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Respect Learned or Earned: A Misinterpretation Between Generations

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RESPECT: Learned or Earned

A Misinterpretation between Generations

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Abstract



Respect, whether viewed as a value by some or a specific point of reference by others, causes one to wonder whether it is a learned behavior or detail that one earns. In review of this topic and asking groups of individuals from multiple generational eras, the results vary as to whether respect can be taught or even deserved based upon one's behaviors and actions.

Many youth of today, do not take the 'view of having respect for others' serious enough to know that it has been taught, it can be taught, and should remain a generational life lesson. Youth have lost respect for their peers, adults, family members, and even themselves, so we need to find ways to help them grasp and reconnect the respect concept which must begin internally in order to produce a generational effect.

Why is it Important?

When we are respected we gain the voluntary cooperation of people. We don't have to use as much of our energy and resources trying to get our needs met. When people respect one another there are fewer conflicts. In summary, it is for both evolutionary and practical reasons that respect is important, and also why we simply feel better when we are respected.

Showing and Earning Respect

Is respect learned or earned?

If learned:

- ☐ Who taught the value of respect and concept of being respectful to others?
- ☐ At what age were you taught to be respectful?
- ☐ Was it taught in the home, school, church, or another outside group?

If earned:

- ☐ What approach does one take to earn the respect of others?
- ☐ Why is it necessary to feel respected?

Showing and Earning Respect is a Process

For this process to work efficiently several things are required. For example:

1. Each person must be aware of their own feelings; i.e. know how they feel.
2. They must be able to express their feelings.
3. They must know how to listen non-judgmentally & non-defensively.
4. They must know how to validate feelings.
5. They must believe that feelings have value.
6. They must believe that feelings matter.

Respect seems to be like a boomerang in the sense that you must send it out before it will come back to you. Respect cannot be demanded or forced, though sometimes people mistakenly believe that it can

(Equi.org, 2014)

Americans don't often agree on many things, but when it comes to respect, people say there's less of it lately. Nearly eight in ten Americans (79 percent) say a lack of respect and courtesy is a serious national problem, and most people say it's getting worse (60 percent). Seventy-three percent say we used to treat one another with greater respect. When asked if they felt that way because of "a false nostalgia for a past that never existed," only 21 percent said yes. The rest of us think that Americans' attitude of disrespect really is worse these days.

Rudeness in America

- 79% say lack of respect is a serious problem.
- 60% percent say rude and selfish behavior is increasing.
- 88% percent sometimes encounter rude people.
- 62% percent are bothered by rude behavior.

(www.today.com, 2014)

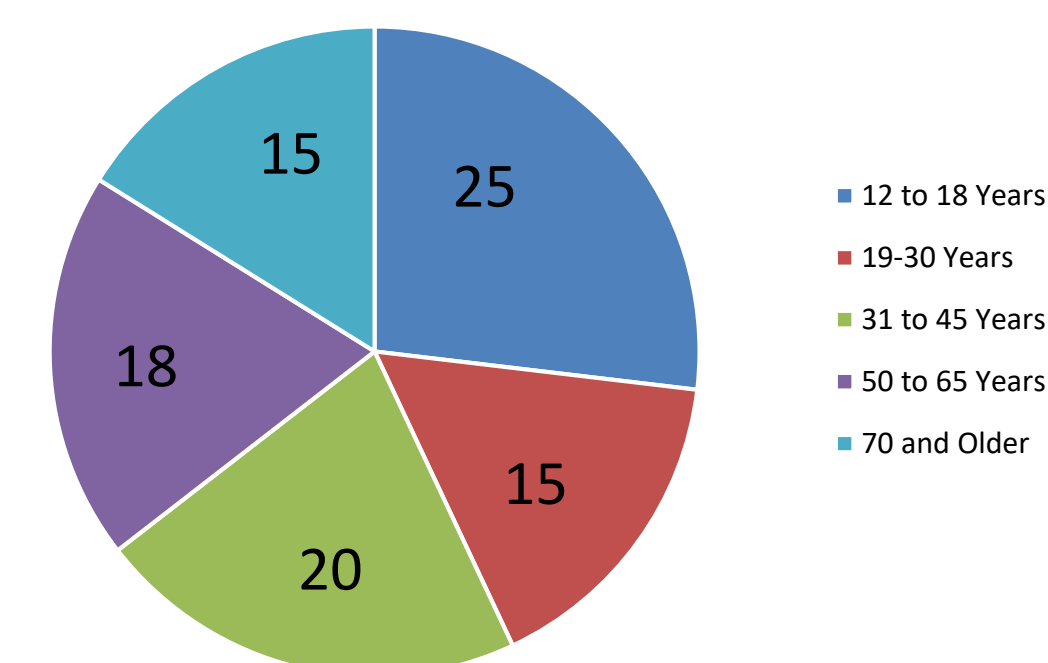
References

Rudeness in America, retrieved from http://www.today.com/id/33229370/ns/today-today_books/t/r-e-s-p-e-c-t-where-has-it-gone/#.VFqwpIdV8E
What Respect Is, retrieved from <http://www.eqi.org/respect.htm#Showing and Earning Respect>

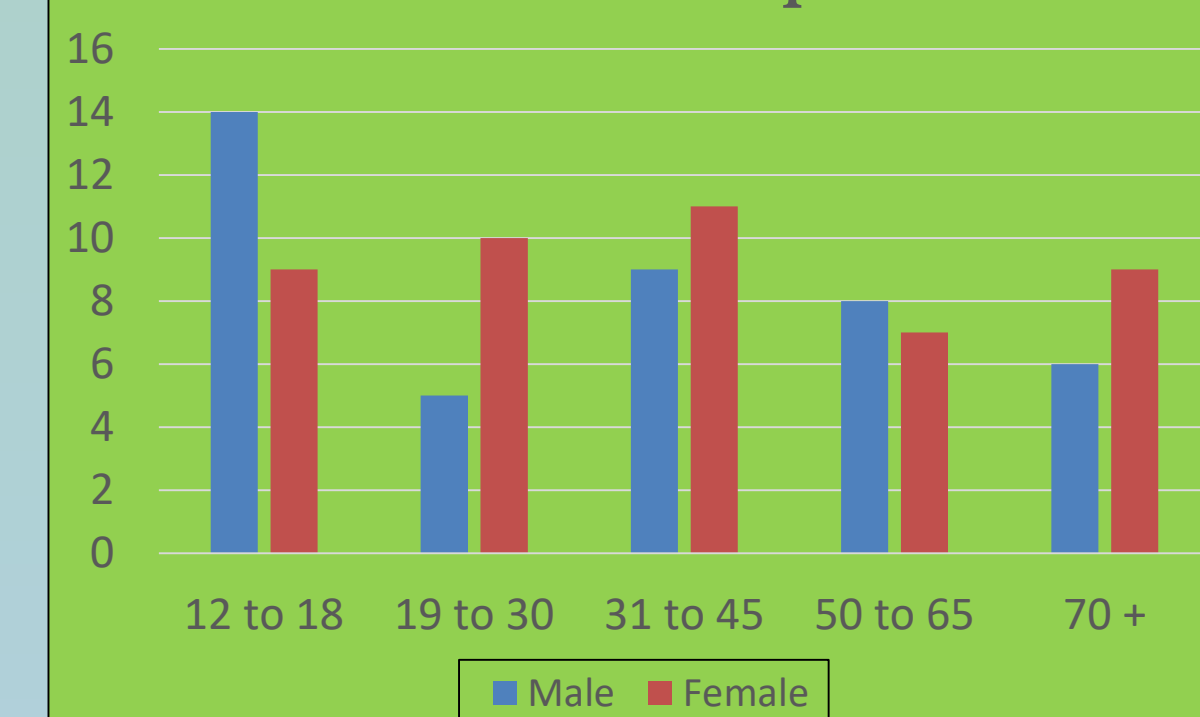
SHOW RESPECT
GET RESPECT

Survey Poll and Analysis

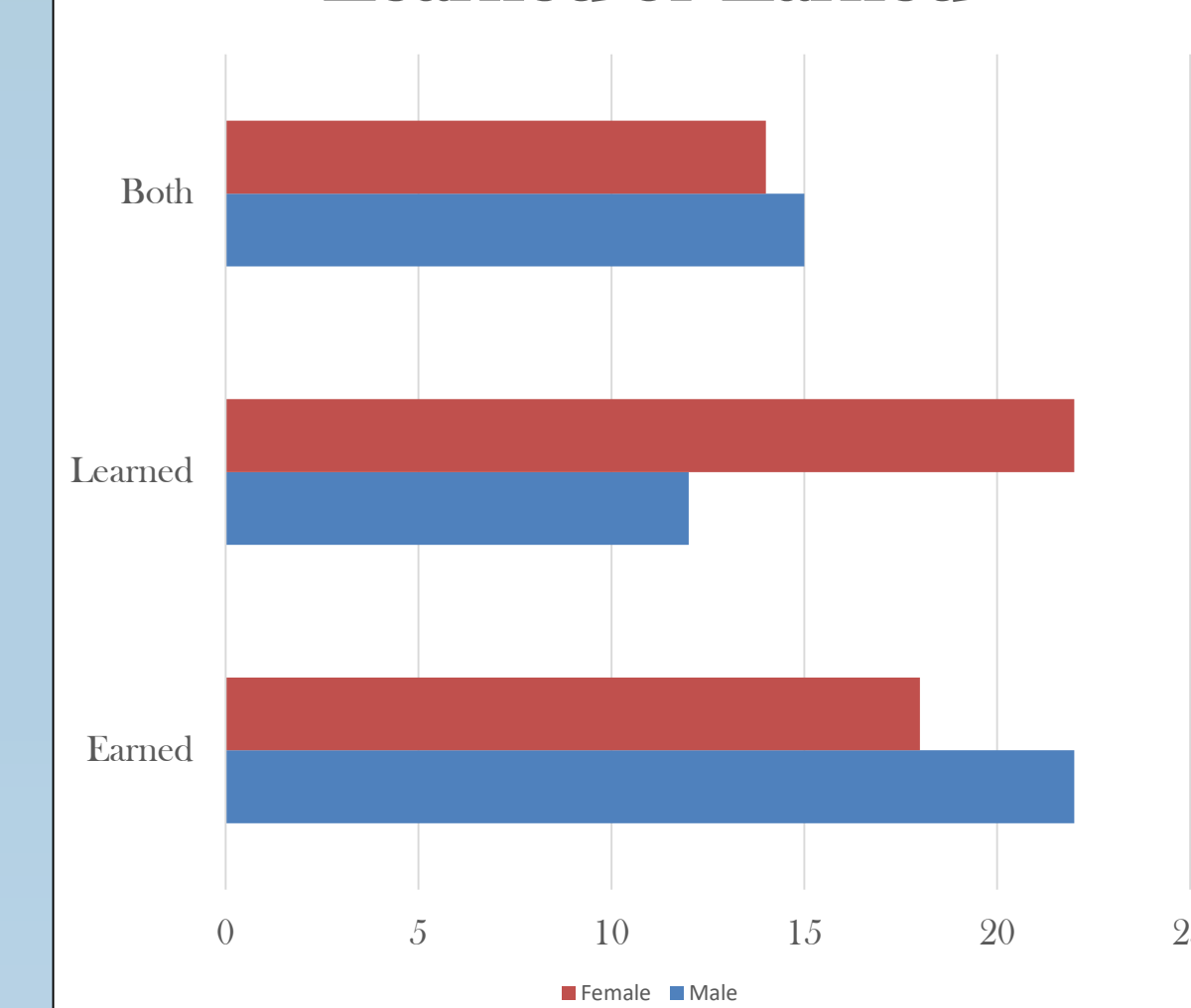
within age groups polled



Male vs. Female
Ratio within Groups Polled



Learned or Earned



In the two charts listed below (chart A & B), it shows a comparison of the respect concept from the male and female view based on those that completed the survey. Here you can see the difference in who values, requires, expects, and demands respect.

Chart A

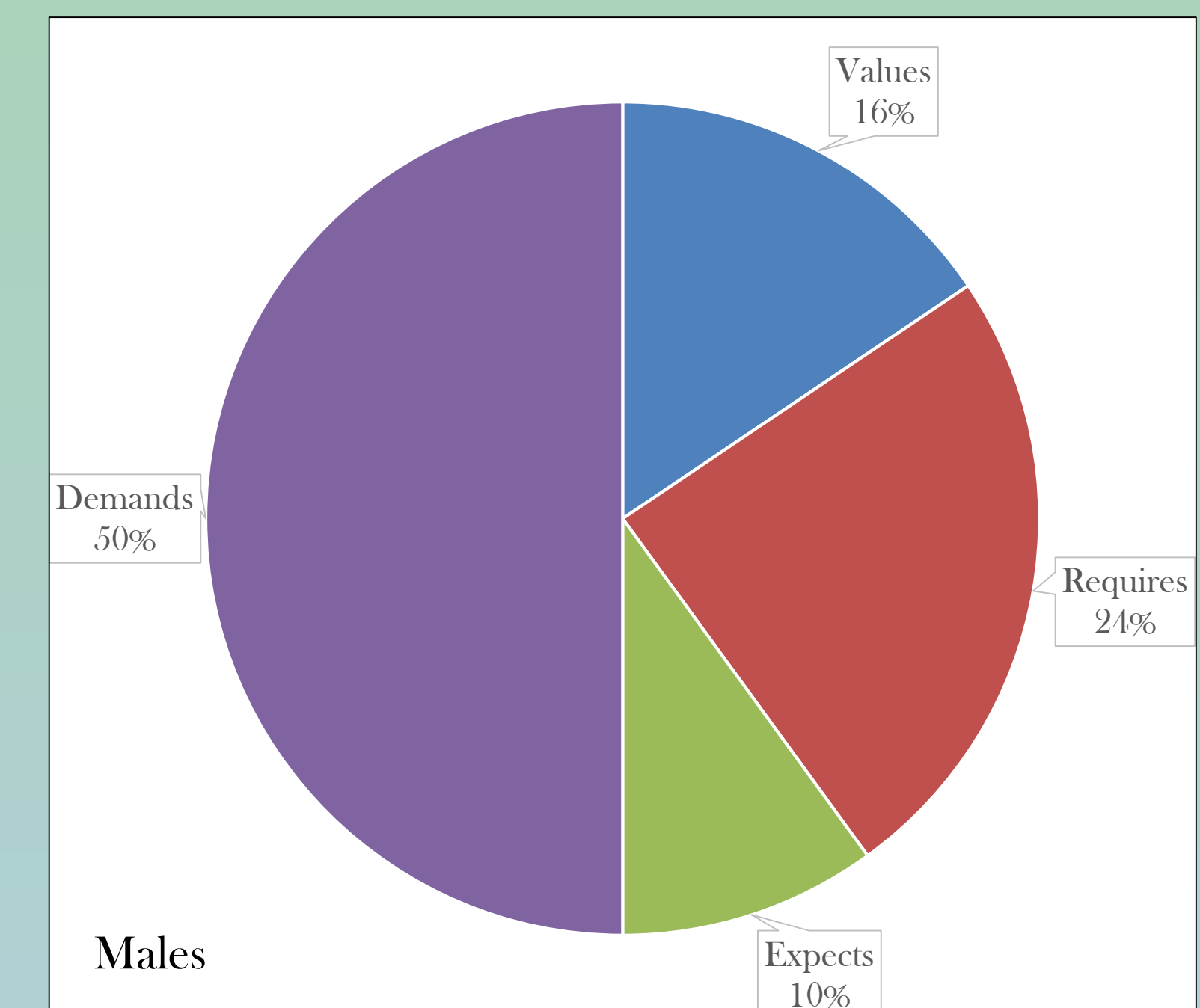
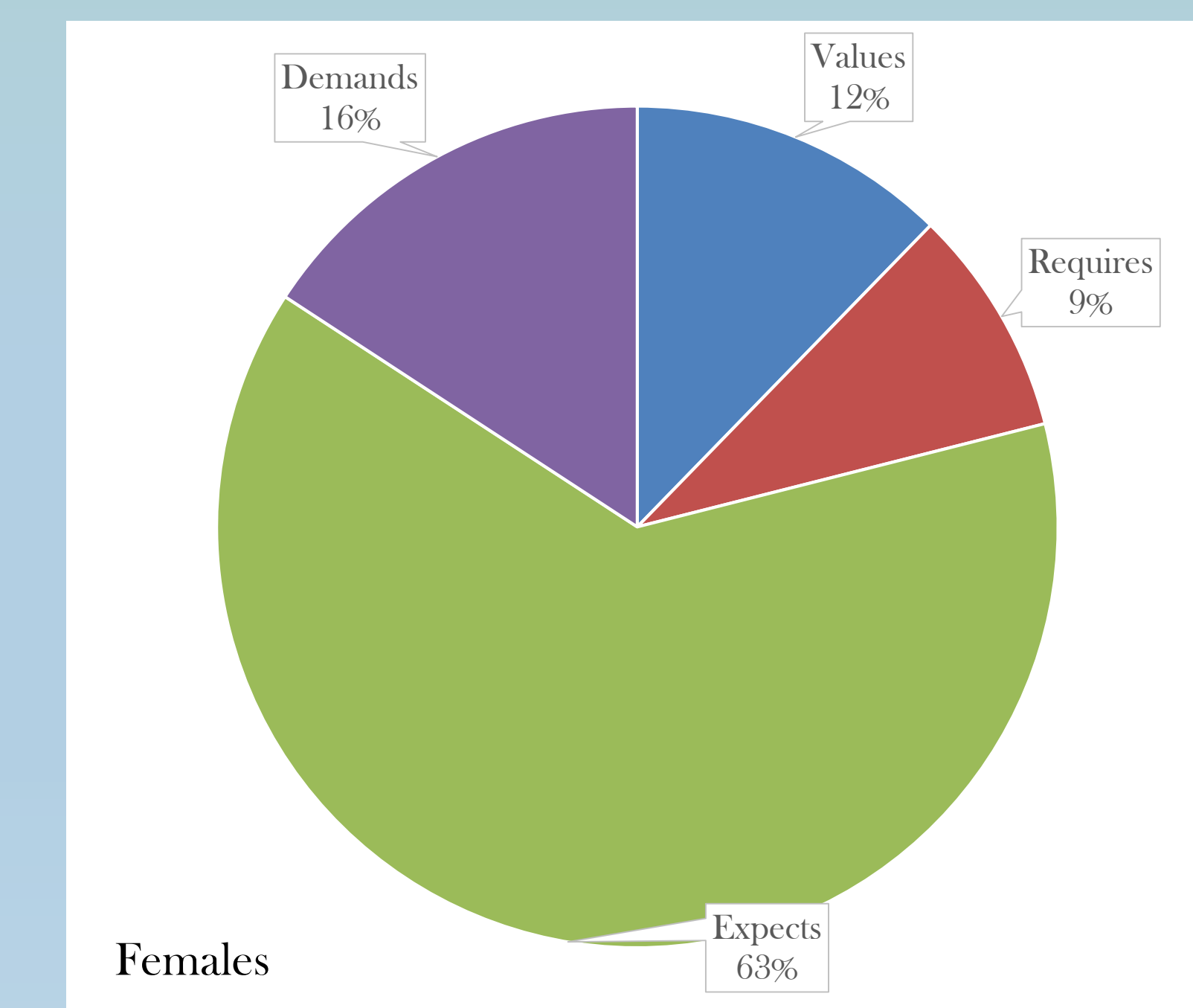


Chart B



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