



Four Decades of Pakistan:

Social, Economic, Health, Demographic, Education & Employment Trends

Provincial and gender-disaggregated analysis, 1990–2025, benchmarked against India and Bangladesh



Section 1

Overview, Data Sources & Methodology

What this report covers

Four decades of Pakistani social, economic, health, demographic, education, business and employment trends

- Education: years of schooling, literacy, household attainment, 1990–2025
- Demographics: fertility, family size, age at marriage, household composition
- Employment: labour force participation, unemployment, business ownership
- Gender: participation gaps across every domain, by profession and age
- Health & wellbeing: household assets, water, sanitation, contraceptive use
- Social attitudes: gender-based violence attitudes, consanguineous marriage
- Provincial breakdowns: Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan
- Cross-country comparison: India and Bangladesh where verified data allows

Data sources

Every figure in this report traces to a specific, named survey wave

Pakistan Labour Force Survey

2005–06, 2018–19, 2024–25

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey

1990–91, 2017–18

National Institute of Population Studies

India National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)

2019–21

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, India

Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey

2022

NIPORT, Bangladesh

PSLM / PSER Roster Supplementary Survey

Recent

Punjab Social & Economic Registry

How to read this report

Standard conventions used throughout

- “Out of labour force” means not working AND not actively seeking work — distinct from unemployment
- “12+ years of education” approximates intermediate/higher-secondary completion or above
- Household-level figures ask whether ANY member meets a threshold; individual-level figures describe one person
- Where a data point could not be verified from an available, labelled source, it is marked “not available” rather than estimated
- Provincial figures reflect the four core provinces as consistently coded across survey waves; AJK, Gilgit-Baltistan, ICT and FATA are shown only where the specific wave supports it
- All shares are survey-weighted unless marked “unweighted”

Scope and limitations

An honest accounting of what this data can and cannot show

- Pakistan's domestic violence, consanguinity, and detailed asset modules were only introduced into DHS from the 2000s onward — no 1990–91 baseline exists for these topics
- Several additional LFS waves (2006–07 through 2014–15) were reviewed but excluded: variable or value labels were missing or the specific field-of-study / employment-status detail needed could not be verified
- India and Bangladesh comparisons use each country's most recent nationally representative DHS/NFHS round; a full multi-wave time series matching Pakistan's three LFS points was not available for India or Bangladesh from the files reviewed
- Sample sizes are shown wherever a breakdown becomes thin (e.g., small provincial or sub-group cells) — read those figures with appropriate caution

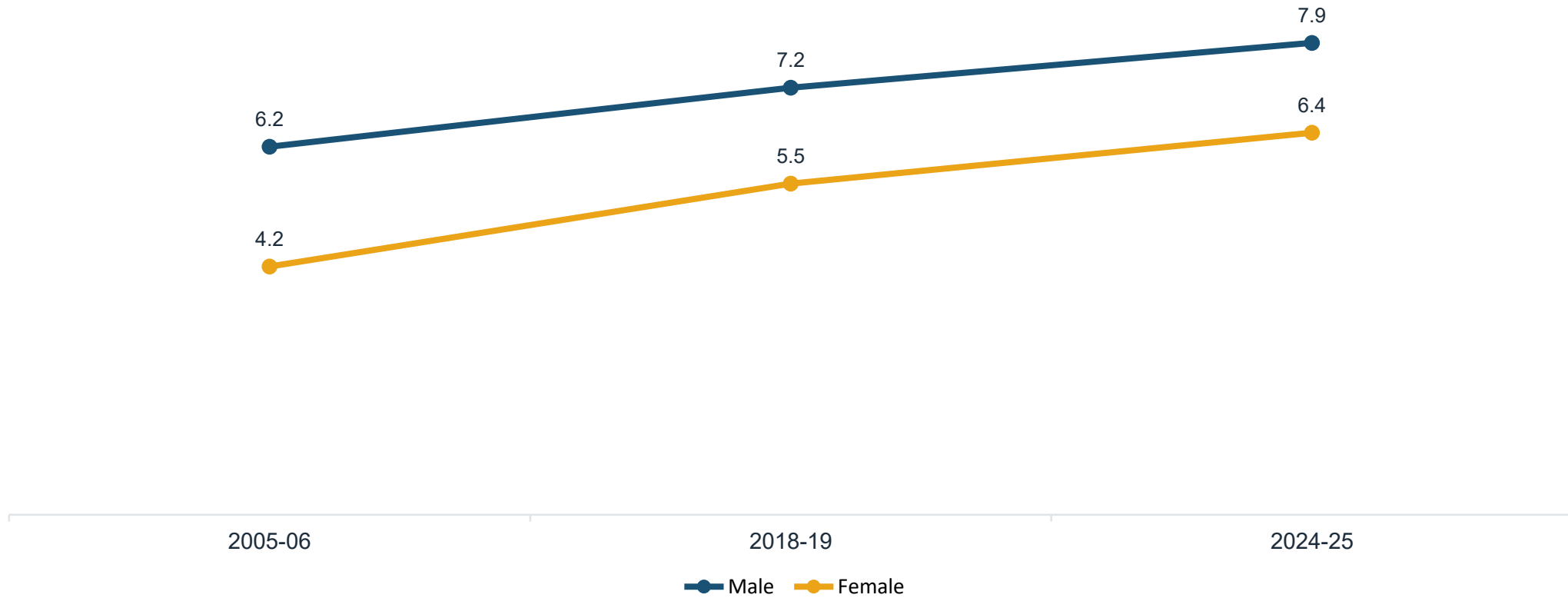


Section 2

Education: Four Decades of Change

Mean years of schooling, ages 18-30

Pakistan, national, by sex - three Labour Force Survey waves



The scale of change since 2005-06

4.2 -> 6.4

Years of schooling, women 18-30

6.2 -> 7.9

Years of schooling, men 18-30

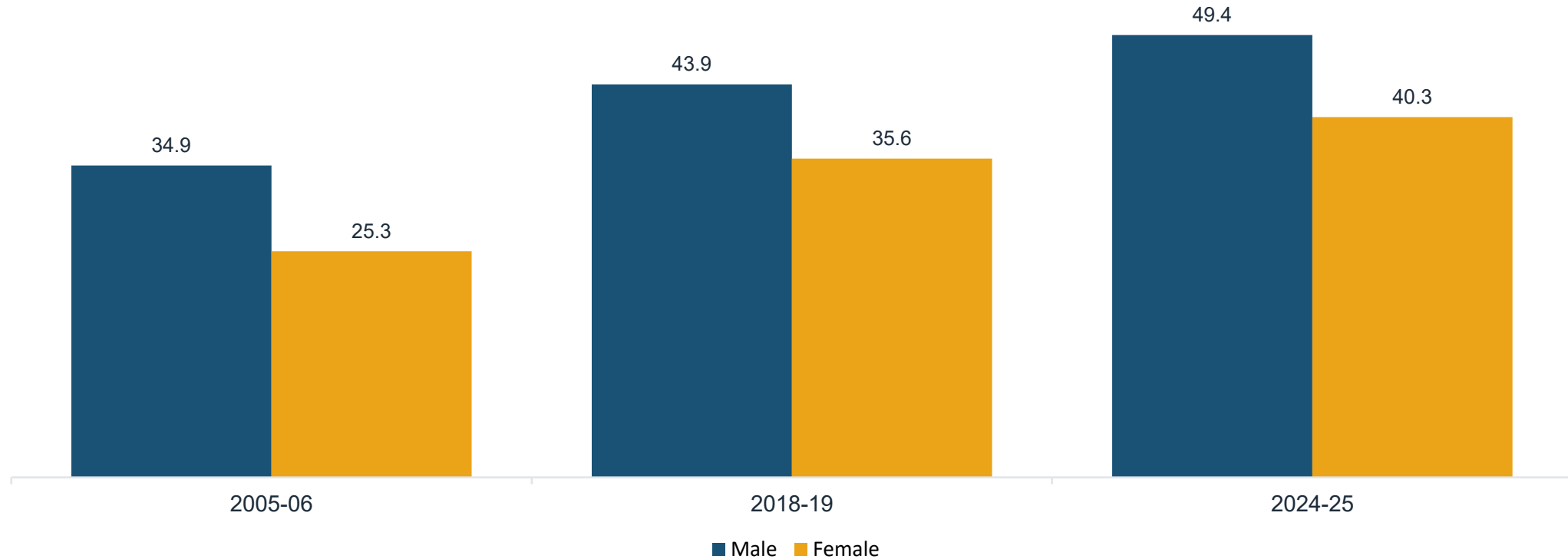
1.5

Remaining gender gap, years, 2024-25

Both sexes have gained roughly two years of average schooling since 2005-06. The gender gap has narrowed but not closed: men still average 1.5 more years of schooling than women.

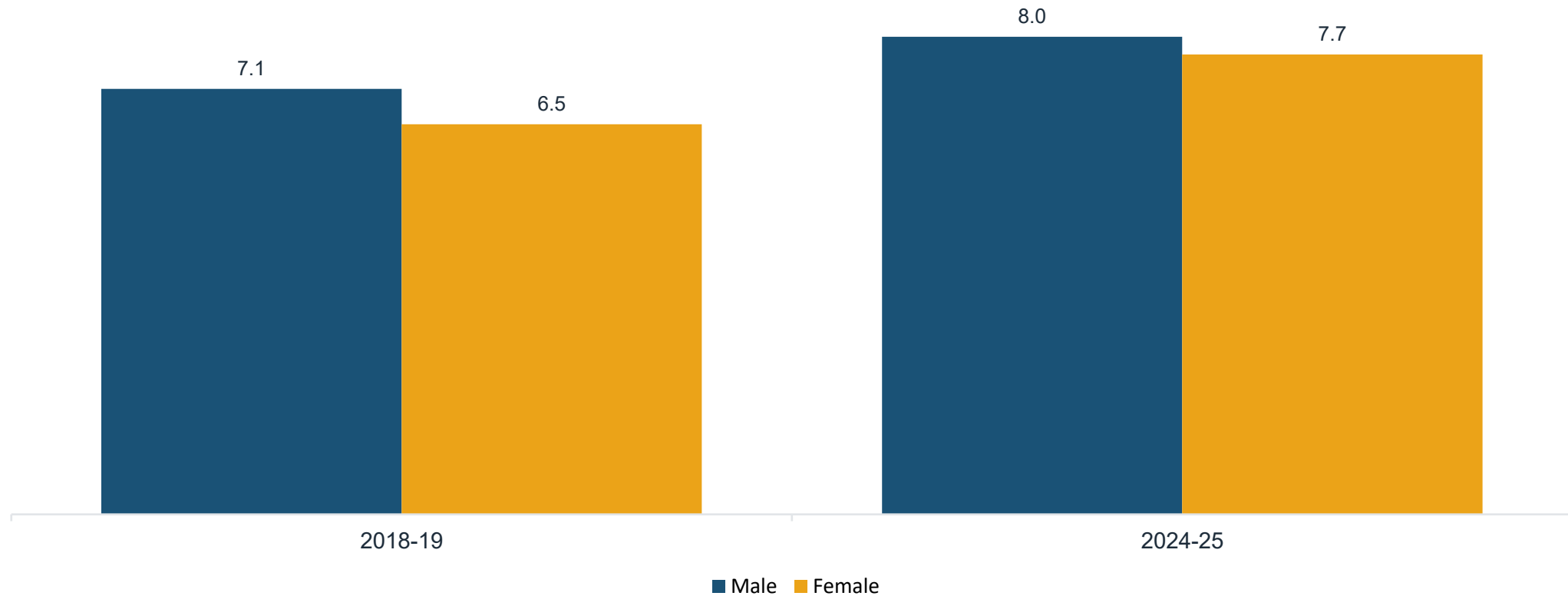
Share reaching matric or above, ages 18-30

Pakistan, national, by sex



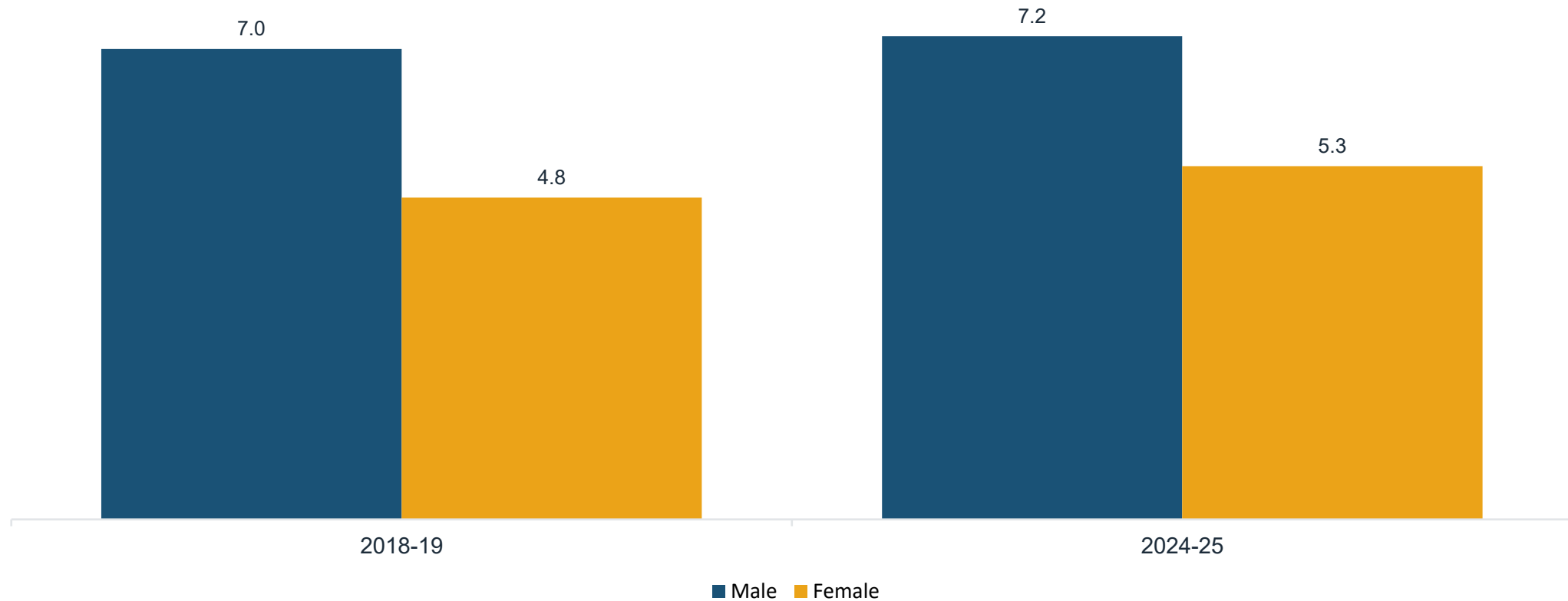
Punjab: years of schooling by sex

2018-19 vs. 2024-25 Labour Force Survey, ages 18-30



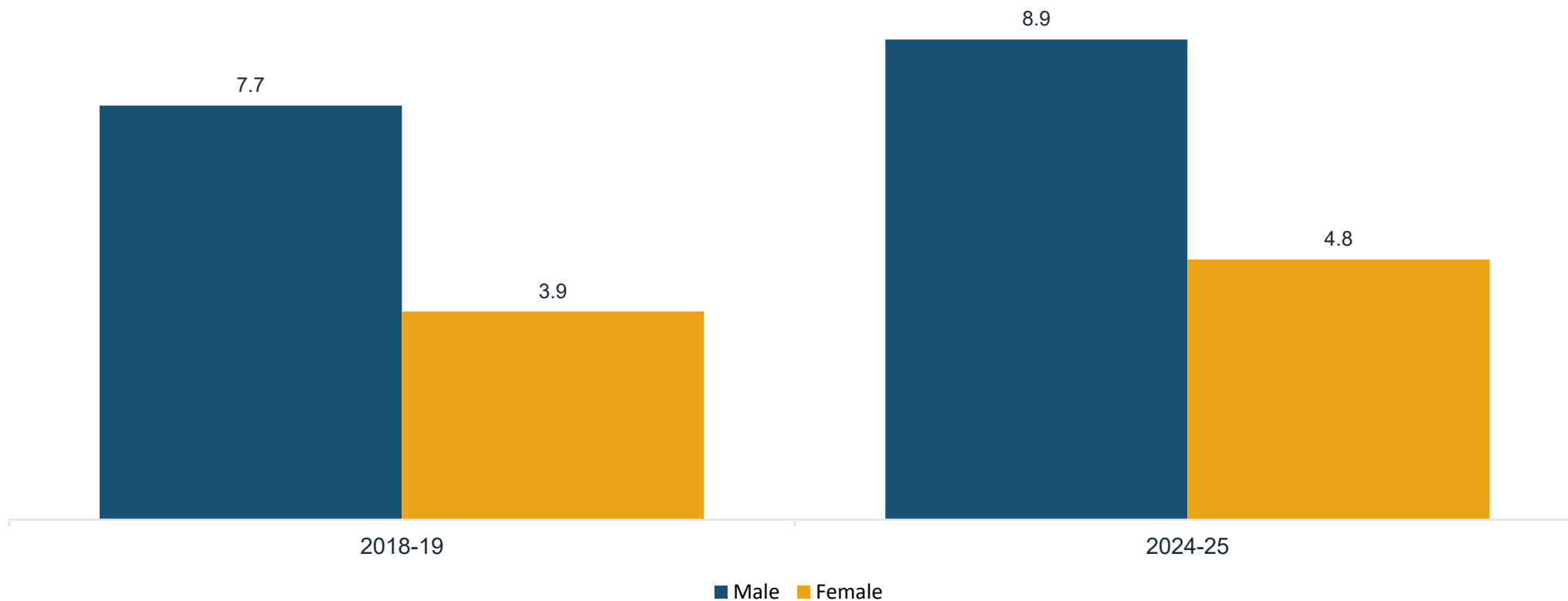
Sindh: years of schooling by sex

2018-19 vs. 2024-25 Labour Force Survey, ages 18-30



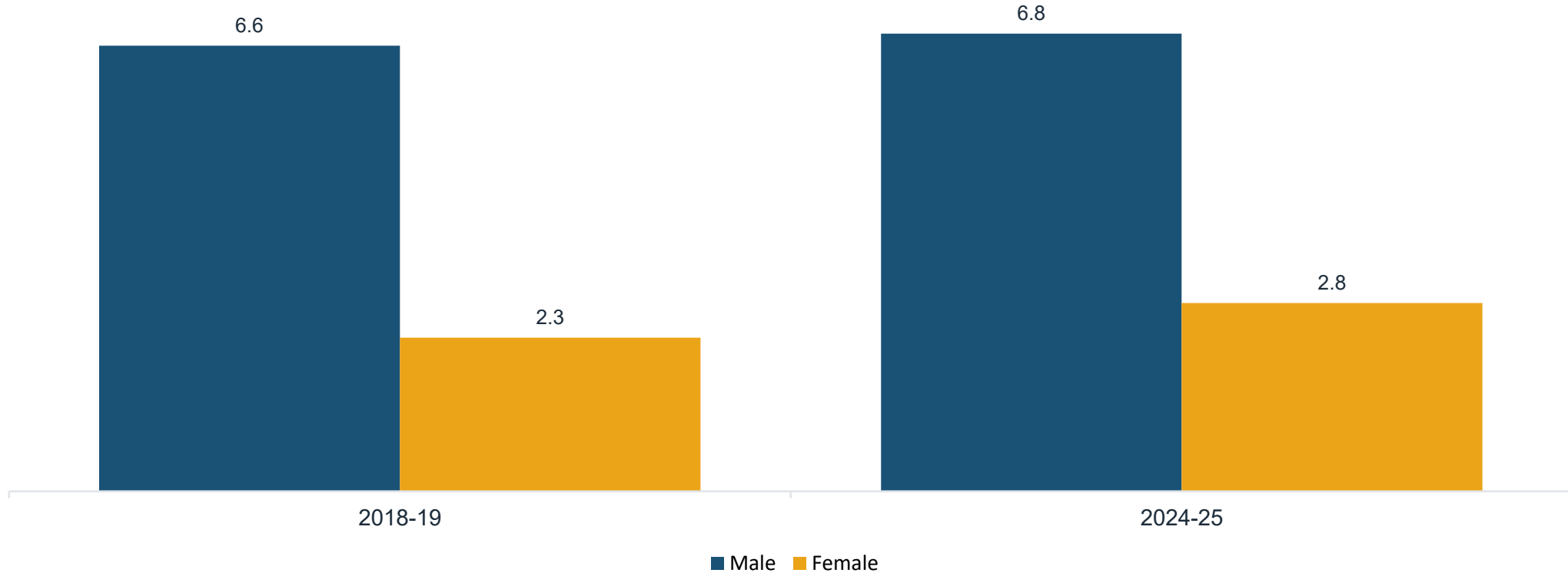
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: years of schooling by sex

2018-19 vs. 2024-25 Labour Force Survey, ages 18-30



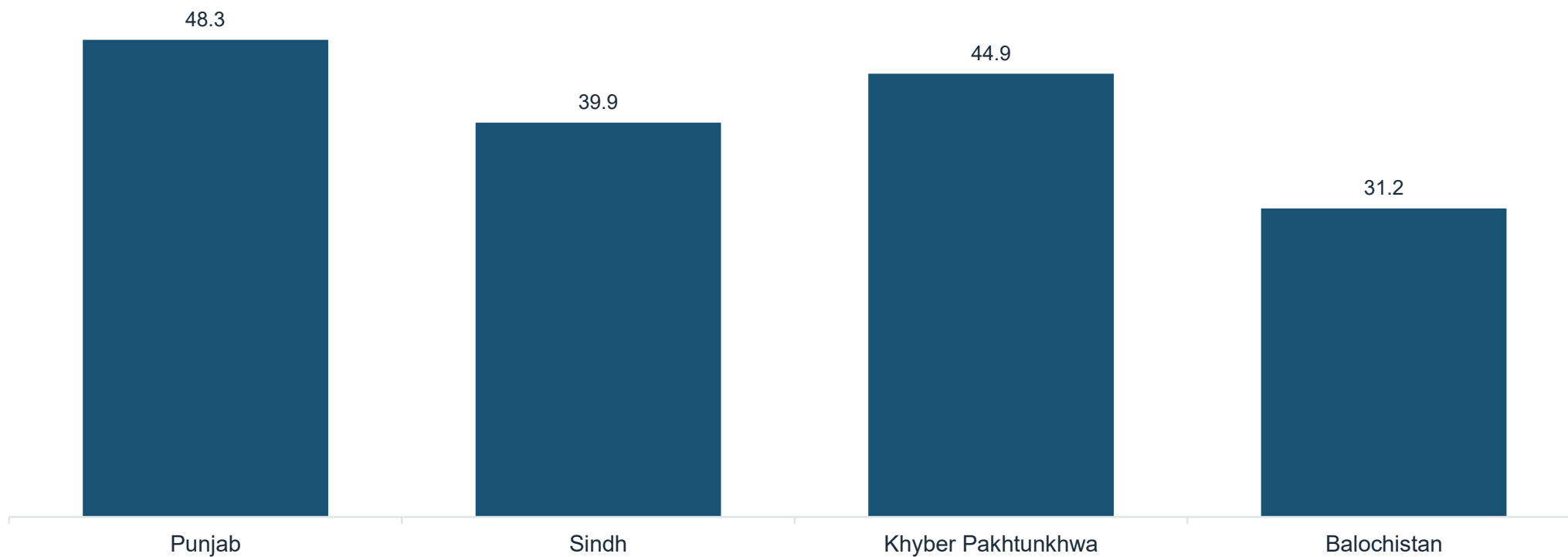
Balochistan: years of schooling by sex

2018-19 vs. 2024-25 Labour Force Survey, ages 18-30



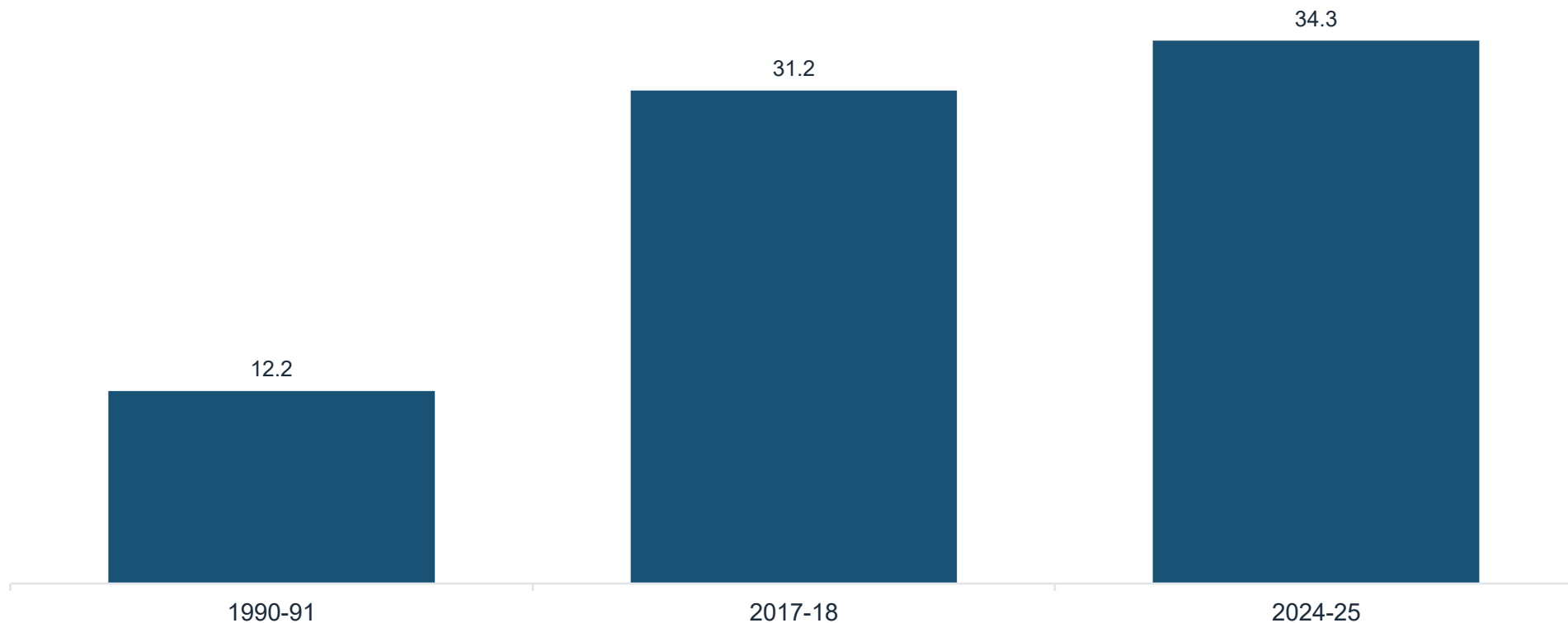
Matric-plus attainment by province, 2024-25

Ages 18-30, all sexes



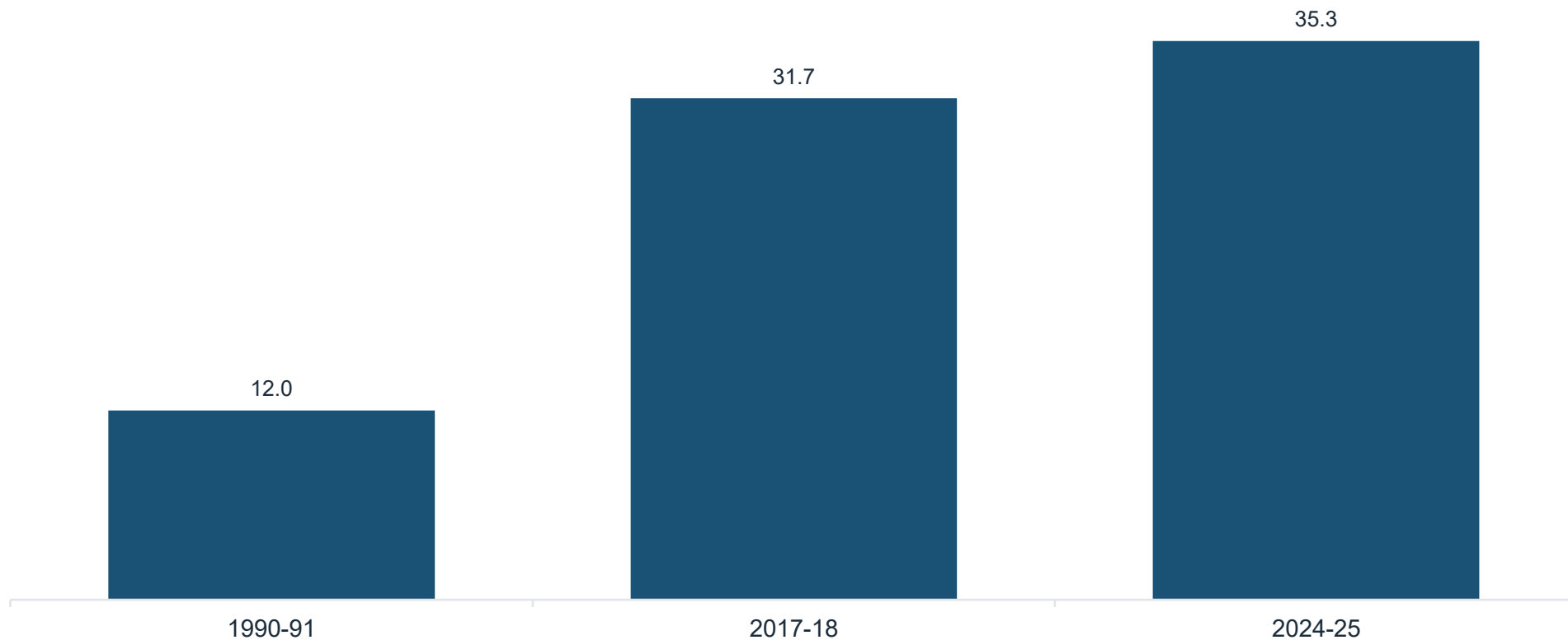
Households with at least one member holding 12+ years of education

Pakistan, national trend, 1990-91 to 2024-25



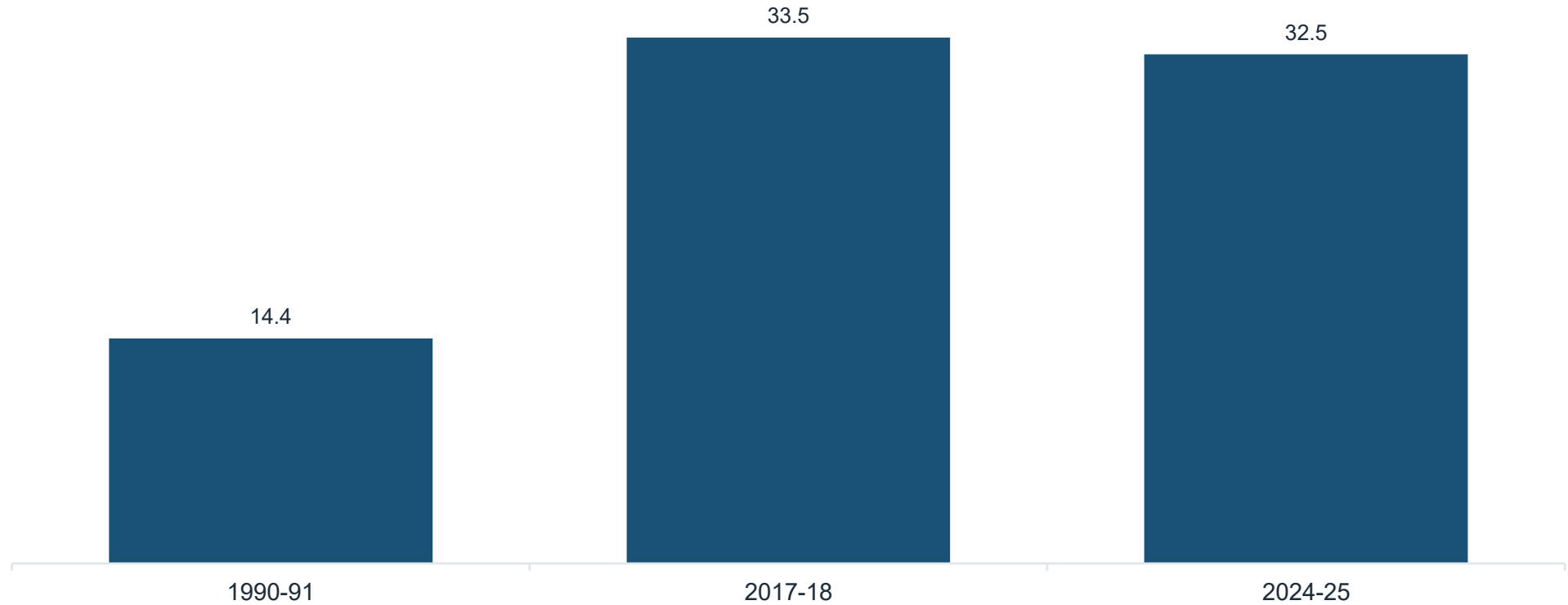
Punjab: households with a well-educated member

Share with at least one member holding 12+ years of education, 1990-91 to 2024-25



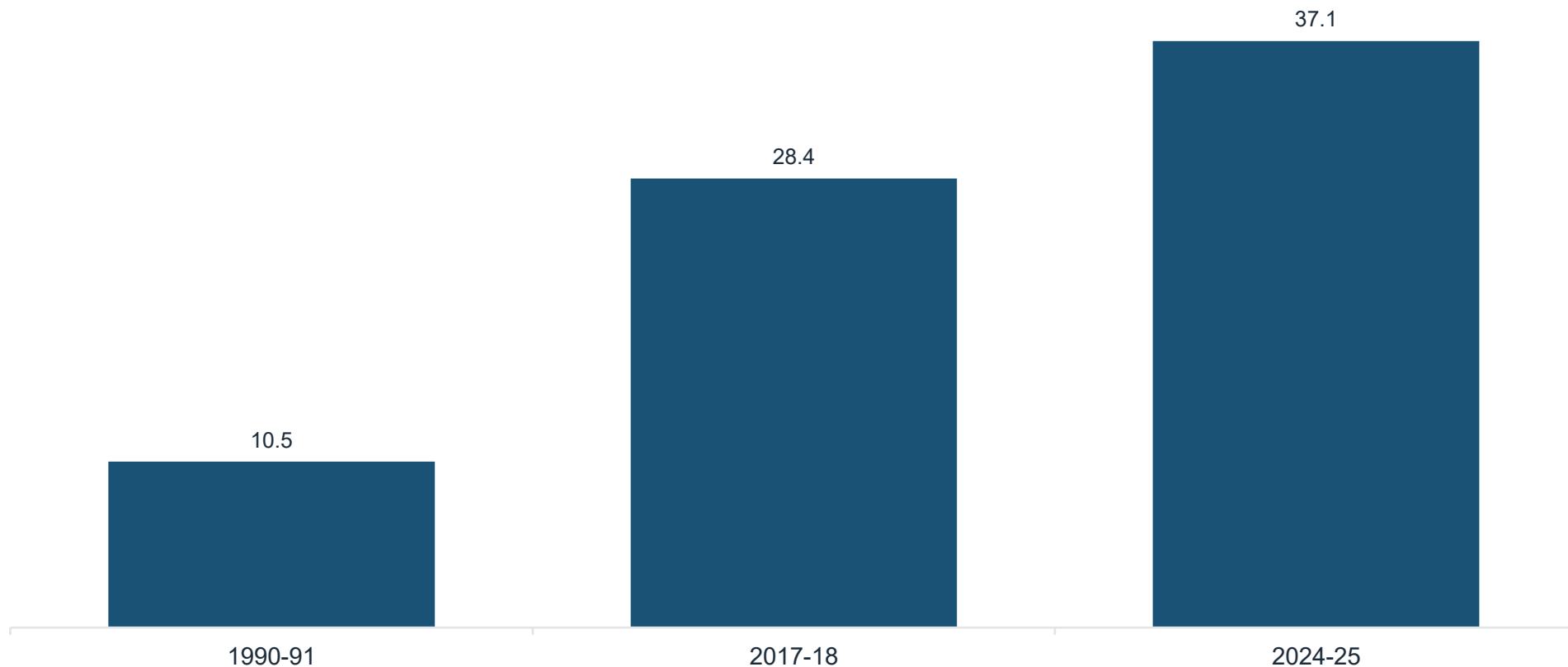
Sindh: households with a well-educated member

Share with at least one member holding 12+ years of education, 1990-91 to 2024-25



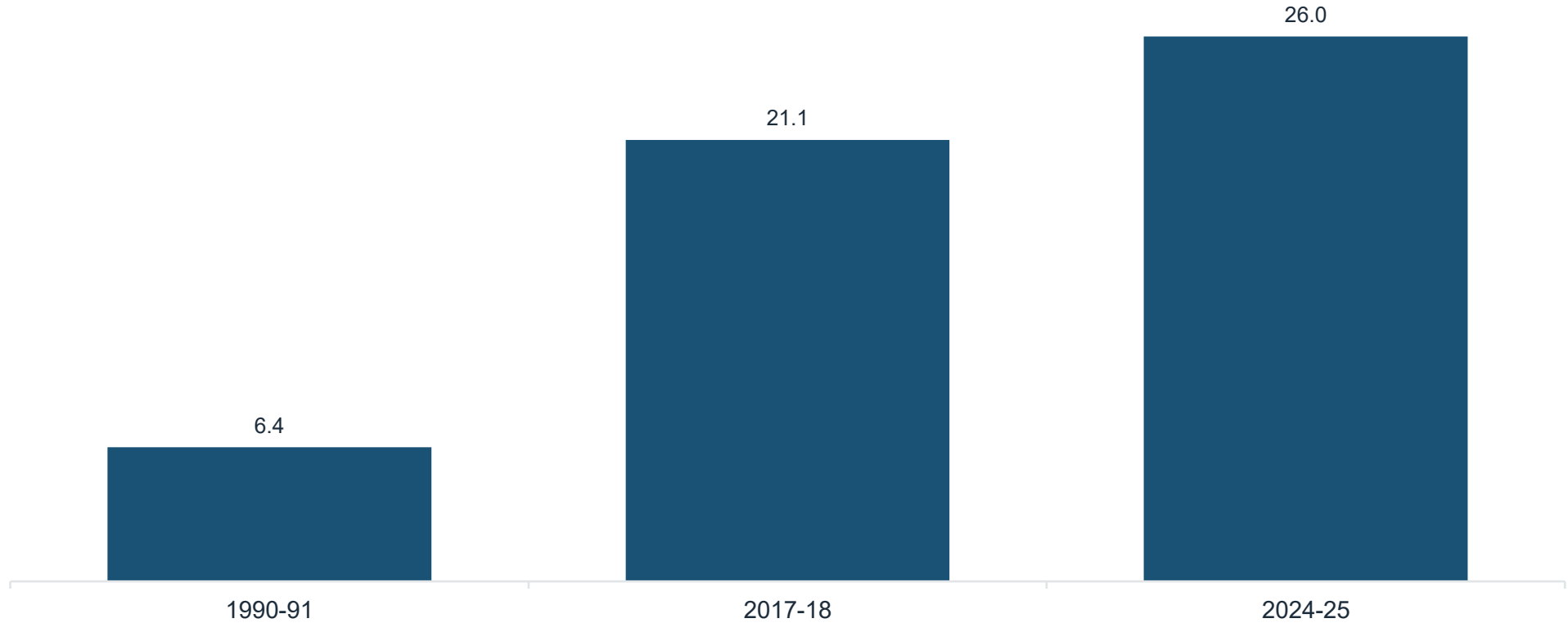
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: households with a well-educated member

Share with at least one member holding 12+ years of education, 1990-91 to 2024-25



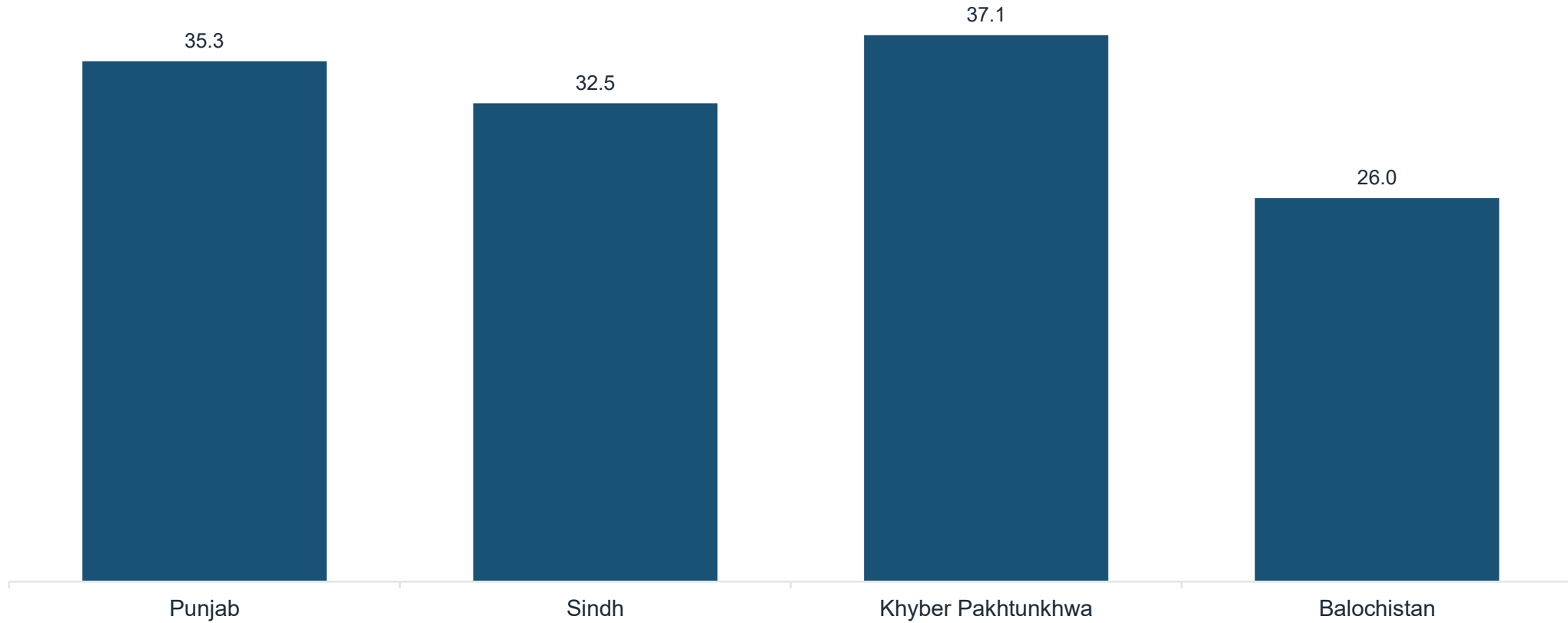
Balochistan: households with a well-educated member

Share with at least one member holding 12+ years of education, 1990-91 to 2024-25



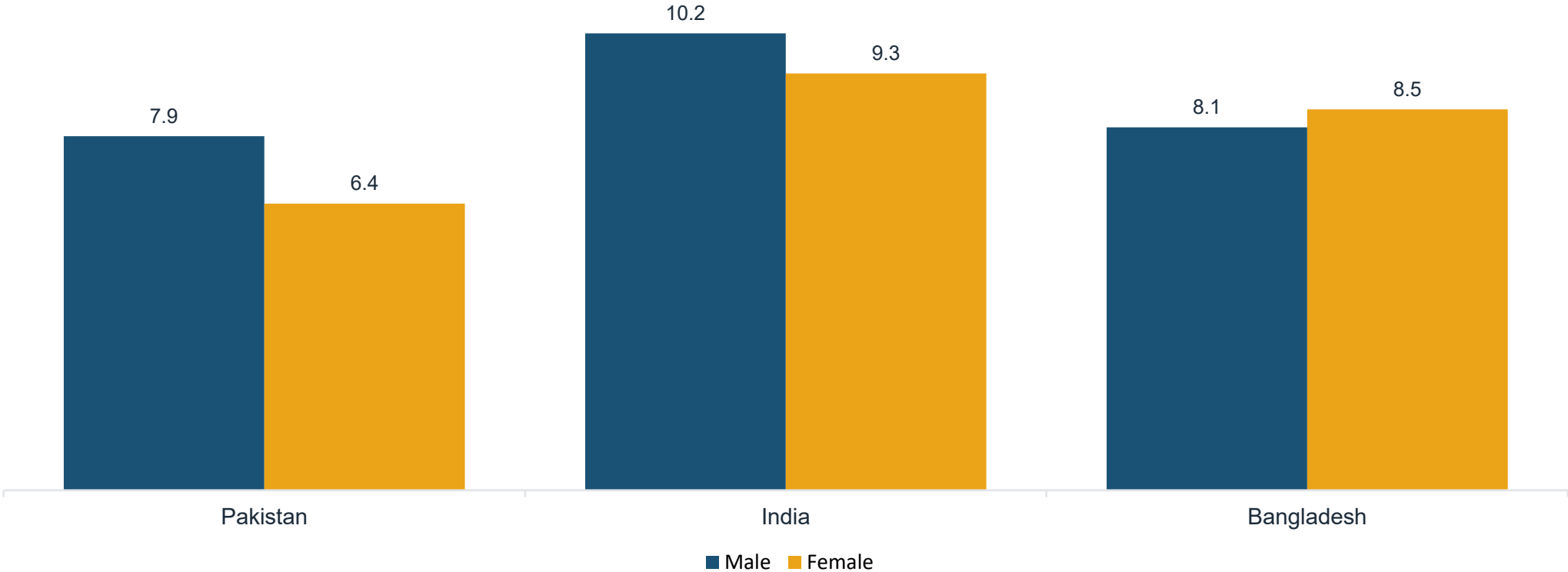
Provincial comparison: household education, 2024-25

Which province has progressed furthest?



Pakistan vs. India vs. Bangladesh: years of schooling

Ages 18-30, by sex, most recent data for each country



Source: Pakistan LFS 2024-25; India NFHS-5 2019-21; Bangladesh DHS 2022.

Pakistan's education trajectory vs. regional benchmarks

Mean years of schooling, ages 18-30, both sexes combined

7.1

Pakistan, 2024-25

9.8

India, 2019-21

8.3

Bangladesh, 2022

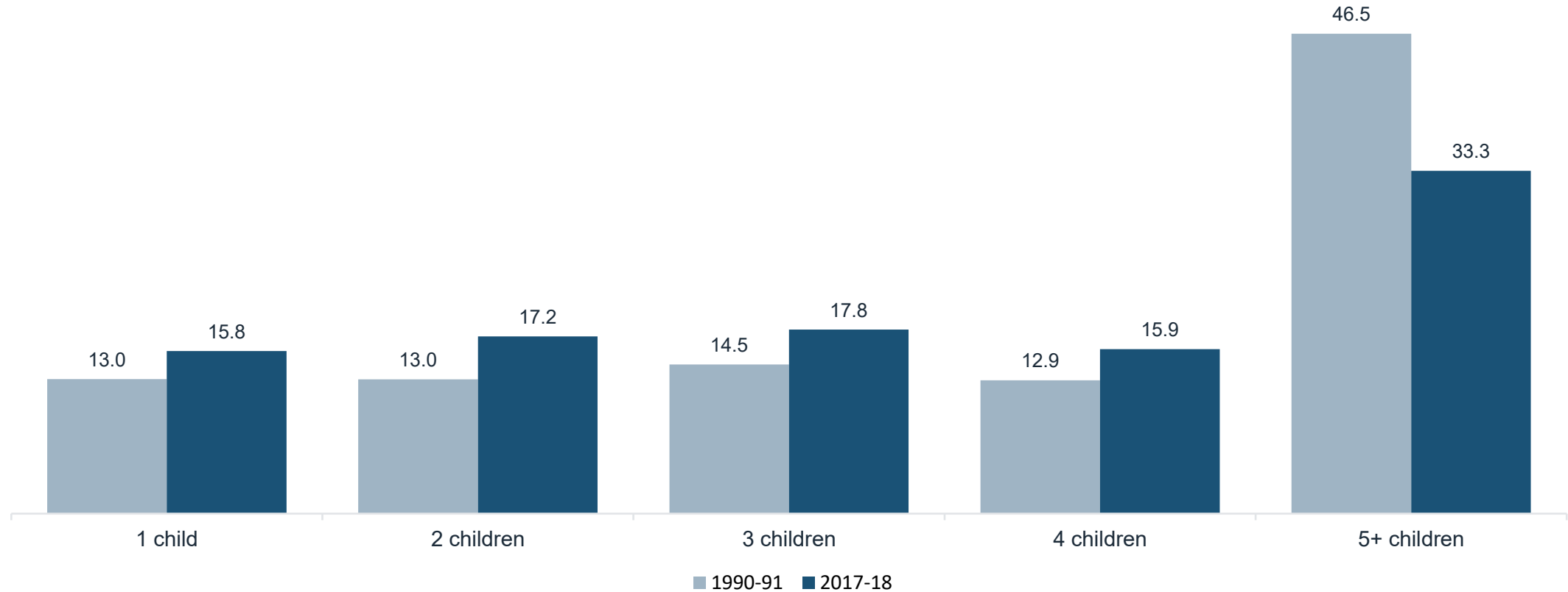
Pakistan's youth education has grown steadily across three decades of survey data, but both regional neighbours still average meaningfully more years of schooling for the same 18-30 age group.

Section 3

Demographics: Fertility, Family Size & Marriage

Mothers by number of children ever born

Pakistan, national, 1990-91 vs. 2017-18



Large families (5+ children) are shrinking, slowly

Pakistan, national trend

47%

Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91

33%

Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18

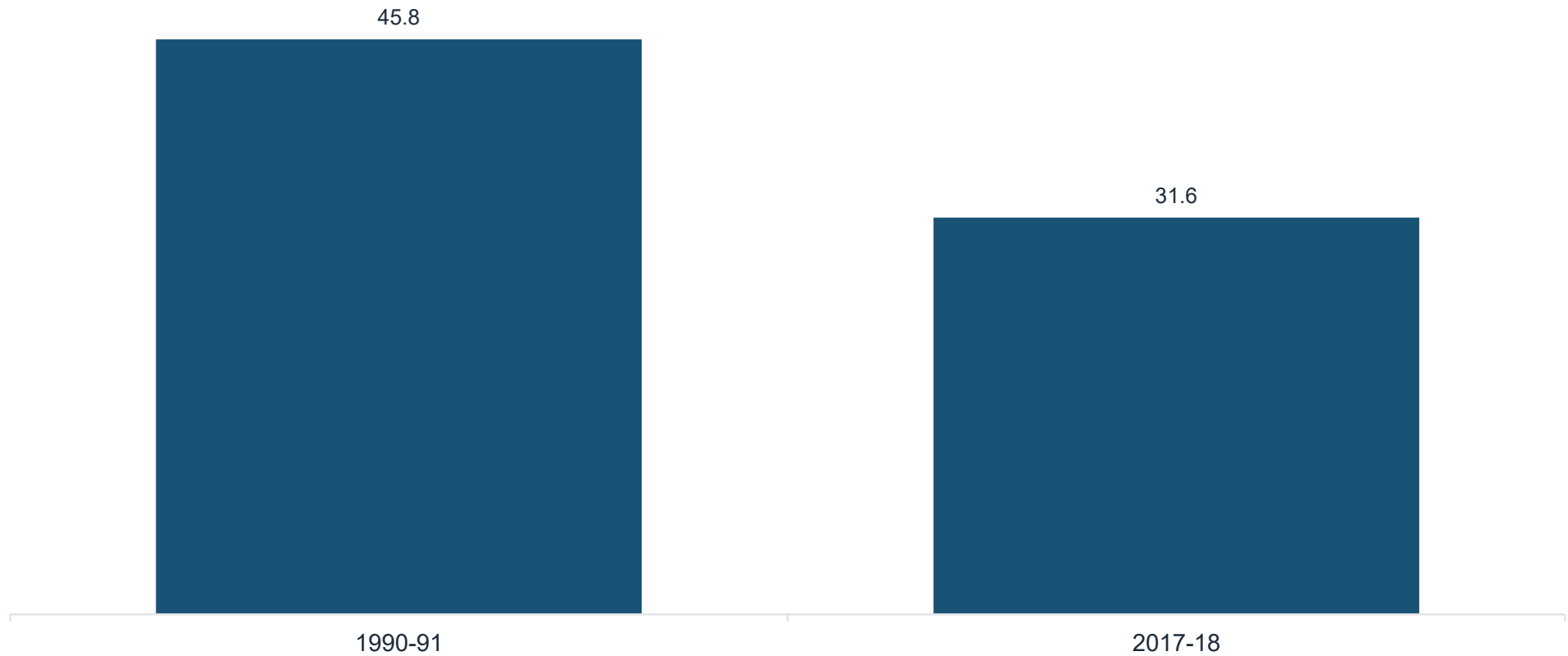
13 pts

Decline over 27 years

Compare with India, where the 5+ child share fell from 27% (1993) to just 8% (2021) - Pakistan's decline has been real but far slower.

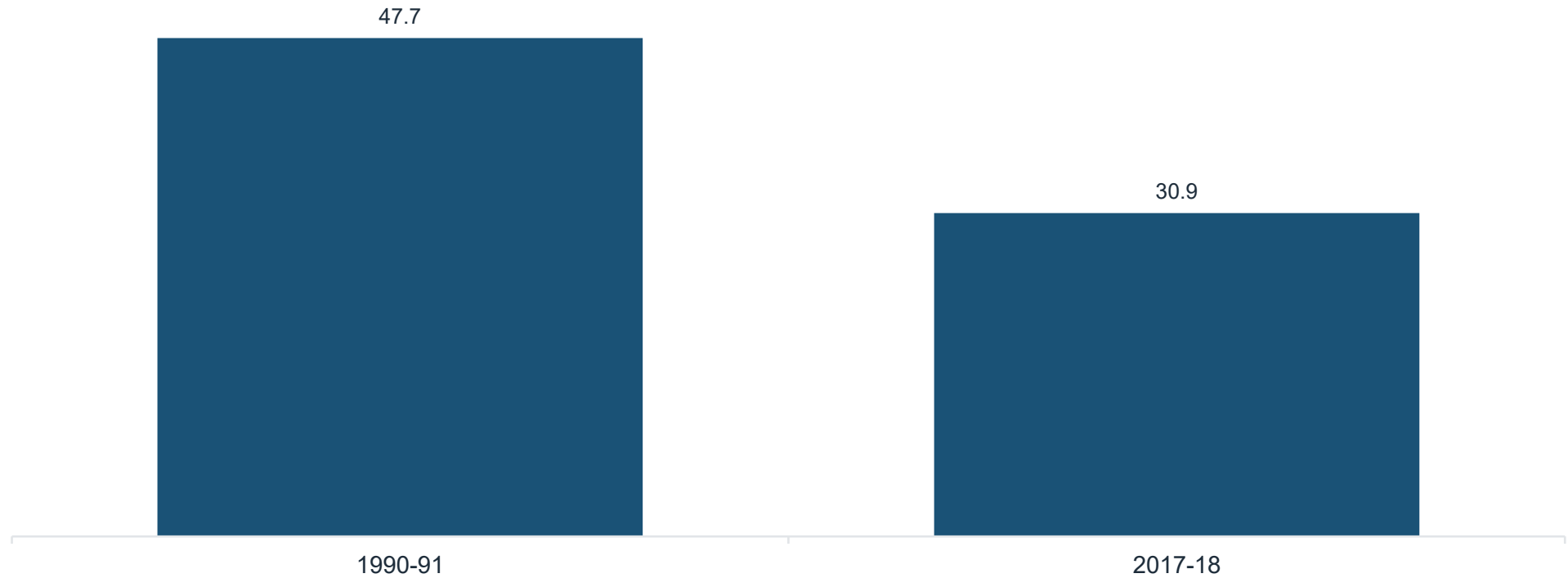
Punjab: share of mothers with 5+ children

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



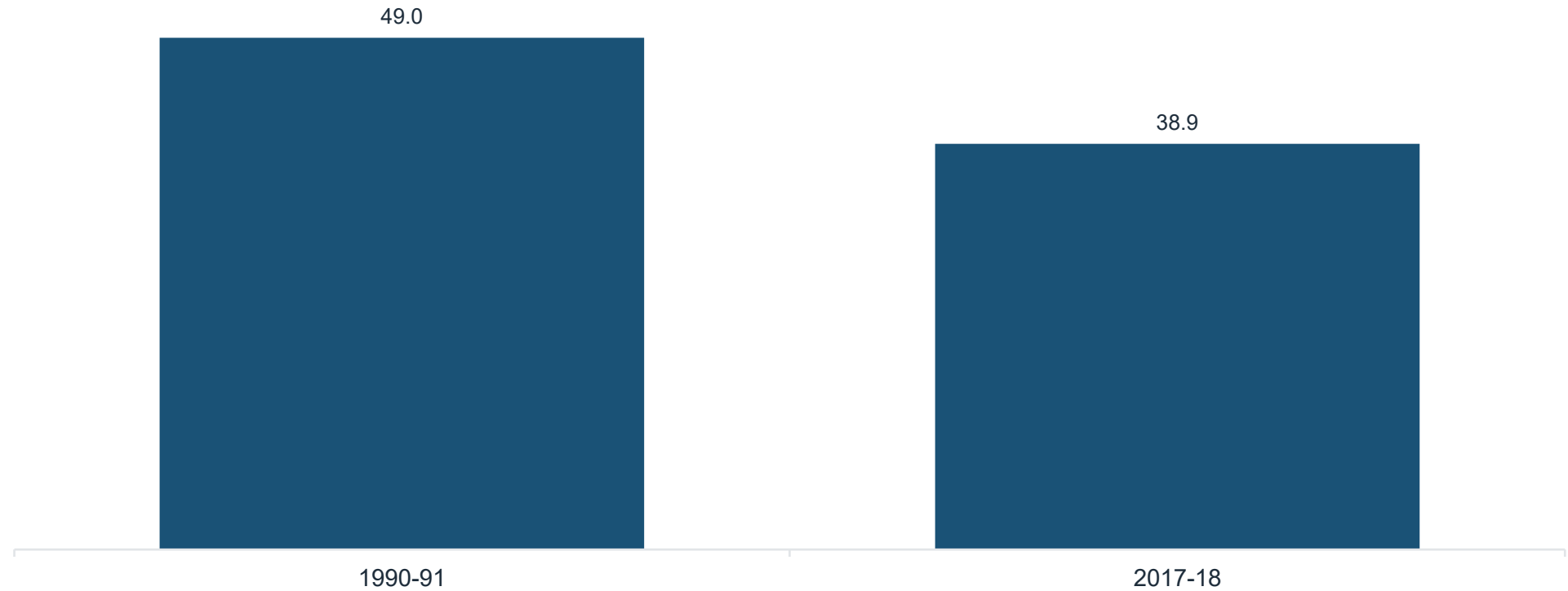
Sindh: share of mothers with 5+ children

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



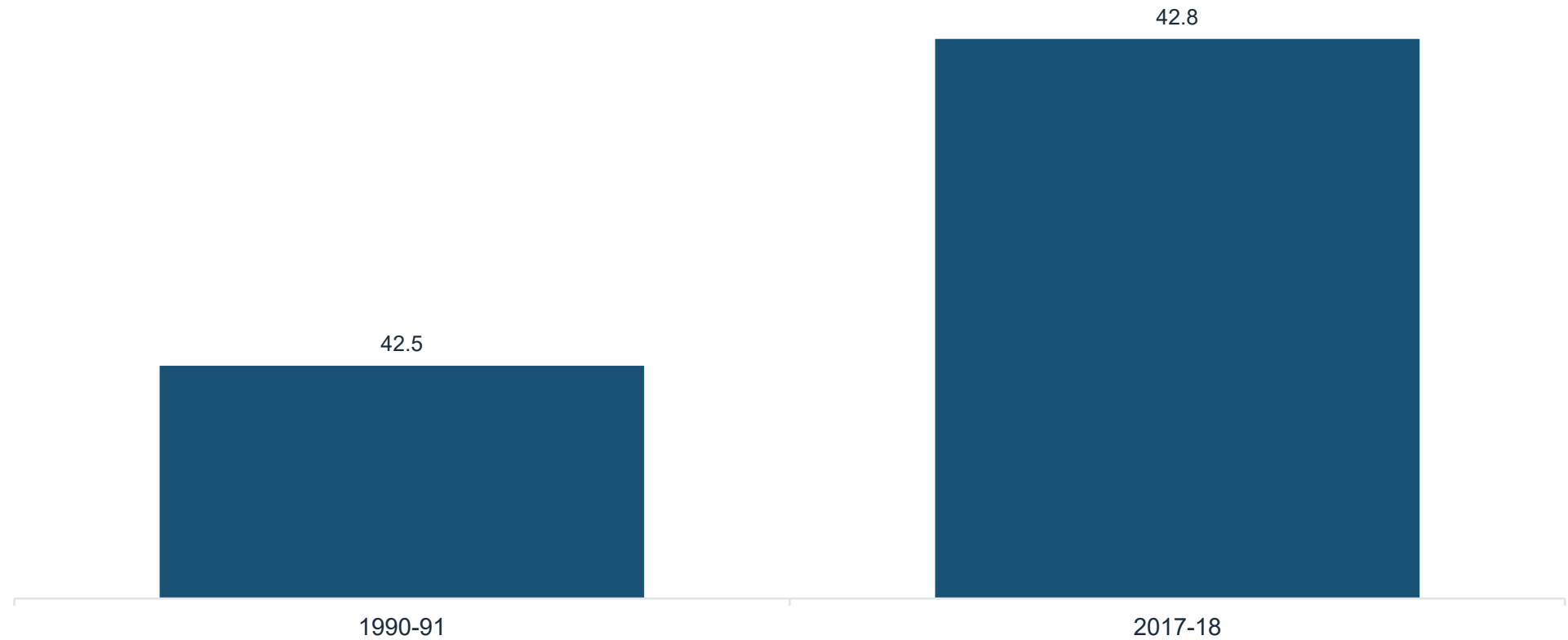
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: share of mothers with 5+ children

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



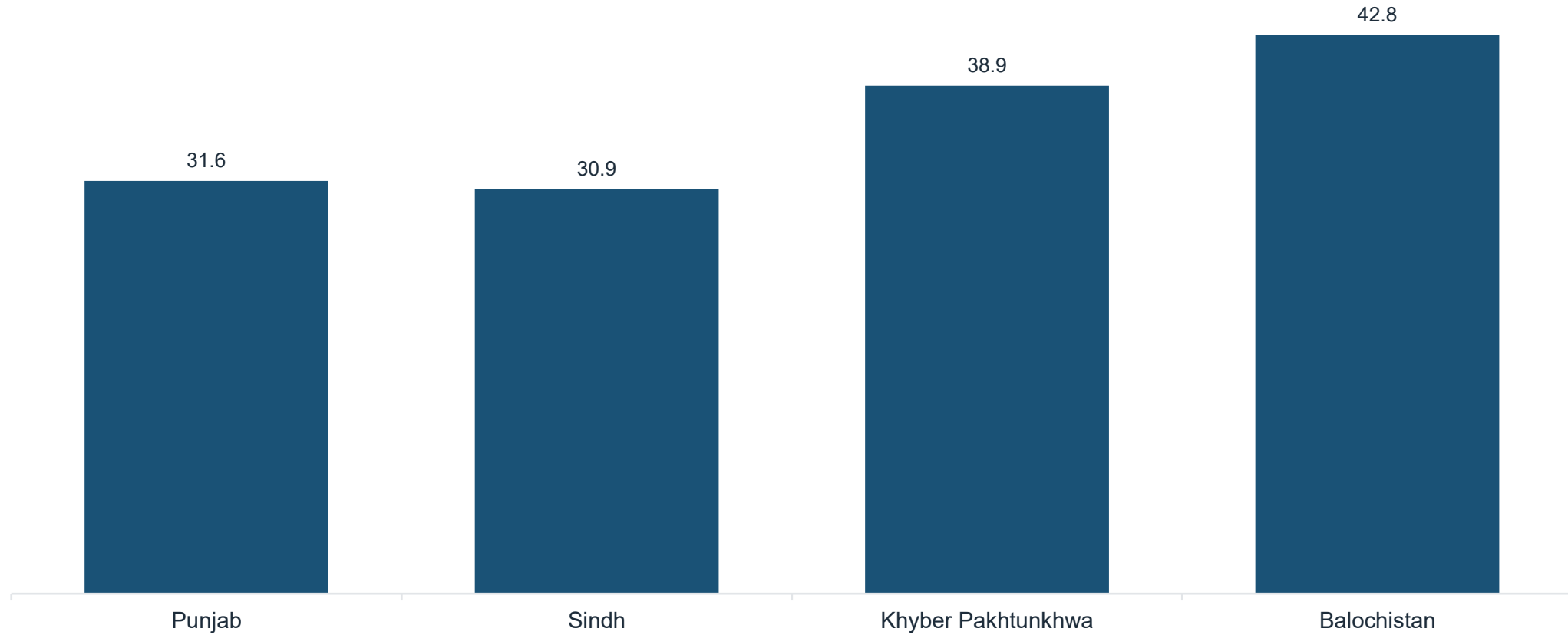
Balochistan: share of mothers with 5+ children

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



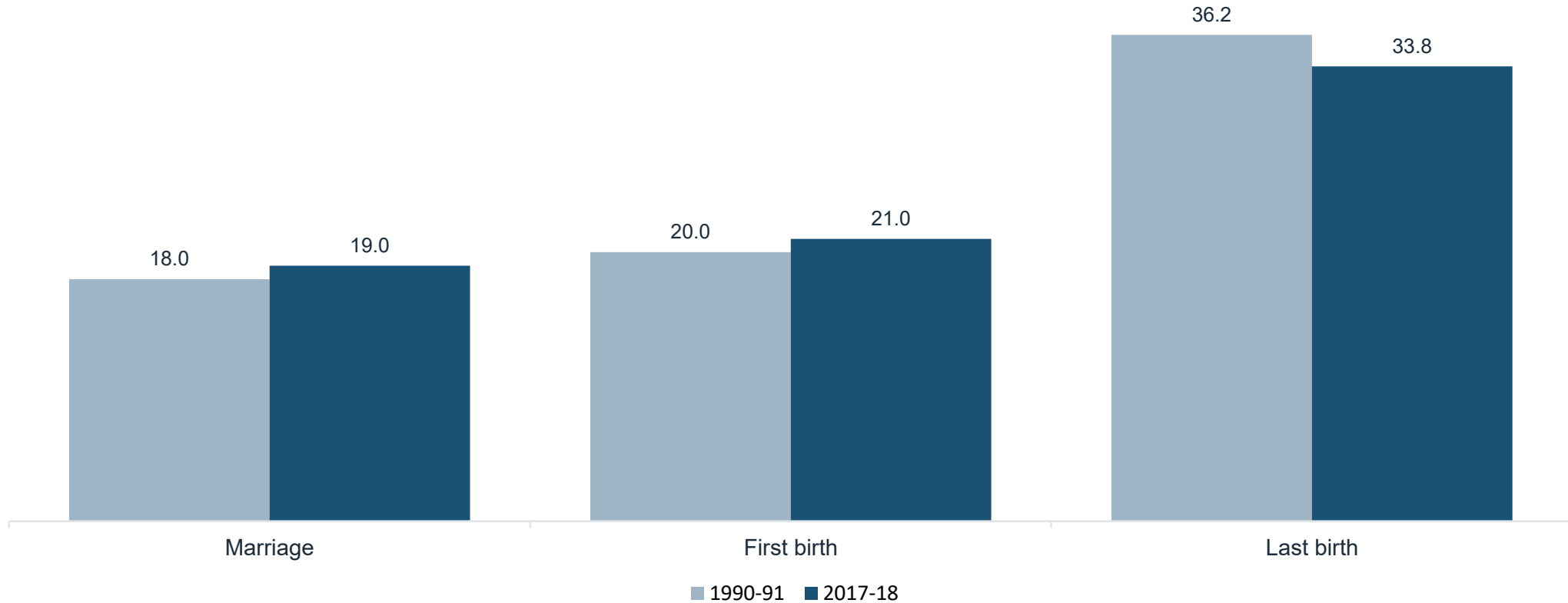
Provincial comparison: large families, 2017-18

Share of mothers with 5 or more children



Median age at first marriage, first birth, last birth

Pakistan, national, 1990-91 vs. 2017-18



The childbearing window has barely narrowed

Age at last birth, national

36.2

Median age at last birth, 1990-91

33.8

Median age at last birth, 2017-18

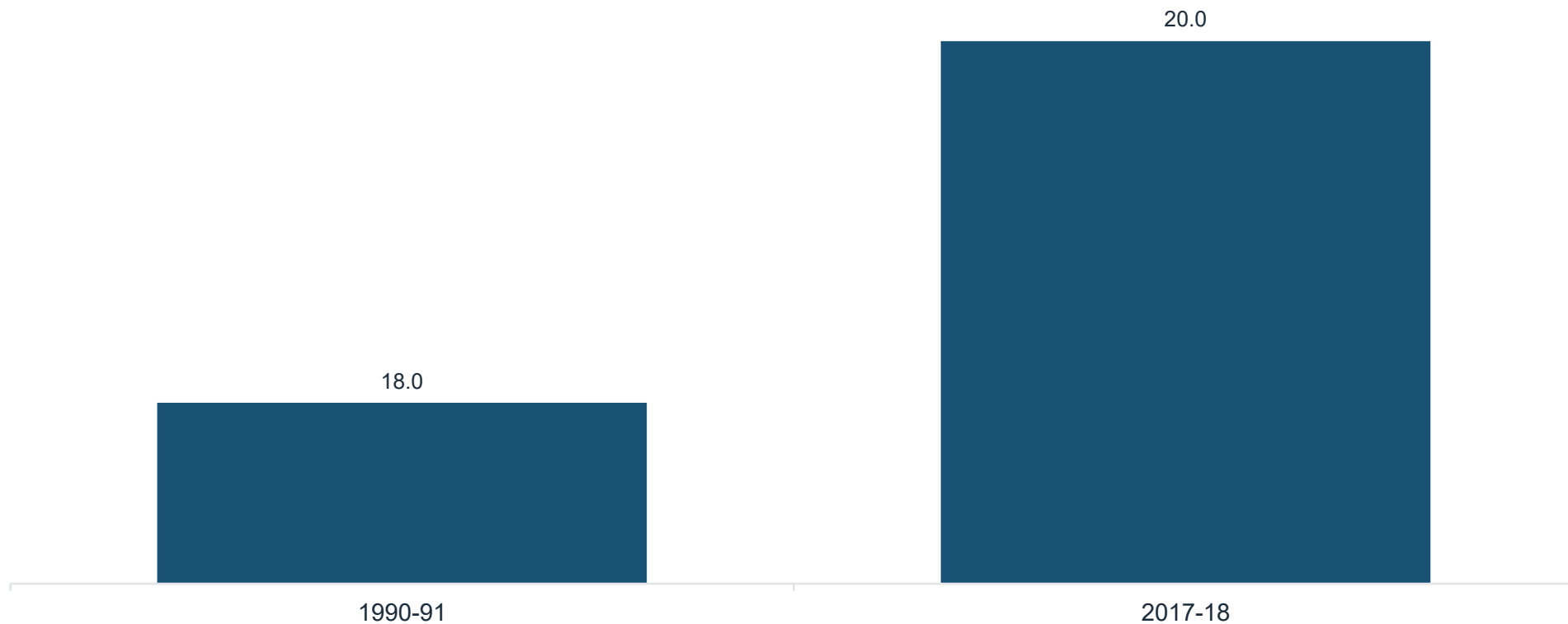
-2.4 yrs

Change over 27 years (vs. -5.2 yrs in India)

Pakistani mothers are still bearing children well into their mid-to-late 30s, consistent with the slower decline in family size seen nationally.

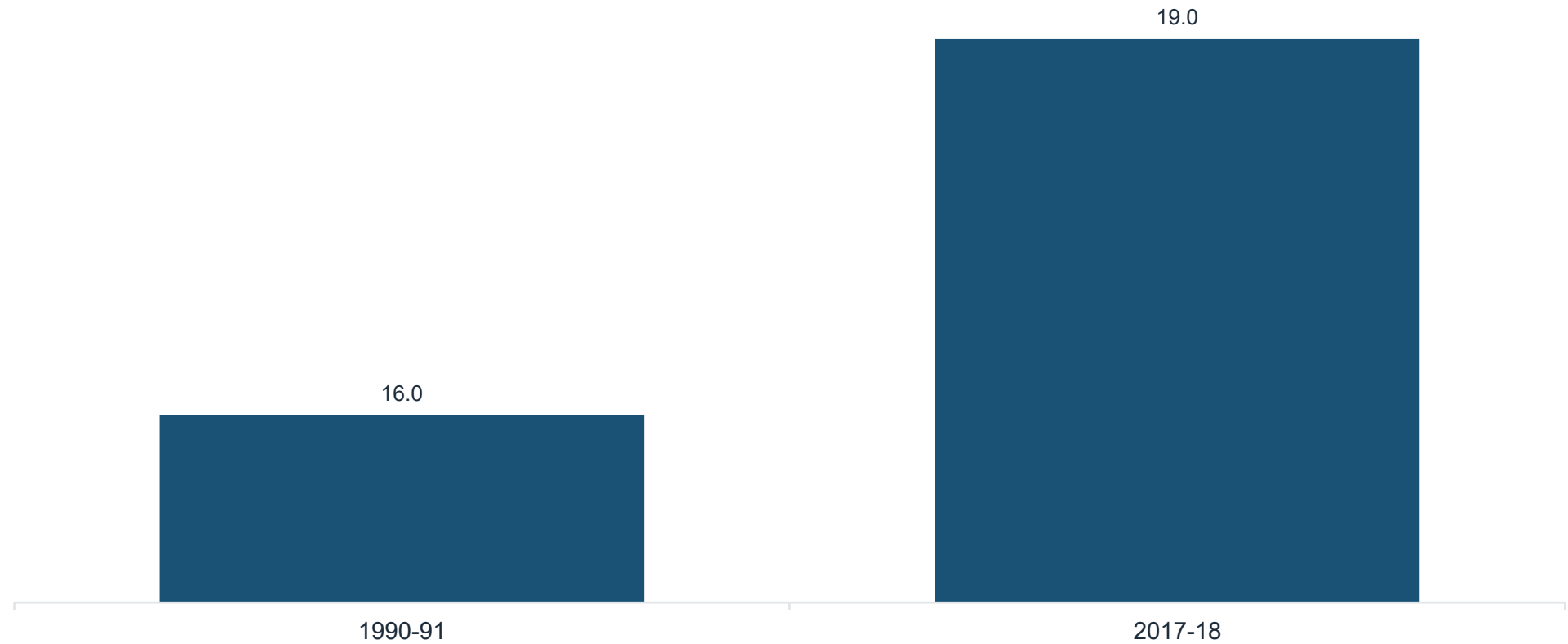
Punjab: median age at first marriage

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



Sindh: median age at first marriage

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



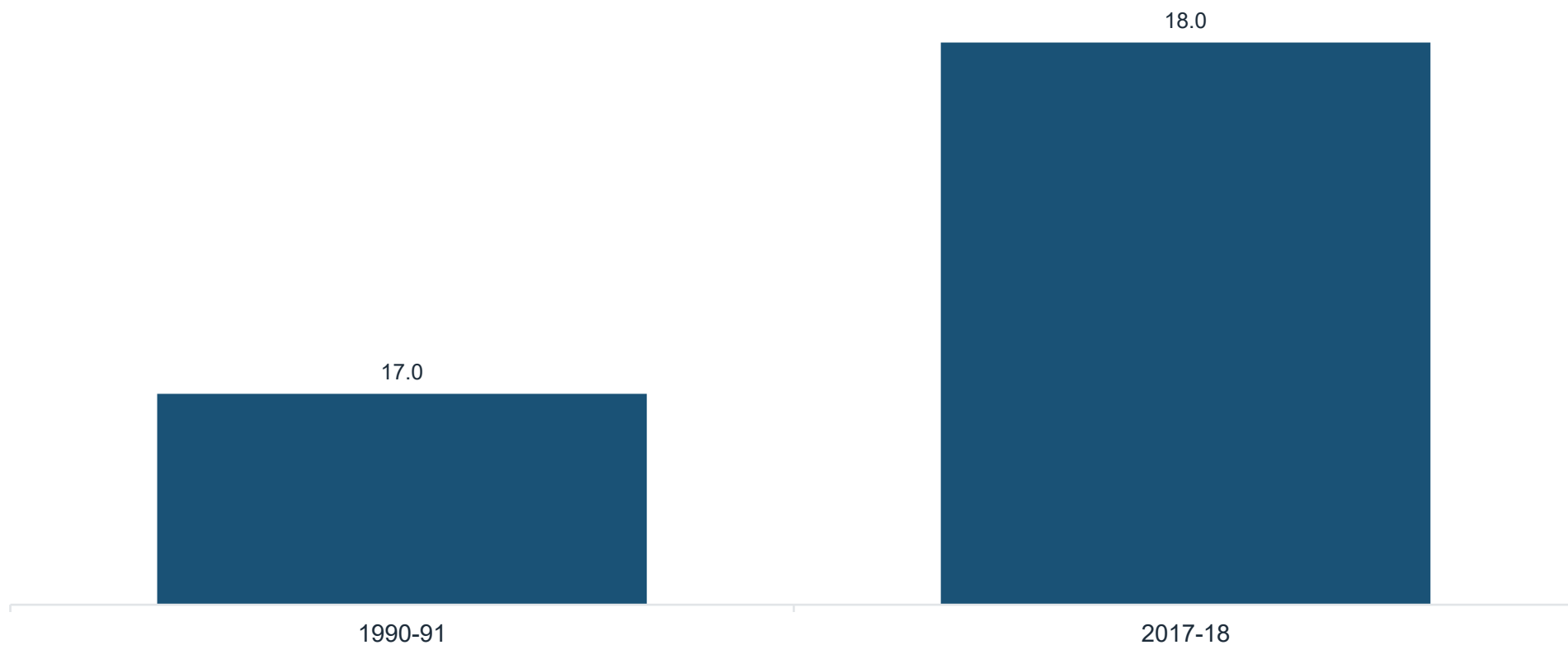
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: median age at first marriage

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



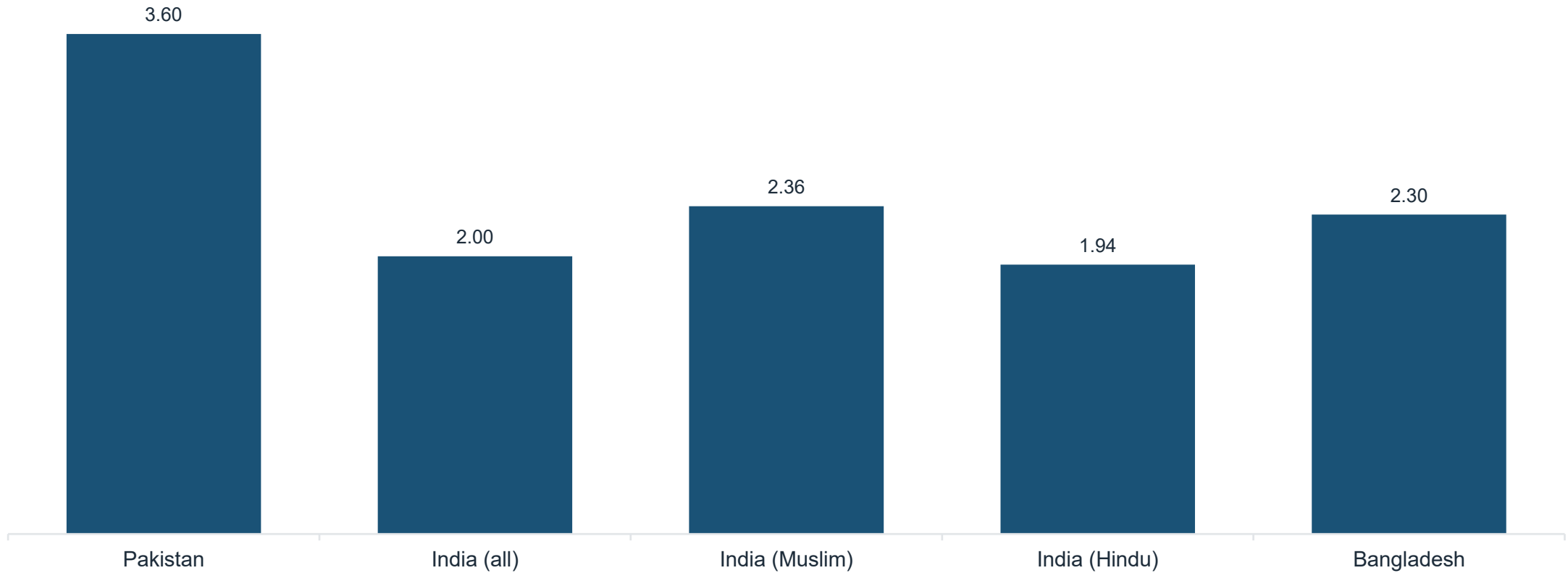
Balochistan: median age at first marriage

1990-91 vs. 2017-18



Total Fertility Rate: Pakistan vs. India vs. Bangladesh

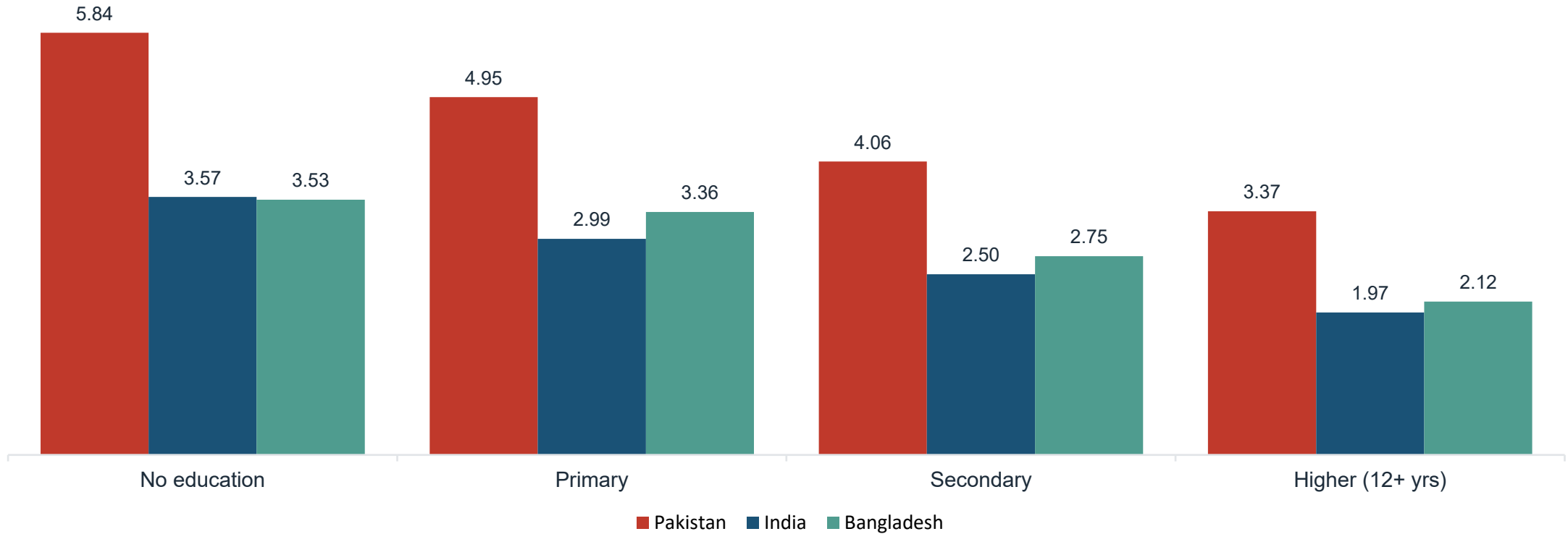
Official published rates, most recent survey round for each country



Source: Pakistan PDHS 2017-18; India NFHS-5 2019-21; Bangladesh BDHS 2022 (official published TFR figures).

Completed fertility by education level

Mean children ever born to women aged 40-49, by highest education completed



Education's proportional effect on fertility is consistent

Percent reduction, no education to higher education, women 40-49

42%

Fertility reduction with education, Pakistan

45%

Fertility reduction with education, India

40%

Fertility reduction with education, Bangladesh

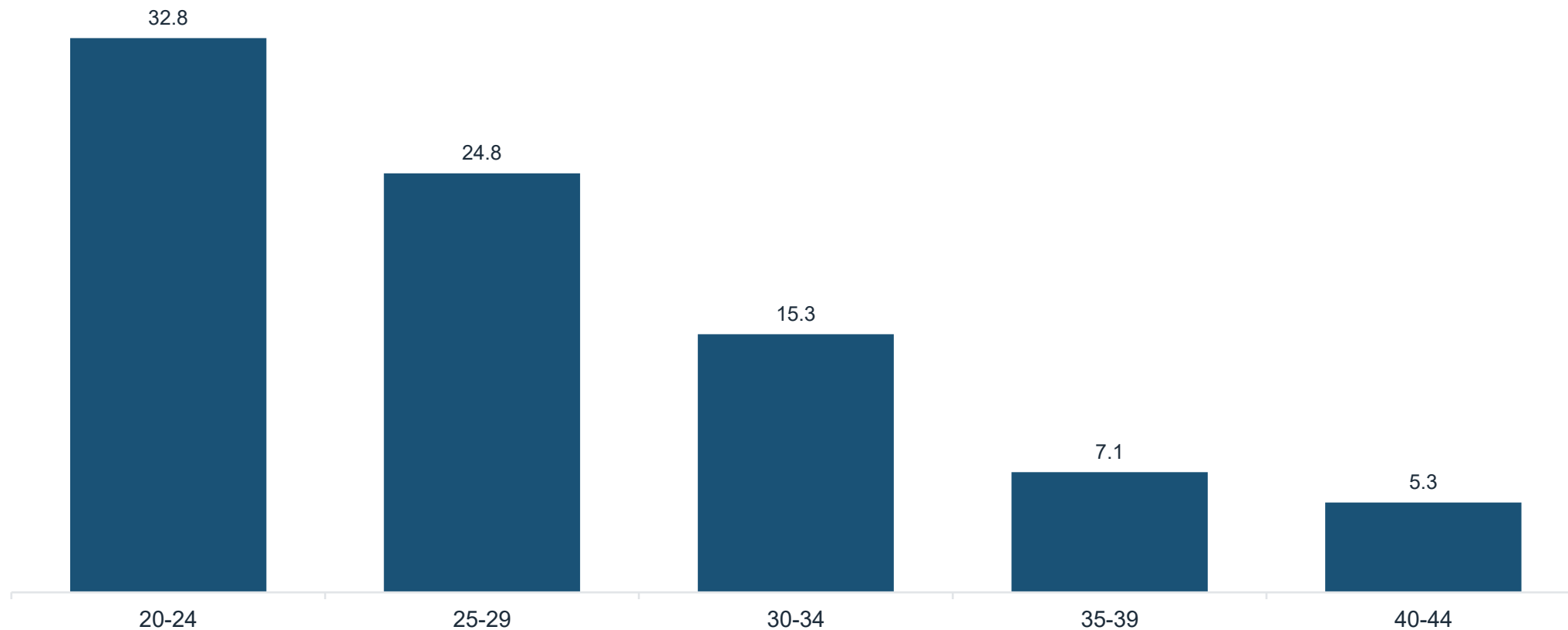
Education cuts fertility by a remarkably similar proportion in all three countries. But Pakistan's most educated women (3.37 children) still have more children on average than India's or Bangladesh's least educated women.

Section 4

Employment, Unemployment & the Labour Market

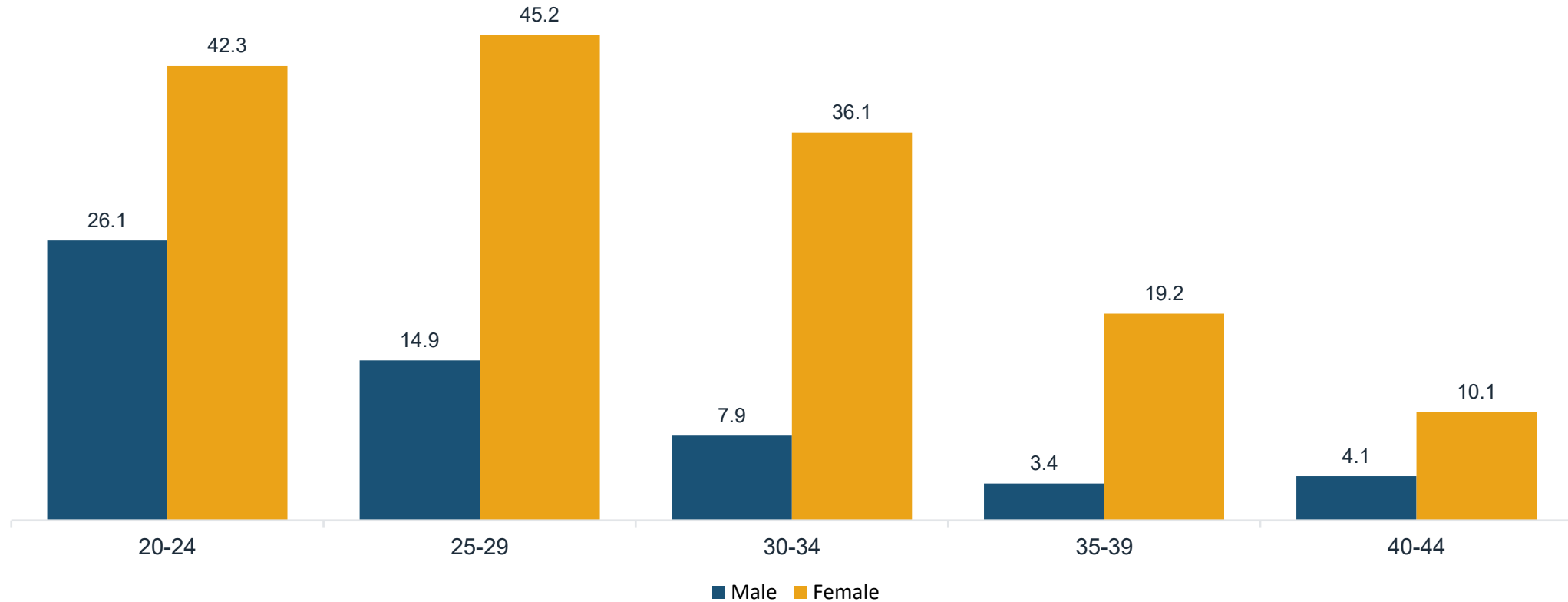
Graduate unemployment by age

Pakistan, 2024-25, all sexes, bachelor's degree or higher



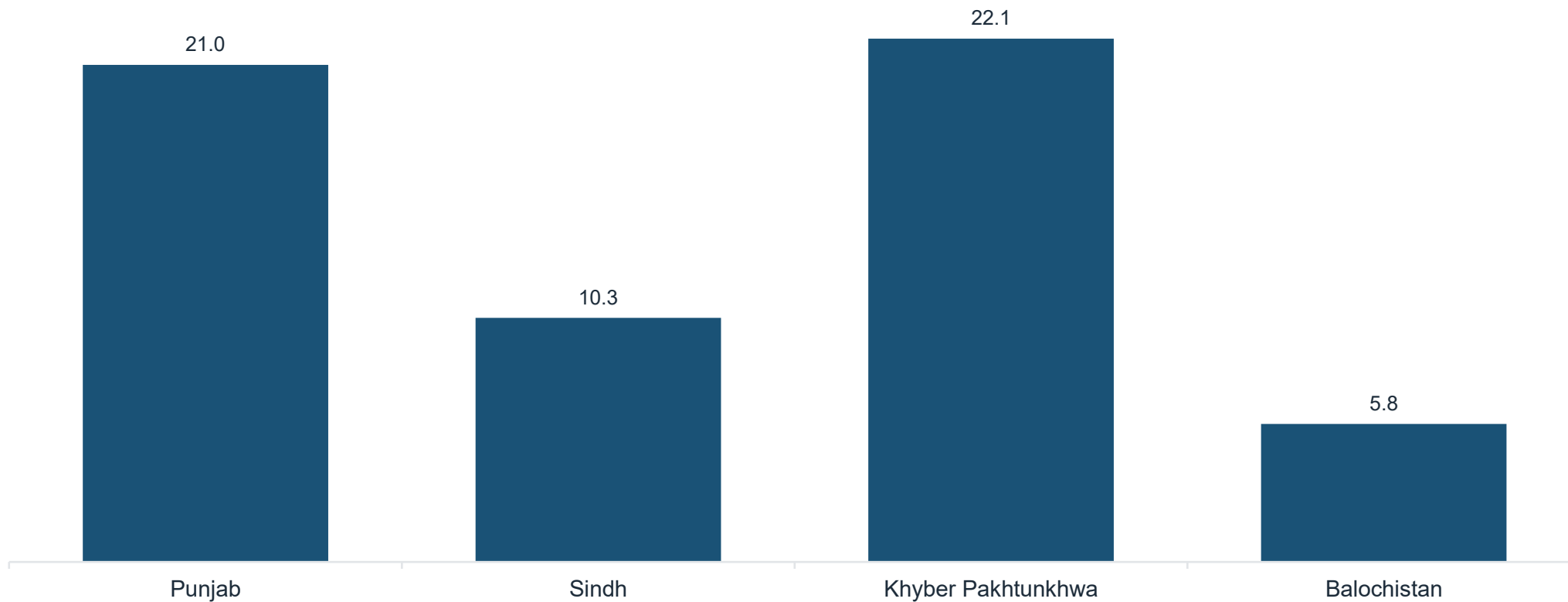
Graduate unemployment, split by sex

Pakistan, 2024-25 - women face a much longer path to employment



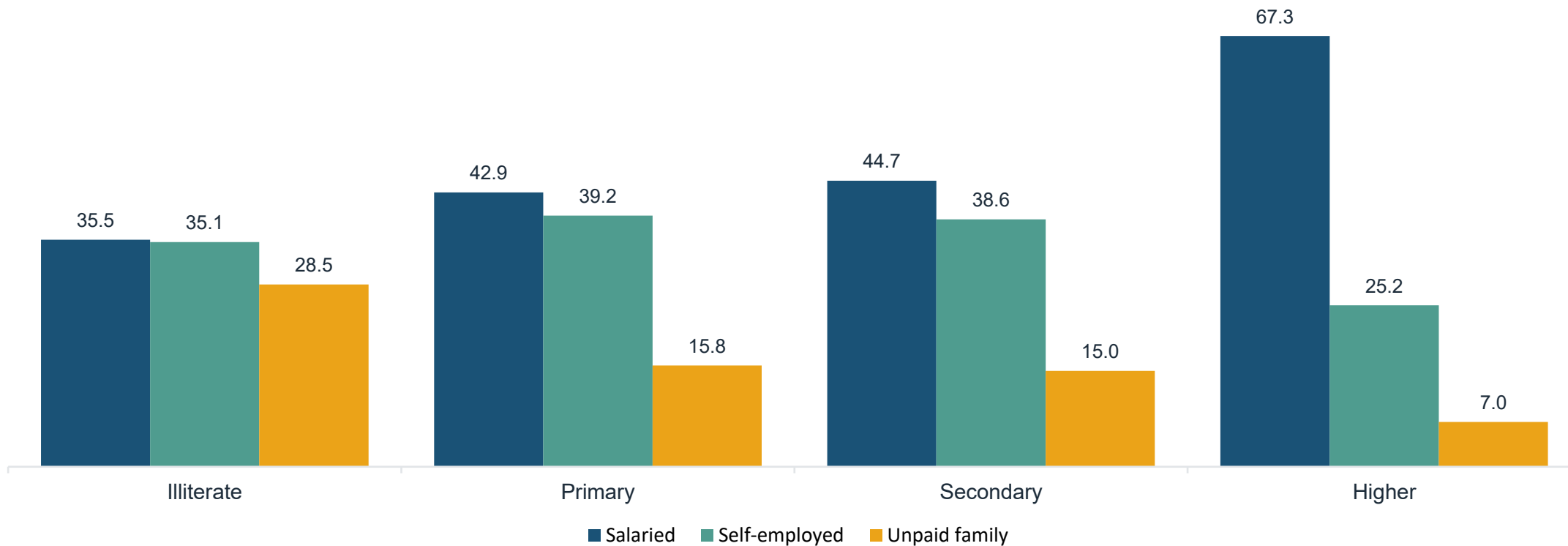
Graduate unemployment by province

Pakistan, 2024-25, all sexes, all ages



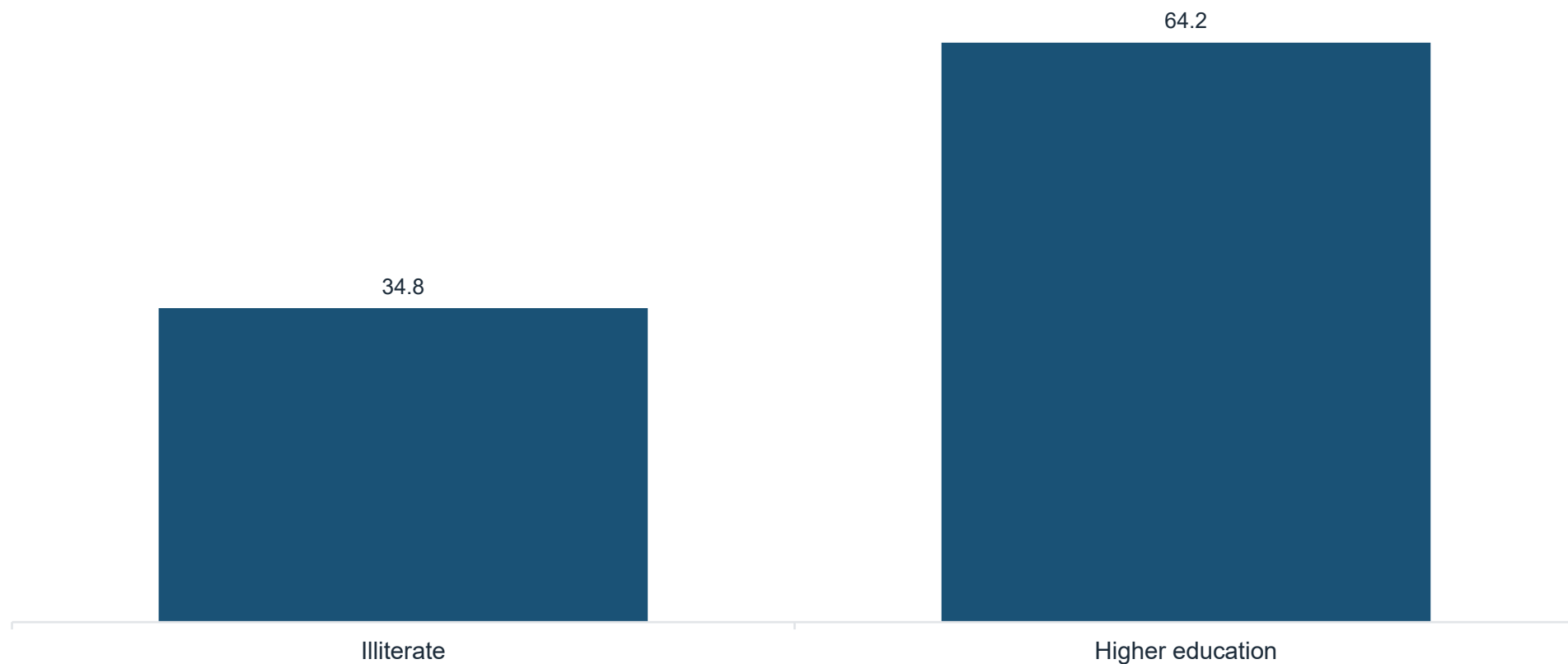
Type of employment by education level

Pakistan, 2024-25, employed persons aged 15-64



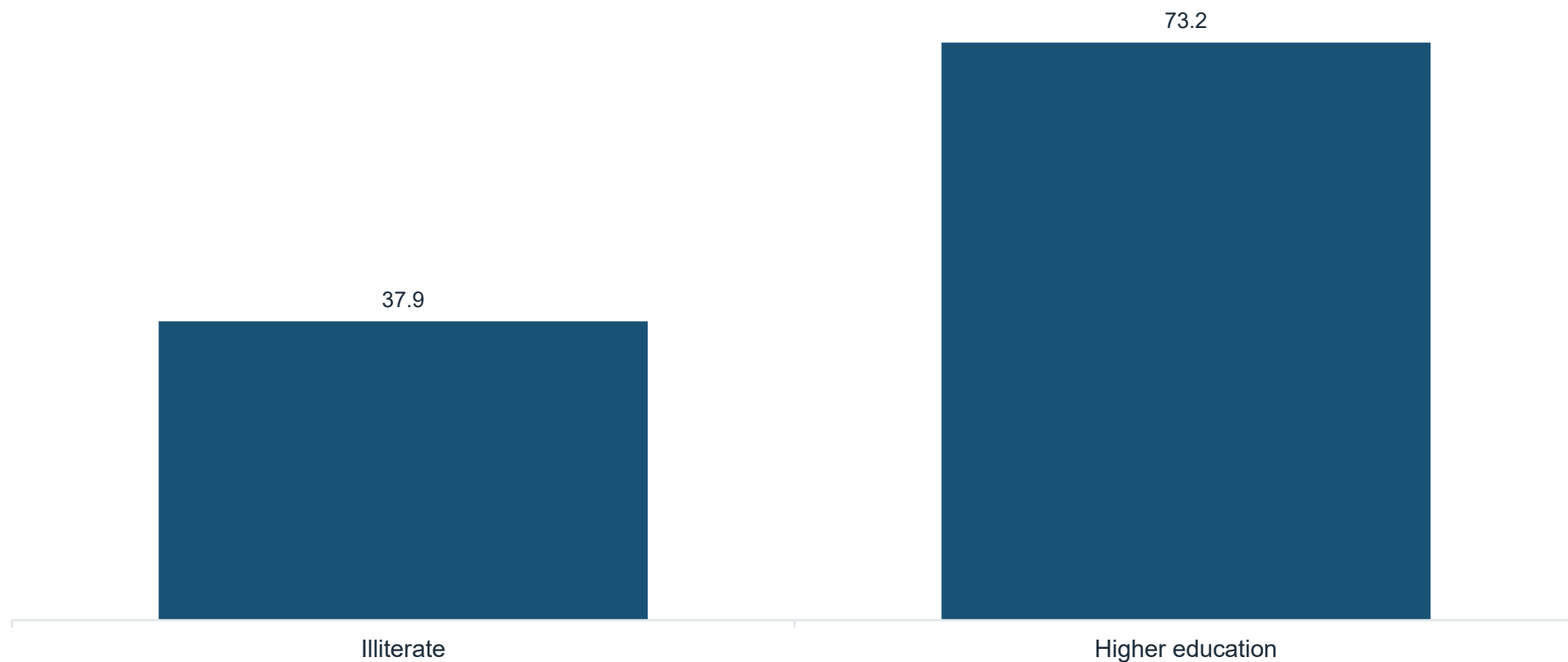
Punjab: salaried employment by education

Illiterate vs. higher education, share holding salaried jobs



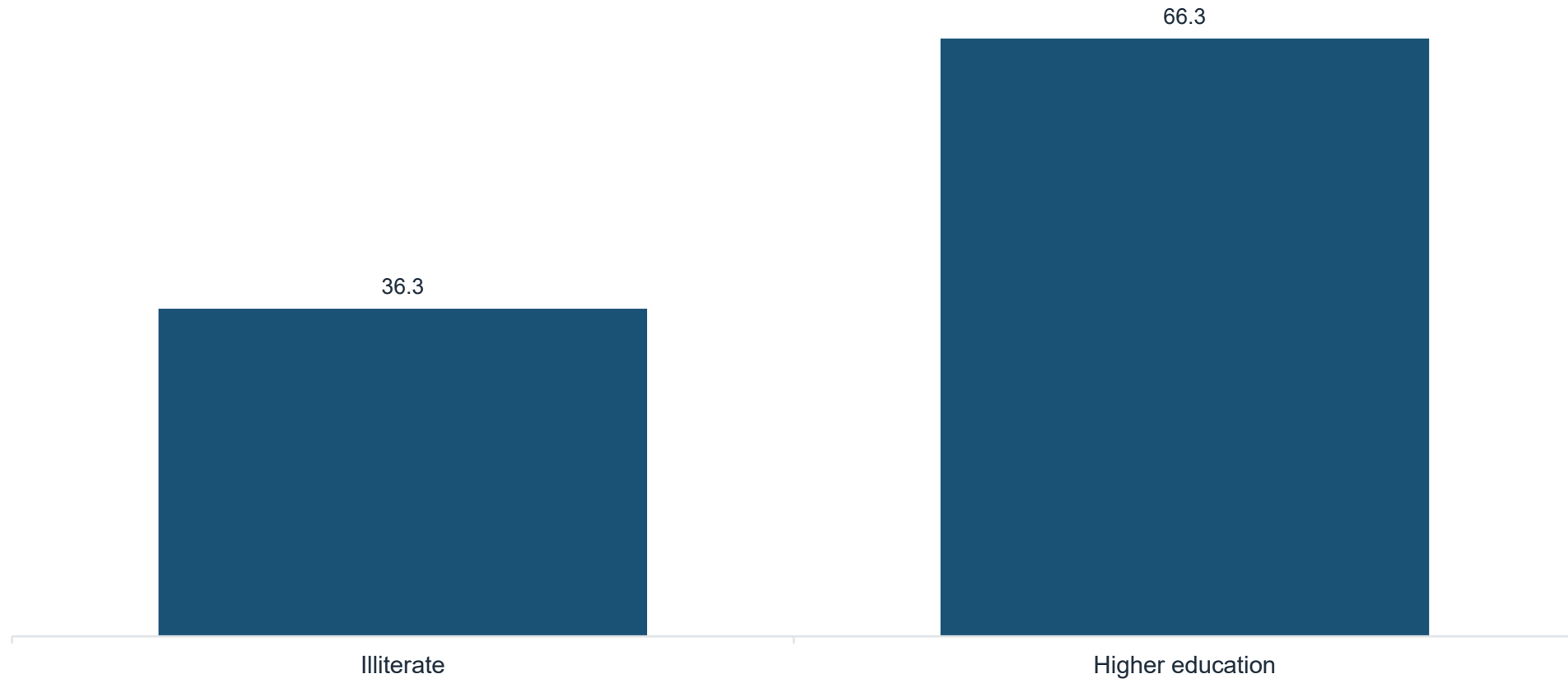
Sindh: salaried employment by education

Illiterate vs. higher education, share holding salaried jobs



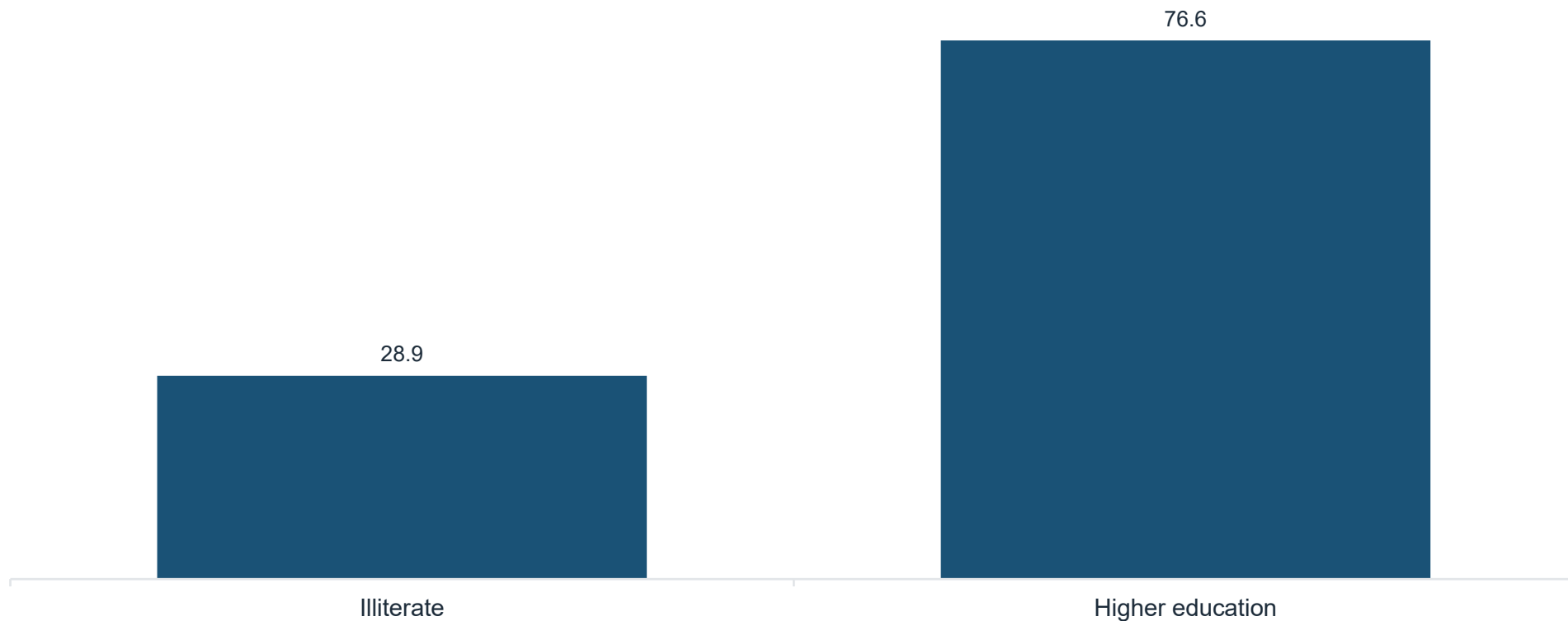
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: salaried employment by education

Illiterate vs. higher education, share holding salaried jobs



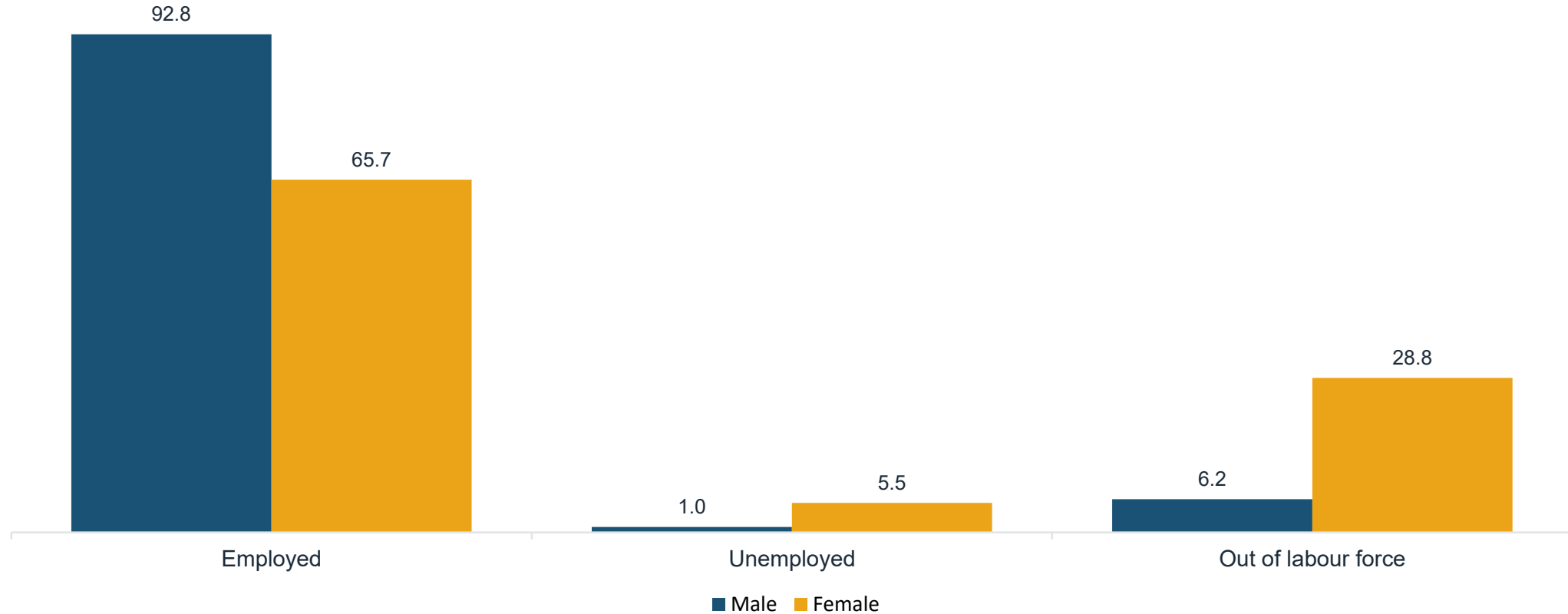
Balochistan: salaried employment by education

Illiterate vs. higher education, share holding salaried jobs



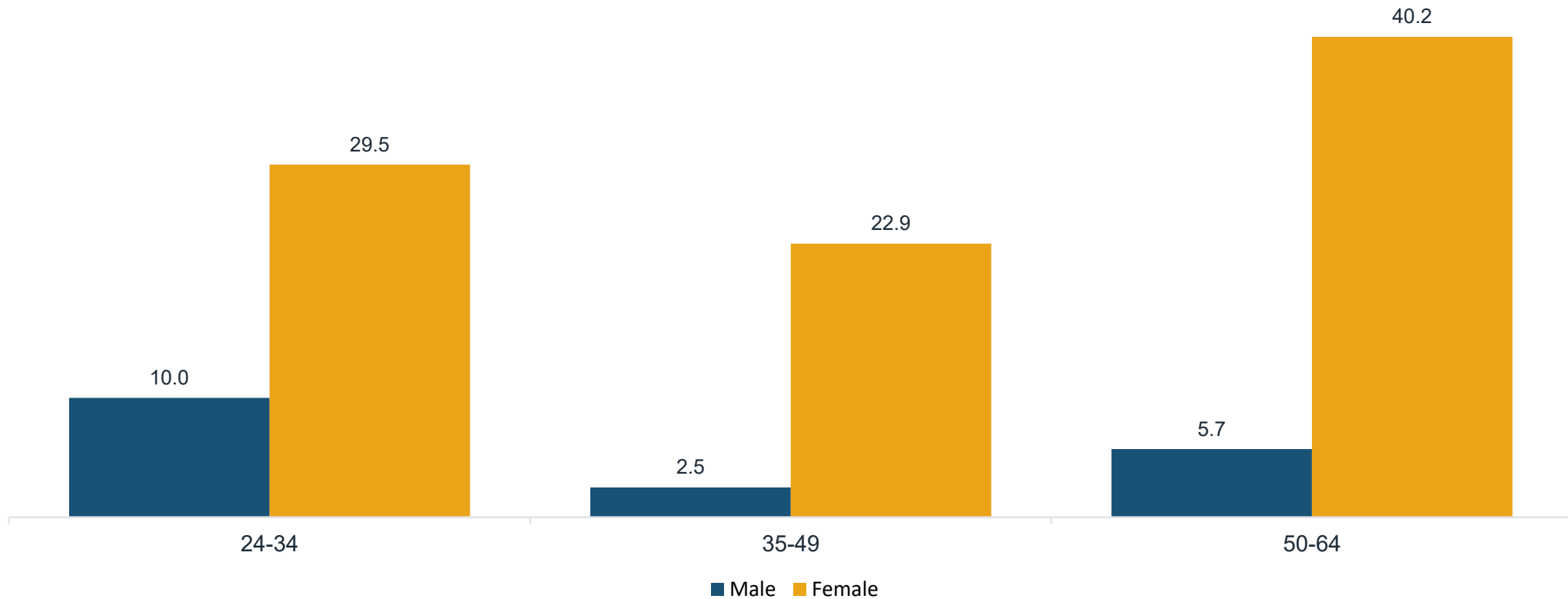
Medically-trained Pakistanis: employment status

Pooled LFS 2018-19 and 2024-25, ages 24-64, by sex



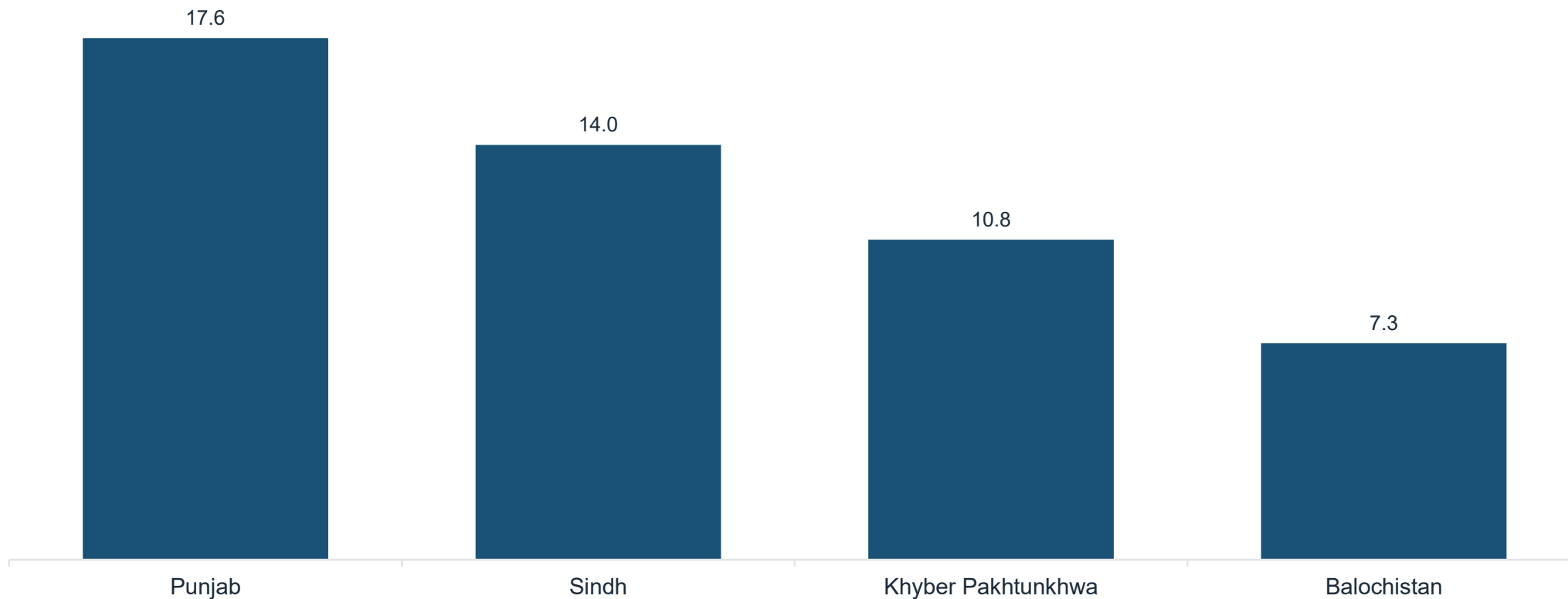
Medically-trained women: non-participation by age

Out of labour force rate, pooled LFS sample, ages 24-64



Medically-trained: non-participation by province

Pooled LFS sample, ages 24-64, all sexes



Engineering-trained Pakistanis: the employment gap

Pooled LFS 2018-19 and 2024-25, ages 24-64, out of labour force rate

60.5%

Women out of the labour force

7.6%

Men out of the labour force

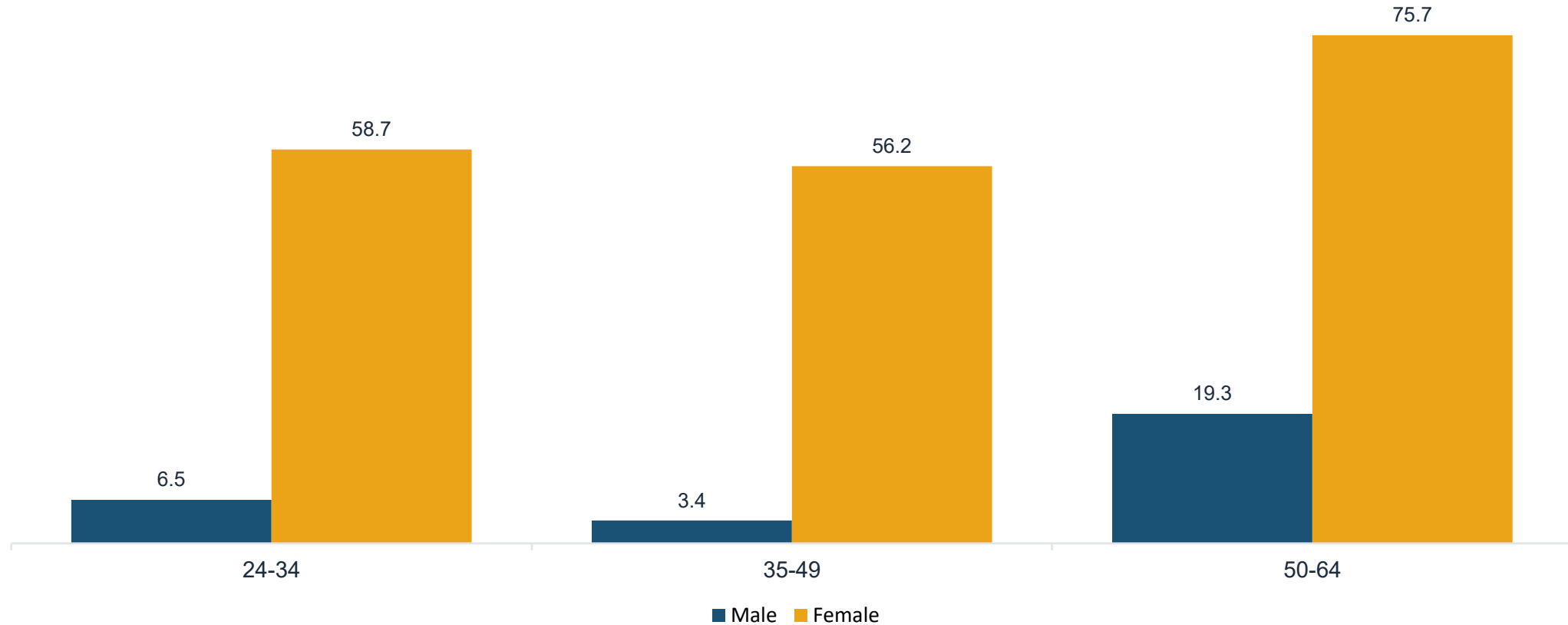
8.0x

Female-to-male non-participation ratio

This is the widest gender employment gap of any qualification examined in this report - wider even than medicine (4.6x).

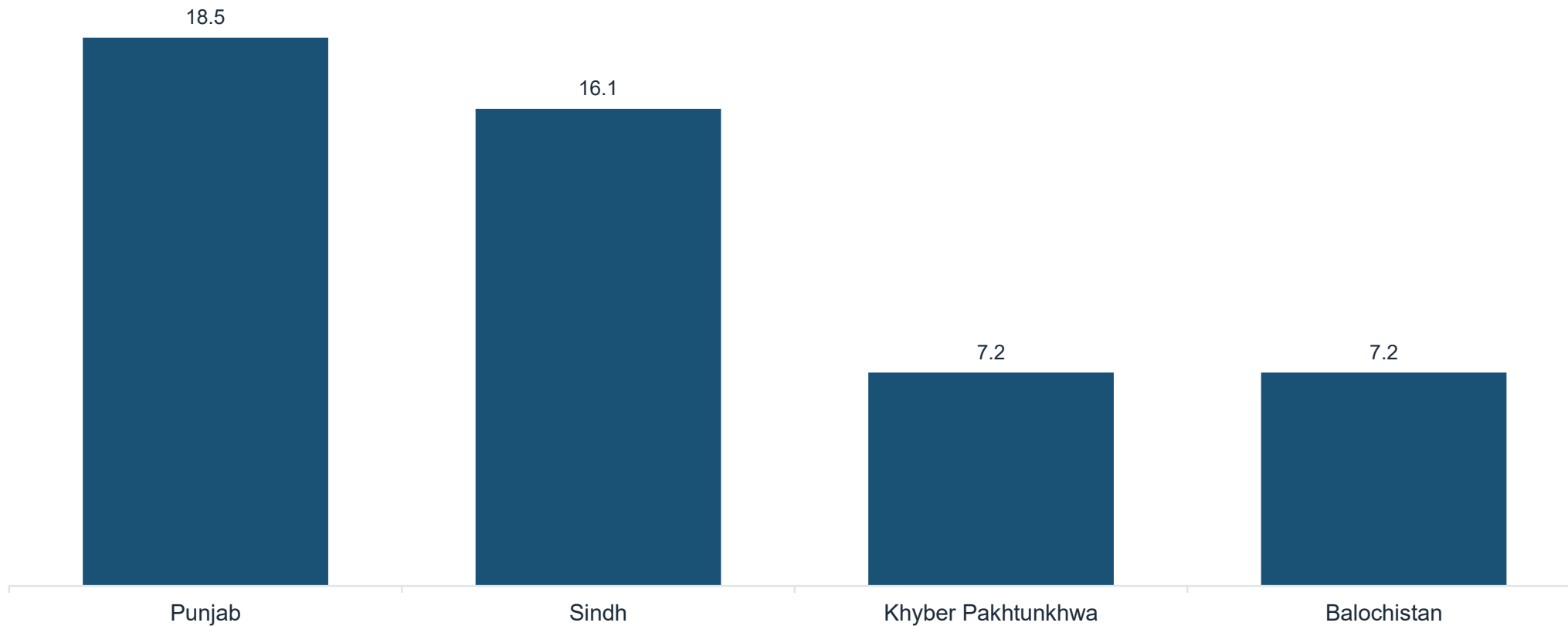
Engineering-trained women: non-participation by age

Unlike medicine, the gap does not narrow in mid-career



Engineering-trained: non-participation by province

Pooled LFS sample, ages 24-64, all sexes



Professional women: medicine vs. engineering

Out of labour force rate compared side by side

28.8%

Medicine: women out of the labour force

60.5%

Engineering: women out of the labour force

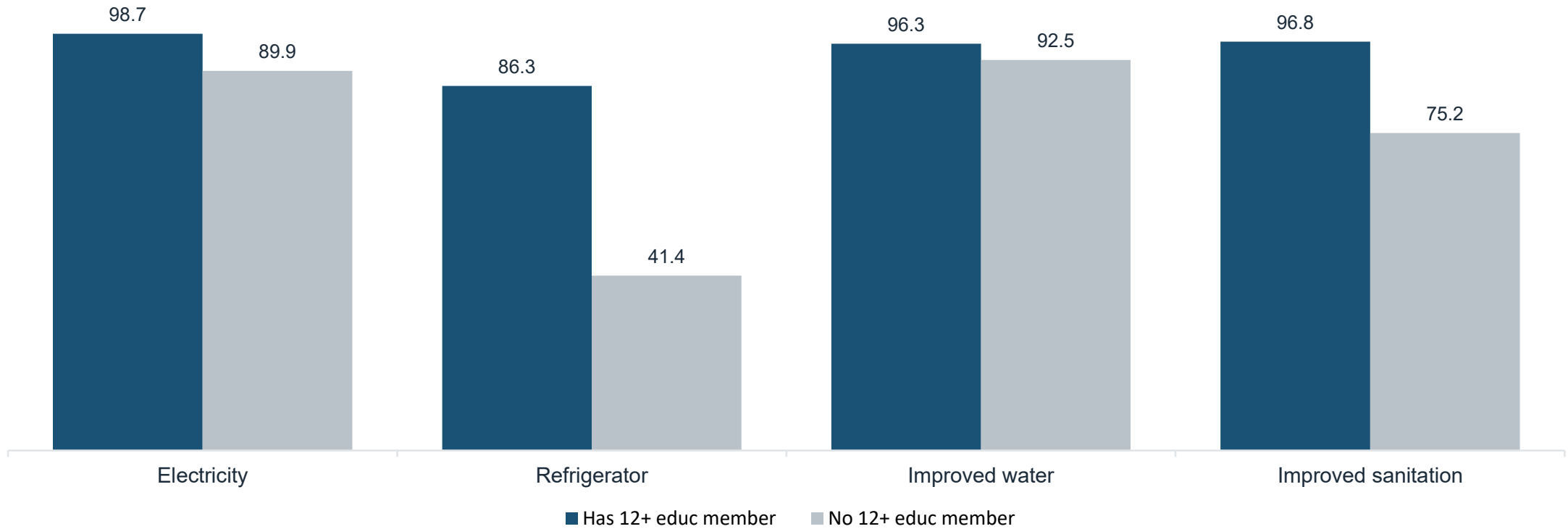
Both fields show large gender gaps, but engineering's is far wider and does not improve with age the way medicine's does.

Section 5

Household Wellbeing & Health Infrastructure

Household assets, by education status

Pakistan 2017-18: households with vs. without a member holding 12+ years of education



Wealth and education travel together

Pakistan 2017-18, wealth quintile placement by household education

48.7%

In richest quintile, has 12+ educ member

7.1%

In richest quintile, no 12+ educ member

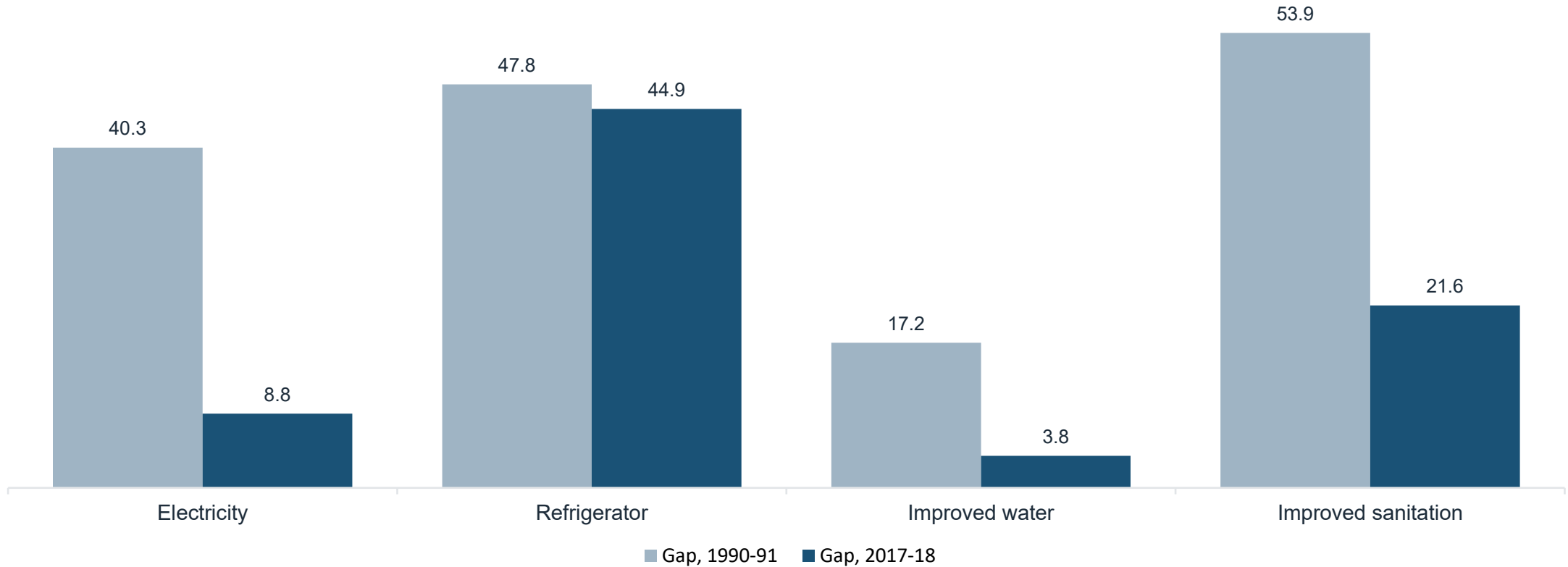
7x

Difference in odds of being in richest quintile

Nearly half of households with an educated member sit in the richest wealth quintile, versus just 7% of households without one.

The education-infrastructure gap has narrowed since 1990-91

Percentage-point gap between educated and uneducated households



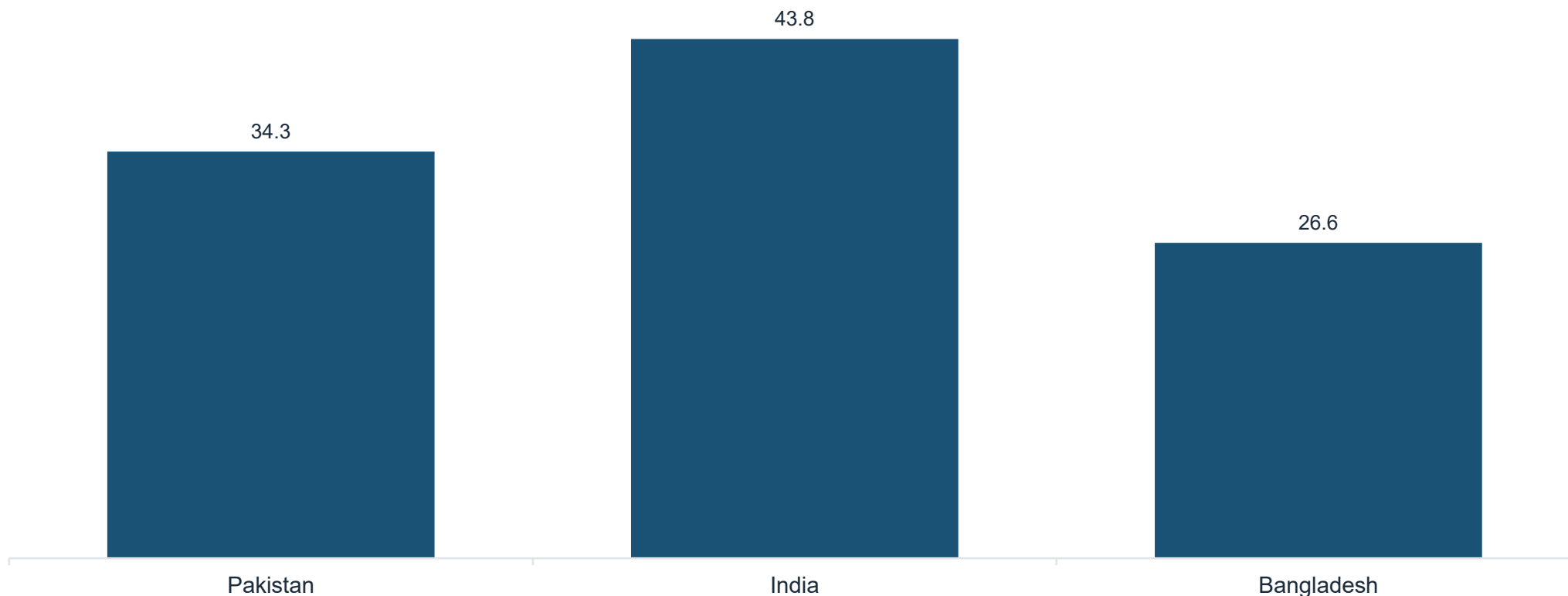
Basic infrastructure converges; discretionary wealth does not

What the shrinking and non-shrinking gaps tell us

- Electricity and water gaps shrank by 30+ and 13 points as public infrastructure rolled out nationally, regardless of household education
- The refrigerator gap barely moved: 47.8 points in 1990-91, still 44.9 points in 2017-18
- Where the state has not provided a service directly, household education remains a strong predictor of who can afford it

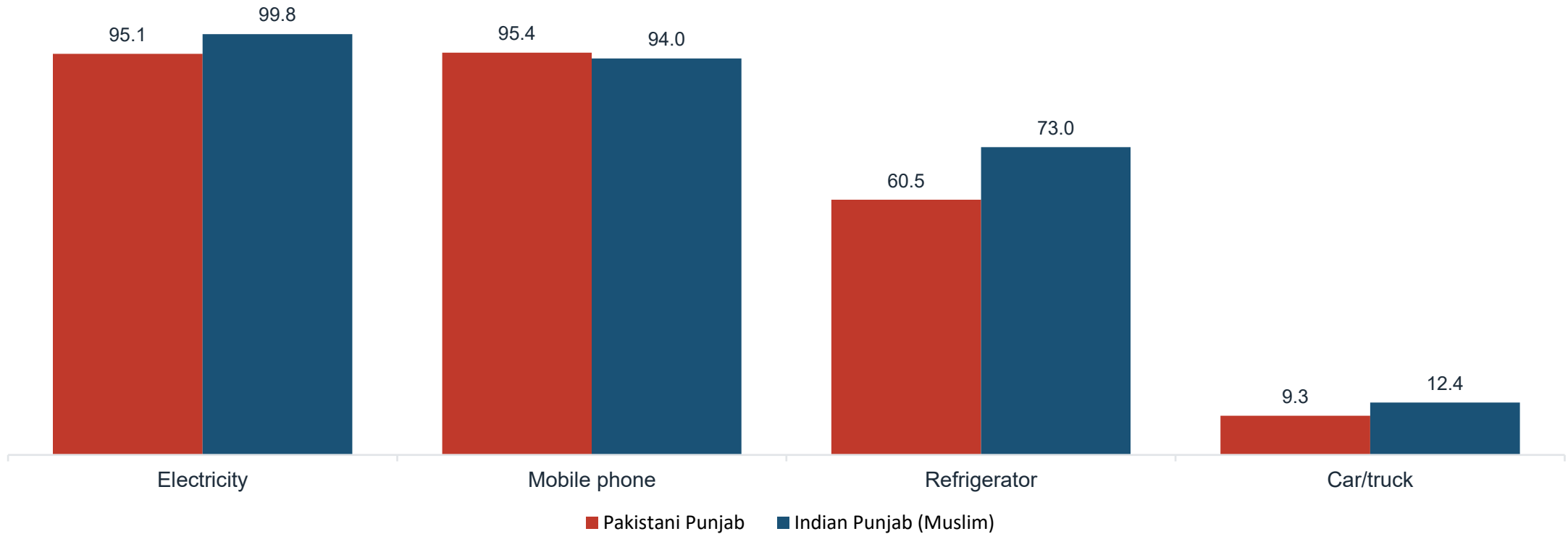
Household education vs. India and Bangladesh

Share of households with at least one member holding 12+ years of education



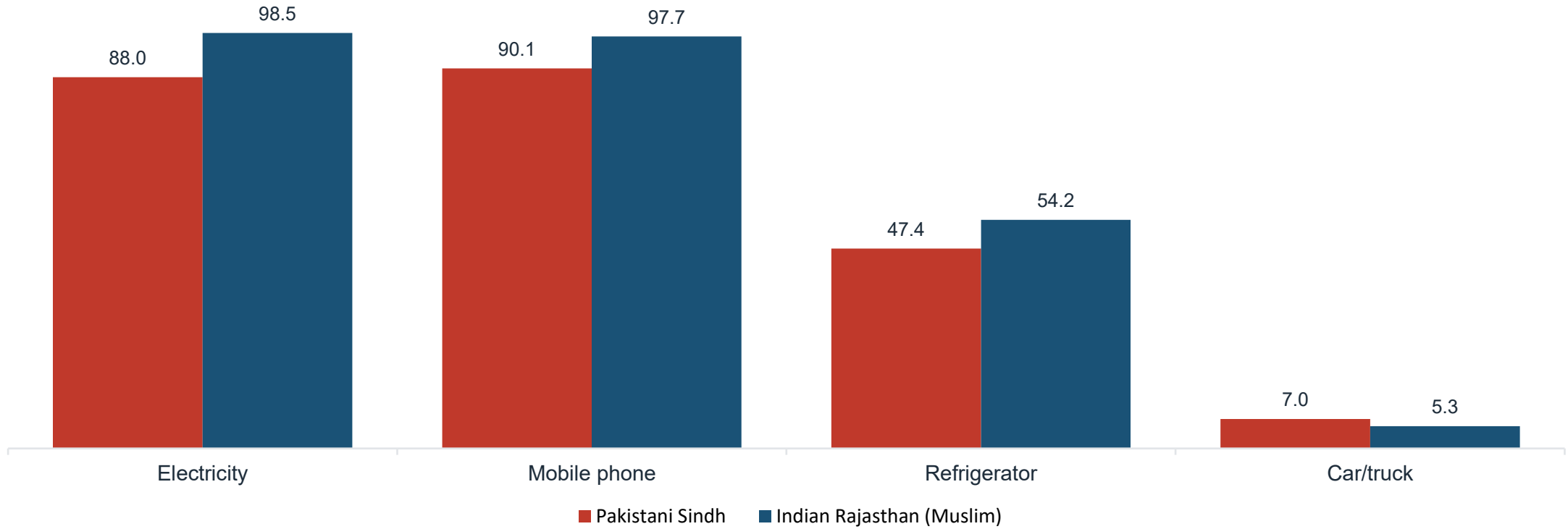
Border regions: Muslim household assets, Punjab vs. Punjab

Pakistani Punjab vs. Indian Punjab (Muslim-headed households)



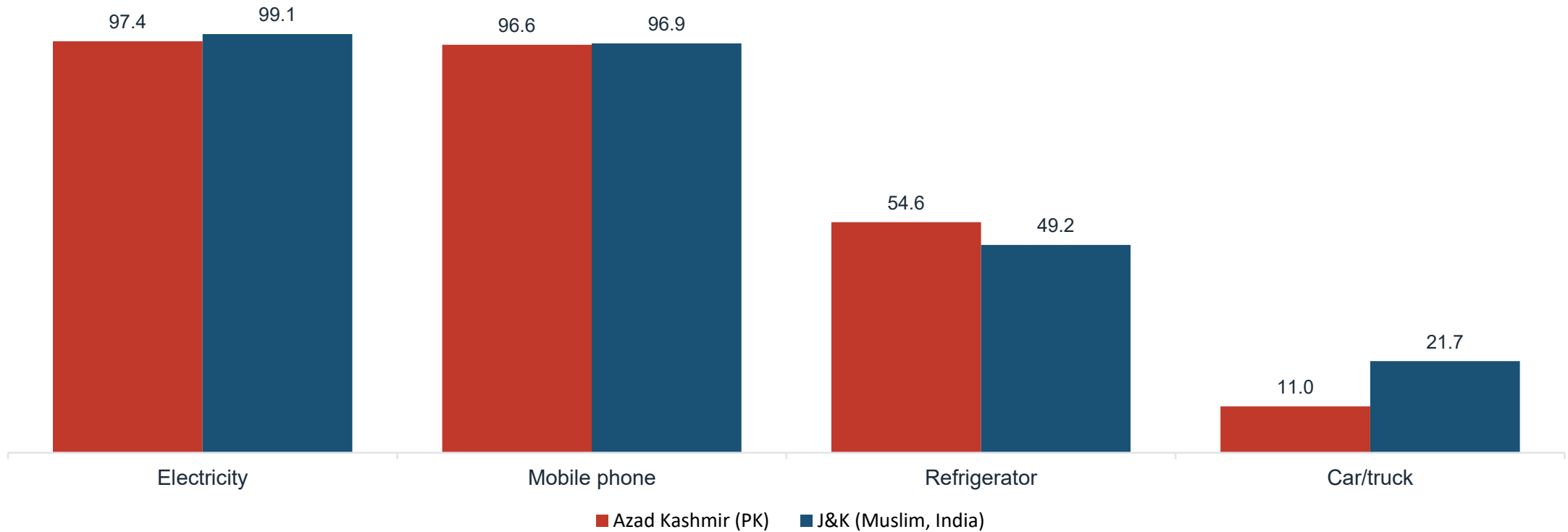
Border regions: Sindh vs. Rajasthan

Pakistani Sindh vs. Indian Rajasthan (Muslim-headed households)



Border regions: Azad Kashmir vs. Jammu & Kashmir

Pakistan-administered Kashmir vs. Indian J&K (Muslim-headed households)



Source: Pakistan DHS 2017-18; India NFHS-5 2019-21. J&K shows notably higher car ownership.

Section 6

Business Ownership & Entrepreneurship

Business ownership rate, by sex

Pakistan 2024-25, ages 18-64, share who run a business or farm

35.9%

Men who run a business or farm

7.5%

Women who run a business or farm

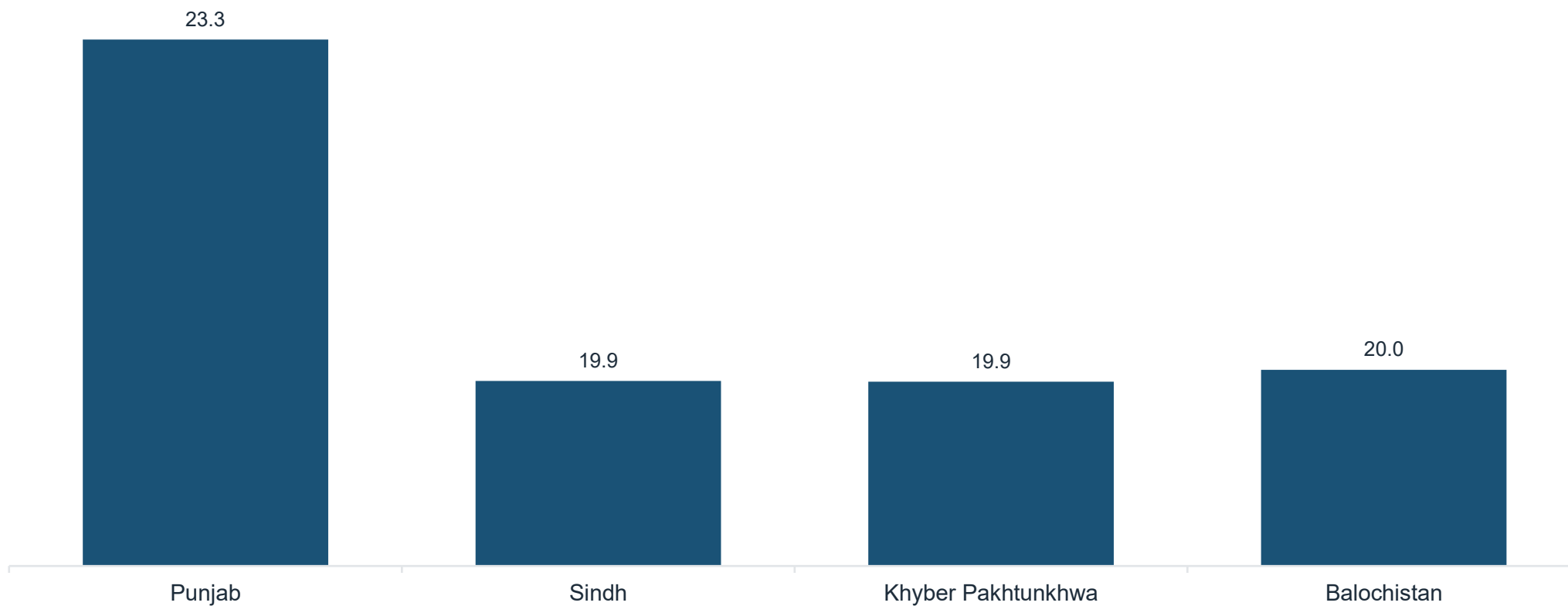
4.8x

Male-to-female ratio

Men are roughly 4.8 times as likely as women to run a business or farm in Pakistan.

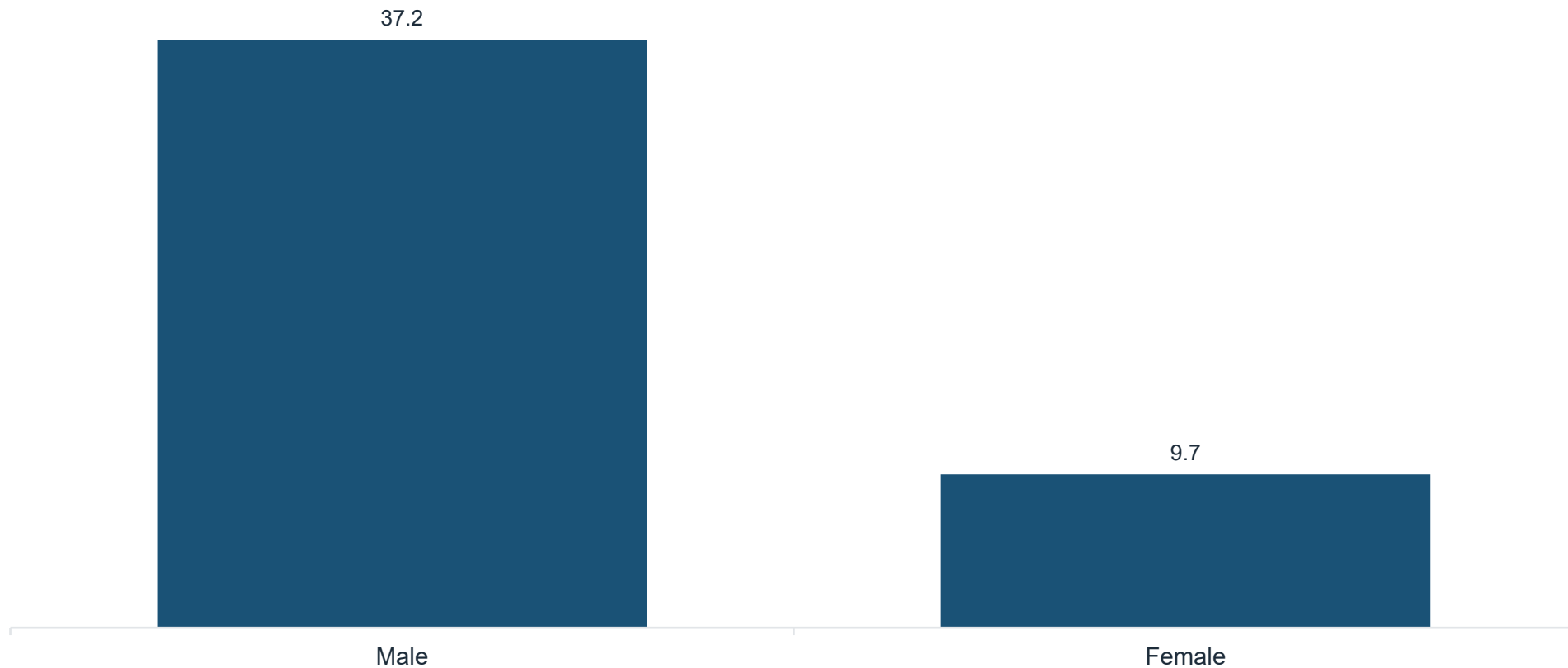
Business ownership rate, by province

Pakistan 2024-25, ages 18-64, all sexes



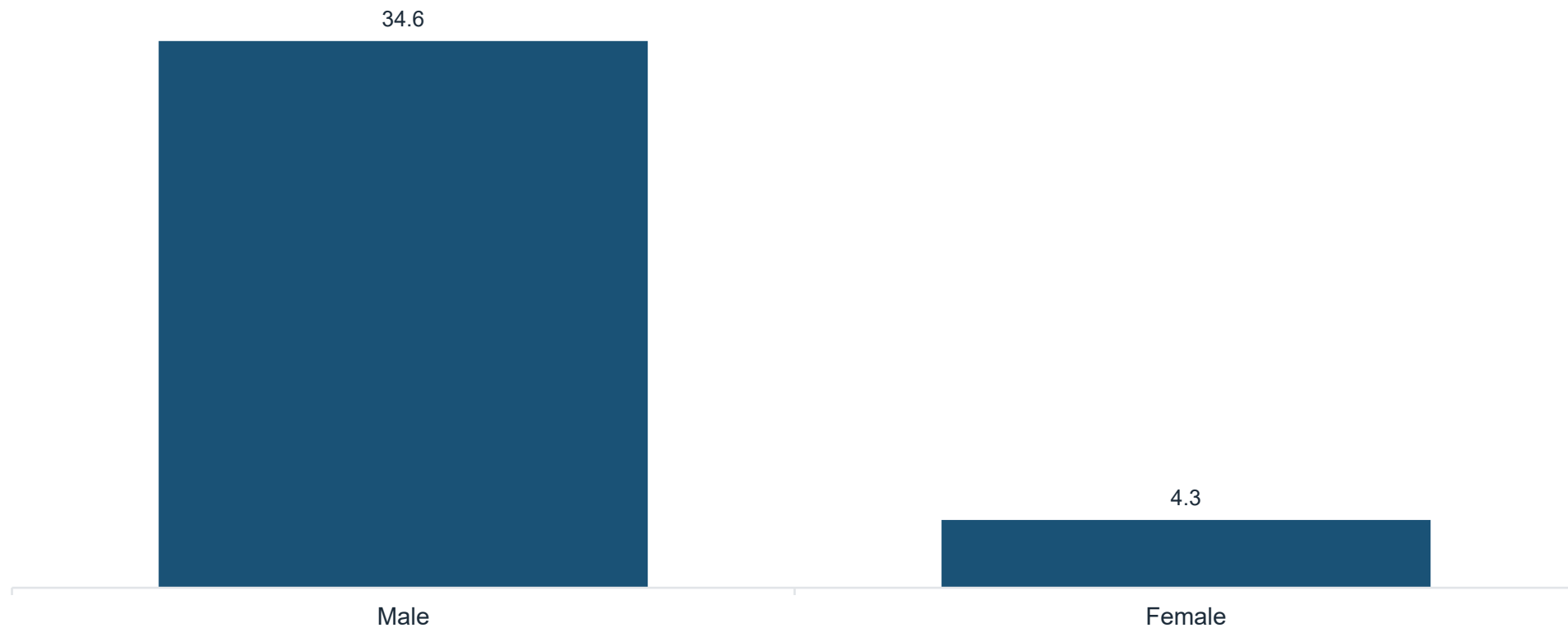
Punjab: business ownership by sex

Pakistan 2024-25, ages 18-64



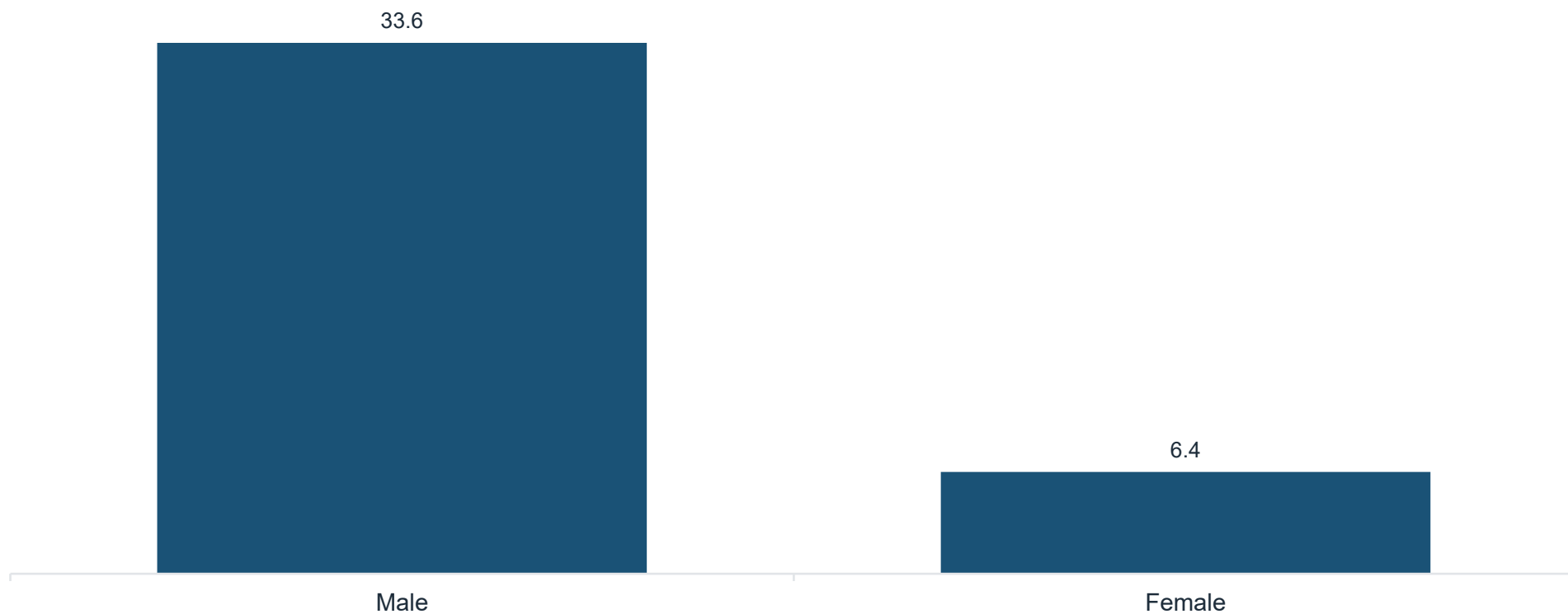
Sindh: business ownership by sex

Pakistan 2024-25, ages 18-64



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: business ownership by sex

Pakistan 2024-25, ages 18-64



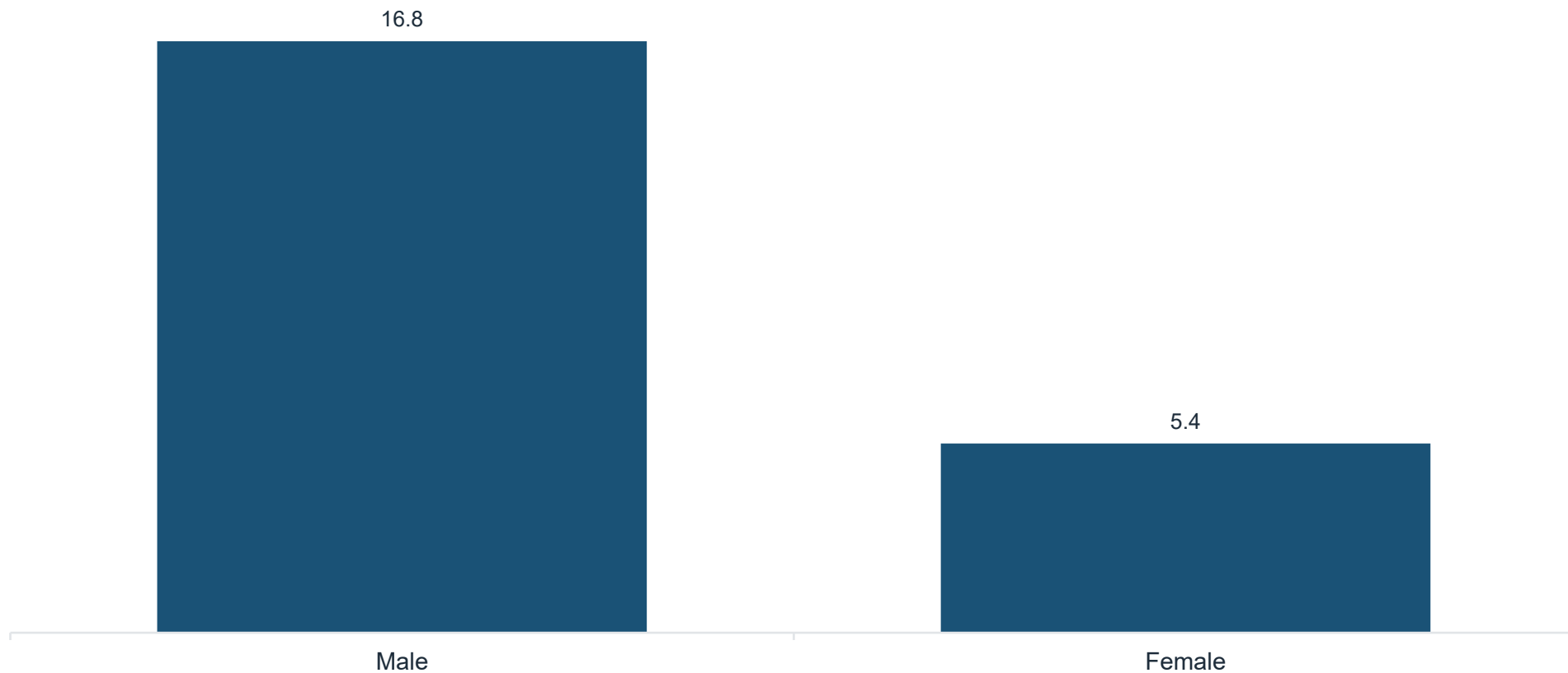
Balochistan: business ownership by sex

Pakistan 2024-25, ages 18-64



From business owner to employer

Share of business owners who hire regular paid employees, by sex



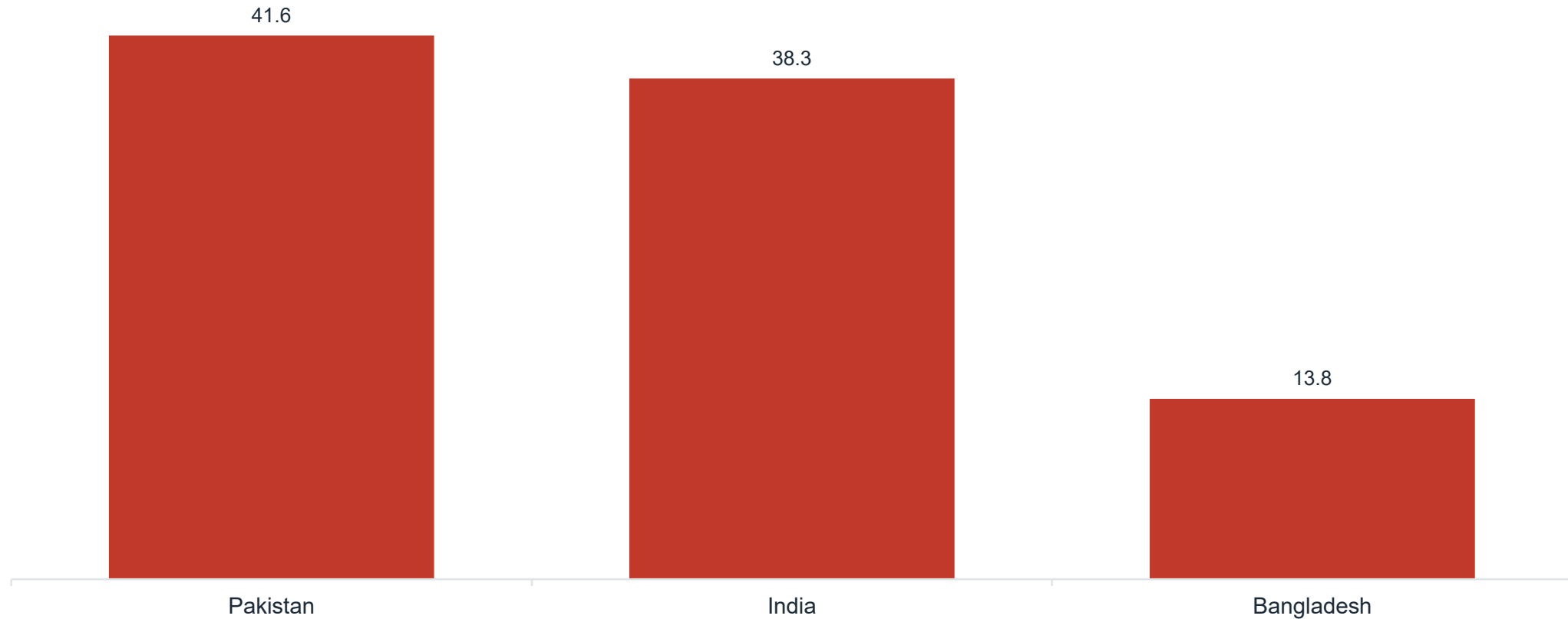


Section 7

Gender Attitudes & Domestic Violence

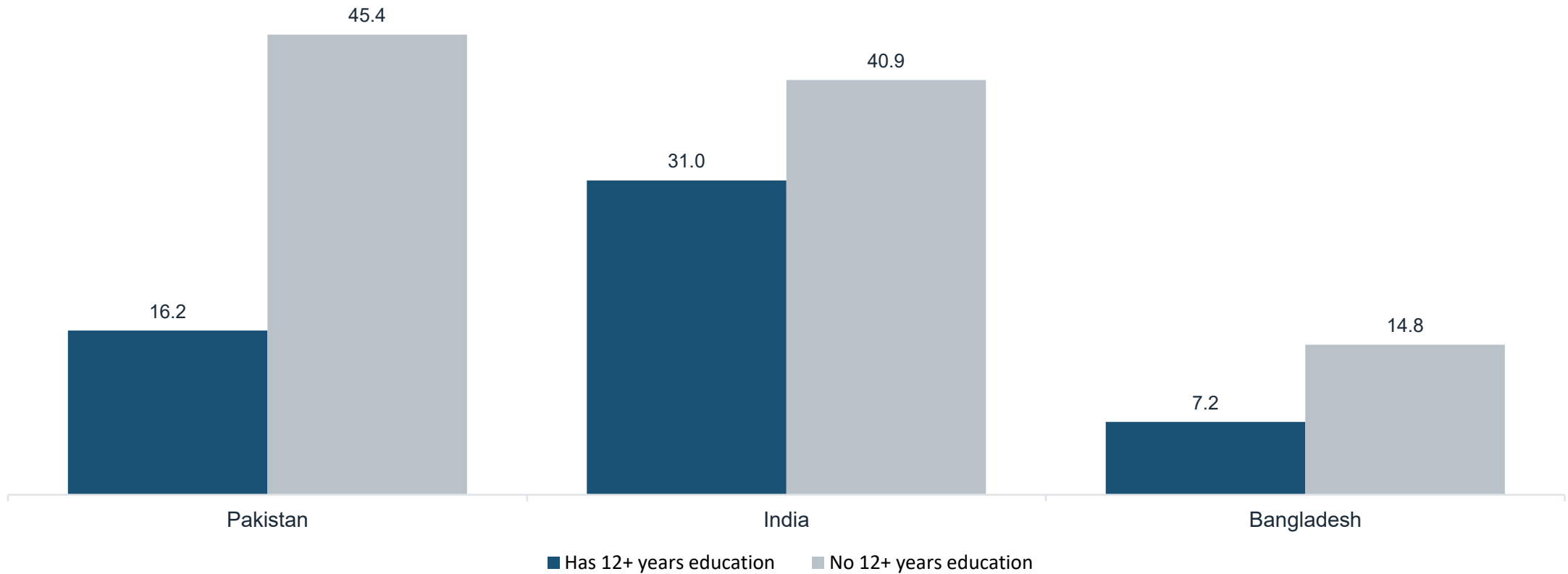
Justifies wife-beating for at least one reason

Pakistan vs. India vs. Bangladesh, all women surveyed



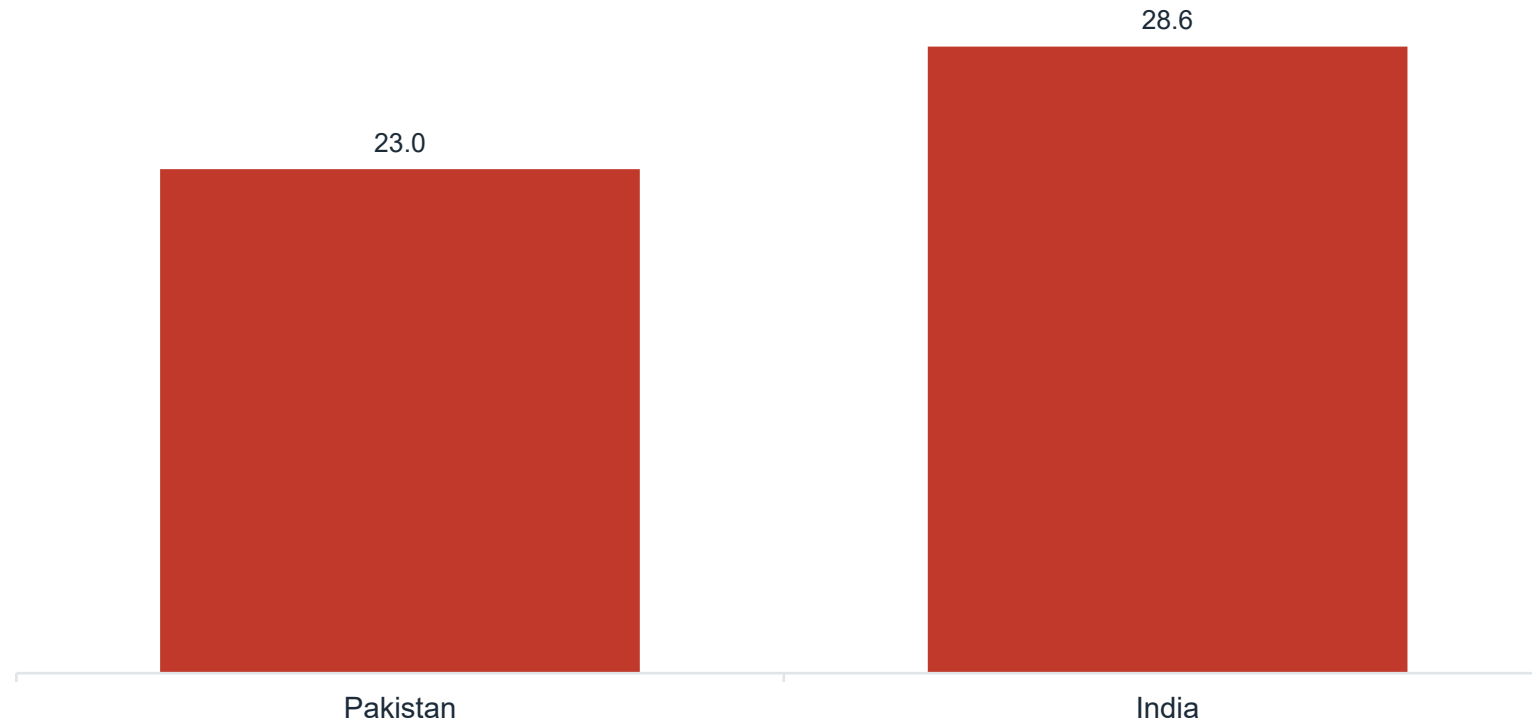
Education is the sharpest divide on attitudes

Justifies wife-beating for at least one reason, by education



Actual experience of physical violence

Pakistan vs. India (Bangladesh did not administer this module in 2022)



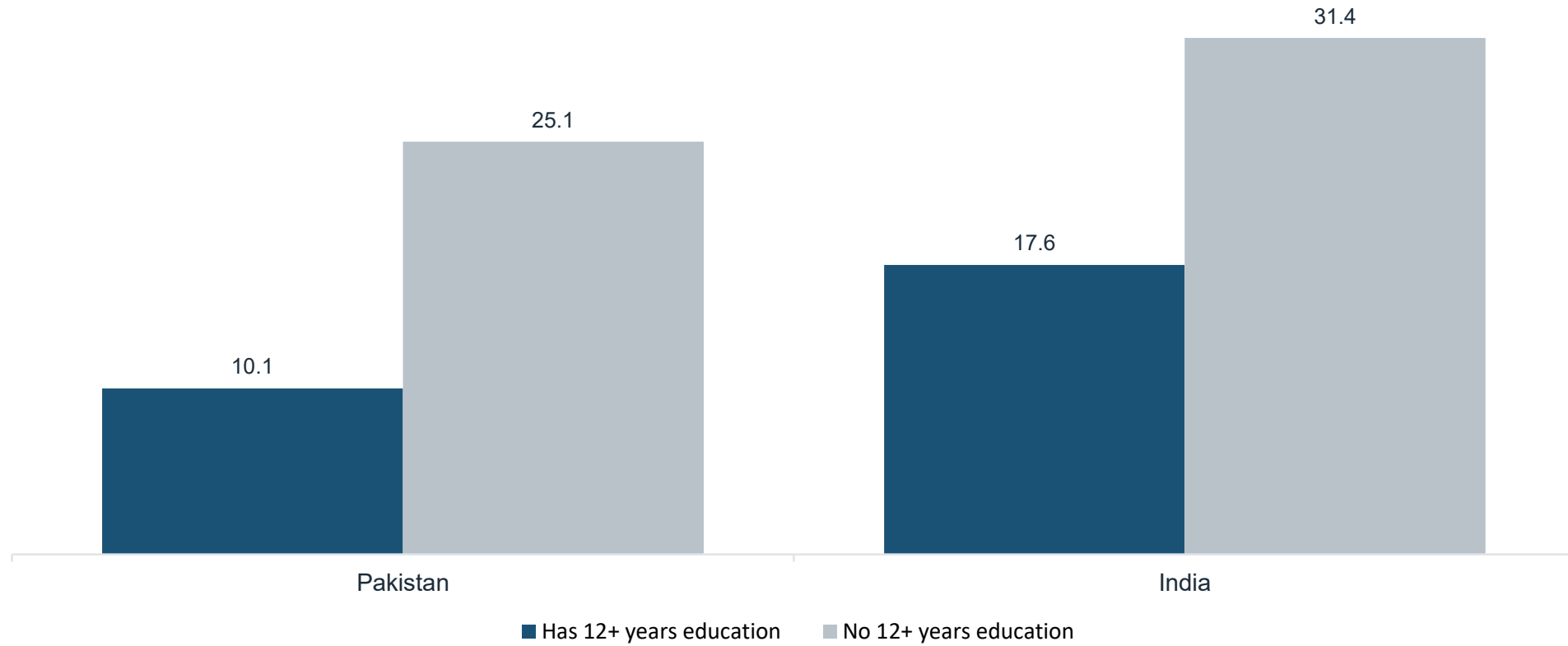
Attitudes vs. lived experience: a real disconnect

Pakistan has the highest justification rate but not the highest violence rate

- Pakistan: 41.6% justify wife-beating, yet 23.0% report having experienced physical violence
- India: 38.3% justify wife-beating, yet 28.6% report having experienced physical violence - a higher actual rate despite lower stated justification
- The gap between stated norms and lived experience is worth further investigation rather than assuming either figure tells the whole story

Experience of violence, by education

Pakistan vs. India, women with vs. without 12+ years of education

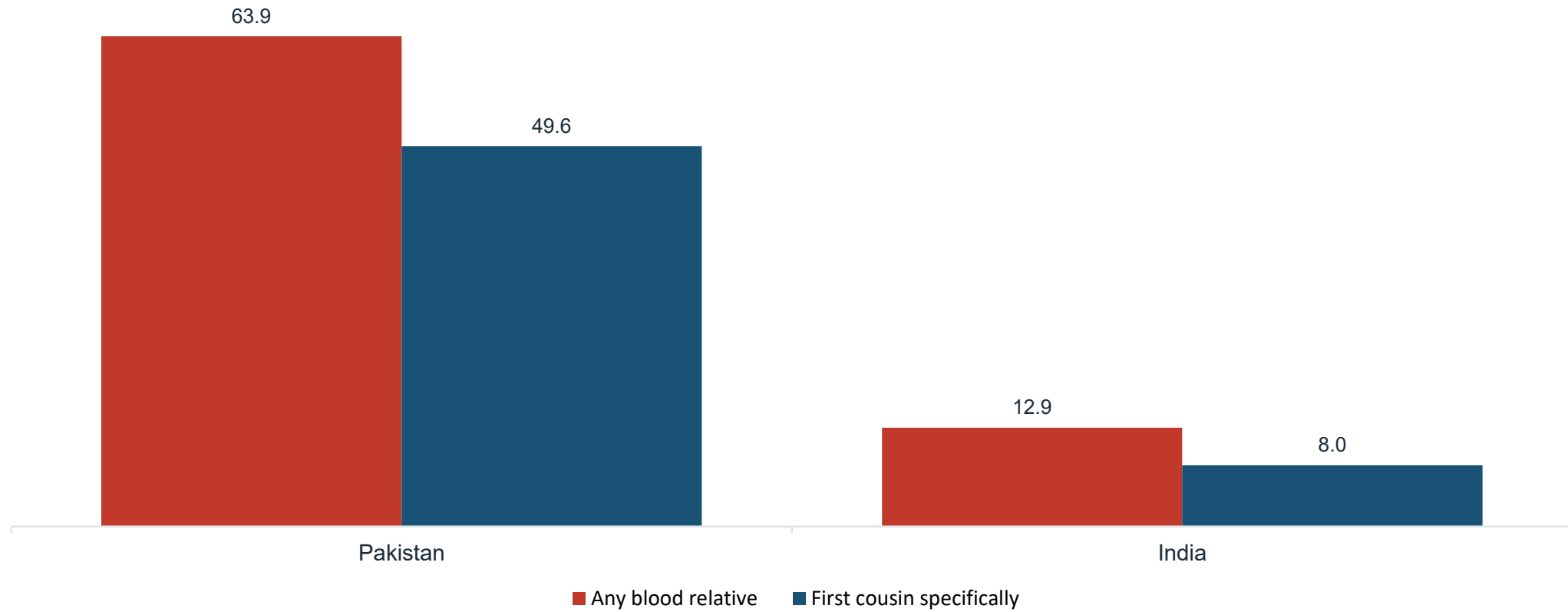


Section 8

Consanguineous Marriage: Prevalence and Patterns

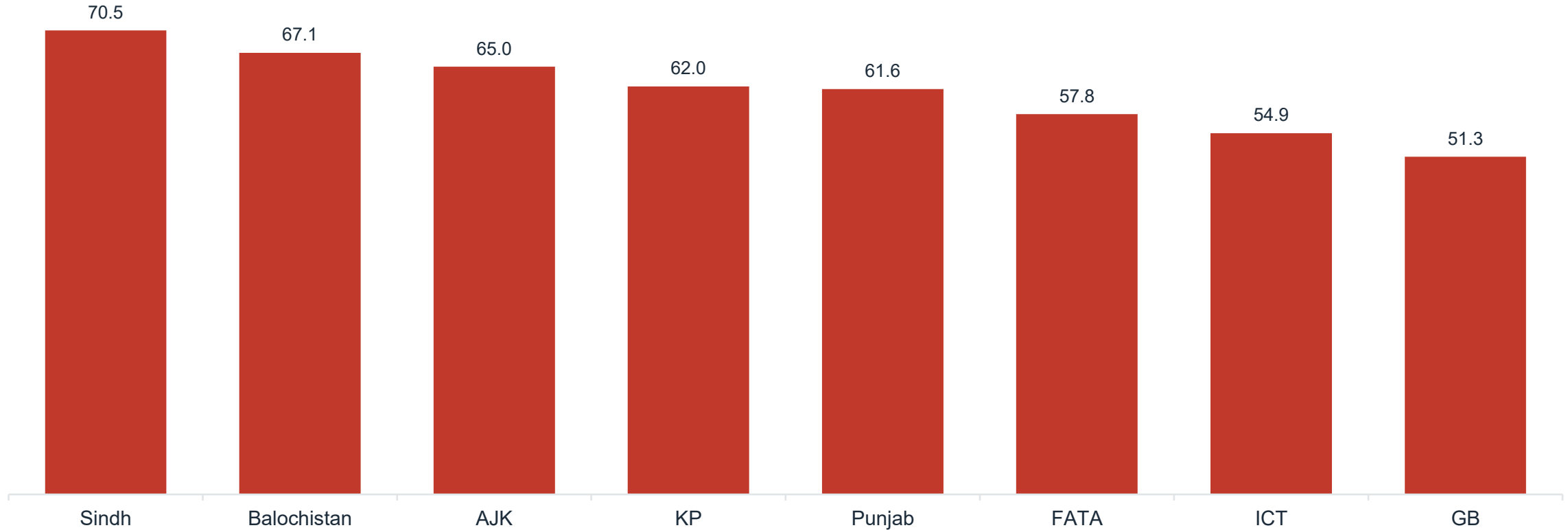
Married to a blood relative: Pakistan vs. India

Share of ever-married women, national



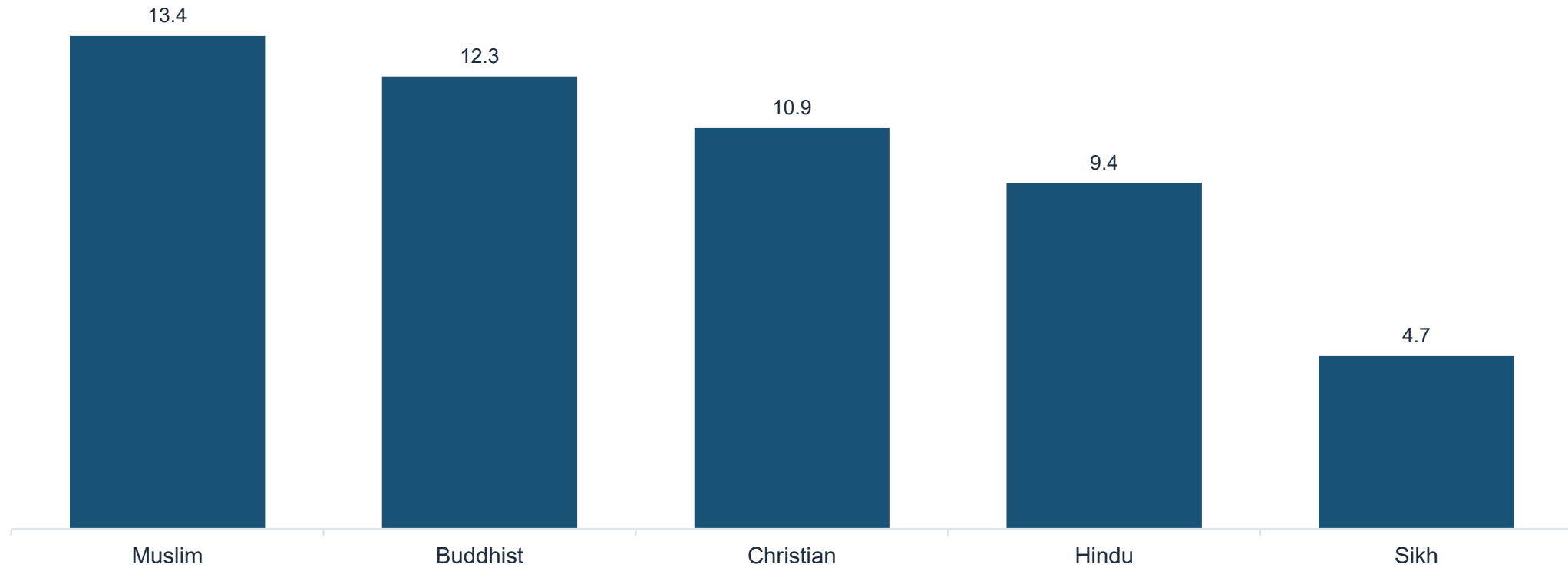
Cousin marriage by province: no low province in Pakistan

Share married to any blood relative, all eight sampling regions



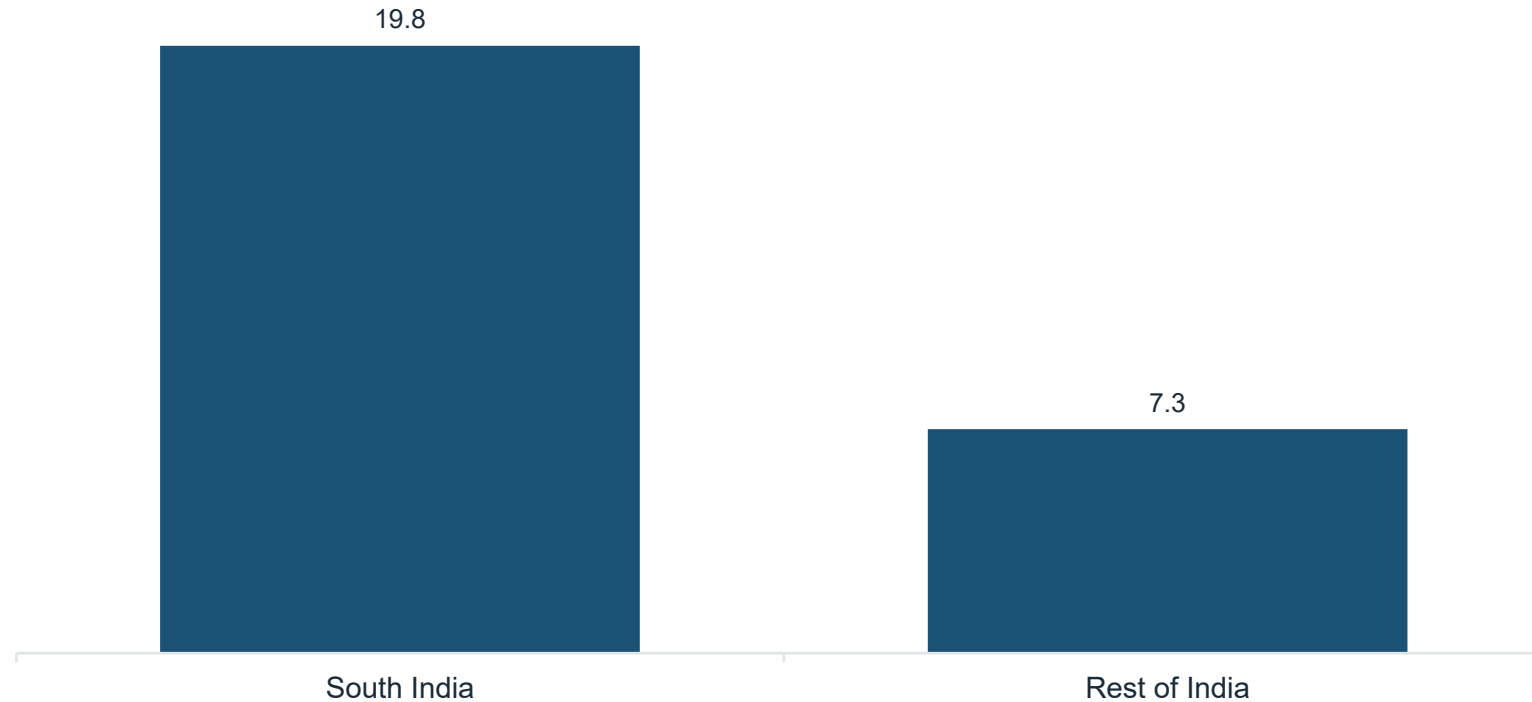
India by religion: Muslims lead, but modestly

Share married to a blood relative, by respondent religion



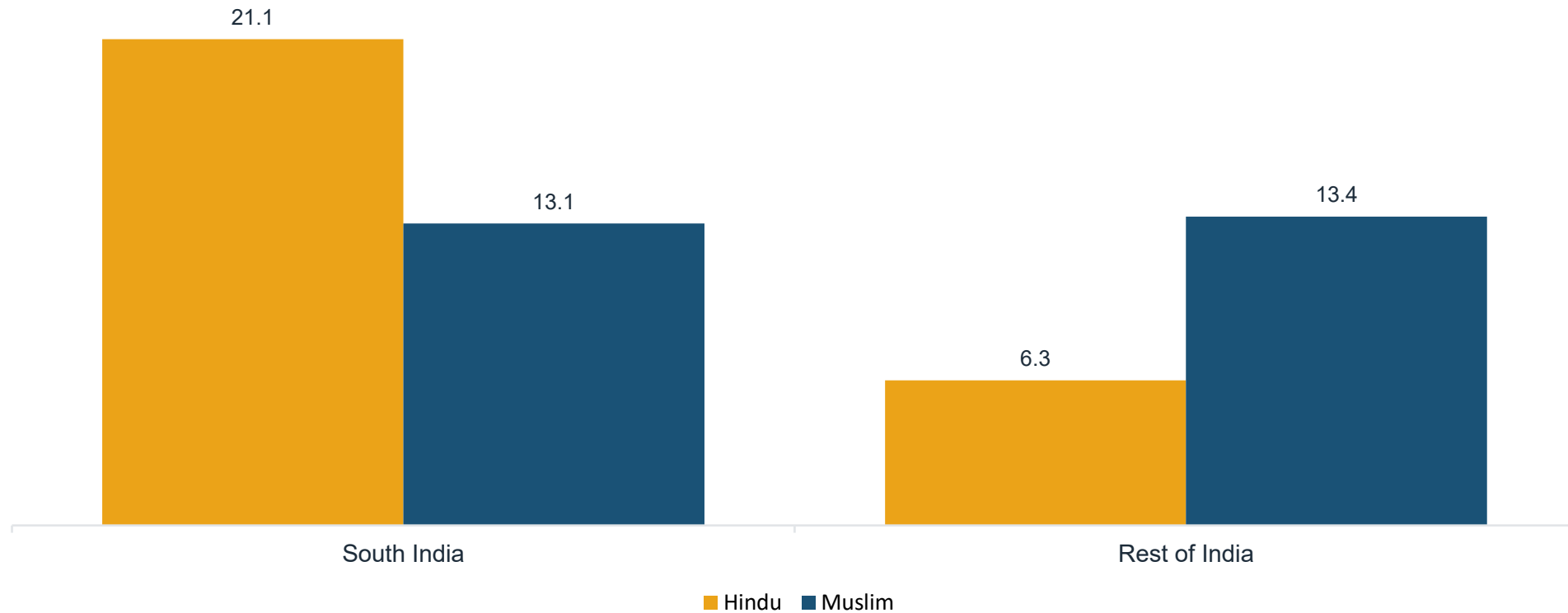
India: South vs. rest of the country

Cousin marriage is a Dravidian regional tradition, not purely religious



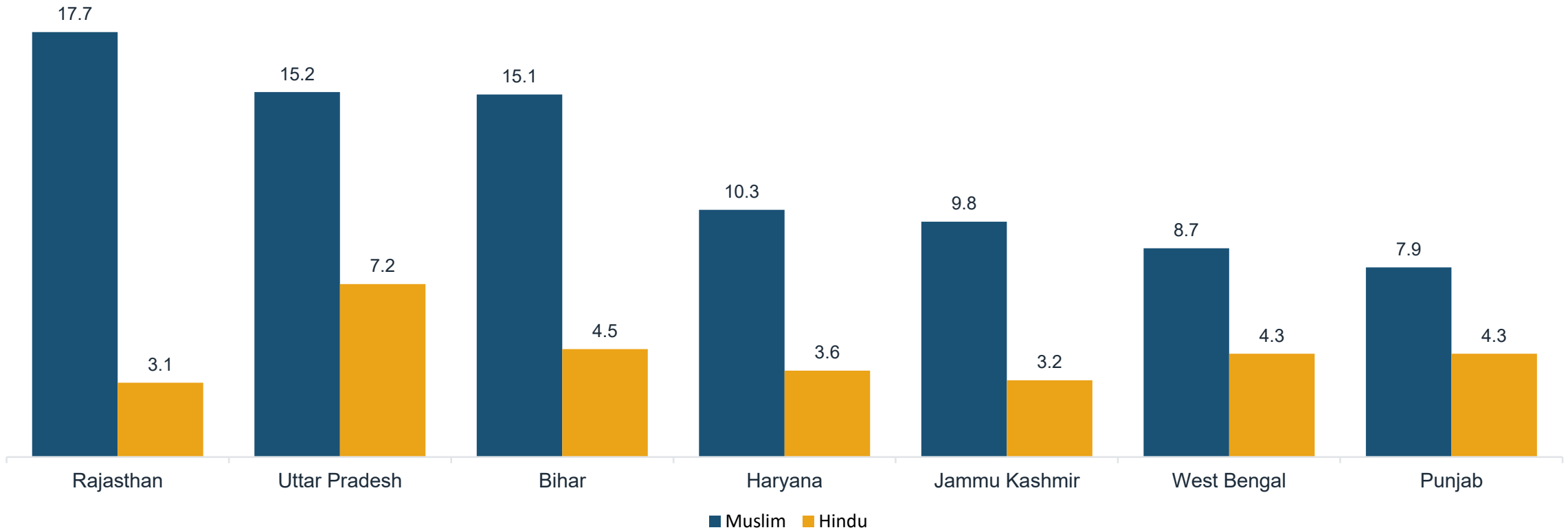
Hindu vs. Muslim rates, split by region

The regional and religious effects run in opposite directions



North Indian states: Muslim vs. Hindu rates

Seven states where the South Indian Dravidian tradition does not apply



Even India's highest state rate trails Pakistan's lowest

Rajasthan Muslims (India's highest) vs. Gilgit-Baltistan (Pakistan's lowest)

17.7%

Rajasthan Muslims - India's highest state-level rate

51.3%

Gilgit-Baltistan - Pakistan's LOWEST region

2.9x

Pakistan's floor vs. India's ceiling

Cousin marriage in Pakistan is diffuse and near-universal across ethnicity, province, and urban/rural divide - a nationwide social norm, not a regional or religious pocket as in India.

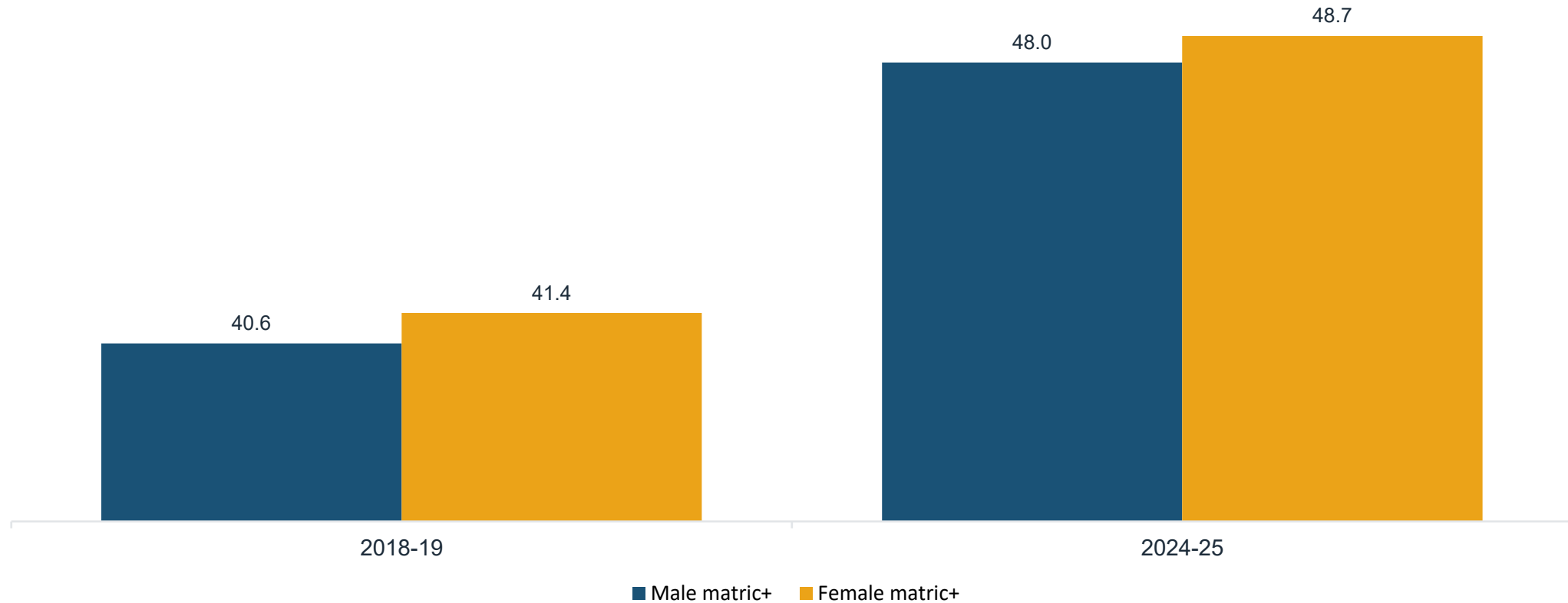


Section 9

Deep Dive: Education Detail by Province, Wave and Sex

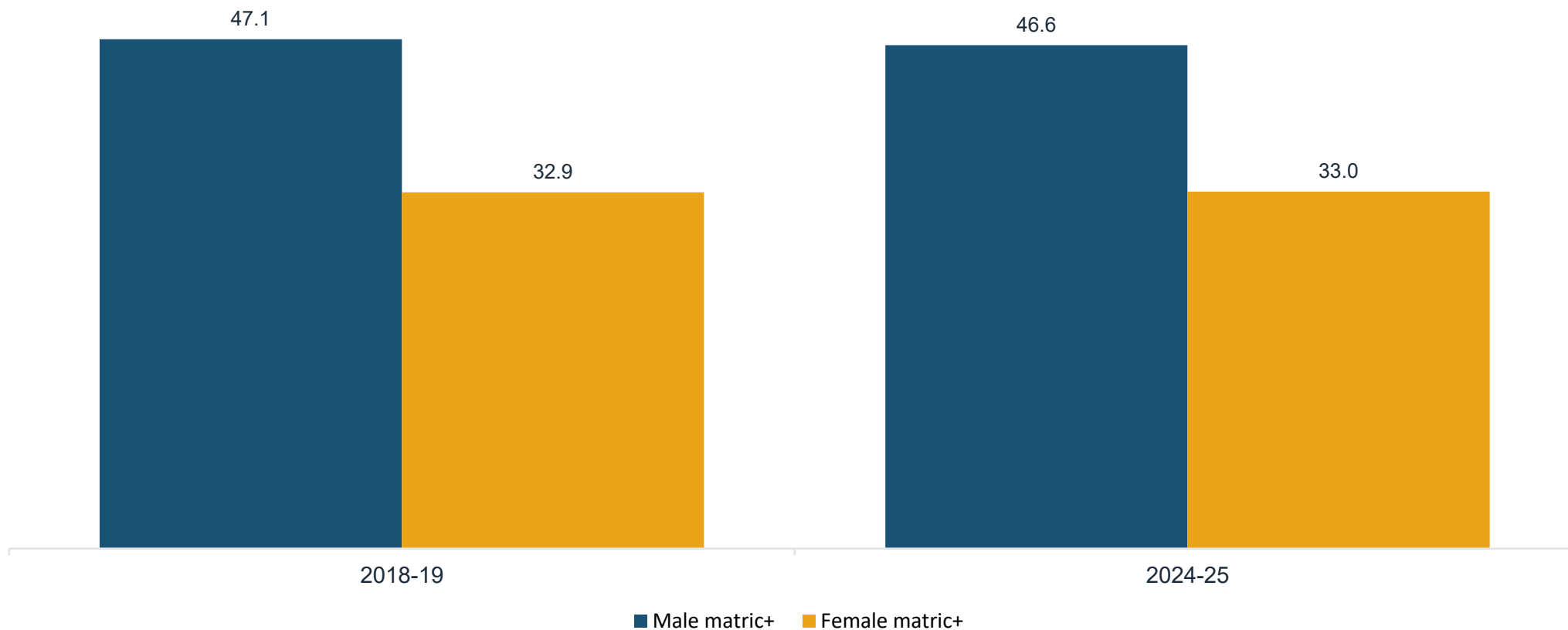
Punjab: tertiary+ attainment trend

Share with tertiary education or higher, ages 18-30, by sex



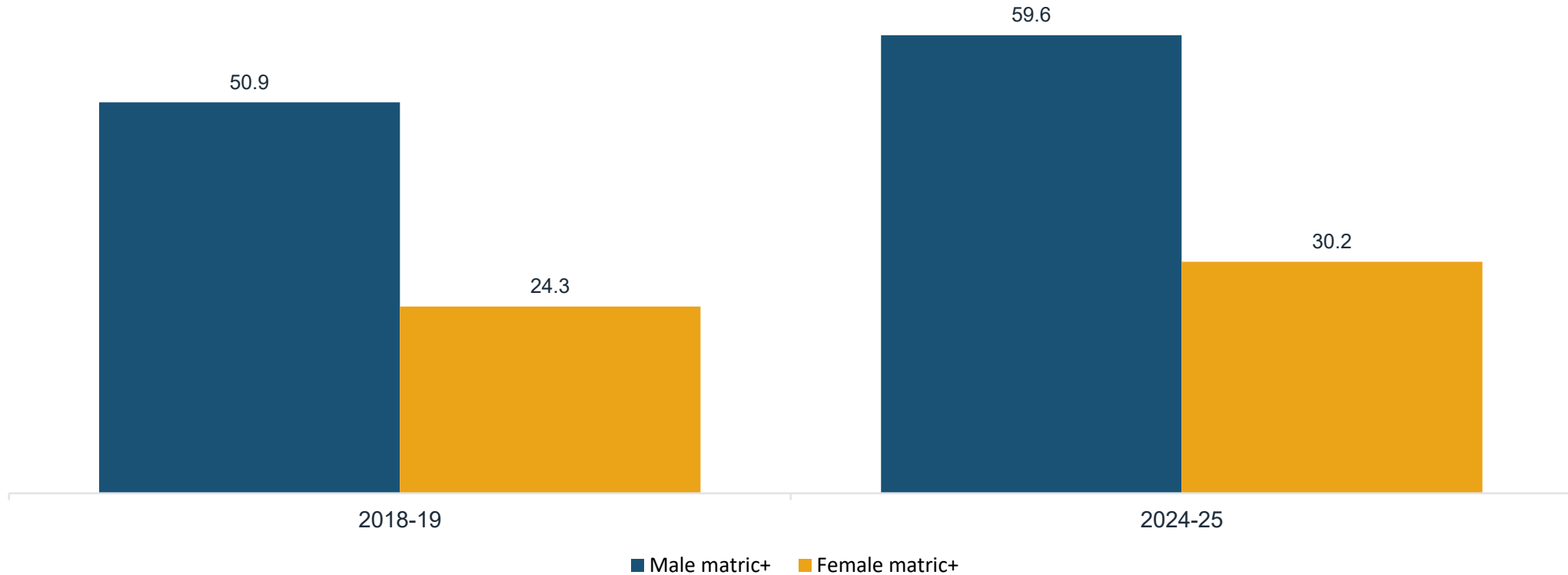
Sindh: tertiary+ attainment trend

Share with tertiary education or higher, ages 18-30, by sex



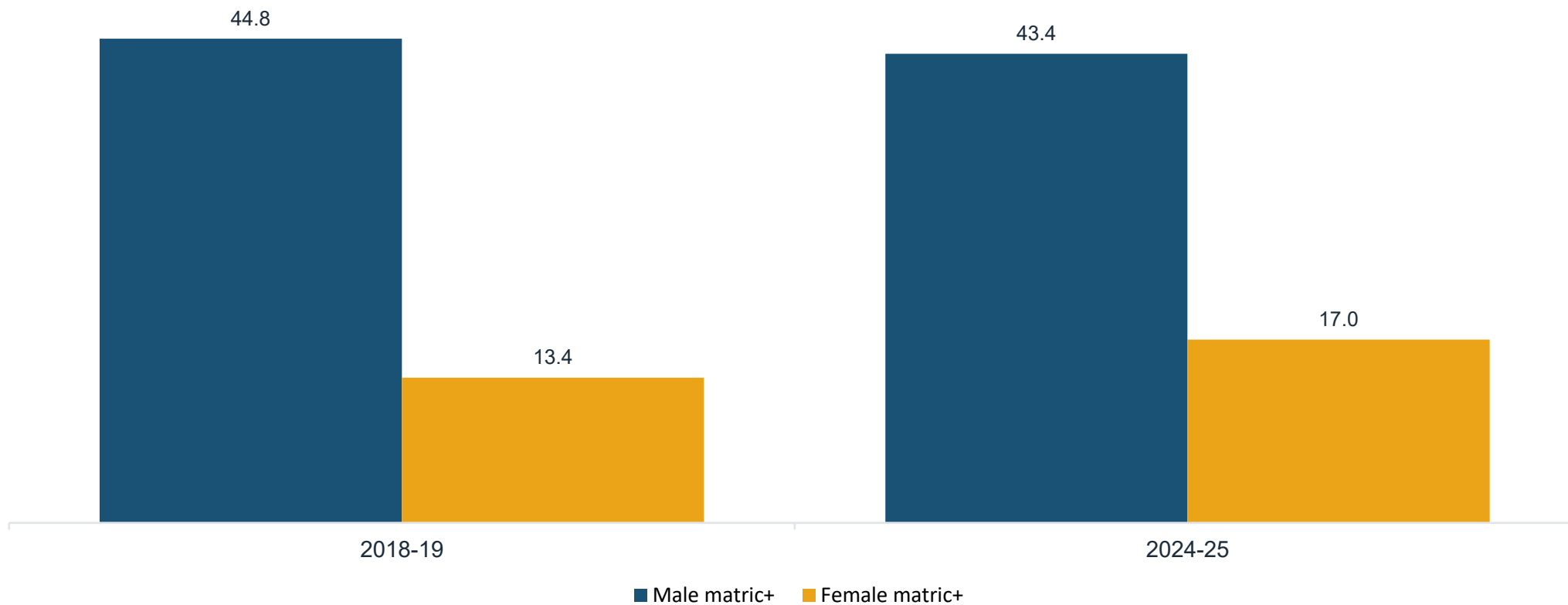
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: tertiary+ attainment trend

Share with tertiary education or higher, ages 18-30, by sex



Balochistan: tertiary+ attainment trend

Share with tertiary education or higher, ages 18-30, by sex



Punjab: the gender gap in years of schooling

2024-25, ages 18-30

8.0

Men, mean years of schooling

7.7

Women, mean years of schooling

0.3

Gender gap, years

Sindh: the gender gap in years of schooling

2024-25, ages 18-30

7.2

Men, mean years of schooling

5.3

Women, mean years of schooling

1.9

Gender gap, years

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: the gender gap in years of schooling

2024-25, ages 18-30

8.9

Men, mean years of schooling

4.8

Women, mean years of schooling

4.1

Gender gap, years

Balochistan: the gender gap in years of schooling

2024-25, ages 18-30

6.8

Men, mean years of schooling

2.8

Women, mean years of schooling

4.0

Gender gap, years



Section 10

Deep Dive: Fertility & Marriage by Province

Punjab: family size trend

Share of mothers with 1-4 children vs. 5+, 1990-91 to 2017-18

46%

Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91

32%

Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18

14 pts

Decline over the period

Sindh: family size trend

Share of mothers with 1-4 children vs. 5+, 1990-91 to 2017-18

48%

Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91

31%

Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18

17 pts

Decline over the period

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: family size trend

Share of mothers with 1-4 children vs. 5+, 1990-91 to 2017-18

49%

Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91

39%

Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18

10 pts

Decline over the period

Balochistan: family size trend

Share of mothers with 1-4 children vs. 5+, 1990-91 to 2017-18

43%

Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91

43%

Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18

-0 pts

Decline over the period

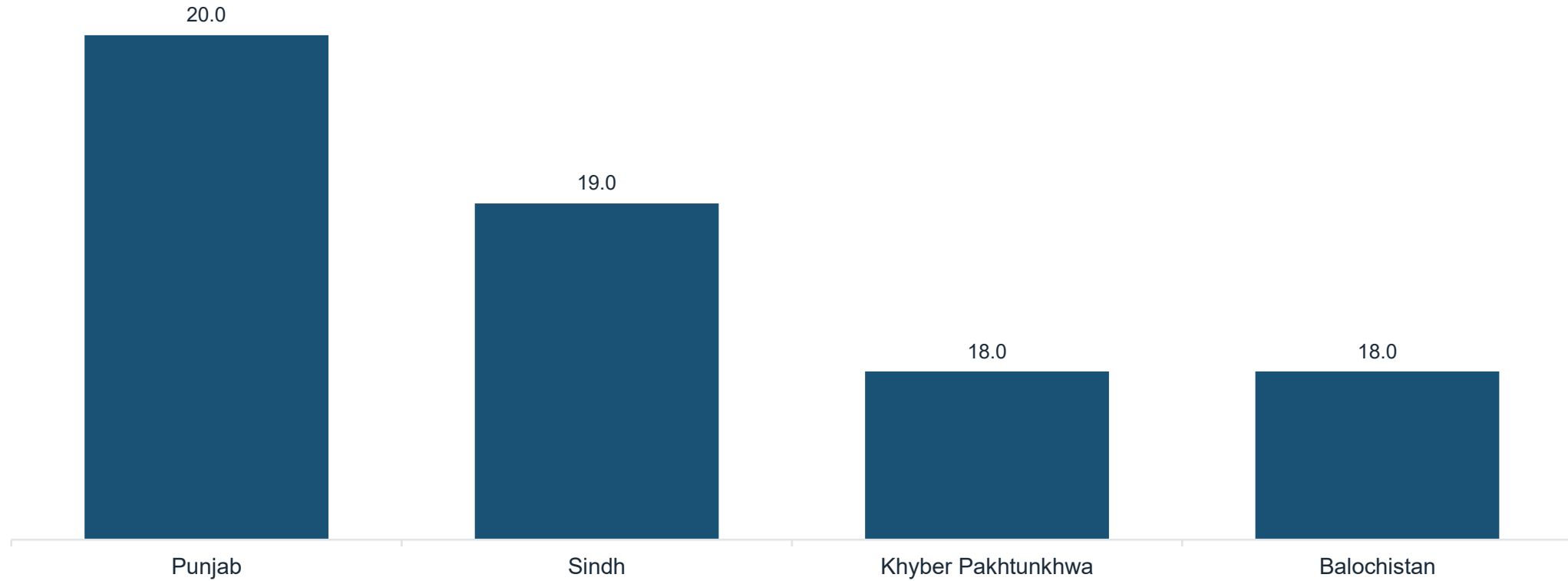
Provincial ranking: large family decline, 1990-91 to 2017-18

Percentage-point decline in share of mothers with 5+ children



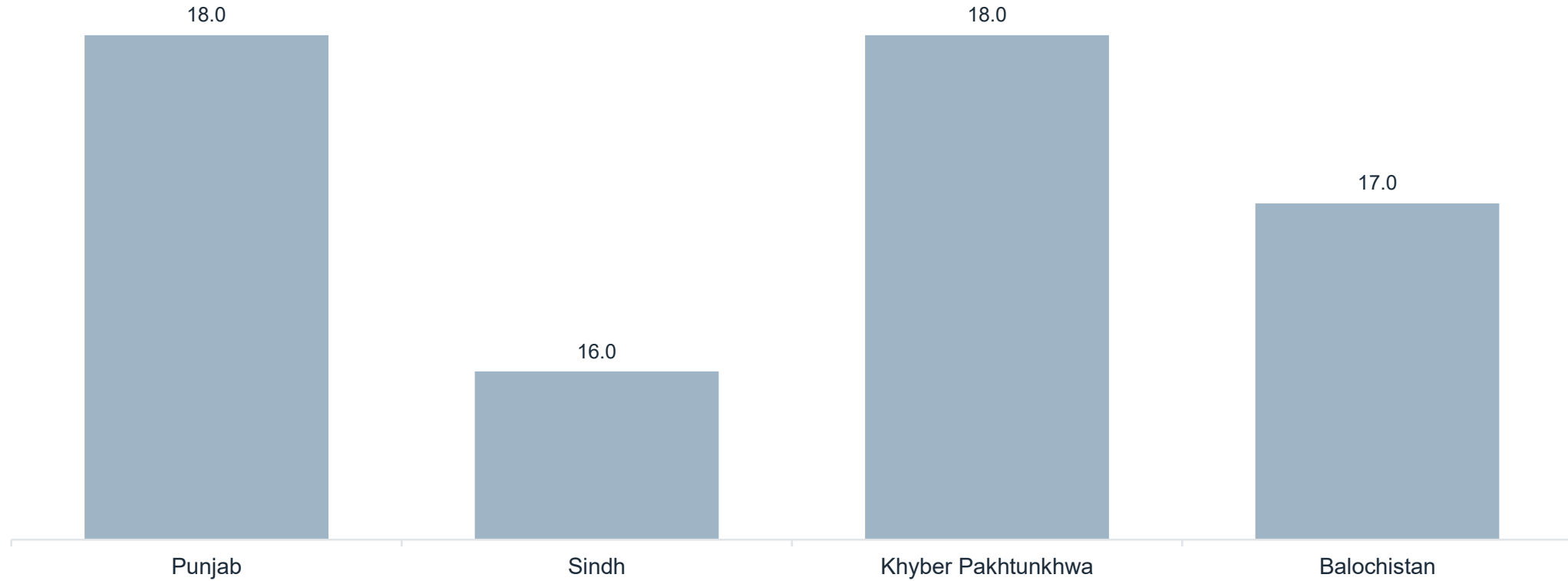
Provincial marriage age comparison, 2017-18

Median age at first marriage, all provinces side by side



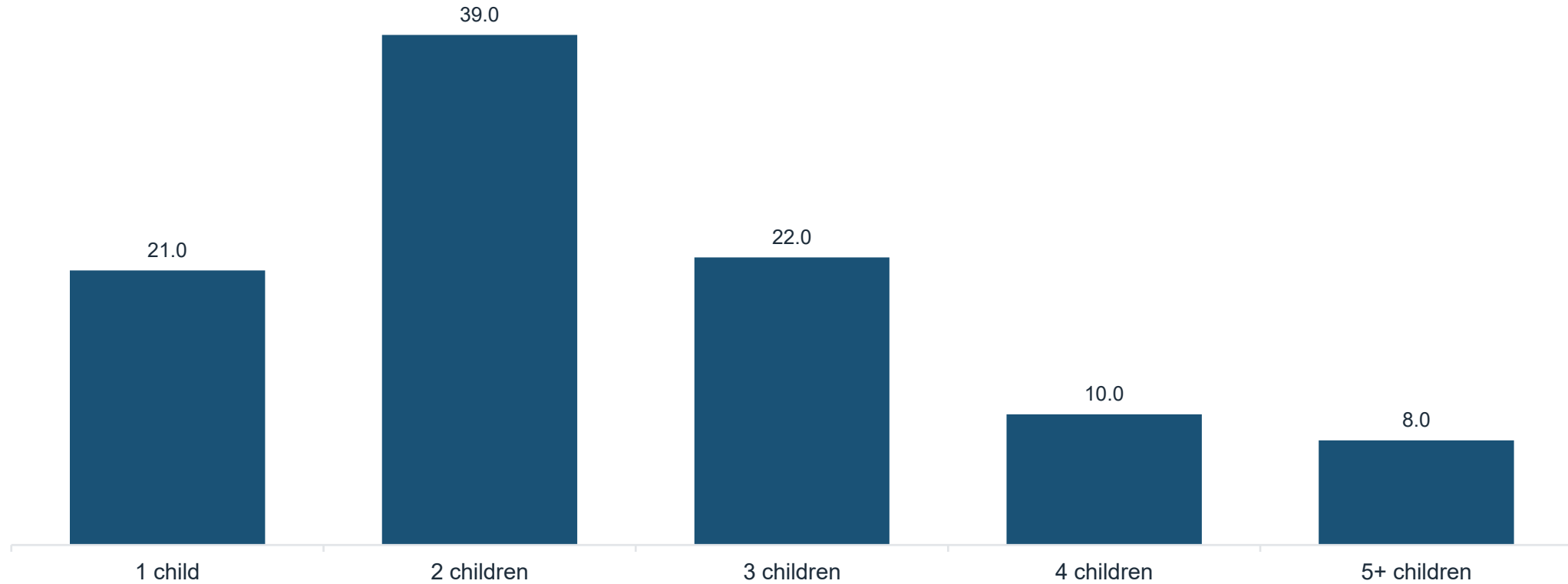
Provincial marriage age comparison, 1990-91

Median age at first marriage, all provinces side by side, baseline year



India parity distribution, 2021 (reference)

Share of mothers by number of children ever born, most recent NFHS round



Pakistan vs. India: the family size gap in one view

Share of mothers with 5+ children, most recent data for each

33%

Pakistan, 2017-18

8%

India, 2021

India's large-family share is now roughly a quarter of Pakistan's - a gap that has widened even as both countries' rates have fallen over time.

Section 11

Deep Dive: Graduate Unemployment by Age Cohort

Graduate unemployment, ages 20-24 vs. 40-44

The generational gap in Pakistan's graduate job market

32.8%

Unemployment rate, graduates aged 20-24

5.3%

Unemployment rate, graduates aged 40-44

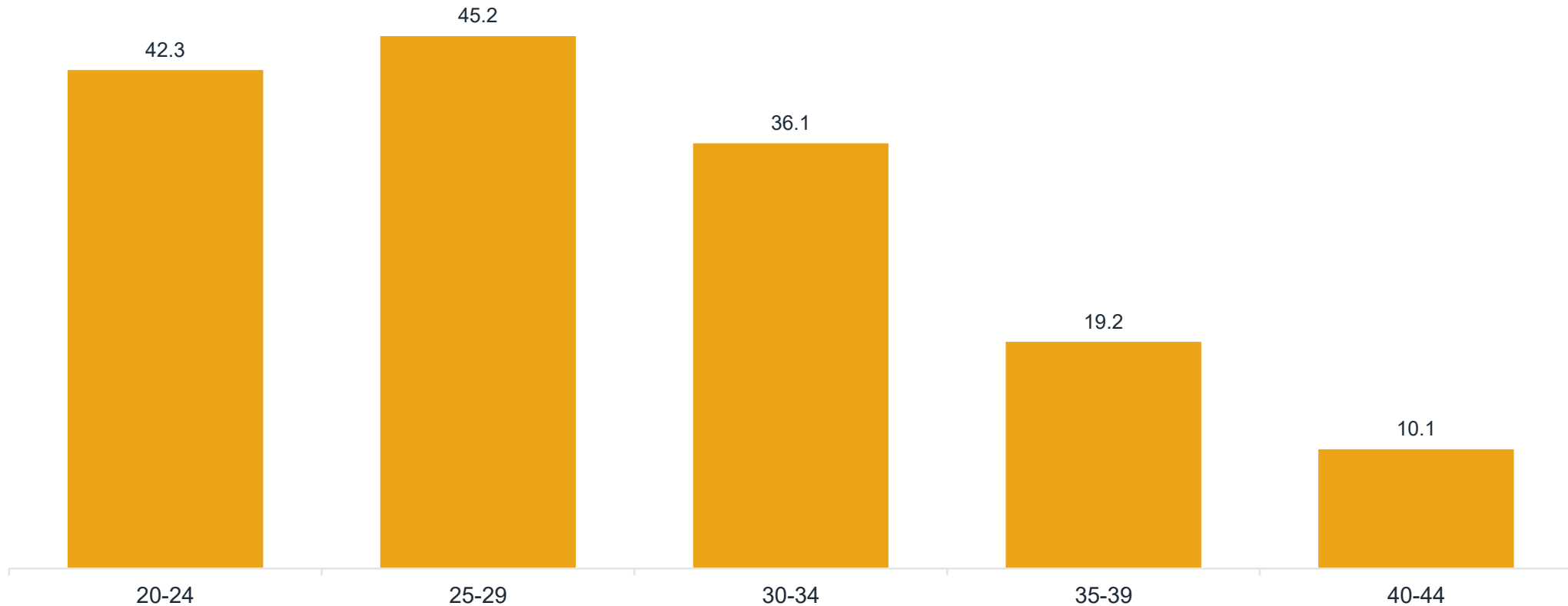
6.2x

Ratio between youngest and oldest cohort

Unemployment is highest right after graduation and falls steadily with age - most graduates do eventually find work, but the wait can span years.

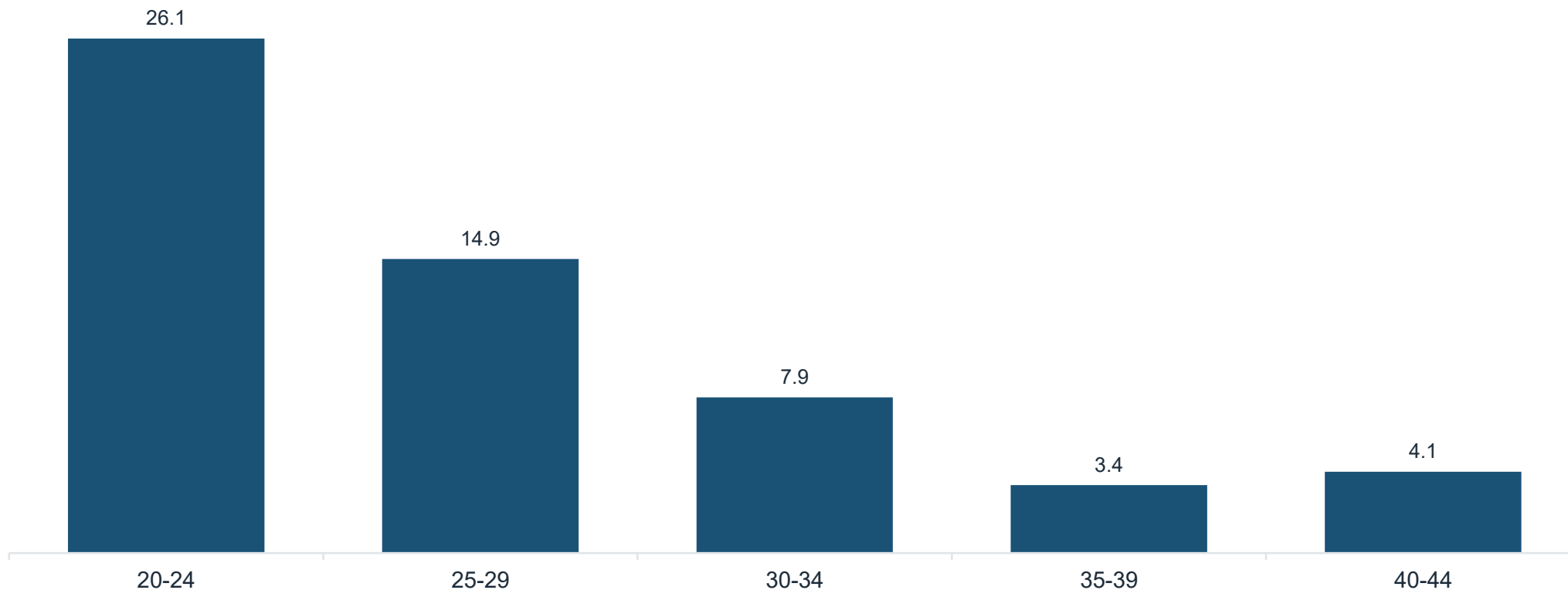
Female graduate unemployment peaks in the late 20s

Women take roughly a decade longer than men to reach single-digit unemployment



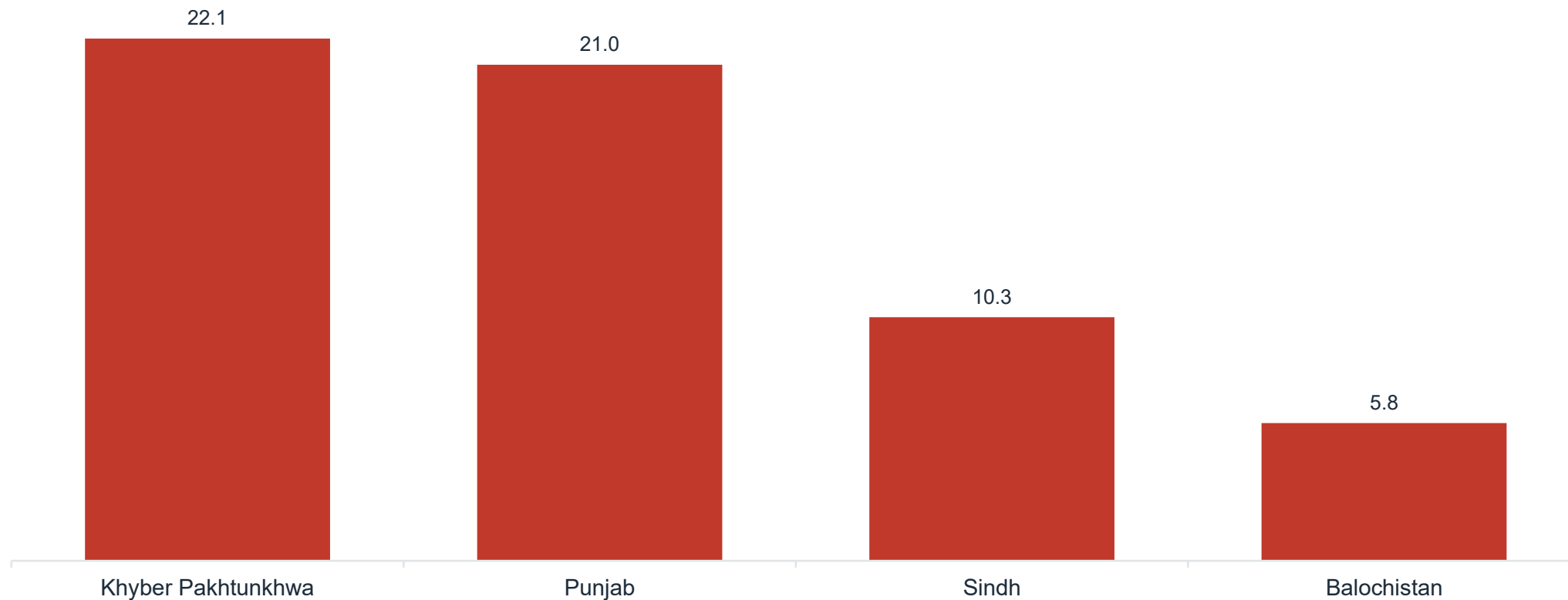
Male graduate unemployment falls quickly with age

Comparison curve to the female pattern on the previous slide



Provincial ranking: graduate unemployment, 2024-25

From highest to lowest



Section 12

Deep Dive: Type of Employment by Province

Punjab: salaried employment, illiterate vs. graduate

The education-to-salaried-job gradient, 2024-25

35%

Illiterate workers, salaried

64%

Higher-educated workers, salaried

1.8x

Multiple

Sindh: salaried employment, illiterate vs. graduate

The education-to-salaried-job gradient, 2024-25

38%

Illiterate workers, salaried

73%

Higher-educated workers, salaried

1.9x

Multiple

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: salaried employment, illiterate vs. graduate

The education-to-salaried-job gradient, 2024-25

36%

Illiterate workers, salaried

66%

Higher-educated workers, salaried

1.8x

Multiple

Balochistan: salaried employment, illiterate vs. graduate

The education-to-salaried-job gradient, 2024-25

29%

Illiterate workers, salaried

77%

Higher-educated workers, salaried

2.6x

Multiple

Section 13

Cross-Domain Synthesis: What the Four Decades Show

Five headline findings

Across every domain examined in this report

- Progress is real but slow: education, family size, and infrastructure have all improved since 1990-91, typically by 20-45% over 27-34 years
- Gender gaps persist everywhere, but their size varies enormously by domain - from near-parity in some infrastructure measures to an 8x gap in engineering employment
- Sindh and Punjab lead on most education and wealth measures; Balochistan trails on nearly every indicator examined
- Pakistan consistently sits behind India and Bangladesh on education and fertility transition speed, despite comparable or higher starting investment in some periods
- Consanguineous marriage and gender-based violence attitudes are the two areas where Pakistan diverges most sharply from regional neighbours - not fully explained by religion or income alone

The education dividend, in one view

Household 12+ education share vs. asset ownership gap, 1990-91 to 2017-18

2.9x

Household education tripled since 1990-91

7x

Wealth gap between educated and uneducated households

42-45%

Fertility reduction from education, consistent across PK, India, Bangladesh

Education is the single most consistent predictor across every domain in this report - wealth, fertility, employment type, and attitudes toward violence all move with it in the same direction.

The professional women paradox

Highly trained, systematically under-employed

28.8%

Medically-trained women out of the labour force

60.5%

Engineering-trained women out of the labour force

<6%

Unemployment (job-seeking) rate for these same women

This is not a story of women failing to find jobs. It is a story of highly credentialed women exiting the labour force entirely - a loss of trained capacity that standard unemployment statistics do not capture.

Provincial scorecard

Where each province ranks across the indicators in this report

Punjab

2nd on education, 1st on business ownership, highest wealth quintile share

Sindh

Highest household education gain historically, but weakest recent infrastructure (electricity, water)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Fastest-growing on household education in the most recent wave, still lower base

Balochistan

Lowest on nearly every indicator, but fastest relative (percentage) improvement since 1990-91

Regional positioning: Pakistan among its neighbours

A summary scorecard against India and Bangladesh

Education

Pakistan trails both India and Bangladesh on years of schooling for 18-30 year-olds

Fertility transition

Pakistan's TFR (3.6) is roughly 1.6x India's and Bangladesh's; the gap has not closed

Household wealth infrastructure

Pakistan sits between India (ahead) and Bangladesh (behind) on household education share

Gender attitudes

Pakistan shows the highest wife-beating justification rate of the three countries

Consanguineous marriage

Pakistan's national rate has no equivalent anywhere in India, even in India's highest sub-groups



Appendix

Full Data Tables by Topic

Appendix A1: Years of schooling, national

Ages 18-30, by wave and sex

Wave	Male	Female
2005-06	6.16	4.16
2018-19	7.15	5.54
2024-25	7.90	6.40

Appendix A2: Education by province, 2024-25

Ages 18-30

Province	Male yrs	Female yrs	Matric+ (all)
Punjab	8.00	7.71	48.3%
Sindh	7.20	5.27	39.9%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	8.89	4.81	44.9%
Balochistan	6.81	2.81	31.2%

Appendix A3: Household 12+ education by province

All three survey waves

Province	1990-91	2017-18	2024-25
Punjab	12.0%	31.7%	35.3%
Sindh	14.4%	33.5%	32.5%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10.5%	28.4%	37.1%
Balochistan	6.4%	21.1%	26.0%

Appendix A4: Parity distribution, national

Share of mothers by number of children ever born

Parity	1990-91	2017-18
1 child	13.0%	15.8%
2 children	13.0%	17.2%
3 children	14.5%	17.8%
4 children	12.9%	15.9%
5+ children	46.5%	33.3%

Appendix A5: Marriage and birth milestones, national

Median ages, women 25-49 (last birth: 40-49)

Milestone	1990-91	2017-18
Median age at first marriage	18.0	19.0
Median age at first birth	20.0	21.0
Median age at last birth	36.2	33.8

Appendix A6: Graduate unemployment by age

Pakistan LFS 2024-25

Age band	Male	Female	All
20-24	26.1%	42.3%	32.8%
25-29	14.9%	45.2%	24.8%
30-34	7.9%	36.1%	15.3%
35-39	3.4%	19.2%	7.1%
40-44	4.1%	10.1%	5.3%

Appendix A7: Employment type by education

Pakistan LFS 2024-25, employed persons 15-64

Education	Salaried	Self-emp.	Casual	Unpaid
Illiterate	35.5%	35.1%	0.9%	28.5%
Primary	42.9%	39.2%	2.1%	15.8%
Secondary	44.7%	38.6%	1.7%	15.0%
Higher	67.3%	25.2%	0.4%	7.0%

Appendix A8: Household assets by education status

Pakistan DHS 2017-18

Indicator	Has 12+ educ	No 12+ educ
Electricity	98.7%	89.9%
Mobile phone	98.7%	91.7%
Refrigerator	86.3%	41.4%
Car/truck	22.4%	4.1%
Improved water	96.3%	92.5%
Improved sanitation	96.8%	75.2%
Richest wealth quintile	48.7%	7.1%
Modern contraceptive use	27.4%	22.6%

Appendix A9: Consanguineous marriage by region

Pakistan DHS 2017-18, all eight sampling regions

Region	% married to blood relative
Sindh	70.5%
Balochistan	67.1%
AJK	65.0%
KP	62.0%
Punjab	61.6%
FATA	57.8%
ICT	54.9%
GB	51.3%

Appendix A10: Gender violence indicators by country

Attitudes and reported experience

Country	Justifies wife-beating	Experienced violence
Pakistan	41.6%	23%
India	38.3%	28.6%
Bangladesh	13.8%	Not measured

Appendix A11: Professional employment status detail

Pooled LFS 2018-19 and 2024-25, ages 24-64 (*employed+unemployed combined for engineering)

Field	Sex	Employed	Unemployed	Out of LF
Medicine	Male	92.8%	1%	6.2%
Medicine	Female	65.7%	5.5%	28.8%
Engineering	Male	92.4%*	-	7.6%
Engineering	Female	39.5%*	-	60.5%

Appendix A12: Business ownership by province and sex

Pakistan LFS 2024-25, ages 18-64

Province	Male	Female
Punjab	37.2%	9.7%
Sindh	34.6%	4.3%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	33.6%	6.4%
Balochistan	36.0%	1.9%
National	35.9%	7.5%

Appendix A13: Large families (5+ children) by province

Share of mothers, 1990-91 vs. 2017-18

Province	1990-91	2017-18
Punjab	45.8%	31.6%
Sindh	47.7%	30.9%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	49.0%	38.9%
Balochistan	42.5%	42.8%

Appendix A14: Median marriage age by province

1990-91 vs. 2017-18

Province	1990-91	2017-18
Punjab	18	20
Sindh	16	19
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	18	18
Balochistan	17	18

Appendix A15: Salaried employment by province and education

Illiterate vs. higher-educated workers, 2024-25

Province	Illiterate	Higher educated
Punjab	34.8%	64.2%
Sindh	37.9%	73.2%
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	36.3%	66.3%
Balochistan	28.9%	76.6%

Appendix A16: India consanguinity by religion

Share married to a blood relative, NFHS-5 2019-21

Religion	% married to blood relative
Muslim	13.4%
Buddhist	12.3%
Christian	10.9%
Hindu	9.4%
Sikh	4.7%

Appendix A17: North Indian states - Muslim vs. Hindu consanguinity

NFHS-5 2019-21

State	Muslim	Hindu	Ratio
Rajasthan	17.7%	3.1%	5.7x
Uttar Pradesh	15.2%	7.2%	2.1x
Bihar	15.1%	4.5%	3.4x
Haryana	10.3%	3.6%	2.9x
Jammu Kashmir	9.8%	3.2%	3.1x
West Bengal	8.7%	4.3%	2.0x
Punjab	7.9%	4.3%	1.8x

Appendix A18: Completed fertility by education, 3 countries

Mean children ever born, women 40-49

Education	Pakistan	India	Bangladesh
No education	5.84	3.57	3.53
Primary	4.95	2.99	3.36
Secondary	4.06	2.50	2.75
Higher (12+ yrs)	3.37	1.97	2.12

Appendix A19: Education-infrastructure gap over time

Percentage-point gap, educated vs. uneducated households

Indicator	Gap 1990-91	Gap 2017-18
Electricity	40.3 pts	8.8 pts
Refrigerator	47.8 pts	44.9 pts
Improved water	17.2 pts	3.8 pts
Improved sanitation	53.9 pts	21.6 pts

Appendix A20: Border region household assets, full detail

Pakistani Punjab/Sindh vs. Indian Punjab/Rajasthan (Muslim households)

Indicator	PK Punjab	IN Punjab	PK Sindh	IN Rajasthan
Electricity	95.1%	99.8%	88%	98.5%
Mobile phone	95.4%	94%	90.1%	97.7%
Refrigerator	60.5%	73%	47.4%	54.2%
Car/truck	9.3%	12.4%	7%	5.3%



Section 14

Provincial Dashboards: All Indicators, One View Per Province

Punjab: provincial dashboard

Key indicators across education, demographics, employment and business

7.9

Mean years of schooling, 18-30

35.3%

Households with 12+ yr educated member

21.0%

Graduate unemployment rate

23.3%

Business ownership rate

31.6%

Mothers with 5+ children

20.0

Median marriage age

Sindh: provincial dashboard

Key indicators across education, demographics, employment and business

6.3

Mean years of schooling, 18-30

32.5%

Households with 12+ yr educated member

10.3%

Graduate unemployment rate

19.9%

Business ownership rate

30.9%

Mothers with 5+ children

19.0

Median marriage age

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: provincial dashboard

Key indicators across education, demographics, employment and business

6.9

Mean years of schooling, 18-30

37.1%

Households with 12+ yr educated member

22.1%

Graduate unemployment rate

19.9%

Business ownership rate

38.9%

Mothers with 5+ children

18.0

Median marriage age

Balochistan: provincial dashboard

Key indicators across education, demographics, employment and business

5.0

Mean years of schooling, 18-30

26.0%

Households with 12+ yr educated member

5.8%

Graduate unemployment rate

20.0%

Business ownership rate

42.8%

Mothers with 5+ children

18.0

Median marriage age



Section 15

Glossary of Terms & Definitions

Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The average number of children a woman would have over her lifetime, given current age-specific fertility rates. The standard measure of current fertility.

Completed fertility

Mean children ever born to women aged 40-49, reflecting childbearing decisions made over the preceding 20-30 years, not current behaviour.

Consanguineous marriage

Marriage between blood relatives, most commonly first or second cousins.

Out of labour force

Not working and not actively seeking work - distinct from unemployment, which requires active job search.

Glossary (continued)

Key terms used throughout this report

ILO unemployment definition

Not working, actively looked for work in the last 4 weeks, and available to start within 2 weeks.

Household 12+ education

At least one household member (any age) holding 12 or more years of completed education, roughly intermediate/higher-secondary or above.

Median age at first marriage

The age by which half of women in the reference age group had married for the first time.

Wealth quintile

A household's rank in the national wealth distribution, divided into five equal-sized groups from poorest to richest, based on asset ownership.

Timeline of data sources used in this report

Every survey wave referenced, by country and year

1990-91

Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (baseline)

1993

India National Family Health Survey, Round 1 (reference figure)

2005-06

Pakistan Labour Force Survey

2017-18

Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey

2018-19

Pakistan Labour Force Survey

2019-21

India National Family Health Survey, Round 5 (NFHS-5)

2021

India National Family Health Survey (reference figure)

2022

Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey

2024-25

Pakistan Labour Force Survey (most recent)

Section 17

Key Findings: The Headline Numbers

4.6x

Higher rate of workforce non-participation for medically-trained women vs. men

28.8% of women vs. 6.2% of men, ages 24-64, pooled Pakistan LFS 2018-19 and 2024-25

8.0x

Higher rate of workforce non-participation for engineering-trained women vs. men

60.5% of women vs. 7.6% of men, ages 24-64, the widest gender employment gap in this report

63.9%

Of Pakistani women are married to a blood relative

Nearly 5x India's national rate of 12.9%, and higher than any individual Indian state or religious group

46.5% → 33.3%

Decline in large families (5+ children) in Pakistan since 1990-91

A genuine but slow transition - India's equivalent share was already down to 8% by 2021

41.6%

Of Pakistani women justify wife-beating for at least one reason

The highest of the three countries compared - nearly 3x Bangladesh's rate of 13.8%

2.9x

Growth in Pakistani households with a well-educated member since 1990-91

From 12.2% to 34.3% of households having at least one member with 12+ years of education

42-45%

**Fertility reduction from education, consistent across Pakistan,
India and Bangladesh**

Despite very different starting points, education's proportional effect on family size is remarkably stable

7x

Wealth gap between educated and uneducated Pakistani households

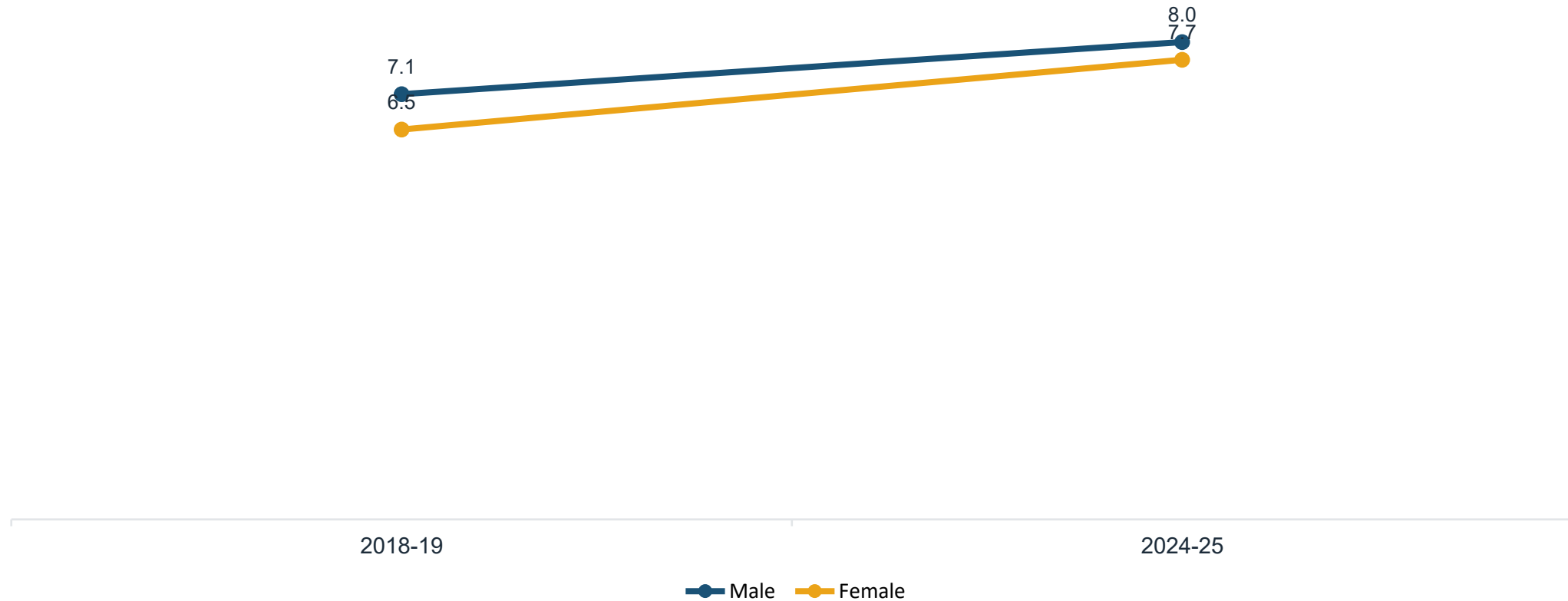
48.7% of educated households are in the richest wealth quintile, vs. just 7.1% of uneducated households

Section 18

Education Trajectories: Full Trend Lines by Province

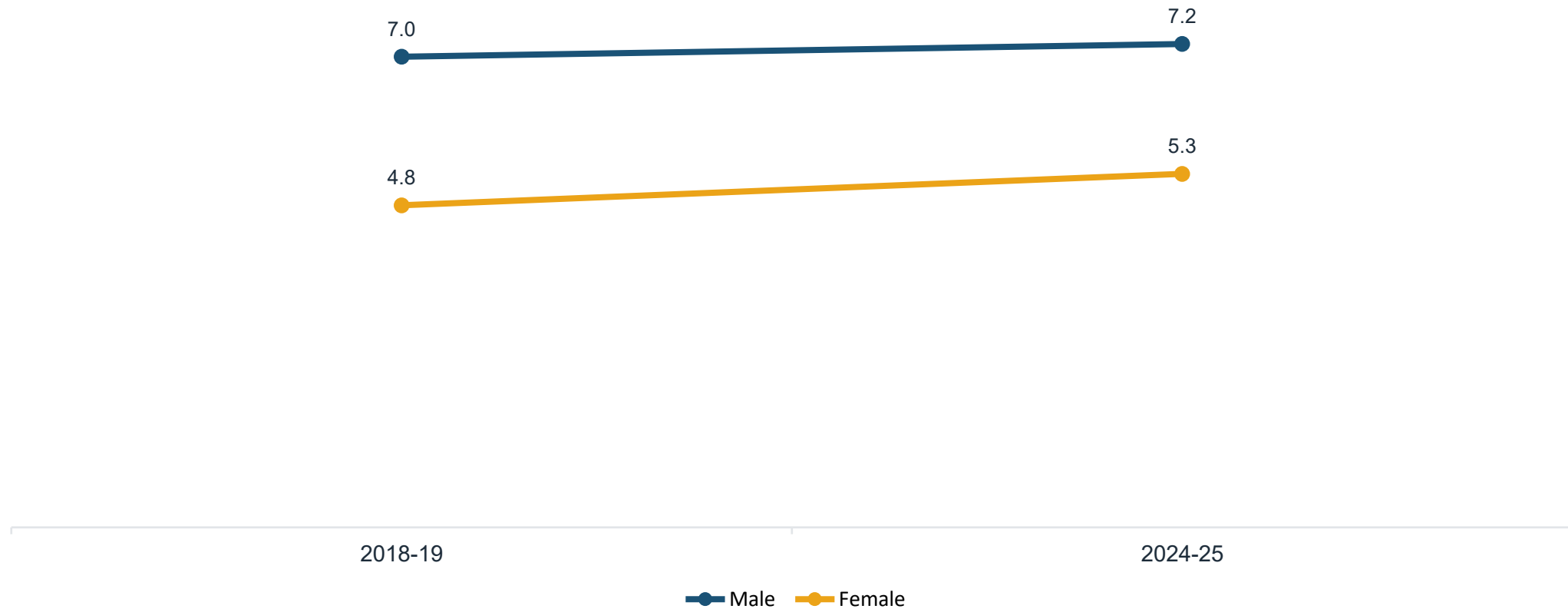
Punjab: mean years of schooling trend line

Male and female trajectories, 2018-19 to 2024-25



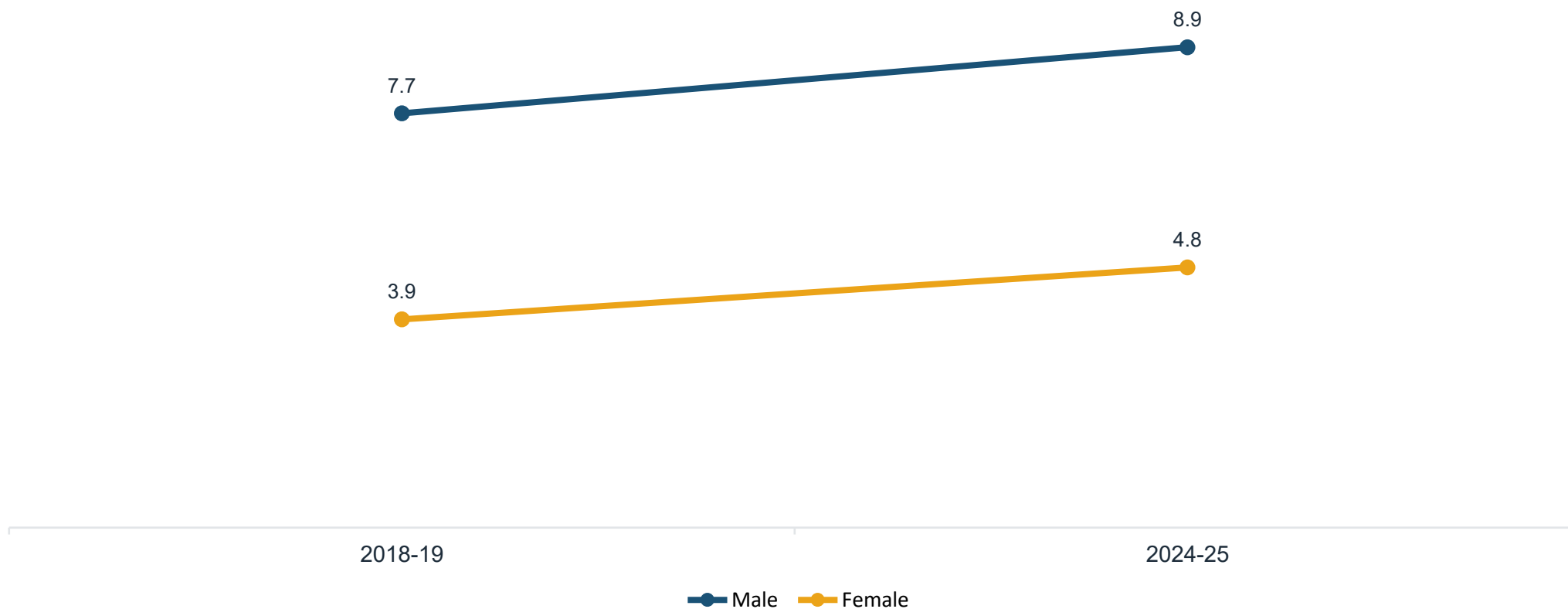
Sindh: mean years of schooling trend line

Male and female trajectories, 2018-19 to 2024-25



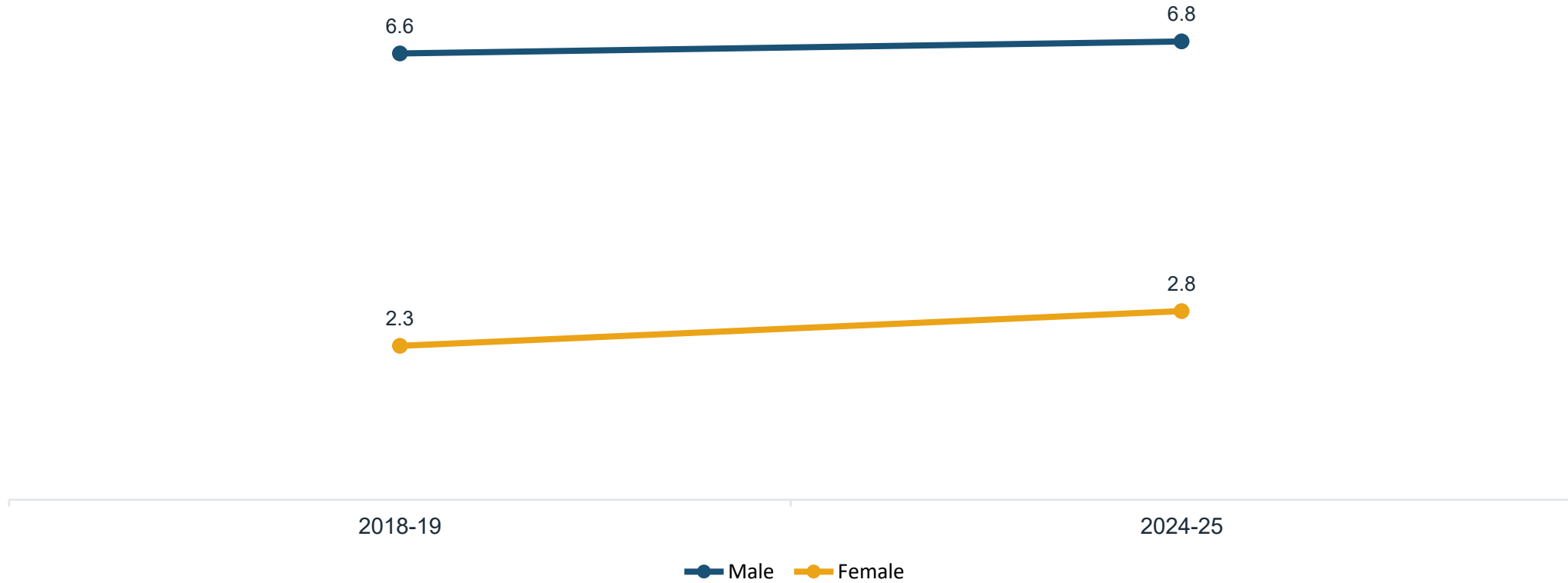
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: mean years of schooling trend line

Male and female trajectories, 2018-19 to 2024-25



Balochistan: mean years of schooling trend line

Male and female trajectories, 2018-19 to 2024-25





Appendix (cont.)

Extended Country Comparison Reference Tables

Appendix A21: Total Fertility Rate, full comparison

Official published rates

Population	TFR
Pakistan	3.60
India (all)	2.00
India (Muslim)	2.36
India (Hindu)	1.94
Bangladesh	2.30

Appendix A22: Years of schooling, full comparison table

Ages 18-30, male and female

Survey	Male	Female
Pakistan 2005-06	6.2	4.2
Pakistan 2018-19	7.2	5.5
Pakistan 2024-25	7.9	6.4
India 2019-21	10.2	9.3
Bangladesh 2022	8.1	8.5

Appendix A23: Household 12+ education, country comparison

Most recent available data for each country

Country	% of households
Pakistan	34.3%
India	43.8%
Bangladesh	26.6%



Section 20

Policy Implications by Domain

Policy implications

What the data suggests for policy priorities

Education

Girls' school retention past primary level remains the binding constraint, not university access - 34% of young women have no formal education at all, versus 17% of men.

Fertility & family planning

Education alone cannot close Pakistan's fertility gap with its neighbours - contraceptive access and family planning infrastructure need matching investment.

Female professional employment

Nearly a third of medically-trained women and three in five engineering-trained women are outside the labour force - a resourcing loss standard unemployment statistics do not capture.

Policy implications (continued)

What the data suggests for policy priorities

Provincial targeting

Balochistan and KP require materially different levels of investment than Punjab and Sindh across almost every indicator in this report.

Gender-based violence

Pakistan's attitudes toward wife-beating are the most permissive of the three countries compared - education is the sharpest lever available, but the base rate remains high even among educated women.

Public health awareness

Pakistan's consanguineous marriage rate is a near-universal social norm requiring genetic counselling and public health messaging designed for population-wide reach, not targeted sub-groups.

Recommendations for further research

Gaps identified while compiling this report

- A verified, labelled 2006-07 through 2014-15 LFS series would allow a full annual trend rather than three widely-spaced snapshots
- India and Bangladesh would benefit from multi-wave series matching Pakistan's three LFS points, to distinguish country-level trend speed from single-point comparison
- Bangladesh's domestic violence experience module should be prioritised in future survey rounds to complete the three-country comparison
- District-level breakdowns within each province, particularly for Sindh (Karachi vs. rural Sindh) and Punjab, would sharpen the provincial findings in this report
- A panel or life-course survey design would help confirm whether the age patterns seen in professional women's employment (e.g., the medicine U-shape) reflect individual career trajectories or cohort differences



Thank you

Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics

For more data, dashboards, and analysis, visit the Pakistan Welfare Atlas

galluppakistandigitalanalytics.com/pakistan-welfare-atlas



Appendix (cont.)

Provincial Detail Tables

Appendix: Punjab - complete indicator set

All verified indicators for this province in one table

Indicator	Value
Mean years schooling (M), 2024-25	8.00
Mean years schooling (F), 2024-25	7.71
Household 12+ education, 1990-91	12.0%
Household 12+ education, 2017-18	31.7%
Household 12+ education, 2024-25	35.3%
Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91	45.8%
Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18	31.6%
Median marriage age, 1990-91	18
Median marriage age, 2017-18	20

Appendix: Sindh - complete indicator set

All verified indicators for this province in one table

Indicator	Value
Mean years schooling (M), 2024-25	7.20
Mean years schooling (F), 2024-25	5.27
Household 12+ education, 1990-91	14.4%
Household 12+ education, 2017-18	33.5%
Household 12+ education, 2024-25	32.5%
Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91	47.7%
Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18	30.9%
Median marriage age, 1990-91	16
Median marriage age, 2017-18	19

Appendix: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - complete indicator set

All verified indicators for this province in one table

Indicator	Value
Mean years schooling (M), 2024-25	8.89
Mean years schooling (F), 2024-25	4.81
Household 12+ education, 1990-91	10.5%
Household 12+ education, 2017-18	28.4%
Household 12+ education, 2024-25	37.1%
Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91	49.0%
Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18	38.9%
Median marriage age, 1990-91	18
Median marriage age, 2017-18	18

Appendix: Balochistan - complete indicator set

All verified indicators for this province in one table

Indicator	Value
Mean years schooling (M), 2024-25	6.81
Mean years schooling (F), 2024-25	2.81
Household 12+ education, 1990-91	6.4%
Household 12+ education, 2017-18	21.1%
Household 12+ education, 2024-25	26.0%
Mothers with 5+ children, 1990-91	42.5%
Mothers with 5+ children, 2017-18	42.8%
Median marriage age, 1990-91	17
Median marriage age, 2017-18	18

Section 24

Additional Key Findings

4.8x

Men are more likely than women to run a business or farm in Pakistan

35.9% of men vs. 7.5% of women, ages 18-64, Pakistan LFS 2024-25

21.7%

Car ownership among Muslim households in Indian-administered Jammu & Kashmir

Roughly double Pakistani Azad Kashmir's rate of 11.0% - the widest gap found in any border-region comparison

17.7%

Highest consanguineous marriage rate found in any Indian state (Rajasthan, Muslim population)

Still only about a quarter of Pakistan's lowest-rate region, Gilgit-Baltistan, at 51.3%

3.6

Pakistan's Total Fertility Rate, 2017-18

1.6x India's national rate (2.0) and 1.6x Bangladesh's rate (2.3), despite similar starting points decades ago



Section 25

Provincial Employment Mini-Dashboards

Punjab: employment snapshot

Graduate unemployment and business ownership side by side

21.0%

Graduate unemployment rate

37.2%

Male business ownership rate

9.7%

Female business ownership rate

Among workers with higher education in Punjab, 64% hold salaried jobs rather than self-employment or unpaid family work.

Sindh: employment snapshot

Graduate unemployment and business ownership side by side

10.3%

Graduate unemployment rate

34.6%

Male business ownership rate

4.3%

Female business ownership rate

Among workers with higher education in Sindh, 73% hold salaried jobs rather than self-employment or unpaid family work.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: employment snapshot

Graduate unemployment and business ownership side by side

22.1%

Graduate unemployment rate

33.6%

Male business ownership rate

6.4%

Female business ownership rate

Among workers with higher education in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 66% hold salaried jobs rather than self-employment or unpaid family work.

Balochistan: employment snapshot

Graduate unemployment and business ownership side by side

5.8%

Graduate unemployment rate

36.0%

Male business ownership rate

1.9%

Female business ownership rate

Among workers with higher education in Balochistan, 77% hold salaried jobs rather than self-employment or unpaid family work.



Appendix (cont.)

Data Quality & Confidence Notes

Appendix: Sample size and confidence notes

Read alongside the topic slides for appropriate caution

Topic	Note
Engineering-trained women	N=127 nationally - directional findings only, avoid over-reading small provincial splits
Indian Punjab Muslim households	N=214 - directional only for border-region comparisons
Balochistan, all professional-employment topics	Smallest provincial sample throughout this report - treat point estimates cautiously
Bangladesh domestic violence experience	Module not administered in 2022 round - marked as not available rather than estimated

Data verification standard applied throughout

Why some requested breakdowns are marked “not available” rather than estimated

- Every figure in this report was computed directly from labelled microdata with verifiable value labels for the relevant variable
- Five additional Pakistan LFS waves (2006-07 through 2014-15) were reviewed and excluded because variable or value labels were missing, or the specific field-of-study detail needed could not be confirmed
- Seven additional PSLM/HIES household survey files were reviewed and excluded because they use a lighter demographic module without the detailed employment or field-of-study variables this report requires
- Where a comparison could not be verified, this report says so explicitly rather than filling the gap with an estimate

Section 27

Report Summary: One Row Per Topic

Report summary, part 1

Education, demographics and household wealth

Topic	Headline finding
Education	Years of schooling roughly doubled since 2005-06; gender gap narrowed from 2.0 to 1.5 years
Fertility	Large-family share fell from 46.5% to 33.3% since 1990-91; still 4x India's 2021 rate
Marriage age	Median first-marriage age rose from 18.0 to 19.0; childbearing window barely narrowed
Household wealth	Households with a well-educated member nearly tripled, from 12.2% to 34.3%
Graduate unemployment	Falls from 32.8% (age 20-24) to 5.3% (age 40-44); women face a decade-longer wait

Report summary, part 2

Employment, gender, and regional comparison

Topic	Headline finding
Professional women	28.8% of medically-trained and 60.5% of engineering-trained women are out of the labour force
Business ownership	Men are 4.8x more likely than women to run a business or farm
Gender attitudes	41.6% of Pakistani women justify wife-beating - the highest of the three countries compared
Consanguineous marriage	63.9% of Pakistani women are married to a blood relative, with no low-rate province
Regional standing	Pakistan trails India and Bangladesh on education speed and fertility transition alike