

## Big Data Analysis | Higher Education

### Pakistan Has Produced 40,000 PhDs. The Next Question Is: Are We Producing the Right Ones?

The expansion of doctoral education over the past two decades has been substantial. Annual PhD production remained relatively modest during the early 2000s but accelerated rapidly after 2018, rising above 3,000 graduates per year and peaking at more than 3,400 annually in recent years.

Male PhD  
Graduates



**64.8%**

Female PhD  
Graduates



**35.2%**



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





(Also emailed\*/faxed separately)



## PRESS RELEASE

### Big Data Analysis Higher Education

#### **Pakistan Has Produced 40,000 PhDs. The Next Question Is: Are We Producing the Right Ones?**

*(Islamabad), 6<sup>th</sup> August 2026*

Pakistan's universities have now produced 40,034 PhD graduates, according to the Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics PhD Country Directory.

The expansion of doctoral education over the past two decades has been substantial. Annual PhD production remained relatively modest during the early 2000s but accelerated rapidly after 2018, rising above 3,000 graduates per year and peaking at more than 3,400 annually in recent years.

The profile of Pakistan's PhD graduates also reveals important patterns.

Nearly two-thirds (64.8%) of PhD graduates are men, while 35.2% are women, indicating that gender disparities remain significant at the highest level of higher education.

By field of study, Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics dominate, accounting for 14,443 PhD graduates—more than one-third of the national total. They are followed by Arts & Humanities (7,396) and Social Sciences, Journalism & Information (3,758).

The growth in doctoral education reflects a major expansion of Pakistan's research and higher education capacity. However, the next policy challenge extends beyond increasing numbers.

The more important questions are whether PhD graduates are being trained in fields aligned with future national needs, whether gender gaps can be narrowed further, and whether universities, industry and research institutions are creating enough opportunities for these highly qualified graduates to contribute through research, innovation and teaching.

A growing PhD pipeline is an important achievement. Ensuring that it translates into national scientific and economic capacity is the next step.



# PhD Graduates from National Universities

PhD Country Directory Overview

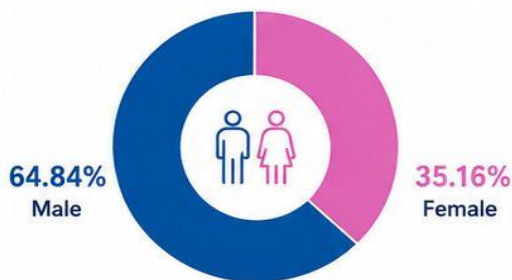


## 40,034

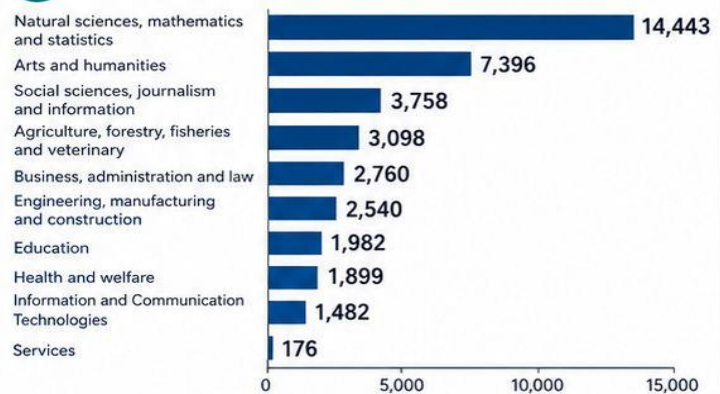
PhD Graduates Registered



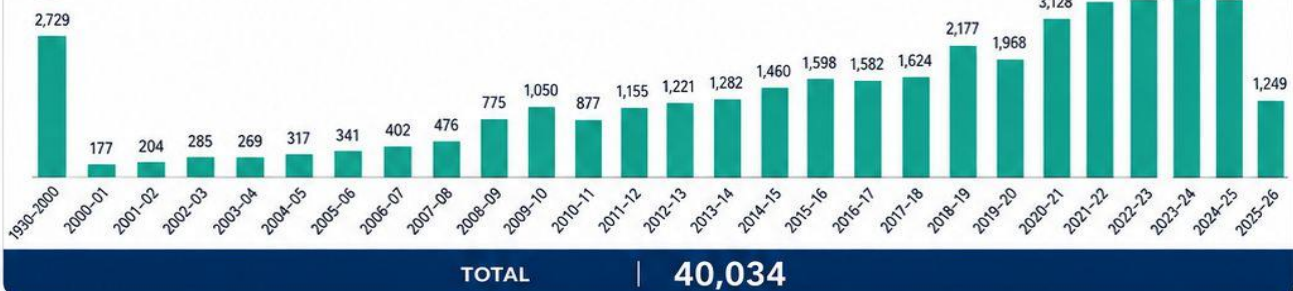
### Gender Split



### PhDs Produced by Subject (Top 10)



### Year-wise PhD Production



Roughly 2 in 3 PhD graduates are male.



Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics dominate PhD output.



Annual PhD production accelerated strongly after 2018, peaking above 3,400 in recent years.

Source: PhD Country Directory dashboard

Figures reflect the dashboard snapshot shown in Image A.

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

This analysis was conducted by Gallup Pakistan Digital Analytics using data from the Pakistan PhD Country Directory Dashboard, which compiles information on PhD graduates across Pakistani universities by year, gender and field of study. The analysis examines long-term trends in doctoral education and the distribution of graduates across disciplines.



**Opinion Poll from Gallup Pakistan**  
The Pakistani Affiliate of Gallup  
International



GILANI RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

**Thursday, 6th August 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*

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