

Who Is Closing Pakistan's Youth Literacy Gaps the Fastest? Balochistan saw highest increase followed by KP (since 2019), almost no change in Sindh signals worrying stagnation in second largest province



Between 2018–19 and 2024–25, Balochistan recorded the fastest improvement in youth literacy, rising from 47% to 60% (+13 percentage points). Gains were broad-based: male youth literacy increased by 14 pp, female youth by 12 pp, and rural youth by 13 pp. Despite starting from the lowest base, Balochistan shows the strongest momentum—particularly among girls and rural communities.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa follows as the second-fastest improver, with progress driven overwhelmingly by female youth. While male youth literacy remained nearly flat (+1 pp), female youth literacy rose by 13 pp, and rural youth by 7 pp, underscoring targeted gains rather than system-wide expansion. Punjab, already a high performer, posted steady but incremental progress. Youth literacy increased by 5 pp overall, with stronger gains among female (+7 pp) and rural youth (+6 pp), while urban improvements remained modest—suggesting signs of plateauing in already high-coverage areas.

In contrast, Sindh shows the weakest performance. Overall youth literacy rose by just 2 pp over six years. Male youth literacy stagnated, urban youth literacy declined slightly, and gains were limited to modest improvements among female and rural youth. Progress exists, but it is narrowly concentrated rather than broad-based,



(Also emailed*/faxed separately)



PRESS RELEASE

Big Data Analysis Education, Youth & Provincial Governance

Who Is Closing Pakistan's Youth Literacy Gaps the Fastest? Balochistan saw highest increase followed by KP (since 2019), almost no change in Sindh signals worrying stagnation in second largest province: Gallup Analysis Report released

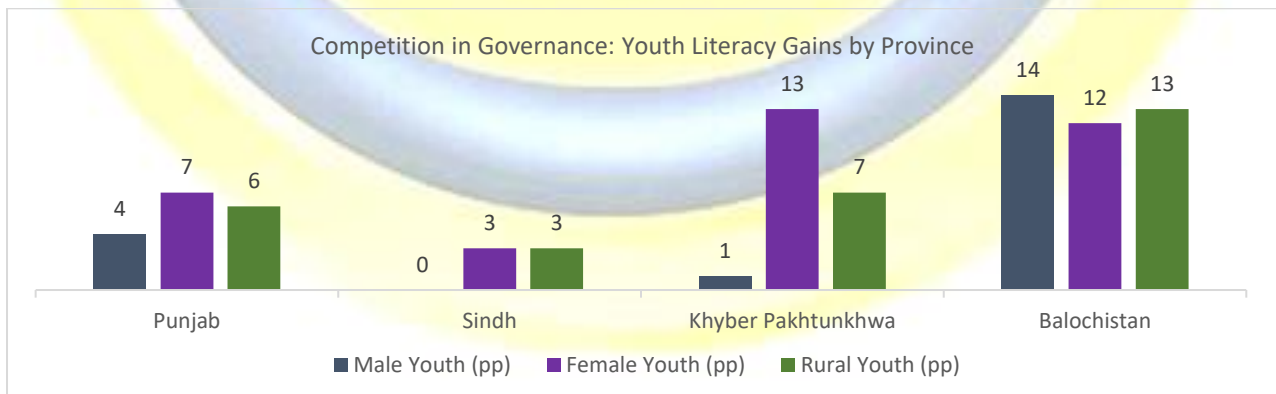
(Islamabad), 16th January, 2026

New data from the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) reveal that youth literacy (ages 15–24) has emerged as a quiet but telling scoreboard of provincial governance in Pakistan. While literacy levels are improving nationally, the pace of progress varies sharply across provinces, reflecting differences in policy focus, delivery capacity, and institutional effectiveness rather than historical starting points alone.

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In contrast, Sindh shows the weakest performance. Overall youth literacy rose by just 2 pp over six years. Male youth literacy stagnated, urban youth literacy declined slightly, and gains were limited to modest improvements among female and rural youth. Progress exists, but it is narrowly concentrated rather than broad-based, placing Sindh clearly behind other provinces.



Source: Gallup & Gilani Pakistan
(www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk, www.gilanifoundation.com)

This analysis was conducted and released by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. It draws on data from the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, covering youth literacy outcomes (ages 15–24) across Pakistan for the period from September 2024 to June 2025. (Coverage: 30,000+ households nationwide)



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
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Gilani Research Foundation is a not-for-profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policymakers, and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently, Dr. Gilani, who holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

If you have any further questions regarding this poll, please feel free to contact us.

*Best Regards,
Gallup Pakistan*

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of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2025)