

**AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND
PARENTS ON SAFETY COMPLIANCES IN PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MALAYSIA.**

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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

KUALA LUMPUR

2017

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
MASTER DEGREE OF SAFETY, HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENT**

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UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

Name of Candidate: Malar Kandasamy

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Name of Degree: Master of Engineering (Safety, Health & Environment)

Title of Project Paper/Research

Report/Dissertation/Thesis (“this Work”):

Awareness among students, teachers and parents on safety compliances in primary and secondary schools in Malaysia.

Field of Study: School safety

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ABSTRACT

The main reason safety system is being implemented is to reduce or prevent accidents and incidents from happening in any workplace. This is done by practising successful safety practise in the said workplace. The implementation is made easy by complying local law, regulations, requirements, guidelines, and code of practices that has long implemented by the government of Malaysia. These sets of law have long been practised by industries in Malaysia, but schools. The main objective of this study is to evaluate the awareness of selected group of people on safety practices in selected schools in Malaysia. A few groups of people were selected and given survey that comprises sets of questions related to safety in schools. Besides the survey, interview was conducted on the selected group of people to further understand their awareness and concern on safety compliances in school. The result shows that the selected group of people has 100% agreed that it is important to implement safety practices in schools but the awareness on what and how it is to be done is still low. Thus, a safety framework that can be made as a part of school education syllabus and training module is established in this study.

ABSTRAK

Sebab utama sistem keselamatan sedang dilaksanakan adalah untuk mengurangkan atau mencegah kemalangan dan insiden daripada berlaku di mana-mana tempat kerja. Ini dilakukan dengan mengamalkan amalan keselamatan yang berjaya di tempat kerja tersebut. Pelaksanaannya mudah dilakukan dengan mematuhi undang-undang, peraturan, keperluan, garis panduan, dan amalan tempatan yang telah lama dilaksanakan oleh kerajaan Malaysia. Set undang-undang ini telah lama diamalkan oleh industri di Malaysia, tetapi sekolah. Kajian utama ini adalah untuk menilai kesedaran kumpulan orang terpilih mengenai amalan keselamatan di sekolah-sekolah di Malaysia. Beberapa kumpulan orang dipilih dan diberi tinjauan daripada yang terdiri daripada satu set soalan yang berkaitan dengan keselamatan di sekolah. Selain daripada tinjauan, temu bual juga dijalankan ke atas kumpulan orang terpilih untuk memahami lebih lanjut dan mendapatkan idea dan cadangan mengenai pematuhan keselamatan di sekolah. hasilnya menunjukkan bahawa kumpulan orang yang dipilih mempunyai 100% bersetuju bahawa adalah penting untuk melaksanakan amalan keselamatan di sekolah tetapi kesedaran mengenai apa dan bagaimana ia perlu dilakukan masih rendah. Oleh itu, satu modul keselamatan yang boleh dibuat sebagai sukatan pelajaran sebagai sebahagian daripada pendidikan dan latihan telah diwujudkan.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

OHSMS : Occupational, Safety & Health Management System

OSHA : Occupational, Safety and Health Act 1994

FMA : Factory and Machinery Act 1967

FSA : Fire Service Act 1988

EQA : Environmental Quality Act 1974

PDCA : Plan – Do – Check – Act

CHRA : Chemical Health Risk Assessment

DOSH : Department of Occupational, Safety and Health

DOE : Department of Environment

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Appendix 1 : Survey Questionnaire

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1 CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The importance of health hazards have become an important part of human life, making it necessary in implementation of safety not just in workplaces and homes but also in schools. The idea of safety culture should be made a centre piece of a child's development stage, taking into consideration of all aspects of safety in their day-to-day lives. It is essential in demonstrating the concept of safety in a child through teaching and setting examples through practices by the school itself.

Armstrong (2006) defines health as a general state of physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of a person while safety is the protection of person's physical health. He further asserts that protection of health and safety hazard is the setting of a strict risk assessment criterion to identify hazards and analyze the risks attached to them so as to initiate preventive measures that lead to action.

In schools, safety hazards are not only in form of physical safety mishaps such as fire, electrical, falling from height, sports equipment injury or other as quoted in many news recently. There are also other related safety issues which often comes in the form of bullying, gangsterism, kidnapping, drug abuse, sexual harassment and traffic accidents. School safety incidents are not norm for us in Malaysia as the number of incidents has been growing from year to year. Lately, the amount news related to safety incidents in school is something we come across almost everyday in the newspapers and news. Many injuries, illnesses and even death have occurred because of safety violations and negligence by the school authorities. There have been many incidents inside and outside schools; for instance, young students drowning in water when they go

on picnics and camping. Also we hear news on traffic accidents related to school students. There were also incident where a school boy died in a school van after being abandoned for so long. The boy reportedly slept in the van that took him to school, and after dropping all the students to school, the driver failed to check if all the pupils have gotten down from the school. The boy then dies due to heat stress trapped in the van parked in the hot sun without any ventilation. The failure of the driver to check and be more vigilant on the safety of the school kids has sacrificed the life of an innocent boy.

As the issue continues, another online global youth survey done by Microsoft Corporation in the year 2012, shows 84 percent of Malaysian children have been bullied and 45 percent admit to bullying someone else. The survey has covered 7,600 children from the age of eight to 17. It was conducted from January 11 till February 19, 2012, in 25 countries including Malaysia (parenthots.com, August 10, 2012). Along the years, a number of bullying cases has been reported in quite a number of schools all across Malaysia schools, both urban and rural, government and international schools, also primary and secondary schools. To an extent some students' life has been lost due to bullying cases.

Over the years, there were reports of accidents in schools, involving teachers, students and staff such as collapse of building structures, ceiling fans, goal posts and toilets. Therefore, safety and health are of paramount importance to schools. Safety issues can include school buildings, toilets, canteens, laboratories and school fields (Niosh chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye).

1.2 Problem Statement

In 2017, the composition of children under the age of 18 years was 29.4 percent, which is 9.4 million children out of 32.0 million populations in Malaysia (Children Statistics, Malaysia, 2017). With over tens of thousands of schools in Malaysia, and still more schools are rising in fast pace in so many areas around Malaysia from development, school safety has to be upgraded consistently. With children spending more time in schools than at home, it has become an essential thing that safety in school to be made at top notch. Unfortunately, lately a lot of safeties issues have arisen in our Malaysian schools with poor young children's lives are taken away in some most grieving way. In order to understand why these problems are arising, first of all the root cause of all these problems have to be identified and the awareness level of all the parties involved has to be evaluated.

1.3 Objectives

The aim of this study is to understand the awareness state of selected group of people on the importance of safety and health compliances in Malaysian schools by carrying out a safety surveys on selected group from different schools in order to identify the difference in understanding and knowledge on safety. Following the survey and interview, a training module is established and planned to be thought in some selected schools.

The objectives are:

- i. To evaluate safety awareness among stake holders in selected group of people schools.
- ii. To evaluate the understanding of the selected group on school safety based on survey and interviews.
- iii. To analyze the similarities and differences of understanding on safety compliances among the selected group of people the selected government and private schools.
- iv. To define and draft a safety framework on school safety compliances in Malaysian Schools.

1.4 Scope of Study

The scope of the study was focused on the safety and health awareness among selected group of people from Malaysian schools.

1.5 Report Layout

In Chapter 1, introduction, problem statement, objectives, scope of the study and structure of the report was established. The report started off with background study on safety and health at schools and followed by the problem statement which arises from the increasing number of accidents and incidents that takes place in Malaysian schools and the lack of studies related to safety in schools. The research purpose and objectives were stated based on the literature reviews which have been done in chapter two of this study.

In Chapter 2, the write up has covered the practical studies on the topics related to this research and has contribution to the topic and research furthering the studies on safety and health compliances in Malaysia schools. The literature review write up covers the statistical studies on the Malaysian census on the number of children and the number and type of schools available. Also, Chapter 2 discusses about the importance of safety and health management, local laws and regulations such as OSHA 1994, FMA 1967, and other local law and regulations that are important to be complied. Safety aspects which were chosen in the survey is on the basic safety compliances based on local law and regulations, fire and electrical safety, chemical and lab safety, bullying, gangsterism, drug and alcohol abuse and also on sexual abuses. The first subtopic; 2.1 Safety level assessments in schools explained. Subtopic 2.2 discusses the school safety awareness among Malaysian primary school teachers. Then subtopic 2.3 explains the importance of implementing safety education in Malaysian schools 2.4 discusses the characteristic of best practice for school safety system; subtopics 2.5 discusses about the OSH in School Programme; subtopic 2.6 discusses about the Malaysia statistics and the final subtopic 2.7 talks about the conclusion.

In Chapter 3, the research method that was used to study the safety and health awareness level among the selected group of peoples was established. Survey questions were established based on topics related to safety and health compliances in school system. The questions were created to accommodate the different group of peoples that were selected to answer the survey. Besides that, brief interview was also conducted to find out further on the group's perspective on safety and health compliances in Malaysia schools. From the study, a draft on safety and health manual was established. Study methods were planned to achieve the research objectives based on the guidelines from Department of Occupational Safety and Health Malaysia. Particulars of the methodology are explained in the chapter three of this report.

In Chapter 4, the results and discussion was displayed showing the results obtained through the survey on safety and health awareness carried out at the chosen group of people. The results for each questions included in the survey questionnaire is presented in the form of pie chart to show the clear comparison of understanding and perceptions among the selected group of people in correlation with in safety compliance. The summary of the results and possible measures has also been discussed.

In the last chapter, a conclusion has been done from this study with suggestions for future research especially on limitations of this research.

2 CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Safety Level Assessment At Selected Malaysian School

This study talks about preventive awareness in safety and health by adhering to standards and regulations set out by the authorities. Based on study by Planty & Provasnik (2007), human exposure in school environment for teachers, staffs and students are shown at an average of 6 to 8 hours.

This study has conducted safety audit on two selected schools, one is a government school and the other was a private school. the methodology adopted in conducting the audit is as below figure:

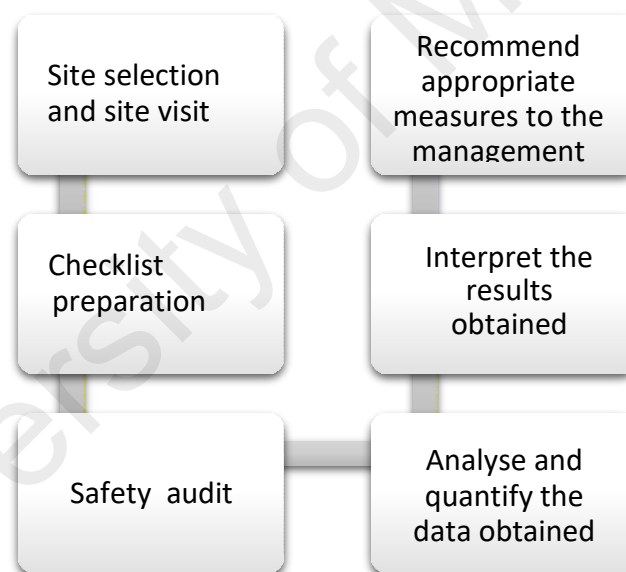


Figure 1 Framework of Study

Based on the framework above, the study has conducted safety audit in two selected schools using a checklist that was established based on criteria and requirement set as per OSHA 1994, FMA 1967, EQA 1974 and FSA 1988.

The study has concluded that among the two schools that were selected, neither of them were completely implementing the requirements stated as per law and regulations,

such as OSHA 1994, FMA 1967, etc. The audited aspects had a score of at least 40%. The scored mark consist of signage and labels, alarm system and evacuation plan, indoor air quality and traffic safety management, which scored higher than 40%; indicates the effort that was taken to comply. Safety measures for falling from height scored 40%. Medical records and exposure and occupational injury and illness reporting scored less than 40% which shows a very poor compliance level.

This is one third of a day and question raised is on the safety measures in place to protect and prevent mishaps in school environment. Without proper awareness on safety and health at functional environment, events such as the fire outbreak at Maran School Ladies Hostel in Pahang, Malaysia which is occupied by 73 female students. This incident has brought insecure feeling to the students and staffs managing the place. Compliance of safety and health regulations set by the authorities can ensure a productive and safe work place. Thus, creating awareness and assessing the compliance level of safety and health in schools in a regular interval is a good practice.

2.2 School Safety Awareness Among Malaysian Primary School Teachers

Growing episodes of violence in schools has made educators and researchers to analyses and find methods to increase the safety of children at school. The drive of this study was to explore the degree to which the demographic variables predicted teachers' alertness about school safety practices in Malaysian schools.

This study was conducted using the survey method. A stratified random sample of 378 teachers was selected in the central Malaysian states of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. A survey instrument was created based on the work of Steve Balen, John Dively, Ronald Ellis, Sanford Farkash, Marilyn Holt, John Hunt, Micheal Kotner,

Carroll Phelps, Peter Renfroe, Joseph Saban, Lisa Stewart and Don Strom (1999). In this analysis, 26 items were utilised, divided into four dimensions as shown in Table 2.

Dimension	No. of Items	Chronbach alpha
Awareness of Training Programs	7	0.88
Awareness of Delivery Methods	3	0.35
Awareness of Safety Programs	3	0.72
Awareness of Safety Activities	3	0.886

Table 2: Dimensions and reliability of the instruments

A comprehensive survey was carried out to identify the multiple regression study showed that none of the factors was a good indicator of alertness on school safety in terms of training, deployment of safety information, and accessibility of school safety programs. The reliability coefficients ranged between .35 and .886. Alertness on school safety activities were expressively projected by school location. This study in general echoes an overall deficiency of alertness on school safety among school teachers in the sampled locations.

2.3 Implementing Safety Education in Malaysian Schools

In spite of the countless efforts to implement safety practices in school, there are still many unsettled problems associated to students' safety in schools. This study was intended to discover and analyse safety administration of the practices in Malaysian schools and the type of safety management strategies implemented for ensuring students' safety. The model of this study consisted of 141 School Headmasters and Deputy Headmasters, arbitrarily nominated from 138 schools in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, Malaysia. Attitude and stances of the school administrators were studied in execution of the safety management practices.

Data was tabulated, summarized and assessed to draw deductions using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS). Outcomes from the study showed that there was a strong positive attitude among school administrators in regards to safety management plan and policy practices in school. Teachers' and staffs' contribution and parental and public participation are expressive and absolute. Some of the safety practices examined in the study were not practiced in schools due to growing job load and duties of teachers and their time convenience. Safety practices at the schools typically rested on the problems that are measured as vital by the particular schools. Some suggestions were made to aid schools to make better safety practices and endorse collaboration between school administrators, teachers, parents and community as a whole. The study also indirectly showed that execution of safety management education in Malaysian schools has a good vision.

2.4 Characteristic of Best Practice for School Safety System

Studies conducted shows in many of school safety management system and practices, and among them is Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (2005), outlines the ensuing approaches:

- a. management pledge as in development of a complete approach to safety that fixates on both students and employees' safety in school;
- b. employees' partaking and participation in safety in school;
- c. communication of safety policy declaration and safety duties to all parties involved;
- d. Giving safety education and drill to make sure employees and students are not hurt or made ill by the effort and actions they do;
- e. Injury reporting and treatment that happens in school;

- f. Safety audits and examinations that concentrates on both unsafe circumstances and unsafe behaviour
- g. Safety programs to endorse safe school atmosphere that is beneficial for education progression.

2.5 OSH in School Programme

In March, 2016 the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh) has introduced 'OSH (Occupational Safety and Health) in School' programmes to help the Education Ministry raise awareness on safety and health at work in schools. The programme was introduced as part of Niosh's efforts to make schools safe places for study and work. As per Occupational, Safety and Health Act (OSHA) 1994, in the case of schools, teachers, and administrative and other support staffs are demonstrated as the working people while the "others" are those affected by the activities of the working people who primarily would be the students. In this case, the employer will be the Government of Malaysia and the employees will be the students and parents.

With over 10,000 of schools in Malaysia; comprising of both primary and secondary (government, private and international schools), only a dozen has be introduced with the programme. That value comprises of only 0.1 percent out of the entire Malaysian schools. Many are still in dark over the understanding of the programme's concept of making school as a workplace in accordance to OSHA 1994.

2.6 Statistics

2.6.1 Schools In Malaysia

The Malaysian Ministry of Education and Department of Statistic, has determined data related to the number of schools available in Malaysia (updated as at 31 August 2017) and number of children in Malaysia (updated as at 15 November 2017). The data has covered the information covering all over Malaysia, including Sabah and Sarawak.

Table 1 : Type of schools in Malaysia 2017

Type of Schools	Number of schools
Government Primary	7773
Government Secondary	2421
Private Primary and Secondary	43
International Primary and Secondary	30

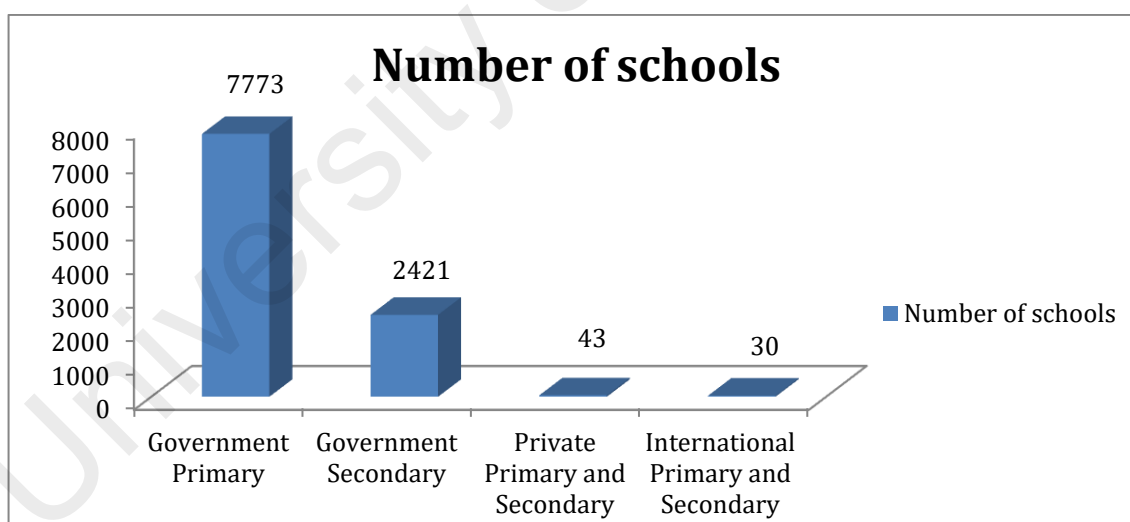





Figure 2: Number and Types of Schools in Malaysia

The graph and the table above shows the number of schools available in Malaysia as per at August 2017. This data has covered all of the primary schools in Malaysia, including

those of SJK(c) and SJK(t). The number of school may grow further along the years as the increase was led by the rapid development.

Table 2 : Population by age group and sex, Malaysia, 2016 and 2017

Age group and sex							('000)
	2016	2017 ^e	2016	2017 ^e	2016	2017 ^e	
Total population	31,633.5	32,049.7	16,346.3	16,561.1	15,287.2	15,488.6	
0 until <18 years	9,446.3	9,431.7	4,870.0	4,864.7	4,576.3	4,566.9	
0 until <5 years	2,630.4	2,620.9	1,360.0	1,354.4	1,270.4	1,266.5	

^e Estimates

As per the table shown above, we see a slight increase on the number of children from the age of 5 till 18 years old in Malaysia in the year 2017 compared to the year 2016 as per the Statistic Department of Malaysia. But, a slight drop was seen for the children below the age of five years old in the year 2017 compared to the year 2016. This drop could have been because of the rising economy and living cost that has made parents to think twice on accommodating another child into the family.

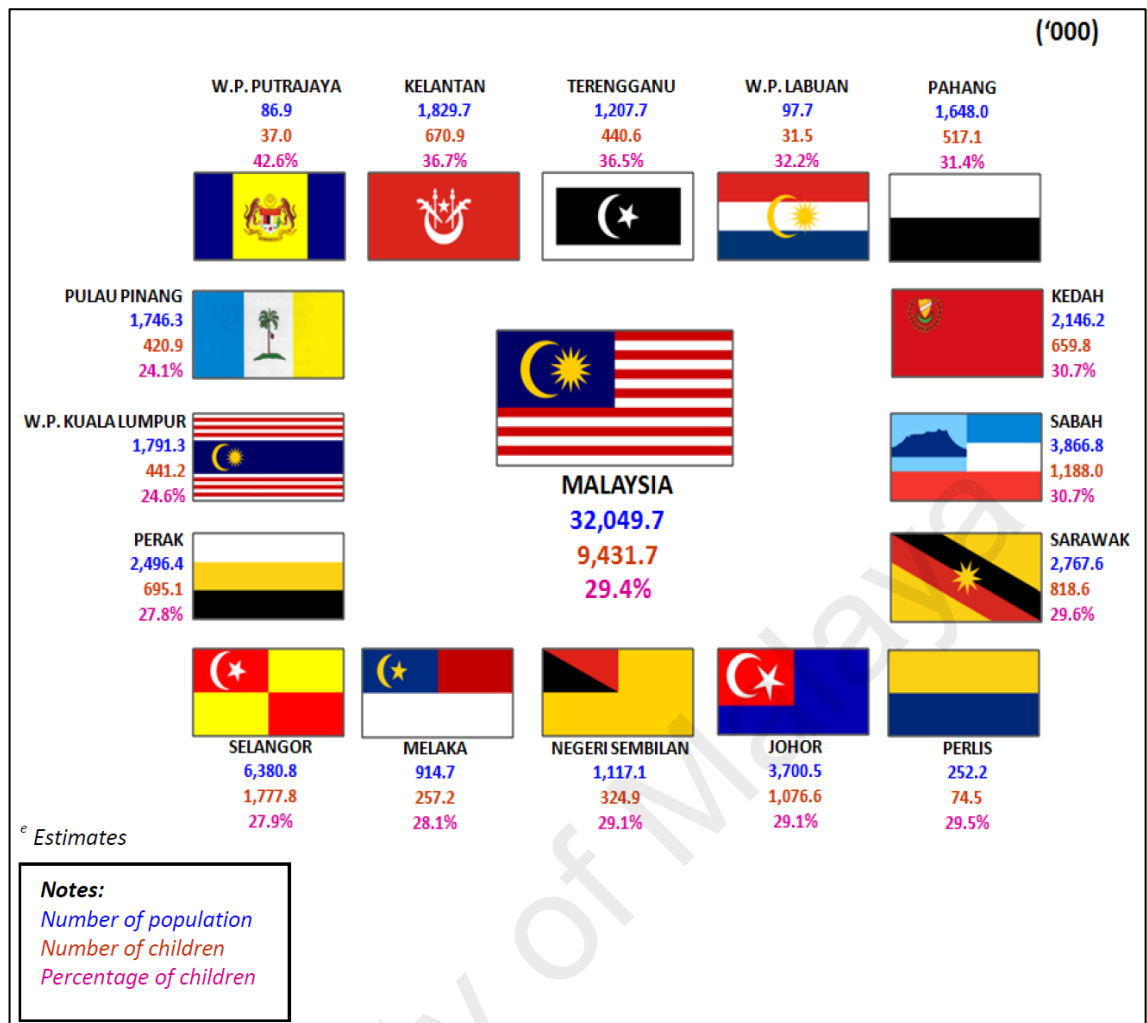


Figure 3: Children (under 18 years) by state, Malaysia, 2017

The figure has also indicated that highest percentage of children was found in Putrajaya the capital city of administration in Malaysia. This is then followed by other leading states such as Kelantan, Terengganu and Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan. The lowest percentage of children found was in the state of Penang, this is due to the geographical strategy of the state.

2.7 Conclusion

The most successful way of implementing a good safety practice in school is by implementing a standardised Safety Management System and it has to be strictly

enforced and practices by all the relevant interested parties of the school. The success can be further enhanced by getting the relevant local authority and NGO group's equal amount of commitment and responsibility into the implementation process. Frequent regulatory inspection and sturdy enforcement of law while insisting the public awareness towards safety and health implementation in schools will improve further on the implementation. Therefore, hazard and risk communication plays a major role (Anyfantis, Boustras et al. 2016).

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3 CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

Chapter 3 explains the methodology used to study the awareness among the selected group of people on the available safety system in Malaysian schools through a safety awareness survey. Interviews were also conducted to understand further on the awareness of state of these selected groups of peoples.

A brief assessment was also carried out through site visits to a couple of selected schools. The site visits has given a broader perspective to understand and evaluate to what extend the selected schools have implemented the compulsory safety compliances such as securing medical records and exposure, accident prevention measures, alarm system and evacuation plan, lab safety, fall from height, occupational injury and illness reporting, traffic safety and other related safety measures on bullying, gangsterism, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual harassment.

All these information were then used as guidelines in developing a safety and health module that can be used in schools to be thought as a subject and also to be used as an implementation guideline of safety and health programme in schools.

Through this implementation a further study to check the effectiveness can be carried out to increase the safety standards in schools and also to prevent future disasters that could cause the lives of the future generation of Malaysia.

The framework of activities done is described as per below:

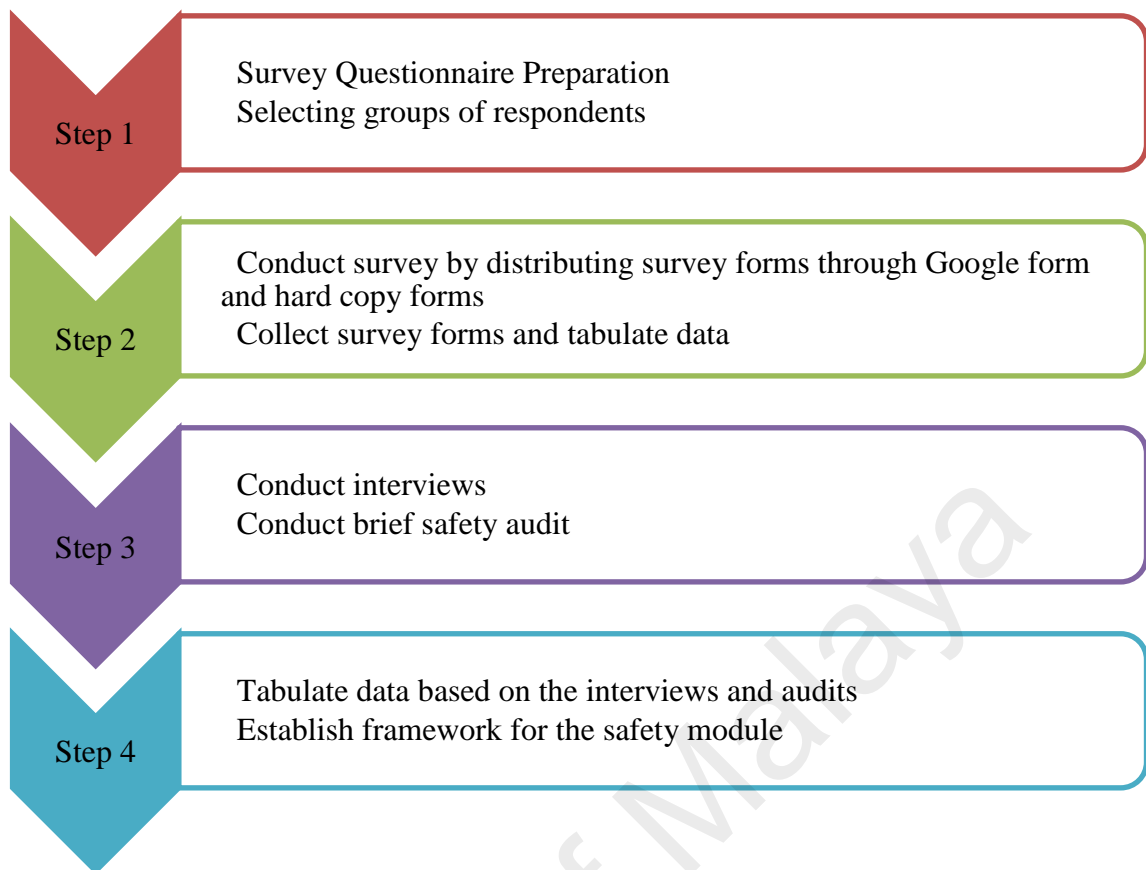


Figure 4: Framework of Study

3.1 Safety Compliance Questionnaire Preparation

Selected topics that were used in preparation of the survey questions were taken from case studies of all school related to safety and health incidents reported among Malaysian schools in recent years.

The important topics on school safety that was finalised are:

- a) Safety compliances based on local law and regulations
- b) Fire and electrical danger
- c) Chemical exposure and laboratory safety
- d) Safety issues related to gangsterism and bullying in schools

- e) Health issues related to drugs and alcohol abuse in schools
- f) Safety and health issues related to sexual abuse and sexual harassments among school students in school

The survey questions were done in statement form that requires the respondents to choose answer based on (if they);

- a) Agree
- b) Disagree
- c) Maybe (if they don't know)

Also, a remark section was given for the respondents to give their opinions on the question. Where these remarks are used in understanding further on the respondents' awareness on the topics identified.

3.2 Awareness Survey

Survey was done among selected group of people. They are:

- a) Students (from 12 years old onwards)
- b) Teachers (of both primary and secondary schools from Government, Private and International Schools)
- c) Parents of students (from both primary and secondary schools)
- d) Public (group of people outside of the selected group as per above, these are the people from the member of public)

The questions were prepared in a survey form through Google form as per the below link

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc-N5qB5Jav0fF5NJHjDHWcZanCT9GRgOS48vnhKxumkvGKqg/viewform>

The survey was given out to all the selected groups.

3.3 Interview

Besides the survey, brief interviews were also conducted among the selected groups to understand further on the awareness on safety and health compliances in schools systems.

The group of people who were selected for the interview sessions are:

- a) Students (from the age of 12 onwards)
- b) Teachers
- c) Staff /employee of the selected school
- d) Parents of students
- e) Fellow public (who comprised from university students, lecturers, professors and other fellow Malaysians).

The interview was conducted based on random questions related to safety and health; as per given below:

- a) What is the best safety practice that you have found in the school?
- b) Do your teacher or parents talk about or teach you how to handle safety issues? (for students only).
- c) Do you encourage the school's management to increase the safety surveillance in school?
- d) Do parents give enough participation when it becomes to safety compliances in school? (Teachers and staff).
- e) Does the local authority gives full support to schools when they're called in for training or briefing?
- f) You have agreed that safety implementation is very important, do you know how and where it starts?

3.4 Safety Module

3.4.1 Safety module preparation

Based on survey and interviews done, important topics are identified and listed down. This is then made a module and this module is established and made as a syllabus draft copy that can be used to be thought in all Malaysian schools.

This module implementation later used to see the effectiveness of implementing good safety practices and enforcement in Malaysian schools. The effectiveness is then later studied further, to find the effectiveness of safety practices in Malaysian schools and to see the reduction in accidents and incidents related to safety in Malaysian schools.

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4 CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Results

Respondents Details

Role:

Table 4.1: The Role of Respondents of Survey

Row Labels	Count of My Role
Parents	25
Public	3
Student	11
Teachers	23
Grand Total	62

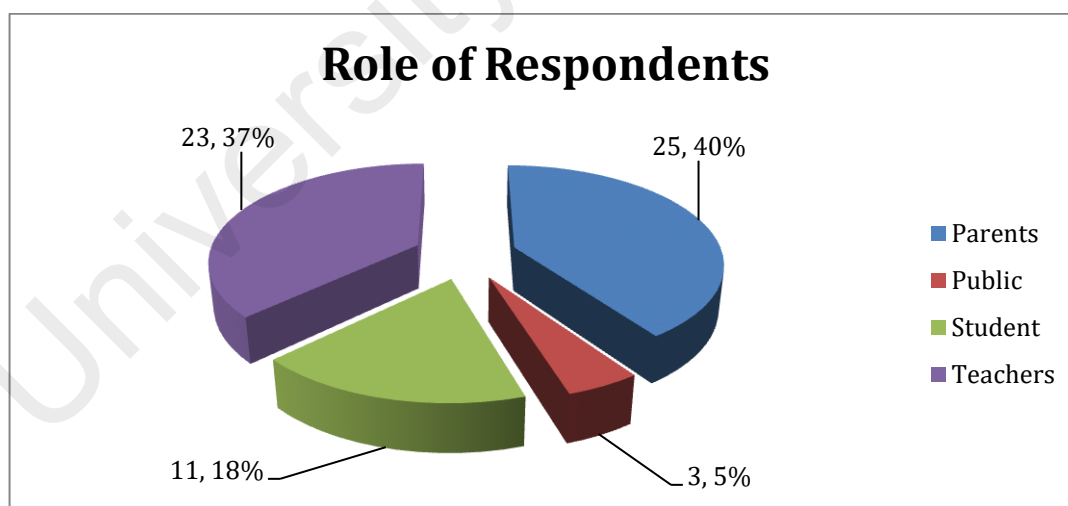


Figure 4.1: The Role of Respondents

Age:

Table 4.2: The Age Group of Respondents of the Survey

Row Labels	Count of My Age
12 - 17	4
18 - 25	8
26 - 40	38
41 - 60	12
Grand Total	62

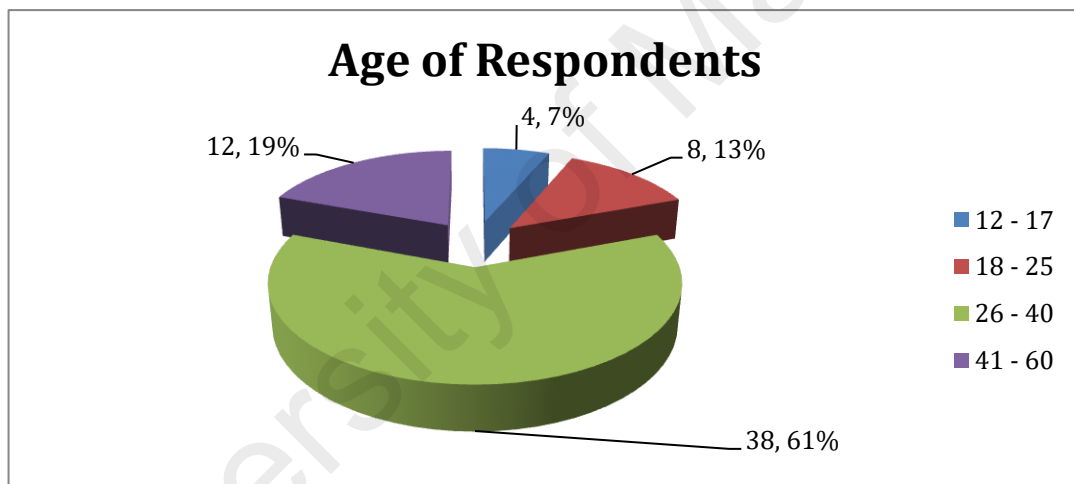


Figure 4.2: The Age of Respondents

Type of school:

Table 4.3: The Type of Schools of Respondents of the Survey

Row Labels	Count of School
College/University	18
Primary	18
Secondary	26
Grand Total	62

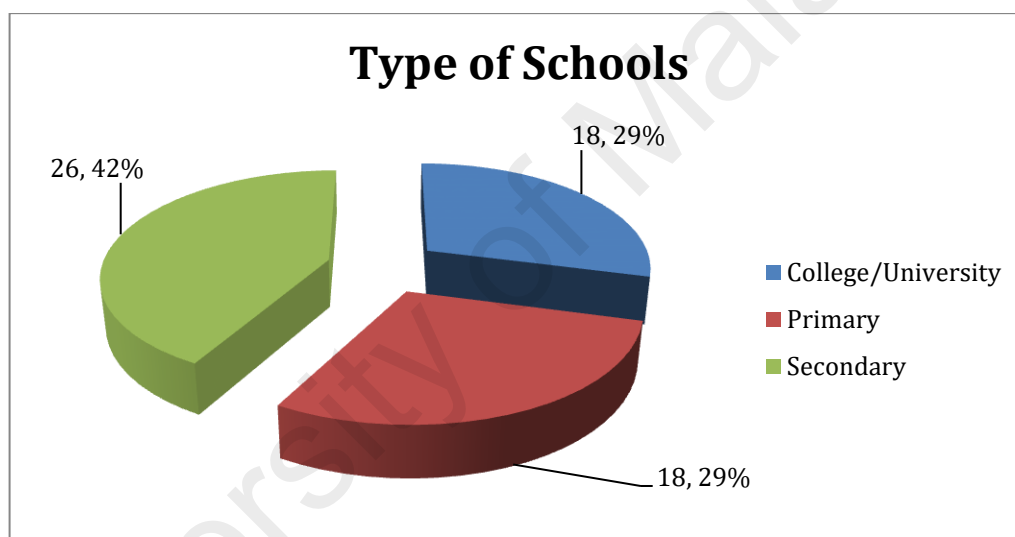


Figure 4.3: The Type of Schools of Respondents

Questionnaire Answers and its results

1. Safety is an important concern in schools besides academic excellence.

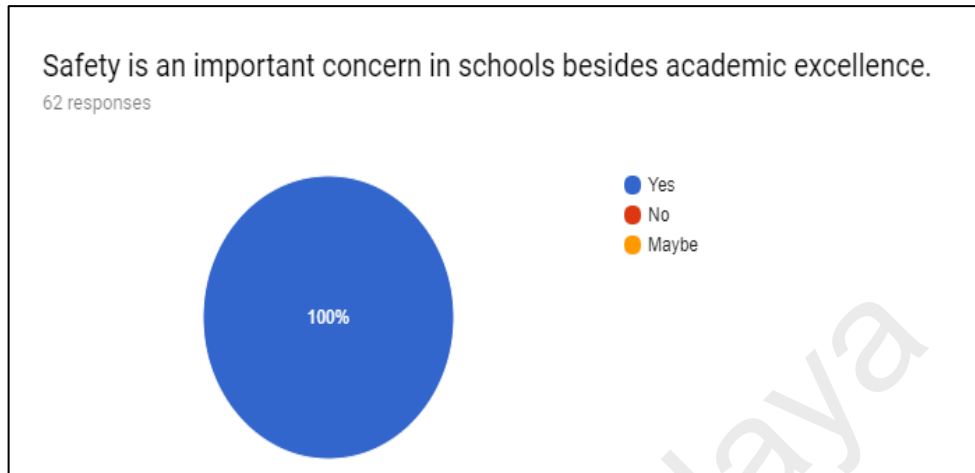


Figure 4.4 : Graph from survey question (1)

2. Are you aware if the school in concern has a proper safety management system that complies with local law and regulations available in the country?

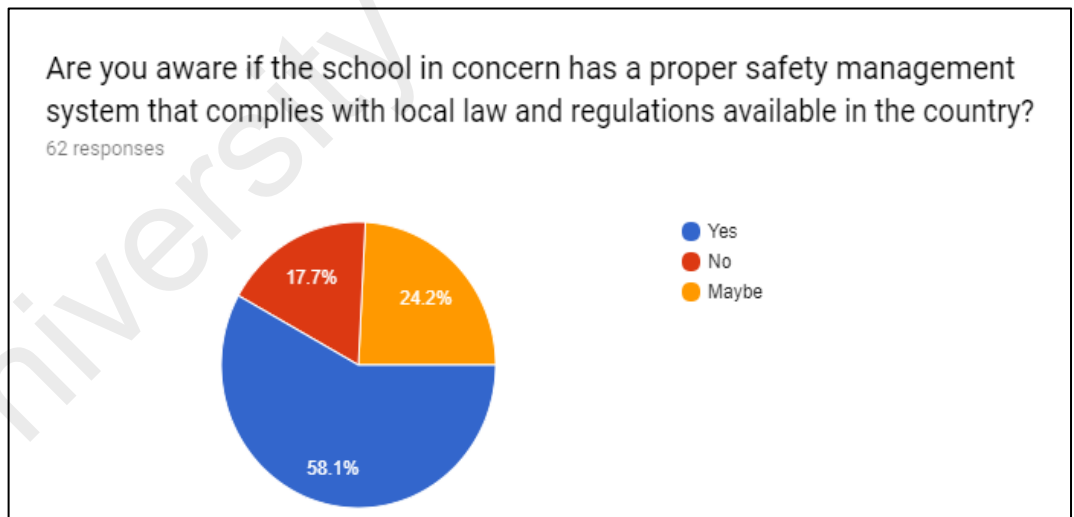


Figure 4.5: Graph from survey question (2)

3. It is important for the school to establish a proper safety management system that complies with the local law and regulations.

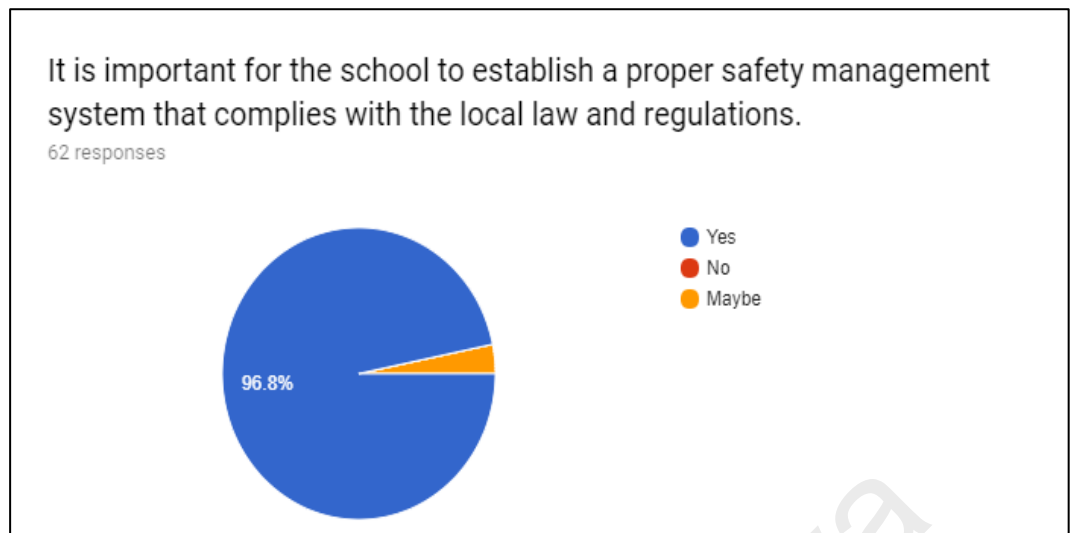


Figure 4.6: Graph from survey question (3)

4. It is important for the student and teachers to be aware of evacuation plan and control.

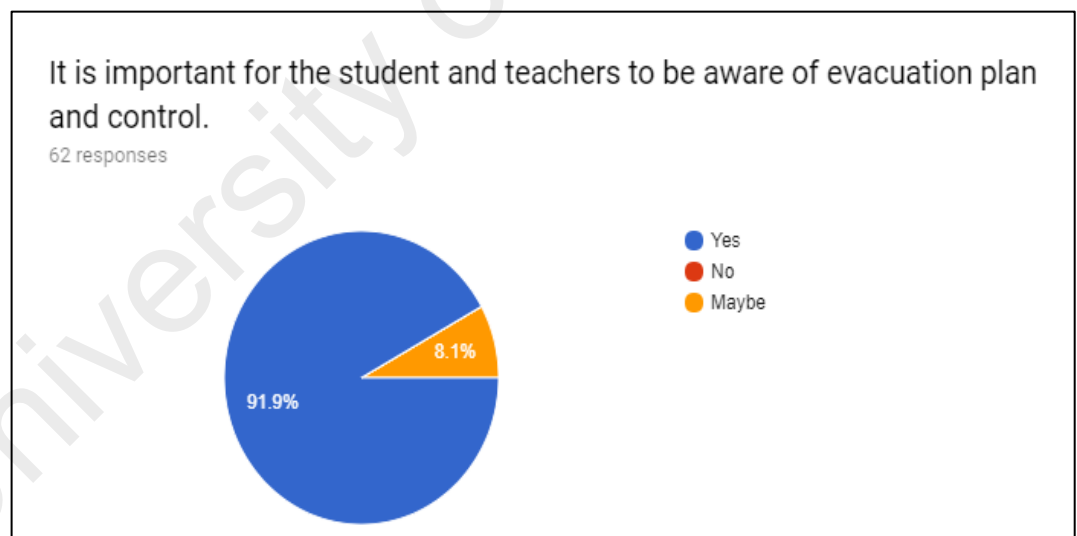


Figure 4.7: Graph from survey question (4)

5. Do you feel the school in concern is affected with gangsterism, intense bullying, drug abuses, sexual offences; and that better preparedness on these issues are needed?

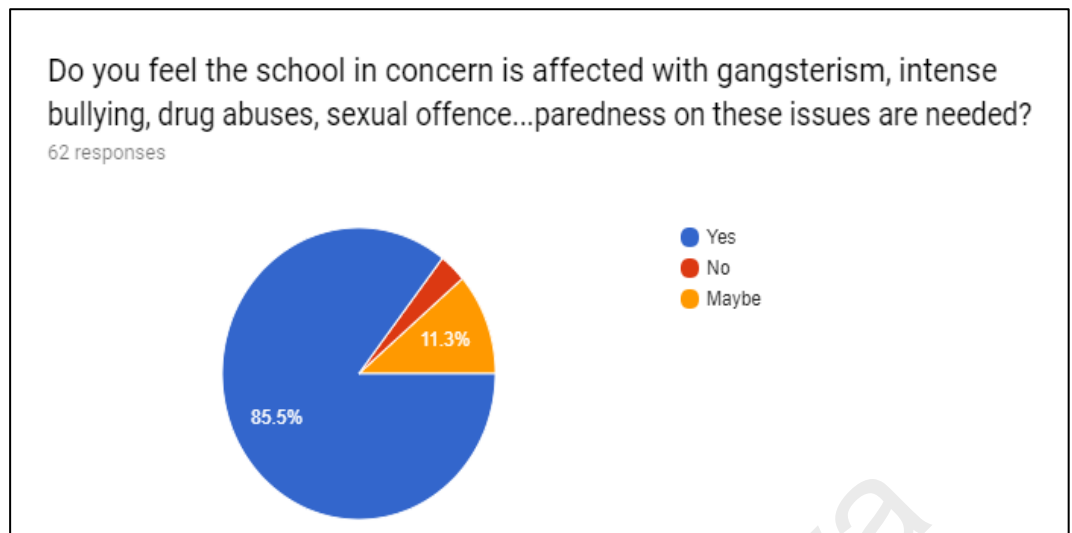


Figure 4.8 : Graph from survey question (5)

6. Creating a syllabus/module on Safety and Environmental compliance in school as a part of education.

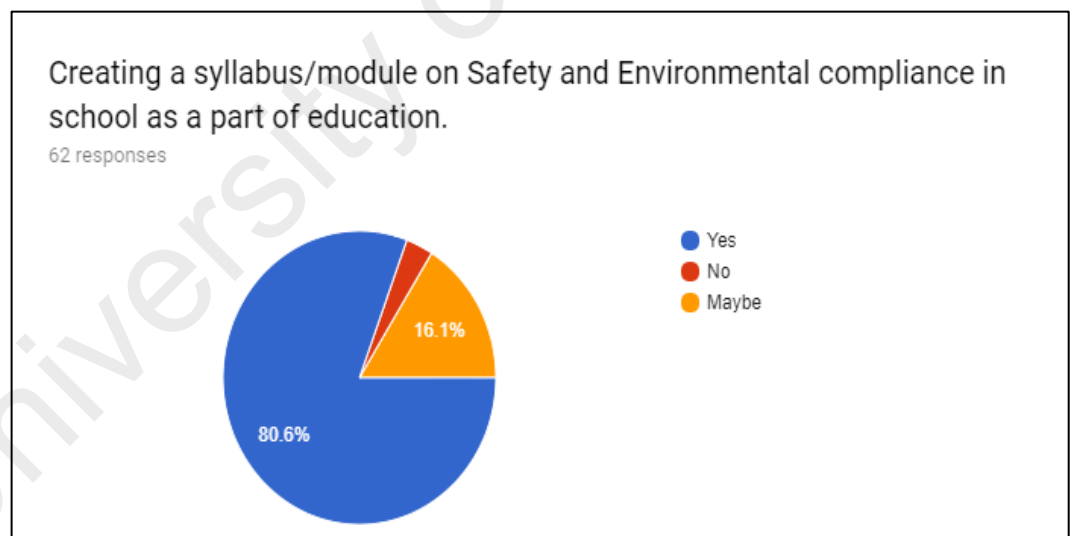


Figure 4.9 : Graph from survey question (6)

7. It is essential to have parent's involvement in the safety education in schools.

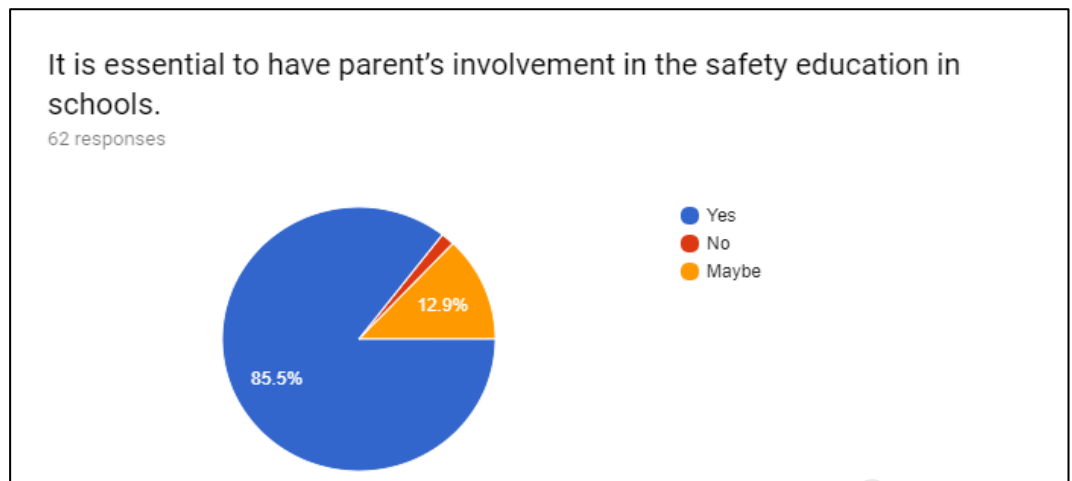


Figure 4.10 : Graph from survey question (7)

8. The school authority should call the local authorities to come and brief on the safety compliance. (e.g.: BOMBA, Police, Ambulance)

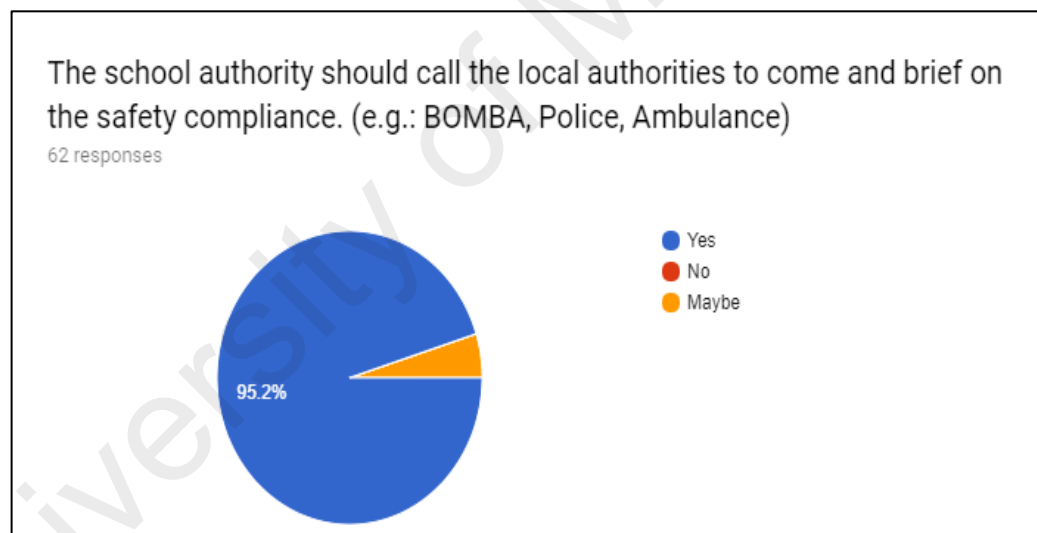


Figure 4.11 : Graph from survey question (8)

9. It is important to conduct emergency drills in school every year.

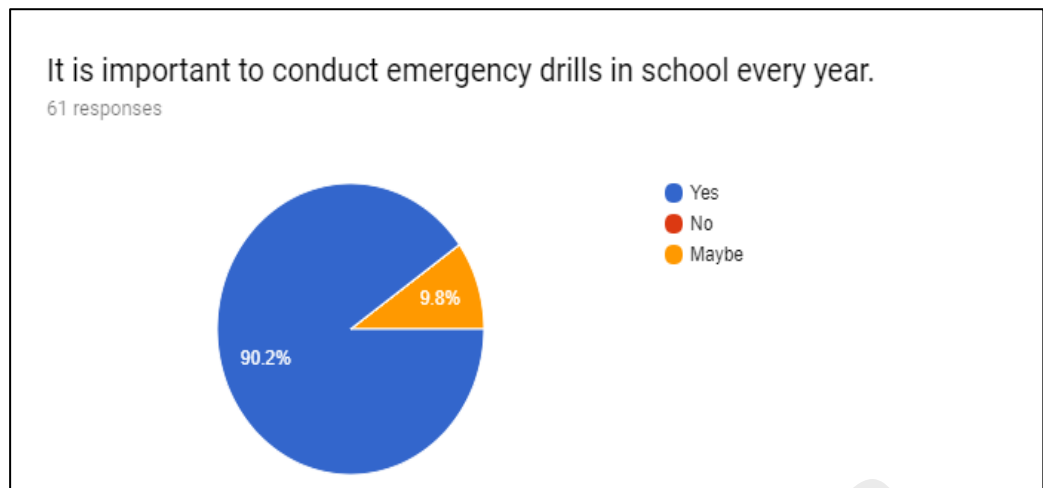


Figure 4.12 : Graph from survey question (9)

10. It is important to have the knowledge on basic first aid for students and teachers.

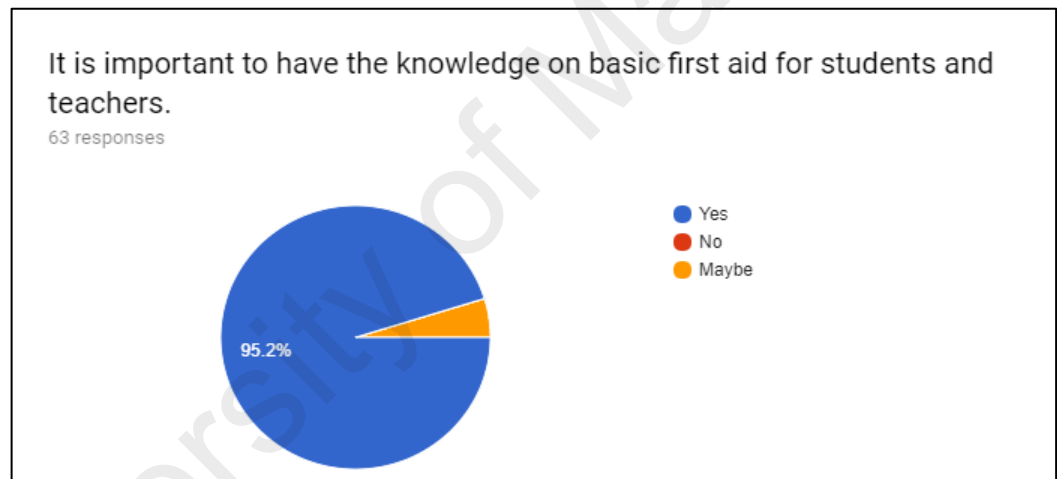


Figure 4.13: Graph from survey question (10)

11. In the school environment, all the adults working there have student safety at the top of their minds.

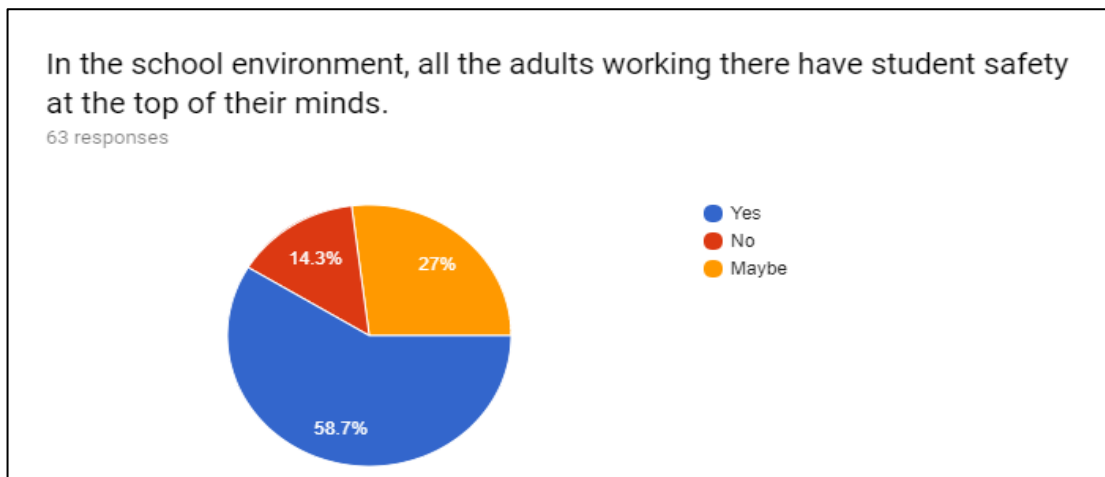


Figure 4.14 : Graph from survey question (11)

12. The Security in school is up to the standard.

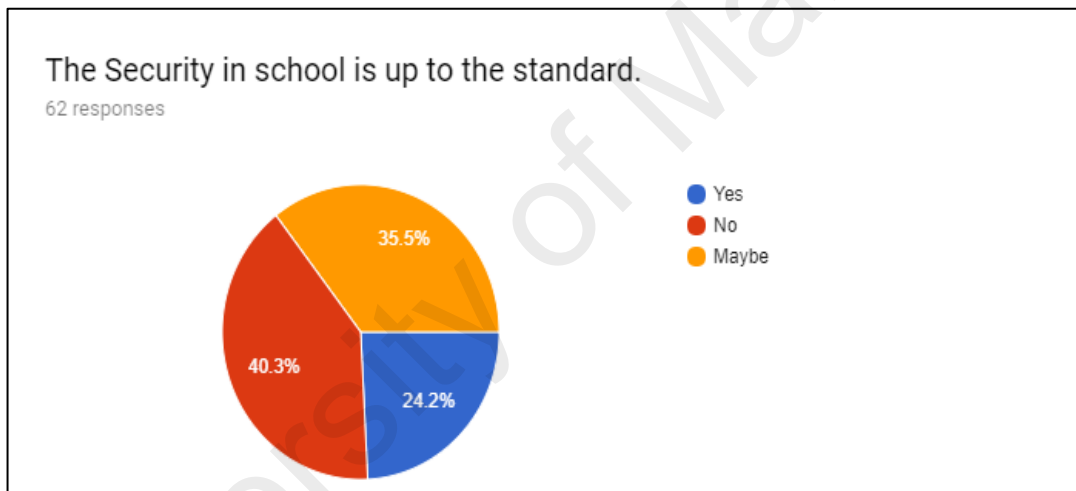


Figure 4.15 : Graph from survey question (12)

13. The school is maintaining their sports equipment's safety.

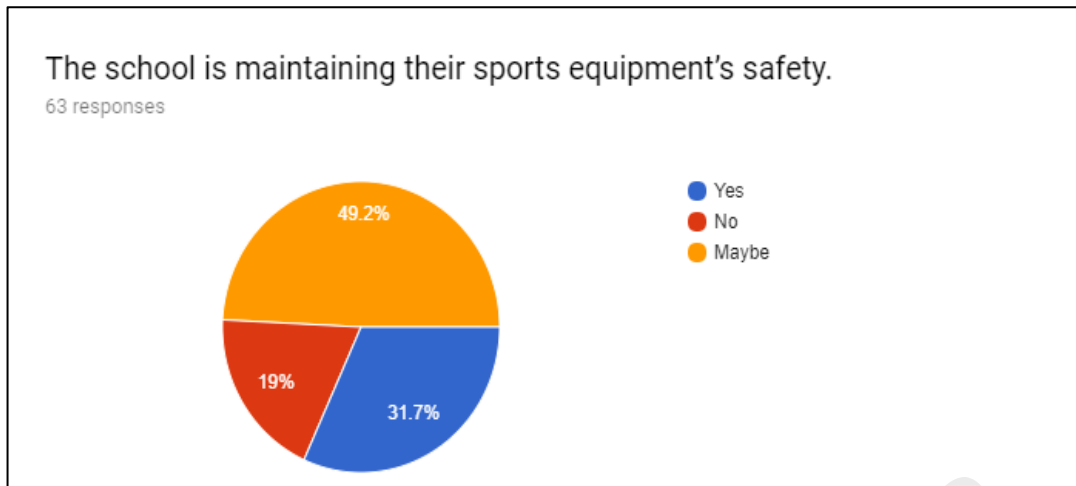


Figure 4.16 : Graph from survey question (13)

14. When you walk around the school, all part of the school building that is in a safe condition.

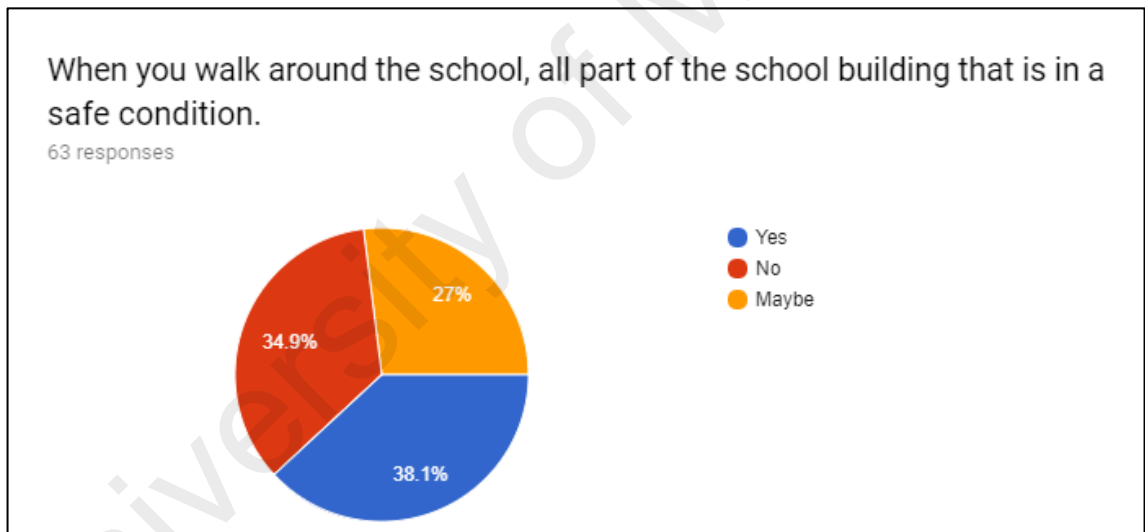


Figure 4.17 : Graph from survey question (14)

15. It is important for schools to have a Safety Officer in place.

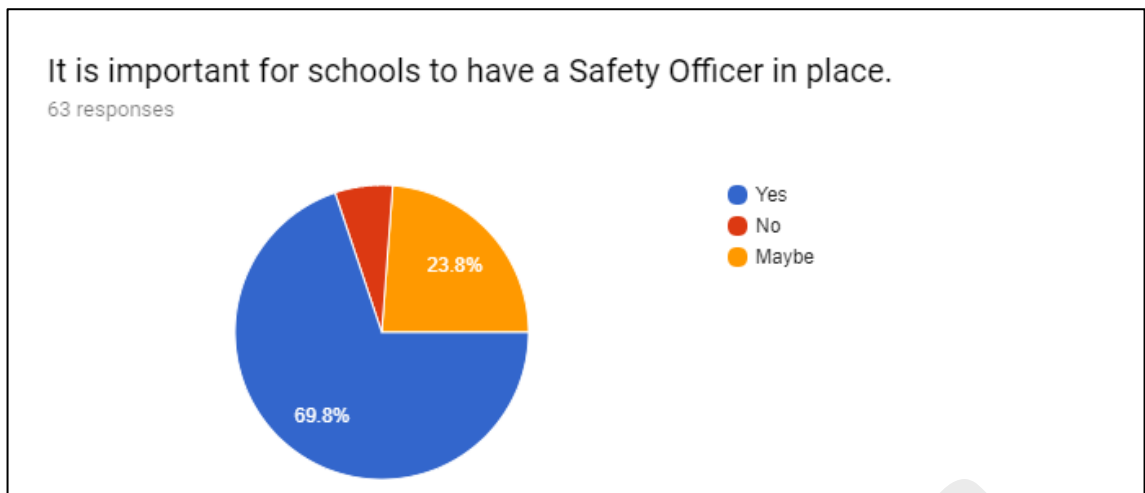


Figure 4.18 : Graph from survey question (15)

16. It is necessary for all including the students, teachers, staff and parents to have equal amount of responsibilities in ensuring the school's safety is in place.

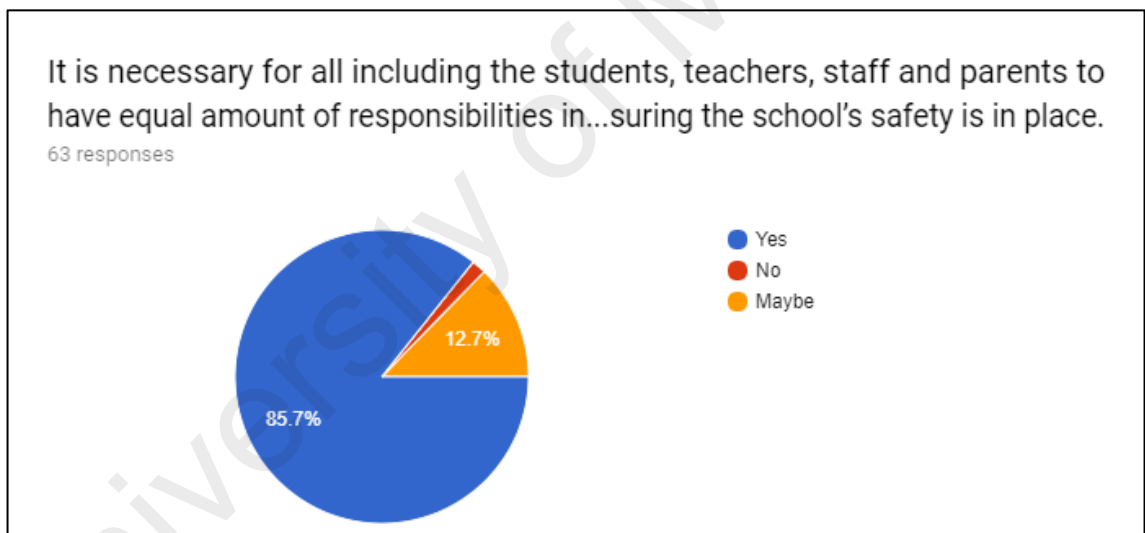


Figure 4.19 : Graph from survey question (16)

17. All schools in Malaysia strictly comply to the Building Act.

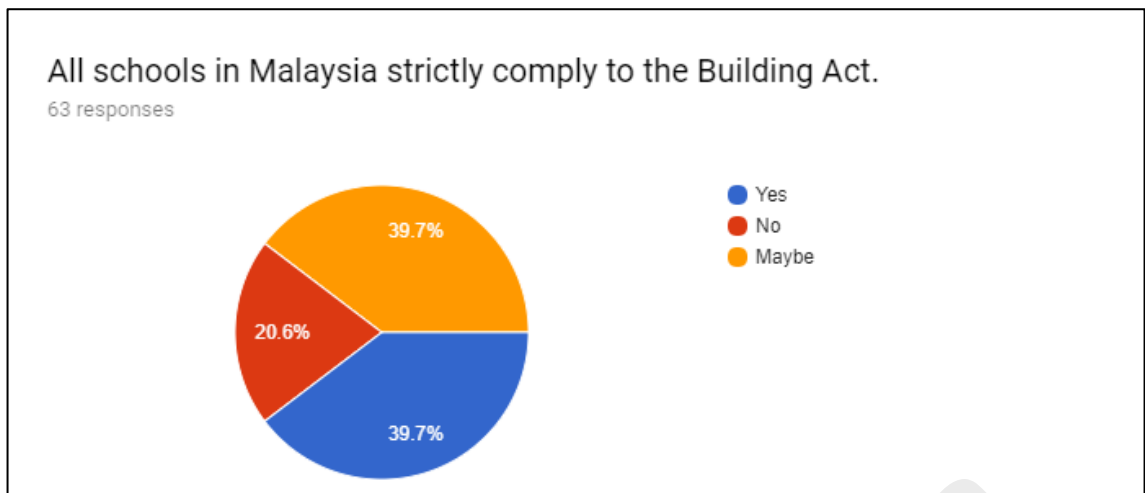


Figure 4.20 : Graph from survey question (17)

18. It is important to have transport safety programme in place in all schools.

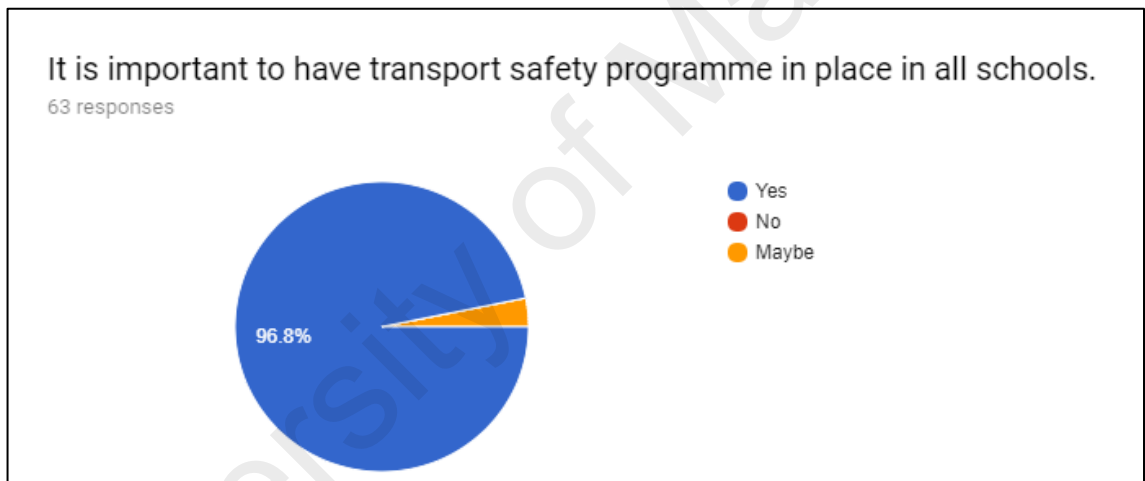


Figure 4.21 : Graph from survey question (18)

19. The school authority should immediately inform the parents if they find any student doesn't comply with minimum driving requirement.

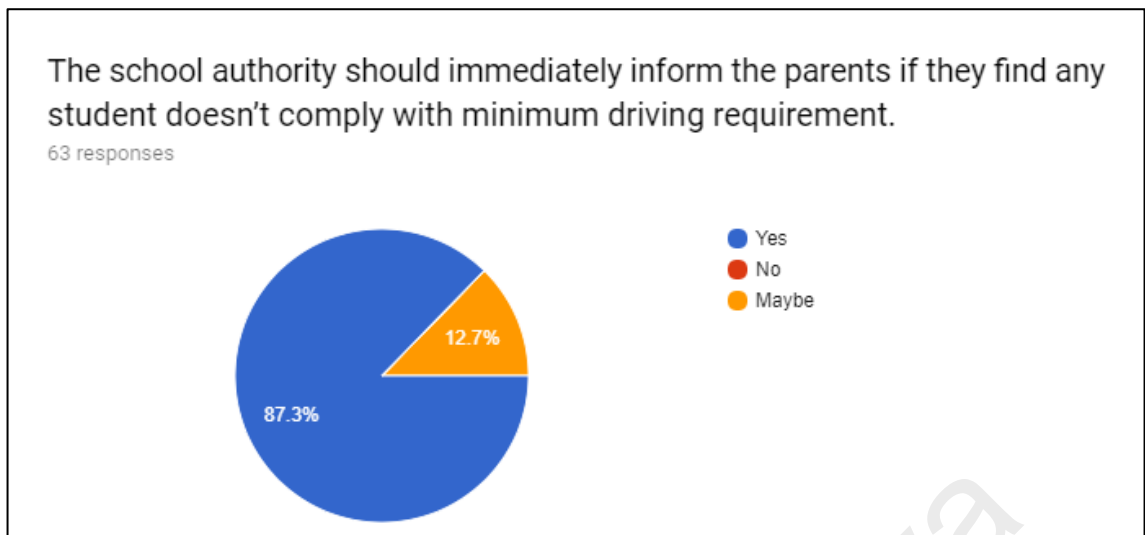


Figure 4.22 : Graph from survey question (19)

20. All school buses and private transports should be reporting to the school authority, to ensure the safety of student.

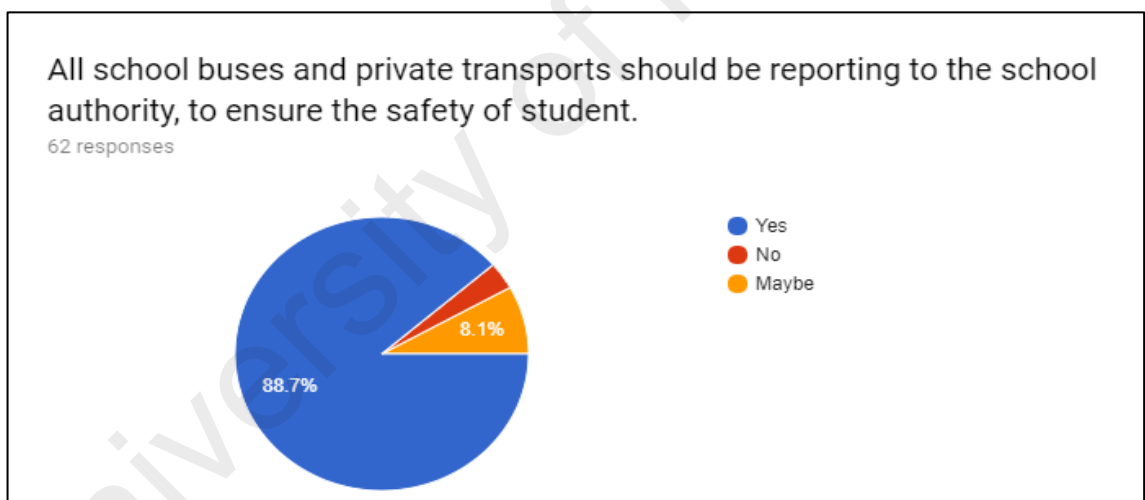


Figure 4.23 : Graph from survey question (20)

21. Schools should have proper policy and security during external events.

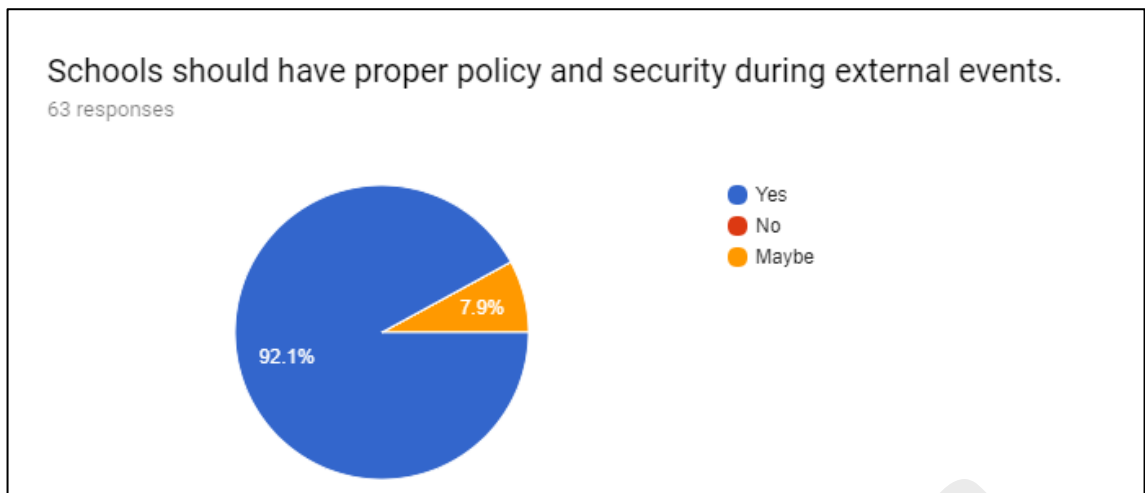


Figure 4.24 : Graph from survey question (21)

22. Teachers and guidance should be extra vigilant on safety outside of school.

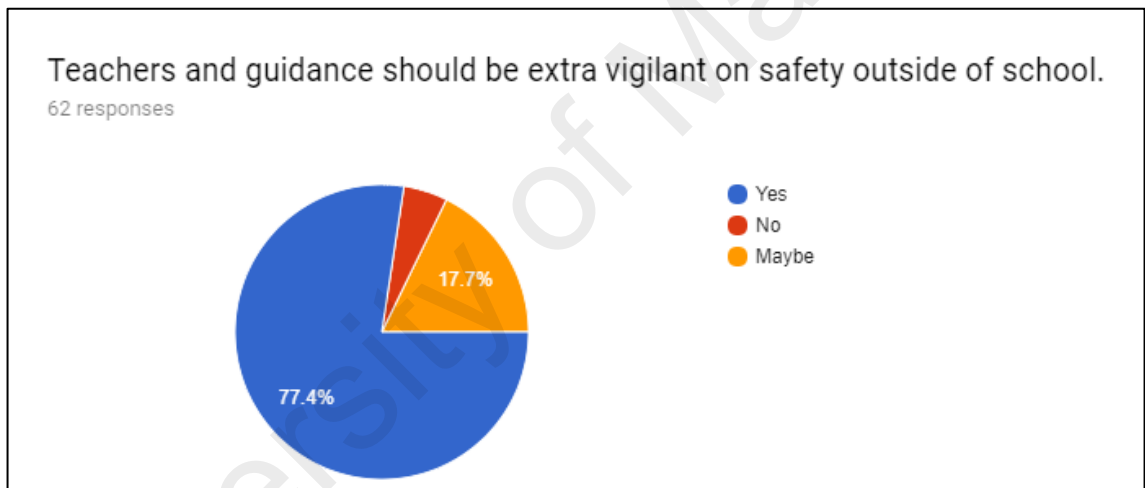


Figure 4.25 : Graph from survey question (22)

23. Schools should have a third party to audit them on their safety compliance every year.

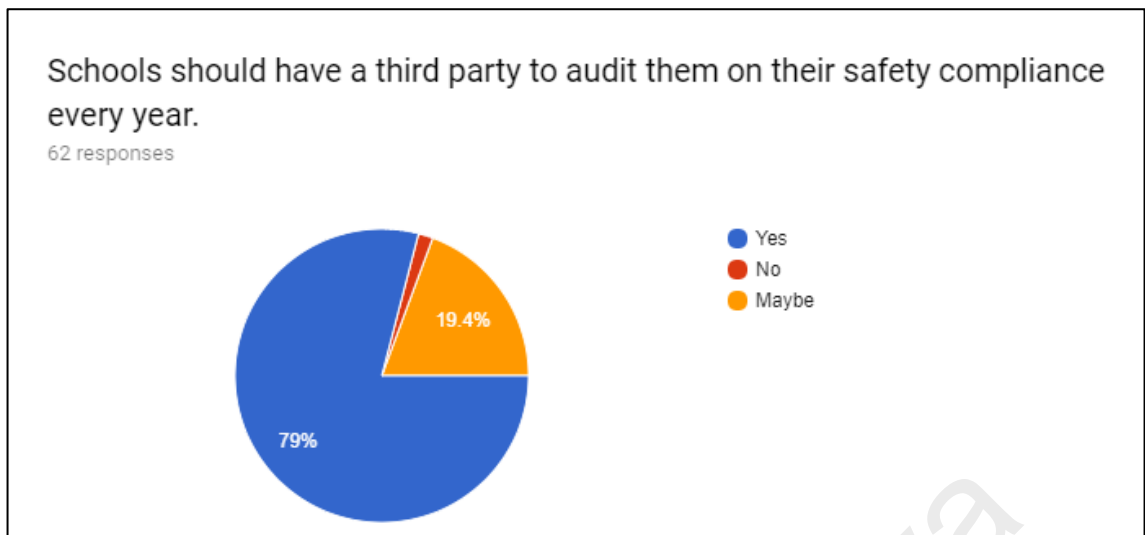


Figure 4.26 : Graph from survey question (23)

24. The school has all the necessary fire equipment in place.

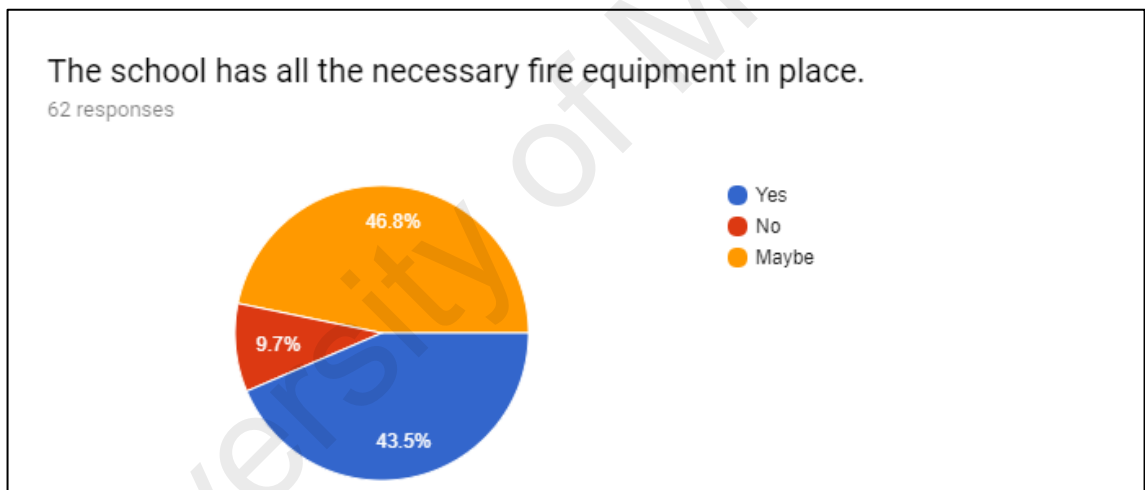


Figure 4.27 : Graph from survey question (24)

25. It is a MUST for the students and teachers to know the proper method of using the fire extinguisher.

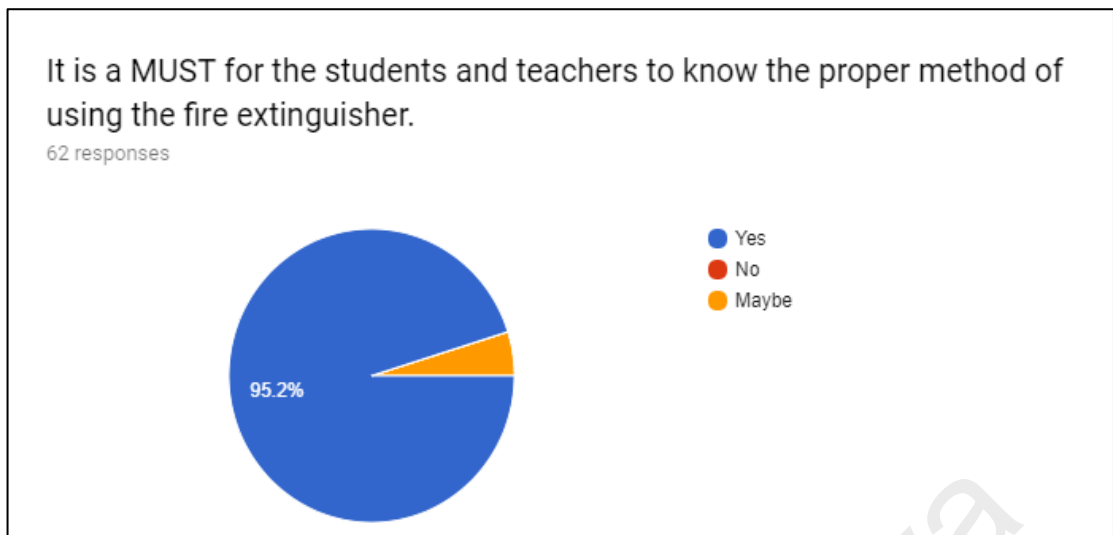


Figure 4.28 : Graph from survey question (25)

26. It is important for everyone to know the types of fire protective equipment available.

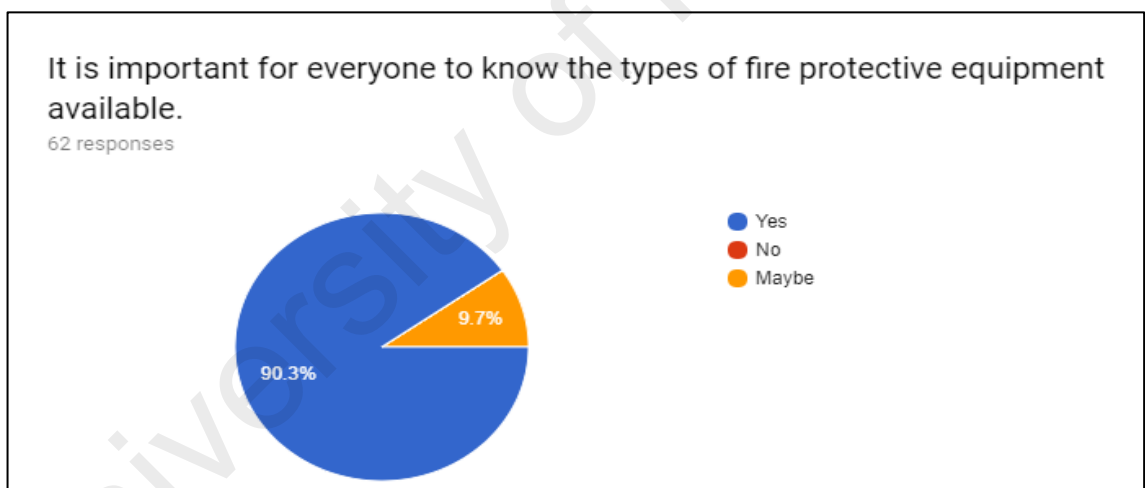


Figure 4.29 : Graph from survey question (26)

27. It is important for the school to establish an evacuation plan during emergencies.

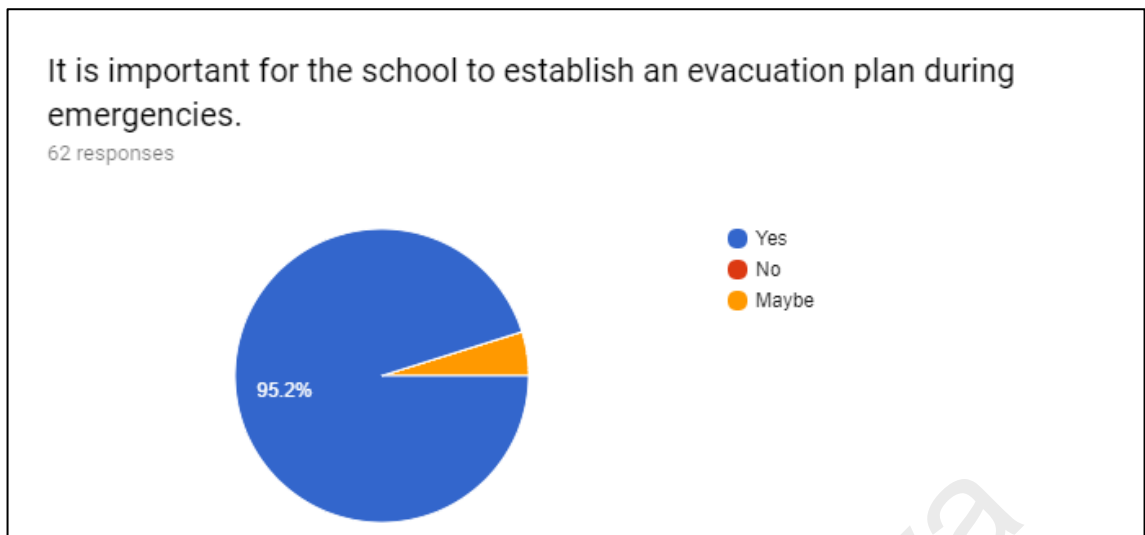


Figure 4.30 : Graph from survey question (27)

28. It is important for the school to have training related to fire emergencies on a yearly basis.

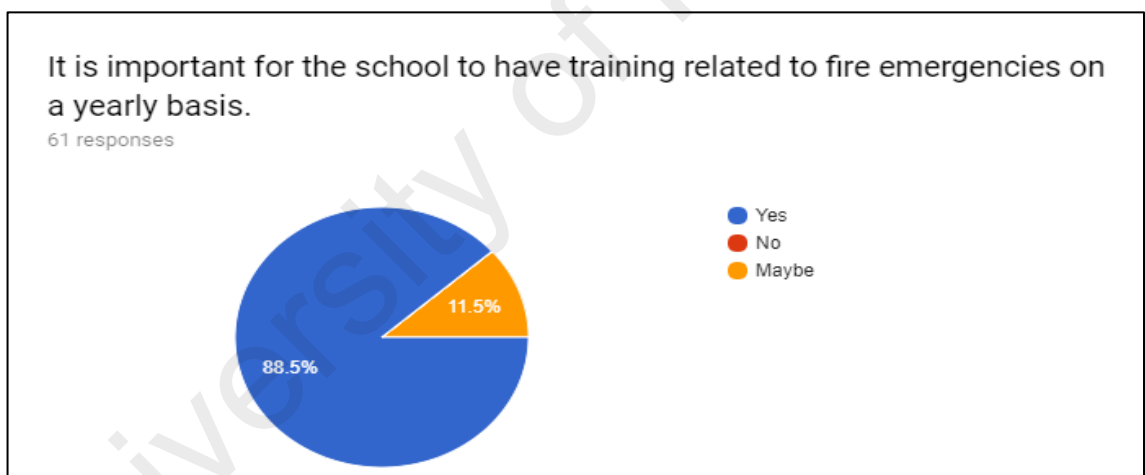


Figure 4.31 : Graph from survey question (28)

29. The school is doing a proper maintenance of all the available fire equipment.

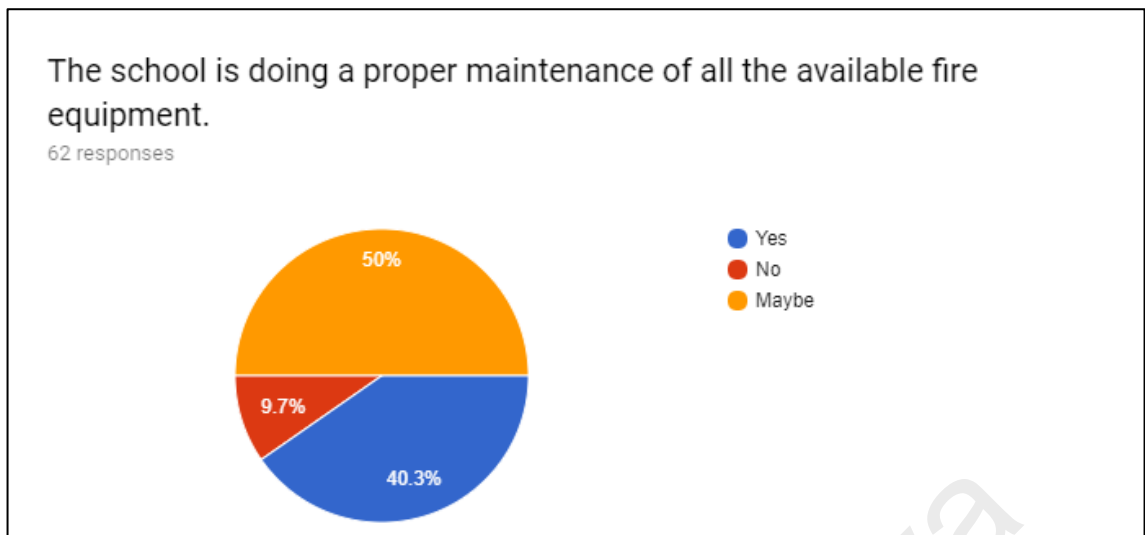


Figure 4.32 : Graph from survey question (29)

30. When you walk around the school facility, you have never noticed any exposed wires, cables or plug points.

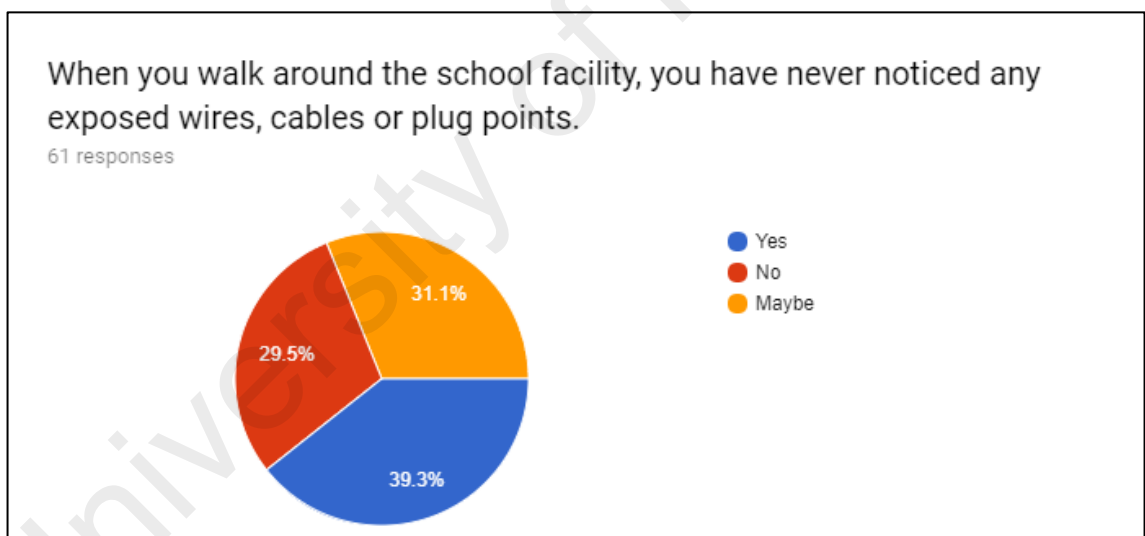


Figure 4.33 : Graph from survey question (30)

31. Schools should hire third party maintenance/contractors to evaluate their fire and electrical safety.

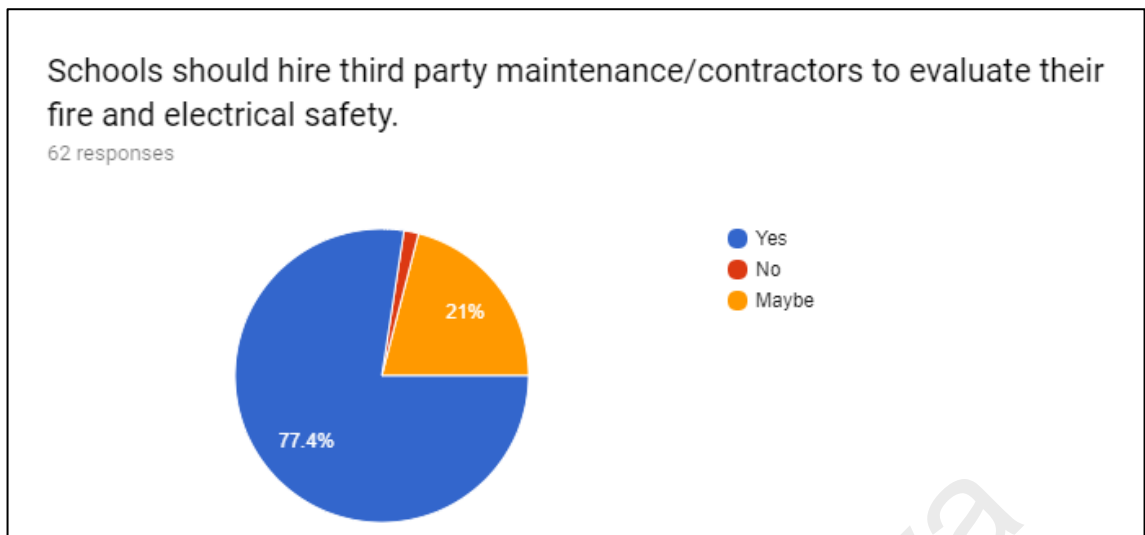


Figure 4.34 : Graph from survey question (31)

32. DOSH and BOMBA should visit schools to conduct audits on fire safety on yearly basis.

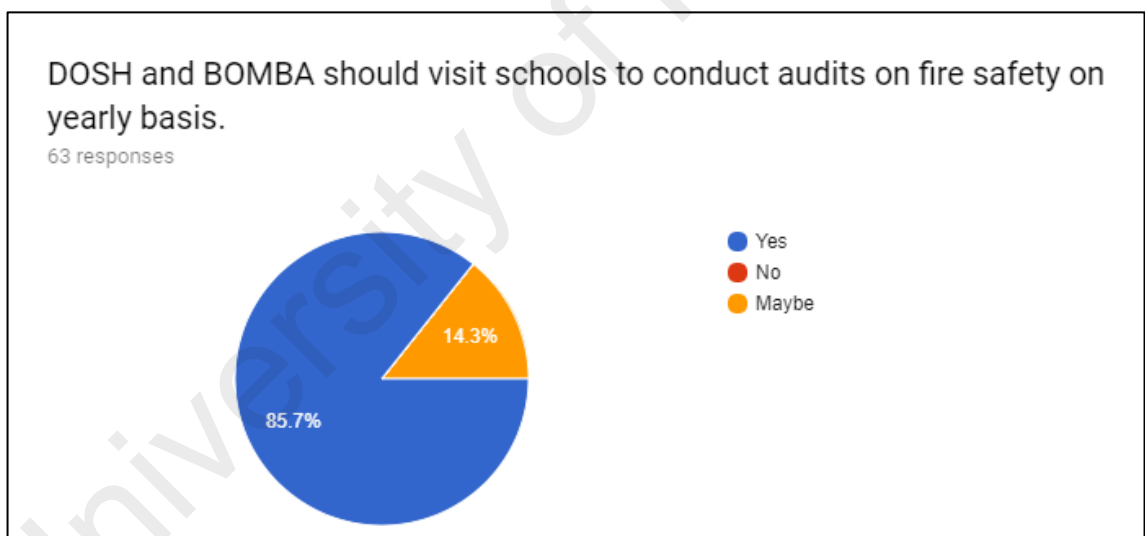


Figure 4.35 : Graph from survey question (32)

33. Schools should also have Fire Certificates in place.

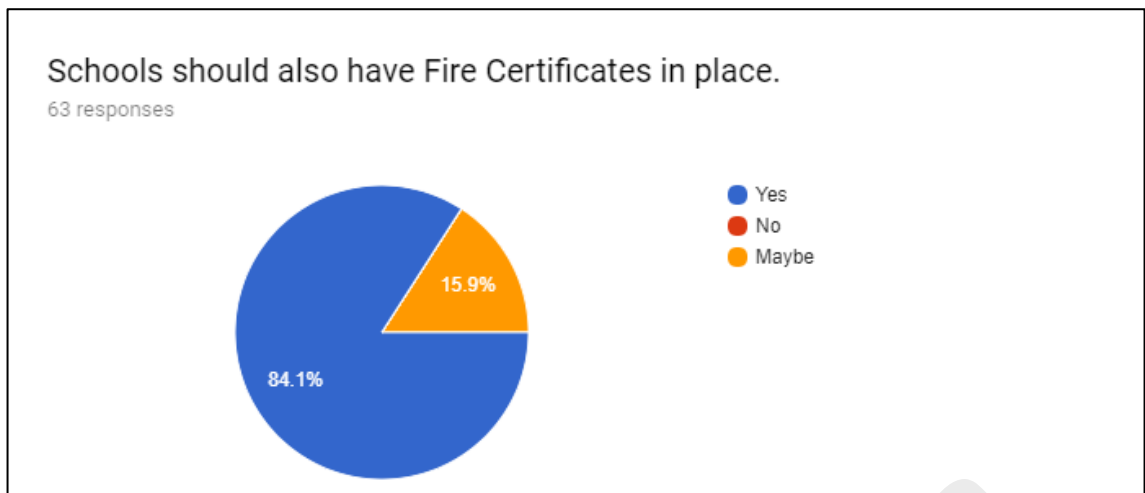


Figure 4.36 : Graph from survey question (33)

34. All the labs in the school well equipped with all safety precautions.

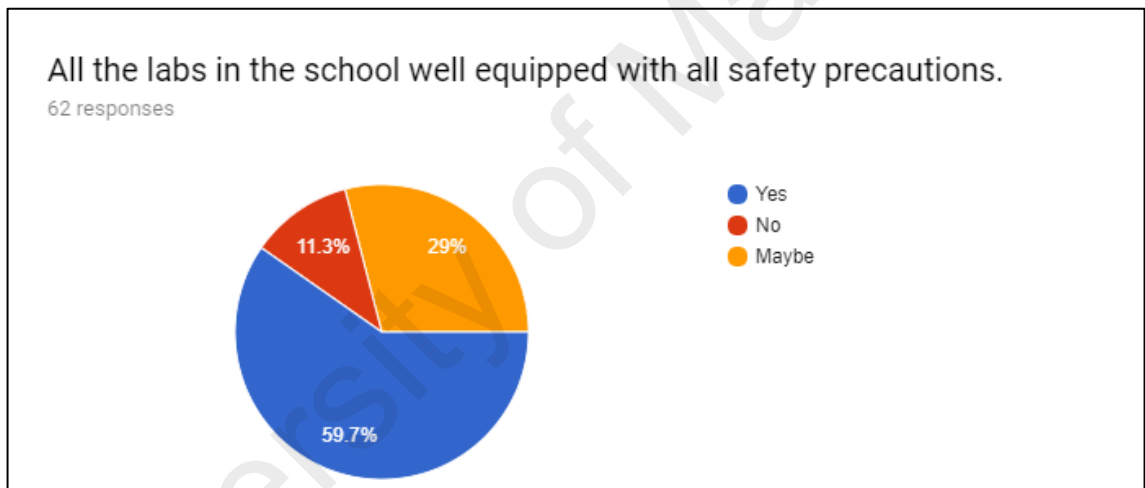


Figure 4.37 : Graph from survey question (34)

35. It is important for the lab assistant/teacher to communicate the lab safety to students before they enter.

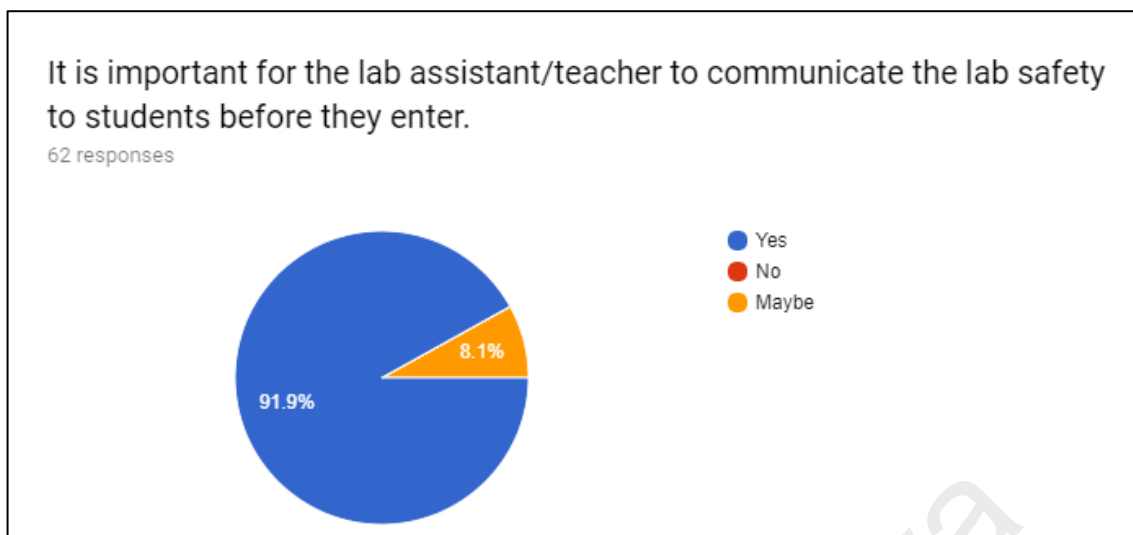


Figure 4.38 : Graph from survey question (35)

36. The students are aware of all the chemical and health hazards present in the lab.

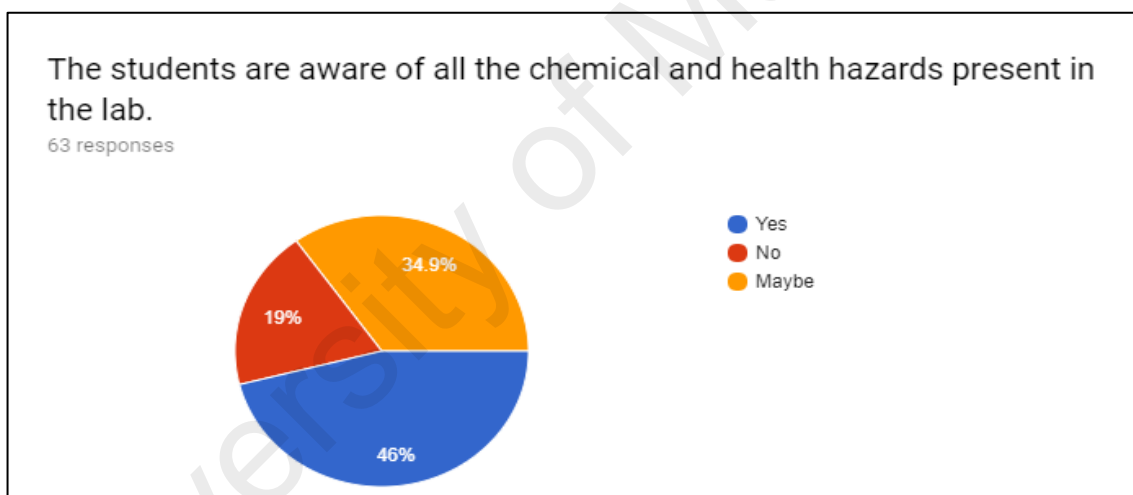


Figure 4.39 : Graph from survey question (36)

37. Based on the recent event on mercury spill, it is important for the student to be thought on chemicals from primary level.

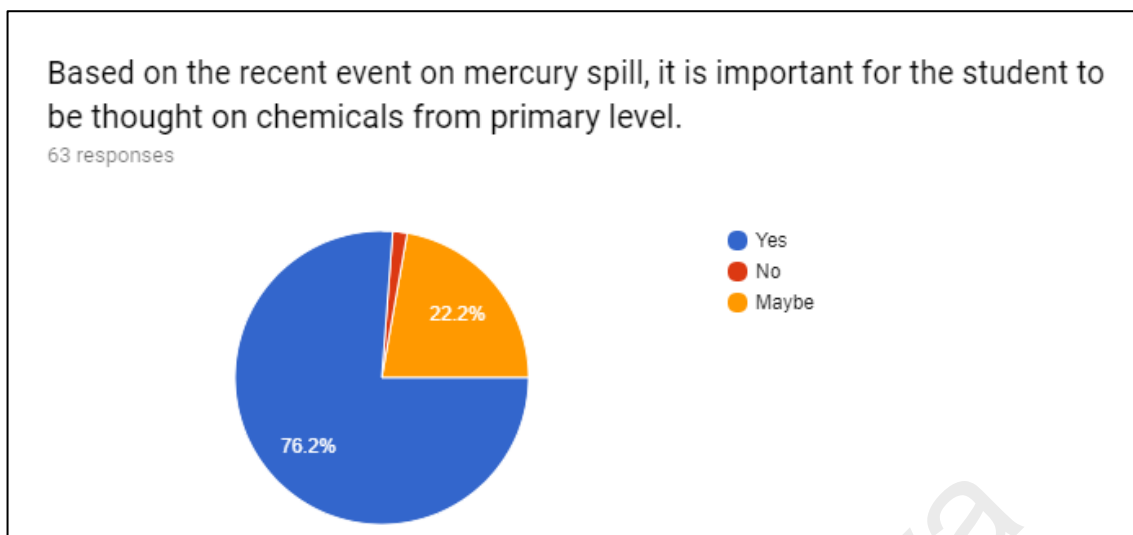


Figure 4.40 : Graph from survey question (37)

38. It is important to have drill on chemical spillage in the school frequently.

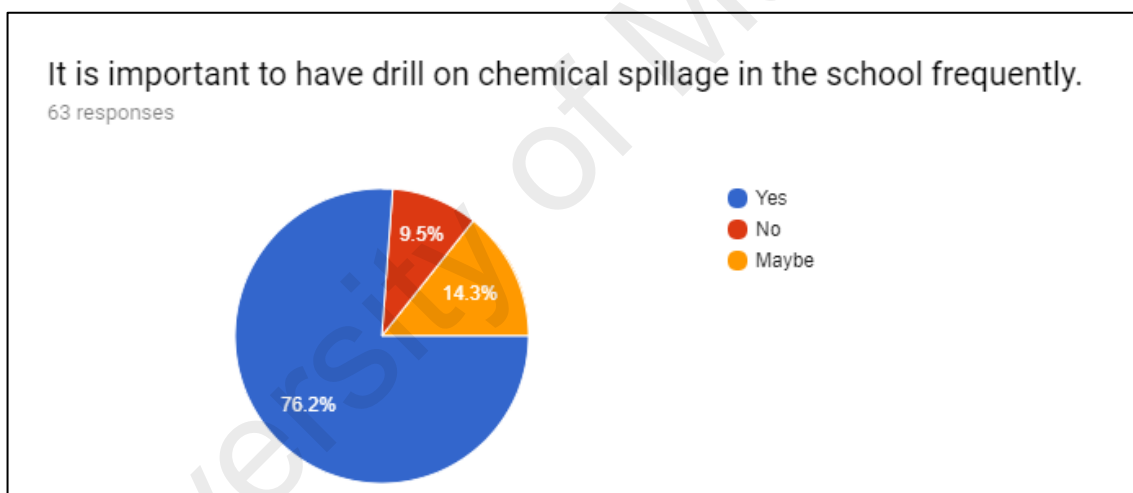


Figure 4.41 : Graph from survey question (38)

39. All schools should be equipped with a spillage kit in the school's lab.

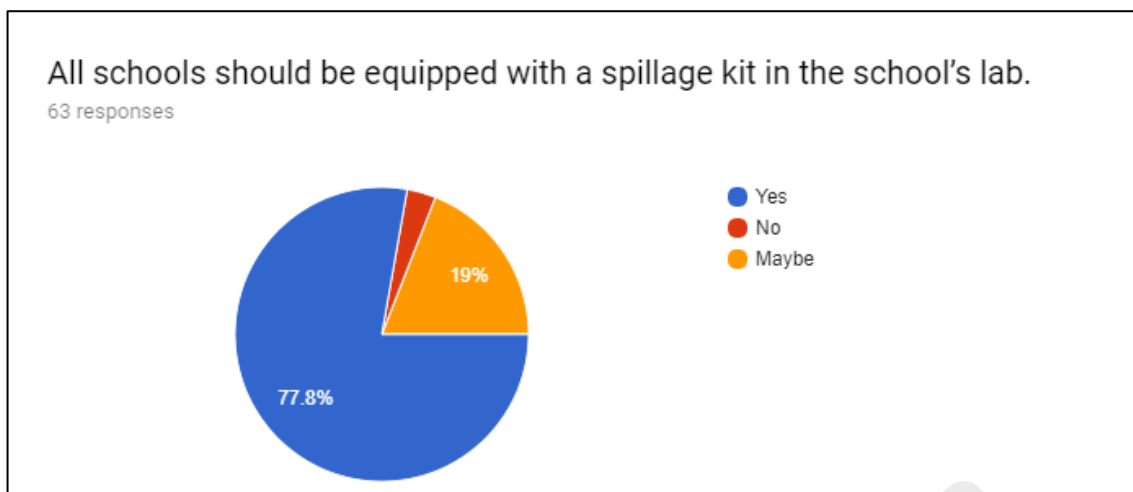


Figure 4.42 : Graph from survey question (39)

40. It is important for the school to have chemical monitoring.

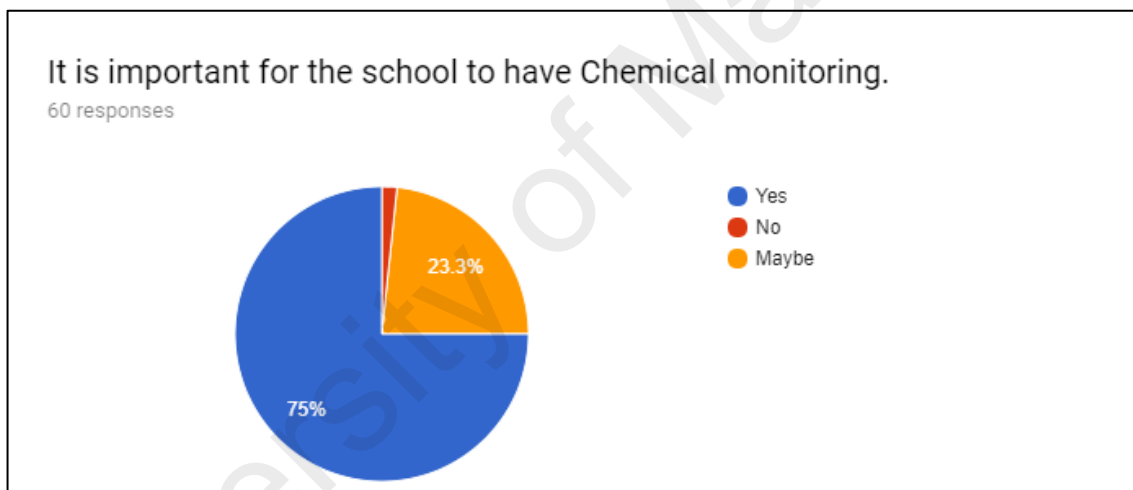


Figure 4.43 : Graph from survey question (40)

41. Schools should conduct Chemical Health Risk Assessment (CHRA) and the report is made available to all.

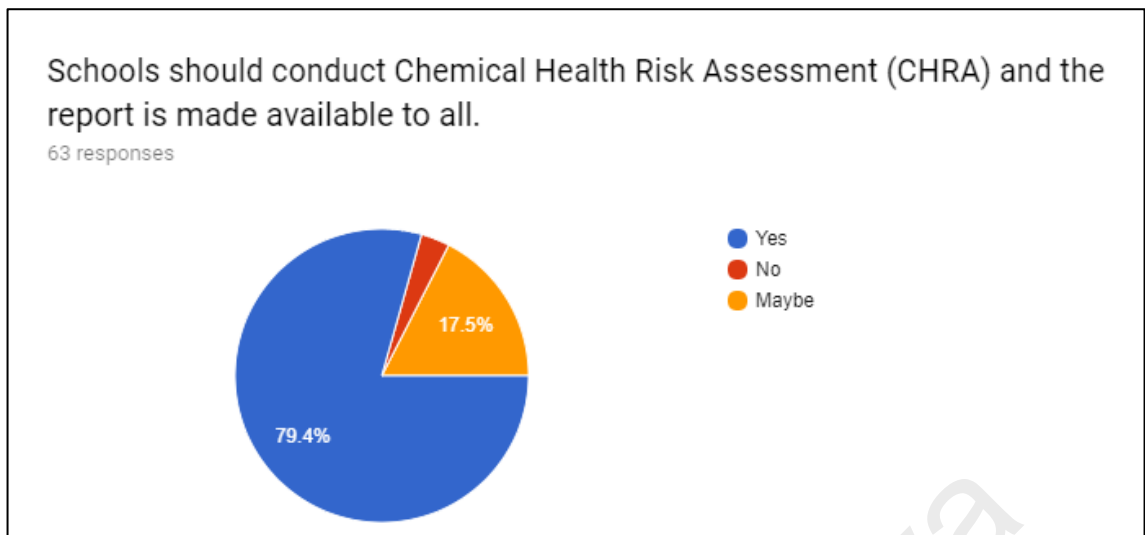


Figure 4.44 : Graph from survey question (41)

42. All the Local Exhaust Ventilation system in school labs are in proper working condition.

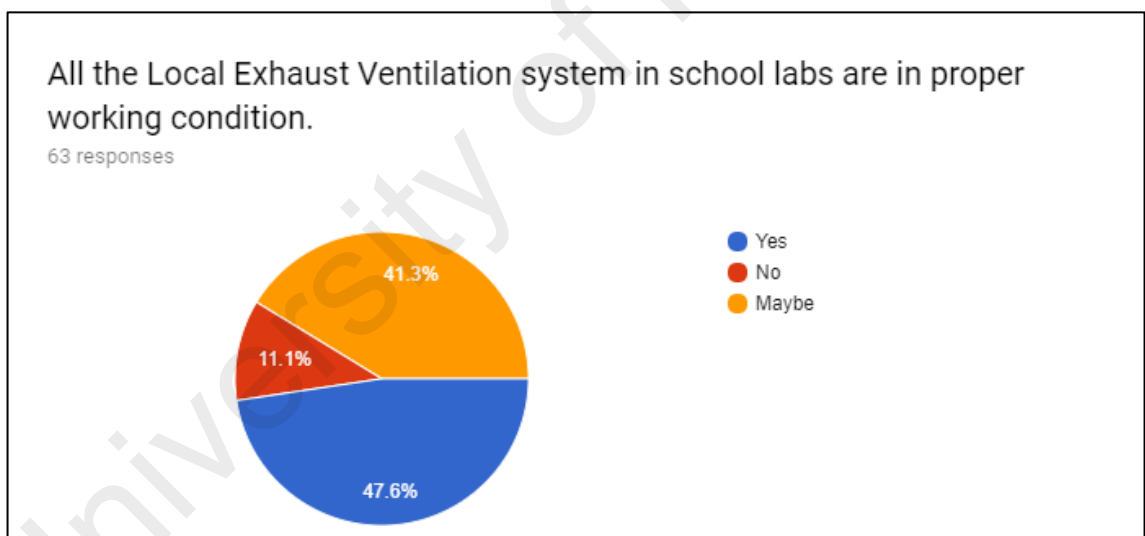


Figure 4.45 : Graph from survey question (42)

43. The ventilation systems are properly maintained and the maintenance report made available to everyone.

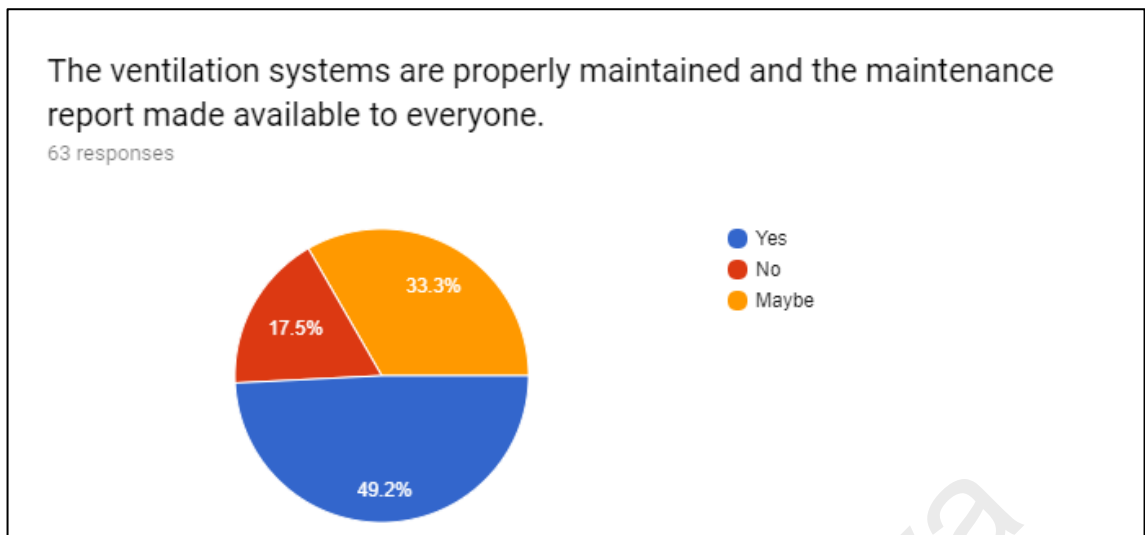


Figure 4.46 : Graph from survey question (43)

44. Studies suggest that more than 10% of children are involved in bully/victim problems in primary or secondary school.

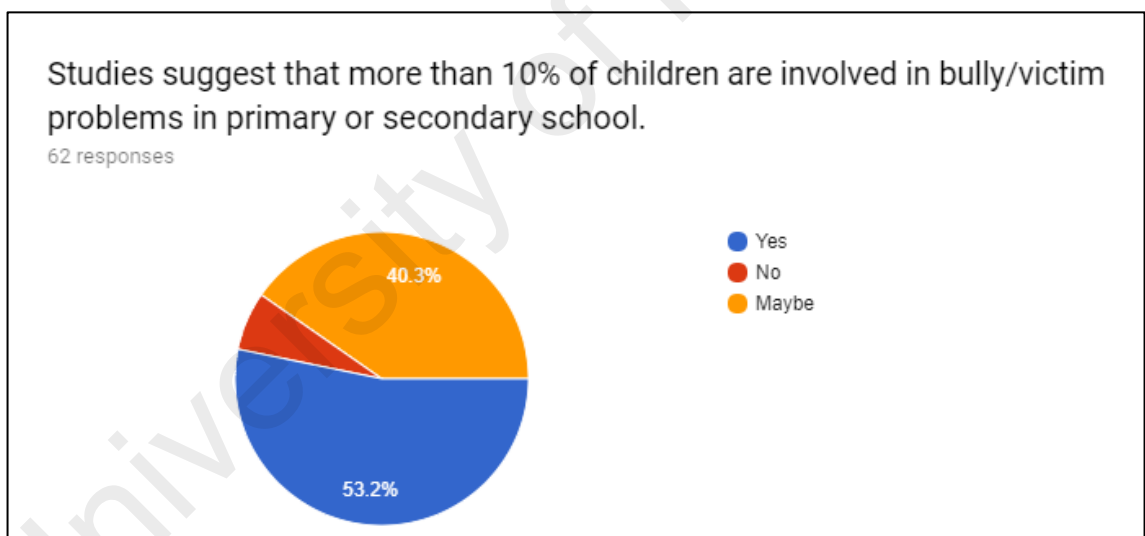


Figure 4.47 : Graph from survey question (44)

45. Children are more likely to be bullied in secondary school than in primary school.

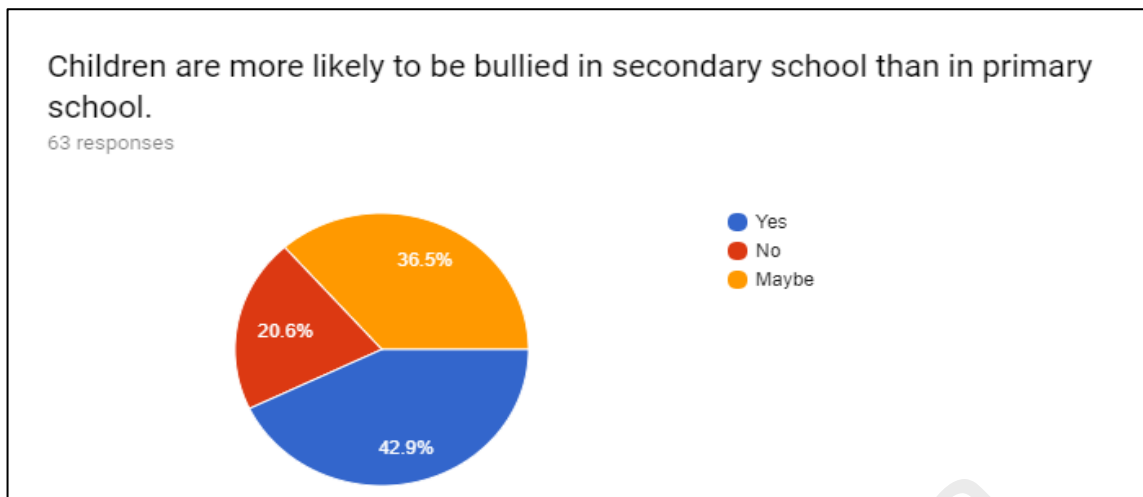


Figure 4.48 : Graph from survey question (45)

46. Most bullying is physical in nature.

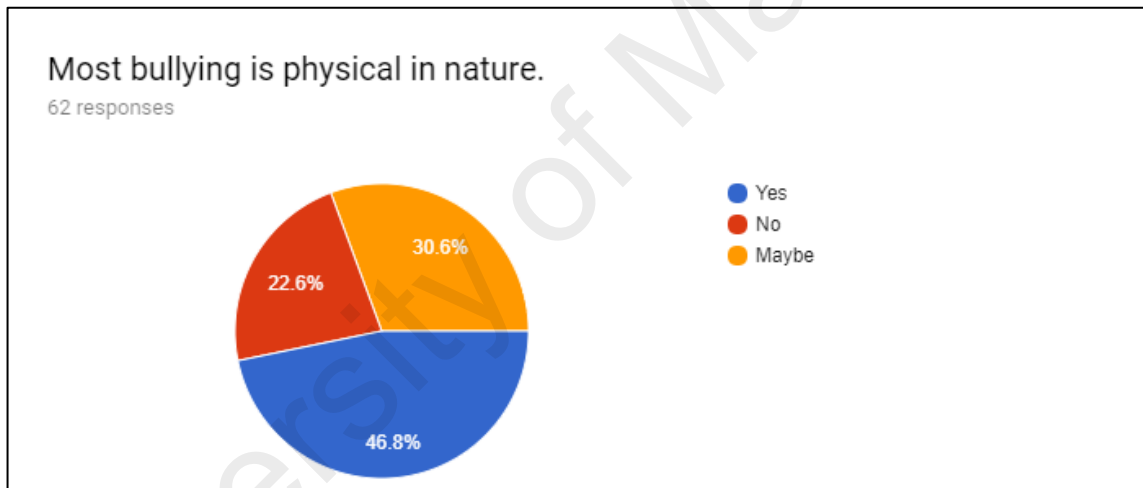


Figure 4.49 : Graph from survey question (46)

47. Girls bully just as much as boys; they just do it differently.

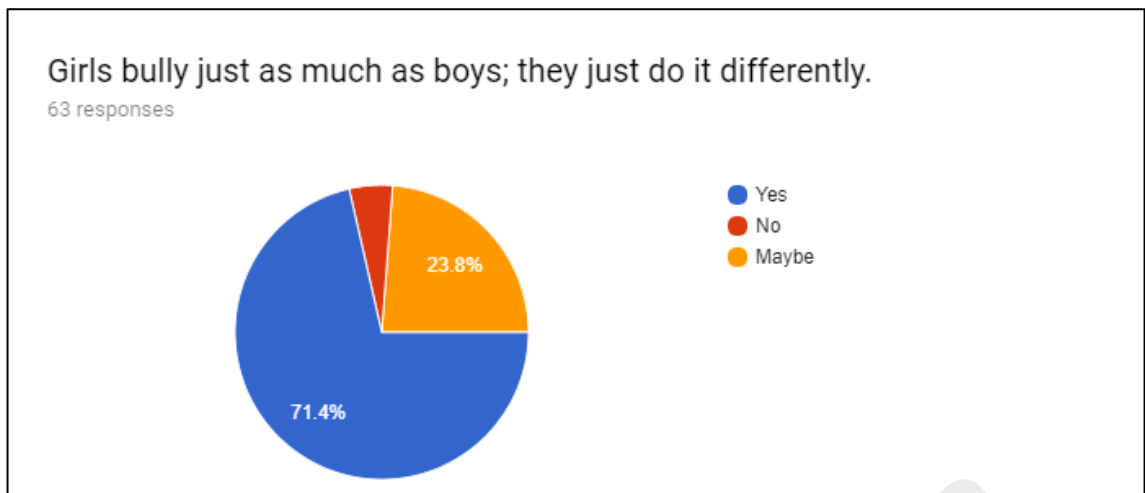


Figure 4.50 : Graph from survey question (47)

48. Most victims of bullying report being bullied by large numbers of their peers/friends.

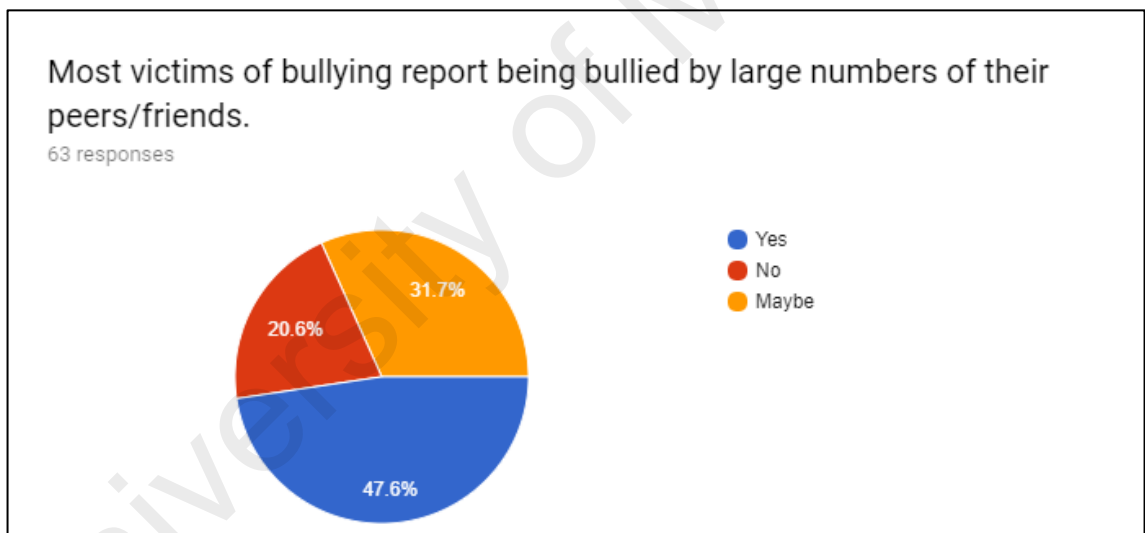


Figure 4.51 : Graph from survey question (48)

49. The vast majority of children who are bullied tell a teacher or other member of the school staff.

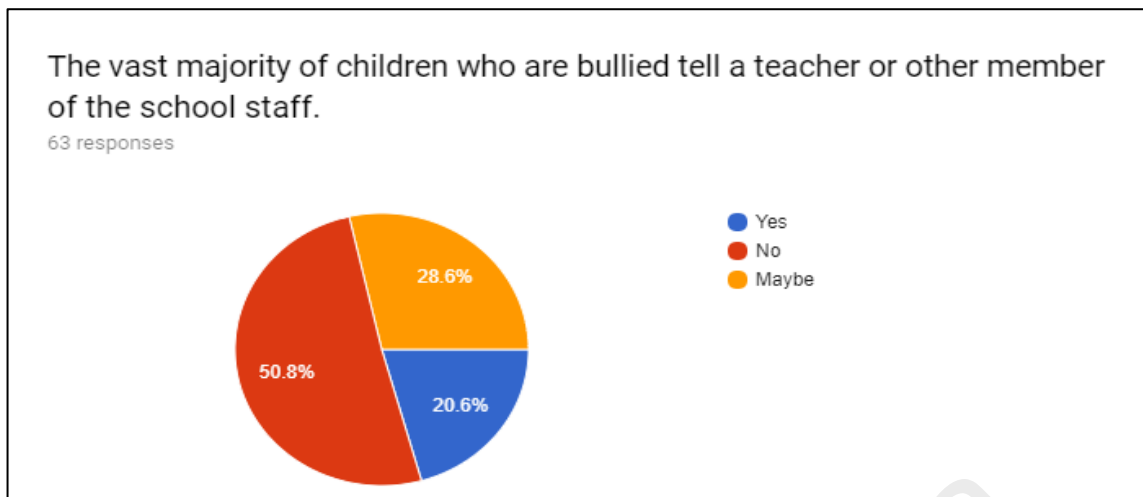


Figure 4.52 : Graph from survey question (49)

50. Bullying is just as likely on the way to and from school as during school hours.

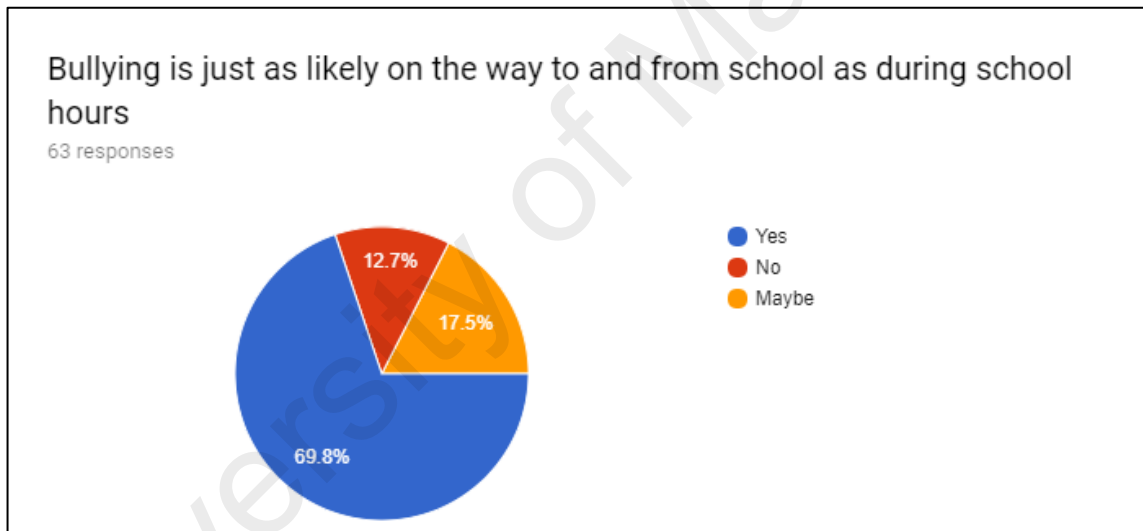


Figure 4.53 : Graph from survey question (50)

51. Most students who observe bullying don't think they should get involved.

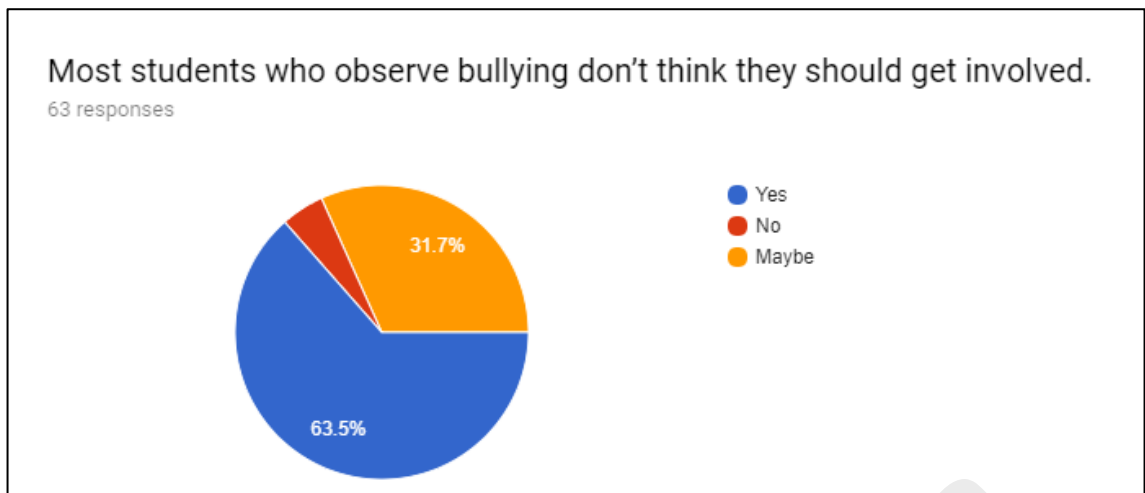


Figure 4.54 : Graph from survey question (51)

52. Once a bully, always a bully.

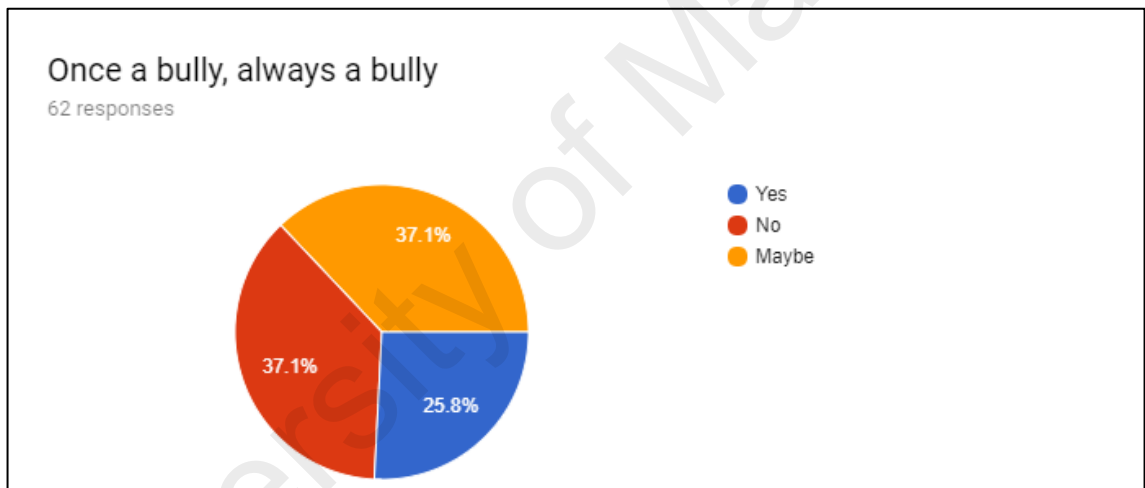


Figure 4.55 : Graph from survey question (52)

53. Bullying is mostly an urban problem.

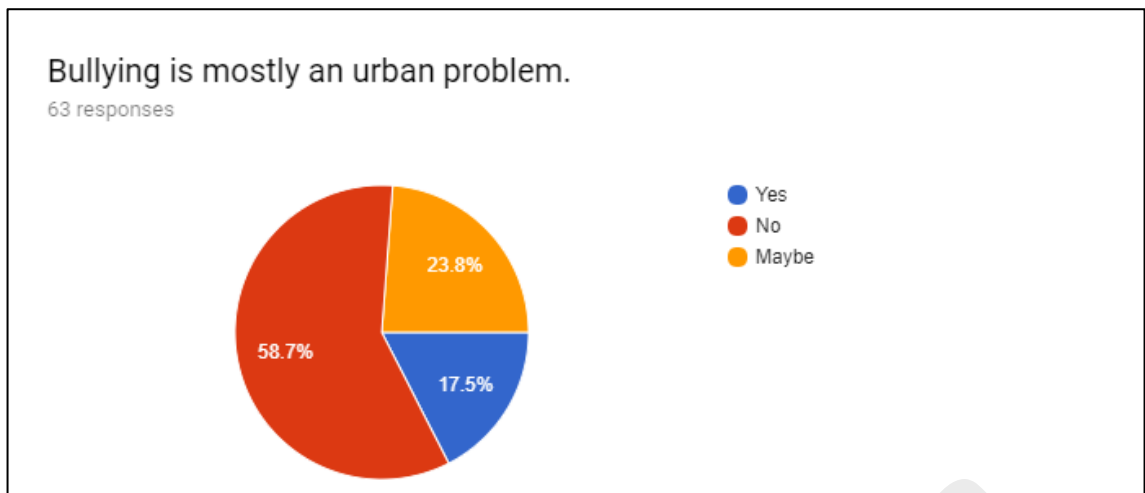


Figure 4.56 : Graph from survey question (53)

54. Are schools required to educate students on bullying prevention?

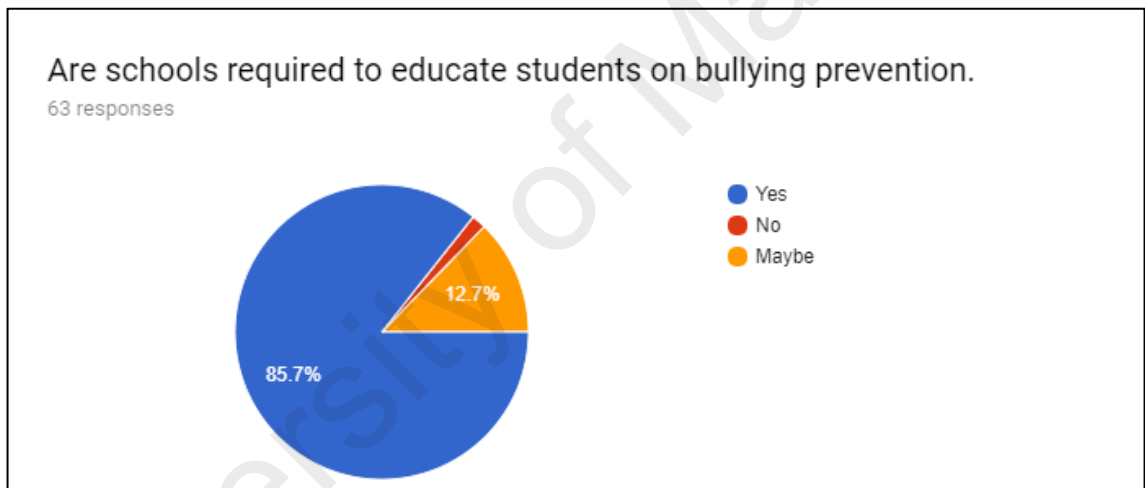


Figure 4.57 : Graph from survey question (54)

55. Parents play an important role in curbing bully issues.

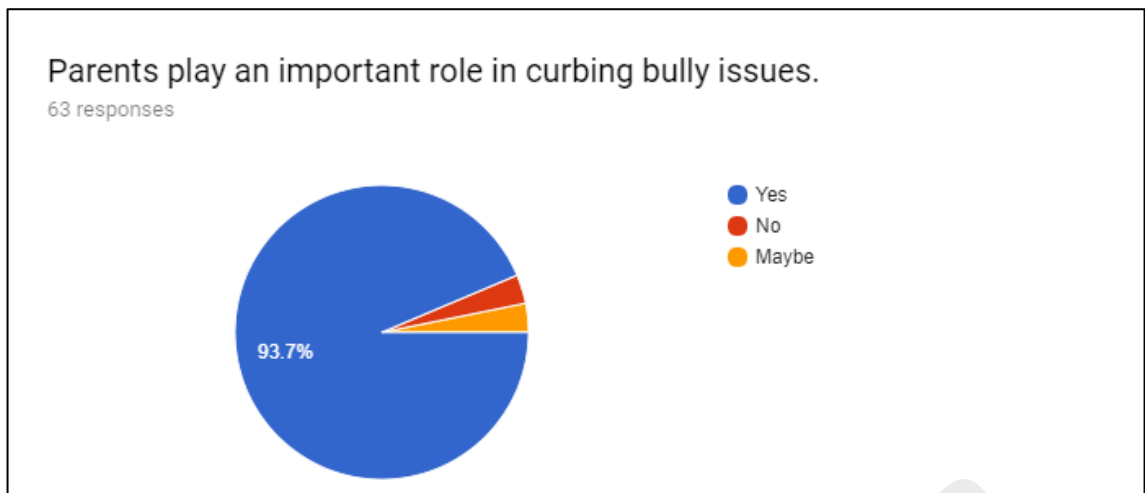


Figure 4.58 : Graph from survey question (55)

56. Most bullies became one because of personal issues (family problem, low self-esteem).

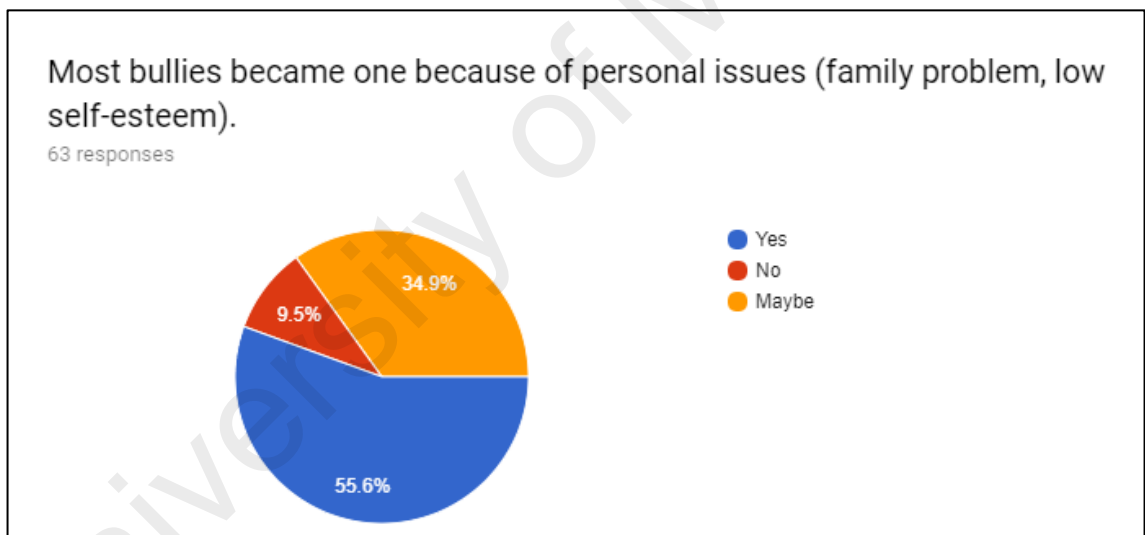


Figure 4.59 : Graph from survey question (56)

57. Do you think it is important to teach the students on alcohol and drug abuse?

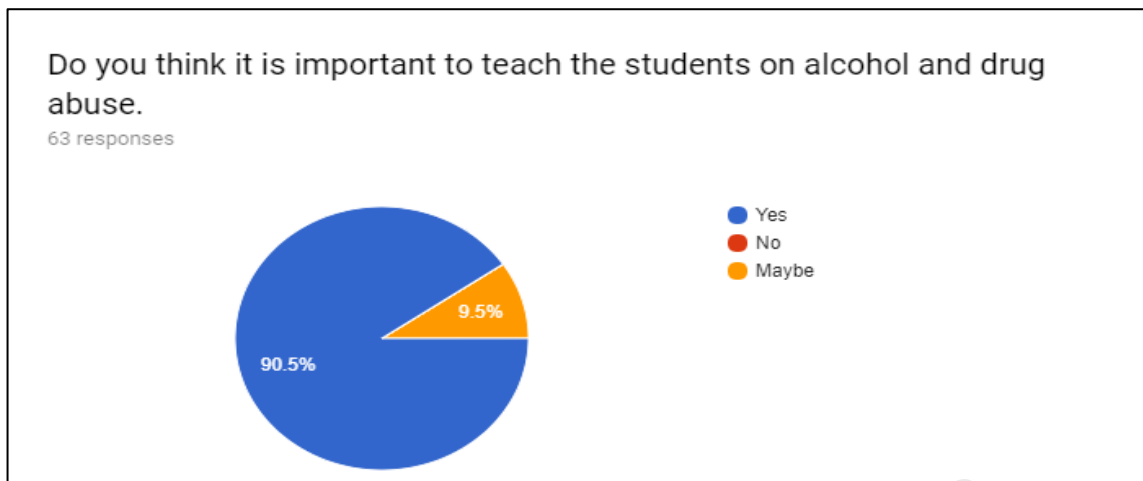


Figure 4.60 : Graph from survey question (57)

58. Have you seen / caught someone smoking, taking alcohol or drugs in school compound.

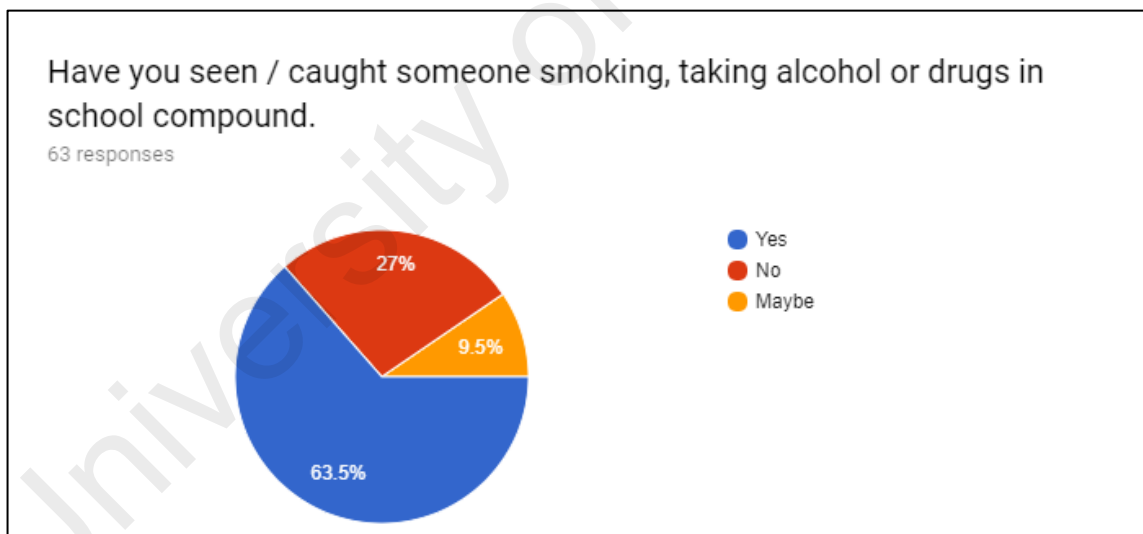


Figure 4.61 : Graph from survey question (58)

59. Do you think it is important for the police to have cooperation and close monitoring with school authorities on issues related to drug abuse.

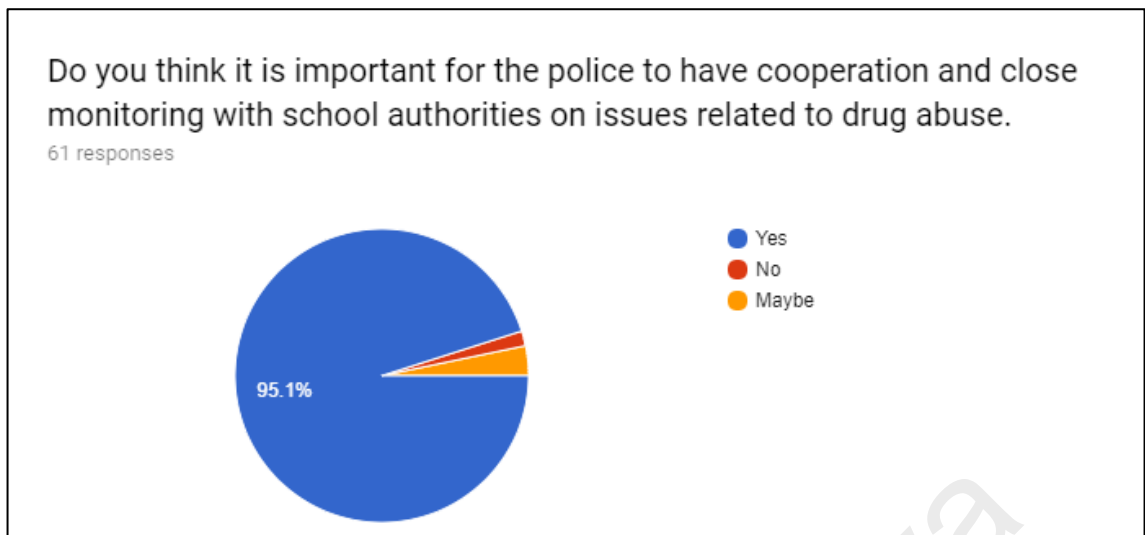


Figure 4.62 : Graph from survey question (59)

60. Can you get addicted even though you only do it once in a while?

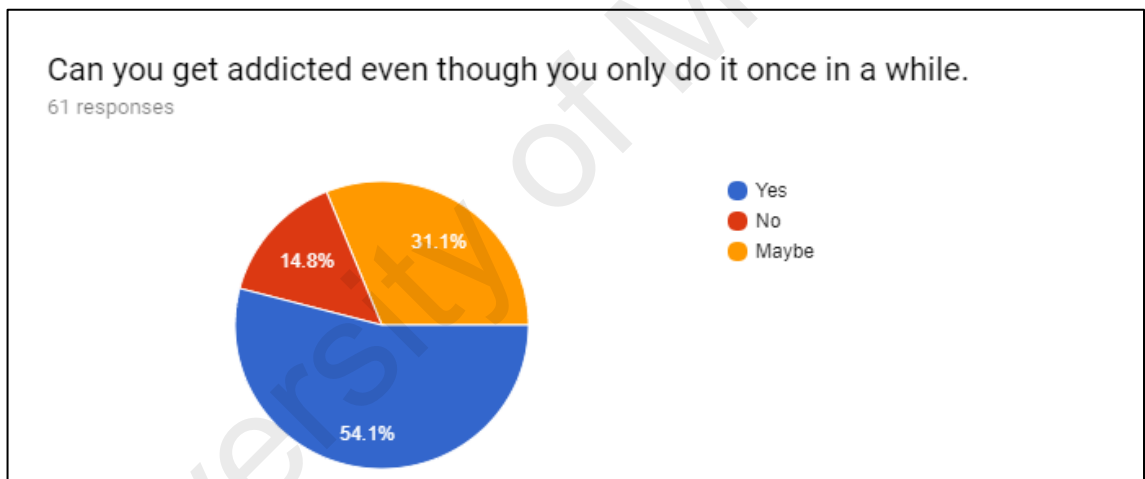


Figure 4.63 : Graph from survey question (60)

61. Does smoking and alcohol use may lead to the use of drugs.

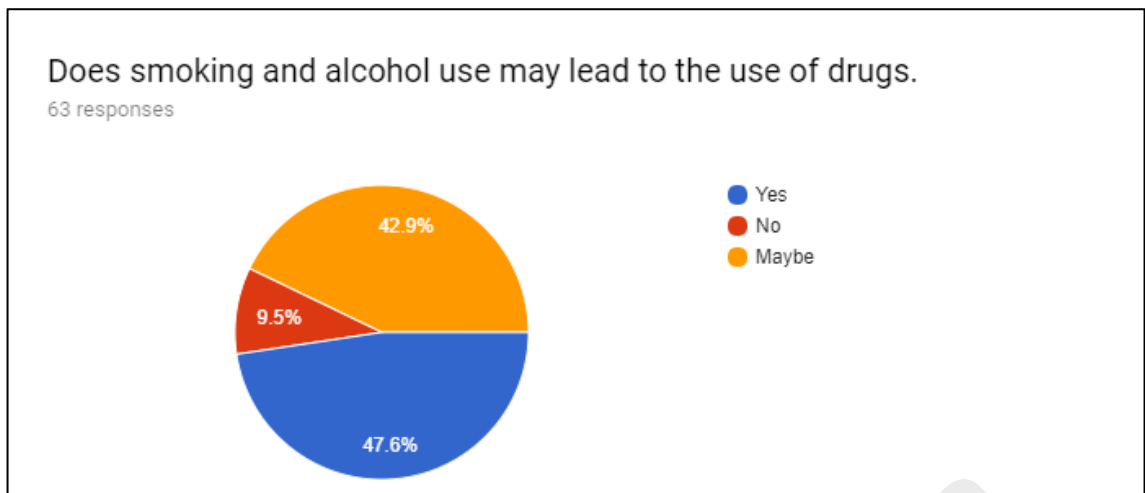


Figure 4.64 : Graph from survey question (61)

62. Can a person be too young to become addicted to alcohol and drugs?

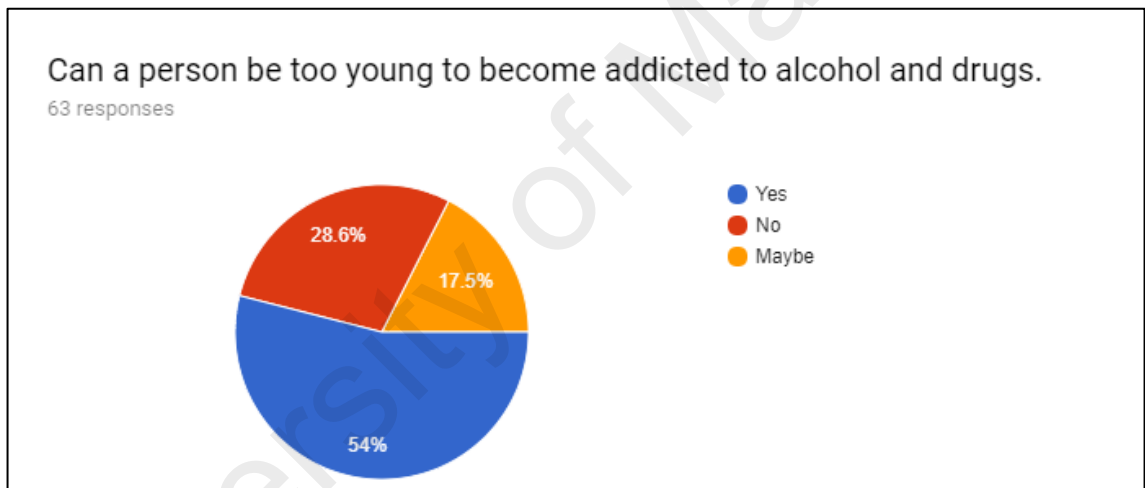


Figure 4.65 : Graph from survey question (62)

63. Marijuana is just a plant... it is not really that dangerous.

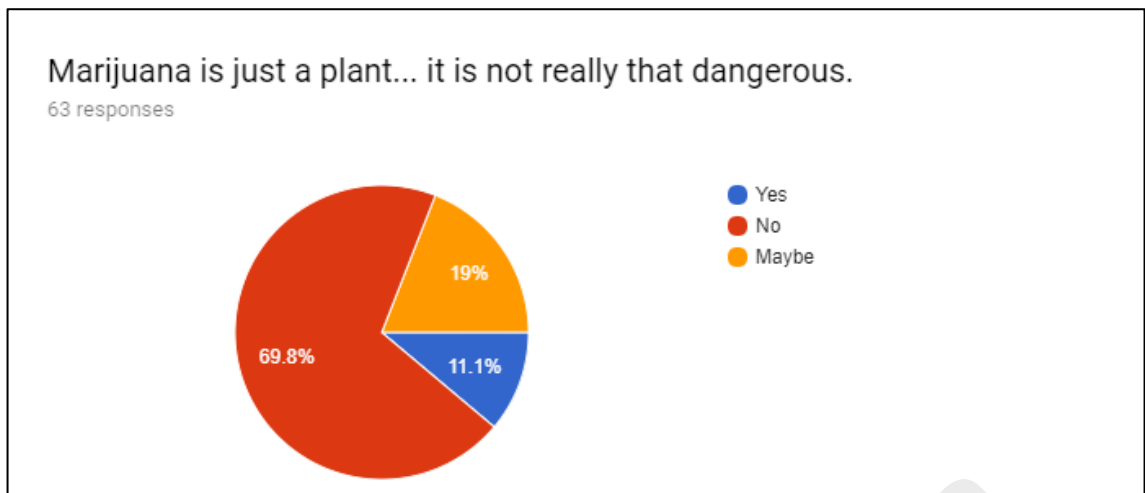


Figure 4.66 : Graph from survey question (63)

64. Medicines are also drugs.

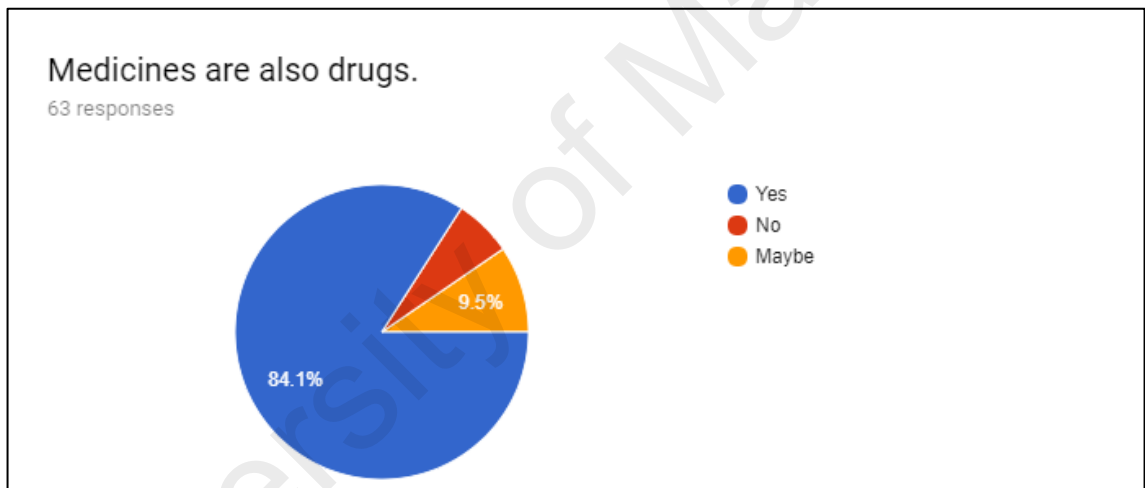


Figure 4.67 : Graph from survey question (64)

65. Do you agree that most students indulged themselves in drug abuse due to personal issues (such as family problem, self-esteem issues and peer influence).

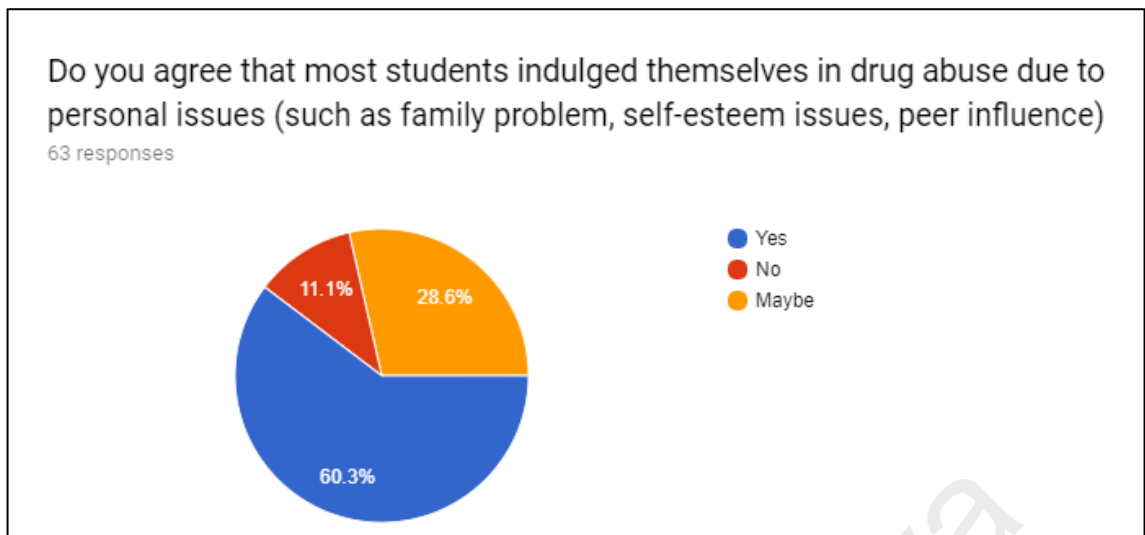


Figure 4.68 : Graph from survey question (65)

66. Parents and community plays an important role in the issues related to drug abuse among the students.

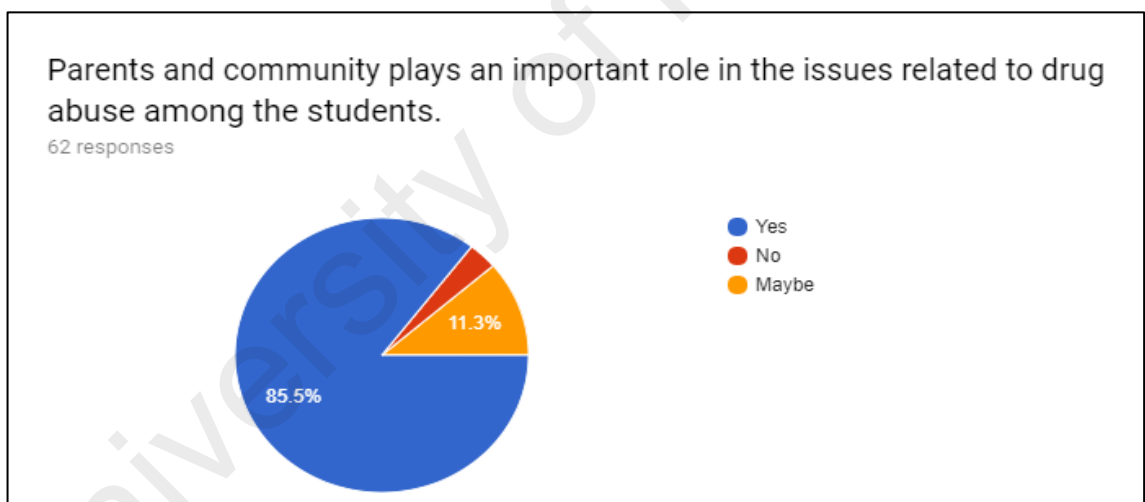


Figure 4.69 : Graph from survey question (66)

67. Some children are sexually abused by older children.

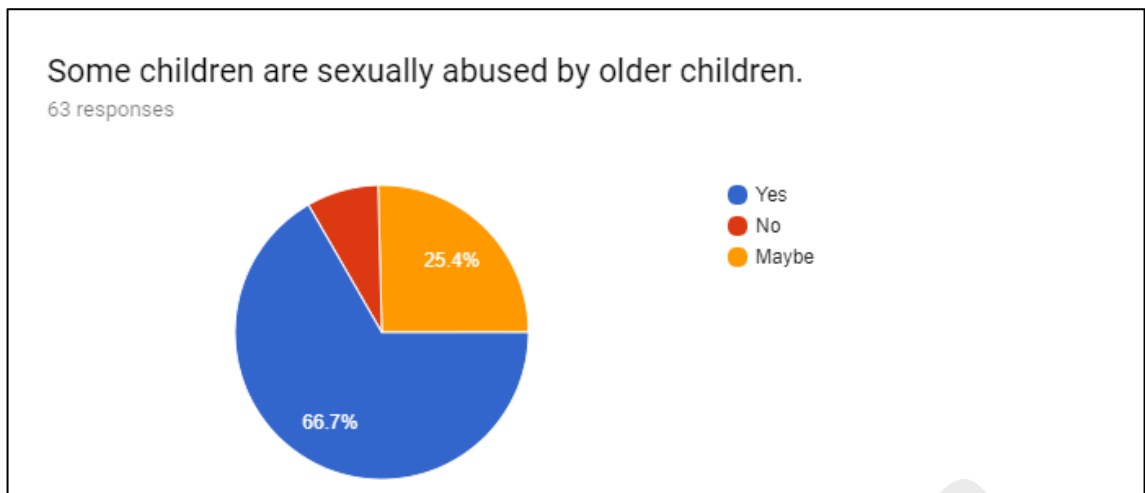


Figure 4.70 : Graph from survey question (67)

68. Most people who sexually abuse children do not belong to the child's family.

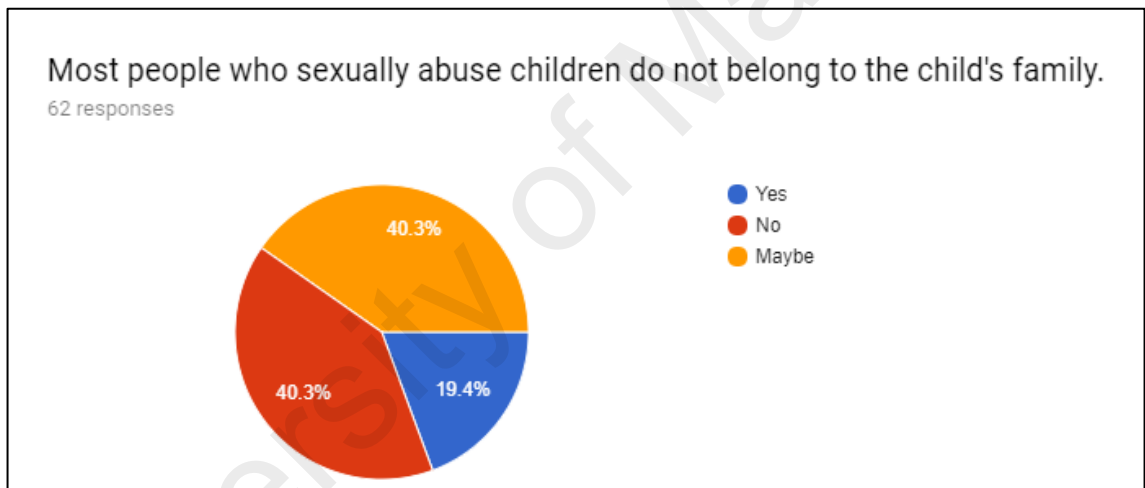


Figure 4.71 : Graph from survey question (68)

69. Most of the time children are sexually abused when they are alone, at night, and outside their home.

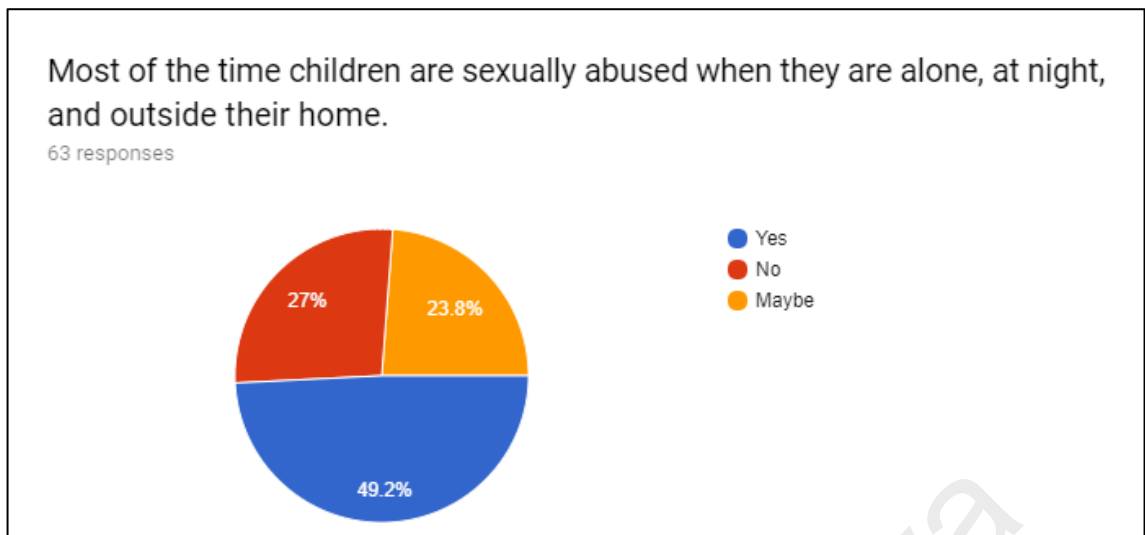


Figure 4.72 : Graph from survey question (69)

70. Only girls are victims of sexual abuse.

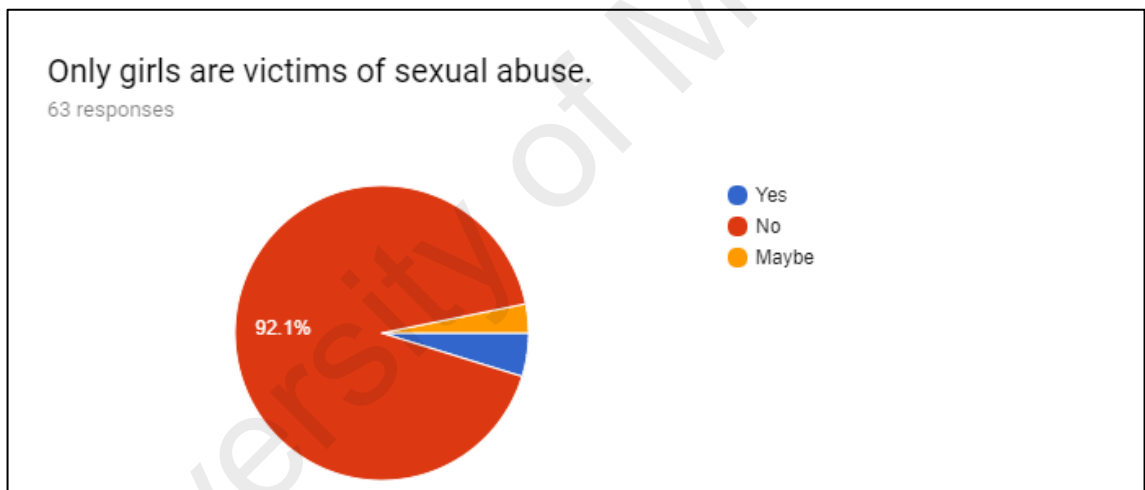


Figure 4.73 : Graph from survey question (70)

71. Sexually abused boys are usually not homosexual.

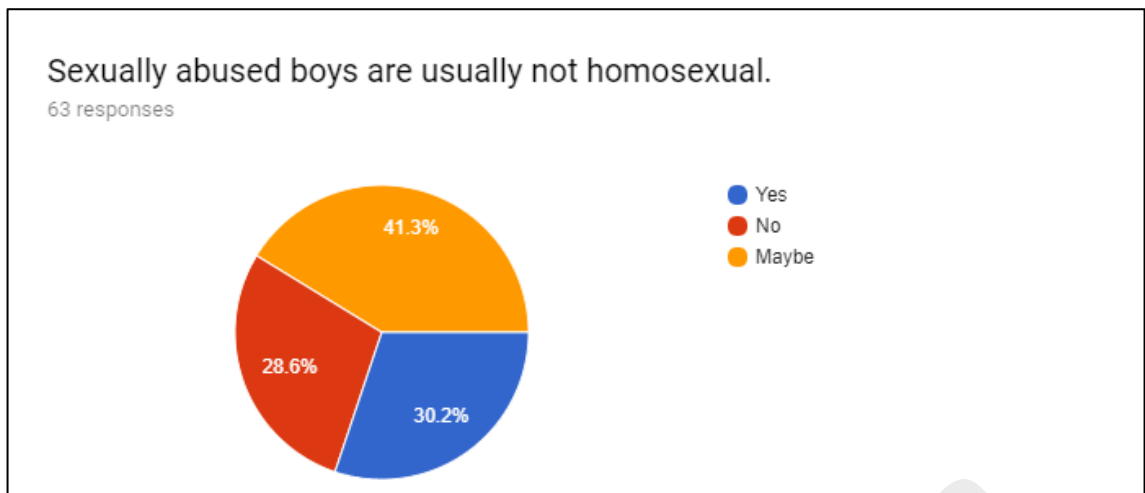


Figure 4.74 : Graph from survey question (71)

72. Children from reputable families are not victims of sexual abuse.

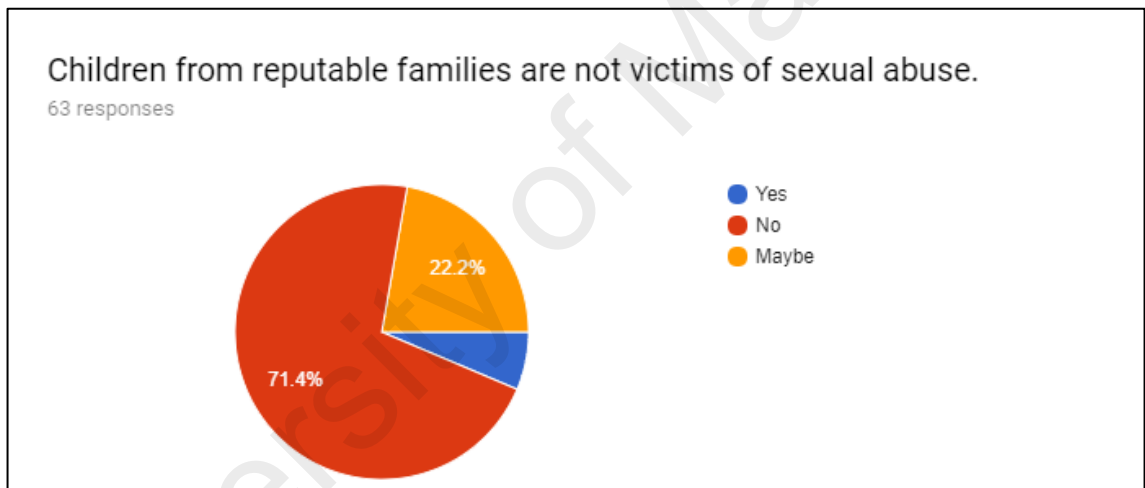


Figure 4.75 : Graph from survey question (72)

73. Children who report being victims of sexual abuse are not necessarily placed in foster care following these revelations.

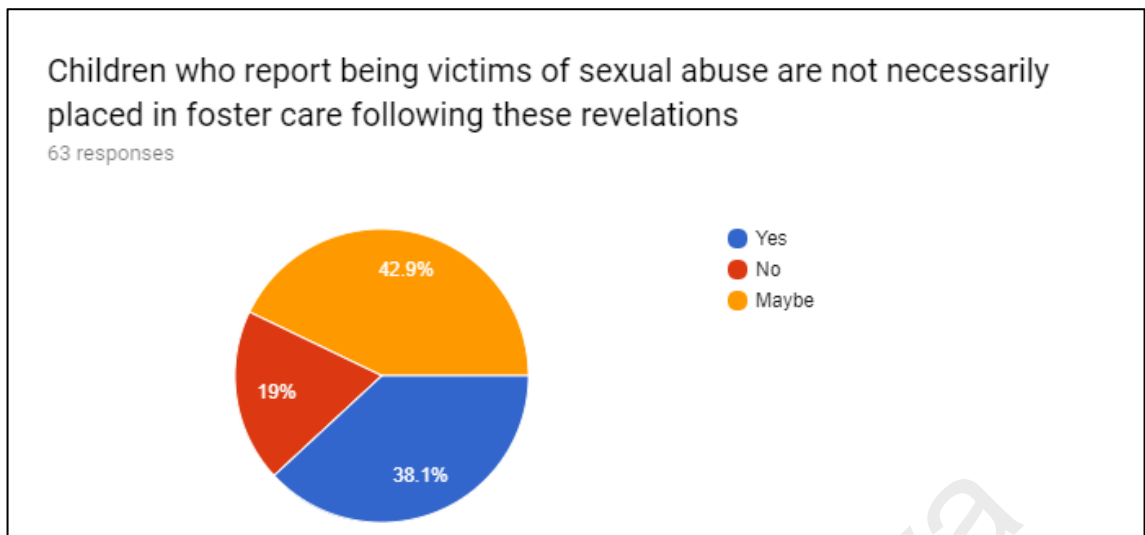


Figure 4.76 : Graph from survey question (73)

74. Few children are victims of sexual abuse.

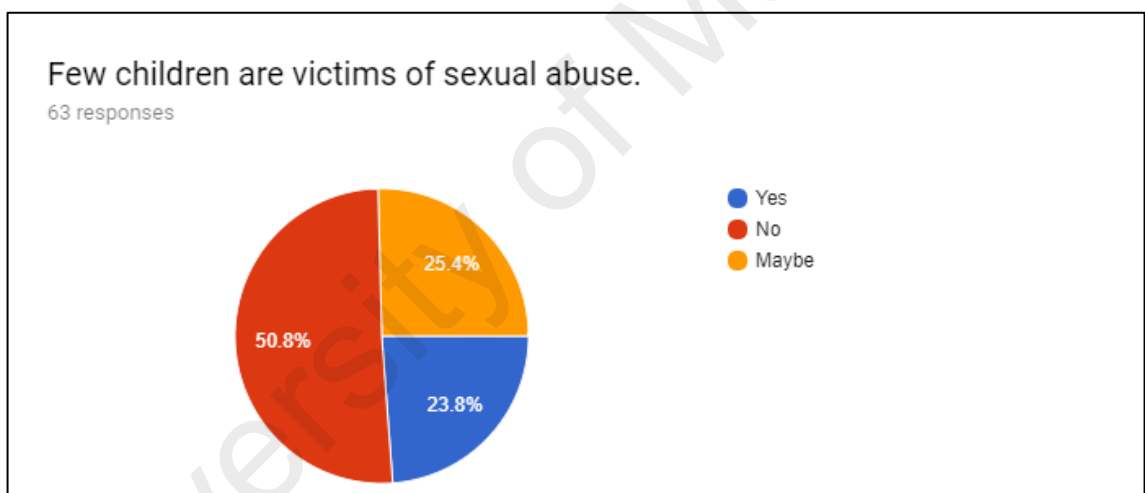


Figure 4.77 : Graph from survey question (74)

75. A majority of sexual abuse perpetrators are retarded or mentally ill.

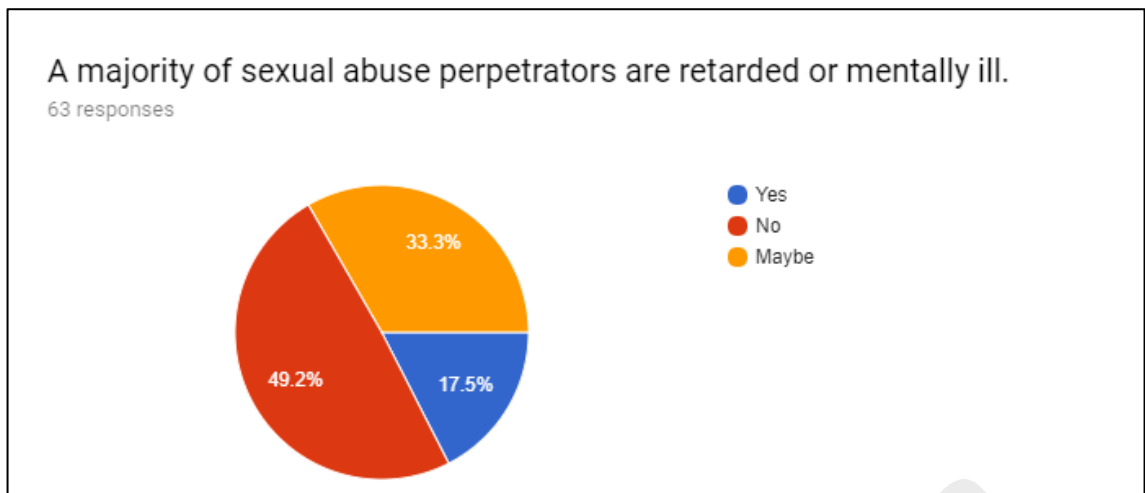


Figure 4.78 : Graph from survey question (75)

76. Children get wrong information on sex from the media.

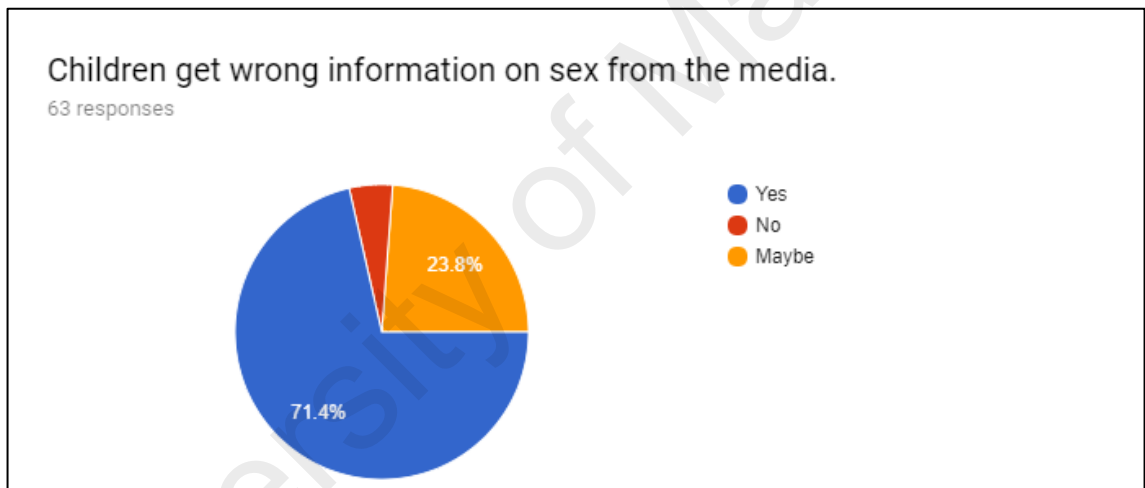


Figure 4.79 : Graph from survey question (76)

77. Most of the sexual abuse happens because of the teacher.

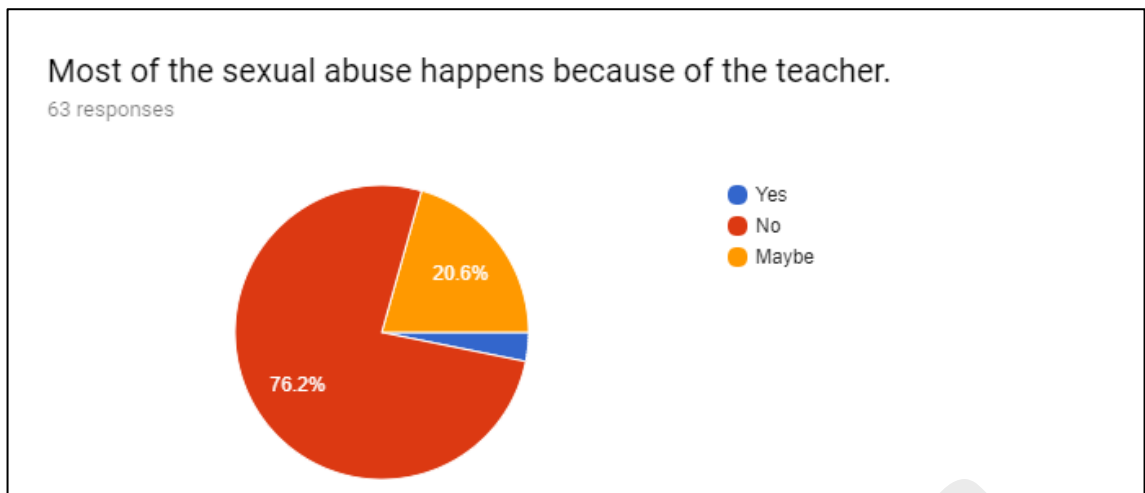


Figure 4.80 : Graph from survey question (77)

78. Counselling sessions are very helpful in curbing sexual abuse.

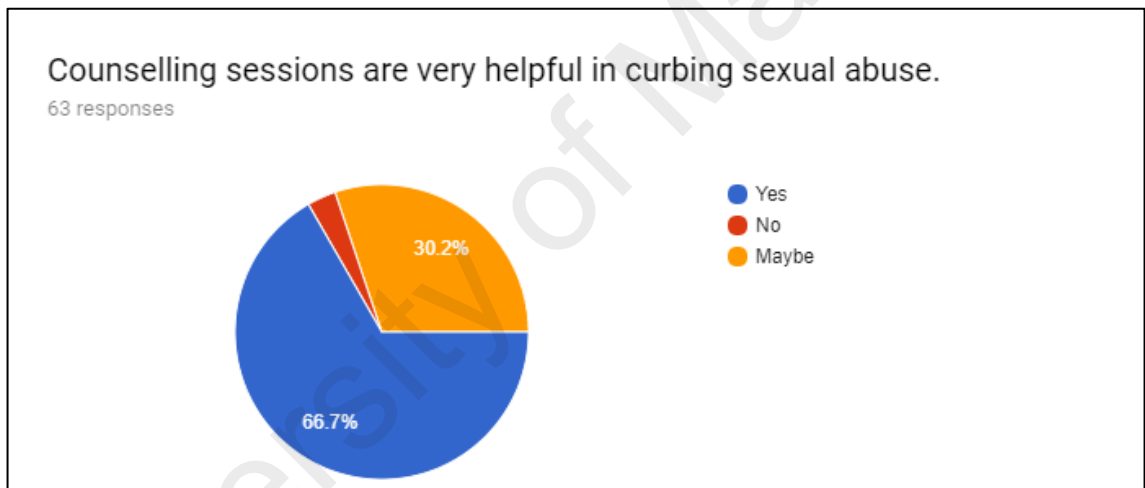


Figure 4.81 : Graph from survey question (78)

79. Some children who are abused at home come to school and complain to the teacher.

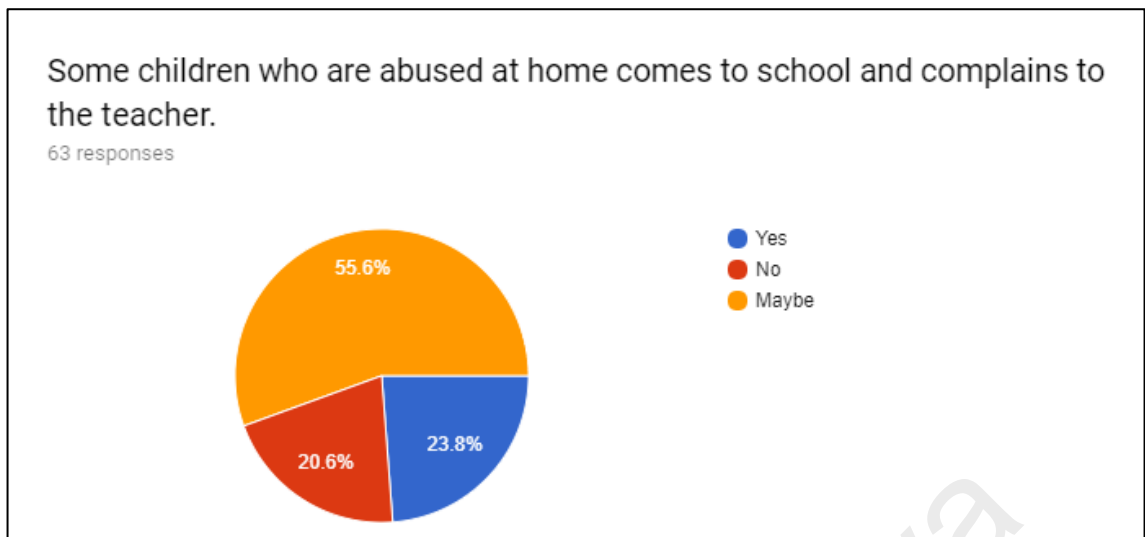


Figure 4.82 : Graph from survey question (79)

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4.2 Discussions

Based on the survey, 100 percent respondents have agreed that safety implementation is very important in schools and safety education is equally important besides academic. Many have also agreed that it is important for schools to establish a safety management system to safe guard the safety and security in schools.

Majority of respondents has agreed that it is important to for the school to include safety related to bullying, gangsterism, alcohol abuse drug abuse and sexual harassment in the implementation process. Most respondents have also agreed that including the local authorities in the implementation process is equally essential to encourage a thorough check and more effective implementation.

On the other hand, many respondents have agreed that the current schools have given very less importance on safety practices and implementation. That includes paying less importance on securing safe sports equipment, no proper maintenance on fire equipment, no chemical safety, no drill done, no safety briefing given, no safety training, exposed wires and electrical plugs, no proper building maintenance done, and many more.

Also, respondents have highlighted that besides physical safety, less acknowledgement is given on health hazards; such as chemical exposure, chemical identification, safety data sheet, noise monitoring, medical surveillance, biological hazards, ergonomical issues and mental health safety. Schools has paid less attention on these issues and with less emphasis on particular issues identified in Malaysian local law and regulations. Parents have also failed to pay attention on related issues and it has caused an increase on students' health wellbeing along the years.

The issues on bullying, gangsterism, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual harassment and abuse along the years have always been a taboo in the school environment. There have

been quite a number of debates that was done on whether these issues should be taken seriously. The survey conducted has proved that many parties has agreed that it is important to identify these issues and made compulsory as an important educational syllabus and be thought to all from primary level. Many doesn't even have awareness on certain matters and that has led to many incidents involving school students, to an extent, the incident has caused major consequences such as innocent lives of students lost.

Overall, respondents have answered positively to the survey suggesting that schools have the responsibility in adopting safety compliances that has been lined by the government of Malaysia. The parents, teachers, students and the public has all agreed to give their equal commitment in ensuring the school safety compliances are fully implemented and enforced to avoid future incidents in our Malaysian schools.

4.3 Interview Interpretation

Based on the interview conducted, majority of respondents were aware of the importance of having safety system established in the school, but most of them did not know; how does the system works and how it can be implemented. Also, they were not aware of how and what will be implemented.

Students' respondents have suggested that they feel it would be better if they were given proper safety education while they were in primary school, as that would be a foundation towards safety implementation. The students also suggested that it will be better if the safety education was given as part of their school syllabus.

On the other hand, the teachers and school management had a different idea on safety implementation in schools. They thought it would be a good idea if the government could provide relevant safety trainings to teachers and staffs. They also feel that it is important to have a safety officer to be positioned in every school as a good measure in contemplating safety in schools in future.

Parents otherwise feels that; it is important for the school management to be extra vigilant in complying with safety measures in schools. Also they feel that it is important for the government to enforce strictly on the safety compliances and to place a safety officer in every school to ensure there is a person fully responsible in ensuring the school's safety. They also feel that the school should get parents and local authority to get involved in order for the safety plan is successfully implemented nationwide.

The public has the same opinion as the teachers, parents and students on effective safety implementation in schools.

4.4 Model of Safety Syllabus

Topics to be covered under the Syllabus

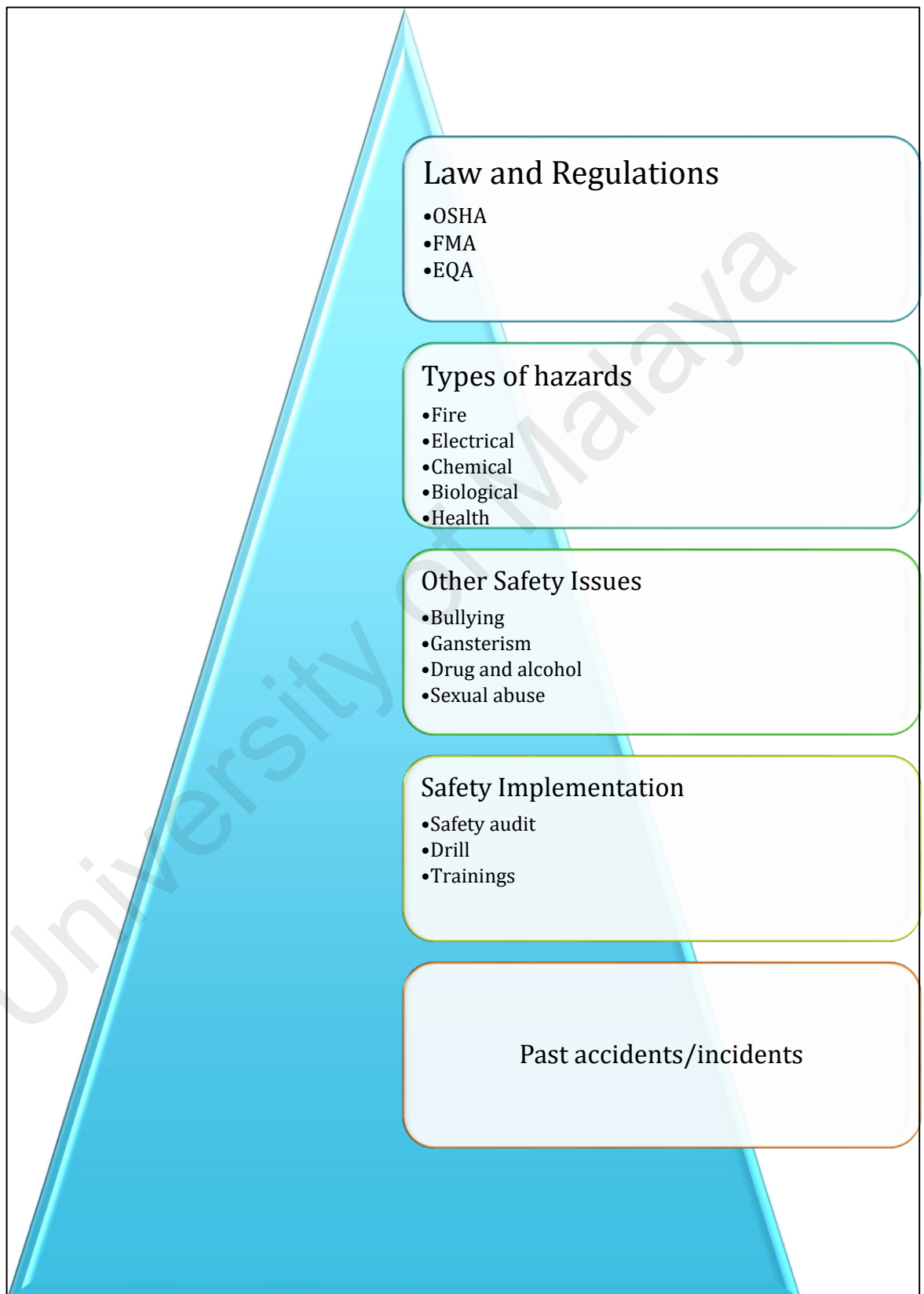


Figure 8: Safety Framework

The model was established based on the survey conducted and the previous studies of related topics on safety compliances in school. It is understood that the majority of selected group of people are not fully aware of the dos and don'ts of safety study and compliances.

The model has categorised 5 main topics that can be used as the syllabus backbone. The main topic that has to be covered, on vast perspective is giving insight of all the previous and past history of accidents and incidents of safety that has happened all these years.

The later part will be on the safety audit and its importance, especially on the implementation and enforcement part. Then followed by; the other safety issues that are a rising cause of school based incidents in recent years. This will not only establish the schools' safety but also to help enhance the schools' discipline.

Then, the hazards identification, risk assessment should also be a major part of this syllabus. This should also be thought as core of all safety issues. The final part of the syllabus will be the law and regulations section that further enhances the safety implementation.

5 CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The study has concluded that safety awareness is still not up to the best among all the selected group of people in Malaysian schools, though most of them knew the importance of safety compliances in school based on the survey result. The safety implementation is still weak in schools and all relevant parties are still not sure on where and how to begin is still being a major question mark.

The selected group of people is still backwards in their understanding on the importance of safety implementations in schools. This is probably due to the lack of enforcement and the lack of importance given by all on school. Though, some individuals from the selected group of people have the knowledge, yet they have lack of understanding on how and what things on school safety can be established.

The adults; parents and teachers from the selected group of study have greater knowledge on certain criteria on school safety, this is due to the age and exposure in their working life. The children have very less knowledge and understanding this because of the lack of awareness given to them in their tender age. The children from private schools has greater understanding on school safety compared to the children from government schools, due to the implementation on school safety is well established in selected private schools compared to government schools.

The safety framework was well received by the selected group of people from the selected schools. They have acknowledged the importance of understanding and enforcing a safety management system and trainings related to safety compliances in all schools, as this will greatly reduce the huge number of incidents that is reported on school safety nationwide.

The government and certain NGO parties have encouraged schools to implement good safety practices and have given their support in enforcing the local law and regulations to be implemented into all schools in Malaysia. The safety compliance as per the local law and regulations in Malaysian schools can largely reduce the accident and incident cases from happening further and further enhance the awareness on this among all.

All parties, including the government has to greatly implement and enforce school safety in all schools, government, private, international, secondary, primary and also all preschools to practice and train all relevant group in this topic. This will lead to a better and safe schools and perhaps become an example practice worldwide.

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5.2 Recommendation

In order to achieve successful safety compliances a few suggestion or recommendation is given:

Occupational, Safety and Health Management System (such as OHSAS 18001) are suggested to be implemented in all schools. This is by having proper policy, objectives, documents and audits.

All schools teachers and school management staffs are given safety trainings on yearly basis. The parents and teachers are also encouraged to be given the appropriate safety training by certified trainers.

A safety module is established based on the suggestion and be implemented by all schools and made as a part of educational syllabus that was given to all students. This can be made as a new syllabus or be integrated as part of their moral or civic studies in all preschool, primary and secondary schools.

Each school are encouraged or made compulsory to assign safety responsibility to a safety officer with relevant and approved competency by the government. A Safety and Health Officer can be a helping hand to the teachers and management in taking care of school safety.

Parents and Teachers Committee to be encouraged to have more team work and commitment in implementing safety in the schools.

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