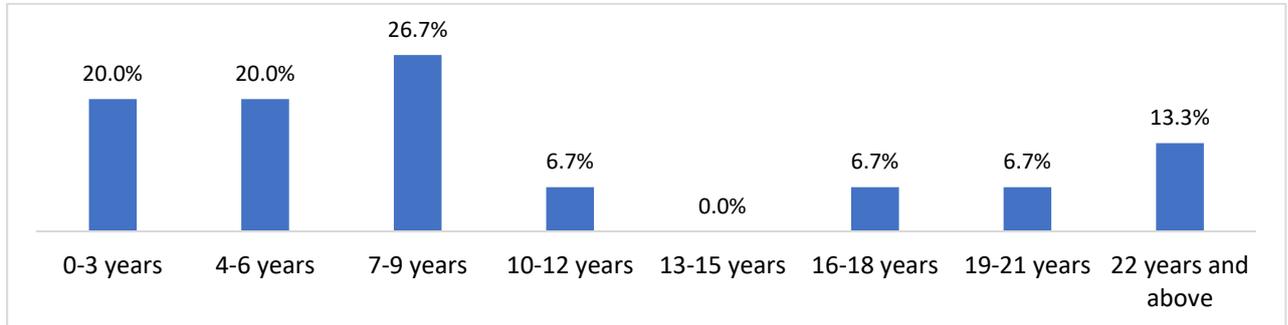
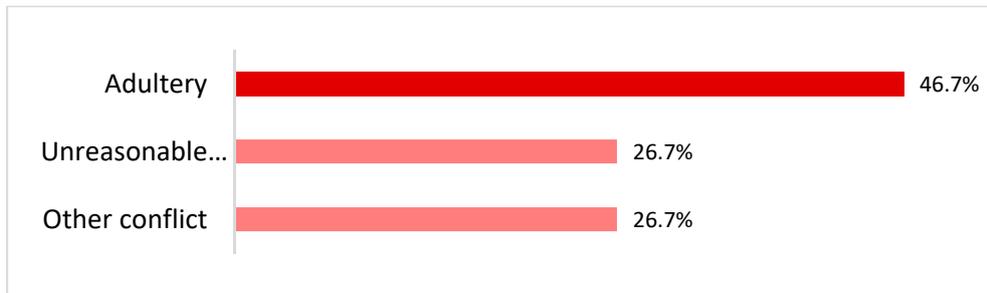


Annex Survey of Individuals Whose Parents Divorced

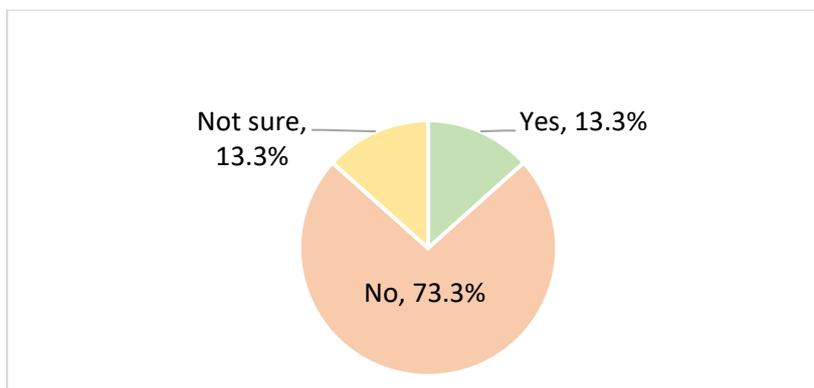
Age when parents divorced



Q1. Reason for your parents' divorce (brief description), if you are aware.



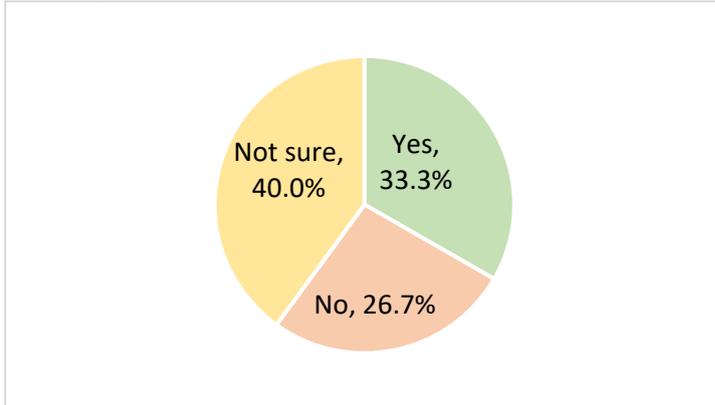
Q2. Do you feel that your voice was heard in the process of your parents' divorce decision?



Q3. Please explain your answer for Q2.

Response to Q2	Verbatim Comments
Yes	<i>It is my parents' marriage and I respected the decision my mother made even though I voiced out that I did not agree.</i>
	<i>Mother did seek my opinion but did not take them into consideration. Father did not really know what was going on and had to just go through with the divorce. I felt that I did not have a say in whatever decisions were made and Mother tried to force a lot of her ideas onto me, which made me turn against Father at one point, without looking at the bigger picture.</i>
No	<i>My parents divorced when I was seven without letting us know.</i>
	<i>Parents did not inform or explain their decision to divorce. No one processed with me. Figured out on my own.</i>
	<i>Decision was not concerted between parents, was an acrimonious divorce which everyone tried to talk plaintiff out of. Eventually, the exhausting process of the divorce made the defendant and children resign to the divorce outcome.</i>
	<i>Nobody asked me for my opinion, probably because I was too young then.</i>
	<i>I was too young then. So didn't really know what was happening.</i>
	<i>Honestly, I didn't want to visit my mom anymore for the hurts she has cause me and my family, like right now all the anxiety and mental stress I have is mainly still from her. But the court still forced me to meet her once a week and she is always a public nuisance which adds to my anxiety when meeting her, even when I don't want to, due to past traumas.</i>
	<i>Too young.</i>
	<i>I was not aware of the initial separation even when my dad moved out of the house. I was not told about it in any way until I realised my dad wasn't coming back home.</i>
	<i>Too young to voice out.</i>
Not sure	<i>Too young.</i>

Q4. Do you think it would have made a difference?



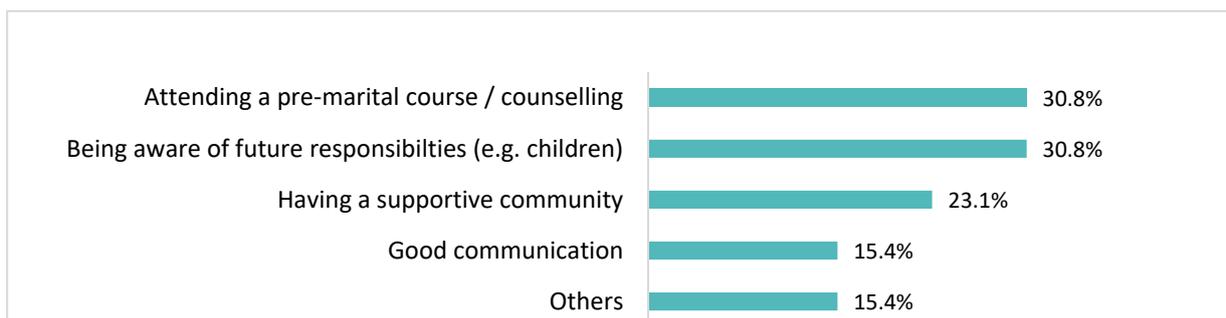
Q5. Please explain your answer for Q4.

Response to Q2	Verbatim Comments
Yes	<i>If they have heard our voices, they might have changed their mind and worked things out.</i>
	<i>If the court appreciated my opinions at least I would have a much more peaceful minded and normal life. (Haiz how much I wish)</i>
	<i>I would have at least known why my dad moved out.</i>
	<i>Even though I may not be able to fully contribute to the decision-making process, having a voice would make me feel like I matter, and that I am not some 'bargaining chip' or 'follower'.</i>
	<i>Additionally, I am an only child and when both parents constantly 'complain' or 'vent out' on me, it gets frustrating when I know I cannot do anything, as even if I do, it would not make a difference.</i>
	<i>Decisions by adults were made without the consideration of children's needs or feelings. There was no attempt for counselling or mediation between my parents as well. Felt that extended family was at a loss of what to say or do, as it was the first divorce in the family.</i>
No	<i>My mother was adamant about the divorce.</i>
	<i>Even if it was, I was too young anyway.</i>
	<i>As children, we wouldn't think our feelings will be considered in terms of their choice.</i>
	<i>If it does, it would just prolong the pain. If parents don't work it out themselves, a child's voice won't resolve parents' fundamental issues.</i>
Not sure	<i>My parents probably thought I was too young to comprehend & contribute any meaningful input.</i>
	<i>Maybe it would have made a difference if they had known my sister and I would have preferred them to stick it out and get help from counselors who could give them effective conflict resolution skills, most probably things would have been different.</i>
	<i>Not too sure as I have never met my dad in person or even connect with him on a personal level.</i>
	<i>Might have deterred them from divorcing.</i>

Q6. What do you think works in conflict resolution between parents?



Q7. What is your advice to people who want to get married and have children?



Q8. Any other comments.

	Verbatim Comments
1	<p><i>Provide information and resources for extended family members to guide or advise couple considering divorce or post-divorce. The whole family comes around the couple for the wedding and during the birth of children, but somehow very little support during times of crisis or divorce.</i></p> <p><i>Children's voices and emotions are not processed properly. From personal experience, help is mostly provided to single parents (social worker/counsellor), but not to the children. Programmes like RAINBOWs are much needed for children to process their grief.</i></p> <p><i>Many adult children are experiencing the divorce of their parents these days. There are currently no programmes to support them, unless they attend counselling themselves.</i></p>
2	<p><i>Couples should go through mandatory counselling before being allowed to file for divorce.</i></p>
3	<p><i>There is a fine line between interfering and intervening. It takes a skilled and mature counsellor to do a good job when assisting families going through divorce.</i></p> <p><i>The key should be to ensure kids have a healthy upbringing going forward - sometimes it is better for parents to divorce to ensure this. There is no one size fits all recommendation – it should be on a case by case basis. If one parent is immature and may be vindictive, then perhaps the other parent needs to stick it out, until the children grow up.</i></p>