

LIVES, JOBS, HOMELAND

Afghan Women Journalists Lose All

A report by AWRT-K supported by Internews



Photo copyright: REUTERS/Jorge Silva

Second phase of a survey in two consecutive phases for gathering information on personal safety, challenges in reporting, level of involvement in media activities and overall changes experienced by female journalists since August 2021 in **Afghanistan**

LIST OF ACRONYMS

IAWRT	International Association of Women in Radio and Television
AWRT-K	Association of Women in Radio and Television – Kabul (Afghanistan Chapter)
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
AJSC	Afghan Journalists’ Security Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
CPAWJ	Centre for the Protection of Afghan Women Journalists
RSF	Reporters without Borders
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	1
Executive Summary.....	4
Introduction.....	7
Aim of the Survey.....	10
Background.....	11
Implementing Organization.....	13
The Survey.....	13
Survey Methodology.....	14
Sampling Method.....	14
Survey Respondents.....	15
Duration of the Survey.....	15
Challenges faced during the Survey.....	16
Findings and Analysis.....	17
Respondents spoken Languages.....	18
Age Group.....	19
Gender Ratio.....	20
Educational Level.....	21
Media Genre.....	22
Functioning Title.....	23
Work Experience.....	24
Survey Questions.....	25
1. Do you still have a job?.....	26
1.1 In-depth analysis of respondents answering ‘No’ to Question 1 above.....	27
2. Which areas did you cover/do you cover in your field of work?.....	28
3. What changes have been made to your job since the collapse of the former government?	29
3.1 In-depth analysis of respondents answering ‘Slight Changes’ and/or ‘No Major Changes’ to Question 3 above.....	30

4. To what extent are there restrictions imposed on reporting since the takeover of power by the de facto authorities?	31
5. Do de facto authorities' spokespersons respond to female journalists?.....	32
6. As a journalist, have you received any threats since the de facto authorities' takeover?.....	33
7. From your perspective, which of the following are major threats against female journalists?.....	34
7.1. In-depth analysis of respondents answering 'New Restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities' to Question 7 above, as a cause of major threat against female journalists.....	35
8. Have the imposed restrictions on journalists by the de facto authorities, particularly on the dressing of women journalists, caused you not to attend your duties?.....	36
9. Are there any changes in your salaries after the de facto authorities' seizure of power and financial squeeze that hit a number of media?.....	37
10. Are/were you satisfied with your workplace?.....	38
11. Which of the following makes you dissatisfied with the workplace you were/are involved in?.....	39
12. How do you evaluate the level of independence in reporting during the rule of the de facto authorities?.....	40
13. What are the obstacles that bar female journalists from reporting?.....	41
14. To what extent have arbitrary arrests of journalists and political analysts by the de facto authorities made reporting difficult?.....	42
14.1. In-depth analysis of respondents answering 'Very much' to Question 14 above, in response to difficulty in reporting due to arbitrary arrests of journalists and political analysts by the de facto authorities.....	43
15. Do you believe media has been under pressure from the de facto authorities and used as their mouthpiece?.....	44
Conclusions.....	45
REFERENCES.....	51

Second Phase of a survey conducted in two consecutive phases for gathering information on personal safety, challenges in reporting, level of involvement in media activities and overall changes experienced by female journalists since August 2021 in Afghanistan

| Executive Summary

The growth of independent media, expansion of women's rights, and access to education and health care have been the most significant gains for Afghanistan's society and economy over the past twenty years. It is difficult to overstate the gains made by women, youth, and minorities in this time, and the importance of the Afghan media in Afghanistan's broader story of transformation. Only a few years after the establishment of a broad-based government and new constitution in the early 2000s, Afghanistan was becoming a beacon for democratic rights and a free press in the region.

Since the August 2021 Taliban takeover, these gains have all been fundamentally imperiled. The Taliban's return to power has had serious repercussions for press freedom and the safety of journalists, especially women. Media freedom has been sharply curtailed,

denying millions of Afghans critical information and limiting accountability.

As women disappear from the public sphere, Afghan women journalists are vanishing at a rapid pace. Of the total number of women journalists in 2020, only 5% live and work in Kabul since the de facto authorities took back the political power¹. In August 2021, the Taliban movement took control of Afghanistan. This power shift followed a major escalation, as the de facto authorities' control of the country led international donors to immediately suspend most development funding and freeze assets worth billions of dollars.

Following the upheaval in Afghanistan on 15 August 2021 and the rise of the Islamic Emirate, the situation of journalists and the media in the country came to a

halt and unimaginable restrictions were imposed on them. Afghanistan's media outlets are on the brink of a meltdown as they face shortage of funding following the takeover. According to a survey conducted by Reporters without Borders (RSF) in December 2021, from 10,790 people working in Afghan media (8,290 men and 2,490 women) at the start of August 2021, only 4,360 (3,950 men and 410 women) were still working and the number may reduce even further ⁱⁱ.

For this survey, data were collected through online and in-person manual surveys in May 2022. The questionnaire included 23 questions and was completed by 308 respondents in Dari (75.97%) and Pashto (24.03%). All 100 percent respondents were female. The survey largely represented reporters (54.87%), followed by journalists (19.16%), producers (9.74%), presenters (3.90%) and others (12.01%).

As for media outlets, radio and TV stations are primarily represented (68.51% in total). Most respondents fall under the age category of 18-25 (51.95%) followed by 25-35 (43.83%). A majority of respondents (58.44%) were Bachelor degree holders. Regarding the field of work, a majority were covering Human Rights (31.82%), followed by Politics (26.62%), Security and Crimes (12.99%), Cultural Affairs (12.99%), Health (4.55%), Sports (1.62%) and other respondents (9.42%)

mentioned they cover/used to cover all areas.

A majority of respondents (67.86%) reported that they have lost their jobs since the de facto authorities' takeover of Afghanistan in August. The highest ratio of respondents having lost their jobs compared to the respondents interviewed were in Bamyan (100%), followed by Kandahar (91%), Balkh (85%), Badakhshan (68%) and Kabul (62%).

60.39% of respondents reported that they have felt 'major changes' since the collapse of the former government. In addition, 28.90% respondents reported changes in some cases. As for the level of restrictions imposed on reporting since the de facto authorities' takeover of power, an astounding 80.52% of respondents reported the case to be 'very restricted'. As far as the reporting autonomy is concerned, 45.13% respondents mentioned that 'Government Interferences have Increased', while 35.71% responded as 'Bad' meaning the independency in journalists' reporting is bad.

46.75% of respondents mentioned that the de facto authorities' spokespersons do not respond to female journalists, followed by 29.55% who mentioned that they do respond, but just in some cases.

All 100% of the respondents reported that they have received some kind of threat since the de facto authorities have taken over the power, and **reported the major threat against female journalists to be the new restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities (52.9%), followed by the gender-based discrimination (18.8%), and threats posed by extremist groups (16.9%).** A majority of the respondents (55.19%) reported that they were restricted from their work specifically due to their outfit/sense of clothing and some (27.92%) reported that they have experienced the same but to some extent only.

Due to the financial squeeze that hit the media industry of Afghanistan, the respondents confirmed that there have been considerable changes (39.94% in total) in their salaries after the de facto authorities' seizure of power. **48.05% respondents mentioned 'No' they are/were not satisfied with their workplaces, followed by 37.01% respondents mentioned as 'Relatively' satisfied.** About 79.87% of the respondents mentioned that the arbitrary arrests of journalists by the de facto authorities has made the reporting difficult, while 57.47% respondent in affirmation that due to the pressure on the media outlets, they have turned into mouthpieces of the de facto authorities.

As per a survey conducted by RSF in December 2021, most of the Afghan provinces had at least ten privately-owned media outlets just four months before, but now some regions have almost no local media at all ⁱⁱⁱ. Hundreds of journalists have also left Afghanistan since August for fear of reprisals by those who now rule the country or because of problems associated with practicing their profession under their rule, especially since establishing their interim government in September, the de facto authorities have issued a set of 'journalism rules.'

Women in Provincial Media: The de facto authorities' media restrictions have been particularly devastating for women journalists outside the capital, who typically have had to fight even harder than their urban counterparts to establish their careers in media in the face of sexism and security risks. Since their takeover, most women working in media have lost their jobs, and in some provinces, there are no longer any women journalists ^{iv}. The forces of the de facto authorities are deliberately targeting journalists and other media workers, including female journalists.



Introduction

The Taliban's rise to power has had serious repercussions for the respect of press freedom and the safety of journalists, especially women. Afghanistan is ranked 156th out of 180 countries in 2022, as per World Press Freedom Index^v, compared to 122nd in 2021.

Afghanistan media has a history of 149 years. In 1873 the first ever paper, Shamsunahar, was established. The first radio transmitter was installed in 1920. The first TV broadcast happened in Kabul in 1978. The Internet was linked and used in Afghanistan after 1996. In urban areas of the country, TV has the biggest share of the market while radio dominates the rural areas. Print has the lowest share. Social media are growing and covering almost all the younger generations. Radio covers 73 percent of the population and TV covers almost 40 percent^{vi}.

The environment for the media and journalists in Kabul and provinces has become extremely fraught since the takeover by the de facto authorities. Media must now comply with

the '11 Journalism Rules'^{vii} issued by the Information and Culture Ministry and with the de facto authorities' interpretation of Islamic doctrine on Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.^{viii} These 'Journalism Rules' open the way to censorship and persecution and deprive the media and journalists of their independence, forcing them to tell Information and Culture Ministry officials what they would like to cover, get their permission to go ahead, and finally inform them about the results of their reporting in order to be able to publish.

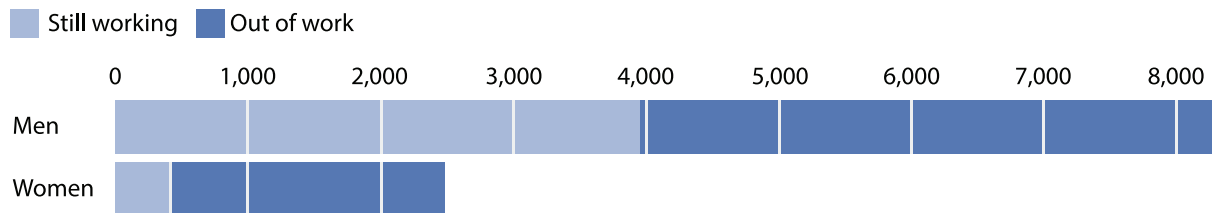
In some provinces, the obligation to replace news and music programs with programs of solely religious content and a ban on female journalists to come on-screen or even their voices not be broadcasted through radio, has also driven some local radio stations to cease broadcasting.

In November 2021, the de facto authorities' Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and

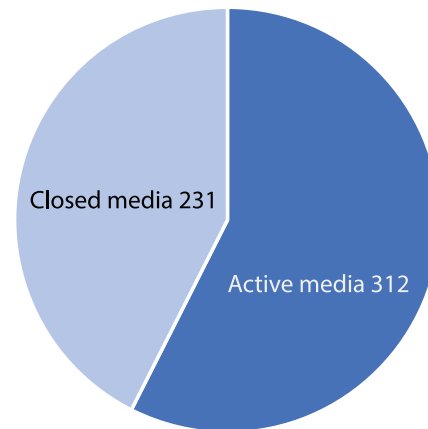
Prevention of Vice issued a directive which made the hijab compulsory for women television journalists. The new media regulations of the de facto authorities and threats against journalists reflect broader efforts to silence all criticism of the rule of the de facto authorities. The disappearance of any space for dissent and the worsening restrictions for women in the media and arts are devastating.

There has been a radical change in the Afghan media landscape since the return of the de facto authorities on August 15, 2021. Women journalists especially have been badly affected, with four out of five no longer working. A survey recently conducted by 'Reporters without Borders

(RSF)^{ix} and the Afghan Independent Journalists Associations (AIJA) reports that more than 40% of Afghanistan's media have closed, and more than 80% of female media workers have lost their jobs since mid-August 2021.



The study used the figures for the previous situation from a survey conducted by media outlets and journalists operating in Afghanistan before the de facto authorities returned to power. The survey further reports that a total of 231 media outlets have had to close down, resulting in 6,400 journalists losing their jobs. On a tally with the summer of 2021, out of 543 media outlets in Afghanistan, only 312 were still operating, meaning that 43% of Afghan media outlets disappeared in the space of just four months.



Journalists in the provinces have described members of the de facto authorities threatening, detaining, and beating them and their colleagues who were trying to report the news. Many journalists have felt compelled to self-censor and report only official events and statements by the de facto authorities. Women journalists have faced the most intense repression.

Harassment and attacks by the de facto authorities on journalists outside major urban areas have largely gone unreported, causing media outlets in outlying provinces to self-censor or close altogether. In many provinces, the de facto authorities have virtually eliminated

reporting on a wide range of issues and have driven women journalists out of profession^x.

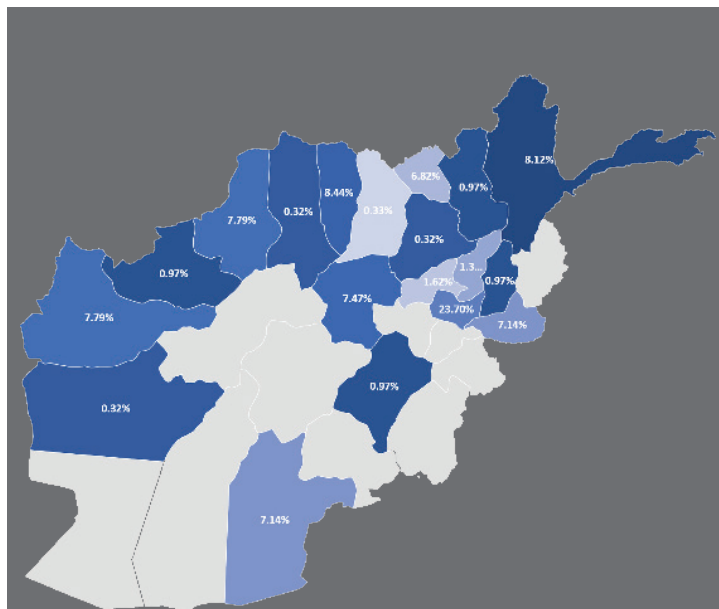
There are no national or international publications that adequately detail the problems that Afghan female journalists face in their everyday lives and career, currently under rule of the de facto authorities. The center for the Protection of Afghan Women Journalists (CPAWJ), the Afghan Journalists Security Committee (AJSC), and the Afghan Journalists Center (AJC) are just a few of the organizations that work directly or indirectly with Afghan female journalists and provide news and articles about them. However, because of the pressures currently applied by the de facto authorities on

the media sector, these organizations and centers merely develop articles purely on generic basis and none of them particularly and amenably discuss and address the real difficulties and challenges faced by Afghan female journalists. As a result, this survey was conducted and thereafter this report is developed on the current challenges that Afghan female journalists encounter. There is a surge in threats, summons for

interrogation and arbitrary arrests to which journalists and media outlets have been subjected to for the past several months in Afghanistan. The de facto authorities' intelligence agency known as the "Estikhbarat" and the Ministry for "Promoting Virtue and Suppressing Vice" are directly implicated in this harassment, which violates Afghanistan's press law.

Aim of the Survey

This survey report, aimed at gathering information about Afghan women journalists' personal security, challenges these women are facing in reporting, their level of involvement in the media activities and the overall changes experienced by female journalists since August, 2021 in Afghanistan. This survey was conducted both online and through in-person interviews with 308 journalists across 22 provinces of Afghanistan, with a major focus on 10 provinces; Kabul, Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyán, Faryab, Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Paktia.



Source: AWRT- Afghanistan online & offline surveys, second phase

| Background

Journalists throughout Afghanistan are concerned that the de facto authorities severely restrict their work in violation of the Afghan media law and international human rights standards on freedom of expression and the media.

Living and leading life in a traditional and unsafe nation like Afghanistan is challenging. Women,

in particular, are more likely to have these issues. Despite accounting for half of Afghanistan's population, they are constantly confronted with challenges. As one of the harshest of winters sets on Afghanistan, many voices are reminding us that the humanitarian crisis in the country is also a human rights crisis, and particularly a women's rights crisis.

This survey is conducted with assistance from Internews to support female journalists and the media in Afghanistan.



Internews
Local voices. Global change.



Implementing Organization

AWRT-K, or the Afghanistan chapter of IAWRT, was set up in 2017, to strive to meet the urgent challenges faced by Afghan women in and around the media. It is affiliated to IAWRT International, a global network of women who are professional communicators or researchers in various media.

Women in the media in Afghanistan have a 100 year old history, beginning with 'Ershad al-Nuswan' in 1921, the first women's magazine produced by the women of Kabul. Since then, they have experienced many ups and downs but the past 20 years brought a rare freedom of expression. The regime of the Taliban in Afghanistan has effectively silenced a flourishing and vibrant media.

More Afghan women worked as journalists as compared to men,

and female Afghan reporters and editors were increasingly making their voices heard on a range of issues and not just on traditionally "feminine" topics like education and health.

In compliance with legal forms in Afghanistan, AWRT-K was registered under social organizations (communities and associations). The Law on Social Organizations requires social organizations to pursue "social, cultural, educational, legal, artistic and vocational activities" which could include either mutual benefit or public benefit purposes as under Law on SOs, Article 2 (1). The AWRT-K was established in the light of the Constitution and other laws of Afghanistan and registered under the number of 2742 dated 7/3/1396 (28/05/2017) with the Ministry of Justice of Afghanistan.

The Survey

This survey is based on the findings of the previous survey conducted earlier this year, and aims to gather information on personal safety, challenges in reporting and changes in the working environment of female journalists in Afghanistan. The survey assesses the status of media practitioners and provides a basis for regular monitoring and evaluation along with a roadmap for measuring progress.



Survey Methodology

The methodology of this survey was proposed by AWRT-K and supported by Internews Kabul. The methodology simply included the following three segments:

1. Conducting desktop research to explore information on the overall general status of female journalists and media workers, focusing on ten provinces, namely Kabul, Badakhshan, Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Paktia.
2. Using survey tools – Manual questionnaires were supposed to be filled by only female journalists and media workers. Therefore, AWRT-K has approached only female journalists and media workers as respondents of this survey. For more information, kindly refer to Annexure-A ‘Survey Questionnaire’.
3. Using online survey tools – Online questionnaires were supposed to be filled by female journalists and media workers. Therefore, AWRT-K made a demographically targeted online survey to approach only female journalists and media workers. For more information, kindly refer to Annexure-A ‘Survey Questionnaire’.



Sampling Methodology

Previously it was reported, that around 2,000 women were working in media outlets in Afghanistan, but based on the latest findings of AWRT-K and due to the current political transition, the number of women working in media outlets has drastically declined.

Province	KBL	BDK	BMN	FYB	BLK	HRT	KDR	KDZ	NGR	PKT	Online	Total
Sample	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	108	308



Survey Respondents

The respondents comprised of female journalists, media workers and practitioners working in the media sector and media unions, associations and professional bodies (advocates/activists). All the respondents participating in this survey were guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality, taking into consideration the fears and tensions all over the country, and the situation of journalists in general and female journalists in particular.



Duration of the Survey

The survey tools (Online and Manual) were initially reviewed, translated, edited and endorsed by a technical team at both AWRT-K and Internews offices. Following an orientation session for the surveyors, the questionnaires were disseminated

and collected. The manual questionnaires went through a data entry, data disaggregation and data analysis process. The whole exercise was completed in around two months (April – May, 2022).



Challenges faced during the **Survey**

1. Online surveys are uncommon in Afghanistan and, therefore, it took more time and digital-promotional efforts than expected to get the survey forms filled online.
2. Female journalists are still living in an environment of fear and tension and do not actively participate in the surveys as such. As a mitigation effort, all the respondents were guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality.
3. Some of the female journalists in Afghanistan did not attend/respond to the survey due to the environment of fear and tension caused as result of the current restrictions and pressures of the de facto authorities on the media industry in Afghanistan.
4. There were plenty of risk and potential threats involved to AWRT-K's personnel as there was the likelihood of de facto authorities' interferences and potential reflection on activities engaging Afghan women.
5. Hence, there was a lot of back-and-forth communication with the established networks and the targeted individuals who were supposed to fill the forms online. Giving them prior notification and explaining them different sections of the questionnaire was a time-consuming exercise.
6. The initial estimation on the number of female media workers drastically reduced after the political transition in the country in August 2021, making it hard for AWRT-K to approach the required number of female media professionals.
7. In general, the media community of Afghanistan is under serious scrutiny by the de facto authorities. The media liberty and exposing freedom of expression is holdback by many media outlets. The potential consequences do not favor the media community.

Findings and Analysis





In-person Survey

A total of 200 respondents were targeted in ten (10) provinces of Afghanistan. The findings of the manual in-person survey are discussed in subsequent passages.



Online Survey

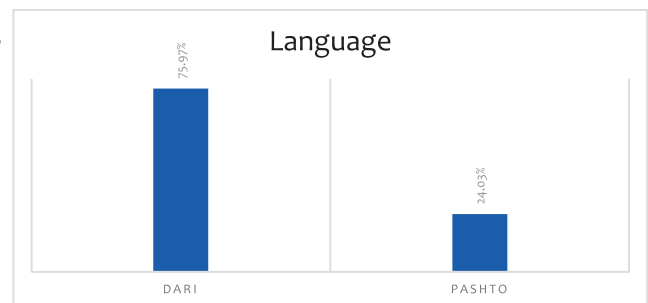
A total of 108 respondents who are media professional were targeted through the online survey. The findings of the manual in-person survey are discussed in subsequent passages.



Respondents spoken Languages

Dari and Pashto being the major spoken languages in Afghanistan, 75.97% (234) respondents were identified as native Dari speakers, while 24.03% (74) respondents were identified as native Pashto speakers.

	Responses	
Dari	75.97%	234
Pashto	24.03%	74
TOTAL		308
Skipped		0

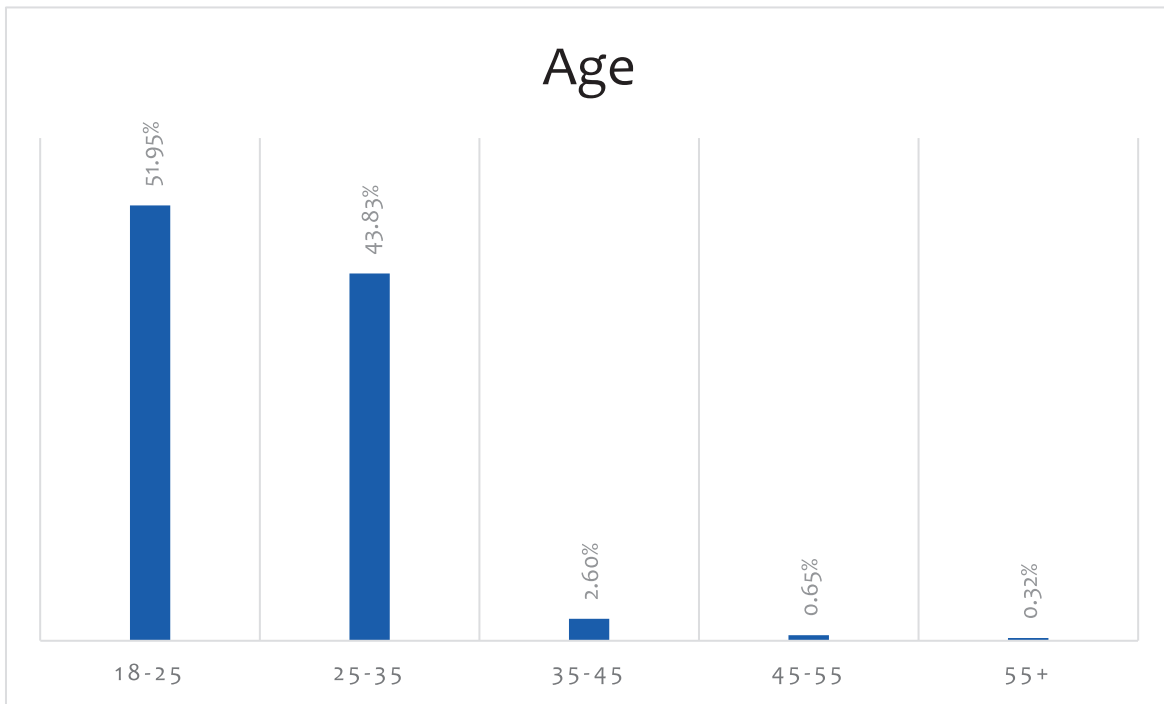




Age Group

Respondents from different age groups participated in the survey with a majority of respondents 51.95% (160) belonging to the age group of 18-25 years, 43.83% (135) in the age group of 25-35 years, while 2.60% (08), 0.65% (2), and 0.32% (1) respectively belonged to the age group of 35-45, 45-55 and 55+. While 02 respondents refused to answer this question.

	Responses	
18-25	52.95%	160
25-35	43.83%	135
35-45	2.60%	8
45-55	0.65%	2
55+	0.32%	1
Answered		306
Skipped		2
TOTAL		308

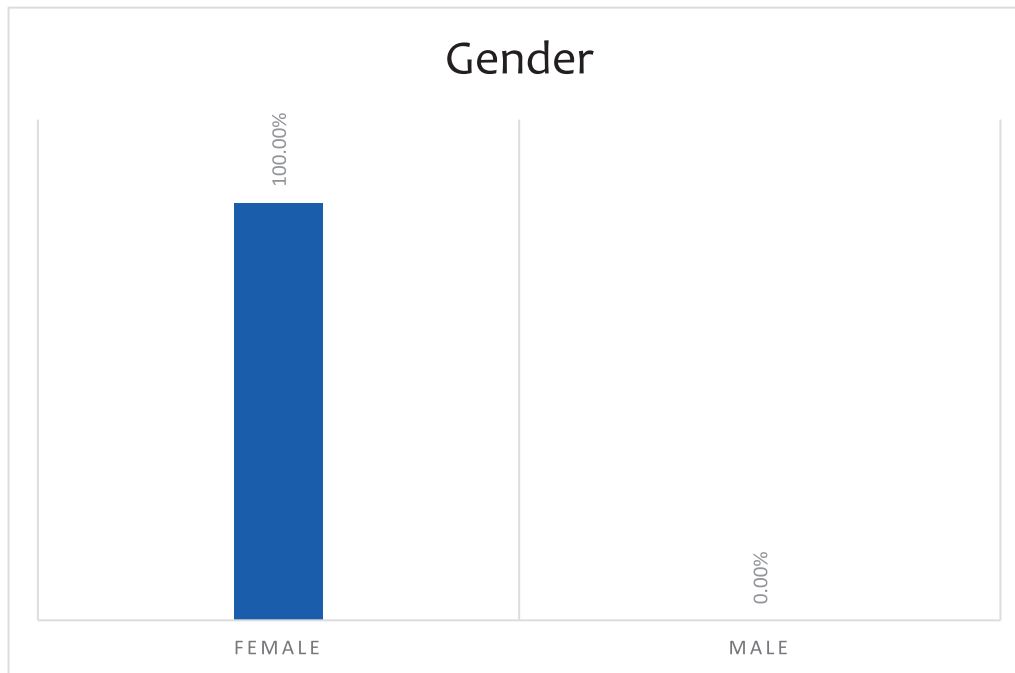




Gender Ratio

As the survey targeted only female media professionals working in the media sector of Afghanistan, 100% (308) respondents were female, while 0% (0) respondents were male.

	Responses	
Female	100.00%	308
Male	0.00%	0
TOTAL		308
	Skipped	0

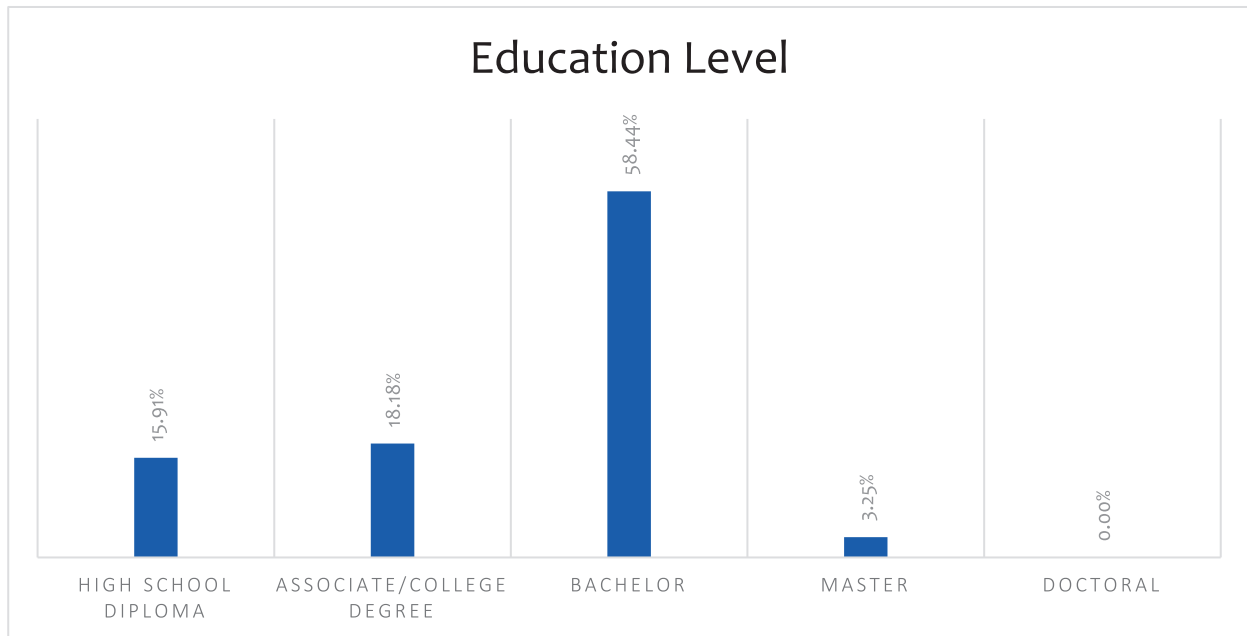




Educational Level

In terms of educational qualification, a majority of the respondents 58.44% (180) were Bachelor Degree holders, 15.91% (49) respondents were High School graduates, 18.18% (56) respondents were Associate/College Degree holders, 3.25% (10) respondents had Master Degree qualification. None had Doctoral qualification, while 13 respondents skipped answering this question.

	Responses	
High School Diploma	15.91%	49
Associate/College Degree	18.18%	56
Bachelor	58.44%	180
Master	3.25%	10
Doctoral	0.00%	0
	Answered	295
	Skipped	13
	TOTAL	308

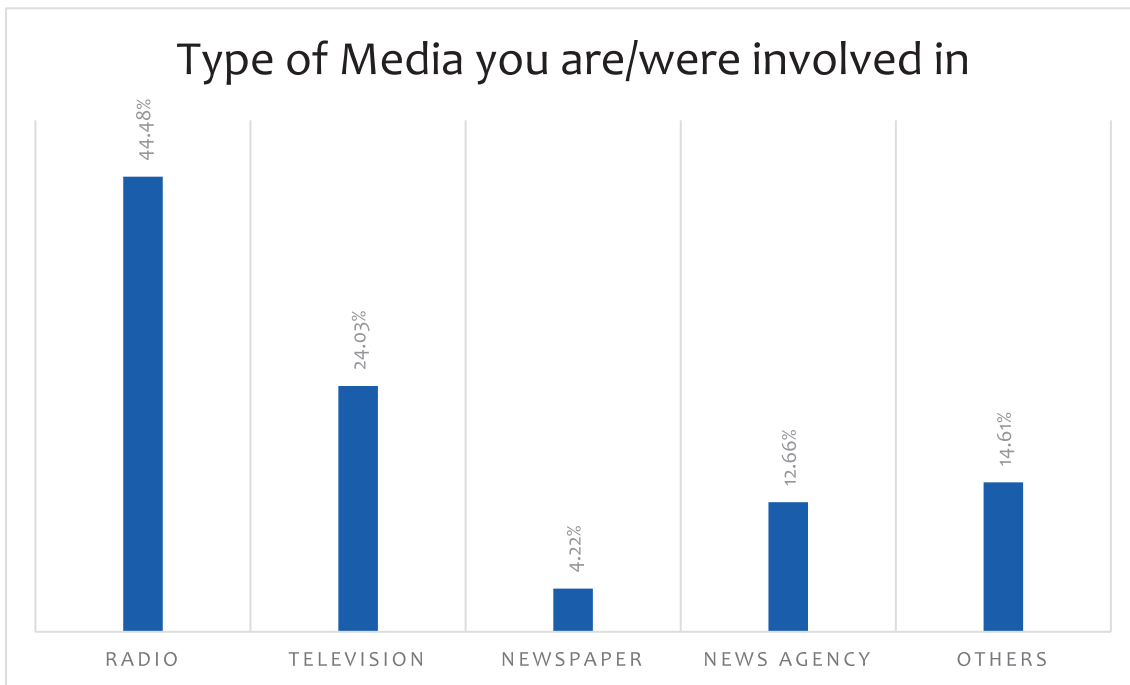




Media Genre

Most of the respondents 44.48% (137) were associated with Radio, 24.03% (74) were associated with Television, 4.22% (13) respondents were associated with Newspaper, 12.66% (39) respondents were associated with News Agencies, while 14.61% (45) respondents were associated with some other kind of media genres such as digital/online news and media agencies, and media advocacy organizations.

	Responses	
Radio	44.48%	137
Television	24.03%	74
Newspaper	4.22%	13
News Agency	12.66%	39
Others	14.61%	45
TOTAL		308
	Skipped	0

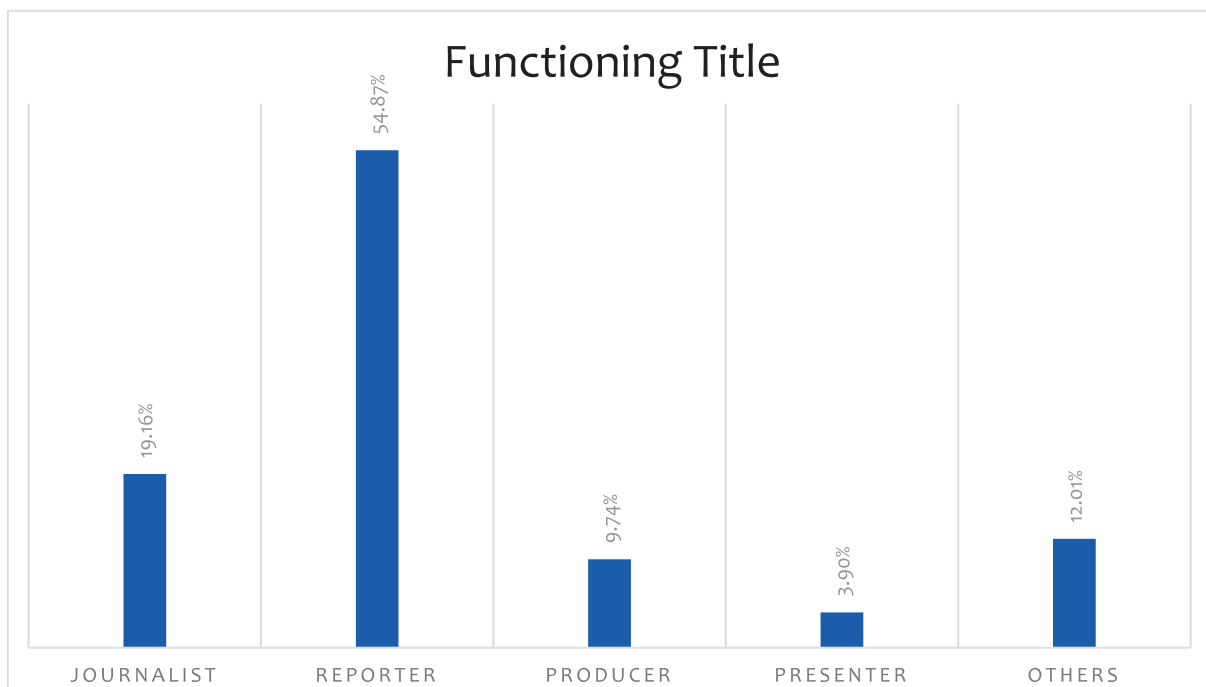




Functioning Title

Regarding area of work/expertise, more than half the respondents 54.87% (169) mentioned Reporters, 19.16% (30) respondents mentioned Journalists, 8.08% (25) respondents mentioned Writer/ Producer, while 19.26% (68) respondents were associated with other areas of expertise in the media sector of Afghanistan. In this question, only 1 (one) respondent skipped answering.

	Responses	
Journalist	19.16%	59
Reporter	54.87%	169
Producer	9.74%	30
Presenter	3.90%	12
Others	12.01%	37
Answered	307	
Skipped	1	
TOTAL	308	

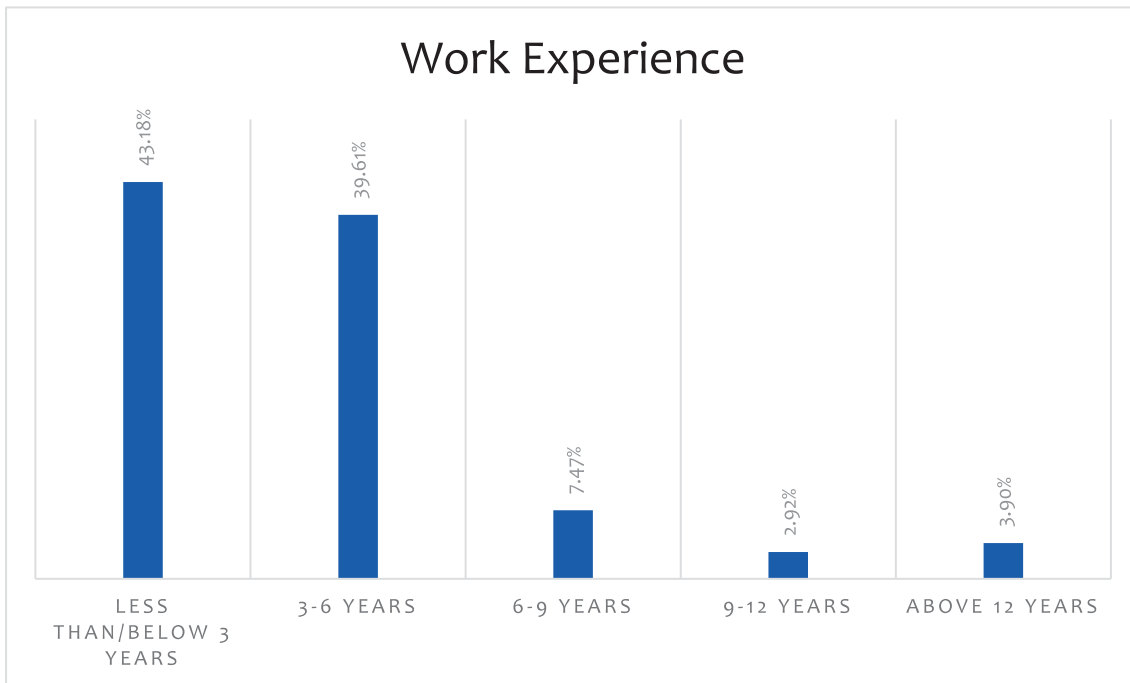




Work Experience

In terms of work experience, a majority of respondents 43.18% (133) mentioned as 'Less Than/Below 3 years' of work experience, 39.61% (122) mentioned 3-6 years of working experience, 7.47% (23) respondents mentioned 6-9 years working experience, 2.92% (09) mentioned 9-12 years of working experience, 3.90% (12) respondents mentioned above 12 years of working experience, while other 9 (nine) respondents skipped the question.

	Responses	
Less Than/Below 3 years	43.18%	133
6-3 Years	39.61%	122
9-6 Years	7.47%	23
12-9 Years	2.92%	9
Above 12 Years	3.90%	12
	Answered	299
	Skipped	9
	TOTAL	308



Survey Questions

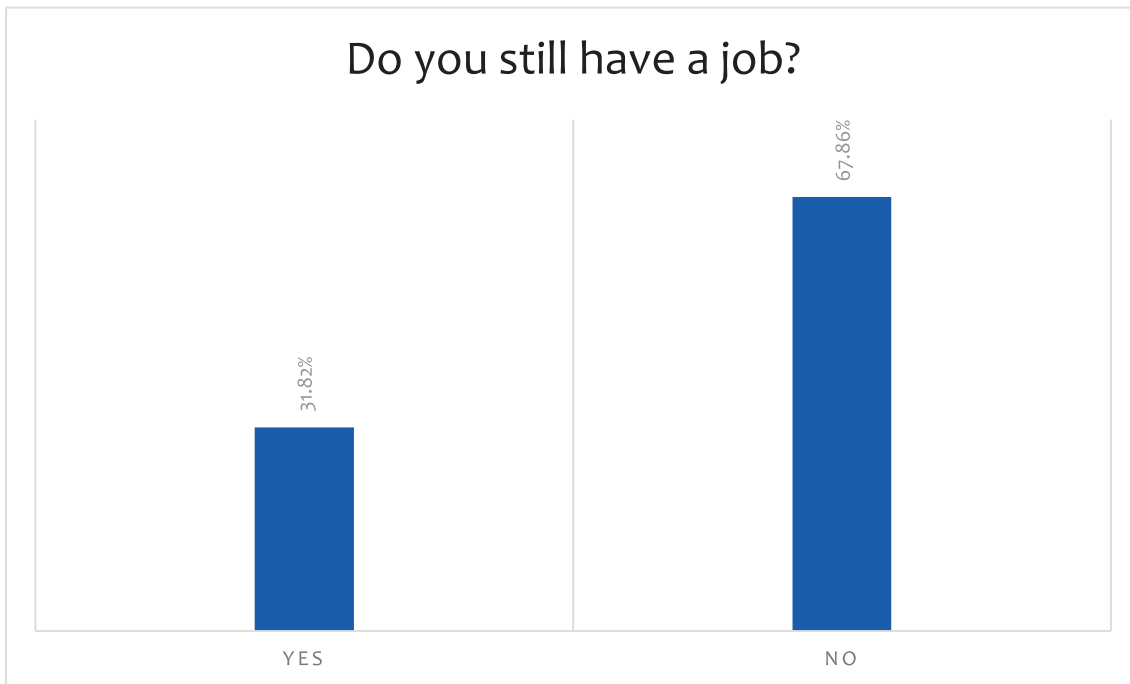




1. Do you still have a job?

Respondents were asked if they are employed at present. Out of 308 surveyed, a staggering 67.86% (209) respondents answered 'No', while only 31.82% (98) respondents answered 'Yes', and only 1 (one) respondent skipped this question.

	Responses	
YES	31.82%	98
NO	67.86%	209
	Answered	307
	Skipped	1
	TOTAL	308

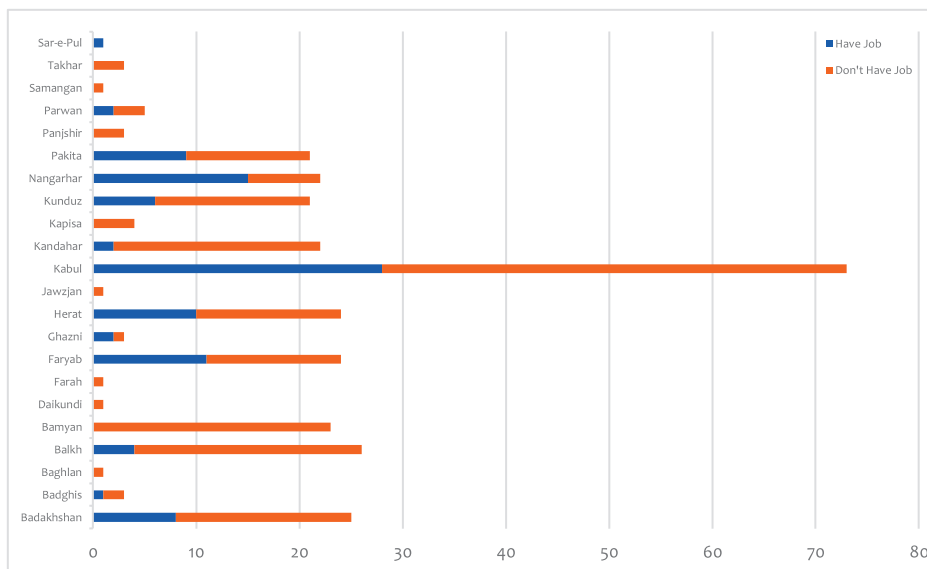




1.1 In-depth analysis of respondents answering 'No' to Question 1 above

Further analyzing the collected data by the survey to question 1, the below chart is sketched to show the number of respondents who are currently jobless, versus the total number of respondents surveyed in each province. Higher percentage, which is 100% is in Bamyan, 23 out of 23; 68% is in Badakhshan, 17 out of 25; 85% is in Balkh, 22 out of 26; 91% is in Kandahar, 20 out of 22; while Kabul is 62%, 45 out of 73.

Province	Number of respondents with 'No' Job		Province	Number of respondents with 'No' Job	
	Total Surveyed	Answered 'No'		Total Surveyed	Answered 'No'
Badakhshan	25	17	Kabul	73	45
Badghis	3	2	Kandahar	22	20
Baghlan	1	1	Kapisa	4	4
Balkh	26	22	Kunduz	21	15
Bamyan	23	23	Nangarhar	22	7
Daikundi	1	1	Paktia	21	12
Farah	1	1	Panjshir	3	3
Faryab	24	13	Parwan	5	3
Ghazni	3	1	Samangan	1	1
Herat	24	14	Takhar	3	3
Jawzjan	1	1	Sar-e-Pul	1	0

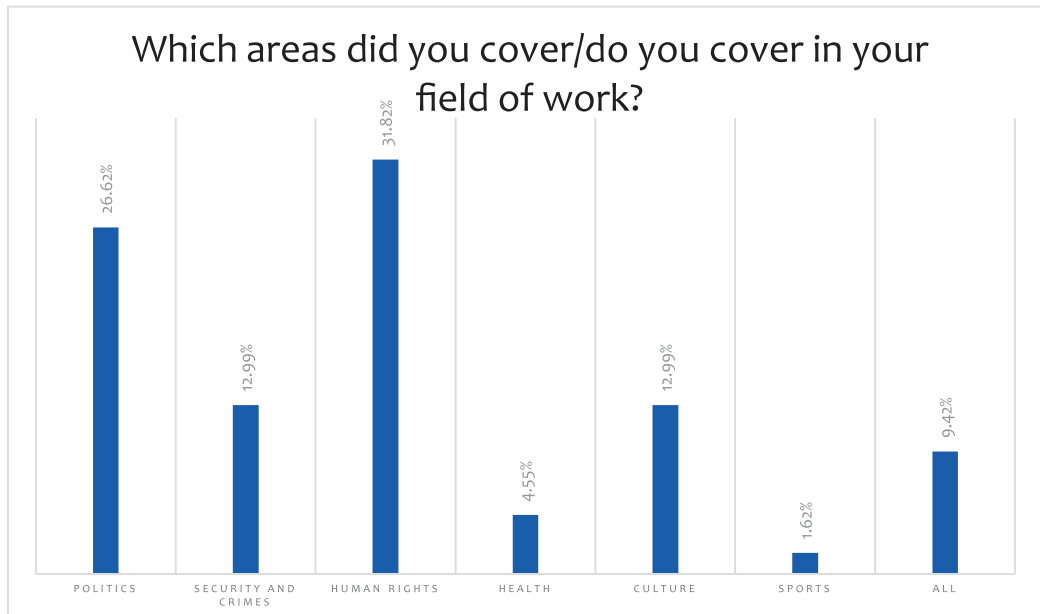




2. Which areas did you cover/do you cover in your field of work?

Respondents were asked what they covered in their field of work. The majority of respondents 31.82% (98) mentioned that they cover 'Human Rights, i.e., Women and Children', 26.62% (82) respondents mentioned they cover 'Politics', 12.99% (40) respondents mentioned they cover 'Security and Crimes', 4.55% (14) respondents mentioned they cover 'Health', 12.99% (40) respondents mentioned they cover 'Cultural Affairs', 1.62% (05) respondents mentioned they cover 'Sports', while 9.42% (29) respondents mentioned they cover/used to cover all areas.

	Responses	
Politics	26.62%	82
Security & Crimes	12.99%	40
Human Rights	31.82%	98
Health	4.55%	14
Culture	12.99%	40
Sports	1.62%	5
All	9.42%	29
	Answered	308
	Skipped	0
	TOTAL	308

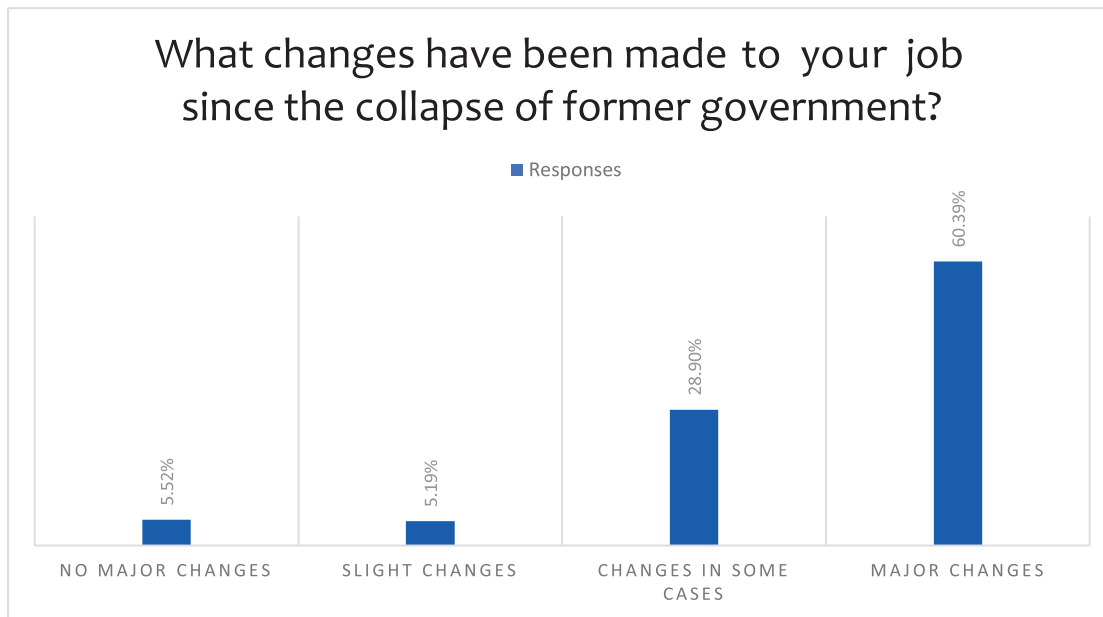




3. What changes have been made to your job since the collapse of the former government?

While asking the respondents whether there have been any changes made to their jobs since the collapse of the former government, an astounding 60.93% (189) respondents answered that they have felt 'major changes' since the collapse of the former government, 28.90% (89) respondents answered 'changes in some cases', 5.19% (16) respondents answered 'slight changes', while 5.52% (17) respondents answered 'no major changes' have been felt.

	Responses	
No Major Changes	5.52%	17
Slight Changes	5.19%	16
Changes in Some Cases	28.90%	89
Major Changes	60.39%	186
	Answered	308
	Skipped	0
	TOTAL	308

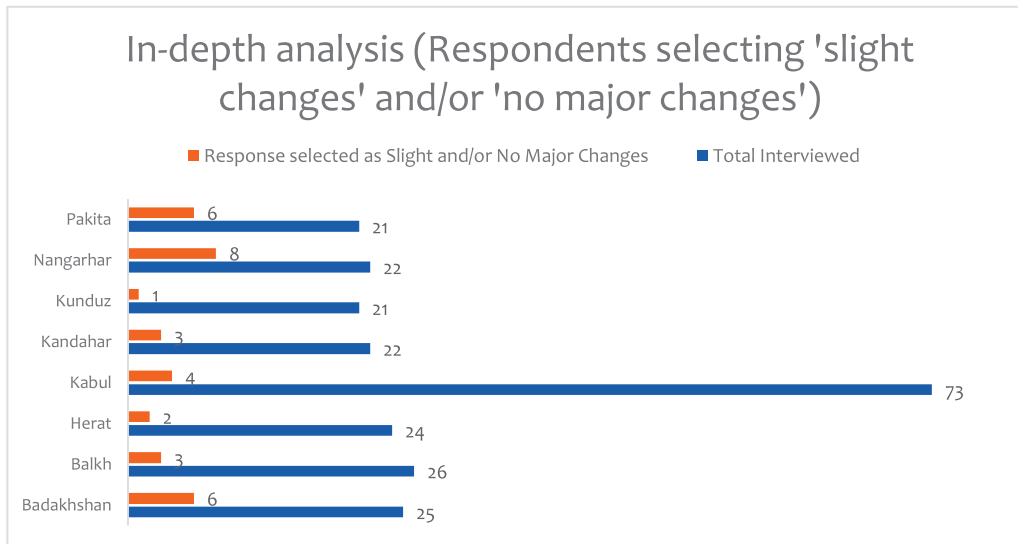




3.1 In-depth analysis of respondents answering 'Slight Changes' and/or 'No Major Changes' to Question 3 above

Further analyzing the collected data by the survey to question 3, the chart below shows the number of respondents who answered 'slight changes' and 'no major changes' to their jobs since the collapse of the former government. The data shows that out of 25 respondents surveyed in Badakhshan, 6 chose to answer slight changes and/or no major changes (24% of the respondents), followed by Balkh 3 out of 24 (12.5%), Herat 2 out of 26 (7.7%), Kabul 4 out of 73 (5.5%), Kandahar 3 out of 22 (13.6%), Kunduz 1 out of 21 (4.8%), Nangarhar 8 out of 22 (36.3%) and Paktia 6 out of 21 (28.6%).

Province	Number of respondents selecting 'Slight Changes' and/or 'No Major Changes'		
	Total Surveyed	Answered 'Slight Changes' or 'No Major Changes'	%
Badakhshan	25	6	24%
Balkh	24	3	12.5%
Herat	26	2	7.7%
Kabul	73	4	5.5%
Kandahar	22	3	13.6%
Kunduz	21	1	4.8%
Nangarhar	22	8	36.3%
Paktia	21	6	28.6%

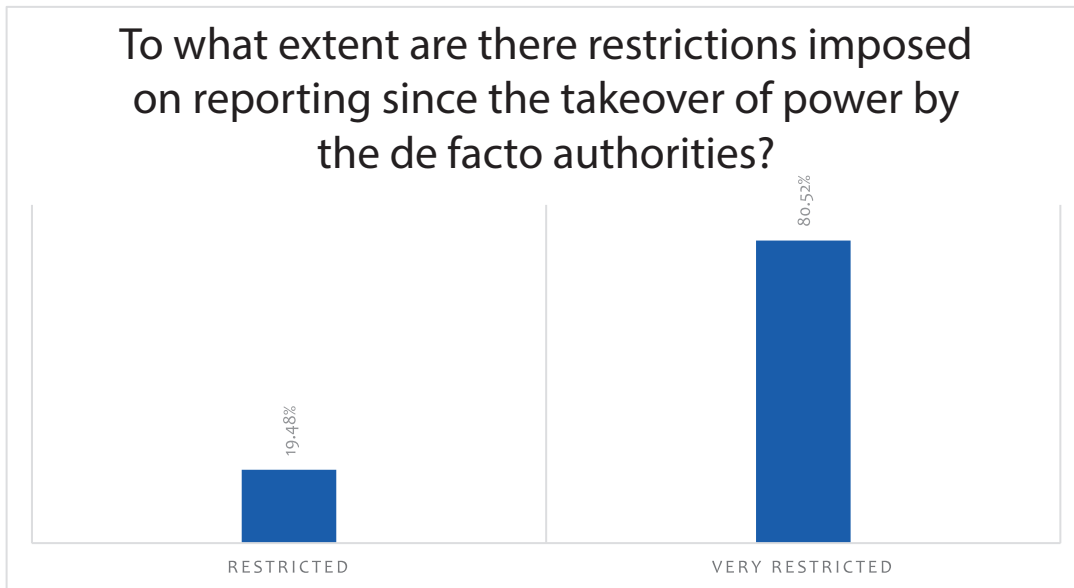




4. To what extent are there restrictions imposed on reporting since the takeover of power by the de facto authorities?

In another question during the survey, respondents were asked to what extent are there restrictions imposed on reporting since the de facto authorities' takeover of power, to which a majority of 80.52% (248) respondents answered 'Very Restricted', while the remaining 19.48% (60) respondents mentioned 'Restricted'.

	Responses	
Restricted	19.48%	60
Very Restricted	80.52%	248
	Answered	308
	Skipped	0
	TOTAL	308

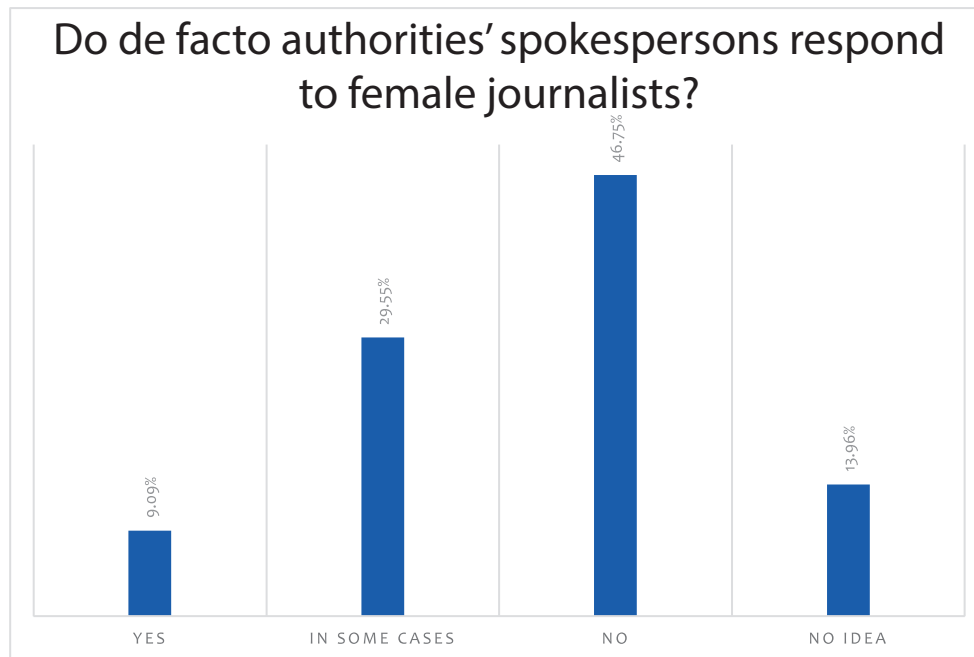




5. Do de facto authorities' spokespersons respond to female journalists?

Upon asking whether the current de facto authorities' spokespersons respond to female journalists, a majority of respondents 46.75% (144) answered 'No', 29.55% (91) responded as only 'In some cases', 13.96% (43) answered as they had 'No idea', while just 9.09% (28) respondents answered 'Yes' in positive. This question was skipped by 2 (two) respondents of the survey.

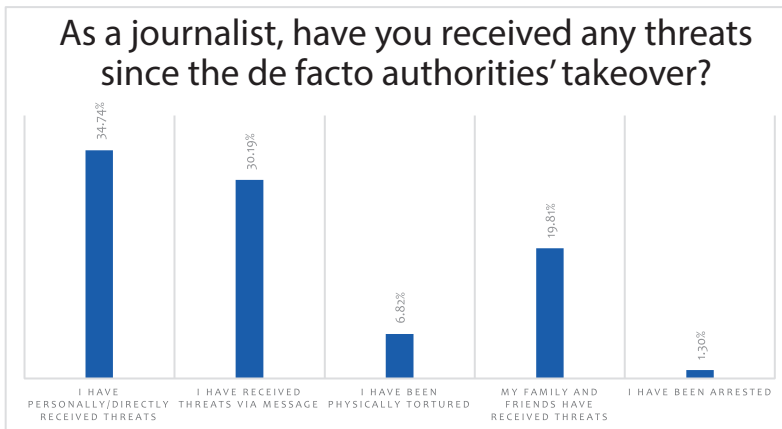
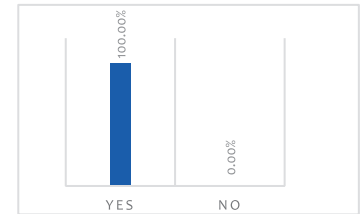
	Responses	
Yes	9.09%	28
In some Cases	29.55%	91
No	46.75%	144
No Idea	13.96%	43
	Answered	306
	Skipped	2
	TOTAL	308





6. As a journalist, have you received any threats since the de facto authorities' takeover?

Upon asking the respondents whether they have received any threats since the de facto authorities' takeover; and if YES; what? 100% (308) respondents mentioned 'Yes'. A very important aspect of the survey related to respondents receiving any threats since de facto authorities' takeover and what type of threats they have received; a majority of 34.74% (107) respondents mentioned that they receive threats, 30.19% (93) respondents mentioned that they received threats via Message, 6.82% (21) respondents mentioned they were Physically Tortured, 19.81% (61) respondents mentioned that their Family and Friends received Threats, 1.30% (04) respondents mentioned that they were Arrested, at least once; while 22 respondents skipped answering this question.



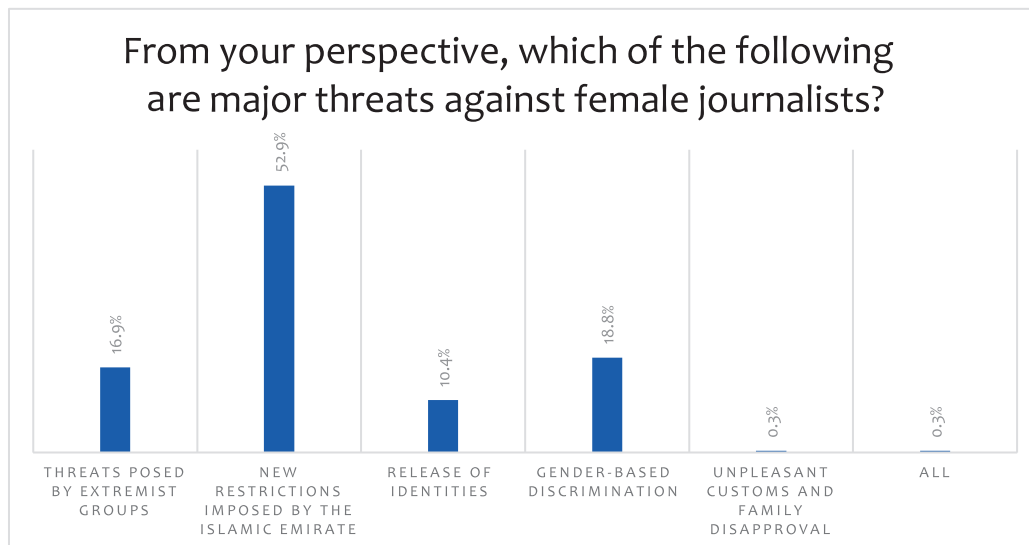
	Responses	
I have personally/directly received threats	34.74%	107
I have received threats via message	30.19%	93
I have been physically tortured	6.82%	21
My family and friends have received threats	19.81%	61
I have been arrested	1.30%	4
	Answered	286
	Skipped	22
	TOTAL	308



7. From your perspective, which of the following are major threats against female journalists?

Upon asking the respondents about the greatest threats to female journalists, a majority of 52.9% (163) respondents mentioned 'New Restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities', 16.9% (52) respondents mentioned 'Threats Posed by Extremist Groups', 10.4% (32) respondents mentioned the 'Release of Identities', 18.8% (58) respondents mentioned 'Gender-based Discrimination', 0.3% (01) respondent mentioned 'Unpleasant Customs and Family Disapproval', while 0.3% (01) respondent mentioned 'All' of the causes are the greatest threats to female journalists. 1 (one) respondent chose not to answer this question in the survey.

	Responses	
Threats posed by extremist groups	16.9%	52
New restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities	52.9%	163
Release of identities	10.4%	32
Gender-based discrimination	18.8%	58
Unpleasant customs and family disapproval	0.3%	1
All	0.3%	1
	Answered	307
	Skipped	1
	TOTAL	308

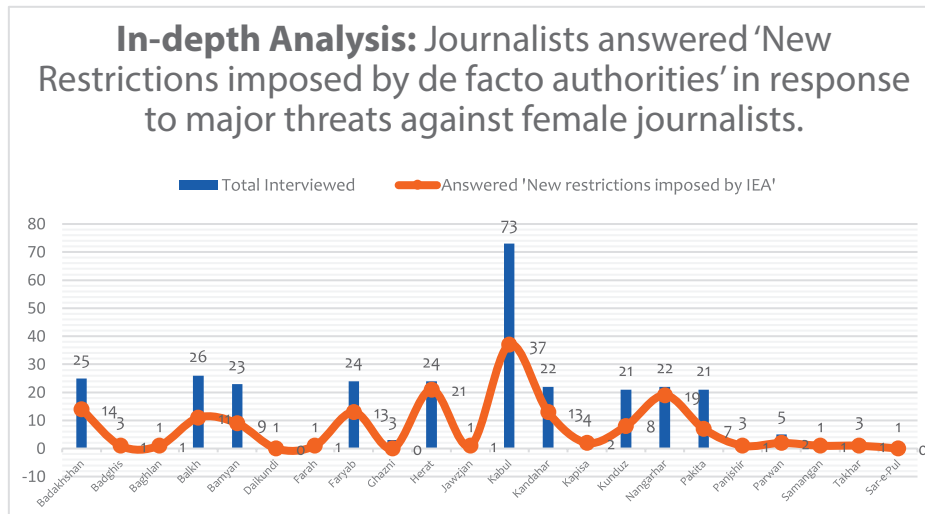




7.1 In-depth analysis of respondents answering ‘New Restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities’ to Question 7 above, as a cause of major threat against female journalists.

Further analyzing the collected data by the survey to question 7, below chart is sketched to show the number of respondents who have answered ‘New Restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities’, versus the total number of respondents surveyed in each province. Higher percentage, which is 87.5% is in Herat and 86.36% is in Nangarhar, 21 out of 24 and 19 out of 22 respectively; while Kabul is 50.68% which is 37 out of 73.

Province	Number of respondents with ‘No’ Job		Province	Number of respondents with ‘No’ Job	
	Total Surveyed	Answered ‘New restrictions imposed’		Total Surveyed	Answered ‘New restrictions imposed’
Badakhshan	25	14	Kabul	73	37
Badghis	3	1	Kandahar	22	13
Baghlan	1	1	Kapisa	4	2
Balkh	26	11	Kunduz	21	8
Bamyan	23	9	Nangarhar	22	19
Daikundi	1	0	Paktia	21	7
Farah	1	1	Panjshir	3	1
Faryab	24	13	Parwan	5	2
Ghazni	3	0	Samangan	1	1
Herat	24	21	Takhar	3	1
Jawzjan	1	1	Sar-e-Pul	1	0

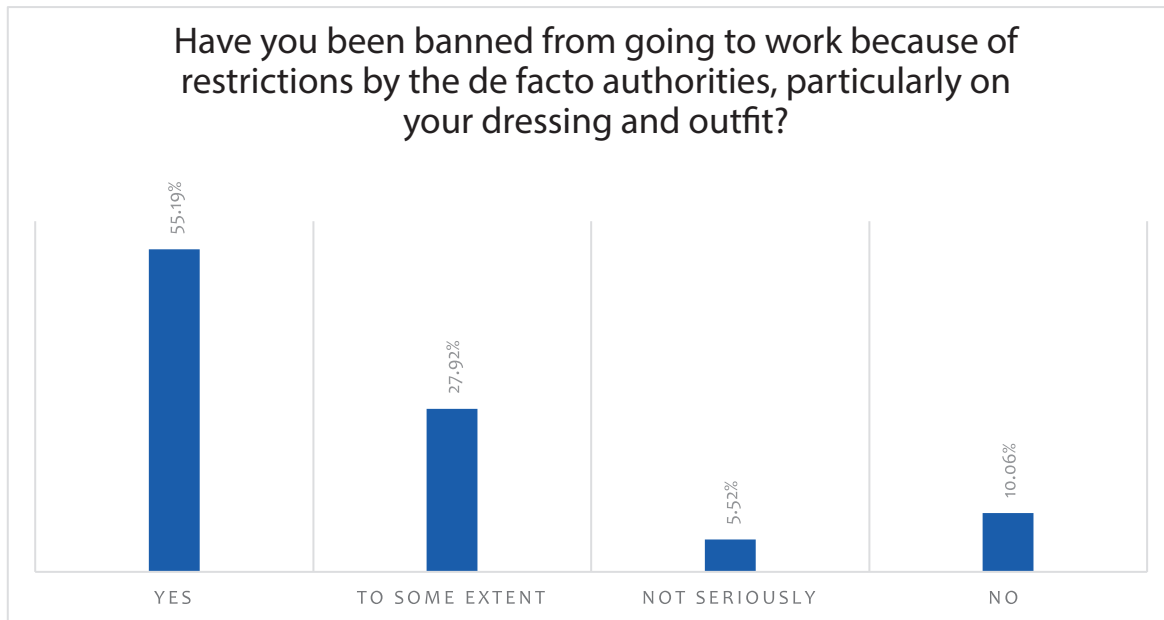




8. Have the imposed restrictions on journalists by the de facto authorities, particularly on the dressing of women journalists, caused you not to attend your duties?

The participants were also asked if they have been banned from going to work because of restrictions by the de facto authorities, particularly on their dressing and outfit, a majority of 55.19% (170) respondents mentioned 'Yes', 27.92% (86) respondents mentioned 'To some Extent', 5.52% (17) mentioned 'Not Seriously', while 10.06% (31) respondents mentioned 'No'. Out of all, a total of 4 (four) respondents did not answer this question in the survey.

	Responses	
Yes	55.19%	170
To Some Extent	27.92%	86
Not Seriously	5.52%	17
No	10.06%	31
	Answered	304
	Skipped	4
	TOTAL	308

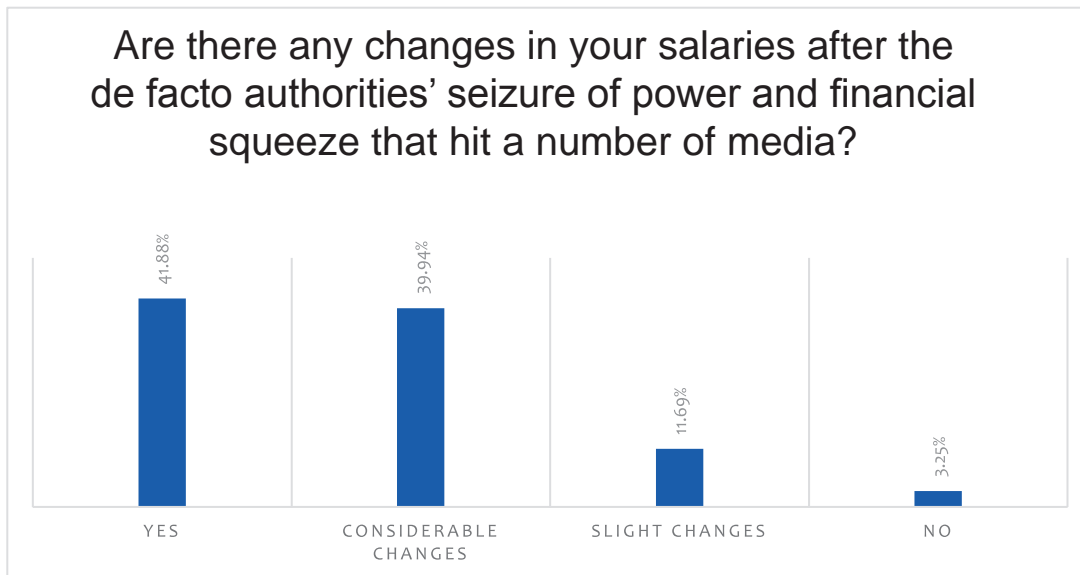




9. Are there any changes in your salaries after the de facto authorities' seizure of power and financial squeeze that hit a number of media?

Additionally, the respondents were asked if there are any changes in their salaries after the de facto authorities' seizure of power and financial squeeze that most of the media outlets are facing, a majority of 41.88% (129) respondents mentioned 'Considerable Changes', 39.94% (123) mentioned 'Yes', 11.69% (36) respondents mentioned 'Slight Changes', while just 3.25% (10) respondents denying this mentioned 'No'. 10 respondents chose not to answer this question during the survey.

	Responses	
Yes	41.88%	129
Considerable Changes	39.94%	123
Slight Changes	11.69%	36
No	3.25%	10
	Answered	298
	Skipped	10
	TOTAL	308





10. Are/were you satisfied with your workplace?

The survey also collected information about the satisfaction-level of the female journalists and media workers in their workplaces and the respondents were asked if they are/were satisfied with their workplaces. A majority of 48.05% (148) respondents mentioned 'No' they are/were not satisfied with their workplaces, 37.01% (114) respondents mentioned 'Relatively', while just 13.64% (42) respondents mentioned 'Yes' and they are/were completely satisfied with their workplaces. 4 (four) respondents chose not to answer this question.

	Responses	
Yes	13.64%	42
Relatively	37.01%	114
No	48.05%	148
	Answered	304
	Skipped	4
	TOTAL	308

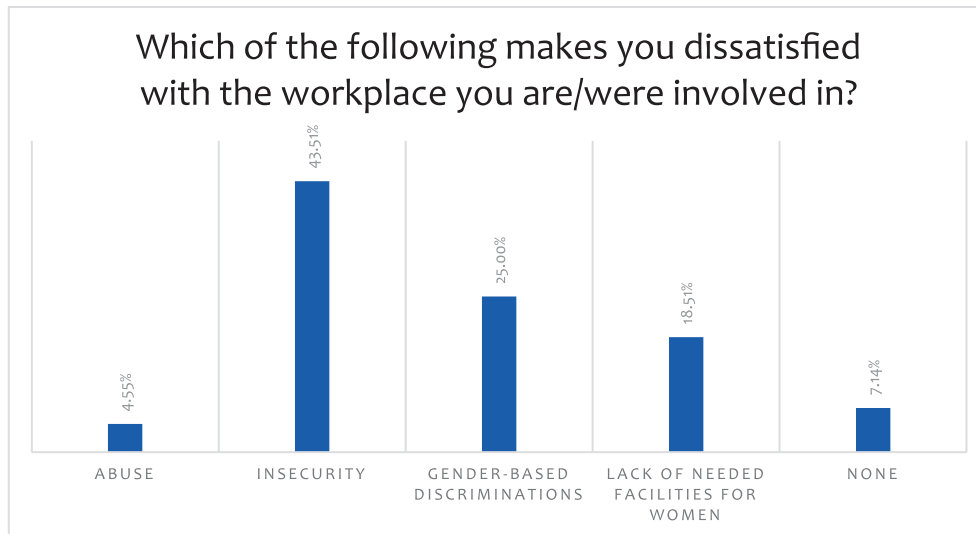




11. Which of the following makes you dissatisfied with the workplace you were/are involved in?

Upon asking the survey participants about the reasons of dissatisfaction at workplace, a majority of 43.51% (134) respondents claimed to have the feeling of 'Insecurity' at the workplace, 18.51% (57) mentioned 'Lack of Needed Facilities for Women', 25.00% (77) pointed out at 'Gender Based Discrimination', 4.55% (14) mentioned 'Abuse', while only 7.14% (14) respondents mentioned 'None of them; I am satisfied'. Out of 308 surveyed, 4 (four) respondents chose not to answer this question.

	Responses	
Abuse	4.55%	14
Insecurity	43.51%	134
Gender-based Discriminations	25.00%	77
Lack of needed facilities for Women	18.51%	57
None	7.14%	22
	Answered	304
	Skipped	4
	TOTAL	308

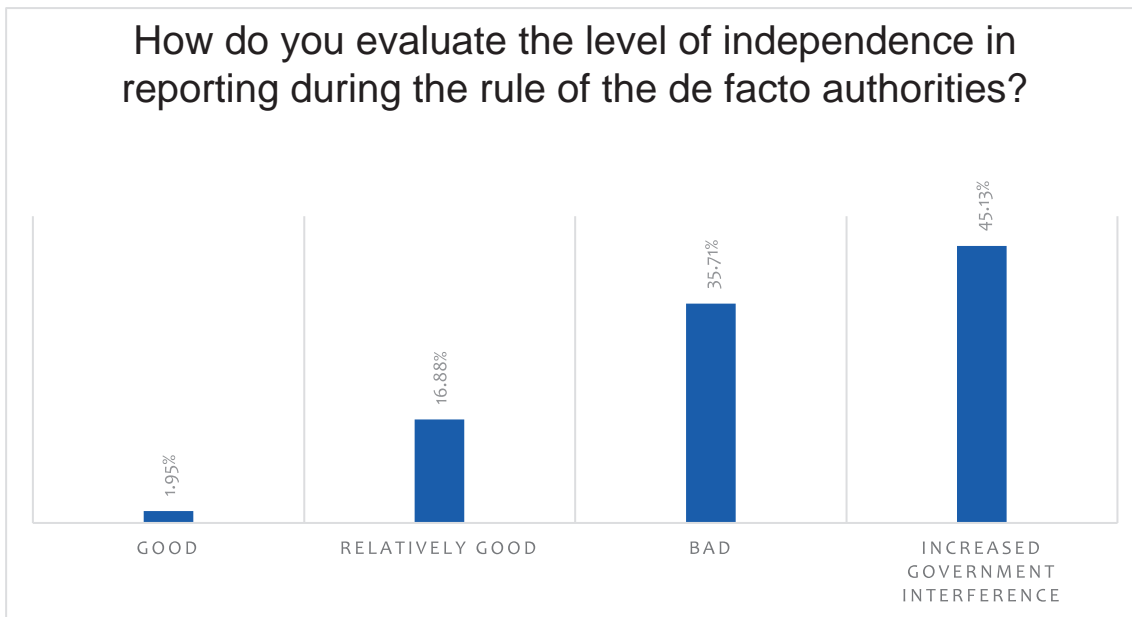




12. How do you evaluate the level of independence in reporting during the rule of the de facto authorities?

The participants were asked about what level of independence they enjoyed while reporting during the rule of the de facto authorities. A majority of 45.13% (139) respondents responded that 'Government Interferences have Increased', 35.71% (110) responded 'Bad' means the independency in journalists' reporting is bad, 16.88% (52) respondents responded 'Relatively Good', and 1.95% (06) respondents mentioned 'Good', while 1 (one) respondent did not answer this question.

	Responses	
Good	1.95%	6
Relatively Good	16.88%	52
Bad	35.71%	110
Increased Government Interferences	45.13%	139
	Answered	307
	Skipped	1
	TOTAL	308

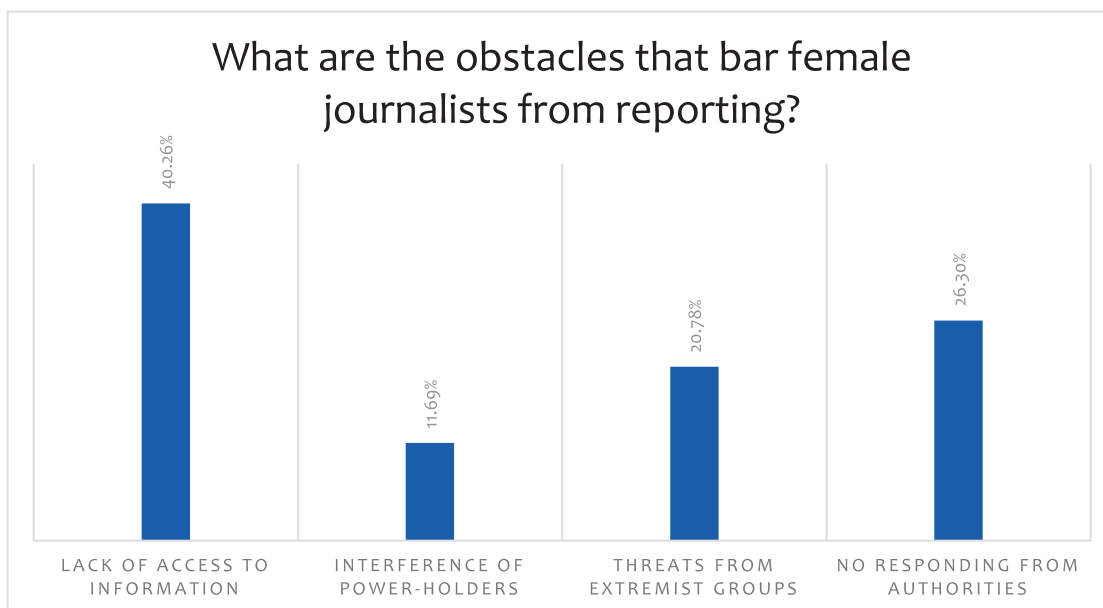




13. What are the obstacles that bar female journalists from reporting?

An important aspect of the survey was to get the opinion of the respondents on what obstacles bar female journalists from reporting. In this regard 40.26% (124) respondents suggested 'Lack of Access to Information', 20.78% (64) respondents mentioned 'Threats from Extremist Groups', 11.69% (36) respondents mentioned 'Interferences of Power-holders, 26.30% (81) respondents pointed out to 'No Response from Authorities' as the reason that bar female journalists from reporting; while 3 (three) respondents skipped this question.

	Responses	
Lack of access to information	40.26%	124
Interferences of strongmen	11.69%	36
Threats from extremist groups	20.78%	64
No responding from authorities	26.30%	81
	Answered	305
	Skipped	3
	TOTAL	308

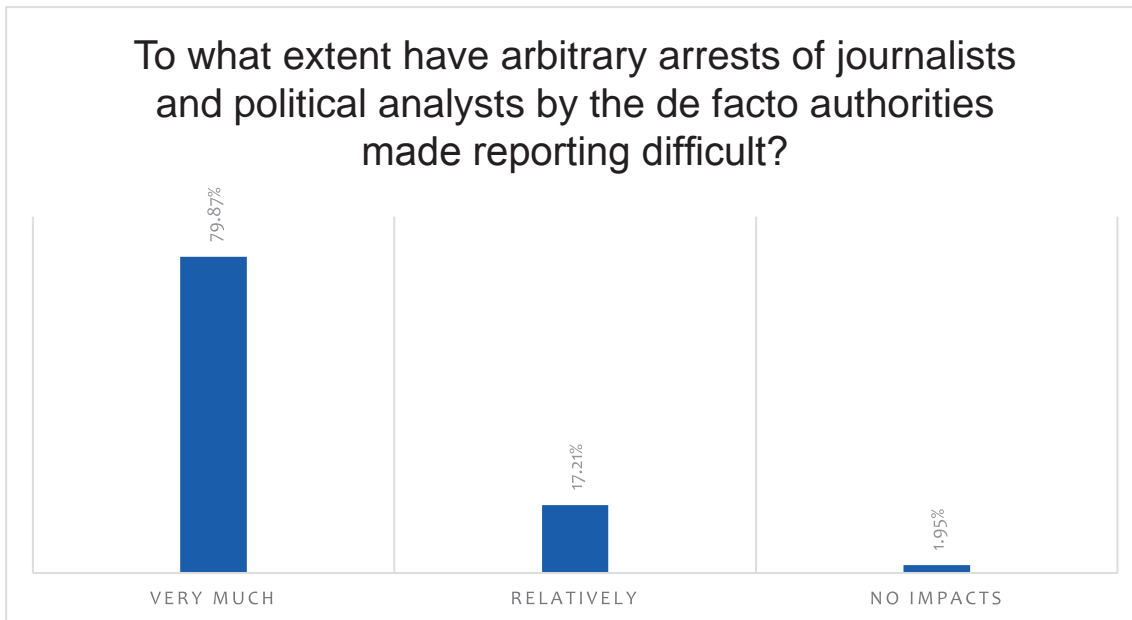




14. To what extent have arbitrary arrests of journalists and political analysts by the de facto authorities made reporting difficult?

In another question, the respondents were asked to what extent the arbitrary arrest of journalists and political analysts by the de facto authorities has made their reporting difficult. A majority of 79.87% (246) respondents mentioned 'Very Much', 17.21% (53) respondents mentioned 'Relatively', and 1.95% (06) respondents mentioned 'No Impacts', while 3 (three) respondents skipped this question during the survey.

	Responses	
Very much	79.87%	246
Relatively	17.21%	53
No Impacts	1.95%	6
Answered		305
Skipped		3
TOTAL		308



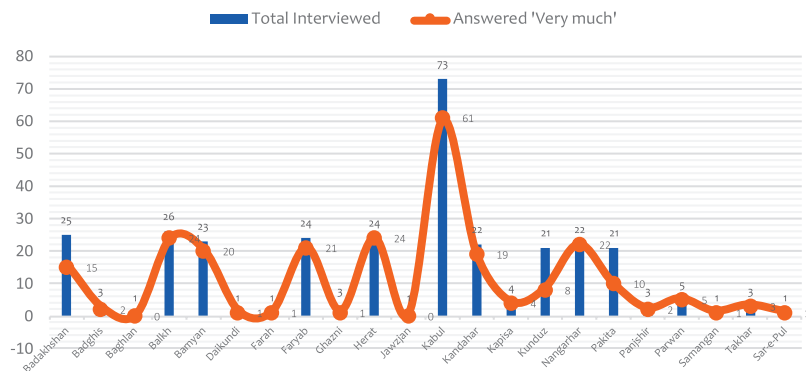


14.1 In-depth analysis of respondents answering ‘Very Much’ to Question 14 above, in response to difficulty in reporting due to arbitrary arrests of journalists and political analysts by the de facto authorities.

Further analyzing the collected data by the survey to question 14, the below chart is sketched to show the number of respondents who have answered ‘Very Much’, versus the total number of respondents surveyed in each province. Higher percentage which is 100% is in Nangarhar, 100% in Herat, 92.3% is in Balkh, 87.5% in Faryab, 87% in Bamyan, 86.3% in Kandahar, while Kabul is 83.6% with 61 out of 73.

Province	Number of respondents with ‘No’ Job		Province	Number of respondents with ‘No’ Job	
	Total Surveyed	Answered ‘Very much’		Total Surveyed	Answered ‘Very much’
Badakhshan	25	15	Kabul	73	61
Badghis	3	2	Kandahar	22	19
Baghlan	1	0	Kapisa	4	4
Balkh	26	24	Kunduz	21	8
Bamyan	23	20	Nangarhar	22	22
Daikundi	1	1	Paktia	21	10
Farah	1	1	Panjshir	3	2
Faryab	24	21	Parwan	5	5
Ghazni	3	1	Samangan	1	1
Herat	24	24	Takhar	3	3
Jawzjan	1	0	Sar-e-Pul	1	1

In-depth Analysis: Journalists answered ‘Very Much’ in response to difficulty in reporting due to arbitrary arrests by the de facto authorities.

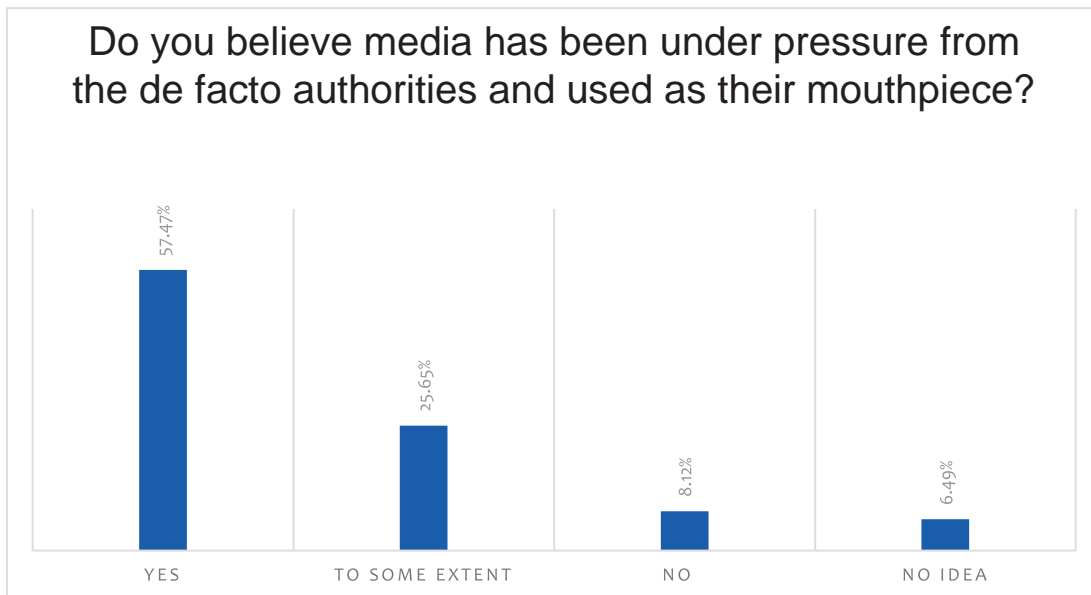




15. Do you believe media has been under pressure from the de facto authorities and used as their mouthpiece?

In the last question of the survey, respondents were asked if they believed that the media has been under pressure from the de facto authorities to become their mouthpiece? A majority of 57.47% (177) respondents suggested 'Yes', 25.65% (79) respondents mentioned 'To some Extent', 8.12% (25) respondents answered as 'No', and 6.49% (20) respondents mentioned 'No idea', while 7 (seven) of the respondents refused to answer this question.

	Responses	
Yes	57.47%	177
To some Extent	25.65%	79
No	8.12%	25
No Idea	6.49%	20
Answered		301
Skipped		7
TOTAL		308



Conclusions



The findings of this survey will assist in promoting the rights of Afghan female journalists and engaging with stakeholders to improve the representation of women in media.

Overall, the survey findings provide practical information on the status of female journalists in Afghanistan. Based on the survey findings, some broad conclusions can be drawn and some comparisons done with the data drawn from the first phase of this survey conducted few months prior. As discussed earlier, after the takeover by the de facto authorities, female representation in Afghanistan media especially with regard to women in top management and decision-making positions, has drastically reduced. This should be addressed on an immediate basis.

| From the surveyed respondents, it was concluded that:

- Of the 308 respondents surveyed, almost 67.86% claimed to have lost their jobs after the political transition and the takeover of the government by the de facto authorities. Only 31.82% still have jobs.

- On further analysis, it was found that the highest rates of unemployment among the surveyed journalists are in Bamyan (100%), Kandahar (91%), Balkh (85%), Badakhshan (68%) and Kabul (62%).

- 31.82% of the respondents covered 'Human Rights – Women, Children & Minorities'. Around 26.62% covered 'Politics', 12.99% covered 'Culture', 4.55% covered 'Health', 1.62% covered 'Sports', 12.99% covered 'Security and Crimes', while the remaining 9.42% mentioned to be covering all fields of work.

- In response to the query about changes that have been brought to the respondent's job since the collapse of the former government, 60.39% mentioned 'Major Changes', 28.90% say 'Changes in Some Cases', 5.19% mention only 'Slight Changes', while 5.52% say 'No Major Changes' at all.

- As regards the level of restrictions imposed on reporting since the de facto authorities have taken over power, a majority of 80.25% of the respondents said 'Very Restricted' while the remaining 19.48% mentioned 'Restricted'.

- Analyzing if the spokespersons of the de facto authorities respond to female journalists, 46.75% of the respondents said 'No, the de facto authorities' spokespersons are not responsive at all' to women journalists, 29.55% mentioned they are responsive just 'In some cases', 9.09% said 'Yes, they are responsive', while 13.96% had no idea about it.

- Compared to the first phase of the survey, there is literally no change in the percentage of media professionals confirming that they have received some kind of threat

due to their profession. In this survey also, 100% of the respondents confirmed that being a journalist has meant receiving threats since the takeover by the de facto authorities. Upon further inquiry from the 308 surveyed female media professionals as to the type of threats received, 34.74% received 'Direct Personal Threats'. Another 30.19% received some kind of threat through 'Messages'. Some 6.82% were 'Physically Tortured' and 19.81% say their 'Families and Friends received Threats'. Around 1.3% confirmed that they were 'Arrested' during this period.

- Of the 308 surveyed female media professionals in Afghanistan, as compared to 47% in the first phase, now 52.9% respondents believe that the major threat is due to the 'New Restrictions imposed by the de facto Authorities'. Around 16.9% feel the major threat against Female Journalists is posed by 'Extremist Groups'. Now 18.8%, as compared to 12% of the first phase, feel the threat is due to 'Gender-based Discrimination', while 10.4% compared to 9% of the first phase feel it is due to the 'Release of Identities'. While now 0.3% say the biggest threat to female journalists in Afghanistan is the 'Unpleasant Customs and Family Disapproval' it is a come down from 6% in the first phase, and 0.3% believe it's all the factors put together that sum up the threats to female journalists.

- As the majority of the answers were 'New Restrictions imposed by the de facto Authorities', digging further it was identified that 87.5% of the surveyed respondents in Herat think of it as a major threat against female journalists, and 86.36% respondents of Nangarhar share the same view. In Kabul, of the 73 surveyed, 50.68% also share the same point of view.

- Seeking to understand if restrictions were imposed on female journalists by the de facto authorities to not attend their duties, particularly with regard to their attire, of the 308 surveyed participants 55.19% said 'Yes', they were restricted from going to work

particularly due to their outfits, 27.92% answered 'To some extent', 5.52% answered 'Not seriously', while 10.06% said 'No', there weren't any specific restrictions imposed on them due to their dress particularly.

- To understand the degree of changes in salary caused by the financial squeeze that has hit a number of media outlets, after the de facto authorities have taken over the power; 39.94% answered there were 'Considerable Changes', 41.88% said 'Yes', there were changes', 11.69% mentioned 'Slight Changes', while just 3.25% confirmed that there were 'No' changes due to the financial squeeze upon their salaries.

- Gauging the level of the satisfaction of the surveyed female media professionals with respect to their workplaces, 37.01% were relatively satisfied with their workplace and the environment they work in which is reduced from 43% of the first phase; 13.64% showed complete satisfaction which is again a reduction compared to the first phase which was 23%. However, a majority of 48.05% displayed no satisfaction at all with their workplaces, an increase compared to the phase first which was 34%.

- Inquiring about the reasons as to why the surveyed respondents were unsatisfied with their workplaces, 43.51% of the respondents claimed to feel 'Insecurity' at their workplaces. Some 18.51% of the female media professionals said it's due to the 'Lack of Needed Facilities for Women' which makes them unhappy with their workplaces. 25.0% point to the 'Gender-based Discrimination' which makes them dissatisfied with their workplaces, while 4.55% feel to have been somehow 'Abused,' and that makes them unsatisfied with their own workplace. Only 7.1% of the respondents mentioned 'None' as the answer.

- Evaluating the independence or autonomy of reporting during the rule of de facto authorities, a majority of the respondents which is 45.13% claim that there is 'Increased

Intervention by the de facto Authorities.’ Some 35.71% said reporting autonomy is ‘Bad’. Both these statistics have increased compared to 53% of the first phase, 16.88% says it is ‘Relatively Good’, while just 1.95% feel the reporting autonomy is ‘Good’, which is drastically reduced compared to the first phase of 9%.

- Of 308 surveyed Afghan female media professionals, 40.26% believe that ‘Lack of Access to Information’ is the main reason that bars female journalists from reporting. Around 20.78% of the respondents feel the reason is ‘Threats from Extremist Groups’, and 26.30% feel the reason which prevents female journalists from reporting is ‘No response from the Authorities’. Some 11.69% said it is the ‘Intervention of Strongmen’ that bars journalists from reporting on any specific given topic.

- Assessing the level of difficulty in reporting which has been caused due to the arbitrary arrests of journalists and political analysts, a majority which is 79.85% of the respondents said it is now ‘very much’ difficult to report after seeing arbitrary arrests of journalists by the de facto authorities. Some 17.21% said it has ‘relatively’ impacted their reporting, while just 1.95% said it had ‘no impact’ over their reporting.

- As the majority answered ‘very much’ while assessing the level of difficulty which has been caused to reporting on account of the arbitrary arrests of journalists by the de facto authorities, it was important to dig further and it was realized that 100% of the respondents were from Nangarhar and Herat provinces (22 out of 22 surveyed and 24 out of 24 surveyed respectively), 86.95% in Bamyan (20 out of 23), 86.36% in Kandahar (19 out of 22). Some 87.5% of the respondents chose this answer in Faryab (21 out of 24), 92.3% in Balkh (24 out of 26) while in Kabul it was 83.56% (61 out of 73 surveyed).

- Of 308 respondents, 57.47% believe ‘Yes’, the media has been under pressure by the de facto authorities and has become their mouthpiece, 25.65% believe it has been done but ‘to some extent’, while 8.12% said ‘No’, and the remaining 6.49% did not comment on this question.

REFERENCES



ⁱReuters Institute for the study of Journalism | University of Oxford

<https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/news/winter-approaches-afghan-women-journalists-speak-out-i-enjoyed-all-liberties-life-now-i-feel>

ⁱⁱAljazeera | Almost half of Afghan media closed since Taliban takeover

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/24/afghanistan-media-rsf-survey-taliban-takeover-journalists>

ⁱⁱⁱRSF | Since the Taliban takeover, 40% of Afghan media have closed, 80% of women journalists have lost their jobs

<https://rsf.org/en/taliban-takeover-40-afghan-media-have-closed-80-women-journalists-have-lost-their-jobs>

^{iv}Human Rights Watch (HRW) | Afghanistan: Taliban threatening provincial media

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/07/afghanistan-taliban-threatening-provincial-media>

^vReporters without Borders (RSF) | World Press Freedom Index

<https://rsf.org/en/index>

^{vi}Media Landscape | Country: Afghanistan

<https://medialandscapes.org/country/afghanistan>

^{vii}RSF | Afghanistan: “11 journalism rules” imposed by Taliban open way to censorship and arbitrary decisions

<https://rsf.org/en/news/afghanistan-11-journalism-rules-imposed-taliban-open-way-censorship-and-arbitrary-decisions-rsf>

^{viii}RSF | The Taliban have undertaken to allow some women journalists to come back to work but the reality is different & even more restrictive. RSF denounces the order that they should all wear the Islamic hijab.

https://twitter.com/RSF_inter/status/1462739075778195459

^{ix}<https://rsf.org/en/news/taliban-takeover-40-afghan-media-have-closed-80-women-journalists-have-lost-their-jobs>

^xHuman Rights Watch (HRW) | Afghanistan: Taliban threatening provincial media

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/07/afghanistan-taliban-threatening-provincial-media>

AWRT-K

AFGHANISTAN CHAPTER
Association of Women in Radio and Television

IAWRT is a global organization formed by professional women working in electronic and allied media.

 www.iawrt.org

 secretariat@iawrt.org

 AWRT-Afghanistan

