



7.1.6. Education

According to the Population & Housing Census 2023, Islamabad had a literacy rate of 84 % among individuals aged 10 and above. It was higher for males (88.2 %) than for females (79.1 %).[2035](#) As shown in the ICT Child Labour Survey 2023-2024, the total school attendance rate of children was 89.7 % as stated by parents and 73.1 % as stated by children. Free education for children between 5 and 16 is guaranteed by the Pakistani constitution.[2036](#)

There existed 579 primary schools, 474 middle schools, 364 high schools, 201 higher secondary schools and 29 colleges. Public schools mostly serve children living in rural and semi-rural areas from low-income households, offering free education, which is characterised by poor quality and learning materials. About one third of school children in Islamabad, mostly belonging to upper-middle class urban households, attended private schools. Religious schools (*Deeni Madrassas*), as a third stream of schooling, offered free religious education, free boarding and lodging.[2037](#) According to UNHCR, 47 % of school children in Islamabad and Karachi attended government or public schools and 39 % attended private religious or faith-based schools. The remaining 14 % attended private non-religious schools or schools termed as 'other'.[2038](#) Information by Solidar Suisse suggests that in Islamabad's slums, school facilities and adequately trained teachers are lacking.[2039](#) The Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MOFEPT) lists three special education institutions from nursery to matric in Islamabad, serving children with physical, visual and hearing disabilities.[2040](#)

The independent Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) lists 27 recognised universities in the ICT.[2041](#)

- [2035](#)

Pakistan, PBS, 7th Population & Housing Census – 2023 – District Census Report Islamabad, n.d., [url](#), p. 53

- [2036](#)

Pakistan, ICTA, Islamabad Capital Territory: Child Labour Survey, 2023-2024, June 2025, [url](#), pp. 14, 78

- [2037](#)

Pakistan, PBS, 7th Population & Housing Census – 2023 – District Census Report Islamabad, n.d., [url](#), pp. 52-53

- [2038](#)

UNHCR, Forced Displacement Survey, Pakistan 2024, 12 November 2025, [url](#), p. 61

- [2039](#)

Solidar Suisse, Pakistan: supporting children in the slums of Islamabad, n.d., [url](#)

- [2040](#)

Pakistan, MOFEPT, Special Education, n.d., [url](#)

- [2041](#)

Pakistan, HEC, University Information, n.d., [url](#). Set filters to province Islamabad Capital Territory and city Islamabad.