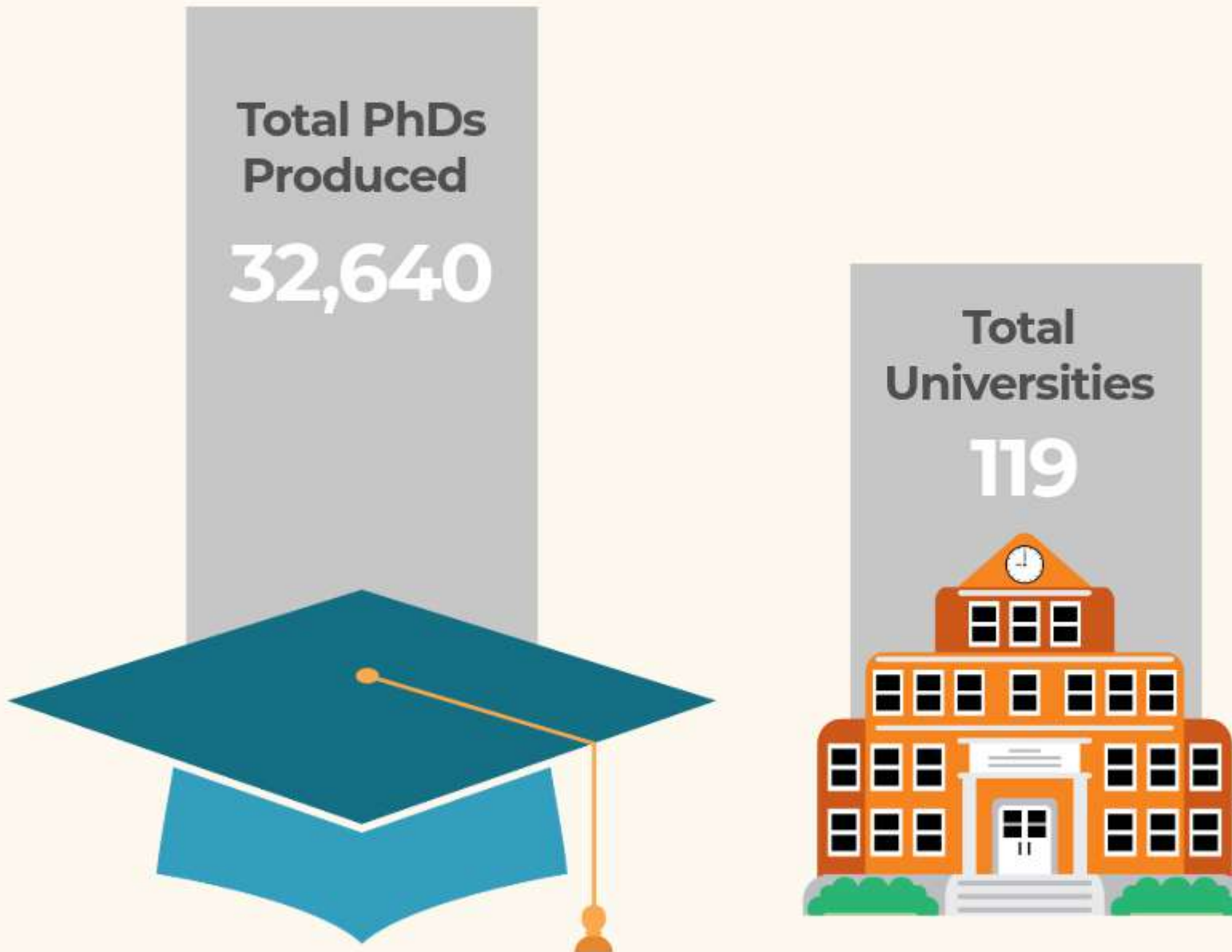


Big Data Analysis | Higher Education & Research

*In recent years Pakistan Has Produced **32,640** PhDs — Chemistry Leads with **2.4K**, While Economics & Biotechnology Stand at **0.7K** Each*



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



(Also emailed*/faxed separately)



PRESS RELEASE

Big Data Analysis Higher Education & Research

In recent years Pakistan Has Produced 32,640 PhDs — Chemistry Leads with 2.4K, While Economics & Biotechnology Stand at 0.7K Each

(Islamabad), 24th February 2026

Pakistan has produced 32,640 PhDs across 119 universities over the past decade, according to data compiled in the Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics Higher Education Dashboard. The scale of doctoral production reflects a significant expansion of advanced academic training in the country. However, the distribution of these PhDs across disciplines reveals important structural patterns.

Among all subjects, Chemistry leads with approximately 2.4 thousand PhDs, followed by Mathematics (1.7K) and Education (1.5K). Traditional humanities and social sciences also account for large shares, with Islamic Studies (1.3K) and Urdu (1.2K) among the top five fields. Core natural sciences such as Physics (1.0K), Zoology (0.9K), and Botany (0.9K) follow, while applied and economically strategic disciplines such as Economics (0.7K) and Biotechnology (0.7K) remain comparatively smaller in scale.

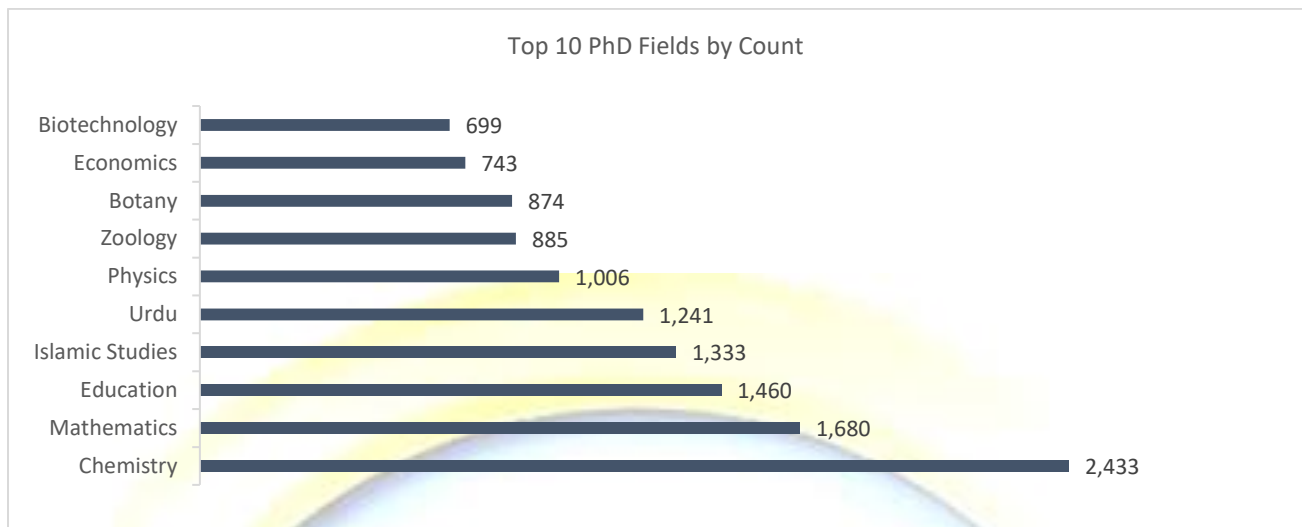
The concentration of PhDs in certain academic domains raises broader planning considerations. Doctoral production is expanding, but the key issue is whether this expansion aligns with Pakistan's economic transformation needs, industrial upgrading requirements, technological competitiveness, and innovation capacity. The question is not about the legitimacy of any discipline; rather, it is about strategic balance.

A country's doctoral ecosystem shapes its long-term productivity. Without alignment between advanced research training and national development priorities, rising PhD numbers may risk underemployment, academic congestion, and limited impact on export-oriented growth and technological innovation.

The expansion of doctoral education is significant. The next phase requires strategic direction.



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



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This analysis was conducted and released by Gallup & Gilani Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. It draws on higher education data compiled from national records and visualized through the Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics PhD Dashboard. Further details can be explored via the dashboard developed by Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics: [HEC Recognized PhDs Scholars](#)



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup
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GILANI RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Tuesday, 24th February 2026

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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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