

Living Standards, Dignity & Household Welfare

1 in 14 vs 1 in 5: Pakistan Beats India on Toilets

Households without a Toilet



Don't know/No response: 1%

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



(Also emailed*/faxed separately)



PRESS RELEASE

Big Data Analysis Living Standards, Dignity & Household Welfare

1 in 14 vs 1 in 5: Pakistan Beats India on Toilets

(Islamabad), 31st March, 2026

Access to a toilet is not a luxury. It is a basic human need tied to dignity, health, and safety. Yet a comparison of household toilet access in Pakistan and India presents a striking picture that complicates conventional development narratives.

The data show that in Pakistan, about 7% of households lack a toilet within the home — roughly 1 in 14 households. In India, the comparable figure is about 22%, or roughly 1 in 5 households. In relative terms, this means the share of households without toilets is around three times higher in India than in Pakistan.

This contrast is noteworthy because it runs against the direction suggested by many headline macro indicators. India is often seen as the faster-growing economy with lower measured poverty, while Pakistan is more commonly associated with economic stress and weaker development outcomes. Yet on this basic measure of household dignity, Pakistan performs better.

The comparison suggests that conventional metrics do not always translate neatly into lived conditions at the household level. Access to sanitation is one of the most basic indicators of welfare, and on this count Pakistan appears to have achieved broader household coverage.

The larger lesson is that growth and poverty statistics, while important, do not capture everything. A fuller understanding of welfare requires attention not only to income, but also to dignity, infrastructure, and whether basic needs are actually met inside the home.



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 household-level sanitation data from the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES 2025) conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics for Pakistan, and the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) for India.



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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