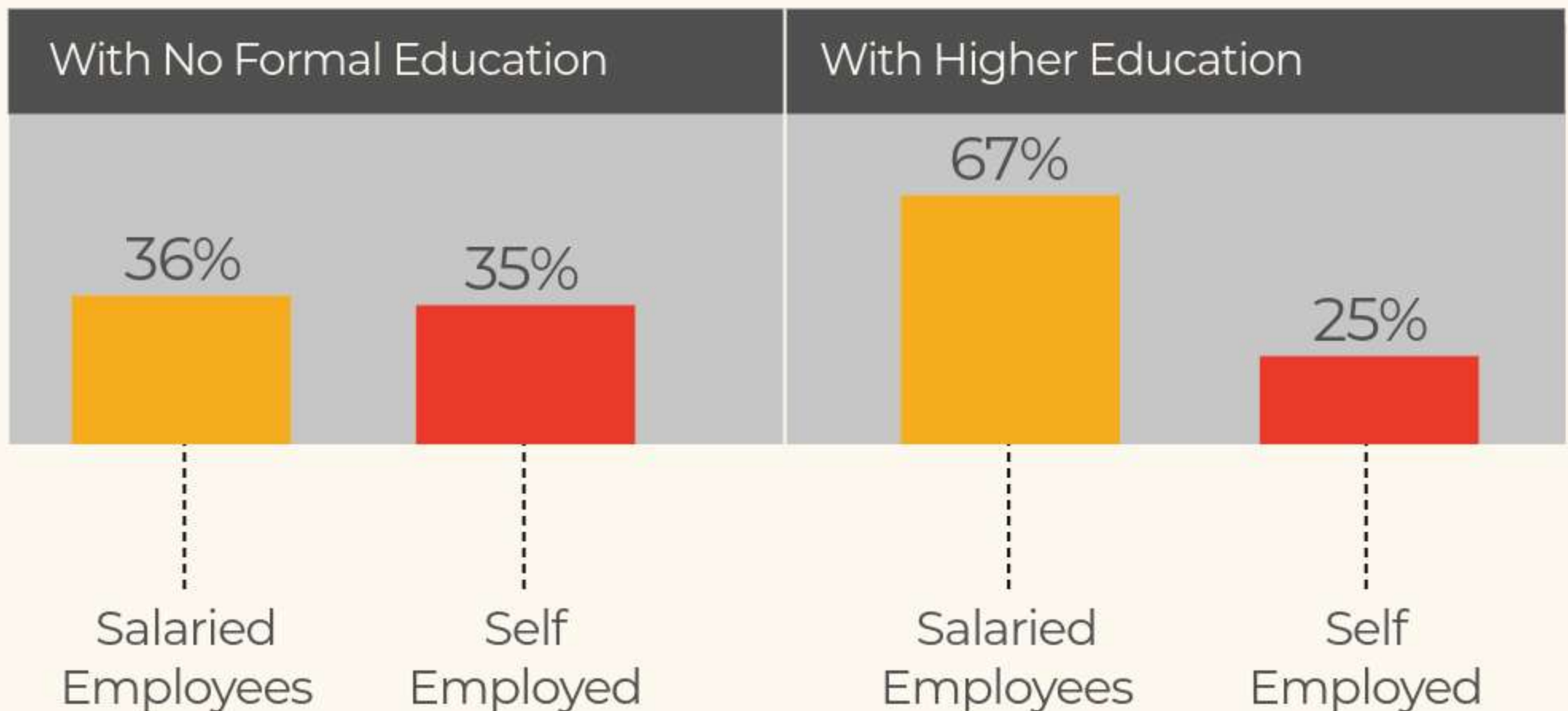


Education Makes You Go for a Salaried Job Life — and That Should Be Corrected

Among employed Pakistanis with no formal education, 36% are salaried employees and 35% are self-employed. As education rises, salaried employment becomes increasingly dominant. Among those with higher education, 67% are salaried employees, while the share who are self-employed falls to 25%.



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 & Labour Force

Education Makes You Go for a Salaried Job Life — and That Should Be Corrected

(Islamabad), 30th July 2026

Pakistan's education system appears to be producing job applicants more effectively than job creators.

Analysis by Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics of the Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2024–25 shows a clear relationship between education and the type of work people enter.

Among employed Pakistanis with no formal education, 36% are salaried employees and 35% are self-employed. As education rises, salaried employment becomes increasingly dominant. Among those with higher education, 67% are salaried employees, while the share who are self-employed falls to 25%.

The share working as unpaid family helpers also declines sharply—from 29% among workers with no education to 7% among those with higher education. Education therefore does not only raise qualifications; it changes the kind of employment people pursue.

More Education, Narrower Employment Aspirations

The pattern suggests that Pakistan's education system increasingly directs students toward one pathway: earn a degree, prepare a CV and compete for a limited number of formal salaried positions.

That model becomes difficult to sustain when universities produce graduates faster than the economy creates suitable formal jobs. The result is a growing pool of educated jobseekers competing for the same positions, while comparatively fewer graduates enter independent economic activity.

This does not mean that all self-employed workers are entrepreneurs, or that salaried employment is undesirable. Many self-employed workers operate in low-productivity or informal activities. However, when higher education moves people away from self-employment without an equivalent expansion in formal employment, graduate unemployment becomes partly a question of how education shapes expectations and capabilities.

Education Should Also Prepare People to Create Work

Pakistan's education system needs to prepare graduates not only to find jobs, but also to build enterprises, manage risk, identify markets and create employment for others.

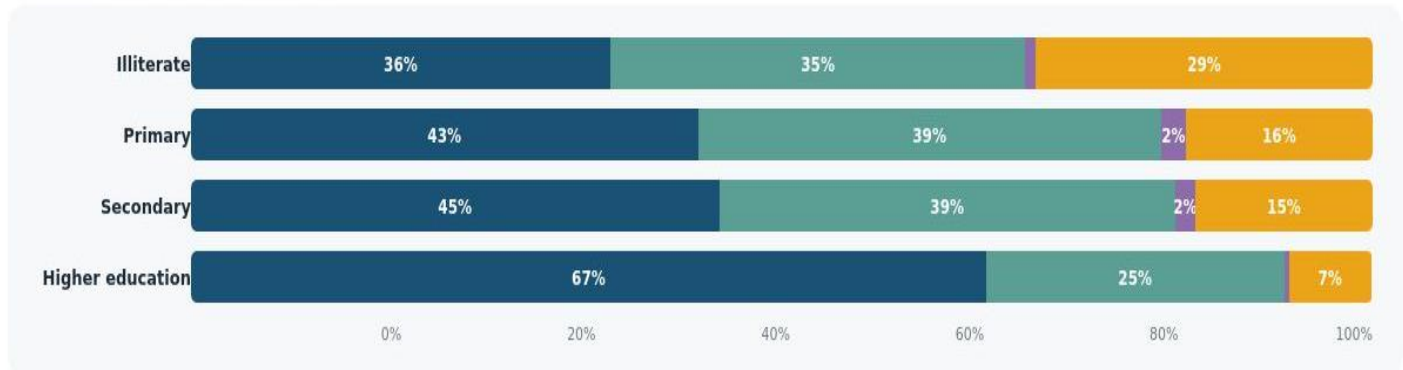
The deeper issue may not simply be that graduates cannot find work. It is that education has too often presented salaried employment as the only respectable or successful career outcome.

Education doesn't just raise incomes — it changes the kind of job you get

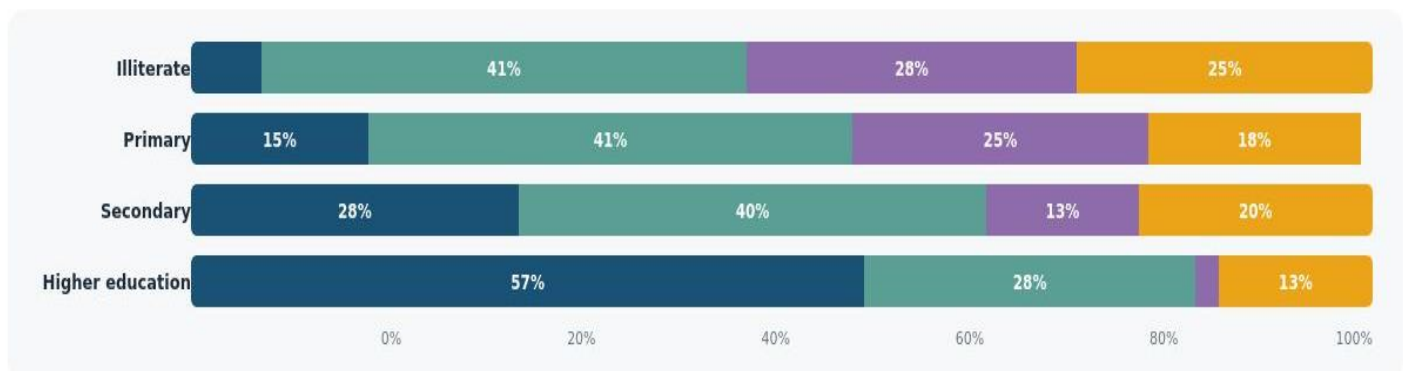
Type of employment by education level, employed workers. Pakistan vs. India, most recent data for each.

■ Salaried employee ■ Self-employed ■ Casual / contract worker ■ Unpaid family helper

Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2024-25, ages 15-64



India Periodic Labour Force Survey 2024, National Statistics Office



SAME CLIMB, DIFFERENT STARTING LINE

Both countries show salaried work rising sharply with education — but Pakistan's illiterate workers start six times further ahead on salaried jobs than India's (36% vs 6%), while both converge to a similar 57-67% among graduates.

INDIA'S "CASUAL WORKER" IS PAKISTAN'S MISSING CATEGORY

India's PLFS captures a large casual/day-labour segment (28% among the illiterate) that barely registers in Pakistan's data — likely absorbed into "self-employed," suggesting the two surveys draw the informal-work line differently.

Sources: Pakistan Labour Force Survey 2024-25 (PBS); India Periodic Labour Force Survey 2024 (National Statistics Office, via Data For India). Pakistan's "casual / contract worker" combines paid apprentices and dependent contractors — its LFS does not use a distinct casual-worker category comparable to India's PLFS, so cross-country casual-worker shares are not strictly comparable.

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

This analysis was conducted by Gallup Pakistan using data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey 2024–25, covering employed workers aged 15–64 and examining employment status across different education levels. The Pakistan–India comparison shown in the chart also uses India's Periodic Labour Force Survey 2024.



Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup
International



GILANI RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

Thursday, 30th July 2026

(3 Pages, English version Only)

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*

Disclaimer: Gallup Pakistan is not related to Gallup Inc. headquartered in Washington D.C. USA. We require that our surveys be credited fully as **Gallup Pakistan** (not Gallup or Gallup Poll). We disclaim any responsibility for surveys pertaining to Pakistani public opinion except those carried out by **Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association.**

For more details about the Gallup International Association and to stay connected, please visit:



Official Website: www.gallup-international.com



Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/gallup_international



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Gallup-International-Association/100089179655116/>



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/gallup-international-association>



Daily Gilani Poll
2026



of Gallup Pakistan
(1980-2026)