

PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Big Data Analysis of Census 2017

Volume 2

FEMALE LITERACY RATIO: CENSUS YEAR 1998 AND 2017

Islamabad, October 22, 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 "Female 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 Female Literacy:* 50% of females in Pakistan illiterate
- 2) *Comparison with 1998 Census:* Improvement can be observed over the course of the two decades, amounting to an increase of 18% with regards to female literacy, moving from 32% in 1998 to 50% in 2017
- 3) *Rural-Urban Breakdown:* Rural-urban difference in female literacy narrowed slightly between 1998 and 2017 (a 35% differential in 1998 and 29% differential in 2017)
- 4) *Province-wise female literacy:* Islamabad (76% female literacy) far ahead as compared to the other provinces while FATA (16% female literacy) comes in last
- 5) *How has female literacy changed since 1998 at the provincial level?* Highest increase occurred in Punjab where female literacy increased by 22% and smallest increase observed in Sindh (11%)
- 6) *Is gap between provinces increasing?* Disparity between best and worst performing provinces with regards to female literacy has only very slightly increased between the 2017 and 1998 censuses

1) Overall Female Literacy: 50% of females in Pakistan illiterate

In the year 2017, when the census was conducted, 50% of females 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 - Female Literacy Ratio in 2017 Census

Female Literacy Ratio: Census Year 2017

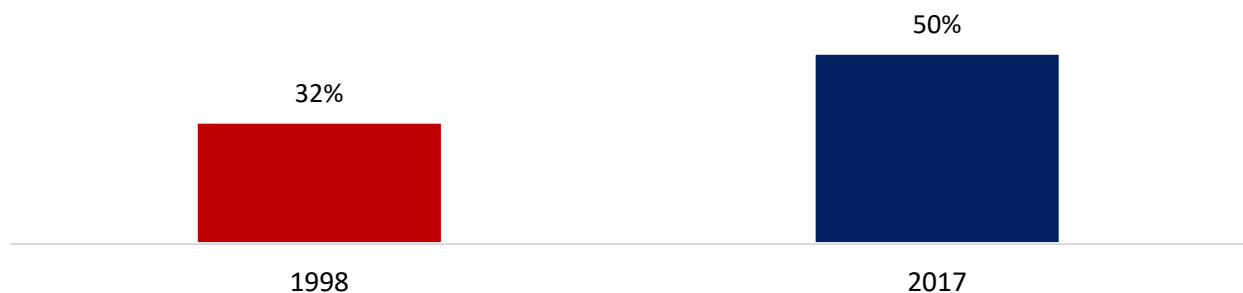


2) Comparison with 1998 Census: Improvement can be observed over the course of the two decades, amounting to an increase of 18% with regards to female literacy, moving from 32% in 1998 to 50% in 2017

Comparison with the 1998 Census shows that female literacy ratio in 2017 has seen an increase, amounting to around 18%. The female literacy ratio was observed to be 32% in 1998 and 50% in 2017.

Figure 2 - Female Literacy 2017 vs 1998 Census

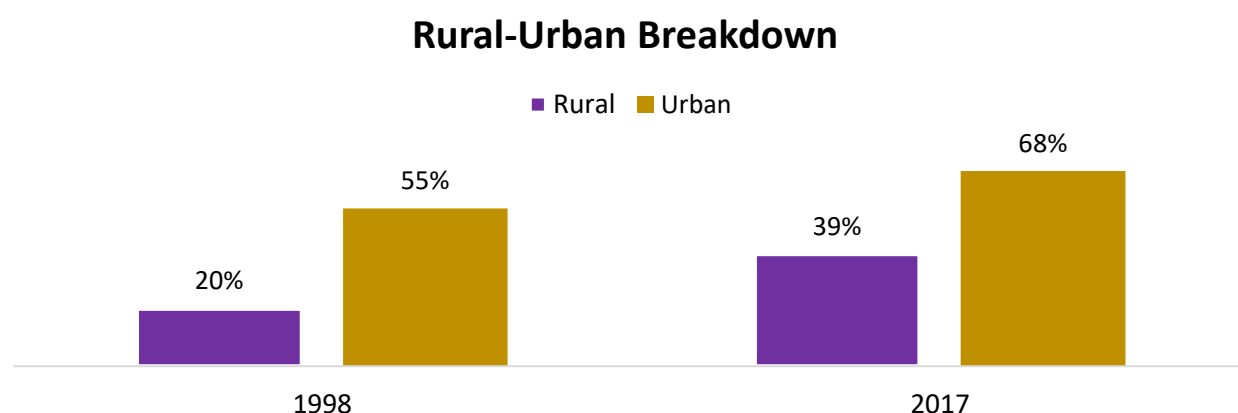
Female Literacy Ratio: Census Year 1998 and 2017



3) Rural-Urban Breakdown: Rural Urban difference in female literacy narrowed slightly between 1998 and 2017 (a 35% differential in 1998 and 29% differential in 2017)

In 1998, only 20% of females from rural areas were literate while 55% of females from urban areas were literate, signifying a substantial 35% differential. In 2017, this difference amounted to 29% with 39% of females from rural areas falling under the literate category and 68% of females 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 females



4) Province-wise Female Literacy: Islamabad (76% female literacy) far ahead as compared to the other provinces while FATA (16% female literacy) comes in last

Data shows that Islamabad far ahead of other provinces in terms of female literacy with nearly 76% females above the age of 10 being literate in Islamabad. Second to Islamabad is Punjab with a literacy rate of 57% amongst females. FATA comes in last with a female literacy rate of only 16%.

Table 1 – Female Literacy Rate at a Provincial Level

Province	Female Literacy
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	39%
FATA	16%
Punjab	57%
Sindh	46%
Balochistan	32%
ICT	76%

5) *How has female literacy changed since 1998 at provincial level? Highest increase occurred in Punjab where female literacy increased by 22% and smallest increase observed in Sindh (11%)*

In 1998, female literacy in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was 19%, growing to about 39% in 2017, showcasing a **20% increase**. In FATA, the literacy rate for females in 1998 was only 3% and it grew to 16% in 2017, amounting to an increase of **13%**. Female literacy rate in 1998 in Islamabad was approximately 76% and it has grown by **14%** in 2017. In Punjab, female literacy was 35%, growing by **22%** to reach 57% in 2017. In Sindh, the literacy rate was nearly 35% for females and it grew to 46%, amounting to an **11% increase** only. Lastly, in Balochistan, female literacy was 14% in 1998 and in 2017, it grew to about 32%, resulting in an **increase of 18%**.

Table 2: Growth in female literacy rates at province level (1998 vs 2017)

Province	Female Literacy in 2017	Female Literacy in 1998	Growth in Female Literacy Rate
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	39%	19%	20%
FATA	16%	3%	13%
Punjab	57%	35%	22%
Sindh	46%	35%	11%
Balochistan	32%	14%	18%
ICT	76%	62%	14%

6) *Is gap between provinces increasing? Disparity between best and worst performing provinces with regards to female literacy has only very slightly increased between the 2017 and 1998 censuses*

If one looks at the literacy rate of the best performing province amongst females 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 59% (Islamabad at 62% and FATA at 3%). Similar trends can be found in the 2017 census where the best performing province with regards to female literacy is Islamabad (76%) while the poorest is FATA (16%), with the gap between the two amounting to 60%.

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

Province	Female Literacy in 1998
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	19%
FATA	3%
Punjab	35%
Sindh	35%
Balochistan	14%
ICT	62%

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