

PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Big Data Analysis of Census 2017

Volume 1

MALE LITERACY RATIO: CENSUS YEAR 1998 AND 2017

Islamabad, October 13, 2021

Gallup Pakistan as part of its big data analysis initiative is looking at the National Pakistan Census 2017 ratified recently.

This series aims to present the important learnings from the Census for policy makers, the general public as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way.

Today's Topic is "Male Literacy Ratio: Census Year 1998 and 2017"

One important indicator that Census in Pakistan measures is literacy rate in the country. Although various surveys conducted by the government and non-government sectors in between the census years provided literacy rate estimations, the most accurate picture emerges from census.

Key Learnings from the Analysis

- 1) *Overall male literacy*: 1 in 3 males in Pakistan illiterate
- 2) *Comparison with 1998 Census*: Improvement can be observed over the course of the two decades but is not very significant
- 3) *Rural-Urban Breakdown*: Rural Urban difference in male literacy narrowed between 1998 and 2017 (24% in 1998 and 17% in 2017)
- 4) *Province-wise male literacy*: Islamabad far ahead as compared to the other provinces
- 5) *How has male literacy changed since 1998 at provincial level?* Highest increase occurred in FATA where male literacy increased by 26% and smallest increase observed in Islamabad
- 6) *Is gap between provinces increasing?* Disparity between provinces reducing between census in terms of male literacy

1) Overall Male Literacy: 1 in 3 males in Pakistan illiterate

In year 2017, when the census was conducted, 68% of males above the age of 10 were found to be literate. Various definitions for literacy are used across the world . In Pakistan, the literacy rate measures the percentage of people aged 15 and above who are able to read and write in any language.

Figure 1 - Male Literacy Ratio in 2017 Census

Male Literacy Ratio: Census Year 2017



2) Comparison with 1998 Census: Improvement can be observed over the course of the two decades but is not very significant

Comparison with the 1998 Census shows that male literacy ratio in 2017 has seen an increase, amounting to around 13%. The male literacy ratio was observed to be 55% in 1998 and 68% in 2017.

Figure 2 - Male Literacy 2017 vs 1998 Census

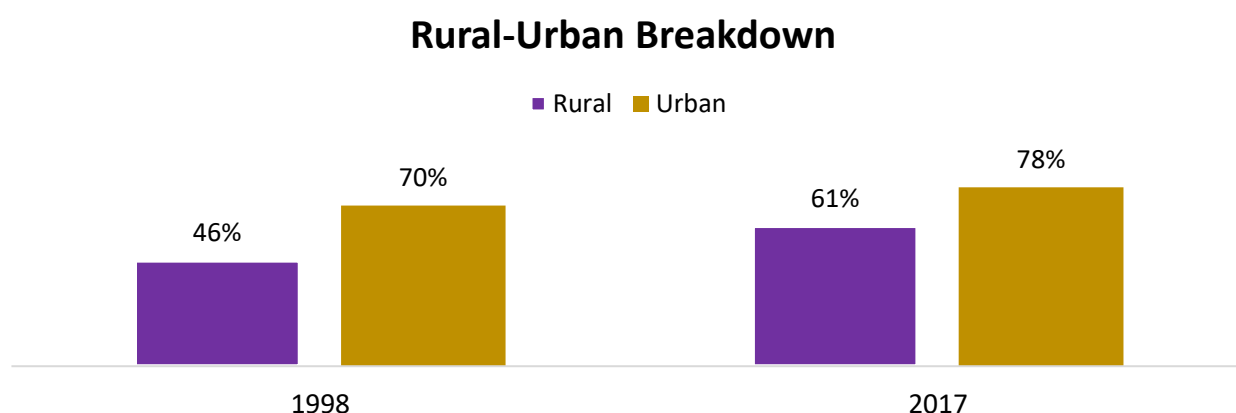
Male Literacy Ratio: Census Year 1998 and 2017



3) Rural-Urban Breakdown: Rural Urban difference in male literacy narrowed between 1998 and 2017 (24% in 1998 and 17% in 2017)

In 1998, 46% of males from rural areas were literate while 70% of males from urban areas were literate, signifying a stark 24% differential. However, in 2017, the difference was not as prominent with 61% of males from rural areas falling under the literate category and 78% of males from urban areas being identified as literate. However, in both years, it was observed that those hailing from urban areas were had a higher literacy ratio as compared to those from rural areas.

Figure 3 - Rural-urban breakdown of Literacy Rate among Males



4/ Province-wise Male Literacy: Islamabad far ahead as compared to the other provinces

Data shows that Islamabad far ahead of other provinces in terms of male literacy with nearly 87% males above the age of 10 being literate in Islamabad. Second to Islamabad is Punjab with a literacy rate of 71% amongst males. Balochistan comes in last place with a 54% male literacy ratio.

Table 1 – Male Literacy Rate at a Provincial Level

Province	Male Literacy
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	69%
FATA	56%
Punjab	71%
Sindh	63%
Balochistan	54%
ICT	87%

5) How has male literacy changed since 1998 at provincial level? Highest increase occurred in FATA where male literacy increased by 26% and smallest increase observed in Islamabad

In 1998, male literacy in Islamabad was approximately 81% and it has grown by 6% in 2017. In Punjab, male literacy was 57% growing by 14% to reach 71% in 2017. In Sindh, the literacy rate was nearly 55% for males and it grew to 63% (8% increase). In Balochistan, male literacy was 34% in 1998 and in 2017, it grew to about 54%, resulting in an increase of 20%. In KPK, male literacy was 51% in 1998 and it increased to 69% (an increase of 18%). Lastly, in FATA, the literacy rate in 1998 was 29% and it grew to 56% in 2017, amounting to an increase of 26%.

Table 2: Growth in male literacy rates at province level among males (1998 vs 2017)

Province	Male Literacy in 2017	Male Literacy in 1998	Growth in Male Literacy Rate
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	69%	51%	18%
FATA	56%	30%	26%
Punjab	71%	57%	14%
Sindh	63%	55%	8%
Balochistan	54%	34%	20%
ICT	87%	81%	6%

6) Is gap between provinces increasing? Disparity between provinces reducing between census in terms of male literacy

If one looks at the literacy rate of the best performing province amongst males in 1998 as compared to the province that performed the poorest with regards to this aspect, it can be observed that there was a gap of 51% (Islamabad at 81% and FATA at 30%). However, in the 2017 census, the best performing province with regards to male literacy is Islamabad (87%) while the poorest is Balochistan (54%), with the gap between the two amounting to 33%.

Table 3: Male literacy rate in Pakistan in 1998 by province

Province	Male Literacy in 1998
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	51%
FATA	30%
Punjab	57%
Sindh	55%
Balochistan	34%
ICT	81%

Note: Female Literacy rate is being covered in the next issue of this series.

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand both the Big Data Analysis project as well as this study of National Census 2017. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Other Gallup Big Data Analysis reports are available on:

<https://gallup.com.pk/search/big%20data%20analysis>

Wish to know more about National Census 2017

The 6th Population and Housing Census of Pakistan was undertaken throughout the country from 15th March to 24th May, 2017. For this purpose, the country was delimited into manageable census areas i.e. Blocks, Circles, Charges and Districts. The whole exercise was successfully completed by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) through deployment of field staff in all the census areas with strong support from the Provincial Government Departments and the Armed Forces of Pakistan

You can find more information on the national census and complete tables on www.pbs.gov.pk

Or visit:

https://www.pbs.gov.pk/sites/default/files//population_census/ncrPCR/NCR%20Pakistan.pdf