

MERDEKA CENTER - New Straits Times YOUTH EXPECTATIONS SURVEY EXCERPTS

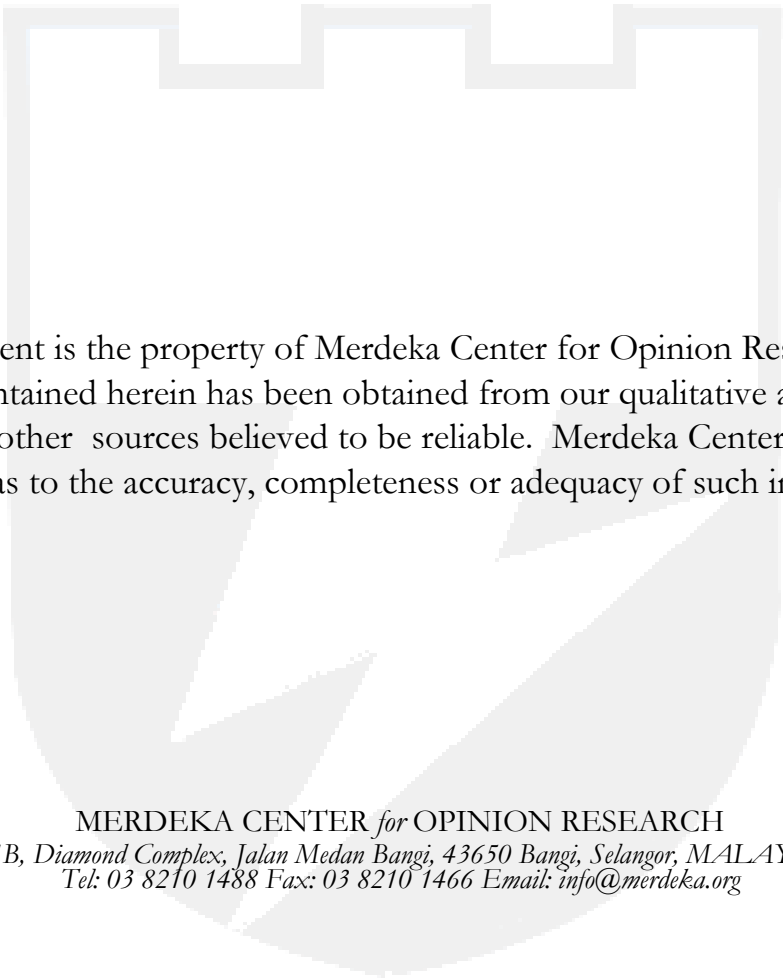


VIEWPOINTS ON:

**PERSONAL OUTLOOK, EDUCATION,
SOCIAL ISSUES AND THE FUTURE**

17-19 DECEMBER 2004

MERDEKA CENTER



This document is the property of Merdeka Center for Opinion Research. The information contained herein has been obtained from our qualitative and quantitative research and other sources believed to be reliable. Merdeka Center disclaims all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of such information.

MERDEKA CENTER *for* OPINION RESEARCH
901B, Diamond Complex, Jalan Medan Bangi, 43650 Bangi, Selangor, MALAYSIA
Tel: 03 8210 1488 Fax: 03 8210 1466 Email: info@merdeka.org



Introduction

Survey Objectives

Methodology

Main Findings

I Issues

II. Personal Outlook

III. Expectations for the Future of Society

Conclusions





INTRODUCTION



Introduction

The third of a series of three surveys to be undertaken in 2004.

The Youth Expectations Survey looks at how young Malaysians view their lives and the society around them. It also looks at how the youth looks at the future of Malaysian society.

Supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, these surveys have the following objectives:

1. Continued tracking of public opinion on salient issues affecting political and social debate
2. Measure attitudes towards issues affecting work and life, stresses and coping strategies
3. Increase awareness and acceptance of opinion research in public discourse



Survey Methodology

Structured sampling according to:

ethnicity, gender and state of residence

- ❖ Telephone interviews
- ❖ Randomized selection of respondents
- ❖ Interviews conducted between: 9am – 9pm
- ❖ Total number interviews completed: 852 respondents aged between 16 and 30
- ❖ Survey period: 17 - 19 December 2004
- ❖ Margin of error : +/- 3.45% (95% confidence interval)

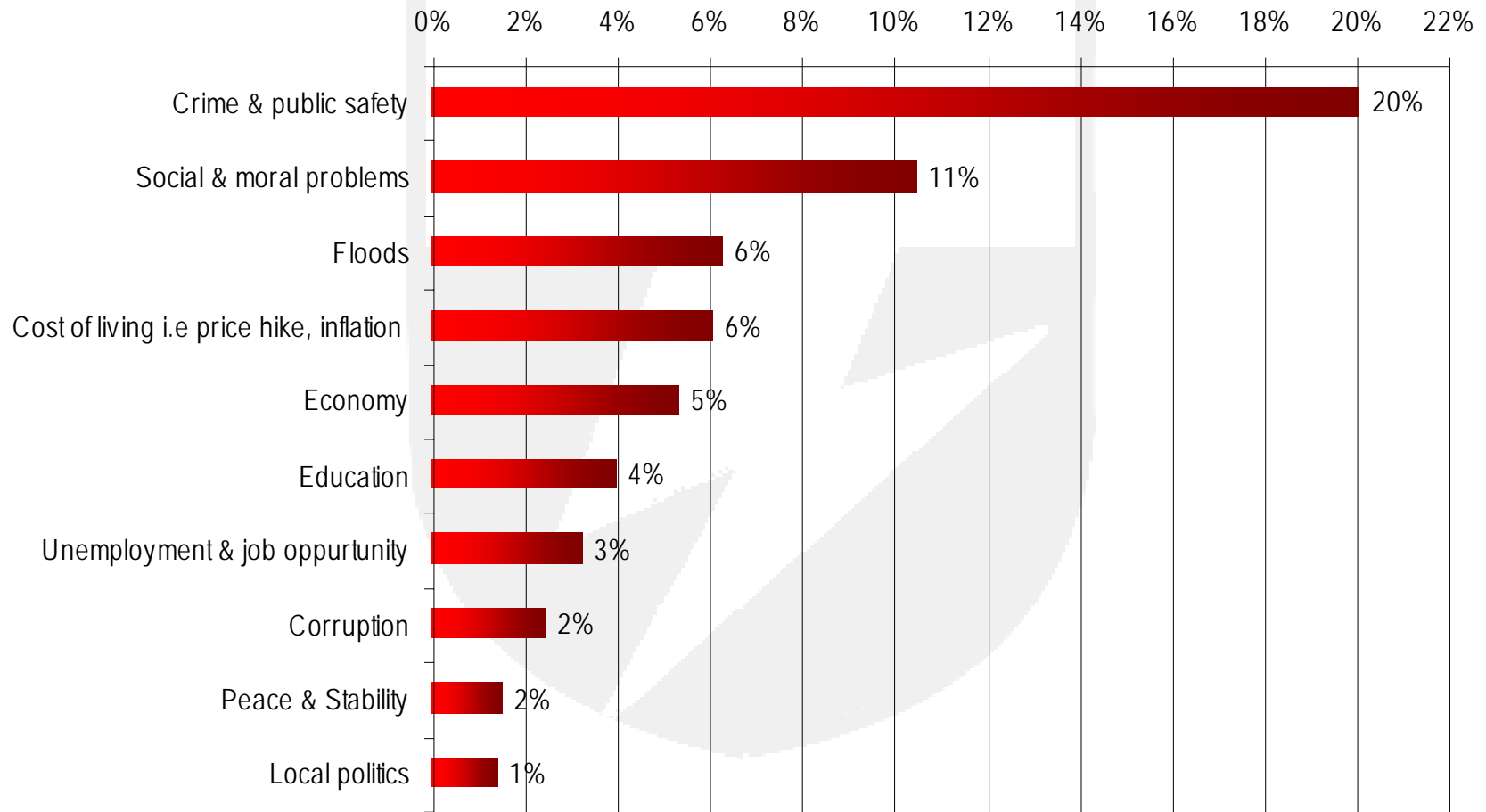




Most Important Issue

In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Malaysia right now?

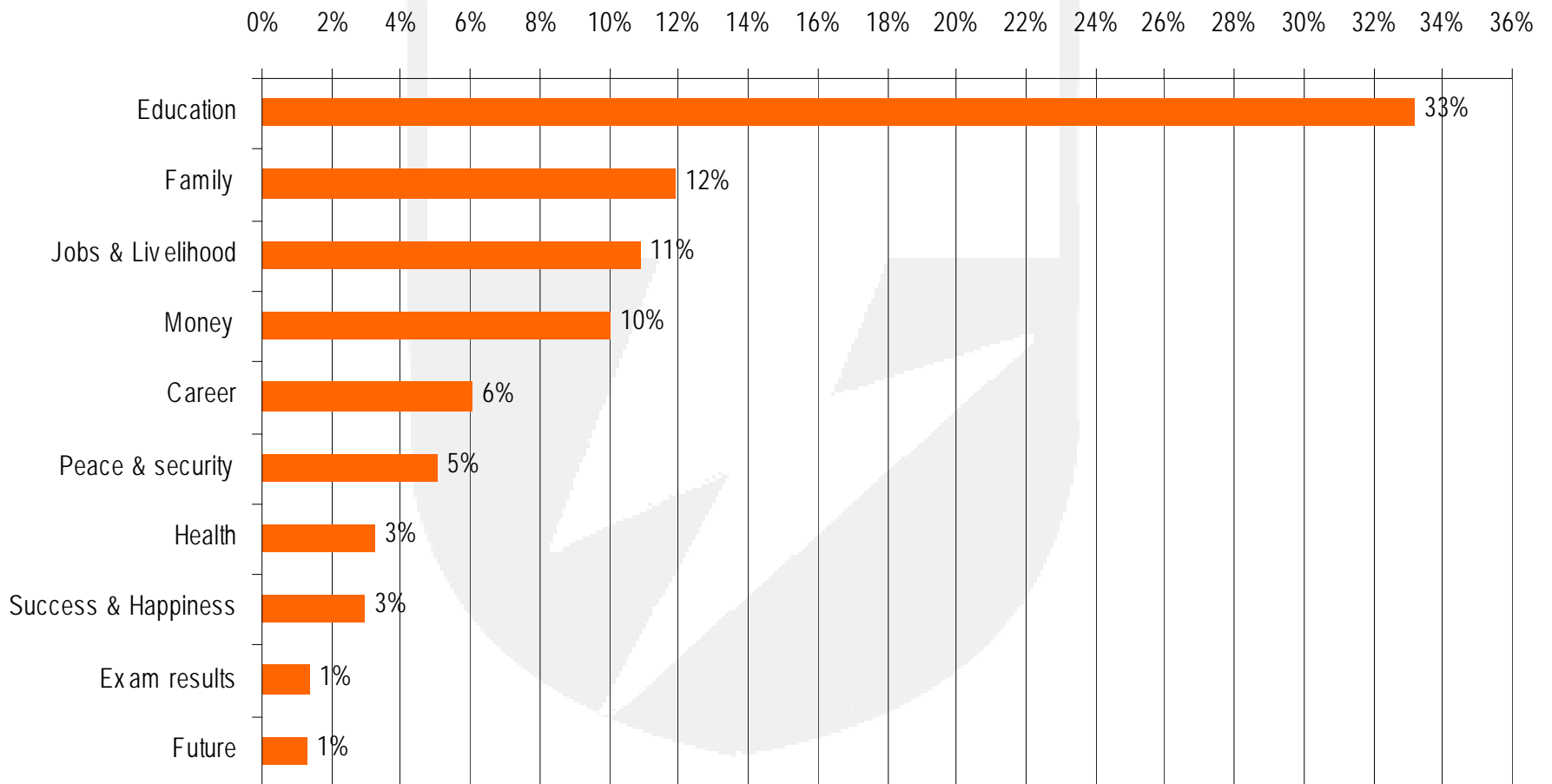
Top 10 issues of national concern among young people



Biggest Personal Concern

What is the your biggest personal concern at this point in time?

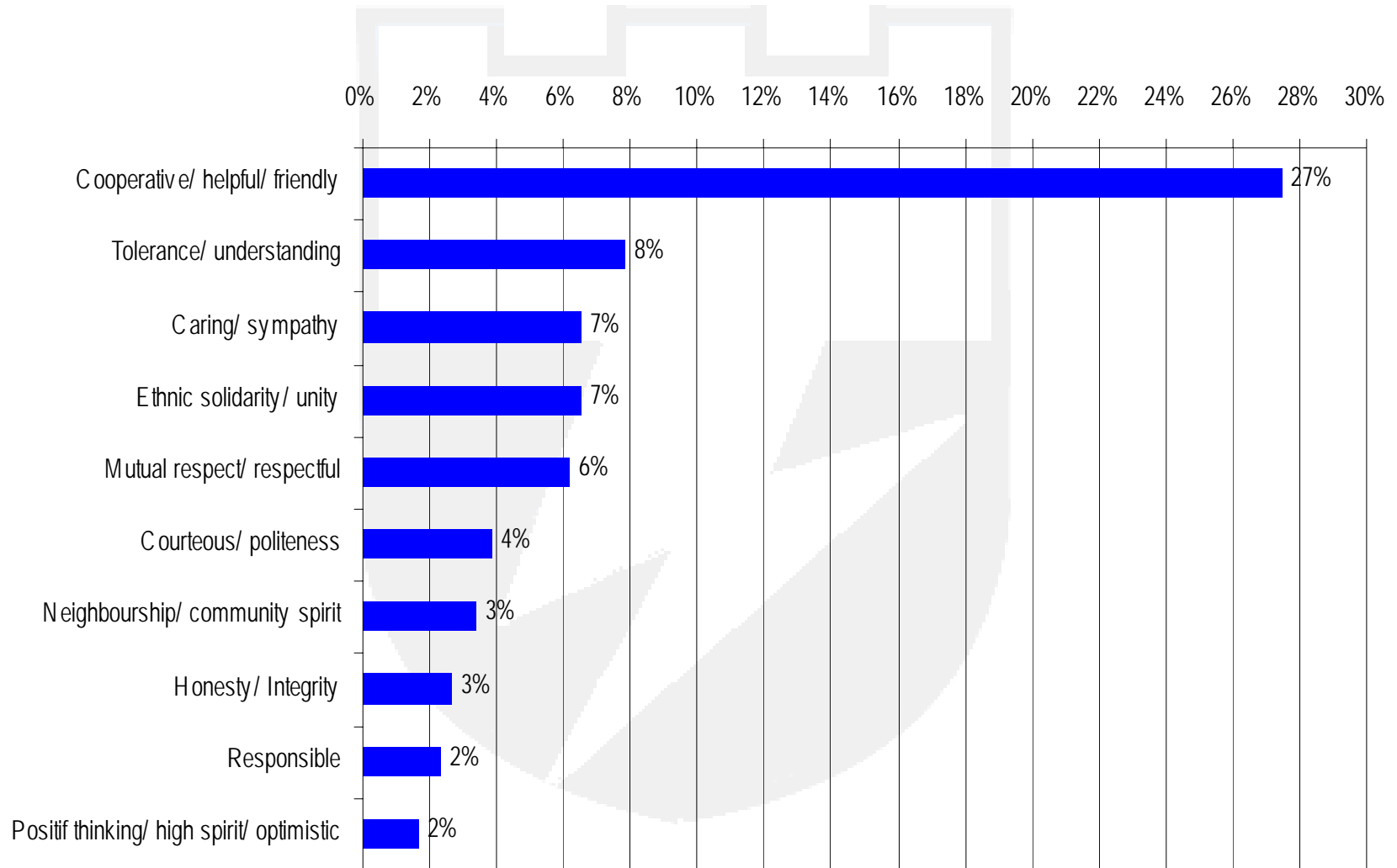
Top 10 issues of personal concern among young people



One good thing society needs

Name one good thing about our society that should be retained.

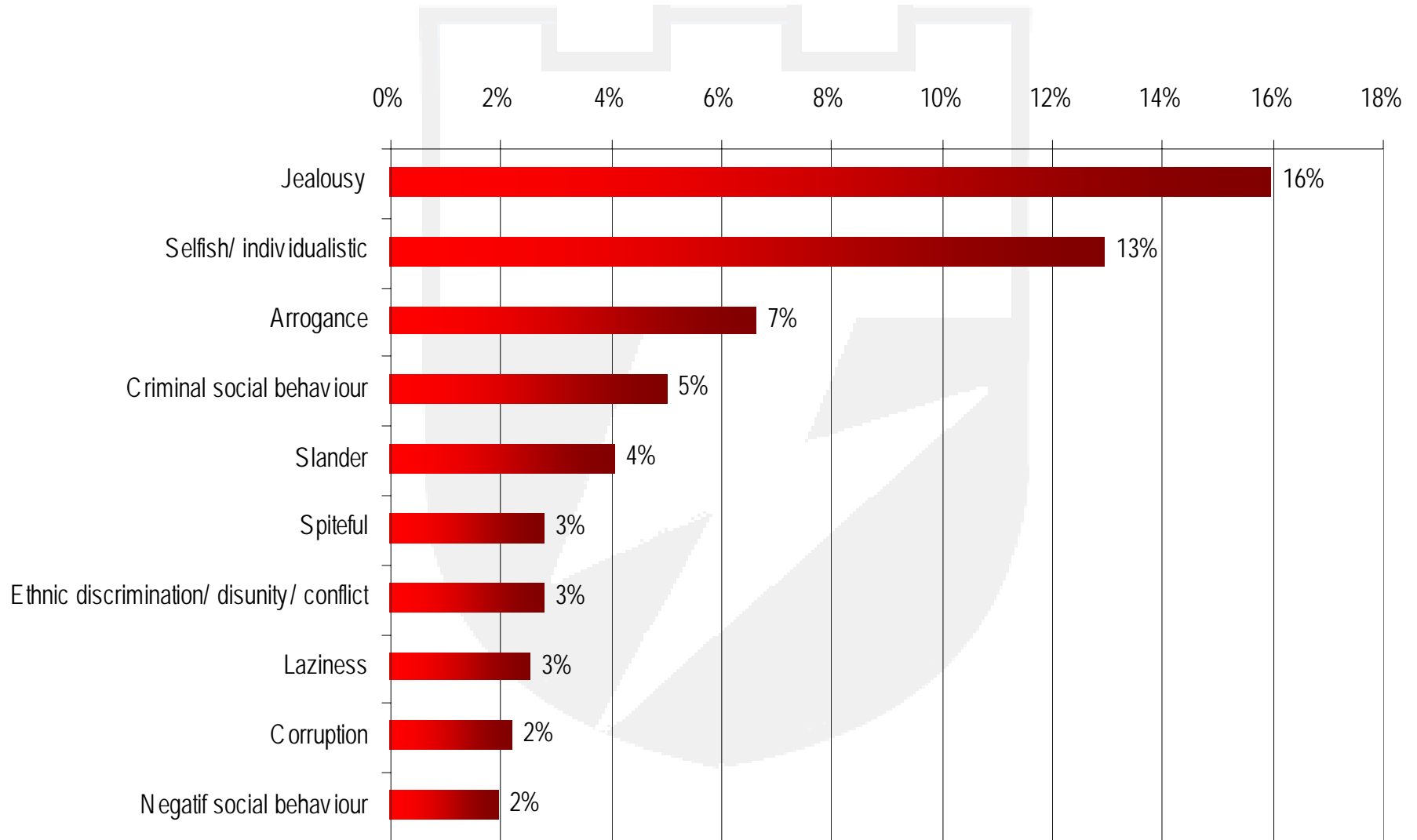
Top 10 good things that young people think should be retained



One bad thing society needs to remove

Name one good thing about our society that should be retained.

Top 10 bad things that young people think should be removed





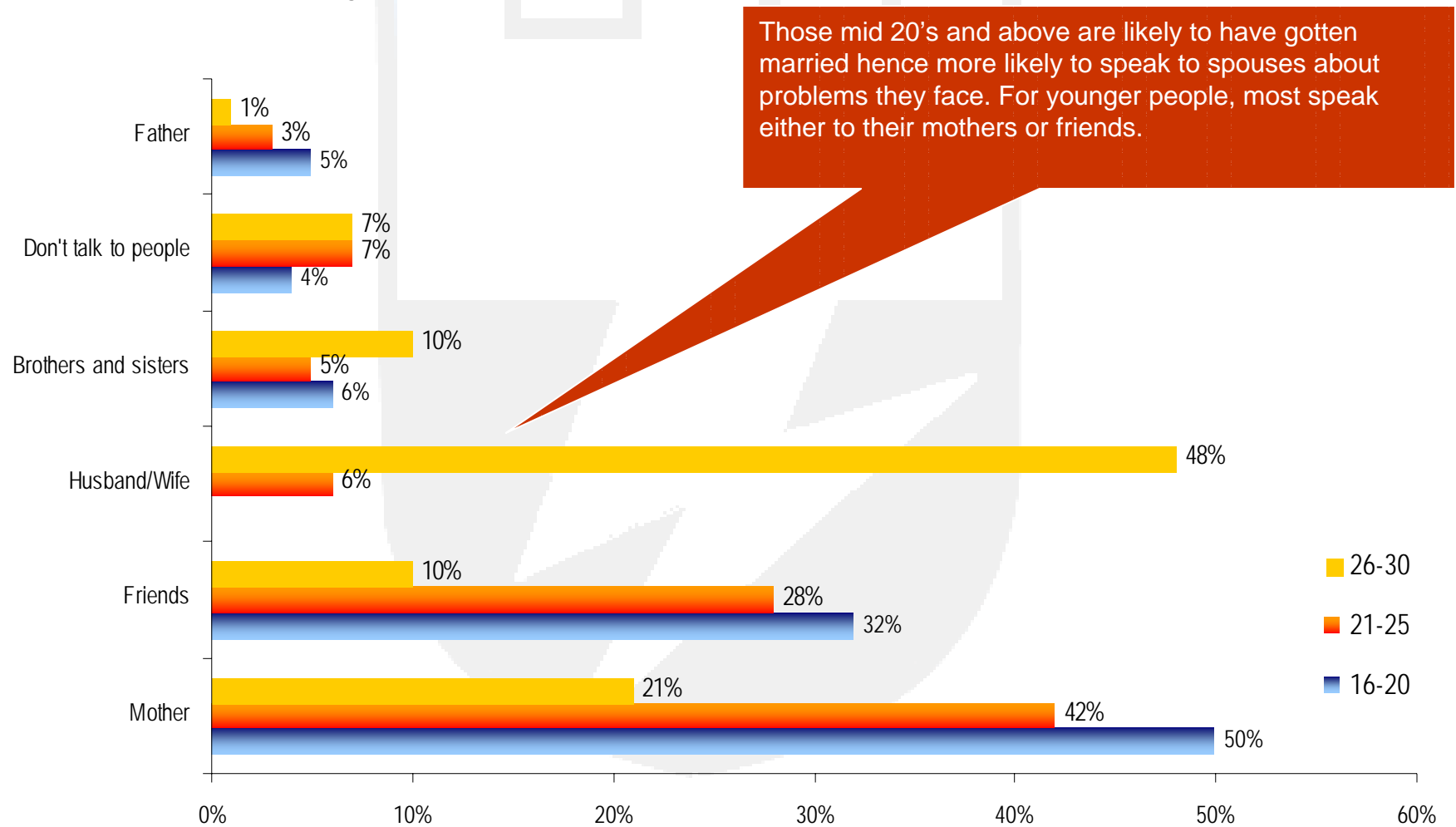
PERSONAL OUTLOOK



Main confidant

If you had a personal problem, who would be the first person you spoke about it?

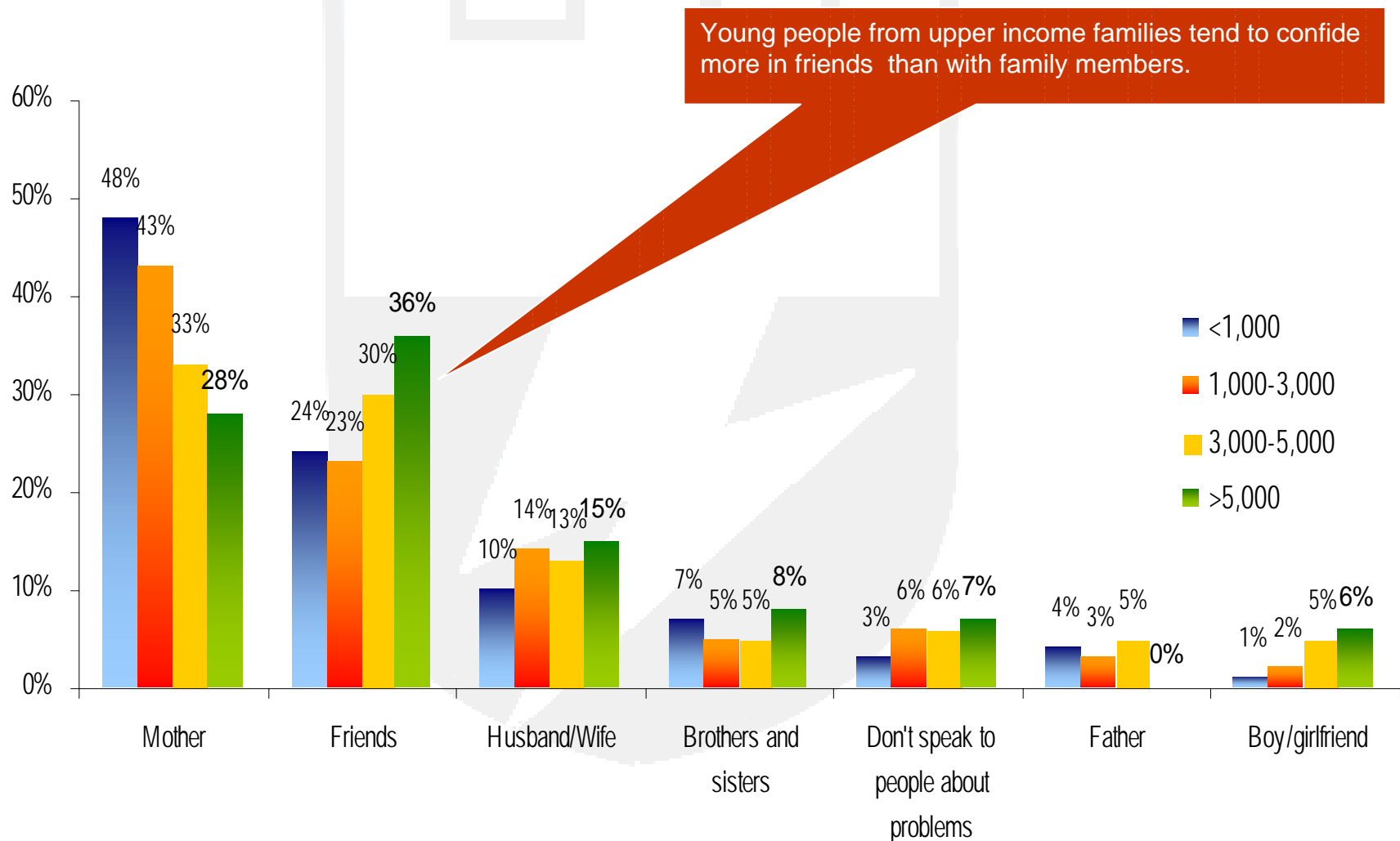
Main confidant (Across Age Groups)



Main confidant

If you had a personal problem, who would be the first person you spoke about it?

Main confidant (Across Income)

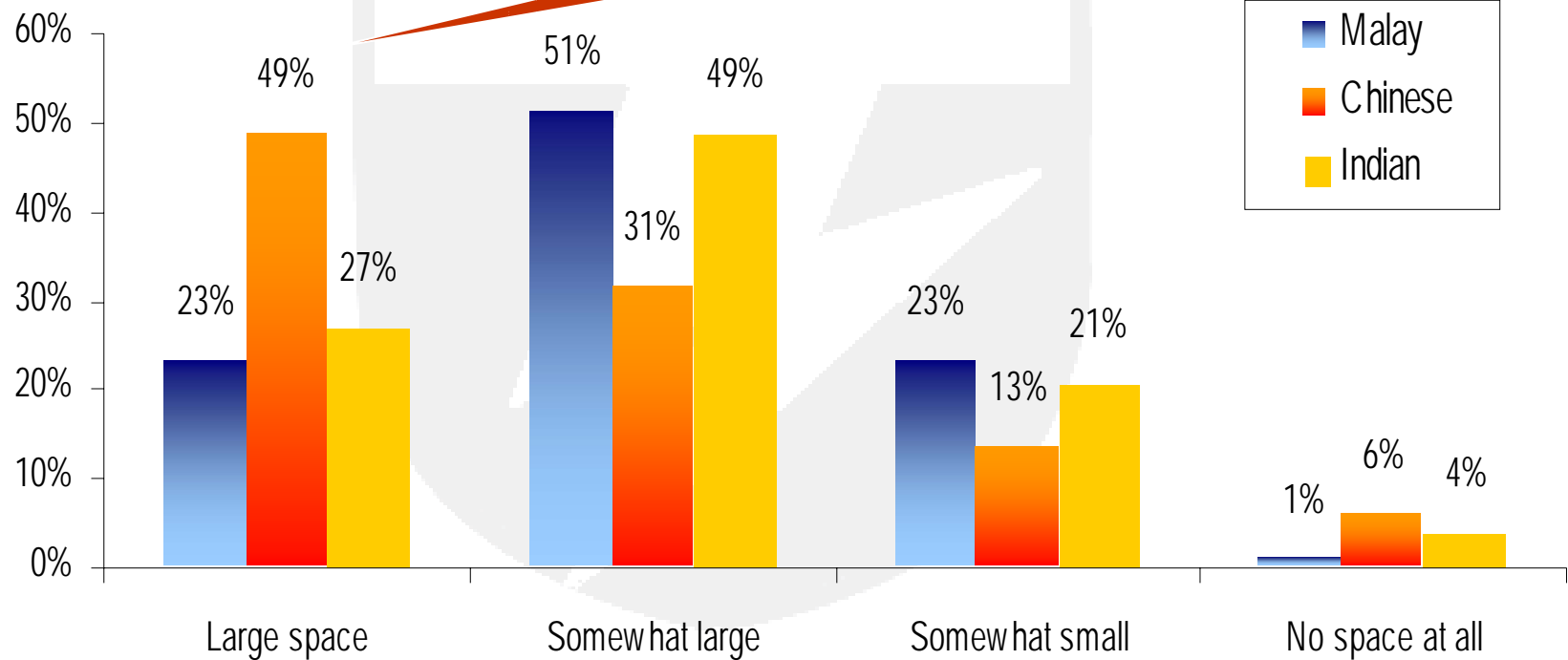


Space to speak out

How much space did your parents allow you to voice contrary opinions or ideas when you were growing up?

Room to speak up

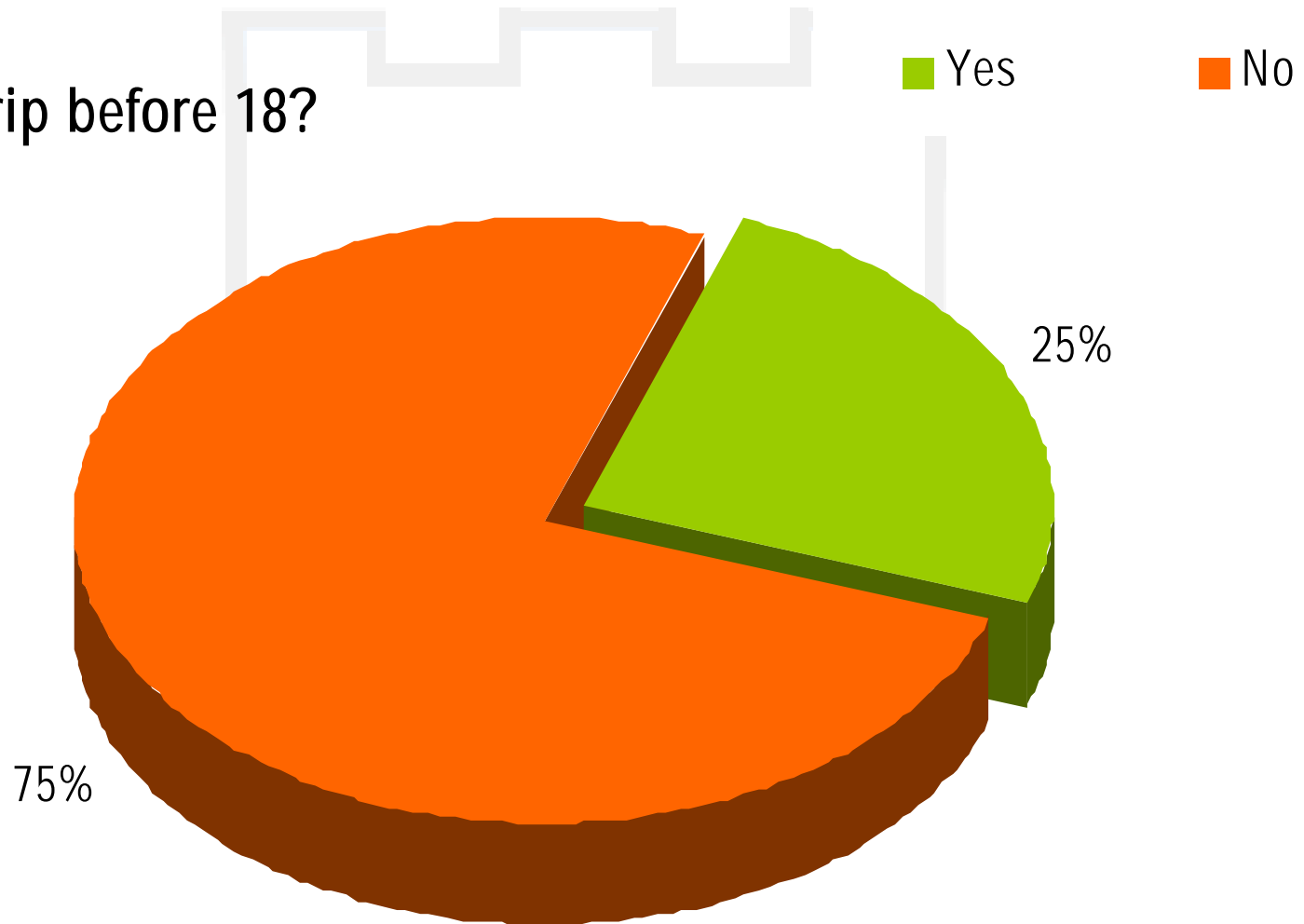
The Chinese report most room to speak up when they were young. Malays and Indians on the hand, have more moderate space to speak up on contrary issues to their parents.



Independent Travel before 18

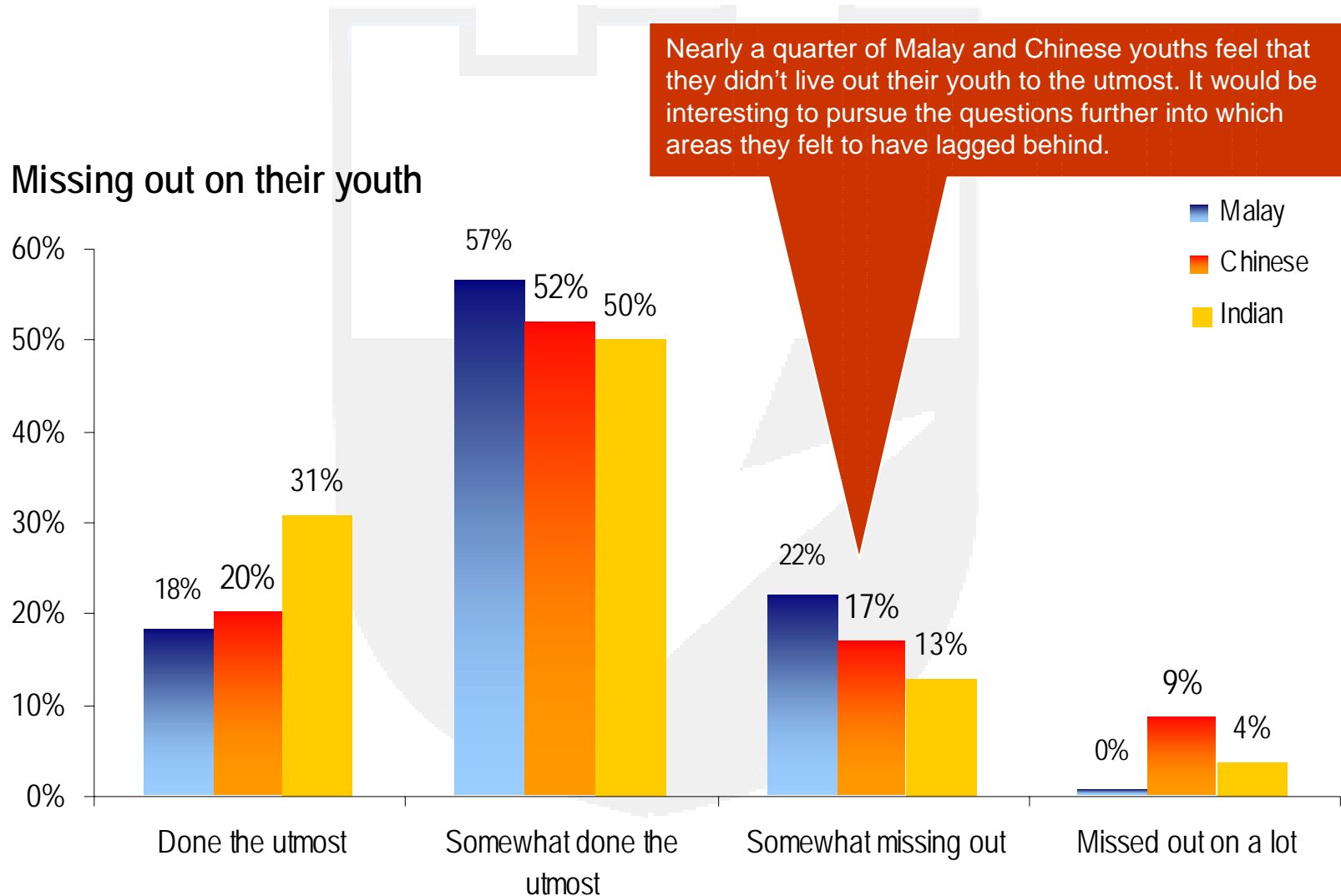
Have you traveled or taken a long trip on your own before you turned 18?

Long trip before 18?



Living out their youth

Overall, would you say that you have done your utmost during your youth or felt that you have missed out on a lot?



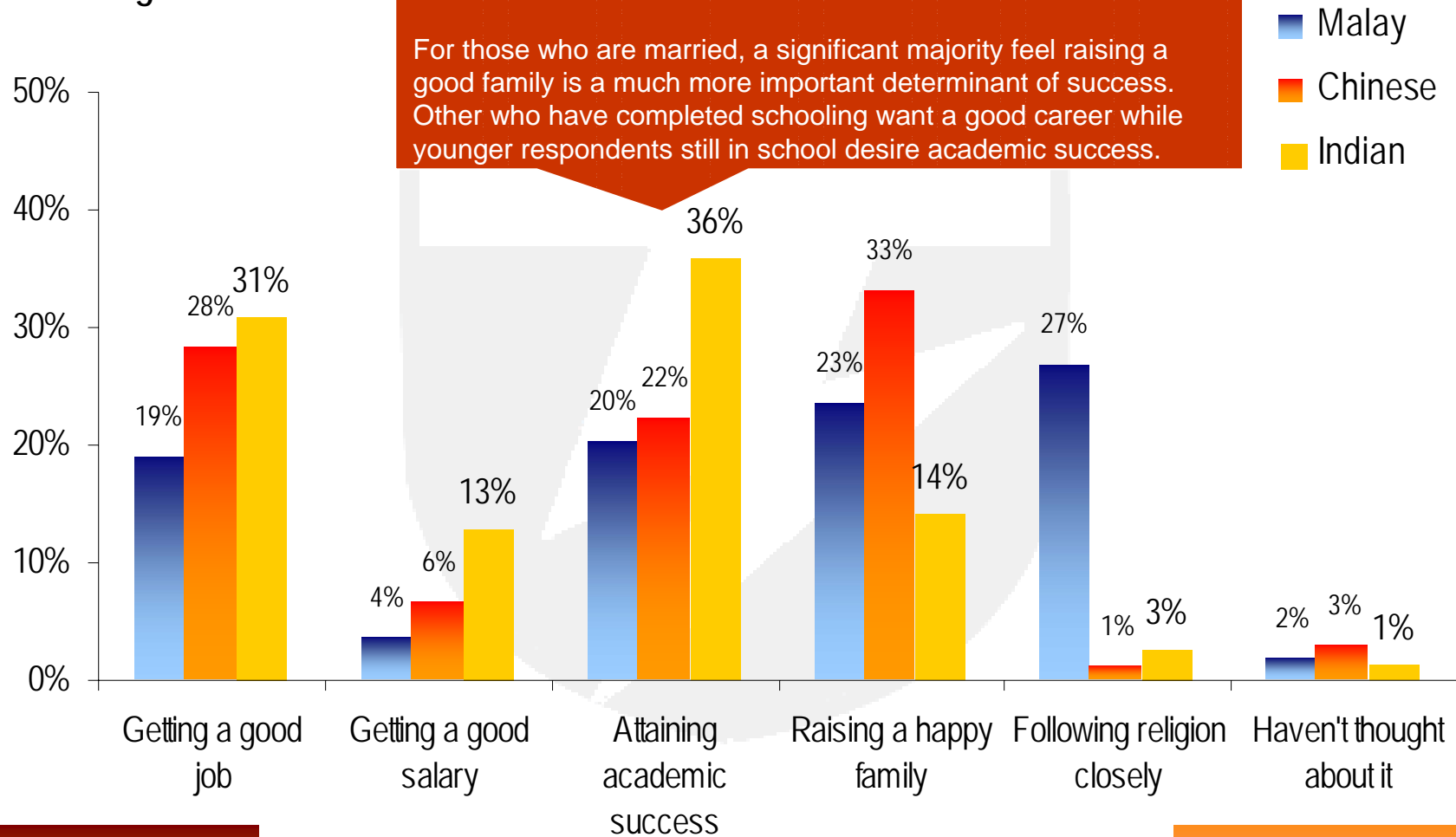
Defining Success

In your view, what constitutes the most relevant definition of success at this time?

Defining "Success"

Findings reveal clear trends across ethnic groups as well as life stages – for non Malays, getting a good career started is an important definition of success but for many Malays, getting closer to God and religion defines success.

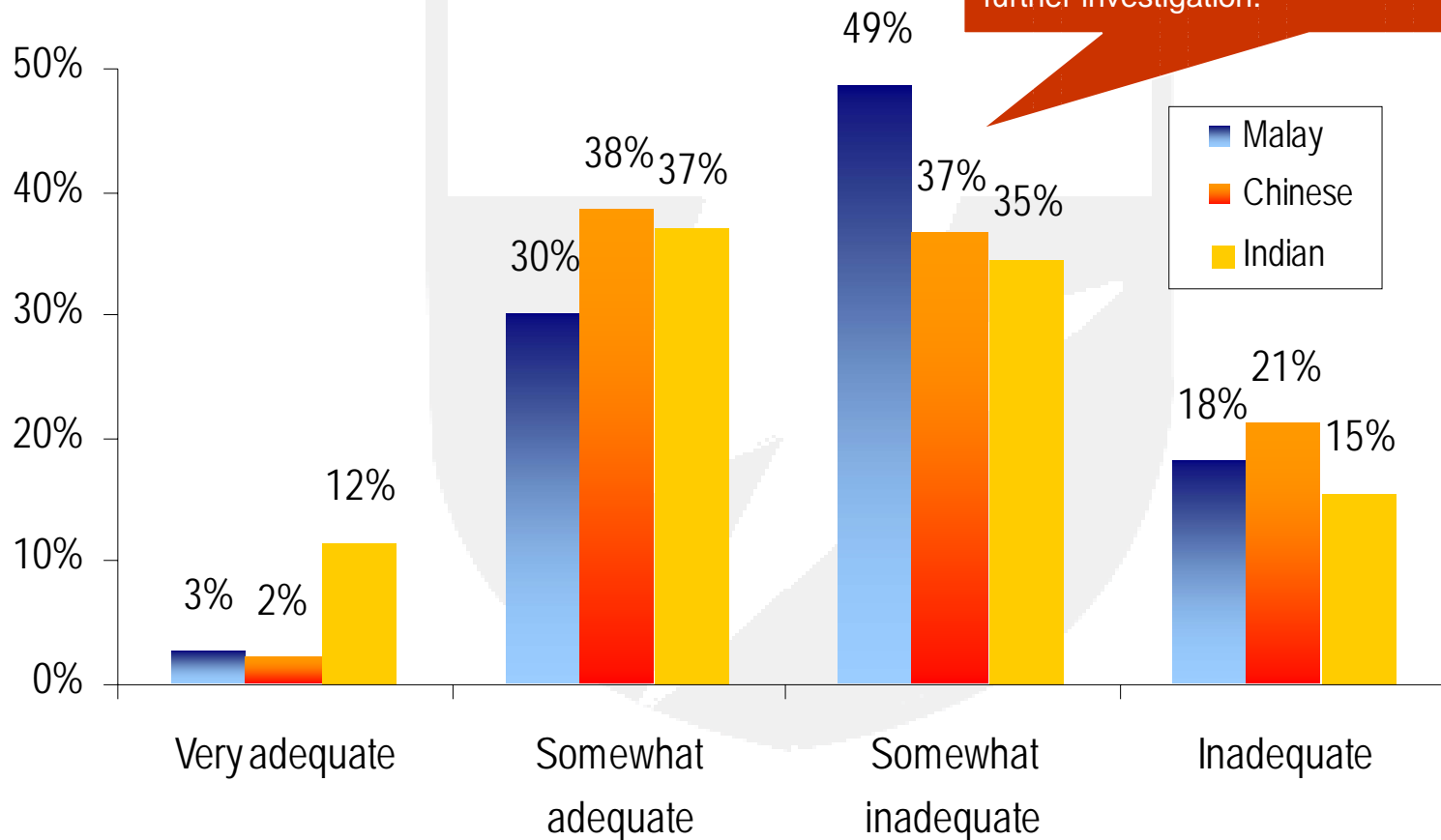
For those who are married, a significant majority feel raising a good family is a much more important determinant of success. Other who have completed schooling want a good career while younger respondents still in school desire academic success.



Education and Living Skills

To what extent would you say that the education you have received has adequately or inadequately prepared you to face the challenges of working and living in today's society?

Education to face the challenges in life



A majority of Malaysian youth, including two thirds of Malay youths (58% of Chinese and 50% of Indians) say that their education did not or is not adequately preparing them for life and work. This is a matter that deserves further investigation.

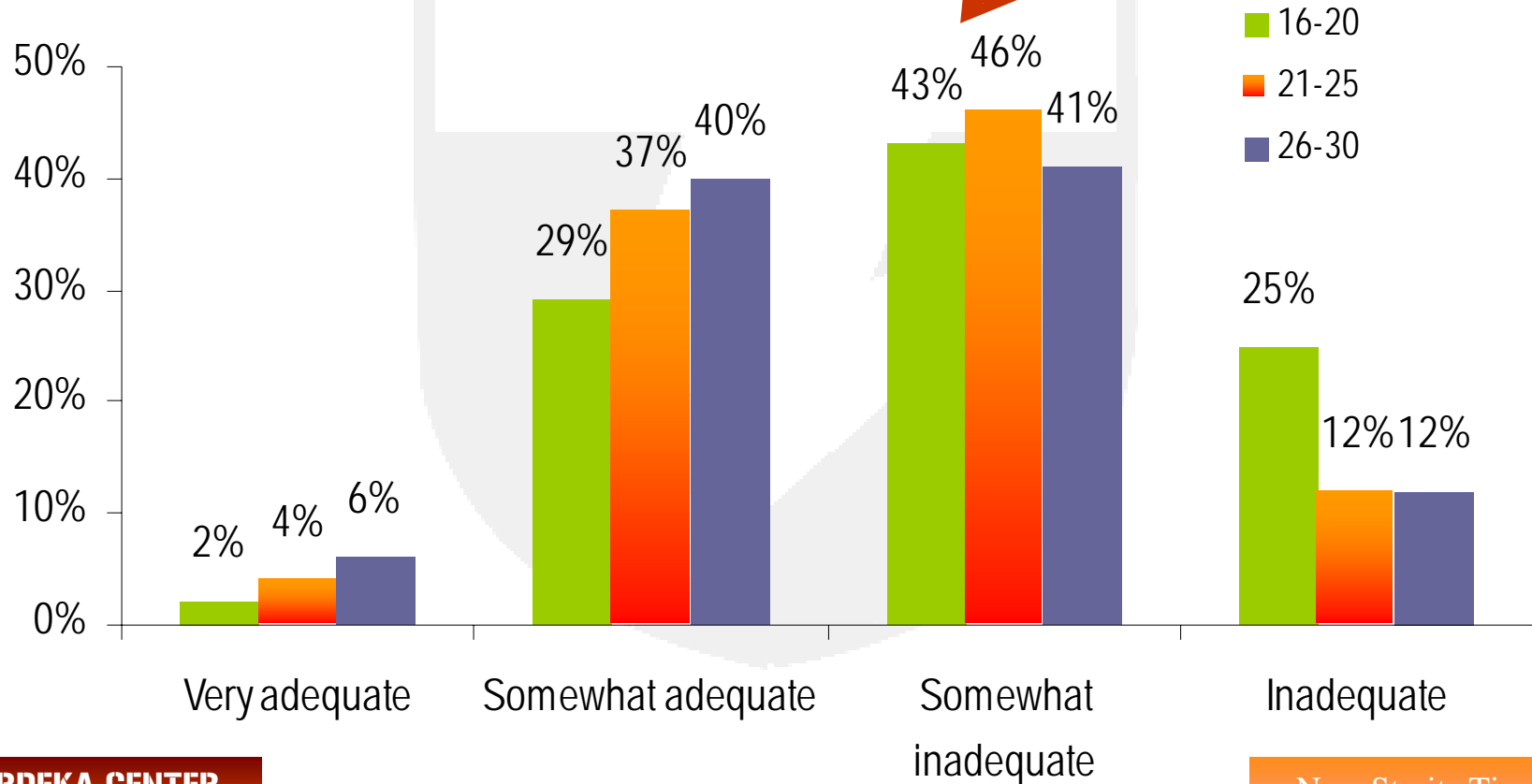


Education and Living Skills

To what extent would you say that the education you have received has adequately or inadequately prepared you to face the challenges of working and living in today's society?

Looking at the question again, it appears that perceived inadequacy of the education they have received appears highest amongst those who are still in school (16-20) and those entering the job market (21-25)

Education to face the challenges in life

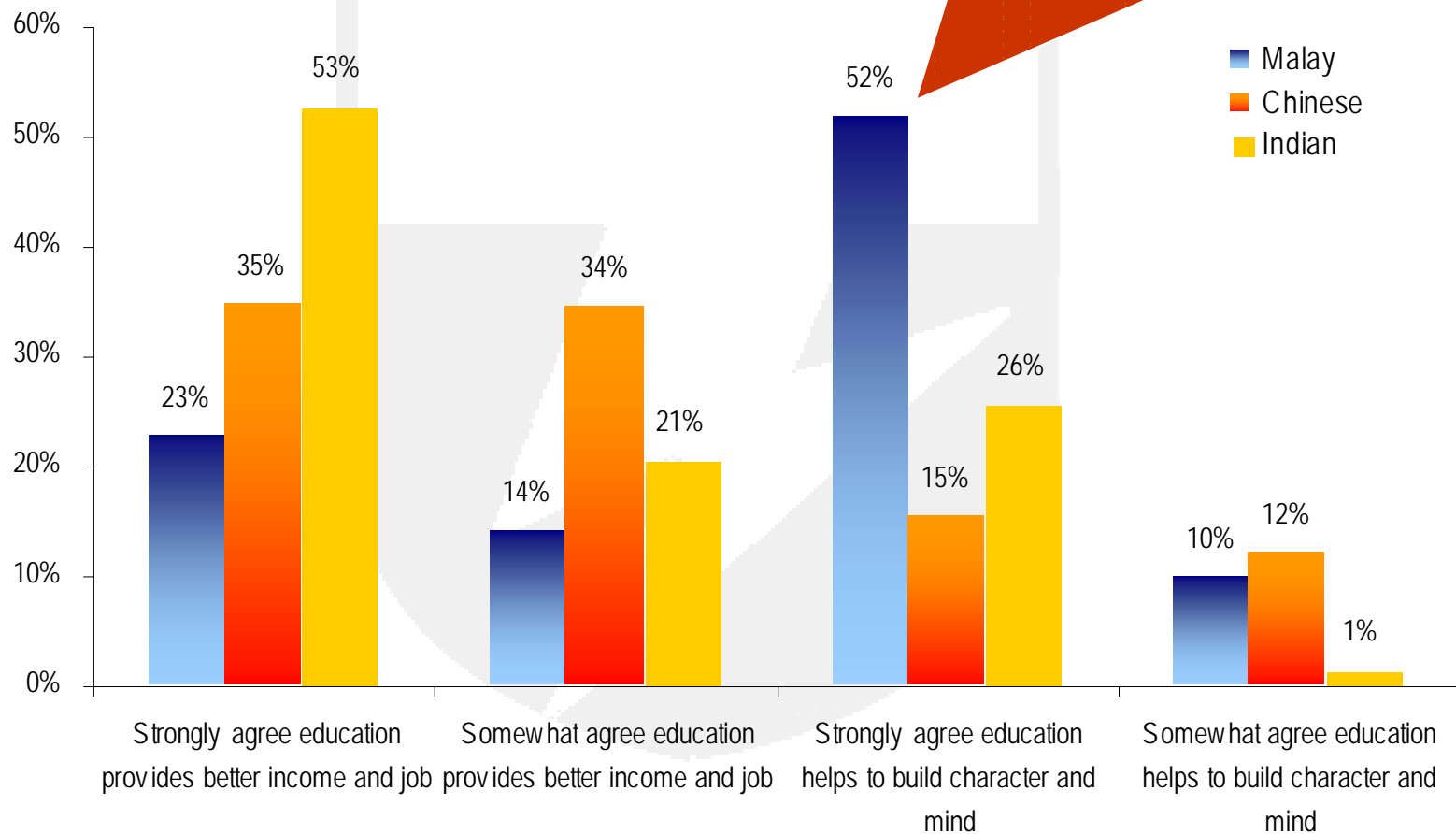


Education: Money or Character

Our current education system places too much importance on exams/Provides a well rounded experience for the individual.

Education - for money or character?

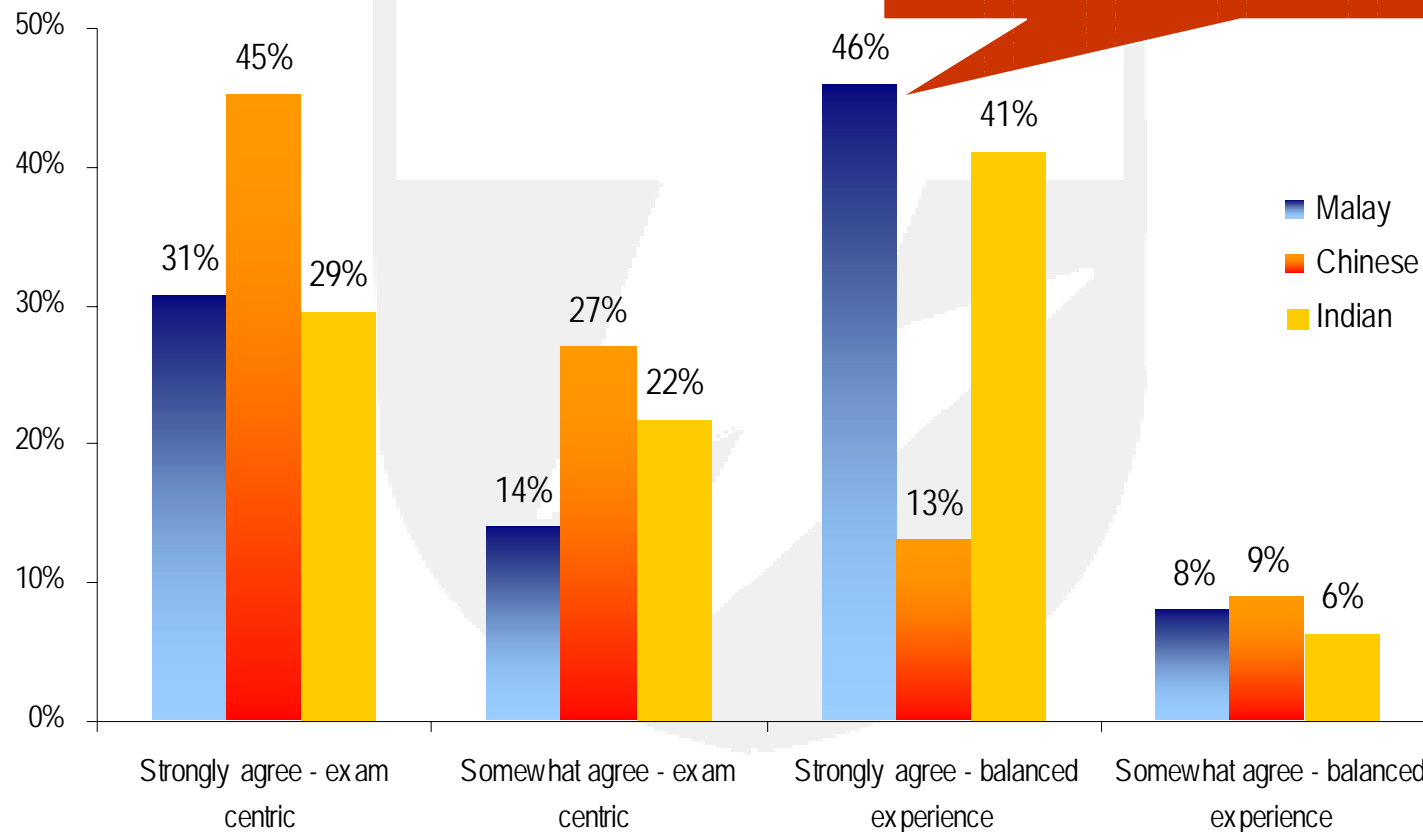
Chinese and Indian youths strongly see their education as a step towards getting better jobs and pay but Malays see it more as a place to build character and gain living experience.



Education: Exams or Experience

Our current education system places too much importance on exams/Provides a well rounded experience for the individual.

Perception on education system



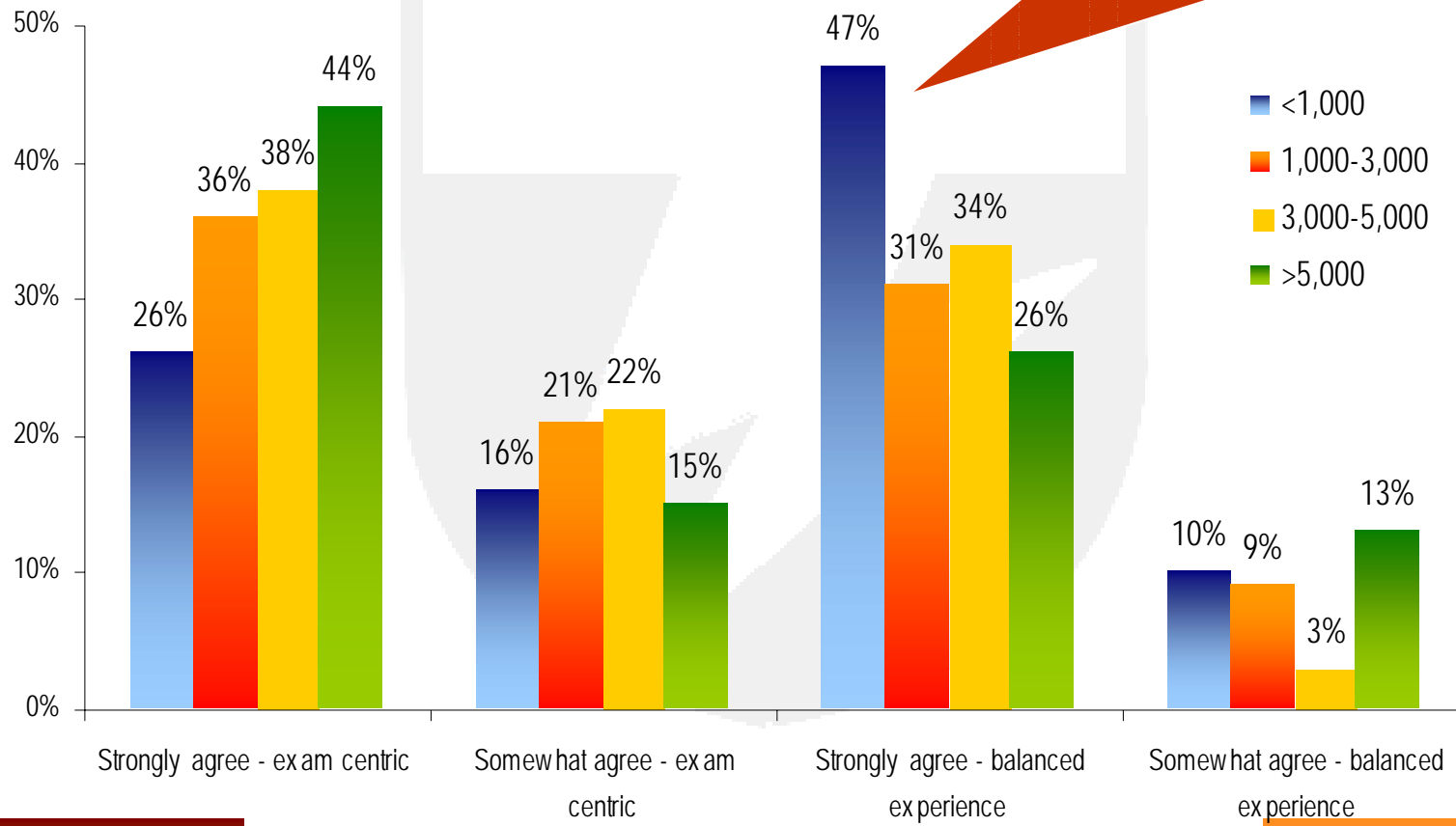
Chinese youths strongly feel that their education system is too exam-centered but Malay youths feel that it leads to a more balanced and well rounding experience. This marked difference in perception may owe to the different systems the bulk of these young people have underwent.



Education: Exams or Experience

Our current education system places too much importance on exams/Provides a well rounded experience for the individual.

Perception on education system



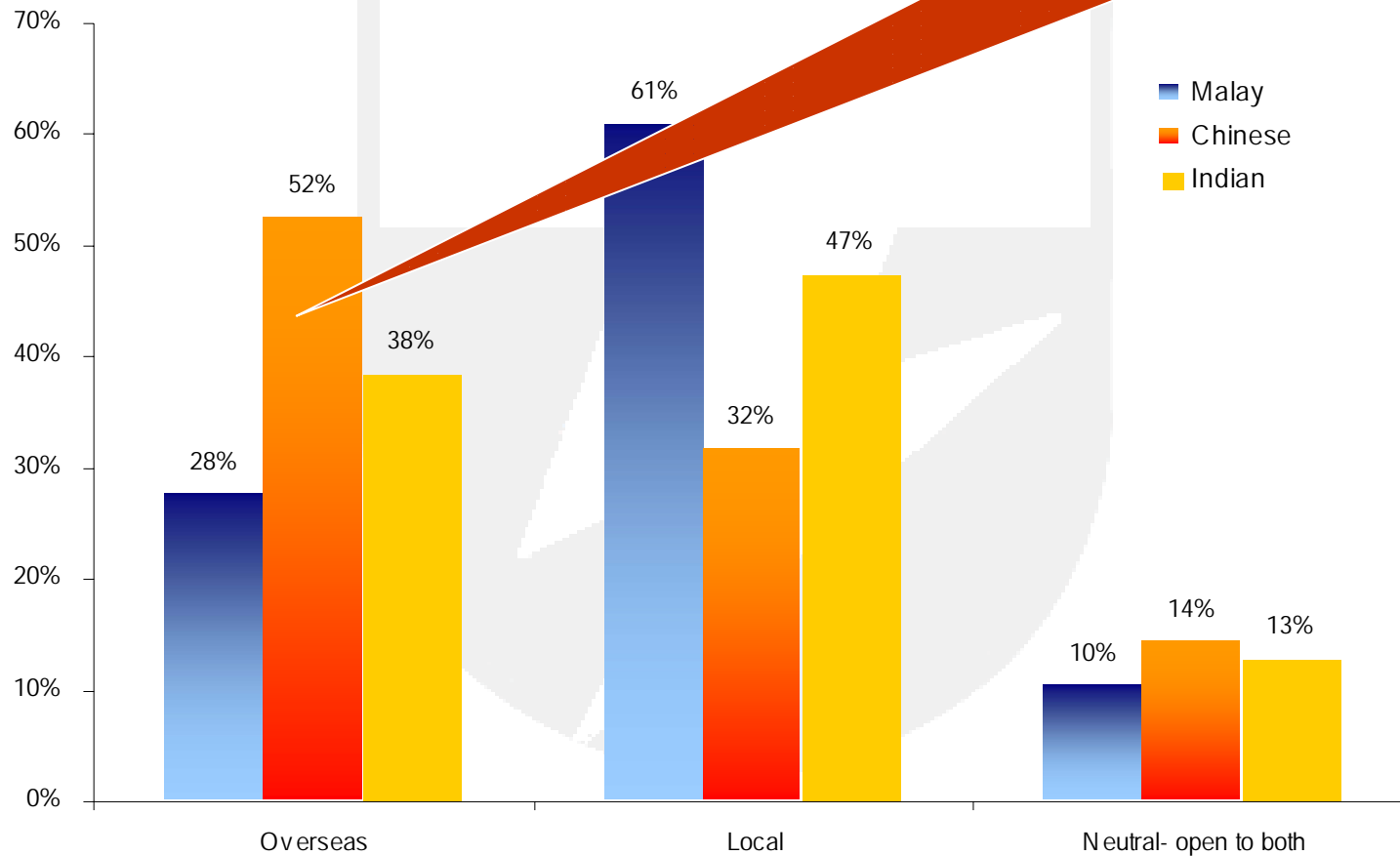
A similar view about education is echoed here, lower income respondents (mostly Malays) feel it is a well rounded experience but higher income respondents feel it is too focused on exams.



Overseas vs Local Education

If you were given a choice and having made all consideration, where would you choose to pursue your higher education?

Where to pursue higher education?

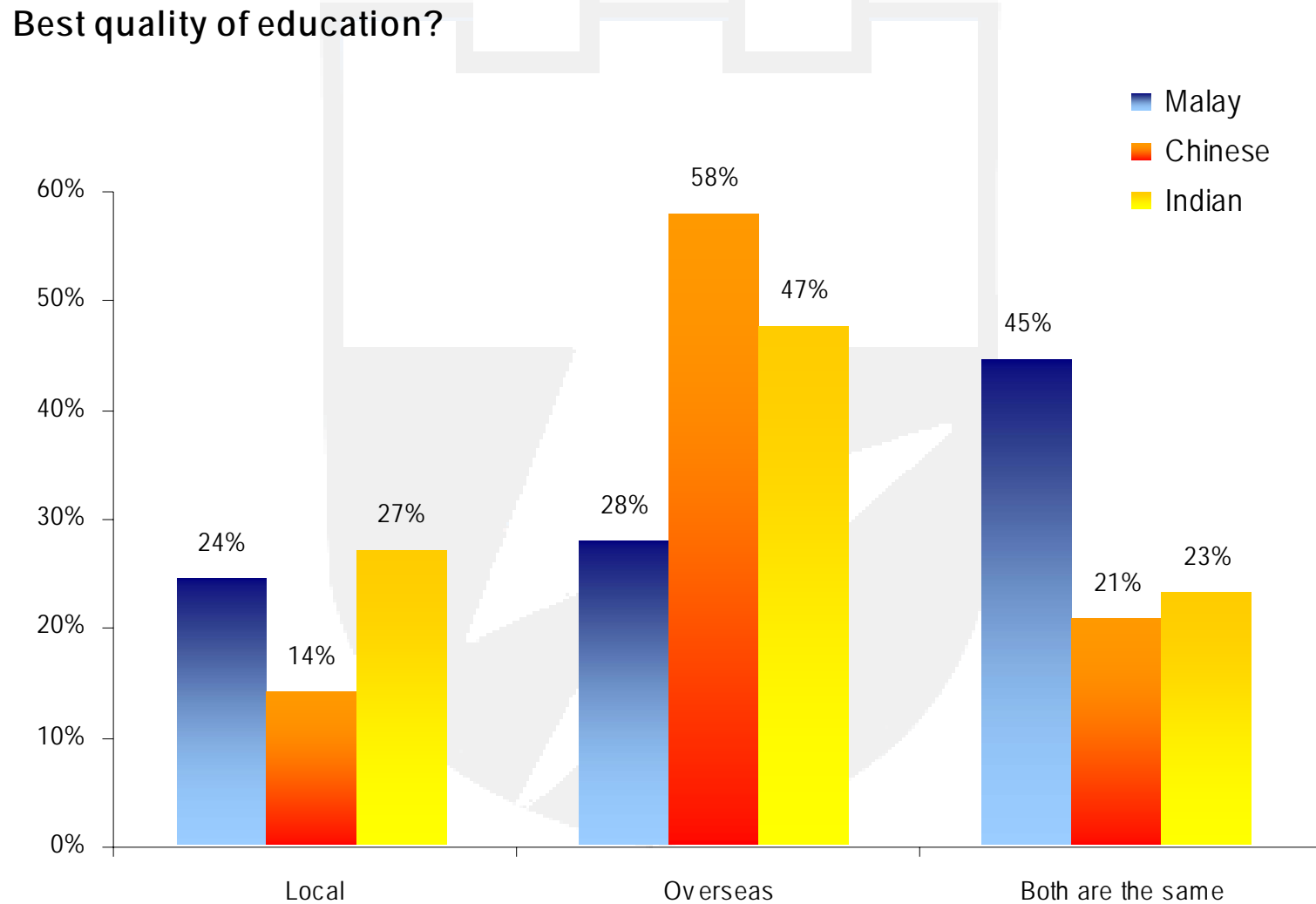


The difference is marked and indicates that preference in the location of tertiary education is governed by largely economic issues as other feedback suggests.



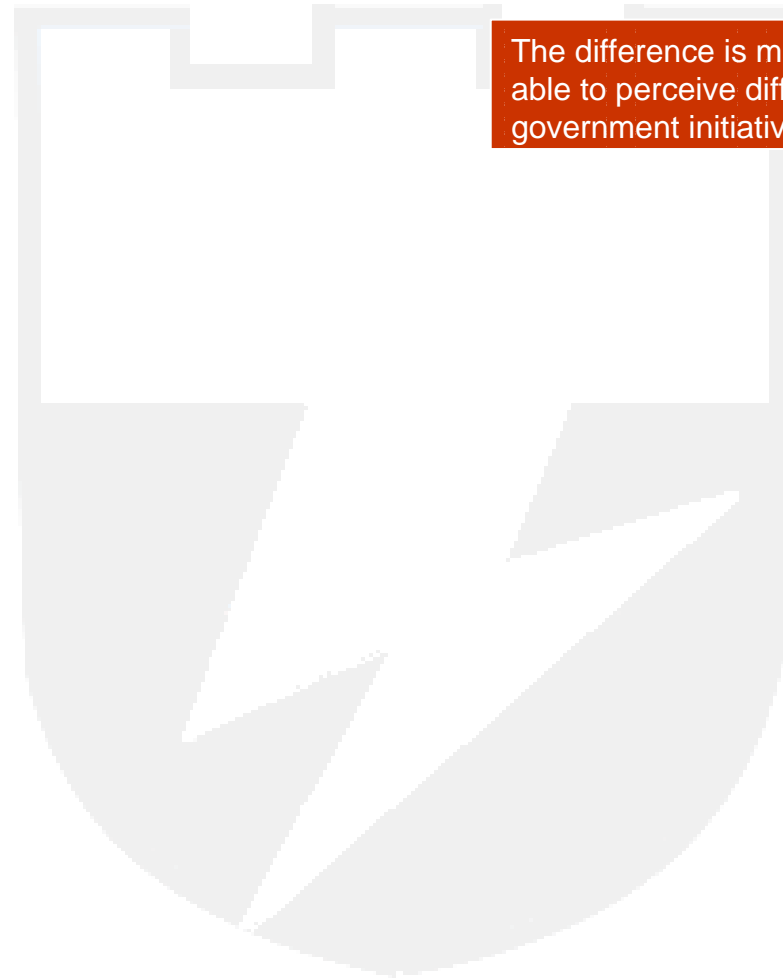
Overseas vs Local Education

Between studying locally or overseas, which option offers you the best quality of education?



Choice of tertiary education

Can you tell me why you made that choice?



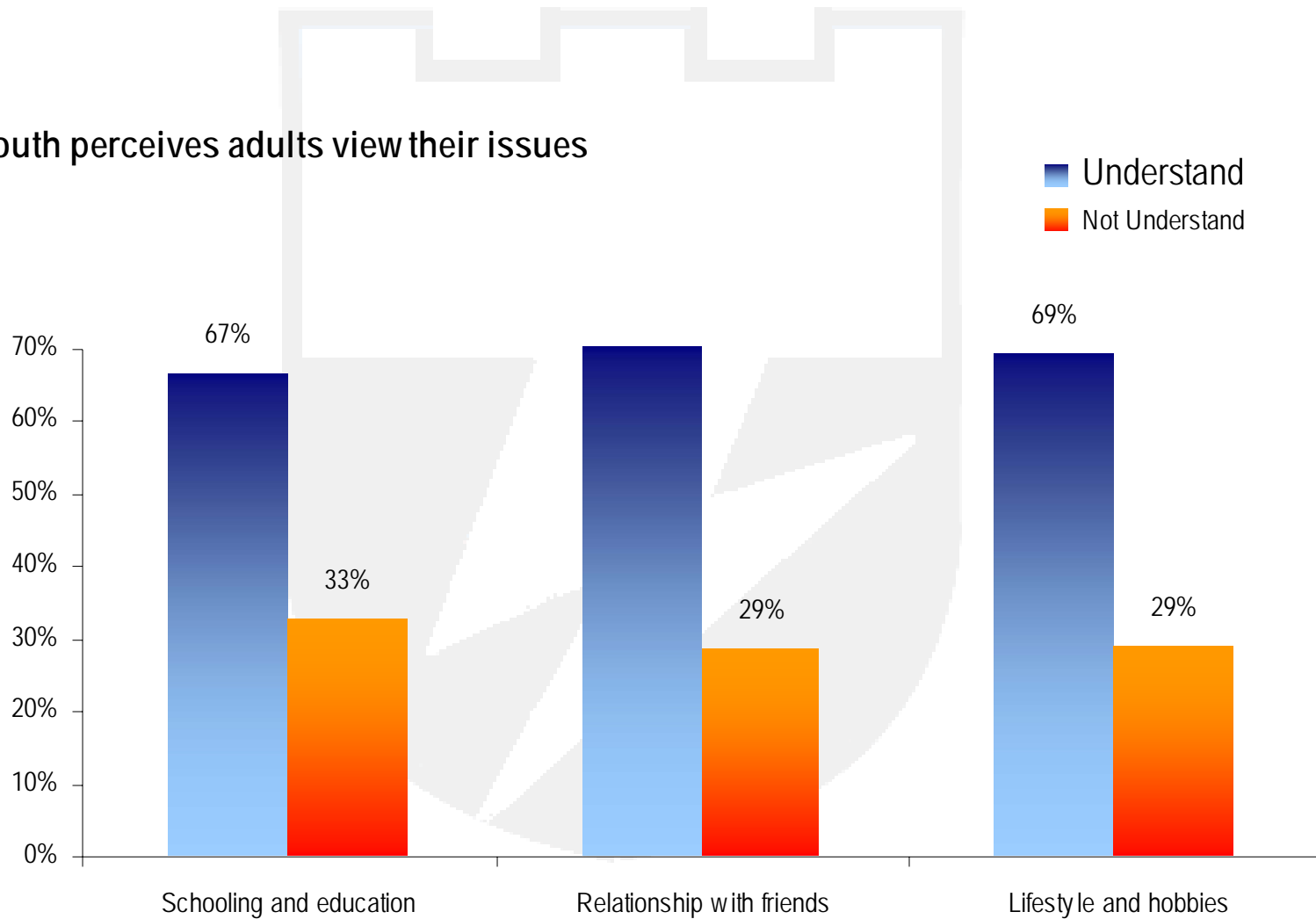
The difference is marked and indicates that the youth are able to perceive differences in the effectiveness of some government initiatives.



Adults and the Young

To what extent do you think that grown ups and adults really understand the problems that young people go through in such issues as:

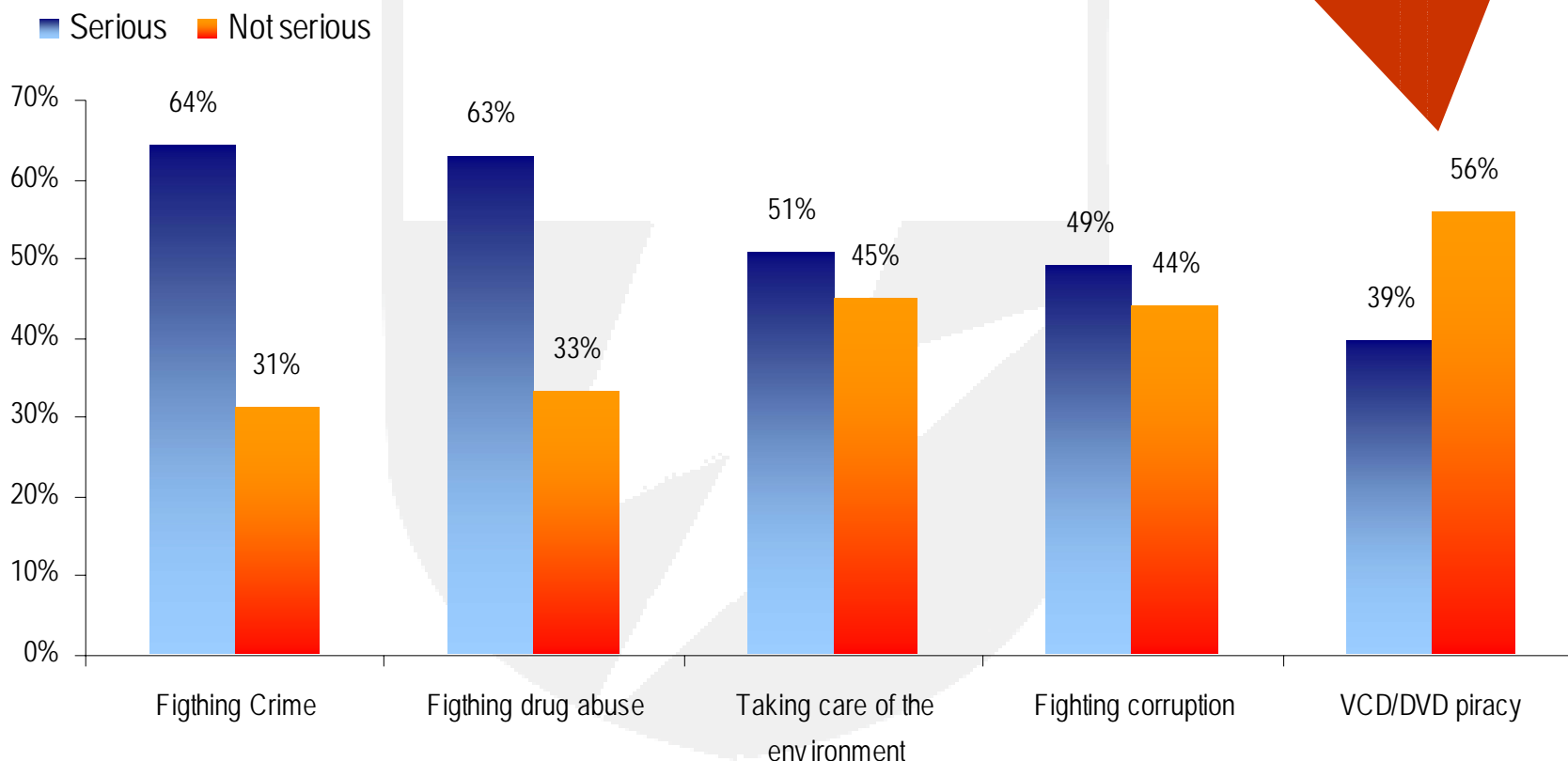
How youth perceives adults view their issues



Youth perceptions of adults and issues

In your views, do you think grown ups and older people are serious or not serious when it comes to handling issues such as:

How youth perceive adults' handling of issues

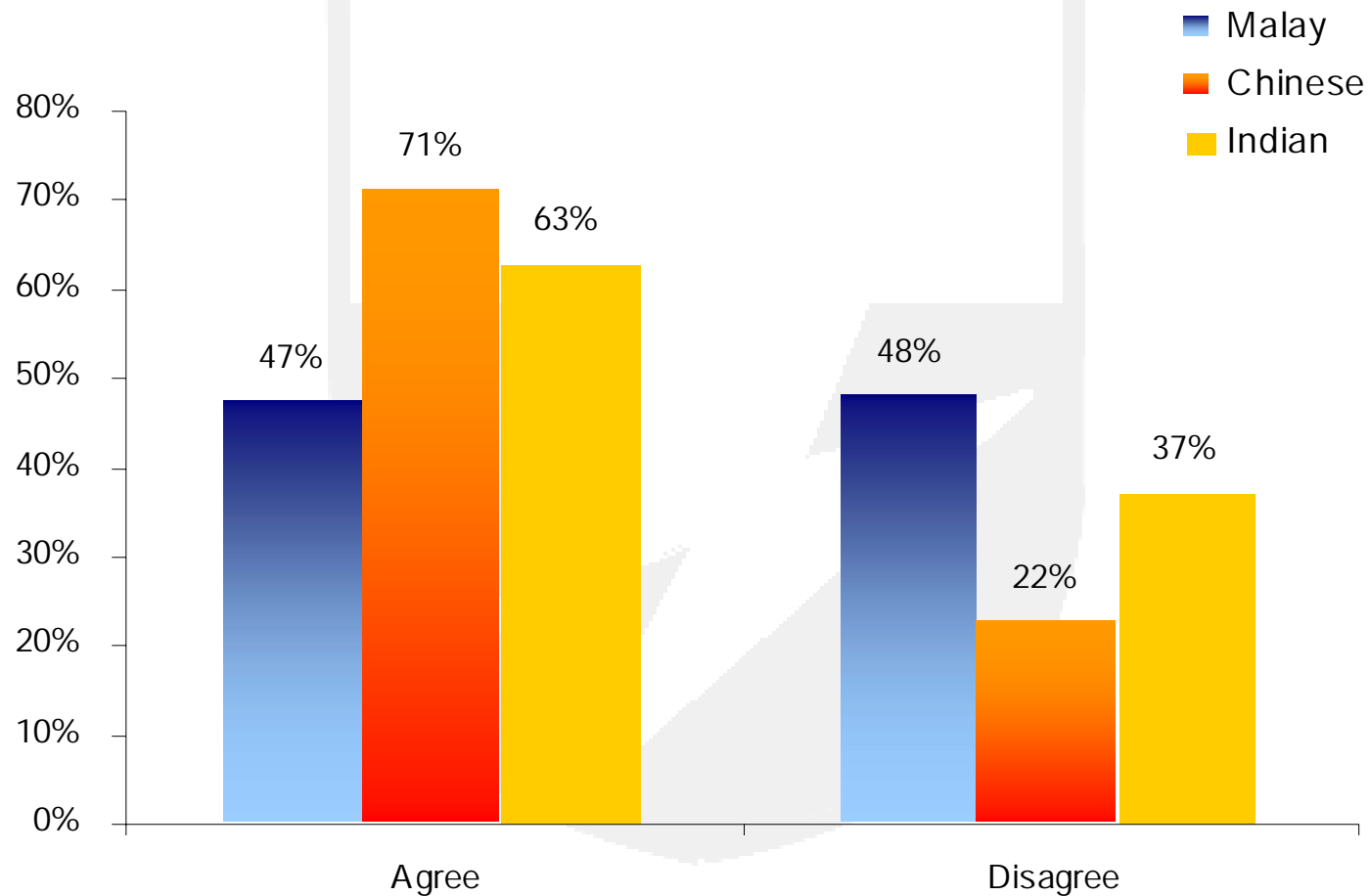


The difference is marked and indicates that the youth are able to perceive differences in the effectiveness of some government initiatives.



Please state whether you strongly or somewhat agree or disagree with the following statement:

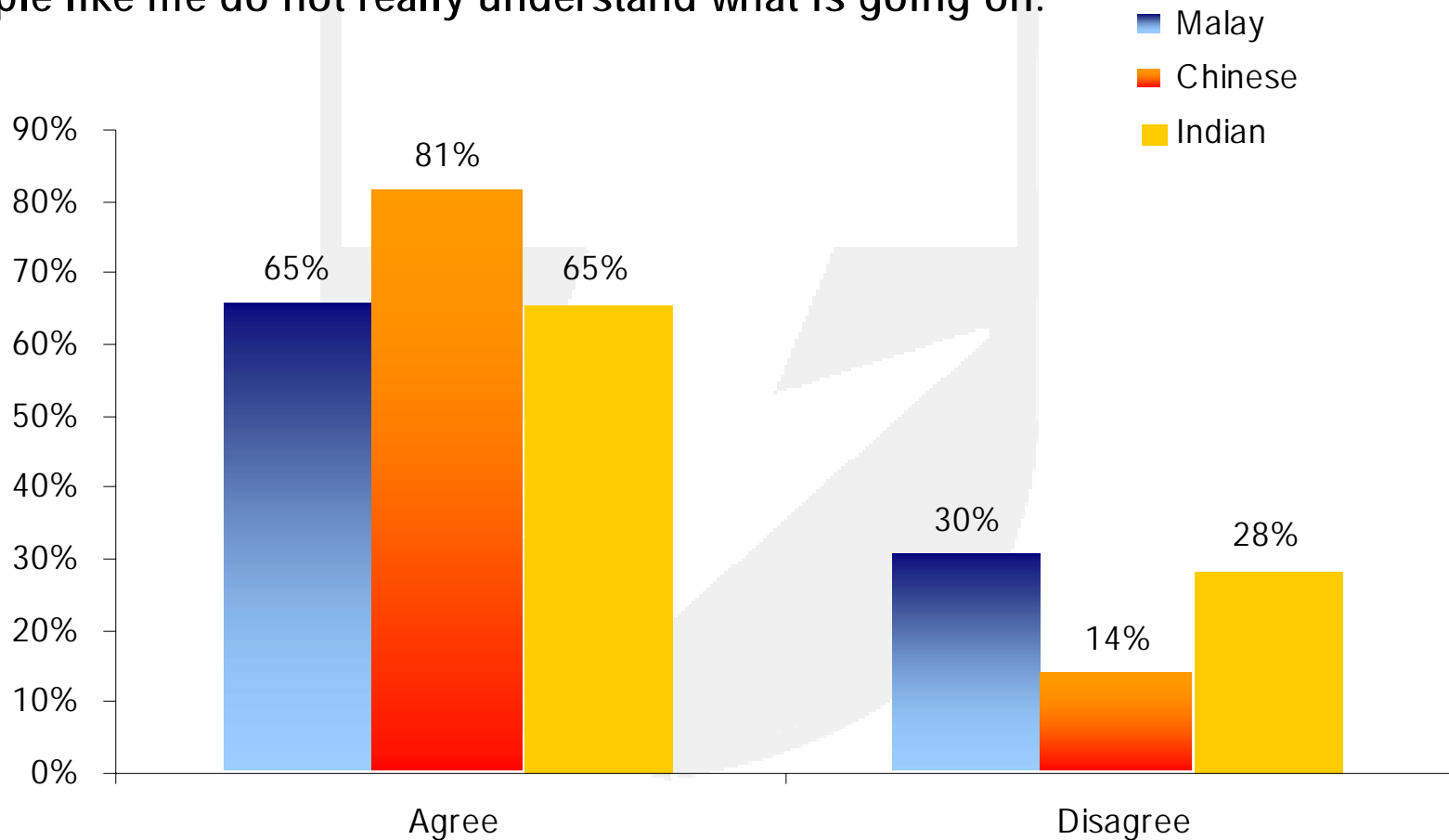
Success in life often depends on factors outside our control



Political participation

Please state whether you strongly or somewhat agree or disagree with the following statement:

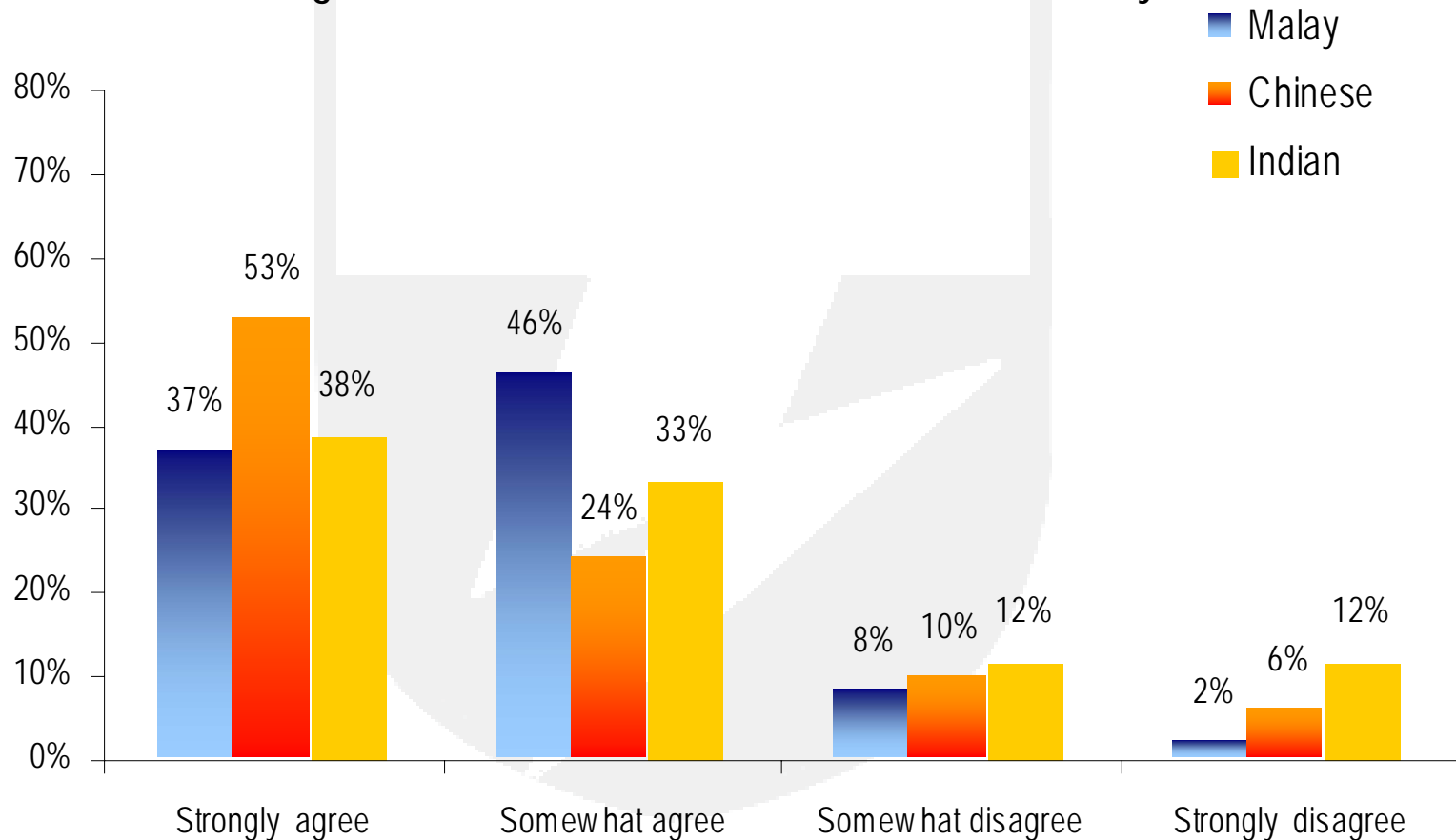
Sometimes, politics and government is so complicated that people like me do not really understand what is going on.



Tolerance for divergent ideas

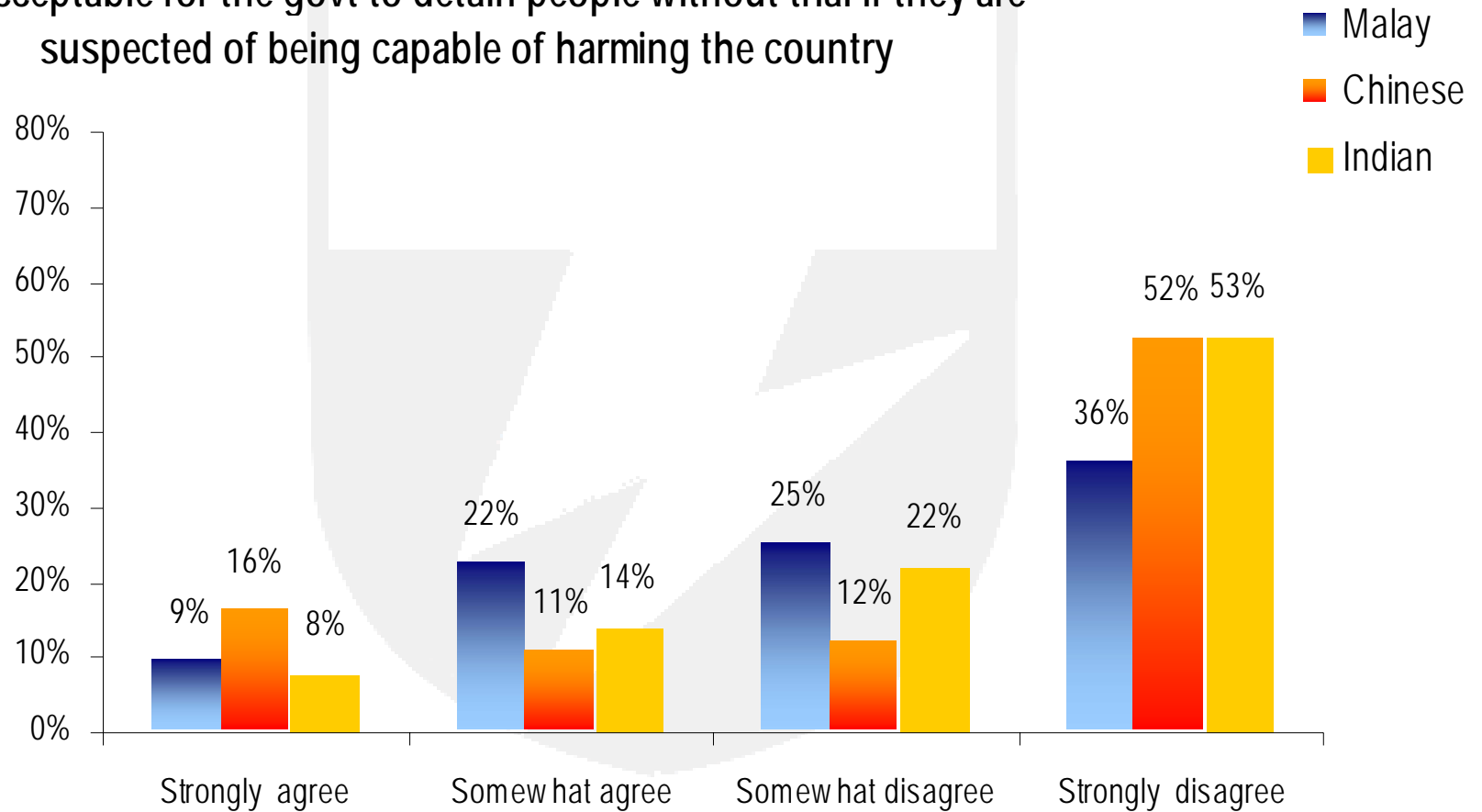
Please state whether you strongly or somewhat agree or disagree with the following statement:

Books that contain dangerous ideas should be banned from this country



Please state whether you strongly or somewhat agree or disagree with the following statement:

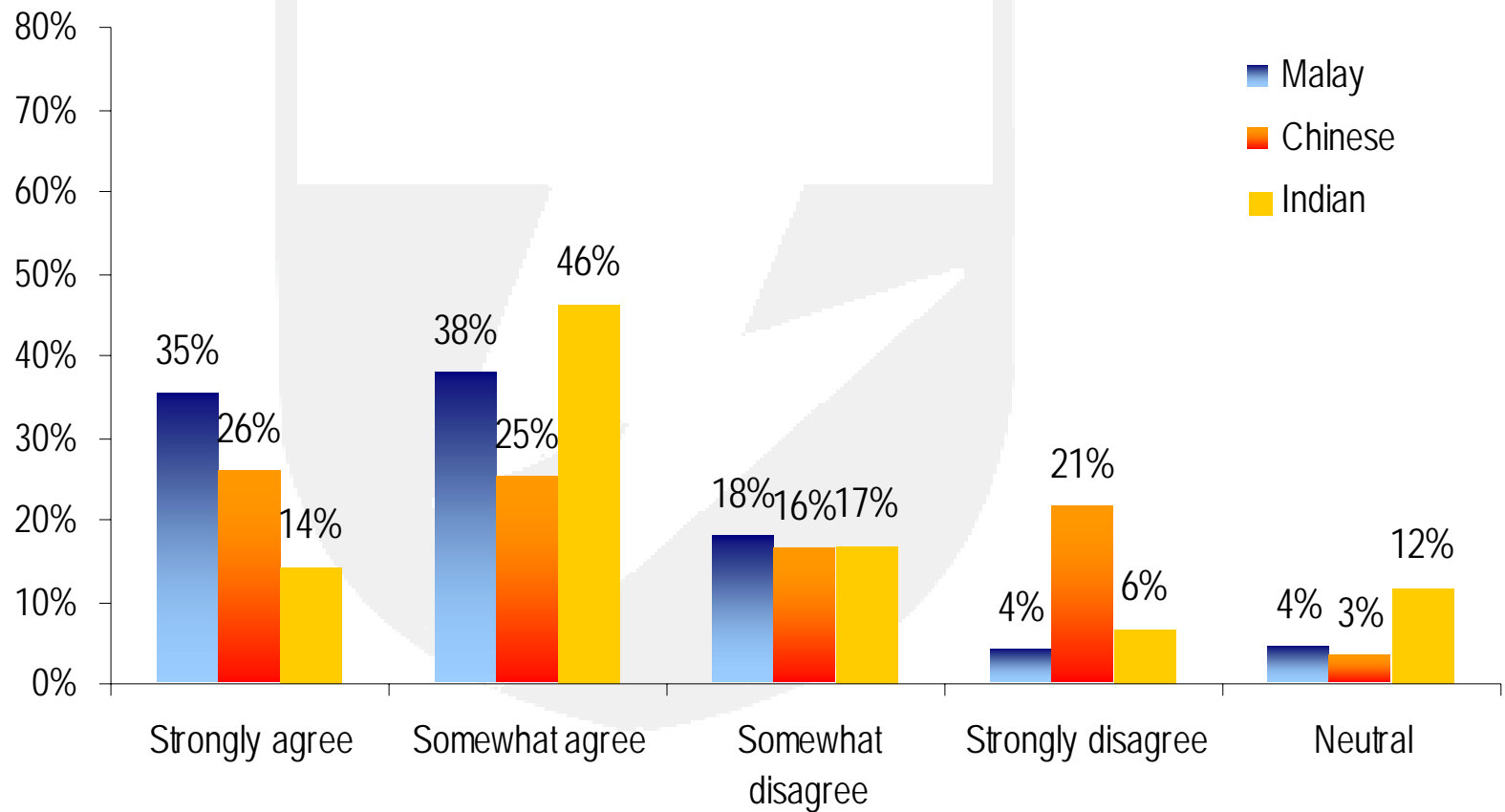
It is acceptable for the govt to detain people without trial if they are suspected of being capable of harming the country



Trust in government

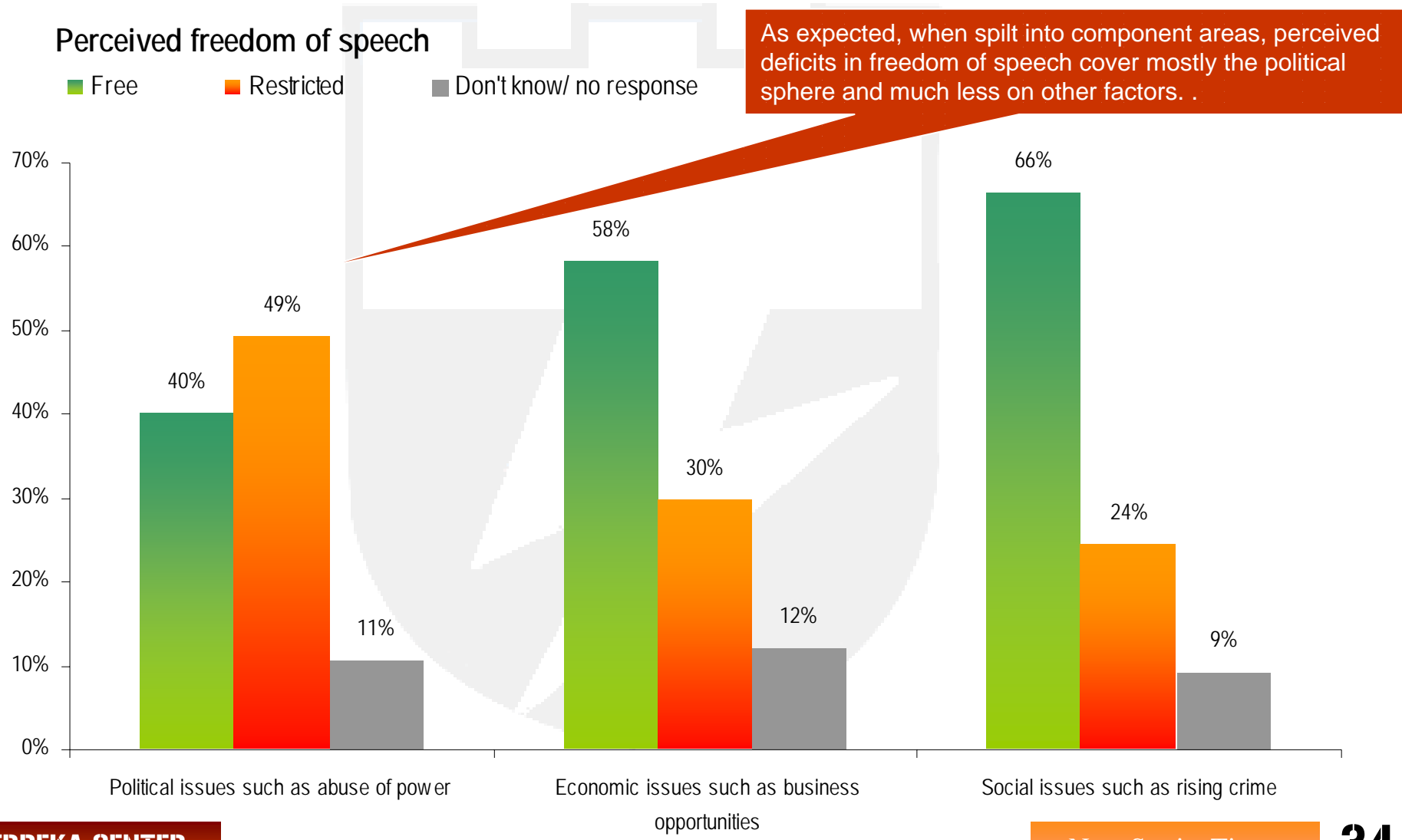
Please state whether you strongly or somewhat agree or disagree with the following statement:

"The Government always knows what is best for the people"



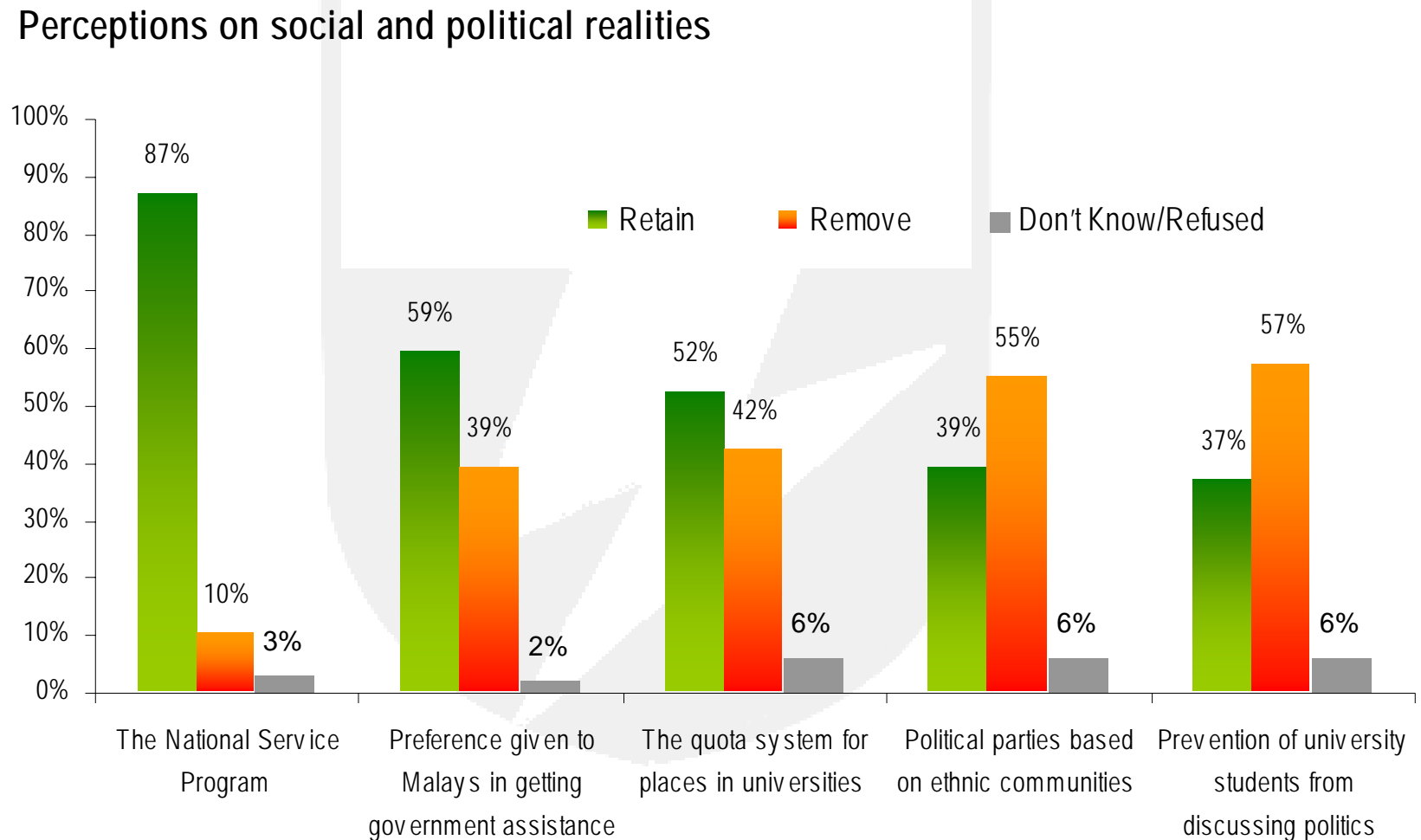
Freedom of speech

How would you describe the freedom of citizens such as yourself to openly voice dissatisfaction or openly criticize government policies on matters such as:



Perceptions on Social Realities

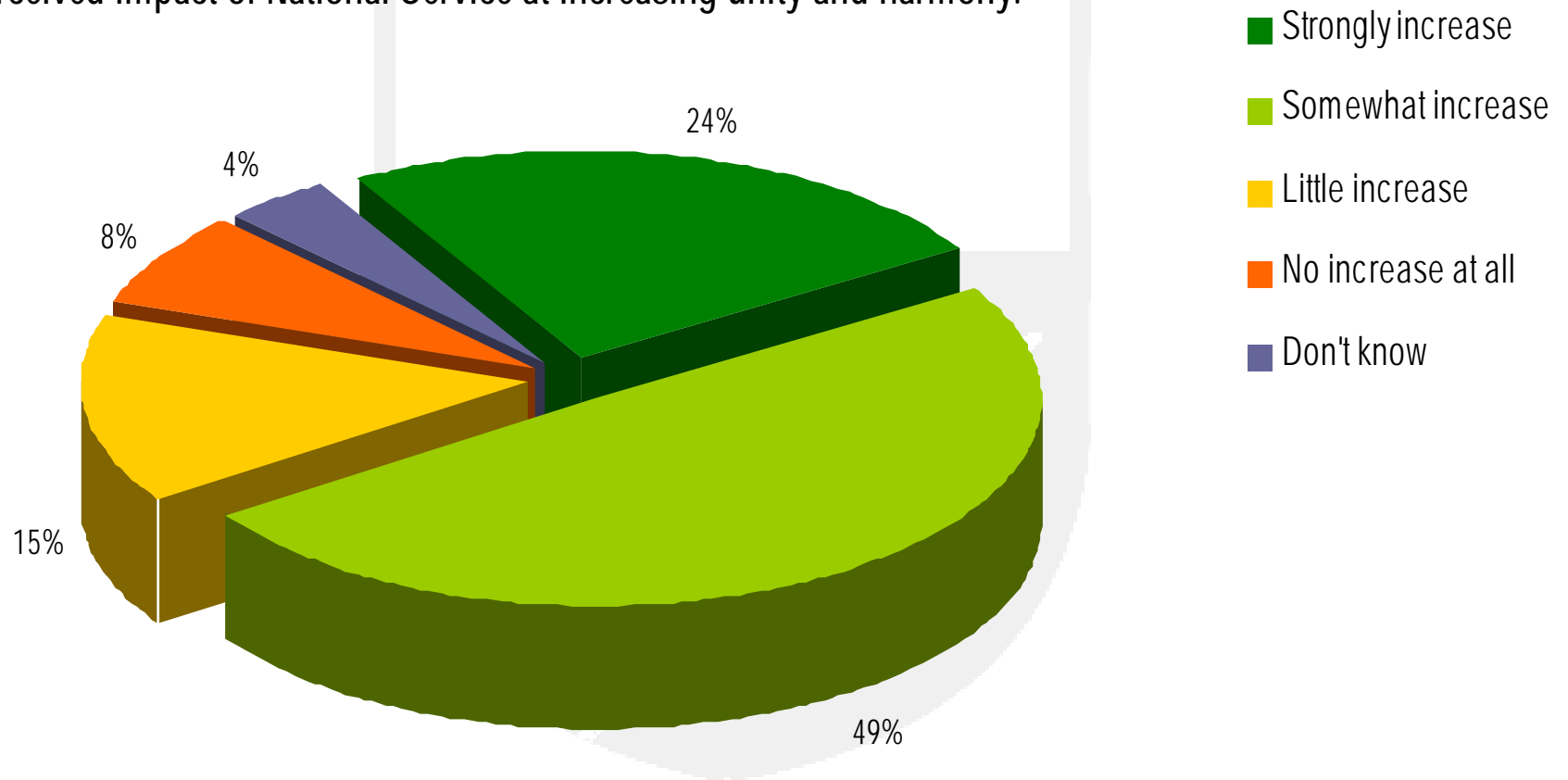
Please indicate if you feel the following practices in our country should be retained or removed in the future?



Perceptions on National Service

In your view, to what extent can ethnic harmony and national unity be increased by getting young people to attend three-month long courses such as that being carried out by the National Service program?

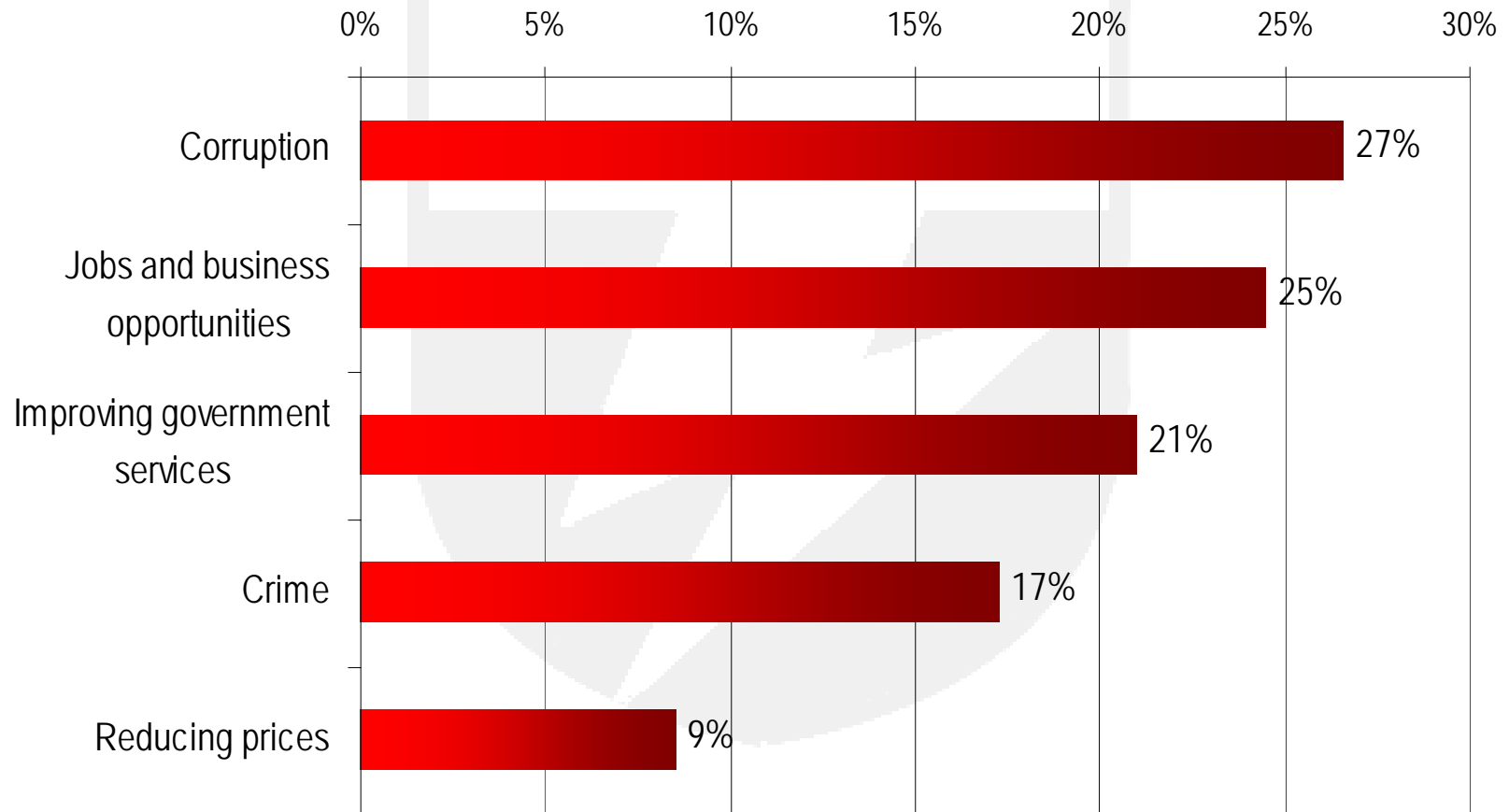
Perceived impact of National Service at increasing unity and harmony.



What Pak Lah needs to do

Of the following what should Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi give the most attention?

What Pak Lah should urgently address



Top wish for the country

Of the following, which two items do you think are most important for the future of the country?

Top wishes for the future of the country

