

Paragraph

Gender disparity is one of the significant issues to education system of Pakistan. It leads to lower enrollment and higher dropout rate of girls in schools. In Global Gender Gap report 2024, Pakistan is ranked at 145th out of 146th countries. Overall literacy rate in Pakistan is 62.3%, among of which 51% is female literacy rate and 73% is male literacy rate. The net enrollment rate of girls at primary level is 68% and that of boys is 78%. This enrollment rate decreases at secondary level with 38% girl's enrollment and 45% of boys. At tertiary level it further decreases to 12.9% of girls and 13.9% of boys. It means that much of the enrollment happens at primary level but according to a report from ASER, there are only 20% primary schools in Pakistan which are located at far distances. People from rural areas are reluctant to send their daughters to these distant schools due to the fear of harassment and violence along the way. Moreover, females are not allowed to travel alone due to security issues especially in conflict prone areas of Pakistan such as Balochistan, KP, Diamer, Peshawar and Swat. In these areas, female teachers and students have long been targeted by

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militant groups. For instance, in 2018 a militant group attacked and burned 20 schools, 19 of which were girls' schools, in Dera. Similarly, an attack on Army Public School in Peshawar in 2012, in which 140 children were killed, instilled fear among the students and parents. These incidents discouraged them from their enrollment in schools. Additionally, lack of female staff and poor infrastructure further exacerbated this issue. Most of the primary schools lack the availability of even the basic requirements such as sanitary, furniture, electricity and clean drinking water. According to ASER, only 42% schools in Pakistan have proper sanitation. All these issues directly contribute to the lower female enrollment rate in schools. Only 29.5% girls complete their primary education and dropout rate at primary level is 49%. At secondary level, only 13% girls complete their education. According to UNICEF report, 12.2 million girls in Pakistan are out-of-school. Hence, where Pakistan is grappling with many other issues, gender education system disparity is also one of them.