

2016 Southern Africa Gender Attitude Survey





The fifteen countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) scored 53% in the Gender Progress Score (GPS) administered by Alliance networks to over 46,000 respondents for the 2016

Barometer. This ranges from 45% in Lesotho to 65% in Mauritius. While women (55%) scored a little higher than men (51%) the overwhelming message is that patriarchal attitudes remain the major stumbling block in achieving gender equality in the SADC region.

2016 marks the first time the survey has been carried out in all 15 SADC countries. This in-depth report on the results is intended to prompt debate and thinking as we move into the Post-2015 era on some of the less tangible but powerful barriers to achieving gender equality. The evidence is overwhelming that laws and policies are not

enough. We must also chip away at the pervasive patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes that result in the constant one step forwards, two steps backwards syndrome.

What the survey consists of

The Gender Progress Score (GPS) has evolved from a 20 question attitude survey derived from Gender Links' Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) baseline survey to a 25 question survey that includes questions on contentious areas such as polygamy; choice of termination of pregnancy; sex work and sexual orientation. Each of the 25 questions is scored from one to four (from least progressive = one, to most progressive = four).

Table 1: How the GPS is scored

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
People should be treated the same whether they are women or men	4	3	3	1
A woman should obey her husband	1	2	2	4

Table 1 provides two examples of how the scoring is done, depending on the question. The scores for the 25 questions add up to 100 with one being least progressive and 100 most progressive. The percentage score is thus a measure of where women and men stand on key gender issues in SADC.

In this report, we give the overall score, as well as by country, and then cluster the questions into five themes: Women's Rights; Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); GBV; economic justice and the media. For each we provide the percentage women and men who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement. We then break these percentages down by country for some of the key questions to show the range of responses and differences between countries.

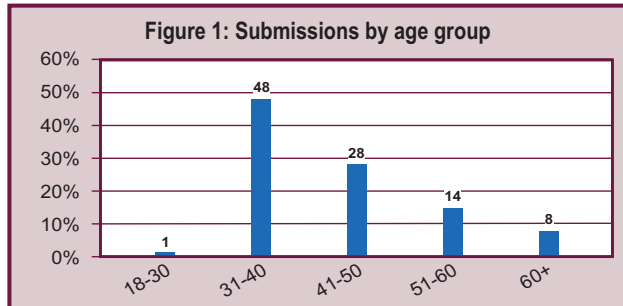
Table 2 shows that 46,740 women and men responded to the survey between 2 July 2015 and 17 June 2016 during Southern African Gender Protocol Alliance village level workshops as well as GL local government workshops. The sample comprised women (52%) and

Table 2: Sample for the 2016 GPS

Country	Female	Male	Total
Botswana	3067	2736	5803
Swaziland	2357	1990	4347
Madagascar	2271	2037	4308
Mozambique	2190	2103	4293
Namibia	2281	2011	4292
Zambia	2250	1956	4206
Mauritius	2051	2043	4094
Lesotho	1991	2057	4048
Zimbabwe	2023	1969	3992
South Africa	2013	1637	3650
Angola	538	559	1097
Tanzania	630	455	1085
DRC	490	541	1031
Malawi	178	176	354
Seychelles	88	52	140
Total	24418	22322	46740
%	48%	52%	100%

men (48%). Sample sizes varied with lower numbers in the countries where GL does not have offices (Angola, Tanzania, DRC, Malawi and Seychelles). However, the overall sample is robust and sufficiently diverse in all countries to provide a good indication of the GPS at country level.

accounted for only 1% of the sample, and the elderly (60+) at 8%.



The 31-40 age bracket accounted for 48% of the respondents followed by the 41-50 group (28%). Future samples need to expand the youth sector (18-30) that

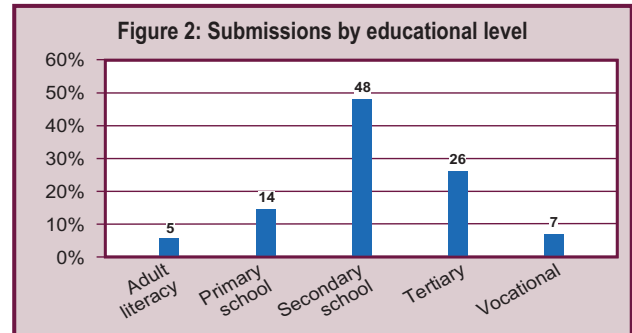


Figure 2 shows that 48% of the respondents had a secondary education; 26% tertiary education and 7% vocational education. 22% had either adult literacy or primary school education. This sample is consistent with education levels in the region.

Gender attitudes overall

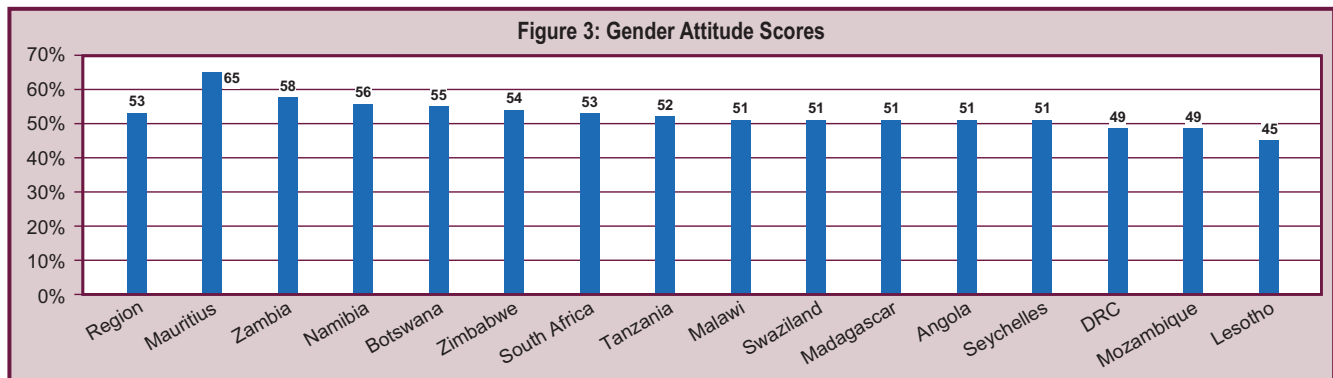


Figure 3 shows that the average GPS score is 53%. Mauritius (65%) is the only country to have attained a score above 60%. Five countries (Malawi, Swaziland, Madagascar, Angola and Seychelles) tied at 51%. Three countries (DRC, Mozambique and Lesotho) scored below 50%.

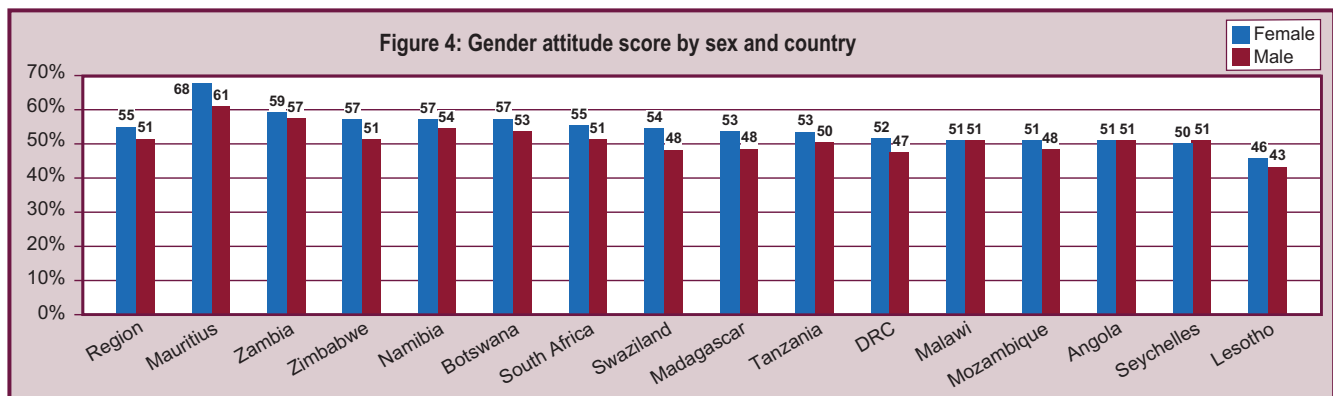


Figure 4 shows that at 55%, women scored slightly higher than men (51%). Women scored higher than men in 12 countries (Mauritius, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, Swaziland, Madagascar, Tanzania and DRC). In Malawi and Angola women scored the same as men (51%). In Seychelles women scored less than men. Mauritius, 68% for women and 61% for men registered both the highest score and the biggest difference between women and men. With 46% for men and 43% for women, Lesotho registered the lowest score.

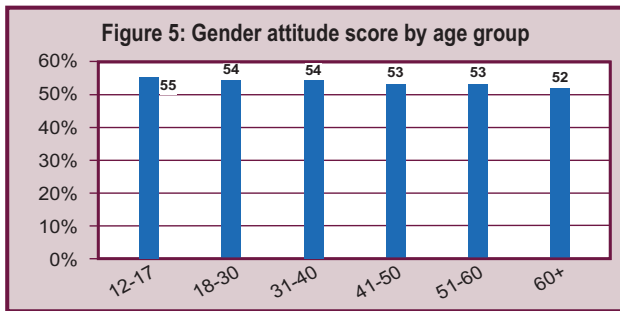
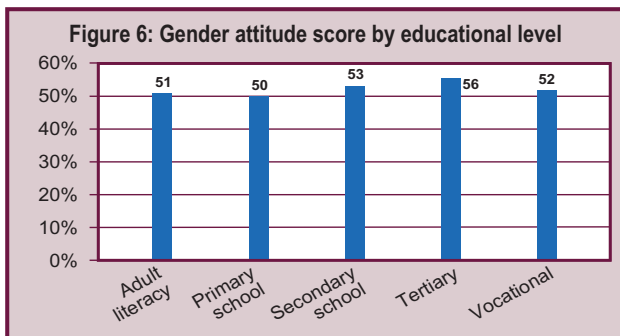


Figure 5 shows that there is very little difference between the scores of the different age groups, although the younger respondents had slightly higher scores than the older respondents.



Similarly, Figure 6 shows that there is very little difference between the scores by educational level. However, as

might be expected, those with a tertiary education (56%) scored the highest, above the regional score of 53%.

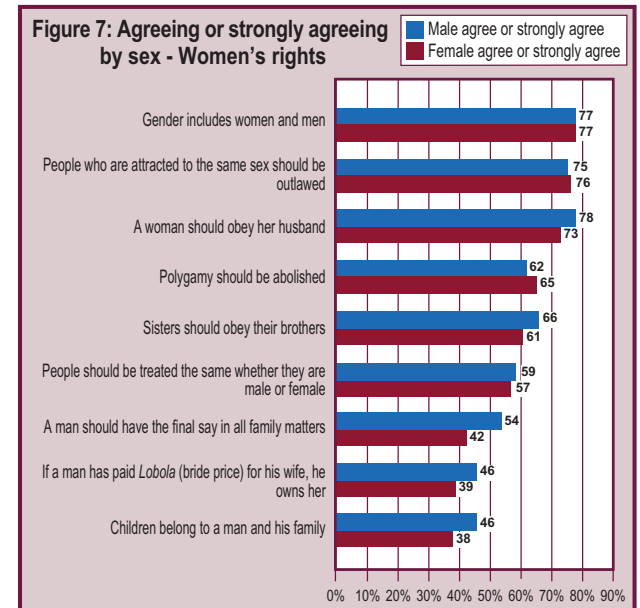
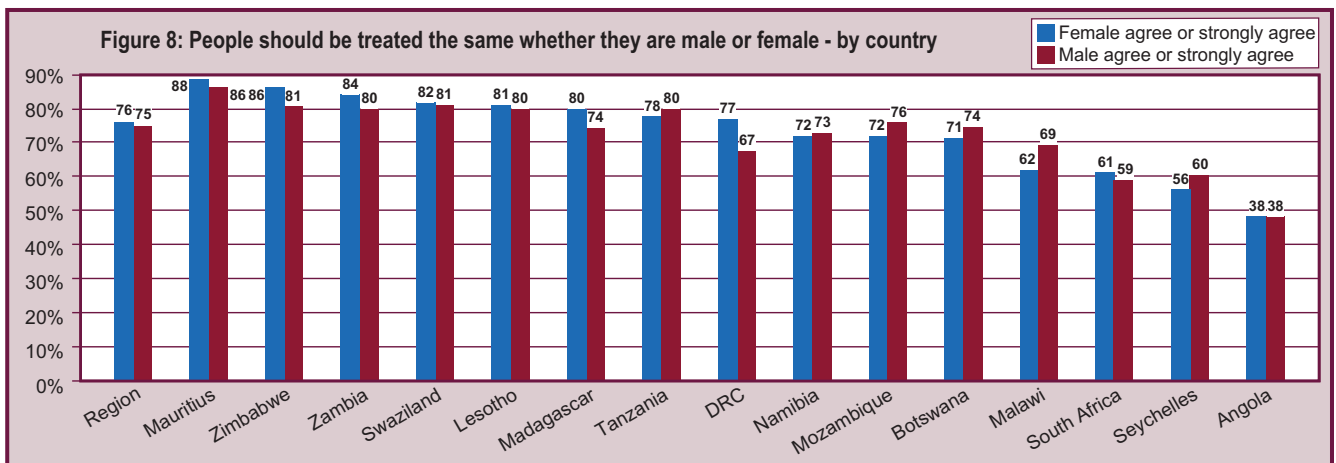
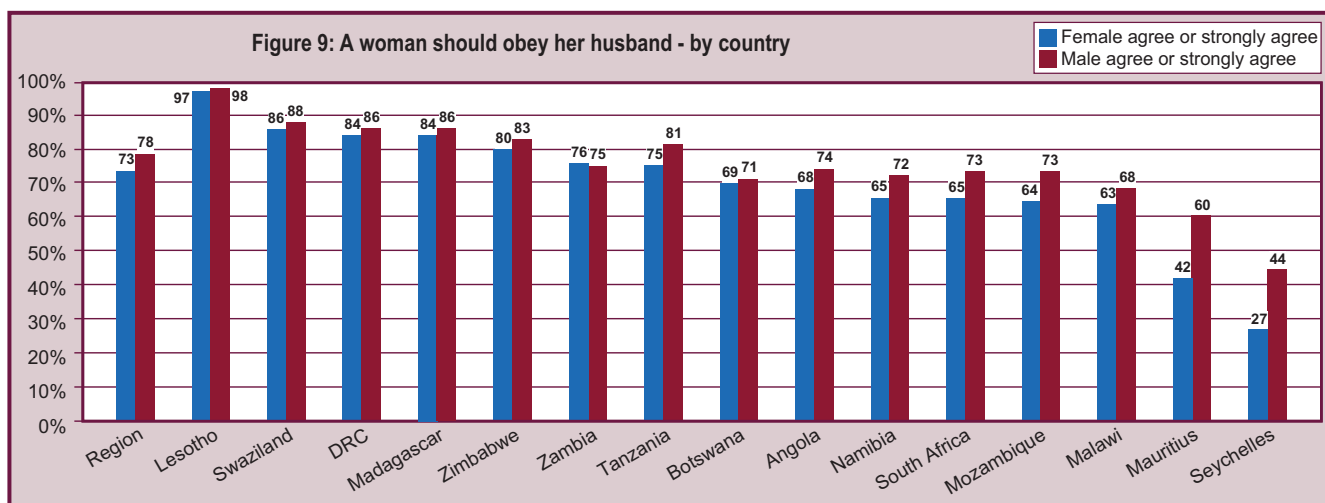


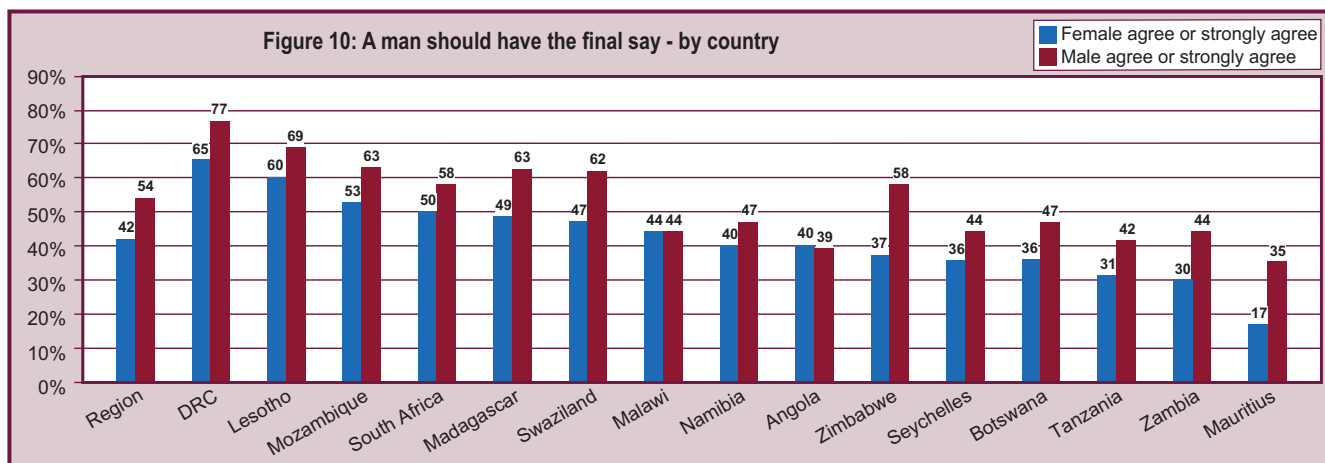
Figure 7 reflects the percentage of women who agreed or strongly agreed with the seven statements relating to women's rights. The results show that over 75% of women and men understand that gender includes both women and men, and affirm that people should be treated the same whether they are male or female. However, an equally high proportion believe that "a woman should obey her husband." 54% of men and 42% of women believe that "a man should have the final say in family matters", while 46% of man and 38% of women believe that "children belong to a man and his family." A high proportion of women (65%) and men (62%) say that polygamy should be abolished: an unexpectedly progressive view. Sadly however, 59% of men and 57% of women say that people who are attracted to the same sex should be outlawed. Given the exceptionally high levels of homophobia in Southern Africa, this figure is in fact lower than what might be expected, and is an encouraging sign of more tolerant attitudes emerging.



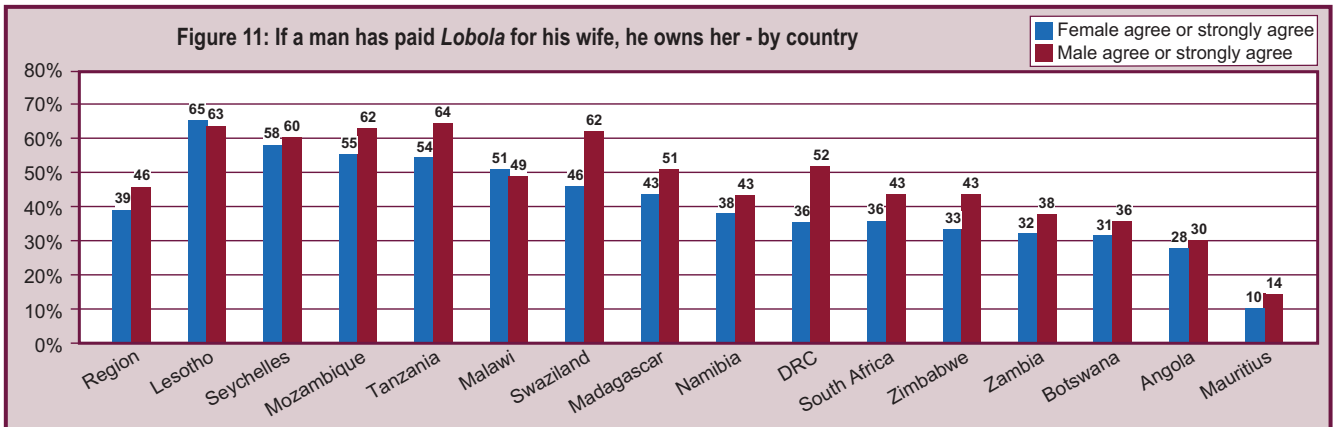
Mauritius (88% women and 86% men) and Zimbabwe (86% women and 81% men) scored highest on the equal treatment for women and men. Surprisingly, South Africa, Seychelles and Angola, usually associated with progressive views, scored lowest.



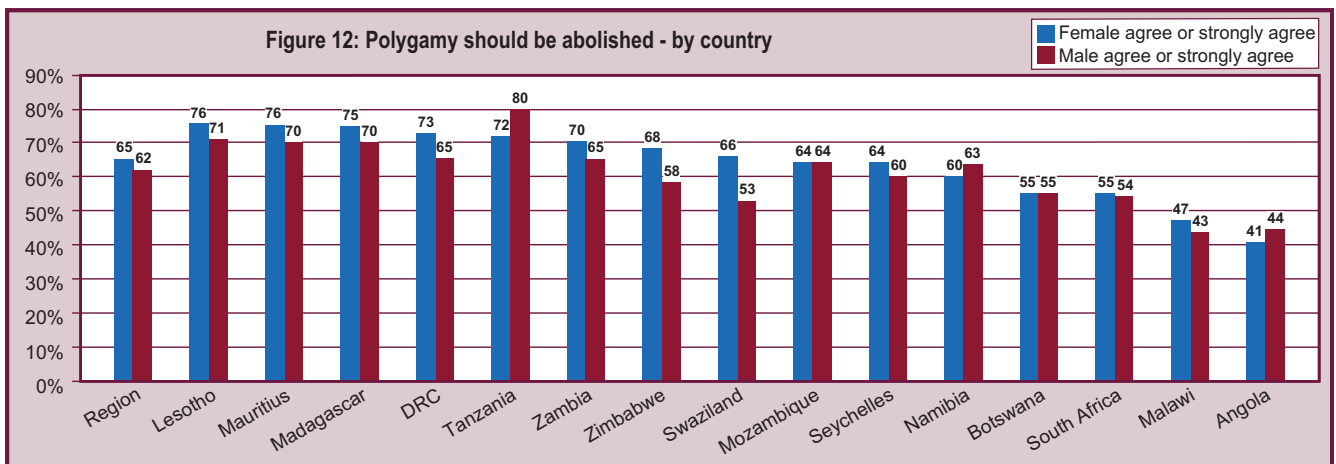
In direct contradiction to the strong support for equal treatment of women and men, over 70% of women and men in six SADC countries agreed or strongly agreed that a woman should obey her husband. Three of the most conservative view most strongly; while the two sister Indian Ocean islands (Mauritius and Seychelles) were least inclined to this view, but with strong gender gaps, suggesting that women and men are still far from being in unison on this issue.



Regional scores on "a man should have the final say" were not quite so stark (47% for women and 54% for men). But over 50% of women and men in four countries (DRC, Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa) agreed with this view point.



The much lower overall scores on the question of whether bride price means a woman is owned by a man show that some of these traditions are being questioned. Lesotho had the highest score while Mauritius had the lowest. The high scores in Seychelles are puzzling as there is no bride price in practice on the island. This may reflect a misunderstanding of the question.



Over 50% of women and men in 13 SADC countries said that polygamy should be abolished reflecting the fact that age old patriarchal practices are beginning to be questioned. Malawi and Angola scored lowest. Despite its progressive Constitution, South Africa scored third lowest. South Africa has an openly polygamous president.

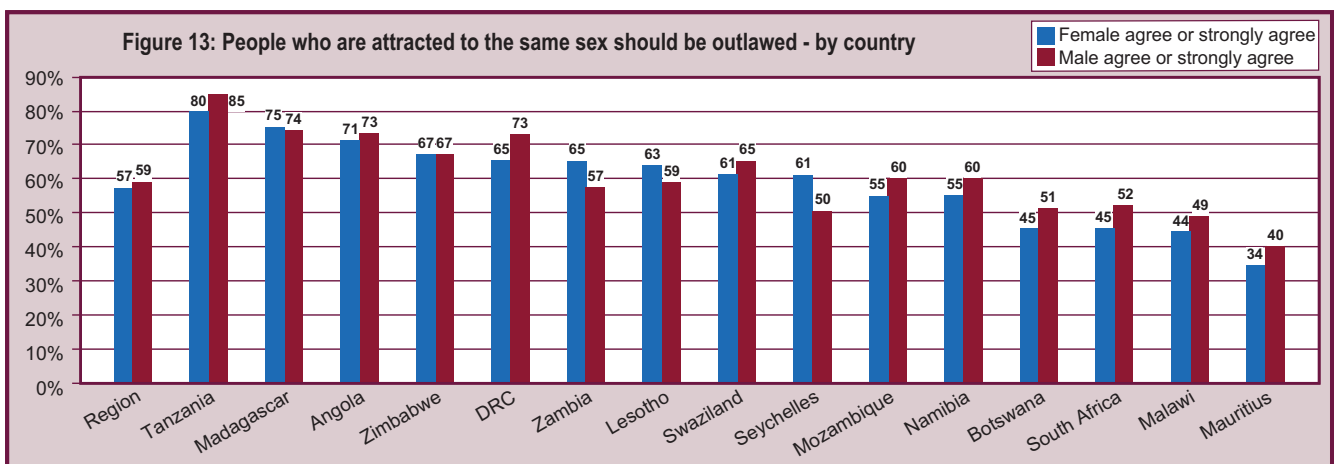


Figure 13 shows that Tanzania (80% women and 85% men) scored highest on outlawing same sex relationships; followed by Tanzania and Madagascar. Mauritius (34% women and 40% men) had the least homophobic views. Surprisingly, despite being the only region in the world with a Constitution that recognises sexual orientation as a right, 45% women and 52% men said that *people who are attracted to the same sex should be outlawed*.

Gender violence

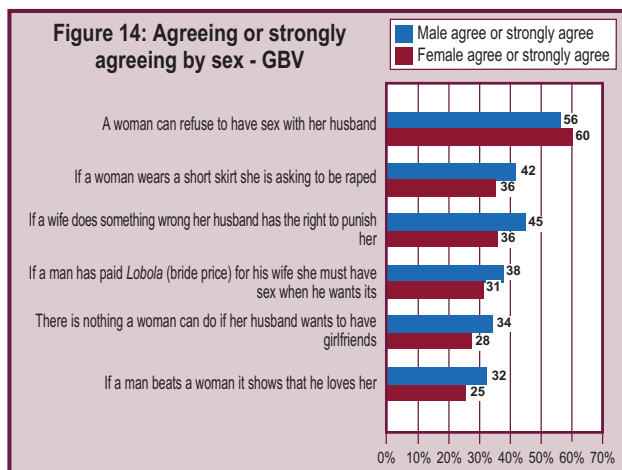
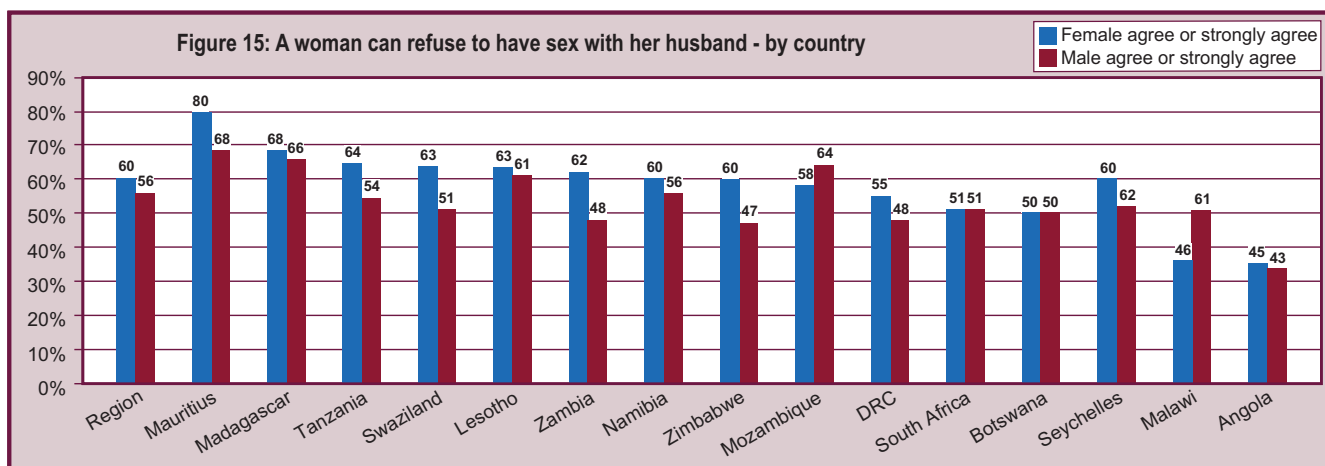
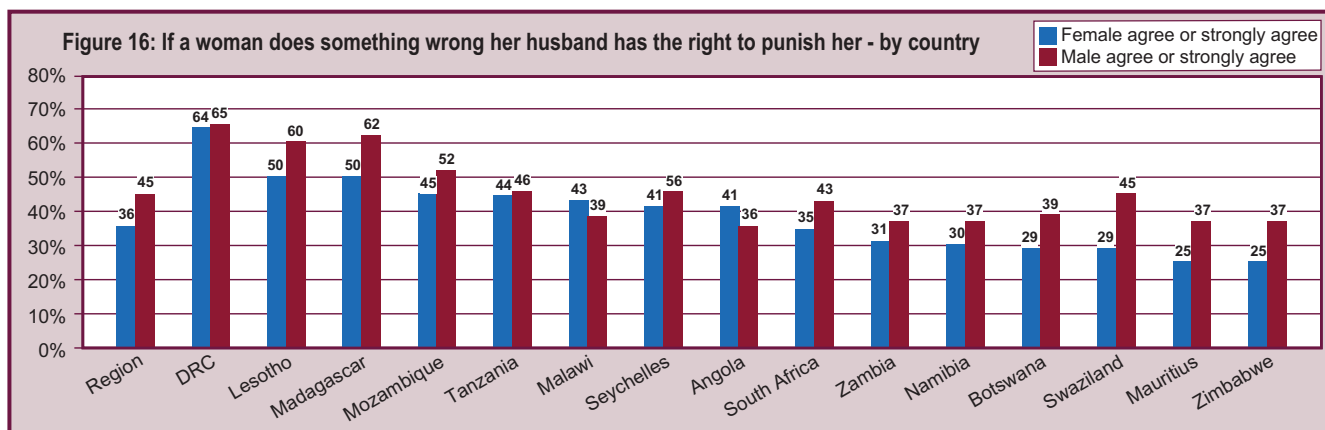


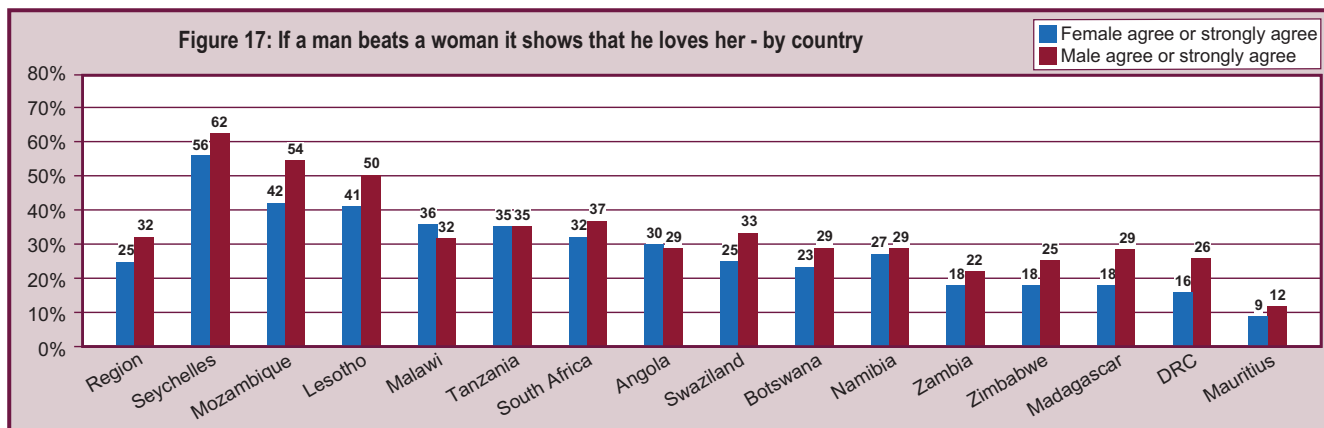
Figure 14 shows that a relatively high proportion of men (56%) and women (60%) believe that *a woman can refuse to have sex with her husband*. Over one third of men believe that *if a man beats a woman, it shows that he loves her*; that *there is nothing a woman can do if her husband wants to have girlfriends*; that *if a man has paid bride price a woman must have sex whenever he wants*; that *a husband has a right to punish his wife* and that *if a woman wears a short skirt she is asking to be raped*. Although in each case women are less inclined to hold the same view, a quarter or more also support these views. These findings go a long way in explaining men's sense of entitlement, and women's acceptance of their inferior status: two key factors fuelling the high levels of gender violence in the region.



A regional score of 60% women agreeing or strong agreeing that *a woman can refuse to have sex with her husband* is an encouraging sign of women becoming more empowered within their personal relations. This is especially high in Mauritius (80%) but quite low in Angola (45%).



In all countries, a far higher proportion of men than women say that *if a woman does something wrong, her husband has the right to punish her*, regardless of the context of each country. For example, the gender gap in Seychelles (56% for men and 41% for women) is higher than Swaziland (29% women and 45% men). In DRC women (64%) and men (65%) both strongly affirm the view that a man is entitled to punish his wife.



It is heartening to note in Figure 17 that only a minority of women (25%) and men (32%) believe that *if a man beats his wife this shows that he loves her*. However, over 50% of the men in Seychelles, Mozambique and Lesotho believe this to be so. In many countries, the gap between women and men is not that wide. These underlying attitudes explain the high levels of GBV in the region.

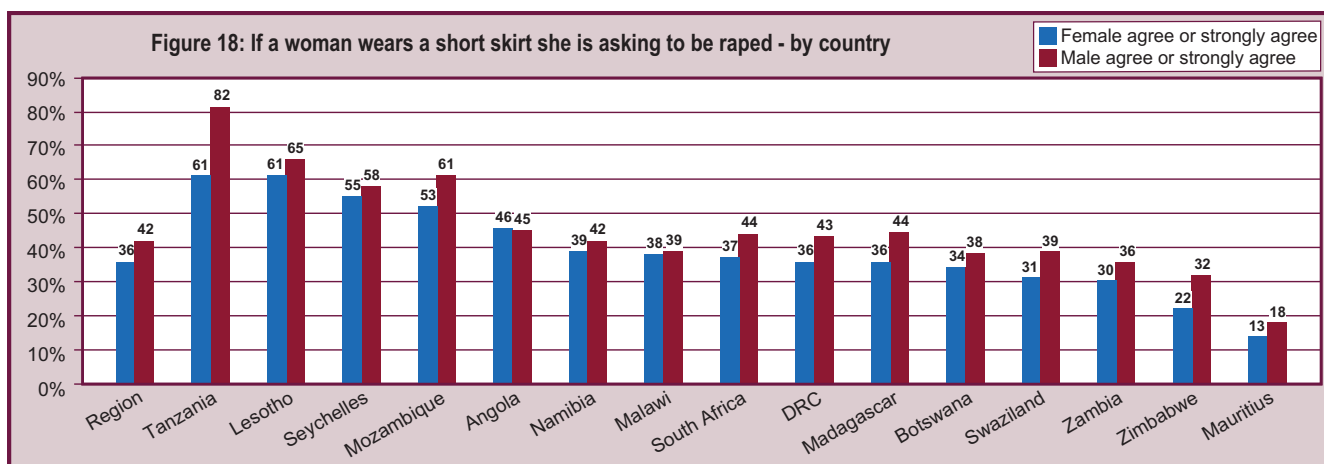


Figure 18 again shows that overall, less than 50% of women and men in SADC agree that *if a woman wears a short skirt she is asking to be raped*. But there are notable and worrying exceptions - such as 82% of the men in Tanzania agreeing with this statement.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

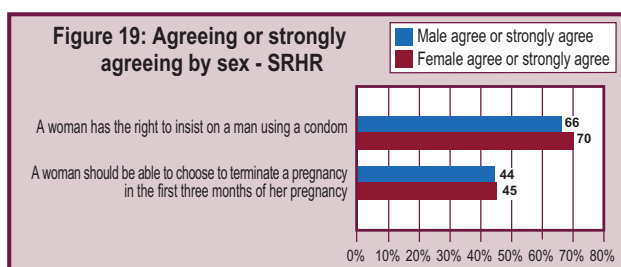


Figure 19 shows that a high proportion of women (70%) and quite a high proportion of men (66%) believe that *a woman has the right to insist on a man using a condom*. However, less than half of both women and men believe that *a woman should be able to choose to terminate a pregnancy in the first three months*.

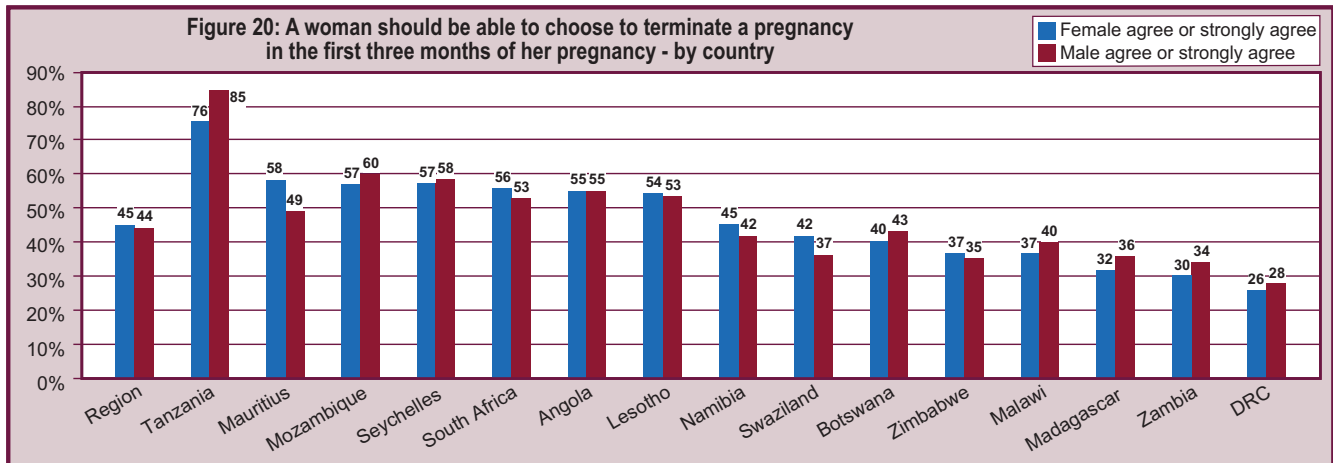


Figure 20 shows considerable country variation on the choice of termination of pregnancy issue. Surprisingly Tanzania had the highest scores (76% for women and 85% for men). In at least eight countries (Tanzania, Mozambique, Seychelles, Botswana, Malawi, Madagascar, Zambia and DRC) men had more progressive views than women. Even though South Africa is the only country in the region with Choice of Termination of Pregnancy legislation, only 56% women and 53% men supported the view that a woman should be able to choose to terminate a pregnancy in the first three months.

Economic justice

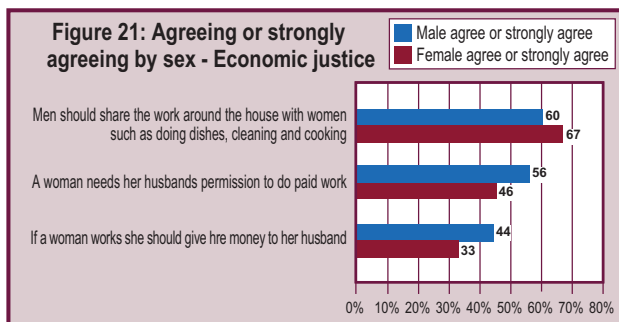


Figure 21 again reflects a contradiction in views on gender issues - this time on economic justice. On one hand a high proportion of women (67%) and men (60%) say that *men should share the work around the house with women such as doing dishes, cleaning and cooking*. Yet 56% of men and 46% of women say that *a woman needs her husband's permission to do paid work*. Despite the headway that women have made in gaining economic independence, 44% men and 33% women say that *if a woman works, she should give her money to her husband.*"

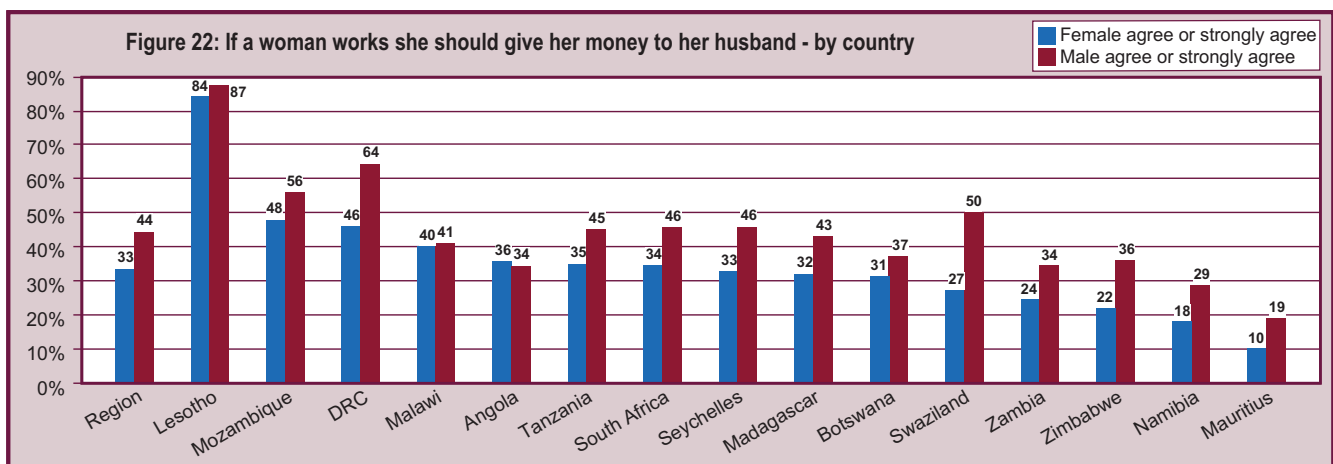
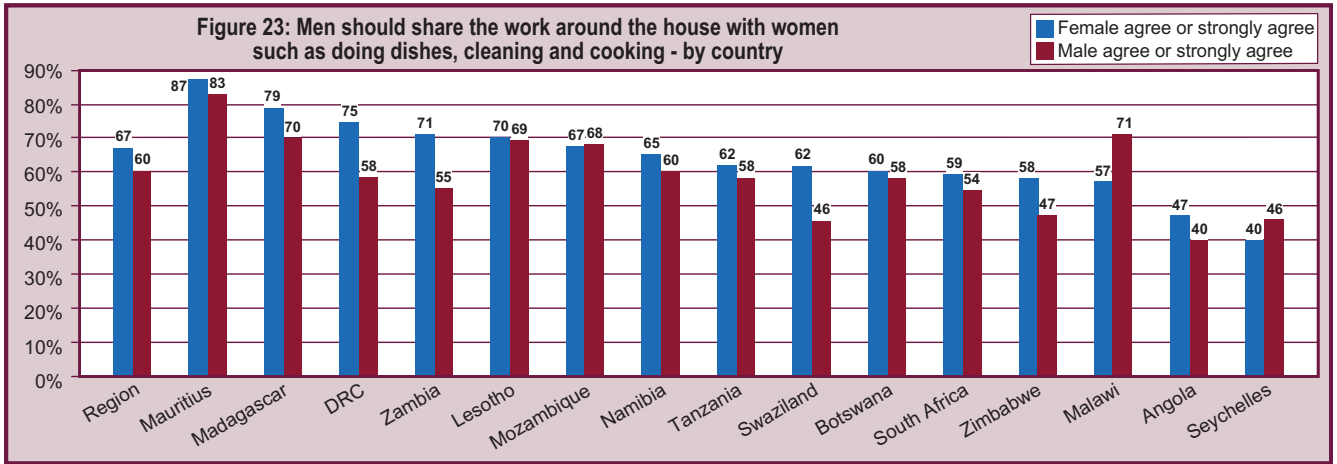


Figure 22 shows that this varied considerably between countries; from 10% women and 19% men in Mauritius, to 84% women and 87% men in Lesotho.



Mauritius (87% women and 83% men) had the most progressive views on women and men sharing responsibilities in the home, followed by Madagascar and DRC. Angola and Seychelles had the least progressive views.

Media

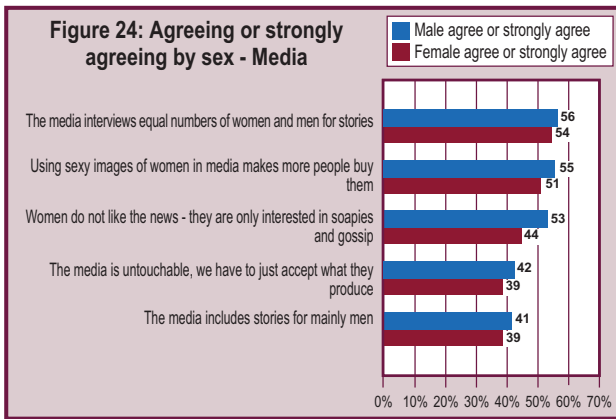


Figure 24 reflects low levels of gender and media literacy in the region. Even though women only constitute 20% of new sources, 56% men and 54% women say that *the media interviews equal numbers of women and men for stories*. Yet 41% men and 39% women say that *the media includes stories mainly for men*. 55% men and 51% women subscribe to the notion that gender stereotypes is what makes women and men buy the news. 53% men and 44% women believe that women do not like the news - they are only interested in soaps and gossip.

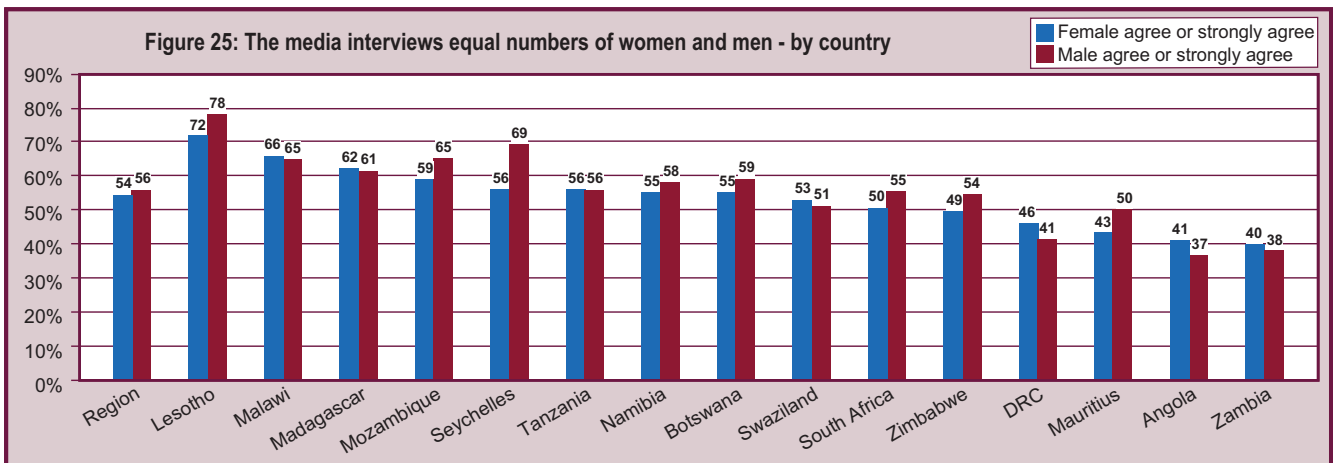


Figure 25 shows that the view that the media interviews equal numbers of women and men is strongest in Lesotho and weakest in Mauritius, Angola and Zimbabwe.

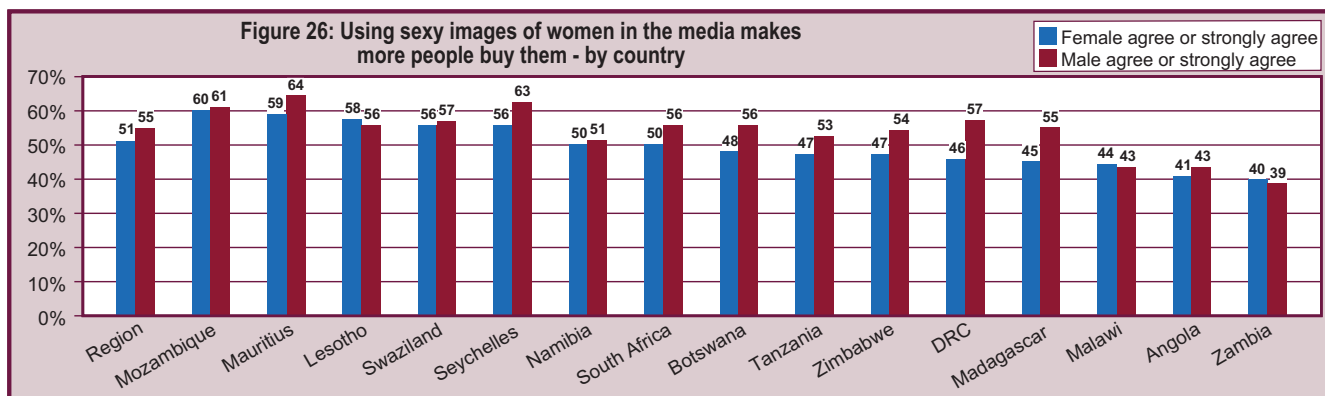


Figure 26 shows that women and men in Mozambique, Mauritius and Lesotho had the highest affirmative scores on sexy images selling news while Malawi, Angola and Zambia demonstrated the most scepticism.

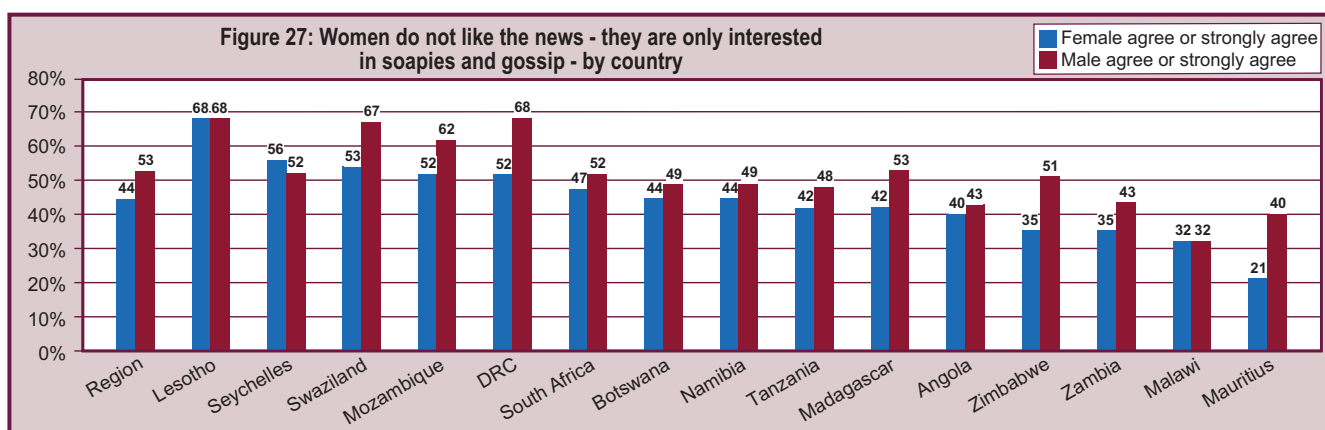


Figure 27 shows that across countries quite a high proportion of women and men believe that women are more interested in soaps than in news. This is especially high in Lesotho (68% of both women and men). But only 21% of women in Mauritius (and 40% of men) believe this to be the case, showing that attitudes are gradually changing.

Conclusions and recommendations

This survey, the first of its kind, reflects societies in transition, from gender blind (and gender blinkered) to gender awareness, tolerance and sensitivity. This explains the often confusing and contradictory responses, overall and in-country. The alliance recommends that:

- The results of this survey be customised for each country, and disseminated in multi-media formats at the Gender

and Media Summit; SADC Protocol@Work summit and at the launches of the Gender and Media Progress Study.

- This survey be administered at least every two years to track progress in changing attitudes and mindsets so vital for the achievement of Agenda 2030.



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