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- I) Tables
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

The main objective of this survey is to assess the perception of people on the use of Mother Tongue in different State institutions in Mauritius.

1.2 Coverage

The survey covered Mauritian adults, aged 18 years and over, selected across the island using an appropriate sampling technique as described below.

1.3 Sampling

A nationally representative sample of 600 Mauritians aged 18 years and over has been selected based on the "Quota" methodology. The sample has been randomly and proportionally allocated according to the target population by sex, region, age, ethnic group and profession. The stratification and allocation of quotas have been based on the latest figures published by the Central Statistics Office.

The sample profile is given at annex II.

1.4 Data collection

Fieldwork was conducted through face-to-face interviews by a pool of 20 trained interviewers, working under the supervision of four Supervisors from 7 to 20 March 2009. Strict quality control procedures have been adhered to throughout the data collection process. Random back-checks for at least 20% of completed questionnaires have been carried out through either face-to-face or telephone interviews

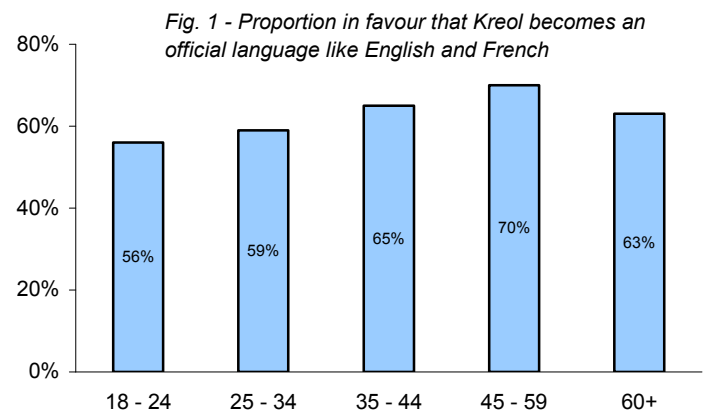
2. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

2.1. Kreol as an official language

The results show that 63% of the persons interviewed are in favour (36% strongly and 27% more or less) that Kreol becomes an official language in Mauritius, at par with English and French.

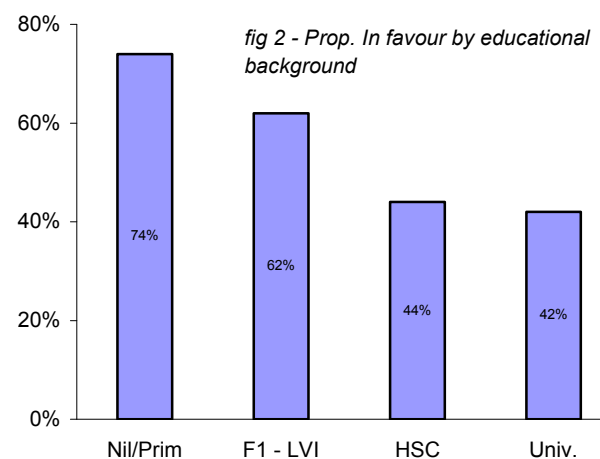
Such a feeling has been expressed almost equally by male (64%) and female respondents (63%).

However, analysis by age shows that the proportion in favour that Kreol becomes an official language along with English and French increases with age except among those aged 60 years and over. Thus 56% of respondents aged 18 to 24 years have expressed agreement. This proportion increases to reach a peak of 70% among those aged 45 to 59 years and drops to 63% among the oldest respondents (60 years and over).



Favourable opinions are slightly higher in urban areas (67%) than in rural areas (62%). Members of the General Population are much more in favour (82%) than Hindus (55%) and Muslims (55%).

Among the working population a negative correlation has been observed in the sense that the higher the job category, the lower the proportion of respondents who are in favour that Kreol becomes at par with English and French as an official language in Mauritius. The same type of association has been identified when analysed by level of education. The higher the level of education, the less favourable one is. Thus 74% of respondents with only primary schooling are in favour; this proportion falling to 62% among those who have followed secondary education up to School Certificate, to 44% among Higher School Certificate holders and further to 42% among University graduates.



Analysis by income reveals that, as for education level and job category, the higher the household income, the less a respondent is in favour that Kreol becomes an official language in Mauritius along with English and French.

2.2 Use of Kreol in Parliament

Respondents were asked whether they are in favour that Kreol becomes an official language in Parliament at par with English. 39% are totally in favour and 28% more or less in favour. Among the males, 68% are in favour compared to 64% among female respondents.

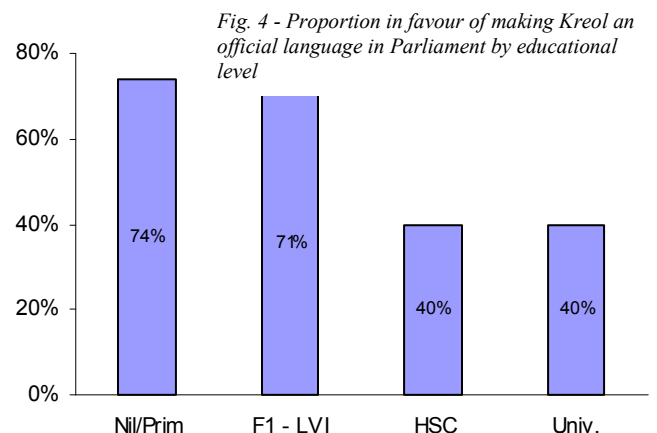
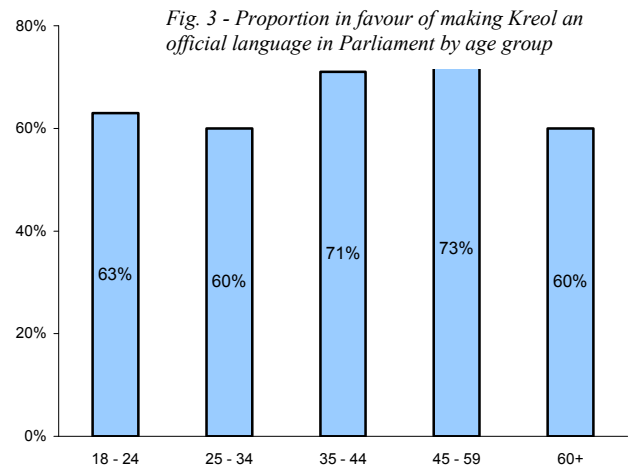
Analysis by age shows that the highest proportion of favourable opinion (73%) has been noted among respondents aged between 45 and 59 years while the lowest proportion (60%) has been recorded the oldest interviewees (60 years and over).

Favourable opinion is higher in urban areas (74%) than in rural areas (62%).

The highest proportion in favour of making Kreol an official language in Parliament just as English has been noted the General Population (82%), followed by Muslims (61%) and Hindus (58%).

Among the working population, the lower the job category, the higher the proportion in favour. Thus 74% of interviewees of the lowest job categories are in favour compared to only 46% among professionals and managers.

The same type of association has been noted with respect to academic qualification. 74% of respondents with only primary schooling are in favour of making Kreol an official language in Parliament compared to 40% among those who have followed tertiary education.



2.3. Kreol as a medium for teaching science in school

Respondents were asked whether they are in favour of using Kreol as a formal medium for the teaching of science in schools. 23% have replied that they are totally in favour and another 30% are more or less in favour. There is a slight difference in proportions of favourable opinions among men and women, with respective figures of 55% and 52%.

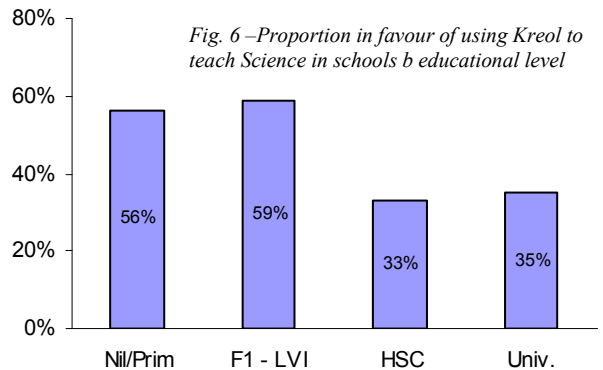
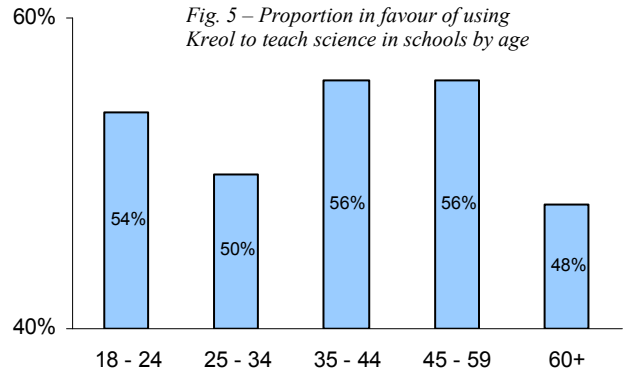
The highest proportion of favourable opinions (56%) have been recorded among respondents aged between 35 and 59 years whereas the oldest respondents (aged 60 years or more) are the least favourable (48%).

A higher proportion in urban areas is favourable to the use of Kreol for the teaching of Science, 58% against 50% in rural areas.

With regards to the ethnic groups, the highest proportion of favourable opinions (69%) is recorded among members of the General Population, followed by Muslims (49%) and Hindus (45%).

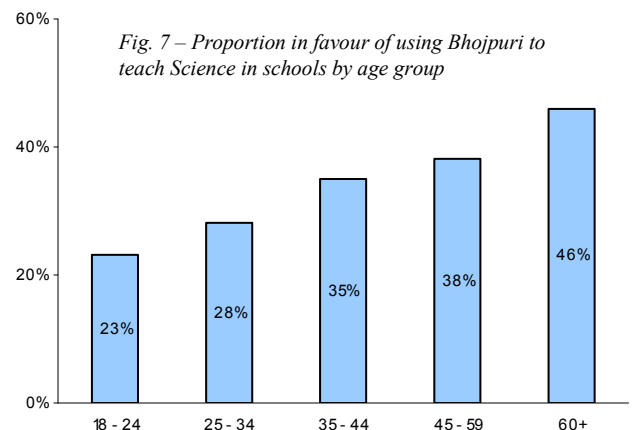
The lower the job category of an employed respondent, the more favourable he is for the use of Kreol as a medium to teach science in schools. The proportion fall from 56% among the lowest categories of employee to 44% among professionals and managers.

Analysis by academic background reveals that respondents who have passed the Higher School Certificate or have followed tertiary education are less favourable to the idea with proportions of 33% and 35% respectively, compared to 59% among those who have followed secondary education up to Lower VI and 56% among those with only primary schooling.



2.4. Bhojpuri as a medium for teaching Science in schools

Respondents were also asked for the opinions on the use of Bhojpuri as a formal medium for the teaching of Science to students who understand this language. Only 11% are totally in favour and 23% more or less in favour. Again men are more favourable than women with respective proportions of 36% and 32%.

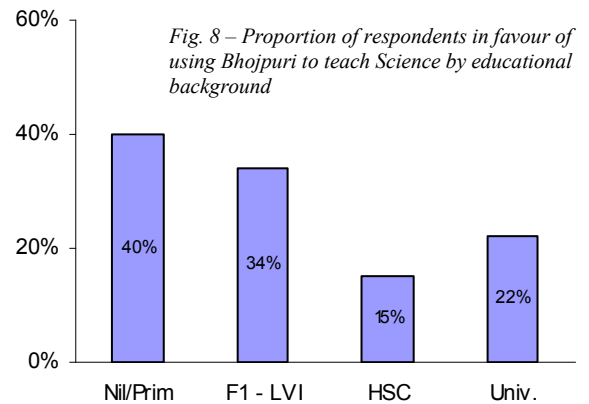


The proportion of favourable opinions increases with age: from 23% among respondents aged between 18 and 24 years to 46% among those aged 60 years or over.

Regionwise, 43% of interviewees from urban areas are favourable to the introduction of Bhojpuri as a medium for the teaching of Science to students who understand this language, as opposed to 28% among those from rural areas.

The highest proportion of favourable opinions has been registered among the Hindus (38%), followed by members of the General Population (37%) and the Muslims (16%).

No definite pattern or association emerges when analysed by professional categories or by educational background. Some 22% of respondents from the top professional categories and 39% of the lowest job categories are in favour. Favourable proportions based on educational background are as follows: Only primary schooling (40%), secondary education up to lower VI (34%), Higher School Certificate (15%) and university background (22%).

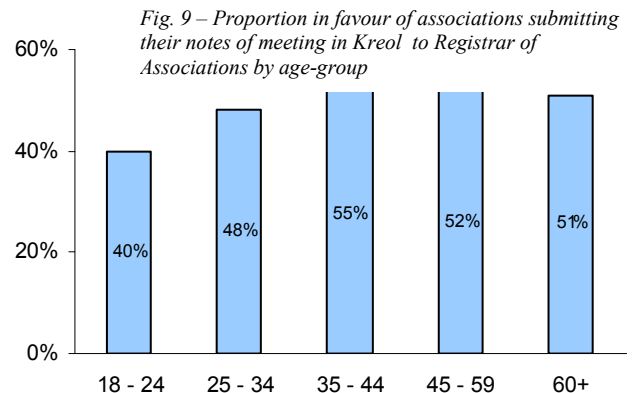


2.5. Submission of Notes of Meeting in Kreol to the Registrar of Associations

Some 20% of respondents are totally in favour that associations which are registered with the Registry of Associations can submit their notes of meetings to the Registrar in Kreol in case their members are agreeable and another 29% are more or less in favour. However, it is to be noted that 20% of interviewees did not express any opinion.

Men are by far more favourable than women with respective proportions of 57% and 42%. The smallest proportion of favourable opinions (40%) has been expressed by the youngest respondents (aged between 18 and 24 years) whereas those aged between 35 and 44 years record the highest proportion of 55%.

In urban areas, 58% of respondents are in favour and in rural areas, 44%.

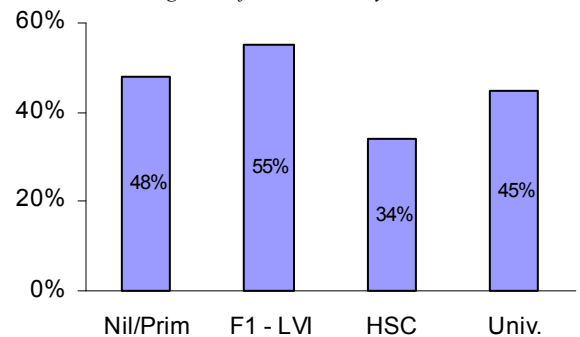


The highest proportion of favourable opinion has been noted among members of the General Population (59%), followed by Hindus (47%) and Muslims (42%).

Among employees in the lowest job categories, 56% have expressed favourable opinions compared to 46% among Managers and professionals.

As regards educational background, 55% of those with secondary education background (up to Lower VI) are agreeable to the proposal compared to the lowest proportion of 34% among holders of Higher School Certificate.

Fig. 10 – Proportion in favour of associations submitting their notes of meeting in Kreol to Registrar of Associations by education level

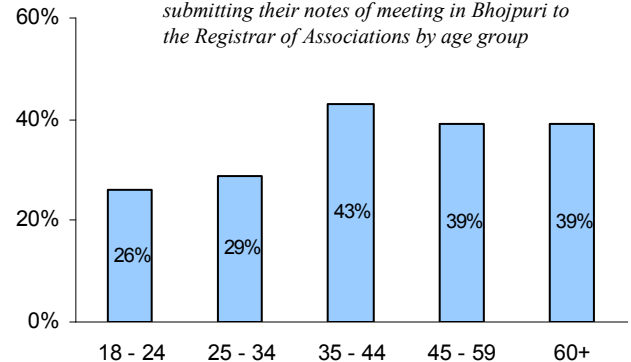


2.6. Submission of Notes of Meeting in Bhojpuri to the Registrar of Associations

13% of persons interviewed are totally in favour and another 23% more or less in favour that associations registered with the Registry of Associations may submit their notes of meetings in Bhojpuri to the Registrar of Associations if their members so wish. About 23% of respondents did not express any views on this issue.

Among the male respondents 40% are in favour and among females, 30%. The youngest respondents are not quite in favour of this opinion (with 26% of favourable responses) while the highest proportion of favourable opinions (43%) has been observed among those aged between 35 and 44 years.

Fig. 11 - Proportion in favour of associations submitting their notes of meeting in Bhojpuri to the Registrar of Associations by age group



Respondents of the urban regions are more favourable than those of rural areas, 42% against 31%. Among the ethnic groups, the Hindus are more favourable (39%), followed by members of the General Population (37%) and Muslims (22%).

40% of employees in the lowest job categories are agreeable to the idea that associations may submit their notes of meeting in Bhojpuri to the Registrar of associations if their members express the wish. The corresponding proportion among professionals and managers is 27%.

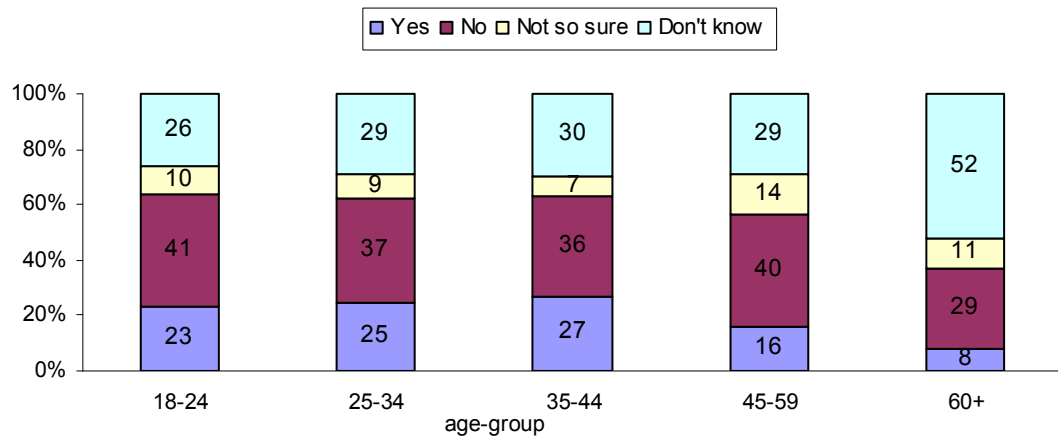
Those with the lowest academic background are more in favour: 37% among respondents with only primary schooling and 38% among those who have followed secondary education.

2.7. Awareness of a dictionary Kreol – English

According to 21% of the respondents there exists a dictionary Kreol – English while for 37% such a dictionary does not exist. Another 10% are not so sure of its existence while 32% do not know.

Awareness of the existence of this dictionary increases with age up to 44 years and then declines for higher age groups. Thus 23% of the youngest respondents, aged between 18 and 24 years have replied that such a dictionary exists and this proportion increases to reach 27% among those aged between 35 and 44 years, to fall to 8% among the oldest segment, namely those aged 60 years and over.

Fig. 12 – Awareness of the existence of a dictionary Kreol-English by age group

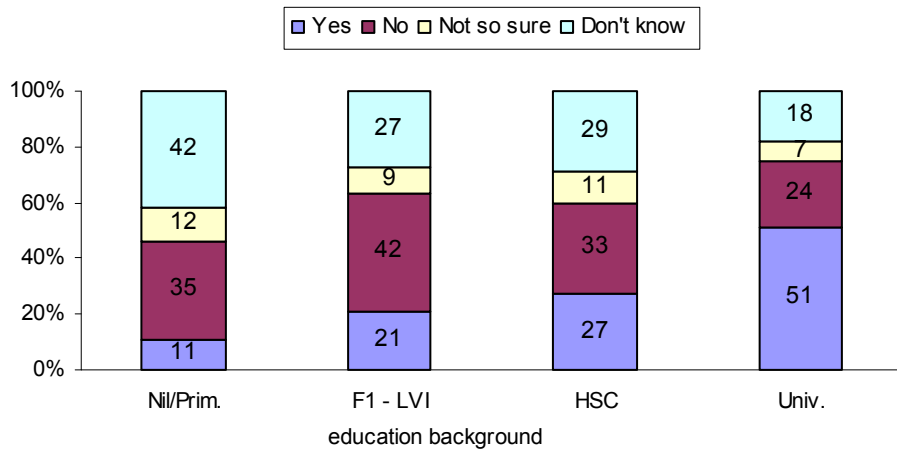


In urban areas, 25% of respondents are aware of its existence against 18% in rural areas.

A comparatively high proportion (41%) of managers and professionals is aware that such a dictionary is available compared to 19% among workers falling in the lowest job categories.

The higher the educational level, the more likely someone thinks that such a dictionary exists. Thus 51% of respondents with a university background have said that according to them this dictionary exists compared to only 11% among those with only primary schooling.

Fig. 13 – Awareness of the existence of a dictionary Kreol-English by education level

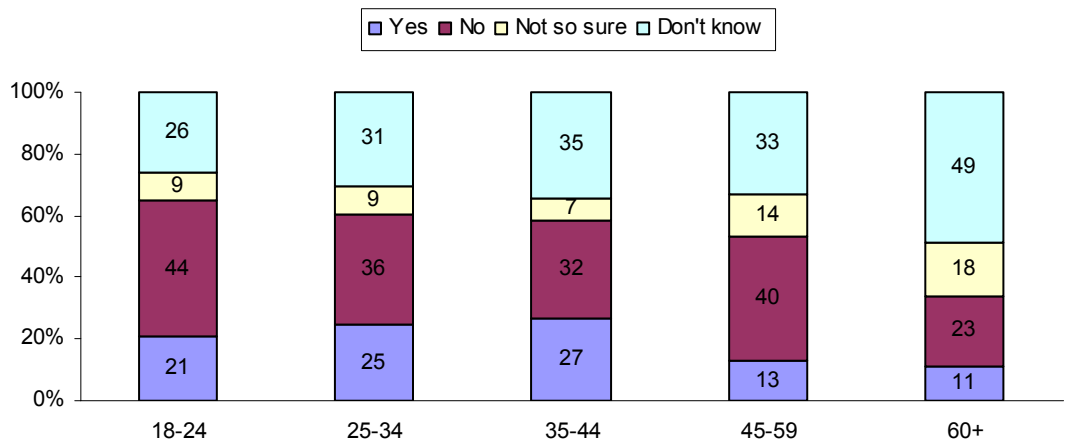


2.8. Awareness of a dictionary Kreol – French

According to 20% interviewees there is a Kreol-French dictionary, while 35% thinks that such a dictionary does not exist, 11% are not so sure and 34% do not know. A higher proportion of men have affirmed its existence, 23% against 16% for women.

When analysed by age-group, a similar pattern as for Kreol-English dictionary is revealed, namely that awareness increases with age up to 44 years and then goes down for higher ages. Thus 21% of respondents aged between 18 and 24 years have replied that according to them such a dictionary exists and this proportion reaches a peak of 27% for those between 35 and 44 years, to fall to 11% among respondents aged 60 years and over.

Fig. 14 – Awareness of the existence of a dictionary Kreol-French by age group

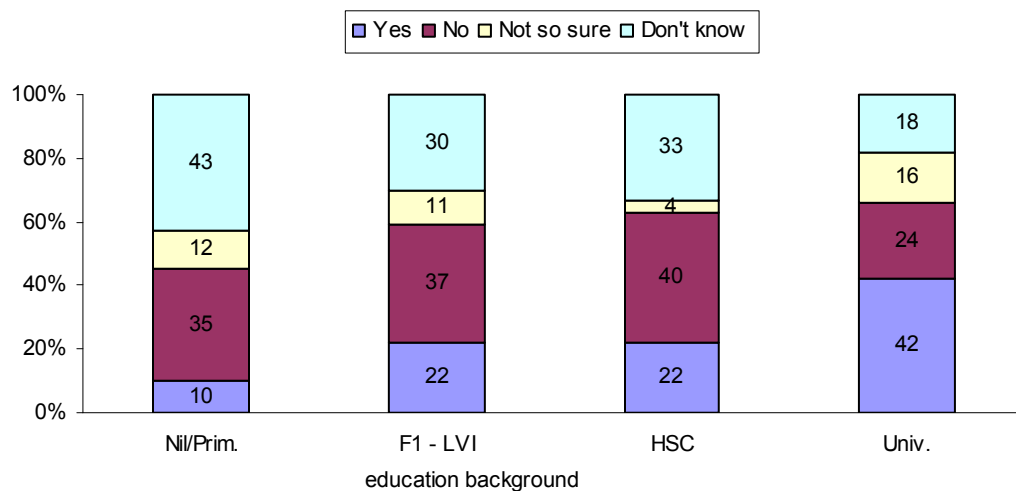


According to 22% of respondents in urban areas such a dictionary exists and the corresponding proportion for rural areas is 18%.

Profession-wise, the proportion is 37% among those in the top categories and 16% among those in the lowest professions.

The highest proportion of positive replies (42%) has been registered among respondents with a university background while the lowest figure (10%) has been noted among those having followed only primary education.

Fig. 15 – Awareness of the existence of a dictionary Kreol-French by education level



2.9. Awareness of a dictionary Kreol – Bhojpuri

Very few respondents think that a dictionary Kreol – Bhojpuri exists. In fact, only 5% have replied that, according to them, there is such a dictionary. 45% have replied in the negative, 7% are not so sure and the remaining 44% do not know.

2.10. Availability of courses on Kreol language at the University of Mauritius

According to only 7% of interviewees the University of Mauritius is offering courses on Kreol language compared to 43% who said that such courses are not available, 13% are not so sure and 37% do not know.

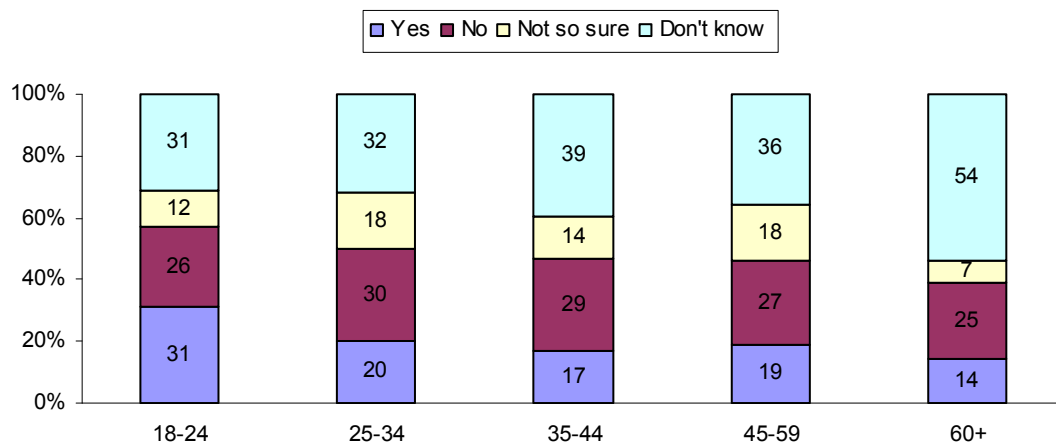
The highest proportion of affirmative replies have been registered among those aged between 25 and 44 years (9%), among managers and professionals (10%), and among respondents having followed tertiary education (18%).

2.11. Teaching of science in Kreol in prevocational schools

When asked whether, according to them there are some pre-vocational schools where science is being taught in Kreol, 20% of respondents have replied in the affirmative, 28% in the negative, 15% are not so sure and the remaining 38% do not know.

The highest proportion of awareness (31%) has been noted among the youngest respondents (aged between 18 and 24 years) while the lowest proportion (14%) has been recorded among the oldest (60 years and over).

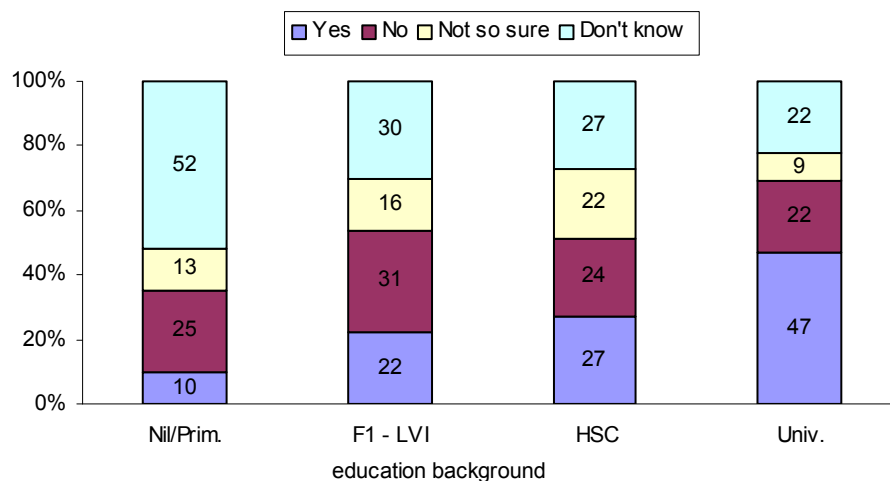
Fig. 16 – Awareness of the teaching of science in Kreol in some prevocational schools by age group



Analysis by profession reveals that according to 35% of managers and professionals science is taught in Kreol language in some prevocational schools with a corresponding figure of 15% among those engaged in elementary occupations.

By educational level, the highest proportion of affirmative replies (47%) comes from respondents with a university background.

Fig. 17 – Awareness of the teaching of science in Kreol in some prevocational schools by education level

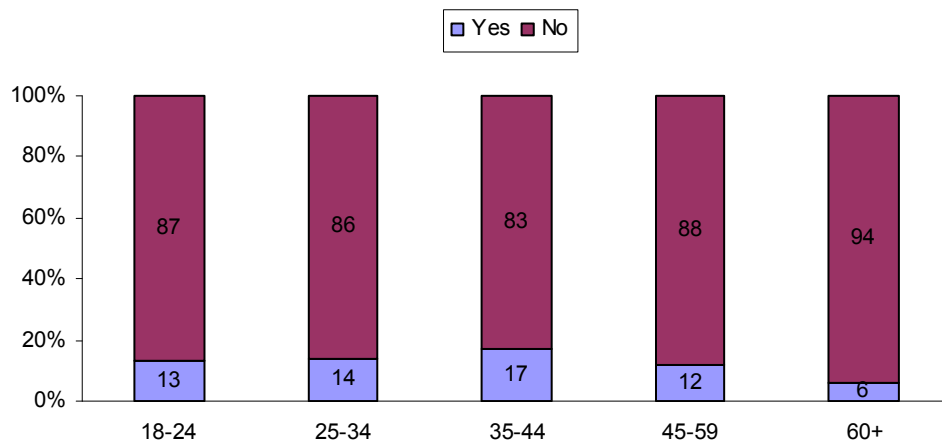


2.12. “Grafi larmoni” – a sytem to write Kreol

Respondents were asked whether they are aware that there exists a system known as “Grafi Larmoni” to write Kreol. Only 13% have affirmed having learnt of that system, 15% among males and 11% among females.

The highest proportion of those who are aware of that system (17%) is noted among respondents aged between 35 and 44 years while the lowest proportion (6%) is found among the elderly (60 years and over).

Fig. 18 – Awareness of a system known as “Grafi Larmoni” to write Kreol by age group



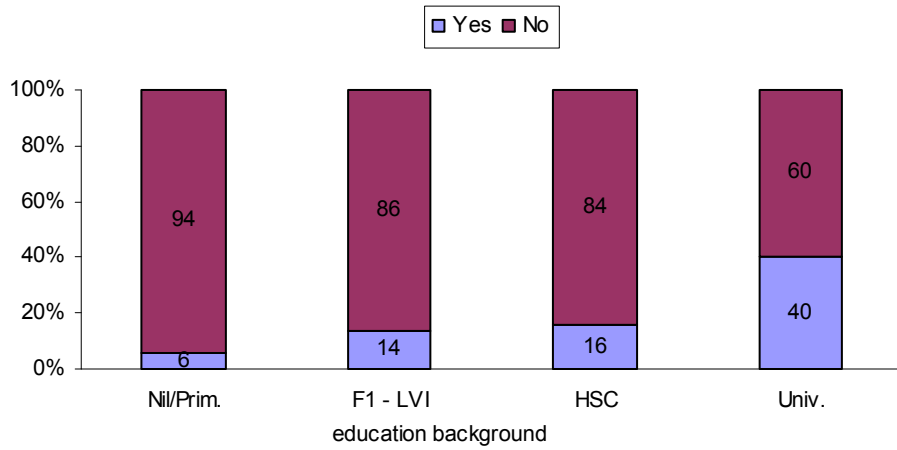
About twice as many respondents in urban regions than in rural regions have heard of that system, 18% against 9%.

The highest proportion is noted among members of the General Population (16%), followed by the Hindus (12%) and the Muslims (11%).

Among managers and professionals, 37% have heard about the system compared to 12% of employees in the lowest job categories.

Awareness of the system increases with level education – 6% among those with primary schooling and 40% among university graduates.

Fig. 19 – Awareness of a system known as “Grafi Larmoni” to write Kreol by education level



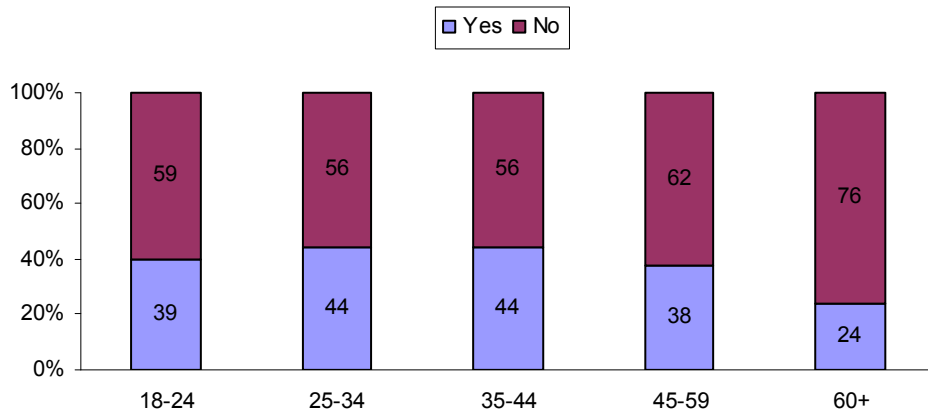
2.13. Learning to write Kreole using “Grafi Larmoni” system

Respondents were asked whether they would wish to learn writing Kreol using the system “Grafi Larmoni”.

Apart from the two interviewees (less than 1%) who affirmed that they already know how to write in that system, 39% have expressed the desire, with 41% among men and 37% among women.

Among respondents aged between 25 and 44 years, 44% would wish to learn the system while the corresponding proportion among those aged 60 years and over is 24%.

Fig. 20 – Proportion wishing to learn the system “Grafi Larmoni” by age group



The proportion is far higher in urban areas than in rural areas with respective proportions of 55% and 28%.

Analysis by ethnic group indicates that 46% of members of the General population would like to learn the system, followed by Hindus (36%) and Muslims (34%).

The proportion among managers and professionals is 40% and among workers in elementary occupations, 41%.

When education level is considered, the proportions of those willing to learn the system vary between 31% (among HSC holders) and 41% (Form I – Lower VI).

Fig. 21 – Proportion wishing to learn the system “Grafi Larmoni” by education level

