

Windhoek, Namibia
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News release

Majority of Namibians endorse gender equality in politics, say women should have same chance of being elected as men

A majority of Namibians say women should have the same chance as men of being elected to political office, the latest Afrobarometer survey shows.

Women and young respondents are more likely to hold this view than men and older citizens.

Almost nine in 10 Namibians also say girls are “rarely” or “never” prevented from attending school because their families prioritise the education of boys, although one-tenth of respondents disagree. One in four respondents say female students “often” or “always” experience discrimination, harassment, or requests for sexual favours from their teachers.

Regarding barriers to women’s employment, about one in four respondents say women lack the necessary education and skills to enter and advance in the workforce.

Key findings

- More than seven in 10 Namibians (72%) endorse gender equality in politics, while about one in four (26%) think that men make better political leaders than women and should therefore be given priority as candidates for office (Figure 1).
 - The view that men are more qualified for political leadership than women is more common among men (30%) and rural residents (28%) than among women (21%) and urbanites (23%). Older respondents (31% among those over age 55) and those with primary education or less (29%) are also more likely to hold this view than their younger and more educated counterparts (Figure 2).
- One in 10 Namibians (10%) say that in their communities, girls are “often” or “always” prevented from attending school because their families prioritise the education of boys, but the overwhelming majority (89%) say this “rarely” or “never” happens (Figure 3).
- One in four citizens (26%) say girls “often” or “always” face discrimination, harassment, or requests for sexual favours from their teachers.
- Asked what they think is the main barrier to women entering and moving up in the workforce, one-fourth of respondents (26%) say women lack the necessary education and skills, while others think employers prefer to hire men (16%) (Figure 4).
 - Roughly one in 10 blame a lack of remote or flexible work arrangements (12%) or a lack of child care (9%), while 6% say it is not socially acceptable for women to work outside the home.

Afrobarometer surveys

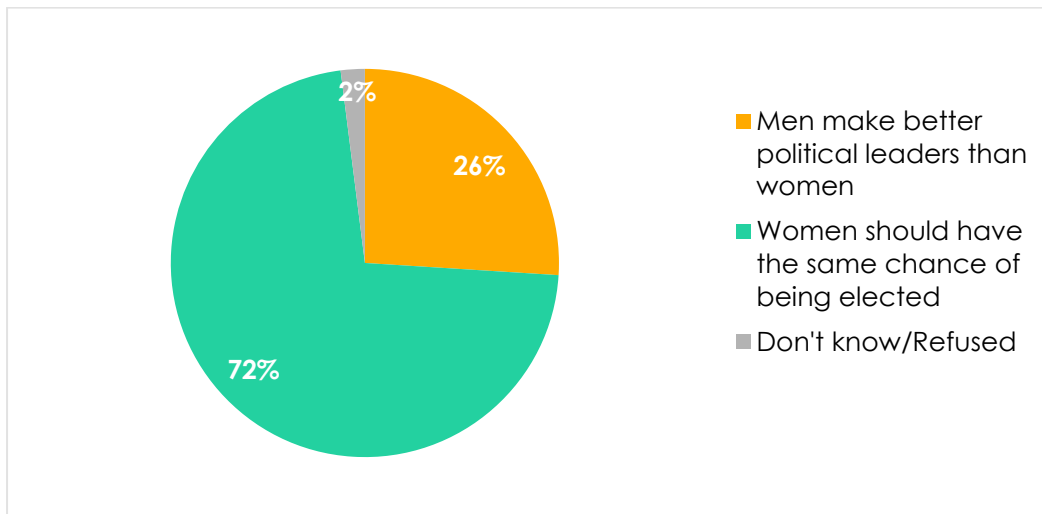
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys

were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by Survey Warehouse, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult Namibians in March 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

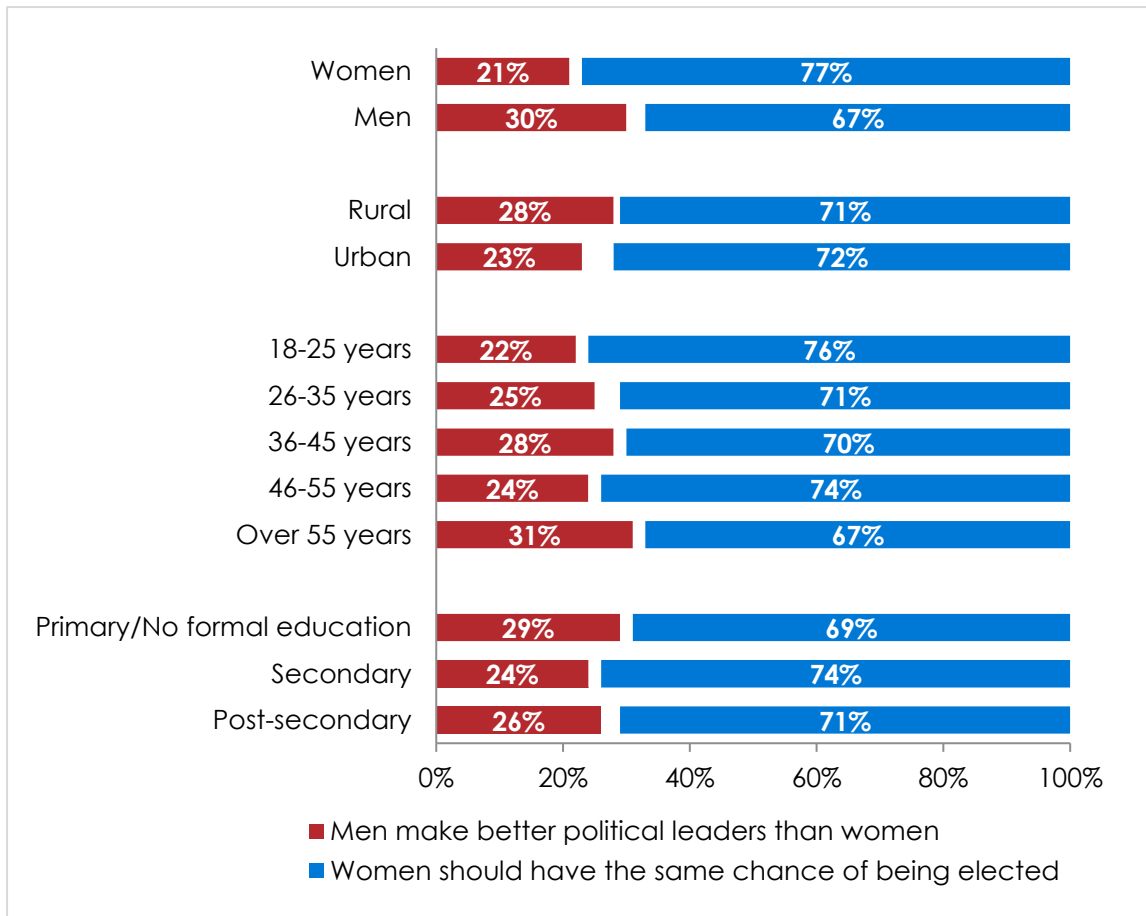
Charts

Figure 1: Women as political leaders | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women.
 Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.

Figure 2: Women as political leaders | by demographic group | Namibia | 2024



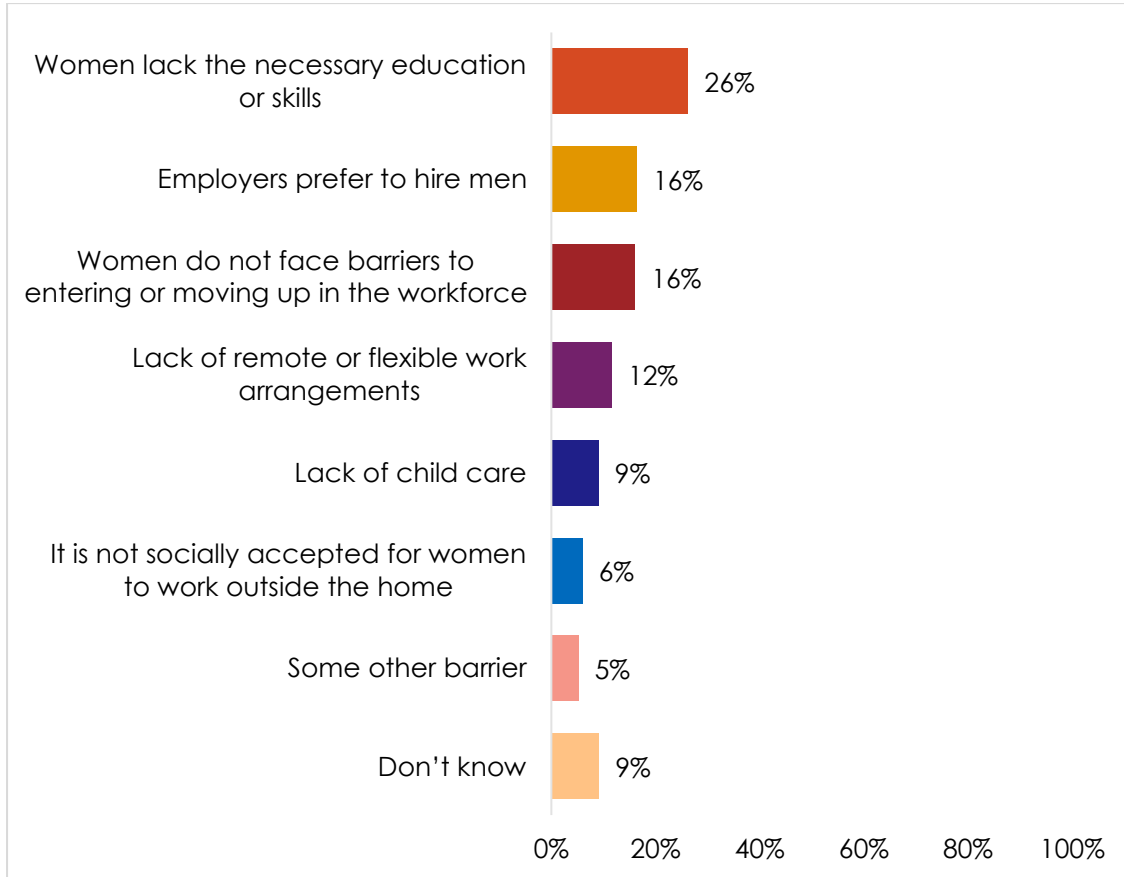
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Men make better political leaders than women, and should be elected rather than women.
 Statement 2: Women should have the same chance of being elected to political office as men.

Figure 3: Discrimination and harassment in education | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked: How frequently do the following things occur in your community:
 Girls are prevented from attending school because their families prioritise the education of boys?
 Girl students face discrimination, harassment, or requests for sexual favours from their teachers?

Figure 4: Barriers to women entering and moving up in the workforce | Namibia
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Respondents were asked: In your opinion, which of the following is the main barrier to women entering and moving up in the workforce?

For more information, please contact:

Survey Warehouse
 Christiaan Keulder
 Telephone: +264 81 129 1511
 Email: c.keulder@surveywarehouse.com.na

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