Gender Profile: Pakistan

General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 33,595,949

Total female population over 15 (CIA, 2015): 63,627,058

Health

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 57.48

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 89.5
Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 82.1

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2013) (WHO, 2014b): 52.1%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.2%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.1%


Education


Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2012): 9.30%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female: NA

Students enrolled in engineering construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female: NA

Teachers in primary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 47.2%

Teachers in secondary education who are female: NA

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 37.2%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 85%
Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 23%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 17%
Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 3%

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 21%

Human Rights


Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 16%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: NA

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Gender Gaps

Health

• According to a 2008 report by IRIN, suicide rates among women are rising, due to poverty and high levels of depression that disproportionately impact women. For example, a 2007 study published in the British Journal of Psychiatry (and cited by IRIN) revealed that 39% of female versus 21% of male survey respondents had considered suicide.

• Poverty may render women in Pakistan unable to access maternal health care. A report published in the American Journal of Public Health in 2014 stated that “92% of women in the highest wealth quintile report antenatal care use; this percentage is 37% among women in the lowest quintile. Similarly, 74% of women in the highest wealth quintile deliver in a health facility compared with 12% of women in the lowest quintile” (Mumtaz et al., 2014, abstract).

Education

• In rural areas, girls are taken from school to help with household duties. According to a Press International report (citing UNICEF), 17.6% of children are working to help support their families, and most of these children are girls doing domestic work (Latif, n.d.).

• According to a 2012 UNESCO report (cited by CNN, 2013), there were only eight girls for every 10 boys in Pakistani schools.

Economic

• Women are often encouraged, and in some cases coerced, into pursuing solely traditional domestic roles. Where women do participate in the labour force, they are in underpaid and traditionally female professions. According to 2007 data from a Time Use Survey conducted by the Pakistan government (Saqib & Arif, 2012), of all women employed in Pakistan, just 3.4% were professionals (men 18.4%), 47.5% were agricultural workers (men 29.3%) and 19.1% were craft workers (men 13%).

Decision-Making

• Although women’s suffrage is legally provided, in reality women face obstacles to participating in politics. In 2013, Naz Baloch, a political candidate, stated: “There are women who do not have the right to vote. It's a very male-dominated society. They do not allow their wives, daughters, their sisters to even step out and vote. I'm trying to convince the men of this society you should respect women and let them come out for their rights” (McCarthy, 2013, para. 13).

Human Rights

• Violence against women is a serious concern in Pakistan. Reliable numbers on this issue are difficult to obtain, but reports exist that as many as 70–90% of women in Pakistan have been subjected to some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime (World Population Foundation, n.d.).

• Survivors of gender-based violence are strongly discouraged from seeking justice. Survivors of rape run the risk of being accused of adultery. In 2001, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Extra Judgment, Summary or Arbitrary Executions of the Commission on Human Rights, Asma Jahangir, stated that: “we
have a law under which a victim of rape runs the risk of being accused of adultery herself and it is not just theoretical because every day we see through our work hundreds of women sitting in prisons where they have made allegations of rape themselves but find themselves involved in the legal system” (IRIN, 2001, para. 6).

- Honour killings occur. A 2002 report published in The Journal of the International Institute stated that nationwide, there were on average nine honour killings each day (Javeria, 2002).

References


