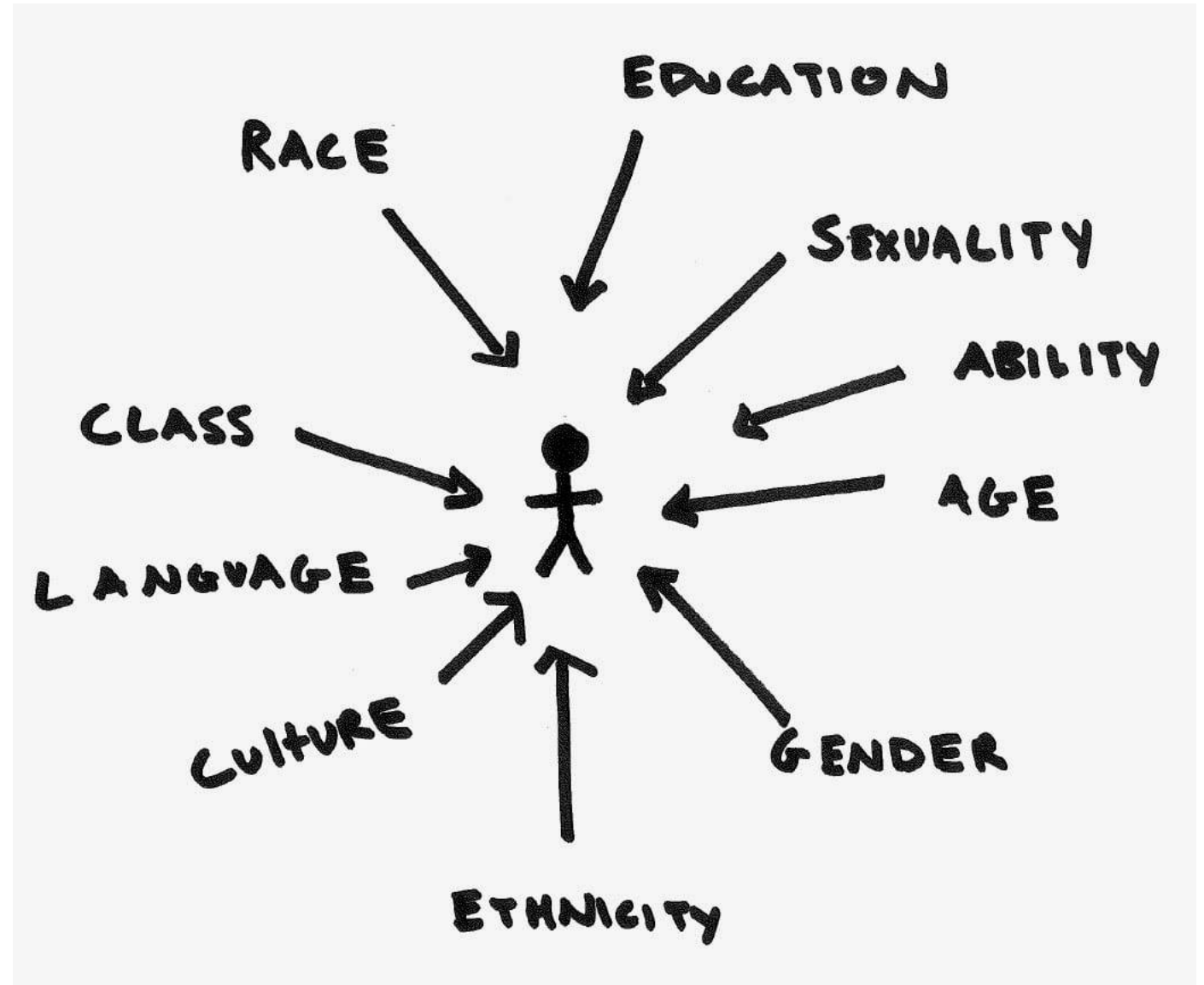# Equity and Inclusion

Setting the scene

## New layers of marginalisation and deepening inequalities

- Gender
- Ability/disability
- Location
- Language
- Wealth
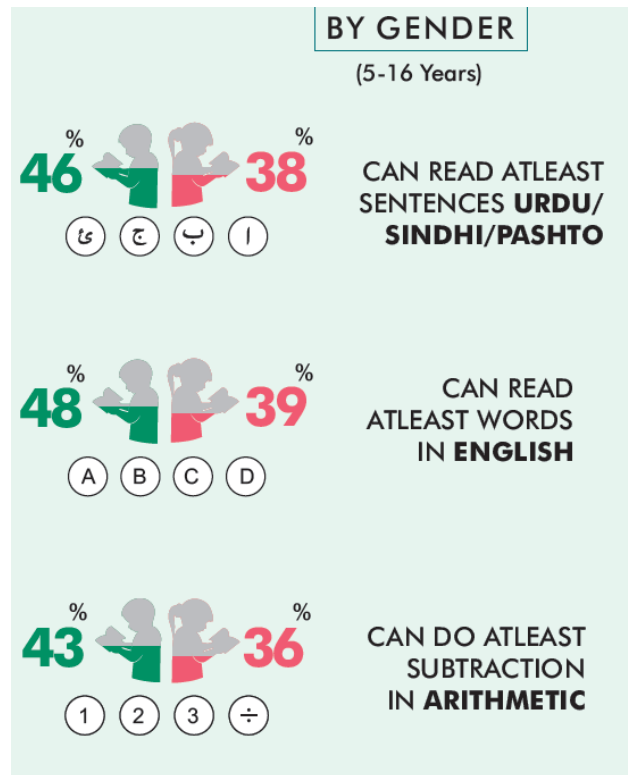- Caste/race

The pandemic's differential impact on the poorest

Enrollment rates for age groups by income quartile, before school closures (March 2020) and after (Dec-Feb 2022)
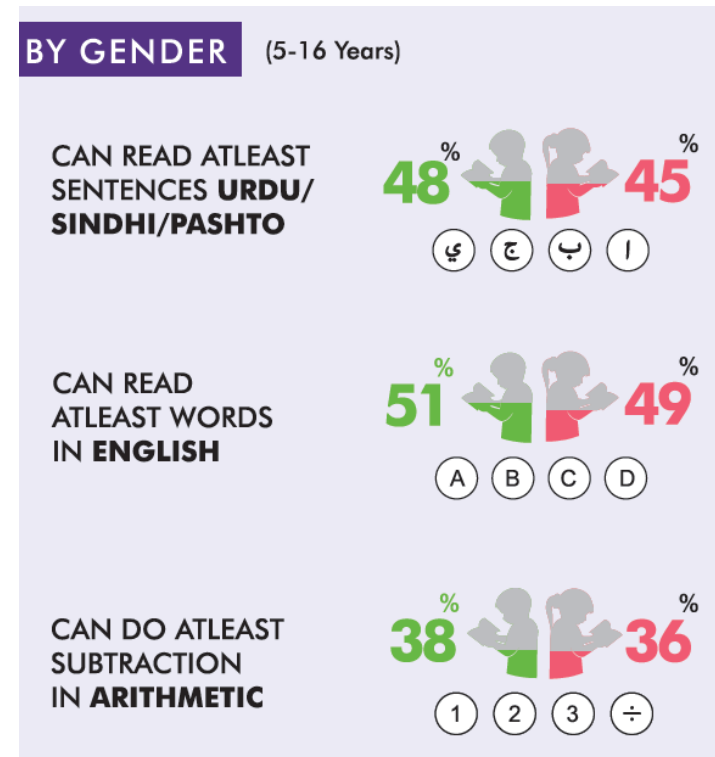
Source: https://www.cgdev.org/blog/covid-19-school-closures-hit-poorest-hardest-pakistan
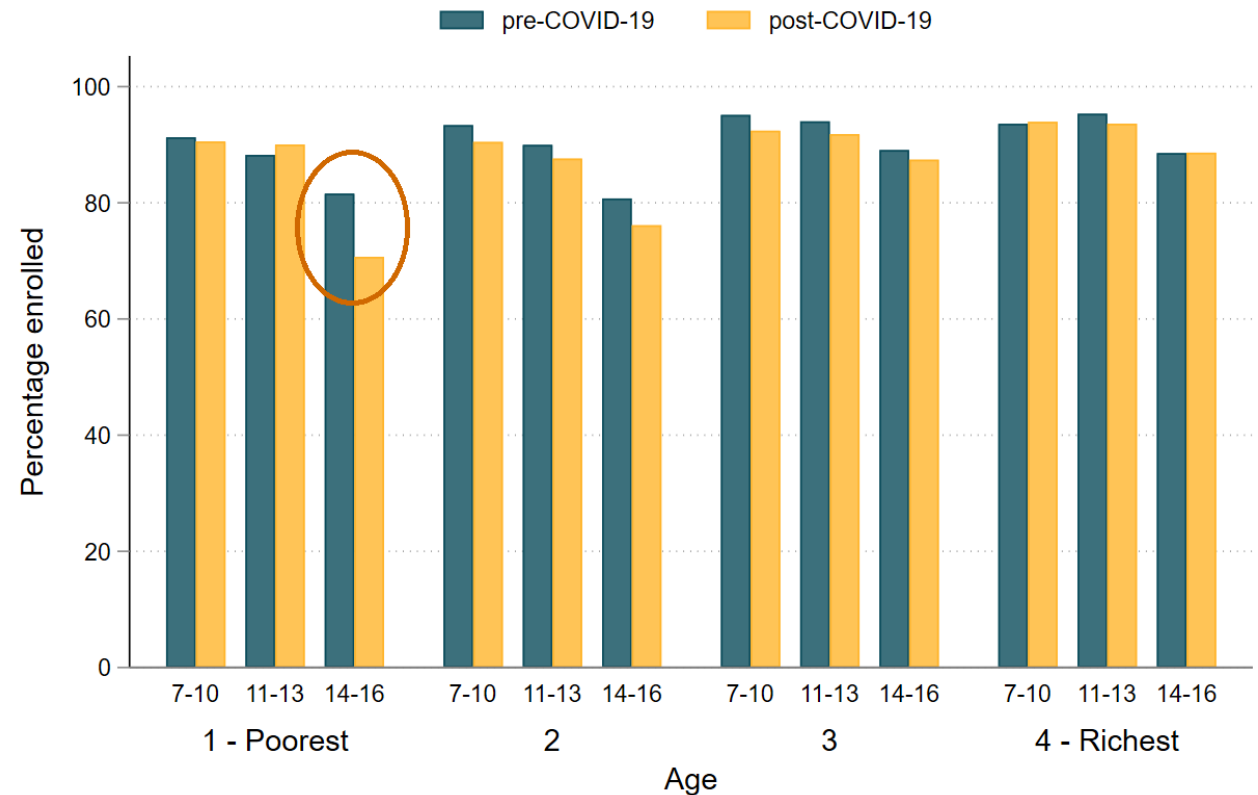
Learning progression: a mixed story

Pakistan: ASER 2019

Pakistan: ASER 2021

Gender gap: the global and national picture

Global

- Global Gender Gap is 68.1% reduced in 2022 across 145 country sample.

- Progress towards closing the gender gap has stalled in most countries.

- Secondary education enrolment, 16 countries reported gaps larger than 10 percentage points – Pakistan is one of them.

Pakistan: ranks 145th out of 146 countries

130	Kuwait	0.632	+0.011
131	Bahrain	0.632	0.000
132	Malawi	0.632	-0.039
133	Côte d'Ivoire	0.632	-0.005
134	Comoros*	0.631	0.000
135	India	0.629	+0.003
136	Morocco	0.624	+0.012
137	Qatar	0.617	-0.007
138	Benin	0.612	-0.041
139	Oman	0.609	0.000
140	Algeria	0.602	-0.030
141	Mali	0.601	+0.010
142	Chad	0.579	-0.014
143	Iran, Islamic Republic of	0.576	-0.005
144	Congo, Democratic Rep.	0.575	-0.001
145	Pakistan	0.564	+0.008
146	Afghanistan	0.435	-0.009

Global gender gap index: regional picture

- Pakistan ranks 8th out of 9 South Asian countries.

South Asia

Country	Rank		Score
	Regional	Global	
Bangladesh	1	71	0.714
Nepal	2	96	0.692
Sri Lanka	3	110	0.670
Maldives	4	117	0.648
Bhutan	5	126	0.637
India	6	135	0.629
Iran, Islamic Republic of	7	143	0.576
Pakistan	8	145	0.564
Afghanistan	9	146	0.435
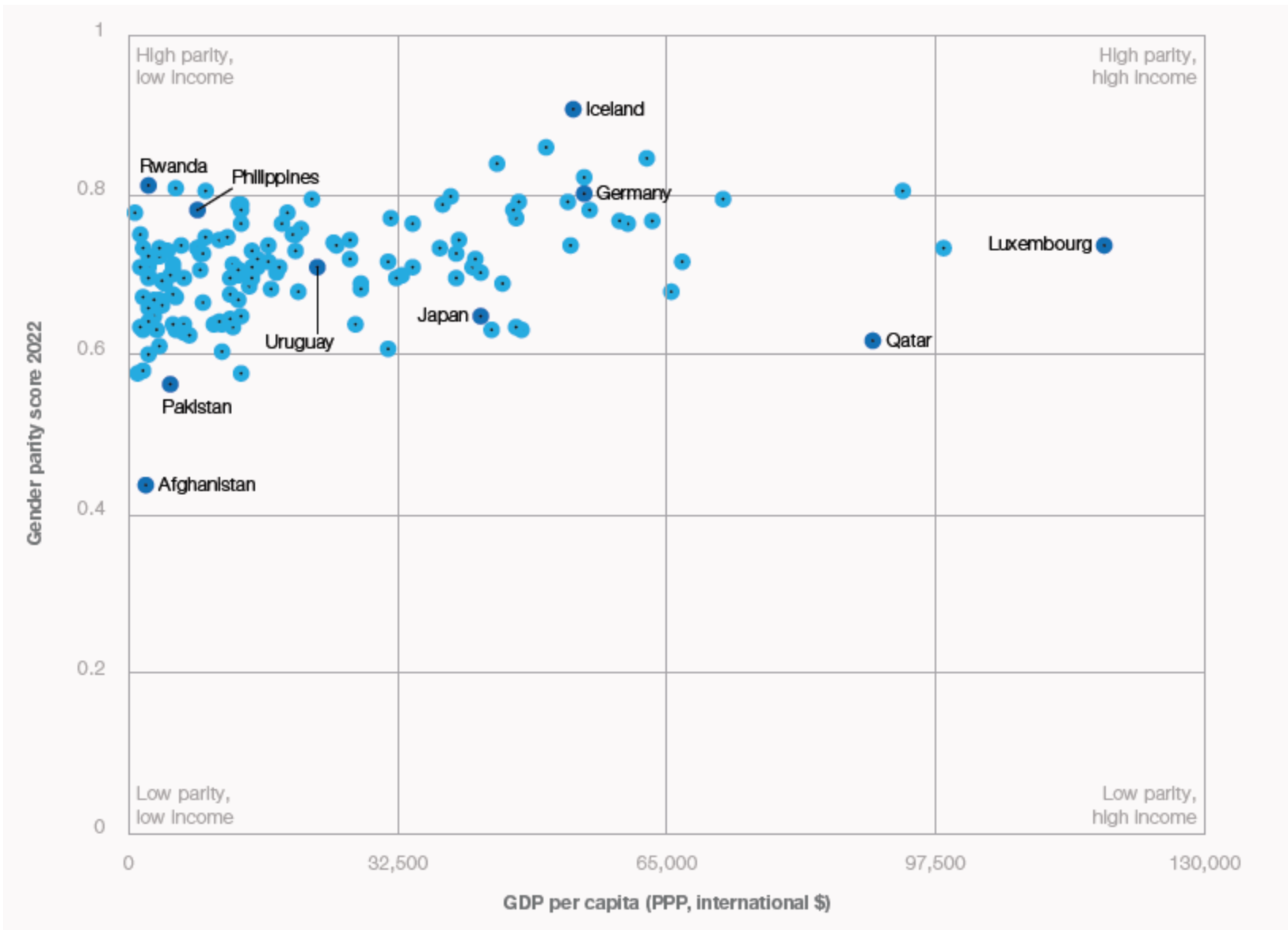
Critical questions

- **Do we focus on learning or access? Both?**
  - Access and quality are not, however, inevitable trade-offs. They need to be addressed simultaneously to improve opportunities of those most in danger of being left behind.
  - Learning is not only about reading and writing. In taking account of children from diverse backgrounds, new approaches to measuring the benefits of education (e.g. boosting children's sense of inclusion, self-efficacy and self-esteem).
- **Tracking low levels of learning or targeting specific population groups?** Tackling structural barriers to discrimination.
- **Focus on individual sources of disadvantage or multiple?** E.g. we know that gender and poverty intersect to create double disadvantage. Disability is a particular source of disadvantage.