



UNESCO Sub-Regional Virtual Consultation (South Asia)

Pakistan: Country Presentation

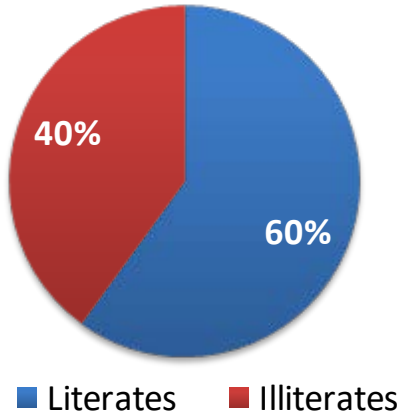
Pakistan: Country Profile

- Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world.
- Total Geographical Area: 796,095 sq.km
- Population (in 2017): 207.78 million, Growth rate: 2%
- Current population (projected): 219.02 million
- UN HDI Ranking: 154 out of 189 countries
- Literacy Rate (10+): 60%, Youth Literacy (15-24Y): 75%
- GER (Primary): 96
- Expenditure on education (2015-19): 2.3% GDP

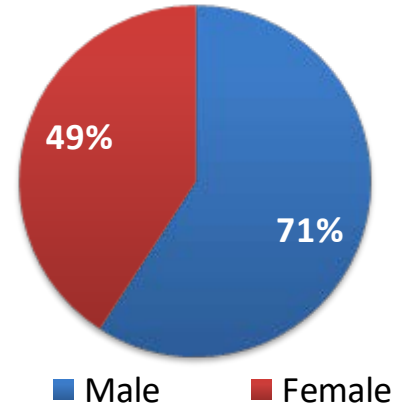


Current Status: Literacy in Pakistan

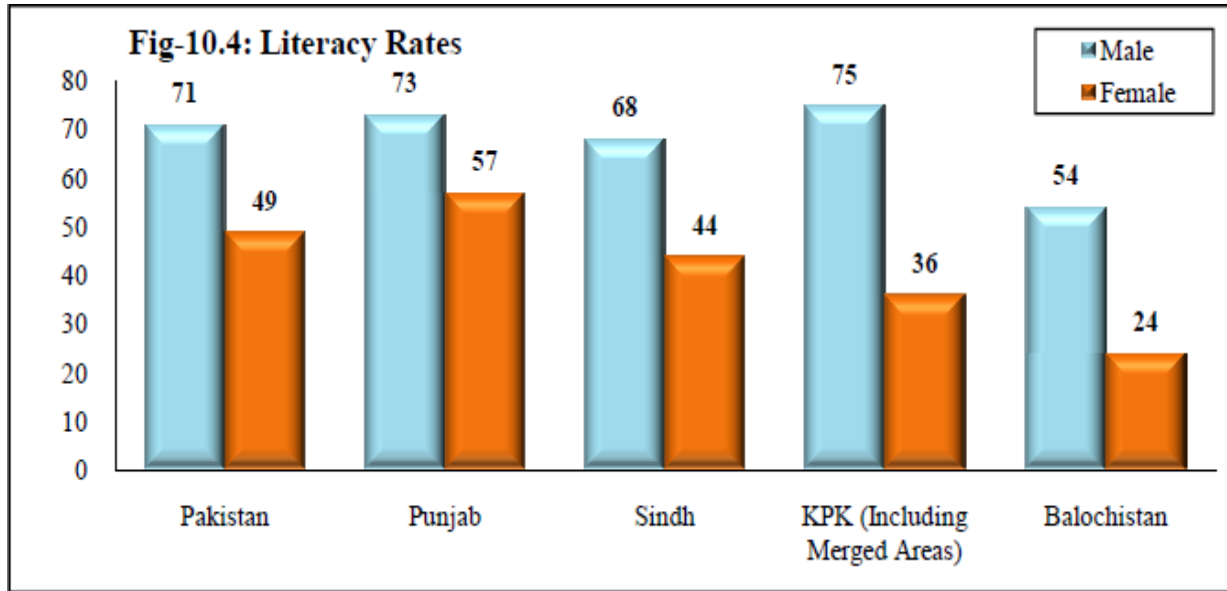
Overall Literacy



Gender Wise Literacy



Literacy Rate: National and Provincial



The illiterate population mostly comprise:

- Rural people
- Girls and women
- Poor & disadvantaged
- Ethnic minorities
- Nomads and refugees
- Handicaps & disabled

Organizational Setup of Literacy and NFE

Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training:

One of the functions of the Ministry is to '*Achieve universal literacy in the country*'.

National Commission for Human Development (NCHD)

NCHD is the only federal government organization under the Ministry mandated to promote literacy and NFBE in Pakistan. Its outreach is in all provinces and federal areas.

Provincial Level:

- Punjab: Department of Literacy and Non Formal Basic Education
- Sindh: Directorate of Literacy and NFE under School Education Dept.
- Balochistan: Directorate of Literacy and NFE under Social Welfare Dept.
- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Establishment of a dedicated setup is underway in KP.

Constitutional Obligations and National Commitments

Constitution of Pakistan Article 37-B:

The State shall be responsible for
“eradication of illiteracy and provision of free and compulsory education up to secondary level, within minimum possible time”

Article 25-A:

The state shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 5-16 years as may be determined by law.

Govt. of Pakistan Vision 2025:

Goal-1: Increase Primary schools enrollment and completion rate to 100% and increase literacy rate to 90% by 2025.

Pakistan is signatory to SDGs:

SDG 4.6: 100% youth literacy and substantial increase in adult literacy by 2030.

On going Projects on Adult Literacy

- **As a Federal Government agency NCHD is implementing;**
 - Adult Literacy Program: 2000 literacy centers are near completion where 47,000 learners are enrolled.
 - A literacy project “Prisoners literacy” is about to launch in 100 prisons of the country.
- **Projects by Provincial governments;**
 - In all, 1428 literacy centers are in different stages of implementation by provincial literacy departments.
- **Pakistan is a member of Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL).**

Achievements since the last CONFINTEA in 2009

- NCHD established 51,642 Literacy centers under its Adult Literacy Program.
- Imparted basic literacy and life skills to around 1.2 million, mostly women.
- Developed booklets on more than 100 themes of life and Income generating skills etc.
- Community Learning Centers established on pilot basis to support in lifelong learning.
- Prepared ICT based literacy kits and training videos with the support of UNESCO.
- Literacy programs are following the approved national curriculum for literacy.
- Provinces of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan have prepared their Literacy & NFE policies.
- AIOU launched a certificate course for literacy & NFBE teachers in 2019.
- Accelerated Learning Program is being implemented in 100 Madaris for learners aged (10-14 Yrs) after piloting of materials.
- NCHD and The Citizen Foundation have received UNESCO prize for literacy.

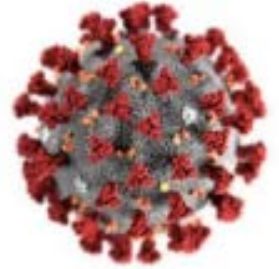
Issues and Challenges in ALE

1. Pakistan has a huge population of 63 million illiterates. Literacy rate is almost stagnant since 2010.
2. Despite policy commitments public expenditure on Adult literacy programs has been shrinking and is very limited now.
3. Continuity of Literacy and NFE programs face uncertainty due to political changes.
4. Lack of R&D initiatives and data to inform policy making for ALE.
5. There is no official recognition and accreditation mechanism.
6. Majority of illiterate population consists of women. Mobilizing them to participate and retain in ALE programs is a challenge.
7. Lack of materials on ALE to be used through ICTs and distance learning in the context of Covid-19 pandemic.

Impact of Covid-19 Crisis on ALE

Pakistan's education and ALE systems badly affected by COVID-19

- Continuity of education and learning badly affected due to intermittent closure of educational institutions.
- Duration of literacy program had to be adjusted. 6 months duration of literacy centers were extended to 1 year for course completion.
- Participation reduced as centers faced absenteeism and drop outs.
- Long breaks affected, in particular, the writing skills of the learners.
- Shift to distance learning options faced limitations due to connectivity problems.
- The pandemic has caused increase in number of OOSCs in Pakistan.



Prospects for Sub-Regional Cooperation

Following areas of cooperation are suggested;

- Experience sharing among the South Asian countries to promote Adult literacy and life long learning.
- Advocacy at SAARC level for enhancing financial allocations for ALE in the national budgets.
- Regional exchange visits to share success stories and best practices in ALE.

Thank You