

Enhancing healthcare equity for women

Recognising challenges women face across a region as diverse as Asia Pacific and understanding factors that drive their ability to access timely diagnosis and treatment

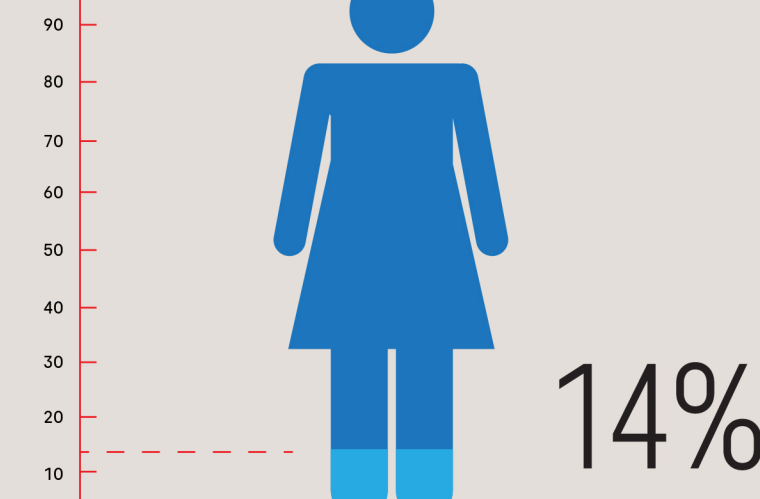


The Asia Pacific-wide survey* sheds light on women's roles, their knowledge levels and perceptions of healthcare as well as factors influencing decision-making related to their health and wellbeing.

Cultural and societal obligations continue to prevent women from getting the care they deserve despite societal progression towards modernity.

Moreover, some women themselves simply don't feel that the healthcare system supports them sufficiently.

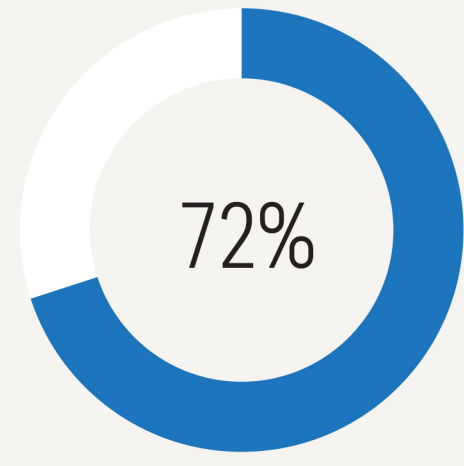
In fact, only **14%** of women felt very empowered by their country's health system when it comes to making important decisions about their choice and ability to conceive children.



While the traditional or domestic responsibilities of women have evolved in several countries, the pressure to meet societal expectations remains.

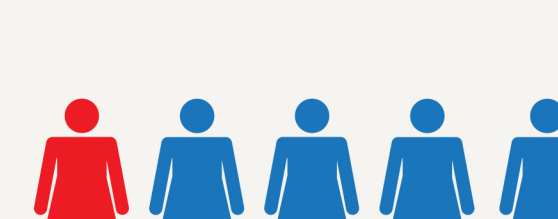
Majority of women surveyed said that the opinions of the expected roles of women have changed in the last 10 years, however meaningful change and progress has yet to be achieved as...

Traditional perceptions of infertility remains high



of respondents indicate that there is stigma attached to women who face difficulty conceiving children and 73% of respondents shared that when a couple faces fertility issues, people in their community assume the female is the **source** of the issue.

Women deprioritise their health for loved ones



1 in 5 women surveyed felt strongly that they have delayed or avoided medical treatment one or several times due to a family obligation.

Societal pressure to act or live a certain way play a significant role in influencing life-changing decisions of women in this region.



Nearly **1 in 2** women (43%) said that the expectations of family, friends and community influenced their decision to get married at the "right" age.

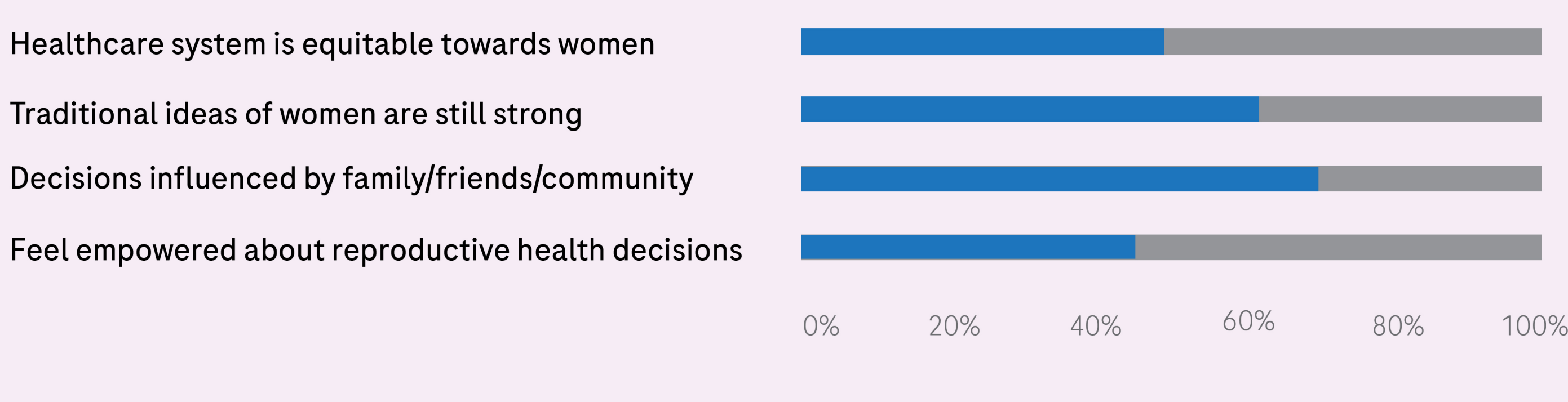


1 in 3 women (33%) surveyed said the expectations of family, friends, and the community influenced their decision to give up their career to take up caregiving responsibilities in the family.



In the 8 countries surveyed, culture/stigma (72%) and familial obligations (75%) were the **top reasons** women said prevented them from receiving better fertility-related healthcare.

Women's perception on health equity, societal and systemic factors influencing health decisions



Knowledge is not where it needs to be for something as fundamental as women's health – particularly around cervical cancer prevention.



Only **22%** feel very knowledgeable about cervical cancer, implying a knowledge gap in approximately 250 million women in Asia Pacific on the only cancer that is preventable.

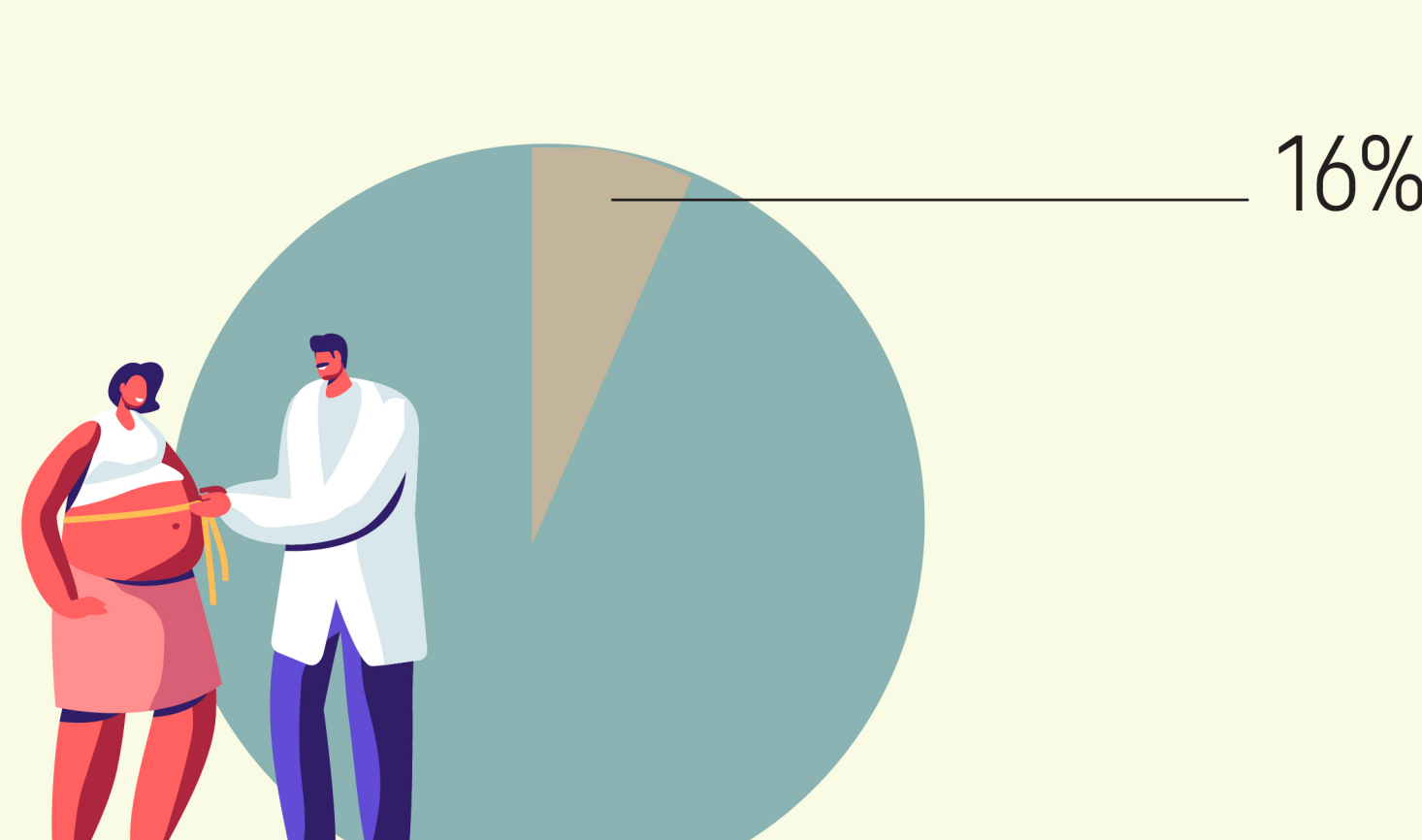
Only **15%** of women surveyed felt they were very knowledgeable about the many options available to help conceive children.

More than **58%** of all cases of cervical cancer globally were estimated to be in Asia.¹

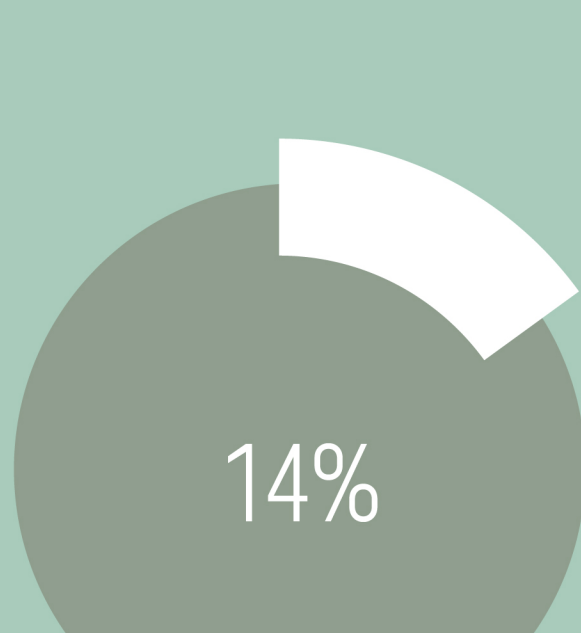
*Singh, D. et al. (2023) "Global estimates of incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in 2020: A baseline analysis of the WHO global cervical cancer elimination initiative." The Lancet Global Health, 11(2). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lan.2022.109422>

The traditional views of women and systemic bias directly impact the levels of support offered by the healthcare system.

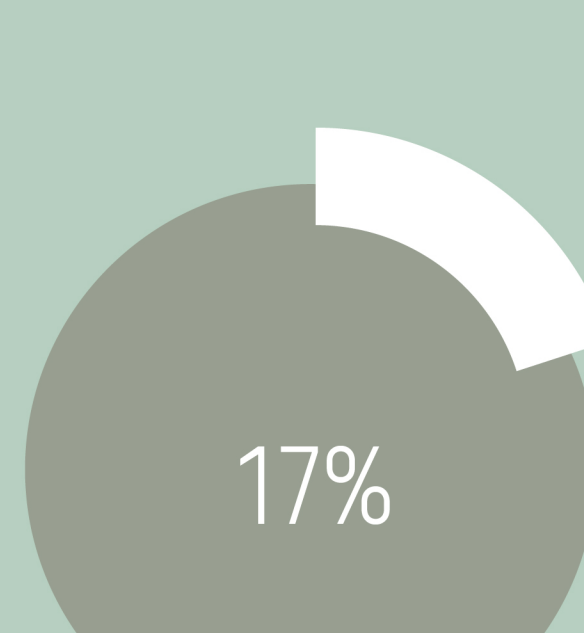
Only **16%** of women in the 8 countries surveyed said that the healthcare system is highly fair and equitable in its treatment of women.



49% of women surveyed believe that the level of fairness in their country's healthcare system impacts women's health a lot.



Felt very empowered by their country's health system when it comes to making important decisions about their choice and ability to conceive children.

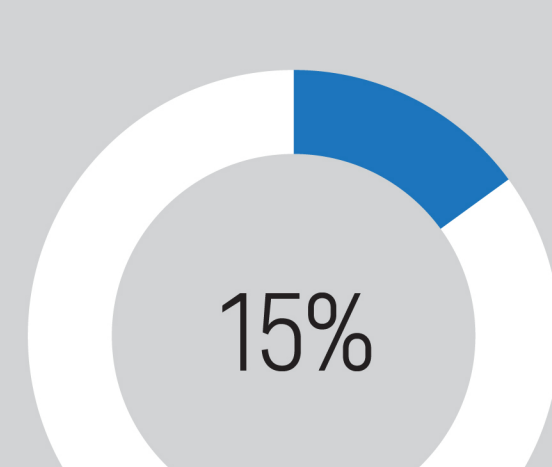


Feel extremely supported by the current health policies in their country.

Consequently, there remains a gap in accessing support and preventive care when needed.



Only **1 in 2** women (55%) surveyed said they can easily access cervical cancer screening.



Only **15%** of women surveyed felt very empowered to make decisions about having a child or not.



Nearly **1 in 4** women (22%) surveyed felt unsure or not empowered to get medical treatment for child conception issues.