East Asia and Pacific
Survey on Gender Equality at Home
Regional Brief
Introduction

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home offers a global snapshot of life at home, from the perspectives of Facebook users around the world. It was conducted in July 2020 to capture household gender dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic, and reached a statistically representative sample of half a million people who use Facebook, spanning seven world regions and covering 208 countries, territories, and islands in 80 languages.

Over 460,000 people opted in to answer questions that focused on four areas in particular: attitudes and beliefs about gender equality; participation in unpaid care and domestic work; resource allocation and decision-making; and COVID-19’s impact on everyday lives. The survey results were disaggregated for men and women, allowing insights into gender differences.¹

This brief shares findings from East Asia and Pacific,² describing aggregate patterns in survey responses from the 37 countries and islands highlighted on the map in Figure 1. The findings presented are based primarily on responses from 39,773 individuals, including 19,630 who identified as female and 20,143 who identified as male. This brief does not seek to describe the region as a whole. Rather, results are calibrated to the online population in the region. Note that as of 2017, only about 55 percent of the total East Asia and Pacific population was using the internet.³ This population tends to be younger (78 percent between the age of 18 and 54 years old), more suburban and rural (44 percent residing in cities), and better educated (59 percent have more than secondary education) than the general population. While this limits the generalizability of the findings, the picture that emerges provides important insights into gender differences for the region.

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¹. This report focuses on individuals who reported their gender as either female or male. This decision was taken in response to the very low share of respondents who selected the option ‘other.’
². Countries allocated into regions based upon World Bank classifications.
FIGURE 1
Countries surveyed in East Asia and Pacific
Key Findings

I. Gender norms

II. Unpaid care and domestic work

III. Resource allocation and decision-making

IV. Life during COVID-19
I. GENDER NORMS

The majority of respondents (83 percent) reported that they agree\(^4\) with the statement, “Men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making).” Women were significantly more likely than men to agree with the statement (86 percent of women vs. 80 percent of men).

Survey participants were also asked how many of their neighbors they would expect to agree with this statement. Men expected an average of 6.1 (out of 10) of their neighbors to agree with this statement, while women expected a higher number on average (6.6 out of 10).

\(^4\) We collapsed the proportion of respondents who indicated that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with this statement. This comment applies throughout the brief.

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49 percent of respondents agreed that a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children.

Correspondingly, 41 percent agreed that household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.

Nearly half (49 percent) of respondents agreed with the statement, “A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children.” When asked how many of their neighbors would also agree with this statement, both men and women estimated that an average of about 6 (out of 10) of their neighbors would do so.

Regarding men's household roles, 41 percent of respondents agreed with the statement, “Household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.” When asked how many of their neighbors would also agree with this statement, men responded that an average of 6.3 (out of 10) of their neighbors would do so, while women were likely to report a somewhat lower number of neighbors on average 5.8 (out of 10).

83 percent of respondents agreed that men and women should have equal opportunities.
II. UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

Women were more likely to report being the main caregiver for children under 6 years of age.

Responses on caregiving also exhibit gender differences. In East Asia and Pacific, women were more likely than men to report that, under “normal circumstances”\(^5\) they are the main caregiver for someone in their family: 21 percent of women were more likely to report being the main caregiver of children under 6, compared to 14 percent of men in the region. Self-reporting on caregiving for elderly dependents, dependents with special needs, and self-isolating dependents was more equitably distributed among men and women in the region.

Women were significantly more likely than men to report spending time cooking, cleaning and on household management.

Survey responses indicated gender differences in responsibility for household chores. Women were significantly more likely than men to report spending time on chores such as cleaning (72 percent of women vs. 44 percent of men), cooking (59 percent of women vs. 29 percent of men), and household management (32 percent of women vs. 27 percent of men), while men were significantly more likely than women to report spending time on subsistence farming (11 percent of men vs. 7 percent of women). Furthermore, men in the region were two times more likely than women to report not taking part in any of the above-mentioned chores (15 percent of men vs. 6.9 percent of women).

\(^5\) This phrase was used to solicit responses about conditions prior to COVID-19.
FIGURE 2
Which household chores do respondents spend time on?

- Cleaning
- Shopping
- Collecting Water or Fuel
- Cooking
- Farming
- Tending to Animals
- Managing Household
- Supporting Family Business

Women □ Men
Men were more likely to report owning motorized vehicles, land, the places they live and computers.

The survey illustrated a number of gendered differences in asset ownership. Men were more likely than women to report owning motorized vehicles (48 percent of women vs. 60 percent of men), land (17 percent of women vs. 29 percent of men), the place they live (33 percent of women vs. 43 percent of men), and computers (37 percent of women vs. 44 percent of men). Responses indicated less disparity by gender in smartphone ownership (72 percent of women vs. 73 percent of men) among the online population in this region.

Women were less likely than men to report being engaged in income-generating activities, and are more likely to say that they “fully depend on someone else in [their] household”.

Women were significantly less likely than men to report being engaged in income-generating activities (59 percent of women vs. 67 percent of men). Furthermore, women were 23 percentage points less likely than men to report being the main income earner in their household (43 percent of women vs. 66 percent of men).

Lastly, men were also significantly more likely than women to report fully covering their own expenses (90 percent of men vs. 80 percent of women), while women were twice as likely to report that they “fully depend” on another member of their household compared to men (20 percent of women vs. 10 percent of men).
Men were more likely to say they control financial decision-making and have full access to household money.

Men were significantly more likely than women to report making decisions about large purchases (32 percent of men vs. 23 percent of women). When asked who makes decisions about “critical or urgent matters”, men were also more likely to report making such decisions, compared to women (35 percent of men vs. 27 percent of women).
IV. LIFE DURING COVID-19

28 percent of respondents reported difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies during the pandemic.

When asked how their lives have been affected by COVID-19, the most common response from survey participants in East Asia and Pacific was difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies (28 percent). Women in the region were 5 percentage points more likely to report this concern (31 percent of women vs. 26 percent of men).

Women were also more likely to report being unable to seek medical care (15 percent of women vs. 11 percent of men) and being impacted by school cancelations or reductions (34 percent of women vs. 21 percent of men). Meanwhile, men were more likely than women to report losing a job (23 percent of men vs. 19 percent of women).

The most commonly reported concern regarding COVID-19 was the future of work (36 percent of respondents).

When asked about their main concerns during the pandemic, the most commonly reported concern was the future of respondents’ work (36 percent of responses).

There were also some notable gender differences in respondents’ concerns. Women were more likely than men to report being concerned about access to health care (30 percent of women vs. 21 percent of men), having enough money to sustain their families (39 percent of women vs. 33 percent of men), and having enough food and basic supplies for their families (31 percent of women vs. 22 percent of men).

Concerns about food and basic supplies were more likely to be reported by women who reported depending financially on another household member (that is, those that reported not fully covering their own expenses): 36 percent of women who fully depend financially on someone else in the household report such concerns vs. 30 percent of financially independent women.

6. Respondents were provided with a series of options including: School was canceled or reduced; Migrated to different geographical area; Difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies; Longer wait times to visit doctors/seek medical care; Lost a job; Lost access to/could not use public transport; Unable to perform usual personal care/health routines; Unable to seek medical care; Isolate or follow a quarantine order; None of the above; and Other.

7. Respondents were provided with a series of options including: Having enough money to sustain my family; Having enough food and basic supplies for my family; Being stuck at home for a long time; Having access to accurate information on coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; The future of my work; Access to health care; Repaying outstanding loans; Staying home with limited things to do; My children education; I do not have any concerns at this time; and Other.
FIGURE 4
What are respondents’ main concerns during the pandemic?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>- / +</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enough money to sustain family</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>- 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enough food and basic supplies for family</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>- 9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuck at home for long time</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>- 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having access to COVID accurate information</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>- 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future of work</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>+ 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to health care</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>- 7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repaying outstanding loans</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staying home with limited things to do</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>- 4%</td>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Visit www.dataforgood.fb.com/docs/gendersurveyreport for more information about Facebook’s Survey on Gender Equality at Home.