

Chieftainship Endures Despite Democratic Consolidation in Botswana



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Batswana Embrace Democracy and Bogosi

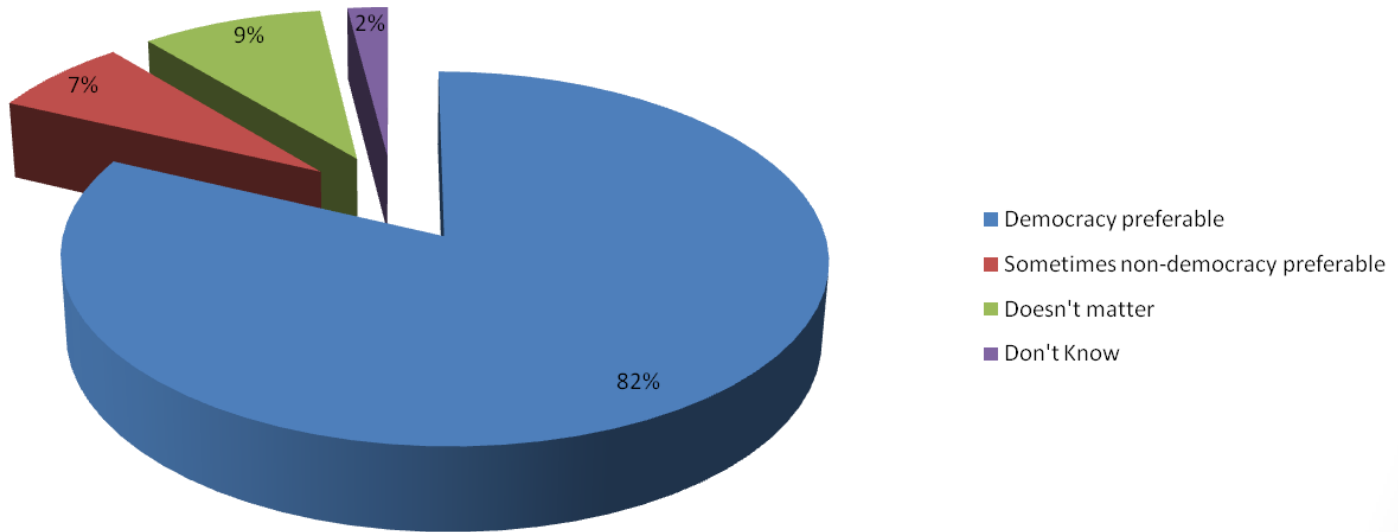
- Botswana is widely acclaimed to be a model of democracy in Africa.
- Traditional and modern institutions are perceived to be poles apart, irreconcilable.
- Yet our survey shows Batswana do not share that view.



Research Question

- Which of these statements is closest to your opinion?
 - Democracy is preferable to any form of government
 - In some circumstances, a non democratic government can be preferable
 - For some people like me, it does not matter which type of government we have

Batswana Overwhelmingly Support Democracy

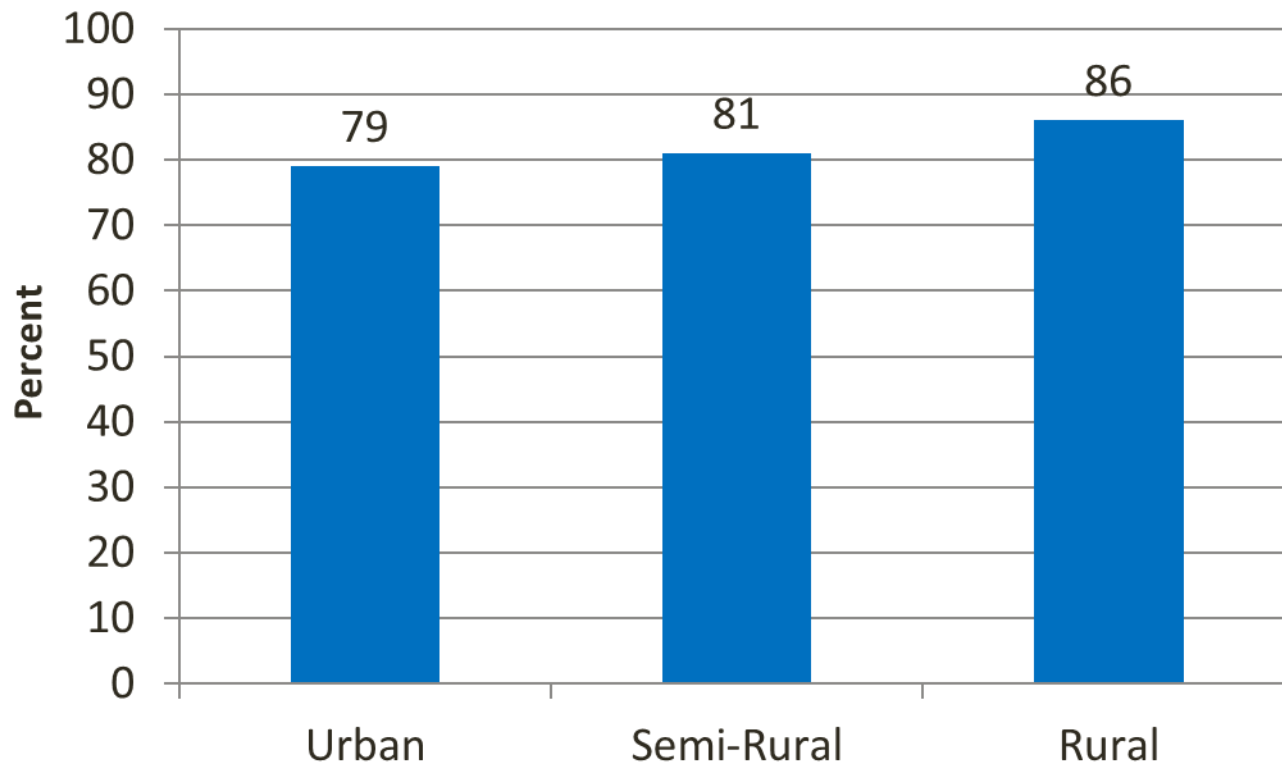




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Support for Democracy by Locality

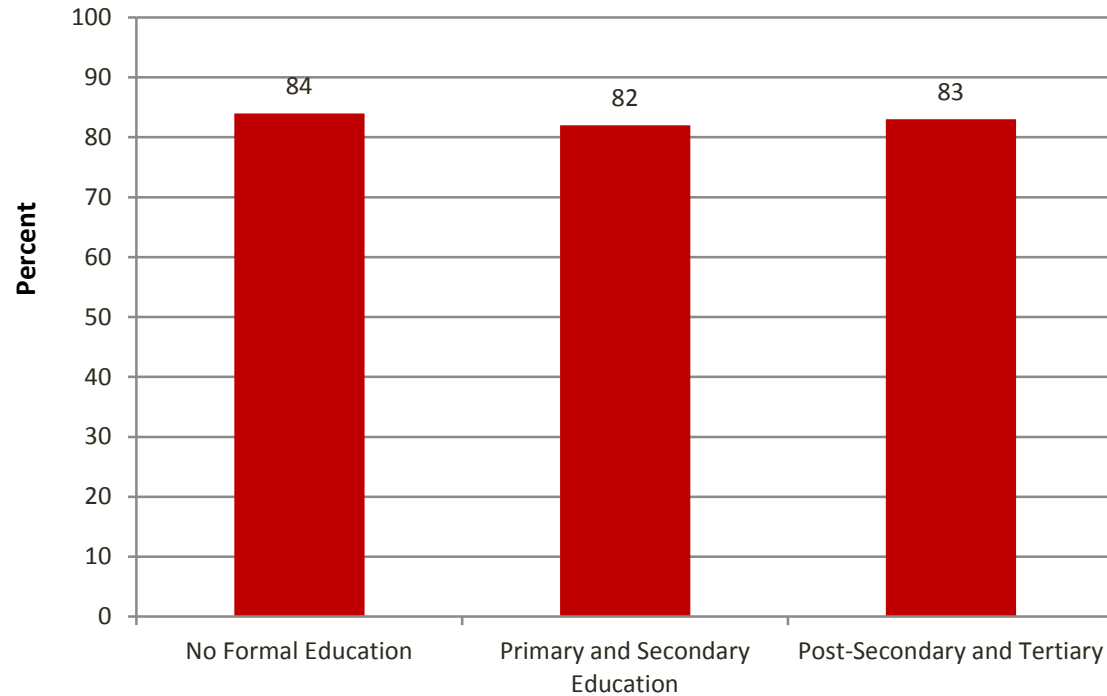




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Support for Democracy by Education

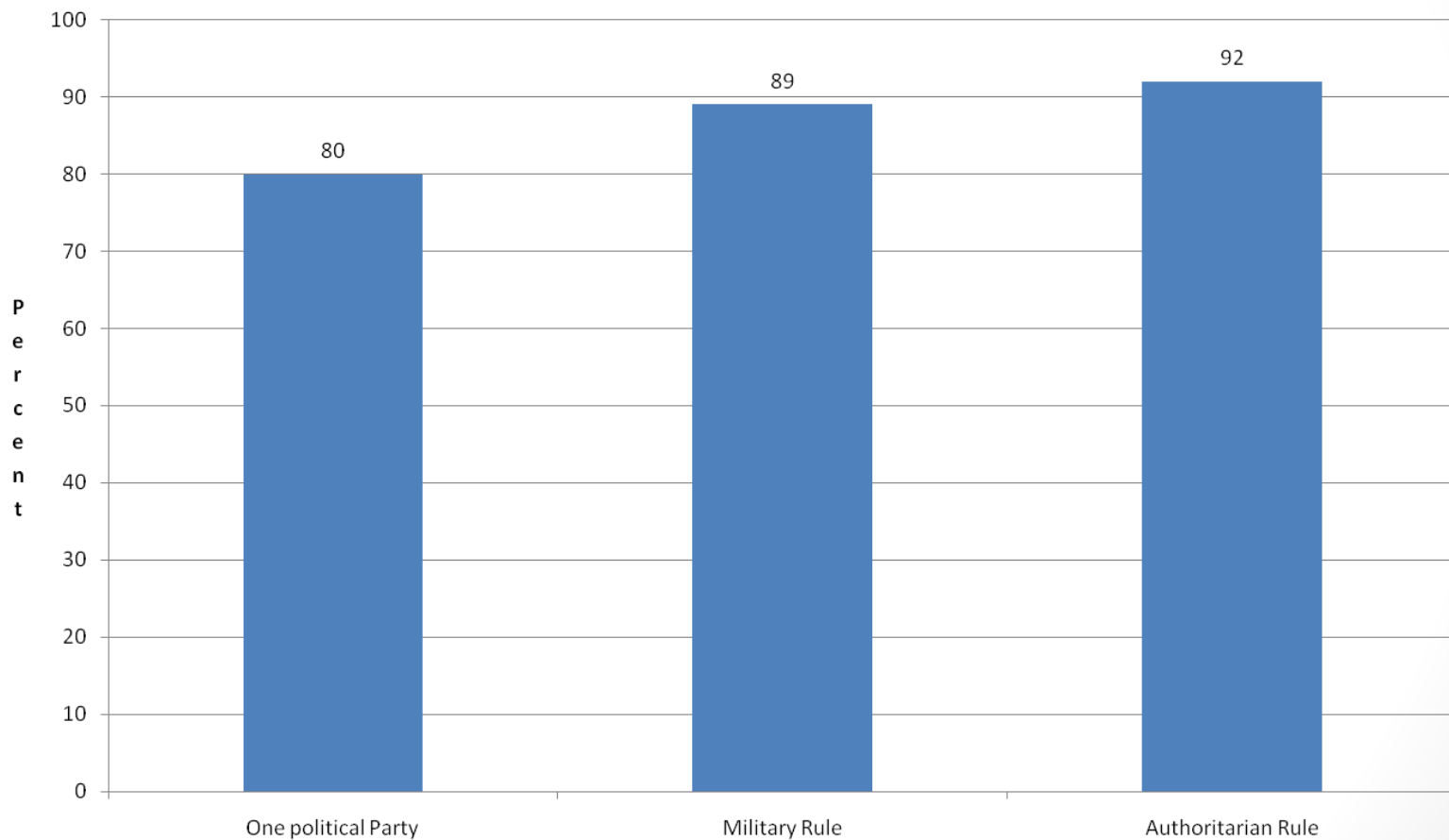




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Batswana Overwhelmingly Reject Un-Democratic Rule



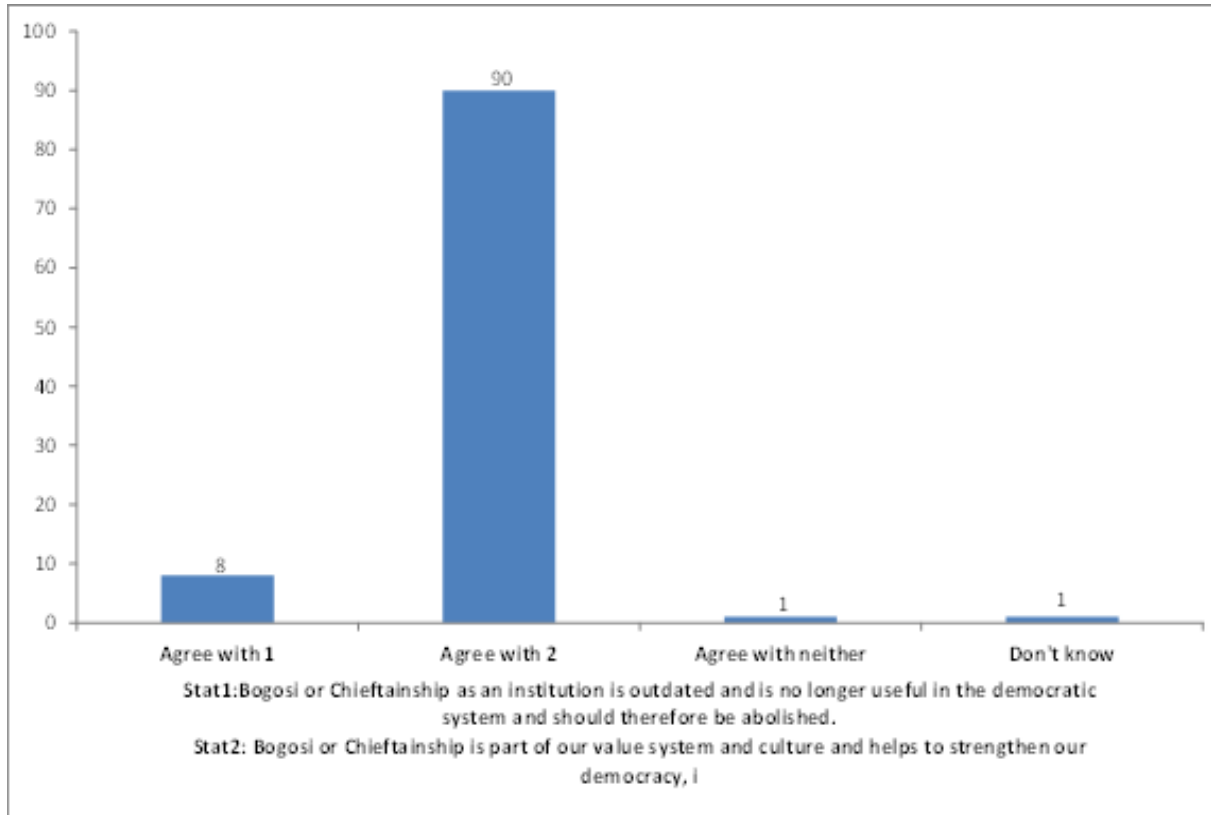


Research Question

- Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 - Bogosi as an institution is outdated and is no longer useful in the democratic system and should therefore be abolished
 - Bogosi is part of our value system and culture and helstrengthen our democracy, it should be retained

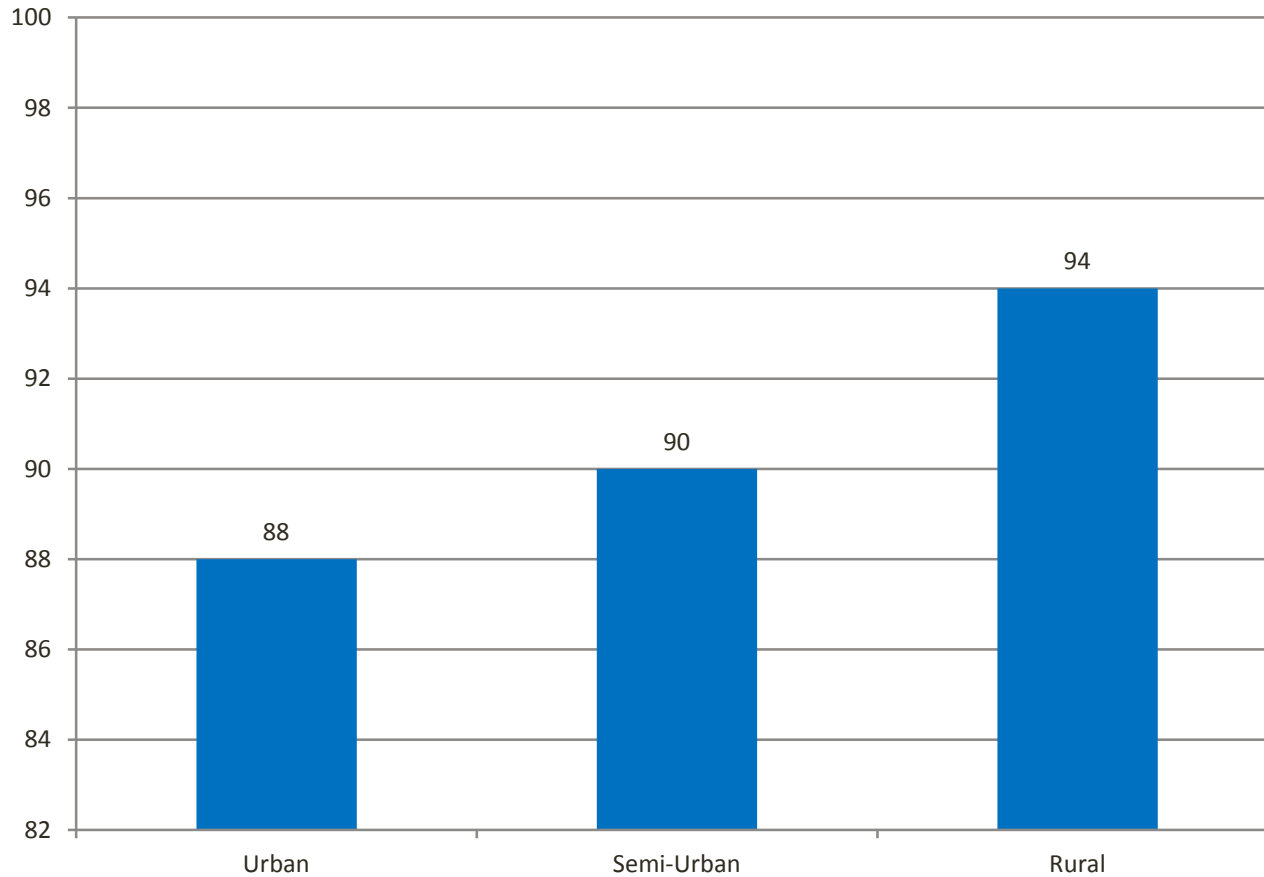


Support for Bogosi



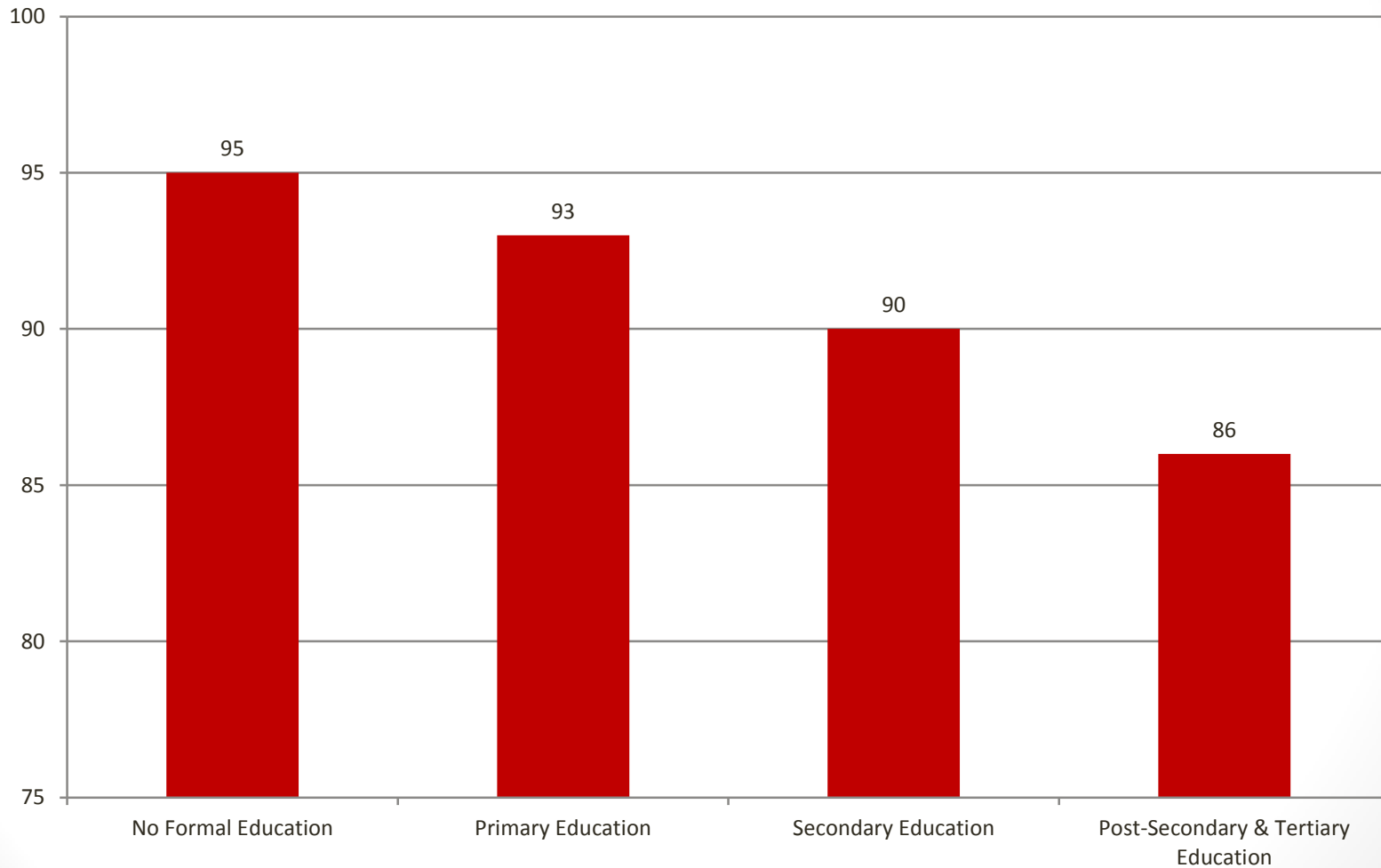


Support for Bogosi by Locality



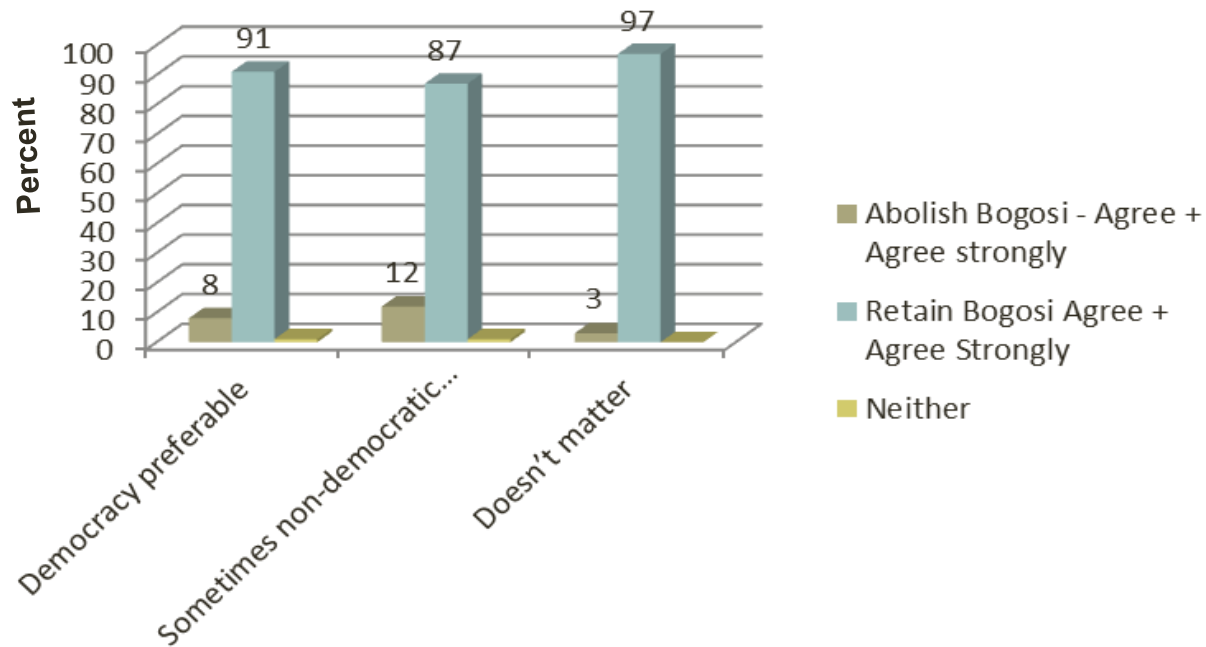


Support for Bogosi by Education

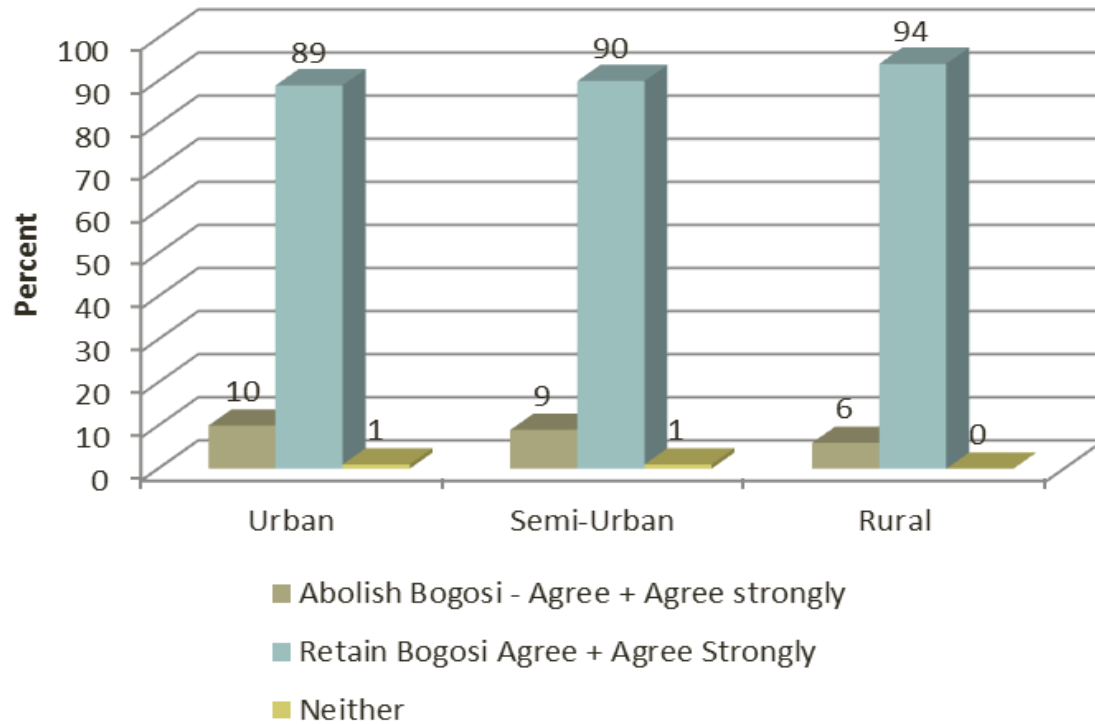




Democracy-Bogosi Paradox

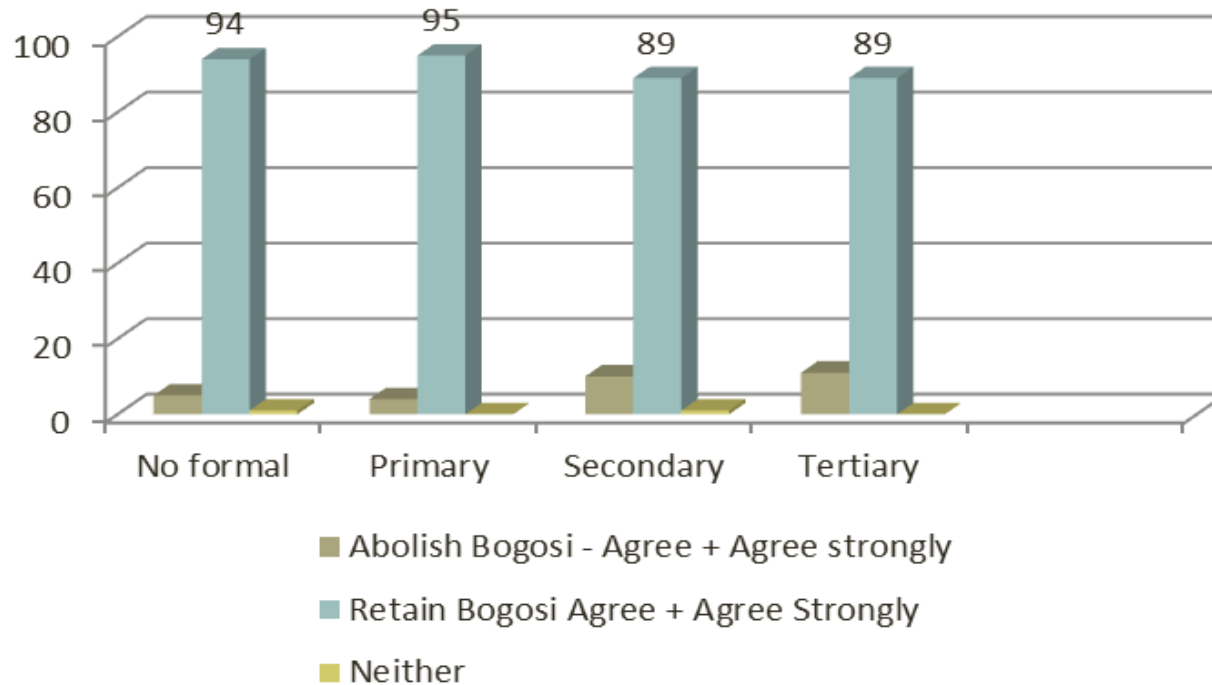


Retain Bogosi by Locality





Retain Bogosi by Education





Conclusion



- Conventional wisdom suggest that as more people are urbanised and educated they will transcend traditional loyalties but the survey findings do not support that.
- Paradoxically overwhelming majorities support both democracy and chieftainship.
- Perhaps blending of traditional and democratic institutions accounts for Botswana's relative political stability
- Bogosi is a necessary partner in democratisation.



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