

What Arabs Really Think About The Status of Women In Society

August 27, 2019

About Arab Barometer:

SCOPE

- The Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network based at Princeton University that works with universities and research institutions in the region.
- We have been conducting high quality and reliable public opinion surveys in the Middle East and North Africa since 2006.
- Through 2019, the Arab Barometer has conducted 50 national surveys over five waves including more than 70,000 interviews in 15 Arab countries.
- Arab Barometer survey data and reports are publicly available for download and free of charge at www.arabbarometer.org.

DATA QUALITY

- Extensive training of interviewers and fieldwork team
- Increased oversight by an independent third party using standard practices suggested by the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
- Almost exclusively Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) allowing near real-time monitoring
- Specially developed software flags any suspicious interviews automatically
- Extensive examination of the data during and after fieldwork to ensure high quality

Online Data Analysis Tool

🏠 ONLINE DATA ANALYSIS (AB Wave 4)

AB1

AB2

AB3

AB4



How would you evaluate the current economic situation in your country?

Remove

Change

Filter by Country

Add filter

Options

Select countries

Show NA

Time series

Maps

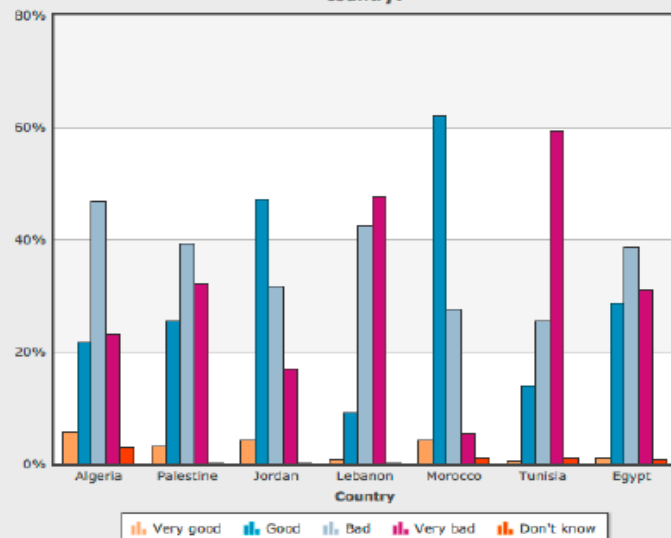


Category	Total	Country				
		Algeria	Palestine	Jordan	Lebanon	Morocco
Very good	2.7%	5.6%	3.1%	4.2%	0.7%	4.1%
Good	29.6%	21.7%	25.5%	47.0%	9.1%	62.0%
Bad	36.0%	46.6%	39.3%	31.7%	42.4%	27.6%
Very bad	30.9%	23.1%	32.0%	16.9%	47.6%	5.3%
Don't know	0.8%	2.9%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.9%
(N)	9,000 (100%)	1,200 (100%)	1,199 (100%)	1,500 (100%)	1,500 (100%)	1,200 (100%)

AB Wave 4 (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia)
Correlation $r = -0.03$



How would you evaluate the current economic situation in your country?



About AB5 survey:

SCOPE

- For the fifth and latest wave of surveys, the Arab Barometer interviewed over 25,000 people in 12 countries. This is the largest in-depth survey ever carried out in the region.
- The survey took place between September 2018 and June 2019.
- All country surveys are based on nationally representative probability sample of the population aged 18 and above. Each country surveyed includes approx. 2,400 respondents, on average. The error margin of our surveys is ± 3 percent.

NOTES

- The 45 minute, largely tablet-based interviews were conducted in private and face-to-face with individuals randomly selected to fairly represent their communities.
- The survey is of citizens across most of the Arab world. Exceptions include countries where full and fair access to the survey was not possible or the safety of interviewers could not be guaranteed.
- Full details on all methodology are available on the Arab Barometer website.
<https://www.arabbarometer.org/survey-data/methodology/>



What Do Arabs Really Think About The Status of Women In Society?

Key Findings

- Opinions regarding women's rights and their roles in society are progressing unevenly in MENA.
- While Arabs are more approving of women's right to education, work and holding political office, there is far from universal agreement that women should have equal rights in all areas.
- Moreover, there is little agreement that women should have equal roles in public or private life, with majorities saying that women are less able to take on roles of leadership or make decisions compared with men.

Measuring Arab Women's Agency

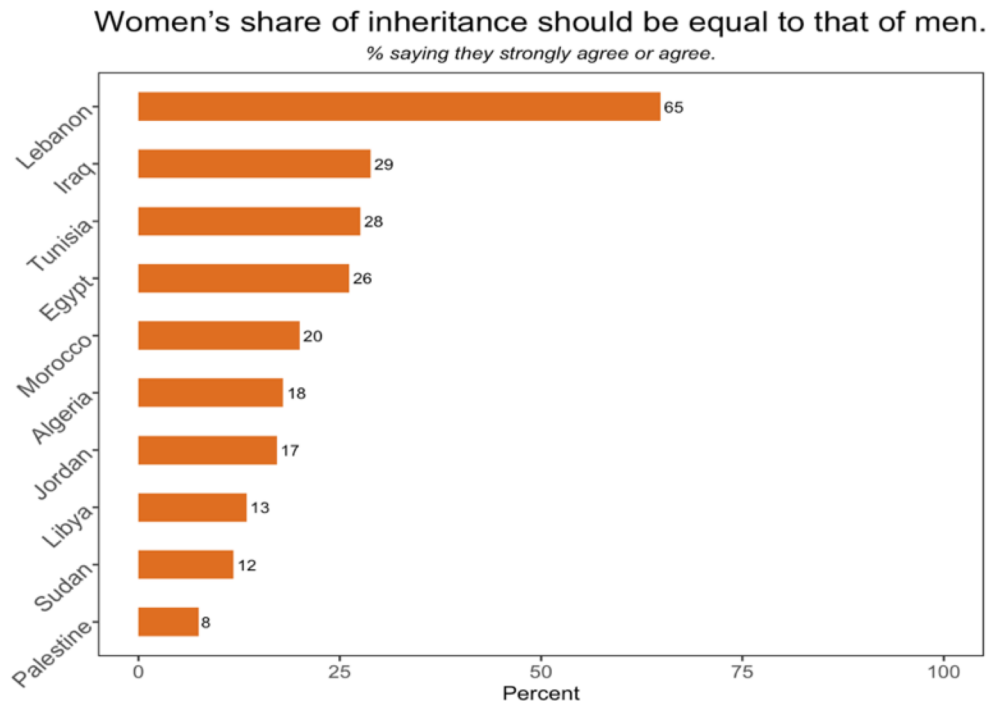
Are Arab women able to make effective choices and decisions for themselves?

Measuring Arab Women's Agency

- Arab citizens don't believe that men and women should have equal rights to exercise their agency in a range of spheres.

Share of Inheritance

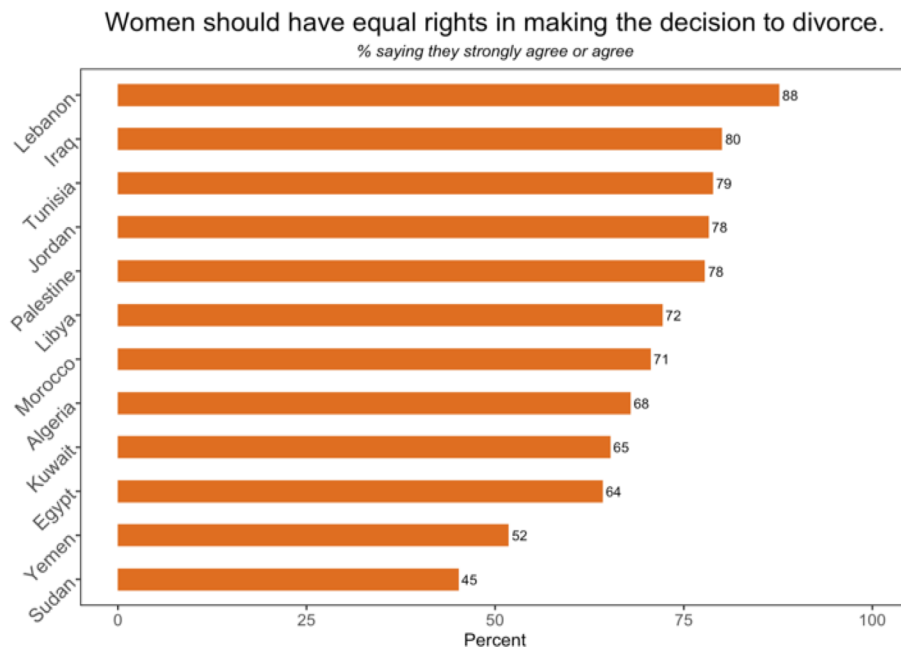
In all but one country surveyed, a majority do not believe that women's share of inheritance should be equal to that of men.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

Divorce

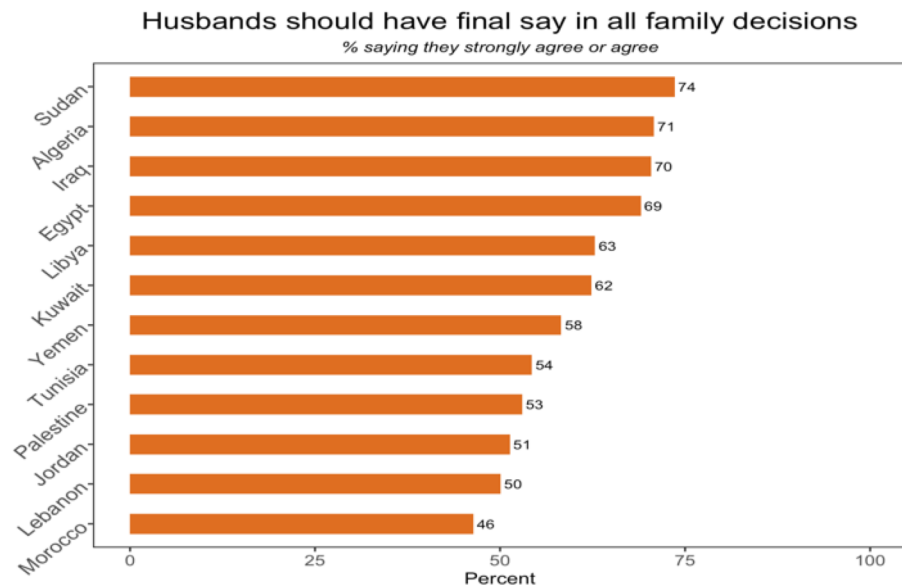
In all but one country, a majority say women should have an equal right to divorce, including more than two-thirds in most countries.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

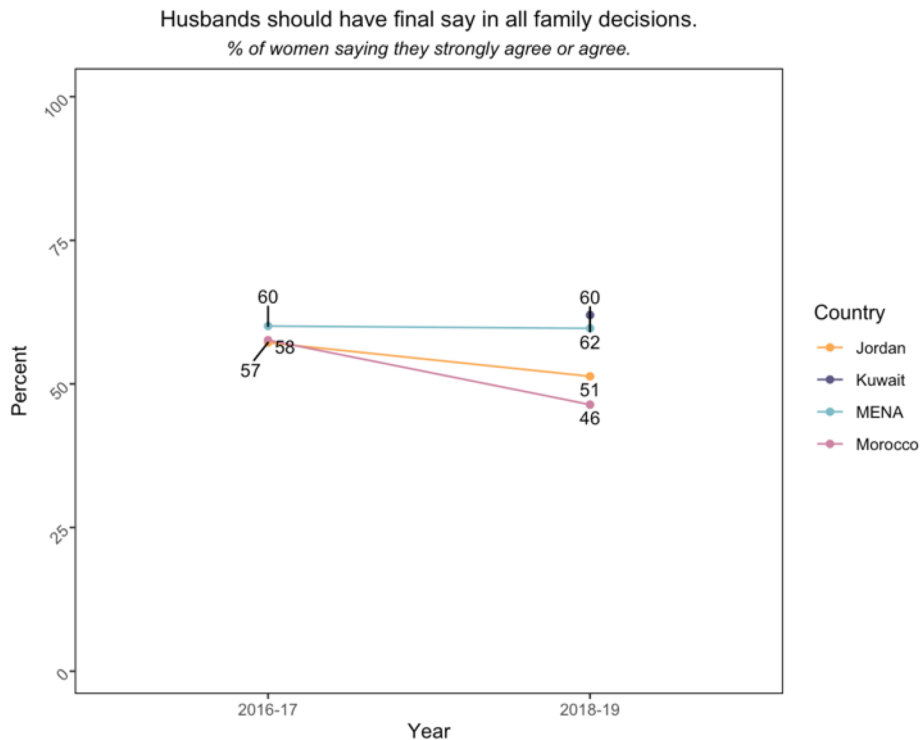
Head of Household

In all but one country, half or more citizens – including a majority of women- say husbands should always have the final say on family decisions.



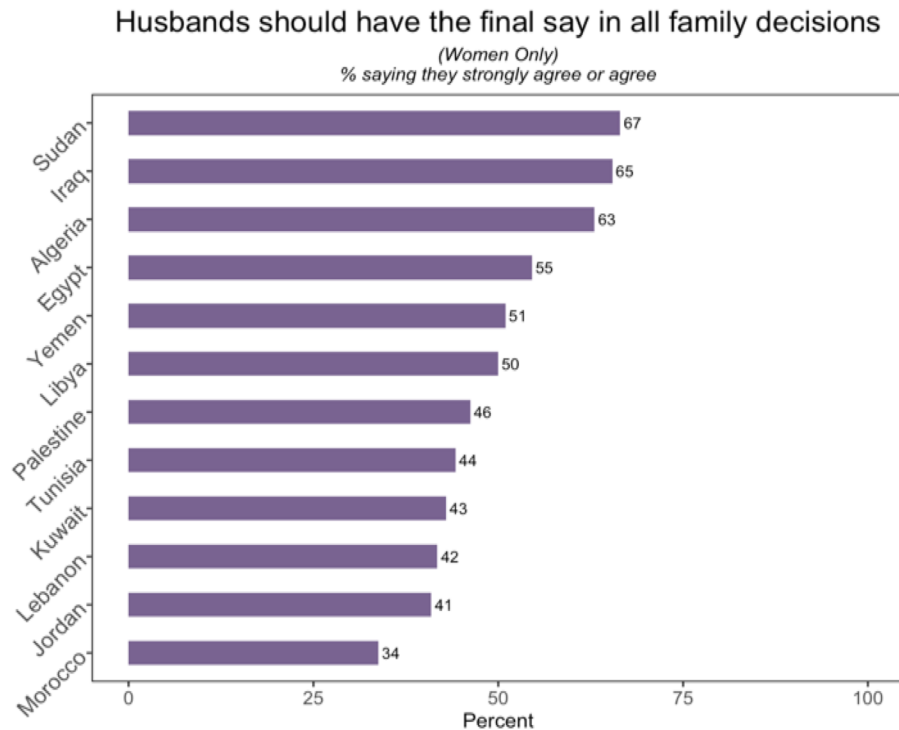
Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

Who has the final say in the household?



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer

Even Women Agree



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

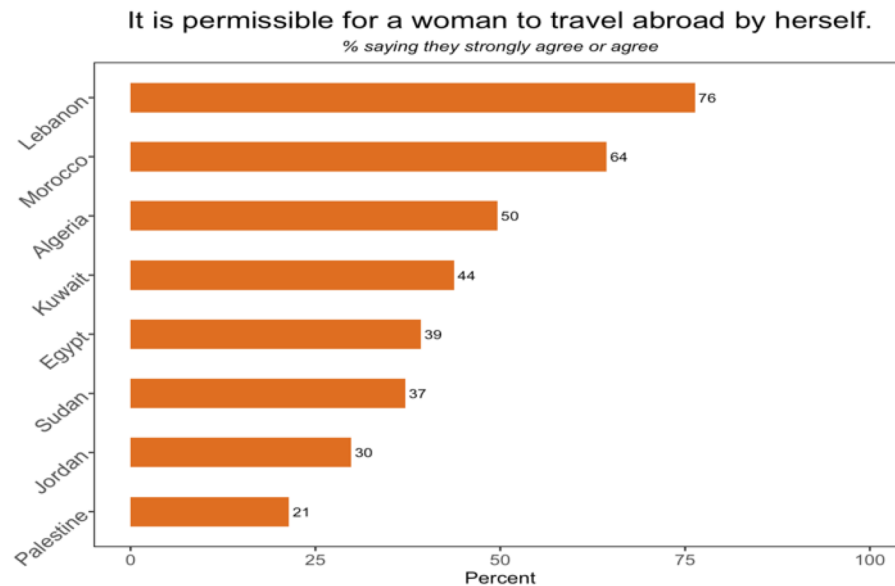
Husbands should have final say in family decisions

% who strongly agree or agree

	Male	Female	Difference
Kuwait	83	43	+40
Egypt	83	55	+28
Libya	76	50	+26
Morocco	59	34	+25
Tunisia	65	44	+21
Jordan	61	41	+20
Lebanon	58	42	+16
Algeria	78	63	+15
Yemen	66	51	+15
Palestine	60	46	+14
Sudan	80	67	+13
Iraq	75	65	+10
Arab Barometer, Wave 5			

Travel Independently

In about half of countries surveyed, a minority say it is permissible for a woman to travel abroad by herself.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

Positive Attitudes Towards Some Women's Rights

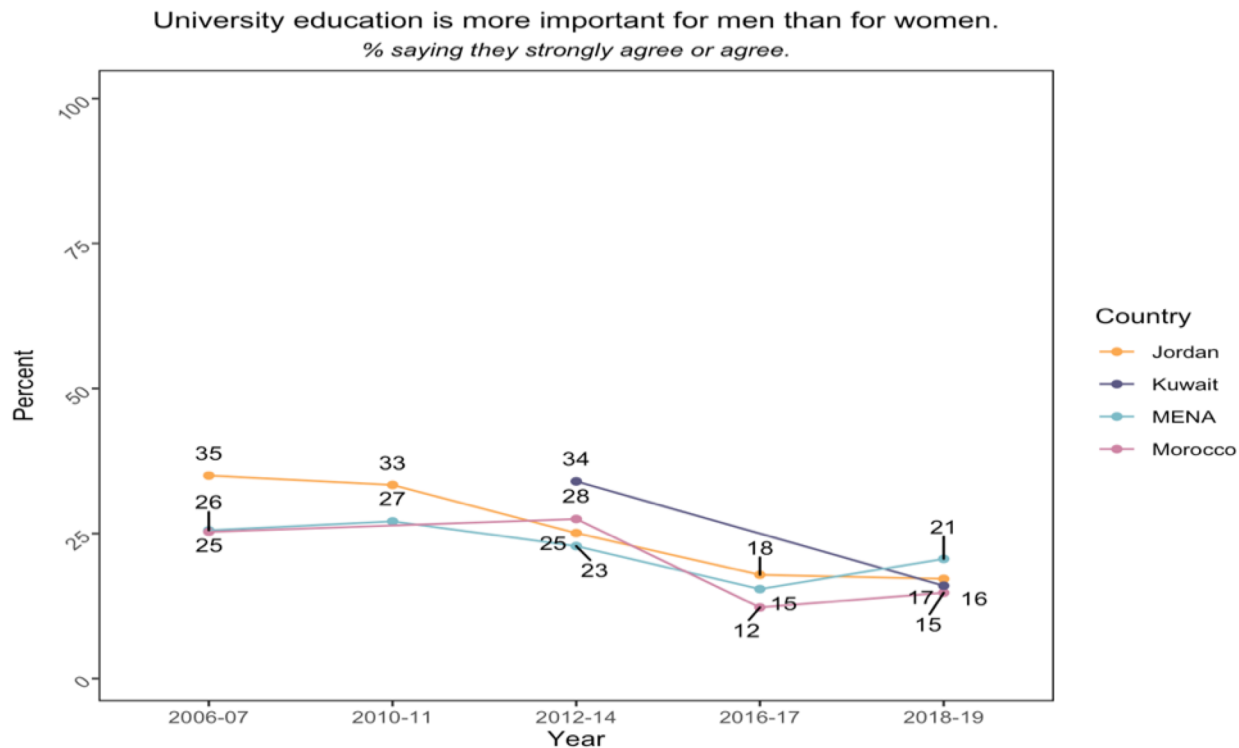
The picture is not all bad news.

Positive Attitudes Towards Some Women's Rights

- While the norms and some laws still do not permit Arab women to decide for themselves in several regards, the picture is not all bad news.
- A majority of citizens across MENA support women's equal right to education and to work.

Right to Education

Relatively few say that university education is more important for a man than a woman.



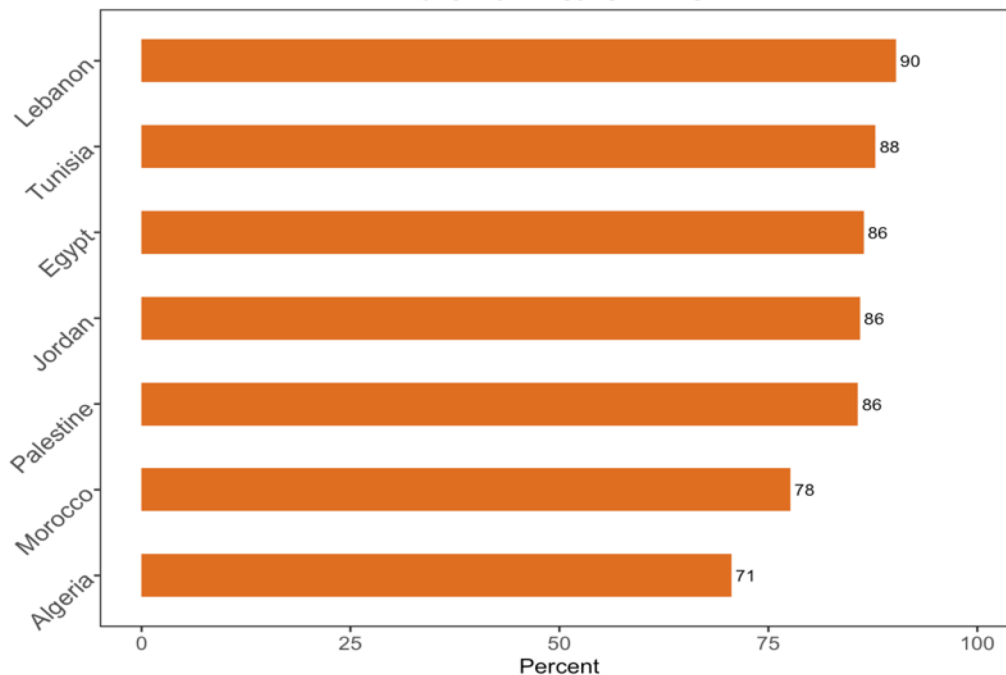
Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer

Right to Work

Additionally, in most countries, a majority affirm that a woman can work outside the home if she wants.

A married woman can work outside the home if she chooses.

% saying they strongly agree or agree.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.

Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 4

Views On Arab Women As Political Leaders & The Remaining Barriers To Positions of Power

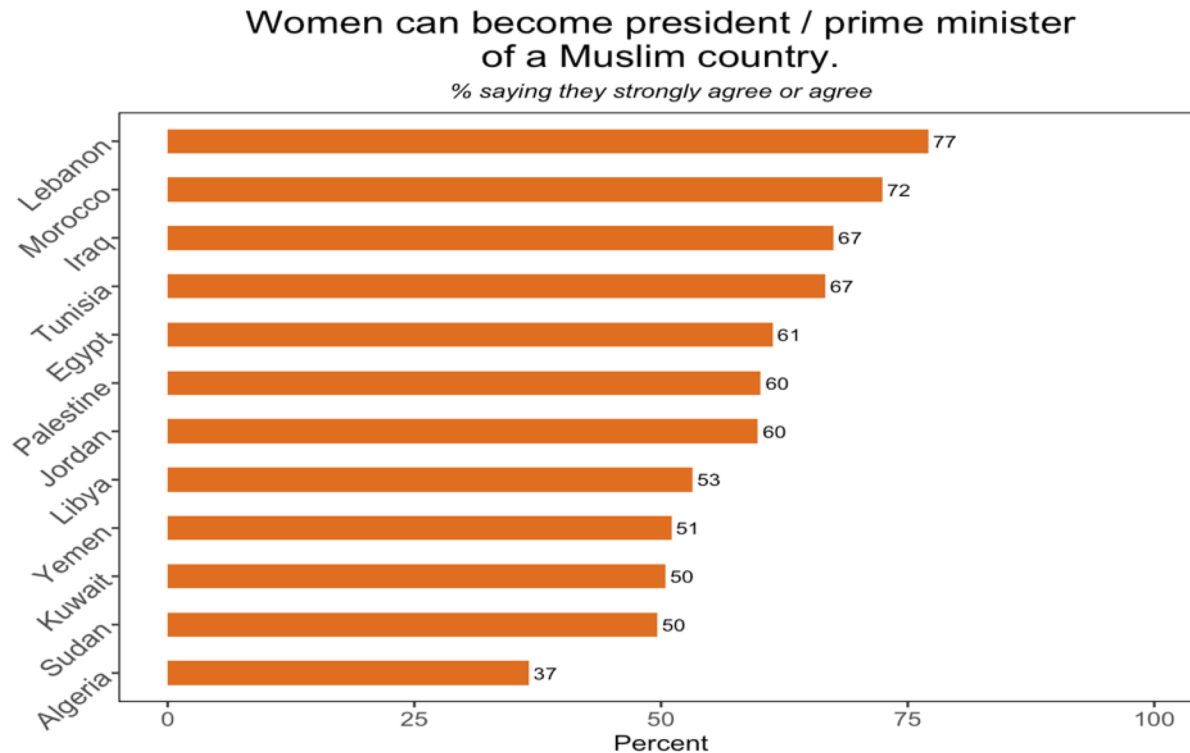
The story is slightly different in the political sphere.

Arab Women As Political Leaders

- The majority of Arab citizens are amenable to seeing more women in political leadership positions.
- Nevertheless, there are persistent barriers and bias preventing Arab women from reaching political leadership positions.

Arab Women As Political Leaders

The majority of Arab citizens would accept a female head of state.



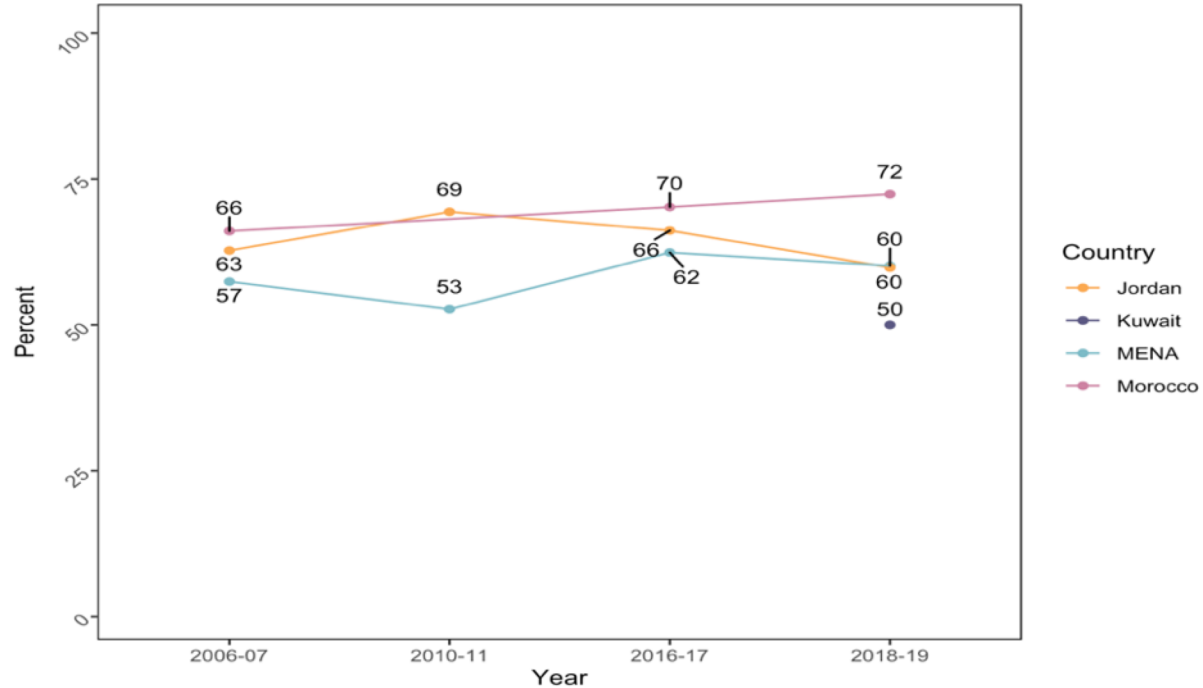
Notes: Weighted Estimates.

Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

*For those who identify as Muslims only

Arab Women As Political Leaders

Women can become president / prime minister of a Muslim country.
% saying they strongly agree or agree.



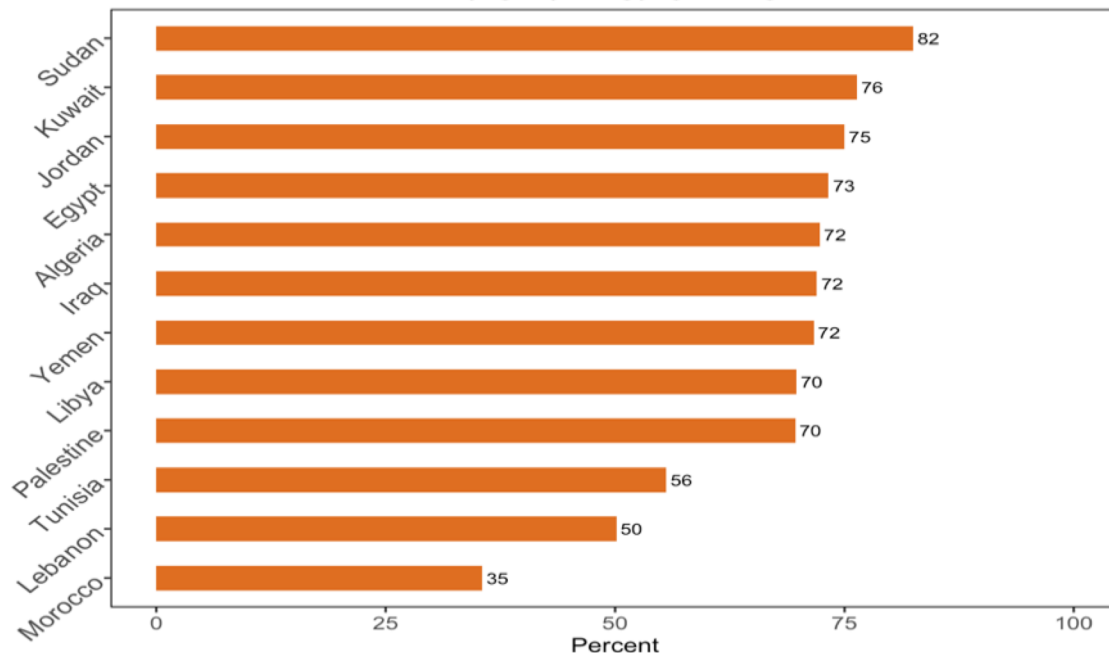
Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer

Citizens' bias keeps women out of top leadership positions in politics

The majority of citizens across MENA still consider men as more capable political leaders compared to women.

In general, men are better at political leadership than women.

% saying they strongly agree or agree



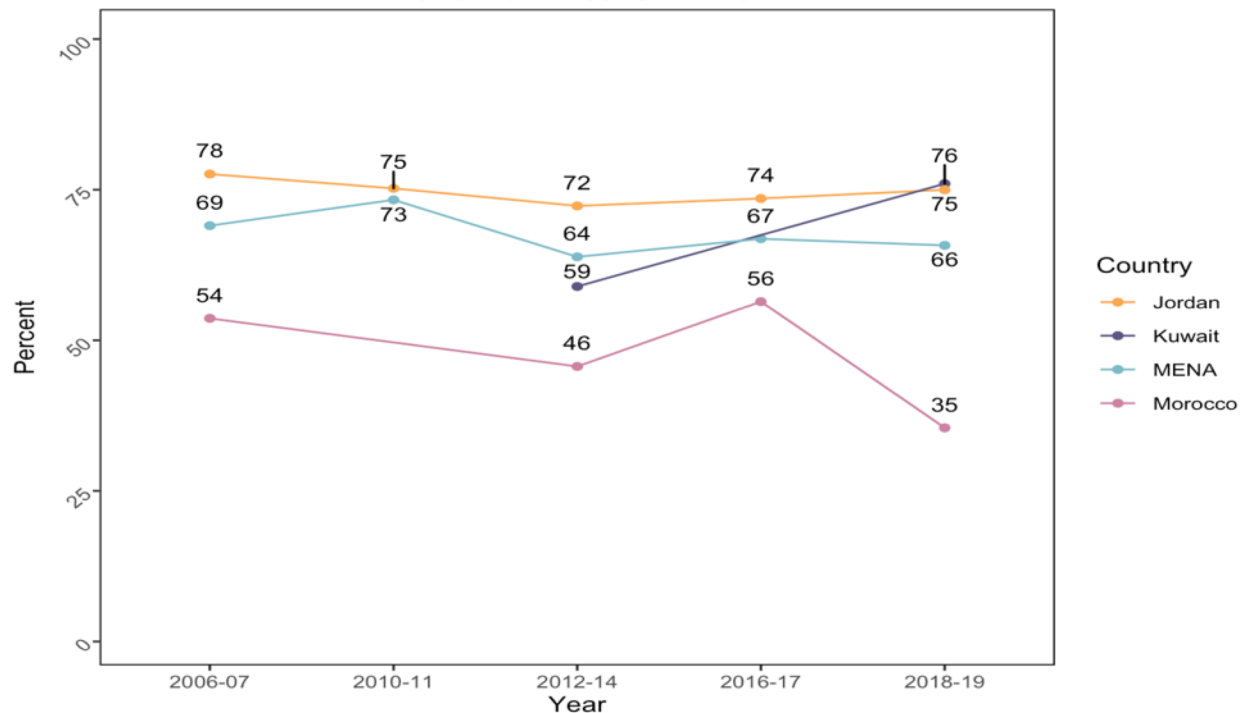
Notes: Weighted Estimates.

Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

Citizens' Bias: Arab Women As Political Leaders

In general, men are better at political leadership than women.

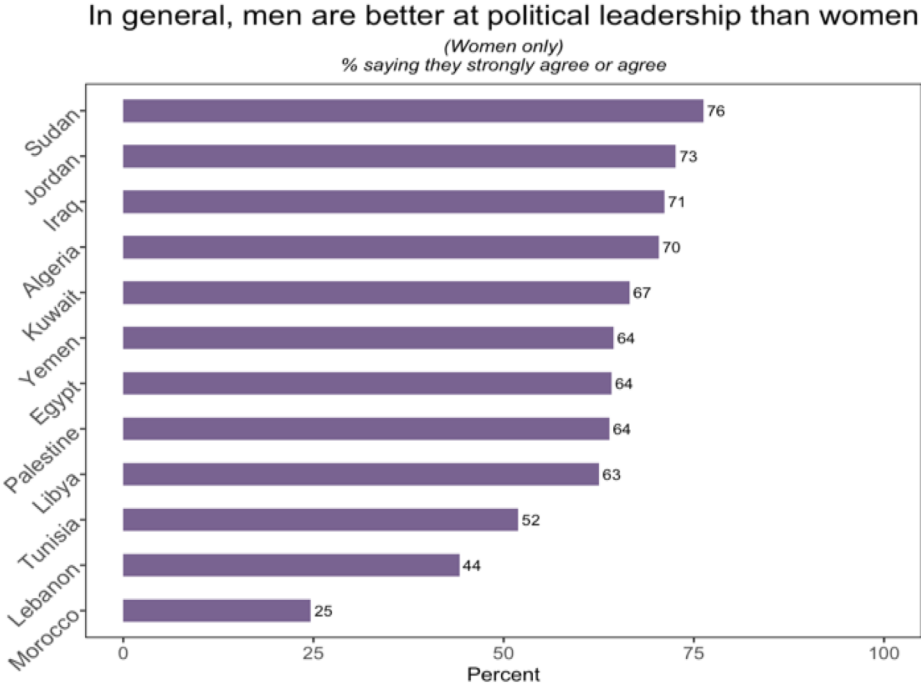
% saying they strongly agree or agree



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer

Gender Bias : Arab Women As Political Leaders

In 10 of 12 countries more than half of women believe that men are better at political leadership than women.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

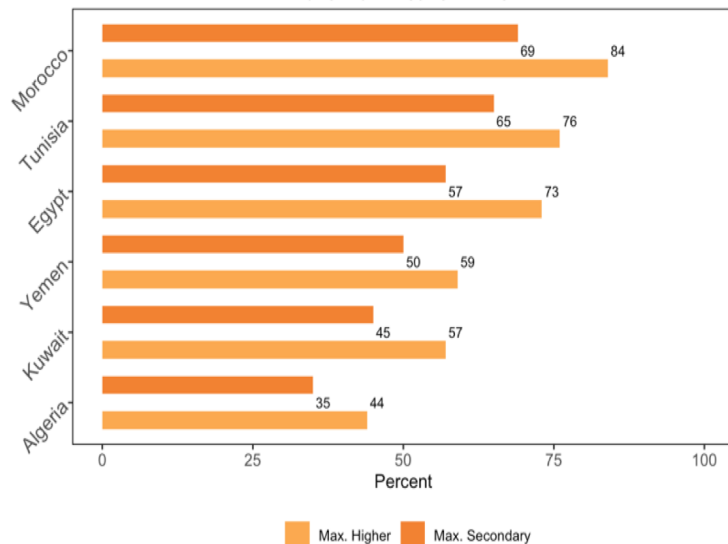
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% who strongly agree or agree			
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Sudan	90	75	+15
Kuwait	83	70	+13
Yemen	79	66	+13
Lebanon	56	44	+12
Libya	77	65	+12
Palestine	74	64	+10
Jordan	78	71	+7
Tunisia	59	52	+7
Algeria	75	70	+5
Iraq	73	71	+2
Arab Barometer, Wave 5			

Education plays a role: Arab Women As Political Leaders

Citizens who do not have a university degree are less likely to support women's political leadership.

Women can become president / prime minister of a Muslim country.

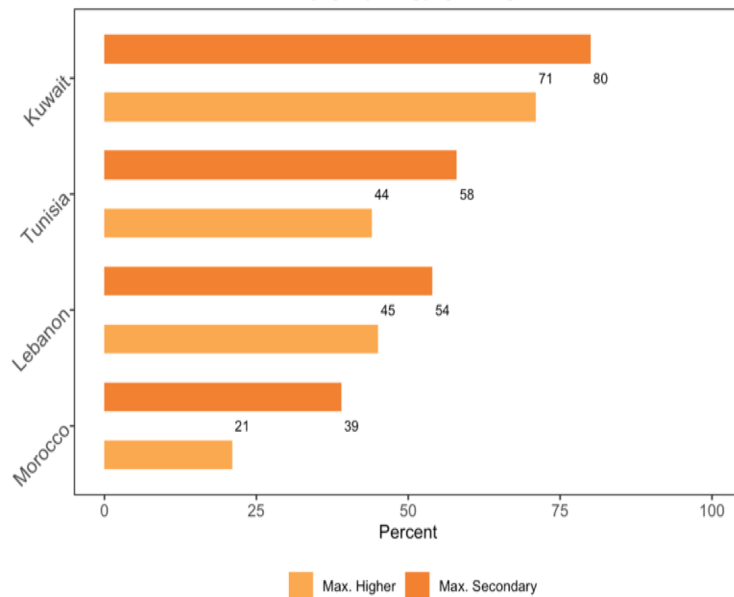
(Education)
% saying they strongly agree or agree



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5
*For those who identify as Muslims only

In general, men are better at political leadership than women.

(Education)
% saying they strongly agree or agree



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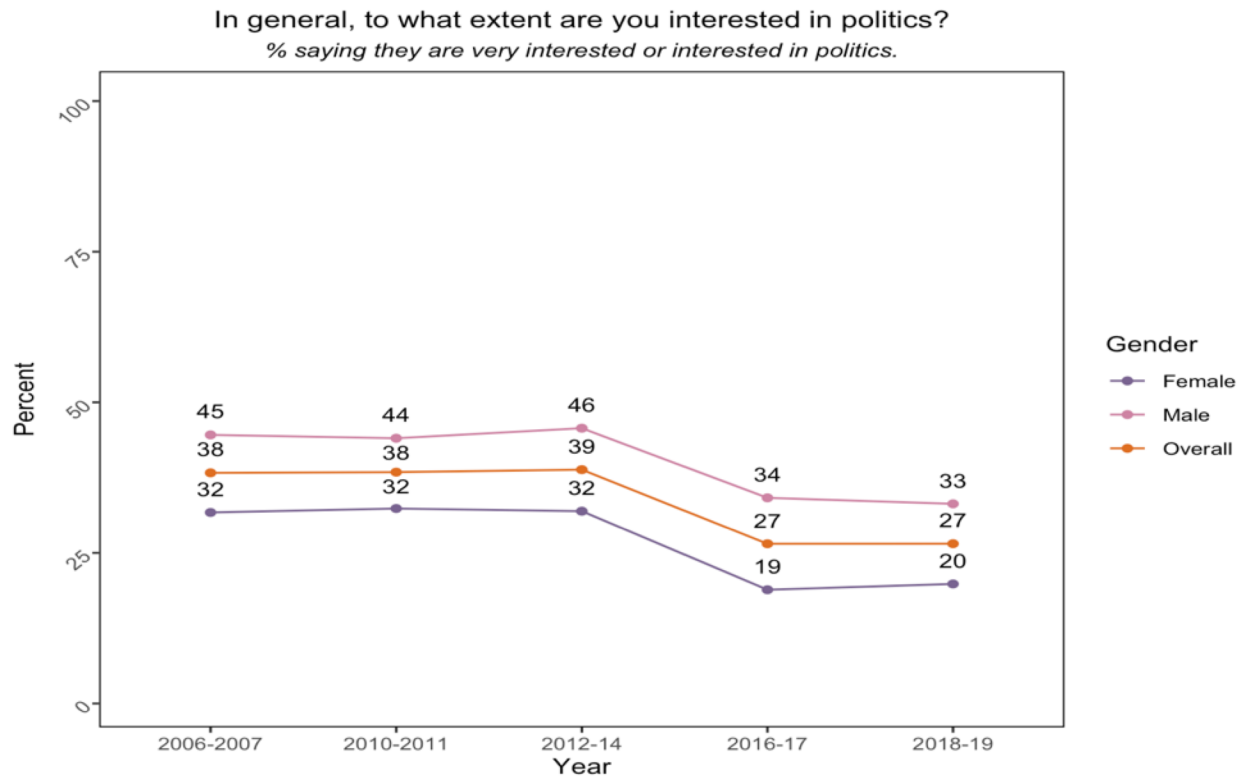
Access to political power is the primary way of improving the status of women in MENA region and securing equal rights.

However, Arab women still lag behind in terms of interest in politics.

Arab Women's Political Interest

- Although both Arab men and women's political interest have been in decline in the past ten years, there have been a persistent gender gap.
- Majority of young and older Arab women feel disenchanting and disengaged from politics.

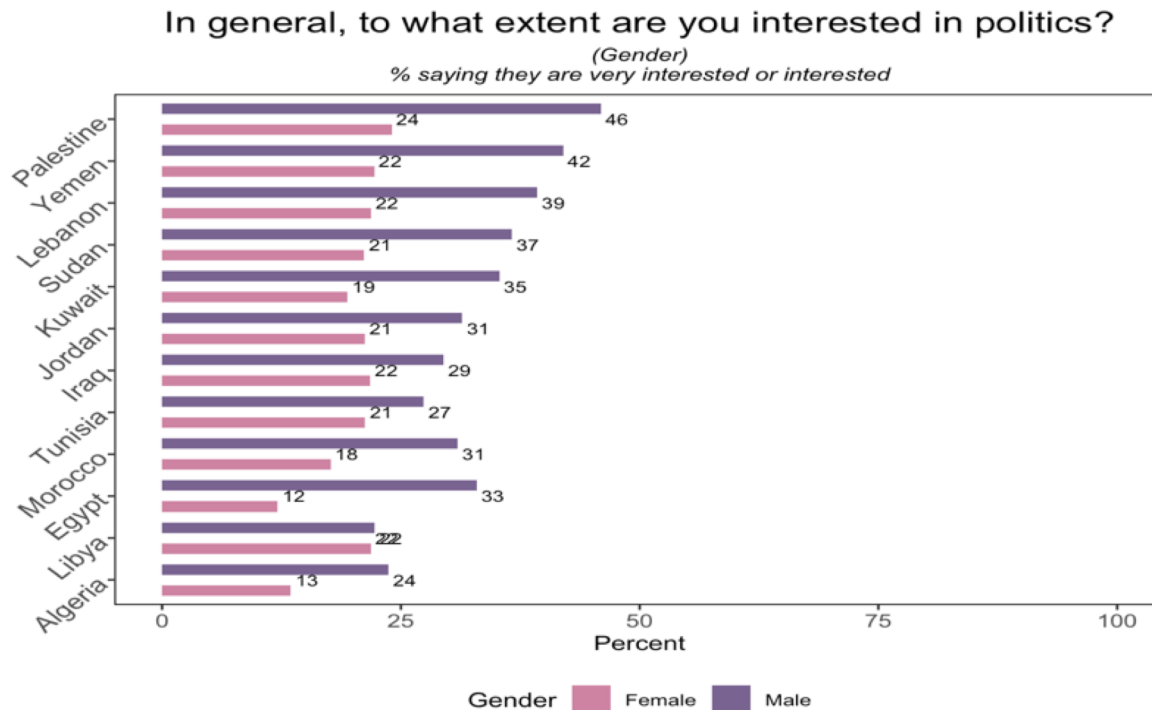
Low Interest In Politics



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer

Low Interest In Politics

Men are slightly more interested (around 10-point difference) compared to women across MENA region.



Notes: Weighted Estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer, Wave 5

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