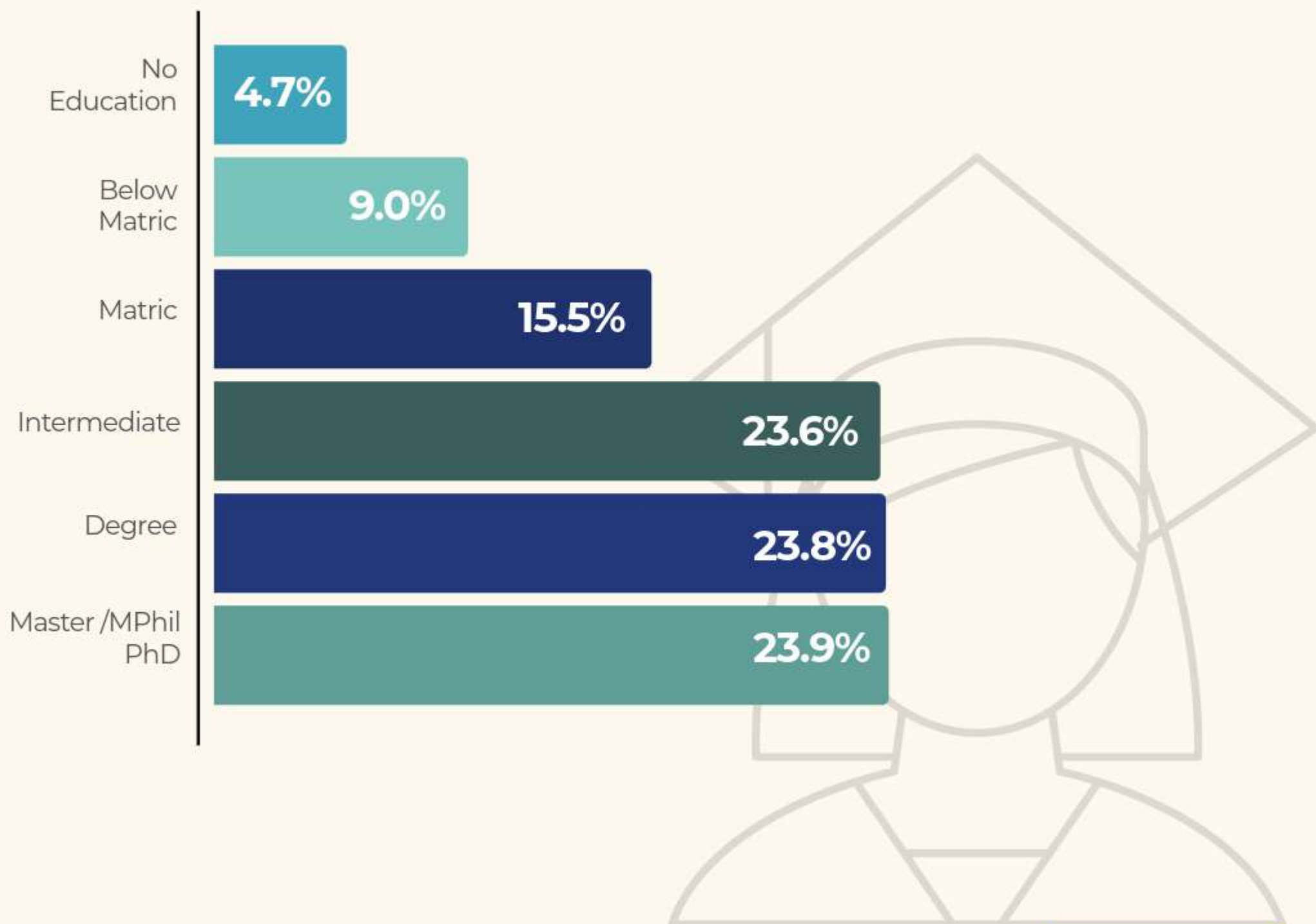


Big Data Analysis | Education and Employment

*Higher Education, Higher Unemployment: Nearly **1 in 4** Highly Educated Women in Pakistan Are Jobless*



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



(Also emailed*/faxed separately)



PRESS RELEASE

Big Data Analysis Education & Employment

Higher Education, Higher Unemployment: Nearly 1 in 4 Highly Educated Women in Pakistan Are Jobless

(Islamabad), 26th January, 2026

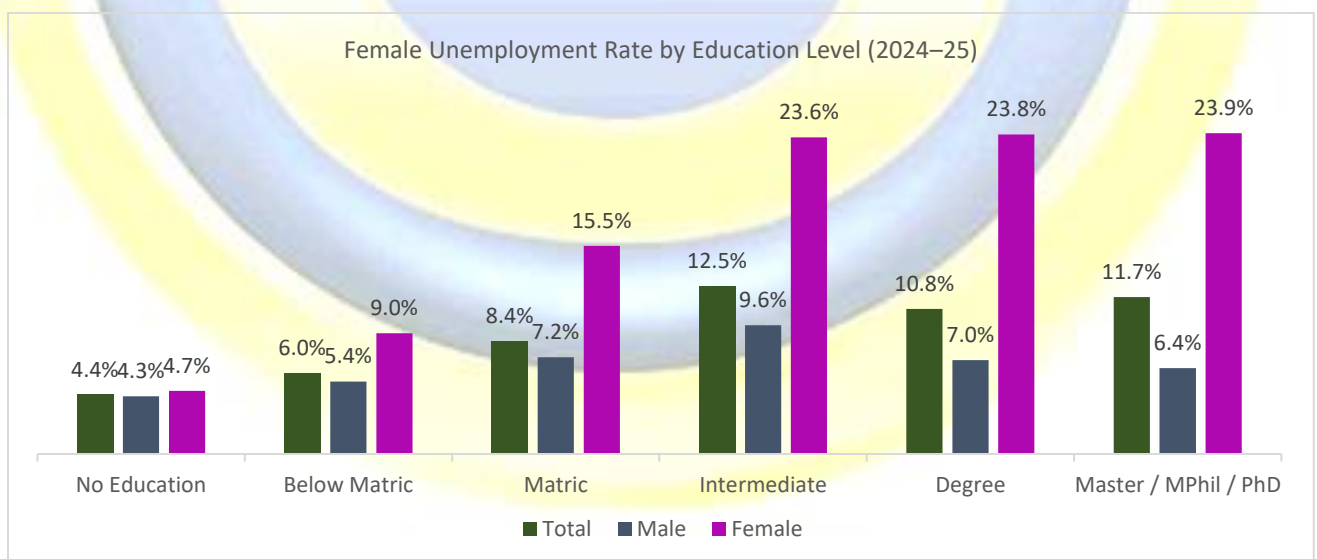
In Pakistan, more education means more unemployment for women. This sounds counter-intuitive — but the data is unambiguous.

Using official figures from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (Labour Force Survey 2024–25), female unemployment rises sharply with education level.

In 2024–25, unemployment among women with no education stands at 4.7%. For those below matric, it nearly doubles to 9.0%. Among women with matric education, unemployment climbs further to 15.5%. The steepest increases appear at higher education levels. Women with intermediate education face 23.6% unemployment. Those with a degree face 23.8%, and women with Master's / MPhil / PhD qualifications experience an unemployment rate of 23.9%.

In short, the more educated a woman is, the more likely she is to be unemployed in Pakistan. This pattern does not imply that education reduces employability. Rather, it reflects structural constraints: limited availability of suitable white-collar jobs, social norms restricting mobility, skill mismatch, and insufficient expansion of high-productivity sectors that can absorb educated female labor.

The issue is therefore not over-education — it is under-absorption. If Pakistan aims to expand female labor force participation, the policy focus must shift from simply increasing female educational attainment to creating pathways that connect educated women to meaningful employment opportunities.



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 unemployment data from the Labour Force Survey 2024–25 published by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), using the 13th ICLS definition of unemployment and disaggregated by education level and gender.



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup
International



GILANI RESEARCH
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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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