

2020 GENERAL ELECTIONS: Preliminary Report of Pre-election Survey



ရွေးကောက်ပွဲဆိုင်ရာ
ပြည်သူ့လှုပ်ရှားမှုအဖွဲ့
PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE FOR CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

October 2020

Pre-Election Survey: 2020 General Elections

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People's Alliance for Credible Elections



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About PACE

The People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) is an independent, non-partisan, non-government domestic election observer group founded in 2014 to strengthen democratic institutions in Myanmar through safeguarding citizen rights and promoting public participation in the electoral process. To promote transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the electoral process, PACE works on civic and voter education, election observation and electoral reform.

Upholding the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, PACE conducts its work regardless of race, religion and gender. Moreover, PACE has signed the Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations, which has been endorsed by more than 296 organizations from 94 countries and territories, and is a member of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM) and the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL).

For additional information, please visit www.pacemyanmar.org.

Acknowledgements

PACE would like to express its deepest gratitude towards all enumerators and spot-checkers, who did a tremendous job throughout the whole survey process. Without the incredible effort of the 17 state and region coordinators, these operations would have been possible. PACE also would like to extend its appreciation to the data center volunteers for their precision and carefulness, which allowed PACE to release these findings with confidence.

PACE would like to thank the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office/ FCDO (formerly the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID/ UKaid), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) for their financial and technical support which allow PACE to be able to conduct this survey.

¹<http://www.gndem.org/declaration-of-global-principles>

A. Summary

This is a preliminary report of the survey conducted by the People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) this year. Between August 3 and August 5, 2020, PACE conducted a total of 2,577 interviews across the country to understand the general perceptions of the citizens of Myanmar, such as their level of awareness of elections and intention to vote, and to understand citizens' perceptions of the current situation and priority issues, level of trust in different institutions, their views on different political parties, expectations on candidates, and main information sources of government and political news. However, it is important to note here that because of security and COVID-19 pandemic concerns, PACE was not able to conduct interviews in some locations in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine states. Therefore, the findings in this report may not represent the views of citizens from those locations.

The level of interest in politics slightly decrease in 2020 compared to 2019, but there is a downward trend compared to 2015.

The majority of citizens agreed that secrecy of the ballots, neutrality of the election commission, no fraud in the process, a proper vote count, the accuracy or correctness of the results, equal chance to campaign, and no intimidation to voters are important factors for free and fair elections. Compared to findings from PACE's 2015 pre-election survey, the awareness of citizens regarding free and fair elections increased. Nearly half of citizens showed that the opinion of Myanmar government matters when it comes to decide whether the elections have been run well followed by the opinion of UEC and independent election observers. When it comes to "intention to vote", only about half of the citizens indicated that "they will definitely vote" in the upcoming 2020 general elections. The level of voting intention remains the same in 2020 compared to 2019.

While one-third of citizens indicated that they have no concerns or barriers to vote in the elections, one third indicated that they were concerned with COVID-19 and health in relation to the elections.

Citizens indicated that local authorities and sub-commissions were the main organizations conducting voter education, while about one-fourth of citizens indicated they did not see anyone doing voter education. When it comes to the voter list itself, nearly half of the citizens said they found their names and their family's names on the list during the first voter display, but about half of the citizens indicated that they did not go and check during the first voter list display.

About one-third of the citizens indicated that the National League for Democracy was the party which most closely represented their interests and views, followed by the Union Solidarity and Development Party. About half the citizens showed that no political party represented their interests or did not know which did. However, when it comes to views on different political parties, almost two-third of the citizens showed that they had positive views of NLD and more than one quarter indicated that they had positive views of USDP. Almost two-thirds of citizens did not express either a positive or negative attitude towards other political parties.

The main factors citizens would take into consideration when voting include good ethics, involvement in social and public affairs, and level of education. Even though almost half of the citizens indicated that it was important to have more women in the parliaments, only about one-fourth of the citizens indicated that they would vote for woman candidates over male ones.

While more than half of the citizens expressed that things in their townships, states/regions or the country are moving the right direction, one-third of the citizens responded, "don't know".

Generally, the level of trust in political institutions increased compared to PACE's March 2019 survey. The state counsellor and the president received citizens' highest level of trust, followed by the Ministry of Health and Sports, ward/village track administrators and townships administrators.

² PACE has conducted a phone survey asking political parties how many candidates they would file for the upcoming 2020 general elections. Because of the limitation of space in the questionnaire, only 16 political parties with more than 50 candidates were included in the survey

When it comes to sources of information regarding government and politics, television is the most mentioned source, followed by Facebook and radio. In terms of social media usage, while one-third of citizens said that “they don’t use any social media”, “Facebook” was the most mentioned social media platform, followed by Viber. More than half of citizens indicated that they were concerned with the accuracy of the information they have received, and one third said that they had received misleading or false information regarding the election and political parties. And two-fifth of the citizens indicated that they had received information which is misleading or factually incorrect about the election or political parties at least once a month.

1. Interest in politics

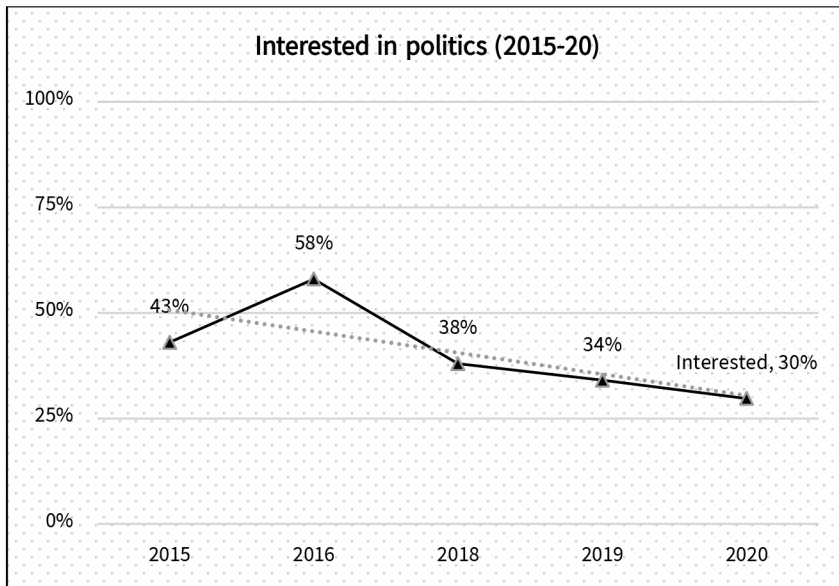
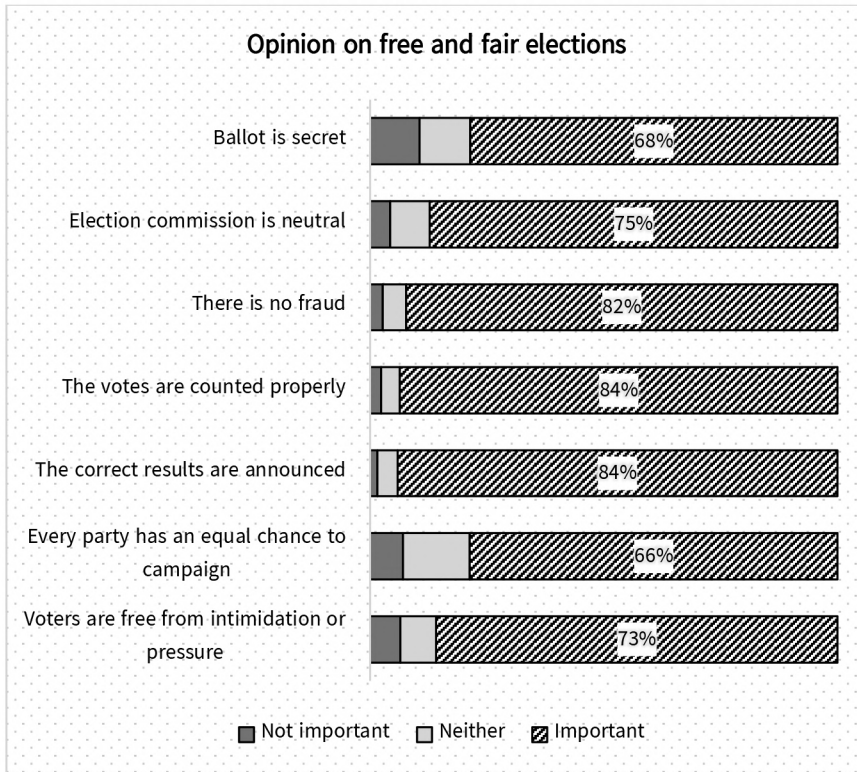


Fig:1.1. level of interest in politics. [How interested would you say you are in politics?]

2. Opinion on free and fair elections



Fig(2.1): Opinion on Free and fair elections [On a scale of 1 to 5 where '1' means "not important at all" and '5' means "very important," how important are the following things for an election to be run well...]

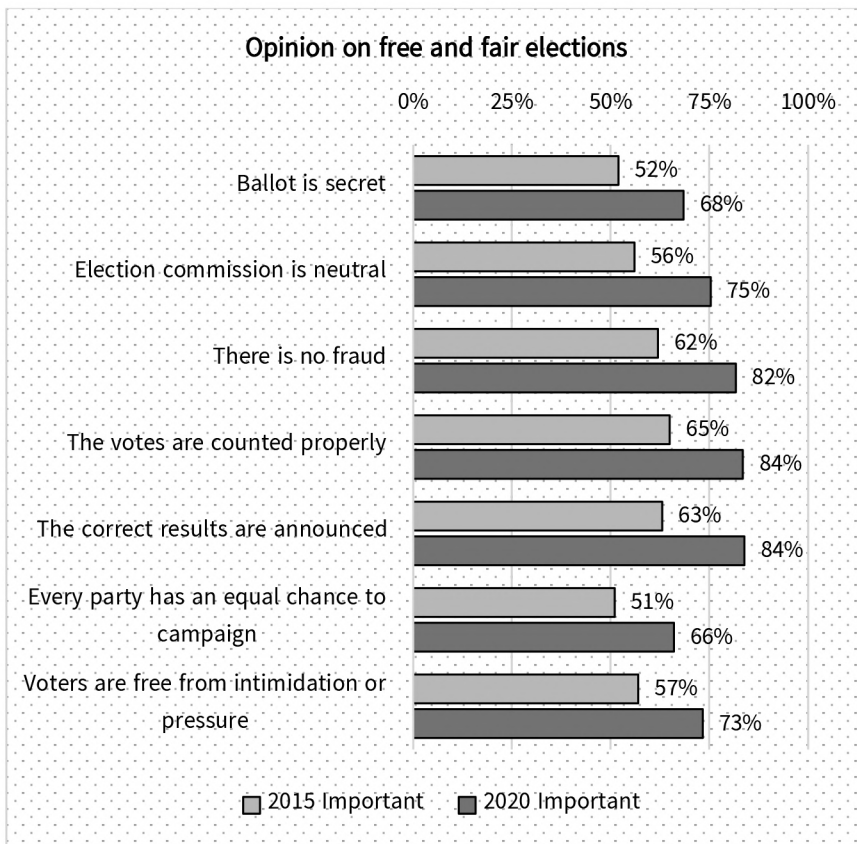


Fig:2.2. Opinion on free and fair elections (2015 vs 2020)

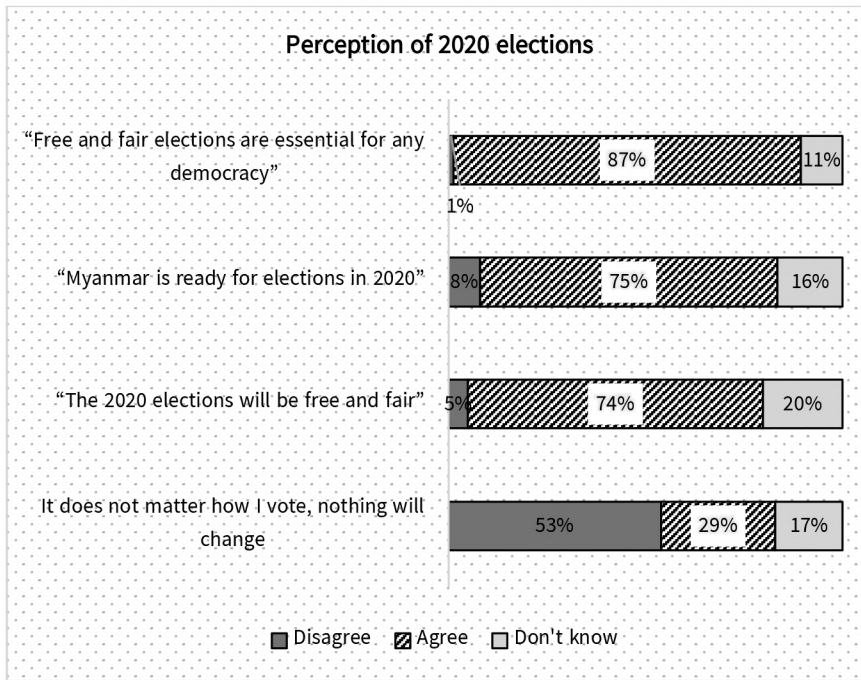


Fig:2.3. Perception of 2020 elections [Here are some statements some people make about elections in the country. For each one, can you scale your opinion from 1 to 4. 1 is strongly disagree and 4 is strongly agree.]

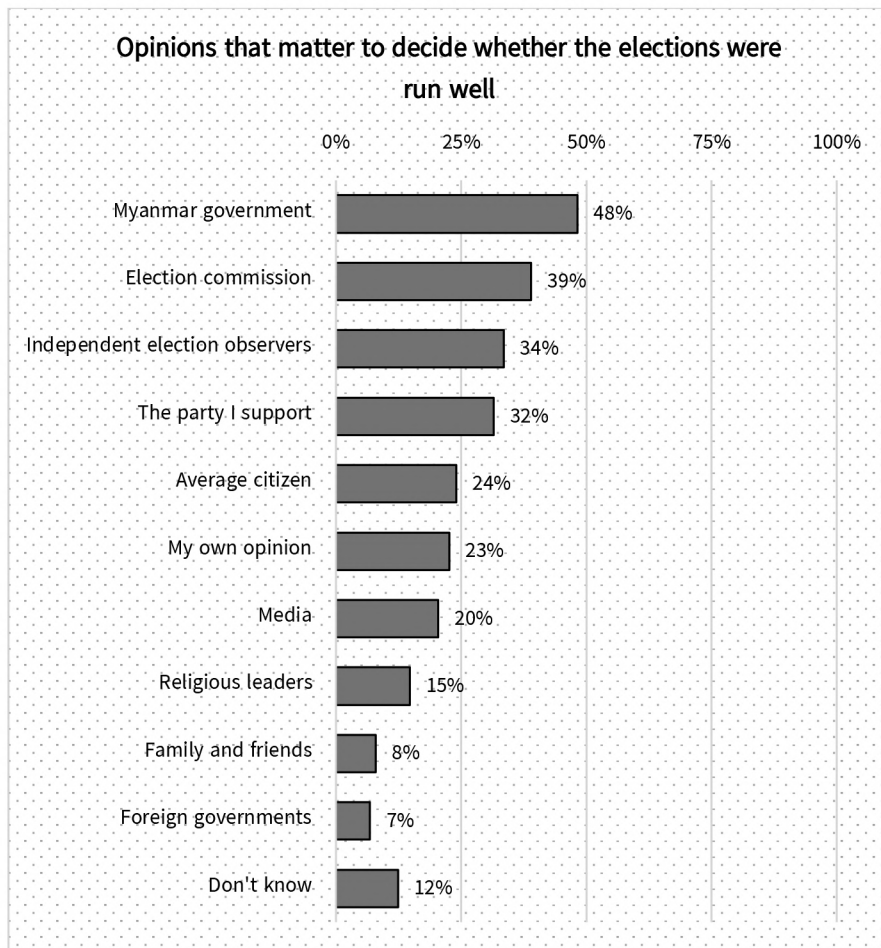


Fig:2.4. Opinions that matter on elections [Whose opinion do you think matters most, when it comes to deciding whether elections have been run well? Please pick up to three.]

3. Intention to vote

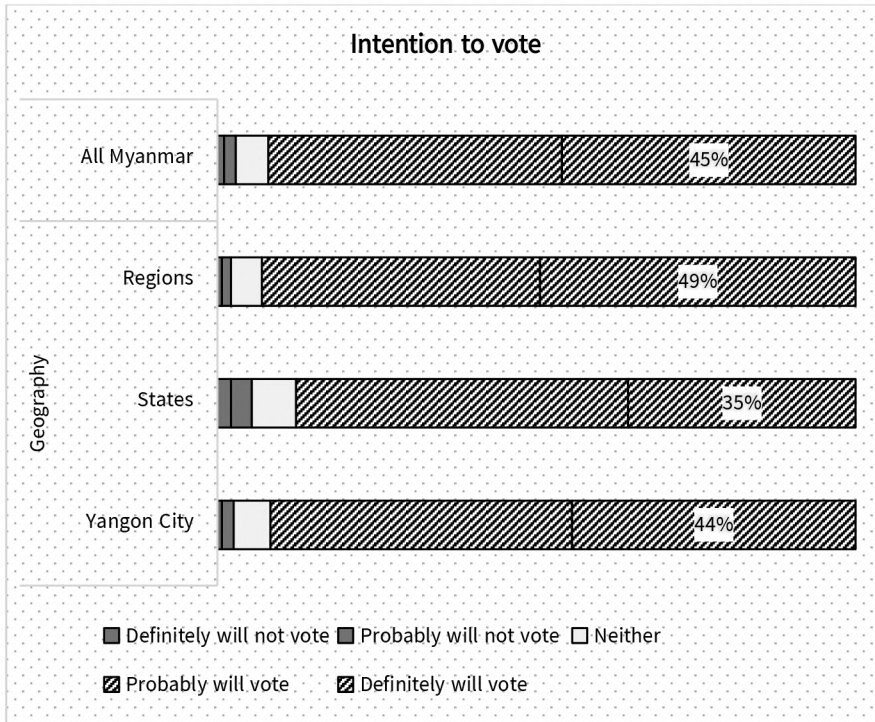


Fig:3.1. Intention to vote. [In elections, some people vote, and some people do not for various reasons. For 2020 general elections, please tell me how likely you would be to vote in a scale from 1 to 5. [1] would definitely not vote and [5] definitely would vote.]

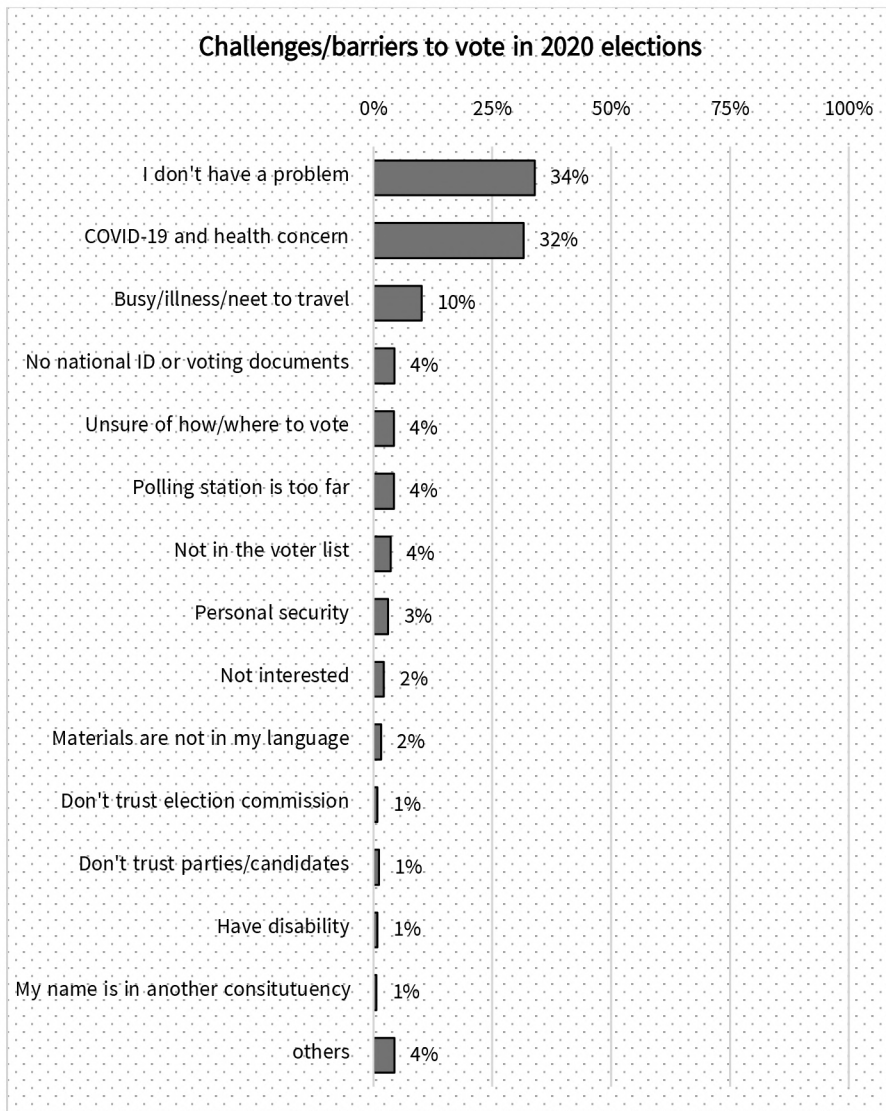


Fig:3.2. Challenges/barriers to vote. [What would be the challenges to you from voting?]

4. Voter registration

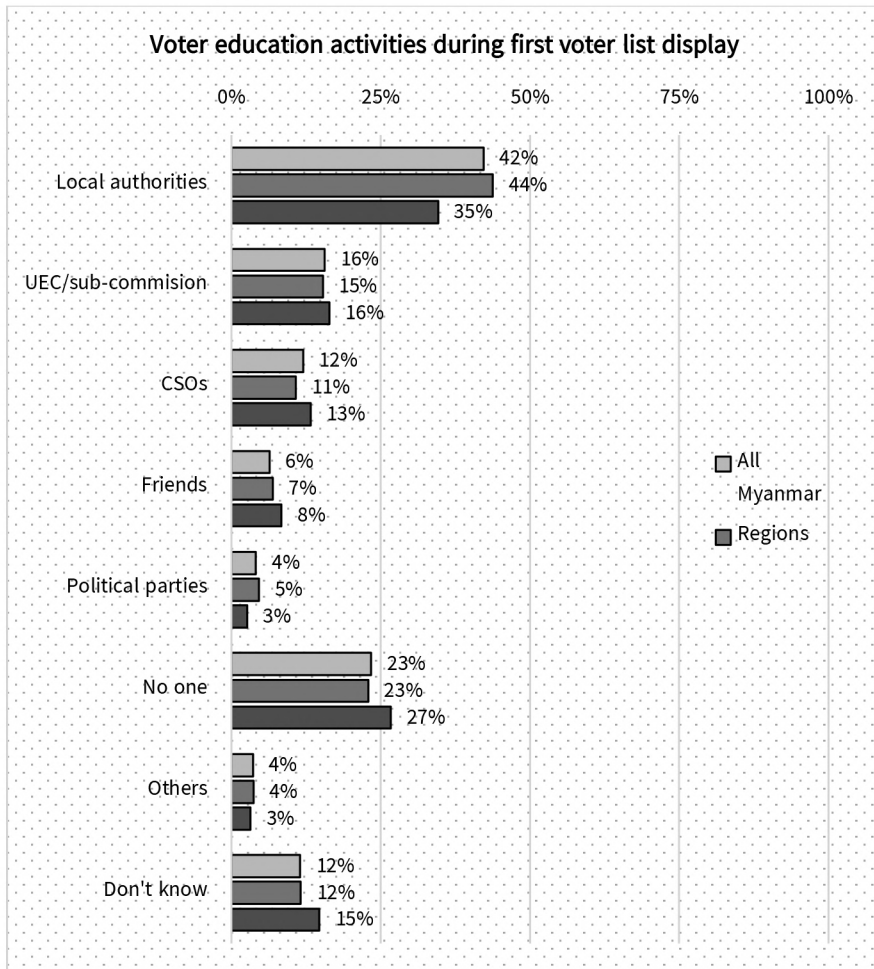


Fig:4.1. Voter education during the first voter list display. [Are you aware of anybody working on voter education or awareness so that people check their name at the display location?]

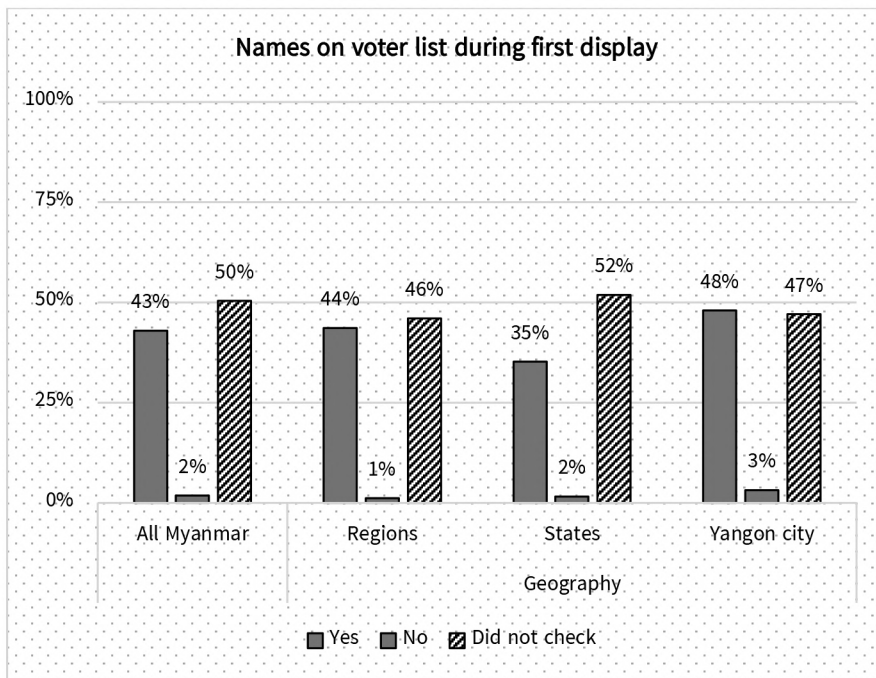


Fig:4.2. Names on the list. [To vote at the 2020 election, Ward/village tract sub commissions are conducting the voter list display from July 18 to 31. Have you gone and checked your information in the voter list? [For respondents who answered yes] Did you find your name and your family members' names on the list?]

5. Views on Political parties

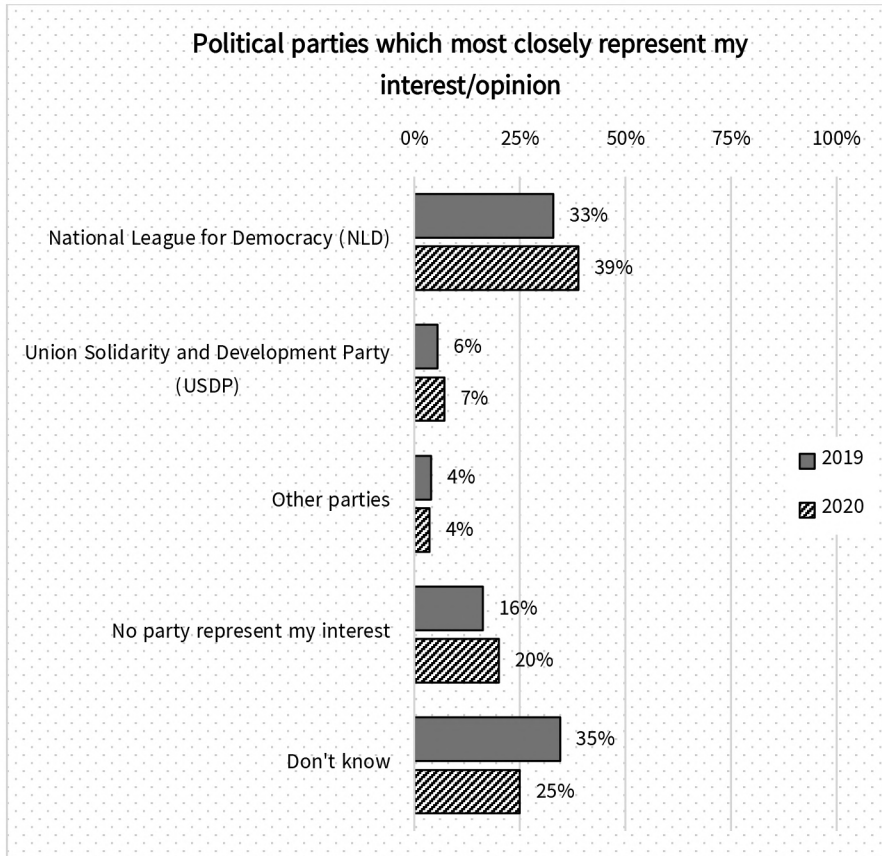


Fig:5.1. Political parties which most closely represent my interest and view. [Which party would you say most closely represents your voice/interests?]

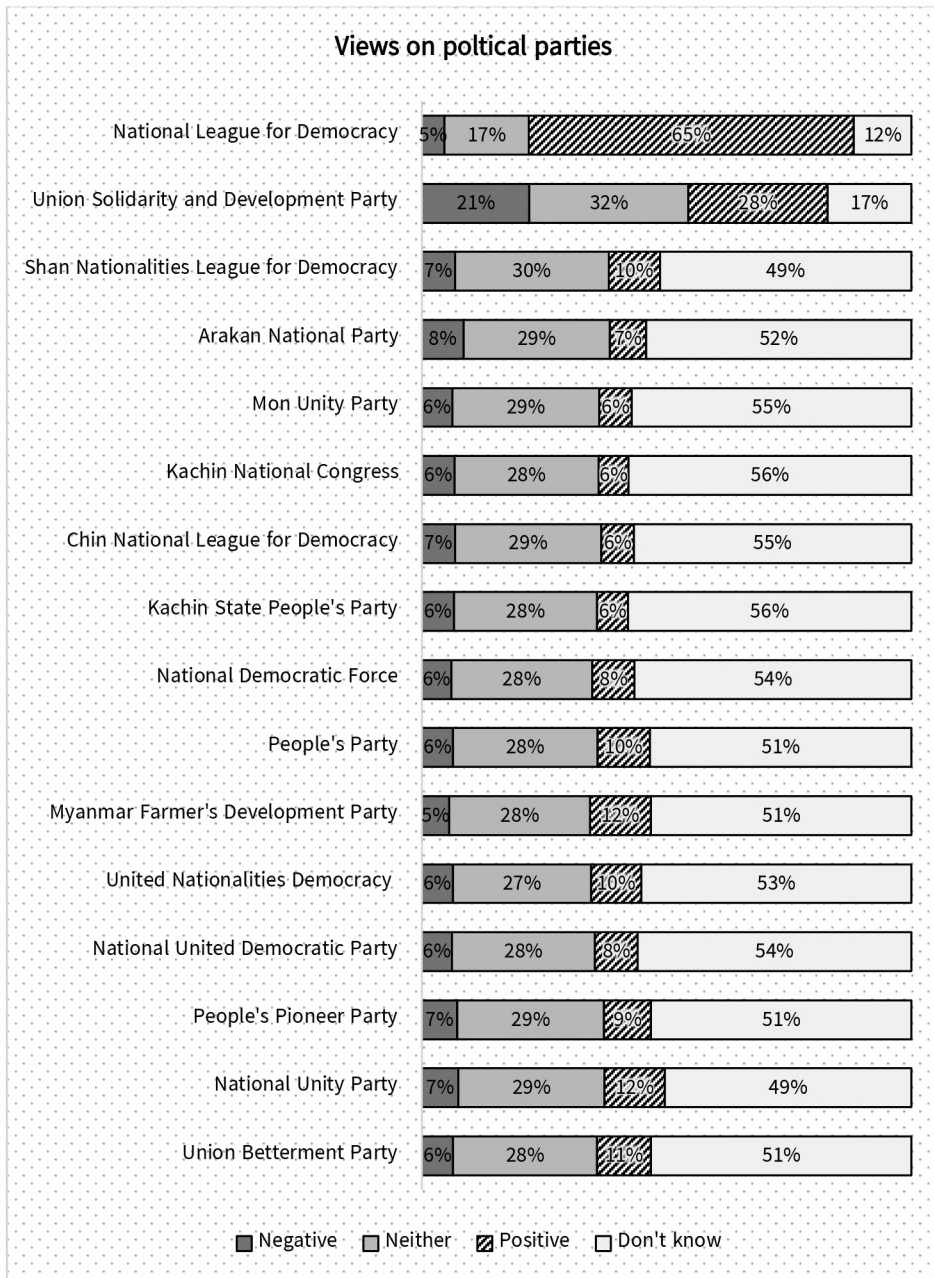


Fig:5.2. Views on different political parties. [There are currently more than 90 registered political parties in Myanmar. Could you tell me what is your attitude towards the following parties today in a scale from 1 to 5? (where 1 is very negative and 5 is very positive)]

6. Expectation on candidates

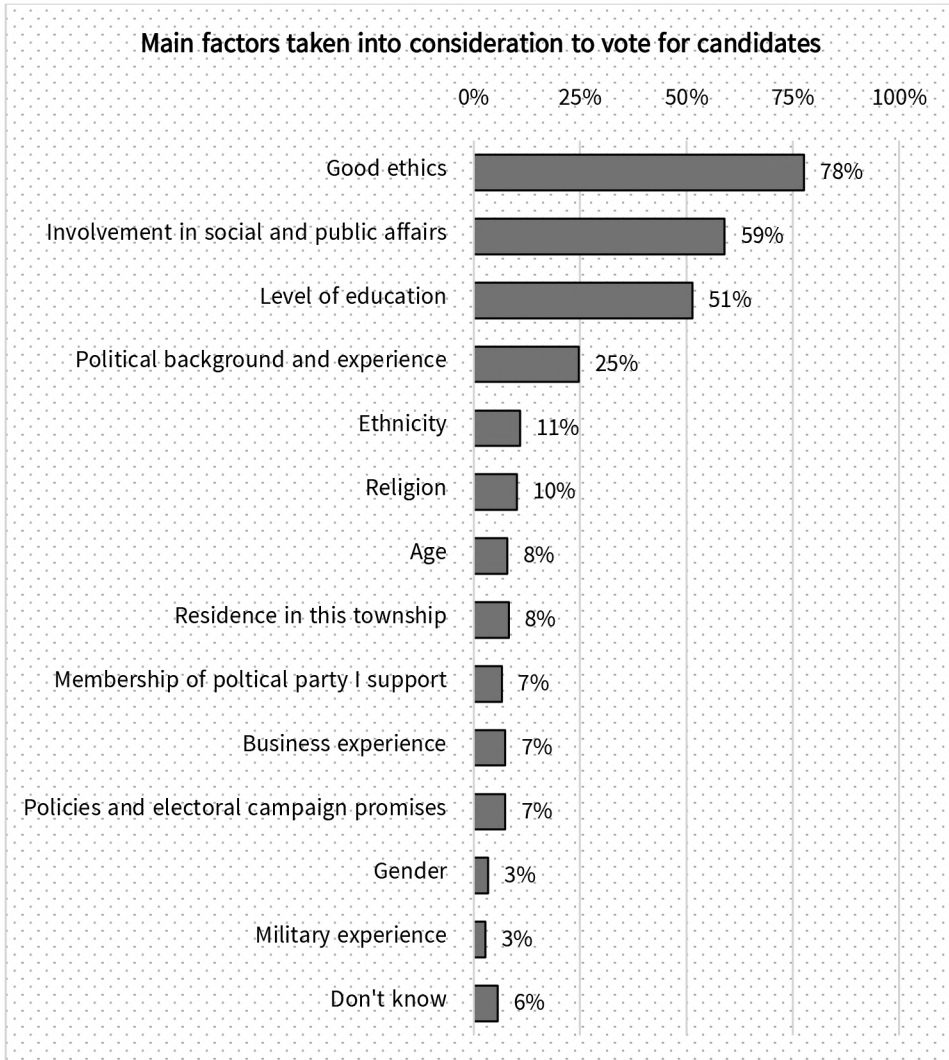


Fig:6.1. Expectation on candidates. [If you were to vote, what would be the main factors you would take into consideration when deciding which candidate to vote for? I am reading the main factors, please choose only 3 priorities out of them.]

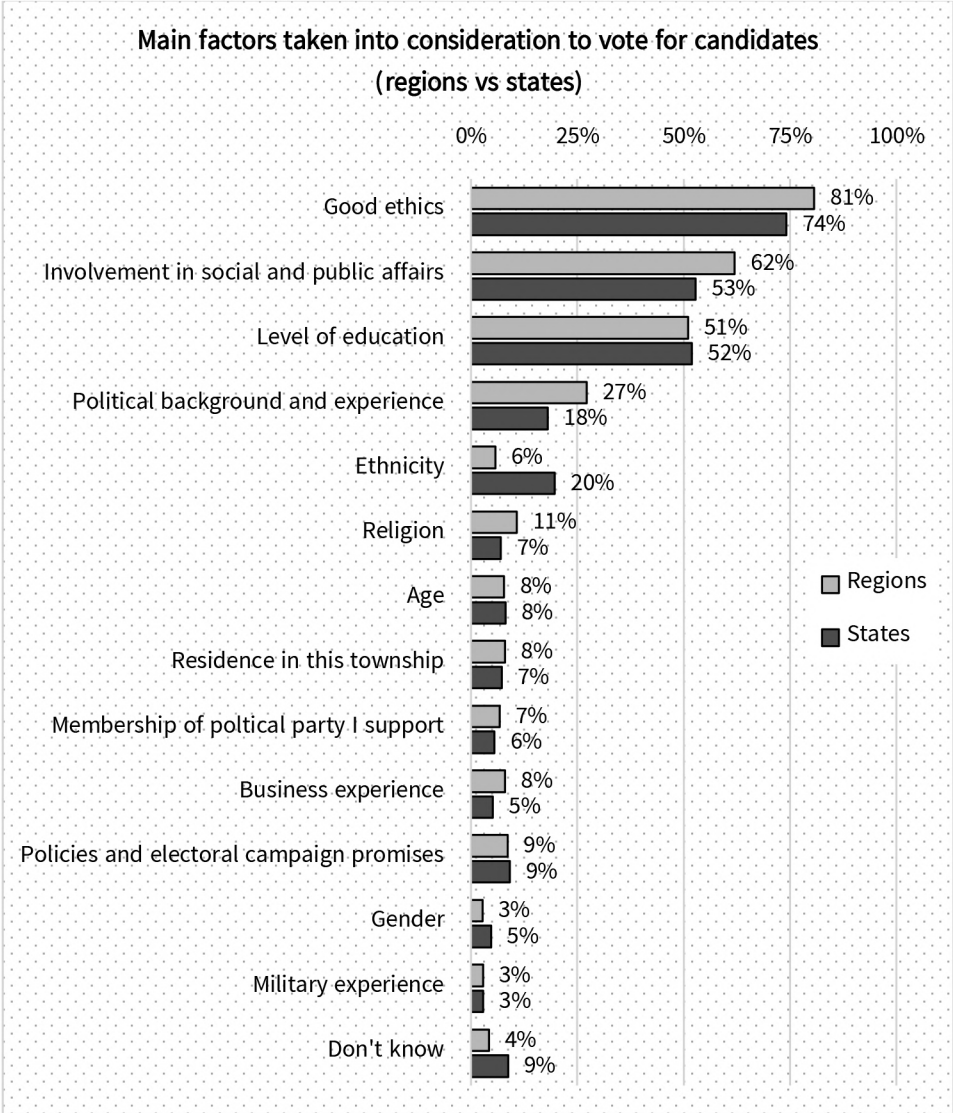


Fig:6.2. Expectation on candidates (Geography)

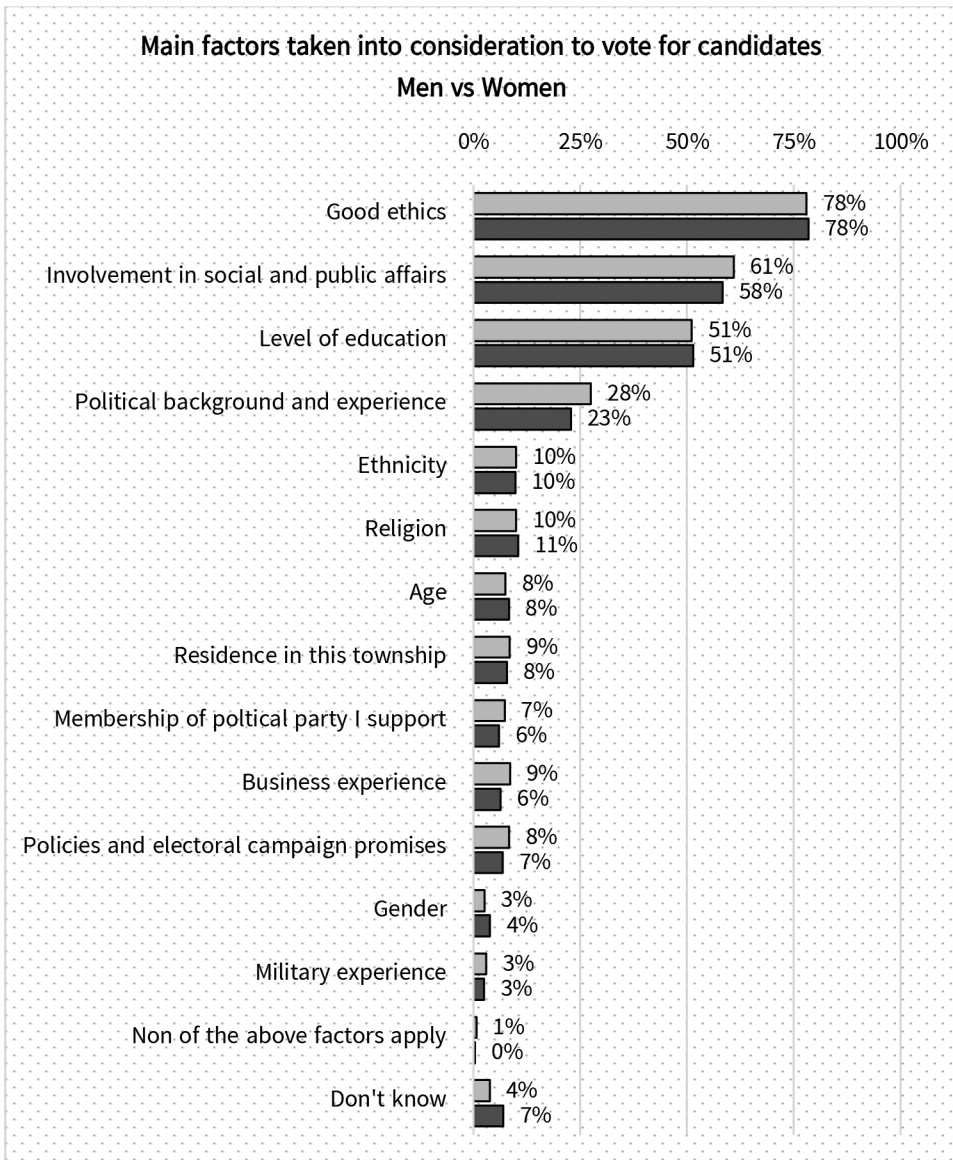


Fig:6.3. Expectation on candidates (Men vs Women)

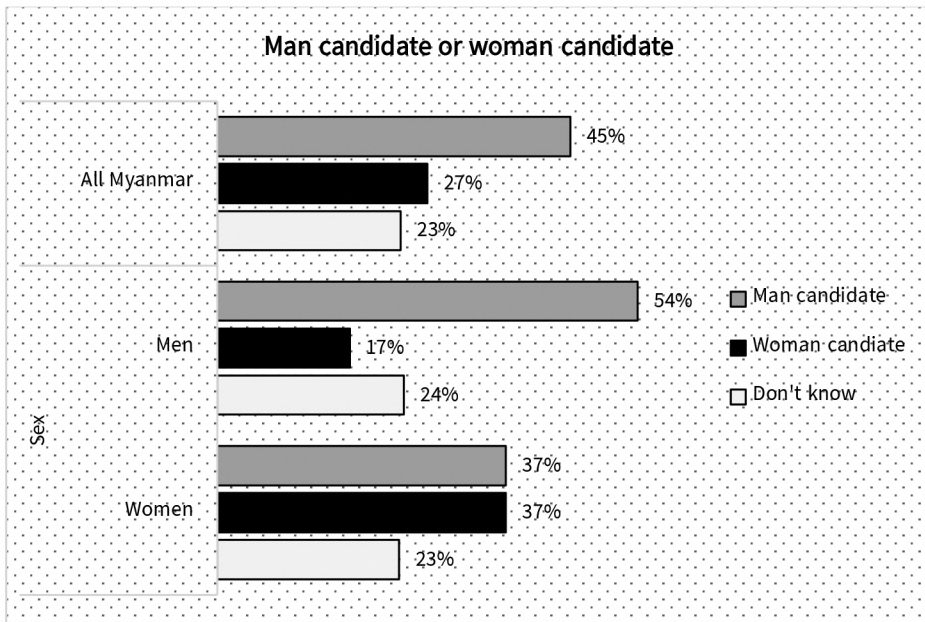


Fig:6.4. Man candidate or woman candidate. [Would you prefer to vote for a woman or a man for an elected official?]

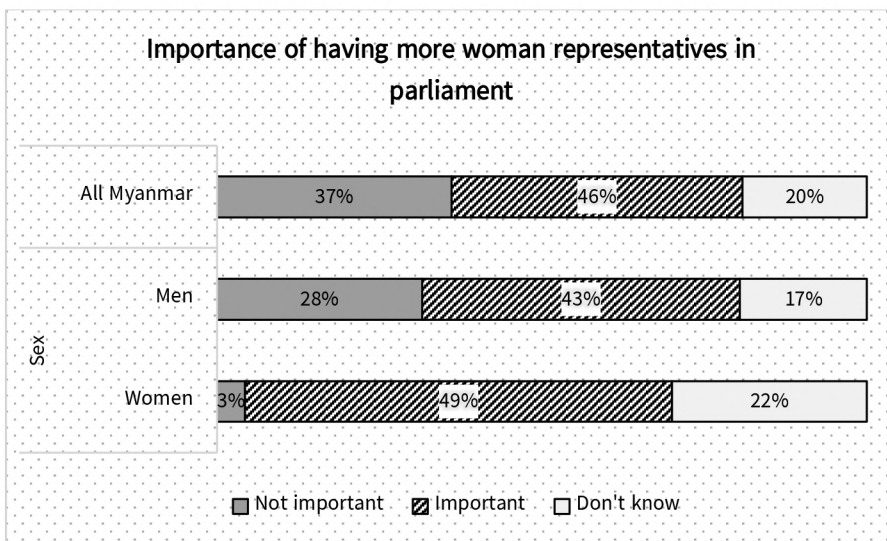


Fig:6.5. Importance of having more women in parliament. [How important is it for you personally to have more women in the elected office?]

7. Perception of current situation

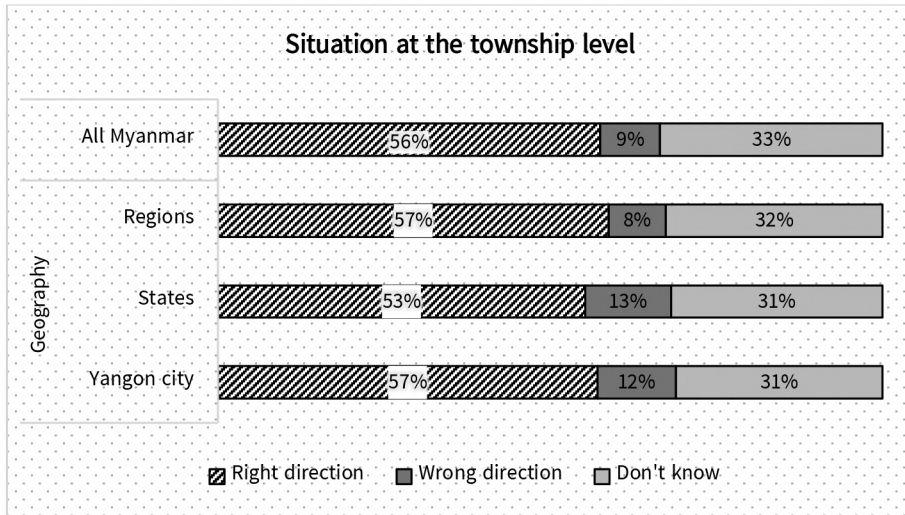


Fig:7.1. Situation at the township level. [I would like to ask some questions related to the current situation of Myanmar. In general, would you say that things in this township are heading in the right direction or that they are heading in the wrong direction?]

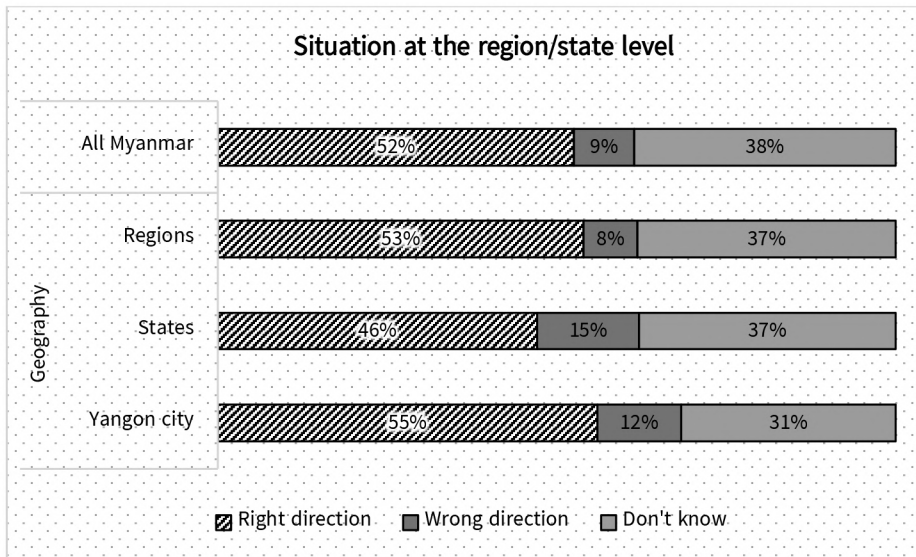


Fig:7.2. Things in regions/states. [In general, would you say that things in this state or region are heading in the right direction or that they are heading in the wrong direction?]

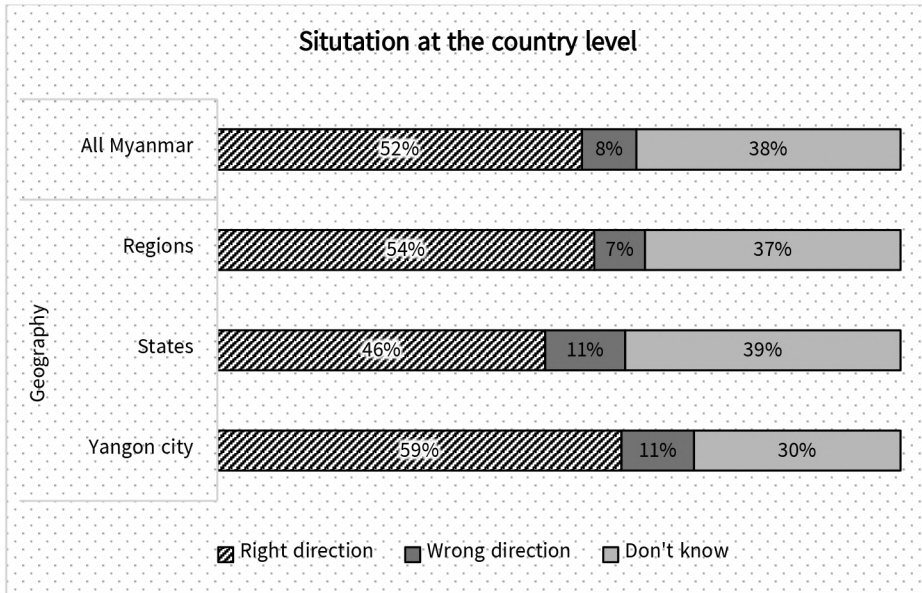


Fig:7.3.Situation at the country level. [In general, would you say that things in the country are heading in the right direction or that they are heading in the wrong direction?]

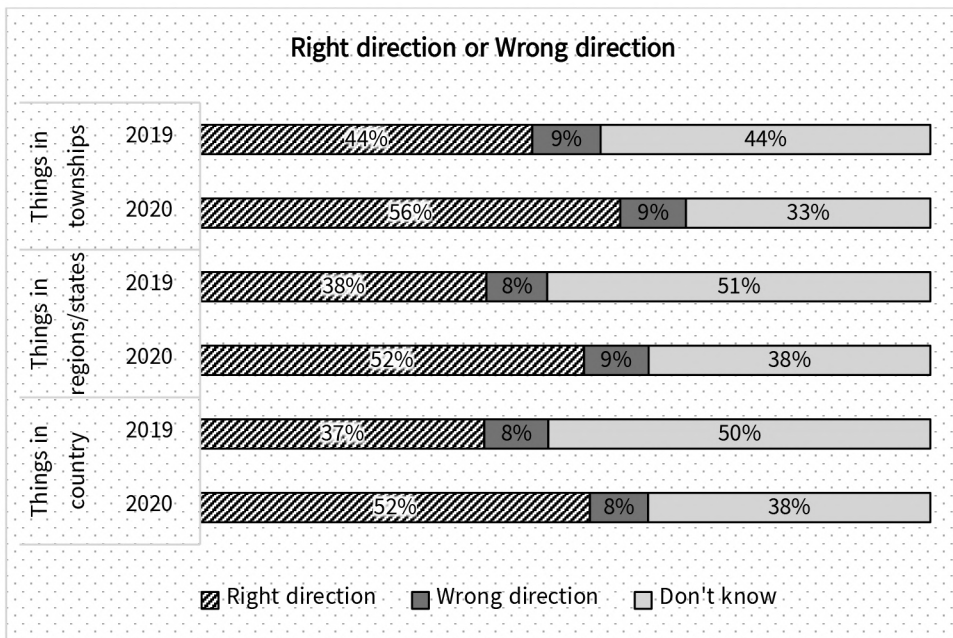


Fig:7.4. Right direction or wrong direction (2019-20)

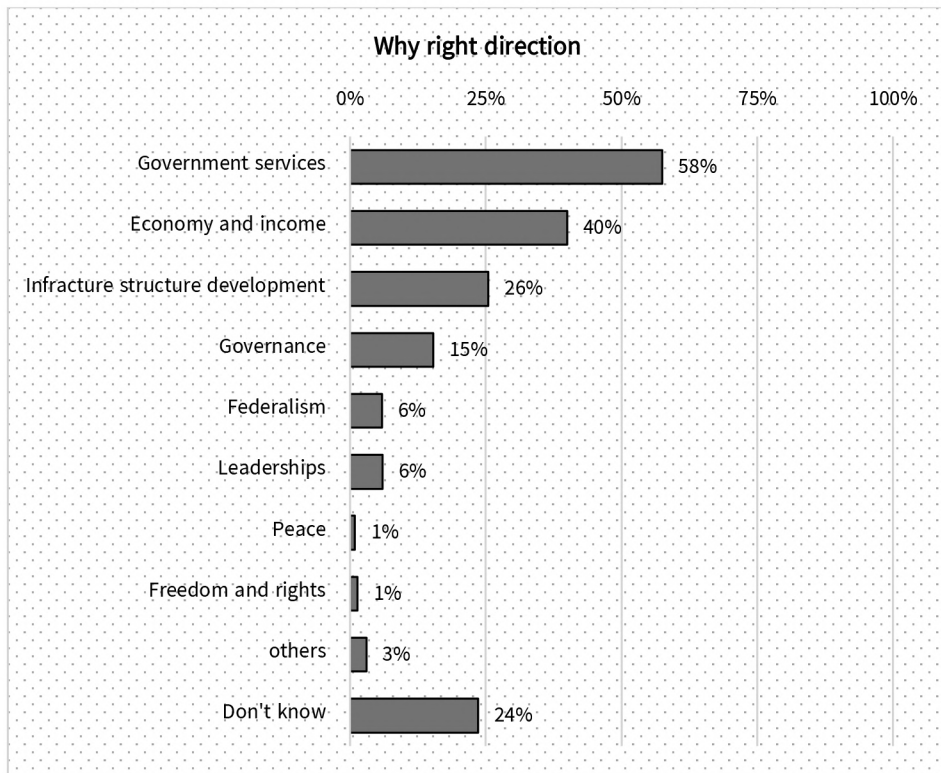


Fig:7.5. Reason why things in the country are moving in the right direction. [Why do I say that things in the country are going in the right direction? Please tell me briefly.]

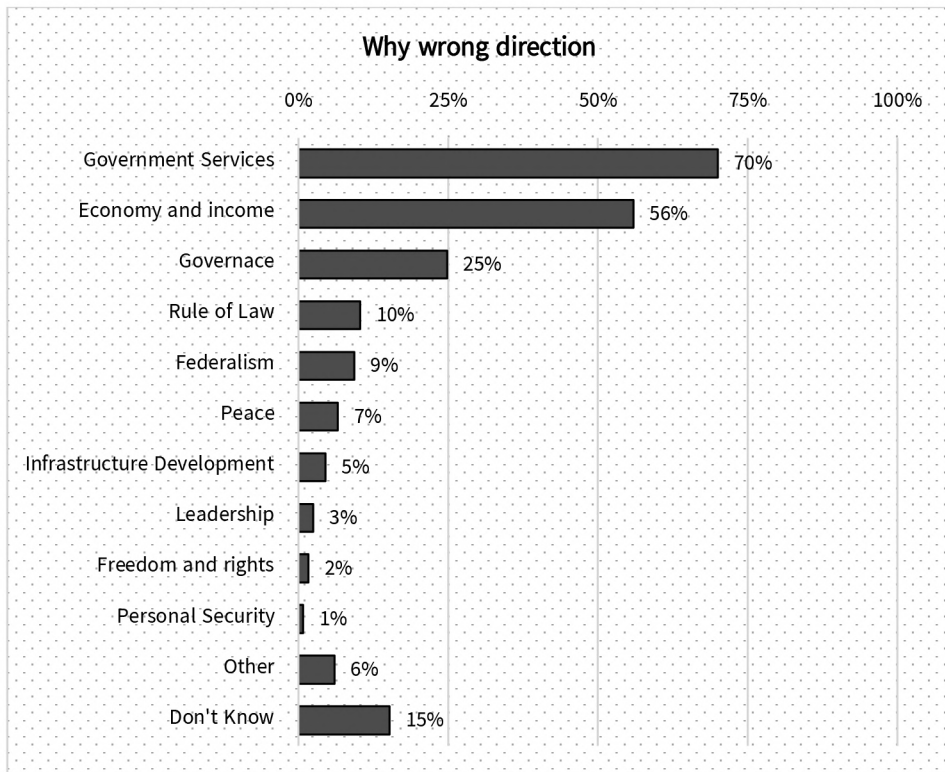


Fig:7.6. Reason why things in country are moving in the wrong direction. [Why do I say that things in the country are going in the wrong direction? Please tell me briefly.]

8. Priority issues

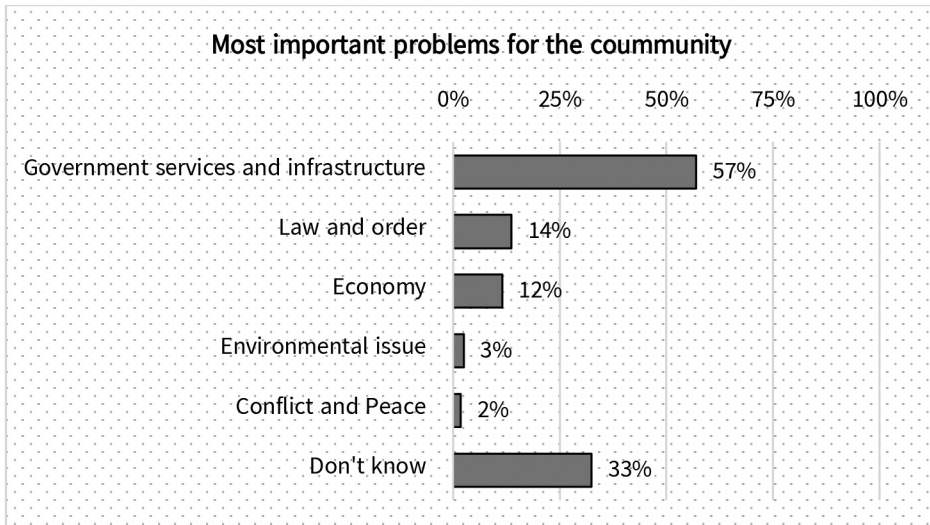


Fig:8.1. Priority issue at the community level. [Can you briefly tell me, in your opinion, what are the most important problems your community is facing that the government should address?]

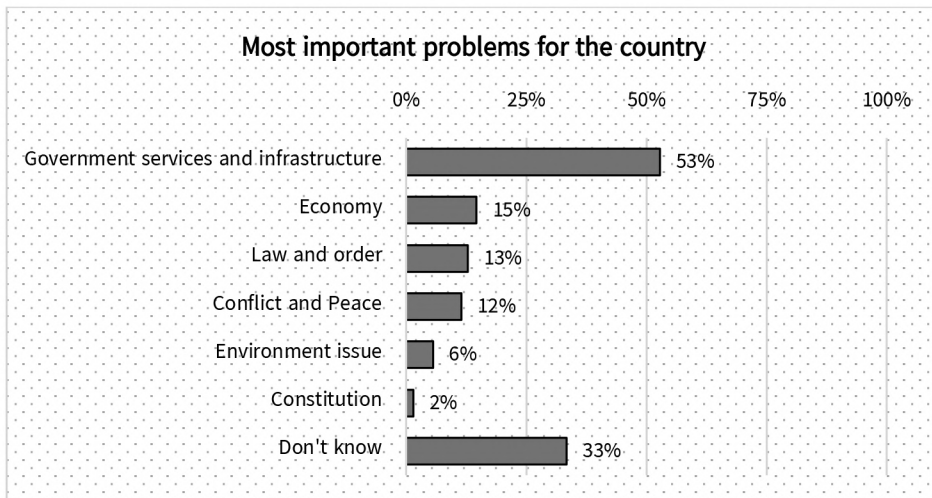


Fig:8.2. Priority issues at the country level. [Can you briefly tell me, in your opinion, what are the most important problems facing the Country as a whole that the government should address?]

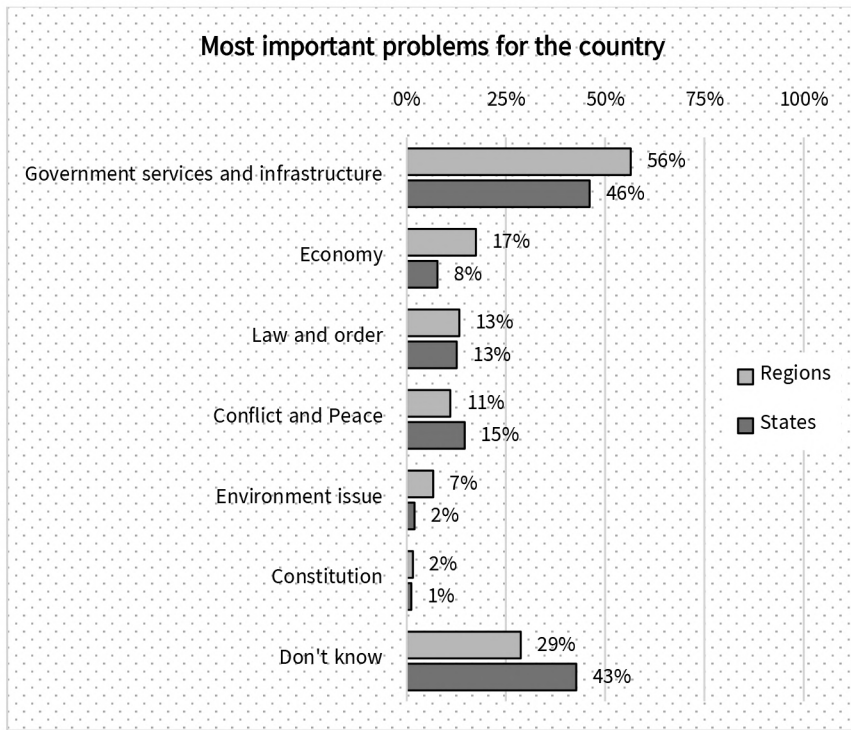


Fig:8.3. Priority issues (Regions vs States)

9. Trust in institutions

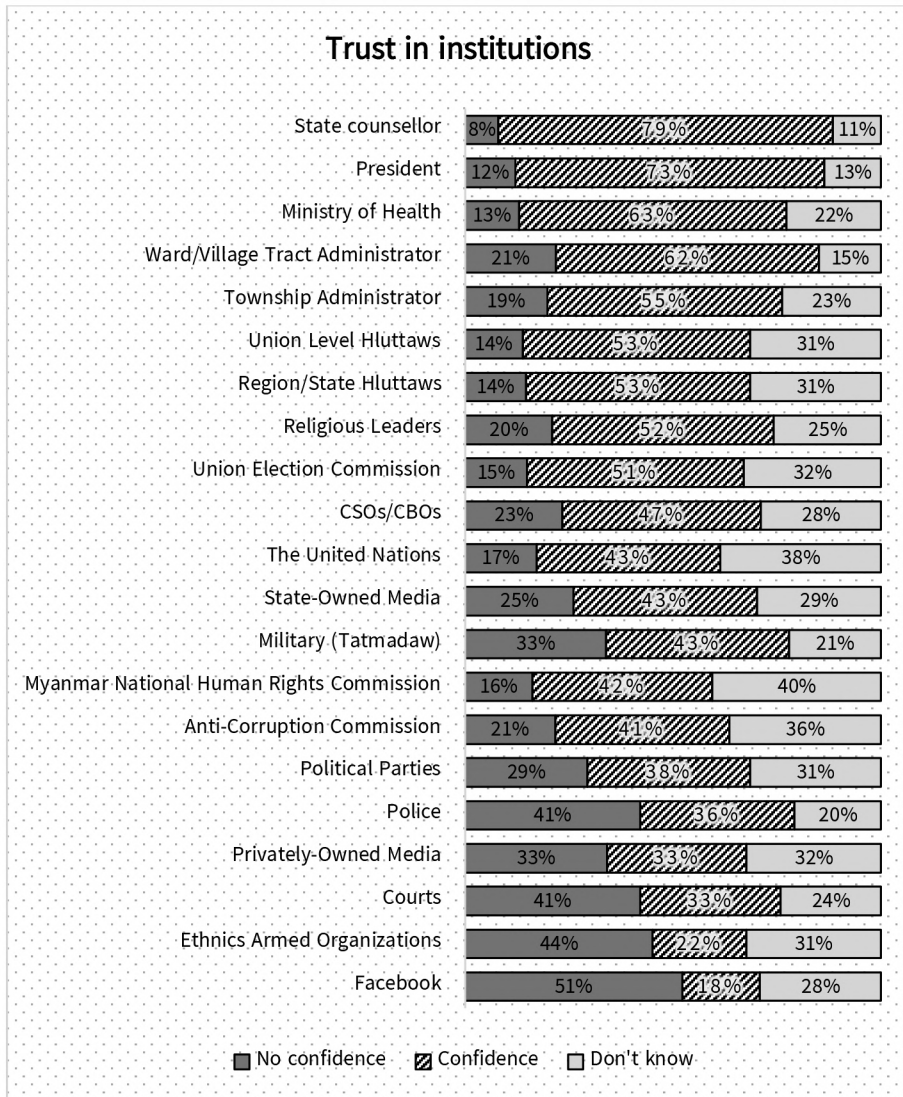


Fig:9.1. Level of trust in different institutions. [I am going to name a number of organizations or government offices/positions. For each one, can you tell me how much confidence you have in it as scale from 1 to 4? (where 1 is not confidence at all and 4 is a great deal of confidence)]

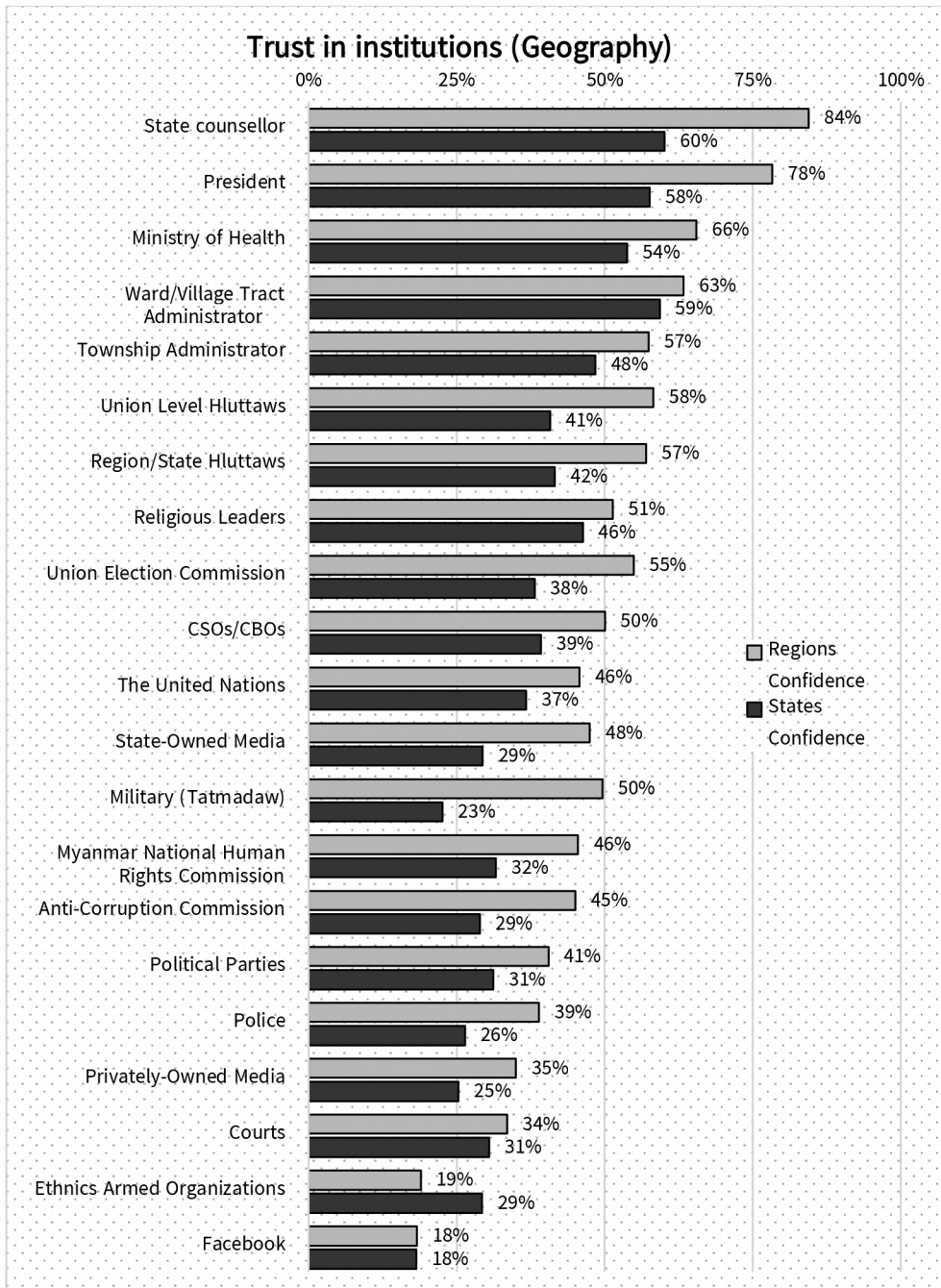


Fig:9.2. Level of trust in different institutions (Regions vs States)

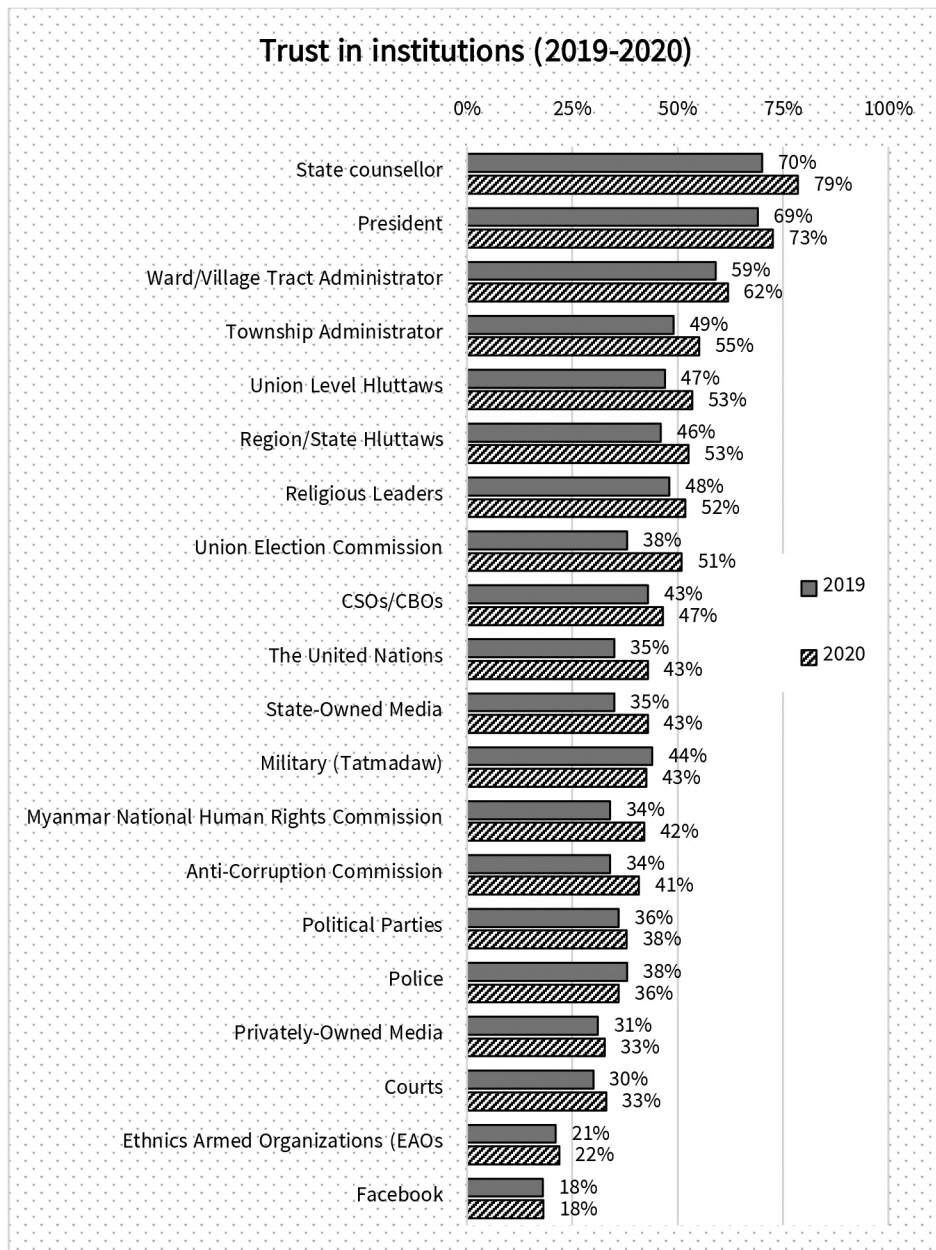


Fig:9.3. Level of trust in different institutions (2019-20)

10. Sources of government and political news

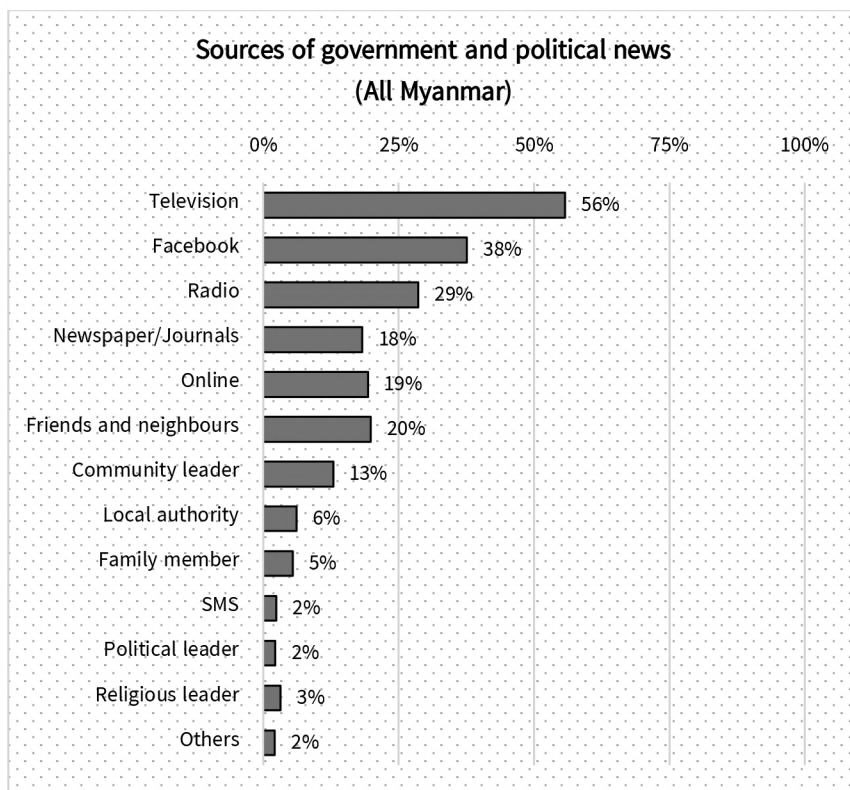


Fig:10.1. Main sources of government and political news. [Where do you usually receive information about government and politics?]

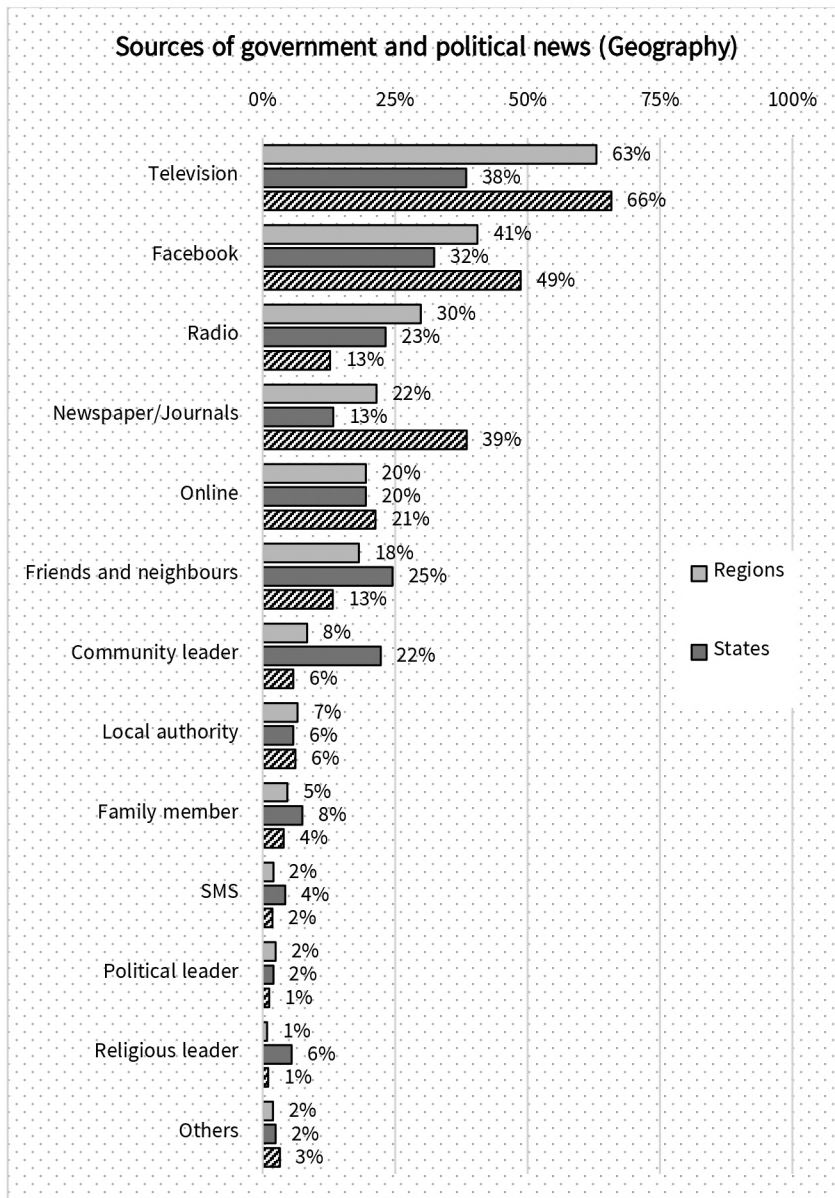


Fig:10.2. Main source of government and political news (Geography)

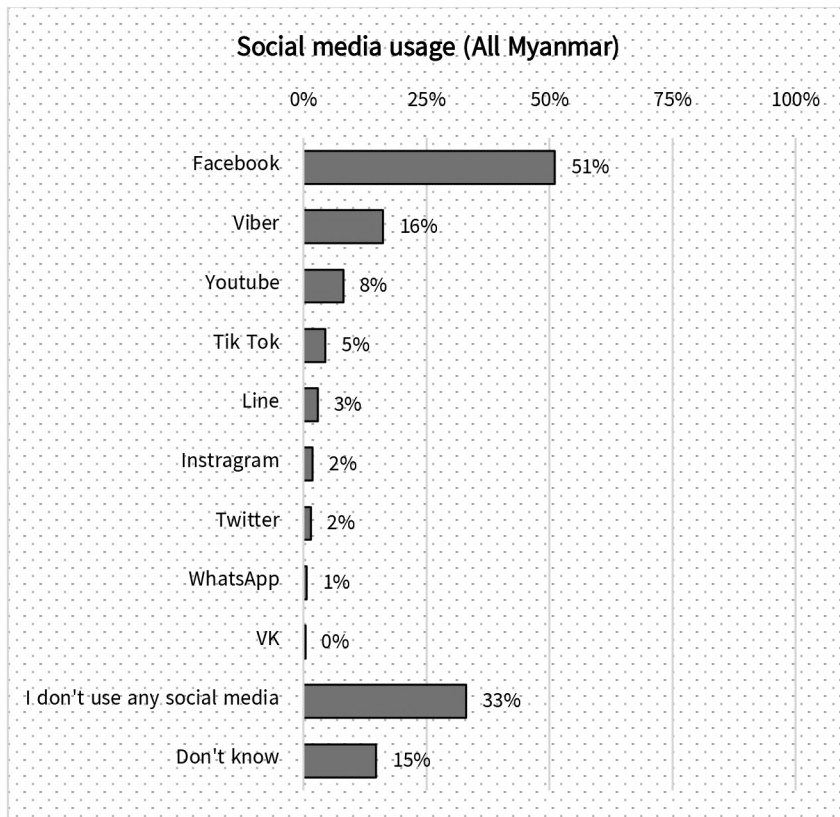


Fig:10.3. Usage of social media platform in Myanmar. [Now I am reading the name of social media people are using in Myanmar in general. Please tell me which social media your are using now?]

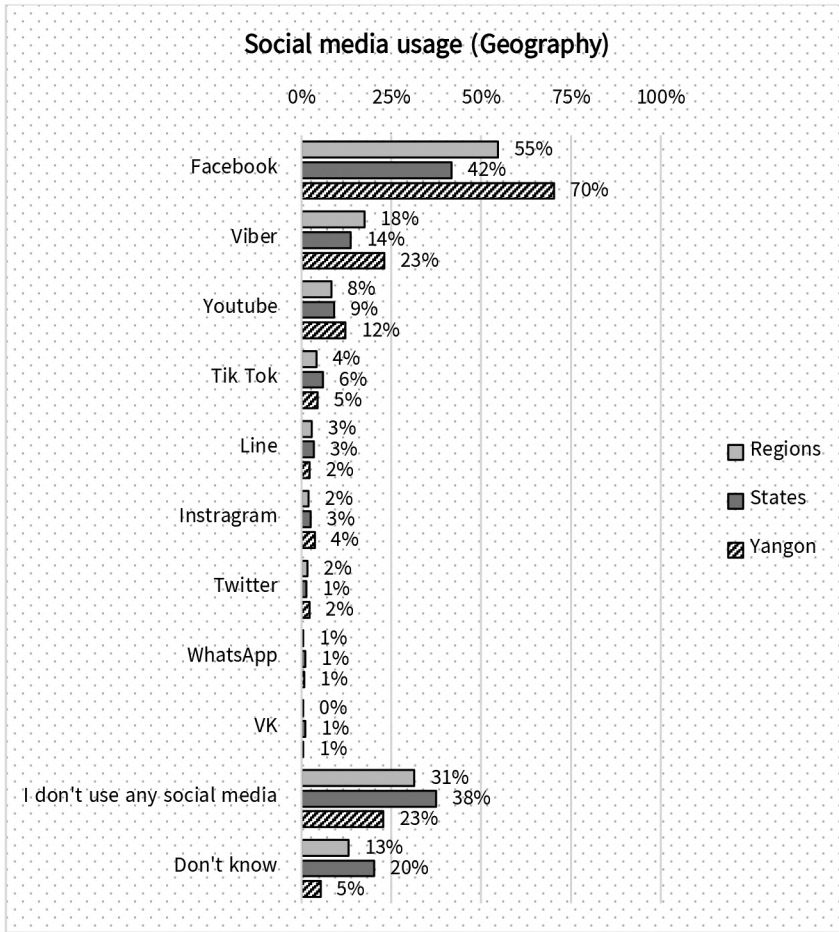


Fig:10.4. Usage of social media platform in Myanmar (Geography)

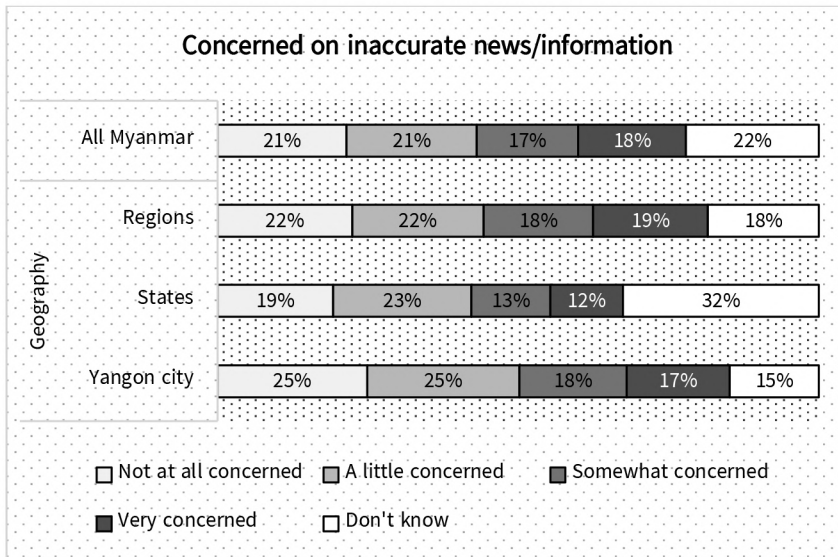


Fig:10.5. Concerned on inaccurate news/information. [How concerned are you that some of the news and information you may have received before the election was not reliable or accurate?]

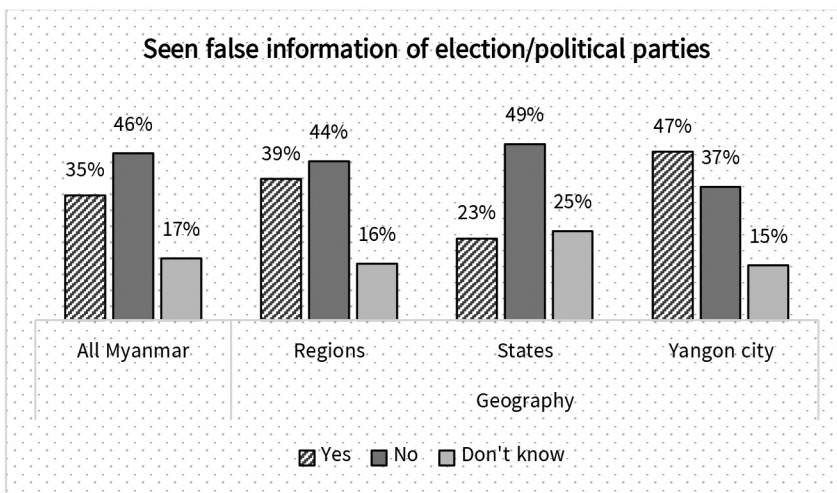


Fig:10.6. False information of election/ political parties. Have you come across news or information about election/ political parties that you believe misrepresent reality or is false?

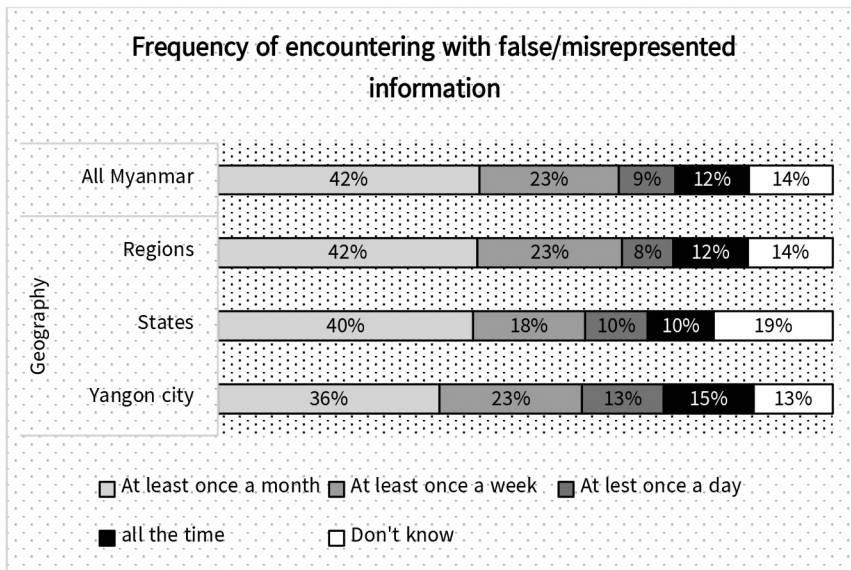


Fig:10.7. Frequencies of encountering with misrepresent or false news about election/ political parties. [How often did you come across news or information about election/ political parties that you believe misrepresented reality or was factually incorrect?]

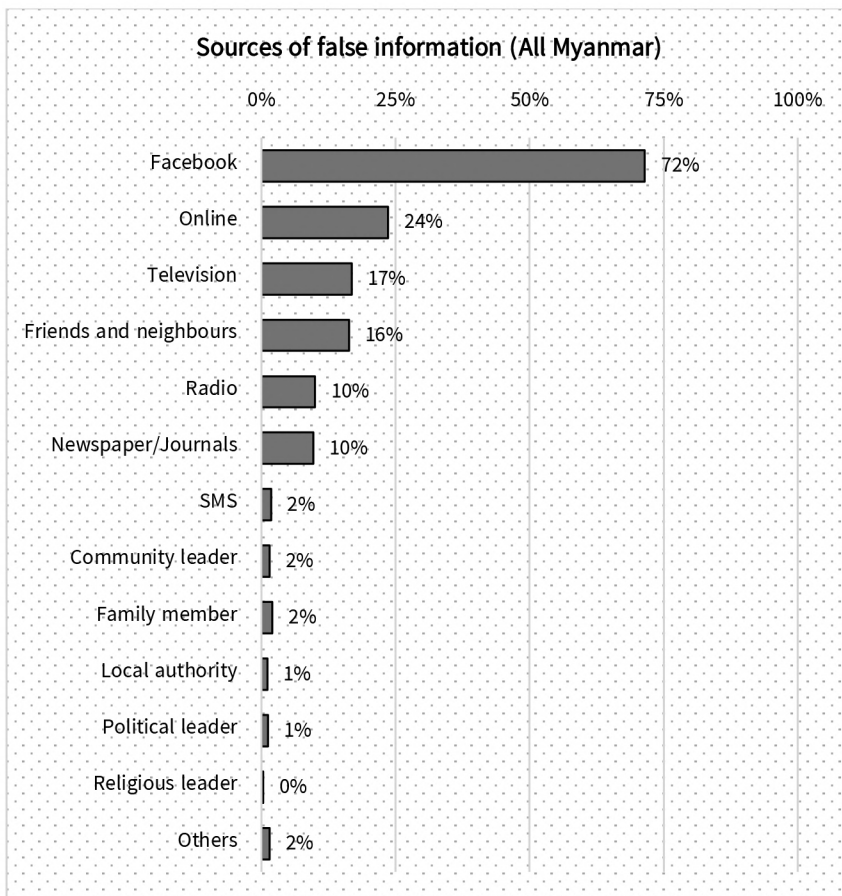


Fig:10.8. Sources of false information of election/political parties. [In your opinion where have you received the news or information about election/ political parties that you believe misrepresent reality or is false?]

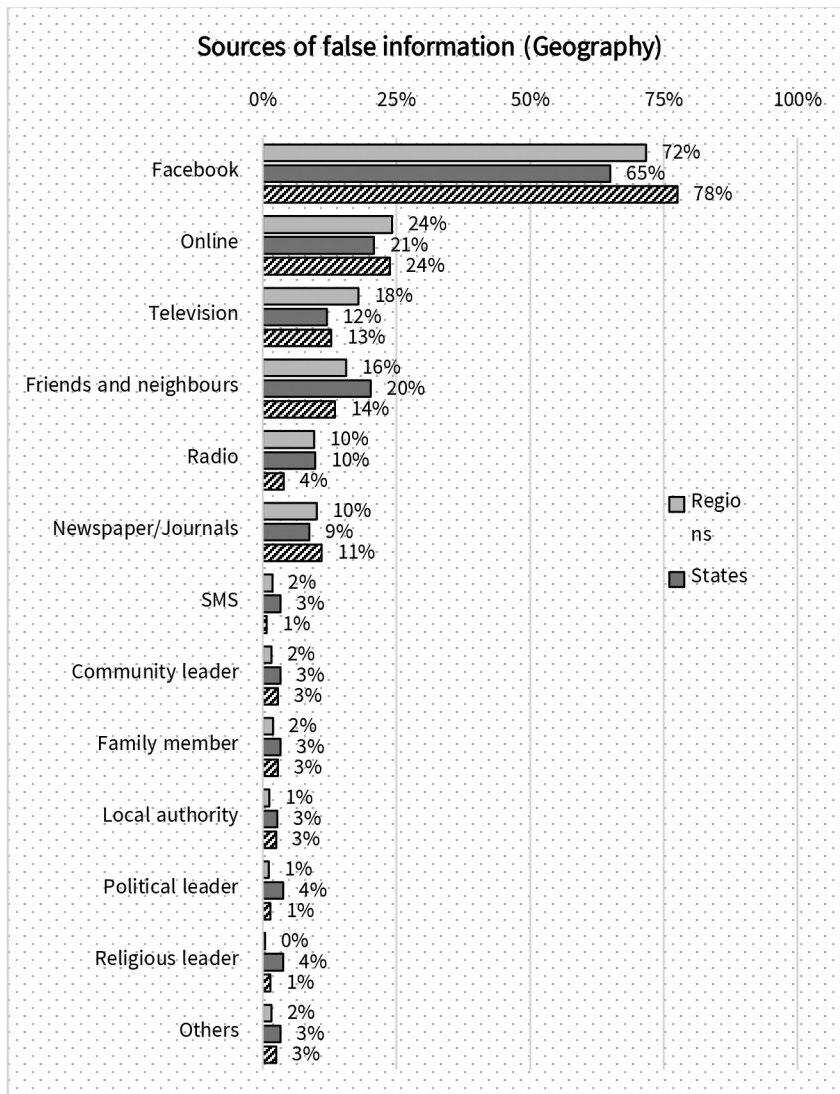


Fig:10.9. Sources of false information of election/political parties

11. Demographics

Gender	National	States	Yangon
Men	50%	49%	50%
Women	50%	51%	50%

Area	National	States	Yangon
Urban	31%	29%	90%
Rural	69%	71%	10%

Geography	National	States	Yangon
Regions	75%		100%
States	25%	100%	

Age	National	States	Yangon
18-35	31%	39%	30%
Above 35	69%	61%	70%

Ethnicity	National	States	Yangon
Bamar	68%	17%	87%
Other Ethnicities	32%	83%	13%

Religion	National	States	Yangon
Buddhist	87%	73%	96%
Other Religions	13%	27%	4%

Education	National	States	Yangon
No High School	76%	78%	49%
High School or More	24%	22%	51%

B. Methodology

To better understand public opinion on the upcoming 2020 general election, PACE surveyed citizens of Myanmar who were 18 or more by election day. To capture the opinions across Myanmar, PACE conducted the survey in all states and regions. The survey was conducted in a total of 271 villages and wards in 179 townships. The survey involved face-to-face interviews with 2577 respondents in total, including 1828 from the national sample, 753 respondents from the states sample, 600 from the Yangon city sample. However, it is important to note that because of security and COVID-19 pandemic concerns, PACE was unable to conduct interviews at about 50 percent of target locations in Kachin state, 23 percent in Shan state and 19 percent in Rakhine state. Therefore, the findings in this report may not represent the opinion of the citizens from those locations.

The survey was conducted according to internationally recognized methods of random statistical sampling as detailed below.

Step 1: Stratification by State and region. Using data from the 2020 population projection by Myanmar Population and Housing Census, PACE calculated the proportion of adult population in each state and region and allocated the same proportion of survey locations in that state and region.

Step 2: Stratification by urban and rural. Using population information described above, PACE calculated the proportion of urban and rural population within each State and Region. Based on the proportion within each State and region, PACE allocated the same proportion of survey locations between urban wards and rural villages.

Step 3: Random sample of villages and wards. Based on the allocations for each state and region and allocations for urban and rural locations, PACE selected wards and villages using simple random sampling. PACE used a list of wards and villages in each state and region compiled by the Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU) as a sampling frame. A total of 290 villages and wards were selected as target survey locations for the sample, including 201 in the nationwide sample, and an additional 89 in oversamples in states and Yangon city.

Sample	National Sample	States Oversample	Yangon City Oversample	Total Locations
National	201			201
States	51	51		102
Yangon City	22		38	60
Overall	201	51	38	290

Step 4: Random household selection. Trained enumerators traveled to survey locations where they randomly selected households using a random walk sampling method beginning in a randomly selected starting point. Enumerators selected every 10th residence in rural locations (villages) and every 20th residence in urban locations (wards).

Step 5: Random respondent selection. Once a household had been selected, PACE enumerators randomly selected a resident (male and female alternatively) of that household who was 18 years old by the time of election day and a citizen of Myanmar. Respondents were selected using the “lucky draw” method. In total, each PACE enumerator was tasked to interview ten (10) respondents in each village/ward location.

Step 6: Analysis. Following data collection, the data was weighted by non-response in state/region and rural/urban to bring the realized sample in line with the actual distribution in Myanmar. PACE was unable to conduct 9 percent of the planned interviews, mainly due to lack of access to conflict areas in western Bago, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine, Mon, and eastern and northern Shan states. There may be slight variation between numbers presented due to rounding where the difference is never greater than one percent.

PACE SURVEY OVERVIEW	
Estimated adult population in Myanmar (2020 population projection)	36,963,679
Number of Interviews for Analysis	National Sample: 2010 States sample: 1020 Yangon city sample: 600
Maximum Margin of Error (national sample)* (at 95% level of confidence)	National sample: +/- 2.4 % State sample: +/- 3.9% Yangon sample: +/- 4%
Deployment	2020, Aug 3 - 5

*The maximum margin of error will increase for any sub-groups analysis: +/- 3.9 percent for state/region responses; +/- 4.2 percent for urban/rural, and +/- 3.4 percent for gender. The actual margin of error is different for each question and option.



ရွေးကောက်ပွဲဆိုင်ရာ
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