

Pakistan

Facts on Education and Culture



- Only half of children living in Sindh are enrolled in school, which means 2.8 million children are missing out on their education
- Only 22% of girls, ages 10 & up, living in rural Sindh are literate
- 48% of Sindh primary schools don't have toilets or drinking water
- 1/3 of Sindh primary school facilities are considered to be in dangerous conditions or are shelterless
- 39% of students in Pakistan will drop out of elementary school due to forced labor, early marriage, or inability to pay fees

- Capital: Islamabad
- National Language: Urdu
- Religion: Muslim (97%), Christian (2%), Hindu (1%)
- Population: 190.3 million
- Life expectancy: 66
- Pakistan was founded in 1947 as an independent Islamic state.
- Pakistanis eat daal (thick lentil stew), rice, roti (wheat tortillas), curried meats/vegetables, and biryani (rice with meat, chickpeas, curry, or spices).
- Women and men wear long shirts called a kameez and large baggy pants called shalwars. Women also wear a scarf covering their hair called dupattas.
- Pakistan has a wide range of geography including deserts in the southeast, mountains in the northwest, rugged sand dunes, green fields for vegetation, and rolling hills.
- People travel most often by rickshaws, buses, motorcycles, trains, and on foot; wealthier citizens may drive cars. Donkey/camel/horse carts, large open-air trucks, and trains transport goods.
- In November 2013, Malala Yousaf was shot by the Taliban on her way from school in Pakistan for her desire to see all girls be educated.

In Pakistan, women are often treated as less valuable or important than men. While this isn't the case in some major cities, in rural areas girls are more deprived of their rights than boys. If families can afford to send a child to school, they will send their boy because many believe that girls don't need an education. A lot of girls in villages get married between 12 & 15, though this is beginning to change, which greatly limits their ability to receive an education. Women often have no representation in village councils or say in how money is spent in the household (though research shows when they do, the whole family is healthier and more educated!). Girls need to be reminded that they are important, valued, and worth investing in! When we empower young women to succeed, they become the change agents in their own communities and paint a brighter future for themselves and for Pakistan.