

A SURVEY OF THE NEPALI PEOPLE IN 2022

SURVEY REPORT | GANDAKI PROVINCE



 *inter disciplinary analysts*

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FOREWORD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2022, the Survey of the Nepali People (SNP 2022) interviewed a nationally representative sample of 7,056 Nepalis randomly selected from 588 wards across all seven provinces. This Gandaki Province brief, is based on answers from a sample of 1,005 respondents in 84 wards of Gandaki Province. This brief presents findings on peoples' views on the country's direction, the situation of their household, local conditions, security, identity and social relations, governance, public service delivery, elections, political participation, economic outlook, and the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

Between SNP 2020 and SPN 2022, Nepal witnessed the dissolution of the Parliament and its subsequent reinstatement following a Supreme Court ruling. The country also experienced new electoral coalitions, an impeachment motion against the Chief Justice, a series of corruption scandals, nationwide Covid-19 lockdowns, and disruptions in supply chains and rising inflation due to the global economic downturn and the Russia-Ukraine war. These events have had huge impacts on the trajectory of Nepal's development and the daily lives of its citizens, as reflected in the survey results. However, the survey findings only reflect a snapshot of perspectives from a sample of citizens at the time of data collection.

Gandaki Province was also affected by the fall of the K.P. Oli government, the division of the UML into the CPN (Unified Socialist) led by Madhav Kumar Nepal, and the resurgence of the former CPN Maoist Center. This impact became evident with the fall of the provincial government led by Chief Minister Prithvi Subba Gurung. A new coalition emerged under the leadership of Nepali Congress leader Krishna Chandra Nepali on June 11, 2021, garnering support from the CPN Maosit Center and Ekikrit Samajbadi party. The outcome of the local election held on May 13, 2022 certainly also influenced public perception in Gandaki Province.

In 2022, Gandaki Province residents' outlook on the country's direction, economic conditions, and on political participation and governance was less optimistic than in survey previous rounds. In 2022, a

lower share than in any of the previous survey rounds thought the country was moving in the right direction (26.8%). The socio-economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic were clearly reflected in the survey results, with people expressing the need for government support to aid their recovery in the following areas: improved health services, cash schemes, employment opportunities, and educational support for children. Furthermore, a smaller proportion of people in Gandaki Province than in previous survey rounds reported an improved household financial situation compared to the previous year. Increased corruption, inflation, deteriorating economic conditions, and difficulties in securing employment were the most frequently mentioned challenges in Gandaki in 2022. Additionally, optimism regarding the economic outlook in the region diminished with 20.1 % of Gandaki Province residents holding a positive economic outlook in 2022 compared to 49.4% in 2020.

People in Gandaki Province held more positive views of local areas and local governments, compared to national level. While the share of respondents reporting improvements in local condition slightly declined compared to 2020, it still remained more than twice the level of optimism about the overall direction of the country. Trust in local governments continued to surpass that in federal and provincial governments. Likewise, 70% of respondents report satisfaction with the services provided by local government.

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

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

This provincial brief presents key findings around the following six broad topics:

Public outlook and national mood. Views on the general direction of the country, conditions in the area where they live, and the situation of their household; what has improved and what problems remain.

Security and dispute resolution. People's sense of safety and experience of crime and violence, preferred avenues for dispute resolution, and level of confidence in those institutions to deliver justice.

Identity. Views on patterns of discrimination, social values, and leadership positions.

Governance and political participation. Views on local-level restructuring, trust in institutions, awareness on government services and the quality of public service delivery (education, health care, and roads), local elections, and taxation.

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

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

2. PUBLIC OUTLOOK AND NATIONAL MOOD

2.1 DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

When asked, whether the country was moving in the right direction or in the wrong direction, 26.8% of the respondents in Gandaki Province reported that Nepal was moving in the right direction. This figure is noticeably below the national average of 41.8% and a sharp fall from 74.7% in 2020 (Figure 2.1.1). In the year 2022 the level of optimism of Gandaki Province dropped below 50% for the first time since the start of the SNP survey since 2017.

Two-thirds of respondents (66.7%) thought that the country was headed in the wrong direction. Compared to 2020 (23.3%), the share with a pessimistic outlook on the direction of the country almost tripled in 2022.

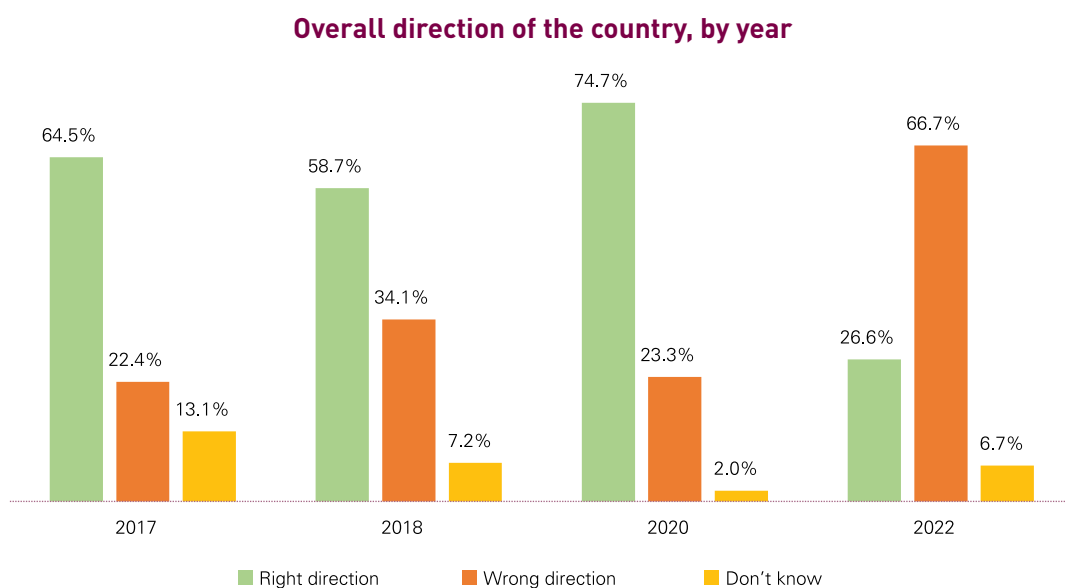


Figure 2.1.1: Q-B1a. Overall, do you think the country is moving in the right direction, or do you think it is moving in the wrong direction? (N=1005)

Some differences in opinion are associated with the demographic characteristics of the respondents. For example, people from the Terai (50.0%) were more optimistic than the people from the Mountain (16.7%) and Hill (23.8%) regions. More young people in the 18-24 age group (31.4%) had a positive outlook than those age 55 and above (22.0%). Hill Caste (20.2%) community members were less likely to think that the country is moving in the right direction than the Hill Adibasi/Janajati groups (31.6%). Compared to the provincial average (26.8%), a larger proportion of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (33.3%) were likely to say that the country is moving in the right direction. All people from Madhesi Caste (Level-2) (100%) were pessimistic about the direction of the country. No significant variation was observed for different levels of education.

The survey also asked respondents about their outlook on social, economic, political, cultural, and physical infrastructure sectors across the country. In 2022, respondents were less positive across all sectors compared to 2020 (Figure 2.1.2). About three-fifths of respondents seemed positive about physical infrastructure (61.0%), half were positive about social (50.5%) and cultural (49.1%) sectors. Fewer thought the economy (18.6%) and political sector (15.7%) were headed in the right direction.

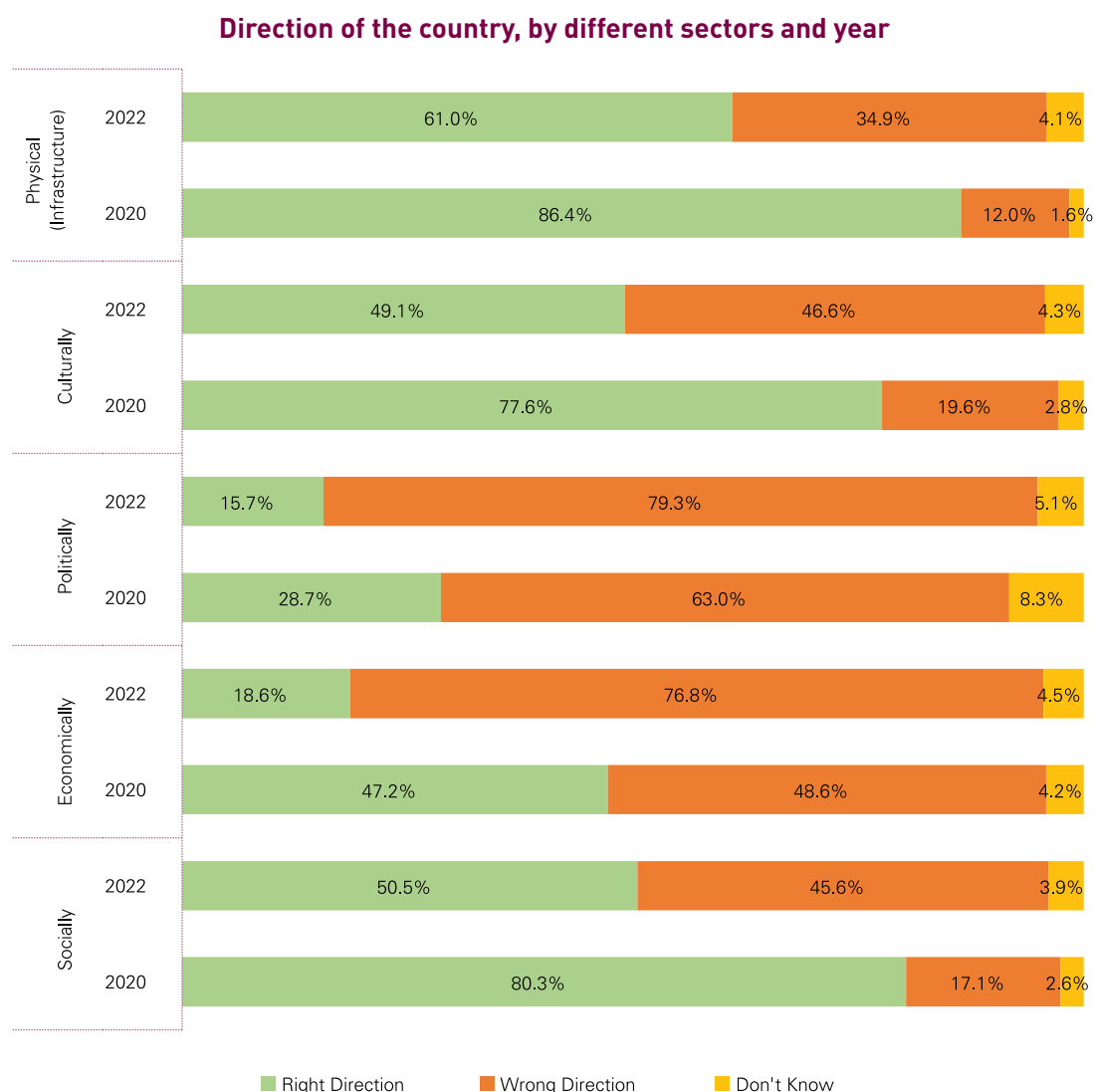


Figure 2.1.2: Q-B1b-f. Do you think things in Nepal today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? Please answer considering the overall as well as social, economic, political, cultural, and physical (infrastructural) conditions of the country. (N=1005)

2.2 REASONS FOR OPTIMISM

Respondents who believed that Nepal was moving in the right direction (26.8%) were further asked to identify the main reasons for their optimism. The most commonly cited reasons for optimism were better roads (35.8%), good social aspects (16.4%), better access to education (15.9%), improved drinking water facilities (12.7%), and improved supply of electricity (9.5%).

Improved roads and trails was the most cited reason for optimism in all four survey rounds. The share of respondents citing better access to education increased from 2.6% in 2017 to 15.9% in 2022.

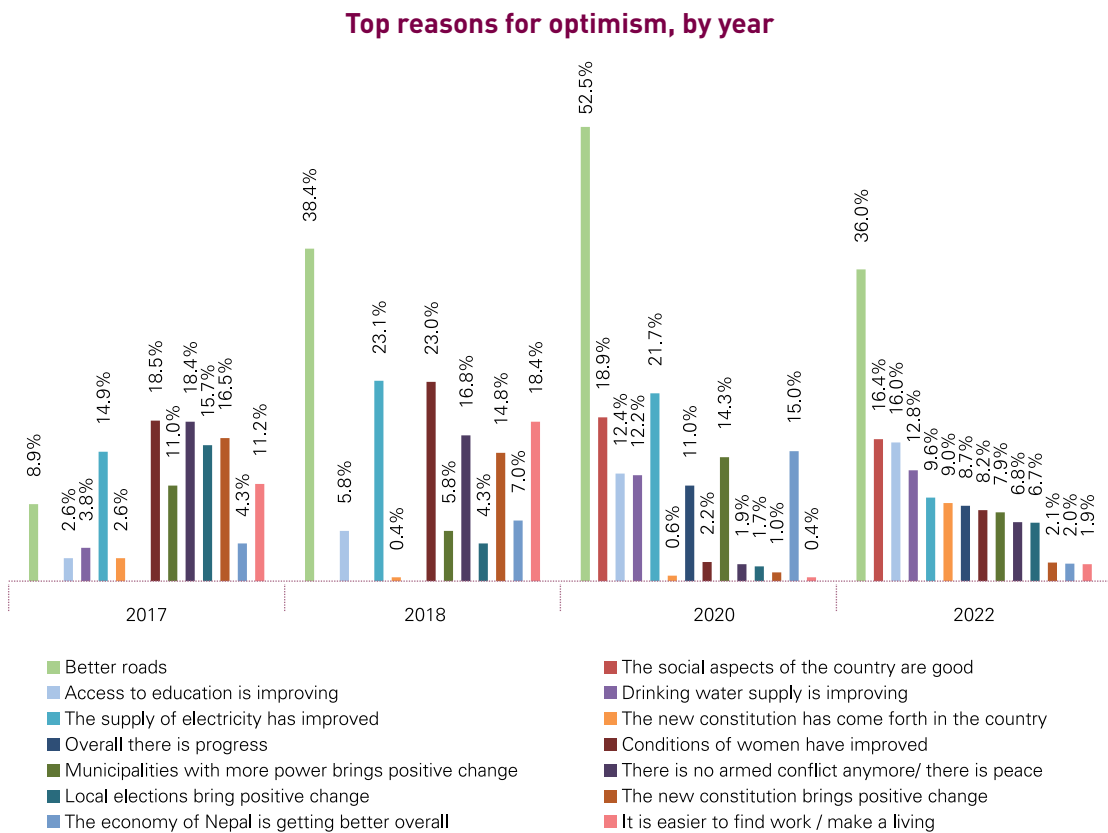


Figure 2.2.1: Q-B2. [If answered “Nepal is going in the right direction” to Q-B1] Why do you think that Nepal is going in the right direction? (N=268)¹

2.3 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

All respondents were asked what they considered to be the biggest problems in Nepal. Around two-fifths of people (39.5%) in Gandaki Province identified the higher prices of essential goods as the biggest problem, followed by corruption (36.9%), difficulty finding a job (20.9%) and the worsening economic condition of the nation (19.9%).

1 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were limited to cite the two reasons for their optimism but in 2020 and 2022 respondent were allowed to give multiple responses. To compare the optimism of respondents across the four years, first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

The proportion of people citing the high price of essential goods was lowest in 2017 (7.5%) but gradually increased throughout the years and soared in 2022 (39.5%).

In all survey rounds, a sizable proportion of people in Gandaki Province faced challenges finding work and making a living. The proportion fluctuated—it was highest in the year 2018 (36.1%), and lowest in the year 2020 (17.0%).

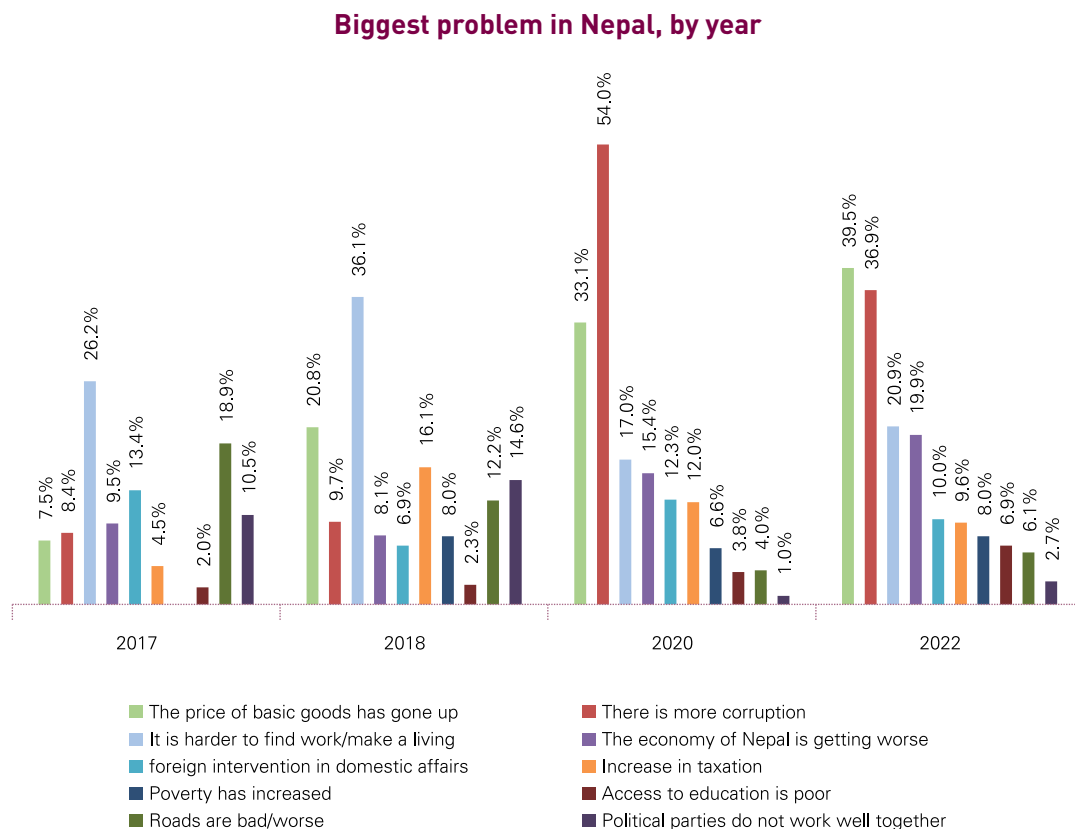


Figure 2.3.1: Q-B3. In your view, what are the two biggest problems facing Nepal as a whole? (N=1005)²

2.4 LOCAL CONDITIONS

Three-fourths of people (75.2%) in Gandaki Province thought the overall situation in their local area was improving, and just over one fifth (22.7%) believed that the local situation was getting worse.

The share of people in Gandaki Province who thought the general situation in their local area was improving had increased from 68.5% in 2017 to 89.5% in 2020 but decreased again in 2022 by 14.3 percentage points.

² In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, they were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses, only the first two responses in 2020 and 2022 were considered and analyzed.

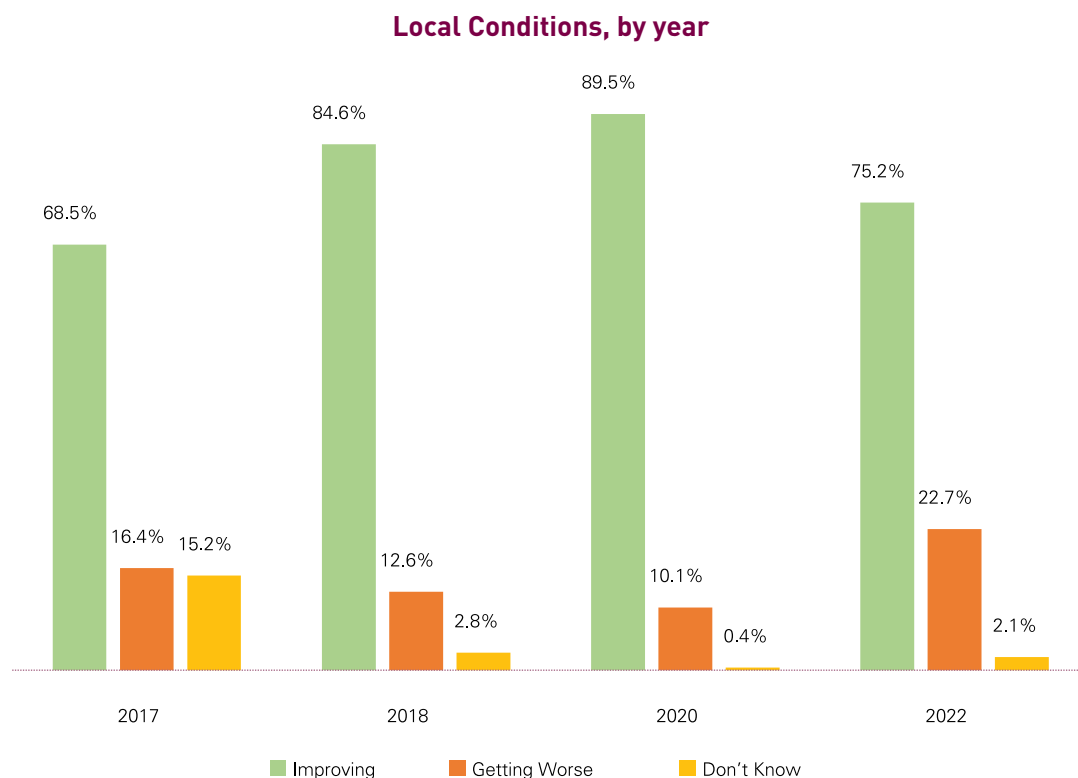


Figure 2.4.1: Q-B4a. Now I would like you to think about the area where you live and work most of the time. Do you think things in your area are improving, or do you think they are getting worse? (N=1005)

People from the Mountain (100%) area were more optimistic about their local area than those from the Hill (76.3%) and Terai (65.2%) regions. Similarly, people from rural municipalities (80.8%) were more optimistic than urban municipalities (71.9%). Hill Caste community members were more likely to express that local conditions were improving than people from the Terai Castes. Compared to the provincial average (67.0%), a smaller proportion of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) (33.3%) and Madhesi Caste (Level-2) (50.0%) were optimistic about their local area.

2.5 REASONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN LOCAL CONDITIONS

Respondents who thought that the local situation was improving were further asked to provide reasons. People of Gandaki Province thought that the situation in their locality improved because of better roads and trails (57.5%), better drinking water services (27.6%), improved supply of electricity (12.1%), and greater access to health and education (11.7%).

The share citing road/trails as the reason why local conditions improved remained high throughout the survey period but fluctuated between rounds (Figure 2.5.1).

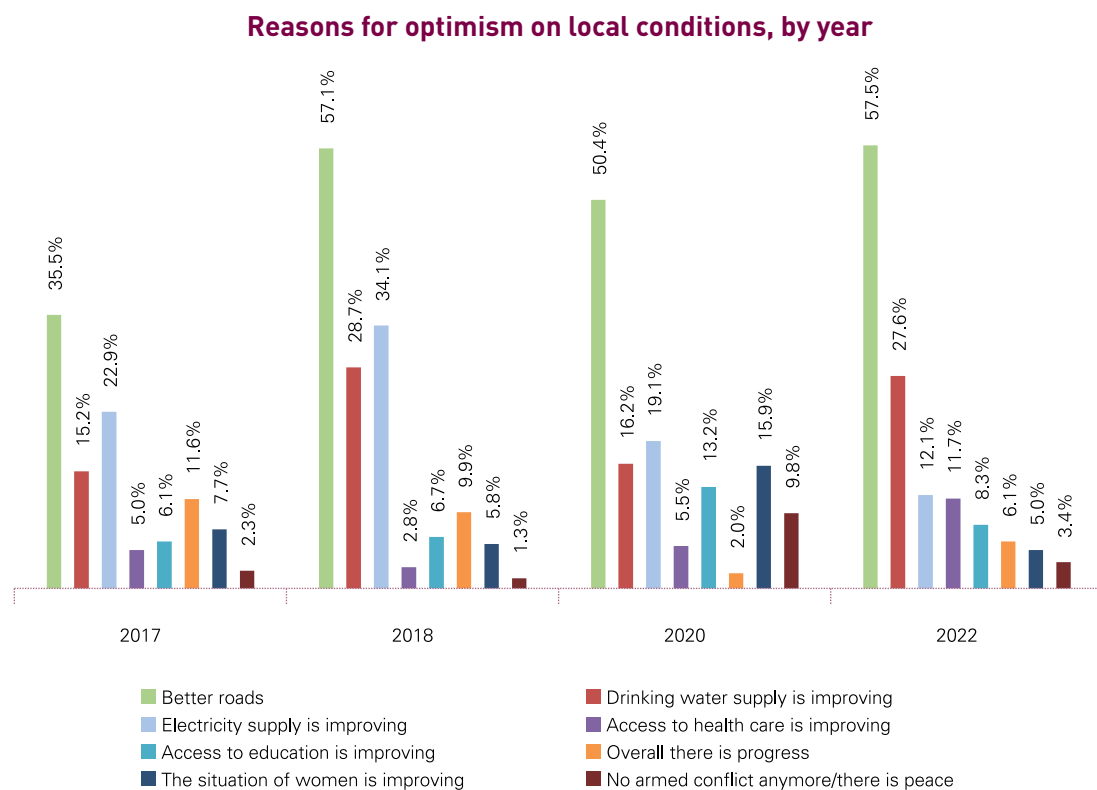


Figure 2.51: Q-B5. In your view what has improved in your area during the past year (N=756)³

2.6 PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

All respondents were asked about the challenges and problems in their local area. In Gandaki Province, people reported rising prices of essential goods (37.4%), bad condition of roads/trails (26.2%), difficulties in finding jobs (23.3%), increased local taxes (15.2%) and inadequate improvement of drinking water facilities (12.3%).

Respondents from the Mountain region were comparatively more likely to mention inadequate improvements of drinking water supply/facilities (58.3%), and inadequate improvement of electricity supply in the area (41.9%). People from the Hill region were more likely to report high prices of basic goods and necessities (38.2%), and deteriorating conditions of roads and trails (27.6%). People from Terai were more likely to mention high local taxes (22.8%).

³ In SNP 2017 and 2018, respondents were limited to citing the top two major problems the country is facing, but in 2020 and 2022, respondents were allowed to give multiple responses. To fairly compare responses on major problems the country is facing in the four different surveys, the first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

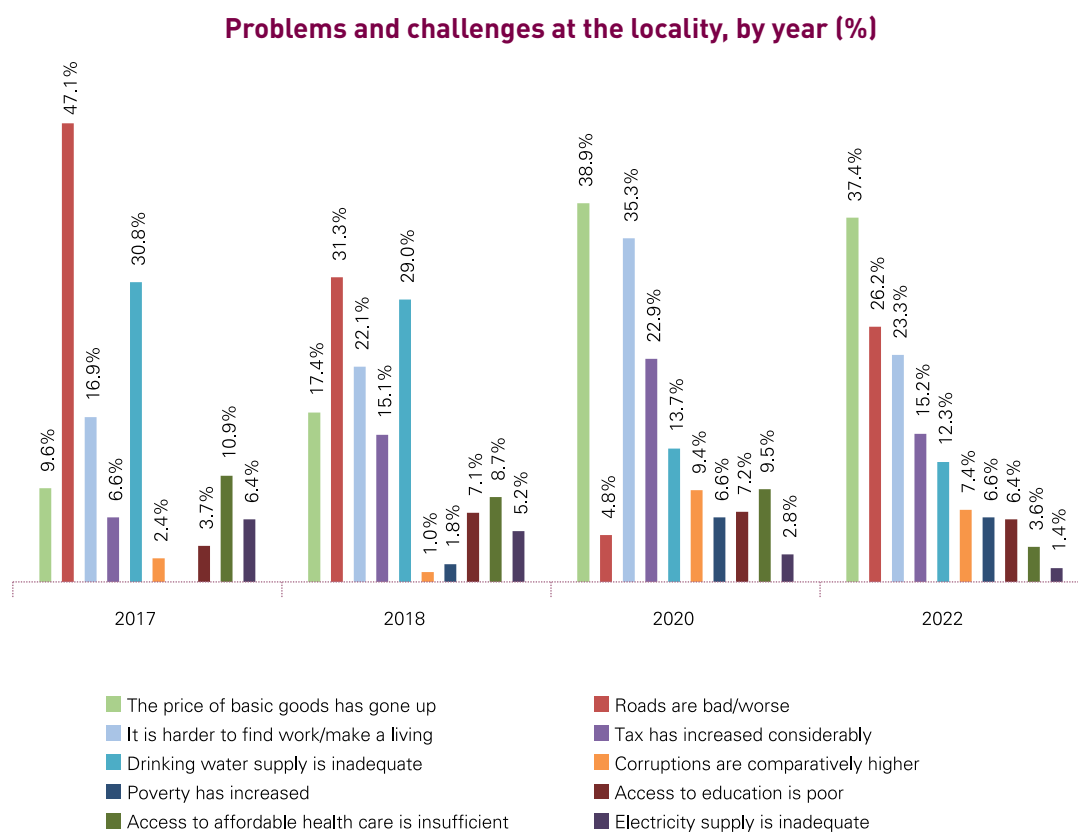


Figure 2.6.1: Q-B6. In your view what are the biggest problems in the area where you live and work most of the time? (N=1005)⁴

2.7 SITUATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Respondents were asked nine questions about various aspects of the evolution of their household over the past year (Table 2.7.1). For all different aspects asked about, the largest share reported that their overall household situation in 2022 was the same as during the previous year.

Over the years, the shares reporting worsening household conditions, decreased for all aspects, indicating that household conditions are improving in Gandaki Province. For example, while in 2017, still 20.8% reported that access to drinking water had become worse, only 4.7% report the same in 2022. Over the years, the proportion of people who said various aspects of their household's situation had improved was comparatively higher than those who said it had become worse.

The share reporting improved financial conditions declined in 2022 (26.3%) compared to 2020 (39.2%). Similarly, the share of people reporting better access to electricity decreased from 53.8% in 2020 to 30.2% in 2022. Instead, people were more likely to report unchanged conditions.

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

Situation of the household, by year

	Year	Better	Same	Worse
Financial situation of your household	2017	20.2%	69.4%	10.4%
	2018	36.9%	58.3%	4.6%
	2020	39.2%	55.4%	5.5%
	2022	26.3%	68.2%	5.5%
Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	2017	13.8%	77.0%	9.2%
	2018	25.6%	71.4%	3.0%
	2020	23.8%	74.7%	1.6%
	2022	21.1%	76.8%	2.1%
Health/well-being of your family members	2017	14.4%	73.6%	12.0%
	2018	26.9%	62.9%	10.2%
	2020	32.7%	59.1%	8.2%
	2022	25.0%	67.4%	7.5%
Relations with other people in the community	2017	23.6%	74.1%	2.3%
	2018	30.4%	69.1%	0.5%
	2020	38.0%	61.4%	0.6%
	2022	21.2%	78.2%	0.6%
Relations with local government and authorities	2017	12.8%	76.8%	2.4%
	2018	19.2%	69.0%	1.2%
	2020	33.2%	65.5%	0.8%
	2022	18.6%	80.4%	1.0%
Access to electricity	2017	43.3%	47.1%	9.0%
	2018	51.4%	45.5%	3.1%
	2020	53.8%	44.9%	1.3%
	2022	30.2%	68.4%	1.4%
Access to drinking water	2017	25.2%	53.7%	20.8%
	2018	38.0%	54.1%	7.8%
	2020	44.2%	50.0%	5.9%
	2022	33.0%	62.3%	4.7%
Access to markets	2022	19.7%	78.5%	1.8%
Access to public transport	2022	21.0%	76.1%	2.9%

Table 2.7.1: Q-B7a-g. Now I would like you to think about the situation of your household. Compared to last year, would you say that the situation for your household has gotten better, remained the same or gotten worse with respect to the following? (N=1005) ('Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' excluded 'Don't Know' not presented)

2.8 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCES

When asked whether they had to skip a meal, go without medical treatment or medicine, and/or keep their children home from school due to financial issues, a vast majority selected "never." However, over the years, there was a slight increase in the share of respondents reporting "sometimes" for going without medical treatments (5.1%), not sending children to school (3.4%), and skipping a meal (3.0%) due to lack of money.

Household experience due to lack of money, by year

	Year	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Skipped a meal	2018	0.2%	0.6%	4.2%	95.0%
	2020	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	97.7%
	2022	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	97.0%
Gone without medical treatment	2018	0.3%	1.0%	7.3%	91.5%
	2020	0.0%	0.4%	4.8%	94.8%
	2022	0.3%	0.3%	5.1%	94.3%
Not been able to send children to school	2018	0.4%	0.8%	4.9%	94.0%
	2020	0.0%	0.2%	2.4%	97.4%
	2022	0.0%	0.8%	3.4%	95.8%

Table 2.8.1: Q-B8. Thinking back over the past 12 months, how often have you or your household because you didn't have money? (N=1005)

3. PERSONAL SAFETY AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

3.1 HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENCE, CRIME AND JUSTICE

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

The vast majority of people in Gandaki Province (94.6%) said they had not experienced any violence or crime during the previous year. A few respondents (2.5%) said that they or a member of their household had been the victim of cheating while lending/borrowing or during a transaction. Some 1.8% of respondents said they or their family experienced theft (Table 3.1.1).

The share of people experiencing different forms of violence or crime generally decreased over the years. For example, the share reporting that their household was a victim of theft decreased from 2.4% in 2020 to 1.8% in 2022. Similarly, the share citing physical exploitation faced in during foreign employment reduced from 1.5% (2020) to 0.7% (2022). However, the share experiencing being cheated during lending-borrowing transactions increased from 1.8% in 2020 to 2.5% in 2022.

Experience of violence and crime, by year

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Theft	2.6%	2.6%	2.4%	1.8%
Physical assault/beatings	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%
Assault with weapon	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Cheating in lending/borrowing or transactions	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	2.5%
Burglary / Breaking and Entering / Looting	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Extortion	1.6%	1.4%	0.2%	0.7%
Motor vehicle theft /property taken from vehicle or vehicle parts stolen	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.9%

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Livestock theft	1.5%	0.4%	1.0%	0.7%
Experienced any form of violence during a political rally, protest or bandh	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Kidnapping	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
Murder / murder attempt	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.5%
Sexual violence	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Human trafficking	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Gender-based Violence (Domestic Violence, harmful practices like witchcraft, chaupadi)	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Physical Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.7%	1.5%	0.7%
Sexual Exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%
Financial exploitation faced in course of foreign employment	0.0%	1.9%	1.7%	1.1%

Table 3.1.1: Q-C3A-R. Have you or has anyone in your household been the victim of the following types of violence or criminal acts in the past year? (N=1005)

4. IDENTITY AND SOCIAL RELATION

4.1 MOTHER TONGUE

In Gandaki Province more than three-fourth of respondents (76.2%) speak Nepali as their mother tongue⁵. Some 23.8% said they speak a language other than Nepali as their mother tongue, mostly Gurung (12.3%) and Magar (6.5%).

Mother tongue, by province and ecological region

		Overall	Ecological Region		
			Mountain	Hill	Terai
Across the Country	Nepali	48.3%	69.6%	66.9%	29.4%
	Other than Nepali	51.7%	30.4%	33.1%	70.6%
Gandaki Province	Nepali	76.2%		77.2%	74.6%
	Other than Nepali	23.8%	100.0%	22.8%	25.4%

Table 4.1.1: Q-D1. What is your mother tongue? (N = 1005)

4.2 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGE DUE TO MOTHER TONGUE

The 23.8% of respondents with a language other than Nepali as their mother tongue were further asked if they had ever felt disadvantaged in five different situations read out to them.

The large majority of people in Gandaki Province did not feel disadvantaged; only small shares (of 1.3% or less) said they experienced disadvantages due to their mother tongue in some of the situations asked about. Some 1.3% said they felt disadvantaged when obtaining services from government

⁵ According to 2011 census, Nepali is spoken as mother tongue by 44.6 percent of the total population. But the latest census data with regards to mother tongue is not available in preliminary findings of 2021 census.

office, and even fewer felt disadvantaged when interacting with colleagues or clients at work (1%), and when accessing health services in a hospital/ health post (1%). No respondents felt disadvantaged due to their mother tongue when visiting a police station to report a problem, studying at school or university, or when attending public events (Table 4.2.1).

Over time, the share of people who reported feeling disadvantaged decreased noticeably. For example, 12.6% said they felt disadvantaged when visiting a government office to obtain a public service in 2020, but only 1.3% said so in 2022.

Feeling of disadvantage due to mother tongue other than Nepali language, by year

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people (N=126)	Disadvantage	6.9%	10.4%	10.9%	1.0%
	Not a Disadvantage	93.1%	89.6%	89.1%	99.0%
To report a problem in police station (N=54)	Disadvantage	4.8%	10.9%	13.7%	
	Not a Disadvantage	95.2%	89.1%	86.3%	100.0%
To obtain services in a government office (N=126)	Disadvantage	10.0%	9.7%	12.6%	1.3%
	Not a Disadvantage	90.0%	90.3%	87.4%	98.7%
To access health services in a hospital/ health post (N=130)	Disadvantage	7.9%	8.8%	9.2%	1.0%
	Not a Disadvantage	92.1%	91.2%	90.8%	99.0%
To study at a school or a university (N=92)	Disadvantage	2.3%	10.9%	9.5%	
	Not a Disadvantage	97.7%	89.1%	90.5%	100.0%
When attending public even (N=92)	Disadvantage				
	Not a Disadvantage				100.0%

Table 4.2.1: Q-D2a–e. [If “No, Nepali is not my mother tongue” to Q-D1] Do you feel disadvantaged because you cannot use your mother tongue, instead of Nepali, in the following situations? ('Don't Know', 'Refused to Answer' and 'Not Applicable' not included)

4.3 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGE DUE TO CASTE/ETHNICITY

The survey also asked people whether they felt disadvantaged due to their caste/ethnicity in give different scenarios read out to them. An overwhelming majority of respondents in Gandaki Province (over 98%) reportedly did not feel disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity in all situations asked about. The proportion of people who felt disadvantaged because of their caste/ethnicity was small and had decreased over the survey years (Table 4.3.1). The highest share felt disadvantaged while interacting with colleague or clients at work (1.2%).

Feeling of disadvantage due to caste/ethnicity, by year (%)

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interact with other people (N=538)	Disadvantage	5.0%	3.2%	2.0%	1.2%
	Not a Disadvantage	95.0%	96.8%	98.0%	98.8%
To report a problem in police station (N=296)	Disadvantage	2.3%	1.8%	3.3%	1.0%
	Not a Disadvantage	97.7%	98.2%	96.7%	99.0%
To obtain services in a government office (N=541)	Disadvantage	4.0%	1.7%	2.0%	0.7%
	Not a Disadvantage	96.0%	98.3%	98.0%	99.3%

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To access health services in a hospital/ health post (N=550)	Disadvantage	3.4%	1.6%	1.1%	0.9%
	Not a Disadvantage	96.6%	98.4%	98.9%	99.1%
To study at a school or a university (N=446)	Disadvantage	2.6%	2.7%	1.1%	0.9%
	Not a Disadvantage	97.4%	97.3%	98.9%	99.1%

Table 4.3.1: Q-D3a-e. Do you feel that your caste/ethnicity is a disadvantage in the following situations?

People residing in rural municipality of Terai region of Gandaki Province are more inclined to report that their caste/ethnicity may become a disadvantage in the given situations. Across the caste and ethnicity, 3.4% Hill Dalit report feeling disadvantage to interact with other people at work because of their caste or ethnicity.

4.4 PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES DUE TO GENDER

A small proportion of women respondents report that their gender puts them at a disadvantage in the situations mentioned in the survey.

A small proportion of women respondents – between 0.3% and 1.9% – admitted that their gender puts them at a disadvantage in various situations (Table 4.4.1)⁶. Most felt disadvantaged when travelling in public transport (1.9%), and when roaming/walking around public places (1.2%).

Gender as a disadvantage, by year⁷

		2017	2018	2020	2022
To interacting with other people at work	Disadvantage	3.6%	1.4%	2.1%	0.7%
	Not a disadvantage	96.4%	98.6%	97.9%	99.3%
To report a problem in police station	Disadvantage	3.6%	2.0%	1.8%	0.9%
	Not a disadvantage	96.4%	98.0%	98.2%	99.1%
To obtain a government services	Disadvantage	5.9%	1.1%	0.5%	0.5%
	Not a disadvantage	94.1%	98.9%	99.5%	99.5%
To access health services	Disadvantage	3.8%	1.3%	0.4%	0.3%
	Not a disadvantage	96.2%	98.7%	99.6%	99.7%
To study at school or the university	Disadvantage	4.2%	0.8%	1.2%	0.6%
	Not a disadvantage	95.8%	99.2%	98.8%	99.4%
To travel in public transport	Disadvantage	-	4.9%	4.4%	1.9%
	Not a disadvantage	-	95.1%	95.6%	98.1%
To roam/walk around the public places	Disadvantage	-	-	3.5%	1.2%
	Not a disadvantage	-	-	96.5%	98.8%

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

6 This question was asked only to women respondents.

7 This question was asked only to women respondents.

In Gandaki Province, women from lower income households and from the Hill Caste and Hill Dalit communities were more likely to regard their gender as a disadvantage. For instance, comparatively more women from Hill Castes reported that their gender is a disadvantage when traveling in public transport (3.9%) and walking around public places (2.9%).

4.5 SOCIAL VALUES

Perceptions of Inter-Caste Marriage

Respondents were asked how they felt about inter-caste marriages. Over three-fourths (77.4%) said they would agree to their son or daughter marrying someone from a different caste or ethnic group. One-fifth (20.3%) objected to inter-caste marriages in their own family.

Contrary to the national trend, acceptance of inter-caste marriage decreased slightly in Gandaki Province, from 82.7% in 2017 to 77.4% in 2022, while the share objecting to inter-caste marriage in the family increased from 16.6% in 2017 to 20.3% in 2022.

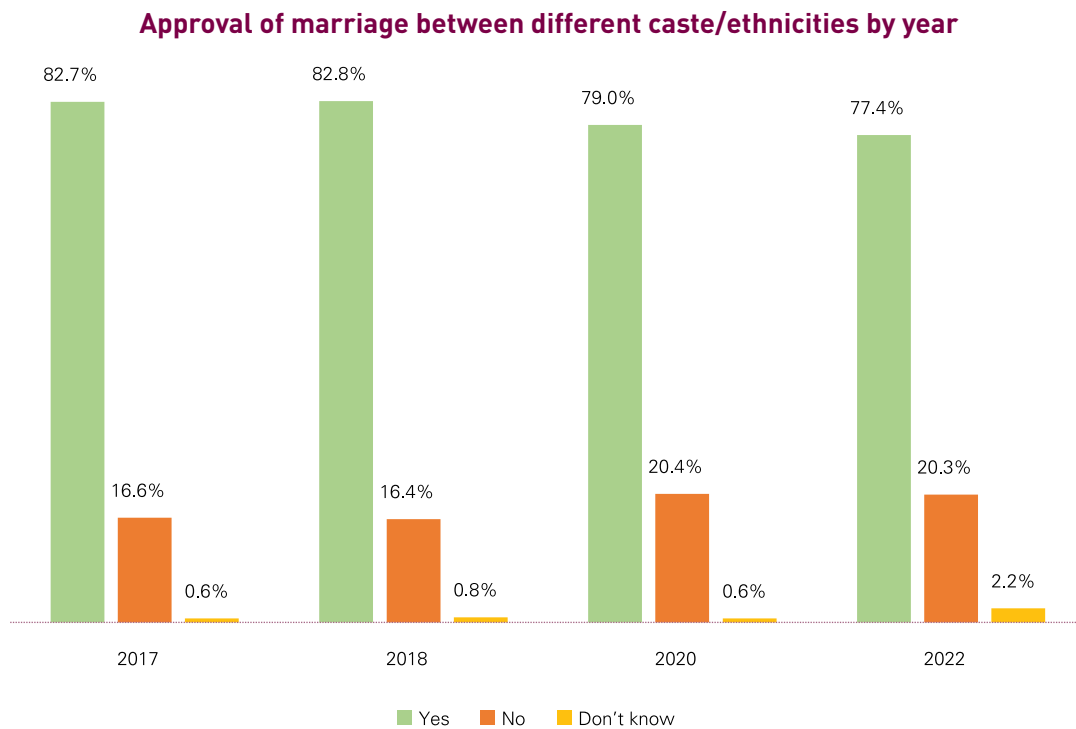


Figure 4.5.1: Q-D9. Would you accept if your son or daughter marry someone from a different caste? (N=1005)

Acceptance of inter-caste marriage was higher among respondents from urban municipalities (82.1%) than rural municipalities (69.3%). Hill Dalit (87.2%) people were more likely to accept inter-caste marriage than people from Hill Castes (75.3%). In contrast, 37.5% of respondents from other cultural groups would disapprove if their children married someone from another caste/ethnicity.

4.6 POSITION OF NEPALI WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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

More than nine out of 10 respondents disagreed⁸ that women can not engage in politics (97.0%), should be encouraged to work outside their homes (96.4%), sons are more important than daughters (95.0%), men should have the right to jobs when there are limited jobs (93.3%), male members of the family other than husband (father-in-law, brother-in-law) have the right to punish the daughter-in-law if she disobeys them (94.3%), and women should not have control over their income, movement and other decision-making processes (90.6%) (Table 4.6.1).

Over the years, there has been a steady increment in the proportion of respondents who disagreed with the statement that women should not have control over their income, movement, and decisions. In 2018 the figure was 65.9%, in 2020 it was 87.8%, and in 2022, it was 90.6%. The results show a similar trend in the proportion of respondents who disagreed with the statement that it is solely the man's responsibility to fulfil his family's financial needs; it increased from 46.3% (2018) to 88.4% (2020) to 89.9% (2022).

Views on gender roles and gender equality, by year

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
It is more important for a family to have a son than a daughter	2017	2.3%	11.0%	43.0%	43.5%	0.2%
	2018	2.6%	8.0%	33.7%	55.6%	0.1%
	2020	2.4%	5.6%	8.9%	83.1%	0.0%
	2022	0.7%	4.3%	5.1%	89.9%	0.0%
Women should not be encouraged to work outside the home	2017	5.7%	8.5%	25.3%	60.3%	0.3%
	2018	0.9%	10.0%	39.0%	50.0%	0.1%
	2020	1.6%	2.7%	10.1%	85.6%	0.0%
	2022	1.0%	2.5%	9.3%	87.1%	0.1%
It is not suitable for women to engage in politics	2017	11.3%	10.4%	40.3%	37.4%	0.6%
	2018	5.4%	8.9%	50.4%	34.0%	1.2%
	2020	1.7%	2.3%	11.5%	83.9%	0.7%
	2022	1.1%	1.9%	11.5%	85.5%	0.1%
Women should not have control over her income, movement and other decision making process	2018	6.7%	26.4%	45.9%	20.0%	1.0%
	2020	5.2%	6.8%	9.2%	78.6%	0.1%
	2022	4.6%	4.7%	13.8%	76.8%	0.1%
If a wife does not obey her husband, he has the right to punish her.	2018	2.9%	19.9%	49.6%	27.2%	0.3%
	2020	1.4%	3.5%	9.1%	86.0%	0.0%
	2022	1.4%	9.2%	13.1%	76.2%	0.1%

8 Combined figure for strongly disagree and somewhat disagree.

	Year	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
When job opportunities are limited, men should have more right to a job.	2018	5.8%	19.9%	42.4%	29.3%	2.5%
	2020	1.8%	4.2%	9.2%	83.9%	0.9%
	2022	1.9%	7.7%	13.7%	76.6%	0.1%
It is a man's responsibility to fulfil financial needs for his family.	2018	23.3%	30.1%	29.9%	16.4%	0.3%
	2020	3.6%	8.1%	11.3%	77.1%	0.0%
	2022	2.8%	7.3%	14.2%	75.7%	0.0%
Male members of family other than husband have right to punish the daughter in law if she disobeys them	2020	1.2%	2.4%	9.2%	86.7%	0.4%
	2022	1.1%	4.6%	11.6%	82.7%	0.0%

Table 4.6.1: Q-D10a–m. would you please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1005)

4.7 VIEWS ON LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Respondents were asked whether they would prefer a man or a woman for various leadership positions in different types of organizations or institutions – or whether they prefer a capable person regardless of their gender.

Most respondents believed that a person's gender is not an important factor when it comes to leadership positions in organizations, institutions, or political parties: More than 7 out of 10 respondents prefer a capable person in leadership positions irrespective of their gender. This share increased noticeably between 2018 and 2022.

While the shares indicating a preference for either women or men in leadership positions were generally low, preference for either men or women varied for the different positions. For the following positions, there was a clear preference for women over men: chairperson of saving and credit cooperatives (22.2%) and chairperson of user groups (20.2%).

Acceptable leadership positions in different organisations/institutions, by year

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Chief Executive Position of Federal Government	2018	35.8%	32.3%	31.9%	0.0%
	2020	10.5%	10.4%	79.1%	0.0%
	2022	10.9%	11.6%	76.6%	0.9%
Chief Executive Position of Provincial Government	2018	31.4%	35.5%	33.1%	0.0%
	2020	8.9%	9.5%	81.6%	0.0%
	2022	7.7%	10.2%	81.1%	1.0%
Chief Executive Position of Local Government	2018	39.7%	31.5%	28.8%	0.0%
	2020	10.4%	6.5%	83.1%	0.0%
	2022	9.3%	8.0%	82.0%	0.7%

	Year	Women	Men	Capable Person	Don't know
Ward Chairperson	2018	37.4%	35.0%	27.6%	0.0%
	2020	12.8%	6.8%	80.4%	0.0%
	2022	13.3%	8.4%	77.7%	0.7%
Chairperson of Political Party	2018	28.5%	40.5%	31.0%	0.0%
	2020	6.3%	7.4%	86.2%	0.0%
	2022	6.9%	12.2%	79.9%	1.0%
Chairperson of User Groups	2018	39.0%	31.0%	29.9%	0.0%
	2020	13.7%	4.1%	82.2%	0.0%
	2022	20.2%	7.5%	71.7%	0.6%
Chairperson of Saving and Credit Cooperatives	2018	52.9%	21.8%	25.3%	0.0%
	2020	15.7%	3.4%	80.9%	0.0%
	2022	22.2%	5.0%	72.2%	0.5%
Chairperson of School Management Committee	2018	41.0%	32.3%	26.8%	0.0%
	2020	10.2%	5.8%	84.0%	0.0%
	2022	9.7%	10.9%	78.9%	0.5%
CEO of Private Company/ Organization	2018	33.9%	36.0%	30.1%	0.0%
	2020	7.5%	5.3%	87.2%	0.0%
	2022	6.5%	8.4%	84.5%	0.6%

Table 4.71: Q-D11a-I. Thinking about leadership positions, please tell me, who would be more acceptable as leaders in the following organisation/ institutions? (N=1005)

5. GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

5.1 LOCAL BODY RESTRUCTURING

The survey assessed the impact of local body restructuring on the capacity and efficiency of local governments to deliver services. More than half (58.6%) of respondents in Gandaki Province thought that restructuring had improved the performance of local government. One quarter people (25.7%) said it had neither improved nor deteriorated, and less than one in ten people (8%) thought that it had deteriorated.

The share of people who thought that local body restructuring helped increase the capacity of local governments to deliver services has steadily increased from 35.2% in 2017 to 65.8% in 2020 but decreased by 7.2 percentage points in 2022 (58.5%). The share of people who said it was too soon to say anything was highest in 2017 (32.4%), but this number drastically decreased in successive survey years and was lowest in 2022 (2.1%).

Views on local level restructuring, by year

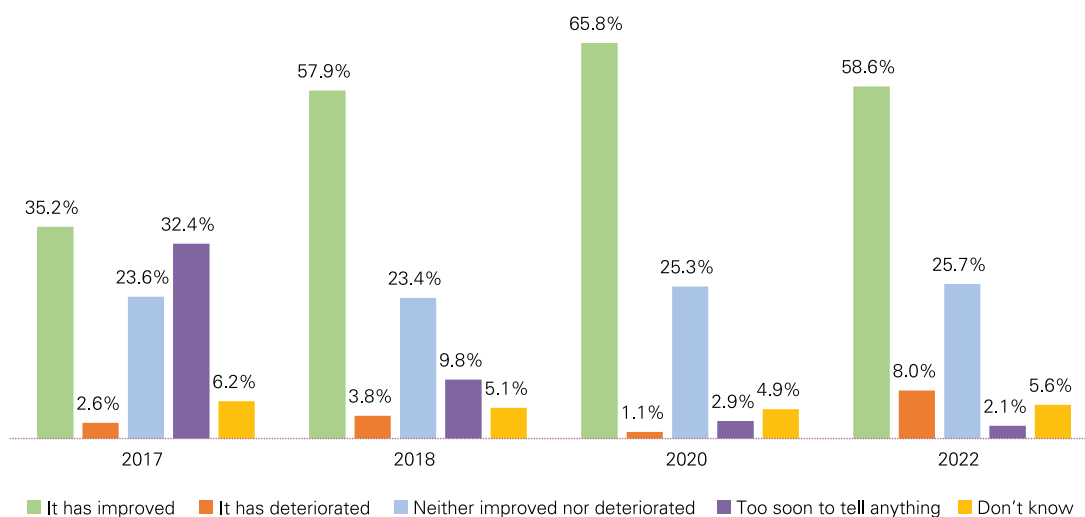


Figure 5.11: Q-E4. What kind of change have you felt/noticed in the capacity of local body to deliver services after restructuring of local body? (N=1005)

Respondents from the Hill region of Gandaki Province, those in urban municipalities, younger people, and higher income households were comparatively more likely to report that local body restructuring had helped increase the capacity of local government to deliver services.

5.2 SOCIAL SECURITY

Awareness and Receiving Social Security Benefits

The survey assessed respondents' awareness of ten different social security benefits (listed in Table 5.2.1) initiated by the government of Nepal and asked whether they had received those benefits.

The large majority of respondents in Gandaki Province had heard of senior citizen allowance (99.4%), single women allowance (95.5%), and disability allowance (93.6%). Awareness of health insurance benefits was also high (86.5%). More than half had heard of child protection grants (69.8%), child nutrition grants (66.7%) and unemployment allowance (53.5%). Awareness was lower for the Loponmukh Adibasi grant (44.2%) and contributions from employment (28.2%) (Table 5.2.1).

Awareness and receiving social security benefits, by year

Social Security Provisions	Yes, I have heard		Yes, we have received	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
Senior Citizen Allowance	99.0%	99.4%	53.8%	26.9%
Single Women Allowance	97.4%	95.5%	50.5%	9.7%
Disability Allowance	93.0%	93.6%	25.0%	2.6%
Unemployment Allowance	64.2%	53.5%	0.0%	1.2%
Health Insurance Benefits	78.3%	86.5%	14.8%	24.8%
Child Protection Grant	55.6%	69.8%	19.0%	9.4%
Benefits on Contribution from employment	30.3%	28.2%	5.7%	7.1%
Child Nutrition Grant	53.6%	66.7%	21.0%	8.6%
Grant for Loponmukh Adivasi	39.4%	44.2%	6.3%	1.3%

Table 5.2.1: Q-E 8a1-10. Have you heard of? (N= 1005) Q-E 8b1-10. Have you or the members of the family received?

Those who said they were aware of the various social security benefits listed were further asked whether they or their family members had received any of these benefits. Compared to 2020, there was a sharp fall in the number of respondents mentioning that they or their family members had received six of the ten types of benefits in 2022 (Table 5.2.1).

Satisfaction with Current Social Security Benefits

The respondents who said they or someone of their family had received a type of social security benefits were further asked about their level of satisfaction with the benefit on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates not satisfied at all and 10 indicates very satisfied. On average, the level of satisfaction was 7.63 points, which is above the national average.

5.3 TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS

Respondents were asked how much they trust 19 different entities, including government and independent institutions.

In Gandaki Province, trust was highest for community-based organizations such as mother's group, savings and credit groups, forest user groups (96.3%). Large shares of respondents also trusted the public service commission, the media (Television, Radio, Newspapers) and the Nepal Army (94.0% each). More than four-fifths of people said they trust the Armed Police Force (88.8%), the courts (88.4%), the police (85.5), and the municipal wards (83.8%). Three-fourths of people trusted local community leaders (76.7%), and the current municipality/rural municipality/local government (75.4%). Comparatively lower shares said they trust the federal government (51.0%), the provincial government (46.6%) and political parties (41.3%).

Table 5.3.1 shows that Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have long been one of the most trusted institutions while political parties were always the least trusted institution in all survey rounds. Trust in political parties decreased over time.

Trust in institutions, by year

	Trust ⁹			
	2017	2018	2020	2022
The Federal Government	66.8%	66.9%	71.0%	51.0%
Provincial Government	NA*	66.6%	66.2%	46.6%
District Coordination Committee	NA*	78.8%	77.1%	60.5%
Municipality/Rural Municipality /Local Government	NA*	NA*	84.6%	76.2%
Municipal Wards	NA*	NA*	NA*	84.5%
Local Community Leaders	NA*	NA*	84.0%	77.3%
Political Parties	65.7%	56.3%	48.8%	41.3%
Courts	86.4%	86.7%	88.5%	88.4%
Judicial Committees	NA*	80.3%	84.1%	82.6%
Police	92.8%	78.3%	89.0%	85.5%
Armed Police Force	86.9%	80.8%	82.6%	88.8%
Nepal Army	90.3%	89.3%	85.6%	94.0%
The Media (Television, Radio, Newspapers)	94.0%	91.8%	88.1%	94.0%
NGOs/Human Rights Defenders	73.6%	73.7%	70.0%	73.3%
Religious/Caste-Based Organizations	79.0%	69.1%	69.6%	80.7%
CBOs (Women's group, savings and credit group)	94.3%	95.0%	87.8%	96.3%
Public Service Commission	NA*	83.1%	76.1%	94.0%
Social Media (Facebook/ Twitter etc.)	NA*	NA*	63.5%	64.4%
Government Employee	NA*	NA*	78.6%	83.5%

Table 5.3.1: Q-E9a-v. Now I am going to ask you about certain people and institutions in Nepal. For each of them, I would like you to tell me if you fully trust them, moderately trust them, don't quite trust them, or don't trust them at all to have the best interest of Nepalis at heart. N=1005

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

5.4 AWARENESS OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Slightly more than three-fifths (62.5%) of the respondents in Gandaki Province said they were aware of public services provided by their local government. One third (33.5%) of respondents were aware of the services provided by provincial governments, and two-fifths (40.1%) were aware of services provided by the federal government (Figure 5.4.1).

Compared to 2018, the share of people who reported that they were aware of the services provided by provincial and federal governments increased in 2022. The share of people who knew about the services offered by local governments fluctuate over time, from 65.7% in 2018 to 57.6% in 2020 to 62.5% in 2022.

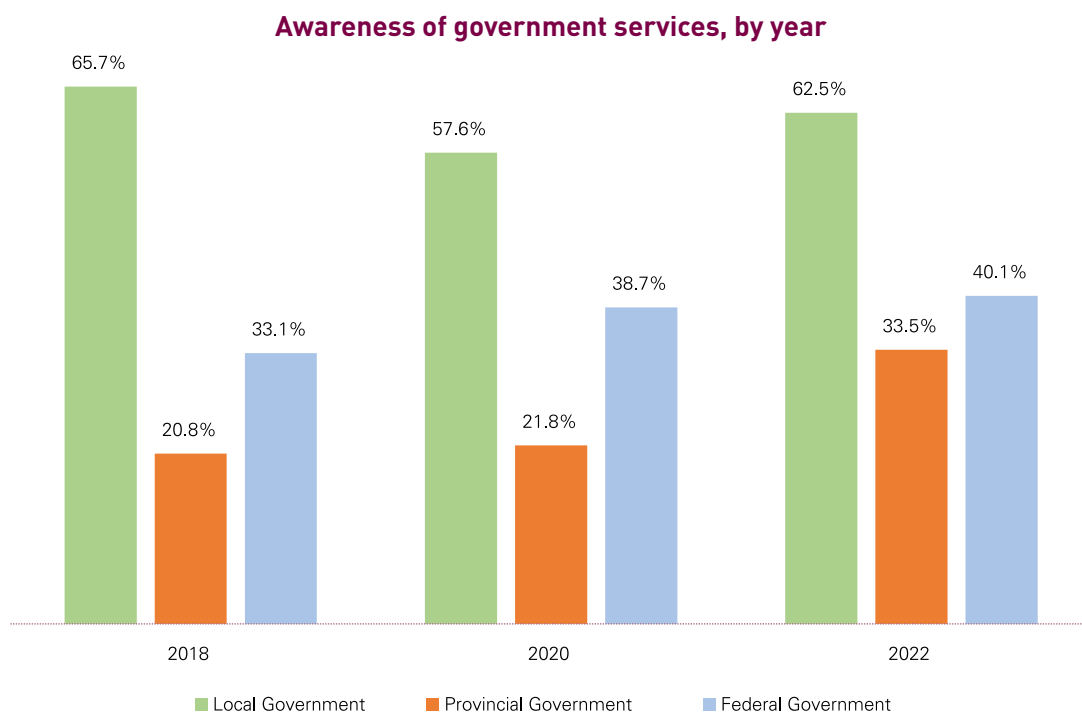


Figure 5.4.1: Q-E10AM-AO1. Are you aware about the Public Services provided by your local government? (N=1005)

In Gandaki Province, women (57.0%) were considerably less aware than men (68.5%) when it comes to services provided by local governments. People from rural municipalities (74.5%) were more aware than people from urban areas (55.6%). As for geographical regions, people residing in the Hill region (65.9%) were more aware than people in the Terai (36.4%)

Awareness of the Types of Services Provided by the Government

The survey asked respondents who said they were aware of local government services to name the services provided by each tier of government. The most widely known service areas of local governments were roads/physical infrastructure (81.2%), followed by drinking water services (53.4%), education services (45.6%), and health services (38.1%).

Awareness of provincial government services showed a similar pattern, with most respondents (75.6%) mentioning roads/physical infrastructure, education (51.6%), drinking water (45.3%), health (34.5%), employment (28.8%) and electricity (24.9%).

Regarding services provided by the federal government, respondents mentioned higher education (66.7%), national highways/physical infrastructure (63.6%), social security (50.7%), employment-related services (36.4%), large scale electricity (33.1%), health-related policy (32.3%) and citizenship and passport related services (25.8%).

To those who did not know about services provided by local government were asked for suggestions on effective channels to disseminate information about local government services. Mo (45.9%) suggested informal sources, like friends, family, and neighbors, followed by television (29.0%), local community leaders (27.9%) and social media (24.3%) (Figure 5.4.2).

Effective channels of information dissemination about local government services

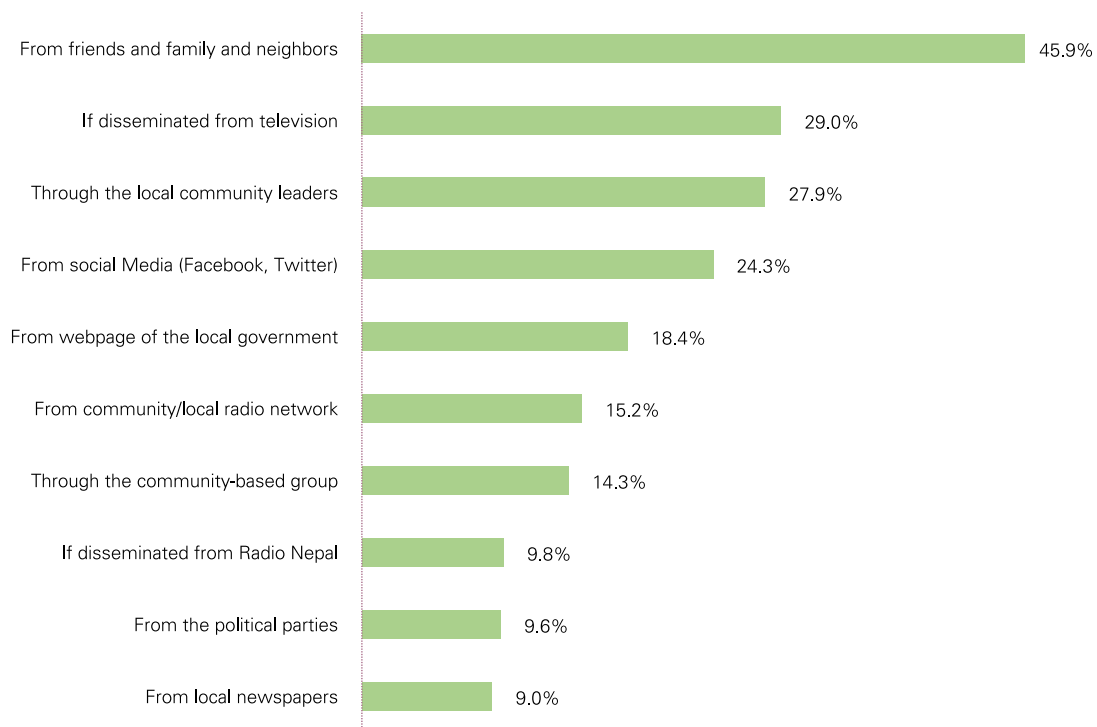


Figure 5.4.2: E10AM.3_1. [If "No" in Q-E10AM.1] How can your Local Government more easily inform you about the services they provide? (N=378)

5.5 EXPERIENCE ACCESSING PUBLIC SERVICES

Gandaki Province residents were asked to reflect on their experiences accessing 15 types of public services provided by their rural or urban municipality in the past one year. They were also asked how easy it was to obtain the service(s).

Shares who had received services from their local government in the year prior to 2022 varied for the different types of services (Table 5.5.1). The share receiving health services was highest (68.6%) followed by tax related work (38.9%), and services related to land tax/revenue (37.4%). Some 29.0% had used services for admission in a government school, 27.0% needed services for birth, death or marriage certificates, and 27.0% needed a recommendation for citizenship card (Table 5.5.1).

Generally, people thought it was easy (combination of 'very easy' and 'easy') to receive different services (ranging from 78.1% for services related to employment to 99.4% for admission in a government school) (Table 5.5.1). Ease of access increased or remained the same between 2020 and 2022 for most types of services.

Services received through local government and ease of receiving the services, by year

Types of services	Services received through local government in the past one year		If yes, ease of receiving the services in the urban municipality/rural municipality	
	2020	2022	2020	2022
			Easy ¹⁰	
Recommendation for citizenship	10.9%	24.4%	95.8%	95.8%
Social security allowance (Single woman, senior citizen, disable)	20.8%	22.6%	96.8%	98.3%
Birth certificate, death certificate, marriage certificate, migration certificate	11.1%	27.0%	96.3%	97.3%
Migration certificate	NA	1.4%	NA	93.7%
Services related to employment	2.1%	4.8%	67.5%	78.1%
Services given by judicial committee	1.0%	2.8%	66.9%	94.5%
Services related to land tax/revenue	50.6%	37.4%	97.6%	98.3%
For admission in government school	27.3%	29.0%	99.5%	99.4%
For health checkup in government health post/hospital	73.1%	68.6%	97.4%	94.9%
Receiving service from police	4.0%	7.5%	84.0%	88.2%
Business license	5.2%	6.1%	93.2%	97.4%
Tax related work	57.8%	38.9%	96.9%	99.2%
Recommendation for other government work	11.2%	13.9%	98.1%	96.2%
For disability specific services	NA	4.9%	NA	92.7%

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

5.6 VIEWS ON EDUCATION

School type and quality of education

In Gandaki Province, more respondents had a child enrolled in a government school (56.5%) than in a private school (38.7%). Answers varied noticeably for geographical location. More people from rural municipalities reported having children enrolled in government schools (83.3%) than people from urban municipalities (45.7%). More people in the Terai region had children enrolled in government schools (65.9%) than people from the Hill region (54.5%). Two-thirds of Hill Dalit respondents (66.1%), enrolled their children in public schools compared to less than half of Hill Caste respondents (45.5%).

Child enrolled in a public or private school, by year

	Public School			Private School			Both School		
	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Overall	56.6%	55.3%	57.2%	35.7%	36.8%	35.6%	7.7%	7.9%	7.2%
Gandaki Province	61.8%	58.0%	56.5%	32.9%	36.4%	38.7%	5.3%	5.6%	4.8%

Table 5.6.1: Q-E11. Do you have children in your family who are studying in the government school? (Q-E11A. Do you have children in your family who are studying in private school? ('Not applicable' not included). (N=499)

Most children enrolled in either public (96.0%) or private (95.2%) schools lived within one hour's distance of the school. Only a small proportion of respondents reported a duration of more than one hour for their children to reach school from home.

Most parents rated the quality of education as "good" for both public schools (86.3%) and private schools (84.9%). The shares rating the quality of education as "very good" decreased over time. For public schools, the share rating the quality of education as "bad" increased (Figure 5.6.1).

Views on the quality of education, by year¹¹

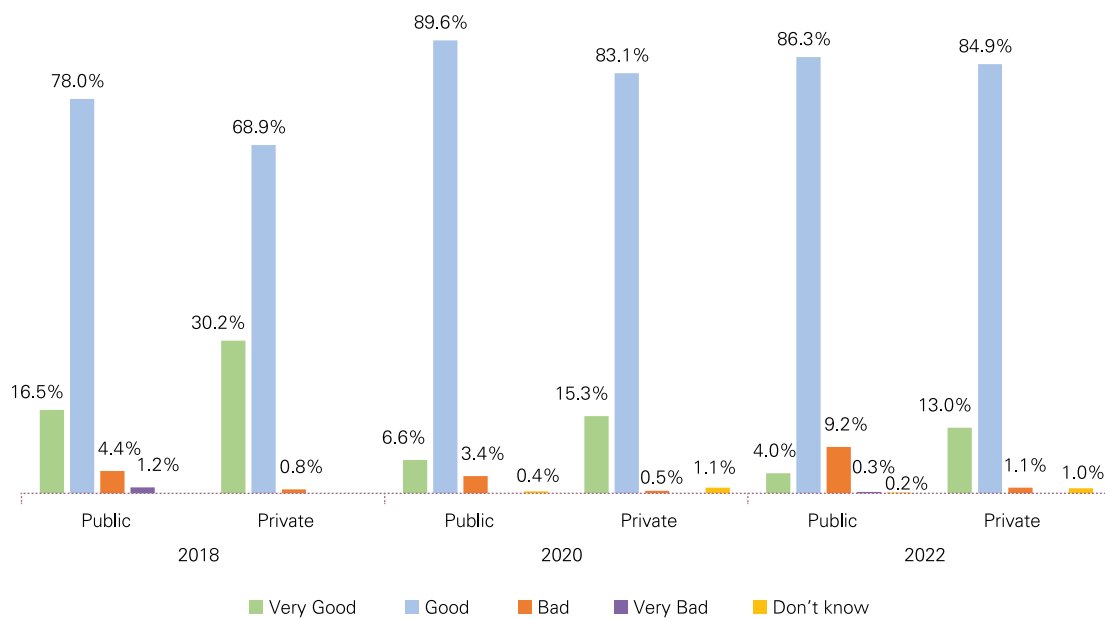


Figure 5.6.1: Q-E11b and Q-E11Aii. How would you rate the quality of the education at that school? (N=306 respondents with child/children going to public school, N=217 respondents with child/children going to private school)

Entities Responsible for the Quality of Education

Most parents considered the local government to be responsible for maintaining the quality of education in both public and private schools (89.9% and 80.4%, respectively) – a share that has increased over the years. Very few respondents thought the school management committee, teachers, or parents are responsible for maintaining the quality of education in public or private schools.

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

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of education, by year¹²

	Public School				Private School		
	2017	2018	2020	2022	2018	2020	2022
Local government	76.7%	84.7%	83.6%	89.9%	88.8%	84.9%	80.4%
Provincial government	1.2%	2.6%	0.6%	1.8%	0.8%	0.3%	1.3%
Federal government	19.0%	5.7%	8.9%	3.1%	5.0%	4.6%	2.3%
Others (School management committee, teachers, parents)	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%		1.5%	3.5%	7.3%
Don't know	2.5%	5.8%	6.3%	5.2%	3.9%	6.7%	8.8%

Table 5.6.2: Q-E11c and Q-E11Aiii. Who in the government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of education that is being provided (to your children) by the schools in your areas? (N=306 respondents with child/children going to public school, N=217 respondents with child/children going to private school)

Suggestions for the Improvement of Quality of Schools

The survey asked all respondents about their perception on what would help improve the quality of education in schools. Respondents cited good teaching methods (56.5%), proper management of staff (49.0%) and ensuring the quality of school management (45.5%). Only small shares of respondents thought accessibility and inclusivity (addressing diverse needs) were important factors. The child/children being able to learn English also rated fairly low (11.4%).

Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of schools, by year

Suggestions	Year	%
Improved/good teaching methods	2020	59.1%
	2022	56.5%
The quality of school management should be good	2020	49.0%
	2022	45.5%
Management of the staffs should be good in the school	2020	42.6%
	2022	49.0%
The quality of curriculum/syllabus should be improved	2020	35.5%
	2022	32.8%
Needy students should get scholarship	2020	29.8%
	2022	30.3%
The price of books, copies and uniforms should be less	2020	22.3%
	2022	23.2%
The quality of school building should be good	2020	24.5%
	2022	26.0%
My children should be able to learn in English	2020	24.5%
	2022	11.4%

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

Suggestions	Year	%
The schools where my children go should be near	2020	27.7%
	2022	21.5%
Teachers should be trained in inclusive education and be able to teach children with diverse impairments.	2022	8.6%
Should be flexible enough to address the diverse need of children including children with different impairments.	2022	3.6%
The teaching learning methods should be accessible and flexible enough to address the need of children with diverse need	2022	2.9%
Should be accessible for all children including children with disabilities.	2022	2.7%
Don't know/can't say	2022	4.1%

Table 5.6.3: Q-E11g. What needs to be done to improve the quality of the government/private schools in your area? (N=105)

5.7 PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19

In 2022, the survey included questions for respondents from households with school-going children about the schools' performance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, private schools (90.8%) were more likely to have provided alternative classes than public schools (64.1%). Both public and private schools of Gandaki Province were much more likely to have provided alternative classes than the national average (Private 53.8%, Public 23%).

In Gandaki Province, public schools in urban municipalities (72.2%) were more likely to provide alternative classes during the pandemic than public schools in rural municipalities (50.7%). The share of private schools providing alternative classes was similar in rural municipalities (92.9%), and urban municipalities (90.4%). Respondents from the Terai were less likely to report that schools provided alternative classes during the pandemic compared to hilly areas.

Alternative education provided by school during COVID-19

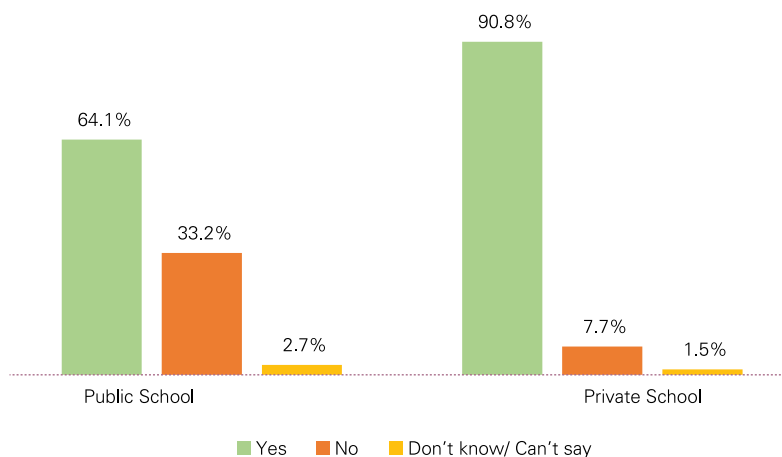


Figure 5.71: Q-E11f_1_A and Q-E11g.1 Did the school in which your child/children are admitted to provide any alternative education options during COVID-19 period? (Online, home visits, community classes, or other) (N=306 Children in public school, N=217 Children in private school)

Those respondents whose children were offered alternative education during the pandemic, said that teaching through online classes was the most common method in both public and private schools. Most parents said that their children did participate in alternative classes. The timing of the online classes as well as not having hardware/access were major barrier for children who did not participate in online classes.

Respondents of public school-going children were slightly more likely to provide a positive assessment (82.9%) of alternative classes provided by the school than those of private school-going children (79.3%).

5.8 VIEWS ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Distance to the Nearest Public Health Post/Hospital

Over the years, more respondents from Gandaki Province report living in close proximity to public health posts/hospitals (90.8% in 2022 compared to 71.0% in 2017).

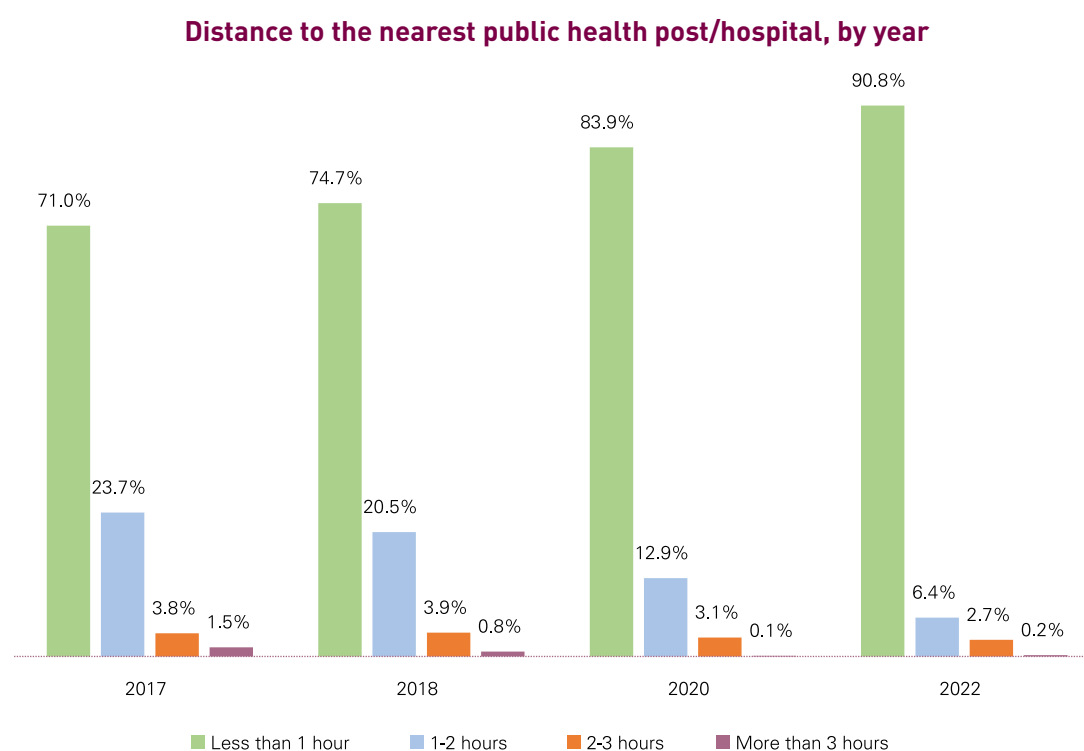


Figure 5.8.1: Q-E12a. How much time would it take you to go from home to the nearest public health post / hospital? (N=1005)

Views on Quality of Health Services

In Gandaki Province, almost four-fifths of respondents (79.5%) rated the quality of healthcare in their vicinity as "good," while 2.1% considered it to be "very good". In contrast 12.7% % rated it as "not good" and 1.2% said it is "not good at all".

Over the years, the share of respondents rating the quality of health services as good ("good" and "very good") decreased from 93.5% in 2018 to 81.6% in 2022 (Figure 5.8.2). Conversely, the proportion of respondents who rated the quality of health services as "bad" increased between 2018 (6.1%) and 2022 (12.7%).

Views on the quality of public health care, by year

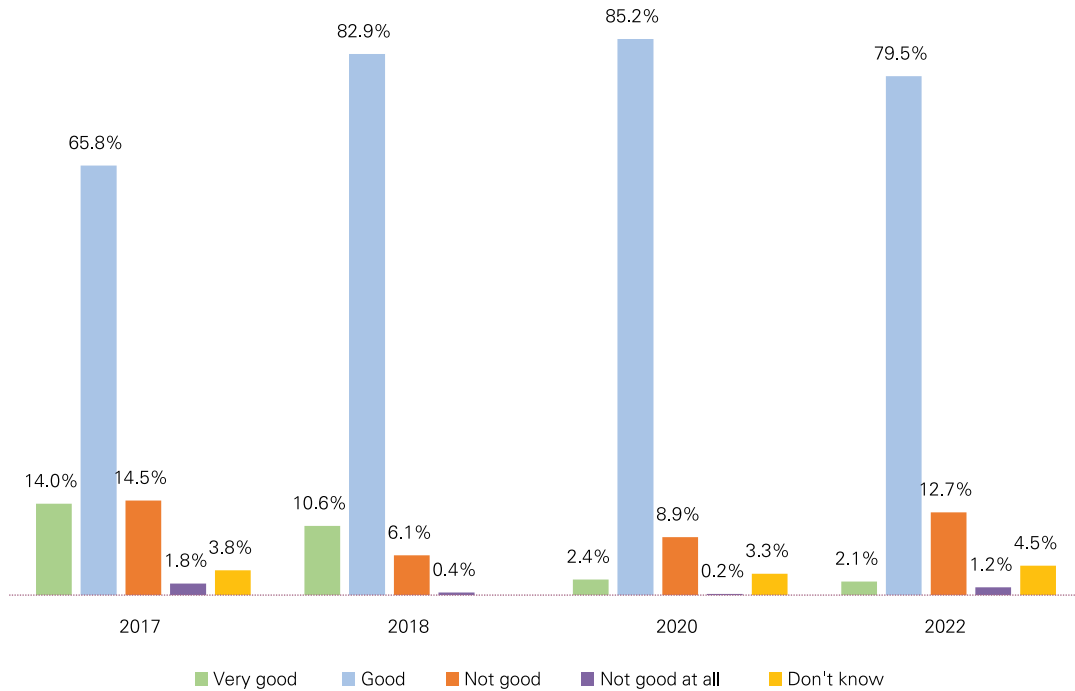


Figure 5.8.2: Q-E12b. How would you rate the quality of public health care in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1005)

Responsible Entity for Maintaining the Quality of Healthcare

Through the years, the share of respondents who believed it is their local government’s responsibility to maintain the quality of healthcare services increased from 82.5% in 2017 to 87.2% in 2022 (Figure 5.8.3).

Responsible entity for maintaining the quality of healthcare, by year

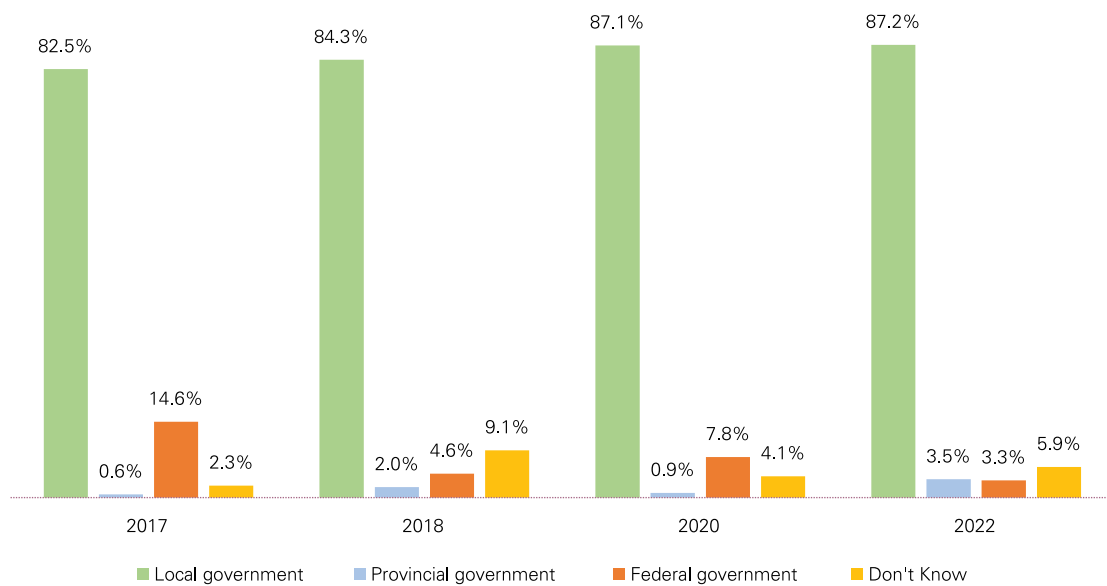


Figure 5.8.3: Q-E12c. Who in government do you think is primarily responsible for the quality of health services being provided to you? (N=1005)

Respondents were asked whether healthcare in their area has changed positively, negatively or stayed the same over the past year. Almost half of respondents said the quality of healthcare had improved (48.6%). A growing share of respondents in Gandaki Province reported that the quality of public healthcare stayed the same (45.0% in 2022). The share reporting negative changes was very small (2.4%).

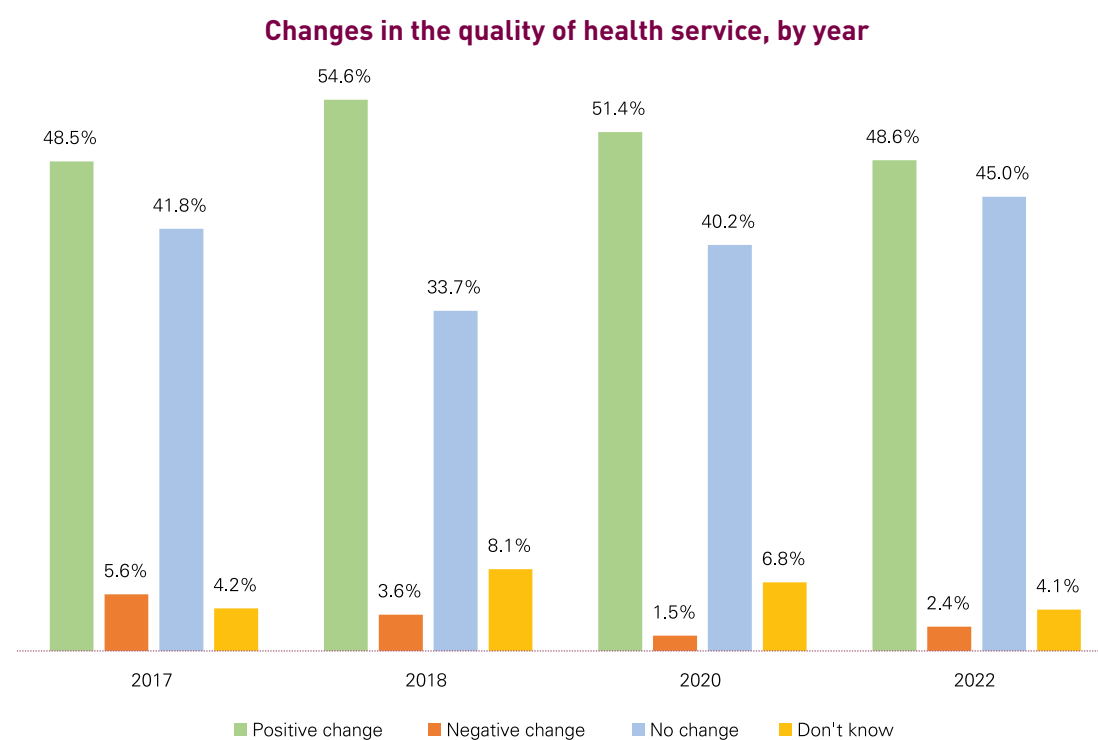


Figure 5.8.4: Q-E12d. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of health services in your municipality/rural municipality during the past year? (N=1005)

The main reasons why people thought healthcare services had improved were: Proper management of the staff at the health service center (47.9%), proper management of the health service center (46.2%), proximity of the health center (37.6%), and the establishment of new health service centers (37.5%).

Main reasons why people reported worsening health services were: Limited availability of medicines for patients (72.0%), lack of proper management of health service centers (65.3%), and service center staffs being absent (47.1%).

The survey asked all respondents what they thought should be done to improve the quality of health services provided by the health center in their local area (municipality/rural municipality). Nearly three-quarters of respondents (73.7%) said that medical facilities should be good and professionals should be qualified, about 53.6% said that a trained health worker should be present and 50.3% thought that there should be good laboratories.

5.9 VIEWS ON ROADS

Quality of Roads

In Gandaki Province, almost two-thirds of respondents (64.5%) thought the quality of roads was “good,” but more than one-quarter (27.0%) thought it was “not good” and a few (3.7%) thought it was “not good at all.” Only 4.7% considered the quality of roads to be “very good.” Each year from 2017 to 2020, a higher share of respondents considered the quality of roads to be “good.” However, in 2022, there was an increase in the proportion of respondents who said that the quality of roads in their local area is “not good” compared to 2018 and 2020 (Figure 5.9.1).

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

	2017	2018	2020	2022
Very good	13.4%	15.6%	5.8%	4.7%
Good	43.3%	65.6%	79.5%	64.5%
Not good	34.6%	17.2%	13.4%	27.0%
Not good at all	8.7%	1.7%	1.3%	3.7%

Table 5.9.1: Q-E13a. How would you rate the quality of roads in your urban municipality / rural municipality? (N=1005)

A large majority of respondents (93.9%) believed that the local government is the primary entity responsible for maintaining roads. Some 3.5% thought the provincial government was responsible and 1.6% considered the federal government to be responsible for the maintenance of roads (the remaining 1.1% were unsure).

Changes in the Quality of Roads

Respondents were asked whether the quality of roads in their area improved or worsened over the past year. In 2022, over half of respondents thought that the quality of roads had improved (53.4%), a decrease compared to 2020 (69.6%). On the other hand, the share of respondents reporting unchanged road conditions (38.4%) had increased compared to 2018 and 2020. Some 8.2% of respondents reported worsening road conditions in 2022 – an increase compared to the 1.4% who said so in 2020.

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

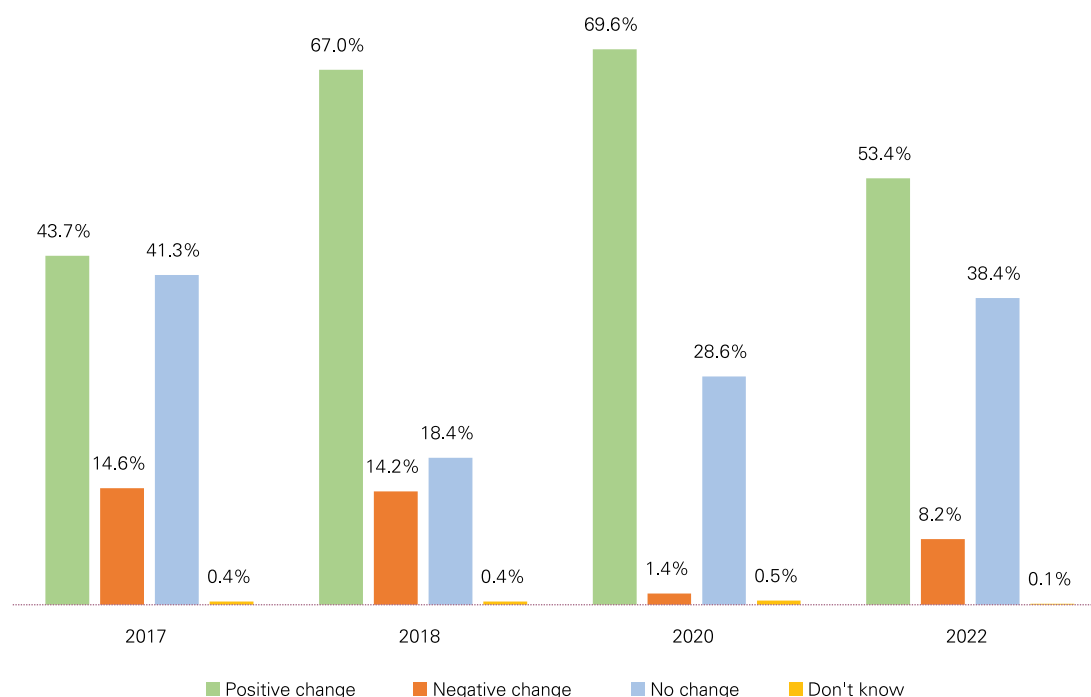


Figure 5.9.2: Q-E13c. Have there been any positive or negative changes in the quality of roads in your urban municipality/rural municipality during the past year? (N=1005)

Reasons for Positive Changes in the Quality of Roads

The survey further asked the 53.4% of respondents who thought that the quality of roads had improved over the past year for the reasons. Responses were left open-ended, allowing for multiple responses. Under half of respondents (46.5%) mentioned "construction of new roads" as the main reason, followed by wider and broader roads (44.5%), black-topped roads (40.6%), the government upgrading conditions of existing roads (28.1%) and prompt action taken by the government for the maintenance of damaged roads (26.7%).

Reasons for Negative Changes in the Quality of Roads

The 8.2% of respondents reporting that the quality of roads has worsened were also asked for the reasons why they thought there had been negative changes. Respondents cited deteriorating conditions of existing roads (91.3%), delays in the maintenance of damaged roads (60.2%), roads that need to be constructed have not been made (43.7%) and floods/landslides (40.2%) as main reasons for worsening road quality. Some 4.7% respondents thought the government was biased when selecting which roads to upgrade.

Suggestions to Improve the Quality of Road Services

All respondents were asked what needed to be done to improve the quality of road services in their area. Most respondents believed that prompt maintenance of damaged roads (63.1%), black-topping roads (53.1%) and proper upgrading of existing roads should be carried out (52.0%) to improve the quality of roads in their local area. Other commonly cited suggestions were the inclusion of the local public in planning and discussions about road projects (29.9%) and proper design of existing roads (22.8%) (Figure 5.9.3).

Suggestions for the improvement of the quality of road services

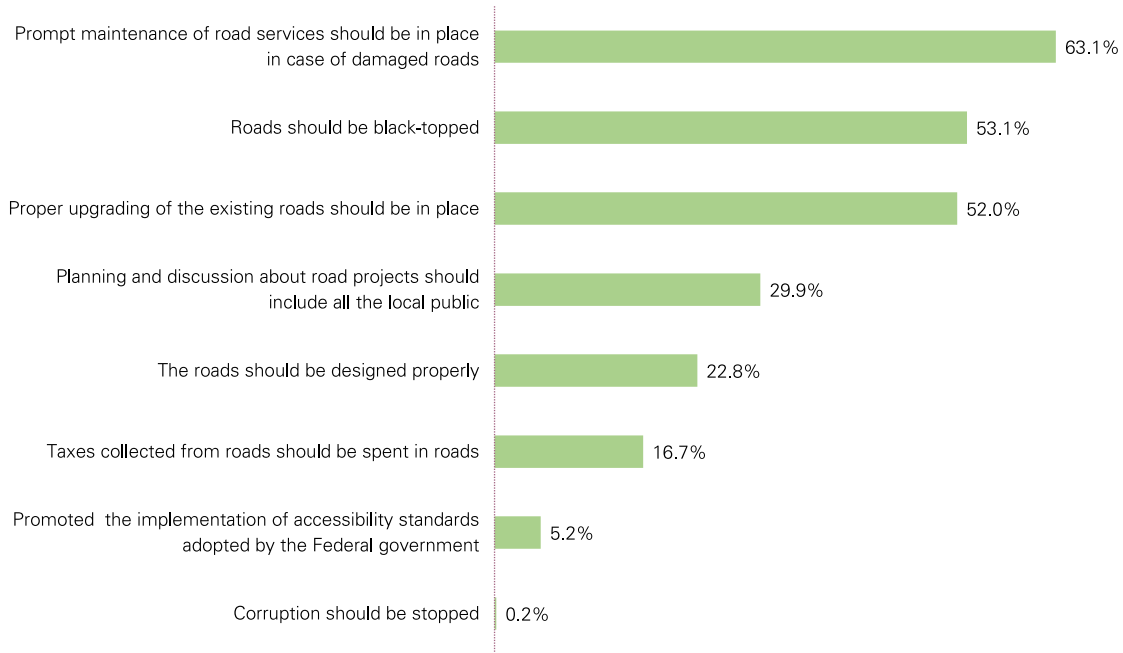


Figure 5.9.3: Q-E13f. What needs to be done to improve the quality of road services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? (N=1005)

5.10 TAXATION

Views on the current level of taxation

To understand Nepali people's perceptions of taxation in the country, the survey asked respondents about the different types of taxes, including whether they had paid any of these taxes in the past year, their view on the amount of tax currently prevailing, and their opinion on a few tax-related statements.

More than ninety percent of Nepalis in Gandaki Province had paid one or more forms of tax during the past one year. Land tax (68.6%), vehicle tax (66.7%), property tax (67.8%), business tax (43%) and entertainment tax ((34.5%) were the most commonly paid taxes during the previous year (Table 5.10.1).

The shares of respondents paying various types of taxes varied in each survey round (Table 5.10.1).

Majorities of respondents thought that the current level of taxation for all types of taxes had increased compared to last year.

Views on the current level of taxation¹³, by year

Have you or your family paid the following types of tax within the last one year?				If yes, do you think current level of taxation is appropriate?				
Type of tax	2018	2020	2022	N	More than last year	Less than last year	Same as last year	Don't know
Property tax	6.7%	65.5%	67.8%	376	79.6%	1.2%	15.6%	3.6%
House rent tax	87.7%	17.9%	18.8%	33	80.2%	3.7%	16.1%	
Individual Income tax	13.9%	29.1%	15.7%	43	78.8%	4.8%	16.3%	
Business tax	60.2%	60.2%	43.0%	106	76.0%	2.2%	19.5%	2.3%
Vehicle tax	2.2%	79.7%	66.7%	183	87.2%	0.4%	10.4%	2.0%
Land registration tax	5.0%	26.4%	38.0%	125	91.2%	0.4%	7.7%	0.7%
Entertainment tax	0.3%	80.9%	34.5%	117	58.6%	2.2%	31.4%	7.8%
Land tax	1.0%	75.5%	68.6%	349	75.7%	1.2%	17.5%	5.6%
Advertisement tax	0.5%	21.0%	3.6%	5	53.2%	8.9%	29.0%	8.9%
Agriculture Income tax	8.2%	19.4%	9.1%	27	69.2%	4.8%	21.6%	4.5%
Institutional Income tax	10.2%	26.0%	5.8%	8	71.9%	11.1%	17.0%	
Remuneration tax	0.3%	44.7%	13.3%	38	62.0%	2.4%	30.3%	5.4%

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

Nearly all respondents who had paid taxes in the past year said that the process of paying the tax/service charge/fee was easy (97.7%). A small proportion (2.3%) the process of paying taxes was difficult.

The 2.3% of respondents who said that paying taxes/service charges was difficult were further asked what could be done to ease the process. People suggested the provision of online payments for all kinds of taxes or fees (65.7%), door-to-door visits of authorities to collect taxes/fees (30.0%) and being able to pay all taxes from the ward office (16.3%).

Views on Taxation

A vast majority of Nepalis residing in Gandaki Province agreed that they did not have a clear understanding of taxes and could use clearer information from different levels of government on tax collection and on how the government spends it. To analyze respondents' understanding of taxation, they were presented with four statements that they could agree, strongly agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with.

Nearly all respondents agreed (combination of 'agree' and 'strongly agree') that they could use additional information on the following: how different levels of the government collect taxes (93.9%), how the government spends taxes (95.1%), and what benefits citizens get in return for paying taxes (95.7%). Slightly less than half of respondents (44.6%) believed that the tax they pay is properly utilized—similar to past survey responses (Table 5.10.2).

13 During the survey question E15a was asked to all the respondents regardless of whether or not they had paid taxes in the last one year. Possible choices of question E15a were: more than last year, less than last year, not paid local tax, not applicable, refused, and don't know. While analyzing this question, only the response of those who said Yes in E15 in 2022 were included in the analysis.

Views on taxation, by year

	Year	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I wish I had clearer information or understanding of taxes that I am supposed to pay for federal, provincial and local government.	2018	62.2%	33.4%	1.7%	1.4%	1.3%
	2020	68.0%	31.6%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
	2022	49.6%	44.3%	3.0%	1.7%	1.4%
I wish I had more information on how the government spends taxes.	2018	62.5%	33.3%	1.6%	1.3%	1.3%
	2020	71.0%	28.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	2022	53.0%	42.1%	2.5%	1.4%	1.0%
As a citizen I wanted to know clear information on what benefits we get in return for paying the taxes.	2018	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	2020	70.0%	29.8%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
	2022	55.2%	40.5%	2.2%	1.1%	0.9%
I believe that the tax I paid is being properly utilized.	2018	25.9%	22.2%	18.6%	21.7%	11.6%
	2020	19.1%	23.9%	33.3%	18.5%	5.2%
	2022	19.3%	25.3%	21.3%	16.7%	17.3%

Table 5.10.2: Q-E16ai-iv. To what extent do you agree/strongly agree/disagree/strongly disagree with these statements? (N=1005)

Less than one percent (0.7%) of those who paid one or more type of tax in the past year had to pay extra cash (other than the amount fixed by the government) or some type of gift to someone while paying taxes. They gave this extra amount or present to a third party or broker (78.4%), employees of federal government (21.6%), and employees of local government (25.0%).

Willingness to Pay More Local Taxes for Better Services

In 2022, a little more than three-fifths (61.2%) of respondents in Gandaki Province said that they would be willing to pay a higher amount of local taxes if the quality of services, such as road maintenance, education, or healthcare, were to improve. This is significantly less than the 82.4% who said so in 2020.

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

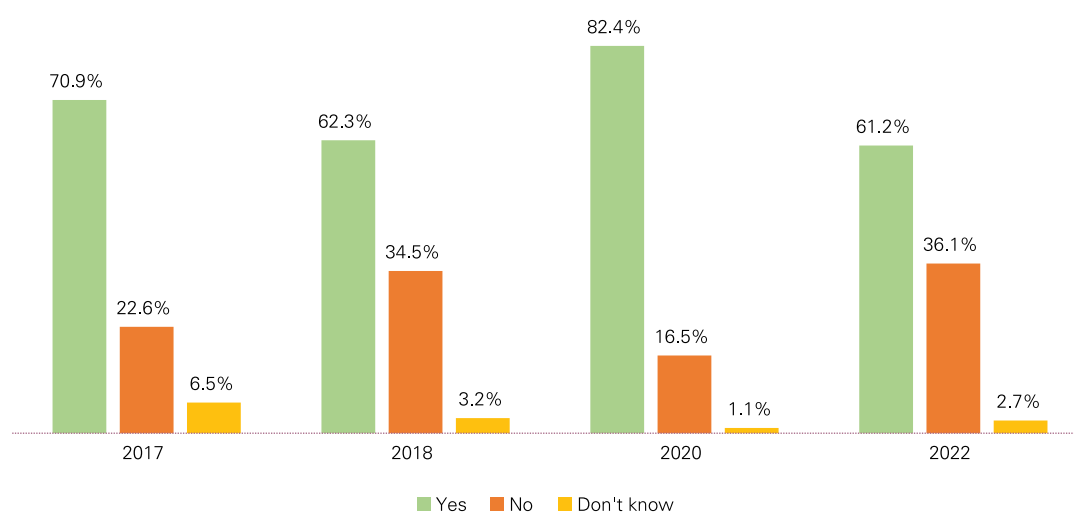


Figure 5.10.2: Q-E16. Would you be willing to pay more local taxes or fees if the quality of services like road maintenance, education or healthcare were improved? (N=1004) ("Refused to answer" not included)

5.11 CORRUPTION

Respondents were asked if they had to give money, gifts or perform a favour to receive nine different services listed in Table 5.11.1. This question was asked to all respondents.

Most respondents (3 out of 9) reported that they did not need any of the types of services asked about. Only marginal shares of people from Gandaki Province (1.0% or less) admitted that they had to pay bribes to receive nine different services in 2022. The highest share (1%) said they had to pay extra for land-related services (buying, selling, transferring land, or paying land taxes, plotting, etc.). The shares paying bribes to access services were small in all survey years and further decreased between 2017 and 2020 (Table 5.11.1).

Bribe in exchange for services, by year

		To get land related services	To get various documents	To take service from police	To take service from court	In search for employment	To Receive health service	To get admission in school or university	To get vehicle related services	To take Banking related services
Gandaki Province	2017	5.5%	2.6%	3.9%	4.0%	4.3%	2.6%	2.2%		
	2018	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	2.8%	0.4%	0.2%		
	2020	2.4%	2.3%	10.7%	7.7%	8.0%	0.5%	0.8%	1.0%	0.8%
	2022	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%

Table 5.11.1: Q-E17a-g. During the past year, please tell me if you ever had to give money or a gift or perform a favor to obtain services from officials in these situations? (N=1005)

5.12 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

In 2022, 71.9% of people in Gandaki Province said they were unaware of any development projects or budgets planned by their local governments for the current fiscal year. Some 28.1% said they were aware. There were no notable changes to levels of awareness over the survey years.

Awareness of local government development projects, by year

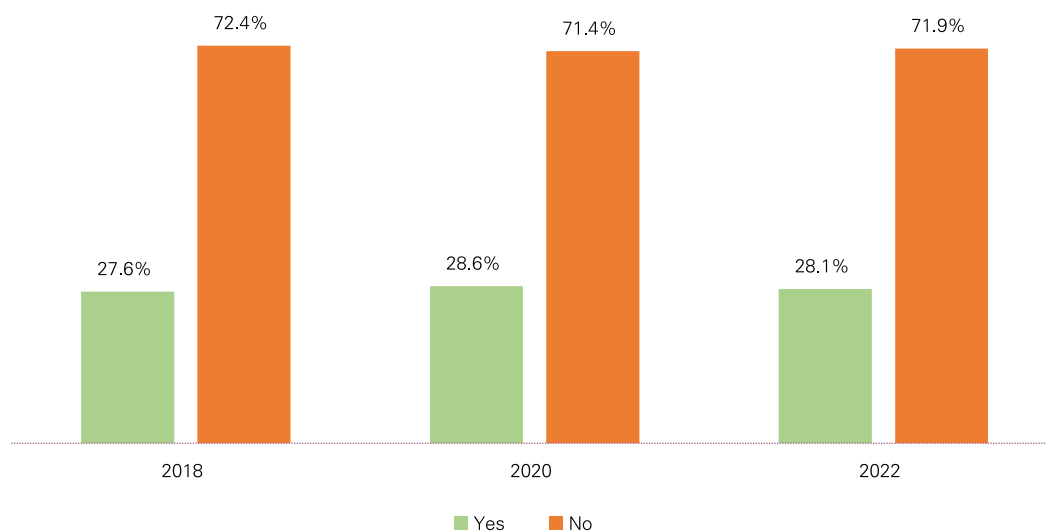


Figure 5.12.1: Q-E18. Are you aware of any development projects/budget planned for execution by your local government in the current fiscal year? (N=1005)

Priorities for Local Government Services

The survey enumerators read out a list of 16 different services that local governments are supposed to provide, including health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, etc., and asked the respondents what the main priority of their respective local government should be.

Most people thought road/physical infrastructure related services should be the priority of local governments (43.4%), followed by education (14%), health (13.3%), drinking water (8.7%) and employment (8.5%) (Figure 5.12.2).

In each survey round, the largest share of respondents believed that their local government should prioritize roads and physical infrastructure services. The share emphasizing roads and physical infrastructure increased over time, from 32% in 2018 to 43.4% in 2022. On the other hand, there was a fall in the share of people who mentioned employment and education in 2022 compared to previous years.

Local government services that should get first priority, by year

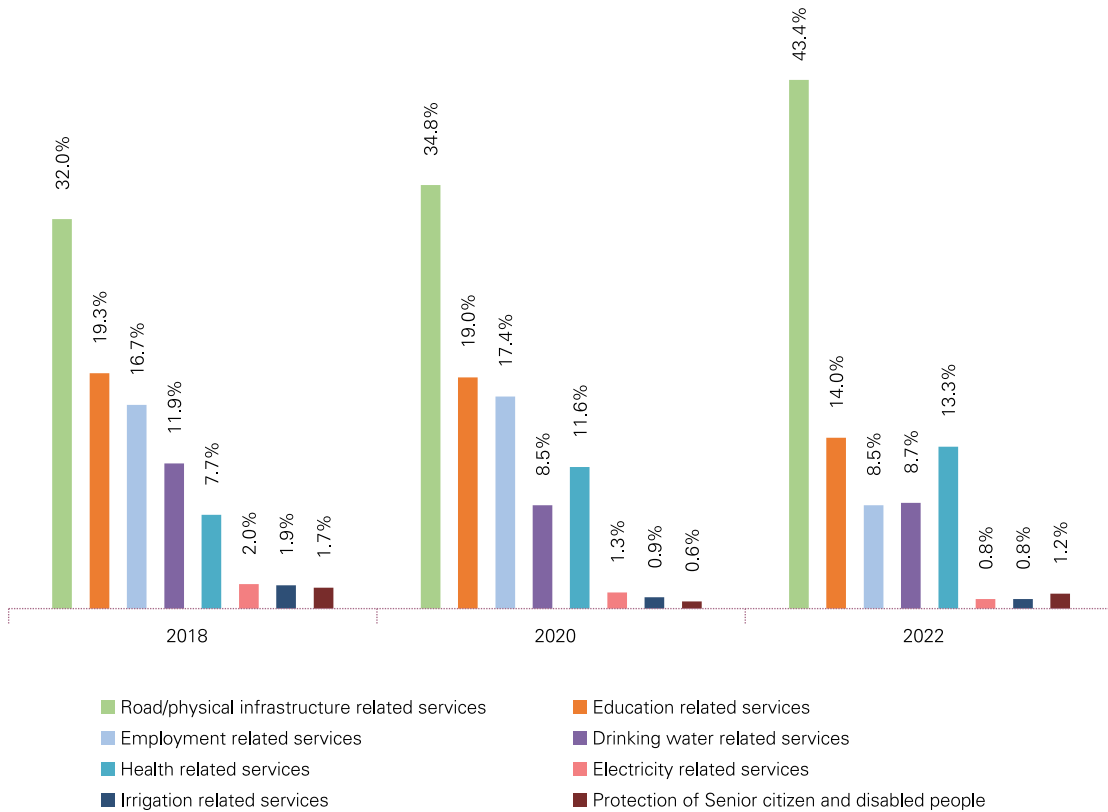


Figure 5.12.2: Q-E19. In your opinion, which service should get first priority from your local government? (N=1005)

Awareness of and Participation in Public Hearings

More than one-fifth of respondents (21.7%) from Gandaki Province confirmed that there had been at least one public hearing in their ward or municipality in the past year – slightly more than in 2020 (17.6%). Most people (52.4%) were unsure whether there had been any public hearings and 25.9% said there had been no such hearings in their area (Figure 5.12.3).

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

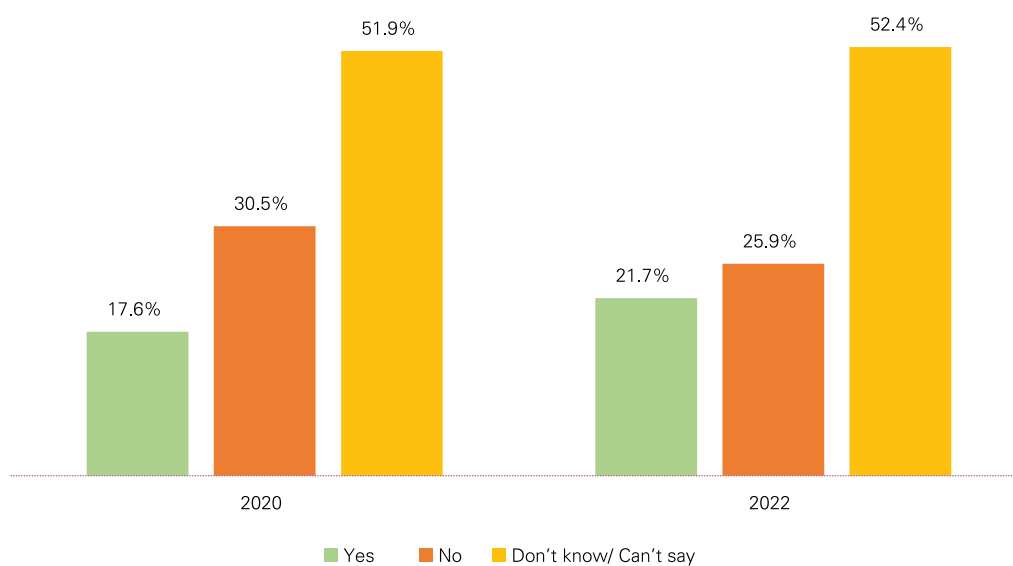


Figure 5.12.3: Q-E20. In last one year have there been any public hearing in your rural municipality/ municipality, including in your ward? (N=1005)

Respondents who affirmed that there had been public hearing(s) in their rural/urban municipality in the past year were asked whether they had participated in any of these public hearings in their locality.

About one fifth (18.1%) of the people in Gandaki Province said they participated in 'some' of the public hearings over the past year. Three-fourths (75.9%) 'never' participated, and only a small minority (6.0%) participated in 'most' of these events. Participation in public hearings fluctuated over the survey rounds.

Participation in Public Audits

All respondents were asked whether there had been public audits of community development programs in their rural/urban municipality in the past year. Less than one in five people in Gandaki Province (16.7%) reported being aware of public audits conducted in their ward or municipality in the past year – an increase from 9.2% in 2020. More than half (56.9%) were unsure whether any public audits had taken place (Figure 5.12.5).

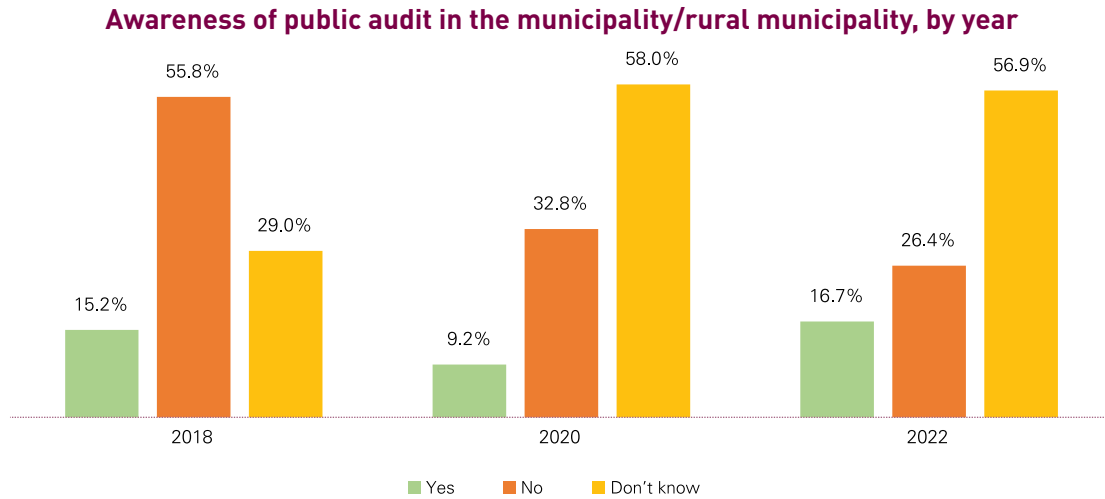


Table 5.12.4: Q-E21. In last one year have there been any public audit in your rural municipality/ municipality/ward? (N=1005)

The 16.7% of respondents who were aware of public audits of community development programs in their rural/urban municipality in the last year were asked about their participation. More than 7 of 10 respondents (73.2%) said that they never participated in any of the public audits of community development programs in their area. More than one fifth (21.1%) said they participated in some public audits and 5.8% participated in most of the audits.

In 2022, participation was noticeably more than in 2017 but much less than in 2022.

Participation in Local Development Plans

When asked if they had participated in preparing local development plans in their ward/municipality in the past year, or while implementing those plans, most respondents (89.0%) said they never participated in such activities. Some 8.3% said they participated in some, and 2.7% participated in most of the planning activities.

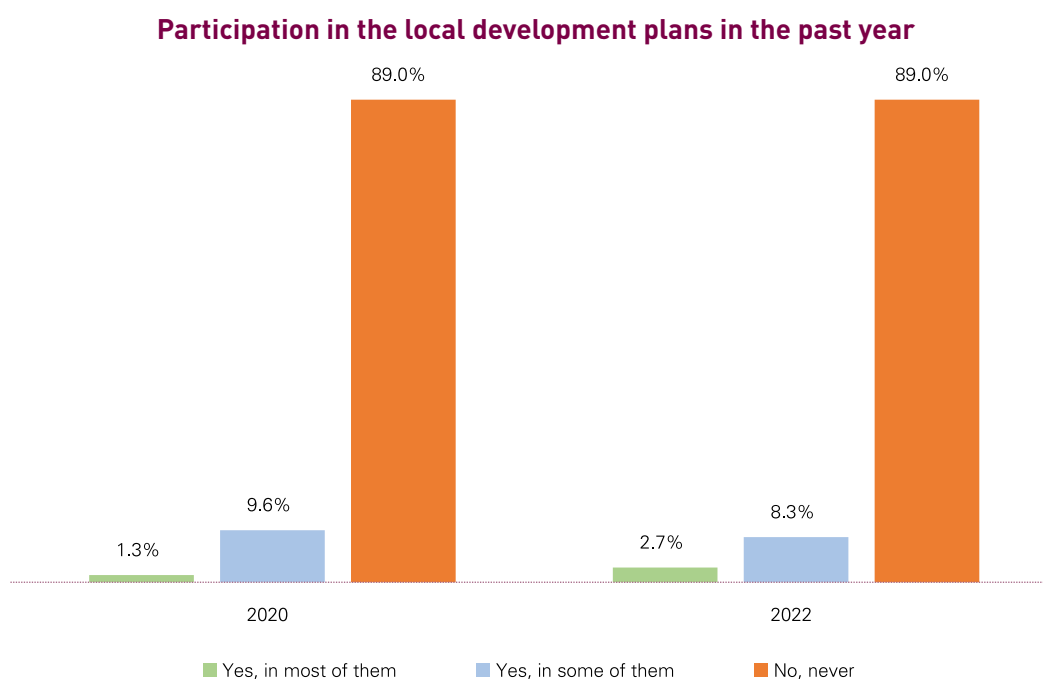


Figure 5.12.5: Q-E23. In the past one year, did you participate in preparing the local development plans of your rural municipality/municipality/ward or while implementing those plans/programs? (N=998) ('Don't Know' and 'Refused to Answer' not included)

Based on the responses of those who said they participated in some of most of local development planning activities, the plans and programs that elicited the highest levels of public participation were related to roads and other physical infrastructure (78.0%), drinking water (44.2%), management of community buildings/spaces and agriculture and livestock (26.8% each), health (26.0%), education (24.8%), and disaster management (15.7%).

5.13 LOCAL ELECTIONS AND VIEWS ON ELECTED OFFICIALS

Confidence that Elected Officials Care

Respondents were asked whether they thought that the people elected as mayor, deputy mayor, ward chairperson and ward members cared about them.

Majorities of respondents in Gandaki Province thought that the various elected officials 'somewhat care' but only a relatively small percentage thought that elected officials 'strongly care' about the public. More than two-thirds thought that ward members (71.7%) ward chairpersons (69.7%) care (either 'somewhat care' or 'strongly care') while levels of trust were lower for mayors (51.8%) and deputy mayors (52.1%).

Confidence that elected officials care

	Yes, strongly think they care	Yes, they care somewhat	No, they do not care much	No, they do not care at all	Don't know/ Can't say
Mayor	7.6%	44.2%	23.0%	20.1%	5.1%
Deputy Mayor	8.3%	43.8%	24.0%	18.9%	5.0%
Ward chairperson	18.9%	50.8%	18.0%	10.1%	2.2%
Ward Members	21.8%	49.9%	16.2%	10.0%	2.1%

Table 5.13.1: Q-F1i-iv. If you think about the people elected to the rural/urban municipality, do you think they care about people like you? (N=1005)

Contacts with Elected Local Representatives

In 2022, less than a fifth of respondents (17.1%) in Gandaki Province had approached their elected representatives for help to resolve personal or community problems – slightly fewer than in 2017 (19.2%).

The 17.1% of respondents who had approached elected local representatives for help to solve a problem in the past year were further asked how satisfied they were with the result of this contact. In 2022, slightly less than three-fifths (58.0%) of those who had contacted officials were somewhat satisfied, and around one fifth (19.1%) were dissatisfied with the outcome of their contact with elected local representatives. Only 6.3% were very satisfied.

5.14 VIEWS ON RESPONSIVENESS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Slightly more than three-fifths of respondents in Gandaki Province (63.9%) reported that the local government's responsiveness to the needs of local people had remained the same compared to the previous year. More than one quarter of respondents (27.3%) believed it had improved – a sharp decline from 73.5% in 2020 and 56.2% in 2018.

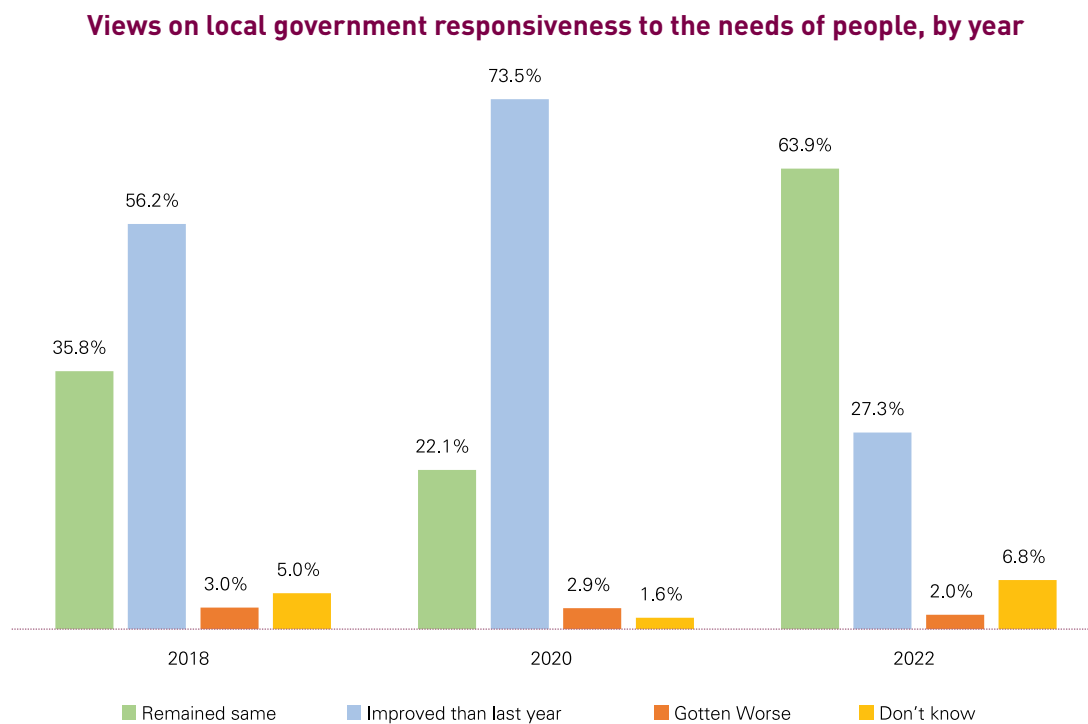


Figure 5.14.1: Q-F1A. To what extent do you think the Local Government has become responsive to the needs of people compared to last year? (N=1005)

Overall Satisfaction with Services Delivered by the Local Government

In Gandaki Province, 70% of respondents were satisfied with services delivered by their local governments and 30.0% were dissatisfied. Compared to 2020 (81.7%), however, the proportion of satisfied respondents had decreased. Conversely, the proportion of dissatisfied people increased from 18.3% in 2020 to 30.0% in 2022 (Figure 5.14.2).

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

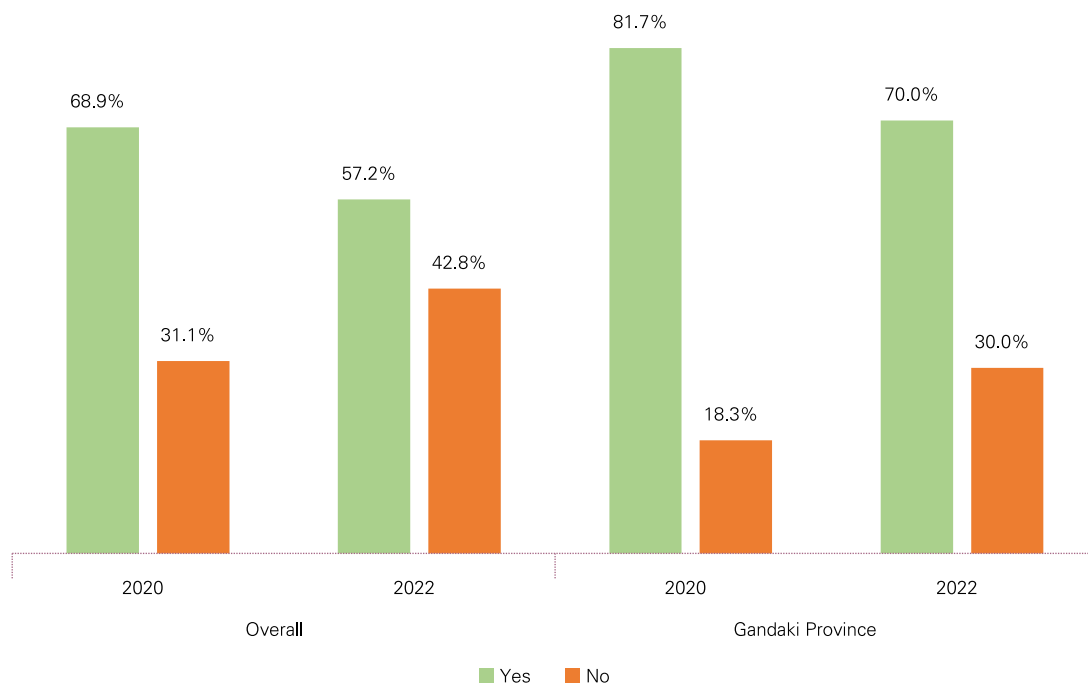


Figure 5.14.2: Q-E13g. Overall, are you satisfied from the services delivered by the local government (rural municipality / urban municipality) of your area? (N=1005)

People from rural municipalities (74.8%) were more satisfied with the services delivered by the local government than people from urban municipalities (67.3%). People in the Terai (71.2%) were more satisfied than those in the Mountains (60.0%). Hill Adibasi/Janajati people (71.4%) were more satisfied with the services delivered by their local government than Hill Dalit people (59.8%).

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

The survey also asked respondents to rate their satisfaction with the service provided by their local government in the education, health, and road sectors. They ranked it on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing “highly dissatisfied,” and 10 representing “highly satisfied.” The average satisfaction levels of people in Gandaki Province for these services ranged from 6.3 to 6.7 (Figure 5.14.3). In 2022, satisfaction levels had increased for all three service sectors (education, health and road services) compared to 2020.

Average levels of satisfaction for education, health, and road-related services, by year

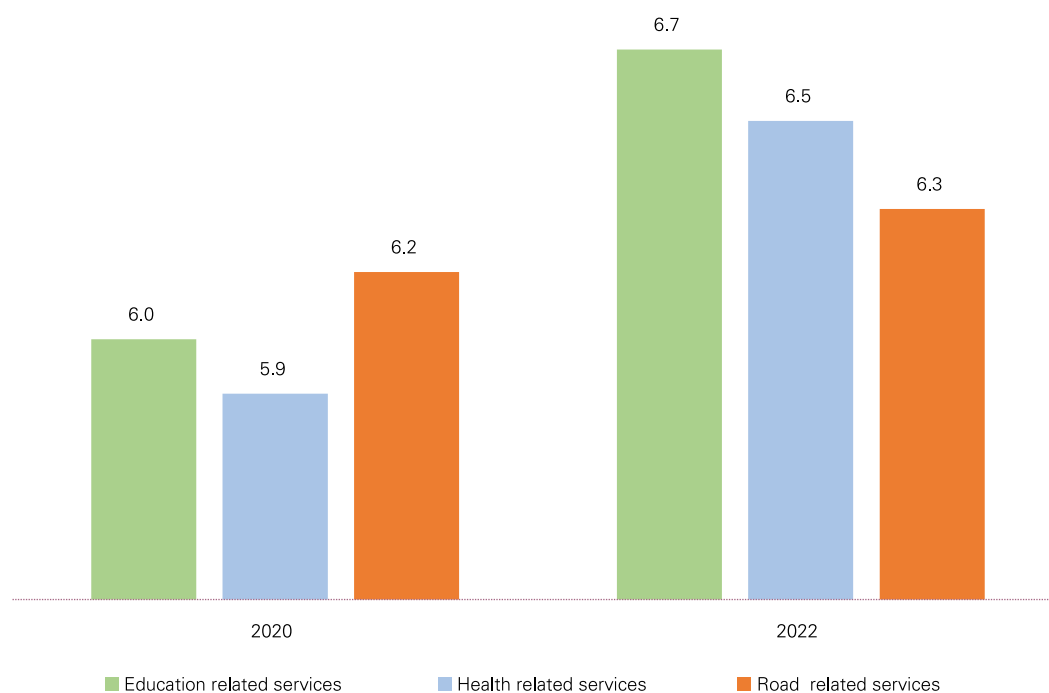


Figure 5.14.3: Q-E10Ha,b,c. How satisfied are you with the education, health and road related services provided by the rural municipality/ municipality in your areas? [Rate the level of your satisfaction in a scale of 0 to 10; while 0 represent highly dissatisfied, 5 represent neither dissatisfied nor satisfied and 10 represents extremely satisfied] (N=1005)

5.15 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Respondents were asked questions about their participation in the local elections of 2022, satisfaction with the results, expectations, whether the local elections were free and fair, their reasons for voting, and access to polling booths.

More than four-fifths of respondents (82.4%) in Gandaki Province said they participated in the local elections.¹⁴

A large majority of respondents (94.9%) considered the election of 2022 to have been free and fair – slightly more than in 2017 (92.6%). The small share of respondent (0.8%) who thought the elections were not free and fair, said this was due to the use of force, money and bribery (55.1%), people not being able to vote as they wished (46.2%), and problems or disputes (30.5%).

Some 87.7% of respondent from Gandaki Province were happy or very happy with the results of the 2022 elections (Figure 5.15.1). When asked about the impacts of local elections on their lives, more than half of respondents (53.0%) believed that it would improve their quality of life and slightly less than one third of respondents (30.4%) thought that it would not have any impact. Another 1.4% believed that election results would decrease their quality of life.

¹⁴ According to the record of the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN), 64% of registered voters cast their vote in the local election of 2079. A higher share of people reported voting during the local election in the SNP survey in all provinces.

Satisfaction with election results, by year

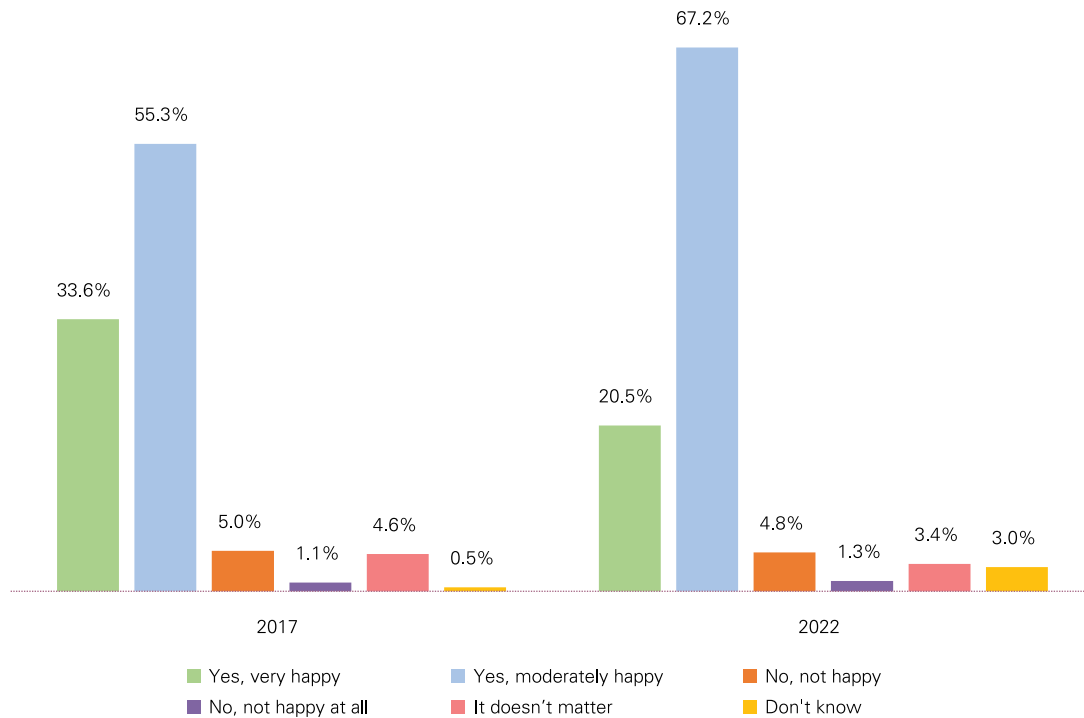


Figure 5.15.1: Q-F4. Are you happy with the results of the elections? (N=1000)

The respondents who reported that local elections would help improve the quality of life gave the following reasons: local leaders addressing the needs of the community (44.2%), improvement in public service delivery (44.5%), and better accountability of leaders (43.2%). Those who thought that local election would decrease the quality of life gave the following reasons: local elected officials are less accountable (66.2%), and local elected officials are less likely to address the needs and concerns of the community (64.6%).

Basis of Voting

A further question was asked to the 82.4% of respondents who had voted in the 2022 local elections; they were asked on what basis they chose their candidate. Around 3 out of 10 respondents (31.8%) said they believe that the political party/candidate would bring development and provide necessary services (Figure 5.15.2). More than one quarter (28%) said they like the candidate who stood from the political party. Less than one quarter thought the candidate was working for people's rights (22.6%), or voted for a particular candidate because they knew her/him (22.1%). Some 16.6% of respondents liked the independent candidate and their principles.

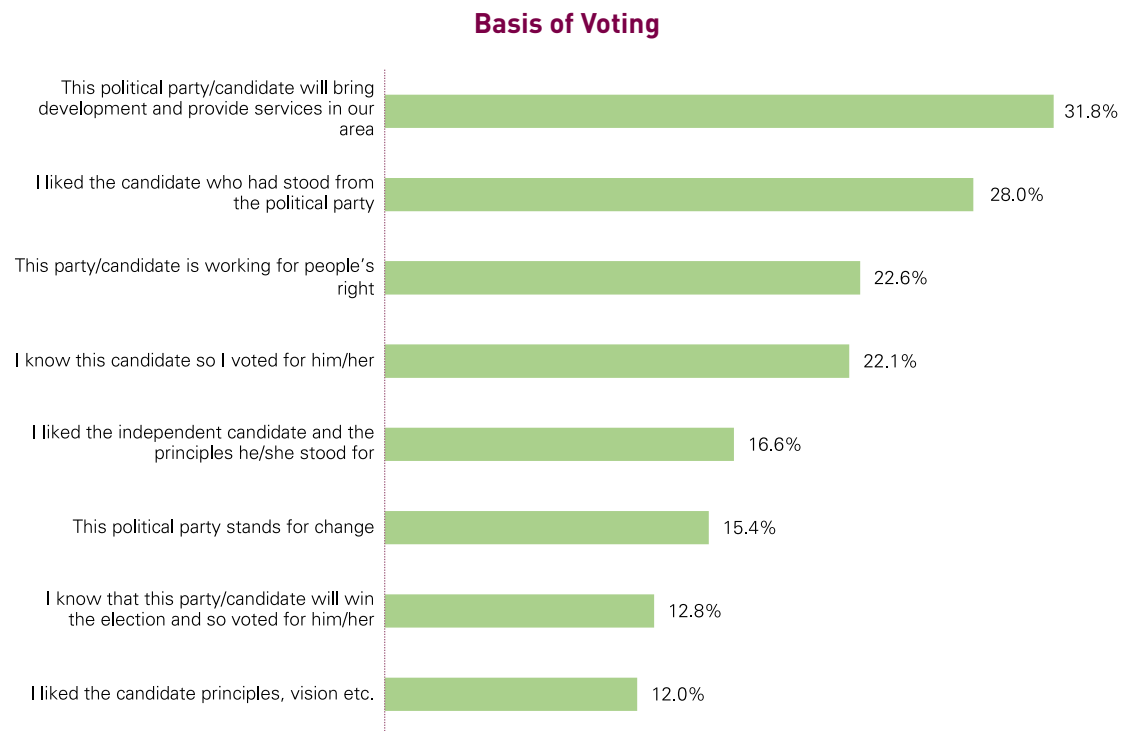


Figure 5.15.2: Q-F7_1. On what basis did you decide who to vote for? (N=827)

Ease of Voting

The survey also asked the 82.4% of respondents who voted in the local elections in Gandaki Province about how easy the process was for them at their respective polling booth.

A large majority of voters (84.1%) said that it was easy. Some 12.9% thought it was very easy, and a small share of respondents (3.0%) said it was difficult or very difficult. Reasons why people felt the process was easy were: proximity to polling booths (61.4%), easy accessibility to polling booths (39.1%), separate lines for different categories of people (men, women, elderly/pregnant women/person with disability) (31.5%), easily understandable ballot paper (27.3%), and helpful security personnel (11.9%).

6. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1 PERCEPTION OF LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The majority of respondents (71.2%) in Gandaki Province believed that economic conditions in their municipality/rural municipality had remained unchanged. One-fifth (20.2%) of respondents thought economic conditions in their locality were improving and only 1 in 100 people (1.2%) thought economic conditions were getting worse (Figure 6.1.1). Those with higher education and higher income levels were more likely to think that local economic conditions were improving.

In 2022, the proportion of people who said the economic situation in their locality was improving decreased by more than half compared to 2020 (from 49.4% in 2020 to 20.2% in 2022). On the other hand, the share of respondents who said economic conditions were stable increased significantly in 2022 (71.2%) compared to 2020 (43.5%).

Views on economic conditions in the urban/ rural municipality, by year

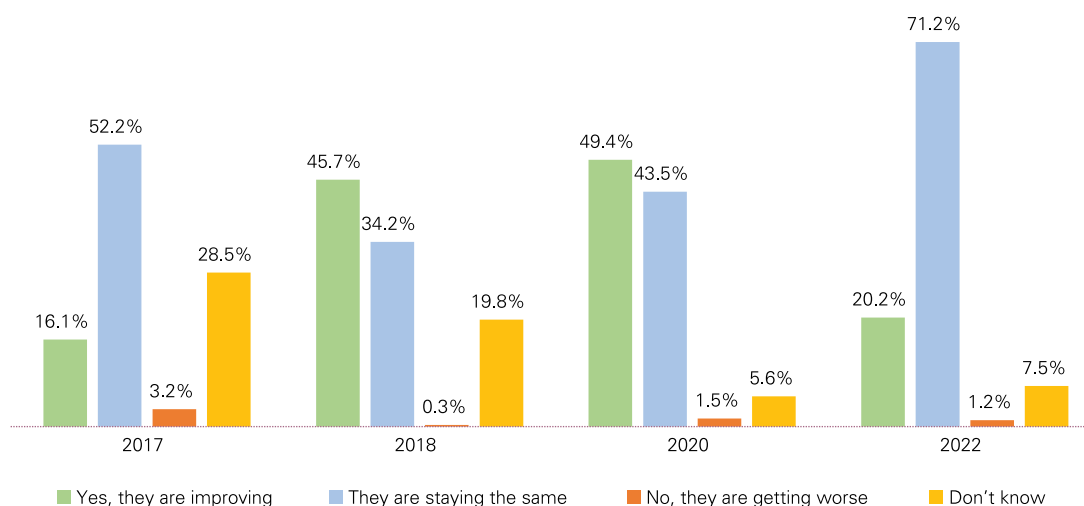


Figure 6.1.1: Q-G1. Do you think economic conditions in your urban municipality/rural municipality are improving? (N=1004) ("Refused to answer" not included)

The share of respondents (20.2%) who said that economic conditions in their municipality were getting better were further asked to provide their reasons for saying so. Frequently cited reasons were better infrastructure (51.2%), improving water supply (29.6%) and more investment opportunities (12.8%) (Figure 6.1.2).

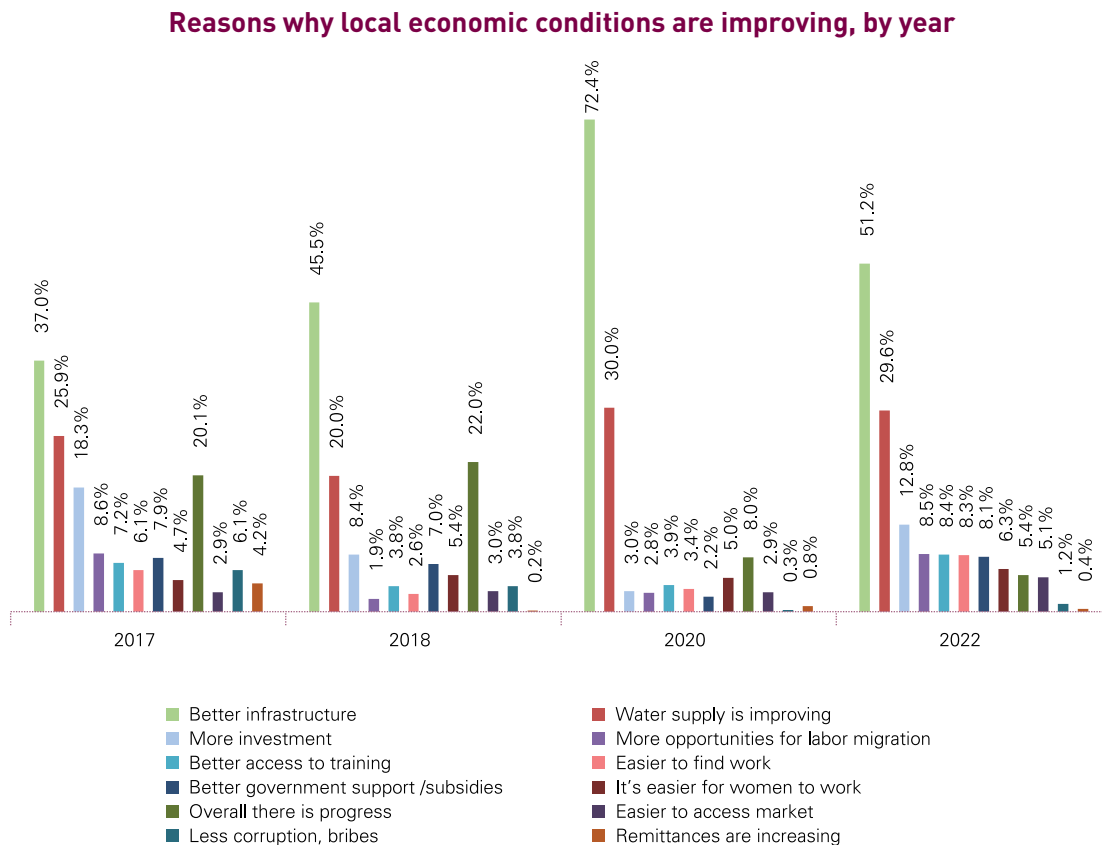


Figure 6.1.2: Q-G2. [If 'Yes, economic conditions are improving' in Q-G1] Why do you think that economic conditions are improving in your municipality /rural municipality? (N=119)¹⁵

6.2 PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Two-thirds of respondents (66.3%) in Gandaki Province reported that their average household earning was more than NPR 20,000 a month. Slightly less than one quarter of respondents (23.5%) said their household income was between NPR 10,000-19,999 a month. Just under one in ten (9.5%) reported household earnings of less than NPR 10,000 a month (Figure 6.2.1).

Over the survey years, the proportions of respondent with monthly household incomes of less than NPR 10,000, or NPR 10,000-19,999 decreased. The proportion of respondent with household incomes over NPR 40,000 increased; in 2022 the highest share reported earning NPR 40,000 or more (29.9%).

15 In SNP 2017 and 2018 respondent were limited to give the two major reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, however in 2020 and 2022 respondent are not limited to cite the two major reason and are allowed to give multiple responses. To compare the responses of people regarding to main reason for improvement in economic condition of their respective urban municipality/rural municipality, in four different survey period, first two responses of respondent in 2020 and 2022 are considered and analyzed.

Average monthly household income, by year

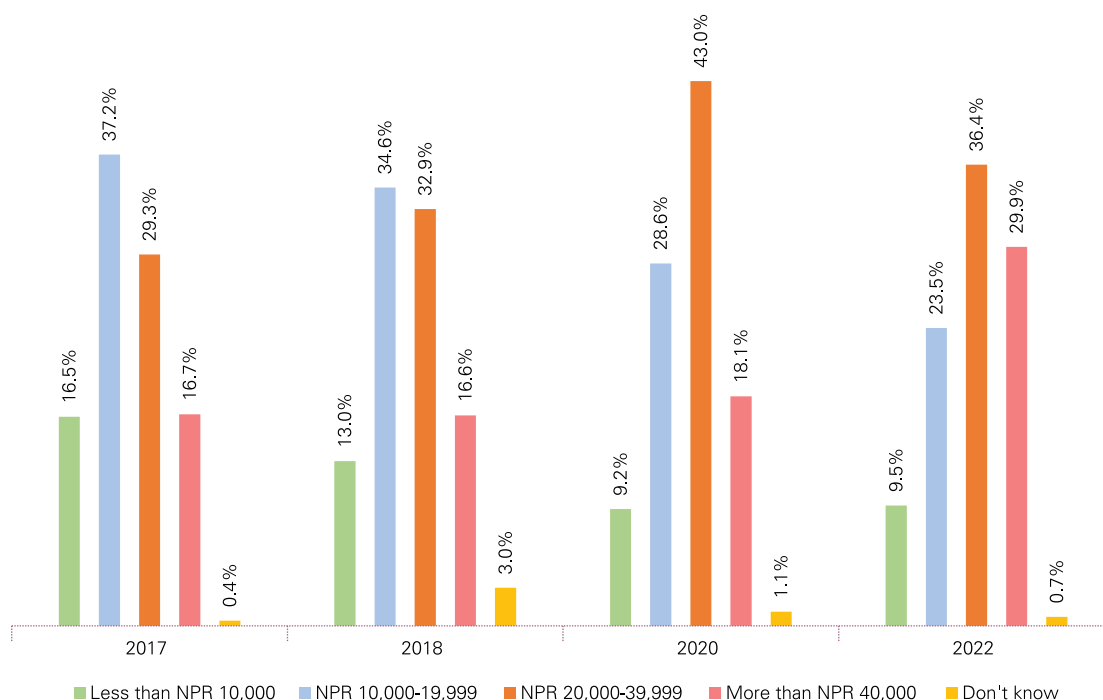


Figure 6.2.1: Q-G4. Approximately how much was your household income per month in the last year? (N=996) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

More people in rural municipalities (28.7%) reported monthly household incomes of NPR 10,000-19,999 than in urban municipalities (20.6%). In urban municipalities, more people had monthly household incomes of NPR 40,000 and more (34.8%) than in rural municipalities (21.1%). More than half of respondent from the Terai (51.5%) had monthly household income of NPR 20,000-39,999. In the Mountain region, 40.0% of respondents reported monthly household incomes of NPR 40,000 and more.

Some 27.7% of Hill Dalit respondents had monthly household incomes of NPR 40,000 or above; this share is lower than that of Hill Caste groups (35.8%). Around half of Madhesi (Adibasi/Janajati) and Madhesi Caste (Level -1) respondents reported that their monthly household income was NPR 10,000-19,999.

Change in Household Income

Monthly household incomes remained the same for most respondents in Gandaki Province over the previous year (66.6%). More people reported increased household incomes than decreased incomes, as in previous survey rounds.

The biggest increase in household income compared to the previous year was seen between 2017 and 2018. After 2018, the shares reporting higher monthly incomes decreased in each survey round. Between 2020 and 2022, the share reporting decreased household incomes increased from 5.9% to 9.9%.

Change in household income over the last year, by year

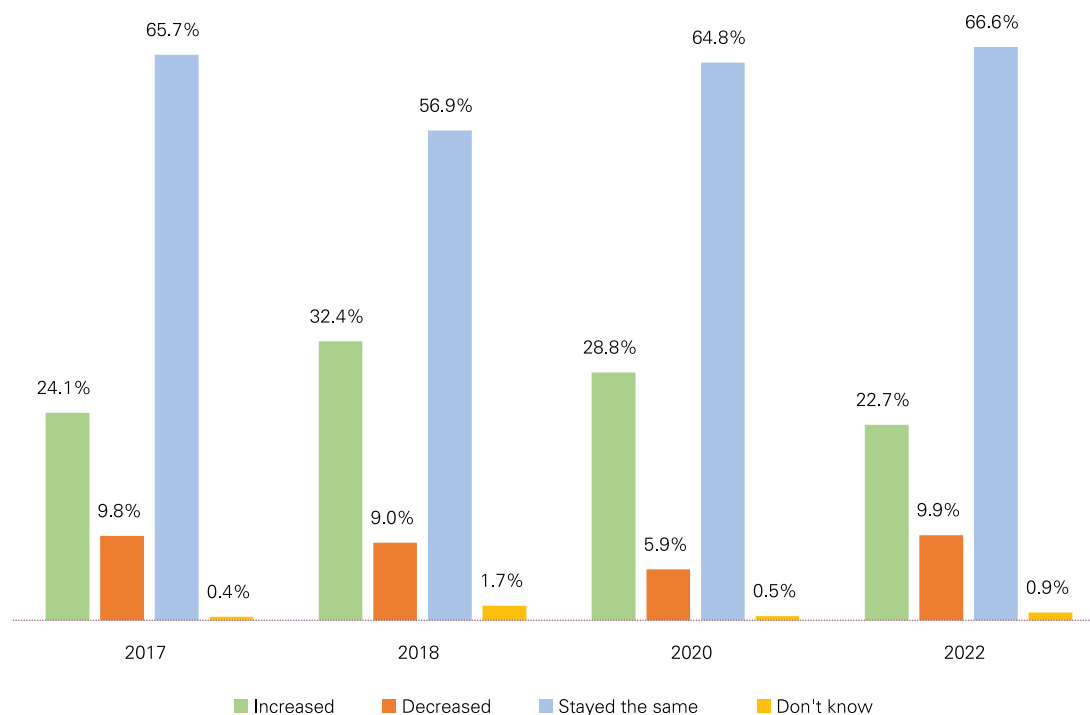


Figure 6.2.2: Q-G5. How has your household income changed in the last year? (N = 1002) (Response as 'Refused to Answer' is not included)

Personal Income

The survey asked respondents to report their personal monthly income. Around one in three people (32.2%) either refused to answer or mentioned no source of monthly income. Many of these respondents were students or engaged in agriculture or household work. Women were twice as likely to refuse to answer this question as men.

Of those respondents who reported their personal income, slightly less than two-fifths had a personal monthly income of NPR 20,000 or more (38.5%).

In Gandaki Province, the share of respondents earning less than NPR 10,000 (30.5%) was lower than the national figure (37.0%). On the other hand, the share earning more than NPR 20,000 (38.5%) was higher than the national figure (33.5%)



Figure 6.2.3: Q-G6C. What is your present level of personal income that you earn in a year? (N=681) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Personal incomes were higher in urban than in rural areas: Respondent from urban municipalities (45.9%) were much more likely to earn more than NPR 20,000 a month than people in rural municipalities (26.9%). On the other hand, more people in rural municipalities (35.9%) said their personal monthly income was less than 10,000 than people residing urban municipalities (27.0%).

More people in the Mountain region earned less than NPR 10,000 a month (60.0%) than people in the Hill (29.9%) and Terai (32.6%) regions. People in the Hill region were more likely to earn NPR 10,000-19,999 (32.2%) than people in the Mountain and Terai regions (20.9% each). More than one third (37.9%) of people in the Hill region earned NPR 20,000 or more a month compared to 20.0% in the Mountains and 46.5% in the Terai.

Hill Caste people (50.7%) were twice as likely to earn NPR 20,000 or more a month than Hill Dalits (25.0%). Higher incomes were associated with higher levels of education. For instance, 71.4% of respondents with a Bachelor's degree and above reported personal incomes of more than NPR 20,000 a month, while only 18.0% of illiterate respondents reported the same.

6.3 MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

A little more than one third of respondents (35.3%) in Gandaki Province reported that someone in their family was currently working in a foreign country. The majority of households (64.7%) said nobody from their family was currently abroad for employment. Foreign employment has remained fairly stable over the years. However, in 2022 the share with family members working abroad was highest at 35.3% – 6.3 percentage points higher than in 2020 (29.0%) (Figure 6.3.1).

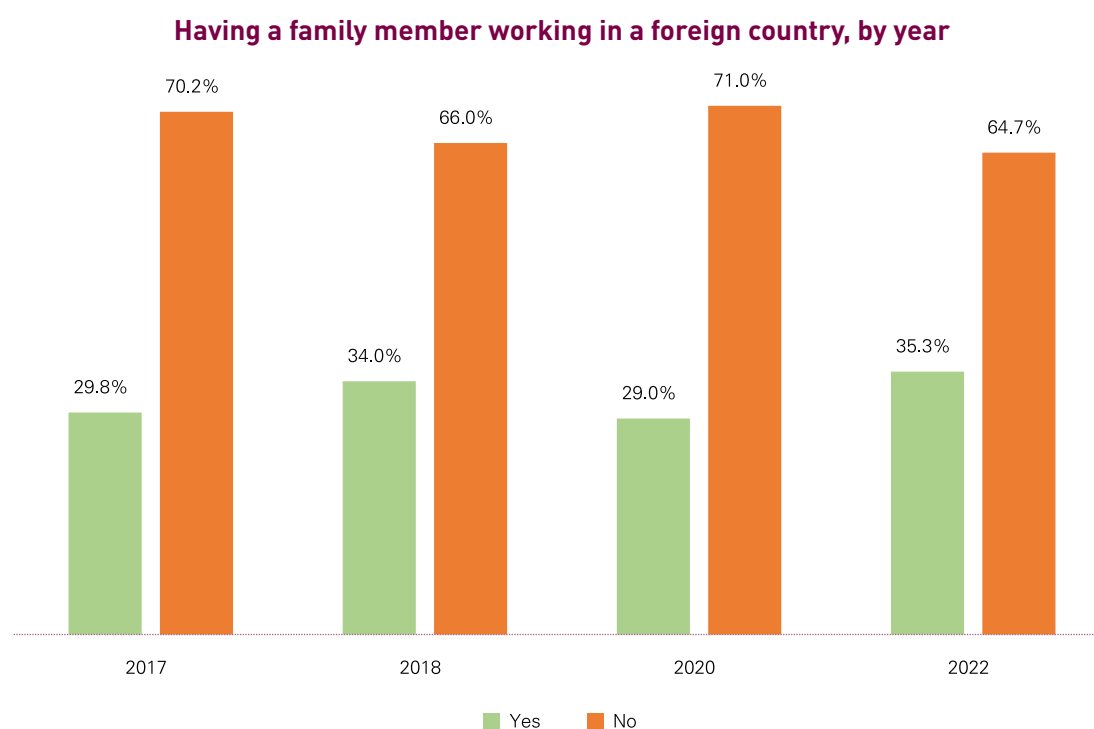


Figure 6.3.1: Q-G12. Is anyone in your family currently in a foreign country for work? (N=1003) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

In Gandaki Province, the proportion of respondents reporting that someone in their family was currently working in a foreign country was similar in urban municipalities (36.2%) and in rural municipalities (33.5%). People from the Mountain region (66.7%) were much more likely to report having a family member working in a foreign country than people from the Hill (34.1%) and Terai (40.9%) regions. Across caste/ethnic groups, half of the people from Madhesi Caste (Level - 2) (50.0%) followed by Hill Dalit (59.8%) and Hill Adibasi/Janajati (35.7%) had family members working abroad.

The 35.3% of the respondents with a family member working abroad were further asked if their family members faced any problem; a majority (95.3%) said they did not face any problems. A small proportion cite receiving a different payment than what was agreed upon (3.4%), inadequate work environment (0.5%), and work other than what was promised (0.4%).

The survey also attempted to understand whether respondents had encouraged their family members, friends, relatives, and other people they know to seek foreign employment. In 2022, people in Gandaki Province were slightly less likely to encourage people they know to seek foreign employment than in 2020 (38.9% in 2022 compared to 43.6% in 2020).

Encouragement to seek foreign employment, by year

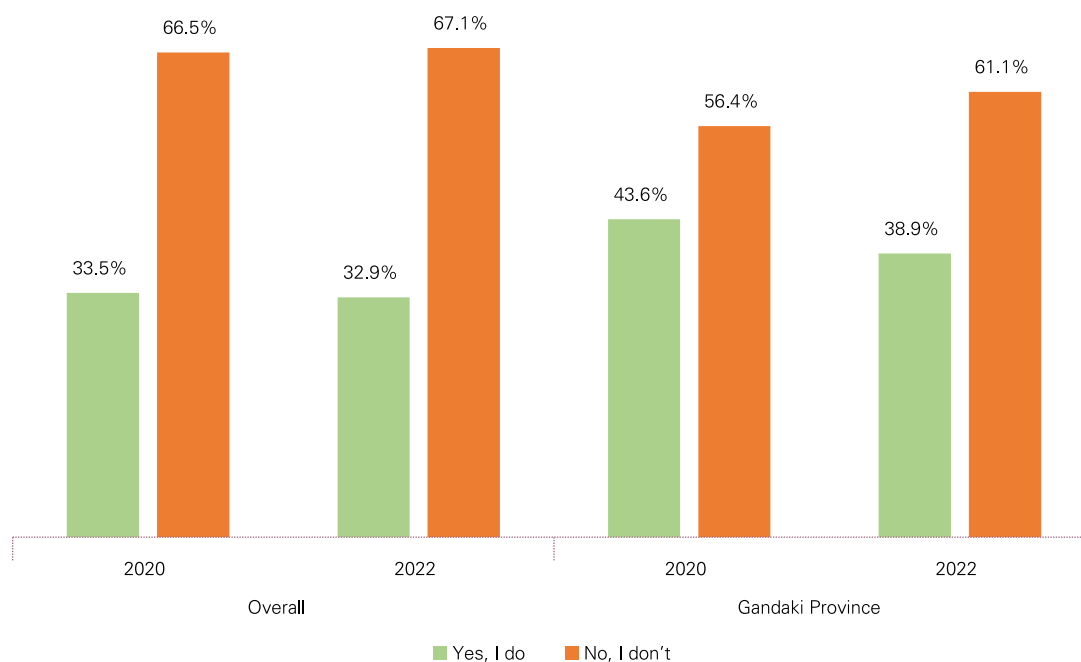


Figure 6.3.2: Q-G12.4. Do you encourage your family members, friends, relatives, and other people you know to go to the foreign employment? (N=1003) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Remittances

Less than one third of respondents (29.8%) in Gandaki Province received remittances from outside the country in 2022 – a slight increase compared to 24.5% in 2020. Some 9.4% reported receiving remittances from within Nepal – slightly more than in 2020 (6.6%). People seem to either receive remittances from inside or outside Nepal; only small shares reported receiving remittances from both within Nepal and abroad (Table 6.3.1).

Receipt of remittance, by year

Year	From inside	From outside	From both inside and outside	Remittance, not yet received	Not applicable	Don't know
2020	6.6%	24.5%	1.7%	4.9%	62.3%	0.0%
2022	9.4%	29.8%	2.9%	2.9%	53.4%	1.7%

Table 6.3.1: Q-G13. Have you or your family members ever received remittance from inside or outside the country? (N=1004)¹⁶ ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Across the caste/ethnic groups, 39.4% of Hill Dalit, 29.9% of Hill Adibasi/Janajati and 27.7% of Hill Caste were likely to receive remittances from outside the country. Smaller shares of Hill Dalit (6.4%), Hill Adibasi/Janajati (8.3%) and Hill Caste (9.5%) received remittances from inside the country.

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

Changes in Remittances

The survey asked the 42.1% of respondents in Gandaki Province who said they received remittances from within the country, from outside the country, or both to further report the changes in levels of remittances they received over the past year.

While in each survey round, the highest share of respondents said that remittances had remained the same, there seems to be some fluctuation in incoming remittances for households in Gandaki Province. In 2022, 27.3% reported that the remittances they received had increased over the previous year – more than in 2020 (23.6%) and in 2017 (13.9%) but less than in 2018 (32.5%). The share of respondent reporting decreasing remittances was highest in 2022 (9.6%). In contrast, the share saying remittances had remained stable decreased over time (79.5% in 2017, 61.0% in 2022).

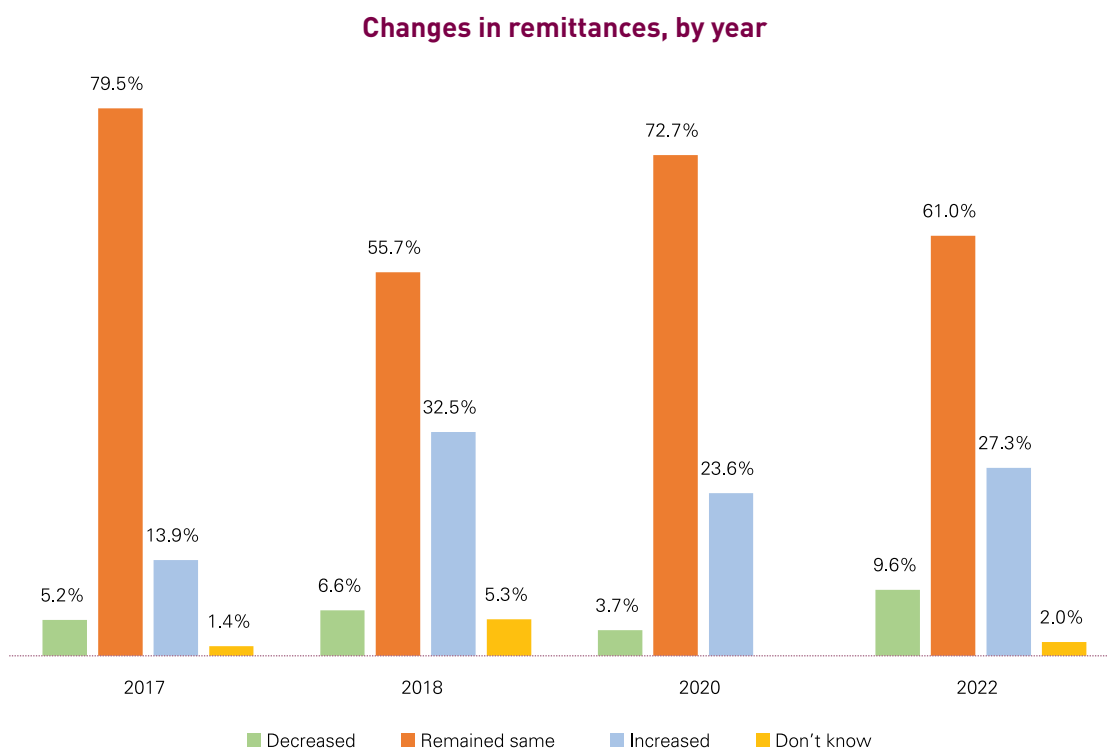


Figure 6.3.3: Q-G14. Compared to the previous year, has the amount of remittance that your household have been receiving increased, remained same or decreased? (N=423)

Purpose of Remittances

The survey asked the 42.1% of respondents who reported receiving remittances from either inside or outside Nepal what they used the remittance money for (main purposes). People in Gandaki Province mainly used the remittances for their daily life expenses (82.4%), for healthcare and medical expenses or their children's education (51.1% each), and to pay off loans (24.5%) (Figure 6.3.4). Between 2020 and 2022, share of respondents who used it for household expenses, healthcare expenses, and educating children increased. The shares using remittances to pay off loans, or to build a house decreased.

Main purpose of remittances, by year

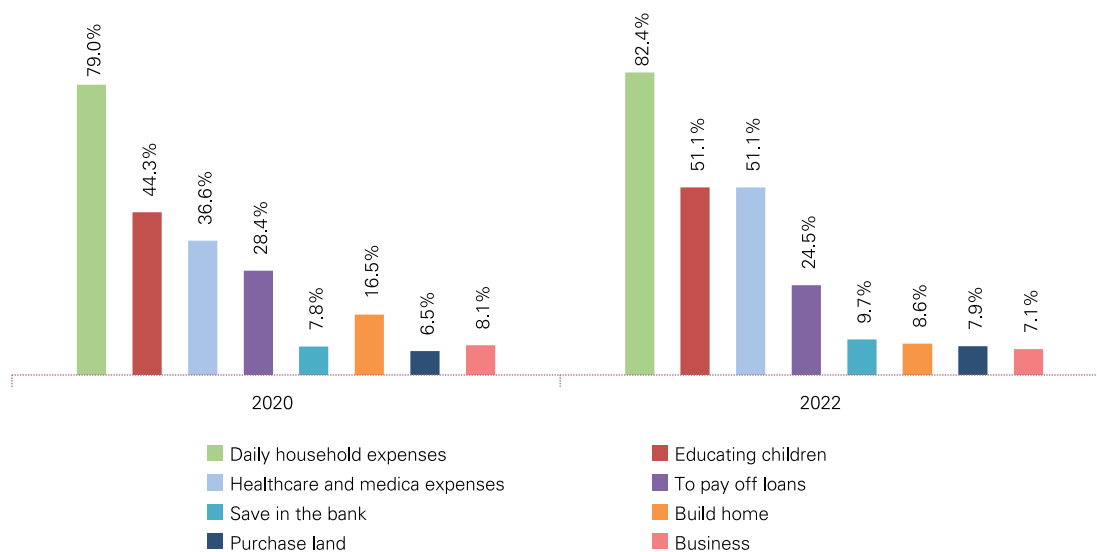


Figure 6.3.4: Q-G14A. Generally for what purpose do you spend the remittance money that you or your family members receive? (N=423)

6.4 AWARENESS OF AND ACCESS TO INSURANCE

Some 93.6% of all respondents in Gandaki Province had ever heard of any type of insurance. The survey asked these respondents whether they had heard of different types of insurance read out to them by the enumerators (Table 6.4.1). Large shares had heard of life insurance (94.2%), health insurance (94.2%), and motor vehicle insurance (84.7%). Property insurance (54.3%) and travel insurance (45.1%) were the least-known insurance types.

While awareness of insurance types was relatively high, far fewer people actually owned the types of insurance they knew about. People were comparatively more likely to own motor vehicle insurance (33.0%), health insurance (32.2%) and life insurance (25.4%) than other insurance types.

Awareness and Ownership of various types of insurance, by year

	2018		2020		2022	
	Aware	Own	Aware	Own	Aware	Own
Life Insurance	94.3%	14.5%	97.6%	19.9%	94.2%	25.4%
Personal/Accident Insurance	70.7%	3.6%	77.2%	5.4%	78.8%	4.6%
Auto Insurance	73.5%	13.8%	79.9%	22.5%	84.7%	33.0%
Health Insurance	88.8%	13.7%	95.1%	18.1%	94.2%	32.2%
Agricultural Insurance	56.4%	1.8%	74.9%	1.5%	73.5%	1.7%
Livestock Insurance	72.7%	6.5%	87.3%	6.5%	85.4%	6.6%
Property Insurance	49.5%	0.7%	50.9%	1.3%	54.3%	4.0%
Travel Insurance	59.3%	2.1%	63.2%	4.6%	45.1%	0.7%

Table 6.4.1. Q-G21B.A1-H1. Have you heard of the following insurance? (N=1005) and Q-G21.B. B1-H1 [If "Yes" in Q-G21.B. A1-H1] Do you have the following insurance?

Results show an increase in ownership of all eight types of insurance over time; a considerable increase can be seen in the purchase of motor vehicle insurance, followed by health insurance, and life insurance.

Awareness and ownership of different types of insurance increased with people's education level. For instance, a higher proportion of respondents with a bachelor's degree and above (51.3%) were likely to have life insurance compared to respondents who have no education (2.0%).

6.5 EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME GENERATION OPPORTUNITIES

The majority of Nepalis in Gandaki Province believed that employment opportunities (71.5%) and income generation opportunities (70.1%) in their locality had not changed over the past year. Less than one in ten people thought that employment opportunities (6.2%) and income generation opportunities (8.7%) had increased and around one fifth of respondents thought they had declined.

The shares saying that employment and income generation opportunities had increased declined between 2018 and 2022.

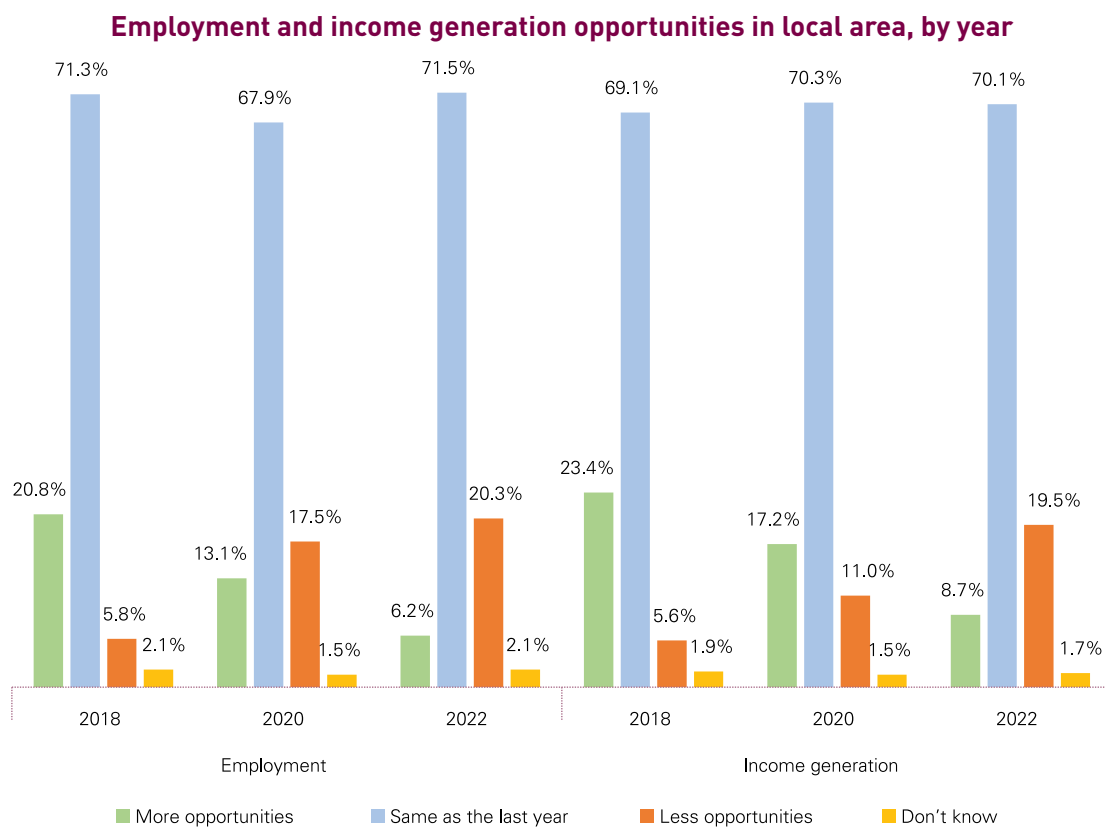


Figure 6.5.1: Q-G23a and Q-G23b. How do you consider the situation of employment opportunity and income generation opportunity in your local areas? (N=1005)

More people residing in urban municipalities (23.9%) than people in rural areas (13.7%). People from rural municipalities (79.7%) were more likely to say employment opportunities remained unchanged.

People in the Hill region (72.7%) of Gandaki Province were more likely to report no change in employment opportunities in their local area than those from the Terai (60.6%). Whereas people from the Terai (33.3%) were more likely to report decreasing employment opportunities.

6.6 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

For residents of Gandaki Province, friends, relatives, and neighbors (46.2%) were the primary sources of information on their local governments' plans, initiatives, and budget, followed by local community leaders (29.2%), social media (27.3%), internet (22.8%) and television (21.5%). The use of social media and internet to obtain information on local government activities and budgets increased in 2022, and reliance on friends, family and neighbors, television and local community leaders declined (Figure 6.6.1).

Sources of information for local government activities, by year (%)

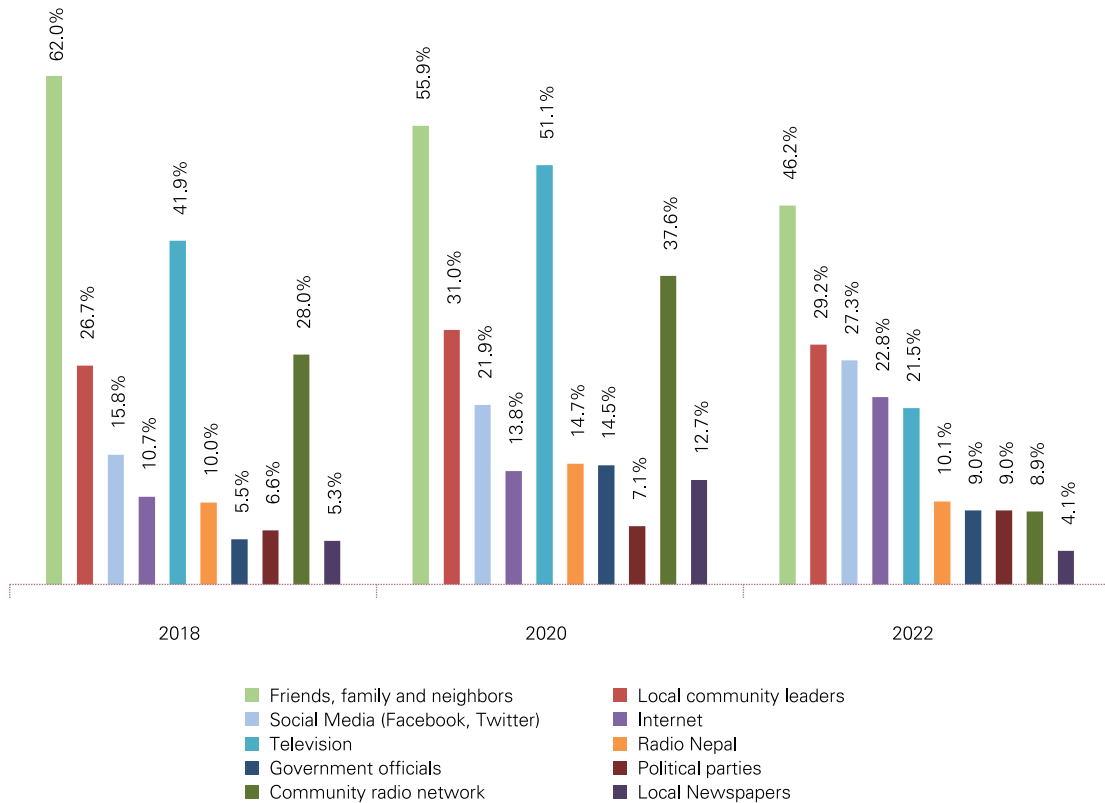


Figure 6.6.1: Q-H5. How do you normally get information about the plans, programs, and budget of local government? (N=1005)

Respondents with higher levels of education said social media as their main source of information. In contrast, respondents with no education at all, or no formal education were more likely to rely on their friends, family, and neighbors followed by local community leaders and local radio.

Respondents from higher income brackets were more likely to cite television as their main source of information on local government activities, whereas those from lower income groups said they got information from friends, family, and neighbors.

Expected Information from the Local Government

Respondents were asked what sort of information, they expected their municipality or their rural municipality to provide on a regular basis. In Gandaki Province, more than one-third (36%) of respondents mentioned that information on budgets and programs should be made available, followed by notices (34.4%). Around one quarter wanted information on government initiatives, policies and decisions (25.7%) and plans and projects (25.3%).

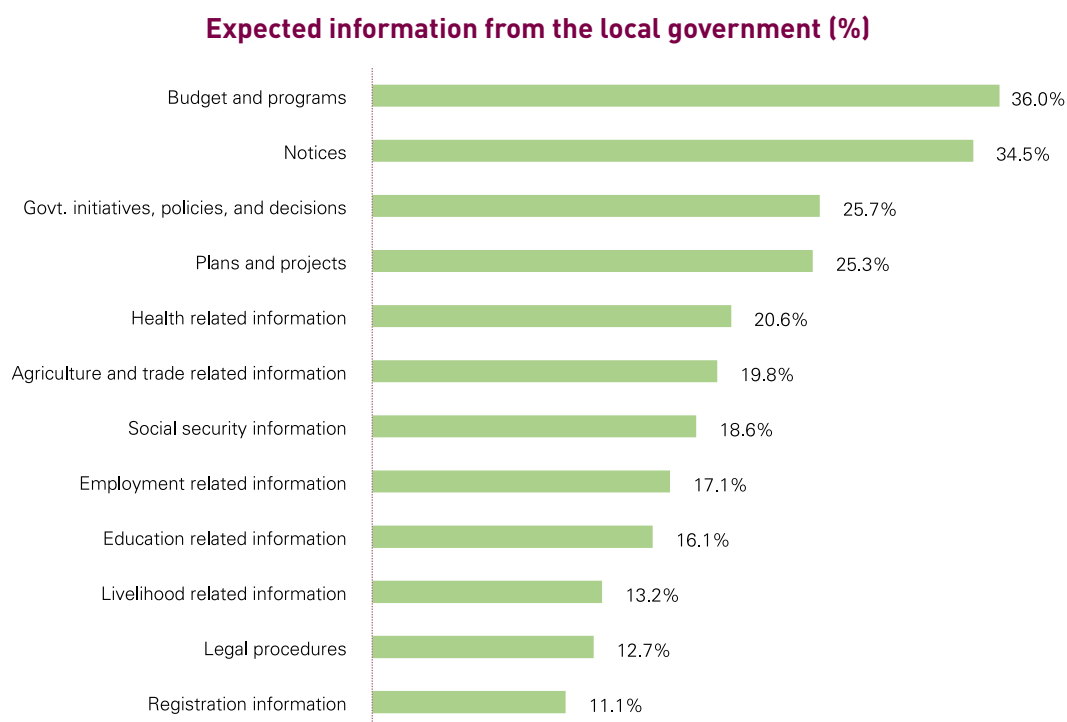


Figure 6.6.2: Q-H6. What kind of data, and information do you expect your municipality, the rural municipality should provide people and make that public, regularly? (N=1005)

Satisfaction with Access to Information

A little more than half of respondents (53.1%) were satisfied with the data and information made available by their local government. Some 32.5% were dissatisfied and 14.4% were unsure or did not know about information and data made available.

Only a small proportion (8.2%) said they made attempts to access information from the local government. They said they had tried to acquire information about notices (34.7%), budget and programs (30.6%), access to and use of public benefit services (electricity, sewage, road, etc.) (28.2%), plans and projects (21.1%), education (18.0%), agriculture and trade (17.1%) and health related information (15.1%).

Those who made attempts to access information said they talked to the relevant government agency (49.6%), took the help of local political leaders (45.6%), or the help of family and friends (45.1%), or used the government's website (29.4%). Of those who tried to access information, 55.2% said they got the information they needed.

7. EXPERIENCE AND IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

7.1 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO MANAGE COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all three levels of government implemented measures to prevent and control COVID-19 and to minimize its socio-economic impacts. The survey asked all respondents whether they thought the government response was sufficient.

Although most respondents believed that the response from all three levels of government was appropriate, a considerably larger proportion (41.1%) felt that the local government's response was sufficient (either "sufficient" or "very sufficient") compared to responses of federal and provincial governments (Figure 7.1.1).

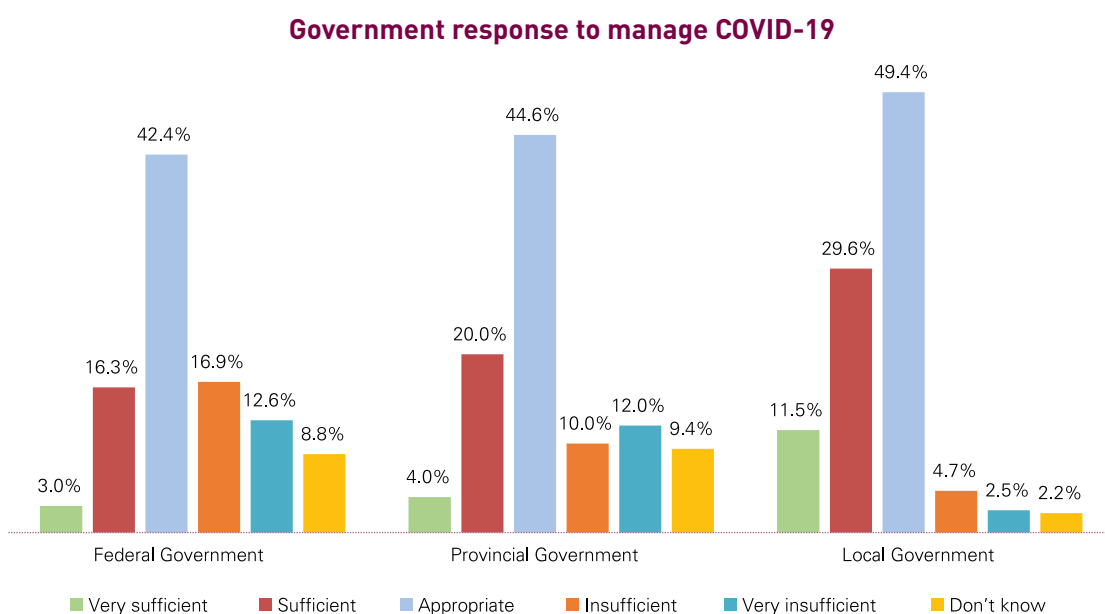


Figure 7.1.1: Q-13. How sufficient was the government's response to manage COVID-19 crisis- very sufficient or sufficient or appropriate or insufficient or very insufficient? (N=1004) ('Refused to Answer' not included)

Rating of Government Response

On a scale of 0 to 10, respondents were asked to rate the measures taken by the government to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19: 0 represents “not effective at all” and 10 represents “very effective”. Most people in Gandaki Province considered the government’s responses and measures to have been “effective” (Table 7.1.1).

The government’s enforcement of the use of masks and social distancing (mean 8.15 points), and mobility and travel restrictions (mean 8.01 points) were the highest-ranked government prevention and control measures, rated “highly effective.”

Mean ratings for government response during COVID-19

	Mobility and travel restrictions to reduce spread of virus	Enforcing use of masks and social distancing to reduce the spread	Enforcing business closures / openings	COVID -19 testing	Quarantine facilities	COVID -19 treatment (hospitals, ICU beds, etc)	Response to support vulnerable population suffering loss of livelihoods	Migrant workers returning to Nepal
N	589	589	589	589	589	589	589	589
Mean	8.01	8.15	6.99	7.13	6.91	6.67	6.6	6.86

Table 7.1.1: Q-14.A-H. How do you rate the government’s following response to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19?

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

The survey asked all respondents which areas the government could further support for socio-economic recovery and to mitigate socio-economic consequences of COVID-19.

Most people in Gandaki Province suggested that the government should improve the vaccination process (51.5%), health services (49.7%), and initiate government support programs (32.2%) to better support socio-economic recovery from the pandemic.

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

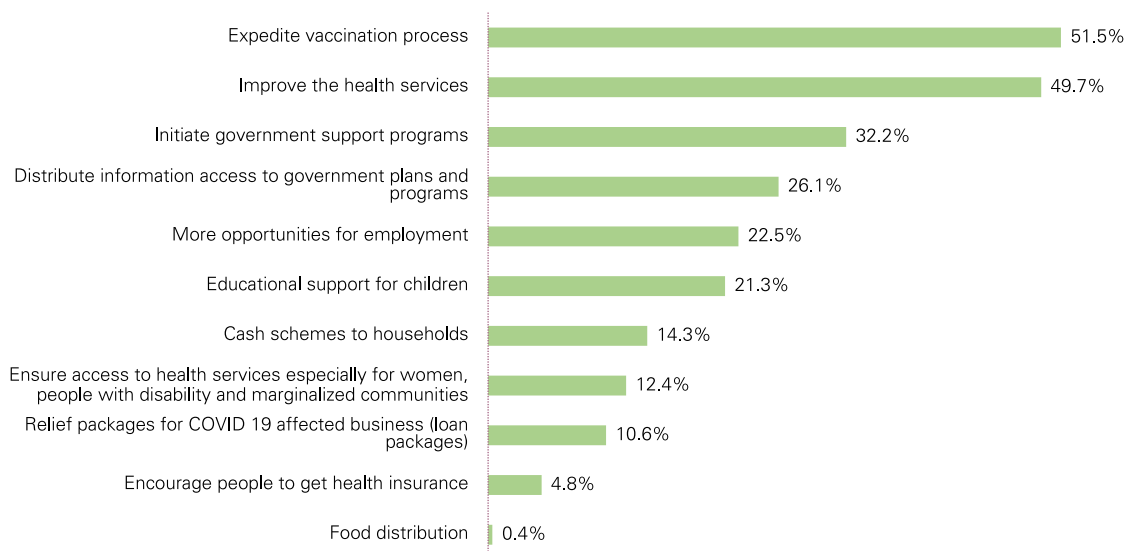


Figure 7.1.2: Q-16. To support socio- economic recovery from COVID- 19, what could the government do more to support its citizens? (N=1005)

7.2 RESPONSIVE ACTORS DURING COVID-19 AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

In 2022, respondents were asked who was most responsive during the pandemic to manage COVID-19 impacts within their community. The majority of respondents (69.9%) thought their local government was the most responsive. Far lower shares mentioned community volunteers (9.5%), local leaders (8.5%), and community-based organizations (4.1%).

7.3 MAJOR PROBLEMS AND COPING STRATEGIES DURING COVID-19

Some 56.5% of Nepalis from Gandaki Province said they did not face problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions; the rest reported facing difficulties.

Those who had faced problems cited the following difficulties during the pandemic: increased food prices (53.9%), difficulties acquiring basic services (36.4%), decreased income/profits (29.5%), serious illness (21.1%), loss of employment or other main source of income (17.9%), and increased non-food necessity prices (15.5%).

Those who had faced difficulties mentioned using different coping strategies such as using savings (44.4%), help from relatives/neighbors (20.4%), and selling livestock (9.7%) (Figure 7.3.1).

Coping strategies during COVID-19

Coping strategies	Percent
Did nothing	28.7%
Used savings	44.4%
Received assistance from relatives/neighbors	20.4%
Sold livestock	9.7%
Acquired loans from money lenders	8.1%
Reduced food consumption	5.9%
Bought food on credit	4.9%
Acquired loans from Cooperatives	3.7%
Acquired bank loans	2.2%
Acquired loans from micro-finance	1.9%
Adopted new profession/business	1.3%
Reduced non-food consumption	1.2%
Sold assets (land, building, ornaments, furniture, machinery)	0.9%
Bought non-food items on credit	0.6%
Received in-kind assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.)	0.6%
Migrated to find work elsewhere	0.6%
Received financial assistance from Government/Other Organizations (NGOs, etc.)	0.2%

Table 7.3.1: Q-110. How did you cope up with the above problems (during the lockdown and in the months after the lockdown)? (N=355)

