About 86\% of children attend primary school at some time and one-half attends on time in Pakistan by 2007 .

- 50\% of children in primary school age 5-9 attend primary school at the appropriate age with $52 \%$ for male and $47 \%$ for female.
- Students over or under the official primary school age range make up 36\% of the primary school age population.
- There is considerable gender disparity in primary gross attendance in favor of males.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey
The net attendance ratio (NAR) is the percentage of the official primary school-age population that attends primary school. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) is the total number of students attending primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population. The primary NAR does not capture those students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than the official age.

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Pakistan

Children in rural areas are less likely to attend school than children in urban areas.

- In urban areas, $60 \%$ of children of primary school age attend school, compared to $45 \%$ in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity is observed in urban areas whereas males attend school more than females in rural areas.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Pakistan

There are significant regional disparities in primary school attendance in Pakistan.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the Punjab region (56\%); attendance is lowest in the Balochistan resion (38\%).
- In Punjab, more than one-half of school age children attend school at the appropriate age.
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Punjab region and highest in the NWFP region.



Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Pakistan
About one-half of youth in Pakistan attend secondary school at some time and less than one-third attend on time in 2007.

- $29 \%$ of youth in secondary school age 10-14 attend secondary school at the appropriate age with $32 \%$ for males and $27 \%$ for females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up $22 \%$ of the secondary school age population.

- There is significant gender disparity in secondary school attendance in favor of males.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey

## Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Pakistan

There are more youth attending secondary school in urban than in rural areas.

- In urban areas, $41 \%$ of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to $24 \%$ in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity is observed in urban areas whereas males attend school more than females in rural areas.



## Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Pakistan

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Punjab region (33\%); attendance is lowest in the Balochistan region (17\%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the NWFP region and lowest in the Punjab region.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

School Attendance by Age and Sex, Pakistan


- For females, the highest attendance rates are at age 8 (74\%) and for males at age 9 (83\%).
- School attendance gradually declines from high 70\% at age 11 to high $50 \%$ by age 14 .


## Over-Age, Under-Age, and On-Time Students in Primary School, Pakistan

Only about 11\% of primary school students are in the appropriate GRADE for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.


- About $87 \%$ of the male primary school students and $86 \%$ of the female students are over-age by grade.
- About $2 \%$ of the male primary school students and $3 \%$ of the female students are under-age by grade.
- In this country, a significant portion of children enter primary school at an older age than the official age.

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007
The Implications of Over-Age/Under-Age Students
For the system: Both late entry into primary school and grade repetition can cause children to be over-age for their grade. Early entry in primary school can be a cause of underage attendance.
In the classroom: Large numbers of over-age and/or under-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

## Educational Attainment, Pakistan

Men are much better educated than women across all age groups with a slowly closing gender gap in younger age groups.

- $82 \%$ of men and $66 \%$ of women who are 15-19 years old have attended school.
- Among the population aged $20-24$ years old, $40 \%$ of men and $28 \%$ of women have completed secondary or higher.
- Men and women combined, the cohort that entered school 15 years ago ( $20-24$ year olds) is more likely to have completed secondary school or higher than the age cohort that entered school 25 years ago (3034 year olds).


Female Literacy Rate (age 15-24)


- $62 \%$ of women age $15-24$ in urban areas can read, compared to $31 \%$ in rural areas.


Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

- The percentage of women who can read is $23 \%$ among women age 45-49 and 32\% among women age 15-19.
- $84 \%$ of women who completed grade 5 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.

