



4th Global Forum on Gender Statistics

March 27-29, 2012

Dead Sea, Jordan

FEMALE HOME-BASED WORK AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MENA

Evidence from Amman, Cairo, and Sana'a

Manal Sweidan
Department of Statistics
Jordan

Main Messages

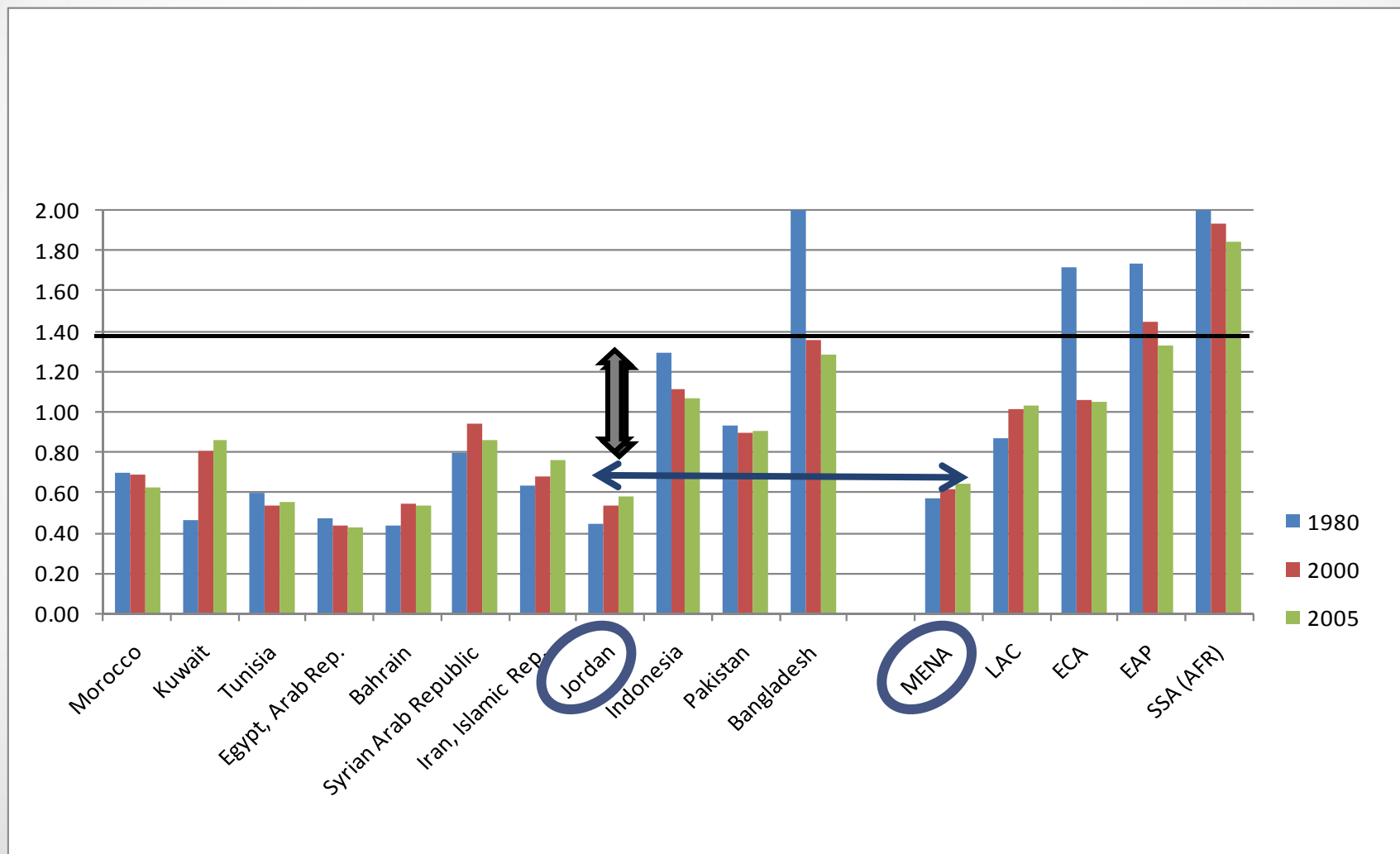
Not enough opportunities for the women in the middle, either by education or by social class. Job creation efforts too much focused on the micro/poor/uneducated and the educated/upper class. **Middle class married women with secondary education are the forgotten middle.**

A major barrier to women's work inside or outside the home are social norms and conservative attitudes. A high share of men are still opposed to women's work. **Being married is a higher barrier to women's work than child and elderly care.**

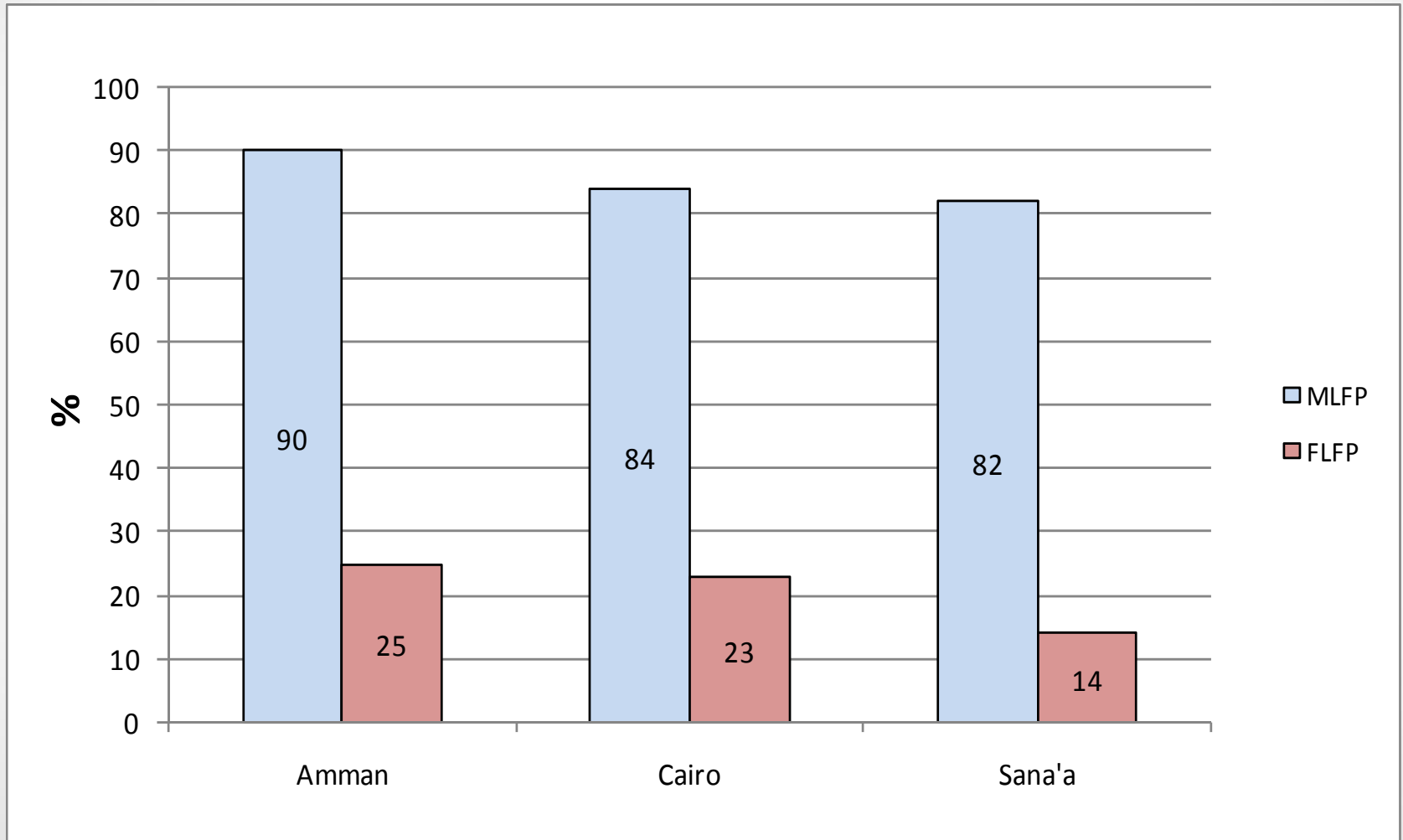
The perception is that if women don't work in formal jobs, they are economically active from home or in the informal sector. Not so. **Home-based and informality far less prevalent than expected – no substitute for formal opportunities.**

Ratio of actual to predicted FLFP

Ratio of actual to potential FLFP



Male & Female Labor Force Participation Rates within the Survey Across Three MENA Capitals (15-64, Excl. Students)



Source: "Behind the Barriers: Women in Informal Work and Home-Based Entrepreneurship in Selected Cities in MENA". World Bank Survey, 2008

Research Question

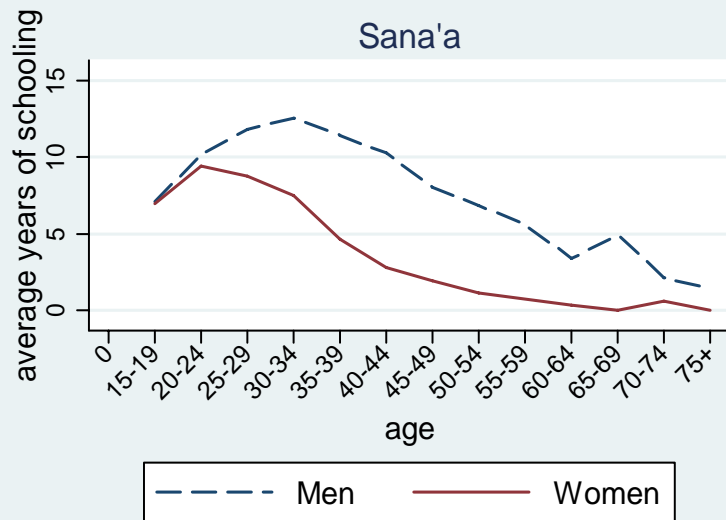
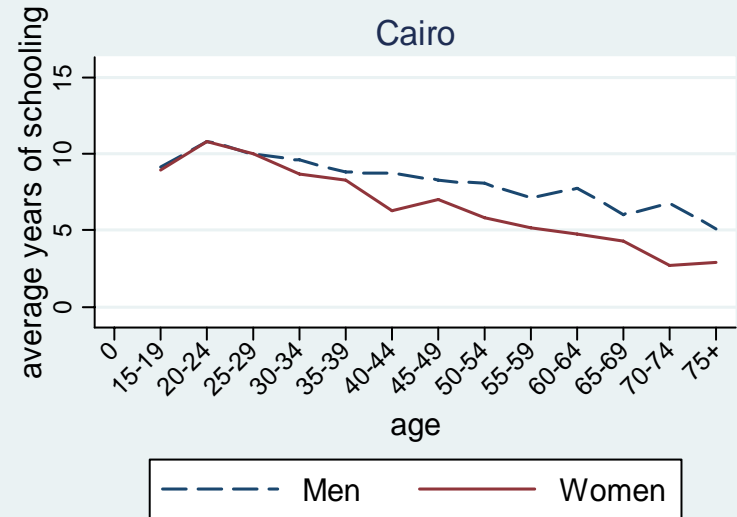
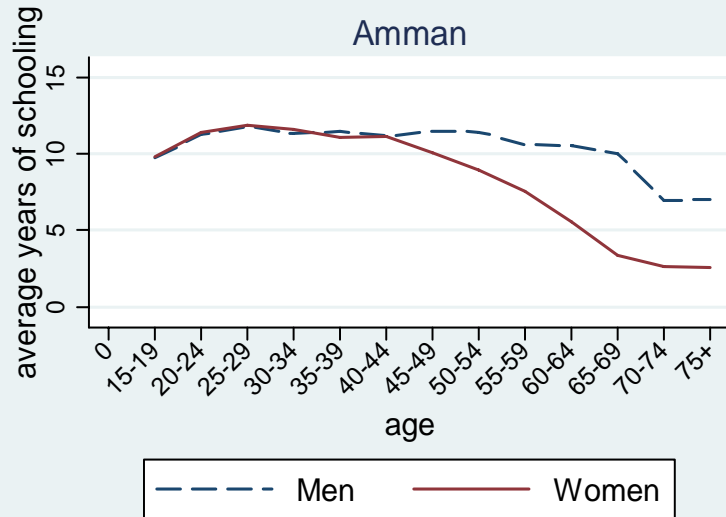
A. What are the factors behind persistently low FLFP?

- **Hypothesis:** Education positively impacts female labor supply, but gender-based social norms and conservative attitudes have a negative impact.

B. Are Home-Based economic activities an option?

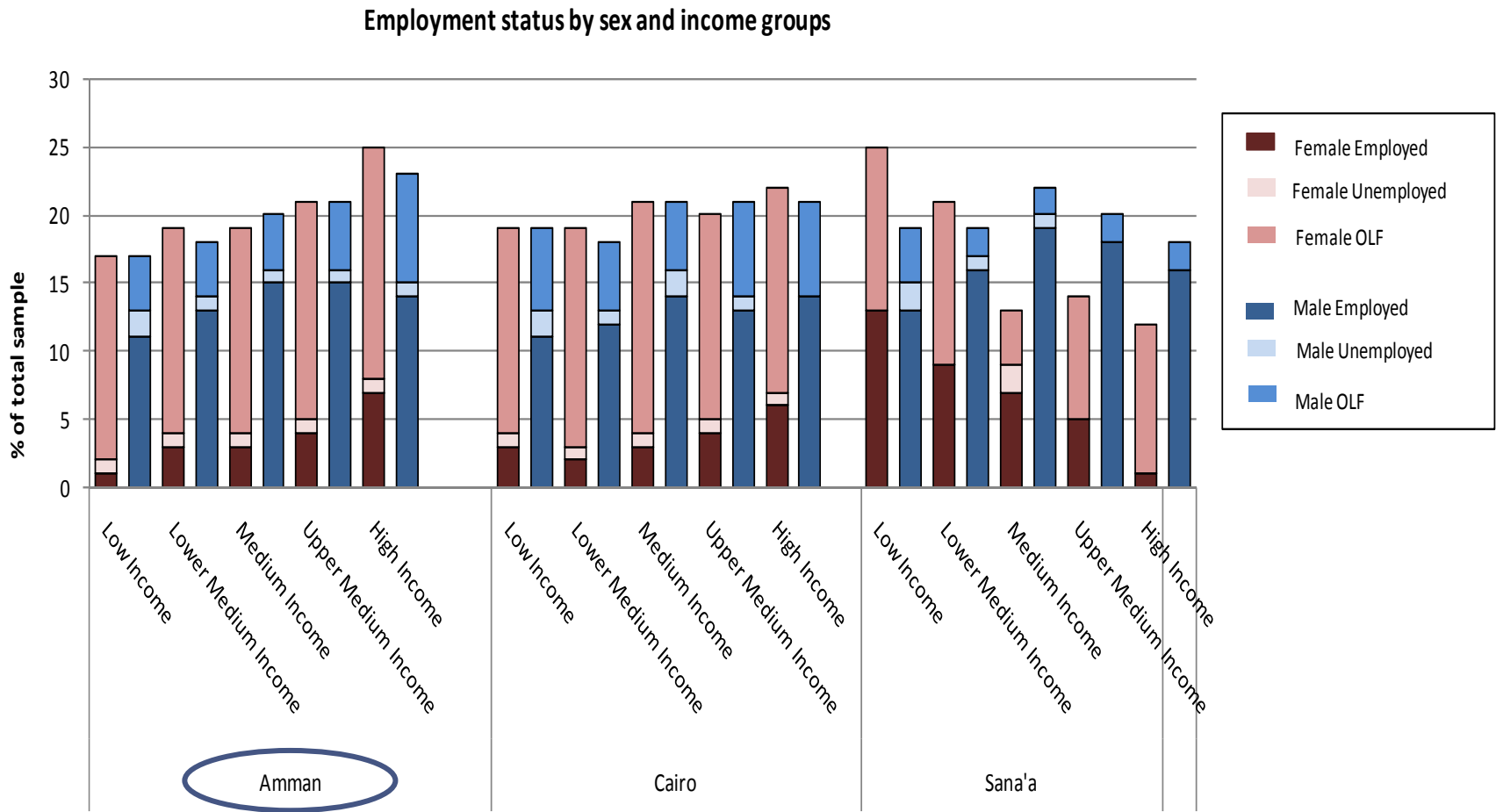
- **Hypothesis:** FLFP may be low, but women are economically active through informal home-based work, self-employment, and entrepreneurship.

Average Years of Schooling by Sex and Age



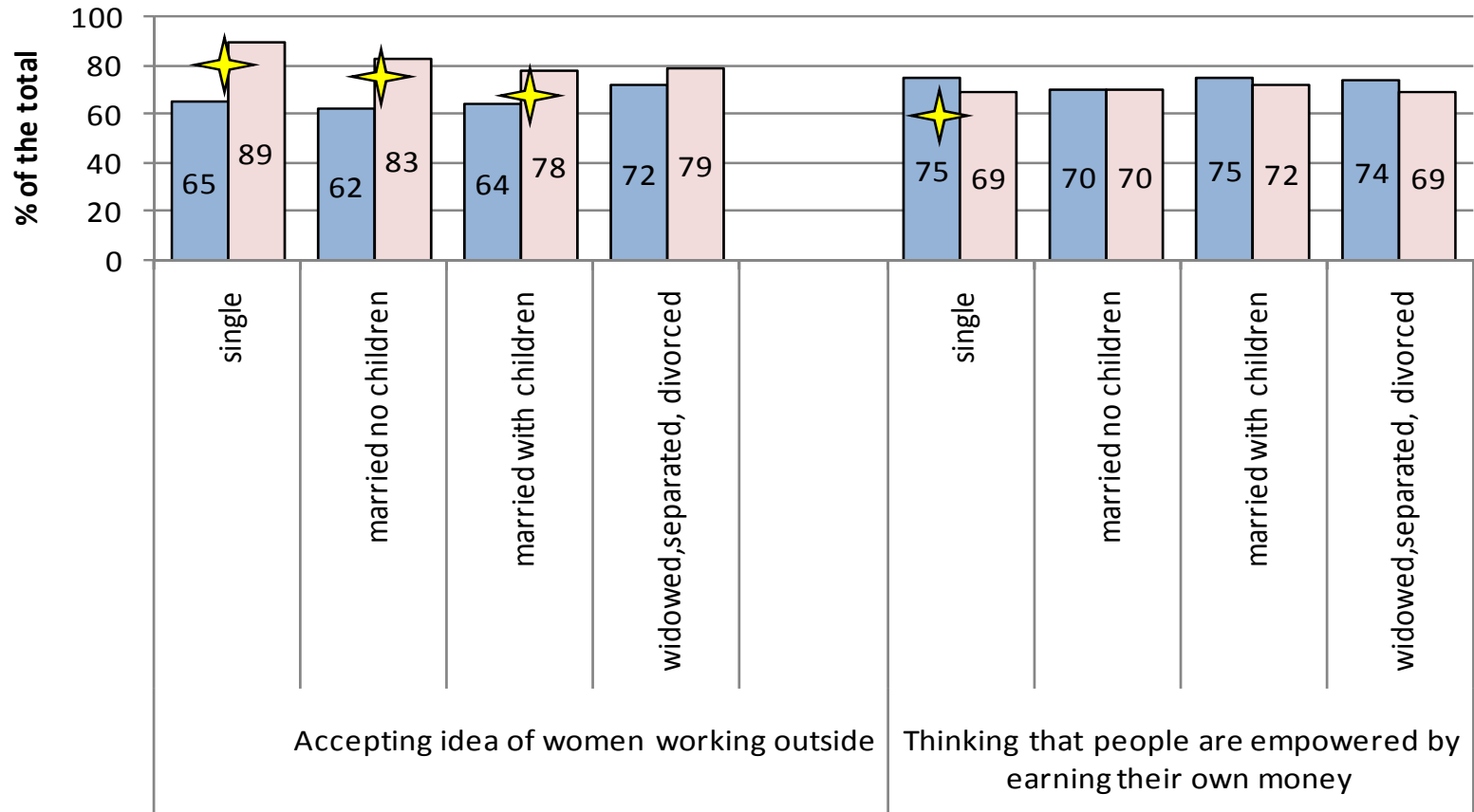
Descriptive Statistics, cont'd.:

Employment Status in Urban MENA by Income Groups



Attitudes and Empowerment, by Gender and Marital Status

Amman - Attitudes towards women working outside, by gender and marital status



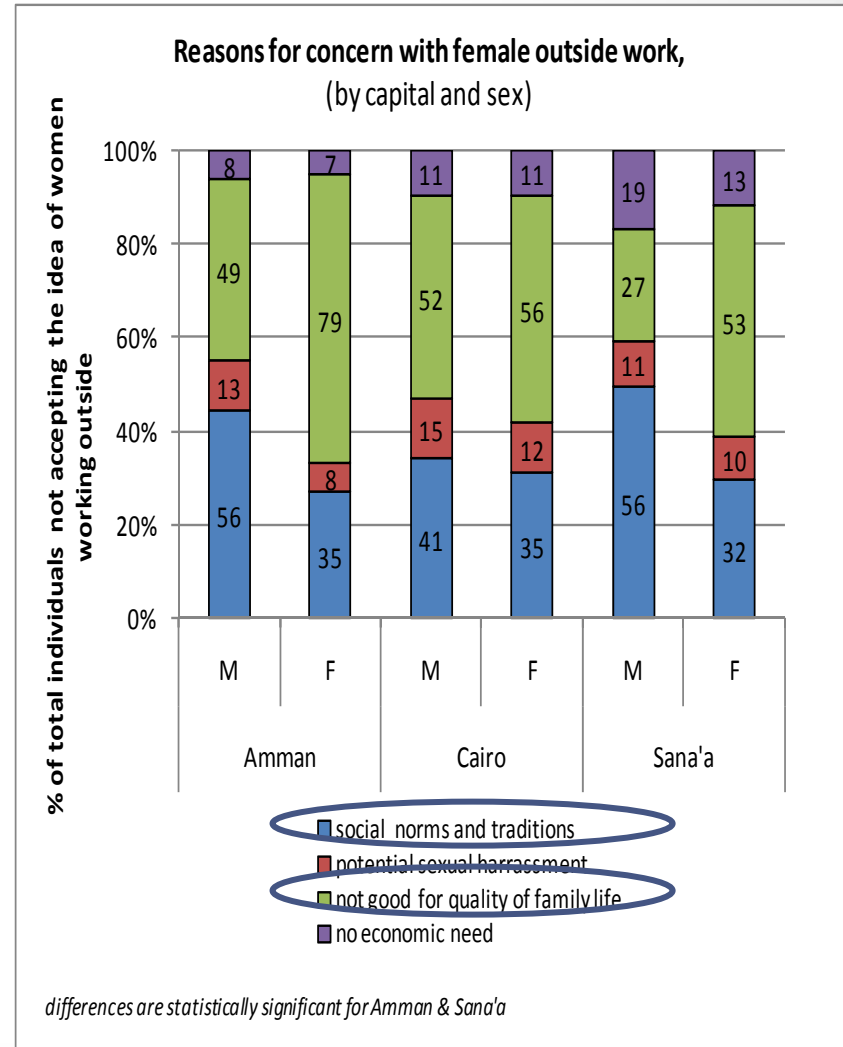
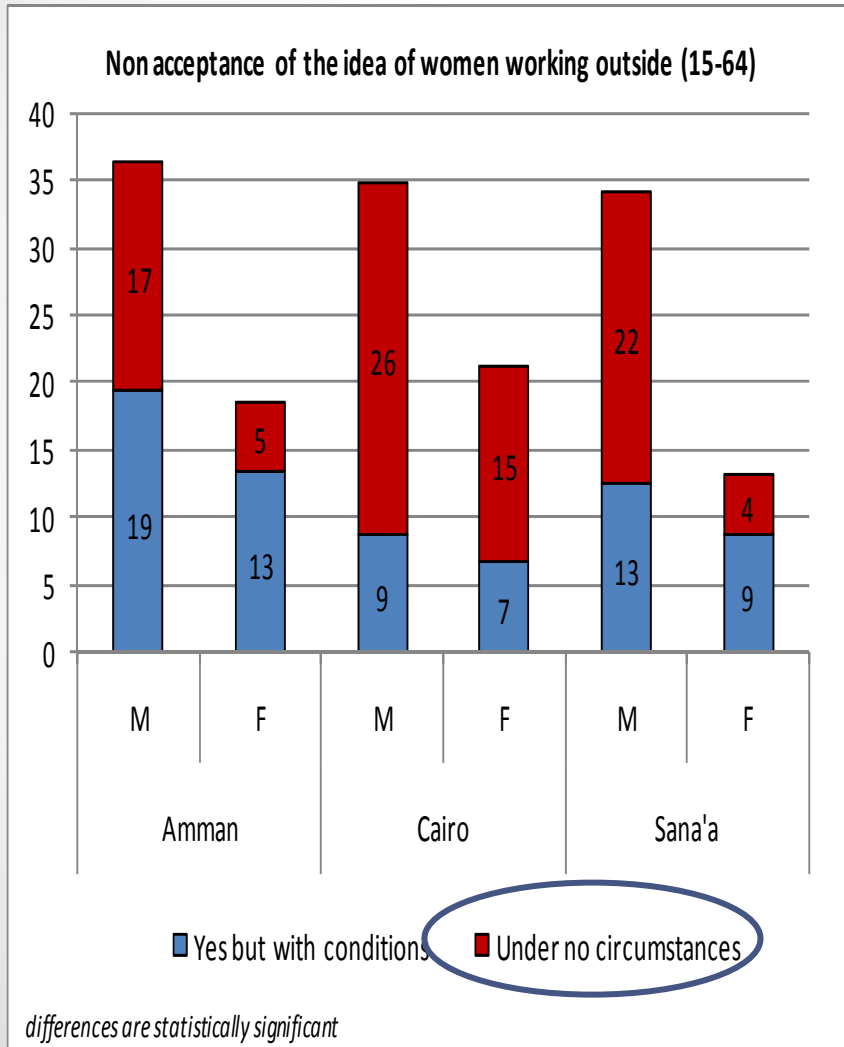
star denotes statistical significance

■ men

■ women

Descriptive Statistics, cont'd.

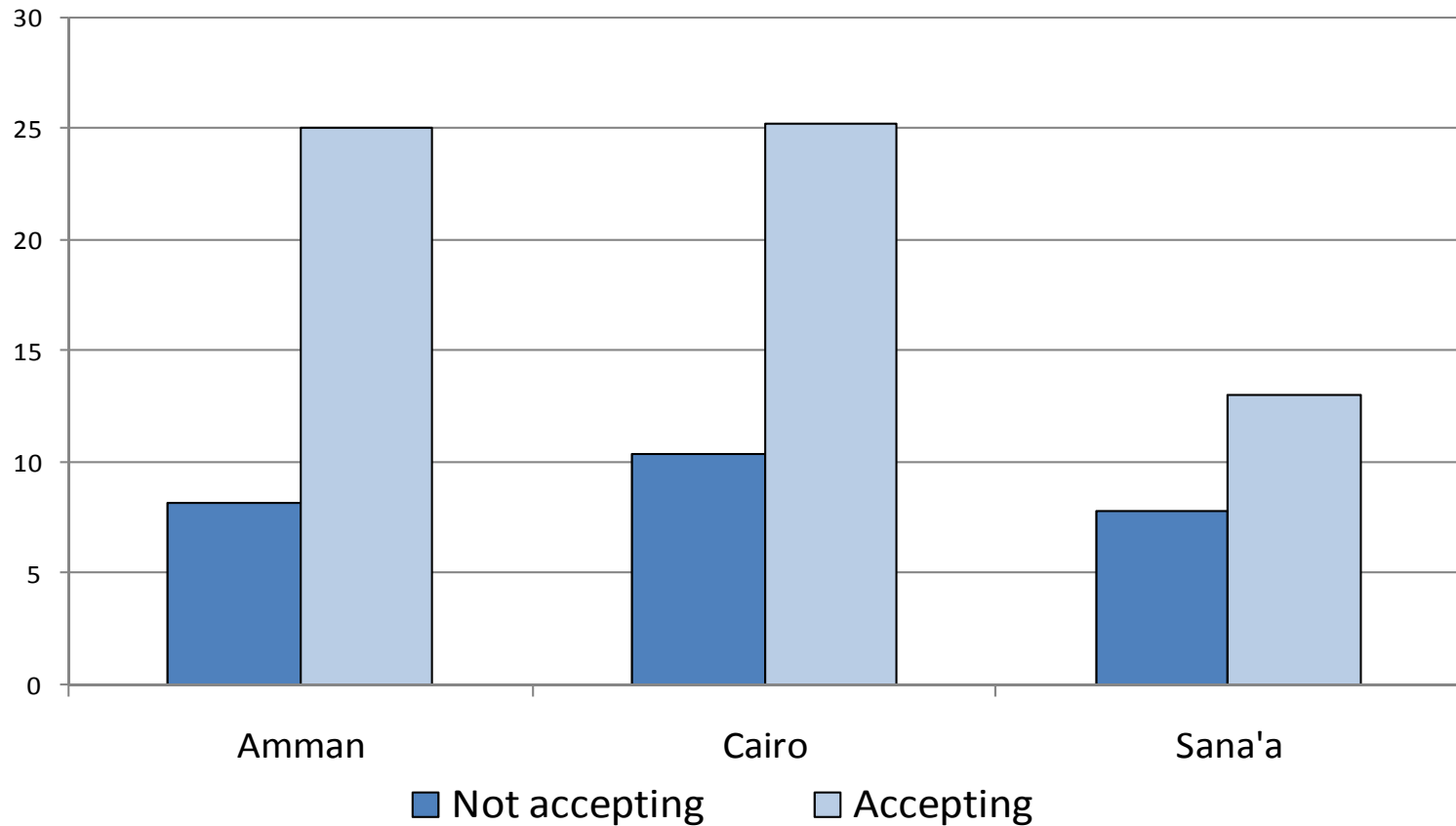
Attitudes Towards Women Working Outside Home in MENA



Descriptive Statistics, cont'd.

Attitudes Towards Women Working Outside Home in MENA

FLFP in household accepting/not accepting the idea of women working outside

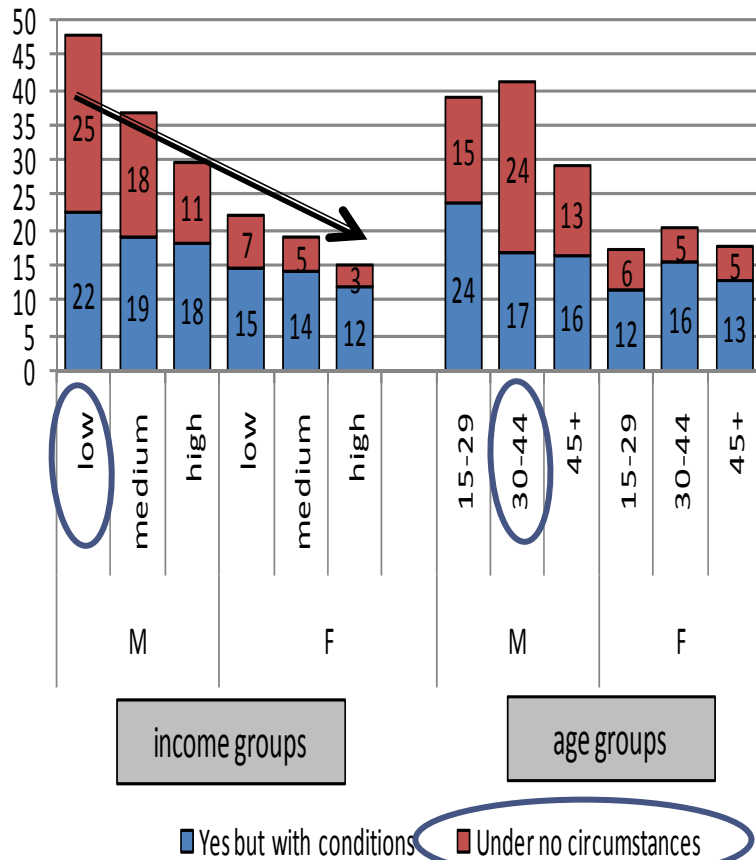


differences are statistically significant

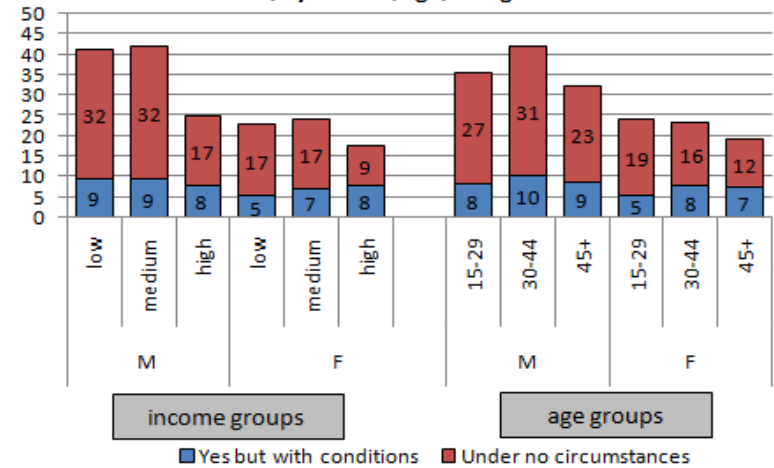
Descriptive Statistics, cont'd:

Attitudes Towards Women Working Outside, by Gender, Age and Income

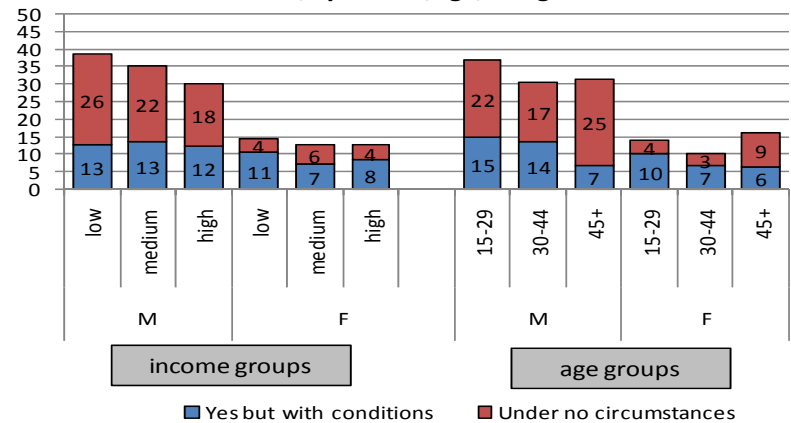
Amman: Non acceptance of the idea of women working outside, by income, age, and gender



Cairo: Non acceptance of the idea of women working outside, by income, age, and gender

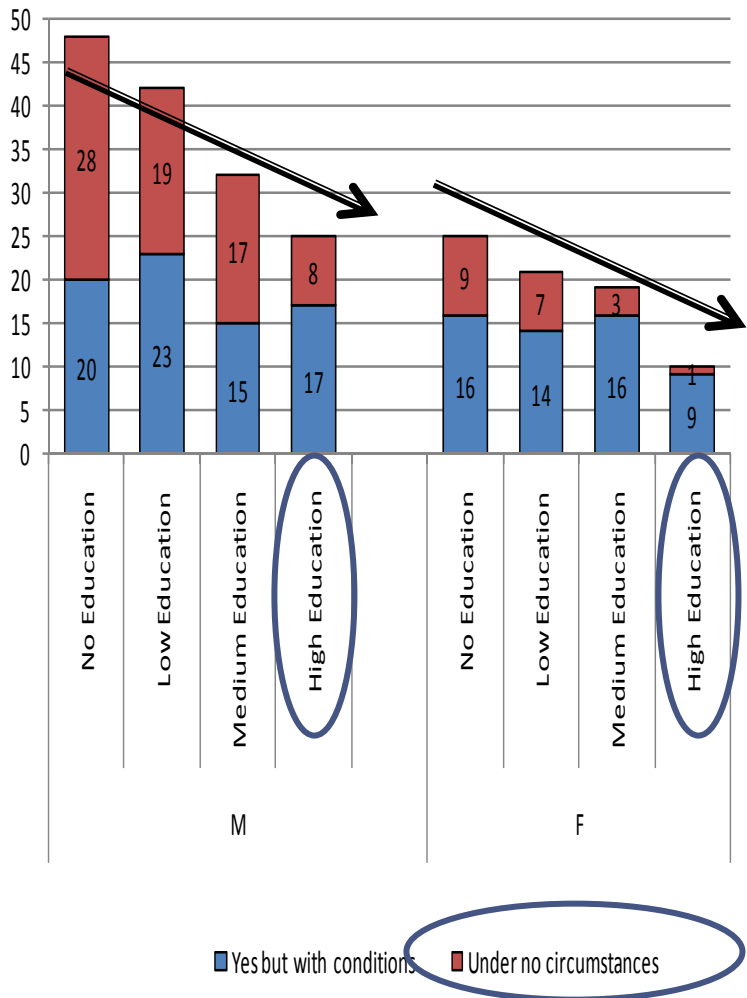


Sana'a: Non acceptance of the idea of women working outside, by income, age, and gender

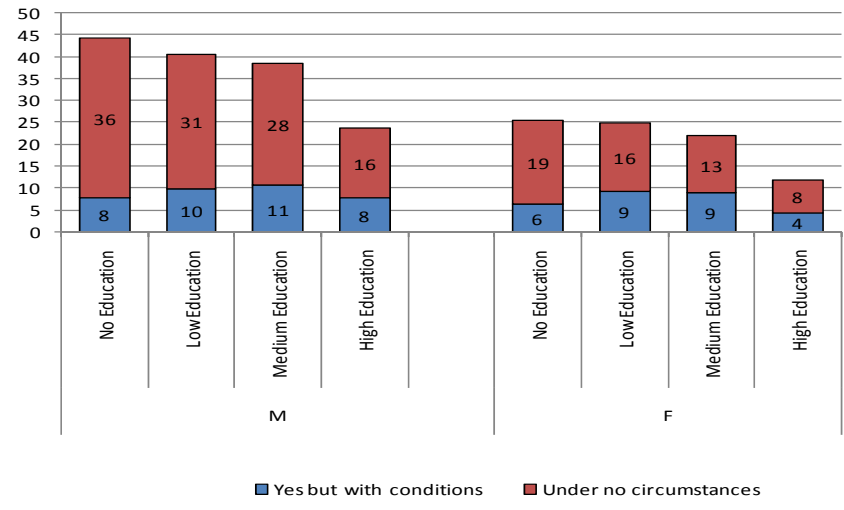


Descriptive Statistics, cont'd.: Attitudes Towards Women Working Outside, by Gender and

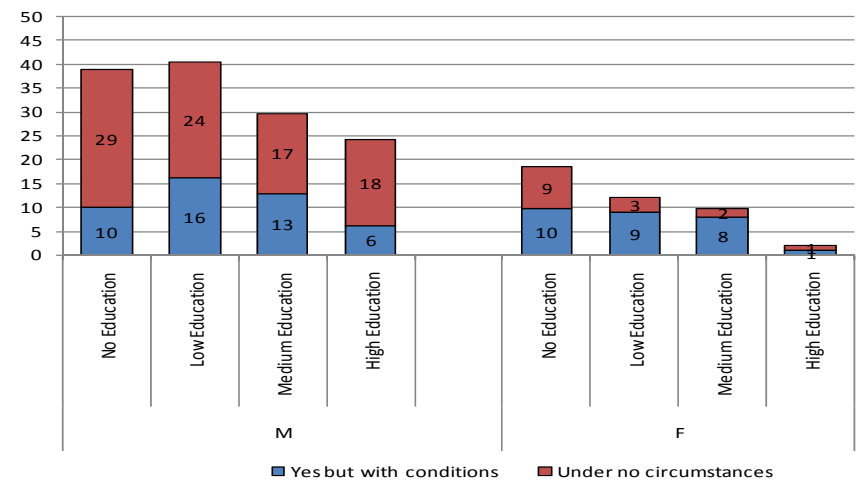
Amman: Non acceptance of the idea of women working outside, by education and gender



Cairo: Non acceptance of the idea of women working outside, by education and gender



Sana'a: Non acceptance of the idea of women working outside, by education and gender

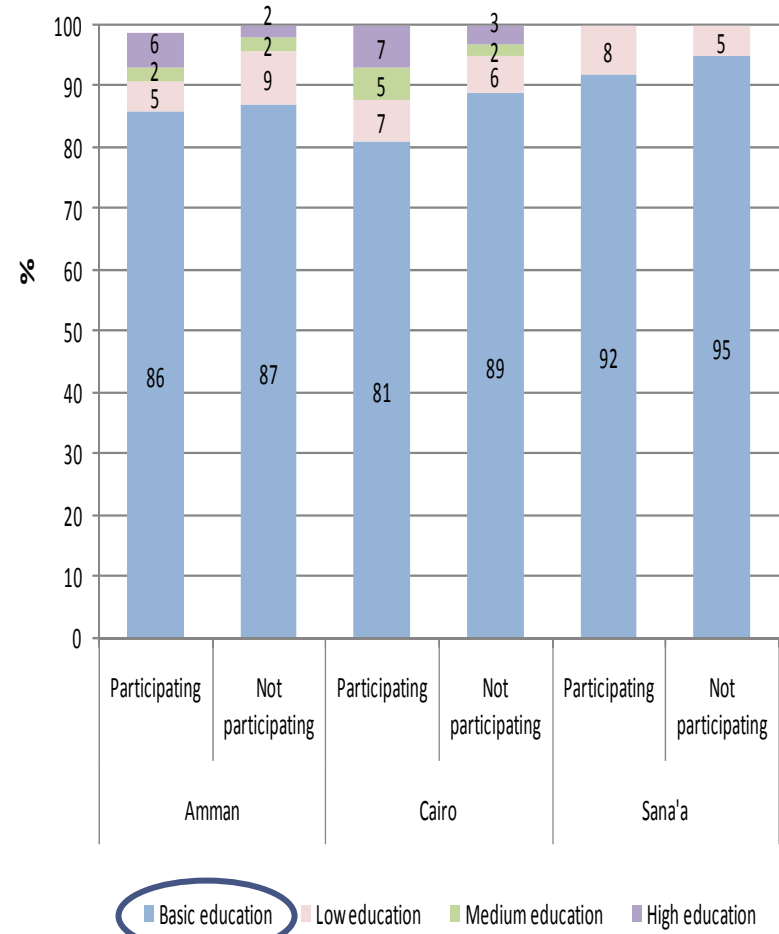


Female participation by characteristics of mother-in-law

Female participation (15-64) by whether mother-in-law worked or used to work outside home

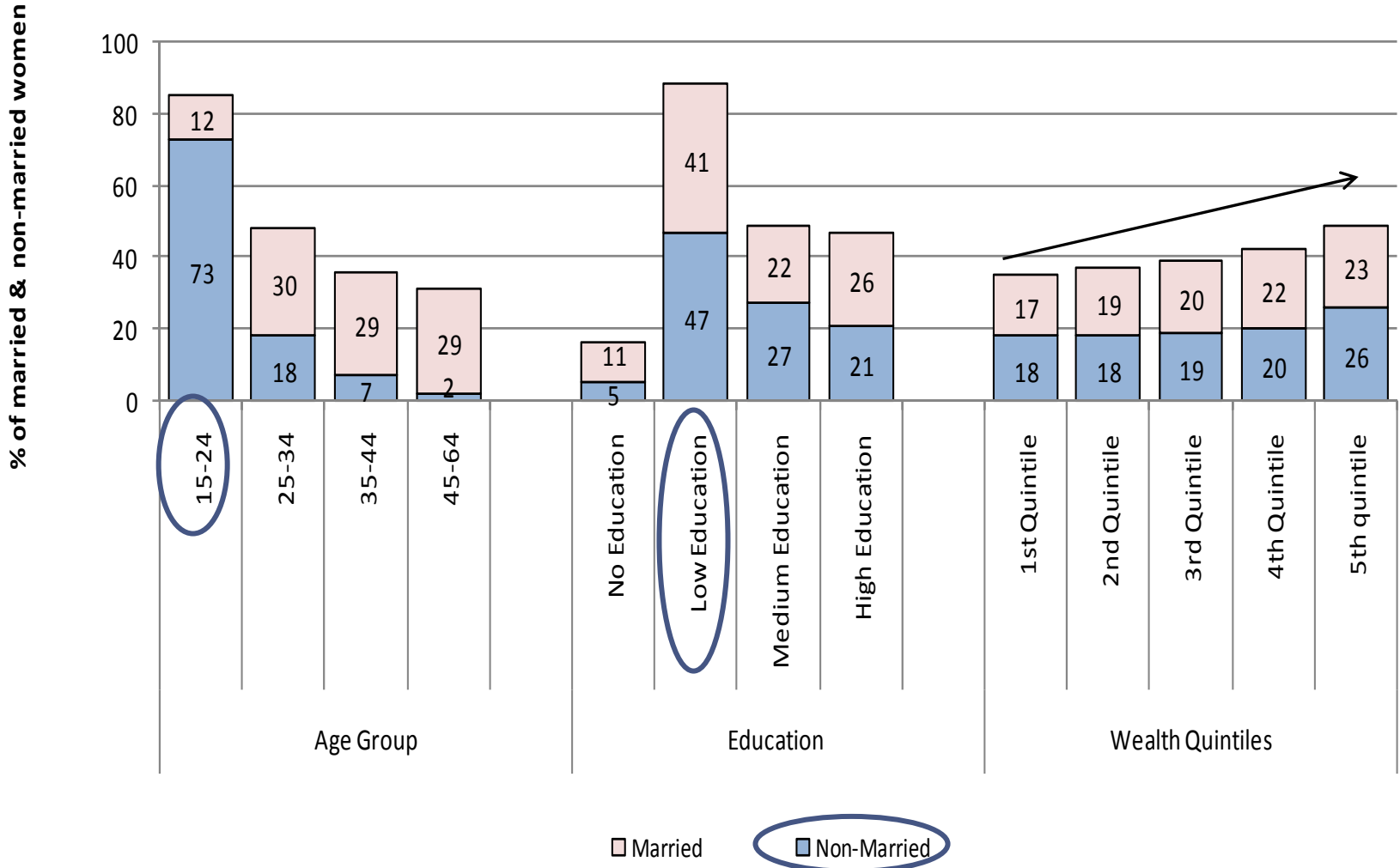


Female participation (15-64) by education of mother-in-law



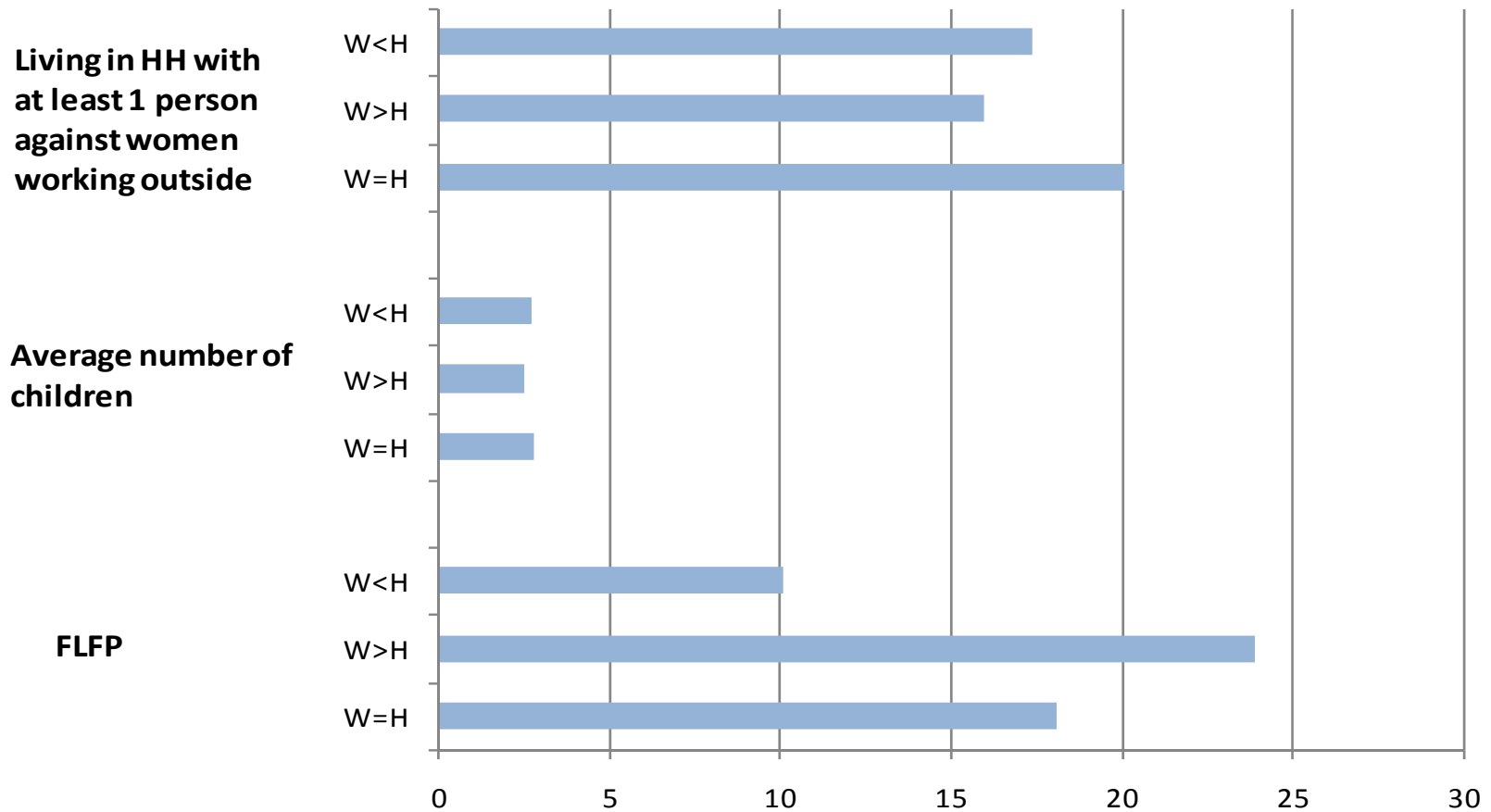
Characteristics of Married & Non-married Women

Amman: Married & Non-Married Women (15-64 years old), by Age, Education & Wealth Quintiles



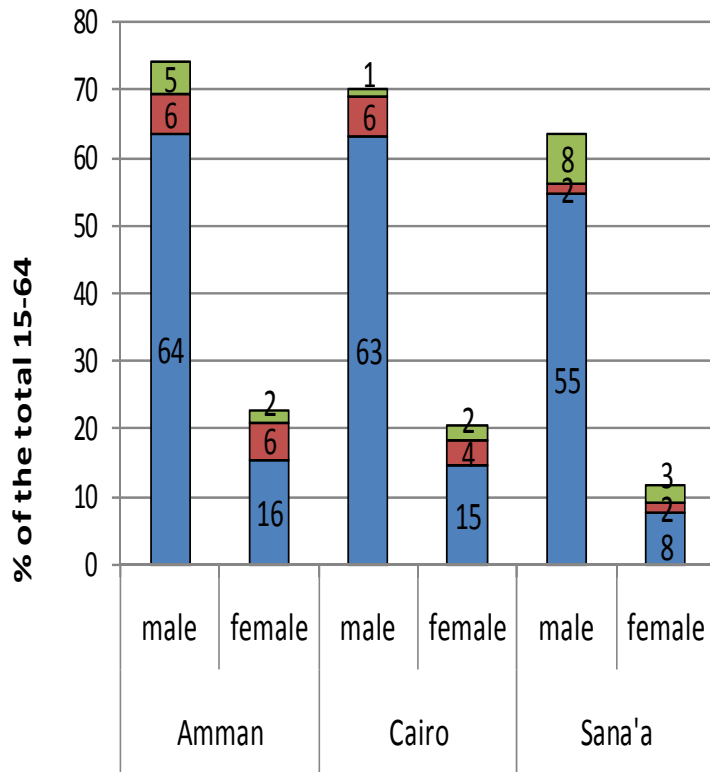
Intra-Household Analysis

Amman: Educational pattern in the couple, number of children, female labor force participation, and attitudes



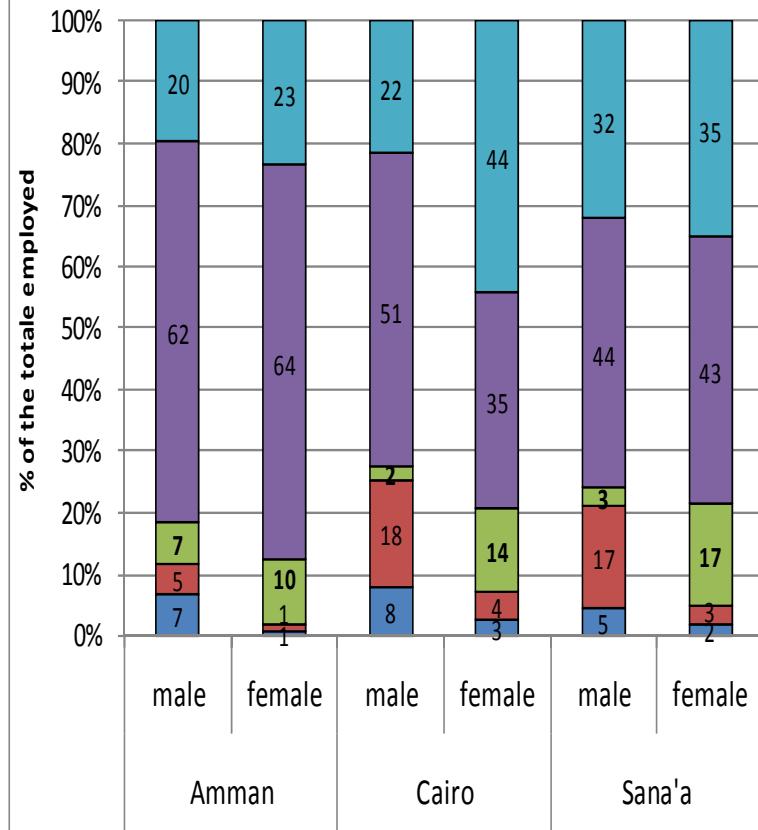
Does Home-Based Work Provide an Option to Women's Economic Empowerment?

Distribution of males and females by employment status



working outside unemployed home-based

Occupational choices of employed



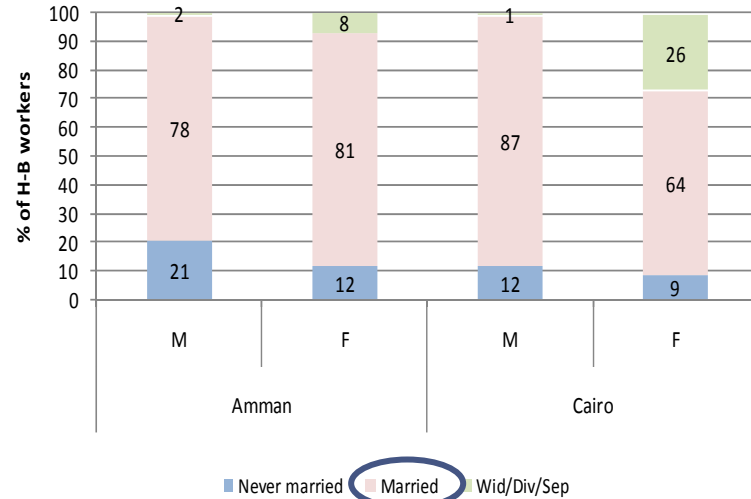
employer self-employed working home-based employee in the private sector employee in the public sector

Characteristics of Home-Based Workers

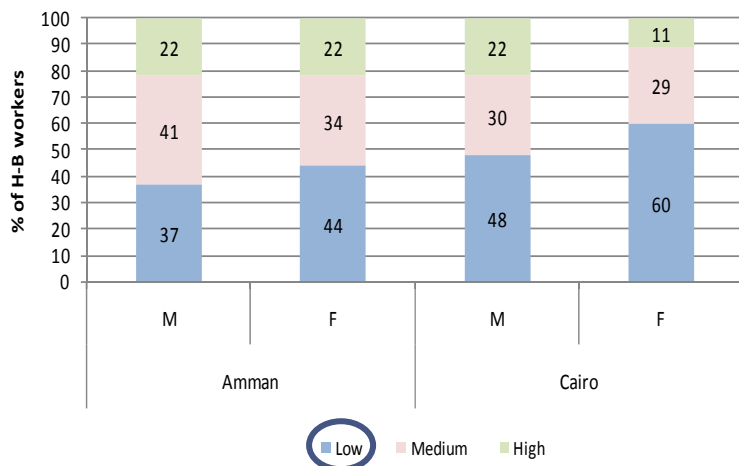
Distribution of male & female H-B workers, by age groups



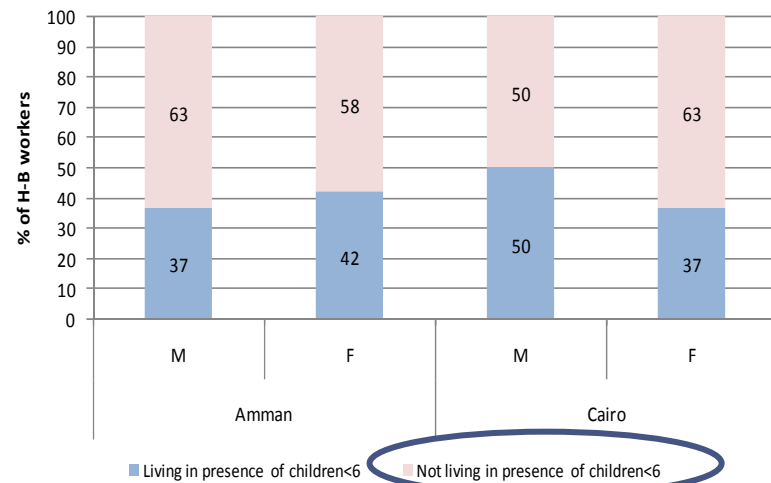
Distribution of male & female H-B workers, by marital status



Distribution of male & female H-B workers, by income groups

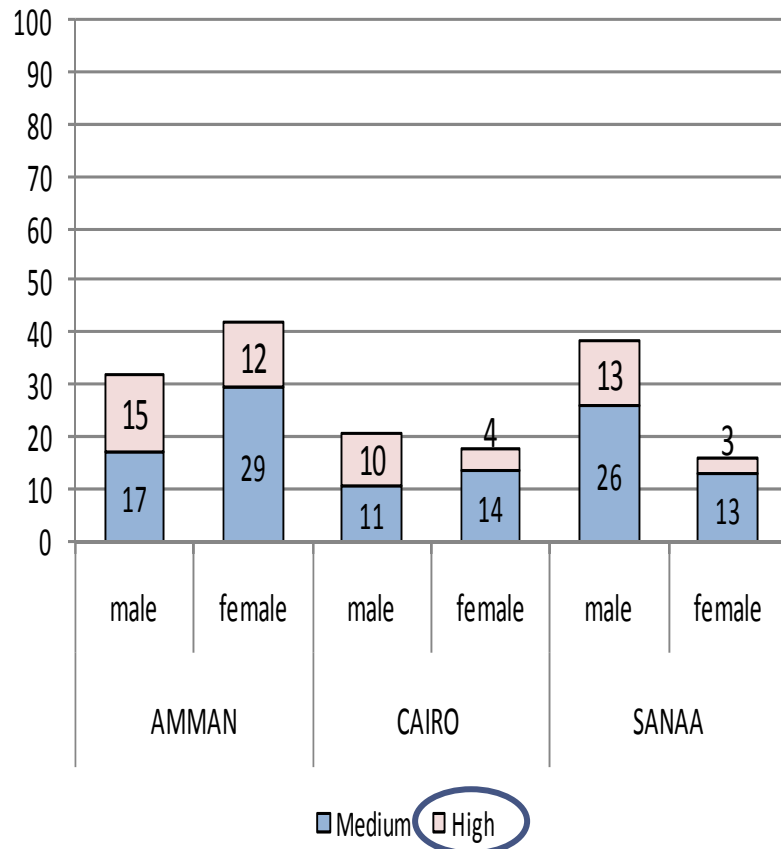


Distribution of male & female H-B workers, by children <6 years old

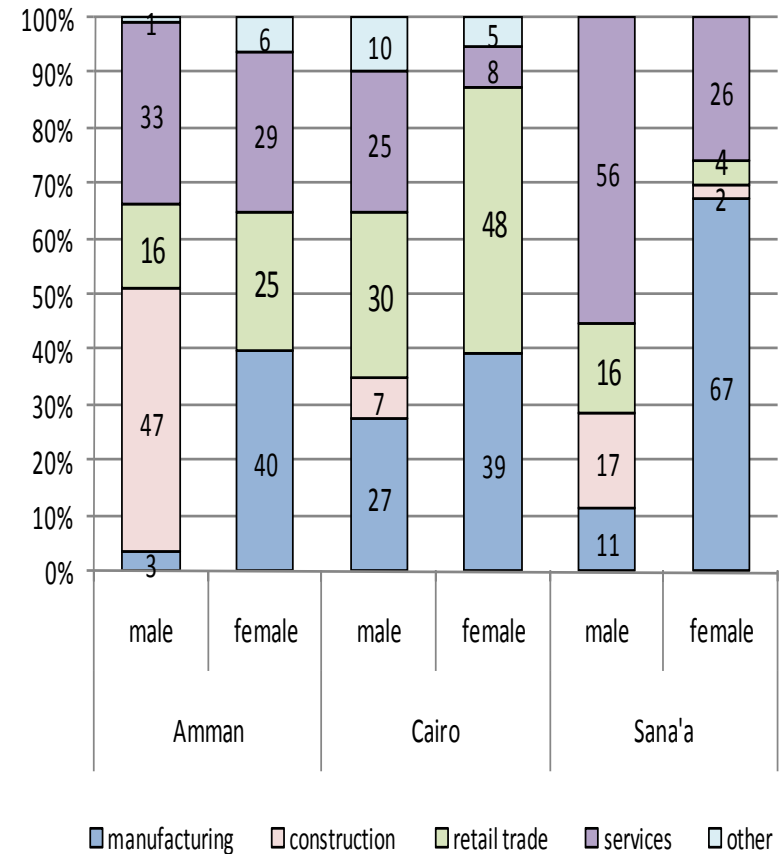


Home-Based Activities: Main Characteristics

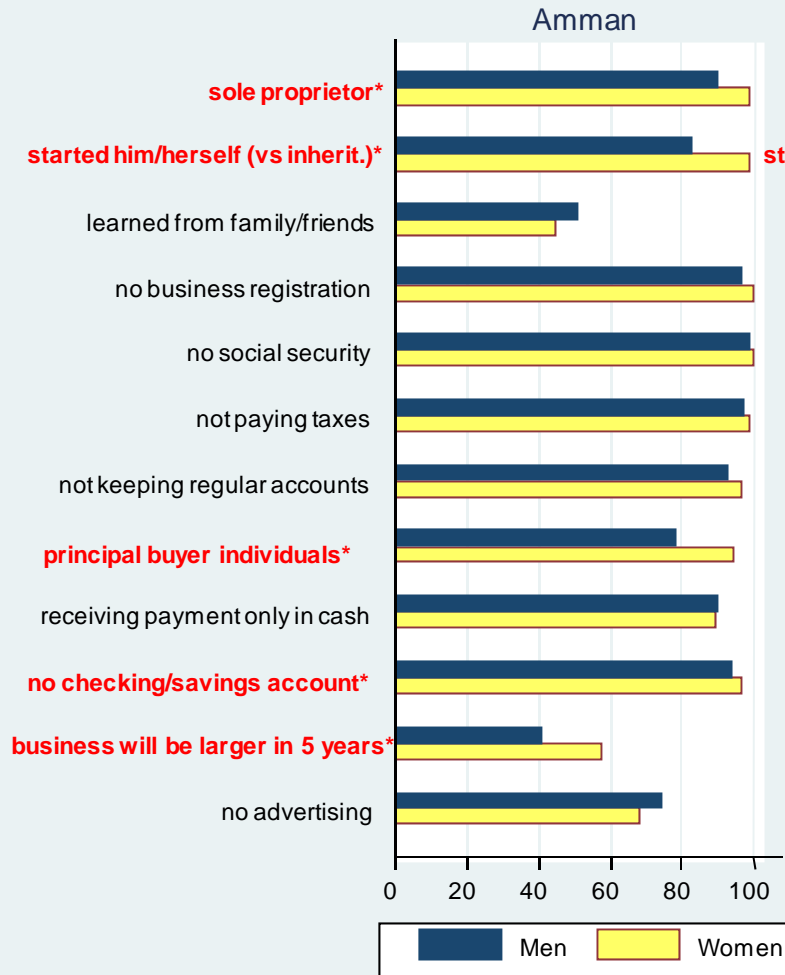
Educational level of the individuals involved in home-based activities, by gender



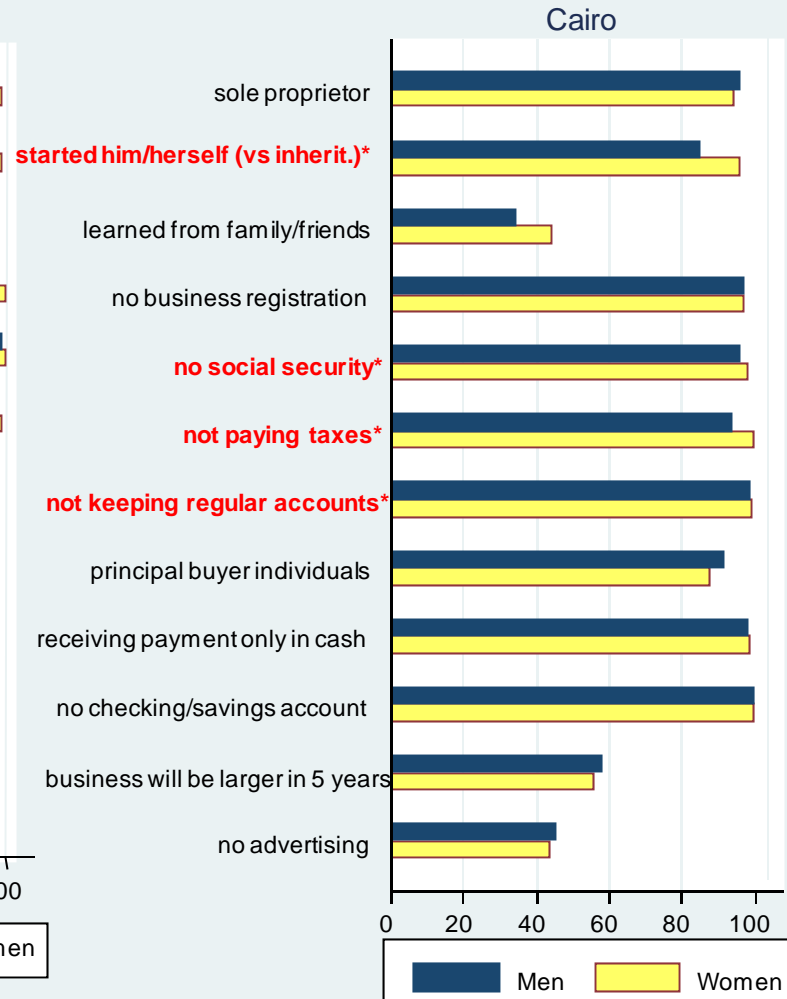
Distribution of home-based activities by sector



Home-Based Activities: Main Characteristics

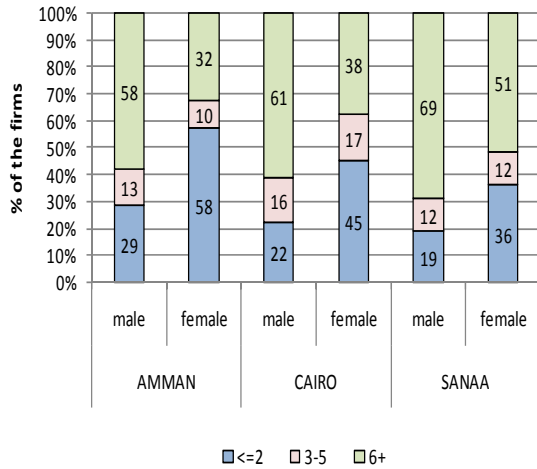


* differences are significant

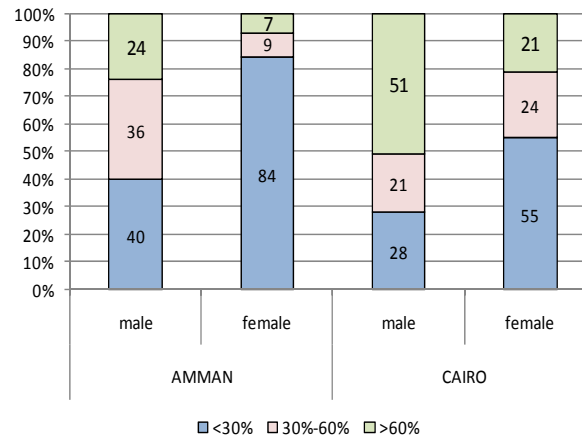


Home-Based Activities: Main Characteristics

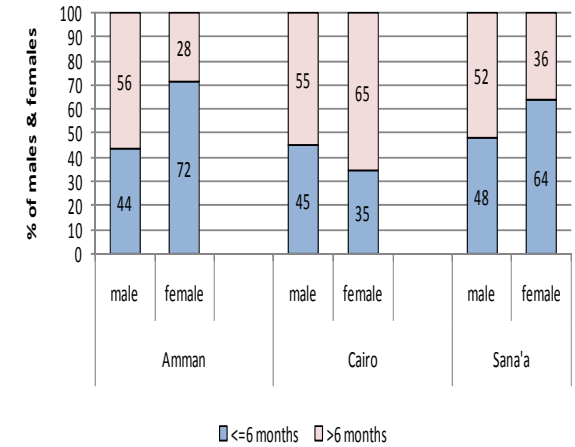
Years in operation



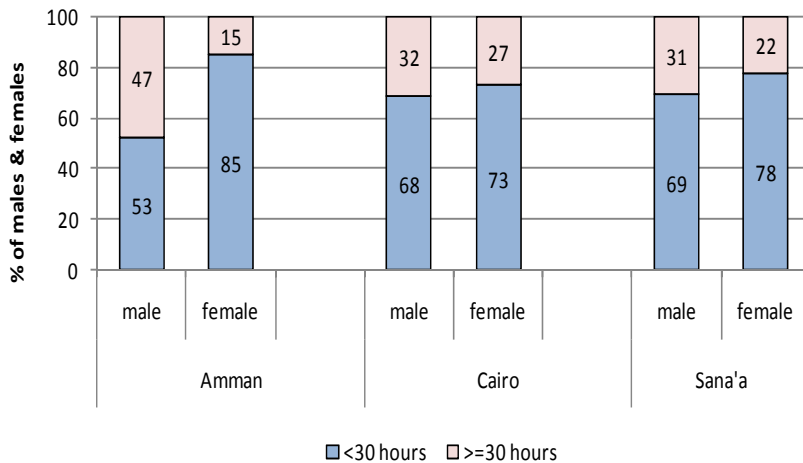
Earning from the HB activity as a percentage of the total monthly HH expenditure, by gender



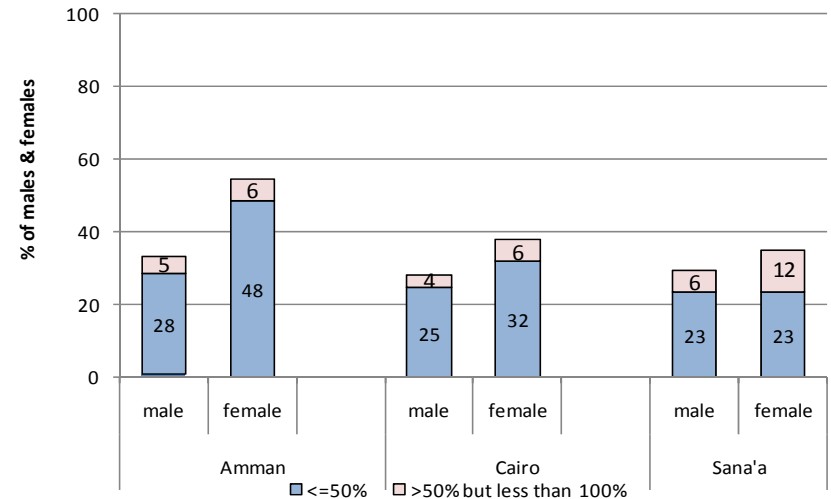
Number of weeks per year spent on H-B activity, by gender



Average working hours per week spent on H-B activity, by gender

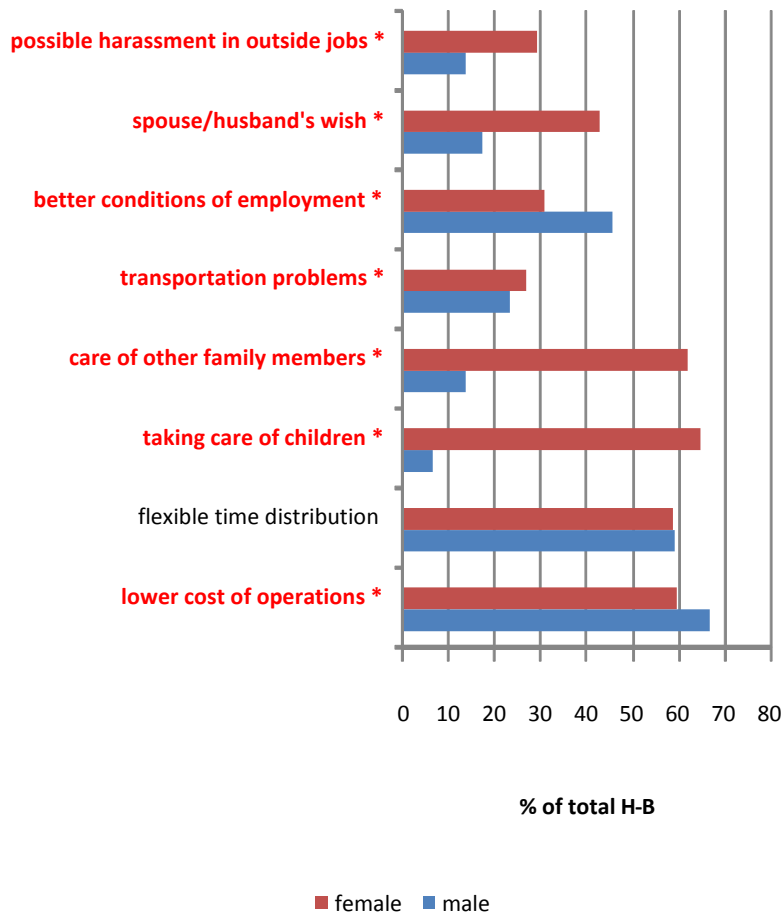


Average monthly HH expenditure covered by income from H-B activity, by gender



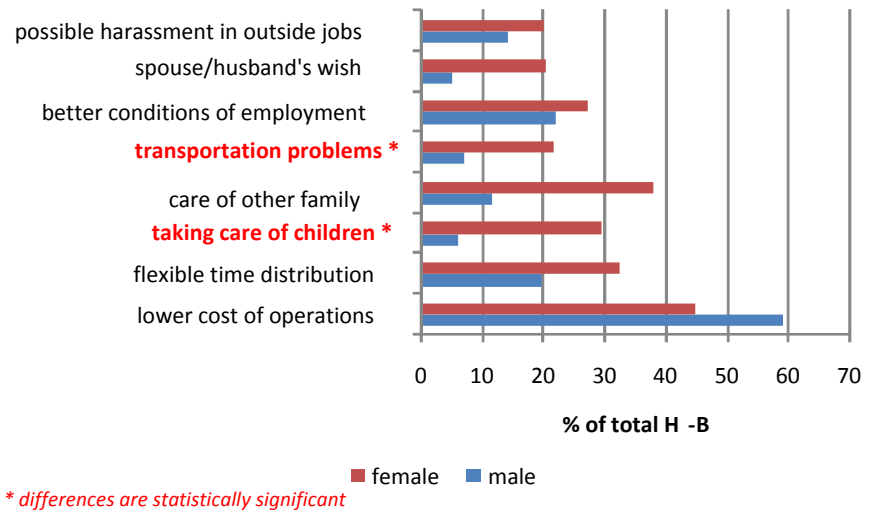
Main Reasons for Home-Based Work

Amman



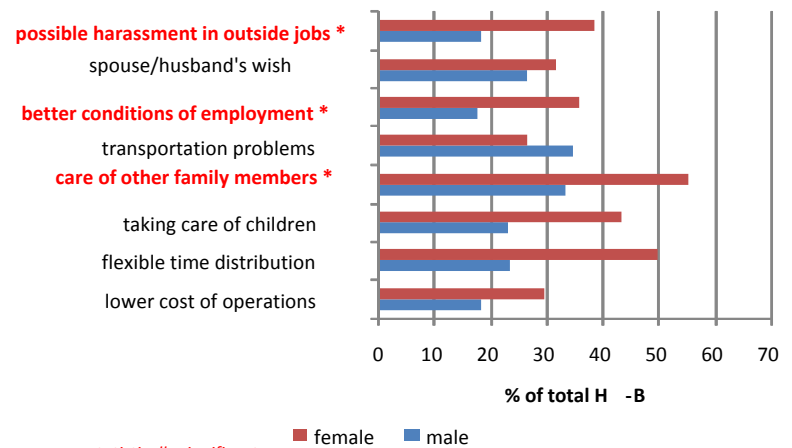
* differences are statistically significant

Cairo



* differences are statistically significant

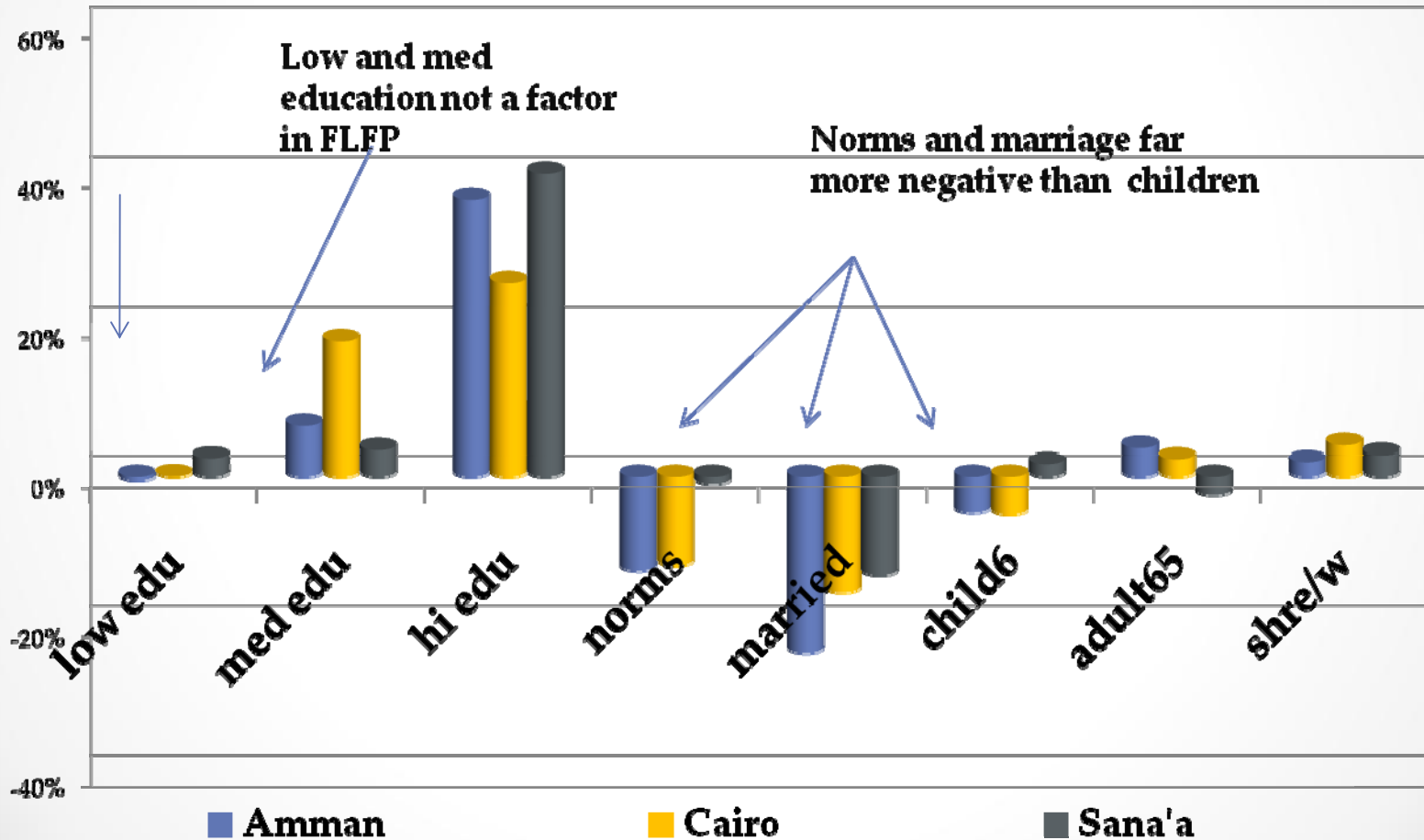
Sana'a



* differences are statistically significant

Findings and Policy Recommendations on FLFP

Main factors affecting female labor force participation (FLFP)





**Thank you
for Listening**