

PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Big Data Analysis of Census 2017

Volume 10

0.44% of Pakistan's population is found to be disabled as compared to 1998 census when the disability rate was 2.38%; more than two-thirds (68.4%) of the disabled population is illiterate which is significantly higher than average Pakistani illiteracy which stands at 41.09%. -

Population with Disability: Census Year 2017

Islamabad, December 22nd, 2021

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is looking at the Pakistan National Census 2017 ratified recently.

This series aims to present the important learnings from the census for policy makers, the public as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way. The previous reports within this series sheds light on key topics like literacy ratios, population density, level of congestion, period of house construction and sources of energy, drinking water and information/communication.

Click [Here](#) to view the previous reports.

Today's Topic is "Population with Disability: Census Year 2017"

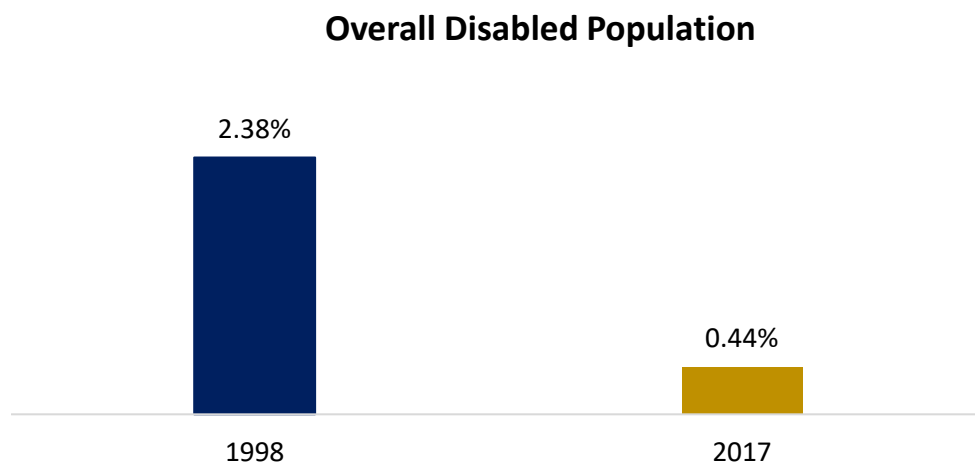
Key Findings

- 1) **Overall Disabled Population:** 0.44% of Pakistan's population is found to be disabled as compared to 1998 census when the disability rate was 2.38%.
- 2) **Disability Rate by Gender:** Disability in males increased (from males being 41.73% of the disabled population in 1998 to 61.89% in 2017) while disability in females decreased (from 58.27% in 1998 to 37.71% in 2017) over the course of two decades.
- 3) **Rural-Urban Breakdown:** Pakistan's rural share is 63.62% while the urban share is 36.38%; more than two-thirds (69.89%) of the disabled population disproportionately reside in rural areas compared to 30.11% of the disabled people in urban areas.
- 4) **Overall Literacy Level:** Nearly one-third (31.6%) of the disabled population is literate with 585,436 (68.4%) disabled people being illiterate. This figure of disabled illiterate people is significantly higher than average Pakistani illiteracy which stands at 41.09%.
- 5) **Economic Activity:** Nearly one-quarter (22.7%) of the disabled population is employed while approximately one-third (28.7%) is involved in housekeeping; the percentage of blind, deaf and dumb, physically disable and mentally retarded people are 5.28%, 6.77%, 79.36% and 8.58% respectively.

1) Overall Disabled Population: 0.44% of Pakistan's population is found to be disabled as compared to 1998 census when the disability rate was 2.38%.

A lower count of the number of differently abled population of the country is reported in 2017 census owing to inadequate training of the enumerators on administering the disability codes. Clear instructions about the concept of disability were also not provided. As a result, only 913,667 people were recorded to be disabled in 2017 census in comparison to 1998 census when the figure was 3,286,630. This makes 0.44% of Pakistan's population disabled as per 2017 census; the disability rate in 1998 census was 2.38%. The 2017 census results are also not coherent with most international standards, for example, World Health Organization (WHO) reports which state that about 10% to 15% of the population in any country has some form of disability.

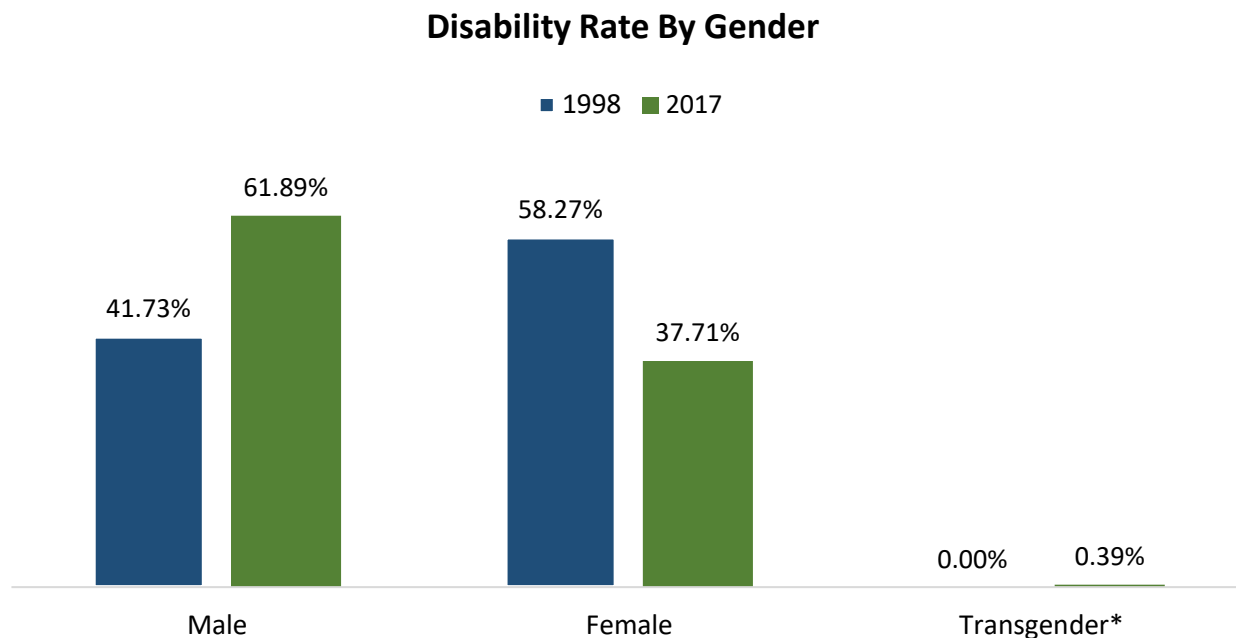
Figure 1 – Overall Disabled Population in 1998 vs 2017



2) Disability Rate by Gender: Disability in males increased (from males being 41.73% of the disabled population in 1998 to 61.89% in 2017) while disability in females decreased (from 58.27% in 1998 to 37.71% in 2017) over the course of two decades.

As per statistics, more males (61.89% of the total disabled population) as compared to females (37.71% of the total disabled population) were found to have some form of disability in 2017 census. In comparison, the disability among males and females in 1998 census was found to be 41.73% and 58.27% respectively. This indicates an increase in disability among males by 20.16% and a decrease in disability among females by 20.56%. The disability rate for transgenders (disabled transgenders as a percentage of total disabled population) was 0.39%; similar statistics for 1998 census are unavailable because transgender count was added to the census for the first time in 2017.

Figure 2 – Disability Rate by Gender in 1998 vs 2017

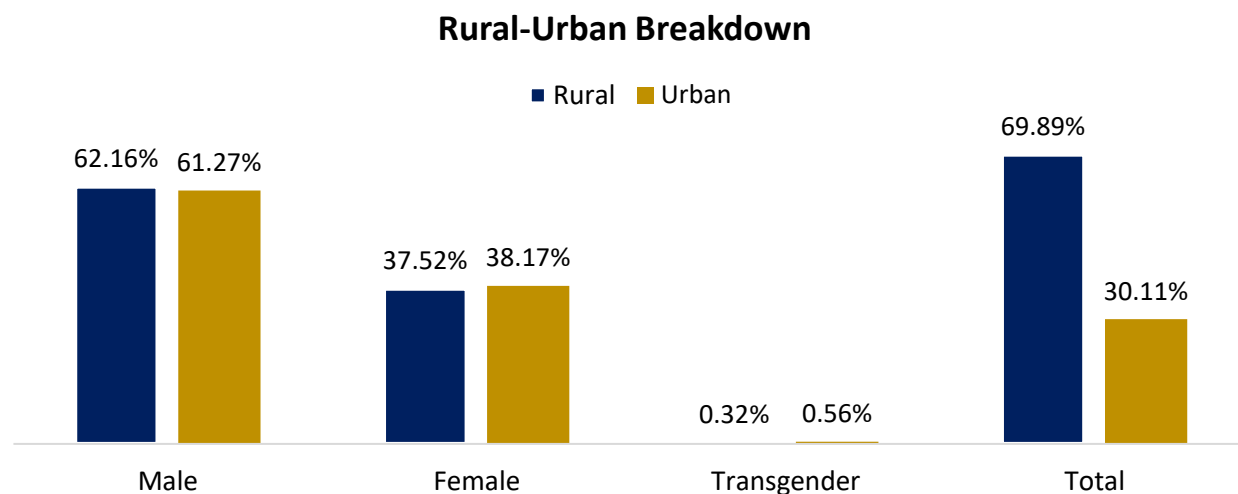


*Transgenders were counted for the first time in Pakistan in 2017 census

3) Rural-Urban Breakdown: More than two-thirds (69.89%) of the disabled population reside in rural areas compared to 30.11% of the disabled people in urban areas.

As per statistics, 30.11% (228,438 disabled people) of the disabled population resided in the urban areas (36.38% of the total population of Pakistan resides in urban areas). Of these disabled people living in urban areas, 61.27% are males, 38.17% are females and 0.56% are transgenders. These numbers suggest that more males as compared to females are found to be differently abled in urban areas. Similarly, 61.16% of disabled males, 37.52% of disabled females and 0.32% of disabled transgenders live in rural areas. This puts the total percentage of people with some form of disability living in rural areas at 69.89% (503,119 disabled people). As compared to urban areas, the 2017 census shows that the rural population of disabled people is 39.78% more than that of urban areas.

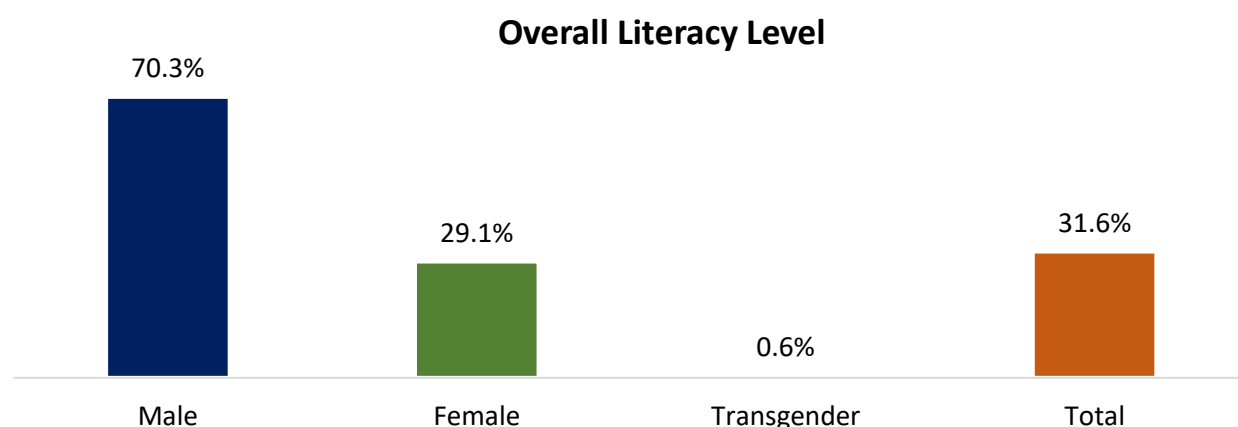
Figure 3 – Rural-Urban Breakdown of Proportion of Disabled Population in 2017



4) Overall Literacy Level: Nearly one-third (31.6%) of the disabled population is literate with 585,436 (68.4%) disabled people being illiterate. This figure of disabled illiterate people is significantly higher than average Pakistani illiteracy which stands at 41.09%.

Literacy level among the disabled population of Pakistan stands at 31.6% while majority (68.4%) of them are illiterate. This figure of disabled illiterate people is significantly higher than average Pakistani illiteracy which stands at 41.09% (61,009,943 Pakistani people are illiterate). The statistics also reveal that more males (70.3%) as compared to females (29.1%) among the total population of disabled people are literate, that is, they have received some form of education. This figure is significantly lower for the transgenders where the literacy level stands at only 0.6%.

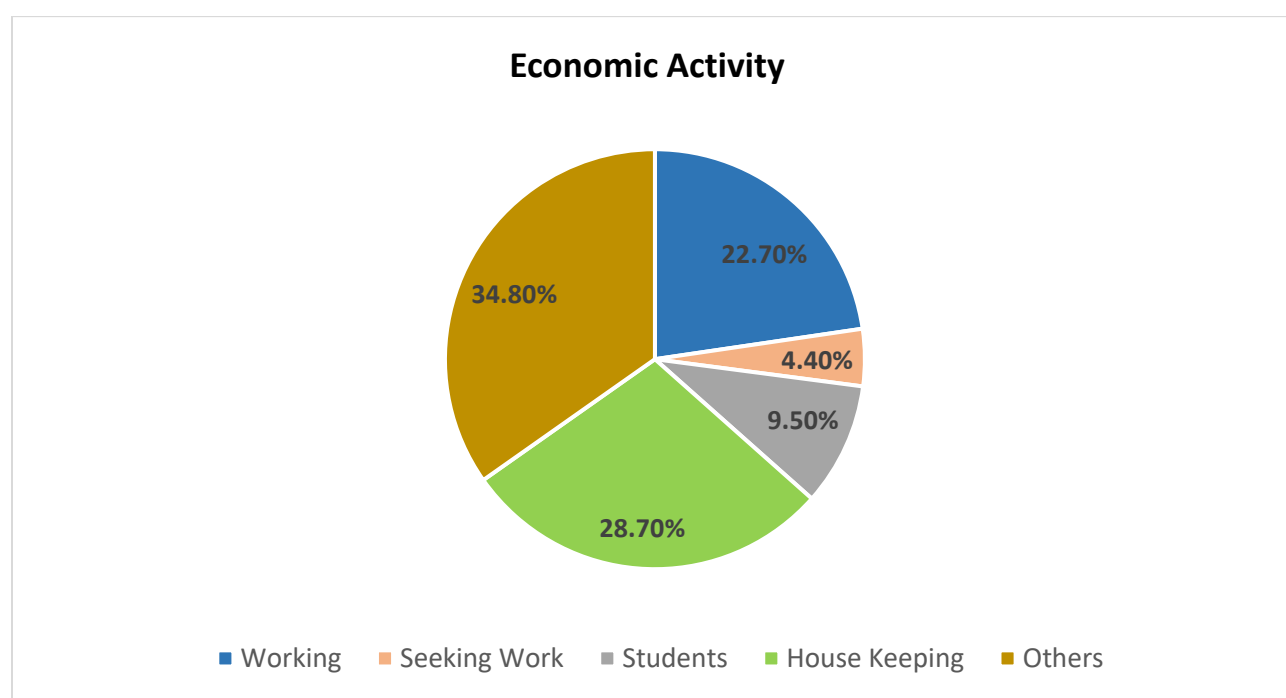
Figure 4 – Overall Literacy Level in 2017



5) Economic Activity and Type of Disability: Nearly one-quarter (22.7%) of the disabled population is employed while approximately one-third (28.7%) is involved in housekeeping; the percentage of blind, deaf and dumb, physically disable and mentally retarded people are 5.28%, 6.77%, 79.36% and 8.58% respectively.

The economic activity in the 2017 census is divided as follows: working, seeking work, students, housekeeping and others. According to the 2017 census, 22.7% of the disabled population are employed or involved in some economic activity. Moreover, 4.4% of the population is seeking work, 9.5% are students, 28.7% are involved in housekeeping and 34.8% are employed in other forms of economic activity that are not specified in the census.

Figure 5 – Economic Activity of the Disabled Population in 2017



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