

WOMEN'S POLITICAL VOICE IN PAKISTAN

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Methodologies

- Key Informant Interviews: politicians, civil society leaders, activists, external actors
- Women Activists Group Interviews
- Media Tracking
- Online Survey with Parliamentarians
- Extensive Literature Review

Government Type, Women's Representation, Activism and Policy Change for Women

Years	Govt Type	Political commitment	Intl Context	Key Individuals	Political Representation of Women*	Level of Activism from Civil Society**	Policy Change	Doctrinal vs. Non-doctrinal

***1** = Influential individual women in government/politics;

2 = 1 (above)+ few elected legislators;

3 = 2 (above) + reserved seats for women in elected bodies/assemblies.

** **1** = WAF mobilization;

2 = Vocal women's advocacy organizations;

3 = Grassroots mobilization.

Years	Type of Govt	Pol. commitment	Intl policy context	Women's political rep	Activism	Policy Change	Doc	Non-doc
1971-1977	Civilian democracy	High	High: WCW '75 UN Decade for Women	2	3	Constitutional equality Reserved seats provision (10 in NA, 5% PAs) First Women's Rights Committee est. Government services opened to women Dowry & Bridal Gifts (Restriction) Act		X X X X X

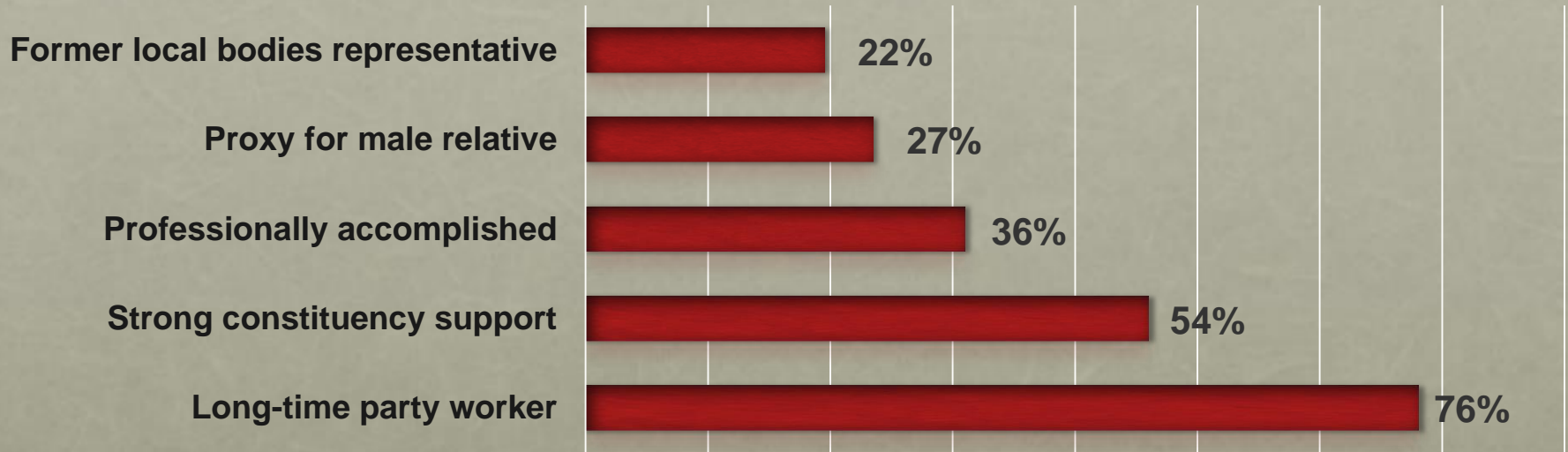
Years	Type of Govt	Pol. Commit.	Intl policy context	Women's political rep	Activism	Policy Change	Doc	Non-doc
2008-2013	Trans democracy	High	Post-conflict donor support	3	1 + 2	First Women's Parliamentary Caucus Domestic violence laws begin Sexual harassment laws Anti-Women Practices Law Acid Crimes law	X X X	X X X
2013-2018	“ “	Low	Western aid reduces	3	1 + 2	Anti-rape law Anti-honour killings law Provincial Women's Caucuses set up Provincial Commissions on the Status of Women est Provinces review marriage laws Domestic violence laws Electoral law reforms	X X X	X X X X

Women's Parliamentarian Survey: Respondents

House/ Assembly	Type of Seat					Total	
	General	Reserved	Minority	Technocrat	Not identified	Responses	Women per house/assembly
Senate	2	13	0	1	2	18	20
National	5	43	0	1	2	51	70
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1	20	0	0	0	21	21
Balochistan	0	11	1	0	0	12	13
Sindh	0	28	0	0	0	28	30
Punjab	7	56	2	0	0	65	75
Gilgit-Baltistan	0	5	0	0	0	5	6
Total	15	176	3	2	4	200	235

Source: WPS 2018

Reason for election



Source: WPS 2018

N= 200

Whose interests do women on reserved seats represent



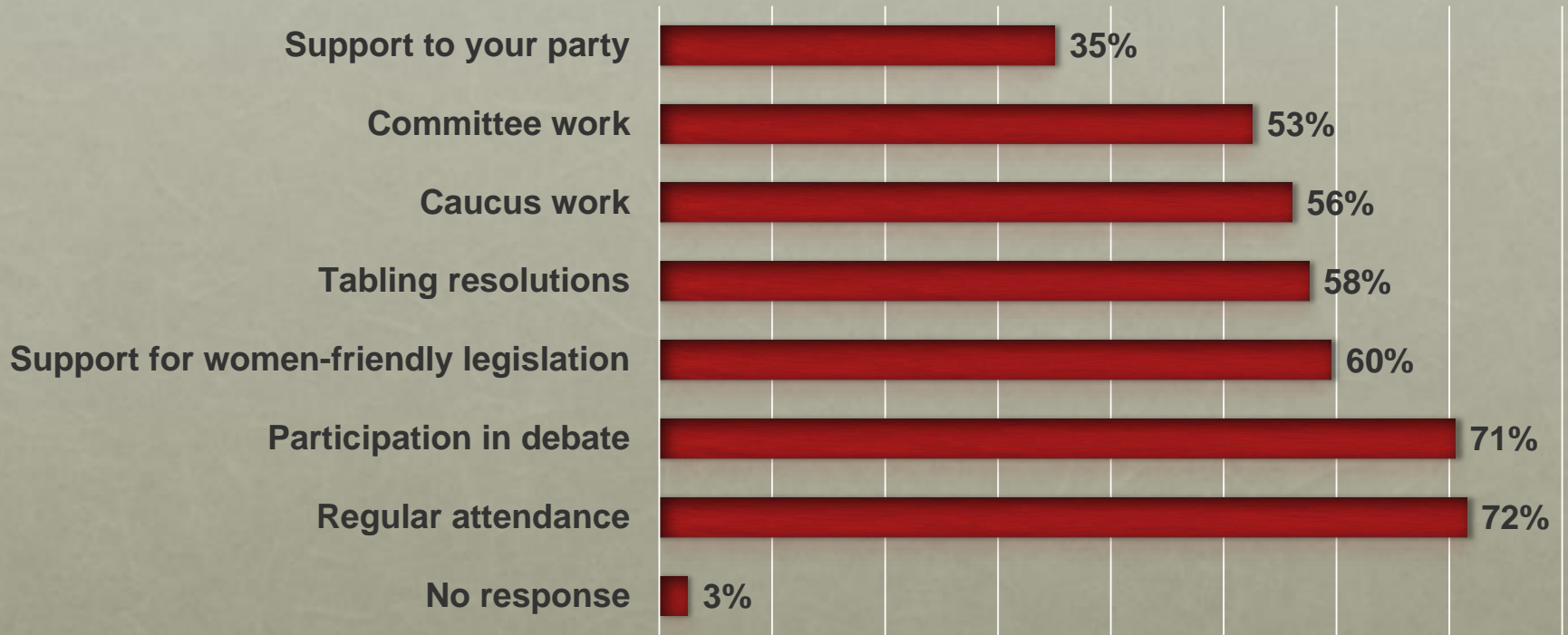
Source: WPS 2018
N= 176

Greatest support received

Support	Total (N = 200)	% of total
Your party members	136	68
Activists from civil society	15	8
Women's Caucus	9	5
Seminars and trainings provided by outside organizations or donors	8	4
National or Provincial Commission on the Status of Women	6	3
Self-driven	6	3
Staff members assigned to serve the Caucus	2	1
No support	2	1
Everyone across the assembly, even the opposition	2	1
No response	3	2
Other	11	6
Total	200	100

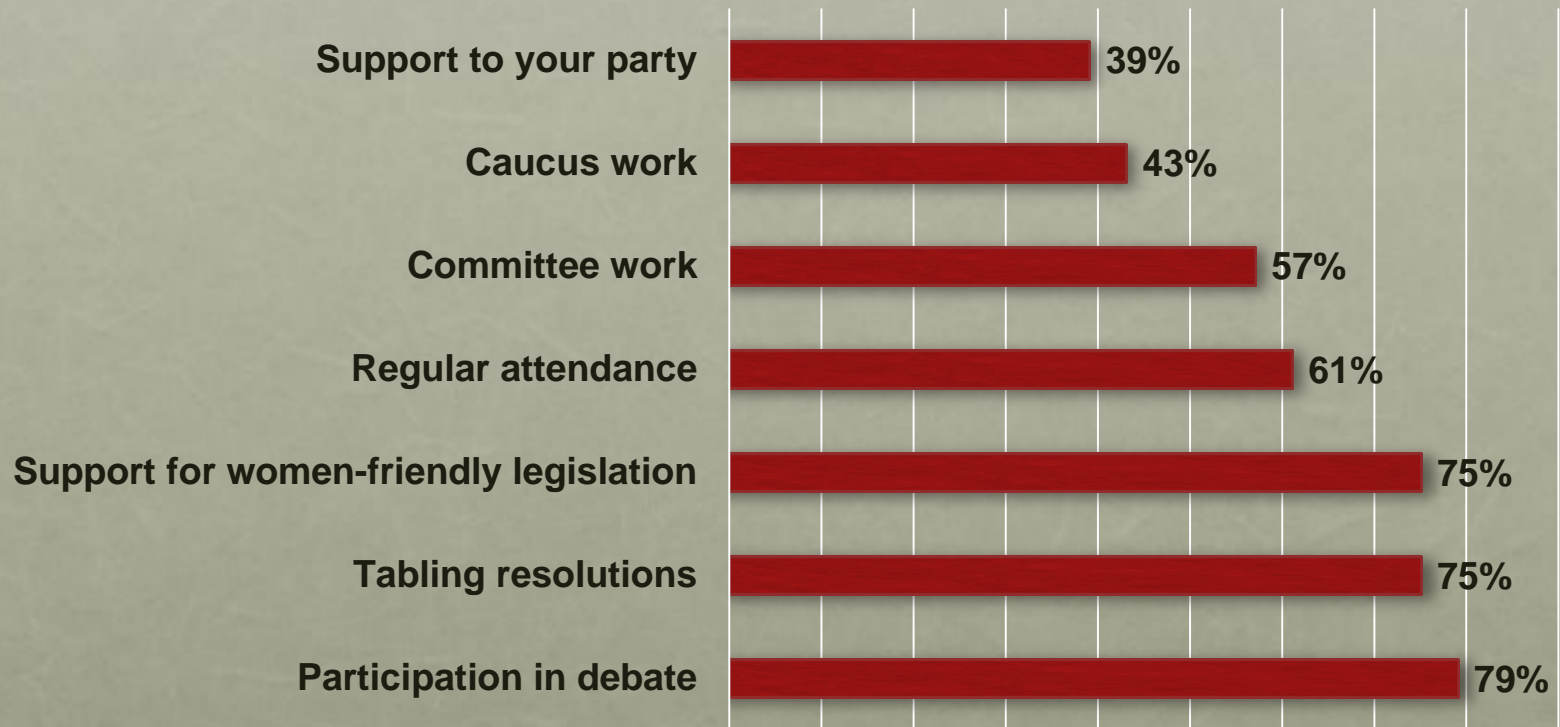
Source: WPS 2018

Most valuable contribution to the house



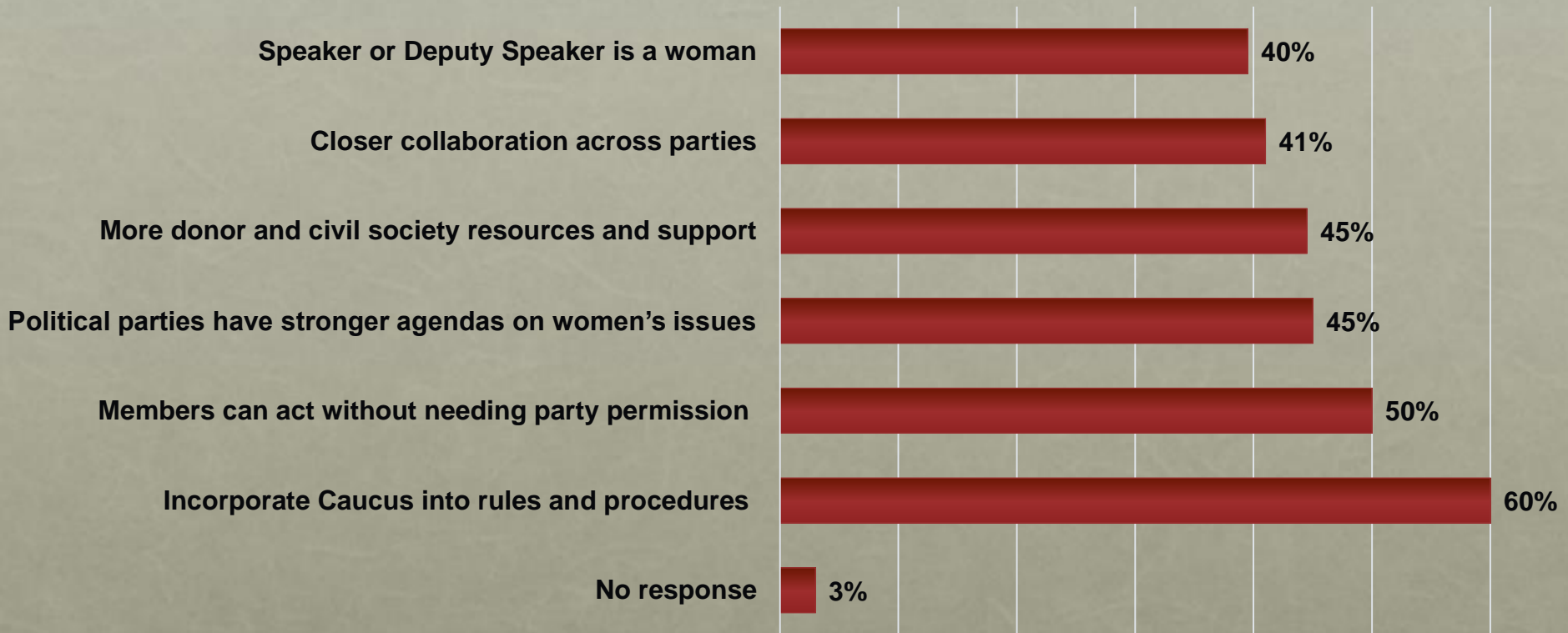
Source: WPS 2018
N=200

Most valuable contribution to the house (Sindh Assembly)



Source: WPS 2018
N=28

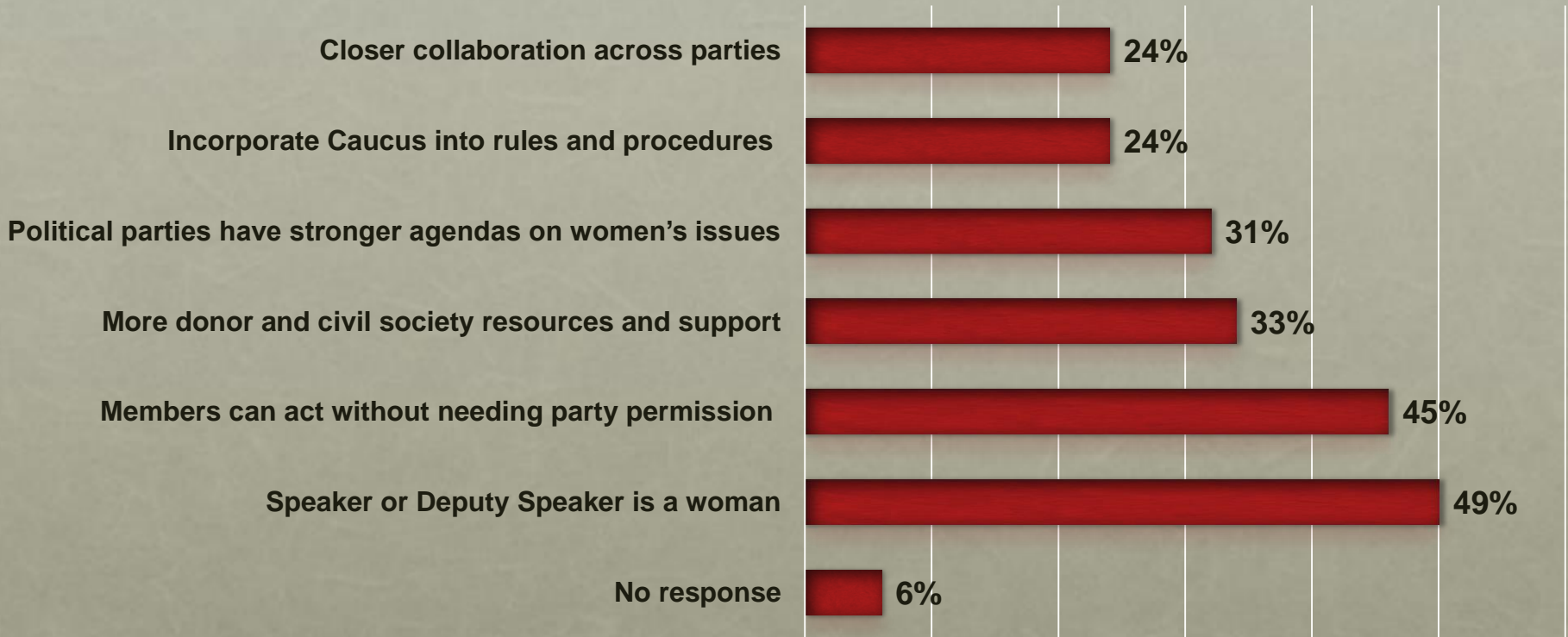
How to strengthen Caucus



Source: WPS 2018

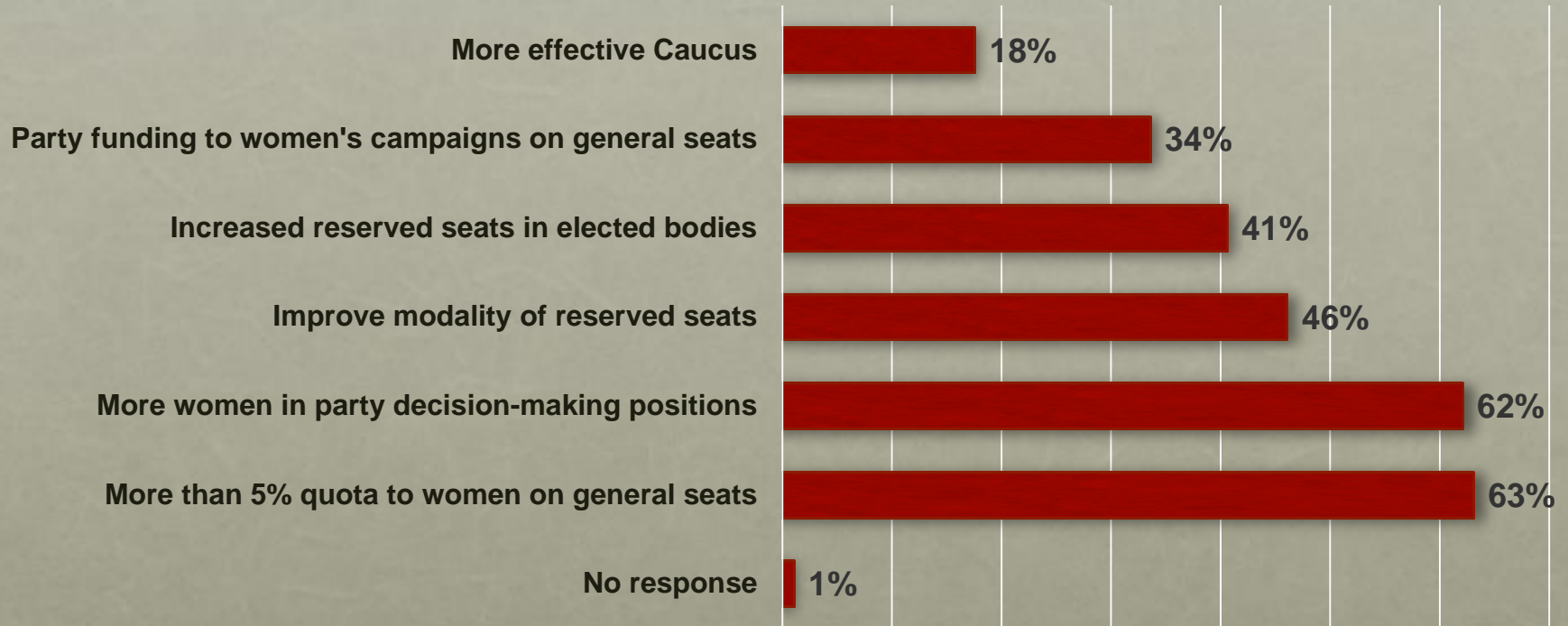
N=200

How to strengthen Caucus (National Assembly)



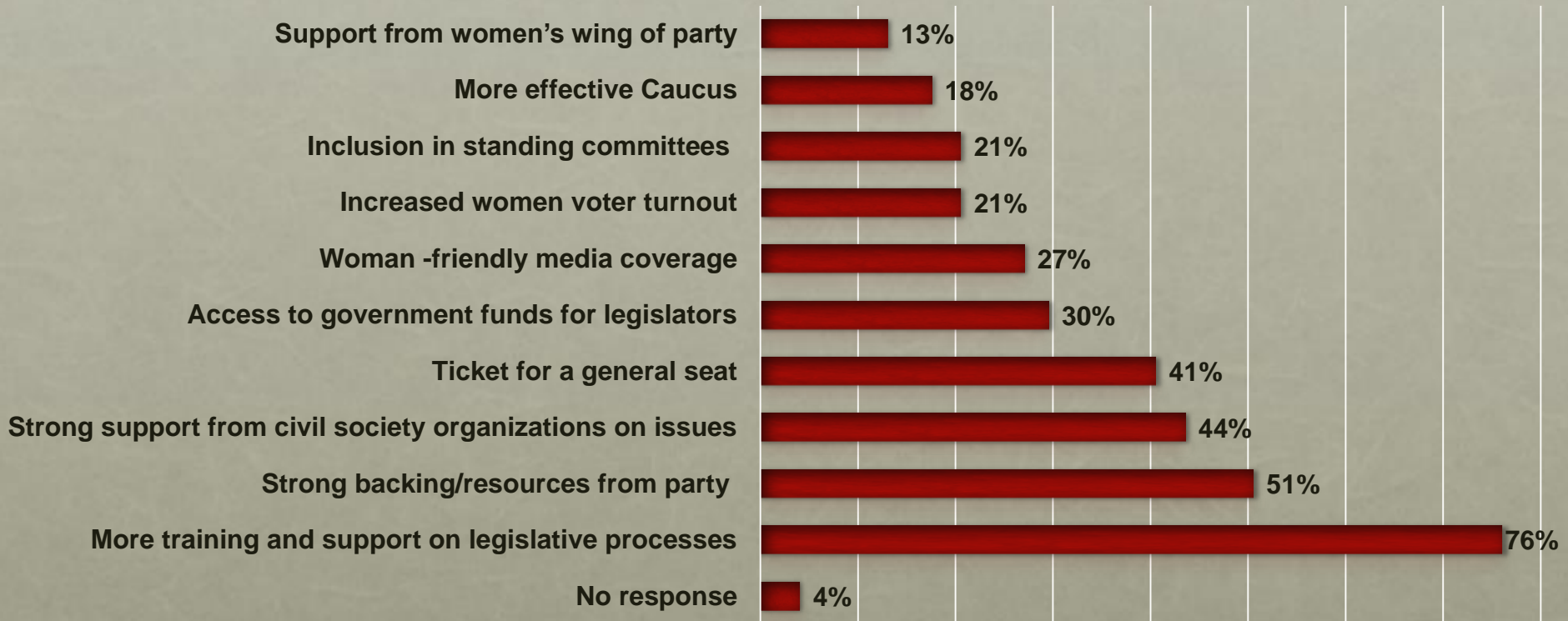
Source: WPS 2018
N= 51

Policy measures to increase political voice



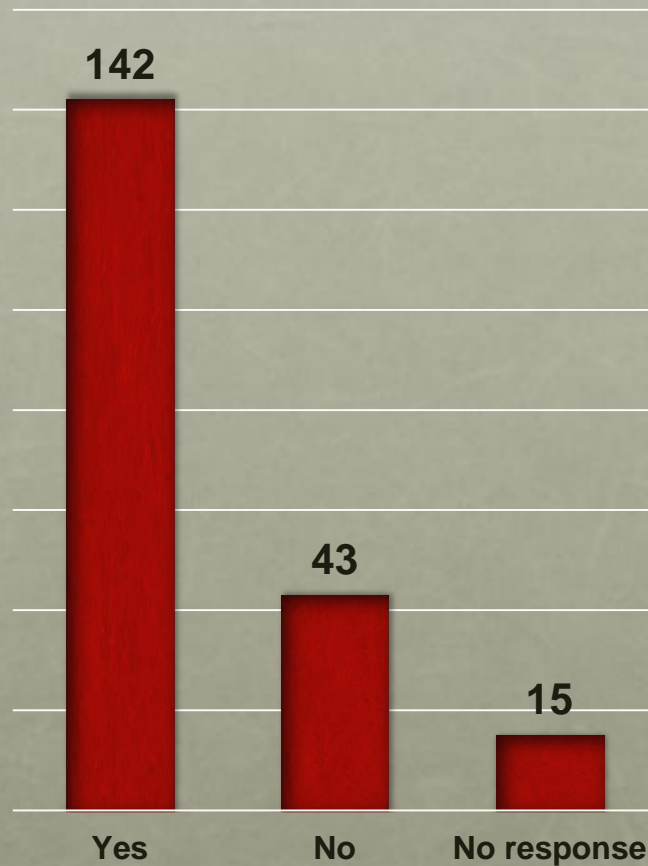
Source: WPS 2018
N=200

Measures most empowering to women politicians



Source: WPS 2018
N=200

Standing for re-election



Source: WPS 2018
N=200

The structure of the political 'work' arena
+
Women's lack of power within it
=
Sex-based discrimination

- Work arena: elected bodies, parties and public spaces
- Sexual harassment viewed as a sub-set of discrimination

Exclusion from political spaces

- Voter suppression: Local bans on women voting
- Gender gap in votes 11.1 million in 2018
- ? If religion/ideology permits her to enter the space at all
- Direct assassination
- Exclusion from ticket allocation
- Denial of entry into meetings
- Silencing when present

Table 1. Silencing by male colleagues

House/Assembly	Yes	%	Total
Senate	3	17	18
NA	8	16	51
KP	13	62	21
Balochistan	2	17	12
Sindh	10	36	28
Punjab	14	22	65
GB	2	40	5
Total	52	26	200

Source: WPS 2018
11 No responses

Verbal sexual harassment

- Insulting/denigrating language of male colleagues during proceedings
- Verbal comments before media

Table 2. Verbal insults from male colleagues

House/Assembly	Yes	%	Total
Senate	0	0	18
NA	6	12	51
KP	4	19	21
Balochistan	0	0	12
Sindh	1	4	28
Punjab	9	14	65
GB	1	20	5
Total	21	11	200

Source: WPS 2018
6 No responses

Verbal sexual harassment

- SMS messages
- Social media posts
- Media portrayal

Table 3. Unwelcome texts/social media posts

House/Assembly	Yes	%	Total
Senate	1	6	18
NA	6	12	51
KP	9	43	21
Balochistan	1	8	12
Sindh	3	11	28
Punjab	25	38	65
GB	1	20	5
Total	46	23	200

Source: WPS 2018
10 No responses

Physical harassment

- Threats to prevent women departing from party positions
- Death threats to transgender candidates

Table 4. Physical harassments/threats

House/As sembly	Yes	%	Total
Senate	1	6	18
NA	4	8	51
KP	3	5	21
Balochista n	0	0	12
Sindh	1	3	28
Punjab	1	2	65
GB	1	20	5
Total	11	6	200

Source: WPS 2018
13 No responses

Political parties as organisations

Key Features / Predictors

- Almost all decision-makers are men.
- Party leaders not democratically elected.
- Party depends on leaders' personal charisma + ability to attract votes.
- Non-transparent process for ticket distribution.
- Loyalty to party leaders highly valued.
- Lack of internal accountability procedures.
- Most women are there as representatives of their sex.

Results

- Hostile work environment
- Enabling a culture of sexual harassment
- Harassment is silenced, mocked and impunity persists = under-reported.
- Men urge women to behave as per gender roles due to inexperience etc.
- 'Uppity women' are main targets.