



**FUTURE**  
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**Future Indicators**

## Inside Iran

# The Iranian society's standpoints towards the political, security and economic conditions



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## Methodology

This report tackles the most prominent trends of the Iranian society's behavior towards several political and security issues, with the aim of understanding the Iranian society from within. The report is mainly based on analyzing the data of the World Values Survey that is being implemented in various countries, including Iran. The survey on Iran was conducted in 2020, using personal interviews with a representative sample of 1499 Iranian citizens. Statistical analysis was carried out using SPSS software.

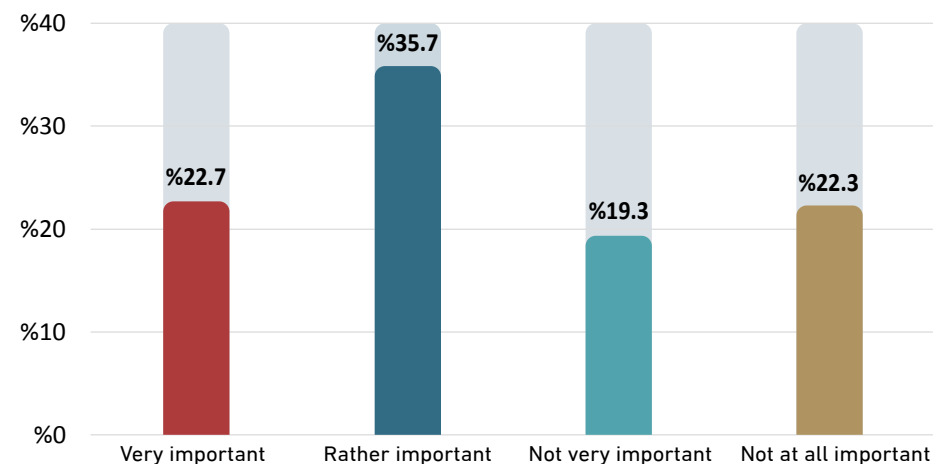
## Key Findings:

- Politics is important to a big percentage of Iranians, up to 58.4%.
- The Iranian armed forces are the most trusted institution by Iranians. Nearly 7 out of 10 Iranians have a great deal of confidence in them (71%), while 22% have quite a lot of trust in it.
- A significant percentage of Iranians feel that there is widespread corruption in all state and local authorities, among businessmen and civil service providers, in addition to the media.
- There are widespread concerns among a large percentage of Iranians (46%) regarding the occurrence of terrorist attacks in Iran.
- The priority of the economy for the younger generations compared to the elderly. The younger generation regards the economy as the top priority, while the older generation perceives availing the military force sufficient to defend the country as the top priority.
- Approximately 11.2% of Iranians have previously participated in peaceful demonstrations, which is a broadly high percentage (which constitutes approximately 6.7 million people out of the total population of 59.8 million people, 18 years and older). Furthermore, 36.3% indicated that they are willing to participate in demonstrations.
- Almost 3 out of 5 Iranians believe that the rich buy elections to their advantage, that TV news favors the governing party, and that this takes place very often or fairly often.
- 1 in 2 Iranians believe that opposition candidates are prevented from running for elections, and that this happens very often or fairly often.
- Nearly 47% of Iranians believe that voters are bribed, and the same percentage believes that journalists do not provide fair coverage of elections.
- The majority of Iranians hope that Iran would turn into being democratically governed. About 97% of Iranians believe that a democratic system of government in Iran will be very good or fairly good.
- Almost 1 in 3 people in Iran think that there is no respect for human rights in Iran.
- Social media is a key mean for young people to learn about what is going on in Iran and the world.

## Politics is important to a significant percentage of Iranians:

About one-fifth of Iranians see politics as totally unimportant in their lives, while another fifth has a similar view, as they believe that politics is not of great importance in their life. Thus, the percentage of Iranians who are not interested in politics in their lives may approach (41.6%). On the other hand, more than a third of Iranians (35.7%) see politics as rather important in their lives, and about 22.7% of Iranians see politics as very important in their lives, which means that 58.4% of Iranians see politics as rather important or very important in their lives.

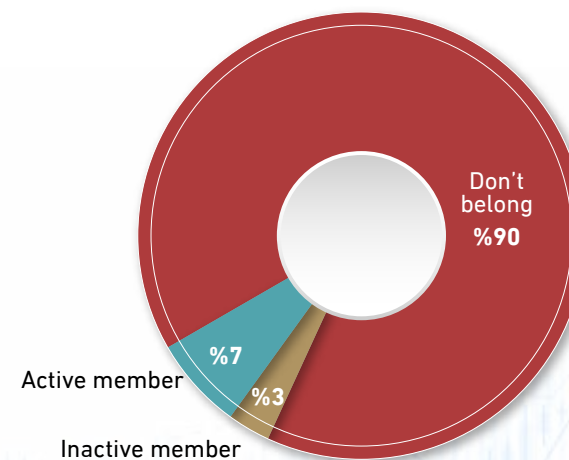
## The importance of politics in the life of Iranians



## Low membership of political parties:

The majority of the Iranian people are not members of political parties. Almost 9 out of 10 Iranians do not belong to any political parties, about 3% are inactive members, and nearly 7% are active members.

## Membership in political parties in Iran



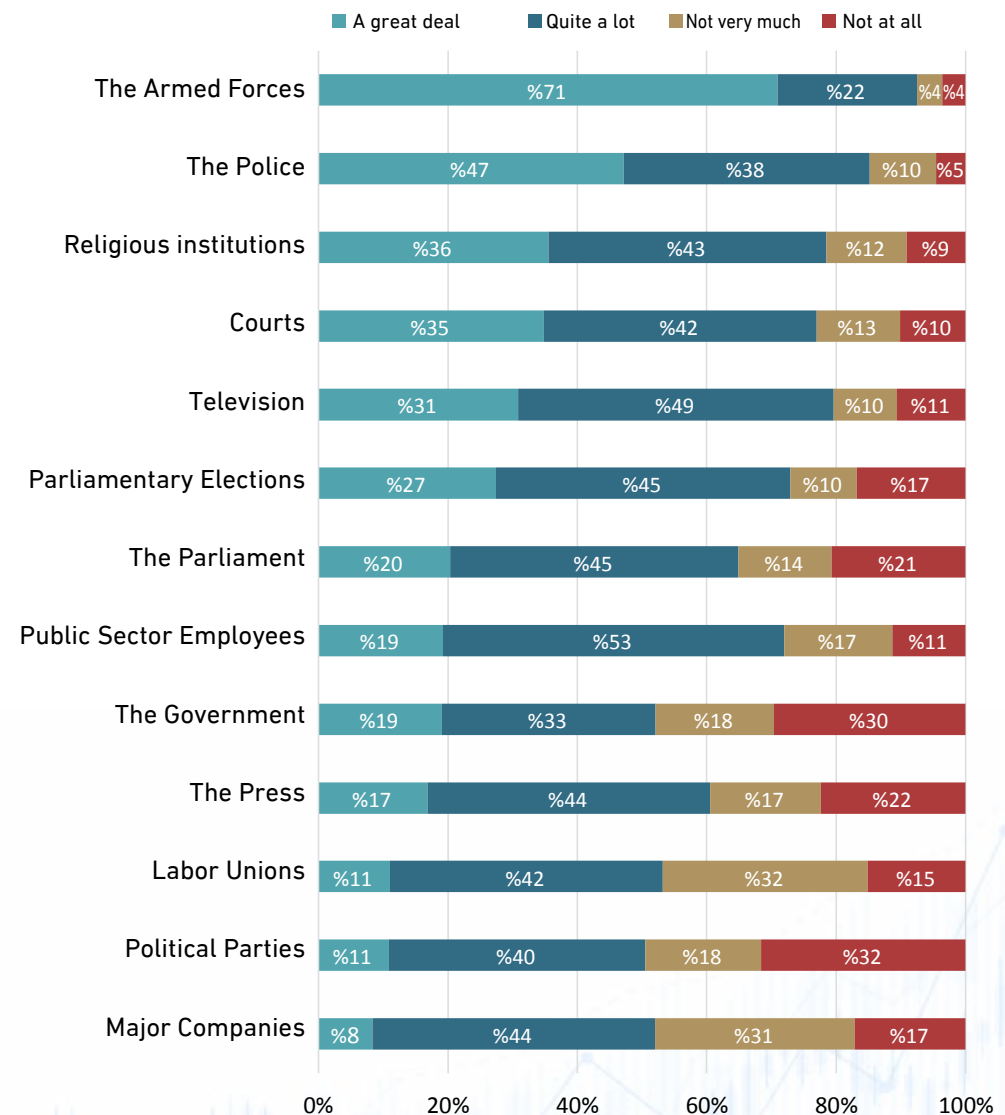
**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

## The Iranian armed forces are still the most trusted institution:

The Iranian armed forces are the most trusted institution by Iranians, as nearly 7 out of 10 Iranians have a great deal of confidence in them (71%), 22% of Iranians trust them quite a lot, while a limited percentage of Iranians (4%) do not have much confidence in them, and 4% do not trust them at all. The Iranian police comes in second place in terms of Iranians' trust, as about 47% have a great deal of trust in it, 38% trust it quite a lot. Religious institutions come in third place in terms of trust, although it is noted that the percentage of mistrust or low trust rises in religious institutions, as almost 1 in 5 Iranians mistrust or have little faith in religious institutions. Perhaps what is interesting is that the Iranian government falls behind in terms of Iranians' trust. There is a split among Iranians between those who trust the government and those who do not, and the same is true for political parties.



## Confidence in Iranian institutions



Source: Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.



## Widespread corruption in Iran:

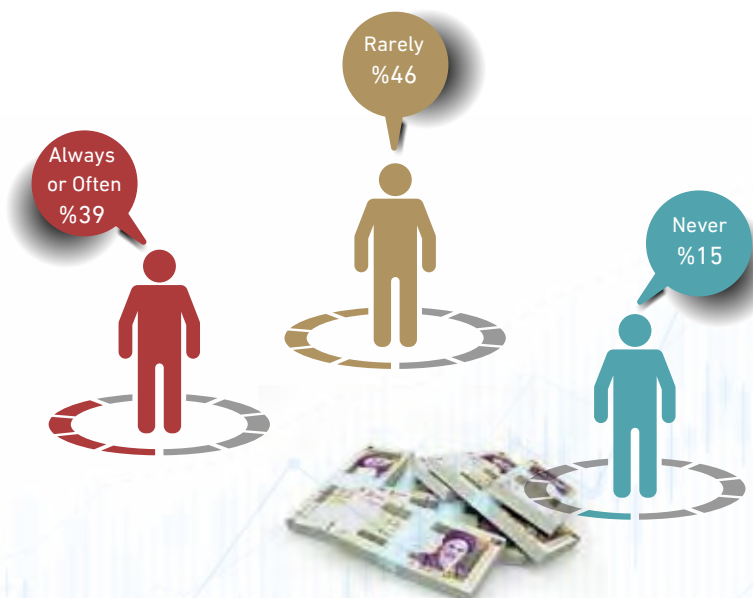
According to the Iranians, corruption has become pervasive in all aspects of the regime and its institutions. The results of the World Values Survey indicate that a large percentage of Iranians feel that there is prevalent corruption in all state and local authorities, among businessmen and civil service providers, in addition to the media. Nearly 57% of Iranians believe that all or most businessmen are involved in corruption. 54.4% of Iranians believe that all or most individuals in the local authorities are involved in corruption. The same applies to individuals in state authorities, where 52.1% of the Iranians believe that all or most of these individuals

are involved in corruption. Iranians also express how they experience difficulties in accessing services, as 47.6% of Iranians believe that all or most civil service providers are involved in corruption. Also, over a third of Iranians (39%) believe that ordinary people always or often have to pay a bribe or give a gift to get various services. Corruption in Iran is not limited to businessmen or members of public and local authorities and public service providers, but, according to Iranians, extends to the media and the press. Nearly a third of Iranians believe that all or most journalists or media professionals are involved in corruption.

### Percentage of Iranians who believe that all or most individuals in the following entities are involved in corruption



### Percentage of Iranians who believe that they have to pay bribes in order to get services

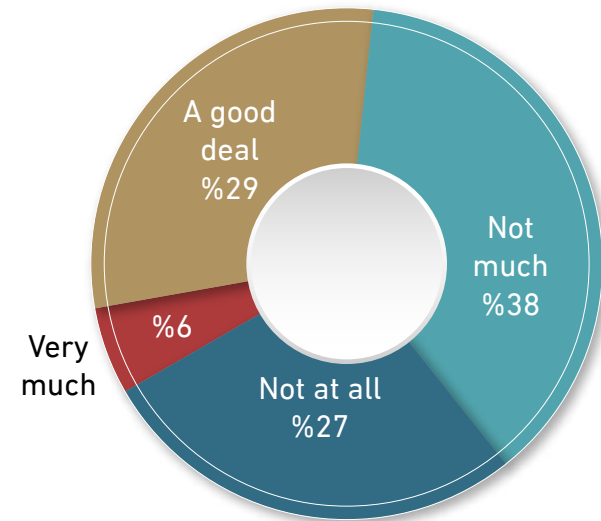


**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

### A third of Iranians have fears regarding the outbreak of an external war involving the country:

Iran is suffering from ongoing international and regional tensions, which triggers the Iranians' fear of getting into a direct external war. About 6% of Iranians are very worried about getting into a war, and about 29% of Iranians suffer from a good deal of worry about getting into a war. Thus, it is almost 1 out of every 3 Iranians fears that their country will be involved in an external war (approximately 35% of Iranians).

### Percentage of Iranians who are worried about Iran getting into war



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

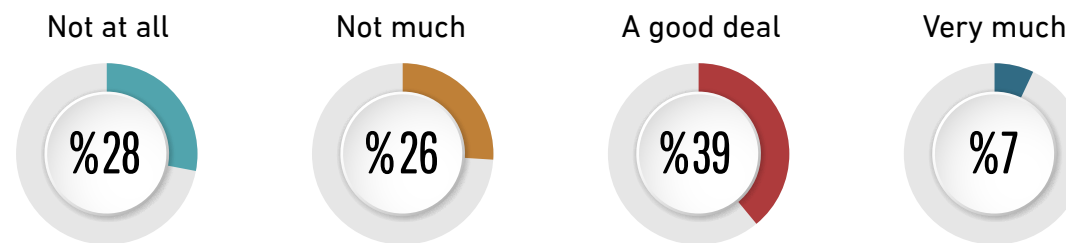


## Extensive fears of terrorist attacks:

There are widespread concerns among many Iranians regarding the occurrence of terrorist attacks in Iran. Nearly 7% of Iranians are very concerned about the occurrence of terrorist attacks, and

about 39% suffer a good deal of worry about the occurrence of terrorist attacks, and thus nearly 46% have concerns regarding the occurrence of such attacks.

### Percentage of Iranians who are worried about the occurrence of terrorist attacks in Iran

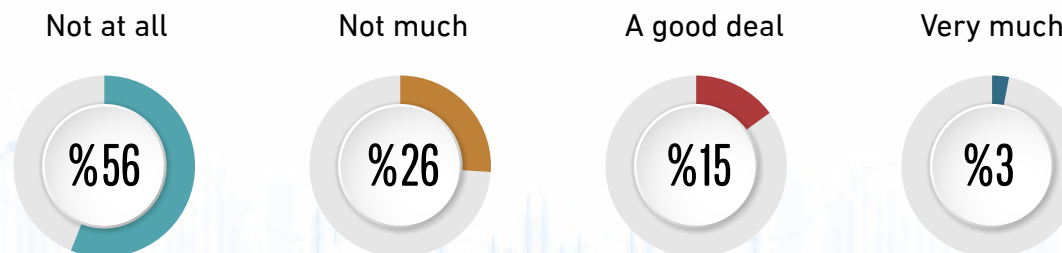


## Limited fears of civil war:

It may be noted that Iranians fear the outbreak of a civil war less than they fear a war or terrorist attacks. Nevertheless, about 3% worry very much about a civil war, and nearly 15% worry quite a good deal about that. Thus, approximately 18% of Iranians have

fears of civil war (roughly 1 in 5 Iranians has such fears). It is worth noting that such fears rise among the Persians, the Kurds, the Gilaks and the Mazandarani.

### Percentage of Iranians who are worried about outbreak of a civil war in Iran



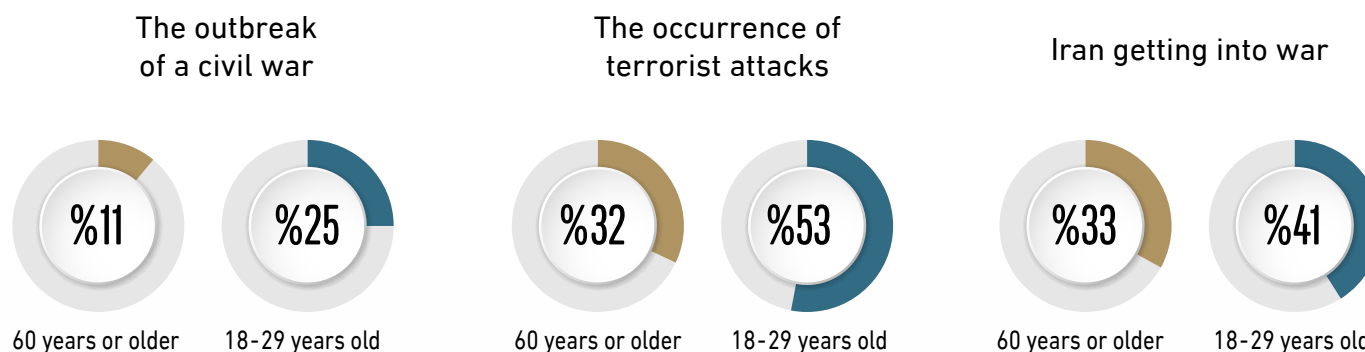
**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

## Younger generations have greater fears of war or terrorist attacks:

The results indicate that young Iranian generations have greater fears of the outbreak of an external war or the occurrence of terrorist attacks or a civil war compared to older generations. About 41% of young people (18-29 years old) have fears of Iran's involvement in an external war, compared to 33% among the elderly (60 years and above). The results also indicate that more than half of

young people (18-29 years old) in Iran (53%) have fears of terrorist attacks, compared to 32% among the elderly (60 years and above). Regarding the occurrence of a civil war, a quarter of Iranian youth (18-29 years old) have fears of a civil war, compared to 11% among the elderly (60 years and above).

### The generational gap in the concerns about war, terrorism and civil war



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

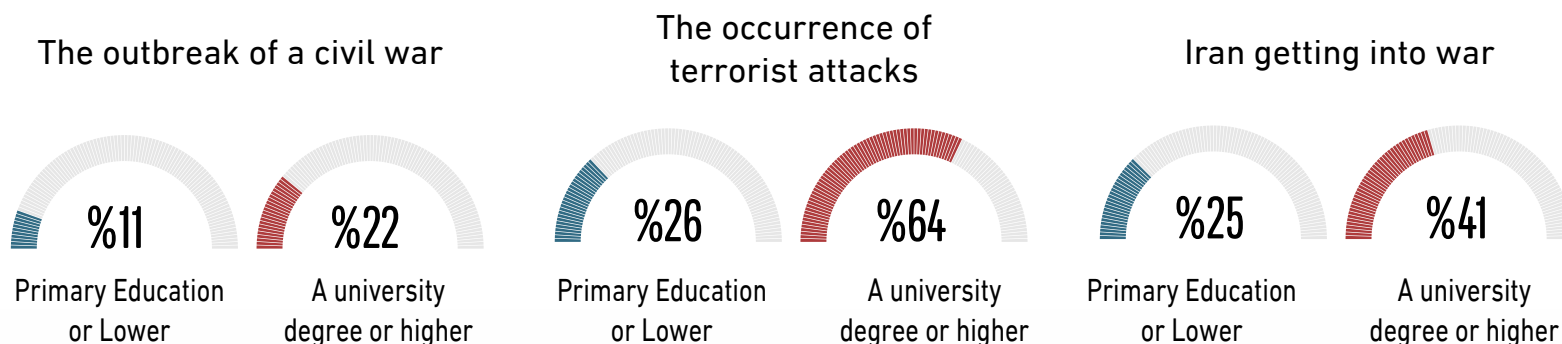


## The educated have greater fears of war or terrorist attacks:

There are clear discrepancies within the Iranian society based on the level of education. Well-educated groups within the Iranian society have greater fears. Nearly 41% of Iranian people who have a university degree or higher have fears of Iran's involvement in an external war, compared to 25% among groups who have a primary education or less. The results also indicate that two-thirds

(64%) of individuals in Iran with a university degree or higher have a fear of terrorist attacks in Iran, compared to 26% among groups with a primary education or less. As for the outbreak of a civil war, there are also higher fears among people with higher education, amounting to 22%, compared to about 11% among groups with a primary education or less.

### The educational gap in the concerns about war, terrorism and civil war



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.



## The priority of the economy over security and defense for Iranians:

When attempting to identify the priorities of the Iranian society, results showed that 44.5% of Iranians placed achieving a high level of economic growth as a top priority that Iranians want Iran to

achieve over the next ten years, followed by giving the military force to defend the country a second place by 35.5%.

### Percentage of Iranians who believe Iran has to achieve the following goals over the next ten years



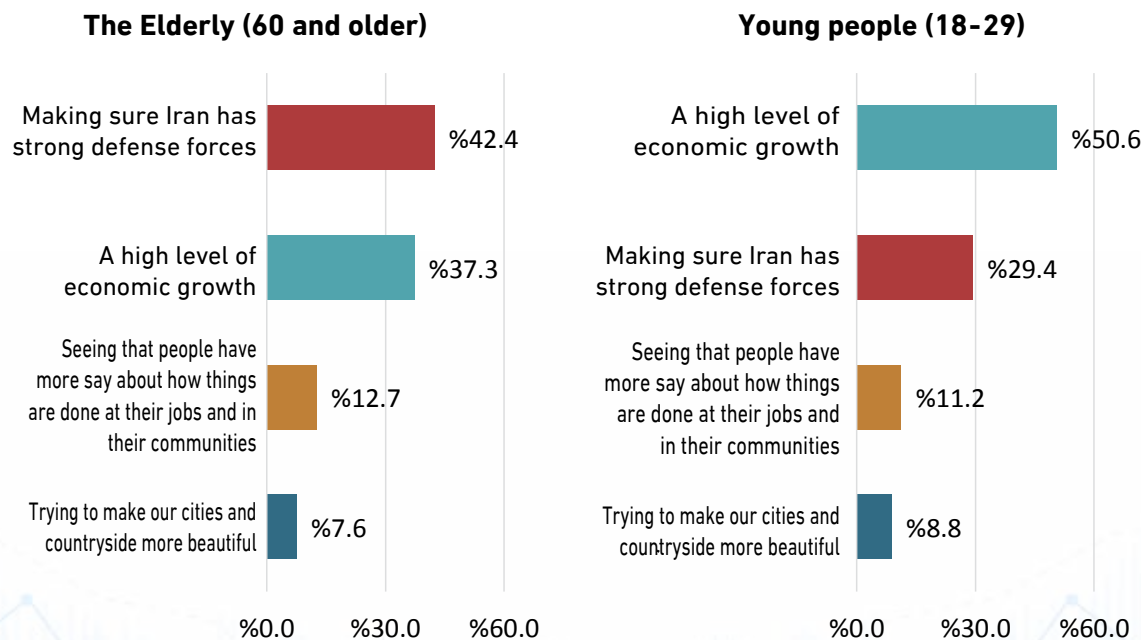
**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

## The priority of the economy among the younger generations compared to the elderly:

What is interesting is that there is a discrepancy between the priorities of the younger generation and those of the older generations. The younger generation sets the economy as the first priority, while the older generation sees availing a military force that is sufficient to defend the country as a top priority. As the results indicate, half of the young generation (18-29 years old) believe that achieving a high level of economic growth comes at the fore-

front of the priorities they would like Iran to achieve over the next ten years, followed by availing a military force that is sufficient to defend Iran by 29.4%. On the other hand, 42.4% of the elderly (60 years and above) believe that establishing a military force that is sufficient to defend Iran comes at the forefront of the priorities they want Iran to achieve over the next ten years, followed by achieving a high level of economic growth by 37.3%.

### Iran's aims according to different generations



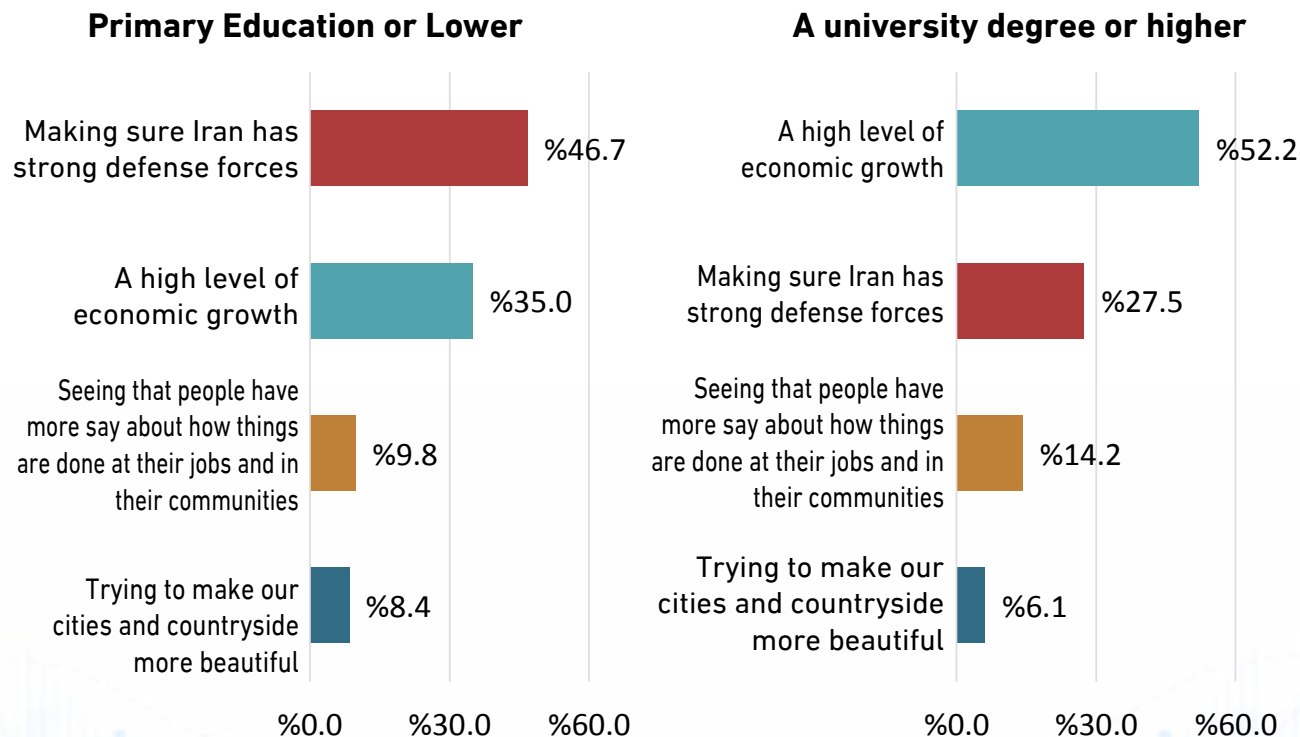
Source: Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

## The priority of the economy for the more educated compared to the less educated:

Highly educated individuals tend to prioritize Iran's economic progress with 52.2%, followed by availing a military force that sufficient to defend Iran with 27.5%. On the other hand, individuals with low education tend to place availing a military force that

is sufficient to defend Iran at the forefront of the priorities they want Iran to achieve over the next ten years, at 46.7%, followed by achieving a high economic level at 35%.

### Iran's aims according to different educational levels



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.



## Broad participation of Iranians in some forms of demonstrations:

- Peaceful demonstrations:

Approximately 11.2% of Iranians have previously participated in peaceful demonstrations, which is a broadly high percentage (constituting approximately 6.7 million people out of the total population of 59.8 million, 18 years and older). 36.3% indicated that they are willing to participate in demonstrations, while almost half of the Iranians (52.5%) said they would never participate in any kind of demonstrations.

- Strikes

About 2.8% of Iranians have previously participated in strikes, and approximately 25.4% may do so. On the other hand, approximately 72% of Iranians believe that they will never participate in any strikes.

- Boycott campaigns

Approximately 15.2% of Iranians have participated in boycott campaigns, and approximately 35.1% are willing to participate in boycott campaigns. Meanwhile, 49.7% of Iranians will never participate in boycott campaigns.

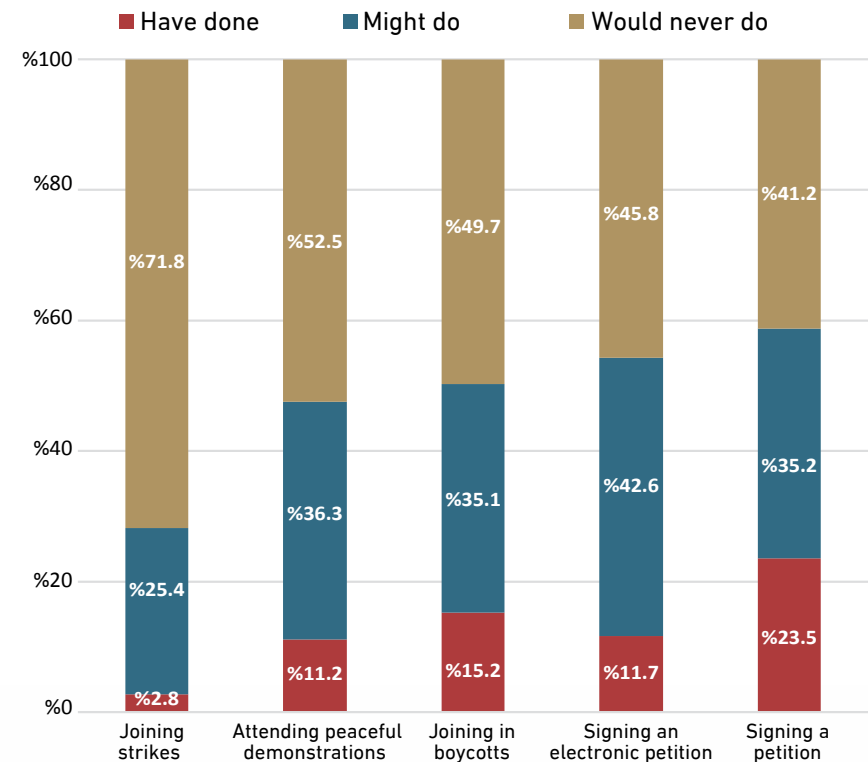
- Signing petitions

About 11.7% of Iranians have previously participated in signing a petition, and nearly 42.6% of Iranians are willing to do so, while 45.8% of Iranians will never participate in signing any petition.

- Signing an electronic petition

Nearly a quarter of Iranians (23.5%) have previously signed an electronic petition, and about 35.2% are willing to do so. Meanwhile, 41.2% of Iranians will never participate in signing any electronic petitions.

## Iranians' participation in some form of protest



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.



## The low integrity of elections in Iran:

There are several negative issues that Iranians think take place during elections, whether very often or fairly often. Almost 3 out of 5 Iranians believe that rich people buy the elections to their own advantage, television news favors the governing party, and that this happens very often or fairly often. Furthermore, 1 in 2 Iranians believe that opposition candidates are prevented from running, and that this happens very often or fairly often. Nearly 47% of Iranians believe that voters are bribed, and the same percentage believes that journalists do not provide fair coverage of elections. This is in addition to a number of other phenomena, such as: the fact that women do not have equal opportunities to run for elections (40%); that those responsible for elections are unfair (33%); that voters are not given real choices between different parties and different candidates (30%); that votes are not counted fairly (27%), and voters are threatened with violence at the polls (15%).



## Percentage of Iranians who believe that some of the following things happen in the elections, either very often or fairly often:

Opposition candidates are prevented from running



Women do not have equal opportunities to run the office



TV news favors the governing party



Rich people buy elections



Voters are bribed



Journalists do not provide fair coverage of elections



Voters are threatened with violence at the polls



Votes are not counted fairly



Voters are not offered a genuine choice in the elections



Election officials are unfair



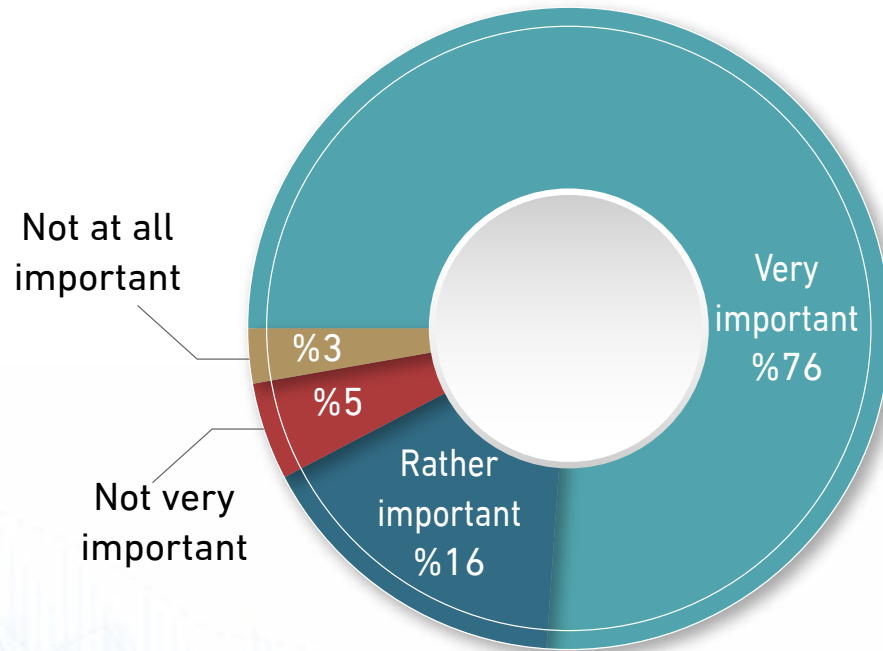
**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

## The importance of honest elections for Iranians:

The majority of Iranians believe in the importance of honest elections, and that these can change their lives. About 76% of Iranians believe that honest elections are very important, 16% think they

are rather important, 5% think they are not very important, and only 3% think they are not important at all.

The relative distribution of Iranians according to the importance of honest elections to them, as some people believe that fair elections may change the lives of individuals



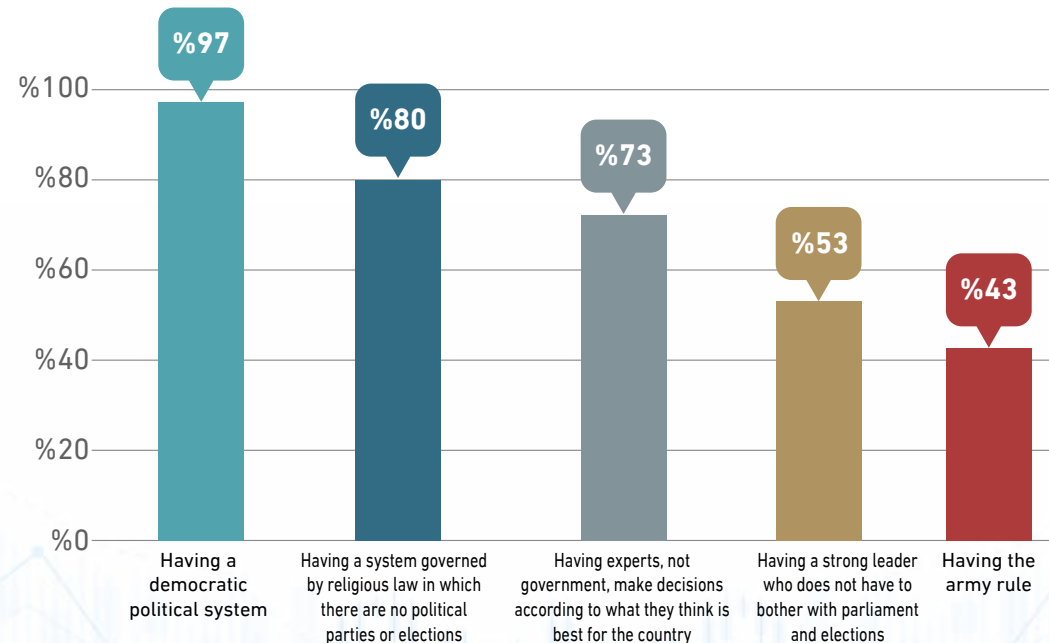
**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

## The majority of society hopes for Iran to become a democratically governed country:

Almost all Iranians hope that Iran will turn into a democratically governed country. About 97% of Iranians believe that the democratic system of government will be very good or fairly good in Iran. Meanwhile, a large percentage of Iranians (80%) believe that a system governed by religious laws with no political parties or elections would be very good or fairly good in Iran, which may indicate that Iranians desire an Islamic system characterized by democracy (particularly individual liberties). Iranians also hope for a technocratic government, where experts - who are not in govern-

ment - make decisions according to what they think is best for the country. About 73% of Iranians see this as very good or fairly good for Iran. There is a split among Iranians regarding the importance of having a strong leader ruling Iran and who does not care about the parliament or elections. About 53% believe that this would be very good or fairly good for Iran, while 47% are against that. Moreover, the rule of the military (the army) came in last place. About 43% of Iranians think that this would be very good or fairly good for Iran, while 57% of Iranians are against that.

Percentage of Iranians who consider the following types of governance methods to be very good or fairly good in Iran



Source: Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

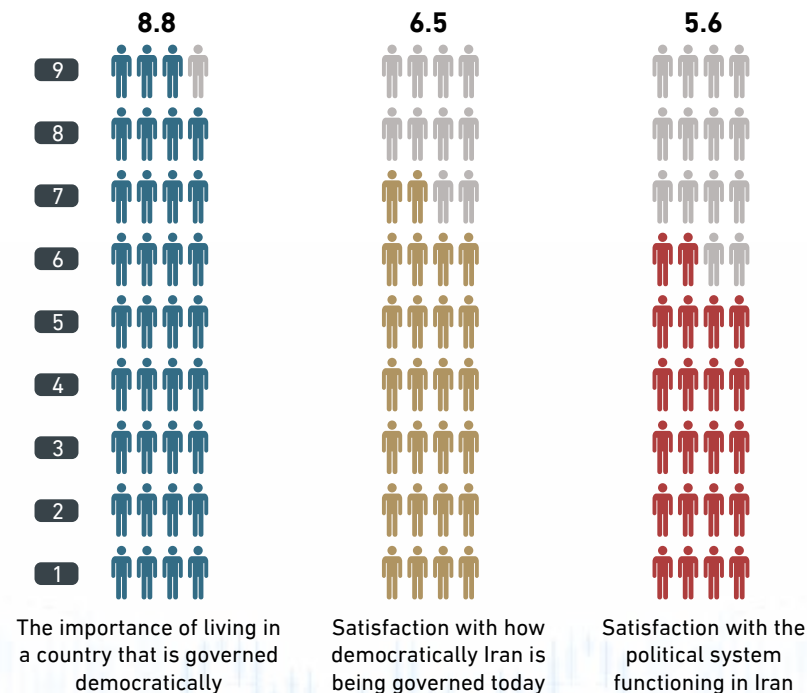


## The decline of democracy in Iran and the low degree of satisfaction with the political system:

When the respondents were asked about the importance of living in a democratically governed country, the index value was high, indicating the desire of the majority in Iran is to live in a democratically governed country, reaching 8.8 points out of a total of 10 points (where 1 is completely unimportant and 10 is extremely important). On the other hand, the value of the index decreased in relation to Iranians' attitudes regarding the extent of the de-

mocracy of governance in Iran, reaching 6.5 points out of a total of 10 points (where 1 indicates the absence of democracy and 10 indicates the prevalence of democracy). Finally, the value of the Iranian attitudes Index regarding the extent of satisfaction with the political system in Iran was very low, reaching 5.6 points out of a total of 10 points (where 1 expresses total dissatisfaction and 10 reflects complete satisfaction).

### Average value of Iranians' attitudes towards the extent of democracy in Iran and their satisfaction with the political system, with 1 (Worst) and 10 (Best)



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

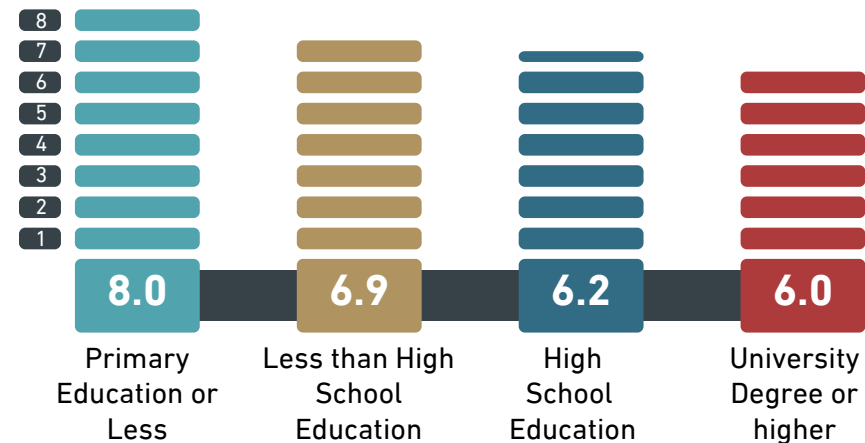
### Educated generations are less satisfied with the level of democracy in Iran:

It is observed that the higher the education in Iran, the lower the value of the index of governance democracy, which indicates that the more educated individuals see Iran as a less democratic country compared to the less educated individuals. According to the results of the survey, the value of the index of the democracy of governance in Iran among people with a primary education or less is 8 out of 10 points (where 1 is very undemocratic and 10 is very democratic). This value drops to 6 among people with a university degree or higher.

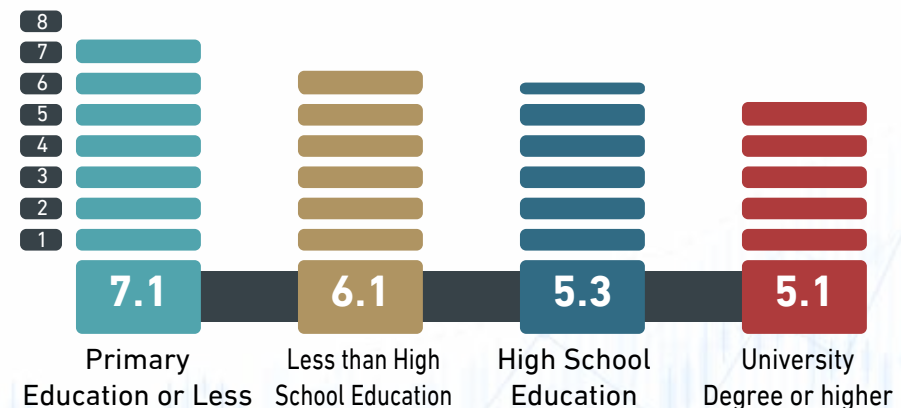
### Educated generations are less satisfied with the political system in Iran:

It is noted that the higher the education in Iran, the lower the value of the index of satisfaction with the political system. The results indicate that the value of the indicator of the satisfaction with the political system in Iran among people with a primary education or less reached 7.1 points out of a total of 10 points (where 1 expresses total dissatisfaction and 10 reflects complete satisfaction). This value drops to 5.1 among people with a university education and above.

### Average value of Iranians' attitudes regarding the extent of democracy in Iran by education, with 1 (Worst) and 10 (Best)



### Average value of Iranians' attitudes regarding the level of satisfaction with the political system in Iran by education, with 1 (Worst) and 10 (Best)

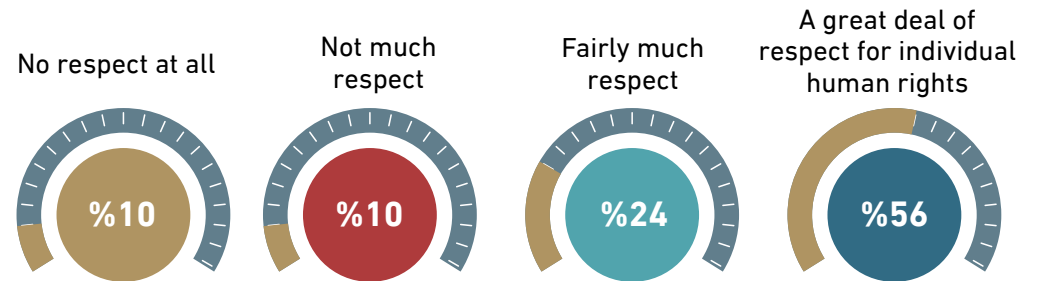


Source: Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

### A third of the society believes that Iran does not respect individual human rights:

Almost 1 in 3 people in Iran believes that there is no respect for human rights in Iran, while more than half of the Iranians, 56%, believe that there is respect for human rights to a moderate degree. Only about 10% believe that human rights are respected in Iran to a large extent.

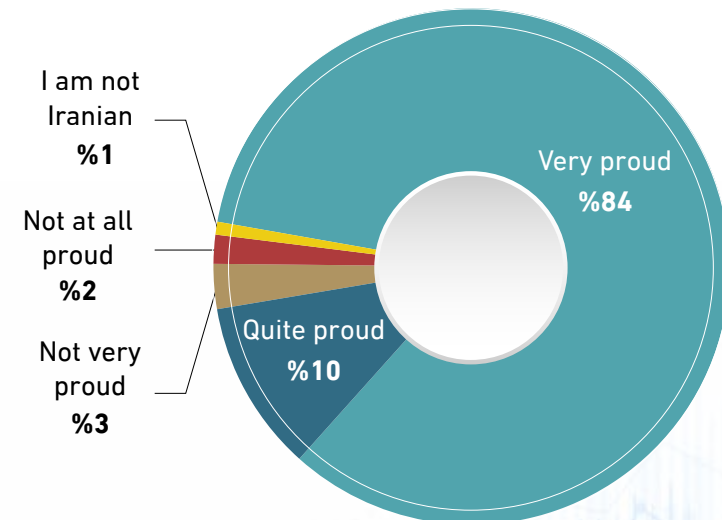
### How much respect is there for individual human rights nowadays in this country?



### Iranians take a high degree of pride in their nationality:

The majority of Iranians are very proud of being Iranian. About 84% of Iranians said they were very proud of being Iranian, and nearly 10% said they were quite proud, while a small percentage of only 5% of Iranians were not proud.

### How proud are you to be Iranian?



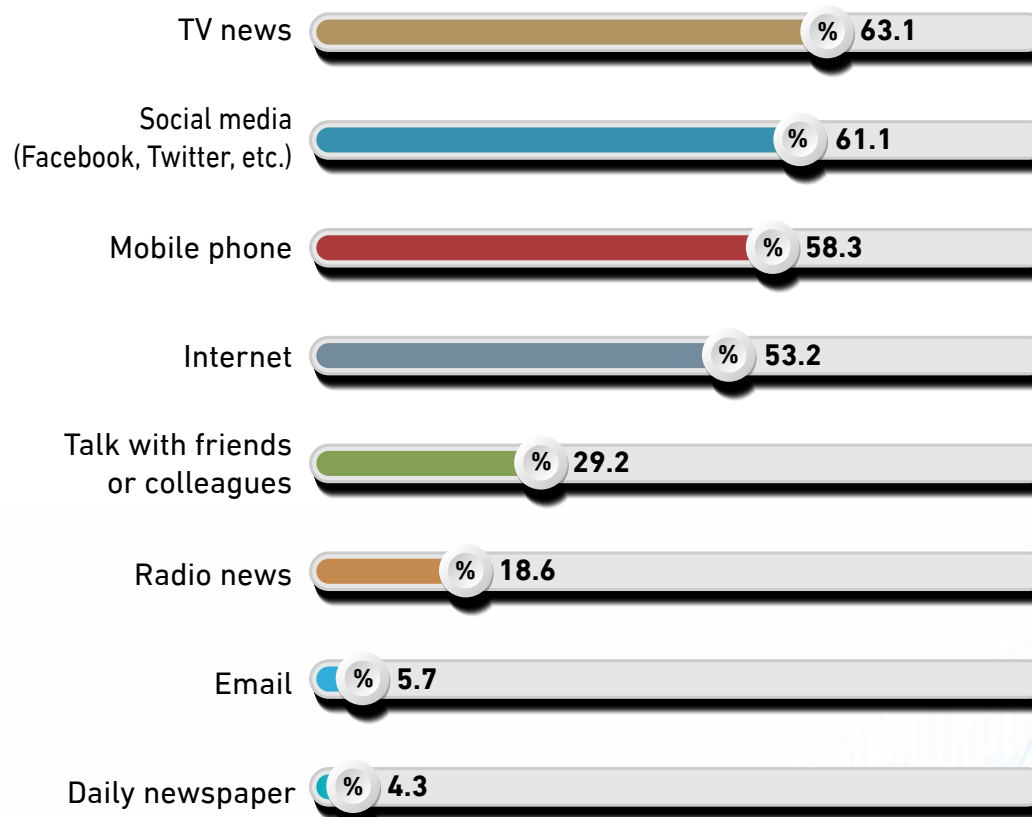
**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

### Television is the primary means for Iranians to learn about what is going on in their country and the world:

Television remains to be the primary means for Iranians to learn about events in Iran and the world. About 63.1% of Iranians watch TV news on a daily basis. Social media comes in second place as a source of news, with 61.1%, then mobile phones with 58.3% (There is a definite overlap between social media and mobile phones), then the Internet with 53.2%. Talking with friends is also a key source of news for 29.2% of Iranians, and nearly one-fifth of Iranians follow radio news. On the other hand, the role of daily newspapers has declined significantly, as only 4.3% of Iranians follow daily newspapers.



### Percentage of Iranians who use the following sources of information on a daily basis to learn about what is happening in Iran and the world



**Source:** Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

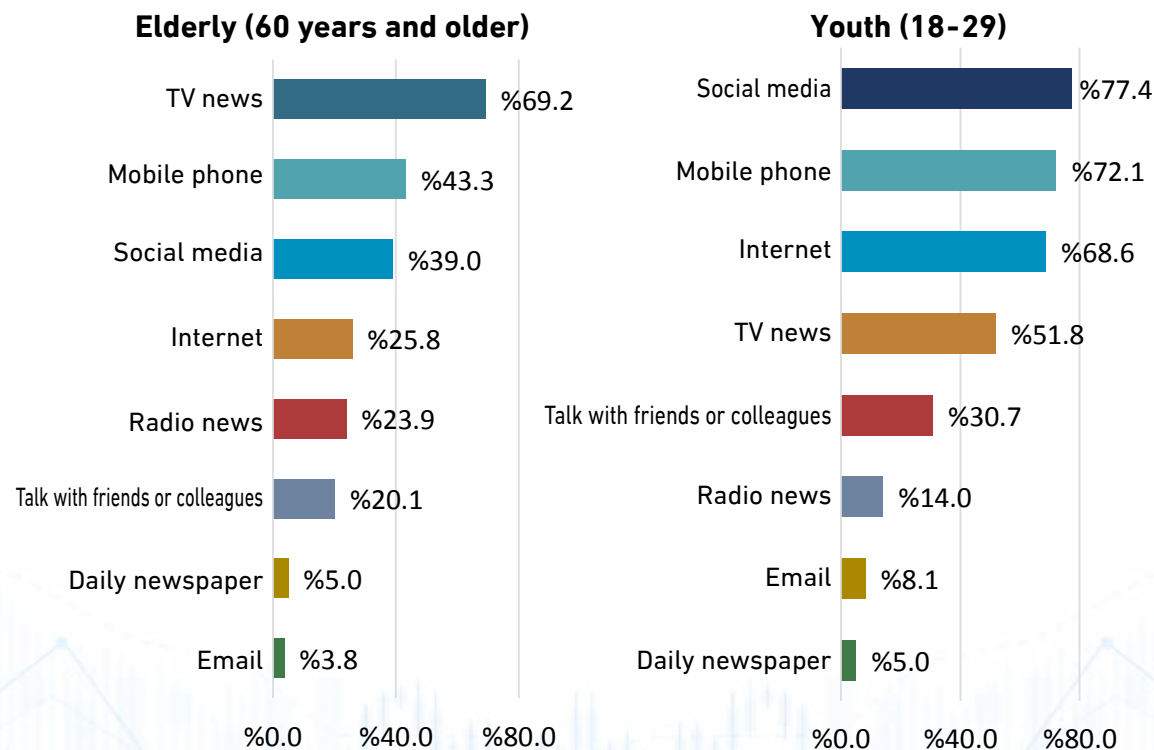


## Social media is a key mean for young people to learn about what is going on in Iran and the world:

There is a huge generational gap in information sources. Iranian youth have become highly dependent on social media, as nearly 77.4% of Iranian youth use social media daily to learn about events in Iran and the world, followed by mobile phones by 72.1%, and the Internet by 68.6%, while T.V. news ranked fourth with

51.8%. On the other hand, the elderly in Iran rely heavily on TV news, which ranks first as a source of information. About 69.2% of the elderly (60 years and above) watch TV news daily to learn about what is happening in Iran and the world. It is followed by mobile phones with 43.3%, and social media with 39%.

### Sources of information to learn about what is happening in Iran and the world according to different generations



Source: Calculated by the researcher through the analysis of the data of the World Values Survey - the seventh cycle.

