

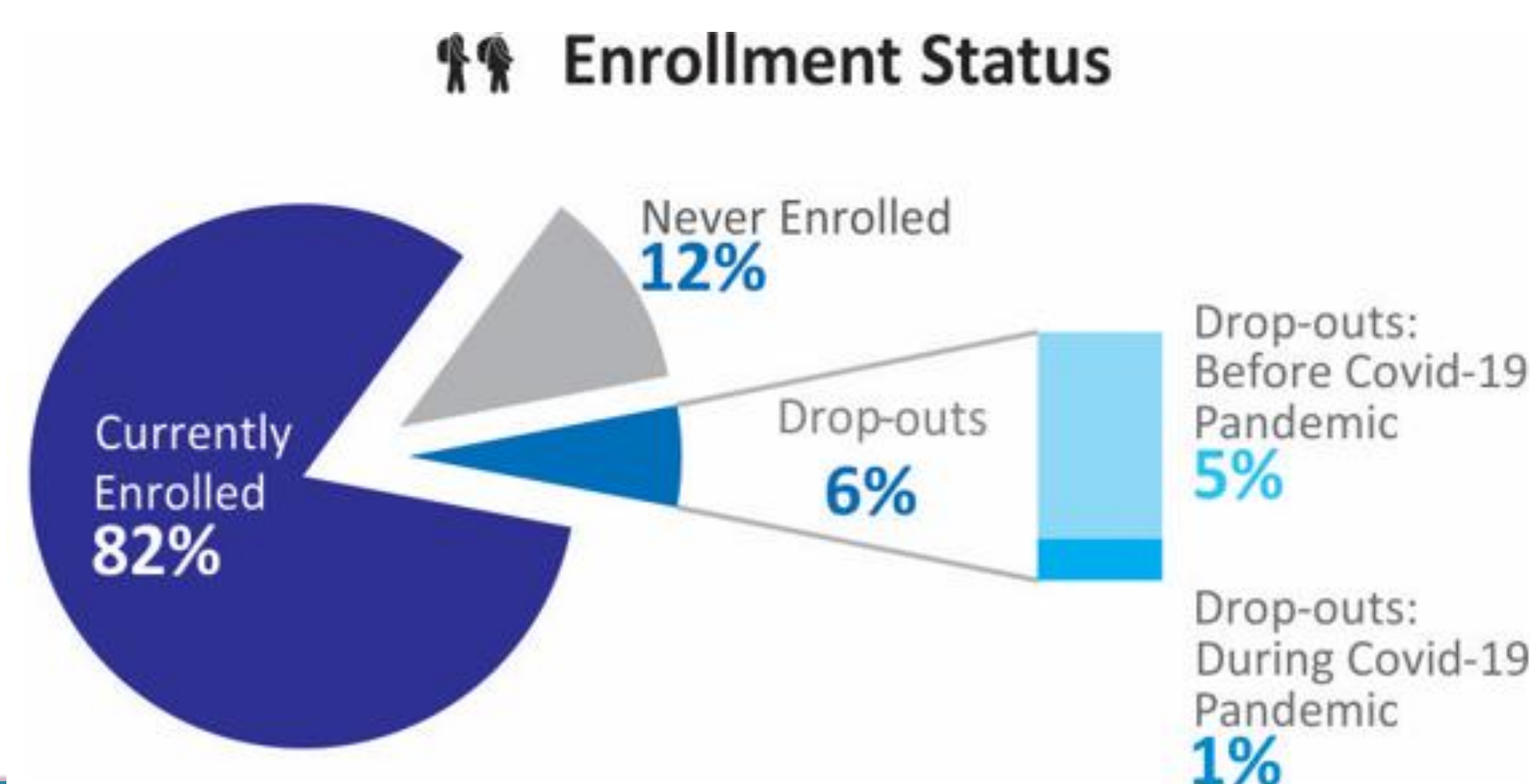
# The Impact of COVID-19 on Student's Learning in the Major Cities of Pakistan

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## Introduction and Motivation

- Pakistan closed schools in the mid of March 2020, affecting around **46 million** students, especially the ones aged between 5-16 years of age.
- The motivation behind our research is to study how **the COVID-19 pandemic affected the enrollment and educational inequality between rich and poor.**
- Closure of institution led to adaptation of virtual education with the need of technology.
- However, not every student and schools had access to these technologies.

### Enrollment Status and Dropout Period



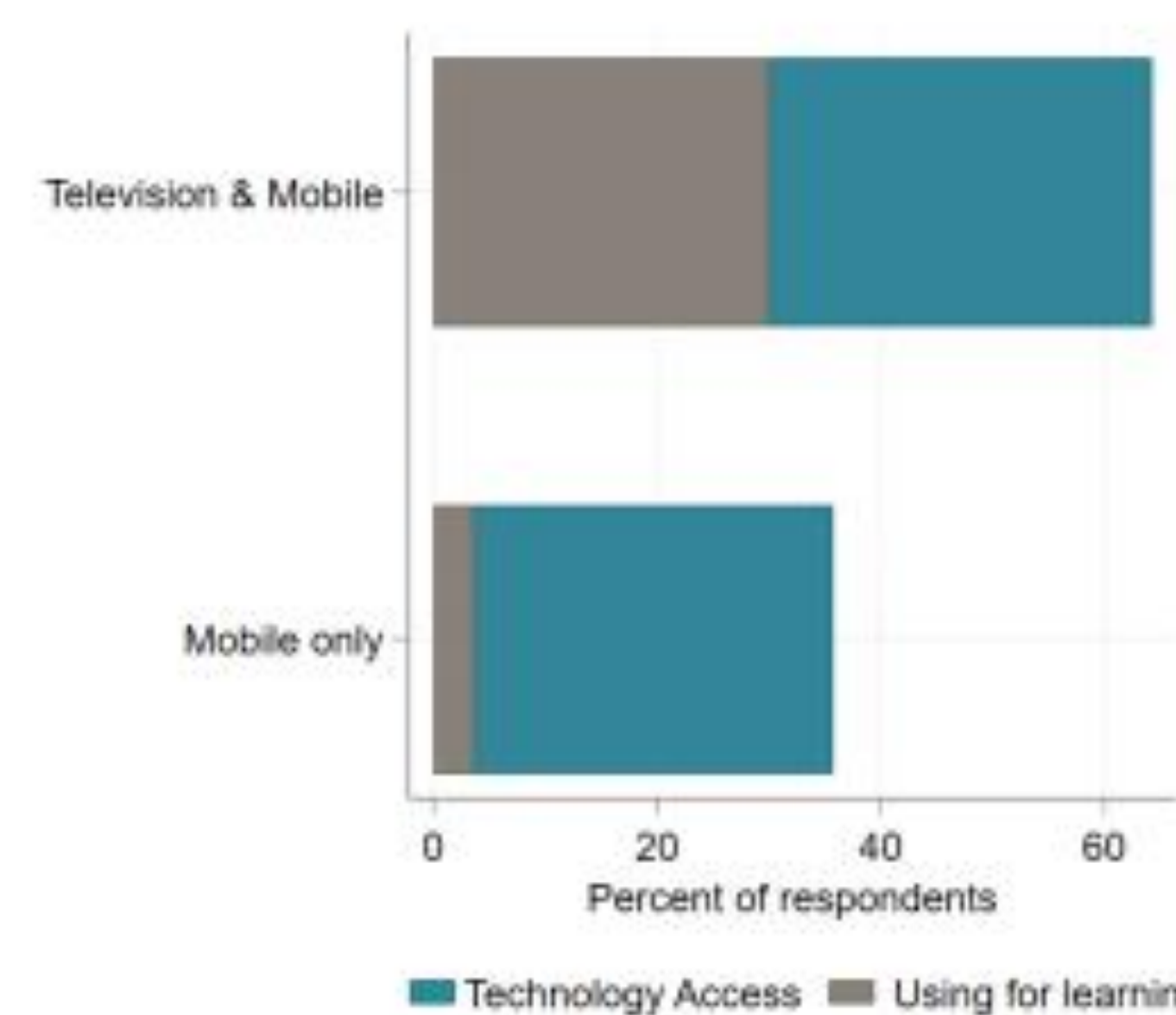
## Research Questions

- What effect did COVID-19 have on the Pakistani education system?
- Was there a significant difference on students enrolled in elite private schools, ordinary English medium private schools, public schools, or madrasas in major cities of Pakistan?

## Literature Review

- **66%** of families did not use technology for education at all, and only about **47%** of households with television or phone used it for distance learning.

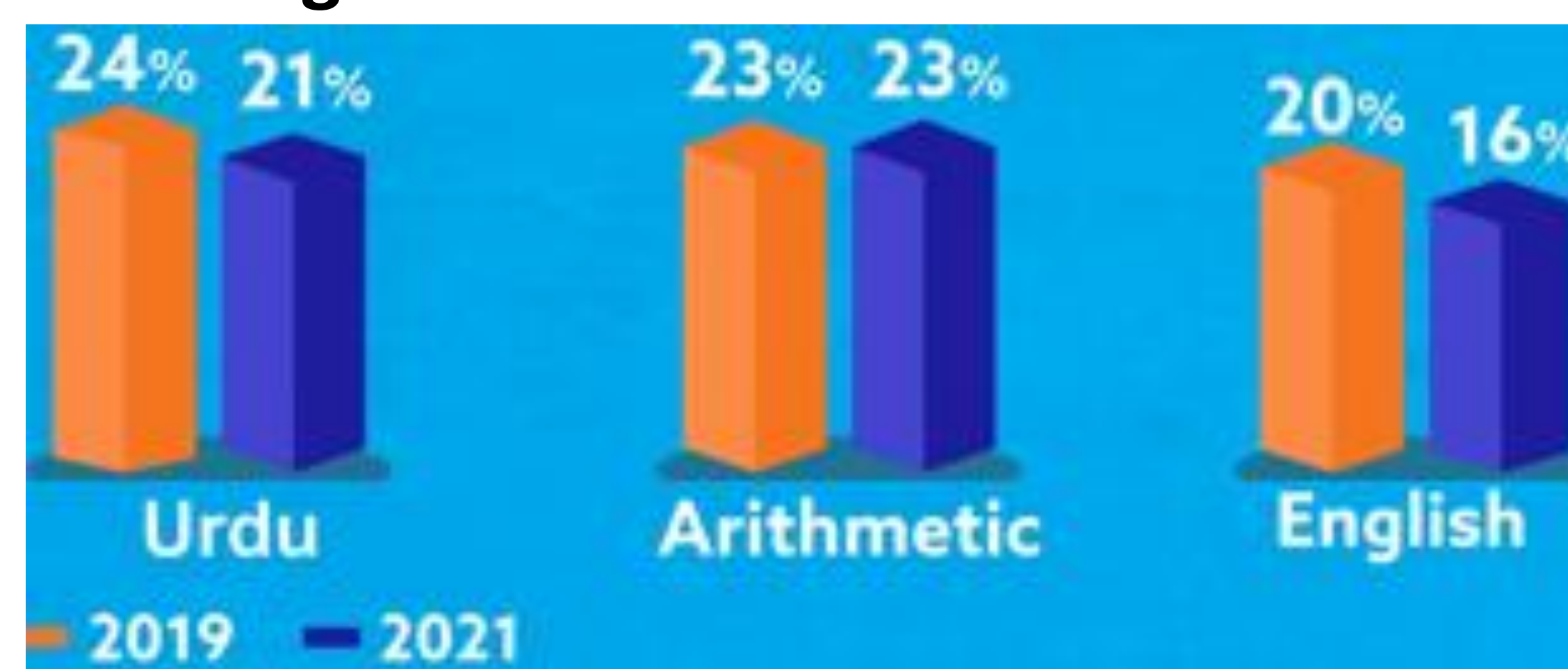
Figure 3. Most households are not using technology for distance learning



Note: Graph is based on a sample size of 1,209 respondents.

- Poor households were **55%** less likely than high-income households to use technology for remote learning.
- Kids in elite schools had edge on those in public schools.
- Girls were **more negatively** affected by distance learning than boys as they were involved in household chores.

### Primary and Lower Primary children learning losses



## Methodology

- Questionnaire.
- qualitative questions:
  - To learn about students' opinions to analyze COVID-19's impact on education
  - To understand pre and post COVID-19 enrollment, drop-out rates and performance of students.
- Sample of 500 students will be collected from schools in: Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, KPK, Gilgit & Quetta.

## Recommendations

- Give conditional and non-conditional cash transfers to encourage enrollment of children, particularly girls.
- Adopt a remedial system to recover the learning losses and promote looping for productive learning
- Provide free electronic devices to disadvantaged students
- Encourage economic activity to reduce dropouts
- Invest and increase awareness about educational technologies

## Acknowledgements

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