

Short study 2023

SOCIAL PROFESSIONS.

WHAT YOUNG MEN THINK ABOUT THEM.

YOUNG, MALE, SOCIAL? YES; BUT NOT UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

Male school students in Germany are interested in social and pedagogical topics. This was confirmed by 65.5% of the young men surveyed by IU International University of Applied Sciences.

But what is preventing them pursuing training or a degree in the social sector? According to the respondents, there are many hurdles: More than half of them (54.1%) assume low earning potential, and 45.0% do not like the working conditions. Furthermore, 49.8% of male school students think that social professions do not receive enough recognition.

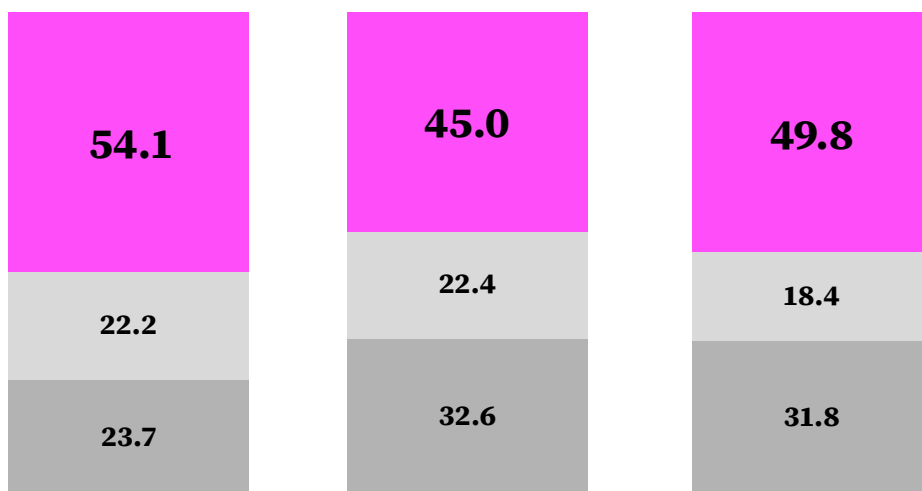
iu

INTERNATIONAL
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APPLIED SCIENCES

65.5%

of the male school students surveyed were interested in social/pedagogical topics.¹

¹Question: are you generally interested in social/pedagogical topics?



Please rate to what extent the following points would prevent you from pursuing training or a degree in the social sector. In%

- Completely agree/agree
- Partly
- Disagree/strongly disagree

The study refers to careers in the social/pedagogical sector. It excludes medical or nursing careers.

Due to rounding off, there could be marginal deviations in the results.

A FUTURE IN SOCIAL SERVICES?

NOT (LIKELY) AN OPTION FOR MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS.

51.3% of male school students would not consider or would be unlikely to consider pursuing training or a degree in the social sector. However, 21.8% could imagine choosing a profession in this field – most likely as a childcare worker, an educator or a social education worker. Around a quarter (26.8%) are unsure what they would do.

Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5 how likely you would be to consider pursuing training/a degree in the social sector. In %



You have just stated that you would consider a social career: which of these would you consider?

In %: only respondents who would or are likely to consider pursuing training/a degree in the social sector; top 7 answers



“CHILDCARE WORKER” IS THE SOCIAL PROFESSION OF CHOICE.



Although the potential is generally there and, according to the study, neither the opinion of others nor the challenging work environment pose an obstacle, many male school students would not consider a social profession. What could the reasons be? It is not that more school subjects on social topics are needed, but that many young men are lacking practical insights, for example gained from internships or work placements. One core problem is the suspension of alternative civilian service in Germany, which previously prepared young men for social and pedagogical professions. Today, a lot of men lack the opportunity to familiarise themselves with these professions.”



Prof. Dr Fabian van Essen
Professor of Inclusive and Special Education

THE CHALLENGE? IS NOT THE PROBLEM.

“This sector is too challenging for me.” – Only just over a quarter of the surveyed male school students agree with this statement. **More than half of them say that the**

challenges of the social sector would not be the reason preventing them pursuing training or a degree in social services.

Please rate to what extent the following points would prevent you from pursuing training or a degree in the social sector. In %

This sector is too challenging for me.

26.3

20.7

53.0

■ Completely agree/agree
■ Partly
■ Disagree/strongly disagree

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK? IT'S NOT REALLY AN OBSTACLE.

Social status vs. social profession?

It's not a question that the majority of young men ask themselves. Only 22.6% think that their friends wouldn't understand if they chose to pursue training or a degree in the social sector – and only 21.1% worry that other people would mock their choice of profession. Parental protest? Only 18.2% of respondents would expect it.

Please rate to what extent the following points would prevent you from pursuing training or a degree in the social sector. In %

My friends would not understand this choice.

22.6

17.9

59.5

Other people might mock my choice of training/study.

21.1

14.1

64.8

My parents would not approve of this field of training/study.

18.2

19.2

62.5

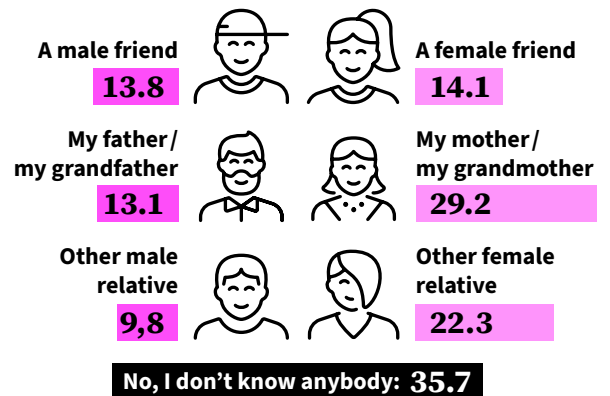
■ Completely agree/agree ■ Partly
■ Disagree/strongly disagree

MANY YOUNG MEN KNOW PEOPLE IN SOCIAL PROFESSIONS. AND MOST OF THOSE ARE FEMALE.

64.3% of respondents say they know one or more people who work in the social sector. 65.6% of these friends or relatives are female.

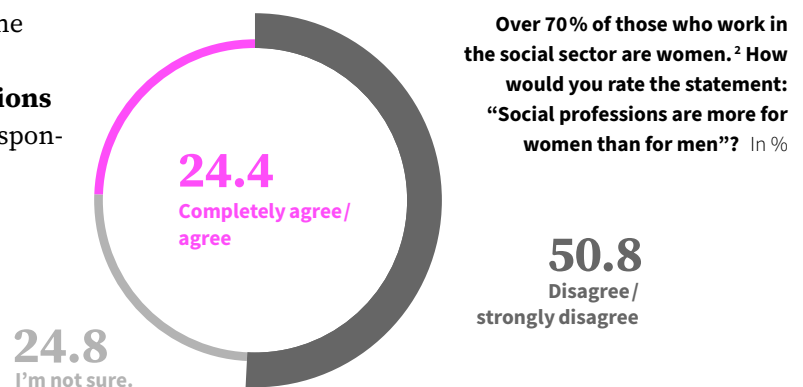
This high ratio of women to men is also confirmed by the statistics: According to the German Federal Employment Agency, more than 70% of those working in the social sector are women.²

Do you know anyone who works in the social sector? In %



CLICHÉ TEST: “SOCIAL PROFESSIONS ARE MORE FOR WOMEN.”

What effect does the high ratio of women have on the impression that male school students have of these professions? **In their opinion, are social professions more for women than for men?** Only 24.4% of respondents agree with this statement.



As the cliché test in the study shows, the high ratio of female professionals does not necessarily cause young men to think that social professions are typically for women. And despite this, children and juveniles need both male and female role models in education and social services. This applies to gender, but also other dimensions such as disability, migrant background and sexual orientation.”

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²Source: German Federal Employment Agency statistics, Berichte: Blickpunkt Arbeitsmarkt – Die Arbeitsmarktsituation von Frauen und Männern (Reports: Spotlight on the job market – the job market situation of men and women), Nuremberg, July 2022, p. 14

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The Ministry of Economics, Science and Digital Society of the State of Thuringia is responsible for the IU International University of Applied Sciences at all study locations in matters relating to higher education law.

Target group:

620 male school students

Panel: Gapfish
Survey period: 17.10.2022 – 24.10.2022

Although gender requires more than a binary classification into female and male, the data currently available for such an analysis is limited. In general, the numbers are too small to allow a statistically significant breakdown by additional variables. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, gender is considered in a binary system.

Contact us

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at: research@iu.org

You can also find us on:

