

Education Level of Ever-Married Women– Pakistan

Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18

Between 1990- 2020: Proportions of married women with no education fell 30%, those with a middle school education increased 5%, those with a secondary school education increased 6%, and those with a bachelor or graduate degree increased 12%

MARRIED WOMEN WITH NO EDUCATION



In 1990, the highest proportions of “no education” can be observed among married women who are either very young or older than middle age. This pattern persists in other waves.



RURAL/URBAN TRENDS OF MARRIED WOMEN WITH NO EDUCATION

In each subsequent wave, the disparity in education levels decreases regardless of residence type. But overall, the disparity decreases at a much slower rate for rural women than for urban women



The greatest proportion of married women in both waves who reported themselves “currently working” were uneducated, with 84% in 1990 and 75% in 2006



Education level disparity reduces out at a quicker rate for middle to highest wealth quintiles in each wave, with the composition of different education levels changing every wave by a greater degree than in the previous

PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey

Between 1990- 2020: Proportions of married women with no education fell 30%, those with a middle school education increased 5%, those with a secondary school education increased 6%, and those with a bachelor or graduate degree increased 12% – Education Level of Ever-Married Women – Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey Trend Data

Islamabad, September 27, 2023

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is looking at the background characteristics of ever-married women aged 15-49 years by level of education. This data is part of a publication called the 'Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey'.

The current edition looks at data from past editions of the Pakistan DHS; 1990-91, 2006-07, 2012-13, and 2017-18.

All the previous PDHS reports can be found [HERE](#)

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: "The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as PSLM, Labour Force Survey, and Economic Survey reports as well as National Census Reports and Election Commission Data sets. The current series is using the Pakistan Demographic Survey, an annual compilation which seldom has data points not covered in many other reports. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan."

What data points this current edition covers:

This series aims to present the important learnings from the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey for policy makers, the public, as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way. In particular, this edition looks at the distribution of ever-married women aged 15-49 years by the highest level of education completed as reported in past editions of the PDHS. This trend data can provide insight into gender and development in Pakistan. The series' main aim is to provide data. Implications of these data points for development sector as well as wider socio-political ramifications is something we would like to trigger in relevant circles.

Today's topic is "Percent distribution of ever-married women by the highest level of education attended"

Key Findings:

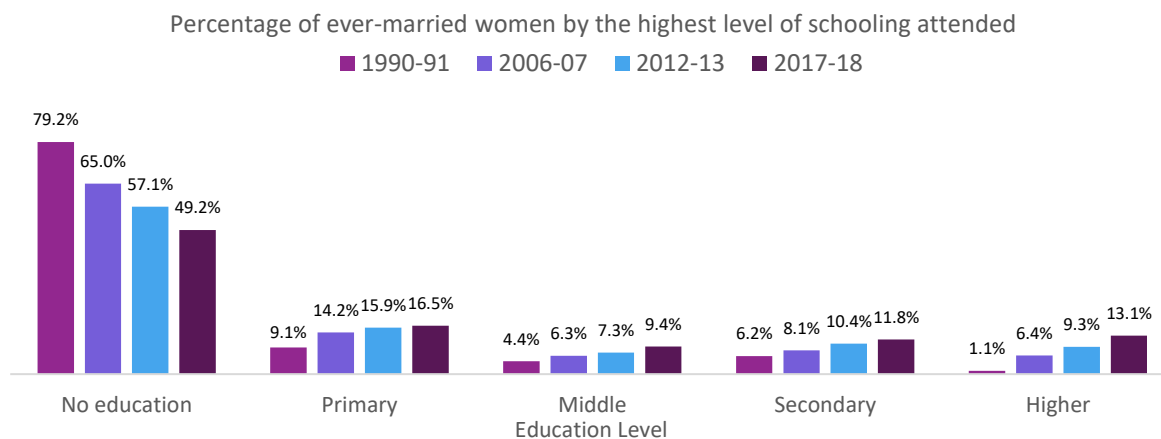
- 1) **Over the past 30 years, the level of illiteracy among married women has fallen and education level has risen:** the proportions of married women with no education fell 30%, those with a middle school education increased 5%, those with a secondary school education increased 6%, and those with a bachelor or graduate degree increased 12%
- 2) **In 1990, the highest proportions of "no education" can be observed among married women who are either very young or older than middle age.** This pattern persists in other waves.
- 3) **In each subsequent wave, the disparity in education levels decreases regardless of residence type.** But overall, the disparity decreases at a much slower rate for rural women than for urban women
- 4) **The greatest proportion of married women in both waves who reported themselves "currently working" were uneducated,** with 84% in 1990 and 75% in 2006
- 5) **Education level disparity reduces out at a quicker rate for middle to highest wealth quintiles in each wave,** with the composition of different education levels changing every wave by a greater degree than in the previous

1) Over the past 30 years, the level of illiteracy among married women has fallen and education level has risen

Trend data from past editions of the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey shows that the education profile of ever-married married women, aged 15-49 years, has changed very slowly over a span of around 30 years (1990-2020).

Married women who are uneducated remain the dominant segment in each survey year, but across waves the level of illiteracy among married women falls and the prevalence of education amongst married women rises of education rises, overall.

In 1990, 79% of married women had no education, whereas in 2017, 49% of married women were uneducated. This is a drop of 30% over 30 years, with steady decrease in each wave. 9% of married women had a primary level education in 1990, increasing by 7.5 percentage points to 16.5% by 2017. During this time period, the proportions of married women with a middle school education increased 5%, those with a secondary school education increased 6%, and those with a bachelor or graduate degree increased 12%.



Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

2) In 1990, the highest proportions of “no education” can be observed among married women who are either very young or older than middle age. This pattern persists in subsequent waves

Disaggregating the distribution by age groups shows interesting patterns in terms of which age group of married women is more likely to be less uneducated – or more educated – overall and how this has changed over time.

In 1990, the highest proportions of “no education” can be observed among married women who are either very young or older than middle age. This pattern persists in other waves.

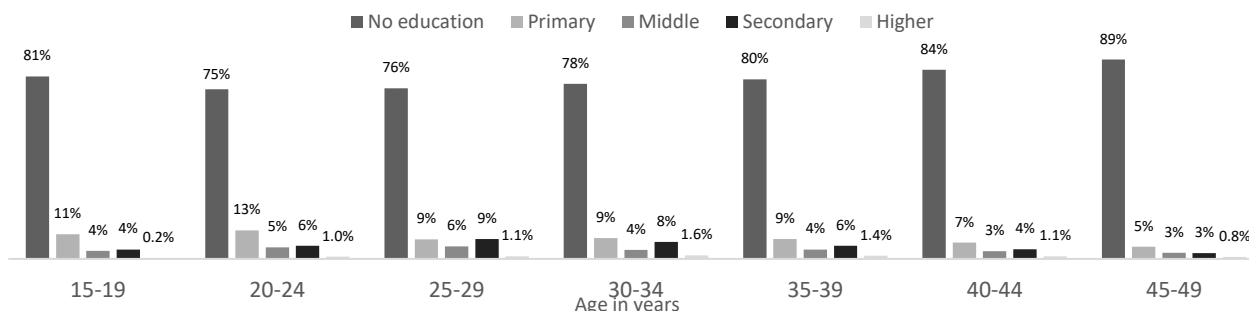
In 1990-91, 81% of 15-19-year-old married women had no education, while 11% of them had a primary-level education. That is a difference of 70%. This difference measure is observed by age group across waves in Table 1. The gap between uneducated married women and those with primary education shrinks every wave, as the former decrease in proportion and the latter increase.

The gap is smallest in each wave for 20–30-year-olds, and each subsequent wave the gap for 20–30-year-olds gets smaller overall.

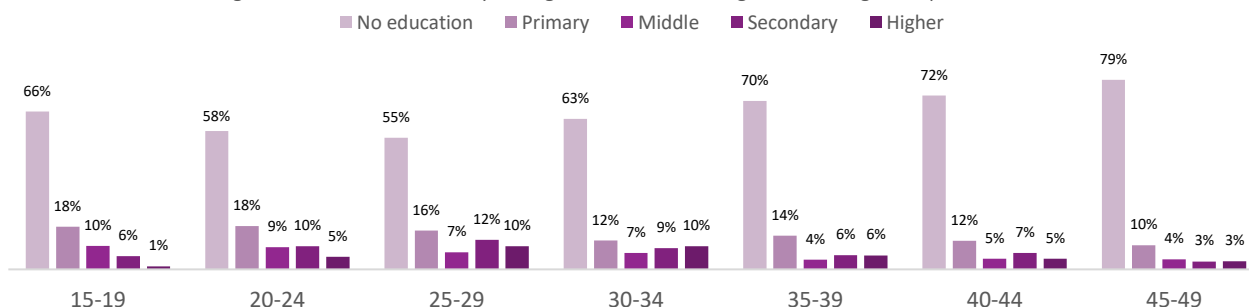
Table 1. Proportion of uneducated women minus primary educated women in each age group

wave/age group	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
1990-91	70%	62%	65%	67%	71%	77%	84%
2006-07	48%	40%	39%	51%	56%	60%	69%
2012-13	32%	28%	30%	40%	50%	51%	60%
2017-18	35%	26%	29%	24%	32%	45%	51%

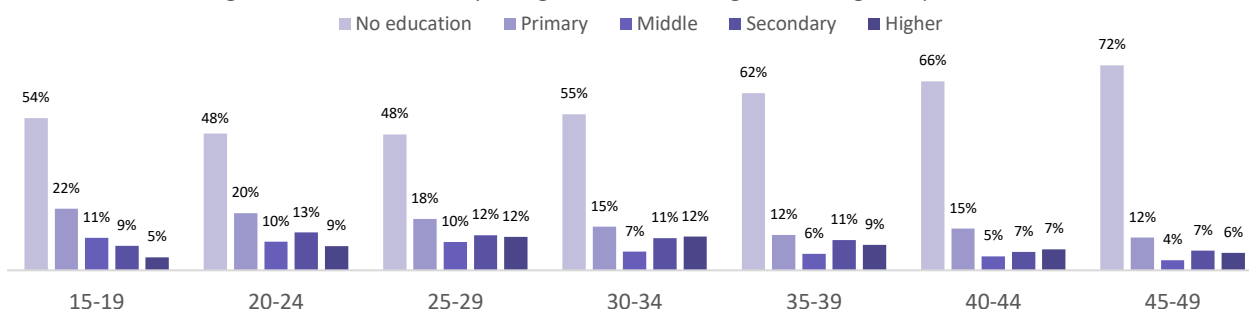
Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Age Groups - 1990-91



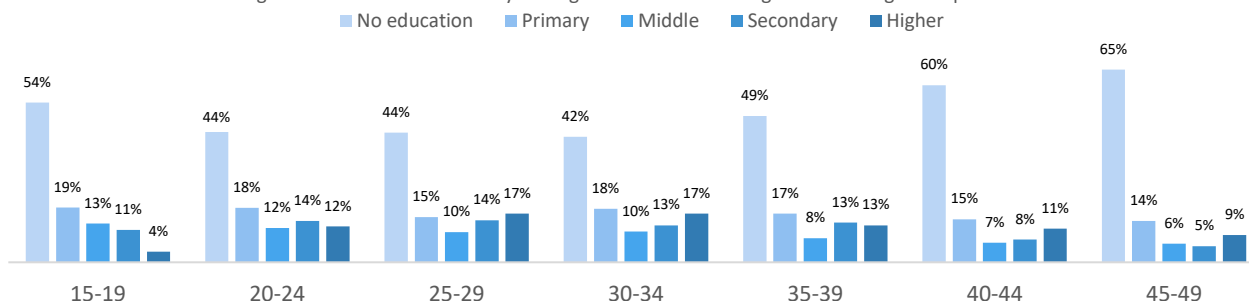
Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Age Groups - 2006-07



Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Age Groups - 2012-13



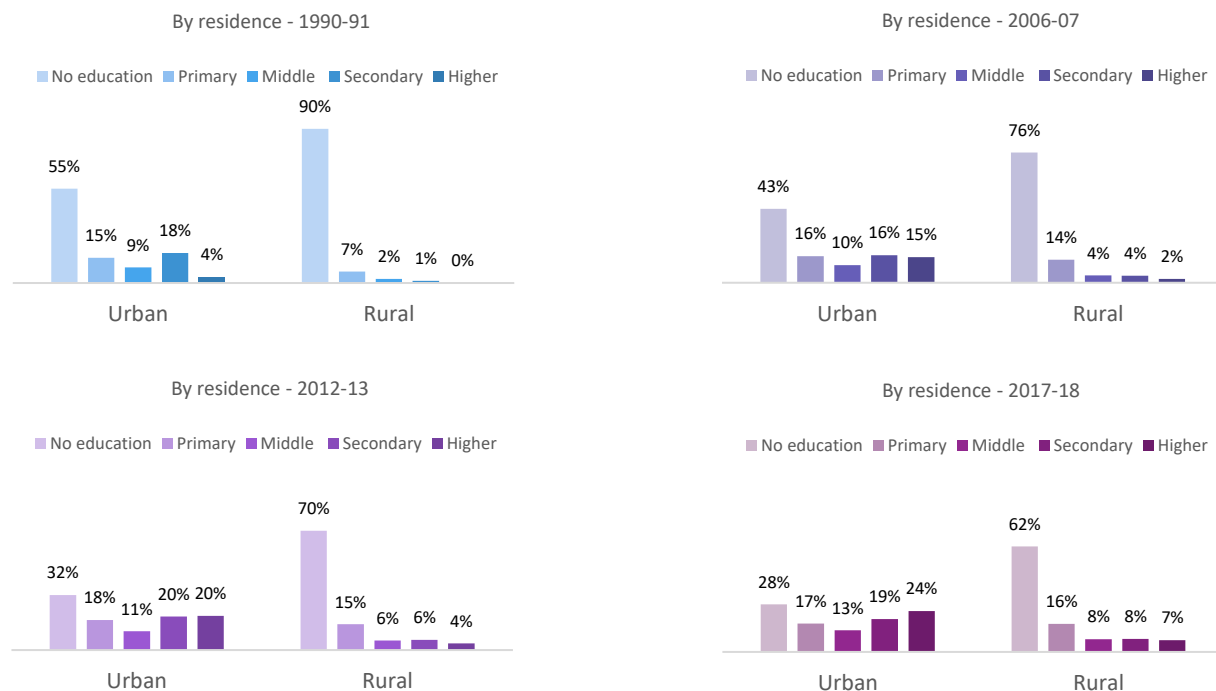
Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Age Groups - 2017-18



Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

3) In each subsequent wave, the disparity in education levels decreases regardless of residence type, but overall, the disparity decreases at a much slower rate for rural women than for urban women

In each wave, the proportion of married women who are uneducated is much greater in Rural areas than urban ones, which may be because the overall population distribution is greater in rural regions and that is being reflected here. In each subsequent wave, the disparity in education levels decreases as the proportion of married women who are uneducated continuously decreases and proportion of primary, secondary, middle, and higher-educated ones increases. However, the disparity overall decreases at a much slower rate and by a lesser proportion for rural women than for urban women.

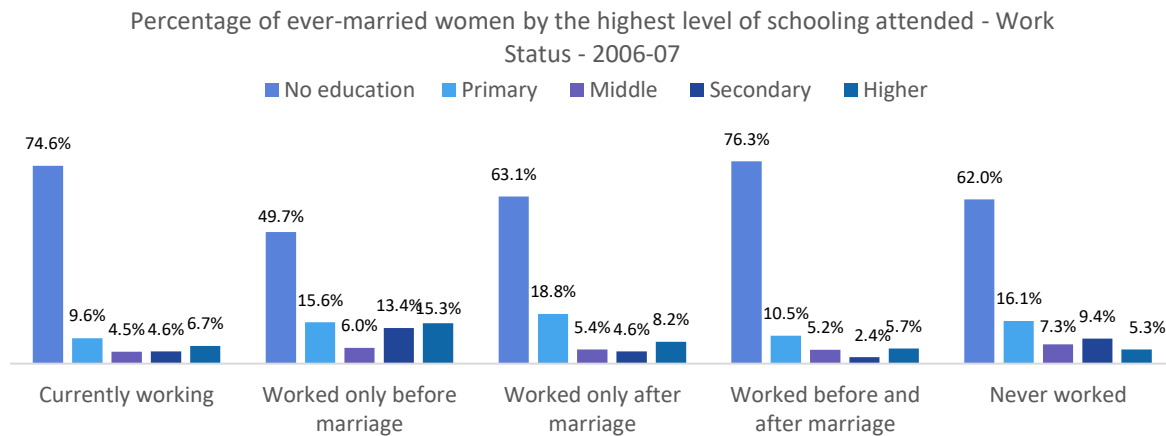
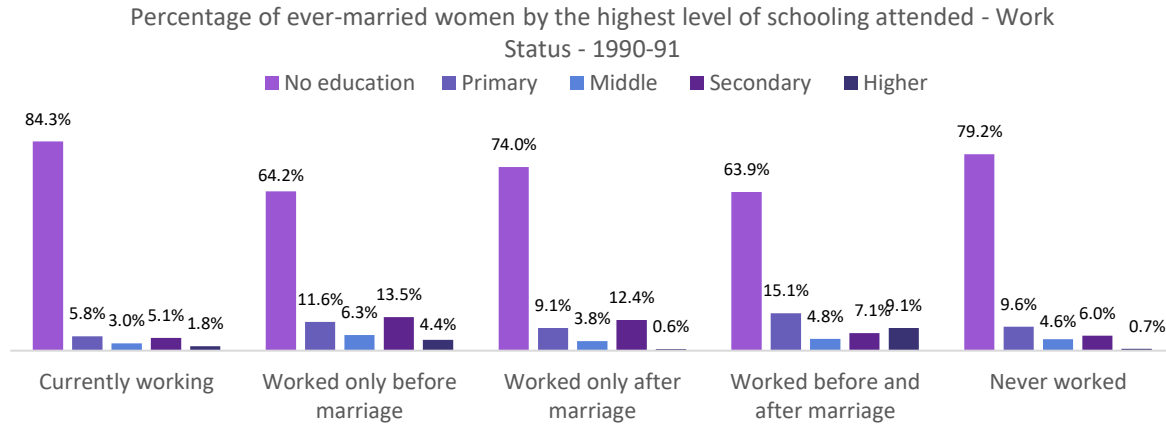


Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

4) The greatest proportion of married women in both waves who reported themselves “currently working” were uneducated, with 84% in 1990 and 75% in 2006

‘Work Status’ as part of background characteristics of ever-married women was only published during the first two waves – 1990-91 and 2006-07.

The greatest proportion of married women in both waves who reported themselves “currently working” were uneducated, with 84% in 1990 and 75% in 2006. The disparity in education level for those who worked before and after marriage was lower in 1990 than in 2006, with a greater proportion of uneducated women in the latter wave.



Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

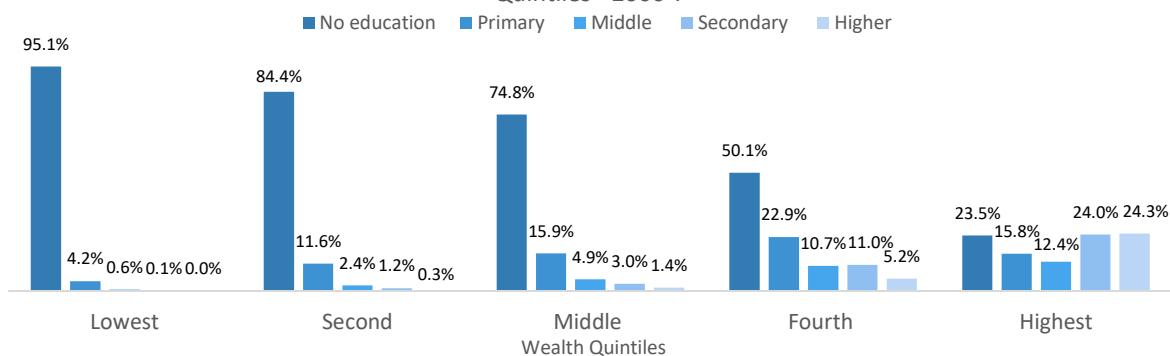
5) Education level disparity reduces out at a quicker rate for middle to highest wealth quintiles in each wave, with the composition of different education levels changing every wave by a greater degree than in the previous

‘Wealth as part of background characteristics of ever-married women was only published during the latter three waves – 2006-07, 2012-13, and 2017-18.

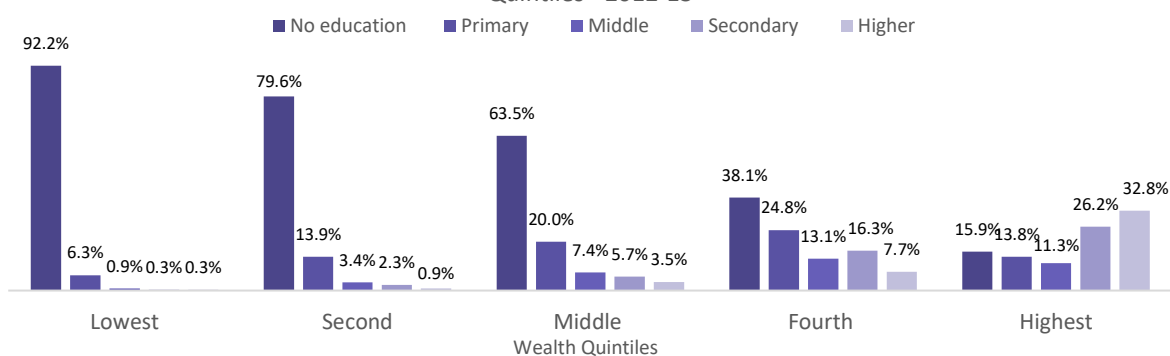
The trend across waves shows that the overall higher prevalence of uneducated married women belonging to lower quintiles does not alter too much over the years. In a decade’s time, the proportion of married women belonging to the lowest wealth quintile who are uneducated reduces only 5%.

Education level disparity reduces out at a quicker rate for middle to highest wealth quintiles in each wave, with the composition of different education levels changing every wave by a greater degree than in the previous.

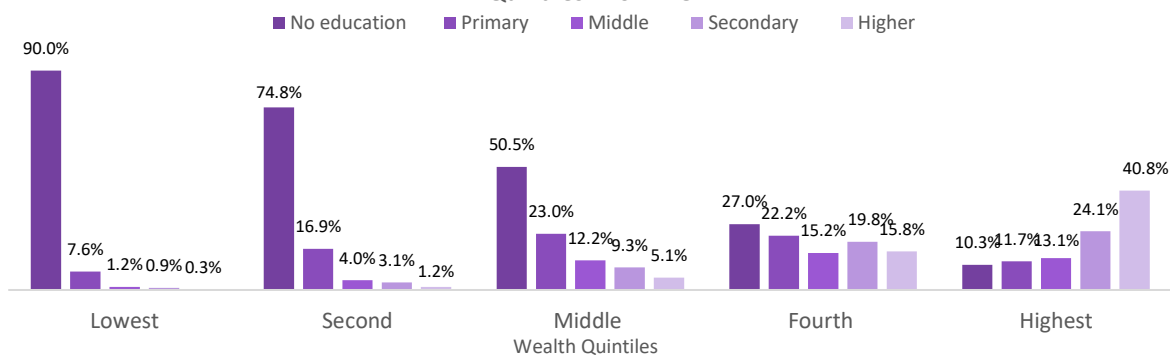
Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Wealth Quintiles - 2006-7



Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Wealth Quintiles - 2012-13



Percentage of ever-married women by the highest level of schooling attended - Wealth Quintiles - 2017-18



Source: Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey; analyzed by Gallup Pakistan

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 PDS 2017-18. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director of the Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Wish to know more about the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18?

“The primary objective of the 2017-18 PDHS is to provide up-to-date estimates of basic demographic and health indicators. The PDHS provides a comprehensive overview of population, maternal, and child health issues in Pakistan. Specifically, the 2017-18 PDHS collected information on:

- Key demographic indicators, particularly fertility and under-5 mortality rates, at the national level, for urban and rural areas, and within the country’s eight regions
- Direct and indirect factors that determine levels and trends of fertility and child mortality
- Contraceptive knowledge and practice
- Maternal health and care including antenatal, perinatal, and postnatal care
- Child feeding practices, including breastfeeding, and anthropometric measures to assess the nutritional status of children under age 5 and women aged 15-49
- Key aspects of family health, including vaccination coverage and prevalence of diseases among infants and children under age 5
- Knowledge and attitudes of women and men about sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV/AIDS, and potential exposure to risk
- Women's empowerment and its relationship to reproductive health and family planning
- Disability level
- Extent of gender-based violence
- Migration patterns”

You can find out more at: <https://dhsprogram.com/>

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