

# **Language, Learning & Enrollment in Pakistan**

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# Pakistan...Setting the Context

- **Total Population= 170 million (6<sup>th</sup> most populous country)**
- **Half of population below age of 18**
- **UNDP Human Development Index= 144/178 with 40 m people below poverty line**
- **Agrarian Economic base**
- **Rural-Urban Dichotomy**
- **Literacy rate= 53%**
  - **Male= 65%**
  - **Female= 40%**

# Setting the Education Context

Looking at 5-9 Age Group	National Level Statistics
Enrolled in Public sector schools	64%
Make it to 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	57%
Pass on to Middle schools	40%
Transition to High level	27%
Children who never attend school	41%
	Source: NEMIS

# Learning Environment

Missing Facilities	National Level Statistics
Shelter less	11%
Without Drinking Water	26%
Without Electricity	52%
Without Toilets	29%
Without Boundary Walls	30%
	Source: NEMIS

# DEMAND & SUPPLY SIDE FACTORS

## Demand side:-

- Poverty
- Lack of community involvement
- Gender discrimination

## Supply side:-

- Political interference
- Gaps in Policy & Planning
- Financing of Education
- Low Quality Standards
- Poor Learning Environment
- Irrelevance of Curriculum & Textbooks
- System wide leakages

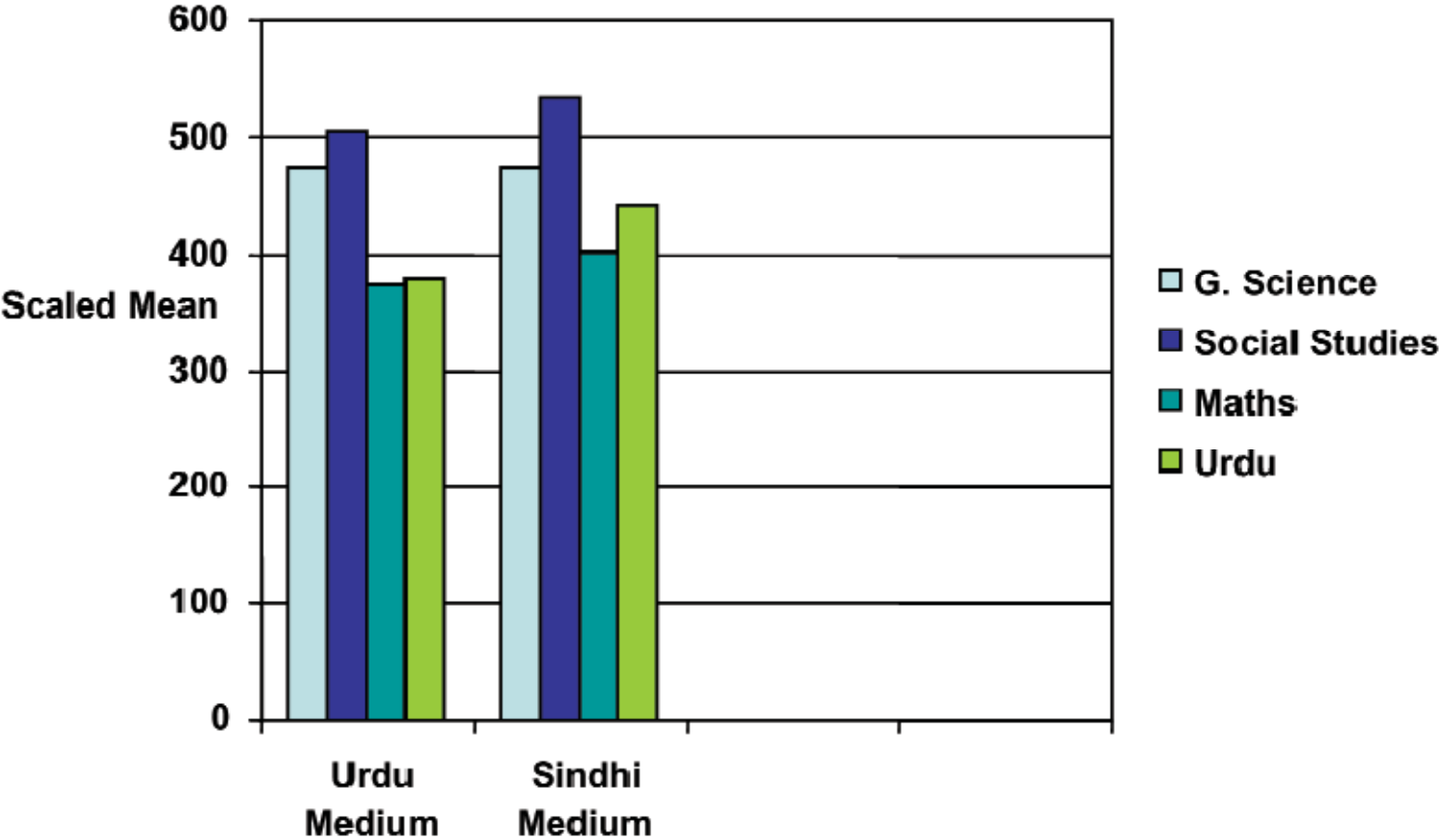
# Bringing Language in the Context

- National Language= Urdu
- Official Language of communication= English
- 4 Main Provinces with 6 major Languages
  - Punjabi (44% population)
  - Pushto (15%)
  - Sindhi (14%)
  - Balochi (8%)
  - Seriki (10%)
  - Urdu (8%)

*With dialects, accents & social connotations the total number is 69*

- Mother tongue debate an old one in Pakistan
- The Quality Angle: Perceptions & Expectations from English Language Teaching in Pakistan
- Intellectual Colonialism: Language of social prestige
- Private sector: The *provider* of Quality education
  - Loss of confidence in Government schools
  - Parental Demand for better education
  - 1 out of 4 primary student attends private school
- ELT: A barrier for children to learn faster & better
- Direct implications for enrolment, retention & transition to higher levels
- Sindh= An example of inclusive quality education

# Grade 4 Students taught in Mother tongue score higher





# Challenges for Pakistan

- The double edged challenge: Access & Quality
- Awareness/perceptions about importance of mother tongue
- Balancing the equation: mother tongue versus English the language of global markets & economy
- Question of Resources
- Political Commitment
- Linguistical/social/cultural Diversity

# Recommendations...

- Role of language for better learning outcomes and quality needs to be *Researched* for evidence-based advocacy
- Demand driven strategies: coming from communities, children & education stakeholders at large
- Debate & Dialogue: Public Eye
- Medium of instruction indicator to be integrated in MDGs & EFA goals & NEPs
- Sustained focus on Capacity Development