

Situations like the coronavirus pandemic can quickly become a catalyst for social conflict due to misinformation, rumors and fake news, as we've seen in the past. Every day we continue to see more false information shared throughout communities, confusing citizens and leaving them unsure as to who can answer their questions.

The **Pakistan Coronavirus CivicActs Campaign (CCC)** captures rumors and perceptions among communities to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, humanitarian agencies and citizens. By providing the public with facts, these coronavirus bulletins aim to create a better understanding of needs regarding coronavirus and to debunk rumors before they can do more harm.

Current Situation of COVID-19 in Pakistan

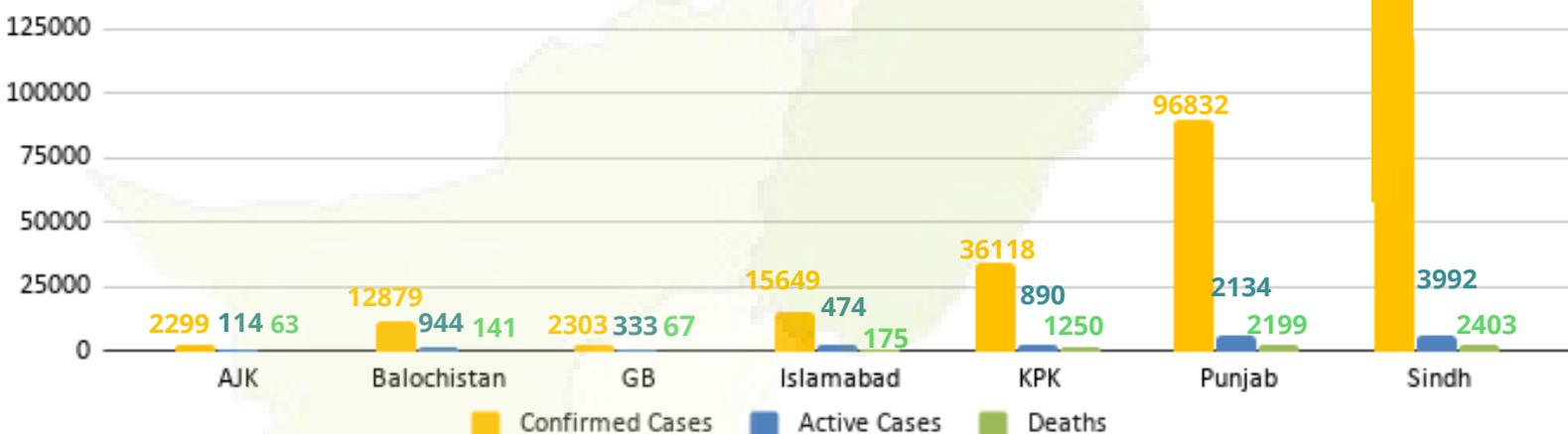
Total Confirmed Cases
296,149

Total Active Cases
8,881

Total Deaths
6,298

Total Recoveries
280,970

COVID-19 Cases status in provinces of Pakistan



To receive our
regular updates
through WhatsApp

1. Add our number **+27 60 080 6146** as a contact.
2. Send the word **"Pakistan"** as a message on WhatsApp.

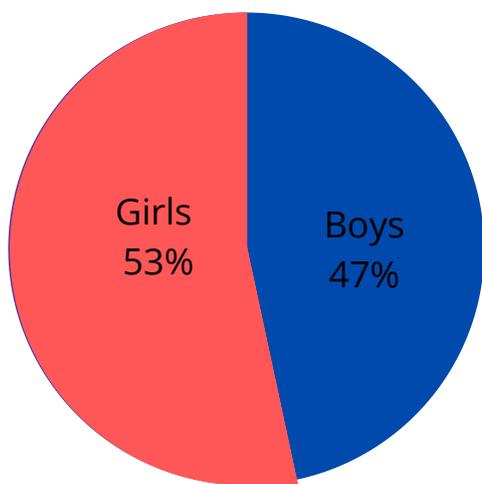


Rise in Cruel Numbers

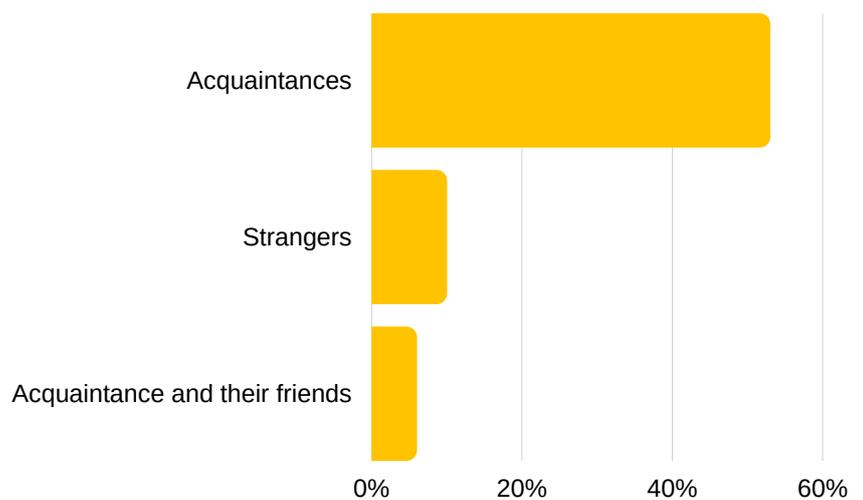
Sahil, an NGO working on child protection since 1996, recently reported that the incidents of child sexual abuse increased by 14% in the first half of 2020 compared to the same period the previous year. The organization has blamed the coronavirus pandemic for the increase in cases, saying that children were abused at home and more than 55% of their abusers were acquaintances.

Sahil's "Six Months Cruel Numbers Report" stated that 1,489 cases of child abuse were reported between January and June 2020 from all four provinces - Islamabad Capital Territory, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan.

**The statistics break down the gender of victims*



**Out of the total number of cases reported the perpetrators were*

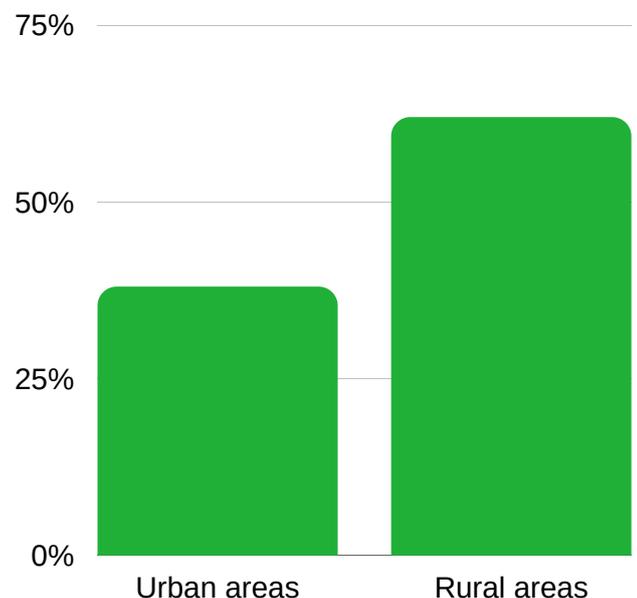


Additionally, many of the children in Pakistan are being forced to work under inhumane conditions. They are being forced to work without adequate food, rest or proper wages.

According to a survey conducted by the Federal Bureau of Statistics and the National Child Labour, approximately 19 million children younger than 14 are working as child labourers in Pakistan and are also subjected to sexual and emotional abuse.

The lack of social security and the increasing gap between the rich and the poor have left many children with no other option except doing hard labour.

**The percentage of cases reported from rural and urban areas*



Rise in Cruel Numbers

A Caged Soul

Zahra, an eight-year-old child, was a domestic worker at a household in Rawalpindi who was brought to a local hospital in an injured state by her employer. According to the police, the suspect admitted that he and his wife had beaten her after she let his "expensive pet parrots escape from their cage", adding that he had a business as a commercial aviary. Both of Zahra's perpetrators were arrested that day. However, the girl passed away due to severe injuries. The first information report stated that Zahra had wounds that depicted that she was sexually abused.



Assaulted by a Cleric

Eight-year-old Yunus from Pakistan's remote northern Kohistan region is one of a group of boys who had been assaulted by a cleric. Yunus' father was a poor laborer who had no formal education but he wanted to educate his son. So he got him admitted to a religious school several hundred kilometers away from his village. Too poor to own a phone, his father went for months without speaking to his son and when the pandemic hit his father told him to stay at the school for a while. Most of the students had left. Only Yunus and a handful of students had stayed behind.

One day when the other students had gone out to wash their clothes, Yunus said he was alone inside the mosque. The cleric grabbed his hand, dragged him into a room and locked the door. The boy was held prisoner for two days, and raped repeatedly until he was so sick the cleric feared he would die and took him to the hospital. The cleric was arrested when the hospital contacted the police.

Bribed by Dolls



When eight-year-old Aleena's mother contacted COVID-19, she was left in the care of her aunt. Being an only child and not having a father she was hesitant towards her male relatives. When she came to live with her aunt, she didn't like being around her uncle and her two cousins and so would always stay alongside her aunt. After three days, the domestic worker saw her uncle handing Aleena a doll

on the porch and telling her that if she became his friend he would bring her more dolls - and to keep this secret from her aunt. Two days later, her aunt went to the hospital to see Aleena's mother. In her absence, her husband told the domestic worker to leave early. Within 5 minutes of leaving, the worker remembered that she had left her food container at the house. When she went in to get it, she heard the little girl screaming from the room. She opened the door and found the girl being attacked. She yelled for the neighbors who called the police. Aleena's uncle was then arrested for attempted rape.

Rise in Cruel Numbers

What steps can the government take

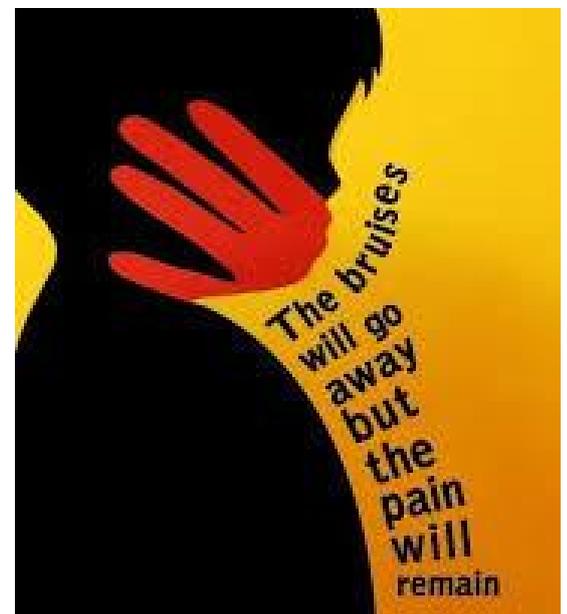
The government needs to take immediate action against this heinous crime. There is a need to establish child protection centers and child friendly courts. Effective legislation, along with the implementation of existing child protection laws, is also needed. Furthermore, the code of ethics needs to be followed while reporting Child Sexual Abuse (CSA cases).

Professionals working on the frontline with children should be sensitized to appropriately respond to CSA in terms of prevention, detection and management. Additionally, there is a need to counsel and educate the public to report CSA cases by conducting awareness campaigns across the country.

What steps can the parents take

With the situation impacting various social classes, it's important for parents to know that the pandemic won't prevent child abuse. However, their efforts can. Being vulnerable, it's important for parents to keep their children in sight at all times. Establish a bond with children in which they can share anything with their parents easily. Educate them about what bad touches are, even if the perpetrator is a relative.

It's important to teach children their rights. When children are taught that they are special and have the right to be safe, they are less likely to believe that abuse is their fault, and also more likely to report a perpetrator.



Coronavirus symptoms Include:

- Fever
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Tiredness

Contact your doctor or the coronavirus helpline at



1166



Where can I get tested?

Karachi

Aga Khan University Hospital

Stadium Road, Karachi

Civil Hospital

DOW University Campus
Mission Road, Karachi

Dow Medical Hospital

Ojha Campus
Suparco Road, Karachi

Indus Hospital

Opposite Darussalam Society, Korangi
Crossing, Karachi

Lahore

Punjab AIDS Lab

PACP Complex
6 - Birdwood Road, Lahore

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Hospital

7A Block R-3 M.A. Johar Town, Lahore

Islamabad

National Institute of Health

Park Road
Chak Shahzad, Islamabad

Rawalpindi

Armed Forces Institute of

Pathology

Range Road
CMH Complex, Rawalpindi

Multan

Nishtar Hospital

Nishtar Road,
Justice Hamid Colony, Multan

For more cities visit the

[COVID-19 Health Advisory Platform](#)

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