



**AJ&K Bureau of Statistics,
Planning & Development Department,
Government of AJ&K**

AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Equity Profiles 2022



AJ&K Bureau of Statistics,
Planning & Development Department,
Government of AJ&K

Bureau of Statistics,
Planning and Development Department,
Muzaffarabad, AJ&K-Pakistan

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PREFACE

The AJ&K BoS, P&DD with the generous support of UNICEF developed 5 Equity Profiles (EPs) for the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir (GoAJ&K). The Equity Profiles have been developed based on the MICS, 2020-21 data. These products will help the GoAJ&K to identify the most vulnerable children with different levels of disaggregation and help the Go AJ&K to better plan for evidence-based, equitable programmatic interventions.

Equity profiling is a display of socioeconomic inequalities disaggregated by gender, geographical areas, education level and wealth quintiles. These profiles would help to undertake measure to address current socioeconomic inequalities, outline the scope to bring desired changes, track changes and undertake programmatic interventions to attain equity-focused objectives and goals. The Equity Profiles go beyond statistical averages which can hide wide disparities between districts and communities. These new tools will help the Government to plan smart child-centered, targeted programmatic interventions and ensure that the most vulnerable children are the first to benefit from them.

The 5 Equity Profiles developed by AJ&K BoS, P&DD with the technical support of UNICEF for GoAJ&K to determine whether public resources are efficiently contributing to reducing socio-economic inequalities among children and to improve their lives; whether inequalities have increased or decreased; and progress against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I am optimistic that the above will help proper resource allocation so as to reach out to the most marginalized segments of the society.

Atif Rehman

Additional Chief Secretary (Development)

Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu and Kashmir

FOREWORD

The AJ&K BoS, P&DD with the technical support of UNICEF has produced an important product named Equity Profiles (EP). Primarily this product is a part of the further analysis of the MICS AJ&K, 2020-21 data. The main purpose of this product is to identify the most marginalized segment of population in the society with severe vulnerabilities in five different thematic areas and portray the depth of deprivation and vulnerabilities that prevail in AJ&K. This product will also help the policy makers and planners for rationalization of decision on the basis of evidence for prioritization of interventions and allocation of resources for poor and marginalized children, women, and men at various level of disaggregation such as by divisions, districts, urban-rural, mothers' education level and wealth status of households.

The essence of the equity approach is to signify development at reaching the most marginalized and deprived population first, in contrast to the objective of reaching to the greater section or overall, to whole of the population. Therefore, efforts will be made to develop understanding of the planners/high officials on some key inequities that the women and children experience in health and other livelihood matters. Ultimately, the planners/high officials would be able to identify the utmost needs and focus on interventions that would bring optimum benefits and ensure best utilization of public resources.

I express my sincere gratitude to the ACS (Development) for his leadership and guidance on this task. I also pay tribute to the Chief Statistics and his team for their contribution to this important task. Similarly, I also pay special thanks to UNICEF Country team for their technical support and genuine contribution from the very initiation to completion of this task. I am hopeful that this product will help and guide the planners and decision makers of the GoAJ&K to ensure that resources are allocated wisely and optimally while reaching the most vulnerable and deprived segment of the population in AJ&K.

Aamir Latif Awan
Secretary, P&DD
Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu and Kashmir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is matter of pleasure that AJ&K Bureau of Statistics (AJ&K BoS), P&DD published 'Equity Profile' based on Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2020-21. MICS's indicator framework presents maternal and child's data at disaggregation level so that coverage of particular groups of the population is ensured and the 2030 Agenda of 'Leaving no one behind' is also fulfilled. The Equity Profile also gives policy makers a unique opportunity to allocate resource to those who need them the most.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the UNICEF Social Policy team that include Luis Gorjon Chief Social Policy, Mr. Faateh Ud Din Ahmad, Planning and Monitoring Officer and Mr. Fayaz Karim, Program Officer (Data & Evidence) for extending tireless efforts and technical guidance that led to the successful completion of the Equity Profiles. I am also immensely thankful to the House of Survey Research (SURCH) team, especially Mr. Shuaib Muhammad for helping to design such user-friendly and visually appealing Equity Profiles. My special thanks goes to the AJ&K BoS team for bringing out the publication after doing further analysis of MICS 2020-21 data. All the distinguished members of the steering committee, technical committee, Core group and monitoring committee also deserve special thanks and appreciations. I deeply acknowledge the collaboration and the support of UNICEF Pakistan in this program. I believe the findings will be instrumental to everyone involved in designing strategies to improve the lives of every child and woman in Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

I want to express my special gratitude for the unprecedented support of the Additional Chief Secretary (Development) and the Secretary, Planning & Development Department, GoAJ&K for their time-to-time encouragement, guidance and overseeing the progress.

Mahmood Anjum
Chief Statistics
Planning & Development Department, GoAJ&K

Stunting

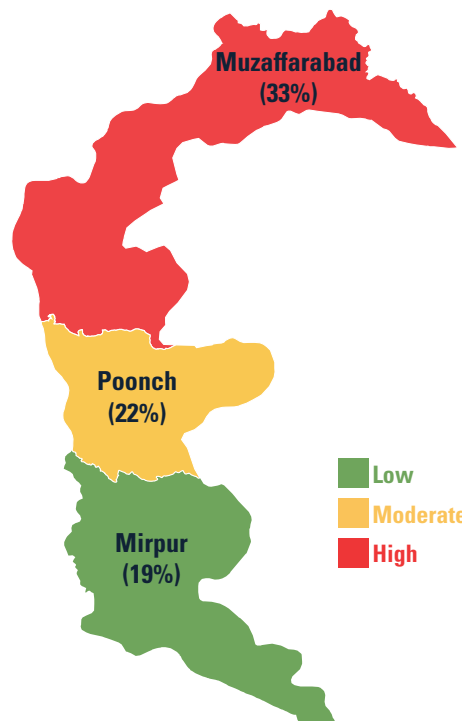
1 out of 4 children under the age of five in AJ&K is **STUNTED**
1,23,955 children under the age 5 are stunted in AJ&K.



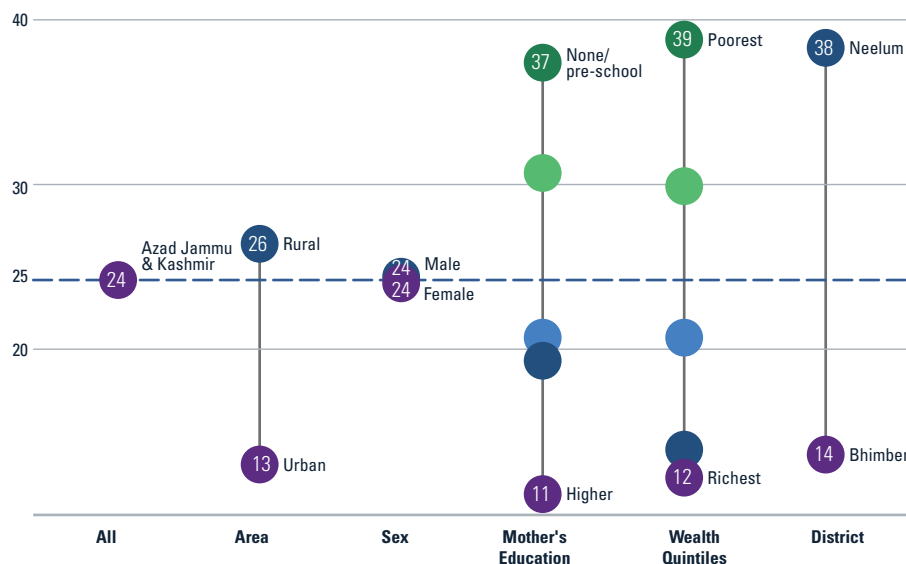
Undernutrition is associated with more than a half of all children deaths worldwide. Undernourished children are more likely to die from common childhood ailments; and, those who survive experience recurring sickness and faltering growth. Stunting is a reliable and well-recognized indicator of chronic childhood malnutrition. Moderate and severe stunting is defined by below minus two Standard Deviations (SD) from the median height-for-age of the reference population. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and Target 2.2 emphasize the reduction of stunting among children age under five years.

Division level variations of stunting

Children in Muzaffarabad division are more likely to be stunted (33%) than those in Poonch (22%) and Mirpur (19%) divisions.



Equity tree for prevalence of stunting among under five children with respect to different stratifiers



Key Messages

- The prevalence of stunting is the double in rural areas (26%) than in urban areas (13%).
- Children whose mothers have none or pre-school education (37%) are highly likely to be stunted than those whose mothers have above secondary level of education (11%). This prevalence gradually decreases as mothers' education moves from lower to higher levels.
- The prevalence of stunting is the highest among the poorest quintile (39%); and it gradually decreases as it moves from the poorest to the richest quintiles (12%).
- Variations in the prevalence of stunting are visible at district level: highest in Neelum (38%) and the lowest in Bhimber (14%).

Status of stunting and the tracers							
Thematic variable & Tracers	Stunting (moderate and severe) (%)	Exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months (%)	Minimum acceptable diet (%)	Antenatal care coverage (at least four times by any provider) (%)	Post-natal health check for the newborn (%)	Low birth weight infants (%)	Open defecation (%)
	STU	EXBF	MAD	ANC 4+	PNN	LBW	ODF
AJ&K MICS 2020-21	24.2	28.0	28.9	49.2	56.3	29.2	5.2
PDHS 2017-18	30.0	NA	16.8	NA	59.9	NA	NA

NA: comparable data are not available

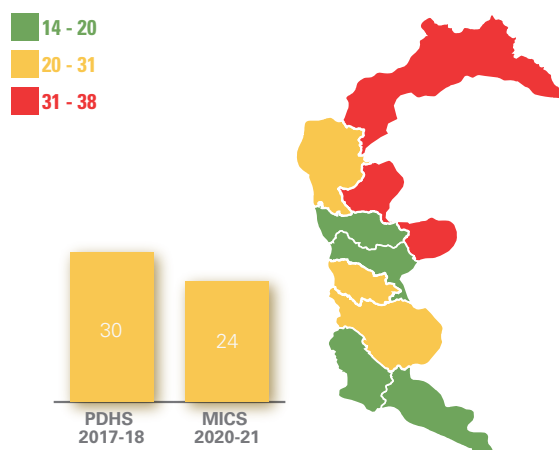
Inequalities in stunting and the tracers

District level variations and trend analysis of stunting and the tracers

Prevalence of Stunting (moderate and severe) (STU):

Percentage of children under age 5 who fall below minus two standard deviations (moderate and severe) of the median height for age of the WHO standard

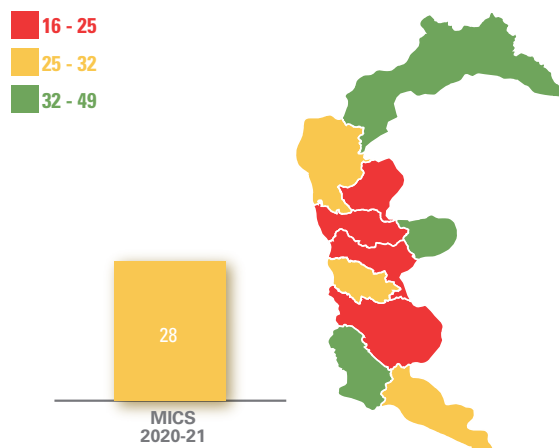
- Over time, there has been a moderate decline in the prevalence of stunting in AJ&K from 30% in 2017-18 to 24% in 2020-21.
- Higher prevalence of stunting is observed in Muzaffarabad division.
- Neelum district has the highest prevalence (38%) and Jhelum Valley (35%) and Haveli (34%) districts have the prevalence close to the highest prevalence.



Exclusive Breastfeeding under 6 Months (EXBF):

Percentage of infants under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed

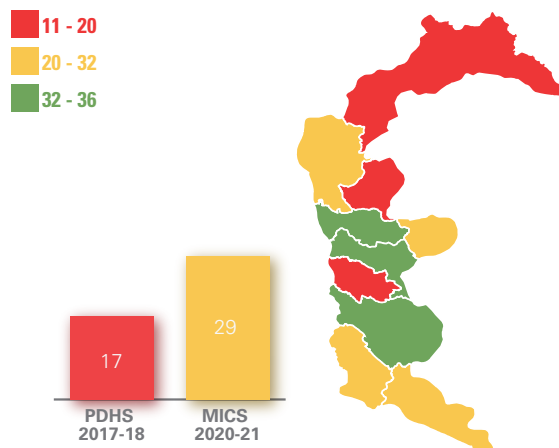
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, 28% of infants under 6 months of age are exclusively breastfed.
- Districts particularly under Poonch division have the lowest prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding.
- District Kotli has the lowest prevalence (16%), while Neelum has the highest (49%).



Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD):

Percentage of children age 6-23 months who had at least the minimum dietary diversity and the minimum meal frequency during the previous day

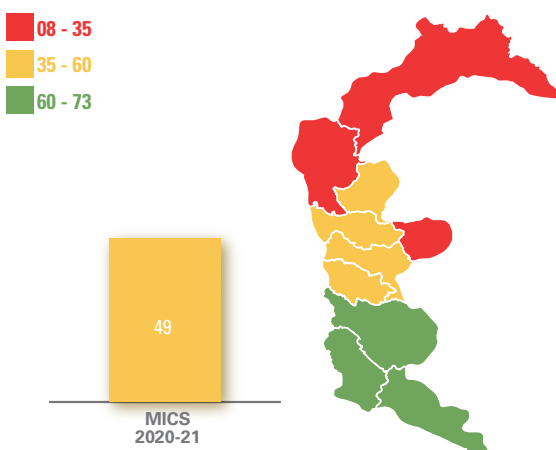
- In AJ&K, the prevalence of minimum acceptable diet increased greatly from 17% in 2017-18 to 29% in 2020-21.
- Children in Muzaffarabad division are less likely to receive minimum acceptable diet.
- District Neelum (11%) has the lowest prevalence of minimum acceptable diet.



Antenatal Care Coverage (at least four times by any provider) (ANC 4+):

Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who during the pregnancy of the most recent live birth were attended at least four times by any provider

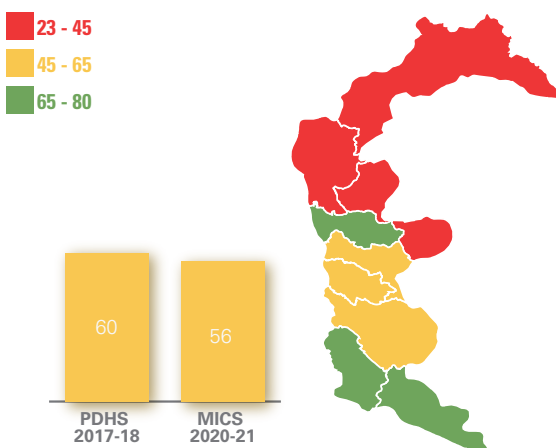
- In AJ&K, antenatal care coverage is 49% in 2020-21.
- Antenatal care coverage is found lower in Muzaffarabad division.
- High variation in the coverage is observed at district level: it ranges from 8% in Neelum to 73% in Mirpur.



Post-natal Health Check for the Newborn (PNN):

Percentage of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years whose most recent live-born child received a health check while in facility or at home following delivery, or a post-natal care visit within 2 days after delivery

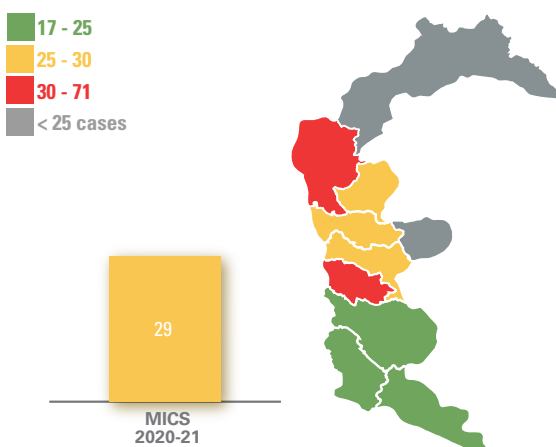
- The prevalence of post-natal health check for the newborn decreased slightly from 60% in 2017-18 to 56% in 2020-21.
- Muzaffarabad division has lower coverage.
- Variation at district level is found very high. The coverage ranges from 23% in Neelum to 80% in Bhimber.



Low Birth Weight Infants (LBW):

Percentage of most recent live births in the last 2 years weighing below 2,500 grams at birth

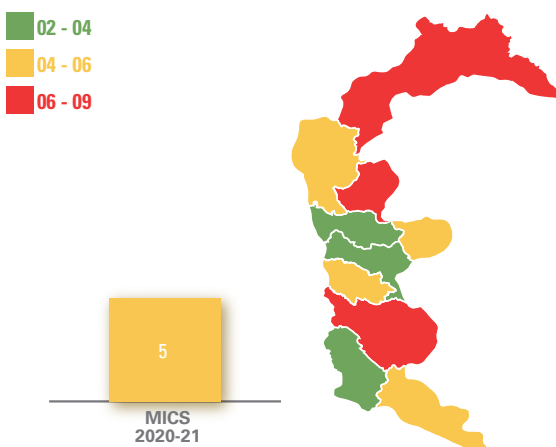
- The prevalence of low birth weight infants is 29% in 2020-21.
- Some districts under Poonch and Muzaffarabad divisions have higher percentages of low birth weight infants.
- The worst prevalence of low birth weight is observed in Sudhnoti district (71%).



Open Defecation (ODF):

Percentage of household members defecating in open/ having no facility

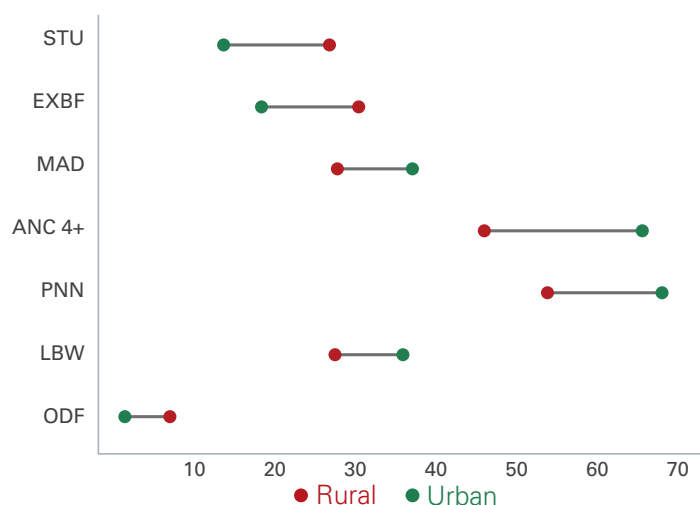
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, the percentage of open defecation is 5%.
- Muzaffarabad division has higher percentage of open defecation.
- The highest percentage is observed in Neelum district (9%).



Inequalities in Stratifiers

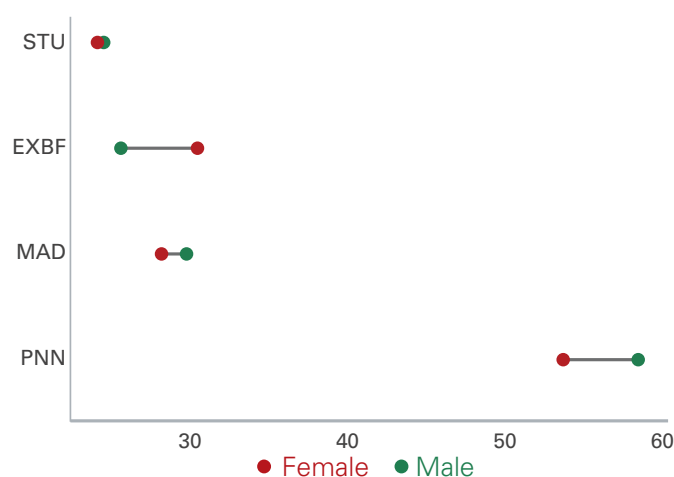
Status of stunting and tracers by different stratifiers

Status of factors associated with stunting by area



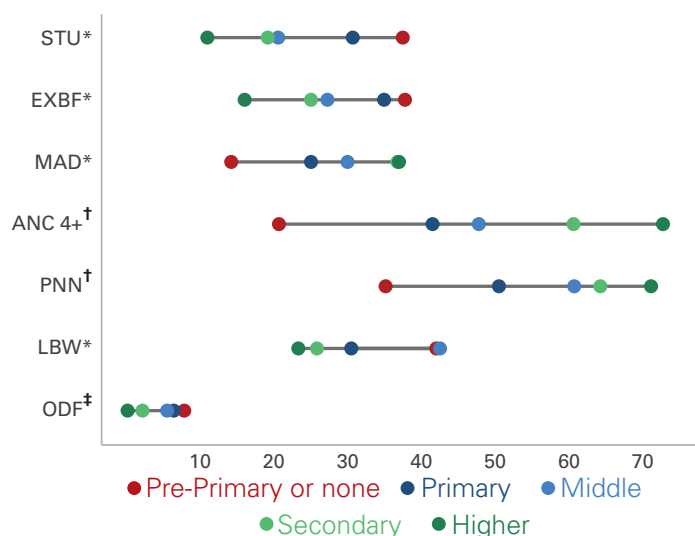
- High rural and urban disparities are observed in regard to antenatal care coverage. This status is found very poor in rural areas.
- In regard to postnatal care for the newborns and exclusive breastfeeding, the status is much lower in rural areas.
- Children from rural areas are less likely than those in urban areas to receive minimum acceptable diet.

Status of factors associated with stunting by child's sex



- Slight gender inequality is observed in exclusive breastfeeding; male children are little more likely to receive exclusive breastfeeding compared to their female counterpart.
- In regard to post-natal health check for the newborn, mothers of female children are somewhat underprivileged.

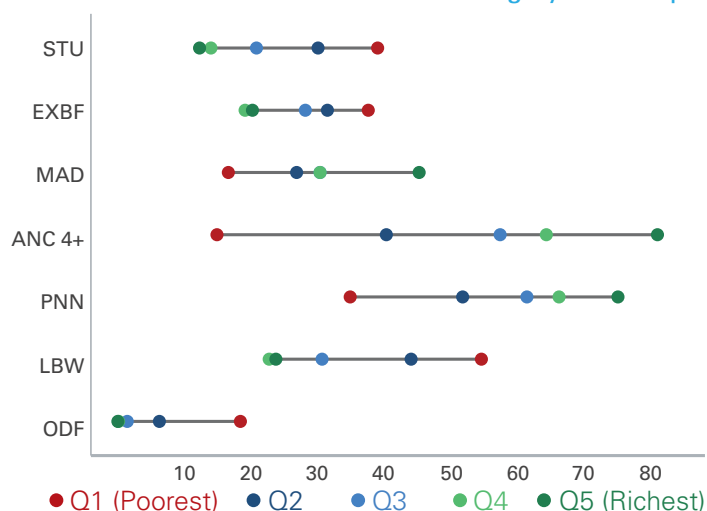
Status of factors associated with stunting by education



- By mother's education, high disparity is observed in the coverage of antenatal care and postnatal care for the newborns. The status is deplorable in case of low or no education of mothers.
- Moderate level of inequality is observed in the prevalence of minimum acceptable diet and low birth weight. The situation improves with higher level of education.
- The prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding gradually decreases as mothers' education moves from lower to higher levels.

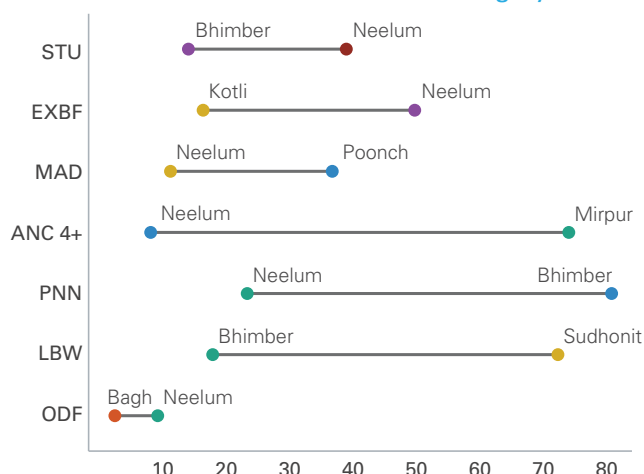
* Mother's education † Women education ‡ Household head's education

Status of factors associated with stunting by wealth quintile



- By wealth quintile, minor disparity is observed in the prevalence of exclusive breast feeding. The prevalence is lower in higher wealth quintiles.
- Moderate disparity is observed in the prevalence of minimum acceptable diet and low birth weight.
- By wealth quintile, disparity is observed very high in the coverage of antenatal care and postnatal care for the newborns. In both cases, the coverage gradually increases as it moves from the poorest to the richest quintiles.
- By wealth quintile, a minor disparity is observed in the prevalence of open defecation.

Status of factors associated with stunting by district



- District Kotli exhibits the lowest prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding.
- Neelum has the lowest prevalence with respect to minimum acceptable diet, antenatal care coverage and coverage of postnatal care for the newborns.
- In regard to low birth weight infants, Sudhnoti has the highest prevalence.
- Neelum shows the highest prevalence of open defecation.

Equity Trackers							
Inequality status of stunting and the tracers							
Tracers	STU	EXBF	MAD	ANC 4+	PNN	LBW	ODF
Wealth							
Q5/Q1 Ratio	0.31	0.54	2.73	5.45	2.15	0.43	0.00
Q5-Q1 Differences	-26.60	-17.30	28.50	65.80	40.00	-30.70	-18.30
Area							
Urban/Rural Ratio	0.49	0.59	1.35	1.43	1.27	1.32	0.08
Urban-Rural Difference	-13.4	-12.3	9.5	20.0	14.5	8.6	-5.7
Education							
Secondary/Pre-Primary or none	0.52	0.67	2.55	2.90	1.82	0.62	0.31
Secondary-Pre-Primary or none Difference	-18.1	-12.6	22.3	39.5	28.8	-16.0	-5.6

Table presents simple measures of inequalities using wealth quintiles, area of residence and level of education. Inequality between two sub-groups is shown by difference and ratio. In case of difference, the higher the difference between two sub-groups, the higher is the inequality between them. In case of value of ratio, the greater the deviation from 1 (ratio being either smaller than 1 or greater than 1), the higher is the inequality between two sub-groups.

Key Messages

- By wealth group, high inequalities are observed in the prevalence of minimum acceptable diet, antenatal care coverage and post-natal health check for the newborn (lower in the poorest quintile).
- Urban-rural disparities are found to be higher in the prevalence of antenatal care coverage, post-natal health check for the newborn (lower in rural areas) and open defecation (higher in rural areas).
- By education of mothers or women, high inequalities are observed in the prevalence of minimum acceptable diet, antenatal care coverage and post-natal health check for the newborn (lower in case of pre-primary/no education).

Every child in school

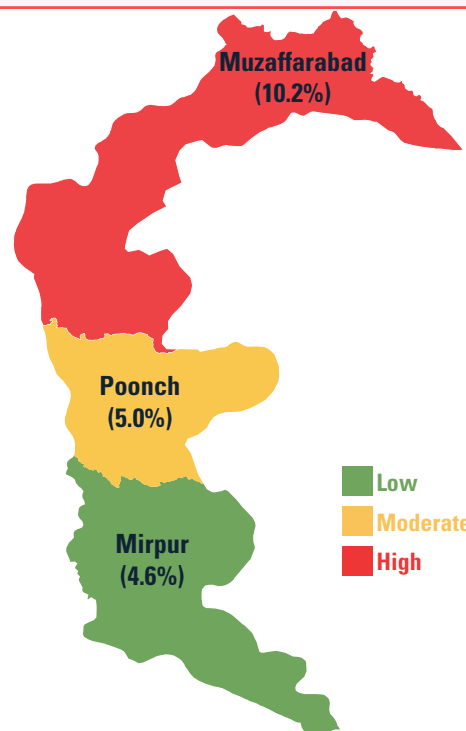
1 out of 15 children of primary school age in AJ&K is out of school



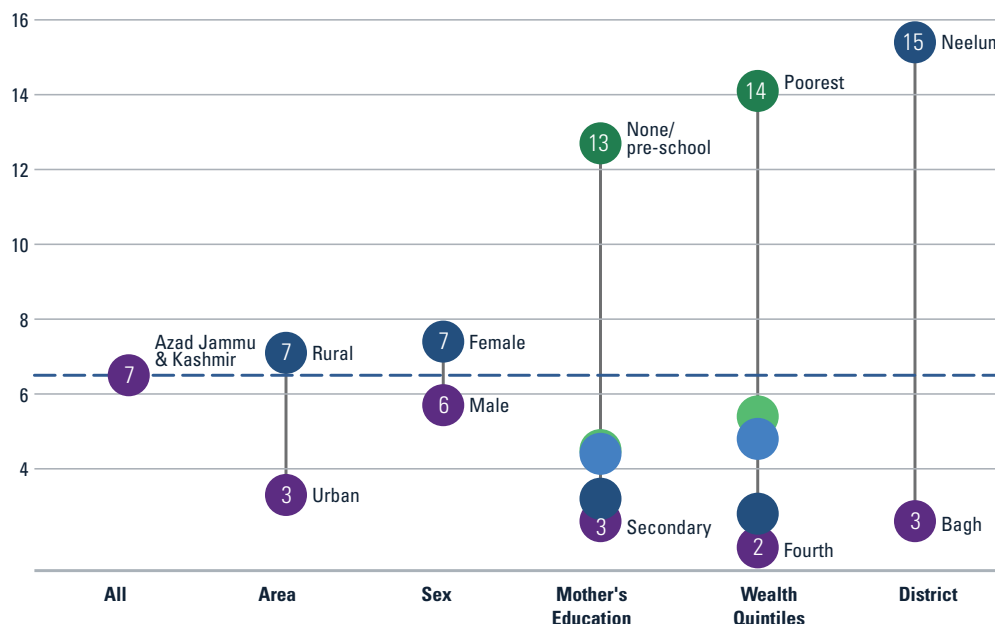
Access to primary education is a basic right of every child. With its profound implications on both individuals and society, primary education plays a crucial role in reducing extreme poverty and promoting social changes. No doubt, the problem of out of school is a serious issue across many countries of the world. Without reducing the out of school rate, expected progress cannot be achieved through increased enrolment of children in primary schools. The out of school rate (primary) is defined as the percentage of children of primary school age who are not attending primary or middle school.

Division level variations of out of school rate (primary)

The prevalence of out of school children of primary school age is found highest in Muzaffarabad division (10%).



Equity tree for prevalence of out of school rate (primary) with respect to different stratifiers



Key Messages

- The out of school rate in primary school is slightly higher in rural areas (7%) than in urban areas (3%).
- Children whose mothers have none or pre-school education (13%) are more likely to be out of school than those whose mothers have primary or above levels of education (3%-5%).
- The percentage of children, who are out of school, is much higher among the children in the poorest quintile (14%) compared to other quintiles (2%-5%).
- The prevalence of out of school rate in primary school varies at district level; it ranges from 3% in Bagh to 15% in Neelum.

Status of out of school rate (primary) and the tracers					
Thematic variable & Tracers	Out of school rate (primary) (%)	Multidimensional poverty index	Teacher absence/ School closure (%)	Child labour (%)	Literacy among men (%)
	OSRP	MPI	TABS	CLB	LTM
AJ&K MICS 2020-21	6.5	0.078	94.8	8.2	88.4

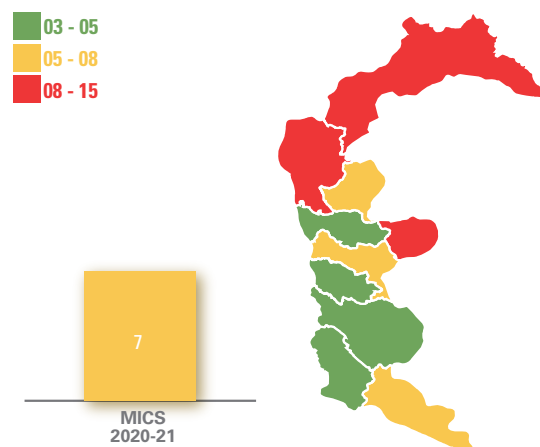
Inequalities in Out of School Rate (Primary) and the Tracers

District level variations and trend analysis of out of school rate (primary) and the tracers

Out of School Rate in Primary (OSRP):

Percentage of children of primary school age who are not attending primary or middle school

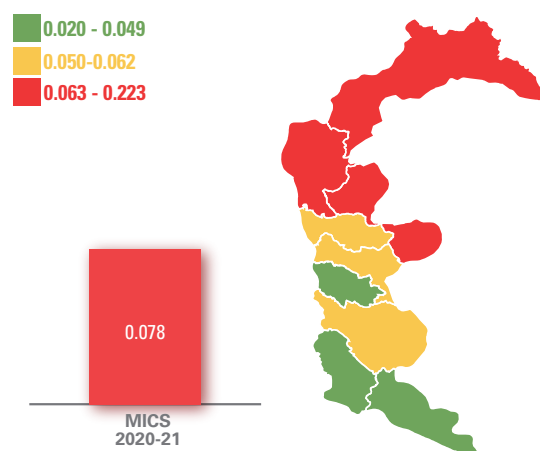
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, 7% of children of primary school age are not attending primary or middle school.
- Children of primary school age in Muzaffarabad division are more likely to be out of school.
- Out of school rate in primary school is the highest in Neelum district (15%). Haveli and Muzaffarabad (10% each) districts have the rate close to the highest rate.



Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, by selected measures of multidimensional poverty

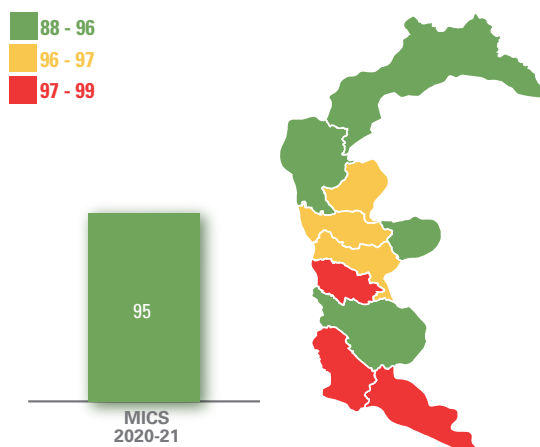
- In AJ&K, 8% of men, women and children of all ages are living in poverty in all its dimensions, by selected measures of multidimensional poverty.
- A higher score of multidimensional poverty index is evident in Muzaffarabad division.
- By district, Neelum has the highest score of multidimensional poverty index (0.223) and Bhimber has the lowest score (0.02).



Teacher Absence/School Closure (TABS):

Percentage of children who in the last year could not attend class due to absence of teacher or school closure

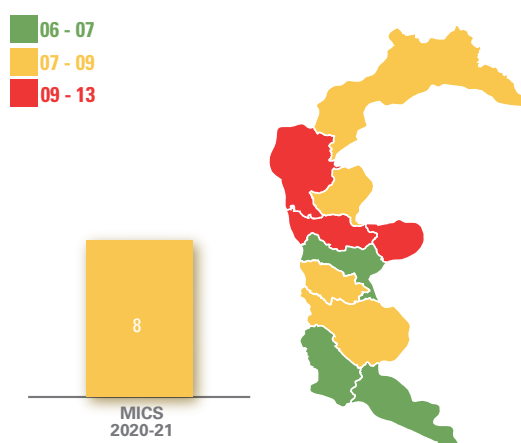
- In AJ&K, 95% of children in the last year could not attend class due to absence of teachers or school closure.
- A higher percentage of children, who could not attend class due to absence of teachers or closure of school, is found in some districts under Mirpur and Poonch divisions.
- By district, the percentage ranges from 88% in Kotli to 99% in Bhimber.



Child Labour (CLB):

Percentage of children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour

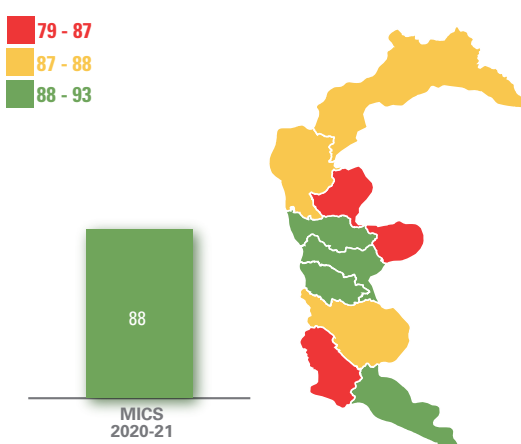
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, 8% of children age 5-17 years are involved in labour.
- A higher prevalence of child labour is found in some districts under Poonch and Muzaffarabad divisions.
- By district, the highest prevalence is observed in Haveli (13%) and the lowest prevalence is in Bhimber (6%).



Literacy Rate Among Men (LTM):

Percentage of men age 15-49 years who are able to read a short simple statement about everyday life or who attended secondary or higher education

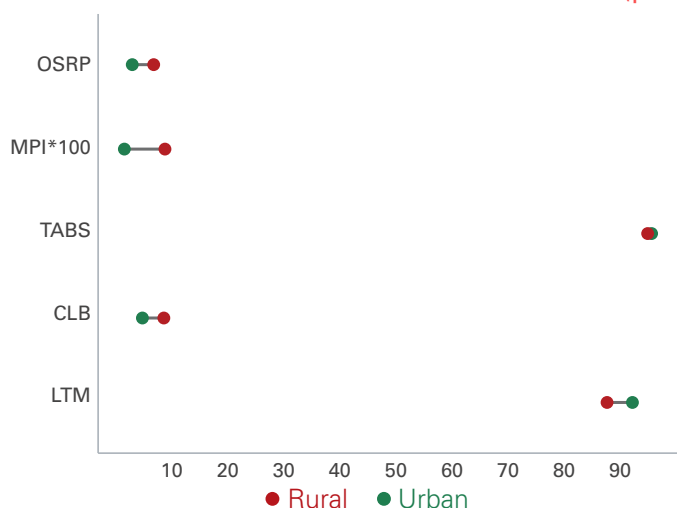
- In AJ&K, literacy rate among men age 15-49 years is 88%.
- Literacy rate among men is relatively lower in some districts under each of three divisions.
- By district, Haveli has the lowest rate (79%) and Sudhnoti has the highest rate (93%).



Inequalities in Stratifiers

Status of out of school rate (primary) and tracers by different stratifiers

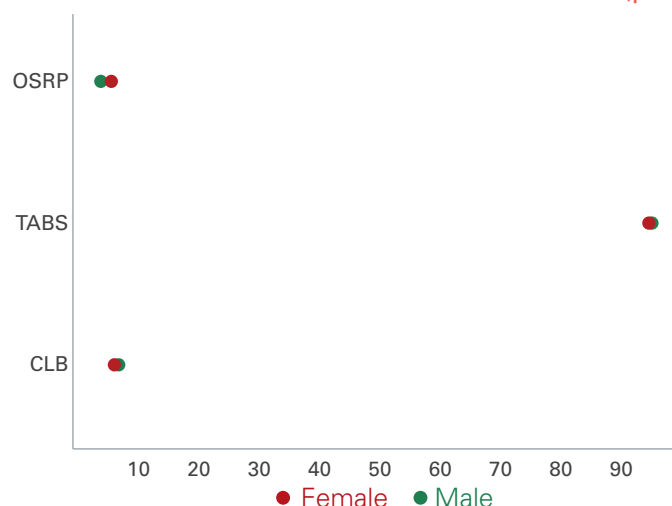
Status of factors associated with out of school rate (primary) by area



- A minor area inequality is observed in regard to multidimensional poverty index.

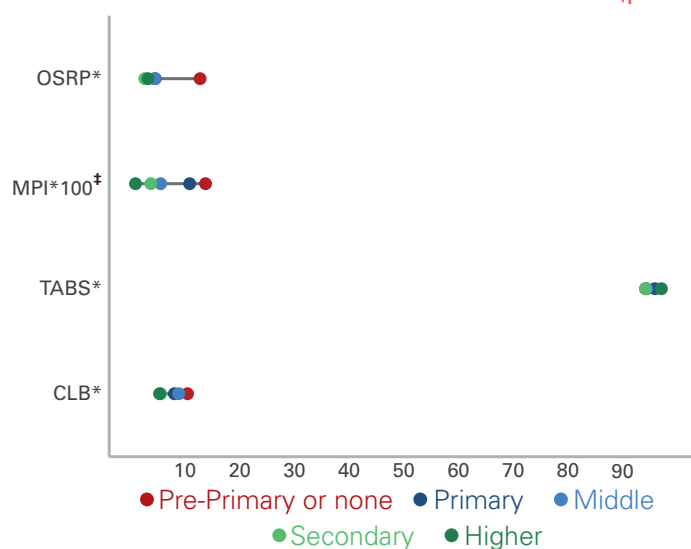
*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Status of factors associated with out of school rate (primary) by child's sex



- Gender inequality is not observed in teacher absence/school closure and child labour.

Status of factors associated with out of school rate (primary) by education

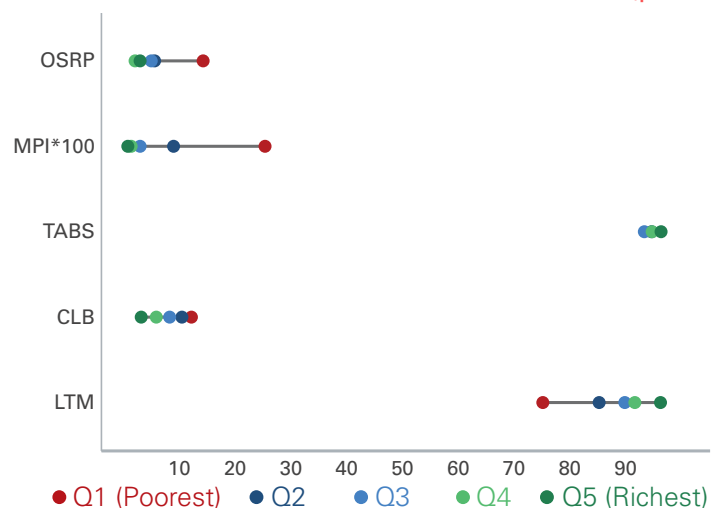


- By household head's education, inequalities are observed in multidimensional poverty index; the highest poverty exists among households where household heads have no or pre-school education.

*Mother's education † Household head's education

*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

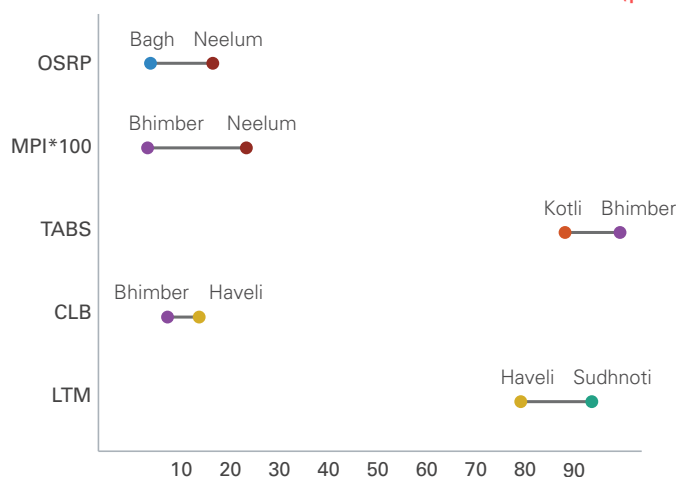
Status of factors associated with out of school rate (primary) by wealth quintile



- Moderate wealth inequalities are observed in multidimensional poverty index and literacy among men; the situation is worst in the poorest quintile.
- Minor wealth inequalities are observed in regard to child labour.

*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Status of factors associated with out of school rate (primary) by district



- District Neelum has the highest score of multidimensional poverty index.
- In regard to teachers' absence/school closure, Bhimber has the highest percentage.
- Haveli has the highest prevalence of child labour while it has the lowest prevalence of literacy among men.

*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Equity Trackers					
Inequality status of out of school rate (primary) and the tracers					
Tracers	OSRP	MPI	TABS	CLB	LTM
Wealth					
Q5/Q1 Ratio	0.20	0.02	NA	0.25	1.10
Q5-Q1 Differences	-11.30	-0.25	NA	-9.00	9.00
Area					
Urban/Rural Ratio	0.46	0.21	1.01	0.57	1.03
Urban-Rural Difference	-3.8	-0.1	0.7	-3.8	2.6
Education					
Secondary/No Education	0.20	0.27	1.00	0.53	NA
Secondary-No Education	-10.1	-0.1	0.0	-4.9	NA

NA: comparable data are not available

Table presents simple measures of inequalities using wealth quintiles, area of residence and level of education. Inequality between two sub-groups is shown by difference and ratio. In case of difference, the higher the difference between two sub-groups, the higher is the inequality between them. In case of value of ratio, the greater the deviation from 1 (ratio being either smaller than 1 or greater than 1), the higher is the inequality between two sub-groups.

Key Messages

- By wealth groups, high disparities are observed with regard to multidimensional poverty index, child labour (higher in the poorest quintile) and literacy among men (lower in the poorest quintile).
- For the same indicators, area inequalities are found higher (more deprivation in rural areas).
- By mother's education, high variations are found in case of multidimensional poverty index and child labour (higher among children of mothers with no education).

Child education

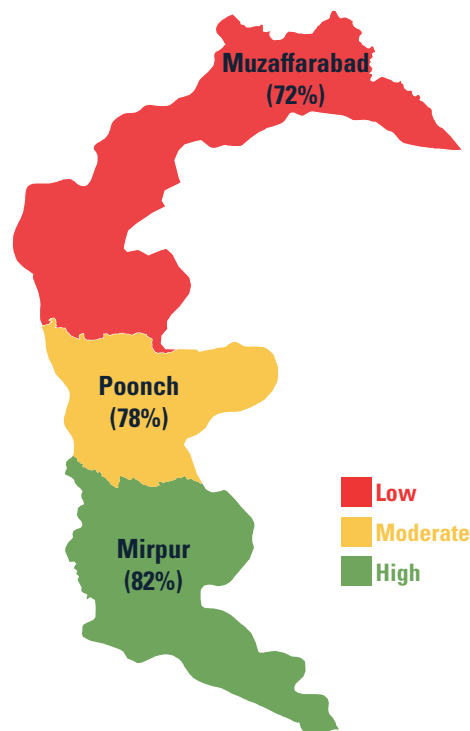
OVER **1 out of 5** children of primary school age in AJ&K **do not** attend primary school



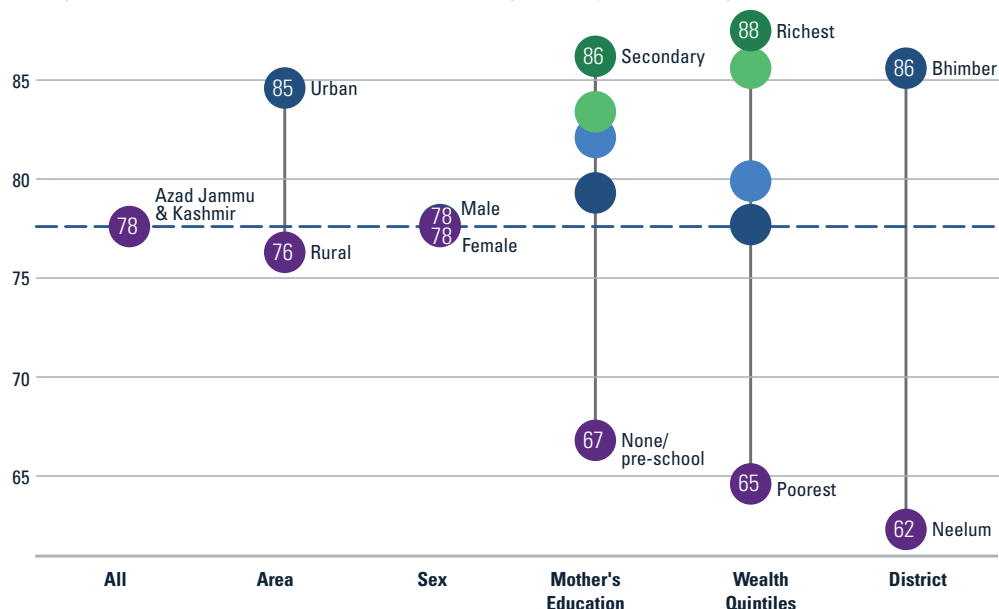
Education is a vital prerequisite for combating poverty, empowering women, protecting children from hazardous and exploitative labour, and slowing down population growth. Education is an essential component in the life of children as it develops their skills, personalities and attitudes and it helps them become self-reliant in life. Target 4.1 of Sustainable Development Goals focuses on a free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education for children. Net attendance ratio (primary) is defined as the percentage of children of primary school age currently attending primary or secondary school.

Division level variations of net attendance ratio (primary)

Net attendance ratio in primary school is the lowest in Muzaffarabad division (72% each) and the highest in Mirpur division (82%).



Equity tree for prevalence of net attendance ratio (primary) with respect to different stratifiers



Key Messages

- Net attendance ratio in primary school is lower in rural areas (76%) than that in urban areas (85%).
- The primary school net attendance ratio is found much lower among children whose mothers have none or pre-school education (67%) compared to those whose mothers have primary or higher level of education (79%-86%).
- The primary school net attendance ratio is the lowest among the poorest quintile (65%); and it gradually increases as students' wealth status moves from the poorest to the richest quintiles (88%).
- Variations in net attendance ratio in primary school are observed at district level; lowest ratio is observed in Neelum (62%) and the highest ratio is in Bhimber (86%).

Status of net attendance ratio (primary) and the tracers

Thematic Variable & Tracers	Net attendance ratio (primary) (%)	Birth registration (%)	Availability of children's books (%)	School readiness (%)	Gender parity index (primary)	Out of school rate (primary) (%)	Child labour (%)
	NARP	BRG	ACB	SRD	GPI	OSRP	CLB
AJ&K MICS 2020-21	77.6	31.8	3.3	94.5	1.00	6.5	8.2
PDHS 2017-18	70.7	29.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA: comparable data are not available

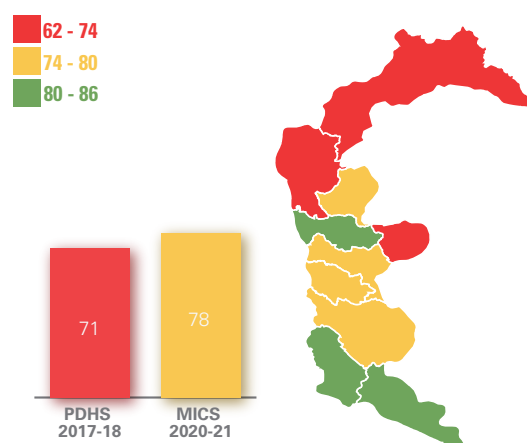
Inequalities in Net Attendance Ratio (Primary) and the Tracers

District level variations and trend analysis of net attendance ratio (primary) and the tracers

Net Attendance Ratio in Primary (NARP):

Percentage of children of primary school age currently attending primary or secondary school

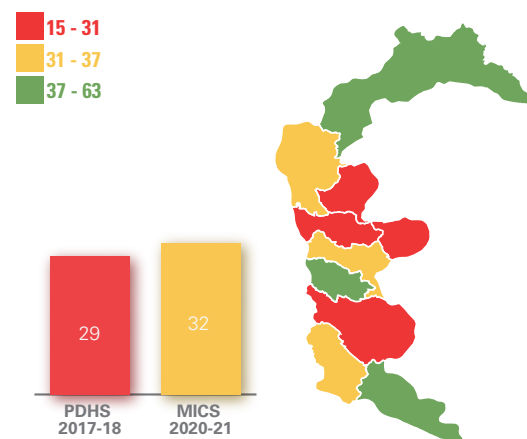
- In AJ&K, net attendance ratio among children of primary age increased moderately from 71% in 2017-18 to 78% in 2020-21.
- Lower net attendance ratio is found in Muzaffarabad division and some districts under Poonch division.
- District Neelum has the lowest ratio (62%) and district Bhimber has the highest ratio (86%). Also, Haveli (73%), Muzaffarabad (74%) and Jhelum Valley (75%) have the lower ratios.



Birth Registration (BRG):

Percentage of children under the age of 5 whose births are reported registered with a civil authority

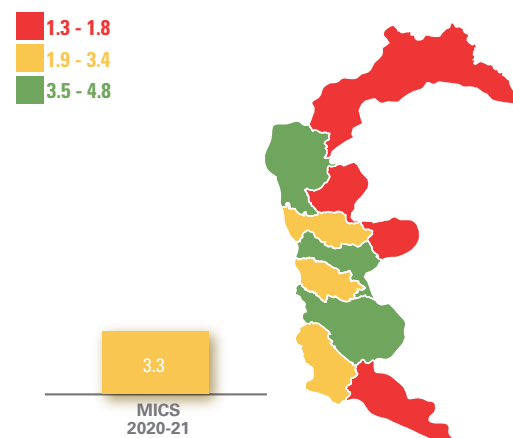
- In AJ&K, birth registration of children age under 5 increased slightly from 29% in 2017-18 to 32% in 2020-21.
- A lower rate of birth registration is found in some districts under all three divisions.
- Birth registration exhibits a high variation among districts. The lowest rate is observed in Haveli (15%) and the highest rate is in Sudhnoti (63%).



Availability of Children's Books (ACB):

Percentage of children under age 5 who have three or more children's books

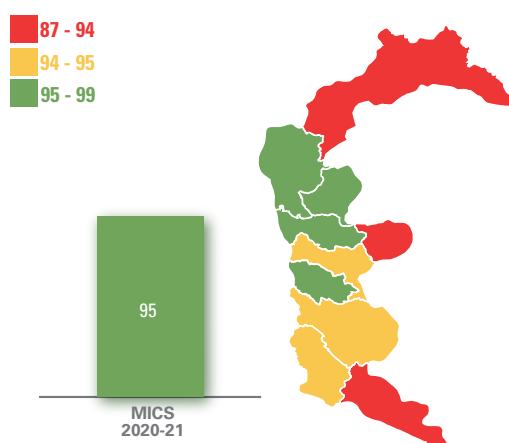
- Availability of children's books is 3.3% in AJ&K.
- Availability of children's books is found lower in some districts under all three divisions.
- By district, availability of books is found lower in Haveli (1%), Jhelum Valley (1.5%) and Neelum (1.6%) all.



School Readiness (SRD):

Percentage of children attending the first grade of primary school who attended early childhood education programme during the previous school year

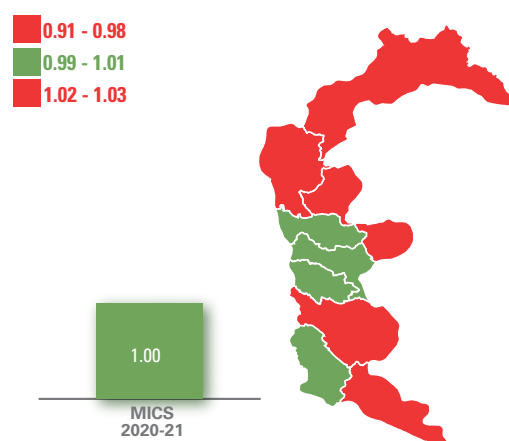
- The prevalence of school readiness is 95% in 2020-21.
- The school readiness is found lower in the districts under Mirpur division.
- Variations in the readiness among districts are observed. Haveli has the lowest prevalence (85%), while Sudhnoti has the highest prevalence (99%).



Gender Parity Index in Primary (GPIP):

Net attendance ratio (adjusted) for girls divided by net attendance ratio (adjusted) for boys in primary school

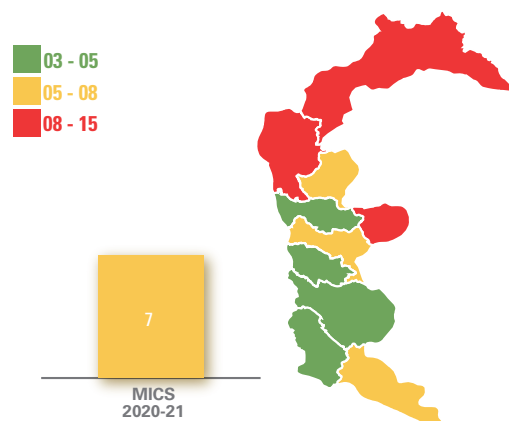
- In AJ&K, the gender parity index in primary school is 1.00 indicating gender parity in this regard.
- A gender disparity in primary education exists in Muzaffarabad division and in some districts under Mirpur division.
- Variations in gender parity indices at district level are observed. The lowest value 0.91 is in Neelum indicating a noticeable deprivation of girls there, while the highest value 1.03 is in Muzaffarabad and Kotli indicating a little deprivation of boys there.



Out of School Rate in Primary (OSRP):

Percentage of children of primary school age who are not attending primary or middle school

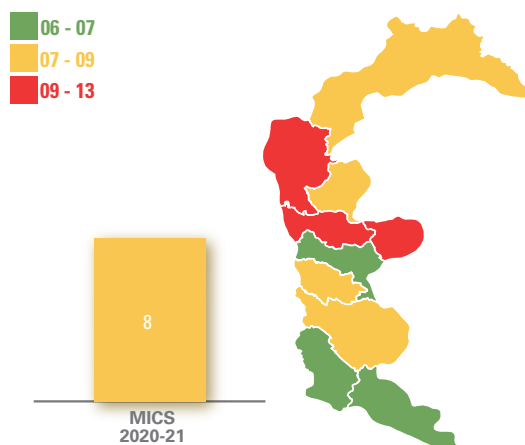
- In AJ&K, 7% of primary school aged children are out-of-school in 2020-21.
- Out-of-school rates (primary) are found higher in Muzaffarabad division.
- Variations in out-of-school rates exist at district level: highest in Neelum (15%) and the lowest in Bagh (3%).



Child Labour (CLB):

Percentage of children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour

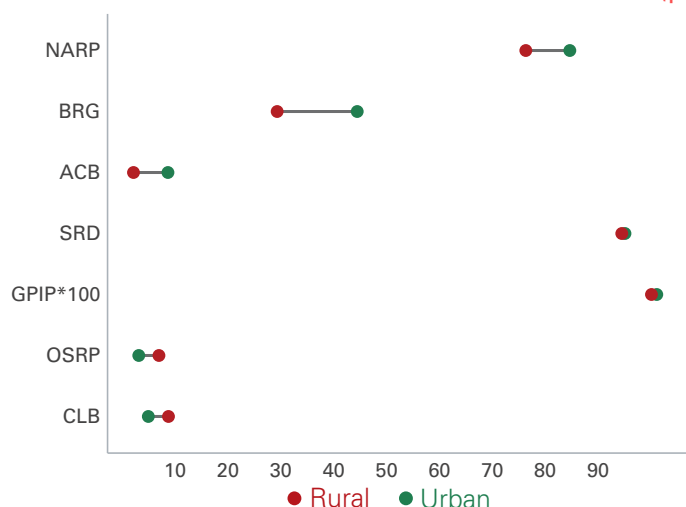
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, 8% of children age 5-17 years are involved in labour.
- A higher prevalence of child labour is found in some districts under Poonch and Muzaffarabad divisions.
- By district, the highest prevalence is observed in Haveli (13%) and the lowest prevalence is in Bhimber (6%).



Inequalities in Stratifiers

Status of net attendance ratio (primary) and tracers by different stratifiers

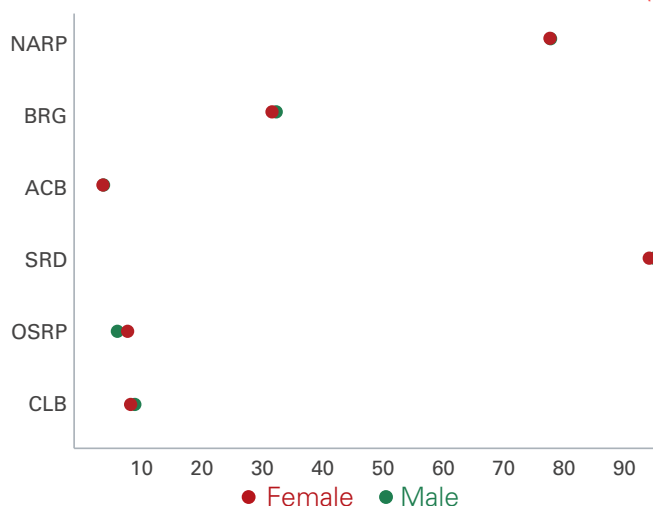
Status of factors associated with net attendance ratio (primary) by area



- A moderate real inequality is observed in regard to birth registration and availability of children's books; in both respects, the lower percentage is found in rural areas.
- A minor area inequality is found in regard to out-of-school rate (primary) and child labour.

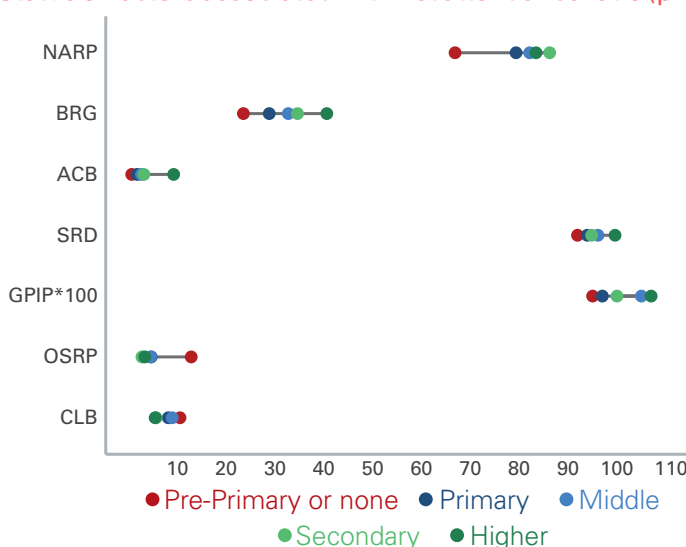
*GPIP expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Status of factors associated with net attendance ratio (primary) by child's sex



- Gender inequality is not observed in birth registration, availability of children's books, school readiness, out-of-school rate (primary) and child labour.

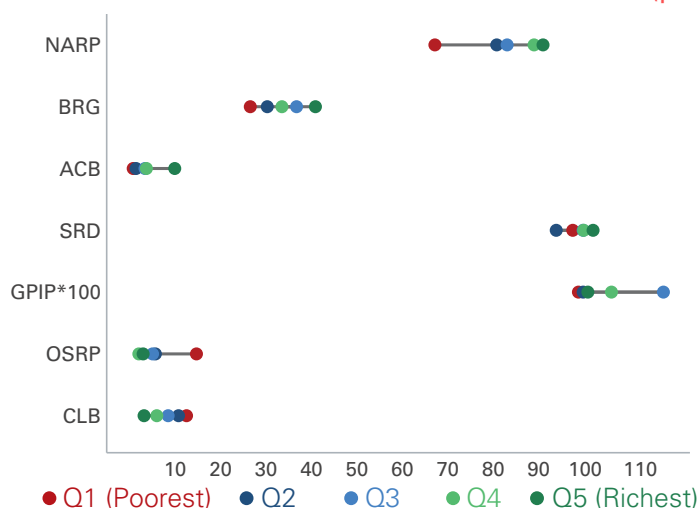
Status of factors associated with net attendance ratio (primary) by mother's education



- By mother's education, greater disparities can be seen in regard to birth registration; children whose mothers have no or pre-school education are more deprived.
- By mother's education, minor disparities are observed in regard to availability of children's books, school readiness and out-of-school rate (primary).
- By mother's education, gender disparity for primary school is observed. Girls are deprived whose mothers have no or pre-school education, while boys are deprived whose mothers have higher level of education.

*GPIP expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

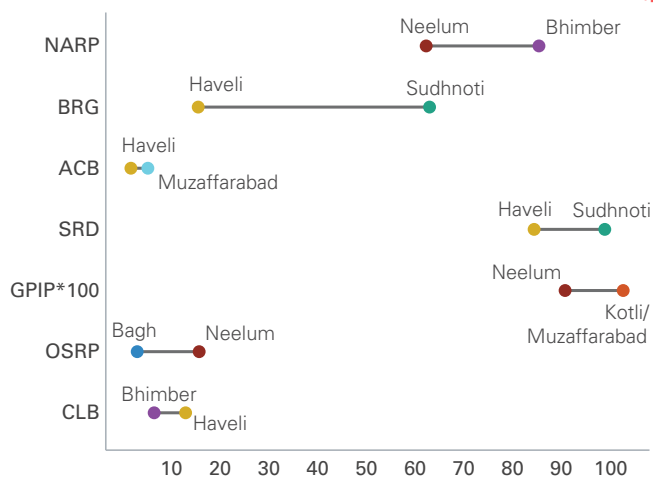
Status of factors associated with net attendance ratio (primary) by wealth quintile



- Wealth inequalities are observed in regard to birth registration and out of school rates (primary): the worst situation is found in the poorest quintile.
- A lower inequalities are observed in regard to school readiness and child labour.
- By wealth quintile, gender disparity for primary school exists; girls are deprived who are in the lower and richest wealth quintiles and boys are deprived who are in the middle and forth quintiles.

*GPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Status of factors associated with net attendance ratio (primary) by district



- In regard to birth registration, availability of children's books and school readiness, Haveli has the poorest percentages.
- Also regarding child labour, Bhimber is in the poorest condition with the highest prevalence.
- Girls in Neelum district are noticeably deprived and boys in Muzaffarabad and Kotli districts are little deprived as evident from the values of gender parity index for primary education
- The highest out of school rates (primary) are observed in Neelum district.

*GPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Equity Trackers							
Inequality status of net attendance ratio (primary) and the tracers							
Tracers	NARP	BRG	ACB	SRD	GPIP	OSRP	CLB
Wealth							
Q5/Q1 Ratio	1.35	1.54	13.57	1.05	1.02	0.20	0.25
Q5-Q1 Differences	22.90	13.80	8.80	4.30	0.02	-11.30	-9.00
Area							
Urban/Rural Ratio	1.11	1.51	3.83	1.01	1.01	0.46	0.57
Urban-Rural Difference	8.3	15.1	6.5	0.6	0.0	-3.8	-3.8
Education							
Secondary/No Education	1.29	1.47	6.00	1.03	1.05	0.20	0.53
Secondary-No Education	19.4	11.1	2.5	2.9	0.1	-10.1	-4.9

Table presents simple measures of inequalities using wealth quintiles, area of residence and level of education. Inequality between two sub-groups is shown by difference and ratio. In case of difference, the higher the difference between two sub-groups, the higher is the inequality between them. In case of value of ratio, the greater the deviation from 1 (ratio being either smaller than 1 or greater than 1), the higher is the inequality between two sub-groups.

Key Messages

- Higher wealth inequalities are found in regard to birth registration, availability of children's books (lower in the poorest quintile) and out of school rates for children of primary school age (higher in the poorest quintile).
- By area, a higher disparity is found with respect to birth registration and availability of children's books (lower in rural areas).
- High inequalities are found by mother's education with respect to birth registration, availability of children's books (lower among children whose mothers do not have education) and out of school rates for children of primary school age (higher among children whose mothers do not have education).

Child identity

BIRTHS of 2 IN 3 children under the age of five in AJ&K **are not REGISTERED**

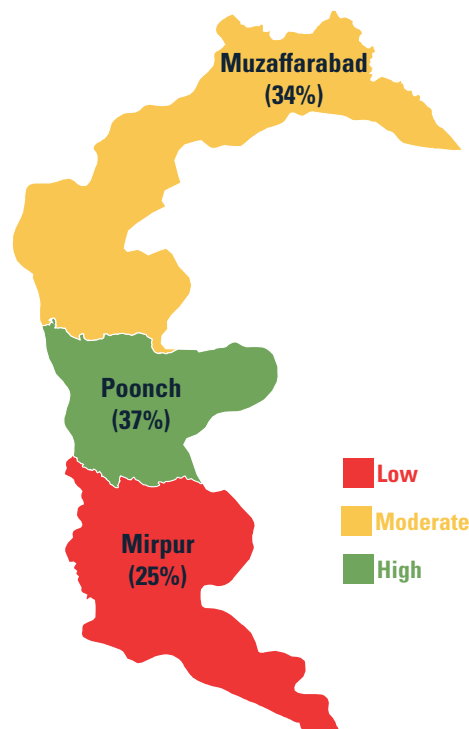
3,49,328 children under the age of 5 years have not been registered with a civil authority.



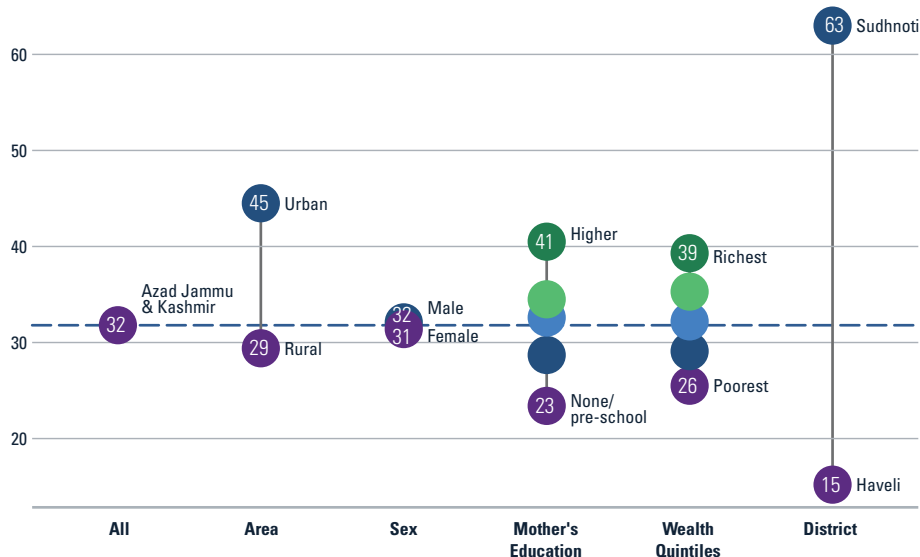
Society first acknowledges a child's existence and identity through birth registration. According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other international treaties, having a name and nationality are the rights of every child. Registering children at birth is the first step in securing their recognition before the law, safeguarding their rights and ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed. A birth certificate is a proof of registration and the first form of legal identity and are often required to access healthcare or education. Birth registration is the percentage of children under age 5 whose births are reported registered with a civil authority.

Division level variations of birth registration

The prevalence of birth registration varies at division level. It ranges from 25% in Mirpur division to 37% in Poonch.



Equity tree for prevalence of birth registration with respect to different stratifiers



Key Messages

- The proportion of children whose births are registered is found lower in rural areas (29%) than that in urban areas (45%) indicating a 16-percentage point rural-urban difference.
- Comparatively a low rate of birth registration is found among children whose mothers have none or preschool education (23%) and it increases as the level of mother's education increases from primary to higher (29%-41%).
- The rate of birth registration is lowest among children in the poorest quintile (26%); and the rate gradually increases as wealth status moves from the poorest to the richest quintile (39%).
- Very high disparities are observed among districts in regard to the rate of birth registration. The lowest rate of birth registration is found in the district Haveli and Kotli (15% each) and the highest is in the district Sudhnoti (63%).

Status of birth registration and the tracers						
Thematic variable & Tracers	Birth registration (%)	Full immunization coverage (%)	Support for learning (%)	Early child development index (%)	Net attendance ratio (primary) (%)	Literacy among young women (%)
	BRG	FIM	SLN	ECDI	NARP	LYW
AJ&K MICS 2020-21	31.8	84.3	21.9	59.6	77.6	85.6
PDHS 2017-18	29.0	75.2	NA	NA	70.7	NA

NA: comparable data are not available

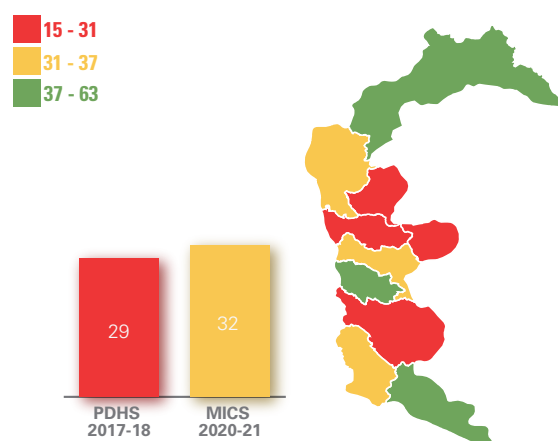
Inequalities in Birth Registration and the Tracers

District level variations and trend analysis of birth registration and the tracers

Birth Registration (BRG):

Percentage of children under the age of 5 whose births are reported registered with a civil authority

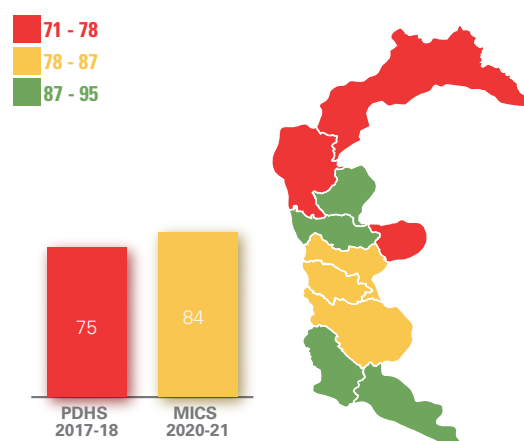
- In AJ&K, birth registration of children age under 5 increased slightly from 29% in 2017-18 to 32% in 2020-21.
- Some of the districts under each of three divisions have the poorest situation with regard to the birth registration.
- By district, birth registration exhibits a high variation. The rate ranges from 15% in Haveli and Kotli to 63% in Sudhnoti. Some other districts with a lower percentage include Jhelum Valley (30%) and Bagh (31%).



Full Immunization Coverage (FIM):

Percentage of children who at age 12-23 months had received all basic vaccinations at any time before the survey

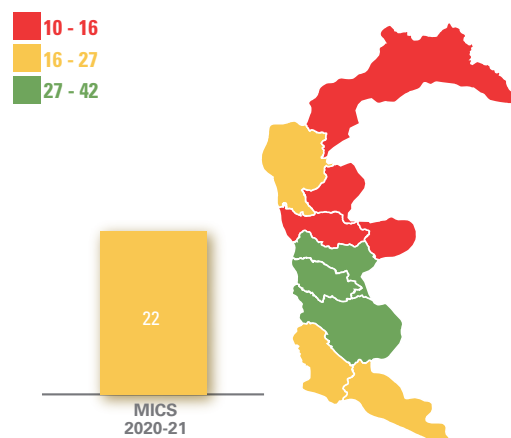
- In AJ&K, the coverage of full immunization increased moderately from 75% in 2017-18 to 84% in 2020-21.
- A lower coverage of full immunization is observed among some districts under Muzaffarabad and Poonch divisions.
- By district, variations in the coverage exist. The lowest coverage is found in Haveli (71%), while the highest coverage is found in Bhimber (95%).



Support for Learning (SLN):

Percentage of children with whom adult household members have engaged in four or more activities

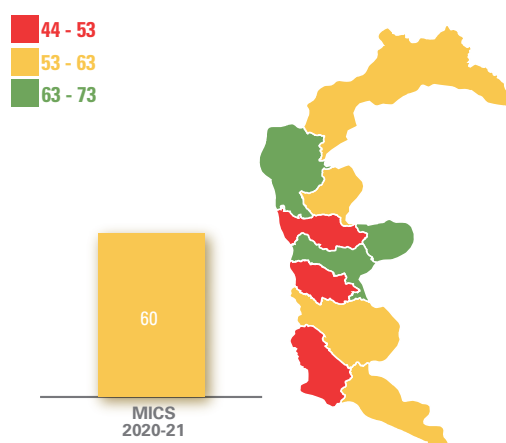
- In AJ&K, the prevalence of support for learning is 22% in 2020-21.
- Some of the districts under Muzaffarabad and Poonch divisions have lower prevalence of support for learning.
- Support for learning shows a considerable variation among districts. The lowest prevalence is found in Neelum (10%) and the highest in Sudhnoti (42%).



Early Child Development Index (ECDI):

Percentage of children age 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains; literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional and learning.

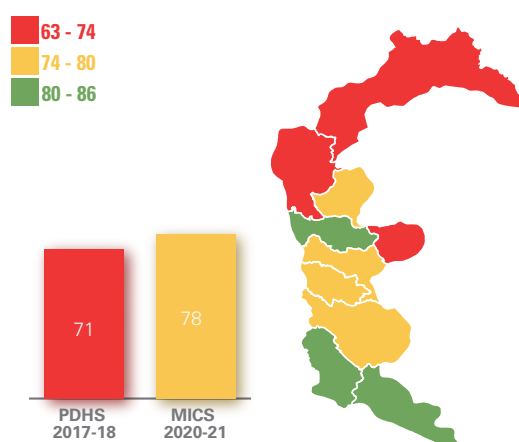
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, 60% of children are on track in at least three of the four domains.
- Some of the districts under Poonch and Mirpur divisions have lower values of early child development index.
- By district, the lowest value of early child development index is found in Mirpur (44%) and the highest value is in Haveli (73%).



Net Attendance Ratio in Primary (NARP):

Percentage of children of primary school age currently attending primary or secondary school

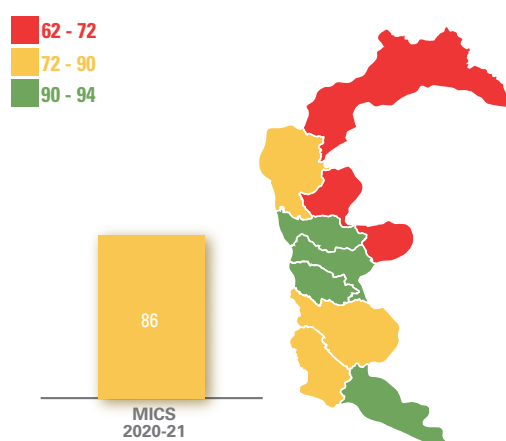
- In AJ&K, net attendance ratio among children of primary age increased moderately from 71% in 2017-18 to 78% in 2020-21.
- Lower net attendance ratio is found in Muzaffarabad division and some districts under Poonch division.
- District Neelum has the lowest ratio (62%) and district Bhimber has the highest ratio (86%). Also, Haveli (73%), Muzaffarabad (74%) and Jhelum Valley (75%) have the lower ratios.



Literacy Among Young Women (LYW):

Percentage of women age 15-24 years who are able to read a short simple statement about everyday life or who attended secondary or higher education

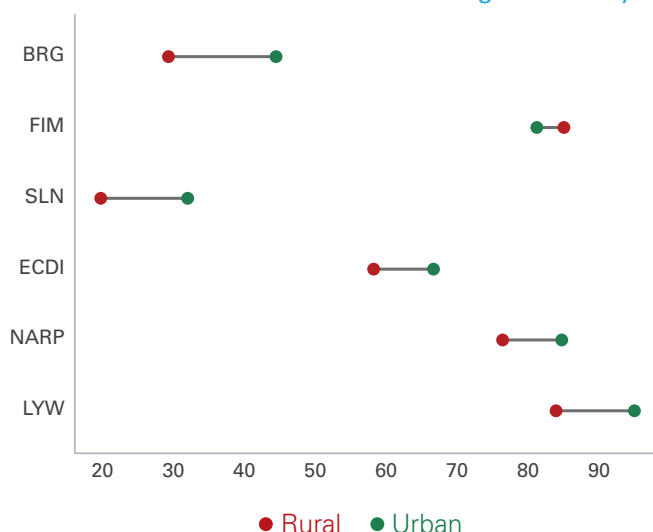
- In AJ&K, literacy rate among women age 15-24 years is 86% in 2020-21.
- Literacy rate among young women is lower in Muzaffarabad division.
- By district, literacy among young women varies widely. Neelum has the lowest rate (62%) and Poonch has the highest rate (94%).



Inequalities in Stratifiers

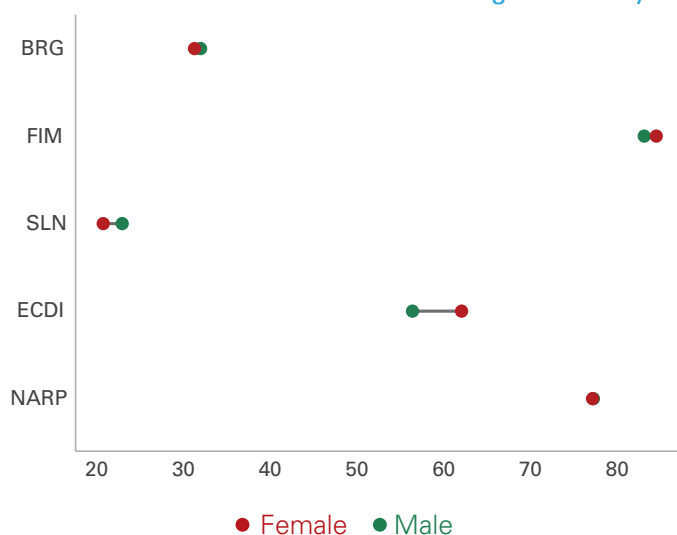
Status of birth registration and tracers by different stratifiers

Status of factors associated with birth registration by area



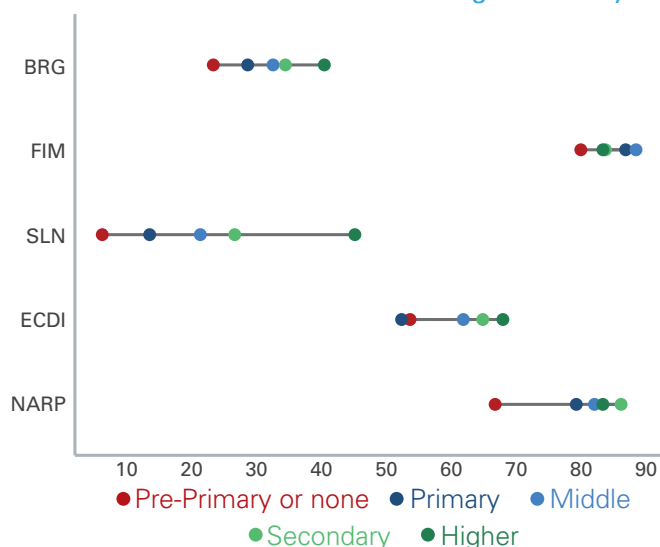
- By area, moderate inequalities are found in support for learning and literacy among young women. Rural areas have the worse situation in both respects.
- By area, minor inequalities are observed in early child development index and net attendance ratio (primary).

Status of factors associated with birth registration by child's sex



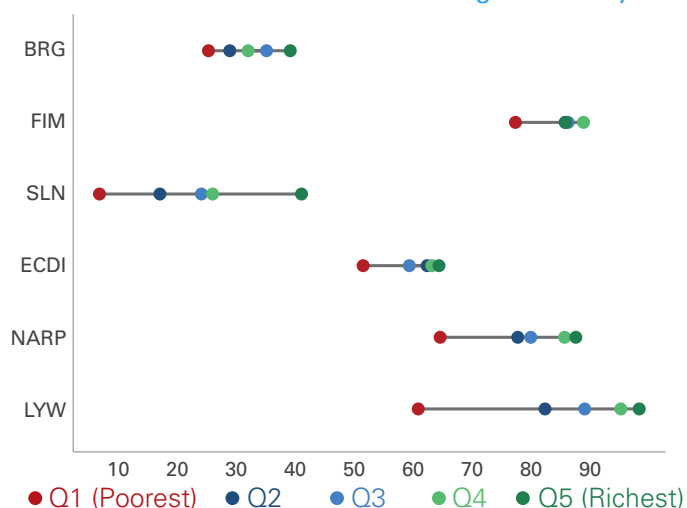
- A slight gender inequality is observed in early child development index; the score of the index is little lower among male children compared to their female counterpart.

Status of factors associated with birth registration by mother's education



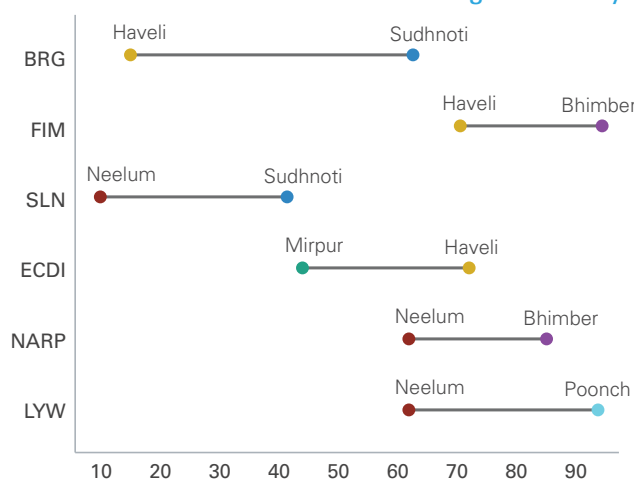
- Higher disparities by mother's education can be seen in support for learning; children whose mothers have no or pre-school education are more deprived.
- By mother's education, moderate disparities are observed in regard to early child development index and net attendance ratio (primary). Children whose mothers have no or pre-school education are underprivileged with respect to both indicators.

Status of factors associated with birth registration by wealth quintile



- By wealth quintiles, minor inequalities are found in full immunization coverage and early child development index.
- High wealth inequalities are observed in regard to support for learning and literacy among young women; the worst situation is found in the poorest quintile.
- By wealth quintile, moderate inequalities are found in net attendance ratio (primary); a lower prevalence is observed in lower quintiles.

Status of factors associated with birth registration by district



- Full immunization coverage is the lowest in Haveli district.
- Neelum is the poorest district with respect to support for learning, net attendance ratio (primary) and literacy among young women.
- Mirpur has the lowest prevalence of early child development index.

Equity Trackers						
Inequality status of birth registration and the tracers						
Tracers	BRG	FIM	SLN	ECDI	NARP	LYW
Wealth						
Q5/Q1 Ratio	1.54	1.11	5.80	1.25	1.35	1.61
Q5-Q1 Differences	13.80	8.50	34.10	12.80	22.90	37.30
Area						
Urban/Rural Ratio	1.51	0.96	1.61	1.14	1.11	1.13
Urban-Rural Difference	15.1	-3.8	12.2	8.4	8.3	11.0
Education						
Secondary/No Education	1.47	1.05	4.24	1.21	1.29	NA
Secondary-No Education	11.1	3.8	20.4	11.2	19.4	NA

NA: comparable data are not available

Table presents simple measures of inequalities using wealth quintiles, area of residence and level of education. Inequality between two sub-groups is shown by difference and ratio. In case of difference, the higher the difference between two sub-groups, the higher is the inequality between them. In case of value of ratio, the greater the deviation from 1 (ratio being either smaller than 1 or greater than 1), the higher is the inequality between two sub-groups.

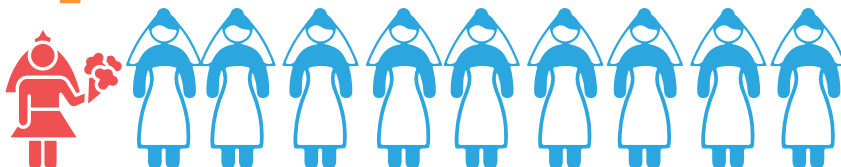
Key Messages

- By wealth quintile, higher inequalities are found in support for learning and literacy among young women (lower in the poorest quintile).
- For the same indicators, higher urban-rural disparities are found (more deprivation in rural areas).
- High inequalities are found by mother's education with respect to support for learning and net attendance ratio in primary (lower among children of mothers with no education).

Reduction in child marriage

1 out of 10

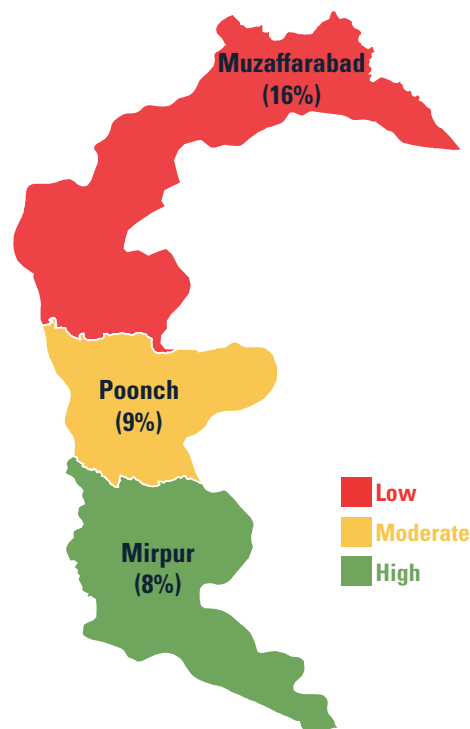
women age 20-24 years is first married before the **age of 18** years in AJ&K



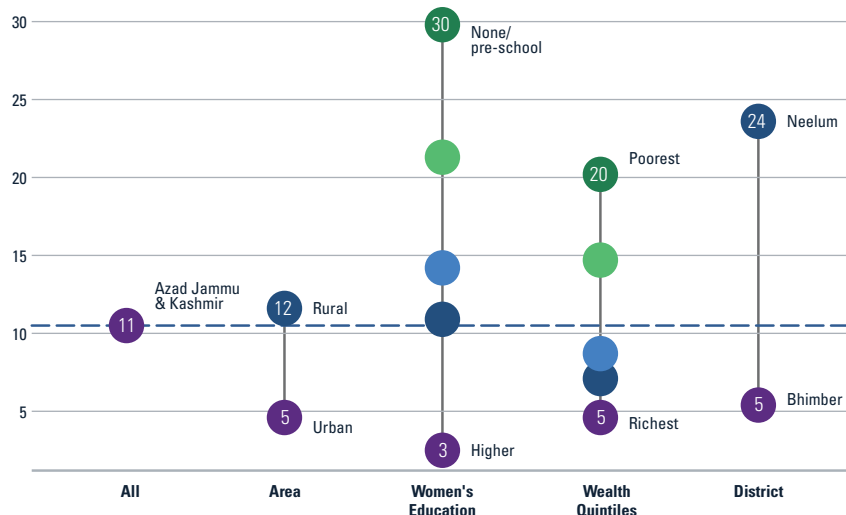
Child marriage often compromises a girl's development by resulting in early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement and placing her at risk of domestic violence. Target 5.3 of Sustainable Development Goals that emphasizes on the well-being of children focuses on all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriages and genital mutilations. Child marriage (marriage before age 18) is defined as percentage of women age 20-24 years who are first married before the age of 18.

Division level variations of marriage before age 18

The highest prevalence of child marriage is found in Muzaffarabad division (16%) while the lowest prevalence is found in Mirpur division (8%).



Equity tree for prevalence of marriage before age 18 with respect to different stratifiers



Key Messages

- Higher prevalence of marriage before the age of 18 is found in rural areas (12%) than that in urban areas (5%).
- The prevalence of marriage before age 18 is the highest among women who have none education or have only pre-school education (30%); and the prevalence gradually decreases as it moves from primary to higher levels of education (3%-21%).
- The prevalence of marriage before age 18 is the highest among women who are in the poorest quintile (20%); and the prevalence gradually decreases as the wealth status moves from the poorest to the richest quintile (5%-15%).
- The prevalence at district level differs considerably. The lowest prevalence is found in Bhimber (5%) and the highest prevalence is found in Neelum (24%).

Status of marriage before age 18 and the tracers					
Thematic variable & Tracers	Marriage before age 18 (%)	Early childbearing (20-24 years) (%)	Literacy among young women (%)	Net attendance ratio (primary) (%)	Multidimensional poverty index
	CM 18	ECB (20-24)	LYW	NARP	MPI
AJ&K MICS 2020-21	10.5	3.2	85.6	77.6	0.078
PDHS 2017-18	NA	NA	NA	70.7	NA

NA: comparable data are not available

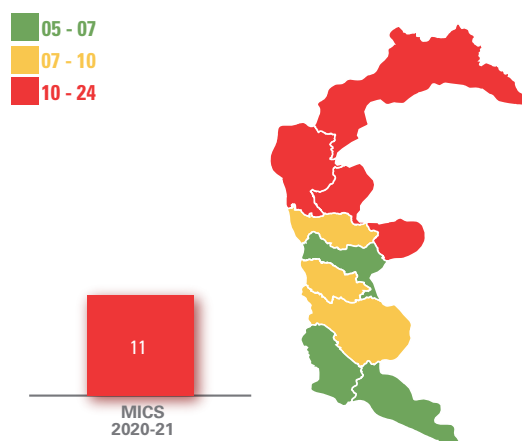
Inequalities in Marriage before Age 18 and the Tracers

District level variations and trend analysis of marriage before age 18 and the tracers

Marriage Before Age 18 (CM 18):

Percentage of women age 20-24 years who are first married before age 18

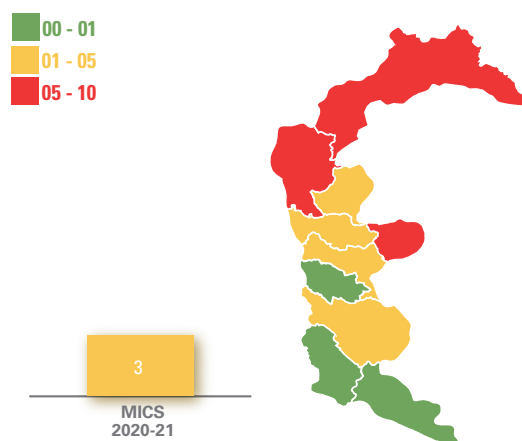
- In AJ&K, 11% of women age 20-24 years are first married before the age of 18 years in 2020-21.
- Higher prevalence of marriage before age 18 is found in Muzaffarabad division.
- The prevalence ranges from 5% in Bhimber to 24% in Neelum. Some other districts with higher prevalence are Jhelum Valley (14%), Muzaffarabad (15%) and Haveli (16%).



Early Childbearing 20-24 Years (ECB 20-24):

Percentage of women age 20-24 years who have had a live birth before age 18

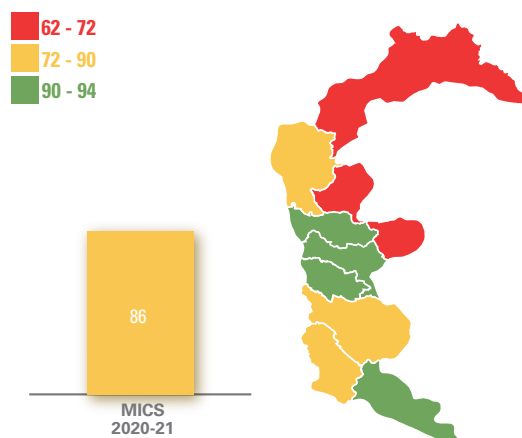
- In AJ&K, the prevalence of early childbearing among young women age 20-24 years is 3% in 2020-21.
- A higher prevalence of early childbearing is found in Muzaffarabad division.
- The highest prevalence is found in Neelum district (10%). Other districts with higher prevalence are Jhelum Valley, Haveli and Muzaffarabad (5%-6%).



Literacy Among Young Women (LYW):

Percentage of women age 15-24 years who are able to read a short simple statement about everyday life or who attended secondary or higher education

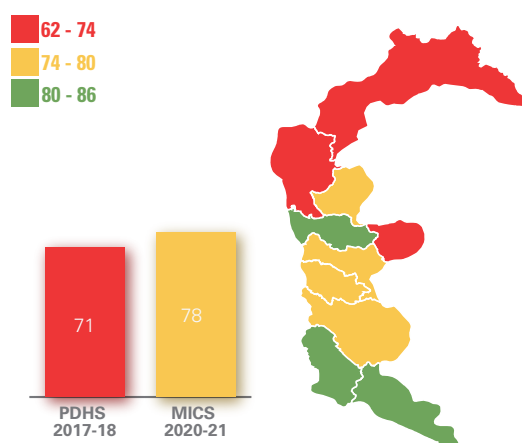
- In 2020-21 in AJ&K, literacy rate among women age 15-24 years is 86%.
- Literacy rate among young women is lower in Muzaffarabad division.
- By district, literacy among young women varies widely. Neelum has the lowest rate (62%) and Poonch has the highest rate (94%).



Net Attendance Ratio in Primary (NARP):

Percentage of children of primary school age currently attending primary or secondary school

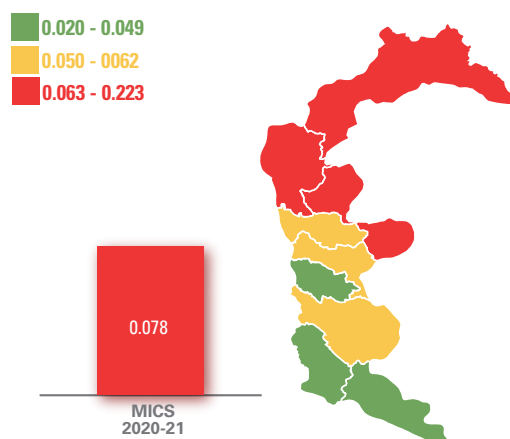
- In AJ&K, net attendance ratio among children of primary age increased moderately from 71% in 2017-18 to 78% in 2020-21.
- Lower net attendance ratio is found in Muzaffarabad division and some districts under Poonch division.
- District Neelum has the lowest ratio (62%) and district Bhimber has the highest ratio (86%). Also, Haveli (73%), Muzaffarabad (74%) and Jhelum Valley (75%) have the lower ratios.



Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions, by selected measures of multidimensional poverty

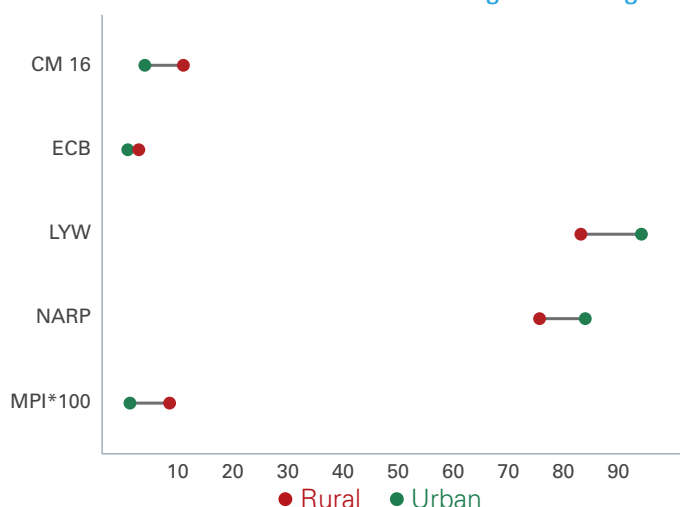
- In AJ&K, 8% of men, women and children of all ages are living in poverty in all its dimensions, by selected measures of multidimensional poverty.
- A higher score of multidimensional poverty index is evident in Muzaffarabad division.
- By district, Neelum has the highest score of multidimensional poverty index (0.223) and Bhimber has the lowest score (0.02).



Inequalities in Stratifiers

Status of marriage before age 18 and tracers by different stratifiers

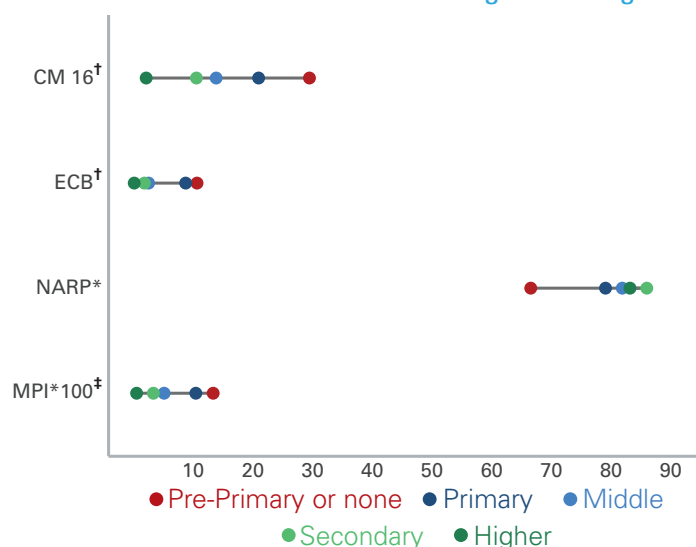
Status of factors associated with marriage before age 18 by area



- By area, inequalities are observed in literacy among young women, net attendance ratio (primary) and multidimensional poverty index. In all respects, the poor condition exists in rural areas.

*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

Status of factors associated with marriage before age 18 by education

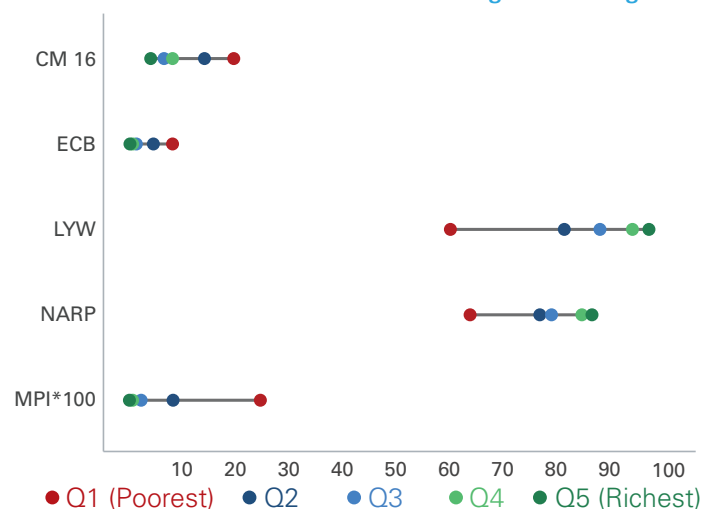


*Mother's education † Women's education ‡ Household head's education

*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

- By women education, a disparity is found in early childbearing (20-24 years). Higher prevalence is found among women who have no or pre-school education.
- Children whose mothers have no or pre-school education are less likely to attend primary school than those whose mothers have primary or above education.
- By household head's education, inequality is observed in multidimensional poverty index; the highest poverty score exists in the households where household heads have no or pre-school education.

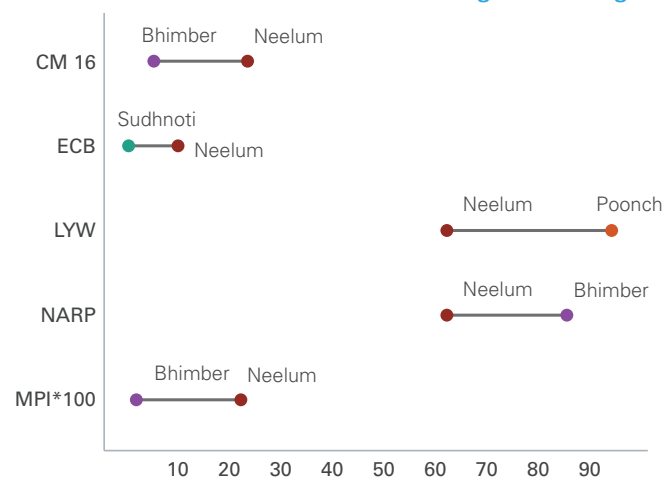
Status of factors associated with marriage before age 18 by wealth quintile



*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

- By wealth quintile, a minor disparity is found in early childbearing (20-24 years).
- Wealth disparity is found high in literacy among young women; the worst situation is observed in the poorest quintile.
- By wealth quintile, moderate inequalities exist in net attendance ratio (primary) and multidimensional poverty index. In regard to both indicators, the worst condition prevails in the poorest quintile.

Status of factors associated with marriage before age 18 by district



*MPI expressed in proportion has been converted to percentage to make it consistent with other indicators of same graph expressed in percentage.

- Neelum has the highest percentage of early childbearing (20-24 years) and it has the highest score of multidimensional poverty index.
- Also, Neelum has the poorest prevalence in regard to literacy among young women and net attendance ratio (primary).

Equity Trackers					
Inequality status of marriage before age 18 and the tracers					
Tracers	CM 18	ECB 20-24	LYW	NARP	MPI
Wealth					
Q5/Q1 Ratio	0.23	0.08	1.61	1.35	0.02
Q5-Q1 Differences	-15.60	-8.00	37.30	22.90	-0.25
Area					
Urban/Rural Ratio	0.40	0.43	1.13	1.11	0.21
Urban-Rural Difference	-7.0	-2.0	11.0	8.3	-0.1
Education					
Secondary/No Education	0.37	0.20	NA	1.29	0.27
Secondary-No Education	-18.9	-8.8	NA	19.4	-0.1

NA: comparable data are not available

Table presents simple measures of inequalities using wealth quintiles, area of residence and level of education. Inequality between two sub-groups is shown by difference and ratio. In case of difference, the higher the difference between two sub-groups, the higher is the inequality between them. In case of value of ratio, the greater the deviation from 1 (ratio being either smaller than 1 or greater than 1), the higher is the inequality between two sub-groups.

Key Messages

- By wealth quintile, higher inequalities are found in early childbearing, literacy among young women, net attendance ratio in primary and multidimensional poverty index (worst prevalence in the poorest quintile).
- For the same indicators, higher urban-rural disparities are found (more deprivation in rural areas).
- High inequalities are found by mother's education with respect to early childbearing, net attendance ratio in primary and multidimensional poverty index (poor condition among children of mothers with no education).

Data sources: Azad Jammu & Kashmir MICS 2020-21, PDHS 2017-18

Map source: Planning & Development Department (P&DD), Government of AJ&K

All maps have been produced using AJ&K MICS 2020-21 data.



**AJ&K Bureau of Statistics,
Planning & Development Department,
Government of AJ&K**