

Youth Power, Women's Progress: Driving Change in Kuwaiti Politics

Research Analysis

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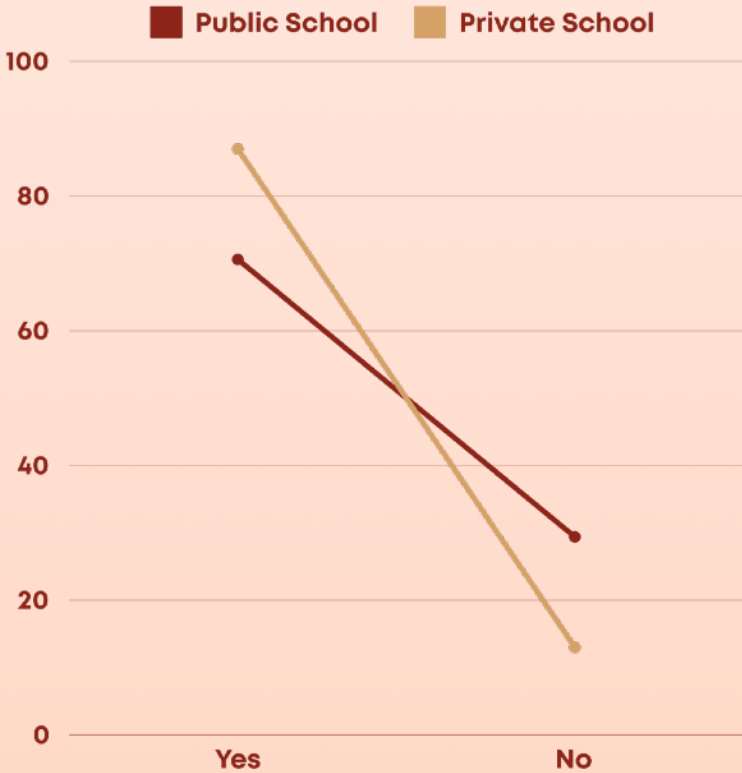
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Happy Kuwait Women's Day, everyone! Today, as we honor the remarkable achievements of women in Kuwait, we delve into a crucial aspect of their empowerment: political representation. In collaboration with Mudhawi's List, an advocate for women in elected office positions in Kuwait, we've undertaken a short anonymous survey to grasp the perspectives of young Kuwaiti women in both public and private high schools regarding their perspectives of politics. Join us as we uncover the voices shaping the future of Kuwaiti politics.

The following evaluates the survey responses on each of the questions of private schools in juxtaposition to public schools;

1. Do you think cultural or societal norms contribute to the lack of female representation in Kuwaiti parliament?

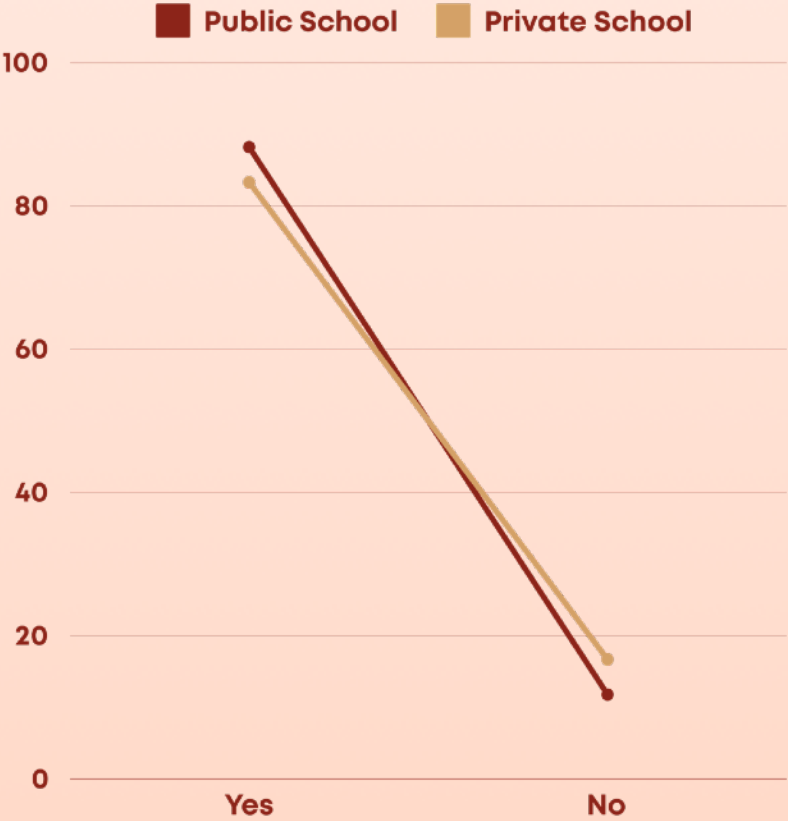
- Public Schools: 70.6% Yes, 29.4% No.
- Private Schools: 87% Yes, 13% No.



The lack of disparity in responses for the entire sample surveyed, both from public and private high schools had answered 'yes' in over 70% of responses, warrants further analysis. Public schools, which often serve a more diverse demographic, exhibited a lower percentage of respondents attributing the lack of female representation to cultural or societal norms compared to their counterparts in private schools.

This discrepancy suggests that students in public educational settings may be more influenced by conservative cultural norms or gender stereotypes prevalent within their social circles. Additionally, the higher proportion of affirmative responses in private schools may reflect a greater awareness towards gender inequality issues among students in these environments, possibly due to exposure to broader societal discussions or a different socioeconomic background.

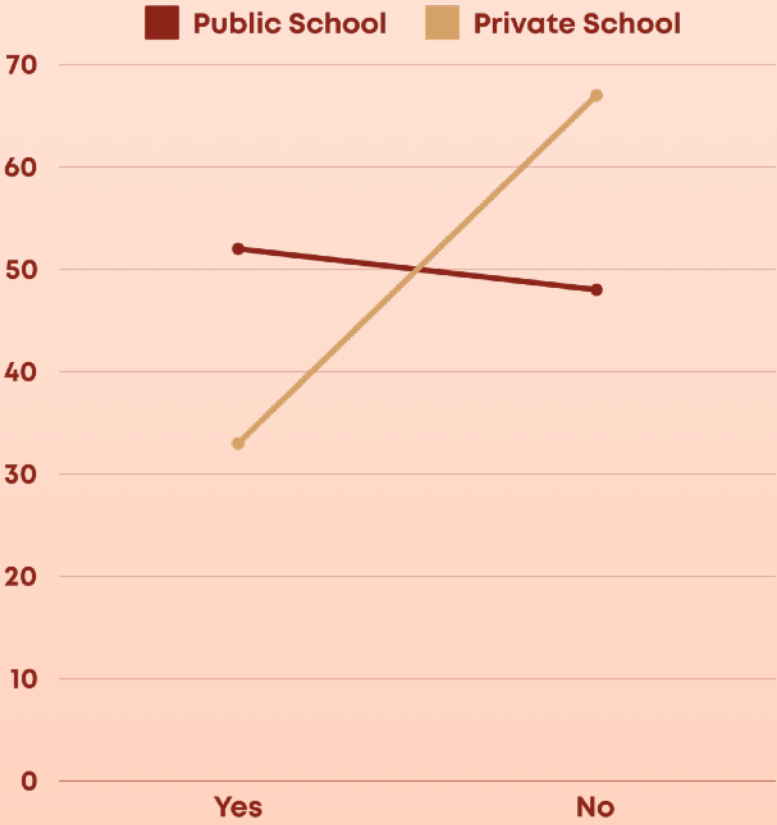
- 2. Do you think promoting gender diversity in political roles would improve governance and decision-making in Kuwait?
 - Public Schools: 88.2% Yes, 11.8% No.
 - Private Schools: 83.3% Yes, 16.7% No.



While the majority of respondents across both public and private schools support the idea of promoting gender diversity for improved governance, the notable minority expressing opposition raises important questions about the underlying reasons behind this hesitation.

Factors such as fear of change, comfortability with the existing power structures, or concerns about the effectiveness of female leadership may contribute to this skepticism. Also, cultural norms and historical ratios of men to women in parliament may influence some respondents to question the potential benefits of gender diversity in governance. Further qualitative research could delve deeper into the perspectives of those expressing skepticism to better understand their viewpoints.

- 3. Do you believe that Kuwait's legal and political systems support gender equality in political positions?
 - Public Schools: 52% Yes, 48% No.
 - Private Schools: 33% Yes, 67% No.



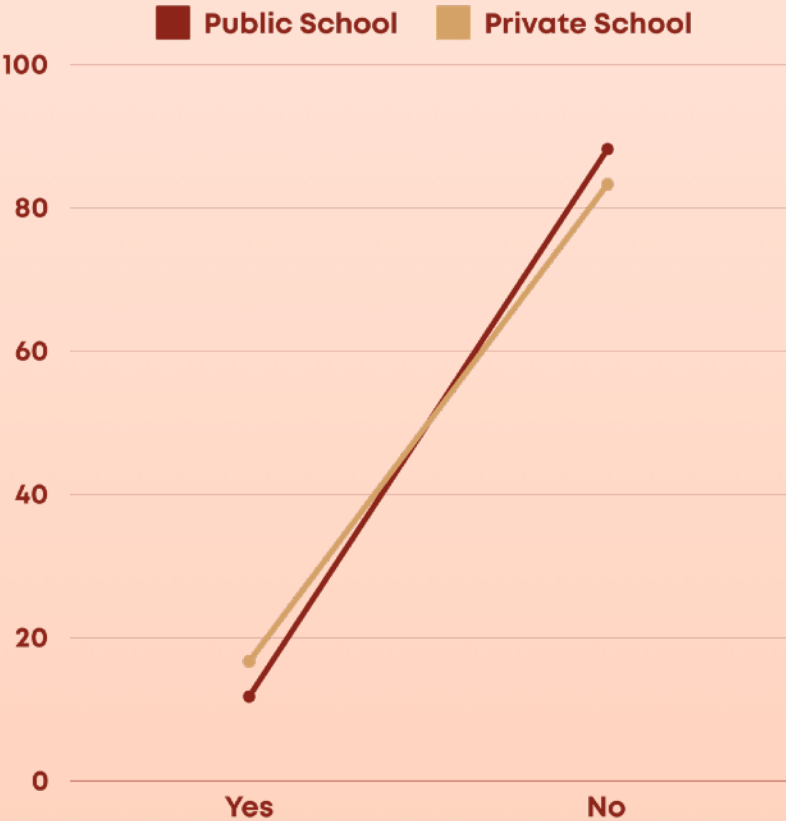
Despite legislative reforms aimed at promoting gender equality in 2005, the survey results reveal a significant contradiction between legal rights and perceived support from the political systems.

The higher percentage of respondents, particularly in private schools, expressing skepticism about the support for gender equality suggests the need for measures to determine the extent of these obstacles and whether there is also a potential lack of awareness or understanding of the legal framework governing political participation.

Moreover, barriers to women's engagement in politics, whether perceived or real, such as societal biases or cultural barriers, may contribute to the prevailing assumptions. Addressing these misconceptions and enhancing the students' education on the legal rights and opportunities available for women in politics are essential steps towards fostering greater gender equality in Kuwaiti political spheres.

4. Would you consider running for parliament in the future?

- Public Schools: 11.8% Yes, 88.2% No
- Private Schools: 16.7% Yes, 83.3%

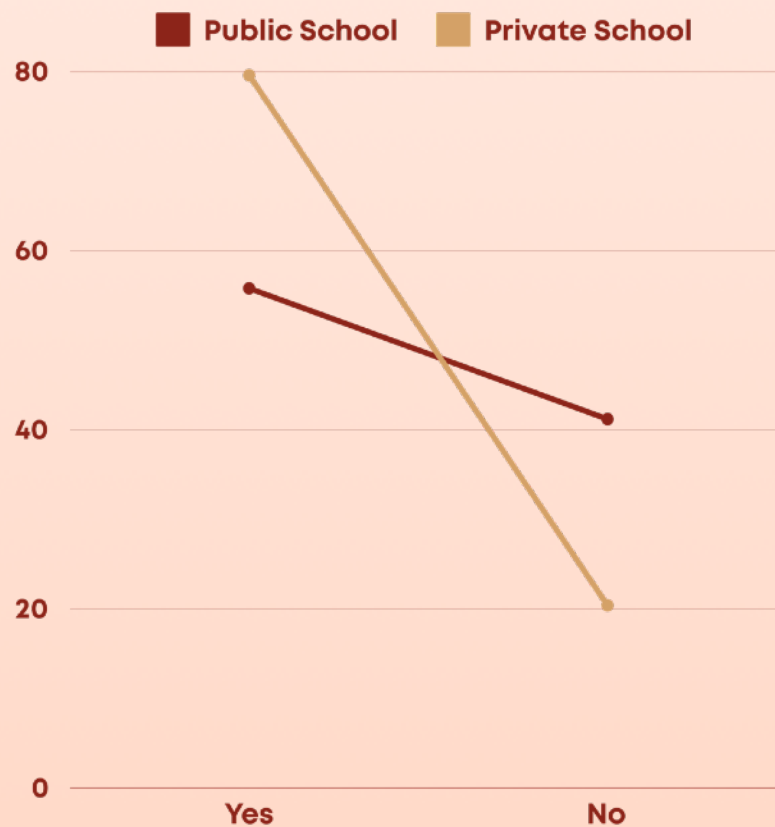


We can observe from both public and private schools that most girls intend to do something other than run for parliament in the future. Traditional gender norms and societal pressures frequently discourage young females from aspiring to run for parliament, despite ongoing progress in politics for women. The relatively small percentage of women running in each election highlights the barriers that have yet to be overcome.

Furthermore, gender stereotypes and societal standards discourage young females from pursuing a political career.

5. Do you think women face discrimination in the electoral process in Kuwait?

- Public Schools: 55.8% Yes, 41.2% No
- Private Schools: 79.6% Yes, 20.4% No

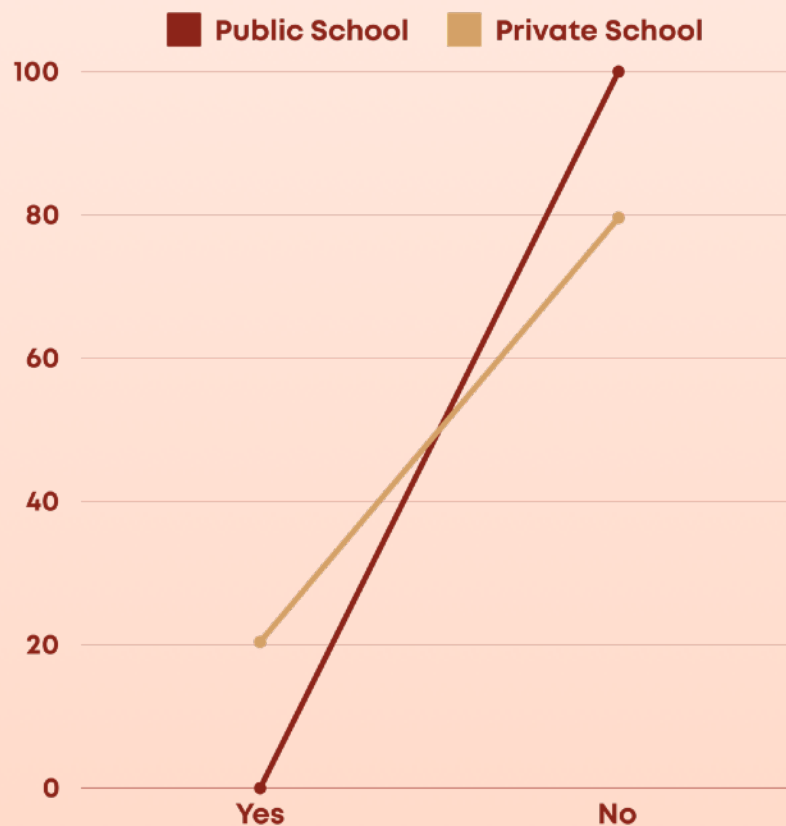


The findings show that girls in both public and private schools feel women encounter discrimination in the political process, however, 79.6% of private school girls as opposed to 55.8% of public school girls noted this. This demonstrates the various perspectives on political gender equality across different school systems.

Women in politics have numerous challenges, including unequal opportunities and access to resources, misogyny during campaigns, and socioeconomic constraints that are difficult to overcome. By eradicating sexist discourse and fostering gender inclusive education we can strengthen democracy by allowing men and women to fully participate in political activities.

6. Have you ever participated in activism or advocacy related to gender equality in Kuwait?

- Public Schools: 0% Yes, 100% No
- Private Schools: 20.4% Yes, 79.6% No



In the final question of our research analysis, we asked girls in public and private schools if they had ever participated in any activism or advocacy related to gender equality. The results were extremely clear, with the public school sample yielding no participation in any activism and the private school sample yielding a low 20%. This demonstrates the lack of interest in combating gender inequity at the educational level. While the majority of girls in private schools indicated non-participation in both sectors, it highlights a larger systematic issue. This lack of engagement can be attributed to a lack of awareness and cultural obstacles.

To overcome this issue, educational institutions and organizations must promote awareness and create more opportunities for young girls to participate in gender equality conversations and projects.

In conclusion, as we celebrate Kuwait Women's Day and reflect on the findings of our survey, we are reminded of the ongoing journey towards gender equality in Kuwaiti politics. Despite challenges illuminated in our research, there exists a resilient optimism among young Kuwaiti women, signaling hope for meaningful change. The youth women community embody the spirit of progress for a future where women participation in politics is not only recognized but actively promoted.

As we draw curtains on this discourse, let us continue to champion the cause of women's representation, advocate for their voices to be heard, and work towards a more inclusive and equitable society. The hopeful future awaits us, guided by the true passion of young Kuwaiti women to carve their destinies and make substantive contributions to the political world of our beloved nation, Kuwait.

