

RA Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

United Nations Development Program, Armenia

National Youth Aspirations Research Report

Yerevan 2012

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Young people are a crucial human resource for promoting the development of a country. They are also the movers of change in the socio-economic and technological innovation sectors. Currently, young people in Armenia encounter many challenges which affect their level of trust in policy makers. These challenges also result in the demotivation of young people and, often, emigration. These challenges include limited employment opportunities, limited access to education and housing and low participation rate of young people in society.

The level of engaging young people in policy development and decision making is insufficient in Armenia, and young people have limited opportunities to fully exercise their potential.

The RA Government prioritizes the development of human capital in the country, as well as the implementation of the full creative potential of young people for the well-being of society as a whole.

The UN, in its turn, also prioritizes the involvement of young people in the nation-related decision making process and encourages countries globally to invest public resources in children and youth. The UN also works to support governments in formulating and implementing appropriate policies.

In 2011, the RA Government undertook the development of the second Armenian National Youth Report. In parallel, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia, in collaboration with the RA Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and the National Youth Policy Council under the RA Prime Minister's Office, undertook a national survey to identify the aspirations and expectations of young people in Armenia. The survey was conducted within the framework of the "Mobilizing Communities for Social Contract in Armenia" Project.

The Survey on Youth Aspirations was implemented from September-December 2011 by the Armenian Public Relations Association NGO and "R-Insights" Research Company.

In addition to the survey findings, this report also presents data provided by the RA National Statistical Service (NSS), to outline the relevant context of various issues expressed by young people.

This initiative aims at promoting the civic empowerment of young people, their involvement and participation in the governance, as well as in political and economic development processes, of Armenia. The established goal of the initiative is to reveal the aspirations, expectations, values and goals of young people, as well as their claims/allegations in the political, social and cultural life of the country.

The target group of the survey included young people of Armenia aged 16-30.

The findings of the survey were discussed and validated through broad-based public dialogue involving the respective stakeholders, young people, representatives of civil society and central and local governments. The results of these discussions aimed at ensuring socio-economic opportunities for Armenia's young people and promoting the development of national partnership models providing for youth participation in public discussions and in the policy decision making processes.

The findings of the Youth Aspirations Report, as well as all related materials will become a crucial part of the Armenian National Youth Report.

UNDP's next step will be to broadly share the survey findings with the public. The Report will be discussed with youth sector beneficiaries and experts. Thereafter, respective recommendations will be developed on the problem areas identified in the Report.

Meanwhile, UNDP will continue its activities in the youth sector and will create a forum for the engagement of young people in decision making and evidence-based policy development.

Another national survey on youth issues was conducted in 2006. At that time, the first Armenian National Youth Report was developed. The Report addressed many issues affecting young people, such as the level of awareness of young people of the youth policy put forth by the government, youth employment issues, migration trends and the reasons for migration, health issues, education and value orientation of young people, as well as other topics.¹ The first Report also touches upon issues related to youth policy in the Republic of Armenia, the sources of funding required for legal regulation mechanisms, as well as the necessity for continuous youth studies as the crucial element of and the basis for the development of an evidence based youth policy. In view of this, the “Government Youth Policy Strategy 2006-2007” provides that “the status of young people should be regularly reviewed and assessed”². Consequently, the second Armenian National Youth Report of 2011 is also based on a comprehensive survey³.

1.1 Research Methodology

The goal of “Youth Aspirations Research” is to study the aspirations, expectations and values of the young people of Armenia.

The data collection methods and tools of the research are presented in the Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Data collection methods and tools

Data collection methods	Data collection tools
Quantitative (semi) structured face-to-face interviews with 16-30 year-olds	(semi) questionnaire
Focus group (FG) discussions with 16-30 year-olds	FG guide
Expert and key informant qualitative interviews (with various experts and stakeholders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert interview guide • Key informants' interview guide

1.1.1 Research Sample

The **quantitative survey** sample was formed as a territorial multi-stage stratified cluster sample.

Population: 16-30 year-old youth, living in Armenia; population size is 898,336.

Sample size: 1,204 respondents

Polling point: 64

Margin of error is 2.9%, confidence level is 95%

¹ Armenian National Youth Report, RA Ministry of Culture and Youth Issues, Centre for Organisation of Youth Events. Yerevan, 2007, p. 17.

² Ibid.

³ Armenian National Youth Report. Yerevan, 2011.

Sampling Stage I

The first stage's clusters are settlements. The stratification of clusters is carried out according to the territorial-administrative division (*marzes*), to the type of settlement (urban and rural) and to the size⁴.

Distribution by strata was carried out according to the strategy of equal probability of the final sample units' inclusion.

The distribution of population by marzes and by rural and urban settlements was based on the data presented by the National Statistical Service of Armenia as of 06.08.2011 (N:25-7/64 - 1041).

Table 1.2 Respondents distribution by strata

Marz	Urban	Rural	Total
Yerevan		0	376
Aragatsotn	12	43	55
Ararat	33	79	112
Armavir	37	74	111
Gegharkunik	30	64	94
Lori	61	44	105
Kotayk	62	50	112
Shirak	64	46	110
Synik	39	17	56
Vayots Dzor	8	14	22
Tavush	19	28	47
Total	741	459	1200

Settlements for each stratum are selected by the method of simple probability sample.

At the **second stage** the households are selected. For household selection, the random left-oriented walk procedure will be used. For each settlement, the number of routes was calculated proportionally to the sample size. The number of households per route is almost 5. For each route the starting point (e.g. first address of household) was selected using the method of a systematic probability sample based on the address base provided by R-Insights LLC. The selection of the next address is based on a systematic probability sample. The number of the apartment of the next address is identified by adding step three to the number of the previous selected apartment.

⁴ The sizes of the settlements were broken into the following gradations: settlements with population of 1,000-10,000; 10,001-20,000; 20,001-50,000; 50,001- 100,000; 100,001-500,000 and 500001-1.200.000.

At the **third stage**, the selection of the respondent in a household is completed on the basis of the “unique respondent” method. If, in the household, there is no 16-30 year-old respondent, the interviewer should select the apartment with the next increasing number. In cases of more than one 16-30 year-old member in a household, a random selection is completed using one of the random selection methods (for example, the “last birthday” method).

The **Qualitative research (FG participants)** sample was designed according to typological sample principals.

The number of FGs is 12, the number of participants in each FG is 8-11.

The sample types were constructed based on the following criteria:

1. Age group of the participants
 2. Settlement type
1. The following **age groups** were considered in the sample:16-18, 19-23 and 24-30. The following two factors condition the division of the abovementioned age groups:
 - Those age intervals reflect specific “life-stages”, i.e. school stage, student and post-student stages. Aspirations, plans, goals and values are assumed to vary from stage to stage.
 - Participants that are in a similar “life-stage” were involved in each FG. The aim of this is to assure group homogeneity, effective group dynamics and communications.
 2. The following three types of youth were involved in the sample according to their place of residence or settlement type: youth who reside in Yerevan, in regional towns and in villages. Four groups in each type were constructed.

The distribution of groups based on the typology designed by the two criteria is presented in Table 1.3

Table 1.3. Distribution of FGs per participants’ age group and settlement

	Yerevan	Regional towns	Villages	Total
16-18 y.o	1	1	2	4
19-23 y.o	1	2	1	4
24-30 y.o.	2	1	1	4
Total	4	4	4	12

The *gender, education level and employment status* of the participants were accounted for during the recruitment stage.

The criteria for the selection of regional towns were their *distance from Yerevan* as well as the *town size*. These criteria were selected due to their theoretical influence on youth activities.

The selection of towns based on these criteria was implemented through the following procedure:

1. RA Marzes were grouped by the average distance of all the towns in that Marz. The following subgroups were designed: Marzes with towns of up to 50, 50-150, 150-200 and 200 or more km from Yerevan.
2. The selection of the towns was done based on the town size (population), geographic area (north,south, east,west) and financial efficiency.

The selection of villages was done based on the “best”⁵ cases principal. Villages located no further than 50 km from the Marz Center were selected.

The groups designed according to these criteria, as well as the selected towns and villages are presented in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4. Selection of towns and villages

Average distance of all towns of a given Marz (km)	RA regions	Selected town	Selected village
20-50	Ararat, Armavir, Aragatsotn, Kotayq	Vagharshapat	Tandzut
50-150	Shirak, Gegharquniq, Vayots Dzor	Gyumri	Meghrashen
150-200	Tavoush, Lori	Ijevan	Khashtarak
200 or more	Syuniq	Goris	Khndzoresk

The recruitment of FG participants was done based on the screening questionnaire which involved all criteria for defining the target group.

All of the FGs were tape-recorded and then transcribed for further analysis. The procedure for transcript quality control was implemented through the comparison of the transcribed text and the tape-recording.

Fifteen **expert and in-depth interviews** were conducted in the course of the research.

The following stakeholders were interviewed during the research:

- RA Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
- RA Ministry of Education and Science
- National Youth Policy Council at the RA Prime Minister’s office
- NGOs, associations and analytic centers engaged in youth programs
- International organizations implementing youth programs
- Young civil activists
- Young people with special needs
- Representatives of the private sector

1.2 The Conceptual Framework of the Research

The conceptual framework of the “Youth Aspirations Research” is built upon the approach of sociological measurement of the key concept of the research, i.e. “aspirations”. The measurement of this concept presumes the revelation of its components to be achieved on the basis of scientific and practical definitions as well as the conceptualization of that concept.

⁵ The limited number of groups in rural areas (4) would not allow for selecting villages which have different distances from the Marz Center and to make comparisons between them. To eliminate the influence of the “distance” factor on the FG results, we have selected 4 villages which have equal distance from Marz Centers:

In humanities, literature proposes a wide range of definitions for the concept of “aspirations”.

Webster’s Dictionary defines ‘an aspiration’ as “a strong desire to achieve something high or great”⁶. This definition a) stresses that an aspiration is, in its nature, a **desire** and b) fixes the socially acceptable **goal** as an object of desire.

The researchers Quaglia and Cobb define aspirations as “an ability to identify and set goals for the future, which is conditioned by a present inspiration for work to attain those goals”⁷. This definition emphasizes a) the **activity** of a social subject, and b) the role of **present and future** perceptions when setting goals.

In the dictionary of social sciences the concept of ‘an aspiration’ is defined as “a **standard**, in relation to which one feels he has been **a success or a failure**”⁸.

According to a number of estimates, the most widely spread conceptualization of ‘aspirations’ considers it as a phenomenon analogous with “the desired self”, which essentially comprises ideal goals to be attained in the future⁹.

Another conceptualization of ‘an aspiration’ views it as a comprehension of the potential alternatives for future results by the social subject. Along with the enrichment of experience the list of aspirations becomes limited, as a result of which one focuses on the character of the “future self”¹⁰.

Concepts, related to ‘aspirations’, such as expectations, hopes, and dreams, are widely used in literature. Various authors emphasize the idealistic and pragmatic aspect of aspirations: the latter assumes a pursuit of predictable ‘realistic’ plans instead of the idealistic targets set¹¹.

The aspirations of a social subject are formed in the **social context**, and not in a vacuum. This means that society, with all of its social systems, significantly impacts the formation of aspirations. In this regard, individuals have a “window” of aspirations through which they consider present opportunities within their social environments¹².

The concept of ‘aspirations’ is circulated in the context of its correlation with this or that field of activity in literature. Particularly, the emphasis is mostly laid on aspirations for education and employment.

Combining these approaches and working within the framework of the study, we have defined ‘aspirations’ **as an integrity of the future goals of a person, formed on the basis of present experience under the influence of social infrastructure.**

⁶ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/aspiration>

⁷ Quaglia, R. J., and Casey, C. D. (1996). Toward a theory of student aspirations. *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, 12, 127-132.

⁸ A dictionary of social sciences published by Atlantic publishers and Distributors, 1996

http://books.google.am/books?id=EfdqVtOk7rMC&pg=PA21&lpg=PA21&dq=social+aspiration+dictionary&source=bl&ots=96d_a2MLT&sig=H7KvIT1wrxKK12h3R2A0ZxCfII&hl=hy&sa=X&ei=0AZnT6W8O8HsOce0jIsI&ved=0CCIQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

⁹ Messersmith, E.E., & Schulenberg, J.E. (2008). When can we expect the unexpected? Predicting educational attainment when it differs from previous expectations. *Journal of Social Issues*, 64(1), 195-211

¹⁰ Gottfredson, L.S. (1981). Circumscription and compromise: A developmental theory of occupational aspirations. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 28(6), 545-579

¹¹ Schaefer, V. and Meece, J. (2009) Facing an Uncertain Future: Aspirations and Achievement of Rural Youth. *National*

¹² Ray, D. (2006). Aspirations, poverty, and economic change. In A. V. Banerjee, R. Benabou, and D. Mookherjee (Eds.), *Understanding Poverty* (pp. 409 –422). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

To outline the measurement criteria for the concept of ‘aspirations,’ the following premises have been adopted:

1. The life of young people takes place in a number of **social institutions** (family, education, employment, friends/social networks, mass media, state, civic society, army and so on).
2. The activity in the abovementioned institutions is regulated by definite values, positions, and norms.

For the purposes of this study, we have selected the social institutions which are primary to young people’s everyday life. In every social institution in the study we have measured:

- The *present* practices of a young person in these social institutions,
- The *future* plans, goals and aspirations related to the given institutions and the perceptions of the hindrances to attain them,
- The assessment of the operations of the given institution,
- The perceptions and evaluations of the values regulating the operations of the given institution¹³.

The above-described logic served as the rationale for **survey objectives** and was the basis for structuring the **sections of the questionnaire**.

It should be mentioned that in survey instruments the abovementioned issues are addressed with varied depth, which is conditioned by the consideration of an efficient duration of each type of interview. The appropriate depth of coverage for every topic was determined by the priorities set by the Research Experts’ team and UNDP experts.

1.3 The Structure of the Report

The report consists of ten chapters.

Chapter 2 reflects the main results of the study.

Chapters 3–7 present young people’s current behavior, future goals and the positions to values in key social institutions (family, education, employment, state and recreation).

Chapter 8 addresses the social moods of the young people.

Chapter 9 presents data on young people’s recreational activities.

Chapter 10 of this report sums up recommendations regarding the policy for youth, voiced by various stakeholders.

¹³ The list of social values is quite large and varied. It is understandable that within the framework of the survey it is impossible to consider all the present and current values in every institution and the positions towards them. Hence, only a few values were included in the questionnaire, the study of which was more topical. The selection of these or those values is largely dependent on the priorities of the parties, involved in the process of methodology development.

CHAPTER 2. KEY FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

This chapter includes the key findings of the research presented in vital social institutions of youths' everyday life.

Youth in the Family Institution

Research findings show that that *certain tendencies* of the revision of traditional family relations are observed among Armenian youth. Particularly:

- A significant number of young people who live together without any formalization of marital relations has been recorded (7,6%). This arrangement is seen as acceptable for 46,3% of the youth. This percentage includes those young people who live together without registration in the church or the Marriage Registry Office.
- Mostly, Armenian youth agree with the idea that *men and women should have equal rights in family-related decision making* (79,4% of youth agree with this idea, the average agreement score is 3.27 out of 4). Young people also concur with the statement that husband and wife should have equal rights in the sphere of career development. General trends show that a) patriarchal perceptions of gender role distribution are relatively more common among male respondents, b) rural youth, even though they agree with equal rights in decision making, remain conservative in the perceptions of career development and financial support of the family.
- 16.4% of respondents agree to some extent with the idea that a family is complete even if there are no children.

Research results show that the *most preferable average marriage age* for women is from 22.3 and for men it is 25.7. At the same time, according to RA National Statistical Service data, in the Republic of Armenia the average marriage age in 2010 was 25.2 for women and 29.3 for men.

Perception of obstacles in the area of the formation of a family can have a significant role in existing differences between the desired and the factual marriage age. As the research results show, the most significant obstacles are perceived to be related to the employment¹⁴ and housing (24.8%).

The youth's answers show that most prefer a proactive (initiative) strategy to overcome existing obstacles: the most effective strategies to overcome those obstacles were considered to be those related to the employment (78.2%) and various types of state support (11.8%).

The *number of divorced* among interviewed youth was 1.4%.

The surveyed youth mainly considers **divorce** to be unacceptable. Hence, the factor of whether or not the family has *children* plays a principal role in the rate of acceptability. In case of not having children the average tolerance rate towards divorce is 2.47 out of 4 (50,4% of respondents more or less agreed with the judgment "in case the couple has disagreements they should divorce if they have no children"), then in case of having children the same rate is 1.65 (18% more or less agreed with the judgment).

¹⁴ Absence of job, instability of job, low salaries

Youth in the Education Institution

The majority of youth surveyed have aspirations of receiving a vocational education. Meanwhile, young people aged 24-30 who have plans related to education during the coming three years comprise the minority of the sample (26.9%). Starting from the age of 24, young people consider their education to be complete.. One of the priorities of the Bologna Process is the possibility for life-long learning, which is not currently prioritized among youth.

The results of the survey have revealed a considerable number of young people who made a '**rational**' choice in terms of the motives underlying the selection of an educational institution. The 'rationality' here can be of at least two kinds: a) one conditioned by a focus on the educational content, b) conditioned by attempts to facilitate the learning process.

While the selection of an educational institution was predominantly based on 'rational' motives, the main motives underlying the **choice of a profession** were emotionally based: 47.9% of the surveyed stated that they had chosen their profession because they "like it", "it is interesting" or "they dreamt of having such a profession".

Education is viewed as the main means for succeeding in the future. Meanwhile, a tendency toward a decline in the value of education was noticed among those who had (partly negative) experience in looking for jobs after graduation.

A considerable segment of the youth is critical of the present quality of education provided by educational institutions in Armenia and eager to see changes in both the content and the form of the educational process.

Youth employment

Employment is currently the most prevalent issue for Armenian youth as, it mostly determines their aspirations. Among major issues existent in the Armenian labor market, the young people surveyed mentioned not only the lack of vacancies, but also the essential role played by non-formal connections and the low level of protection of employee rights.

The conclusions on young people's aspirations for employment show that for upcoming three years 10.5% of young people plan to start their own business, 9.3% of survey participants intend to find any job they can and 7.6% aim to find a job by profession abroad. 2.6% are eager to start their own business abroad. 30.1% of survey participants mentioned that they had no employment-related plans. At the same time, 73.3% of those surveyed are not currently involved in any income-generating activity or in volunteering.

As the results of the survey show, *62.9% of those who did not have jobs were not looking for employment*. Females and young people aged 16-18 prevailed in this category. It is interesting to note that those who were currently employed but were also looking for new jobs constituted 35.2%.

The answers given by survey participants testify that *the most common behavioral tactics in job-seeking is referral through acquaintances*: 67% of the youth seeking jobs are currently trying to find a job by this means. This is the most common option and is followed by 45.0% of participants utilizing the method of finding job announcements and responding to them. Young people believe that the main obstacle in finding a job is the lack of sufficient workplaces (61.4%) and the tendency toward hiring acquaintances (52.6%).

Among a considerable number of young people, the perception of limited possibilities for employment brings about the intention to emigrate.

Youth migration

The results of the quantitative survey illustrate that the majority of survey participants (78.5%) would like to leave Armenia for various purposes (including for vacation) if possible. The willingness to leave Armenia does not vary depending on respondents' education and financial status, as well as on employment status.

41.8% of surveyed youth stated that they have plans to go abroad at some point in the upcoming three years.

The quantitative survey indicates that the key goal of leaving Armenia is to work. Thus, 44% of the total number of survey participants, and 56.5% of young people willing to leave, would like to migrate for labor. There is a common perception among youth that there are more opportunities to find work abroad.

The statements made by the majority of young people testify to the fact that there is a so-called '**compelled' migration attitude**: that is, the intention to go abroad does not come from the desire to abandon one's motherland. Rather, it is conditioned by the limited possibilities to satisfy one's needs decently in one's own country.

Youth civic participation

The results of this survey show rather low indicators of youth participation in various spheres of public life.

The indicators of young people's membership are the highest in relation to their affiliation with political parties: young people affiliated with some political party constitute 9.1% of the sample. 6.6% of surveyed young people mentioned that they were involved in the work of student councils and 5.7% of them were involved in non-governmental organizations as volunteers.

Observations illustrate that the phenomenon of so-called '*passive membership*' is practiced in Armenia. This means to be formally registered with this or that structure, with no actual participation in the organization's formal or informal events.

The majority of young people are not willing to be involved in the activities of political parties, local self-governing bodies, civil initiative groups and various councils within higher educational institutions/schools. They often grounded their unwillingness to engage in the abovementioned organizations responding that "it is not interesting", due to the presupposition that "my engagement will not change anything", as well as the lack of time. The lack of trust in the given organization is most often the factor preventing from participation in political parties (12.5%).

A low level of participation in civil initiatives demonstrated by the young people is mainly conditioned by their focus on solving their own problems, as well as skepticism towards the outcomes of their participation.

Youth leisure

The most widespread forms of everyday leisure among Armenian youth (using the frequency of a daily and/or 1-2 times per week basis) are internet social networks, walks and visiting friends.

For the Marz youths, especially those residing in villages, the most relevant problem is limited opportunities for leisure services, the cause of which is the absence or underdevelopment of leisure infrastructures in these locations.

Youth plans and social moods

Thus, most aspirations of Armenian youth are linked with employment and education.

Currently, youths consider the most urgent issues as those related to unemployment (81.5%), low salary (47.4%) and problems with apartments (35.8%).

An overwhelming majority of Armenian youth are optimistic about their future in the upcoming five years. 50.7% of young people believe that their life will significantly improve and 31.4% think it will somewhat improve.

Young people's estimates regarding the developments of some sectors in the country have also been studied. According to the quantitative survey, the respondents don't foresee drastic changes in the upcoming five years, especially in the sphere of social and economic conditions and the justice system of the country. These two sectors average estimates are closer to the point "things will remain the same" on the scale (3.55 and 3.3 respectively).

The considerable differences in predicting personal and public sectors allow us to conclude that young people view their personal future as separate to that of the country. That is, they are inclined to rely on their own initiatives in order to improve their future.

CHAPTER 3. YOUTH IN FAMILY

3.1 Current Family Situation of Youth

Family is the key social institution for organizing everyday life¹⁵ activities of all members of Armenian society, youth being no exception.

As in all chapters of the present report, we will present the youth's current social practices¹⁶ in the family and the perception of the values that regulate this institution.

The distribution of interviewed youth by marital status is presented in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Answers to the question “List Marital Status”

Marital status	Total	Age groups		
		16-18	19-23	24-30
Single/not married	60.1%	97.1%	75.7%	28.8%
Married (only in registry office)	12.5%	0.4%	4.0%	25.9%
Married (by church and registry office)	12.5%	0.0%	7.7%	22.7%
Living together without any registration	7.6%	2.1%	6.6%	11.0%
Married (only in church)	5.1%	0.4%	4.0%	8.4%
Divorced	1.4%	0.0%	1.5%	2.0%
Widow/widower	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Married by registry office, but we don't live together	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

As seen from the Table, the unmarried dominate in the studied group (60.1%), moreover they predominate in the group of up to 23 years of age.

From the aspect of marriage institution transformation tendencies it is important to observe the percentage distribution of the actual forms of marriage formalization in Armenia. Thus, 33.2% of married respondents (12.5% of the total number of respondents) have registered their marriage both in the church and in the Marriage Registry Office (MRO), 45.8% have registered either in the Marriage Registry Office (33.2%), or in the church (13.6%). 20% of married respondents (7.6% of all respondents) mentioned living together as husband/wife without registering their marriage in any formalized institution. The absence of this formalization is a relatively new phenomenon in Armenia. It may inform upon the re-interpretation of traditionally accepted forms of marriage regulation among some youth groups. While at the behavioral level, 20% of married youth manifested living together without formalizing the relations, at the level of value orientations such marriage format is acceptable for 46.3% of the youth. This percentage includes those young people who live together without registration in the church or the Marriage Registry Office.

The degree of approval with this phenomenon among youth is shown in Table 3.2.

¹⁵ The concept of “everyday life” is used here in the meaning accepted within the phenomenological sociology, i.e. as inter-subjective reality, which is significant for social actors from the aspect of representation of human entity completeness and which is periodically reproduced in their ‘face to face’ practices through interpretation and typification processes.

¹⁶ Social practice is understood here as an activity implemented by social subjects and aimed to certain purposes.

Table 3.2: Please tell me to which extent do you agree¹⁷ with the following judgment: “Civil marriage (living together without registration in the Marriage Registry Office or the church) is an acceptable option of marriage for me”.

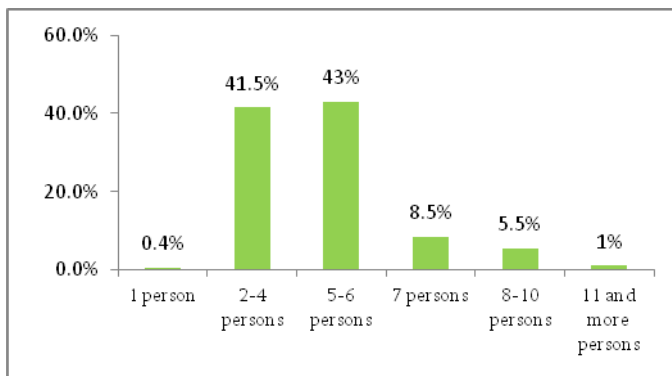
Absolutely disagree	Rather disagree	Rather agree	Fully agree	It is difficult to answer
37.5%	15.7%	20.8%	25.5%	0.6%

It should be mentioned that the attitude of respondents on civil marriage does not correlate with their gender¹⁹. There is some statistically significant relation between the attitude on this type of marriage and the respondents' age²⁰. The more respondents' age approaches 30, the more civil marriage becomes acceptable.

The *number of divorced* participants among interviewed youth was 1.4%.

The interviewed youth currently live mainly in families comprised of 2-4 (41.5%) and 5-6 (43.0%) people (Graph 3.1). The average number of family members is 4.9.

Graph 3.1: The number of members in youth's families



Besides the family size of surveyed youth, it is also interesting to observe the structure and type of their families. According to the research results, 8.1% of youth live in the own nuclear family²¹, the 36.8% live with a parents' nuclear family.

Statistically significant differences are observed among the structure of young families living in different settlements: living within one's own nuclear family dominates in urban settlements.

According to other sources related to marriage types, as of 2006 0.4%¹⁸ of couples lived together without any registration of the marriage. Comparison of this Graph with the one from the “Youth aspirations survey” is not methodologically justified because of different different general populations applied in this research.

According to the RA National Statistical Service, the number of divorces among people who are married up to one year was 3% in 2010; for people married from one to four years was 21%, and 17% among those being married from five to nine years.

¹⁷ The degree of agreement was measured on the scale from 1-4 , where “1” means “complete disagreement” and “4” is “complete agreement”.

¹⁸ Data is presented in the “Family survey” report financed by UN Population Fund in 2006 and implemented by the National Statistical Service. The research has been implemented among 2500 households of the RA. See “Family Survey” implemented by the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the RA National Statistical Service of RA funded by UNFPA, Yerevan 2006

¹⁹ The correlation coefficient between these two variables is 0.067 and is not significant.

²⁰ The correlation coefficient between two variables is 0.08 and is statistically significant.

²¹ The family is called nuclear if it consists of a married couple and their children, including members of 2 generations.

On the other hand, various manifestations of the extended family²² dominate in rural settlements, particularly the *extended family* (which implies that the married couple and their parents live in the same family), the *parents' extended family* (i.e. the family consists of the young person, his/her parents and his/her grandparents), as well as *non-traditional families*, which include other relatives (for example brother/sister, in-laws, aunts, etc.). Detailed information about family structure is presented in Appendix 3, Table 3.9.

3.2 Family Formation, Perceptions of the Obstacles and the Mechanisms to Overcome Them

Taking into account the international trends of an increasing marriage age, it is interesting to study the perceptions of Armenian youth regarding the most preferable age for marriage.

The research results show that the preferable average age for women to marry is 22.3 and for men it is 25.7.

Graph 3.2 shows that the *most preferable average marriage age for women* is considered to be from 21 to 23 and for men it is over 24. Meanwhile, male respondents are inclined to consider a lower marriage age for women more than the female respondents themselves. It should be mentioned that female respondents generally support the idea of marriage both for men and women in the age range of 24 and over.

There are some differences in the preferences of respondents having different educational level. The higher the respondents' educational level is, the higher is the average age of marriage that the respondent has mentioned²⁴ (see Appendix 3, Table 3.5).

According to RA National Statistical Service data, in the Republic of Armenia the average marriage ages were the following:

- in 2008 the average marriage age for women was 24.2 and 29.2 for men.
- in 2009 the average marriage age for women was 24.9 and 29 for men.
- in 2010 the average marriage age for women was 25.2 and 29.3 for men.

As of 2008, the average marriage age²³ in some CIS and Eastern European countries was as follows:

Georgia: women 25.1, men 28.8

Belarus: women 23.9, men 26

Moldova: women 23, men 25.8

Bulgaria: women 26.1, men 29.3

Romania: women 27.5, men 30.9

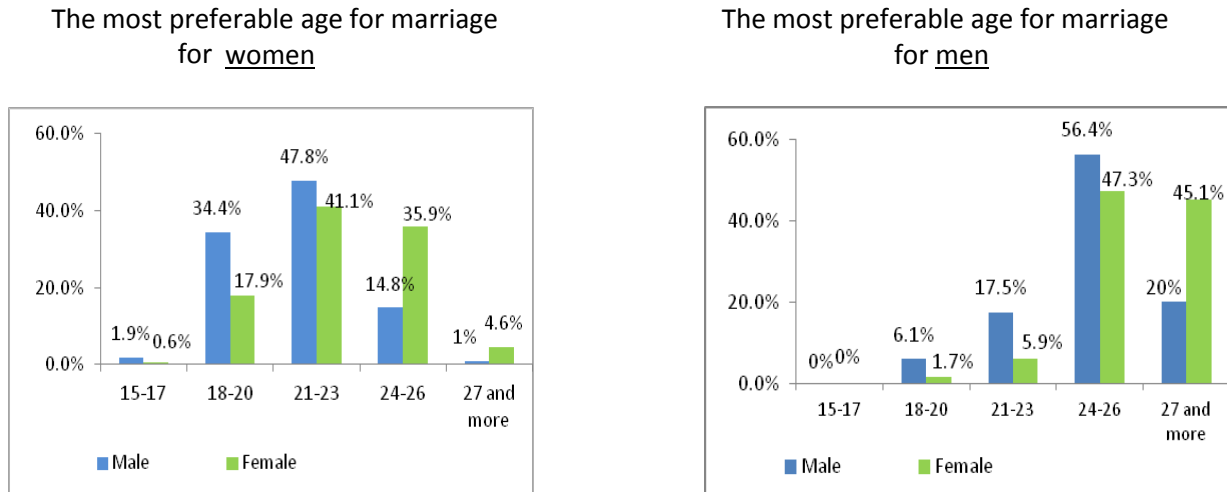
Latvia: women 26.7, men 28.8

²² The family is extended, if it consists of representatives of more than 2 generations, the most common model of extended family in the Armenian reality is the family consisting of a couple, their children and their parents.

²³ http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=052_GEFHAge1stMarige_r&ti=Mean+Age+at+First+Marriage+by+Sex%2C+Country+and+Year&path=../DATABASE/Stat/30-GE/02-Families_households/&lang=1

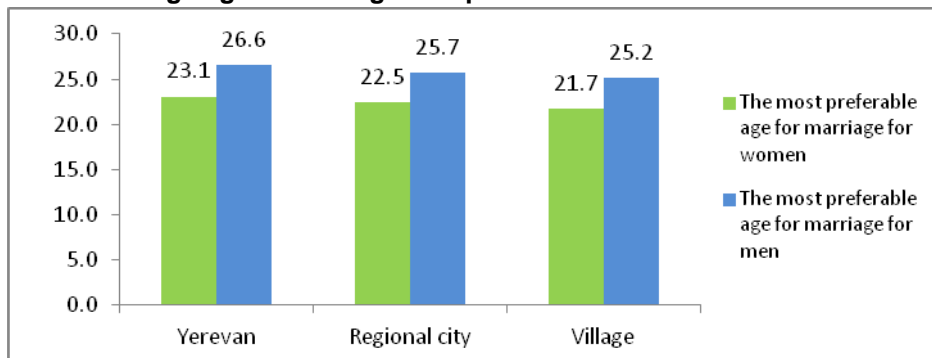
²⁴ The correlation coefficient between the evaluation of female marriage age and respondent's educational level is 0,314. The correlation between the grade of male marriage age and respondent's educational level is 0,274.

Graph 3.2 Preferable age of marriage for women and men



We can observe a predictable relation between the respondents' settlement area and the assessment of the preferable age for marriage: for regional youth the preferable marriage age is lower than for their peers in Yerevan (Graph 3.3).

Graph 3.3 Preferable marriage age according to respondents' settlement



The **Perception of obstacles** in the way toward family formation can have a significant impact on the assessment of the preferable age of family formation. As the research results show, the most significant obstacles are lack of jobs (57%) and housing problems (24.8%). The next obstacles which are mentioned are also related to sources of income and their size (Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 Obstacles in the youth's way to family formation

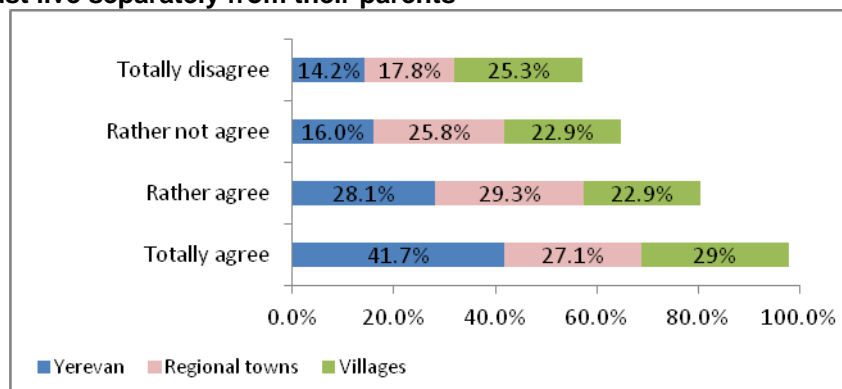
The obstacles to form family in Armenia for youth	1 st obstacle	2 nd obstacle ²⁵	3 rd obstacle
There's no job	57.0%	22.4%	4.3%
Housing problems (there is no separate apartment, the present flat is small)	24.8%	27.3%	13.3%
Unstable job or income sources	6.4%	11.6%	11.2%
Low salary/income	4.7%	18.8%	20.4%
Absence of relevant spouse	3.3%	6.1%	8.7%
Economical instability in the country	1.8%	4.8%	11.3%
Other	1.9%	4.8%	9.5%
Total	100.0%	95.9%	78.7%

²⁵ The sum of the 2nd and 3rd obstacles does not reach 100%, because some respondents listed only one main obstacle

It should be mentioned that the indication of housing problems is more common among youth living in Yerevan: 42.6% of the latter point to this problem as the most important obstacle. The lack of jobs as the most influential obstacle has been most often mentioned by the youth living in regional towns and villages (62.5%); for youth living in Yerevan the same indicator is 45.7% (see Appendix 3, Table 3.7).

The significance of housing problems for youth living in Yerevan might be conditioned by both smaller size of Yerevan apartments and by the value orientations. The latter supposition is strengthened by the answers to the following question addressed to the youth: “Please tell me to which extent you agree²⁶ with the following judgment related to a family: a young family must live separately from their parents”. It becomes clear (Graph 3.4) that the predominant part of youth living in Yerevan, about 70%, agree with the idea that they should live apart from the parent’s family, but the opinions on this issue among the youth living in regions are half-shared (pro and contra).

Graph 3.4 “Please tell me to which extent do you agree with the following judgment related to a family: a young family must live separately from their parents”



The degree of initiative and self-dependency can be indicated by the answers to the question about the most desirable ways to overcome the obstacles mentioned by the participants. The youth’s answers show that most of them prefer proactive (initiative) strategies to overcome existing obstacles, i.e. to have high-paid jobs (37.8%), any stable job (22.2%) and at least average paid job (8.9%) (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 The most desirable ways to overcome the obstacles on the way of family formation

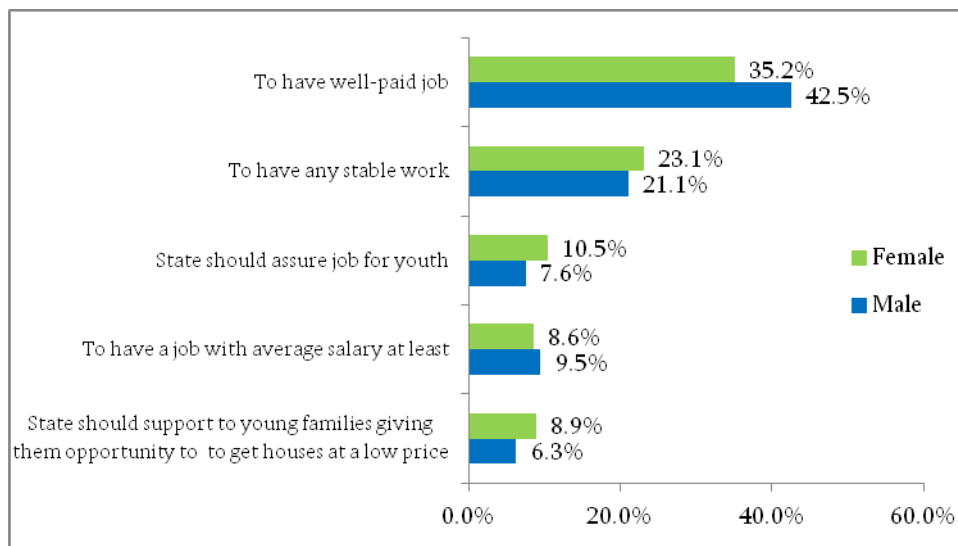
	1 st response	2 nd response	3 rd response
To have a well-paid job	37.8%	8.6%	5.1%
To have any stable work	22.2%	15.3%	8.0%
State should assure job for youth	9.3%	17.7%	18.2%
To have a job with average salary	8.9%	5.5%	2.7%
State should support young families by giving them the opportunity to get houses at a low price	7.8%	19.9%	10.0%
Youth should work hard on their own	4.6%	5.8%	10.6%
State should provide youth with free apartments	4.0%	9.0%	8.1%
Other responses	4.3%	12.2%	12.6%
Total	98.8%	93.9%	75.4%

²⁶The degree of agreement was measured on the scale from 1-4, where “1” means “complete disagreement” and “4” is “complete agreement”.

The percentage of young people who rely on state support is worthy of attention: 4% of young people believe that the most suitable way of solving the housing problem is that state provides housing free of charge and 7.8% would prefer state support in obtaining housing at affordable prices. It should be mentioned that those young people who expect housing from the state for free or at affordable prices are mostly located in Yerevan (among the 4% of youth who expect free housing, 52.1% live in Yerevan and the share of Yerevan youth who expect the housing at affordable rates is 42.6%). The distribution of preferable strategies to overcome problems by the respondents' settlement is presented in Appendix 3, Table 3.8.

With regard to this issue, some differences are observed in the approaches of respondents by gender. Having a high-paid job as a precondition to overcome the main obstacles in the way of family formation dominates among male respondents (Graph 3.5). Such an approach is not surprising because males traditionally feel a greater responsibility in financially supporting their families.

Graph 3.5 The most preferable ways to overcome the obstacles in the way of family formation by respondents' gender



On the other hand, female respondents dominate in terms of expectations of state support.

The desired number of children in a family for youth was also studied within the framework of this research: on average it is 2.53. There is not any significant correlation between the respondents' educational level and the desired number of children²⁷. Instead, there is some specific relation between the answers to this question and the respondents' settlement: contrary to an existing stereotype the average desired number of children is a little higher among youth living in the capital (2.66) than the same indicator for rural youth (2.52). There are some differences in the desired number of children between female respondents (2.63) and male respondents (2.46), but that difference is not statistically significant.

²⁷ The correlation coefficient value is -0.013 and is not statistically significant.

Expressive data was received about the perceptions of children's role within a family. The respondents were asked to value their agreement with the following statement: "Family is complete only if there are children"²⁹. 83.4% of the respondents agreed with the mentioned judgment, and 16.4% did not agree. This means that 16.4% of Armenian youth considers the absence of children in a family acceptable, which opposes the common stereotype of a complete family. At the same time, some statistically significant differences were recorded between the perception of a complete family and the respondents' educational level³⁰ - respondents with a higher educational level, to a certain extent, disagree with the judgment that a family without children is not a complete one. There are no statistically significant correlations between the opinions on this issue and the respondents' gender and/or type of settlement.

According to the results of the household survey implemented among 2,500 households by the RA National Statistical Service in 2006, 64.4% of respondents mentioned that they want to have 2-3 children, 26.9% wanted to have 4-6 children, and 4.9% wanted to have 1 child²⁸.

3.3 Perceptions of Family Values

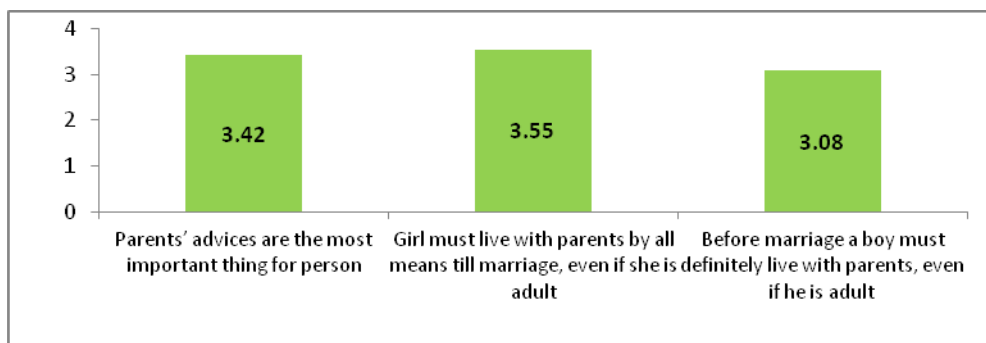
The values and value orientations that regulate family relations are important indicators of the transformation of the family relations.

The present research studied such values as the role of parental advice in young people's lives, the need for young people to live with their parents, the gender aspect in family relations and divorce. The respondents were offered to value their degree of agreement with several statements³¹.

The answers to the statements measuring the degree of the youth's independence from parental attention show that **parental interference** in Armenian youth's lives continues to be perceived as acceptable.

Graph 3.6 shows average scores of statements indirectly measuring such orientations.

Graph 3.6 The average assessments of degree of agreement with parental presence in youth's life



²⁸ See "Family Survey" implemented by the RA Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the RA National Statistical Service, funded by UNFPA, Yerevan 2006

²⁹ The degree of agreement of the statement was graded on the scale from 1-4, where "1" means "complete disagreement" and "4" is "complete agreement".

³⁰ The correlation indicator between the perception of a complete family and the respondents' educational level is 0.138 and is statistically significant.

³¹ The degree of agreement was measured on the scale from 1-4, where "1" means "complete disagreement" and "4" - "complete agreement".

The majority of respondents agree with the statement that a daughter must live together with her parents until the time of her marriage even if she is an adult (the average score is 3.55 from a possible 4)³². This judgment is completely acceptable to the majority of respondents³³. It should be mentioned that among the respondents who do not agree with this statement (14.1%) the majority are female respondents.

It is interesting to observe that living apart from their parents is relatively more acceptable for males (the average acceptance score with the statement is 3.08), than for females.

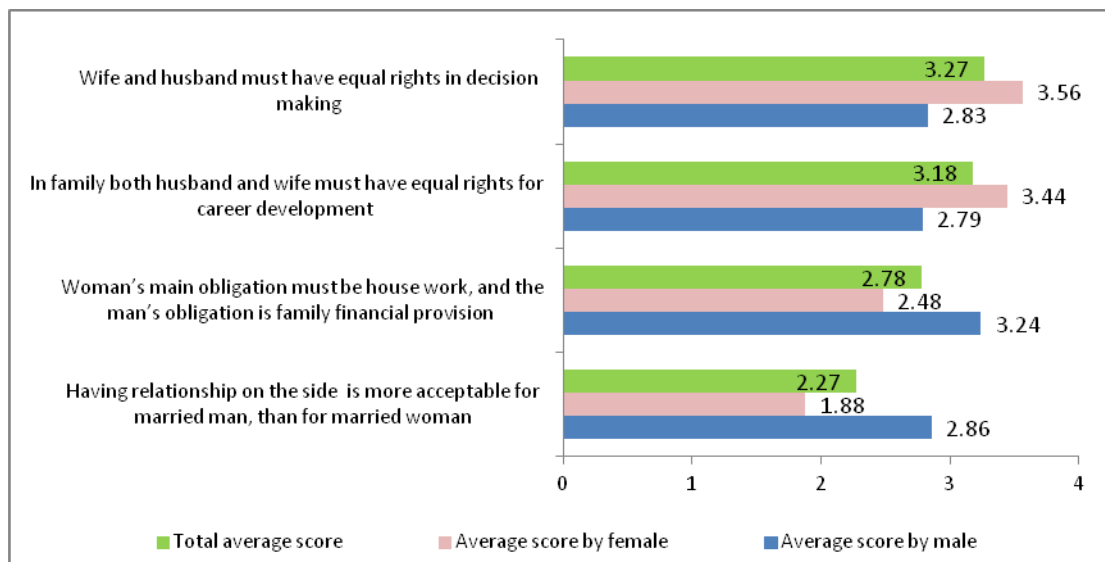
An almost similar picture exists with regard to the perceptions of importance of parental advice for a person's life (the average score of statement is 3.42 out of 4).

The surveyed youth's opinions are rather not homogeneous with regard to **gender roles** in the family and the privileges conditioned by them.

Most Armenian youth agree with the idea that *men and women should have equal rights in family-related decision making* (79.4% of youth agree with this idea, the average agreement score is 3.27). At the same time, there are not significant differences between the assessments given by female and male respondents. There is also no difference between respondents' opinions who live in different types of settlements (urban and rural).

The average agreement score with regard to an egalitarian approach of provisioning equal rights for career growth for men and women is 3.18, i.e. Armenian youth in general agree with this idea. However, there are significant differences between the opinions of female and male respondents: on average, male respondents agree less with this approach (Graph 3.7). Some differences are observed between respondents from different settlements in terms of the degree of agreement with this statement: the rural youth that disagree with this statement (26.6%) relatively prevails over disagreeing youth from Yerevan (19.9%) and regional towns (18.3%).

Graph 3.7 The gender aspect of family relations



³² 85.8% of respondents more or less agreed with the statement and 14.1% disagreed.

³³ The standard deviation is 0.8.

On average, Armenian youth do not really agree in terms of the division of functions within the family, which reserves the roles of housework for women and the role of family financial support for men. The average agreement score with this statement is 2.78, but it is not homogeneous. There are significant differences among female and male respondents. The average agreement score of the latter is correspondingly 3.24 and 2.48. Significant differences are also observed between the opinions of youth living in capital and regional towns: while 48.3% of youth from Yerevan agree with the aforementioned division of functions, the corresponding indicator in regional towns is 61.8%, and in villages it is 69.6%.

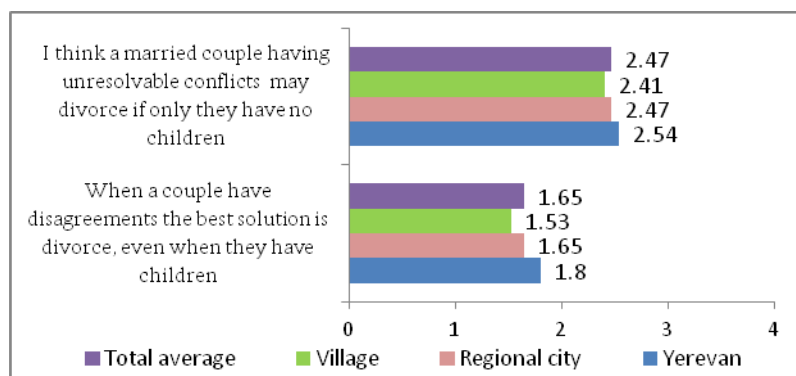
The differences between youth living in different settlements with regard to their opinions regarding gender roles show that, although rural youth support gender equality in family decision making, they continue to have more traditional philosophies with regard to job opportunities and family financial support.

There are significant differences among respondents of different gender in terms of their tolerance towards extramarital affairs of married men and women. Female respondents are more inclined to disagree with this statement: “It is more acceptable to have extramarital affairs by a married man than by a married woman” (average grade is 1.88), while men are more inclined to agree with this judgment (average grade is 2.86). Statistically significant differences were observed between respondents of different educational level and age: the higher the respondents’ educational level³⁴ and younger his/her age³⁵, the more he/she is inclined to disagree with this statement.

The above mentioned differences highlight that the patriarchal perceptions of the distribution of gender roles continue to dominate among male respondents. On the other hand, women are more inclined to place more significance on equal rights.

The surveyed youth consider **divorce** to be mainly unacceptable. Hence, the factor of a family’s having *children* plays a principal role here. While in cases where there are no children and there exists an essential disagreement the tolerance towards divorce is 2.47, on average (50.4% more or less agreed with this judgment), in cases of there being children in the family it is 1.65 (18% more or less agreed with the judgment) (Graph 3.8).

Graph 3.8 The average grades of perceptions of divorce



It also becomes evident from Graph 3.8 that youth living in Yerevan accepts divorce as an alternative option to avoid disagreements more than youth living in regions.

³⁴ The indicator of correlation between acceptance of the statement and the respondent’s education is -0.113 and is statistically significant.

³⁵ The indicator of correlation between acceptance of the judgment and the respondent’s age is -0.08 and is statistically significant.

In summarizing the trends in youth behavior and orientations within the family institution, it should be mentioned that certain tendencies of revision of traditional family relations are observed among Armenian youth. First, there is a rising trend in the average marriage age, which besides the change in value orientations is also conditioned by the perceptions of obstacles in the way of family formation. Such key obstacles are well-being (financial capacity) and housing problems, and having some type of job is considered to be the most commonly acceptable strategy to overcome those obstacles.

Opinions on marriage arrangements and actual behavior and the perception of the completeness of family also indicate some transformations. Particularly, living together without formalizing relations, as well as the perception of children's absence in family being acceptable has become common among a significant part of the youth.

CHAPTER 4. YOUTH IN EDUCATION

Education is a social institution that has a central role in the course of young peoples' lives. The given survey has studied the current social practices, exercised by young people in the area of education, the youth's assessment of the RA educational system and educational institutions, as well as young people's perceptions of the value of education.

4.1 Youth's Behavior in Education

The majority of surveyed young people have some type of secondary education (38.0%) and a considerably large segment has higher (17.8%) and vocational education (VET) (13.9%). A significant number of the surveyed are currently studying at higher educational institutions (17.0%). An insignificant number of those surveyed are those "who do not have an education" (i.e., they have an incomplete secondary education) or their professional education has been left incomplete (Table 4.1).

Table 4.1. The highest level of formal education of young surveyed

Education degree	Percent
Secondary (grades 10-12)	38.0%
Higher incomplete (student)	17.0%
Higher (bachelor)	15.2%
Specialized secondary	13.9%
Incomplete secondary (grades 1-8)	8.0%
Higher (Masters)	5.6%
Higher interrupted (incomplete higher education)	1.7%
Specialized secondary interrupted	0.5%
No education	0.1%
Total	100.0%

As mentioned above, the number of those who had the experience of interrupted vocational education was small in the sample (a total of 2.2%). The majority of those young people cited the failure to pay tuition and/or the draft to the army as the main causes for the interruption in their education.

36% of the surveyed young people are currently enrolled in an education process within some type of educational institution, 26.1% go to secondary schools, 19% are in vocational secondary educational institutions, 46.2% in state higher educational institutions and 6.9% are enrolled in private higher educational institutions.

Only 3.7% of the surveyed young people have experience in attending educational institutions of more than one type (other than the secondary school). The table below shows the responses to the question on what educational institutions they have attended/are attending and which of those, they believe, provided them with their central education (Table 4.2). As can be inferred from the data presented in the table, in cases when the surveyed have attended educational institutions of more than one type, it is the secondary and higher educational institutions that are mainly perceived as the core ones.

Table 4.2. Distribution of surveyed by educational institutions graduated from/being attended by surveyed and by educational institution perceived as the main one³⁶.

	Percent of respondents studying at this time	Percent of graduated respondents	Percent of total respondents	Main education
High school/general education	26.1%	44.1%	37.5%	37.5%
Specialized secondary institution, colleges	19.0%	22.7%	21.3%	20.4%
State higher educational institution	47.1%	22.6%	31.5%	31.0%
Private higher educational institution: provided with diploma by state standard	7.3%	6.5%	6.8%	6.6%
Private higher educational institution: provided with diploma by non-state standard	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Interstate higher educational institution	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Foreign higher educational institution (in foreign country)	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Short-time courses, trainings in any organization	1.8%	3.3%	2.7%	1.2%
Specialized courses (for example, learning any crafts)	0.2%	3.5%	2.3%	2.1%
Branch of foreign higher educational institution in RA	0.9%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%
Total	103.4%	103.9%	103.7%	100.0%

It is of special interest to study the motives underlying the youth’s choice of profession and formal or non-formal professional educational institutions. The results of the survey have revealed a **considerable number of young people who made a “rational” choice in terms of the motives underlying the selection of an educational institution.** According to the types of motives, the young surveyed may be divided into the following groups:

- Young people who have made **“a rational” choice.** At the same time, the rationality here can be of at least two kinds:
 - **Rationality that is conditioned by a focus on education content.** For 22.3% of the surveyed young people, the fact that the educational institution ensures the highest quality education for the profession of their choice has been the primary factor in determining their choice; 8.9% of the surveyed stated that the given educational institution was the only one that provided training for the profession of their choice. Thus, the young people who are generally led by such motives constitute 31.2%.
 - **Rationality conditioned by attempts to facilitate the learning process.** 12.6% of the surveyed mentioned the close proximity of the given professional educational institution (formal or non formal³⁷) to their place of residence as the primary motive for enrolling³⁸; 9.3% of the surveyed mentioned the ease of admission procedures, and 1.3% mentioned the ease of studying at the given educational institution (formal or non formal) as the primary motive for selecting the given institution.

³⁶ The sum of the numbers in the three table columns exceeds 100% since one of those surveyed may be studying at/have graduated from more than one institution.

³⁷ By saying “a non-formal educational institution,” we mean short-term courses taken with a tutor or at an organization.

³⁸ The predominant segment here is constituted by those surveyed from towns in the regions and from rural areas.

Relatively low tuition has been a decisive factor for 8.5% of the surveyed, 2.4% emphasized the fact that their acquaintances were teachers at the given institutions and 0.4% mentioned evading army service through admission to the given institution. Thus, those led by such motives constitute 34.5%.

- The so-called **inertia** and recommendations of relatives impacted 11.2% of the respondents, 9.2% of which selected his/her educational institution based upon parental or relatives' advice and 2.0% of the youth followed their parents' or relatives' examples.
- **The prestige** of the professional educational institution was the most essential factor for 8.9% of the youth.
- 5.2% of those surveyed mentioned a random choice of an institution (See Appendix 4, Table 4.5).

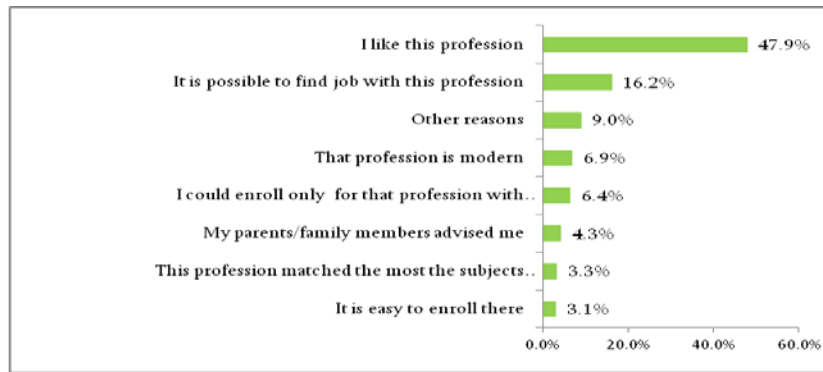
It should be stated that the prestige of the educational institution has been as a factor mainly in choosing state higher educational institutions, whereas low tuitions and charges have been decisive for the selection of short-term training courses, private higher educational institutions and VET schools. The motives for the choice of educational institutions by the latter's types are presented in Appendix 4, Table 4.6.

While the selection of an educational institution was predominantly based on "rational" motives, the main motives underlying the **choice of a profession** were emotionally colored: 47.9% of the surveyed stated that they had chosen their profession because they "like it", "it is interesting", "they dreamt of having such a profession"³⁹.

16.2% of the surveyed have chosen a profession using the criterion of a higher probability of finding a job in the future (Graph 4.1). When considering the configuration of the main motives underlying the choice of a profession by its sphere, it becomes clear that "liking a profession" has been a prevalent reason for choosing professions related to medicine, music, arts, humanities and economics. On the other hand, when choosing crafts, IT (informational technologies) and communications, social sciences and clerical work, the young people have been led by the motive of finding a job in the future. When interpreting the large percentage of those who have chosen a profession by emotional preference, the following circumstance should be taken into account: in the process of socialization, teenagers internalize society's perceptions of the prestige of and demand for various professions, which eventually becomes a factor (often unconsciously) in predetermining the perceptions and preferences of an individual. Hence, the large number of references to mostly emotionally-conditioned motives in the answers to the question on the motives for choosing a profession can be conditioned for by the abovedescribed factor.

³⁹ We should consider the following while interpreting the high percent of "emotionally" motivated youth: during the socialization process youth internalize social stereotypes of prestige and demand of each profession. Those stereotypes thus become a precondition (mostly not realized) for a person's perceptions and preferences toward particular professions.

Graph 4.1. Motives for choosing a profession

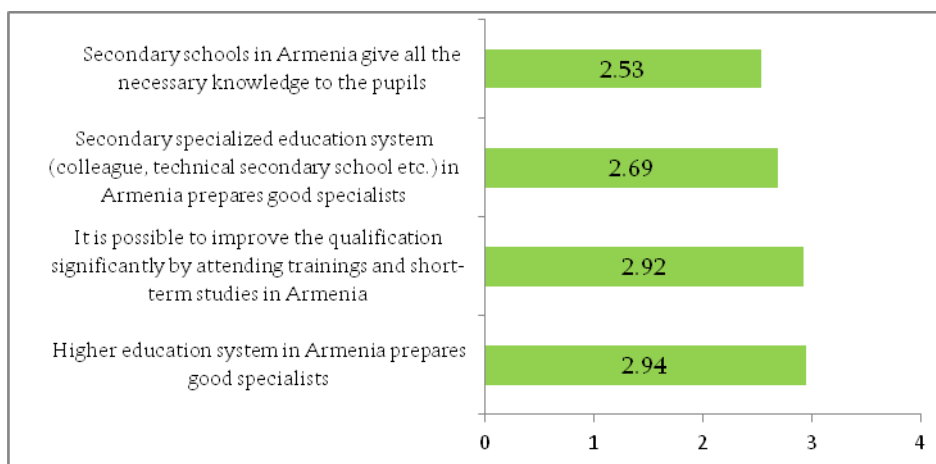


4.2 Youth’s Assessment of Educational Institutions in Armenia

Young people’s behavioral practices in educational institutions are largely conditioned by their assessment of the educational system in general and the changes they would like to see inside educational institutions.

The youth surveyed have evaluated the various levels of the educational system in Armenia, expressing their degree/rate of consent to the proposed statements⁴⁰.

Graph 4.2. Average scores of various levels of education



As it can be seen from Graph 4.2, the criterion stating that secondary *schools* provide students with all the necessary knowledge has received the lowest average rating score (2.53 out of a possible 4)⁴¹. Meanwhile, the more educated the respondent is, the lower score he/she gives⁴². The scores given to secondary education are discernibly varied. In view of place of residence of the surveyed, the average rating score given to the system is comparatively higher⁴³ in rural areas. The impact of the above-mentioned factors (education and place of residence) is conditioned by the comparatively greater expectations the young people from urban areas and those with a higher level of education have of the educational system. The highest average rating score was given to the *higher educational system in Armenia* (2.94 out of possible 4).

⁴⁰ The rate of consent on the different levels of education was assessed by a 1 – 4 scale, where “1” means “I do not agree at all” and “4” stands for “I agree completely”.

⁴¹ The opinions of the surveyed are rather heterogenous and scattered. The standard deviation of criteria ratings equals 1.066.

⁴² The correlation coefficient between a respondent’s education and the rating score he/she has provided is statistically significant and equals 0.203.

⁴³ Cramer’s coefficient is equal to $V=0.119$.

The scores given to the higher educational system are also essentially related to the level of education and place of residence of the surveyed (the higher the education of the surveyed, the lower the scores⁴⁴; the average rating score given to the higher education system is higher in rural areas⁴⁵). The abovementioned scores can be explained by an examination of the recommendations the surveyed made on the changes which should be made in the educational institutions considered core by the interviewed individuals.

As the Table 4.3 shows, 21.7% of the surveyed believe that there is no need to improve anything in the educational institution they consider core for themselves. Those who were educated at state higher educational institutions agreed least to the idea that nothing needs to be improved in their higher educational institution (10.7% of state higher educational institution graduates). They would like to see an almost equal number of improvements in the content and form of the educational process, placing a relatively stronger emphasis on better equipped libraries, upgraded university facilities, the elimination of corruption and the application of modern methods of teaching (see Appendix 4, Table 4.8). A more critical evaluation given to state higher educational institutions by their students/graduates may be conditioned by the fact that the latter have greater expectations. It should be noted that the application of modern methods of teaching (12.9%) and the focus on practical skills (11.8%) are predominant among the references to necessary changes made by the students/graduates of private higher educational institutions (See Appendix 4, Table 4.8).

Table 4.3. Essential aspects to be improved in educational institutions

There is nothing to improve, everything is good	21.7%
To repair the building, classrooms and surroundings	16.4%
To use modern teaching methods (interactive techniques, demonstration materials and so on)	8.7%
To eliminate corruption	7.3%
To improve the teachers' professional qualifications	6.6%
To improve the quality of the libraries as well as electronic information sources	6.3%
To give the students more opportunity to study independently	5.6%
To improve the computer rooms, laboratory accessibility	5.4%
To modernize educational programmes and content of courses	5.2%
To focus more on the practical skills development	5.1%
To make content correspondent to labour market demands	4.0%
To eliminate protectionism	2.8%
To expand cooperation and exchange educational programs with foreign educational institutions	2.7%

Table 4.3 evidently shows that in their core institutions, young people are eager to witness changes mostly in the facilities and accommodations (16.4%). 6.3% of the surveyed seek to see changes in the equipment of libraries.

⁴⁴ The correlation coefficient is -0.2.

⁴⁵ Cramer's coefficient equals $V=0.145$

The aspects, specified by the surveyed for change, involved such elements as the application of contemporary teaching methods and tools (8.7%) and a higher level of professionalism among teachers (6.6%).

4.3 Youth's Perceptions of the Value of Education

The perceptions of *the value of education* are also essential factors in explaining the educational practices of young people. As exhibited by the evaluations given by young people surveyed, they almost absolutely agree to the statement that in having a *higher education* they will have a *better future*. The average rate of consent to this equaled 3.41 (Graph 4.3), out of a total 4, consequently the opinions of the surveyed on this issue are quite homogeneous⁴⁶. It should be noted that the evaluation of the possibilities for a better future ensured by higher education depends on the age of those surveyed⁴⁷, i.e., the younger the surveyed, the more they tend to agree to the abovementioned statement.

The optimism of the younger people surveyed on this issue is also observed during focus group discussions. Schoolchildren view education as an instrumental value, that is to say as a *means* of finding a good job and attaining a prosperous life. Certain differences could be observed between males and females in terms of the perceptions of education: boys tend to emphasize education as a means of earning money, whereas girls think of it as a means of obtaining self-reliance and independence. Thus,

-... you study in order to ensure the making of an individual and to have certain amount of independence. For example, we are all dependent on our parents and one of the paramount goals is to become self-reliant... to earn money only in order to be a free and independent person, not to be in anyway dependent...

A female, 16-18 age group, Yerevan

-You become a specialist to earn money...

A male, 16-18 age group, Khndzoresk village

There is low consensus among those surveyed on the issue that in Armenia it is not obligatory to have *quality education* in order to have a *good job*⁴⁸. The average rate of consent to this statement is 2.62⁴⁹ out of a possible 4. It should be mentioned that the comparatively younger of those surveyed (16 years of age) are more optimistic in this regard and are more inclined to disagree with the abovementioned statement⁵⁰. This fact was once more confirmed during the focus group discussions. It is obvious that there is a tendency for increased pessimism correlated to the discussion participants' older age. While schoolchildren and students currently at professional educational institutions are more inclined to believe in the close relationship between education and a good job, 24–30 year-olds deny the existence of such a relationship. Since background education played an insignificant role in finding a job in their own experience, education is not usually regarded as a vital by the young people representing this age group. In particular, there is a certain group of people among the youth residing in regional towns and villages, the members of which, in their own terms, regret that they have received higher education.

⁴⁶ The standard deviation equals 0.93.

⁴⁷ The correlation coefficient is statistically significant and equals -0.138.

⁴⁸ The standard deviation is 1.23.

⁴⁹ 54.2% of the surveyed agreed to this judgment to a certain degree.

⁵⁰ There is a statistically significant, however not a large correlation that equals 0.095.

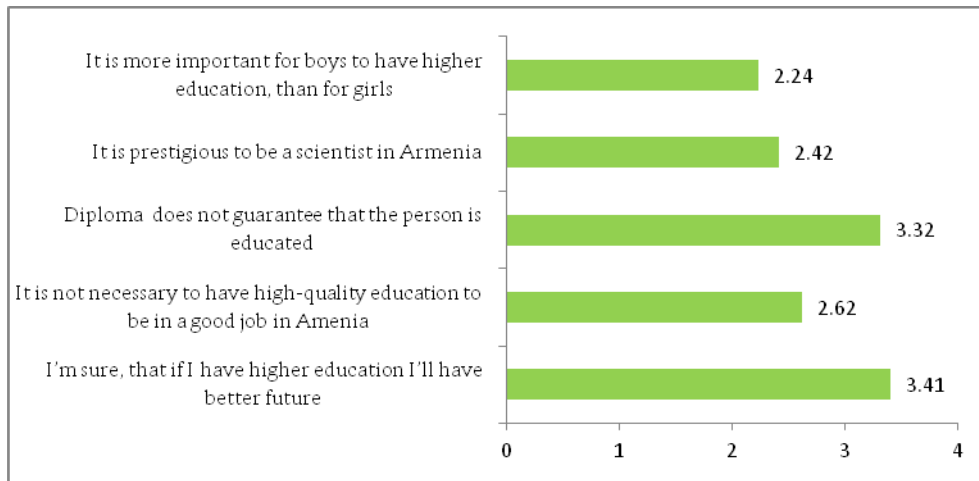
Thus:

*-The state should take steps in order to ensure that I have a job after I graduate from my five-year program... today I already regret having studied for five years at the University. I regret it, for sure...
A male, 24-30 age group, Yerevan*

The perceptions of a declined value of education demonstrated by a significant number of young people at the focus groups is substantiated by the limited possibilities of finding a *job by profession*. On the contrary, education is appreciated by those young people who are currently working by profession.

The perceptions of *the real role a diploma plays* in Armenia can be clearly seen by consent rates to the following statement: "In Armenia a diploma does not guarantee that a person is educated". 80% of the young people agreed to the aforementioned statement to a certain extent; the average rate of consent is 3.32 out of a possible 4. At the same time, the higher the education level of the surveyed, the higher his/her rate of consent⁵¹. There is also a certain correlation between the place of residence of the surveyed and the agreement given to the abovementioned statement. Those surveyed from rural areas are more inclined to disagree with the claim that a diploma is not a guarantee to a person's education.

Graph 4.3. Average rates of consent to statements on education



About half of the interviewed young people are inclined to cast doubt on the statement that the *status of a scientist is prestigious* in Armenian society. The average rate of consent with such a statement was 2.42 out of a possible 4⁵². Here too, those who have comparatively higher education have a lower appreciation for the scientist's role in society, while villagers, on the contrary, demonstrate a higher degree of appreciation. There is a certain statistically significant relationship between the gender of the surveyed and the perception of the role of the scientist: women demonstrate a comparatively higher consent rate to the idea that a scientist is an authority within society.

The interviewed young people somewhat disagree with the claim that it is more important to have a higher education for boys than it is for girls. The average rate of consent to this statement is 2.24⁵³. It should be noted that men are more inclined to agree to this statement, while those who have comparatively higher education are more inclined to disagree with it.

⁵¹ The correlation between education and the consent rate is statistically significant and equals 0.177.

⁵² 53.2% of the surveyed disagree with this statement.

⁵³ 39.5% of the surveyed agree to this judgment.

4.4 Educational Aspirations Among Youth

In the light of the perceptions of the value of education presented above, it is interesting to consider the *plans for further education for the upcoming three years in the lives of the young people surveyed*.

The results of the survey show that 47.6% of the youth do not have any plans for further education in the upcoming three years. It would be more reasonable to present the answers to this question by age subgroups, since the studied age group (16–30 year-olds) includes young people who are at different stages of advancement in life. The data presented in Table 4.4 makes it obvious that those who do not have any plans for further education prevail in the age subgroups, ranging from 24 to 30; 73.1% of the representatives of this group do not have any plans for further education. On the other hand, those who aspire to receiving a higher education prevail (46.7%) among young people aged 16–18; there is a certain percentage of those (12.8%) who do not have any plans for further education. The approach of 9.9% of the 16–18 age group representatives is that they will not have any education-related plans until they finish the educational institution where they are currently studying.

Table 4.4. Plans for further education for the upcoming 3 years

	Total	Age groups of respondents		
		16-18	19-23	24-30
I have no plans concerning education	47.6%	12.8%	37.4%	73.1%
To get higher education (1 st higher education)	15.4%	46.7%	9.7%	5.5%
To get a Master's degree in Armenia	10.7%	8.7%	19.2%	4.1%
To graduate from current educational institution	8.6%	9.9%	14.8%	2.4%
To go to training in Armenia	5.0%	5.8%	4.0%	5.5%
To enroll in specialized secondary school (college, technical secondary school etc.)	2.3%	6.6%	2.0%	0.6%
To get additional higher education	2.2%	1.7%	3.5%	1.4%
To get a Master's degree abroad	2.0%	1.2%	3.1%	1.4%
Other plans	6.2%	7.4%	6.2%	6.4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

The percentage distribution of plans for further education by age groups shows that *starting from the age of 24 young people consider that they have completed their education*. That is to say, one of the priorities of the Bologna Process, that is the possibility for life-long learning, is not currently prioritized among the youth.

Young people's plans for further education manifests gender-conditioned differences: female respondents outnumber male respondents with their plans that imply activity, and vice versa, they are fewer in number with plans, suggesting passivity among males.

Male respondents outnumber female respondents as to plans to receive first and further higher education. Instead, the percentage of young women who aspire to continuing their education to earn a Master's degree in Armenia

According to the data provided by the RA NSS the gender distribution of students of and graduates from state and private higher educational institutions in 2010 – 2011 was as follows:

Students: male – 47.2%, female – 52.8%.
Graduates: male – 43.8%, female – 56.2⁵⁴.

⁵⁴ http://www.armstat.am/file/article/soc_10_11-12.pdf, Social Situation of RA in 2010 (in Armenian), NSS RA

or abroad, entering VET schools or attending short-term courses is larger than that of young men. The number of young men who do not have any plans for further education is larger than that of young women (48.2% and 47.2%, respectively) (See Appendix 4, Table 4.7). Table 4.4 shows the considerably small number of those who aspire to entering VET schools (2.3% of the total number of the surveyed, and 6.6% of the 16-18 year-old age group representatives): this testifies to the fact that young people continue to perceive the abovementioned institutions as less attractive, irrespective of the relatively high level of market demand for some of the specializations these institutions provide training for.

There is significant variance among the further education plans of the young people residing in different types of settlements. Thus, the young people living in rural areas constitute the largest number of those who do not have any plans for further education (they make up 43.8% of those who do not have plans for further education, Table 4.5). Meanwhile, young village dwellers prevail among those who are eager to receive first higher education and vocational education (VET). Table 4.5 makes it obvious that VET schools are more popular with the youth residing in villages (60.7%). On the other hand, the number of those who aspire toward continuing their education to earn a Master's degree (both in Armenia and abroad) and to receive post-graduate education is larger in Yerevan (Table 4.5).

Table 4.5. Plans for further education by place of residence

	Total respondents	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
I have no plans concerning to education	47.6%	25.1%	31.1%	43.8%
To receive higher education (1 st higher education)	15.4%	31.9%	30.8%	37.3%
To get a Master's degree in Armenia	10.7%	41.9%	32.6%	25.6%
To graduate from current education institution	8.6%	35.9%	27.2%	36.9%
To go to training in Armenia	5.0%	31.7%	33.3%	35.0%
To enroll specialized secondary school (college, technical secondary school etc.)	2.3%	7.1%	32.1%	60.7%
To get additional higher education	2.2%	44.4%	25.9%	29.6%
To get a Master's degree abroad	2.0%	75.0%	12.5%	12.5%

The data demonstrates that 63.5% of those who do not have any plans for further education have various plans for finding employment, while 36.5% of the latter do not have any plans of the kind. That is to say, for the majority of those who do not have any plans for education, employment is a priority.

Thus, aspirations towards receiving professional education are quite common among a considerably large segment of young people in Armenia. Meanwhile, those who have plans for education in the upcoming three years in the comparatively older age group of youth (24–30 year-olds) are a minority (26.9%). In fact, after the age of 24 young people consider that their educational development is over. That is to say, the possibility for life-long learning which is one of the directions of the Bologna Process is not currently very much in demand among Armenian youth.

Education is viewed as the main means for succeeding in the future. Meanwhile, a tendency for a decline in the value of education could be noticed among those who had (partly negative) experience with looking for jobs after graduation.

A considerable segment of young people is critical of the present quality of education provided by the educational institutions in Armenia and is eager to see changes in both the content and the form of the educational process.

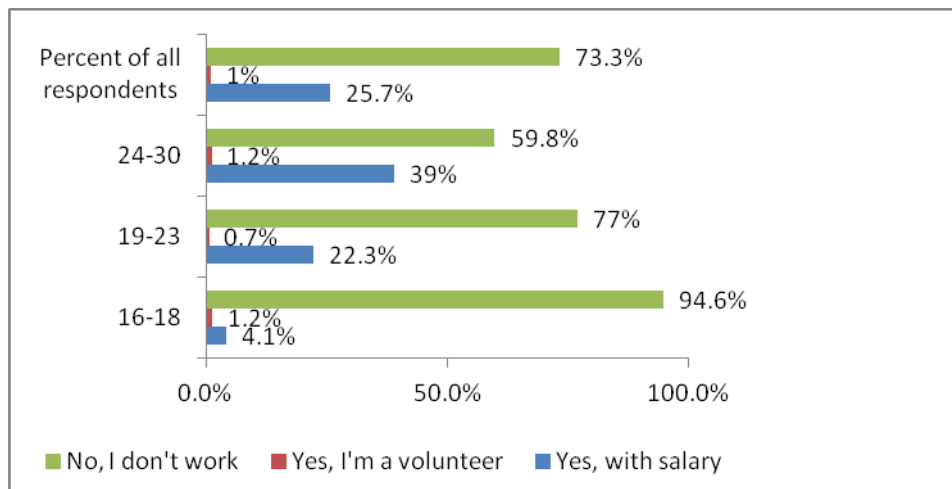
CHAPTER 5. EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH

Employment is another significant social institution in the course of young people’s lives. Employment, as a decisive factor, essentially impacts the perception of one’s ‘self as well as that of some social subsystems, thus conditioning young people’s plans for the future.

5.1 Current Practices of Youth in the Employment Institution

According to the results, 73.3% of young people are not currently engaged in any wage-earning or volunteering activity. As the researchers assumed, the 16–18 age group represented by largest segment of the unemployed (Graph 5.1).

Graph 5.1. Employment status of young people



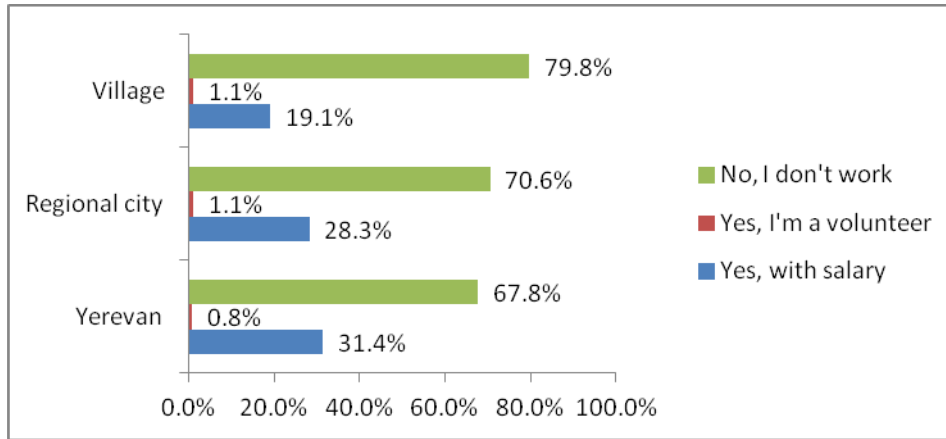
62.7% of those surveyed who are currently employed indicated that their jobs were permanent. 6.5% worked temporary jobs and 12.4% were involved in seasonal work. The largest share of the employed (47.5%) indicated that they were employed at local private companies, 34.5% worked at public institutions and 5.6% were employed at privately owned foreign companies.

When analyzing the self-assessments of one’s employment status, it is important to understand that in public opinion self-employment and engagement in agricultural activities on family property is often not considered to be employment. This observation was detected in a number of other surveys as well. In cases of self-employment, the abovedescribed opinion is formed because one is not affiliated with an employer. As for one’s involvement in agricultural activities, consumption levels within the household and the fact that the sale of produce does not yield a cash income significantly impact this type of opinion. As Graph 5.2 shows, the highest percentage of unemployment was seen among rural youth (79.8%).

According to the data, provided by the RA NSS, the officially registered young unemployed make up 19.1% of the total unemployed population⁵⁵. In the 16–18 age group the number of the unemployed is 0.6% per 100 people; it is 6.5% and 12% in 19–24 and 25–30 age groups, respectively.

⁵⁵ <http://www.armstat.am/file/doc/99466628.pdf>

Graph 5.2. Employment by settlement type



Employment status distribution by gender illustrates that, among survey participants, there are more unemployed women (81.0%) than unemployed men (61.6%).

Table 5.1. Employment status by gender

Self-estimation of occupation	Male	Female
Yes, I have a paid job	36.5%	18.6%
Yes, I'm a volunteer	1.9%	0.4%
No, I don't work	61.6%	81.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

In order to determine if young people are unemployed or not, it is important to learn if the latter are seeking a job. As the results of the survey show, *62.9% of those who did not have jobs were not currently seeking employment*. Females and young people aged 16–18 prevailed in this category. It is interesting to note that those who were employed at the moment but were at the same time looking for new employment constituted 35.2%. This indicator may testify to young people's dissatisfaction with some aspect of their current jobs.

Within the framework of the survey, we studied *young people's aspirations for employment*. In particular, we worked to discover what plans for employment they had for the upcoming three years. 30.1% of survey participants indicated that they had no employment-related plans (Table 5.2), females constituting the majority in this category (75%).

Table 5.2. Employment-related plans for the upcoming 3 years

I have no plans concerning work	30.1%
To find a job in Armenia corresponding to my profession	29.2%
To establish my own business in Armenia	10.5%
To find any job abroad	9.3%
To find a job abroad corresponding to my profession	7.6%
To get a job with higher wage in Armenia	7.5%
To get a job with a high wage in Armenia	6.9%
To find any job in Armenia	5.2%
To stay in the same workplace, I don't plan to change	5.1%
To receive a promotion in my current job	4.5%
To establish my own business abroad	2.6%
To find any job	1.7%
Other responses	1.2%
It is difficult to answer	0.3%

Even though young people consider it difficult to find a job according to their profession in Armenia, 29.2% of survey participants plan to do so in the upcoming three years. It is interesting to note that 10.5% of young people plan to start their own business. Particular attention needs to be paid to the percentage of those who intend to find jobs abroad: 9.3% of survey participants intend to find any job abroad, while 7.6% aim to find a job according to their profession in a foreign country. 2.6% are eager to start their own business abroad.

Job-seeking young people were asked a question on the steps taken to find a job. The answers given by survey participants testify that *the most common behavioral tactics in job-seeking is referring to acquaintances*: 67% of youth seeking jobs are currently trying to find a job by this means. This is followed by the option of finding job announcements and responding to them. This method is practiced by 45.0% of survey participants (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3. Steps undertaken by young people, hunting for jobs

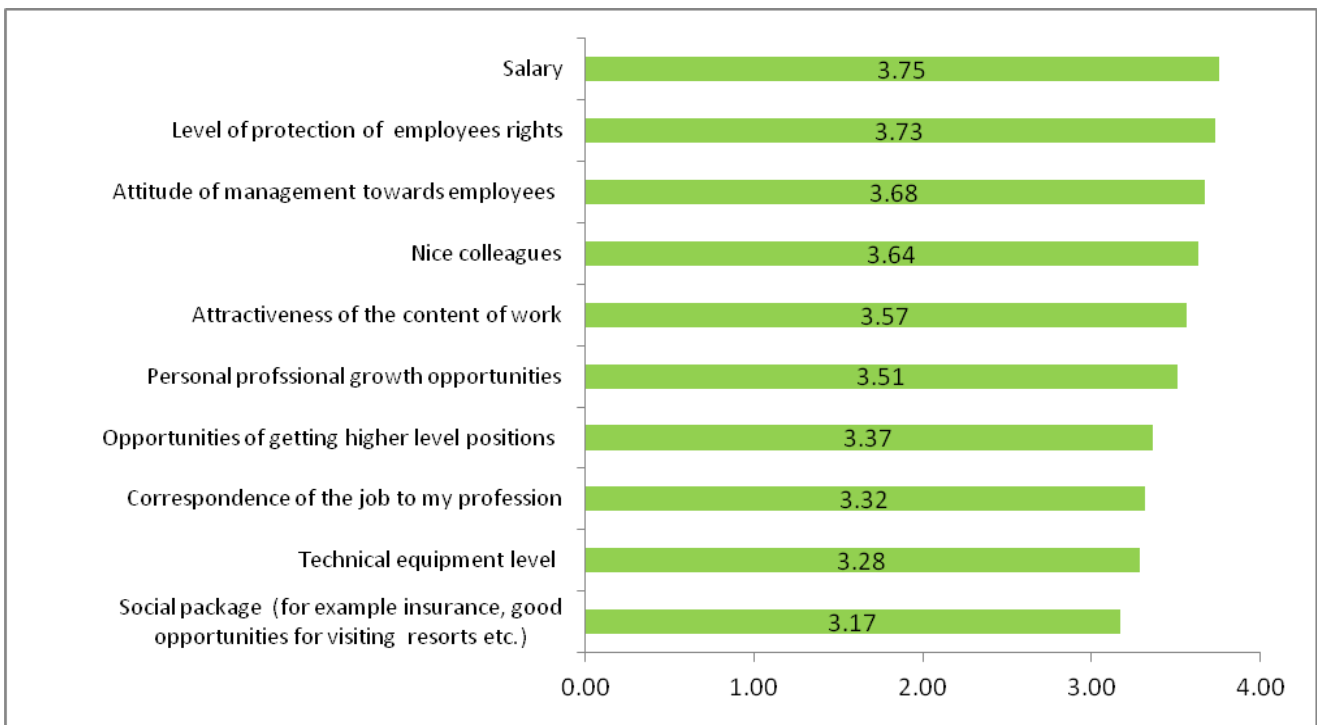
Undertaken actions	Percent of work seekers
I apply with my acquaintances	67.0%
I follow job announcements (on the internet, in press, on TV)	45.0%
I send curriculum vitae to different companies	16.8%
I apply to employment agencies	16.4%
I'm working towards a profession (including crafts)	8.2%
I do nothing	5.2%
I've applied to the State Employment Agency	5.0%
I participate in job fairs	3.9%
I participate in volunteer work	3.2%
I go to the foreign language and computer training	3.0%
Other responses	1.1%
Total	174.8%⁵⁶

The data provided in Table 5.3 makes it clear that *the percentage of youth applying to the State Employment Agency office is rather low (5%)*. This may imply that people are not aware of the existence or activity of this structure. This may also suggest that there is a certain level of skepticism as to the agency's efficiency. People tend to go to private employment agencies more often (16.4%) than to the state body.

We can ascertain young people's employment-related ambitions and preferences analyzing their answers to the following question: "Which aspect of a job do you think is the most important?" Graph 5.3 presents the average rates given to various aspects of jobs. The importance of every aspect was assessed on a 1–4 scale in which "1" denoted that the "feature was not important at all," while "4" suggested that "the feature was extremely important." The ratings presented in the graph make it clear that the importance of all proposed aspects was ranked quite high. There is also considerable homogeneity in young people's opinions on this issue. Obviously, *the aspect believed to be the most important in a job is the salary received*, followed by *the level of the protection of employees' rights, the attitude of senior officers toward the employees and the staff in general*. The survey participants believed that the availability of material and technical equipment in the job was relatively less important. However, the average rate of its importance was also ranked quite high (3.28) (Graph 5.3).

⁵⁶ The summary of responses exceeds 100% because the percent is calculated based on number of job seekers who delivered more than one response.

Graph 5.3. Average rating of the importance of job aspects



There are some insignificant discrepancies between the rates given by survey participants of different gender. According to the estimates given, salary comes first for the males surveyed, while for the females surveyed the level of the protection of the employees' rights is the most important aspect in a job (See Appendix 5, Table 5.6). The level of importance placed upon salary for men can be accounted for by the commonly shared perception that men are the main supporters in a family.

5.2 Perceptions and Values of Work Relations

In order to explain young people's behavior in the labor market, it is important to understand their perceptions and evaluations of the situation in the Armenian labor market.

The analysis of the perceptions of obstacles young people may face while seeking jobs in Armenia showed the following: young people believe that *the main obstacle in finding a job is the lack of sufficient places of employment (61.4%) and the tendency toward hiring acquaintances (52.6%)* (Table 5.4). A considerable percentage (24.8%) of survey participants believed unrealistic requirements put forth by employers were among the obstacles encountered when seeking a job. We could not trace any essential differences between the answers given to this question by the males and females surveyed.

Table 5.4 Perceptions of obstacles to finding jobs

	Percent of total respondents ⁵⁷	Male	Female
There are not enough workplaces	61.4%	62.8%	60.4%
In most cases employers hire their acquaintances	52.6%	51.1%	53.5%
Employers set unrealistic requirements for employees (work experience, knowledge of foreign languages, etc.)	24.8%	24.4%	25.0%
Absence of education, diploma	23.4%	22.5%	24.0%
Qualification of job seekers is lower than labor market requirements	8.3%	10.6%	6.8%
Appearance	8.3%	4.6%	10.8%
Employment Agencies don't fulfill their functions	6.0%	6.5%	5.7%
Education institutions don't provide applied knowledge/skills	6.0%	5.2%	6.5%
Disability	5.6%	4.8%	6.1%
Low salary	4.5%	5.6%	3.7%
Qualification of job seekers is higher than labor market requirements	2.3%	1.7%	2.8%
State Employment Agency branches don't fulfill their functions	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%
Employers demand bribes	2.0%	1.3%	2.5%
Gender	1.2%	2.1%	0.7%
Other responses	4.4%	2.9%	5.4%

The results of the quantitative survey on this issue were reaffirmed by the data received from focus group discussions. Here too, the lack of vacancies was viewed as the most important obstacle young people faced. With a job vacancy as a limited resource, it becomes obvious that young people applying for jobs would abuse the advantage of having connections to be hired.

In focus group discussions young people of a relatively older age who had more experience with finding jobs were more inclined to mention the advantage of having connections. A quotation from focus group discussions on the above-mentioned topic is presented below:

...my poor sister takes an exam at the court, time and time again she passes and the interview stage, too, they say she is very good (she laughs), but since we do not have connections, even a bribe does not help...having connections is a must ...

A female, 19-23 age group, Yerevan

-Someone else has support at the TV station, and he...appears on air, even though he has no voice, no speech, nothing...

A male, 24-30 age group, Yerevan

Regardless of references to the dominant role of informal factors in regulating work relations in the Armenian labor market, *when listing the requirements for finding preferred suitable job, young people still stressed a quality education (35.7%) and good professional knowledge and skills (10.3%). Work experience was ranked as the "second essential" prerequisite believed to influence finding a job. 16.7% of the surveyed believed that having influential connections was the primary prerequisite for finding a job (Table 5.5).*

⁵⁷ The summary of the percentages exceeds 100% because one respondent could mention up to three responses

Table 5.5. Perceptions of prerequisites for finding a job

	1 st prerequisite	2 nd prerequisite	3 rd prerequisite
High quality education	35.7%	9.6%	3.4%
Influential acquaintances	16.7%	13.0%	7.6%
High-quality professional knowledge and skills	10.3%	14.0%	5.7%
Work experience	6.1%	15.1%	10.6%
Relevant workplaces	6.1%	6.5%	10.0%
Diploma	4.2%	4.2%	5.2%
Bribe	3.9%	6.1%	3.3%
“Fortune”	3.9%	4.8%	8.1%
Purposefulness	3.9%	6.4%	8.4%
Being flexible	3.6%	6.4%	9.1%
Other responses	5.6%	8.9%	12.7%
Total	100%	95%	84%

Those, holding higher education degrees are slightly more inclined to ascribe importance to quality education and professional knowledge. At the same time, as compared to other groups, this one holds the largest number of young people who believe that influential connections play an important role (See Appendix 5, Table 5.10).

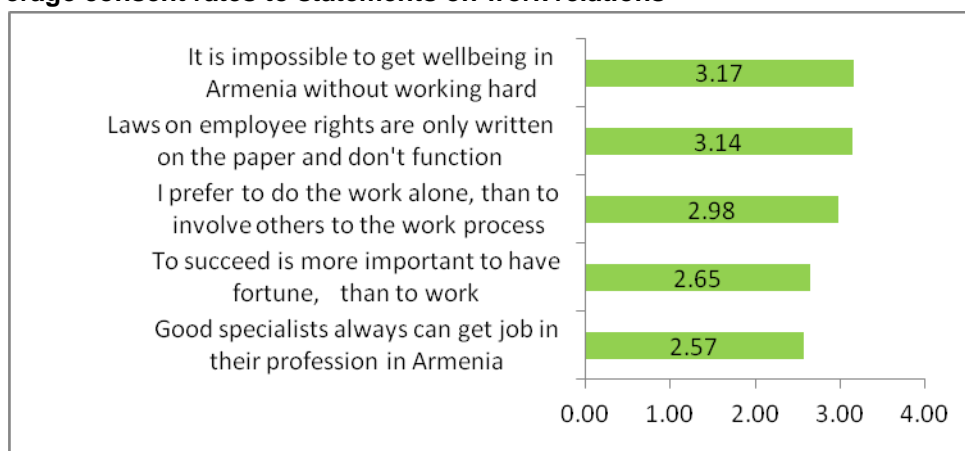
This emphasis placed on an employee’s qualification against the background of lacking vacancies and the perception of the decisiveness of the “connections” factor may imply the following:

- With such a limited demand in the labor market and a large supply of labor force, those with a quality education and good professional knowledge and skills are considered more competitive.
- There is a certain belief that, in equal conditions, quality specialists, as a rule, do find jobs.

It should also be noted that those who have an opportunistic position on this issue (for example, those who believed “being lucky” or “being clever” to be a fundamental prerequisite) made up quite a low percent among survey participants.

Rates of consent to statements proposed in relation to different aspects of work relations also reveal relevant perceptions of the situation in the labor market (Graph 5.4).

Graph 5.4. Average consent rates to statements on work relations⁵⁸



⁵⁸ The consent rate to statements was measured by a scale of 1–4, where “1” stands for “I do not agree at all”, and “4” denotes “I completely agree”.

Survey participants mostly agree that *it is impossible to have a prosperous life in Armenia without working hard*. However, the opinions on this issue are not quite homogeneous. There are major differences between the opinions held by survey participants of different gender and respondents coming from different settlements. Males surveyed are less inclined to agree to this statement (with an average rate of 3.11 as compared to that of 3.21 of women surveyed). Young Yerevan residents also display a lower level of consent as compared to others (with an average rate of 2.94, as compared to young people living in regional towns and villages with average rates of 3.23 and 3.3, respectively).

The majority of survey participants also agree with the following statement, qualifying work relations: *“Laws related to the protection of employees’ rights remain on paper and do not function”*. The average consent rate is 3.14 out of a possible 4. It should be noted that 3% of survey participants found it difficult to evaluate this issue. The most probable explanation is their lack of knowledge regarding this problem. We can trace some disagreements on this point among survey participants of different age groups. In this case, young people in the 16–18 age group stand out due to their optimism: they hardly agree to the above-mentioned statement: the average rate of consent is 2.91 as opposed to young people representing 19–23 and 24–30 age groups with average rates of consent equaling 3.14 and 3.26, respectively.

Focus group discussion participants raised the issue of the low level of protection of employees’ rights. At the same time, these rights were mostly mentioned in the context of the disparity between salaries paid and the quantity and hours of work.

The survey participants seem to disagree with the following statement: *“In order to be a success in one’s career it is more important to have good connections than to work diligently.”* 57.8% of survey participants somewhat agree to the above-mentioned statement with an average rate of consent of 2.98. The females surveyed are more optimistic on this issue and are more inclined to disagree with this statement (females surveyed agree with an average rate of 2.8, and males with an average rate of 3.2).

Young people, aged 16–18, stand out with their optimism (with an average rate of consent of 2.62 as opposed to 2.88 of 19–23 year olds and 3.04 of 24–30 year olds).

Young people did not make fatalistic comments regarding employment. They were more inclined to disagree with the value statement that *“In order to be a success in one’s career, it is more important to be lucky than to work hard”*. Young people aged 16–18 ascribed the least importance to the factor of luck (with an average rate of 2.39 in comparison with the other two age groups with their rates of 2.7 and 2.73, respectively). Surveyed females are a little more inclined to ascribe importance to this factor (with an average rate of 2.57, as compared to the 2.7 rate of males surveyed).

Young people agree least with the idea that *good specialists can always find jobs in their profession in Armenia* (with an average rate of 2.57). The surveyed females are comparatively more optimistic regarding this issue (with an average rate of 2.44 in comparison with the average rate of 2.65 yielded by the males surveyed). There are no significant differences among the ratings provided by survey participants on the remaining criteria. For average rates of consent to the above-mentioned statements by gender, age and settlement of survey participants see Appendix 5, Tables 5.7 – 5.9.

Discussion participants raised the issue of working in their profession as a pressing problem in the job market. As the data of the quantitative survey reveals, 37.6% of working young people and 52% of young people *who have professions* claim that they do not work in their profession (Table 5.6).

At the same time, 37.9% of those who have an education claim that their present jobs “completely comply with” their professions. The indicator of the same criterion among survey participants with vocational education is 27.3%. There is a statistically significant relation between education and self-assessment on working by profession⁵⁹.

Table 5.6. “Does your current work correspond to your profession?”

Completely yes	22.7%
Mostly yes	12.1%
Mostly no	6.2%
Does not	31.4%
I have no profession	27.3%
It is difficult to answer	0.3%
Total	100.0%

In conditions when young people face the need of finding any paying job, working by profession is often be considered “a luxury”. On the other hand, as we have previously mentioned in the Education chapter, discussions show that the failure to find a job by profession significantly affects young people’s satisfaction with their own professional lives. In more general terms, it also causes a depreciation of professional education in young people’s view .

Employment is obviously the most urgent issue for young people in Armenia and largely conditions their aspirations. The majority of young people surveyed (73.3%) are not currently engaged in any wage-earning or volunteering activity. The majority of those who were unemployed (62.9%) said that they were not seeking jobs at the moment. Most of them are women or young people aged 16-18. The percentage of those who were currently employed, but were at the same time looking for new employment was 35.2%.

The most common behavioral tactic in job-seeking was making use of connections.

Among major issues, existent in the Armenian labor market, the young people surveyed mentioned not only the lack of vacancies, but also the essential role played by informal connections and the low level of protection of employees’ rights.

The perception of limited possibilities for the solution of employment issues brings about the intention to emigrate among a considerable number of young people.

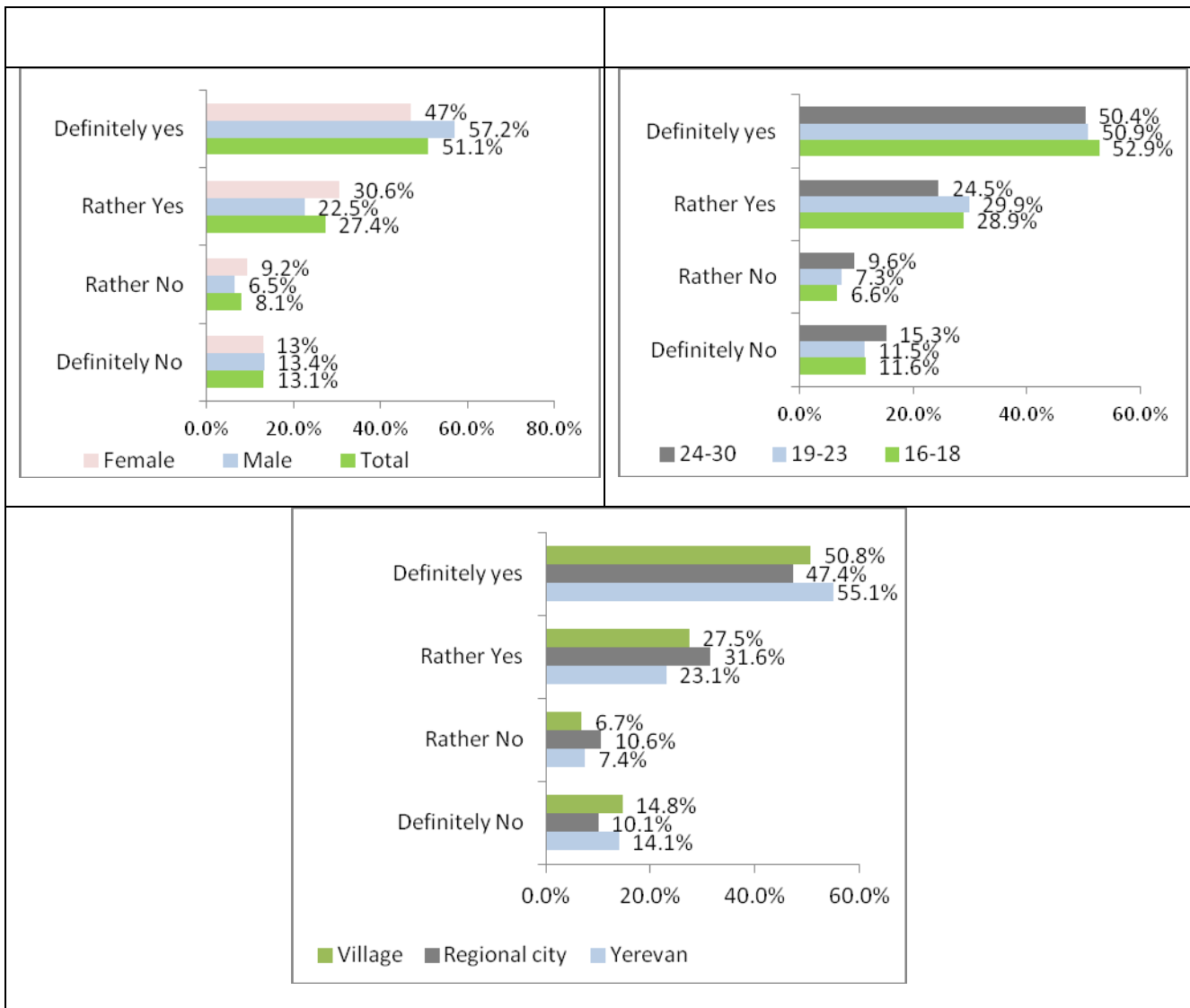
⁵⁹ The relation coefficient is 0.27 and is statistically significant.

CHAPTER 6. INTENTIONS TO MIGRATE AMONG YOUTH

Youths' intentions to migrate out of Armenia may be indicators of their perceptions of the situation within social infrastructures and their operation. Within the framework of this survey we have tried ascertain whether young people have intentions to migrate, to identify the possible objectives and causes for migration, to discern plans for leaving Armenia in the near future as well as their intentions of returning.

The results of the quantitative survey illustrate that the majority of survey participants (78.5%) would like to leave Armenia for various reasons if possible. Certain variations in answers can be detected when categorizing them by respondents' gender, age and residence (Graph 6.1).

Graph 6.1. Answers to the question “If you have a chance, would you leave Armenia?”, categorized by respondents' gender, age and residence.



As Graph 6.1 shows, male respondents are more inclined to leave Armenia (79.7%) than females (77.6%). The difference between the intentions of young people coming from different types of settlements is manifested not in the presence or absence of intentions to leave Armenia, but rather in the intensity of the assuredness in one's intention. Thus, those who would “be absolutely willing to leave Armenia” prevailed considerably among young people living in Yerevan and villages.

There is a considerable number of young people in regional towns who answered that they “would rather leave” (31.6%).

The predisposition for migration among the majority of young people has been confirmed during focus group discussions, the results of which will be presented in this chapter.

It is interesting to note that the intensity of willingness to leave Armenia does not differ much between the groups of currently employed or unemployed young people. The number of positive answers regarding the willingness to leave Armenia differs from that of the unemployed by only 4% (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1. Willingness to leave Armenia, categorized by employment status

If you have the opportunity, would you like to leave Armenia	Do You have job now?		
	Yes, with salary	Yes, I'm a volunteer	No, I do not
No	13.2%	8.3%	13.2%
Mostly no	10.6%	8.3%	7.3%
Mostly yes	26.8%	25.0%	27.7%
Yes	48.7%	58.3%	51.8%
It is difficult to answer	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

It is interesting to note that the desire to leave Armenia and clear plans for the upcoming three years do not depend on the educational level of survey participants in any way. There is no statistically significant correlation between the disposition for migration and the level of education⁶⁰.

Migration intentions do not depend on the respondents' welfare levels either.

As of today, 27.4% of young people surveyed have had experience being abroad. Among the most visited countries are; the Russian Federation (58.5% of those who have been abroad) and Georgia (33.3% of those who have been abroad). It should be noted that a significant correlation can be observed between the experience of visiting foreign countries and the desire and plans to migrate. The correlation coefficient between the variables of planning to leave for a foreign country in the next three years and experience of visiting a foreign country is 0.216, and is statistically significant. Hence, the number of young people, planning to leave is larger among those who have already visited a foreign country than among those who have not been abroad yet.

In order to better understand and interpret the high level of willingness to leave Armenia, it is essentially important to reveal the *goals in leaving*. The quantitative survey indicates that the key goal in leaving Armenia is to work. Thus, 44% of the total number of survey participants, and 56.5% of young people willing to leave, would like to migrate for labor (Table 6.2).

⁶⁰ The correlation coefficient between the desire to leave and the level of education is -0.057, the correlation coefficient between a concrete intention to leave and level of education is 0.019. In either case the correlation is not statistically significant.

Table 6.2. Goals in leaving for abroad

	Percent of respondents who would like to leave for abroad ⁶¹	Percent of total youth
To study	20.4%	16%
To work	56.5%	44%
To live	23.4%	18%
To visit my relatives, friends	17.6%	14%
To visit my family members	4.8%	4%
To travel, have a vacation	42.5%	33%
Other responses	1.1%	1%
It is difficult to answer	0.1%	0%
Total	127.4%	100%

There are obvious differences among the respondents' goals conditioned by gender. While the trinity of male respondents' migration goals comes down to working abroad (58.0%), having a holiday/touring (22.3%) and residing permanently (17.1%), the goals of having a holiday/touring (40.7%), labor (35.3%) and education (20.3%) are more common among female participants (Table 6.3).

Table 6.3. Migration objectives, categorized by respondents' gender

	Percent of total youth		Percent of respondents, who would like to leave for abroad ⁶²	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
To study	9.6%	20.3%	12.0%	26.1%
To work	58.0%	35.3%	72.8%	45.5%
To live	17.1%	19.2%	21.5%	24.7%
To visit my relatives, friends	11.3%	15.4%	14.1%	19.9%
To visit my family members	2.7%	4.4%	3.4%	5.7%
To travel, have a vacation	22.3%	40.7%	28.0%	52.4%
Other responses	0.4%	1.1%	0.5%	1.4%
It is difficult to answer	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
Total	121.5%	136.6%	125.4%	128.8%

The desire for finding a job abroad, and predominantly among the male participants of the survey, can be considered as natural, as the latter feel more obligated to financially support their families.

Quite natural and logical differences have been recorded among the goals in leaving Armenia voiced by young people of different age groups. The goals of having a holiday/touring, working and studying prevail among the objectives of very young people (45.5%, 34.3% and 24.8%, respectively). Among the youth, aged 19–30, the aspirations for working, having a holiday and permanently residing are more common (See Appendix 6, Tables 6.6–6.7).

⁶¹ The summary of percents exceed 100% because one respondent delivered more than one response

⁶² The summary of percents exceed 100% because one respondent delivered more than one response

It is important to review the percentage of those survey participants who would like to leave Armenia for permanent residence. The latter prevail in the 24–30 age group and in regional towns (See Appendix 6, Tables 6.5–6.6). The reasons for this will be discussed at length at the end of this section.

Within the framework of the quantitative survey, the young people were asked to justify the reasons for their migration aspirations. The results show that the broader prospects of finding jobs abroad (47.9% of those willing to migrate) and high salaries (40.9%) were suggested as major reasons for migration (Table 6.4)

Table 6.4 Reasons behind the desire to go abroad

	Percent of respondents, who would like to leave for abroad ⁶³	Percent of all respondents
There are more chances to find/get job abroad	47.9%	38.0%
Salaries are higher abroad	40.9%	32.4%
I want to see other countries, to travel	36.0%	28.5%
Education in foreign countries is of higher quality	12.5%	9.9%
Human rights are not abused abroad	12.2%	9.6%
Because of corruption in Armenia	8.0%	6.3%
Other responses	7.3%	5.8%
Specialists, who get education abroad, are more in demand here	7.0%	5.6%
My family members live there	6.3%	5.0%
Because of psychological atmosphere in Armenia	4.5%	3.6%
Because of political situation in Armenia	2.9%	2.3%
It is difficult to answer	0.4%	0.3%
Total	185.8%	147,3%

Focus group discussions have provided more in-depth information on the motivation of young people’s migration aspirations. In the focus group discussions, the young people had an opportunity to justify and argue for their aspirations (or the lack thereof) for leaving their motherland. It should be mentioned that the hierarchy of migration motives (by the number of those who follow them) roughly coincides with the results of the quantitative survey.

As a rule, migration is based on factors that are “driving out” from the given country and “attract” into another. These also serve as **motives** for migration behavior. The interpretations of young people surveyed show that the factors that drive young people out of Armenia and attract them to foreign countries are the opposite poles of the same factor. For example, if the factor driving people out of Armenia is the lack of vacancies, the factor attracting them into foreign countries is the wider range of possibilities for finding a job. The arguments for the predisposition to migrate is, on the one hand, based on the deliberately negative shades ascribed to this factor in relation to Armenia and the exaggeratedly positive shades attributed to this factor in relation to foreign countries, on the other.

Discussions reveal that for young people the USA, European countries, and Russia are more attractive place to migrate to. At the same time, considerable differences can be observed among the perceptions of the USA, European countries and Russia.

Youth seem to have a *collective mythologized perception of “West”*. The “West” is interpreted as a homogenous social space where “everything is fine.” As a rule, the information resource for the formation of the myths around the “West” is the experience of relatives and acquaintances who have temporarily or permanently lived abroad.

⁶³ The summary of percents exceed 100% because one respondent delivered more than one response

Thus,

-In our five-floor building you cannot find 30 young people today. They all live abroad. And they are all happy. They live so well that they can financially support their parents and relatives here.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

We will present the motives ***underpinning migration aspirations*** among young people in descending order of the number of young people led by those incentives.

- An incentive to find a job or a perception that “*there is no employment in Armenia and the salaries are low*” as opposed to the perception of “*it is easy to find a job abroad and the salaries there are quite high*”.

Among the young people surveyed this motive was the most dominant one. Using their own experience or that of their immediate surroundings, young people verify the lack of vacancies, low salaries and the significant role informal connections play in recruitment practices in Armenia.

Thus,

-For example, I personally would like to leave temporarily. I worked a season abroad, I know how that is. In three months in the service sector in Sochi I earn more than I do in an entire year here.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

On the other hand, due to the same experience, young people speak of greater opportunities of finding jobs abroad. Thus,

...Simply, it is possible to find a job,

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

-Living there is easier in terms of finding a job ...

A male, 16-18 year-old age group, Yerevan

Some young people contrasted Armenia with foreign countries in terms of *social guarantees* provided by the state. The negative predisposition towards Armenia as a state was based on the lack of the anticipated relatedness between education and the labor market. Thus,

...For example, when you graduate here, you have to look for a job... But the situation is different abroad... If you graduate there and meet the requirements, they come to you with a job offer.

A male, 16-18 year-old age group, Khndzoresk village

- A motive to receive an education or the perception that “there is quality education abroad.”

Another popular motive for leaving Armenia is to receive an education. Young people share commonly held perceptions that the level of Western education and science is higher, and education is of better quality. Such perceptions bring about aspirations for receiving an education abroad.

Thus:

-If I am leaving to get an education, I should go to a developed country as they are a few years ahead of us with their achievements. We need to learn from them, to learn of their experience and bring it over here, to use in Armenia.

A male, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

...In any case I think that our scientific level... I do not know, I am not pro-European, but our level is lower than that of science in Europe.

A male, 19-23 year-old age group, Goris town

- **The motive to live in a country with the rule of law** or the perception that “*Europe is a place with the rule of law*”.

The motive to live in a country where human rights are protected better and the rule of law is less common among youth than the aforementioned motives. The young people who mentioned this circumstance to justify their willingness to migrate also contrasted the situation in Armenia with that in Western countries, highlighting the polar differences between the two. Thus,

Male: *...if you want to undertake something, the tax commission comes to you with mostly fake requirements... But in Europe, where I have a lot of relatives, not acquaintances, but close relatives who are living there. They are all happy, for there you can protect your own rights, you can even go to court, they will never infringe upon your right...*

Male: *It is a country with the rule of law....*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

- **Social justice as a motive** or the perception that “*People are appreciated*”

The need for social justice as a motive is closely related to the abovementioned motives. The young people specifically highlighted the circumstances of the worthy appreciation of an employee in the labor market and the meritocratic bases for social mobility. That is to say that there is a perception that in Western countries one is professionally promoted due to his/her qualification, one is provided with a job and lives prosperously due to one's own merits (in contrast to the Armenian reality where “having connections” is perceived to be the main factor for progress). Thus:

-A clever person succeeds there, but never in Armenia...

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Meghrashen village

... it is easier to work there. You are appreciated for the work you do, but here you work 12 hours a day, you may get paid 3000 drams, but you would be paid quite a lot for those 12 hours there. Enough for you to lead a normal life... unlike here... here you study for four years, then you go and pay so much money, and then you go... excuse my language, but you sweat your guts out and you are not appreciated. But if you go and study somewhere else, and you work in your profession, or even not necessarily in your profession, you will be appreciated. No matter where you are from, you will be appreciated...

A female, 19-23 year- old age group, Yerevan

- **High welfare levels as a motive** or the perception that “*that country is a country of greater opportunities*”.

In the focus group discussions we observed that young people described Western countries as countries with unlimited wealth. The wide opportunities for professional self-expression, highly paid jobs, good living conditions, developed infrastructure and extensive recreational opportunities were the elements to make up the perceived wealth.

Male: *...It's a country of great opportunities.*

-In what sense?

Male: *In every sense. Both education, and employment, and sports...every possible sense, to enjoy life.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

-The janitor there gets paid as much as a lawyer here.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

Female: *There is more life abroad than in Yerevan.*

Female: *You wake up at 3 a.m., it is as alive as in the daytime.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 year-old age group, Ijevan town

During these discussions, the young people described Western countries as countries of “social equality,” and as societies “with no classes”. Thus,

Female: *My sister-in-law married and moved to the Netherlands, and she has been there for three years. She is happy and says there are no rich or poor people, everyone is equal.*

Female: *There are no classes of rich and poor ...*

23-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

- **The atmosphere in Armenia as a driving out factor**

Focus group discussions made it clear that the atmosphere and the values in Armenian society make some young people leave for other countries. The “*free atmosphere*” abroad attracts them because young people perceive foreign countries as places where they would have to face “*fewer problems*” and would lead “*a lighter life*”. Thus:

Female: *The Armenian people are backward.*

-In what aspects?

Female: *Every aspect, the mentality, people here live in order to satisfy their neighbor, to prove something to them, and very often they are unhappy with their own lives. And there I see that a human being lives for his/her own self, they feel self-sufficient, that's it. And they are ahead in their mentality, more advanced, and they are better off, than we are in our country.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Meghrashen village

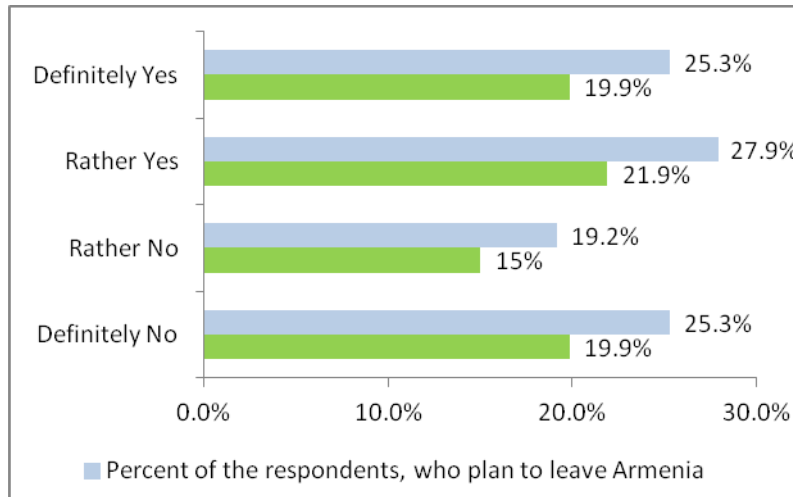
“I may want to go there, even for the purpose of permanent residence, because life is much easier there, people think differently, the mentality is different, everyone cares for his or her own life, they do not gossip about others...”

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

It is interesting to note that this factor is more important to female respondents.

During the quantitative survey, the young people who were eager to go abroad were asked whether they had plans for leaving in the next three years. 43.2% of the latter (and 41.8% of all survey participants) said they had such plans (Graph 6.2).

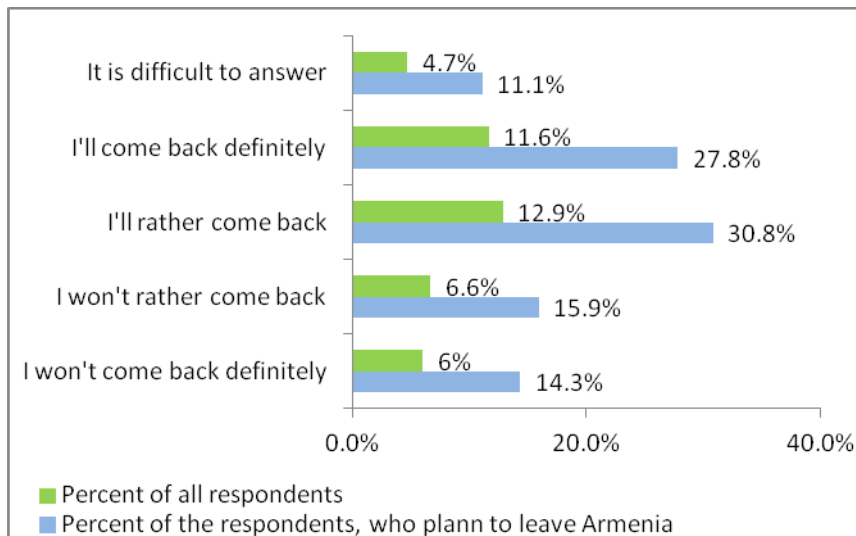
Graph 6.2. Answers to the question “Are you planning to leave Armenia?”



The categorization of those who intended to leave Armenia by gender, age and residence are presented in Appendix 6, Tables 6.7 – 6.8.

Those who had clear plans to leave assessed their probability of returning to Armenia. The results show that 30.2% of those who plan on leaving Armenia are not planning to return. The latter make up 12.6% of the total number surveyed. *That is to say 12.6% of young people in Armenia would be unwilling to return after leaving for foreign countries* (Graph 6.3).

Graph 6.3. Answers to the question “Having already left Armenia, should you be given a choice to stay or to return, which would you prefer?”



According to the results of the same qualitative survey, males surveyed are more inclined not to plan on returning than females who were surveyed, young people aged 24–30 and Yerevan residents are more inclined not to return than young people from regional areas. The answers to this question, categorized by the gender, age and residence of survey participants are presented in Appendix 6, Tables 6.9 – 6.11.

Focus group discussions regarding returning to Armenia after having left illustrate that the majority of those who leave Armenia are willing to come back. Here, too, the number of those who intend to return is larger in the following groups of survey participants:

- Young people aged 16-18
- Female respondents and regional residents.

The young people representing these groups consider going abroad as a *short-term perspective means to resolve an issue*. If, for very young people, that issue is to receive a quality education, the older ones, mostly female and regional residents, set an objective to temporarily live and work abroad in order to save money, which will enable them to return to Armenia and lead a prosperous life. Thus:

“...I hope that everything will change here and the situation will not be so bad... I do not know what situation my children will find themselves in. I want to work there and to attain what I want: having a lot of money”.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

The aspiration for returning among 16-18 year-old young people is largely conditioned by optimistic prospects of a desirable future for themselves in Armenia.

The aspiration of female respondents and particularly regional residents is mostly substantiated by such emotional factors as attachment to their home country and relatives. Thus,

-I will leave for some time to work, for the sake of my family, but I am strongly attached to my soil, I love my motherland, and I think there is no other such place on earth....

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

Male: *...No matter how good the authorities in foreign countries are, they are not ours. Our land is here, we have recollections related to our district, our home and every small thing. Whereas, no matter how good it may be abroad, there are no such memories.*

Male: *And what if you cannot make a proper future for yourself in Armenia?*

Male: *You can leave for some time...*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

The statements made by the majority of young people testify to the fact that there is a so-called **“compelled” migration attitude**: that is, the intention to go abroad does not come from the desire to abandon one’s home country. Rather it is required by the limited possibilities to satisfy one’s needs decently in one’s own country. Thus,

-...if you are able to lead a normal life, to enjoy it normally...definitely no one will be eager to leave. There is no better place than here, but as of today nothing satisfies you, for you do not live a good and happy life...

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

-...Well, if all the opportunities available abroad were here and if all the laws that are in effect abroad were here and the life style were the same, definitely I would not be willing to leave. But I do not think that will ever happen...

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

As shown by the results of both quantitative and qualitative surveys, the young people who do not want to go abroad in the minority. The justifications of their choice were also revealed in the focus group discussions.

These young people explained their lack of desire to go abroad by the following two factors:

- **Emotional attachment** to the motherland:

- No, I do not want to leave Armenia, it's true that I have been in many different places, I have seen a lot. The living conditions are much better than those in Armenia, everything is better starting from the lifestyle of the people, their jobs, their routine, but I do not want to leave. I am a patriot and I love Armenia. Moreover, I have had success in Armenia and I can live here quite well.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

...and sorry, Armenians will still be in dire straits. And who will protect this land, if everyone thinks they should leave.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

- **Feeling depressed** in another country since one is not a local and all the formal and informal limitations this status entails.

When living in another country, one may feel depressed because of the stereotypes existent in the given country, i.e., the phenomena of labeling and discriminating immigrants. Thus,

-Because there they will always think of me as someone from another country, they will always mistreat me, but here they cannot since we are Armenians...

A male, 23-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

...And in Russia they do not like and do not accept the people from the Caucasus.

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

Male: *To me, my land and my environment are more important, anything here seemed more important, even if you undertake something small, you can do it much better here than there.*

-Why?

Male: *Because you are never primarily important there.*

Female: *You are always of second class.*

19-23 year-old age group, Mrgashen village

-If you do not have a Russian passport, you cannot walk around in Russia. You feel scared. Or else, you have to dye your hair, for them not to guess right away that you are a foreigner.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

In summation, we can state that the majority of Armenian young people have a desire to leave Armenia for a foreign country, regardless of their employment status in Armenia. The main motive for going abroad is the aim of finding a job there. This is due to a perception commonly shared by young people that there are more chances of finding a job in another country.

In general, it is clear that young people's intentions to migrate are mostly compelled and conditioned by the perception of limited opportunities for satisfying their vital needs in Armenia.

CHAPTER 7. STATE, FOREIGN POLICY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

In the previous chapters we addressed the specifics of young people's activities in key social institutions. Their engagement in the key areas of human life and activity is actualized at specific institutions that function as a micro-environment for youth communications (be it a school, a higher educational institution, a workplace or any other establishment). To explain the behavior, perceptions and aspirations of young people, it is no less important to study their attitude toward the macro-environment in which they live and act – the state.

This study (with its quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection) also focused on issues related to the state, including the perception of the functions ascribed to the state, the degree to which the Republic of Armenia has fulfilled those functions, the perceptions of the guarantees meant for the preservation of the statehood, the attitude toward the army, the assessment of foreign policy led by the Republic of Armenia, the present level and forms of civic participation and the image of the “real citizen”.

7.1 Perceptions of the State and the RA, Factors for the Preservation of Statehood

The social moods towards the state are essentially affected by how society members perceive the functions the state should fulfill and the assessment of degree of fulfillment of those functions.

Below we will present the main functions young people ascribe to the state. The perceived functions are listed descending order, thus indicating the degree of their prevalence among the perspectives held by young people.

- The main function ascribed to the state by young people taking part in focus group discussions was **ensuring jobs and living standards for citizens**. The opinions of young people on this issue were homogenous and did not depend on their gender, age, education and residence. Thus:

Female: *The state should ensure that people do not go abroad, to Russia.*

Male: *They can at least create stable conditions for employment...*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 year-old age group, Ijevan town

-The state should stabilize the balance between salaries and expenses. If we receive this much, we need to spend that much, so that we can take care of the rest...

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

-Its citizens should not only survive, they should live.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Khashtarak village

- In almost all 12 groups, young people ascribed to the state the function of **providing equality**. Here they mostly meant economic equality.

-If we, say, take the example of pomegranate. Its seeds are the people, and if the pomegranate lies in one position, its seeds receive more nutrition in that position...And they should bring a leader to this state, who would distribute everything evenly among all.

A male, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

-I would like to mention the issue of equality. I want to stress that people are not equal, but the state is obligated to ensure their equality.

A female, 16-18 year-old age group, Yerevan

-That is why we need to have our ministers go to work by bike just as their peers abroad do.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Khashtarak village

- Most discussion participants believed that the state must **make laws and ensure their enforcement**. They stressed the rule of law and the importance of all citizens' equality before the law.

– The law must be there for all.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

-...The most important thing is equality, the one who drives a Jeep and a Moskvitch must be equal. Now they have installed cameras, but the one with a thick neck and a shaved head will again exceed the speed limit and will not pay the fines...

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

- The majority of the young people stressed the **function of creating favorable conditions for market regulation and entrepreneurship**. Young people expect such interventions in the market that would lead to the prevention of monopolies, the supervision of inflation, the balance between salaries and market prices and a favorable tax policy for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME). Thus,

– Utility payments, taxes and services must be stabilized, these must be at a level to not break the balance between what one receives and what one spends: one cannot get 50 thousand and spend 150 thousand AMD.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

–It must eliminate the monopoly... everyone must be given an opportunity to try everything. If you just try to import oranges, nothing sophisticated, and sell them here, they will not let you.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Khashtarak village

- Less frequently than in the above-mentioned cases the young people ascribe such particular functions to the state as the, elimination of corruption, regulation of traffic, nature protection, sanitation and so on.
- The surveyed young people made even fewer references to the obligation of the state to ensure citizens' and military servicemen's security and the development of the country.

The present attitude toward the RA was largely based on the perception of **how successfully the abovementioned functions had been fulfilled**. The vast majority of the young people pointed to the lack of fulfilling the aforementioned functions, illustrating such crucial issues in social life as unemployment, economic monopolies, corruption, *citizens' unequal legal liability*, extensive social inequality and so on.

The perception of the situation around the rule of law was assessed also in the quantitative survey. The youth absolutely disagree with the statement that "the laws cover all RA citizens equally." The average rate of consent was 1.7 out of a possible 4, and 80.4% of survey participants disagreed to this statement. The RA citizens' attitudes toward the legislative and law-enforcing bodies may indirectly testify to citizens' attitude toward the rule of law. According to the data generated by the social cohesion survey conducted in 2011, the RA National Assembly enjoys a confidence rating of 32%; the Police has a vote of confidence of 38% and 26% do believe in the judicial system.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Survey on the level of Social Cohesion, implemented by CRRC, funded by UNDP, Yerevan 2011

The young people spoke of the existence of these undesirable phenomena, as viewed from their own experience as well as that of the people in their immediate surroundings. Below we will present some interpretations made by young people on the present errors related to the fulfillment of ascribed functions:

Female: ... they do everything as they want, they must take everything and distribute it evenly, now only the rich can decide. You approach them, they point a gun at you, because you are just an ordinary citizen.

Female: They should eliminate the rich, the wealthy, so that...

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

-Say someone opens a store, and creates jobs for four or five people, right? The taxes they pay equal half of the cost of that store.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Gyumri town

It can be observed that **when discussing key issues existent in society, the state is identified with the government, with the latter being viewed as the entity responsible for solving these issues.**

The opinions shared in some groups indicated that the state relied too much on the private sector, especially in solving the issue of employment.

-But Armenia is not public, it is private, there is nothing public now, everything is privately owned.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

When thinking upon the causes for the abovementioned issues in the RA, the respondents mentioned both the focus on personal interests among governmental officials and the fact that the RA is a relatively young state. The latter was especially emphasized when drawing parallels with states that have longer histories. Thus,

-In our country officials fight for position. If many rich people did not struggle so much for their position and the patronage they enjoy, but went to the National Assembly to serve the people and made proper laws instead of ensuring patronage and protection for themselves, everything would be quite normal.

A male, 24-30 year-old age group, Gyumri town

-For example, Armenia is only 20 years old, France is 200 years old, it's obvious that there will be more justice in France than in Armenia...

A male, 16-18 year-old age group, Khndzoresk village

The fact that the RA is a young state serves in some cases as a background against which the present achievements are evaluated and optimism for the future is inspired. Thus,

Male: Here is what I think: state structures in Armenia have ensured a minimum of 80% for the citizens; the state has done everything any state should do.

Female: Because we are a newly-independent state.

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Meghrashen village

Male: ... I see only the issue with jobs that the state ... well, I think it is still new, time-wise.

Male: This is a state that has started quite a lot from scratch, a state that has won the war, and we often forget about this...

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 24-30 year-old age group, Gyumri town

The findings of the focus group discussions show that inclination toward an optimistic attitude and identifying themselves with the state is more common among the younger respondents of the 16-30 year-old age group. Some representatives of the younger group hold an opinion that “*We are the State,*” hence, the individuals living in it are perceived as a fundamental component of the state,

who in their turn must contribute to its development. Below, we will present fragments from the focus group discussions these young people have taken part in.

Female: *We are the state; we must do what needs to be done.*

Male: *She is right.*

Female: *Yes, besides we have a history of only a few years...*

Female: *The state is an umbrella, and the people are to be under it.*

Female: *But those people are to hold that umbrella up.*

Male: *The people should have respect for their leader.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 year-old age group, Tandzut village

-The state means its people. But we narrow it down and specify the notion, for when saying the state we mean the power, but the state is us, its people, and we must be the ones to address all these issues.

A male, 19-23 year-old age group, Goris town

The statehood of the RA was also touched upon during the focus group discussions; in particular, an attempt was made to understand what the young people considered to be **a guarantee for the preservation of the RA statehood**. The data, received in relation to this issue is listed below.

- The majority of young people think that the primary guarantee for the preservation of the RA statehood is **cohesion**. Moreover, this notion is interpreted differently by different groups: in some cases it is perceived as coming together around ideas (examples of such ideas may include freedom and independence), in other cases, it is perceived as joint and participatory decision making to solve topical social issues. Thus:

– ... history has shown us that when we are not united and individual, we do not have any achievements.

A female, 16-18 year-old age group, Ijevan town

– There must be cohesion... If there is an issue, they should all come together and think and say: “Let’s take this one thing from here and put it there...” And it should be done jointly, and not that someone should come and say: “This is where I am putting this thing” and then ten people would wonder why it happened that way.

A male, 16-18 year-old age group, Yerevan

- The surveyed young people evaluated the present level of cohesion as low. They tend to explain this by a focus on one’s personal interests, sometimes by social inequality, as well as the lack of the proper level of understanding and education. Thus:

– Because the wealthy do not want to have any contact with those who are at a level lower than them, or sit together around tables, that is why there is no cohesion...

A female, 16-18 year-old age group, Khndzoresk village

-And why aren’t we united?

Male: *Because we are half-literate.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

- By frequency rate, **“an educated government who stands above personal interests”** comes next on the list. The young people equally stress both education and neglect of personal interests. Thus:

- What do you think is necessary for the preservation of the statehood of Armenia?

Male: *A properly functioning government, levelheaded people...*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

Female: *Intelligent human resources.*

Female: *So that they can rule the country properly, lead the people correctly.*

19-23 year-old age group, Meghrashen village

- Less frequently mentioned factors which may serve as guarantees for the preservation of the state included **religion, language, the preservation of traditions and national culture, as well as a high level of education in society**. When speaking of culture preservation, young people expressed their concern with the influence of foreign cultures. Thus:

Female: *We should not get carried away by foreign streams.*

- What foreign streams do you mean? Which are they?

Female: *For example, we should listen to Armenian music...Why do we appreciate superpowers more in Armenia?*

Female: *We should... preserve our traditions.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 year-old age group, Khndzoresk village

- To have civilized people, intelligentsia.

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

- Some young people believe that a viable economy is a advantageous factor in the preservation of the statehood. They shared opinions stating that foreign investments could enhance the economy of Armenia. Thus:

-What do we need for the preservation of the statehood?

Male: *Good economy.*

-Anything else?

Male: *Establishment of enterprises.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 24-30 year-old age group, Gyumri town

- Investments made by foreigners.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

The quantitative survey provided data on youth self-identification with the state. Particularly, the respondents expressed their attitude towards being a RA citizen and an Armenian. Thus, the majority of RA youth are proud of being both Armenians and RA citizens. The average rates of the answers, given to the questions on this matter are presented in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1. Attitudes to citizenship and ethnicity⁶⁵

	“I’m proud of my nationality ⁶⁶ ”	“I’m proud of being a citizen of RA”
Average score of all respondents, from which:	3.76	3.62
Male	3.77	3.63
Female	3.76	3.62
16-18	3.77	3.64
19-23	3.73	3.62
24-30	3.78	3.63
Yerevan	3.67	3.57
Regional city	3.75	3.59
Village	3.84	3.70

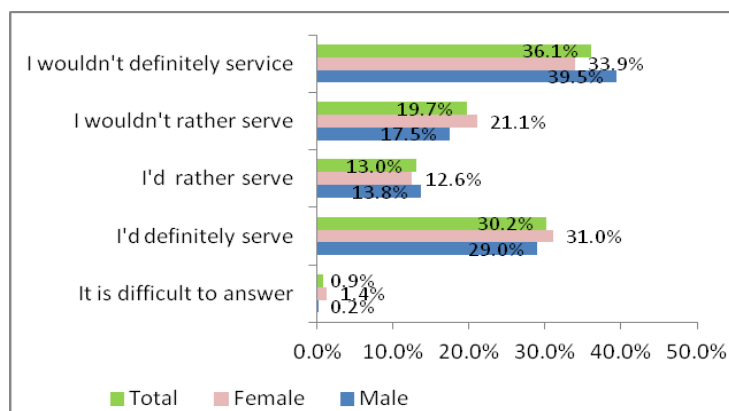
As the rates in the table illustrate, the young people are prouder of their ethnicity (3.76) than of their citizenship (3.62), even though both rates are rather high and are close to the maximum value of the scale. It can also be noted that there are no essential differences in attitudes among survey participants’ of different age and gender. There are some differences by the residence of the respondents: national and civil pride is stronger among village dwellers than young people from regional cities and Yerevan (Table 7.1).

7.1.1 Young People’s Attitude to the Army

Within the framework of this survey we studied young people’s attitude toward military service. We should first note that 53.4% of males surveyed have completed their military service in the RA army. The larger share of those who have not served in the army is constituted by those aged 16–18 (45.3%) and 19–23 (33.9%). In the 24–30 age group the young people who had not served in the army made up 18.9% of the representatives of this age group.

We can examine the predisposition towards army service by the answers to the following question: “Which option would you prefer, if you have a choice: to serve or not to serve in the army?” It should be added that not only were the males this question, but also females participating in the survey.

Graph 7.1. Willingness to serve in the army, categorized by the gender of the respondents (“Should you have a choice, which option would you prefer: to serve or not to serve in the army?”)



⁶⁵ Consent to the proposed statements was rated by a scale of 1 – 4, where “1” indicated “I do not agree at all,” and “4” stood for “I completely agree.”

⁶⁶ 97,8% of the respondents identify their ethnicity as Armenian, so the statement in the questionnaire “I’m proud of my ethnicity” can be ascribed to the Armenian ethnicity.

As Graph 7.1 reveals, should they have a choice, 43.3% of survey respondents would be willing to serve in the army. It can be noted that the willingness of female respondents was a little greater than that of male respondents (43.6% versus 42.8% of male respondents.) It is noteworthy that army service would be more desirable to female respondents if it is *voluntary and not compulsory*. We can conclude that female respondents prefer this option, analyzing their answers to the question on whether young women should also serve in the army in Armenia. Thus, 63.1% of female respondents disagreed with the statement “In my opinion, young women should also serve in the army in Armenia”. Meanwhile, it should be noted that the percent of those who agreed to this statement was substantial (26.4%). It is interesting to note that only 10.4% of male respondents agreed to the option of a compulsory army service for women, while for 90% of surveyed men this was considered unacceptable.

The low level of willingness of male respondents to serve in the army can be conditioned by negative experiences in army service. This assumption is verified when we compare the attitudes of the two groups of young men: those who have already served in the army and those who have not (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2. Willingness of male respondents to serve in the army, categorized by service experience.

Have You served in army of RA	If you have been given an opportunity to choose between serving and not serving in RA army, which would you prefer?					
	I'd definitely serve	I'd rather serve	I wouldn't rather serve	I definitely wouldn't serve	It is difficult to answer	Total
Yes	26.6%	8.6%	17.2%	47.3%	0.4%	100.0%
No	31.8%	19.7%	17.9%	30.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	29.0%	13.8%	17.5%	39.5%	0.2%	100.0%

As demonstrated in the table, the willingness of the young men who have not served in the army is considerably greater than that of those who have already completed their service: the willingness to serve is greater by 16.4% among those who have not had any army experience.

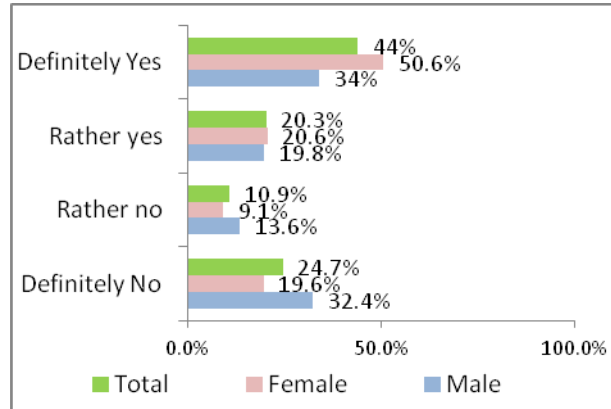
Significant statistical correlation can be detected between the respondent's level of education and their willingness to serve⁶⁷: the higher the level of education, the greater their willingness to serve in the army.

Young people coming from different types of settlements displayed a varied degree of willingness to serve in the army: young people living in Yerevan are more willing to serve in the army (49.7%) than their peers from regional towns and villages (44.1% and 37.3%, respectively) (See Appendix 7, Table 7.6). This trend can also be observed in terms of the willingness of male and female respondents, coming from different settlements, to serve: that is to say, young women from Yerevan demonstrate a greater willingness to serve in the army than young women from the regions (See Appendix 7, Table 7.7). This phenomenon can be explained by the traditional perception of gender roles in the regions, that is to say, females are more unwilling to be involved in activities traditionally perceived as “male-specific”.

⁶⁷ The correlation coefficient is 0.138 and is statistically significant.

The respondents were asked another question to reveal their attitude with regard to army service: “Would you like your brother/close friend/boyfriend to serve in the RA army?” As the answers to this question suggest, 64.3% of survey participants expressed more or less positive opinions. In this case, too, the female respondents who gave positive answers to this question outnumber males (71.2% as compared with 50.6% of male respondents) (Graph 7.2).

Graph 7.2. Answers to the question “Would you like your brother/close friend/boyfriend to serve in the RA army?”



Survey participants justified their answers to the abovementioned question. As the results of the survey suggest, the necessity for their brothers/close friends/boyfriends to serve in the army is mostly explained by “guarding the borders of the state” (53.9% of the respondents), “boys becoming self-sufficient and independent in the army” (48.2%), as well as the fact that the army service is perceived as a male’s obligation (31.7%) (Table 7.3).

Table 7.3 Justifications of the necessity of army service, to be completed by brothers and close friends/boyfriends

Reasons of serving in army	Percent
To protect state border	53.6%
In army boys become more self-sufficient	48.2%
Serving in army is a male’s duty	31.7%
For providing own family’s and relative’s security	17.3%
To increase the power of army	12.3%
For getting a military card	2.6%
I want to stay and to work in army	0.6%
Other responses	2.3%
It is difficult to answer	0.3%
Total	168.9%

We would also like to examine the way in which the young people justify the undesirability for their close friends and relatives to serve in the army. 63.8% of those who held this view substantiate their opinion by the low level of security for servicemen in the army. Here they are referring not only the threat rising from an external enemy, but also internal threats. 33.2% of the respondents mention a lack of discipline in the army to substantiate their point (Table 7.4).

Table 7.4 Justifications for the undesirability for brothers' and close friends' service in the army

Reasons of not serving in army	Percent
Security of military servicemen isn't provided (murders, sexual violence, suicide etc.)	63.8%
There is no order in army	33.2%
It's a meaningless waste of time	23.8%
There aren't appropriate living conditions for military servicemen	22.9%
In the army, problems are regulated by acquaintances	13.8%
Other responses	10.3%
Military service is a financial burden for a family	4.7%
It is difficult to answer	1.6%
Total	100.0%

7.2 Young People's Attitudes on the RA Foreign Policy

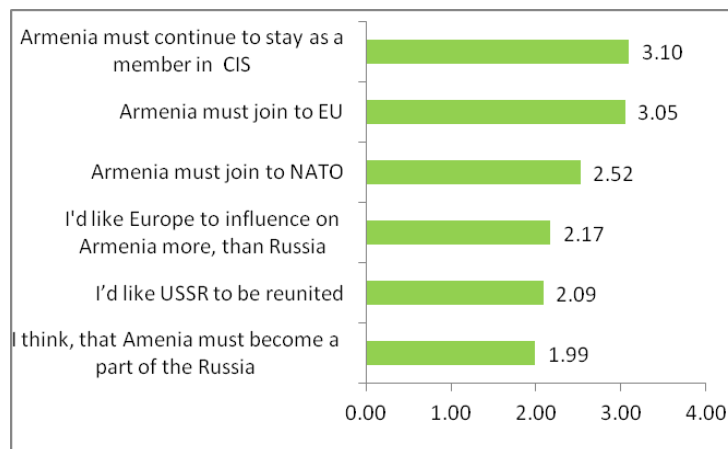
During this survey, young people have expressed their opinions on several issues pertaining to the RA foreign policy. In particular, the study attempted to reveal which foreign policy directions of present and future developments regarding relations with neighboring countries the young people thought preferable.

The analysis of young people's perspectives shows that the majority of respondents are for Armenia's simultaneous membership to both the CIS and the EU⁶⁸ (Graph 7.3). The approval rate for Armenia's adoption of these two political courses were quite homogeneous⁶⁹. At the same time, while the perspectives of young people coming from *different settlements* were quite convergent in terms of Armenia's status quo as a CIS member, some differences can be detected in the answers regarding EU accession among the answers of those coming from Yerevan and the regions⁷⁰ (See Appendix 7, Table 7.8).

The positions on Armenia's EU membership did not significantly vary, depending on the respondents' educational background.

It should be noted that 10.5% of survey participants found it difficult to express their opinions on the issue of Armenia's affiliation with the CIS, 8.5% of survey participants found it problematic to answer the question on EU accession.

Graph 7.3 Attitudes on RA foreign policy orientation



⁶⁸ The young people were offered statements on the foreign policy and a scale to assess their inclination for consent to each, where "1" stood for "I do not agree at all," and "4" indicated "I completely agree."

⁶⁹ The standard deviation of the rating is respectively 0.9 and 0.99.

⁷⁰ The average rate of consent among Yerevan dwellers was 3.12, among regional town dwellers – 2.97, and among villagers – 3.05.

47.8% of young people more or less agree with Armenia's prospect of joining NATO (with an average rate of 2.52), with 15% of respondents finding it difficult to express an opinion.

It is interesting to study young people's positions on Armenia's relations with Russia. The results of the survey show that the young people are mostly against the prospect of more influence exerted on Armenia by Europe than by Russia (the average consent rate to this statement is 2.17). Meanwhile, in the majority of cases young people are against the extremist perspective that "Armenia must become part of Russia" (with an average rate of 1.99⁷¹).

It is noteworthy that young people living in the regions are more inclined to agree to this statement than those residing in Yerevan: if the average consent rate among Yerevan residents was 1.76, the value of the same indicator for regions amounted to 2.01, and it equaled 2.16 for villages (See Appendix 7, Table 7.8). The same tendency is maintained in relation to the rate of consent to reunite the USSR.

It must be mentioned that the higher the level of education of the respondent, the more inclined the latter is to disagree to the idea of joining with Russia⁷². The same tendency can be noted also about the attitudes on the reunification of the USSR⁷³.

Relations with Russia were also discussed in the focus groups. The statement below reflects an attitude commonly held by a considerable number of young people:

-To join Russia, in the first place, for stronger borders... for example...

A male, 16-18 year-old age group, Ijevan town

The abovementioned approach shows that young people in Armenia *perceive the Russian Federation as a powerful state that supports an independent Republic of Armenia and plays a significant role in the preservation of the independence of Armenia.*

The attitudes regarding relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey were also considered in the survey. 99.3% of survey participants mentioned that they were against conceding any lands to Azerbaijan, with 0.7% stating that they found it difficult to answer this question. As for the opening of the border with Turkey, an issue which has recently received extensive coverage was addressed to reveal the opinions of the young people on acceptable concessions to be made to achieve the opening of the border.

As Table 7.5 shows, *91.9% of the young people believe that Armenia should not make any concessions.* 3.8% of the young people think the option of renouncing the demand for Western Armenian lands acceptable.

⁷¹ Even though the average rate tends to approach the scale gradation to reflect disagreement, 31% of young people in some capacity agreed to the idea of Armenia joining Russia.

⁷² The correlation coefficient between the level of education and consent to the idea of joining Russia is -0.256 and is statistically significant.

⁷³ The correlation coefficient between the level of education and consent to the idea of the reunification of the USSR is -0.268 and is statistically significant.

Table 7.5. Answers to the question “What kind of concessions do you think acceptable to be made by Armenia in order to have the border with Turkey opened?”

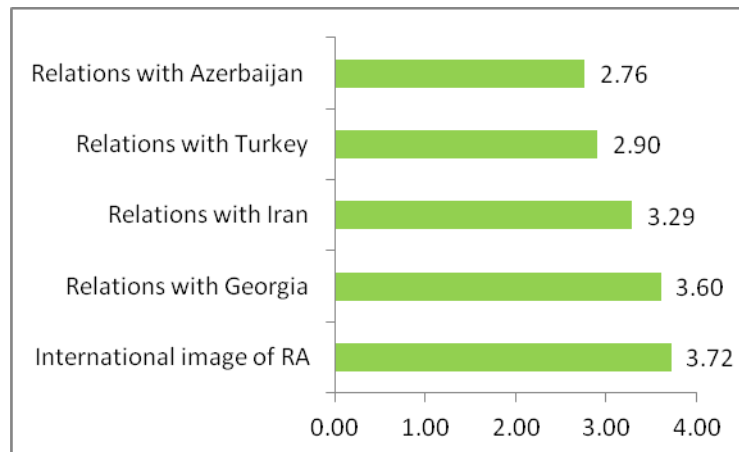
No concession	91.9%
To stop demanding only returning lands/territory	3.8%
To stop demanding only genocide recognition	1.1%
It is difficult to answer	1.1%
To accept any demand made by Turkey	0.9%
To cede territory to Azerbaijan	0.8%
To stop demanding genocide recognition and lands/territory returning	0.4%
Total	100.0%

It should be mentioned that there were no significant differences between the attitudes of young people of different gender, age and residence.

Against the background of the these positions, it is interesting to consider what developments young people predict in relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey in the next five years. The developments of relations with these and other neighboring countries were rated on a 5-point scale, where “1” stood for “they will drastically decline” and “5” indicated “they will essentially improve.”

As Graph 7.4 illustrates, in the next five, years young people predict an aggravation of relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey, and more predict this aggravation in regard to Azerbaijan than with Turkey.

Graph 7.4. Forecasts for relations with RA neighboring countries in the upcoming five years, average rates



As for the relations with the other neighbors of the RA – Georgia and Iran – some improvement is foreseen in the next five years. The respondents who believe that “the relations will improve a little” and “everything will remain the same” in the relation to both states, outnumber all the rest.

Young people expect a rise in the RA’s international rating. The average score given in favor of such a change is 3.72 of a possible 5 (Graph 7.4).

7.3 Young People's Civic Participation

One of the key indicators for democratic processes in a country is the civic participation of society members. Due to their age characteristics, young people are considered key players in civic activity. During the course of the Youth Aspirations' Survey, we studied the level of young people's civic participation, their willingness to be engaged in various social institutions, as well as the causes for and hindrances to such willingness.

Prior to presenting the data on the degree of young people's civic engagement, we would like to focus on the way in which Armenian young people perceive the concept of a **citizen** in general. These perceptions were revealed in the focus group discussions.

- **Conforming to law**

One of the most widely accepted criteria for defining the concept of the citizen is “**conforming to law**”. This concept is interpreted in a number of ways, including the knowledge of the law, acting by the law and exercising discipline.

The majority of the surveyed young people believe that this element of citizenship is not currently practiced by the majority of society members, since:

- The law does not equally cover all the members of the society. That is to say those who break the law are not punished correspondingly. In this context, it is essential to feel the guarantees of equal protection, ensured by the state, in order to identify oneself as a citizen.

Thus:

Male: *...for you to be able to act by law, know the law and if you do one thing, to know what awaits you for breaking the law.*

Male: *... just as it is aboard, in many countries no matter who the person is, a Minister or an ordinary citizen, if they violate the law, they are equally punished. It is only then that one can consider himself or herself a full citizen. But we do not have such a thing here.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

...well, say, one has been given freedom of speech, but one cannot say whatever he or she wants, because he/she will run into trouble later...

A female, 16-18 year-old age group, Yerevan

- In everyday life it is often more rational to bypass the law than to act by it. For example, we heard frequent discussions on the possibility of settling all traffic violations through an informal agreement with the traffic police (in case one violates the traffic rules).

It is significant that the rule of law is mainly perceived as an essential factor to feel protected in one's own country, which also brings about a sense of ownership for the given country.

-So that they can think of their country as their home, so that they can feel the master of it.

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

The perception of “no rule of law” in society has been established by the data of the quantitative survey as well. The majority of the young people do not agree to the idea that the law covers all the citizens equally. The average rate of consent to this statement equaled 1.7 out of maximum possible 4 (Table 7.6).

Table 7.6. Average rate of consent to the statement on the rule of law

	Overall average score	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Law is equally applied to all citizens of RA	1.70	1.58	1.79	1.86	1.70	1.63	1.55	1.69	1.85

- **Patriotism**

As the opinions voiced in the discussions indicate, young people often define a citizen through the concept of “patriotism”. This notion often reflects devotion to the motherland, an unwillingness to abandon the motherland in dire straits, a willingness to bear arms in war and service in the army at both times of war and peace. Thus,

Female: *...is devoted to one’s nation.*

Female: *That is someone, who does not leave, only to have a nice private life....*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 24-30 year-old age group, Gyumri town

- **Being useful to the motherland**

This perception holds more than one meaning; the discussions revealed opinions both on the importance of living a decent life and on engaging in useful activity within the social life. The young people particularly focused on the discussions of such formats, ensuring an individual’s usefulness, for example, as engaging in social work (such as planting trees), one’s own education, generally useful work by not only looking out for one’s own personal interests and so on.

- That is, he realizes that if he has not studied properly, he must become either a worker or a taxi driver, or if he has studied properly, he will become a good specialist for the country.

A male, 19-23 year-old age group, Vagharshapat town

- The real citizen must not think of ways to ensure his own self-interest, his own benefit, follow his own interest, but must try to effect reforms in Armenia...

A male, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

- **Being born, living in the RA**

Sometimes the ethnicity factor, or in the words of some young people “the blood,” plays a significant role in the perceptions of the image of a citizen. In this case, they also spoke of the importance of living and being educated in the home country. Thus:

Female: *...by blood.*

-By blood, that is both the mother and the father must be Armenian? If the father, say, is German, can’t he still be Armenian?

Male: *A citizen ...*

-And you do not believe that in such a case one may also be a citizen?

Male: *They may be, but they should be genuine citizens.*

Male: *Me.*

Female: *Those who consider themselves to be such. Well, I was born here, I was raised here, I have lived here, and I am being educated here.*

Female: *Those who also live here.*

Male: *The person who was born in Armenia.*

Male: *As we said it, they receive a typically Armenian education and are born to people whose father and brother are known to be born in Armenia.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 age year-old group, Ijevan town

Thus, the majority of young people believe that the real citizen must act according to the law, be a patriot, and realize activities that are useful to the state. At the same time, the actualization of the abovementioned characteristics is hindered by a few obstacles. Overcoming these obstacles presupposes systemic reforms.

7.3.1 Young People’s Participation in Various Structures

The level of a citizens’ participation is measured by their engagement and participation level in various structures. The concept of engagement comprises various levels which describe various levels of engagement. The World Bank methodology defines civic engagement as a “ladder” the steps of which are *awareness, participation in “public consultations,” participation in the joint decision-making process and the initiation and supervision of projects by the beneficiaries.*⁷⁴ **Membership** in key civic organizations is another criterion for participation.

The results of this survey show that the indicators of young people’s membership are the highest in relation to their affiliation with political parties: young people affiliated with some political party constitute 9.1% of the sample. 6.6% of the surveyed young people mentioned that they were involved in work on student councils, and 5.7% of them were involved in non-governmental organizations as volunteers (Table 7.7).

It should be mentioned that we observe a slightly different picture when studying the indicator of student membership to structures with a comparatively high membership rate.

Thus, 12.2% of students are members of political parties, 10.7% act as volunteers in NGOs, and 20.5% are engaged in student councils (Table 7.7).

Table 7.7 Young people’s membership to various structures last year

	Percent of young members	Percent of student members
Political Parties	9.1%	12.2%
In city hall, town hall, condominium works	2.0%	
In NGOs as volunteer (without salary)	5.7%	10.7%
In NGOs with paid work	1.2%	2%
Professional Associations (for example physicians’, teachers unions)	2.6%	
Students councils	6.6%	20.5%
Other structures in Universities (students, scientific clubs, companies and etc.)	3.8%	
Trade Unions	1.2%	
Student councils	2.0%	

Observations illustrate that the phenomenon of so-called “*passive membership*” is practiced in Armenia. This means that citizens are formally registered some organization, however, there is no actual participation in the organization’s formal or informal events. To prove the existence of this phenomenon, the young people were asked to assess the degree of their participation in the activities of an organization they affiliate with.

Because of the small number of young people affiliated with the abovementioned structures, it is impossible to make a representative comparison of the degree of the participation by civic organization members and those unaffiliated with any agency. It should be mentioned that in the three structures with a membership rate of over 5% (political parties, student councils, non-governmental organizations), participation rates are distributed in the following manner: 37.6% of those who are affiliated with political parties mentioned that they did not take part in the activities of the political party at all, and the same indicator for NGOs and student councils equaled 15.9% and 8.8% respectively (Table 7.8⁷⁵).

⁷⁴ Enabling environments for Civic Engagement in PRSP countries (ARVIN), Social Development Notes, Note No82, March 2003, World Bank

⁷⁵ Here, too, it should be mentioned that the percentage of errors in the correlation estimates of membership and participation is high, since the number of the members to those organizations is small in the sample to get representative rates.

Table 7.8. Participation in the three structures

	<i>I don't participate in events at all</i>	<i>I participate in rare events</i>	<i>I participate in some events</i>	<i>I participate in most of the events</i>	<i>I participate in all events</i>	<i>I work there</i>	Total
Political Parties							
I'm a member	37.6%	29.4%	22.9%	4.6%	5.5%	0.0%	100.0%
I'm not a member	94.8%	2.9%	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	89.6%	5.3%	3.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.0%	100.0%
In NGOs as volunteer (without salary)							
I'm a member	15.9%	20.3%	27.5%	14.5%	15.9%	1.4%	100.0%
I'm not a member	95.5%	2.1%	1.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	100.0%
Total	90.9%	3.2%	3.0%	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%	100.0%
Students councils							
I'm a member	8.8%	10.0%	28.8%	31.3%	16.3%	5.0%	100.0%
I'm not a member	90.7%	3.8%	3.4%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	76.6%	3.9%	4.8%	3.2%	1.2%	0.3%	100.0%

The phenomenon of only formal membership in political parties was also observed during the focus group discussions. The young people justified their passive involvement with a particular political party with the excuse that they did a favor to an acquaintance who needed to ensure a quota of party members in a particular geographic area. Thus:

Female: *But I have just signed up... to the party.*

-Why?

Female: *I do not know, they told me to sign up, so I just signed up.*

-Were they your friends?

Female: *No. More an acquaintance. Simply he needed to ensure a definite number of new members and I just signed up, but with no concrete participation... I am not into such things.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 19-23 year-old age group, Meghrashen village

A Student council is another example of “passive” participation within the realm of engagement. Young people from a student council were taking part in the group discussions. Their interpretations show that, more often than not, this council is not perceived as a decision-making body involved in school governance. Frequently, it is perceived as an organization commissioned by the administration of the school. In this case, the formal functions of the council remain unknown to member-pupils, and their participation in these councils is merely formal, or at most, the council is perceived as a body that fulfils certain organizational functions.

Thus:

-Are you involved in student councils?

Female: Yes, I am.

- What do you gain from that involvement?

Female: I personally do not gain anything,

-And why do you affiliate with it?

Female: I do not know, my class tutor came to me one day and said that...

Male: It is compulsory, they make you...

Female: ... the activists of the class are registered in that school ...pupils' council, and the..., to tell the truth, I did not like it... no, rather, I liked it, because from time to time its meetings would take place at the expense of the lessons, so we would attend those...

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 year-old age group, Yerevan

-We mostly discuss school matters, say, if we do something at school, for example, contests, concerts, performances and so on, these are the matters we discuss.

A female, 16-18 year-old age group, Tandzut village

Besides the young people's current membership to and participation in particular civic organizations, we also measured the degree to which they were willing to be involved in five different types of organizations to present their own and their community's interests. As Table 7.9 shows, the majority of young people are not willing to be involved in the activities of political parties, local self-governing bodies, civil initiative groups and various councils within higher educational institutions/schools. A small percent of young people *would definitely be eager* to take part in the activities of NGOs (8.6%) and political parties (8.5%).

Those who *display an inclination* for involvement are already the most engaged in NGOs, civil initiative groups and various organizations within higher educational institutions and schools (Table 7.9).

Graph 7.9. Willingness to engage in the proposed organizations and groups

	Definitely no	Mostly no	Mostly yes	Definitely yes	Don't know	Total
Political Parties	57.5%	13.2%	16.4%	8.5%	4.5%	100.0%
City hall, village hall, condominium	58.9%	15.9%	16.7%	6.6%	1.9%	100.0%
NGOs	45.0%	16.4%	27.7%	8.6%	2.2%	100.0%
Civic initiative groups	51.9%	18.7%	22.1%	5.4%	1.9%	100.0%
University's/school organizations (students council, students/pupils units etc.)	43.6%	15.6%	22.1%	11.0%	7.6%	100.0%

The young people put forth differences in the degree of their willingness to engage in various activities due to their age, gender and residence. Male respondents outnumber female respondents in their willingness to engage in the activities of political parties and local self-governing bodies (the willingness to engage, rated on a 4-point scale, had a final score of 1.8 and 1.71). And vice versa, the willingness of female respondents exceeded that of male respondents with regard to engagement in NGOs, civil initiative groups and structures within higher educational institutions and schools. The average rate of the willingness to be engaged in these structures is definitely higher in the 16–18 year-old age group and in the villages (See Appendix 7, Tables 7.15 – 7.17).

Those unwilling to engage in the above-mentioned organizations grounded their unwillingness to engage in the above-mentioned organizations by saying the “it is not interesting”, due to the presupposition that “my engagement will not change anything”, as well as the lack of time.

The lack of trust in the given organization is most often the factor preventing participation in political parties (12.5%). The percentile distribution of the reasons put forth by young people is presented in Appendix 7, Table 7.18.

The quantitative survey provided data on whether the young people perceived their participation in the solution of issues within their municipalities/communities as their obligation. The average rate of consent with the statement that “participation in the problems of municipal/community issues is my obligation” is 2.81, that is to say the answers of the respondents tend to reach the “I mostly agree” point within the 4-point scale. The obligation to take part in the solution of community/municipal problems is, to a certain degree, greater among young women than young men, younger respondents and young village residents (Table 7.10).

Table 7.10. Average rates of consent with the statement on participation, categorized by gender, age and residence

	Overall mean	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
To participate in the process of resolving my region's/cities problems is my duty	2.81	2.77	2.83	2.95	2.82	2.73	2.73	2.70	2.96

The data from the survey reveals that the number of those willing to be engaged in the abovementioned civic organizations essentially exceeds the number of those who are factually engaged in them. These numbers lead to certain suppositions, however more profound studies of the matter will be required to unambiguously verify or refute them. The phenomenon, is to an extent, clarified by focus group data on the basis of which the following approaches applied by young people can be outlined.

- A certain percentage of young people are not principally against engagement in the activities of some civic organizations in order to present their own interests and to take part in the civic processes.
- Young people speak of factors keeping them from engagement in some type of participation platform, such as
 - *Lack of time*: because time is perceived as a resource to be used for earning money.
 - *The perception of predetermined* solutions of social issues. A considerable part of youth justify their passiveness by the fact that the decisions on the issues that have received public resonance are already made in “the upper structures”, and their participation in the process will not have an impact. At times, interpretations on the formal character of democratic principles are voiced. Young people also speak of the lack of trust in the outcomes of their participation.
 - The desire for averting possible threats to everyday life language is expressed as a desire to “stay away from trouble.” This approach is the most widely spread when we speak of political issues. Thus:

Female: *Well, Armenian-Turkish relations with other countries.*

-On what other issues would you like to engage in?

Male: *I wish they took measures to demonstrate Armenian historical values to the world...because we have values that are hidden...Only we know of them.*

Male: *Other issues are already dangerous in life.*

A fragment from a focus group discussion, 16-18 year-old age group, Syunig Marz

In this context it is interesting to observe how young people interpret manifestations of civic activism in Armenia, the motivation for their participation and the outcomes of the initiatives. During the focus group discussions, particularly controversial opinions were voiced on the motives for civic action participants. The *activists' interest* was at one end of motivation perceptions. This interest had various nuances, starting from receiving payment for activity in civic action and ending with self-affirmation and aspirations for becoming recognized in society. On the other hand, some young people described activists as purposeful, and it was assumed that they had the spirit to stand up for their rights, as well as spare time, organization and patriotism. There were also interpretations about sponsorship and patronage which the activists receive by some players in civic activity, in particular by some foreign or internal political circles.

Within the framework of the survey, a group interviews was conducted with the representatives of various civic initiatives in Armenia in order to reveal the motives and reasons for their participation.

The activists participating in the interview considered *ideas* largely related to the benefits in various aspects of public life to be the main *motives* of their civil activity. The activists stated that their involvement in civil initiatives was due, on the one hand, to their own ideological maturity and, on the other hand, came about as a result of bilaterally mature understanding of this or that idea by individuals and some public circles.

The activists considered that the *Internet*, and especially social networks, is an essential factor that has significantly contributed to the growth of civic activism. Social networks fulfill a number of functions at the same time which include: being a source of information, acting as a tool for the mobilization of civil forces and working as a channel and a platform for voicing problems. The sharing and active exchange of information leads to citizens' recognition of various problems and alternatives existent in their lives, thus leading to some specific actions.

Activists consider that a *specific event*, related to an issue of public significance, may become an occasion for uniting and organizing a civil movement. For example, the raising of environmental issues in the country is systemically organized in a civil movement format, formed to prevent deforestation by mining corporations.

It is interesting to consider what steps the young people believe are necessary to make the RA Government listen to the interests and demands of youth. The quantitative survey shows that the most preferable format to make the voices of the young people heard is *regular discussions with the participation of young people and state officials* (36.1%). This preference also became explicit in focus group discussions, especially with regional residents indicating that they felt neglected by the central governing forces. They expressed a wish to present the pressing issues in their settlement in a format of face-to-face communication.

Table 7.11 shows that the establishment of youth NGOs and the involvement of individual young people in the committees under some state bodies were the more welcomed options among steps to be taken (26.7% and 24.1% respectively).

Table 7.11. Answers to the question “What steps do you think should be taken in order to make young people’s interests and demands be heard by the Government of Armenia?”⁷⁶

To organize regular discussions with participation of young people and governmental representatives	36.1%
To establish Youth NGOs	26.7%
To involve young individuals the in governmental committees	24.1%
To involve youth NGOs in the governmental committees	17.9%
To organize public discussions	17.5%
To organize actions, meetings, collection of signatures	15.7%
To become a member of youth NGOs	15.4%
To apply to central governmental	14.4%
To form initiative groups in social networks or to join them	13.0%
To apply to municipal government	9.7%
To be included in young departments of political parties	8.3%
To form civic initiative groups or to become a member of that groups	6.6%
There is no any option	6.0%
Don’t know	4.4%
Other responses	0.6%
Total	216.3%

Along with considering some of the mechanisms effective in making the voices of young people heard by the government, 90.8% of the youth indicated that during the last year none of these measures was put into practice. Only 1.7% of survey participants mentioned experience as a member of a youth NGO, and only 1.4% of creating or joining initiative groups on social networks (See Appendix 7, Table 7.19).

7.3.2 Participation in Elections

Evaluations of the impact of young people’s participation in elections received within the framework of the qualitative survey show that young people are inclined to agree that their participation will not have any impact. At the same time, there are differences in the perceptions of the between the potential impact they can have on the local self-governing and central authorities. Two statements were assessed on this manner, the young people assessed their consent to those statements on a 4 point scale (“1” stood for “I do not agree at all” and “4” indicated “I completely agree”). Thus, the average consent rate to the statement that “My participation in the local self-governance bodies’ elections will not change anything” is 2.82, and the average rate of consent to the statement “My participation in parliamentary and presidential elections will not change anything” is equaling to 2.93. Meanwhile, male respondents are more optimistic with regard to the impact they can have on the results of elections. Younger people, aged 16–18, and villagers are comparatively more optimistic as well (Table 7.12).

Table 7.12. Average rates of consent to statements on elections, categorized by the respondents’ gender, age and residence

	Overall average score	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional	Village
My participation in elections in the region (mayor, council) won’t change anything at all.	2.82	2.72	2.88	2.70	2.81	2.88	2.99	2.79	2.70
My participation in parliamentary and president elections won’t change anything at all.	2.93	2.86	2.97	2.85	2.90	2.99	3.04	2.86	2.89

⁷⁶ The percentage of the answers exceeds 100%, because one respondent mentioned more than one option.

The perceptions of the differences of the impact one's vote might have on local self-government and national elections were also obvious in the focus group discussions. It is believed that the smaller the scale of the authority to be elected, the more significant a vote may be.

In general, the focus group discussions confirmed the perception young people had regarding the *predetermined outcomes* of elections. It should be noted that, regardless of the perception of predetermined outcomes in elections, most young people expressed a wish to take part in them. This wish is justified by the following factors:

- By participation in the elections and voting, one reduces the probability election rigging and using votes illegally . Thus,

-If I do not participate, my vote will be used by someone else for their own benefit.

A female, 19-23 year-old age group, Yerevan

-I know why I am participating. If I do not, the blank ballot will be filled in by someone else. So I go there and cast my vote for someone, I do not even know who it's for, but at least I use my own ballot.

A female, 24-30 year-old age group, Yerevan

- By taking part in elections, a citizen realizes his/her own civic right.
- In this way, each person is given an opportunity to take part in the decision-making process at the national and community scale.
- Young people, aged 16-18, vote mostly because they are interested in the process.

To sum up the respondents' perceptions of their civil participation in state affairs, we can conclude that the majority of young people believe that the state does not completely fulfill its functions for different reasons. This perception is justified by issues the state currently faces.

Meanwhile, young people demonstrate a low level of participation in civil initiatives, which is conditioned by their focus on solving their personal problems, as well as skepticism towards the outcome of their participation.

CHAPTER 8. GOALS AND SOCIAL MOODS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people's aspirations are significantly affected by their awareness of the situation in their micro- and macro-environment as well as current by social problems. Giving meaning to the *present* situation affects the perceptions of the *future*, predictions and moods. In this section we will touch upon such issues as youth satisfaction level with different aspects of their present life, core plans and expectations related to them. A separate subsection will be devoted to the analysis of social moods among youth. Also, a reference will be made to the optimistic and pessimistic feedback of the development of essential spheres of society's private and public life.

8.1 Youth's Satisfaction With Personal Life and Future Plans

For interpreting and comprehending youth's aspirations, an assessment of how satisfied they are with different aspects of their life can be valuable information.

The aspects that constitute essential parts of a young person's activities are presented within the quantitative research, and the respondents were asked to assess the degree of own satisfaction⁷⁷ with personal achievements/accomplishments in each aspect listed.

The estimates of the young people indicate that their satisfaction is at the highest in their family life (3.68), whereas the lowest regards trips made to other countries (1.79) (Table 8.1). The level of satisfaction is rather low in attending sport clubs, and cultural and entertainment facilities.

Table 8.1. Average estimates of satisfaction with achievements in various aspects by the respondents' gender

	Overall average	Male	Female
Family life	3.68	3.77	3.62
Communication with friends	3.57	3.76	3.44
Education	2.83	2.76	2.87
Financial welfare	2.63	2.64	2.63
Healthy life-style	2.55	2.60	2.52
Frequency of visits to cultural, leisure establishments	2.14	2.26	2.06
Work/career	1.92	1.98	1.87
Frequency of visits to sport clubs	1.86	2.33	1.56
Frequency of travel out of Armenia	1.79	1.98	1.67

Special attention should be paid to the low rate for satisfaction with work/career – 1.92, which once again underscores that the problem of employment in young people's life is fundamental.

There are interesting differences in the estimates of different gender representatives– in almost all the proposed aspects male respondents indicate relatively higher satisfaction. Female respondents' estimates exceed males in only satisfaction with current education (Table 8.1).

It is interesting to observe the differences between estimates of young people of different ages. The most outstanding tendency here is *the older the respondent, the lower the estimate of satisfaction in most of the listed aspects*. The exceptions are the criteria estimating the rate of employment/career and trips abroad (Table 8.2).

⁷⁷ Degree of satisfaction was measured on the scale of 4 where "1" indicates "totally dissatisfied" and "4" indicates "fully satisfied".

Table 8.2. Average estimates of satisfaction with achievement in various aspects by the respondents' age

	Overall average	16-18	19-23	24-30
Family life	3.68	3.82	3.71	3.58
Communication with friends	3.57	3.77	3.68	3.37
Education	2.83	2.96	2.93	2.66
Financial welfare	2.63	3.00	2.67	2.43
Healthy life-style	2.55	2.83	2.61	2.37
Frequency of visits to cultural, leisure establishments	2.14	2.27	2.28	1.96
Work/career	1.92	1.77	1.86	1.99
Frequency of visits to sport clubs	1.86	2.14	1.98	1.63
Frequency of travel out of Armenia	1.79	1.82	1.78	1.79

There are outstanding differences in levels of satisfaction with achievements among young people from different locations (capital city vs. regional town or village). Interestingly, youth from rural areas, as opposed to their peers from larger towns, express more satisfaction with family life, socializing with friends and following a healthy lifestyle. However, youth from rural areas estimate their satisfaction with their education, employment, and especially with the volume of attendance to sports and cultural institutions low (Table 8.3). It is interesting to compare material well-being satisfaction levels as well. In this criterion, the least satisfied of all are residents of Yerevan (2.51), a little higher are those of rural areas (2.66) and youth residing in regional towns (2.74).

Table 8.3. Average estimates of satisfaction with achievement in various aspects by the respondents' residence

	Overall average	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Family life	3.68	3.64	3.63	3.74
Communication with friends	3.57	3.53	3.53	3.63
Education	2.83	2.90	2.86	2.73
Financial welfare	2.63	2.51	2.74	2.66
Healthy life-style	2.55	2.49	2.51	2.63
Frequency of visits to cultural, leisure establishments	2.14	2.43	2.18	1.87
Work/career	1.92	1.95	2.00	1.82
Frequency of visits to sport clubs	1.86	2.05	1.83	1.75
Frequency of travel out of Armenia	1.79	1.88	1.86	1.67

While considering the data, the following should be taken into account: *the differences between respondents of various gender, age and locations in satisfaction rates regarding various aspects of life do not necessarily have to occur from 'objective' achievements in those aspects. These differences may be conditioned by **ambitions and expectations** of young people of different age and gender.*

Current accomplishments and the level of satisfaction with them have certain potential to become motives for planning the future. According to quantitative findings: *currently, the top priority plans of Armenian youth are linked with employment and education*⁷⁸.

⁷⁸ Specific plans for the next three years related to education and employment are presented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 correspondingly

Table 8.4 Top priority plans of the youth's life

	1st important goal	2nd important goal	3rd important goal
Plans related to work	39.7%	27.6%	5.0%
Plans related to education	20.3%	7.1%	1.7%
To form a family	12.7%	16.3%	14.,7%
To buy an apartment	6.9%	6.5%	5.6%
To establish own business	3.8%	5.9%	7.4%
To assure a good future for my children	3.1%	1.0%	0.5%
To assure material prosperity for me and my family members	2.7%	2.1%	0.9%
To serve in the army of the RA	1.4%	1.1%	0.4%
Travelling, recreation, leisure	1.2%	4.4%	7.6%
To get a boyfriend/girlfriend	1.2%	2.4%	2.0%
To get a car and other valuable/expensive property	1.1%	3.2%	4.5%
Other responses	2.2%	3.8%	5.3%
I haven't thought about it/ It is difficult to answer	3.6%		
Total	100.00%	81.40%	50.60%

Statistically, creating a family rates third place on the scale of life's most essential goals. At the same time, this goal got the highest percentage among the 2nd and 3rd most essential life goals (Table 8.4). 3.6% of respondents stated that they had not thought about a priority life goal.

Along with the aspirations of young people, it is crucial to reveal the expectations as to the degree of fulfillment of those aspirations. In the framework of quantitative research the young people assessed the probability of the fulfillment of their top goals in the next three years. According to the responses, the overwhelming majority of young people are optimistic about work-related goals: 73.4% consider that the fulfillment of this goal will be fully or realized or that it is somewhat probable (Table 8.5).

Table 8.5. Estimates of the probability of fulfillment of their top goals by the young people in the upcoming three years

	All goals (of 1st, 2nd and 3rd importance)	<i>Impossible</i>	<i>Rather impossible</i>	<i>Rather possible</i>	<i>Completely possible</i>	<i>Total</i>
Plans related to work	72.3%	5.9%	20.6%	52.6%	20.9%	100.0%
To form a family	43.7%	6.9%	11.1%	42.6%	39.3%	100.0%
Plans related to education	29.2%	2.0%	10.5%	50.9%	36.6%	100.0%
To buy an apartment	18.9%	14.3%	33.2%	39.9%	12.6%	100.0%
To establish own business	17.1%	9.8%	18.5%	51.7%	20.0%	100.0%
Travelling, recreation, leisure	13.2%	5.7%	17.6%	49.7%	27.0%	100.0%
To assure material prosperity for me and family members	11.4%	12.1%	16.7%	53.0%	18.2%	100.0%
To get boyfriend/girlfriend	5.7%	4.5%	4.5%	39.4%	51.5%	100.0%
To assure a good future for my children	5.6%	3.8%	11.3%	49.1%	35.8%	100.0%
I haven't thought about it/It is difficult to answer	4.6%	-	-	-	-	-
To serve in the army of the RA	3.6%		8.6%	25.7%	65.7%	100.0%
To resolve health problems	2.9%		16.7%	45.8%	37.5%	100.0%

In terms of pessimistic estimates, the highest rated is the probability of the acquisition of an apartment in the next three years: 47.5% of the respondents consider the fulfillment of this goal improbable.

It is interesting to note the highest priority goals by the respondents' gender. According to the data for female and male respondents, work-related plans rank the highest (36.0% and 45.3% respectively). Still, both females and males coincide regarding plans related to education and family if we look at the frequency with which these goals were mentioned. However, it is noticeable that in regard to goals related to education females exceed males (22,9% and 16,5% respectively). Males, on the other hand, exceed females in goals related to family creation: 14.0% as opposed to 11.9% (see Annex 8, Table 8.13). The priority list of life goals (work, education, family) repeats among youths residing in Yerevan and in regions as well (see Annex 8, Table 8.15).

We received data contradicting the traditional distribution of gender roles. For example, in regard that the female rate regarding the goals of purchasing an apartment and securing material well-being of the family exceeds that of males. Those females who have a goal to purchase an apartment constitute to 7.9%, whereas the male figure is 5.4%. In regard to the goal of securing material well-being, females and males rate at 3.4% and 1.7% respectively.

When comparing priority plans by the age group of the respondents, predictable information was received: education-related plans for 16-18 year olds rank highest (59.5%), while for 19-30 year-olds plans related to employment are the priority (see Annex 8, Table 8. 14).

8.2 Perceptions of Youth Issues

Studying the social moods of youth is crucial in interpreting and predicting their behavior.

The concept of social moods is defined as the complete structure of life perception, which reflects the level of emotional and rational awareness, consistency and degree of social attitudes, social goals and benefits created by individuals and social groups. Social moods are formed by world perception, elements of worldview, individual assessment of *social experience and goals and benefits*, which are reflected in the social expectations of individuals⁷⁹. Social mood is a certain vector of individual and social group activities. For example, at one stage of functioning of society both optimistic and pessimistic moods can prevail, which are reflected in social activities⁸⁰.

In order to explain social moods, it is essential to understand the primary problems that youth are facing at present. If we present the top 1st, 2nd and 3rd problems indicated by the young people in the framework of quantitative survey, they can be seen as follows: *unemployment (81.5%), low salary (47.4%) and problems with housing (35.8%)* (see Table 8.6).

Table 8.6 The top three problems faced by young people

	Summary percentage of problems	1st problem	2nd problem	3rd problem
Unemployment	81.5%	64.2%	12.1%	5.1%
Low salaries	47.4%	9.4%	27.8%	10.2%
Housing problem	35.8%	6.5%	15.5%	13.8%
Lack of state support to youth	21.6%	2.9%	6.1%	12.6%
Education accessibility	17.4%	6.2%	6.3%	4.8%
Health problems	13.0%	1.4%	5.0%	6.6%
Level of human rights protection, corruption	12.2%	1.2%	4.7%	6.3%
Quality of education	12.0%	1.7%	4.6%	5.6%
Limited opportunities for self-expression	10.2%	1.9%	4.2%	4.1%
Drug addiction	8.7%	1.5%	2.5%	4.7%
Smoking	8.4%	1.0%	3.1%	4.3%
Problems organizing leisure activities	7.0%	0.5%	2.4%	4.1%
Other responses	3.2%	0.7%	1.2%	1.2%
Limited opportunities to participate in the decision-making process on regional/city/country level	2.1%	0.2%	0.9%	1.0%
Unresolved conflicts with some neighbor countries	1.4%	0.1%	0.3%	1.0%
There is no problem	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
It is difficult to answer	0.2%	0.2%		
Total	282.6%	100.0%	96.8%	85.7%

⁷⁹ Тощенко Ж. Т. “Социальное настроение-феномен современной социологической теории и практики”, СОЦИС., 1998, N1, С.21-34.

⁸⁰ Теория и практика общественного развития, Дитятев А. Ю. Методологический потенциал концепции социального настроения в изучении феноменов оптимизма и пессимизма в современном обществе, 2011, № 5.

A significant proportion are young people indicated that the absence of support for youth by the government is the biggest problem (21,6%).

It should be noted that the three most essential problems are identical in the perception of youth of various genders, ages, and residences (see Annex 8, Tables 8.16-8.18).

The hierarchy of the aforementioned problems has also been confirmed in *focus groups*.

While discussing youth issues, almost all respondents first mentioned *unemployment and lack of work places* regardless of their age, gender, and residence. The other problems indicated are viewed as derivatives from these same problems. Most of the other problems stem directly from the problem of employment. Namely, such issues as the dominant role of informal connections when getting hired, low salary, work relations not stipulated by law, as well as dependence on parents due to unemployment and housing issues were listed. The latter, along with financial instability is viewed as an obstacle in the way of marriage.

The state, and more specifically, the government is perceived as being responsible for solving nearly all of the aforementioned issues. At the same time, there is an *active attitude* among most of the young people in regard to solving existing problems, that is, the core means to reaching the desired level of material well-being is employment. Whereas the responsibility for providing the opportunity to work is attributed to the state.

One of the issues mentioned by the youths in the regions is the absence of leisure venues. Moreover, if the RA Government is viewed as the core responsible party for creating workplaces, those accountable for leisure infrastructures in the regions are the communal/municipal authorities.

During focus group discussions, the young people also indicated such problems as the depressing atmosphere which exists in the country, excessive conservatism in different aspects of life and too much concern for the opinion of others.

By the method of a qualitative interview, the **problems of young people with special needs** have also been studied in the framework of this survey.

The essential problems facing young people with special needs were discussed during a group interview with this particular group. Nearly all of the problems related to various aspects of vital activity are those linked with the accessibility to public buildings and transport lacking facilities for members of this group.

In particular, the problem of employment is raised from the point of view of the following two factors:

- Young people with special needs live in unequal conditions from other members of society, even if they have better knowledge and skills than those who do not have special needs. This refers to the existing biased attitude towards those with special needs. This bias is most often displayed in stereotyped attitudes, with members of society viewing their professional capabilities with suspicion.
- Public buildings lack facilities for people with special needs in terms of entrance and work conditions.

The young people of this group emphasize the problem of unequal opportunities in receiving an education, stating that educational establishments and education processes are not adapted to young people with special needs. Particularly, it refers to both the physical facilities of educational establishments (lack of facilities for those with mobility problems) and an absence of manuals for students with special needs (for example, for students who have problems with eyesight).

Another major problem is the **organization of leisure**. Young people in the special needs group are automatically left out of cultural events because of limitations in entering and moving about in buildings.

According to the representatives of this group, the Government holds the main responsibility for solving these problems. The Government's responsibility is expected to be as follows:

- To facilitate buildings for those having mobility problems and control of implementation
- To encourage employers in hiring young people with special needs, putting forward certain requirements for this and monitoring their implementation.

According to young people with special needs, in recent years there has been more civil activism on their behalf, which tends to raise and solve these problems. The outcomes of this activism are viewed as fragmentary and small in scale.

Within the framework of the research, the problems of **minorities' youth** have also been outlined in the format of an expert interview. According to the specialist dealing with the problems of national minorities, the problems faced by the youth of this group are identical to other young people of Armenia. A problem worth special attention is one related to preserving national identity, cultural heritage and reproduction. Among the causes of this problem is underdeveloped cultural infrastructure in the regions, which is caused by limited funds available for such activities.

According to the expert, national minorities mainly do not face problems regarding their national inclusion, in particular, discrimination.

Thus, it is clear from either the quantitative or qualitative research that young people share the same opinion with regard to the essential issues they face. In perceptions of these issues, it is interesting to observe the prediction for their own future from the perspective of both optimism and pessimism. In the framework of this research, young people have assessed the future in upcoming five years on both the personal and public level⁸¹

8.3 Social Moods of Young People

The findings of the quantitative research show that the overwhelming majority of Armenian youth are optimistic about their future in the upcoming five years. The mean for predictions is 4.12 out of a possible 5.

50.7% of the young people surveyed believe that their life will significantly improve and 31.4% think it will somewhat improve (Table 8.7 and Graph 8.1). Moreover, females, the 16-18 age group and residents of Yerevan are the most optimistic. Responses to this question by the respondents' gender, age and residence are presented in Annex 8, Table 8.19. It should be noted that the responses to this question are rather homogenous⁸².

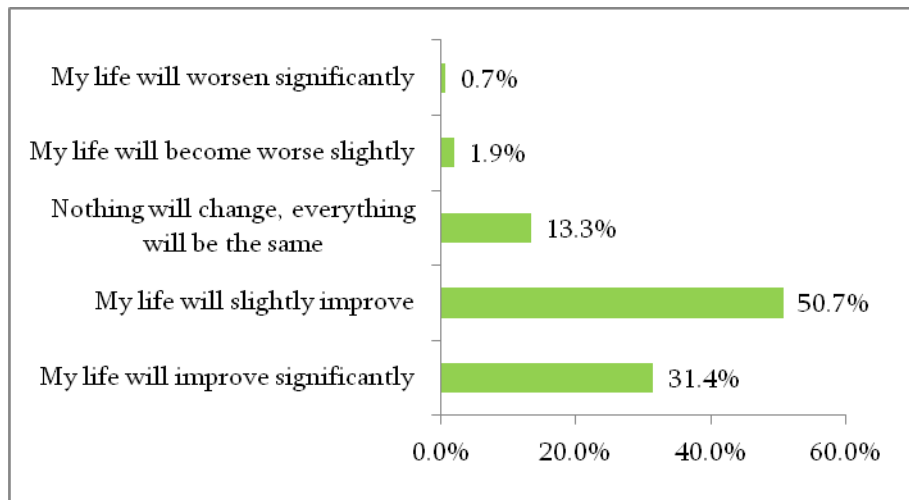
⁸¹ Future perceptions were assessed on the scale of 5 where numbers 1-5 indicate as follows: "5-will significantly improve", "4-will slightly improve", "3-things will remain the same", "2-will slightly change for the worse", "1-will significantly change for the worse".

⁸² Dispersion is 0.18

Table 8.7 Average estimates of predictions for personal future in the upcoming five years

	Overall average	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Prediction of own life on a 5-point scale for the next five years	4.12	4.07	4.16	4.39	4.23	3.90	4.21	4.10	4.07

Graph 8.1. Predictions for personal future in the upcoming five years



The analyses indicate that, statistically, there is a strong correlation between future predictions and migration tendencies⁸³: the more optimistic the respondents are about their future, the smaller their desire to emigrate.

Along with the assessment of personal future predications, it is interesting to observe the young people's estimates regarding developments in some sectors of the country. According to the quantitative survey, the respondents don't foresee drastic changes in the upcoming five years, especially in the spheres of social and economic conditions and the justice system of the country. The average assessment estimates of these two sectors' are closer to the point "things will remain the same" of the scale (3.55 and 3.3 respectively) (Table 8.8). The average estimate of other sectors is between the points "things will remain the same" and "will improve slightly". Furthermore, the respondents predict more positive changes in regarding issues of the army's military readiness (3.82), followed by positive changes in cultural life (3.72).

Table 8.8 Average estimates on a number of sectors in the RA by the respondent's gender, age and residence

	Total	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Social-economical conditions	3.55	3.46	3,61	3.74	3.57	3,44	3.48	3.63	3.55
Education system	3.67	3.64	3,69	3.77	3.74	3,56	3.54	3.66	3.78
Jurisprudence, judicial system	3.30	3.31	3,29	3.38	3.30	3,26	3.24	3.32	3.33
Power of Army	3.82	3.93	3,75	3.90	3.83	3,78	3.71	3.81	3.92
Discipline in army	3.58	3.59	3,57	3.51	3.59	3,60	3.51	3.61	3.61
Cultural life	3.72	3.68	3,74	3.74	3.74	3,68	3.74	3.76	3.66

⁸³ The link coefficient between these two variables is 0.11 which is statistically significant.

Optimistic moods in the assessment of essential systems of the country express specific trends depending on social and demographic characteristics. Thus, female respondents are more optimistic about social and economic conditions, education system, fighting capacity of the army and cultural life changes. Young people in the 16-18-year-old age group mostly maintain optimism typical of this age: in regard to social and economic conditions, education and justice systems, fighting capacity of the army their mean estimates exceed those of other age groups. Meanwhile, these young people are less optimistic about discipline in the army (Table 7.8).

The considerable differences in predicting personal and public sectors allow us to conclude that young people view their personal future as irrespective to that of the country. That is, they are inclined to rely on their own initiatives in order to improve their future.

Despite the fact that the young people clearly distinguish their own future from that of the state, there is a high degree of concern for real problems existing in the country. They were asked, on the one hand, to assess the level of concern for their own or family related problems, on the other hand, with those of society⁸⁴. The estimates show that the degree of concern with issues on the micro- and macro-level by young people is high on the scale, coming in at an average of 3, indicating “more concerned”. Moreover, on the point of concern with all problems the opinions of the respondents are rather homogenous⁸⁵. Besides:

- Most of all, young people are concerned with their own and their family members’ health and financial security. The mean estimate of concern is 3.9 and 3.81, respectively, out of a possible 4 (Table 8.9). Moreover, on two indicators the degree of concern of male respondents exceeds those of female respondents.
- Young people are more concerned with the “country’s instability”(3.6), than, for example, by own professional growth (3.55) and their own and their relatives’ physical safety (3.49). Independence of the county is of a larger concern for the 16-18 year-old age group (an average of 3.71 compared with other age groups 3.66 and 3.49) (see Annex 8, Table 8.20).
- Regional youths are more concerned with problems of macro-level than their peers residing in Yerevan (see Annex 8, Table 8.21).

Table 8.9. Average estimates of concern with personal and societal problems by the respondents’ gender

	Total	Male	Female
My and my family’s health	3.90	3.91	3.88
My and my family’s welfare	3.81	3.85	3.78
My professional development	3.55	3.49	3.59
My and my relatives’ physical security	3.49	3.50	3.48
Our county’s independence	3.60	3.61	3.60
Human rights and the protection of freedom in our country	3.51	3.51	3.52
Loss of moral values (extent of immorality)	3.50	3.45	3.54
Corruption and protectionism in our country	3.45	3.27	3.57
Probability of war	3.38	3.30	3.43
Consequences of economical crisis	3.23	3.17	3.28
Maintaining national traditions	3.21	3.29	3.15
Loss of emancipated territories in Nagorno-Karabakh	3.20	3.27	3.16
Maintaining of cultural products, monuments	3.20	3.25	3.17

⁸⁴ The degree of concern was assessed on the scale of 4 where “1” indicates “totally unconcerned ” and “4” - “concerns extremely”.

⁸⁵ Dispersion doesn’t exceed 0.25.

8.4 Youth Value Orientations

In order to understand and interpret any social groups' (including youth's) aspirations, it is vital to study the value system of the members of this group. Taking into account the fact that the comprehensive description of a value system assumes deep study into different levels of values (which was not the primary goal of this research), the study of values related to some specific social phenomena have been emphasized in this research. Namely, tolerance towards different social groups and critical thinking. Emphasis on such values is conditioned by the challenges of the period related to the integration into international developments and the relevance of intercultural communication skills.

In the framework of the quantitative research, the respondents have assessed their attitudes towards freedom of religion, freedom of sexual orientation, as well as their interest and experience with communicating with representatives from another cultures.

According to the findings, Armenian young people are more tolerant towards the provision of freedom of religion. The average estimate of the degree of consent with the claim "anyone can have his/her preferred religion" is 3.04 out of a possible 4. A higher rate of tolerance is also expressed by the 16-18 year-old age group, as well as by youth living in Yerevan (Table 8.10). Also, the respondents are rather tolerant towards dissidence: 85% of the respondents claim that they have respect for others' point of view even if it radically differs from their own.

Table 8.10. Average estimates of degree of consent with statements expressing tolerance and cultural curiosity

	Overall average	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Everyone may follow the religion he/she prefers	3.04	3.06	3,03	3.11	3.00	3.05	3.11	3.08	2.96
Everyone has the right to choose sexual orientation (for example, to be a homosexual)	2.26	2.14	2,34	2.23	2.26	2.28	2.30	2.29	2.22
I respect the viewpoint of another person, even if it deeply differs from mine	3.25	3.11	3,34	3.29	3.22	3.25	3.31	3.21	3.25
Large numbers of foreigners has negative influence on our country's morality	2.46	2.46	2,46	2.35	2.41	2.56	2.49	2.31	2.56
I'm always interested in other nations culture and customs	2.73	2.47	2,90	2.92	2.71	2.66	2.81	2.76	2.65
It is always difficult for me to communicate easily with a foreigner	2.55	2.50	2,58	2.51	2.51	2.60	2.27	2.58	2.76

Young people are inclined not to agree with the viewpoint that anyone is entitled to choose his/her sexual orientation (mean 2.26). Male respondents, 16-18 year-olds and youth residing in Yerevan are more intolerant towards homosexuality (Table 8.10).

Young people show a high rate of tolerance towards the presence of foreigners in Armenian society. They do not completely agree with the opinion that “Too many foreigners in Armenia badly influences society morality” (2.46). Meanwhile, young people believe that they freely interact with foreigners (2.55).

As to the degree of youth’s interest in other nations’ culture, it is not very high. Although the claim “I’m am very interested in other nations’ cultures, their traditions” constitutes an average estimate of 2.73 (i.e. it’s closer to the point “ mostly agree ”).

In the framework of quantitative survey, **perceptions of accepted social distance with representatives of social groups** have been measured by the young people. Perceptions of social distance were measured on the Bogardus Social Distance scale. It is a 7-point scale with each indicator characterizing one type of social relation. Indicator “1” characterizes the closest social distance, whereas “7” indicates the farthest. The indicators and interpretation of the scale are as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Get married	Intimacy, Friendship	Work in the same environment	Reside in the same neighborhood	Just have a relationship	Live in the same country	No relationship

In the framework of the survey, the respondents were asked to assess the criteria of nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation and social status differentiated into relations with 15 social groups based on the format accepted by the youth.

In regard to possible relations with various **ethnic and racial groups**, young people’s estimates are as follows:

- Marriage or intimacy with any of the proposed groups is not so acceptable.
- The closest distance was recorded in regard to interaction with *Russian and Slavonic nationalities*, with rates close to the “working in the same environment” relationship and constitutes 3.41. Still, the respondents’ opinions are rather scattered (with the dispersion of 0.52).
- A roughly similar distance is acceptable with Americans and Western Europeans (with an average of 3.78 and 3.79 respectively).
- The farthest distance that the Armenian young people are prone to keep is from Azerbaijanis and Turks (Table 8.11).

Table 8.11. Average estimates of acceptable distance from ethnic and racial groups by the respondents' gender

	Total	Male	Female
Russian and other Slavonic nations	341	3.17	3.56
Western Europeans (For example Englishmen, Frenchmen etc.)	3.78	3.81	3.75
Americans (USA)	3.79	3.79	3.79
Georgian	4.18	4.08	4.25
Representatives of other racial groups	4.74	4.72	4.75
Indians	5.07	5.27	4.93
Arabs	5.47	5.33	5.56
Persian	5.62	5.43	5.75
Turks	6.45	6.29	6.56
Azerbaijani	6.59	6.51	6.65

The estimates of young people on acceptable relations with different social groups on various criteria enable us to summarize as follows:

- Youth can have closer relations with “the extremely poor” than with “the very wealthy” (the means are 3.65 and 4.48 respectively).
- For young people the most unacceptable are relations with homosexuals and those infected with HIV/AIDS. In this regard, their opinions are rather close to one another (in all groups the dispersion doesn't exceed 0.25) (Table 8.12).

Table 8.12. Average estimates of acceptable social distance from various social groups by the respondents' gender

	Total	Male	Female
Extremely poor	3.65	3.44	3.78
Very rich	4.48	4.36	4.55
Representatives of other religions	5.93	5.91	5.93
HIV/AIDS positive person	6.21	6.40	6.08
Homosexuals	6.71	6.88	6.59

The data shows that, in terms of relations with almost all social groups, males are more open than females. In this regard, the exceptions are homosexuals and HIV/AIDS infected people from whom the male respondents prefer to keep the farthest distance.

In relationships with all mentioned ethnic groups, 16-18-year-olds are relatively more open with the exception of Arabs, Iranians and Turks. This standard is not kept by other social groups in regard to homosexuals (See Annex 8, Table 8.22).

Youth from Yerevan, unlike their peers from the regions, are more open towards Americans, Western Europeans and other races and religions. Some differences are also noticeable in regard to relations with homosexuals and HIV/AIDS infected people (see Annex 8, Table 8.23).

As was indicated earlier, within the framework of this research, the importance of some values of youth was studied. These are enlightenment, wealth, critical thinking, individualism, autonomy and independence, as well as the significance of the social environment. Below is the classification of the mentioned values by descending significance according to the respondents⁸⁶ (Table 8.13)⁸⁷.

⁸⁶ The proposed values have been measured by the degree of consent with certain judgments. The consent was measured on the scale of 4 where “1” indicates “totally disagree” and “4” “totally agree”.

Among the values prevails **enlightenment** (mean 3.63). 93,3% of the respondents claim the importance of this value to them. Other than that, the respondents are rather homogenous regarding this issue (dispersion is 0.17). It should be noted that this value is of more significance to female respondents (3.68) than for males (3.55). 16-18-year-olds value enlightenment a little bit higher (3.73 as opposed to two other age groups at 3.60) (see Annex 8, Tables 8.24-8.25).

Critical thinking and its components are an essential value for young people. Thus, as they indicate, they are prepared to fight for their viewpoint (average 3.59). They are rarely persuaded until the other party justifies his point of view (3.34), and they are not prone to form an opinion about a person without reservation as influenced by the majority. Other than that, indicators for critical thinking of male respondents are higher than those of females (see Annex 8, Table 8.24).

Of special attention is the classification “I never challenge the traditions of centuries” which measures the inert aspect of thinking and serves as a characteristic of critical thinking. The young people “mostly agree” with this statement with an average of 3.17. The picture illustrated in discussion is a good basis to conclude that in young people’s lives traditions still play a significant role despite the fact that they have to fight for their point of view, the demand for justified viewpoints and a desire to avoid the influence of the majority.

Interestingly, for respondents **the significance of social environment** is rather essential when it refers to its acknowledgement and evaluation on behalf of the youth (3.27). At the same time, being different from the environment (which also measures the role of the environment) is not viewed as an essential problem (2.25).

As the young people claim, of less significance to them is “**being wealthy**”. The mean of the degree of consent with the statement “It is extremely significant for me to be healthy” is 2.3 (42.7% of the respondents agree with this statement in some way).

Table 8.13. Average estimates of classification of young people’s values by consent with judgments

Value	Value statement	Average score of agreement with the statement
Enlightenment	Being educated and advanced is very important for me	3.63
Critical thinking	I always try to fight for my viewpoint	3.59
Individualism	Those people who rely on themselves usually succeed	3.54
Self-dependence	Making decisions by myself is very important to me	3.44
Independence	Being free and independent is very important to me	3.35
Critical thinking	Usually it is difficult to convince me, until there are some justification	3.34
Significant of social peer	It is very important for me that people around me acknowledge my achievement	3.27
Traditionalism/law abiding	I think that people should always follow the laws and customs	3.21
Critical thinking	I never put the traditions under question	3.17
Wealth	Being rich/wealthy is very important for me	2.30
Significance of social peers	Being different from people around me is very important for me	2.25
Critical thinking	When most people around me consider a person to be a bad person, I usually agree	1.83

⁸⁷ While studying values it is important to consider the fact that respondents may be led by the principle of giving socially acceptable and desirable responses. This especially refers to such obviously assumed values as education, family, health, etc.

Thus, most aspirations of Armenian youth are linked with employment and education followed by the aspiration to create a family.

Despite numerous problems in society, the majority of young people are optimistic about developments in their life in the upcoming five years. Certain optimistic patterns exist in the assessments of some sector developments in Armenia. However, these assessments are significantly lower than those of personal future. Considerable differences in future predictions of a number of personal and societal sectors serve as a basis to conclude that young people view their future separately from that of the country. That is, they tend to rely on their own initiatives in order to improve their future.

CHAPTER 9. YOUTH LEISURE

In the framework of the survey, youth leisure organization issues have been studied, namely, leisure venues and the frequency of visiting them, musical preferences, use of social networks, etc.

9.1 Leisure Venues

In the framework of quantitative research the respondents indicated the frequency with which they organize their leisure in each listed venue. As the data indicates, the most popular daily leisure activities among Armenian youth (on a daily basis and 1-2 times per week) are internet social networks (47.1%), taking walks (19.8%) and visiting friends (16.7%) (Table 9.1). Male respondents significantly exceed those of female in all the three most frequently visited leisure venues in terms of the number of visits (see Annex 9, Table 9.7).

As 19.0% of the young people state, they go to cafes, clubs, bars, restaurants 1-2 times per week, 18.9% go to the mentioned venues 2-3 times per month.

Cultural institutions (movie theaters, theaters, museums, galleries and concerts) are attended by 12.6% of youth 2-3 times per month and by 17.9% once a month. 34.1% of young people indicated that they never attend cultural institutions.

Table 9.1. Frequency of visits to leisure venues

	Every day	1-2 times a week	2 times a month	Once a month	Once during 3 months	Rarer than once every 3 months	Never	ND/ NA
Go to a friend's home	16.7%	39.9%	17.3%	11,6%	3.2%	8.2%	2.9%	0.2%
Cafes, clubs, bars, restaurant	2.2%	19.0%	18.9%	14,1%	9.1%	1.,3%	24.0%	0.2%
Gatherings in the center of the village	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%	2,6%	1.1%	3.9%	82.6%	0%
Go for a walk in your city/village	19.8%	26.7%	13.4%	10,4%	4.5%	6.2%	18.7%	0.4%
Attending cultural institutions (cinema, theatre, museum, concert, gallery)	0.1%	4.7%	12.6%	17,9%	11.1%	1.,4%	34.1%	0.2%
Internet social networks, chats	47.1%	15.9%	3.0%	2,4%	1.0%	1.5%	28.9%	0.2%
Participation in holidays (birthdays parties , New Year etc.)	1.2%	7.2%	34.0%	27,0%	16.2%	1,5%	2.9%	1.0%
Rest in the countryside	0.4%	2.3%	8.6%	10,2%	20.7%	38.3%	19.1%	0.4%
Visiting music and other cultural circles	0.5%	2.1%	1.1%	2,1%	2.3%	8.6%	82.7%	0.7%

There's also a rather low rate of attendance to art, music, cultural groups: only 5.2% of young people visit such groups at least once a month.

Of special attention is the consideration of leisure organization by place of residence of the respondents. The top three most frequently visited venues are, in fact, identical in three types of residences with certain differences in proportion (see Annex 9, Table 9.8). However, in terms of some types of leisure, there are considerable differences in the behavior between the youths of regions and Yerevan. 49.2% of youth in rural areas indicate that they never attend cultural institutions. Young people of towns in the regions have such an indicator of 33.0%, whereas, in Yerevan such youth

constitutes to 16.5%. The youth in the regions also outnumber those in the capital in regard to never attending art, music, cultural groups.

The low rate of visits to cultural and leisure venues regarding young people living in the regions is determined by the absence of the relevant infrastructure in their residence areas. This problem was mentioned a number of times during focus group discussions. The problem of the absence or availability of leisure venues (e.g. parks) is the most frequently discussed issue followed by employment and education, which are the most essential issue for youth in the regions.. Moreover, the youth believe that it is the responsibility of communal authorities to develop the relevant infrastructures.

Besides leisure activities, the way young people follow the norms of a healthy lifestyle was also researched. The findings show that 45.1% never do physical exercise or sport. On the other hand, 10.2% of the respondents are involved in some type of sport on a daily basis, whereas 14.8% engage in sport several times a week (Table 9.2). It should be mentioned that female respondents are considerably more passive in terms of involvement in sport. The most passive among the age groups are the 24-30 year-old age-group. Those with no involvement in sport prevail in villages, meanwhile a significant percentage of rural youth are involved in sport every day or several times per week (see Annex 9, Tables 9.9-9.11).

91.0% of young people never attend any type of physical or mental training classes (yoga, meditation, etc.).

Table 9.2. Following healthy lifestyle according to gender

	Every day	Several times a week	Once a week	Several times a month	At least once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Physical training and sport							
Female	14.0%	17.7%	6.1%	7.7%	4.8%	9.4%	40.3%
Male	7.7%	12.8%	7.6%	6.6%	6.3%	10.6%	48.3%
All respondents	10.2%	14.8%	7.0%	7.1%	5.7%	10.1%	45.1%
Visiting to other kind of physical and mental trainings (yoga, meditation, etc..)							
Female	1.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	2.3%	93.3%
Male	1.1%	1.5%	0.3%	1.9%	1.5%	3.9%	89.5%
All respondents	1.3%	1.2%	0.4%	1.4%	1.2%	3.2%	91.0%
Smoking							
Female	49.9%	3.5%	0.6%	0.4%	1.0%	2.1%	42.4%
Male	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	98.5%
All respondents	20.3%	1.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	1.1%	76.2%
Alcohol							
Female	1.5%	9.2%	7.9%	17.3%	16.7%	21.9%	25.5%
Male	0.3%	1.0%	1.7%	7.3%	10.9%	25.0%	53.9%
All respondents	0.7%	4.2%	4.2%	11.3%	13.2%	23.8%	42.6%

Interestingly, 76.2% of the respondents indicate that they never smoke cigarettes. Moreover, 98.5% of female respondents said they do not smoke cigarettes, while among the male respondents it's 42.4%. 49.9% of the latter indicated that they smoke every day⁸⁸. As it can be assumed, those who smoke every day dominate in the age group of 19 and above, a relatively smaller use of cigarettes is seen in regional towns (see Annex 9, Table 9.9-9.11).

The data shows that 42.6% of young people never consume alcohol. Though the more common consumption rate is of once or several times per month. Alcohol consumption is more popular with males, above 19 years old, living in Yerevan (see Annex 9, Tables 9.9-9.11).

9.2 Musical Preferences of the Youth

As a criterion, musical taste can be used in defining youth's lifestyle and worldview.

According to the findings, the most popular musical style among Armenian youth is rabiz (37.8%), Armenian (36.3%) and Western pop music (23.3%) (Table 9.3). It is interesting to compare the top three preferred styles among male and female respondents. Among the male respondents the top rated is rabiz (51.4%), Armenian pop (36.3%), and Western pop (23.3%). The leading position among female respondents is Armenian pop (43.6%), and second place is shared by rabiz and Western pop (28.8%).

Table 9.3. Musical preferences according to respondents' gender⁸⁹

	Total	Male	Female
Rabiz	37.8%	51.4%	28.8%
Armenian pop	36.3%	25.3%	43.6%
Western pop	23.3%	14.8%	28.8%
Russian pop	9.5%	7.1%	11.0%
Hip-hop	9.2%	14.2%	5.9%
Western rock	8.9%	6.7%	10.3%
Armenian classic music	7.8%	5.0%	9.7%
Foreign classic music	7.6%	7.1%	7.9%
Instrumental music	6.2%	6.3%	6.2%
Russian/Armenian Shanson	5.7%	8.8%	3.7%
Armenian national music	4.9%	4.2%	5.4%
Armenian ethnographic music	4.6%	5.6%	3.9%
R & B	3.8%	1.9%	5.1%
Urban folk	3.8%	5.4%	2.8%
Russian rock	2.6%	3.5%	1.9%
Jazz	2.2%	1.9%	2.3%
Don't know	2.0%	2.9%	1.4%
Other styles	9.6%	8.8%	10.1%

⁸⁸ The responses to the question on cigarette use, especially by female respondents and those of 16-18 years old, may not be entirely honest.

⁸⁹ Cumulative percentage exceeds 100, since one respondent indicated more than one answer.

It is worth noting that the aforementioned top three rated musical styles are typical of all age groups and places of residence, although there are certain differences among the proportions of preferences. Thus, rabiz and Armenian pop music are listened to relatively more by the 19-23 and 24-30 year-old age groups than those of 16-18 years of age. Whereas, the latter outnumber the other age groups in their preference of Western pop: 31.8%, as opposed to 25.0% in the 19-23 year-old age group and 17.6% in 24-30 year-old age group (see Annex 9, Table 9.12).

The rural youth outnumber those residing in Yerevan in their preference to listen to rabiz. While in Yerevan 25.3% listen to rabiz, this figure in regional towns is 39.0%, and in villages 47.1%. The same proportion is typical of Armenian pop music preference. As opposed to these two styles, Western pop is more widespread in towns than in villages (see Annex 9, Table 9.13).

It is interesting to view the rate of music preferences in classical music, which is shown to not be a very popular style. Among all the respondents those with preference for classical music constitute approximately 14.4%. As to rock music, a style typical to more progressive youth, 8.9% listen to it periodically.

9.3 Mass Media Consumption

One of the crucial institutions shaping young people's worldview is mass media. The study of specific features of consuming mass media is beneficial not only in terms of revealing young people's preferences, but also from the point of view of sending certain messages to this social group in the most efficient way.

According to quantitative survey findings, Armenian TV channels rate among the top media for everyday consumption (83.6%), followed by internet social networks (47.1%). They are trailed by foreign and cable channels (31.0%), Armenian internet news sites (20.8%) and Internet entertainment sites (20.8%). 13.0% of young people listen to the radio every day (Table 9.4). It should be mentioned that Armenian channels are watched 180 minutes per day on average, whereas users of social networks spend 150 minutes on them daily.

The consumption of other mass media on a daily basis doesn't exceed 10%. The frequency of mass media consumption, as well as average, minimal and maximal durations are presented in Annex 9, Table 9.18.

Table 9.4. The most frequently consumed media by youth

	Every day	Several times a week	Once in a week	Several times a month	At least once a month	More rarely than once a month	Never
Armenian TV channels	83.6%	7.8%	2.6%	1.3%	0.7%	0.9%	2.8%
Internet social networks	47.1%	1.,5%	3.3%	3.4%	1.7%	2.0%	2.,9%
Foreign and cable TVchannels	31.0%	9.8%	3.0%	1.7%	1.1%	2.6%	5.,8%
Armenian Internet News sites	20.8%	1.,7%	7.0%	4.2%	1.3%	1.8%	5.,2%
Internet entertainment sites	20.8%	1.,7%	7.0%	4.2%	1.3%	1.8%	5.,2%
Radio	13.0%	7.0%	3.4%	2.5%	2.1%	3.9%	6.2%

In order to understand the reasons for such extensive use of a relatively new phenomenon, social networks, it is important to understand the functions that the youth attribute to them.

Survey findings illustrate that social networks are mostly (for 48.9% of respondents) a means of communication with friends and family living far away, as well as a source of information (for 34.2% of respondents) (Table 9.5). For the purpose of making friends, social networks are used by 20.8%, whereas 13.5% of the respondents spend their leisure time there. Interestingly, social networks are viewed as a means to get to know someone of the opposite gender more by males than by females. The opportunity to have a lot of friends and become more acquainted with someone of the opposite gender is more popular mostly in the 16-18 and 19-23 year-old age groups (see Annex 9, Table 9.14).

Table 9.5. Perception of the role of social networks according to respondents' gender⁹⁰

	Total	Male	Female
They are means of communication with acquaintances/relatives, who live far	48.9%	50.3%	48.0%
Social networks are considered to be information sources	34.2%	29.4%	37.4%
They allow you to have many friends	20.8%	22.8%	19.6%
One can get informed about the news and get answers about questions of interest	16.9%	14.2%	18.8%
It's a means of leisure	13.5%	19.0%	9.9%
It is a means of acquaintance and communication with the opposite sex	9.9%	19.4%	3.6%
They have no role	9.0%	7.5%	9.9%
It's a means of communications	5.8%	3.8%	7.2%
They are means of self-expression	2.9%	3.8%	2.3%
It is possible to share your problems and achievements through social networks	2.9%	2.7%	2.8%
In social networks it is possible to communicate with those people who are difficult to communicate with in real life (famous people)	2.5%	3.1%	2.1%
In social networks it is easier to present your own opinion and promote it than it is in real life	1.7%	1.3%	1.9%
It is a means of influence on resolving important social issues	1.3%	1.0%	1.5%
Other responses	3.2%	3.6%	2.7%
Don't know	10.0%	17.1%	14.3%

In the framework of quantitative research young people evaluated some criteria of mass media⁹¹. Most of young people agree with the statement that there are too many entertainment programs on Armenian TV (films, soap operas, concerts, comedy shows, etc). The average of degree of consent with this point of view is 3.44. The statements among respondents regarding this opinion are homogenous, although 24-30-year-old young people are more inclined to agree with this statement than representatives of other age groups⁹² (see Annex 9, Tables 9.16-9.17.).

Young people are inclined to agree with the idea that Armenian TV doesn't refer to youth issues sufficiently (on average 3.03 out of 4). Besides, according to the youth, Armenian TV doesn't broadcast a sufficient number of cultural and religious programs (Table 9.6.).

Meanwhile, the youth are not of the opinion that freedom of speech is extensive in Armenian mass media.

⁹⁰ Cumulative responses exceed 100% since one respondent indicated more than one answer.

⁹¹ The respondents were proposed statements related to mass media, the degree of consent with which was on a scale of 4, "1" indicating "strongly disagree" and "4" "completely agree".

⁹² The average of degree of consent is 3.55 for the 24-30 year-olds, as opposed to 3.27 for 16-18 year-olds and 3.41 for 19-23 year-olds.

Table 9.6. Average of degree of consent with statements in regard to mass media according to the respondents' gender

	Average score	Male	Female
I think that Armenian television channels broadcast entertainment programs too much (films, sop operas, concerts, humor programs and etc.)	3.44	3.44	3.44
Armenian TV doesn't illustrate youth problems sufficiently	3.03	3.04	3.02
Usually I check the information with several information sources	2.77	2.80	2.75
On television there is too much sad news, films, programs	2.67	2.61	2.71
I think that level of speech freedom is high in Armenian Media	2.43	2.39	2.45
Armenian TV broadcasts cultural programs sufficiently	2.38	2.44	2.34
I've begun to spend more time on the Internet	2.25	2.44	2.12
Armenian television broadcasts religious programs sufficiently	2.02	2.06	1.99

Actually, in the opinion of the youth surveyed, there should be less entertainment programs and more cultural ones on Armenian TV.

Thus, the most widespread forms of everyday leisure among Armenian youth (with the frequency of on a daily basis and 1-2 times per week) are utilizing internet social networks, taking walks and visiting friends. For the regional youths, especially those residing in villages, the most relevant problem is limited opportunities for leisure services, the cause of which is the absence or underdevelopment of leisure infrastructures in these places.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Social-Demographic Data of the Respondents

Table 1.1 Respondents' gender

	Percent
Male	39.8%
Female	60.2%
Total	100.0%

Table 1.2 Respondents' age

	Percent
16-18	20.1%
19-23	37.5%
24-30	42.4%
Total	100.0%

Table 1.3 Respondents' residence

	Percent
Yerevan	31.2%
Regional cities	30.5%
Villages	38.3%
Total	100.0%

Table 1.4 Ethnic self-identification of respondents

Armenian	1177	97.8%
Assyrian	4	0.3%
Yezidis	15	1.2%
Russian	3	0.2%
Kurdish	4	0.3%
Indian	1	0.1%
Total	1204	100,0%

Annex 3. Tables Concerning to Family

Table 3.5 Perceptions of preferable age for marriage by respondents' education

Education degree	What do you think, which is the most preferable age for marriage for girls	What do you think, which is the most preferable age for marriage for boys
I have no education	19.00	20.00
Incomplete secondary (grades 1-8)	21.30	24.60
Secondary (grades 10-12)	21.91	25.18
Specialized secondary	22.84	26.15
Higher incomplete (student)	22.44	25.80
Higher (Bachelor's)	23.12	26.67
Higher (Master's)	24.03	28.21
Total	22.38	25.76

Table 3.6. The most preferable means to overcome the obstacles to form a family by respondents' gender

	Male	Female
To have a well-paid job	42.5%	35.2%
To have any stable work	21.1%	23.1%
To have a job with average salary at minimum	9.5%	8.6%
State should provide youth with apartments	7.6%	1.5%
State should support young families by them opportunity to to purchase houses at a low price	6.3%	8.9%
Youth should work hard on their own	4.2%	4.8%
Parents/ relatives should provide youth with apartments	3.8%	4.2%
Other responses	1.9%	1.4%
State should assure jobs for youth	1.1%	1.7%
State should support young families supplying them with credit with profitable conditions	0.8%	0.7%
Financial support of parents/relatives	0.6%	0.6%
It is difficult to answer	0.4%	0.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3.7. The most important/first obstacles to form a family for youth by respondents' place of residence

	All respondents	Yerevan	Regional cities	Villages
There's no job	57.0%	45.7%	61.6%	62.5%
Housing problems (there is no separate apartment, the present flat is too small)	24.8%	33.8%	21.0%	20.4%
Unstable job or income sources	6.4%	7.2%	6.3%	5.9%
Low salary/income	4.7%	6.4%	4.6%	3.3%
Absence of relevant spouse	3.3%	3.5%	3.0%	3.5%
Economical instability in the country	1.8%	1.3%	2.5%	1.7%

Table 3.8 The most preferable means to overcome the obstacles to form a family by respondents' residence

	Yerevan	Regional cities	Villages	Total
To have a well-paid job	32.1%	31.0%	36.9%	100.0%
To have any stable work	27.0%	31.5%	41.6%	100.0%
State should assure jobs for youth	30.4%	27.7%	42.0%	100.0%
To have a job with average salary at minimum	21.5%	34.6%	43.9%	100.0%
State should support to young families by giving them the opportunity to get houses at low prices	42.6%	27.7%	29.8%	100.0%
Youth should work hard on their own	25.5%	34.5%	40.0%	100.0%
State should provide youth with apartments	52.1%	16.7%	31.3%	100.0%

Table 3.9. Composition of young families

	All respondent	Yerevan	Regional cities	Villages
I live alone	0.5%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%
Own nuclear family	8.1%	7.7%	10.6%	6.5%
Parents' nuclear family	36.2%	39.9%	37.1%	32.5%
Own extended family	19.3%	14.9%	22.1%	20.6%
Parents' extended family	16.3%	14.9%	15.0%	18.4%
Other	19.6%	21.8%	15.0%	21.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Annex 4. Tables Concerning Education

Table 4.5. Motivations of choosing educational institutions

	1 st reason	2 nd reason	3 rd reason
That University provides the most high-quality education for the profession I choose	22.3%	2.3%	
That institution is close to our place of residence	12.6%	4.1%	0.5%
It is easy to enroll there	9.3%	0.1%	
My parents, friends, relatives advised me	9.2%	2.7%	1.1%
That institution is prestigious	8.9%		
The profession I preferred was taught only there	8.9%	3.6%	1.7%
Fees are comparatively lower there	8.5%		
I could enroll only that institution for that profession with the scores I had acquired	5.2%	1.2%	0.8%
Other responses	5.2%	2.7%	0.5%
It is difficult to answer	2.9%		
The people I know teach there	2.4%	0.1%	
My friends and relatives study/have studied there	2.0%	0.9%	1.1%
It is easy to study there	1.3%	1.2%	
Education was free of charge	0.8%	0.5%	0.1%
It is possible to avoid military service in that institution	0.4%	2.4%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	19.5%	6.0%

Table 4.6. Motivations of choosing education institute by the types of institutes

	Specialized secondary institution, colleges	State higher educational institution	Private higher educational institution: provides with diploma by state standard	Private higher educational institution: provides with diploma by non-state standard	Interstate higher educational institution	Short-time courses, trainings in any organization	Specializing courses with any person (for example, learning crafts)	Branch of foreign higher educational institution in RA	Total
That institution is prestigious	2.4%	15.8%	2.5%						8.9%
It is easy to enroll there	13.8%	5.4%	17.7%	16.7%			4.0%		9.3%
It is easy to study there	2.8%	0.8%							1.3%
That University provides most high-quality education for the profession I choose	16.7%	27.6%	17.7%	16.7%	25.0%	14.3%	20.0%	25.0%	22.3%
It is possible to avoid military service in that institution		0.3%			25.0%			25.0%	0.4%
Fees are comparatively lower there	11.4%	5.1%	13.9%	16.7%		21.4%	8.0%		8.5%
That institution is close to our place of residence	20.3%	9.7%	1.3%	16.7%		21.4%	16.0%		12.6%
The people I know teach there	3.3%	0.8%	5.1%	16.7%		7.1%	4.0%		2.4%
My parents, friends, relatives advised me	11.4%	5.4%	16.5%	16.7%		7.1%	24.0%		9.2%
Education was free of charge there	0.8%	0.8%				7.1%			0.8%
The profession, I preferred, was taught only there	5.7%	12.6%	5.1%			7.1%	4.0%		8.9%
My friends and relatives study/have studied there	2.8%	1.3%	2.5%				4.0%		2.0%
I could enroll only that institution/ for that profession with the scores I had acquired	0.8%	7.5%	10.1%					25.0%	5.2%
Other responses	4.9%	4.8%	6.3%		25.0%	7.1%		25.0%	5.2%
It is difficult to answer	2.8%	2.1%	1.3%		25.0%	7.1%	16.0%		2.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4.7. Plans concerning to education by the respondents' age and gender

	Male				Female			
	16-18	19-23	24-30	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30	Total
I have no plans concerning education	19.8%	40.9%	73.1%	48.2%	7.8%	34.5%	73.1%	47.2%
To get higher education (1 st higher education)	49.5%	9.9%	5.7%	16.7%	44.7%	9.6%	5.4%	14.5%
To get additional higher education		4.9%	1.1%	2.5%	2.8%	2.4%	1.5%	2.1%
To get Master's degree in Armenia	5.0%	17.7%	5.7%	10.6%	11.3%	20.5%	3.3%	10.8%
To get Master's degree abroad	2.0%	1.5%	0.6%	1.3%	0.7%	4.4%	1.8%	2.5%
To apply for PhD in Armenia			1.1%	0.4%		2.8%	1.8%	1.8%
To apply for PhD abroad		0.5%	1.7%	0.8%		0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
To enroll in specialized secondary school (college, technical secondary school etc.)	5.9%	1.5%	0.6%	2.1%	7.1%	2.4%	0.6%	2.5%
To go to training in Armenia	3.0%	2.0%	2.3%	2.3%	7.8%	5.6%	7.2%	6.8%
To go to training abroad			0.6%	0.2%		.	0.9%	0.4%
To engage in self-education	1.0%	1.0%	1.7%	1.3%		0.4%	0.6%	0.4%
To enroll in the state university/institute of higher education (after non state university)	1.0%	0.5%	1.1%	0.8%	2.1%	3.2%	0.9%	1.9%
To graduate from current institute	7.9%	18.7%	4.6%	11.3%	11.3%	11.6%	1.2%	6.8%
Other responses					1.4%		0.3%	0.4%
It is difficult to answer	5.0%	1.0%		1.5%	2.8%	1.6%	0.6%	1.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 4.8. The most necessary things that must be improved in educational institutions by their types

	High school/ general education	Specialized secondary institution, colleges	State higher educational institution	Private higher educational institution	Foreign higher educational institution	Short-time courses, trainings in any organization
There is nothing to improve, everything is good	31.6%	19.1%	10.7%	15.3%	55.6%	35.7%
To modernize educational programmes and content of courses	3.8%	2.8%	8.6%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
To make content correspondent to labour market demands	2.2%	2.4%	7.2%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%
To use modern teaching methods (interactive techniques, demonstration materials and so on)	6.6%	1.,0%	8.6%	1.,9%	0.0%	7.1%
To give the students more opportunity to study independently	3.8%	6.9%	6.4%	9.4%	0.0%	7.1%
To focus more on practical skills development	1.5%	8.1%	4.8%	1.,8%	2.,2%	0.0%
To improve teachers' professional qualifications	6.4%	3.7%	8.8%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
To improve the saturation of the libraries as well as electronic information sources	4.6%	5.7%	9.4%	5.9%	0.0%	7.1%
To improve the computer rooms', laboratory saturation	7.1%	3.7%	5.1%	3.5%	1.,1%	7.1%
To repair the building, classrooms and surroundings	2.,1%	2.,3%	9.7%	7.1%	0.0%	2.,4%
To expand cooperation and exchange educational programs with foreign educational institutions	0.7%	1.6%	6.2%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%
To eliminate corruption	5.5%	8.1%	9.1%	9.4%	0.0%	7.1%
To eliminate protectionism	2.4%	2.4%	3.5%	2.4%	0.0%	7.1%
Other responses	0.4%	1.6%	1.6%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
It is difficult to answer	1.1%	2.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Annex 5. Tables Concerning Youth Occupation

Table 5.6. Average scores of job features' importance by the respondents' gender

	Male	Female	Total
Technical equipment level	3.24	3.32	3.28
Correspondence of the job to my profession	3.22	3.38	3.32
Opportunities for getting higher level positions	3.44	3.32	3.37
Personal professional growth opportunities	3.53	3.50	3.51
Attractiveness of the content of work	3.55	3.58	3.57
Nice colleagues	3.65	3.62	3.64
Attitude of management towards employees	3.72	3.64	3.68
Level of protection of employees rights	3.70	3.75	3.73
Salary	3.81	3.72	3.75

Table 5.7. Average consent rates with the statements concerning work relationships by the respondents' gender

	Male	Female	Total
Good specialists always can get job in their profession in Armenia	2.44	2.65	2.57
To succeed is more important to have "fortune", than to work	2.57	2.70	2.65
I prefer to do the work alone, than to involve others to the work process	2.93	3.01	2.98
Laws on employee rights are only written on the paper and don't function	3.16	3.13	3.14
It is impossible to achieve success in Armenia without working hard	3.11	3.21	3.17
To have success in work it is more important to have good acquaintances, than to work hard	3.20	2.83	2.98

Table 5.8. Average consent rates with the statements concerning work relationships by the respondents' age

	16-18	19-23	24-30	Total
Good specialists always can get job in their profession in Armenia	2.59	2.52	2.60	2.57
To succeed is more important to have "fortune", than to work	2.39	2.70	2.73	2.65
It is impossible to achieve success in Armenia without working hard	3.13	3.19	3.16	3.17
Laws on employee rights are only written on the paper and don't function	2.91	3.14	3.26	3.14
I prefer to do the work alone, than to involve others to the work process	2.87	2.91	3.09	2.98
To have success in work it is more important to have good acquaintances, than to work hard	2.62	2.88	3.04	2.90

Table 5.9 Average consent rates with the statements concerning work relationships by the respondents' residence

	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Total
Good specialists always can get job in their profession in Armenia	2.48	2.50	2.68	2.57
To succeed is more important to have "fortune", than to work	2.58	2.68	2.69	2.65
It is impossible to achieve success in Armenia without working hard	2.94	3.23	3.30	3.17
Laws on employee rights are only written on the paper and don't function	3.24	3.15	3.05	3.14
I prefer to do the work alone, than to involve others to the work process	2.94	2.94	3.04	2.98
To have success in work it is more important to have good acquaintances, than to work hard	2.90	2.95	2.86	2.90

Table 5.10. Necessary preconditions for getting preferable work by respondents' education

	All respondents	Incomplete secondary	Secondary	Specialized secondary	Higher (students)	Higher
High quality education	35.7%	29.4%	36.1%	34.1%	42.4%	33.2%
Influential acquaintances	16.7%	18.6%	15.0%	18.0%	11.7%	22.4%
High-quality professional knowledge and skills	10.3%	4.9%	7.1%	10.2%	17.6%	12.8%
Work experience	6.1%	9.8%	5.8%	5.4%	4.9%	6.8%
Relevant workplaces	6.1%	4.9%	7.1%	10.2%	2.0%	5.6%
Diploma	4.2%	5.9%	5.6%	3.0%	2.9%	2.4%
Bribe	3.9%	2.9%	3.5%	3.6%	4.4%	4.8%
"Fortune"	3.9%	8.8%	3.5%	3.6%	2.9%	3.6%
Purposefulness	3.9%	1.0%	5.0%	4.8%	3.9%	2.4%
Being nimble	3.6%	6.9%	4.4%	1.2%	2.9%	2.8%
Any education	2.3%	6.9%	2.9%	1.8%	1.5%	
Young age	1.3%		1.3%	2.4%	1.0%	1.6%
Nice appearance	0.8%		0.8%	1.2%	1.5%	0.4%
Other responses	0.6%		0.8%	0.0%		0.8%
Good references	0.4%		0.6%		0.5%	0.4%
Total	99.9%	100.00%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Annex 6. Tables on Youth Migration Moods

Table 6.5. Purposes for leaving Armenia by the respondents' age

	Percent of all respondents			Percent of the respondents, who want to leave Armenia		
	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30
To study	24.8%	19.0%	9.2%	30.3%	23.6%	12.3%
To work	34.3%	47.3%	46.5%	41.9%	58.6%	62.0%
For residence	15.3%	17.3%	20.8%	18.7%	21.4%	27.7%
To visit my relatives, friends	16.1%	13.1%	13.3%	19.7%	16.2%	17.8%
To visit my family members	2.9%	4.9%	3.1%	3.5%	6.0%	4.2%
To travel	45.5%	34.3%	26.9%	55.6%	42.5%	35.9%
Other responses	1.2%	0.4%	1.0%	1.5%	0.5%	1.3%
It is difficult to answer	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Total	140.1%	136.3%	121.0%	122.2%	123.8%	133.5%

Table 6.6 Purposes for leaving Armenia by the respondents' residence

	Percent of all respondents			Percent of the respondents, who want to leave Armenia		
	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
To study	25.5%	15.3%	8.9%	32.4%	19.3%	11.4%
To work	49.5%	41.4%	42.5%	62.8%	52.4%	54.3%
For residence	17.0%	19.3%	18.7%	21.6%	24.5%	23.8%
To visit my relatives, friends	16.8%	14.2%	11.1%	21.3%	17.9%	14.1%
To visit my family members	4.0%	3.5%	3.7%	5.1%	4.5%	4.7%
To travel	40.2%	35.1%	26.5%	51.0%	44.5%	33.8%
Other responses	1.3%	0.8%	0.4%	1.7%	1.0%	0.6%
Total	154.0%	130.0%	112.0%	195.9%	164.1%	142.7%

Table 6.7 Respondents, who plan to leave Armenia by the respondents' age

	Percent of respondents, who plan to leave			Percent of all respondents		
	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30
Definitely No	37.2%	22.3%	22.0%	30.6%	17.9%	16.5%
Mostly No	19.1%	17.9%	20.4%	15.7%	14.4%	15.3%
Mostly Yes	23.6%	29.9%	28.3%	19.4%	24.1%	21.2%
Definitely Yes	17.6%	28.0%	26.7%	14.5%	22.6%	20.0%
It is difficult to answer	2.5%	1.9%	2.6%	2.1%	1.5%	2.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	82.2%	8.5%	7.9%

Table 6.8 Respondents, who plan to leave Armenia, by respondents' residence

	Percent of respondents, who plan to leave			Percent of all respondents		
	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Definitely No	21.8%	27.5%	26.3%	17.0%	21.8%	20.6%
Mostly No	17.1%	20.3%	19.9%	13.3%	16.1%	15.6%
Mostly Yes	31.4%	27.8%	25.2%	24.5%	22.1%	19.7%
Definitely Yes	27.0%	21.6%	26.9%	21.0%	17.2%	21.0%
It is difficult to answer	2.7%	2.7%	1.7%	2.1%	2.2%	1.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	77.9%	79.3%	78.3%

Table 6.9 Intentions to come back or to stay abroad after leaving Armenia of those respondents, who plan to leave Armenia, by respondents gender

	Percent of respondents, who plan to leave		Percent of all youth	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
I won't come back definitely	18.2%	10.5%	9.4%	3.7%
I probably won't come back	13.0%	18.8%	6.7%	6.6%
I'll come back soon	32.0%	29.7%	1.5%	10.5%
I'll come back definitely	25.5%	30.1%	13.2%	10.6%
It is difficult to answer	11.3%	10.9%	5.8%	3.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	51.6%	35.3%

Table 6.10. Intentions to come back or to stay abroad after leaving Armenia of those respondents, who plan to leave Armenia, by respondents' gender

	Percent of respondents, who plan to leave			Percent of all youth		
	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30
I won't come back definitely	8.5%	15.2%	15.7%	2.9%	7.1%	6.5%
I probably won't come back	18.3%	14.7%	16.2%	6.2%	6.9%	6.7%
I'll come back soon	36.6%	31.8%	27.6%	12.4%	14.8%	11.4%
I'll come back definitely	28.0%	27.5%	28.1%	9.5%	12.8%	11.6%
It is difficult to answer	8.5%	10.9%	12.4%	2.9%	5.1%	5.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	33.9%	46.7%	41.2%

Table 6.11 Intentions to come back or to stay abroad after leaving Armenia of those respondents, who plan to leave Armenia, by respondents' residence place

	Percent of respondents, who plan to leave			Percent of all youth		
	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
I won't come back definitely	15.8%	9.7%	16.5%	7.2%	3.8%	6.7%
I probably won't come back	21.1%	13.2%	13.3%	9.6%	5.2%	5.4%
I'll come back soon	28.1%	32.6%	31.9%	12.8%	12.8%	13.0%
I'll come back definitely	26.9%	26.4%	29.8%	12.2%	10.4%	12.1%
It is difficult to answer	8.2%	18.1%	8.5%	3.7%	7.1%	3.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	45.5%	39.2%	40.8%

Annex 7. Tables on Youth Participation

Table 7.6 Readiness to serve in army by respondents' place of residence

If You have been given an opportunity to choose between serving and not serving in RA army , which would you prefer?			
	Type of residence place		
	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
I'd definitely serve	34.3%	31.6%	25.8%
I'd rather serve	15.4%	12.5%	11.5%
I would rather not serve	21.3%	18.8%	19.1%
I definitely wouldn't serve	28.5%	35.4%	43.0%
It is difficult to answer	0.5%	1.6%	0.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7.7 Readiness to serve in the army by respondents' residence place and gender

If you have been given an opportunity to choose between serving and not serving in the RA army , which would you prefer?					
Gender of respondents	Readiness of serving	Type of residence place			
		Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Total
Male	I'd definitely serve	32.7%	26.7%	27.7%	29.0%
	I'd rather serve	14.4%	16.3%	11.5%	13.8%
	I would rather not serve	20.3%	16.3%	16.2%	17.5%
	I definitely wouldn't serve	32.7%	40.7%	44.0%	39.5%
	It is difficult to answer	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.2%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Female	I'd definitely serve	35.4%	34.5%	24.4%	31.0%
	I'd rather serve	16.1%	10.3%	11.5%	12.6%
	I would rather not serve	22.0%	20.3%	21.1%	21.1%
	I definitely wouldn't serve	25.6%	32.3%	42.2%	33.9%
	It is difficult to answer	0.9%	2.6%	0.7%	1.4%
	Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7.8 Perceptions of Armenia foreign political orientations by respondents' residence place

	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Armenia must continue to stay as a member of CIS	3.10	3.01	3.03	3.22
Armenia must join to EU	3.05	3.12	2.97	3.05
Armenia must join to NATO	2.52	2.59	2.55	2.45
I'd like Europe to influence Armenia more than Russia	2.17	2.36	2.12	2.06
I'd like the USSR to be reunited	2.09	1.87	2.11	2.25
I think, that Armenia must become a part of the Russia	1.99	1.76	2.01	2.16

Table 7.15. Average scores of the readiness to participate in specific structures, by the respondents' gender

	Male	Female	Total
Political Parties	1.8	1.71	1.75
City hall, village hall, condominium associations	1.74	1.68	1.7
NGOs	1.87	2.09	2.0
Civic initiative groups	1.73	1.86	1.81
University's/school organizations (students council, students/pupils units etc.)	1.82	2.13	2.01

Table 7.16. Average scores of the readiness to participate in specific structures, by the respondents' age

	16-18	19-23	24-30	Total
Political Parties	2.02	1.72	1.63	1.75
City hall, village hall, condominium associations	1.84	1.72	1.62	1.70
NGOs	2.24	2.08	1.82	2.00
Civic initiative groups	2.06	1.84	1.66	1.81
University's/school organizations (students council, students/pupils units etc.)	2.46	2.03	1.77	2.01

Table 7.17. Average scores of the readiness to participate in specific structures, by the respondents' residence place

	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Total
Political Parties	1.59	1.71	1.90	1.75
City hall, village hall, condominium associations	1.55	1.55	1.95	1.70
NGOs	1.99	1.99	2.02	2.00
Civic initiative groups	1.70	1.83	1.87	1.81
University's/school organizations (students council, students/pupils units etc.)	1.95	2.01	2.05	2.01

Table 7.18. Reasons for unwillingness to involve in the specific structure

	Political Parties	City hall, village hall, condominium	NGOs	Civic initiative groups	University's/school organizations (students council, students/pupils units etc.)
It's not interesting for me	42.0%	41.3%	40.7%	43.1%	39.4%
My engagement won't change anything	18.8%	16.8%	13.8%	13.5%	9.4%
I don't have enough time	18.2%	20.0%	24.0%	21.5%	27.6%
I don't trust them	12.5%	9.1%	6.9%	7.2%	4.0%
I don't like to demonstrate activity beyond my family and people around me	12.3%	12.3%	14.1%	13.6%	9.0%
Other responses	3.5%	2.8%	1.9%	2.5%	2.1%
I don't know how to do that	2.9%	4.0%	5.5%	4.8%	2.4%
I don't care what takes place in my region/city	1.6%	1.9%	2.0%	1.1%	1.3%
I just don't want to	1.6%	1.4%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
It is difficult to answer	1.2%	1.9%	1.6%	1.8%	4.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 7.19. Responses to the question “Have You participated in any of the following initiatives to represent your interests and rights?”

I haven't participated in any initiative	90.8%
To become a member of NGOs	1.7%
To form initiative groups in social networks or to join	1.4%
To establish Youth NGOs	0.1%
To involve young individuals in governmental committees	0.2%
To organize actions, meetings, collection of signatures	0.7%
To organize public discussions	0.2%
To apply to municipal government	0.6%
To apply to central governmental	0.5%
To be included in young departments of political parties	0.4%
To organize regular discussions with participation of young people and governmental representatives	0.8%
Other responses	0.4%
It is difficult to answer	3.3%

Annex 8. Tables Concerning Youth Social Moods

Table 8.13. The most important life goals of the respondents by their gender

	1 st goal		2 nd goal		3 rd goal	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Plans related to work	45.3%	36.0%	24.2%	29.8%	5.4%	4.7%
Plans related to education	16.5%	22.9%	4.2%	9.1%	1.9%	1.7%
To form a family	14.0%	11.9%	2.,4%	1.,6%	1.,0%	1.,6%
To establish an own business	6.1%	2.3%	9.0%	3.9%	9.2%	6.2%
To get apartment	5.4%	7.9%	6.5%	6.5%	6.7%	4.8%
To service in the army of RA	3.3%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%
To get boyfriend/girlfriend	2.1%	0.6%	4.2%	1.2%	2.3%	1.8%
To assure material prosperity for me and family members	1.7%	3.4%	1.9%	2.2%	1.0%	0.8%
To get car and other valuable/expensive property	1.0%	1.1%	3.3%	3.2%	4.6%	4.4%
Other responses	2.1%	9.5%	4.8%	1.1%	8.8%	1.4%
I haven't thought about it/it is difficult to answer	2.5%	4.3%				
Total	100.0%	100.0%	84.1%	79.6%	58.7%	53.5%

Table 8.14. The most important goals of life by the respondents' age

	1 st goal			2 nd goal			3 rd goal		
	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30
Plans related to work	59.5%	17.9%	3.9%	8.3%	8.2%	5.7%	1.7%	3.1%	0.6%
Plans related to education	19.8%	50.0%	40.0%	51.7%	26.5%	17.1%	4.1%	5.1%	5.3%
To form a family	7.9%	15.7%	12.4%	9.9%	22.6%	13.7%	26.4%	17.7%	6.5%
To service in the army of RA	4.5%	1.3%	0.0%	3.7%	0.9%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.2%
To establish an own business	2.1%	3.1%	5.3%	3.3%	6.2%	6.9%	10.3%	6.4%	6.9%
To get a boyfriend/girlfriend	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.7%	3.5%	1.8%	5.8%	1.5%	0.6%
To buy an apartment	1.2%	3.3%	12.7%	3.3%	8.4%	6.3%	4.1%	6.2%	5.7%
Travelling, recreation, leisure	0.8%	0.9%	1.8%	5.4%	3.1%	5.1%	4.1%	8.0%	8.8%
To get a car and other valuable/expensive property	0.8%	1.5%	0.8%	0.4%	3.1%	4.7%	1.7%	4.2%	6.1%
To assure material prosperity for me and family members	0.8%	0.7%	5.5%	0.4%	1.3%	3.5%	0.4%	1.5%	0.6%
To assure a good future for my children	0.0%	2.0%	5.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%
Other responses	1.2%	2.4%	11.0%	2.9%	3.3%	4.7%	5.8%	5.3%	5.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	85.5%	82.3%	70.8%	66.5%	59.5%	46.9%

Table 8.15. The most important goals of life by respondents' place of residence

	1 st goal			2 nd goal			3 rd goal		
	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Plans related to work	41.2%	39.0%	39.0%	30.3%	27.8%	25.2%	5.9%	4.6%	4.6%
Plans related to education	21.5%	21.3%	18.7%	9.0%	7.1%	5.6%	1.9%	2.2%	1.3%
To form a family	14.1%	13.6%	10.8%	17.6%	15.5%	15.8%	15.2%	15.5%	13.7%
To buy an apartment	7.2%	6.5%	6.9%	5.1%	5.7%	8.2%	6.6%	4.6%	5.4%
To establish an own business	5.3%	3.0%	3.3%	7.7%	5.4%	4.8%	9.6%	7.4%	5.6%
To serve in the army of RA	2.1%	0.3%	1.7%	1.3%	0.8%	1.1%	0.5%	0.0%	0.7%
I haven't thought about it/it is difficult to answer	1.9%	4.1%	4.6%						
To assure a good future for my children	1.6%	3.8%	3.7%	1.1%	0.5%	1.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
To get a car and other valuable/expensive property	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	2.1%	4.6%	3.0%	2.9%	5.7%	4.8%
To assure material prosperity for me and family members	1.1%	2.5%	4.3%	1.3%	3.3%	1.7%	0.3%	0.5%	1.7%
Travelling, recreation, leisure	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%	5.1%	4.4%	3.9%	11.2%	6.0%	5.9%
To get a boyfriend/girlfriend	0.0%	1.6%	1.7%	1.9%	2.2%	3.0%	2.1%	1.9%	2.0%
Other responses	2.1%	1.9%	2.6%	4.0%	3.5%	3.9%	5.6%	5.7%	4.8%

Table 8.16. The main three problems of young people by their gender

	1 st problem		2 nd problem		3 rd problem	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Unemployment	67.4%	62.1%	11.7%	12.4%	3.1%	6.5%
Low salaries	9.0%	9.7%	31.9%	25.1%	8.1%	11.6%
Education accessibility	5.2%	6.9%	4.8%	7.3%	5.4%	4.4%
Apartment problem	6.7%	6.3%	14.8%	16.0%	15.0%	13.0%
Limited opportunities for self-expression	1.3%	2.3%	2.5%	5.4%	2.1%	5.4%
Limited opportunities to participate in the decision-making process on regional/city/country level	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	1.4%	1.7%	0.6%
Problems to organize leisure	0.4%	0.6%	3.3%	1.8%	3.5%	4.4%
Health problems	1.0%	1.7%	4.8%	5.1%	5.0%	7.6%
Drug addiction	1.7%	1.4%	2.1%	2.8%	4.4%	5.0%
Level of human rights protection, illegality	1.3%	1.2%	4.8%	4.6%	5.8%	6.6%
There's no problem	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%
Smoking habit	1.0%	1.0%	2.7%	3.3%	4.2%	4.4%
Unresolved conflicts with some neighbor countries	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	1.3%	0.8%
Quality of education	0.6%	2.5%	3.5%	5.2%	6.5%	5.1%
Lack of state support to youth	2.5%	3.2%	6.5%	5.8%	11.9%	13.1%
Other responses	0.8%	0.7%	1.5%	1.1%	0.8%	1.5%
It is difficult to answer	0.0%	0.3%				
Total	100.0%	100.0%	95.4%	97.8%	79.3%	89.9%

Table 8.17. The main 3 problems of young people by respondents' age

	1 st problem			2 nd problem			3 rd problem		
	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30	16-18	19-23	24-30
Unemployment	55.0%	67.9%	65.3%	13.2%	11.5%	12.2%	5.0%	4.4%	5.9%
Low salaries	9.9%	7.1%	11.2%	21.5%	29.9%	29.0%	8.7%	10.0%	11.2%
Education accessibility	12.0%	4.9%	4.7%	7.9%	7.5%	4.5%	6.6%	4.0%	4.7%
Apartment problem	3.7%	7.1%	7.3%	9.5%	14.8%	19.0%	6.2%	14.4%	16.9%
Limited opportunities for self-expression	2.9%	2.0%	1.4%	5.8%	4.6%	3.1%	4.5%	5.5%	2.5%
Limited opportunities to participate in the decision-making process on regional/city/country level	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	1.3%	1.0%	1.7%	1.1%	0.6%
Problems to organize leisure	0.4%	0.9%	0.2%	4.5%	2.0%	1.8%	5.4%	4.9%	2.7%
Health problems	2.9%	0.9%	1.2%	6.6%	4.0%	5.1%	5.8%	5.5%	7.8%
Drug addiction	2.9%	2.0%	0.4%	5.0%	1.8%	2.0%	4.1%	5.3%	4.5%
Level of human rights protection, illegality	1.2%	0.7%	1.8%	4.5%	5.3%	4.1%	8.3%	4.9%	6.7%
There's no problem	1.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Smoking habit	1.7%	0.4%	1.2%	7.9%	2.0%	1.8%	6.6%	4.6%	2.9%
Unresolved conflicts with some neighbor countries	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	1.2%	0.7%	1.2%
Quality of education	1.7%	2.4%	1.2%	5.0%	5.1%	3.9%	6.6%	6.6%	4.3%
Lack of state support to youth	2.9%	2.7%	3.1%	4.5%	5.8%	7.1%	11.6%	11.3%	14.3%
Other responses	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	1.3%	1.4%	2.5%	0.7%	1.2%
It is difficult to answer	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%						
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.1%	97.1%	96.5%	85.1%	83.8%	87.6%

Table 8.18. The main three problems of young people by their residence place

	1 st problem			2 nd problem			3 rd problem		
	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Unemployment	60.4%	68.1%	64.2%	10.4%	13.4%	12.6%	6.1%	3.8%	5.4%
Low salaries	11.4%	7.6%	9.1%	28.2%	29.2%	26.5%	9.8%	11.4%	9.5%
Education accessibility	5.1%	6.3%	7.2%	3.7%	6.3%	8.5%	4.5%	4.6%	5.2%
Apartment problem	4.8%	7.4%	7.2%	16.8%	14.7%	15.2%	12.5%	13.9%	14.8%
Limited opportunities for self-expression	2.7%	1.4%	1.7%	4.3%	4.9%	3.7%	6.1%	2.2%	3.9%
Limited opportunities to participate in the decision-making process on regional/city/country level	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%	0.5%	1.5%
Problems to organize leisure	0.3%	0.8%	0.4%	1.1%	3.3%	2.8%	2.9%	6.5%	3.0%
Health problems	0.8%	0.8%	2.4%	4.0%	5.4%	5.4%	4.3%	6.3%	8.7%
Drug addiction	1.3%	1.1%	2.0%	3.7%	2.2%	1.7%	5.3%	4.9%	4.1%
Level of human rights protection, illegality	1.6%	1.4%	0.9%	6.9%	4.6%	2.8%	5.3%	7.4%	6.3%
There's no problem	0.8%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Smoking habit	1.1%	0.5%	1.3%	2.7%	1.4%	4.8%	4.5%	4.9%	3.7%
Unresolved conflicts with some neighbor countries	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	1.7%
Quality of education	4.0%	0.5%	0.9%	5.6%	3.8%	4.3%	5.9%	5.4%	5.6%
Lack of state support to youth	4.3%	3.0%	1.7%	6.6%	6.5%	5.2%	15.4%	12.8%	10.2%
Other responses	1.1%	1.1%	0.2%	2.7%	0.3%	0.9%	2.4%	1.1%	0.4%
It is difficult to answer	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%						
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.9%	97.0%	95.9%	87.0%	86.4%	84.2%

Table 8.19 Estimates of life change for the next five years by respondents' gender, age and residence

	All respondents	Male	Female	16-18	19-23	24-30	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
My life will improve significantly	31.4%	29.9%	32.4%	47.1%	33.6%	22.0%	38.0%	29.7%	27.3%
My life will slightly improve	50.7%	48.9%	51.9%	45.5%	54.4%	49.8%	46.0%	52.6%	52.9%
Nothing will change, everything will be the same	13.3%	14.2%	12.7%	5.8%	7.7%	21.8%	12.0%	12.8%	14.8%
My life will become slightly worse	1.9%	2.5%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%	3.1%	1.6%	2.2%	2.0%
My life will worsen significantly	0.7%	1.3%	0.4%	0.8%	0.2%	1.2%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
It is difficult to answer	2.0%	3.3%	1.1%	0.8%	2.4%	2.2%	1.6%	1.9%	2.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8.20. Average scores of concern with personal and social problems by respondents' age

	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30
Your and Your family health	3.9	3.88	3.91	3.89
Your and Your family welfare	3.81	3.74	3.79	3.85
Your professional development	3.55	3.74	3.58	3.43
My and my relatives' physical security	3.49	3.5	3.53	3.44
	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30
Our county independence	3.6	3.71	3.66	3.49
Human rights and freedom protection in our country	3.51	3.53	3.49	3.53
Loss of moral values (extent of immorality)	3.5	3.47	3.45	3.56
Corruption and protectionism in our country	3.45	3.37	3.37	3.56
Probability of war	3.38	3.24	3.33	3.49
Consequences of economical crisis	3.23	3.06	3.18	3.36
Maintaining of national traditions	3.21	3.12	3.21	3.24
Loss of emancipated territories in Nagornao-Karabakh	3.2	3.15	3.17	3.26
Maintaining of cultural products, monuments	3.2	3.16	3.21	3.22

Table 8.21 Average scores of concern with personal and social problems by respondents' place of residence

	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Your and Your family health	3.9	3.9	3.91	3.89
Your and Your family welfare	3.81	3.79	3.79	3.84
Your professional development	3.55	3.63	3.59	3.45
My and my relatives' physical security	3.49	3.38	3.5	3.57
	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Our county independence	3.6	3.57	3.56	3.66
Human rights and freedom protection in our country	3.51	3.54	3.47	3.53
Loss of moral values (extent of immorality)	3.5	3.5	3.51	3.49
Corruption and protectionism in our country	3.45	3.45	3.41	3.48
Probability of war	3.38	3.31	3.39	3.43
Consequences of economical crisis	3.23	3.14	3.31	3.25
Maintaining of national traditions	3.21	3.11	3.18	3.31
Loss of emancipated territories in Artsakh	3.2	3.2	3.17	3.24
Maintaining of cultural products, monuments	3.2	3.17	3.17	3.25

Table 8.22. Average scores of acceptable social distance from different social groups by respondents' age

	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30
Russian and other Slavonic nations	3.41	3.39	3.32	3.49
Extremely poor	3.65	3.56	3.60	3.73
Western Europeans (For example Englishmen, Frenchmen etc.)	3.78	3.66	3.64	3.95
Americans (USA)	3.79	3.50	3.67	4.02
Georgian	4.18	4.10	4.09	4.30
Very rich	4.48	4.29	4.43	4.61
Representatives of other races	4.74	4.53	4.71	4.87
Indians	5.07	4.99	5.09	5.09
Arabs	5.47	5.53	5.50	5.41
Persian	5.62	5.67	5.61	5.61
Representatives of other religions	5.93	5.97	5.82	6.00
HIV-AIDS positive person	6.21	6.10	6.20	6.27
Turks	6.45	6.55	6.40	6.44
Azerbaijani	6.59	6.62	6.64	6.54
Homosexuals	6.71	6.72	6.71	6.70

Table 8.23. Average scores of acceptable social distance from different social groups by respondents' residence

	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Russian and other Slavonic nations	3.41	3.53	3.35	3.36
Extremely poor	3.65	3.71	3.68	3.56
Western Europeans (For example Englishmen, Frenchmen etc.)	3.78	3.56	3.71	4.01
Americans (USA)	3.79	3.53	3.84	3.95
Georgian	4.18	4.18	4.07	4.27
Very rich	4.48	4.29	4.41	4.67
Representatives of other races	4.74	4.51	4.69	4.97
Indians	5.07	5.17	4.93	5.09
Arabs	5.47	5.47	5.26	5.64
Persian	5.62	5.78	5.46	5.62
Representatives of other religions	5.93	5.69	5.97	6.08
HIV-AIDS positive person	6.21	5.87	6.22	6.47
Turks	6.45	6.36	6.41	6.56
Azerbaijani	6.59	6.57	6.61	6.6
Homosexuals	6.71	6.55	6.72	6.82

Table 8.24. Hierarchy of youth values by the average consent rated with the statements concerning to values (by gender)

Value	Statement related to values	Overall average	Male	Female
Well-education	Being educated and advanced is very important for me	3.63	3.55	3.68
Critical thinking	I always try to fight for my viewpoint	3.59	3.72	3.50
Individualism	Usually succeed those people who rely on themselves	3.54	3.59	3.50
Self-dependence	Making decisions by myself is very important for me	3.44	3.55	3.36
Independence	Being free and independent is very important for me	3.35	3.61	3.18
Critical thinking	Usually it is difficult to convince me, until there is no justification	3.34	3.43	3.27
Significance of social environment	It is very important for me that people around me acknowledge my achievement	3.27	3.25	3.28
Traditionalism/law abiding	I think that people should always follow the laws and customs, even if no one does so	3.21	3.12	3.26
Critical thinking	I never put traditions under the question	3.17	3.24	3.13
Wealth	Being rich/wealthy is very important for me	2.30	2.43	2.22
Significance of social environment	Being different from people around me is very important to me	2.25	2.12	2.33
Critical thinking	When most people around me consider a person to be a bad, I agree	1.83	1.92	1.77

Table 8.25. Hierarchy of youth values by the average consent rated with the statements concerning to values (by age)

Value	Statement related to values	Overall average	16-18	19-23	24-30
Well-education	Being educated and advanced is very important for me	3.63	3.73	3.60	3.60
Critical thinking	I always try to fight for my viewpoint	3.59	3.62	3.62	3.55
Individualism	Usually succeed those people who rely on themselves	3.54	3.61	3.54	3.50
Self-dependence	Making decisions by myself is very important for me	3.44	3.40	3.47	3.42
Independence	Being free and independent is very important for me	3.35	3.29	3.35	3.37
Critical thinking	Usually it is difficult to convince me, until there is no justification	3.34	3.38	3.33	3.33
Significance of social environment	It is very important for me that people around me acknowledge my achievement	3.27	3.47	3.30	3.15
Traditionalism/ law abiding	I think that people should always follow the laws and customs, even if no one do so	3.21	3.15	3.15	3.29
Critical thinking	I never put the traditions under the question	3.17	3.15	3.12	3.23
Wealth	Being rich/wealthy is very important for me	2.30	2.38	2.29	2.28
Significance of social environment	Being different from people around me is very important for me	2.25	2.42	2.24	2.18
Critical thinking	When the most people around me consider a person to be bad, I agree	1.83	1.86	1.83	1.81

Table 8.26 Hierarchy of youth values by the average consent rated with the statements concerning to values (by residence place)

Value	Statement related to values	Overall average	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Well-education	Being educated and advanced is very important for me	3.63	3.62	3.64	3,62
Critical thinking	I always try to fight for my viewpoint	3.59	3.57	3.58	3,61
Individualism	Usually succeed those people who rely on themselves	3.54	3.52	3.55	3,54
Self-dependence	Making decisions by myself is very important for me	3.44	3.56	3.46	3,32
Independence	Being free and independent is very important for me	3.35	3.46	3.37	3,24
Critical thinking	Usually it is difficult to convince me, until there is no justification	3.34	3.44	3.30	3,28
Significance of social environment	It is very important for me that people around me acknowledge my achievement	3.27	3.17	3.20	3,41
Traditionalism/law abiding	I think that people should always follow the laws and customs, even if no one do so	3.21	3.15	3.24	3,24
Critical thinking	I never put the traditions under the question	3.17	2.98	3.20	3,31
Wealth	Being rich/wealthy is very important for me	2.30	2.44	2.26	2,22
Significance of social environment	Being different from people around me is very important for me	2.25	2.42	2.25	2,11
Critical thinking	When the most people around me consider a person to be bad man, I agree	1.83	1.74	1.81	1,91

Annex 9. Tables Related to Youth Leisure

Table 9.7. Frequency of visits to places of leisure by respondents' gender

	Every day	1-2 times a week	2-3 times a month	Once a month	Once every 3 months	Less than every for 3 months	Never	It is difficult to answer	Is not applicable	Total
To go to the friend's home										
Male	30.7%	45.9%	12.7%	5.0%	1.0%	2.7%	1.5%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	7.4%	35.9%	20.3%	16.0%	4.6%	11.9%	3.9%	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	16.7%	39.9%	17.3%	11.6%	3.2%	8.2%	2.9%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Cafes, clubs, bars, restaurant										
Male	5.0%	30.9%	20.9%	15.4%	8.1%	6.9%	12.3%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	0.4%	11.2%	17.7%	13.2%	9.8%	15.9%	31.7%	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	2.2%	19.0%	18.9%	14.1%	9.1%	12.3%	24.0%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Gatherings in the center of the village										
Male	8.6%	7.3%	6.7%	2.9%	0.8%	2.1%	15.2%	0.4%	55.9%	100.0%
Female	0.0%	0.6%	1.0%	2.3%	1.2%	5.1%	29.5%	0.8%	59.4%	100.0%
Total	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%	2.6%	1.1%	3.9%	23.8%	0.7%	58.1%	100.0%
Go for a walk in your city/village										
Male	28.8%	28.8%	11.5%	8.1%	2.7%	5.8%	13.6%	0.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	13.8%	25.2%	14.6%	11.9%	5.7%	6.5%	22.1%	0.3%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	19.8%	26.7%	13.4%	10.4%	4.5%	6.2%	18.7%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Attending cultural institutions (cinema. theatre. museum. concerts. gallery)										
Male	0.2%	6.1%	10.4%	15.2%	14.2%	16.9%	36.5%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	0.0%	3.7%	14.1%	19.6%	9.1%	21.1%	32.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	0.1%	4.7%	12.6%	17.9%	11.1%	19.4%	34.1%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Internet social networks. chats										
Male	53.7%	18.8%	2.1%	2.5%	0.8%	1.0%	20.7%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	42.8%	13.9%	3.6%	2.3%	1.1%	1.8%	34.3%	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	47.1%	15.9%	3.0%	2.4%	1.0%	1.5%	28.9%	0.2%	0.0%	100.0%
Participation in holidays (birthdays parties,New Year etc.)										
Male	2.1%	8.1%	38.2%	24.4%	17.1%	6.7%	2.3%	1.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	0.6%	6.6%	31.2%	28.7%	15.6%	13.1%	3.3%	1.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	1.2%	7.2%	34.0%	27.0%	16.2%	10.5%	2.9%	1.0%	0.0%	
Rest in countryside										
Male	0.8%	3.5%	12.3%	11.7%	21.3%	33.6%	15.7%	1.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	0.1%	1.5%	6.1%	9.2%	20.3%	41.4%	21.4%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	0.4%	2.3%	8.6%	10.2%	20.7%	38.3%	19.1%	0.4%	0.0%	100.0%
Visiting music and other cultural circles										
Male	0.4%	0.8%	0.2%	2.1%	1.7%	5.6%	88.3%	0.8%	0.0%	100.0%
Female	0.6%	2.9%	1.7%	2.1%	2.8%	10.5%	79.0%	0.6%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	0.5%	2.1%	1.1%	2.1%	2.3%	8.6%	82.7%	0.7%	0.0%	100.0%

Table 9.8. Frequency of visits to places of leisure by respondents' residence place

	Every day	1-2 times a week	2-3 times a month	Once a month	Once during 3 months	Rare than once for 3 months	Never	It is difficult to answer
To go to the friend's home								
Yerevan	15.7%	35.6%	14.6%	16.2%	4.5%	10.4%	2.1%	0.8%
Regional city	15.0%	42.0%	21.3%	9.0%	2.2%	7.6%	3.0%	0.0%
Village	18.9%	41.6%	16.3%	10.0%	2.8%	6.9%	3.5%	0.0%
Cafes, clubs, bars, restaurant								
Yerevan	3.7%	27.1%	22.9%	14.9%	7.4%	11.7%	11.4%	0.8%
Regional city	1.6%	21.0%	17.2%	13.4%	12.3%	13.4%	21.3%	0.0%
Village	1.5%	10.8%	17.1%	14.1%	8.0%	11.9%	36.4%	0.0%
Gatherings in the center of the village								
Yerevan	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	99.7%	0.0%
Regional city	0.5%	1.1%	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	96.5%	0.0%
Village	8.5%	7.6%	7.8%	6.5%	2.8%	9.3%	57.5%	0.0%
Go for a walk in your city/village								
Yerevan	19.9%	36.2%	14.1%	13.0%	6.1%	5.6%	4.3%	0.8%
Regional city	21.3%	28.9%	15.3%	10.9%	3.0%	7.1%	13.6%	0.0%
Village	18.4%	17.1%	11.3%	7.8%	4.3%	6.1%	34.5%	0.4%
Attending cultural institutions (cinema, theatre, museum, concerts, gallery)								
Yerevan	0.0%	7.4%	17.8%	25.8%	13.3%	18.6%	16.5%	0.5%
Regional city	0.0%	3.8%	13.9%	15.5%	10.9%	22.9%	33.0%	0.0%
Village	0.2%	3.0%	7.4%	13.2%	9.5%	17.4%	49.2%	0.0%
Internet social networks, chats								
Yerevan	58.8%	14.4%	0.8%	2.1%	1.6%	1.6%	19.9%	0.8%
Regional city	50.4%	15.8%	5.4%	3.5%	0.8%	1.1%	22.9%	0.0%
Village	34.9%	17.1%	2.8%	1.7%	0.7%	1.7%	41.0%	0.0%
Participation in holidays (birthdays parties, New Year etc.)								
Yerevan	1.1%	8.5%	34.6%	26.3%	13.3%	11.4%	2.9%	1.9%
Regional city	0.8%	6.5%	31.9%	29.2%	18.5%	10.6%	1.9%	0.5%
Village	1.5%	6.7%	35.1%	25.8%	16.7%	9.8%	3.7%	0.7%
Rest in countryside								
Yerevan	0.0%	2.1%	6.4%	10.6%	23.4%	46.8%	9.8%	0.8%
Regional city	0.0%	1.6%	10.1%	9.3%	19.6%	39.2%	19.9%	0.3%
Village	1.1%	3.0%	9.1%	10.6%	19.3%	30.6%	26.0%	0.2%
Visiting music and other cultural circles								
Yerevan	0.3%	2.7%	1.9%	2.1%	2.1%	12.0%	77.7%	1.3%
Regional city	0.8%	1.6%	1.1%	2.5%	3.0%	9.0%	81.7%	0.3%
Village	0.4%	2.0%	0.4%	1.7%	2.0%	5.4%	87.6%	0.4%

Table 9.9 Healthy lifestyle practices by respondents' gender

	Every day	Several times a week	Once a week	Several times a month	At least once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Physical training and sport							
Male	14.0%	17.7%	6.1%	7.7%	4.8%	9.4%	40.3%
Female	7.7%	12.8%	7.6%	6.6%	6.3%	10.6%	48.3%
Visiting to other kind of physical and mental trainings (yoga, meditation and so on.)							
Male	1.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	2.3%	93.3%
Female	1.1%	1.5%	0.3%	1.9%	1.5%	3.9%	89.5%
Smoking							
Male	49.9%	3.5%	0.6%	0.4%	1.0%	2.1%	42.4%
Female	0.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%	98.5%
Alcohol							
Male	1.5%	9.2%	7.9%	17.3%	16.7%	21.9%	25.5%
Female	0.3%	1.0%	1.7%	7.3%	10.9%	25.0%	53.9%

Table 9.10. Healthy lifestyle practices by respondents' age

	Every day	Several times a week	Once a week	Several times a month	At least once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Physical training and sport							
16-18	14.9%	21.1%	10.7%	10.3%	5.0%	9.9%	28.1%
19-23	10.0%	17.5%	6.6%	7.5%	7.5%	9.1%	41.8%
24-30	8.2%	9.4%	5.5%	5.1%	4.5%	11.2%	56.1%
Visiting to other kind of physical and mental trainings (yoga, meditation and so on.)							
16-18	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	5.0%	90.5%
19-23	1.5%	0.9%	0.2%	2.4%	1.5%	2.9%	90.5%
24-30	1.2%	1.4%	0.4%	1.0%	1.0%	2.7%	91.8%
Smoking							
16-18	5.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	1.7%	91.3%
19-23	26.1%	2.0%	0.4%	0.2%	0.7%	0.9%	69.7%
24-30	22.5%	1.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	1.0%	74.7%
Alcohol							
16-18	0.4%	2.5%	2.1%	9.1%	12.0%	29.3%	44.6%
19-23	0.9%	5.8%	4.0%	12.6%	16.2%	19.7%	40.9%
24-30	0.8%	3.7%	5.3%	11.2%	11.2%	24.7%	43.1%

Table 9.11. Healthy lifestyle practices by respondents' residence place

	Every day	Several times a week	Once a week	Several times a month	At least once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Physical training and sport							
Yerevan	10.1%	16.5%	7.7%	10.1%	9.3%	13.6%	32.7%
Regional city	9.5%	13.9%	6.3%	5.4%	5.2%	13.4%	46.3%
Village	10.8%	14.1%	6.9%	5.9%	3.3%	4.8%	54.2%
Visiting to other kind of physical and mental trainings (yoga, meditation and so on.)							
Yerevan	1.6%	1.6%	0.5%	2.1%	2.4%	4.0%	87.2%
Regional city	1.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.8%	0.5%	3.3%	92.9%
Village	1.1%	0.9%	0.7%	1.3%	0.7%	2.6%	92.6%
Smoking							
Yerevan	25.0%	1.9%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	1.3%	70.5%
Regional city	16.1%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	80.9%
Village	20.0%	1.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	1.1%	77.0%
Alcohol							
Yerevan	0.8%	5.6%	5.9%	13.8%	13.3%	26.3%	34.3%
Regional city	0.8%	3.8%	2.5%	10.1%	12.3%	26.2%	44.4%
Village	0.7%	3.5%	4.1%	10.2%	13.9%	19.7%	47.9%

Table 9.12. Music style preferences by respondents' age

	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30
Rabiz	37.8%	31.4%	38.5%	40.2%
Armenian pop	36.3%	33.9%	31.9%	41.4%
Western pop	23.3%	31.8%	25.0%	17.6%
Russian pop	9.5%	8.3%	8.4%	11.0%
Hip-hop	9.2%	25.6%	8.4%	2.2%
Western rock	8.9%	12.0%	11.3%	5.3%
Armenian classic music	7.8%	3.7%	8.0%	9.6%
Foreign classic music	7.6%	7.4%	8.0%	7.3%
Instrumental music	6.2%	4.1%	7.1%	6.5%
Russian/Armenian Shanson	5.7%	5.4%	6.0%	5.7%
Armenian national folk	4.9%	2.1%	3.1%	7.8%
Armenian ethnographic music	4.6%	2.9%	4.9%	5.1%
R & B	3.8%	5.0%	4.6%	2.5%
Urban folk	3.8%	1.7%	4.6%	4.1%
Russian rock	2.6%	2.5%	2.9%	2.4%
Jazz	2.2%	1.2%	1.8%	2.9%
It is difficult to answer	2.0%	0.0%	2.9%	2.2%
Other styles	9.6%	6.6%	10.2%	10.4%

Table 9.13 . Music style preferences by respondents' place of residence

	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
Rabiz	37.8%	25.3%	39.0%	47.1%
Armenian pop	36.3%	30.3%	34.3%	42.7%
Western pop	23.3%	26.9%	24.8%	19.1%
Russian pop	9.5%	8.0%	14.2%	6.9%
Hip-hop	9.2%	8.8%	9.5%	9.3%
Western rock	8.9%	12.5%	9.8%	5.2%
Armenian classic music	7.8%	9.8%	9.5%	4.8%
Foreign classic music	7.6%	12.5%	6.8%	4.1%
Instrumental music	6.2%	8.2%	7.4%	3.7%
Russian/Armenian Shanson	5.7%	5.9%	6.8%	4.8%
Armenian national folk	4.9%	4.3%	4.4%	5.9%
Armenian ethnographic music	4.6%	1.6%	2.2%	8.9%
R & B	3.8%	7.4%	2.7%	1.7%
Urban folk	3.8%	7.4%	2.2%	2.2%
Russian rock	2.6%	4.0%	2.2%	1.7%
Jazz	2.2%	4.5%	1.1%	1.1%
It is difficult to answer	2.0%	1.9%	2.7%	1.5%
Other responses	9.6%	15.7%	9.3%	4.8%

Table 9.14. Perceptions of social networks' roles by respondents' age

	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30
They are means of communication with acquaintances/relatives who live far	48.9%	52.5%	50.7%	45.7%
Social networks are considered to be information sources	34.2%	37.6%	35.0%	32.0%
They allow you to have many friends	20.8%	25.6%	23.7%	16.1%
One can get informed about news and get answers about the questions he's interested in	16.9%	19.8%	18.4%	14.3%
It's a means of leisure	13.5%	12.0%	15.7%	12.4%
It is a means of acquaintance and communication with people of the opposite sex	9.9%	16.9%	13.1%	3.7%
They have no role	9.0%	6.6%	8.8%	10.2%
It's a means of communication	5.8%	7.9%	5.8%	4.9%
They are means of self-expression	2.9%	2.1%	2.9%	3.3%
It is possible to share your problems and achievements by social networks	2.8%	3.7%	2.4%	2.7%
In social networks it is possible to communicate with those people who are difficult to reach in real life (famous people)	2.5%	4.1%	1.8%	2.4%
In social networks it is easier to present your own opinion and promote it. than in real life	1.7%	3.3%	1.1%	1.4%
It is a means of influence on resolving important social issues	1.3%	1.7%	0.7%	1.8%
Other responses	3.2%	3.3%	3.1%	3.3%
It is difficult to answer	14.3%	3.3%	10.4%	19.4%

Table 9.15. Perceptions of social networks' roles by respondents' residence place

	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
They are means of communication with acquaintances/relatives who live far	48.9%	49.7%	55.0%	43.4%
Social networks are considered to be information sources	34.2%	37.0%	33.5%	32.5%
They allow you to have many friends	20.8%	19.4%	23.4%	20.0%
One can get informed about news and get answers about the questions he's interested in	16.9%	19.9%	20.4%	11.7%
It's a means of leisure	13.5%	17.0%	12.0%	11.9%
It is a means of acquaintance and communication with people of the opposite sex	9.9%	8.8%	10.1%	10.6%
They have not any role	9.0%	8.0%	8.4%	10.2%
It's a means of communication	5.8%	9.3%	5.4%	3.3%
They are means of self-expression	2.9%	2.9%	4.1%	2.0%
It is possible to share your problems and achievements by social networks	2.8%	3.7%	1.6%	3.0%
In social networks it is possible to communicate with those people. who are difficult to reach in real life (famous people)	2.5%	3.5%	1.9%	2.2%
In social networks it is easier to present your own opinion and promote it. than in real life	1.7%	1.9%	1.1%	2.0%
It is a means of influence on resolving important social issues	1.3%	0.5%	3.0%	0.7%
Other responses	3.2%	5.3%	2.7%	2.0%
It is difficult to answer	14.3%	8.0%	10.9%	22.1%

Table 9.16. Average consent rates with the statement concerning to Media by respondents' age

	Total	16-18	19-23	24-30
I think that Armenian television channels broadcast entertainment programs too much (films serials, concerts, humor programs and etc.)	3.44	3.27	3.41	3.55
Armenian TV doesn't illustrate youth problems sufficiently	3.03	2.94	3.03	3.07
Usually I check the information with several information sources	2.77	2.76	2.72	2.82
On television there are too much sad news, films, programs	2.67	2.64	2.64	2.71
I think that level of speech freedom is high in Armenian Media	2.43	2.41	2.40	2.46
Armenian TV broadcasts cultural programs sufficiently	2.38	2.40	2.35	2.40
I've begun to spend more and more time in Internet	2.25	2.40	2.37	2.06
Armenian television broadcasts religious programs sufficiently	2.02	1.95	2.02	2.04

Table 9.17 Average consent rates with the statement concerning to Media by respondents' residence

	Total	Yerevan	Regional city	Village
I think that Armenian television channels broadcast entertainment programs too much (films, serials, concerts, humor programs and etc.)	3.44	3.48	3.41	3.44
Armenian TV doesn't illustrate youth problems sufficiently	3.03	3.08	3.07	2.95
Usually I check the information with several information sources	2.77	2.87	2.71	2.74
On television there are too much sad news, films, programs	2.67	2.71	2.60	2.69
I think that level of speech freedom is high in Armenian Media	2.43	2.29	2.47	2.51
Armenian TV broadcasts cultural programs sufficiently	2.38	2.18	2.48	2.47
I've begun to spend more and more time in Internet	2.25	2.43	2.23	2.11

Table 9.18. Characteristics of Media usage

	Every day	Several times a week	Once in a week	Several times a month	At least once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Armenian TV channels							
<i>Percents</i>	83.6%	7.8%	2.6%	1.3%	0.7%	0.9%	2.8%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	180.92	154.03	62.1	104.38	43.75	60.91	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	5	10	10	30	5	15	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	900	900	240	240	120	120	
Foreign and cable TVchannels							
<i>Percents</i>	31.0%	9.8%	3.0%	1.7%	1.1%	2.6%	50.8%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	140.91	143.52	82.29	142.75	80.77	86.72	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	10	10	10	15	10	10	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	600	960	220	600	180	600	
Radio							
<i>Percents</i>	13.0%	7.0%	3.4%	2.5%	2.1%	3.9%	68.2%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	156.92	118.13	63.38	89.31	85.87	53.52	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	10	10	15	5	10	10	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	720	720	240	300	360	600	
Armenian Internet News sites							
<i>Percents</i>	20.8%	10.7%	7.0%	4.2%	1.3%	1.8%	54.2%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	88.23	91.87	49.35	83.06	34.06	45	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	5	10	5	10	10	5	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	800	1800	300	600	120	240	
Foreign Internet News sites							
<i>Percents</i>	9.6%	5.4%	3.5%	2.5%	1.0%	2.3%	75.7%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	79.05	73.33	49.4	64.5	43.75	35	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	5	10	10	10	10	5	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	800	240	300	450	120	120	
Internet entertainment sites							
<i>Percents</i>	30.4%	13.8%	4.7%	2.8%	1.2%	2.0%	45.1%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	124.42	110.88	68.77	123.97	61.64	66.67	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	5	5	5	5	10	15	

<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	800	1500	300	600	180	300	
Internet social networks							
<i>Percents</i>	47.1%	13.5%	3.3%	3.4%	1.7%	2.0%	28.9%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	150.87	116.98	57.25	99.02	58.4	27.5	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	5	10	5	5	10	5	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	1080	1500	300	500	240	60	
Armenian press							
<i>Percents</i>	1.9%	6.2%	9.3%	5.0%	3.9%	5.6%	68.0%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	36.09	57.69	36.48	52.41	31.67	28.41	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	10	10	5	5	10	5	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	120	280	180	240	60	180	
Foreign press							
<i>Percents</i>	0.4%	0.8%	1.2%	0.8%	1.1%	1.5%	94.0%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	40	45	34.64	75	38.08	29.47	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	20	15	10	5	5	3	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	60	180	120	180	240	60	
Magazines							
<i>Percents</i>	2.6%	5.8%	8.6%	12.2%	14.0%	7.4%	49.3%
<i>Average duration of usage in minutes</i>	51.29	50.67	41.36	70.51	36.21	39.53	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	5	10	5	10	5	5	
<i>Minimum duration of usage in minutes</i>	270	360	180	1080	270	300	