



New Libya Foundation
Investing in People

Building Libyan Civil Society

Democratic Transitions and Development in the Arab World

Rihab Elhaj, New Libya Foundation



What we'll discuss today.....

- Libyan History
- Birth of Libyan Civil Society
- NLF Research on Libyan Civil Society
- Possible Implications and Conclusions

A Brief History

- **8000 BC, Berber Migration from South West Asia.** Referred to selves as “Imazaghen” or “Free Men”
- **106 BC, Berber/Roman Rule.** Legions of Julius Ceasar establish occupation and unity of all three regions, Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and Fezzan.
- **647-1550 AD, Early Islamic Rule.** Army of 40,000 Arabs take Libya from Byzantine and Berbers.
- **1050-1052, Hilalian Invasion.** Bedouins and Pastoralists leave Nile for Fertile soils in Libya.
- **1551-1911, Ottoman Rule.** “Barbary Coast”. Known for pervasiveness of pirates and de-centralized rule.

مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



A Brief History

- **1911-1943, Italian Rule.** The political birth of “Libya” and migration of 110,000 Italians, or 15% of Libya’s population. Great time of development.
- **1951- 1969, Kingdom of Libya.** King Senussi of Sufi order. Libya creates constitution and becomes federalist nation with three states.
- **1969-2011, Gaddafi Rule.** Libya was run as a socialist, often resembling a communist, autocratic regime.
- **2011-Present, Transition to Democratic Rule.** Popular revolution ousts Gaddafi. Transitional government prepares for democratic elections beginning June 23rd, 2012

مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



The Birth of Libya's Civil Society

Communities gather to address needs after onset of revolution:

February 15th, Protests in Libya's 2nd largest city Benghazi begin.

First protestors killed February 17th.



The Birth of Libya's Civil Society

- Groups organize more protests online and in underground communities.
- Communicating with international media
- Organized and distributed food supplies
- Organized and distributed medical supplies and services including make-shift hospitals.
- Initiatives are repeated around the nation as 34 other cities are liberated before the collapse of Tripoli.



The Birth of Libya's Civil Society

- Mobilized aid after U.N. sanctions on Libya incapacitated international aid organizations.
- Delivering Medical and food aid to cities left without basic rations.
- Created medical treatment systems that included ambulances and routes to nearest hospitals
- Sponsored medical treatment for critical cases in neighboring Tunisia, Egypt and Malta
- Sponsored refugees in neighboring Tunisia
- Sponsored students abroad, whose scholarships were cut off.

مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



The Birth of Libya's Civil Society

- Mobilized international media outlets.
- Created “revolutionary” news stations.
- Managed state institutions (schools, the post office, police stations)
- Recruited and trained rebel army
- Diaspora lobbied governments for NATO intervention in Libya.



Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



Helping Wherever The Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان

Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان

Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



Helping Wherever They Can



Helping Wherever They Can



مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان

New Libya Foundation Objectives



Research & Development Mission

December, 2011

- 4 Team members:

- Jean-Louis Romanet Perroux, PhD Candidate, The Fletcher School
- Rihab Elhaj, New Libya Foundation
- Nathalie Bekdache, M.A. in International Affairs, The Fletcher School
- Nadine Bekdache, M.A. Urban Studies, Kings College
- Co-Sponsored by **Tufts University**

- Interviews:

- 52 60-90 minute long interviews

- Themes:

- Role of Women in Democracy
- Role of Religion
- Assessment of Social Capital
- Value of Education
- Orientation to Spending and Wealth



Research & Development Mission

- Research has undergone IRB review at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts University) and granted exempt status.
- Designed by and conducted under the supervision of **Jean-Louis Romanet Perroux**, NLF Director of Research.
- Sample is **not large enough to be statistically significant** but is enough to provide broad indications.

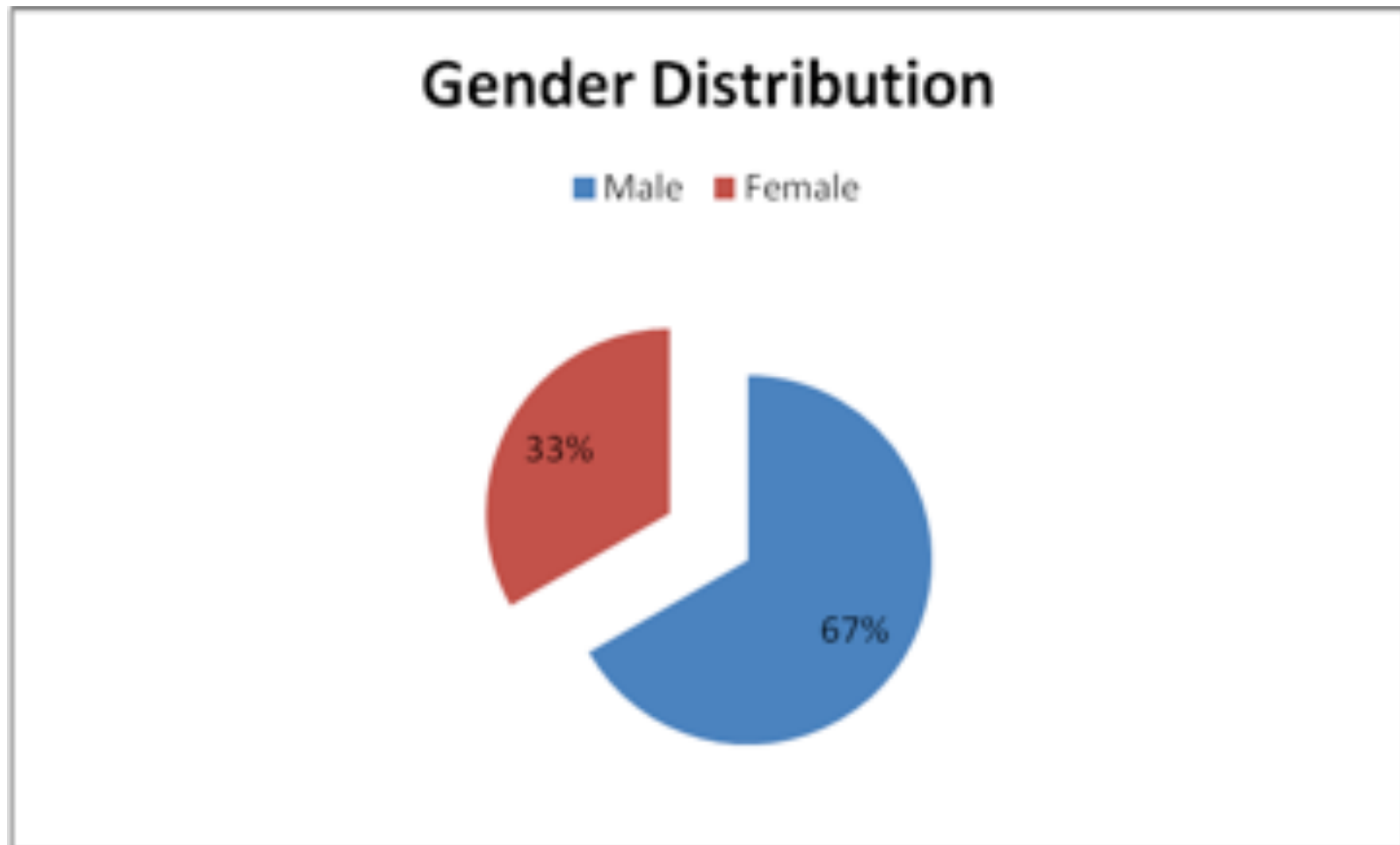


Demographics



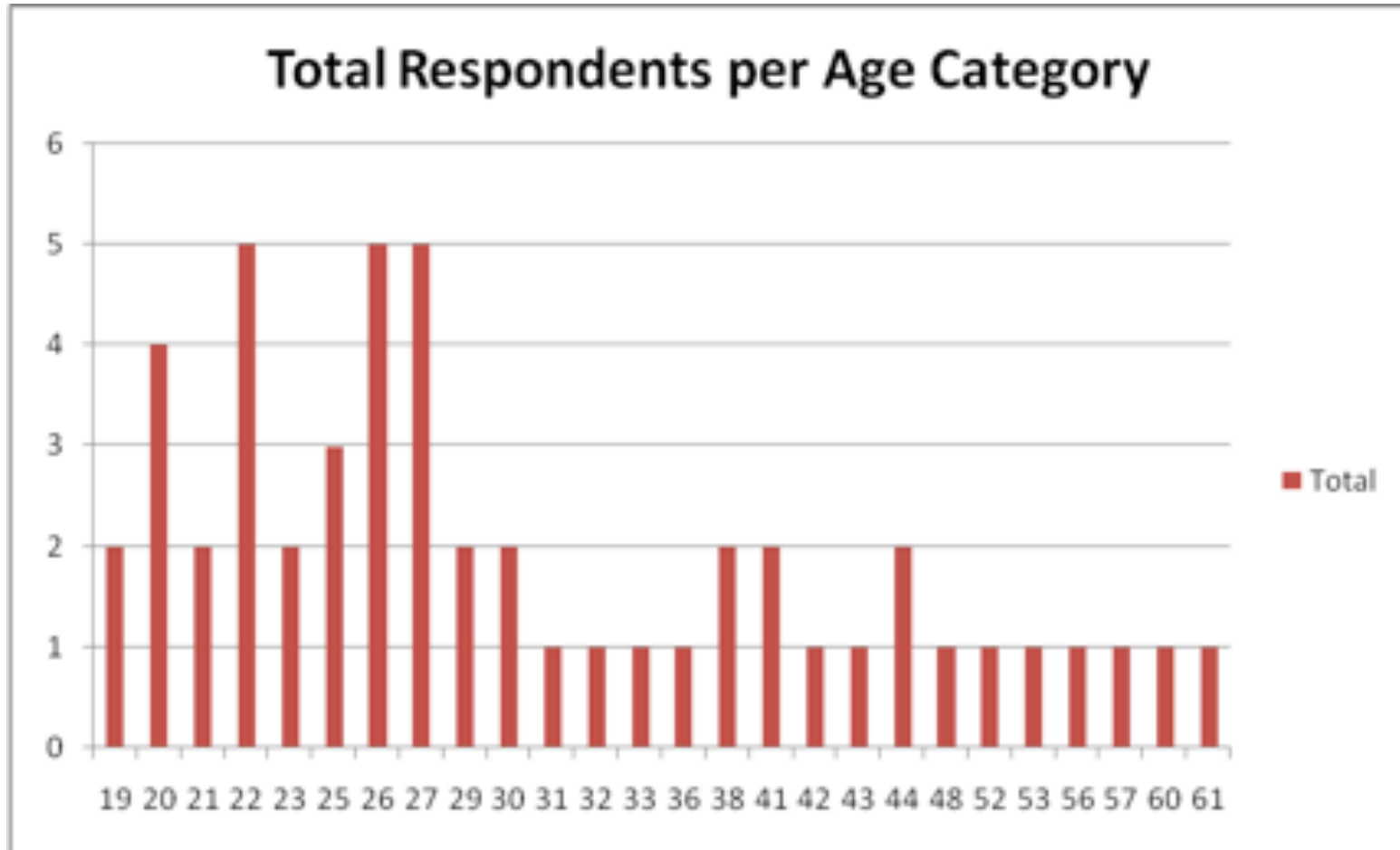
Respondents Gender:

1/3 Female



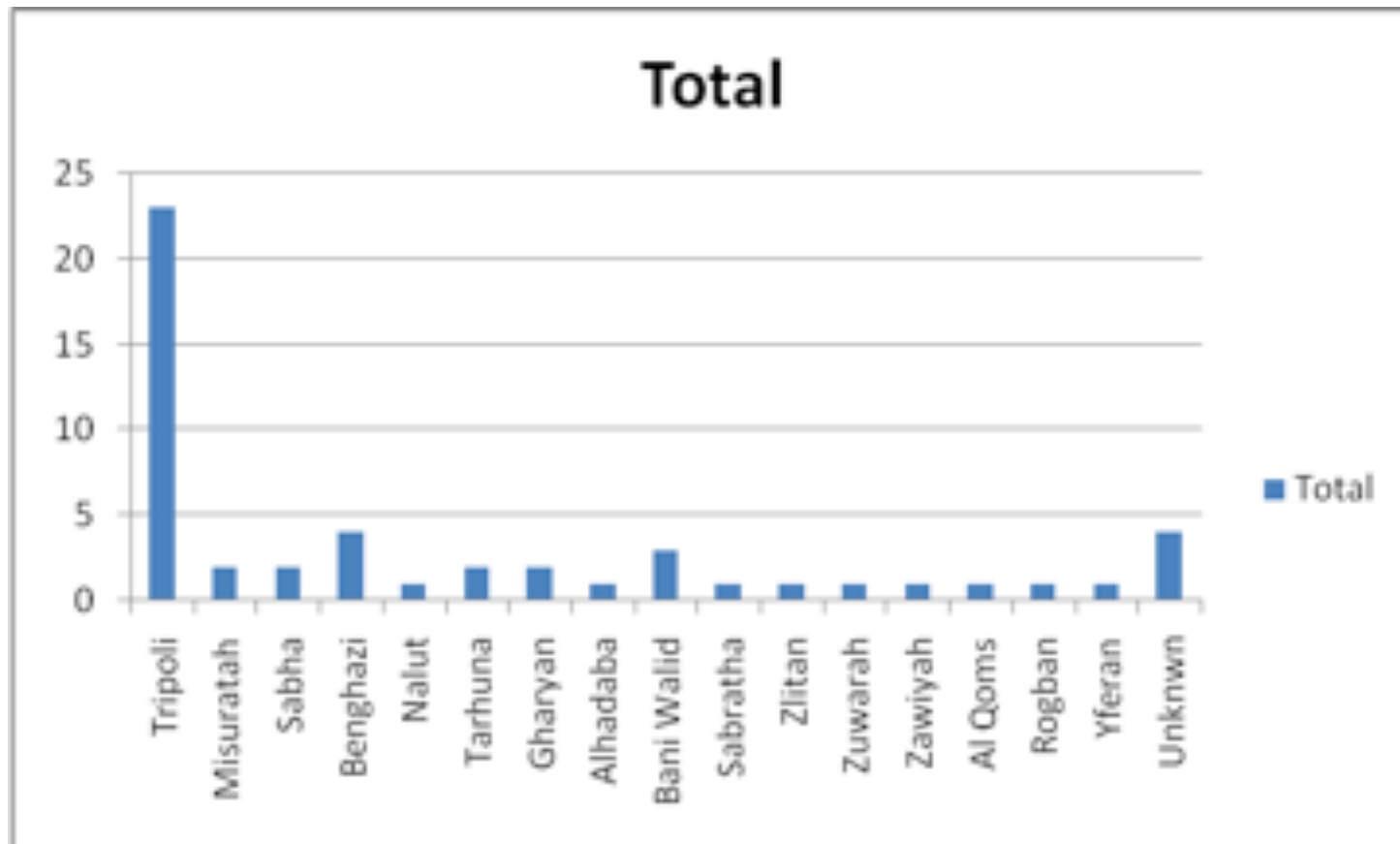
Respondents Age:

Average Age: 32.5



Respondents City of Residence :

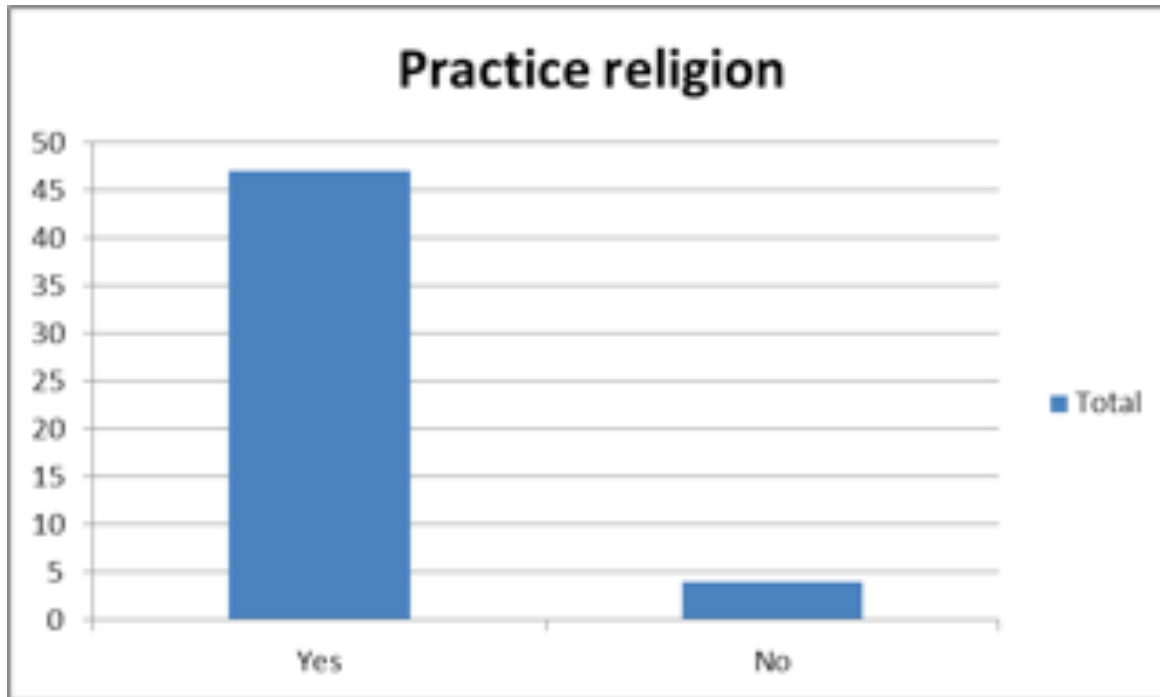
16 cities. 48% from Tripoli



Role of Religion In Libyan Democracy



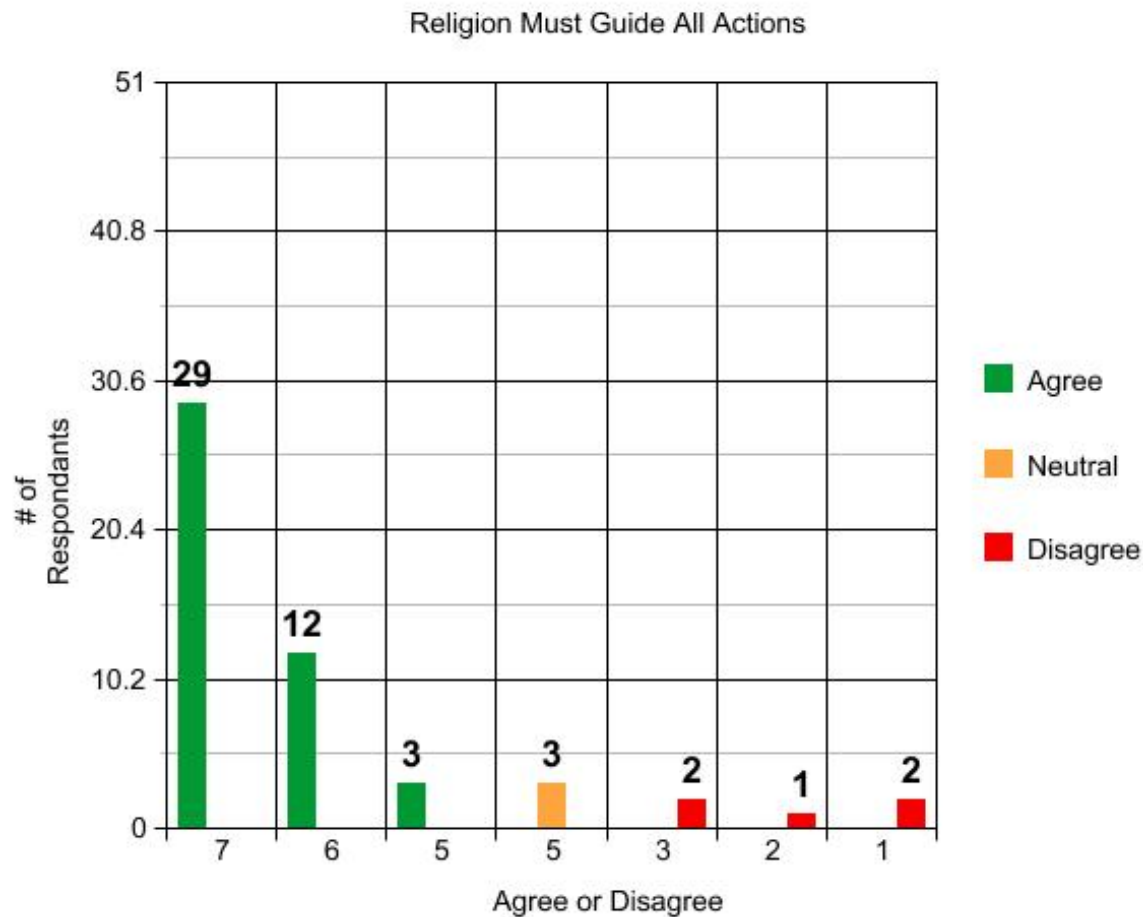
“Do you practice religious duties?”



Yes 92%

No 8%

“Religion must guide all one’s actions and interactions in all facets of life ”

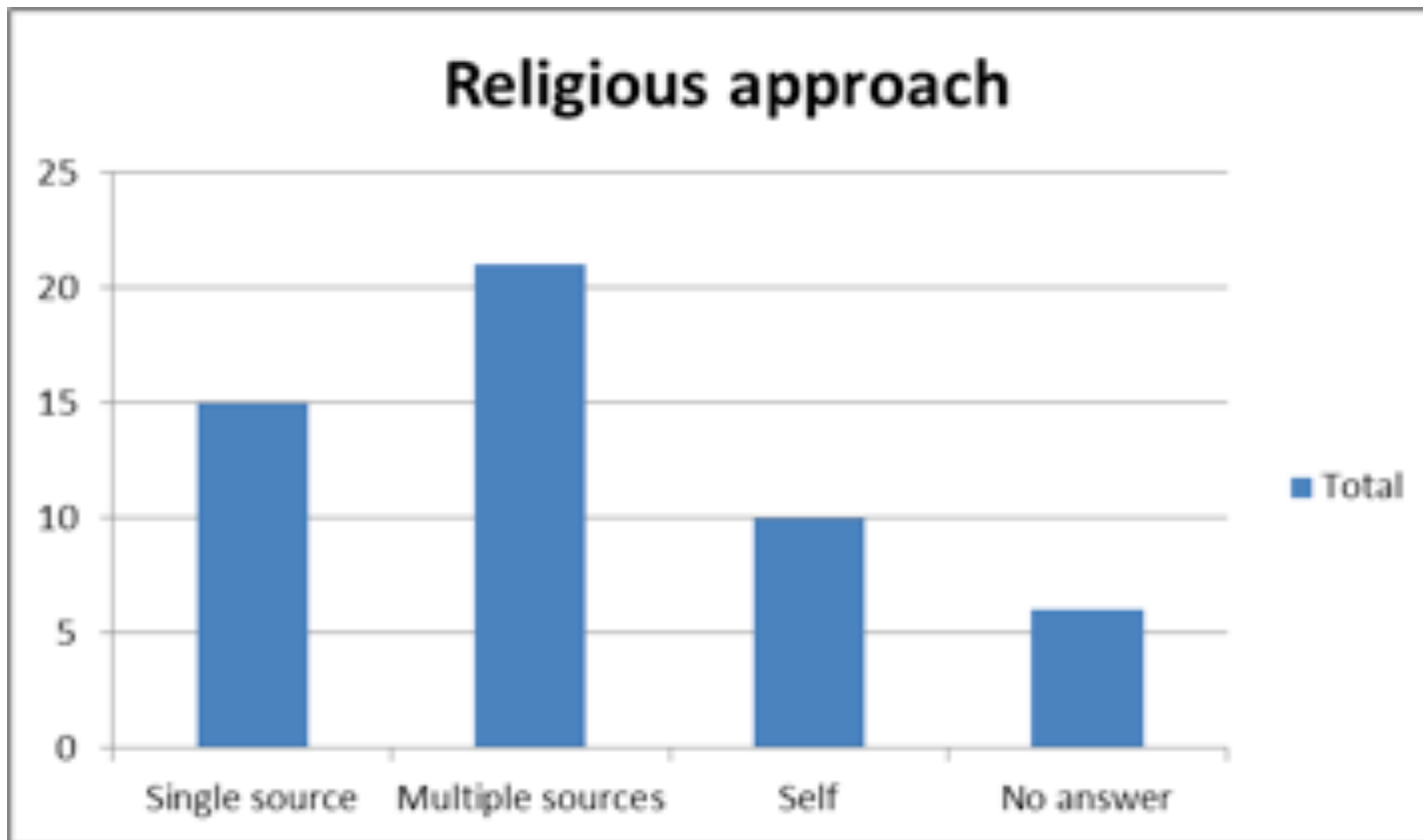


84 % Agree

6% Neutral

10% Disagree

“How do you interpret your faith into practice ?”



Single Source:
33%

Multiple
Sources:
46%

Self:
22%

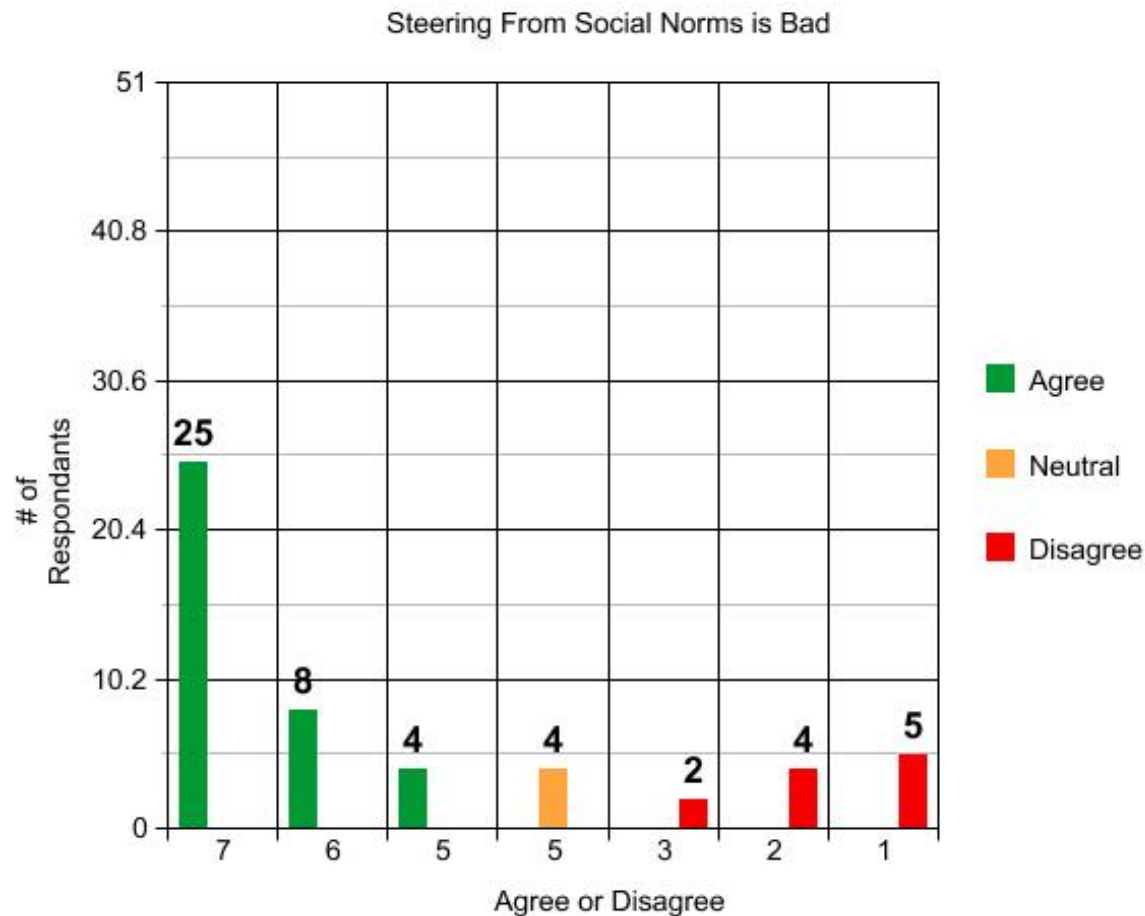
Possible Implications

- Despite oppressive conditions, Libyans were able to practice religion freely. Because religion was never under threat in socialist Libya, Libyans are moderate and homogeneous in practices.
- Because they can take their religion for granted, dialogue on religion and Islamism is not common in political circles. Libyans can focus on critical development issues.
- Religion seems to be the most successful, if not the only institution in Libya. It may be best to build on it.
- Being Muslim seems to be the core identity of Libyans. This is a good foundation for Arab unity.

Social Norms and the Voice of Culture VS. Voice of the Individual



“Individuals who steer away from social norms
do a wrong thing”



71% Agree

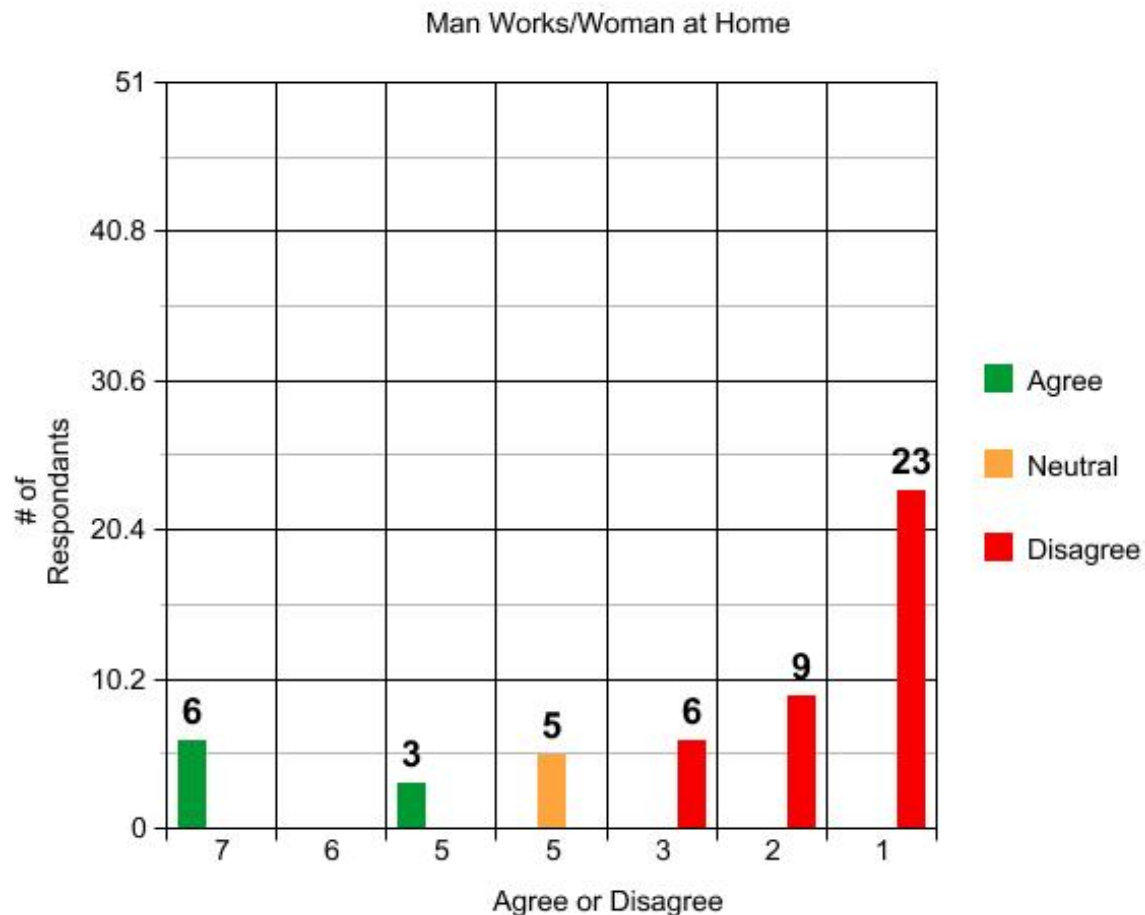
8% Neutral

21% Disagree

Role of Women in Libyan Democracy



“A proper society is one where the man works and the woman takes care of the household”

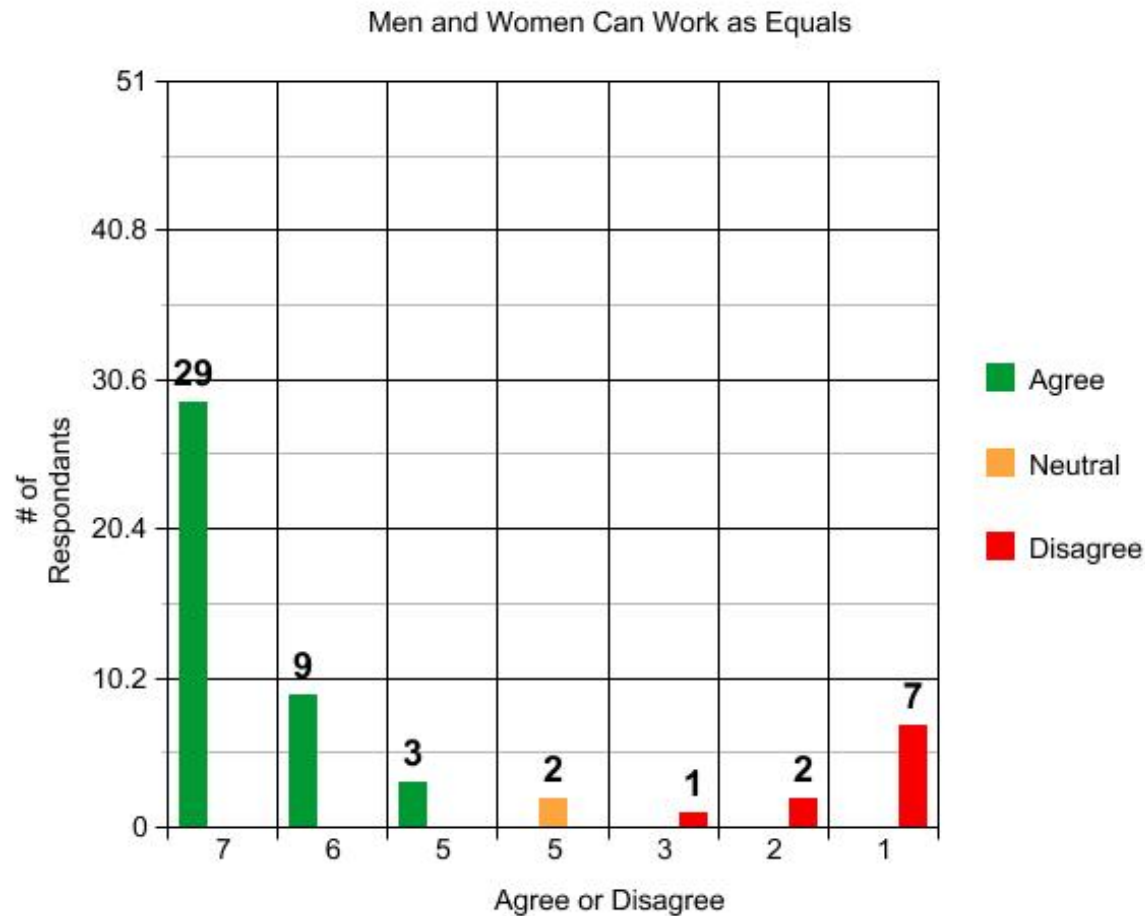


17% Agree

10% Neutral

73% Disagree

“Men and women can work together as equals”

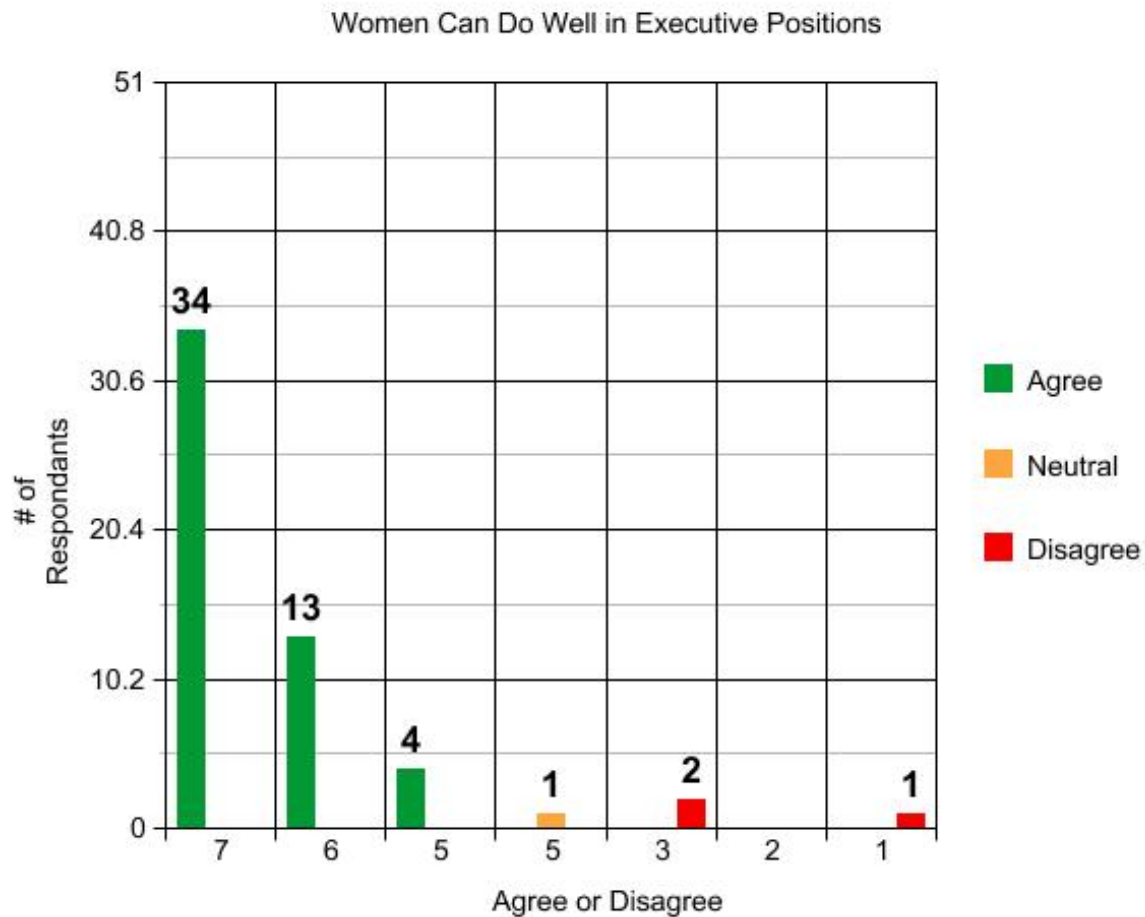


79% Agree

2% Neutral

19% Disagree

“Women can do well in executive leadership positions”



93% Agree

2% Neutral

5% Disagree

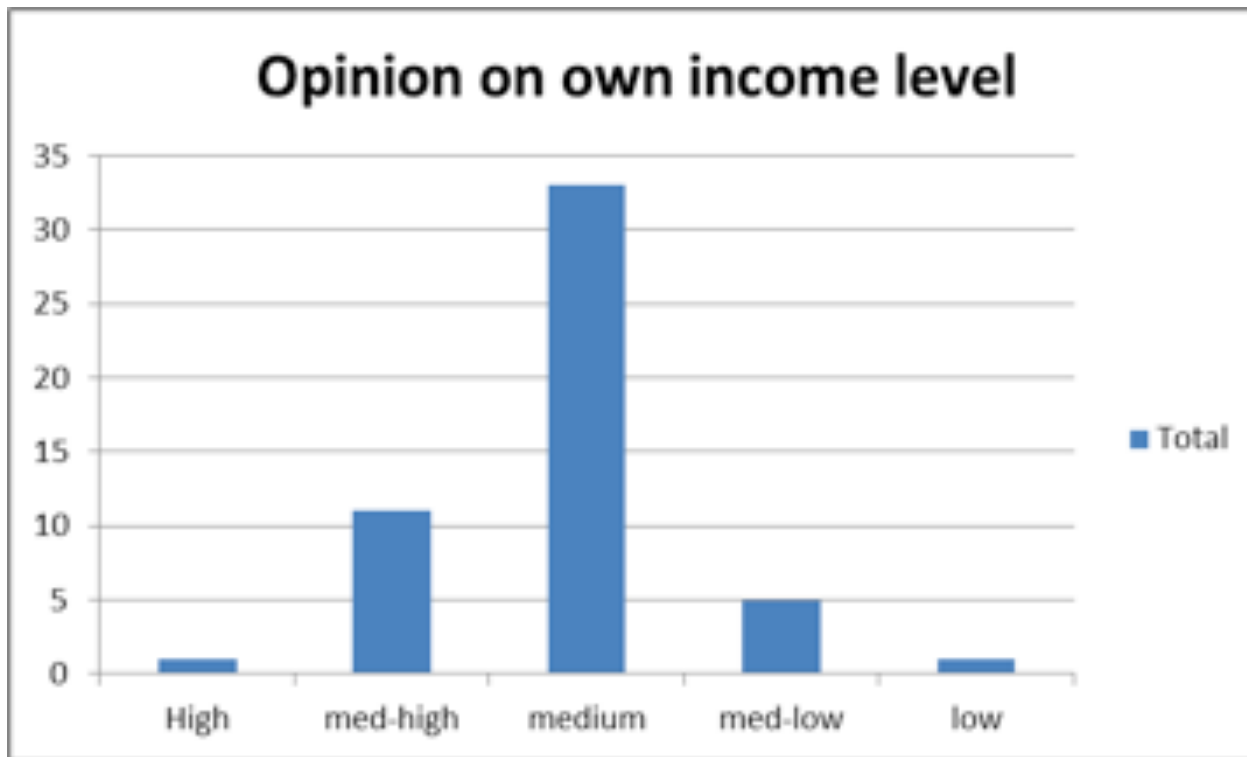
Possible Implications

- Both men and women seem to understand that they are of equal capacity and should have equal rights.
- Social norms and expectations prevent Libyans from acting on their beliefs around equality.
- Making it socially “OK” for women to be in positions of power and influence can be as simple as exposure of successful executives or leaders in a positive light.

Orientation to Spending & Wealth



“In comparison to others, what group of income would you say you land in?”



High: 2%

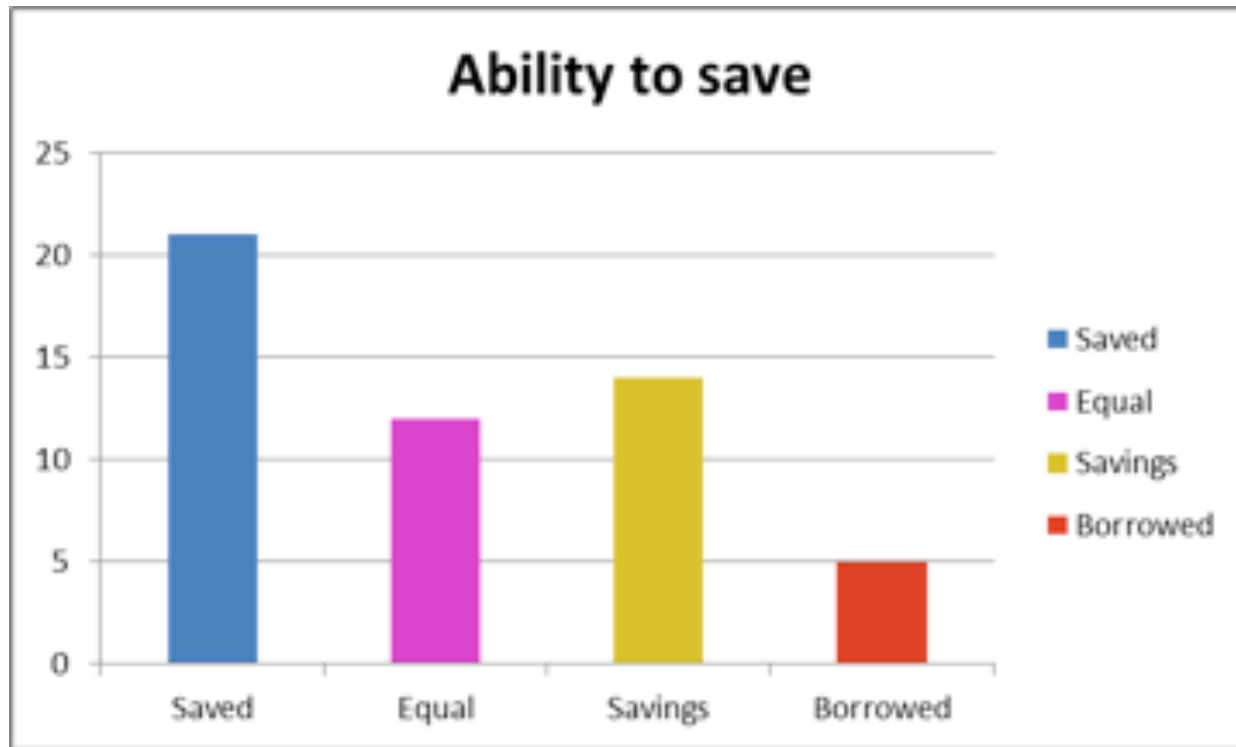
Med. High: 22%

Med: 65%

Med. Low: 10%

Low: 2%

“In the past 12 months, what has your families’ financial situation been like?”



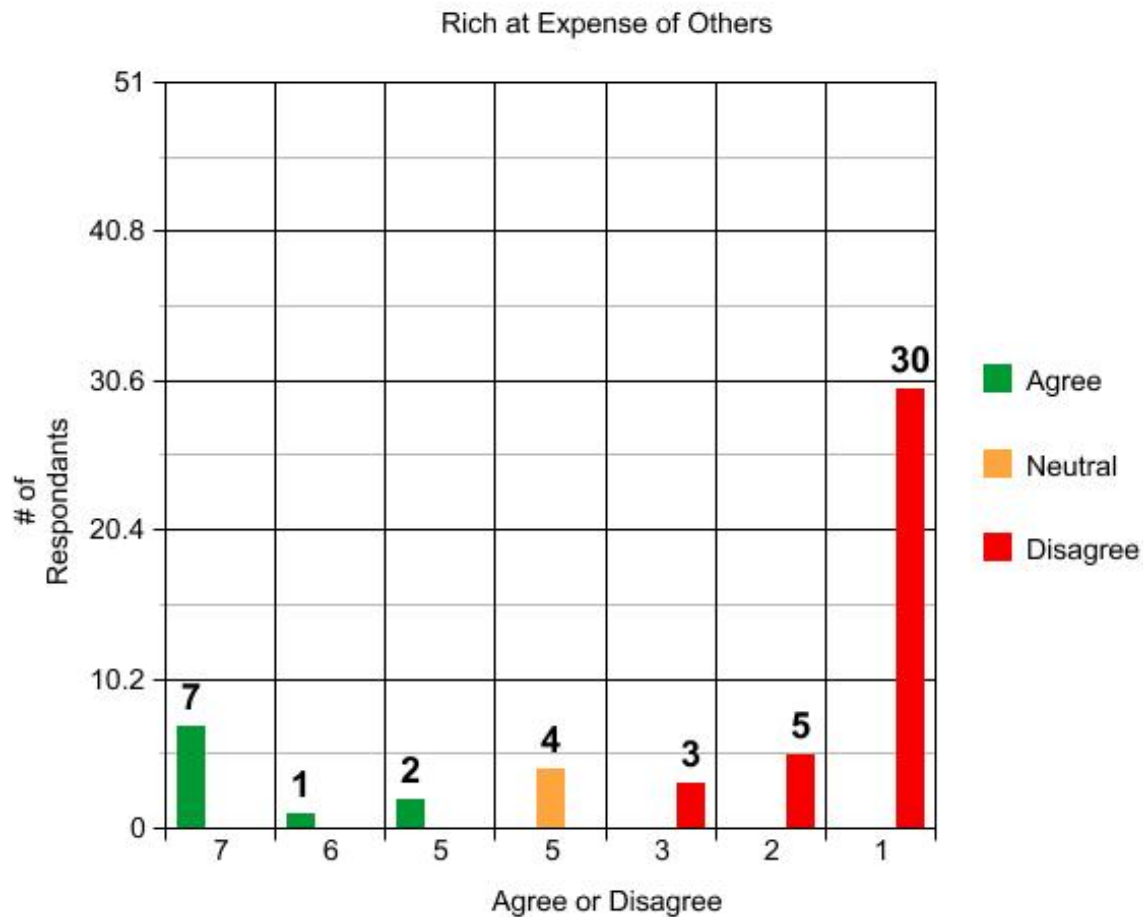
Saved: 40%

Same: 23%

Used Savings:
27%

Debt: 10%

“Wealth is obtained at the expense of others”

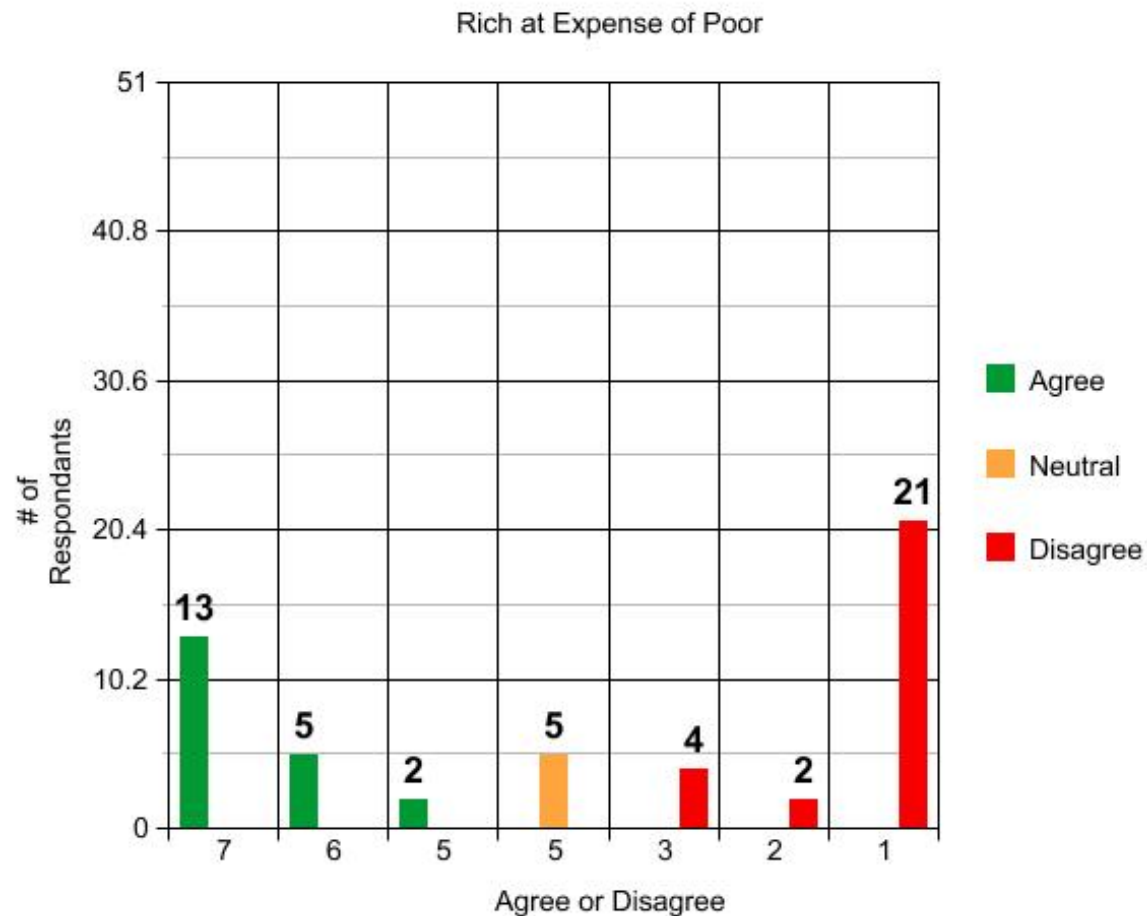


19 % Agree

8% Neutral

73% Disagree

“In Order for for there to be rich people, there must be poor people”



38 % Agree

10% Neutral

52% Disagree

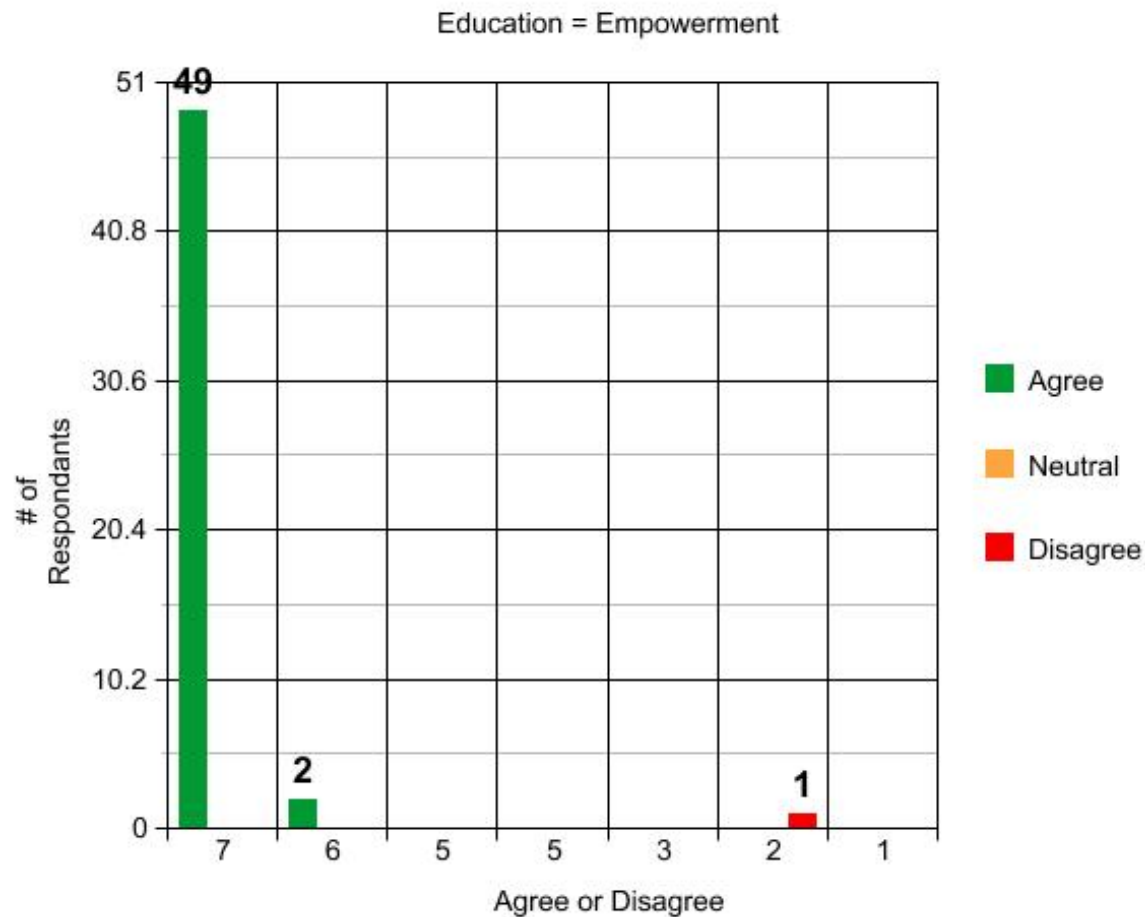
Possible Implications

- Socialist policies of former regime has engendered a sense of socio-economic equity.
- Low consumption society. Values saving over spending.
- May encounter large social shifts and challenges in capitalist economic markets.

Orientation to Education



“Education is Necessary for empowerment”

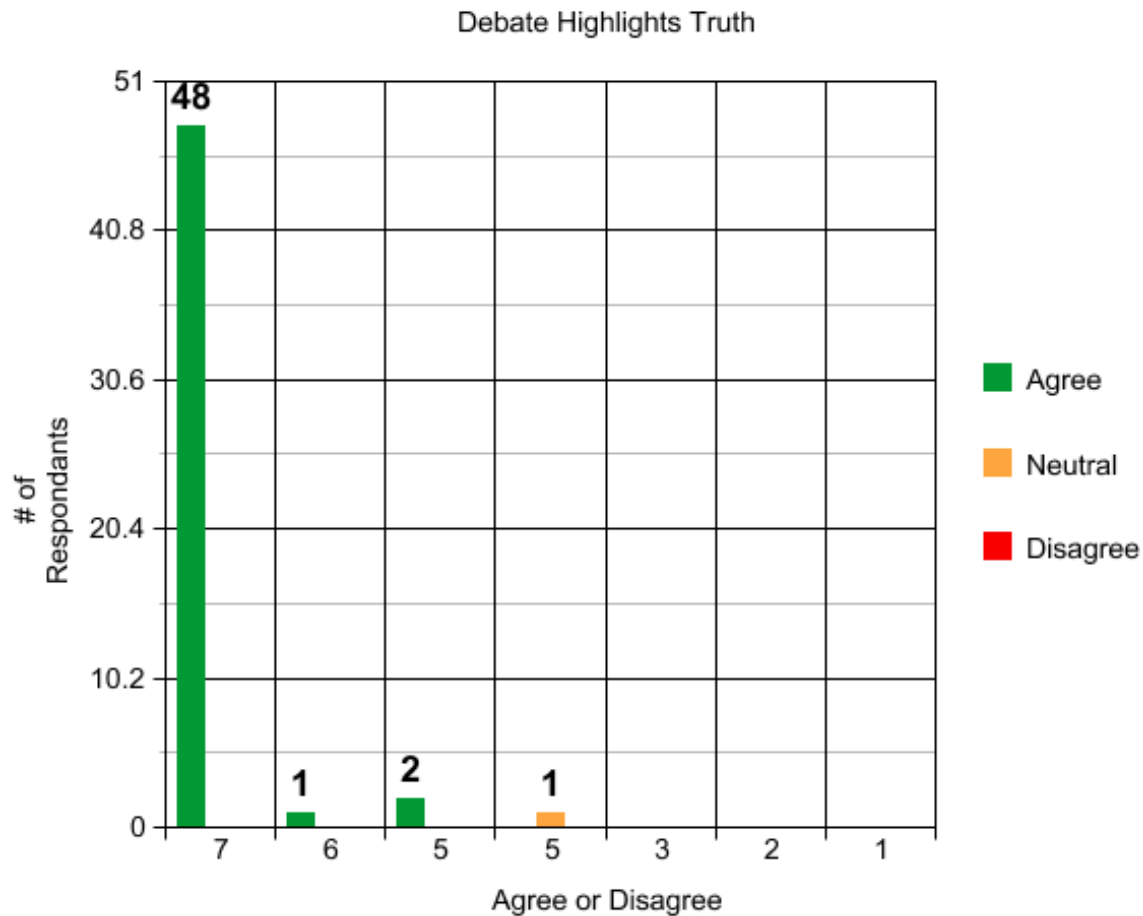


98% Agree

0% Neutral

2% Disagree

“Debate is good because it helps to reveal truth”



98% Agree

2% Neutral

0% Disagree

Possible Implications

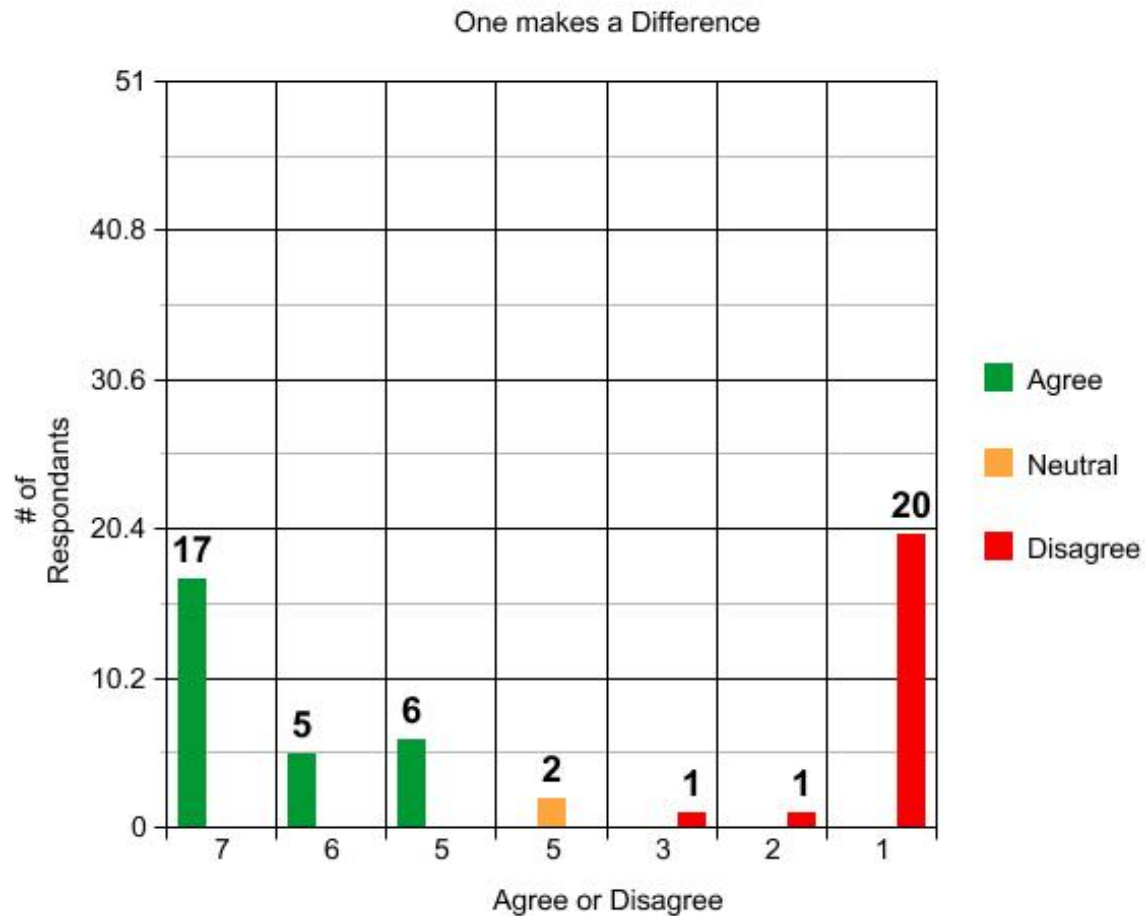
- Libyans highly value education.
- Primary investment in training, education and human development could yield great returns.
- Despite being poorly educated, Libyans are not “ignorant”, as they are aware both of their condition and the solution.

Social Capital: Trust In Self

مؤسسة ليبيا الجديدة
نستثمر في الانسان



“One individual can make a difference”



54% Agree

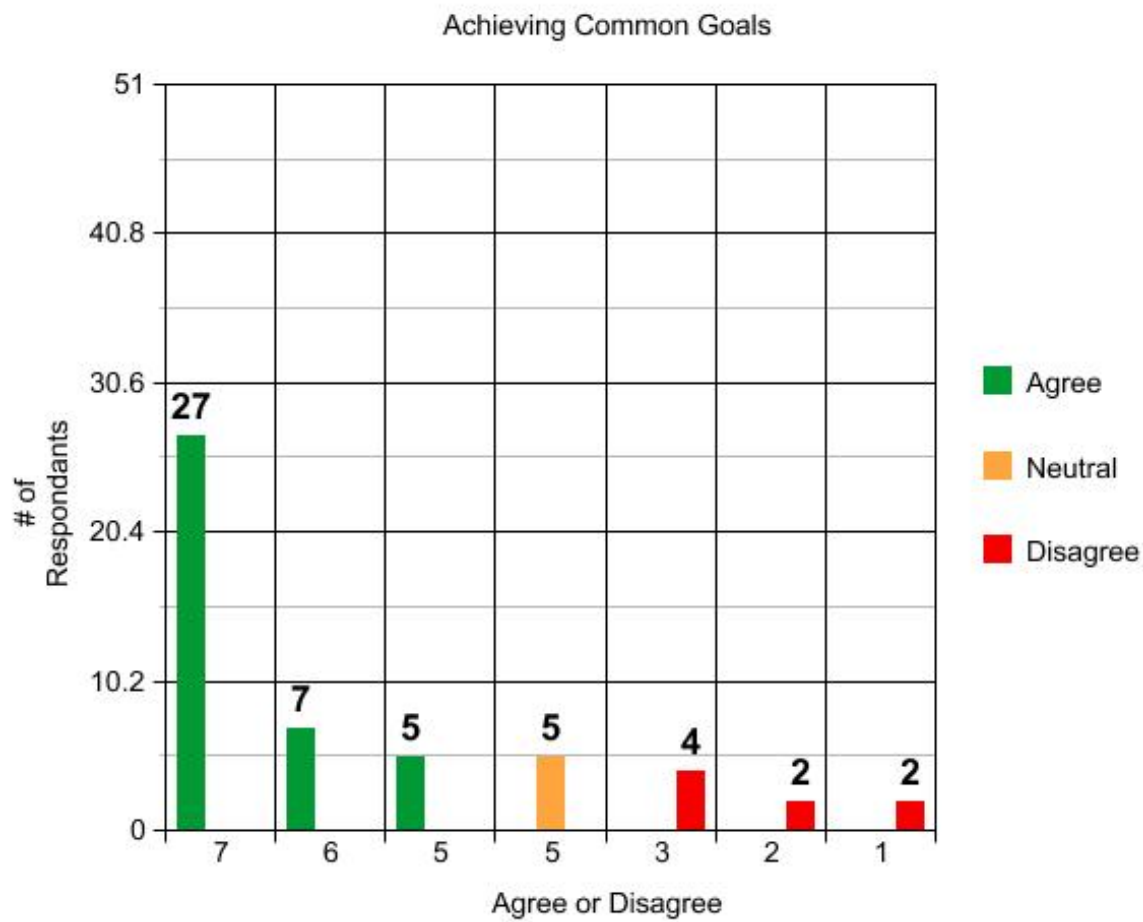
4% Neutral

43% Disagree

Social Capital: Trust In Others



“It is possible to get a group of people who are very different from each other to work toward a common goal”



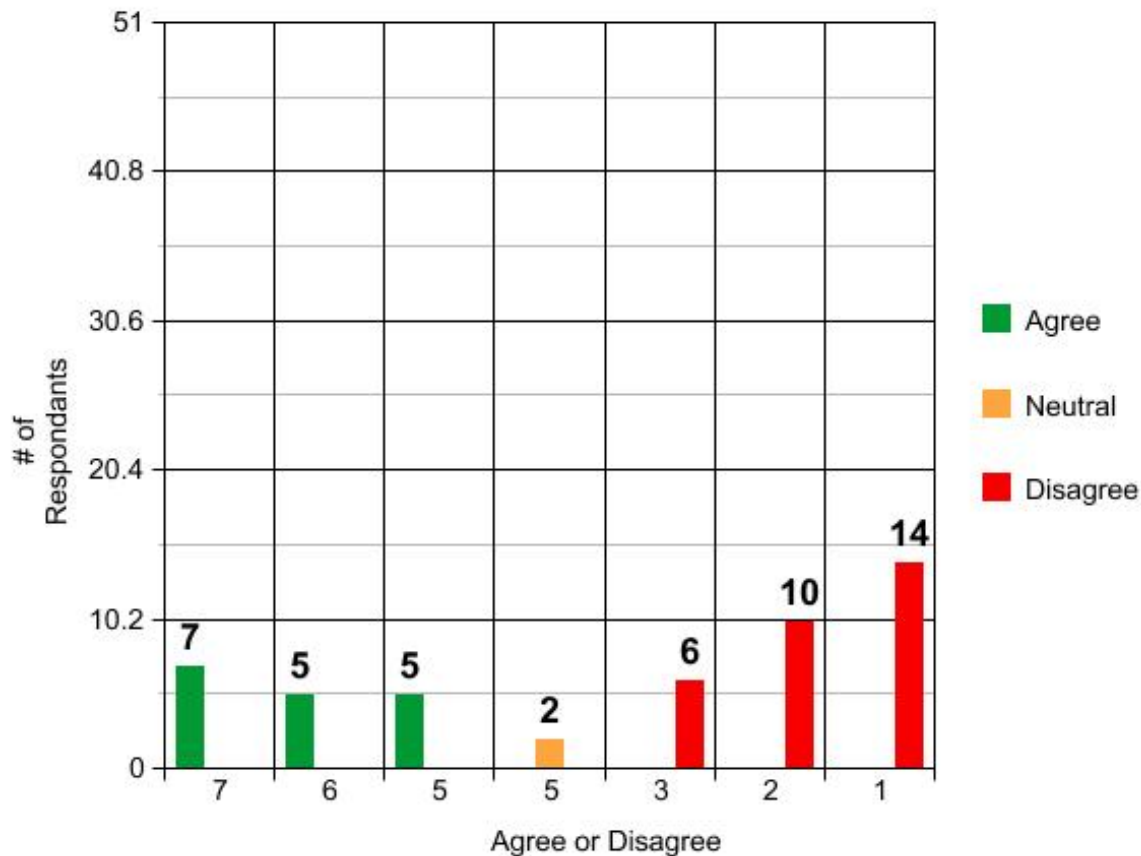
75% Agree

10% Neutral

15% Disagree

“It is easier to trust strangers who share a similar worldviews to mine than family whose convictions conflict with mine”

Trust Worldview Over Blood Ties



34% Agree

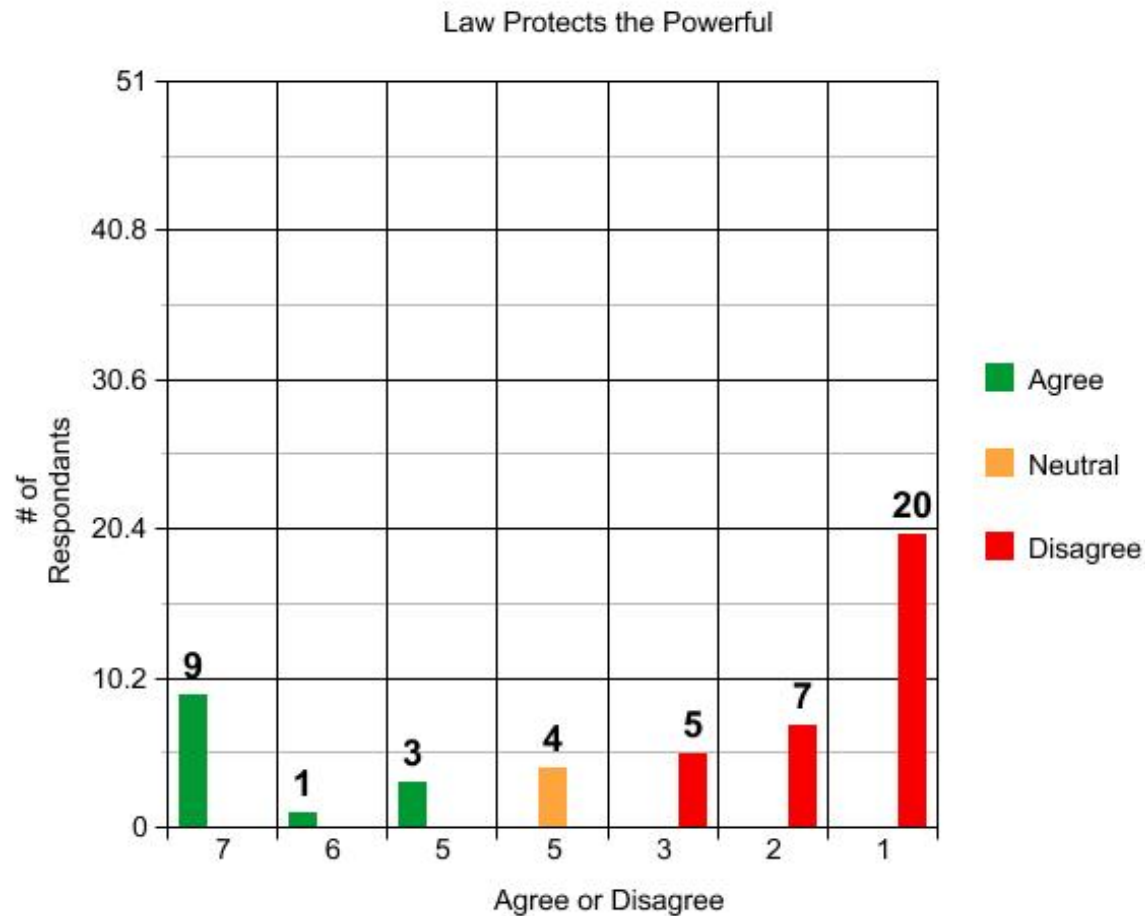
4% Neutral

62% Disagree

Social Capital: Trust In State Institutions



“The law in Libya only protects the powerful”

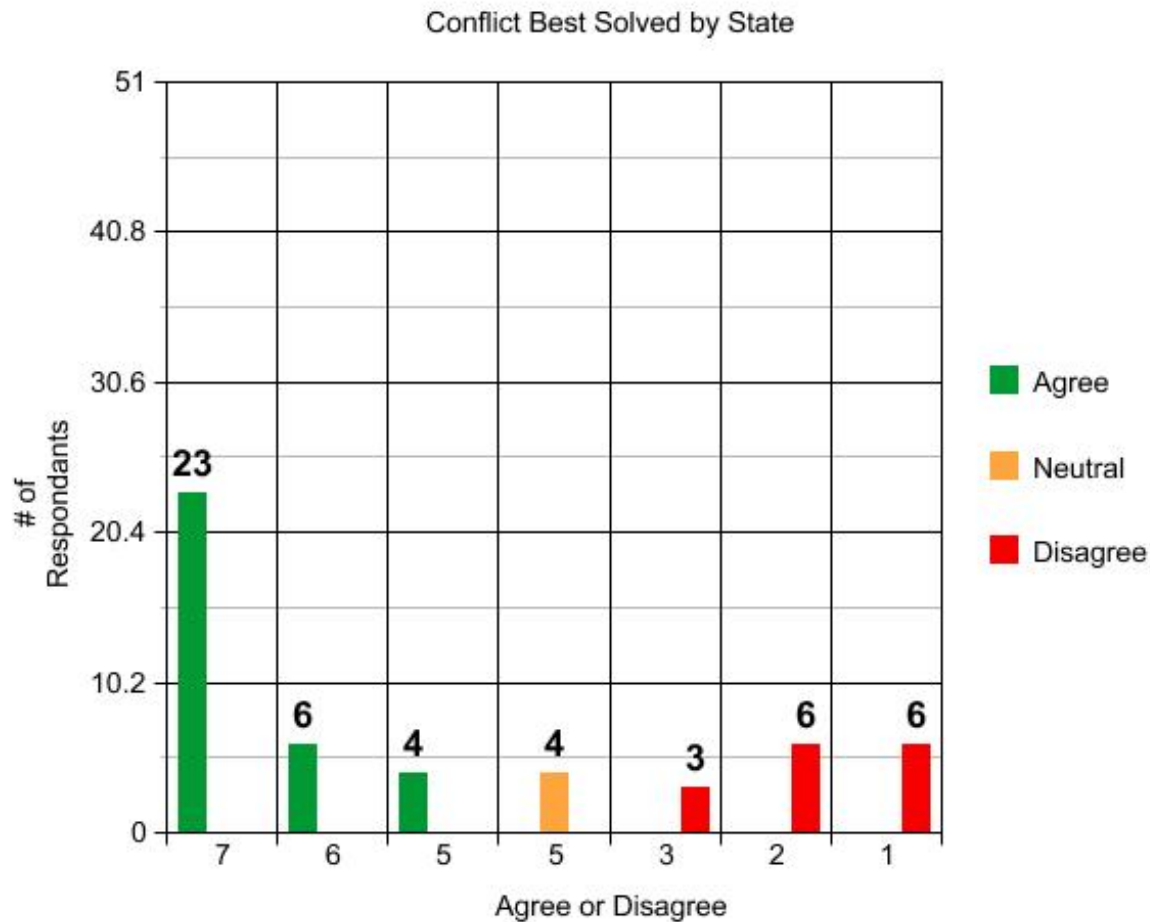


27% Agree

4% Neutral

65% Disagree

“When conflict occurs, it is best to resolve it through the state institutions”

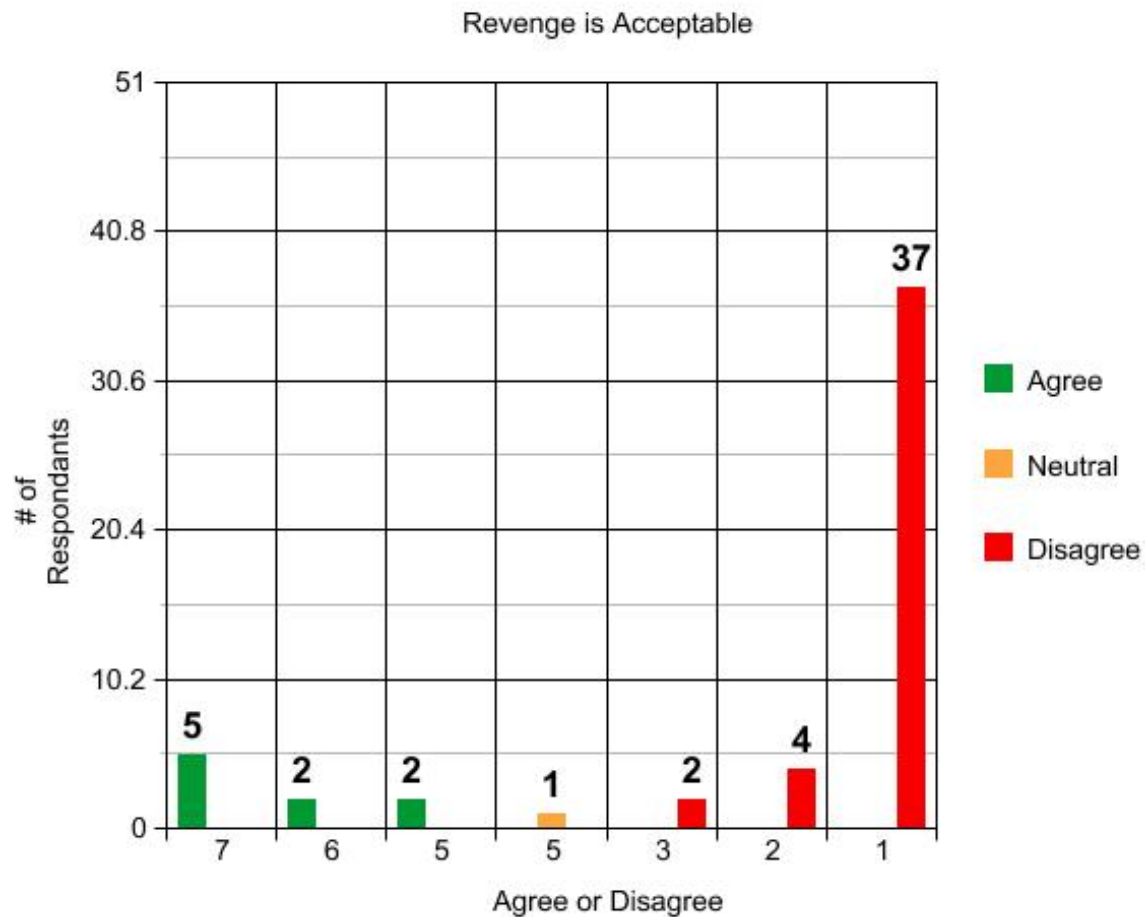


63% Agree

8% Neutral

29% Disagree

“Revenge is acceptable”

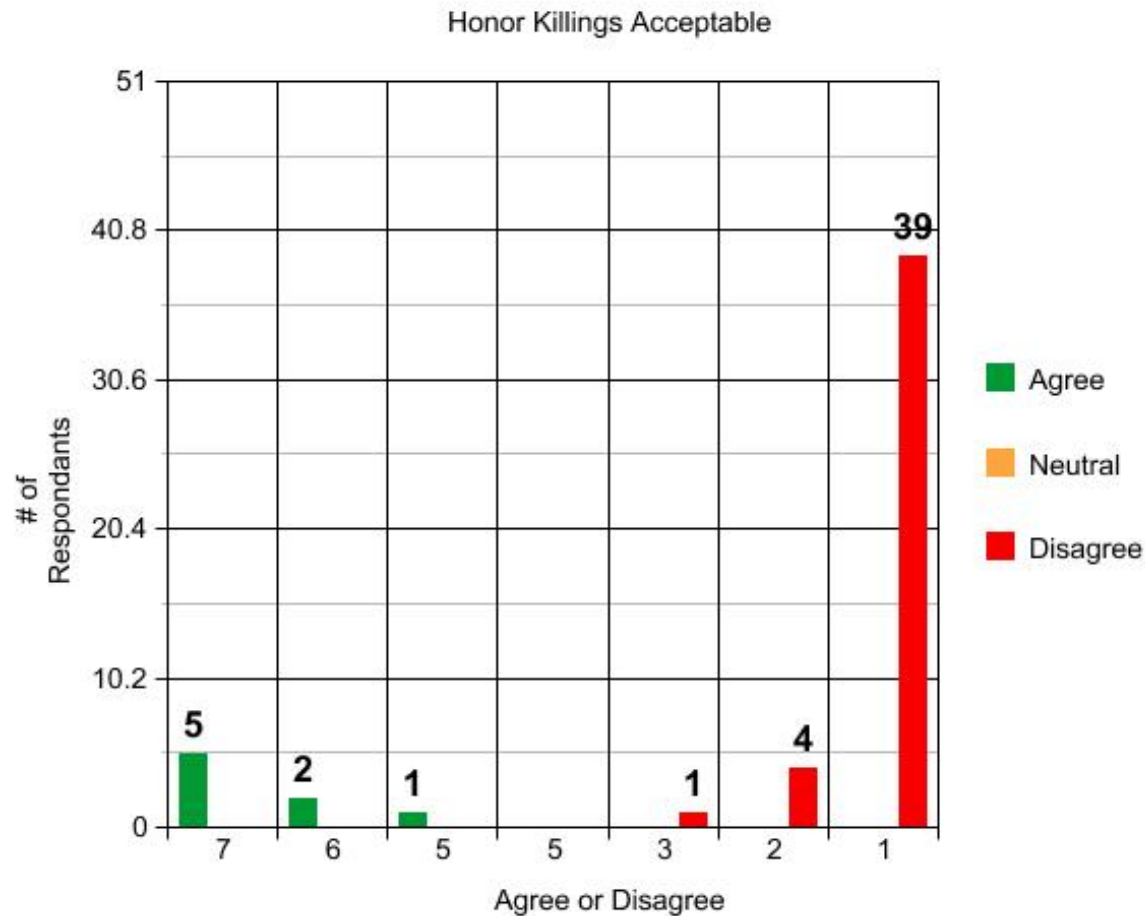


17% Agree

2% Neutral

81% Disagree

“Honor killings are acceptable”

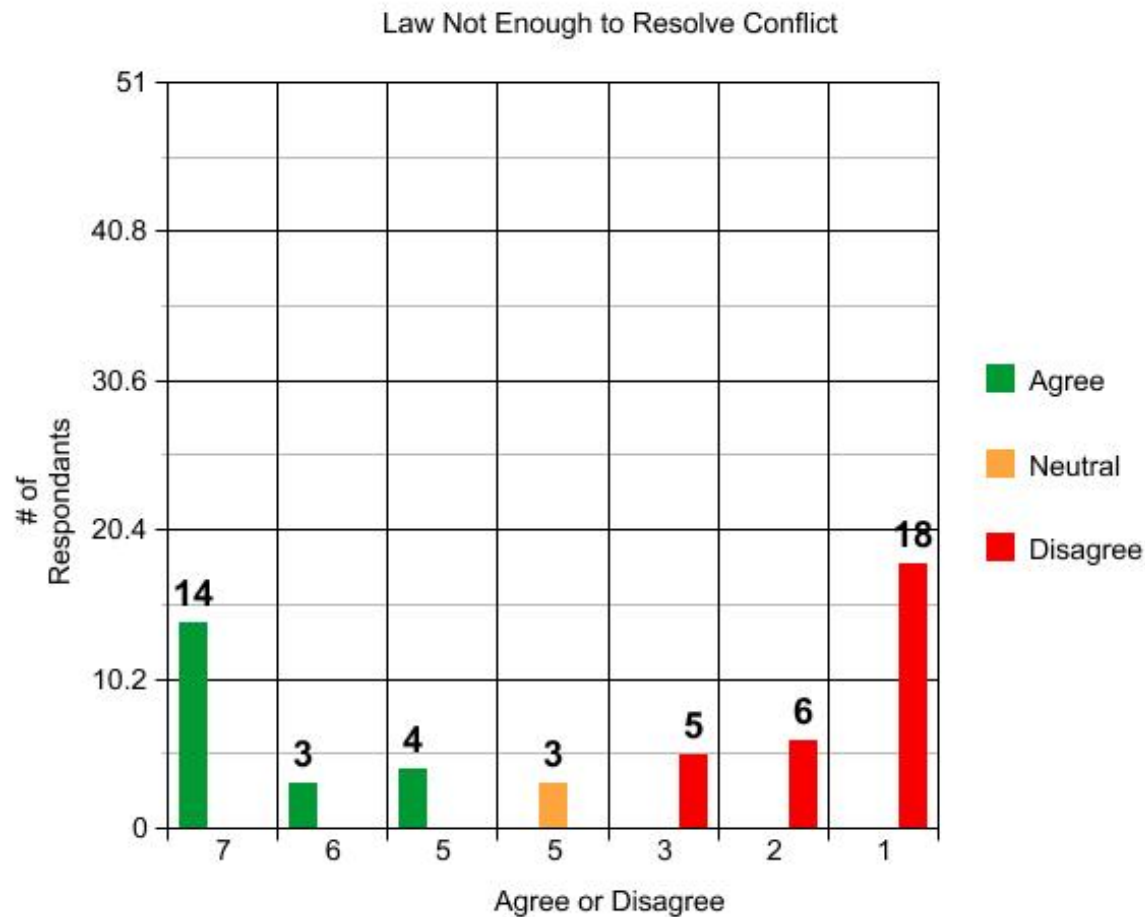


15% Agree

0% Neutral

85% Disagree

“The law is not enough to resolve conflict”

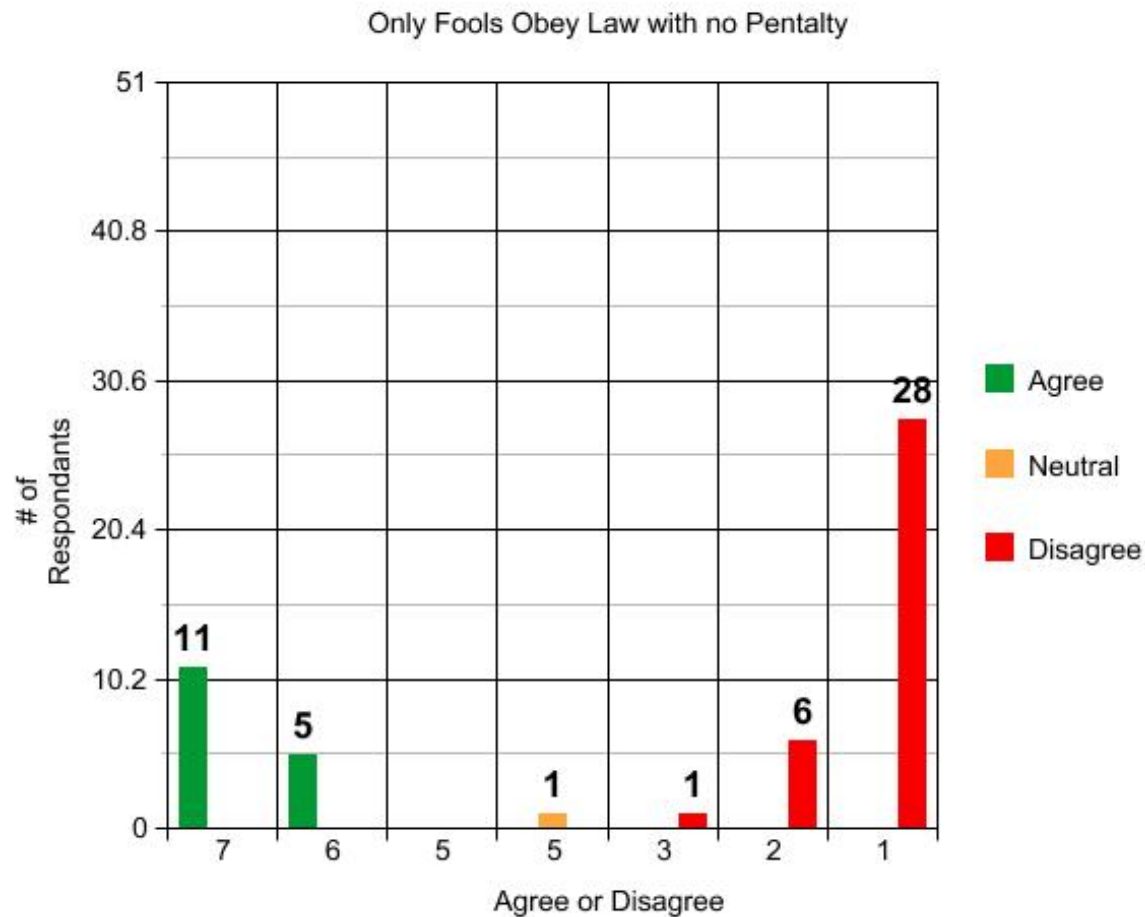


40% Agree

6% Neutral

54% Disagree

“Only fools obey the law when there are no penalties for disobeying it”

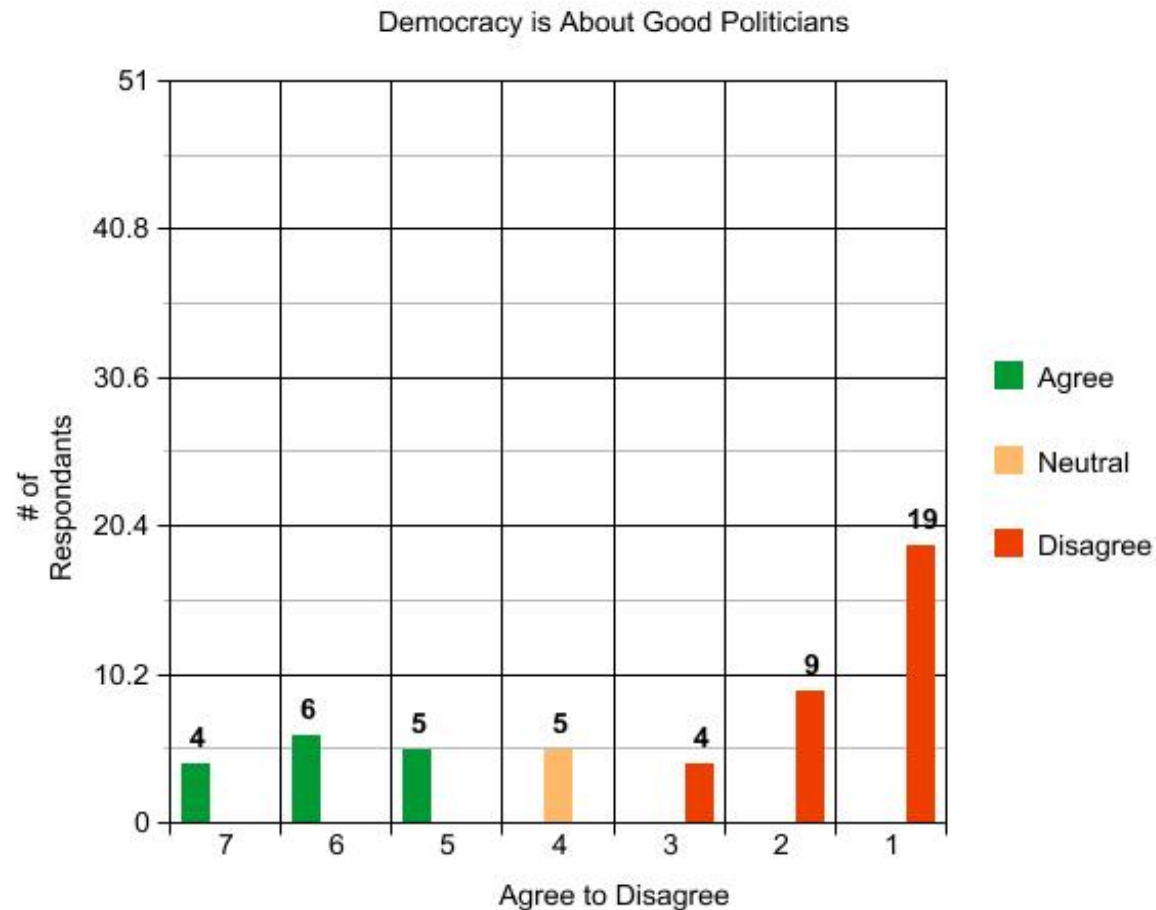


30% Agree

2% Neutral

67% Disagree

“Democracy is about good politicians and rules,
not about active participation or people”



29% Agree

10% Neutral

61% Disagree

If you were the Mayor of Tripoli, what 3 issues would you work on first?”

- 1) Education
- 2) Security
- 3) Healthcare
- 4) Jobs
- 5) Infrastructure
- 6) Housing
- 7) Environment

Possible Implications

- Social capital has developed drastically since the onset of the revolution.
- Civil society initiatives can further enhance social capital growth for dividends in political and economic growth.
- Libyans are currently more oriented toward alignment with state institutions than tribal or community affiliations.
- Libyans are open to and appear to value collaboration and association.
- Opportunity to launch elections at a time of goodwill and relatively high regard for state institutions/apparatus.
- Elections likely not to be along ascriptive lines. Voters will likely vote on issues and values.



Thank you