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# Improving Girls' Educational Attainment in Pakistan

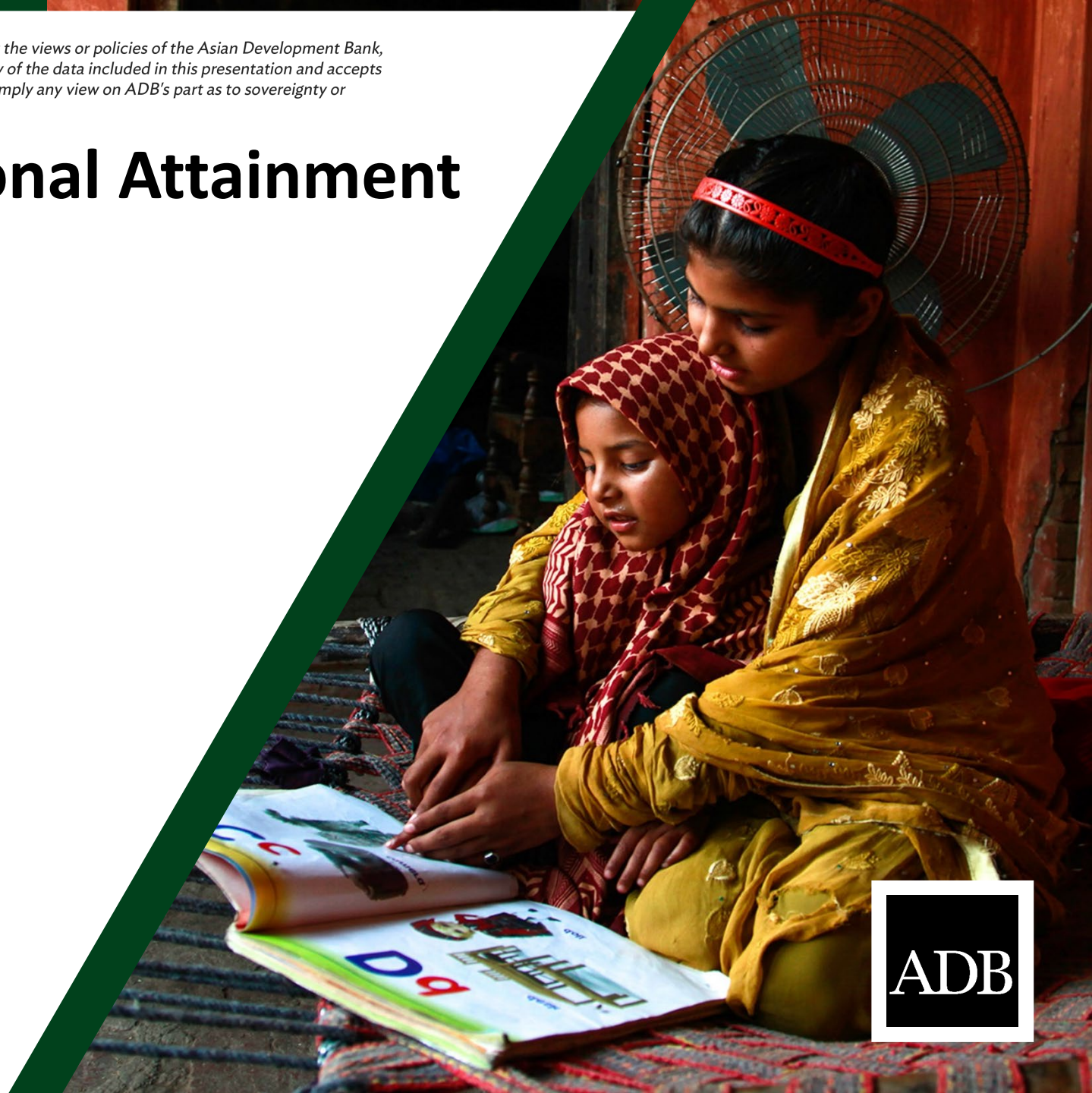
## Gender Sensitive WASH

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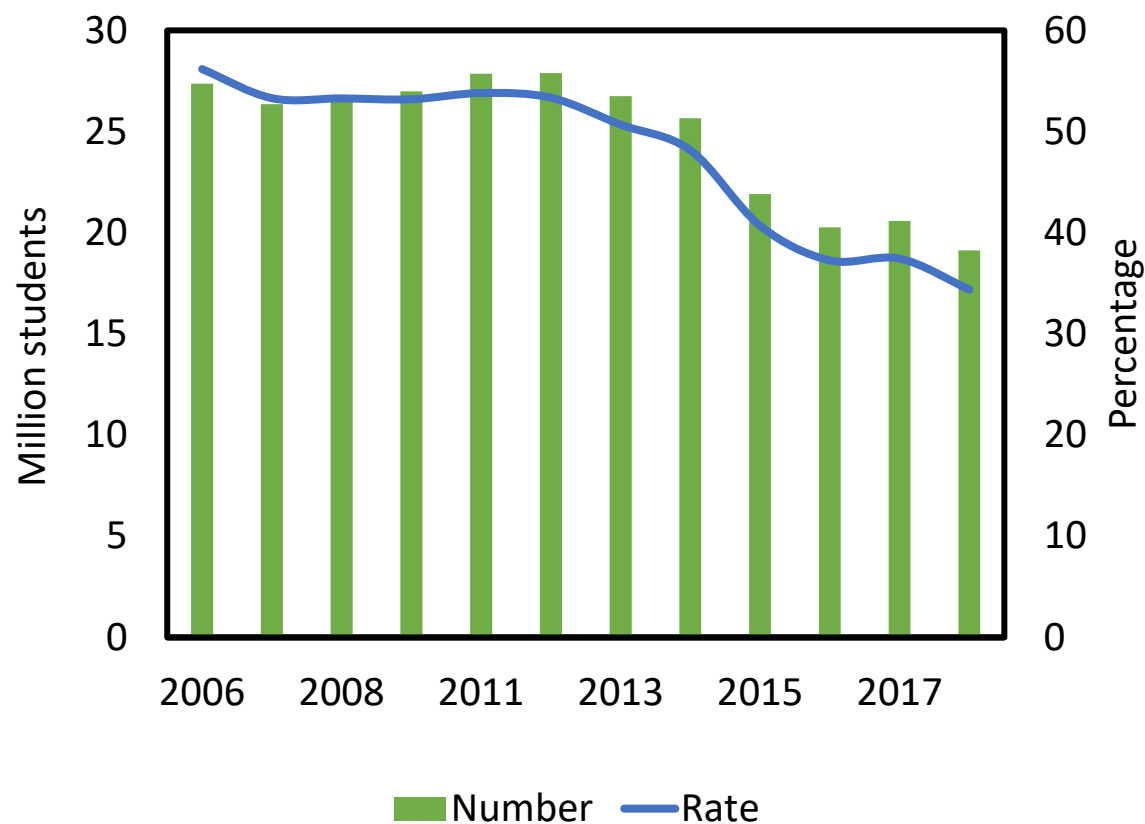
# Challenges of Secondary Education in Pakistan

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- **Pakistan's low labor productivity due to low female labor participation**
- **Low female school enrollment rate especially in rural areas**
- **More than 22.8 million out of school children**  
**UNICEF: Pakistan has the world's second-highest number of out-of-school children with an estimated 22.8 million children aged 5-16 not attending school. This represents 44 per cent of the total population in this age group.**

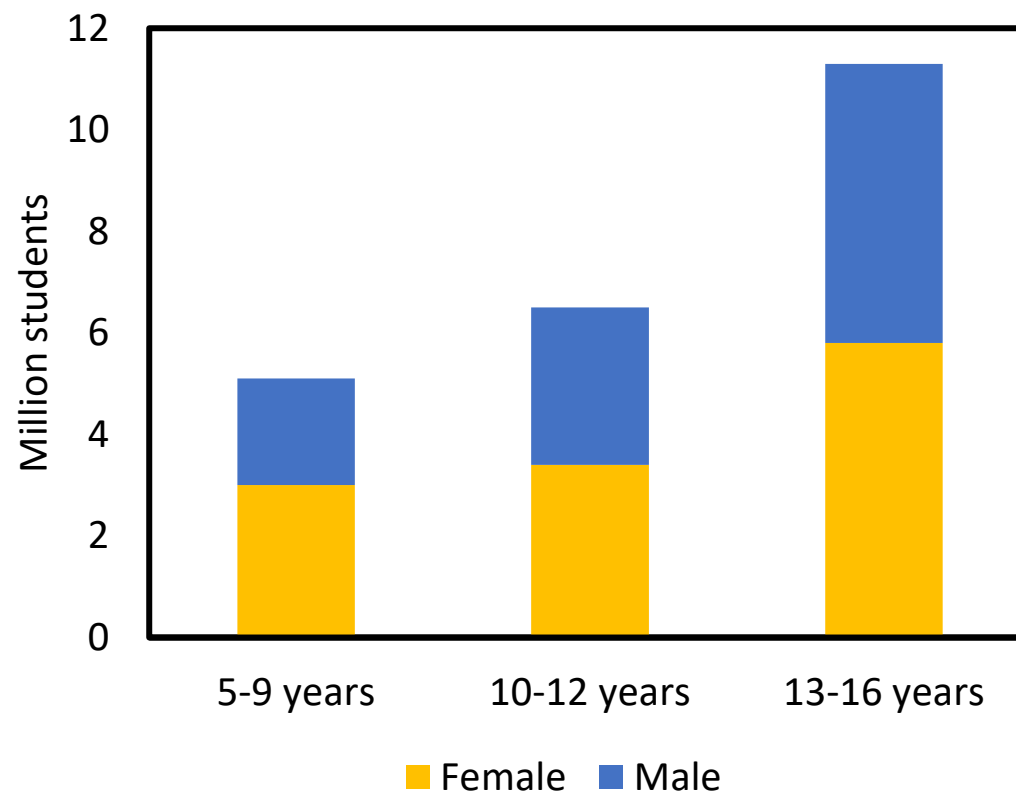
# The number of out-of-school children has been declining but remains big, comprising more females

Number and Rate of Out-of-School Youth, 2006-2018



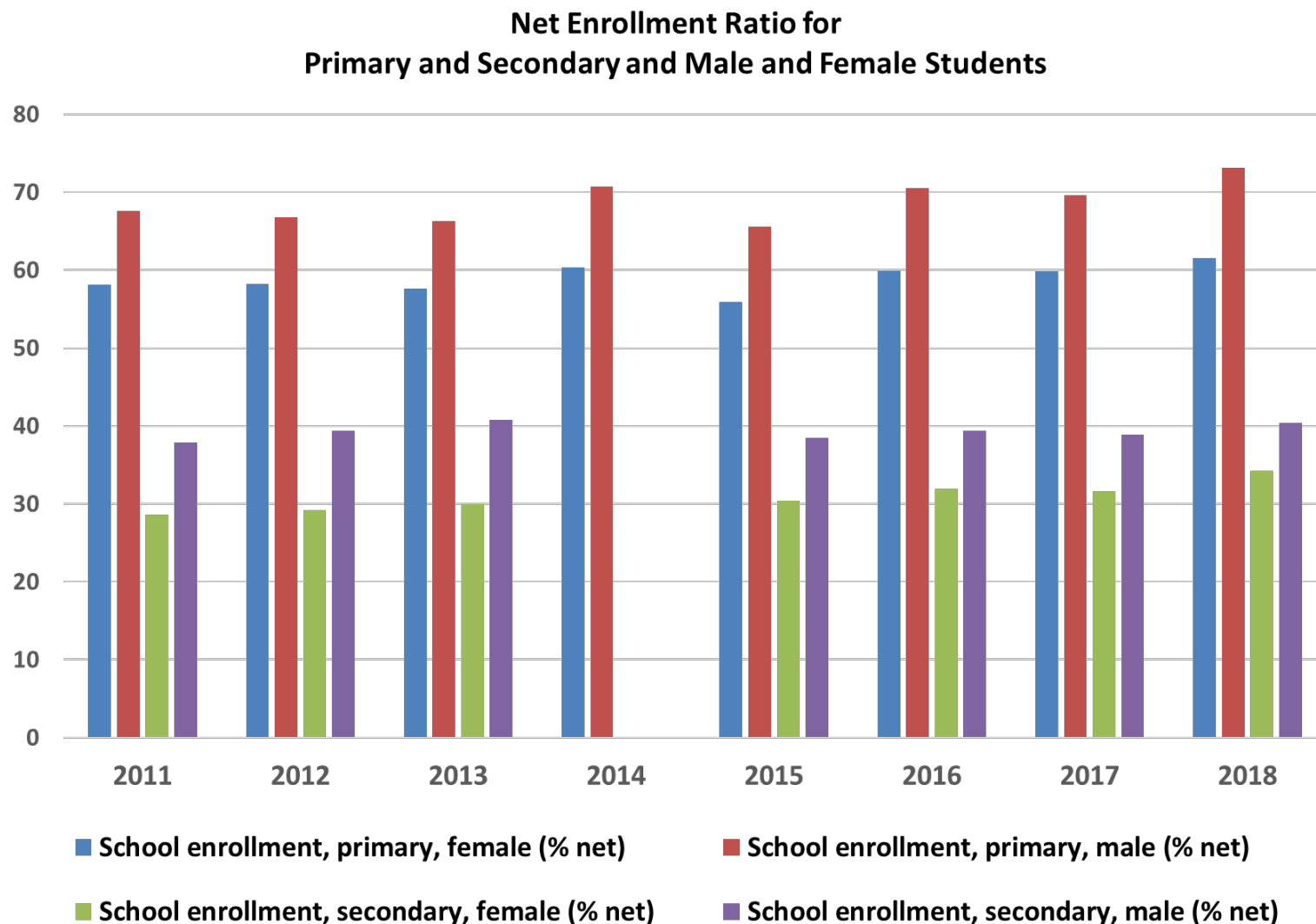
Source: UNESCO UIS (accessed December 2019).

Pakistan's Out-of-School Youth, 2016-2017



Source: Pakistan Education Statistics, 2016-17.

# Stagnant Net Enrollment Ratios.....



Source: WB  
Development  
Indicator

## Causes of out-of-school children: Supply side issues

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- The number of secondary-level schools is inadequate, especially in rural communities. Fewer secondary schools mean that the physical distance and travel time from home to school increases, which is **a major impediments for girls**.
- A non-conducive environment for learning at schools results in low school enrolment and high dropout. **1 in 3 schools lack sanitation facilities in Pakistan**. Lack of toilets with water becomes a major deterrent to continuing schooling at the secondary level as girls reach puberty.
- Public spending on education, for capital and recurrence expenditures, is as low as 3% of Pakistan's gross domestic product (2.9% of GDP in FY2018), which is much lower than in other comparable countries.

## Causes of out-of-school children: Demand side issues

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- **Poverty** is the strongest binding constraint in achieving desired outcomes to universal education in Pakistan.
- **The low educational attainment of parents**, especially mother's education attainment level, is another crucial contributor to low enrolment in schools and low retention rates.
- **The provision of all-girls schools**, especially at the secondary level and higher, can improve enrolment and retention rates in rural communities. In co-educational institutions, schools should provide separate sanitation facilities for girls and well-trained female teachers.

# Policy Recommendations

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## 1. Increasing fiscal outlays for education sector and improving budget absorption rates

- Increase capital and recurrence fiscal expenditure for the education sector
- Increase the number of secondary schools for better access to education
- Improve the quality of education

## 2. Encourage private sector participation in the education sector

- Increase the use of Public-Private Participation for the education sector
- Issue impact bonds and establish outcomes funds

## 3. Use of Conditional Cash Transfer, for the poor households

- Utilize the conditional cash transfer program under Benazir Income Support Programme – expand it to secondary school and nutrition





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