Primary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Pakistan

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.

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.

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 region (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.

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007
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.

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.
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.

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.
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 (30-34 year olds).

**Source:** Demographic and Health Survey 2007

[Graph showing educational attainment by gender and age group for Pakistan]
Female Literacy Rates, Pakistan

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

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.