

# Youth and Social Perspectives In Kurdistan Region



Male 61.1%



Female 38.9%

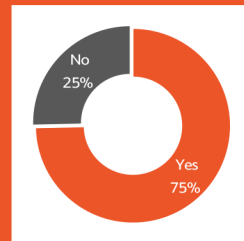
Proportion  
of age groups



If I had an emergency, I could  
count on my family



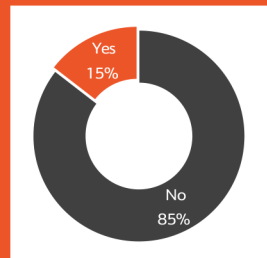
Do you feel you are able to exercise  
your rights freely?



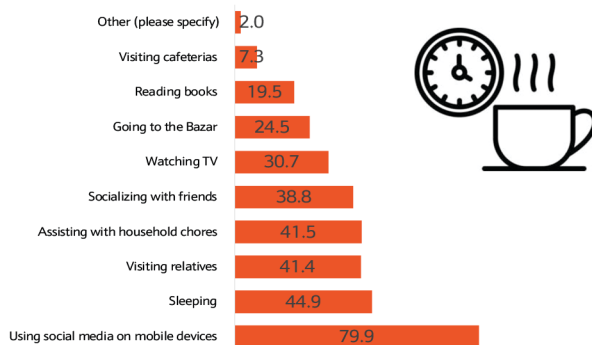
As a young person, to whom  
would you turn in case of an  
issue



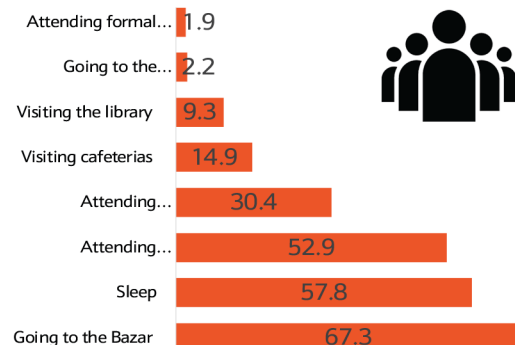
Do you believe that females  
have the same right to travel in-  
dependently as males?



What activities do you most often  
engage in during your free time?



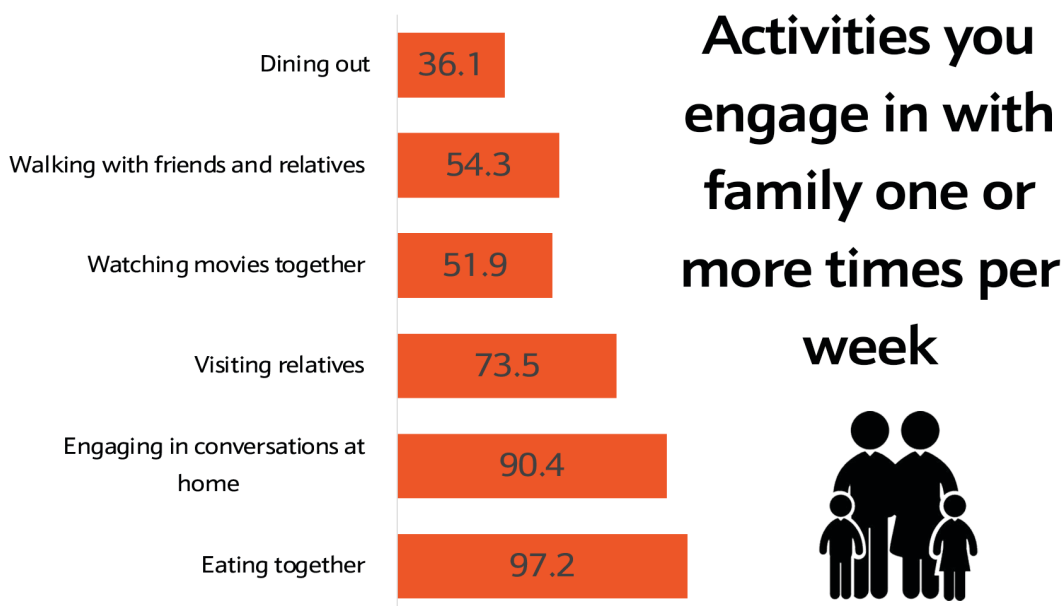
Which of the following activities do you  
participate in at least once a week



# 4

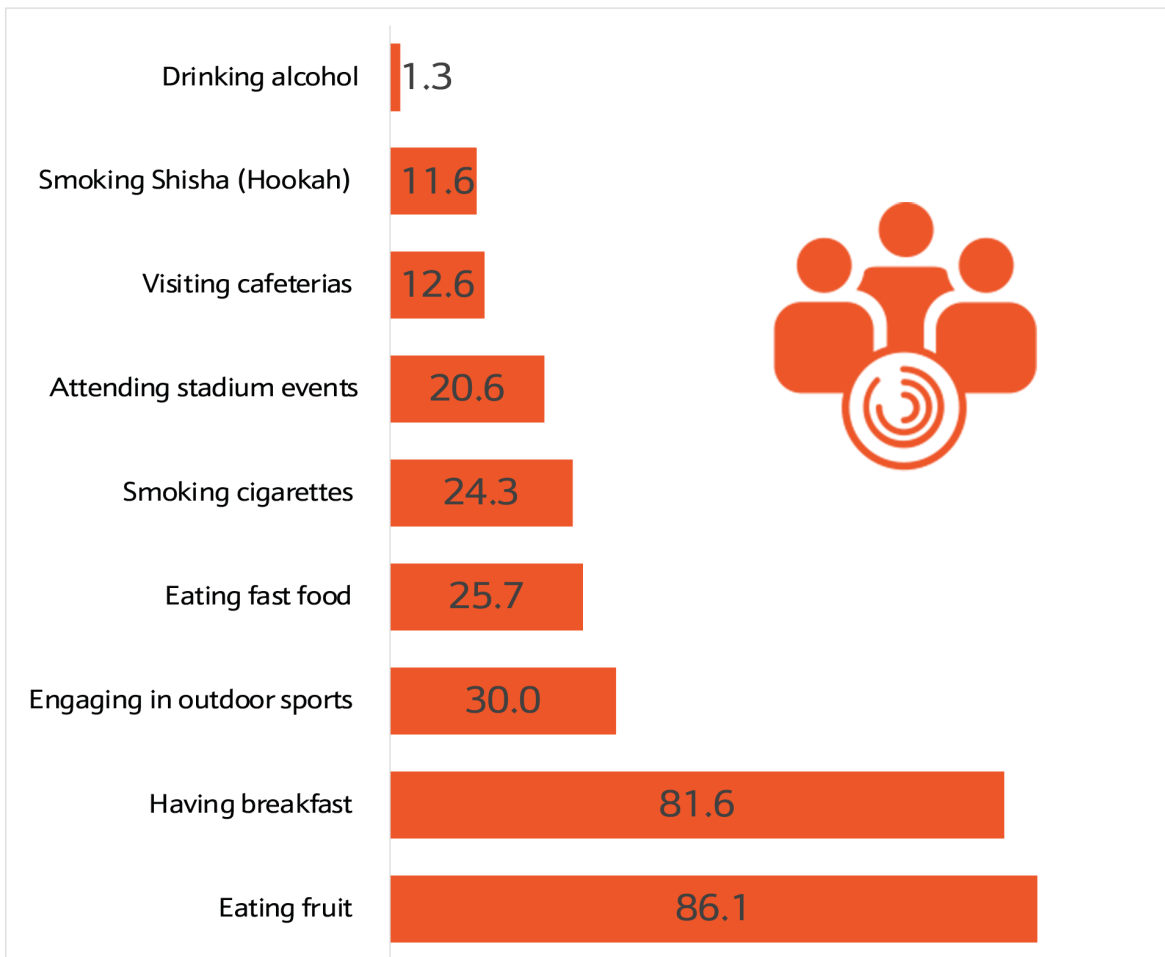
## Social Values and Living Conditions

The majority of young people in the Kurdistan Region express a preference to continue living with their families, which typically consist of around six members per household. Regardless of gender, environment, age, or education level, 90.1% of young people aspire to remain with their families in the future. Only 2.4% desire to live with friends, while 7.5% express a desire for living alone. Given the strong attachment to their families, it is important to understand the activities that young people engage in with their families. Essential family activities for young individ-



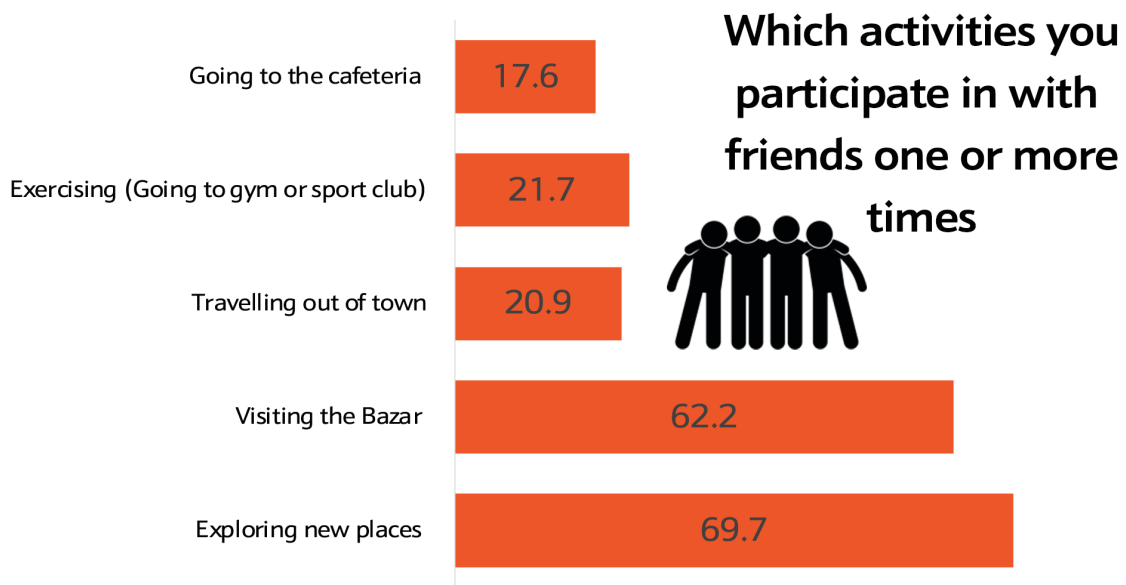
uals include shared meals, conversations, and visiting relatives, going for walks, watching movies, and enjoying outdoor meals together. Teens and young adults also enjoy spending time at cafes, browsing stores, and going on adventures. Interestingly, 21.7% of respondents mentioned attending sporting events with friends as a favored activity. In terms of social connections, most youth in the Kurdistan Region (75.8%) have between one and five friends, while 18.2% have six or more, and 6.1% have none. A significant percentage of young people (97.1%) indicate that their families are willing to provide support. In case of an emergency, 97% of respondents stated that they would turn to their family for assistance. When asked

## Which of the following activities do you perform at least once a week?



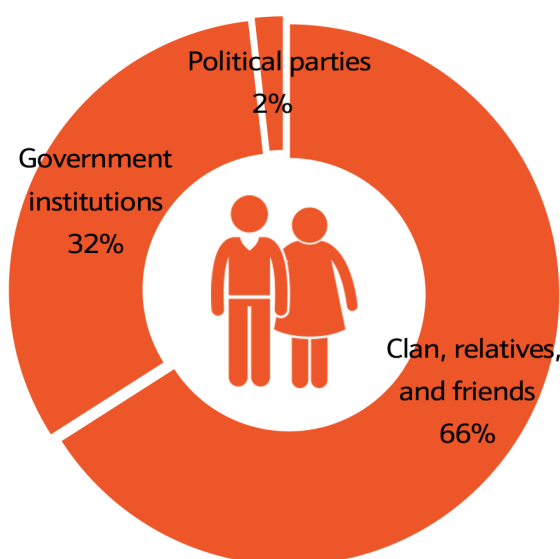
about seeking help for personal issues, 66% chose tribes and relatives as their preferred option, while only 32.3% would turn to government institutions. A mere 1.8% mentioned political parties as a source of support. These results suggest that tribes and families are perceived to offer better security and support than official government institutions, which may contribute to the perpetuation of tribal culture and the historical phenomena of family-tribal conflicts and revenge. When discussing personal issues, the percentage of young people who feel comfortable confiding in their families drops to 77.1%. Approximately half of the respondents expressed a preference for discussing difficulties with their friends. However, the majority of

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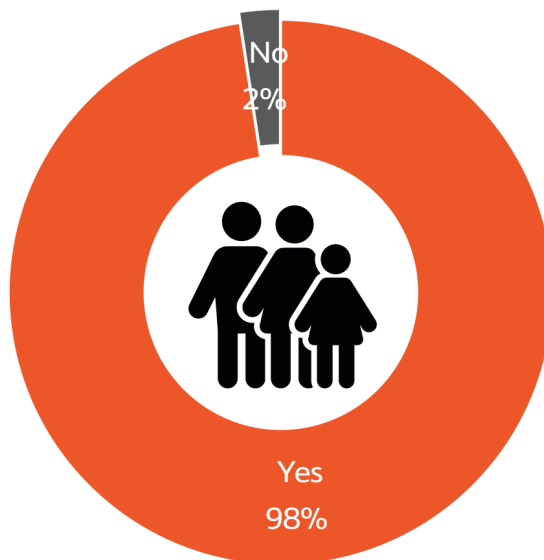
young people (84.5%) reported having at least one person they trust and can open up to about their concerns, even if it's not a family member or a friend.

Overall, 75.5% of young people in the Kurdistan Region are content with their current life circumstances. The percentage of individuals who find issues with their accommodations, such as a lack of private rooms or other welfare aspects, does not exceed 13.4%. In terms of financial dependence, 40.6% of young people in the



**As a young person, to whom would you turn in case of an issue happened?**

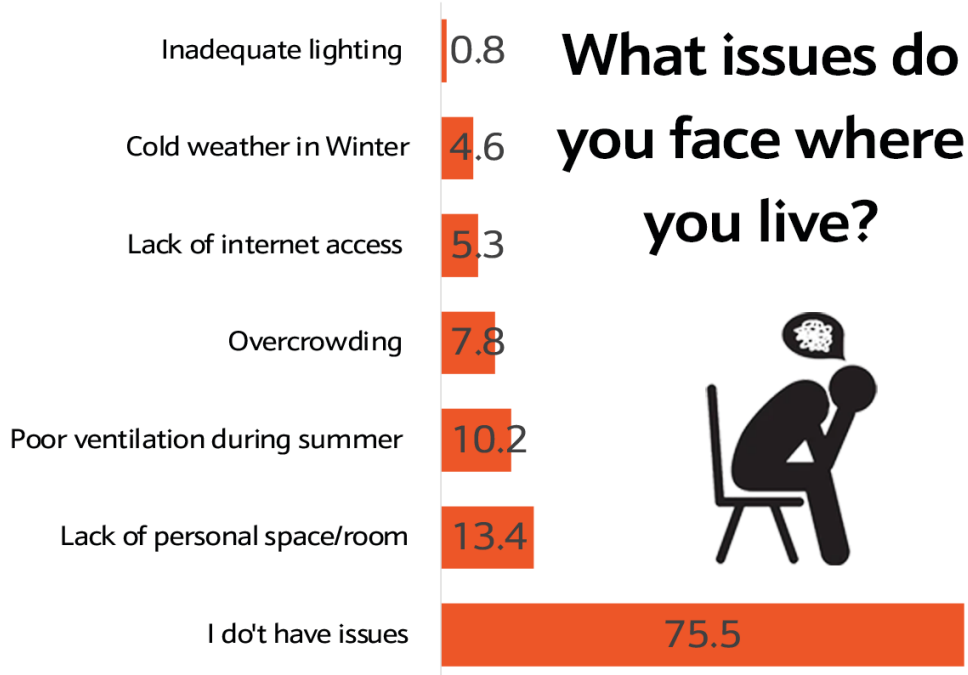
Kurdistan Region receive financial support directly from their families or combine it with their own earnings, which indicates a significant reliance on family for fi-



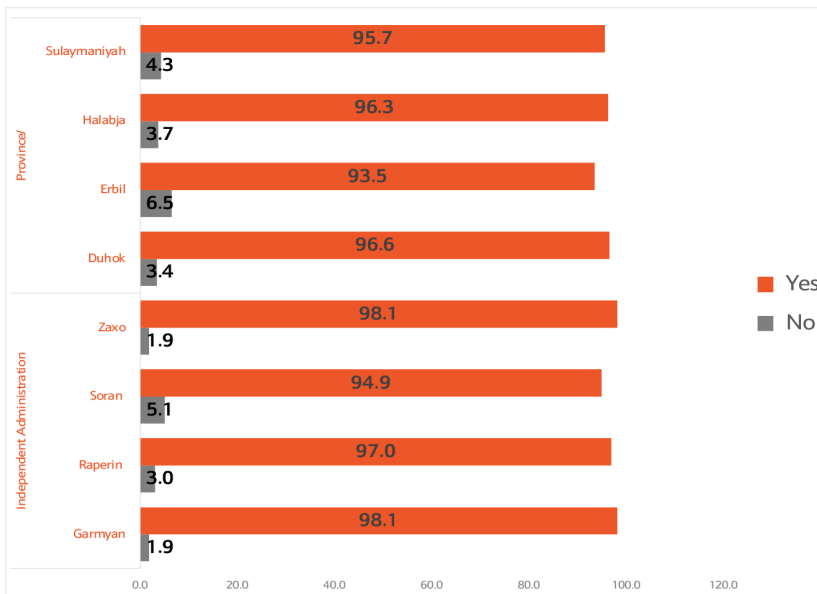
**If I had an  
emergency,  
I could  
count on my  
family**

nancial stability. Therefore, considering all these factors, it is evident that families play a significant role in shaping the opinions and attitudes of young people in the Kurdistan Region. It is worth noting that a large proportion of parents of young people in the region have a low level of education. For instance, 67.3% of the participants' mothers are illiterate, while 45.8% of their fathers are illiterate and 39.8% have less than a high school diploma. Only 4.7% have a high school diploma. This prevalence of traditional behaviors and thought patterns among families directly impacts the perspectives of young people. In general, young people in the Kurdistan Region hold a positive outlook on social relationships. They express satisfaction with the relationship between neighbors (95.5%) and the cooperation among people (92.6%), irrespective of gender, age, environment, or geographical location. However, satisfaction levels decrease when it comes to cultural and social aspects of life, such as the availability of recreational spaces, parks, cinemas, theaters, libraries, and sports clubs. Some of the complaints appear to be more subjective in

## Youth Perspective in the Kurdistan Region - 2023



nature rather than resulting from specific events. For example, although 9.3% of young people in the Kurdistan Region visit libraries weekly, 71.5% of them express dissatisfaction with the libraries' offerings. Regarding education, 93.9% of young people in the Kurdistan Region express a desire to continue their education, with only 6.1% losing interest. It is noteworthy that young people are more satisfied with issues related to school and the educational environment than with the overall societal conditions they live in. They exhibit high levels of satisfaction with their teachers, the school atmosphere, the quality of education they receive, and the school and university cafeterias. The Kurdistan Region stands out with a high level of satisfaction with the educational environment, reaching 84.8%. Additionally, 57% of the respondents mentioned staying in the same class for two years or more. However, this level of satisfaction may appear contradictory to the challenges young people face in finding employment, which they often attribute to difficulties directly tied to education and learning. On a typical weekday, young people in the Kurdistan Region engage in activities such as going to the market, taking naps, and visiting mosques and other religious sites. However, activities like attending

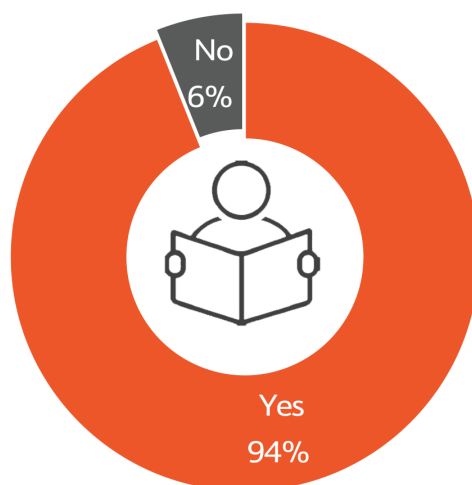


## Relations between neighbors



concerts, going to the cinema, and visiting libraries are less common. These patterns hold true at both the provincial and independent levels and across different age groups. Notably, 52.9% of youth, of which 72.3% are male, mention visiting mosques as part of their activities.

When it comes to leisure time or free time, social media usage stands out as a prominent activity for young people. When they have free time, 79.9% of respondents report using social media on their mobile devices. Additionally, 41.5% engage in household chores, 44% preferred sleeping, while 38.8% enjoy socializing with friends. Overall, young people in the Kurdistan Region predominantly focus

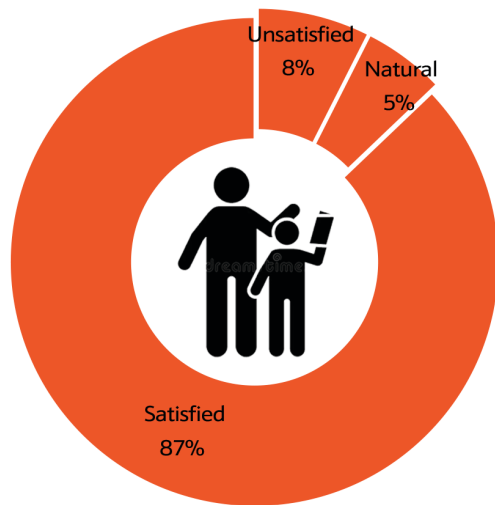


## Do you wish to pursue further studies?

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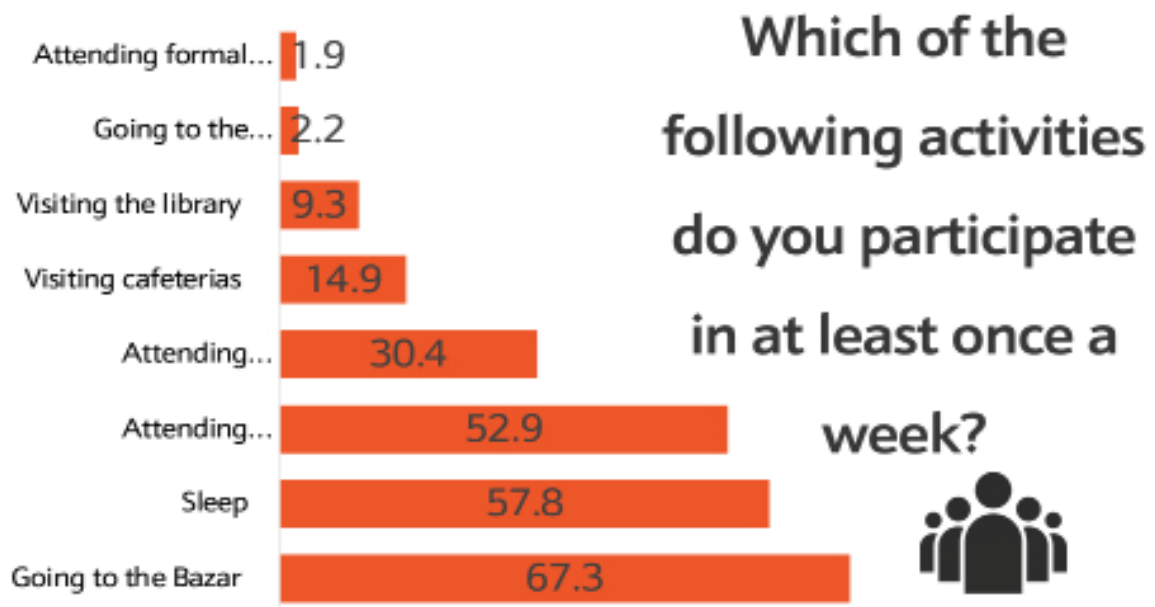


### Type of relationship with teachers

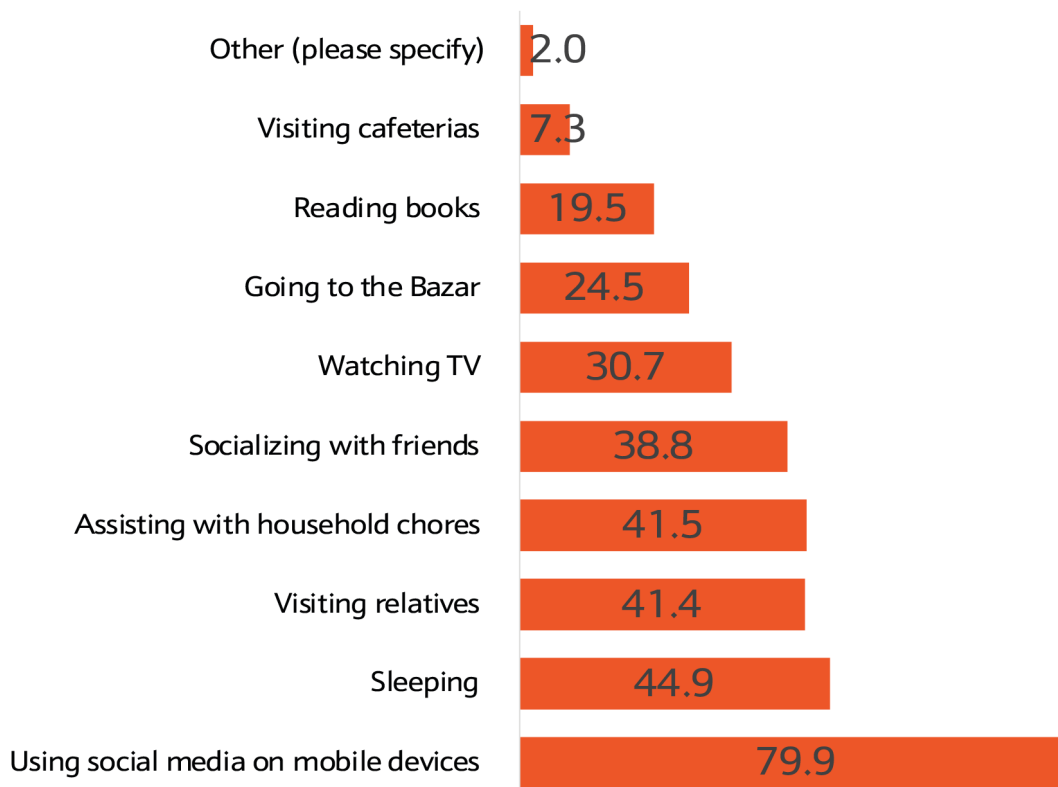
on personal pursuits during their free time and have limited access to cultural and social activities. The prominence of family bonds, narrow social circles, and specific categories of activities suggest a more conservative identity among young people in the region.

As for exercising their rights, 74.7% of respondents believe they can freely do so, while 25.3% disagree. Among those who feel constrained, political and cultural factors within society are cited as obstacles to their freedom. In the Kurdistan Region, 83.9% of young people strongly believe in individual liberty. However, 85.5% of respondents believe that girls or women should not travel alone, primarily due to religious, cultural, and public perception reasons, with a small percentage expressing opposition due to a lack of security and public transportation facilities. In general, they possess two distinct traits, they believe in individual freedom, but on the other hand, they reject it.





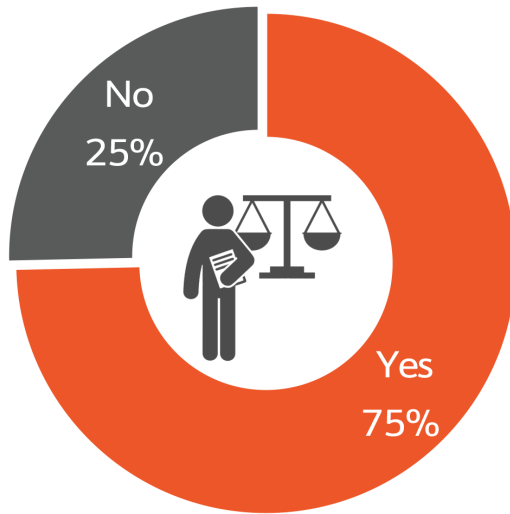
### What activities do you most often engage in during your free time?



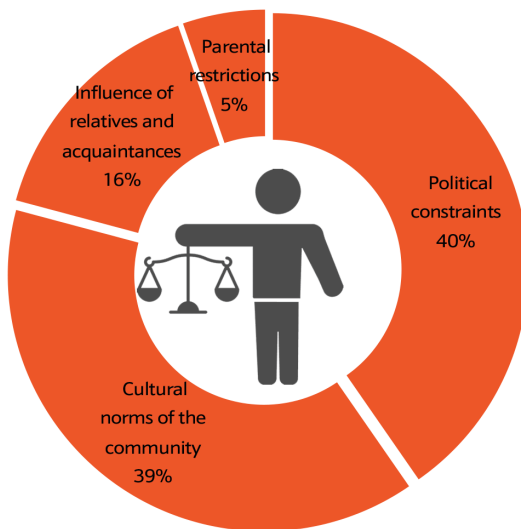
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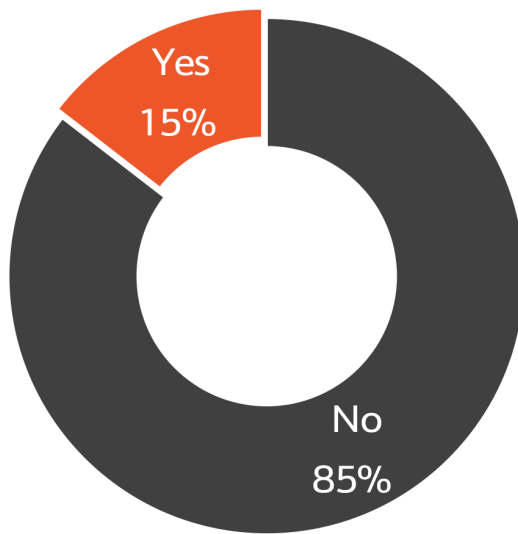
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**Do you feel you are able to exercise your rights freely?**



**What factors do you believe inhibit you from freely exercising your rights?**



Do you believe that females have the same right to travel independently as males?



## What do you perceive as barriers to solo travel for women?

