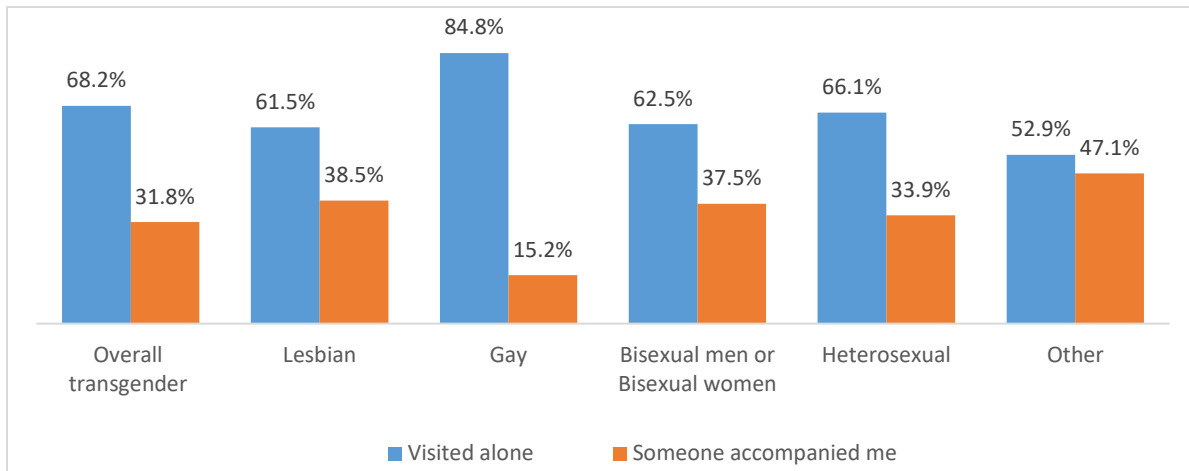


Figure 69: If visited alone or with someone else? by Transgender



## Treatment by Doctors

A majority of respondents across both the cisgender and transgender communities are of the opinion that the doctors were helpful. [See Tables 62 and 63 below]

Table 62: Treatment by Doctors among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	69.8%	62.7%	70.5%	72.4%
Somewhat helpful	26.5%	32. %5	25.7%	24.5%
Somewhat unhelpful	1.6%	2.4%	2.5%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Not Relevant	1.8%	2.4%	0.8%	3.1%
Base	487	83	241	163

Table 63: Treatment by Doctors among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	64.5%	65.4%	69.6%	50.0%	66.1%	52.9%
Somewhat helpful	31.3%	30.8%	28.3%	50.0%	27.7%	47.1%
83Somewhat unhelpful	1.8%	3.8%	2.2%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%
Not Relevant	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%
Base	217	26	46	16	112	17

## Treatment by Attendants

A majority of respondents across both the cisgender and transgender communities are of the opinion that the attendants were helpful. A slightly higher percentage of cis-lesbians (13.3%) indicated that attendants have not been helpful while a slightly higher percentage of trans-bisexual men/women (25%) respondents indicate the same. [Please see Tables 64 and 65 below]

Table 64: Treatment by Attendants among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	48.9%	49.4%	49.0%	48.5%
Somewhat helpful	38.0%	36.1%	39.4%	36.8%
Somewhat unhelpful	8.0%	9.6%	7.1%	8.6%
Not helpful at all	3.1%	3.6%	3.3%	2.5%
Not Relevant	2.1%	1.2%	1.2%	3.7%
Base	487	83	241	163

Table 65: Treatment by Attendants among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	43.8%	30.8%	54.3%	25.0%	46.4%	35.3%
Somewhat helpful	42.9%	46.2%	37.0%	50.0%	42.0%	52.9%
Somewhat unhelpful	6.5%	7.7%	2.2%	18.8%	6.3%	5.9%
Not helpful at all	3.2%	11.5%	2.2%	6.3%	1.8%	0.0%
Not Relevant	3.7%	3.8%	4.3%	0.0%	3.6%	5.9%
Base	217	26	46	16	112	17

## Treatment by security officers

A majority of respondents across both the cisgender and transgender communities are of the opinion that security officers at these healthcare centers were helpful. It is mostly respondents who were either cis-lesbians and trans-bisexuals both men/women who indicate that they were not helpful. [Please see Tables 66 and 67 below]

Table 66: Treatment by Security Officers among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	41.1%	45.8%	39.8%	40.5%
Somewhat helpful	39.6%	34.9%	40.2%	41.1%
Somewhat unhelpful	6.8%	4.8%	7.9%	6.1%
Not helpful at all	7.0%	7.2%	7.1%	6.7%
Not Relevant	5.5%	7.2%	5.0%	5.5%
Base	487	83	241	163

Table 67: Treatment by Security Officers among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	33.6%	26.9%	41.3%	31.3%	30.4%	47.1%
Somewhat helpful	40.1%	50.0%	32.6%	37.5%	40.2%	47.1%
Somewhat unhelpful	7.4%	11.5%	6.5%	18.8%	6.3%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	6.5%	0.0%	8.7%	6.3%	8.0%	0.0%
Not Relevant	12.4%	11.5%	10.9%	6.3%	15.2%	5.9%
Base	217	26	46	16	112	17

## Treatment by pharmacists

A majority of respondents across both the cisgender and transgender communities are of the opinion that the pharmacists were helpful. [Please see Tables 68 and 69 below]

Table 68: Treatment by Pharmacists among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	51.7%	50.6%	52.7%	50.9%
Somewhat helpful	41.1%	39.8%	41.9%	40.5%
Somewhat unhelpful	3.3%	4.8%	3.3%	2.5%
Not helpful at all	1.6%	3.6%	0.4%	2.5%
Not Relevant	2.3%	1.2%	1.7%	3.7%
Base	487	83	241	163

Table 69: Treatment by Pharmacists among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	51.6%	34.6%	50.0%	43.8%	58.0%	47.1%
Somewhat helpful	38.2%	53.8%	41.3%	43.8%	30.4%	52.9%
Somewhat unhelpful	3.7%	3.8%	2.2%	12.5%	3.6%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	1.4%	3.8%	2.2%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%
Not Relevant	5.1%	3.8%	4.3%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Base	217	26	46	16	112	17

## Treatment by patients

A majority of respondents across both the cisgender and transgender communities are of the opinion that other patients in the hospital were helpful. [Please see Tables 70 and 71 below]

Table 70: Treatment by Patients among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Very helpful	34.9%	33.7%	34.0%	36.8%
Somewhat helpful	44.8%	48.2%	45.2%	42.3%
Somewhat unhelpful	5.1%	1.2%	7.1%	4.3%
Not helpful at all	3.7%	7.2%	3.7%	1.8%
Not Relevant	11.5%	9.6%	10.0%	14.7%
Base	487	83	241	163



Table 71: Treatment by Patients among Transgender Respondents

	Overall transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Very helpful	29.0%	23.1%	39.1%	18.8%	27.7%	29.4%
Somewhat helpful	46.5%	61.5%	41.3%	50.0%	42.0%	64.7%
Somewhat unhelpful	6.0%	3.8%	0.0%	12.5%	8.9%	0.0%
Not helpful at all	3.2%	0.0%	4.3%	12.5%	2.7%	0.0%
Not Relevant	15.2%	11.5%	15.2%	6.3%	18.8%	5.9%
Base	217	26	46	16	112	17

## Access to healthcare:

While a slight majority from both cisgender and transgender communities indicate that they have easy access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, nearly one third of the respondents indicate that accessing these services are difficult or they do not have access to these services. From those who indicate that access is difficult, it is mostly respondents from the transgender community who hold this view. [Please see Tables 72 and 73 below]

Table 72: Access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Easy access	52.8%	44.9%	54.9%	53.8%
Access is available but difficult to obtain	24.1%	24.5%	25.2%	22.3%
Don't have access	3.7%	4.1%	3.5%	3.8%
Not Relevant	19.4%	26.5%	16.4%	20.1%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 73: Access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easy access	42.2%	24.1%	56.9%	33.3%	40.7%	45.5%
Access is available but difficult to obtain	37.8%	58.6%	31.0%	38.1%	38.6%	22.7%
Don't have access	3.7%	6.9%	1.7%	0.0%	3.6%	9.1%
Not Relevant	16.3%	10.3%	10.3%	28.6%	17.1%	22.7%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

On access to healthcare services that support with gender transitioning surgeries and procedures, or access to healthcare providers that provide necessary medication such as hormone pills etc. that facilitate gender transitioning surgeries and procedures - a notable percentage of respondents from the transgender community indicate that it is difficult to obtain. [Please see Tables 74 and 75 below]

Table 74: Access to healthcare services that support with gender transitioning surgeries and procedures among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easy access	30.7%	6.9%	34.5%	33.3%	34.3%	27.3%
Access is available but difficult to obtain	44.1%	69.0%	27.6%	38.1%	47.1%	40.9%
Don't have access	8.5%	17.2%	3.4%	4.8%	7.1%	22.7%
Not Relevant	16.7%	6.9%	34.5%	23.8%	11.4%	9.1%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

Table 75: Access to healthcare service providers that provide necessary medication such as hormone pills etc. that facilitate gender transitioning surgeries and procedures among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easy access	38.5%	24.1%	37.9%	33.3%	43.6%	31.8%
Access is available but difficult to obtain	39.3%	58.6%	22.4%	38.1%	43.6%	31.8%
Don't have access	7.0%	10.3%	3.4%	4.8%	5.7%	22.7%
Not Relevant	15.2%	6.9%	36.2%	23.8%	7.1%	13.6%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

A notable proportion across both the cisgender and the transgender communities are of the view that access to mental healthcare is difficult to obtain. [Please see Tables 76 and 77 below]

Table 76: Access to Mental Healthcare among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Easy access	43.1%	46.9%	41.6%	43.5%
Access is available but difficult to obtain	21.0%	19.4%	22.4%	19.6%
Don't have access	5.6%	5.1%	6.3%	4.9%
Not Relevant	30.3%	28.6%	29.7%	32.1%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 77: Access to Mental Healthcare among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easy access	47.0%	31.0%	51.7%	33.3%	51.4%	40.9%
Access is available but difficult to obtain	35.9%	51.7%	29.3%	33.3%	32.9%	54.5%
Don't have access	2.6%	6.9%	3.4%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%
Not Relevant	14.4%	10.3%	15.5%	33.3%	13.6%	4.5%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

## Affordability

An almost majority of respondents indicate that they have either difficulties or cannot afford sexual and reproductive health services, resources to support gender transitioning surgeries and procedures, access to healthcare service providers that provide necessary medication such as hormone pills etc. that facilitate gender transition, and access to mental health support and services (counselling, psychiatric support and psychosocial therapy etc.). [Please see Tables 78 to 83 below]

On sexual reproductive health services, a notable percentage (15.3%) of cis-lesbians indicate that they cannot afford sexual reproductive health services at all. [Please see Table 78 below]

From the transgender community it is mostly the trans-lesbian (13.8%) and trans-heterosexuals (13.6%) who hold this view. [Please see Table 79 below]

It is mostly respondents from the trans-lesbian, trans-bisexual (men/women) and trans-heterosexual communities who indicate that they cannot afford resources that support them with gender transitioning surgeries and procedures.

Table 78: Ability to afford sexual and reproductive healthcare services among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Easily affordable	32.9%	27.6%	36.7%	29.9%
Affordable but with great difficulties	31.2%	33.7%	32.2%	28.3%
Not affordable at all	9.2%	15.3%	6.6%	9.8%
Not Relevant	26.8%	23.5%	24.5%	32.1%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 79: Ability to afford sexual and reproductive healthcare services among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual
Easily affordable	25.2%	17.2%	36.2%	14.3%	24.3%
Affordable but with great difficulties	44.8%	58.6%	36.2%	47.6%	45.0%
Not affordable at all	13.0%	13.8%	12.1%	9.5%	13.6%
Not Relevant	17.0%	10.3%	15.5%	28.6%	17.1%
Base	248	29	58	21	140

Table 80: Ability to afford healthcare services that support with gender transitioning surgeries and procedures among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easily affordable	18.5%	3.4%	24.1%	14.3%	19.3%	22.7%
Affordable but with great difficulties	42.6%	62.1%	27.6%	33.3%	46.4%	40.9%
Not affordable at all	22.6%	24.1%	12.1%	28.6%	25.0%	27.3%
Not Relevant	16.3%	10.3%	36.2%	23.8%	9.3%	9.1%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

Table 81: Ability to afford healthcare service providers that provide necessary medication such as hormone pills etc. that facilitate gender transitioning surgeries and procedures among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easily affordable	22.6%	13.8%	25.9%	19.0%	23.6%	22.7%
Affordable but with great difficulties	44.1%	62.1%	27.6%	38.1%	50.0%	31.8%
Not affordable at all	17.4%	17.2%	12.1%	19.0%	17.1%	31.8%
Not Relevant	15.9%	6.9%	34.5%	23.8%	9.3%	13.6%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22

Table 82: Ability to afford Mental Healthcare among Cisgender Respondents

	Overall Cisgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women
Easily affordable	29.0%	28.6%	28.0%	31.0%
Affordable but with great difficulties	28.0%	28.6%	30.4%	23.9%
Not affordable at all	9.9%	12.2%	9.1%	9.8%
Not Relevant	33.1%	30.6%	32.5%	35.3%
Base	568	98	286	184

Table 83: Ability to afford Mental Healthcare among Transgender Respondents

	Overall Transgender	Lesbian	Gay	Bisexual men or Bisexual women	Heterosexual	Other
Easily affordable	33.0%	13.8%	43.1%	38.1%	32.1%	31.8%
Affordable but with great difficulties	40.7%	58.6%	31.0%	38.1%	38.6%	59.1%
Not affordable at all	13.7%	24.1%	10.3%	14.3%	14.3%	4.5%
Not Relevant	12.6%	3.4%	15.5%	9.5%	15.0%	4.5%
Base	270	29	58	21	140	22