



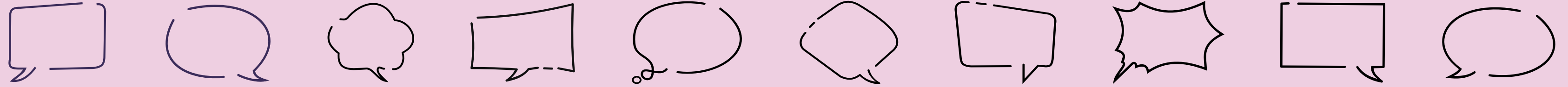
Centre of Learning
& Development
Stronger Communities Together

How Language Challenges Impact Newcomers' lives in Canada

Immigrant Women Integration Program (IWIP)
Center of Learning & Development (CL&D)

Elaheh Mohsenian
Liz Zhang

Yikanu Asres
Mercilina Aber



GOALS!

As recent immigrants to Canada, we have faced language barriers impacting daily life and access to services. Our goal is to understand these challenges and advocate for solutions that improve language support and community integration for newcomers.

Many support systems require English proficiency, creating a barrier to essential services

Language difficulties contribute to social isolation, economic hardship, and discrimination

Understanding these impacts can help improve policies and services for newcomers

Methods Used



40 survey responses

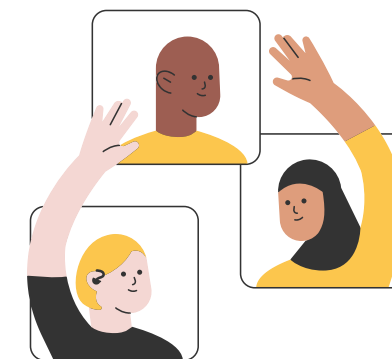


17 interviews

Scope



**Toronto
Canada**

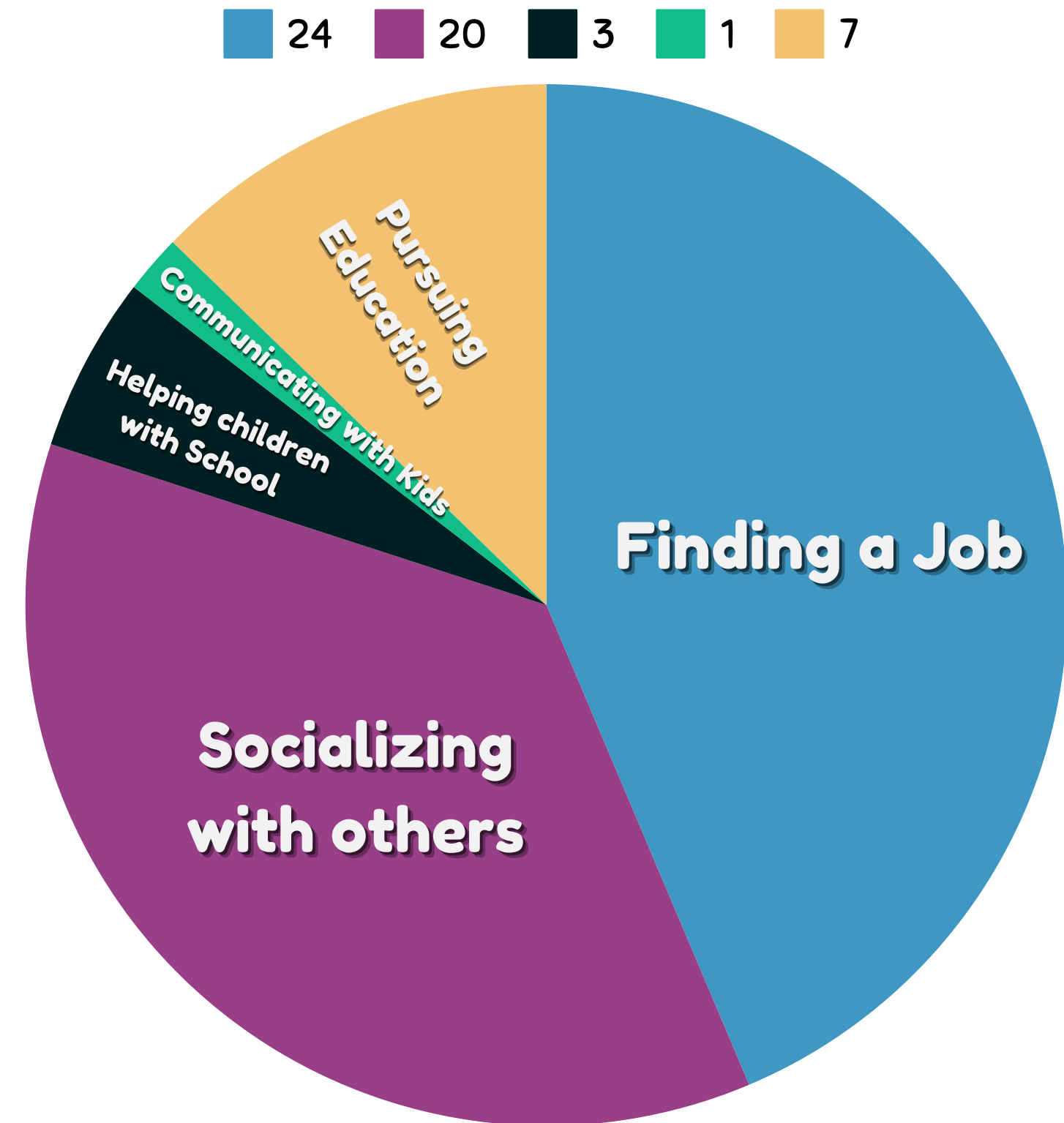


Newcomers with limited or no English proficiency, from diverse backgrounds

Key Findings

Primary goals for improving language skills (35 responses)

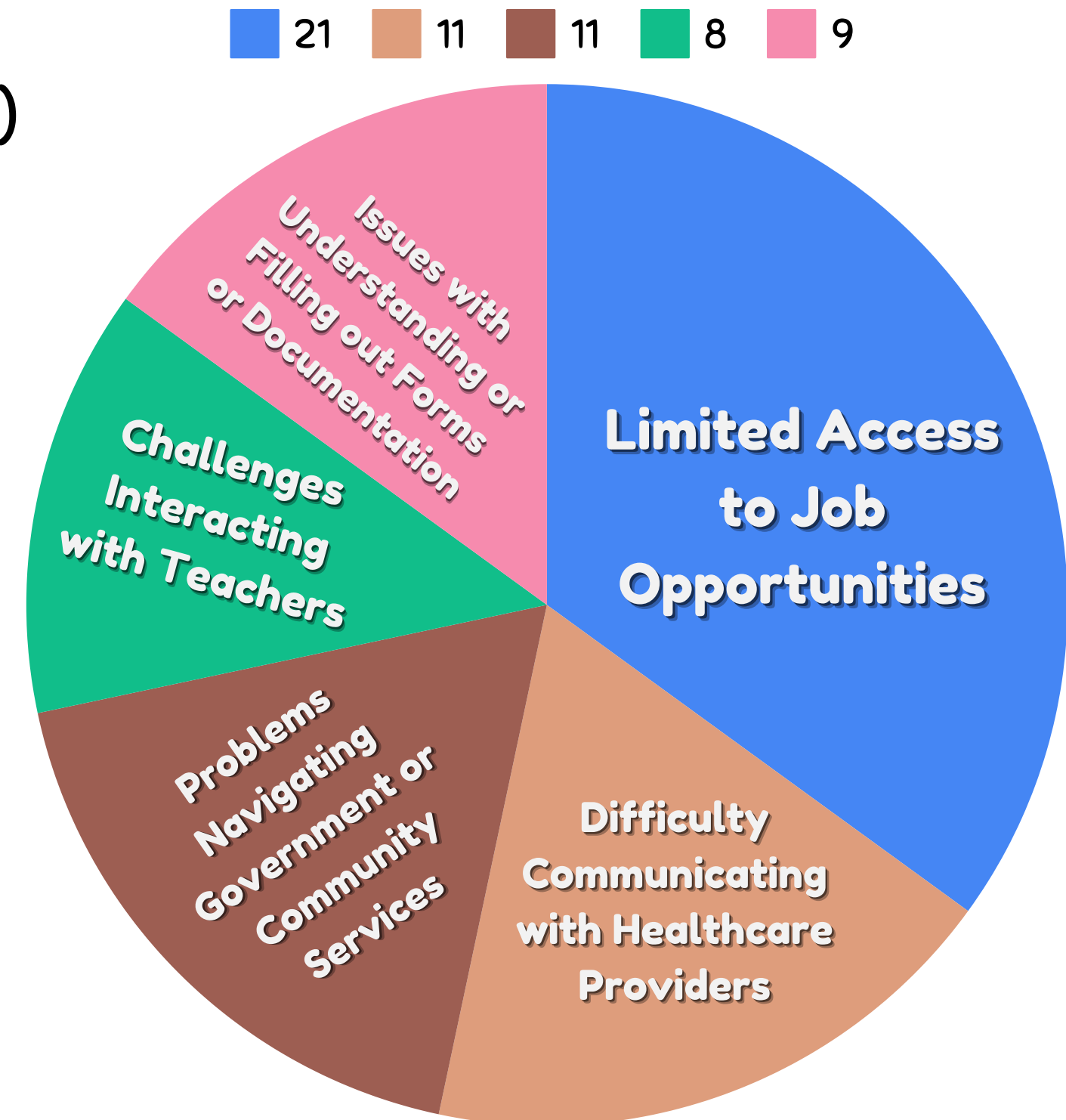
- **Over 65% seek better job opportunities.**
- **Over 55% aim to socialize more.**



Key Findings

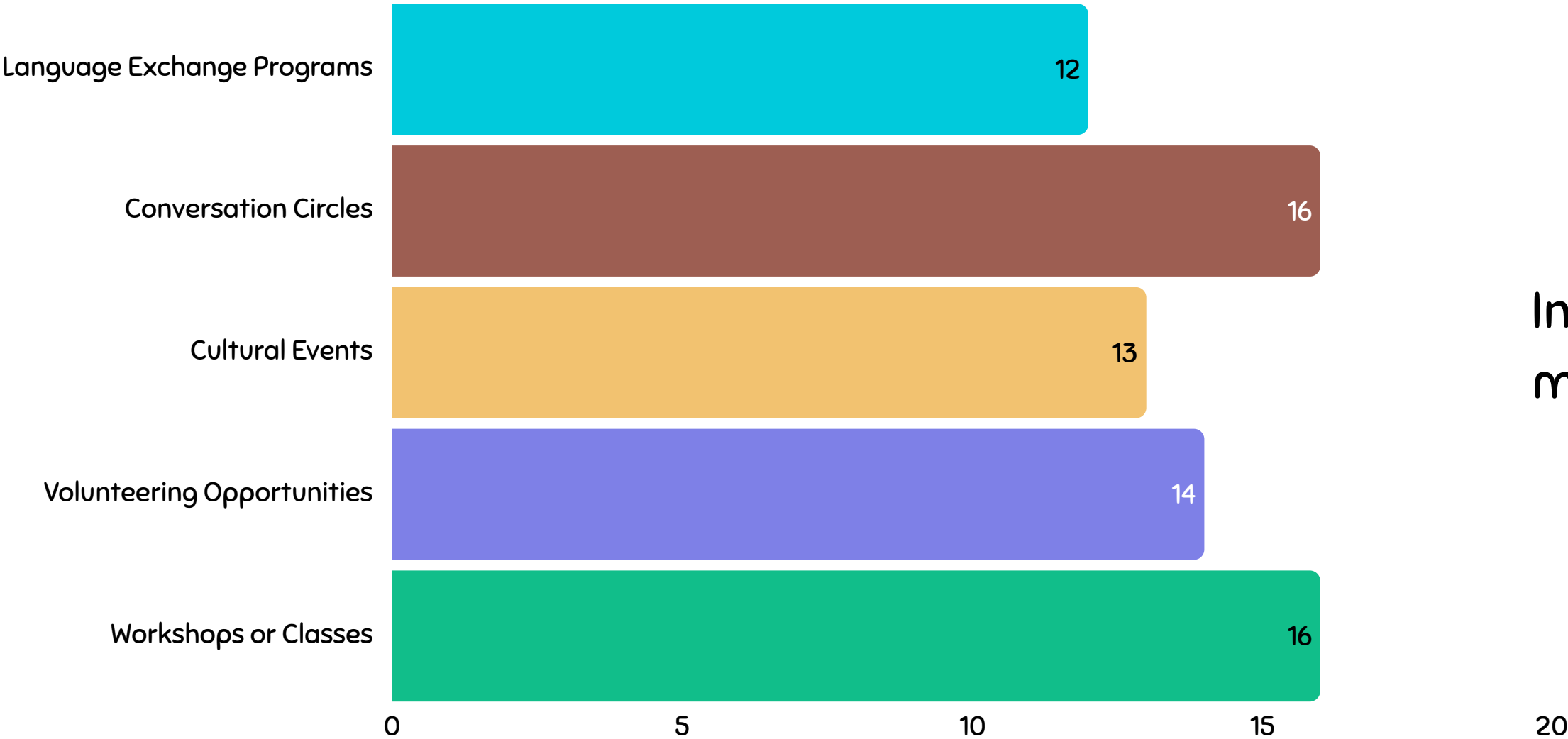
Barriers to accessing essential services due to limited English proficiency (35 responses)

- **60% face challenges in job hunting.**
- **Over 30% encounter barriers in healthcare and government services.**



Key Findings

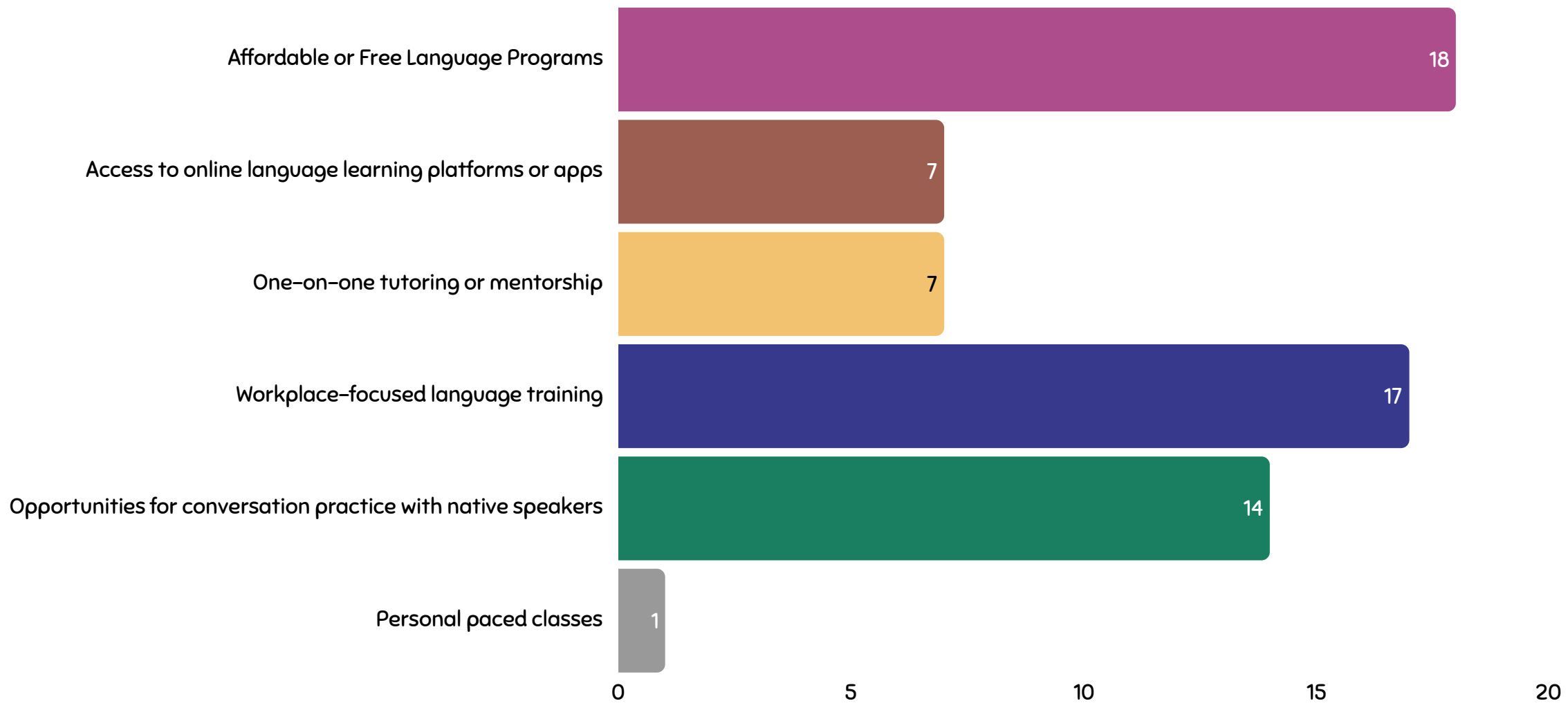
Helpful community-based activities for improving language skills (31 responses)



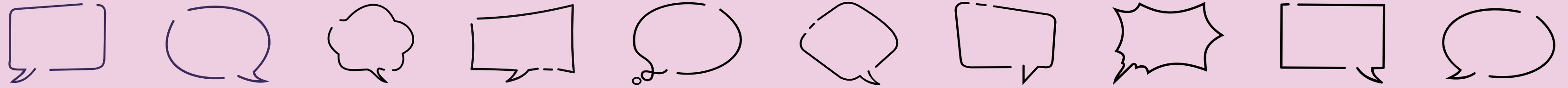
Interactive and structured Learning methods (**Workshops**, **Conversation Circles**) are the most effective.

Key Findings

Needed support and resources for improving language skills (35 responses)



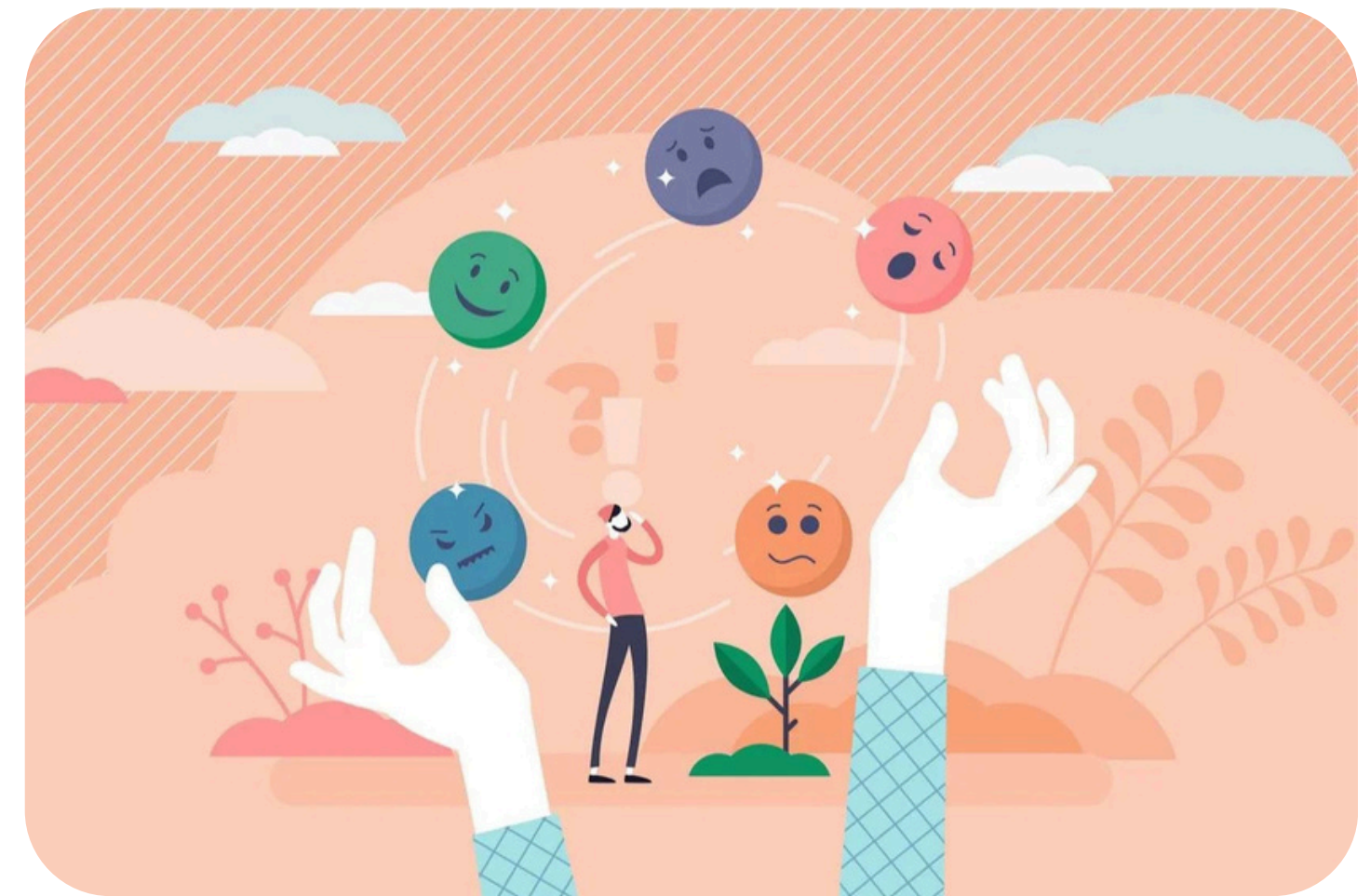
- **Cost remains a major barrier, with over 50% preferring affordable or free programs.**
- **Professional and workplace-oriented training are essential to support job seekers.**

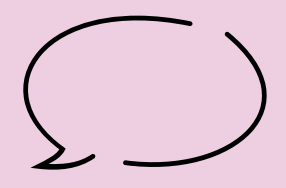
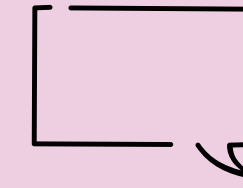
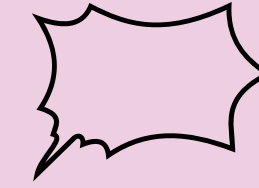
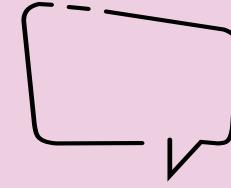
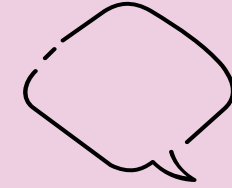
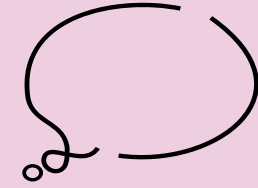
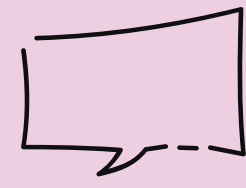
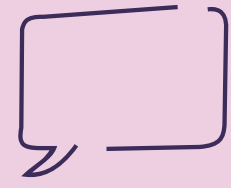


Main Challenges

Emotional & Psychological Impact

Daily Life Challenges



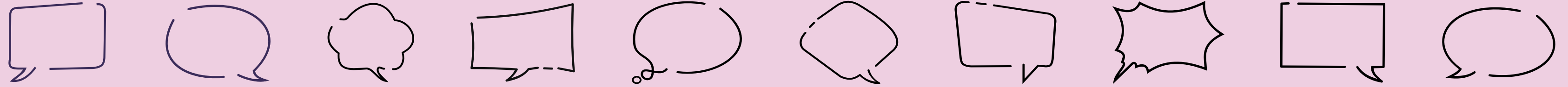


Main Challenges

Employment Barriers

Educational Barriers



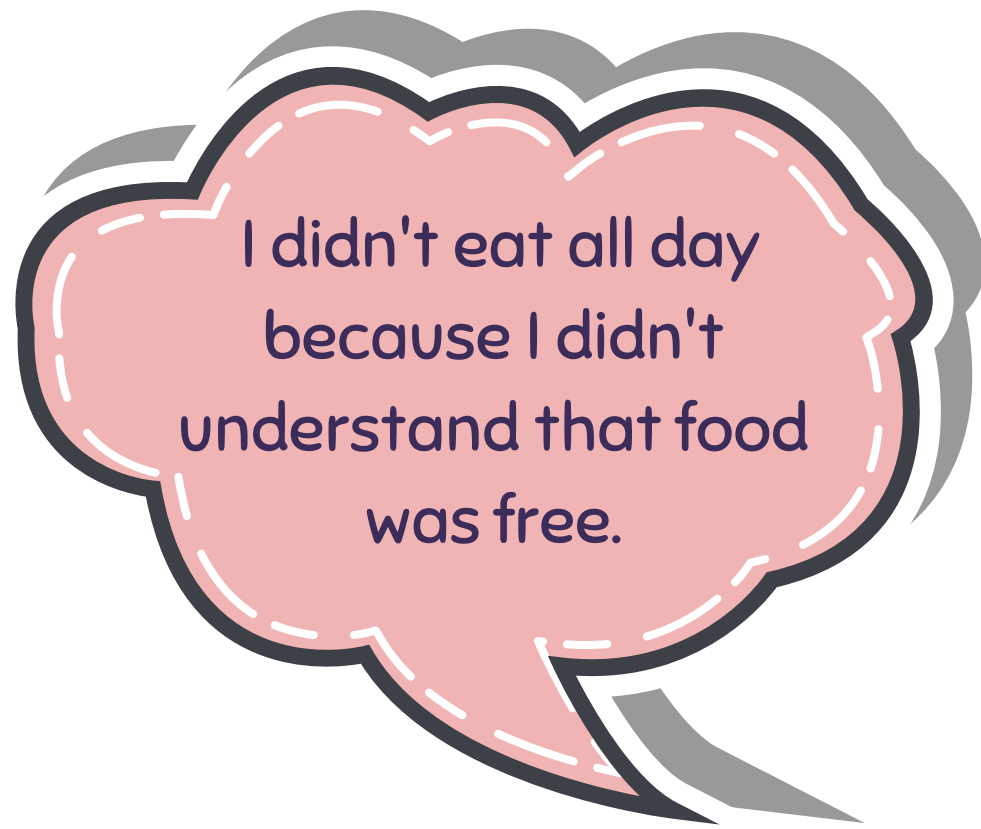


Main Challenges

Access to Language Support Services

Cultural Adaptation Difficulties





A Day Without Food

- Missed Details
- Peer Support Matters
- Clear Communication

Lived Experiences



The IT Professional

- Fluency Over Skills
- Limited Access
- Support Gaps

Recommendations

Accessible Language Services

- Bilingual Staff and Volunteers
- Reduce Eligibility Restrictions
- Career-Oriented ESL Training
- More funding for free and low-cost language programs
- More flexible learning options

Workplace Integration

- Employer-Supported Language Programs
- Inclusive Hiring Practices
- Recognize multilingual skills as valuable assets
- Develop partnerships between businesses and language training institutions
- Clear pathways for credential recognition



Next Direction



**THANK
YOU!**

We extend our gratitude to all participants who shared their experiences and insights for this research. Their voices highlight the need for more inclusive policies and practices to support newcomers in overcoming language barriers.