

## Fact Sheet

October 2012

# Education in Pakistan

### Pakistan has some of the worst education indicators globally:

- Pakistan has the world's second highest number of children out of school, reaching **5.1 million** in 2010. This is equivalent to **1 in 12** of the world's out-of-school children.
- **Two-thirds** of Pakistan's out of school children are girls, amounting to over **3 million girls** out of school.
- From 1999 to 2010, the primary net enrolment ratio rose from 58% to **74%**. But the ratio for girls is still 14 percentage points behind the ratio for boys, leaving **only eight girls to every ten boys** in primary school.
- **49.5 million** adults are illiterate, two-thirds are women. This is the **third largest** globally.
- Projections indicate that the number of illiterate adults will increase to **51 million** by 2015.
- The country ranks **113 out of 120** countries in the Education Development Index.

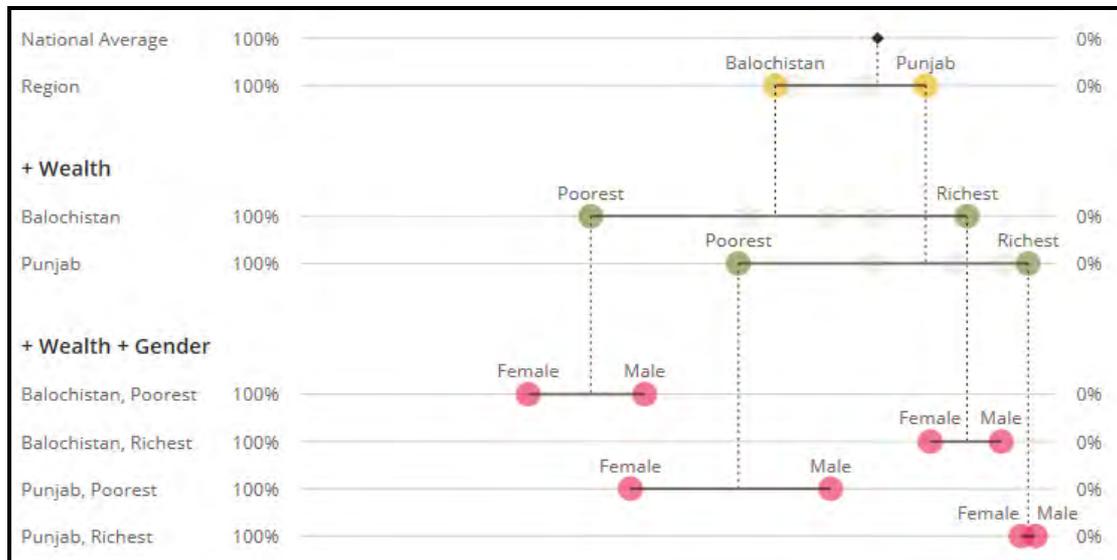
### Pakistan's spending on education is very low, and has decreased:

- Pakistan has reduced spending on education from 2.6% of gross national product (GNP) in 1999 to **2.3% of GNP** in 2010.
- In 2010, the country allocated only **10% of government spending** on education.
- Pakistan spends around **7 times more on the military** than on primary education.

### Pakistan has amongst the widest education inequalities in the world:

- In 2007, **one quarter** of 7-16-year-olds had never been to school, with wide variations by region, wealth status and gender.
- While only 17% had never been to school in Punjab, 25% were in the same situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 37% in Balochistan.
- **Poorest girls are most disadvantaged** in all three provinces, with over half never having been to school.
- In Swat District, only around **1 in 3 of girls are in school**.

## Percentage of 7-16 year olds who have never been to school Pakistan, 2007



World Inequality Database on Education: [www.education-inequalities.org/](http://www.education-inequalities.org/)

## The long term effect of neglecting children's education is:

There is a huge skills deficit among young Pakistanis now facing the world of work

- **Over one in three** young people in Pakistan have not completed primary school and, as a result, do not have the basic skills they need for work.
- Equivalent to a total of **12 million** 15 to 24 year olds lack basic skills, which is the second highest number in developing countries.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are least likely to have skills for decent jobs:

- While **over 70% of the richest young men and women** have completed lower secondary school, only 16% of the poorest young men and fewer than **5% of the poorest young women** have done so
- **Nearly half of rural young women** in the country have not had the chance to go to school, compared with only 14% of urban young women.

Not getting skills affects young people for life:

- While **8% of men** are not in the labour force, the figure for **women is 69%**.
- **Men earn 60% more** than women, on average. The wage gap is widest for those with low levels of literacy and numeracy.
- Yet education can make a big difference to women's earnings. Women with a high level of literacy **earn 95% more than women with no literacy skills**, whereas the differential was only 33% among men.

Contact: [k.redman@unesco.org](mailto:k.redman@unesco.org) / 0033 671786234

Website: [www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org)