

# Dream and Trust:

## Sociopolitical attitudes of college students in China



PENG LU

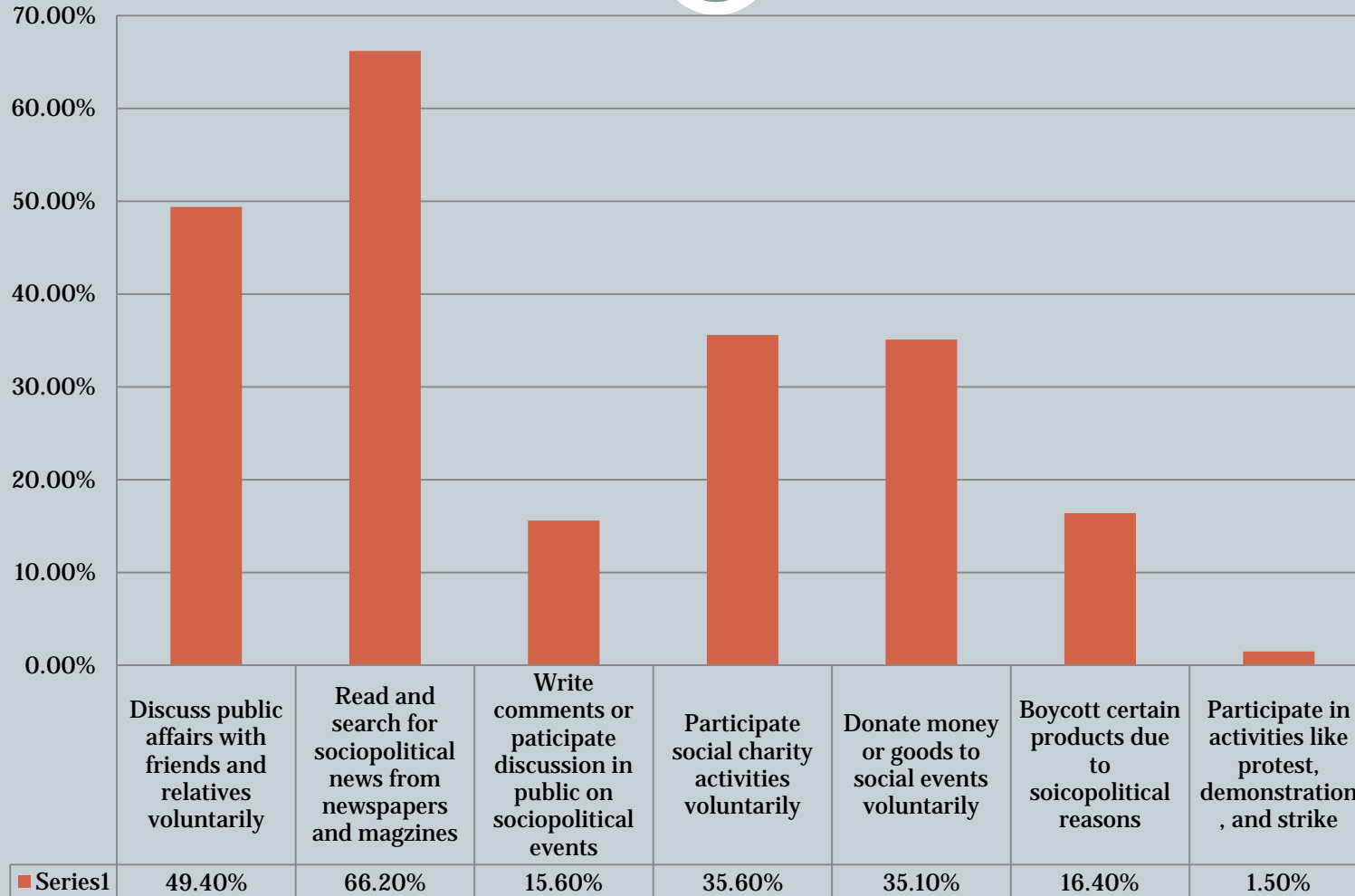
INSTITUTE OF SOCIOLOGY  
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

# Outlines

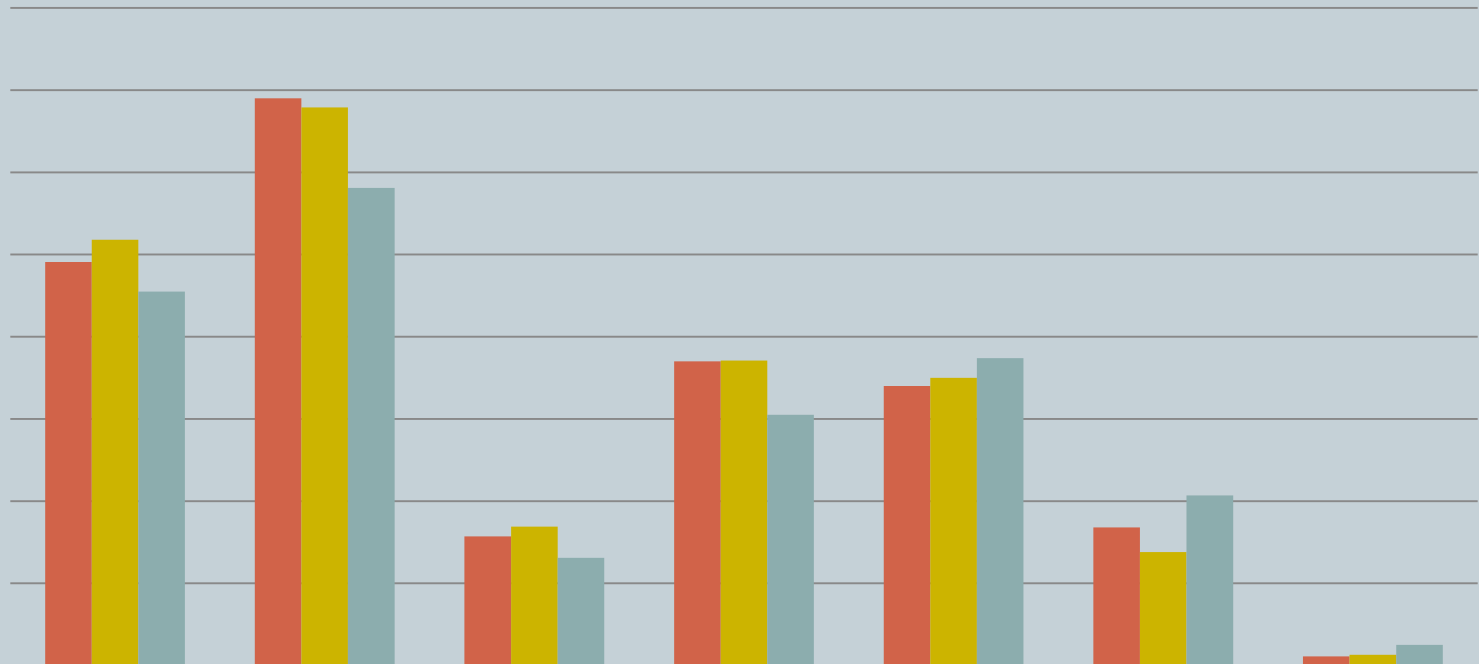


- Social and Political Behaviors
- **Dreams**
  - (1) Attitudes to the ‘Chinese dream’ ;
  - (2) Confidence in social mobility
- **Trust**
  - (1) Trust in charity channels;
  - (2) Trust in sociopolitical news sources

# Social and Political Behaviors



# Three Types of Colleges

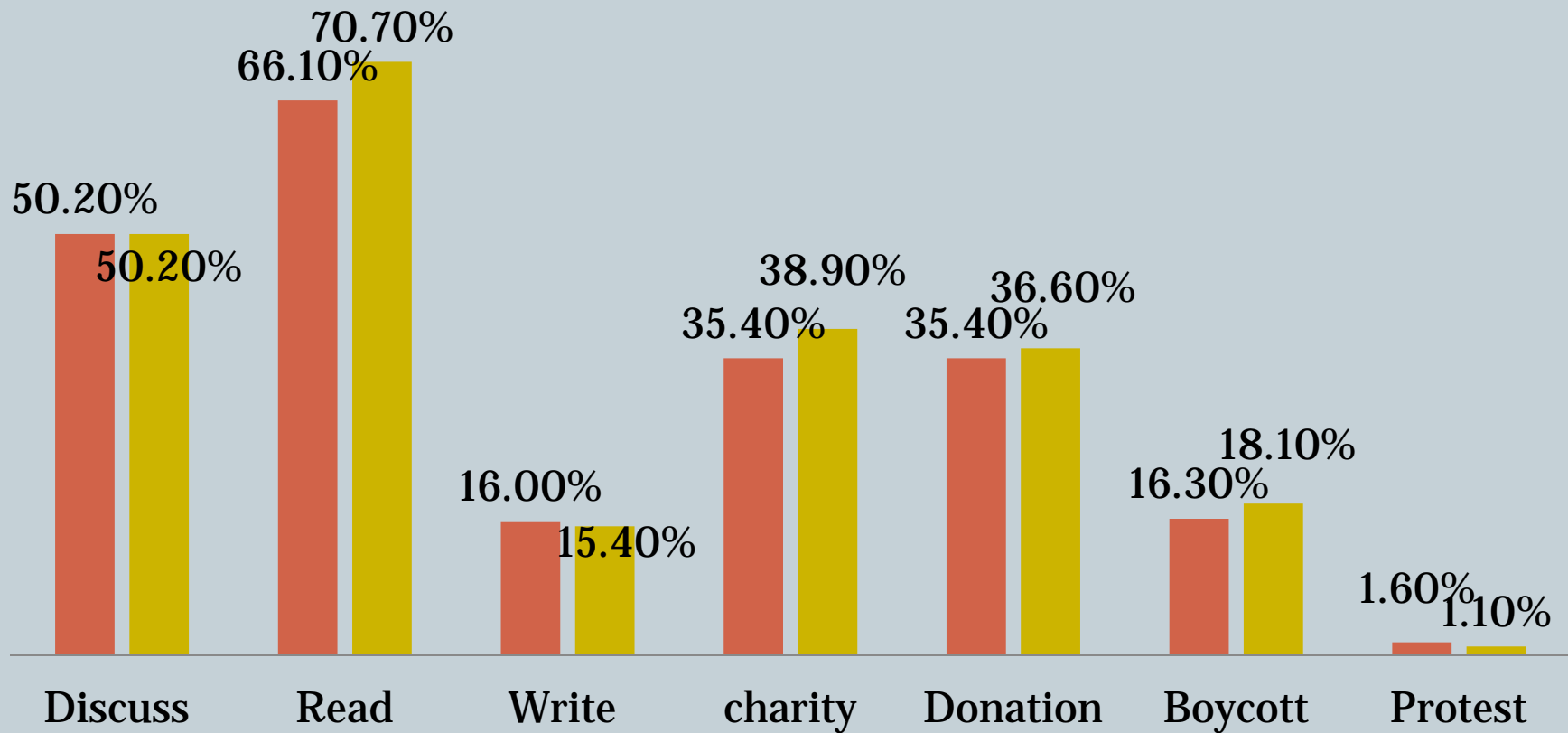


	Discuss	Read	Write	charity	Donation	Boycott	Protest
elite	49.10%	69.00%	15.70%	37.00%	34.00%	16.80%	1.10%
common	51.80%	67.90%	16.90%	37.10%	35.00%	13.80%	1.30%
junior	45.50%	58.10%	13.10%	30.50%	37.40%	20.70%	2.50%

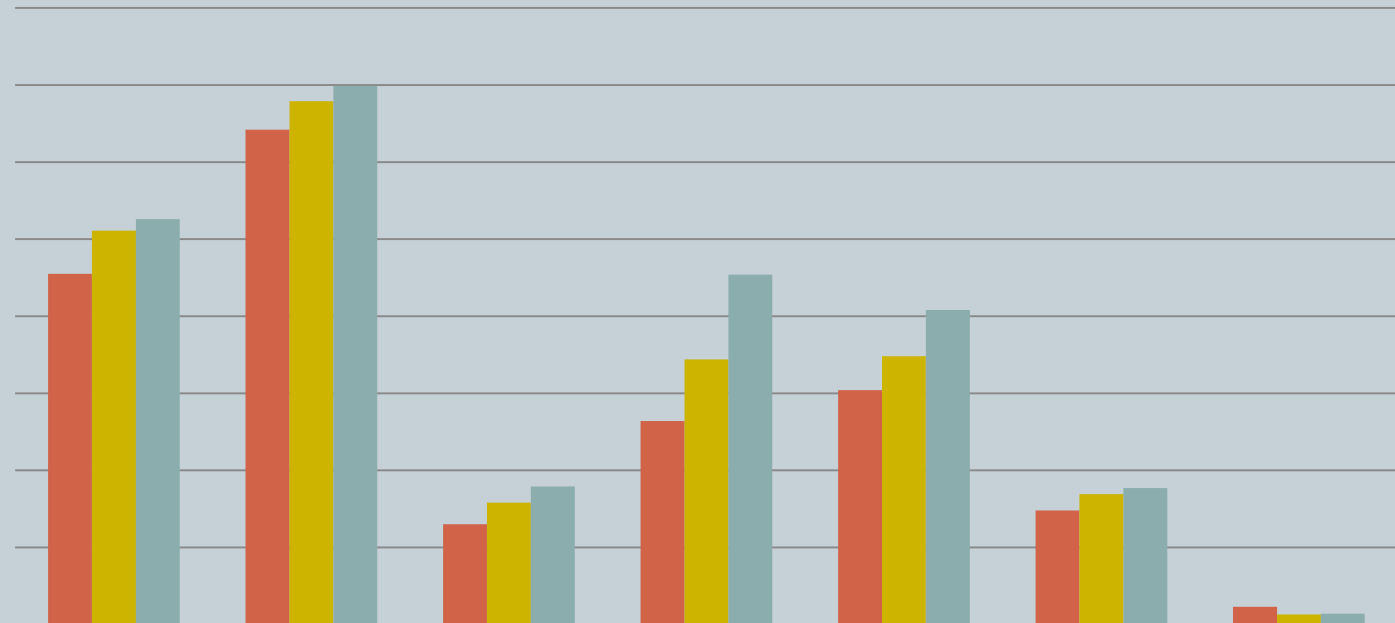
# Party membership



■ No ■ Yes

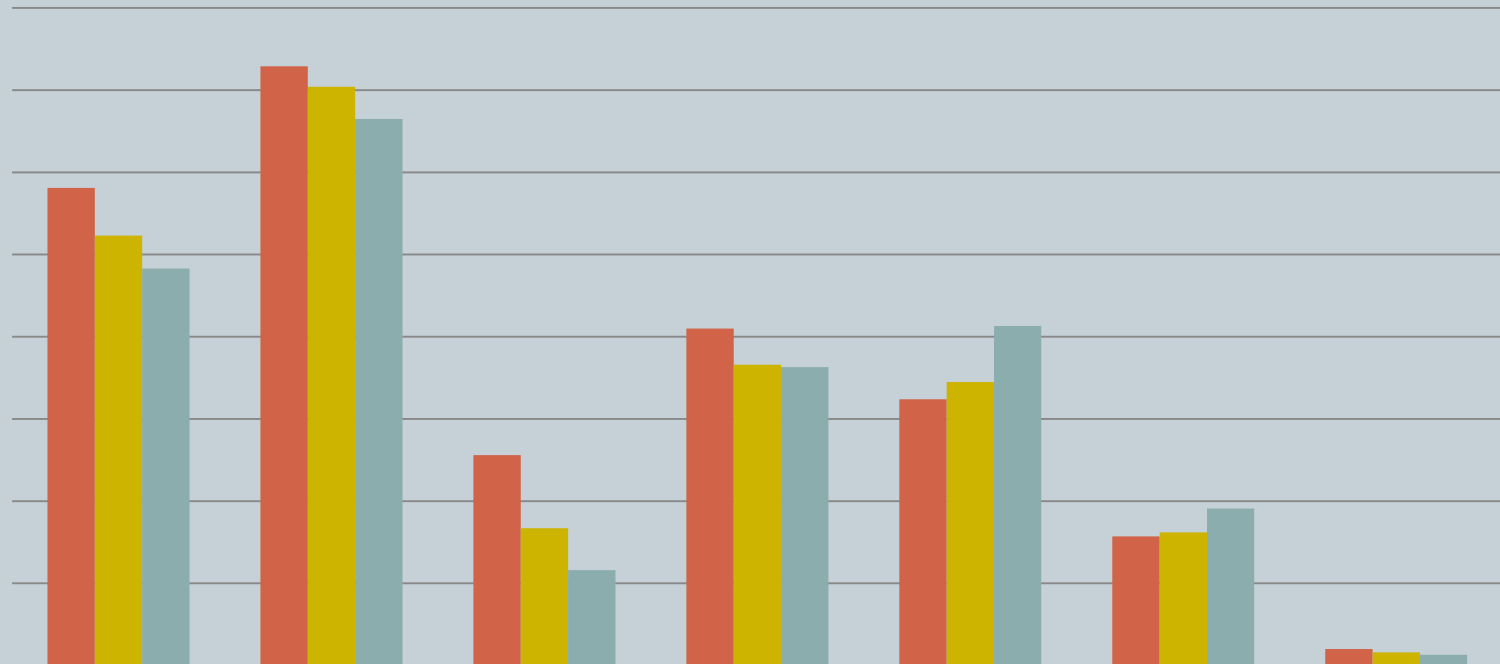


# Student association membership



	Discuss	Read	Write	charity	Donation	Boycott	Protest
■ None	45.50%	64.20%	13.00%	26.40%	30.40%	14.80%	2.30%
■ member	51.10%	67.90%	15.80%	34.40%	34.80%	16.90%	1.30%
■ enthusiast	52.60%	69.90%	17.90%	45.40%	40.80%	17.70%	1.40%

# 'climb the great fire wall'

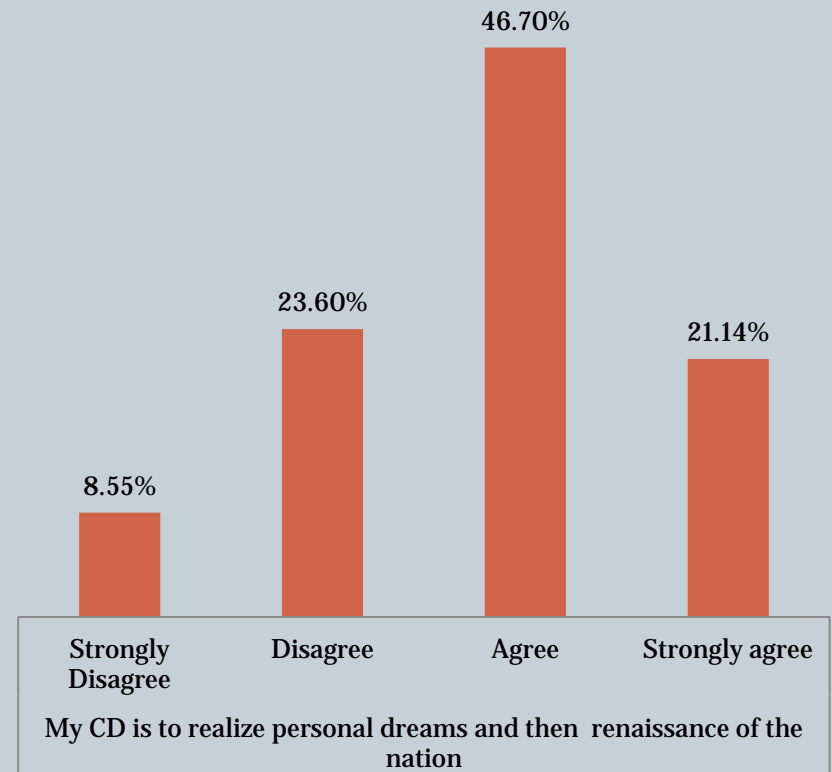
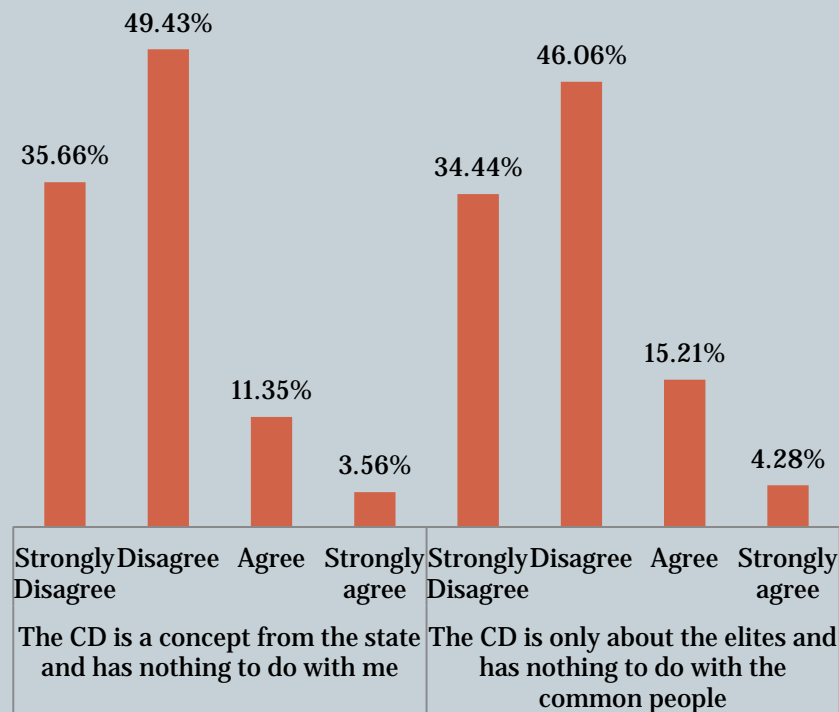


	Discuss	Read	Write	charity	Donation	Boycott	Protest
Yes	58.10%	72.90%	25.60%	41.00%	32.40%	15.70%	2.00%
No	52.30%	70.40%	16.70%	36.60%	34.50%	16.20%	1.60%
No idea	48.30%	66.50%	11.60%	36.30%	41.30%	19.10%	1.30%

# Interpretation of the 'Chinese dream' (CD): Positive individualism

85.09% don't think the CD is a concept of the state; 80.5% don't think it is merely about the elites, either.

The majority (67.84%) agrees that the priority of the CD is to realize personal dreams.



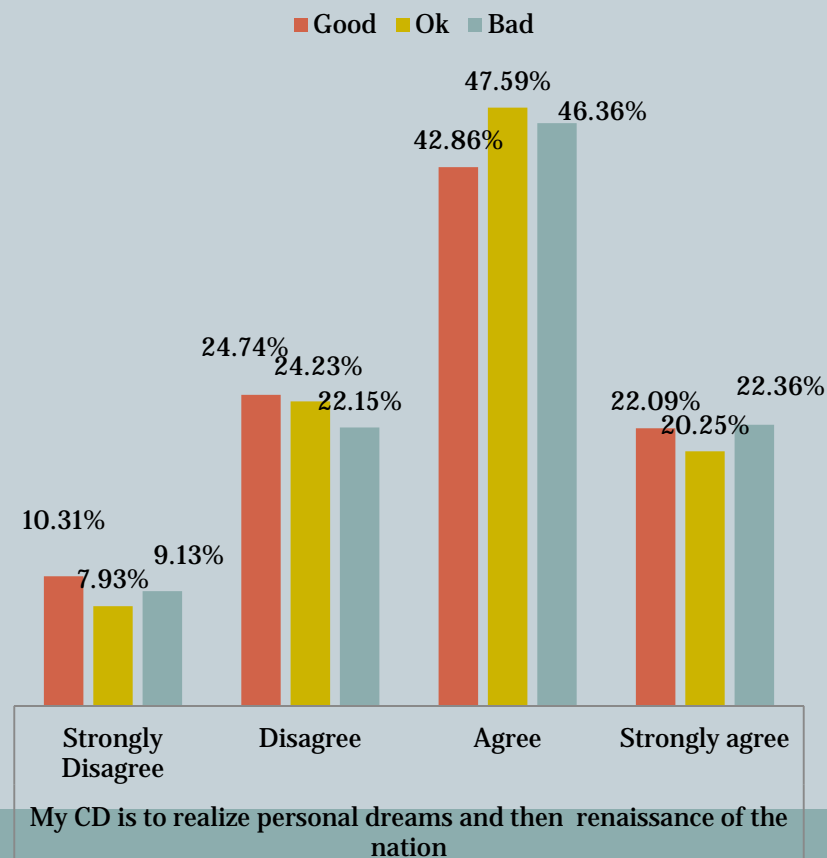
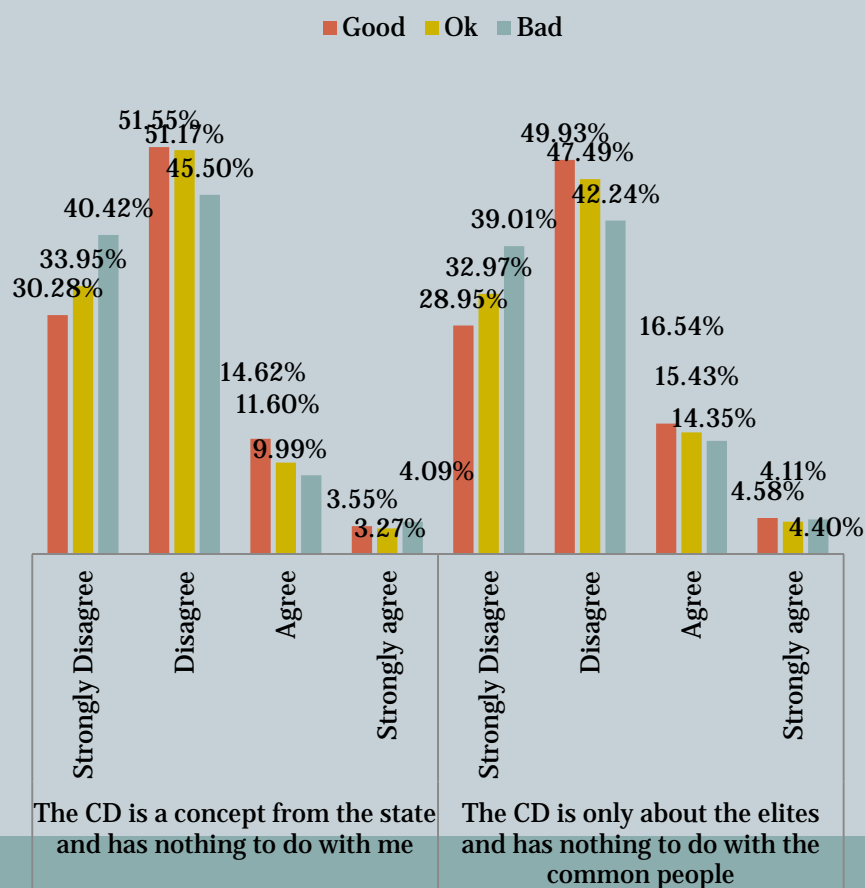


We ask the respondents to evaluate their family economic situation compared to their cohorts: Good, Ok, and Bad

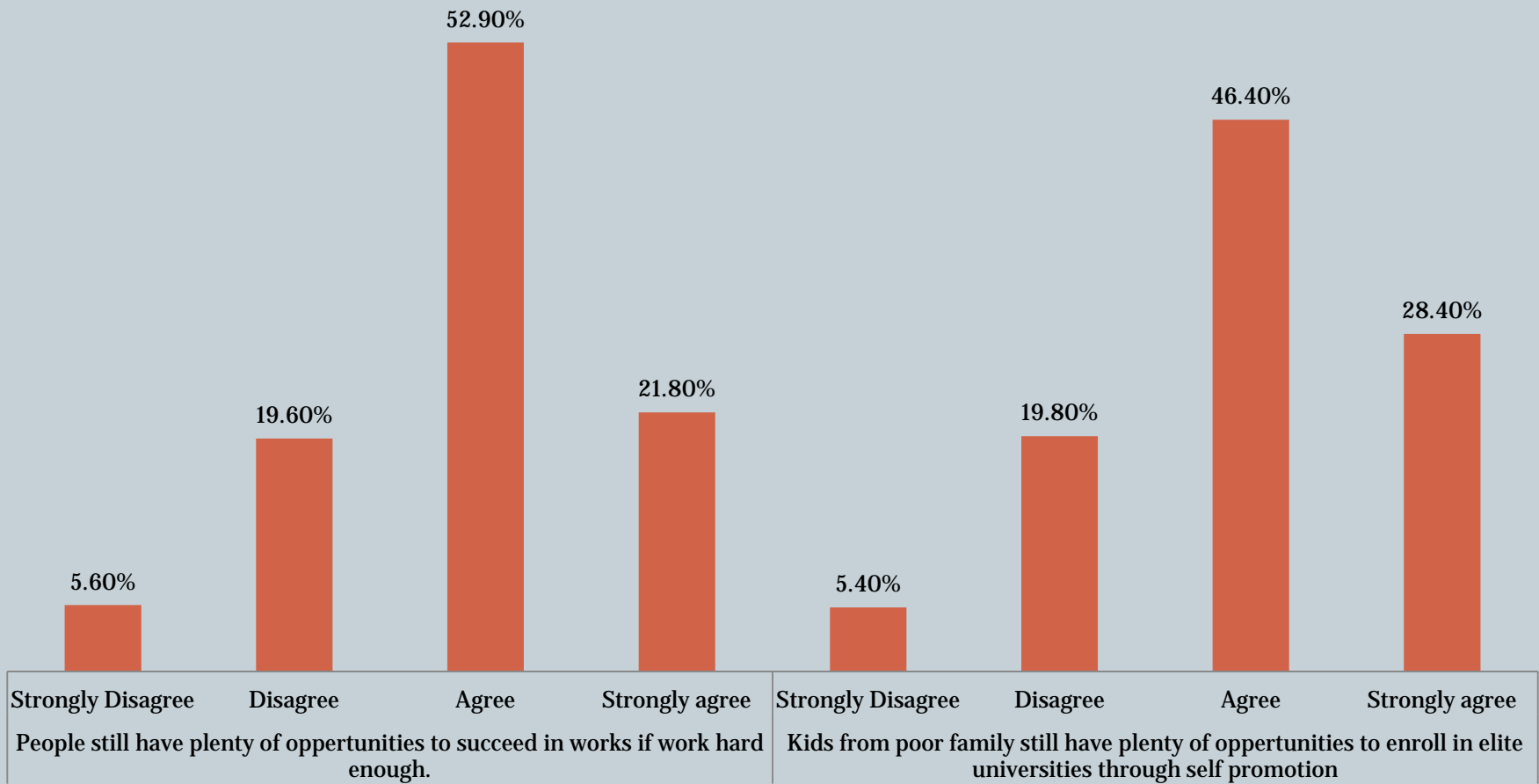
Concept of the state: Disagreed 82.35%, 85.12% , 85.92%

Merely about the elites: Disagreed 78.88%, 80.46%, 81.25%

More preference on the priority of CD as personal dream for the poor: Agreed 64.86%, 67.84%, 68.72%



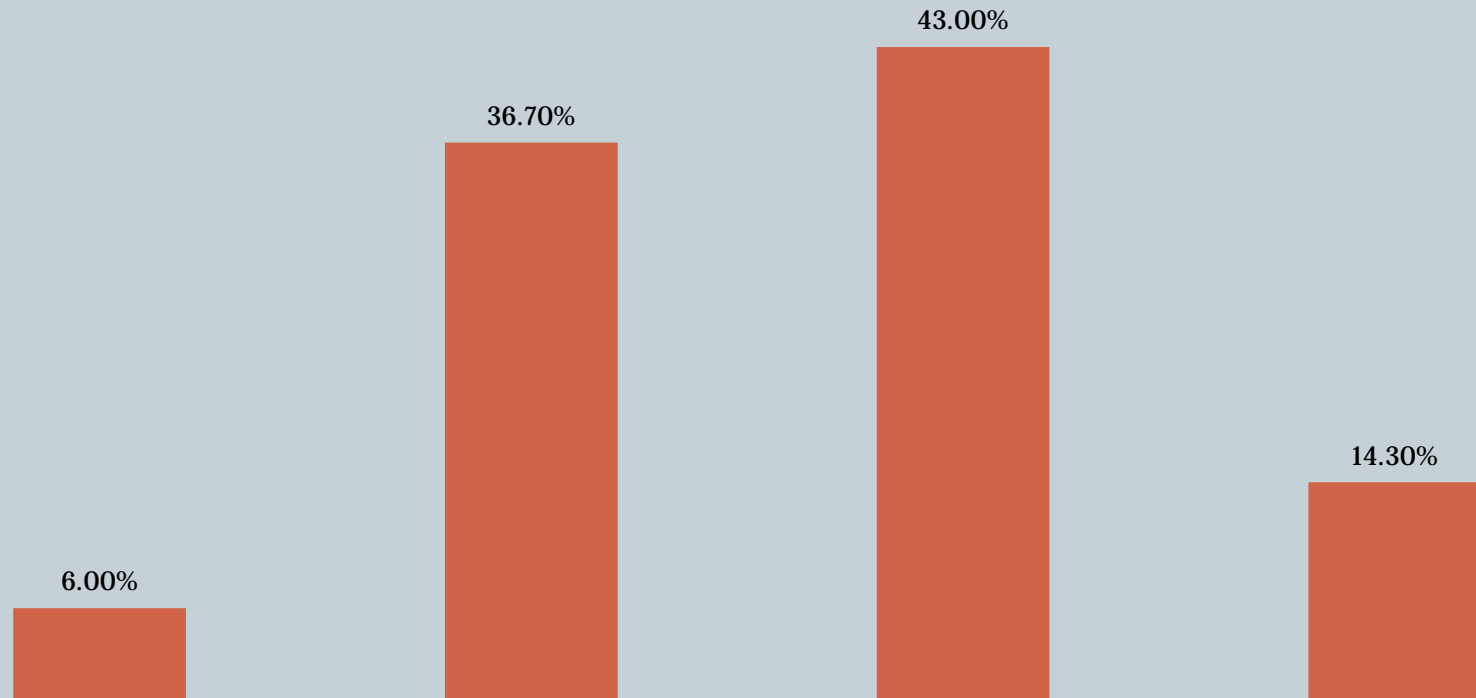
# Confidence on social mobility



# Split on the recruitment test for public servants



■ Series1



Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Agree

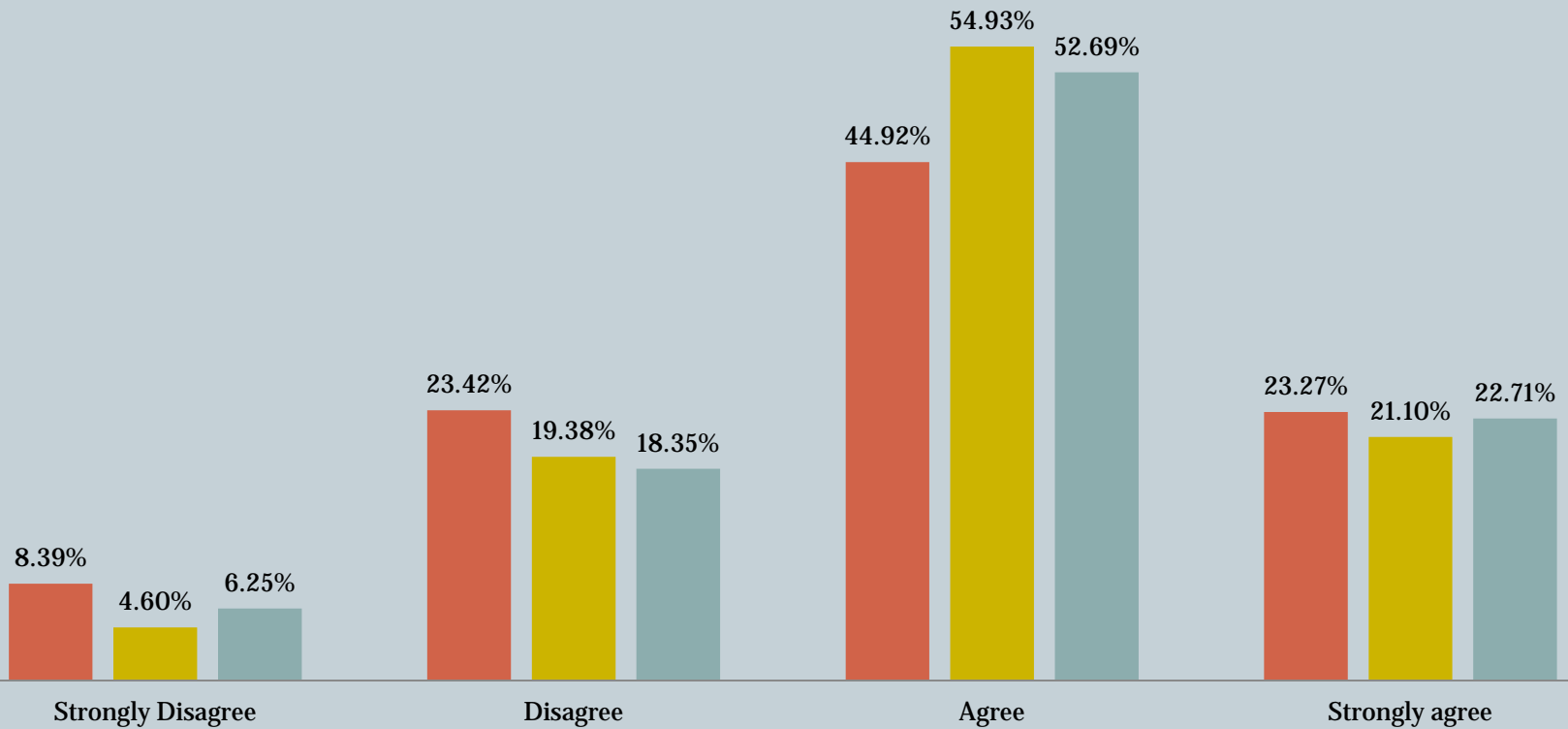
Strongly agree

People cannot succeed in test for officials without strong connections

# More optimistic for the poor on general upward mobility? Agreed 68.19%, 76.3%, 75.39%, from good, OK, to bad



Good Ok Bad



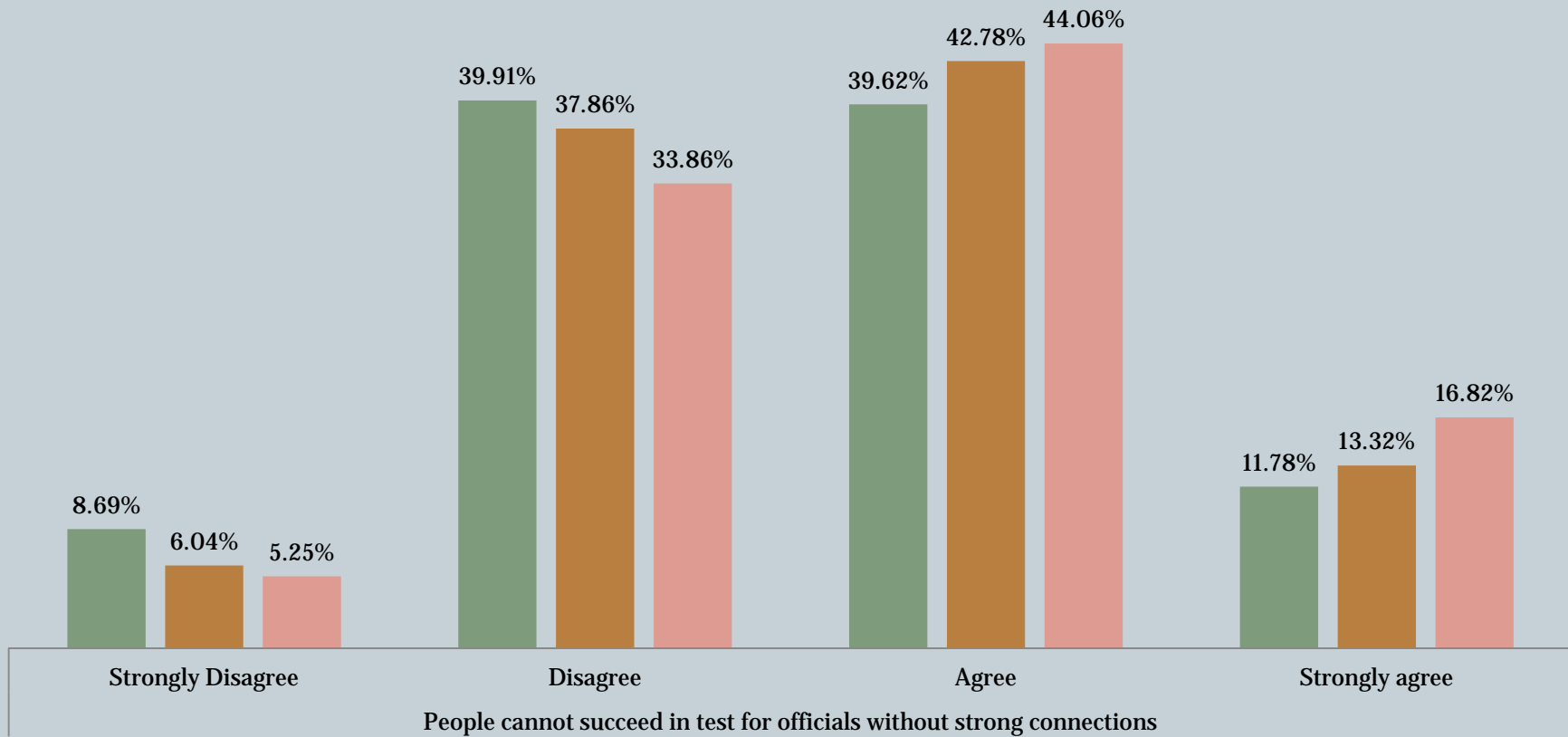
People still have plenty of oppertunities to succeed in works if work hard enough.

# More optimistic for the rich on public post test

Agreed 51.4%, 56.1%, 61.42%



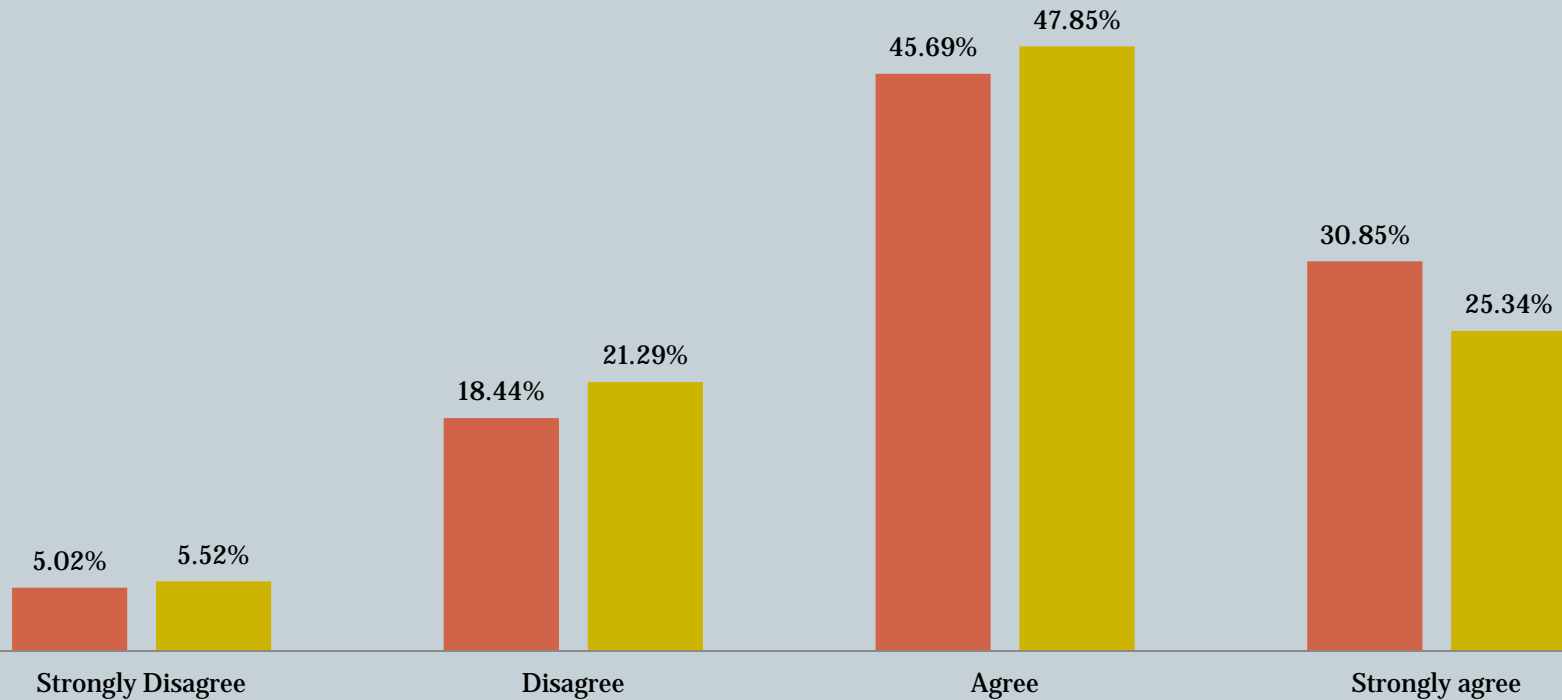
■ Good ■ Ok ■ Bad



## Students from rural (76.54%) are slightly optimistic on elite college entrance test than students from urban (73.19%)



■ rural ■ urban

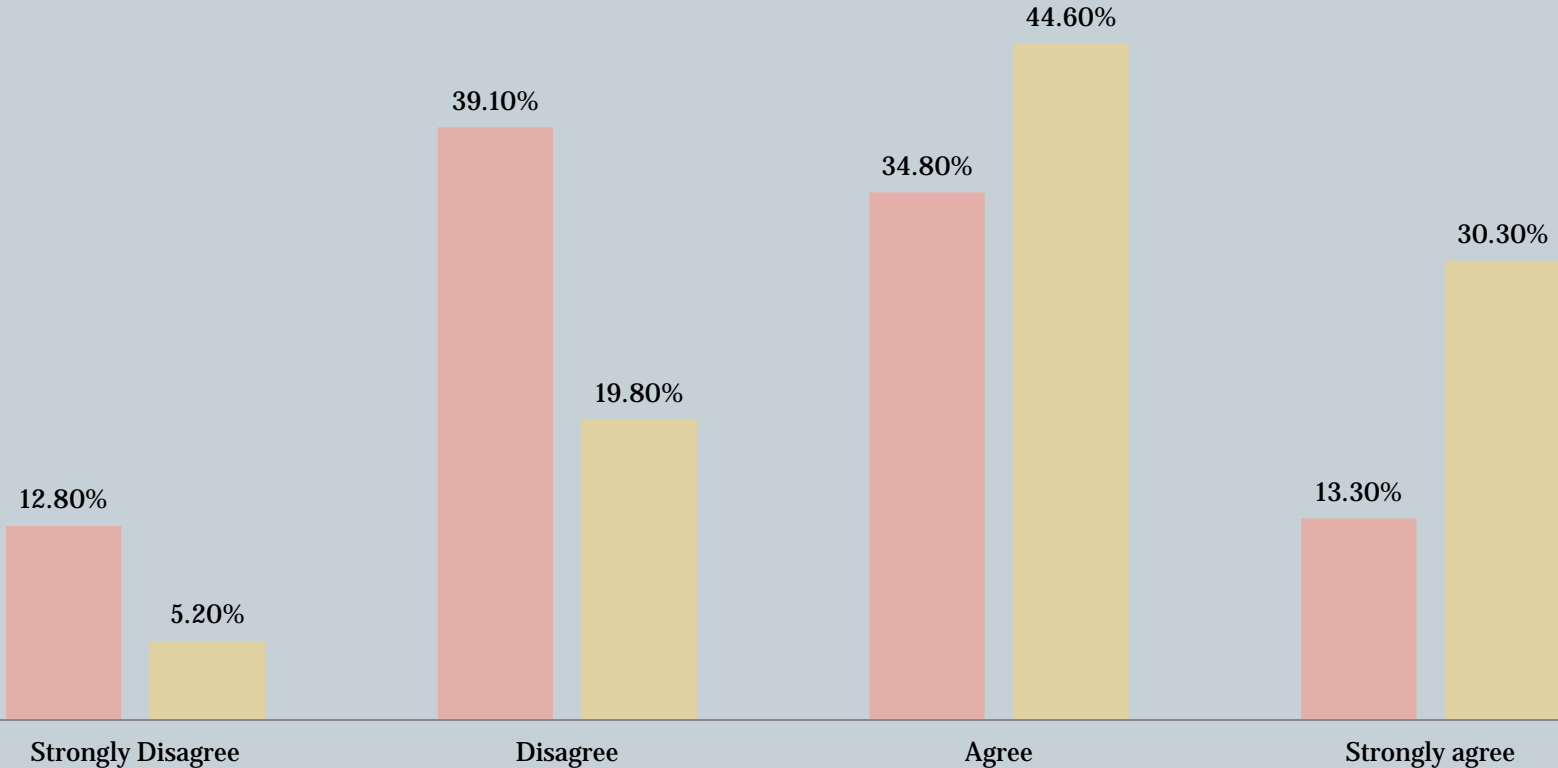


Kids from poor family still have plenty of opportunities to enroll in elite universities through self promotion.

# Gender split on gender inequality

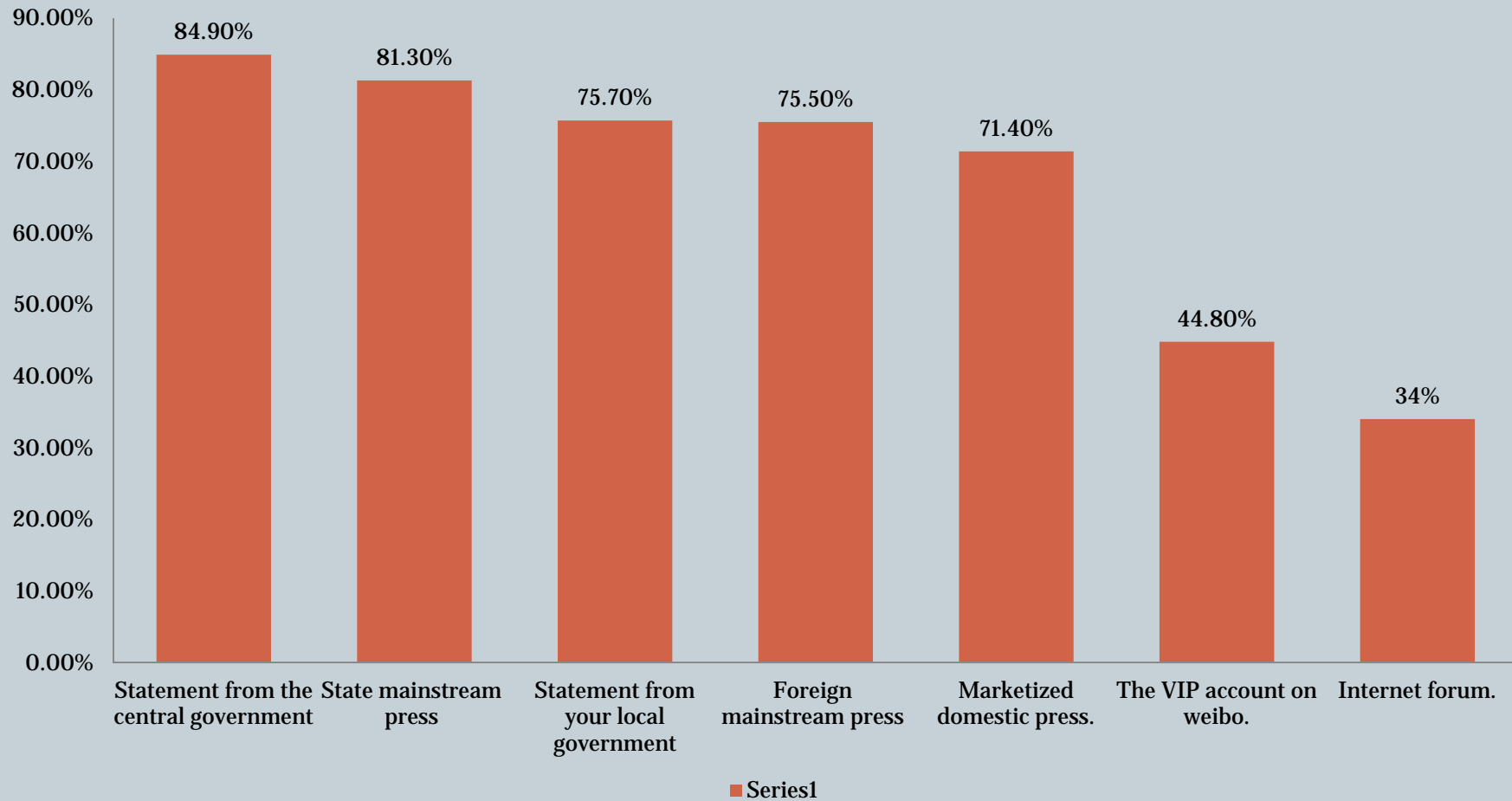


Male Female



Females have to worker harder than males to be succeed

# Trust in sociopolitical news sources

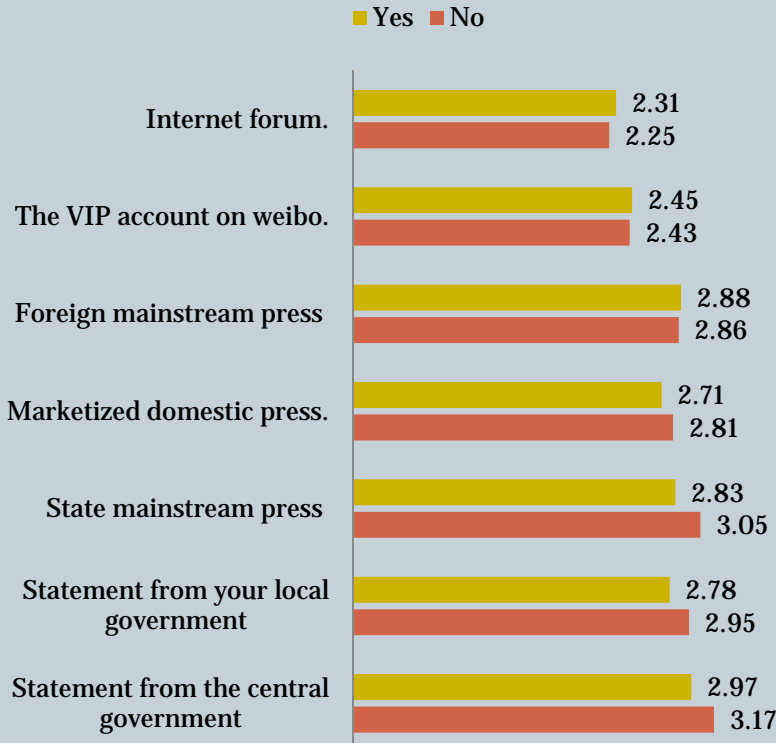
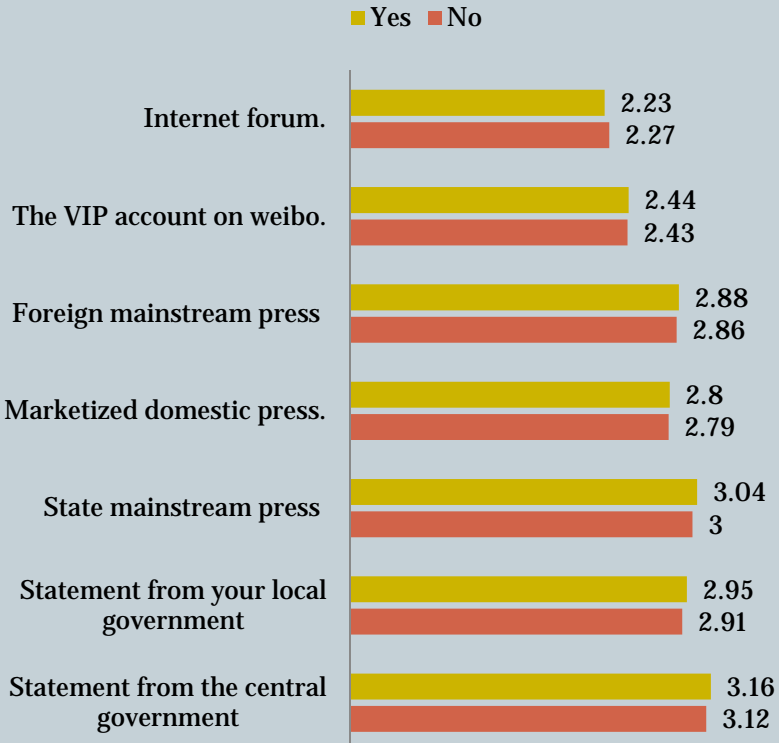






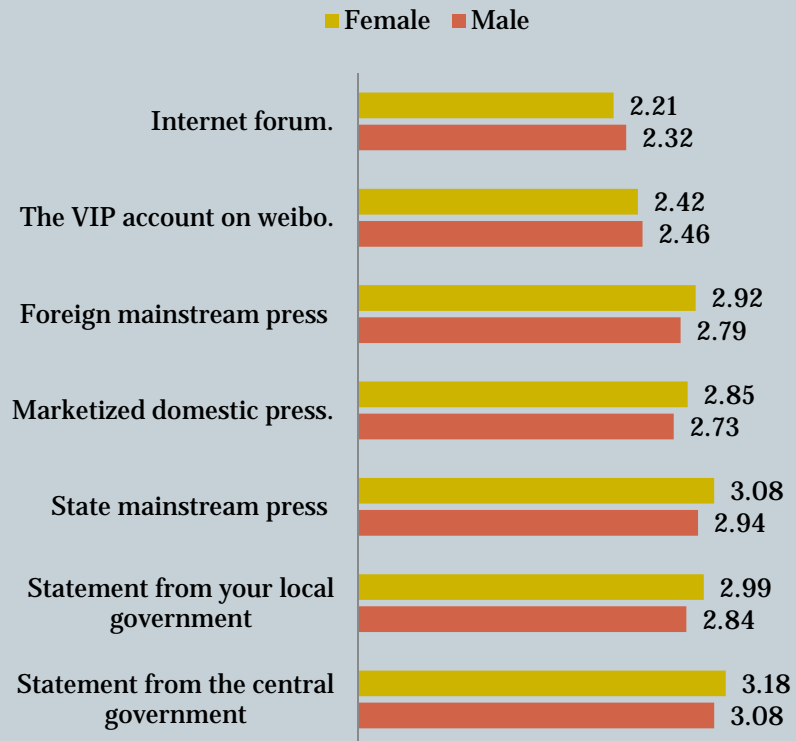
### Party members trust more except to the Internet forum.

### The great fire wall (GFW) Students who climb the GFW trust more in foreign, self-media, and the Internet



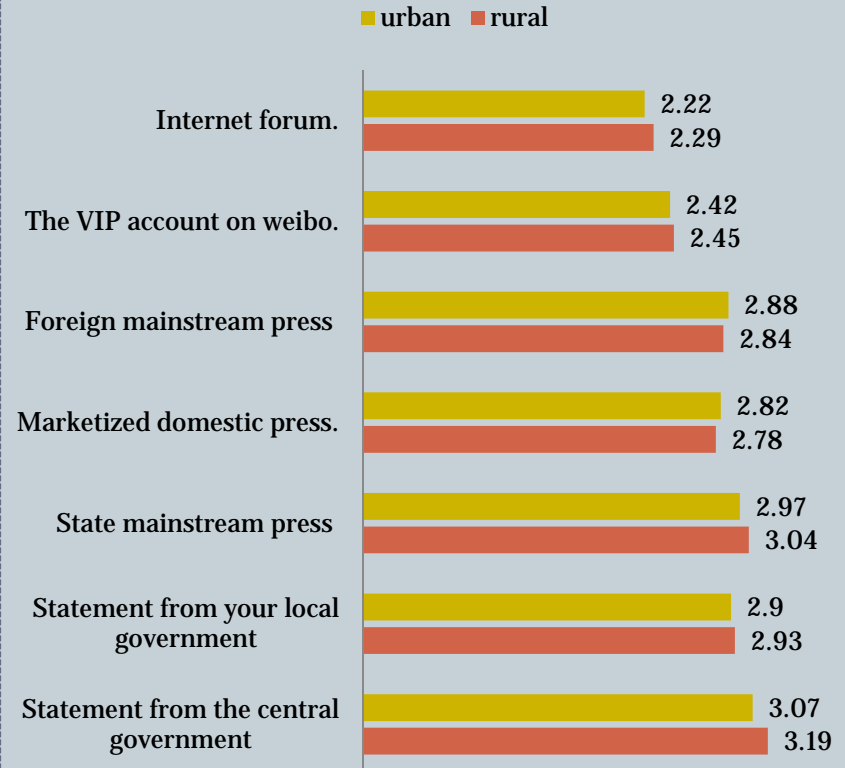
## Gender :

Female trust more than male, except on the first two.

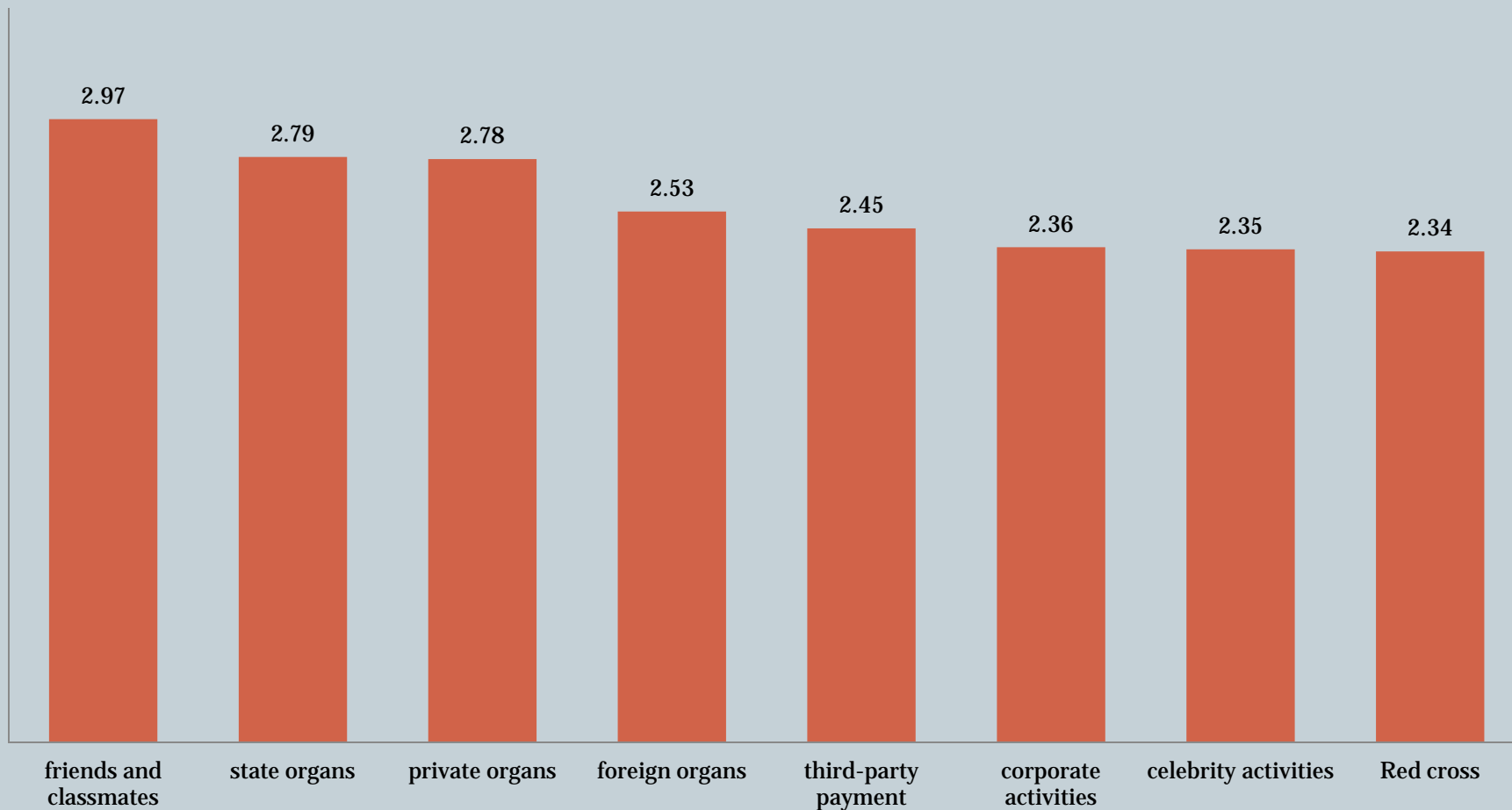


## Rural-urban :

Students from urban are more likely to trust in foreign and marketized medias.



# Trust in charity channels (mean)



# Conclusion 1



- Chinese college students' interpretation of the 'Chinese dream' is connected with their dreams/desires on personal realization.
- Most are optimistic on upward social mobility through self-promotion, while more than half are pessimistic on competition into the public posts and gender issues.
- To promote confidence in social mobility needs to create more equalities, particularly inside the state system.

## Conclusion 2



- Chinese college students are NOT apolitical, though they barely (have the chance to) participate into radical political activities like protest and demonstration.
- More than 60% read sociopolitical news, almost half discuss politics, 15% write comments, and 16% boycott products for political reasons.
- One third participate into philanthropic activities or donate voluntarily .
- Elite students prefer to talk and read, while students from junior college are more likely to act.
- Party membership might not an effective indicator in predicting political behaviors vis-à-vis other sociopolitical involvements.

## Conclusion 3



- Most students trust more in statement of government and organized public medias than in less organized self-media.
- A counter-movement on the Internet might be emerging.
- Charity channels with commercial backgrounds earn less trust than state and civic ones, while those with scandals need long time to recover.
- Internet behaviors have significant impact on trust, but socioeconomic differentiation also matters.