

- About Pakistan -



Green: Muslim majority
White: Religious minorities
Crescent and Star: Progress and Light

The flag symbolizes Pakistan's commitment to Islam and the rights of religious minorities.

In 1947 Pakistan received independence from the British government. The capital of Pakistan is Islamabad. The country is comprised of four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KCP). Pakistan borders Afghanistan, China, India and Iran.

Pakistan is a beautiful and varied land. The Karakorum and Himalaya Mountains rise in the north; vast plains lie in the Punjab; in the south are the hot dry deserts of the Sindh and the breezy beaches along the Makran Coast. Hospitality is an important part of Pakistani culture.

Pakistan currently ranks 147th out of 188 countries (the US ranks 10th) on the United Nations' Human Development Index (long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living). The major challenges facing the country are poverty, illiteracy, corruption, political instability, terrorism, overpopulation, and inflation. Internal strife in the country results in intimidation and discrimination against minorities, causing a misuse of the blasphemy law and burning of Christian homes and churches.

Education in Pakistan

Pakistan's education sector is starved for resources with a mere 2.7% of the GDP spent on education. As a result, public schools have meager resources, are poorly run, and are unable to meet sufficient educational standards. 47% of Pakistani children have never attended school. For those who do go to school, the drop-out rate at the primary level is a staggering 41%. The literacy rate in the Punjab province (age 10 years+) is 60% (male 70%, female 51%). However, there are wide variations across the Punjab province. In rural areas, literacy drops to 64% for males and 40% for females.

Pakistan is partnering with the United Nations toward achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal #4 - Quality Education. This goal seeks to provide all girls and boys with free quality primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training and to eliminate gender and wealth disparities through universal access to quality higher education.

Education for Christian Children in Pakistan

Christians are the largest minority in Pakistan. Most Christian residents are illiterate and parents are unable to give their children a proper education. Public schools are not easily available for many living in Christian villages, and those Christian students who do attend the failing public schools are often persecuted. Most Christian parents cannot afford school fees, books, and uniforms for private schools. By 3rd grade, many children from Christian communities drop out of school and work to help provide for their families. Pakistan's Christian communities recognize that quality education is vital for their children to escape poverty and discrimination.

Fast Facts

Population:
208 million, 6th
largest in the
world

Languages:
official - Urdu,
60+ others

Size:
307,376 sq.
miles (twice
the size of
California)

Religions:
96% Muslim,
2% Christian,
2% other

Per Capita
Income:
\$1629/year

Literacy Rate:
60% (age
15+ years)

Sources: Punjab Development Statistics 2011, PSLM 2007-08 and 2010-11, UNDP 2015, CIA Factbook 2018, Census PK Gov. 2017, World Bank 2016