The State of Education in Sindh

- **Half of all children in Sindh are not in school.** There are 12 million children in Sindh between the age of 5 and 16, of which 6.2 million—or 51%—are out of school.

- **More than half of the children out of school are girls.** Of the total number of children not in school in Sindh, 3.4 million—or 56%—are girls.

- **The government supply of education is inadequate.** There is a serious shortage of supply, with 47,394 government schools in Sindh, of which 91% are primary schools and only 1% are higher secondary schools.

- **Too many children in Sindh are dropping out of school.** With poor facilities, crumbling infrastructure and not enough schools, enrolment among both boys and girls falls dramatically after the primary level.

- **Learning outcomes are poor.** Sindh’s children score poorly in reading and mathematics compared to children in the rest of the country.

- **Education spending is not rationalised.** Resources are not allocated according to needs.

- **Where schools do exist, their condition is abysmal.** Across Sindh, 77% of government school buildings are in an ‘unsatisfactory’ condition, according to the Education Department. Nowhere else in the country is this figure more than 50%.

- **Attendance is low.** Elsewhere in the country at least 80% of students attend class regularly but in Sindh school attendance is just 67%—the lowest attendance rate in Pakistan.

- **Ghost schools are a serious problem.** According to the recent survey of non-functional and ghost schools by the Supreme Court of Pakistan, there are at least 6,164 non-functional and ghost schools in Sindh. This means that every 7th school in Sindh is either a ghost school or non-functional.

- **3 out of every 4 non-functional or ghost schools in Pakistan are in Sindh.** Thatta and Tharparkar have the highest number of non-functional and ghost schools in Pakistan (897 and 858 respectively).

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- **Learning outcomes are poor.** Sindh’s children score poorly in reading and mathematics compared to children in the rest of the country.
  - 59% of Class 5 students cannot read a story fluently in Urdu or Sindhi.
  - 75% of Class 5 students cannot read a sentence fluently in English.
  - 71% of Class 5 students cannot do simple two-digit division.

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  - Almost half of all government schools in Sindh are missing the basic facility of a toilet.
  - Three in five government schools in Sindh have no drinking water.
  - One of every three government schools in Sindh is without electricity.
  - Only one in seven government schools in Sindh has a boundary wall.

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