



**CGPA**

CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE  
AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

**Gender Disparities in  
Disability-Insignia CNIC  
Registration Evidence from  
NADRA Data in Khyber  
Pakhtunkhwa 2023-2025**

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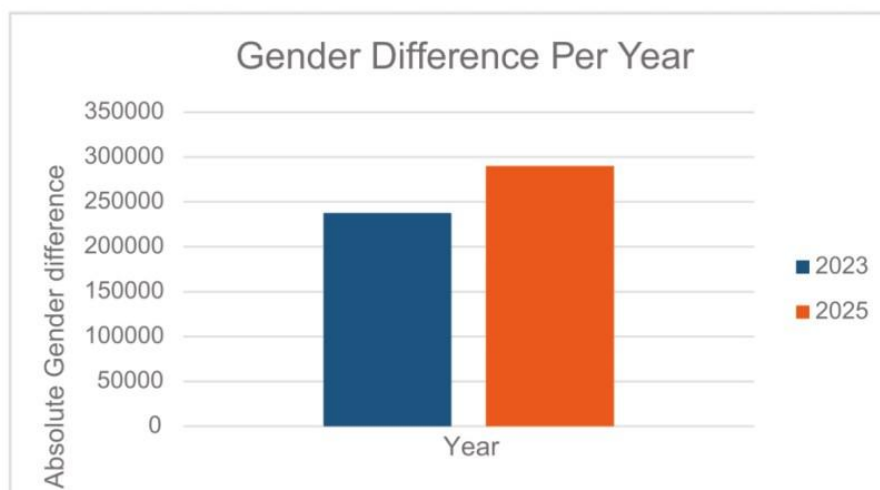
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) has carried out this study titled Gender Disparities in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registration Evidence from NADRA Data in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 2023-2025 to assess whether expansion in disability-insignia CNIC registration has translated into reduced gender disparity for women with disabilities. The analysis draws exclusively on official NADRA data obtained under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and compares two reference points, 2023 and 2025, at both national level and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The findings are further contextualised against the Election Commission of Pakistan's officially reported reduction in the gender gap on electoral rolls.

At the national level, disability-insignia CNIC registrations increased from 552267 in 2023 to 821107 in 2025. In 2023, the absolute gender difference between men and women stood at 237501, corresponding to a differential percentage of 43 percent. By 2025, despite substantial expansion in overall registrations, the absolute gender difference widened to 290139, while the differential percentage declined to 35 percent. These figures show that although proportional disparity narrowed, absolute exclusion of women with disabilities increased as coverage expanded nationwide.



National comparison showing absolute gender differences in disability insignia CNIC registrations for 2023 and 2025.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reflects the same structural pattern. In 2023, the province recorded a total of 168096 persons with disabilities holding disability-insignia CNICs, with an absolute gender difference of 64812 and a differential percentage of 39 percent. By 2025, total registrations increased to 221951 persons with disabilities, yet the absolute gender difference widened to 69247, while the differential percentage declined to 31 percent. This indicates that growth in registration occurred without correction of underlying gender imbalance and instead coincided with deepening absolute disparity.

Placed alongside national electoral trends, these findings reveal a clear policy disconnect. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan's press release issued in December 2025, the gender gap on electoral rolls declined from 11.8 percent in 2018 to 7.1 percent by December 2025 following sustained institutional focus, targeted CNIC outreach, and structured monitoring. No comparable reduction is observed in disability-insignia CNIC data. Nationally and in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, absolute gender differences increased between 2023 and 2025 despite overall expansion in

registrations, demonstrating the absence of equivalent gender-responsive administrative attention for women with disabilities.

Disability-type analysis within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa shows that gender disparity varies by impairment category but remains entrenched. Hearing impairments represent the most gender-exclusionary category, recording the highest differential percentages in both years. Physical impairments account for the largest absolute gender differences due to their scale and therefore drive overall provincial disparity. Blindness shows moderate narrowing of differential percentages without eliminating absolute gaps, while intellectual disabilities display the lowest differential percentages and the smallest absolute differences, indicating comparatively fewer gender-specific barriers.

District-level analysis confirms that gender disparity is systemic rather than localised. No district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa achieves gender parity when all disability categories are combined. High-volume districts such as Swat, Peshawar, Mardan, and Mansehra concentrate the largest absolute gender differences, while districts with smaller numerical gaps do so primarily due to limited overall registration rather than equitable access. Across districts, differential percentages decline modestly over time, but absolute gender differences persist and, in most cases, increase.

Overall, the evidence shows that progress in legal identity for women does not automatically extend to women with disabilities. Without explicit institutional ownership and gender-responsive design, continued expansion of disability-insignia CNIC registration risks entrenching existing exclusion and foreclosing a critical opportunity for corrective, data-driven reform.

Based on this evidence, the study recommends that the Gender and Social Inclusion Wing of the Election Commission of Pakistan formally extend its monitoring framework to explicitly track women with disabilities, aligned with its existing work on women's CNIC ownership and voter registration. It further recommends that the Election Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with NADRA and civil society organisations, undertake targeted registration initiatives for persons with disabilities, with explicit prioritisation of women with disabilities, drawing on outreach models used in post-2018 women-focused campaigns. To strengthen transparency and accountability, NADRA should publish disability-insignia CNIC data on a periodic basis, disaggregated by gender, disability type, and district. The study also recommends revision of legacy disability terminology in administrative records to align with people-first, rights-based language while maintaining data continuity. Registration efforts should prioritise disability categories and districts where gender gaps are most severe, particularly hearing impairments and high-volume districts.

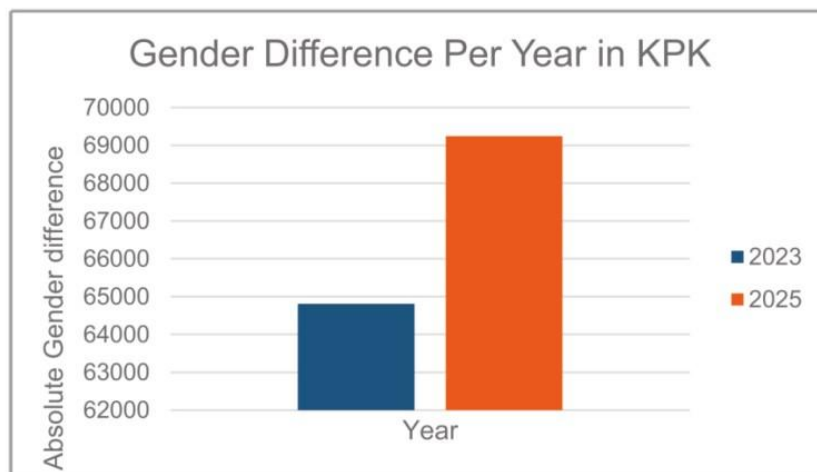
## RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

Recent national data demonstrates that, despite progress in reducing the general gender gap in CNIC ownership and voter registration, women with disabilities remain significantly under-represented within disability-insignia CNIC systems. Nationwide NADRA figures show that out of a total of 592072 disability-insignia CNICs issued, 420715 were issued to men, while only 171357 were issued to women. This results in an absolute difference of 249358 CNICs, with men accounting for 71.06 percent and women 28.94 percent of all disability-insignia CNICs nationwide, reflecting a gender disparity of 42.12 percent. These figures indicate that disability-specific registration systems remain heavily skewed against women at the national level.

This national pattern stands in contrast to documented progress in reducing gender gaps among women in the general population. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan, the gender gap on electoral rolls declined from 11.8 percent in 2018 to 7.1 percent by December 2025, as reported in the ECP press release issued on December 18, 2025. The same release notes that women's voter registration increased at a faster rate than men's over this period, reflecting the impact of targeted CNIC and voter registration initiatives under the ECP's gender and social inclusion framework. These official figures demonstrate that focused administrative and policy interventions can produce measurable reductions in gender disparity when legal identity is prioritised.

However, disability-insignia CNIC data shows that comparable progress has not been achieved for women with disabilities. At the national level, disability-insignia CNIC registrations increased from 552267 in 2023 to 821107 in 2025. In 2023, the absolute gender difference between men and women stood at 237501, corresponding to a differential percentage of 43.00 percent. By 2025, despite substantial expansion in overall registrations, the absolute gender difference widened to 290139, while the differential percentage declined to 35.34 percent. These figures show that although proportional disparity narrowed, absolute exclusion of women with disabilities increased as coverage expanded nationwide.

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Provincial comparison illustrating changes in absolute gender disparities in disability-insignia CNIC registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa between 2023 & 2025.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reflects the same structural pattern. In 2023, the province recorded a total of 168096 persons with disabilities holding disability-insignia CNICs, with an absolute gender difference of 64812 and a differential percentage of 38.56 percent. By 2025, total registrations increased to 221951 persons with disabilities, yet the absolute gender difference widened to 69247, while the differential percentage declined to 31.20 percent.

The juxtaposition of these trends is critical. While nationwide gender gaps in CNIC ownership and voter registration among women in general have narrowed through sustained institutional focus, women with disabilities remain disproportionately excluded from disability-specific registration systems. Disability-insignia CNIC registration has not received comparable policy attention, civil society advocacy, or gender-responsive administrative outreach, resulting in continued invisibility of women with disabilities within official data systems.

It is in this context that the Centre for Governance and Public Accountability commissioned this study. By drawing on authenticated NADRA data obtained under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017, the study seeks to quantify the scale of gender disparity affecting women with disabilities, examine how these disparities vary across districts and disability categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and assess whether current trends indicate convergence or persistent exclusion. Situating provincial findings alongside national disability-insignia and electoral gender-gap figures allows the study to highlight a clear and evidence-based conclusion: progress in women's legal identity does not automatically extend to women with disabilities, and targeted action is required to close this gap.

## METHODOLOGY

This report is grounded in official administrative data obtained from NADRA under the Right of Access to Information Act 2017. The data was formally requested from NADRA and provided through the statutory right-to-information mechanism, ensuring that all figures analysed originate from an authenticated government source and carry official standing.

The dataset supplied by NADRA consists of province- and district-wise counts of persons with disabilities holding disability-insignia CNICs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The data is disaggregated by gender and by disability category, including blindness, hearing impairments, intellectual disabilities as recorded in NADRA classifications, and physical impairments. The analysis relies exclusively on this disclosed dataset without supplementation from secondary sources.

Two fixed reference dates were used for temporal analysis: September 01, 2023 and December 31, 2025. These dates correspond to the official data snapshots provided by NADRA under the information request. All comparisons over time are based on direct comparison of recorded values at these two points.

Data processing involved systematic verification of internal consistency across district totals, gender subtotals, and disability-category aggregates. Calculations of totals, shares, differentials, and changes were derived directly from the disclosed figures. Gender composition, absolute gaps, and proportional differences were computed to assess patterns of inclusion and disparity within the registration system.

Analysis was conducted at multiple levels. Provincial-level analysis was used to identify overall trends in registration growth and gender composition. Disability-type analysis examined variations in gender representation across different impairment categories. District-level analysis was undertaken to understand geographic distribution, concentration patterns, and variation in gender disparities across districts.

The terminology used in the original NADRA dataset was retained for analytical accuracy where necessary, while narrative sections of the report adopt contemporary, rights-based language for clarity and alignment with current standards. No reinterpretation or reclassification of categories was applied to the data.

The methodology reflects established practice for analysing administrative data disclosed under right-to-information frameworks. It emphasises use of official NADRA records, transparency of source, fidelity to disclosed figures, and clear presentation of observed patterns to support evidence-based discussion on disability registration and gender inclusion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The methodology reflects established practice for analysing administrative data disclosed under right-to-information frameworks. It emphasises use of official NADRA records, transparency of source, fidelity to disclosed figures, and clear presentation of observed patterns to support evidence-based discussion on disability registration and gender inclusion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are to systematically analyse disability-insignia CNIC data disclosed by NADRA in order to generate evidence-based insights on disability identification and gender inclusion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The study aims to examine the overall scale and growth of disability-insignia CNIC registrations over time, using two official reference points to assess changes in coverage at the provincial level.

The objectives of this study are to systematically analyse disability-insignia CNIC data disclosed by NADRA in order to generate evidence-based insights on disability identification and gender inclusion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The analysis seeks to identify how gender disparities vary across different disability categories, including physical impairments, intellectual disabilities, blindness, and hearing impairments, and to determine which categories exhibit the widest and narrowest gaps.

Another objective is to examine district-level variation in disability registration, with specific focus on how gender disparities manifest across districts with differing population size, administrative reach, and registration volumes.

The study further aims to distinguish between absolute gender gaps and proportional differences in order to capture both the scale and intensity of disparity, recognising that these measures convey different dimensions of exclusion.

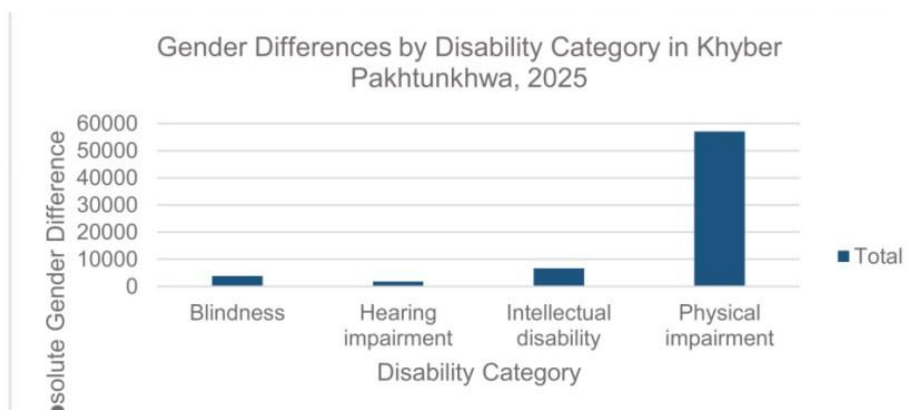
An additional objective is to assess whether growth in disability-insignia CNIC registrations has contributed to narrowing gender disparities or whether expansion has occurred without substantive correction of imbalance.

Finally, the study aims to provide an evidence base to inform policy dialogue, programme design, and administrative reforms related to disability identification and gender inclusion, grounded strictly in officially disclosed NADRA data for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Key Trends Emerging from Disability-Insignia CNIC Data in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section highlights the most significant trends emerging from the NADRA disability-insignia CNIC dataset, with particular focus on gender gaps, structural disparities, and their evolution over time.

1. Total registrations of persons with disabilities increased substantially between September 01, 2023 and December 31, 2025, rising from 168096 to 221951. This expansion indicates improved overall coverage of disability-insignia CNICs at the provincial level.
2. Despite overall growth, men consistently dominated registrations. Men increased from 116454 to 145599, while women increased from 51642 to 76352, resulting in a widening absolute gender gap from 64812 to 69247.
3. Gender disparity narrowed in proportional terms but remained significant. Women's share increased from approximately 30.7 percent in 2023 to 34.4 percent in 2025, while the percentage gender differential declined from 39 percent to 31 percent, indicating relative but not substantive improvement.
4. Physical impairments accounted for the largest share of registrations and drove most overall growth. Registrations increased from 136794 to 172570, with men rising from 96037 to 114788 and women from 40757 to 57782. This category alone produced an absolute gender gap of 57006 in 2025.
5. Hearing impairments emerged as the most gender-exclusionary disability category. By December 31, 2025, 7563 men were registered compared to only 1761 women, with women comprising just 18.88 percent of registrations in this category.
6. Blindness showed moderate growth with worsening proportional gender balance. Total registrations increased from 9,915 to 12,161, but women's share declined from 37.49 percent in 2023 to 31.22 percent in 2025, with men continuing to outnumber women across all districts.
7. Intellectual disabilities displayed a comparatively narrower gender gap relative to total volume. Registrations increased from 15,249 to 29,657. While women's absolute numbers rose, their proportional share declined from 27.04 percent to 22.53 percent, and provincial parity was not achieved.



Comparison of absolute gender differences across major disability categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for 2025

8. District-level analysis revealed concentration of absolute gender gaps in high-volume districts. Peshawar recorded a gap of 7,264, followed by Mardan at 4,755, Swat at 4,488, and Mansehra at 3,275, indicating that higher registration volumes amplify numerical gender disparities.
9. Districts with smaller gender gaps were primarily low-coverage districts. Kolai Pallas, Lower Kohistan, Kohistan, and Tor Ghar recorded narrow numerical gaps due to very low overall registrations rather than equitable access for women.
10. Across all districts and disability categories combined, no district achieved gender parity. Women remained under-represented in every geographic and impairment category, confirming that observed disparities are systemic rather than isolated.
11. Growth in registrations benefited women in absolute numbers, particularly in physical and intellectual disabilities, but did not keep pace with growth among men across most categories.
12. Taken together, the data shows that while disability-insignia CNIC coverage expanded significantly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, structural gender disparities persist. Without targeted, gender-responsive adjustments, continued expansion is likely to reproduce existing patterns of under-representation of women with disabilities rather than reduce them.

## **Gender Composition of Persons with Disabilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – September 01, 2023 and December 31, 2025**

This section outlines the gender composition of persons with disabilities holding disability-insignia CNICs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and how it changed over time.

1. As of September 01, 2023, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 168096 persons with disabilities, including 116454 men and 51642 women.
2. Women constituted approximately 30.7 percent of the total registered population of persons with disabilities in September 2023, while men accounted for 69.3 percent.
3. By December 31, 2025, total registrations increased to 221951 persons with disabilities, comprising 145599 men and 76352 women.
4. Women's proportional share declined to 34.41 percent, whereas men's share increased to 65.59 percent, despite absolute growth for both groups.
5. Overall registrations increased by 53855 persons between September 01, 2023 and December 31, 2025.
6. Men accounted for an increase of 29145 registrations, while women accounted for an increase of 24710 registrations.
7. Although a substantial number of women with disabilities entered the registration system, the pace of increase among men remained higher.
8. Consequently, expansion in disability-insignia CNIC coverage did not translate into improved gender balance and instead coincided with a decline in women's relative representation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Overall Gender Disparity in Disability-Insignia CNICs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section assesses how the numerical and proportional gap between men and women with disabilities holding CNICs has shifted over the reference period.

1. On September 01, 2023, disability-insignia CNIC records showed 116454 men and 51642 women, producing a gender gap of 64812 persons.
2. At this stage, women accounted for less than one third of all registered persons with disabilities, underscoring a clear imbalance in registration outcomes.
3. By December 31, 2025, registrations expanded to 145599 men and 76352 women, increasing the absolute gap to 69247.
4. The numerical difference between men and women therefore grew by 4435 over the period, despite rising registrations among women.
5. At the same time, the gender differential expressed in percentage terms declined from 39 percent to 31 percent.
6. This indicates that while women's registrations increased, the overall pool expanded at a scale that reduced proportional disparity without eliminating imbalance.
7. Men continued to represent the dominant share of registered persons with disabilities in every district and disability category.
8. Taken together, the data shows a dual trend in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where gender disparity narrowed in relative terms but widened in absolute numbers, leaving women with disabilities structurally under-represented in CNIC registration outcomes.

## Provincial Gender Trends across Disability Categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section examines provincial-level gender patterns across disability categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, analysing how registration trends for women and men have evolved over time and what these shifts reveal about relative access to disability-insignia CNIC registration.

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This section reviews changes over time in the registration of persons with blindness, with specific attention to gender differences at the provincial level.

1. On September 01, 2023, disability-insignia CNIC data recorded 9915 persons with blindness in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, consisting of 6816 men and 3099 women.
2. Women therefore represented 37.49 percent of all registered persons with blindness at the start of the period.
3. By December 31, 2025, the total number of registered persons with blindness increased to 12161, including 7979 men and 4182 women.
4. Women's share rose to 31.22 percent, indicating a modest improvement in proportional representation.
5. In absolute terms, registrations of persons with blindness increased by 2246 over the period.
6. The number of men with blindness increased by 1,163, while women with blindness increased by 1,083.
7. Despite this balanced growth, men continued to constitute the larger share of registered persons with blindness across the province.
8. Overall, the data shows that while gender disparity among persons with blindness narrowed slightly in proportional terms, women remained under-represented in CNIC registration outcomes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **Provincial Trends in Hearing Impairments by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section examines changes in CNIC registration for persons with hearing impairments over time, with emphasis on gender-based differences at the provincial level.

1. On September 01, 2023, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 7830 persons with hearing impairments holding disability-insignia CNICs, including 6138 men and 1692 women.
2. At that point, women constituted 21.60 percent of all registered persons with hearing impairments, indicating a pronounced gender imbalance from the outset.

3. By December 31, 2025, total registrations for hearing impairments increased to 9324, reflecting overall growth in this category.
4. Of these, 7563 were men and 1761 were women, showing that growth among women was minimal compared to men.
5. Over the full period, registrations for men with hearing impairments increased by 1425, while women increased by only 69.
6. As a result, women's proportional share declined further to 18.88 percent by December 31, 2025.
7. Unlike other disability categories, growth in hearing impairment registrations was overwhelmingly concentrated among men.
8. The data therefore indicates that hearing impairments represent the most gender-exclusionary disability category within CNIC registration outcomes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Provincial Trends in Intellectual Disabilities by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section analyses how registrations of persons with intellectual disabilities changed over time and how gender patterns evolved within this category.

1. At the start of the period on September 01, 2023, 15249 persons with intellectual disabilities were registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including 9686 men and 5563 women.
2. Women therefore represented 36.48 percent of all registered persons with intellectual disabilities at that point.
3. By December 31, 2025, the total number of registrations in this category rose sharply to 29657, indicating substantial expansion.
4. Of the 2025 total, 18170 were men and 11487 were women, showing strong growth for both genders.
5. Registrations increased by 14408 persons overall between the two dates, making intellectual disabilities one of the fastest-growing categories.
6. Men accounted for an increase of 8484, while women increased by 5924, reflecting significant but unequal growth.
7. Despite men continuing to outnumber women in absolute terms, women's proportional share improved to 38.74 percent by December 31, 2025.
8. Compared to other disability categories, intellectual disabilities displayed the narrowest gender gap and the most balanced growth pattern in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Provincial Trends in Physical Impairments by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section reviews changes in CNIC registration for persons with physical impairments, which constitute the largest disability category, and examines how gender patterns shifted over time.

1. On September 01, 2023, 136794 persons with physical impairments were registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including 96037 men and 40757 women.
2. At this point, women accounted for 29.79 percent of all registered persons with physical impairments, reflecting a substantial gender gap at baseline.
3. By December 31, 2025, registrations increased to 172570 persons with physical impairments, marking the largest absolute growth among all disability categories.
4. Of this total, 114788 were men and 57782 were women, indicating expansion for both groups.
5. Overall registrations for physical impairments increased by 35776 during the period.
6. Men accounted for an increase of 18751, while women increased by 17025, resulting in near-parallel numerical growth.
7. Women's proportional share improved to 33.49 percent by December 31, 2025, signalling a narrowing of the gender gap within this category.
8. Despite this improvement, men continued to comprise the majority of registered persons with physical impairments, ensuring that this category remained a major driver of overall gender disparity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Comparative Analysis of Disability Categories by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section compares how gender disparities differ across major disability categories, highlighting which impairments show wider or narrower gaps in CNIC registration.

1. Physical impairments accounted for the largest share of registered persons with disabilities in both reference periods, increasing from 136794 in 2023 to 172570 in 2025, and therefore exerted the strongest influence on overall gender patterns.
2. Within this category, women's share rose from 29.79 percent to 33.49 percent, indicating some narrowing of disparity, though men continued to dominate registrations in absolute terms.
3. Hearing impairments displayed the most pronounced gender imbalance, with women's representation falling from 21.60 percent in 2023 to 18.88 percent in 2025, despite overall growth in registrations.
4. Blindness showed moderate gender gaps, with women's share improving from 31.24 percent to 34.41 percent, reflecting balanced numerical growth but continued male majority.
5. Intellectual disabilities stood out for comparatively stronger inclusion of women, as women's share increased from 36.48 percent to 38.74 percent over the period.
6. In absolute terms, intellectual disabilities recorded the fastest growth, rising from 15249 to 29657, with substantial increases for both men and women.
7. The contrast between categories indicates that gender disparity is not uniform across disability types but varies significantly by impairment.
8. Overall, hearing impairments and physical impairments contributed most to persistent gender imbalance, while intellectual disabilities showed the most progress toward proportional balance in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Growth in Total Disability-Insignia CNIC Registrations by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section summarises overall growth in disability-insignia CNIC registrations and assesses how this expansion was distributed between men and women.

1. Between September 01, 2023 and December 31, 2025, total registrations increased from 168096 to 221951, reflecting an overall growth of 53855 persons.
2. Of this increase, 29145 registrations were attributable to men, while 24710 registrations were attributable to women.

3. Men therefore accounted for a larger share of total growth, despite substantial numerical gains among women.
4. Growth occurred across all disability categories, but the scale of increase varied significantly by impairment type and gender.
5. The largest numerical expansion occurred within physical impairments, followed by intellectual disabilities, shaping overall provincial trends.
6. Although women's registrations increased in absolute terms, their rate of increase did not match that of men across most categories.
7. As a result, overall expansion reduced gender disparity in percentage terms but did not eliminate imbalance in absolute numbers.
8. The growth pattern indicates that increased coverage alone is insufficient to correct underlying gender disparities in disability-insignia CNIC registration outcomes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

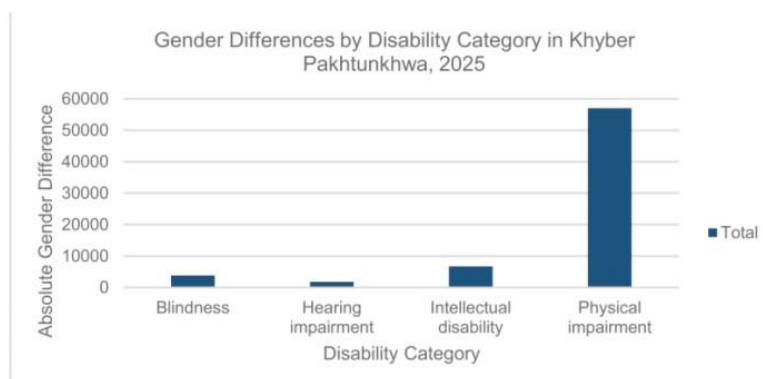
## District-Wise Distribution of Persons with Disabilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section presents how registered persons with disabilities are distributed across districts, highlighting concentration patterns and geographic variation.

1. As of December 31, 2025, the highest totals were recorded in Peshawar with 17144 persons with disabilities, followed by Swat with 14279 and Mardan with 11193.
2. Other districts with large registered populations included Charsadda with 9849, Swabi with 9832, and Mansehra with 9196, indicating concentration in major urban and settled areas.
3. Mid-range registration volumes were observed in Lower Dir with 6725, Dera Ismail Khan with 6391, Khyber with 6259, Karak with 5992, and Malakand P Area with 5409.
4. Abbottabad also fell within this mid-range, recording 5181 persons with disabilities.
5. Markedly lower totals were recorded in mountainous and recently merged districts, including Kolai Pallas with 49, Lower Kohistan with 138, Kohistan with 179, and Tor Ghar with 247.
6. Upper Chitral recorded 733 persons with disabilities, remaining significantly below the provincial district average.
7. The contrast between high-volume and low-volume districts reflects uneven administrative reach and access to CNIC registration services.
8. Overall, disability-insignia CNIC registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remain geographically concentrated, with large disparities between settled districts and remote areas.

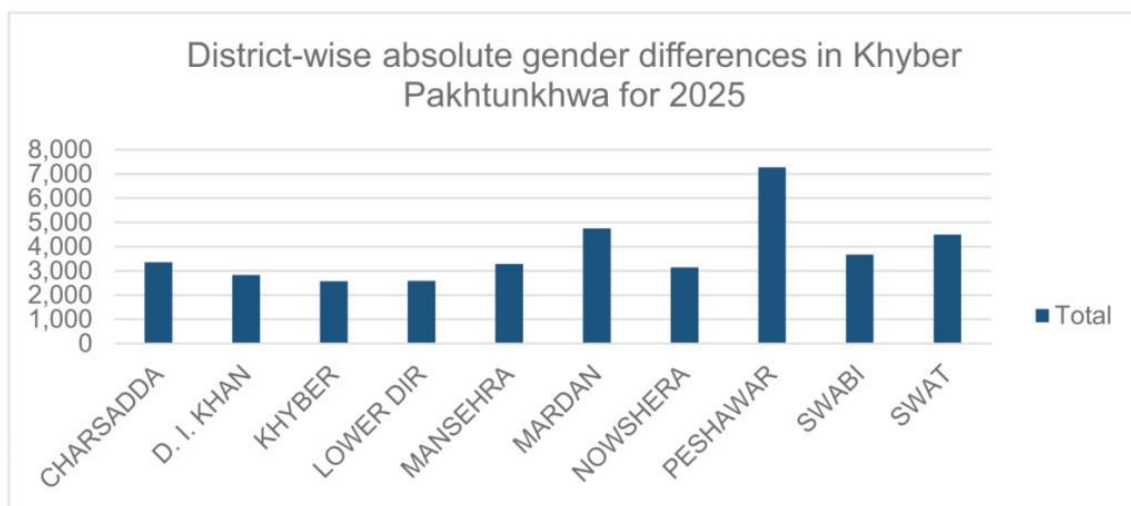
## District-Wise Gender Disparities in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section examines how gender disparities in disability-insignia CNIC registrations manifest at the district level and identifies where gaps are most pronounced.



Comparison of absolute gender differences across major disability categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for 2025

1. As of December 31, 2025, every district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded more men than women among registered persons with disabilities, indicating province-wide gender imbalance.
2. The largest absolute gender gaps were observed in high-volume districts. Swat recorded 10780 men compared to 3499 women, resulting in a gap of 7281.
3. Peshawar followed with 11596 men and 5548 women, producing a gender gap of 6048.
4. Mardan registered 7588 men and 3605 women, yielding a gap of 3983, while Mansehra recorded a gap of 3820 with 6508 men and 2688 women.
5. Other districts with sizeable disparities included Charsadda, where 6602 men were registered against 3247 women, and Swabi, with 6348 men compared to 3484 women.
6. In mid-range districts such as Lower Dir and Karak, gender gaps remained substantial despite lower overall totals, reflecting persistent imbalance rather than scale effects.
7. Mountainous and merged districts showed smaller absolute gaps due to low registration volumes, but women continued to be under-represented relative to men.
8. District-level analysis confirms that gender disparity in disability-insignia CNIC registration is consistent across geography, with variation driven by population size rather than equitable access.



## District-Level Gender Patterns across Disability Categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section analyses district-level gender patterns across disability categories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, highlighting variations between women and men in registration outcomes and the extent to which these differences persist or shift across districts.

## District Patterns in Blindness by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section analyses district-level variation in registrations for persons with blindness, with emphasis on gender distribution and concentration patterns.

1. High-volume districts recorded the largest numbers of persons with blindness, led by Peshawar with 979 registrations, comprising 648 men and 331 women.
2. Mardan followed closely with 970 persons with blindness, including 671 men and 299 women, while Swat recorded 927, made up of 605 men and 322 women.
3. Mansehra registered 724 persons with blindness, of whom 478 were men and 246 were women, reflecting a similar gender imbalance.
4. Mid-range districts showed consistent gaps, including Lower Dir with 667 registrations, comprising 412 men and 255 women, and Nowshera with 660, including 437 men and 223 women.
5. Swabi recorded 586 persons with blindness, with 363 men and 223 women, continuing the pattern of male-dominated registrations.
6. In smaller and mountainous districts, totals were low but disparities persisted. Kohistan recorded 12 persons with blindness, including 8 men and 4 women.
7. Lower Kohistan registered 4 persons with blindness, of whom 3 were men and 1 was a woman, while Tor Ghar recorded 22, including 16 men and 6 women.
8. Kolai Pallas recorded 1 person with blindness, a woman, representing an isolated case rather than a broader pattern.
9. Across districts of varying size and geography, women consistently formed a minority of persons with blindness holding disability-insignia CNICs.
10. The district distribution indicates that gender imbalance in blindness registration is pervasive and not confined to specific regions within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## District Patterns in Hearing Impairments by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section examines how registrations for persons with hearing impairments are distributed across districts and how gender disparities manifest within this disability category.

1. Districts with large overall registration volumes also recorded the highest numbers of persons with hearing impairments, led by Peshawar with 1186, including 938 men and 248 women.
2. Swat registered 986 persons with hearing impairments, of whom 862 were men and 124 were women, reflecting one of the widest gender gaps in this category.

3. Mardan recorded 762 registrations for hearing impairments, comprising 635 men and 127 women, while Nowshera recorded 732, including 549 men and 183 women.
4. Lower Dir registered 568 persons with hearing impairments, with 460 men and 108 women, continuing the pattern of male-dominated outcomes.
5. Haripur recorded 320 registrations, including 217 men and 103 women, while Kohat registered 498, with 394 men and 104 women.
6. In merged districts, absolute numbers were lower but disparities remained evident. North Waziristan recorded 104 persons with hearing impairments, including 63 men and 41 women.
7. South Waziristan registered 18 persons with hearing impairments, of whom 16 were men and 2 were women, indicating extreme imbalance at low volumes.
8. Kolai Pallas recorded no women with hearing impairments, with registrations limited to men only.
9. Across districts, women consistently accounted for a small minority of persons with hearing impairments.
10. The district-level pattern confirms that hearing impairments represent the most gender-exclusionary disability category in disability-insignia CNIC registration outcomes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **District Patterns in Intellectual Disabilities by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section reviews how registrations for persons with intellectual disabilities are distributed across districts and how gender differences compare with other disability categories.

1. Peshawar registered 3,867 persons with intellectual disabilities, including 2,385 men and 1,482 women, reflecting a substantial but narrower gender gap than observed in hearing or physical impairments.
2. Mardan recorded 2,779 persons with intellectual disabilities, comprising 1,715 men and 1,064 women, indicating a persistent male majority despite relatively higher female representation.
3. Swat recorded 2174 persons with intellectual disabilities, comprising 1378 men and 796 women, showing a narrower gap than observed in hearing or physical impairments.
4. Nowshera registered 2509, with 1560 men and 949 women, maintaining a male majority but with comparatively higher representation of women.
5. Mid-range districts such as Lower Dir recorded 1451, including 845 men and 606 women, while Mansehra registered 1383, made up of 844 men and 539 women.

6. Swabi reported 1272 persons with intellectual disabilities, with 644 men and 628 women, indicating near parity despite a slight male majority.
7. In merged districts, numbers were smaller but gaps persisted. North Waziristan registered 186, including 140 men and 46 women.
8. South Waziristan recorded 283, with 191 men and 92 women, reflecting wider disparity at lower volumes.
9. Kolai Pallas recorded no women with intellectual disabilities, with registrations limited to men only.
10. Compared with other disability categories, intellectual disabilities consistently show the narrowest gender gaps across districts, even though full parity remains uncommon across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **District Patterns in Physical Impairments by Gender in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section analyses district-level registrations for persons with physical impairments, the largest disability category, and examines how gender disparities are distributed geographically.

1. High-volume districts recorded the largest numbers of persons with physical impairments. Peshawar registered 11,470 men and 5,674 women, accounting for the highest total in the province.
2. Swat followed with 8,889 persons with physical impairments, comprising 8,889 men and 5,390 women, reflecting very high volume alongside a substantial gender gap.
3. Mardan recorded 7,399 men and 3,794 women, while Charsadda registered 6,548 men and 3,301 women, confirming persistent male dominance in large settled districts.
4. Mansehra reported 5,942 men and 3,254 women, continuing the pattern of high female numbers alongside a wide absolute gender gap.
5. Mid-range districts also exhibited significant disparities. Lower Dir recorded 4,399 men and 2,326 women, while Nowshera registered 4,847 men and 2,713 women.
6. Karak recorded 4,084 men and 1,908 women, indicating pronounced imbalance even at moderate registration volumes.
7. In merged districts, totals were lower but gender disparities persisted. North Waziristan registered 1,167 men and 372 women, while South Waziristan recorded 954 men and 303 women.
8. Kohistan and Lower Kohistan recorded very low totals, but women remained under-represented, with 146 men and 33 women in Kohistan and 97 men and 41 women in Lower Kohistan.

9. Kolai Pallas registered 37 persons with physical impairments, all of whom were men, indicating complete exclusion of women in this category within the district.
10. Across all districts, physical impairments consistently combined high registration volumes with large absolute gender gaps, making this category the single largest contributor to overall gender disparity in disability-insignia CNIC data in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Districts with the Highest and Lowest Gender Gaps in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section identifies districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with the highest and lowest gender gaps in disability-insignia CNIC registrations, examining the extent of disparity between women and men and highlighting where gender imbalances are most and least pronounced.

### Districts with the Highest Gender Gaps in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section identifies districts where the numerical difference between registered men and women with disabilities is the most pronounced, highlighting concentration of disparity.

1. Swat recorded the largest gender gap, with 10780 men registered compared to 3499 women, producing a difference of 7281.
2. Peshawar followed with 11596 men and 5548 women, resulting in a gap of 6048.
3. Mardan showed a substantial disparity, registering 7588 men against 3605 women, a difference of 3983.
4. Mansehra also exhibited a wide gap, with 6508 men compared to 2688 women, yielding 3820.
5. Charsadda registered 6602 men and 3247 women, creating a gap of 3355.
6. Swabi recorded 6348 men versus 3484 women, reflecting a difference of 2864.
7. Lower Dir showed a gap of 2073, with 4399 men and 2326 women, indicating sustained imbalance at mid-range volumes.
8. Karak recorded 4084 men and 2176 women, resulting in a gap of 1908.
9. These districts combine high overall registration with male-dominated outcomes, amplifying absolute gender gaps.
10. The concentration of the largest gaps in high-population districts indicates that scale of registration magnifies, rather than mitigates, gender disparity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Districts with the Lowest Gender Gaps in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section highlights districts where the numerical difference between men and women with disabilities is comparatively smaller, while clarifying the factors driving these lower gaps.

1. Kolai Pallas recorded the smallest gender gap, with 37 men and 13 women, resulting in a difference of 24.
1. Lower Kohistan registered 97 men and 41 women, producing a gap of 56.
2. Kohistan recorded 146 men compared to 33 women, yielding a gender gap of 113.
3. Tor Ghar registered 218 men and 84 women, reflecting a gender gap of 134.
4. Upper Chitral recorded 496 men and 237 women, resulting in a gap of 259.
5. In these districts, lower gender gaps are closely associated with limited overall registration rather than balanced gender inclusion.
6. Women's numbers remained consistently lower than men even where gaps were numerically small.
7. The absence of parity in these districts confirms that smaller gaps do not equate to equitable registration outcomes.
8. These patterns indicate that low absolute gender gaps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are primarily a function of restricted coverage rather than improved access for women with disabilities.

## Districts Showing Relative Narrowing of Gender Gaps in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section identifies districts where gender gaps appear comparatively narrower in proportional terms, while clarifying the limits of such narrowing.

This section identifies districts where gender gaps appear comparatively narrower in proportional terms, while clarifying the limits of such narrowing within overall disability-insignia CNIC registration outcomes.

1. Haripur shows a relatively moderated gender gap, with 3,263 men and 1,402 women, yielding a difference of 1,861, which is smaller than gaps observed in districts with comparable overall registration volumes.
2. Buner recorded 3,896 men and 2,196 women, producing a gap of 1,700, reflecting a relatively closer gender distribution than many settled districts.
3. Swabi presents mixed signals, with 6,348 men and 3,484 women. While the absolute gap of 2,864 remains sizeable, increased registrations among women reduced proportional disparity relative to higher-volume districts.

4. Nowshera registered 7,210 men and 4,068 women, indicating a comparatively narrower proportional gap than districts with similar or larger total registrations.
5. Lower Dir recorded 5,940 men and 3,363 women, resulting in a gap of 2,577, which is proportionally smaller than gaps observed in the highest-volume districts.
6. Across all these districts, men continued to outnumber women, confirming that relative narrowing does not equate to gender balance.
7. Apparent moderation in gender gaps is driven by increased registrations of women, rather than any decline in male registrations.
8. This relative narrowing is uneven across disability categories within the same district, with some impairments showing wider gaps than others.
9. No district demonstrated a sustained shift toward parity when all disability categories are considered together.
10. Overall, relative narrowing reflects incremental gains among women, rather than a structural correction of gender disparity in disability-insignia CNIC registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **District-Level Differential Percentages by Disability Type in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section summarises how gender differentials vary by disability type at district level, highlighting where percentage gaps are most pronounced.

1. Hearing impairments show the widest differential percentages across districts, with women often constituting less than twenty percent of registrations and, in several districts, less than ten percent.
2. In Swabi, women accounted for 6.99 percent of persons with hearing impairments, while in Charsadda the share stood at 9.84 percent, reflecting extreme gender exclusion.
3. Blindness presents moderate differential percentages, with women generally forming around one quarter to one third of registered persons across districts.
4. Abbottabad recorded women at 34.82 percent among persons with blindness, while Mansehra recorded 32.04 percent and Mardan 38.35 percent, indicating persistent but less severe gaps.
5. Intellectual disabilities display the narrowest differential percentages, with several districts approaching or exceeding parity.
6. Haripur recorded women at 56.57 percent among persons with intellectual disabilities, Kohistan at 53.85 percent, and Lower Kohistan at 55.56 percent.

7. Physical impairments show consistently high differential percentages due to large volumes, with women's shares commonly ranging between 24 percent and 36 percent across districts.
8. Malakand P Area recorded women at 24.09 percent among persons with physical impairments, while Haripur and Kohat recorded shares above 36 percent.
9. Districts with high overall registration volumes tend to display larger absolute differentials, even when percentage gaps appear narrower.
10. The variation in differential percentages confirms that gender disparity in disability-insignia CNIC registrations is strongly shaped by disability type, with hearing impairments representing the most exclusionary category across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **Comparative District Analysis of Men and Women with Disabilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section compares how registrations of men and women with disabilities are distributed across districts, identifying concentration patterns and their contribution to overall gender disparity.

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1. By December 31, 2025, men with disabilities were most heavily concentrated in large districts, led by Peshawar with 11596 men, followed by Swat with 10780 and Mardan with 7588.
2. Other districts with high numbers of registered men included Charsadda at 6602, Mansehra at 6508, and Swabi at 6348, together accounting for a substantial share of the provincial male total.
3. Mid-range districts such as Lower Dir with 4399, Dera Ismail Khan with 4502, Khyber with 4270, and Karak with 4084 showed sizeable male registration despite lower overall population density.
4. Malakand P Area recorded 3356 men, while Abbottabad recorded 362, reflecting variation linked to administrative reach and settlement patterns.
5. In merged and mountainous districts, absolute numbers of men with disabilities were much lower. Kolai Pallas recorded 37, Lower Kohistan 97, Kohistan 146, and Tor Ghar 176.
6. Upper Chitral recorded 496 men, remaining well below district averages in settled areas.
7. The distribution of men with disabilities closely mirrors overall disability registration volumes across districts.

9. Low male counts in remote districts reflect limited overall coverage rather than reduced gender disparity.
10. Overall, men's registrations are geographically concentrated in urban and settled districts, reinforcing their dominant share in disability-insignia CNIC data across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **Comparative District Analysis of Women with Disabilities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section examines how registrations of women with disabilities are distributed across districts and how their geographic concentration compares with that of men.

1. By December 31, 2025, the highest numbers of registered women with disabilities were found in large districts, led by Peshawar with 5548 women, followed by Mardan with 3605 and Swat with 3499.
2. Other districts with comparatively high numbers of registered women included Swabi with 3484, Charsadda with 3247, and Mansehra with 2688, reflecting concentration in settled and administratively accessible areas.
3. Mid-range districts such as Lower Dir with 5,940 men, Dera Ismail Khan with 5,251, Khyber with 5,106, and Karak with 5,146 showed sizeable male registration despite lower overall population density.
4. In merged and mountainous districts, women's registrations were markedly low. Kolai Pallas recorded 13 women, Lower Kohistan 44, Kohistan 40, and Tor Ghar 84, reflecting limited coverage rather than equitable gender inclusion.
5. In merged and mountainous districts, absolute numbers of men with disabilities were much lower. Kolai Pallas recorded 37, Lower Kohistan 107, Kohistan 165, and Tor Ghar 218.
6. Upper Chitral recorded 823 men, remaining well below district averages in settled areas.
7. Even in districts with relatively higher numbers of registered women, men continued to outnumber women by wide margins.
8. The geographic distribution of women with disabilities mirrors overall registration coverage rather than equitable access.
9. High absolute numbers of women in large districts do not translate into proportional balance, as men's registrations increase at a faster rate.
10. Very low numbers of women in remote districts point to compounded exclusion driven by both geography and gender.
11. Overall, women with disabilities remain unevenly distributed and persistently under-represented across all districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in disability-insignia CNIC registration data.

## Relative Under-Representation of Women with Disabilities Across Districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section synthesises district-level evidence to show how women with disabilities remain under-represented relative to men, regardless of district size or registration volume.

1. In high-volume districts, women's absolute numbers are higher but their proportional share remains low, as seen in Peshawar with 5548 women out of 17144 and Swat with 3499 out of 14279.
2. Similar patterns persist in other large districts, including Mardan with 3605 women out of 11193 and Charsadda with 3247 out of 9849, where women remain a clear minority.
3. Mid-range districts also reflect sustained under-representation, such as Lower Dir with 3,363 women versus 5,940 men and Karak with 2,579 women versus 5,146 men.
4. In districts with lower overall coverage, women's under-representation is intensified by very small absolute numbers, including Kolai Pallas with 13 women, Lower Kohistan with 44, and Kohistan with 40.
5. Tor Ghar recorded 84 women and Upper Chitral 514, figures that remain far below provincial district averages.
6. Across districts, increases in women's registrations did not keep pace with increases among men, preserving male dominance in totals.
7. No district achieved proportional balance between men and women when all disability categories were combined.
8. The persistence of under-representation across both high-coverage and low-coverage districts indicates a systemic pattern rather than isolated geographic effects.
9. District variation affects volume but not direction, as women remain fewer than men everywhere.
10. Taken together, district-level data confirms that women with disabilities continue to face structural barriers to CNIC registration across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

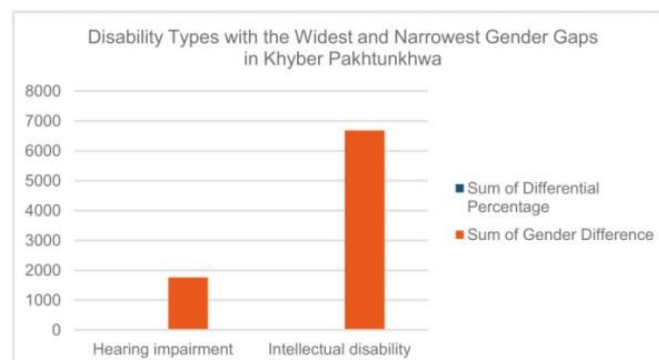
## Disability Types with the Widest and Narrowest Gender Gaps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section identifies the disability categories where gender disparities are most and least pronounced, using provincial totals and district-level patterns from disability-insignia CNIC data.

## Disability Types with the Widest Gender Gaps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section identifies the disability categories where gender disparities are most pronounced, using provincial totals and district-level patterns from disability-insignia CNIC data.

1. Hearing impairments exhibit the widest gender gap across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, with 7563 men registered compared to 1761 women as of December 31, 2025.
2. Women constituted only 18.88 percent of persons with hearing impairments in 2025, the lowest proportional representation among all disability categories.
3. District-level figures reinforce this exclusion, with women accounting for 6.99 percent of persons with hearing impairments in Swabi and 9.84 percent in Charsadda.
4. Physical impairments generated the largest absolute gender gap due to scale, with 114788 men registered compared to 57782 women in 2025.
5. This resulted in an absolute gender difference of 57006 within the physical impairment category alone.
6. Blindness showed persistent but less extreme disparity, with 7979 men and 4182 women registered by December 31, 2025.
7. Women represented 34.41 percent of persons with blindness, reflecting improvement over time but continued male dominance.
8. Intellectual disabilities displayed the narrowest gender gap, with 18170 men and 11487 women registered in 2025.
9. Women accounted for 38.74 percent of persons with intellectual disabilities, the highest share across disability categories.
10. Taken together, hearing impairments and physical impairments accounted for the widest and most consequential gender gaps in disability-insignia CNIC registrations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Comparison of disability categories with the widest and narrowest gender gaps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa using absolute and proportional measures.

## Disability Types with the Narrowest Gender Gaps in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section identifies the disability categories where gender disparities are comparatively smaller, based on provincial totals and district-level patterns.

1. Intellectual disabilities recorded the narrowest gender gap among all disability categories, with 18170 men and 11487 women registered as of December 31, 2025.
2. Women constituted 38.74 percent of persons with intellectual disabilities in 2025, the highest proportional representation across categories.
3. While no district achieved full parity, several districts showed relatively narrower gaps within intellectual disabilities, including Swabi with 644 men and 628 women and Lower Dir with 845 men and 606 women.
4. Other districts showed relatively balanced distributions, such as Swabi with 644 men and 628 women and Lower Dir with 845 men and 606 women.
5. Blindness represented the next narrowest gap, with 7979 men and 4182 women registered in 2025.
6. Women's share among persons with blindness reached 34.41 percent, higher than hearing impairments and physical impairments but still below parity.
7. Physical impairments, despite some proportional improvement for women, retained wide absolute gaps due to high volumes and therefore did not fall within the narrow-gap group.
8. Hearing impairments remained excluded from this category due to persistently low representation of women across districts.
9. The relative narrowing observed in intellectual disabilities suggests fewer gender-specific barriers in registration pathways for this category.
10. Overall, intellectual disabilities stand out as the disability type with the most balanced gender representation in disability-insignia CNIC data in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Structural Patterns Shaping Gender Disparities in Disability-Insignia CNIC Registration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

This section synthesises cross-cutting structural patterns that explain how gender disparities persist across disability types and districts despite overall growth in registrations.

1. Registration outcomes are heavily influenced by impairment visibility, with physical impairments consistently dominating totals while less visible impairments show sharper gender gaps.
2. Hearing impairments combine low overall registration with severe gender exclusion, indicating compounded barriers linked to communication access and reliance on intermediaries.
3. Blindness shows moderate improvement for women over time, yet proportional gains remain insufficient to close the gap with men.
4. Intellectual disabilities display relatively balanced outcomes in several districts, suggesting that family-mediated registration pathways may reduce gender exclusion.
5. High-volume districts amplify absolute gender gaps because increases among men outpace those among women as registration expands.
6. Low-coverage districts exhibit smaller numerical gaps but only because overall registration remains limited, not because access is equitable.
7. Administrative reach affects volume but does not alter the direction of gender imbalance, as women remain under-represented in all districts.
8. Growth in registrations narrows gender disparity in percentage terms while simultaneously widening the absolute gap between men and women.
9. Disability category interacts with gender norms to shape who is registered, when, and through which channels.
10. These structural patterns indicate that without gender- and disability-specific adjustments, continued expansion of CNIC registration will reproduce existing disparities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## **Key Gender-Focused Takeaways from Disability-Insignia CNIC Data in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

This section consolidates the most critical gender-related insights emerging from provincial and district-level disability-insignia CNIC data.

1. Total CNIC registrations expanded substantially between September 01, 2023 and December 31, 2025, yet men continued to dominate registration outcomes across all districts.
2. Women's absolute numbers increased from 51642 to 76352, but men's numbers rose faster from 116454 to 145599, widening the absolute gender gap from 64812 to 69247.
3. At the same time, proportional gender disparity narrowed, with the differential percentage declining from 39 percent in 2023 to 31 percent in 2025, reflecting relative but not substantive improvement.

4. Hearing impairments remained the most exclusionary category for women, with only 1761 women registered compared to 7563 men in 2025.
5. Physical impairments accounted for the largest absolute gender gap, with 114788 men and 57782 women registered, producing a difference of 57006.
6. Blindness showed moderate improvement for women, increasing from 3099 to 4182, yet men continued to outnumber women by a wide margin.
7. Intellectual disabilities demonstrated the most balanced outcomes, with women forming 38.74 percent of registrations and relatively narrower gender gaps in several districts, although parity was not achieved.
8. Districts with the highest registration volumes also concentrated the largest gender gaps, notably Swat, Peshawar, Mardan, and Mansehra.
9. Districts with smaller gender gaps did so due to low overall coverage rather than equitable access for women.
10. Taken together, the data shows that while registration expanded and proportional disparity narrowed, women with disabilities remain structurally under-represented in disability-insignia CNIC outcomes across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Use of the Term Mentally Retarded in NADRA Disability Data

This section clarifies the terminology used in NADRA disability-insignia CNIC data and its implications for analysis and reporting.

1. The NADRA dataset uses the term Mentally Retarded as an official administrative classification to record persons with intellectual disabilities within CNIC data.
2. This terminology reflects legacy medical and bureaucratic language embedded in existing registration systems rather than current rights-based or person-first standards.
3. For the purpose of this report, the category labelled Mentally Retarded in NADRA records has been analytically treated as intellectual disabilities, without altering the underlying data or its numeric values.
4. All figures, trends, and comparisons presented in this report are derived directly from the NADRA classification as recorded, ensuring data integrity and consistency.
5. The continued use of outdated terminology has implications beyond language, as it may influence how families perceive disability categories and how registration decisions are made.
6. From a data inclusion perspective, legacy labels can also affect gender outcomes, as stigma associated with such terms may discourage registration of women and girls.

7. While this report retains fidelity to NADRA's original categorisation for analytical accuracy, it adopts contemporary terminology in narrative sections to align with current disability rights standards.
8. The presence of outdated terminology in official data systems underscores the need for future alignment of administrative classifications with internationally accepted, rights-based disability language.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations based on the analysis of the two data sets examined in this study.

1. The Gender and Social Inclusion Wing of the Election Commission of Pakistan should formally extend its tracking and reporting framework to include women with disabilities, in the same manner that it monitors progress on CNIC ownership and voter registration among women in the general population.
2. The Election Commission of Pakistan, in collaboration with NADRA and civil society organisations, should undertake targeted registration initiatives for persons with disabilities, with specific and explicit focus on women with disabilities, drawing on the design and outreach approaches used in post-2018 women-focused CNIC and voter registration campaigns.
3. NADRA should proactively publish disability-insignia CNIC registration data on its official website on a periodic basis, disaggregated by gender, disability type, and district, to enable public monitoring and evidence-based policy planning.
4. NADRA should revise its disability classification terminology to align with people-first and rights-based language, discontinuing the use of outdated terms such as Mentally Retarded and adopting contemporary terminology for intellectual disabilities while maintaining data continuity.
5. Registration efforts should prioritise districts and disability categories where gender gaps are most pronounced, particularly hearing impairments and high-volume districts, with women with disabilities treated as a priority group for inclusion.



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