

Pakistan Dalit statistics

Population: According to the 2017 state census, the number of scheduled castes in Pakistan is 849,614. However, the actual number is estimated to be much higher. In District Tharparkar alone the number of scheduled castes is 461,958 as per 2017 census report.

Equality and participation

As many as 74% of Pakistan's Dalits are illiterate.¹

Only 2% of Dalits complete higher secondary school.²

84 % of Dalits are landless.³

77 % of Dalits say they are unable to get a haircut from their local barber.⁴

91,5% of the respondents in a survey of Dalit households believe that no political party regards their problems as important.⁵

Caste and gender justice

90 % of Dalit girls do not attend school.⁶

87 % of Dalit women are illiterate.⁷

0.9 % of Dalit women have studied up to eighth grade.⁸

According to the report released by AWARE (Local NGO) 79 cases of suicides (45 women, 26 men, and 8 children) has been recorded in district Tharparkar in 2020. The majority of people who committed suicide belong to the Dalit community. Tharparkar always faced different issues at different times, such as poor malnutrition, lack of access to health, education and other basic facilities etc. In Tharparkar, 60 % people lives below the poverty line.

Business and human rights

According to one estimate, there are 2.3 million bonded labourers in Pakistan, 80 % of which are Hindus – most of these would be Dalits.⁹ Another estimate says 20 million bonded labourers.¹⁰ 58 % of Dalits say that they get paid less than Muslims and dominant caste Hindus.¹¹ More than 85 % of Dalits are paid far less than minimum wages.¹²

¹https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf

²https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf

³https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf

⁴https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf

⁵https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf

⁶<https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Caste-and-Gender-Justice-Low-Res2.pdf>

⁷<http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/LongBehindSchedule.pdf>

⁸<http://www.dalits.nl/pdf/LongBehindSchedule.pdf>

⁹<https://www.dawn.com/news/1186830>

¹⁰<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/examining-brick-kiln-slavery-in-pakistan-jennifer-philipp-tbs/>

¹¹https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf

¹²https://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/user_folder/pdf/Old_files/asia/pdf/FACTSHEET_PAKISTAN.pdf