



WOMEN IN LAW
INITIATIVE PAKISTAN

THE STATE OF WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE JUDICIARY REPORT

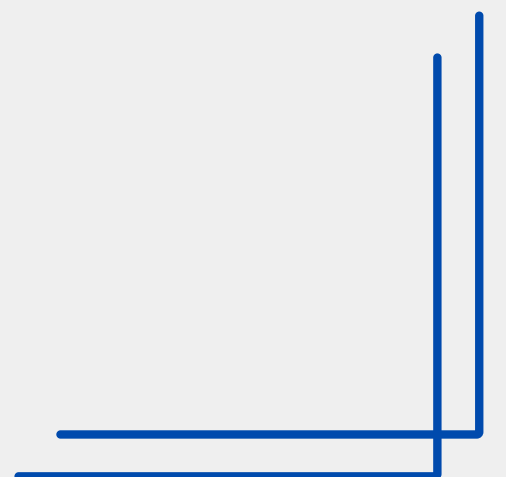
2025

TABEEN SARMAAD



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This annual report would not have been possible without the support of Tayyaba Kakar (Balochistan) and Zeneb Abid (Islamabad). Their support with research for data from official records and sources has enabled the timely production of this report.



ABBREVIATIONS

AJK	Azad Jammu and Kashmir
ASC	Advocate Supreme Court
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
FSC	Federal Shariat Court
FCC	Federal Constitutional Court
SC	Supreme Court
CJ	Civil Judges
SCJ	Senior Civil Judges
ADSJ	Additional District and Sessions Judges
DSJ	District and Sessions Judges
HC	High Court
JCP	Judicial Commission of Pakistan

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	2
Abbreviations	3
Foreword	5
Summary of Findings	6
About The Report	7
Structure of the Report	8
Province and Tier-Wise Gender Segregated Data	10
Subordinate Judiciary Data - Year Wise Comparison	17
Subordinate Judiciary Data – Provincial Comparison in Percentages	18
Special Courts & Tribunals 2025 Provincial Breakdown	19
Subordinate Judiciary Data – Provincial Comparison 2025	20
High Court Data	22
Higher Judiciary Data - Year Wise Comparison	24
Consolidated Data of All Courts	25
Comparison between Higher and Subordinate Courts	26
Total Percentage of Judges in Pakistan - 2025	27
Concluding Note	28
Annexes: Judicial Appointments – Selected Relevant Provisions	31

FOREWORD

The legal profession in Pakistan continues to demonstrate significant gender disparity. In 2025, women comprised only 6% of the higher judiciary. Overall, in Pakistan women account for 17% of the judiciary, with their presence largely confined to subordinate courts, indicating no substantial change in representation overall since 2020-21 when our first baseline report was published.

Despite forming nearly half of Pakistan's population, women remain underrepresented in decision-making, policy development, and leadership roles. Within the justice sector, this is reflected in the limited progression of women to senior positions. This underrepresentation restricts the incorporation of women's lived experiences and diverse perspectives into judicial policies and practices, affecting not only women in the legal profession but also litigants, particularly women and children, seeking access to justice.

The absence of a gender-responsive lens in the development of laws and policies contributes to a system that falls short of being holistic, participatory, and inclusive. Instead, it risks reinforcing existing inequalities by reproducing structural disparities within the justice system.

This annual report seeks to address the lack of accessible, gender-disaggregated data within Pakistan's justice sector. The report presents the state of women's representation in judiciary in 2025 and serves as a **new baseline**, particularly in light of recent institutional developments, including the establishment of the Federal Constitutional Court. While some reference is made to earlier findings based on our previous Reports, the primary focus remains on documenting the current landscape, notwithstanding our reservations on the validity of the constitutional amendments that brought the current judicial landscape.

By compiling and presenting this data, the report aims to highlight the prevailing gender gap within the judiciary and to inform future efforts toward greater inclusion. It builds upon earlier initiatives undertaken as part of Increasing Women's Representation in Law, a collaborative project between the Federal Ministry of Law and Justice, Group Development Pakistan, and Women in Law Initiative Pakistan, with the support of the Australian High Commission and the British High Commission.

As a consolidated reference, it is hoped that this report will support advocacy, academic inquiry, and research, and contribute to ongoing efforts to document diversity and promote inclusion within the legal profession, particularly the judiciary. This report is made available on an open-source basis for these purposes, with due acknowledgment to the authors.

For comments, queries and feedback contact: womeninlaw@learnpak.com.pk.

Nida Usman Chaudhary

Founder - Women in Law Initiative Pakistan

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This report presents a gender-disaggregated, tier-wise analysis of Pakistan's judiciary as of 31 December 2025, examining trends across both the subordinate and higher judiciary. While women's representation in the subordinate judiciary has remained at 18% since 2024, overall progress remains slow.

The total number of women judges in the higher judiciary, including the Supreme Court, **increased from 5 in 2024 to 8 in 2025** which is higher than 7 in 2023. Their representation in higher judiciary has slightly improved, from 3% in 2024 to **5% in 2025** yet it remains at par with the 2020-21 baseline. This shows that women's representation in higher judiciary is yet to surpass the 5% mark and go beyond that. Much work remains in this aspect and increasing women's representation in higher judiciary remains a critical issue.

The number of women serving in the **subordinate judiciary** increased from 596 in 2024 to 643 in 2025, indicating incremental growth in numbers primarily at the subordinate tiers of the judicial system but remains at **18%** in 2025 as it was in 2024.

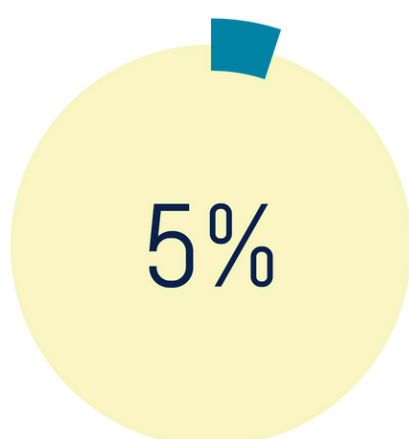
Provincial trends reveal uneven progress. **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa continues to lead** as a province in terms of representation of **women in district judiciary at 23%** even though the overall percentage of women in subordinate judiciary in KP has fallen from 25% in 2024 to 23% in 2025, which is concerning as it shows a decline of women in district judiciary in KP when compared with 2024.

Punjab showed slight improvement, with women's representation in the subordinate judiciary increasing from **18% to 19%**. **Sindh** recorded a marginal **decrease from 14% to 13%** while Women's representation in the district judiciary in **Balochistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir** remains at **12%** with a slight decline in the number of female civil judges from 23 to 21 in Balochistan. Both % and actual figures remain unchanged since 2024 in AJK.

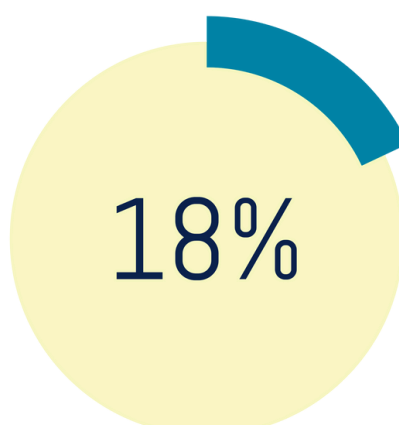
The **Islamabad** Capital Territory saw a **decrease** of women in subordinate judiciary from **22% to 21%**, while **Gilgit-Baltistan** saw marginal increase [of 1%] due to **reductions in number of male judges**, with no change in the number of women judges.

At the High Court level, the **Islamabad High Court** recorded the highest percentage of women at **10%**, followed by the **Sindh High Court** at **6%**. Women's representation in the Lahore and Peshawar High Court rose to **5%** from 3% and 0% respectively, while the High Courts of **Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan** and the newly constituted **Federal Constitutional Court** had **no** women judges in 2025.

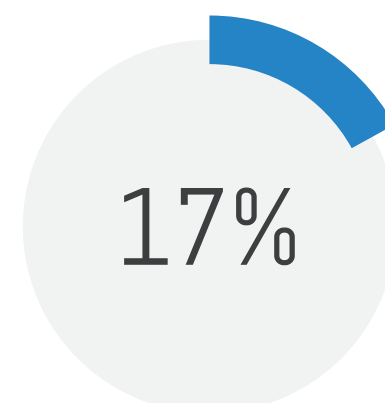
Overall, women's representation in the higher judiciary, including the Supreme Court and the Federal Shariat Court, rose from **4% in 2024 to 5% in 2025**, underscoring a slow and **nominal increase in gender inclusion at senior judicial levels**.



Total % age of Women in Higher Judiciary in 2025



Total % age of Women in Subordinate Judiciary in 2025



Overall % age of Women in Pakistan's Judiciary in 2025

ABOUT THE REPORT

In this report we have compiled the gender-segregated data of the judiciary in Pakistan for the year 2025. The data is broken down province and tier-wise and it includes separate tables and charts for drawing different comparisons including but not limited to:

- Tables focusing on the subordinate judiciary,
- A chart showing the province-wise percentage of female judges only,
- A province-wise breakdown of women's representation in the different High Courts, and
- A comparative chart of representation between higher and subordinate courts.

It ends with a chart showing the total percentage of male and female judges in Pakistan based on data from all subordinate and higher courts in Pakistan.

All the data used describes the situation as of December 31, 2025. All the data has been officially compiled with reference to information available from the official websites of the provincial high courts. For research from Balochistan, the support was provided by Ms. Tayyaba Kakar and for ICT by Ms. Zeneb Abid.

For the purposes of determining the total number of judges only the values for Civil Judges, Senior Civil Judges, Additional District and Sessions Judges, District and Sessions Judges, Special Courts & Tribunals Judges, Qazis, Members Majlis-e-Shoora, High Court Judges, Federal Shariat Court, Supreme Court Judges and Federal Constitutional Court Judges has been used.

Selected provisions on judicial nominations and appointments process have been included as Annexure.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report focuses on highlighting the state of women's representation within judiciary in Pakistan for the year 2025. It is divided into two parts, Part A and B.

Part A presents data on subordinate judiciary. The data presented in this edition encompasses a province-wise breakdown and a tier-wise gender-segregated analysis, visualised through tables and charts.

Part B contains data of higher judiciary including the Federal Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and Federal Shariat Court. It also contains comparative assessments of data between subordinate and higher judiciary as well as provincial breakdown for female judges inter se.

The province- and tier-wise analysis in this report provides insight into the numerical and proportional representation of men and women across all levels of the judicial hierarchy.

The data covers male and female judges within the subordinate judiciary, including Civil Judges, Senior Civil Judges, Additional District and Sessions Judges, and District and Sessions Judges, and also includes figures from Special Courts and Tribunals across the provinces. For the higher judiciary, the report examines representation in the High Courts, the Federal Shariat Court (FSC) the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC).

This report does not explore the underlying causes of gender disparity or provide qualitative analysis, as these issues have been addressed in earlier studies, particularly the 2021 Fair Representation in the Justice Sector report on gaps in recruitment and appointments.* Instead, its primary objective is to present a clear quantitative assessment of gender-based representation within Pakistan's judiciary.

While informed by previous editions of the State of Women's Representation in the Judiciary reports, this edition differs by incorporating data following the introduction of the 26th and 27th Amendments to the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973. Cumulative results are presented to highlight disparities both within individual judicial tiers and between the subordinate and higher judiciary.

* Nida Usman Chaudhary and Anoshay Fazal, 'Fair Representation in the Justice Sector: An Inter-Disciplinary Gap Analysis Study of the Recruitments and Appointments Process in the Justice Sector with a Gender Lens' (Study Launch: Fair Representation in the Justice Sector, Lahore, 2022). Available at: https://www.academia.edu/98334474/Fair_Representation_in_Justice_Sector_A_Study_by_Nida_Usman_Ch_and_Anoshay_Fazal_compressed_db1f



PART A SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY

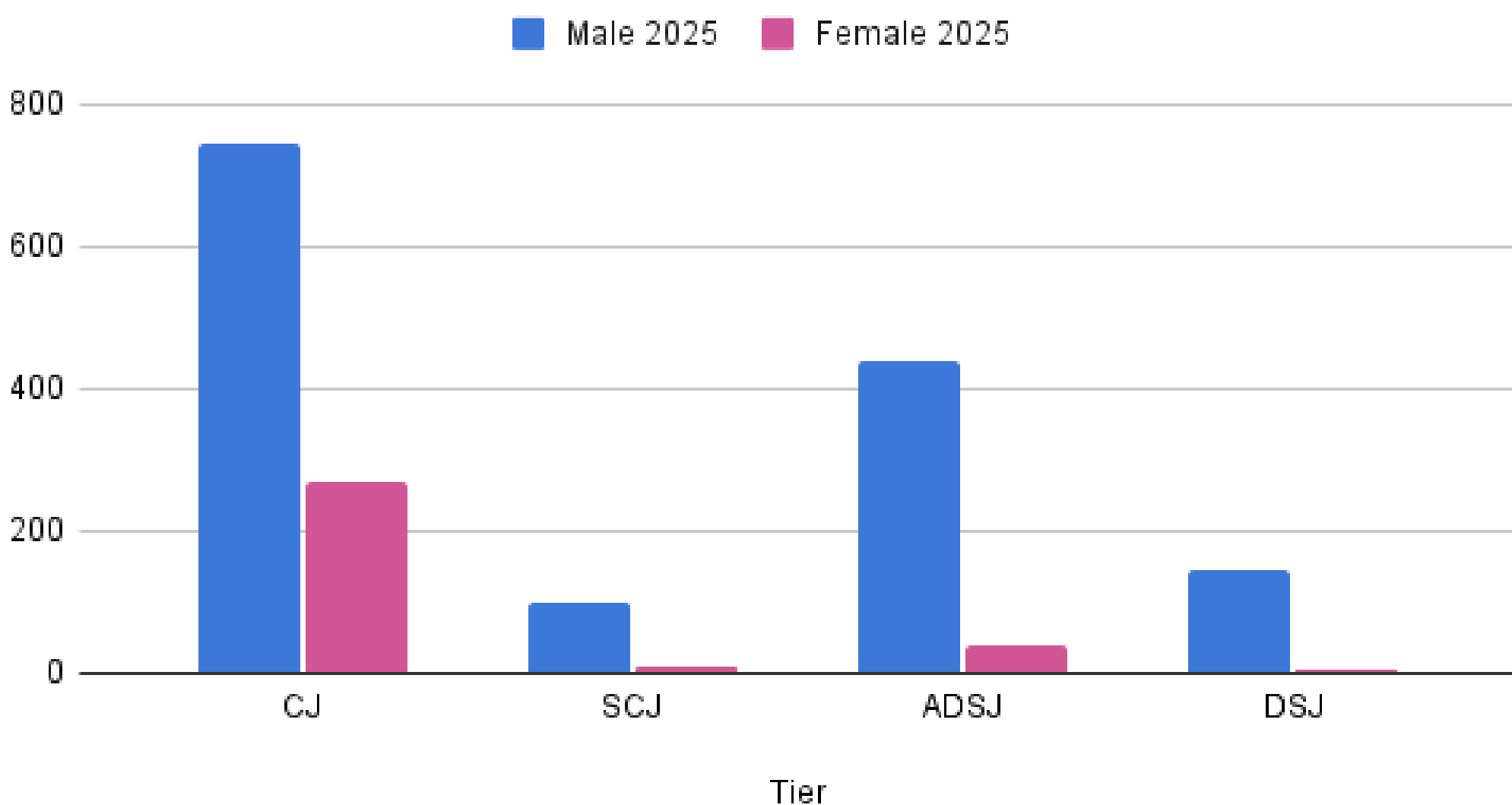


PUNJAB

Punjab	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	745	269
SCJ	100	10
ADSJ	438	41
DSJ	145	6
Total	1428	326
Total %	81%	19%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Punjab as at December 31, 2025. There has been an **increase of 1%** between the year 2024 and 2025. The greatest increase has been in Civil Judges where women have increased in number from 252 in the year 2024 to 326 in the year 2025.

Subordinate Judiciary - Punjab



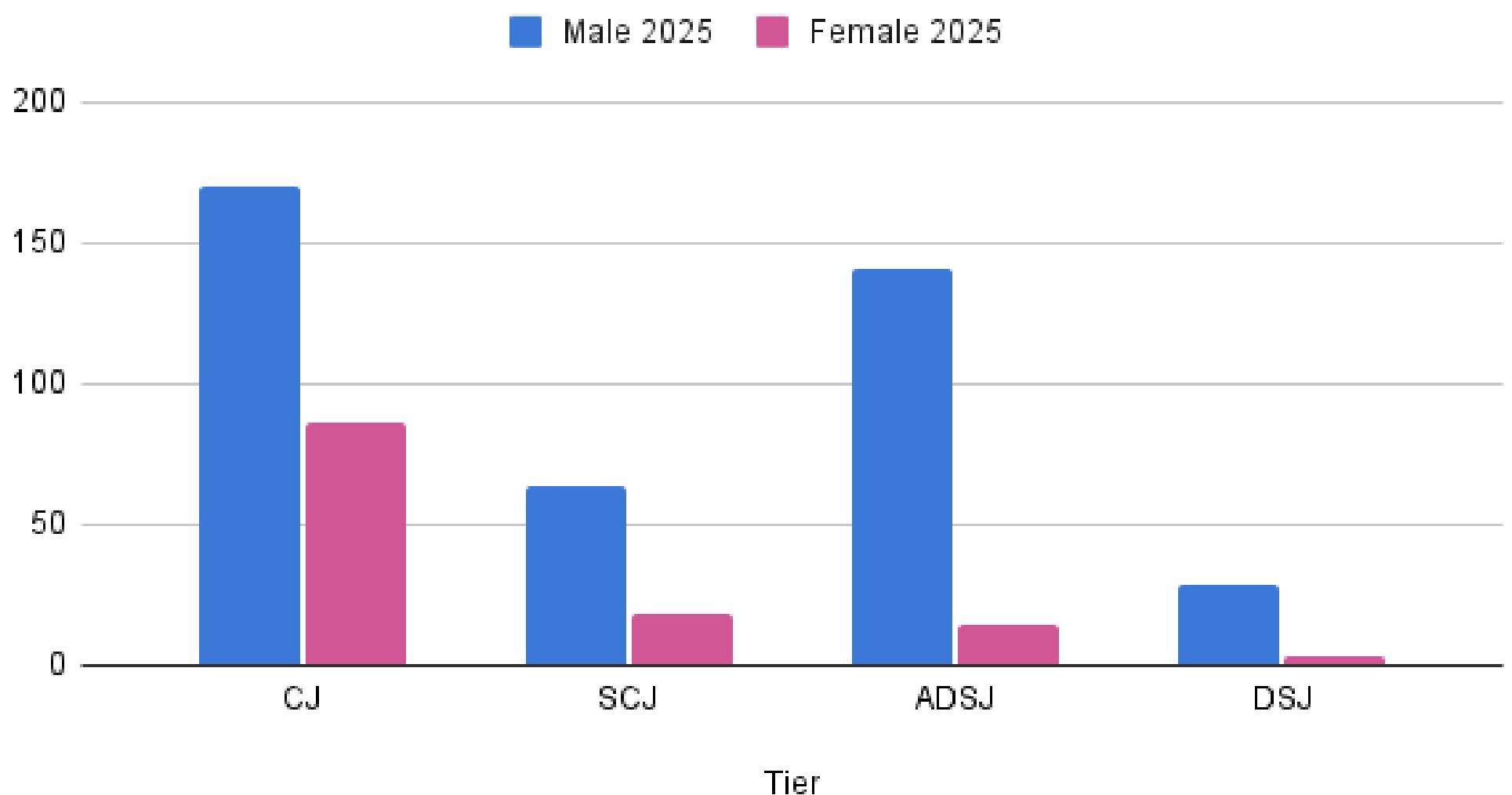
This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Punjab. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data for 2025.

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

KP	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	170	86
SCJ	64	18
ADSJ	141	15
DSJ	29	3
Total	404	122
Total %	77%	23%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as at December 31, 2025. In KP women's representation as Senior Civil Judges, Additional District and Session Judge, and District and Sessions Judge has marginally decreased, however, the number of Civil Judges has remained the same as in the years 2023 & 2024. Overall, women's representation in subordinate judiciary in KP has **decreased to 23%, from 25%**, in 2024.

Subordinate Judiciary - KP



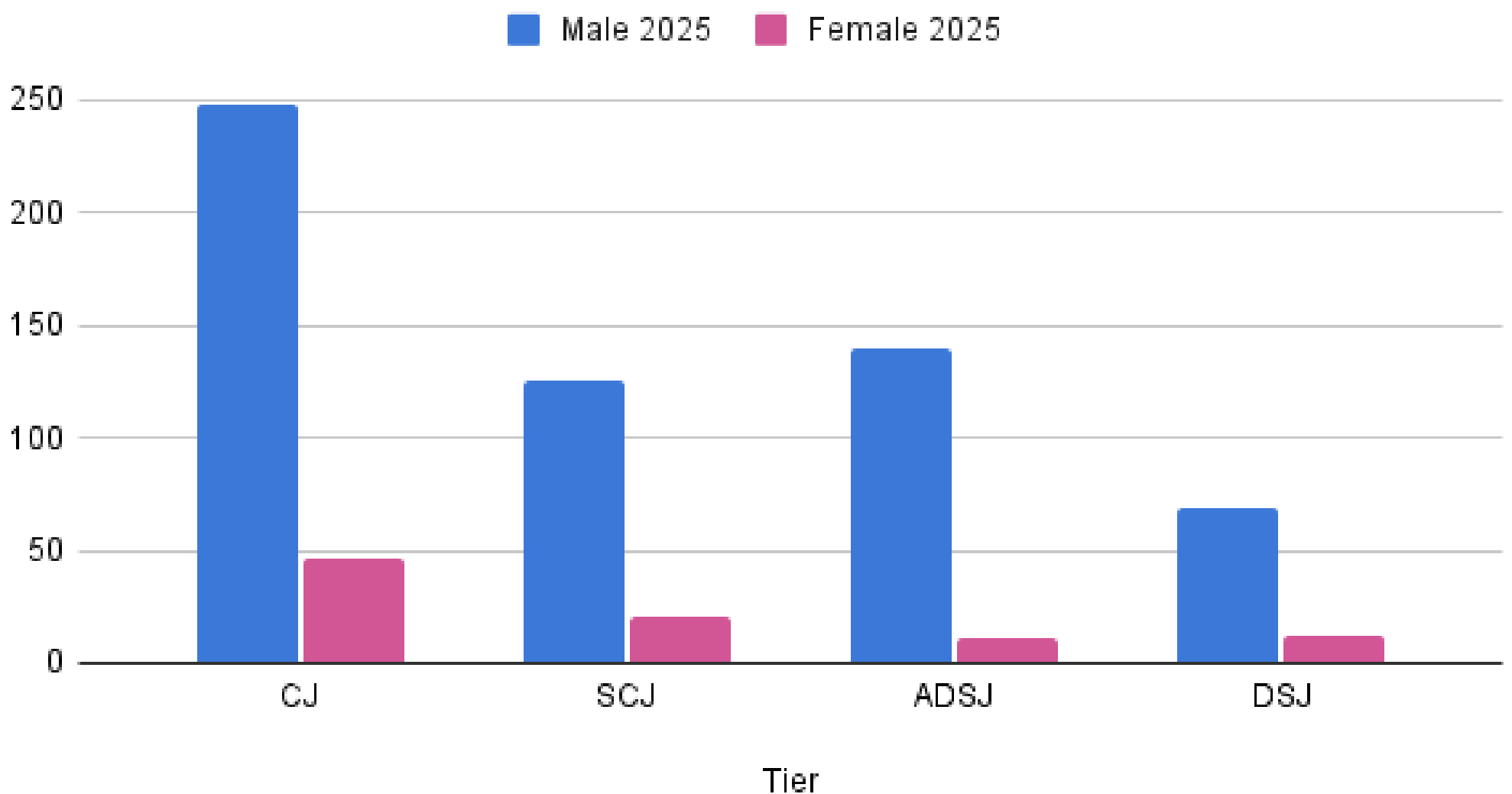
This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data for 2025.

SINDH

Sindh	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	248	46
SCJ	126	20
ADSJ	140	11
DSJ	69	12
Total	583	89
Total %	87%	13%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Sindh as at December 31, 2025. In Sindh, the overall trend shows an **decrease of 1%** in representation of women in subordinate judiciary as compared with 2024, bringing it back to the point where it was at in 2023. This decrease is due to a decrease of female CJ, ADSJ, and DSJ as compared with 2024. Overall the total number of male judges has decreased from 597 in 2024 to 583 in 2025.

Subordinate Judiciary - Sindh



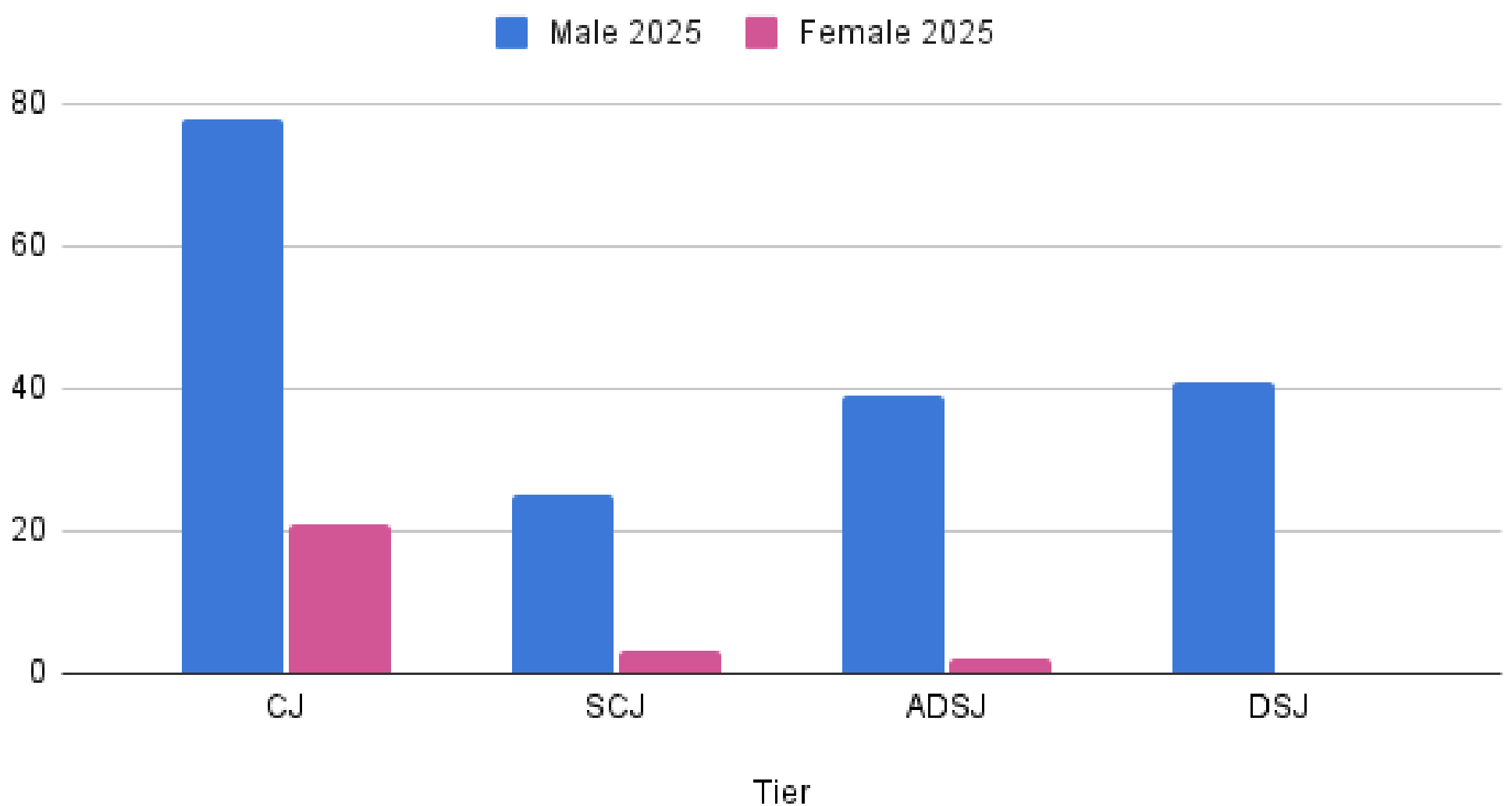
This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Sindh. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data for 2025.

BALUCHISTAN

Balochistan	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	78	21
SCJ	25	3
ADSJ	39	2
DSJ	41	0
Total	230	33
Total %	88%	12%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Balochistan as at December 31, 2025. There continues to be no female District and Sessions Judge in Balochistan. There has been a marginal increase of female Civil, Senior Civil, and Additional & Sessions Judges since 2024. Overall, female judges in subordinate courts of Balochistan **continue to stand at 12%**, the same as in 2024.

Subordinate Judiciary - Balochistan



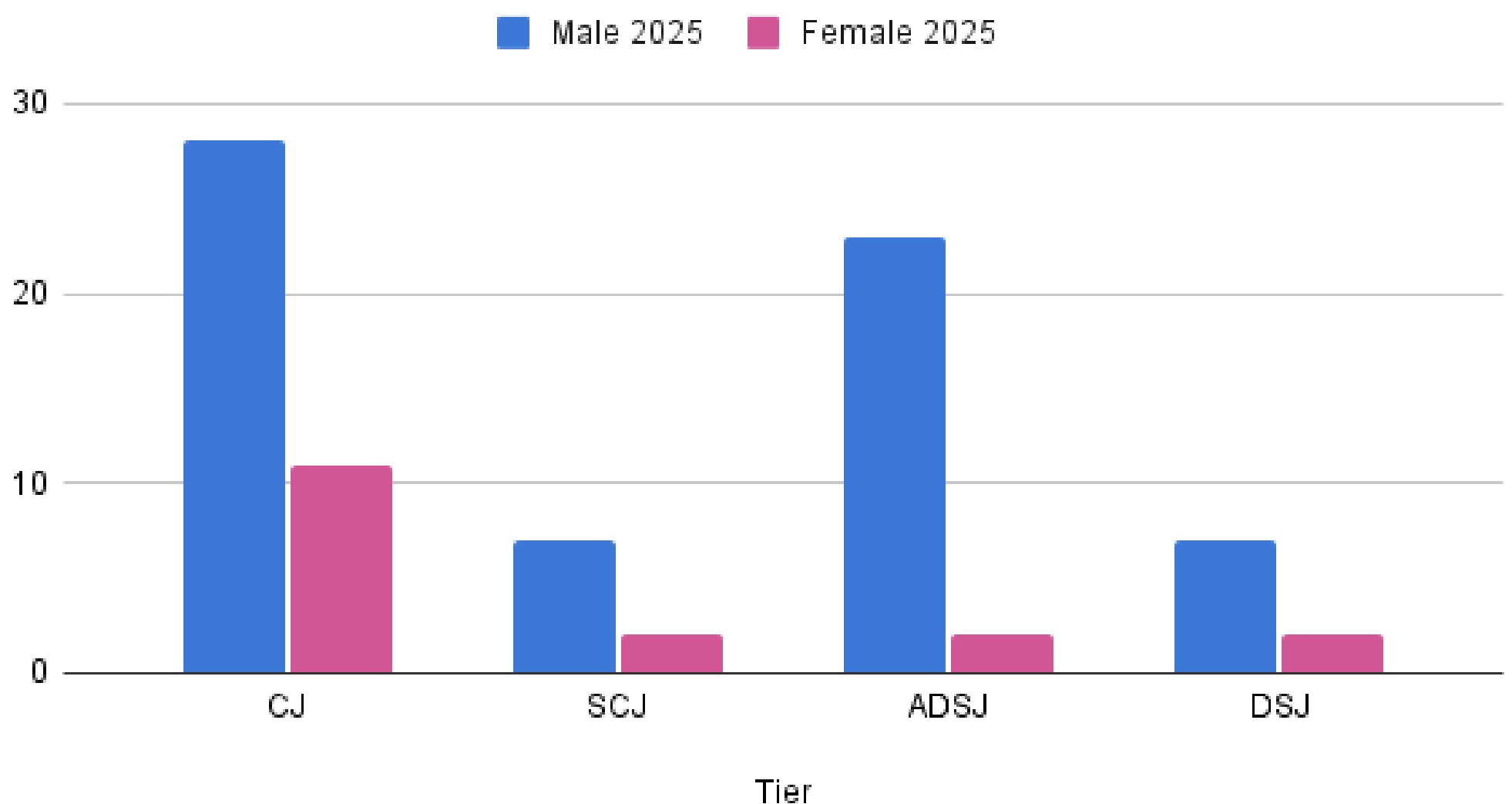
This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Balochistan. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data for 2025.

ISLAMABAD CAPITAL TERRITORY

Islamabad	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	28	11
SCJ	7	2
ADSJ	23	2
DSJ	7	2
Total	65	17
Total %	79%	21%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Islamabad Capital Territory as at December 31, 2025. It is observed that ICT now has presence of women as Senior Civil Judges and as District and Session Judges in comparison to 2024. **Overall, there has been an decrease of 1%** of women's representation in subordinate judiciary in ICT between the year 2024 and 2025.

Subordinate Judiciary - ICT



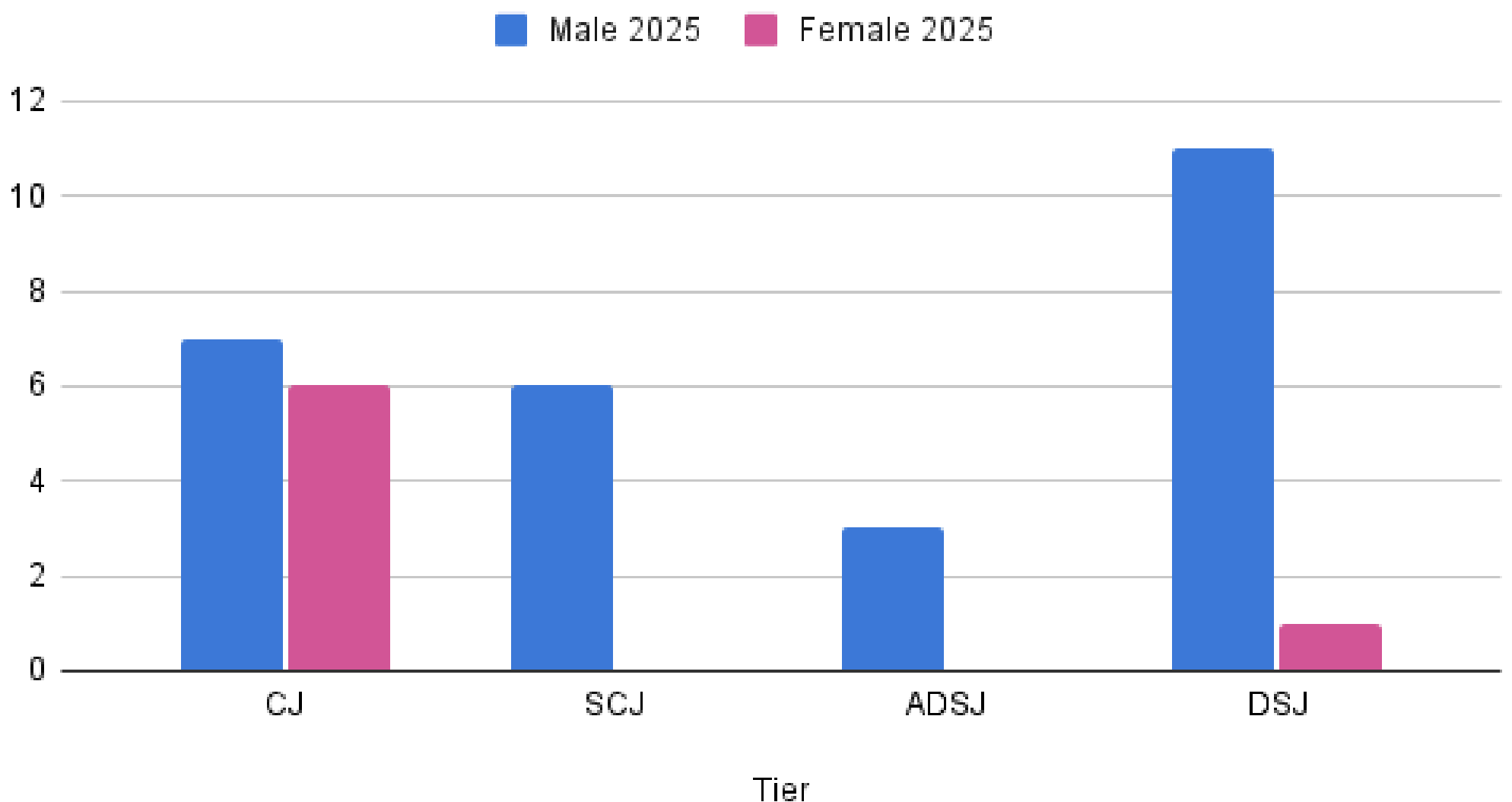
This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Islamabad Capital Territory. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data for 2025.

GILGIT-BALTISTAN

GB	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	7	6
SCJ	6	0
ADSJ	3	0
DSJ	11	1
Total	27	7
Total %	79%	21%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Gilgit-Baltistan as at December 31, 2025. There has overall been an **increase of 1%** of female representation in subordinate judiciary between this year and the previous year, however, that is not **because of** an increase in number of women judges in subordinate courts in Gilgit-Baltistan, but because of a **decrease in number of male judges from 28 in 2024 to 27 in 2025**.

Subordinate Judiciary - GB



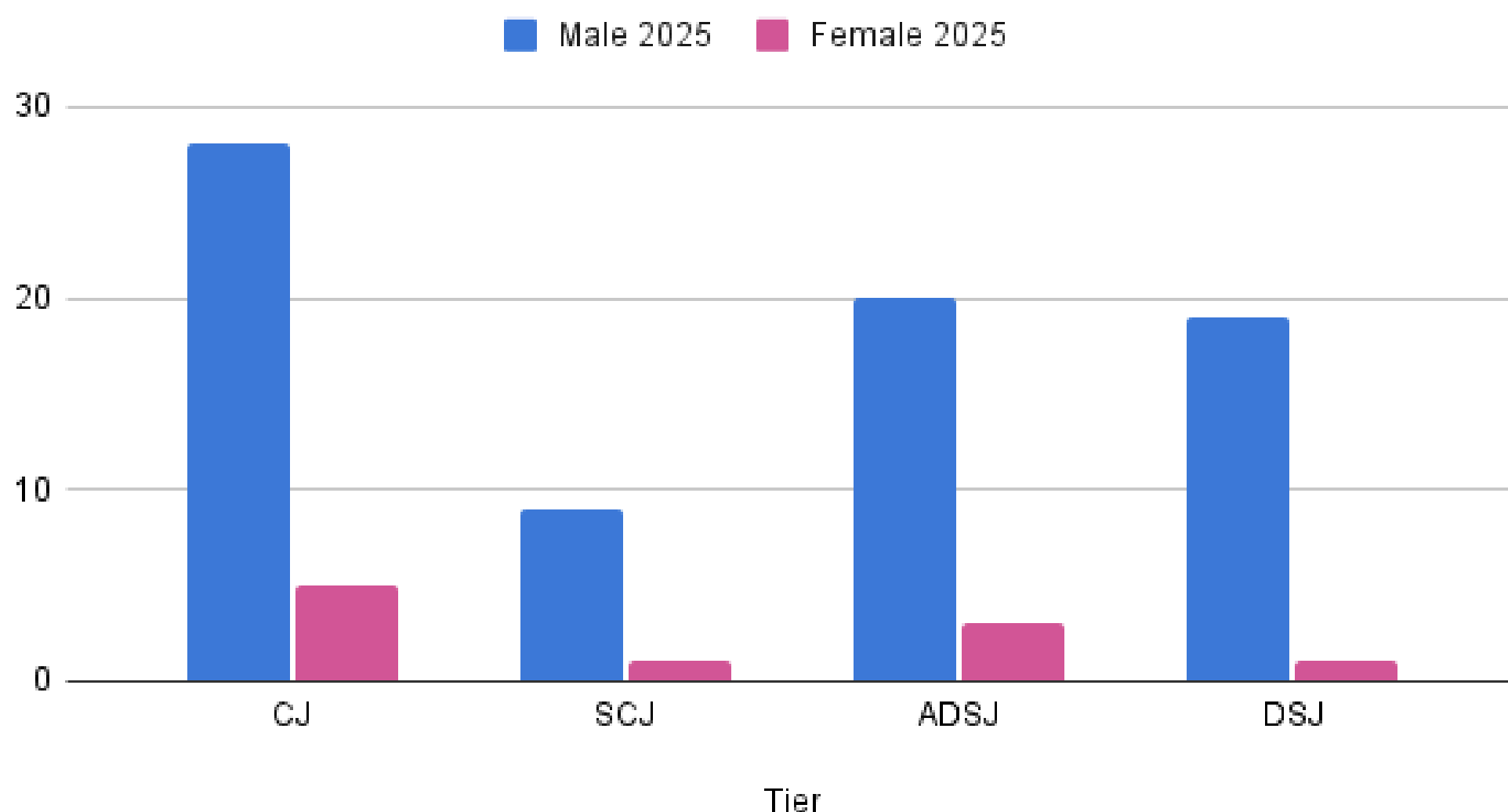
This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Gilgit-Baltistan. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data for 2025. It is observed that GB has no presence of women as Senior Civil Judges or Additional District and Sessions judges.

AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR

AJK	Judges	
Tier	Male 2025	Female 2025
CJ	28	5
SCJ	9	1
ADSJ	20	3
DSJ	19	1
Total	76	10
Total %	88%	12%

This table shows tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Azad Jammu & Kashmir as at December 31, 2025. There has overall been **no increase** of female representation in subordinate judiciary between 2024 and this year. This is because there seems to be **a stagnation in the number of judges on both the male and female judges since 2024 - 76 Male judges and 10 female judges.**

Subordinate Judiciary - AJK



This graph represents the tier-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The extent of gender disparity is highlighted with reference to the bars on the chart showing gender segregated data from 2025.

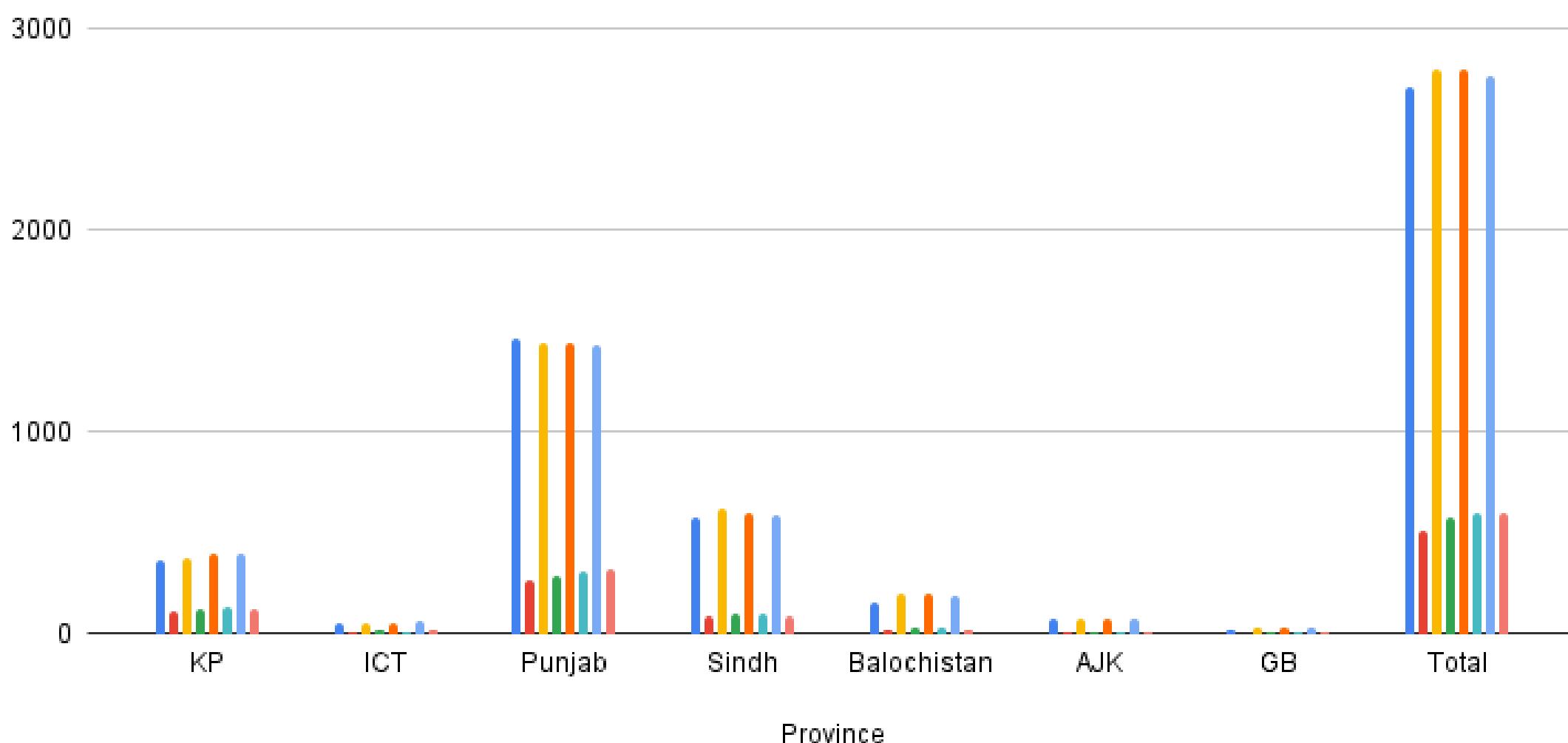
SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY YEAR-WISE COMPARISON

Province	2020		2023		2024		2025	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
KP	370	106	378	126	402	132	404	122
ICT	54	13	53	16	54	15	65	17
Punjab	1466	271	1446	292	1442	310	1428	326
Sindh	575	93	620	94	597	95	583	89
Balochistan	152	17	195	27	201	27	183	26
AJK	73	9	79	10	76	10	76	10
GB	25	4	29	7	28	7	27	7
Total	2715	513	2800	572	2800	596	2766	597
Total %	84%	16%	83%	17%	82%	18%	82%	18%

This table shows the province-wise gender segregated data of the subordinated judiciary in Pakistan in the comparison between 2020, 2023, 2024 and 2025. This comparison is without the data of Special Courts and Tribunals. It shows that KP was the leading province re women's representation in subordinate judiciary even in 2020 and 2023 in terms of percentages, followed by ICT. GB, Punjab, Sindh and AJK saw a nominal increase. However, ICT is the only area to have registered an overall decrease of 1% in terms of representation of women in subordinate judiciary, while Balochistan has remained consistent at 12% between 2023 and 2024. **Overall, the trend is positive from women standing at 16% in 2020 to 18% in 2025.**

Subordinate Judiciary - Year-Wise Comparison

■ Male 2020 ■ Female 2020 ■ Male 2023 ■ Female 2023 ■ Male 2024 ■ Female 2024 ■ Male 2025
■ Female 2025



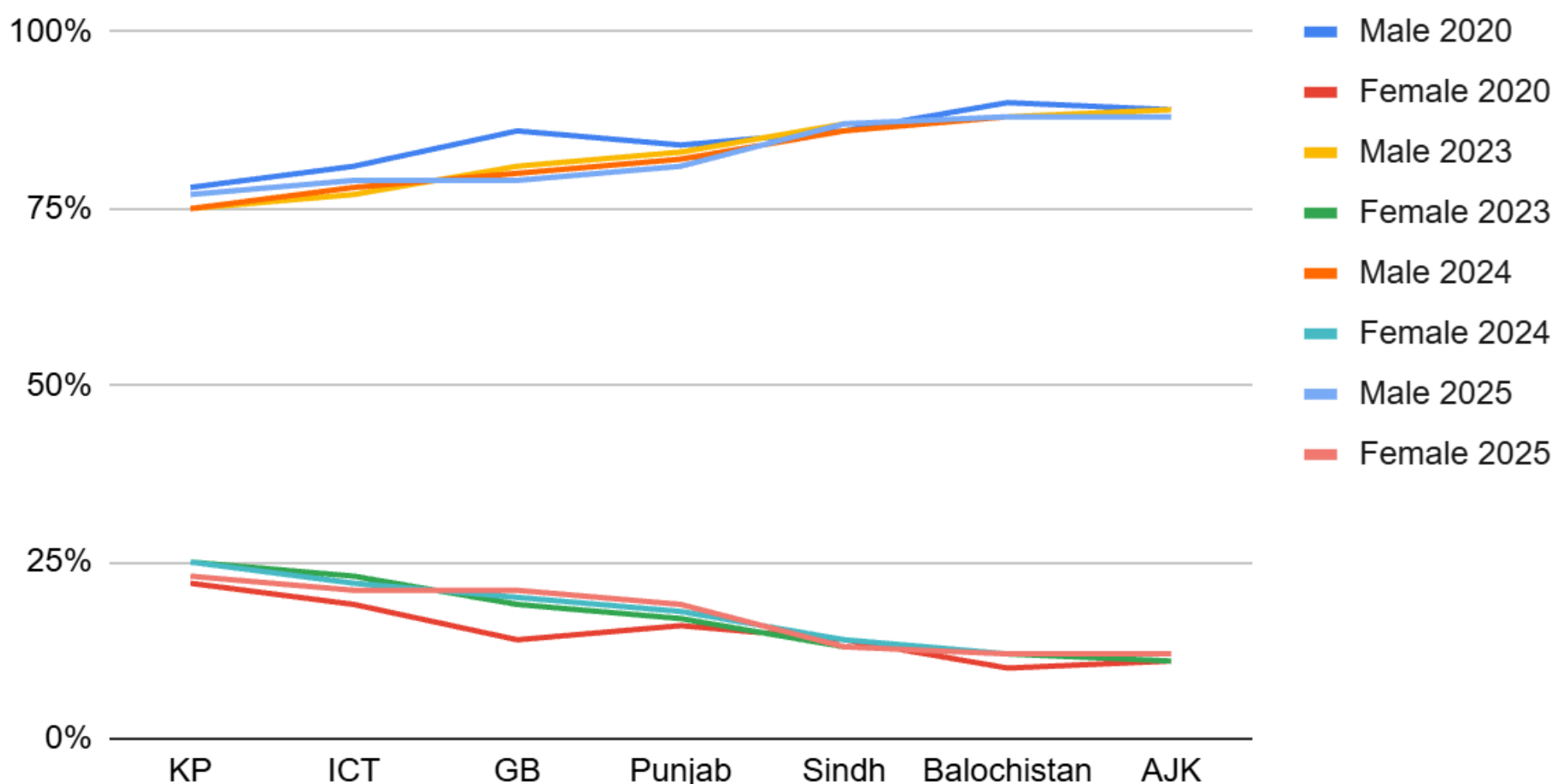
This chart illustrates a province-wise comparative graph in terms of number of judges in subordinate courts, segregated by gender between the years 2020, 2023 and 2024. In terms of numbers, Punjab remains the leading province followed by KP and Sindh as regards representation of women.

SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY PROVINCIAL COMPARISON IN %

Province	2020		2023		2024		2025	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
KP	78%	22%	75%	25%	75%	25%	77%	23%
ICT	81%	19%	77%	23%	78%	22%	79%	21%
GB	86%	14%	81%	19%	80%	20%	79%	21%
Punjab	84%	16%	83%	17%	82%	18%	81%	19%
Sindh	86%	14%	87%	13%	86%	14%	87%	13%
Balochistan	90%	10%	88%	12%	88%	12%	88%	12%
AJK	89%	11%	89%	11%	88%	12%	88%	12%

This table shows the province-wise gender segregated data in percentages of the subordinate judiciary in Pakistan. It is observed that percentage wise **KP remains the most progressive province in terms of representation of women in the subordinate judiciary while Punjab has shown a consistent but marginal increase of 1% each year.** However, It also shows that there has been a decrease of 2% in KP and 1% in ICT and Sindh between 2024 and 2025. While other provinces have shown a nominal increase, Balochistan and AJK has shown neither an increase nor a decrease.

Subordinate Judiciary Data - Provincial Comparison in % for
2020, 2023, 2024 & 2025



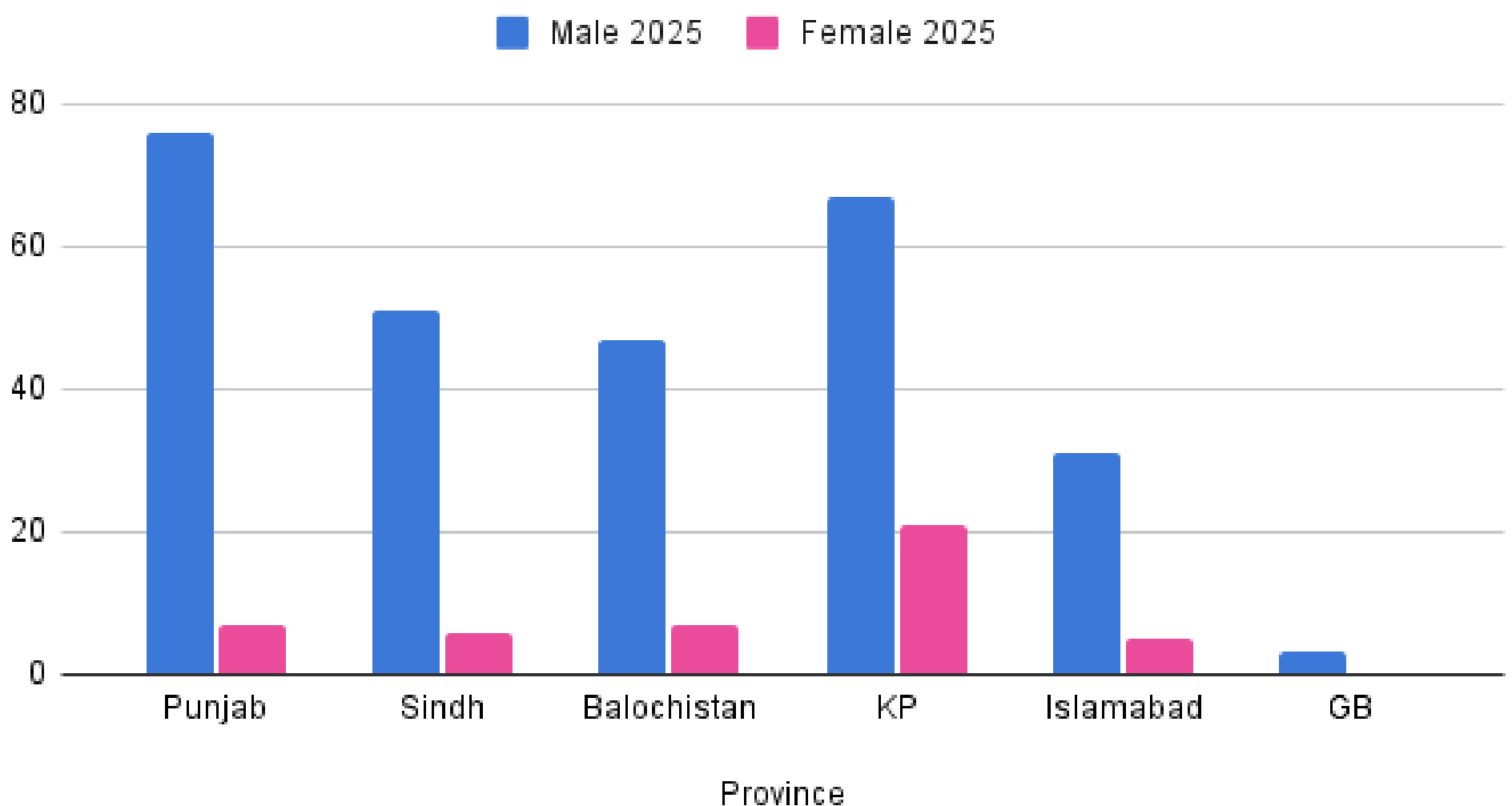
This chart shows the province-wise gender segregated data in percentages of the subordinate judiciary in Pakistan for the years 2020, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

SPECIAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS 2025

SC/T	Judges	
Province	Male	Female 2025
Punjab	76	7
Sindh	51	6
Balochistan	47	7
KP	67	21
Islamabad	31	5
GB	3	0
Total	275	46
Total %	86%	13%

This table shows the province-wise gender segregated data of the subordinate judiciary in Pakistan in 2025. It shows that **KP was the leading province re women's representation in special courts & tribunals** in terms of numbers and percentages. Punjab and Balochistan had the same number of women in these courts at 7 despite Punjab having more courts and male judges. This is followed by ICT and Sindh with a difference of only 1 female judge despite ICT being a city and Sindh a province. No data could be found for AJK and there are no women in GB special courts. Overall, the trend is similar to the general subordinate judiciary findings, higher numbers of men and fewer women.

Special Courts & Tribunals 2025



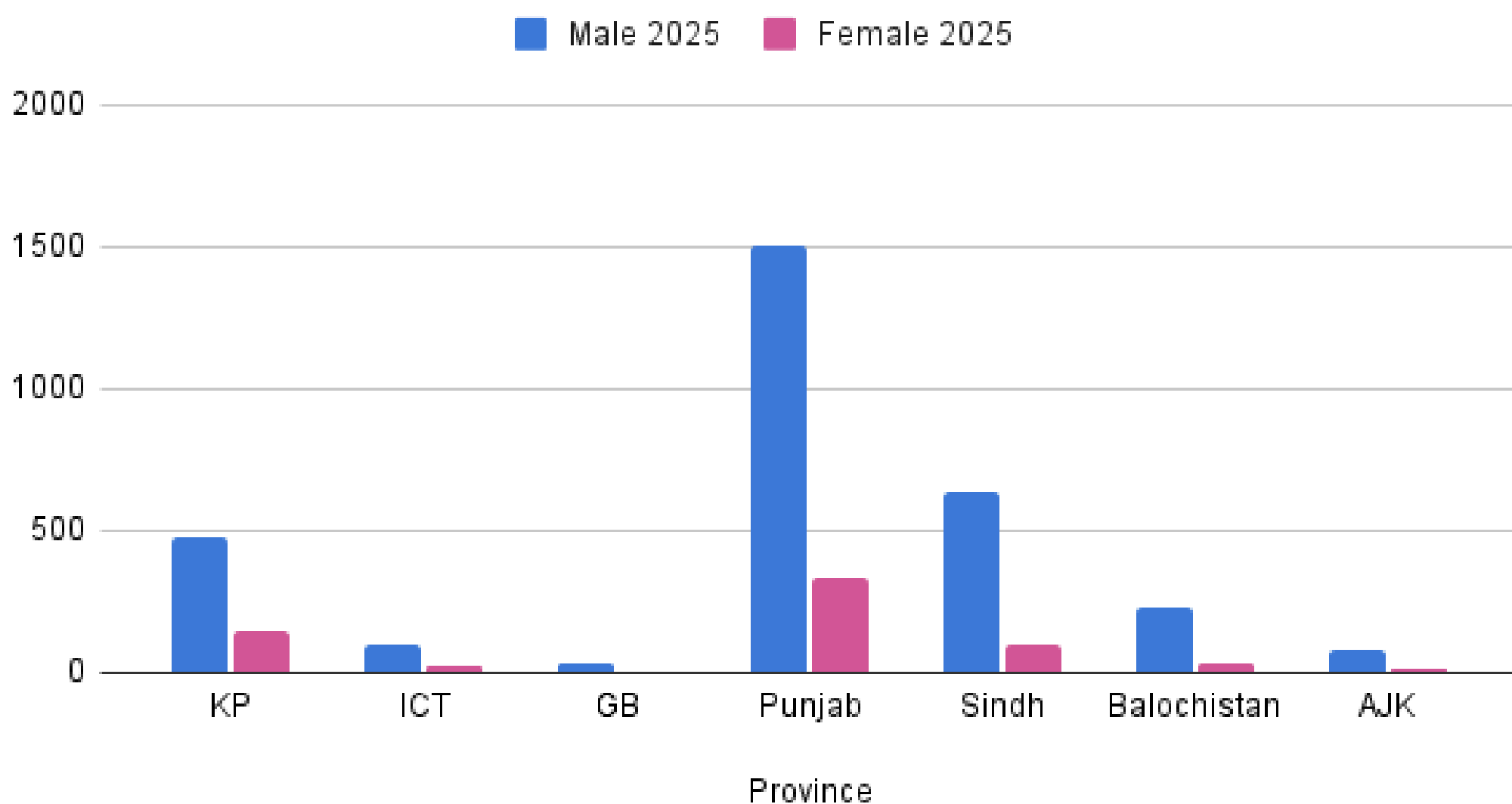
This chart shows the province-wise gender segregated data in numbers of the special courts and tribunals judiciary in Pakistan for the year 2025.

SUBORDINATE JUDICIARY PROVINCIAL COMPARISON 2025


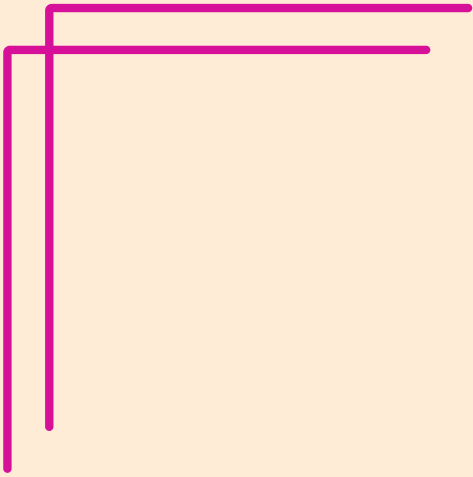
Province	2025			
	Male	%	Female	%
KP	471	77%	143	23%
ICT	96	80%	24	20%
GB	30	81%	7	19%
Punjab	1504	82%	333	18%
Sindh	634	87%	95	13%
Balochistan	230	87%	33	13%
AJK	76	88%	10	12%
Total	3041	83%	645	17%

This table shows the province-wise gender segregated data in numbers and percentages of the subordinate judiciary in Pakistan in 2025, altogether with the special courts. It shows that **KP remains the leading province in terms of representation of females in subordinate judiciary in terms of percentage, with 23%** representation of women in subordinate judiciary. It is **followed by ICT at 20%** and GB at 19%. **Punjab stands fourth at 18%** and has performed slightly better than Sindh and Balochistan which are at 13%. **AJK has the least representation of women in subordinate judiciary in comparison to other areas in terms of percentages.**

Subordinate Judiciary - Provincial Breakdown 2025

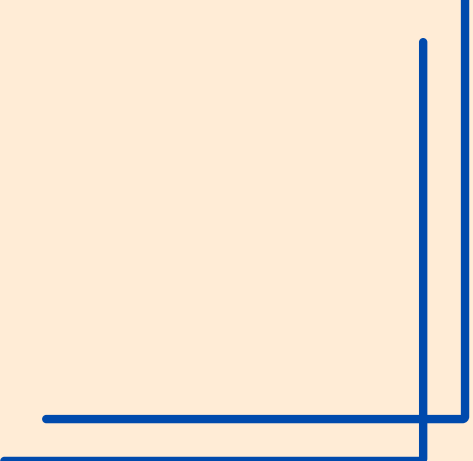



The chart illustrates a province-wise comparative graph segregated by gender of the subordinate judiciary in Pakistan 2025. In terms of numbers, Punjab is the leading province with 326 women judges, followed by KP at 143 and Sindh at 89.



PART B

HIGHER JUDICIARY



HIGH COURTS DATA

Principal Seat	Male	Female	%
Islamabad High Court	9	1	10%
Sindh High Court	31	2	6%
Lahore High Court	41	2	5%
Peshawar High Court	19	1	5%
Balochistan High Court	7	0	0%
GB Chief Court	6	0	0%
AJK High Court	4	0	0%
Total	117	6	
Total %	95%	5%	

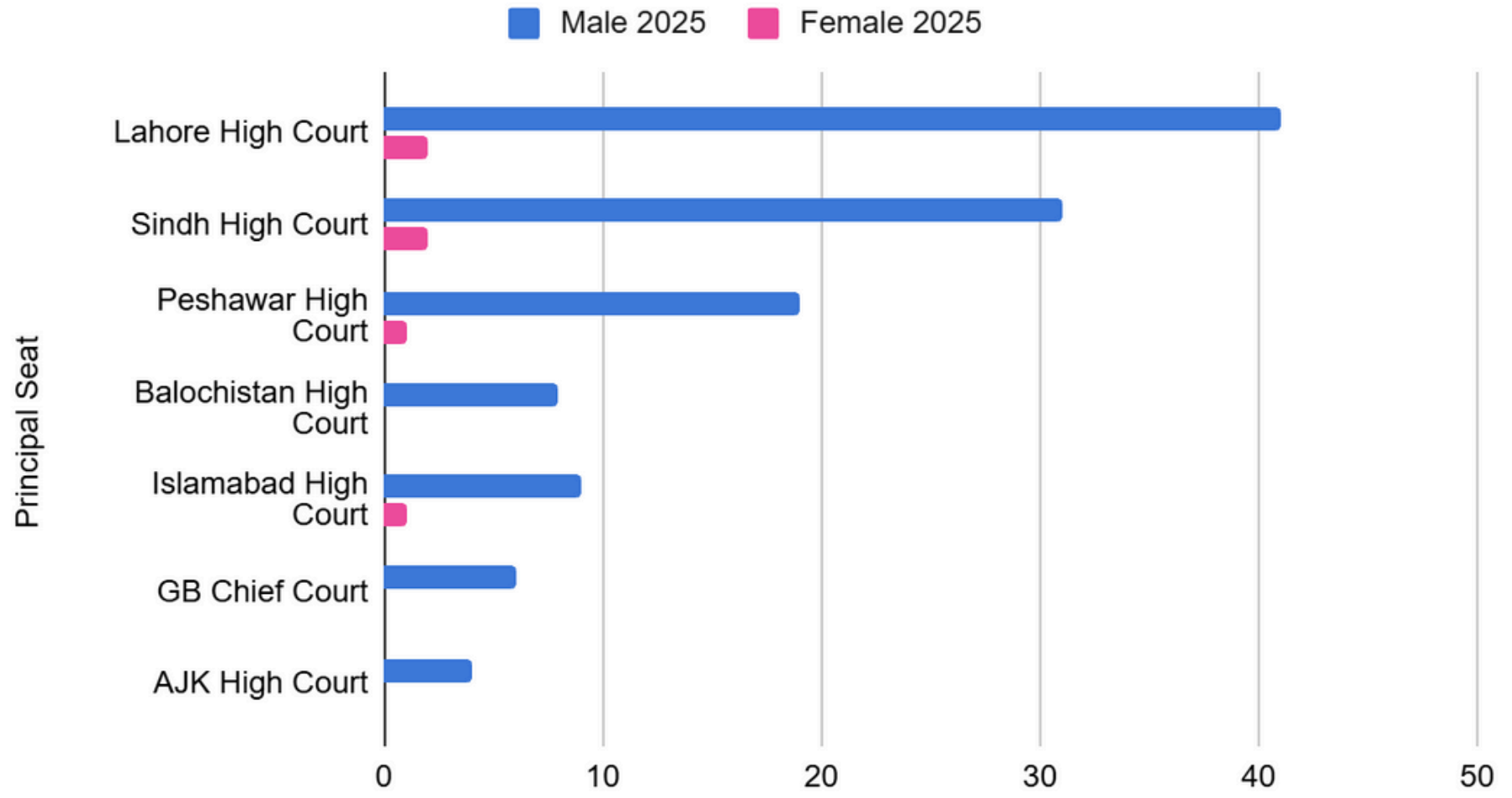
This table illustrates the province-wise gender segregated data of the judiciary in High Courts of Pakistan.

*It is observed that there remains **no representation of women in the High Courts of Peshawar, Balochistan, AJK and GB.***

*In terms of percentage, **ICT leads with a 10% representation of women in Islamabad High Court** which is a 2.5% decrease since 2024, **followed by Sindh at 6%** exhibiting a 2% increase from 2024. **Lahore High Court has gone up from 3% in 2024 to 5% in 2025**, as it was in 2023.*

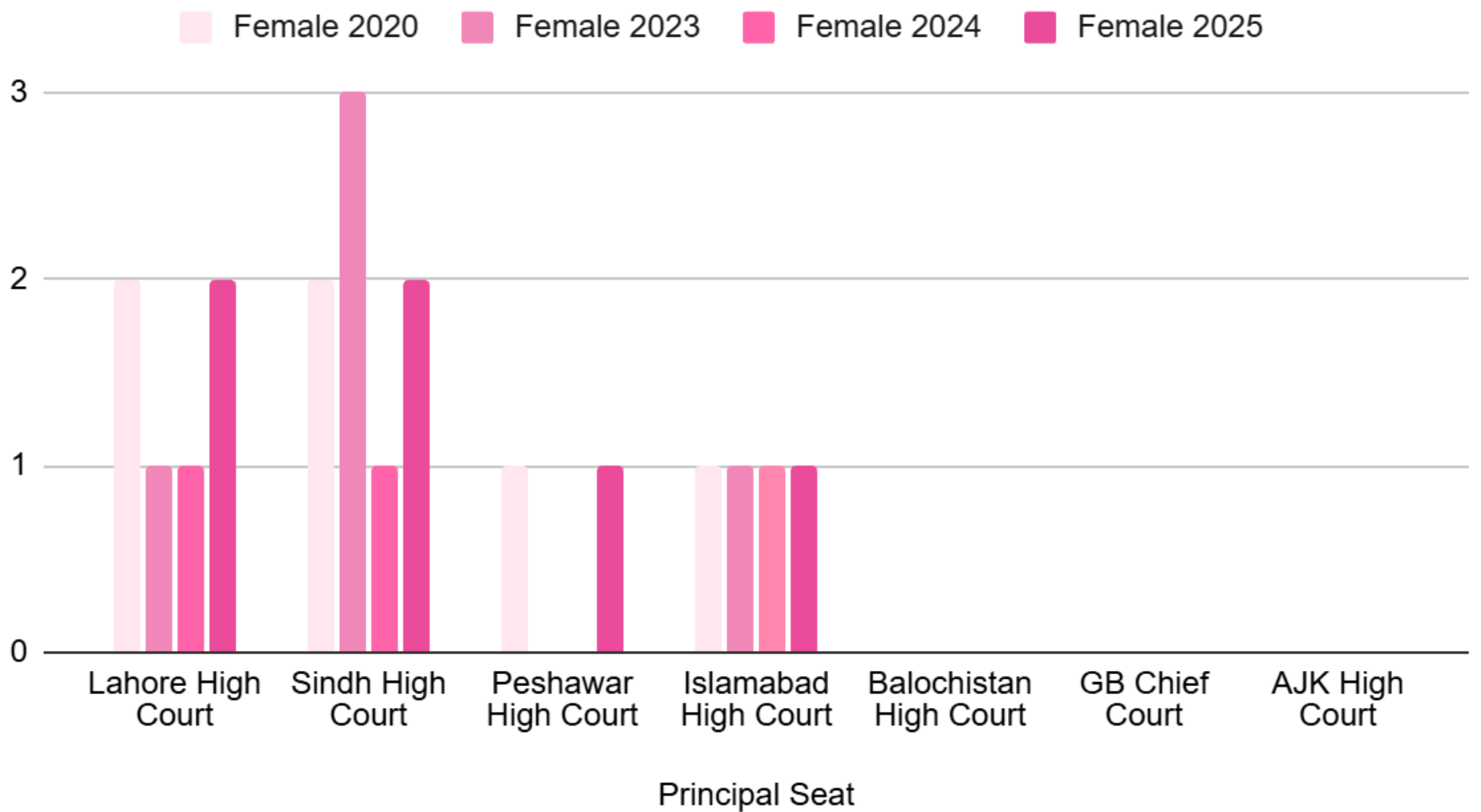
*Overall, there has been an increase in women judges in high courts from **3% in 2024 to 5% in 2025**, at par with data from year 2020 and 2023 although, Pakistan is unable to ensure women's representation in higher judiciary beyond the 5% mark.*

Representation in High Courts 2025



This graph illustrates comparative data of male and female judges in High Courts in Pakistan for the year 2025.

High Court Female Data Comparison 2020, 2023, 2024 & 2025



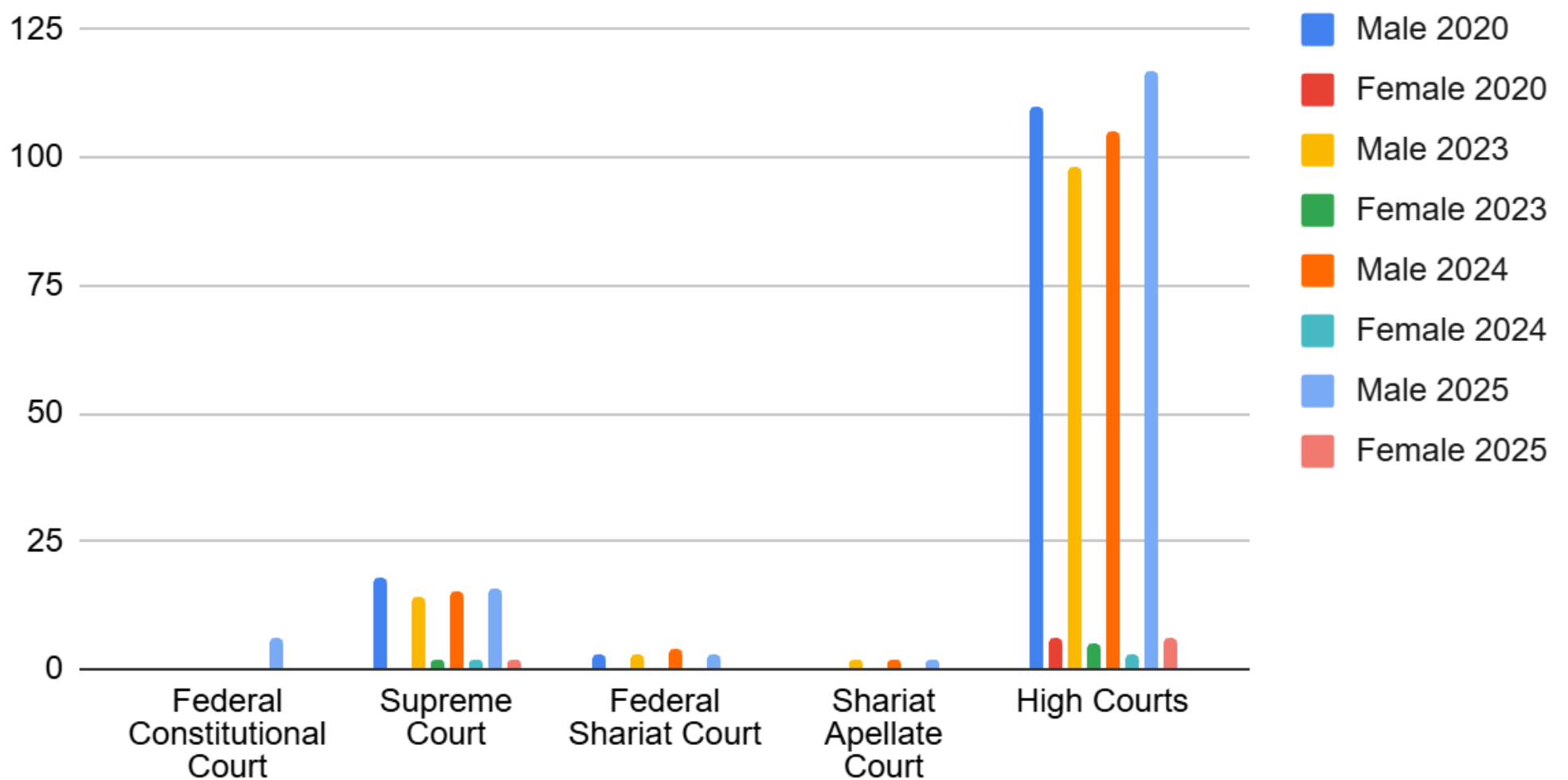
This graph illustrates comparative data of women judges in High Courts in Pakistan for the years 2020, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

HIGHER JUDICIARY COMPARISON

Court Tier	Judges							
	Male 2020	Female 2020	Male 2023	Female 2023	Male 2024	Female 2024	Male 2025	Female 2025
Federal Constitutional Court	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	0
Supreme Court	18	0	14	2	15	2	16	2
Federal Shariat Court	3	0	3	0	4	0	3	0
Shariat Apellate Court	-	-	2	0	2	0	2	0
High Courts	110	6	98	5	105	3	117	6
Total	131	6	117	7	126	5	144	8
Total %	96%	4%	95%	5%	96%	4%	95%	5%

This table shows the tier-wise gender segregated data in figures of the higher judiciary in Pakistan. It is observed that IN 2025 the number of both female and male judges was the highest in terms of figures. It indicates that the number of male judges fluctuates each year, whereas the number of female judges increases or decreases by only two or three. Overall, the table highlights a significant disparity in gender representation within the higher judiciary, where greater representation may be required.

Higher Judiciary Data - Provincia Comparison 2020, 2023, 2024, & 2025



This chart shows the tier-wise gender segregated data in numbers of the higher judiciary in Pakistan for the years 2020, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

CONSOLIDATED DATA OF ALL COURTS

Court Tier	2025	
	Male	Female
Federal Constitution Court	6	0
Supreme Court of Pakistan*	16	2
Federal Shariat Court**	3	0
Shariat Appellate Court	2	0
High Courts	117	6
Subordinate Courts	3041	645
Total	3185	653
Total %	83%	17%

*includes Ad-Hoc members – Shariat Appellate Bench.

** 5 seats of FSC were vacant as at January 8, 2021 and they remain vacant.

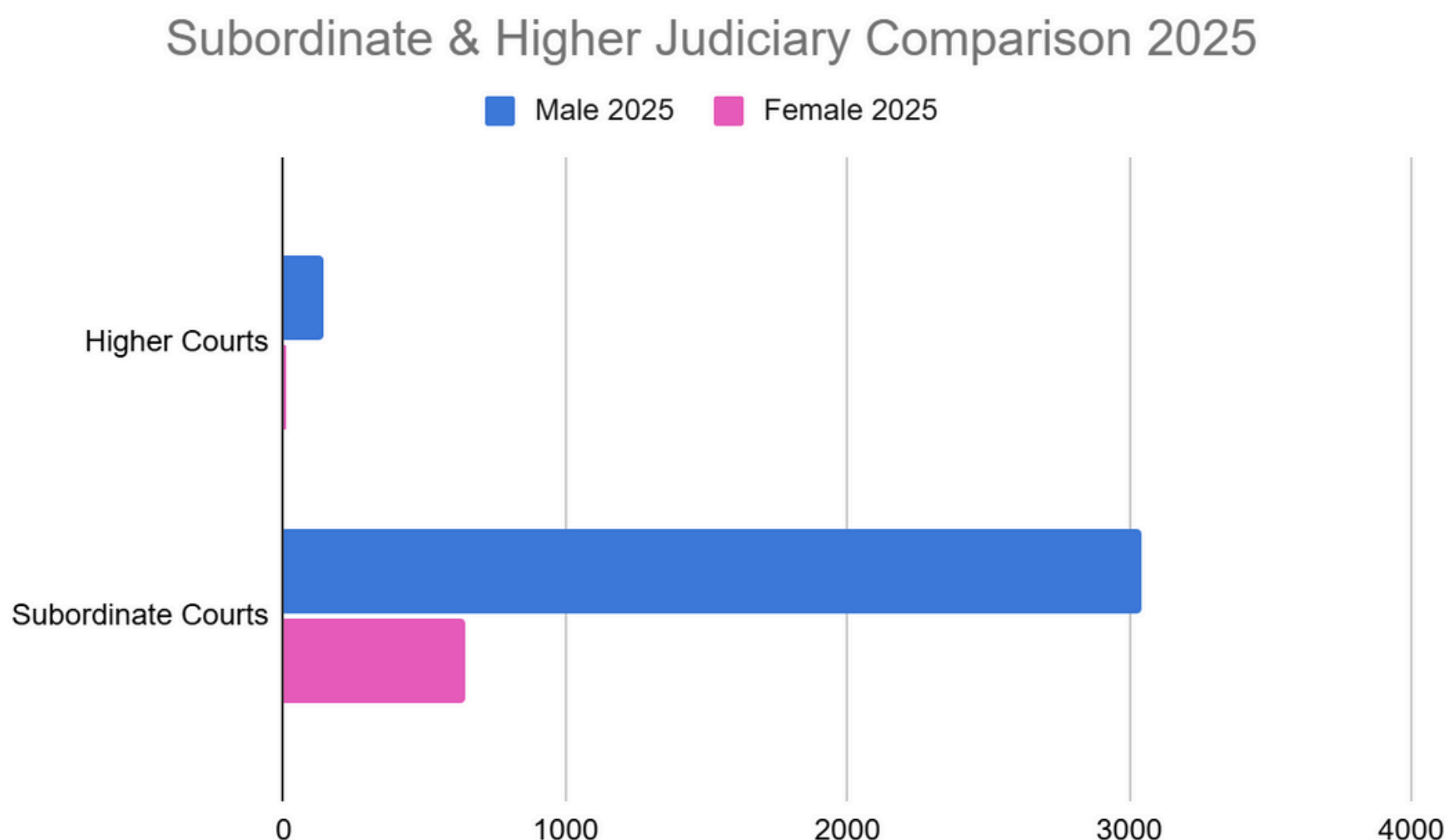
This table shows a gender-segregated comparison between the representation of women and men at subordinate and higher courts. In 2025, the Supreme Court had 2 women as compared to 16 men while Federal Shariat Court had no presence of women. The table also shows that representation of women in terms of percentage in the High Courts has increased between the years 2024 – 2025 from 3% to 5%.

However, the overall percentage of women within the judiciary (including data from both subordinate and higher courts) stands at 17% in 2025 which is the same as it was in 2024.

While the total number of women judges has shown a gradual increase, from 519 in 2020 to 579 in 2023, 601 in 2024, and 653 in 2025 – the higher judiciary, including the Supreme Court, continues to experience stagnation with no fresh appointments of women in the supreme court. Furthermore, there has only been a marginal increase of 2% in women's representation in the high courts between 2024 to 2025. It is also pertinent to note that at present there are no women in the newly constituted Federal Constitutional Court.

Notably, the number of women judges in the higher judiciary increased from 7 in 2023 to 5 in 2024 and subsequently to 8 in 2025. This upward trend, particularly at levels where equitable representation is most critical, is a positive and welcome development.

COMPARISON BETWEEN HIGHER & SUBORDINATE COURTS 2025



The difference in the representation of women between the subordinate and higher judiciary is highlighted in this chart. It must be noted that the nominations and appointments process is different for subordinate and for higher courts. The appointments in the subordinate judiciary are based on a competitive examination whereas for the higher courts, the nominations are moved by the Chief Justice of the respective Court and confirmed by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan and Parliamentary Committee in accordance with Art 175-A of the Constitution of Pakistan and the Rule 3 of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan Rules 2010.

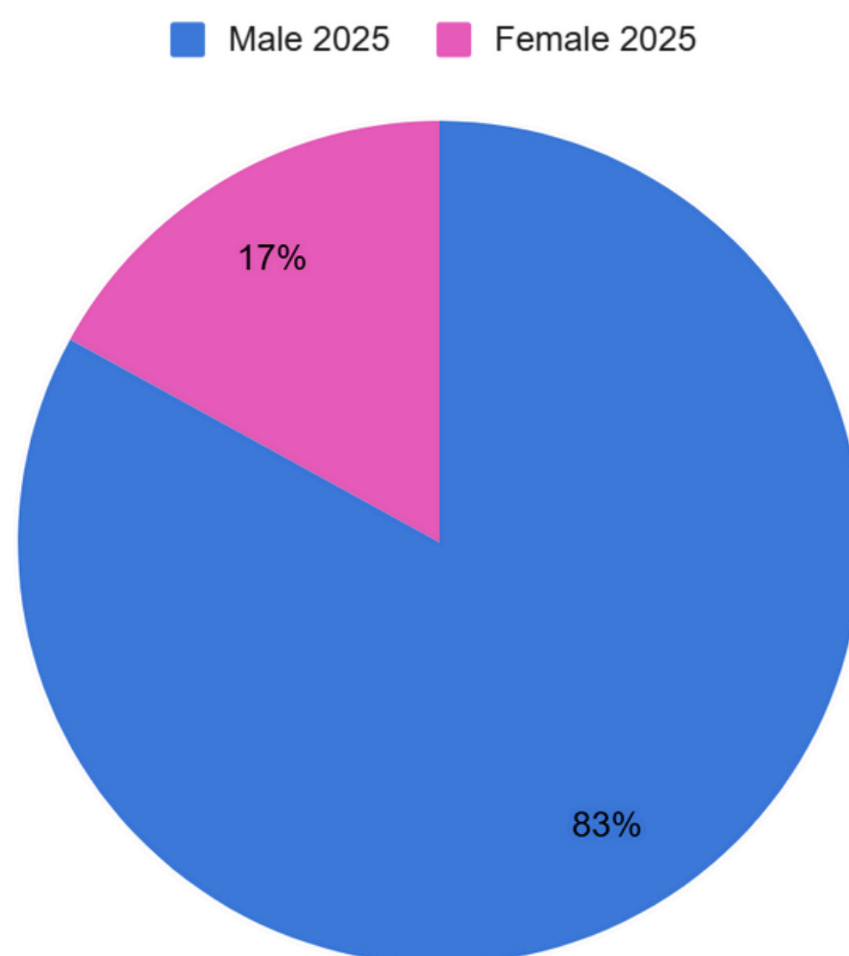
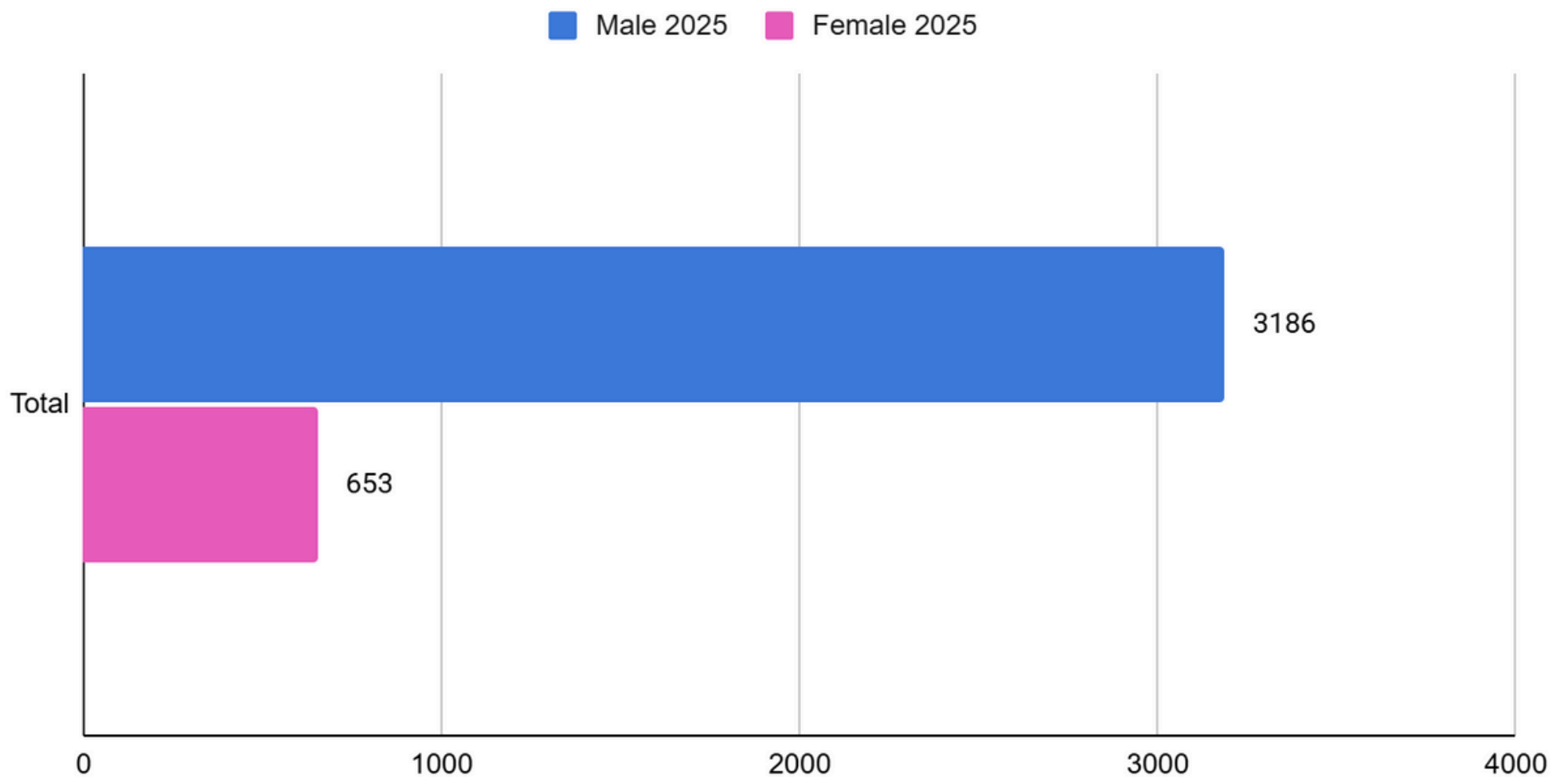
Note however, that the process of appointing judges in higher courts including Supreme Court of Pakistan and constitutional benches has been affected and changed by the 26th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 and amendments to the JCP Rules in December 2024, however, the data in this report is based on the appointments that had been made prior to these developments which is why we have referred to the previous process above.

Overall, this data shows that majority of women judges form part of the subordinate judiciary where recruitment is via competitive examination whereas negligible number of women reach higher judiciary as the system of judicial appointments in higher courts is based on discretionary nominations. It also shows that overall, there has been a minor increase of women in higher courts from 7 in 2023 and 5 in 2024 to 8 in 2025. Moreover, the number of women in subordinate courts has increased from 596 in 2024 to 645 in 2025.

GENDER SEGREGATED DATA OF TOTAL % OF JUDGES IN PAKISTAN 2025

These charts show the gender disparity between male and female judges in percentages in Pakistan. It includes data of both subordinate and higher courts as at December 31, 2025.

Total Gender Segregated Data of Judiciary in Pakistan as of 31 December 2025



CONCLUDING NOTE

This annual report has highlighted that **women constitute barely 17% of the total judiciary in Pakistan as of 2025, which is the same as 2023 and 2024.**

Women account for almost half of Pakistan's population and yet their representation in the legal profession is negligible. While there has been some progress, there remains a lot more to achieve in terms of fair representation of women in judiciary in proportion to the population.

This is of concern particularly in the context of access to justice for women and children (girls in particular) because lack of fair representation in key forums through which rights are to be accessed and enforced currently do not appear to fairly include women's voices in Pakistan. As a result, legal profession and jurisprudence fails to fully benefit from the lived experience and unique perspectives of half of the population which could lead to increased alienation among women who may already be at risk and lack any real agency in a patriarchal society.

Additionally, local research suggests that children and women complainants would often prefer interacting with women during the justice process. This invisibility of women in the legal profession, hence, contributes to discouraging complainants from seeking formal justice, which adversely impacts the dispensation of gender and child justice and the rule of law in Pakistan.

Given the disparity among men and women in terms of access to education, health, economic opportunities, financial autonomy and participation in labour force and politics and the prevalence of gender-based violence, family disputes, harassment at workplace, succession, inheritance and other legal matters, the lack of diverse representation in justice sector becomes an even bigger concern.

In such cases, legal recourse often becomes an inevitable route to settle disputes and access fundamental rights which is why, it is important to continue to work towards building an inclusive, equitable and accessible justice sector for all.

It is pertinent to remind that Pakistan appointed its first female judge to the Supreme Court after 74 years of its independence in 2022 and the second female in 2023. Before that, Pakistan had never had a woman as a justice in the Supreme Court leaving Pakistan as the only country in the region with this record. All other countries in the region, including Afghanistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and India had had female Justices in their highest courts before Pakistan.

As the trends show, **there appears to be no significant improvement in the state of women's representation, even with nominal overall increase of women's representation.** The amendments brought via the 26th constitutional amendment in 2024 and the JCP Rules 2024 are further expected to increase technical and other barriers hindering women's representation and inclusion in higher judiciary and make the process even more arbitrary. The concerned authorities and stakeholders appear to be failing in their responsibility to uphold women's full participation and representation in national life in line with Articles 25 and 34 of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 as well as in their commitments under international treaties, covenants and the sustainable development goals.

Overall, the numbers in the **higher judiciary**, of women, continue to be abysmal as **only 8 judges are women compared to 117 male judges in the High Courts in 2025.** In 2025, **women made up only 5% of members of higher judiciary**, which shows an **increase of 2% from 2024.**

In terms of numbers, Sindh and Lahore High Court have 2 female judges each while Islamabad and Peshawar have 1 female judge each in their high courts. In no other high court of the country are women currently represented as judges. Percentage wise however, **Islamabad High Court is in a leading position with 10% representation of women as judges in the high court.**

The state of women's representation in the **subordinate judiciary** is comparatively much better than in higher judiciary but still not fair as it remains at 18%. In our baseline from 2020, KP led with 22% representation of female judges in its subordinate courts. This rose to 25% in 2023 & 2024. **In 2025, KP still leads** in terms of percentages, with **23% representation of women judges** in its **subordinate courts** when compared with other provinces although, when compared with its own previous years, there has been **a decline from 25 to 23%.** **Numbers wise, in 2025, Punjab is the leading province with 326 women in subordinate judiciary** followed by KP (143 women judges) and Sindh (89 women judges).

We reiterate that the process of recruiting judges in the subordinate courts is fundamentally different than the process of appointments of judges in the higher courts. At the subordinate level, it is based on a competitive examination and recruitments are made in accordance with Judicial Service Rules of the province of Punjab as shown in "Annexure i Subordinate Judiciary" as a sample below, whereas, for higher courts, the nominations and appointments take place in accordance with Article 175-A of the Constitution of Pakistan 1973, as shown in "Annexure ii and iii. higher judiciary" below.

In 2025, the process of appointing judges in higher courts was affected by the 26th and 27th amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan 1973 and amendments to the JCP Rules in December 2024. The Induction of the newly formed – now Apex Court for matters within its jurisdiction, the Federal Constitutional Court, as well as amendments to the process whereby higher judiciary is nominated has greatly impacted the dynamics of the nomination and appointment process. The amendments restructured the process for judicial appointments by vesting decisive authority in a newly composed Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) and related committees. Under this framework, appointments to the superior judiciary including the Federal Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and High Courts are now determined by a committee that includes parliamentarians and executive nominees, as opposed to the nominations being moved by the Chief Justices of respective higher courts as was the earlier practice, followed by approval of a JCP composed of a majority of judicial members and a separate parliamentary committee, whose reservations, if any, were justiciable, with the ultimate say of the judicial members in the appointments process post the 18th and 19th amendment of the Constitution.

However, despite this procedural “transformation,” the issue of female representation in the higher judiciary remains unresolved. There has been no practical action to advance women’s representation in the higher judiciary, nor has there been any elimination of non-meritocratic barriers that historically limit women’s elevation to the bench. Currently, women remain drastically under-represented as seen in this report.

Notwithstanding our stance against the 26th & 27th amendments to the constitution, the new JCP failed to ensure representation of women in the FCC. The extent of the impact that these recent amendments to the constitution will have on female representation is still being observed. However, based on empirical findings of the year 2025, the Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) of Pakistan has no female representation while the SC has only 2 and who were appointed prior to these amendments. Thus, the new FCC – a court meant to adjudicate on matters of fundamental rights and interpret the constitution having the power to affect all citizens lacks equality and diversity in terms of representation of women and other marginalised persons as of 2025.

The stakeholders and relevant bodies concerned with judicial appointments must recognise the ground disparities and structural barriers that hinder women’s access and advancement in the justice sector. They should take a leading role in introducing reforms for a diverse and inclusive legal system that ensures fair representation, equality, diversity and inclusion in the judiciary.

ANNEXURES

i. Subordinate Judiciary - Punjab

Punjab Judicial Service Rules - 1994

4 Appointing Authority: Appointments to the service shall be made by the High Court.

5 Method of Recruitment:

i. Appointment to a post of Civil Judge-cum- Magistrates shall be made by initial recruitment on the recommendation on the Commission based on the result of competitive examination conducted by it in the subjects specified in the Appendix-A to these rules.

ii. Omitted.

iii. Appointment to the post of Additional District & Sessions Judge shall be made to the extent of forty percent of the available vacancies through initial recruitment from amongst members of the Bar and;

iv. Appointment to the post of Additional District & Sessions Judge under sub-rule (3) shall be made on the recommendations of the Examination Committee and the Examination Committee shall conduct competitive examination for the said purpose in the subjects specified in Appendix-B to these rules.

Explanation.

----For purpose of this rule, 'Examination Committee' means of three Judges of the High Court nominated by the Chief Justice.

6 Age:

(1) No person shall be appointed to the service: in case of initial recruitment as Civil Judge- cum- Magistrates if he is less than twenty-two years and more than thirty years of age. Provided that-----

(a) in the case of a Government Servant who has served in connection the affairs of the Federation or the Province of Punjab for a period of not less than three years, the upper age limit shall be thirty-five years;

(b) in the case of a Barrister or an Advocate of the High Court and the Courts subordinate thereto or a Pleader, the period during which he practiced at the Bar, subject to a maximum period of three years, shall, for the purpose of upper age limit under this rule, be excluded from his age;

(c) in the case of a person whose service under Government has been terminated for want of vacancy, the period of service already rendered by him shall for the purpose of upper age limit under this rule, be excluded from his age.

(2) For the purposes of this rule, age shall be reckoned as on the last date fixed for submission of applications for appointment.

7 Qualification.

(1) No person shall be appointed to a post in the service by initial recruitment unless:-

(a) in case of appointment to a post of Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate, he possesses a degree in law from a recognized University entitling him to practice the profession of Law or is a Member of the Faculty of Advocates of Scotland.

(i) he possesses a degree in Law from a recognized University entitling him to practice the profession of law or is a Member of the Faculty of Advocate of Scotland;

(ii) he has actively practiced the profession of law for not less than two years after having been enrolled as an Advocate; and

(iii) he is domiciled in the Punjab.

Explanation:-

For the purposes of this clause-

(i) the expression "practiced the profession of law" shall include any period of Government service by a person as-

a) District Attorney, a Deputy District Attorney or an Assistant District Attorney; or

b) full time prosecutor authorized to conduct prosecution on behalf of the Government; and

(ii) to prove active practice the candidate shall declare by an affidavit that-

(a) he had been actively practicing the profession of law during the two years preceding the date of advertisement; and

(b) during this period he had not engaged himself in any other whole-time service, business or, as the case may be, occupation for gain.

(b) In case of appointment to the post of Additional District & Sessions Judge, he, apart from possessing the qualification prescribed in sub- clause(i) of clause (a), is:

(i) a practicing Advocate of High Court and the court subordinate to the High court with minimum practice of ten years; and

(ii) not less than thirty-five years and not more than forty-five years of age; and

(iii) a Senior Civil Judge or Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate with ten years' service experience.

(d) A person shall not be appointed to the service through initial recruitment unless he:

(i) produces a certificate of character from the principal academic officer of the academic institution last attended and also such certificates from two other respectable persons, not being his relatives, who are well acquainted with his character and antecedents;

(ii) is declared to be medically fit by a Board of Medical Officers, appointed by the High Court; and

(iii) he is domiciled in Punjab.

7A. Confirmation of Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate.

A Civil Judge-cum- Magistrate shall not be confirmed in service unless:

- (a) he completes initial or extended period of probation satisfactorily on the basis of performance evaluation made by the Departmental Confirmation Committee;
- (b) he undergoes, attends and successfully qualifies such course and training as may be determined by the High Court; and
- (c) he has passed the departmental examination under the Punjab Civil Judges Departmental Examination Rules, 1991.

7B. Confirmation of Additional District and Sessions Judge.

An Additional District and Sessions Judge appointed through initial recruitment shall not be confirmed in service unless:

- (a) he completes initial or extended period of probation satisfactorily on the basis of performance evaluation made by the Departmental Confirmation Committee;
- (b) he undergoes, attends and successfully qualifies such course and training as may be determined by the High Court from time to time; and
- (c) he has passed the departmental examination as may be specified by the High Court.

Explanation.---

For purposes of these rules, 'Departmental Confirmation Committee' means a committee of two Judges of the High Court nominated by the Chief Justice.

7C. Promotion.

The following shall be the method of promotion of judicial officers;

- (a) all posts of the Senior Civil Judges-cum-Magistrates shall be filled through promotion on seniority-cum-fitness basis from amongst the Civil Judges-cum- Magistrates;
- (b) Sixty percent of the available posts of Additional District & Sessions Judges shall be filled through promotion on seniority-cum-fitness basis from amongst the Senior Civil Judges-cum-Magistrates; and
- (c) all posts of the District & Sessions Judges shall be filled through promotion on seniority-cum-fitness from amongst the Additional District and Sessions Judges.

7D. Pre-Requirement for Promotion.

(1) A Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate, a Senior Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate or an Additional District and Sessions Judge shall not be eligible to be considered for promotion unless he attends, undergoes and successfully qualifies such course and training at Federal Judicial Academy, Punjab Judicial Academy or such other institution as may be determined by the High Court; and, is recommended for promotion by the performance Evaluation Committee.

(2) The Chief Justice shall constitute a Performance Evaluation Committee which shall make recommendations for promotions on the basis of performance evaluation of Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate, a Senior Civil Judge-cum-Magistrate or an Additional District and Sessions Judge.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this rule, the High Court may itself conduct a course or training for purposes of sub-rule (1).

**ii. Old Judicial Nominations and Appointments Process and Provisions
Higher Judiciary**

Constitution of Pakistan 1973

Art 175A - Appointment of Judges to the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court-

(1) There shall be a Judicial Commission of Pakistan, hereinafter in this Article referred to as the Commission, for appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court, as hereinafter provided.

(2) For appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court, the Commission shall consist of--
(i) Chairman - Chief Justice of Pakistan;
(ii) Members - [four] most senior Judges of the Supreme Court;
(iii) Member - a former Chief Justice or a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to be nominated by the Chief Justice of Pakistan, in consultation with the [four] member Judges, for a period of two years;
(iv) Member - Federal Minister for Law and Justice;
(v) Member - Attorney-General for Pakistan; and
(vi) Member - a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan nominated by the Pakistan Bar Council for a term of two years.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (1) or clause (2), the President shall appoint the most senior Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chief Justice of Pakistan.

(4) The Commission may make rules regulating its procedure.

(5) For appointment of Judges of a High Court, the Commission in clause (2) shall also include the following, namely:-

(i) Member - Chief Justice of the High Court to which the appointment is being made;
(ii) Member - the most senior Judge of that High Court;
(iii) Member - Provincial Minister for Law; and
(iv) Member as advocate having not less than fifteen years practice in the High Court to be nominated by the concerned Bar Council for a term of two years:

[Provided that for appointment of the Chief Justice of a High Court the most Senior Judge mentioned in paragraph (ii) shall not be member of the Commission:

Provided further that if for any reason the Chief Justice of a High Court is not available, he shall be substituted by a former Chief Justice or former Judge of that Court, to be nominated by the Chief Justice of Pakistan in consultation with the four member Judges of the Commission mentioned in paragraph (ii) of clause (2).

(6) For appointment of Judges of the Islamabad High Court, the Commission in clause (2) shall also include the following, namely:-

(i) Member - Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court; and
(ii) Member - the most senior Judge of that High Court

Provided that for initial appointment of the [Chief Justice and the] Judges of the Islamabad High Court, the Chief Justices of the four Provincial High Courts shall also be members of the Commission:

Provided further that subject to the foregoing proviso, in case of appointment of Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, the provisos to clause (5) shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

(7) For appointment of Judges of the Federal Shariat Court, the Commission in clause (2) shall also include the Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court and the most senior Judge of that Court as its members:

Provided that for appointment of Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court, the provisos to clause (5) shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

(8) The Commission by majority of its total membership shall nominate to the Parliamentary Committee one person, for each vacancy of a Judge in the Supreme Court, a High Court or the Federal Shariat Court, as the case may be.

(9) The Parliamentary Committee, hereinafter in this Article referred to as the Committee, shall consist of the following eight members, namely:-

- (i) four members from the Senate; and
- (ii) four members from the National Assembly

[Provided that when the National Assembly is dissolved, the total membership of the Parliamentary Committee shall consist of the members of the Senate only mentioned in paragraph (i) and the provisions of this Article shall, mutatis mutandis apply.]

(10) Out of the eight members of the Committee, four shall be from the Treasury Benches, two from each House and four from the Opposition Benches, two from each House. The nomination of members from the Treasury Benches shall be made by the Leader of the House and from the Opposition Benches by the Leader of the Opposition.

(11) Secretary, Senate shall act as the Secretary of the Committee.

(12) The Committee on receipt of a nomination from the Commission may confirm the nominee by majority of its total membership within fourteen days, failing which the nomination shall be deemed to have been confirmed:

[Provided that the Committee, for reasons to be recorded, may not confirm the nomination by three-fourth majority of its total membership within the said period:]

[Provided further that if a nomination is not confirmed by the Committee it shall forward its decision with reasons so recorded to the Commission through the Prime Minister:

Provided further that if a nomination is not confirmed, the Commission shall send another nomination.]

(13) The Committee shall send the name of the nominee confirmed by it or deemed to have been confirmed to the Prime Minister who shall forward the same to the President for appointment.

(14) No action or decision taken by the Commission or a Committee shall be invalid or called in question only on the ground of the existence of a vacancy therein or of the absence of any member from any meeting thereof.

(15) The meetings of the Committee shall be held in camera and the record of its proceedings shall be maintained.

(16) The provisions of Article 68 shall not apply to the proceedings of the Committee.

(17) The Committee may make rules for regulating its procedure.

Art 177 – Appointment of Supreme Court Judges.

(1) The Chief Justice of Pakistan and each of the other Judges of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Article 175A.

(2) A person shall not be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of Pakistan and –

(a) has for a period of, or for periods aggregating, not less than five years been a judge of a High Court (including a High Court which existed in Pakistan at any time before the commencing day); or

(b) has for a period of, or for periods aggregating not less than fifteen years been an advocate of a High Court (including a High Court which existed in Pakistan at any time before the commencing day).

Art 193 – Appointment of High Court Judges.

(1) The Chief Justice and each of the other Judges of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Article 175A.

(2) A person shall not be appointed a Judge of a High Court unless he is a citizen of Pakistan, is not less than [forty-five] years of age, and–

(a) he has for a period of, or for periods aggregating, not less than ten years been an advocate of a High Court (including a High Court which existed in Pakistan at any time before the commencing day); or

(b) he is, and has for a period of not less than ten years been, a member of a civil service prescribed by law for the purposes of this paragraph, and has, for a period of not less than three years, served as or exercised the functions of a District Judge in Pakistan; or

(c) he has, for a period of not less than ten years, held a judicial office in Pakistan.

[Explanation–In computing the period during which a person has been an advocate of a High Court or held judicial office, there shall be included any period during which he has held judicial office after he became an advocate or, as the case may be, the period during which he has been an advocate after having held judicial office.]

(3) In this Article, "District Judge" means Judge of a principal civil court of original jurisdiction.

Judicial Commission of Pakistan Rules 2010

3: Nominations for Appointments

(1) For each anticipated or actual vacancy of a Judge in the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court or the Chief Justice of a High Court, the Chief Justice of Pakistan shall initiate nominations in the Commission for appointment against such vacancy.

(2) For each anticipated or actual vacancy of a Judge in the Federal Shariat Court or Judge in the High Court, the Chief Justice of the respective Court shall initiate and send nomination for appointment against such vacancy to the Chairman for convening meeting of the Commission.

**iii. New Judicial Nominations and Appointments Process and Provisions
Higher Judiciary**

[175A. Appointment of Judges to the Federal Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court.

(1) There shall be a Judicial Commission of Pakistan, hereinafter in this Article referred to as the Commission, for appointment of Judges of 5 [the Federal Constitutional Court,] the Supreme Court, High Courts and the Federal Shariat Court, 7 [and for performance evaluation of Judges of the High Courts,] as hereinafter provided.

(2) For appointment of Judges of 5 [the Federal Constitutional Court and] the Supreme Court, the Commission shall consist of

(i) Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court;

(ii) Chief Justice of the Supreme Court;

(iii) one next most senior Judge each of the Federal Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court; Members

(iiia) a Judge of the Federal Constitutional Court or the Supreme Court jointly and nominated by the Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, for a period of two years; Member;

(iv) Federal Minister for Law and Justice; Member

(v) Attorney-General for Pakistan; Member

(vi) an advocate having not less than fifteen years of practice in the Supreme Court to be nominated by the Pakistan Bar Council for a term of two years; Member

two members from the Senate and two members from the National Assembly of whom two shall be from the Treasury Benches, one from each House, and two from the Opposition Benches, one from each House. The nomination from the Treasury Benches shall be made by the Leader of the House and from the Opposition Benches by the Leader of the Opposition:

Provided that during the time when the National Assembly stands dissolved, the remaining two members, for the purpose of this paragraph, shall be nominated from the Senate in the manner as aforesaid, for such period; Members 1

(viii) a woman or non Muslim or a technocrat, other than a member of Majlise-Shoora (Parliament), who is qualified to be member of the Majlis-eShoora (Parliament), to be appointed by the Speaker of the National Assembly;

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (1), or clause (2), 1 [the Chief Justice of Federal Constitutional Court and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court] shall be nominated by the Special Parliamentary Committee, in this Article referred to as the Committee, from amongst the three most senior Judges of 1 [the Federal Constitutional Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may be]. The Committee shall send the name of the nominee to the Prime Minister who shall forward the same to the President for appointment:

[Provided that if the nominee under this clause declines to become the Chief Justice, he shall be deemed to have retired and the three next most senior Judges shall be considered and so on till the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as the case may be:

Provided further that notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution, the President shall, on advice of the Prime Minister, appoint the first Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court from amongst the Judges of the Supreme Court:

Provided also and notwithstanding anything contained in the Constitution, the appointment of the first batch of Judges of the Federal Constitutional Court, shall be made by the President, on advice of the Prime Minister in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court:

Provided also that the second, third and this proviso shall stand omitted on the appointment of the first Chief Justice and the Judges under the above said provisos.

[(3A) The Committee shall consist of the following twelve members, namely:—

- (i) eight members from the National Assembly; and
- (ii) four members from the Senate: Provided that when the National Assembly stands dissolved, the total membership of the Committee shall consist of the members from the Senate only mentioned in paragraph (ii) and the provisions of this Article shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

(3B) The Parliamentary Parties shall have proportional representation on the Committee, based on their strength in Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), to be nominated by their respective Parliamentary Leaders. The Chairman and the Speaker of the National Assembly, as the case may be, shall notify members of the Committee.

(3C) The Committee, by the majority of not less than two-thirds of its total membership, within fourteen days prior to the retirement of the Chief Justice of 1 [the Federal Constitutional Court or the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as the case may be] shall send the nomination as provided in clause (3) 1 [.]

(3D) No action or decision taken by the Commission or the Committee shall be invalid or called in question only on the ground of existence of a vacancy therein or of the absence of any member from any meeting thereof.

(3E) The meetings of the Committee shall be held in camera and the record of its proceedings shall be maintained.

(3F) The provisions of Article 68 shall not apply to the proceedings of the Committee.

(3G) The Committee may make rules for regulating its procedure.]

(4) The Commission 2 [shall] make rules regulating its procedure including the procedure and criteria for assessment, 2 [interview,] evaluation and fitness for appointment of Judges.]

(5) For appointment of Judges of a High Court, the Commission in clause (2) shall also include the following, namely:—

(i) Chief Justice of the High Court to which the appointment is being made; Member

(ii) 1 [Head of Constitutional Benches of that High Court] Member

(iii) Provincial Minister for Law; and Member

[(iv) an advocate having not less than fifteen years practice in the High Court to be nominated by the concerned Bar Council for a term of two years

Provided that for appointment of the Chief Justice of a High Court the Judge mentioned in paragraph (ii), if he is the most senior Judge of a High Court, shall not be member of the Commission:]

Provided further that if for any reason the Chief Justice of a High Court is not available, he shall be substituted by a former Chief Justice or former Judge of that Court, to be nominated by the Commission

2 [Provided also that if Article 202A has not come into force for a High Court, the most senior Judge of such High Court shall be a member of the Commission under paragraph (ii).]

(6) For appointment of Judges of the Islamabad High Court, the Commission in clause (2) shall also include the following, namely:

(i) Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court;

(ii) 1 [Head of Constitutional Benches of that High Court]1

[(iii) an advocate having not less than fifteen years of practice in the High Court to be nominated by the Islamabad Bar Council for a term of two years; and Member

(iv) a Federal Minister nominated by the Prime Minister: Member]

Provided that for initial appointment of the 2 [Chief Justice and the] Judges of the Islamabad High Court, the Chief Justices of the four Provincial High Courts shall also be members of the Commission:

Provided further that subject to the foregoing proviso, in case of appointment of Chief Justice 3 [and the Judges] of Islamabad High Court, the 1 [Explanation and] provisos to clause (5) shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

7) For appointment of Judges of the Federal Shariat Court, the Commission in clause (2) shall also include the Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court and the most senior Judge of that Court as its members:

Provided that for appointment of Chief Justice of Federal Shariat Court, the provisos to clause (5) shall, mutatis mutandis, apply.

(8) The Commission, by the majority of its total membership, shall nominate one person for each vacancy of a Judge in 3 [the Federal Constitutional Court,] the Supreme Court, a High Court or the Federal Shariat Court, as the case may be, to the Prime Minister who shall forward the same to the President for appointment.]

((11) Secretary, 1 [National Assembly] shall act as the Secretary of the Committee

[(18) The Commission in clause (2) shall conduct an annual performance evaluation of Judges of the High Courts.

(19) If the performance of a Judge of a High Court is found by the Commission to be inefficient, it shall grant him such period for improvement, as it deems appropriate. If, upon completion of the period so granted, the performance of such Judge is again found to be inefficient, the Commission shall send its report to the Supreme Judicial Council.

(20) The Commission shall make rules for the purposes of clauses (18) and (19) within sixty days of commencement of the Constitution (Twenty-seventh Amendment) Act, 2025.]

(21) For the purposes of this Article and subject to the rules made by the Commission, there shall be a secretariat of the Commission to be headed by a secretary and shall include such other officers and staff, as may be necessary.

(22) One-third of the members of the Commission may requisition a meeting of the Commission by sending a written request to the Chairperson who shall convene the meeting of the Commission not later than fifteen days from the receipt of such requisition. If the Chairperson fails to convene a meeting within the aforesaid period, the secretary shall convene the meeting within seven days of the expiry of the aforesaid period.

(23) For each anticipated or actual vacancy of a Judge in 1 [the Federal Constitutional Court,] the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court, the Chief Justice of a High Court, a Judge in the Federal Shariat Court or a Judge in a High Court, any member of the Commission may give nominations in the Commission for appointment against such vacancy.]

175C. Appointment of Federal Constitutional Court Judges.-

(1) The Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court and each of the other Judges thereof shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Article 175A.

(2) A person shall not be appointed as Judge of the Federal Constitutional Court unless he is a citizen of Pakistan and-

(a) is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court; or

(b) has, for a period of not less than five years, been a Judge of a High Court; or

(c) has, for a period of not less than twenty years, been an advocate of a High Court and is an advocate of the Supreme Court.

(3) The inter se seniority of Judges appointed under this Article shall be reckoned from the date they enter upon the office and in case that date is same then on the basis of their age:

Provided that a Judge of the Supreme Court, who holds the said office on the commencement of the Constitution (Twenty-seventh Amendment) Act, 2025, shall retain his inter se seniority among Judges other than the Chief Justice of the Federal Constitutional Court.

177. Appointment of Supreme Court Judges.

(1)The Chief Justice of 1 [Supreme Court] and each of the other Judges of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Article 175A.] 4

(2) A person shall not be appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of Pakistan and—

(a) has for a period of, or for periods aggregating, not less than five years been a Judge of a High Court; or

(b) has, for a period of not less than fifteen years, been an advocate of a High Court and is an advocate of the Supreme Court.]

182. Appointment of ad-hoc Judges.

If at any time it is not possible for want of quorum of Judges of the Supreme Court to hold or continue any sitting of the Court, or for any other reason it is necessary to increase temporarily the number of Judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of 1 [Supreme Court] 4 [, in Consultation with the Judicial Commission as provided in clause (2) of Article 175A,] may, in writing,___

(a) with the approval of the President, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of that Court and since whose ceasing to hold that office three years have not elapsed; or

(b) with the approval of the President and with the consent of the Chief Justice of a High Court, require a Judge of that Court qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court

193. Appointment of High Court Judges.

(1) The Chief Justice and each of other Judges of a High Court shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Article 175A.] 6

(2) A person shall not be appointed as a Judge of a High Court unless he is a citizen of Pakistan, is not less than forty years of age, and—

(a) he has, for a period of not less than ten years, been an advocate of a High Court; or

(b) he has, for a period of not less than ten years, held a judicial office in Pakistan.



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