

Generational Shifts in Restrictive Gender Norms

Comparisons Across 7 Countries in 3 Continents

LinChiat Chang, Ph.D. | Hina Alavi Murtaza | Grace Wairimu Njoroge |

WAPOR 2023

Gender Norms

**are deeply seated beliefs
often taken for granted
sustain power imbalances
cause systemic inequalities
perpetuate wealth gaps
perpetuate health gaps**

Gender Norms

are not static

can shift over generations

evolve with education

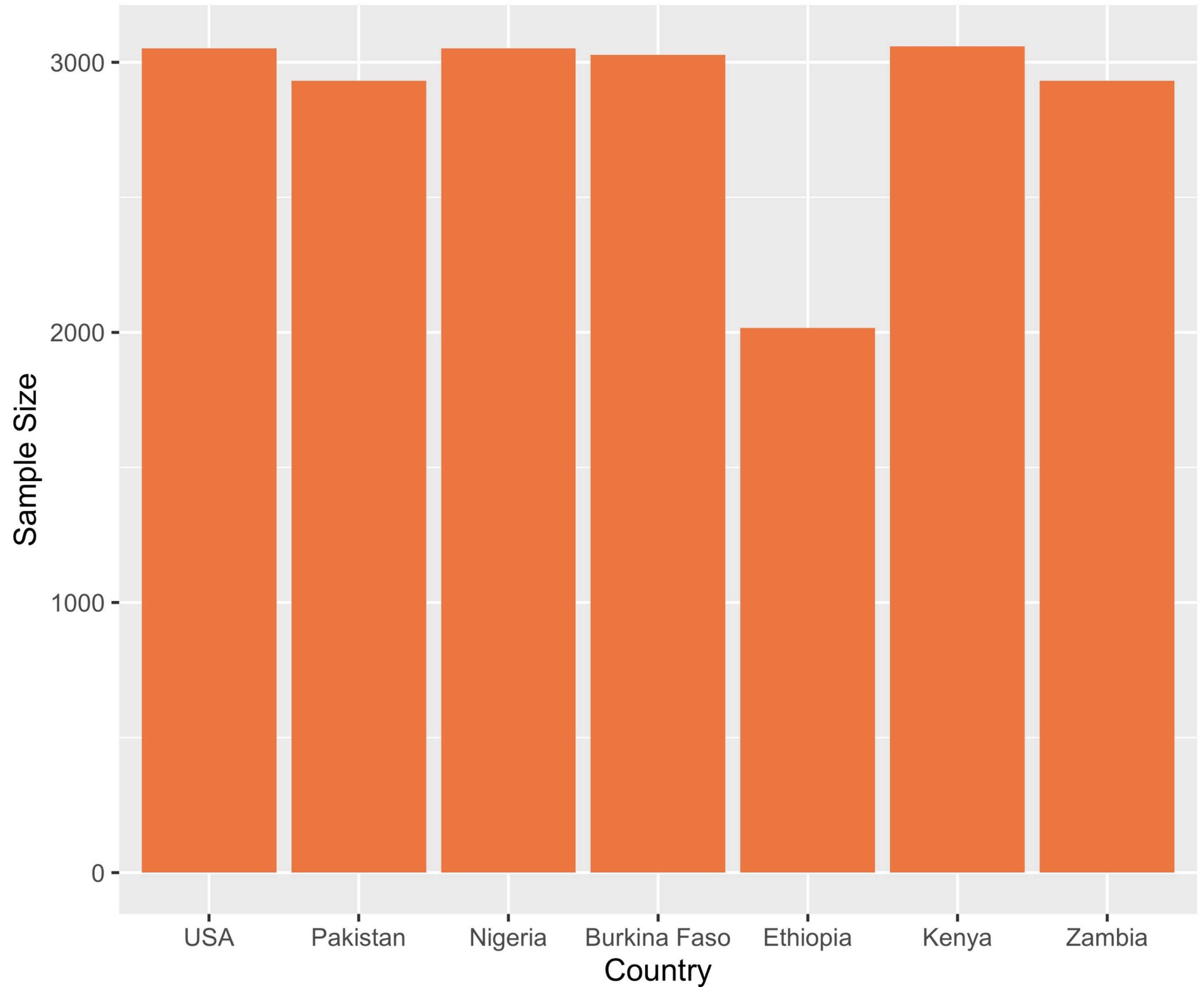
& exposure

Gender Norms measured in 2022 survey

- *A woman is not fully a woman until she becomes a mother*
- *Even if a woman makes more money than her partner, he still decides how to spend the money*
- *A woman should have sex with her partner even when she does not want to*
- *I would feel too shy or embarrassed to get contraceptives at a clinic / health center*

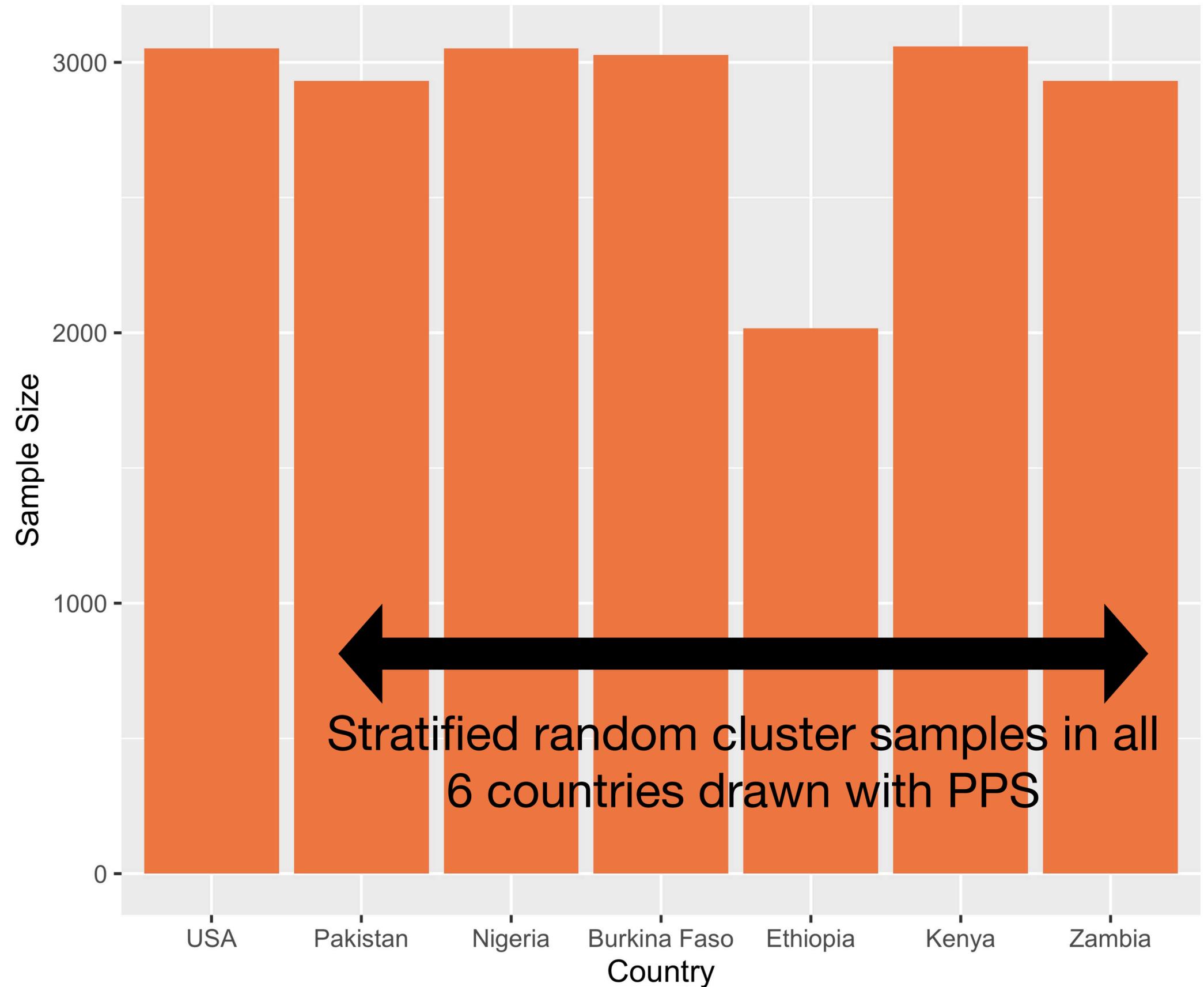
Sample Size

n~3,000 per country



Sample Size

n~3,000 per country



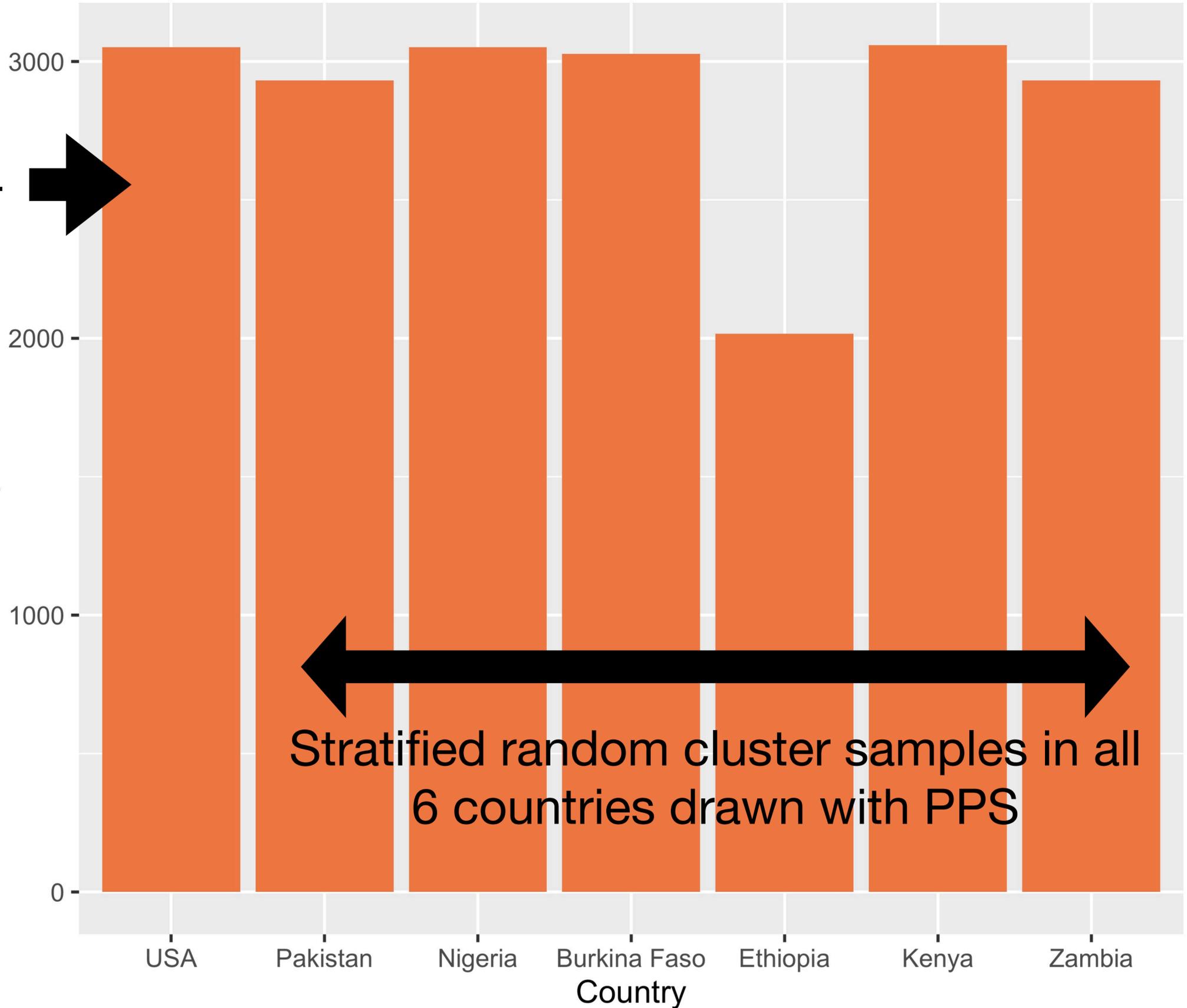
Sample Size

n~3,000 per country

Calibrated hybrid blend of probability-based and non-probability web panels



Sample Size

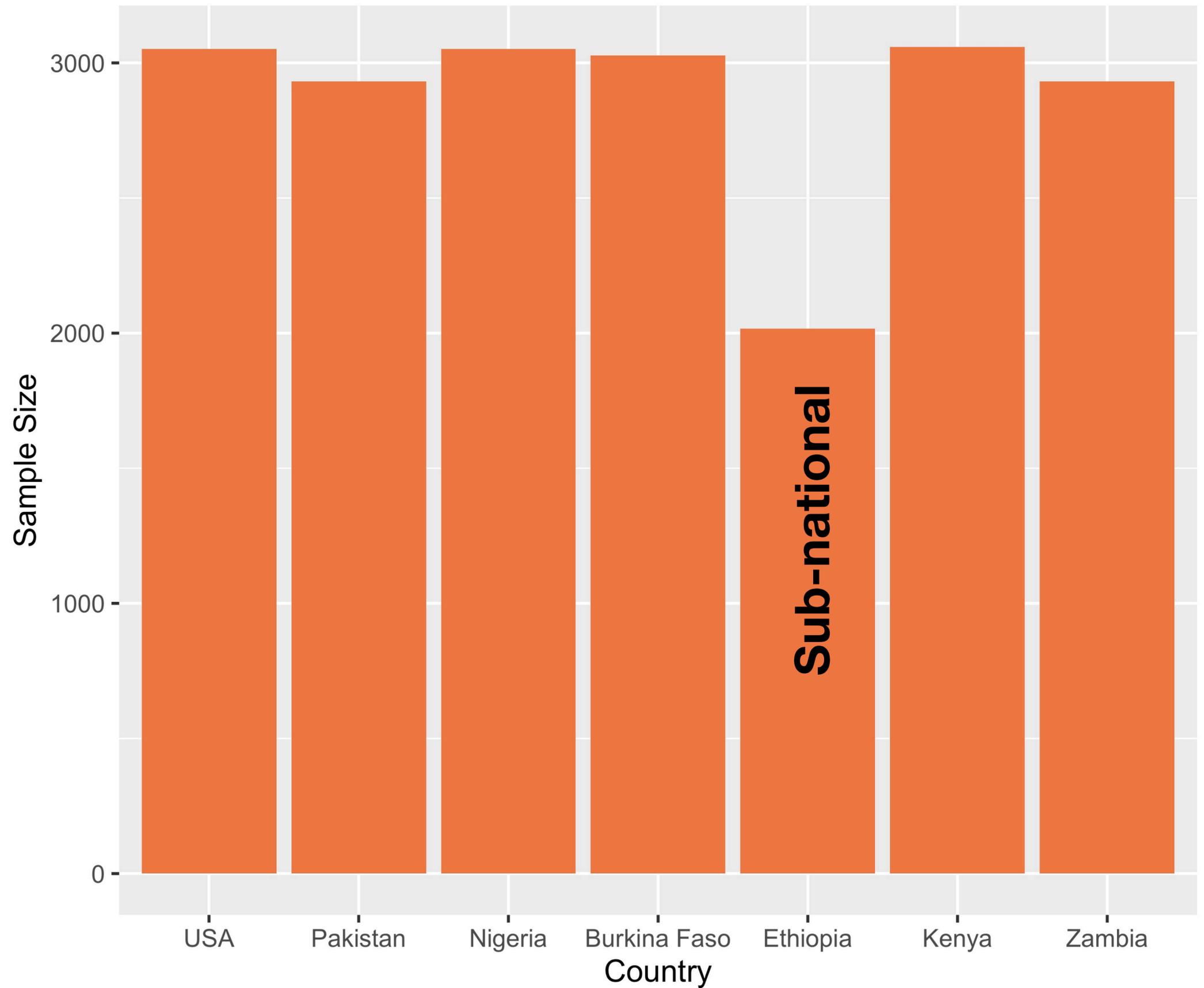


Stratified random cluster samples in all 6 countries drawn with PPS



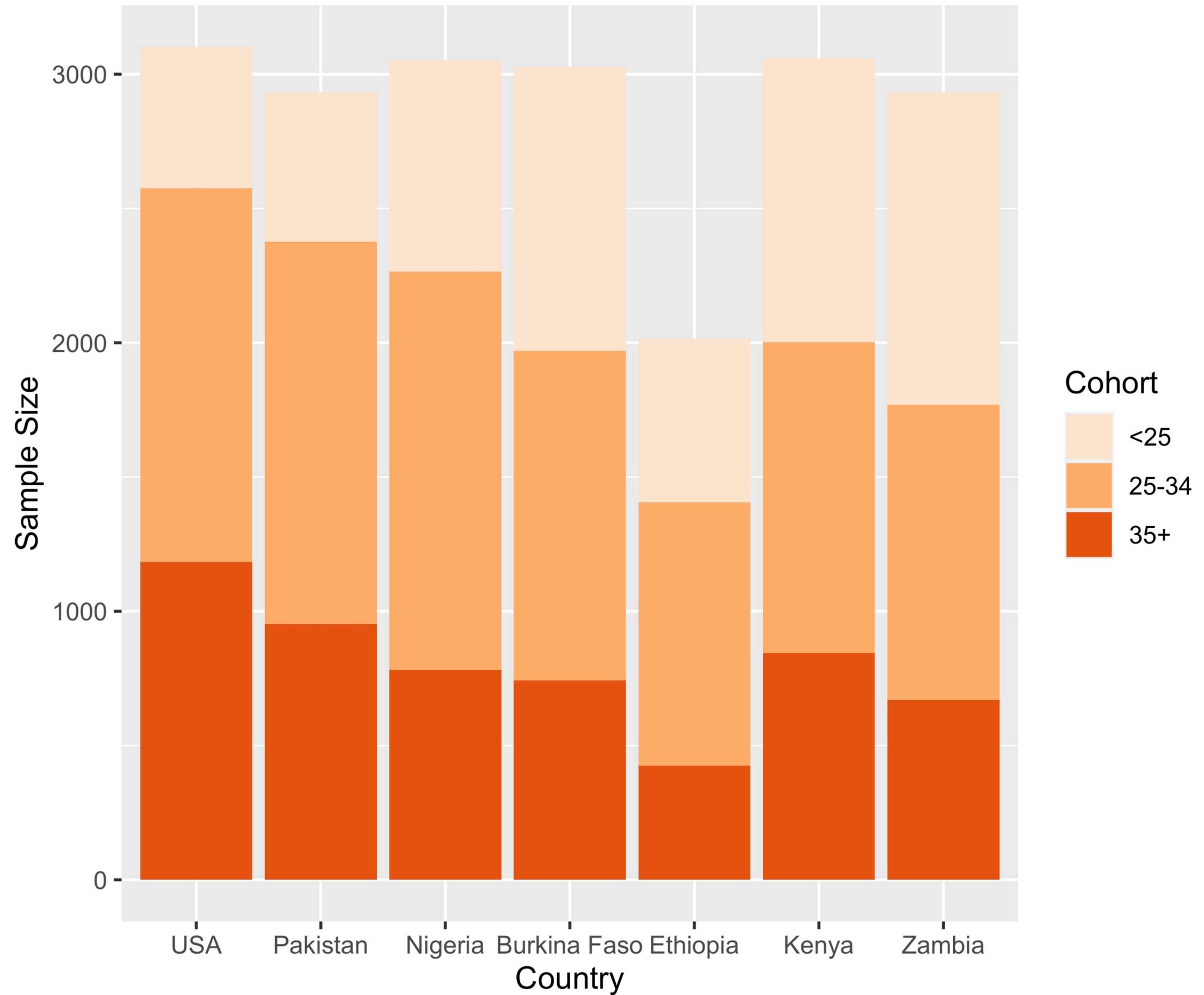
Sample Size

n~3,000 per country



Cohort Size

425-1,485 n/cohort

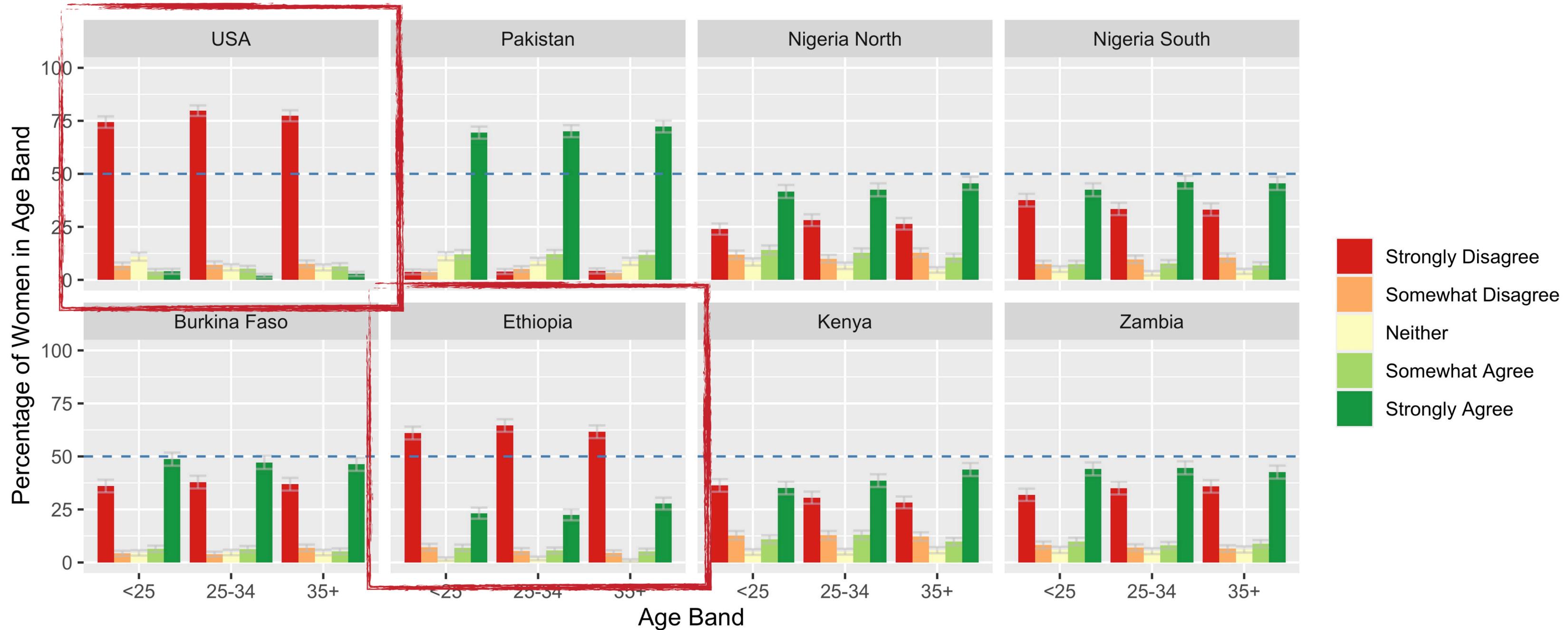


	USA	Pakistan	Nigeria	Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Kenya	Zambia
Total Population	340M	240M	224M	23M	127M - 65M -	55M	21M
Median Age	38	21	17	17	19	20	17
Fertility Rate	1.7%	3.3%	5.1%	4.6%	4.0%	3.2%	4.2%
GDP per capita	75,269	1,597	2,184	833	1,028	2,099	1,488
Adult Literacy Rate	99%	56%	60%	41%	49% - ~80% -	78%	85%
Youth Literacy Rate	99.9%	73%	75%	65%	73% - ~90% -	89%	93%
% Muslim	1%	96%	50%	59%	34%	7%	0.5%

Country Comparisons on Norm Endorsement

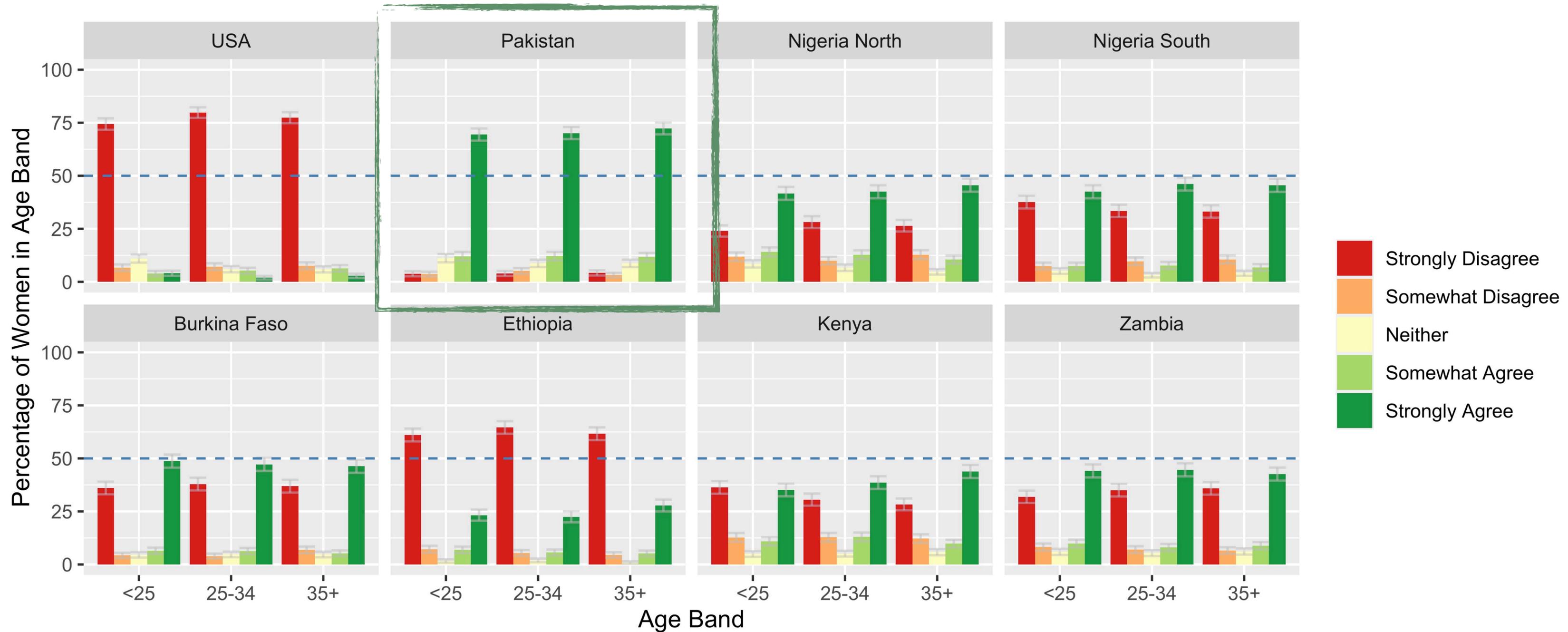
Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“A woman is not fully a woman until she becomes a mother”



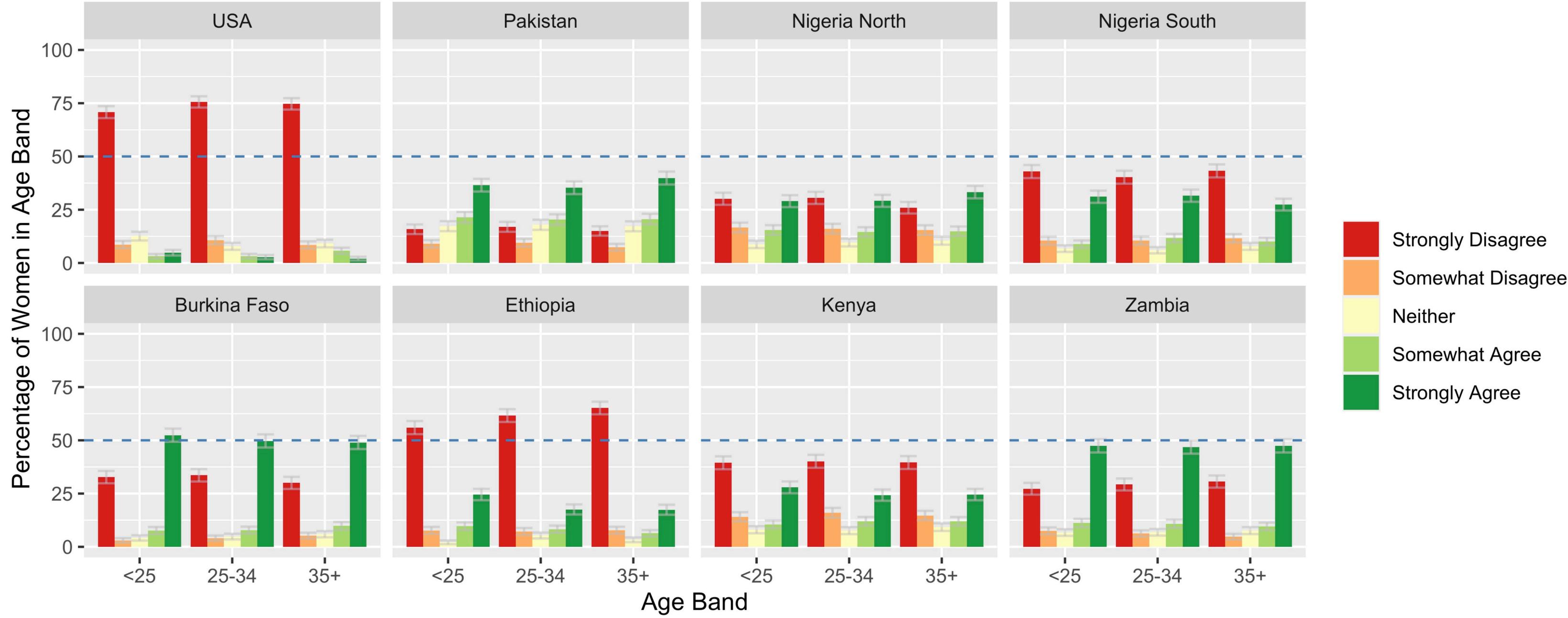
Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“A woman is not fully a woman until she becomes a mother”



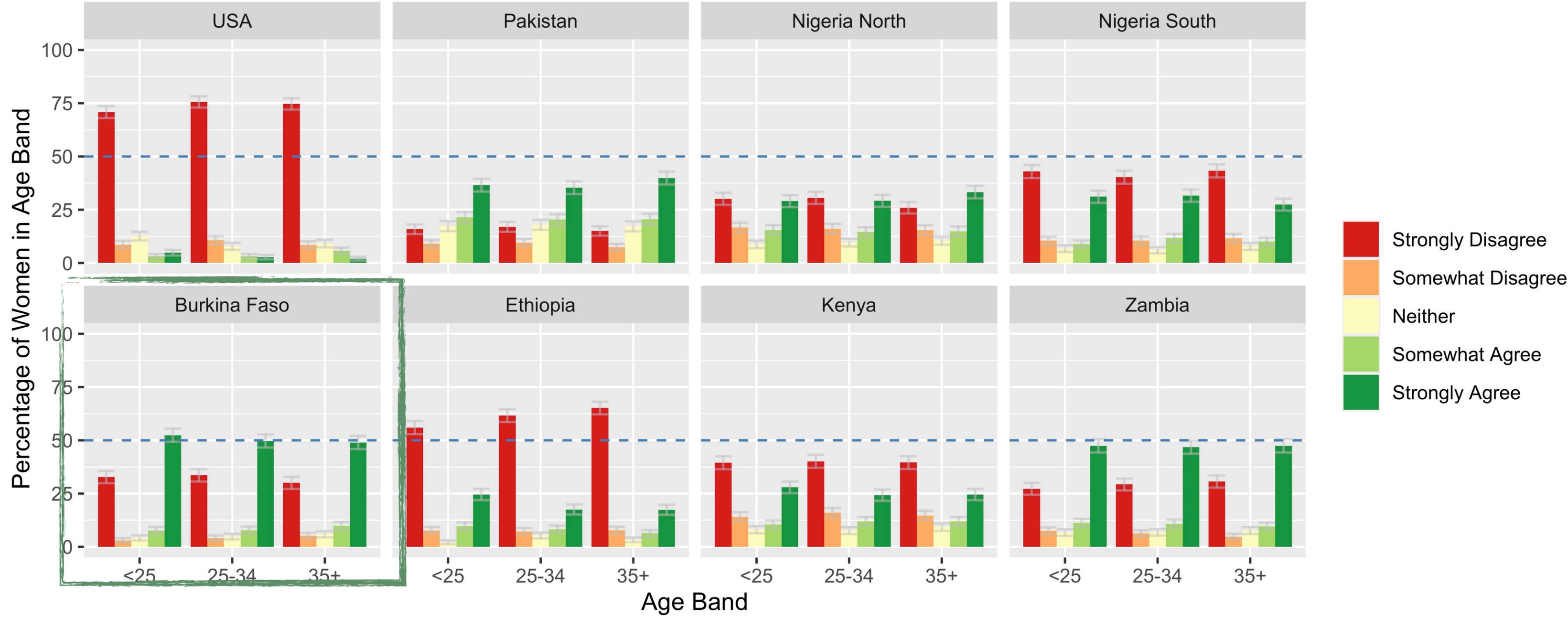
Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“Even if a woman makes more money than her partner, he still decides how to spend it”



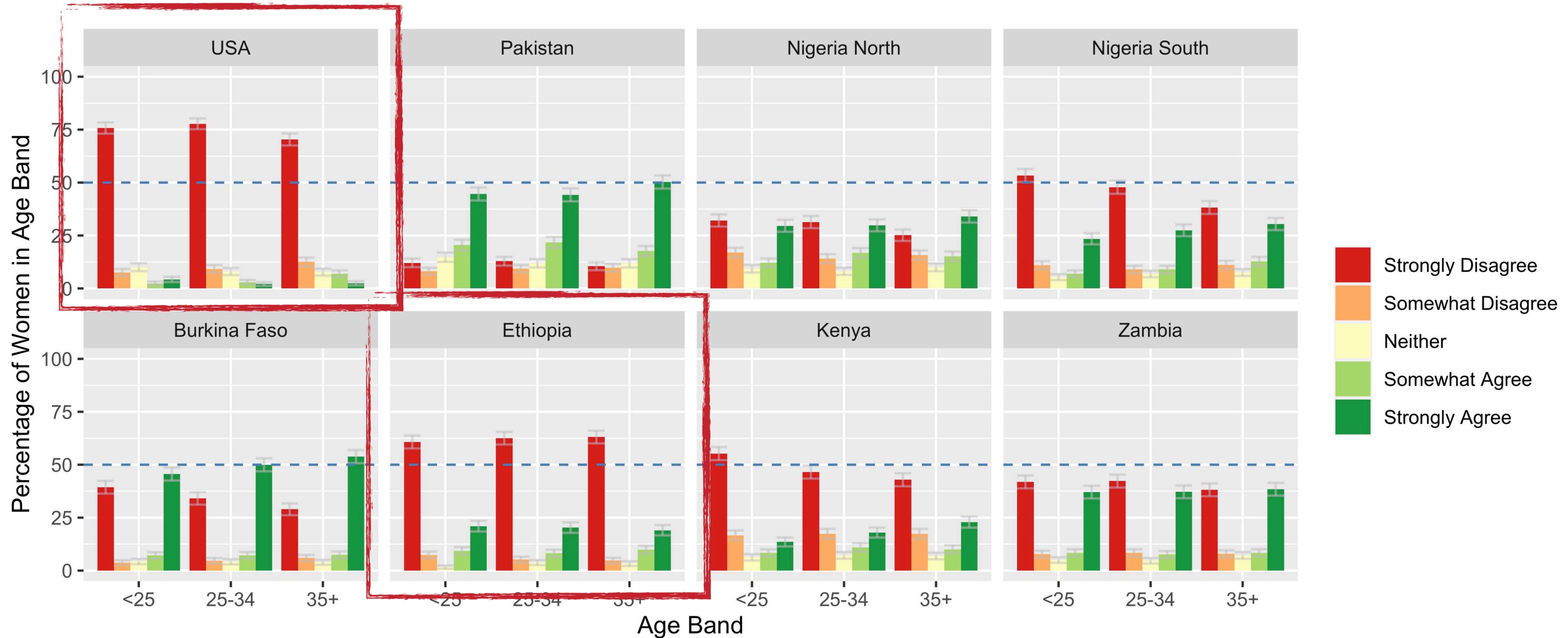
Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“Even if a woman makes more money than her partner, he still decides how to spend it”



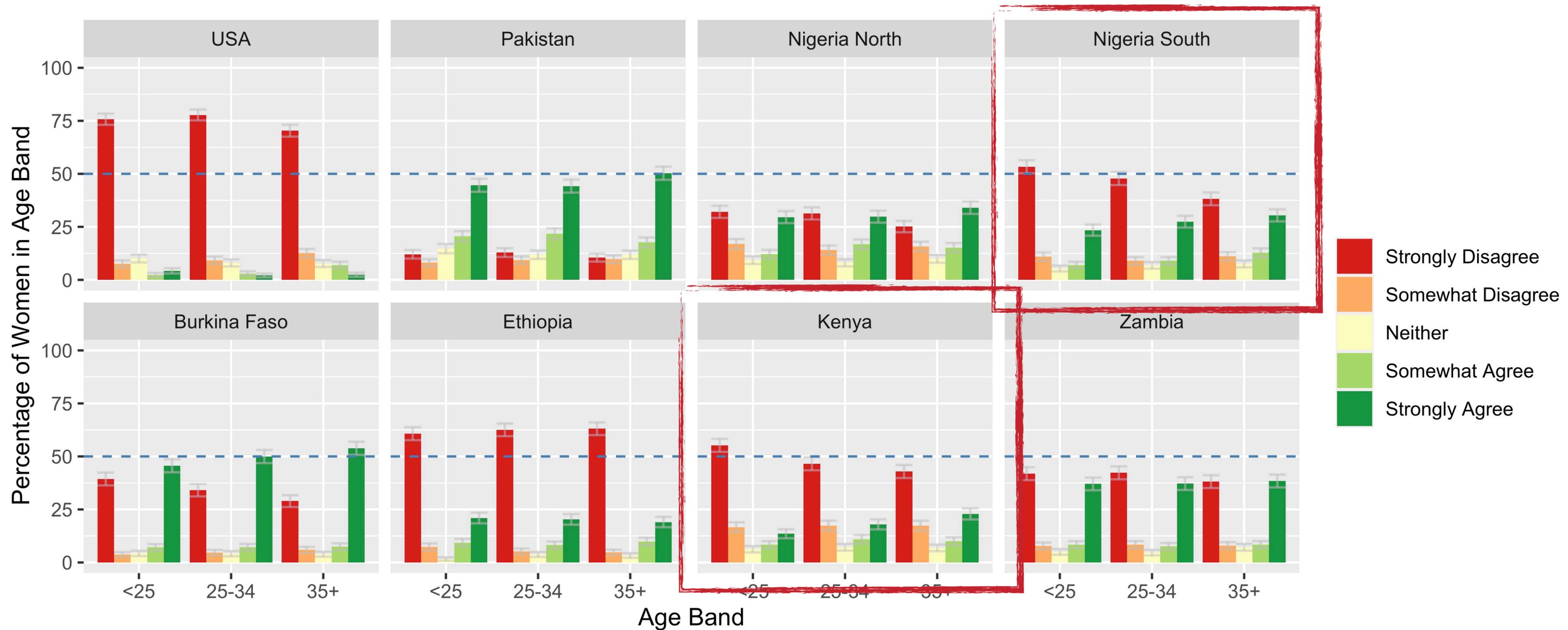
Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“A woman should have sex with her partner even when she does not want to”



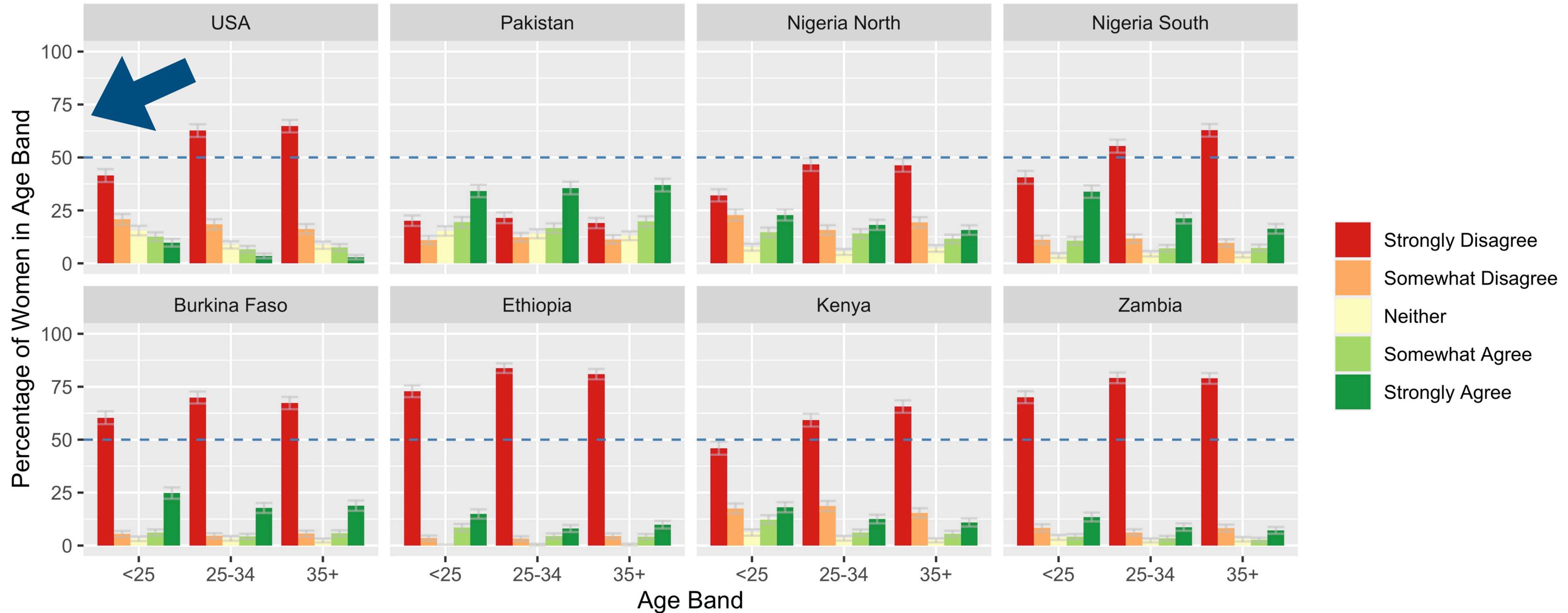
Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“A woman should have sex with her partner even when she does not want to”



Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

“I would feel too shy or embarrassed to get contraceptives at a clinic”



Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norm

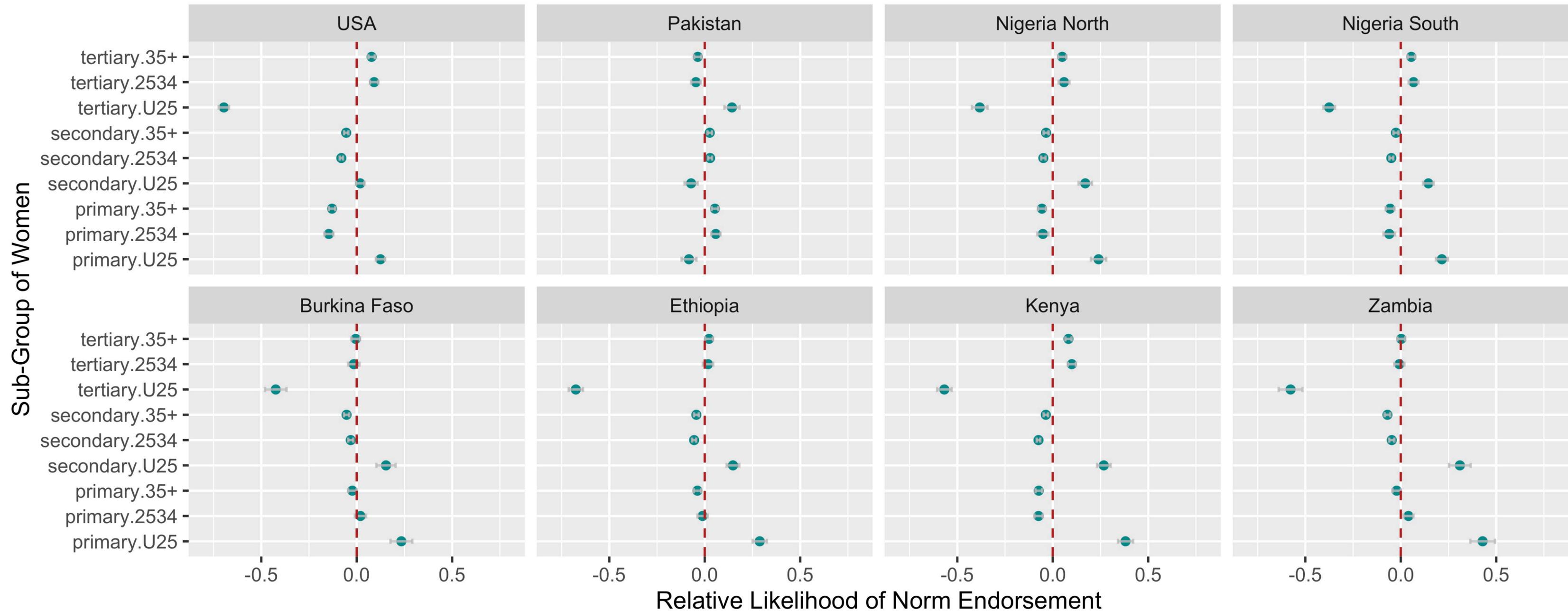
“I would feel too shy or embarrassed to get contraceptives at a clinic”



Impact of Education on Generational Shift in Norms

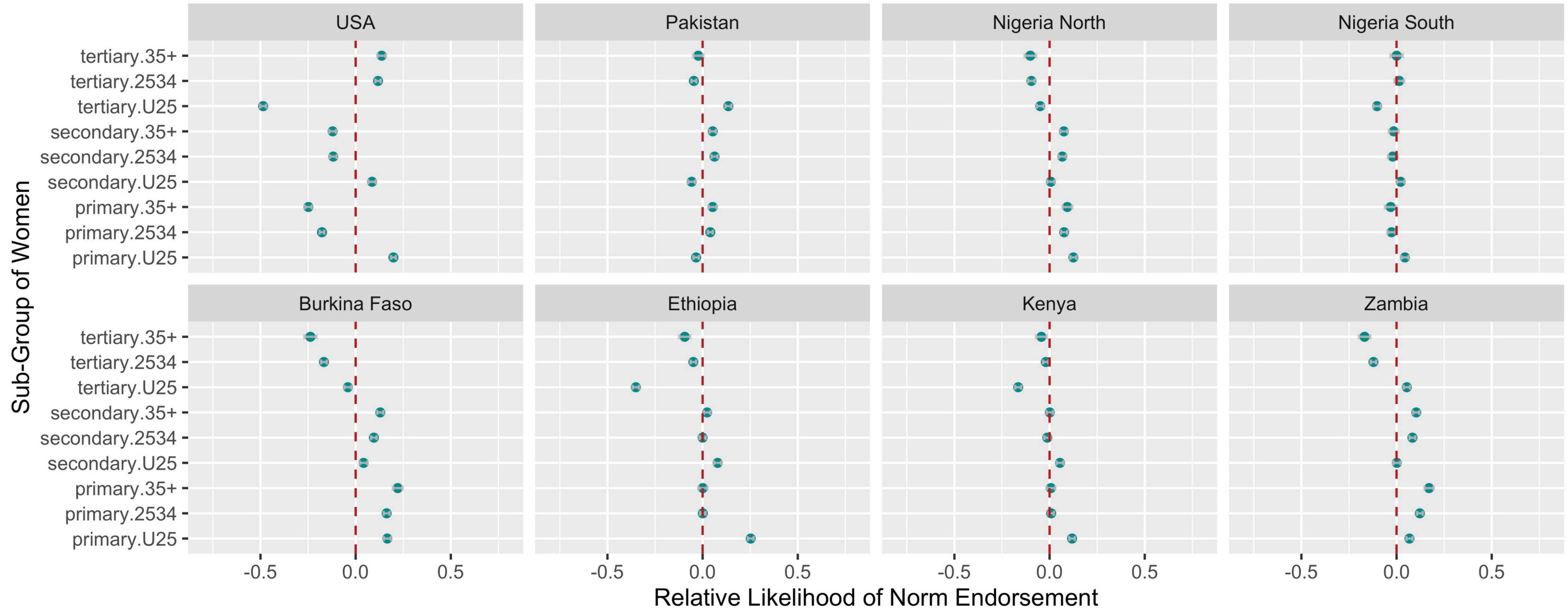
Education amplifies Generational Shift (except in Pakistan)

“A woman is not fully a woman until she becomes a mother”



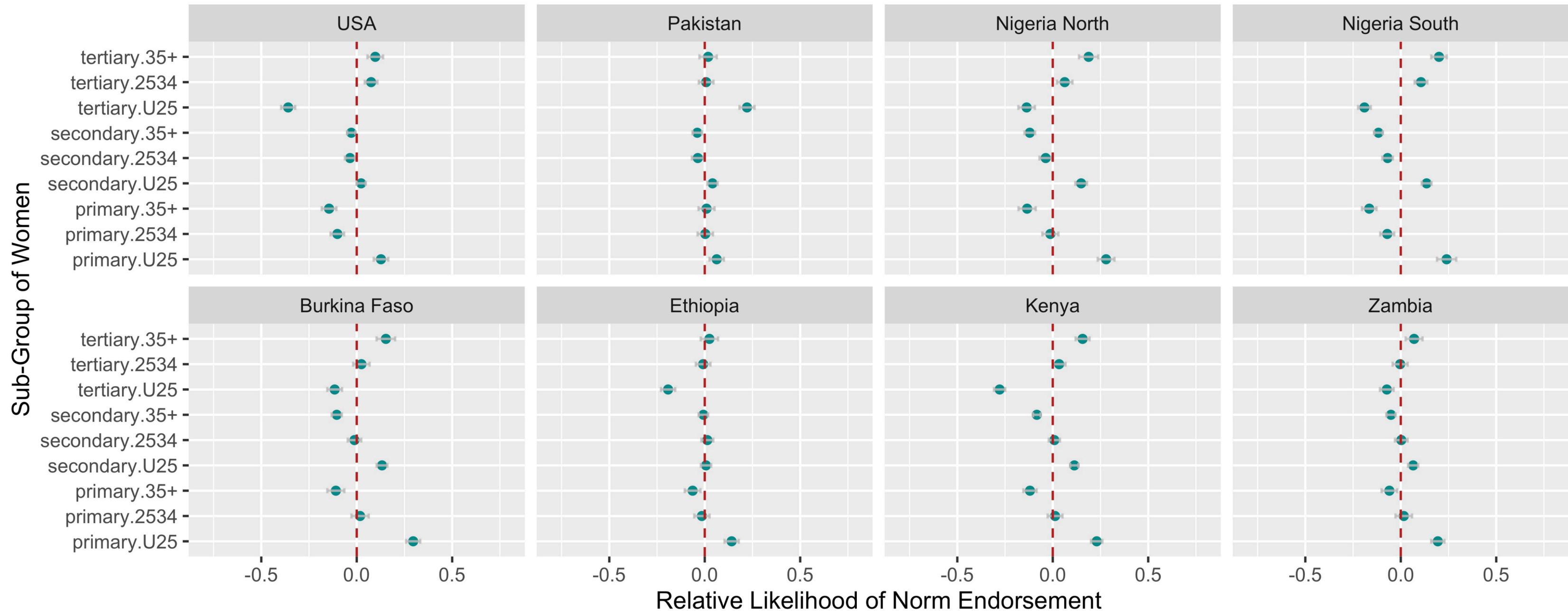
Education amplifies Generational Shift in USA & Ethiopia

“Even if a woman makes more money than her partner, he still decides how to spend it”



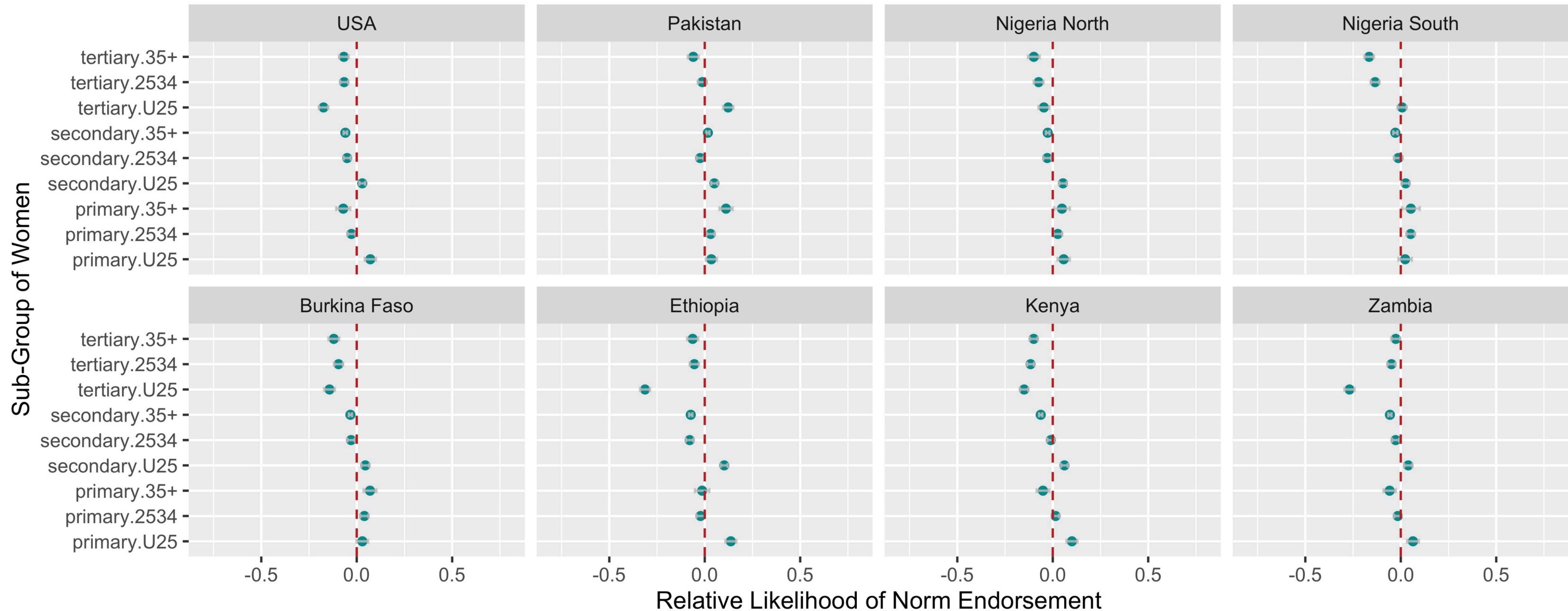
Education amplifies Generational Shift (except in Pakistan)

“A woman should have sex with her partner even when she does not want to”



Education has no strong impact in Generational Shift

“I would feel too shy or embarrassed to get contraceptives at a clinic”



Impact of Education on Generational Shifts

Summary

- Younger women with higher education are more likely to reject norm of motherhood than their peers with lower education in most countries, except Pakistan
- Younger women with least education are more likely to endorse norm of not refusing sex with partner than their peers with higher education
- Younger women with higher education do NOT feel more empowered to procure their own contraceptives

Reasons for No / Small Generational Shifts in Norms

Why Motherhood is Essential

... fertility is highly valued (in Pakistan)

... it is the same even for highly educated women

... a woman is inferior if not married, or married and have no children

... if no baby in first year of marriage, people will think there is something is wrong with the man

... she needs to be a mother to be recognized in the society

Why Women Control their Own Money

*... the woman's money is her own money - it is in the Quran**

... depends on the tribe - Kikuyu women would never give their money to their men!

... the man needs to support the woman, even when divorcing the woman

... men become lazy when women are bringing in a lot of money

* Pakistani society grossly and routinely misinterprets Islam and the Quran even though they cite it all the time. The citing of religious text out of context is more a reflection of cultural understanding of gender norms.

Why Cannot Refuse Sex

... whenever your husband ask you to come to bed, you cannot refuse it - it is guna^{}*

... men never get enough; just let him have it so he does not get out of the house

... it is a way of pleasing him, to get favors especially financial ones

... it is a duty

* Pakistani society grossly and routinely misinterprets Islam and the Quran even though they cite it all the time. The citing of religious text out of context is more a reflection of cultural understanding of gender norms.

Why Shy / Embarrassed to Get Contraception

... Family Planning is written on the door, everybody knows what you are doing when you are going there

... you are being judged, they put too many bad names on you - you are a wild woman, you have bad manners, you are not a good Christian

... if you are young and not married, you are not supposed to be doing it

... if you are young and married, you should be having babies

Conclusion

Progress is Slow

Generational Shifts in Norms are Happening but Slowly...

Endorsement/Rejection of Restrictive Gender Norms

Summary

- Younger women are more likely to reject restrictive gender norms than older women in most countries
- Younger women with higher education are more likely to reject restrictive gender norms than their peers with lower education in most countries
- Power to refuse sex still limited by deeply ingrained norms often attributed to religion / tradition and power imbalances
- Power to obtain contraception still limited by strong stigma and social disapproval

The End