

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Childhood and Livelihood in India

An Impact Survey Conducted by Magic Bus India
Foundation during 24-26 April, 2020

Contributors

Shankar Talwar, Director – Impact, Magic Bus

Pritam Prasun, Head - Monitoring & Evaluation, Magic Bus

Jaya Srivastava - Sr. Manager – Impact, Magic Bus

Swarna Behera - Manager – Impact, Magic Bus

Priti Singh - Sr. Manager – Impact, Magic Bus

Tanya Shrivastava - Manager – Impact, Magic Bus

Nandini Roy - Sr. Manager - Monitoring & Evaluation, Magic Bus

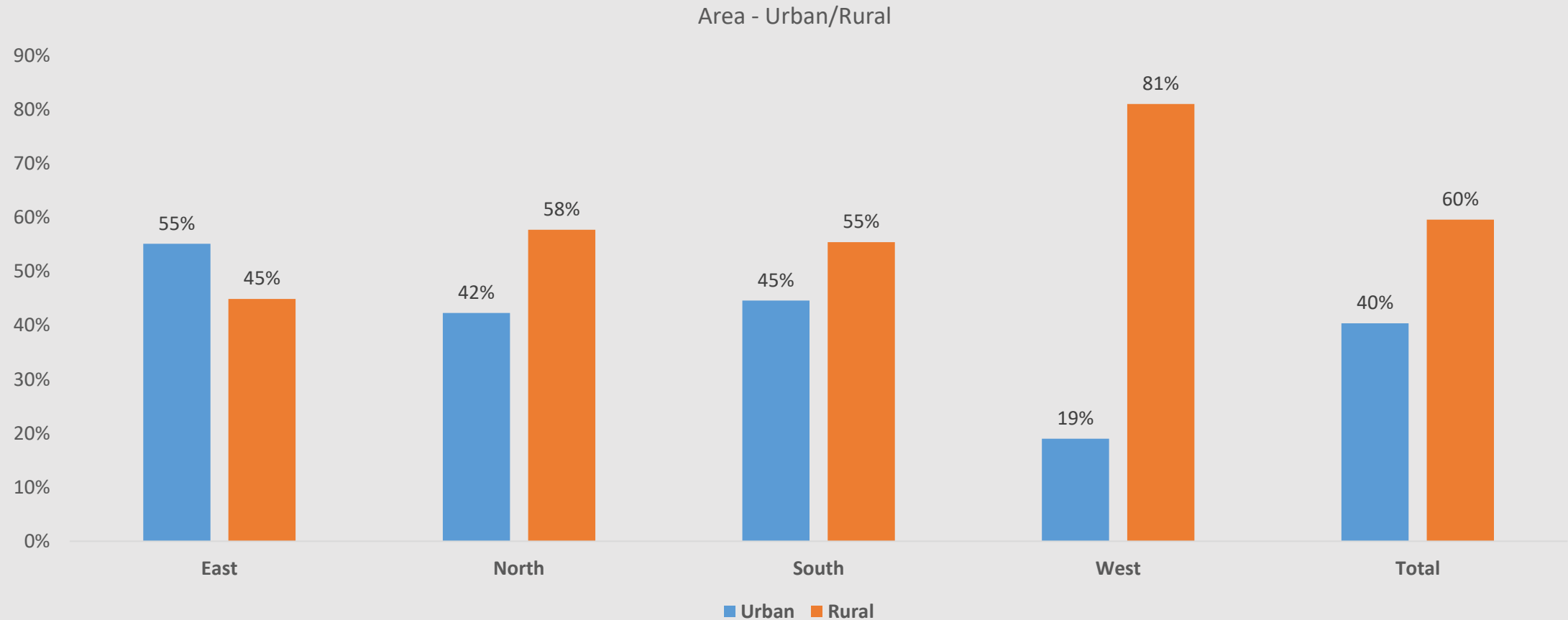
Introduction

- Due to the restriction imposed on mobility, telephonic survey was conducted among more than 3,600 adolescents and their parents across 39 districts in 4 regions, and 21 States in India
- Survey was conducted among the registered beneficiaries of Magic Bus programs who had functional mobile phone
- PPS (Proportion to Population Size) approach was adopted in selecting survey clusters/districts. Respondents were selected randomly in each district
- Male and female respondents among adolescents and their parents were interviewed in the survey
- Overall results, dis-aggregated by region, are presented in the following slides. A separate analysis of data is carried out for each region with gender disaggregation

Parent Interviews

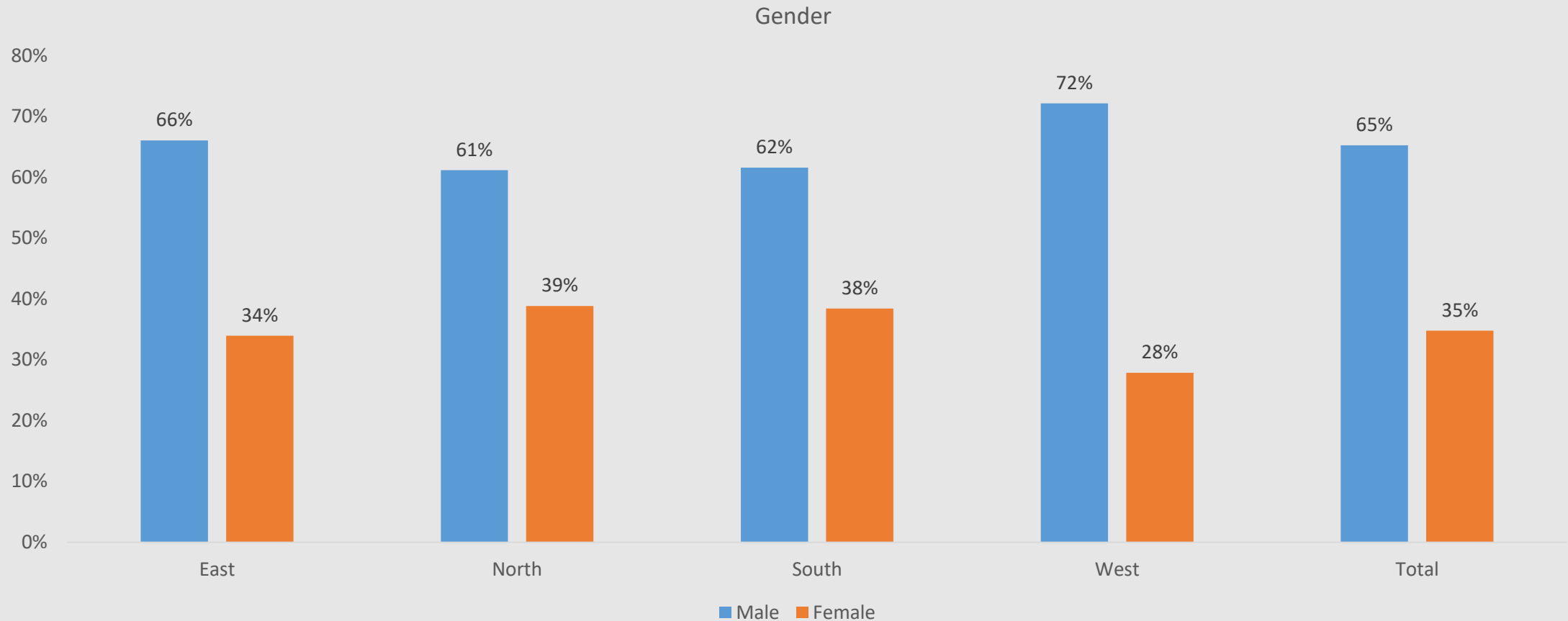
Sample: Male – 2413; Female – 1286; Total = 3699

Study Area



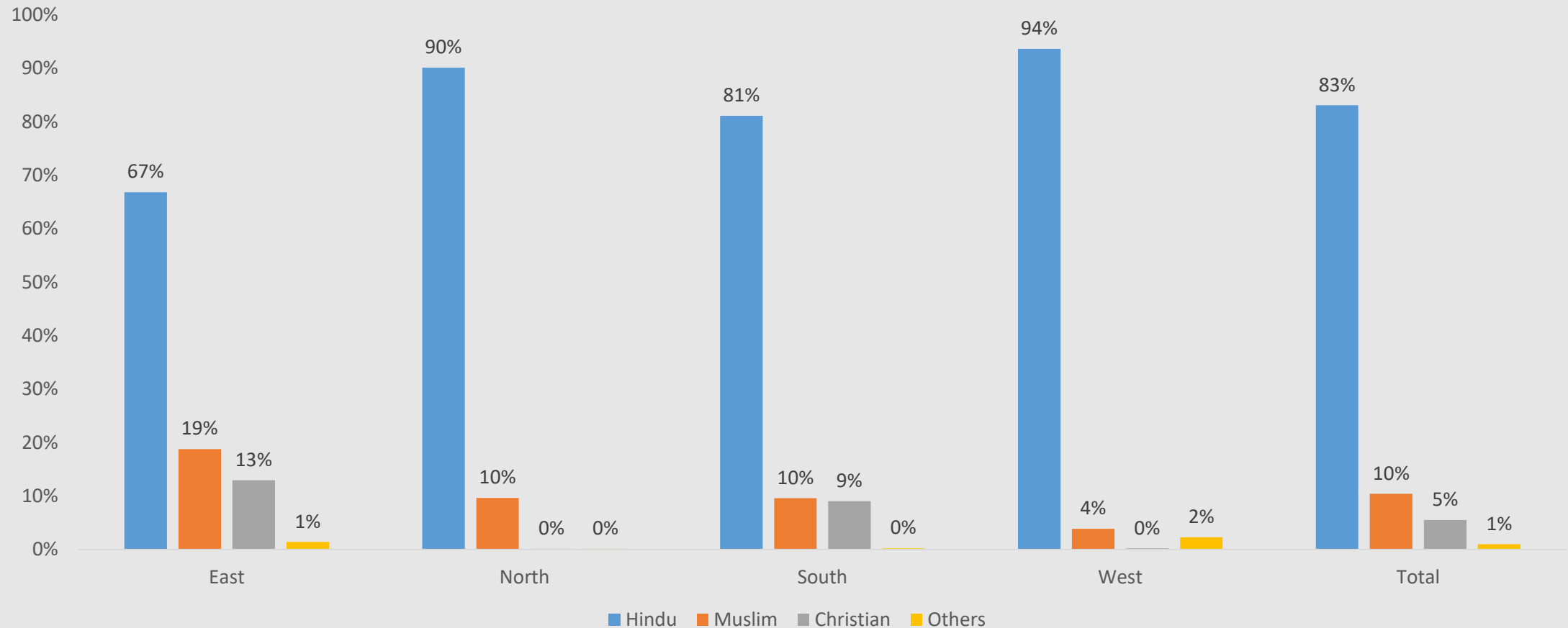
- Overall 60% of the respondents participated were from Rural area and 40% were from urban area.
- In the West, most of the respondents (81%) were from rural area, when compared to those in the East (45%).

Gender



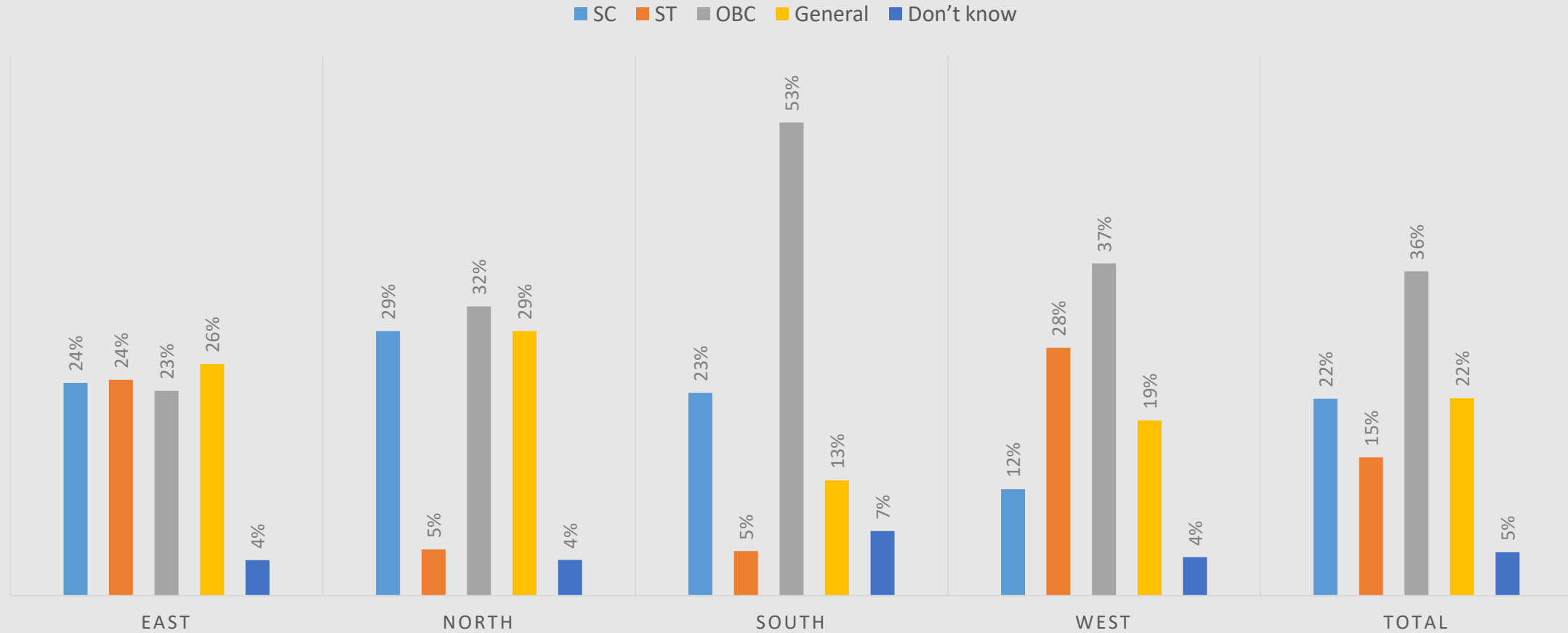
- While 65% of the respondents were male, the remaining 35% were female.
- West region had relatively lower proportion of females (28%)

Religion



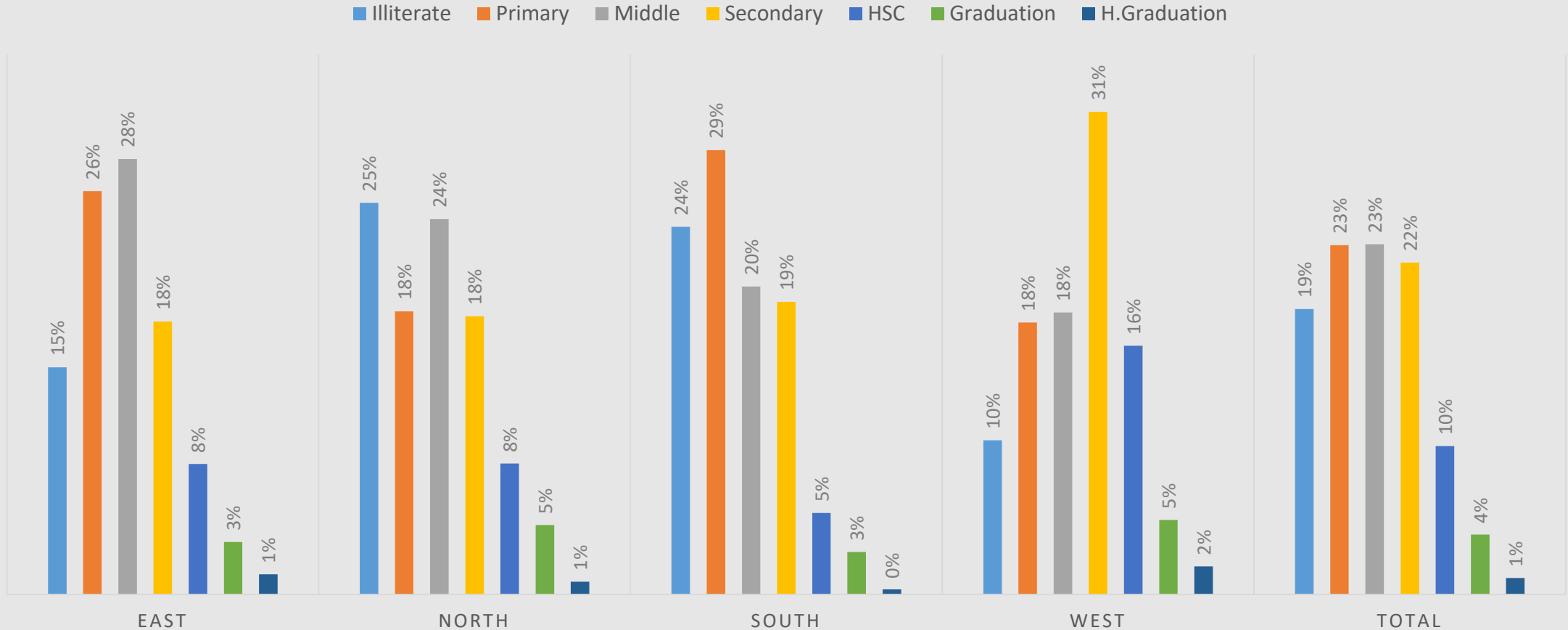
- Most of the respondents were Hindu by religion across all regions – highest in the West (94%) and lowest in the East (67%).

Caste



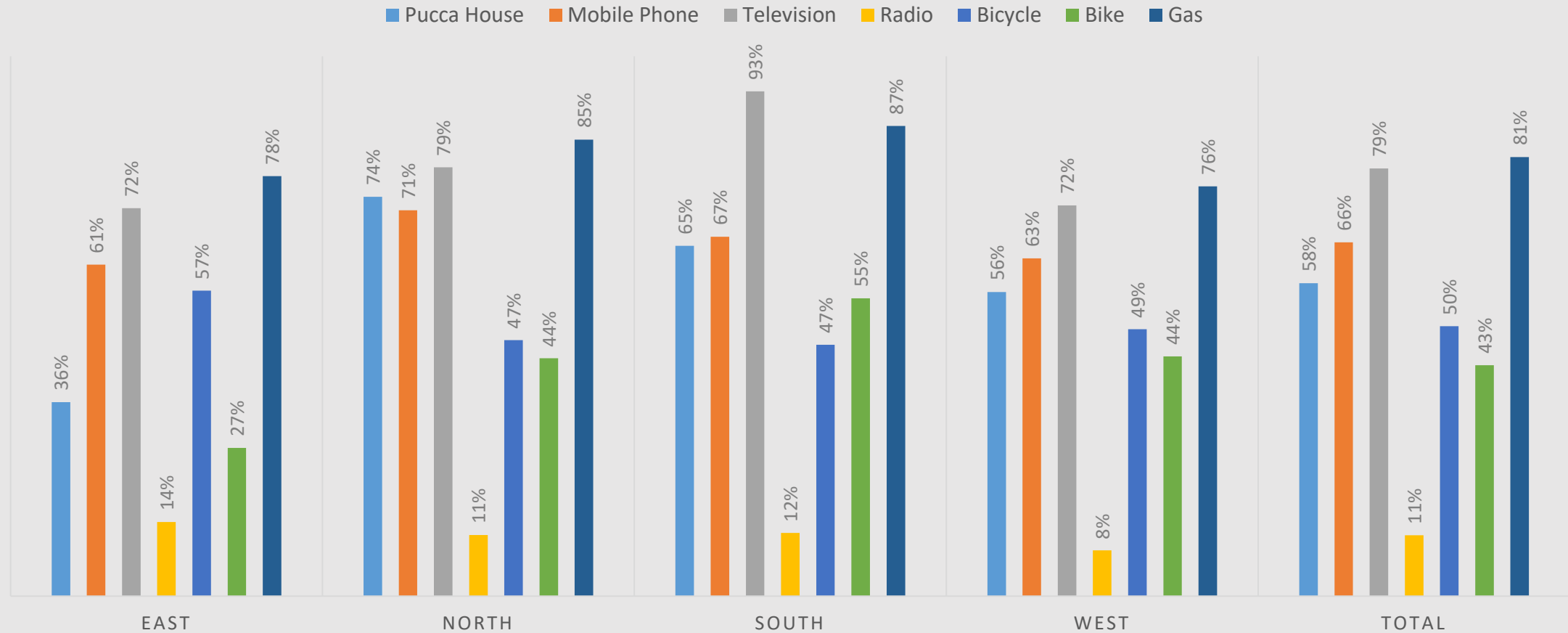
- Overall 36% of the respondents were from Other Backward Caste followed by SC (22%) and general category (22%).
- In East region sample distribution is same across all the caste. However in south region more than half (53%) were from OBC category.

Educational level of parents



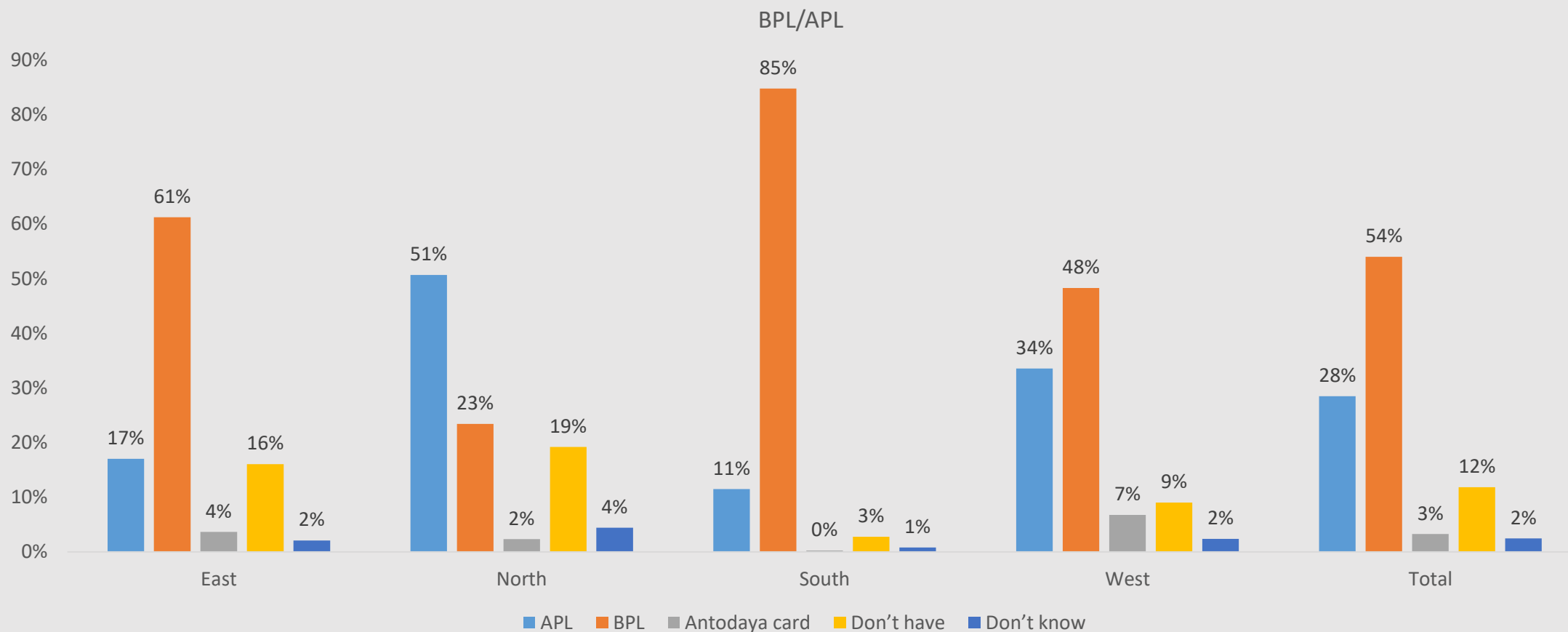
- About a quarter of the parents had education till primary (23%), middle (23%) and secondary (22%)
- Illiteracy was highest among north region (25%), and lowest in the West (10%).
- Illiteracy was higher among females as compare to males with maximum difference in north region.

Household Assets



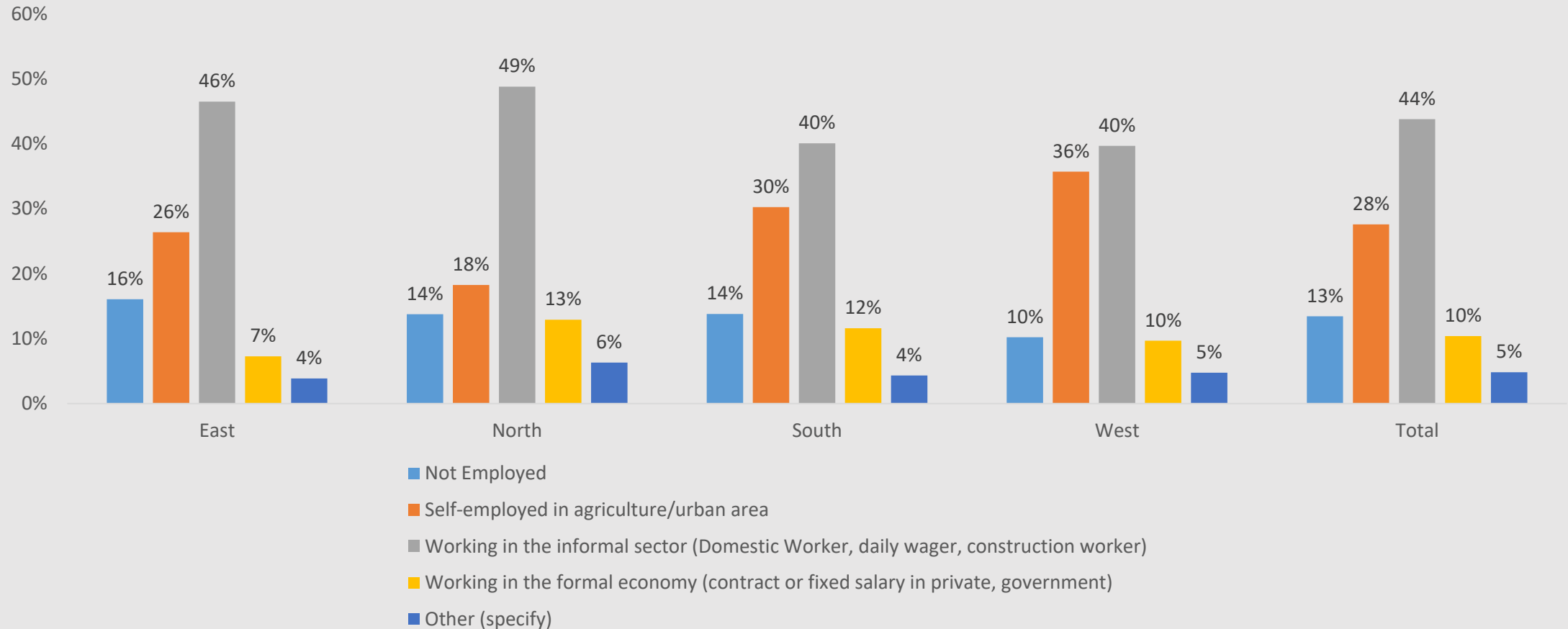
- Most of the respondents had gas connection (81%), TV (79%), mobile phone (66%) and *pucca* house (58%).
- However in East region only a third of the respondents (36%) had *pucca* house - lowest among all the regions.

Ration Card



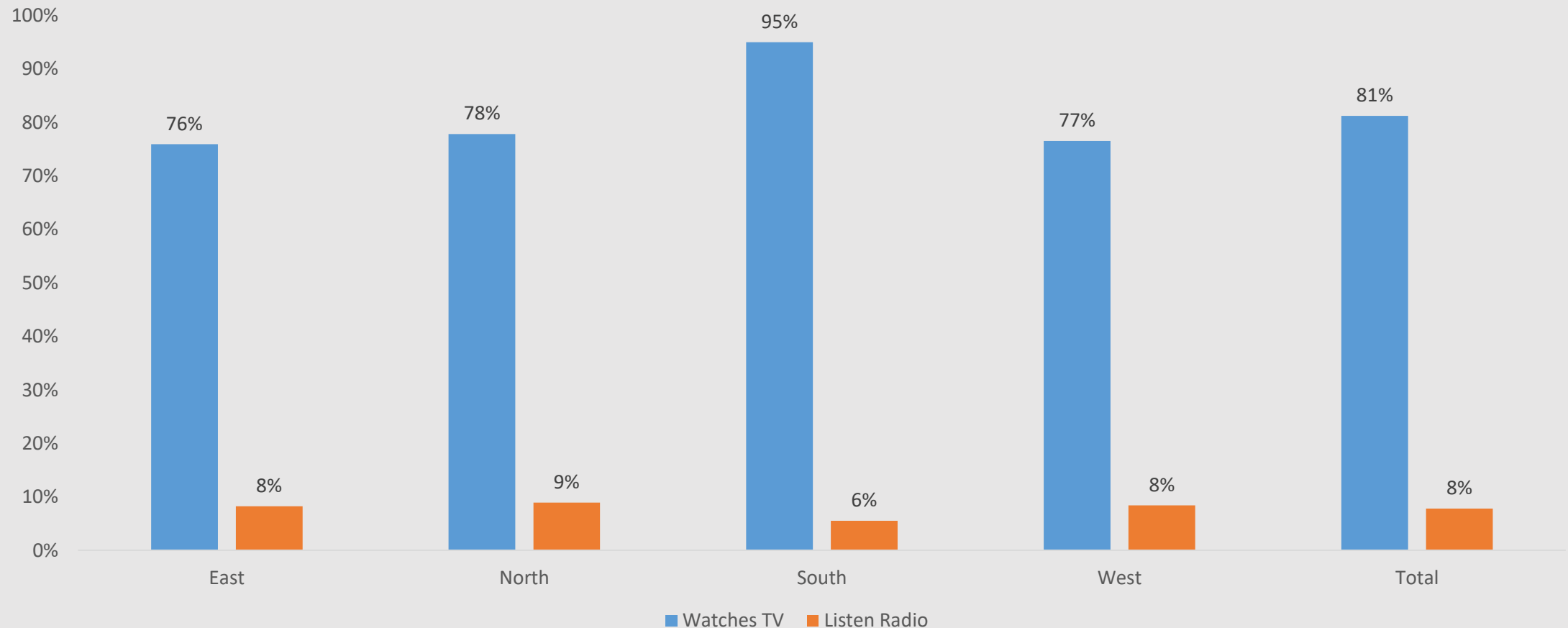
- Among all, 54% had BPL card, about a third of them had APL card (28%).
- However, maximum BPL card holders were in the South region (85%).
- In the North region, more than half of the respondents were from APL category (51%).

Employment status



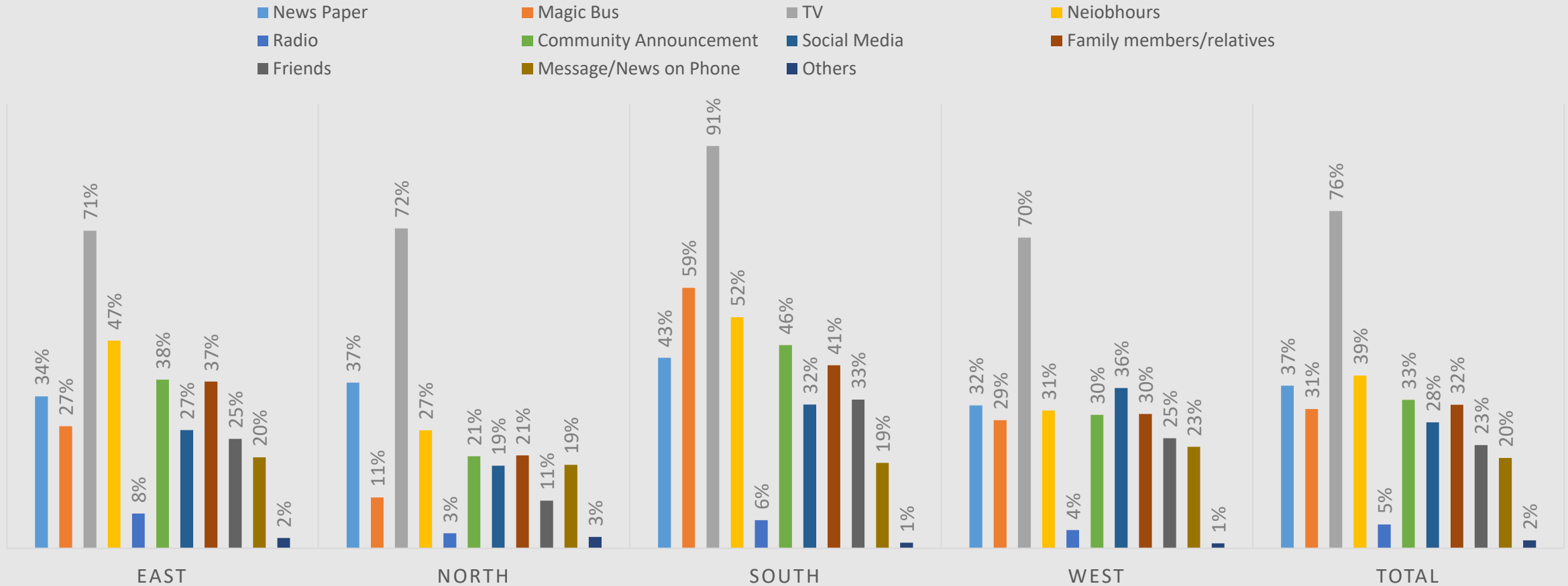
- 44% of respondents reported working in the informal sector.
- 28% of the respondents were self employed in agriculture/urban area.
- Mostly females were unemployed as compare to male in all regions except West

Does Child watches TV or listen Radio



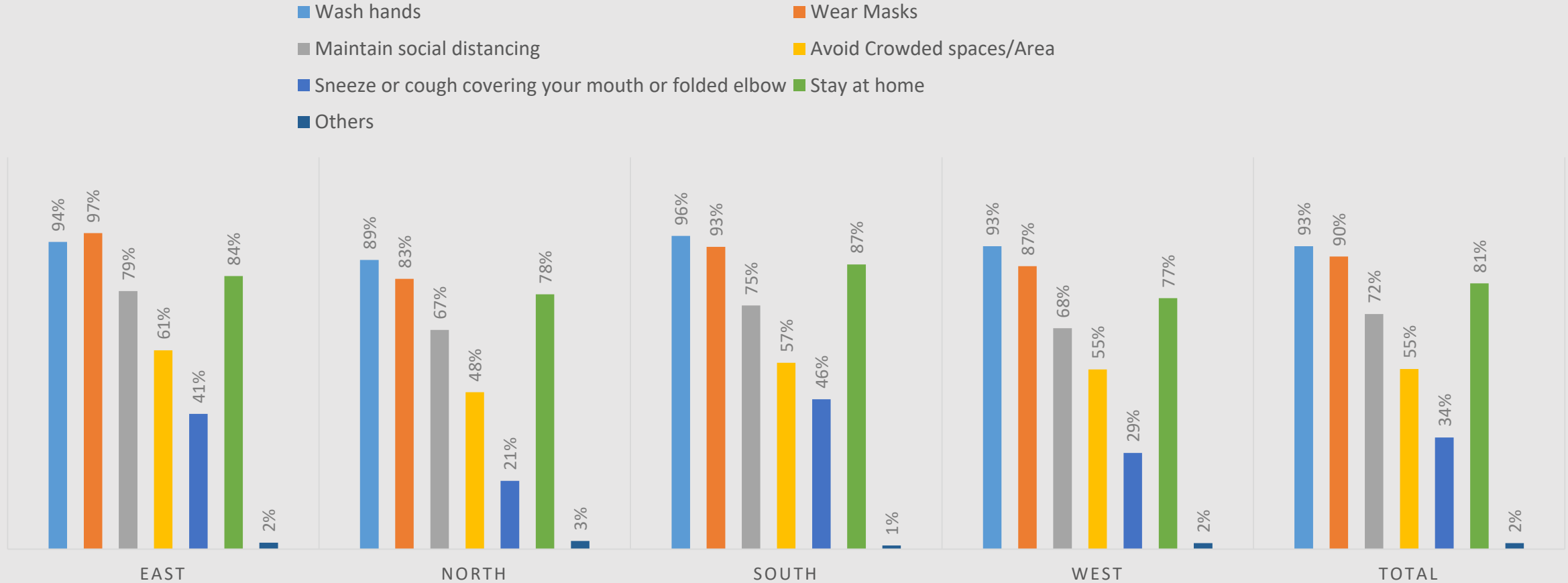
- 81% of the respondents said that their children watched TV.
- Children watching TV was highest in the South (95%)

Source of information about COVID 19



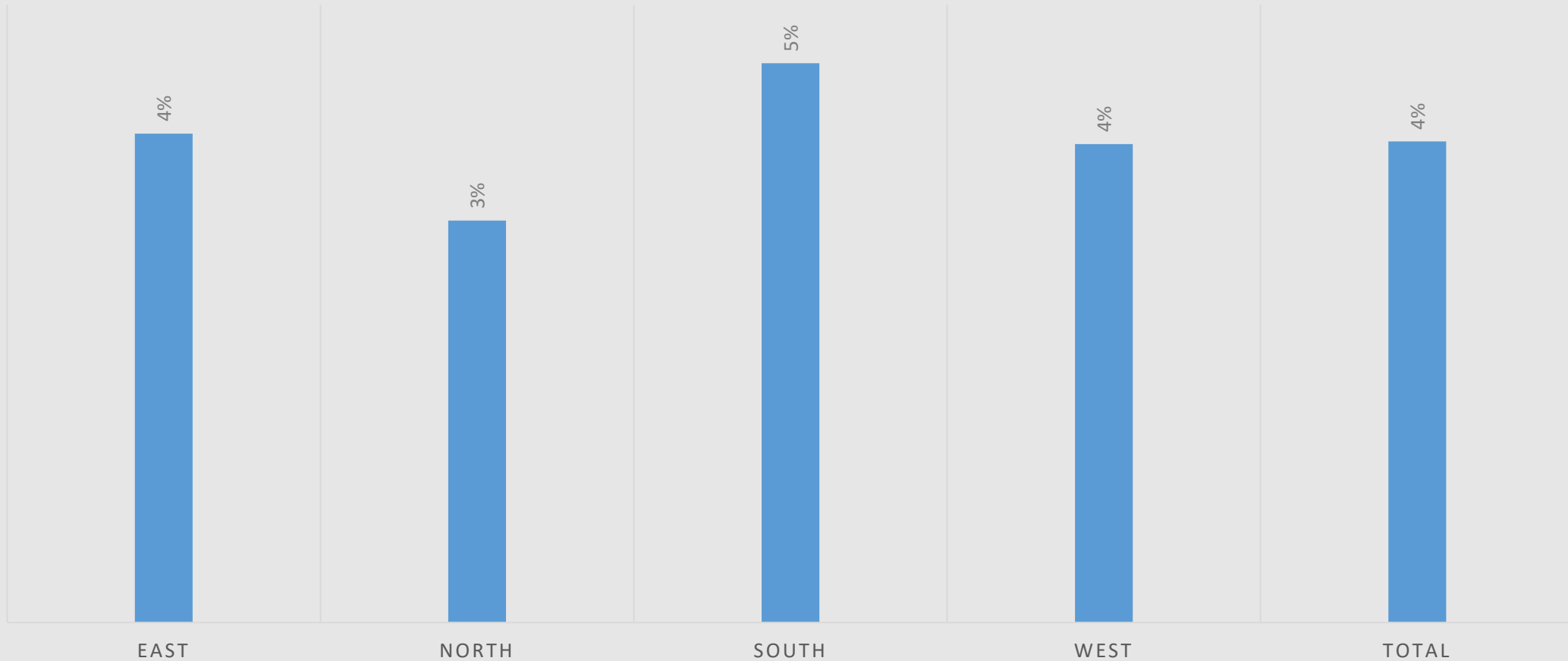
- 76% of the respondents said that they heard about COVID 19 from TV
- 39% heard from neighbors followed by news paper (37%)
- In the South region, 59% had heard about Covid from Magic Bus

Knowledge of protection against Covid



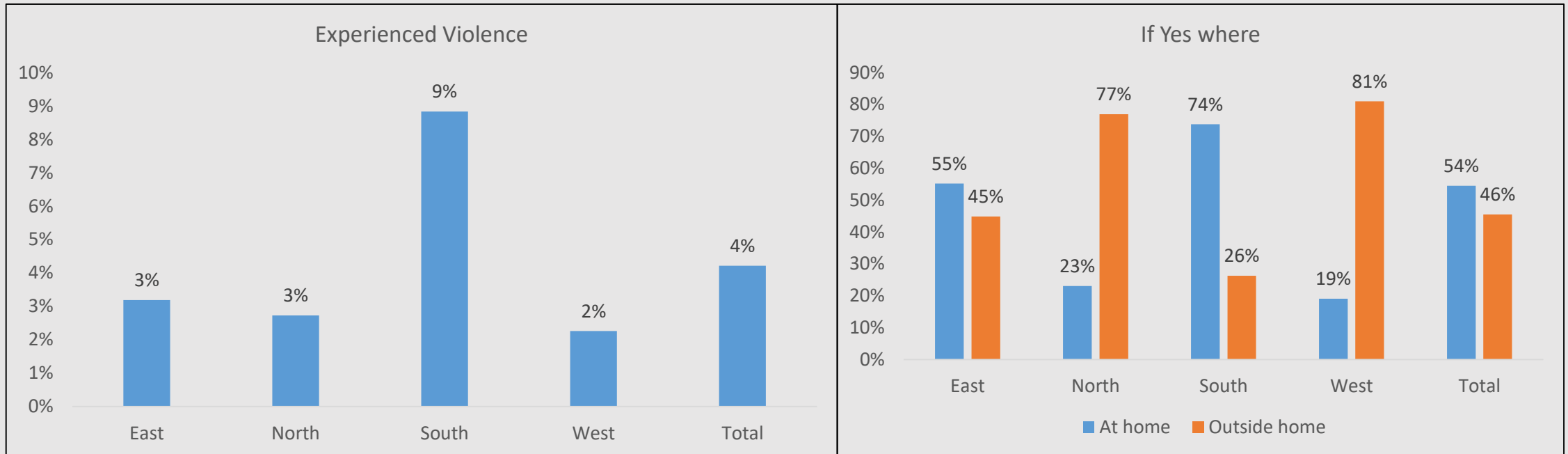
- Washing hands (93%) were the most reported protection measure by respondents followed by wearing masks (90%) and staying at home (81%)
- Only 68% of the respondents in the West mentioned about social distancing

Anyone in family have cough, fever and breathing difficulty



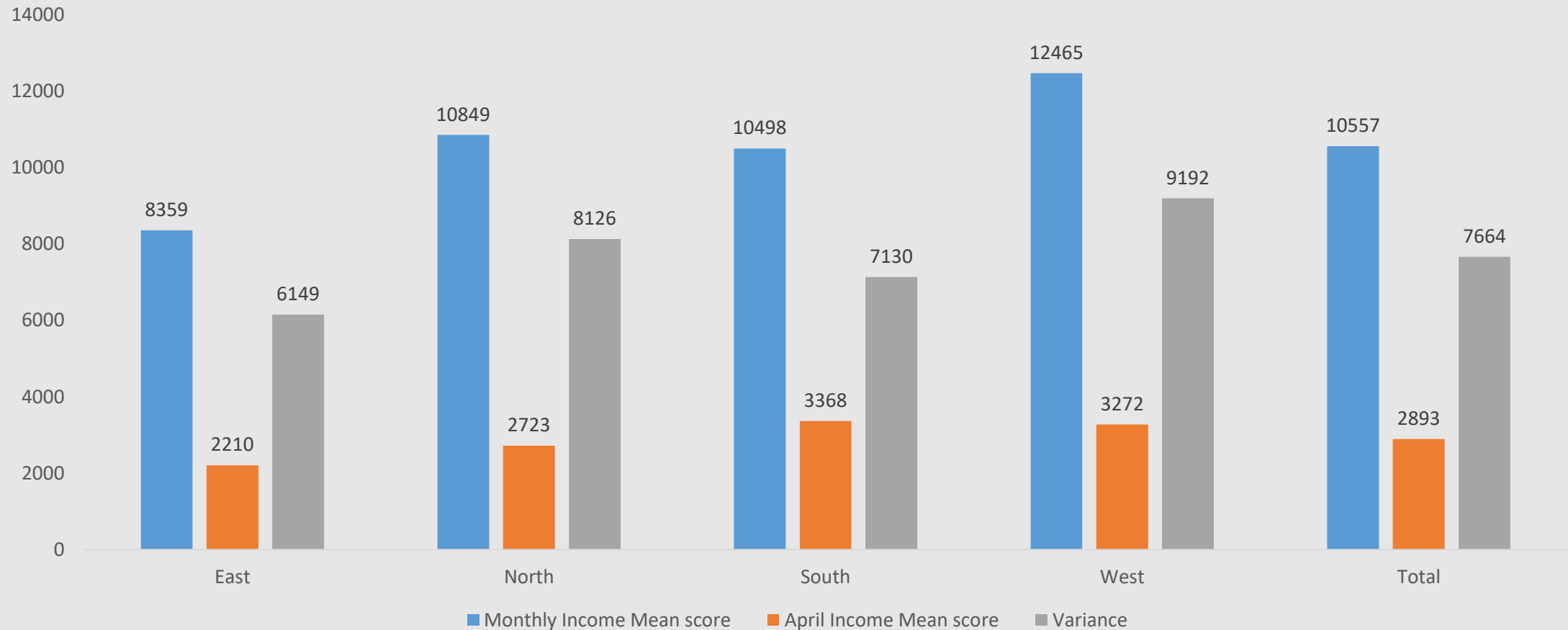
- About 4% reported having anyone in the family with cough, fever and breathing difficulty

Experienced Violence



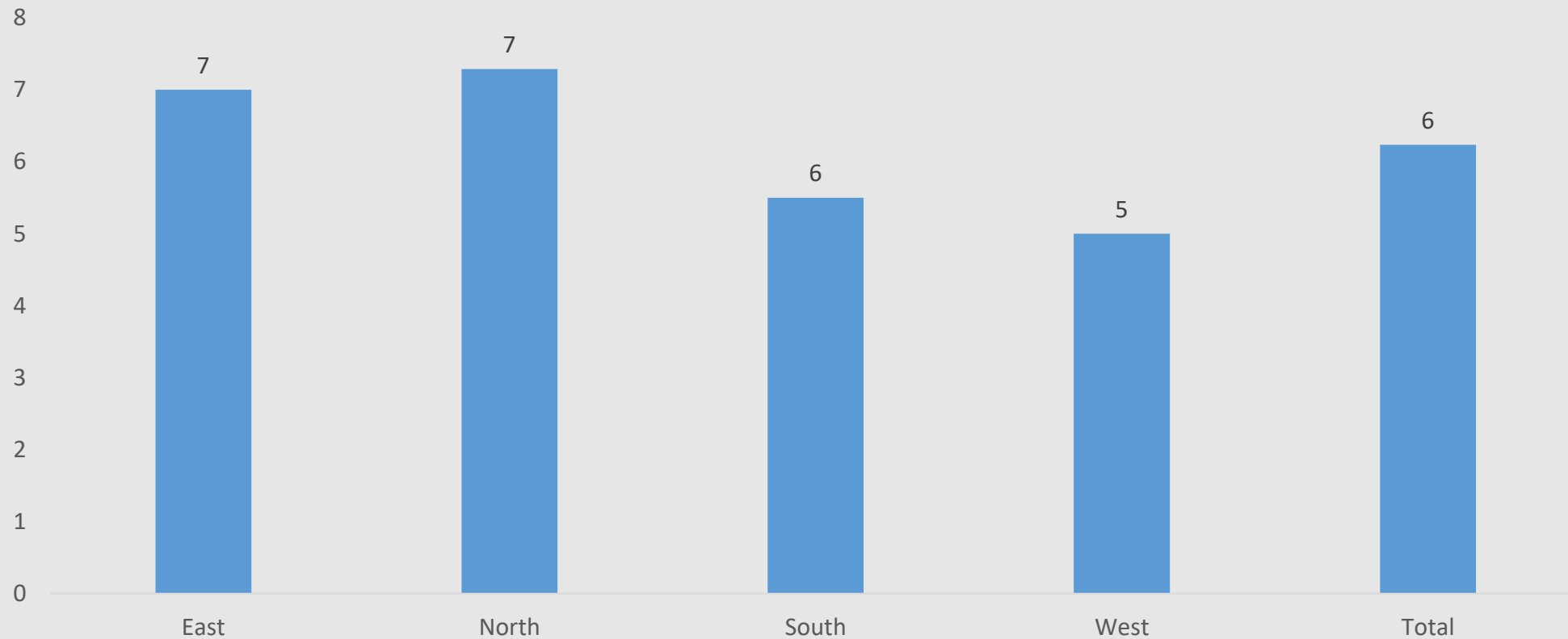
- Overall, 4% of the respondents experienced violence in any form. More men reported to have experienced violence when compared to women.
- Experience of violence was more outside home in the North (77%) and West (81%)

Impact on average income



- There was 73% loss of income in the month of April over previous month due to the lockdown
- A maximum loss was reported in the Western region where average income was relatively high

No. of hours parent can give phone to his or her child in a week

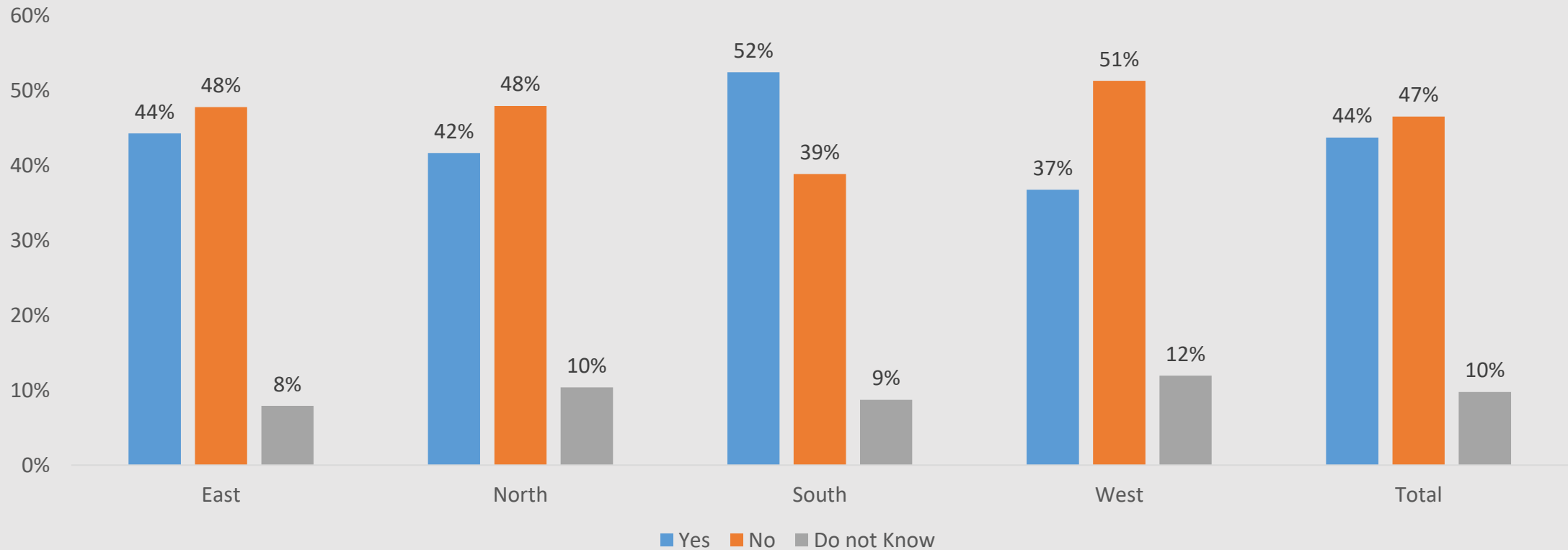


- Parents reported they could give their phone to child for about 6 hours a week (high in the North and East – 7 hrs; low in West and South (5 and 6 hrs, respectively))

Anyone in your family have lost their job or wages due to lockdown?

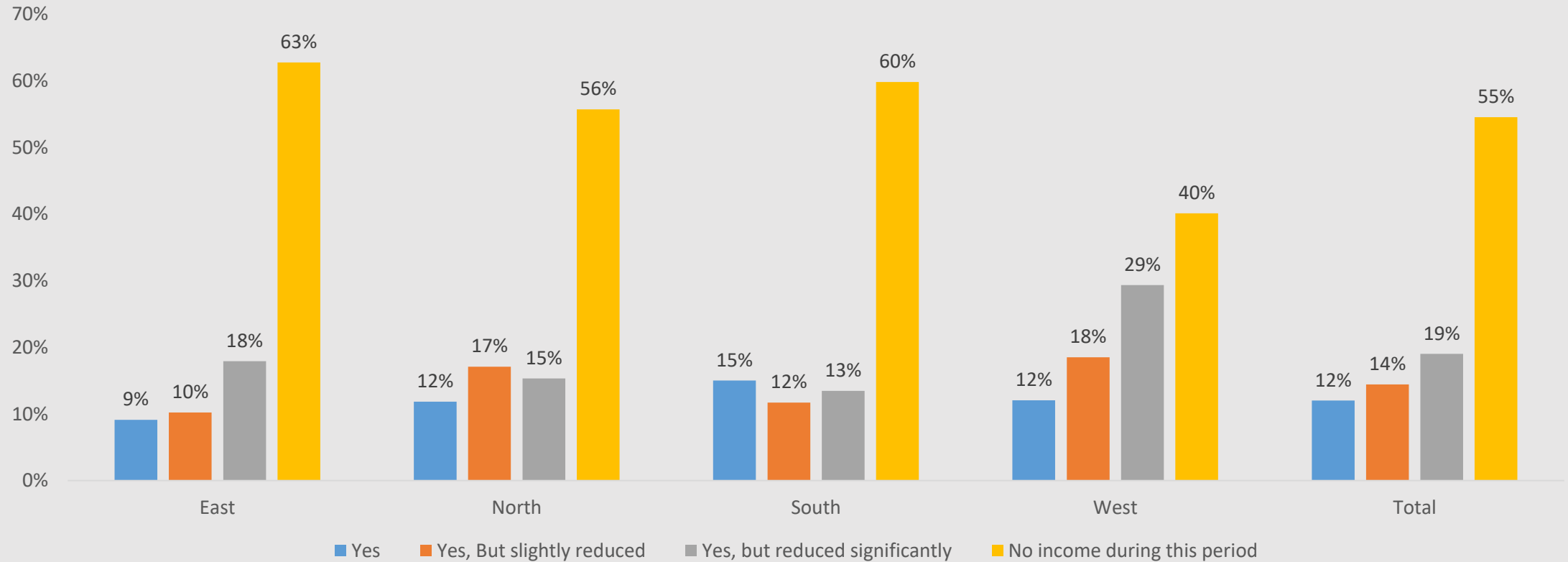


Lost their job or wages due to this lockdown



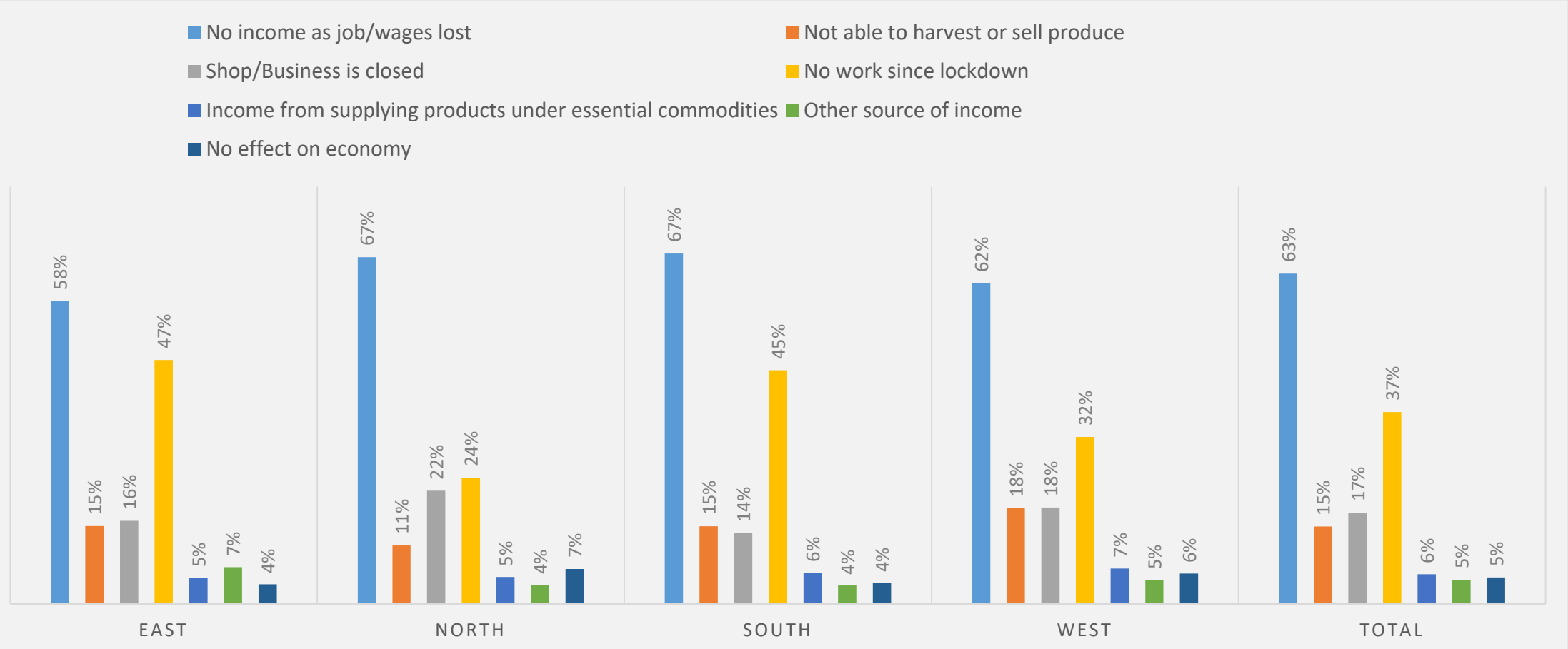
- Overall, 44% of the respondents said that they/anyone in family lost their job due to lockdown (highest in Southern region - 52%)

Does your family have the same regular income during this lockdown



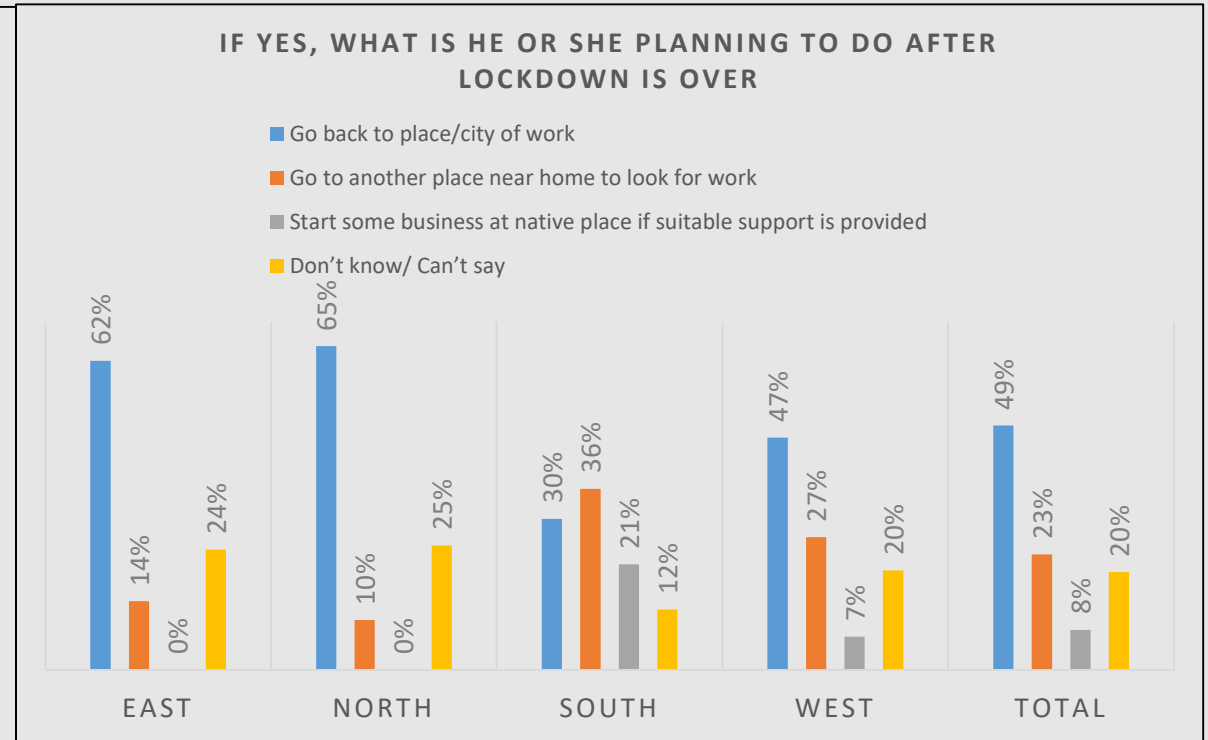
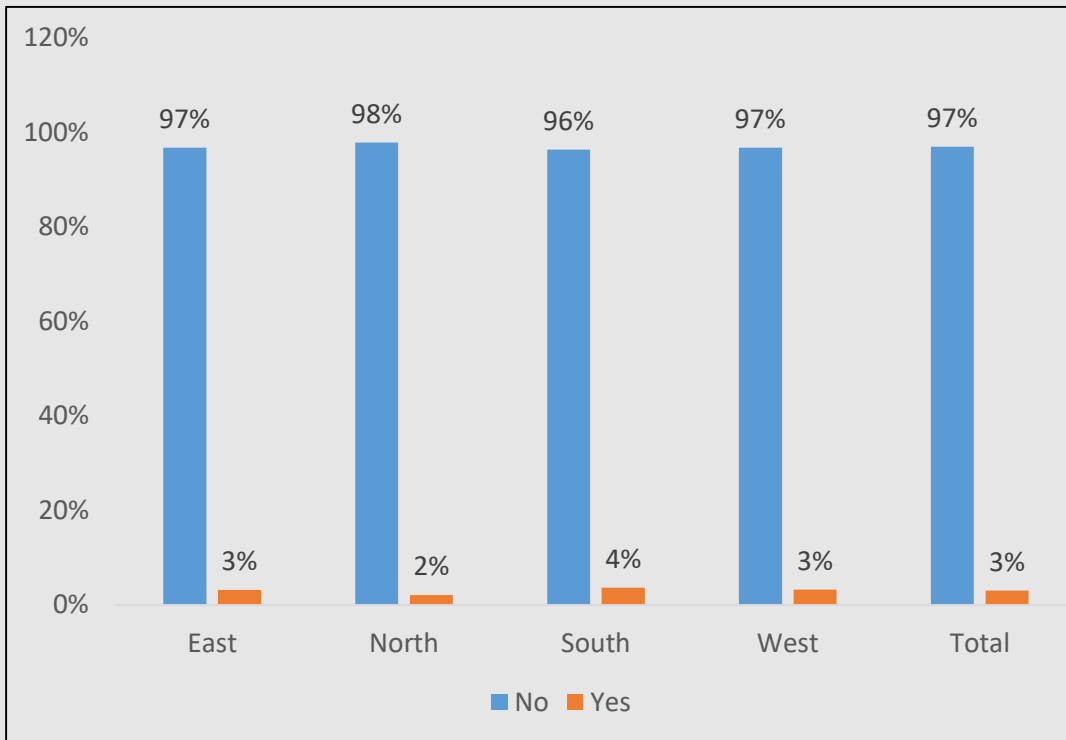
- Overall, 55% of the parents reported that there was no income during the lockdown (highest in the East – 63%; and lowest in the West – 40%).
- More females reported “no income” during this period opposed to male.

Different economic effects of lockdown



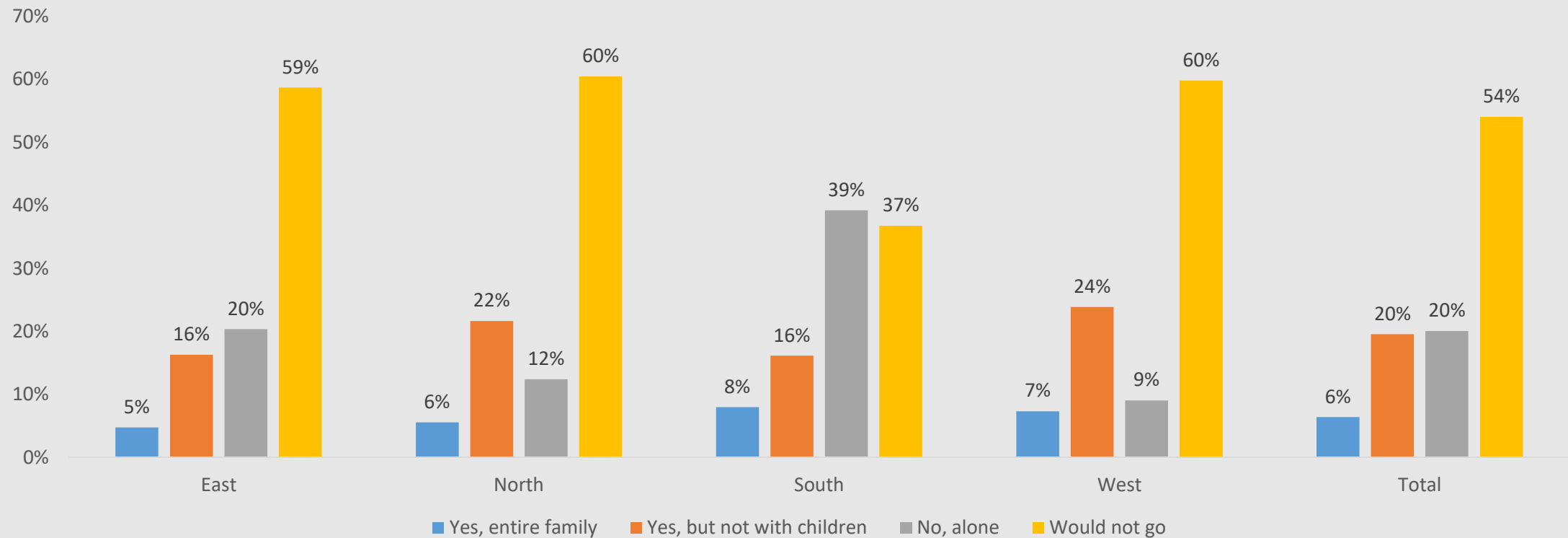
- Overall 63% of the respondents reported wages lost as the major effect of lockdown followed by no work since lockdown (37%).

Has anyone in family returned from other place/town due to lockdown?



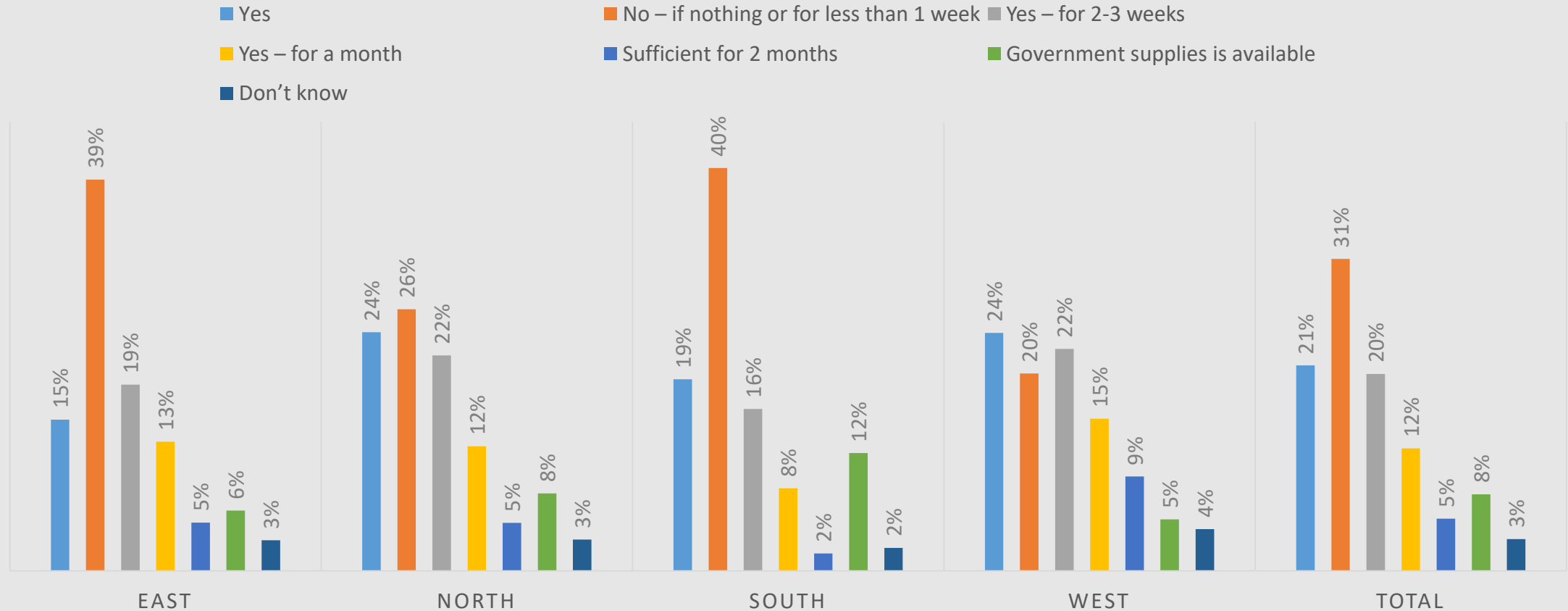
- Only 3% of the respondents reported anyone in their family returned from other place/city due to lockdown.
- About half of them (49%) said that they would go back to the place of work/city after the lockdown was over

Will Parents travel with their family/ children, if they go away for work?



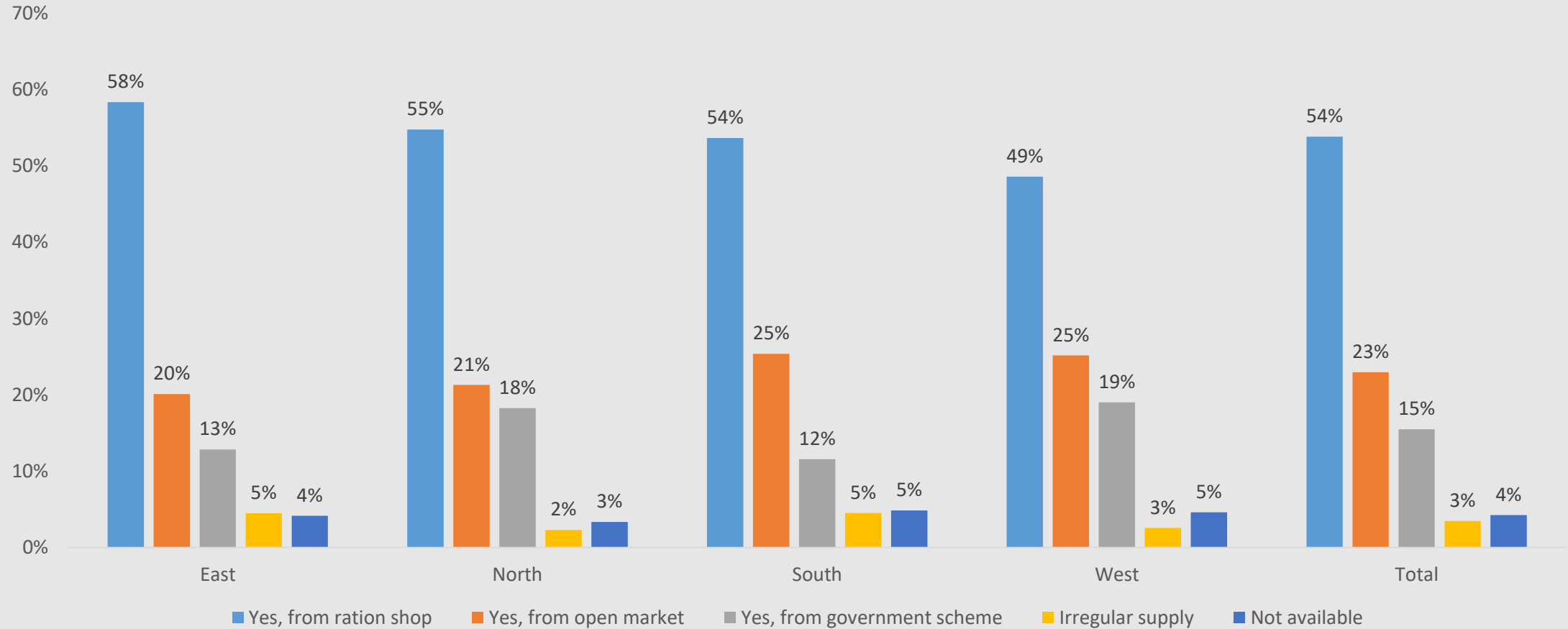
- More than half of the respondents (54%) said that they would not go, while 20% said that they would go alone or with no children.
- More respondents in the South preferred to go alone (39%)

Does your family have sufficient money to buy supplies and ration to meet the needs for your family?



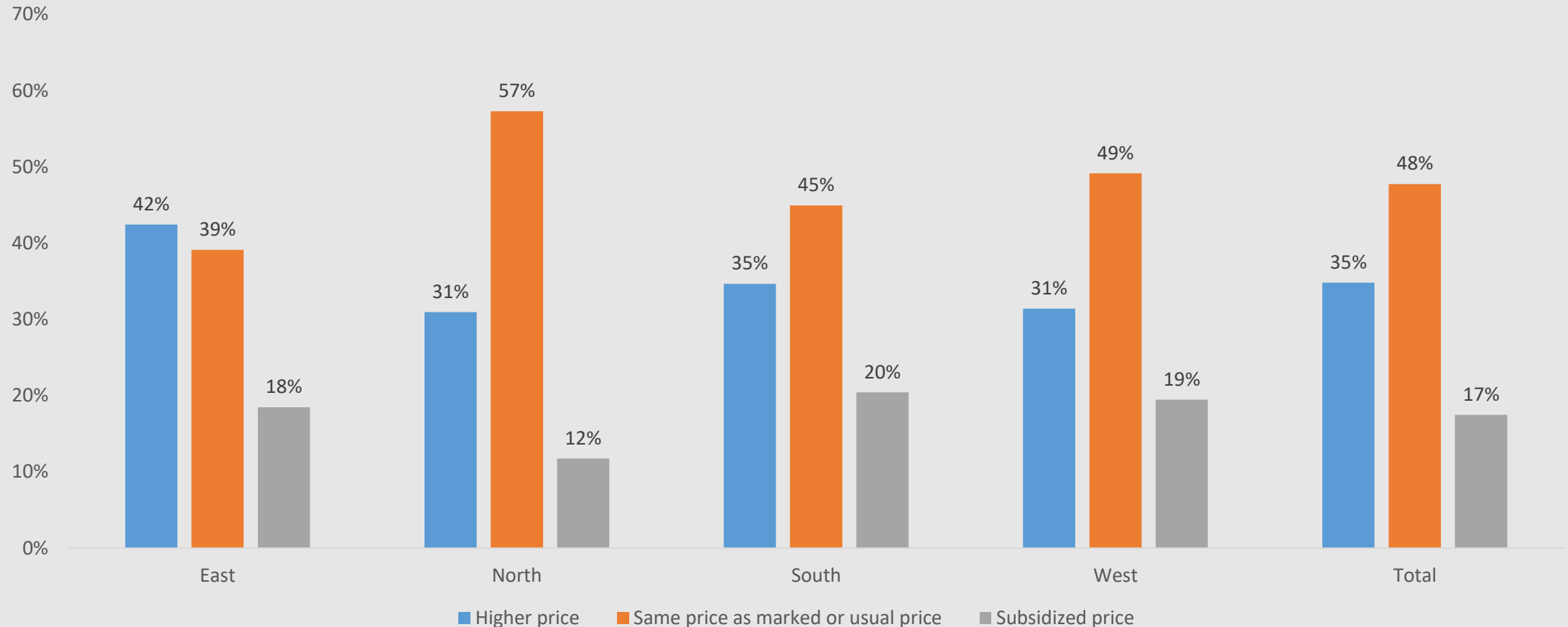
- About a third of the respondents (31%) said they had supplies for only a week. More people in the South (40%) and East (39%) reported having supplies only for a week
- About a fifth reported (20%) they had supplies for 2-3 weeks.

Availability of supplies



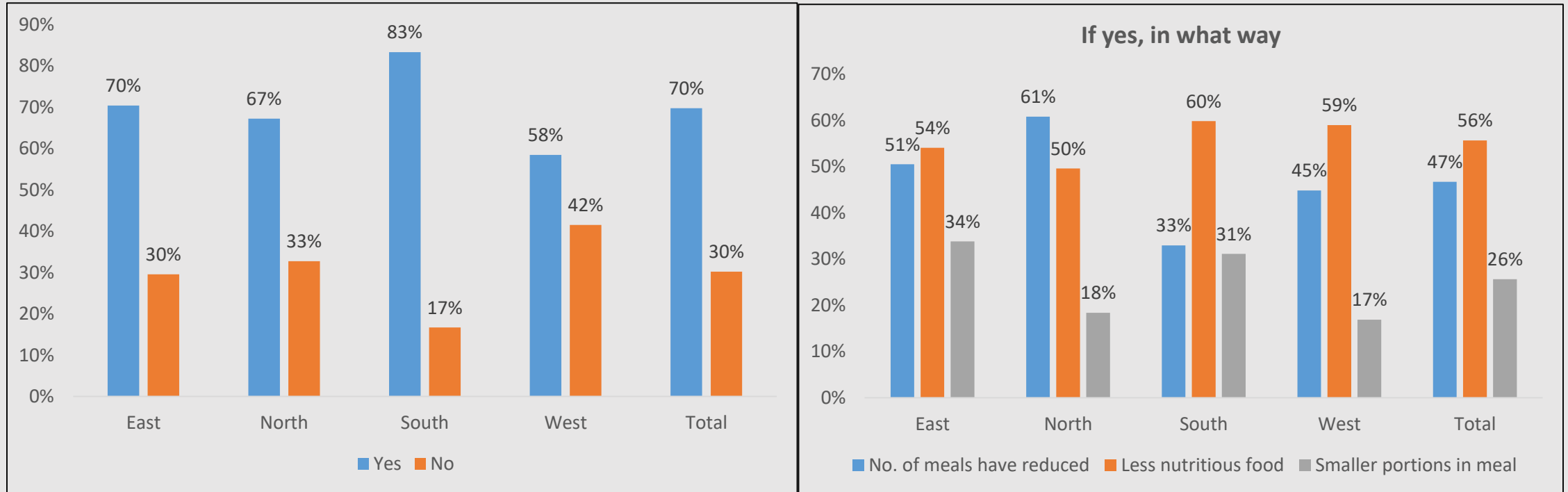
- More than half of the respondents (54%) said that supplies were available from the ration shops
- 15% reported getting supplies through the Government scheme.

At what price the supplies are available?



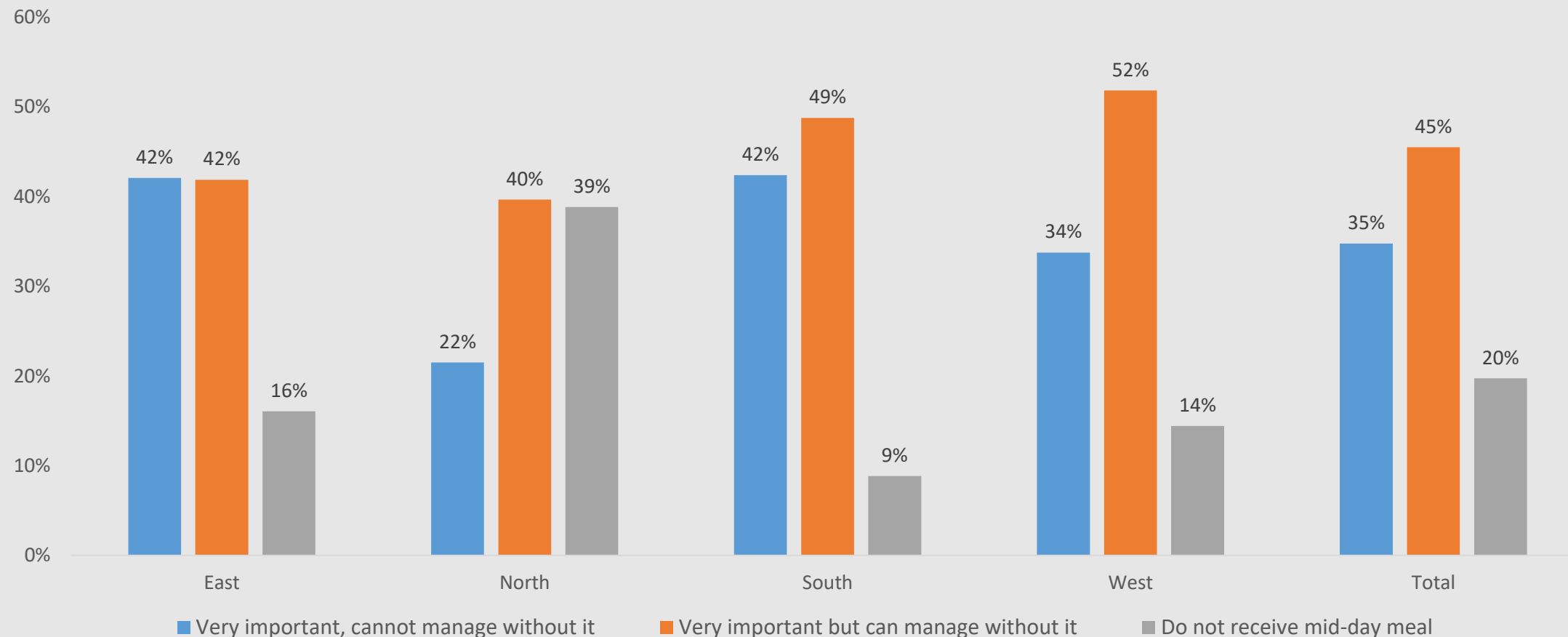
- While about half of the respondents (48%) reported buying supplies at the same price, about a third (35%) were paying higher price
- A high proportion of respondents in the East (42%) reported buying supplies at higher price

Made adjustment in food habits?



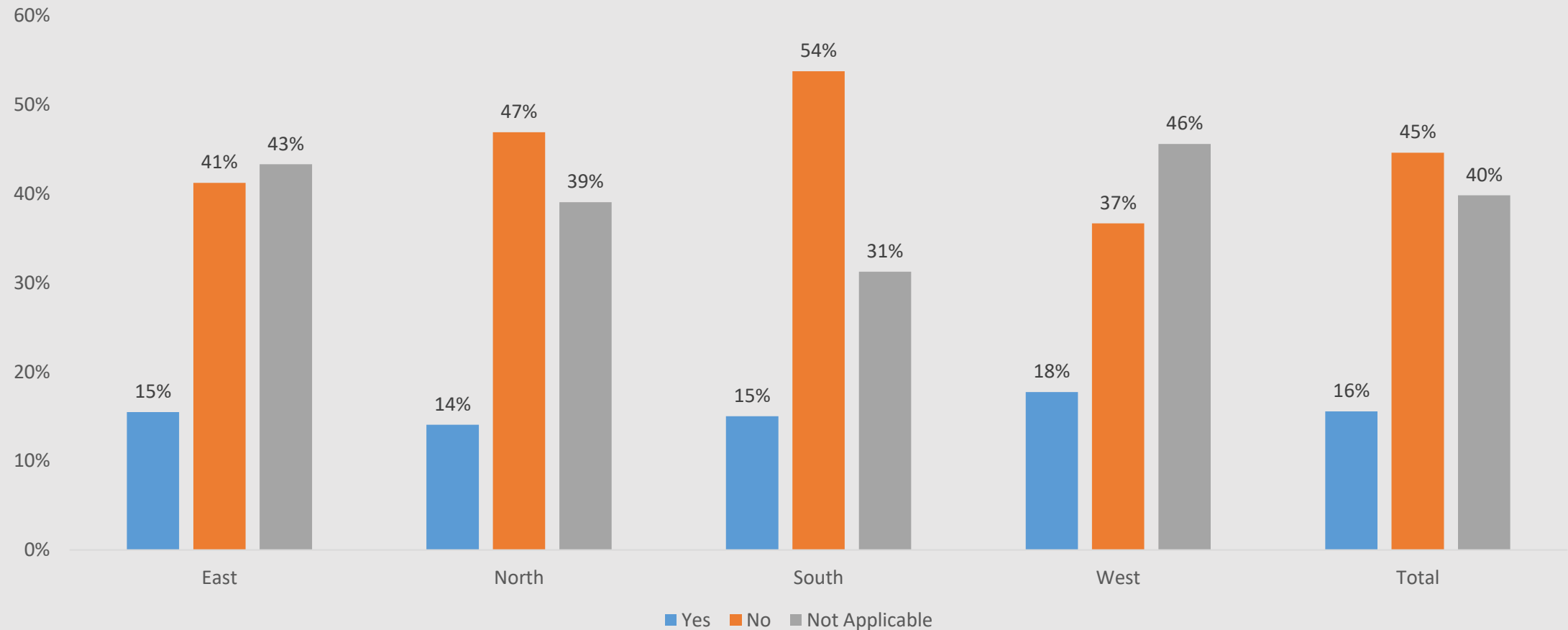
- 70% reported making adjustment in their food habits due to lockdown.
- Adjustment was reported more by the females in the East and West regions.
- Respondents reported switching to less nutritious food (56%), and reduced no. of meals (47%), and smaller portion meal (26%). However regional variances were observed, in north most the respondents said that no. of meals have reduced.

Importance of the midday meal available to children in school



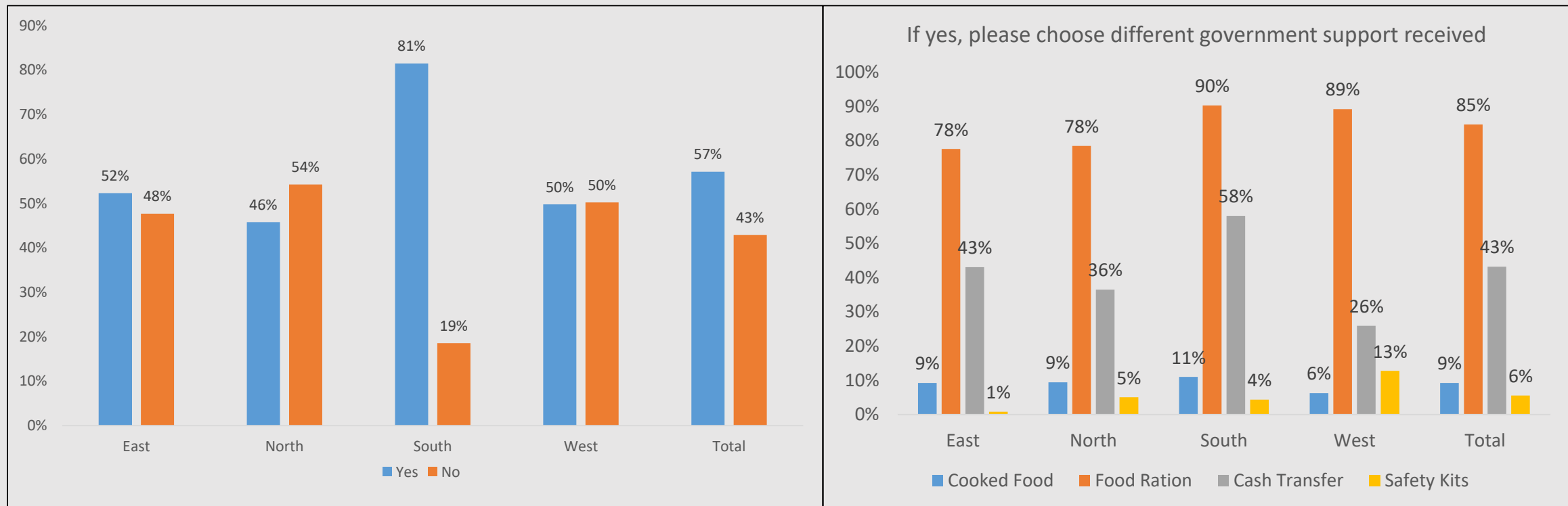
- 45% respondents said that midday meal was very important but could manage without it.
- For 35% respondents, midday meal was very important that they could not manage without it.
- Importance of midday meals was highest in the East (42%) and South (42%) that they could not manage without it

Received regular salary from employer? (if in Job)



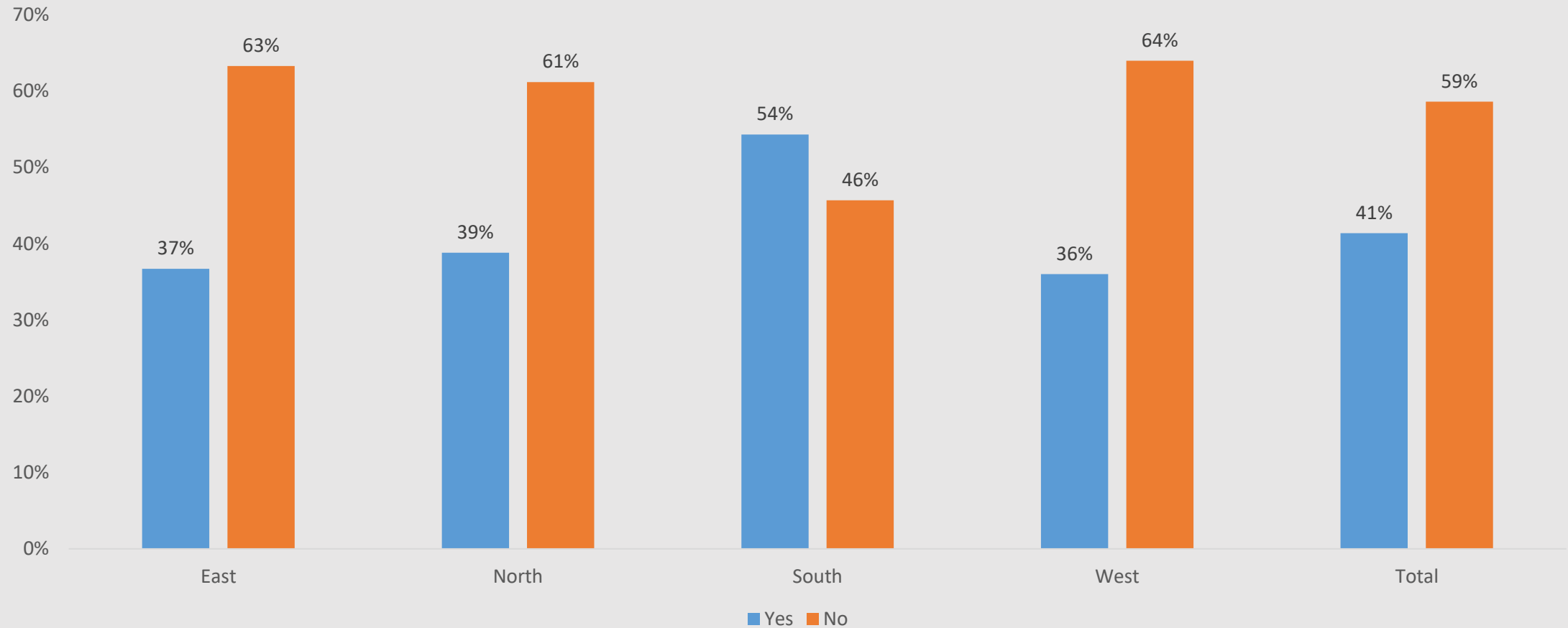
- Almost half of the respondents (45%) reported not getting salary from their employer.
- In the South region, 54% reported not getting salary from their employer.

Received any government support in any form of transfers March – April 2020 in response to Covid-19 crisis?



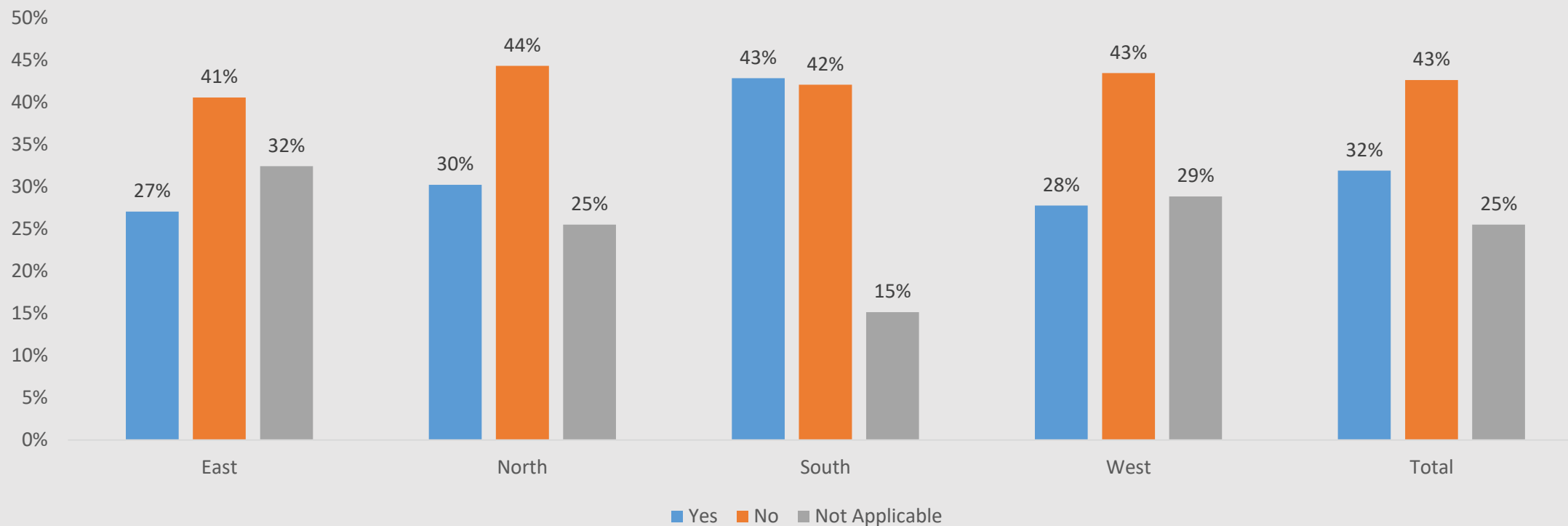
- More than half of the respondents (57%) reported receiving government support in any form of transfer.
- A maximum support was reported to be received in the South (81%)
- Among those who received support, 85% reported receiving food ration, and 43% in terms of cash transfer.

Did you borrow money?



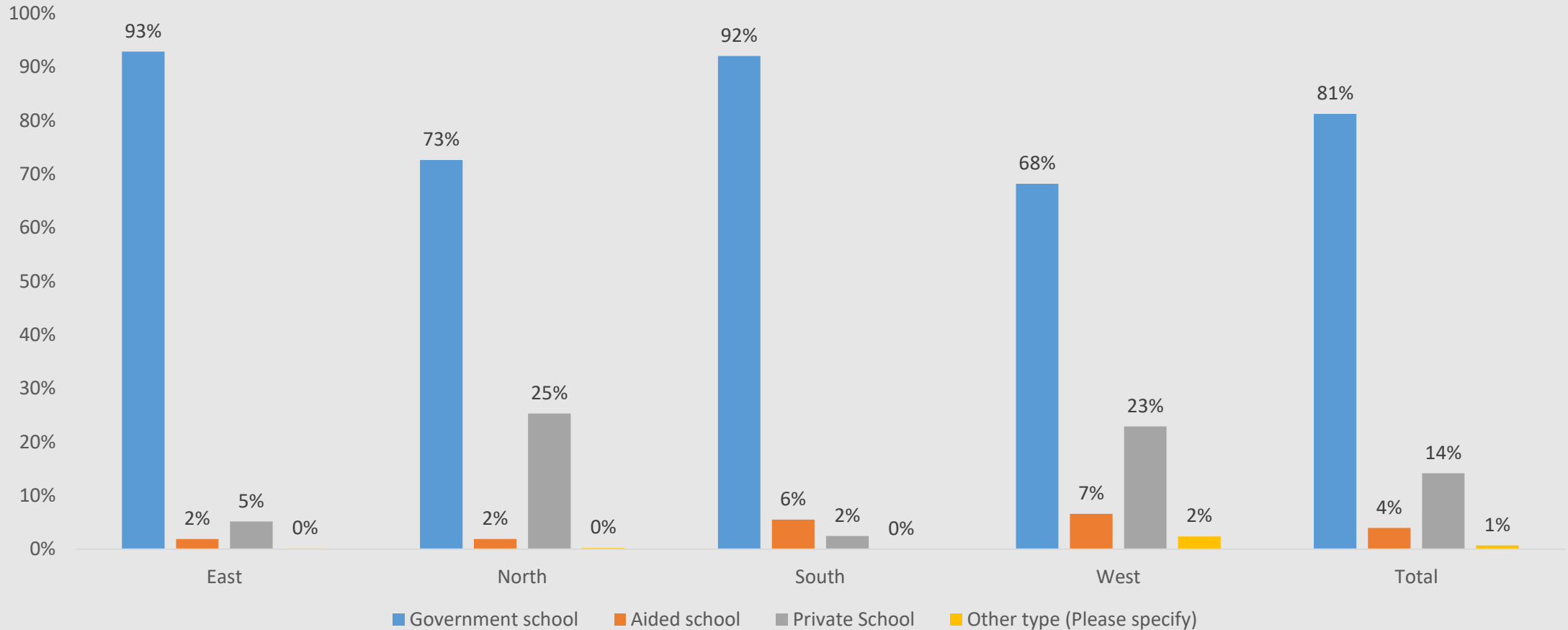
- 41% reported borrowing money.
- In south region more than half(54%) reported borrowing money.

Have the regular cash transfers, the family is eligible for, has delayed (LPG subsidy, widow pension, scheme based transfer etc.)?



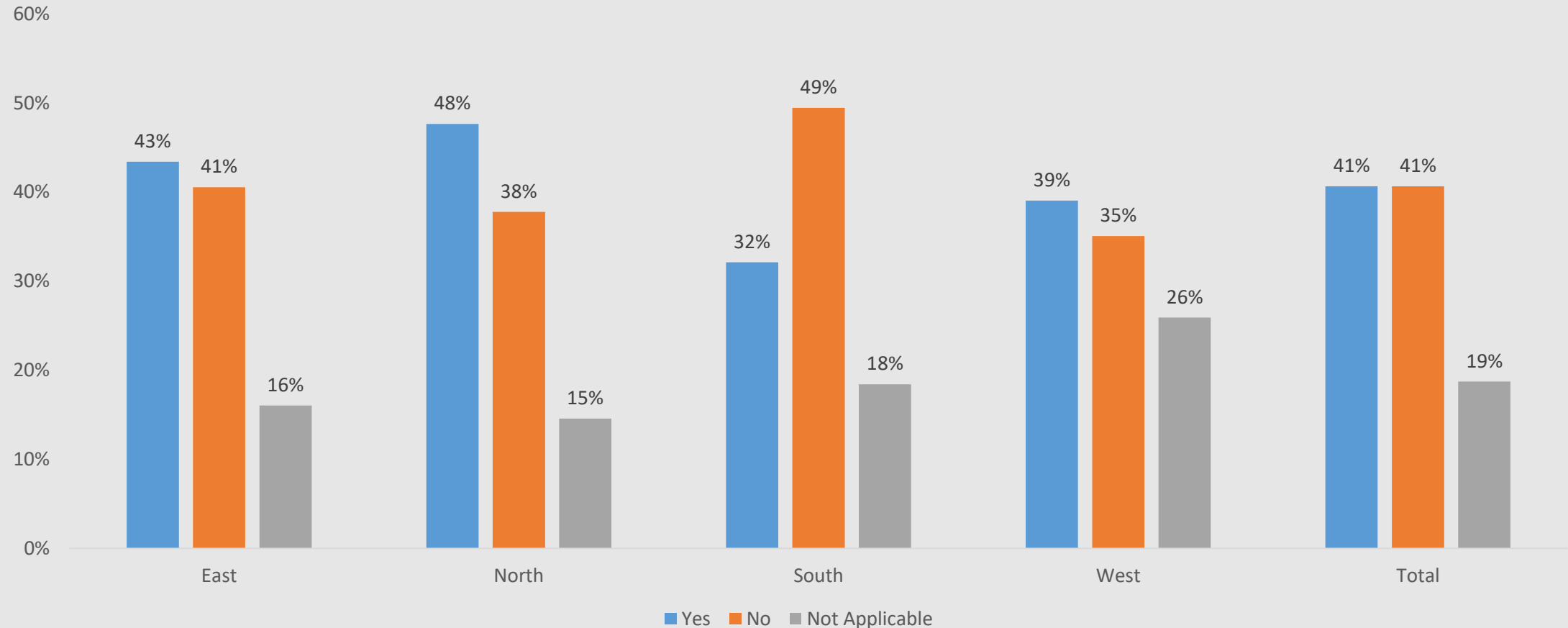
- One third of the respondents (32%) reported delay in the regular cash transfer and other scheme based transfer.
- Maximum delay was reported in South region(43%) followed by North (30%), West (28%) and East (27%).

Child goes to what type of school



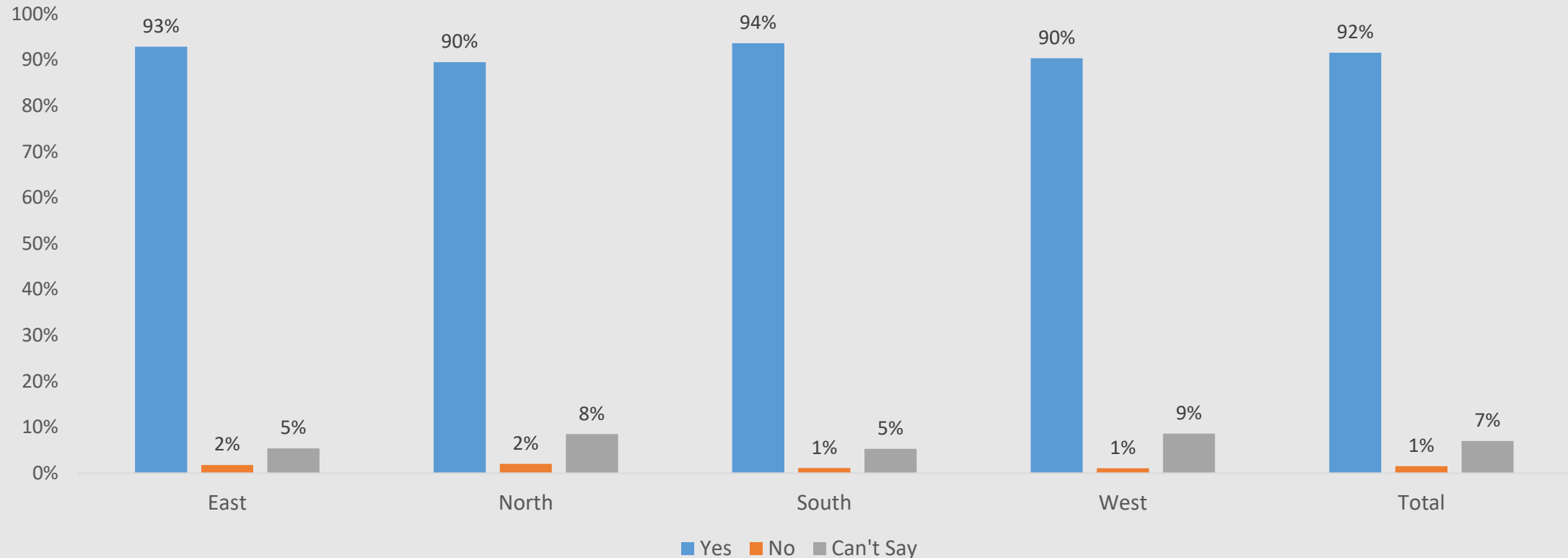
- Overall 81% of the respondents said that their child was admitted in Government school.
- However, about a quarter of the respondents in the North (25%) and West (23%) said that their children went to private school

Will you be able to cover the fees related to education cost?



- 41% said that they would not be able to pay school fees.
- In Southern region almost half of the respondents (49%) said that they would not be able to pay the school fees

After the lockdown, will they be sending your child/adolescents to school/college once school/college re-open?

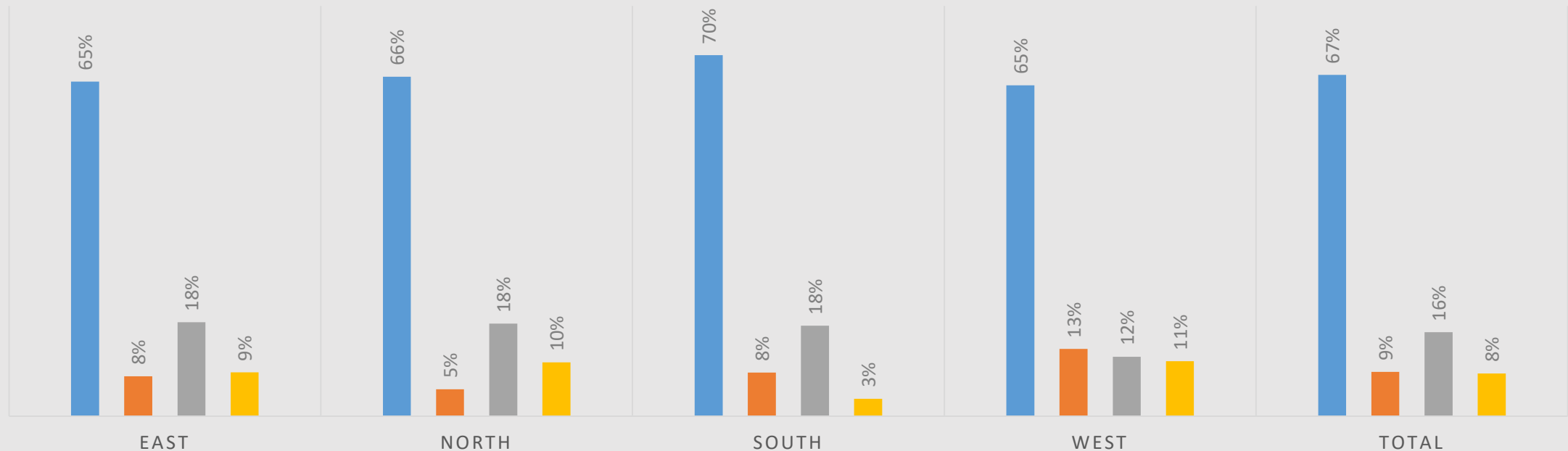


- Most of the respondents (92%) said that they would be sending their children to school/college once school/college re-open

How quickly will you be able to start your normal work/ earning again?



- I will again start working at same place where I was working earlier (immediately)
- I have already identified few places where I can work and hope to start in a week's time
- My place of work has closed down and I will have to start looking for work (2-4 weeks)
- Others (please specify)

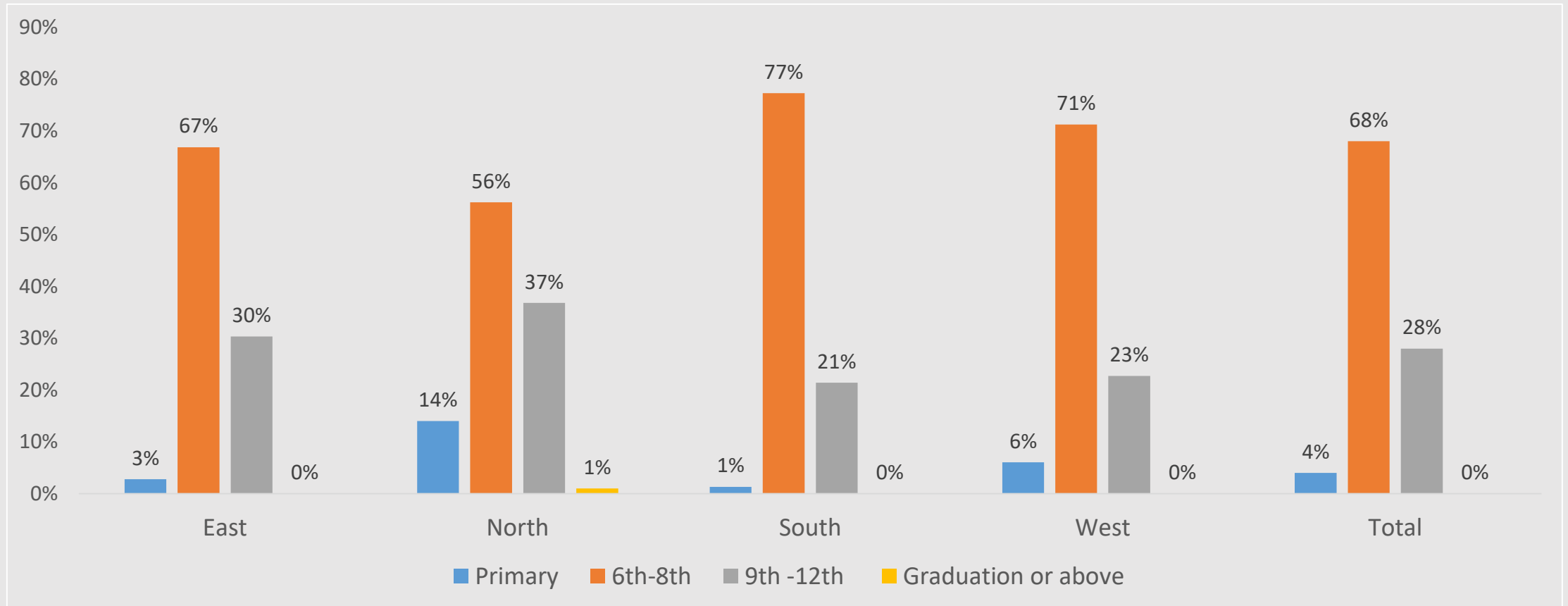


- Almost two-thirds of the respondents (67%), including male and female, said that they would start working again at the same place where they were working earlier (immediately)

Adolescent Interviews

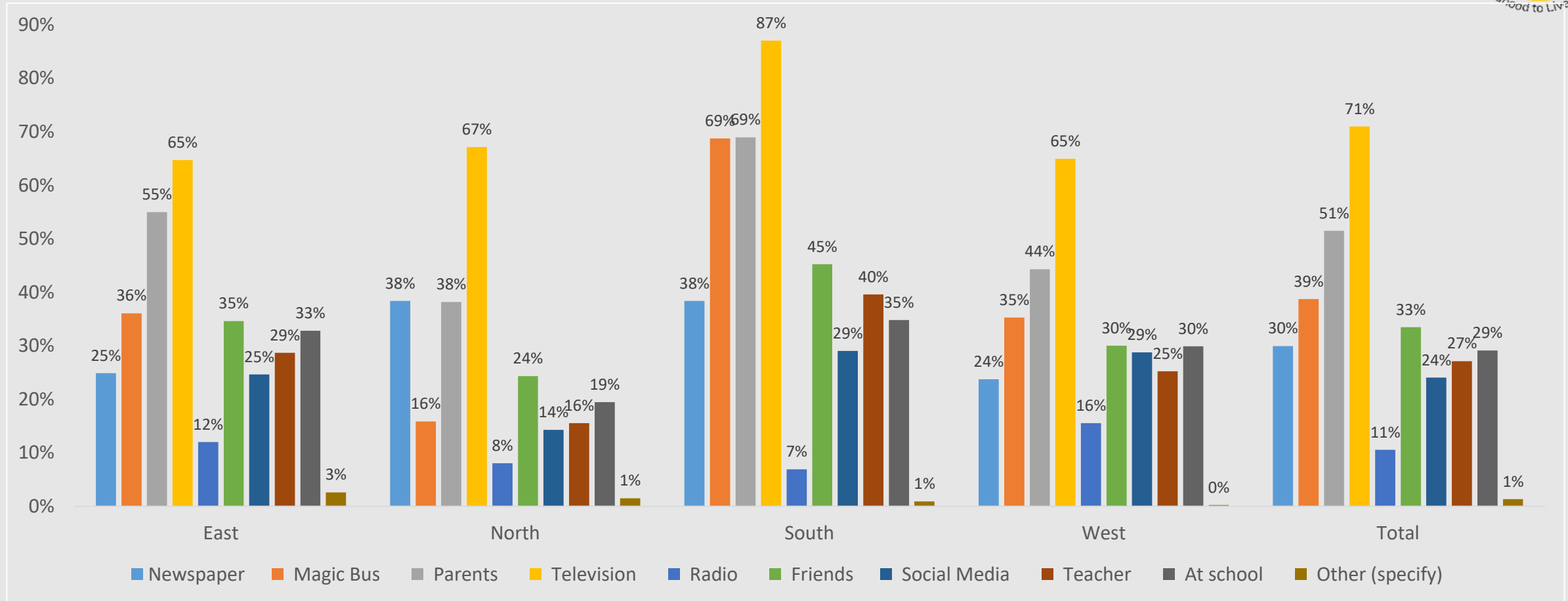
Sample Size - Male: 1694; Female: 1923; Total: 3617

Grade level



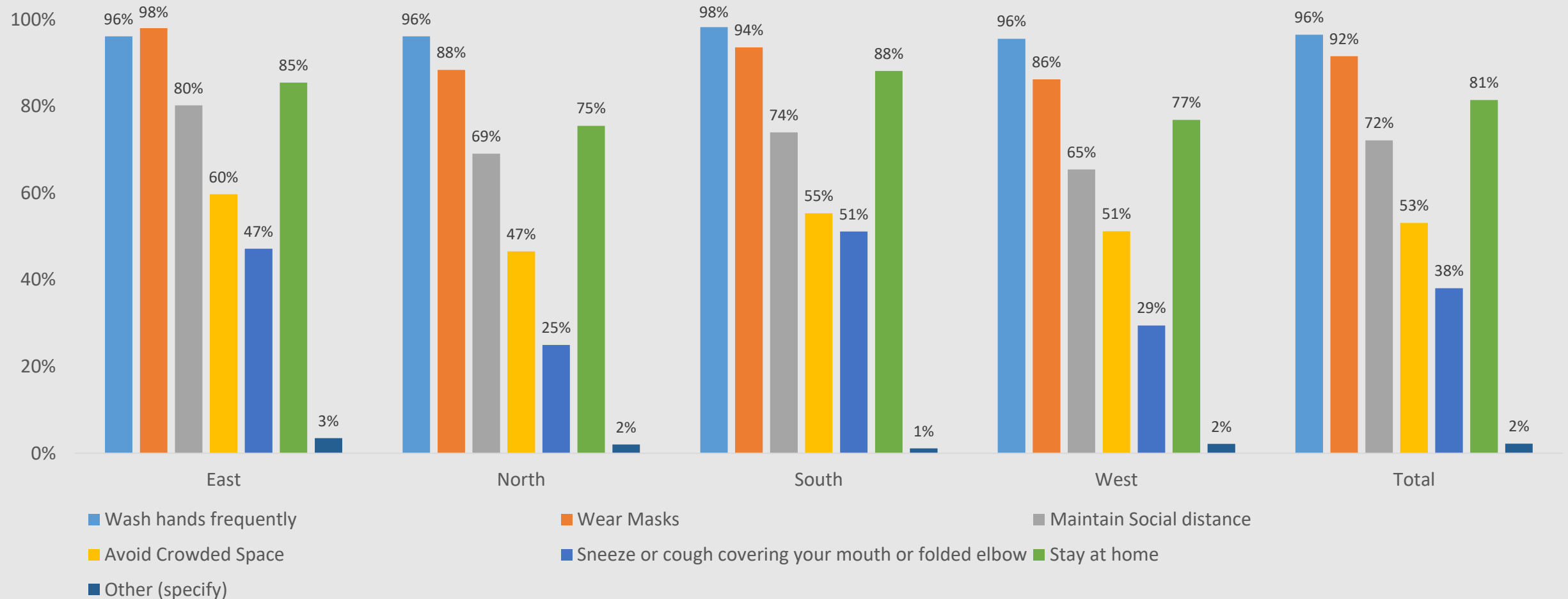
- Around 68% of the adolescent interviewed were in 6-8 grade, and about a third (28%) were in 9-12 grade

Source from which respondent got to know about Covid-19



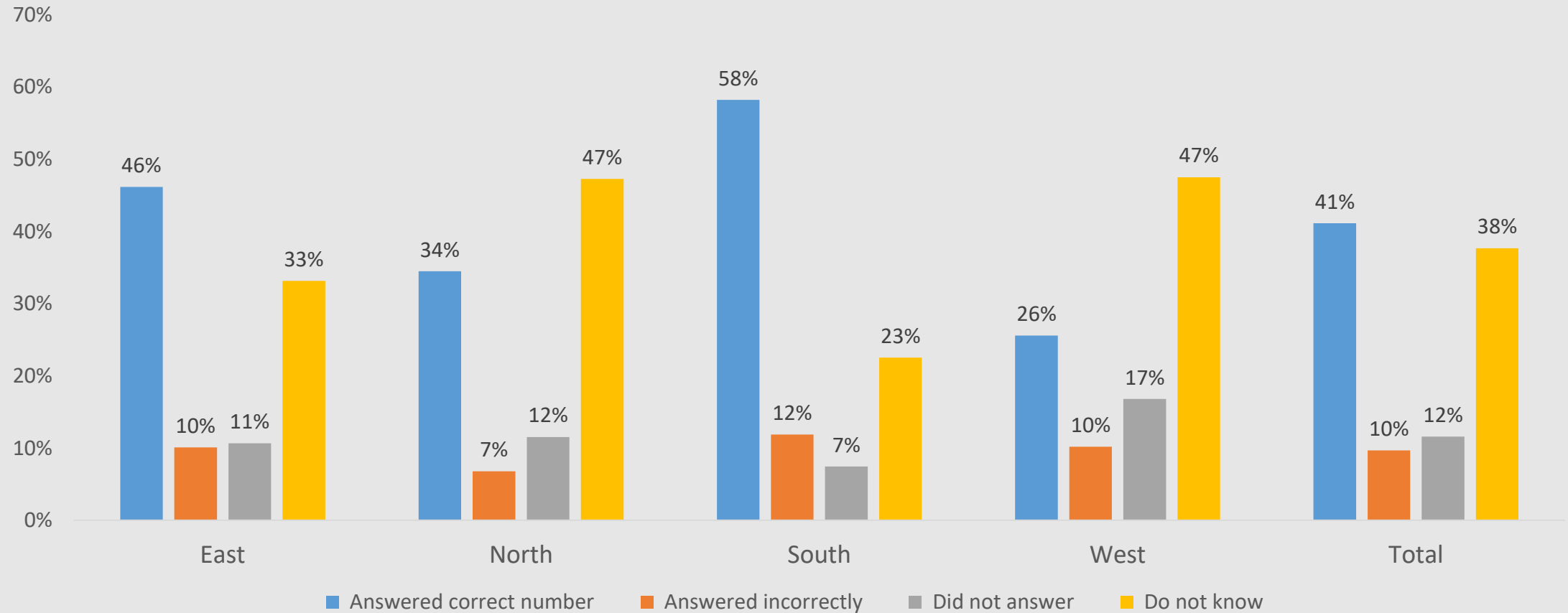
- TV was the main source of information on Covid (71%), followed by parents (51%), Magic Bus (39%), friends (33%), newspaper (30%) and school (29%)

Knowledge of protection from Covid-19



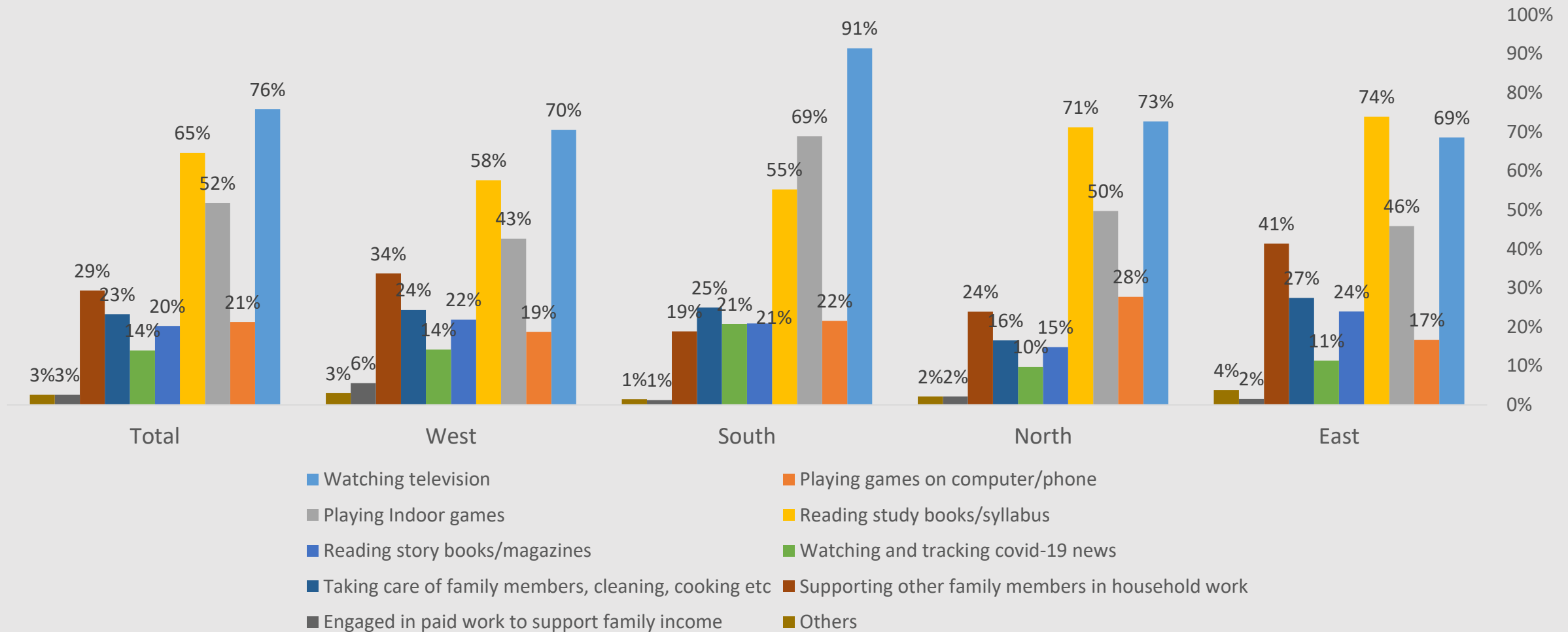
- Most of the adolescents knew washing hands (96%), wearing mask (92%), staying at home (81%) and maintaining social distance (72%) were important protection measures

Knowledge of child helpline number



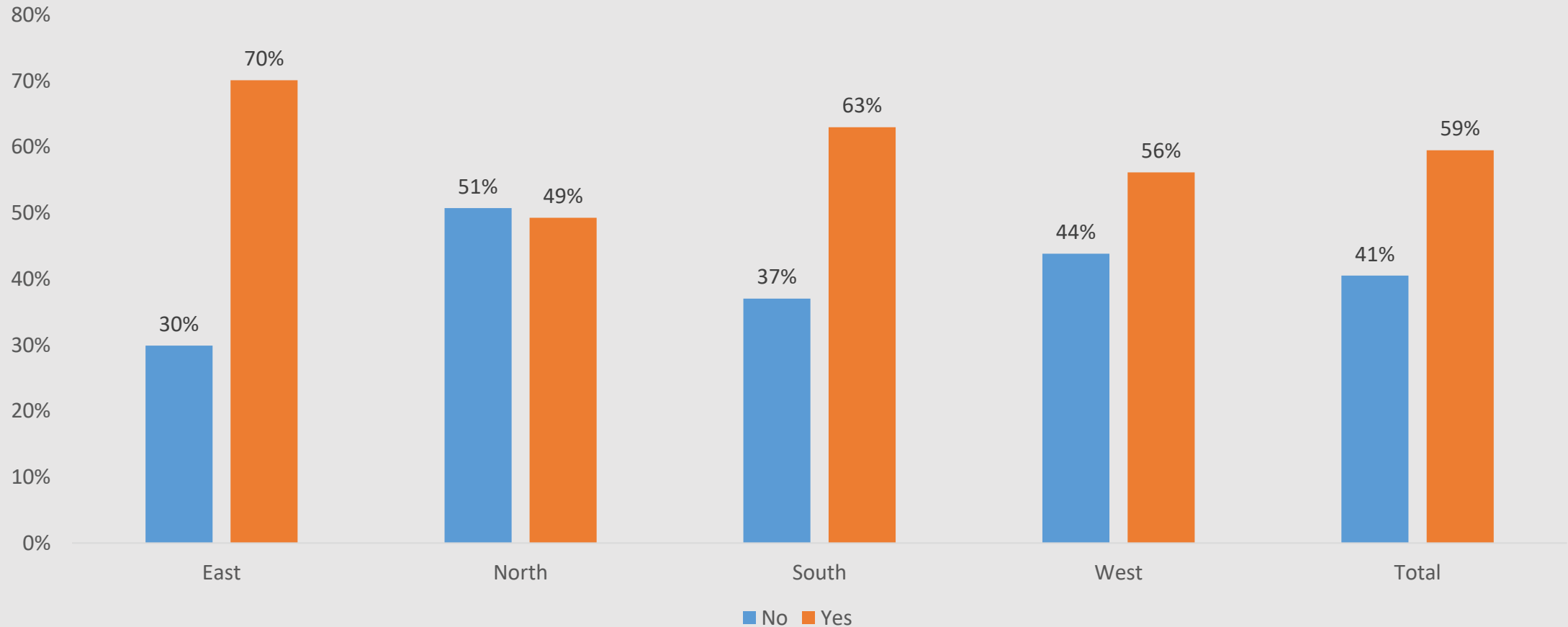
- 41% of the adolescent knew child helpline 1098 correctly
- The proportion of adolescents knowing child help line was relatively high in South (58%)

How adolescent spent time at home during this lockdown



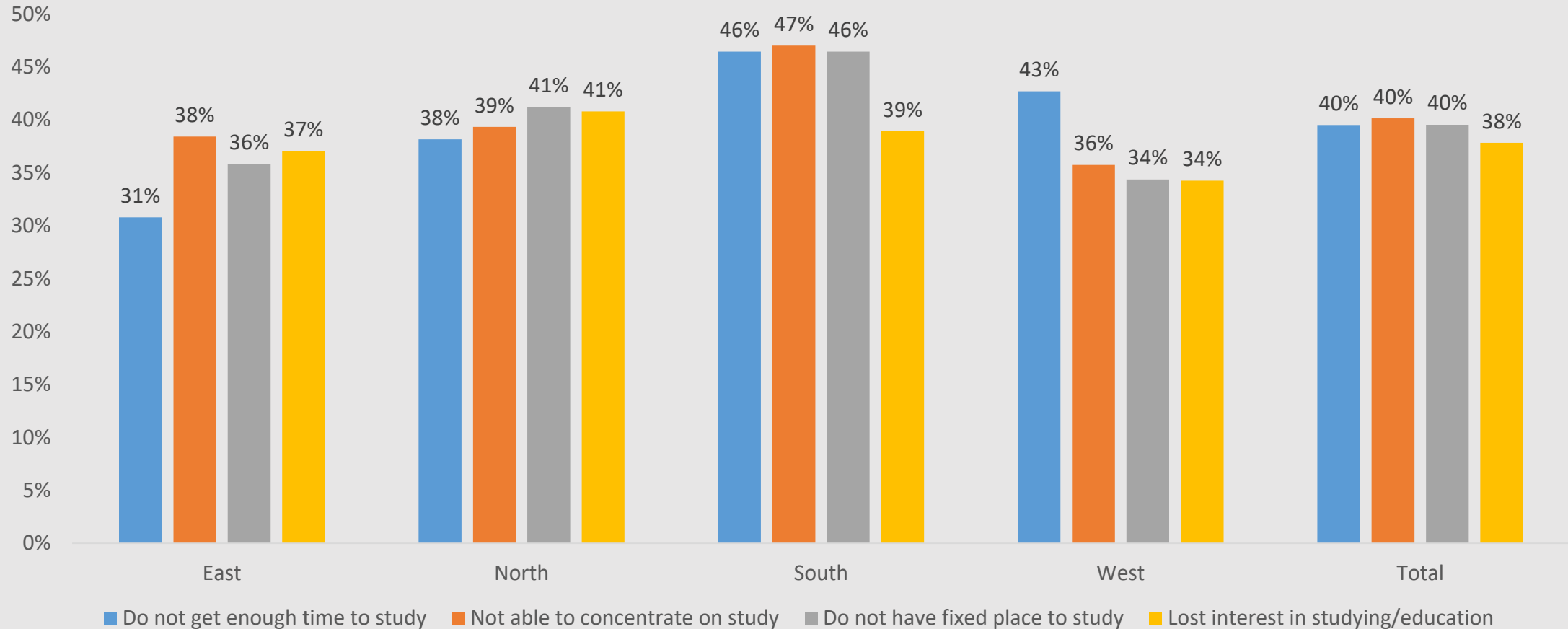
- Most of the adolescent spent their time watching TV (76%), studying (65%), playing indoor (52%), helping with household work (23%), and taking care of family members

Availability of Fixed Study Place at Home?



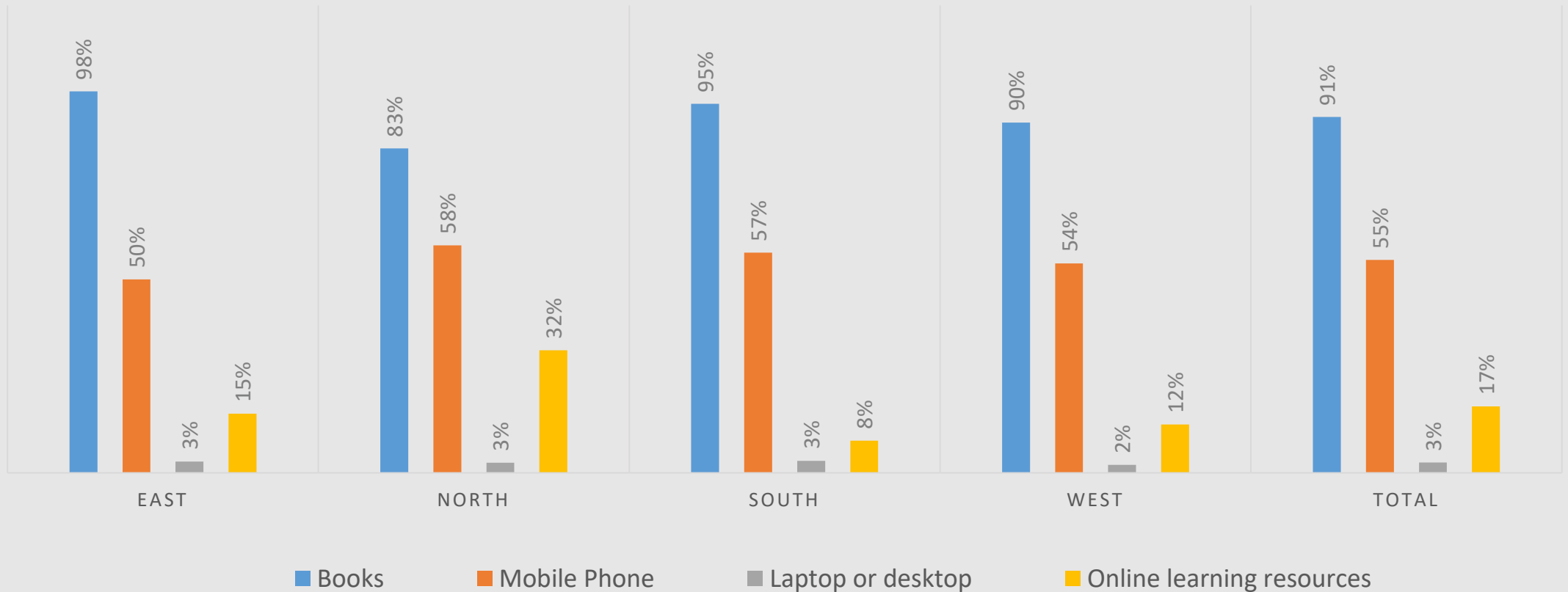
- More than half of the adolescents (59%) said they had a fixed place available at home for study (highest in the East – 70%)

Things affected since everyone in family was at home during lockdown



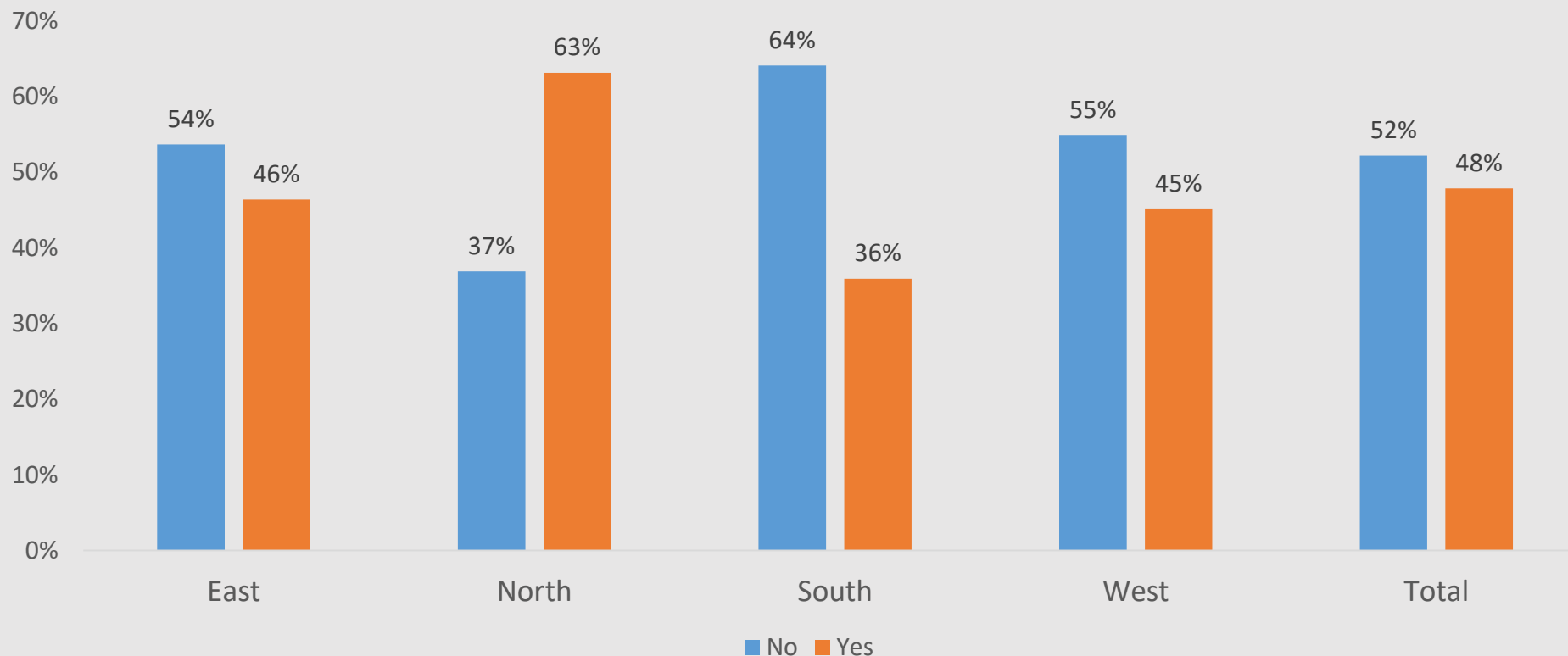
- 40% said they were not able to concentrate on study, do not get enough time to study and did not have a fixed place to study

Access to study resources



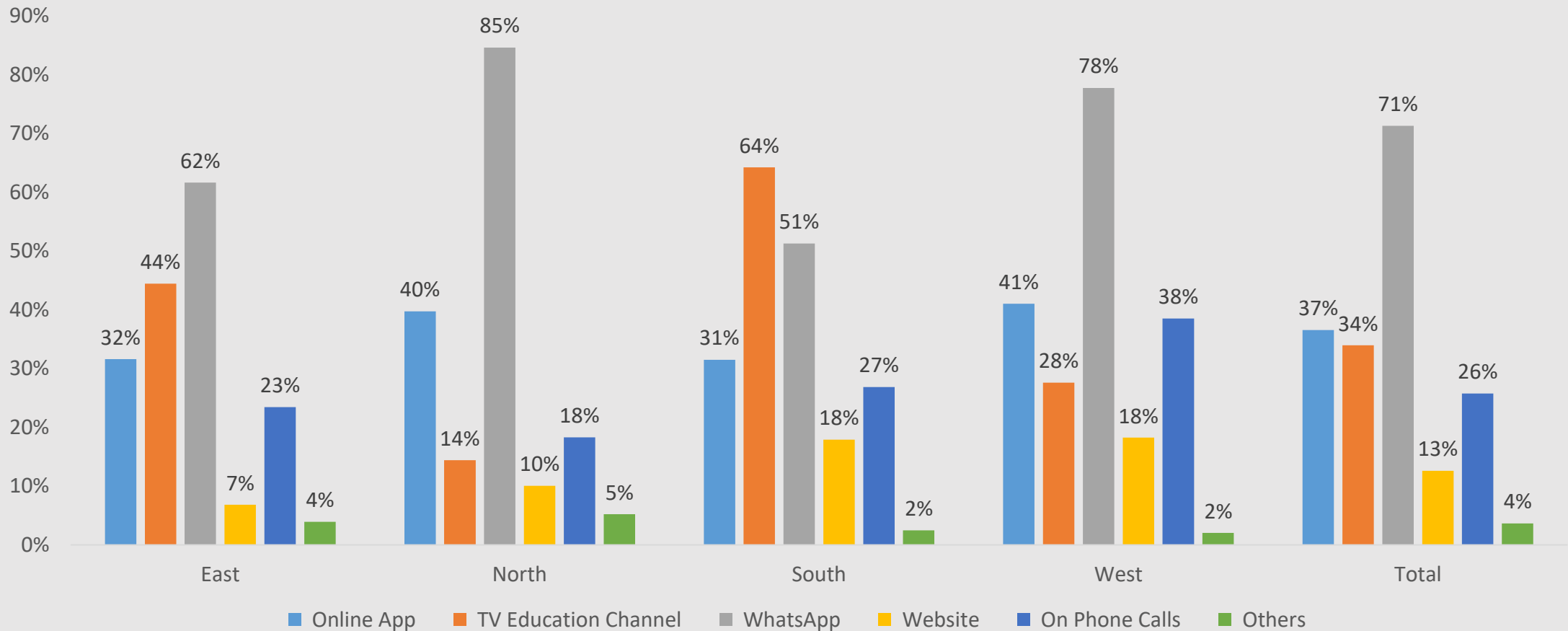
- Most of the adolescents reported having access to books (91%), and mobile phone (55%)
- In all, 17% reported having access to online learning resources

Aware if schools have introduced other form of learning (like online learning/app, through TV education channels, WhatsApp Homework, etc.)?



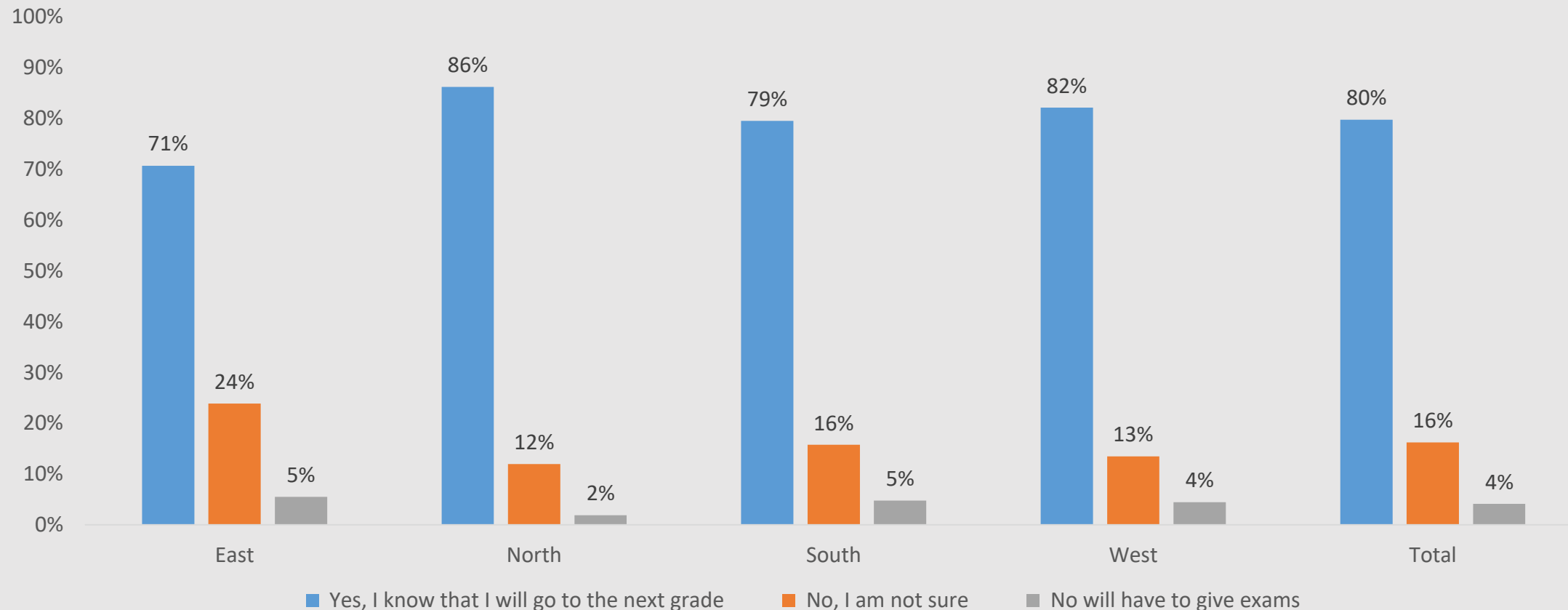
- Almost half of the adolescents (48%) reported knowing schools having introduced some form of online learning (through TV, WhatsApp, etc.)

Awareness on Virtual form of learning



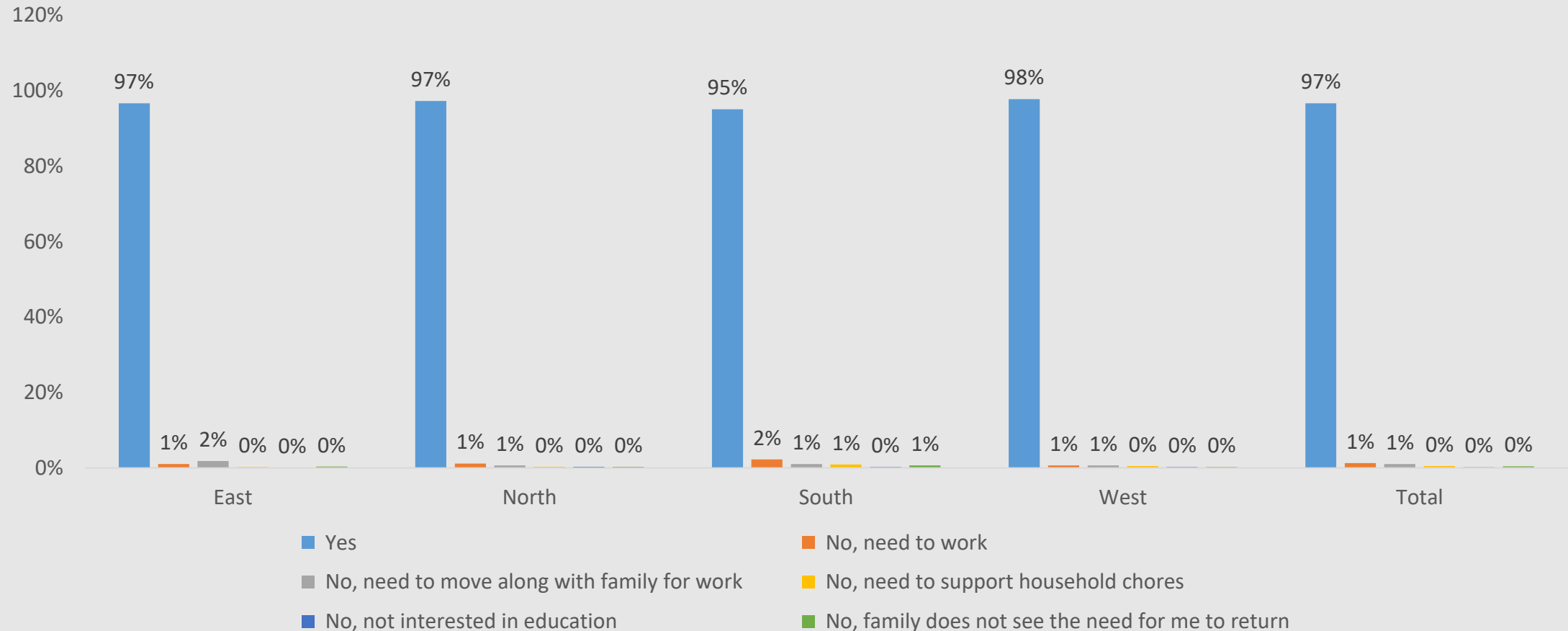
- Adolescents knew about different forms of online learning resources including WhatsApp (71%), Online App (37%), TV Education Channel (34%), through phone calls (26%) and web sites (13%)
- Awareness of use of WhatsApp as a virtual learning form was highest in the North (85%)

Aware whether they will be progressing to the next grade in the new academic year



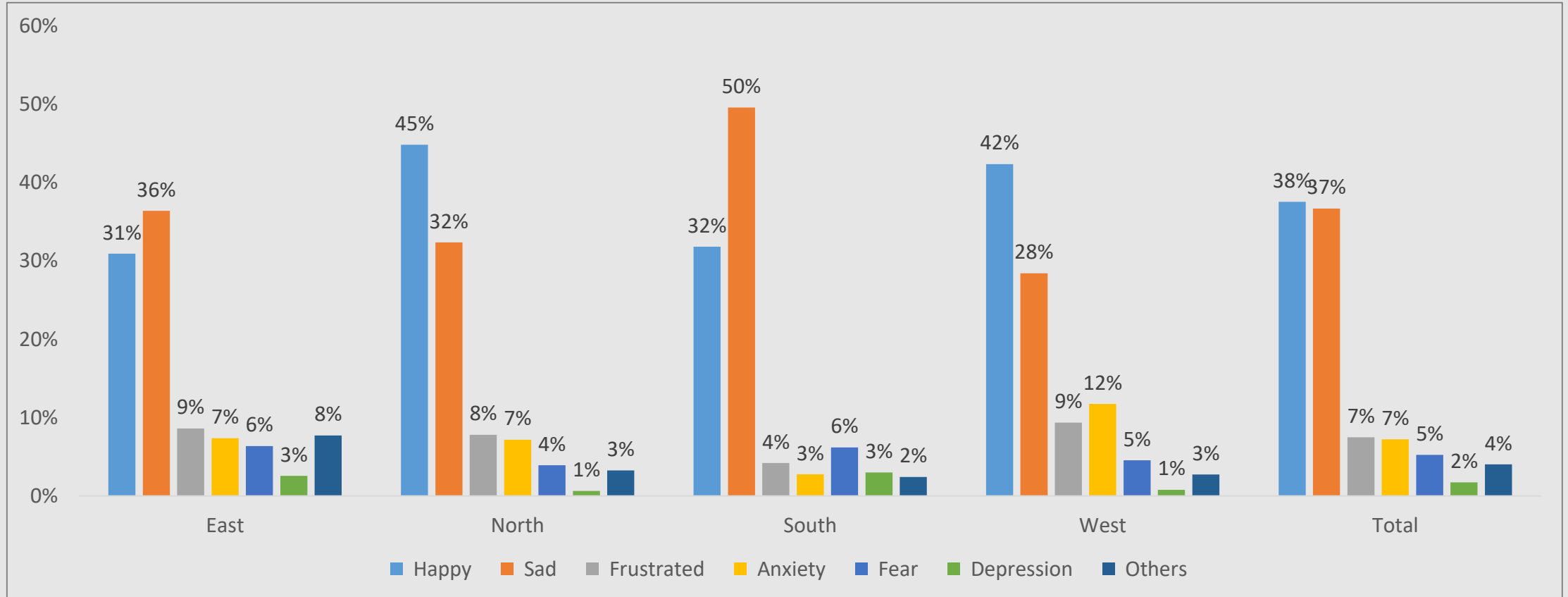
- Majority of the adolescents knew that they would go to the next grade (80%)
- However, the awareness about grade progress was relatively low in the East (71%)

Do you plan to return to school when it re-opens?



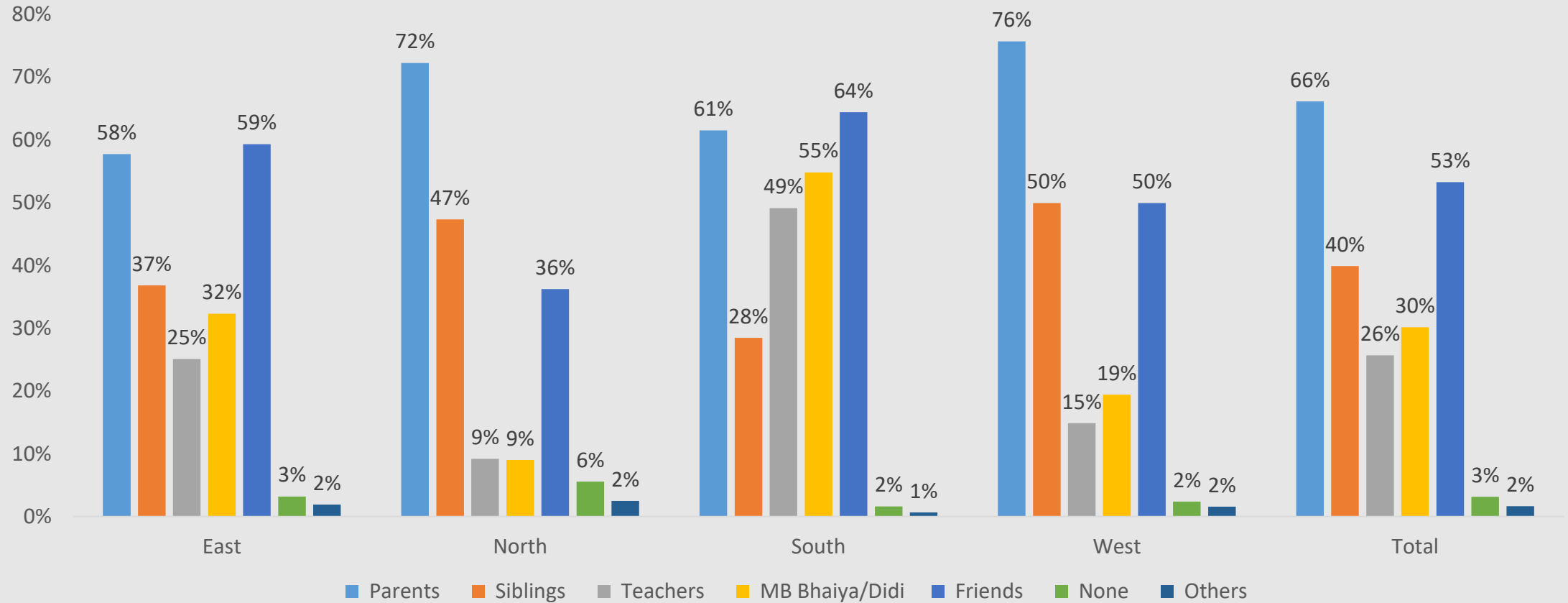
- Almost all of the adolescents (97%) said they had planned to return to school after reopening

How do you feel about staying at home due to this lockdown?



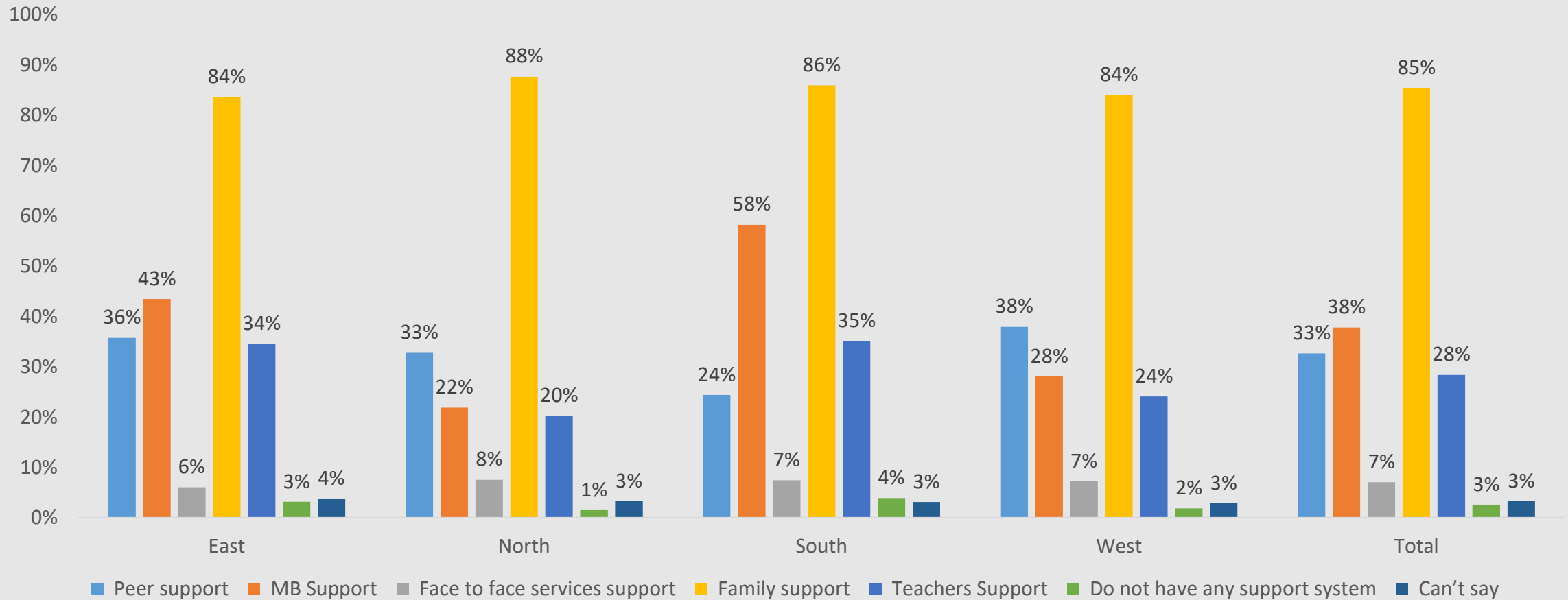
- While about a third of the adolescents were happy to be home (38%), others were sad (37%), frustrated (7%), anxious (7%), fearful (5%) and depressed (2%). In South and North Region, majority of the adolescents were sad.
- The proportion of adolescents who were sad was high in the South (50%)

Person adolescent reaching out to when not happy



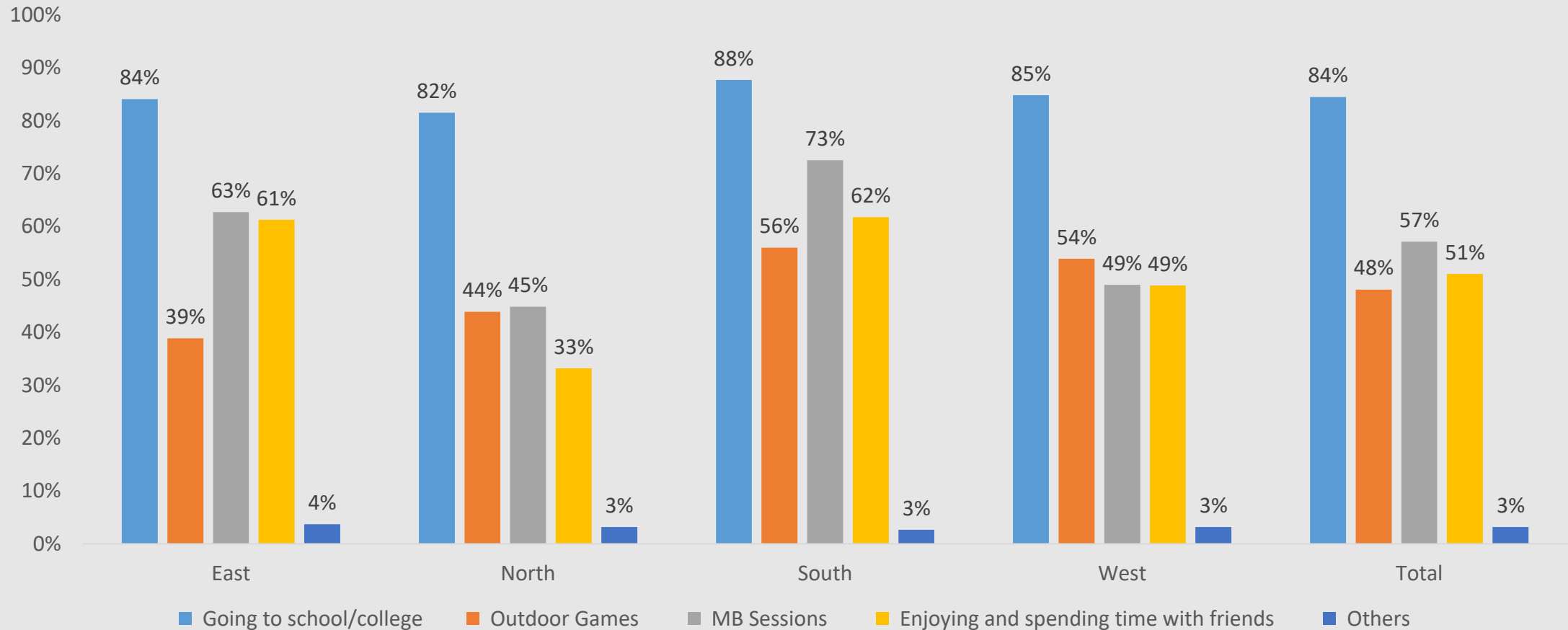
- Most of the adolescents reached out to parents (66%), friends (53%), siblings (40%), MB *Bhaiya/Didi* (30%) and teachers (26%) when they were not happy. In North and South Region, majority of the adolescents reach out to their friends.

Do you feel you still have support systems where you can seek help, if required



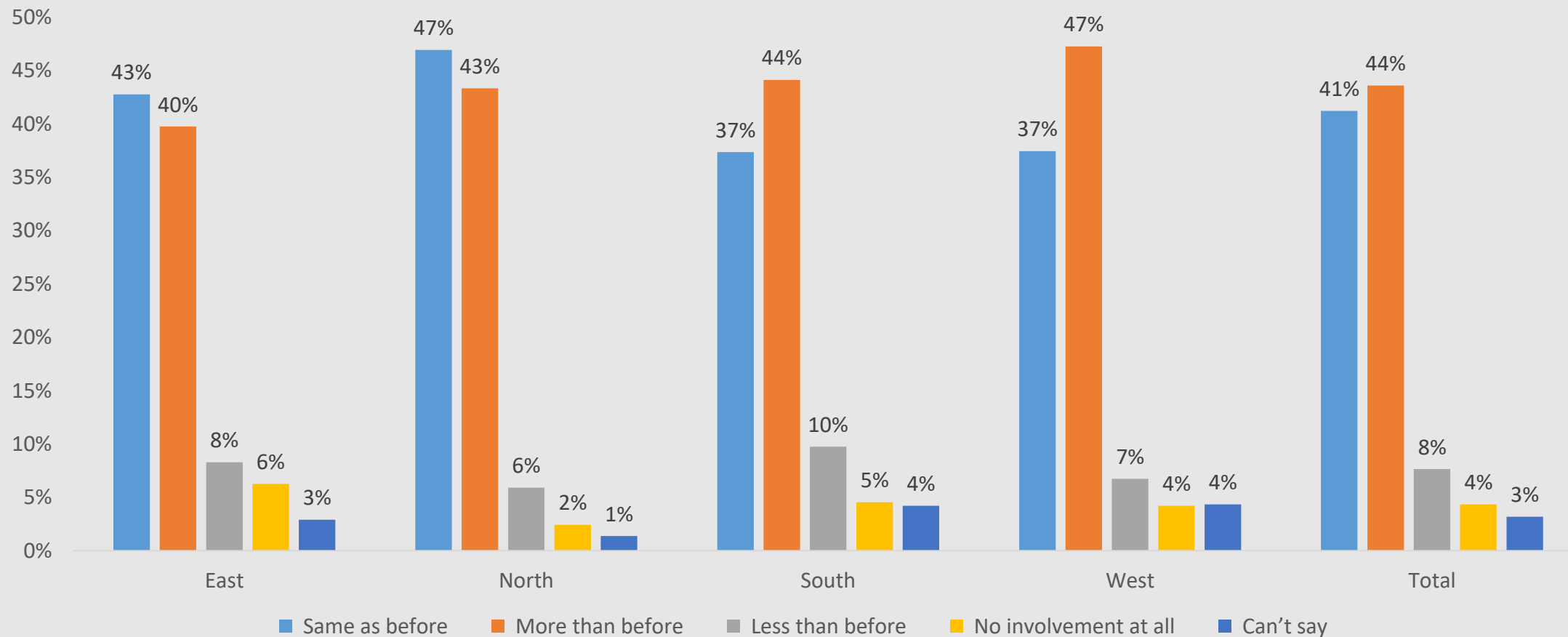
- Adolescents reported having family support (85%), Magic Bus support (38%), peer support (33%), teacher support (28%) to seek help when they needed

Activities missed during lockdown



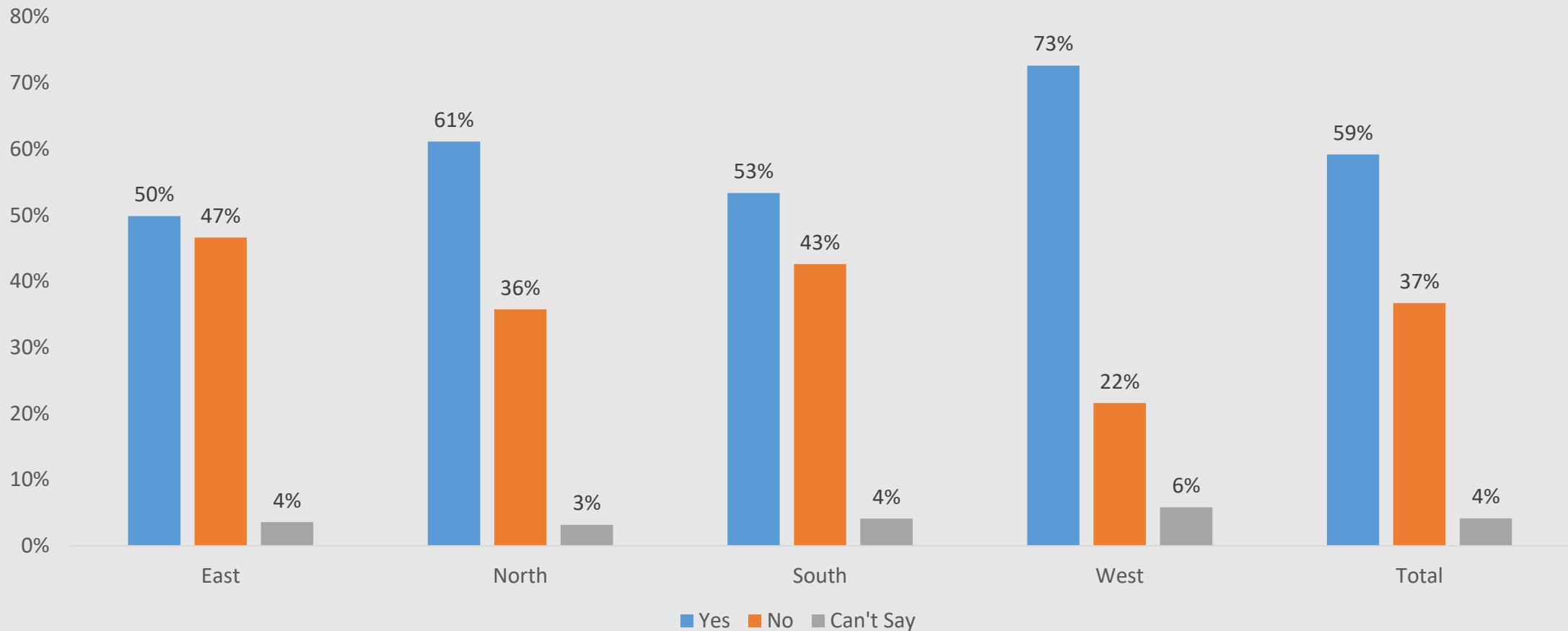
- Adolescents reported missed going to school (84%), MB sessions (57%), being with friends (51%), and playing outdoor games (48%)

Involvement in Household chores during lockdown



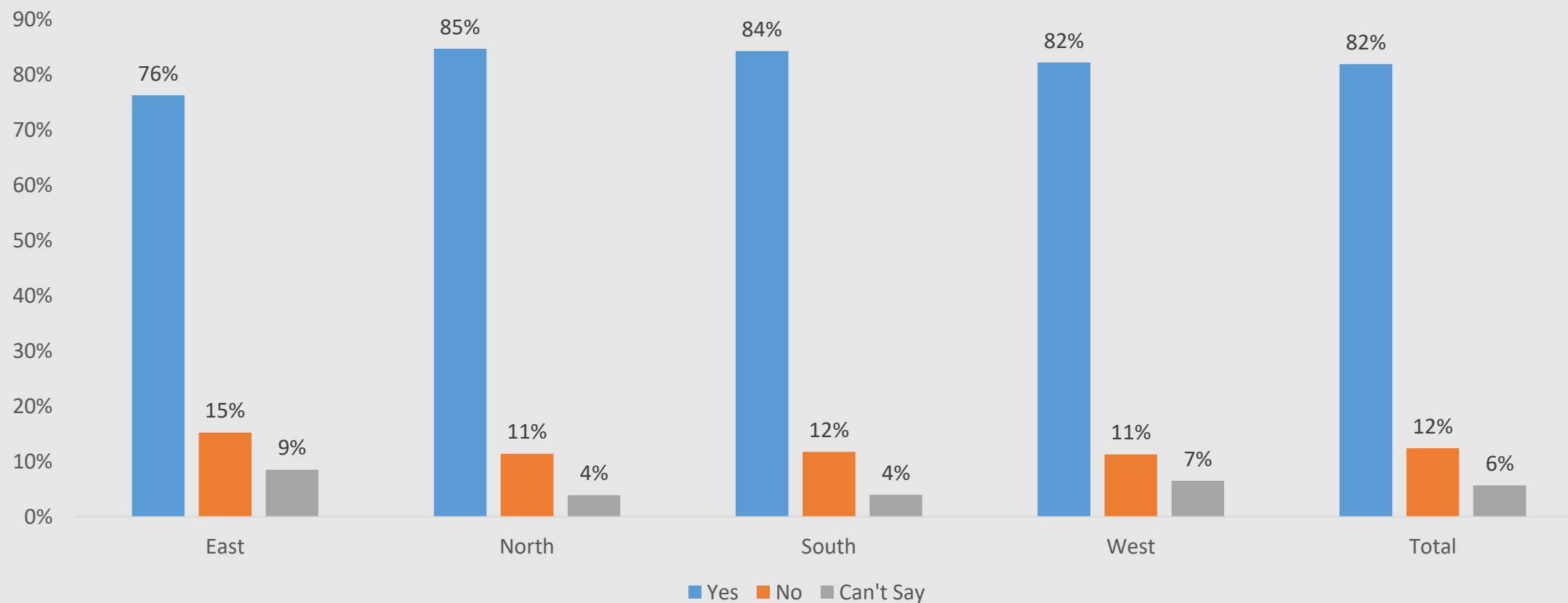
- About half of the adolescents (44%) said that they were involved more in household chores during the lockdown

Are you able to eat food like you used to eat before the lockdown started?



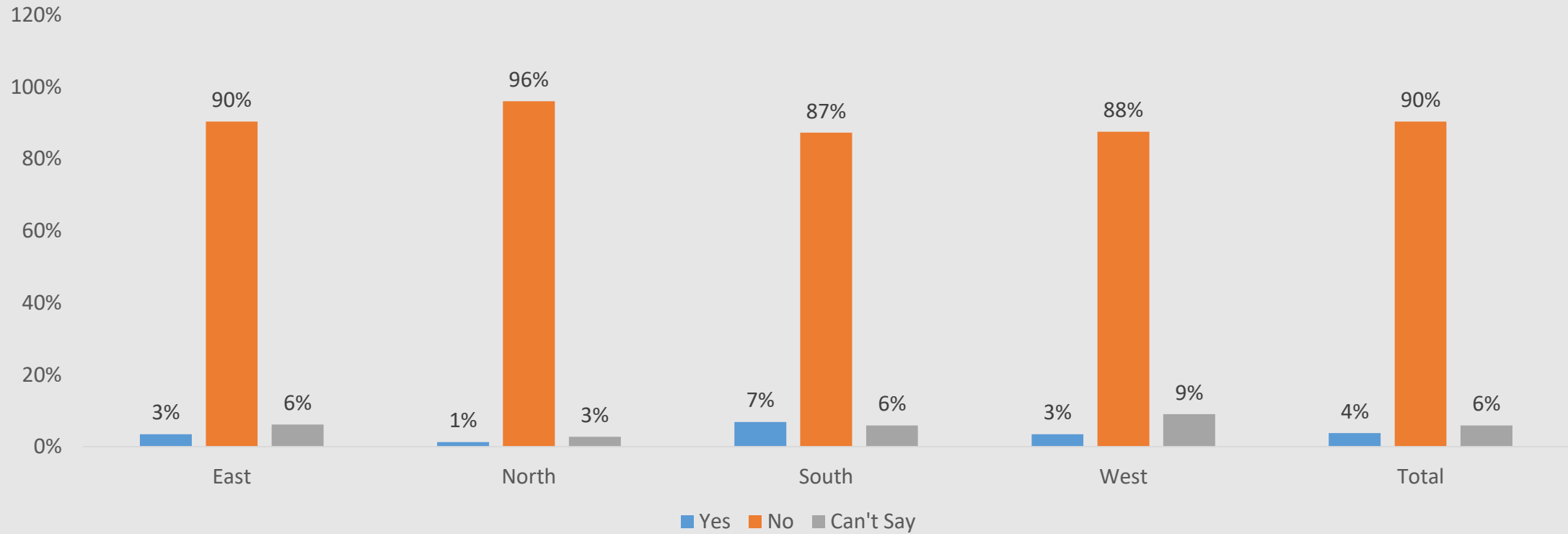
- More than a third (37%) of the adolescents reported not being able to eat food like before lockdown (lowest in the West – 22%)

Do men and women, boys and girls, have equal access to the available food at home?



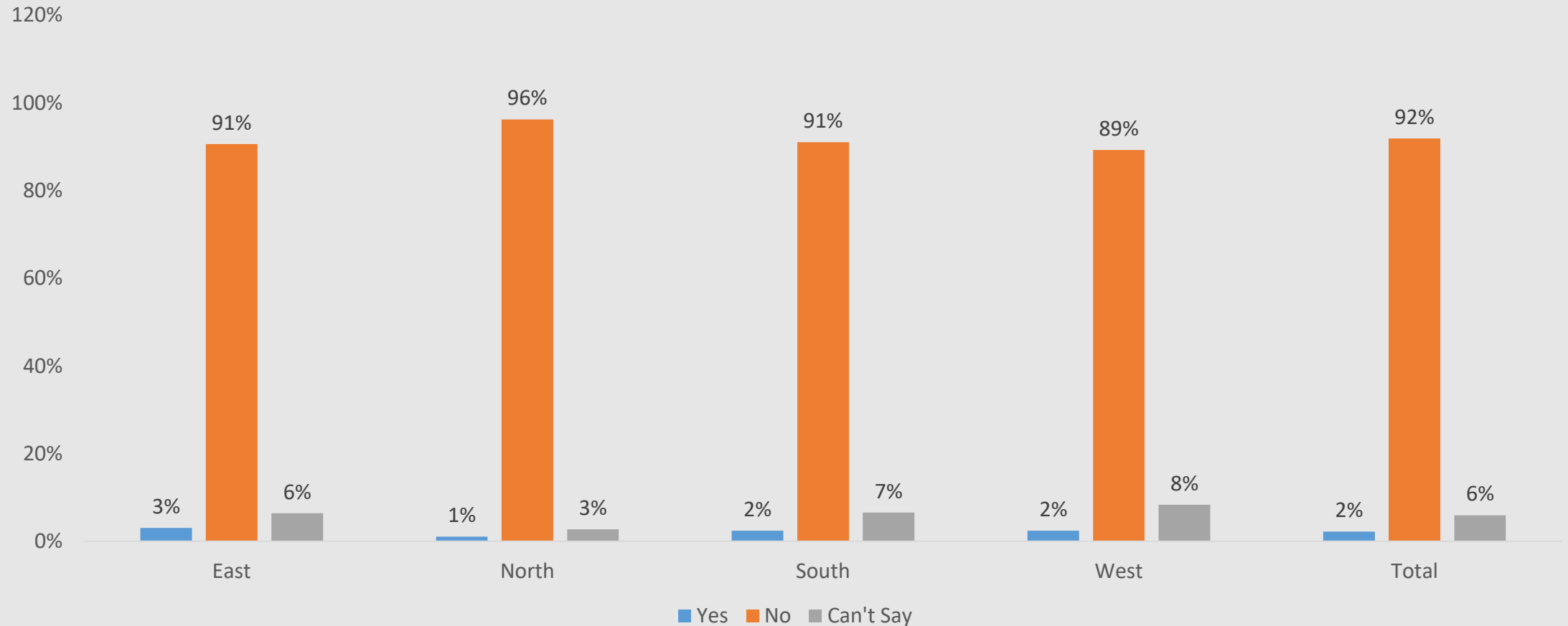
- 12% of the adolescent indicated that they did not have equal access to food

People in my family hit me so hard that it left me with bruises or marks



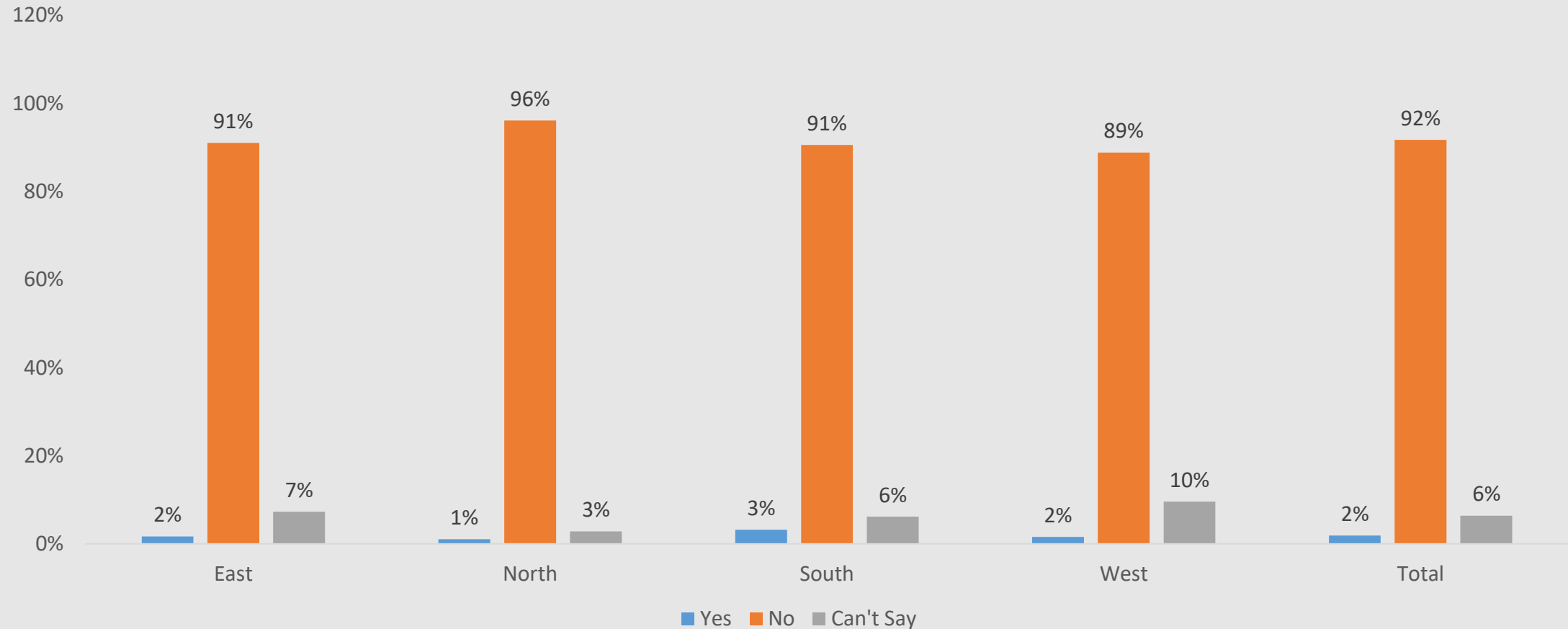
- 4% of the adolescents reported that someone in their family hit them hard. It was highest in South Region (7%).

I felt that someone in my family hated me



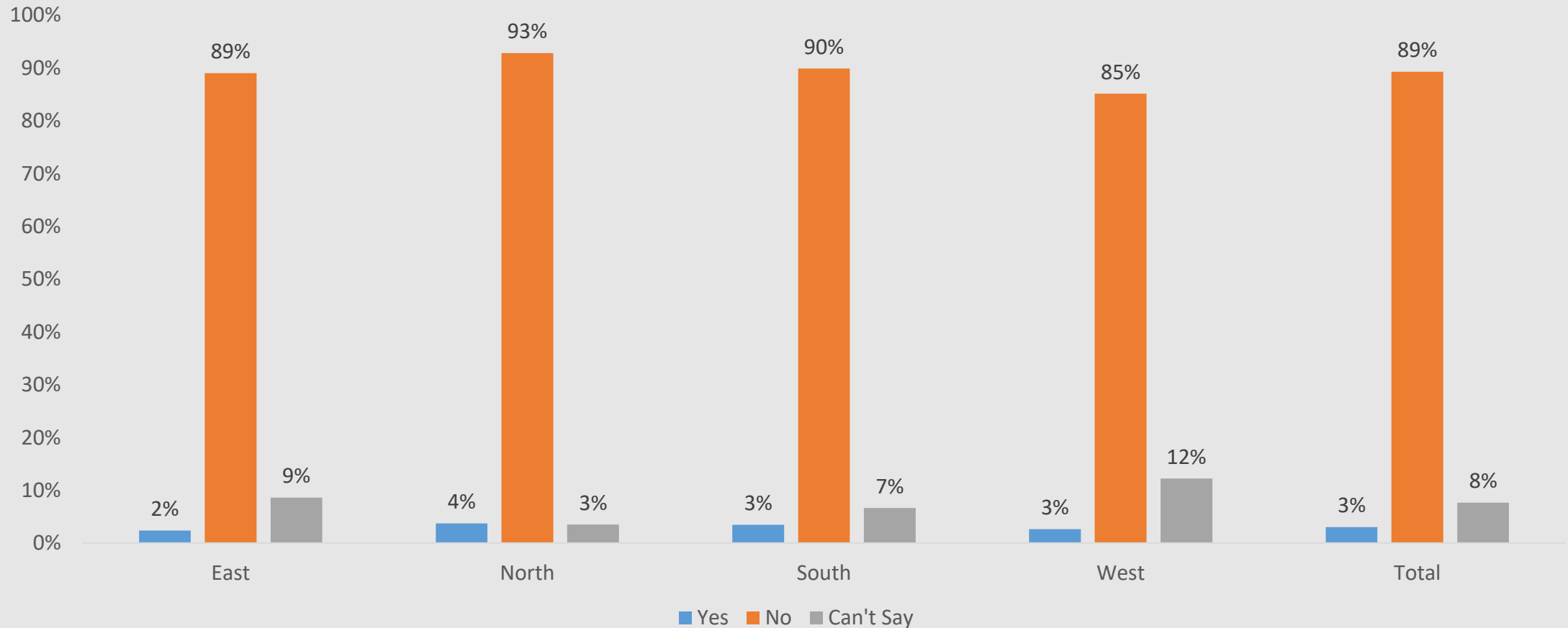
- Only 2% of the adolescents reported someone in their family hating him or her.

Someone tried to touch me in an inappropriate way or tried to make me touch them



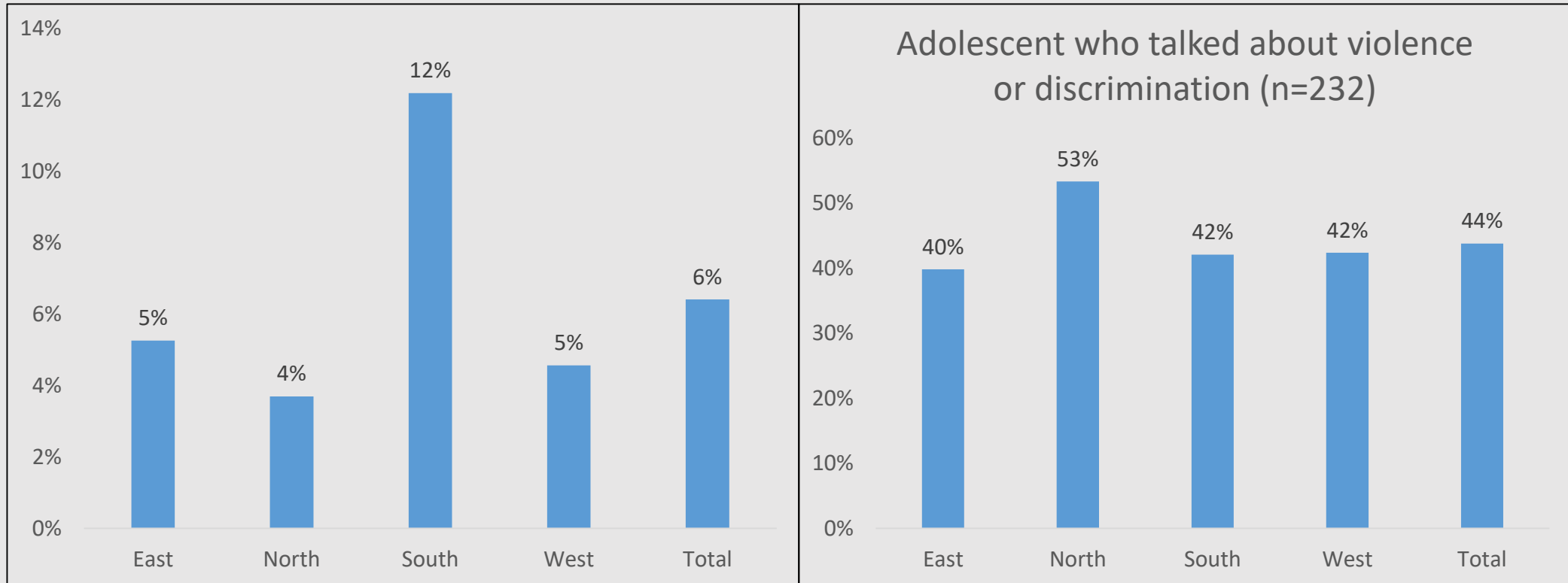
- Only 2% of the adolescents reported someone touching them in inappropriate way. However, 6% more children indicated they could not answer this question.

Someone always keeps watching me in a way which makes me uncomfortable



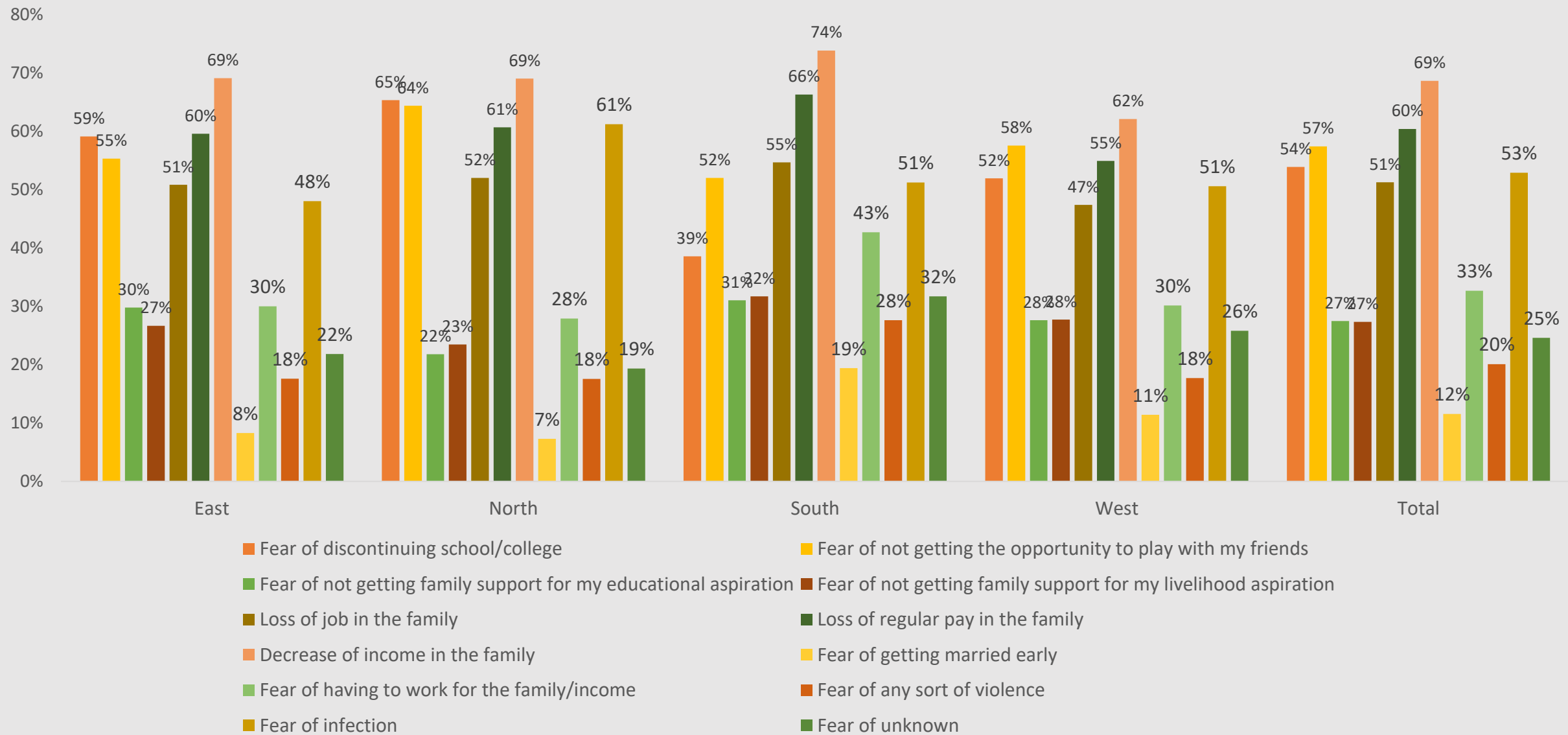
- 3% of the adolescents reported someone watching them in a way which made them uncomfortable

Witnessed violence or discrimination at home

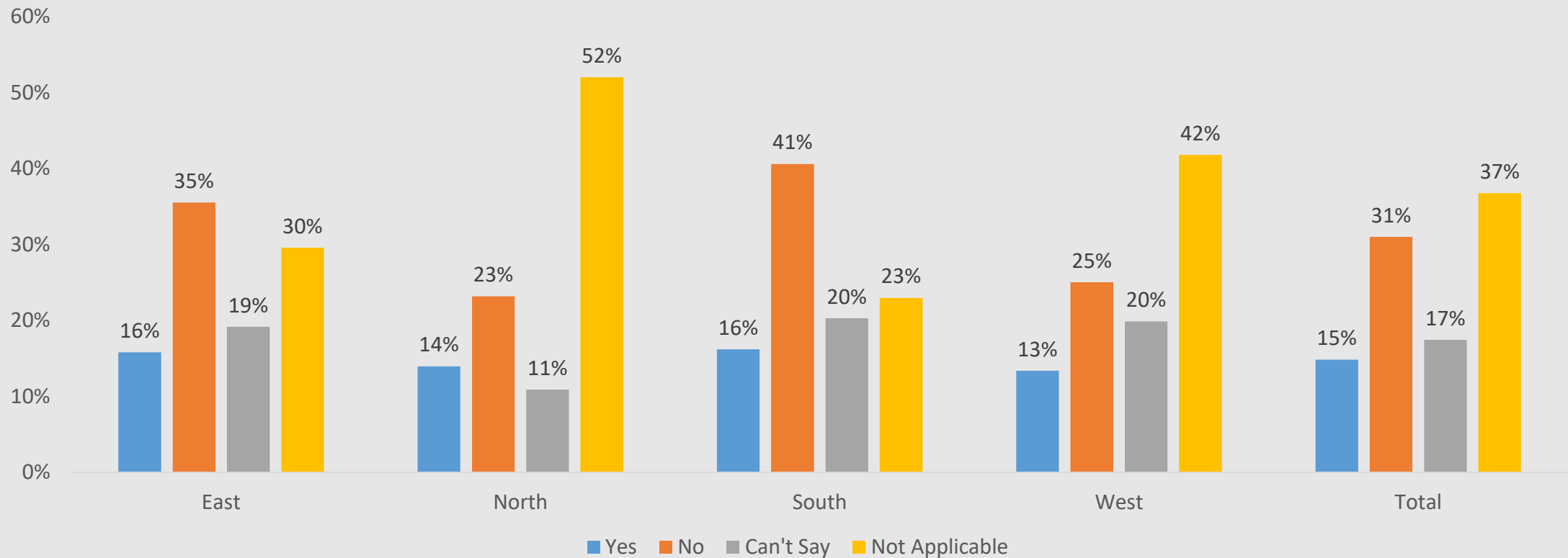


- Overall, 6% of the adolescents indicated that they witnessed violence or discrimination at home (highest in the South – 12%)
- Among those who witnessed violence or discrimination, about half of them (44%) talked about what they witnessed

Concerns due to Uncertainty because of Covid-19 and lockdown

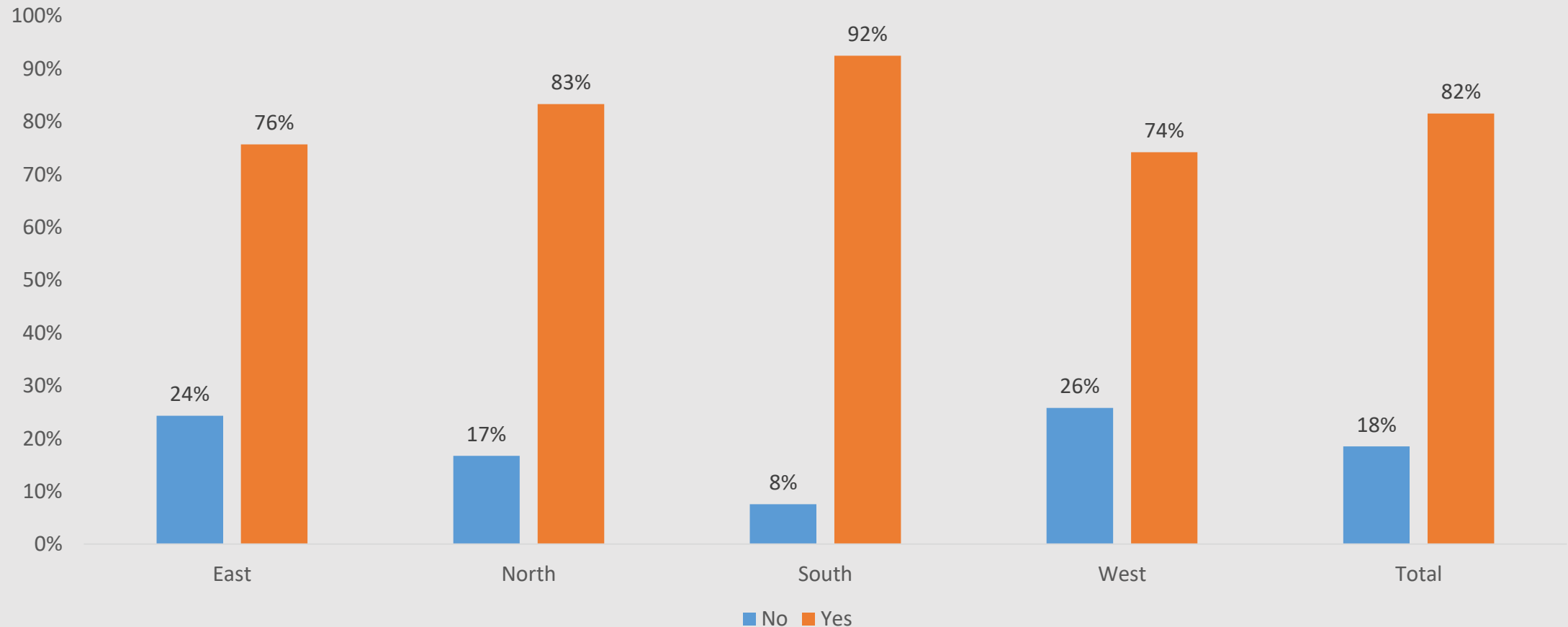


Did girls/women face difficulties in managing their menstrual health during lockdown (procuring and disposing of sanitary pads, etc.)



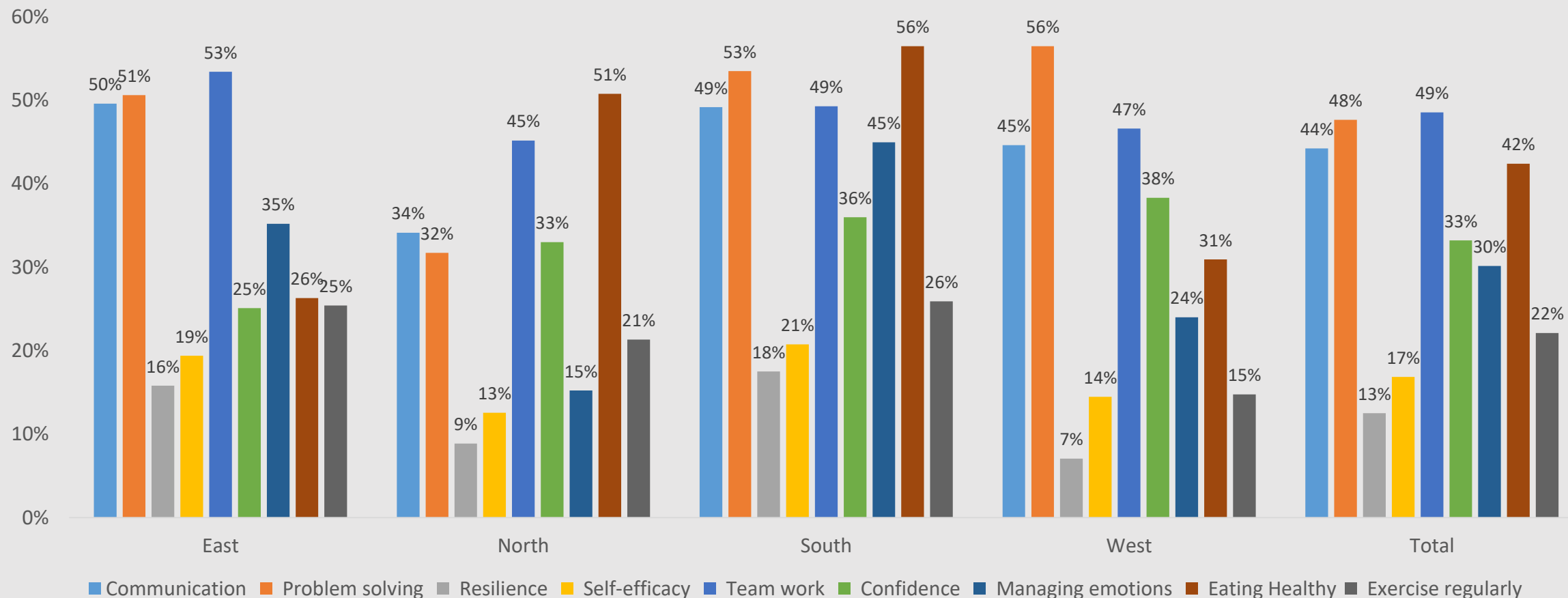
- About 15% adolescents reported girls/women were facing difficulties in managing their menstrual health due to lockdown (accessing and disposing sanitary pads, etc.)

Do you feel your learnings from MB life skill sessions has helped you in any way to deal the current situation?



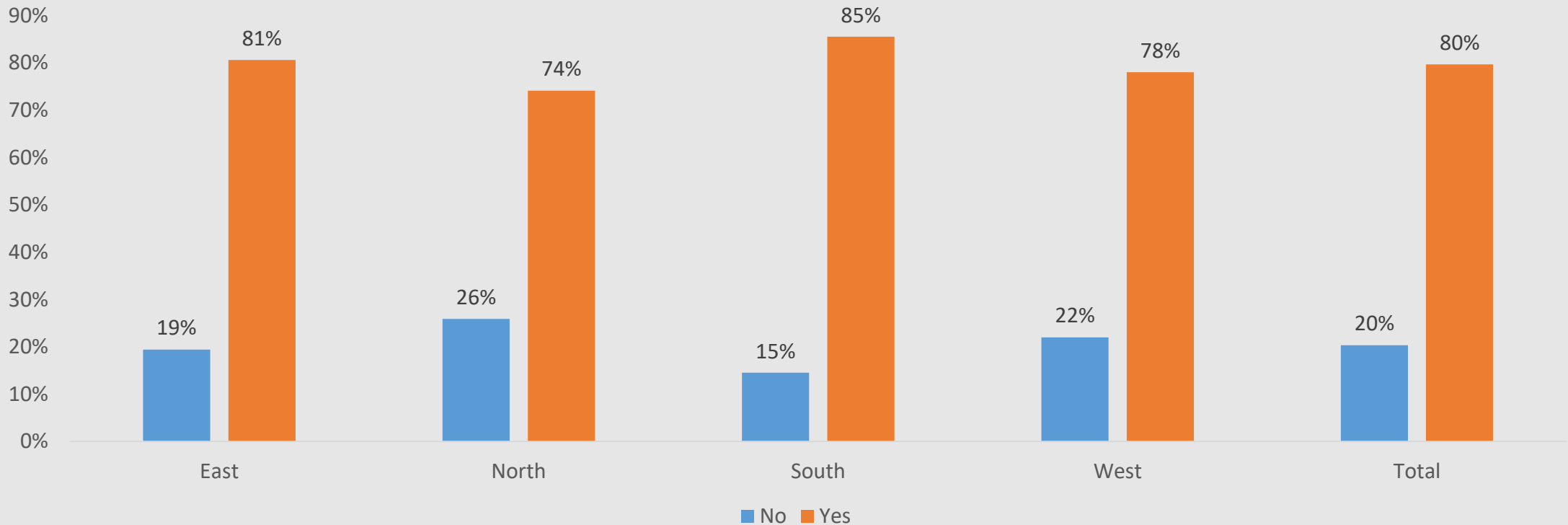
- Majority of the adolescents (82%) reported learnings from MB life skill sessions had helped them to deal with the current situation

If yes, please indicate what has helped you ?



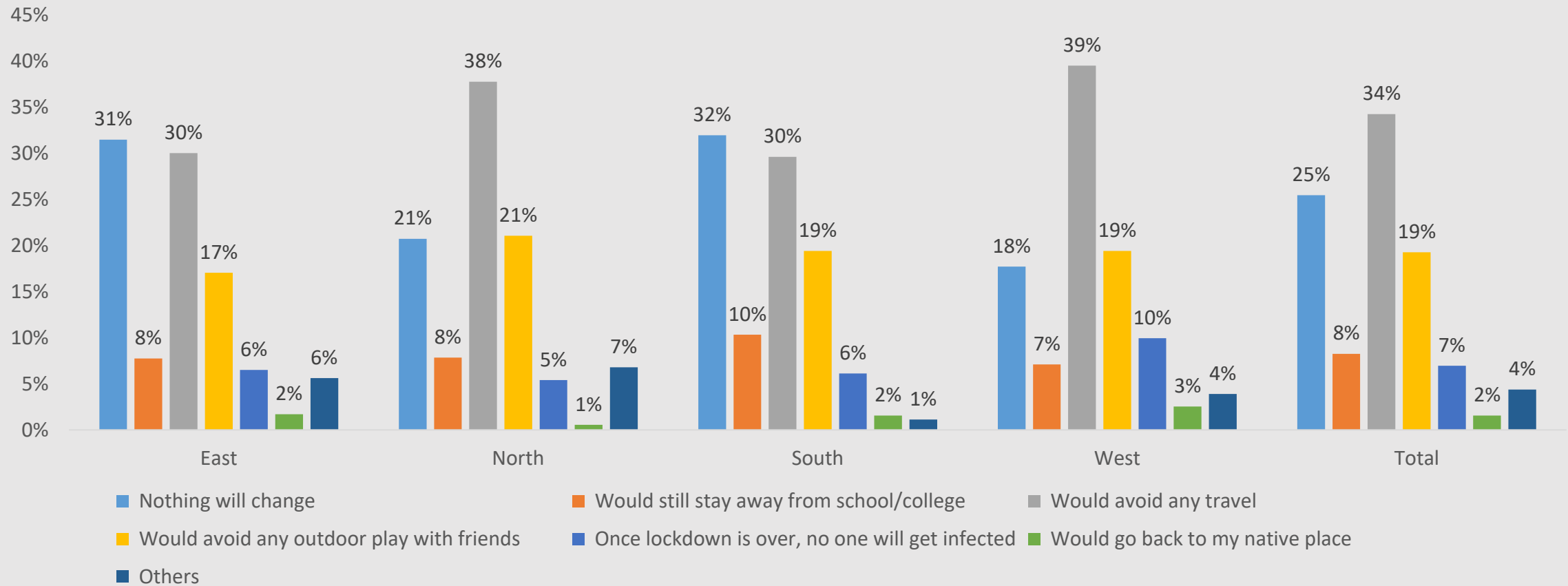
- Life skills reported to have helped them were team work (49%), problem solving (48%), communication (44%), eating healthy (42%) and confidence (33%)

Child could share example of how Magic Bus sessions helped



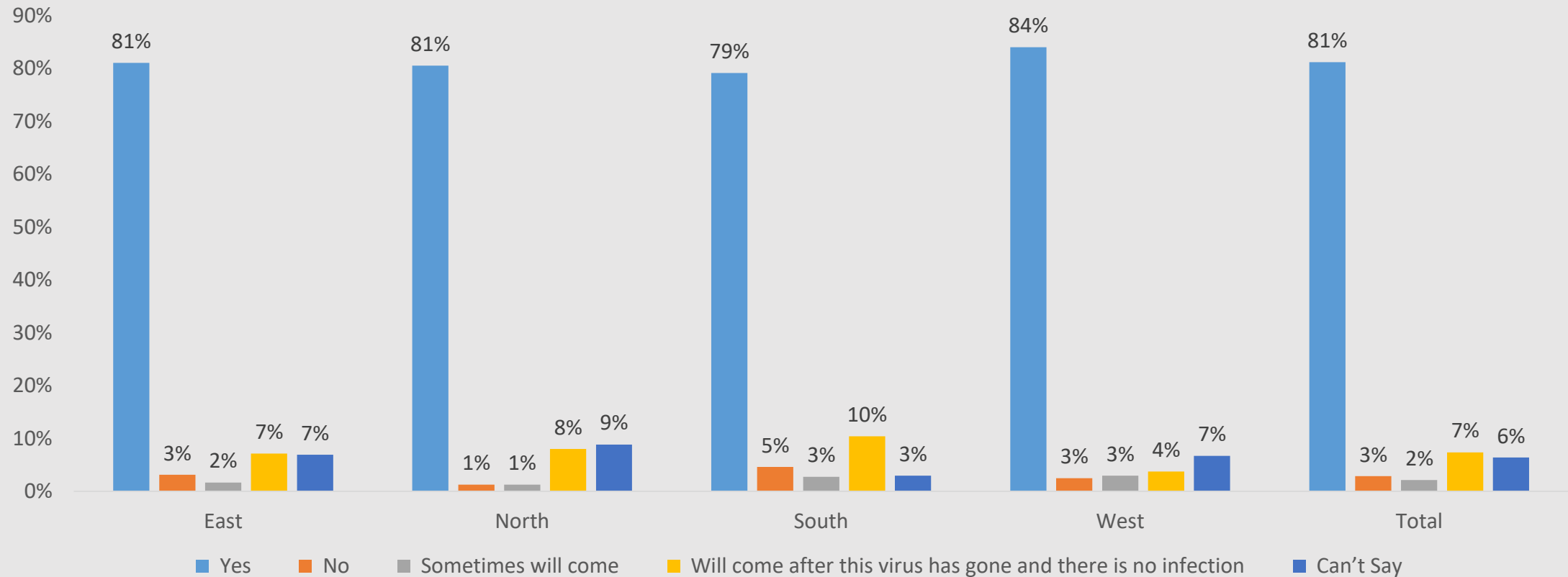
- 80% of the adolescents gave an example of how life skills had helped them during the lockdown

Post this lockdown, what would you do to protect yourself from getting infected



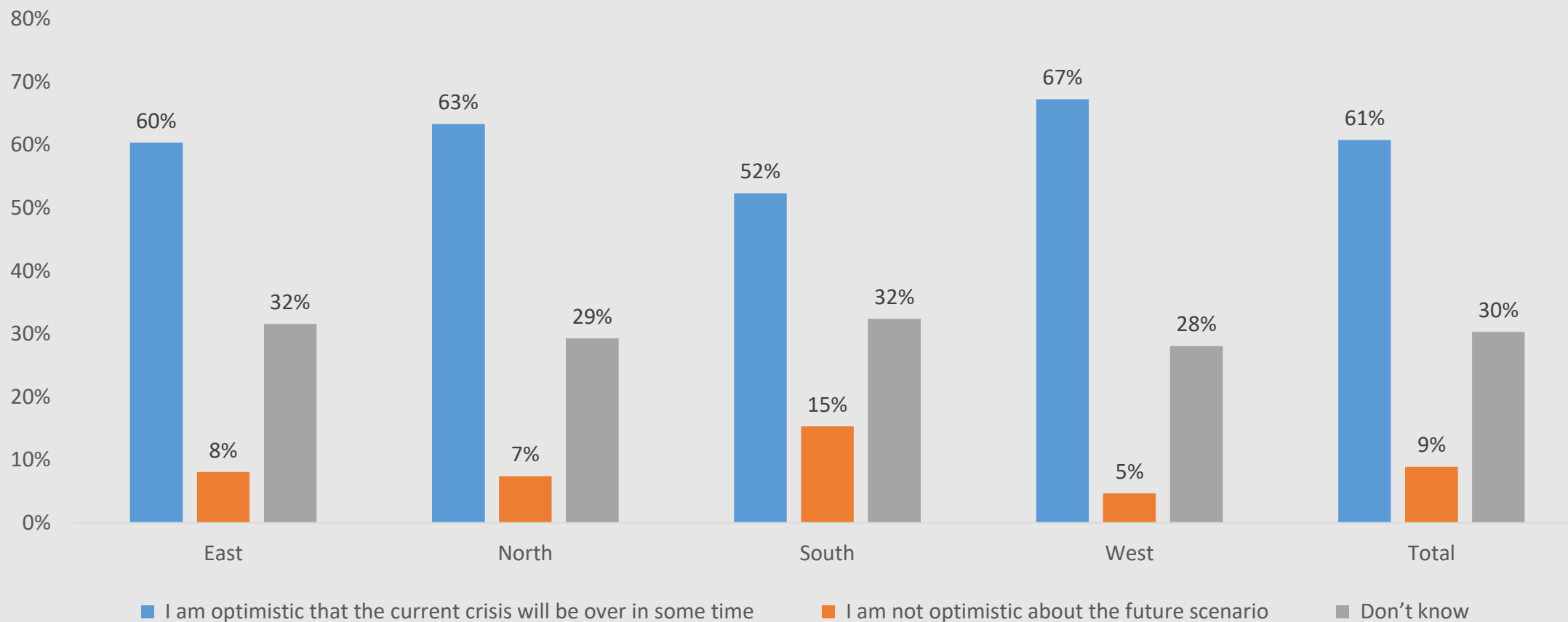
- Adolescents reported that they would avoid travel (34%) and playing outdoor (19%) to avoid getting infection after lockdown is over

Post lockdown, would you continue to come in the MB life skills sessions



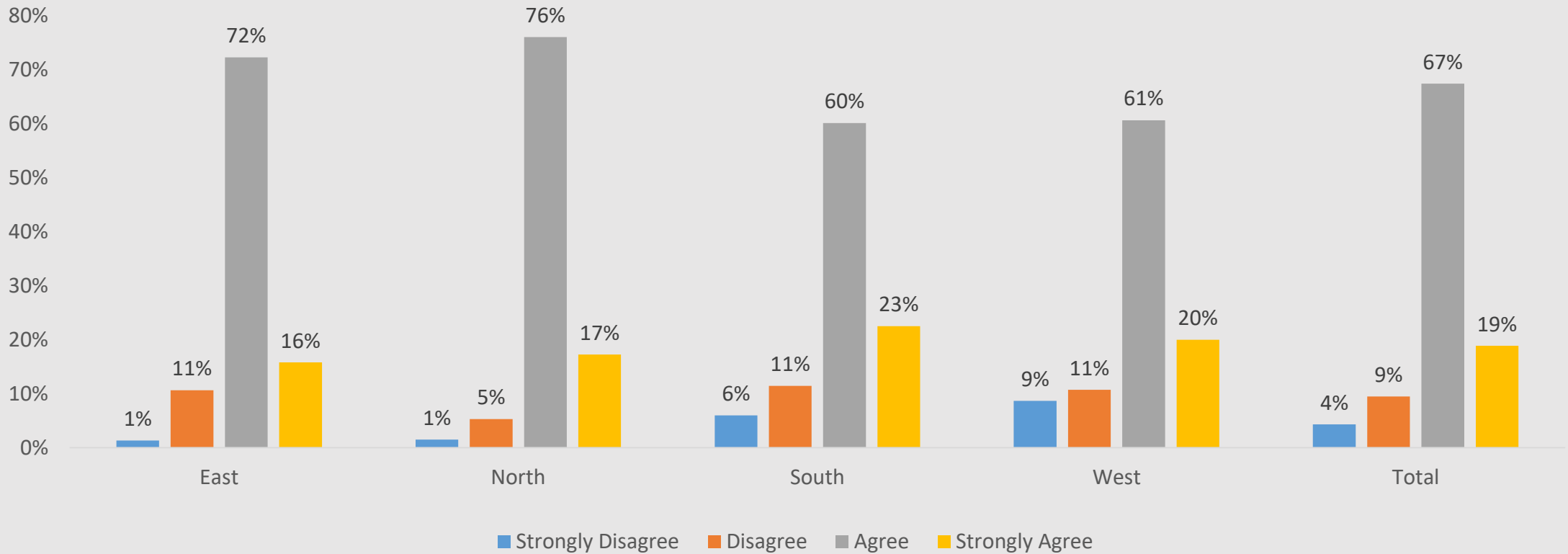
- Most of the adolescents (81%) reported that they would participate in MB life skills sessions after lockdown is over

What do you feel about the current covid-19 pandemic situation in the country/your location



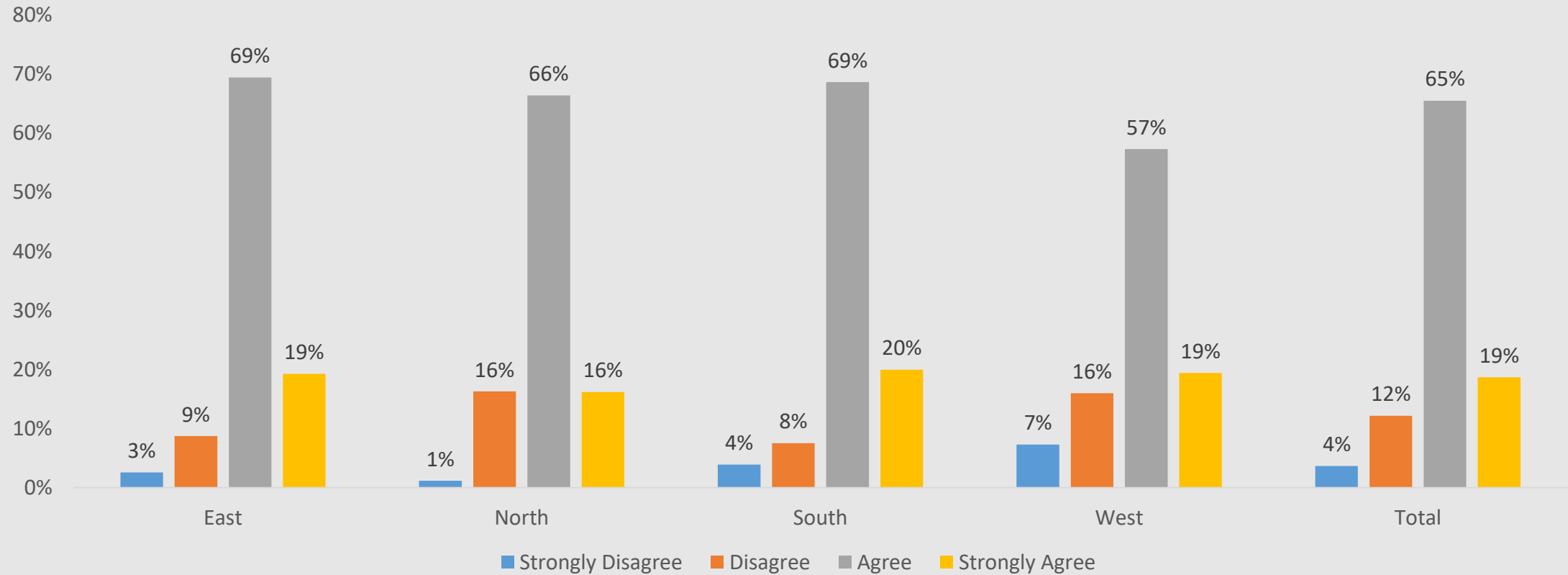
- A high proportion of adolescents (61%) were optimistic that the current crisis would be over soon

I am confident that I could deal efficiently with an unexpected event like Coronavirus spread



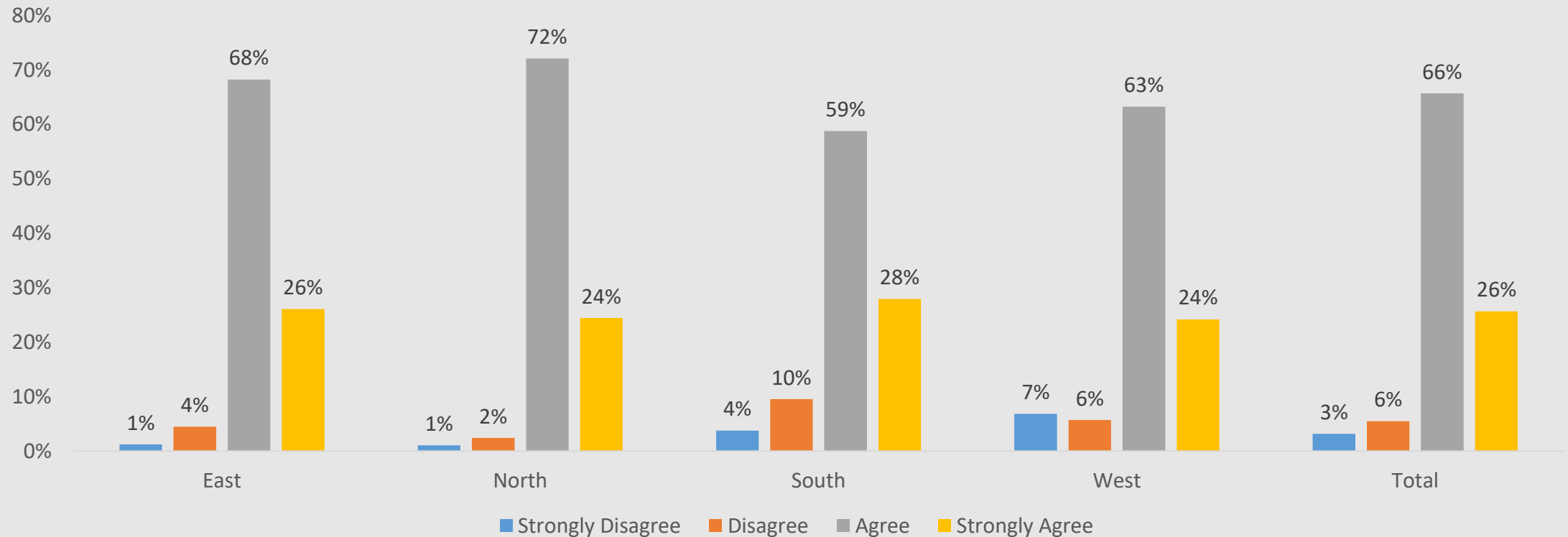
- Most of the adolescents (86%) reported that they were confident of dealing with unexpected events like this pandemic

I feel that I can overcome the distress caused by Corona lock down



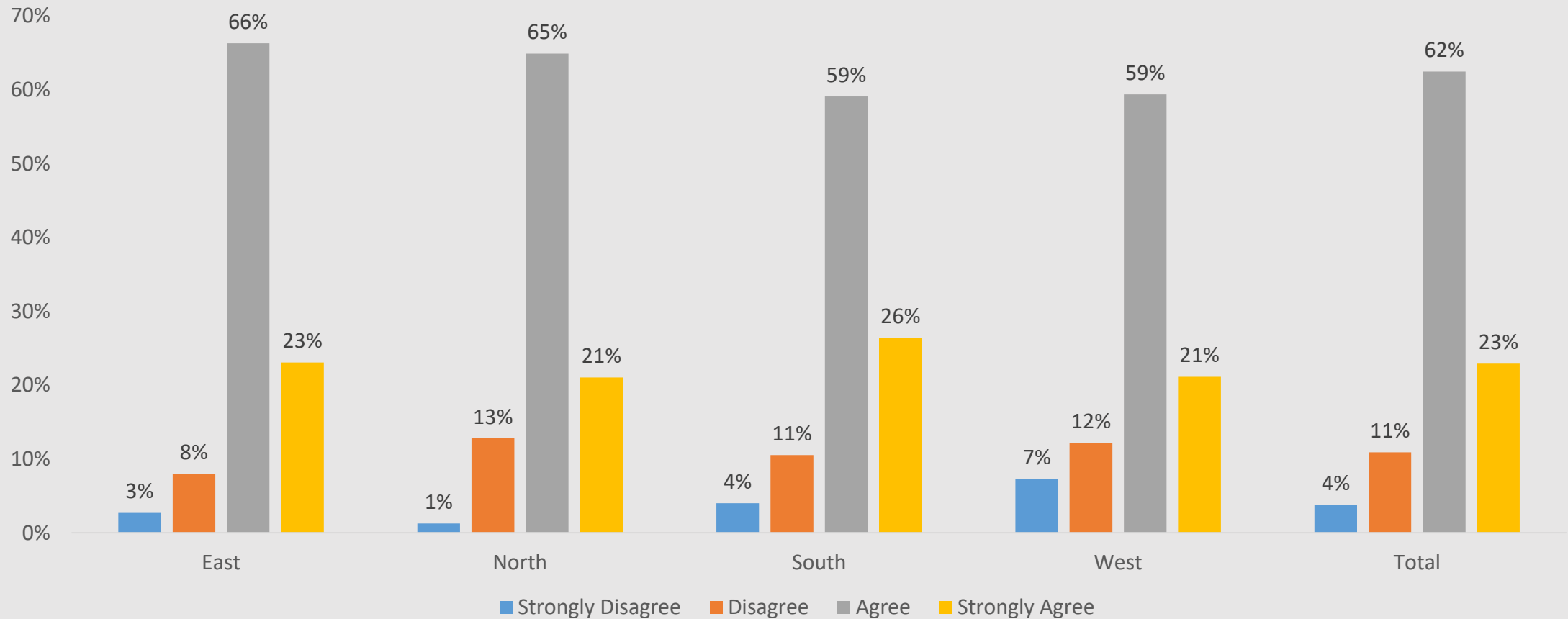
- Most of the adolescents (84%) felt that they could overcome the distress caused by lockdown

I know how to save myself and my family with proper information



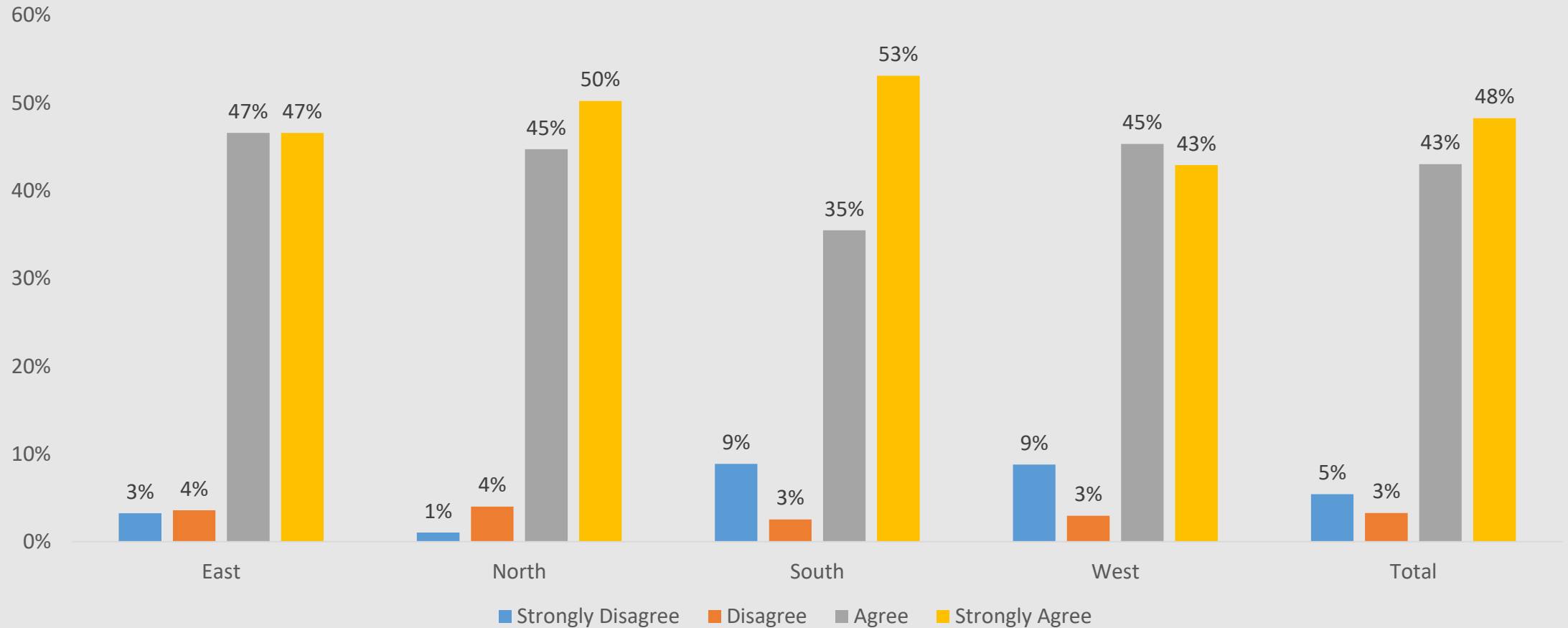
- Most of the adolescents (92%) reported to know how to save themselves and their family based on the proper information

I feel that I have the ability to beat the virus



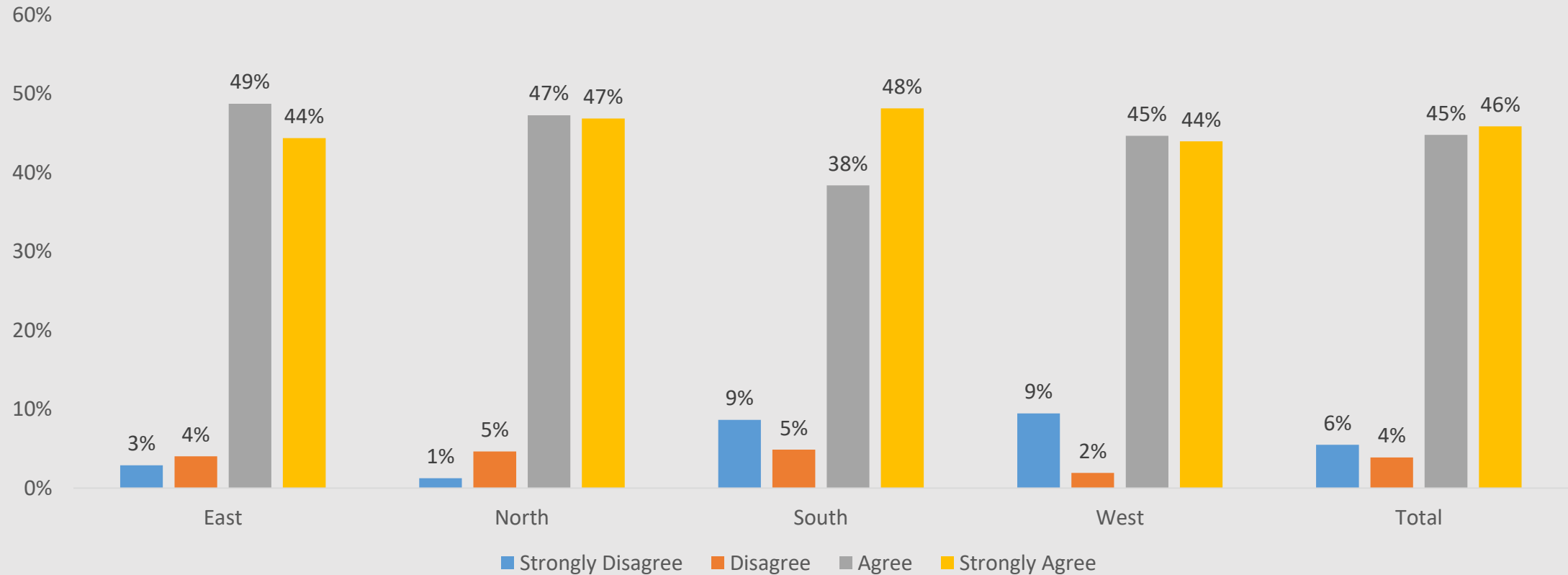
- Majority of the adolescents (85%) felt that they had the ability to beat the virus

I will continue to go to school



- Only about 8% of adolescents were not sure about continuing their school after lockdown was over

My family will allow me to go to school



- Almost all the adolescents (91%) felt that their families would allow them to go to school after lockdown was over

Key Learnings

- Livelihood restoration now becomes the starting point as we need to address household poverty first to enhance the ability of the family to invest in nutrition, education and health
- As household incomes get affected a holistic response is required especially at the level of the child and the family, which needs to be seen through a gender lens
- School has always been a space for learning and is critical for a child's mental and social wellbeing. There is a need to find alternative ways to reach out to children, invest in socio-emotional learning and develop key life skills to help them adapt to the current times
- In order to decrease the learning gap we need to continue to invest in children's interest in learning, create alternate spaces and opportunities for creative learning engagement as uncertainty around the reopening of schools persists.

Childhood to Livelihood



**Secure
Livelihood**

Addressing income insecurity

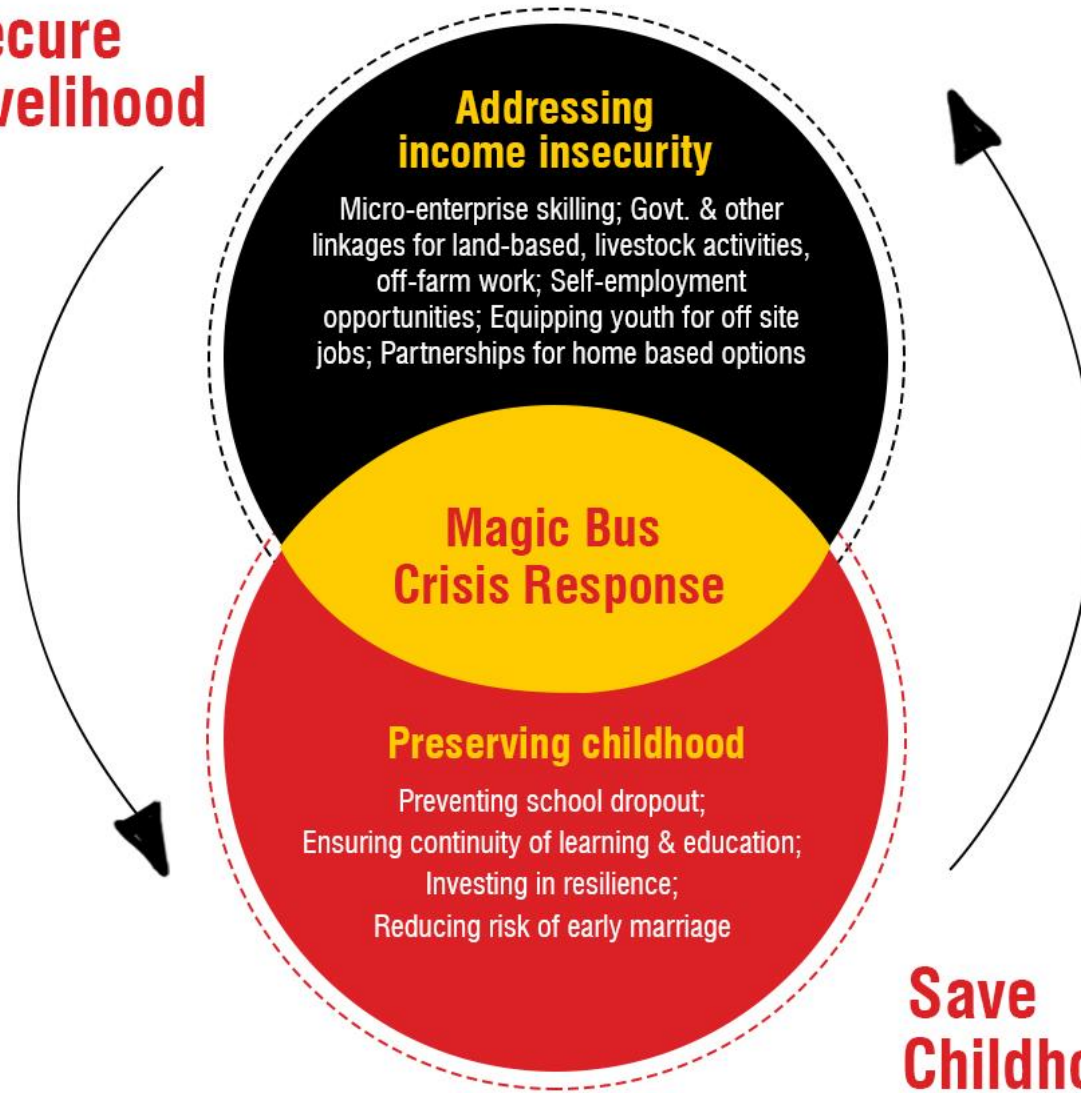
Micro-enterprise skilling; Govt. & other linkages for land-based, livestock activities, off-farm work; Self-employment opportunities; Equipping youth for off site jobs; Partnerships for home based options

Magic Bus Crisis Response

Preserving childhood

Preventing school dropout;
Ensuring continuity of learning & education;
Investing in resilience;
Reducing risk of early marriage

**Save
Childhood**





Thank You