



FAFEN GENERAL ELECTION  
OBSERVATION 2018



# ELECTION DAY PROCESS

OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS







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**FREE & FAIR ELECTION NETWORK - FAFEN**

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## FREE AND FAIR ELECTION NETWORK (FAFEN)

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FAFEN General Election Observation 2018  
Election Day Process: Observation and Analysis

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**Hameedullah Khan Kakar**  
FAFEN Chairperson

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

- Association for Creation of Employment
- Baanhn Beli
- Bedari
- Centre for Peace and Development
- Community Awareness Raising Advocacy Venture Around Needs
- Community Development Programme
- DevCon- An Association for Rural Development
- Farmers Development Organization
- Goth Seengar Foundation
- Indus Resource Centre
- Integrated Regional Support Programme
- Kainaat Development Association
- Karwan Community Development
- Marvi Rural Development Organization
- Mathini Women Development Organization
- National Organization for Working Communities
- PAIMAN Alumni Trust
- Pakistan Press Foundation
- Pakistan Rural Workers Social Welfare Organization
- Pattan Taraqqiati Tanzeem
- Samaj Development Foundation
- Sangat Development Foundation
- Step Towards Empowerment of Pupil
- Sudhaar Society
- Takhleeq Foundation
- Legends Society
- United Rural Development Organization
- Youth Organization
- Sustainable Social Development Organization
- Sungi Development Foundation
- Social Youth Council of Patriots
- UFAQ Development Organization
- Welfare Association Jared



# ABBREVIATIONS



<b>AAT</b>	Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek
<b>ANP</b>	Awami National Party
<b>ARO</b>	Assistant Returning Officer
<b>APO</b>	Assistant Presiding Officer
<b>ASWJ</b>	Ahle Sunnat-Wal-Jamaat
<b>BAP</b>	Balochistan Awami Party
<b>BNP</b>	Balochistan National Party
<b>CC</b>	Constituency Coordinator
<b>CCTV</b>	Closed-Circuit Television
<b>CERS</b>	Computerized Electoral Rolls System
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CVP</b>	Citizens' Voice Project
<b>DC</b>	District Coordinator
<b>DDC</b>	District Development Committee
<b>DEC</b>	District Election Commissioner
<b>DMO</b>	District Monitoring Officer
<b>DRO</b>	District Returning Officer
<b>DVEC</b>	District Voter Education Committees
<b>ECL</b>	Exit Control List
<b>ECP</b>	Election Commission of Pakistan
<b>EDO</b>	Election Day Observer
<b>EIMS</b>	Election Information Management System
<b>FAFEN</b>	Free and Fair Election Network
<b>FATA</b>	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
<b>FATF</b>	Financial Action Task Force
<b>FBR</b>	Federal Board of Revenue
<b>FGD</b>	Focus Group Discussion
<b>FIA</b>	Federal Investigation Agency
<b>GDA</b>	Grand Democratic Alliance
<b>GE</b>	General Election
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>ICT</b>	Islamabad Capital Territory
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Device
<b>ISPR</b>	Inter-Services Public Relations
<b>JI</b>	Jamaat-e-Islami
<b>JUIF</b>	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (Fazal)
<b>KP</b>	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
<b>LEA</b>	Law Enforcement Agencies
<b>LG</b>	Local Government
<b>MMAF</b>	Muttahida Majalis-e-Amal Pakistan
<b>MML</b>	Milli Muslim League
<b>MQMP</b>	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
<b>MQM</b>	Mohajar Qaumi Movement
<b>MRV</b>	Mobile Registration Van
<b>NA</b>	National Assembly
<b>NAB</b>	National Accountability Bureau



<b>NADRA</b>	National Database and Registration Authority
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NIC</b>	National Identity Card
<b>NP</b>	National Party
<b>NRC</b>	NADRA Registration Center
<b>PA</b>	Provincial Assembly
<b>PBS</b>	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
<b>PEC</b>	Provincial Election Commissioner
<b>PCER</b>	Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms
<b>PEMRA</b>	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
<b>PkMAP</b>	Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party
<b>PMLF</b>	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)
<b>PML</b>	Pakistan Muslim League
<b>PMLN</b>	Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
<b>PPPP</b>	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
<b>PS</b>	Polling Station
<b>PSDP</b>	Public Sector Development Programme
<b>PSP</b>	Pak Sarzameen Party
<b>PTCL</b>	Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited
<b>PTI</b>	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
<b>PVT</b>	Parallel Vote Tabulation
<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>PO</b>	Polling Officer
<b>PrO</b>	Presiding Officer
<b>REC</b>	Regional Election Commissioner
<b>RTS</b>	Result Transmission System
<b>RO</b>	Returning Officer
<b>SBP</b>	State Bank of Pakistan
<b>SC</b>	Supreme Court
<b>SMS</b>	Short Message Service
<b>SNGPL</b>	Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>TDEA</b>	Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability
<b>TLP</b>	Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan

# INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY



Pakistan's 11<sup>th</sup> General Election were held on July 25, 2018, marking the completion of a decade of continuous democratic rule under civilian governments. While successive elections and peaceful transfers of power suggest that a degree of democratic consolidation has occurred since 2008, controversies generated during each election cycle have continued to deepen pre-existing political cleavages. The significance of non-partisan election observation, a powerful tool for improving the quality of elections and enhancing citizens' understanding and confidence in political and electoral processes, cannot be overstated in the context of Pakistan's contemporary fragmented politics and evolving but fragile democratic system.

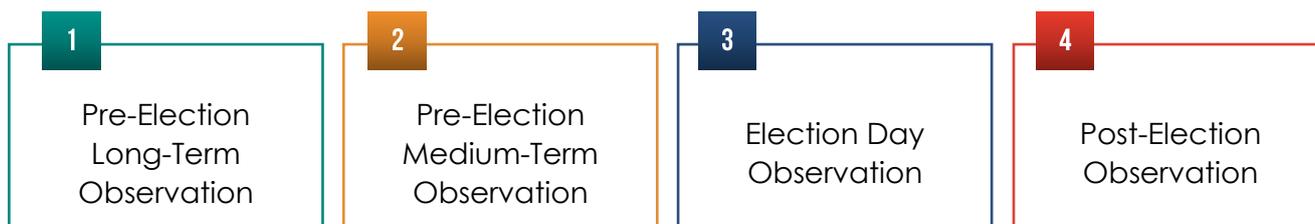
Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN), a nationwide coalition of 54 Pakistani civil society organizations (CSOs), has built a strong reputation over the last decade among the full range of electoral stakeholders, including the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), political parties and the media, as the country's first and only data-driven, credible and independent domestic election observation network. FAFEN has successfully observed three General Election (GE) held since 2008 as well as all by-elections and local government elections.

FAFEN's election observation methodologies follow ECP's Code of Conduct for Domestic Observers and the national election law along with international best practices for domestic election observers as articulated in the 2012 Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations. These codes guide FAFEN's election observation work, including its commitment to observe all phases of the election process.

The Observation Methodology has also taken into consideration Pakistan's international legal commitments relevant to both election administration and election observation that are based on the country's ratification in 2010 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and of the Convention against Corruption (CAC) in 2007. Other particularly relevant international legal obligations stem from Pakistan's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1996 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011.

## 1. Multi-Phased Election Observation

Building on the experience gained and lessons learnt from FAFEN's nationwide observation of two preceding general election, namely GE 2008 and GE 2013, FAFEN adopted a methodical, multi-phased approach for its observation of GE 2018. The phases of the observation exercise included:



The geographical scope of the observation exercise, beginning at the onset of the election year in January 2018, included 130 districts and 272 National Assembly (NA) constituencies across Pakistan. The observers for each observation phase received training on the new consolidated election law, the Elections Act, 2017, and the election rules derived from it, along with the ECP's Code of Conduct for Domestic Observers. The scope and focus of each observation phase are described below:



## 1.1 Pre-Election Long-Term Observation

Beginning in January 2018, the focus of FAFEN's pre-election long-term observation phase included the local political environment and implementation of election-related laws and rules. This phase involved 130 District Coordinators (DCs) deployed in each district, whose responsibilities included the observation of the following processes and events in their respective districts:

<b>Observation Period</b>	January to May 2018
<b>Observation Scope</b>	130 Districts
<b>Type of Observers</b>	District Coordinators
<b>Total Observers</b>	130

### Finalization of Electoral Rolls

Preparation of electoral rolls is the foremost responsibility of any election management body. According to projected estimates, approximately 20 million eligible voters may be missing on Pakistan's electoral rolls, two-thirds of whom are women, largely because these potential voters do not possess the National Identity Card (NIC) required for registering as voters. The Elections Act, 2017, which unified and reformed electoral legislation in Pakistan, includes provisions for affirmative action to bridge the gender gap on electoral rolls. In accordance with these provisions, the ECP ran a massive voter registration campaign ahead of GE 2018, registering almost 8.9 million voters during the six months before the closing of the registration process.

In January 2018, FAFEN DCs interviewed District Election Commissioners (DECs) to assess their understanding of the voter registration process as defined in the new election law. DCs also observed meetings of District Voter Education Committees (DVECs) set up by the ECP to supplement its voter registration efforts. In addition, each FAFEN DC conducted a day-long observation of NADRA Registration Centers (NRCs) in their respective districts to assess the capacity of registration centers to facilitate citizens' applications for NICs. The DCs also observed the display of electoral rolls at the ECP's Display Centers prior to their finalization for GE 2018.

### Delimitation of Constituencies

The 6<sup>th</sup> Housing and Population Census, completed in 2017, prompted the need to redraw the boundaries of electoral constituencies. In the interest of time, the Parliament gave the ECP a one-time exception to carry out fresh delimitations on the basis of provisional census results in lieu of officially published results as required by the constitution. Complying with the provisions of the Elections Act, 2017, and the Constitution (Twenty-fifth Amendment) Act, 2017, the ECP carried out fresh delimitation of electoral constituencies for national and provincial assemblies ahead of GE 2018. FAFEN interviewed district leaders of over 50 political parties and the voters filing appeals or objections on the preliminary proposals to gather their perceptions regarding the impartiality of the delimitation process and its adherence to delimitation principles as laid out in the law. FAFEN observers interviewed political party representatives in March 2018 following the publication of the Preliminary Report on Delimitation of Constituencies, and interviewed voters who had filed objections to the preliminary proposals during April 2018.

### Political Environment

FAFEN's observation of the political environment included gathering the perceptions of political parties regarding the level playing field for electoral contestation, their understanding of the 'new' election law, observation of political gatherings, and incidents of political and electoral violence. Additionally, FAFEN DCs observed local political alliances, party-switching by political leaders, and changing affiliations of ethnic, tribal and professional groups. FAFEN DCs identified up to five electorally relevant political parties or groups in their respective districts and held monthly interviews with their local leaders

from January 2018 till May 2018. The observers also chronicled the incidents of political and electoral violence reported in the local press or observed directly.

## Participation of Marginalized Groups

FAFEN conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to identify barriers to the electoral participation of marginalized groups, including women and religious minorities<sup>1</sup>. FAFEN DCs conducted three FGDs in their respective districts during the month of February 2018, each with a group of women local government councilors, minority councilors and minority community members.

## 1.2 Pre-Election Medium-Term Observation

With the announcement of the Election Program in May 2018, FAFEN's pre-election observation expanded its focus from the district to the constituency level with the deployment of 264 trained Constituency Coordinators (CCs)<sup>2</sup>. The CCs interviewed District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), election candidates, and citizens while also observing electoral processes and campaigns in 13,350 methodically sampled electoral areas [census blocks] across 270 constituencies (50 electoral areas in- each constituency) as election in two constituencies was postponed. This phase included observation of the following processes:

<b>Observation Period</b>	June to July 2018
<b>Observation Scope</b>	272 NA Constituencies
<b>Type of Observers</b>	Constituency Coordinators
<b>Total Observers</b>	264

CCs interviewed District Returning Officers (DROs), Returning Officers (ROs), election candidates, and citizens while also observing electoral processes and campaigns in 13,350 methodically sampled electoral areas [census blocks] across 270 constituencies (50 electoral areas in- each constituency) as election in two constituencies was postponed. This phase included observation of the following processes:

### Establishment of Polling Stations

The observation of polling stations aimed to assess the compliance of the process with the timeline provided in the Elections Act, 2017, and the election rules derived from the law. The assessment was made through observation of the Preliminary List of Polling Stations issued by ROs, hearings of objections on the preliminary list by DROs and voters' perceptions regarding the fairness of the selection of polling station sites. FAFEN CCs interviewed ROs and DROs and/or collected relevant information from their offices to assess adherence to the legally stipulated timeline for establishing polling stations. The CCs also interviewed up to five voters who objected to the Preliminary List of Polling Stations at each DRO's office. Additionally, CCs visited the proposed polling stations and documented the availability of basic amenities including boundary walls, clean drinking water, toilets, and ramps for wheelchair-bound voters.

### Scrutiny Process of Nominated Candidates

FAFEN CCs observed the entire scrutiny process of nominated candidates conducted in the offices of ROs during the period specified for this purpose.

### Candidates' Perceptions about Critical Election Processes

FAFEN CCs interviewed electoral candidates or their appointed election agents during the first week of the campaign period to assess their perceptions regarding the fairness of critical election processes, including voter registration, delimitation, establishment of polling stations, nomination and scrutiny processes, roles of election officials and caretaker governments, and level-playing field for electoral contestants.

<sup>1</sup> Detailed findings are compiled in a separate report.

<sup>2</sup> In districts with only one National Assembly constituency, the DCs performed the role of CCs.



## Campaigning and Canvassing for Elections

In the sampled electoral areas, CCs monitored the implementation of the ECP's Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Contesting Candidates and documented the presence of campaign materials that defied the code. They also interviewed three citizens including one woman in each sampled electoral area to gauge their experience and perceptions regarding elections.

## Meetings with Election Officials

CCs observed ECP's preparations for elections by interviewing DROs and ROs at the beginning of the medium-term observation phase in early June 2018 and during the final week of the election campaign period in July 2018. Additionally, CCs held meetings with ECP-appointed DMOs during the final week of the campaign period.

## 1.3 Election Day Observation

For Election Day, FAFEN trained 17,725 nonpartisan citizen Election Day Observers (EDOs) to observe polling day processes at around 60,000 polling stations nationwide, and subsequently deployed 16,429 observers on Election Day. In GE 2013, FAFEN deployed 40,742 observers, while 18,829 observers in GE 2008. The following table represents regional distribution of Election Day Observers deployed for GE 2018:

<b>Observation Period</b>	July 25, 2018
<b>Observation Scope</b>	270 NA Constituencies
<b>Type of Observers</b>	Election Day Observers and CCs
<b>Total Observers</b>	16,429 EDOs and 264 CCs

<b>Punjab</b> 	<b>Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Including FATA</b> 
9,088 observers	2,950 observers
<b>Sindh</b> 	<b>Balochistan</b> 
3,568 observers	646 observers
<b>Islamabad Capital Territory</b> 	<b>Overall</b>
177 observers	16,429 observers

These citizen observers visited up to four polling stations each on Election Day to directly observe and report on the election environment inside and outside polling stations, instances of electoral and political violence, pre-voting preparations at polling stations, and voting and counting processes inside polling stations. Each observer spent nearly one hour at each polling station to observe polling processes. In addition, the CCs observed the process of preparing provisional and final results at each RO office.

## 1.4 Post-Election Observation

### Candidates' Perceptions about the Quality of Election Day Process

Following the announcement of provisional results, FAFEN interviewed candidates to document their perceptions regarding the polling day processes.

### Meetings with Election Officials

Following the results' consolidation process, CCs reached out to election officials (DECs, DROs and ROs) to gauge their level of satisfaction with the Election Day processes.

<b>Observation Period</b>	August 2018 onwards
<b>Observation Scope</b>	270 NA Constituencies and 15 Election Tribunals
<b>Type of Observers</b>	CCs and Legal Researchers
<b>Total Observers</b>	264 CCs and 20 Legal Researchers

### Election Disputes Resolution Process

For the post-election phase, FAFEN has deployed 20 legal researchers (lawyers) to observe and report on the election disputes resolution process in 15 election tribunals formed by the ECP.

## 2. Automated Solutions for Observation and Reporting

An innovative Election Information Management System (EIMS) was developed in order to improve FAFEN's data management and to enhance public access to election-related information, including observation findings. As part of EIMS, FAFEN developed a robust android-based mobile application ('App') for observer reporting throughout the day. However, due to restrictions on the use of mobile phones inside polling stations, EDOs were able to report on this App only after the end of their day's observation.

In addition, FAFEN set up a call centre equipped with voice messaging and SMS capabilities. Trained representatives at this multi-purpose Call Centre in Islamabad interviewed contesting candidates or their election agents in all provinces and ICT to inquire about their perceptions regarding the overall fairness of the polling process on Election Day.

Call Centre representatives also gathered information from DCs and CCs observing the general electoral environment on Election Day. They also spoke with 10% of the 16,429 deployed observers to verify data received via the App.

## 3. Parallel Vote Tabulation

A Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) compares the observed vote count in a sample of polling stations with the compiled election result for that constituency in order to provide evidence that confirms or disputes the official election result. PVT methodology was developed over 20 years ago and has been applied in many countries around the world by international and domestic election monitoring organizations as a proven analytical method for verifying the accuracy of government vote counts. The PVT is based on direct observation of vote counting in a scientifically-verifiable, robust sample of the polling stations in each constituency.

Experience with past PVTs has shown that drawing a sample of 25-30 polling stations provides sufficient data, within a relatively small margin of sampling error, to assess the reasonableness of official election results. Adding additional polling stations to the sample, even when the number of total polling stations is large, would not improve the margins of sampling error dramatically.

Although the PVT cannot measure other election-related problems like vote buying, voter intimidation, ballot box stuffing, or the use of ghost polling stations, PVTs are designed to identify potential inaccuracies in the official count by comparing it with actual observed and verified vote counts at sampled polling stations. The PVT can help detect centralized changes in vote counts if the percentage



vote in official count differs in a statistically significant way from the percentages calculated from the PVT sample. In cases in which Election Commission releases polling-station level election results, PVT counts for sampled polling stations and ECP polling station data can be compared directly. The Judicial Commission formed to investigate rigging in the GE 2013 relied on FAFEN's PVT analysis in its report.

## 4. Quality Assessment of Election Results

FAFEN analyzed and assessed election results by utilizing official ECP documents in order to objectively measure the quality of election results. The assessment involved scrutiny of compliance of the results management process with election laws and rules, and document materiality of irregularities and illegalities, if any, on the overall election result. The assessment used the following election forms:

- Form-28 (List of Polling Stations for a Constituency)
- Form-33 (List of Contesting Candidates)
- Election Vote Count and Result Forms
  - Form-45 (Result of the Count)
  - Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account)
  - Form-47 (Provisional Consolidated Statement of Results of the Count)
  - Form-48 (Consolidated Statement of the Results of the Count Furnished by the Presiding Officers)
  - Form-49 (Final Consolidated Result)

The assessment broadly covered the following tests:

**1. Availability of relevant forms:** whether or not the relevant forms are publicly available

**2. Authenticity of relevant forms:** whether or not the relevant forms bear authorized seals and signatures

**3. Completeness of relevant forms:** whether or not the relevant forms are duly filled

**4. Correctness of relevant forms:** whether or not the relevant forms are correctly filled i.e. calculations, etc.

**5. Consistency of relevant forms:** whether or not the relevant forms contain consistent information

Additionally, the assessment methodology included comparing the information available on the ECP website with FAFEN's election observation findings. The findings of the assessment were used to measure and aggregate the scale of illegalities and irregularities at the polling station and constituency levels. The aggregated illegalities and irregularities were compared with the Margin of Victory (MoV) to determine overall impact of these deviations on the election outcome.

## 5. Deviations and Limitations

FAFEN's observation methodology initially envisaged dividing EDOs into mobile and static categories with the former moving from one polling station to another throughout the day and the latter staying at a single polling station for the entire day. This, however, could not be implemented due to a provision in the Code of Conduct for Security Officials that allowed observers to stay in any polling station only for a "brief duration". This guideline compelled a last-minute change in FAFEN's observation methodology, shifting all static observers to mobile observers.

Moreover, as mentioned earlier, EDOs were trained to report their observation findings throughout the Election Day using FAFEN's election observation App. However, ECP restriction on carrying mobile phones inside polling stations restricted the use of this App to only reporting at the end of the day.

1

# MAJOR FINDINGS





## 1. Significant Improvements Accompanied by Persisting Irregularities

The enactment of the Elections Act, 2017 in October 2017 provided fresh impetus to the ECP for improving the enforcement of legal and regulatory provisions in GE 2018. As a result, a significant reduction in the prevalence of procedural irregularities was observed between GE 2013 and GE 2018. At least one irregularity was reported from every observed polling station in GE 2013, while at least one irregularity was reported from almost every fourth polling station in GE 2018. In other words, the proportion of observed polling stations where at least one violation of election laws, rules or codes of conduct was reported decreased from 100% to 38% between the two general elections.

However, significant improvements in some respects were accompanied by the persistence of weak enforcement of election laws and regulations in others, even registering deterioration in certain cases. As shown in Table 1.1 a significant decline was registered in the frequency of certain irregularities, such as the presence of campaign material inside polling stations, voters being permitted to vote without producing NICs, disregard of voter secrecy, incidences of violence and polling station capture, among others.

TABLE 1.1

**Comparative List of Observed Irregularities Registering Decline between GE 2013 and GE 2018**

Electoral Irregularity	Percentage of observed PSs where irregularity occurred in GE 2013	Percentage of observed PSs where irregularity occurred in GE 2018
Campaign materials (posters, banners, flags etc.) were seen inside Polling Stations	3.2%	1.8%
Voters with an identification document other than NIC were permitted to vote	9.3%	1.1%
Voters without any identification were permitted to vote	2.7%	0.5%
Polling staff/polling agents/security personnel or other persons accompanied voters behind secrecy screens	17.0%	6.8%
Polling staff disallowed voters with disabilities from seeking assistance of their choice to cast vote	14.9%	3.5%
Polling Station was captured	1.2%	0.0%
Unauthorized persons pressurized polling staff	3.8%	0.5%
Polling staff tried to influence voters' electoral choices	2.0%	0.5%
Voters already queued at polling stations were not allowed to vote at close of voting	23.2%	7.5%
Incidence of violence was reported at polling station	7.6%	1.1%

On the other hand, as shown in Table 1.2, a significant increase in irregularities of certain laws, rules and procedures was observed between the two elections. These irregularities were mostly concerned with polling station arrangements, availability of electoral rolls, calling out and striking off voters' names during the voter identification process, filling in counterfoils, issuance of ballot papers, and announcement of polling station results.



TABLE 1.2

Comparative List of Observed Irregularities Registering Increase between GE 2013 and GE 2018

Electoral Irregularities	Percentage of observed PSs where irregularity occurred in GE 2013	Percentage of observed PSs where irregularity occurred in GE 2018
Guiding signs were not prominently displayed outside polling stations	3.3%	27.2%
Electoral rolls were missing at polling booths	0.5%	4.3%
Polling staff did not obtain polling agents' statements after showing them empty ballot boxes	4.8%	15.9%
PO did not call out the name of each voter loudly	18.7%	38.0%
PO did not strike off voters' name on electoral rolls	1.6%	5.8%
PO did not check indelible marks on voters' hands	2.2%	6.2%
APOs did not obtain voters' thumbprints on counterfoils	1.8%	5.3%
APOs did not write voters' NIC numbers on counterfoils	1.1%	5.2%
APOs did not stamp and sign on counterfoils	1.8%	5.0%
APOs did not stamp and sign on the backs of ballot papers	0.8%	4.4%
Polling officials marked ballot papers on behalf of voters	0.8%	1.2%
Polling agents/candidates marked ballot papers on behalf of voters	1.0%	1.5%
Government officials tried to influence voters to favour certain candidate/party	0.6%	0.7%
Polling station result (Form-XIV/Form-45) was not provided to candidates/agents present at the polling stations	7.5%	11%
Polling station result (Form-XIV/Form-45) was not displayed outside the polling station	15.3%	18.8%

### 1.1 Unclear Relationship of Irregularities with Electoral Advantage

A comparison of the number of electoral irregularities with the political affiliations of returned candidates in NA constituencies suggests that the incidence of irregularities may not be politically motivated, as almost all major parties were victorious in constituencies with larger numbers of observed irregularities. Constituencies are classified in the following three categories with respect to the numbers of irregularities observed in each constituency:

#### Constituencies with Low Incidence of Irregularities

This category includes 180 NA constituencies – 112 in Punjab, 44 in Sindh, 18 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and six in Balochistan – where less than 10 legal, regulatory or procedural irregularities on an average per polling station were observed.

#### Constituencies with Moderate Incidence of Irregularities

This category includes 82 NA constituencies – 29 in KP, 26 in Punjab, 15 in Sindh, nine in Balochistan, and three in ICT – where 10 to 15 legal, regulatory or procedural irregularities on an average per polling station were observed.

## Constituencies with High Incidence of Irregularities

This category includes six NA constituencies – three in KP, two in Sindh and one in Balochistan – where more than 15 legal, regulatory or procedural electoral irregularities on an average per polling station were observed.

In Punjab, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN) were victorious in equal numbers of NA constituencies with low and moderate incidence of irregularities. Each of the two parties was the victor in 12 NA constituencies with moderate incidence of irregularities and 48 NA constituencies with low incidence of irregularities. Similarly, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) was victorious in 36 NA constituencies in Sindh – 28 with low and eight with moderate incidence of irregularities. Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) won 10 NA constituencies in KP and Balochistan – six with moderate and four with low incidence of irregularities. The ruling party in Balochistan, Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), won four NA seats from the province – two with low and two with moderate incidence of irregularities. Moreover, PTI won four of six constituencies with high incidence of irregularities in KP and Sindh while independent, and MMAP candidates were victorious in the remaining two constituencies in this category. These patterns largely correlate with the parties' overall electoral strengths in respective provinces.

Tables 1.3 – 1.5 show regional distributions of constituencies in each category with regard to the party affiliations of returned candidates.

**TABLE 1.3** Regional Distribution of Winning Parties in Constituencies with Low Incidence of Irregularities

Party Affiliations of Returned Candidates	Balochistan	KP (including FATA)	Punjab	Sindh	Overall
PTI	1	9	48	8	66
PMLN		2	48		50
PPPP		1	5	28	34
Independent		2	6	2	10
MQMP				6	6
PML			4		4
MMAP		4			4
BNP	2				2
BAP	2				2
AMLP			1		1
JWP	1				1
<b>Overall</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>180</b>

**TABLE 1.4** Regional Distribution of Winning Parties in Constituencies with Moderate Incidence of Irregularities

Party Affiliations of Returned Candidates	Balochistan	ICT	KP (including FATA)	Punjab	Sindh	Overall
PTI	1	3	25	12	5	46
PMLN			1	12		13
PPPP				1	8	9
MMAP	4		2			6
BAP	2					2
GDA					2	2
Independent	1			1		2
ANP			1			1
BNP	1					1
<b>Overall</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>82</b>



**TABLE 1.5**

**Regional Distribution of Winning Parties in Constituencies with High Incidence of Irregularities**

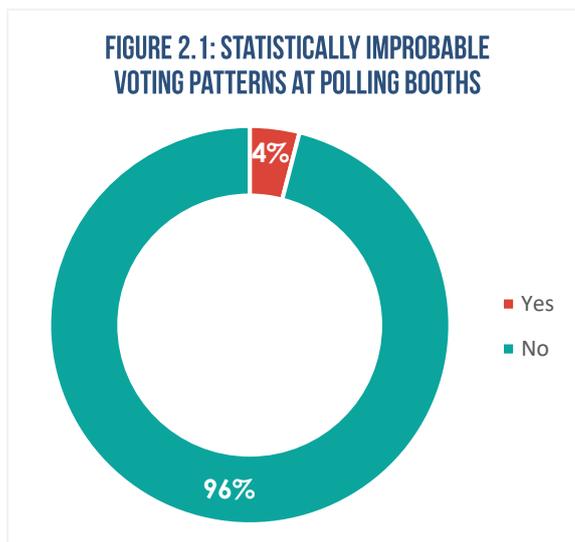
Party Affiliations of Returned Candidates	Balochistan	FATA	Sindh	Overall
PTI		2	2	4
Independent		1		1
MMAP	1			1
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

## 2. Statistically Improbable Voting Patterns

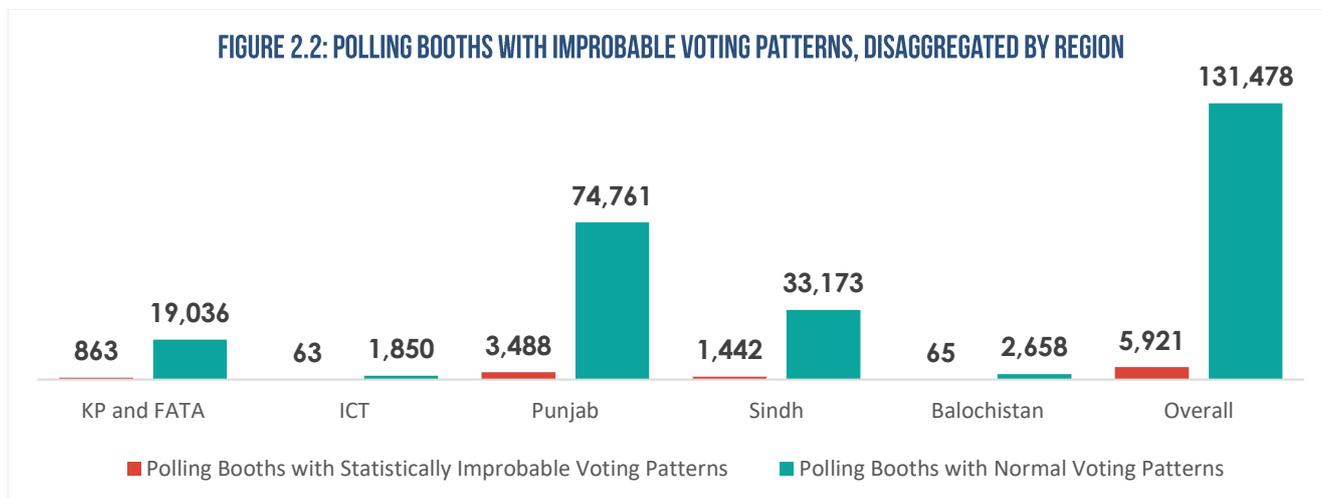
The vote-casting process involves several steps, starting with identifying a voter and ending with inserting the ballot paper into the ballot box. A conservative estimate of the time required to complete all these processes suggests that polling staff at one polling booth can accommodate a maximum of 45 voters in one hour. An hourly turnout of more than 45 voters at a polling booth is, therefore, considered to be statistically improbable. FAFEN's Election Day observation included noting the number of votes cast at polling booths at a given time. An analysis of this data enabled FAFEN to identify statistically improbable voting patterns at polling booths.

As shown in Figure 2.2, statistically improbable voting patterns were identified at 5,921 polling booths in 257 NA constituencies (four percent) of 137,399 polling booths observed across Pakistan – 78,249 in Punjab, 34,615 in Sindh, 19,899 in KP (including FATA), 2,723 in Balochistan and 1,913 in ICT.

The booths where statistically improbable patterns were noted included 3,488 booths (four percent of those observed) in 133 NA constituencies of Punjab, 1,442 (four percent) in 60 NA constituencies of Sindh, 863 (four percent) in 47 NA constituencies of KP, 65 (two percent) in 14 NA constituencies of Balochistan and 63 (three percent) in three NA constituencies of ICT (refer to Figure 2.2).

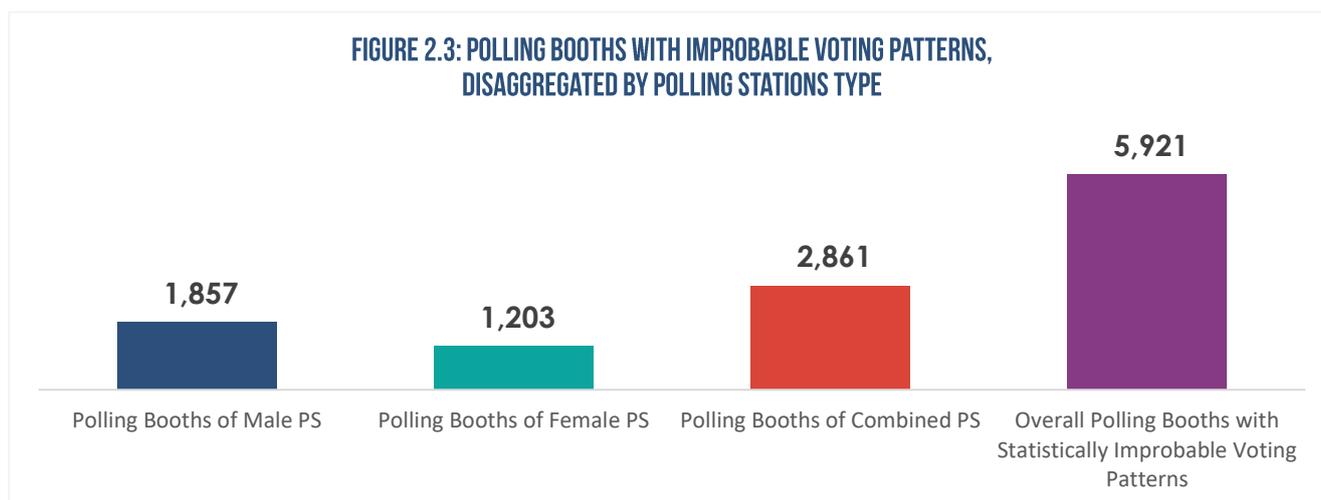


**FIGURE 2.2: POLLING BOOTHS WITH IMPROBABLE VOTING PATTERNS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



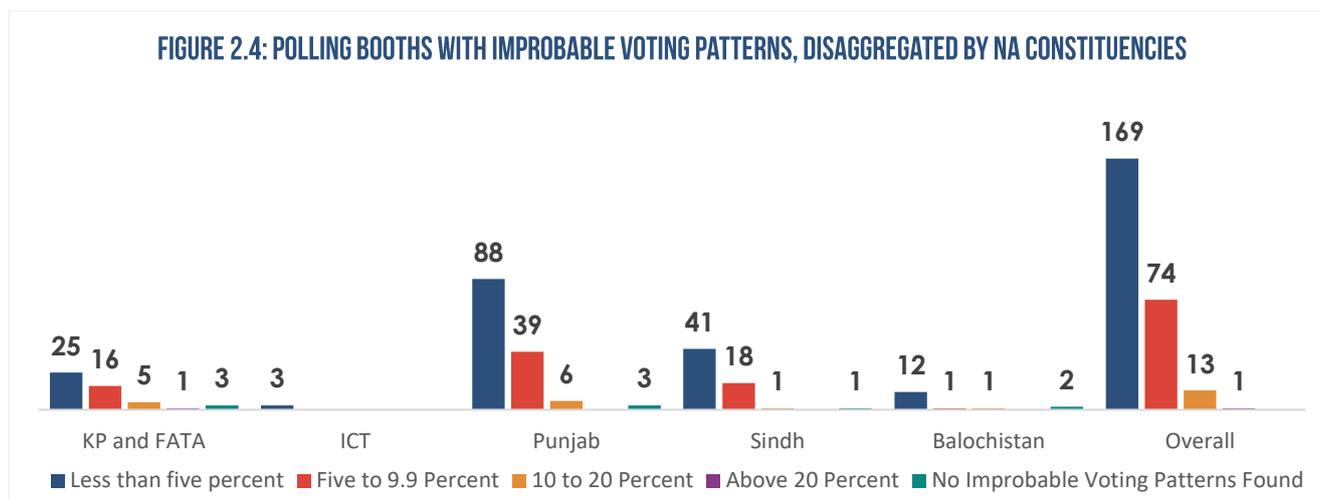
The booths with statistically improbable voting patterns included 1,857 out of 39,567 observed polling booths (five percent) in male polling stations, 1,203 out of 30,648 observed booths (four percent) in

female polling stations, and 2,861 out of 67,184 observed booths (four percent) in combined polling stations, as shown in Figure 2.3.



As shown in Figure 2.4, disaggregation of the observation data with respect to constituencies reveals that improbable voting patterns were noted at more than 20 percent of the polling booths of one NA constituency in KP. Similarly, 10 to 20 percent of polling booths of 13 NA constituencies – six in Punjab, five in KP and one each in Sindh and Balochistan – exhibited improbable voting patterns. Five percent to 9.9% of the polling stations of 74 NA constituencies – 39 in Punjab, 18 in Sindh, 16 in KP and one in Balochistan – exhibited such patterns, whereas nearly one to five percent of the booths in 169 constituencies – 88 in Punjab, 41 in Sindh, 25 in KP and FATA and 12 in Balochistan – were in the improbable category.

Notably, no improbable voting patterns were identified at any of the polling booths of nine constituencies. Of the remaining six NA constituencies, polls were not held in two constituencies while information required for voting pattern analysis could not be received on polling day from four constituencies.



### 3. Illegalities and Irregularities Disaggregated by Region and Polling Stations (PS)

FAFEN observers noted electoral illegalities and irregularities at 21,766 (38 percent) of the 57,832 polling stations observed across the country on Election Day, whereas no illegality or irregularity was observed at the remaining 36,066 (62 percent) polling stations. The observed irregularities were unevenly spread across the 21,776 polling stations, with a small proportion of polling stations registering 100 or more



irregularities and others registering less than 10 irregularities of election laws or rules. Nearly 29 percent of the observed polling stations registered 10 or fewer irregularities per polling station, three percent registered 11 to 20 irregularities per polling station, while less than one percent registered 91 to 100 and more than 100 irregularities per polling station.

Tables 3.1 and 3.2 show regional and polling station-wise distribution of the number of irregularities observed per polling station.

**TABLE 3.1** Regional Distribution of Numbers of Electoral Illegalities and Irregularities Observed Per PS

Numbers of Irregularities	KP	ICT	Punjab	Sindh	Balochistan	Overall
Zero	5,214	349	20,823	8,745	935	36,066
Up to 10	2,450	262	10,274	3,174	495	16,655
11 to 20	335	19	1,139	251	57	1,801
21 to 30	114	2	364	148	41	669
31 to 40	92	2	294	158	16	562
41 to 50	93	4	253	135	13	498
51 to 60	76	12	197	143	17	445
61 to 70	108	9	296	144	11	568
71 to 80	86	12	196	124	10	428
81 to 90	27	2	49	11		89
91 to 100	4	1	13	1		19
More than 100	1	1	28	2		32
<b>Overall</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>33,926</b>	<b>13,036</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>57,832</b>

**TABLE 3.2** Electoral Illegalities and Irregularities Observed Per PS Disaggregated by Polling Station Type

Category of Irregularities	Male	Female	Combined	Overall
Zero	10,382	8,619	17,065	36,066
Up to 10	4,748	4,251	7,656	16,655
11 to 20	548	473	780	1,801
21 to 30	184	153	332	669
31 to 40	152	150	260	562
41 to 50	139	137	222	498
51 to 60	125	110	210	445
61 to 70	169	152	247	568
71 to 80	114	109	205	428
81 to 90	31	20	38	89
91 to 100	6	2	11	19
More than 100	10	6	16	32
<b>Overall</b>	<b>16,608</b>	<b>14,182</b>	<b>27,042</b>	<b>57,832</b>

## 4. Inconsistent Enforcement of Electoral Laws and Regulations

Most of the electoral illegalities and irregularities observed on Election Day were evenly spread across the four provinces and ICT. Nonetheless, close analysis of the incidence of irregularities across the five regions reveals uneven patterns of specific irregularities. For instance, incidences involving voting

secrecy compromises due to CCTV cameras were observed more frequently at polling booths of Sindh and Balochistan than of other regions. Similarly, the number of observed instances of polling agents wearing party badges or election symbols inside polling booths was higher in KP and ICT than in the other regions. Moreover, unavailability of ramps for wheelchair-bound voters was more rampant in the four provinces than in ICT, where only four percent of the observed polling stations lacked ramps. The practice of issuing voter-chits in party camps outside polling stations was observed to be more common in ICT and Punjab than in Sindh, KP and Balochistan.

Generally, the observed irregularities were equally spread across male, female and combined polling stations. However, the incidence of specific irregularities concerning election observation, uninterrupted voting, and secrecy of the ballot was relatively higher at female polling stations than at male polling stations.

### Restrictions on Election Observation

FAFEN observers at female polling stations faced more restrictions than their counterparts at male polling stations. Observers were disallowed from entering nearly 2.7 percent (or 383) of 14,182 female polling stations and 2.2 percent (or 372) of 16,608 male polling stations. Moreover, observers who were allowed inside nearly one percent (or 150) of the female polling stations were denied the opportunity to observe the voting process inside polling booths. Comparatively, observers were barred from observing polling booths at 0.8 percent (or 140) male polling stations.

### Interruptions during Voting Process

According to the law, the voting process must continue without any interruptions or breaks. However, FAFEN observers noted breaks in the voting process at nearly five percent of the observed polling stations, including five percent (or 635) of female and four percent (or 647) of male polling stations.

### Secrecy of Voting

The right to secret ballot in an election is an inviolable right of every voter. The protection of this right, an essential feature of polling station management, is ensured by placing voting screens in the polling booths where no person can accompany a voter, excepting voters with disabilities. Overall, unauthorized persons were observed accompanying voters behind voting screens at six percent (or 855) of female polling stations in comparison to five percent (or 791) of male polling stations.

## 5. Conduct of Security Officials

Unlike prior elections, the ECP introduced a specific Code of Conduct for Security Officials performing duties at polling stations in GE 2018. In preceding elections, security personnel were not specifically trained about their roles and responsibilities outside and inside polling stations. The enforcement of a clear code led to a visible improvement in the conduct of security officials, especially in comparison to their conduct during by-elections preceding GE 2018 when it had come under scrutiny by independent observers, media and polling officials.

Security personnel were observed to be present outside 87 percent of the observed polling stations and performing their duties of inspecting voters before allowing them to enter polling station premises at 82 percent of the polling stations. They also effectively enforced the ban on voters from carrying mobile phones inside polling stations; reports of violation of the ban were received from only 10 percent of the observed polling stations. Complying with the code, security personnel also cooperated with media persons and allowed them to carry their cameras inside polling stations in the majority of observed cases; reports of restrictions on media persons from carrying their equipment inside polling stations were received from only eight percent of the observed stations. However, enforcement of the code's



provisions regarding checking identity cards and voter-chits remained weak across the country. Despite the code's clear instructions for security personnel to refrain from checking identity cards or voter-chits, as this was the duty of Polling Officers (POs), security officials were seen checking NICs and demanding voter-chits from voters at 84 percent and 76 percent of the observed polling stations, respectively.

## 6. Facilitating Voters with Special Needs and Voters Belonging to Marginalized Groups

The Elections Act, 2017 as well as the election rules and codes of conduct emphasize the need for special measures to enable voters belonging to marginalized groups to exercise their right to choose representatives. Similarly, the law allows voters with special needs to seek assistance from a person of their choice in casting their votes. Moreover, the Code of Conduct for Security Officials for GE 2018 contained unambiguous directions to afford preferential treatment to persons with disabilities (PWDs), transgender persons, and women (especially pregnant women or those with infants).

FAFEN's observation suggests that polling staff largely complied with these legal provisions. Polling staff allowed elderly persons and PWDs to receive help from a person of their own choice at 97 percent of the observed polling stations. Moreover, ramps were built or arranged for wheelchair-bound voters at around 36 percent of the observed polling station buildings, and security personnel were seen facilitating PWDs, transgender persons, and women at the majority of polling stations.

## 7. Meagre Presence of International Election Observers

While independent election observation is not a new phenomenon in Pakistan, GE 2018 was unique in that it was held under a law that recognizes, for the first time, the right of citizen groups to observe elections domestically. The ECP accredited local and international observers to observe the election process and to have access to polling stations, counting of votes and consolidation of results.

However, FAFEN observers noted meagre presence of international observers particularly European Union – Election Observation Mission (EU-EOM) at polling stations across the country. International observers were seen at only 15 out of the total 57,832 observed polling stations – 11 in Punjab, two in Sindh and one each in ICT and KP.

2

# PRE-VOTING PROCEEDINGS



**FREE & FAIR ELECTION NETWORK - FAFEN**

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## 2.1 Presence of Polling Agents at Polling Stations prior to the Start of Voting

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The contesting candidate or his election agent may, before the commencement of or during the poll, appoint for each polling station as many polling agents as may be prescribed and shall give notice in writing to the Presiding Officer communicating the appointment.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 77(1)*

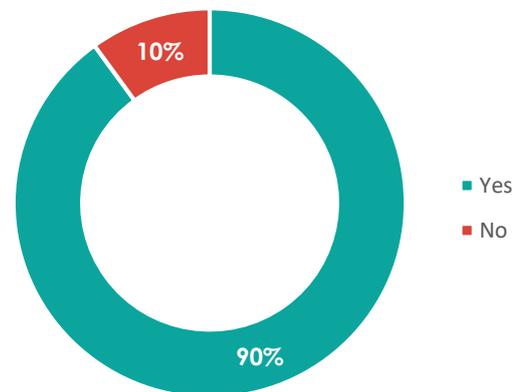
The Election Commission provides specific guidelines to the Presiding officers to allow polling agent to be present inside the polling station to observe the pre-voting processes that include the signing of Form-42 (Statement regarding Inspection of Ballot Boxes Before Start of Poll).

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, pg. 11*

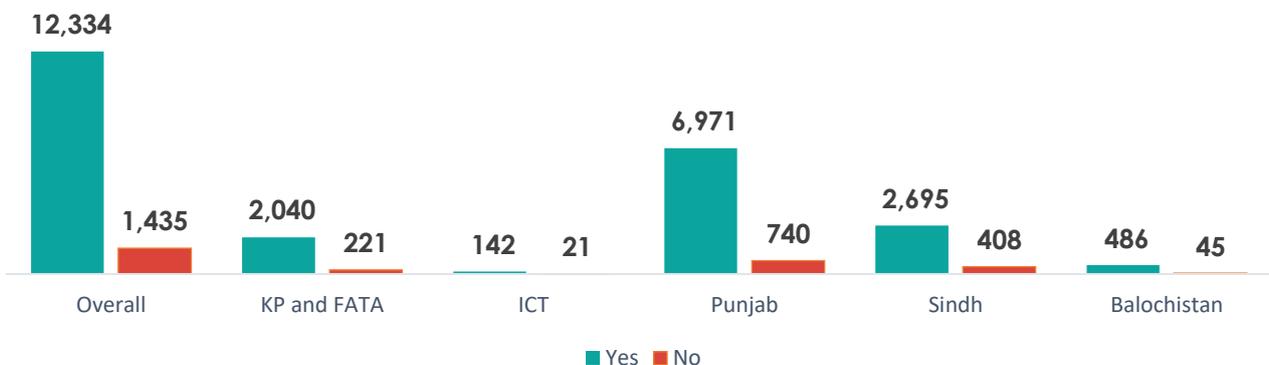
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, polling agents of candidates were reported to be present inside polling stations before the start of the voting process in 12,334 (90 percent) polling stations. Observers noted that polling agents were absent at the start of the voting process at 1,435 (10 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations where polling agents were present prior to the start of the voting process included 6,971 (90 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,695 (87 percent) in Sindh, 2,040 (90 percent) in KP, 486 (92 percent) in Balochistan, and 142 (87 percent) in ICT. The observers noted the absence of polling agents prior to the start of the voting process at 740 (10 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 408 (13 percent) in Sindh, 45 (eight percent) in Balochistan, 221 (10 percent) in KP, and 21 (13 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.1.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS PRESENT INSIDE POLLING STATIONS BEFORE THE VOTING PROCESS STARTED?**



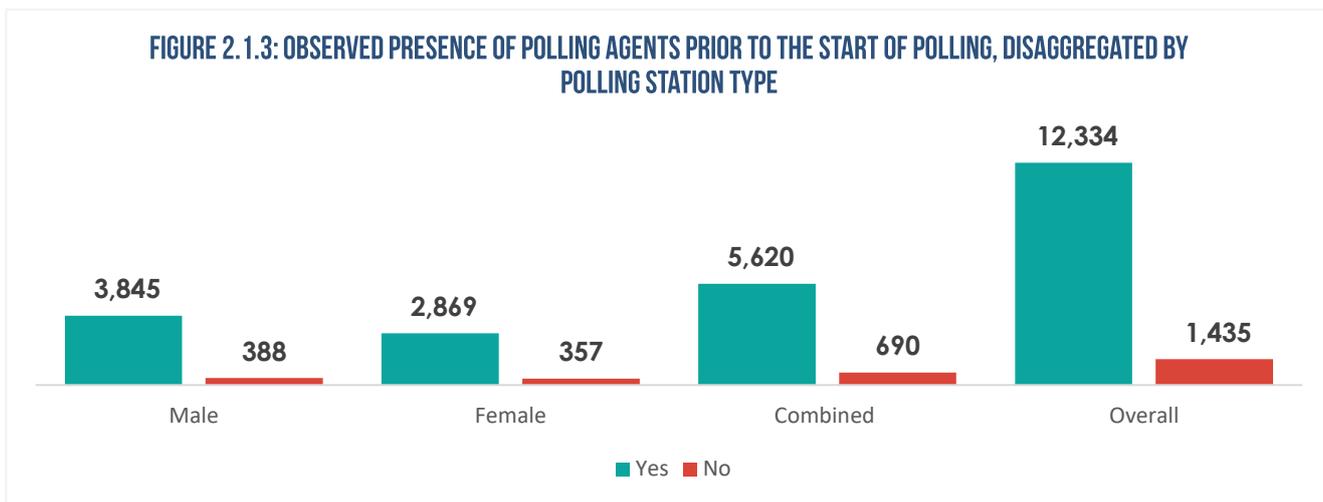
**FIGURE 2.1.2: OBSERVED PRESENCE OF POLLING AGENTS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE VOTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling agents were present at 3,845 (91 percent) male polling stations, 2,869 (89 percent) female polling stations and 5,620 (89 percent) combined polling stations. Polling agents were absent from 388 (nine percent) male stations, 357 (11 percent) female stations, and 690 (11 percent) combined stations.



**FIGURE 2.1.3: OBSERVED PRESENCE OF POLLING AGENTS PRIOR TO THE START OF POLLING, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.2 Sealing Ballot Boxes in Presence of Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before the time fixed for the commencement of the poll, the Presiding Officer shall—

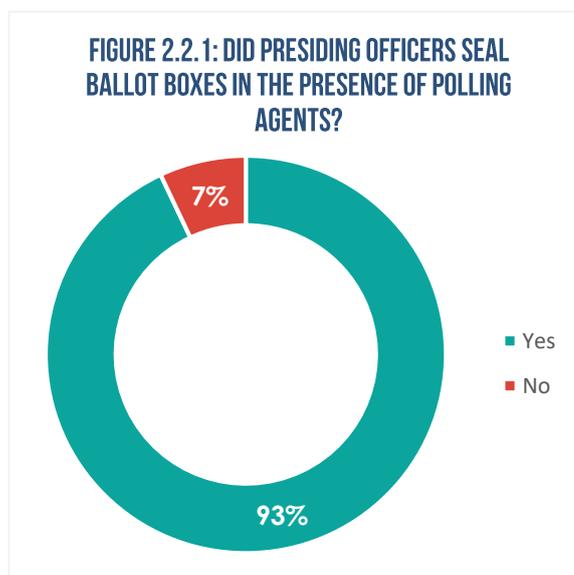
- (a) Ensure that every ballot box to be used is empty;
- (b) show the empty ballot box to the contesting candidates and their election agents or polling agents whoever may be present, and record their statements in this behalf in the prescribed form and obtain their signatures on the form;
- (c) after the ballot box has been shown to be empty, close and seal it with his own seal and with the seal of such of the candidates, or their election agents or polling agents as may be present and may desire to put their own seals on it.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(4) (a) (b) (c)*

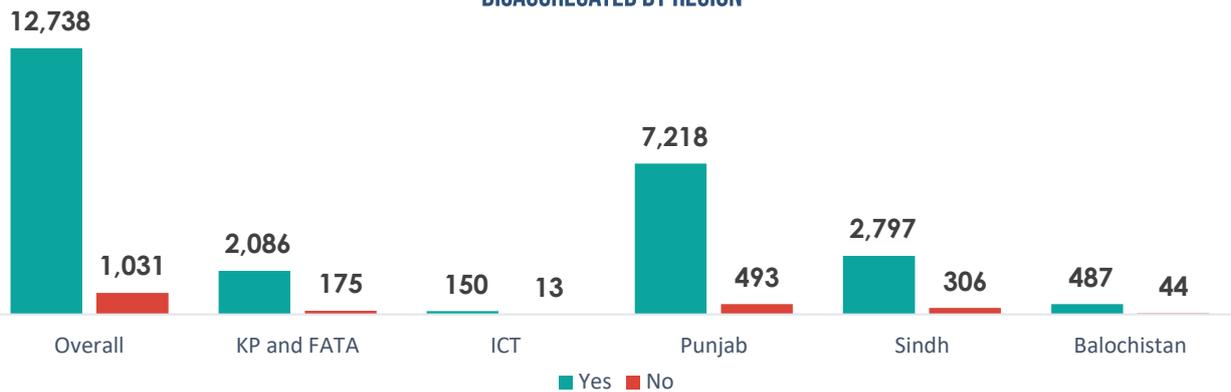
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, Presiding Officers (PrOs) sealed all ballot boxes in the presence of polling agents at 12,738 (93 percent) polling stations, but were observed to do so in the absence of polling agents at 1,031 (seven percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which PrOs sealed ballot boxes in the presence of polling agents included 7,218 (94 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,797 (90 percent) in Sindh, 2,086 (92 percent) in KP, 487 (92 percent) in Balochistan, and 150 (92 percent) in ICT. Polling stations in which PrOs did not seal ballot boxes in the presence of polling agents included 493 (six percent) polling stations in Punjab, 306 (10 percent) in Sindh, 175 (eight percent) in KP, 44 (eight percent) in Balochistan, and 13 (eight percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.2.1: DID PRESIDING OFFICERS SEAL BALLOT BOXES IN THE PRESENCE OF POLLING AGENTS?**

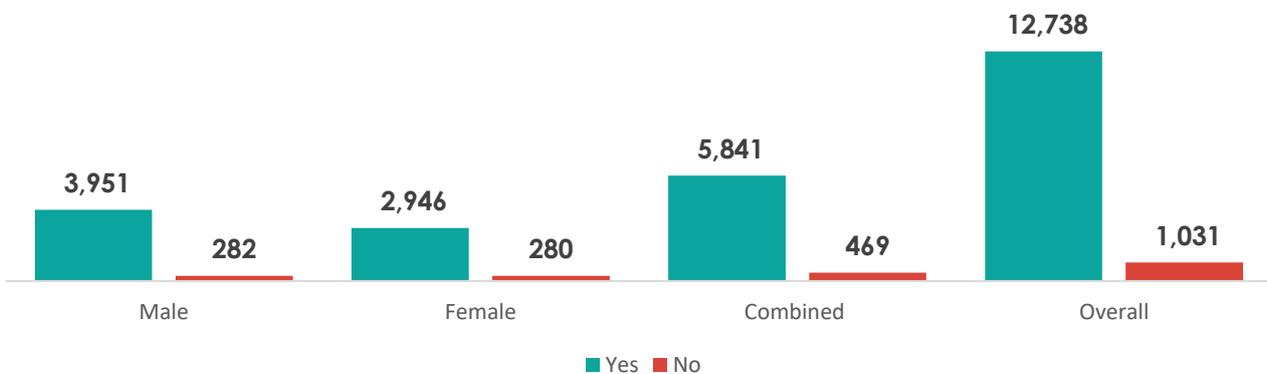


**FIGURE 2.2.2: WHETHER PRESIDING OFFICERS SEALED BALLOT BOXES IN THE PESENC OF POLLING AGENTS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to polling station type, PrOs sealed ballot boxes in the presence of polling agents at 3,951 (93 percent) male polling stations, 2,946 (91 percent) female polling stations and 5,841 (93 percent) combined polling stations. Conversely, the sealing of ballot boxes took place without the presence of polling agents in 282 (seven percent) male stations, 280 (nine percent) female stations and 469 (seven percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 2.2.3: WHETHER PRESIDING OFFICERS SEALED BALLOT BOXES IN THE PESENC OF POLLING AGENTS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.3 Inspection of Ballot Boxes by the Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before the time fixed for the commencement of the poll, the Presiding Officer shall show the empty ballot box to the contesting candidates and their election agents or polling agents whoever may be present, and record their statements in this behalf in the prescribed form and obtain their signatures on the form.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(4) (b)*

The statement referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (4) of section 78 shall be in Form-42.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 72*

Role and Responsibilities of the Election Agent and Polling Agent: Ensuring that all ballot boxes are empty before the start of the polling and nothing down the seal numbers after the boxes have been sealed and signing the Form-42.

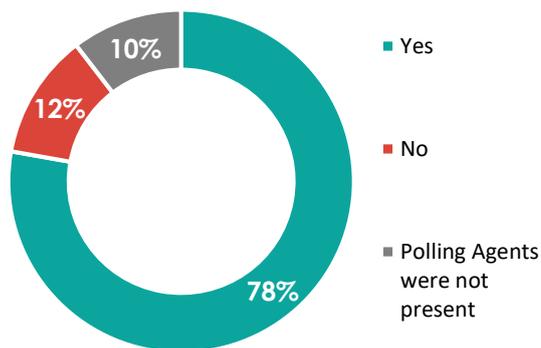
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg.11*



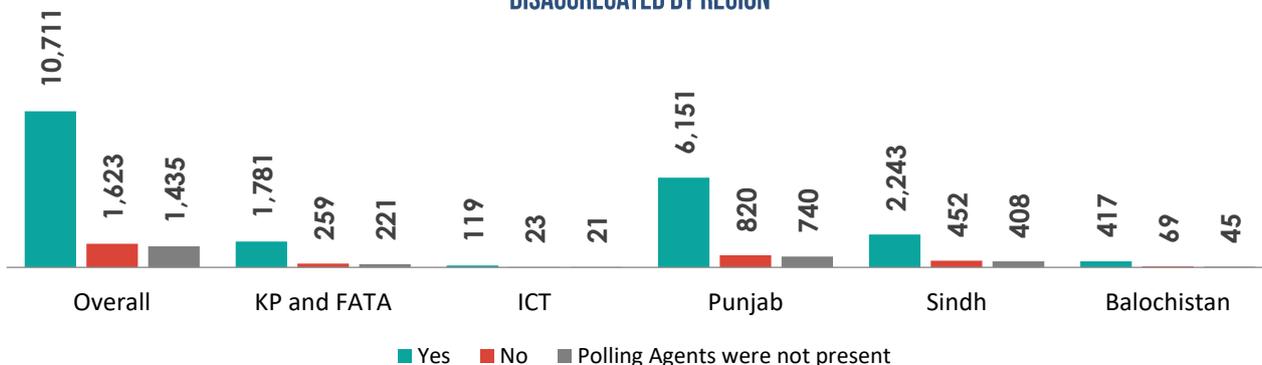
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, PrOs took the signatures of polling agents on Form-42 (Statement regarding Inspection of Ballot Boxes Before Start of Poll) after showing them empty ballot boxes at 10,711 (78 percent) polling stations. Conversely, PrOs did not obtain the signatures on Form-42 at 1,623 (12 percent) polling stations while polling agents were reported to be absent prior to the start of voting process the at the remaining 1,435 (10 percent) polling station.

Polling stations in which PrOs got Form-42 signed by polling agents included 6,151 (80 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,243 (72 percent) in Sindh, 1,781 (79 percent) in KP, 417 (79 percent) in Balochistan, and 119 (73 percent) in ICT. PrOs did not ask polling agents to sign Form-42 at 820 (11 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 452 (15 percent) in Sindh, 259 (12 percent) in KP, 69 (13 percent) in Balochistan, and 23 (14 percent) in ICT. Additionally, the polling agents were not present at remaining 740 (10 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 408 (13 percent) in Sindh, 221 (10 percent) in KP, 45 (nine percent) in Balochistan and 21 (13 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.3.1: DID POLLING AGENTS SIGN FORM-42 AFTER INSPECTION OF BALLOT BOXES?**

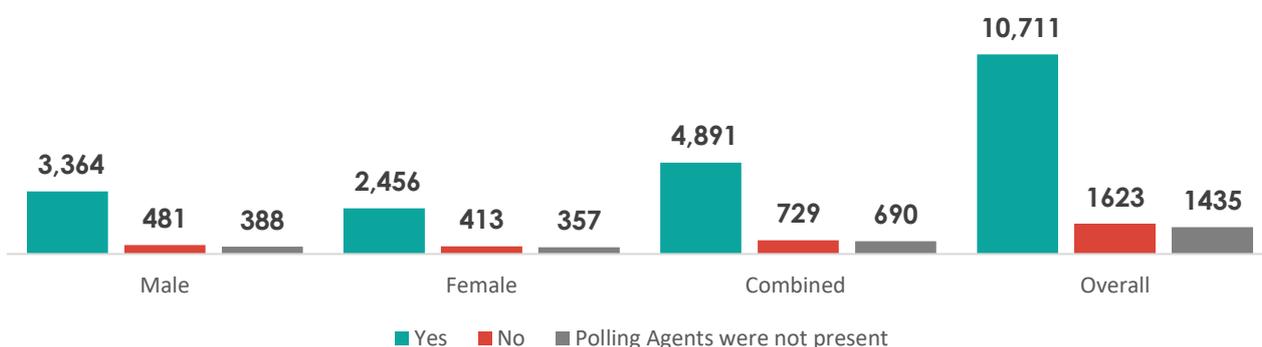


**FIGURE 2.3.2: WHETHER PRESIDING OFFICERS TOOK THE SIGNATURES OF POLLING AGENTS ON FORM-42, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that PrOs acquired signatures of polling agents on Form-42 at 3,364 (79 percent) male, 2,456 (76 percent) female and 4,891 (78 percent) combined polling stations. Whereas, polling was started without the signing of Form-42 by polling agents at 481 (11 percent) male, 413 (13 percent) female, and 729 (12 percent) combined polling stations. The polling agents were reported absent at the remaining 338 (nine percent) male, 357 (11 percent) female and 690 (11 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 2.3.3: WHETHER PRESIDING OFFICERS TOOK THE SIGNATURES OF POLLING AGENTS ON FORM-42, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.4 Polling Agents Wearing Identification Badges

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

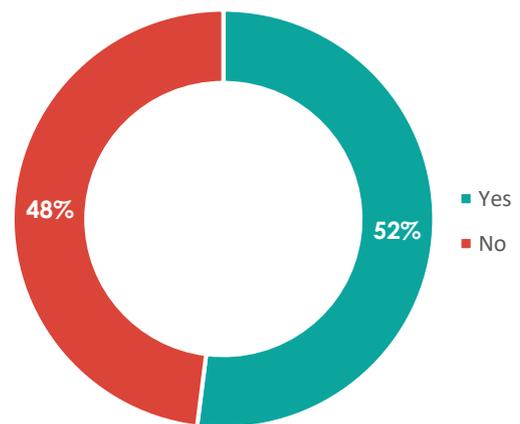
The political parties, candidates and election agents shall: (b) provide badges or identity cards to their authorized polling agents containing his name, candidate's name, his NIC No, number and name of constituency and number and name of polling station which shall in no case reflect the party of the candidate.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 49*

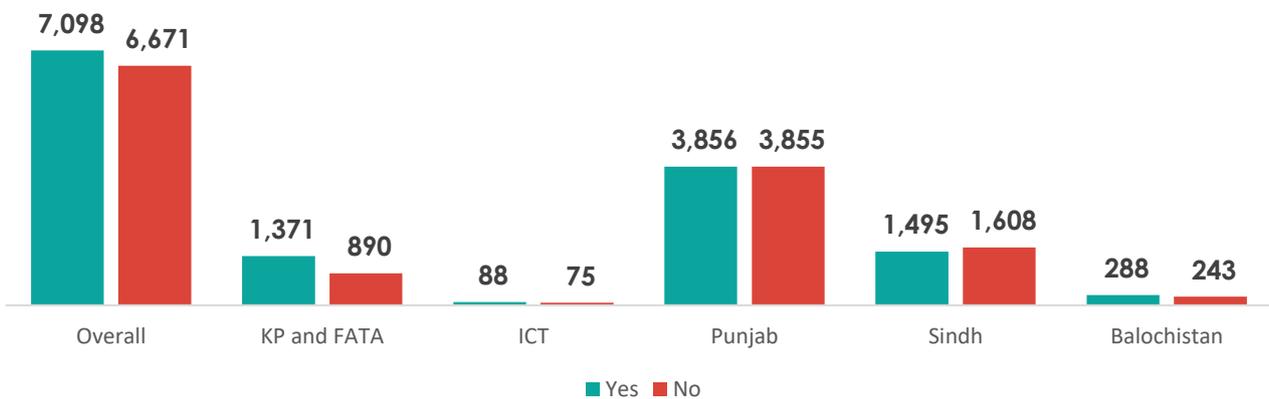
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, polling agents of various political parties and candidates were seen wearing identity badges only in approximately half of polling stations (7,098, or 52 percent). However, they were observed not to be wearing identification badges in the remaining half of polling stations (6,671, or 48 percent).

Polling stations in which polling agents were seen wearing identity badges included 3,856 (50 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,495 (48 percent) in Sindh, 1,371 (61 percent) in KP, 288 (54 percent) in Balochistan, and 88 (54 percent) in ICT. Conversely, polling agents were not seen wearing identity badges at 3,855 (50 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,608 (52 percent) in Sindh, 890 (39 percent) in KP, 243 (46 percent) in Balochistan, and 75 (46 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.4.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS WEARING IDENTIFICATION BADGES?**



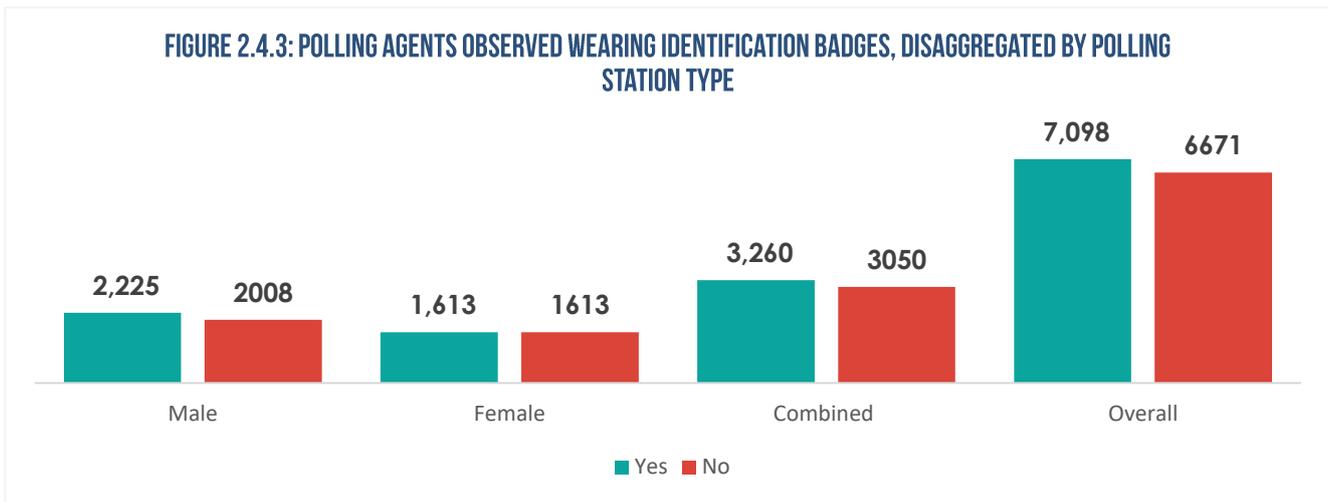
**FIGURE 2.4.2: POLLING AGENTS OBSERVED WEARING IDENTIFICATION BADGES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to polling station type, polling agents were wearing identity badges at 2,225 (53 percent) male, 1,613 (50 percent) female and 3,260 (52 percent) combined polling stations, but not wearing them at 2,008 (47 percent) male stations, 1,613 (50 percent) female stations and 3,050 (48 percent) combined polling stations.



FIGURE 2.4.3: POLLING AGENTS OBSERVED WEARING IDENTIFICATION BADGES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 2.5 Barring Polling Agents at Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The contesting candidate or his election agent may, before the commencement of or during the poll, appoint for each polling station as many polling agents as may be prescribed and shall give notice in writing to the Presiding Officer communicating the appointment.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 77(1)*

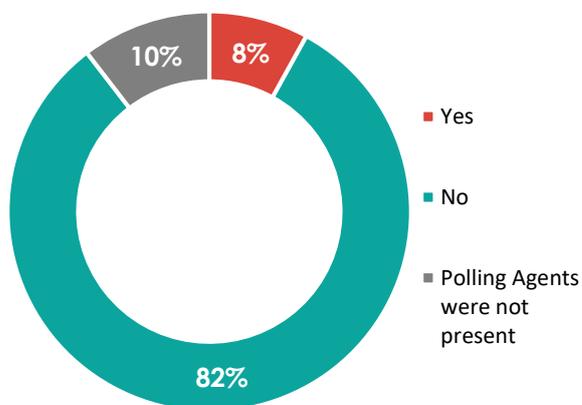
The Election Commission provides specific guidelines to the Presiding officers to allow polling agents to be present inside the polling station to observe the pre-voting processes that includes the signing of Form-42 (Statement regarding Inspection of Ballot Boxes Before Start of Poll).

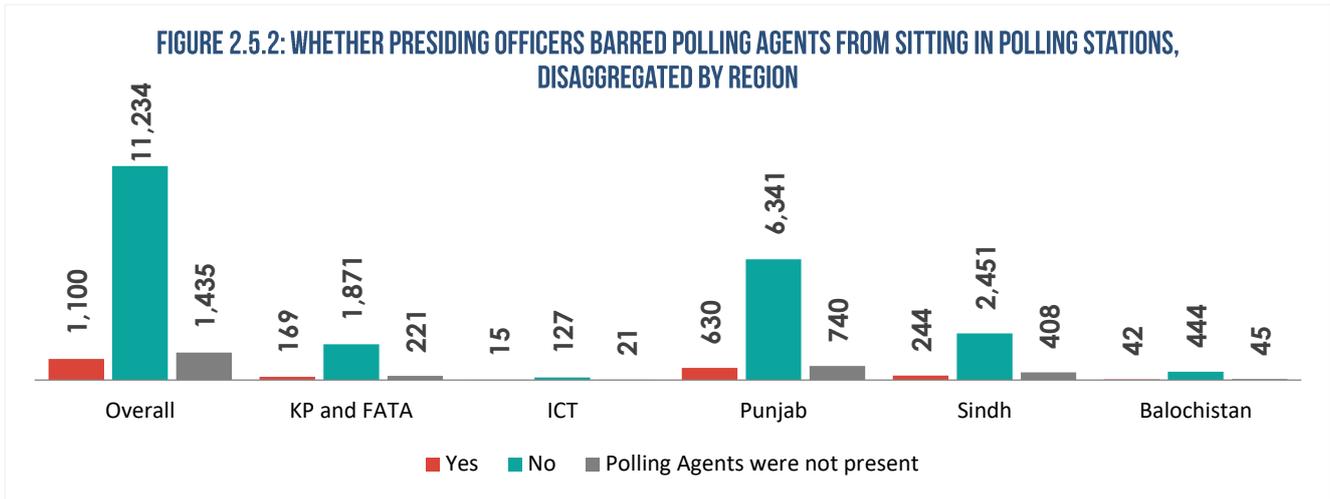
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, pg. 11*

Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, PrOs allowed polling agents to sit in polling stations at the majority (11,234 or 82 percent) of polling stations. However, PrOs barred polling agents from sitting in polling stations in 1,100 (eight percent) stations while the polling agents were not reported to be present at the reaming 1,435 (10 percent) polling stations prior to the start of voting.

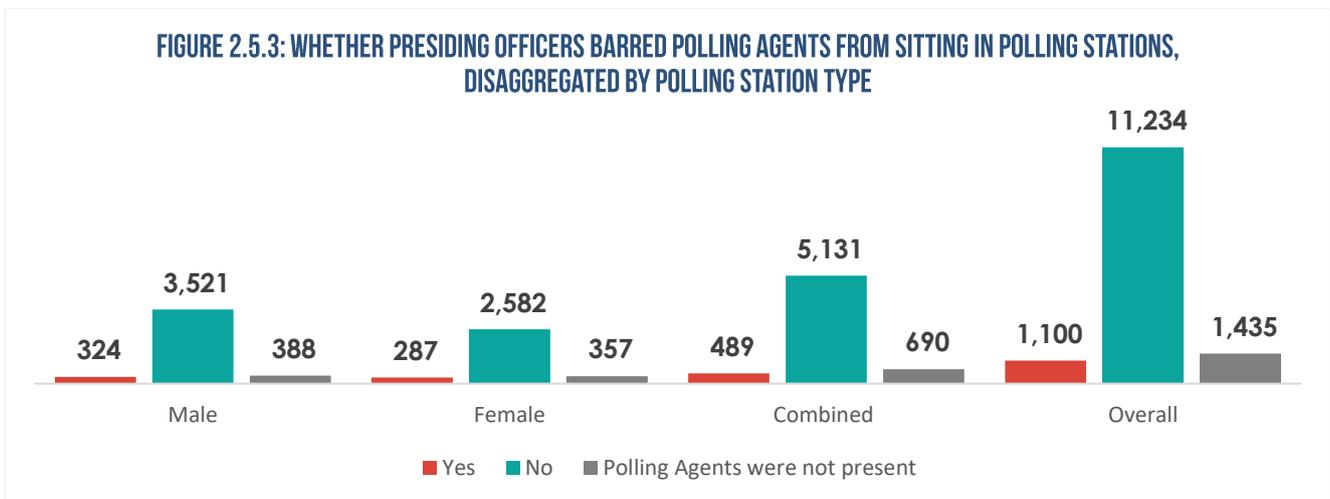
Polling stations in which polling agents were allowed to sit included 6,341 (82 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,451 (79 percent) in Sindh, 1,871 (83 percent) in KP, 444 (84 percent) in Balochistan, and 127 (78 percent) in Islamabad (ICT). PrOs barred polling agents from sitting in polling stations in 630 (eight percent) polling stations in Punjab, 224 (eight percent) in Sindh, 169 (eight percent) in KP, 42 (eight percent) in Balochistan, and 15 (nine percent) in ICT, suggesting that the issue was more prevent in ICT than in other regions. Polling agents were absent in the reaming 740 (10 percent) observed polling stations in Punjab, 408 (13 percent) in Sindh, 221 (10 percent) in KP, 45 (nine percent) in Balochistan and 21 (13 percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 2.5.1: DID PRESIDING OFFICERS BAR POLLING AGENTS FROM SITTING IN POLLING STATIONS?





Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that PrOs allowed polling agents to be present inside 3,521 (83 percent) male, 2,582 (80 percent) female, and 5,131 (81 percent) combined polling stations. On the other hand, PrOs barred polling agents in 324 (eight percent) male, 287 (nine percent) female, and 489 (eight percent) combined polling stations. The polling agents were reported absent at the remaining 338 (nine percent) male, 357 (11 percent) female and 690 (11 percent) combined polling stations.



## 2.6 Objections by Polling Agents at Pre-Voting Proceedings

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

If polling agent observes any irregularity at the polling station then he may raise objection thereon however, it is necessary for the polling agent to raise such objection in an amicable and civilized manner.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 9*

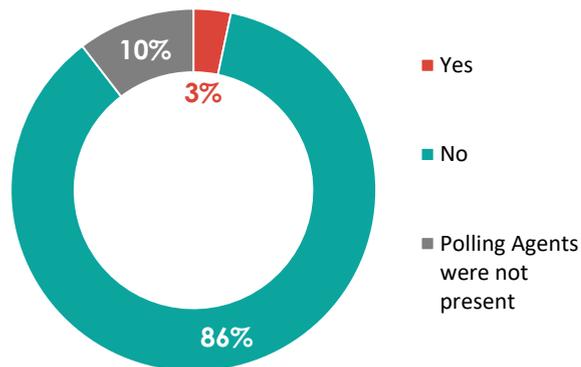


Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, polling agents did not raise any objections regarding pre-poll proceedings at the majority (11,883 or 86 percent) of polling stations. Polling agents did raise objections to pre-poll proceedings in 451 (three percent) polling stations while they were reported absent at the remaining 1,435 (10 percent) polling stations prior to the start of voting process.

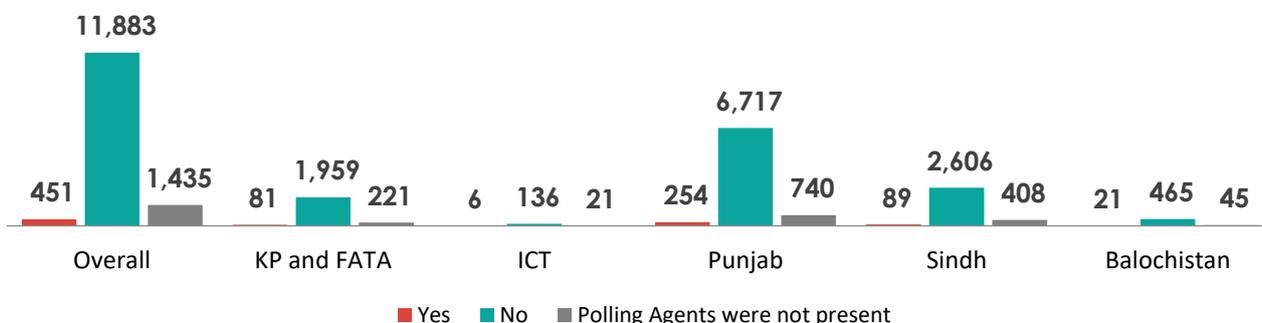
Polling stations in which polling agents did not raise any objections to pre-poll proceedings included 6,717 (87 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,606 (84 percent) in Sindh, 1,959 (87 percent) in KP, 465 (88 percent) in Balochistan, and 136 (83 percent) in ICT.

Polling agents had objections to pre-poll proceedings in 254 (three percent) polling stations in Punjab, 89 (three percent) in Sindh, 81 (four percent) in KP, 21 (four percent) in Balochistan, and six (four percent) in ICT. The polling agents were not present at 740 (10 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 408 (13 percent) in Sindh, 221 (10 percent) in KP, 45 (nine percent) in Balochistan and 21 (13 percent) in Islamabad.

**FIGURE 2.6.1: DID POLLING AGENTS OBJECT TO PRE-POLL PROCEEDINGS?**

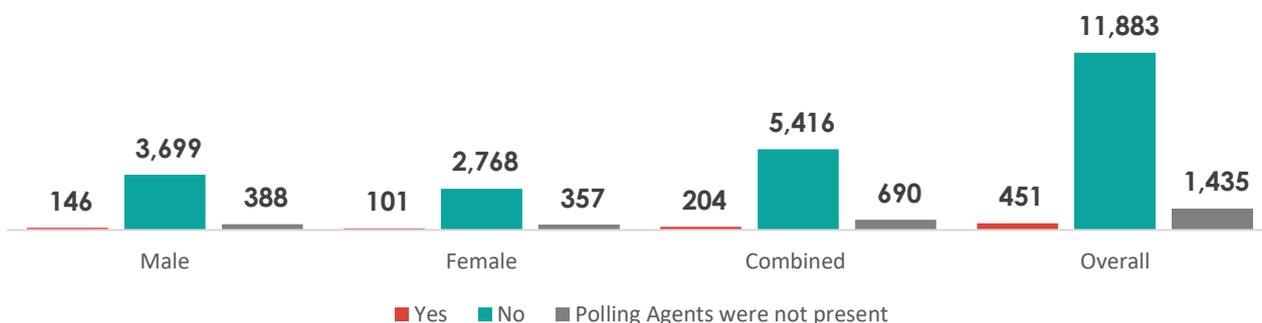


**FIGURE 2.6.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS RAISED ANY OBJECTIONS TO PRE-POLL PROCEEDINGS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the polling agents did not object to the pre-poll process at 3,699 (87 percent) male, 2,768 (86 percent) female, and 5,416 (46 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where polling agents objected to pre-poll proceedings included 146 (three percent) male stations, 101 (three percent) female stations, and 204 (three percent) combined polling stations. The observers reported non presence of the polling agents at 388 (nine percent) male polling stations, 357 (11 percent) female polling stations and 690 (11 percent) combined stations.

**FIGURE 2.6.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS RAISED ANY OBJECTIONS TO PRE-POLL PROCEEDINGS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.7 Preparedness of Election Staff to Start Polling at 0800 Hours

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall fix the hours, which shall not be less than eight, during which the poll shall be held and the Returning Officer shall give public notice of the hours so fixed and hold the poll according to the hours fixed by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 70*

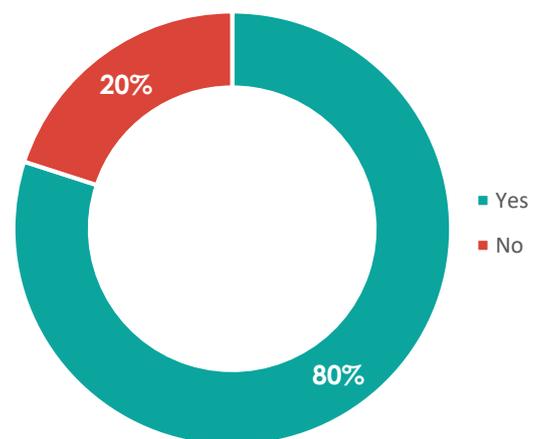
Arrival of the polling personnel at the polling station two hours prior to the polling time to arrange the polling station and start the voting at specified time

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 27*

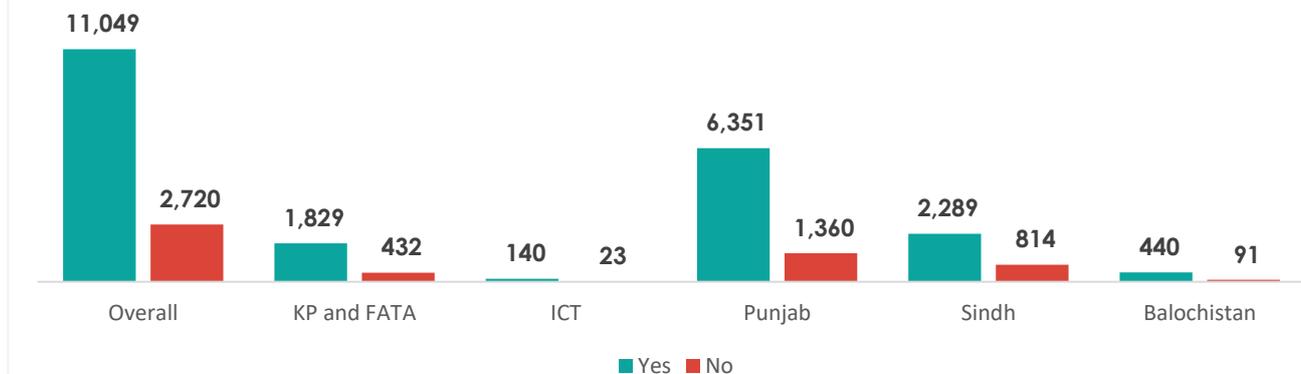
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, polling staff was prepared to start the voting process at 0800 hours, as notified by Returning Officers, in 11,049 (80 percent) polling stations. However, polling staff was not prepared to start the voting at the appointed time at 2,720 (20 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which polling staff was completely prepared to start the polling process at 0800 hours included 6,351 (82 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,289 (74 percent) in Sindh, 1,829 (81 percent) in KP, 440 (83 percent) in Balochistan, and 140 (86 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, polling staff was not prepared to start the polling process on time in 1,360 (18 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 814 (26 percent) in Sindh, 432 (19 percent) in KP, 91 (17 percent) in Balochistan, and 23 (14 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.7.1: WAS ELECTION STAFF PREPARED TO START POLLING AT 0800 HOURS?**



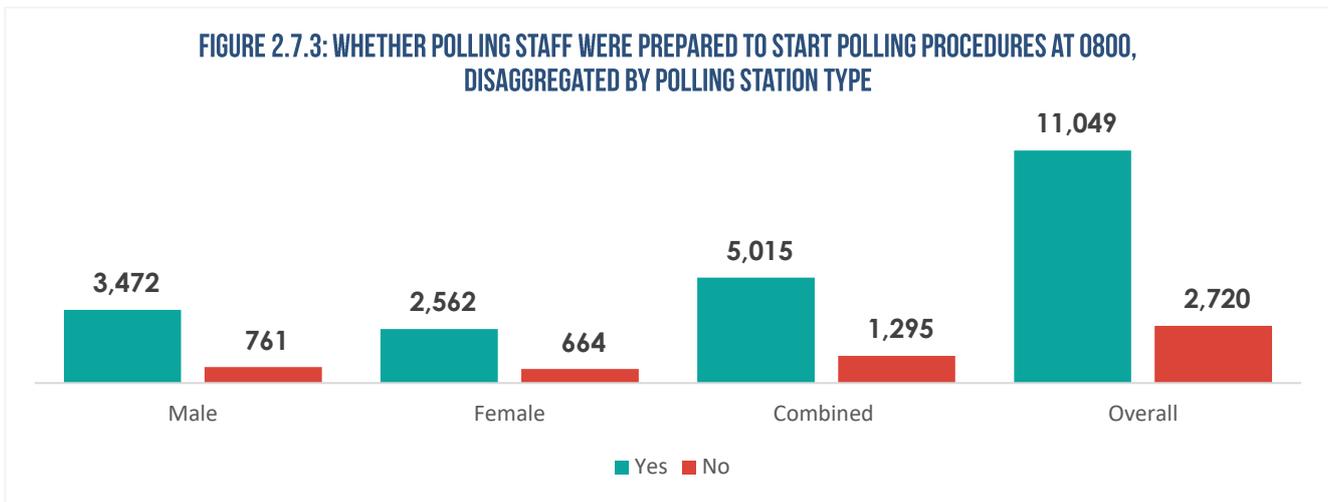
**FIGURE 2.7.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE PREPARED TO START POLLING PROCEDURES AT 0800, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling staff was ready to start polling at 0800 hours at 3,472 (82 percent) male, 2,562 (79 percent) female, and 5,015 (79 percent) combined polling stations. The polling staff was not ready to start the proceedings at the stipulated time in 761 (18 percent) male, 664 (21 percent) female, and 1,295 (21 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 2.7.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE PREPARED TO START POLLING PROCEDURES AT 0800, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**

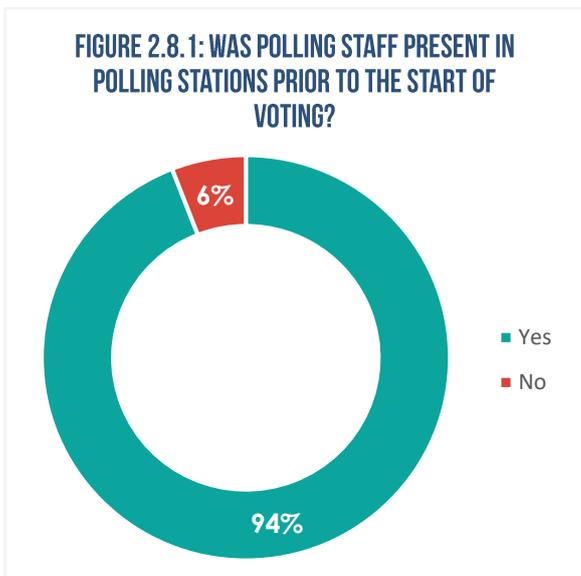


## 2.8 Presence of Election Staff prior to Commencement of Voting Process

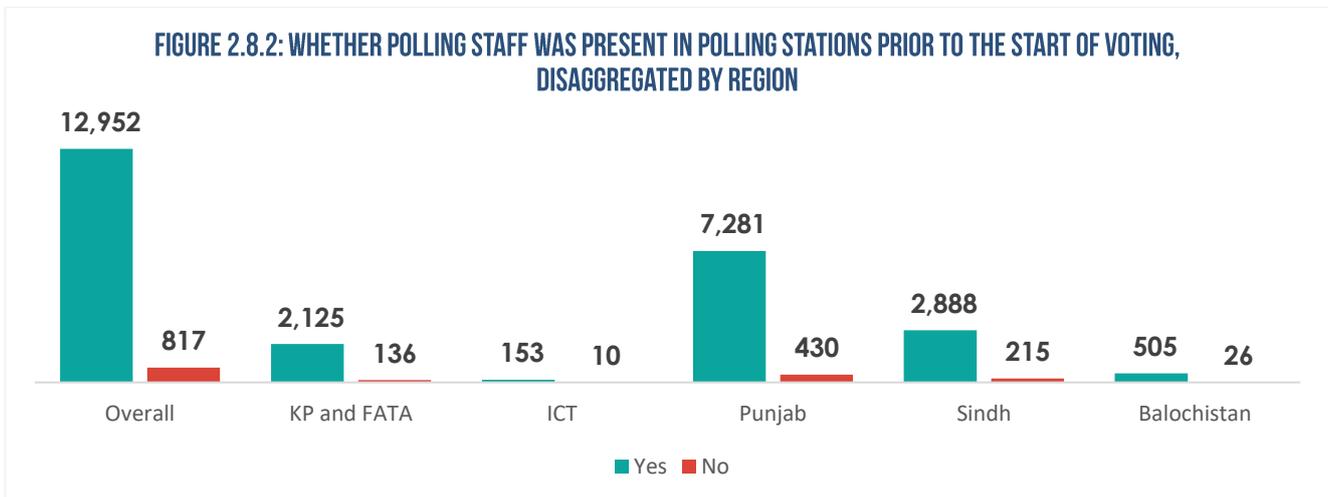
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, polling staff was present at the polling station prior to the start of the polling process at 12,952 (94 percent) polling stations. In 817 polling stations (six percent) at least one member of the polling staff was not present prior to the start of voting.

Polling stations in which polling staff was observed to be present before the polling process began included 7,281 (94 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,888 (93 percent) in Sindh, 2,125 (94 percent) in KP, 505 (95 percent) in Balochistan, and 153 (94 percent) in ICT. At least one member of the polling staff was not present before the start of the polling process in 430 (six percent) polling stations in Punjab, 215 (seven percent) in Sindh, 136 (six percent) in KP, 26 (five percent) in Balochistan, and 10 (six percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.8.1: WAS POLLING STAFF PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF VOTING?**

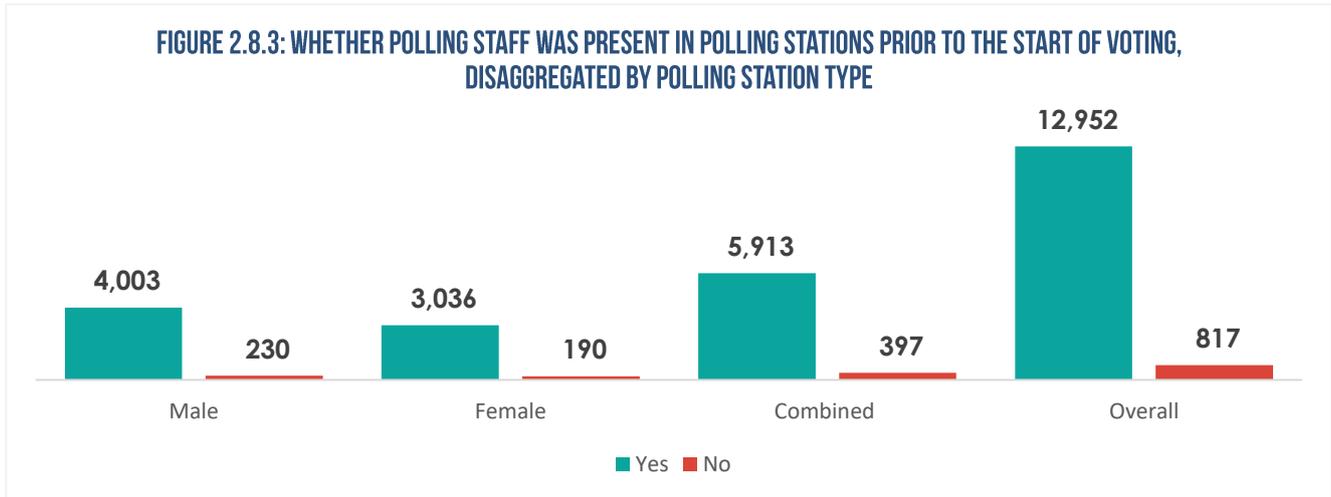


**FIGURE 2.8.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WAS PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF VOTING, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling staff was present at 4,003 (95 percent) male, 3,036 (94 percent) female, and 5,913 (94 percent) combined polling stations, but absent at 230 (five percent) male, 190 (six percent) female, and 397 (six percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 2.8.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WAS PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF VOTING, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.9 Presence of Security Staff prior to Commencement of Polling Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, shall, subject to such instructions as the Commission may give in this behalf, regulate the number of voters to be admitted to the polling station at one time and shall exclude from the polling station all other persons except—

- (a) any person on duty in connection with the election

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 82*

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election - 2018 shall: -

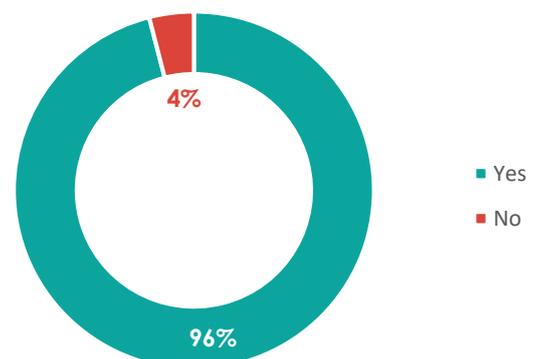
- i. Perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections - 2018 by: -
  - (1) Deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials for General Elections – 2018, Clause A*

Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, security officials were present prior to the start of the polling process at 13,229 (96 percent) polling stations. At 540 polling stations (four percent), security officials were not present prior to the start of polling.

Polling stations in which security officials were present before the polling process started included 7,413 (96 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,004 (97 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 2,157 (95 percent) polling stations in KP, 497 (94 percent) polling stations in Balochistan, and 158 (97 percent) polling stations in ICT. Security officials were not present at 298 (four

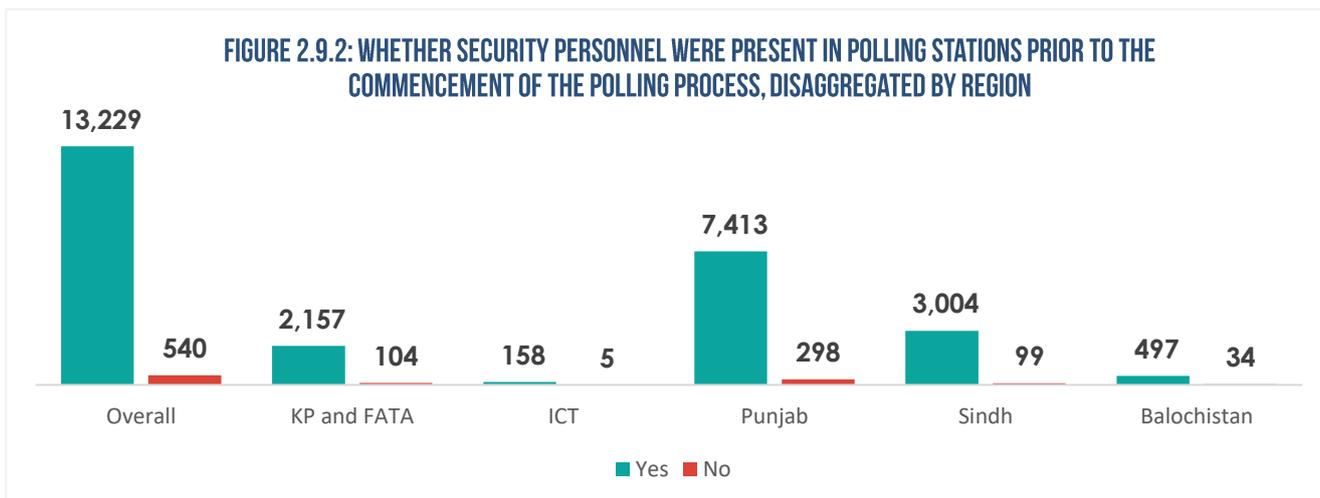
**FIGURE 2.9.1: WERE SECURITY PERSONNEL PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLLING PROCESS?**





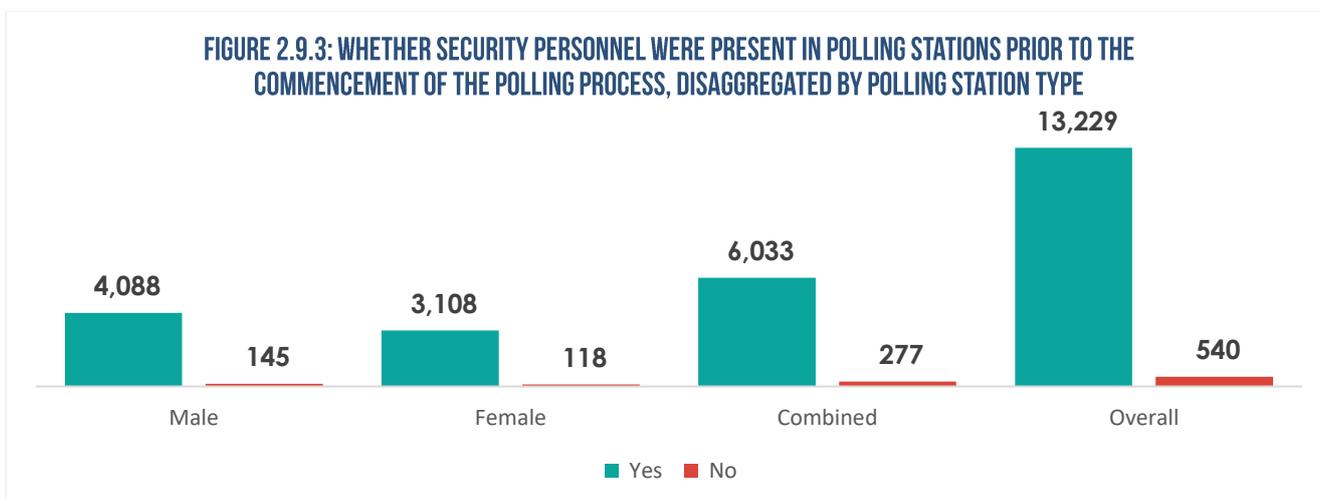
percent) polling stations in Punjab, 104 (five percent) polling stations in KP, 99 (three percent) polling stations in Sindh, 34 (six percent) polling stations in Balochistan, and five (three percent) polling stations in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.9.2: WHETHER SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLLING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, security staff was present prior to the start of the polling process at 4,088 (97 percent) male, 3,108 (96 percent) female, and 6,033 (96 percent) combined polling stations, but absent at 145 (three percent) male, 118 (four percent) female, and 277 (four percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 2.9.3: WHETHER SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLLING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.10 Presence of Contesting Candidates prior to Commencement of Polling Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, shall, subject to such instructions as the Commission may give in this behalf, regulate the number of voters to be admitted to the polling station at one time and shall exclude from the polling station all other persons except—

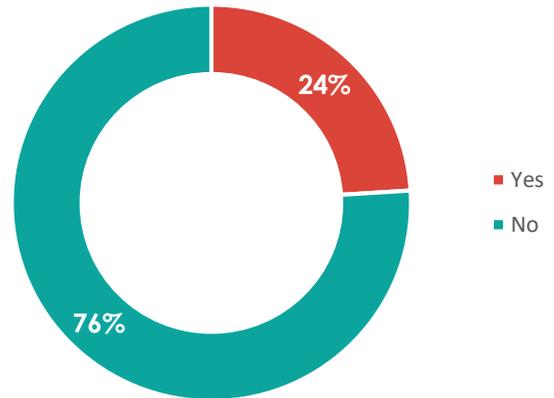
- (b) the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 82*

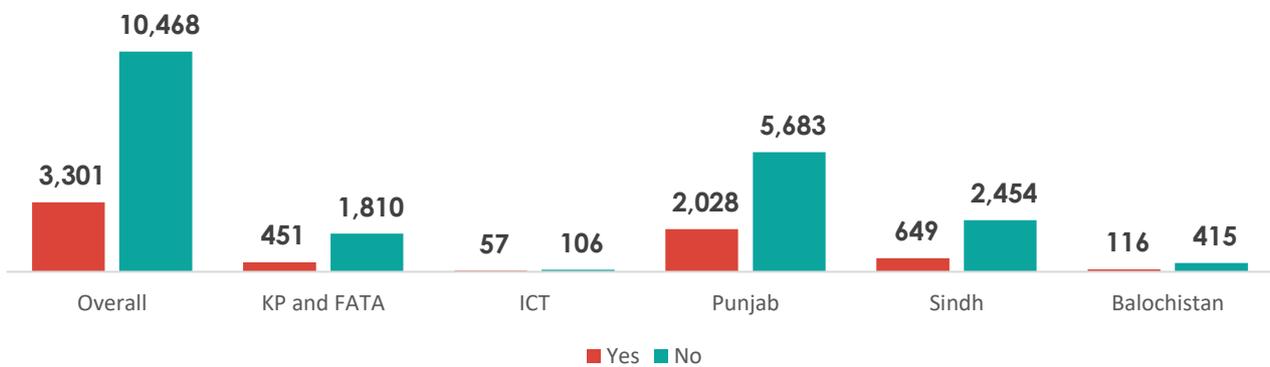
Of the total 13,769 polling stations observed, candidates were present prior to the start of the polling process at 3,301 (24 percent) polling stations, but were not present in 10,468 (76 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which candidates were observed to be present before the polling process began included 2,028 (26 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 649 (21 percent) in Sindh, 451 (20 percent) in KP, 116 (22 percent) in Balochistan, and 57 (35 percent) in ICT. Candidates were not present in 5,683 (74 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,454 (79 percent) in Sindh, 1,810 (80 percent) in KP, 415 (78 percent) in Balochistan, and 106 (65 percent) polling stations in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.10.1: WERE CONTESTING CANDIDATES PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF POLLING?**

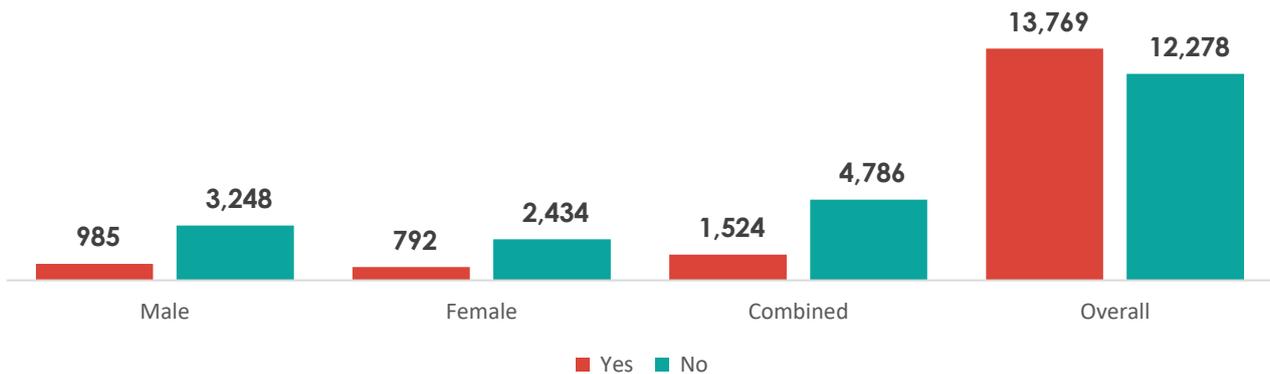


**FIGURE 2.10.2: WHETHER CONTESTING CANDIDATES WERE PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF POLLING, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of the polling station, candidates were present prior to the start of the polling process in 985 (23 percent) male, 792 (25 percent) female, and 1,524 (24 percent) combined polling stations, but not present at 3,248 (77 percent) male, 2,434 (75 percent) female, and 4,786 (76 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 2.10.3: WHETHER CONTESTING CANDIDATES WERE PRESENT IN POLLING STATIONS PRIOR TO THE START OF POLLING, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 2.11 Presence of Other Unauthorized Persons inside Polling Stations prior to Commencement of Polling Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, shall, subject to such instructions as the Commission may give in this behalf, regulate the number of voters to be admitted to the polling station at one time and shall exclude from the polling station all other persons except—

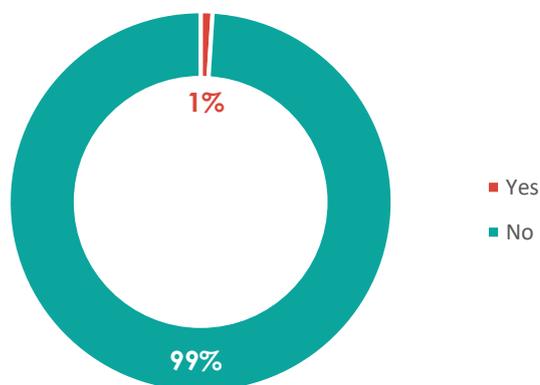
- (a) any person on duty in connection with the election;
- (b) the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents;
- (c) such other persons as may be specially permitted by the Commission or any other authority empowered by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 82*

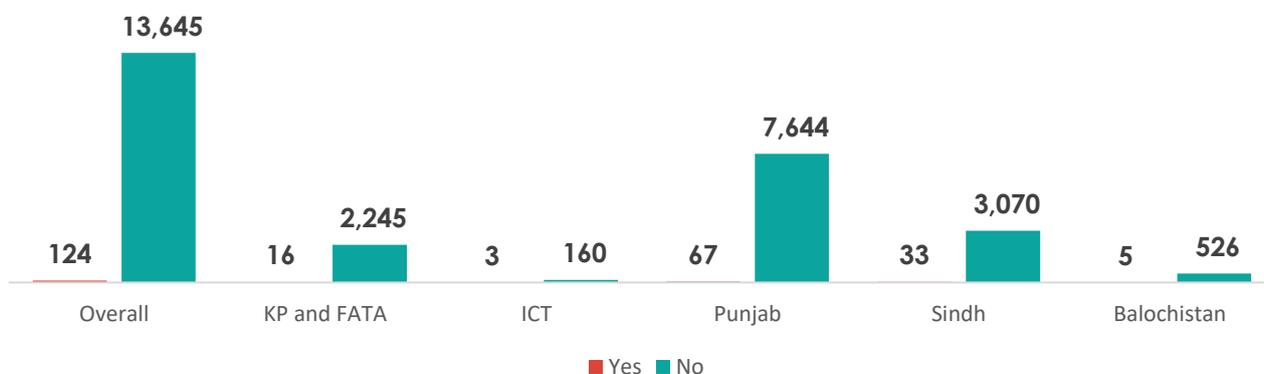
Of the total 13,769 observed polling stations, persons other than those mentioned in Section 82 of the Elections Act, 2017 (e.g. government officials, medical staff and rescue officials) were present inside 124 (one percent) polling stations, but not in the overwhelming majority of polling stations.

Polling stations in which unauthorized persons were present before the polling process began included 67 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, followed by 33 (one percent) in Sindh, 16 (one percent) in KP, five (one percent) in Balochistan and three (two percent) in ICT. No such presence was observed at 7,644 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,070 (99 percent) in Sindh, 2,245 (99 percent) in KP, 526 (99 percent) in Balochistan and 160 (98 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 2.11.1: WAS ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSON PRESENT INSIDE POLLING STATION PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLLING PROCESS?**

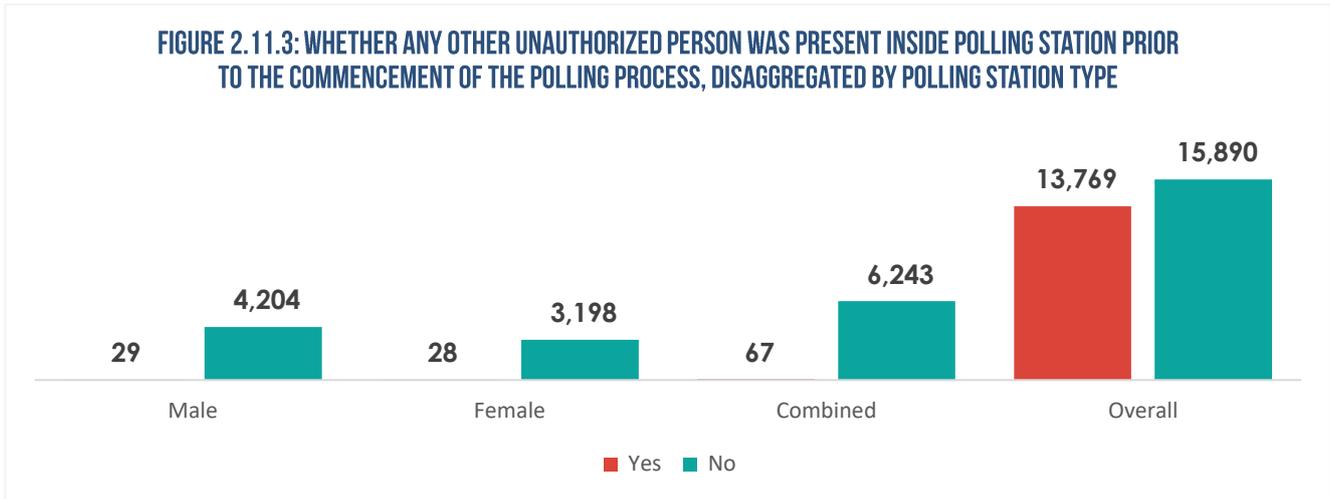


**FIGURE 2.11.2: WHETHER ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSON WAS PRESENT INSIDE POLLING STATION PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLLING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, presence of unauthorized persons was observed in 29 (one percent) male, 28 (one percent) female, and 67 (one percent) combined polling stations, but not observed in 4,204 (99 percent) male, 3,198 (99 percent) female, and 6,243 (99 percent) combined polling stations.

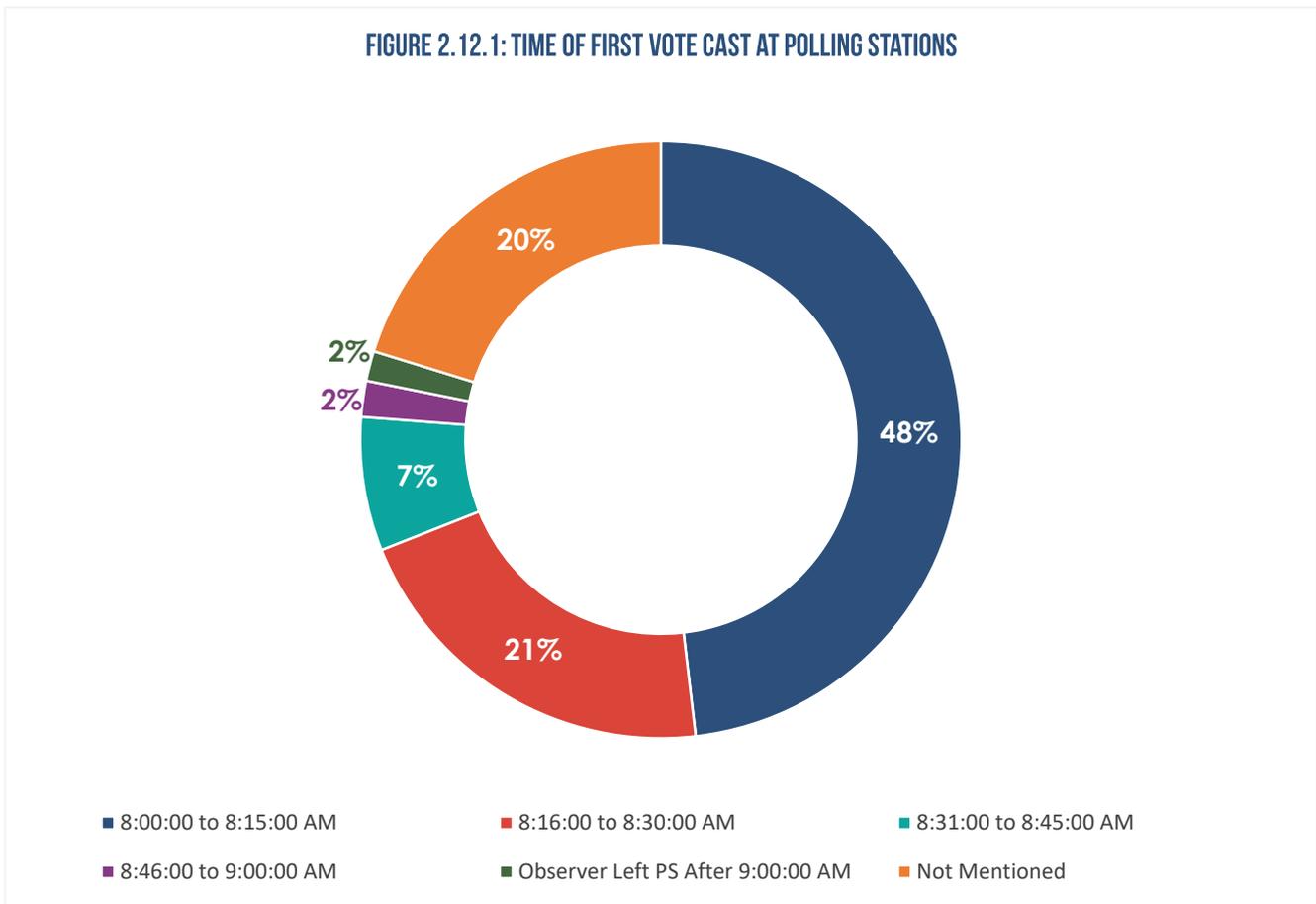
**FIGURE 2.11.3: WHETHER ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSON WAS PRESENT INSIDE POLLING STATION PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE POLLING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 2.12 Time of First Ballot at Polling Stations

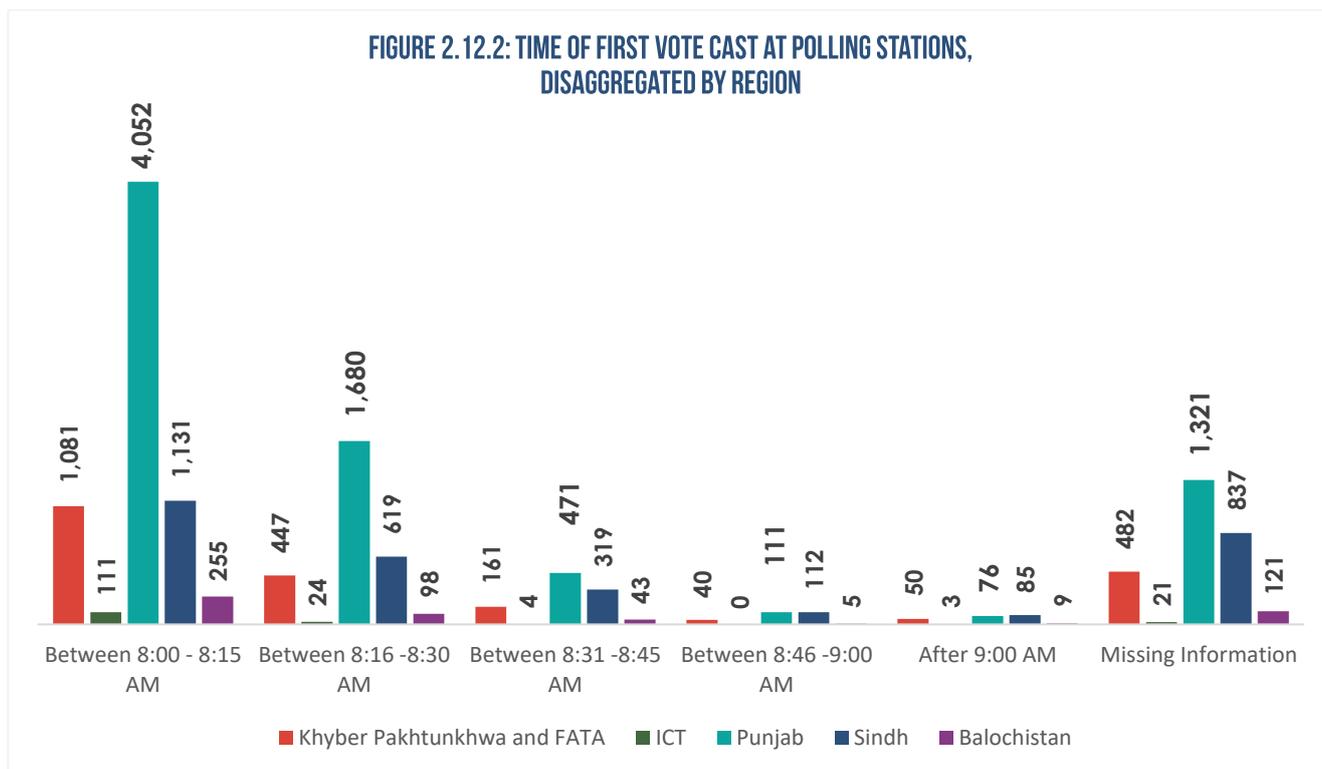
FAFEN observers noted the time the first vote was cast at each observed polling station. Of the total 13,769 observed polling stations, the first ballot was cast within 15 minutes of the commencement of the polling process at 6,630 polling stations (48 percent); between 0815 and 0830 hours at 2,868 polling stations (21 percent); between 0831 and 0845 hours at 998 polling stations (seven percent); and between 0846 and 0900 hours at 268 polling stations (two percent). At 223 polling stations, no ballot was cast prior to the observers completing their observation duties, i.e. 0900 hours. The time of the first ballot cast was not reported at the remaining 2,782 polling stations.

**FIGURE 2.12.1: TIME OF FIRST VOTE CAST AT POLLING STATIONS**





For a regionally disaggregated analysis of the time of first vote cast at polling stations, refer to the following graph:



# ARRANGEMENTS AND MATERIALS AT POLLING BOOTHS





### 3.1 Setting up of Polling Booths in Separate Rooms

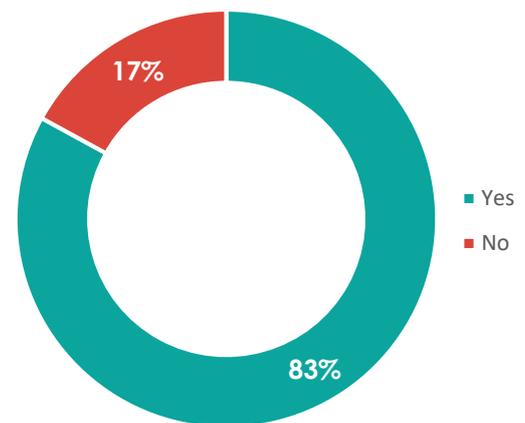
#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

There is no specific provision in the law, rules or procedural guidelines on setting up booths in separate rooms. However, setting up multiple booths in a single room may disturb the efficiency and pace of the polling process.

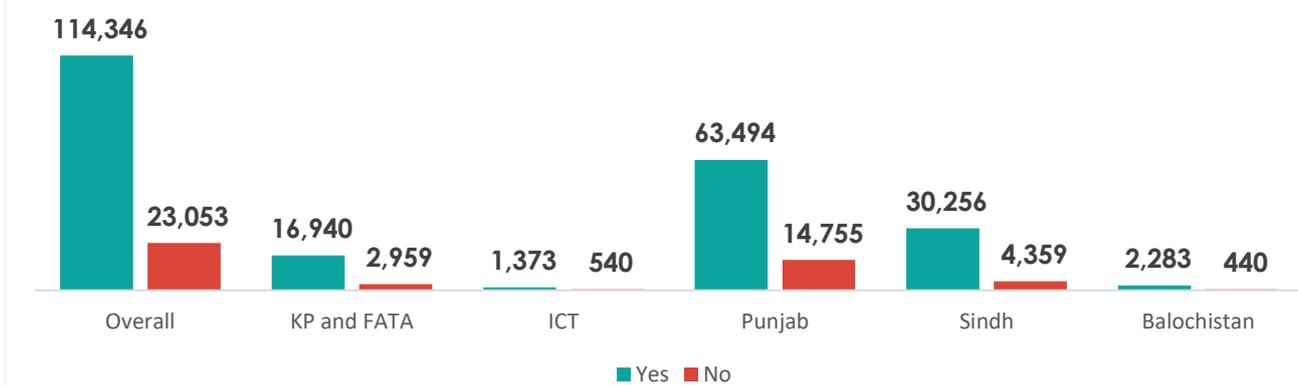
Of the total 137,399 polling booths observed, 114,346 (83 percent) booths were set up in separate rooms of polling stations while the remaining 23,053 (17 percent) booths were established in one room at their respective polling stations.

As many as 14,755 (23 percent) of the polling booths observed in Punjab were not set up in separate rooms, followed by 4,359 (14 percent) in Sindh, 2,959 (17 percent) in KP, 540 (39 percent) in ICT and 440 (19 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, observers reported the establishment of 63,494 (77 percent) booths in separate rooms in Punjab, 30,256 (86 percent) booths in Sindh, 16,940 (83 percent) in KP, 2,283 (81 percent) booths in Balochistan and 1,373 (61 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.1.1: WERE POLLING BOOTHS SET UP IN SEPARATE ROOMS?**



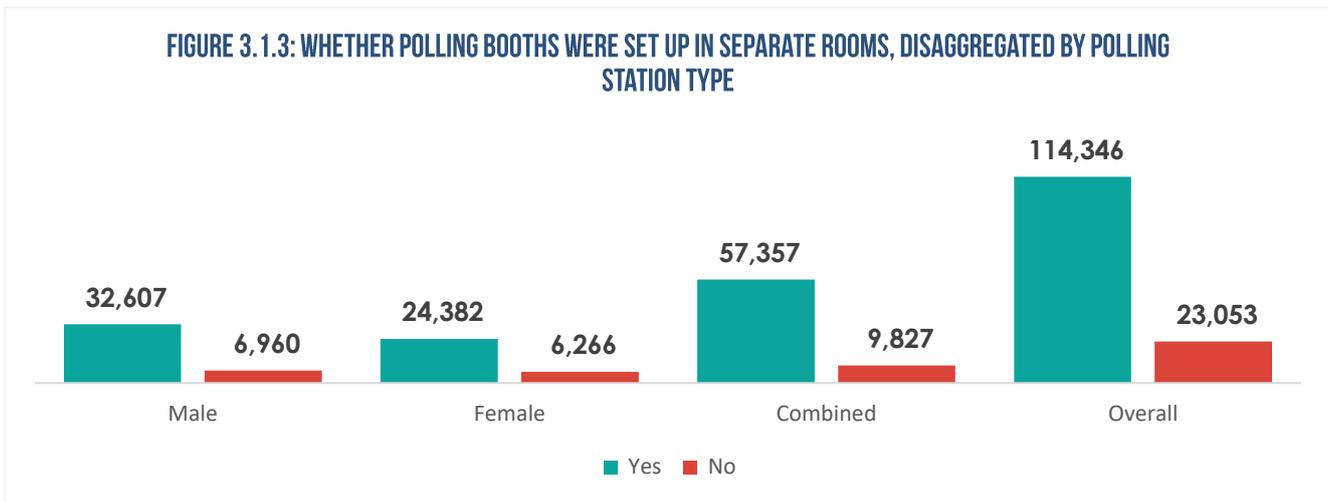
**FIGURE 3.1.2: WHETHER POLLING BOOTHS WERE SET UP IN SEPARATE ROOMS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of the polling station, 32,607 (82 percent) polling booths at male polling stations, 24,382 (80 percent) booths at female polling stations, and 57,357 (85 percent) booths at combined polling stations were housed in separate rooms, while 6,960 (18 percent) booths at male stations, 6,266 (20 percent) booths at female stations, and 9,827 (15 percent) booths at combined polling stations were set up in rooms with more than one booth.



FIGURE 3.1.3: WHETHER POLLING BOOTHS WERE SET UP IN SEPARATE ROOMS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



### 3.2 Presence of APOs for National Assembly Election inside Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

For a simultaneous election to the National and Provincial Assembly, there shall be a Presiding Officer for each polling station and as far as possible, two APO and a PO for each booth at a polling station: Provided that in case of a bye-election to a single seat of national, or, as the case may be Provincial Assembly, there shall be one APO for each booth at a polling station.

*The Elections Act 2017, Section 48 (1)*

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 48 (1)*

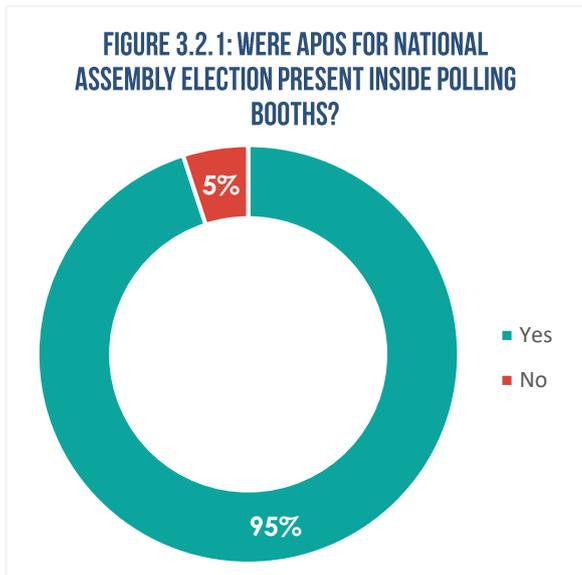
Two APO are designated for each polling booth. The first APO provides the ballot papers for the National Assembly Election and the second APO provide the ballot paper for the Provincial Assembly Election.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 8*

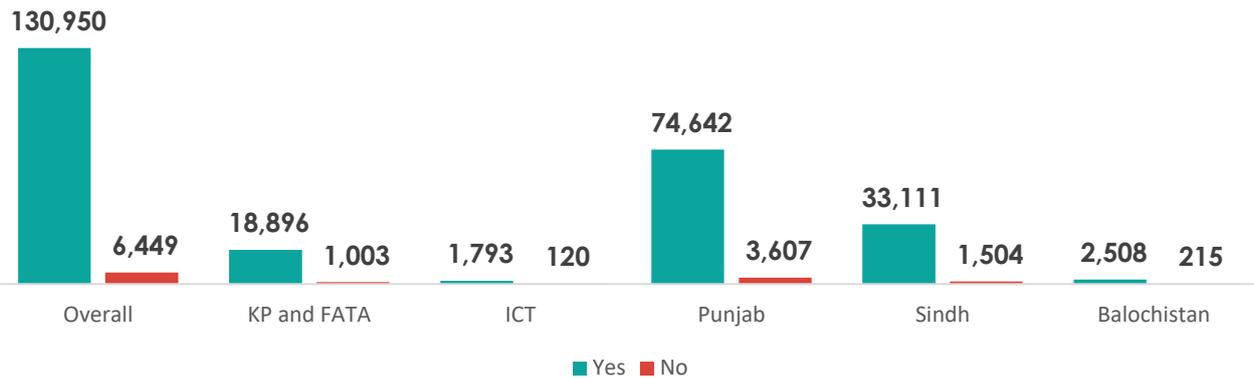
Of the total of 137,399 polling booths observed, Assistant Presiding (APOs) for National Assembly election were present inside the majority (130,950 or 95 percent) of booths, but not present inside 6,449 (five percent) booths.

APOs for National Assembly election were present inside 74,642 (95 percent) polling booths of polling stations in Punjab, followed by 33,111 (96 percent) booths of polling stations in Sindh, 18,896 (95 percent) in KP, 2,508 (92 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,793 (94 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, APOs were reported absent in 3,607 (five percent) booths in Punjab, 1,504 (four percent) in Sindh, 1,003 (five percent) in KP, 215 (eight percent) in Balochistan and 120 (six percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 3.2.1: WERE APOS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS?

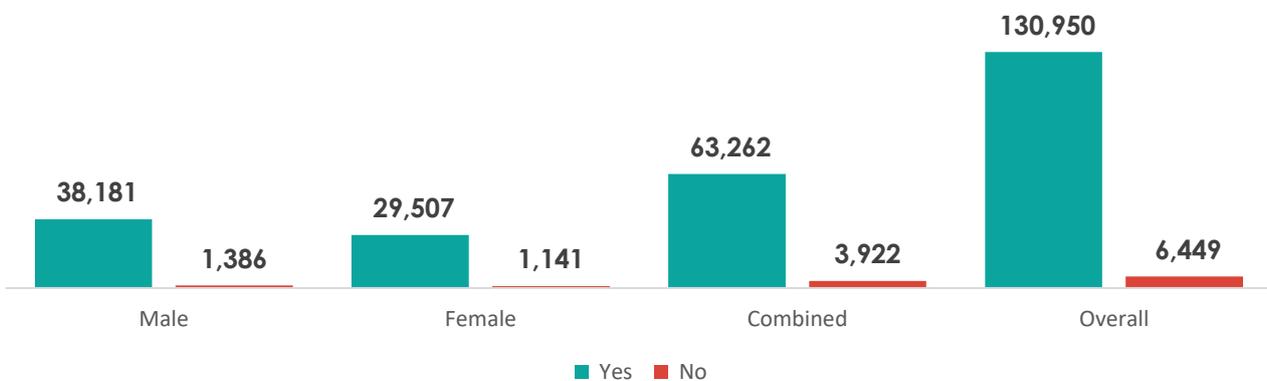


**FIGURE 3.2.2: WHETHER APOS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, APOs for National Assembly election were reported present in 38,181 (96 percent) polling booths at male polling stations, 29,507 (96 percent) booths at female polling stations and 63,262 (94 percent) booths at combined polling stations, but reported absent in 1,386 (four percent) booths at male stations, 1,141 (four percent) booths at female stations, and 3,922 (six percent) booths at combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.2.3: WHETHER APOS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 3.3 Presence of APOs for Provincial Assembly Election inside Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

For a simultaneous election to the National and Provincial Assembly, there shall be a Presiding Officer for each polling station and as far as possible, two APO and a PO for each booth at a polling station: Provided that in case of a by-election to a single seat of national, or, as the case may be Provincial Assembly, there shall be one APO for each booth at a polling station.

*The Elections Act 2017, Section 48 (1)*

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 48 (1)*

Two APO are designated for each polling booth. The first APO provides the ballot papers for the National Assembly Election and the second APO provide the ballot paper for the Provincial Assembly Election.

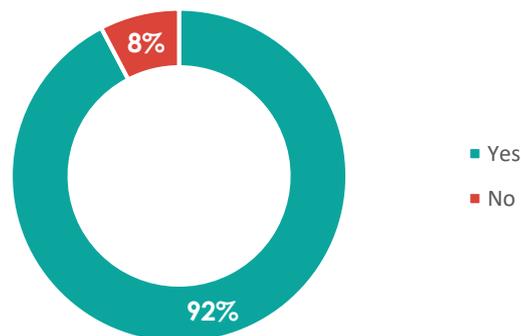
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 8*



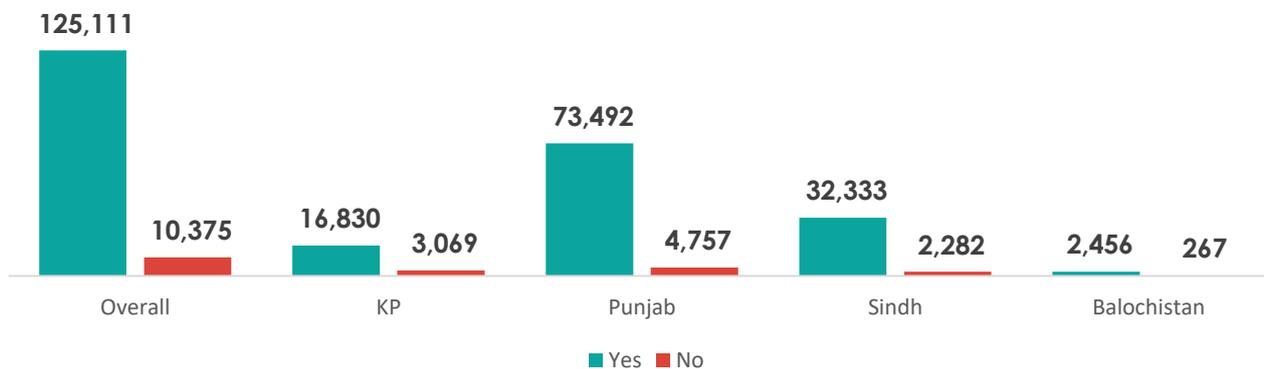
Of the total of 135,486 polling booths observed in the four provinces (excluding ICT and FATA regions), APOs for Provincial Assembly election were reported present at 125,111 (92 percent) polling booths, and absent at 10,375 (eight percent) booths.

APOs for Provincial Assembly election were present at 73,492 (94 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 32,333 (93 percent) in Sindh, 16,830 (85 percent) in KP (excluding FATA) and 2,456 (90 percent) in Balochistan. Conversely, the APOs were not present at 4,757 (six percent) booths in Punjab, 2,282 (seven percent) in Sindh, 3,069 (15 percent) in KP, and 267 (10 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 3.3.1: WERE APOS FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

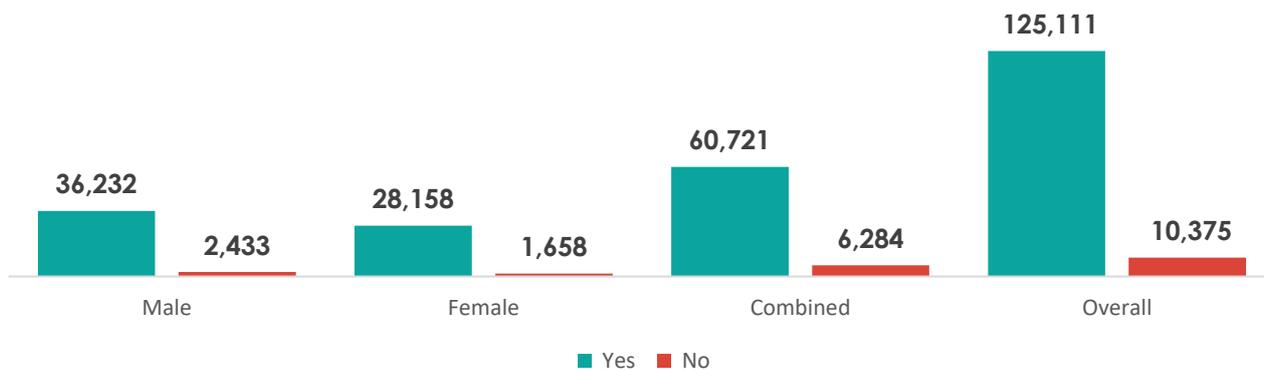


**FIGURE 3.3.2: WHETHER APOS FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, the APOs were present in 36,232 (94 percent) polling booths of male, 28,158 (94 percent) booths of female, and 60,721 (91 percent) booths of combined polling stations, but absent in 2,433 (six percent) booths of male stations, 1,658 (six percent) booths of female stations, and 6,284 (nine percent) booths of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.3.3: WHETHER APOS FOR PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 3.4 Presence of POs inside Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

For a simultaneous election to the National and Provincial Assembly, there shall be a Presiding Officer for each polling station and as far as possible, two APO and a PO for each booth at a polling station: Provided that in case of a bye-election to a single seat of national, or, as the case may be Provincial Assembly, there shall be one APO for each booth at a polling station.

*The Elections Act 2017, Section 48 (1)*

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 48 (1)*

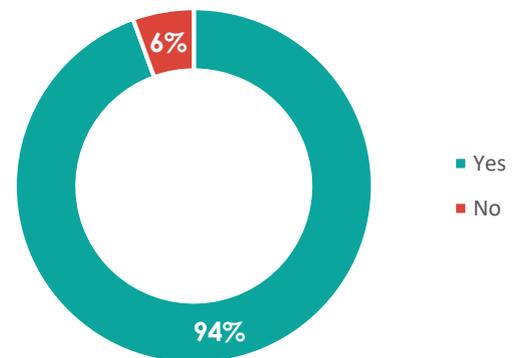
Two APO are designated for each polling booth. The first APO provides the ballot papers for the National Assembly Election and the second APO provide the ballot paper for the Provincial Assembly Election.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 8*

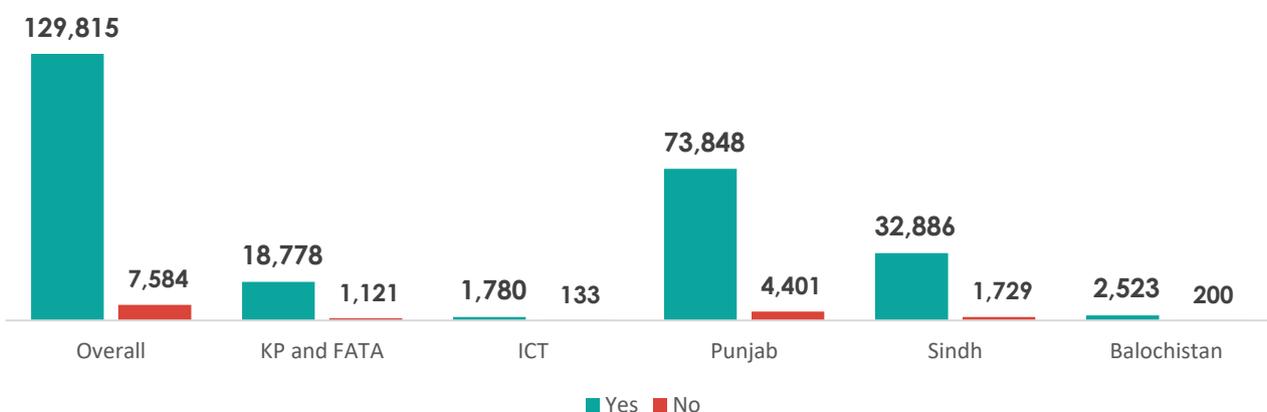
Of 137,399 polling booths observed, POs were reportedly present at 129,815 (94 percent) booths, but absent at 7,584 (six percent) booths.

A PO was present at each of 73,848 (94 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 32,886 (95 percent) booths in Sindh, 18,778 (94 percent) in KP, 2,523 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 1,780 (93 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, POs were reported absent at 4,401 (six percent) booths in Punjab, 1,729 (five percent) in Sindh, 1,121 (six percent) in KP, and 133 (seven percent) in ICT and 200 (seven percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 3.4.1: WERE POS PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS?**



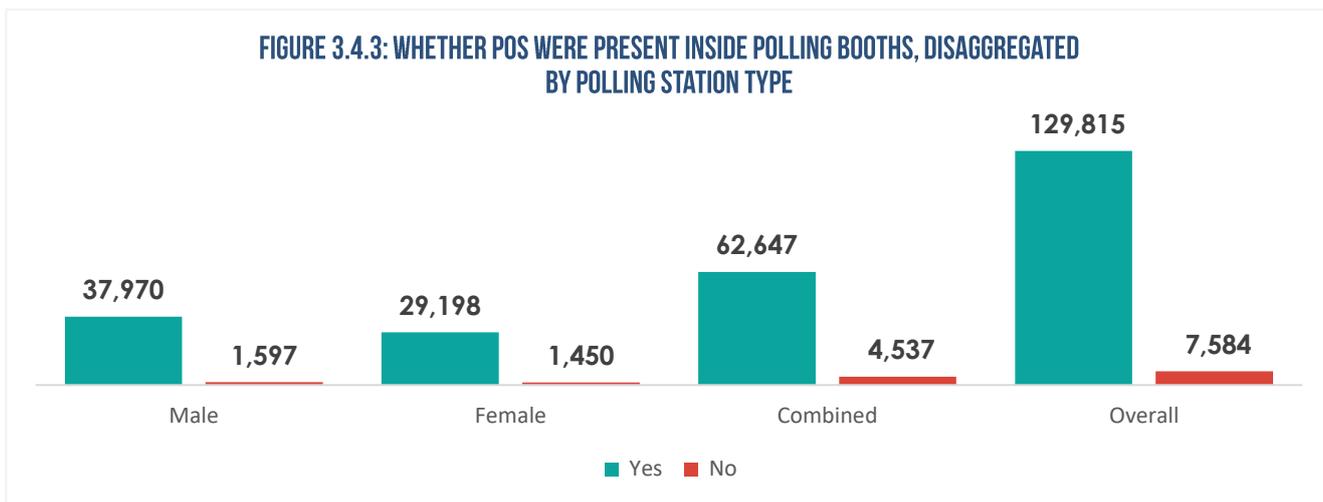
**FIGURE 3.4.2: WHETHER POS WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, POs were present at 37,970 (96 percent) polling booths of male, 29,198 (95 percent) booths of female, and 62,647 (93 percent) booths of combined polling stations. POs were reported absent in 1,597 (four percent) booths of male stations, 1,450 (five percent) booths of female stations, and 4,537 (seven percent) booths of combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 3.4.3: WHETHER POS WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 3.5 Availability of Indelible Ink at Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before a ballot paper is issued to a voter, he shall be required to receive a personal mark, made with indelible ink, on any finger or thumb of either hand as indicated by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2018, Section 84 (4) (c)*

Presiding Officer must check the availability of Electoral Rolls, brass seal and official code marks, marking aid stamps, indelible ink, stamp pads and necessary stationery and forms.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 18*

Of the total of 137,399 polling booths observed, indelible ink was reportedly available at the time of observation at 131,754 (96 percent) polling booths, but unavailable at the remaining 5,645 (four percent) booths.

Indelible ink was available at 75,403 (96 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 32,873 (95 percent) booths in Sindh, 19,095 (96 percent) in KP, 2,535 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 1,848 (97 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the ink was not available at 2,846 (four percent) booths in Punjab, 1,742 (five percent) in Sindh, 804 (four percent) in KP, 188 (seven percent) in Balochistan, and 65 (three percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.5.1: WAS INDELIBLE INK AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

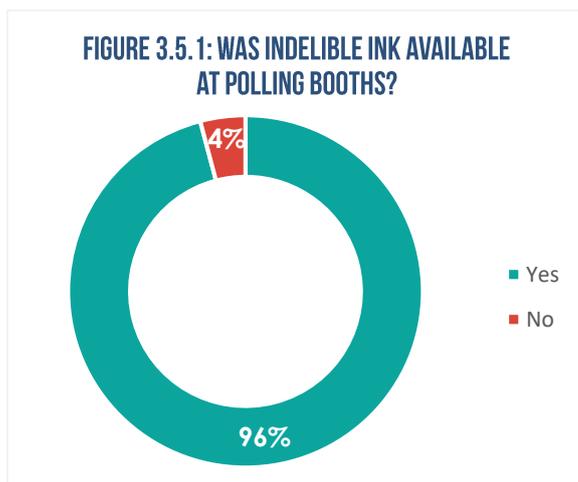
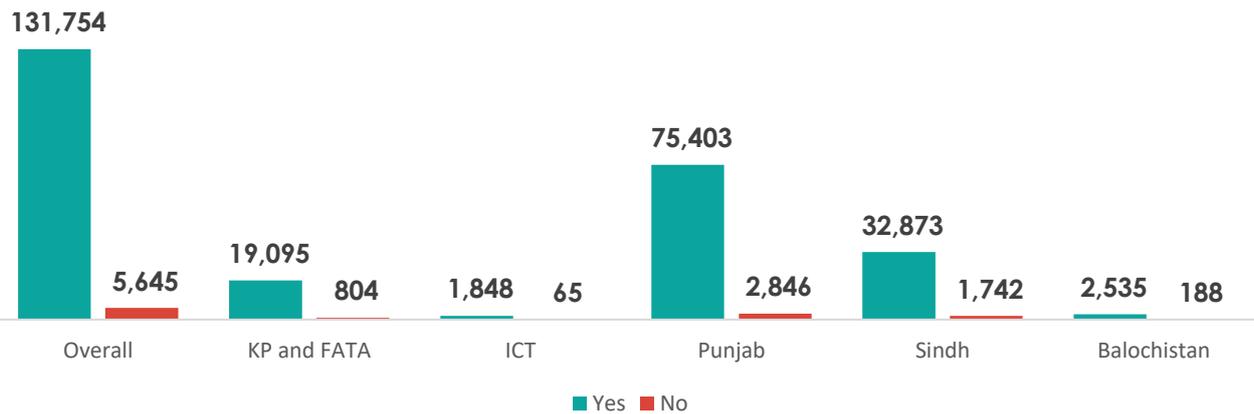
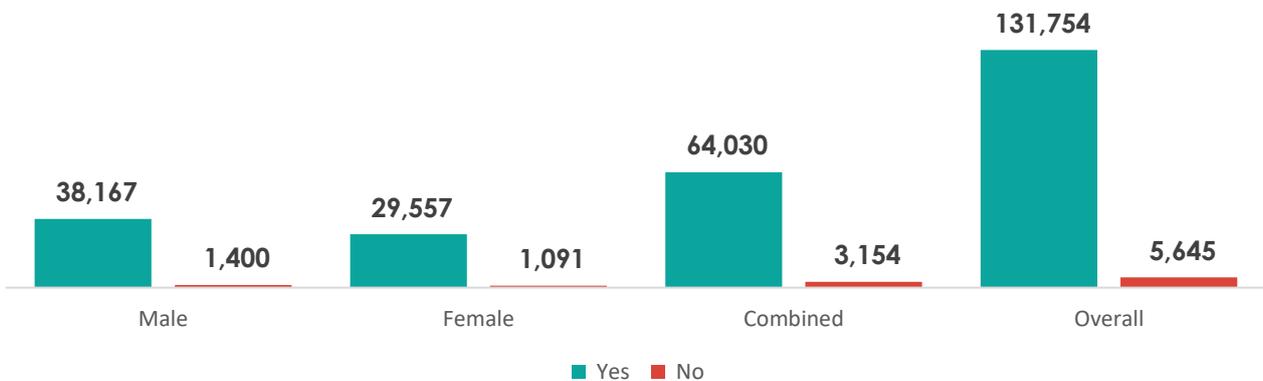


FIGURE 3.5.2: WHETHER INDELIBLE INK WAS AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



With regard to type of polling station, indelible ink was available at the time of observation at 38,167 (96 percent) polling booths of male, 29,557 (96 percent) booths of female, and 64,030 (95 percent) booths of combined polling stations, but unavailable at the time of observation at 1,400 (four percent) booths of male stations, 1,091 (four percent) booths of female stations, and 3,154 (five percent) booths of combined polling stations.

FIGURE 3.5.3: WHETHER INDELIBLE INK WAS AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 3.6 Availability of Stamp Pads at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

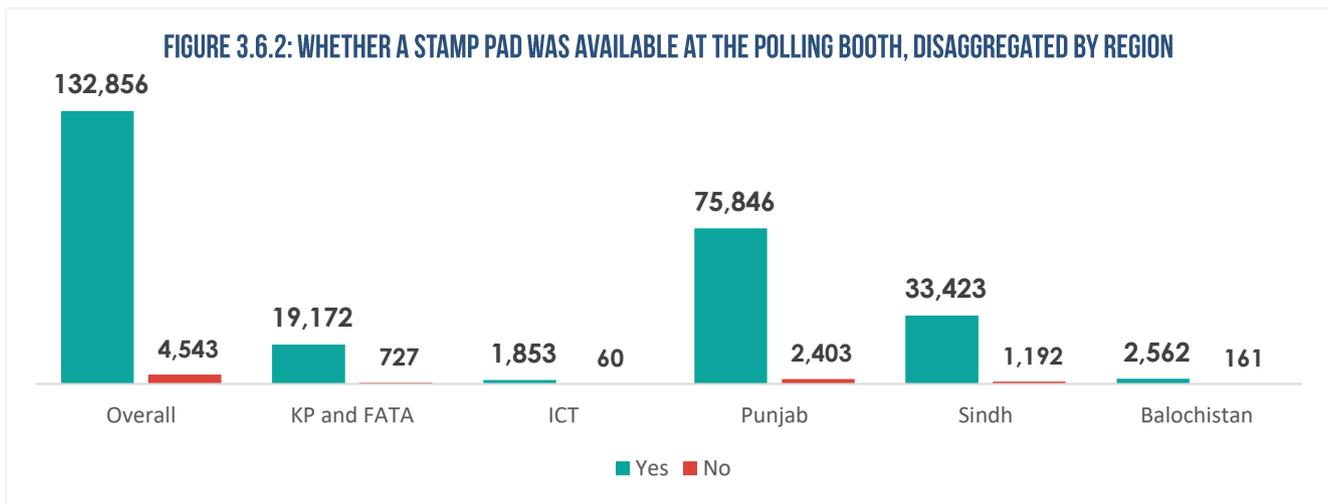
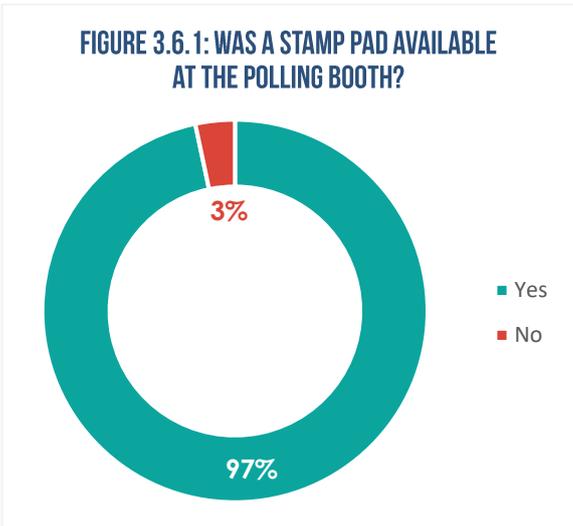
Presiding Officer must check the availability of Electoral Rolls, brass seal and official code marks, marking aid stamps, indelible ink, stamp pads and necessary stationery and forms.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 18*

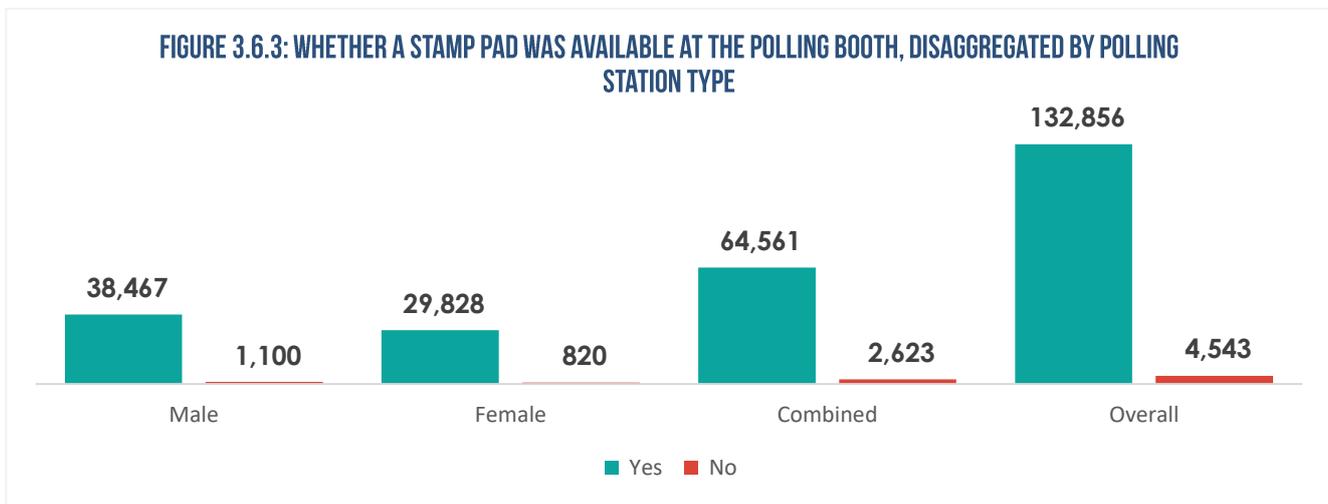


FAFEN observers reported the availability of stamp pad at 132,856 (97 percent) of the observed polling booths, and its unavailability at the remaining 4,543 (three percent) booths at the time of observation.

Polling booths where stamp pads were available included 75,846 (97 percent) booths in Punjab, 33,423 (97 percent) booths in Sindh, 19,172 (96 percent) in KP, 2,562 (94 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,853 (97 percent) in ICT. Stamp pads were not available at the time of observation at 2,403 (three percent) booths in Punjab, 1,192 (three percent) in Sindh, 727 (four percent) in KP, 161 (six percent) in Balochistan, and 60 (three percent) in ICT, suggesting that the incidence was more widespread in Balochistan than elsewhere.



With regard to type of polling station, 38,467 (97 percent) polling booths of male, 29,828 (97 percent) of female, and 64,561 (96 percent) booths of combined polling stations were observed to have stamp pads. On the other hand, 1,100 (three percent) polling booths of male stations, 820 (three percent) booths of female stations, and 2,623 (four percent) booths of combined polling stations were observed to have no stamp pads.



## 3.7 Availability of Electoral Rolls (With Pictures) at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The PO shall obtain the thumb impression of the voter on the space provided on the electoral roll for the purpose against the photograph of the voter.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84 (4) (f)*

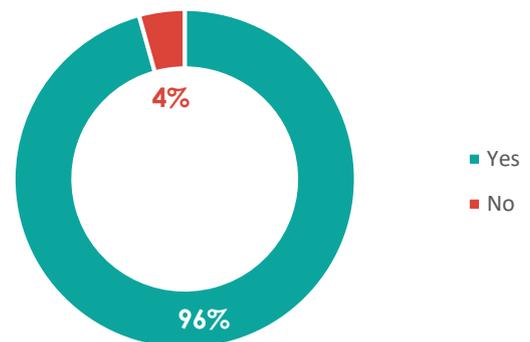
For the use at the polling station, the electoral rolls shall be in Form-12 having photograph of the voters and a space for affixing of thumb impression by the voters.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 25 (5)*

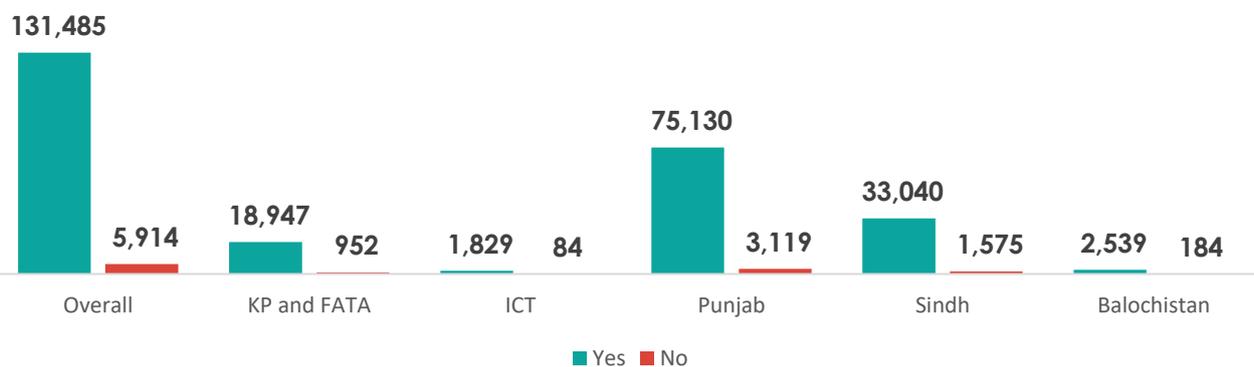
Of the 137,399 polling booths observed, photographic electoral rolls were available at 131,485 (96 percent) booths but unavailable at the remaining 5,914 (four percent) booths.

As many as 75,130 (96 percent) polling booths in Punjab had electoral rolls with voters' pictures, followed by 33,040 in Sindh (95 percent), 18,947 (95 percent) in KP, 2,539 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 1,829 (96 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the rolls were not available at 3,119 (four percent) booths in Punjab, 1,575 in Sindh (five percent), 952 (five percent) in KP, 184 (seven percent) in Balochistan, and 84 (four percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.7.1: WERE ELECTORAL ROLLS (WITH VOTERS' PICTURES) AVAILABLE AT THE POLLING BOOTHS?**



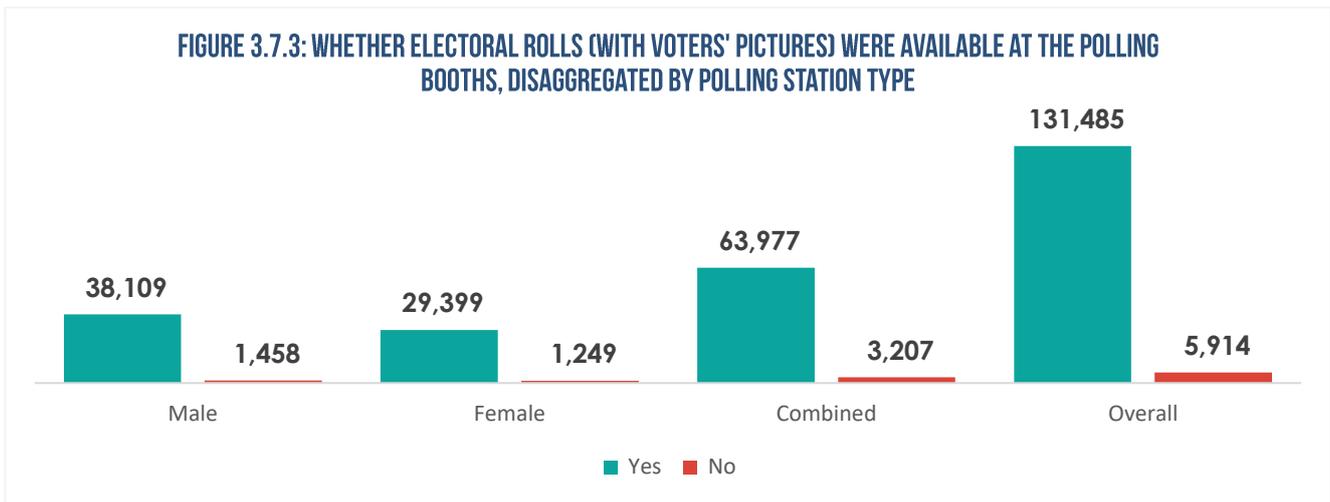
**FIGURE 3.7.2: WHETHER ELECTORAL ROLLS (WITH VOTERS' PICTURES) WERE AVAILABLE AT THE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, the rolls were available at 38,109 (96 percent) out of 39,567 polling booths in male polling stations, 29,399 (96 percent) out of 30,648 booths in female polling stations, and 63,977 (95 percent) out of 67,184 booths in combined polling stations. Electoral rolls were observed to be unavailable at 1,458 booths in male stations (four percent), 1,249 booths in female stations (four percent), and 3,207 booths in combined polling stations (five percent).



**FIGURE 3.7.3: WHETHER ELECTORAL ROLLS (WITH VOTERS' PICTURES) WERE AVAILABLE AT THE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 3.8 Availability of Voting Screens at Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall make such arrangements at the polling station that every voter may be able to secretly mark his ballot paper before folding and inserting it in the ballot box.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 81 (2)*

Make sure that the screened of compartments for the secrecy of voter is placed at such a location from where no one can see the voter while stamping the ballot paper.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 21*

Of the 137,399 polling booths observed, FAFEN observers reported that secrecy or voting screens were placed at 131,354 (96 percent) of the booths while the remaining 6,045 (four percent) booths had no screens.

As many as 75,350 (96 percent) polling booths in Punjab were observed to have secrecy screens, followed by 32,843 (95 percent) in Sindh, 18,834 (95 percent) in KP, 2,496 (92 percent) in Balochistan and 1,831 (96 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the screens were not observed at 2,899 (four percent) booths in Punjab, 1,772 (five percent) in Sindh, 1,065 (five percent) in KP, 227 (eight percent) in Balochistan, and 82 (four percent) in ICT, suggesting that the violation was more widespread in Balochistan than elsewhere.

**FIGURE 3.8.1: WERE VOTING SCREENS INSTALLED AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

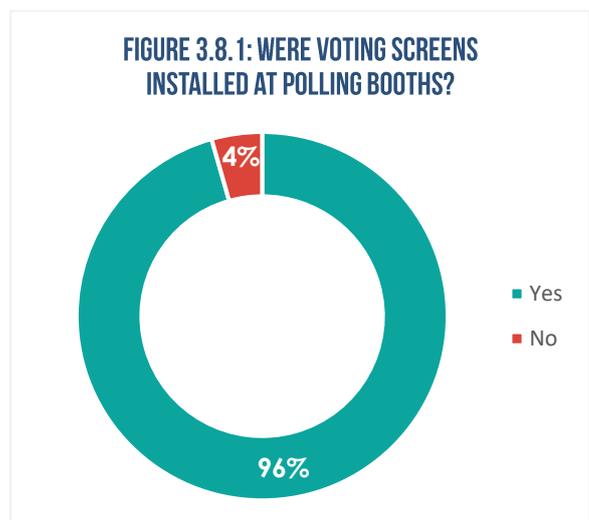
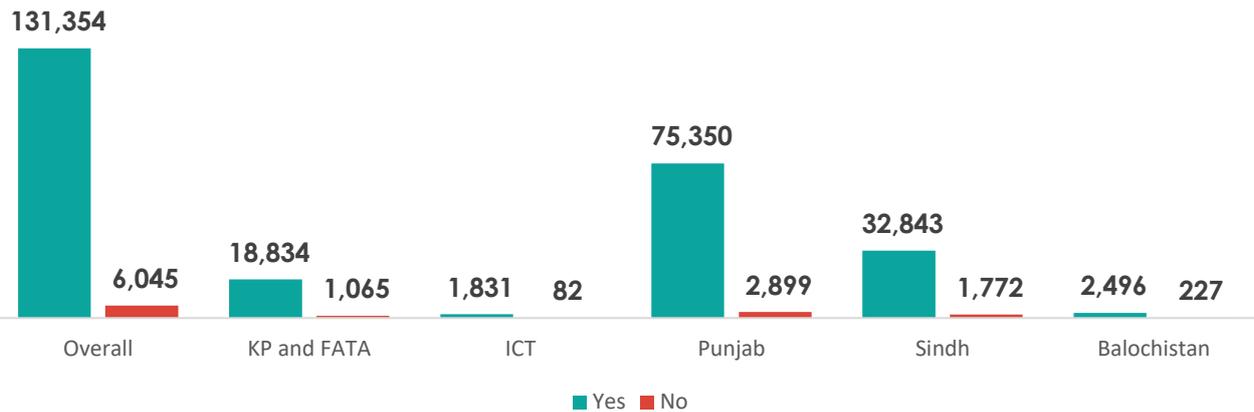
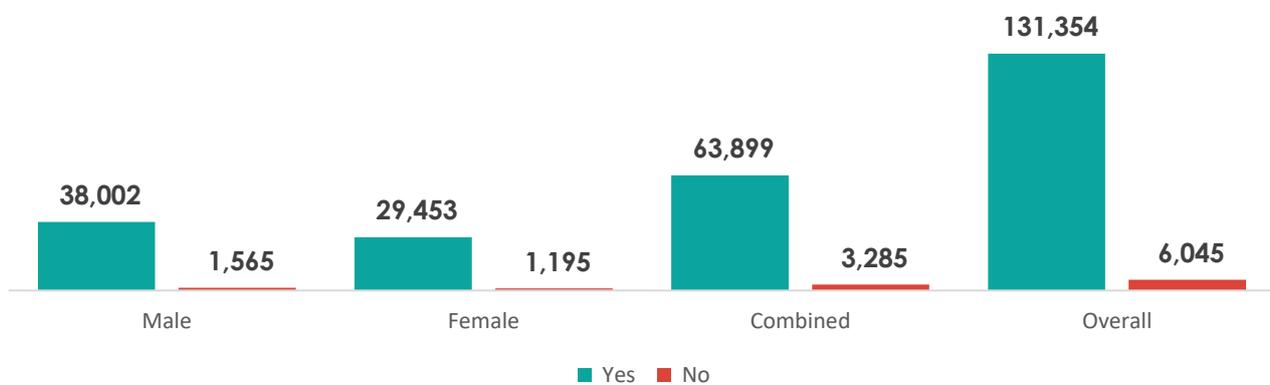


FIGURE 3.8.2: WHETHER VOTING SCREENS INSTALLED AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



With regard to type of polling station, voting screens were available at 38,002 (96 percent) of the polling booths at male, 29,453 (96 percent) booths of female, and 63,899 (95 percent) booths of combined polling stations. Conversely, they were unavailable at 1,565 (four percent) booths of male stations, 1,195 (four percent) booths of female stations, and 3,285 (five percent) booths of combined polling stations.

FIGURE 3.8.3: WHETHER VOTING SCREENS INSTALLED AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



### 3.9 Placement of Voting Screens Ensuring Privacy of Voters

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall make such arrangements at the polling station that every voter may be able to secretly mark his ballot paper before folding and inserting it in the ballot box.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 81 (2)*

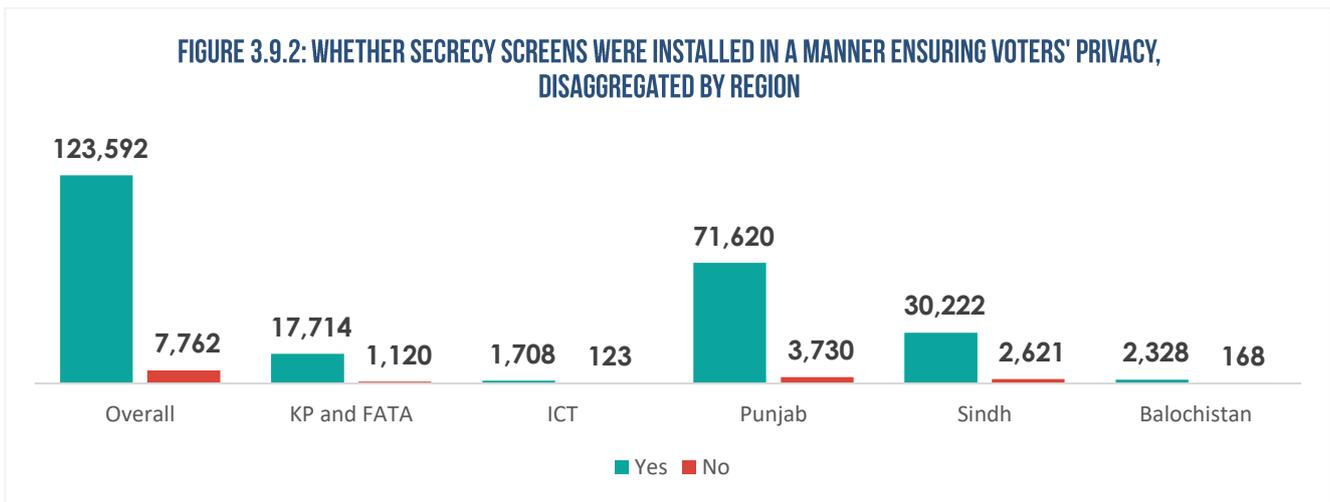
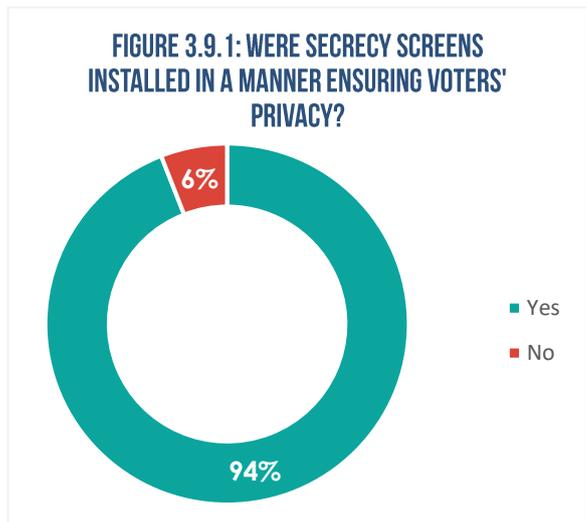
Make sure that the screened compartments for the secrecy of voter is placed at such a location from where no one can see the voter while stamping the ballot paper.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 21*

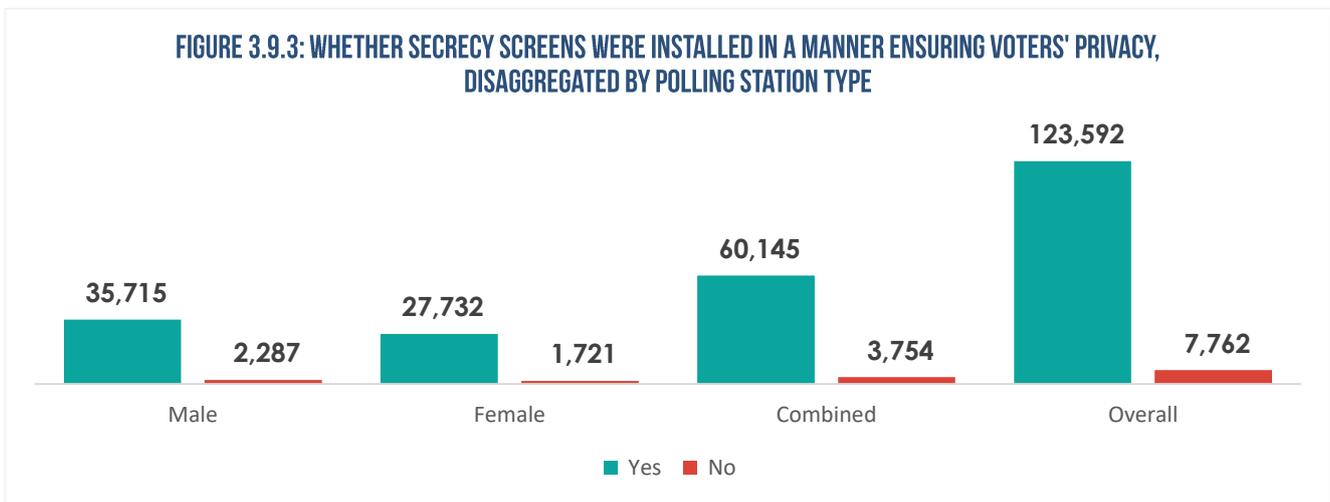


Of the 137,399 polling booths observed, FAFEN observers reported that voting screens were placed at 123,592 (94 percent) polling booths in a manner that protected the privacy of the voter casting his/her vote. At the remaining 7,762 (six percent) booths, voting screens were not placed in a manner that preserved the privacy of the vote-casting process.

Polling booths in which voting screens were placed appropriately included 71,620 (95 percent) booths in Punjab, 30,222 (92 percent) in Sindh, 17,714 (94 percent) in KP, 2,328 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 1,708 (93 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, placement of screens breaching voter privacy was observed at 3,730 (five percent) booths in Punjab, 2,621 (eight percent) in Sindh, 1,120 (six percent) in KP, 168 (seven percent) in Balochistan, and 123 (seven percent) in ICT.



With regard to type of polling station, voting screens were placed properly at 35,715 (94 percent) polling booths of male, 27,732 (94 percent) booths of female, and 60,145 (94 percent) booths of combined polling stations, but were not placed properly at 2,287 (six percent) booths of male stations, 1,721 (six percent) booths of female stations, and 3,754 (six percent) booths of combined polling stations.



## 3.10 Installation of CCTV Cameras at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

While finalizing the list of polling stations of a constituency, if the District Returning Officer declares a polling station as highly sensitive, the Commission may, in addition to appropriate security measures as may be taken, install or direct any Government to install a surveillance camera in each polling booth of such polling station to record poll proceedings, counting of vote process and preparation of results by the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 59 (12)*

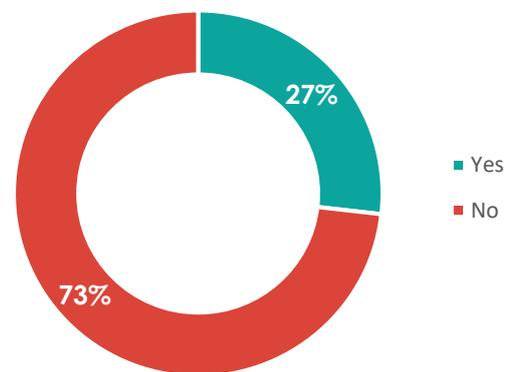
The DRO should also ensure that CCTV Cameras have been installed at highly sensitive polling stations.

*ECP Handbook for DROs, Pg. 48*

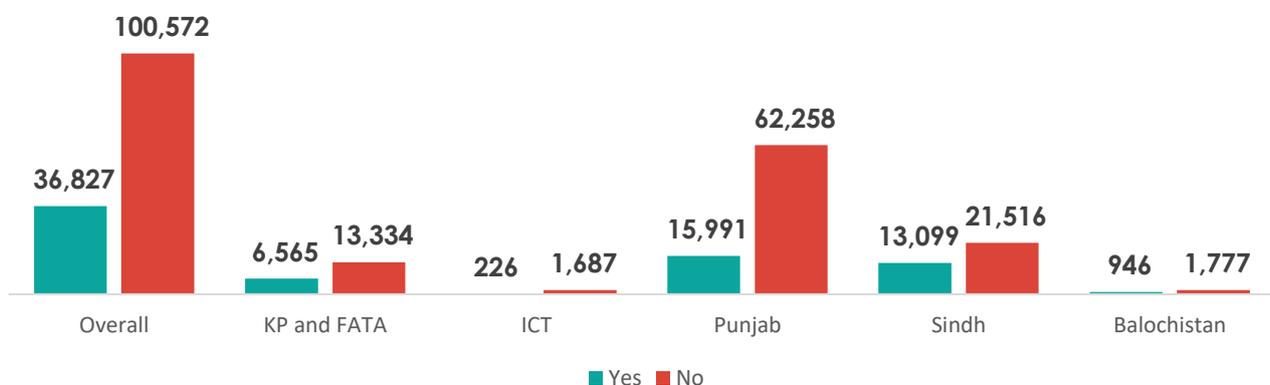
Of the 137,399 polling booths observed, CCTV cameras were installed at 36,827 (27 percent) polling booths. In 100,572 polling booths (73 percent), CCTV cameras were not observed.

Polling booths where CCTV cameras were installed included 15,991 (20 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 13,099 (38 percent) booths in Sindh, 6,565 (33 percent) in KP, 946 (35 percent) in Balochistan and 226 (12 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, CCTV cameras were not observed at 62,258 (80 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 21,516 (62 percent) booths in Sindh, 13,334 (67 percent) in KP, 1,777 (65 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,687 (88 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.10.1: WERE CCTV CAMERAS INSTALLED AT POLLING BOOTHS?**



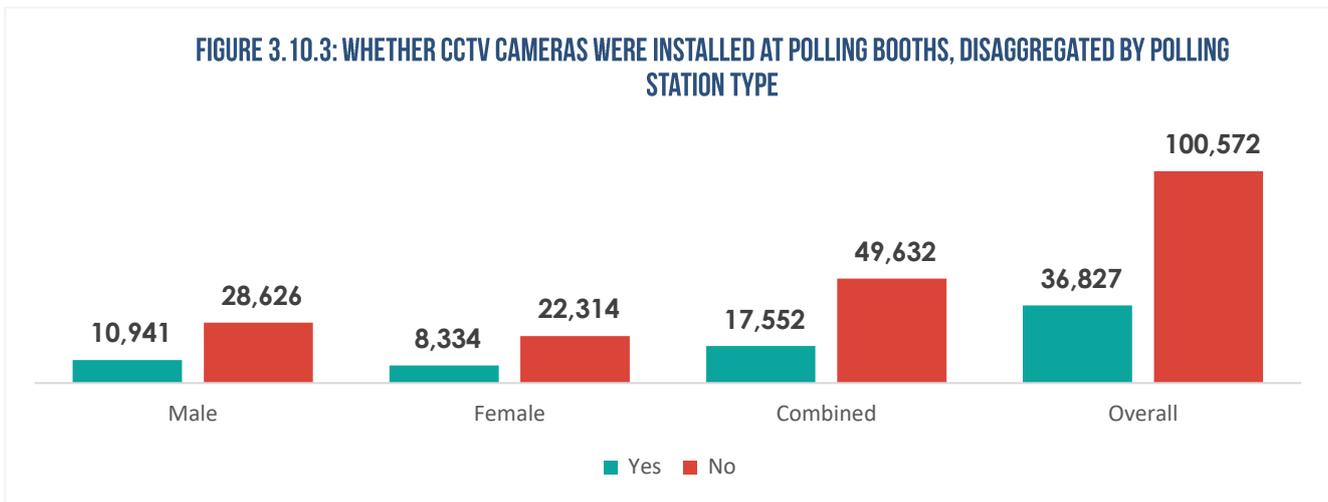
**FIGURE 3.10.2: WHETHER CCTV CAMERAS WERE INSTALLED AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling booths with CCTV cameras included 10,941 (28 percent) booths of male, 8,334 (27 percent) booths of female, and 17,552 (26 percent) booths of combined polling stations. Polling booths lacking CCTV cameras included 28,626 (72 percent) booths of male stations, 22,314 (73 percent) booths of female stations, and 49,632 (74 percent) booths of combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 3.10.3: WHETHER CCTV CAMERAS WERE INSTALLED AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 3.11 Direction of CCTV Cameras at Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

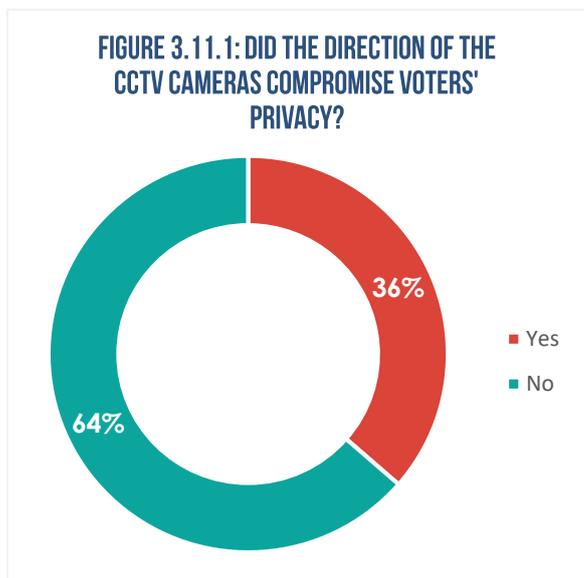
The Presiding Officer shall make such arrangements at the polling station that every voter may be able to secretly mark his ballot paper before folding and inserting it in the ballot box.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 81 (2)*

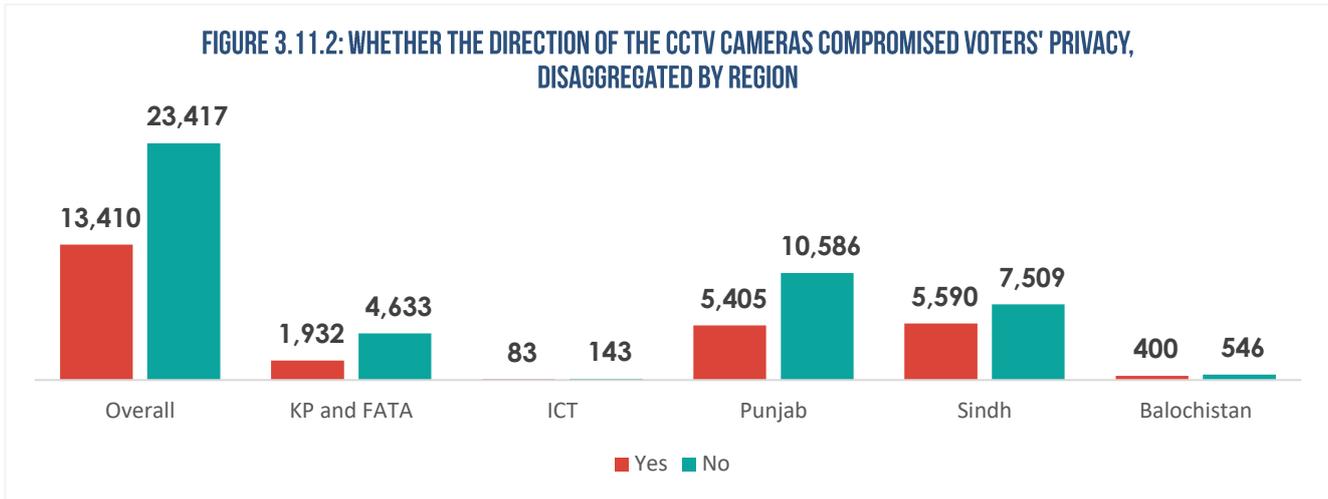
Of the 36,827 polling booths where CCTV cameras were installed, the cameras were placed in a manner that maintained the privacy of the vote-casting process at 23,417 (64 percent) booths, but were observed to be positioned in a way that breached voter privacy at 13,410 (36 percent) booths.

Polling booths where CCTV cameras were appropriately placed included 10,586 (66 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 7,509 (57 percent) booths in Sindh, 4,633 (71 percent) in KP, 546 (58 percent) in Balochistan and 143 (63 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, 5,590 (43 percent) polling booths in Sindh, 5,405 (34 percent) booths in Punjab, 1,932 (29 percent) in KP, 400 (42 percent) in Balochistan and 83 (37 percent) in ICT had CCTV cameras placed in a way that compromised the privacy of the vote-casting process.

**FIGURE 3.11.1: DID THE DIRECTION OF THE CCTV CAMERAS COMPROMISE VOTERS' PRIVACY?**

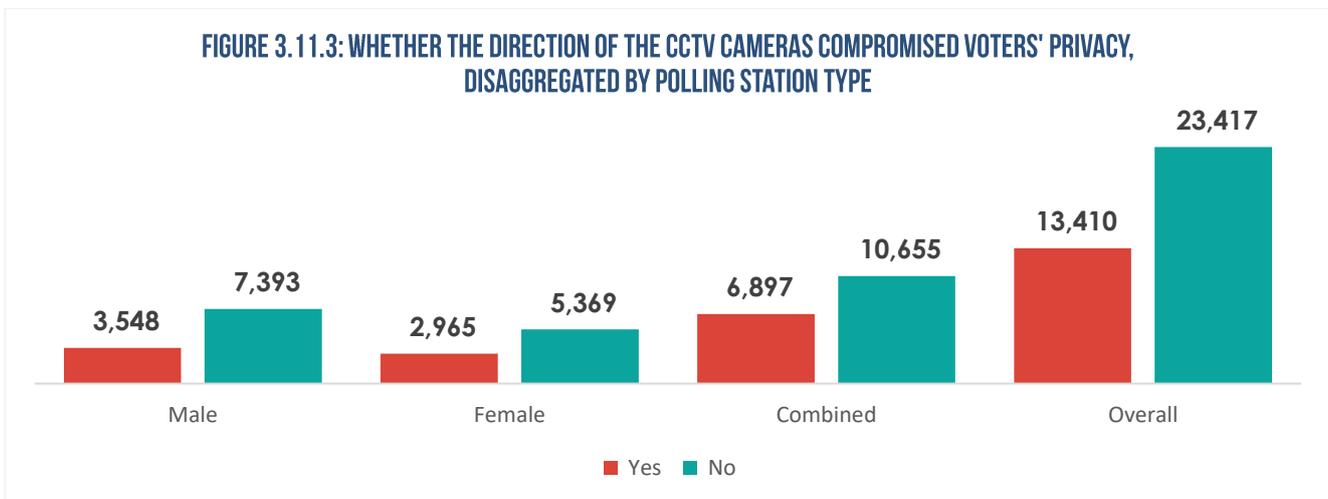


**FIGURE 3.11.2: WHETHER THE DIRECTION OF THE CCTV CAMERAS COMPROMISED VOTERS' PRIVACY, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, 7,393 out of 10,941 booths in male polling stations (68 percent), 5,369 out of 8,334 booths in female polling stations (64 percent), and 10,655 out of 17,552 booths of combined polling stations (61 percent) had CCTV cameras positioned in a way that maintained the secrecy of the vote-casting process. At the remaining booths, including 3,548 booths (32 percent) in male stations, 2,965 booths (36 percent) in female, and 6,897 booths (39 percent) in combined polling stations, the placing of CCTV cameras compromised the privacy of voters.

**FIGURE 3.11.3: WHETHER THE DIRECTION OF THE CCTV CAMERAS COMPROMISED VOTERS' PRIVACY, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 3.12 Availability of Nine-Matrix Rubber Stamp at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

On receiving the ballot paper, the voter shall put the prescribed mark on the ballot paper at any place within the space containing the name and symbol of the contesting candidate for whom he wishes to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(7)(b)*

The mark to be put under clause (b) of sub-section (7) of section 84 on the ballot paper, at any place within the space containing the name and symbol of the contesting candidate for whom the voter wishes to vote, shall be a mark containing nine squares on a rubber-stamp provided for the purpose by the Presiding Officer at the polling station and no other mark.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 73(1)*

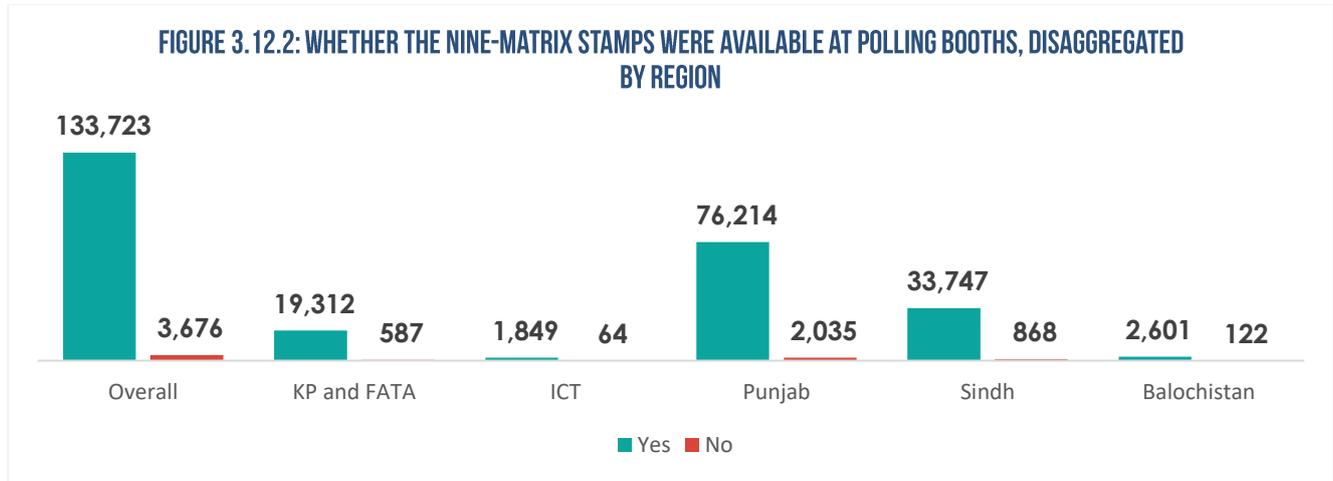
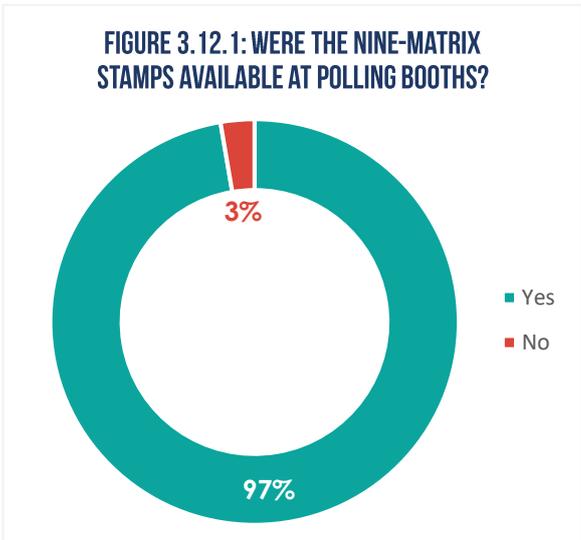


No other marking aid or rubber-stamp except the rubber stamp supplied for the purpose by the Presiding Officer under sub-rule (1) shall be used by the voter for marking his ballot paper.

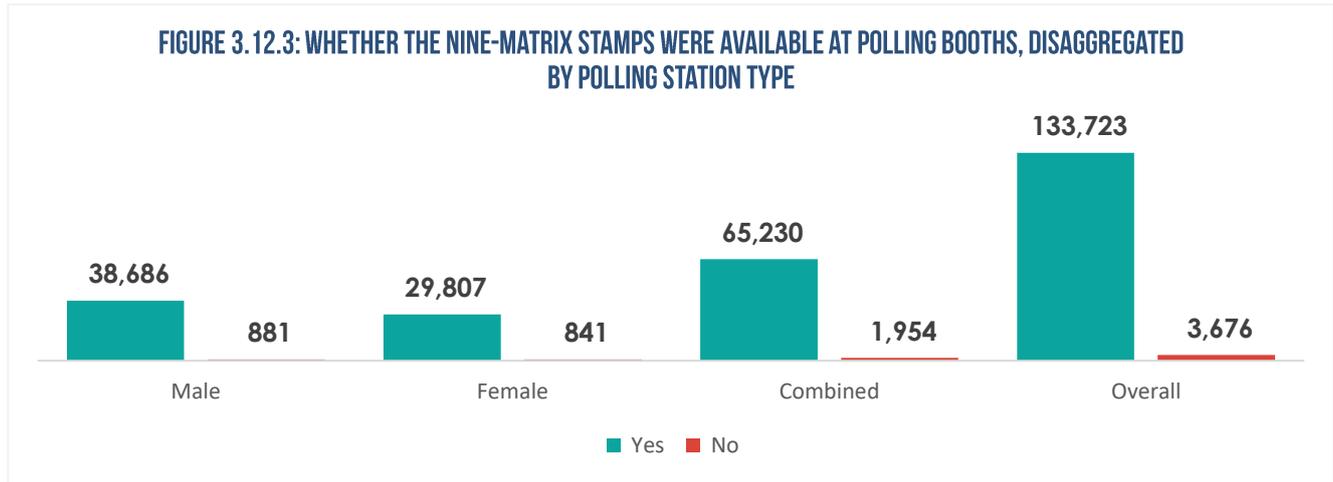
*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 73(2)*

Of the 137,399 polling booths observed in total, nine-matrix rubber stamps (used by voters to mark ballot papers) were available at 133,723 polling booths (97 percent) but not at 3,676 booths (three percent).

Polling booths in which the stamp was observed to be available included 76,214 out of 78,249 booths in Punjab (97 percent), 33,747 out of 34,615 booths (97 percent) in Sindh, 19,312 out of 19,899 booths (97 percent) in KP, 2,601 out of 2,723 booths (96 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,849 out of 1,913 booths (97 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the stamp was unavailable at 2,035 booths (three percent) in Punjab, 868 (three percent) in Sindh, 587 (three percent) in KP, 122 (four percent) in Balochistan, and 64 (three percent) in ICT.



Polling booths where the stamps were available included 38,686 (98 percent) booths of male polling stations, 29,807 booths (97 percent) of female polling stations, and 65,230 booths (97 percent) of combined polling stations. The stamps were unavailable at 881 (two percent) booths of male stations, 841 (three percent) booths of female stations, and 1,954 booths (three percent) of combined polling stations.



### 3.13 Availability of Stamps with Official Mark at Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The ballot paper shall be stamped on its back with the official mark and signed by the Presiding Officer.

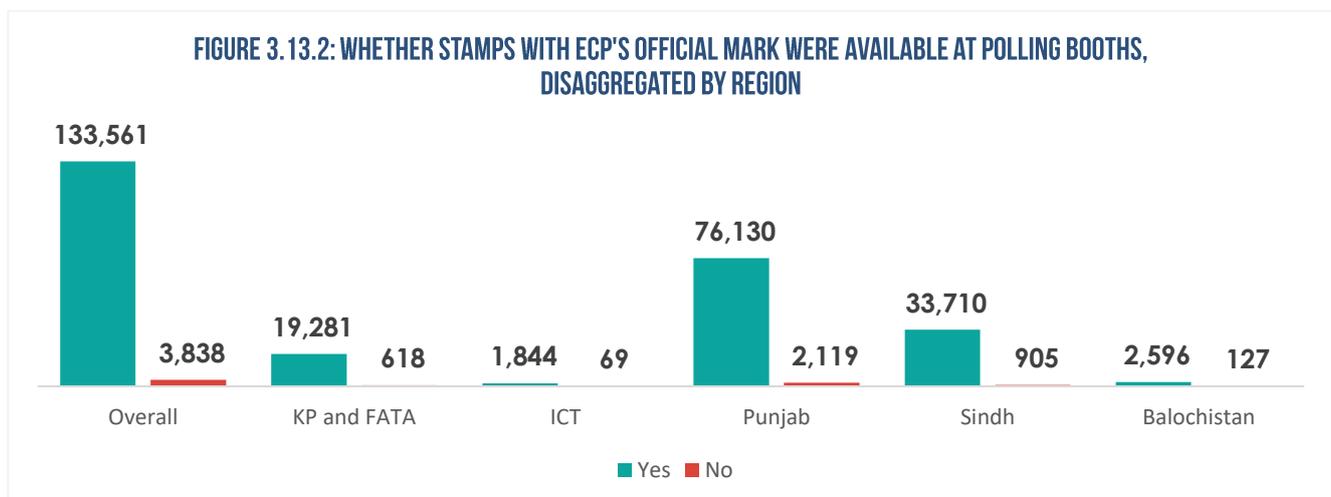
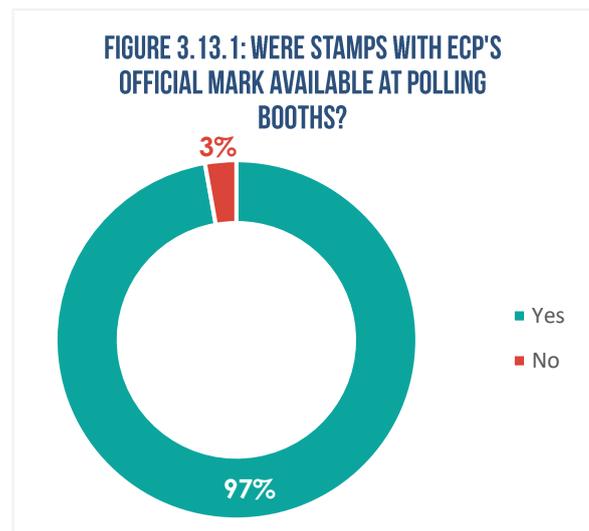
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(7)(d)*

The Presiding Officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the number of the voter on the electoral roll, the number of the National Identity Card of the voter, stamp it with the official mark, sign it and obtain on it the thumb impression of the voter.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(7)(e)*

Of the 137,399 polling booths observed in total, rubber stamps of the ECP's official mark were available at 133,561 booths (97 percent), but not available at 3,838 booths (three percent).

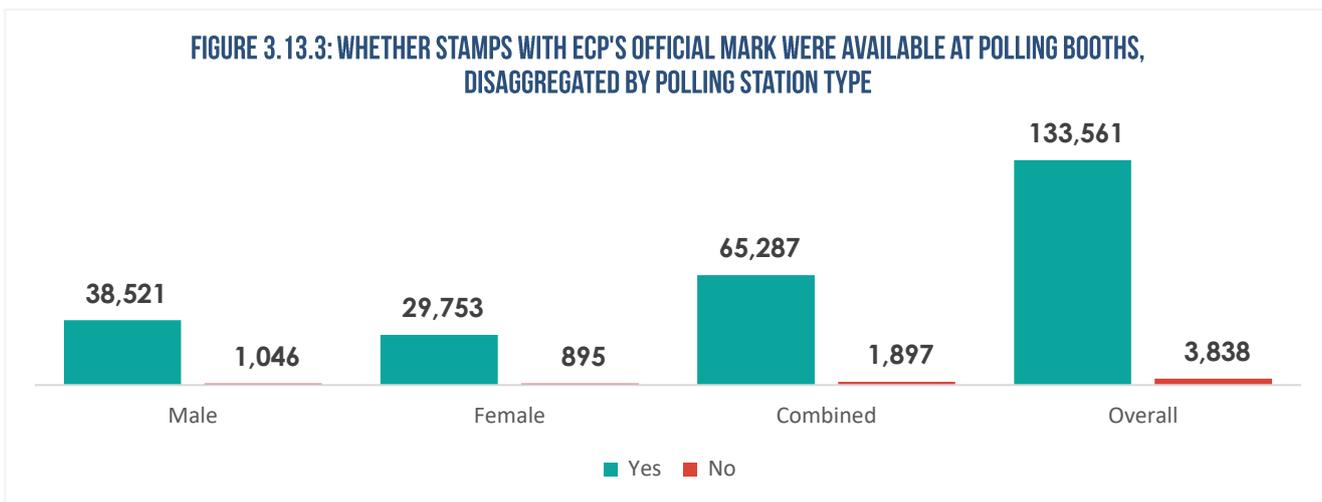
The stamps were available at 76,130 out of 78,249 (97 percent) observed polling booths in Punjab, 33,710 out of 34,615 (97 percent) booths in Sindh, 19,281 out of 19,899 (97 percent) in KP, 2,596 out of 2,723 booths (95 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,844 out of 1,913 booths (96 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the stamps were unavailable at the time of observation at 2,119 booths (three percent) in Punjab, 905 (three percent) in Sindh, 618 (three percent) in KP, 127 (five percent) in Balochistan, and 69 (four percent) in ICT.



With regard to type of polling station, polling booths where stamps bearing the ECP's official mark were available included 38,521 (97 percent) polling booths of male polling stations, 29,753 polling booths (97 percent) of female polling stations, and 65,287 polling booths (97 percent) of combined polling stations. Observers reported non-availability of the stamps at 1,046 (three percent) booths of male stations, 895 (three percent) booths of female stations, and 1,897 booths (three percent) of combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 3.13.3: WHETHER STAMPS WITH ECP'S OFFICIAL MARK WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 3.14 Availability of Pens at Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

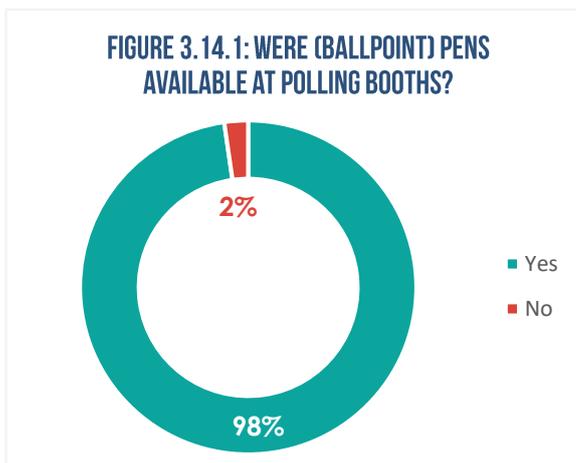
List of Election Material to be provided to Presiding Officer includes a standard stationery pack which contains ballpoint pen, plain papers, carbon papers, packet paper pins, needles, string cord, glue, candles, wax, match sticks, scales, markers, safety pins, torch and scissors.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 19*

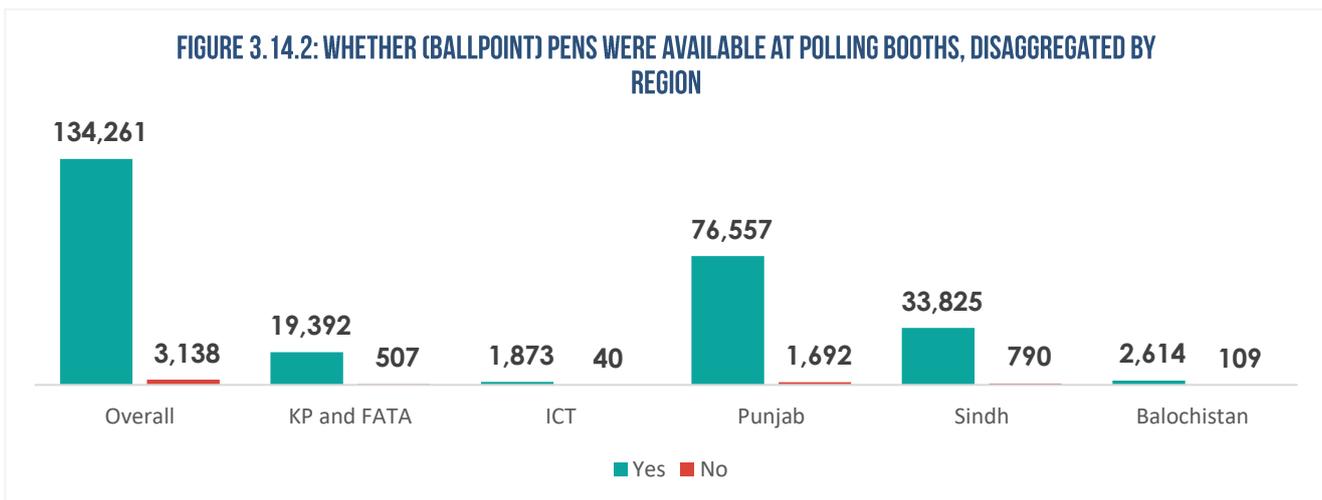
Of 137,399 polling booths observed, ballpoint pens were available at 134,261 polling booths (98 percent) but not available at 3,138 booths (two percent).

Polling booths where ballpoint pens were available included 76,557 out of 78,249 booths (98 percent) in Punjab, 33,825 out of 34,615 (98 percent) in Sindh, 19,392 out of 19,899 (97 percent) in KP, 2,614 out of 2,723 (96 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,873 out of 1,913 (98 percent) in ICT. Conversely, pens were not available at 1,692 booths (two percent) in Punjab, 790 (two percent) in Sindh, 507 (three percent) in KP, 109 (four percent) in Balochistan, and 40 (two percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.14.1: WERE (BALLPOINT) PENS AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

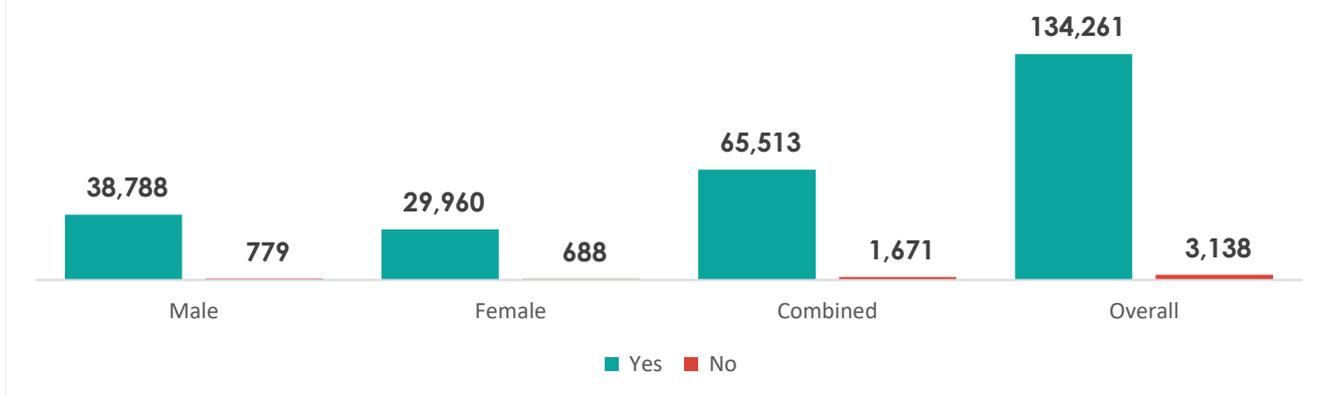


**FIGURE 3.14.2: WHETHER (BALLPOINT) PENS WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, pens were available at 38,788 (98 percent) polling booths of male polling stations, 29,960 booths (98 percent) of female polling stations, and 65,513 booths (98 percent) of combined polling stations. The observers reported non-availability of pens at 779 (two percent) booths of male stations, 688 (two percent) booths of female stations, and 1,671 booths (two percent) of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.14.3: WHETHER (BALLPOINT) PENS WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 3.15 Availability of Carbon Papers at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

List of Election Material to be provided to Presiding Officer includes a standard stationery pack which contains ballpoint pen, plain papers, carbon papers, packet paper pins, needles, string cord, glue, candles, wax, match sticks, scales, markers, safety pins, torch and scissors.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 19*

Of 137,399 polling booths observed, carbon papers were available at 123,026 booths (90 percent) and unavailable at 14,373 booths (10 percent).

Polling booths in which carbon papers were available included 70,112 booths (90 percent) in Punjab, 30,480 booths (88 percent) in Sindh, 18,204 (91 percent) in KP, 2,504 (92 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,726 (90 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the papers were unavailable at 8,137 booths (10 percent) in Punjab, 4,135 (12 percent) in Sindh, 1,695 (nine percent) in KP, 219 (eight percent) in Balochistan, and 187 (10 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.15.1: WERE CARBON PAPERS AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

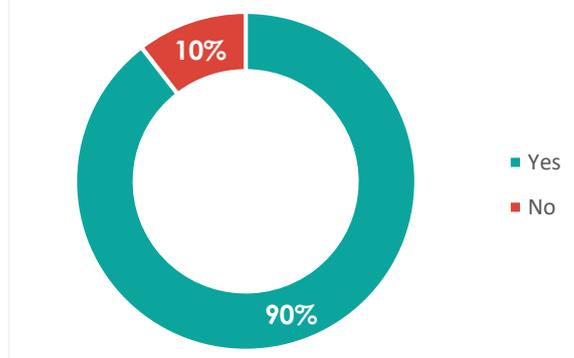
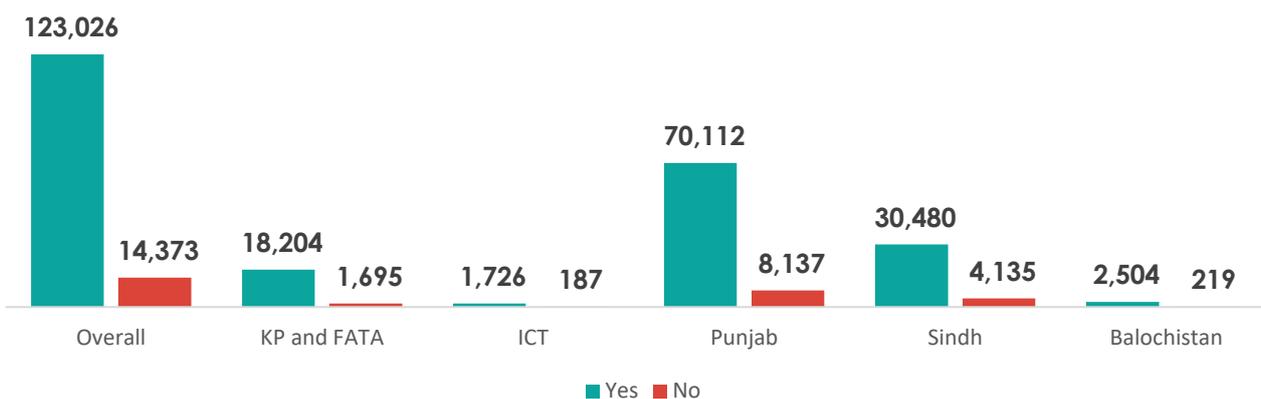


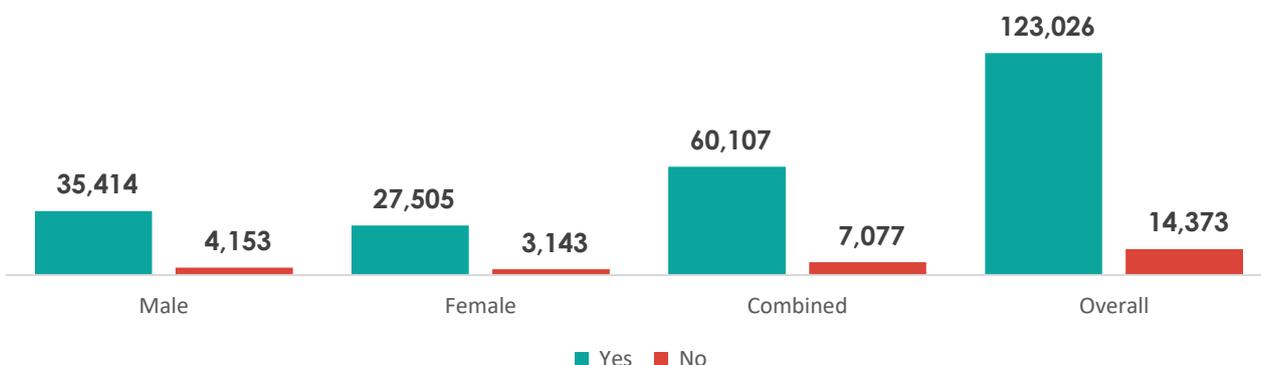


FIGURE 3.15.2: WHETHER CARBON PAPERS WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



With regard to type of polling station, carbon papers were available at 35,414 (90 percent) polling booths in male polling stations, 27,505 booths (90 percent) in female polling stations, and 60,107 booths (89 percent) in combined polling stations. Unavailability of carbon papers was reported at 4,153 (10 percent) booths in male stations, 3,143 (10 percent) booths in female stations, and 7,077 booths (11 percent) in combined polling stations.

FIGURE 3.15.3: WHETHER CARBON PAPERS WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 3.16 Availability of Transparent Ballot Boxes at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Returning Officer shall provide each Presiding Officer with such number of ballot boxes as may be necessary.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(1)*

The Commission shall approve the material and design of the ballot boxes.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(2)*

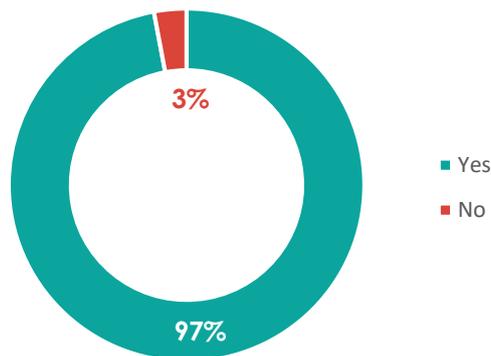
Make the respective ballot box available at each polling booth for National Assembly and provincial Assembly.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 28*

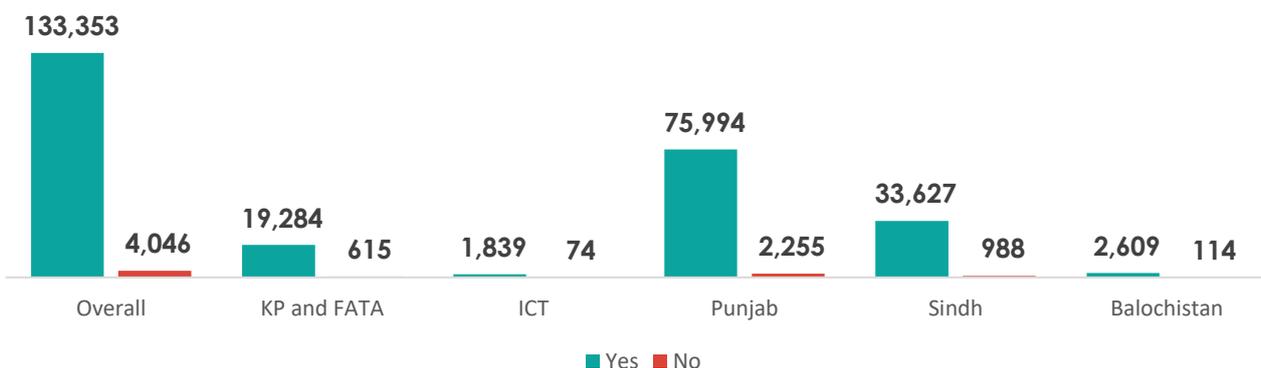
Of 137,399 polling booths observed, FAFEN observers reported that transparent ballot boxes were available at 133,353 polling booths (97 percent), but not available at 4,046 booths (three percent) at the time of observation.

Polling booths in which transparent ballot boxes were available included 75,994 polling booths (97 percent) in Punjab, 33,627 booths (97 percent) in Sindh, 19,284 (97 percent) in KP, 2,609 (96 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,839 (96 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the ballot boxes were not placed at 2,255 booths (three percent) in Punjab, 988 (three percent) in Sindh, 615 (three percent) in KP, 114 (four percent) in Balochistan, and 74 (four percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.16.1: WERE TRANSPARENT BALLOT BOXES AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

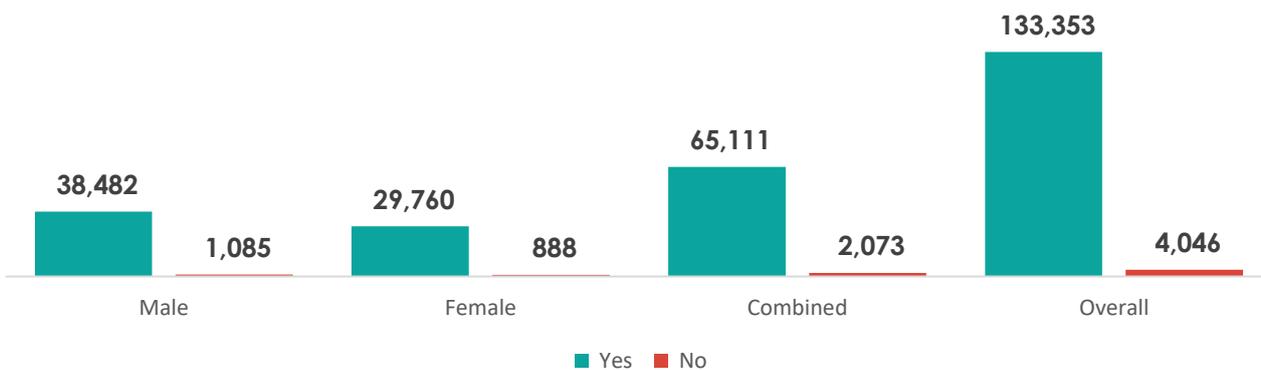


**FIGURE 3.16.2: WHETHER TRANSPARENT BALLOT BOXES WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, the transparent ballot boxes were available at 38,482 (97 percent) polling booths of male polling stations, 29,760 booths (97 percent) of female polling stations, and 65,111 booths (97 percent) of combined polling stations. Observers reported the unavailability of ballot boxes at the time of observation at 1,085 (three percent) booths of male stations, 888 (three percent) booths of female stations, and 2,073 booths (three percent) of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.16.3: WHETHER TRANSPARENT BALLOT BOXES WERE AVAILABLE AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





### 3.17 Ballot Boxes Visible to Polling Agents inside Polling Booths

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before the time fixed for commencement of the poll, the Presiding Officer shall place the ballot box so as to be conveniently accessible to the voters, and at the same time within his view and within the view of such candidates or their election agents or polling agents as may be present.

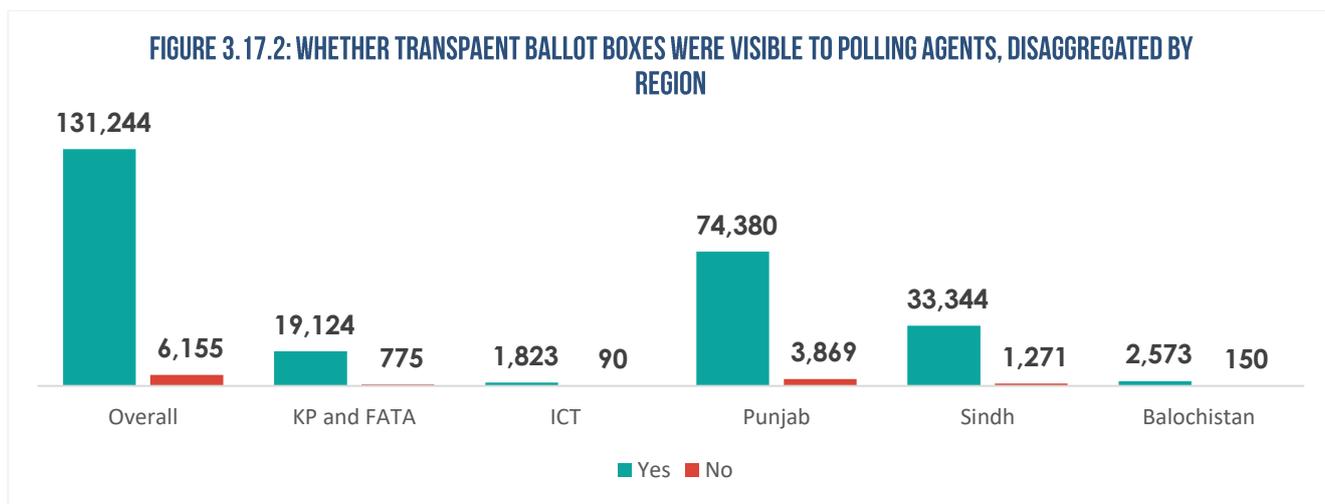
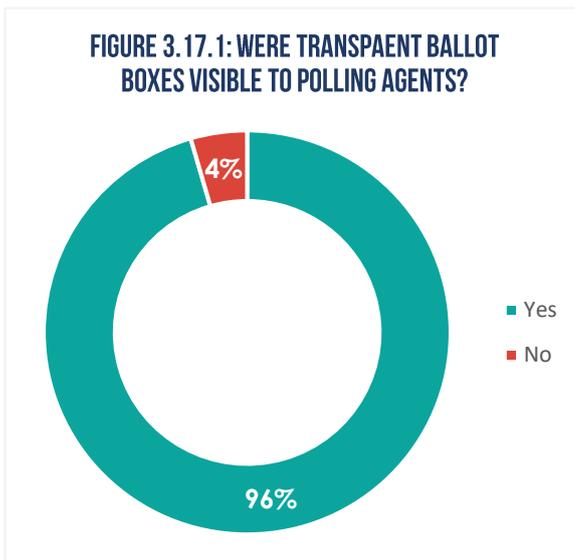
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(4)(d)*

Ballot boxes should be placed in front of the APO from where the polling agents present at the polling booth can also observe.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 21*

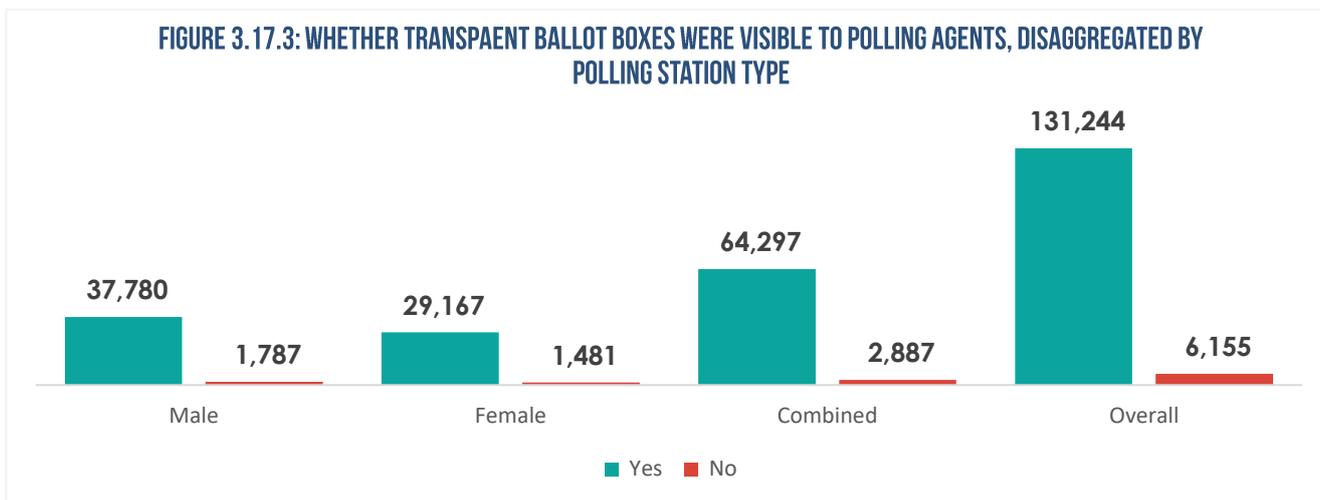
Of 137,399 polling booths observed, transparent ballot boxes were placed at 131,244 polling booths (96 percent) in a manner allowing polling agents to easily observe the process of dropping ballot papers into them, while ballot boxes were not visible to polling agents at 6,155 booths (four percent).

Polling booths in which ballot boxes were appropriately placed included 74,380 polling booths (95 percent) in Punjab, 33,344 booths (96 percent) in Sindh, 19,124 (96 percent) in KP, 2,573 (94 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,823 (95 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, ballot boxes were not observed to be visible for polling agents at 3,869 booths (five percent) in Punjab, 1,271 (four percent) in Sindh, 775 four percent) in KP, 150 (six percent) in Balochistan, and 90 (five percent) in ICT.



With regard to type of polling station, the ballot boxes were visible to polling agents at 37,780 (95 percent) polling booths of male polling stations, 29,167 booths (95 percent) of female polling stations, and 64,297 booths (96 percent) of combined polling stations. Observers reported problematic placement of ballot boxes at 1,787 (five percent) booths of male stations, 1,481 (five percent) booths of female stations, and 2,887 booths (four percent) of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.17.3: WHETHER TRANSPAENT BALLOT BOXES WERE VISIBLE TO POLLING AGENTS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 3.18 Presence of Polling Agents inside Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, shall, subject to such instructions as the Commission may give in this behalf, regulate the number of voters to be admitted to the polling station at one time and shall exclude from the polling station all other persons except—

(b) the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 82*

Before the time fixed for commencement of the poll, the Presiding Officer shall place the ballot box so as to be conveniently accessible to the voters, and at the same time within his view and within the view of such candidates or their election agents or polling agents as may be present.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(4)(d)*

The number of polling agents appointed at a polling station by each contesting candidate under section 77 shall not exceed the number of booths set up at that polling station.

*The Elections Rules 2017, Rule 58*

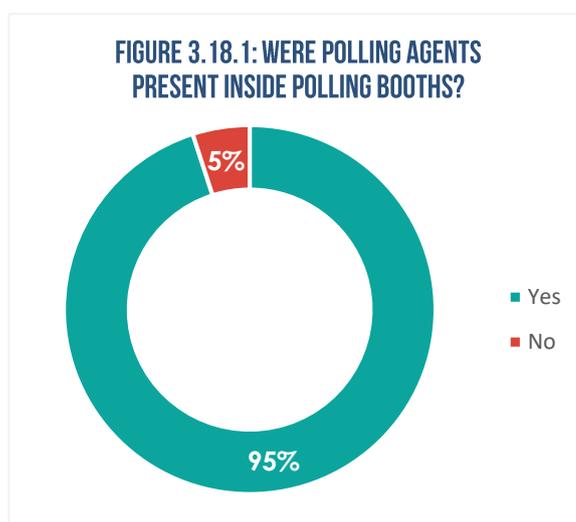
Ballot boxes should be placed in front of the APO from where the polling agents present at the polling booth can also observe.

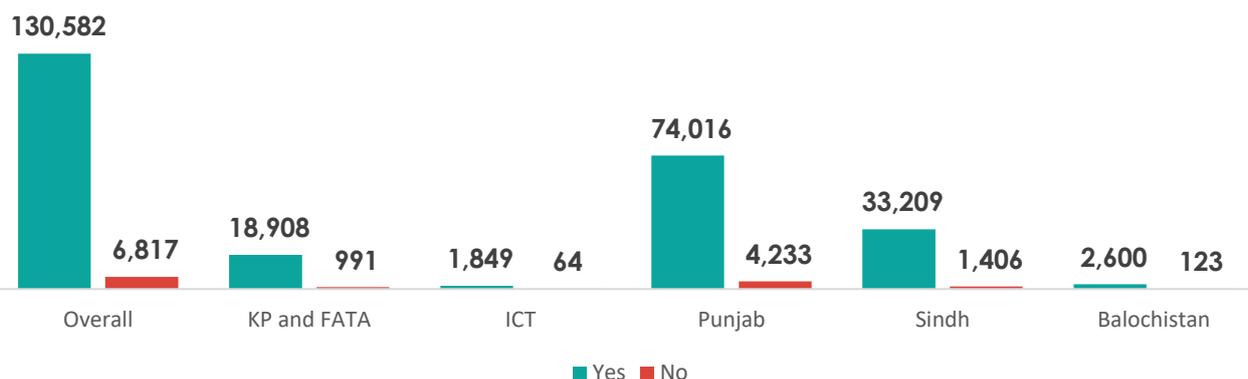
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 21*

Of the total of the 137,399 polling booths observed, polling agents were observed to be present at 130,582 polling booths (95 percent) but not at 6,817 booths (five percent).

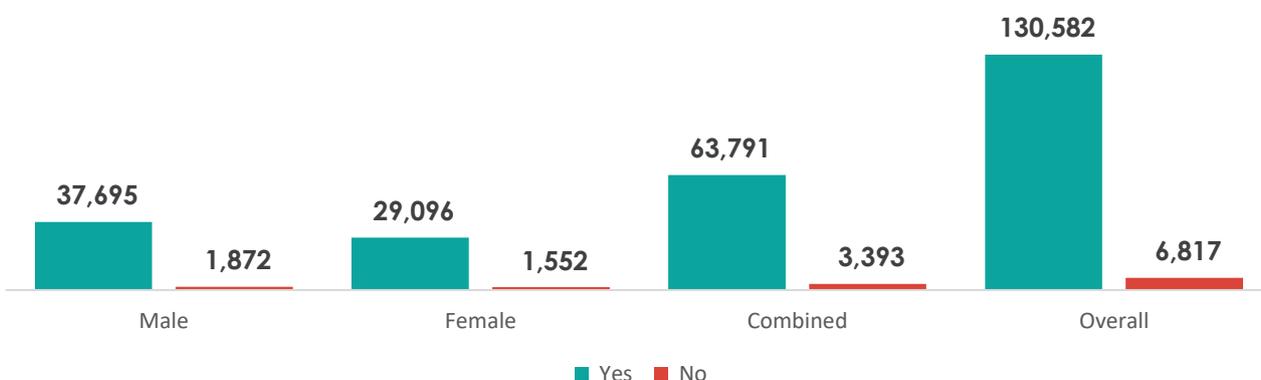
Polling booths where polling agents were present included 74,016 polling booths (95 percent) in Punjab, 33,209 booths (96 percent) in Sindh, 18,908 (95 percent) in KP, 2,600 (95 percent) in Balochistan and 1,849 (97 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, polling agents were not observed to be present at 4,233 booths (five percent) in Punjab, 1,406 (four percent) in Sindh, 991 (five percent) in KP, 123 (five percent) in Balochistan, and 64 (three percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.18.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS?**



**FIGURE 3.18.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

With regard to type of polling station, polling agents were present at 37,695 polling booths of male polling stations (95 percent), 29,096 booths of female polling stations (95 percent), and 63,791 booths (95 percent) of combined polling stations. The observers noted the absence of polling agents at 1,872 (five percent) booths of male stations, 1,552 (five percent) booths of female stations, and 3,393 booths (five percent) of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.18.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS WERE PRESENT INSIDE POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**

## 3.19 Availability of Photographic Electoral Rolls to Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

On the application of a candidate or his election agent, the District Election Commissioner or any officer authorized in this behalf by the Commission shall provide to a candidate or an election agent a hard and searchable soft copy on universal serial bus (USB) in portable document format (PDF) or any other tamper-proof format of the final electoral roll with photographs of the voters and shall ensure that the copy is the same as provided to the Returning Officer and Presiding Officers.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 79(3)*

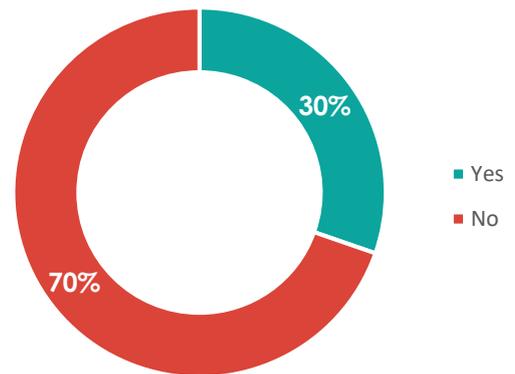
When PO calls out the number and name of the voter as entered in the electoral roll, the polling agent should attentively listen the same so as he is able to strike out the name of that voter from his copy of electoral rolls.

*Code of Conduct for Contesting Candidates, Political Parties and Polling Agents, Clause 14*

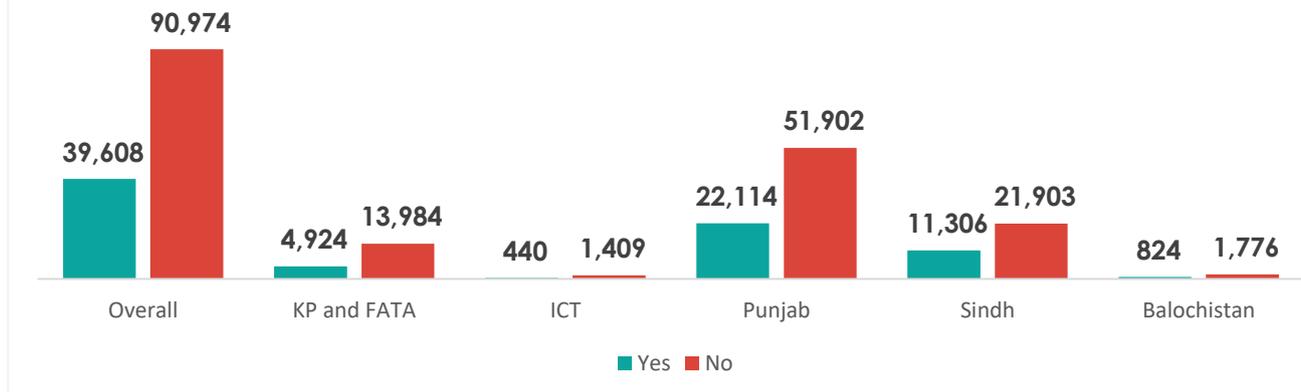
Of the 137,399 polling booths observed, FAFEN observers reported that electoral rolls with photographs of voters were in the possession of polling agents at 39,608 polling booths (30 percent) but not in their possession at 90,974 booths (70 percent).

Polling booths where polling agents were observed to be in possession of the photographic rolls included 22,114 polling booths (30 percent) in Punjab, 11,306 booths (34 percent) in Sindh, 4,924 (26 percent) in KP, 824 (32 percent) in Balochistan, and 440 (24 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the rolls were not in the possession of polling agents at 51,902 (70 percent) booths in Punjab, 21,903 (66 percent) in Sindh, 13,984 (74 percent) in KP, 1,776 (68 percent) in Balochistan and 1,409 (76 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.19.1: DID POLLING AGENTS HAVE PHOTOGRAPHIC ELECTORAL ROLLS?**

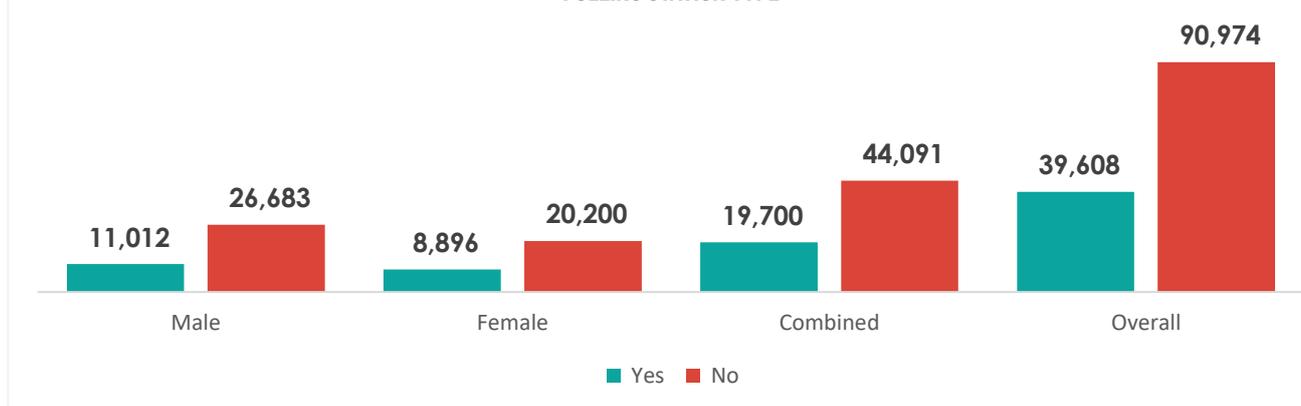


**FIGURE 3.19.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS HAD PHOTOGRAPHIC ELECTORAL ROLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, photographic electoral rolls were in the possession of polling agents at 11,012 polling booths (29 percent) of male polling stations), 8,896 booths of female polling stations (31 percent), and 19,700 booths (31 percent) of combined polling stations. The rolls were not observed to be in the possession of polling agents at 26,683 (71 percent) booths of male stations, 20,200 (69 percent) booths of female stations, and 44,091 booths (69 percent) of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.19.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS HAD PHOTOGRAPHIC ELECTORAL ROLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 3.20 Availability of Non-Photographic Electoral Rolls to Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

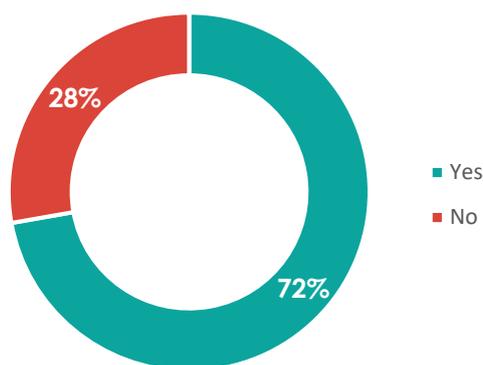
When PO calls out the number and name of the voter as entered in the electoral roll, the polling agent should attentively listen the same so as he is able to strike out the name of that voter from his copy of electoral rolls.

*Code of Conduct for Contesting Candidates, Political Parties and Polling Agents, Clause 14*

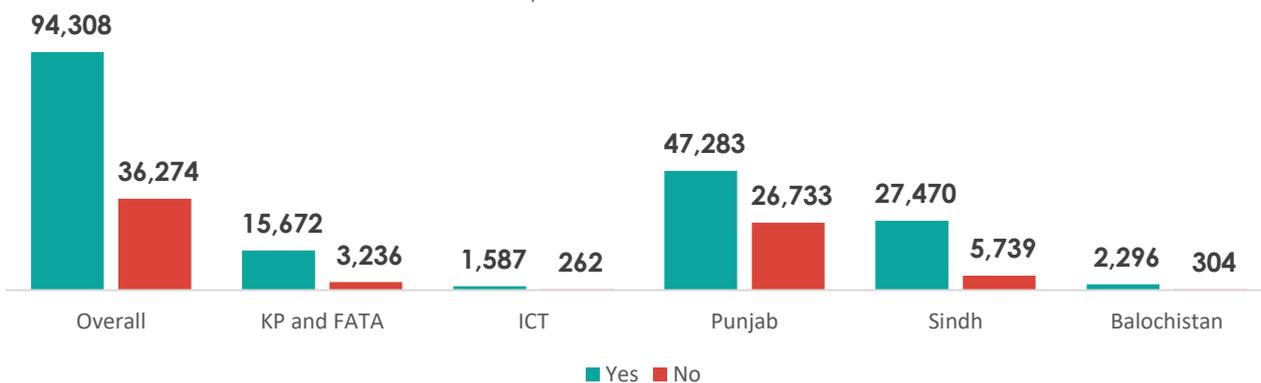
Polling agents were observed to be in possession of non-photographic electoral rolls at 94,308 (72 percent) of the 137,399 observed polling booths, but not in 36,274 (28 percent) of the booths.

Polling booths where polling agents were in possession of non-photographic electoral rolls included 47,283 polling booths (64 percent) in Punjab, 27,470 booths (83 percent) in Sindh, 15,672 (83 percent) in KP, 2,296 (88 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,587 (86 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, polling agents were not observed to be in possession of the rolls at 26,733 booths (36 percent) in Punjab, 5,739 (17 percent) in Sindh, 3,236 (17 percent) in KP, 304 (12 percent) in Balochistan and 262 (14 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 3.20.1: DID POLLING AGENTS HAVE NON-PHOTOGRAPHIC ELECTROAL ROLLS AVAILABLE WITH THEM?**

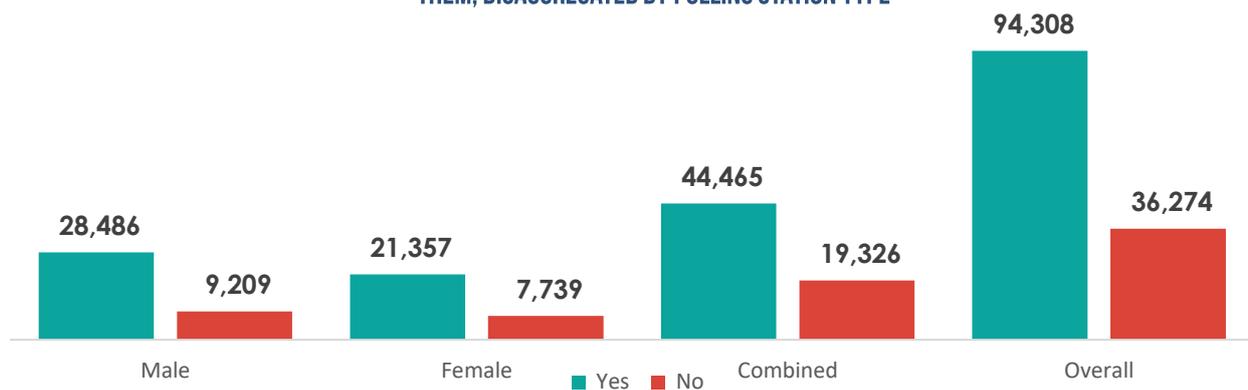


**FIGURE 3.20.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS HAD NON-PHOTOGRAPHIC ELECTROAL ROLLS AVAILABLE WITH THEM, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling agents had the non-photographic rolls at 28,486 (76 percent) polling booths of male polling stations, 21,357 (73 percent) booths of female polling stations and 44,465 booths (70 percent) of combined polling stations. The rolls were not observed with polling agents at 9,209 (24 percent) booths of male stations, 7,739 (27 percent) booths of female stations, and 19,326 (30 percent) booths of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 3.20.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS HAD NON-PHOTOGRAPHIC ELECTROAL ROLLS AVAILABLE WITH THEM, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 3.21 Proper Seating Arrangements for Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before the time fixed for commencement of the poll, the Presiding Officer shall place the ballot box so as to be conveniently accessible to the voters, and at the same time within his view and within the view of such candidates or their election agents or polling agents as may be present.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 78(4)(d)*

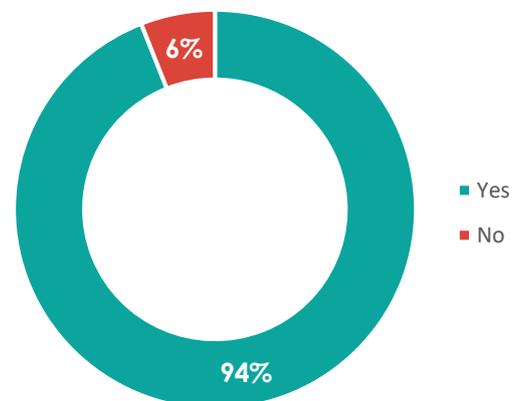
Ballot boxes should be placed in front of the APO from where the polling agents present at the polling booth can also observe.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 21*

FAFEN observers noted that polling agents were seated in a way that they could easily observe the polling process at 122,775 (94 percent) of the 137,399 observed polling booths, but at 7,807 (six percent) of the booths, seating arrangements for polling agents did not enable them to observe the polling process.

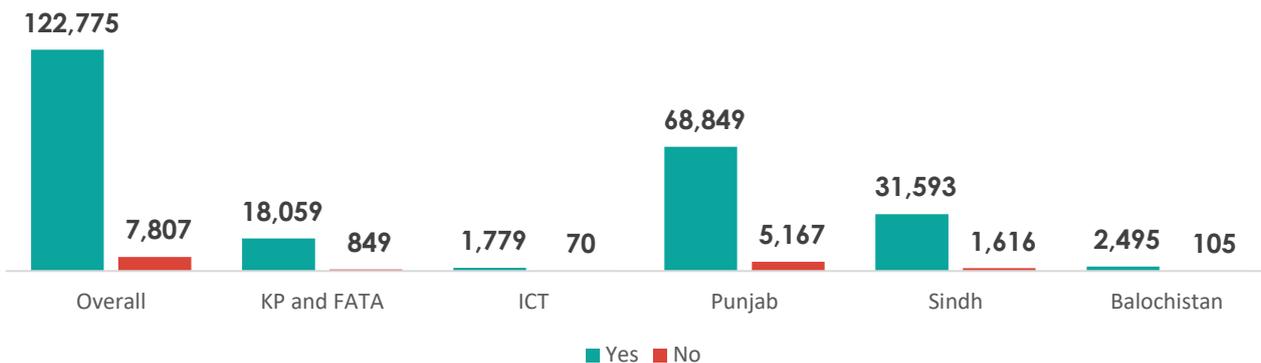
Polling booths with appropriate seating for polling agents included 68,849 polling booths (93 percent) in Punjab, 31,593 booths (95 percent) in Sindh, 18,059 (96 percent) in KP, 2,495 (96 percent) in Balochistan, and 1,779 (96 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, at least 5,167 polling booths (seven percent) in Punjab, 1,616 (five percent) in Sindh, 849 (four percent) in KP, 105 (four percent) in Balochistan and 70 (four percent) in ICT had seating arrangements that made it difficult for polling agents to observe the polling process.

**FIGURE 3.21.1: DID SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLLING AGENTS ENABLE THEM TO EASILY OBSERVE THE POLLING PROCESS?**



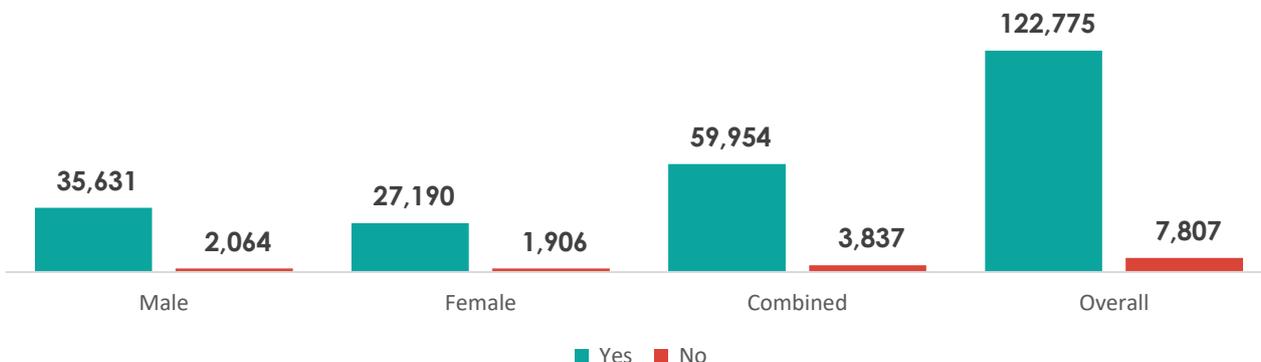


**FIGURE 3.21.2: WHETHER SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLLING AGENTS ENABLED THEM TO EASILY OBSERVE THE POLLING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, 35,631 polling booths (95 percent) of male polling stations, 27,190 booths (93 percent) of female polling stations, and 59,954 booths (94 percent) of combined polling stations had appropriate seating for polling agents. The seating arrangements at 2,064 booths (five percent) of male stations, 1,906 booths (seven percent) of female stations, and 3,837 booths (six percent) of combined polling stations was disabling for polling agents.

**FIGURE 3.21.3: WHETHER SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLLING AGENTS ENABLED THEM TO EASILY OBSERVE THE POLLING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



4

# VOTING PROCESS





## 4.1 Disorderly Conduct of Polling Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall keep order at the polling station and may remove or cause to be removed any person who misconducts himself at a polling station or fails to obey any lawful orders of the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 83(1)*

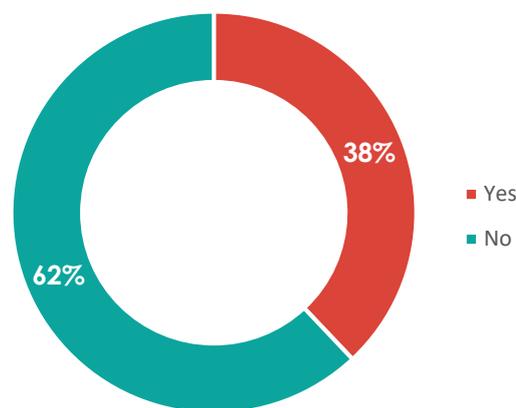
Presiding Officer makes sure that the voters standing outside the polling booth are in proper queue and they should enter the polling the polling booth at their turns.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 35*

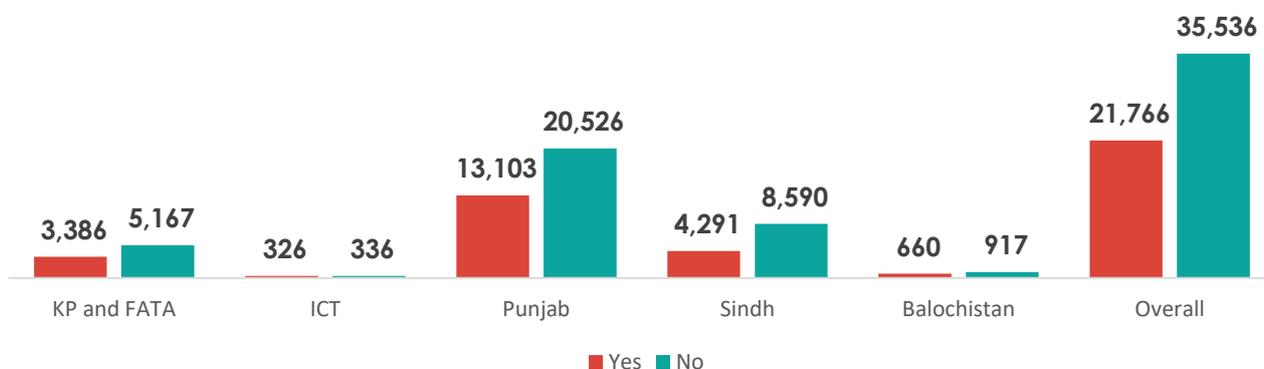
Of 57,302 polling stations in which the voting process at polling booths was observed, polling continued smoothly during the stay of FAFEN observers at 35,536 (62 percent) polling stations. However, observers reported disorderly situations at one or more polling booths of 21,766 (38 percent) of the observed polling stations.

Polling stations in which observers noted orderly conduct of the polling process included 5,167 (60 percent) polling stations in KP, 336 (51 percent) in ICT, 20,526 (61 percent) in Punjab, 8,590 (67 percent) in Sindh, and 917 (58 percent) in Balochistan. Conversely, observers reported disorder or disruptions in the polling process at 3,386 (40 percent) polling stations in KP, 326 (49 percent) in ICT, 13,103 (39 percent) in Punjab, 4,291 (33 percent) in Sindh and 660 (42 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.1.1: WAS THE POLLING PROCESS CONDUCTED IN A DISORDERLY MANNER AT POLLING BOOTHS?**



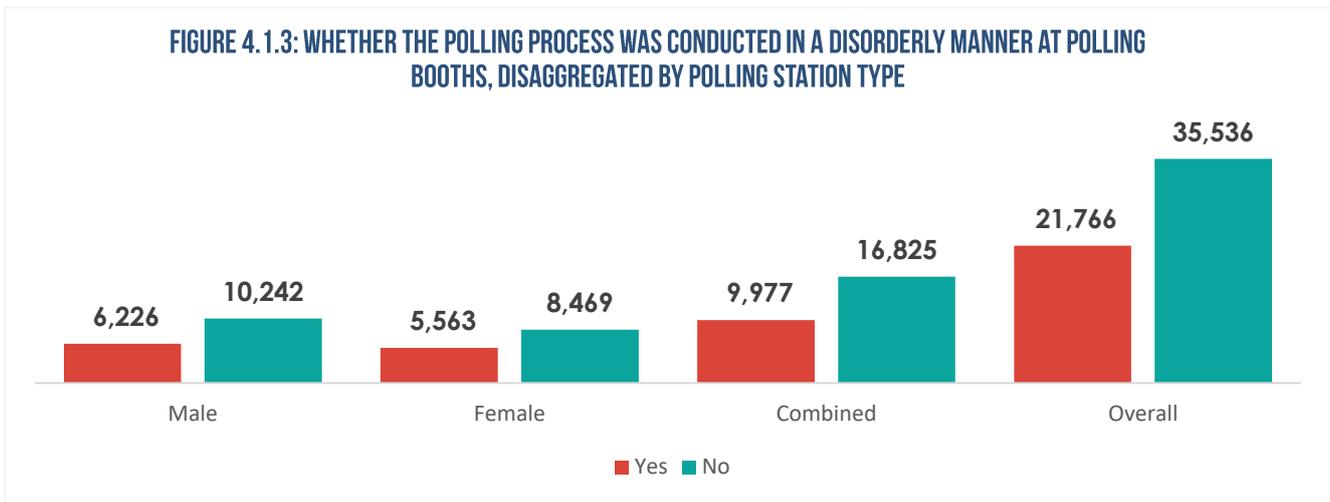
**FIGURE 4.1.2: WHETHER THE POLLING PROCESS WAS CONDUCTED IN A DISORDERLY MANNER AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, orderly conduct of the polling process was reported at 10,242 (62 percent) male polling stations, 8,469 (60 percent) female polling stations, and 16,825 (63 percent) combined polling stations. The process was reportedly disorderly or disrupted at 6,226 (38 percent) male stations, 5,563 (40 percent) female stations, and 9,977 (37 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 4.1.3: WHETHER THE POLLING PROCESS WAS CONDUCTED IN A DISORDERLY MANNER AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.2 Breaks during Voting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

All officials posted at a polling station including officials of law enforcing agencies shall render their fullest cooperation to the Presiding Officer for maintenance of order and for ensuring uninterrupted voting at the polling station.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 83(4)*

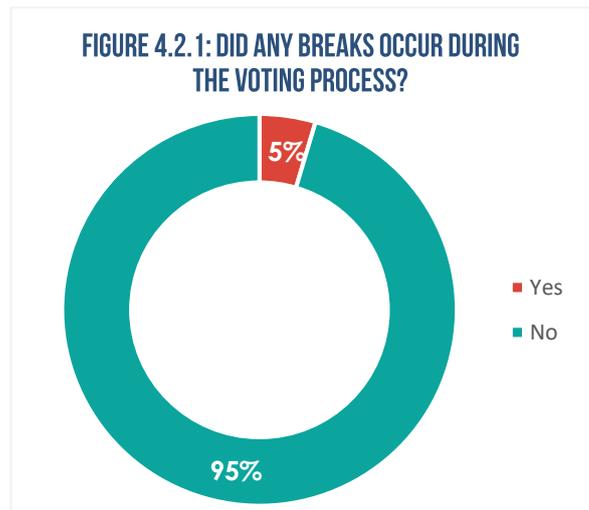
Presiding Officers will ensure the election process continues uninterrupted on polling day.

*Code of Conduct for Polling Staff, Clause 10*

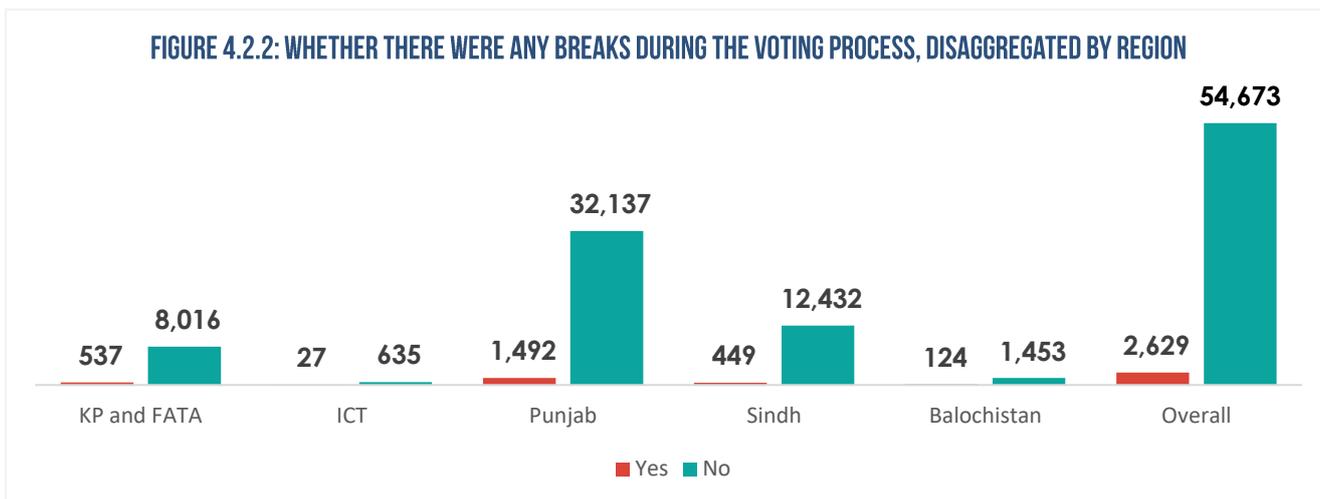
FAFEN observers reported instances of breaks during the voting process at 2,629 (five percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. No breaks were observed in the remaining 54,673 (95 percent) polling stations.

FAFEN observers reported breaks at 537 (six percent) polling stations in KP, 27 (four percent) in ICT, 1,492 (four percent) in Punjab, 449 (three percent) in Sindh and 124 (eight percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, no breaks were reported at 8,016 (94 percent) polling stations in KP, 635 (96 percent) in ICT, 32,137 (96 percent) in Punjab, 12,432 (97 percent) in Sindh and 1,453 (92 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.2.1: DID ANY BREAKS OCCUR DURING THE VOTING PROCESS?**

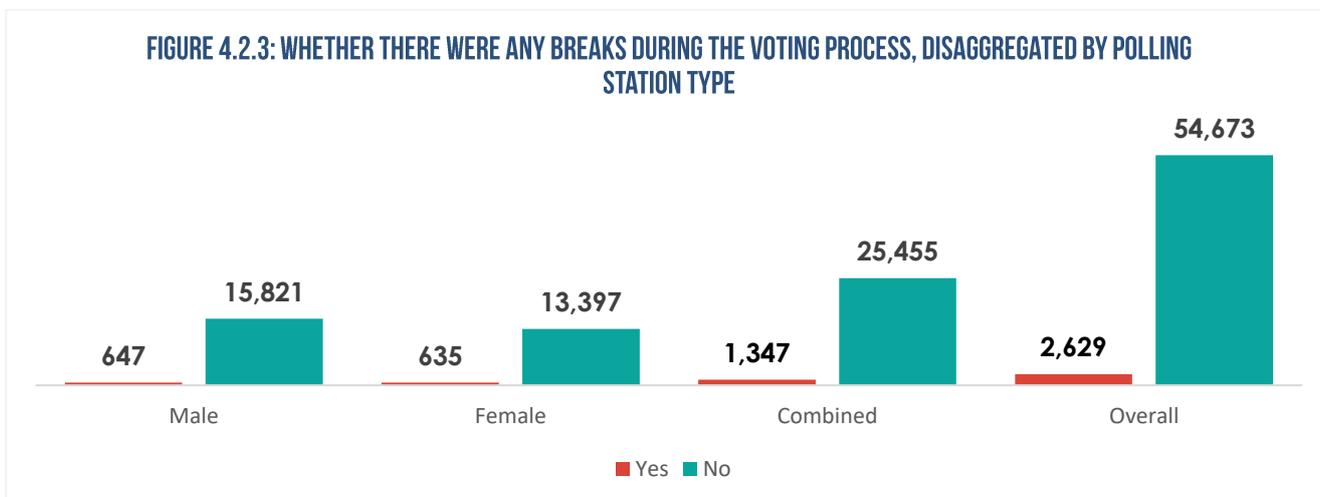


**FIGURE 4.2.2: WHETHER THERE WERE ANY BREAKS DURING THE VOTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, breaks during the voting process occurred at 647 (four percent) male polling stations, 635 (five percent) female polling stations, and 1,347 (five percent) combined polling stations. No breaks were observed at 15,821 (96 percent) male stations, 13,397 (95 percent) female stations, and 25,455 (95 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.2.3: WHETHER THERE WERE ANY BREAKS DURING THE VOTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.3 Barring Voters with Valid NICs

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Where a voter presents himself at the polling station to vote, the Presiding Officer shall issue a ballot paper to the voter after satisfying himself about his identity and shall, for that purpose, require him to produce his original National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(1)*

Powers (of presiding officer to remove any person from polling station) under this section (83) shall be so exercised as not to deprive a voter of his right to cast his vote at the polling station where he is entitled to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 83(3)*

Only the original NIC will be the legal document to cast the vote.

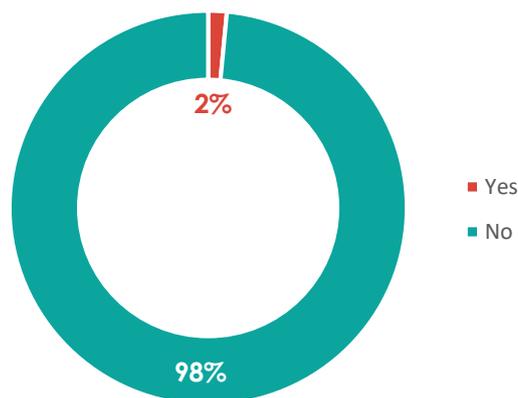
*ECP Handbook for ROs, Pg. 11*



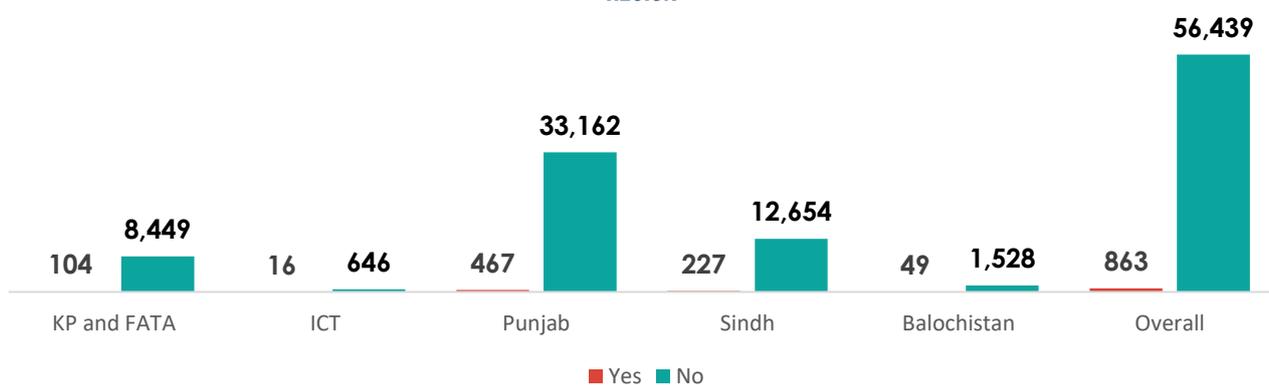
FAFEN observers reported that at least one voter was prevented from casting his/her vote despite presenting a valid NIC at 863 (two percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. No such observation was made in the remaining 56,439 (98 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations where voters were prevented from casting their votes included 104 (one percent) polling stations in KP, 16 (two percent) in ICT, 467 (one percent) in Punjab, 227 (two percent) in Sindh and 49 (three percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, no such prevention was observed at 8,449 (99 percent) polling stations in KP, 646 (98 percent) in ICT, 33,162 (99 percent) in Punjab, 12,654 (98 percent) in Sindh and 1,528 (97 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.3.1: WERE ANY VOTERS WITH VALID NICS BARRED FROM VOTING?**

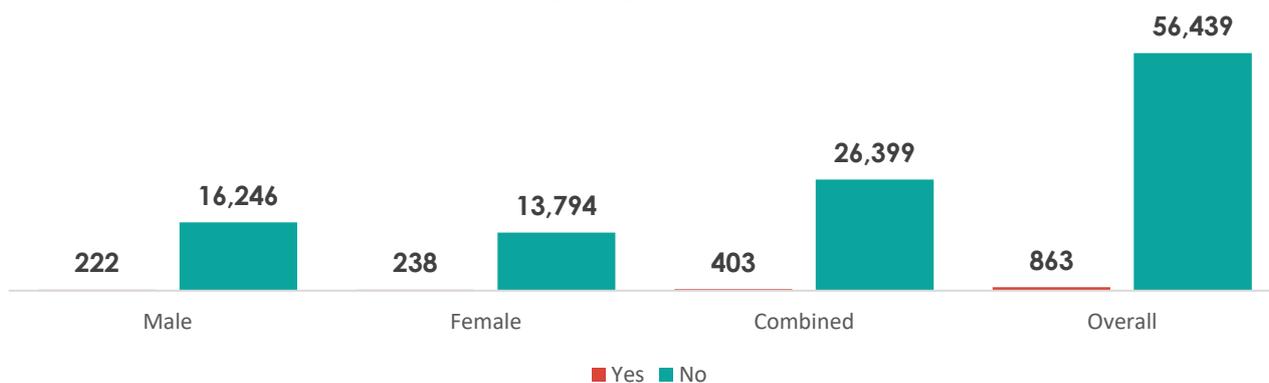


**FIGURE 4.3.2: WHETHER ANY VOTERS WITH VALID NICS WERE BARRED FROM VOTING, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, voters were prevented from casting their votes despite presenting valid NICs at 222 (one percent) of the male polling stations, 238 (two percent) of the female polling stations and 403 (two percent) of the combined polling stations. No such observation was made at 16,246 (99 percent) of the male stations, 13,794 (98 percent) of the female stations, and 26,399 (98 percent) of the combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.3.3: WHETHER ANY VOTERS WITH VALID NICS WERE BARRED FROM VOTING, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.4 Permitting Voting by Voters with Photocopies of NICs

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A ballot paper shall not be issued to person who fails or refuse to produce his original National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(5)(a)*

No person is eligible for voting without an original NIC, however, an expired NIC will be accepted for the identification of voter. The photocopy of NIC shall, in any case, not be accepted.

*ECP Handbook for ROs, Pg. 111*

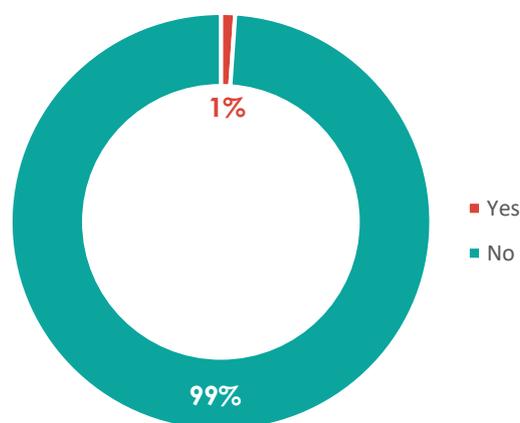
Voters with expired NICs may cast their votes. However, it must be ensured that the NIC is original and belongs to the bearer. Photocopy of the NIC is not acceptable under any circumstances. It may be noted that no other document except NIC is acceptable to prove the voter's identity.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 36*

FAFEN observers reported instances of voters being allowed to vote even though they had only presented photocopies of their NICs at 623 (one percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. In the remaining 56,679 (99 percent) polling stations, no such observations were made.

Polling stations in which FAFEN observers reported instances of voters being allowed to present photocopies of their NICs as valid identification included 101 (one percent) polling stations in KP, five (one percent) in ICT, 329 (one percent) in Punjab, 156 (one percent) in Sindh and 32 (two percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, no such observations were made at the vast majority of the observed polling stations, including 8,452 (99 percent) polling stations in KP, 657 (99 percent) in ICT, 33,300 (99 percent) in Punjab, 12,725 (99 percent) in Sindh and 1,545 (98 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.4.1: WERE ANY VOTERS ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF THEIR NIC?**



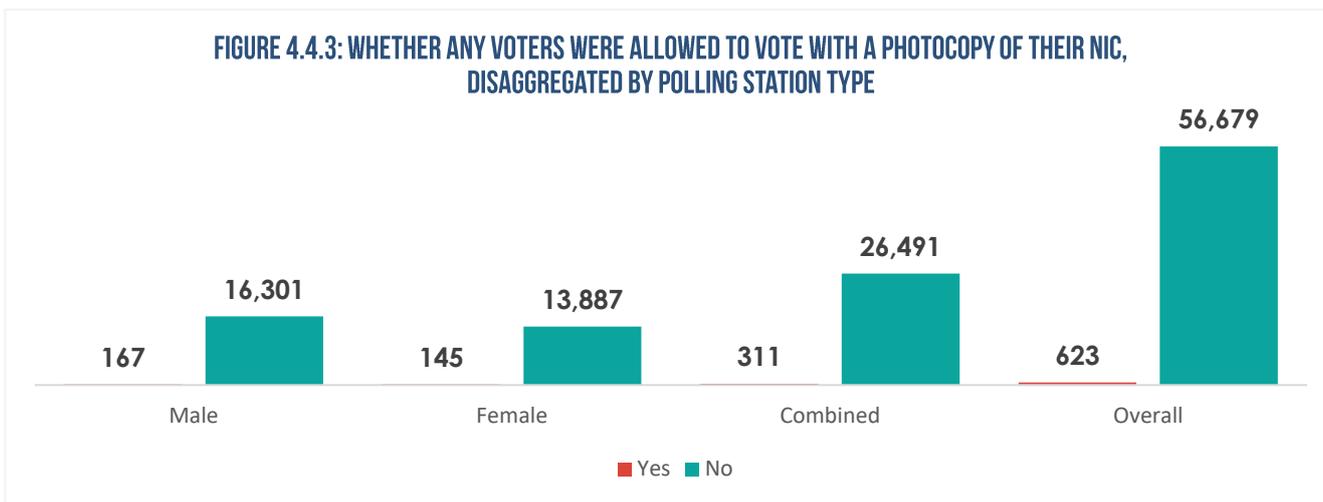
**FIGURE 4.4.2: WHETHER ANY VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF THEIR NIC, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, voters were allowed to do so at 167 (one percent) of the male polling stations, 145 (one percent) of the female polling stations and 311 (one percent) of the combined polling stations. No such observation was reported at 16,301 (99 percent) of the male, 13,887 (99 percent) of the female, and 26,491 (99 percent) of the combined polling stations.



FIGURE 4.4.3: WHETHER ANY VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH A PHOTOCOPY OF THEIR NIC, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.5 Permitting Voting by Voters without NICs

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A ballot paper shall not be issued to person who fails or refuse to produce his original National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(5)(a)*

No person is eligible for voting without an original NIC, however, an expired NIC will be accepted for the identification of voter. The photocopy of NIC shall, in any case, not be accepted.

*ECP Handbook for ROs, Pg. 111*

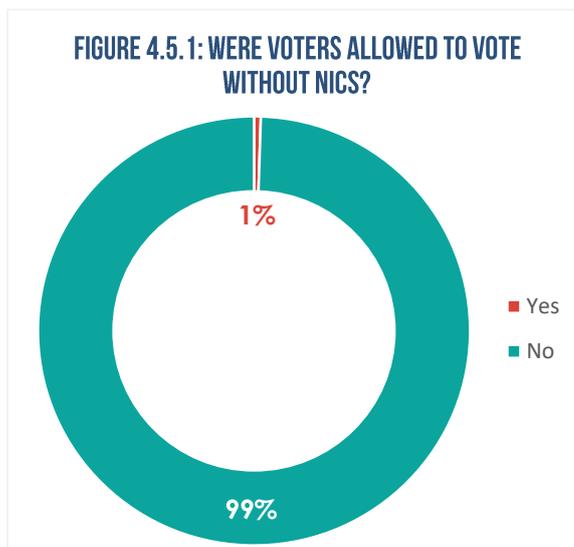
Voters with expired NICs may cast their votes. However, it must be ensured that the NIC is original and belongs to the bearer. Photocopy of the NIC is not acceptable under any circumstances. It may be noted that no other document except NIC is acceptable to prove the voter's identity.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 36*

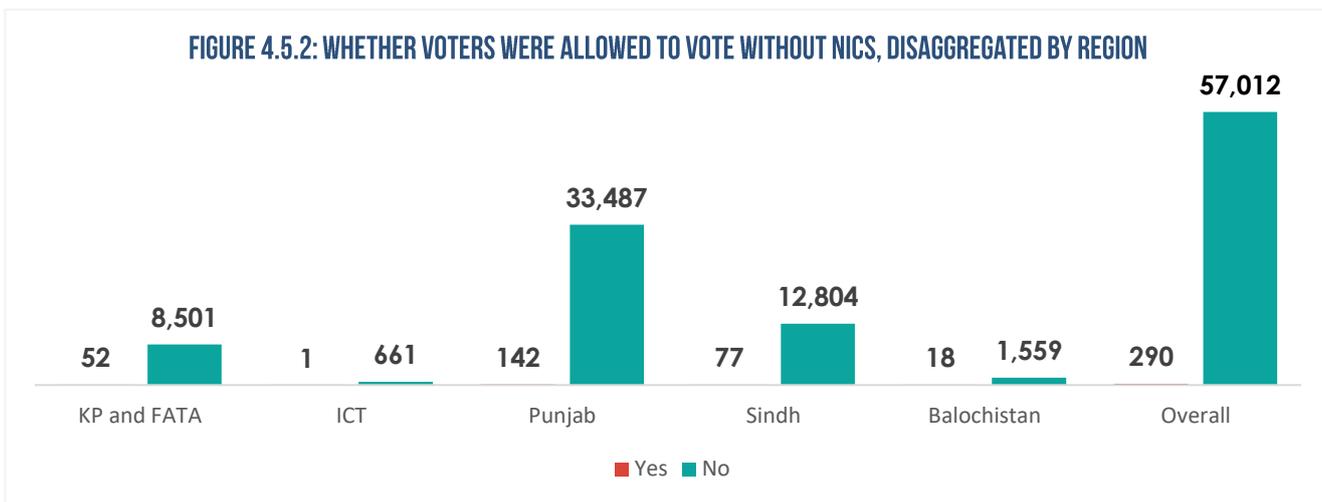
FAFEN observers reported instances of voters being allowed to vote without presenting NICs at 290 (one percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. No such observation was made in the majority (57,012 or 99 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that voters were being allowed to vote without NICs at 52 (one percent) polling stations in KP, one (zero percent) in ICT, 142 (zero percent) in Punjab, 77 (one percent) in Sindh and 18 (one percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, no such observation was made at the vast majority of observed polling stations, including 8,501 (99 percent) polling stations in KP, 661 (100 percent) in ICT, 33,487 (100 percent) in Punjab, 12,804 (99 percent) in Sindh and 1,559 (99 percent) in Balochistan.

FIGURE 4.5.1: WERE VOTERS ALLOWED TO VOTE WITHOUT NICs?

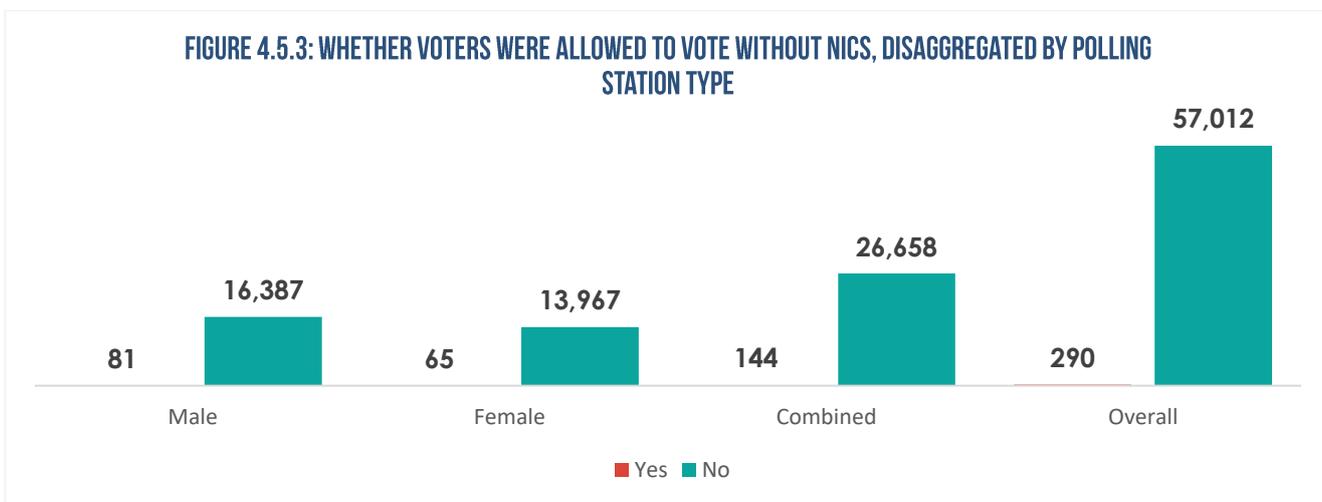


**FIGURE 4.5.2: WHETHER VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITHOUT NICS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation by polling station type shows that voters were allowed to cast their vote without NICs at 81 (0.5 percent) of the male polling stations, 65 (0.5 percent) of the female polling stations and 144 (0.5 percent) of the combined polling stations observed. No such observation was reported at 16,387 (99.5 percent) of the male stations, 13,967 (99.5 percent) of the female stations, and 26,658 (99.5 percent) of the combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.5.3: WHETHER VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITHOUT NICS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.6 Permitting Voting by Voters with Invalid NICs

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A ballot paper shall not be issued to person who fails or refuse to produce his original National Identity Card issued by the National Database and Registration Authority.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(5)(a)*

No person is eligible for voting without an original NIC, however, an expired NIC will be accepted for the identification of voter. The photocopy of NIC shall, in any case, not be accepted.

*ECP Handbook for ROs, Pg. 111*

Voters with expired NICs may cast their votes. However, it must be ensured that the NIC is original and belongs to the bearer. Photocopy of the NIC is not acceptable under any circumstances. It may be noted that no other document except NIC is acceptable to prove the voter's identity.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 36*



At 602 (one percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed, FAFEN observers reported voters with invalid identification documents being allowed to cast their votes. Invalid identification included, for example, an expired NIC, birth certificate, domicile, *nikahnama*, and driving license. No such observation was made in the majority (56,700 or 99 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that voters were allowed to vote with invalid IDs at 99 (one percent) polling stations in KP, 15 (two percent) in ICT, 355 (one percent) in Punjab, 107 (one percent) in Sindh and 26 (two percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, no such observation was reported at the vast majority of polling stations, including 8,454 (99 percent) polling stations in KP, 647 (98 percent) in ICT, 33,274 (99 percent) in Punjab, 12,774 (99 percent) in Sindh, and 1,551 (98 percent) in Balochistan.

FIGURE 4.6.1: WERE VOTERS ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH INVALID IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS?

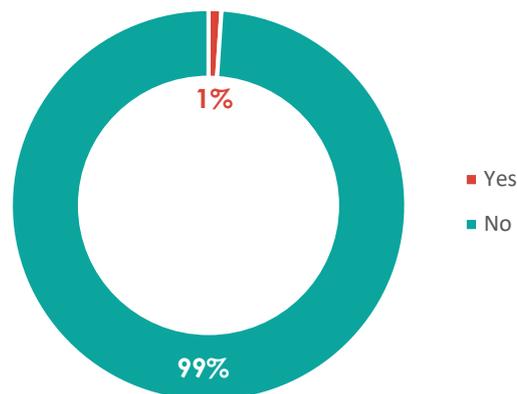
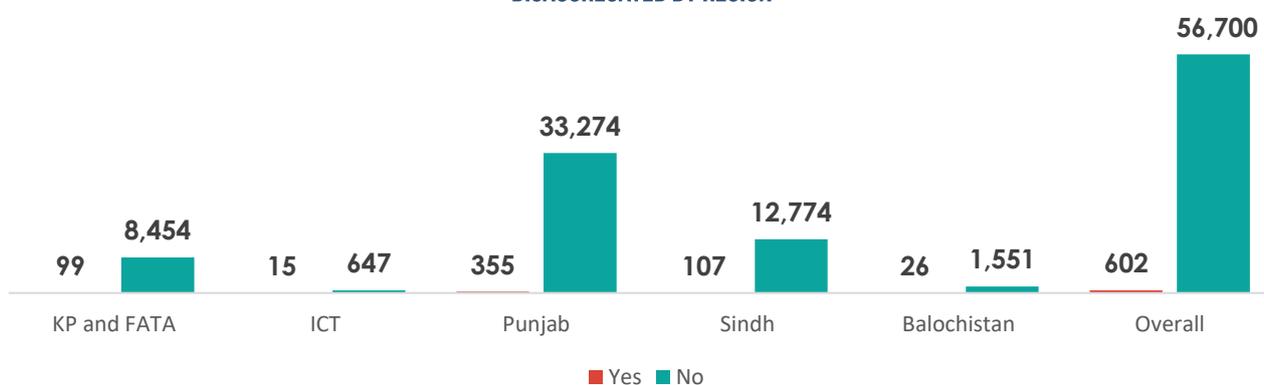
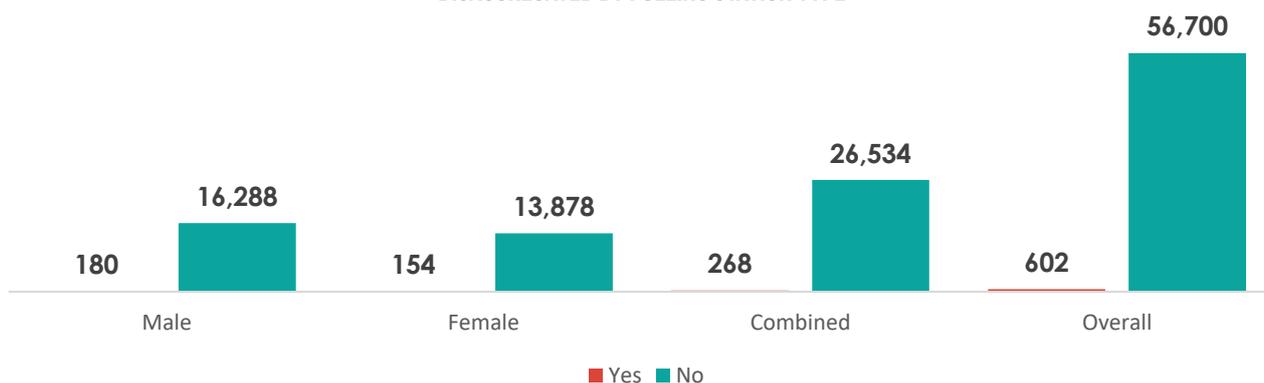


FIGURE 4.6.2: WHETHER VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH INVALID IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregation by type of polling stations shows that the practice was observed at 180 (one percent) of the male polling stations, 154 (one percent) of the female polling stations and 268 (one percent) of the combined polling stations observed. Whereas, no such observation was reported at 16,288 (99 percent) of the male, 13,878 (99 percent) of the female, and 26,534 (99 percent) of the combined polling stations observed.

FIGURE 4.6.3: WHETHER VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE WITH INVALID IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.7 Omitting to Call Out Voters' Names and Serial Numbers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before a ballot paper is issued to a voter, the number and name of the voter as entered in the electoral roll shall be called out.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(a)*

When PO calls out the number and name of the voter as entered in the electoral roll, the polling agent should attentively listen the same so as he is able to strike out the name of that voter from his copy of electoral rolls.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 14*

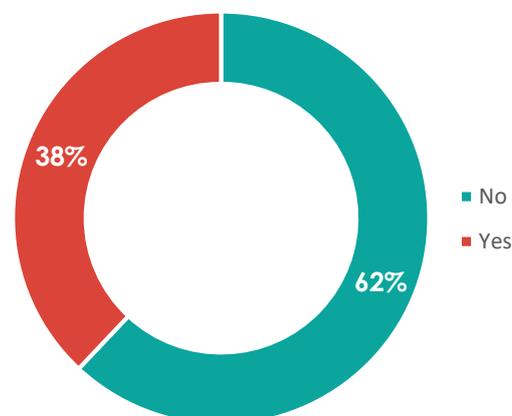
PO after checking the original NIC of the voter, calls out loudly the name and serial number of the voter from the Electoral Rolls.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

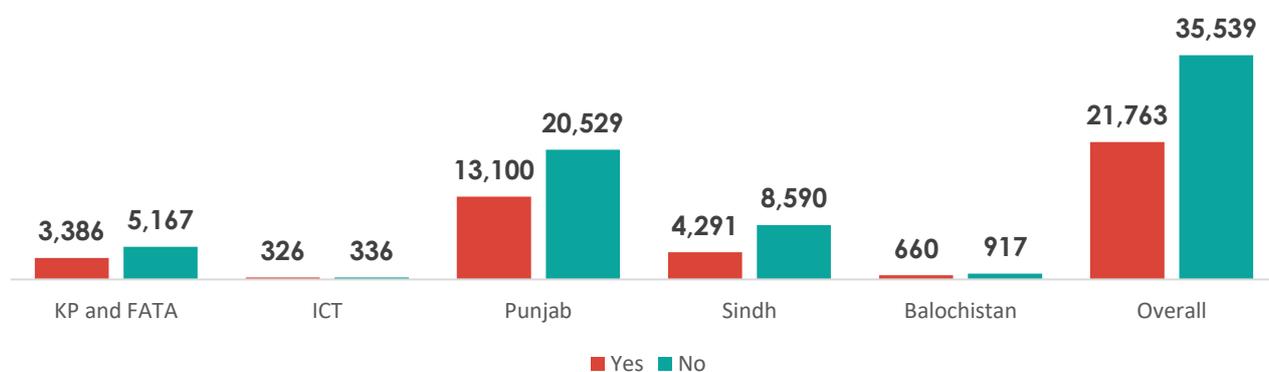
FAFEN observers reported POs loudly calling out the name and serial (*silsila*) number of each voter at 35,539 (62 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. The required procedure was not observed in the remaining 21,763 (38 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that names and serial numbers of voters were called out loudly at 5,167 (60 percent) polling stations in KP, 336 (51 percent) in ICT, 20,529 (61 percent) in Punjab, 8,590 (67 percent) in Sindh, and 917 (58 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, voters' credentials were not called out loudly at 3,386 (40 percent) polling stations in KP, 326 (49 percent) in ICT, 13,100 (39 percent) in Punjab, 4,291 (33 percent) in Sindh and 660 (42 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.7.1: DID POS OMIT TO CALL OUT (IN A LOUD VOICE) THE NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER OF EACH VOTER?**



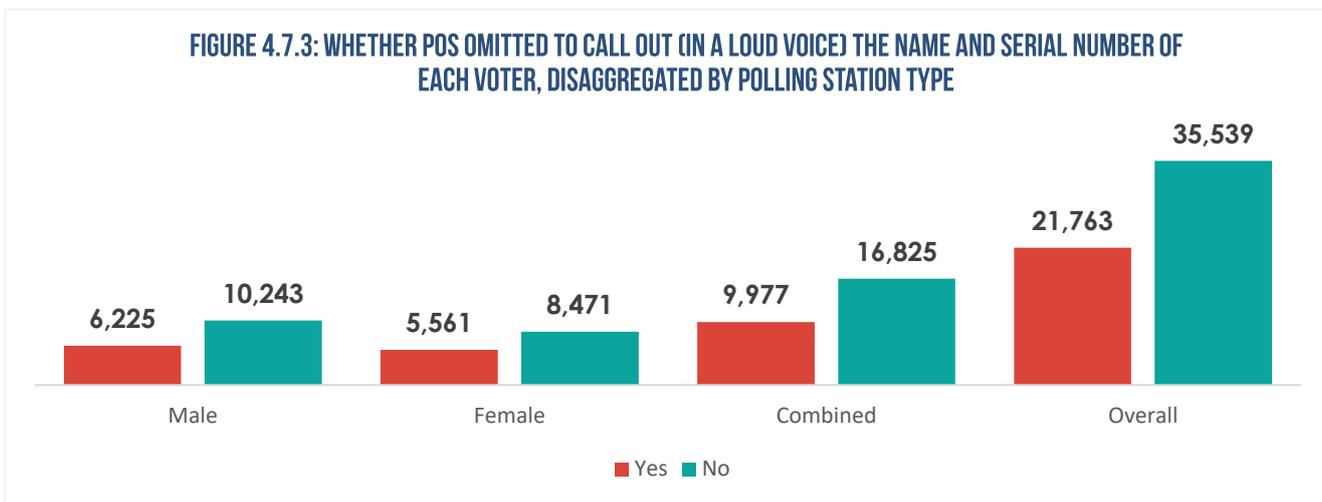
**FIGURE 4.7.2: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO CALL OUT (IN A LOUD VOICE) THE NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER OF EACH VOTER, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, POs were observed to perform the practice at 10,243 (62 percent) of the male polling stations, 8,471 (60 percent) of the female polling stations and 16,825 (63 percent) of the combined polling stations observed. Conversely, the activity was not observed at 6,225 (38 percent) of the male stations, 5,561 (40 percent) of the female stations, and 9,977 (37 percent) of the combined polling stations observed.



FIGURE 4.7.3: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO CALL OUT (IN A LOUD VOICE) THE NAME AND SERIAL NUMBER OF EACH VOTER, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.8 Objections to Voters Raised by Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

If a contesting candidate or his election agent or polling agent alleges that a voter to whom a ballot paper is about to be issued already has one or more ballot papers in his possession, the Presiding Officer may require the voter to satisfy him that he does not have any other ballot paper in his possession and may also take such measures as he thinks fit to ensure that such voter does not insert more than one ballot paper in the ballot box.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(6)*

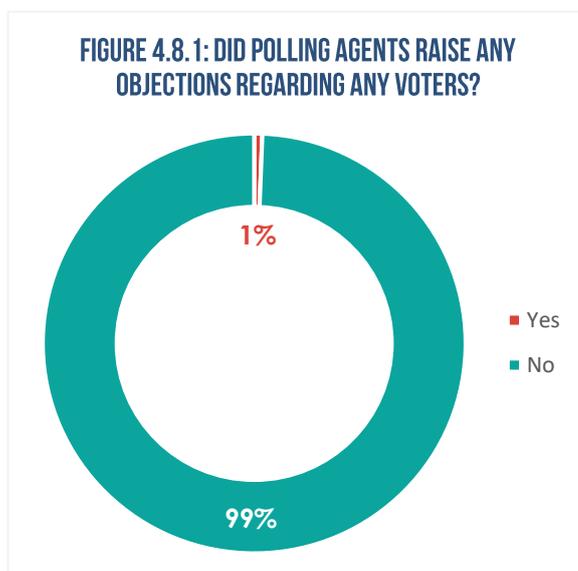
Polling agent can raise objection on any voter on the ground that the voter has already voted in the election at the same or another polling station or is not the person whose name is entered in the electoral roll.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 7*

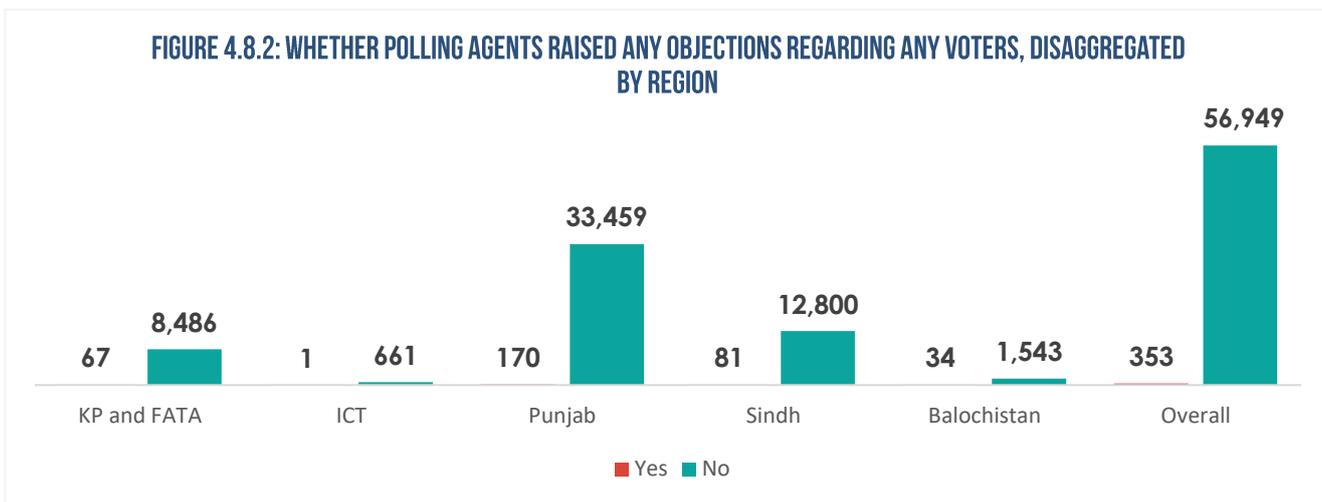
Out of the 57,302 polling stations observed across the country, at 353 (one percent) polling stations, FAFEN observers recorded instances of a polling agent raising an objection regarding a voter. In the remaining 56,949 (99 percent) polling stations, no objections were observed.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that at 67 (one percent) polling stations in KP, one (zero percent) in ICT, 170 (one percent) in Punjab, 81 (one percent) in Sindh and 34 (two percent) in Balochistan, polling agents raised objections regarding voters. On the other hand, at 8,486 (99 percent) polling stations in KP, 661 (100 percent) in ICT, 33,459 (99 percent) in Punjab, 12,800 (99 percent) in Sindh and 1,543 (98 percent) in Balochistan, no objections were observed.

FIGURE 4.8.1: DID POLLING AGENTS RAISE ANY OBJECTIONS REGARDING ANY VOTERS?

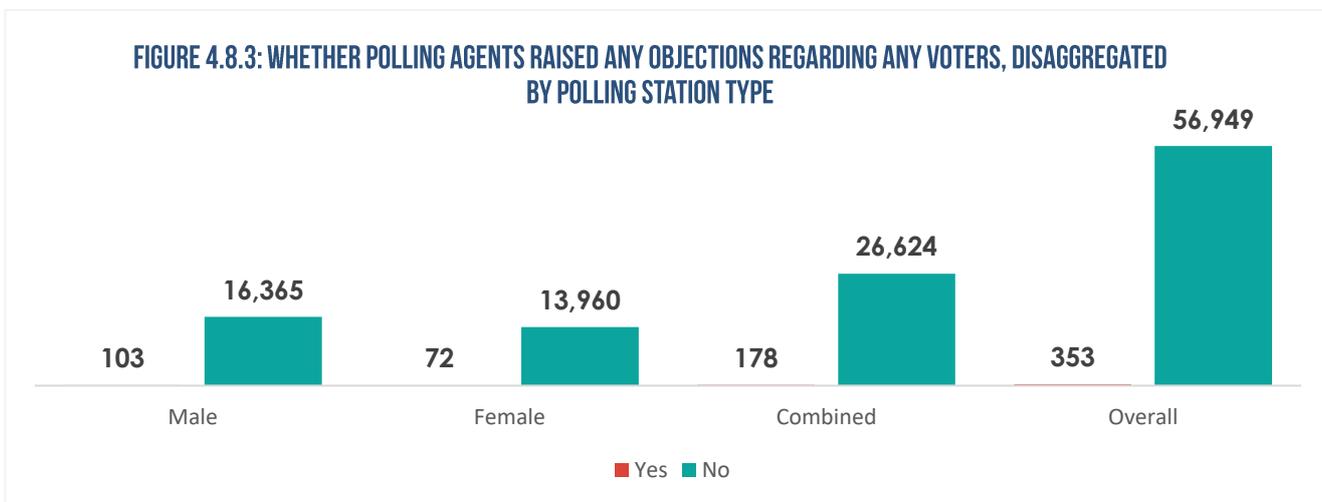


**FIGURE 4.8.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS RAISED ANY OBJECTIONS REGARDING ANY VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling agents raised objections at 103 (one percent) of the male polling stations, 72 (0.5 percent) of the female polling stations and 178 (one percent) of the combined polling stations. No objections were observed at 16,365 (99 percent) of the male stations, 13,960 (99.5 percent) of the female stations and 26,624 (99 percent) of the combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.8.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS RAISED ANY OBJECTIONS REGARDING ANY VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.9 Omitting to Strike Voters' Names off Electoral Rolls

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before a ballot paper is issued to a voter, the entry relating to the voter on the electoral roll shall be struck off to indicate that a ballot paper has been issued to him.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(b)*

Before issuing a ballot paper to the voter, strike off the name of voter with straight line on the electoral rolls.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 9*



FAFEN observers noted POs to be crossing out each voter's name and NIC number on the electoral rolls in the majority (53,969 or 94 percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed. The activity, however, was not observed in the remaining 3,333 (six percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of this observation reveals that POs struck off the names of voters on electoral rolls at 7,988 (93 percent) polling stations in KP, 614 (93 percent) in ICT, 31,924 (95 percent) in Punjab, 11,986 (93 percent) in Sindh, and 1,457 (92 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, the practice was omitted at 565 (seven percent) polling stations in KP, 48 (seven percent) in ICT, 1,705 (five percent) in Punjab, 895 (seven percent) in Sindh, and 120 (eight percent) in Balochistan.

FIGURE 4.9.1: DID POS OMIT TO STRIKE OFF THE NAMES OF VOTERS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS?

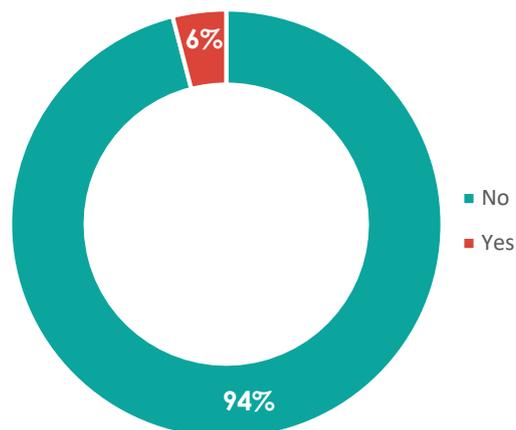
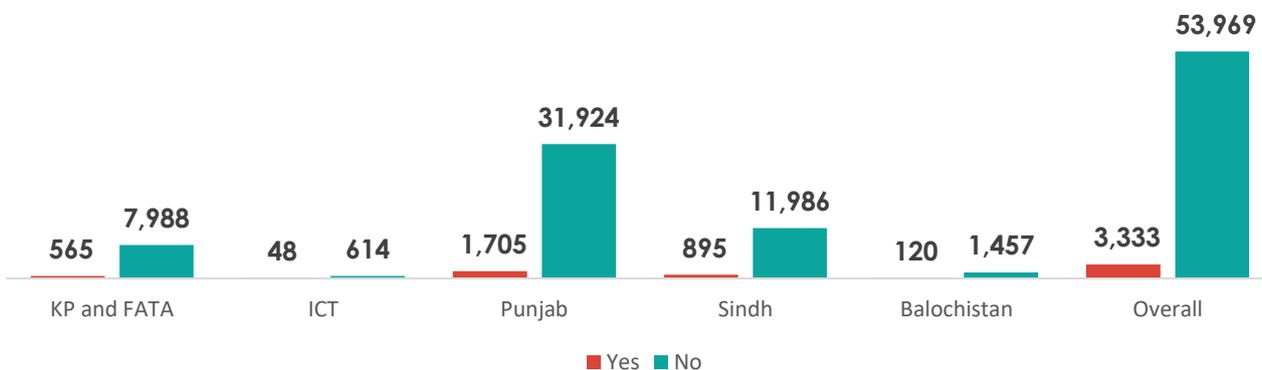
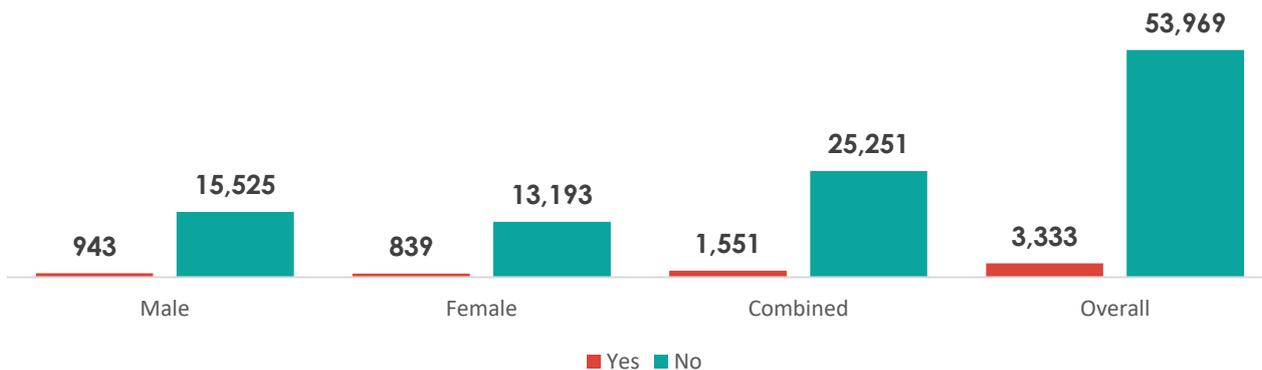


FIGURE 4.9.2: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO STRIKE OFF THE NAMES OF VOTERS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



With regard to type of polling station, POs crossed out each voter's name and NIC number on the electoral rolls at 15,525 (94 percent) of the male polling stations, 13,193 (94 percent) of the female polling stations and 25,251 (94 percent) of the combined polling stations observed. Whereas, the practice was omitted at 943 (six percent) of the male stations, 839 (six percent) of the female stations, and 1,551 (six percent) of the combined polling stations observed.

FIGURE 4.9.3: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO STRIKE OFF THE NAMES OF VOTERS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.10 Omitting to Check Indelible Ink Marks on Voters' Hands

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before a ballot paper is issued to a voter, he shall be required to receive a personal mark, made with indelible ink, on any finger or thumb of either hand as indicated by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(c)*

A ballot paper shall not be issued to a person who refuses to receive the personal mark with indelible ink; or who already bears such a mark or traces of such a mark.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 84 (5)(c)*

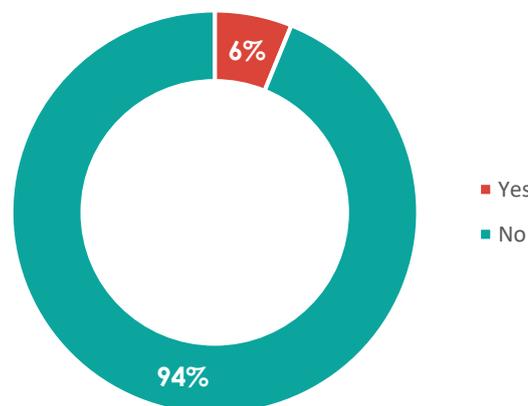
Check the cuticle of the right thumb of each voter to check if he/she has already polled his/her vote.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 9*

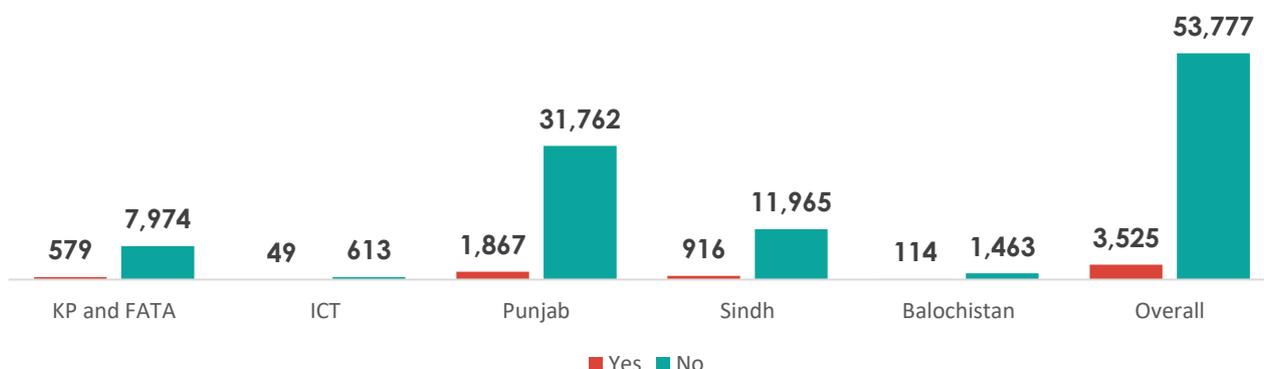
POs were observed to be checking each voter's fingers and thumbs for any signs of indelible ink at 53,777 (94 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, the checks were omitted in the remaining 3,525 (six percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which POs were observed to be checking indelible ink marks included 7,974 (93 percent) polling stations in KP, 613 (93 percent) in ICT, 31,762 (93 percent) in Punjab, 11,965 (97 percent) in Sindh and 1,463 (93 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, the checks were omitted at 579 (seven percent) polling stations in KP, 49 (seven percent) in ICT, 1,867 (six percent) in Punjab, 916 (seven percent) in Sindh and 114 (seven percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.10.1: DID POS OMIT TO CHECK EACH VOTER'S HANDS FOR INDELIBLE INK MARKS?**



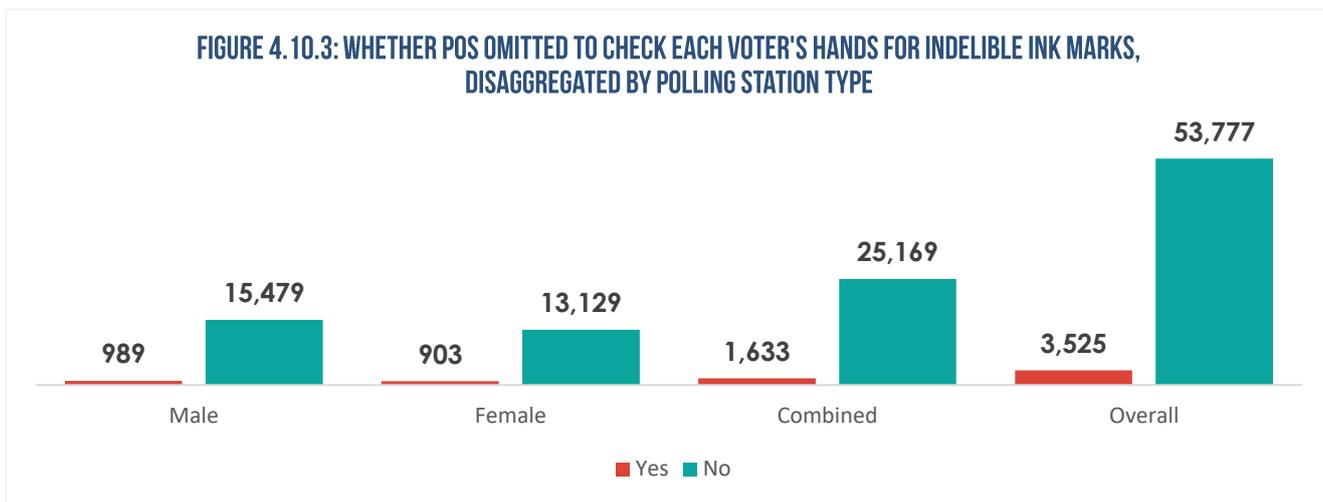
**FIGURE 4.10.2: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO CHECK EACH VOTER'S HANDS FOR INDELIBLE INK MARKS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating observation data by type of polling station reveals that POs checked each voter's fingers and thumbs for any signs of indelible ink at 15,479 (94 percent) of the male polling stations, 13,129 (94 percent) of the female polling stations and 25,169 (94 percent) of the combined polling stations observed. Polling stations where the practice was omitted included 989 (six percent) of the male stations, 903 (six percent) of the female stations, and 1,633 (six percent) of the combined polling stations observed.



FIGURE 4.10.3: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO CHECK EACH VOTER'S HANDS FOR INDELIBLE INK MARKS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.11 Omitting to Obtain Voters' Thumbprints on Electoral Rolls

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Before a ballot paper is issued to a voter, the PO shall obtain the thumb impression of the voter on the space provided on the electoral roll for the purpose against the photograph of the voter.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(f)*

A ballot paper shall not be issued to a person who refuses to put his thumb impression on the counterfoil or, as the case may be, on the space provided for the purpose on the electoral roll against his photograph or whose thumb bears traces of its having already been used for putting an impression.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(5)(b)*

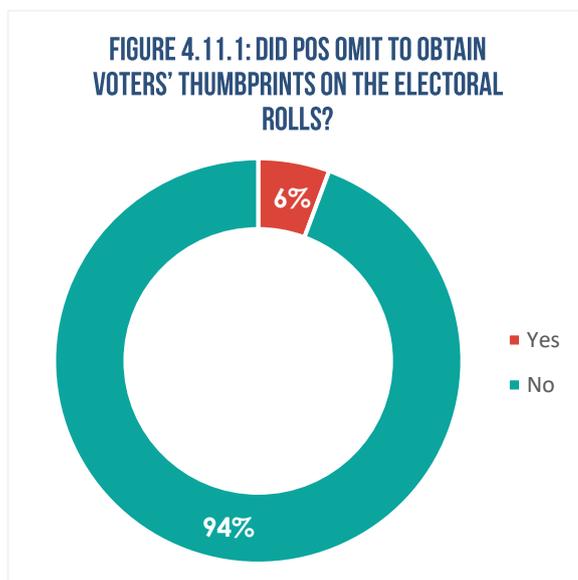
Affixing the left thumb impression of the male voter and right thumb impression of the female voter in the column next to the voters' photo in the Electoral Rolls.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 9*

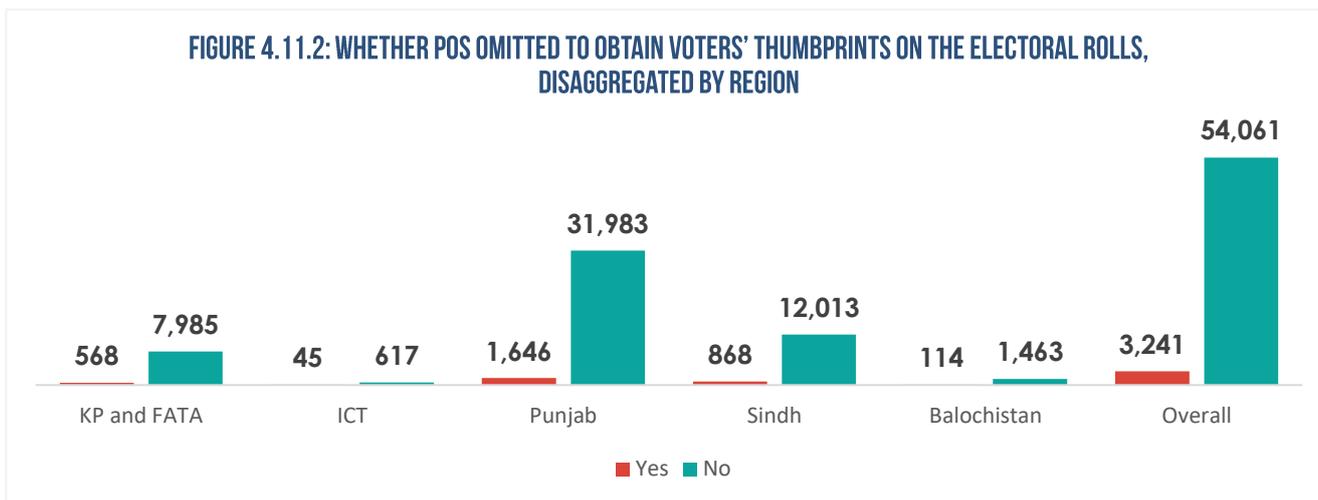
FAFEN observers reported that voters' thumbprints were being obtained on electoral rolls prior to the issuance of ballot papers at 54,061 (94 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, the practice was not observed at 3,241 (six percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data reveals that voters' thumbprints were being obtained on the electoral rolls at 31,983 (95 percent) polling stations in Punjab; 12,013 (93 percent) in Sindh, 7,985 (93 percent) in KP, 1,463 (93 percent) in Balochistan, and 617 (93 percent) in ICT. However, the practice was not observed at 1,646 (five percent) polling stations in Punjab, 868 (seven percent) in Sindh, 568 (seven percent) in KP, 114 (seven percent) in Balochistan and 45 (seven percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 4.11.1: DID POS OMIT TO OBTAIN VOTERS' THUMBPRINTS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS?

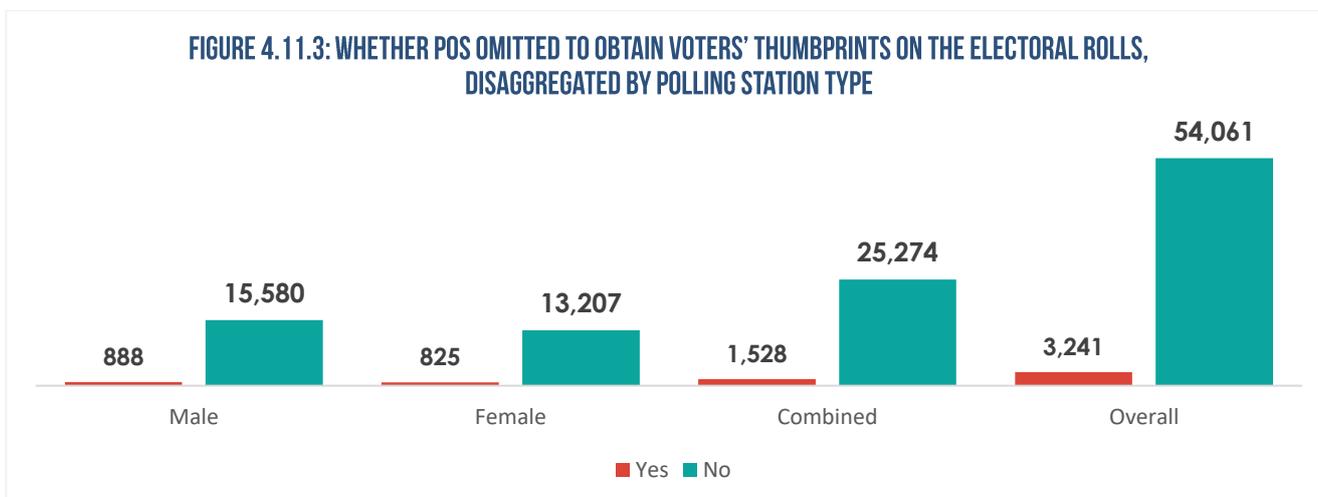


**FIGURE 4.11.2: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO OBTAIN VOTERS' THUMBPRINTS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data by type of polling station shows the procedure was followed at 15,580 of the male polling stations, 13,207 of the female polling stations and 25,274 of the combined polling stations observed. Conversely, the practice of obtaining voters' thumbprints was not observed at 888 of the male stations, 825 of the female stations, and 1,528 of the combined polling stations observed.

**FIGURE 4.11.3: WHETHER POS OMITTED TO OBTAIN VOTERS' THUMBPRINTS ON THE ELECTORAL ROLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.12 Omitting to Enter Voters' Serial Numbers on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the number of the voter on the electoral roll, the number of the National Identity Card of the voter, stamp it with the official mark, sign it and obtain on it the thumb impression of the voter.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(e)*

Enter relevant information correctly into counterfoil of the ballot papers, ensuring secrecy of voting for every voter.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 8*



Of the 57,302 observed polling stations, FAFEN observers reported that APOs were seen entering voters' serial numbers on counterfoils at 54,266 (95 percent) polling stations, whereas the required procedure was not observed at 3,036 (five percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that APOs were observed entering voters' serial numbers on counterfoils at 32,094 (95 percent) polling stations in Punjab; 12,041 (93 percent) in Sindh, 8,027 (94 percent) in KP, 1,485 (94 percent) in Balochistan, and 619 (94 percent) in ICT. However, no such activity was observed at 1,535 (five percent) polling stations in Punjab, 840 in Sindh (seven percent), 526 (six percent) in KP, 92 (six percent) in Balochistan and 43 (six percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 4.12.1: DID APOS OMIT TO ENTER VOTERS' SERIAL NUMBERS ON COUNTERFOILS?

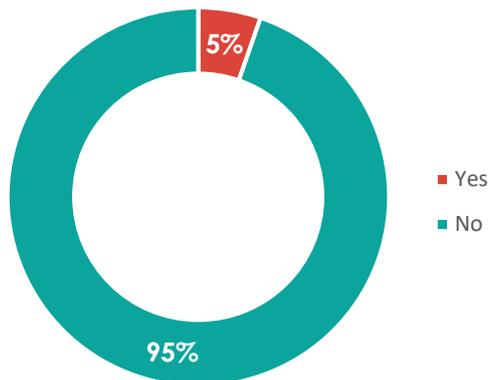
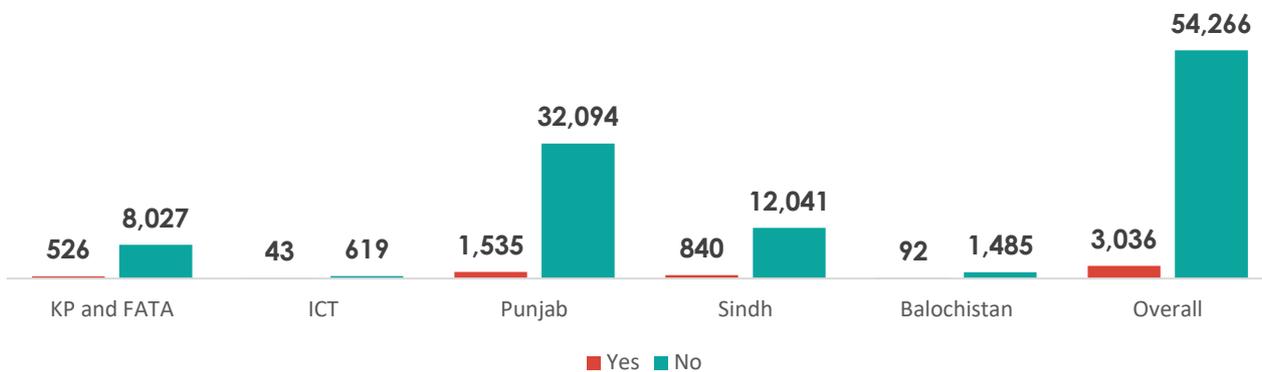
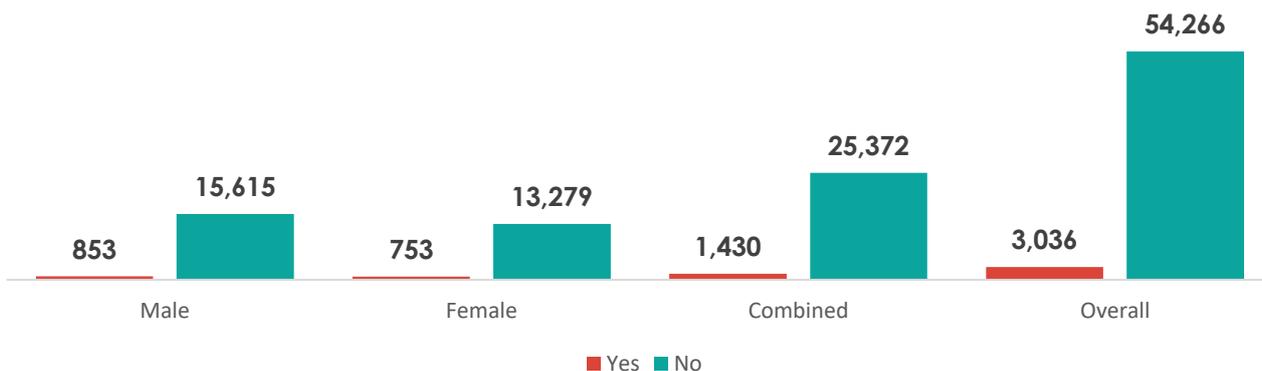


FIGURE 4.12.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO ENTER VOTERS' SERIAL NUMBERS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



With regard to type of the polling station, the procedure was observed to be followed correctly at 15,615 (95 percent) male polling stations, 13,279 (95 percent) female polling stations and 25,372 (95 percent) combined polling stations. However, the procedure was not observed at 853 (five percent) male stations, 753 (five percent) female stations, and 1,430 (five percent) combined polling stations.

FIGURE 4.12.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO ENTER VOTERS' SERIAL NUMBERS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.13 Omitting to Enter Voters' NIC Numbers on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the number of the voter on the electoral roll, the number of the National Identity Card of the voter, stamp it with the official mark, sign it and obtain on it the thumb impression of the voter.

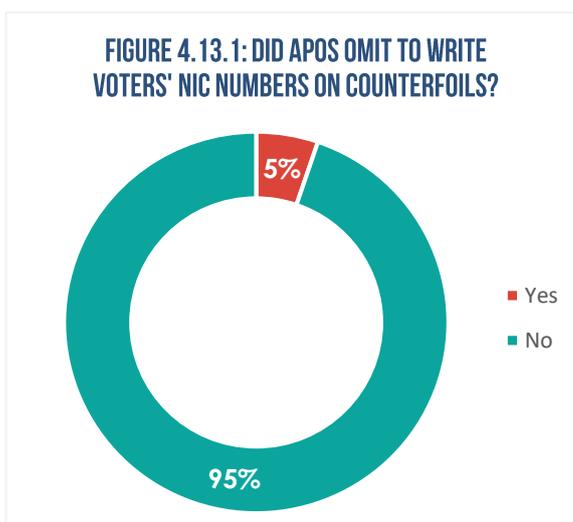
*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(e)*

APO issues the ballot paper after the filling the counterfoil, gets the right thumb impression of the female voter and the left thumb impression of the male voter and signs after putting on the counterfoil. Then he/she detaches the ballot papers and signs and puts official stamp on its back. Hands the ballot paper along with the marking aid stamp to the voter and guides him/her to the voting screen.

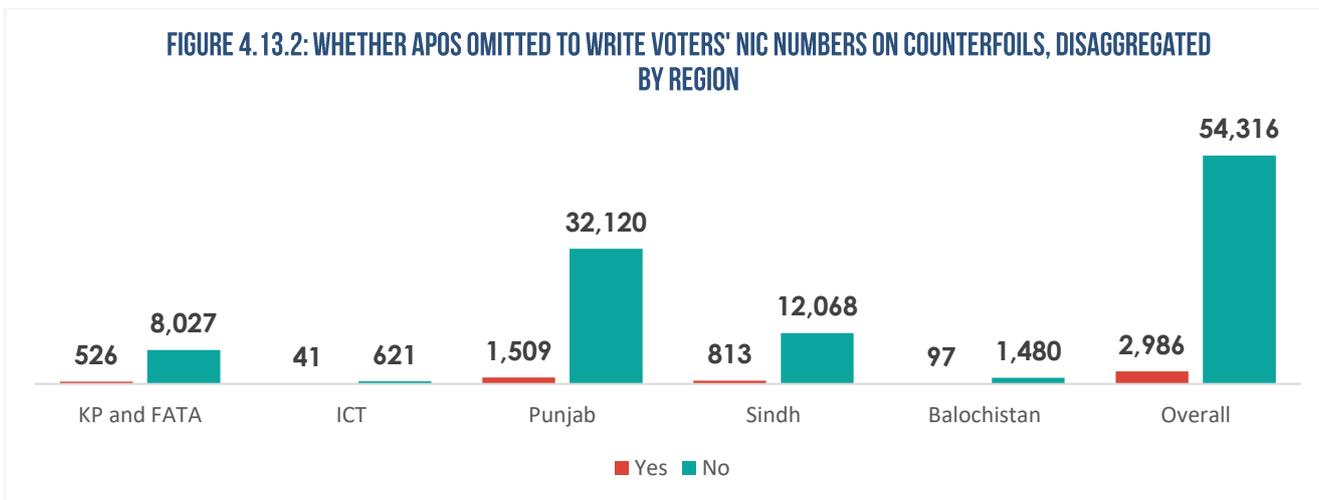
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

FAFEN observers reported that APOs wrote down each voter's NIC number on the counterfoil at 54,316 (95 percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed across the country. This procedure was not observed at the remaining 2,986 (five percent) polling stations.

Polling stations where APOs were observed to write down each voter's NIC number on the counterfoil included 8,027 (94 percent) polling stations in KP, 621 (94 percent) in ICT, 32,120 (96 percent) in Punjab, 12,068 (94 percent) in Sindh, and 1,480 (94 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, the procedure was not observed at 526 (six percent) polling stations in KP, 41 (six percent) in ICT, 1,509 (four percent) in Punjab, 813 (six percent) Sindh, and 97 (six percent) in Balochistan.



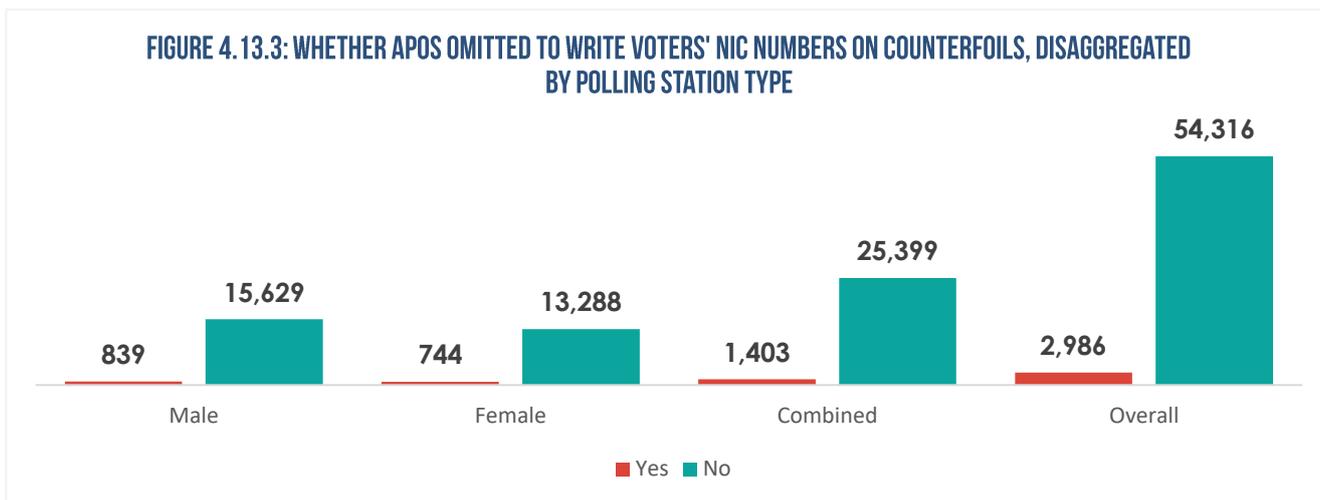
**FIGURE 4.13.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO WRITE VOTERS' NIC NUMBERS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regards to types of polling stations shows that APOs wrote down each voter's NIC number at 15,629 (95 percent) of the male polling stations, 13,288 (95 percent) of the female polling stations and 25,399 (95 percent) of the combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, the activity was observed to be missing at 839 (five percent) of the male stations, 744 (five percent) of the female stations, and 1,403 (five percent) of the combined polling stations observed.



**FIGURE 4.13.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO WRITE VOTERS' NIC NUMBERS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.14 Omitting to Obtain Voters' Thumbprints on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the number of the voter on the electoral roll, the number of the National Identity Card of the voter, stamp it with the official mark, sign it and obtain on it the thumb impression of the voter.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(e)*

A ballot paper shall not be issued to a person who refuses to put his thumb impression on the counterfoil or, as the case may be, on the space provided for the purpose on the electoral roll against his photograph or whose thumb bears traces of its having already been used for putting an impression.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(5)(b)*

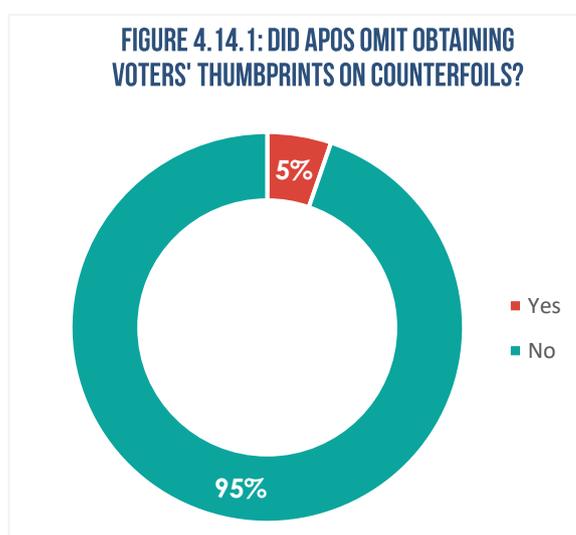
APO issues the National Assembly ballot paper after the filling the counterfoil, gets the right thumb impression of the female voter and the left thumb impression of the male voter and signs after putting on the counterfoil. Then he/she detaches the ballot papers and signs and puts official stamp on its back. Hands the ballot paper along with the marking aid stamp to the voter and guides him/her to the voting screen.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

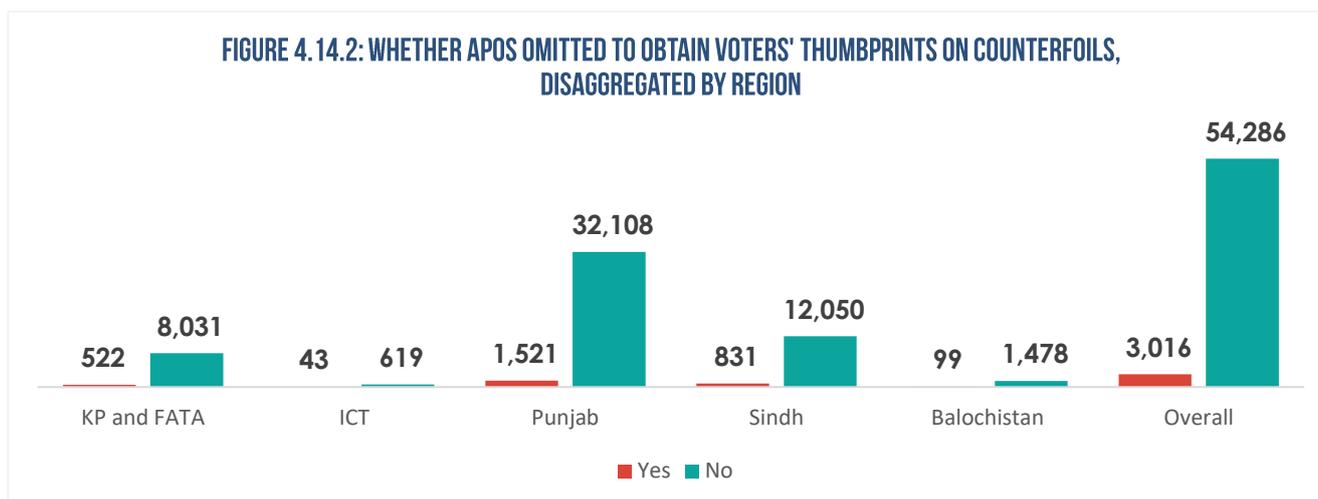
FAFEN observers noted that APOs obtained each voter's thumb impression on the counterfoil at 54,286 (95 percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed, whereas, in the remaining 3,016 (five percent) polling stations, this activity was omitted.

Polling stations in which APOs obtained each voter's thumbprint on the counterfoil included 522 (six percent) polling stations in KP, 43 (six percent) in ICT, 1521 (five percent) in Punjab, 831 (six percent) in Sindh and 99 (six percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, APOs were not observed obtaining the thumbprints at 8,031 (94 percent) polling stations in KP, 619 (94 percent) in ICT, 32,108 (95 percent) in Punjab, 12,050 (94 percent) in Sindh, and 1,478 (94 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.14.1: DID APOS OMIT OBTAINING VOTERS' THUMBPRINTS ON COUNTERFOILS?**

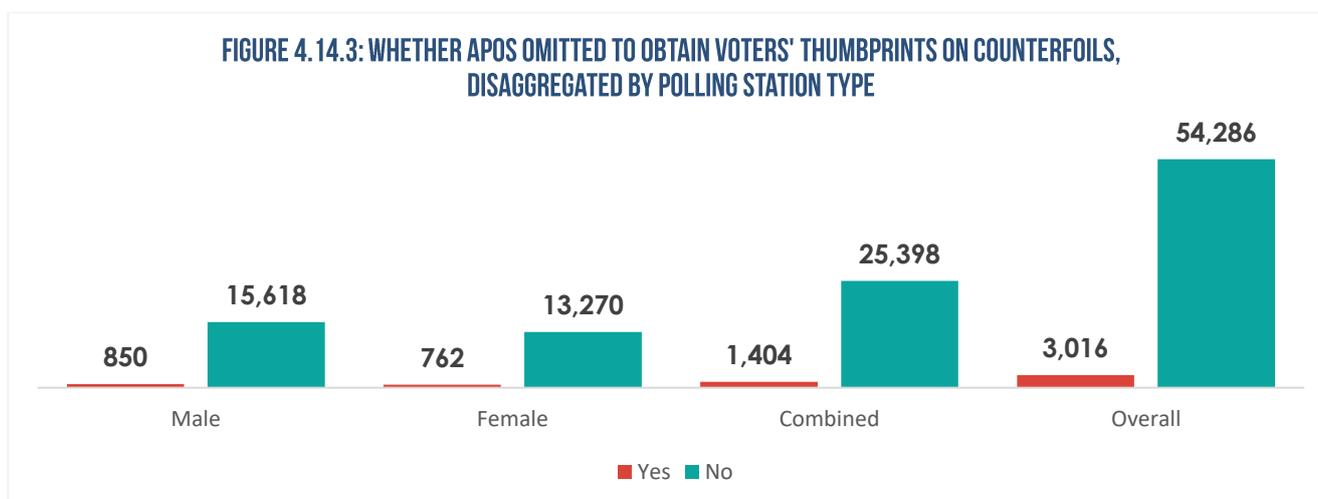


**FIGURE 4.14.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO OBTAIN VOTERS' THUMBPRINTS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, APOs did not obtain each voter's thumb impression on the counterfoil at 850 (five percent) of the male polling stations, 762 (five percent) of the female polling stations and 1404 (five percent) of the combined polling stations observed. Whereas, the practice was observed at 15,618 (95 percent) of the male stations, 13,270 (95 percent) of the female stations, and 25,398 (95 percent) of the combined polling stations observed.

**FIGURE 4.14.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO OBTAIN VOTERS' THUMBPRINTS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.15 Omitting to Sign Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the number of the voter on the electoral roll, the number of the National Identity Card of the voter, stamp it with the official mark, sign it and obtain on it the thumb impression of the voter.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(e)*

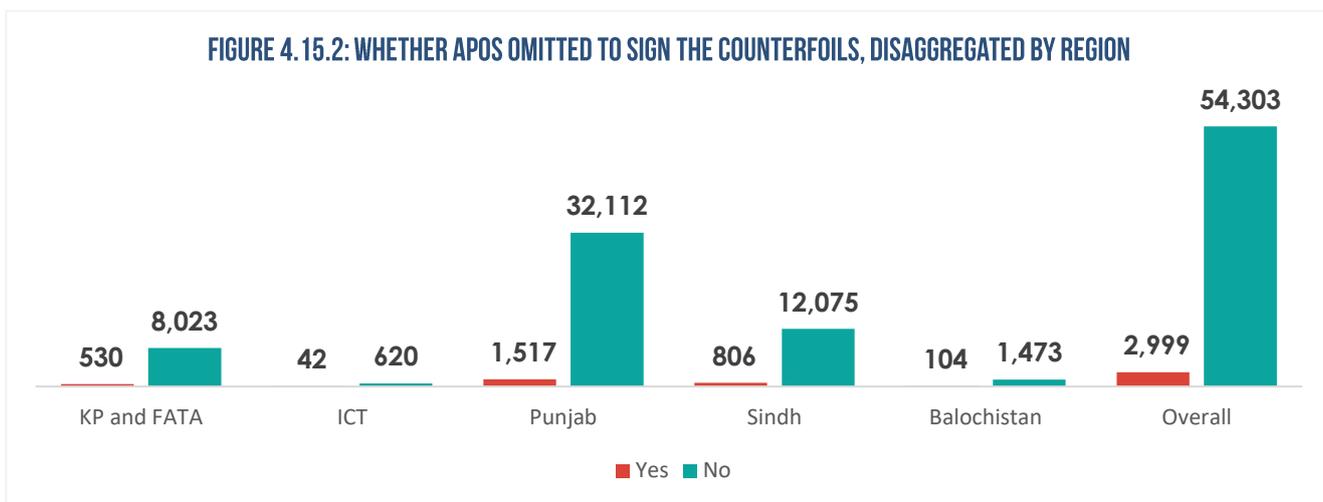
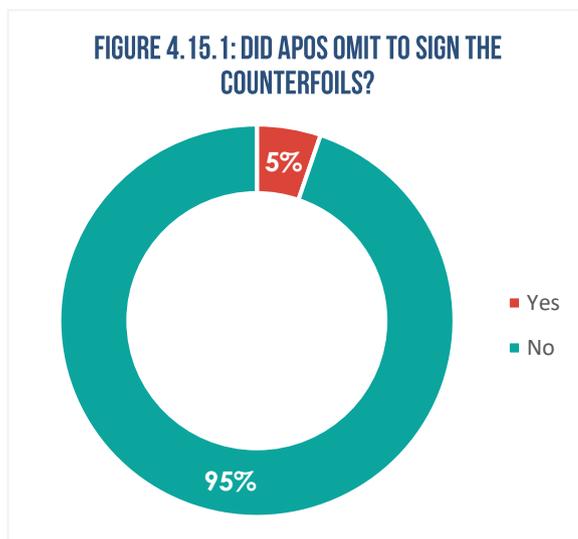
APO issues the National Assembly ballot paper after the filling the counterfoil, gets the right thumb impression of the female voter and the left thumb impression of the male voter and signs after putting on the counterfoil. Then he/she detaches the ballot papers and signs and puts official stamp on its back. Hands the ballot paper along with the marking aid stamp to the voter and guides him/her to the voting screen.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

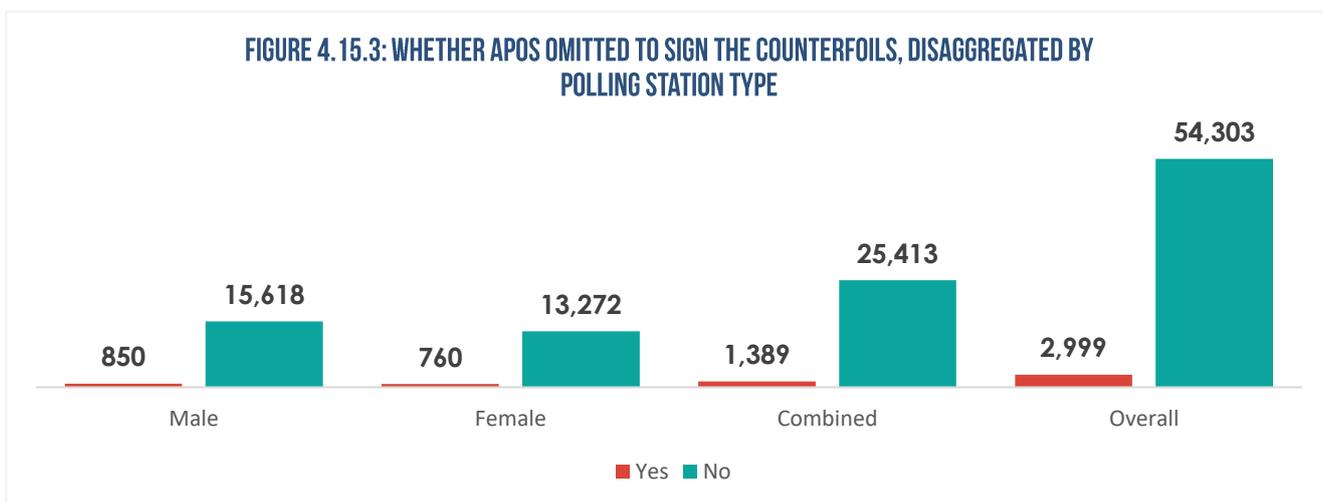


APOs were not observed to be signing the counterfoils at 2,999 (five percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed, however, they were observed to be doing so in the majority of polling stations (54,303 or 95 percent).

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that APOs did not sign the counterfoils at 530 (six percent) of the observed polling stations in KP, 42 (six percent) polling stations in ICT, 1,517 (five percent) in Punjab, 806 (six percent) in Sindh, and 104 (seven percent) in Balochistan. The required signing was duly observed at 8,023 (94 percent) polling stations in KP, 620 (94 percent) in ICT, 32,112 (95 percent) in Punjab, 12,075 (94 percent) in Sindh, and 1,473 (93 percent) in Balochistan.



With regard to type of polling station, APOs did not sign the counterfoils at 850 (five percent) of the male polling stations, 760 (five percent) of the female polling stations and 1,389 (five percent) of the combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, the signing was observed at 15,618 (95 percent) of the male stations, 13,272 (95 percent) of the female stations, and 25,413 (95 percent) of the combined polling stations observed.



## 4.16 Omitting to Stamp Official Marks on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall record on the counterfoil of the ballot paper the number of the voter on the electoral roll, the number of the National Identity Card of the voter, stamp it with the official mark, sign it and obtain on it the thumb impression of the voter.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(4)(e)*

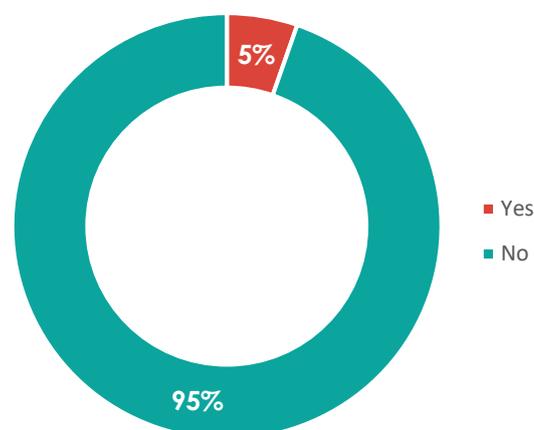
APO issues the National Assembly ballot paper after filling the counterfoil, gets the right thumb impression of the female voter and the left thumb impression of the male voter and signs after putting on the counterfoil. Then he/she detaches the ballot papers and signs and puts official stamp on its back. Hands the ballot paper along with the marking aid stamp to the voter and guides him/her to the voting screen.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

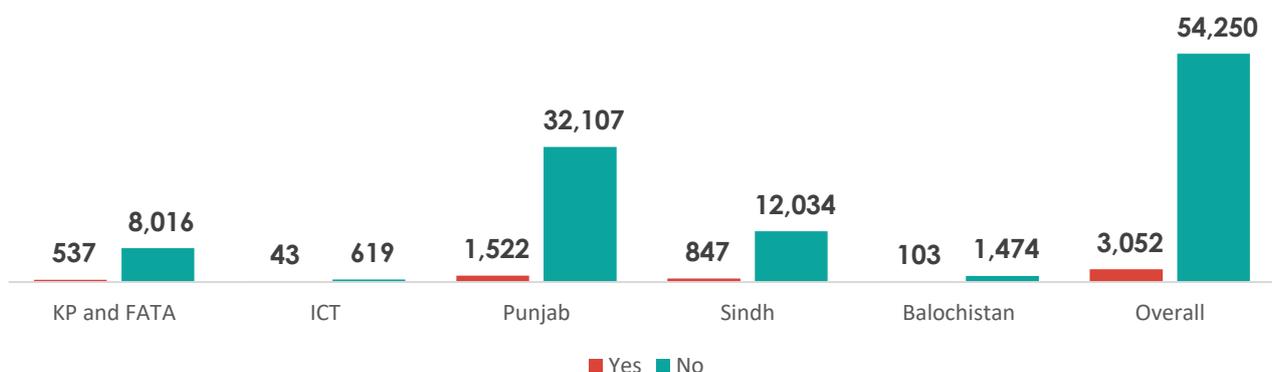
FAFEN observers reported that the APOs were stamping official marks on counterfoils at 54,250 (95 percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed, whereas, they were not observed to do so at 3,052 (five percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that APOs for National Assembly election were stamping official marks on counterfoils at 32,107 (95 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,034 (93 percent) in Sindh, 8,016 (94 percent) in KP, 1,474 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 619 (94 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, observers reported omissions at 1,522 (five percent) polling stations in Punjab, 847 (seven percent) in Sindh, 537 (six percent) in KP, 103 (seven percent) in Balochistan, and 43 (six percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.16.1: DID APOS OMIT TO PUT OFFICIAL STAMP ON COUNTERFOILS?**



**FIGURE 4.16.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO PUT OFFICIAL STAMP ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

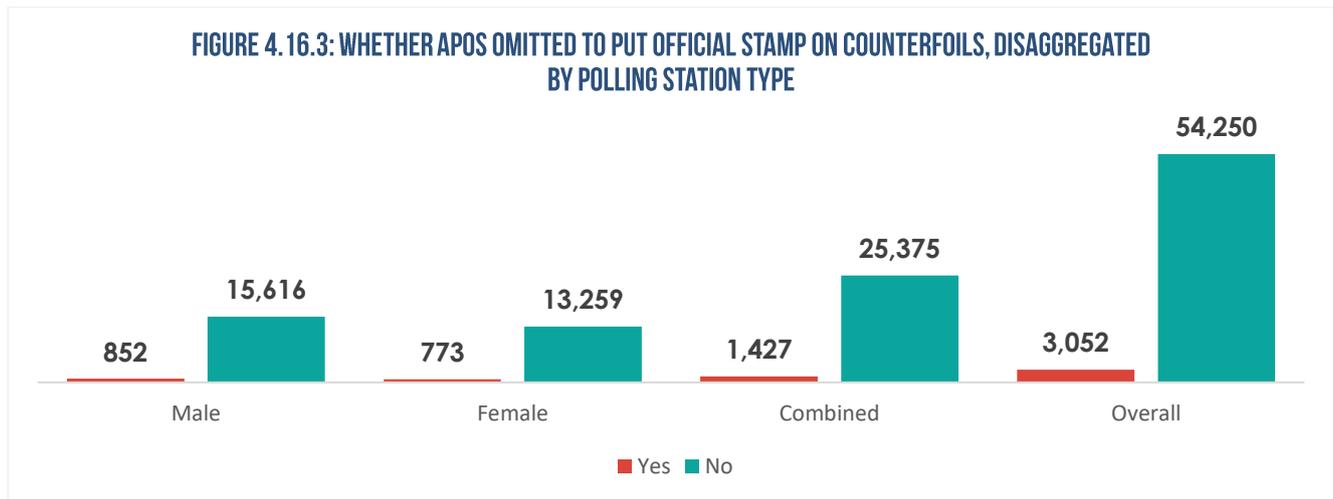


Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that APOs for National Assembly election were stamping on counterfoils at 15,616 (95 percent) male polling stations, 13,249 (94 percent) female polling stations and 25,375 (95 percent) combined polling stations. Whereas,



the procedure was not observed at 852 (five percent) male stations, 773 (six percent) female stations, and 1,427 (five percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.16.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO PUT OFFICIAL STAMP ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.17 Omitting to Mark Voter’s Gender on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Form of Ballot Paper (Form-35) includes a section requiring identification of voter’s gender.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 59(1)*

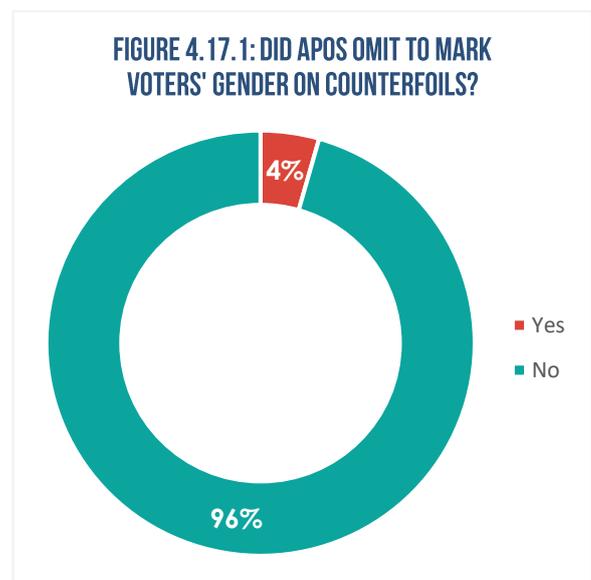
Enter relevant information correctly into counterfoil of the ballot papers [which also includes marking gender on the counterfoil], ensuring secrecy of voting for every voter.

*ECP Handbook for PROs and APOs, Pg. 8*

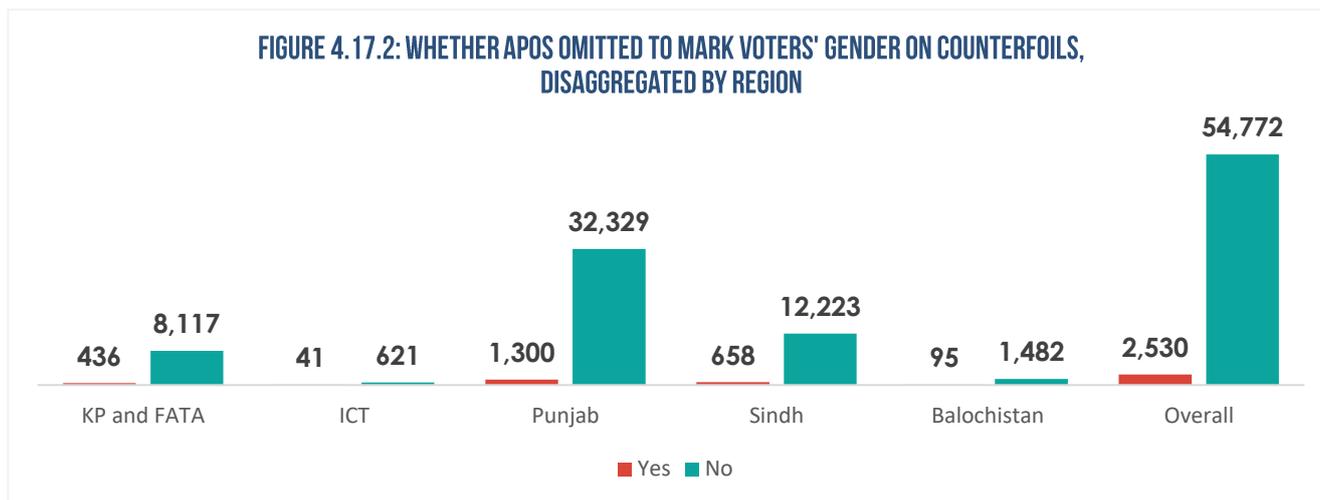
FAFEN observers reported that APOs for National Assembly election were marking voters’ gender on counterfoils at 54,772 (96 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, they were observed not doing so at 2,530 (four percent) polling stations.

Polling stations where APOs for National Assembly election were reported to observe the procedure included 32,329 (96 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,223 (95 percent) in Sindh, 8,117(95 percent) in KP, 1,482 (94 percent) in Balochistan, and 621 (94 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, observers reported omissions in entering voters’ gender on counterfoils at 1,300 (four percent) polling stations in Punjab, 658 (five percent) in Sindh, 436 (five percent) in KP, 95 (six percent) in Balochistan, and 41 (six percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.17.1: DID APOS OMIT TO MARK VOTERS’ GENDER ON COUNTERFOILS?**

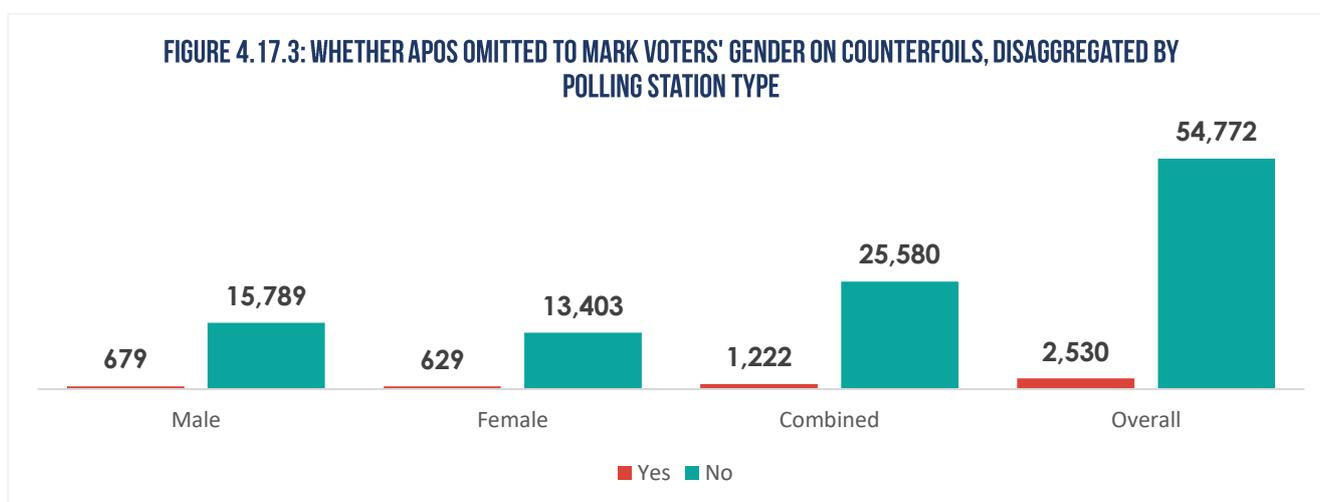


**FIGURE 4.17.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO MARK VOTERS' GENDER ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, APOs for National Assembly election were marking voters' gender on counterfoils at 15,789 (96 percent) male polling stations, 13,403 (96 percent) female polling stations and 25,580 (95 percent) combined polling stations. Conversely, APOs were not observed to do so at 679 (four percent) male stations, 629 (four percent) female stations, and 1,222 (five percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.17.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO MARK VOTERS' GENDER ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.18 Omitting to Enter Voters' Electoral Areas on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Form of Ballot Paper (Form-35) includes a section requiring identification of voter's electoral area on the counterfoil.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 59(1)*

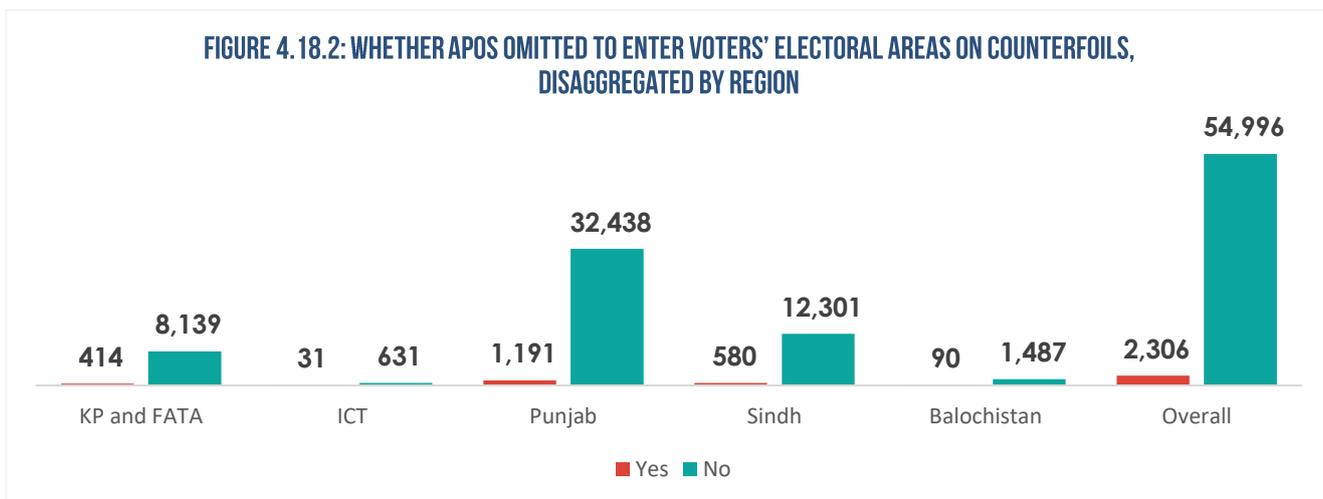
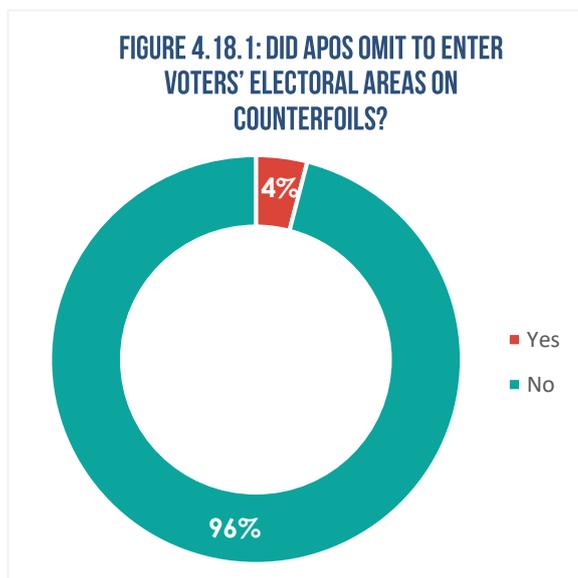
Enter relevant information correctly into counterfoil of the ballot papers [which also includes marking gender on the counterfoil], ensuring secrecy of voting for every voter.

*ECP Handbook for PROs and APOs, Pg. 8*

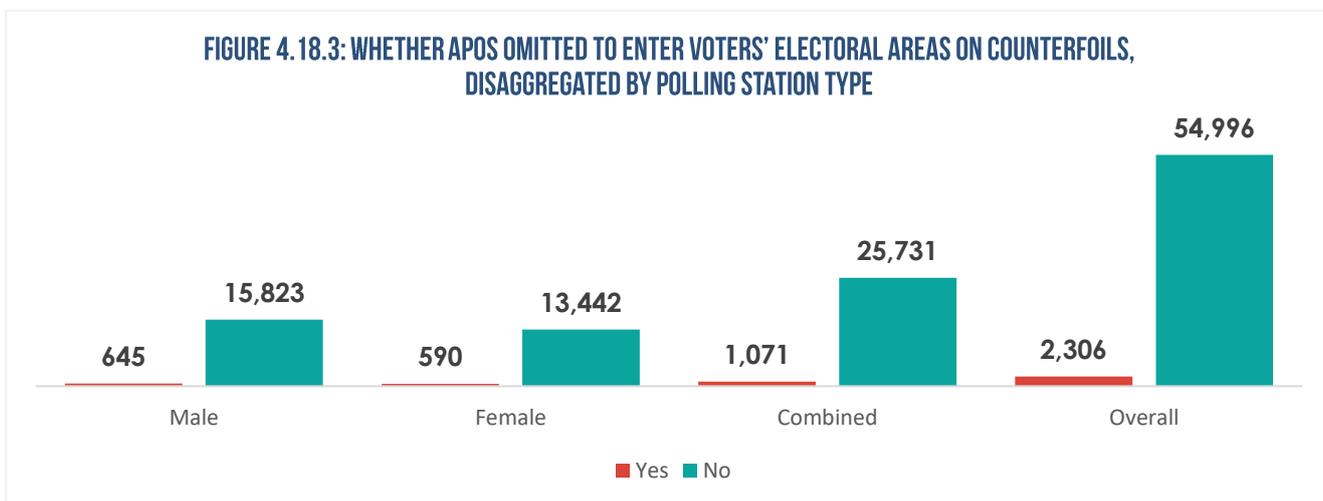


The APOs for National Assembly election were observed entering each voter's electoral area on the counterfoil at 54,996 (96 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, they were reportedly not doing so at 2,306 (four percent) polling stations.

Polling stations where APOs for National Assembly election were observed entering each voter's electoral area on the counterfoil included 32,438 (96 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,301 (95 percent) in Sindh, 8,139 (95 percent) in KP, 1,487 (94 percent) in Balochistan, and 631 (95 percent) in ICT. Polling stations where APOs were not observed to do so included 1,191 (four percent) polling stations in Punjab, 580 (five percent) in Sindh, 414 (five percent) in KP, 90 (six percent) in Balochistan, and 31 (five percent) in ICT.



With regard to type of polling station, APOs were entering each voter's electoral area on counterfoils at 15,823 (96 percent) male polling stations, 13,442 (96 percent) female polling stations and 25,731 (96 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where they were not observed to do so included 645 (four percent) male stations, 590 (four percent) female stations, and 1,071 (four percent) combined polling stations.



## 4.19 Omitting to Stamp Official Mark on Backside of Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The ballot paper shall be stamped on its back with the official mark and signed by the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(4)(d)*

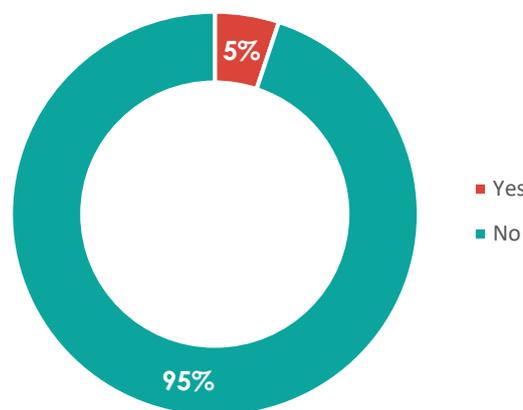
APO issues the National Assembly ballot paper after the filling the counterfoil, gets the right thumb impression of the female voter and the left thumb impression of the male voter and signs after putting on the counterfoil. Then he/she detaches the ballot papers and signs and puts official stamp on its back. Hands the ballot paper along with the marking aid stamp to the voter and guides him/her to the voting screen.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

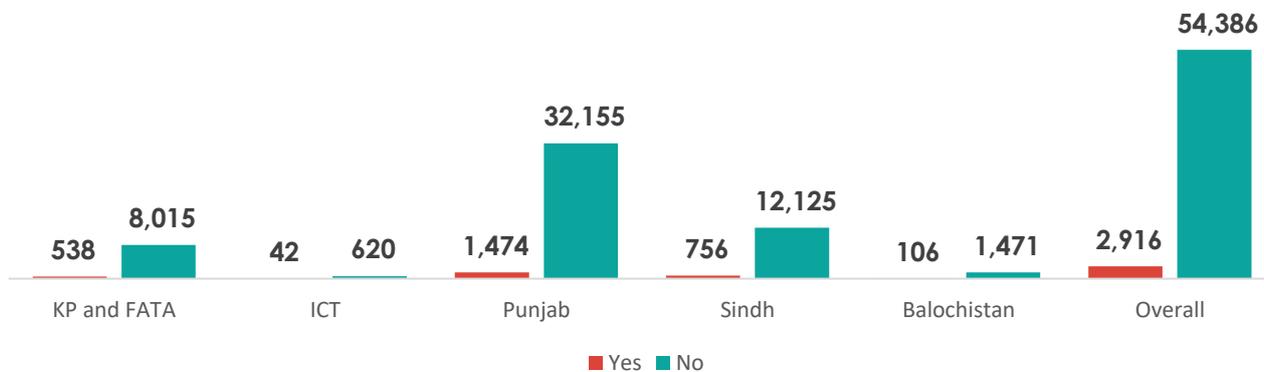
APOs for National Assembly election were observed stamping official marks on the backside of each ballot paper at 54,386 (95 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, they were reportedly not doing so at 2,916 (five percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which APOs for National Assembly election were observed stamping official marks on the backside of each ballot paper included 32,155 (96 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,125 (94 percent) in Sindh, 8,015 (94 percent) in KP, 1,471 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 620 (94 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, they were observed to not be doing so at 1,474 (four percent) polling stations in Punjab, 756 (six percent) in Sindh, 538 (six percent) in KP, 106 (seven percent) in Balochistan and 42 (six percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.19.1: DID APOS OMIT TO PUT OFFICIAL STAMP ON BACKSIDE OF BALLOT PAPERS?**



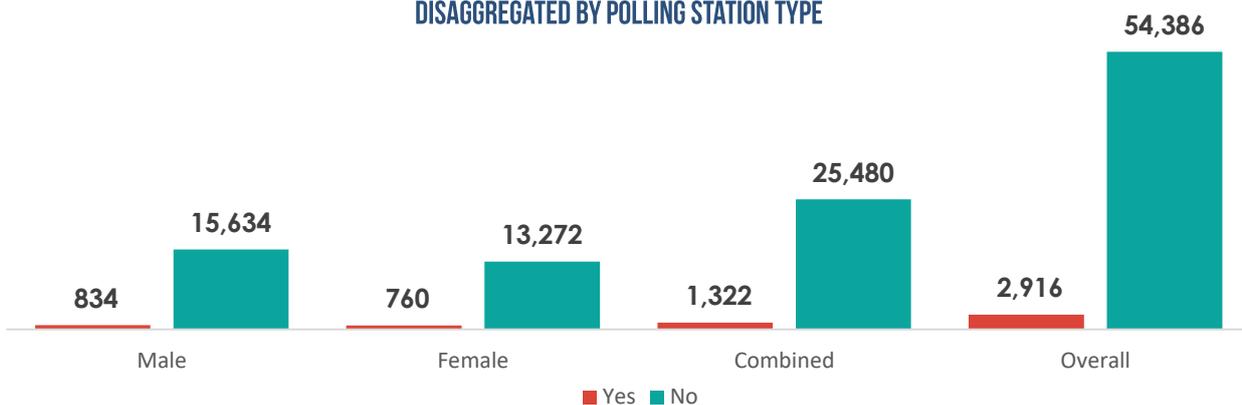
**FIGURE 4.19.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO PUT OFFICIAL STAMP ON BACKSIDE OF BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, APOs were observed stamping official marks at 15,634 (95 percent) male polling stations, 13,272 (95 percent) female polling stations and 25,480 (95 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where they were observed not to do so included 834 (five percent) male stations, 760 (five percent) female stations, and 1,322 (five percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 4.19.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO PUT OFFICIAL STAMP ON BACKSIDE OF BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.20 Omitting to Sign on Backside of Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The ballot paper shall be stamped on its back with the official mark and signed by the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(4)(d)*

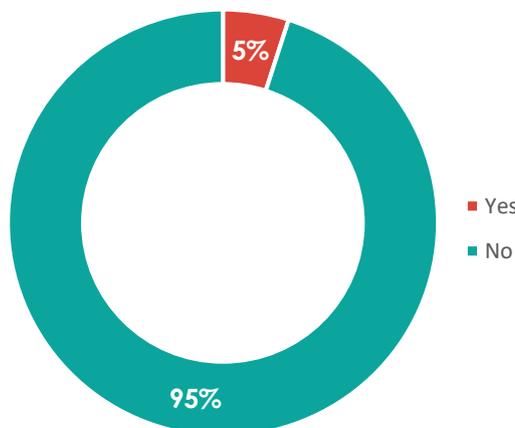
APO issues the National Assembly ballot paper after the filling the counterfoil, gets the right thumb impression of the female voter and the left thumb impression of the male voter and signs after putting on the counterfoil. Then he/she detaches the ballot papers and signs and puts official stamp on its back. Hands the ballot paper along with the marking aid stamp to the voter and guides him/her to the voting screen.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 35*

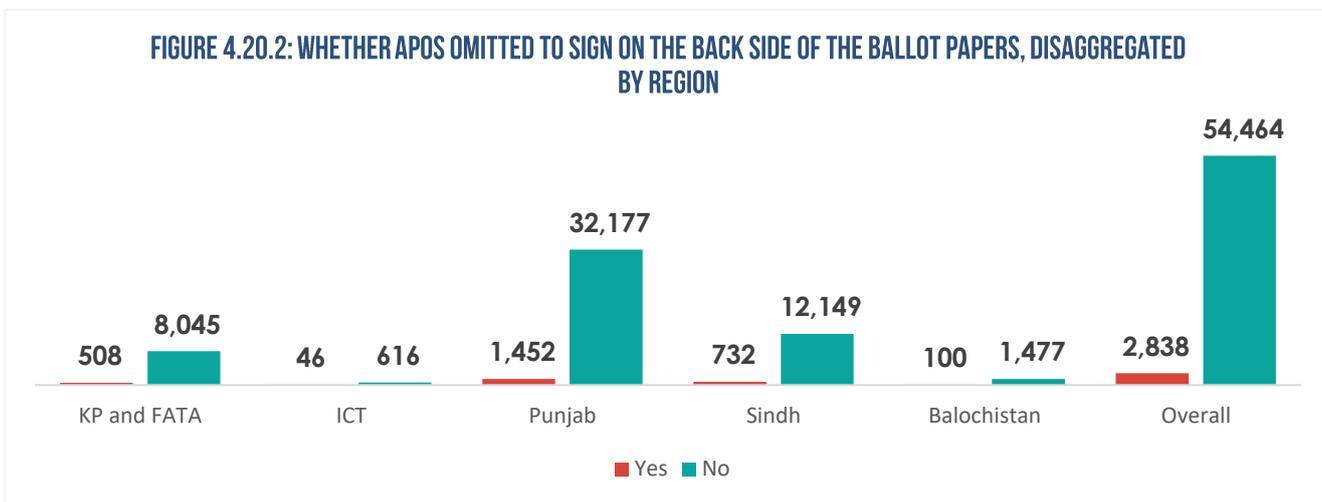
APOs for National Assembly election were observed writing their signatures on the back side of each ballot paper at 54,464 (95 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, they were observed failing to do so at 2,838 (five percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which APO for National Assembly election were observed signing the backside of each ballot paper included 32,177 (96 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,149 (94 percent) in Sindh, 8,045 (94 percent) in KP, 1,477 (94 percent) in Balochistan and 616 (93 percent) polling stations in ICT. On the other hand, polling stations in which APOs were not observed doing so included 1,452 (four percent) polling stations in Punjab, 732 (six percent) in Sindh, 508 (six percent) in KP, 100 (six percent) in Balochistan, and 46 (seven percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.20.1: DID APOS OMIT TO SIGN ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE BALLOT PAPERS?**

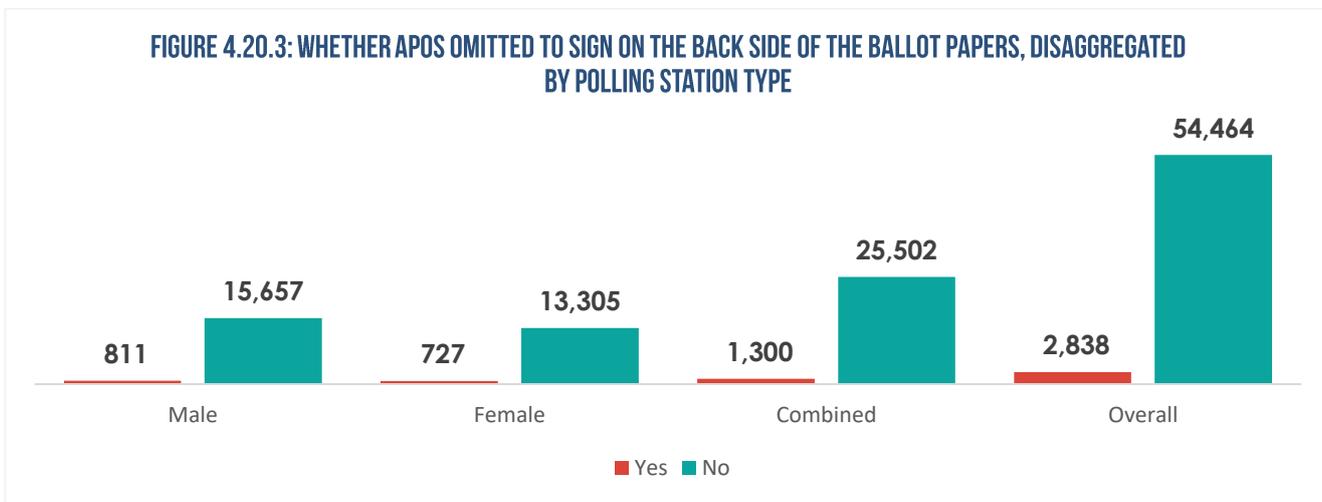


**FIGURE 4.20.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO SIGN ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that APOs were observed signing the backsides of ballot papers at 15,657 (95 percent) male polling stations, 13,305 (95 percent) female polling stations and 25,502 (95 percent) combined polling stations. Conversely, APOs were not doing so at 811 (five percent) male stations, 727 (five percent) female stations and 1,300 (five percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.20.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO SIGN ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.21 Issuing Ballot Papers to Voters Refusing to Mark Thumb Impressions on Counterfoils

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A ballot paper shall not be issued to a person who refuses to put his thumb impression on the counterfoil or, as the case may be, on the space provided for the purpose on the electoral roll against his photograph or whose thumb bears traces of its having already been used for putting an impression.

*The Elections Act, Section 84(5)(b)*



APOs for National Assembly election did not issue ballot papers to voters who refused to mark their thumbprints on counterfoils at 55,891 (98 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, they were observed to do so at 1,411 (two percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which APOs for National Assembly election were not issuing ballot papers to voters who refused to mark thumbprints on counterfoils included 32,880 (98 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,514 (97 percent) in Sindh, 8,332 (97 percent) in KP, 1,516 (96 percent) in Balochistan and 649 (98 percent) ICT. Polling stations in which APOs reportedly issued ballot papers to voters who refused to thumbprint their counterfoils included 749 (two percent) polling stations in Punjab, 367 (three percent) in Sindh, 221 (three percent) in KP, 61 (four percent) in Balochistan and 13 (two percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 4.21.1: DID APOS ISSUE BALLOT PAPERS TO VOTERS REFUSING TO PUT THUMB PRINTS ON COUNTERFOILS?

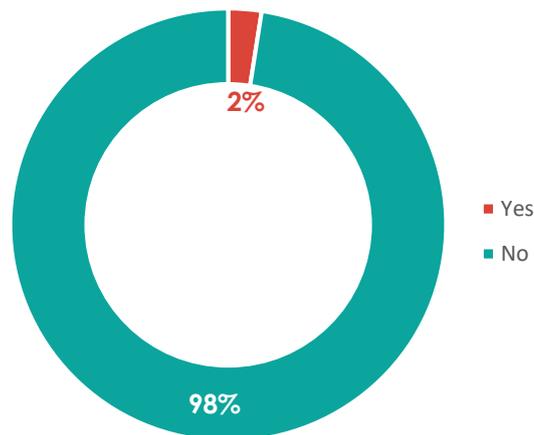
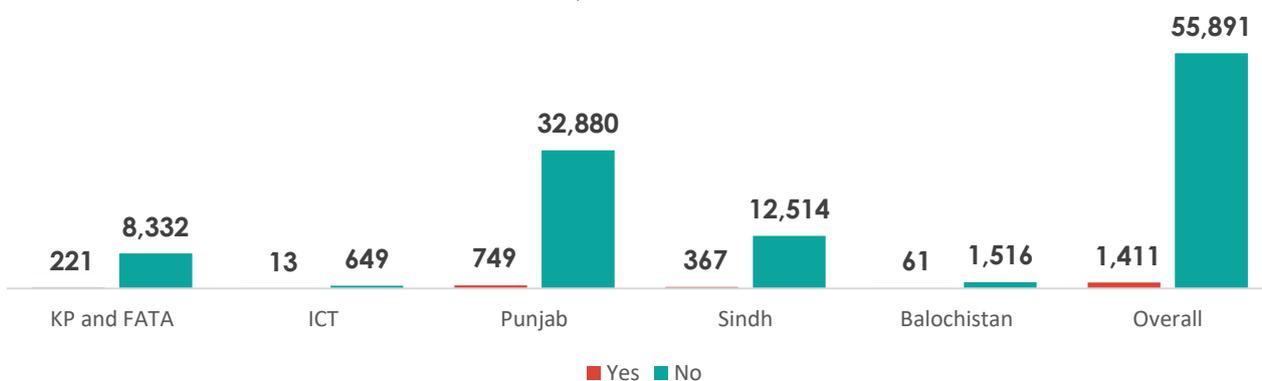
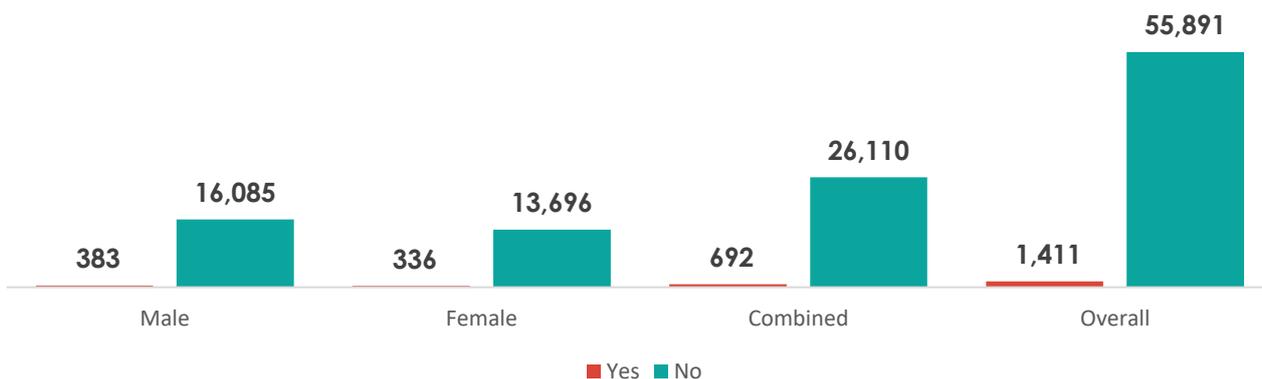


FIGURE 4.21.2: WHETHER APOS ISSUED BALLOT PAPERS TO VOTERS REFUSING TO PUT THUMB PRINTS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that APOs did not issue ballot papers to uncooperative voters at 16,085 (98 percent) male polling stations, 13,696 (98 percent) female polling stations, and 26,110 (97 percent) combined polling stations. However, they reportedly did so at 383 (two percent) male stations, 336 (two percent) female stations and 692 (three percent) combined polling stations.

FIGURE 4.21.3: WHETHER APOS ISSUED BALLOT PAPERS TO VOTERS REFUSING TO PUT THUMB PRINTS ON COUNTERFOILS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.22 Allegations of Multiple Ballot Papers in Possession of a Voter

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

If a contesting candidate or his election agent or polling agent alleges that a voter to whom a ballot paper is about to be issued already has one or more ballot papers in his possession, the Presiding Officer may require the voter to satisfy him that he does not have any other ballot paper in his possession and may also take such measures as he thinks fit to ensure that such voter does not insert more than one ballot paper in the ballot box.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(6)*

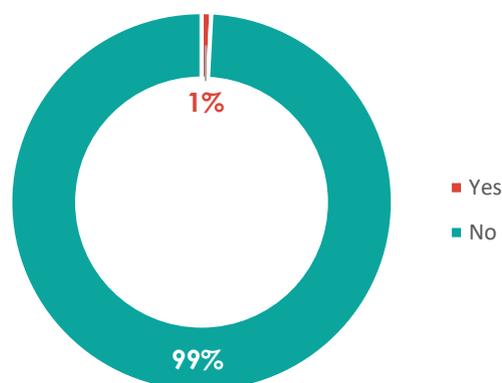
Polling agent can raise objection on any voter on the ground that the voter has already voted in the election at the same or another polling station, or is not the person whose name is entered in the electoral roll.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 7*

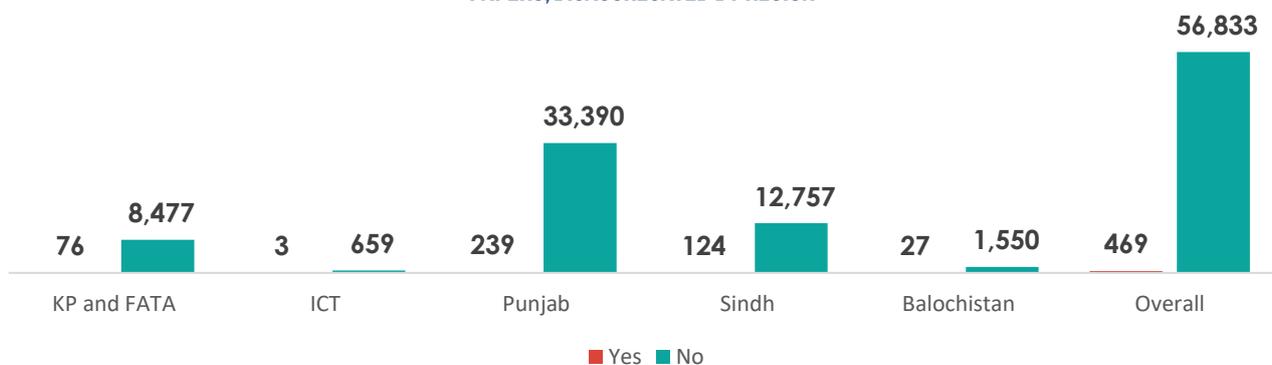
FAFEN observers reported that allegations of at least one voter possessing multiple ballot papers were made at 469 (one percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, no such allegation was reported at the vast majority (56,833 or 99 percent) of the polling stations.

Polling stations in which allegations of voters possessing multiple ballot papers were made included 239 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, 124 (one percent) in Sindh, 76 (one percent) in KP, 27 (two percent) in Balochistan and three (less than one percent) in ICT. On the other hand, no such allegations were reported at 33,390 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,757 (99 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 8,477 (99 percent) in KP, 1,550 (98 percent) in Balochistan and 659 (more than 99 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.22.1: DID ANY POLLING AGENT ALLEGE THAT VOTERS WERE IN POSSESSION OF MULTIPLE BALLOT PAPERS?**



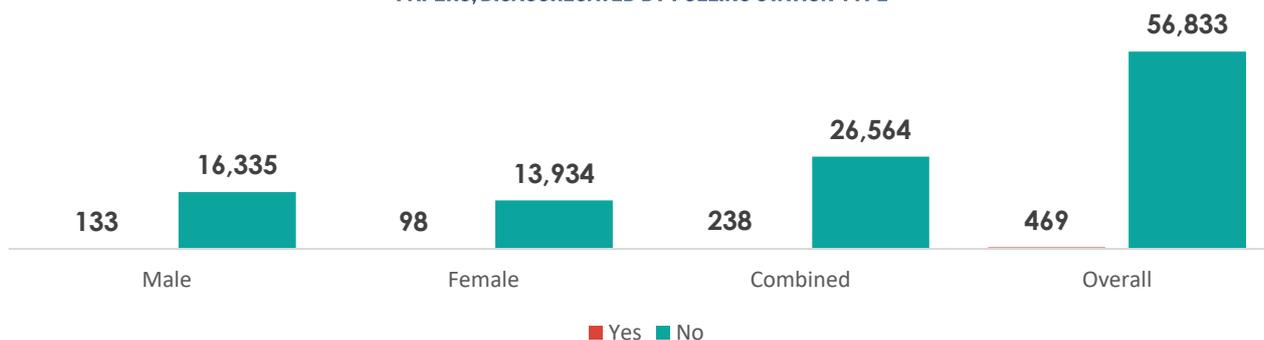
**FIGURE 4.22.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS ALLEGED THAT VOTERS WERE IN POSSESSION OF MULTIPLE BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that allegations of more than one ballot paper in possession of a voter were made at 133 (one percent) male polling stations, 98 (one percent) female stations, and 238 (one percent) combined polling stations. No such allegation was reported from 16,335 (99 percent) male polling stations, 13,934 (99 percent) female polling stations and 26,564 (99 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 4.22.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS ALLEGED THAT VOTERS WERE IN POSSESSION OF MULTIPLE BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.23 Omitting to Instruct Voters on Folding Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

On receiving the ballot paper, the voter shall: after he has so marked the ballot paper, fold and insert it in the ballot box.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(7)(c)*

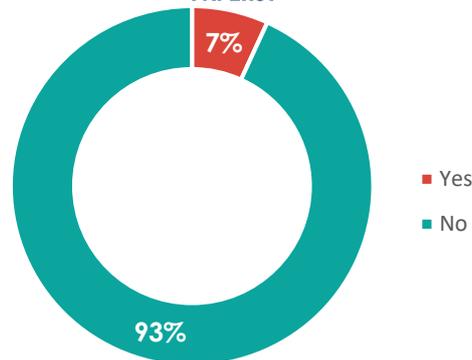
A voter, on receiving the ballot paper, shall forthwith: fold the ballot paper so as to conceal his vote.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 112(1)(c)*

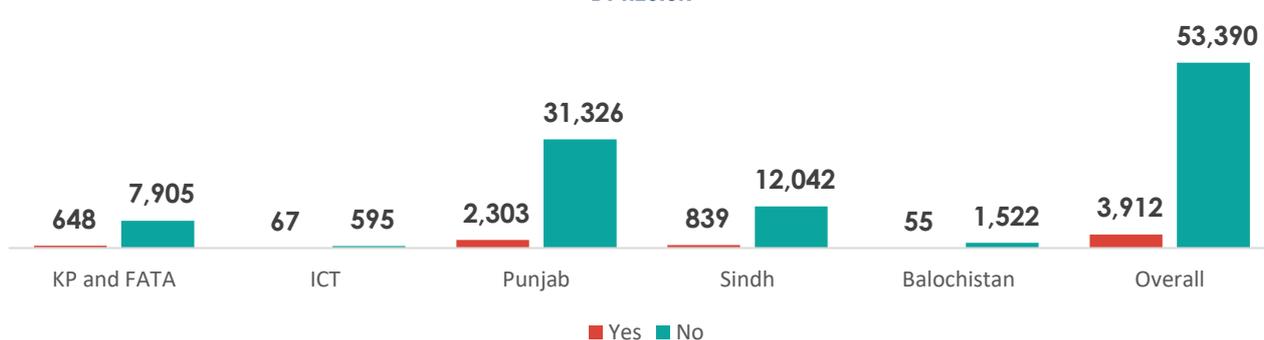
APOs were observed instructing voters to properly fold ballot papers at 53,390 (93 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, instructions were not provided to voters at 3,912 (seven percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which APOs were reportedly not instructing voters on folding ballot papers included 2,303 (seven percent) polling stations in Punjab, 839 (seven percent) in Sindh, 648 (eight percent) in KP, 55 (three percent) in Balochistan, and 67 (10 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, APOs were observed instructing voters at 31,326 (93 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,042 (93 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 7,905 (92 percent) in KP, 1,522 (97 percent) in Balochistan, and 595 (90 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.23.1: DID APOS OMITTING TO INSTRUCT VOTERS ON FOLDING BALLOT PAPERS?**

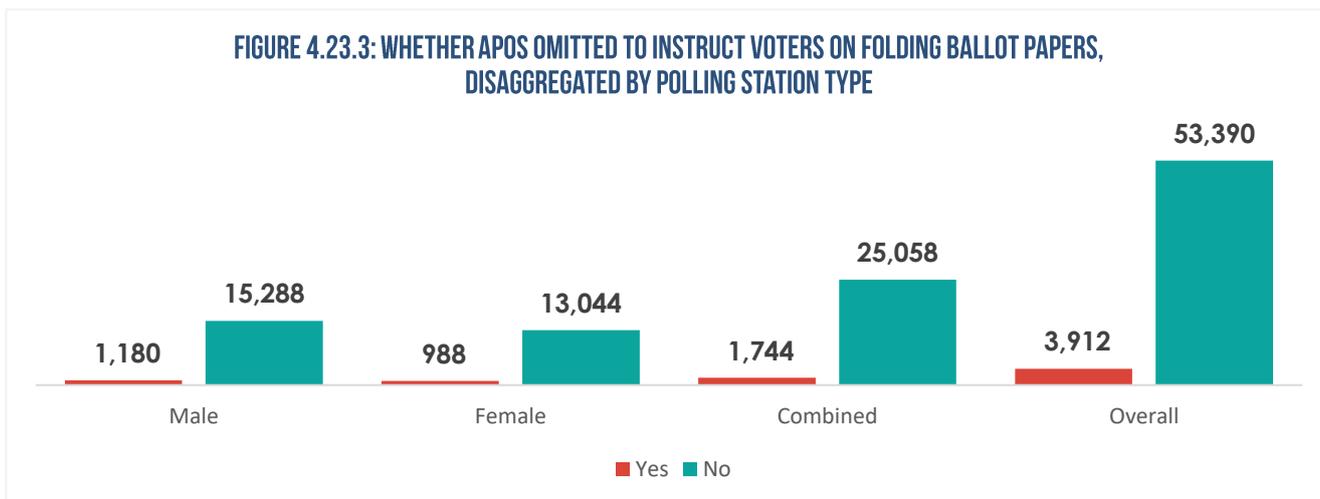


**FIGURE 4.23.2: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO INSTRUCT VOTERS ON FOLDING BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Diaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that APOs were not providing the required instructions to voters at 1,180 (three percent) male, 988 (three percent) female and 1,744 (three percent) combined polling stations. APOs instructed voters at 15,288 (93 percent) male stations, 13,044 (93 percent) female stations, and 25,058 (93 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.23.3: WHETHER APOS OMITTED TO INSTRUCT VOTERS ON FOLDING BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.24 Unauthorized Persons Accompanying Voters behind Voting Screens

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

“An election under this Act shall be held by secret ballot...”

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 81*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

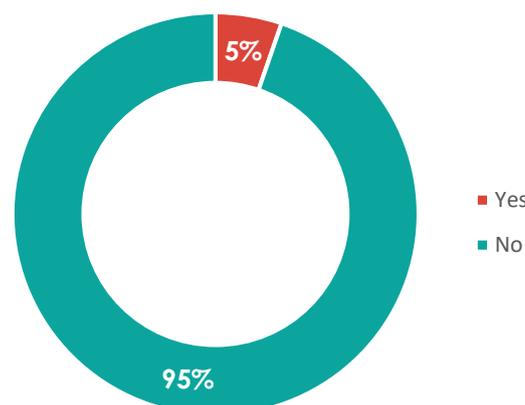
A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

FAFEN observers reported that voters were accompanied by unauthorized persons behind secrecy screens at 3,024 (five percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations, however, no such observation was made in the remaining 54,278 (95 percent) polling stations.

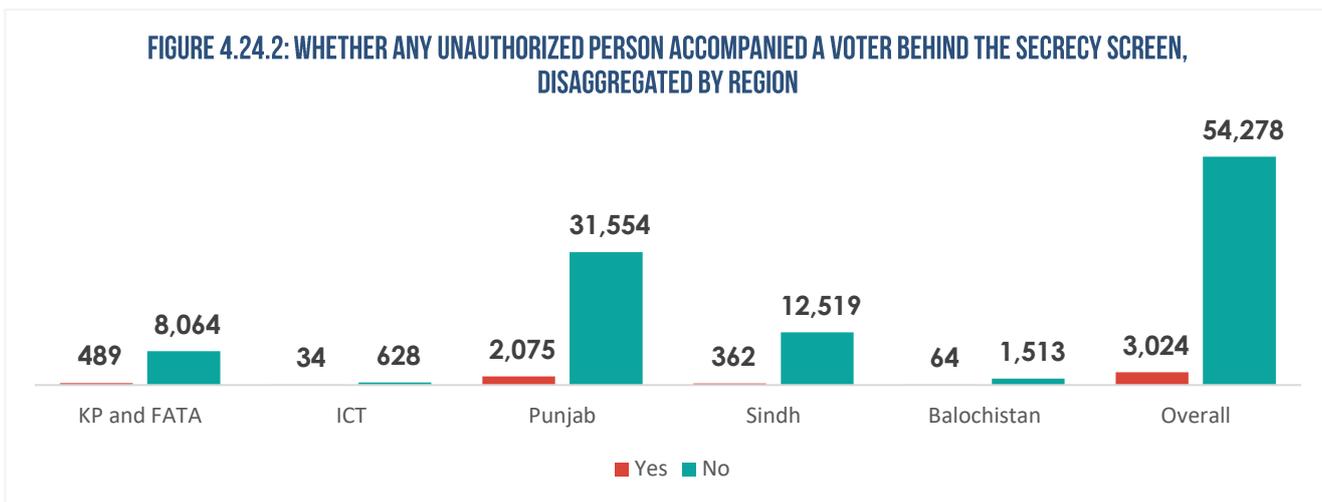
Polling stations in which unauthorized persons were seen accompanying voters behind secrecy screens included 489 (six percent) polling stations in KP, 34 (five percent) in ICT, 2,075 (six percent) in Punjab, 362 (three percent) in Sindh, and 64 (four percent) in Balochistan. Whereas, no such observation was made at 8,064 (94 percent) polling stations in KP, 628 (95 percent) in ICT, 31,554 (94 percent) in Punjab, 12,519 (97 percent) in Sindh and 1,513 (96 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 4.24.1: DID ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON ACCOMPANY A VOTER BEHIND THE SECRECY SCREEN?**



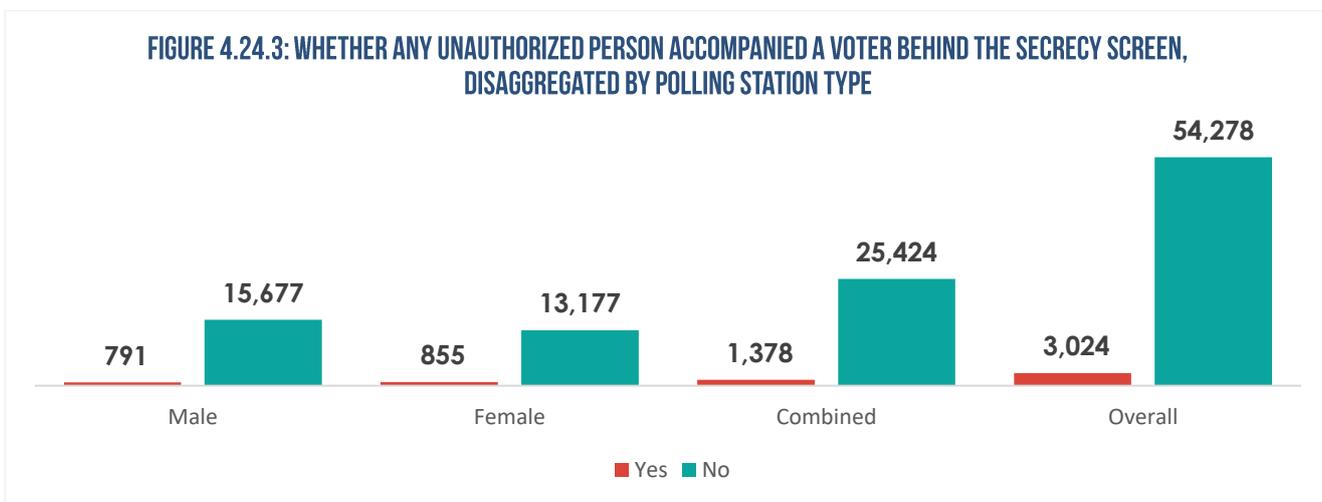


**FIGURE 4.24.2: WHETHER ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON ACCOMPANIED A VOTER BEHIND THE SECRECY SCREEN, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that unauthorized persons accompanied voters behind secrecy screens at 791 (five percent) of the male polling stations, 855 (six percent) of the female polling stations and 1,378 (five percent) of the combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, no such observation was made at 15,677 (95 percent) male stations, 13,177 (94 percent) female stations, and 25,424 (95 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.24.3: WHETHER ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON ACCOMPANIED A VOTER BEHIND THE SECRECY SCREEN, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.25 Polling Agents Marking Ballot Papers on behalf of Voters

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

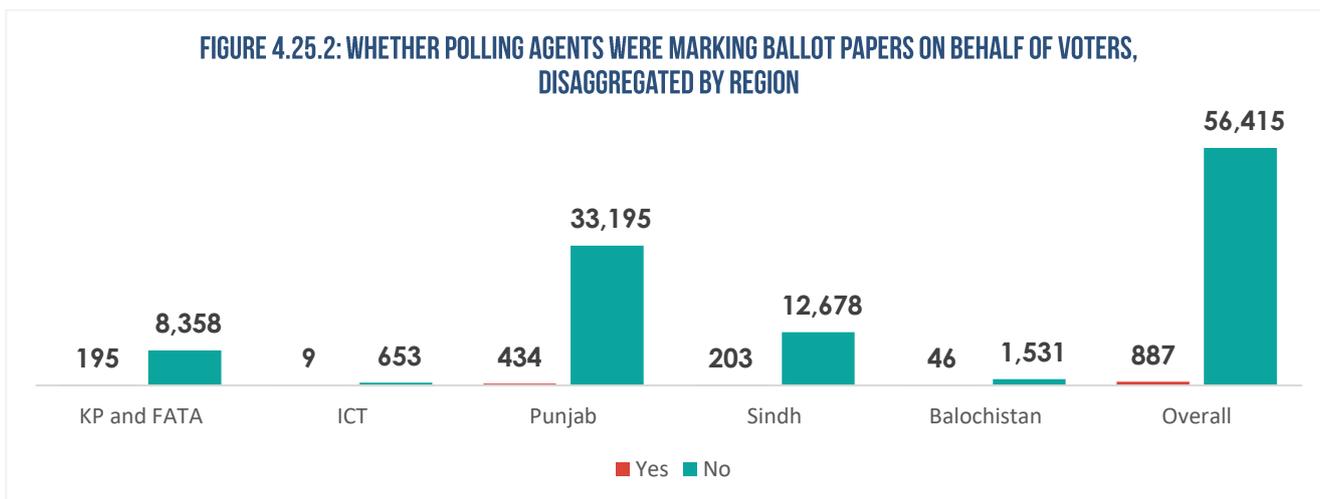
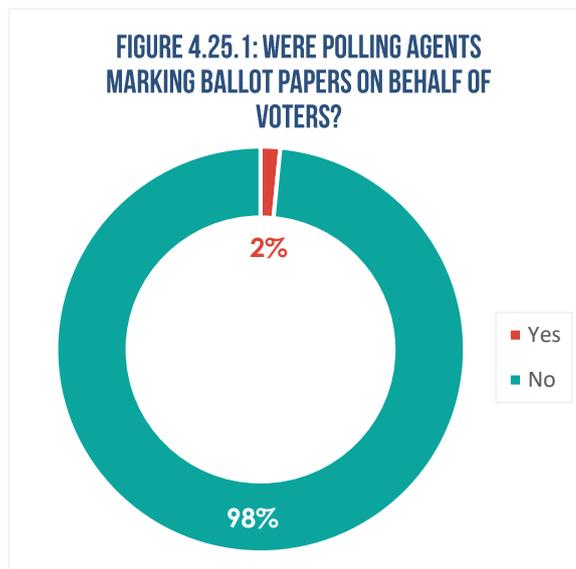
*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

Polling agent must maintain secrecy of voting and he should not aid in violating the secrecy of voting at any cost.

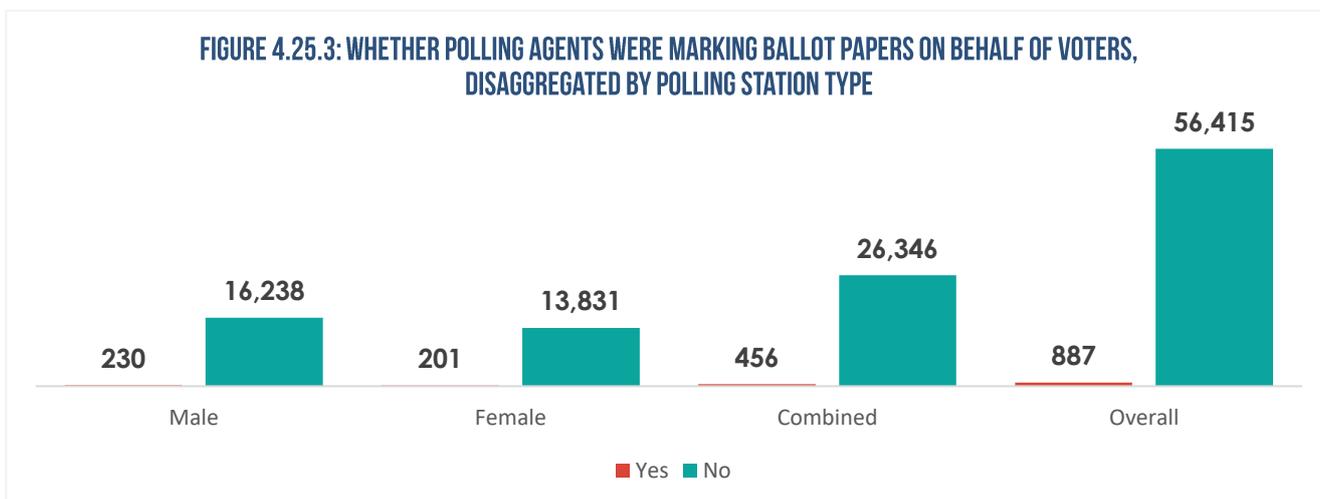
*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 16*

FAFEN observers reported that polling agents, instead of the voters themselves, were seen stamping ballot papers at 887 (two percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations, however, no such observation was made in the vast majority (56,415 or 98 percent) of the observed polling stations.

Polling stations in which polling agents were observed marking ballot papers on behalf of voters included 195 (two percent) polling stations in KP, nine (one percent) in ICT, 434 (one percent) in Punjab, 203 (two percent) in Sindh and 46 (three percent) in Balochistan. No such observation was reported at 8,358 (98 percent) polling stations in KP, 653 (99 percent) in ICT, 33,195 (99 percent) in Punjab, 12,678 (98 percent) in Sindh and 1,531 (97 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that polling agents stamped ballot papers on behalf of voters at 230 (one percent) of the male polling stations, 201 (one percent) of the female polling stations and 456 (two percent) of the combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, no such observation was reported at 16,238 (99 percent) male stations, 13,831 (99 percent) female stations, and 26,346 (98 percent) combined polling stations.





## 4.26 Polling Staff Marking Ballot Papers on Behalf of Voters

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

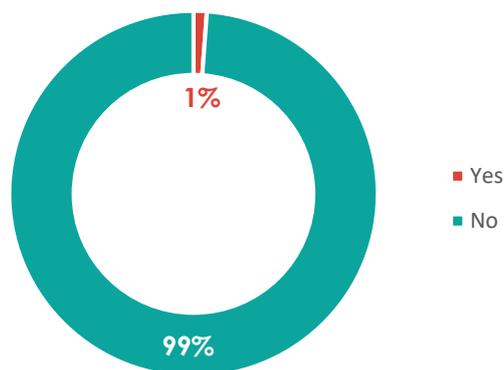
A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

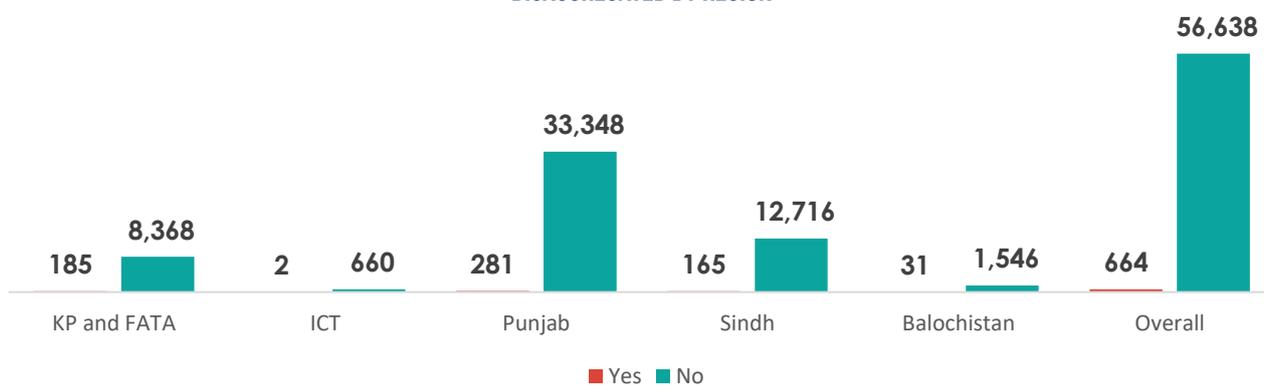
FAFEN observers did not report any incidents of polling staff marking ballot papers on behalf of voters at 56,638 (99 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations, however, the outlawed practice was observed at 664 (one percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which the violation was reported included 281 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, 185 in KP (two percent), 165 in Sindh (one percent), 31 in Balochistan (two percent) and only two in ICT. No such violation was reported at 33,348 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,716 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,368 in KP (98 percent), 1,546 in Balochistan (98 percent) and 660 in ICT (100 percent).

**FIGURE 4.26.1: WAS POLLING STAFF MARKING BALLOT PAPERS ON BEHALF OF VOTERS?**

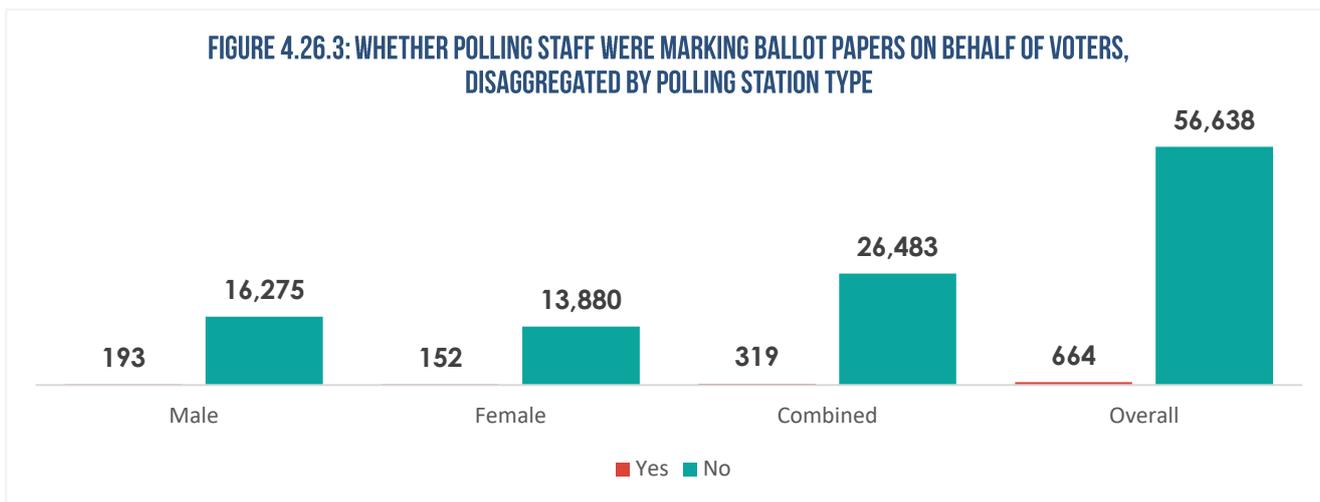


**FIGURE 4.26.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE MARKING BALLOT PAPERS ON BEHALF OF VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation occurred at 193 (one percent) male polling stations, 152 (one percent) female polling station and 319 (one percent) combined polling stations. The violation was not reported from 16,275 (99 percent) male stations, 13,880 (99 percent) female stations, and 26,483 (99 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.26.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE MARKING BALLOT PAPERS ON BEHALF OF VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.27 Polling Staff Influencing Voters by Signalling towards Symbols of certain Parties/Candidates

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

An election official or any other person performing a duty in connection with an election, or any member of a law enforcement agency, is guilty of breach of official duty, if he, in the conduct or management of an election or maintenance of order at a polling station:

- (a) persuades any person to give his vote;
- (b) dissuades any person from giving his vote;
- (c) Influences in any manner the voting of any person; or
- (d) does any other act calculated to influence the result of the election.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 186*

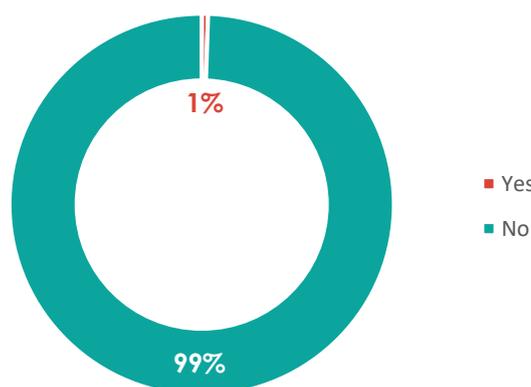
A person appointed to perform any function in connection with an election is guilty of violation of official duty, if he willfully or negligently influences a voter as mentioned in section 186;

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 184*

FAFEN observers did not report any incident of polling staff trying to influence voters' choices by signalling towards the symbols of certain parties or candidates at the overwhelming majority (56,996 or 99 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, the violation was reported at 306 (one percent) polling stations.

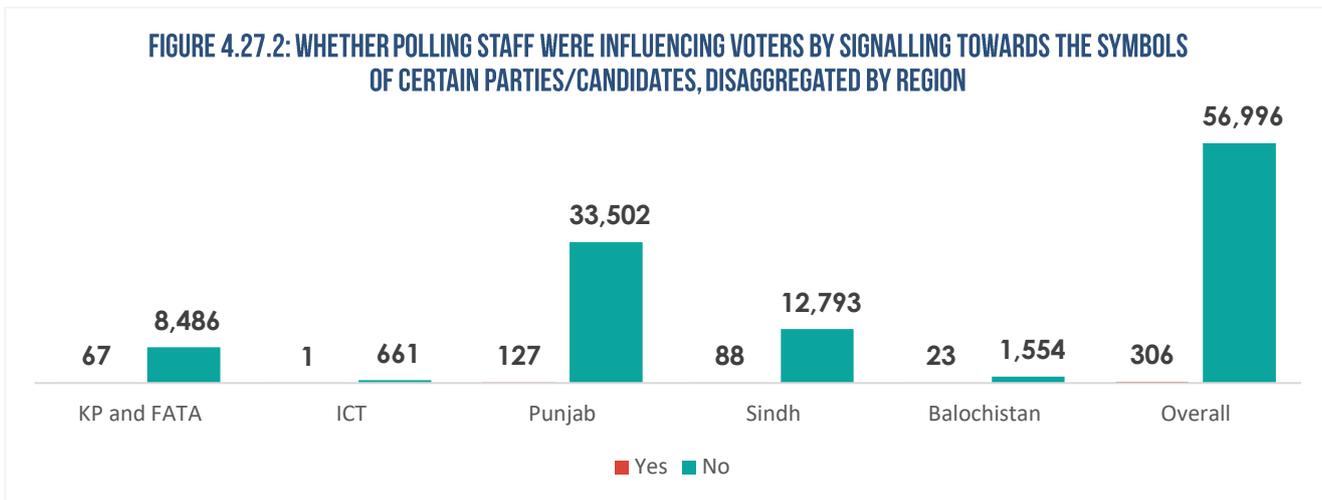
Polling stations in which the violation was observed included 127 polling stations in Punjab, 88 (less than one percent) in Sindh, 67 (one percent) in KP (one percent), 23 (one percent) in Balochistan and only one in ICT. No such violation was reported at 33,502 (100 percent) polling stations in Punjab; 12,793 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,486 (99 percent) in KP, 1,554 (99 percent) in Balochistan, and 661 (100 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.27.1: WAS POLLING STAFF INFLUENCING VOTERS BY SIGNALLING TOWARDS THE SYMBOLS OF CERTAIN PARTIES/CANDIDATES?**



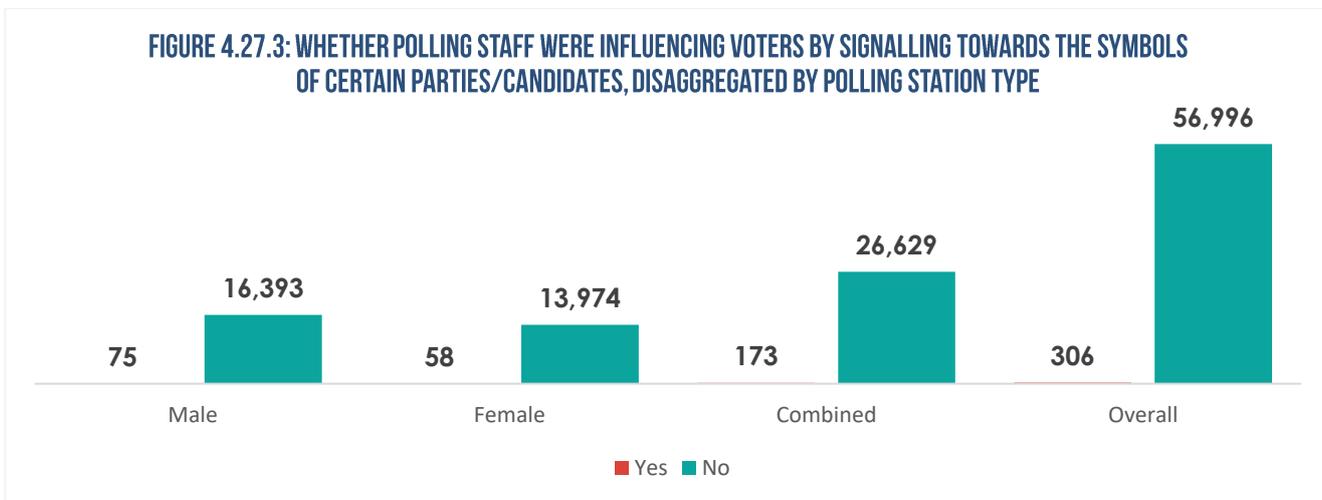


**FIGURE 4.27.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE INFLUENCING VOTERS BY SIGNALLING TOWARDS THE SYMBOLS OF CERTAIN PARTIES/CANDIDATES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation was not observed in 16,393 (99 percent) male polling stations, 13,974 (99 percent) female polling stations and 26,629 (99 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations in which the violation was observed included 75 (less than one percent) male polling stations, 58 (less than one percent) female stations, and 173 (one percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.27.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE INFLUENCING VOTERS BY SIGNALLING TOWARDS THE SYMBOLS OF CERTAIN PARTIES/CANDIDATES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.28 Polling Staff Asking Voters about their Voting Choices

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

“An election under this Act shall be held by secret ballot...”

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 81*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

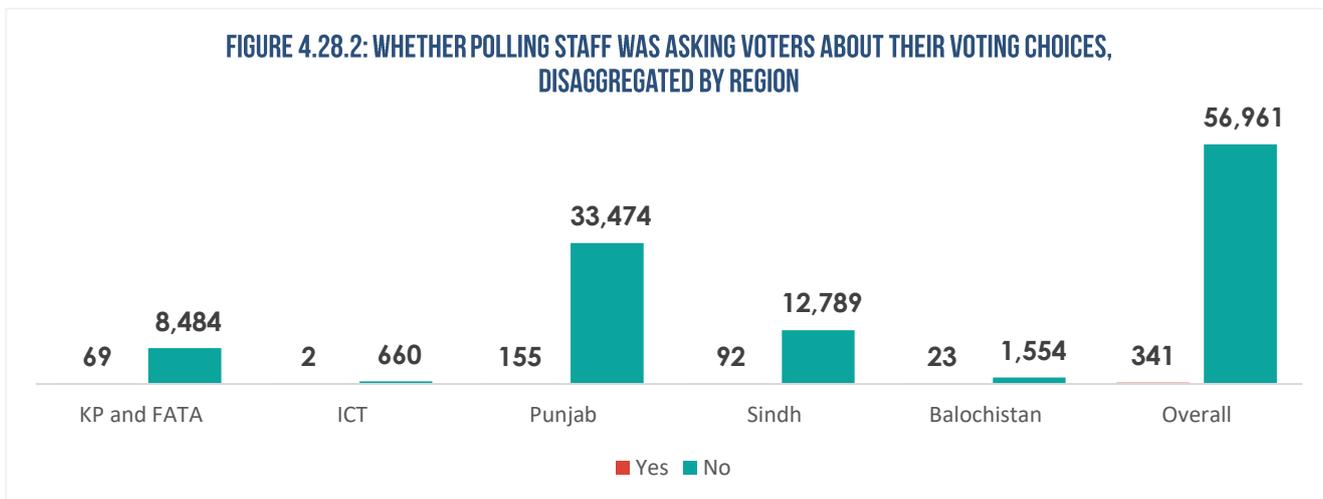
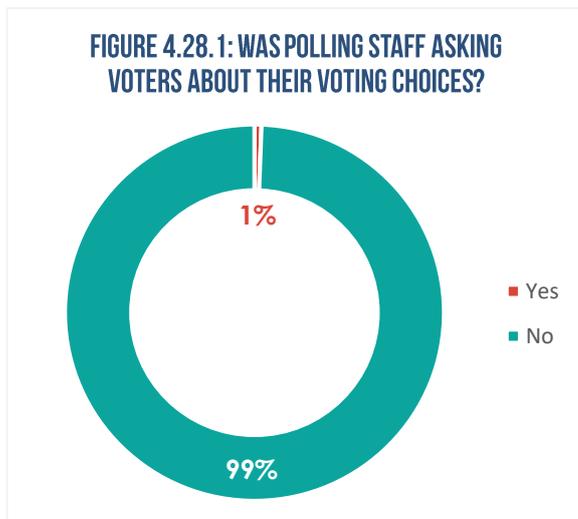
An election official or any other person performing a duty in connection with an election, or any member of a law enforcement agency, is guilty of breach of official duty, if he, in the conduct or management of an election or maintenance of order at a polling station:

- (a) persuades any person to give his vote;
- (b) dissuades any person from giving his vote;
- (c) Influences in any manner the voting of any person; or
- (d) does any other act calculated to influence the result of the election.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 186*

FAFEN observers did not witness any incident of polling staff asking voters about their voting choices at the overwhelming majority (56,961 or 99 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, the violation was observed at 341 (one percent) polling stations.

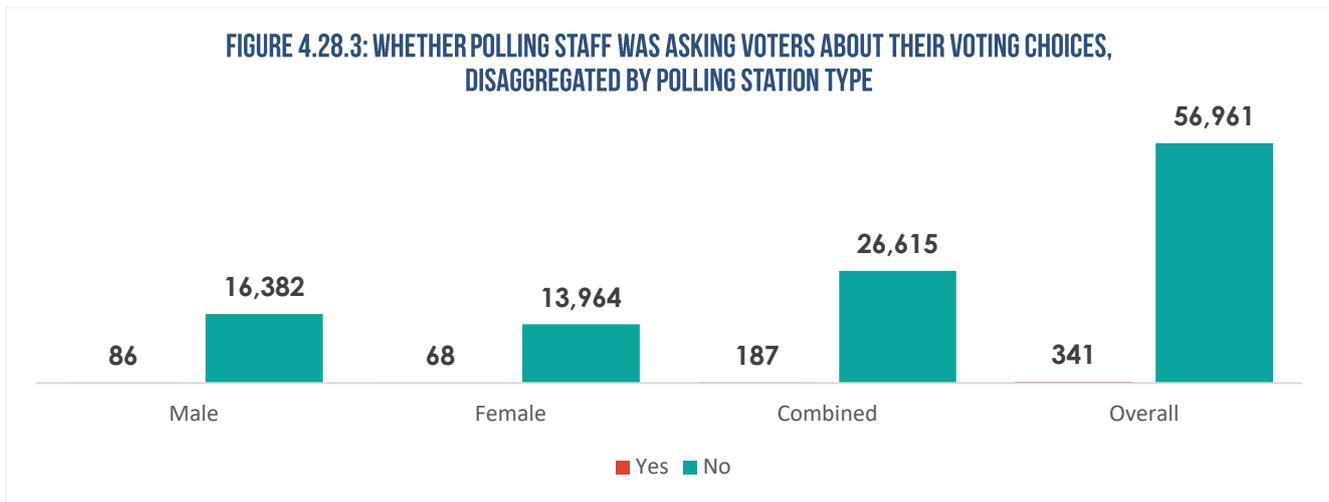
Polling stations in which the violation was observed included 155 polling stations in Punjab, 92 (less than one percent) in Sindh, 69 (less than one percent) in KP, 23 (one percent) in Balochistan and only two (less than one percent) in ICT. The violation was not reported at 33,474 (more than 99 percent) polling stations in Punjab; 12,789 (more than 99 percent) in Sindh, 8,484 (more than 99 percent) in KP, 1,554 (99 percent) in Balochistan and 660 (more than 99 percent) in ICT.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation occurred at 86 (one percent) male polling stations, 68 (one percent) female polling stations and 187 (one percent) combined polling stations. The violation was not observed at 16,382 (99 percent) male polling stations, 13,964 (99 percent) female polling stations and 26,615 (99 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 4.28.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WAS ASKING VOTERS ABOUT THEIR VOTING CHOICES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.29 Polling Agents Influencing Voters by Signalling towards Symbols of Certain Parties or Candidates

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

A person is guilty of the offence of corrupt practice if he is guilty of bribery, personation, exercising undue influence, capturing of polling station or polling booth, tampering with papers, and making or publishing a false statement or declaration.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 167(a)*

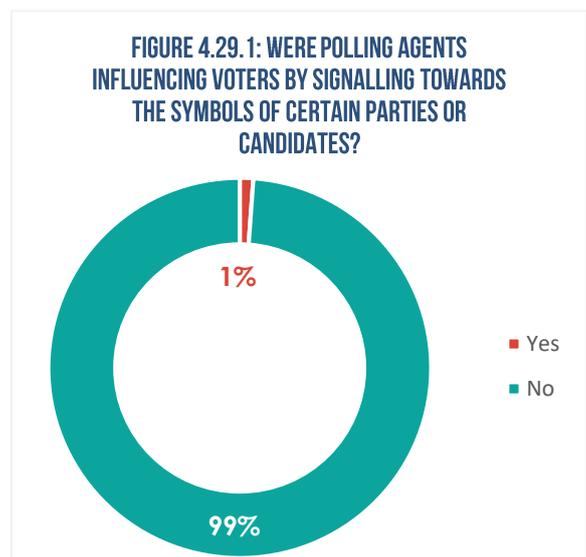
Polling agent must maintain secrecy of voting and he should not aid in violating the secrecy of voting at any cost.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 16*

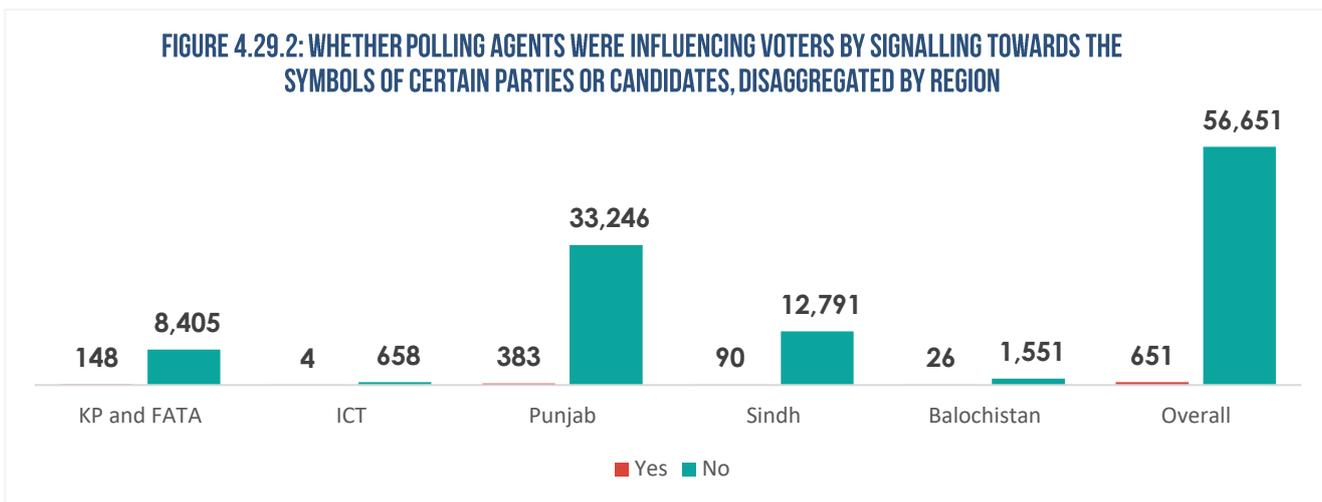
FAFEN observers did not witness any incident of polling agents trying to influence voters' choices by signalling towards the symbols of certain parties or candidates at the overwhelming majority (56,651 or 99 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, the violation was observed at 651 (one percent) polling stations.

Observers did not report any such incident at 33,246 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,791 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,405 (99 percent) in KP, 1,551 (98 percent) in Balochistan and 658 (99 percent) in ICT. However, polling stations in which the violation was reported included 383 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, 148 (two percent) in KP, 90 (one percent) in Sindh, 26 (two percent) in Balochistan and four (one percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.29.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS INFLUENCING VOTERS BY SIGNALLING TOWARDS THE SYMBOLS OF CERTAIN PARTIES OR CANDIDATES?**

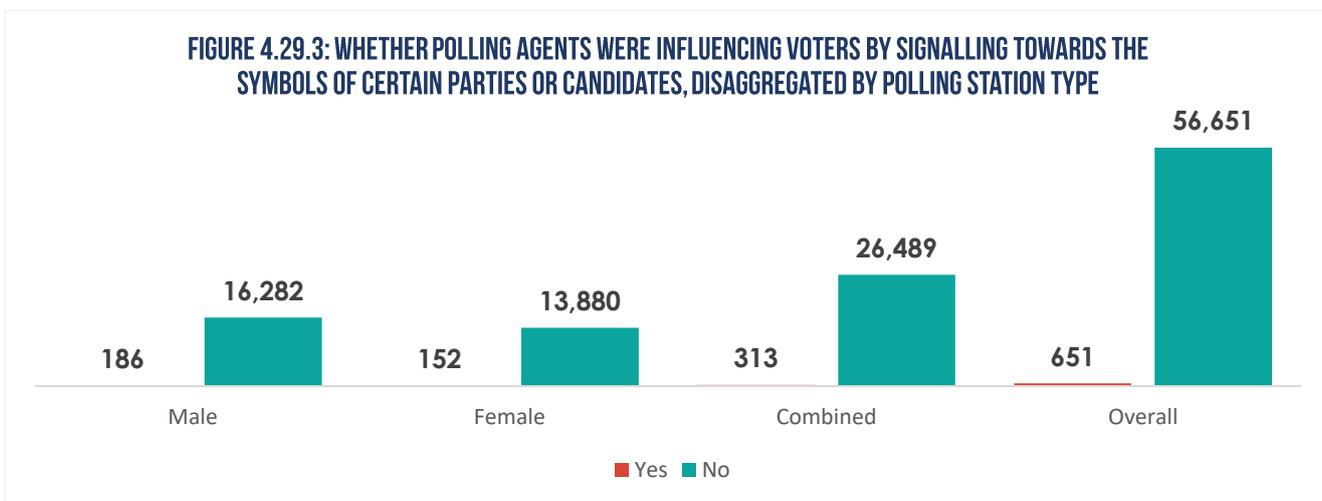


**FIGURE 4.29.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS WERE INFLUENCING VOTERS BY SIGNALLING TOWARDS THE SYMBOLS OF CERTAIN PARTIES OR CANDIDATES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that polling agents were not seen trying to influence voters at 16,282 (99 percent) male polling stations, 13,880 (99 percent) female polling stations, and 26,489 (99 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations in which the violation was observed included 186 (one percent) male stations, 152 (one percent) female stations, and 313 (one percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.29.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS WERE INFLUENCING VOTERS BY SIGNALLING TOWARDS THE SYMBOLS OF CERTAIN PARTIES OR CANDIDATES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.30 Polling Agents Asking Voters about their Voting Choices

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

A person is guilty of the offence of corrupt practice if he is guilty of bribery, personation, exercising undue influence, capturing of polling station or polling booth, tampering with papers, and making or publishing a false statement or declaration.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 167(a)*

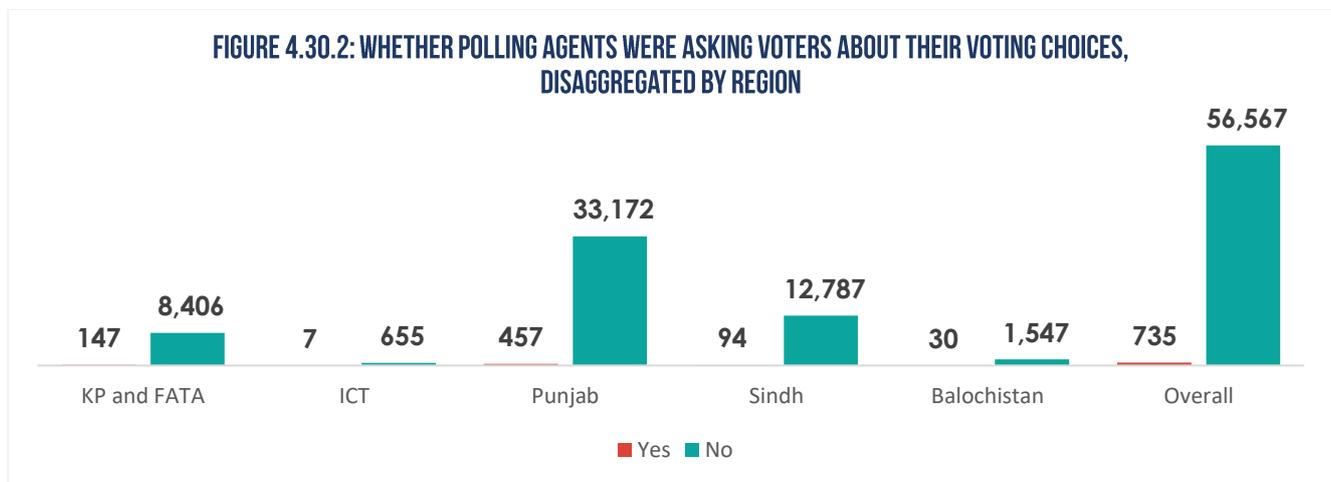
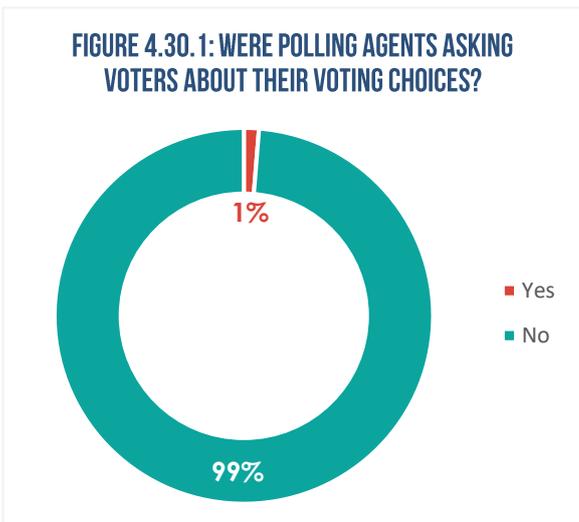


Polling agent must maintain secrecy of voting and he should not aid in violating the secrecy of voting at any cost.

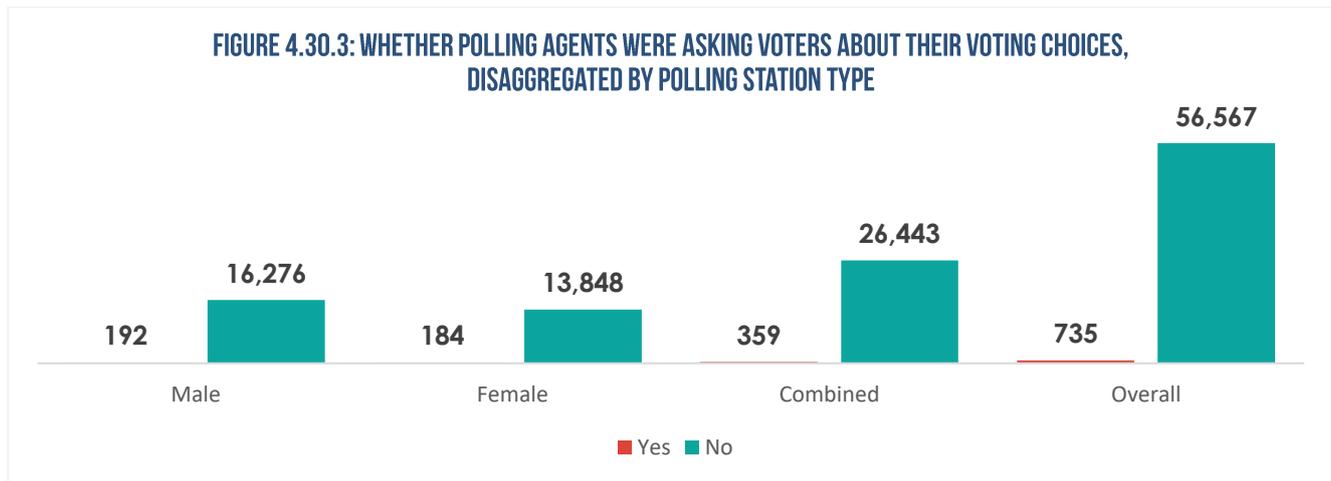
*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 16*

FAFEN observers did not report any incident of polling agents asking voters about their voting choices at the overwhelming majority (56,567 or 99 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, polling agents were seen doing so at 735 (one percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which the violation was reported included 457 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, 147 in KP (two percent), 94 (one percent) in Sindh, 30 (two percent) in Balochistan and seven (one percent) in ICT. No such violation was observed at 33,172 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,787 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,406 (98 percent) in KP, 1,547 (98 percent) in Balochistan and 655 (99 percent) in ICT.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation was observed at 192 (one percent) male polling stations, 184 (one percent) female polling station and 359 (one percent) combined polling stations. Conversely, the violation was not reported at 16,276 (99 percent) male polling stations, 13,848 (99 percent) female polling stations and 26,443 (99 percent) combined polling stations.



## 4.31 Unauthorized Persons Exerting Influence on Voters to Vote for certain Parties/Candidates

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he in any manner obtains or attempts to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate or candidates for whom a voter is about to vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(b)*

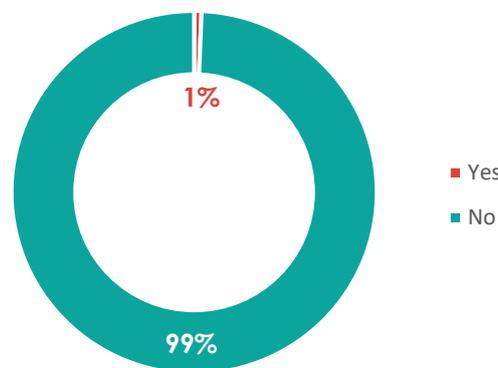
A person is guilty of the offence of corrupt practice if he is guilty of bribery, personation, exercising undue influence, capturing of polling station or polling booth, tampering with papers, and making or publishing a false statement or declaration.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 167(a)*

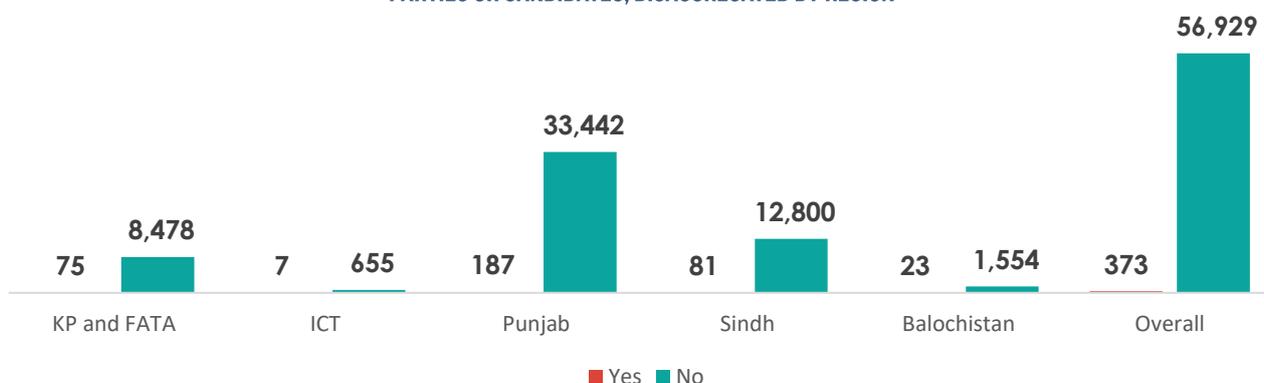
FAFEN observers did not report any incidents of unauthorized persons exerting influence on voters to vote for certain parties or candidates at the overwhelming majority (56,929 or 99 percent) of the 57,302 observed polling stations. However, the violation was observed at 373 (one percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which the violation was observed included 187 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, 81 (one percent) in Sindh, 75 (one percent) in KP, 23 (one percent) in Balochistan and seven (one percent) in ICT. The violation was not observed at 33,442 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab; 12,800 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,478 (99 percent) in KP, 1,554 (99 percent) in Balochistan and 655 (99 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 4.31.1: WERE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS INFLUENCING VOTERS TO VOTE FOR CERTAIN PARTIES OR CANDIDATES?**



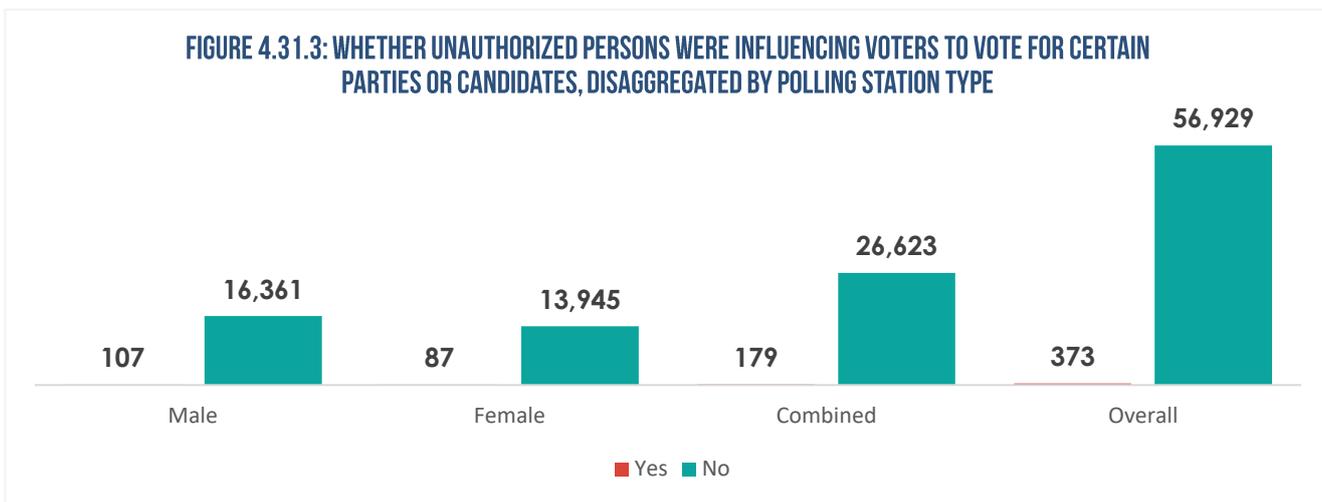
**FIGURE 4.31.2: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE INFLUENCING VOTERS TO VOTE FOR CERTAIN PARTIES OR CANDIDATES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation was observed at 107 (one percent) male polling stations, 87 (one percent) female polling stations and 179 (one percent) combined polling stations. Unauthorized persons exerting influence on voters were not observed at 16,361 (99 percent) male stations, 13,945 (99 percent) female stations, and 26,623 (99 percent) combined polling stations.



FIGURE 4.31.3: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE INFLUENCING VOTERS TO VOTE FOR CERTAIN PARTIES OR CANDIDATES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 4.32 Unauthorized Persons Trying to Influence Polling Staff

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of interference with the secrecy of voting if he interferes or attempts to interfere with a voter when he records his vote.

*The Elections Act, 2017 Section 178(a)*

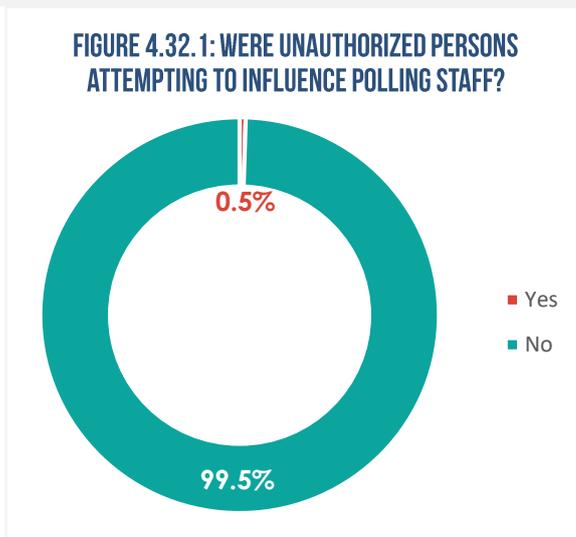
A person is guilty of the offence of corrupt practice if he is guilty of bribery, personation, exercising undue influence, capturing of polling station or polling booth, tampering with papers, and making or publishing a false statement or declaration.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 167(a)*

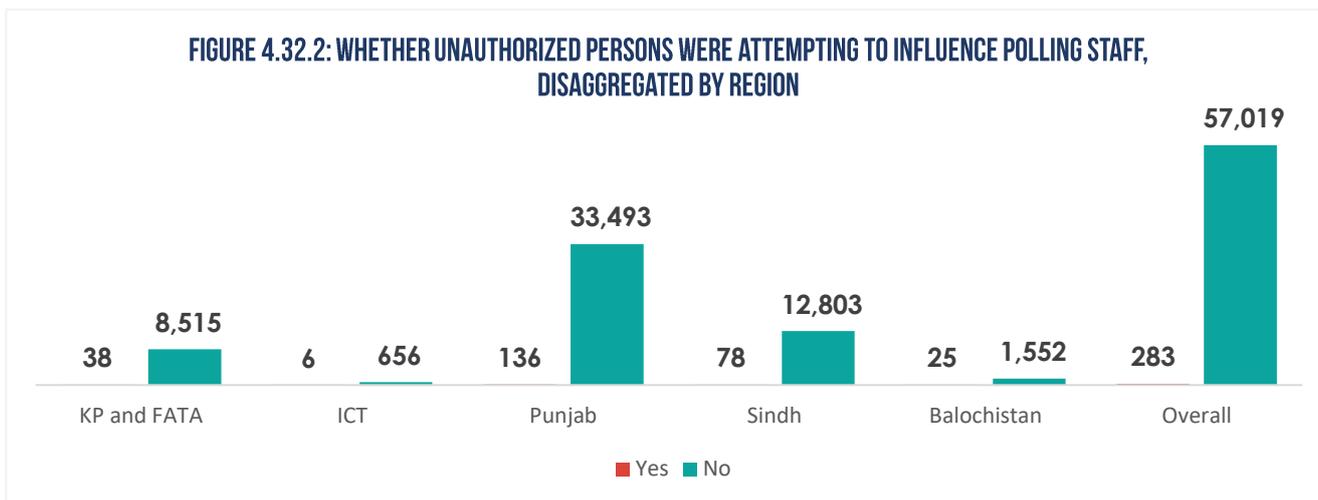
FAFEN observers did not report any unauthorized persons attempting to influence polling staff at the overwhelming majority (57,019 of 57,302 or 99.5 percent) of the observed polling stations. However, the violation was observed at 283 (0.5 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which unauthorized persons were seen attempting to influence polling staff included 136 (0.4 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 78 (one percent) in Sindh, 38 (0.4 percent) in KP, 25 (two percent) in Balochistan and six (one percent) in ICT. On the other hand, no such violation occurred at 33,493 (99.6 percent) polling stations in Punjab; 12,803 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,515 (99.6 percent) in KP, 1,552 (98 percent) in Balochistan and 656 (99 percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 4.32.1: WERE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE POLLING STAFF?

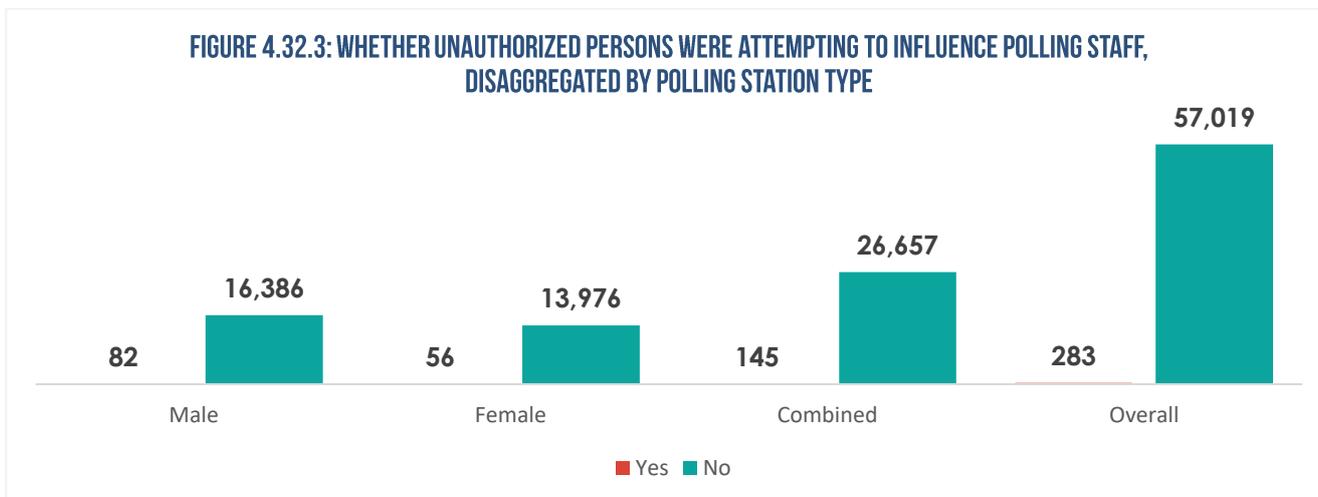


**FIGURE 4.32.2: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE POLLING STAFF, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation was observed at 82 (0.5 percent) male polling stations, 56 (0.4 percent) female polling stations and 145 (0.5 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations in which the violation was not observed included 16,386 male stations, 13,976 female stations, and 26,657 combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 4.32.3: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE POLLING STAFF, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 4.33 Unauthorized Presence in Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, shall, subject to such instructions as the Commission may give in this behalf, regulate the number of voters to be admitted to the polling station at one time and shall exclude from the polling station all other persons except—

- (a) any person on duty in connection with the election;
- (b) the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents; and
- (c) such other persons as may be specifically permitted by the Commission or any other authority empowered by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 82*

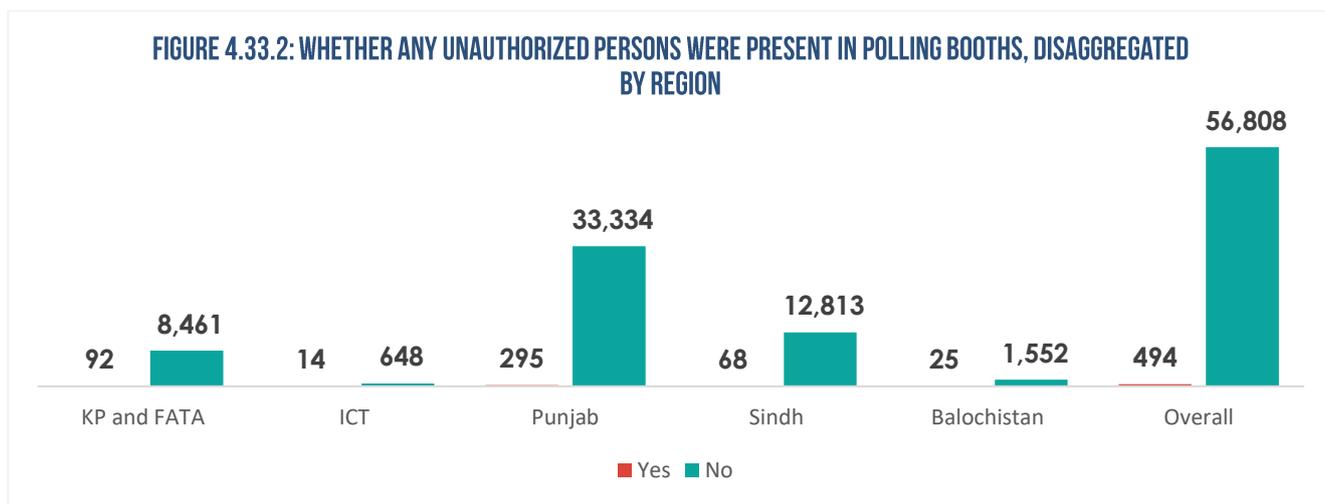
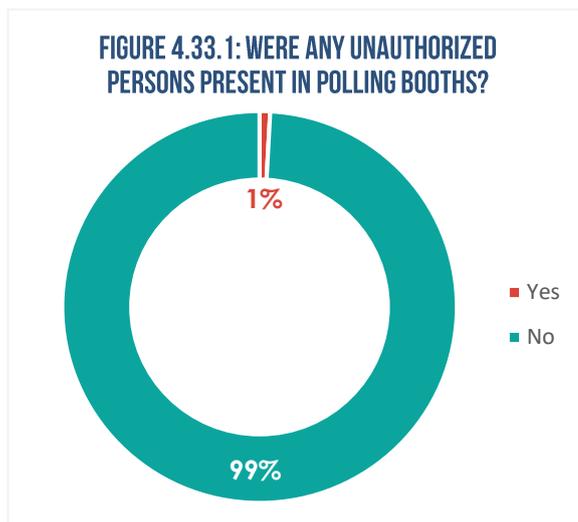
The Presiding Officer shall keep order at the polling station and may remove or cause to be removed any person who misconducts himself at a polling station or fails to obey any lawful orders of the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 83(1)*

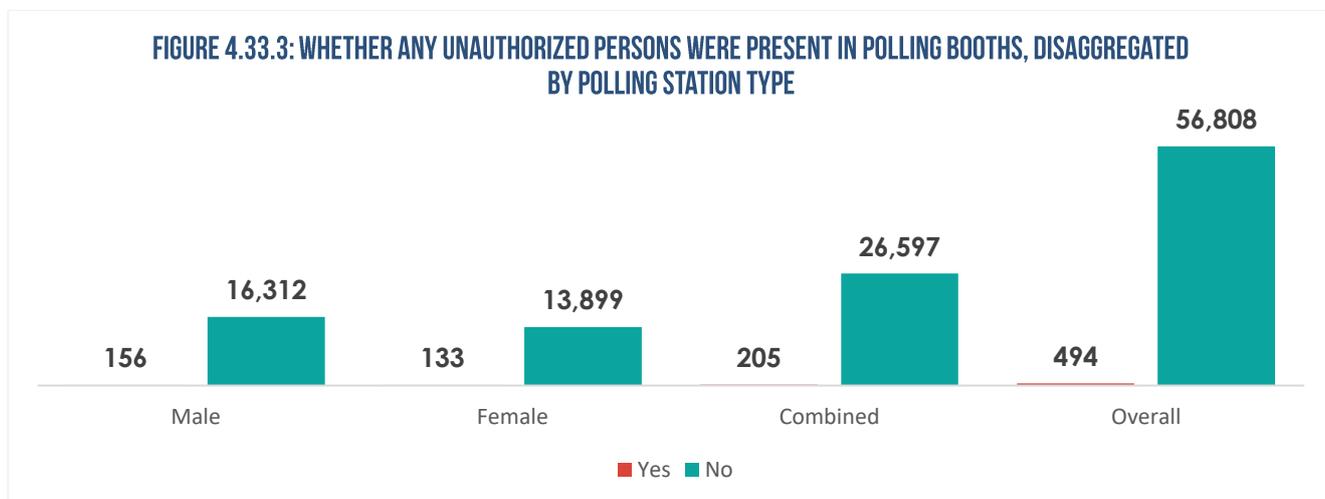


Of the 57,302 polling stations observed, FAFEN observers did not report the presence of unauthorized persons in polling booths at 56,808 (99 percent) polling stations. However, unauthorized persons were seen at 494 (one percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which the presence of unauthorized persons was observed included 295 (one percent) polling stations in Punjab, 92 (one percent) in KP, 68 (one percent) in Sindh, 25 (two percent) in Balochistan and 14 (two percent) in ICT. On the other hand, no such violation was observed at 33,334 (99 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,813 (99 percent) in Sindh, 8,461 (99 percent) in KP, 1,552 (98 percent) in Balochistan and 648 (98 percent) in ICT.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the violation occurred at 156 (one percent) male polling stations, 133 (one percent) female polling stations and 205 (one percent) combined polling stations. The violation was not observed at 16,312 (99 percent) male stations, 13,899 (99 percent) female stations, and 26,597 (99 percent) combined polling stations.



5

# RESULT MANAGEMENT PROCESS





## 5.1 PrOs' Training on Result Transmission System (RTS) Mobile App

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall establish a transparent results management system for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination and publication of results in the official Gazette and on the website of the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(1)*

The Presiding Officer shall immediately take snapshot of the Result of the Count and, as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, electronically send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer before sending the original documents under section 90.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(2)*

The Commission shall, from time to time as it may deem fit, –

- (a) conduct training programs for election officials including officials of the Commission, any Government or corporations, and autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies controlled by any of these Governments and officers from the judiciary, if any, deputed or selected in connection with an election in accordance with procedure laid down under this Act or the Rules.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 12 (a)*

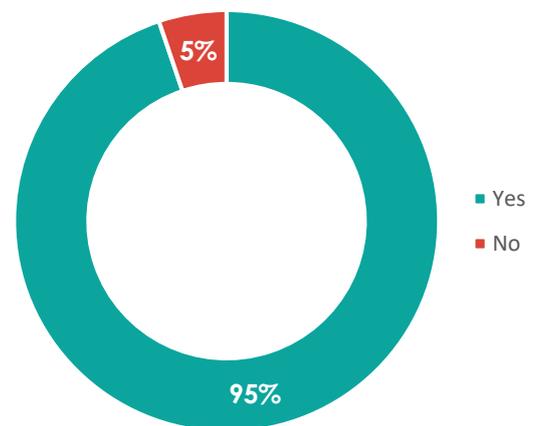
In pursuance of section 12, for trainings to be arranged for its own officers or election officials deputed or appointed in connection with an election, the Commission shall appoint a Committee to prepare or review the handbooks, manuals and other training material for such trainings, well before the start of the trainings, which shall be approved by the Commission or an officer authorized by it.

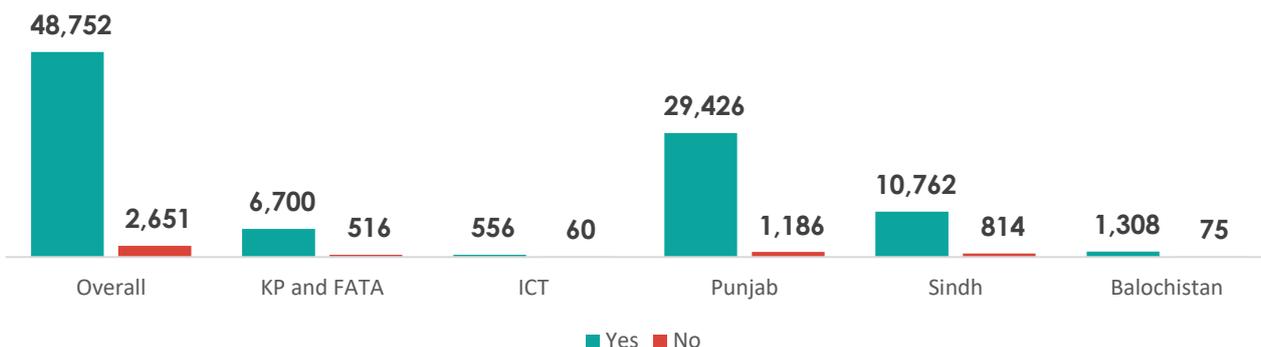
*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 6 (1)*

Of Presiding Officers (PrO) interviewed at 51,403 polling stations on polling day, PrOs at 48,752 (95 percent) polling stations reported that they had received training on the use of the Result Transmission System (RTS) mobile application ("app"). However, the PrOs at a minority of polling stations (2,651 or five percent) responded that they were not trained on RTS.

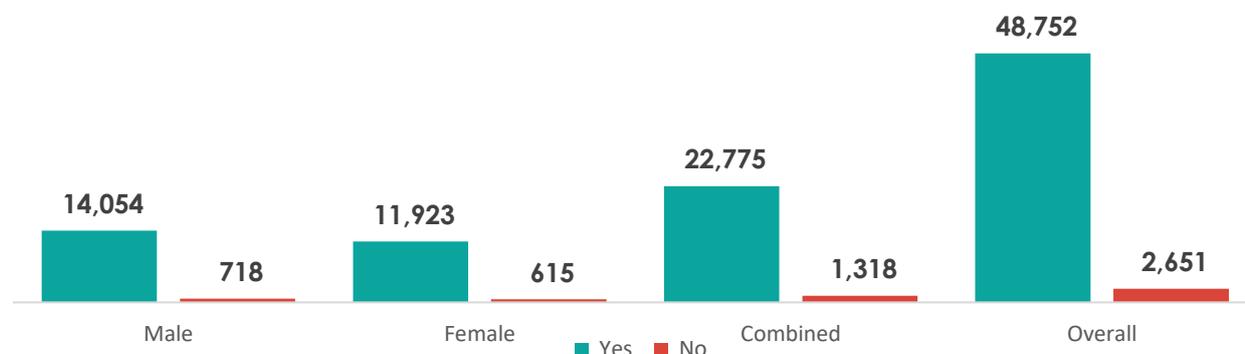
PrOs who reported having received training on the RTS app included the PrOs of 29,426 (96 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 10,762 (93 percent) in Sindh, 6,700 (93 percent) in KP, 1,308 (95 percent) in Balochistan, and 556 (90 percent) in ICT. PrOs who reported that they did not receiving training were located at 60 (10 percent) polling stations in ICT, 516 (seven percent) in KP, 814 (seven percent) in Sindh, 75 (five percent) in Balochistan and 1,186 (four percent) in Punjab.

**FIGURE 5.1.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER RECEIVE TRAINING ON THE USE OF RTS?**



**FIGURE 5.1.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER RECEIVED TRAINING ON THE USE OF RTS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that PrOs at 14,054 (95 percent) male polling stations, 11,923 (95 percent) female polling stations and 22,775 (95 percent) combined polling stations said they had received training on the RTS app. Conversely, PrOs at 718 (five percent) male stations, 615 (five percent) female stations, and 1,318 (five percent) combined polling stations responded that they were not trained on using the RTS app.

**FIGURE 5.1.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER RECEIVED TRAINING ON THE USE OF RTS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**

## 5.2 Provision of Mobile Phones to PrOs for Using RTS Mobile App

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall establish a transparent results management system for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination and publication of results in the official Gazette and on the website of the Commission.

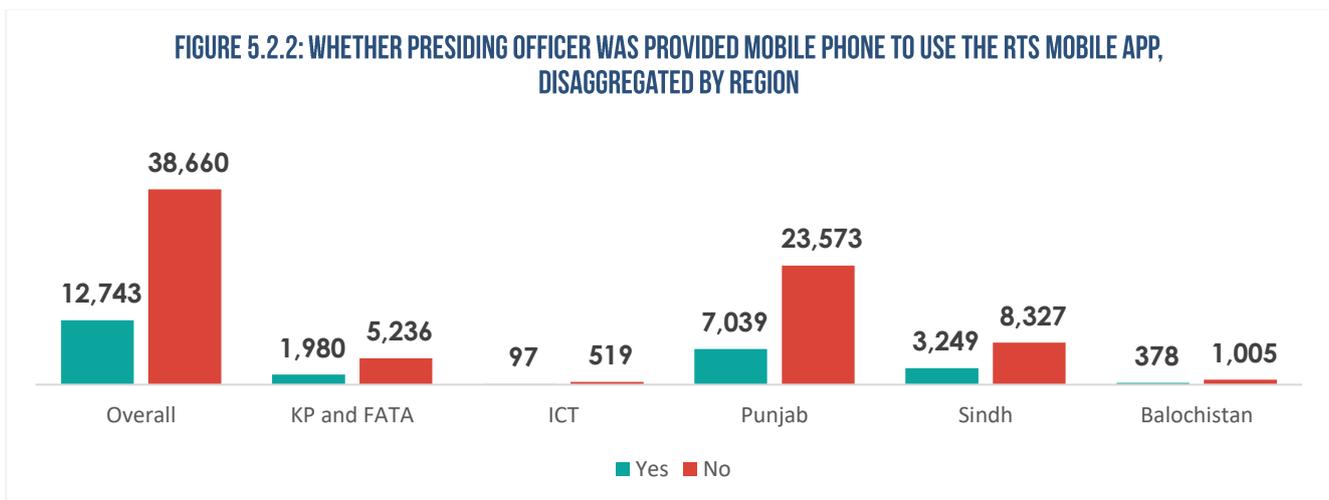
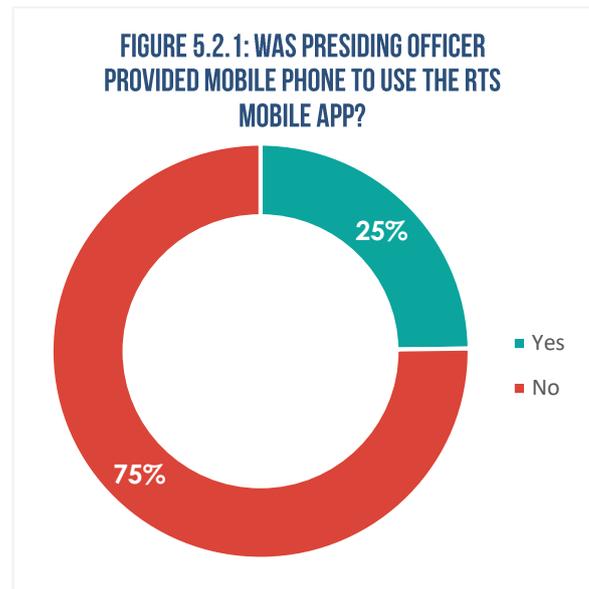
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(1)*

The Presiding Officer shall immediately take snapshot of the Result of the Count and, as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, electronically send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer before sending the original documents under section 90.

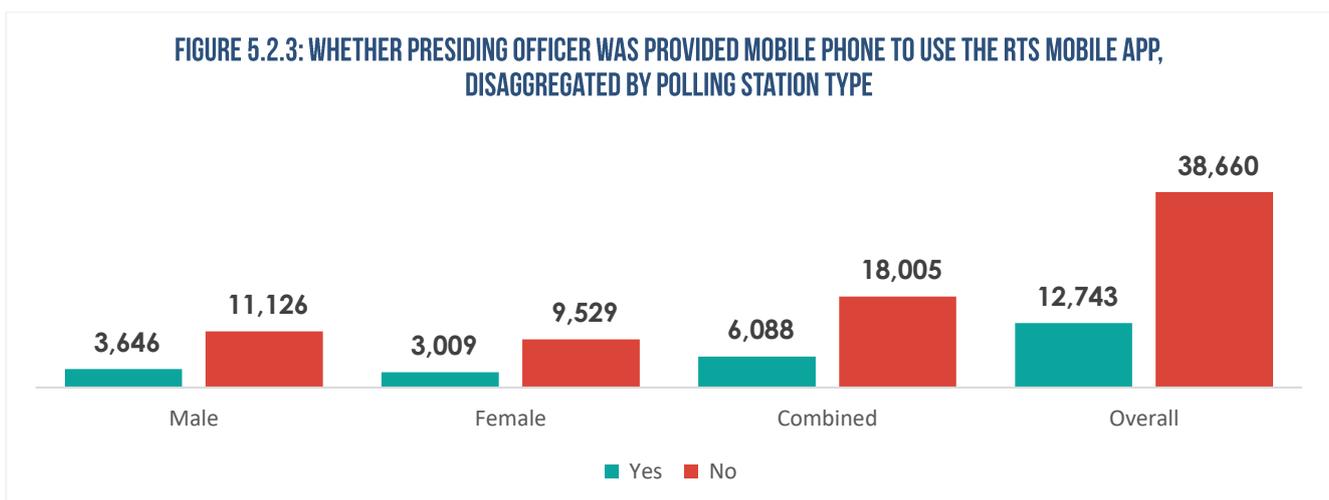
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(2)*

Of 51,403 PrOs interviewed on polling day, PrOs at 38,660 (75 percent) polling stations reported that the ECP did not provide them with mobile phones for using the RTS mobile app. PrOs at a minority of polling stations (12,743 or 25 percent) reported that they were provided mobile phones for this purpose.

Polling stations in which PrOs reported not receiving a mobile phone for using the RTS app included 519 (84 percent) polling stations in ICT, 23,573 (77 percent) in Punjab, 8,327 (72 percent) in Sindh, 5,236 (73 percent) in KP, and 1,005 (73 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, the PrOs at 7,039 (23 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,249 (28 percent) in Sindh, 1,980 (27 percent) in KP, 378 (27 percent) in Balochistan, and 97 (16 percent) in ICT responded that they were provided with mobile phones for using the RTS app.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that PrOs at 11,126 (75 percent) male polling stations, 9,529 (76 percent) female polling stations and 18,005 (75 percent) combined polling stations were not provided with mobile phones for using the RTS app, suggesting that the problem was evenly spread among types of polling stations. Polling stations in which the PrOs were provided mobile phones included 3,646 (25 percent) male stations, 3,009 (24 percent) female stations, and 6,088 (25 percent) combined polling stations.





## 5.3 PrOs' Understanding of RTS Mobile App

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall establish a transparent results management system for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination and publication of results in the official Gazette and on the website of the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(1)*

The Presiding Officer shall immediately take snapshot of the Result of the Count and, as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, electronically send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer before sending the original documents under section 90.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(2)*

The Commission shall, from time to time as it may deem fit, –

- (a) conduct training programs for election officials including officials of the Commission, any Government or corporations, and autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies controlled by any of these Governments and officers from the judiciary, if any, deputed or selected in connection with an election in accordance with procedure laid down under this Act or the Rules.

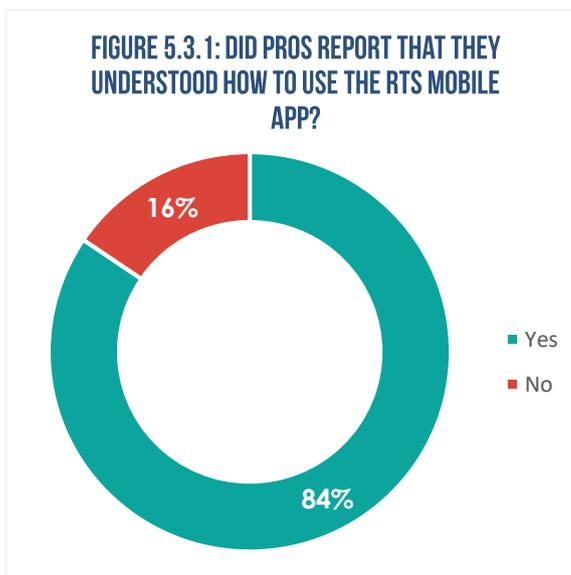
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 12 (a)*

In pursuance of section 12, for trainings to be arranged for its own officers or election officials deputed or appointed in connection with an election, the Commission shall appoint a Committee to prepare or review the handbooks, manuals and other training material for such trainings, well before the start of the trainings, which shall be approved by the Commission or an officer authorized by it.

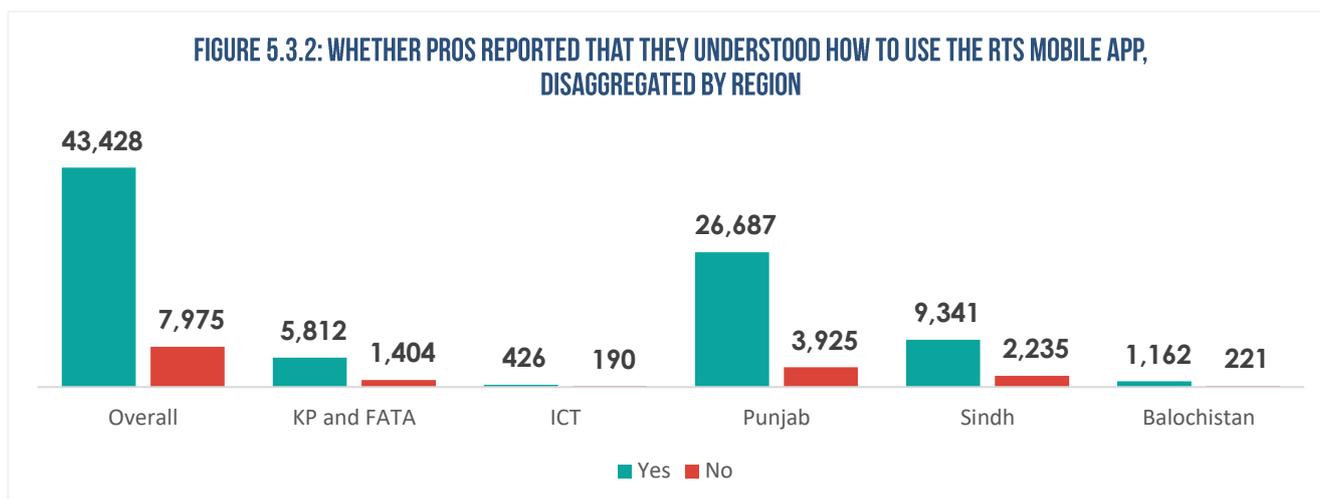
*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 6 (1)*

Of 51,403 presiding officers interviewed on the polling day, the PrOs at 7,975 (16 percent) polling stations responded that they would not be able to use the RTS mobile application even after the training because they did not understand how to use it. The PrOs at 43,428 (84 percent) polling stations reported that they understood how to use the RTS mobile app.

A region-wise analysis of these observations illustrates that Presiding Officers at 190 (31 percent) polling stations in Islamabad, 1,404 (19 percent) in KP including FATA, 2,235 (19 percent) in Sindh, 221 (16 percent) in Balochistan and 3,925 (13 percent) polling stations in Punjab responded that they would not be able to use the RTS mobile app after the training. On the other hand, the PrOs at 26,687 (87 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 9,341 (81 percent) Sindh polling stations, 5,812 (81 percent) KP polling stations, 1,162 (84 percent) Balochistan polling stations and 426 (69 percent) Islamabad polling stations responded that they understood how to use the RTS application after the training.

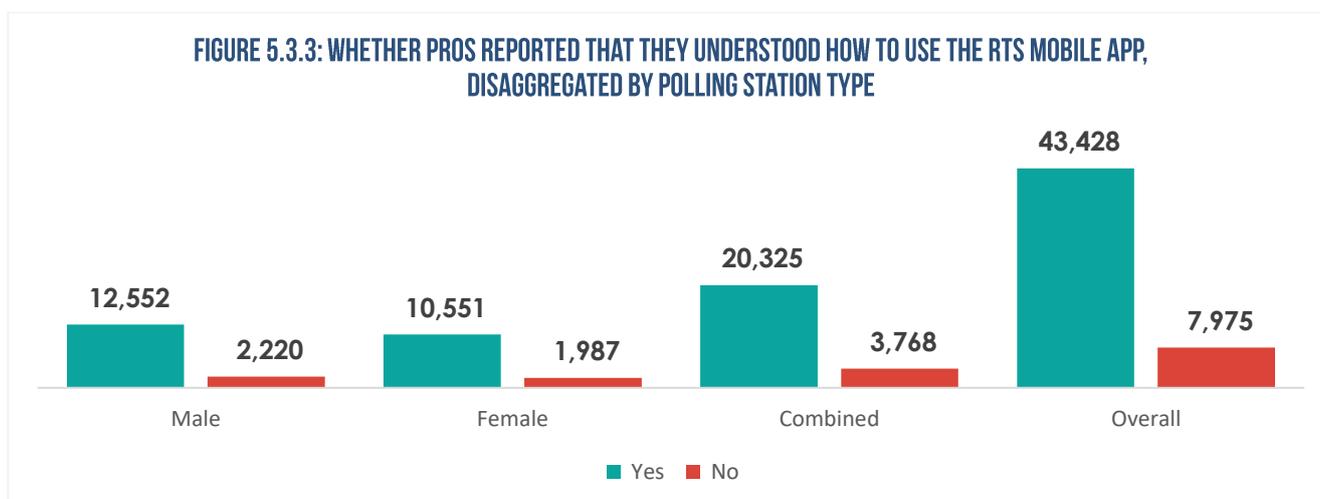


**FIGURE 5.3.2: WHETHER PROS REPORTED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD HOW TO USE THE RTS MOBILE APP, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that presiding officers at 12,552 (85 percent) male polling stations, 10,551 (84 percent) female polling stations and 20,325 (84 percent) combined polling stations reported that they understood how to use the RTS mobile application after training. On the other hand, the presiding officers at 2,220 (15 percent) male polling stations, 1,987 (16 percent) female polling stations and 3,768 (16 percent) combined polling stations responded that they were unable to use the RTS application even after the training.

**FIGURE 5.3.3: WHETHER PROS REPORTED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD HOW TO USE THE RTS MOBILE APP, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.4 Voters Present outside Polling Stations by 1800 hours Allowed to Enter PS Building to Vote

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall not issue any ballot paper or permit any person to vote after the hour fixed for the close of the poll except the persons who at that hour are present within the building, room, tent or enclosure in which the polling station is situated and have not voted but are waiting to vote.

*The Election Act, 2017, Section 89*

Five minutes prior to the close of polling, the Presiding Officer will go outside the polling stations and announce that "the voting will end in 5 minutes." After the closing time no one will be allowed to enter the polling station. Ensure that the close of polling all voters who are already inside the polling station be allowed to vote; however, no one should be allowed to enter the polling station once the close has been announced.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*



FAFEN observers reported that voters present outside polling stations by 1800 hours were allowed to enter the polling stations to cast their votes at 8,447 (69 percent) of 12,220 polling stations at which the counting process was observed. However, voters present outside by 1800 hours were disallowed from entering polling stations to vote at a sizeable minority of polling stations (3,773 or 31 percent).

Polling stations in which voters who were present by 1800 hours were allowed to enter included 5,156 (73 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,461 (68 percent) in KP, 1447 (61 percent) in Sindh, 276 (64 percent) in Balochistan and 107 (62 percent) ICT. On the other hand, voters were disallowed from entering polling stations even if they were present by 1800 hours at 1,953 (27 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 920 (39 percent) in Sindh, 682 (32 percent) in KP, 152 (36 percent) in Balochistan, and 66 (38 percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 5.4.1: WERE VOTERS PRESENT OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION BY 1800 HOURS ALLOWED TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION TO VOTE?

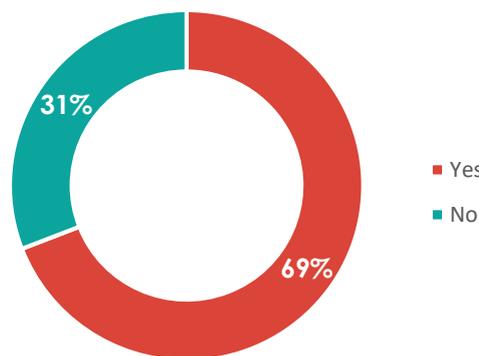
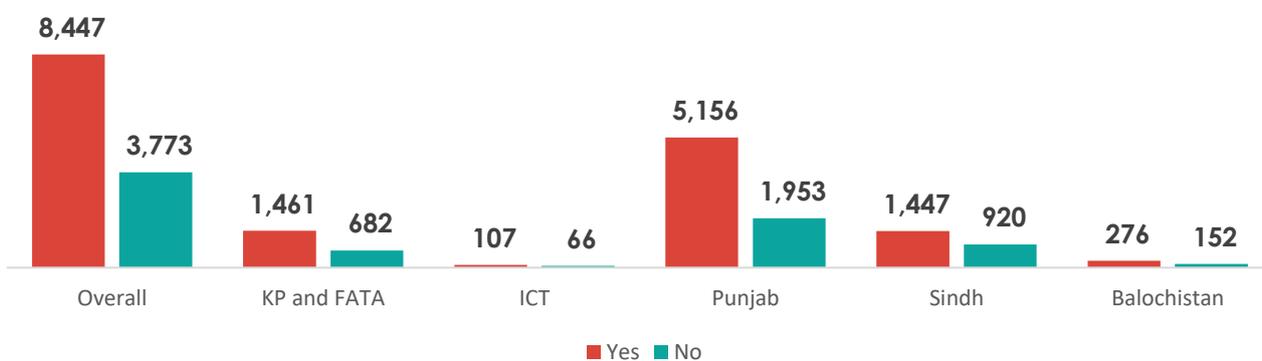
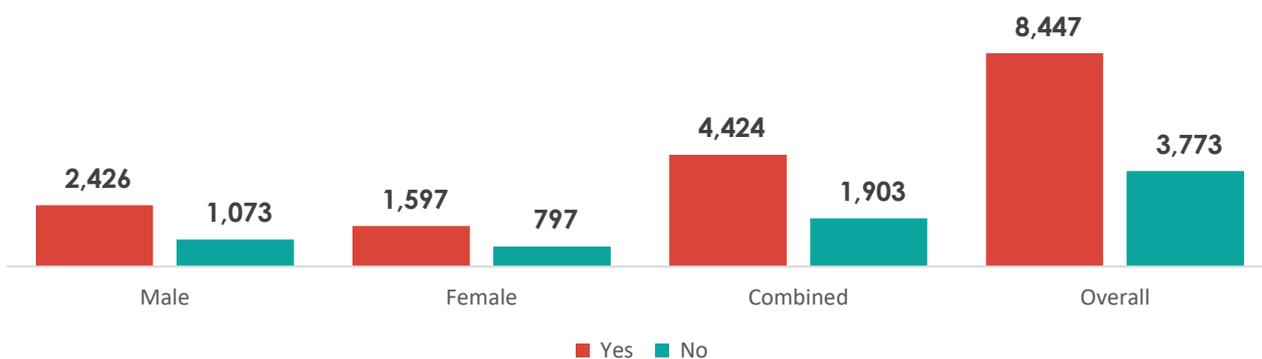


FIGURE 5.4.2: WHETHER VOTERS PRESENT OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION BY 1800 HOURS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION TO VOTE, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that voters present outside polling stations by 1800 hours were allowed to enter at 2,426 (69 percent) male stations, 1,597 (67 percent) female stations, and 4,424 (70 percent) combined polling stations. Conversely, voters were disallowed from entering polling stations even if they arrived by 1800 hours at 1,073 (31 percent) male stations, 797 (33 percent) female stations, and 1,903 (30 percent) combined polling stations, suggesting that the issue was slightly more prevalent in female polling stations than in others.

FIGURE 5.4.3: WHETHER VOTERS PRESENT OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION BY 1800 HOURS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION TO VOTE, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 5.5 Incidents of Altercation over Barring Voters from Entering Polling Stations at Close of Poll Hours

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall not issue any ballot paper or permit any person to vote after the hour fixed for the close of the poll except the persons who at that hour are present within the building, room, tent or enclosure in which the polling station is situated and have not voted but are waiting to vote.

*The Election Act, 2017, Section 89*

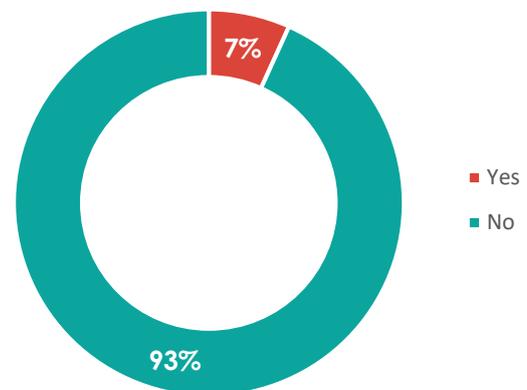
Five minutes prior to the close of polling, the Presiding Officer will go outside the polling stations and announce that "the voting will end in 5 minutes." After the closing time no one will be allowed to enter the polling station. Ensure that the close of polling all voters who are already inside the polling station be allowed to vote; however, no one should be allowed to enter the polling station once the close has been announced.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*

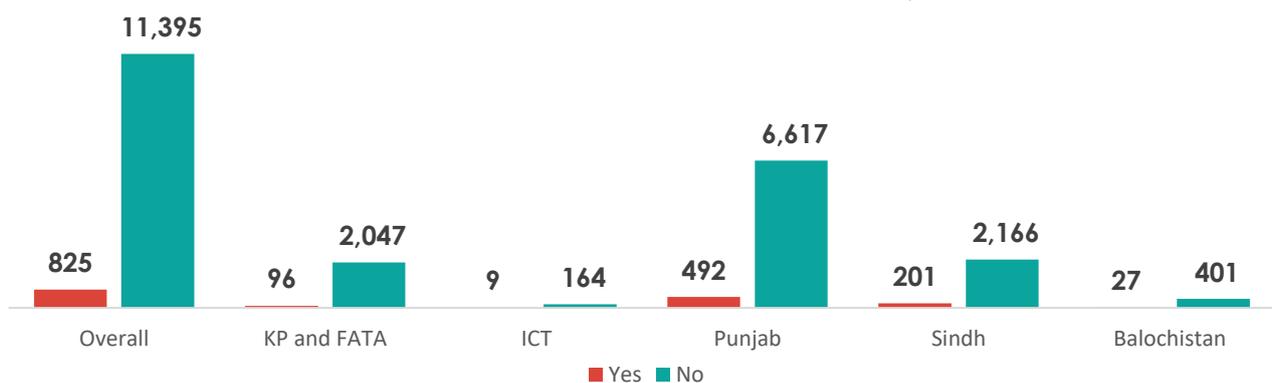
FAFEN observers reported incidences of violence or exchange of harsh words due to voters being barred from entering polling stations even if they arrived prior to the close of poll hours at 825 (seven percent) of 12,220 polling stations where the counting process was observed. However, no such incident was reported at the majority (11,395 or 93 percent) of the observed polling stations.

Polling stations in which these incidences of violence or harsh arguments were observed included 201 (eight percent) polling stations in Sindh, 27 (six percent) in Balochistan, 492 (seven percent) in Punjab, 96 (four percent) in KP, and nine (five percent) in ICT. No such occurrence between election staff and voters was reported at 6,617 (93 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,166 (92 percent) in Sindh, 2,047 (96 percent) in KP, 401 (94 percent) in Balochistan and 164 (95 percent) polling stations in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.5.1: DID ANY VIOLENCE OCCUR BECAUSE ELECTION STAFF DID NOT ALLOW VOTERS TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION EVEN IF THEY ARRIVED BEFORE THE CLOSE OF POLLS?**



**FIGURE 5.5.2: WHETHER ANY VIOLENCE OCCURRED BECAUSE ELECTION STAFF DID NOT ALLOW VOTERS TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION EVEN IF THEY ARRIVED BEFORE THE CLOSE OF POLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

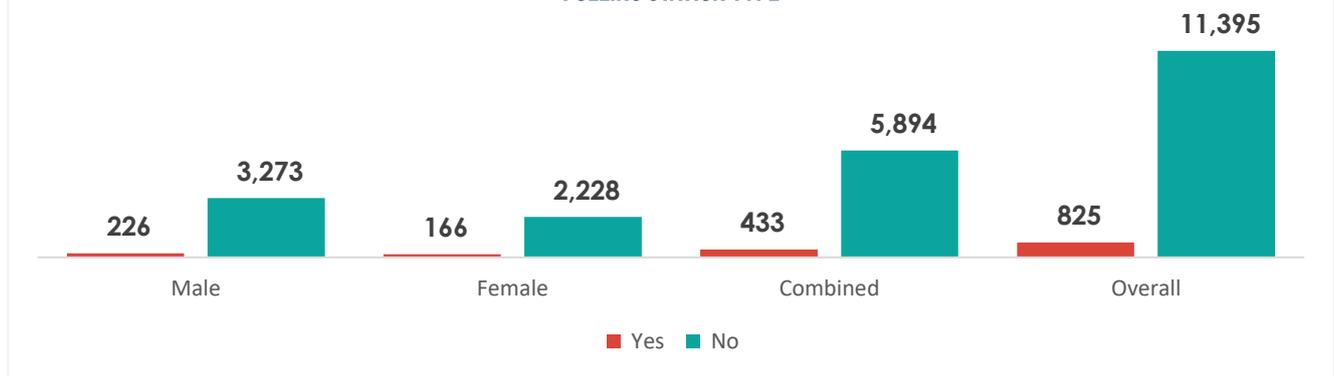


Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that incidences were reported at 226 (six percent) male polling stations, 166 (seven percent) female polling stations and



433 (seven percent) combined polling stations. No such incident was reported at 3,273 (94 percent) male stations, 2,228 (93 percent) female stations, and 5,894 (93 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.5.3: WHETHER ANY VIOLENCE OCCURRED BECAUSE ELECTION STAFF DID NOT ALLOW VOTERS TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION EVEN IF THEY ARRIVED BEFORE THE CLOSE OF POLLS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.6 Voters Present inside Polling Stations after 1800 Hours

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall not issue any ballot paper or permit any person to vote after the hour fixed for the close of the poll except the persons who at that hour are present within the building, room, tent or enclosure in which the polling station is situated and have not voted but are waiting to vote.

*The Election Act, 2017, Section 89*

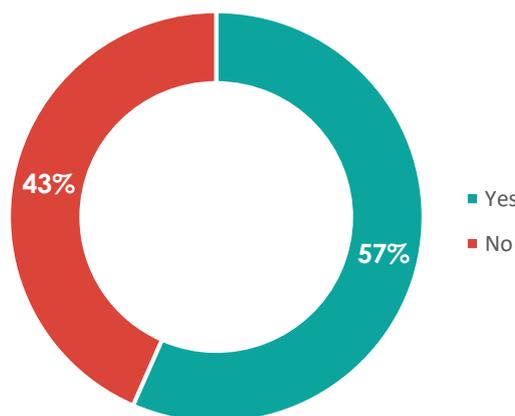
Five minutes prior to the close of polling, the Presiding Officer will go outside the polling stations and announce that “the voting will end in 5 minutes.” After the closing time no one will be allowed to enter the polling station. Ensure that the close of polling all voters who are already inside the polling station be allowed to vote; however, no one should be allowed to enter the polling station once the close has been announced.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*

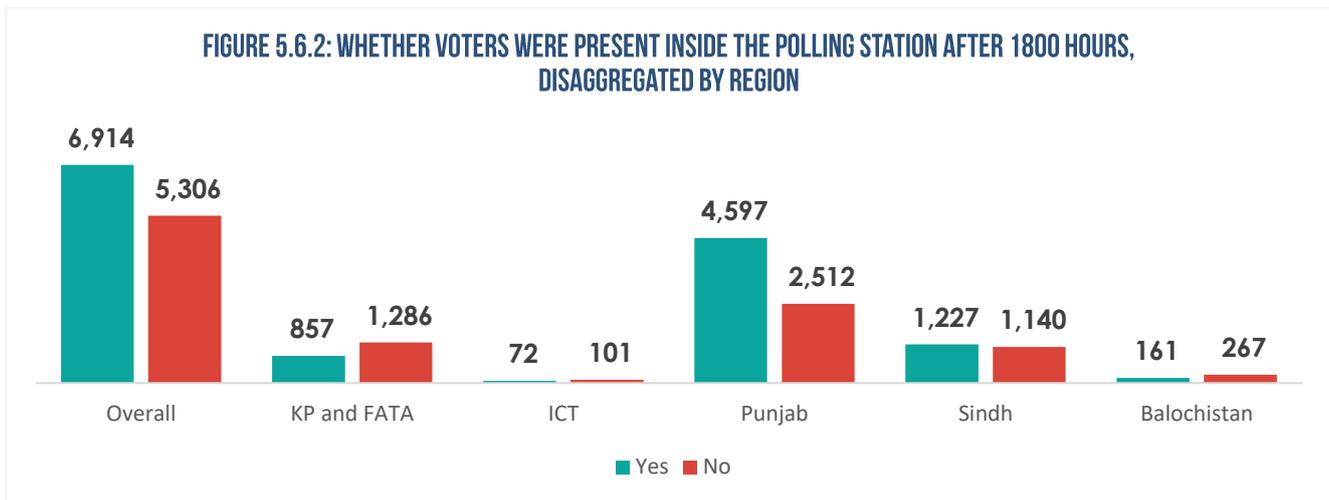
FAFEN observers reported that voters were present in polling station premises after the close of poll hours, i.e. 1800 hours, at 6,914 (57 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. Voters were not observed to be present within the boundaries of polling stations at the remaining 5,306 (43 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which voters were present after the close of poll hours included 4,597 (65 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,227 (52 percent) in Sindh, 857 (40 percent) in KP, 161 (38 percent) in Balochistan, and 72 (42 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, voters were not reported present inside polling stations after polling hours at 2,512 (35 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,286 (60 percent) in KP, 1,140 (48 percent) in Sindh, 267 (62 percent) in Balochistan, and 101 (58 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.6.1: WERE VOTERS PRESENT INSIDE THE POLLING STATION AFTER 1800 HOURS?**

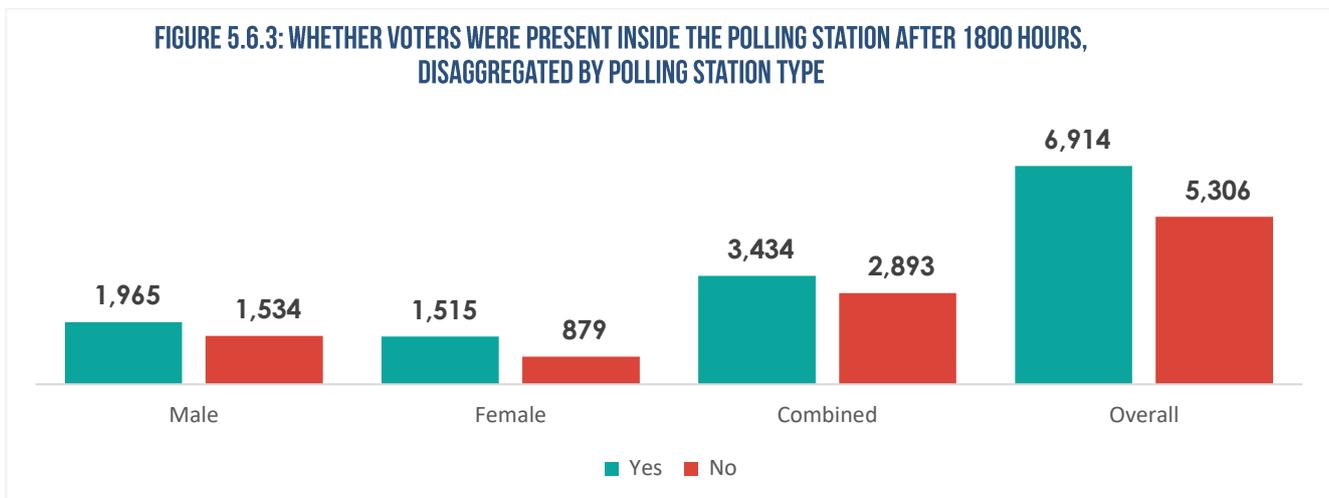


**FIGURE 5.6.2: WHETHER VOTERS WERE PRESENT INSIDE THE POLLING STATION AFTER 1800 HOURS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that voters were observed present inside polling stations after close of poll hours at 1,965 (56 percent) male polling stations, 1,515 (63 percent) female polling stations and 3,434 (54 percent) combined polling stations. No such observation was made at 1,534 (44 percent) male stations, 879 (37 percent) female stations, and 2,893 (46 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.6.3: WHETHER VOTERS WERE PRESENT INSIDE THE POLLING STATION AFTER 1800 HOURS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.7 Voters Present inside Polling Stations after Close of Poll Hours Allowed to Vote

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall not issue any ballot paper or permit any person to vote after the hour fixed for the close of the poll except the persons who at that hour are present within the building, room, tent or enclosure in which the polling station is situated and have not voted but are waiting to vote.

*The Election Act, 2017, Section 89*

Five minutes prior to the close of polling, the Presiding Officer will go outside the polling stations and announce that "the voting will end in 5 minutes." After the closing time no one will be allowed to enter the polling station. Ensure that at the close of polling all voters who are already inside the polling station be allowed to vote; however, no one should be allowed to enter the polling station once the close has been announced.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*



Of 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed, FAFEN observers reported that voters who were present in polling stations after the close of poll hours (i.e. 1800 hours) were allowed to vote at 6,002 (49 percent) polling stations. Whereas, voters present after the close of poll hours at 912 (eight percent) polling stations were not allowed to vote. The remaining 5,306 (43 percent) polling stations did not have voters after the close of the poll hours.

Regional disaggregation of these observations shows that voters present in the polling station after close of polling hours were allowed to vote at 4,191 (59 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 994 (42 percent) in Sindh, 645 (30 percent) in KP, 115 (27 percent) in Balochistan, and 51 (33 percent) in ICT, suggesting that the rules were enforced correctly more in Punjab and Sindh than in other regions. On the other hand, voters present inside polling stations were barred from voting after 1800 hours at 406 (six percent) polling stations in Punjab, 212 (10 percent) in KP, 233 (10 percent) in Sindh, 46 (11 percent) in Balochistan and 15 (nine percent) polling stations in ICT. The remaining 2,512 (35 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,286 (60 percent in KP), 1,140 (48 percent) in Sindh, 267 (62 percent) in Balochistan and 101 (58 percent) in ICT did not have voters present inside the polling stations' buildings after 1800 hours.

FIGURE 5.7.1: WERE VOTERS PRESENT IN THE POLLING STATIONS AFTER 1800 HOURS ALLOWED TO VOTE?

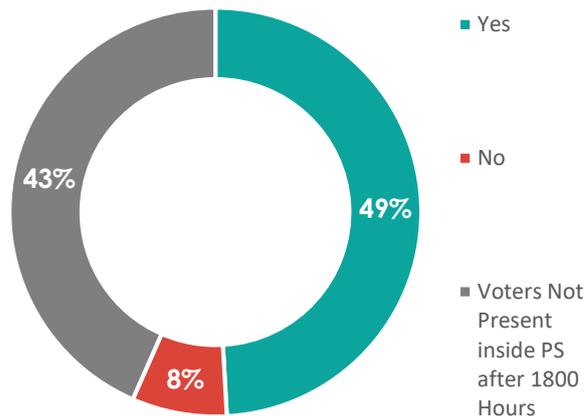
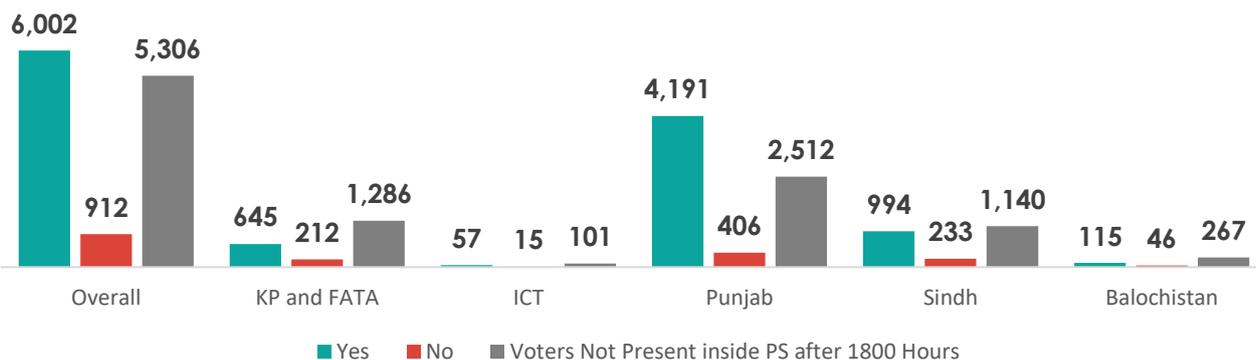
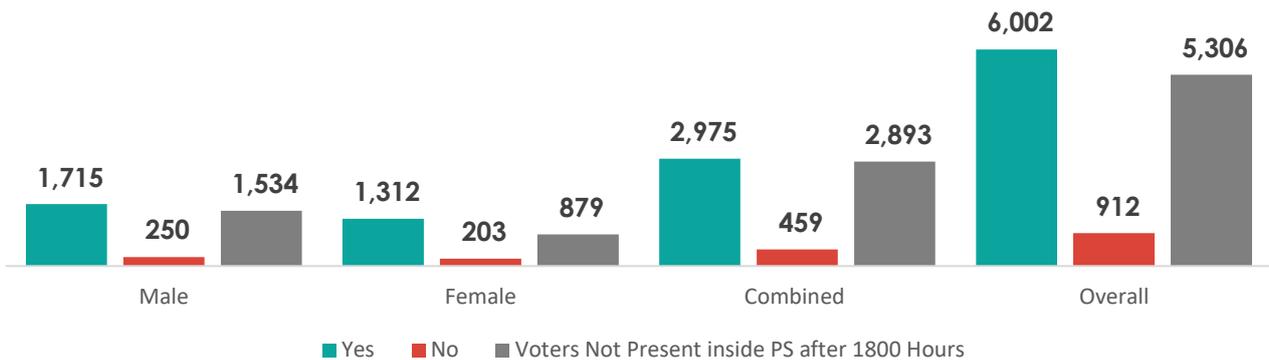


FIGURE 5.7.2: WHETHER VOTERS PRESENT IN THE POLLING STATIONS AFTER 18:00 HOURS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that voters were permitted to vote if they were present inside polling stations after polling hours ended at 1,715 (49 percent) male polling stations, 1,312 (55 percent) female polling stations and 2,975 (47 percent) combined polling stations, suggesting that the rules were followed more consistently at female polling stations. Voters inside polling stations after 18:00 hours were not allowed to vote at 250 (seven percent) male stations, 203 (eight percent) female stations and 459 (seven percent) combined polling stations. The remaining 1,534 (44 percent) male polling stations, 879 (37 percent) female polling stations and 2,893 (46 percent) combined polling stations did not have voters present inside their premises.

**FIGURE 5.7.3: WHETHER VOTERS PRESENT IN THE POLLING STATIONS AFTER 18:00 HOURS WERE ALLOWED TO VOTE, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.8 Closing Polling Station Doors prior to Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

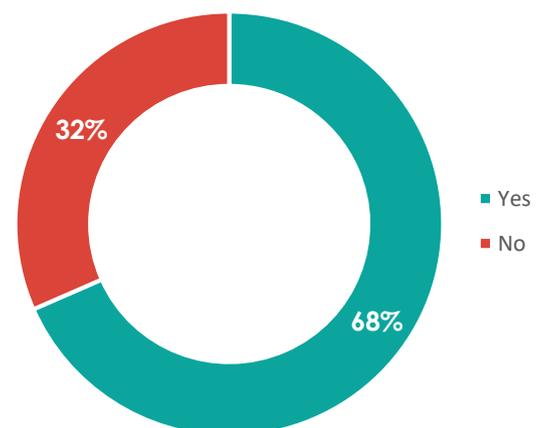
After the last voter has polled his/her vote, the Presiding Officer should close the polling station and not allow anyone to enter the polling station except staff, polling agents, candidates and observer.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*

Of 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed, FAFEN observers reported that polling station doors were shut for entry or exit of any person prior to the start of the counting process at 8,361 (68 percent) polling stations. However, the doors remained open at 3,859 (32 percent) polling stations.

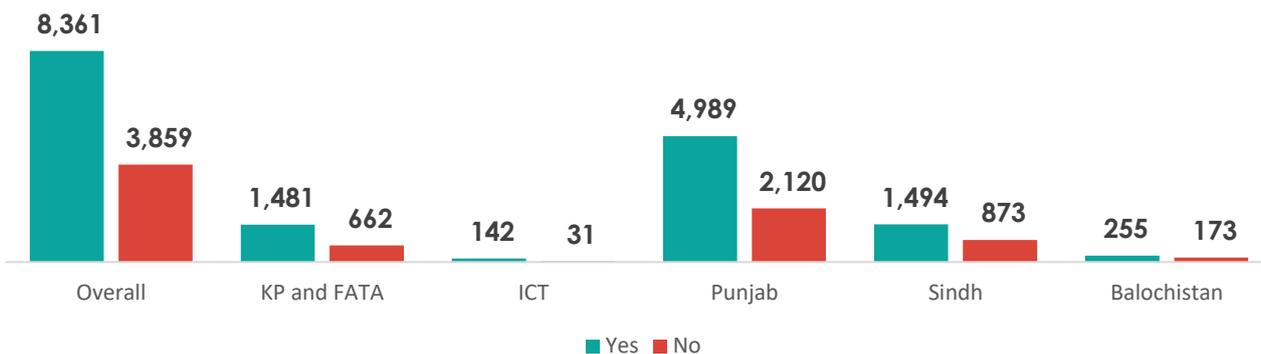
Regional disaggregation regarding these observations shows that polling station doors were not closed for entry or exit prior to the start of the counting process at 2,120 (30 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 873 (37 percent) in Sindh, 662 (31 percent) in KP, 173 (40 percent) in Balochistan, and 31 (18 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, doors were reported closed at 4,989 (70 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,494 (63 percent) in Sindh, 1,481 (69 percent) in KP, 255 (60 percent) in Balochistan, and 142 (82 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.8.1: WERE POLLING STATION DOORS CLOSED BEFORE COUNTING BEGAN?**



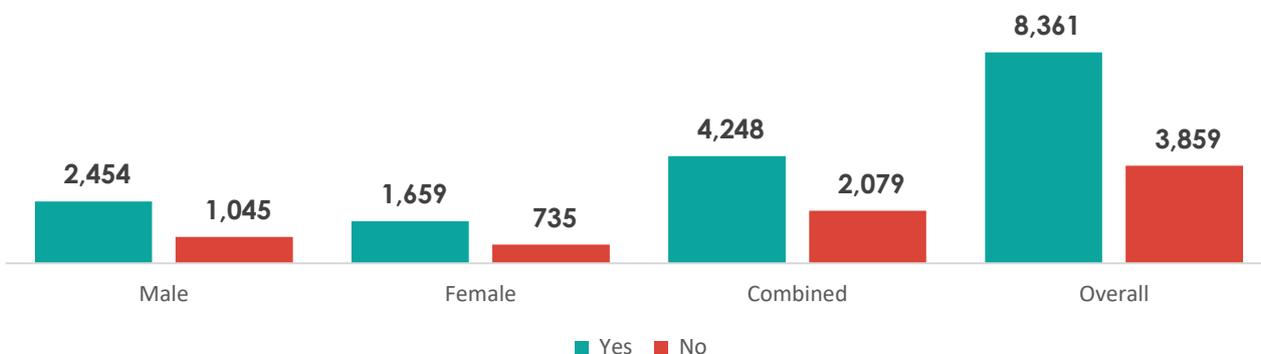


**FIGURE 5.8.2: WHETHER POLLING STATION DOORS WERE CLOSED BEFORE COUNTING BEGAN, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that doors were closed for entry before the vote counting process started at 2,454 (70 percent) male polling stations, 1,659 (69 percent) female polling stations, and 4,248 (67 percent) combined polling stations. However, the doors remained open at 1,045 (30 percent) male stations, 735 (31 percent) female stations, and 2,079 (33 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.8.3: WHETHER POLLING STATION DOORS WERE CLOSED BEFORE COUNTING BEGAN, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.9 Start of the Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall count the votes immediately after the close of the poll in the presence of such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present.

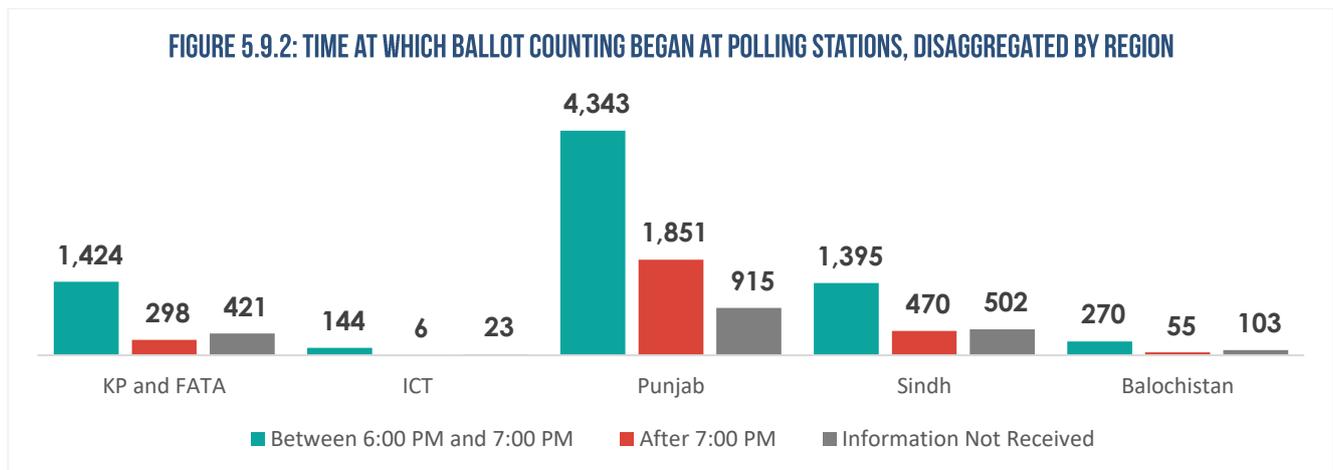
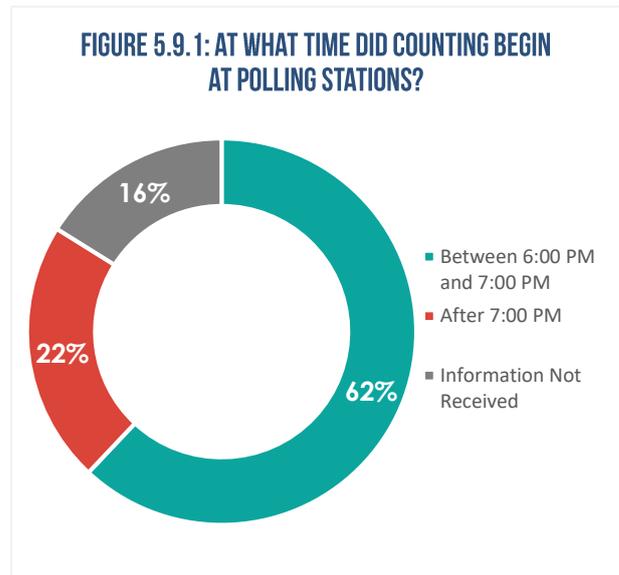
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(1)*

At each polling booth, after the last voter has polled his/her vote, the APO should put the fifth seal on the ballot box so that no further voting can take place.

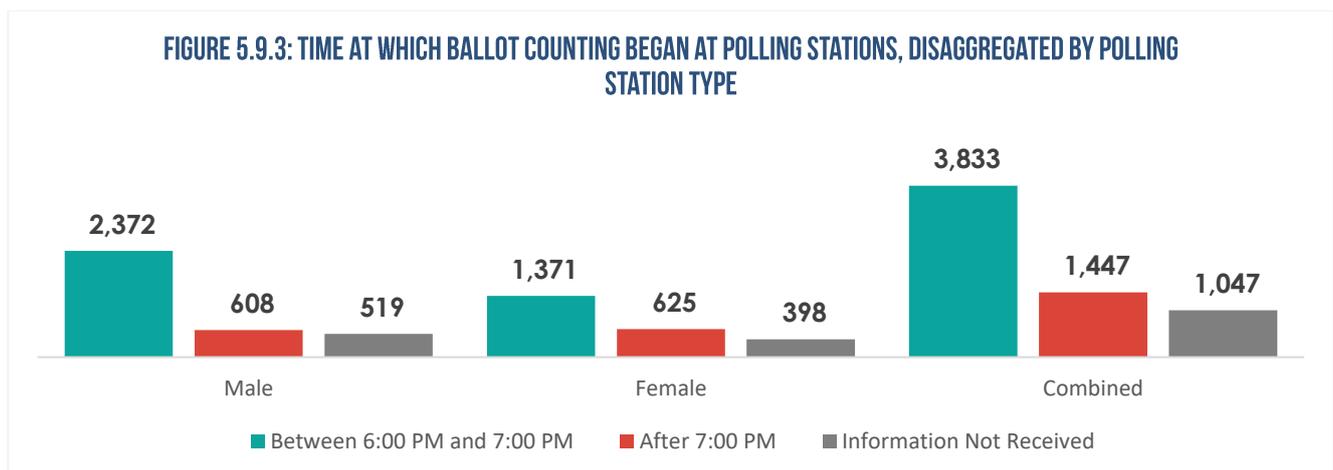
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*

The counting of ballot papers began within an hour of the closing of voting process at 7,576 (62 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations where the counting process was observed. It took more than an hour to begin ballot counting at 2,680 (22 percent) polling stations while the observers did not note the start time at the remaining 1,964 (16 percent) polling stations.

Regionally, the counting process took off within an hour of the close of voting at 4,343 (61 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,424 (66 percent) in KP including FATA, 1,395 (59 percent) in Sindh, 270 (63 percent) in Balochistan and 144 (83 percent) in ICT. The process was delayed by an hour or more at 1,851 (26 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 470 (20 percent) in Sindh, 298 (14 percent) in KP, 55 (13 percent) in Balochistan and six (three percent) in ICT. The observers did not report the starting time of ballot counting at 915 (13 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 502 (21 percent) in Sindh, 421 (20 percent) in KP, 103 (24 percent) in Balochistan and 23 (13 percent) in ICT.



An analysis of the observation data with regards to types of polling stations shows that the counting process started before 7:00 pm on polling day at 2,372 (68 percent) male polling stations, 1,371 (57 percent) female polling stations and 3,833 (61 percent) combined polling stations. The process began after 7:00 pm at 608 (17 percent) male polling stations, 625 (26 percent) female polling stations and 1,447 (23 percent) combined polling stations. The observers did not note this information at 519 (15 percent) male, 398 (17 percent) female and 1,047 (17 percent) combined polling stations.





## 5.10 Presence of All Election Staff during Vote Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall not allow any person to be present at the count other than election officials on duty in connection with the poll, the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents or any other person authorized by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(3)*

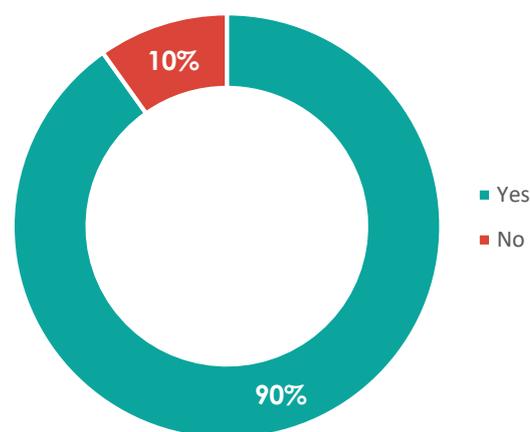
After the last voter has polled his/her vote, the Presiding Officer should close the polling station and does not allow anyone to enter the polling station except staff, polling agents, candidates and observer.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 53*

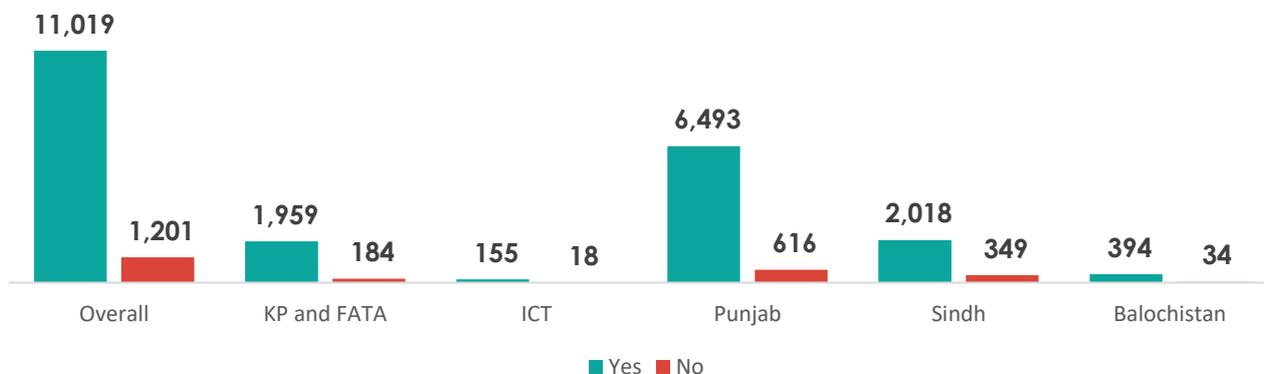
Out of 12,220 polling stations observed across the country where counting was observed, at 11,019 (90 percent) polling stations all Election Staff was present during the counting process. However, at 1,201 (10 percent) polling stations at least one member of the Election Staff was not present during the vote counting process.

A region-wise analysis of these observations reveals that at 2,018 (90 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 155 (90 percent) in ICT, 1,959 (91 percent) in KP, 6,493 (91 percent) in Punjab and 394 (92 percent) in Balochistan, all Election Staff was present during the vote-counting process. On the other hand, at 349 (15 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 18 (10 percent) from ICT, 184 (nine percent) in KP, 616 (nine percent) in Punjab and 34 (eight percent) in Balochistan the Election Staff was not present during the vote-counting process.

**FIGURE 5.10.1: WAS ALL ELECTION STAFF PRESENT DURING THE COUNTING OF VOTES?**

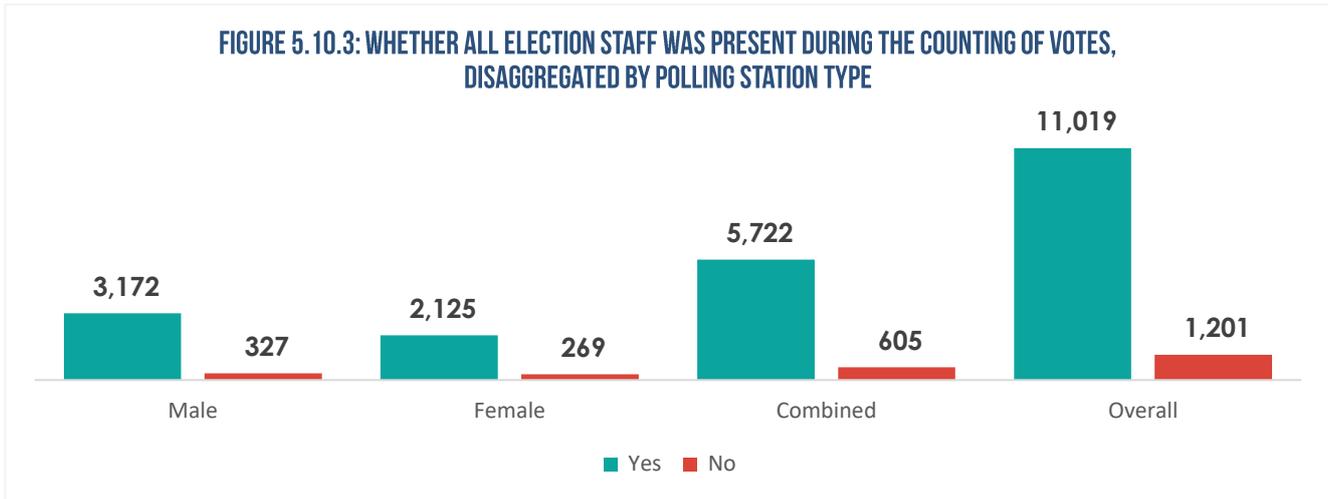


**FIGURE 5.10.2: WHETHER ALL ELECTION STAFF WAS PRESENT DURING THE COUNTING OF VOTES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



An analysis of the observation data with regards to types of polling stations shows that all Election Staff was present during the vote-counting process at 3,172 (91 percent) male polling stations, 2,125 (89 percent) female polling stations and 5,722 (90 percent) combined polling stations. On the other hand, at 327 (nine percent) male polling stations, 269 (11 percent) female polling stations and 605 (10 percent) combined polling stations, all Election Staff was not present during the vote-counting process.

**FIGURE 5.10.3: WHETHER ALL ELECTION STAFF WAS PRESENT DURING THE COUNTING OF VOTES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.11 Presence of Authorized Polling Agents/Candidates/Election Agents during Vote Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present reasonable facility of observing the count and give them such information with respect to the count as can be given consistent with the orderly conduct of the count and the discharge of his duties in connection with the count.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(2)*

The Presiding Officer shall not allow any person to be present at the count other than election officials on duty in connection with the poll, the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents or any other person authorized by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(3)*

Before start of proceedings at the close of poll under this rule, the Presiding Officer shall require the polling agents belonging to same candidate who performed their duties at the polling booths of the polling station to nominate one polling agent from amongst them to witness the counting process: Provided that only the polling agent so nominated in respect of each candidate shall be allowed to observe the counting process and he shall put his signature on the statements and the packets as and when asked by the presiding officer to do so.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(3)*

Security personnel shall not object on the presence of candidate, his/her election agent or his/her polling agent or observer, if any, at the counting process.

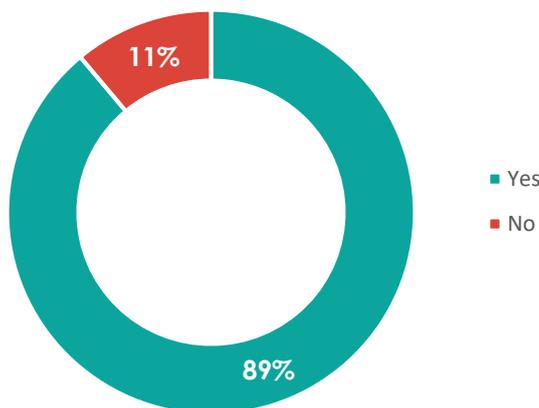
*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause B(x)*



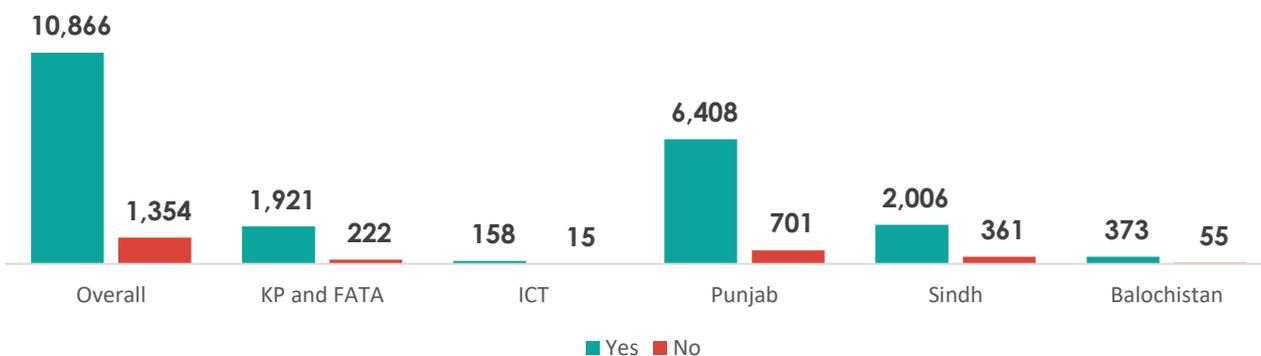
Authorized polling agents, candidates or their election agents were reported to be present during the vote-counting process at 10,866 (89 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations where the counting process was observed. However, candidates or their agents were reportedly not present at the remaining 1,354 (11 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which candidates or their agents were present during the counting of votes included 2,006 (85 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 373 (87 percent) in Balochistan, 1,921 (90 percent) in KP, 158 (91 percent) in ICT, and 6,408 (90 percent) in Punjab. On the other hand, polling agents, candidates or their election agents were reported not to be present at 361 (15 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 55 (13 percent) in Balochistan, 222 (10 percent) in KP, 15 (nine percent) in ICT, and 701 (10 percent) in Punjab, suggesting that the lack of polling agents, candidates or their election agents was slightly more common in Sindh than elsewhere.

**FIGURE 5.11.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS/CANDIDATES/ELECTION AGENTS PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS?**

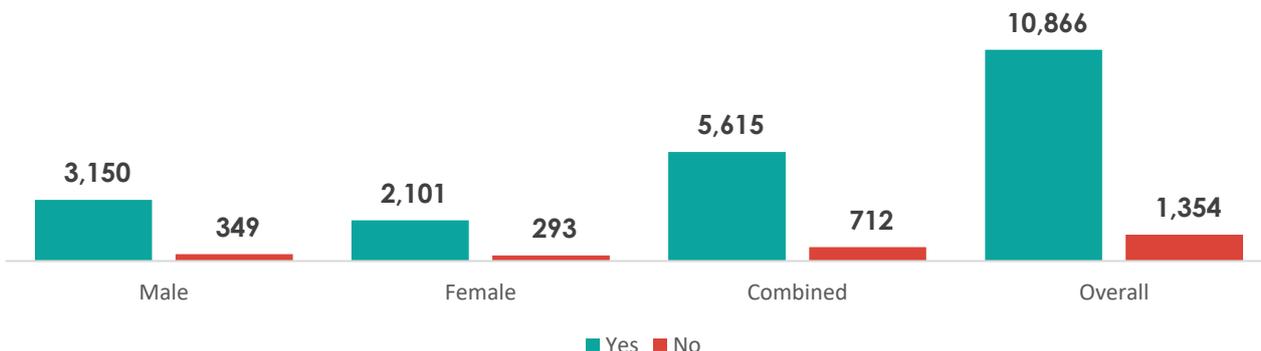


**FIGURE 5.11.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS/CANDIDATES/ELECTION AGENTS WERE PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, polling agents, candidates or their polling election agents were present during the vote-counting process at 3,150 (90 percent) male polling stations, 2,101 (88 percent) female polling stations and 5,615 (89 percent) combined polling stations observed. However, they were reportedly not present at 349 (10 percent) male stations, 293 (12 percent) female stations, and 712 (11 percent) combined polling station.

**FIGURE 5.11.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS/CANDIDATES/ELECTION AGENTS WERE PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.12 Presence of Election Observers during Vote Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present reasonable facility of observing the count and give them such information with respect to the count as can be given consistent with the orderly conduct of the count and the discharge of his duties in connection with the count.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(2)*

The Presiding Officer shall not allow any person to be present at the count other than election officials on duty in connection with the poll, the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents or any other person authorized by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(3)*

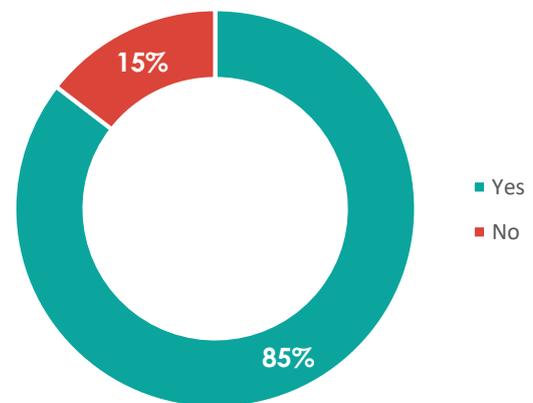
Security personnel shall not object on the presence of candidate, his/her election agent or his/her polling agent or observer, if any, at the counting process.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause B(x)*

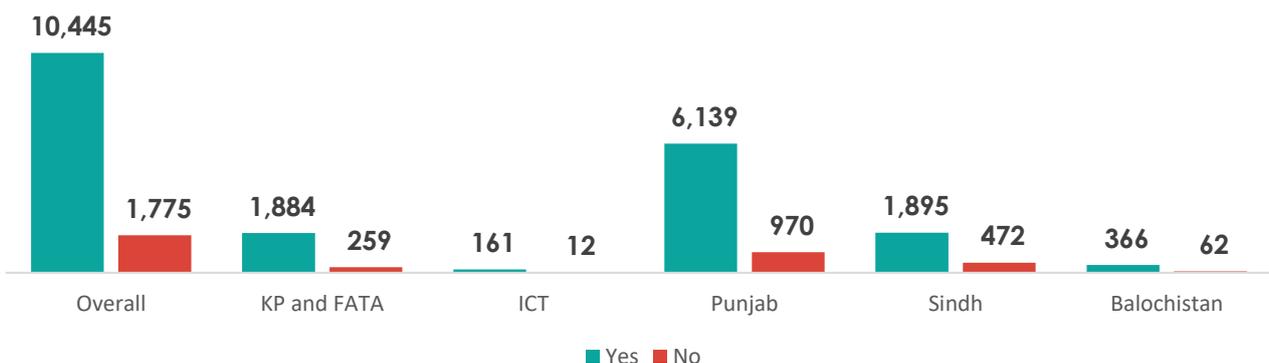
Independent election observers were reported to be present during the vote-counting process at 10,445 (85 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed. However, election observers were not present at the remaining 1,775 (15 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which independent election observers were present included 1,895 (80 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 366 (86 percent) in Balochistan, 1,884 (88 percent) in KP, 161 (93 percent) in ICT, and 6,139 (86 percent) in Punjab. On the other hand, observers were not noted to be present at 472 (20 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 62 (14 percent) in Balochistan, 970 (14 percent) in Punjab, 259 (12 percent) in KP, and 12 (seven percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.12.1: WERE ELECTION OBSERVERS PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS?**



**FIGURE 5.12.2: WHETHER ELECTION OBSERVERS WERE PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

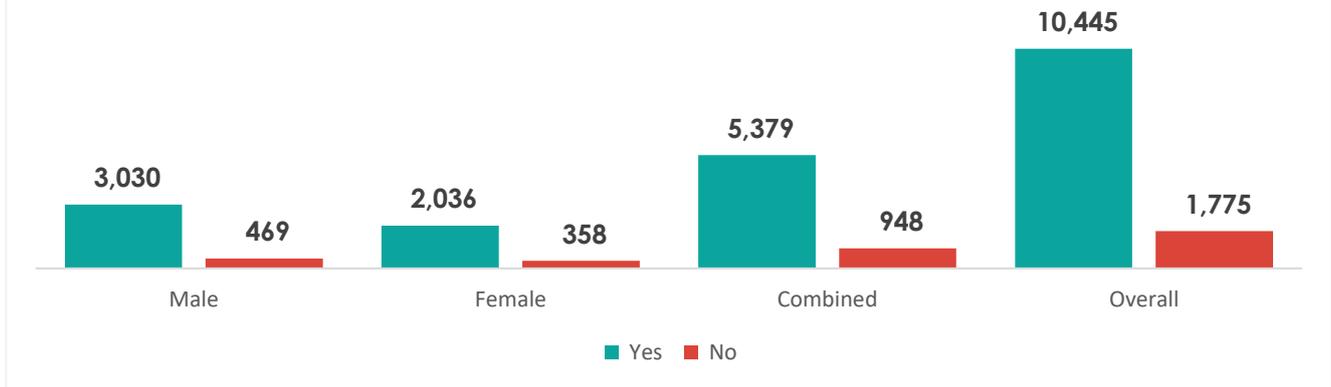


Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that election observers were present during the vote-counting process at 3,030 (87 percent) male polling stations, 2,036 (85 percent) female polling stations and 5,379 (85 percent) combined polling stations observed. However,



they were not present at 469 (13 percent) male stations, 358 (15 percent) female stations, and 948 (15 percent) combined polling stations observed.

**FIGURE 5.12.3: WHETHER ELECTION OBSERVERS WERE PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.13 Presence of Unauthorized Persons during Vote Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present reasonable facility of observing the count and give them such information with respect to the count as can be given consistent with the orderly conduct of the count and the discharge of his duties in connection with the count.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(2)*

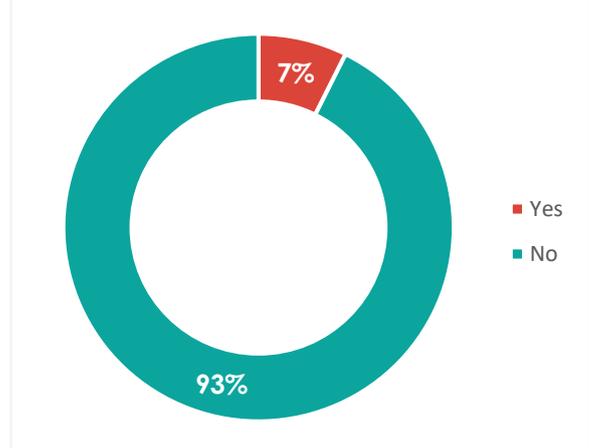
The Presiding Officer shall not allow any person to be present at the count other than election officials on duty in connection with the poll, the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents or any other person authorized by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(3)*

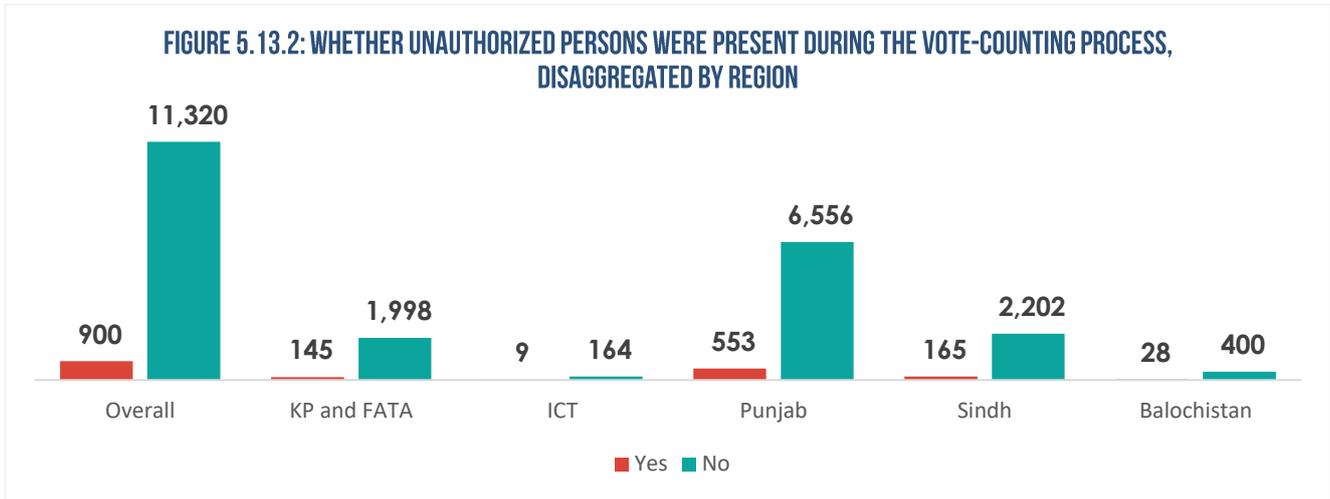
Unauthorized individuals were not observed to be present during the vote-counting process at the vast majority (11,320 or 93 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed. However, unauthorized persons were reportedly present at 900 (seven percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which unauthorized persons were reportedly present during the vote-counting process included 553 (eight percent) polling stations in Punjab, 145 (seven percent) in KP, 165 (seven percent) in Sindh, 28 (seven percent) in Balochistan, and nine (five percent) in ICT. On the other hand, unauthorized persons were not present in the majority of the observed polling stations, including 6,556 (92 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,998 (93 percent) in KP, 2,202 (93 percent) in Sindh, 400 (93 percent) in Balochistan and 164 (95 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.13.1: WERE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS?**

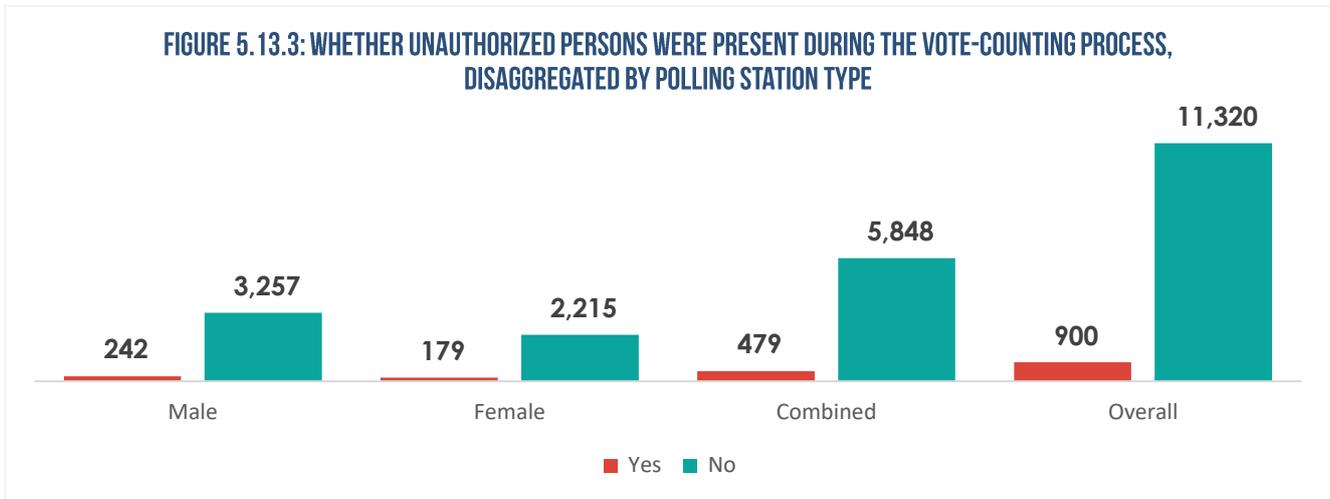


**FIGURE 5.13.2: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that unauthorized individuals were present during the vote-counting process at 242 (seven percent) male polling stations, 179 (seven percent) female polling stations and 479 (eight percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations where no such presence was observed included 3,257 (93 percent) male stations, 2,215 (93 percent) female stations, and 5,848 (92 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.13.3: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE PRESENT DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.14 Presence of Security Staff during Vote Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

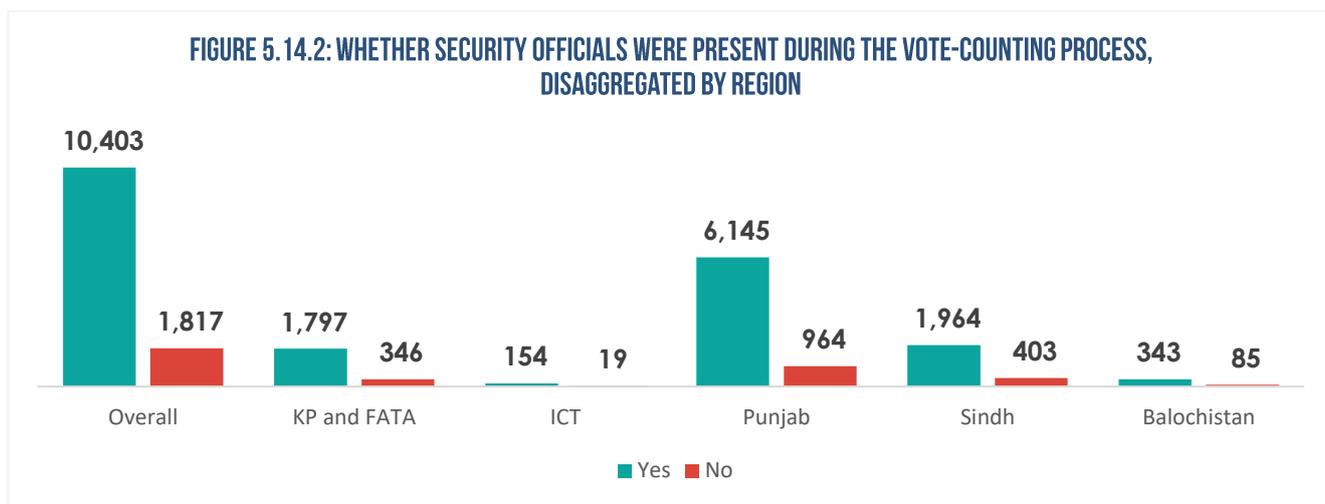
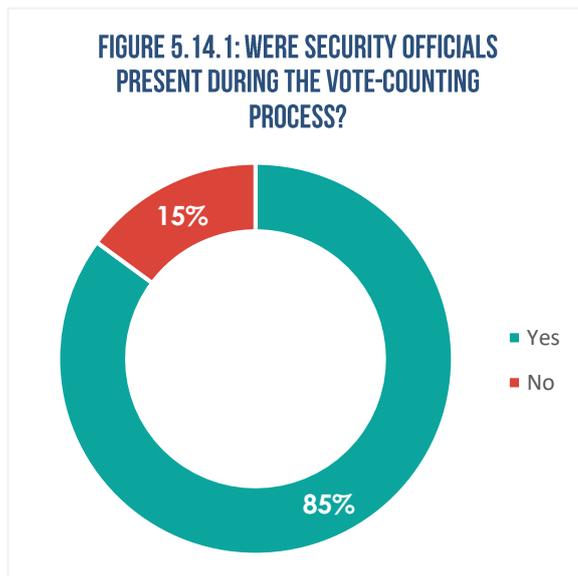
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election - 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections - 2018 by providing security, during transportation of election material, to the Presiding Officers after completion of polling and counting at the polling stations till receipt of record in the offices of Returning Officers, then tabulation and announcement of provisional results by the Returning Officer.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(i)(6)*

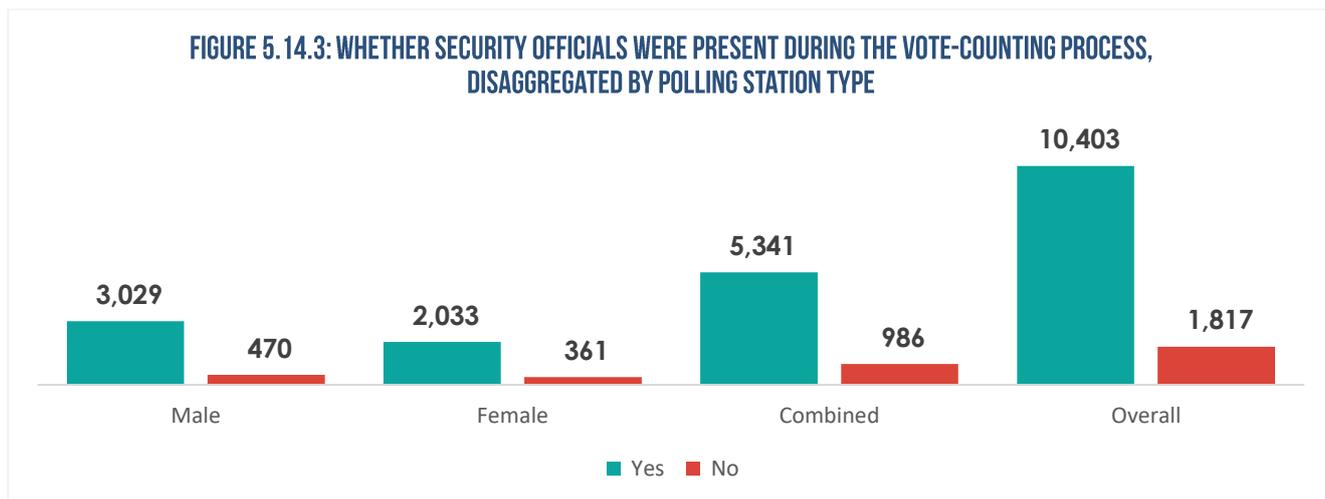


Security officials were present during the vote-counting process at the majority (10,403 or 85 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed. However, they were reportedly not present at the remaining 1,817 (15 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which security officials were present during the vote-counting process included 1,964 (83 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 154 (89 percent) in ICT, 1,797 (84 percent) in KP, 6,145 (86 percent) in Punjab and 343 (80 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, they were reportedly not present at 403 (17 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 19 (11 percent) in ICT, 346 (16 percent) in KP, 964 (14 percent) in Punjab, and 85 (20 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that security officials were present during the vote-counting process at 3,029 (87 percent) male polling stations, 2,033 (85 percent) female polling stations and 5,341 (84 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations in which they were not present included 470 (13 percent) male stations, 361 (15 percent) female stations, and 986 (16 percent) combined polling stations observed.



## 5.15 Proper Seating Arrangement for Candidates/Agents during Vote Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

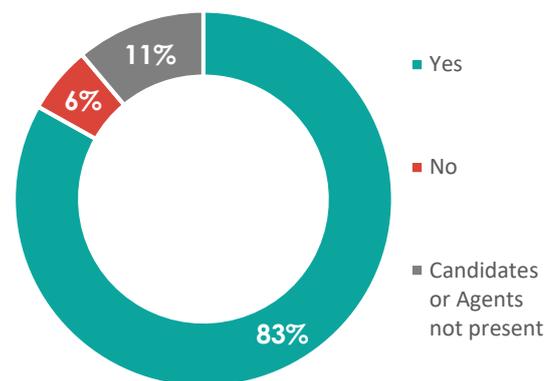
The Presiding Officer shall give such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present reasonable facility of observing the count and give them such information with respect to the count as can be given consistent with the orderly conduct of the count and the discharge of his duties in connection with the count.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(2)*

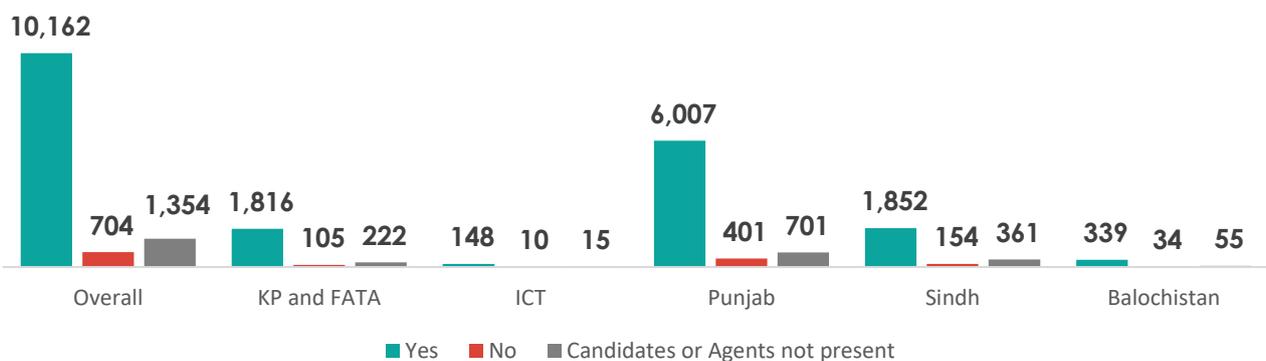
The candidates or their agents were seated at a place from where they could observe the vote-counting process clearly in the vast majority (10,162 or 83 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed. However, they were reportedly unable to observe the counting process clearly from their seats in 704 (six percent) polling stations. The candidates or their agents were not present at the remaining 1,354 or 11 percent observed polling stations.

Polling stations in which candidates or their agents were seated so that they could view the vote counting clearly included 6,007 (84 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,852 (78 percent) in Sindh, 1,816 (85 percent) in KP, 339 (79 percent) in Balochistan, and 148 (86 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, seating arrangements were not conducive for observing the counting process at 401 (six percent) polling stations in Punjab, 154 (six percent) in Sindh, 105 (five percent) in KP, 34 (eight percent) in Balochistan and ten (six percent) in ICT. The candidates or their agents were not present at the remaining 361 (15 percent) polling stations in Sindh, 55 (13 percent) in Balochistan, 222 (10 percent) in KP, 15 (nine percent) in ICT, and 701 (10 percent) in Punjab.

**FIGURE 5.15.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS/CANDIDATES/ELECTION AGENTS SEATED IN A PLACE WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS?**



**FIGURE 5.15.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS/CANDIDATES/ELECTION AGENTS WERE SEATED IN A PLACE WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

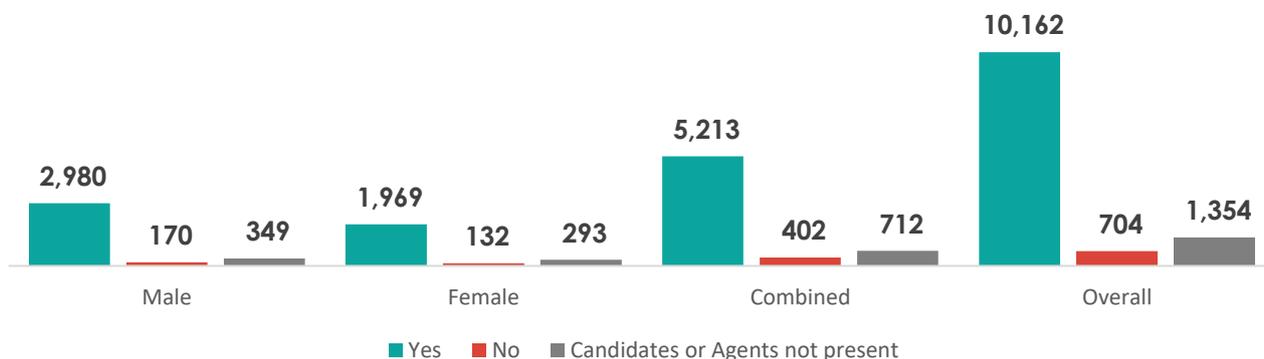


Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that polling agents were seated appropriately to observe the counting process at 2,980 (85 percent) male polling station, 1,969 (82 percent) female polling stations and 5,213 (82 percent) combined polling stations. However, they were unable to easily observe the counting process from their seats at 170 (five percent) male



stations, 132 (six percent) female stations, and 402 (six percent) combined polling stations. The polling agents were not present at the remaining 349(10 percent) male, 293(12 percent) female and 712 (11 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.15.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS/CANDIDATES/ELECTION AGENTS WERE SEATED IN A PLACE WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.16 Proper Seating Arrangement for Election Observers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

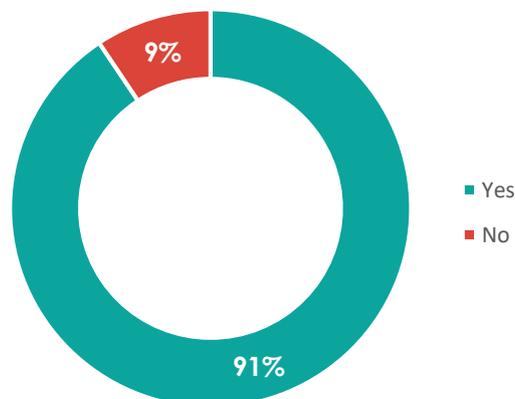
The Presiding Officer shall give such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present reasonable facility of observing the count and give them such information with respect to the count as can be given consistent with the orderly conduct of the count and the discharge of his duties in connection with the count.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(2)*

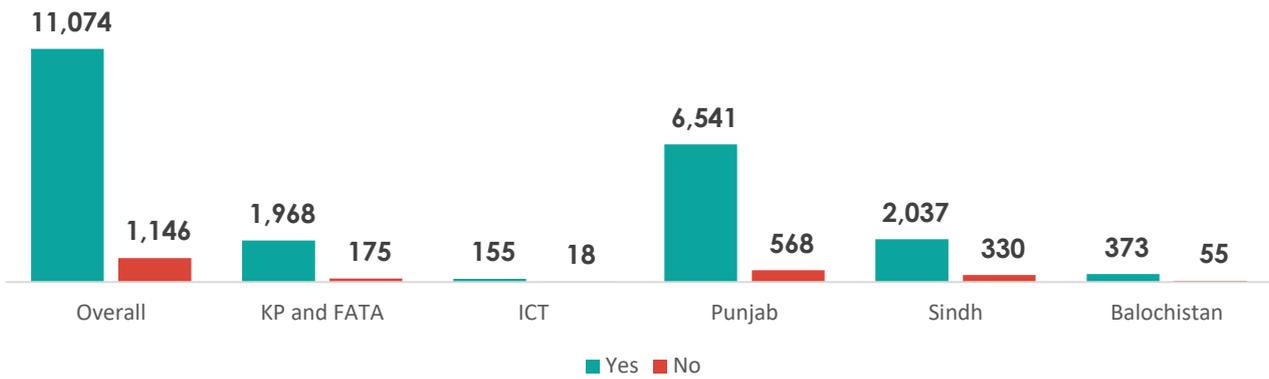
The seating arrangements for election observers enabled them to observe the vote-counting process in a reasonable manner at 11,074 (91 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed. However, they were not seated at conveniently in 1,146 (nine percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which election observers were seated at a conspicuous place included 6,451 polling stations (92 percent) in Punjab, 2,037 (86 percent) in Sindh, 1,968 (92 percent) in KP, 373 (87 percent) in Balochistan, and 155 (90 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, seating arrangements were not appropriate at 568 polling stations (eight percent) in Punjab, 330 (14 percent) in Sindh, 175 (eight percent) in KP, 55 (13 percent) in Balochistan, and 18 (10 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.16.1: WERE ELECTION OBSERVERS SEATED IN A PLACE WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS?**

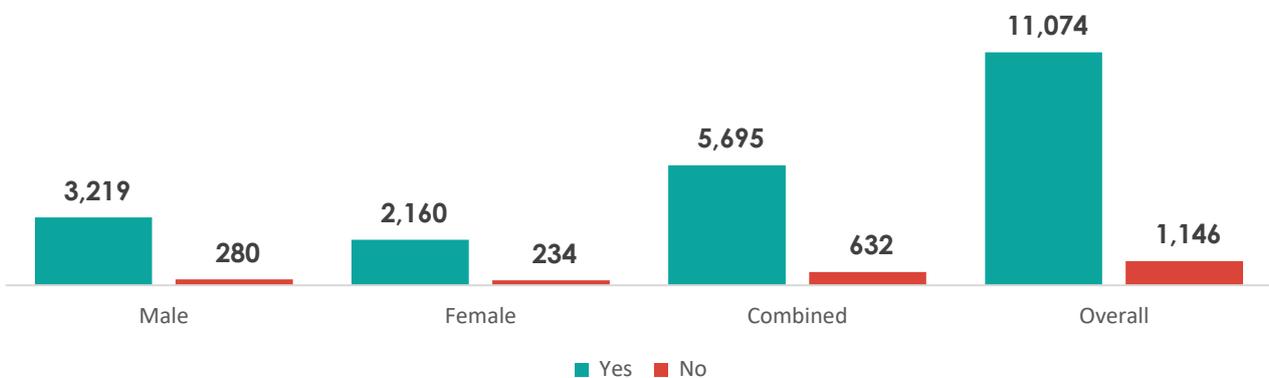


**FIGURE 5.16.2: WHETHER ELECTION OBSERVERS WERE SEATED IN A PLACE WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that election observers were seated in a convenient place to observe the counting process at 3,219 (92 percent) male polling stations, 2,160 (90 percent) female polling stations and 5,695 (90 percent) combined polling stations. However, their seating did not allow a clear view of the vote counting at 280 (eight percent) male stations, 234 (10 percent) female stations, and 632 (10 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.16.3: WHETHER ELECTION OBSERVERS WERE SEATED IN A PLACE WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.17 Gathering Ballot Boxes at Central Place for Counting

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Conducting the count at the Polling Station: Create a counting space in the center of the room.

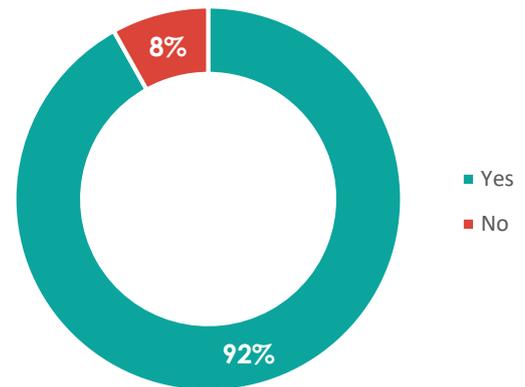
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 56*



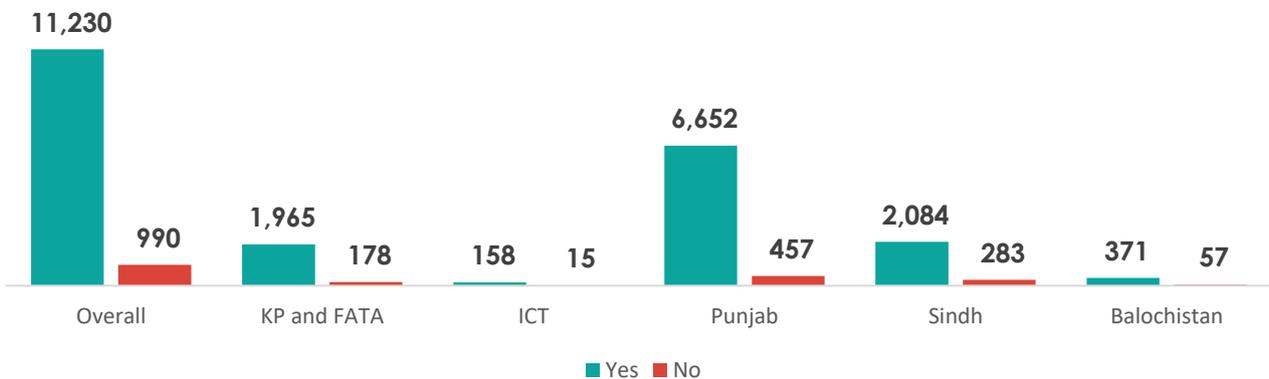
At 11,230 (92 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations observed, ballot boxes of all polling booths were gathered at a central place for vote counting. However, ballot boxes were reportedly not gathered at a central place at 990 (eight percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which ballot boxes of all polling booths were gathered at a central place for counting included 6,652 polling stations (94 percent) in Punjab, 2,084 (88 percent) in Sindh, 1,965 (92 percent) in KP, 371 (87 percent) in Balochistan, and 158 (91 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the procedure was not followed at 457 polling stations (six percent) in Punjab, 283 (12 percent) in Sindh, 178 (eight percent) in KP, 57 (13 percent) in Balochistan, and 15 (nine percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.17.1: WERE ALL BALLOT BOXES GATHERED AT ONE PLACE FOR THE COUNTING PROCESS?**

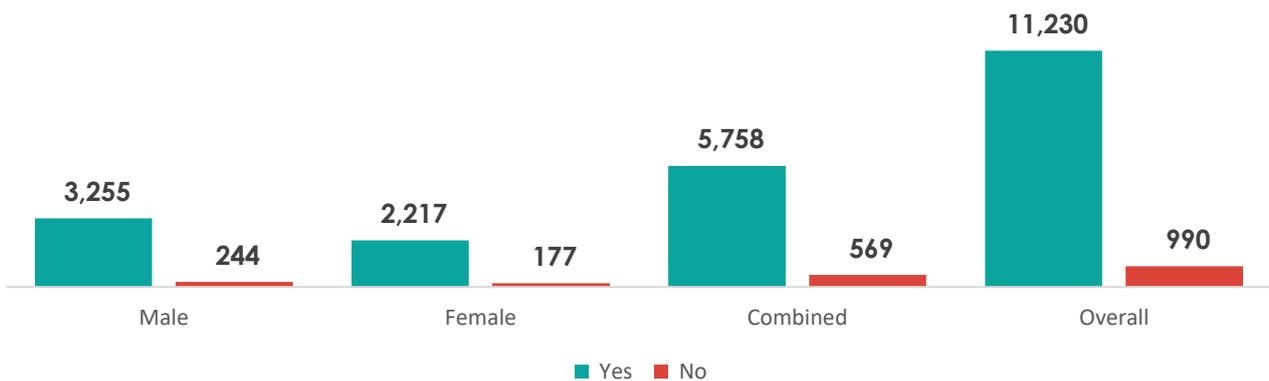


**FIGURE 5.17.2: WHETHER ALL BALLOT BOXES WERE GATHERED AT ONE PLACE FOR THE COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that ballot boxes were taken to a central place for counting at 3,255 (93 percent) male polling stations, 2,217 (93 percent) female polling stations and 5,758 (91 percent) combined polling stations. However, the practice was not observed at 244 (seven percent) male stations, 177 (seven percent) female stations, and 569 (nine percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.17.3: WHETHER ALL BALLOT BOXES WERE GATHERED AT ONE PLACE FOR THE COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.18 Touching or Counting of Ballot Papers by Unauthorized Persons

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall count the votes immediately after the close of the poll in the presence of such of the contesting candidates, election agents, polling agents and authorized observers as may be present.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(1)*

The Presiding Officer shall not allow any person to be present at the count other than election officials on duty in connection with the poll, the contesting candidates, their election agents and polling agents or any other person authorized by the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(3)*

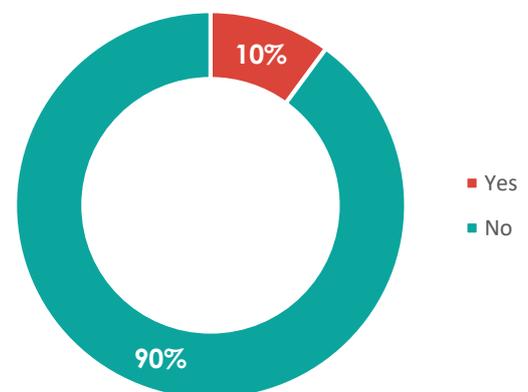
No polling agent shall interfere or create hindrance in any manner in official functioning of the presiding officer, APO, PO or security personnel appointed to perform duty at a polling station.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 11*

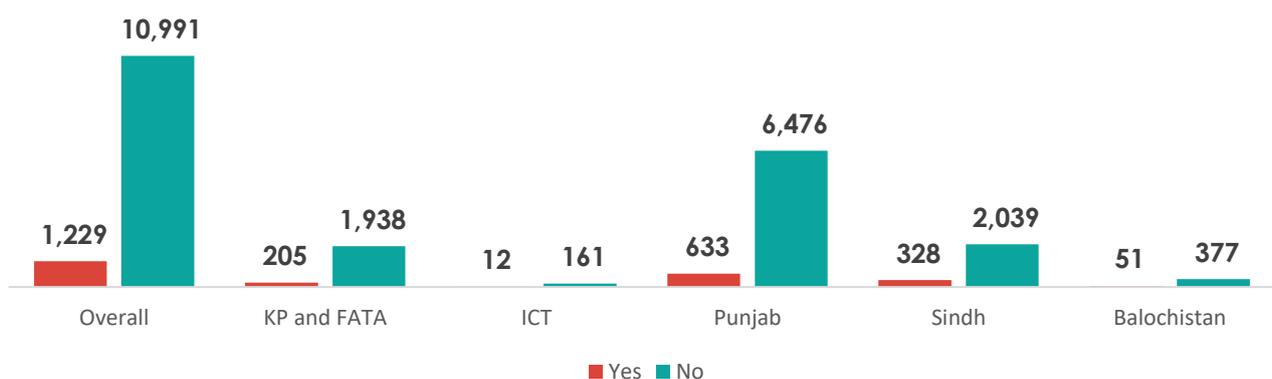
Unauthorized persons were not reported to be touching or counting ballot papers during the vote-counting process at the majority (10,991 or 90 percent) of the 12,220 observed polling stations. However, such occurrences were reported at 1,229 (10 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which touching or counting of ballot papers by unauthorized persons was reported included 633 polling stations (nine percent) in Punjab, 328 (14 percent) in Sindh, 205 (10 percent) in KP, 51 (12 percent) in Balochistan, and 12 (seven percent) in ICT. Polling stations in which no such incident was reported include 6,476 polling stations (91 percent) in Punjab, 2,039 (86 percent) in Sindh, 1,938 (90 percent) in KP, 377 (88 percent) in Balochistan, and 161 (93 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.18.1: WERE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS TOUCHING OR COUNTING BALLOT PAPERS DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS?**



**FIGURE 5.18.2: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE TOUCHING OR COUNTING BALLOT PAPERS DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

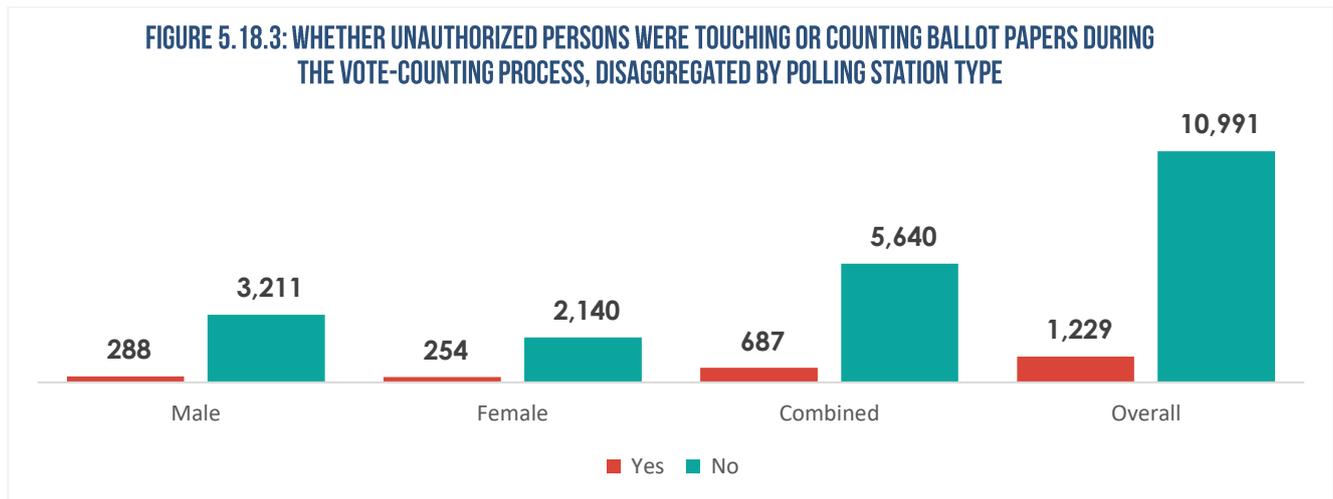


Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that ballot papers were not touched or counted by unauthorized persons at 3,211 (92 percent) male polling stations, 140 (89 percent) female polling stations and 5,640 (89 percent) combined polling stations. However, such



practices were noted at 288 (eight percent) male stations, 254 (11 percent) female stations, and 687 (11 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.18.3: WHETHER UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WERE TOUCHING OR COUNTING BALLOT PAPERS DURING THE VOTE-COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.19 Checking Official Mark and Signatures of APOs on the Back of Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall count, in such manner as may be prescribed, the votes cast in favour of each contesting candidate excluding from the count the Spoilt Ballot Papers and the ballot papers which bear no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(4)(c)(i)*

The Presiding Officer shall, after taking out the ballot papers from the used ballot box or ballot boxes separate the ballot papers which are unambiguously marked in favour of a contesting candidate from those which bear no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(a)(i)*

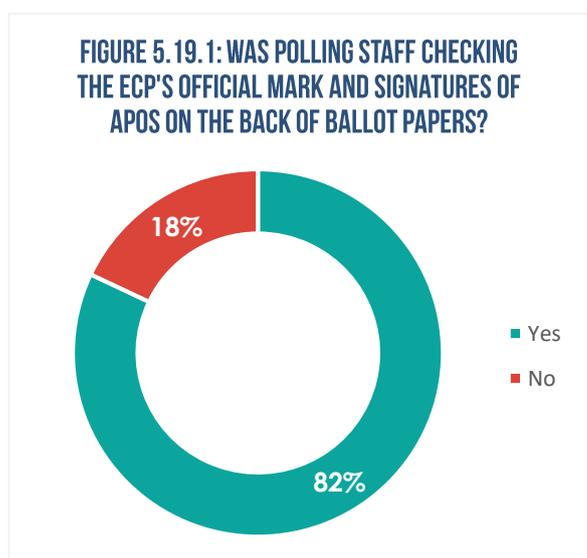
Examine ballot papers for validity and separate the ballot papers excluded from the count.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Section 4.03 Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

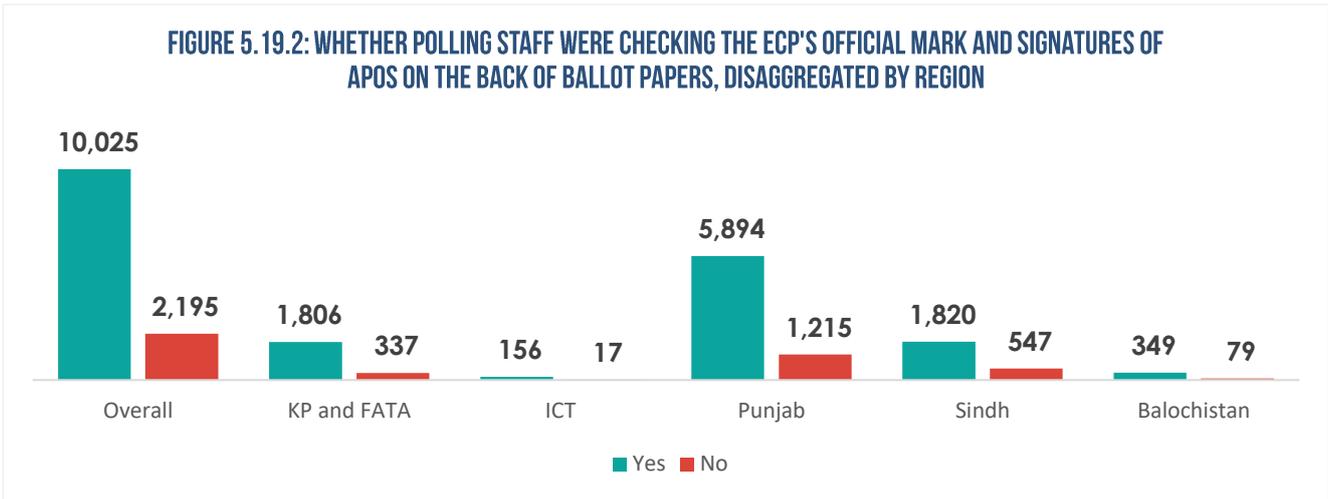
Polling staff was observed to be checking the backs of ballot papers for the ECP's official mark and signatures of APOs at 10,025 (82 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, the procedure was reportedly not followed at 2,195 (18 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which the marks and signatures were checked included 5,894 polling stations (83 percent) in Punjab, 1,820 (77 percent) in Sindh, 1,806 (84 percent) in KP, 349 (82 percent) in Balochistan, and 156 (90 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the checks were not conducted at 1,215 polling stations (17 percent) in Punjab, 547 (23 percent) in Sindh, 337 (16 percent) in KP, 79 (18 percent) in Balochistan and 17 (10 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.19.1: WAS POLLING STAFF CHECKING THE ECP'S OFFICIAL MARK AND SIGNATURES OF APOS ON THE BACK OF BALLOT PAPERS?**

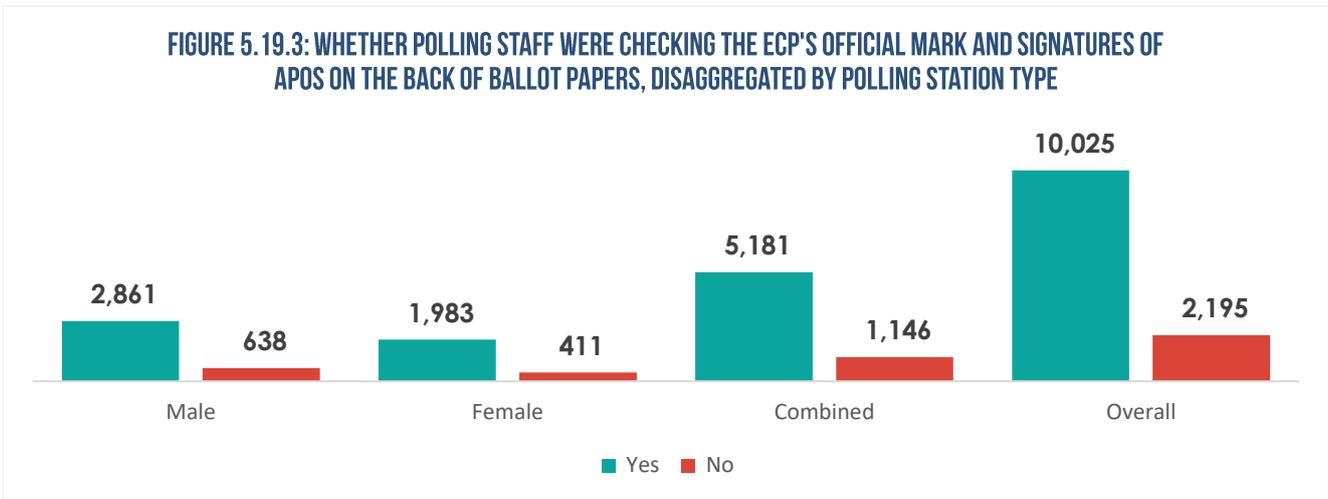


**FIGURE 5.19.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE CHECKING THE ECP'S OFFICIAL MARK AND SIGNATURES OF APOS ON THE BACK OF BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the marks and signatures were checked at 2,861 (82 percent) male polling stations, 1,938 (83 percent) female polling stations, and 5,181 (82 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where the procedure was not implemented included 638 (18 percent) male polling stations, 411 (17 percent) female polling stations, and 1,146 (18 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.19.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF WERE CHECKING THE ECP'S OFFICIAL MARK AND SIGNATURES OF APOS ON THE BACK OF BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.20 Announcement of Ballot Papers Lacking Official Marks or Signatures of APOs

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall count, in such manner as may be prescribed, the votes cast in favour of each contesting candidate excluding from the count the Spoilt Ballot Papers and the ballot papers which bear no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(4)(c)(i)*

The Presiding Officer shall, after taking out the ballot papers from the used ballot box or ballot boxes separate the ballot papers which are unambiguously marked in favour of a contesting candidate from those which bear no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(a)(i)*

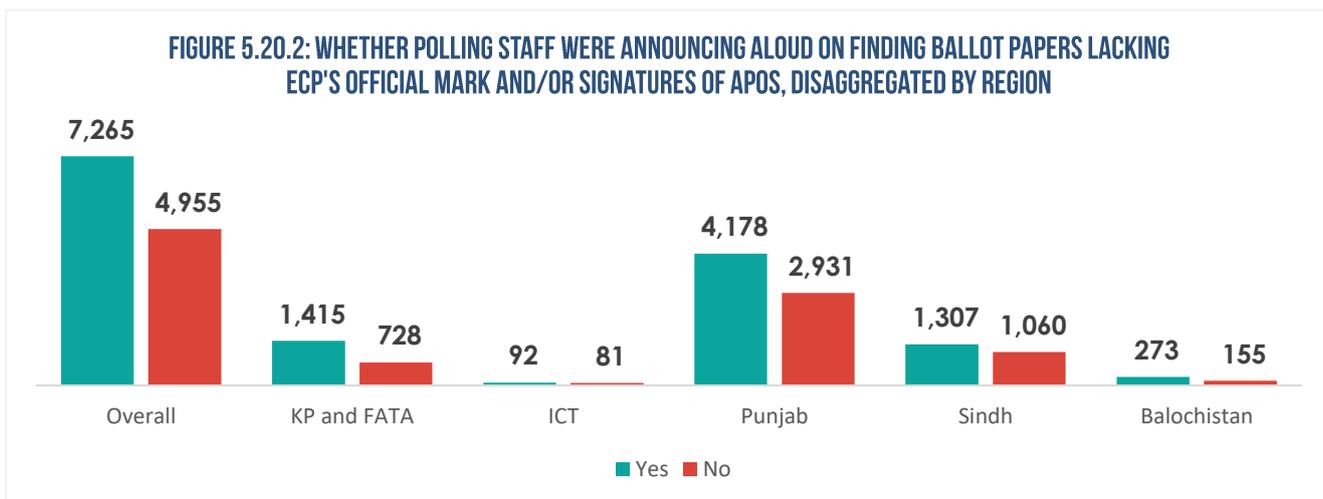
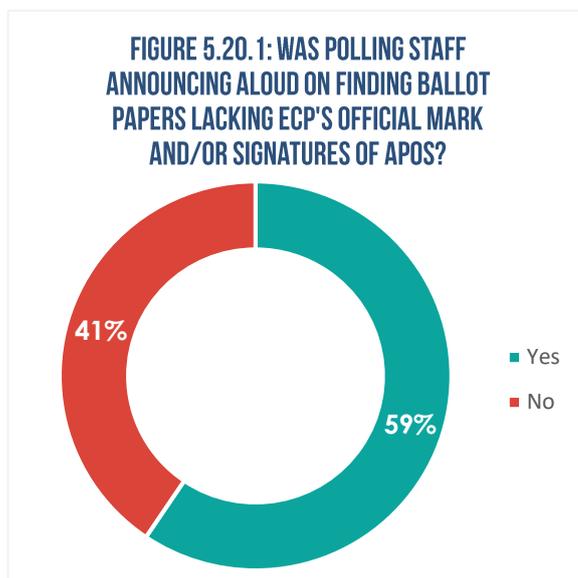
Examine ballot papers for validity and separate the ballot papers excluded from the count.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Section 4.03 Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

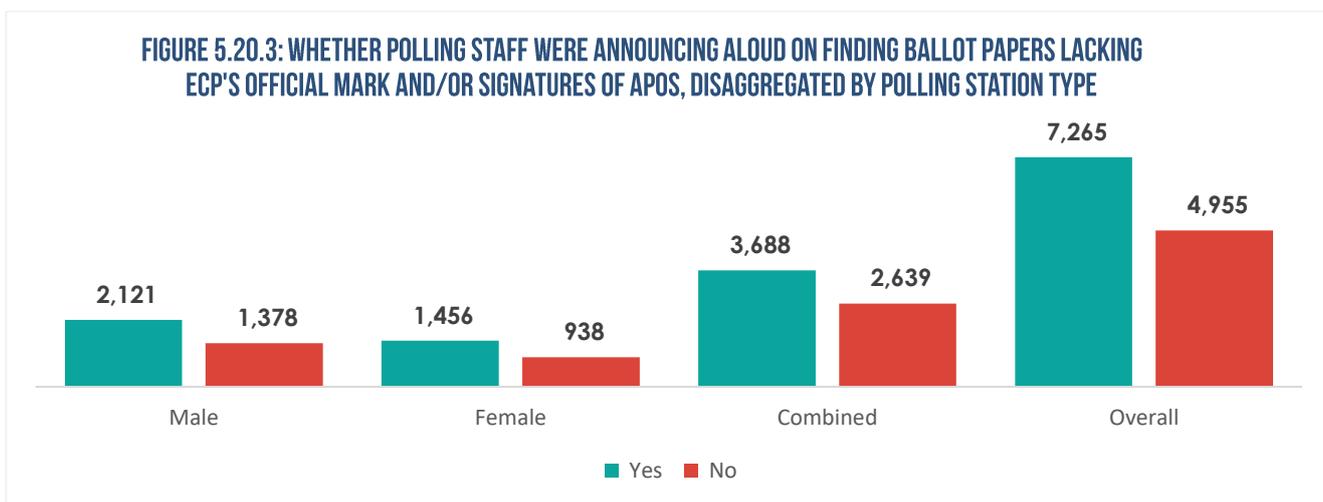


During the counting process, polling staff must announce in a loud voice whenever a ballot paper lacks the ECP's mark and/or signatures of APOs. This procedure was reportedly followed in more than half (7,265 or 59 percent) of the observed polling stations. However, it was not followed in the remainder (4,955 or 41 percent) of polling stations.

Polling stations where this practice was followed included 4,178 polling stations (59 percent) in Punjab, 1,307 (55 percent) in Sindh, 1,415 (66 percent) in KP, 273 (64 percent) in Balochistan and 92 (53 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, the practice was not observed at 2,931 polling stations (41 percent) in Punjab, 1,050 (44 percent) in Sindh, 728 (34 percent) in KP, 155 (36 percent) in Balochistan and 81 (47 percent) in ICT.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the procedure was followed at 2,121 (61 percent) male polling stations, 1,456 (61 percent) female polling stations and 3,688 (58 percent) combined polling stations. However, the practice was not observed at 1,378 (39 percent) male stations, 938 (39 percent) female stations, and 2,639 (42 percent) combined polling stations.



## 5.21 Announcement of Names/Symbols of Candidates Marked on Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A ballot paper shall be deemed to have been marked in favour of a candidate if the whole or more than half of the area of the prescribed mark appears clearly within the space containing the name and symbol of that candidate and, where the prescribed mark is divided equally between two such spaces, the ballot paper shall be deemed invalid.

*The Election Act, 2017, Section 90(5)*

The Presiding Officer shall, after taking out the ballot papers from the used ballot box or ballot boxes count separately in respect of each contesting candidate in the alphabetical order of their names as appearing on the ballot paper, the ballot papers which are unambiguously marked in favour of that candidate and put each lot in a separate packet-1 labeled 'valid ballot papers' bearing the name and symbol of the contesting candidate to which it relates.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(b)*

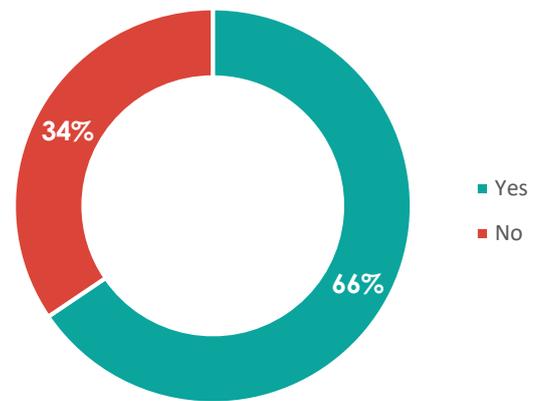
Separate the valid ballot papers for each candidate.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Section 4.03 Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

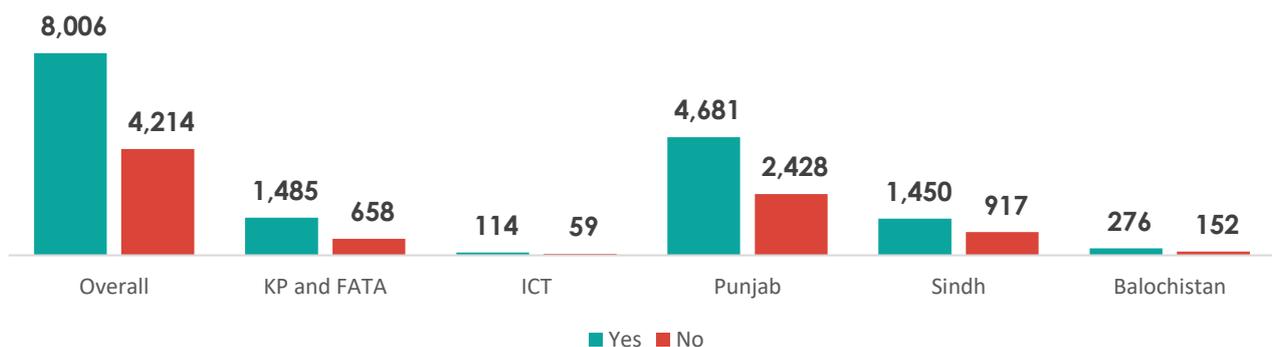
During the counting process, polling staff is required to announce in a loud voice the name of the candidate or party selected on each ballot paper. While this essential procedure was observed at 8,006 (66 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations, it was reportedly not followed at 4,214 (34 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which the practice was followed included 4,681 polling stations (66 percent) in Punjab, 1,450 (61 percent) in Sindh, 1,485 (69 percent) in KP, 276 (64 percent) in Balochistan and 114 (66 percent) in ICT. Polling stations in which the procedure was not implemented include 2,428 polling stations (34 percent) in Punjab, 917 (39 percent) in Sindh, 658 (31 percent) in KP, 152 (36 percent) in Balochistan and 59 (34 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 5.21.1: DID POLLING STAFF CALL A LOUD THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE OR PARTY MARKED ON EACH BALLOT PAPER?**



**FIGURE 5.21.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF CALLED ALOUD THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE OR PARTY MARKED ON EACH BALLOT PAPER, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

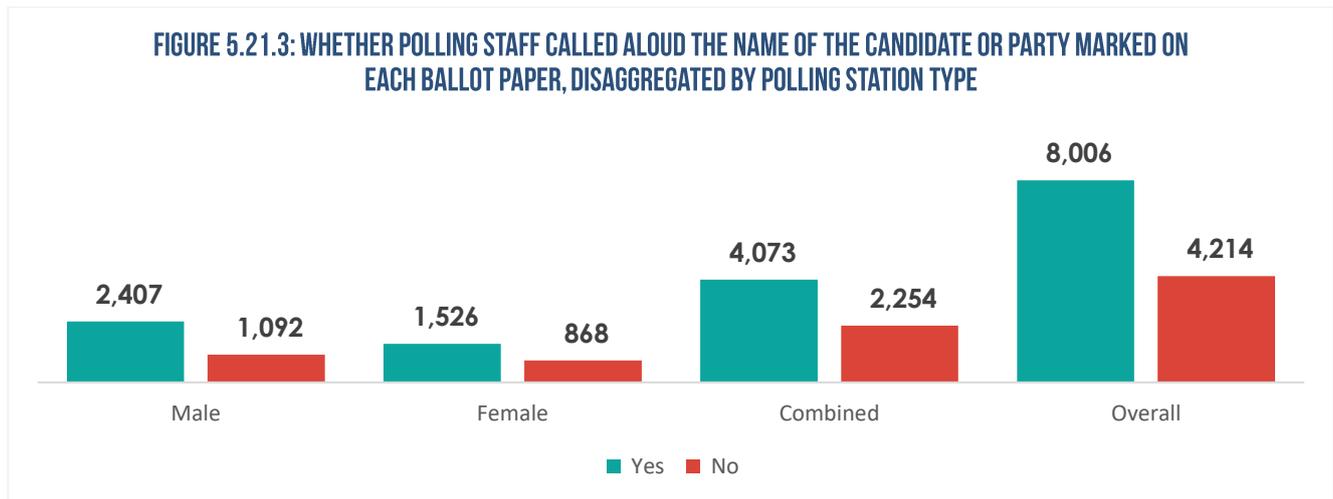


With regard to type of polling station, the procedure was followed at 2,407 (69 percent) male polling stations, 1,526 (64 percent) female polling stations and 4,073 (64 percent) combined polling stations.



Polling stations in which the required procedure was reportedly not followed included 1,092 (31 percent) male stations, 868 (36 percent) female stations, and 2,254 (36 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.21.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF CALLED ALOUD THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE OR PARTY MARKED ON EACH BALLOT PAPER, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.22 Counting Ballot Papers of Each Candidate Twice

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

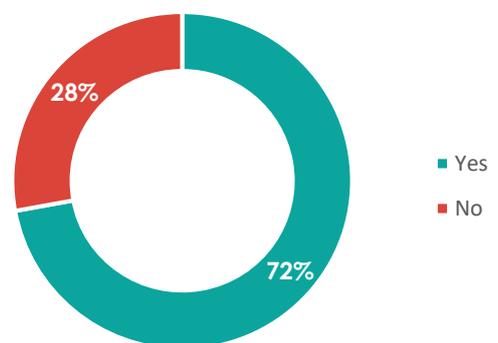
Count and recount all ballot papers for National Assembly to avoid any mistake.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Section 4.03 Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

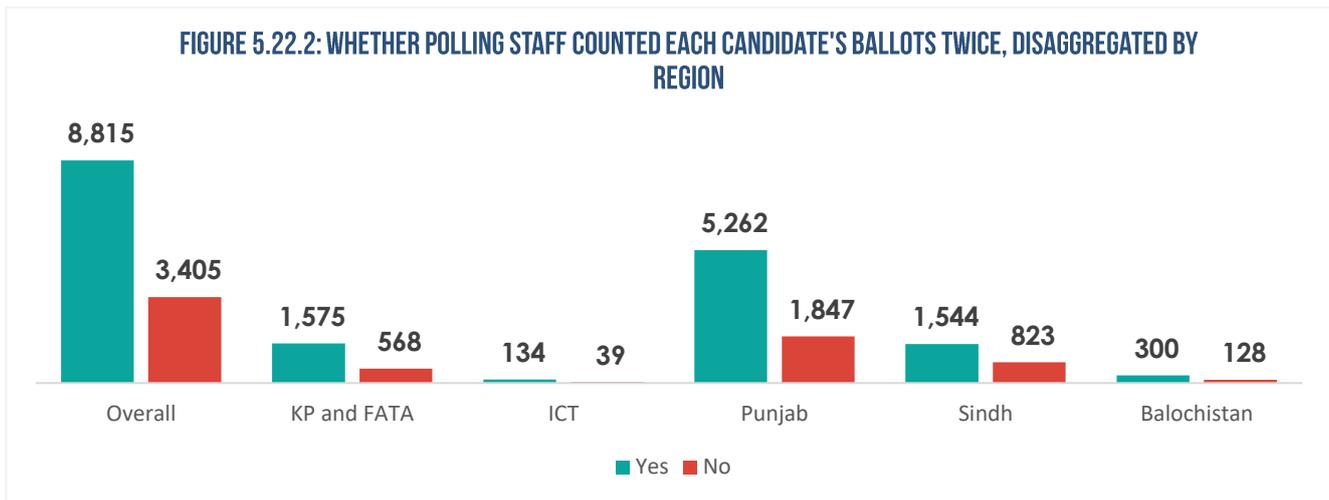
After the ballots were divided into piles for each candidate, polling staff counted each candidate's ballots twice at 8,815 (72 percent) of 12, 220 observed polling stations. However, the required procedure was reportedly not followed at the remaining 3,405 (28 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which polling staff counted each candidate's ballots twice included 1,575 (73 percent) polling stations in KP, 134 (77 percent) in ICT, 1,847 (74 percent) in Punjab, 1,544 (65 percent) in Sindh, and 300 (70 percent) in Balochistan. However, ballots were not recounted at 568 (27 percent) polling stations in KP, 39 (23 percent) in ICT, 1,847 (26 percent) in Punjab, 823 (35 percent) in Sindh and 128 (30 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 5.22.1: DID POLLING STAFF COUNT EACH CANDIDATE'S BALLOTS TWICE AFTER THE BALLOTS WERE DIVIDED INTO PILES FOR EACH CANDIDATE?**

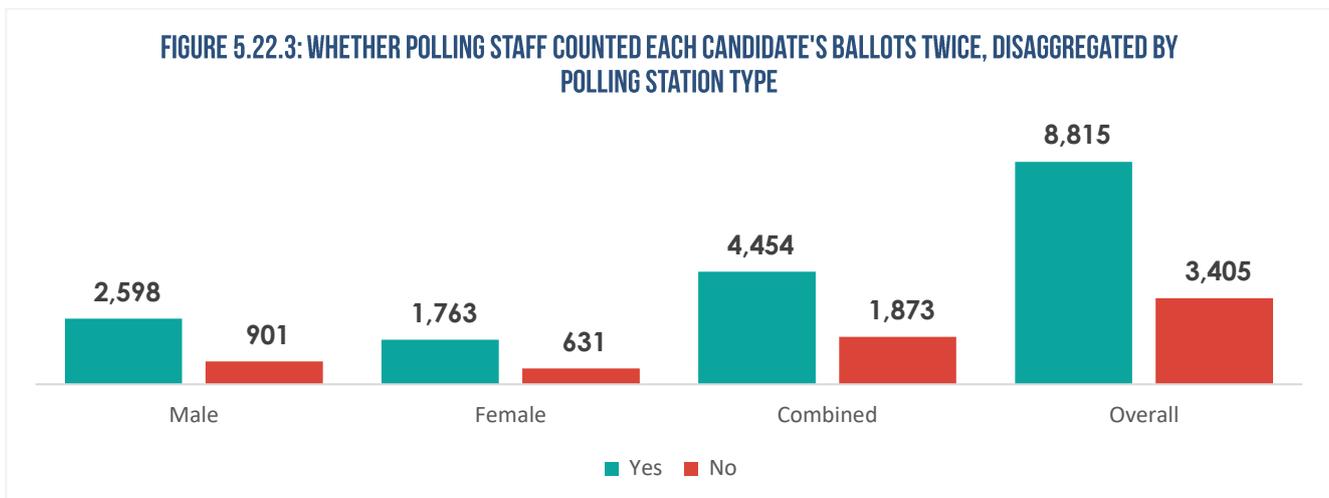


**FIGURE 5.22.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED EACH CANDIDATE'S BALLOTS TWICE, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that polling staff counted each candidate's ballots twice at 2,598 (74 percent) male polling stations, 1,763 (74 percent) female polling stations and 4,454 (70 percent) combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, this important procedure was not implemented at 901 (26 percent) male stations, 631 (26 percent) female stations, and 1,873 (30 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.22.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED EACH CANDIDATE'S BALLOTS TWICE, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.23 Separate Pile for Ballots Excluded from the Count

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall count, in such manner as may be prescribed, the votes cast in favour of each contesting candidate excluding from the count the Spoilt Ballot Papers and the ballot papers which bear

- (i) no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer;
- (ii) any writing or any mark other than the official mark, the signature of the Presiding Officer and the prescribed mark or to which a piece of paper or any other object of any kind has been attached;
- (iii) no prescribed mark to indicate the contesting candidate for whom the voter has voted; or
- (iv) any mark from which it is not clear for whom the voter has voted.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(4) (c)*



The ballot papers excluded from the count shall be put in a separate packet indicating on the packet the Overall number of the ballot papers contained in the packet both in letters and figures.

*The Election Act, 2017, Section 90(8)*

The Presiding Officer shall, after taking out the ballot papers from the used ballot box or ballot boxes,

- (a) separate the ballot papers which are unambiguously marked in favour of a contesting candidate from those which bear—
  - (i) no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer; or
  - (ii) any writing or any mark other than the official mark, signature of the Presiding Officer and the prescribed mark made with the rubber-stamp supplied for the purpose or to which a piece of paper or any other object of any kind has been attached; or
  - (iii) no prescribed mark indicating the contesting candidate for whom the voter has voted; or
  - (iv) any mark from which it is not clear for whom the voter has voted, provided that a ballot paper shall be deemed to have been marked in favour of a candidate if the whole or more than half of the area of the prescribed mark appears clearly within the space containing the name and symbol of that candidate; and where the prescribed mark is divided equally between two such spaces, the ballot paper shall be deemed not to show clearly for whom the voter has voted.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)*

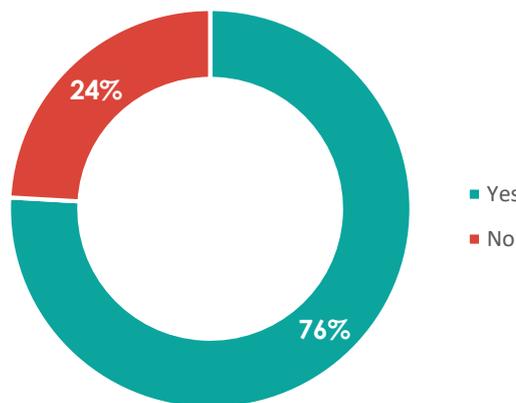
Examine ballot papers for validity and separate the ballot papers excluded from the count.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Section 4.03 Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

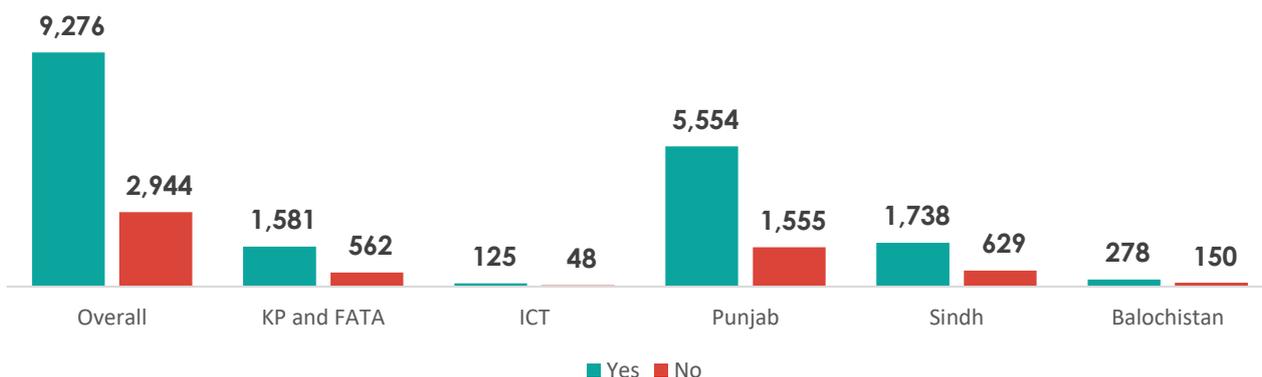
Of the 12,220 polling stations observed, polling officials made a separate pile for ballots excluded from the count at 9,276 (76 percent) polling stations. However, polling staff reportedly did not make a separate pile for excluded ballots in the remaining 2,944 (24 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which a separate pile was made of the ballots excluded from the count included 1,581 (74 percent) polling stations in KP, 125 (72 percent) in ICT, 5,554 (78 percent) in Punjab, 1,738 (78 percent) in Sindh and 278 (65 percent) in Balochistan. However, the required procedure was reportedly not implemented at 562 (26 percent) polling stations in KP, 48 (28 percent) in ICT, 1,555 (22 percent) in Punjab, 629 (27 percent) in Sindh and 150 (35 percent) in Balochistan, suggesting that the issue was more prevalent in Balochistan than elsewhere.

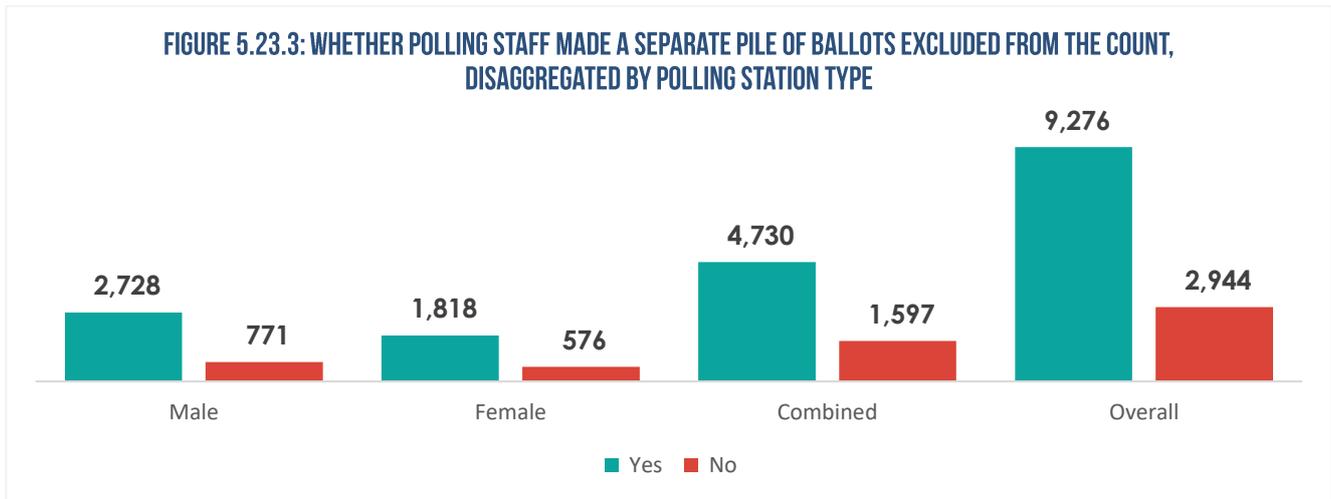
**FIGURE 5.23.1: DID POLLING STAFF MAKE A SEPARATE PILE OF BALLOTS EXCLUDED FROM THE COUNT?**



**FIGURE 5.23.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF MADE A SEPARATE PILE OF BALLOTS EXCLUDED FROM THE COUNT, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, a separate of excluded ballots was made at 2,728 (78 percent) male polling stations, 1,818 (76 percent) female polling stations and 4,730 (75 percent) combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, a separate pile was not made at 771 (22 percent) male stations, 576 (24 percent) female stations, and 1,597 (25 percent) combined polling stations.



## 5.24 Candidates’/Agents’ Objections to Exclusion of Ballot Papers

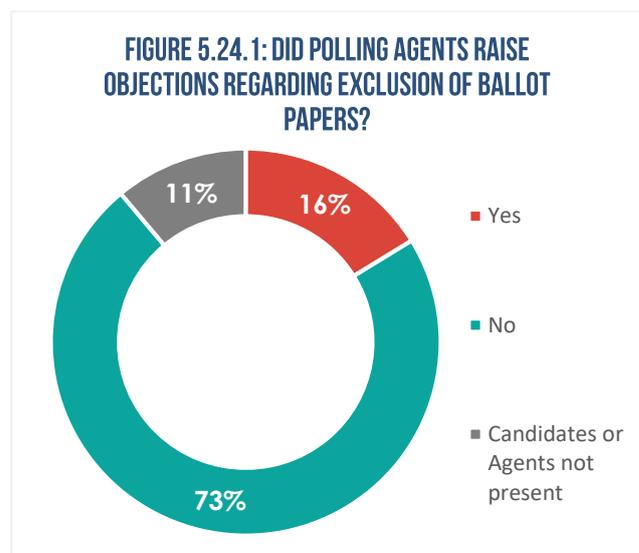
### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

If polling agent observes any irregularity at the polling station then he may raise objection thereon however, it is necessary for the polling agent to raise such objection in an amicable and civilized manner.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 9*

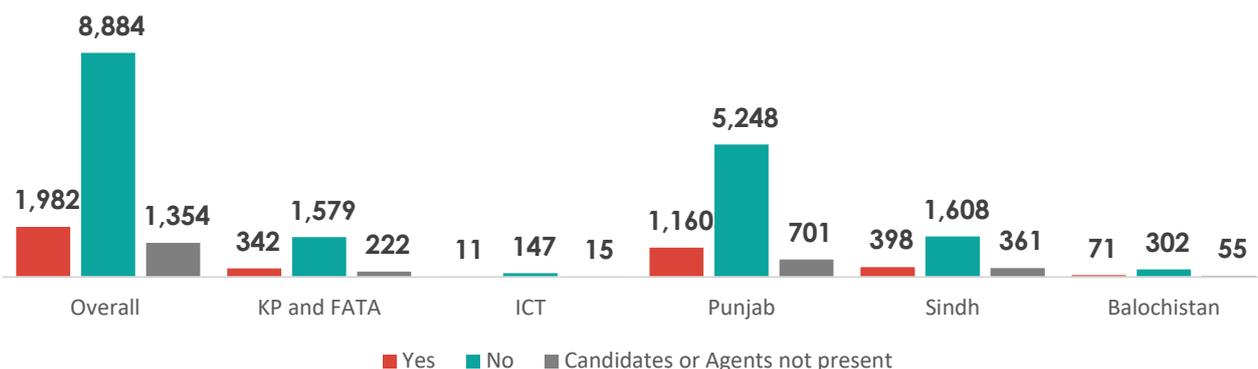
Candidates or their Election/Polling Agents raised objections about the exclusion of ballot papers at 1,982 (16 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, they reportedly did not make any objections at the remaining 8,884 (73 percent) polling stations while no candidate or agents were present at 1,354 (11 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which candidates or their agents raised objections about the exclusion of ballot papers included 342 (16 percent) polling stations in KP, 11 (six percent) in ICT, 1,160 (16 percent) in Punjab, 398 (17 percent) in Sindh and 71 (17 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which objections were not observed included 1,579 (74 percent) polling stations in KP, 147 (6.4 percent) in ICT, 5,248 (74 percent) in Punjab, 1,608 (68 percent) in Sindh and 302 (71 percent) in Balochistan. The candidates or their agents were not present at 1,354 observed polling stations of which 222 (ten percent) were in KP, 15 (nine percent) in ICT, 701 (ten percent) in Punjab, 361 (15 percent) in Sindh and 55 (13 percent) in Balochistan.



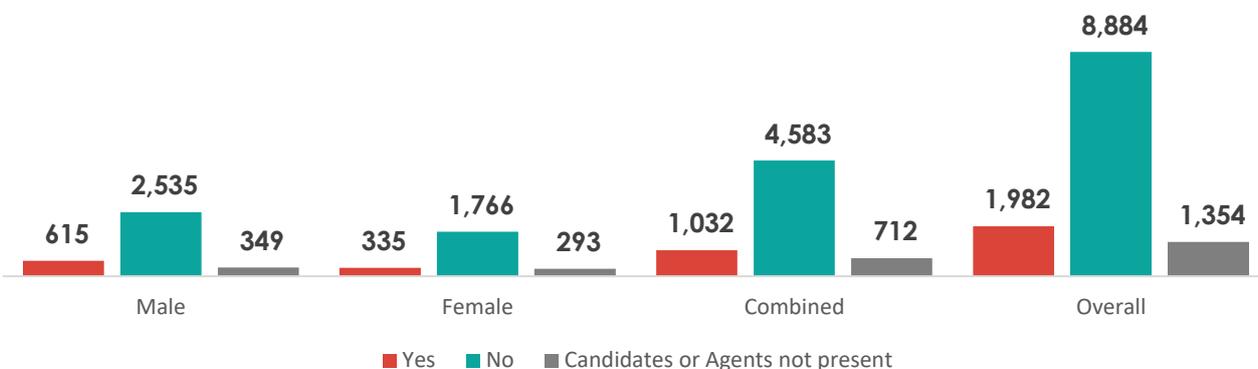


**FIGURE 5.24.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS RAISED OBJECTIONS REGARDING EXCLUSION OF BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, candidates or their agents raised objections at 663 (19 percent) male polling stations, 380 (16 percent) female polling stations and 1,112 (18 percent) combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, no objections were reported at 2,836 (81 percent) male stations, 2,014 (84 percent) female stations, and 5,215 (82 percent) combined polling stations. The candidates or their agents were reported absent at 349 male, 293 female and 712 combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.24.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS RAISED OBJECTIONS REGARDING EXCLUSION OF BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.25 Counting of Challenged Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall open the packets bearing the labels "Tendered Ballot Papers and Challenged Ballot Papers" and count them.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(4)(b)*

The Presiding Officer shall, after taking out the ballot papers from the used ballot box or ballot boxes, open the packet-7 labeled "Challenged Ballot Papers" and count the ballot papers unambiguously marked in favour of each candidate, excluding from the count the ballot papers suffering from any of the defects mentioned in sub clauses (i) to (iv) of clause (a).

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(f)*

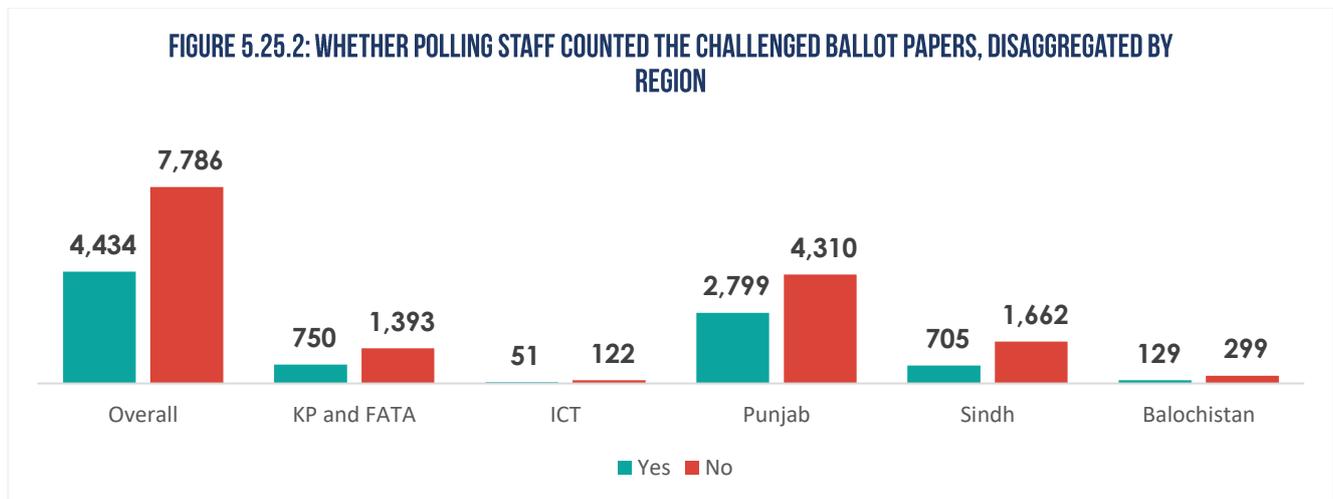
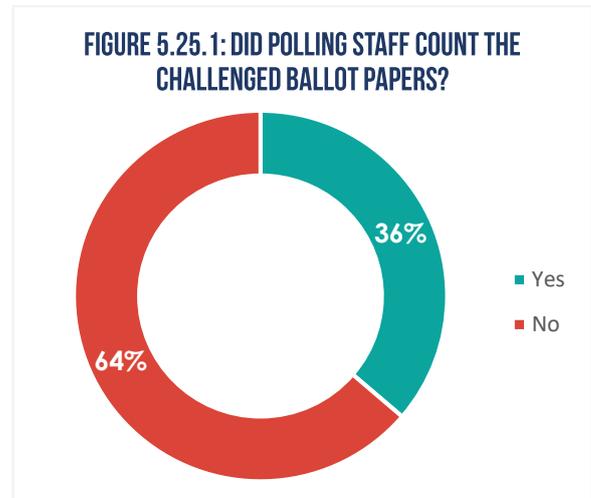
After the Challenged Ballot Papers have been so counted, the Presiding Officer shall put all such ballot papers as were taken out of the packet-7 labeled "Challenged Ballot Papers" into:

- (i) packet-8 labeled valid Challenged Ballot Papers included in the count, the Challenged Ballot Papers held to be valid and counted by the Presiding Officer;
- (ii) packet-9 labeled Challenged Ballot Papers excluded from the count, the Challenged Ballot Papers excluded from the count by the Presiding Officer.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(g)*

Polling Staff counted the challenged ballot papers at 4,434 (36 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations observed. However, the polling staff either did not count the challenged ballot papers or no challenged ballot paper was used in the remaining 7,786 (64 percent) polling stations.

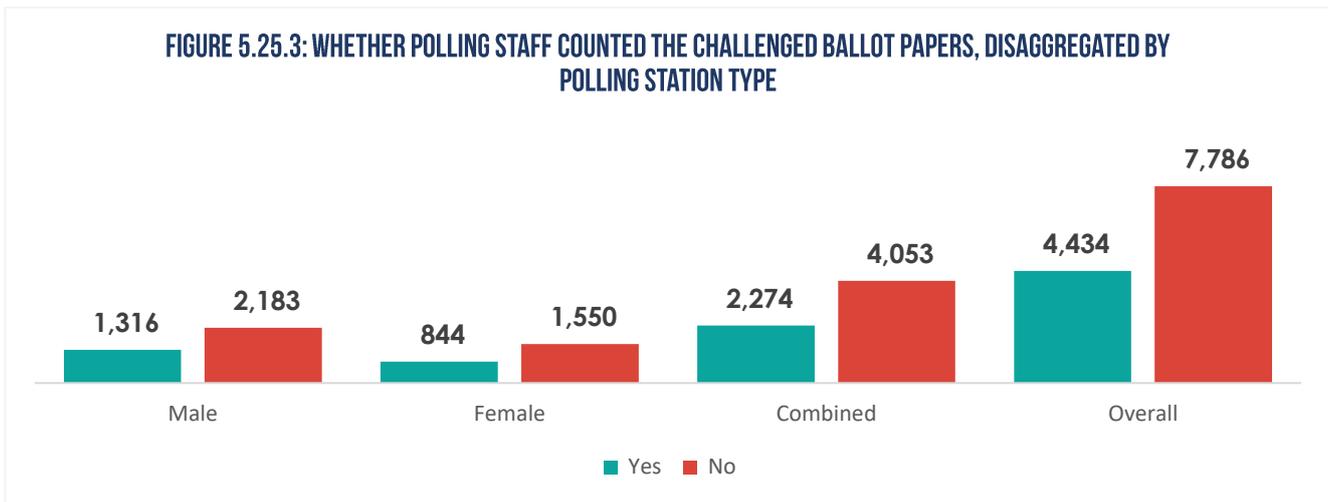
Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that polling staff counted the challenged ballot papers at 750 (35 percent) polling stations in KP, 51 (29 percent) in ICT, 2,799 (39 percent) in Punjab, 705 (30 percent) in Sindh and 129 (30 percent) in Balochistan. Counting challenged ballot papers was not done at 1,393 (65 percent) polling stations in KP, 122 (71 percent) in ICT, 4,310 (61 percent) in Punjab, 1,662 (70 percent) in Sindh and 299 (70 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that Polling Staff counted challenged ballot papers at 1,316 (38 percent) male polling stations, 844 (35 percent) female polling stations and 2,274 (36 percent) combined polling stations observed. Challenged ballot papers reportedly were not counted at 2,183 (62 percent) male stations, 1,550 (65 percent) female stations, and 4,053 (64 percent) combined polling stations.



FIGURE 5.25.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED THE CHALLENGED BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 5.26 Counting of Tendered Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall open the packets bearing the labels Tendered Ballot Papers and Challenged Ballot Papers" and count them.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(4)(b)*

The Presiding Officer shall, after taking out the ballot papers from the used ballot box or ballot boxes, open the packet-4 labeled 'Tendered Ballot Papers' and count the ballot papers unambiguously marked in favour of each candidate, excluding from the count the ballot papers suffering from any of the defects mentioned in sub clauses (i) to (iv) of clause (a).

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(d)*

After the Tendered Ballot Papers have been so counted, the Presiding Officer shall put all such ballot papers as were taken out of the packet-4 labeled Challenged Ballot Papers' into:

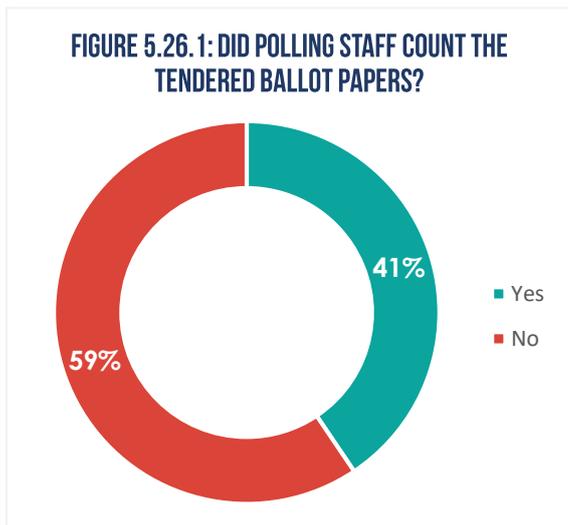
- (i) packet-5 labeled valid Tendered Ballot Papers included in the count, the Tendered Ballot Papers' held to be valid and counted by the Presiding Officer;
- (ii) packet-6 labeled Tendered Ballot Papers excluded from the count, the Tendered Ballot Papers excluded from the count by the Presiding Officer.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 80(1)(e)*

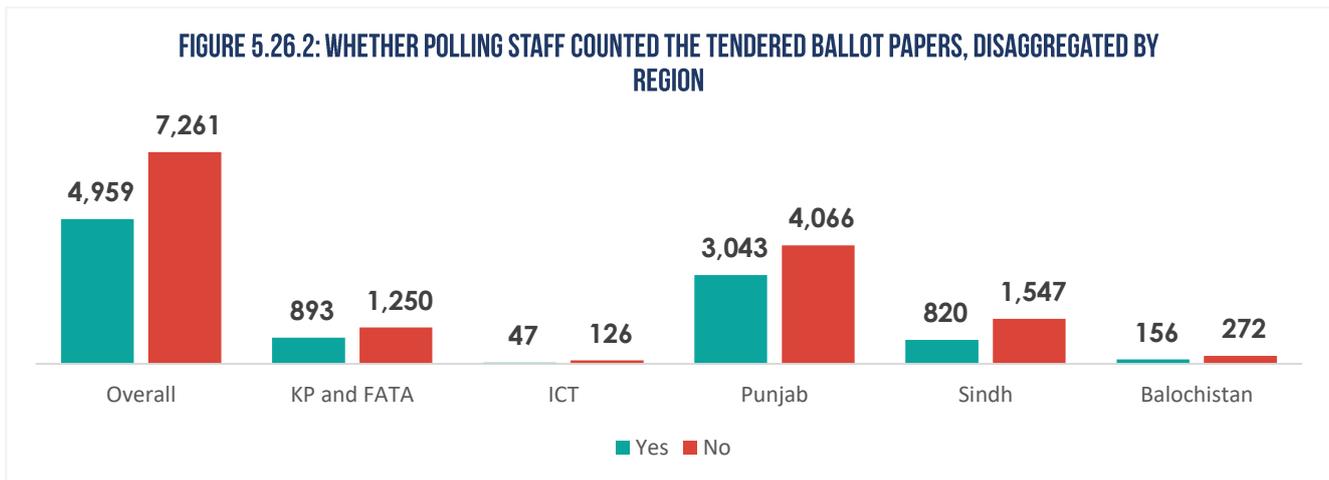
Polling Staff reportedly counted tendered ballot papers at less than half (4,959 or 41 percent) of the 12,220 polling stations observed. However, the staff either did not count the tendered ballot papers or no tendered ballot paper was used at the remaining 7261 (59 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which polling staff counted tendered ballots included 893 (42 percent) polling stations in KP, 47 (27 percent) in ICT, 3,043 (43 percent) in Punjab, 820 (35 percent) in Sindh and 156 (36 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which the tendered ballots were not counted included 1,250 (58 percent) polling stations in KP, 126 (73 percent) in ICT, 4,066 (57 percent) in Punjab, 1,547 (65 percent) in Sindh and 272 (64 percent) in Balochistan.

FIGURE 5.26.1: DID POLLING STAFF COUNT THE TENDERED BALLOT PAPERS?

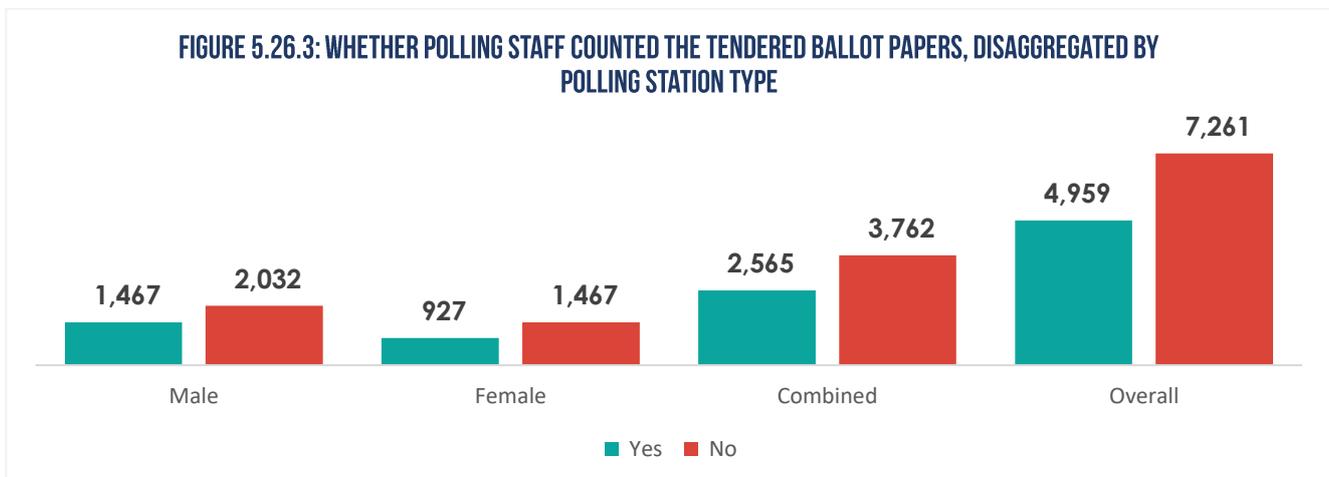


**FIGURE 5.26.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED THE TENDERED BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Dissaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that tendered ballots were counted at 1,467 (42 percent) male polling stations, 927 (39 percent) female polling stations and 2,565 (41 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations in which the count of tendered ballots was not observed included 2,032 (58 percent) male stations, 1,467 (61 percent) female stations, and 3,762 (59 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.26.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED THE TENDERED BALLOT PAPERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.27 Counting of Spoilt Ballot Papers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A voter who has inadvertently so spoilt his ballot paper that it cannot be used as a valid ballot paper may, upon proving the fact of inadvertence to the satisfaction of the Presiding Officer and returning the ballot paper to him, obtain another ballot paper and cast his vote by such other ballot paper.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 87(1)*

The Presiding Officer shall cancel the ballot paper returned to him under sub-section (1), make a note to that effect on the counterfoil under his own signatures and sign the cancelled ballot paper and place it in a separate packet bearing the label Spoilt Ballot Papers.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 87(2)*

The Presiding Officer shall count, in such manner as may be prescribed, the votes cast in favour of each contesting candidate excluding from the count the Spoilt Ballot Papers and the ballot papers which bear no official mark and signature of the Presiding Officer.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(4)(c)(i)*



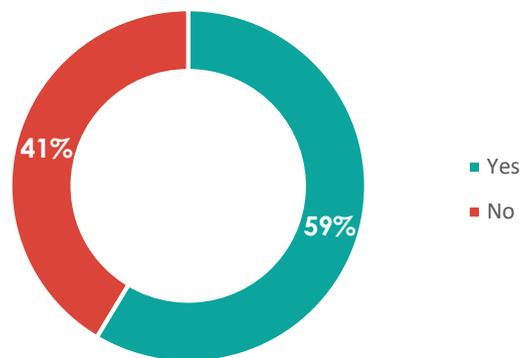
If any ballot paper which has been issued to a voter has not been inserted by him into the ballot box but is found anywhere else in or near the polling station, it shall be cancelled and accounted for as Spoilt Ballot Paper.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 79(1)*

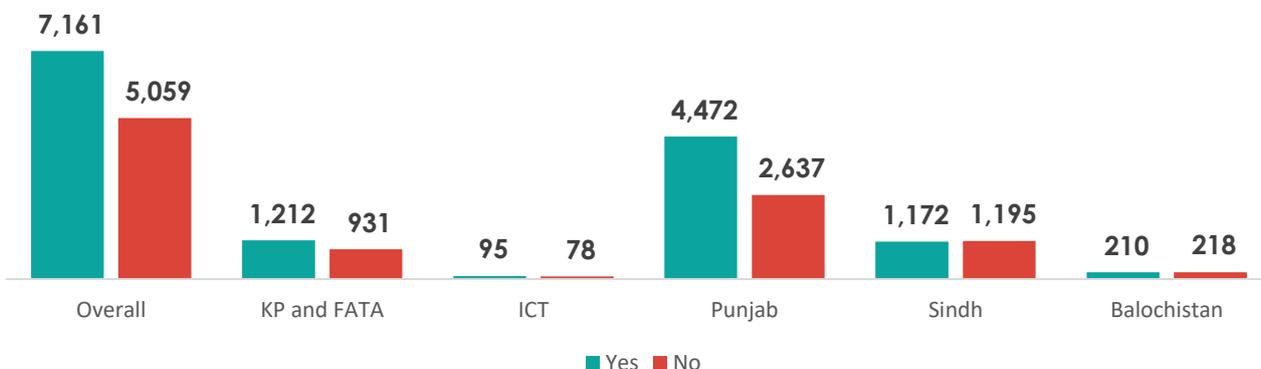
Polling Staff reportedly counted spoilt ballot papers at 7,161 (59 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, the staff either did not count the spoilt ballot papers or no spoilt ballot paper was found in the remaining 5,059 (41 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations in which spoilt ballots were counted included 1,212 (57 percent) polling stations in KP, 95 (55 percent) in ICT, 4,472 (63 percent) in Punjab, 1,172 (50 percent) in Sindh and 210 (49 percent) in Balochistan. On the other hand, polling stations in which they were not counted included 931 (43 percent) polling stations in KP, 78 (45 percent) in ICT, 2,637 (37 percent) in Punjab, 1,195 (50 percent) in Sindh and 218 (51 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 5.27.1: DID POLLING STAFF COUNT THE SPOILT BALLOTS?**

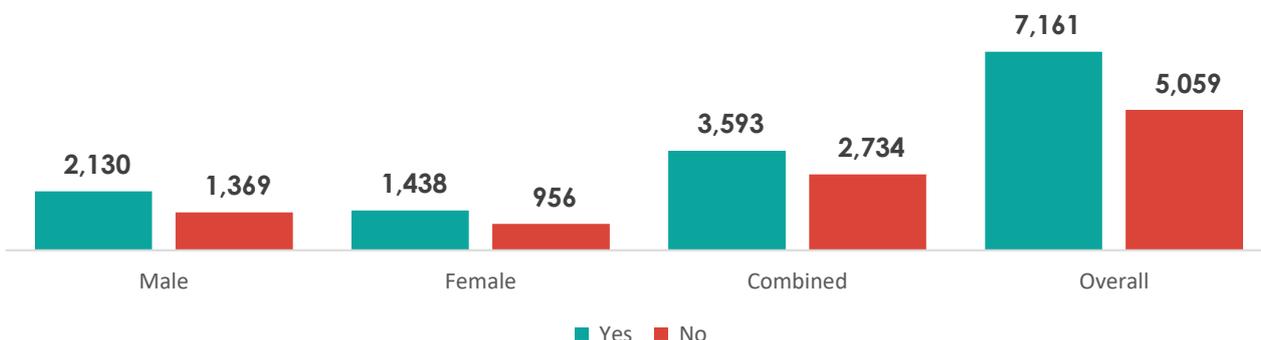


**FIGURE 5.27.2: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED THE SPOILT BALLOTS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that spoilt ballots were counted at 2,130 (61 percent) male polling stations, 1,438 (60 percent) female polling stations and 3,593 (57 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations in which spoilt ballots were not counted included 1,369 (39 percent) male stations, 1,438 (60 percent) female stations and 2,734 (43 percent) combined polling stations, suggesting that the omission was more frequent in female polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.27.3: WHETHER POLLING STAFF COUNTED THE SPOILT BALLOTS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.28 Recounting of Votes at Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer may recount the votes if he considers it necessary –

- (a) of his own motion; or
- (b) upon the request of a contesting candidate, an election agent or a polling agent present:

Provided that the recount shall be made by the Presiding Officer only once.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(6)*

Polling agent should be aware of the fact that under the law, the Presiding Officer, if he considers it necessary, may recount the votes of his own motion or upon the request of a contesting candidate, an election agent or a polling agent, however, the recount shall be made by the Presiding Officer only once. Hence, polling agent should not insist on further recount if one recount has been done by the presiding officer.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates, Election and Polling Agents, Clause 17*

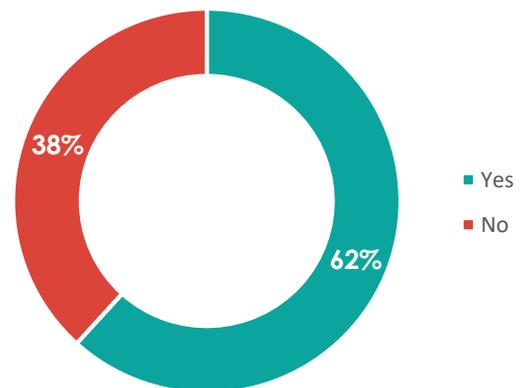
Presiding Officer, at his own discretion, may recount the votes. Votes can be recounted at the request of a candidate or his/her election/polling agent. However, only one attempt of recounting is permissible.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Pg. 55*

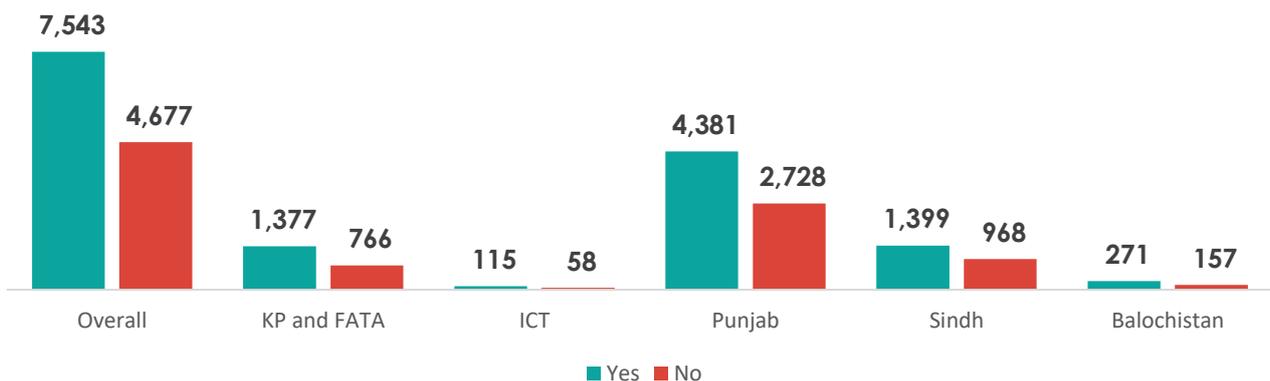
Of the 12,220 polling stations observed, PrOs re-counted the votes for each candidate at the majority (7,543 or 62 percent) of polling stations. However, re-counting was reportedly not conducted at the remaining 4,677 (38 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that the Presiding Officers re-counted the votes at 1,377 (64 percent) polling stations in KP, 115 (66 percent) in ICT, 4,381 (62 percent) in Punjab, 1,399 (59 percent) in Sindh and 271 (63 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which re-counting was not conducted included 766 (36 percent) polling stations in KP, 58 (34 percent) in ICT, 2,728 (38 percent) in Punjab, 968 (41 percent) in Sindh and 157 (37 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 5.28.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER RE-COUNT THE VOTES FOR EACH CANDIDATE?**



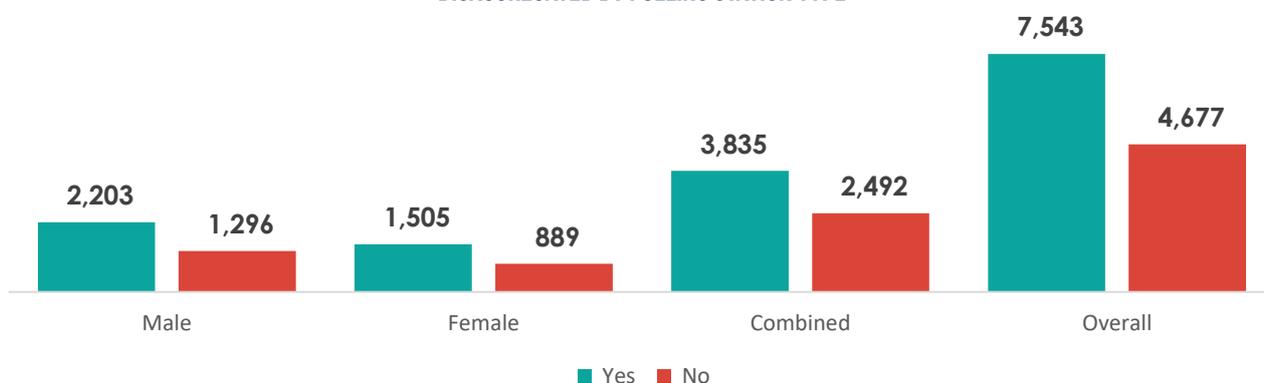
**FIGURE 5.28.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER RE-COUNTED THE VOTES FOR EACH CANDIDATE, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**





Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that PrOs re-counted the vote tallies at 2,203 (63 percent) male polling stations, 1,505 (63 percent) female polling stations and 3,835 (61 percent) combined polling stations observation. Re-counting was not conducted at 1,296 (37 percent) male stations, 889 (37 percent) female stations, and 2,492 (39 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.28.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER RE-COUNTED THE VOTES FOR EACH CANDIDATE, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.29 Refusal of Candidate, Election Agent or Polling Agent to Sign Form-45

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, after preparation of the Result of the Count and the Ballot Paper Account, shall sign them and obtain thereon the signatures of the senior-most APO and an accredited observer, a candidate or his election agent or polling agents as may be present in token of the said documents having been prepared in their presence and if any such person refuses to sign it, the Presiding Officer shall record a note on the result of the count and the ballot paper account to that effect.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(12)*

The Presiding Officer shall obtain on each statement and packet prepared under this section the signature of such of the contesting candidates or their election agents or polling agents as may be present and, if any such person refuses to sign, the Presiding Officer shall record that fact on each such statement or packet.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(16)*

When requested by the presiding officer, the polling agent should put his signature on Form-45 (Result of the Count) and Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account) prepared by the presiding officer.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates, Election and Polling Agents, Clause 18*

Sign the Result of the Count (Form-45) and Ballot Paper Account (Form-46)

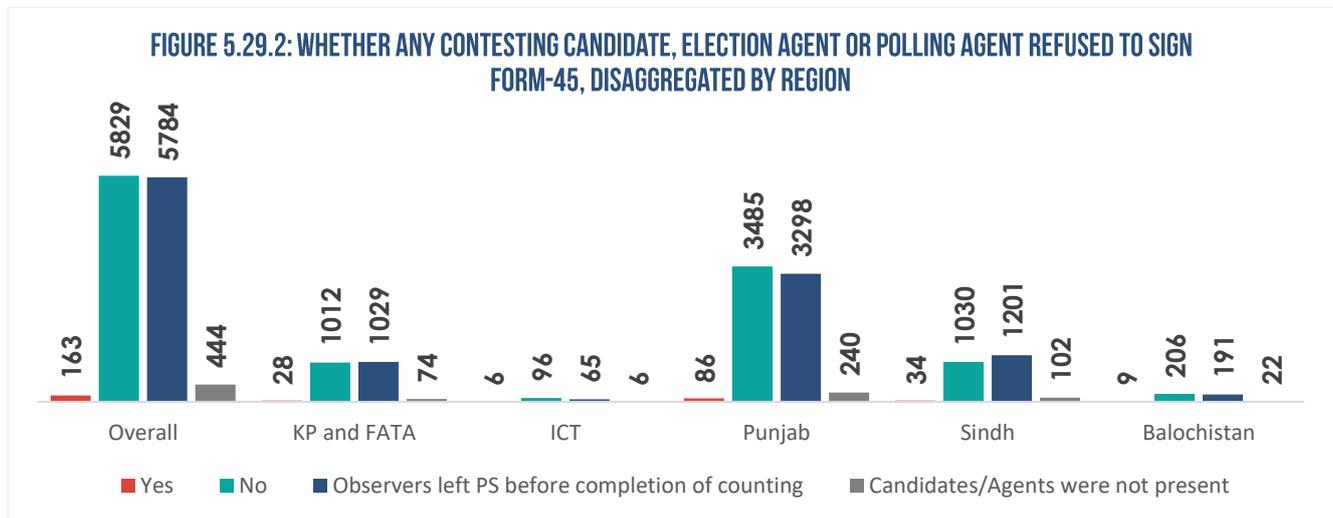
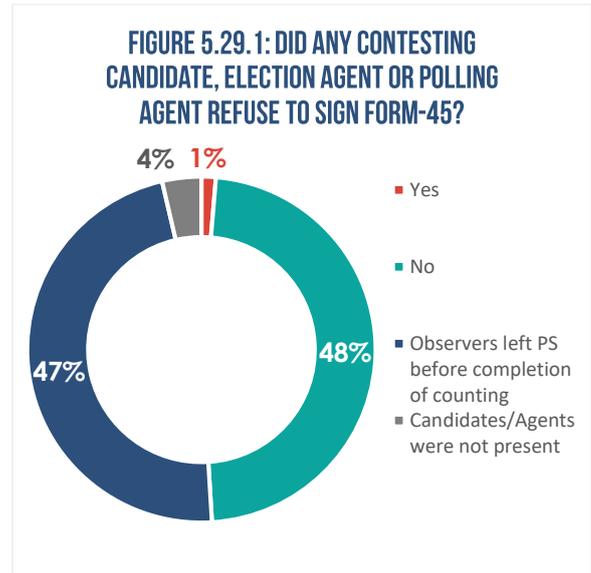
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Election Agent and Polling Agents, Pg. 11*

The Presiding Officer will ask the polling agents, election agents, candidates and observers present at the polling station to sign the Result of the Count (Form-45) and the Ballot Papers Account (Form-46).

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

A contesting candidate, election agent or polling agent refused to sign Form-45 at 163 (one percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations across the country while no candidate or agent refused to sign Form-45 at 5,829 (48 percent) polling stations. Moreover, the candidates or their agents were not present in 444 (four percent) of the polling stations while the observers at 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations left the station premises before completion of the counting.

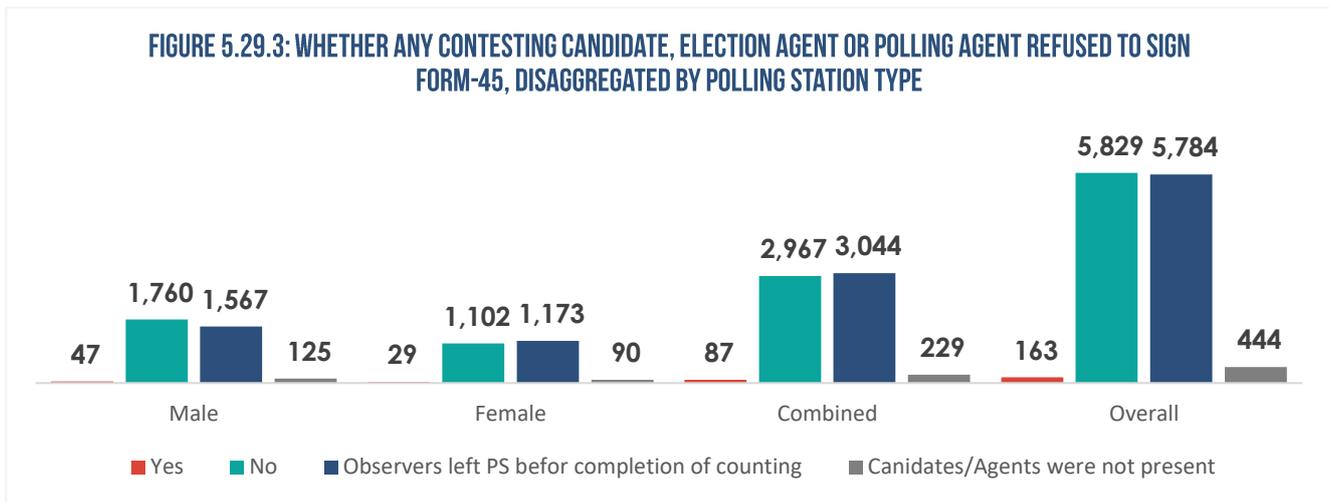
A contesting candidate or election agent or polling agent refused to sign Form-45 at 28 (one percent) polling stations in KP, six (three percent) in ICT, 86 (one percent) in Punjab, 34 (one percent) in Sindh and nine (two percent) in Balochistan. No such incident was reported at 1,012 (47 percent) polling stations in KP, 96 (55 percent) in ICT, 3,485 (49 percent) in Punjab, 1,030 (43 percent) in Sindh and 206 (48 percent) in Balochistan. At 74 (three percent) polling stations in KP, six (three percent) in ICT, 240 (three percent) in Punjab, 102 (four percent) in Sindh and 22 (five percent) in Balochistan, contesting candidates or their agents were not present. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (38 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that a contesting candidate, election agent or polling agent refused to sign Form-45 at 47 (one percent) male polling stations, 29 (one percent) female polling stations and 87 (one percent) combined polling stations observed. No such incident was reported at 1,760 (50 percent) male polling stations, 1,102 (46 percent) female polling stations, and 2,967 (47 percent) combined polling stations. The candidates or their agents were reported absent in 125 (four percent) male polling stations, 90 (four percent) female polling stations and 229 (four percent) combined polling stations. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations, and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 5.29.3: WHETHER ANY CONTESTING CANDIDATE, ELECTION AGENT OR POLLING AGENT REFUSED TO SIGN FORM-45, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.30 Refusal of Candidate, Election Agent or Polling Agent to Sign Form-46

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer, after preparation of the Result of the Count and the Ballot Paper Account, shall sign them and obtain thereon the signatures of the senior-most APO and an accredited observer, a candidate or his election agent or polling agents as may be present in token of the said documents having been prepared in their presence and if any such person refuses to sign it, the Presiding Officer shall record a note on the result of the count and the ballot paper account to that effect.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(12)*

The Presiding Officer shall obtain on each statement and packet prepared under this section the signature of such of the contesting candidates or their election agents or polling agents as may be present and, if any such person refuses to sign, the Presiding Officer shall record that fact on each such statement or packet.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(16)*

When requested by the presiding officer, the polling agent should put his signature on Form-45 (Result of the Count) and Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account) prepared by the presiding officer.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates, Election and Polling Agents, Clause 18*

Sign the Result of the Count (Form-45) and Ballot Paper Account (Form-46)

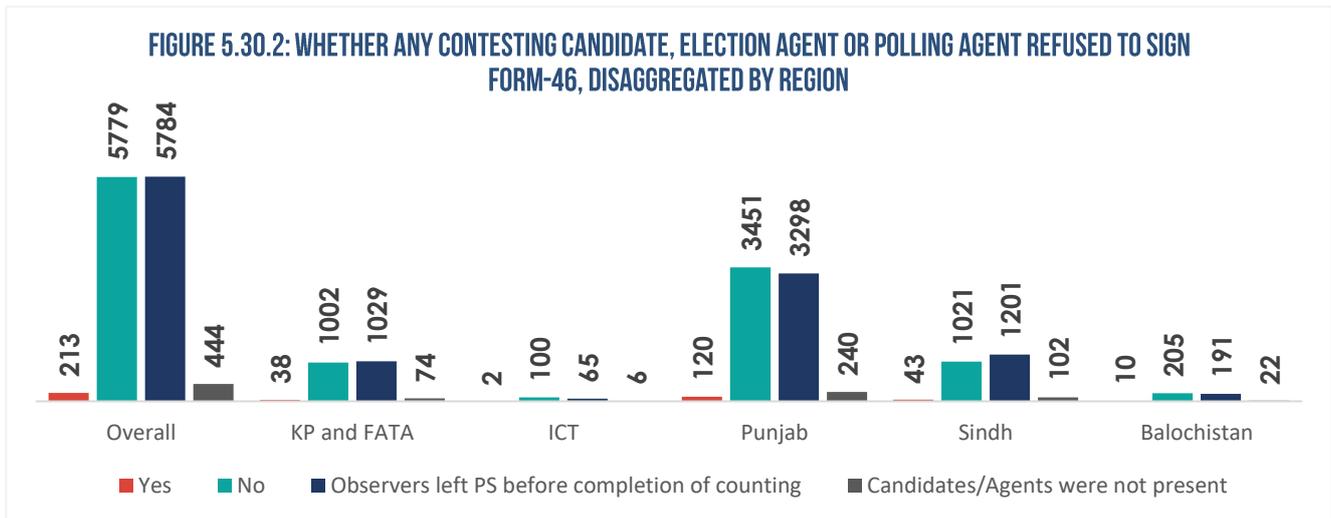
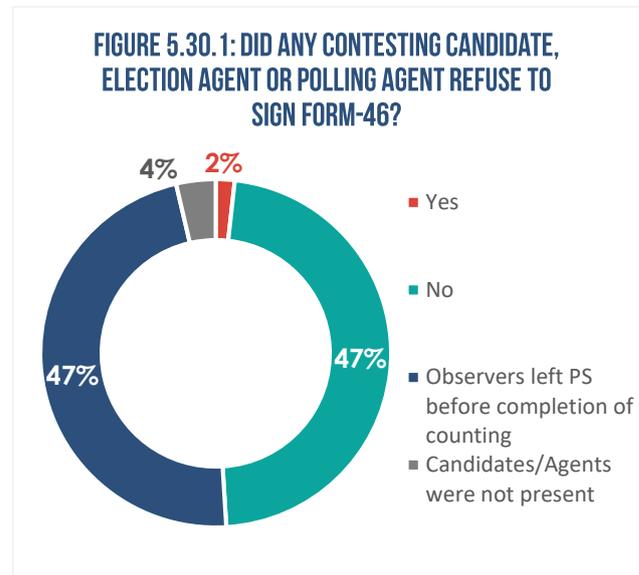
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Election Agent and Polling Agents, Pg. 11*

The Presiding Officer will ask the polling agents, election agents, candidates and observers present at the polling station to sign the Result of the Count (Form-45) and the Ballot Papers Account (Form-46).

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Conducting the Count at the Polling Station, Pg. 56*

A contesting candidate, election agent or polling agent refused to sign Form-46 at 213 (two percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations across the country while no candidate or agent refused to sign Form-46 at 5,779 (47 percent) polling stations. Moreover, the candidates or their agents were not present in 444 (four percent) of the polling stations while the observers at 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations left the station premises before completion of the counting.

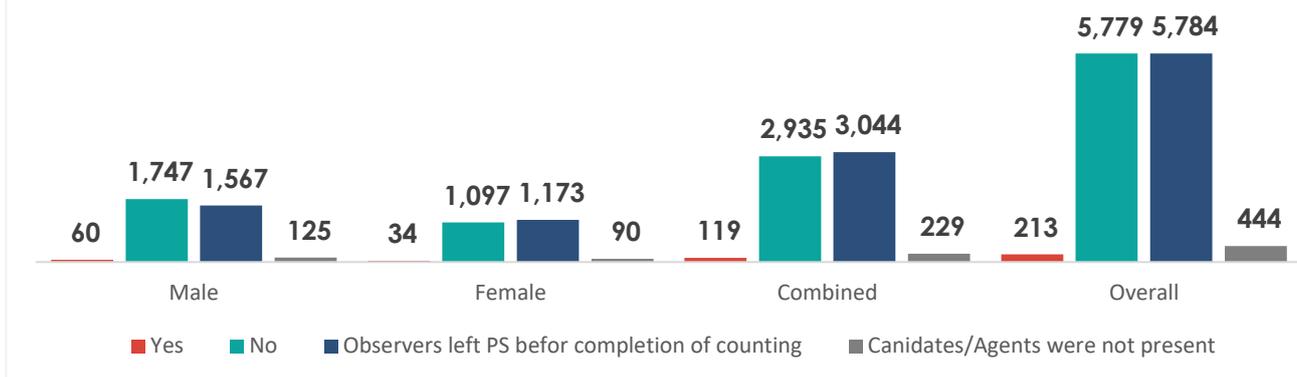
A contesting candidate or election agent or polling agent refused to sign Form-46 at 38 (two percent) polling stations in KP, two (one percent) in ICT, 120 (two percent) in Punjab, 43 (two percent) in Sindh and ten (two percent) in Balochistan. No such incident was reported at 1,002 (47 percent) polling stations in KP, 100 (58 percent) in ICT, 3,451 (49 percent) in Punjab, 1,021 (43 percent) in Sindh and 205 (48 percent) in Balochistan. At 74 (three percent) polling stations in KP, six (three percent) in ICT, 240 (three percent) in Punjab, 102 (four percent) in Sindh and 22 (five percent) in Balochistan, contesting candidates or their agents were not present. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (38 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that a contesting candidate, election agent or polling agent refused to sign Form-46 at 60 (two percent) male polling stations, 34 (one percent) female polling stations and 119 (two percent) combined polling stations observed. No such incident was reported at 1,747 (50 percent) male polling stations, 1,097 (46 percent) female polling stations, and 2,935 (46 percent) combined polling stations. The candidates or their agents were reported absent in 125 (four percent) male polling stations, 90 (four percent) female polling stations and 229 (four percent) combined polling stations. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations, and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 5.30.3: WHETHER ANY CONTESTING CANDIDATE, ELECTION AGENT OR POLLING AGENT REFUSED TO SIGN FORM-46, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.31 Provision of Form-45 (Copy) to Contesting Candidate, Election Agent or Polling Agent

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give a copy each of the Result of the Count and the Ballot Paper Account signed, stamped and thumb marked by him and the senior most APO to such of the candidates, their election agents or polling agents as may be present and obtain a receipt for such copy and if any such person refuses to sign it, the Presiding Officer shall record a note to that effect.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(13)*

Polling agent should necessarily receive copy of Form-45 (Result of the Count) and Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account) from the presiding officer and give him a receipt for having received the copies as aforesaid.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates, Election and Polling Agents, Clause 19*

The polling agent must collect a copy of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and Ballot Paper Account (Form-46) from the Presiding Officer.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Election Agent and Polling Agents, Pg. 11*

The Presiding Officer will distribute the remaining copies among the Polling/Election Agents and/or candidates present during the count. Prepare more copies as required.

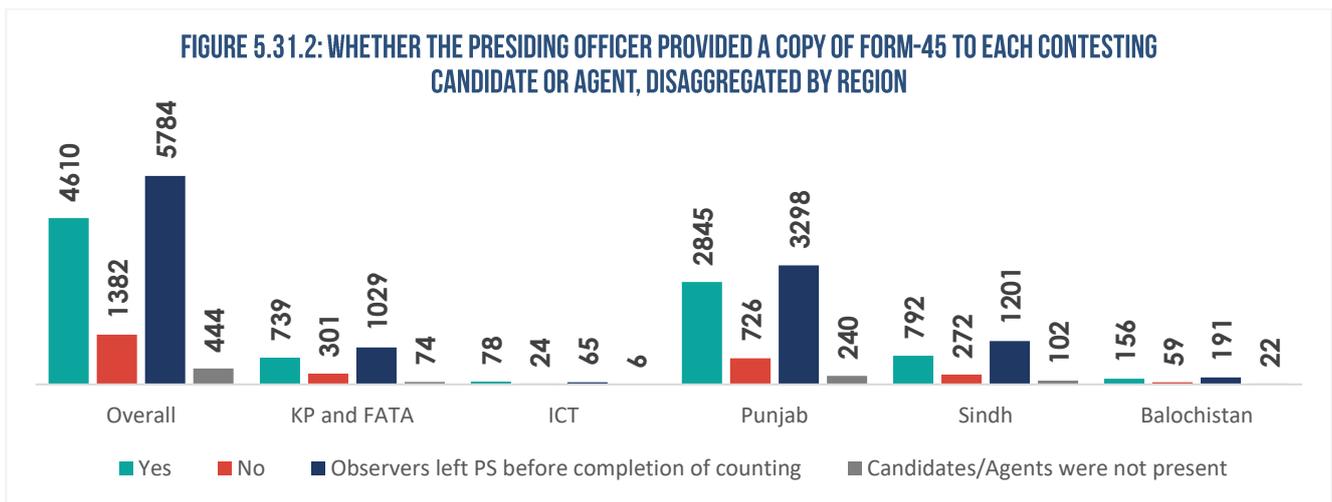
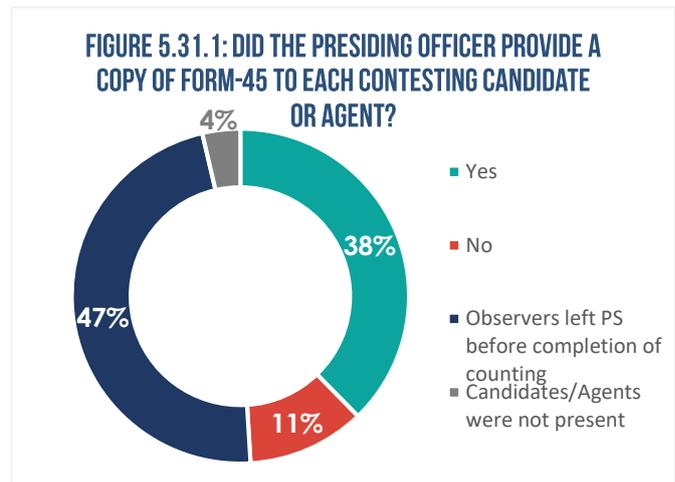
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, filling up the Result of the Count and Distributing Copies, Pg. 58*

The PrOs provided a copy of Form-45 to contesting candidates or their election agent or polling agent at 4610 (38 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, copies of Form-45 were not provided to candidates or their agent in 1,382 (11 percent) polling stations<sup>3</sup>. Moreover, the candidates or their agents were not present in 444 (four percent) of the polling stations to collect the copy of Form-45 while the observers at 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations left the station premises before completion of the counting.

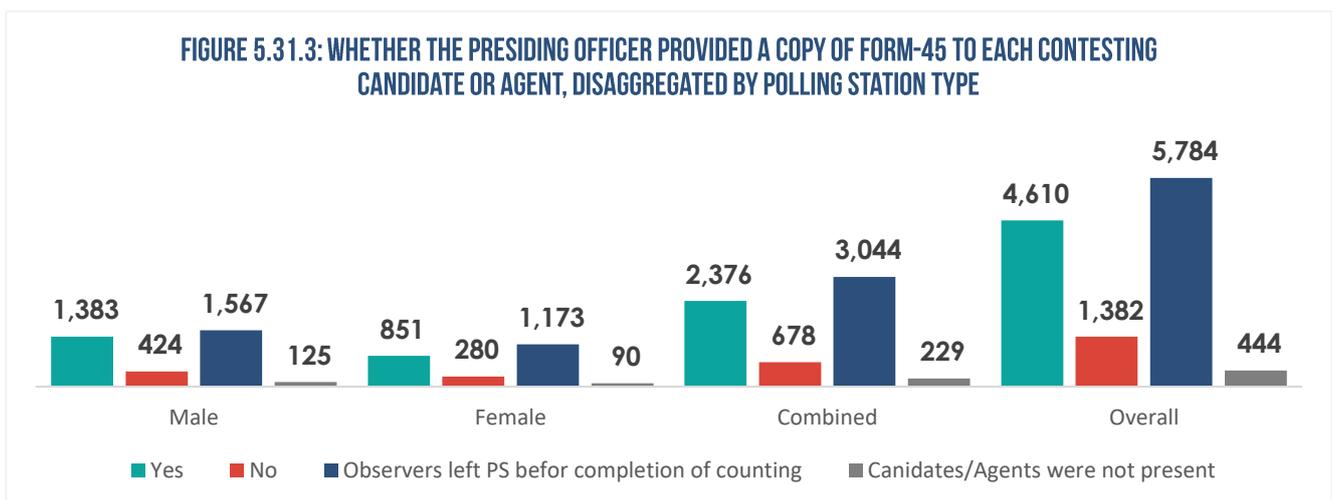
Polling stations in which the PrO provided a copy of Form-45 to contesting candidates or their agents included 739 (34 percent) polling stations in KP, 78 (45 percent) in ICT, 2845 (40 percent) in Punjab, 792 (33 percent) in Sindh and 156 (37 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which the copy was not provided included 301 (14 percent) polling stations in KP, 24 (14 percent) in ICT, 726 (10 percent) in

<sup>3</sup> It is not necessarily the case that copies were withheld by PrOs. Candidates or their agents might have refused to accept the copies.

Punjab, 272 (12 percent) in Sindh and 59 (14 percent) in Balochistan. At 74 (three percent) polling stations in KP, six (three percent) in ICT, 240 (three percent) in Punjab, 102 (four percent) in Sindh and 22 (five percent) in Balochistan, contesting candidates or their agents were not present. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (38 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs provided copies of Form-45 to contesting candidates or their agents at 1,383 (40 percent) male polling stations, 851 (36 percent) female polling stations and 2,376 (38 percent) combined polling stations observed. Copies were not provided at 424 (12 percent) male stations, 280 (12 percent) female stations, and 678 (11 percent) combined polling stations. The candidates or their agents were reported absent in 125 (four percent) male polling stations, 90 (four percent) female polling stations and 229 (four percent) combined polling stations. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations, and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.





## 5.32 Provision of Form-46 (Copy) to Contesting Candidates, Election Agents or Polling Agents

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give a copy each of the Result of the Count and the Ballot Paper Account signed, stamped and thumb marked by him and the senior most APO to such of the candidates, their election agents or polling agents as may be present and obtain a receipt for such copy and if any such person refuses to sign it, the Presiding Officer shall record a note to that effect.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(13)*

Polling agent should necessarily receive copy of Form-45 (Result of the Count) and Form-46 (Ballot Paper Account) from the presiding officer and give him a receipt for having received the copies as aforesaid.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates, Election and Polling Agents, Clause 19*

The polling agent must collect a copy of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and Ballot Paper Account (Form-46) from the Presiding Officer.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Election Agent and Polling Agents, Pg. 11*

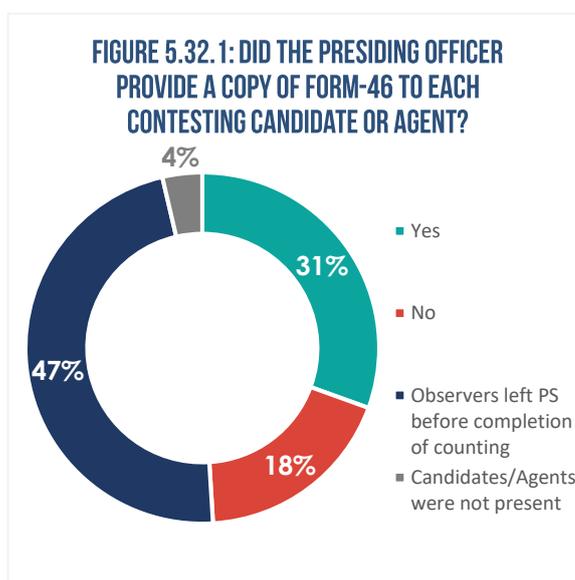
The Presiding Officer will distribute the remaining copies among the Polling/Election Agents and/or candidates present during the count. Prepare more copies as required.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, filling up the Result of the Count and Distributing Copies, Pg. 58*

The PrOs provided a copy of Form-46 to contesting candidates or their election agent or polling agent at 3,732 (31 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, copies of Form-46 were not provided to candidates or their agent in 2,260 (18 percent) polling stations<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, the candidates or their agents were not present in 444 (four percent) of the polling stations to collect the copy of Form-46 while the observers at 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations left the station premises before completion of the counting.

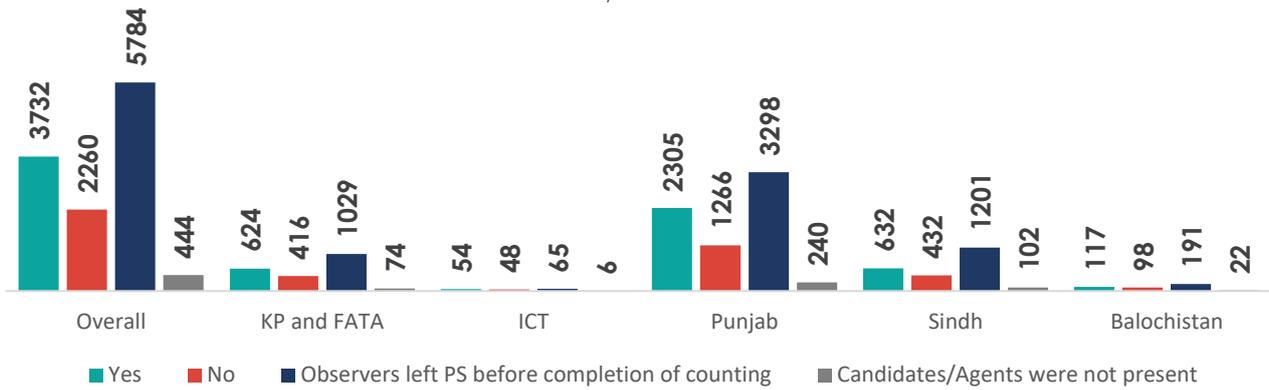
Polling stations in which the PrO provided a copy of Form-46 to contesting candidates or their agents included 624 (29 percent) polling stations in KP, 54 (31 percent) in ICT, 2,305 (32 percent) in Punjab, 632 (27 percent) in Sindh and 117 (27 percent) in Balochistan.

Polling stations in which the copy was not provided included 416 (19 percent) polling stations in KP, 48 (28 percent) in ICT, 1,266 (18 percent) in Punjab, 432 (18 percent) in Sindh and 98 (23 percent) in Balochistan. At 74 (three percent) polling stations in KP, six (three percent) in ICT, 240 (three percent) in Punjab, 102 (four percent) in Sindh and 22 (five percent) in Balochistan, contesting candidates or their agents were not present. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (38 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan



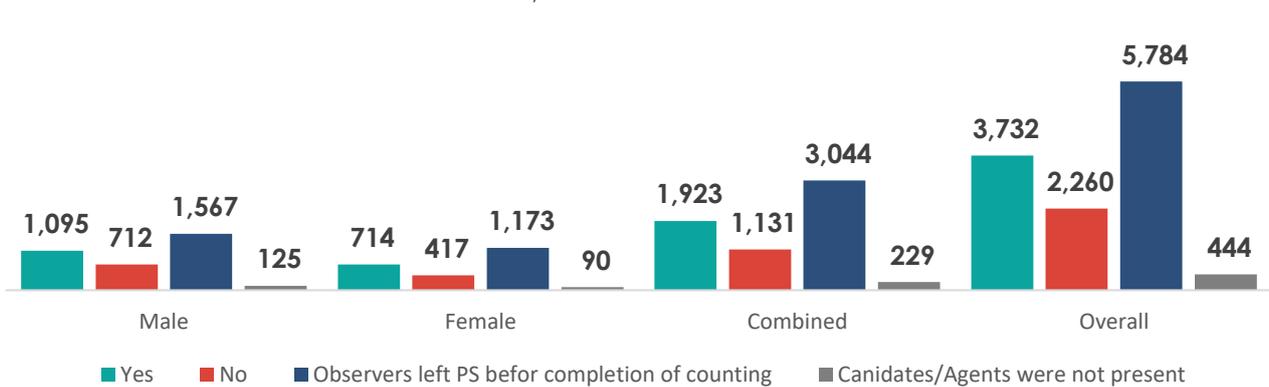
<sup>4</sup> It is not necessarily the case that copies were withheld by PrOs. Candidates or their agents might not have been present or might have refused to accept the copies.

**FIGURE 5.32.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PROVIDED A COPY OF FORM-46 TO EACH CONTESTING CANDIDATE OR AGENT, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs provided copies of Form-46 to contesting candidates or their agents at 1,095 (31 percent) male polling stations, 714 (30 percent) female polling stations and 1,923 (30 percent) combined polling stations observed. Copies were not provided at 712 (20 percent) male stations, 417 (17 percent) female stations, and 1,131 (18 percent) combined polling stations. The candidates or their agents were reported absent in 125 (four percent) male polling stations, 90 (four percent) female polling stations and 229 (four percent) combined polling stations. Moreover, the observers left the polling station premises before the completion of counting at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations, and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.32.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PROVIDED A COPY OF FORM-46 TO EACH CONTESTING CANDIDATE OR AGENT, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





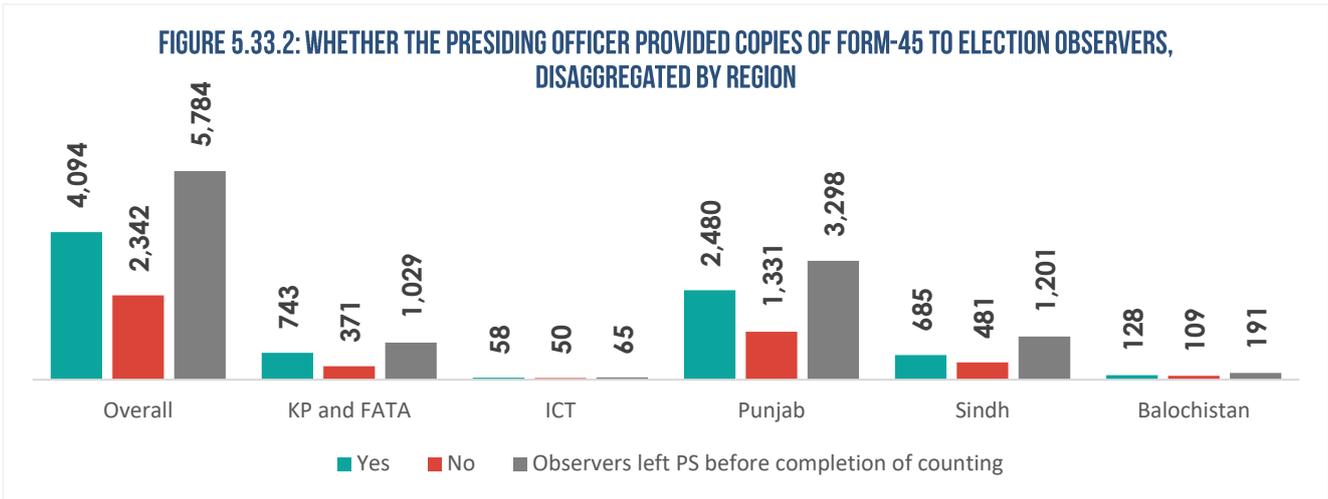
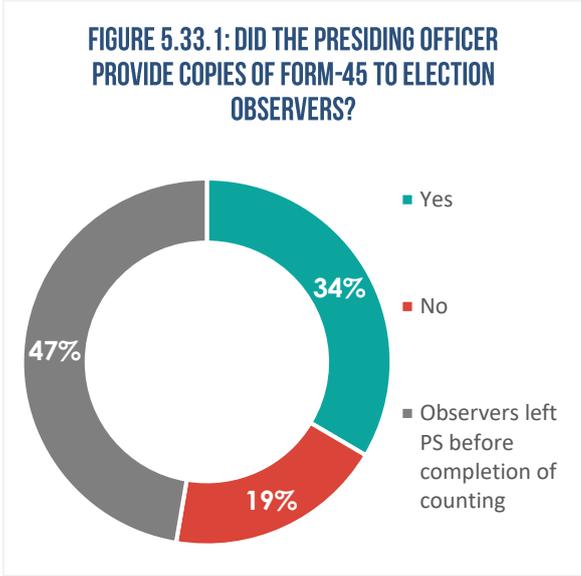
### 5.33 Provision of Form-45 to Election Observers

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

One copy each of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and the Ballot Papers Account (Form-46) may be provided to any observers present at the polling station.  
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, filling up the Result of the Count and Distributing Copies, Pg. 58*

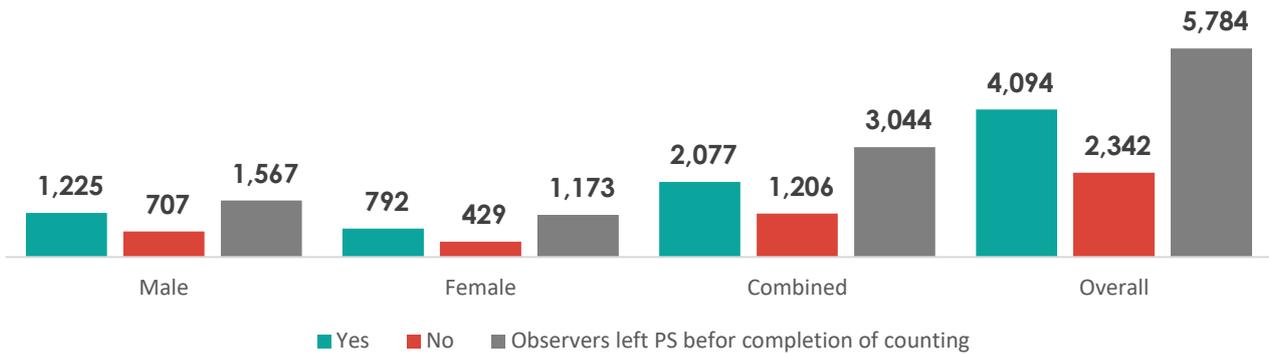
The PrOs provided a copy of Form-45 to election observers at 4,094 (34 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, the copies were not provided at 2,342 (19 percent) of polling stations. The observers left the remaining 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations before the completion of counting process

Polling stations in which PrOs provided copies of Form-45 to election observers included 743 (35 percent) polling stations in KP, 58 (34 percent) in ICT, 2,480 (35 percent) in Punjab, 685 (29 percent) in Sindh and 128 (30 percent) in Balochistan. Election observers did not receive copies of Form-45 at 371 (17 percent) polling stations in KP, 50 (29 percent) in ICT, 1,331 (19 percent) in Punjab, 481 (20 percent) in Sindh and 109 (25 percent) in Balochistan. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (37 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that PrOs provided copies of Form-45 to election observers at 1,225 (35 percent) male polling stations, 792 (33 percent) female polling stations and 2,077 (33 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations in which copies were not provided included 707 (20 percent) male stations, 429 (18 percent) female stations, and 1,206 (19 percent) combined polling stations. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.33.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PROVIDED COPIES OF FORM-45 TO ELECTION OBSERVERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.34 Provision of Form-46 to Election Observers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

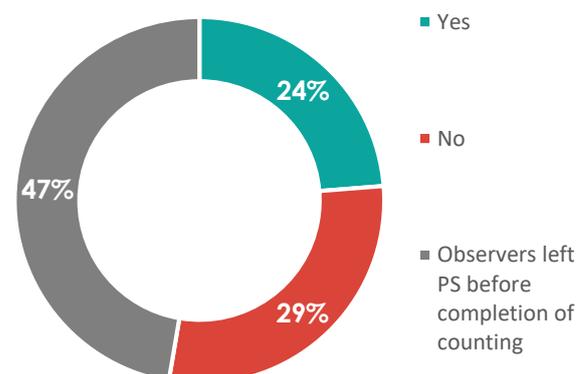
One copy each of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and the Ballot Papers Account (Form-46) may be provided to any observers present at the polling station.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, filling up the Result of the Count and Distributing Copies, Pg. 58*

The PrOs provided a copy of Form-46 to each election observer at 2,901 (24 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, copies of Form-46 were not provided in 3,535 (29 percent) of the polling stations. The observers left the remaining 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations before the completion of counting process

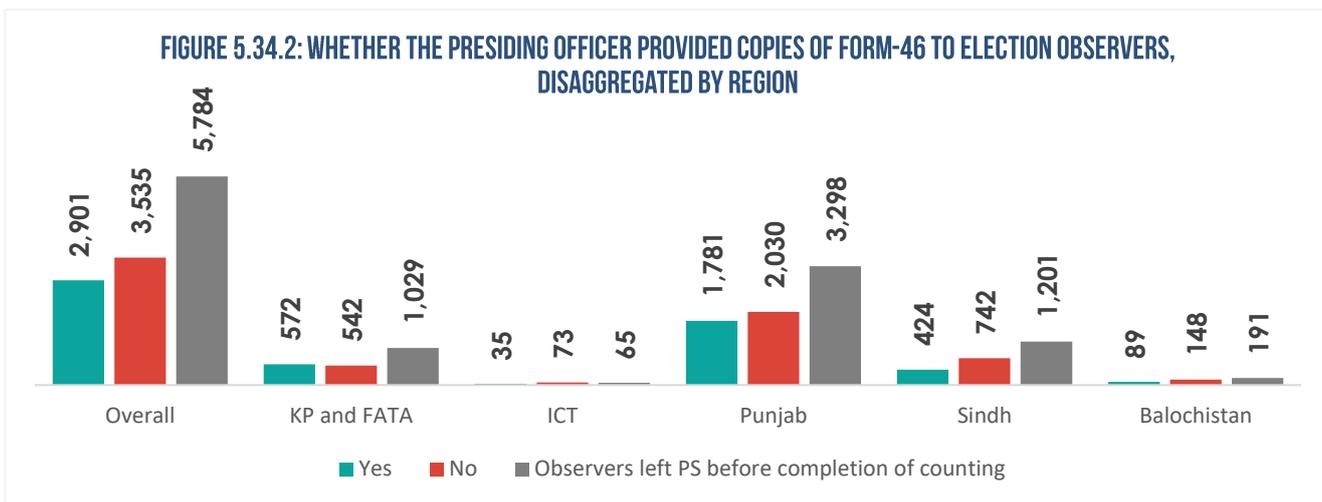
Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that the PrO provided a copy of Form-46 to election observers at 572 (27 percent) polling stations in KP, 35 (20 percent) in ICT, 1,781 (25 percent) in Punjab, 424 (18 percent) in Sindh and 89 (21 percent) in Balochistan. Election observers did not receive copies at 542 (25 percent) polling stations in KP, 73 (42 percent) in ICT, 2,030 (29 percent) in Punjab, 742 (31 percent) in Sindh and 148 (35 percent) in Balochistan. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (37 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 5.34.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER PROVIDE COPIES OF FORM-46 TO ELECTION OBSERVERS?**



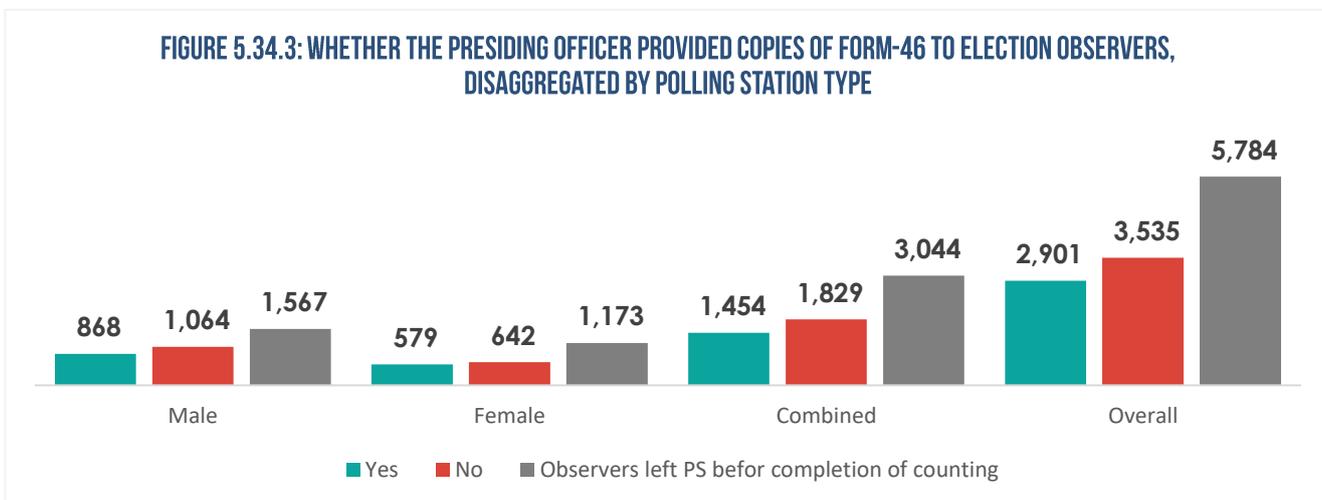


**FIGURE 5.34.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PROVIDED COPIES OF FORM-46 TO ELECTION OBSERVERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the PrOs provided the copies at 868 (25 percent) male polling stations, 579 (24 percent) female polling stations and 1,454 (23 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations in which PrOs did not provide copies included 1,064 (30 percent) male stations, 642 (27 percent) female stations and 1,829 (29 percent) combined polling stations. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.34.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PROVIDED COPIES OF FORM-46 TO ELECTION OBSERVERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.35 Affixing Form-45 at Conspicuous Place outside Polling Station

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall publish the Result of the Count and Ballot Paper Account, signed by him and others, by affixing copies at a conspicuous place at the polling station for public inspection.

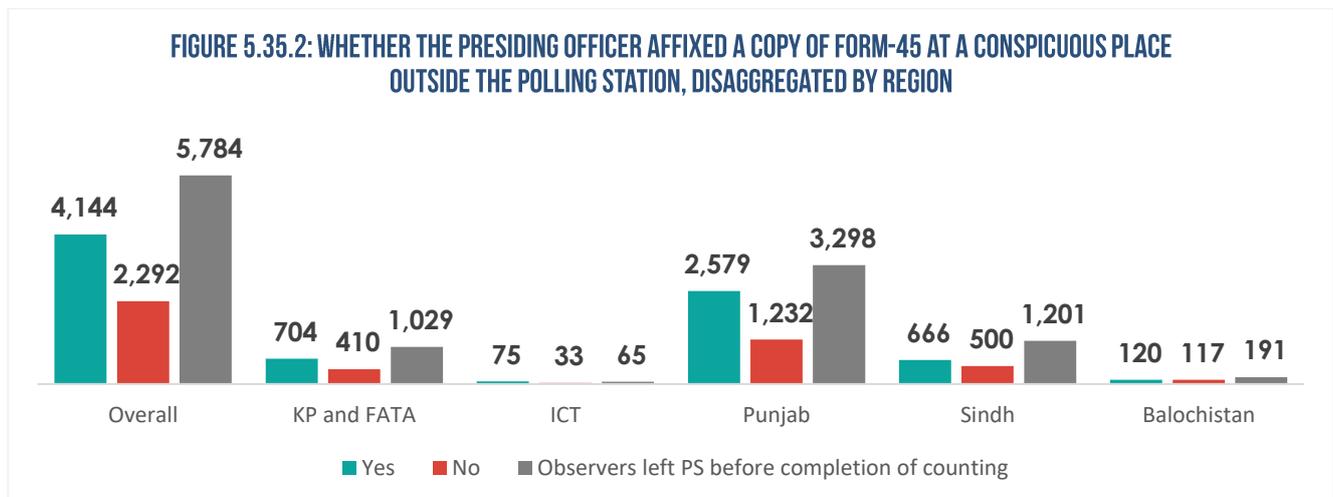
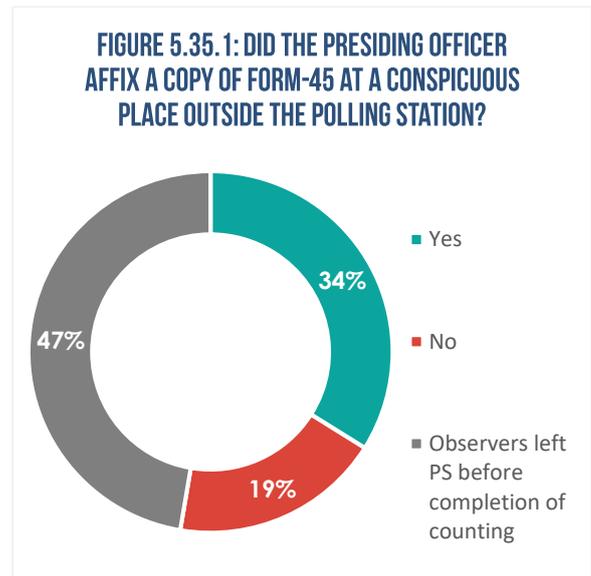
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(14)*

The Presiding Officer will affix one copy each of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and the Ballot Papers Account (Form-46) outside the polling station at a prominent place.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, filling up the Result of the Count and Distributing Copies, Pg. 58*

The PrOs affixed a copy of Form-45 at a conspicuous place outside each of 4,144 (34 percent) of 12,220 observed polling stations. However, they reportedly did not follow this essential procedure in 2,292 (19 percent) polling stations. The observers left the remaining 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations before the completion of counting process.

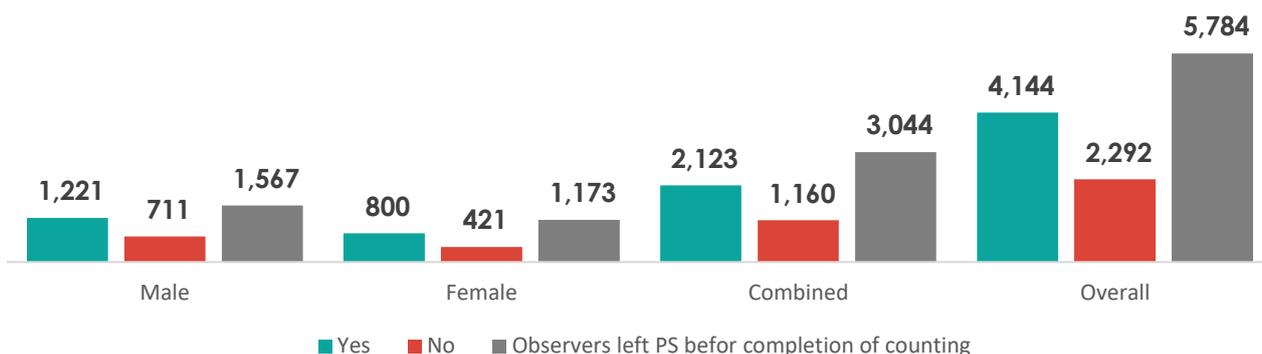
The PrOs affixed copies of Form-45 at a conspicuous place outside the polling station at 704 (33 percent) polling stations in KP, 75 (43 percent) in ICT, 2,579 (36 percent) in Punjab, 666 (28 percent) in Sindh and 120 (28 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which copies were not affixed at a conspicuous place included 410 (19 percent) polling stations in KP, 33 (19 percent) in ICT, 1,232 (17 percent) in Punjab, 500 (21 percent) in Sindh and 117 (27 percent) in Balochistan. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (37 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.



With regard to type of polling station, PrOs appropriately affixed copies of Form-45 at 1,221 (35 percent) male polling stations, 800 (33 percent) female polling stations and 2,123 (34 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations where copies were not appropriately affixed included 711 (20 percent) male stations, 421 (18 percent) female stations, and 1160 (18 percent) combined polling stations. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,567 (45 percent) male polling stations, 1,173 (49 percent) female polling stations and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.



FIGURE 5.35.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER AFFIXED A COPY OF FORM-45 AT A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



### 5.36 Affixing Form-46 at Conspicuous Place outside Polling Station

#### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall publish the Result of the Count and Ballot Paper Account, signed by him and others, by affixing copies at a conspicuous place at the polling station for public inspection.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(14)*

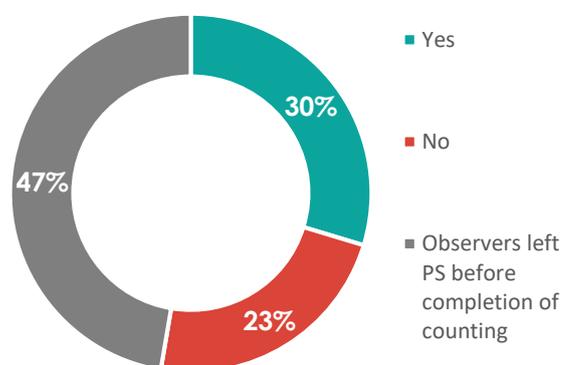
The Presiding Officer will affix one copy each of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and the Ballot Papers Account (Form-46) outside the polling station at a prominent place.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Filling up the Result of the Count and Distributing Copies, Pg. 58*

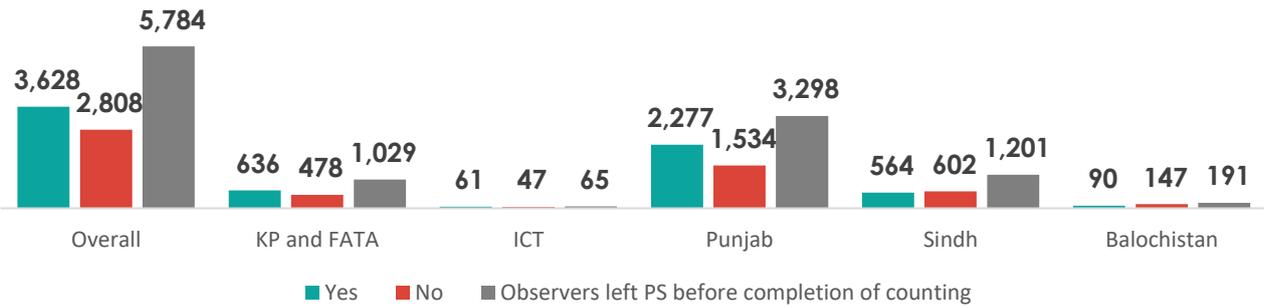
The PrOs affixed copies of Form-46 at a conspicuous place outside 3,628 (30 percent) of the 12,220 observed polling stations, but reportedly did not do so at 2,808 or 23 percent of the polling stations. The observers left the remaining 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations before the completion of counting process.

The PrOs affixed Form-46 at a conspicuous place at 636 (30 percent) polling stations in KP, 61 (35 percent) in ICT, 2,277 (32 percent) in Punjab, 564 (24 percent) in Sindh and 90 (21 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which PrOs reportedly did not do so included 478 (22 percent) polling stations in KP, 47 (27 percent) in ICT, 1,534 (21 percent) in Punjab, 602 (25 percent) in Sindh and 147 (34 percent) in Balochistan. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (38 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.

FIGURE 5.36.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER AFFIX A COPY OF FORM-46 IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION?

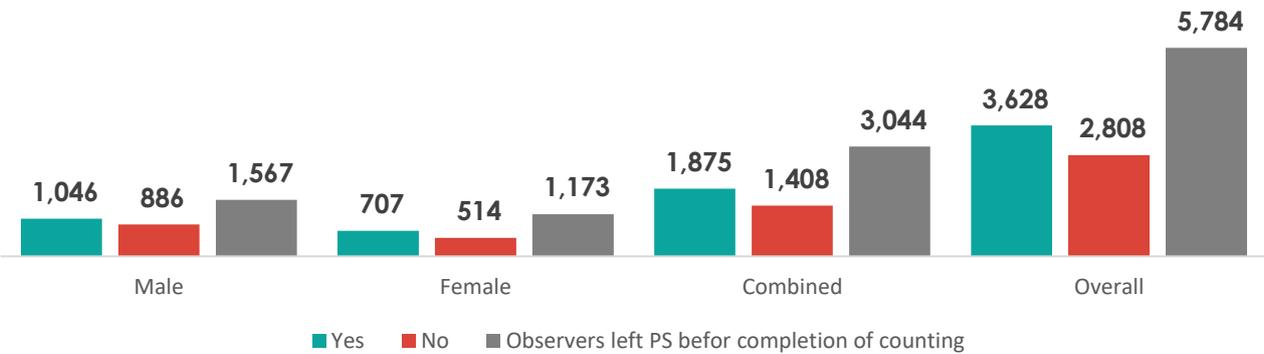


**FIGURE 5.36.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER AFFIXED A COPY OF FORM-46 IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that the PrOs affixed a copy of Form-46 at a conspicuous place at 1,046 (30 percent) male polling stations, 707 (30 percent) female polling stations and 1,875 (30 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations in which PrOs reportedly did not do so included 886 (25 percent) male stations, 514 (21 percent) female stations, and 1,408 (22 percent) combined polling stations. The observer left the polling station before completion of counting process at 1,567 (45 percent) male, 1,173 (49 percent) female and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.36.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER AFFIXED A COPY OF FORM-46 IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 5.37 Transmitting Polling Station Results using RTS

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall establish a transparent results management system for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination and publication of results in the official Gazette and on the website of the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(1)*

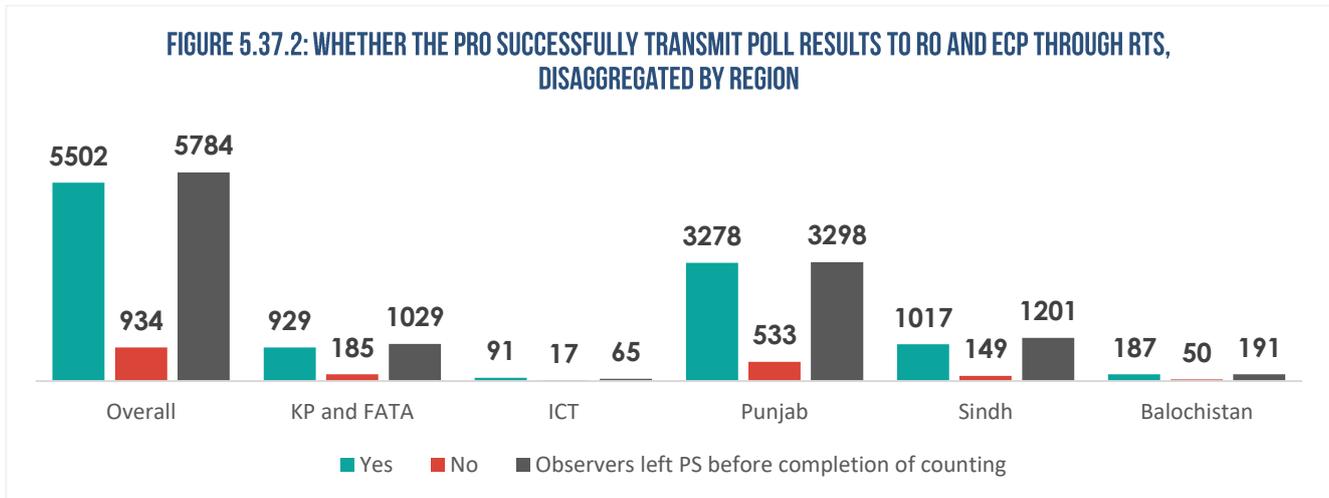
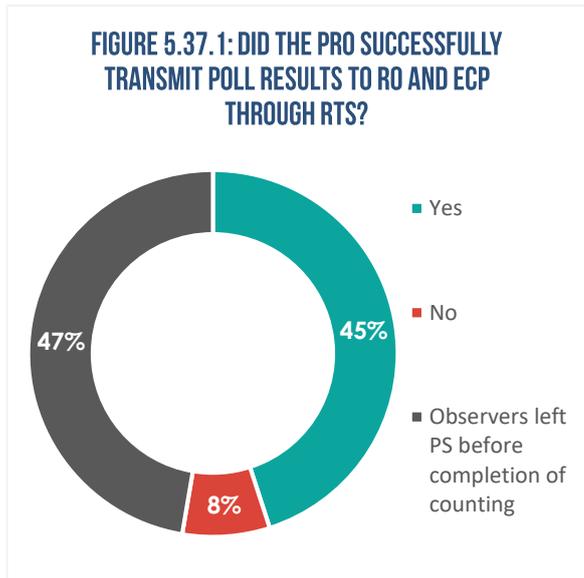
The Presiding Officer shall immediately take snapshot of the Result of the Count and, as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, electronically send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer before sending the original documents under section 90.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 13(2)*



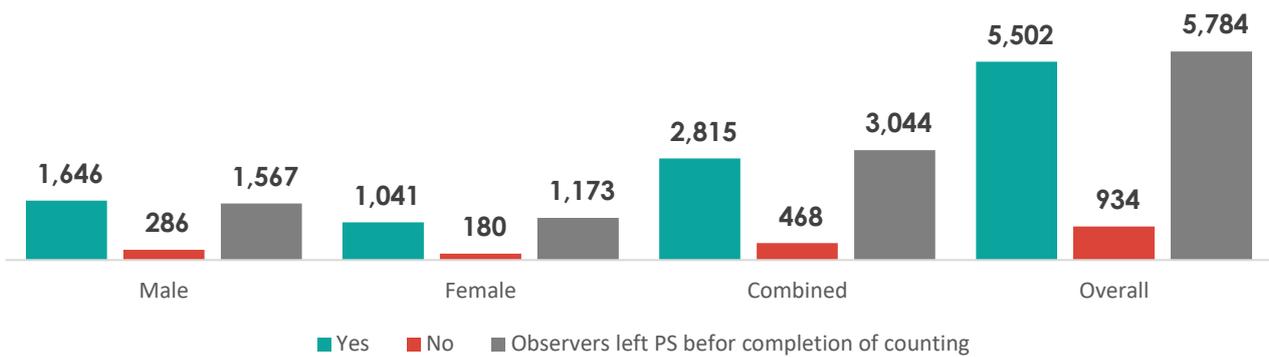
Of 12,220 polling stations where counting process was observed, PrOs at 5,502 (45 percent) polling stations shared with FAFEN observers that they had successfully transmitted the count results to the Returning Officer (RO) and the ECP. However, 934 PrOs (eight percent) said they were unable to transmit results through RTS. The observers did not interview PrOs at the remaining 5,784 (47 percent) polling stations as they left the polling station premises before the completion of counting process.

Polling stations in which PrOs were unable to transmit poll results through RTS included 185 (nine percent) in KP, 91 (10 percent) in ICT, 533 (eight percent) in Punjab, 149 (six percent) in Sindh, and 50 (12 percent) in Balochistan, suggesting that the issue was most prevalent in Balochistan. Results were reportedly successfully transmitted by 929 (43 percent) PrOs in KP, 17 (53 percent) in ICT, 3,278 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,017 (43 percent) in Sindh and 187 (44 percent) in Balochistan. The observer left the place of counting before the finalization of results at 1,029 (48 percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (38 percent) in ICT, 3,298 (46 percent) in Punjab, 1,201 (51 percent) in Sindh and 191 (45 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that 1,646 (47 percent) PrOs at male polling stations, 1,041 (43 percent) at female polling stations and 2,815 (44 percent) at combined polling stations were able to transmit results to ROs and ECP through RTS. However, 286 (eight percent) PrOs at male stations, 180 (eight percent) at female stations and 468 (seven percent) at combined polling stations were unable to do so. The observer left the polling station before completion of counting process at 1,567 (45 percent) male, 1,173 (49 percent) female and 3,044 (48 percent) combined polling stations.

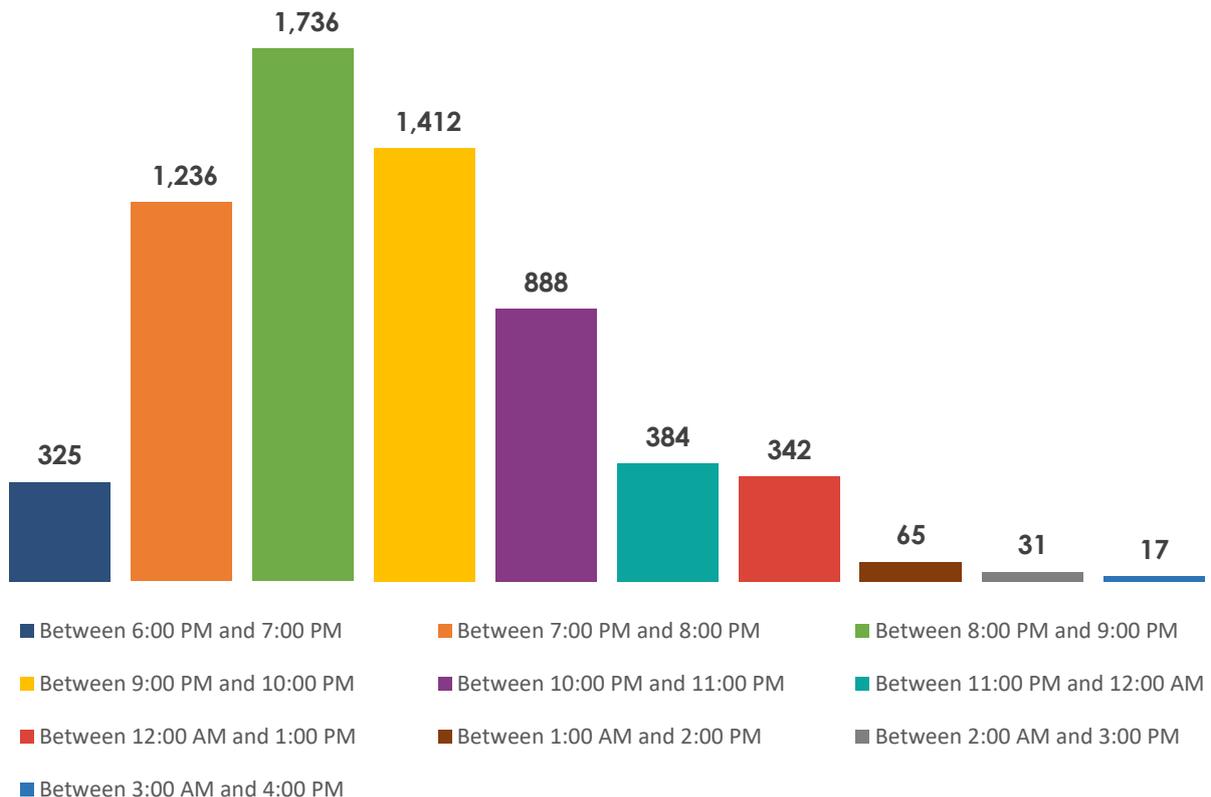
**FIGURE 5.37.3: WHETHER THE PRO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSMIT POLL RESULTS TO RO AND ECP THROUGH RTS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



### 5.38 Closing of Counting Process

Of 6,436 polling stations for which the counting process completion time is available, one-quarter (1,561 or 24 percent) finished counting within two hours (by 20:00), and half of the polling stations (3,297 or 51 percent) completed counting within three hours (by 21:00). About three-quarters of the polling stations (4,709 or 73 percent) completed the process within four hours (by 22:00), and most polling stations (5,981 or 93 percent) completed vote counting by midnight (24:00 hours). The remaining 455 polling stations (seven percent) finishing counting during the early morning hours until 04:00.

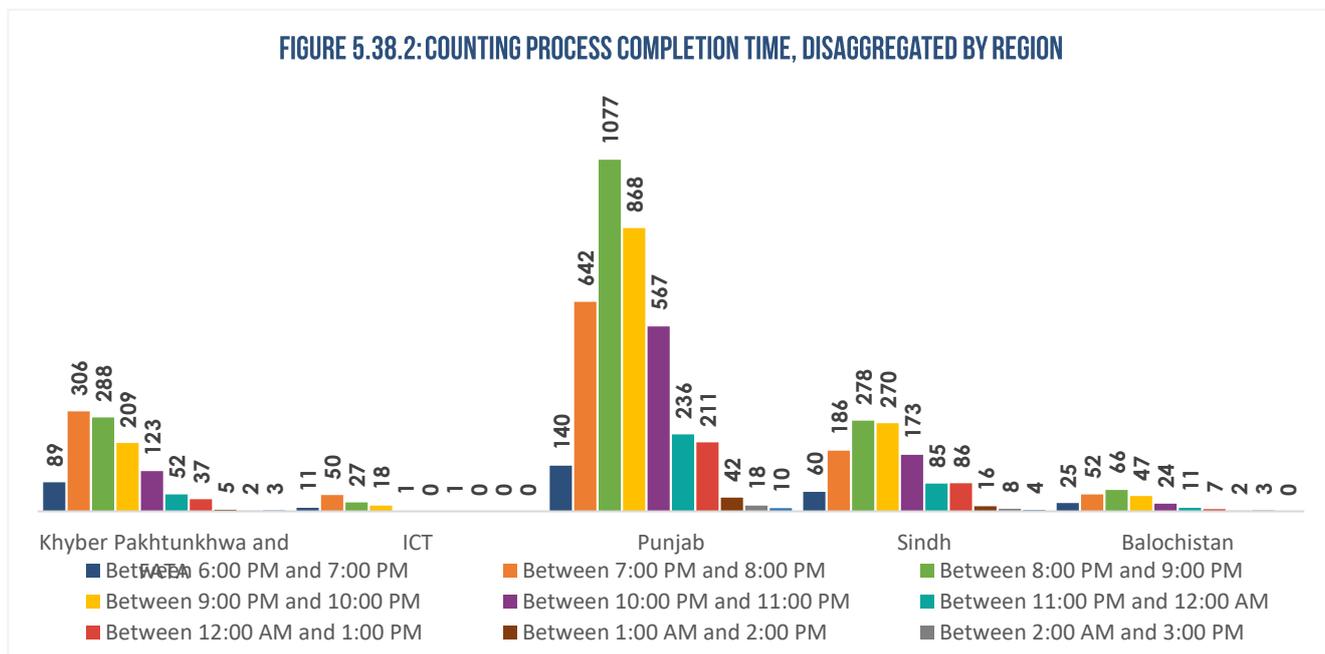
**FIGURE 5.38.1: COUNTING PROCESS COMPLETION TIME**





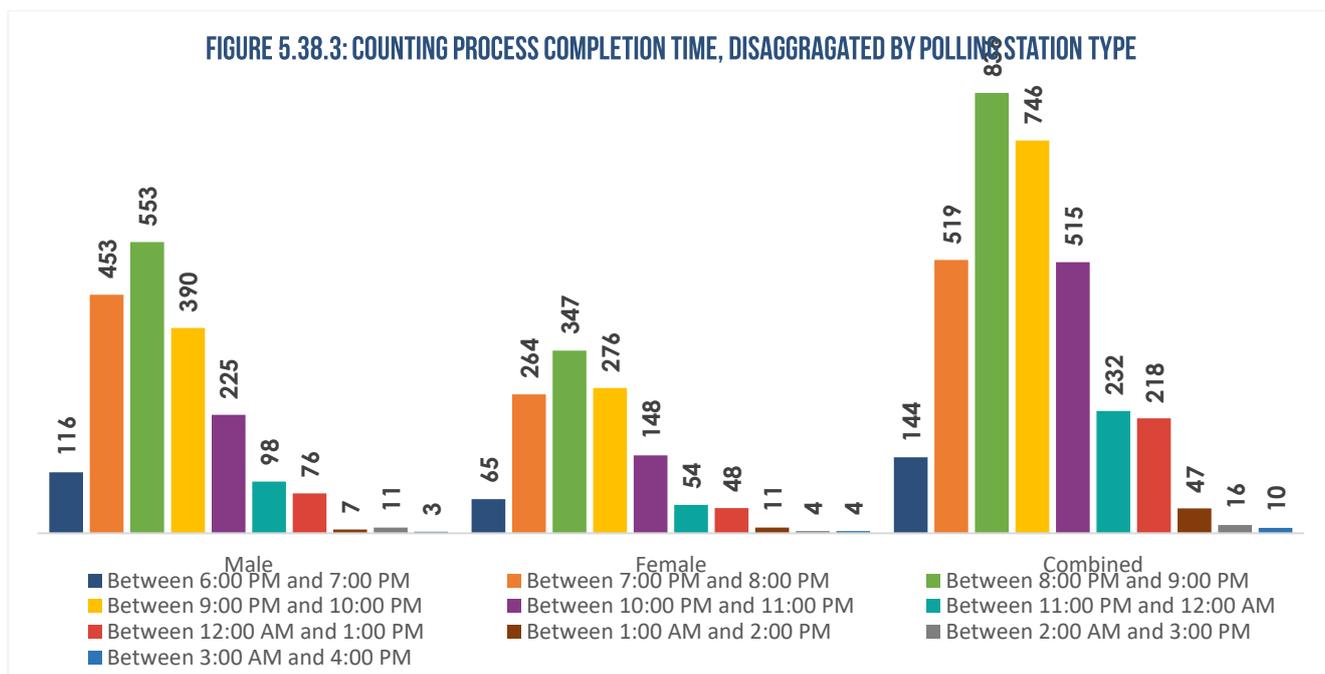
Among the slowest 455 polling stations with regard to vote counting, almost all were in Punjab (281 or 62 percent of the slowest stations). Another 114 slow stations (25 percent) were in Sindh, 47 slow stations (10 percent) were in KP, 12 stations three percent) were in Balochistan and one station was in ICT. Among the three-quarters of polling stations (4,709 or 73 percent) completing the counting process by 22:00, the majority (2,727 or 60 percent) were in Punjab, and one-fifth (892 or 19 percent) were in KP. Another 794 of the fastest counting stations (17 percent) were in Sindh, 190 (four percent) in Balochistan and 106 (two percent) in ICT. Refer to the figure 5.41.2 for regionally disaggregated data on counting process completion time.

**FIGURE 5.38.2: COUNTING PROCESS COMPLETION TIME, DISAGGRAGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that majority of the male, female and combined polling stations finished counting by 22:00. Refer to the figure 5.41.3 for counting process completion time disaggregated by the types of polling stations.

**FIGURE 5.38.3: COUNTING PROCESS COMPLETION TIME, DISAGGRAGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



6

# ELECTION DAY SECURITY





## 6.1 Presence of Police Officials at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Elections 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections 2018 by:

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(I)*

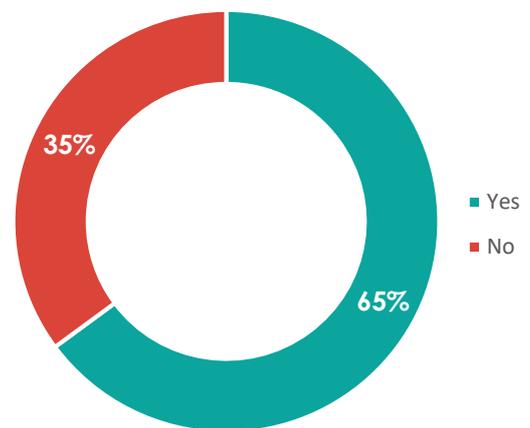
[The police officials shall] provide assistance on the instructions of the Presiding Officer in case of emergency inside the polling station.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of Police, Pg. 10*

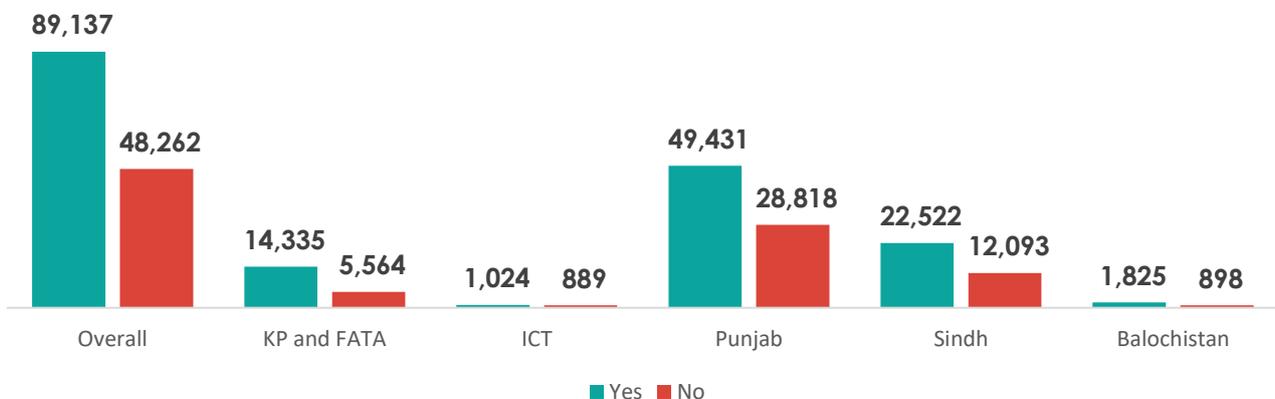
Of 137,399 polling booths where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that police officials were present at 89,137 (65 percent) polling booths in various polling stations, whereas police officials were not observed at 48,262 (35 percent) polling booths.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that police officials were present at 49,431 (63 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 22,522 (65 percent) booths in Sindh, 14,335 (72 percent) in KP, 1,825 (67 percent) in Balochistan and 1,024 (54 percent) ICT. Polling booths in which police officials were reportedly absent included 28,818 (37 percent) booths in Punjab, 12,093 (35 percent) in Sindh, 5,564 (28 percent) in KP, 898 (33 percent) in Balochistan and 889 (46 percent) in ICT, suggesting that their absence was observed most frequently in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.1.1: WERE POLICE OFFICIALS PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS?**



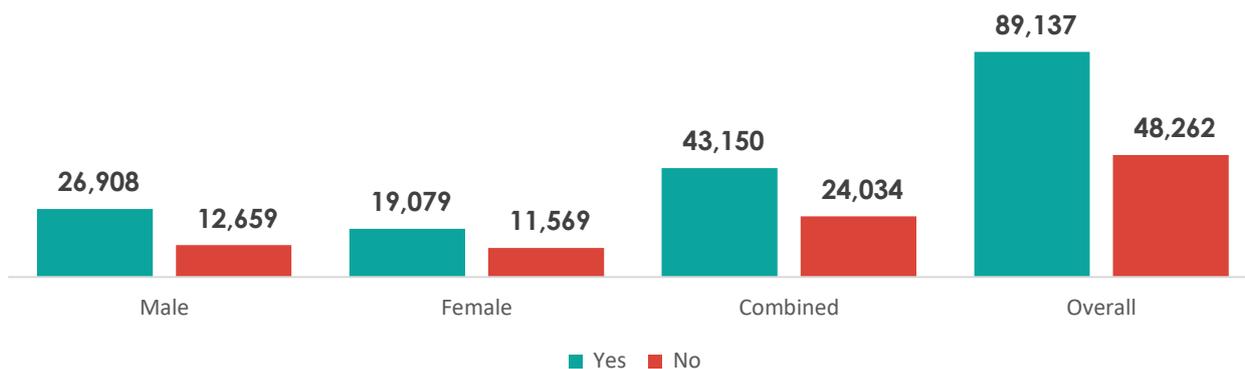
**FIGURE 6.1.2: WHETHER POLICE OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, police officials were present at 26,908 (68 percent) polling booths at male polling stations, 19,079 (62 percent) booths at female polling stations and 43,150 (64 percent) booths at combined polling stations. Police officials were not observed at 12,659 (32 percent) booths at male stations, 11,569 (38 percent) booths at female stations, and 24,034 (36 percent) booths at combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 6.1.3: WHETHER POLICE OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.2 Presence of Security Officials other than Police at Polling Booths

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Elections 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections 2018 by:

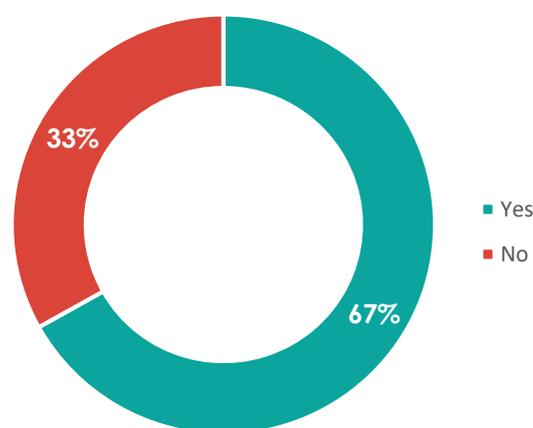
- (1) deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.
- (2) providing secure environment for maintained of law and order.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(I)*

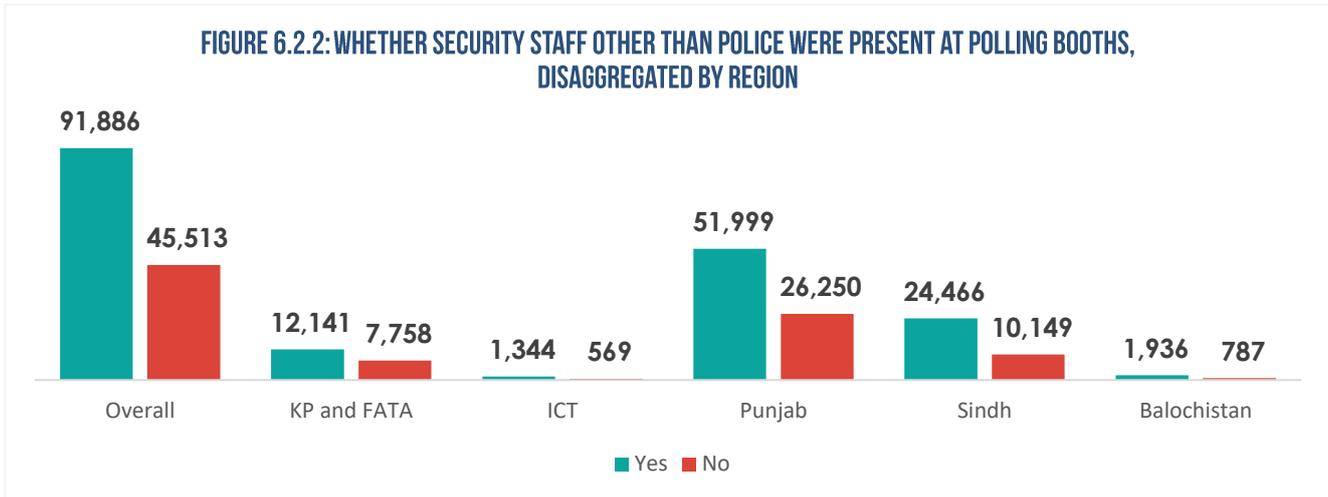
Of 137,399 polling booths where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that security officials other than police were present at 91,886 (67 percent) polling booths in various polling stations. However, security personnel other than police were not observed at 45,513 (33 percent) of polling booths.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security officials other than police were present at 51,999 (66 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 24,466 (71 percent) booths in Sindh, 12,141 (61 percent) in KP, 1,936 (71 percent) in Balochistan and 1,344 (70 percent) in ICT, suggesting that their presence was least prevalent in KP than in other regions. Polling booths where other security officials were not seen included 26,250 (34 percent) booths in Punjab, 10,149 (29 percent) in Sindh, 7,758 (39 percent) in KP, 787 (29 percent) in Balochistan and 569 (30 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.2.1: WERE SECURITY STAFF OTHER THAN POLICE PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS?**

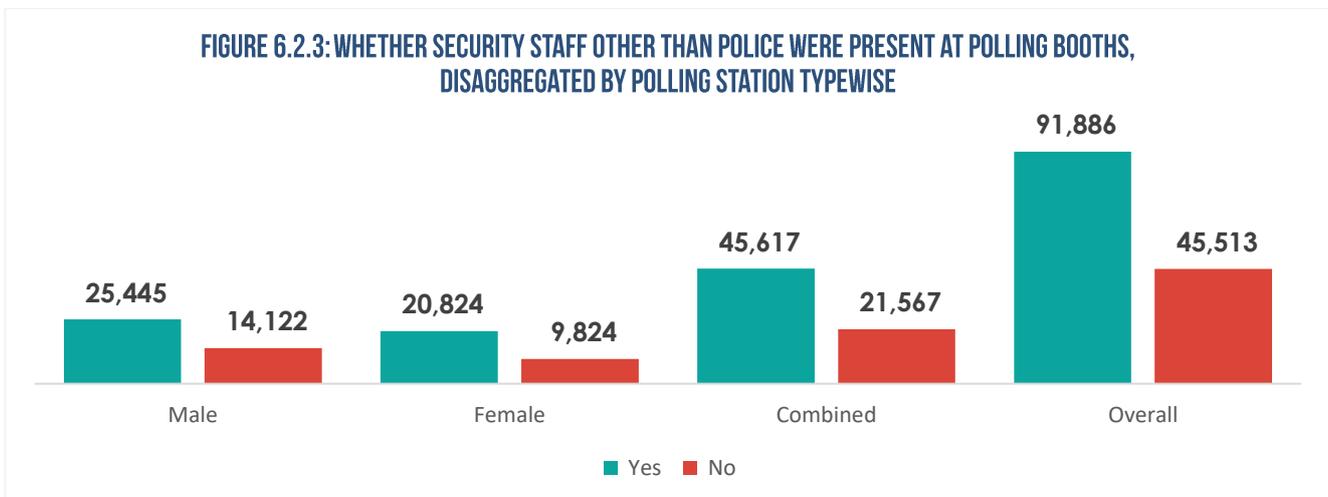


**FIGURE 6.2.2: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF OTHER THAN POLICE WERE PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that non-police security officials were present at 25,445 (64 percent) polling booths of male polling stations, 20,824 (68 percent) booths of female polling stations and 45,617 (68 percent) booths of combined polling stations. Security officials other than police were not seen at 14,122 (36 percent) booths of male stations, 9,824 (32 percent) booths of female stations, and 21,567 (32 percent) booths of combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.2.3: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF OTHER THAN POLICE WERE PRESENT AT POLLING BOOTHS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPEWISE**



## 6.3 Security Personnel Stopping Polling Agents from Committing Electoral Irregularities

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

[The security personnel shall] not respond at his own to an apparent irregularity by a polling agent or any member of polling staff rather he shall bring the matter to the knowledge of Presiding Officer and take necessary direction from him in the matter. In case irregularity or malpractice continues, shall inform his Officer In-Charge through the fastest means available, who will take action in light of the powers delegated to him and will also inform Returning Officer.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause IX*

[The police officials shall] remove any person violating election laws from the polling station and taking proper action as per the instructions of the Presiding Officer.

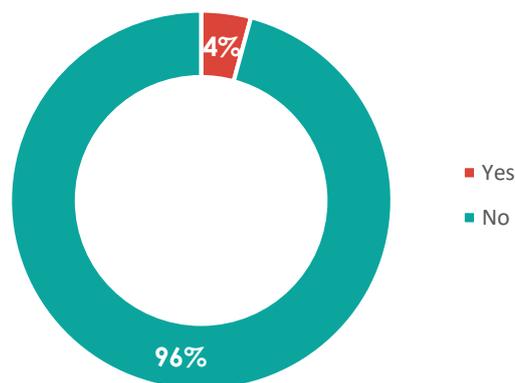
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Police, Pg. 10*



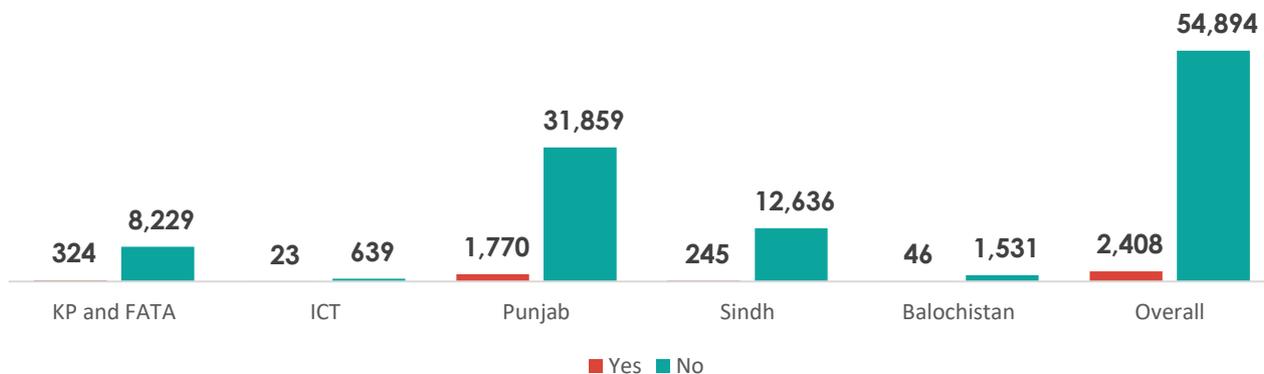
Of 57,302 polling stations where voting processes at polling booths were observed, security officials were observed stopping polling agents from committing electoral irregularities at 2,408 (four percent) polling stations. No reports of this practice were received from the remaining 54,894 (96 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that incidents of security officials stopping polling agents from committing electoral irregularities were not observed at 31,859 (95 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,636 (98 percent) in Sindh, 8,229 (96 percent) in KP, 1,531 (97 percent) in Balochistan, and 639 (97 percent) in ICT. Polling stations in which such incidents were reported included 1,770 (five percent) polling stations in Punjab, 324 (four percent) in KP, 245 (two percent) in Sindh, 46 (three percent) in Balochistan and 23 (three percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.3.1: WERE SECURITY PERSONNEL STOPPING POLLING AGENTS FROM COMMITTING ELECTORAL IRREGULARITIES?**

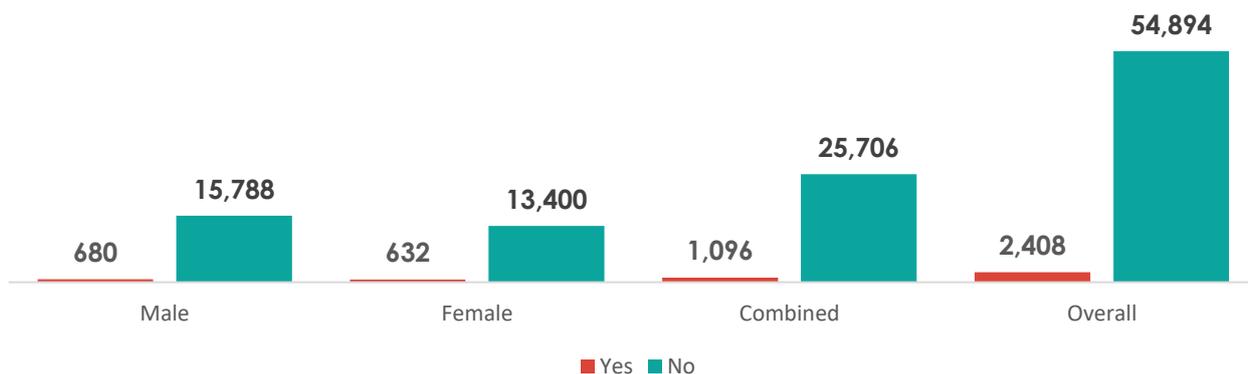


**FIGURE 6.3.2: WHETHER SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE STOPPING POLLING AGENTS FROM COMMITTING ELECTORAL IRREGULARITIES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating with regard to type of polling station reveals that security officials were observed stopping polling agents from electoral irregularities at 680 (four percent) male polling stations, 632 (five percent) female polling station and 1,096 (four percent) combined polling stations. No such action was seen at 15,788 (96 percent) male stations, 13,400 (95 percent) female stations, and 25,706 (96 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.3.3: WHETHER SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE STOPPING POLLING AGENTS FROM COMMITTING ELECTORAL IRREGULARITIES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.4 Presence of Armed Persons inside Party Camps

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of the offence of illegal practice if he carries or displays any kind of weapon or fire arm in a public meeting or procession during campaign period, on the poll day and till twenty four hours after the announcement of the official results by the Returning Officer.

Explanation. The word weapon used in clause (j) includes a danda, lathi, knife, axe or any other thing which can be used as a weapon to inflict injury to a person.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 175(j)*

A person is guilty of the offence of illegal practice if he resorts to aerial firing or uses firecrackers and other explosives at public meetings or in or near a polling station.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 175(k)*

There will be a complete ban on carriage and display of all kinds of weapons and fire arms in public meetings and processions as well as on the polling day and until twenty four hours after the consolidation of official results by the Returning Officers and official regulations in respect thereof shall be strictly observed. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice:

Provided that this condition shall not apply to persons deputed to provide security to the leaders of political parties or candidates, however such persons shall have valid license for the carriage of weapons together with proper permission from the concerned authority.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 16*

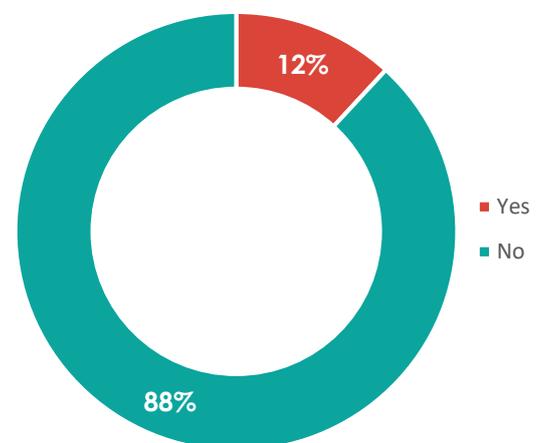
All types of firing including aerial firing, use of crackers and other explosives at public meetings and at or near the polling stations by any person shall not be allowed. Violation will be treated as an illegal practice.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 17*

Of 40,478 polling stations where party camps were seen outside the polling station buildings, FAFEN observers reported that armed persons were present inside party camps near 4,792 (12 percent) polling stations, while no armed persons were seen at the majority (35,686 or 88 percent) of polling stations.

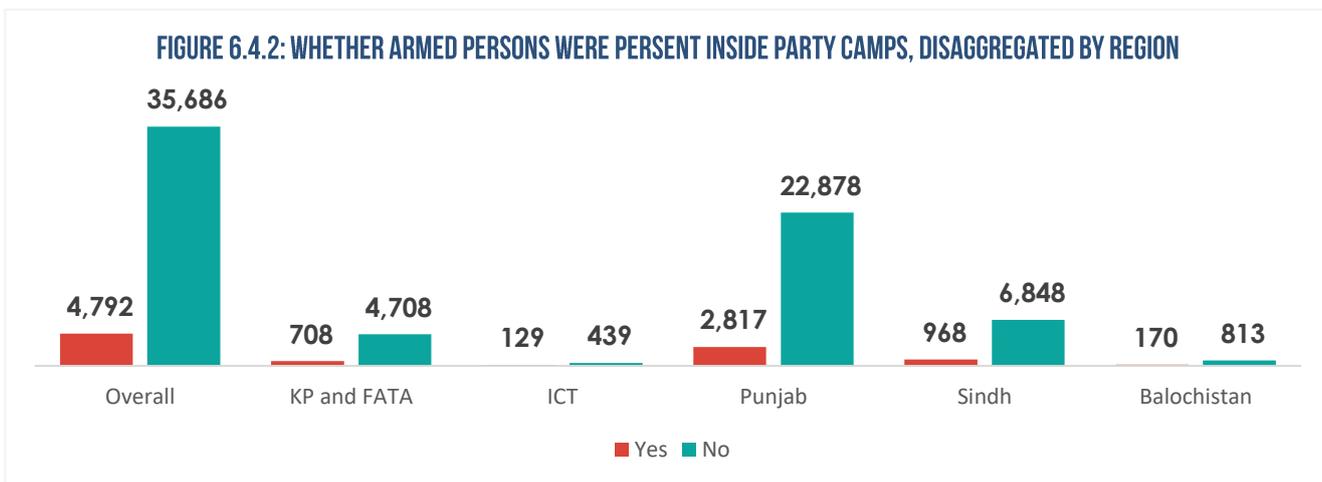
Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that armed persons were present inside party camps near 2,817 (11 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 968 (12 percent) in Sindh, 708 (13 percent) in KP, 170 (17 percent) in Balochistan and 129 (23 percent) in ICT, suggesting that the issue was more prevalent in Balochistan and ICT than elsewhere. Polling stations at which the presence of armed persons inside party camps was not reported included 22,878 (89 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 6,848 (88 percent) in Sindh, 4,708 (87 percent) in KP, 813 (83 percent) in Balochistan and 439 (77 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.4.1: WERE ARMED PERSONS PERSENT INSIDE PARTY CAMPS?**



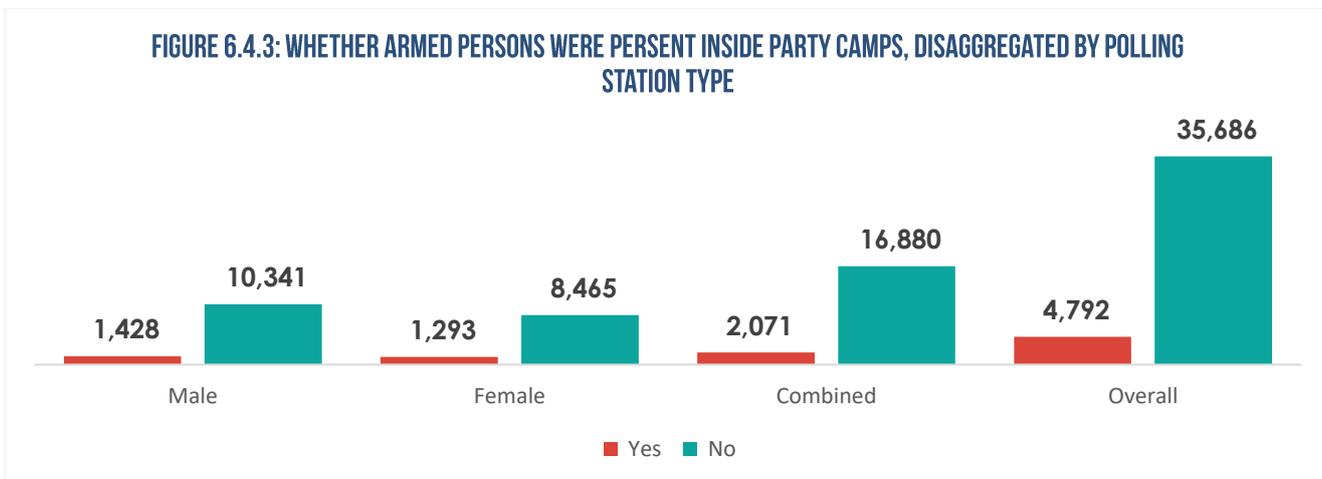


**FIGURE 6.4.2: WHETHER ARMED PERSONS WERE PRESENT INSIDE PARTY CAMPS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that armed persons were present inside party camps at 1,428 (12 percent) male polling stations, 1,293 (13 percent) female polling stations and 2,071 (11 percent) combined polling stations. No such observation was reported at 10,341 (88 percent) male stations, 8,465 (87 percent) female stations, and 16,880 (89 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.4.3: WHETHER ARMED PERSONS WERE PRESENT INSIDE PARTY CAMPS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.5 Presence of Security Officials outside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Elections 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections 2018 by:

- (1) deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.
- (2) providing secure environment for maintained of law and order.

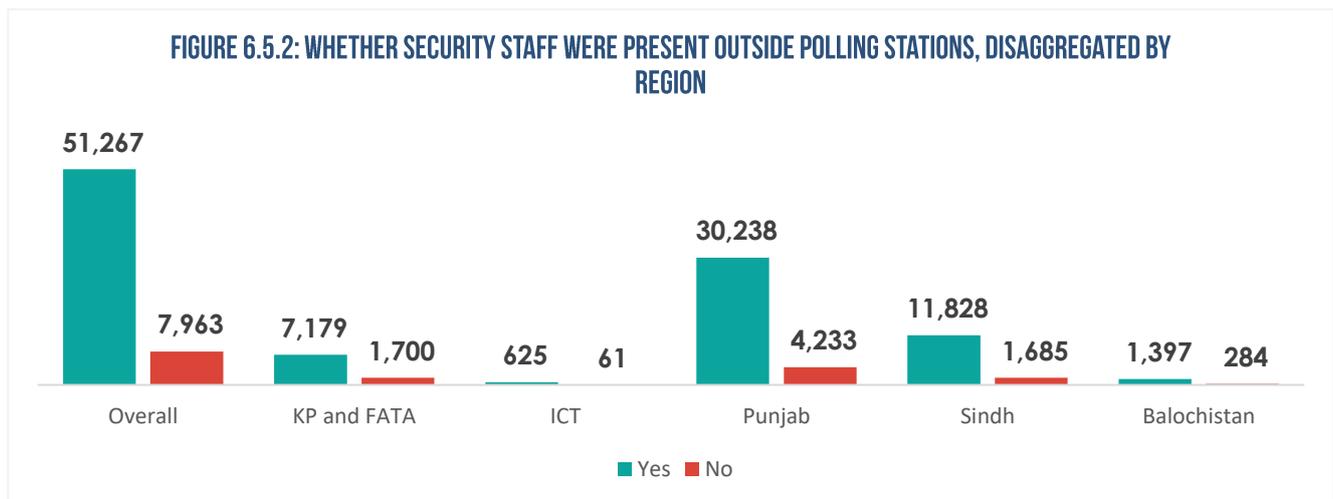
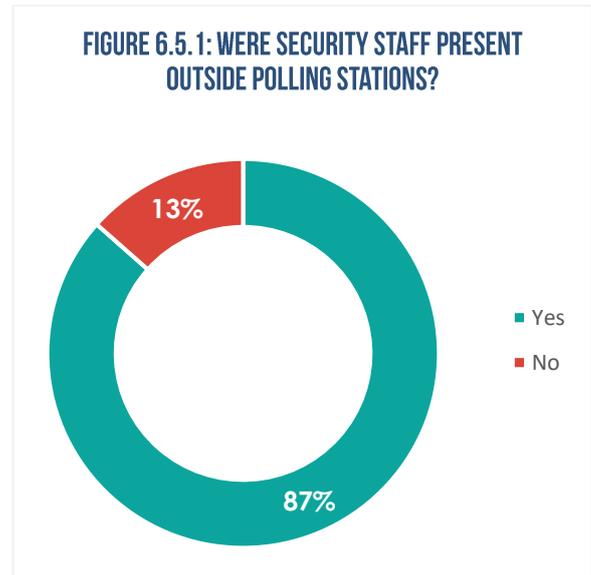
*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(I)*

[The security personnel shall] stay outside the polling station premises or at a place as directed by concerned Presiding Officers to perform their duties; facilitate the voters outside the polling station and ensure they are properly queued; ensure that peaceful conducive environment is provided to voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting.

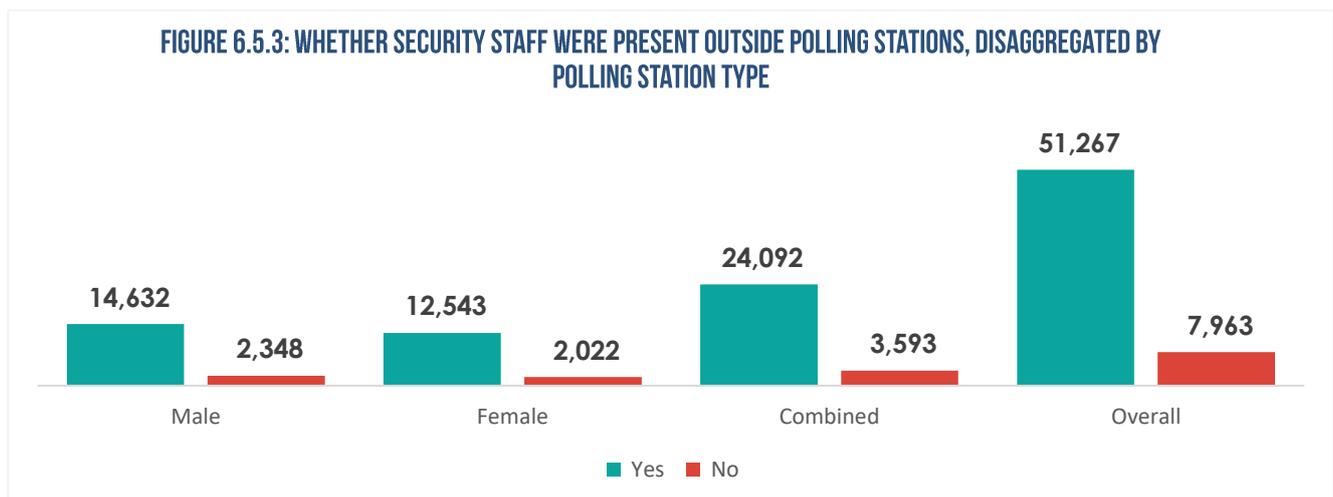
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Code of Conduct for Security Personnel, Pg.95*

Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that security officials were present outside 51,267 (87 percent) polling stations while security officials were not observed outside 7,963 (13 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security officials were present outside polling stations at 30,238 (88 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,828 (88 percent) in Sindh, 7,179 (81 percent) in KP, 1,397 (83 percent) in Balochistan and 625 (91 percent) in ICT. Polling stations where security officials were not observed outside included 4,233 (12 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,685 (12 percent) in Sindh, 1,700 (19 percent) in KP, 284 (17 percent) in Balochistan, and 61 (nine percent) in ICT.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that security officials were present outside the polling station at 14,632 (86 percent) male polling stations, 12,543 (86 percent) female polling stations and 24,092 (87 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where security officials were not seen outside included 2,348 (14 percent) male stations, 2,022 (14 percent) female stations, and 3,593 (13 percent) combined polling stations.





## 6.6 Security Officials Checking NICs before Allowing Voters to Enter Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Elections 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections 2018 by:

- (1) deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.
- (2) providing secure environment for maintained of law and order.

#### *Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(I)*

[The security personnel shall] stay outside the polling station premises or at a place as directed by concerned Presiding Officers to perform their duties; facilitate the voters outside the polling station and ensure they are properly queued; ensure that peaceful conducive environment is provided to voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting.

#### *ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Code of Conduct for Security Personnel, Pg.95*

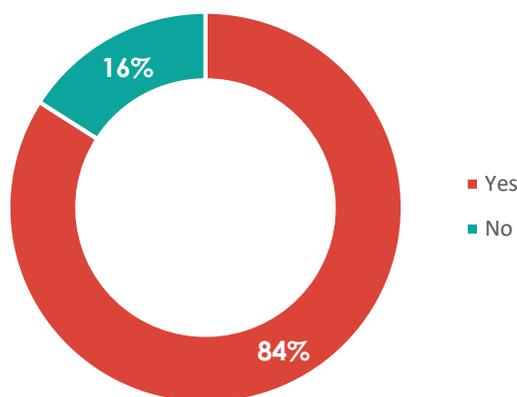
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall not ask the voters to produce their "Perchees" or prove their identity as this is the duty of PO.

#### *Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause B(I)*

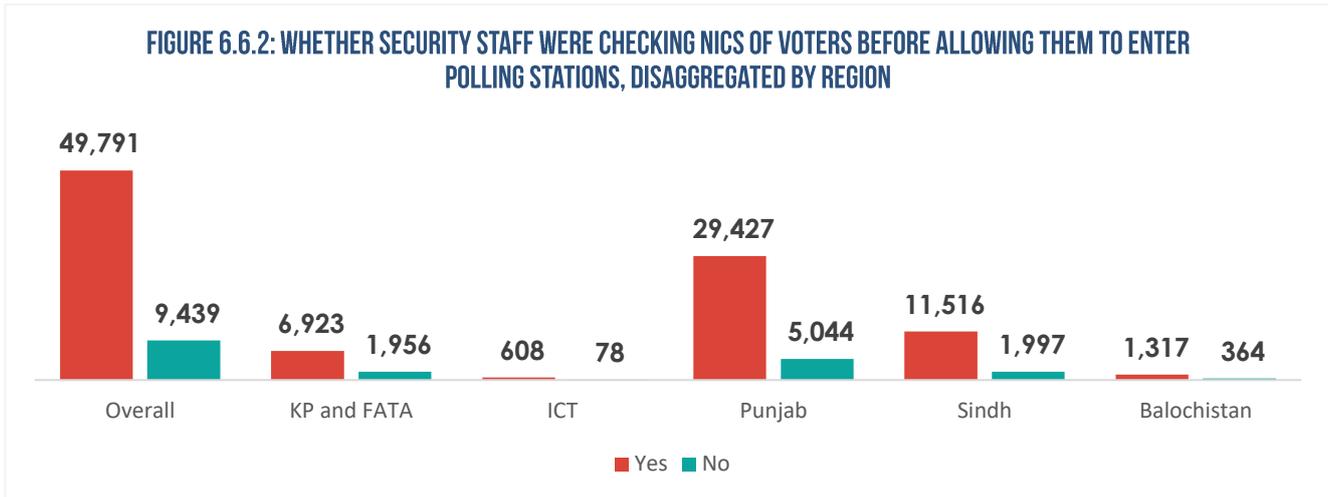
Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that, contrary to the ECP Code of Conduct for Security Officials, these officials were checking NICs of voters before allowing them to enter polling stations at a majority of 49,791 (84 percent) polling stations. Security officials were not violating this provision of their code of conduct at a minority of 9,439 (16 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security officials were inappropriately checking voters' NICs at 29,427 (85 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,516 (85 percent) in Sindh, 6,923 (78 percent) in KP, 1,317 (78 percent) in Balochistan and 608 (89 percent) in ICT, suggesting that this Code of Conduct violation was evenly widespread across regions. Polling stations where security officials were not checking voters' NICs included 5,044 (15 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,997 (15 percent) in Sindh, 1,956 (22 percent) in KP, 364 (22 percent) in Balochistan, and 78 (11 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.6.1: WERE SECURITY STAFF CHECKING NICs OF VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER POLLING STATIONS?**

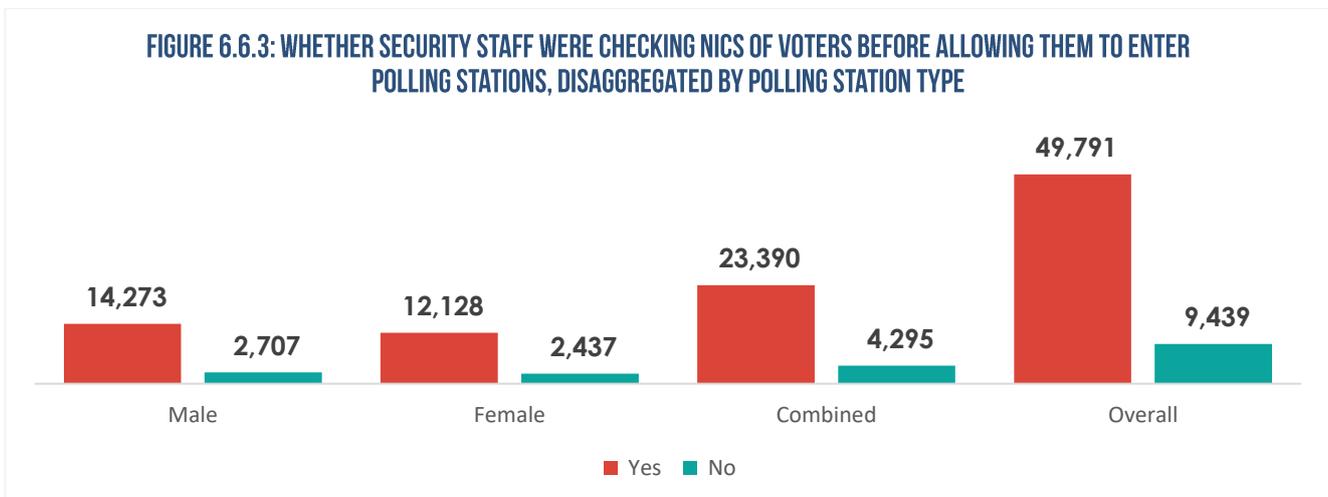


**FIGURE 6.6.2: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF WERE CHECKING NICS OF VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that security officials were checking voters' NICs at 14,273 (84 percent) male polling stations, 12,128 (83 percent) female polling stations and 23,390 (84 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where no such occurrence was reported included 2,707 (16 percent) male stations, 2,437 (17 percent) female stations, and 4,295 (16 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.6.3: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF WERE CHECKING NICS OF VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.7 Security Officials Checking Vote Chits before Allowing Voters to Enter Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Elections 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections 2018 by:

- (1) deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.
- (2) providing secure environment for maintained of law and order.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(I)*

[The security personnel shall] stay outside the polling station premises or at a place as directed by concerned Presiding Officers to perform their duties; facilitate the voters outside the polling station



and ensure they are properly queued; ensure that peaceful conducive environment is provided to voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting.

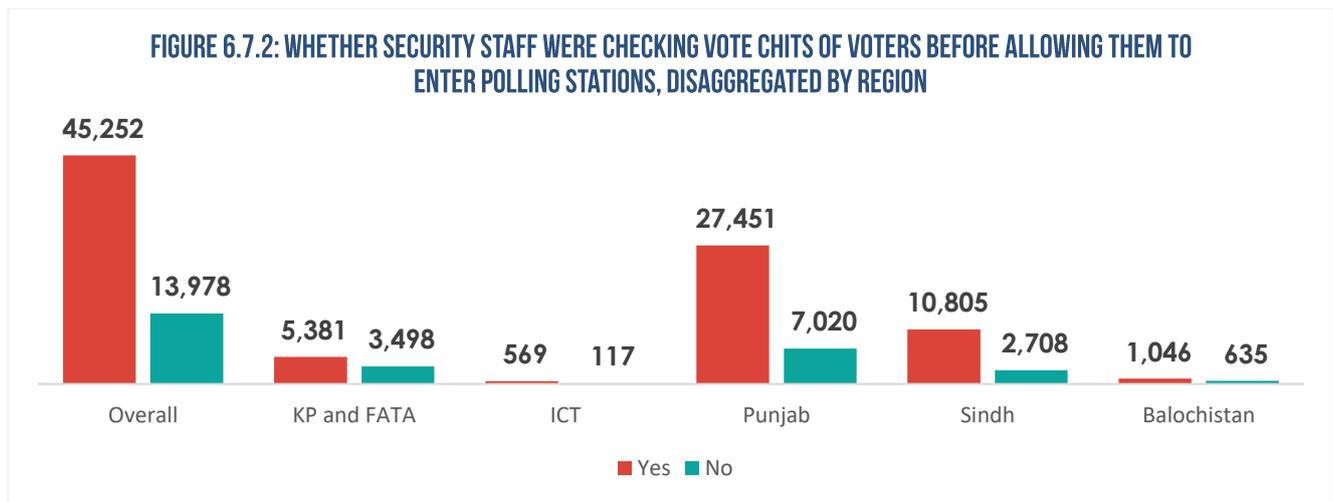
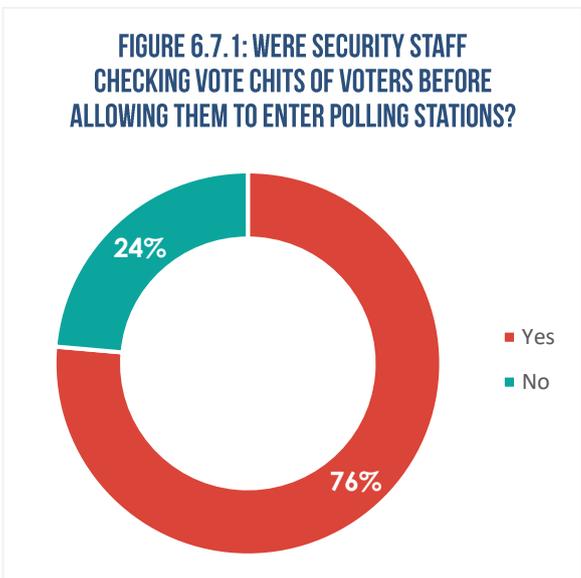
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Code of Conduct for Security Personnel, Pg.95*

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall not ask the voters to produce their “Perchees” or prove their identity as this is the duty of PO.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause B(I)*

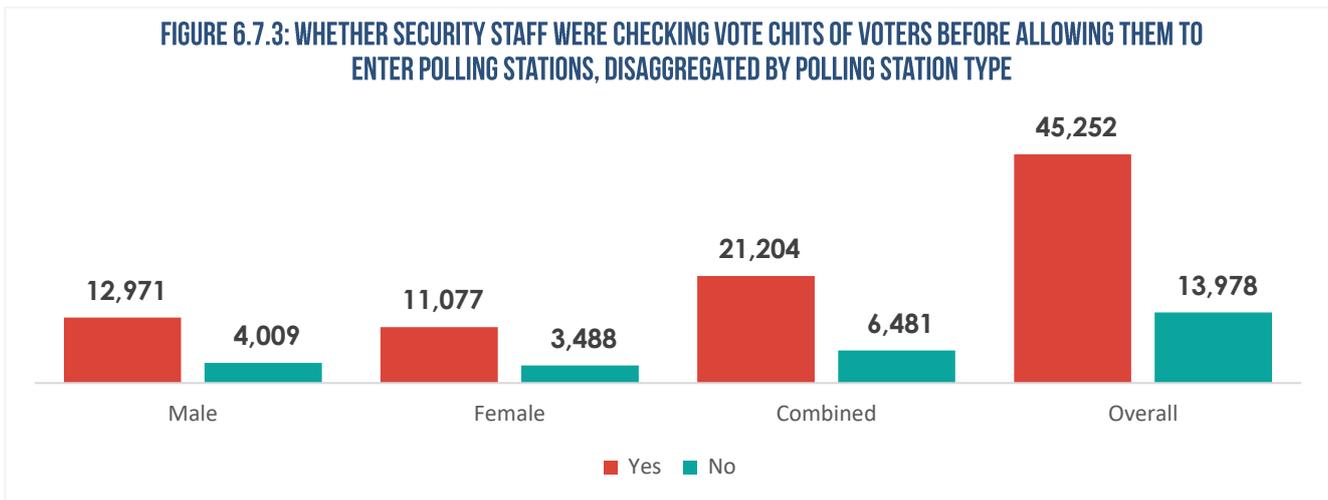
Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that, contrary to the ECP Code of Conduct for Security Officials, these officials were checking vote chits (“perchees”) at a majority of 45,252 (76 percent) polling stations. Security officials were not violating this provision of their code of conduct at a minority of 13,978 (24 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data reveals that security officials were inappropriately checking vote chits at 27,451 (80 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 10,850 (80 percent) in Sindh, 5,381 (61 percent) in KP, 1,046 (62 percent) in Balochistan and 569 (83 percent) in ICT, suggesting that this Code of Conduct violation was half as common in KP and Balochistan. Polling stations in which security officials were not observed doing so included 7,020 (20 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,708 (20 percent) in Sindh, 3,498 (39 percent) in KP, 635 (38 percent) in Balochistan and 117 (20 percent) in ICT.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that security officials were checking voter chits at 12,971 (76 percent) male polling stations, 11,077 (76 percent) female polling stations and 21,204 (77 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where no such occurrence was reported included 4,009 (24 percent) male stations, 3,488 (24 percent) female stations, and 6,481 (23 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.7.3: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF WERE CHECKING VOTE CHITS OF VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.8 Security Personnel Body-Searching Voters at Polling Station Entry Gates

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

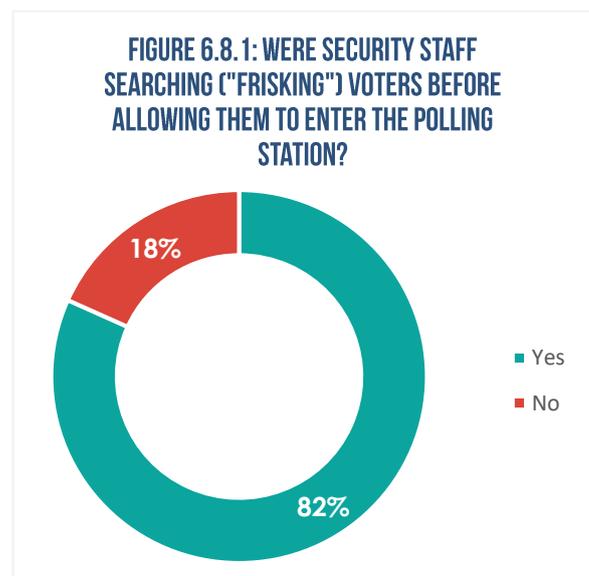
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall frisk/check each voter before entering premises of the polling station to ensure that no person can bring with himself/herself any weapon/explosive or undesirable item including mobile phones which could sabotage the polling process.

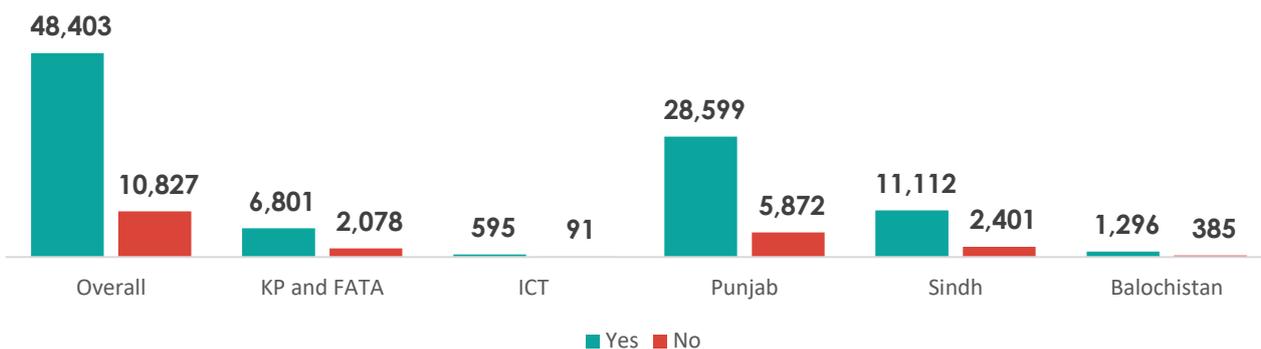
*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(VIII)*

Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that security officials were searching (or "frisking") voters before permitting them to enter polling stations at the majority (48,403 or 82 percent) of polling stations. However, they were reportedly not doing so at 10,827 (18 percent) polling stations.

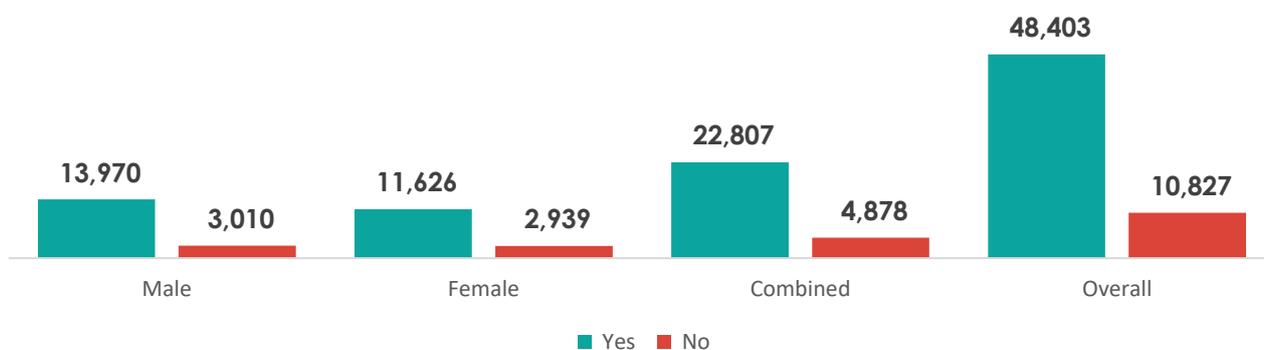
Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security officials were searching ("frisking") voters at 28,599 (83 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,112 (82 percent) in Sindh, 6,801 (77 percent) in KP, 1,296 (77 percent) in Balochistan and 595 (87 percent) in ICT. Polling stations at which checks by security officials were not reported included 5,872 (17 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,401 (18 percent) in Sindh, 2,078 (23 percent) in KP, 385 (23 percent) in Balochistan, and 91 (13 percent) in ICT, suggesting that the lapse may have been more prevalent in KP and Balochistan than in other regions.

**FIGURE 6.8.1: WERE SECURITY STAFF SEARCHING ("FRISKING") VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION?**



**FIGURE 6.8.2: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF WERE SEARCHING ("FRISKING") VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that security officials searched voters before allowing them to enter polling stations at 13,970 (82 percent) male polling stations, 11,626 (80 percent) female polling stations and 22,807 (82 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where security officials did not search voters included 3,010 (18 percent) male stations, 2,939 (20 percent) female stations, and 4,878 (18 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.8.3: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF WERE SEARCHING ("FRISKING") VOTERS BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**

## 6.9 Security Personnel Permitting Voters to Carry Phones inside Polling Stations

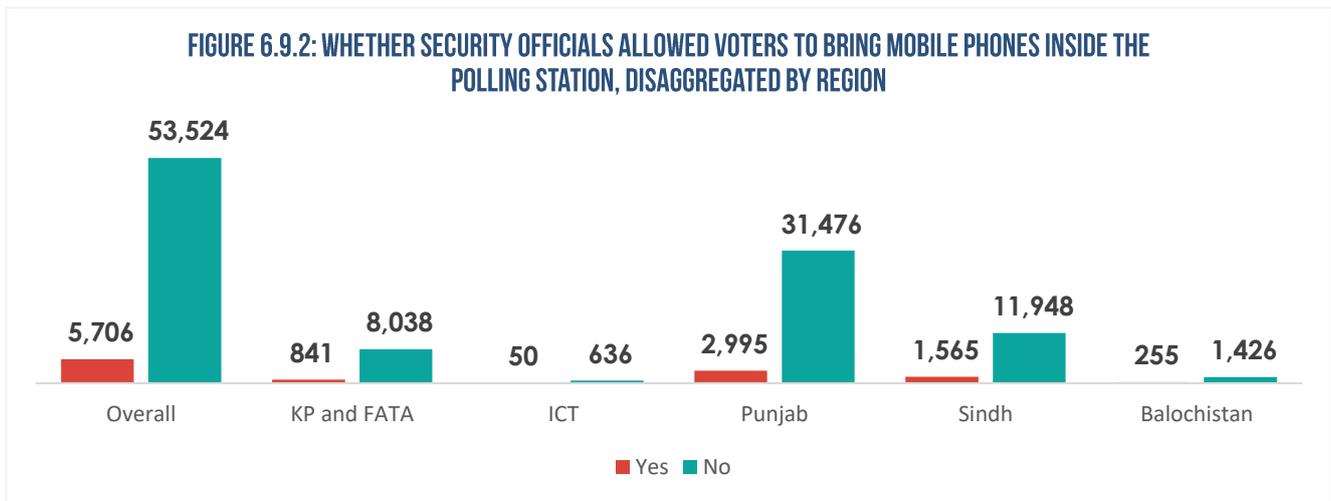
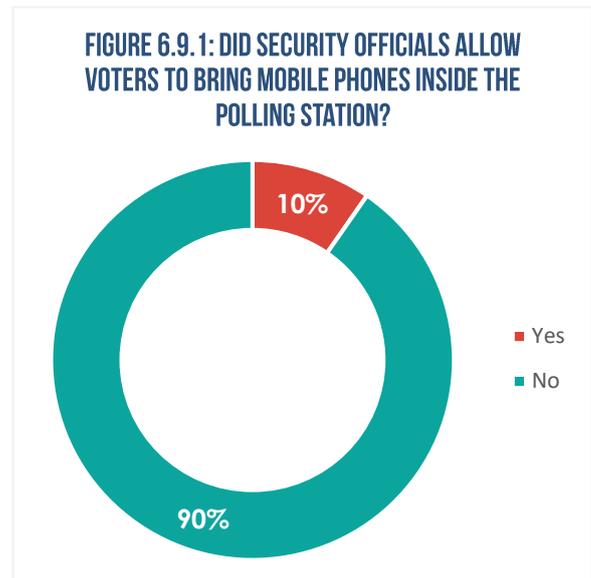
### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall frisk/ check each voter before entering premises of the polling station to ensure that no person can bring with himself/herself any weapon/explosive or undesirable item including mobile phones which could sabotage the polling process.

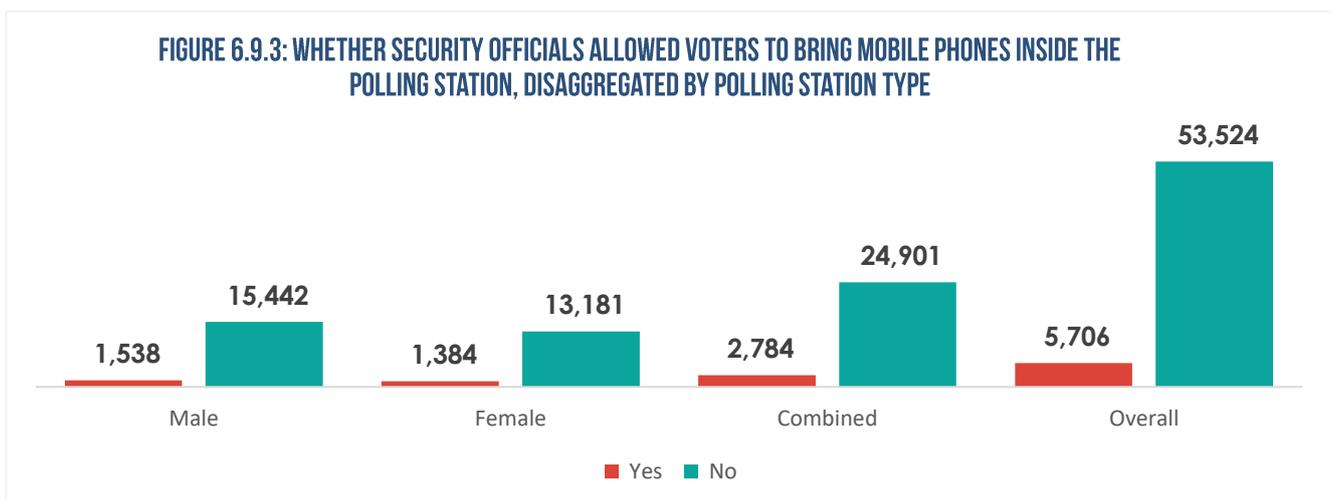
*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(VIII)*

Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that security officials allowed the voters to bring mobile phone inside the polling stations at 5,706 (10 percent) polling stations. Voters were barred from carrying mobile phones inside at the majority (53,524 or 90 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security officials allowed voters carrying mobile phones to enter the polling station at 2,995 (nine percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,565 (12 percent) in Sindh, 841 (nine percent) in KP, 255 (15 percent) in Balochistan and 50 (seven percent) in ICT, suggesting that the lapse was more prevalent in Balochistan and Sindh than elsewhere. Polling stations at which security officials did not permit voters to go inside with mobile phones included 31,476 (91 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,948 (88 percent) in Sindh, 8,038 (91 percent) in KP, 1,426 (85 percent) in Balochistan and 636 (93 percent) in ICT.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that security officials allowed voters to enter polling stations with mobile phones at 1,538 (nine percent) male polling stations, 1,384 (ten percent) female polling stations and 2,784 (ten percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where security staff disallowed voters from carrying mobile phones included 15,442 (91 percent) male stations, 13,181 (90 percent) female stations, and 24,901 (90 percent) combined polling stations.





## 6.10 Security Staff Permitting Journalists to Carry Cameras inside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

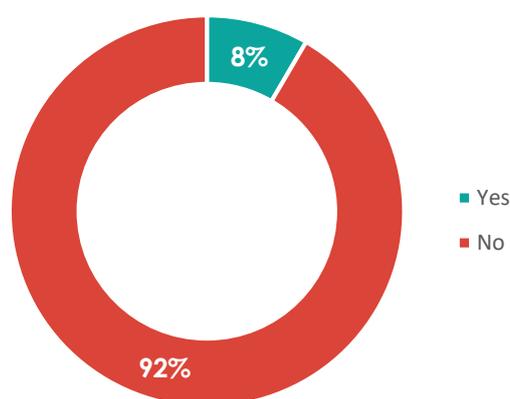
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall allow the accredited observers and media persons to enter a polling station for a brief duration. Media persons shall be allowed along with camera for making footage of the voting process or counting process, however, they shall not make footage of the screened off compartment to maintain the secrecy of ballot.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(XX)*

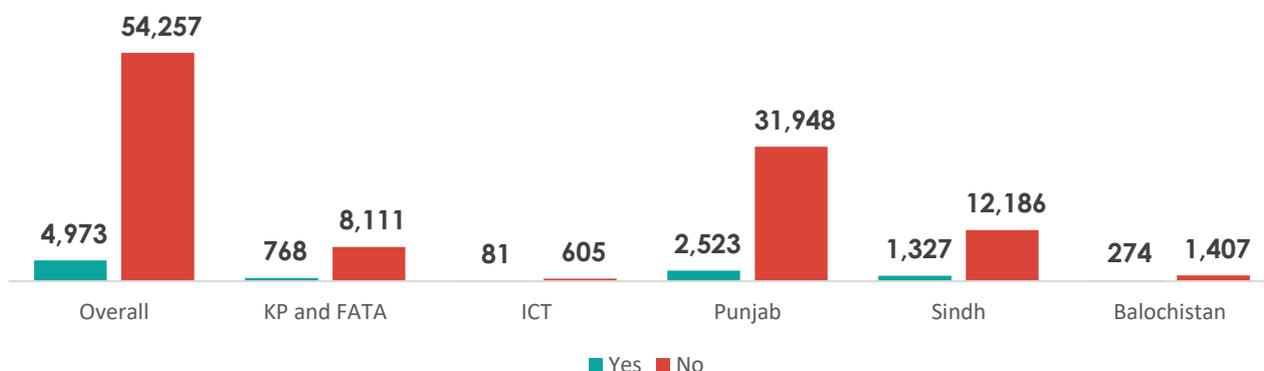
Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that the security officials allowed media persons to bring cameras inside the polling station at only 4,973 (eight percent) polling stations. Media were disallowed from doing so at the majority (54,257 or 92 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security officials allowed media with cameras to enter the polling station at 2,523 (seven percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,327 (ten percent) in Sindh, 768 (nine percent) in KP, 274 (16 percent) in Balochistan, and 81 (12 percent) in ICT. Media persons were not allowed to bring cameras inside polling stations at 31,948 (93 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,186 (90 percent) in Sindh, 8,111 (91 percent) in KP, 1,407 (84 percent) in Balochistan and 605 (88 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.10.1: DID SECURITY STAFF ALLOW MEDIA TO BRING CAMERAS INSIDE THE POLLING STATIONS?**

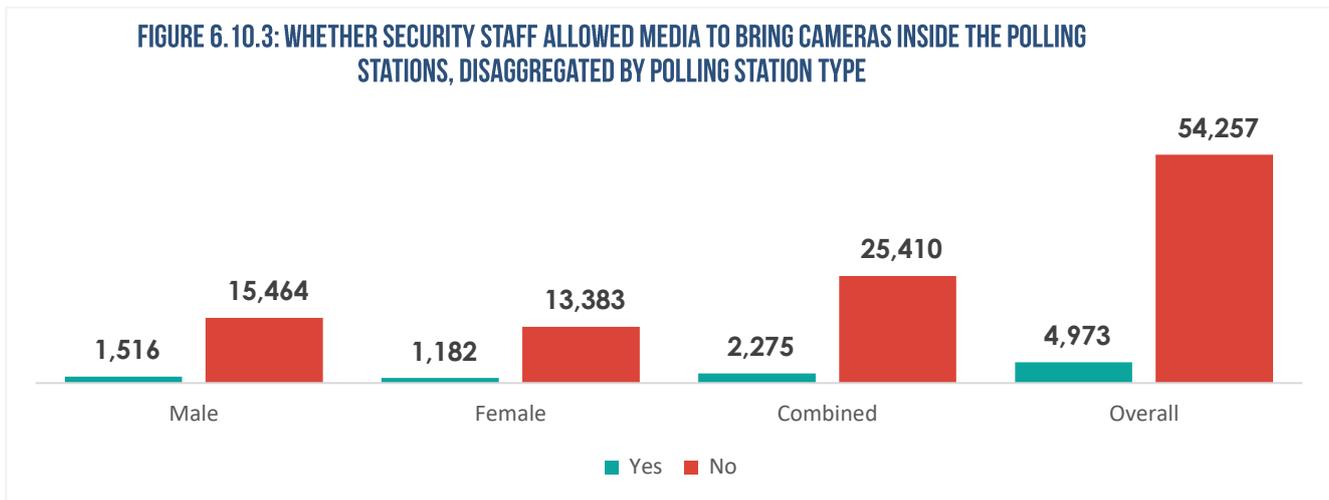


**FIGURE 6.10.2: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF ALLOWED MEDIA TO BRING CAMERAS INSIDE THE POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that security officials allowed media persons to bring cameras inside the polling station at 1,516 (nine percent) male polling stations, 1,182 (eight percent) female polling stations and 2,275 (eight percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations at which security officials did not allow media cameras included 15,464 (91 percent) male stations, 13,383 (92 percent) female stations, and 25,410 (92 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.10.3: WHETHER SECURITY STAFF ALLOWED MEDIA TO BRING CAMERAS INSIDE THE POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.11 Behaviour of Security Personnel with Voters

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall while dealing with voters and polling staff, observe politeness, display immaculate behavior while remaining firm and just in dealing in accordance with the law while addressing any situation. Assist in guiding them (outside polling station) in case of any confusion. Ensure that peaceful, friendly, safe and conducive environment is provided to the voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting in any manner whatsoever.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(VII)*

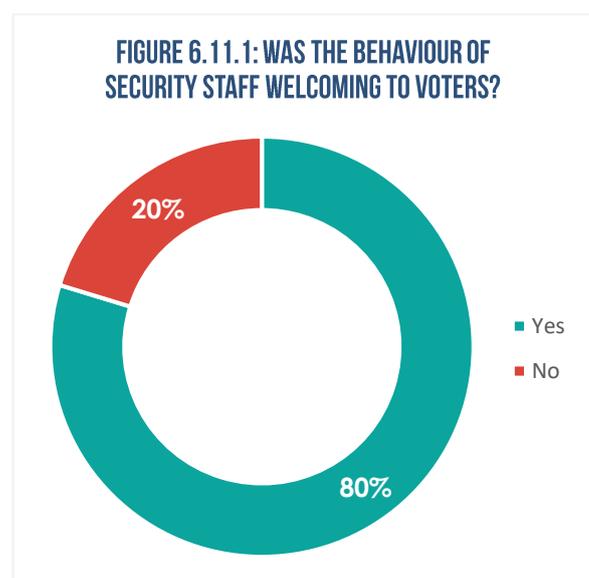
[The security personnel shall] facilitate the voters outside the polling station and ensure they are properly queued; ensure that peaceful conducive environment is provided to voters outside the polling stations and voters are neither intimidated nor hampered from voting.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Code of Conduct for Security Personnel, Pg.95*

Of 59,230 polling stations where security arrangements were observed, FAFEN observers reported that the behaviour of security personnel was appropriately polite and welcoming towards voters at 47,232 (80 percent) polling stations. However, their behavior was reportedly impolite or unwelcoming towards voters at 11,998 (20 percent) polling stations.

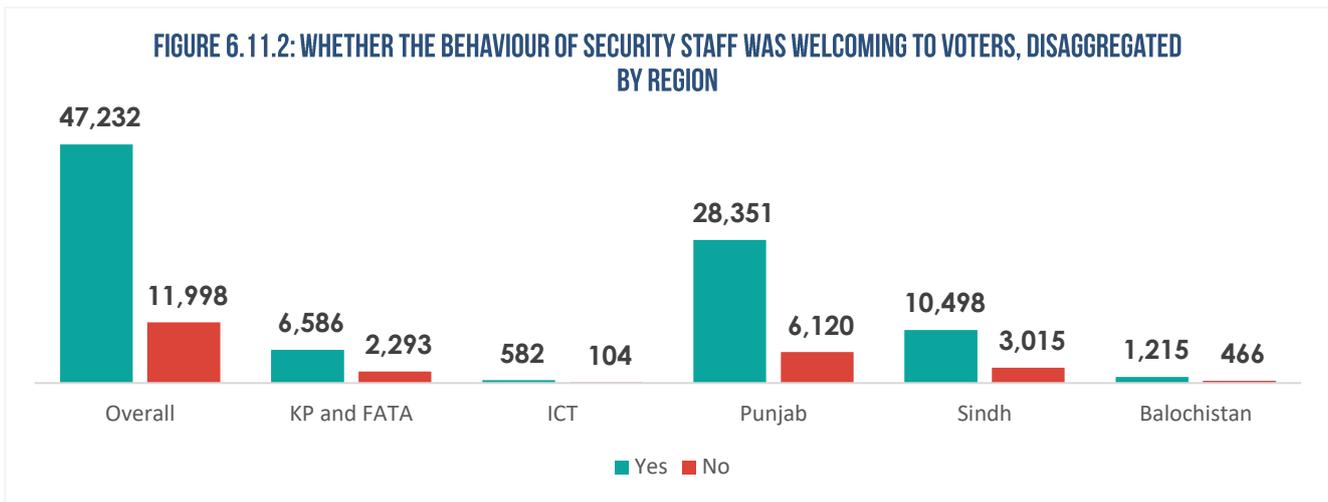
Regional disaggregation of the observation data reveals that security officials were behaving appropriately with voters at 28,351 (82 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 10,498 (78 percent) in Sindh, 6,586 (74 percent) in KP, 1,215 (72 percent) in Balochistan and 582 (85 percent) in ICT. Polling stations where the conduct of security officials with voters was impolite or unwelcoming included 6,120 (18 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,015 (22 percent) in Sindh, 2,293 (26 percent) in KP, 466 (28 percent) in Balochistan, and 104 (15 percent) in ICT, suggesting that the issue was more prevalent in KP and Balochistan than elsewhere.

**FIGURE 6.11.1: WAS THE BEHAVIOUR OF SECURITY STAFF WELCOMING TO VOTERS?**



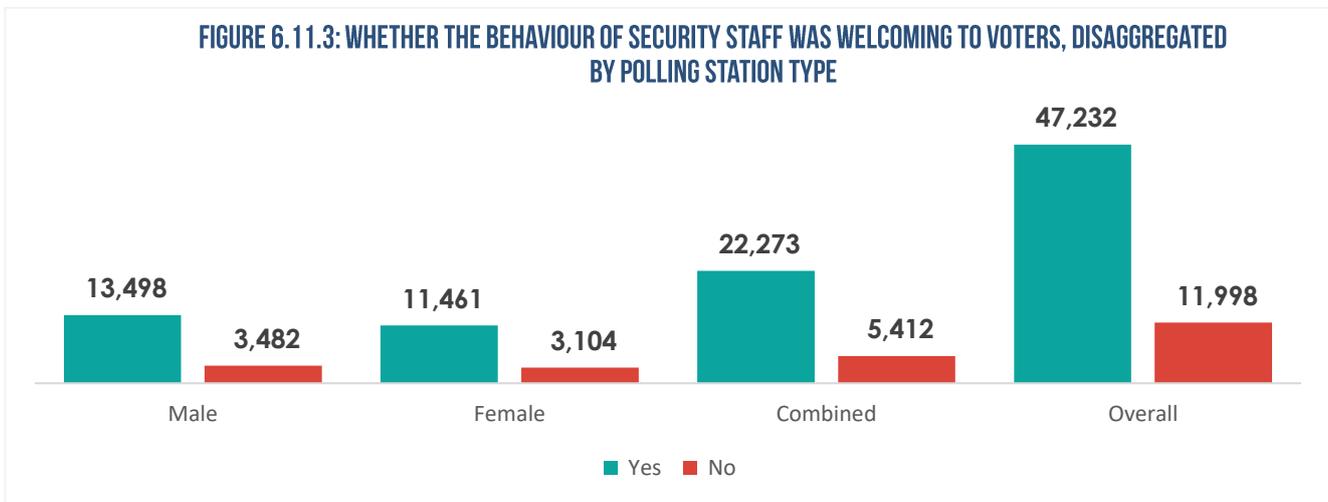


**FIGURE 6.11.2: WHETHER THE BEHAVIOUR OF SECURITY STAFF WAS WELCOMING TO VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that the behavior of security officials with voters was appropriately polite and welcoming at 13,498 (79 percent) male polling stations, 11,461 (79 percent) female polling stations and 22,273 (80 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations at which their behavior with voters was observed to be inappropriate included 3,482 (21 percent) male stations, 3,104 (21 percent) female stations, and 5,412 (20 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.11.3: WHETHER THE BEHAVIOUR OF SECURITY STAFF WAS WELCOMING TO VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.12 Presence of Security Personnel inside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Elections 2018 shall perform their duties in accordance with the law and within the confines of mandate assigned to armed forces to assist Election Commission of Pakistan in conduct of free, fair and transparent General Elections 2018 by:

- (1) deploying inside and outside of all polling stations.
- (2) providing secure environment for maintained of law and order.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(I)*

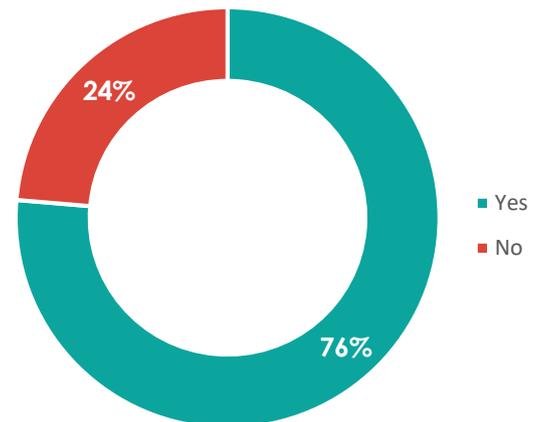
[The security officials shall] provide assistance on the instructions of the Presiding Officer in case of emergency inside the polling station.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of Police, Pg. 10*

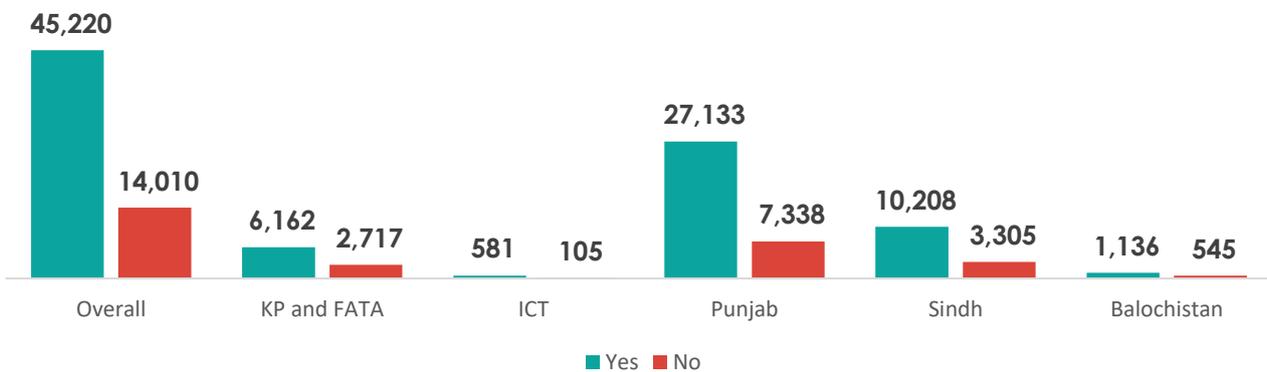
Of 59,230 polling stations observed across the country, FAFEN observers reported the presence of security personnel inside polling station buildings at 45,220 (76 percent) polling stations. However, they were not observed to be inside polling stations at the time of observation in 14,010 (24 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that security personnel were present inside 27,133 (79 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 10,208 (76 percent) in Sindh, 6,162 (69 percent) in KP, 1,136 (68 percent) in Balochistan and 581 (85 percent) in ICT. Polling stations in which security officials were not seen inside the stations included 7,338 (21 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,305 (24 percent) in Sindh, 2,717 (31 percent) in KP, 545 (32 percent) in Balochistan and 105 (15 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 6.12.1: WERE SECURITY PERSONNEL PRESENT INSIDE THE POLLING STATION?**

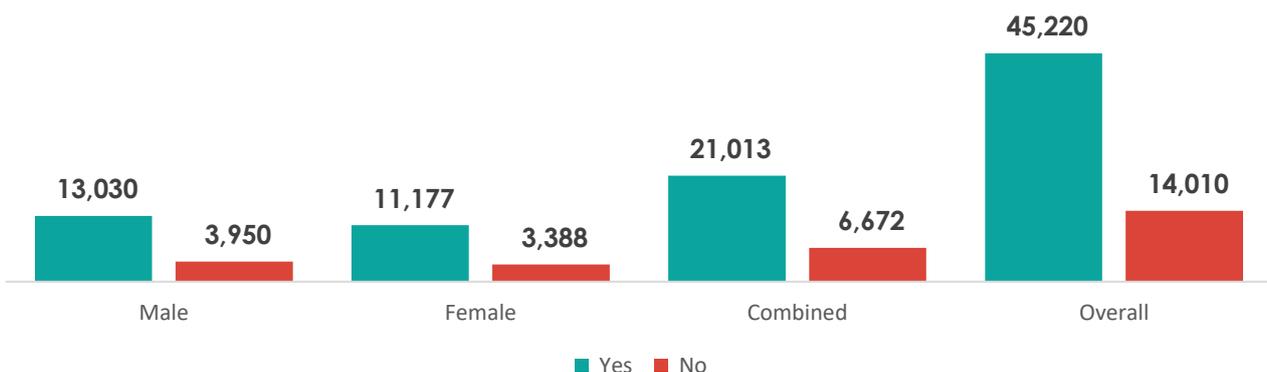


**FIGURE 6.12.2: WHETHER SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT INSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



With regard to type of polling station, security personnel were present inside polling station buildings at 13,030 (77 percent) male polling stations, 11,177 (77 percent) female polling stations and 21,013 (76 percent) combined polling stations. They were not observed inside 3,950 (23 percent) male stations, 3,388 (23 percent) female stations, and 6,672 (24 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 6.12.3: WHETHER SECURITY PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT INSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 6.13 Satisfaction of Presiding Officers with Security Arrangements

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

All officials posted at a polling station including officials of law enforcing agencies shall render their fullest cooperation to the Presiding Officer for maintenance of order and for ensuring uninterrupted voting at the polling station.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 83(4)*

All personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies, deputed for any election duty, shall:

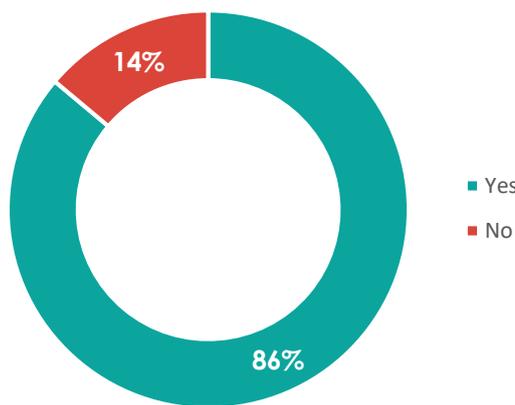
- (1) Work in close collaboration with concerned District Officers, Returning Officer and other election officials and perform their duties honestly and lawfully.
- (4) Stay outside the polling station premises or at a place as directed by concerned Presiding Officer to perform their duties.
- (5) Not enter the polling station premises unless they are so directed by the concerned Presiding Officer.
- (6) Assist the Presiding Officer in maintaining or restoring law and order at the polling station as and when asked to do so.
- (10) Work diligently and efficiently during the transportation of election material and ensure that the polling personnel and the election material is transported to the polling station safely and returned to the Presiding Officer safely after the polling has ended.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Code of Conduct for Security Personnel, Pg.95*

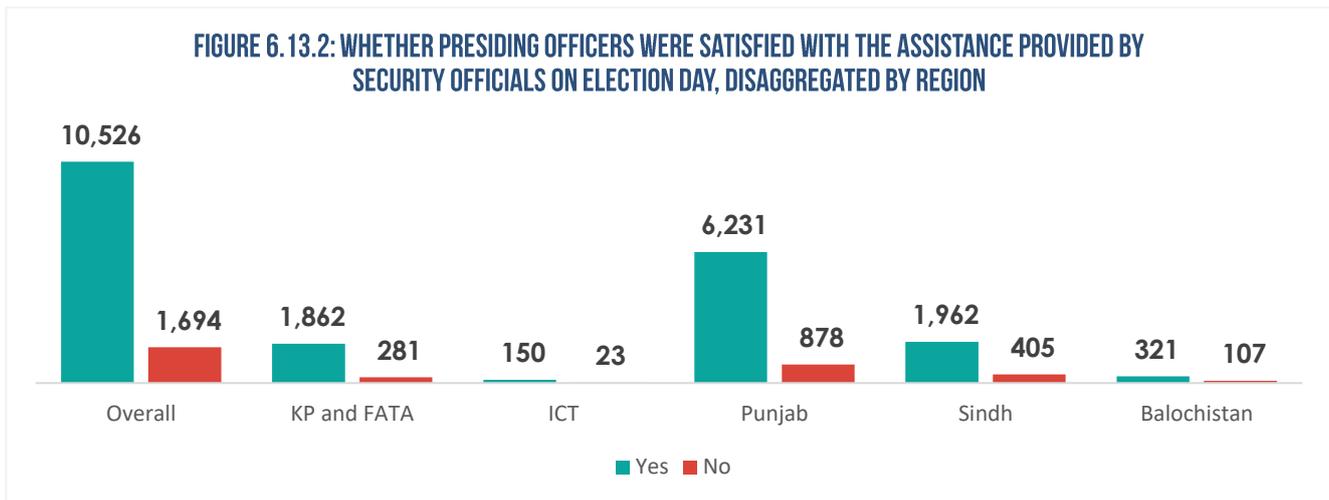
Of 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed, FAFEN observers reported that PrOs said they were satisfied with the assistance provided by security officials during Election Day at 10,526 (86 percent) polling stations. PrOs expressed dissatisfaction with security officials at 1,694 (14 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that PrOs said they were satisfied with the assistance provided by security officials at 1,862 (87 percent) polling stations in KP, 150 (87 percent) in ICT, 6,231 (88 percent) in Punjab, 1,962 (83 percent) in Sindh, and 321 (75 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which PrOs said they were not satisfied included 281 (13 percent) polling stations in KP, 23 (13 percent) in ICT, 878 (12 percent) in Punjab, 405 (17 percent) in Sindh and 107 (25 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 6.13.1: WERE PRESIDING OFFICERS SATISFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS ON ELECTION DAY?**

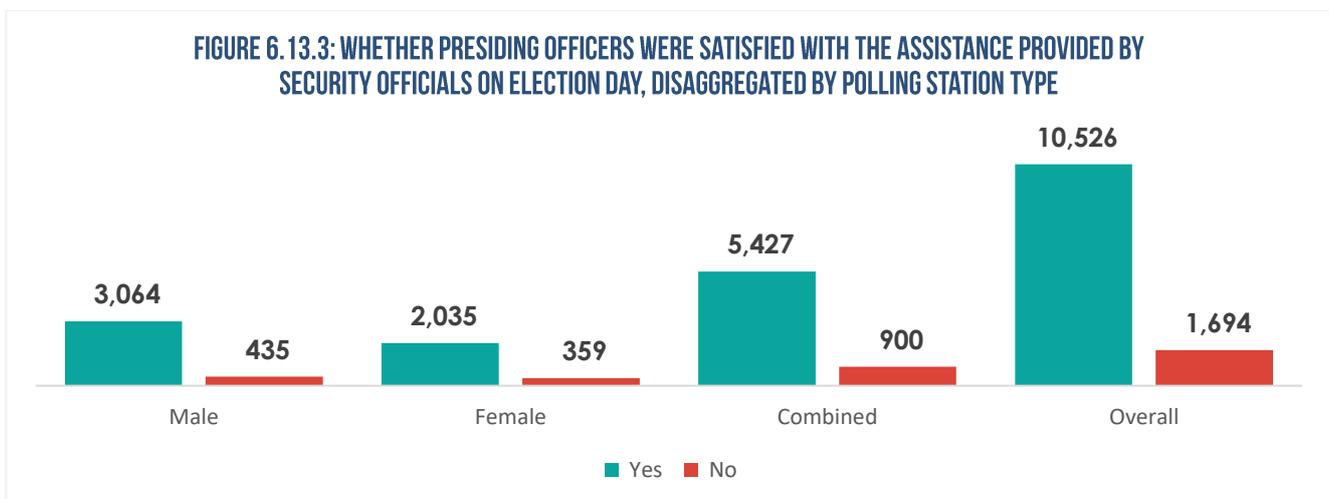


**FIGURE 6.13.2: WHETHER PRESIDING OFFICERS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS ON ELECTION DAY, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs were satisfied at 3,064 (88 percent) male polling stations, 2,035 (85 percent) female polling stations and 5,427 (86 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations in which PrOs were not satisfied included 435 (12 percent) male stations, 359 (15 percent) female stations, and 900 (14 percent) combined polling stations observed.

**FIGURE 6.13.3: WHETHER PRESIDING OFFICERS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY SECURITY OFFICIALS ON ELECTION DAY, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.14 Security Personnel Informing PrOs about Electoral Irregularities

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

[The security personnel shall] not respond at his own to an apparent irregularity by a polling agent or any member of polling staff rather he shall bring the matter to the knowledge of Presiding Officer and take necessary direction from him in the matter. In case irregularity or malpractice continues, shall inform his Officer In-Charge through the fastest means available, who will take action in light of the powers delegated to him and will also inform Returning Officer.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause IX*

[The security officials shall] remove any person violating election laws from the polling station and taking proper action as per the instructions of the Presiding Officer.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Police, Pg. 10*



All personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies, deputed for any election duty, shall

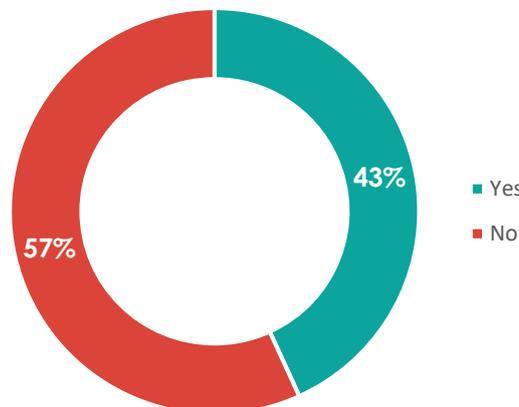
- (1) Work in close collaboration with concerned District Officers, Returning Officer and other election officials and perform their duties honestly and lawfully.
- (4) Stay outside the polling station premises or at a place as directed by concerned Presiding Officer to perform their duties.
- (5) Not enter the polling station premises unless they are so directed by the concerned Presiding Officer.
- (6) Assist the Presiding Officer in maintaining or restoring law and order at the polling station as and when asked to do so.
- (10) Work diligently and efficiently during the transportation of election material and ensure that the polling personnel and the election material is transported to the polling station safely and returned to the Presiding Officer safely after the polling has ended.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Code of Conduct for Security Personnel, Pg.95*

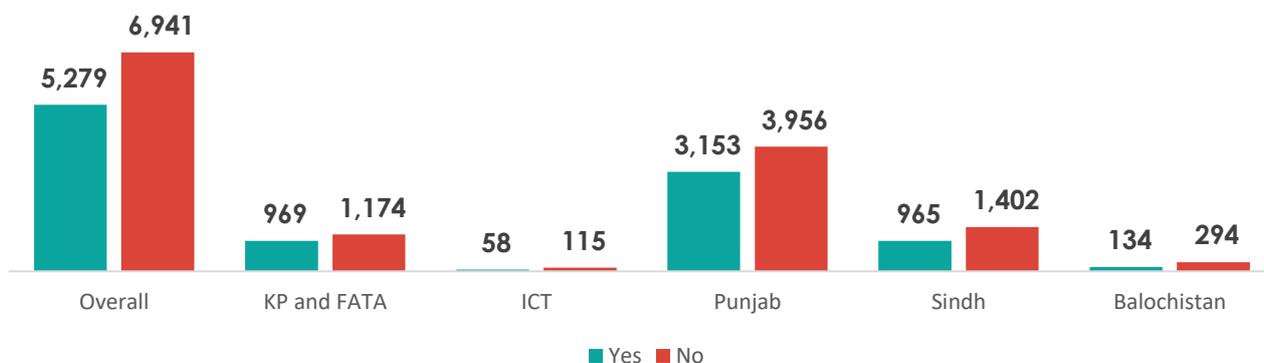
Of 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed, FAFEN observers reported that PrOs were informed by security personnel about electoral irregularities at 5,279 (43 percent) polling stations. No such observation was made at 6,941 (57 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that PrOs were informed by security officials about electoral irregularities at 969 (45 percent) polling stations in KP, 58 (34 percent) in ICT, 3,153 (44 percent) in Punjab, 965 (41 percent) in Sindh and 134 (31 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations in which no such observation was reported included 1,174 (55 percent) polling stations in KP, 115 (66 percent) in ICT, 3,956 (56 percent) in Punjab, 1,402 (59 percent) in Sindh and 294 (69 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 6.14.1: WAS THE PRESIDING OFFICER INFORMED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL OF ANY ELECTORAL IRREGULARITY?**

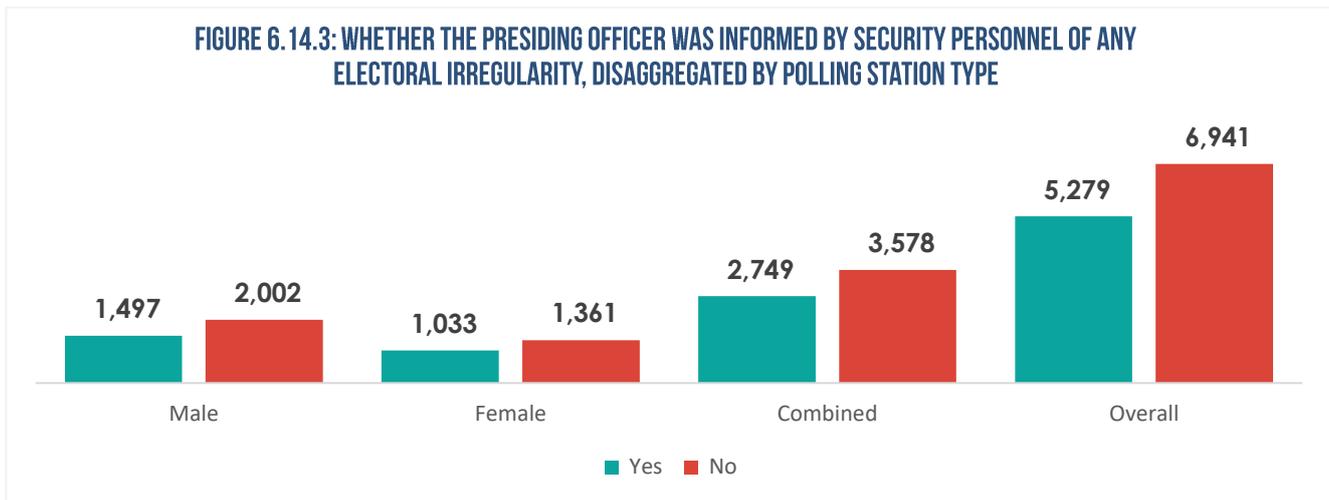


**FIGURE 6.14.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL OF ANY ELECTORAL IRREGULARITY, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs were informed by security officials about electoral irregularities at 1,497 (43 percent) male polling stations, 1,033 (43 percent) female polling stations and 2,749 (43 percent) combined polling stations. PrOs were not informed by security officials of any irregularities at 2,002 (57 percent) male stations, 1,361 (57 percent) female stations, and 3,578 (57 percent) combined polling stations observed.

**FIGURE 6.14.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER WAS INFORMED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL OF ANY ELECTORAL IRREGULARITY, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.15 PrOs Exercising Magisterial Powers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code, an officer exercising the powers of a civil or criminal court, or an officer of the Armed Forces, or an officer performing a duty in connection with an election, who is authorized by the Commission in this behalf may

- exercise the powers of a Magistrate of the first class under the Code in respect of the offences of personation, or capturing of polling station or polling booth punishable under section 174; and
- take cognizance of any such offence under section 190 of the Code; and shall try it summarily under Chapter XX of the Code.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 193*

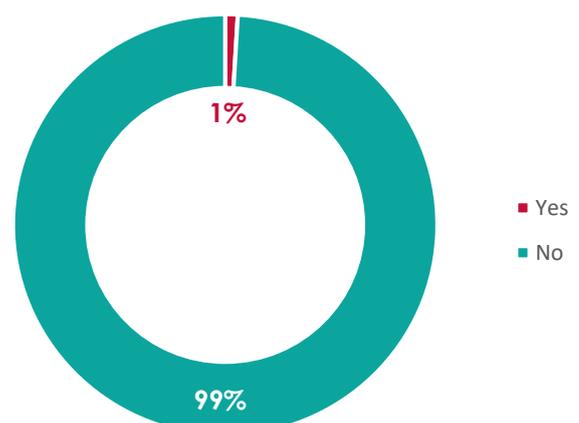
[The responsibilities of Presiding Officer include] exercising powers of a First-Class magistrate in case of emergency, administrative or security requirements during polling in accordance with the Section 193 of the Elections Act 2017.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Polling Staff, Pg.7*

Of 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed, FAFEN observers reported that PrOs exercised their magisterial powers at 116 (one percent) polling stations, whereas no such observation was made at the overwhelming majority (12,104 or 99 percent) of polling stations.

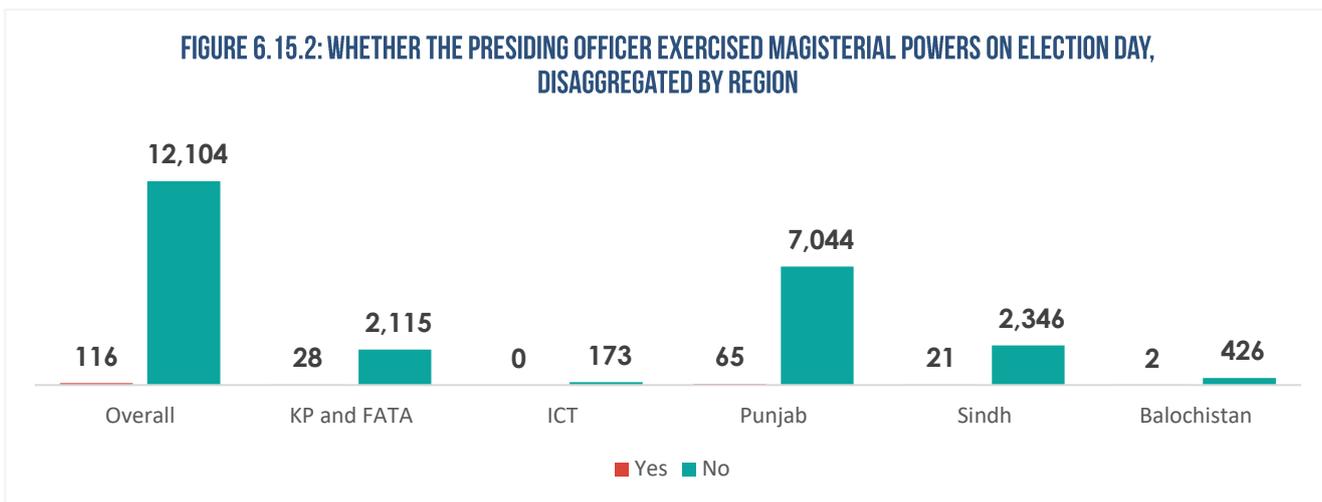
Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that PrOs exercised their magisterial powers at 28 (one percent) polling stations in KP, 65 (one percent) in Punjab, 21 (one percent) in Sindh and two (less than one percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which PrOs reported not exercising their magisterial powers included 2,115 (99 percent) polling stations in KP, 7,044 (99 percent) in Punjab, 2,346 (99 percent) in Sindh, 173 (100 percent) in ICT and 426 (100 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 6.15.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER EXERCISE MAGISTERIAL POWERS ON ELECTION DAY?**



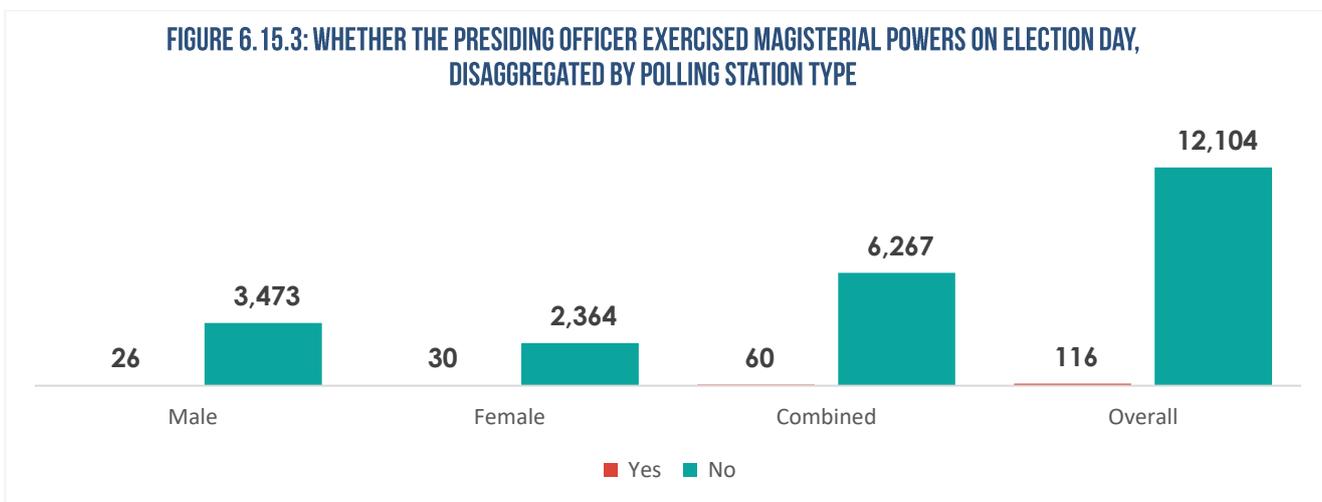


**FIGURE 6.15.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER EXERCISED MAGISTERIAL POWERS ON ELECTION DAY, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs exercised their magisterial powers at 26 (one percent) of the male polling stations, 30 (one percent) of the female polling stations and 60 (one percent) of the combined polling stations. Polling stations at which they were not observed to do so included 3,473 (99 percent) male stations, 2,364 (99 percent) female stations, and 6,267 (99 percent) combined polling stations observed.

**FIGURE 6.15.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER EXERCISED MAGISTERIAL POWERS ON ELECTION DAY, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 6.16 PrOs Informing ROs Regarding Disruptions in Electoral Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A Presiding Officer shall conduct the poll in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Rules and shall be responsible for maintaining order at the polling station and shall report to the Returning Officer any fact or incident which may affect the conduct or fairness of the poll.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 54(3)*

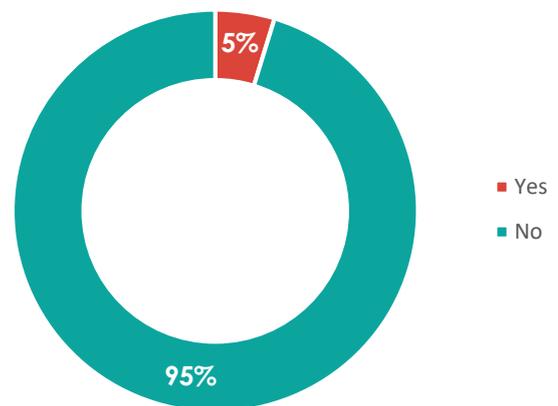
[The responsibilities of Presiding Officer include] contacting the Returning Officer in case of emergency.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of the Polling Staff, Pg. 7*

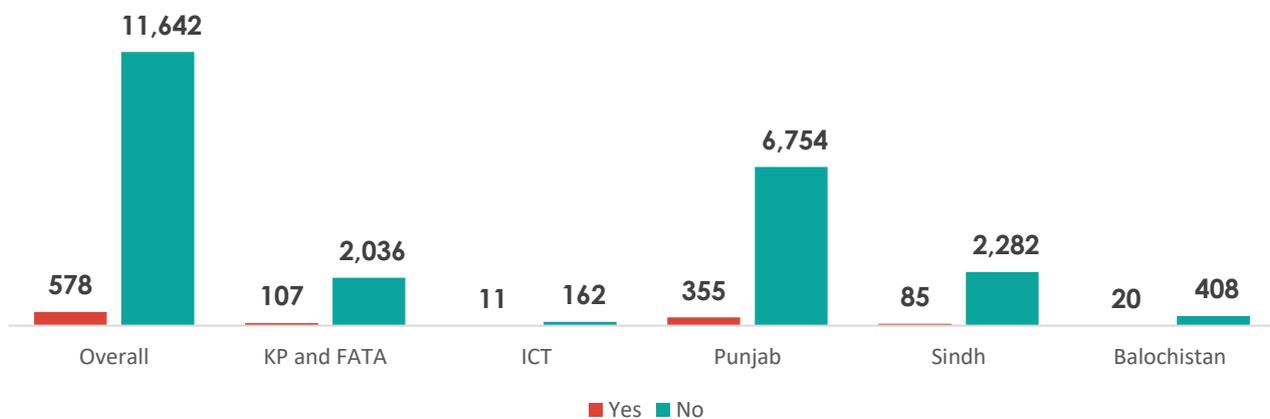
Of 12,220 polling stations in which the counting process was observed, FAFEN observers reported that PrOs said they informed ROs about incidents that disturbed the electoral process at 578 (five percent) polling stations. PrOs said they did not do so at 11,642 (95 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that PrOs said they informed ROs of disruptive incidents at 107 (five percent) polling stations in KP, 11 (six percent) in ICT, 355 (five percent) in Punjab, 85 (four percent) in Sindh, and 20 (five percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which PrOs said they did not do so included 2,036 (95 percent) polling stations in KP, 162 (94 percent) in ICT, 6,754 (95 percent) in Punjab, 2,282 (96 percent) in Sindh and 408 (95 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 6.16.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER INFORM THE RETURNING OFFICER OF ANY INCIDENT THAT DISRUPTED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?**



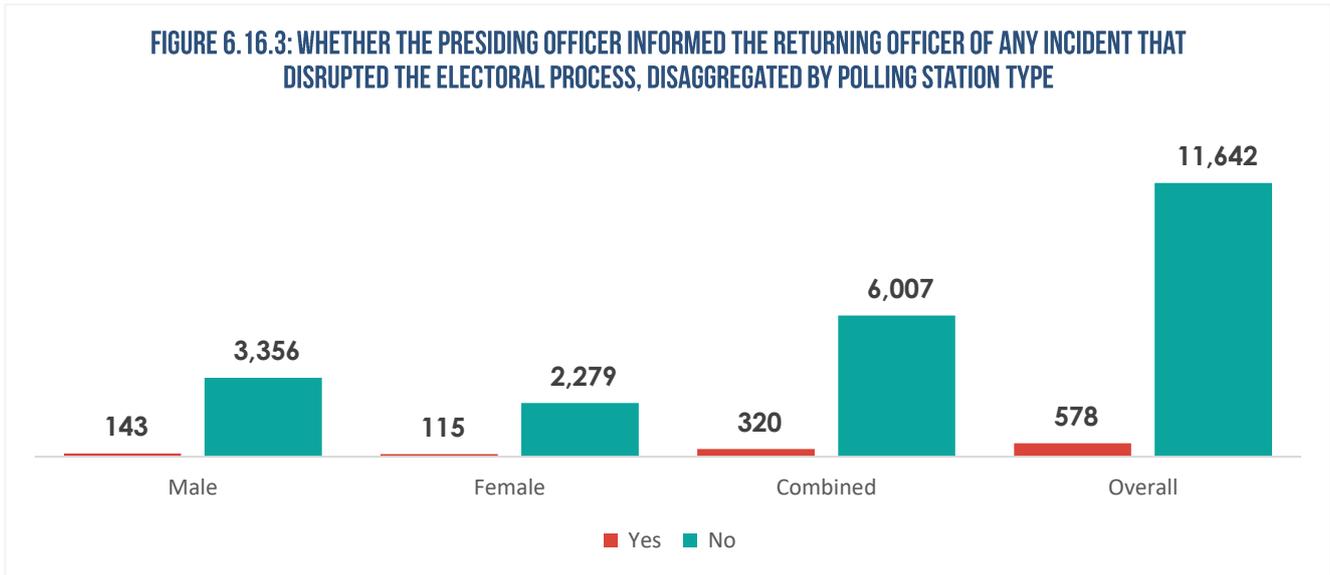
**FIGURE 6.16.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER INFORMED THE RETURNING OFFICER OF ANY INCIDENT THAT DISRUPTED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs informed ROs about disruptions at 143 (four percent) of the male polling stations, 115 (five percent) of the female polling stations and 320 (five percent) of the combined polling stations observed. Polling stations at which PrOs said they did not do so included 3,356 (96 percent) male stations, 2,279 (95 percent) female stations, and 6,007 (95 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 6.16.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER INFORMED THE RETURNING OFFICER OF ANY INCIDENT THAT DISRUPTED THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



# POLLING STATIONS: MATERIALS AND STAFFING





## 7.1 Presiding Officers Wearing ECP Badges

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

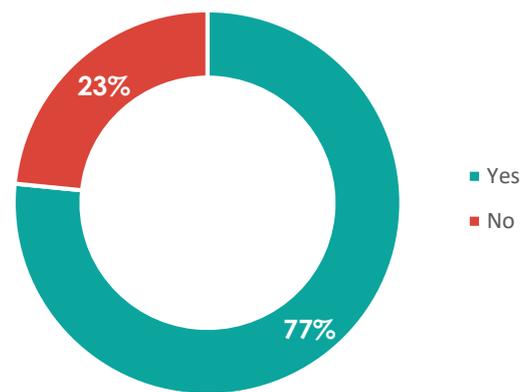
Polling staff to keep their respective badges: Presiding officer will also keep the Election Commission issued identity card with picture on display.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Poll Day, Pg. 28*

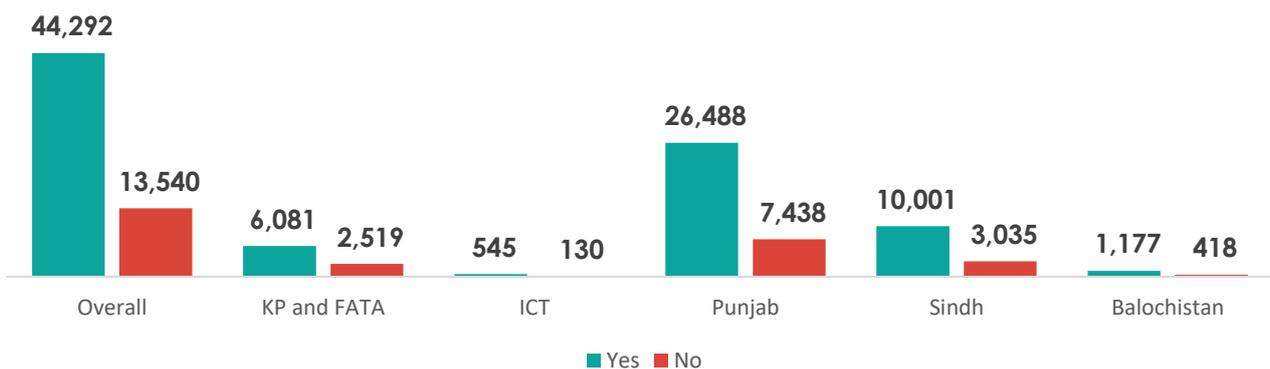
PrOs were observed to be wearing badges provided to them by the ECP at 44,292 (77 percent) of 57,832 observed polling stations. PrOs were reportedly not wearing official badges at 13,540 (23 percent) polling stations.

Polling stations at which PrOs were wearing an official ECP badge included 26,488 (78 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 10,001 (77 percent) in Sindh, 6,081 (71 percent) in KP, 1,177 (74 percent) in Balochistan and 545 (81 percent) in ICT. Polling stations at which they were not wearing the ECP badge included 7,438 (22 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,035 (23 percent) in Sindh, 2,519 (29 percent) in KP, 418 (26 percent) in Balochistan and 130 (19 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 7.1.1: WAS THE PRESIDING OFFICER WEARING AN OFFICIAL BADGE PROVIDED BY THE ECP?**



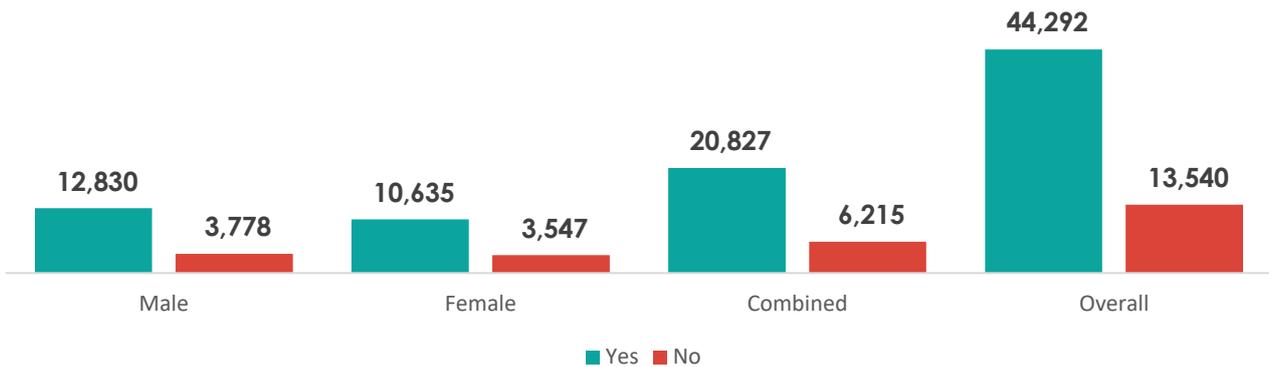
**FIGURE 7.1.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER WAS WEARING AN OFFICIAL BADGE PROVIDED BY THE ECP, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs were wearing official badges at 12,830 (77 percent) male polling stations, 10,635 (75 percent) female polling stations, and 20,827 (77 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations in which they were not wearing badges included 3,778 (23 percent) male stations, 3,547 (25 percent) female stations, and 6,215 (23 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 7.1.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER WAS WEARING AN OFFICIAL BADGE PROVIDED BY THE ECP, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 7.2 Prior Experience of Presiding Officers

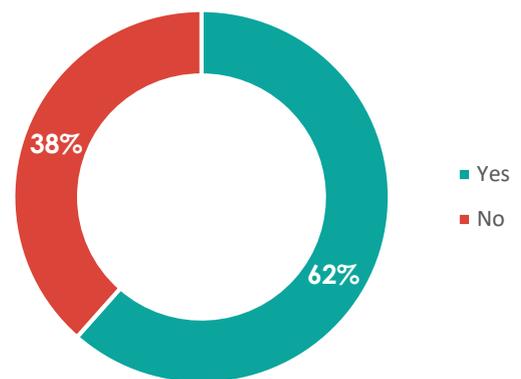
### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

There is no legal, regulatory or procedural provision regarding mandatory or preferred previous election-related experience of officials to be appointed as Presiding Officers.

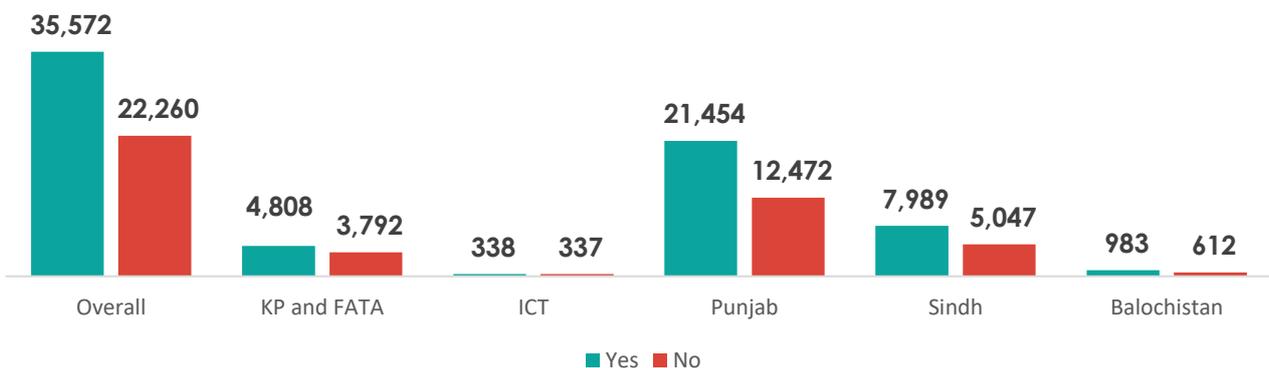
Of 57,832 PrOs interviewed on polling day, 35,572 (62 percent) told FAFEN observers that they had performed the duties of a PrO in the past, whereas, 22,260 (38 percent) responded that they were performing the duty for the first time.

Regional disaggregation of these observations shows that PrOs had prior experience of PrO duty at 21,454 (63 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 7,989 (61 percent) in Sindh, 4,808 (56 percent) in KP, 983 (62 percent) in Balochistan, and 338 (50 percent) in ICT. PrOs who lacked prior experience as a PrO were performing their duties at 12,472 (37 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 5,047 (39 percent) in Sindh, 3,792 in KP, 612 in Balochistan and 337 in ICT.

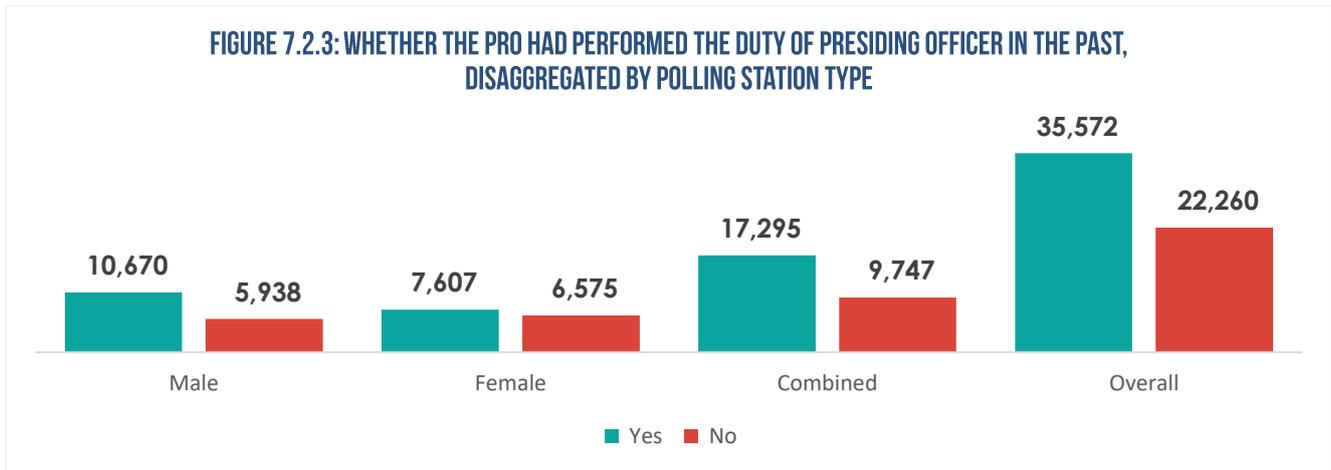
**FIGURE 7.2.1: DID THE PRO PERFORM THE DUTY OF PRESIDING OFFICER IN THE PAST?**



**FIGURE 7.2.2: WHETHER THE PRO HAD PERFORMED THE DUTY OF PRESIDING OFFICER IN THE PAST, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs at 10,670 (64 percent) male polling stations, 7,607 (54 percent) female polling stations and 17,295 (64 percent) combined polling stations had prior experience of performing the duties of a PrO. PrOs at 5,938 (36 percent) male stations, 6,575 (46 percent) female stations, and 9,747 (36 percent) combined polling stations responded that they lacked prior experience as a PrO.



## 7.3 PrOs Administering Oath to Subordinate Polling Staff

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

An election official shall, before the commencement of his election duty, make an oath, in such form and manner as may be prescribed, that he shall act strictly in accordance with the provisions of this Act, Rules and directions of the Commission.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 56*

An election official shall make an oath, after their appointments in accordance with section 56, in Form-27.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 49(1)*

The Presiding Officer shall administer oath to each member of polling staff under his jurisdiction before the commencement of poll.

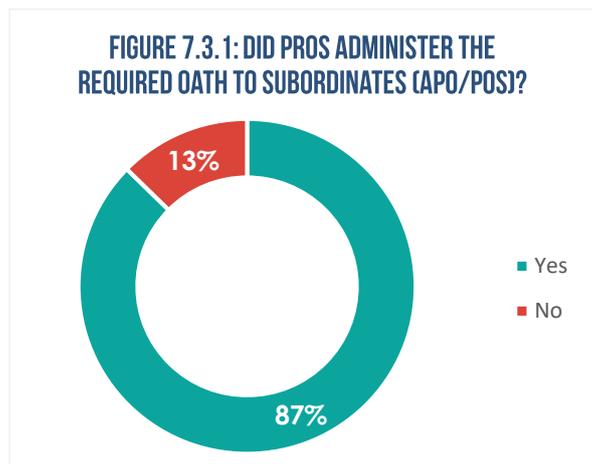
*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 49(2)(d)*

The Presiding Officer shall administer oath to APO and POs according to the law before starting arrangement for polling. The Presiding Officer shall sign the form of oath and get the sign from staff.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Overview of the Polling Day, Pg. 27*

Of 57,832 PrOs interviewed on polling day, 50,520 (87 percent) polling stations reported to FAFEN observers that they had administered the required ECP oath to subordinates (APOs and POs), whereas 7,312 PrOs (13 percent) responded that they had not.

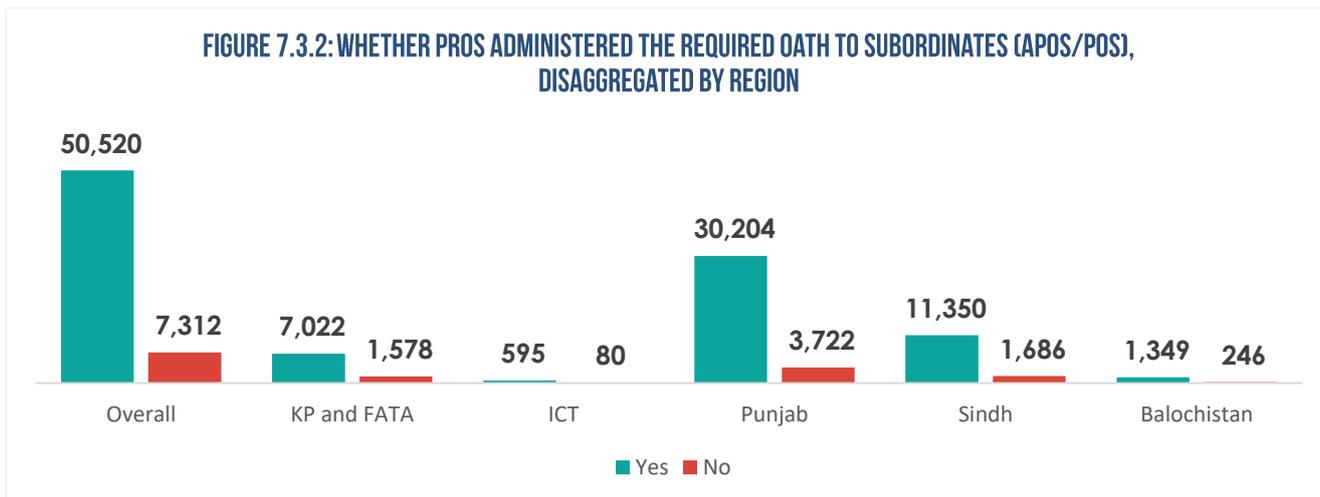
Regional disaggregation of these observations shows that the PrOs at 30,204 (89 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,350 (87 percent) in Sindh, 7,022 (56 percent) in KP, 1,349 (85 percent) in Balochistan and 595 (88 percent) in ICT administered the required oath. Polling stations at which PrOs said they did not administer the required oath included 3,722 (11 percent) polling





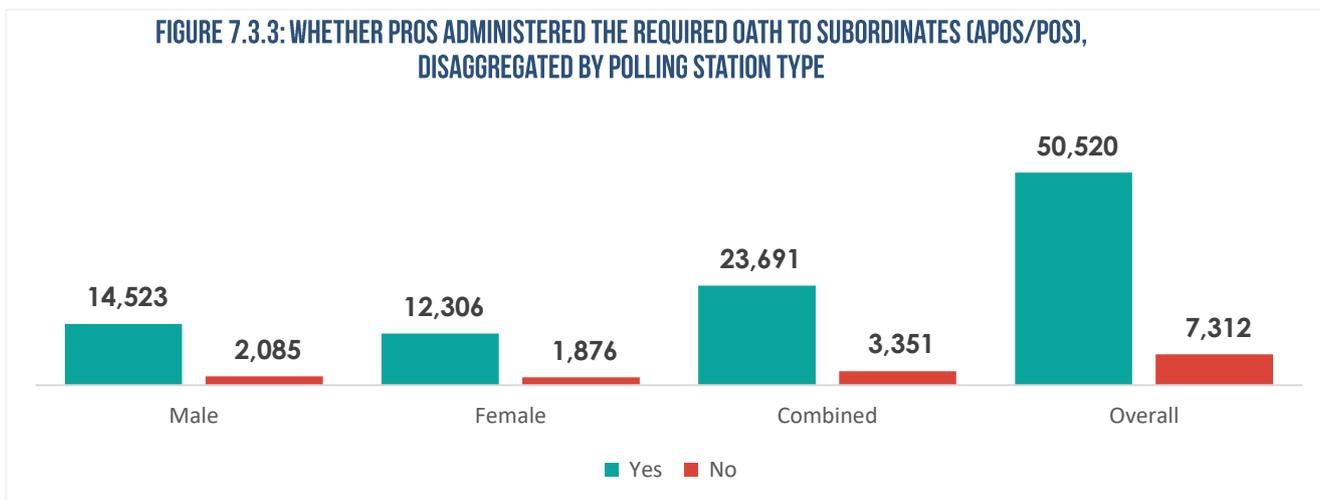
stations in Punjab, 1,686 (13 percent) in Sindh, 1,578 (18 percent) in KP, 246 (15 percent) in Balochistan and 80 (12 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 7.3.2: WHETHER PROS ADMINISTERED THE REQUIRED OATH TO SUBORDINATES (APOS/POS), DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs at 14,523 (87 percent) male polling stations, 12,306 (87 percent) female polling stations and 23,691 (88 percent) combined polling stations had administered the ECP oath to subordinates. Polling stations at which PrOs said they did not do so included 2,085 (13 percent) male stations, 1,876 (13 percent) female stations, and 3,351 (12 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 7.3.3: WHETHER PROS ADMINISTERED THE REQUIRED OATH TO SUBORDINATES (APOS/POS), DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 7.4 Participation of Presiding Officers in ECP Trainings

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall, from time to time as it may deem fit, conduct training programs for election officials including officials of the Commission, any Government or corporations, and autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies controlled by any of these Governments and officers from the judiciary, if any, deputed or selected in connection with an election in accordance with procedure laid down under this Act or the Rules.

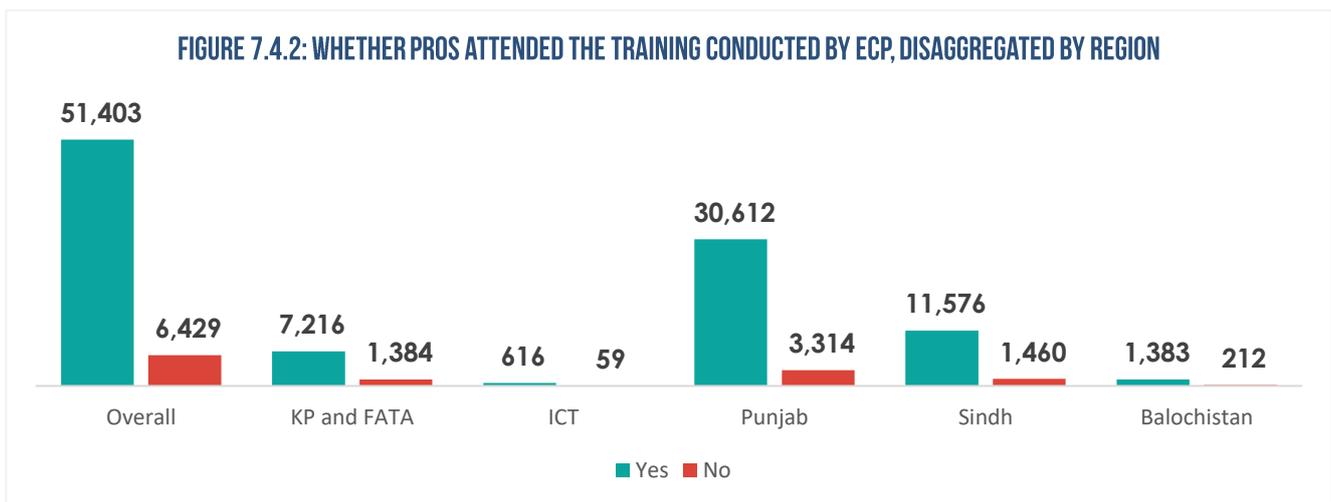
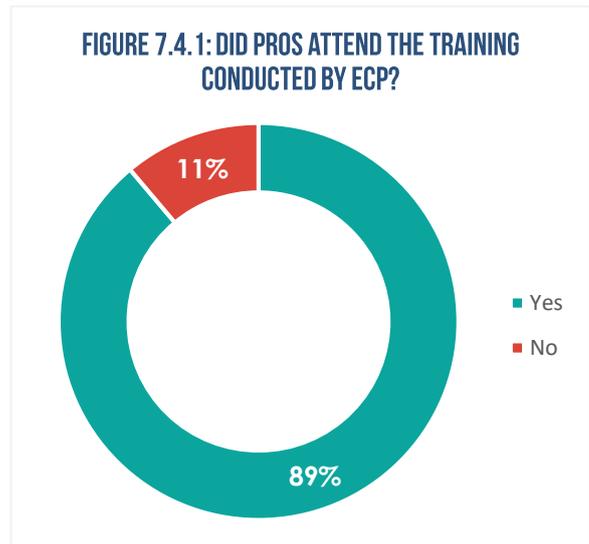
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 12(a)*

Before polling day, the Presiding Officer is responsible for attending training, swearing in oath administered by the Returning Officer and then administering the oath of polling staff.

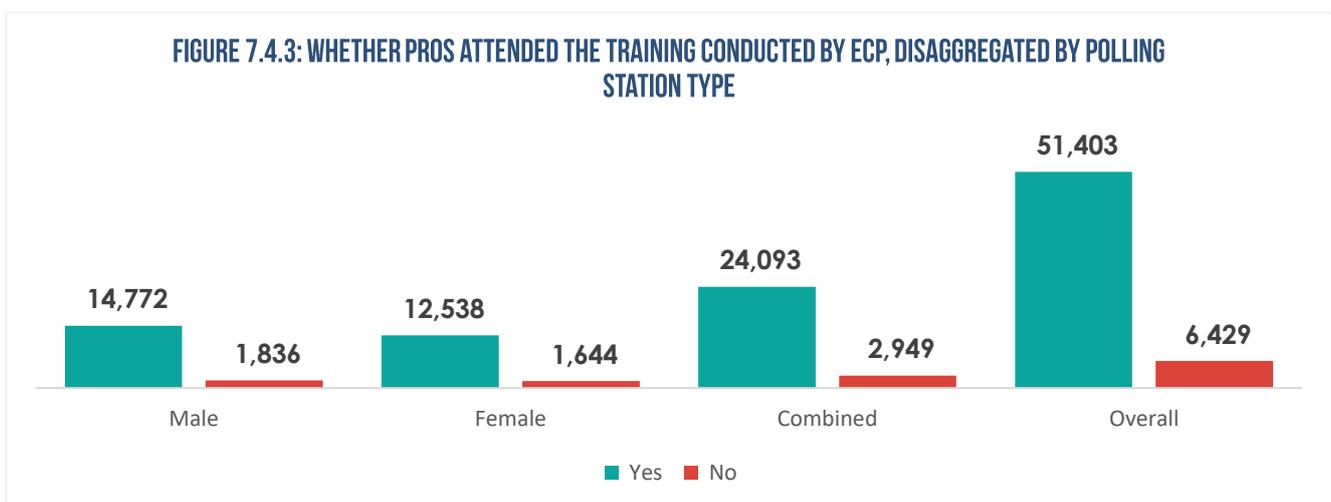
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Before Polling Day, Pg. 17*

Of 57,832 PrOs interviewed on polling day, 51,403 (89 percent) told FAFEN observers that they participated in training sessions conducted by the ECP, whereas 6,429 (11 percent) responded that they did not attend any ECP training.

Regional disaggregation of these observations shows that PrOs at 30,612 (90 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,576 (89 percent) in Sindh, 7,216 (84 percent) in KP, 1,383 (87 percent) in Balochistan, and 616 (91 percent) in ICT participated in the ECP's training sessions. PrOs who reported that they had not attended ECP training were located at 3,314 (10 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,460 (11 percent) in Sindh, 1,384 in KP, 212 in Balochistan, and 59 in ICT.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs at 14,772 (89 percent) male polling stations, 12,538 (88 percent) female polling stations and 24,093 (89 percent) combined polling stations attended ECP trainings. PrOs who said they did not attend ECP trainings were located at 1,836 (11 percent) male stations, 1,644 (12 percent) female stations, and 2,949 (11 percent) combined polling stations.





## 7.5 Satisfaction of Presiding Officers with ECP Trainings

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission shall, from time to time as it may deem fit, conduct training programs for election officials including officials of the Commission, any Government or corporations, and autonomous or semi-autonomous bodies controlled by any of these Governments and officers from the judiciary, if any, deputed or selected in connection with an election in accordance with procedure laid down under this Act or the Rules.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 12(a)*

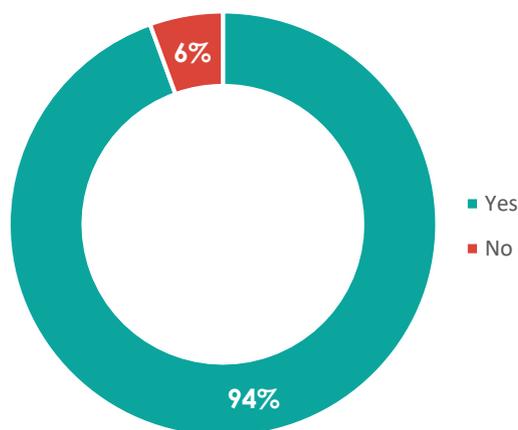
Before polling day, the Presiding Officer is responsible for attending training, swearing in oath administered by the Returning Officer and then administering the oath of polling staff.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Before Polling Day, Pg. 17*

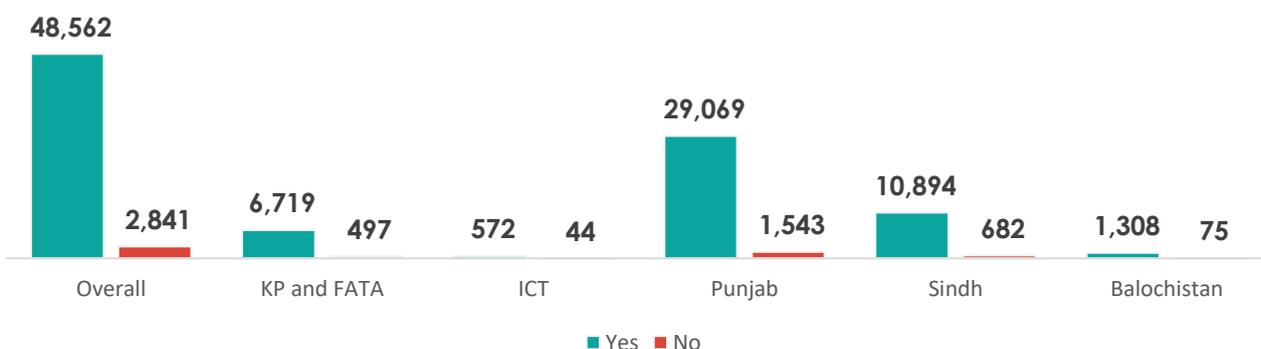
Of the 51,403 PrOs who had participated in the training sessions conducted by the ECP, 48,562 (94 percent) expressed satisfaction with the trainings, while the remaining 2,841 (six percent) responded that they were not satisfied with the ECP training provided for them.

Regional disaggregation of these observations shows that the PrOs at 29,069 (95 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 10,894 (94 percent) in Sindh, 6,719 (93 percent) in KP, 1,308 (95 percent) in Balochistan, and 572 (93 percent) in ICT were satisfied with the trainings facilitated by the ECP. PrOs who reported that they were not satisfied with the training were located at 1,543 (five percent) polling stations in Punjab, 682 (six percent) in Sindh, 497 (seven percent) in KP, 75 (five percent) in Balochistan and 44 (seven percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 7.5.1: WERE PROS SATISFIED WITH THE TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE ECP?**

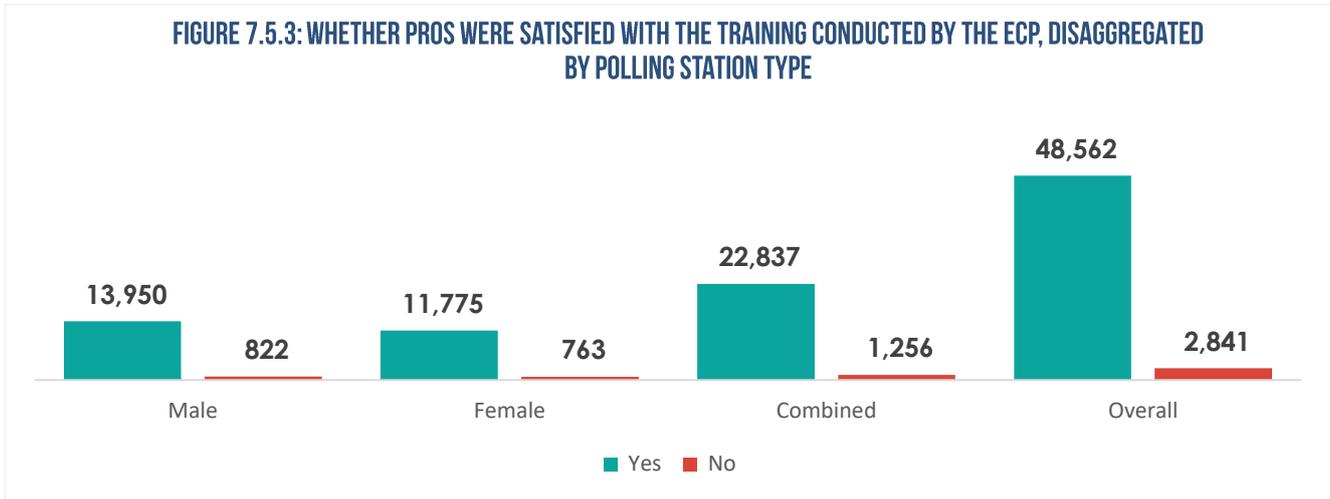


**FIGURE 7.5.2: WHETHER PROS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE ECP, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs at 13,950 (94 percent) male polling stations, 11,775 (94 percent) female polling stations and 22,837 (95 percent) combined polling stations were satisfied with the ECP training. PrOs at 822 (six percent) male stations, 763 (six percent) female stations, and 1,256 (five percent) combined polling stations did not find the training to be satisfactory.

**FIGURE 7.5.3: WHETHER PROS WERE SATISFIED WITH THE TRAINING CONDUCTED BY THE ECP, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 7.6 Quantities of Form-45 Available with Presiding Officers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give a copy each of the Result of the Count and the Ballot Paper Account signed, stamped and thumb marked by him and the senior most APO to such of the candidates, their election agents or polling agents as may be present and obtain a receipt for such copy and if any such person refuses to sign it, the Presiding Officer shall record a note to that effect.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(12)*

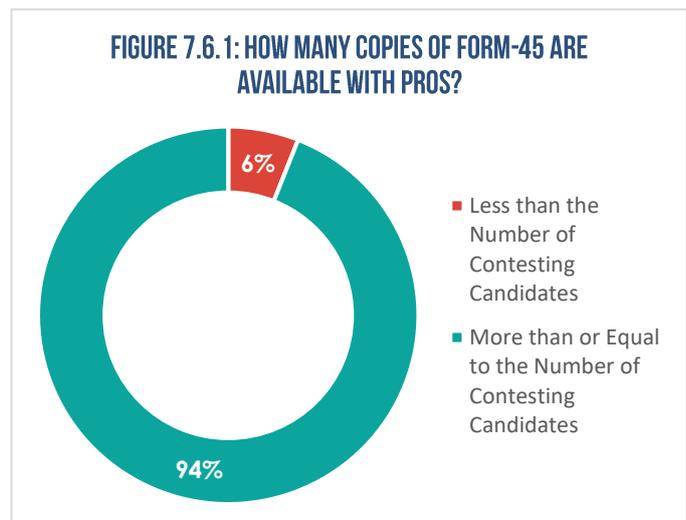
The Result of the Count under sub-section (10) of section 90 shall be prepared in Form-45.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 81(1)*

Of 57,832 PrOs interviewed on polling day, 54,250 (94 percent) told FAFEN observers that they received copies of Form-45 in sufficient quantity (i.e., greater than the number of contesting candidates). However, 3,582 PrOs (six percent) responded that the copies of Form-45 available with them were insufficient (i.e., less than the number of contesting candidates).

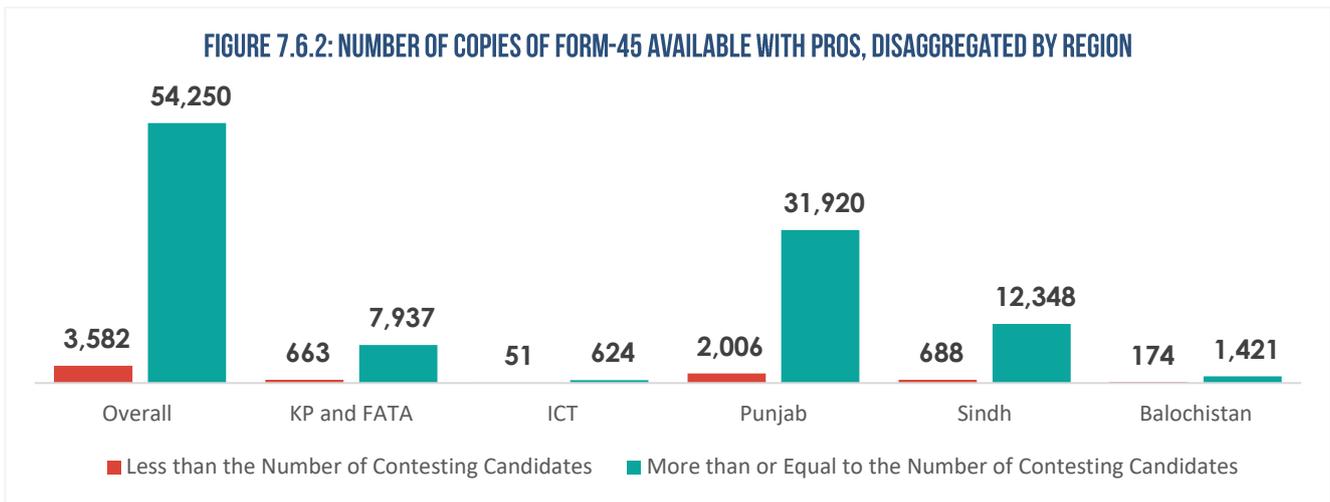
Disaggregation of these observations shows that PrOs at 31,920 (94 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 12,348 (95 percent) in Sindh, 7,937 (92 percent) in KP, 1,421 (89 percent) in Balochistan and 624 (92 percent) in ICT received copies of Form-45 that were equal to or greater than the number of contesting candidates. PrOs at 2,006 (six percent) polling stations in Punjab, 688 (five percent) in Sindh, 663 (eight percent) in KP, 174 (eleven percent) in Balochistan and 51 (eight percent) in ICT reported receiving fewer copies of Form-45 than the number of contestants.

**FIGURE 7.6.1: HOW MANY COPIES OF FORM-45 ARE AVAILABLE WITH PROS?**



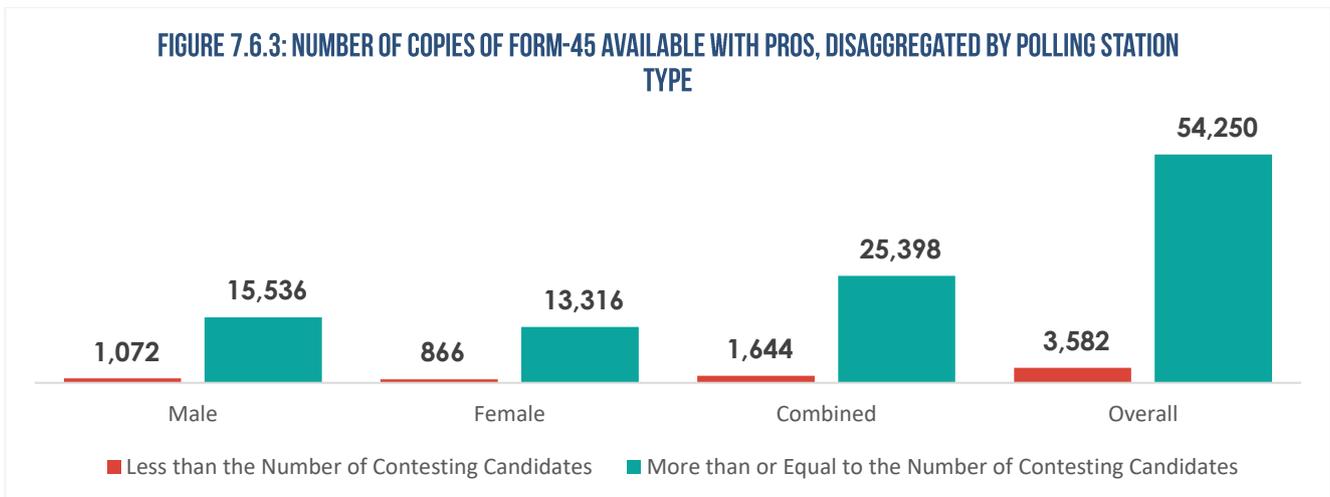


**FIGURE 7.6.2: NUMBER OF COPIES OF FORM-45 AVAILABLE WITH PROS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs at 15,536 (94 percent) male polling stations, 13,316 (94 percent) female polling stations and 25,398 (94 percent) combined polling stations had more copies of Form-45 than the number of contesting candidates. PrOs who reported having fewer copies of Form-45 were located at 1,072 (six percent) male stations, 866 (six percent) female stations, and 1,644 (six percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 7.6.3: NUMBER OF COPIES OF FORM-45 AVAILABLE WITH PROS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 7.7 Quantities of Form-46 Available with Presiding Officers

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Presiding Officer shall give a copy each of the Result of the Count and the Ballot Paper Account signed, stamped and thumb marked by him and the senior most APO to such of the candidates, their election agents or polling agents as may be present and obtain a receipt for such copy and if any such person refuses to sign it, the Presiding Officer shall record a note to that effect.

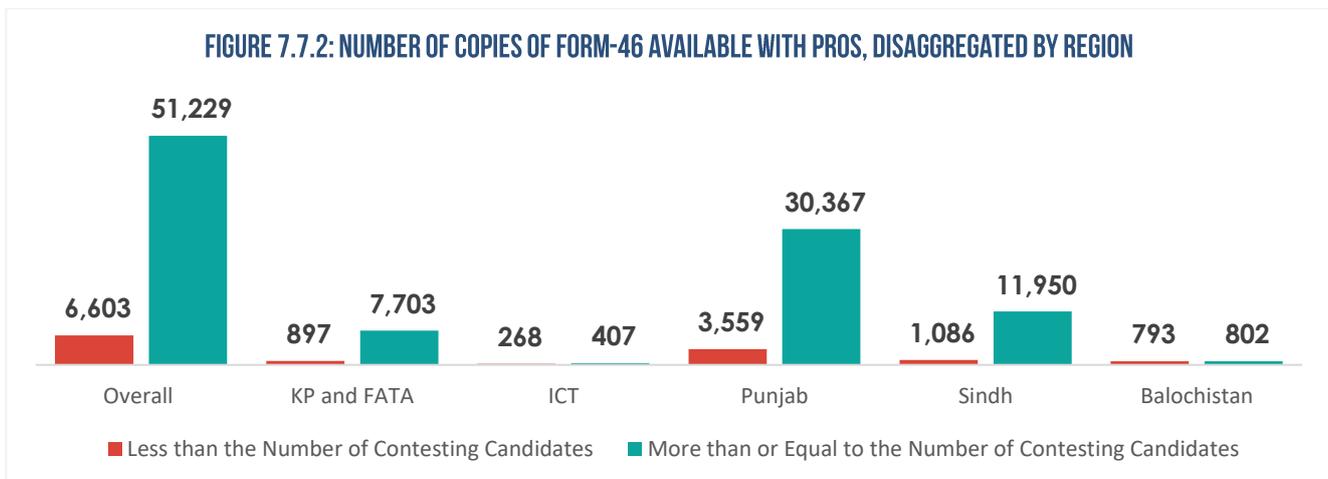
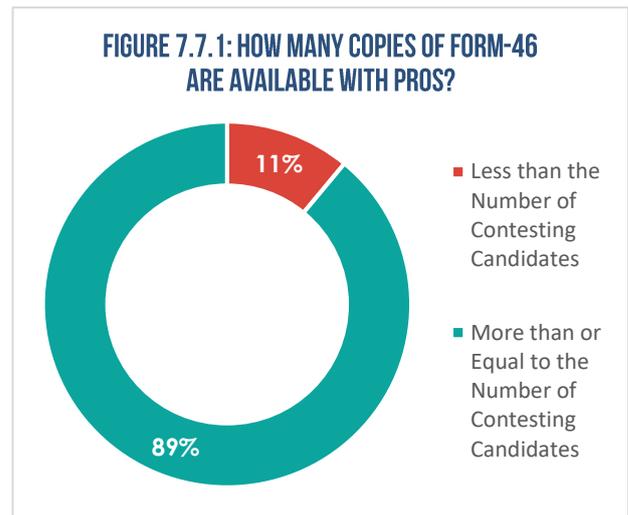
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 90(12)*

The Ballot Paper Account referred to in sub-section (11) of section 90 shall be prepared in Form-46.

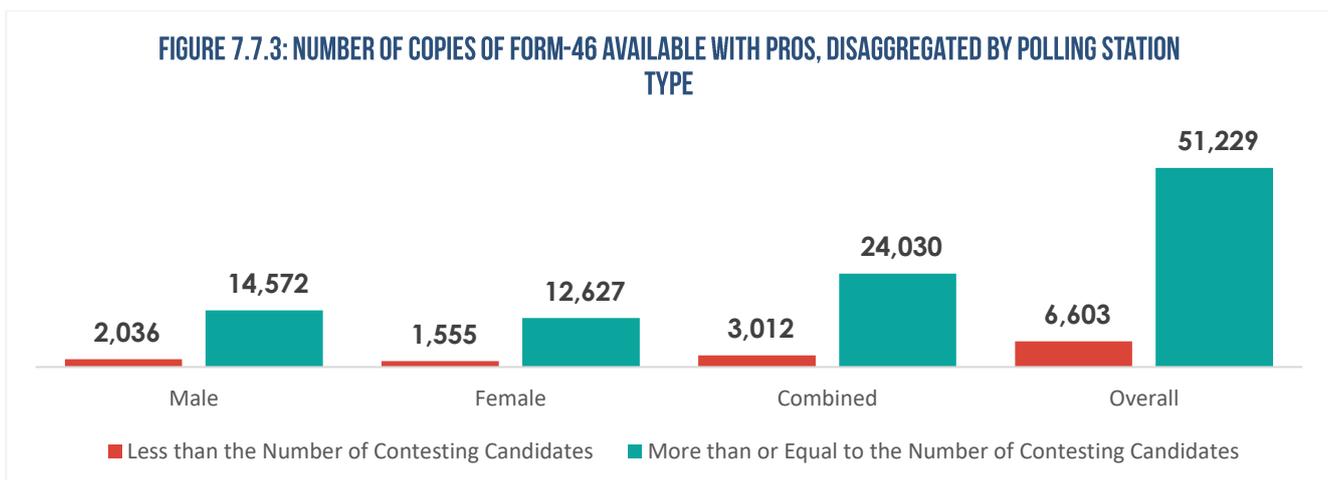
*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 83(1)*

Of 57,832 PrOs interviewed on polling day, 51,229 (89 percent) told FAFEN observers that the number of copies of Form-46 available with them was sufficient (i.e., more than the number of contesting candidates). However, 6,603 (11 percent) responded that they had received fewer copies of Form-46 as compared to the number of contesting candidates.

Regional disaggregation of these observations shows that the PrOs at 30,367 (90 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 11,950 (92 percent) in Sindh, 7,703 (90 percent) in KP, 802 (50 percent) in Balochistan and 407 (60 percent) in ICT received quantities of Form-46 equal to or greater than the number of contesting candidates. Whereas, PrOs at 3,559 (ten percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,086 (eight percent) in Sindh, 897 (ten percent) in KP, 793 (50 percent) in Balochistan and 268 (40 percent) in ICT reported receiving fewer copies of Form-46 in comparison with the number of contesting candidates, suggesting that the issue was more prevalent in Balochistan and ICT.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs at 14,572 (88 percent) male polling stations, 12,627 (89 percent) female polling stations and 24,030 (89 percent) combined polling stations had received equal or excess copies of Form-46. PrOs who reported having insufficient copies of Form-46 were located at 2,036 (12 percent) male stations, 1,555 (11 percent) female stations, and 3,012 (11 percent) combined polling stations.





## 7.8 Guiding Signs Outside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

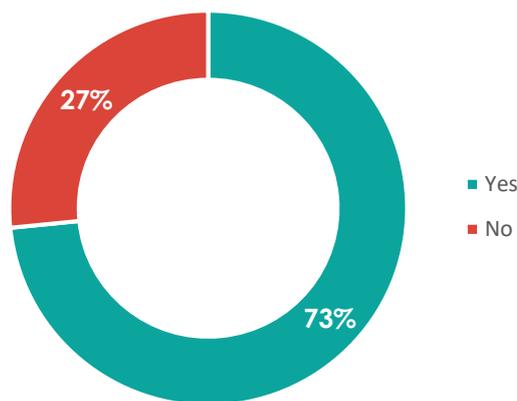
[A Day before the polling], place a chart indicating “Polling Station” outside the building. Identify entry and exit routes; also design and place other signs at appropriate place as required. Display the name and number of the polling station and election constituency at a prominent place for visibility.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, A Day before the polling, Pg. 23*

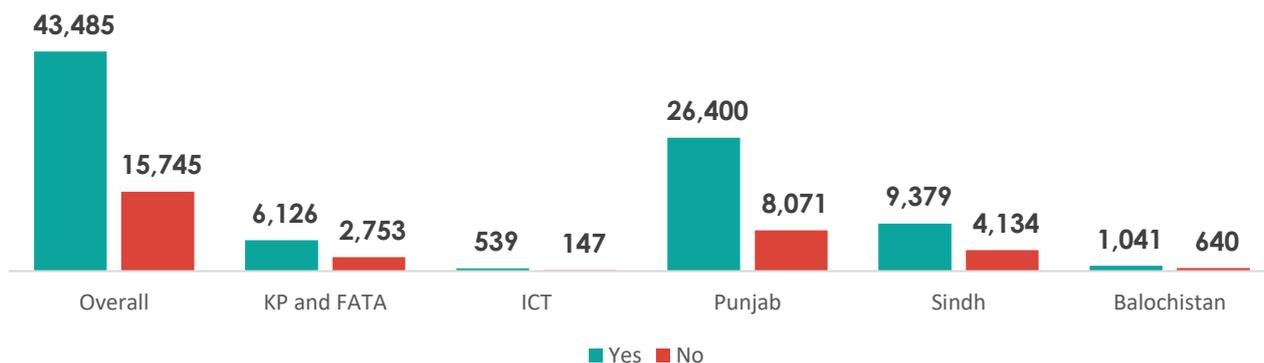
FAFEN observers reported that guiding signs for voters were placed at 43,485 (73 percent) of 59,230 observed polling stations, whereas no sign was observed at the remaining 15,745 (27 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that guiding signs for voters were placed outside 6,126 (69 percent) polling stations in KP, 539 (79 percent) in ICT, 26,400 (77 percent) in Punjab, 9,379 (69 percent) in Sindh and 1,041 (62 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations that lacked guiding signs included 2,753 (31 percent) polling stations in KP, 147 (21 percent) in ICT, 8,071 (23 percent) in Punjab, 4,134 (31 percent) in Sindh, and 640 (38 percent) in Balochistan, suggesting that the issue was most widespread in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 7.8.1: WAS THERE A SIGN OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION TO GUIDE VOTERS?**

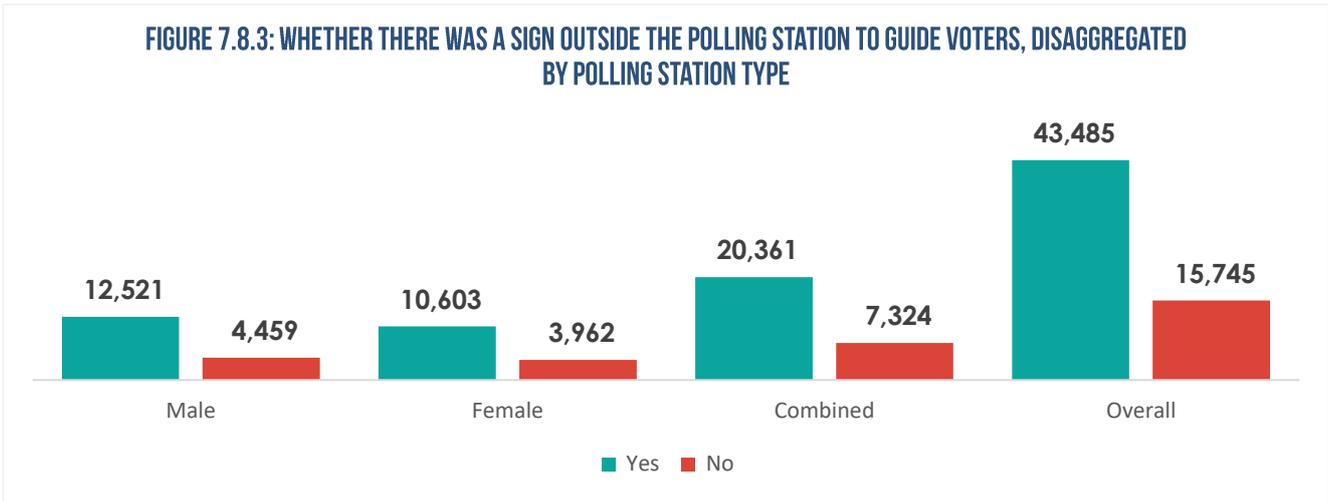


**FIGURE 7.8.2: WHETHER THERE WAS A SIGN OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION TO GUIDE VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that guiding signs were available at 12,521 (74 percent) male polling stations, 10,603 (73 percent) female polling stations and 20,361 (74 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations at which guiding signs were not observed included 4,459 (26 percent) male stations, 3,962 (27 percent) female stations, and 7,324 (26 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 7.8.3: WHETHER THERE WAS A SIGN OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION TO GUIDE VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 7.9 Polling Station Details Displayed at Visible Place

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

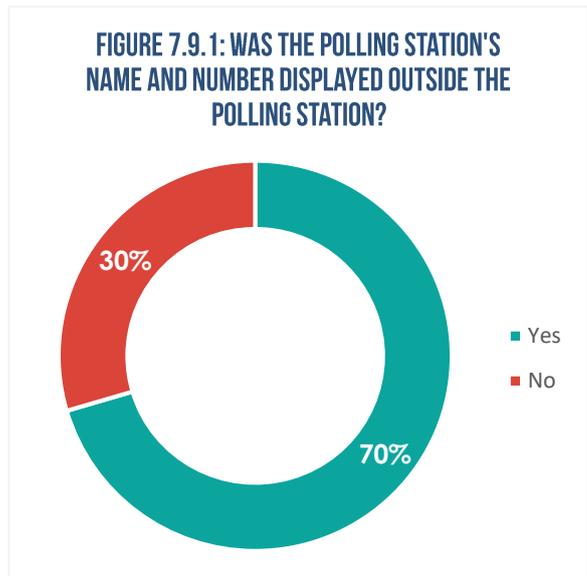
[A Day before the polling], place a chart indicating “Polling Station” outside the building. Identify entry and exit routes; also design and place other signs at appropriate place as required. Display the name and number of the polling station and election constituency at a prominent place for visibility.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, A Day before the polling, Pg. 23*

Out of the 59,230 polling stations observed across the country, at 41,729 (70 percent) polling stations, FAFEN observers reported that the polling station’s name and number were displayed outside the polling station. In the remaining 17,501 (30 percent) polling stations, no such information was displayed.

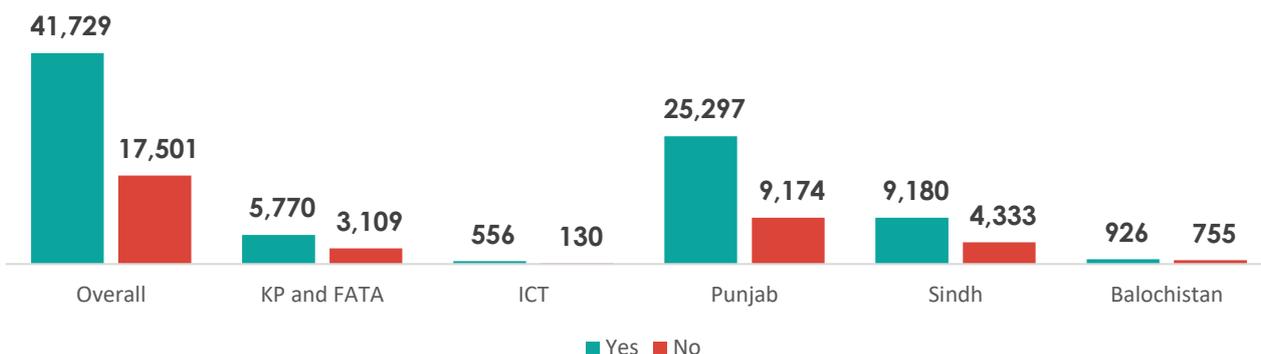
A region-wise analysis of these observations reveals that at 5,770 (65 percent) polling stations in KP, 556 (81 percent) in ICT, 25,297 (73 percent) in Punjab, 9,180 (68 percent) in Sindh and 926 (55 percent) in Balochistan, FAFEN observers reported that the polling station’s name and number were displayed outside the polling station. On the other hand, at 3,109 (35 percent) polling stations in KP, 130 (19 percent) in ICT, 9174 (27 percent) in Punjab, 4,333 (32 percent) in Sindh and 755 (45 percent) in Balochistan, no such information was displayed.

**FIGURE 7.9.1: WAS THE POLLING STATION’S NAME AND NUMBER DISPLAYED OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION?**



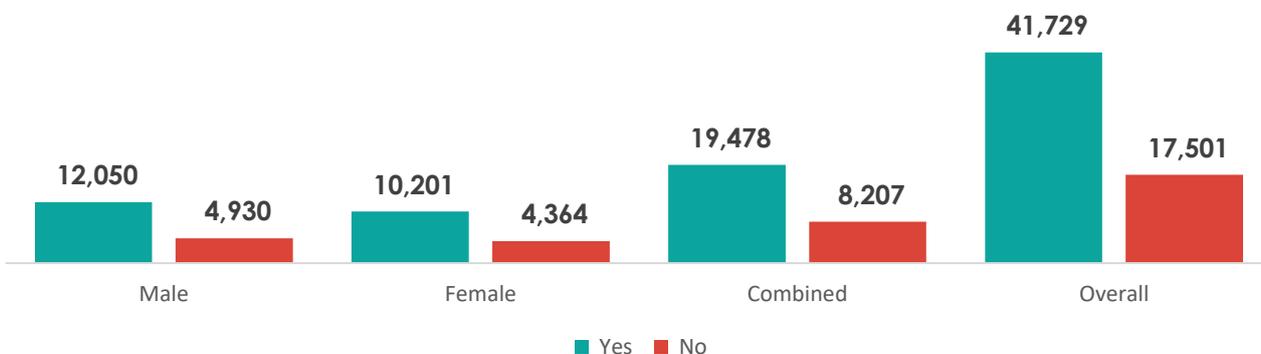


**FIGURE 7.9.2: WHETHER THE POLLING STATION'S NAME AND NUMBER WERE DISPLAYED OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



An analysis of the observation data with regard to types of polling stations shows that the polling station's name and number were displayed outside the polling station at 12,050 (71 percent) male polling stations, 10,201 (70 percent) female polling stations and 19,478 (70 percent) combined polling stations. On the other hand, at 4,930 (29 percent) male stations, 4,364 (30 percent) female stations and 8,207 (30 percent) combined polling stations, no such information was displayed.

**FIGURE 7.9.3: WHETHER THE POLLING STATION'S NAME AND NUMBER WERE DISPLAYED OUTSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 7.10 Voters at Polling Stations where they were not Registered to Vote

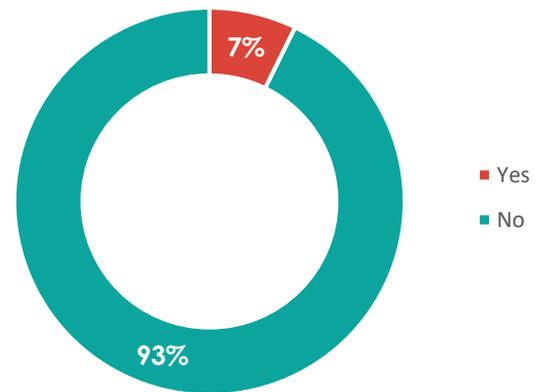
### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

There is no specific legal, regulatory and procedural provision in this regard.

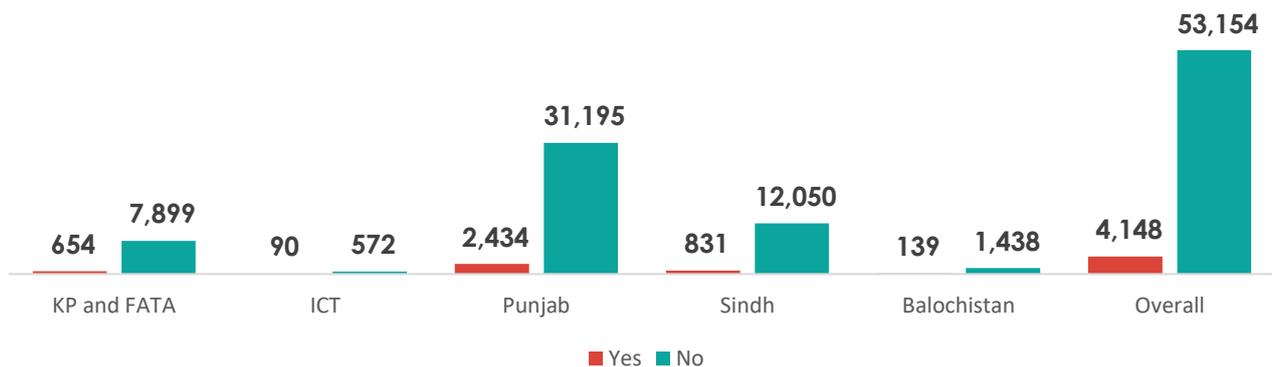
Out of the 57,302 polling stations observed across the country, at 4,148 (seven percent) polling stations, FAFEN observers noted instances of voters arriving in a polling station where they were not registered to vote. In the remaining 53,154 (93 percent) polling stations, no such observations were made.

A region-wise analysis of these observations reveals that at 654 (eight percent) polling stations in KP, 90 (14 percent) in ICT, 2,434 (seven percent) in Punjab, 831 (six percent) in Sindh and 139 (nine percent) in Balochistan, FAFEN observers noted instances of voters at a polling stations where they were not registered to vote. On the other hand, at 7,899 (92 percent) polling stations in KP, 572 (86 percent) in ICT, 31,195 (93 percent) in Punjab, 12,050 (94 percent) in Sindh and 1,438 (91 percent) in Balochistan, no such observations were made.

**FIGURE 7.10.1: DID ANY VOTERS ARRIVE AT POLLING STATIONS WHERE THEY WERE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?**



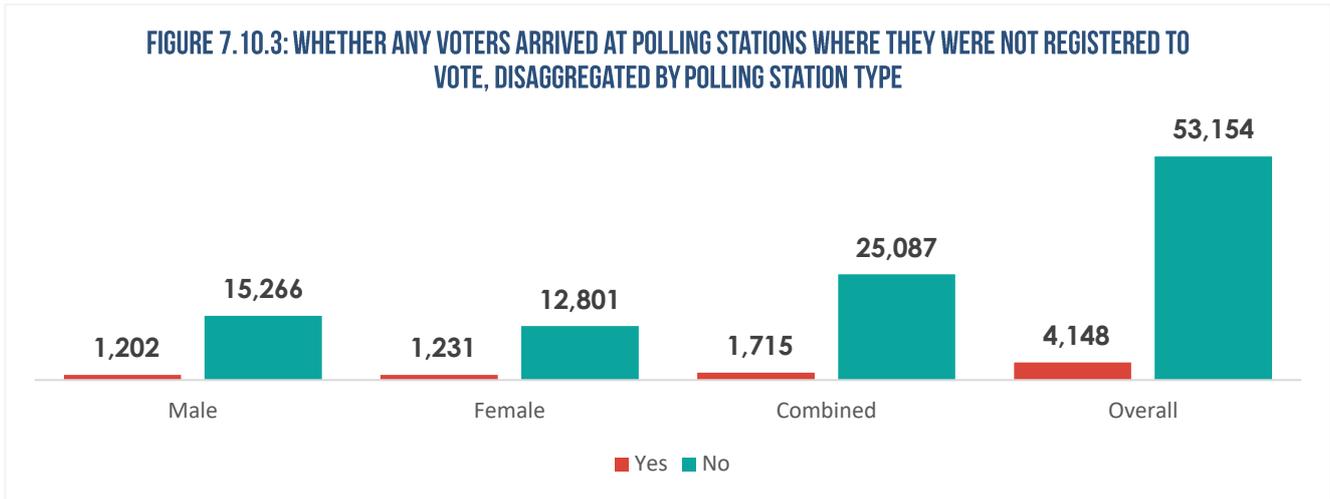
**FIGURE 7.10.2: WHETHER ANY VOTERS ARRIVED AT POLLING STATIONS WHERE THEY WERE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



An analysis of the observation data with regard to types of polling stations shows that at 1,202 (seven percent) male polling stations, 1,231 (nine percent) female polling stations and 1,715 (six percent) combined polling stations, voters arrived who they were not registered to vote at that station. On the other hand, at 15,266 (93 percent) male stations, 12,801 (91 percent) female stations and 25,087 (94 percent) combined polling stations, no such observations were made.



**FIGURE 7.10.3: WHETHER ANY VOTERS ARRIVED AT POLLING STATIONS WHERE THEY WERE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



# CAMPAIGNING AND CANVASSING ON ELECTION DAY





## 8.1 Polling Agents Wearing Party Badges or Election Symbols inside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

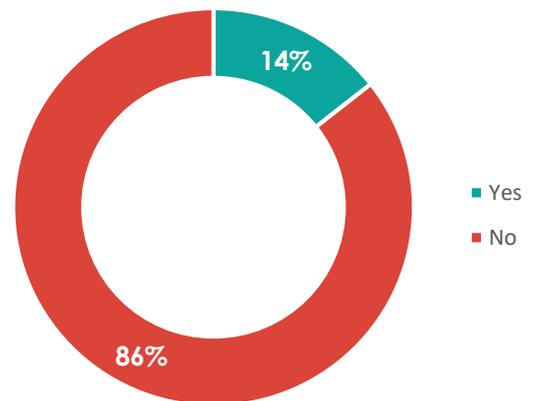
A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177(b)*

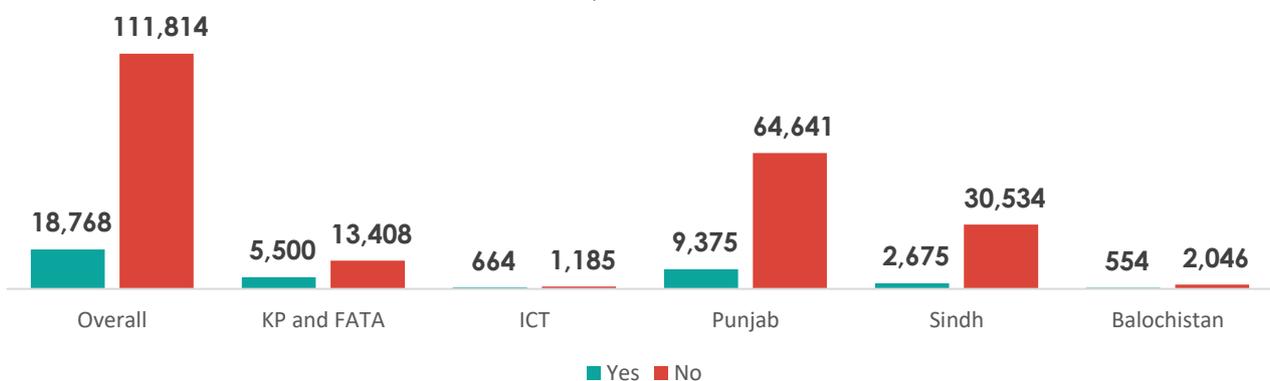
FAFEN observers reported that polling agents were not wearing party badges or election symbols showing their party affiliations at 111,814 (86 percent) of 130,582 polling booths where polling agents were observed present. Polling agents reportedly did wear party badges or election symbols at 18,768 polling stations (14 percent).

A region-wise analysis shows that polling agents did not wear any badges showing their party affiliation at 64,641 polling booths (87 percent) in Punjab, 30,534 (92 percent) in Sindh, 13,408 (71 percent) in KP, 2,046 (79 percent) in Balochistan and 1,185 (64 percent) in ICT. On the other hand, polling agents at 9,375 (13 percent) polling booths in Punjab, 2,675 (eight percent) in Sindh, 5,500 (29 percent) in KP, 554 (21 percent) in Balochistan and 664 (36 percent) in ICT were wearing political badges or election symbols.

**FIGURE 8.1.1: WERE POLLING AGENTS WEARING PARTY BADGES / ELECTION SYMBOLS INSIDE POLLING STATIONS?**



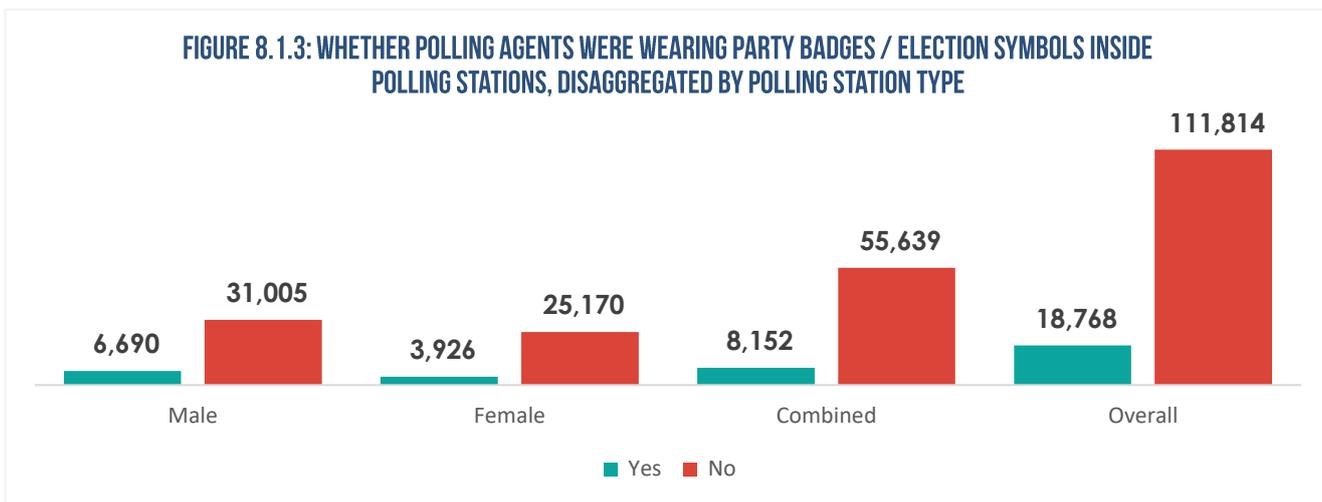
**FIGURE 8.1.2: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS WERE WEARING PARTY BADGES / ELECTION SYMBOLS INSIDE POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



An analysis of the observation data with regard to types of polling stations shows that polling agents were not wearing party badges or symbols at 31,005 polling booths (82 percent) of male polling stations, 25,170 polling booths (87 percent) of female polling stations, and 55,639 (87 percent) polling booths of combined polling stations. Polling agents were wearing political badges or symbols at 6,690 (18 percent) polling booths of male stations, 3,926 (13 percent) polling booths of female stations and 8,152 (12 percent) polling booths of combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 8.1.3: WHETHER POLLING AGENTS WERE WEARING PARTY BADGES / ELECTION SYMBOLS INSIDE POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 8.2 Vote Chits with Election Symbols

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

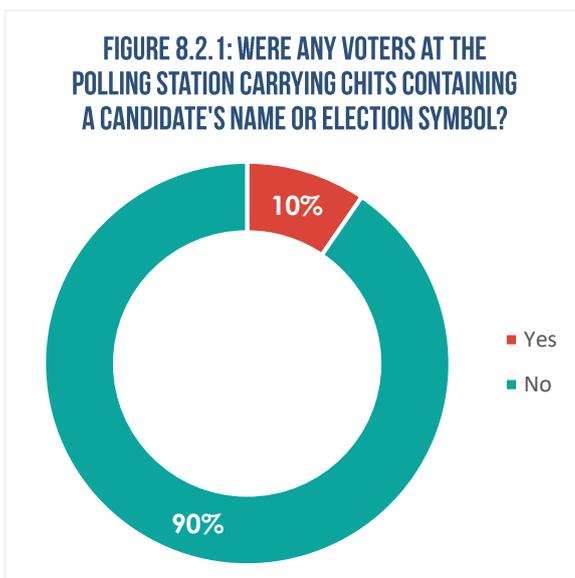
The political parties, candidates and election agents may exercise door-to-door canvassing and, besides party manifesto, voter's perchee containing complete detail of voters as per electoral rolls can also be distributed during such door-to-door canvassing provided that the distribution of voter's perchee shall be prohibited on polling day and such perchee shall not bear the name and election symbol of the candidate and its appearance shall in no case reflect any political party.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 22*

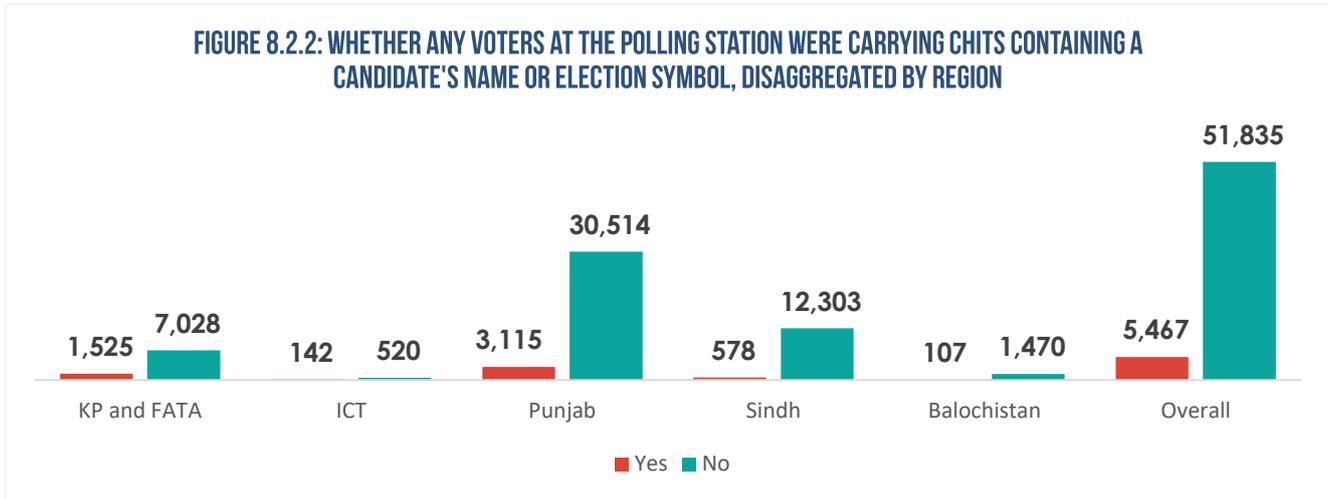
Of the 57,302 polling stations observed, FAFEN observers reported the presence of voters carrying perchees (voting chits) with a candidate's name or election symbol at 5,467 (10 percent) polling stations. No such observation was made in the remaining 51,835 (90 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that voters carrying chits were present at 1,525 (18 percent) polling stations in KP, 142 (21 percent) in ICT, 3,115 (nine percent) in Punjab, 578 (four percent) in Sindh and 107 (seven percent) in Balochistan, suggesting that the issue was more prevalent in ICT and KP than in other regions. Polling stations where chits were not observed included 7,028 (82 percent) polling stations in KP, 520 (79 percent) in ICT, 30,514 (91 percent) in Punjab, 12,303 (96 percent) in Sindh and 1,470 (93 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 8.2.1: WERE ANY VOTERS AT THE POLLING STATION CARRYING CHITS CONTAINING A CANDIDATE'S NAME OR ELECTION SYMBOL?**

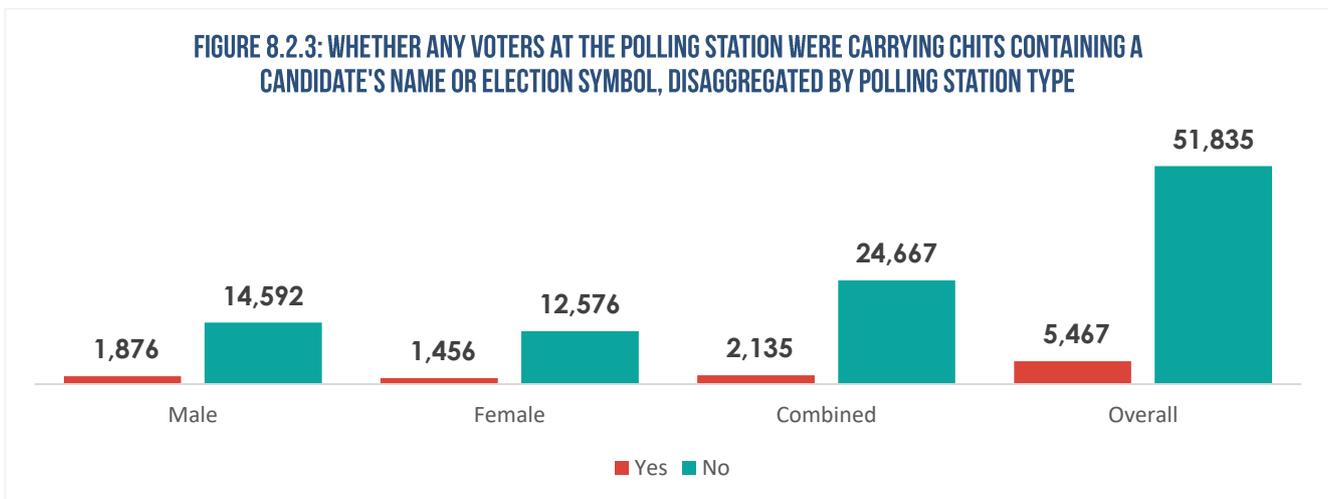


**FIGURE 8.2.2: WHETHER ANY VOTERS AT THE POLLING STATION WERE CARRYING CHITS CONTAINING A CANDIDATE'S NAME OR ELECTION SYMBOL, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that voters carrying chits were present at 1,876 (11 percent) male polling stations, 1,456 (10 percent) female polling stations and 2,135 (eight percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations in which no such observation was made included 14,592 (89 percent) male stations, 12,576 (90 percent) female stations, and 24,667 (92 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 8.2.3: WHETHER ANY VOTERS AT THE POLLING STATION WERE CARRYING CHITS CONTAINING A CANDIDATE'S NAME OR ELECTION SYMBOL, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 8.3 Party Camps in Polling Station Surroundings

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day:

- a) within a radius of four hundred meters of a polling station
  - (i) canvasses for votes;
  - (ii) solicits the vote of any voter;
  - (iii) persuades any voter not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- b) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177*



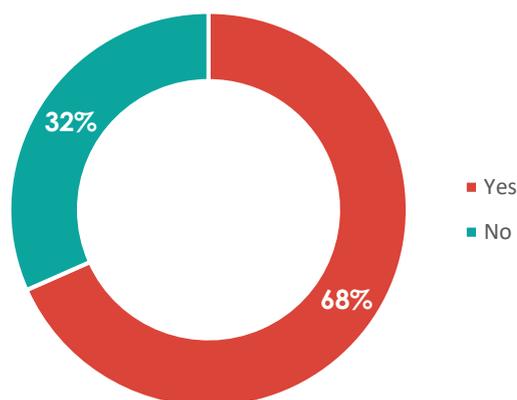
The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day, however, these camps must not contain or display anything that may be construed as “campaign” in favour of a political party or candidate and in this regard, the distribution of promotional material such as badges, caps, stickers, reading material etc. shall be prohibited. The Election Commission will provide the SMS 8300 facility to the voters through which, voters can get the information regarding serial number at the electoral roll, name and location of the polling station.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, and Polling Agents, Clause 56*

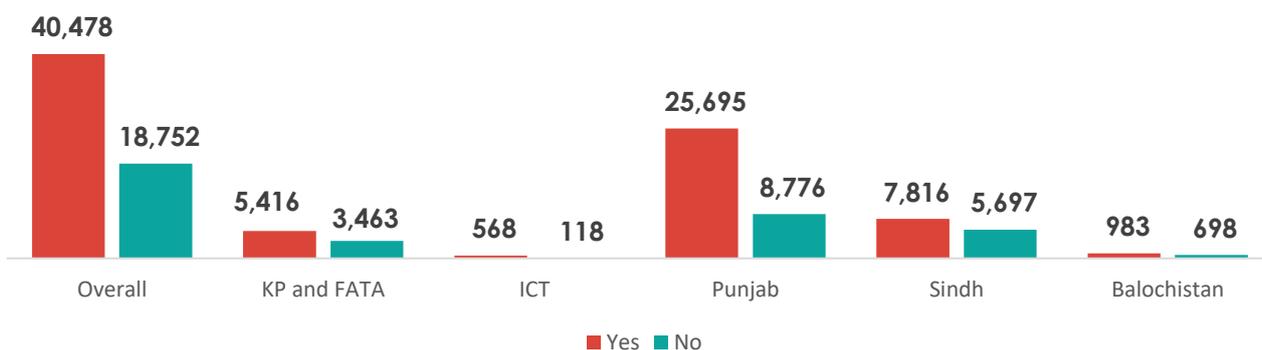
FAFEN observers reported the presence of an election camp in a polling station’s surrounding area at 40,478 (68 percent) of 59,230 observed polling stations. No election camps were established at the remaining 18,752 (32 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that election camps were established in the surrounding area of 5,416 (61 percent) polling stations in KP, 568 (83 percent) in ICT, 25,695 (75 percent) in Punjab, 7,816 (58 percent) in Sindh and 983 (58 percent) in Balochistan. Election camps were not observed in the area surrounding 3,463 (39 percent) polling stations in KP, 118 (17 percent) in ICT, 8,776 (17 percent) in Punjab, 5,697 (42 percent) in Sindh and 698 (42 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 8.3.1: WERE ELECTION CAMPS PRESENT IN THE SURROUNDING AREA OF THE POLLING STATION?**

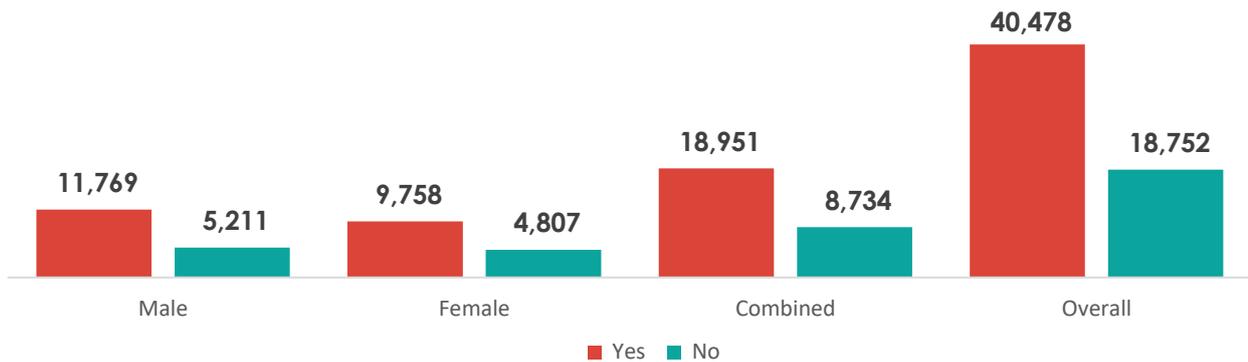


**FIGURE 8.3.2: WHETHER ELECTION CAMPS WERE PRESENT IN THE SURROUNDING AREA OF THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that election camps were present at 11,769 (69 percent) male polling stations, 9,758 (67 percent) female polling stations and 18,951 (68 percent) combined polling stations observed. On the other hand, election camps had not been established at 5,211 (31 percent) male stations, 4,807 (33 percent) female stations, and 8,734 (32 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 8.3.3: WHETHER ELECTION CAMPS WERE PRESENT IN THE SURROUNDING AREA OF THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 8.4 Display of Campaign Material in Party Camps

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day:

- a) within a radius of four hundred meters of a polling station
  - (i) canvasses for votes;
  - (ii) solicits the vote of any voter;
  - (iii) persuades any voter not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- b) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177*

The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day, however, these camps must not contain or display anything that may be construed as "campaign" in favour of a political party or candidate and in this regard, the distribution of promotional material such as badges, caps, stickers, reading material etc. shall be prohibited. The Election Commission will provide the SMS 8300 facility to the voters through which, voters can get the information regarding serial number at the electoral roll, name and location of the polling station.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, and Polling Agents, Clause 56*



FAFEN observers reported that campaign materials such as banners, posters and flags were displayed near 11,477 (28 percent) of 40,478 polling stations at which election camps were observed. At 29,001 (72 percent) polling stations, no campaign material was observed in nearby election camps.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that campaign materials were displayed in election camps near 2,066 (38 percent) polling stations in KP, 216 (38 percent) in ICT, 7,510 (29 percent) in Punjab, 1,387 (18 percent) in Sindh, and 298 (30 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations where the violation was not observed included 3,350 (62 percent) polling stations in KP, 352 (62 percent) in ICT, 18,185 (71 percent) in Punjab, 6,429 (82 percent) in Sindh and 685 (70 percent) in Balochistan.

FIGURE 8.4.1: WAS CAMPAIGN MATERIAL DISPLAYED IN ANY ELECTION CAMP?

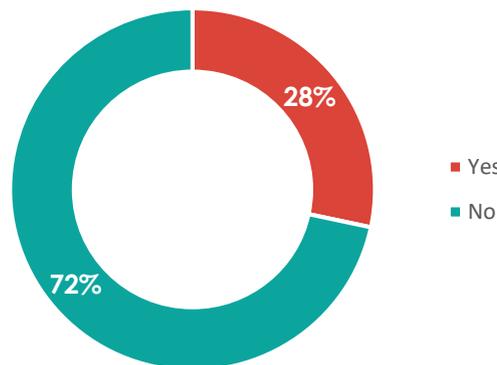
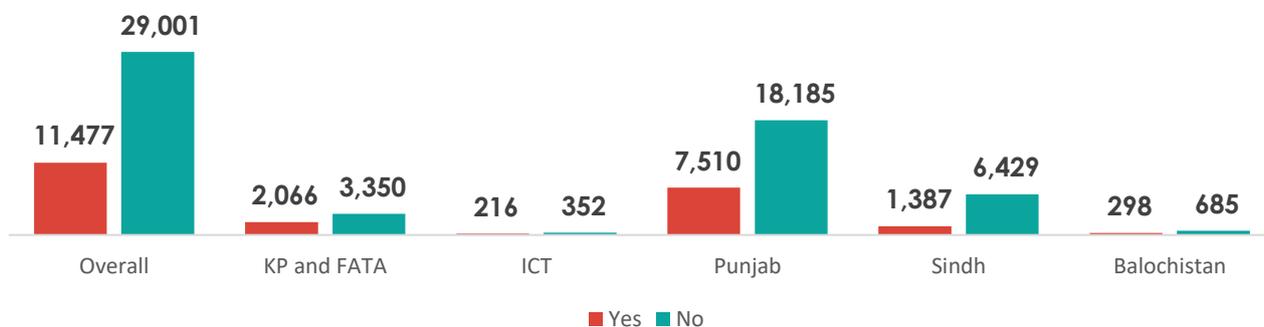
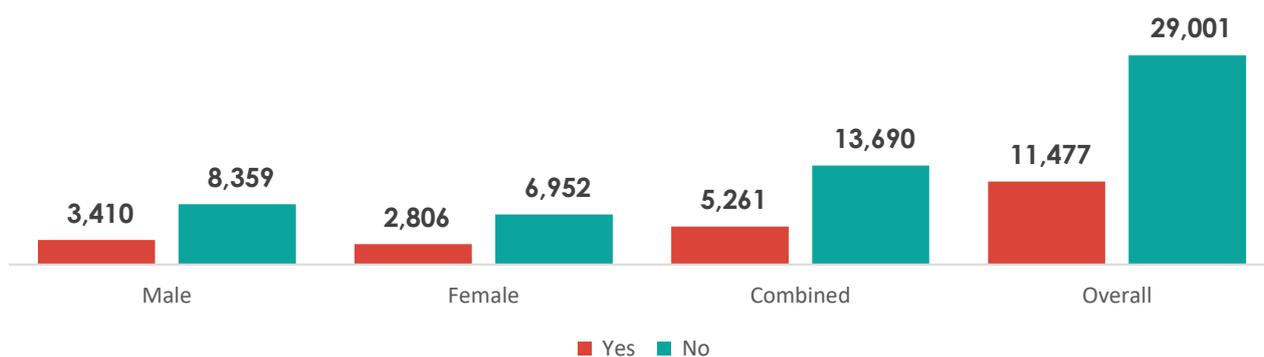


FIGURE 8.4.2: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS DISPLAYED IN ANY ELECTION CAMP, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that campaign material was displayed in election camps near 3,410 (29 percent) male polling stations, 2,806 (29 percent) female polling stations and 5,261 (28 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations at which no campaign materials were observed in nearby election camps included 8,359 (71 percent) male stations, 6,952 (71 percent) female stations, and 13,690 (72 percent) combined polling stations.

FIGURE 8.4.3: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS DISPLAYED IN ANY ELECTION CAMP, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 8.5 Distribution of Vote Chits at Political Party Camps

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The political parties, candidates and election agents may exercise door-to-door canvassing and, besides party manifesto, voter's perchee containing complete detail of voters as per electoral rolls can also be distributed during such door-to-door canvassing provided that the distribution of voter's perchee shall be prohibited on polling day and such perchee shall not bear the name and election symbol of the candidate and its appearance shall in no case reflect any political party.

**Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 22**

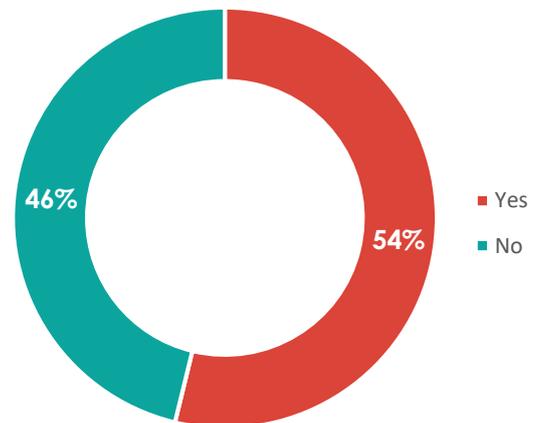
The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day, however, these camps must not contain or display anything that may be construed as "campaign" in favour of a political party or candidate and in this regard, the distribution of promotional material such as badges, caps, stickers, reading material etc. shall be prohibited. The Election Commission will provide the SMS 8300 facility to the voters through which, voters can get the information regarding serial number at the electoral roll, name and location of the polling station.

**Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, and Polling Agents, Clause 56**

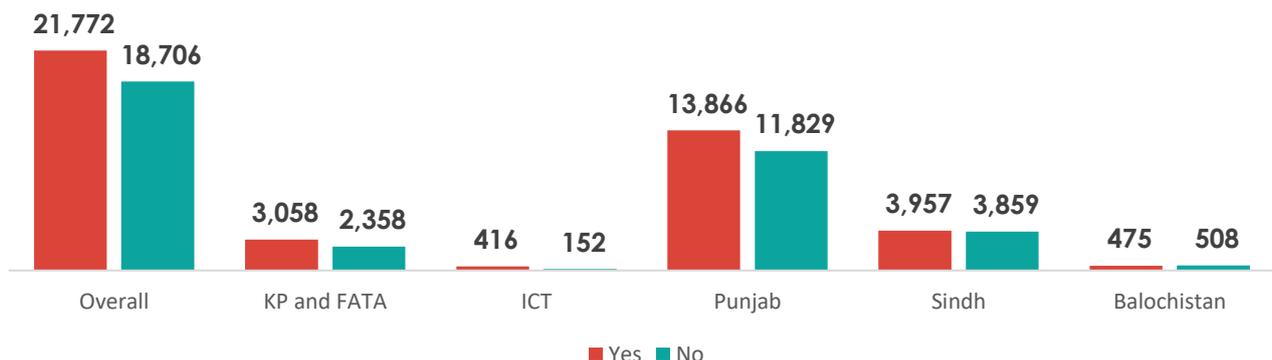
Of the 40,478 polling stations where election camps were observed, FAFEN observers reported that perchees (voting chits) were being distributed at the election camps outside 21,772 (54 percent) polling stations. No such observation was made at the remaining 18,706 (46 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that chits were being distributed in election camps set up at 3,058 (56 percent) polling stations in KP, 416 (73 percent) in ICT, 13,866 (54 percent) in Punjab, 3,957 (51 percent) in Sindh and 475 (48 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which no such observation was made included 2,358 (44 percent) polling stations in KP, 152 (27 percent) in ICT, 11,829 (46 percent) in Punjab, 3,859 (49 percent) in Sindh and 508 (52 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 8.5.1: WERE VOTER CHITS BEING DISTRIBUTED AT ELECTION CAMPS?**



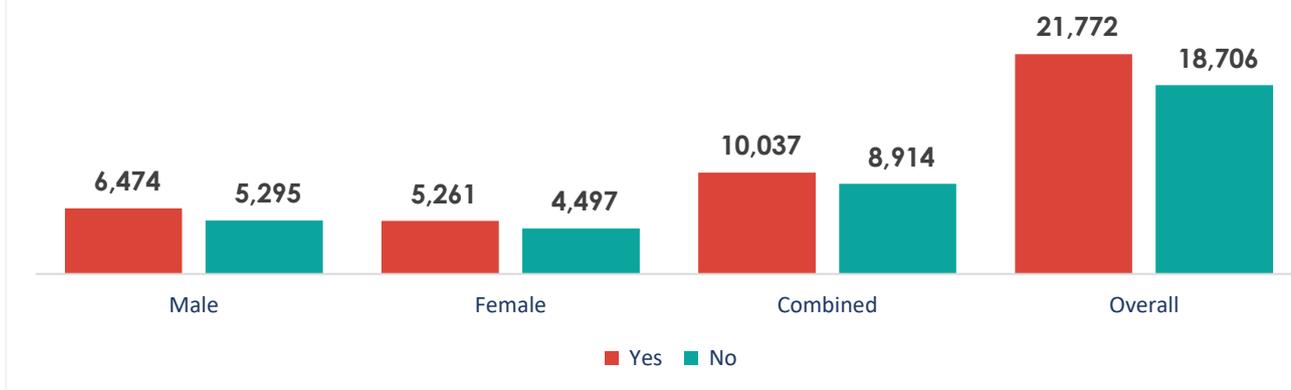
**FIGURE 8.5.2: WHETHER VOTER CHITS WERE BEING DISTRIBUTED AT ELECTION CAMPS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**





Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that voting chits were being distributed at election camps set up at 6,474 (55 percent) male polling stations, 5,261 (54 percent) female polling stations and 10,037 (53 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations at which no such observation was made included 5,295 (45 percent) male stations, 4,497 (46 percent) female stations, and 8,914 (47 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 8.5.3: WHETHER VOTER CHITS WERE BEING DISTRIBUTED AT ELECTION CAMPS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 8.6 Distribution of Campaign Material at Political Party Camps

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day:

- a) within a radius of four hundred meters of a polling station
  - (i) canvasses for votes;
  - (ii) solicits the vote of any voter;
  - (iii) persuades any voter not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- b) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177*

The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day, however, these camps must not contain or display anything that may be construed as “campaign” in favour of a political party or candidate and in this regard, the distribution of promotional material such as badges, caps, stickers, reading material etc. shall be prohibited. The Election Commission will provide the SMS 8300 facility to the voters through which, voters can get the information regarding serial number at the electoral roll, name and location of the polling station.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, and Polling Agents, Clause 56*

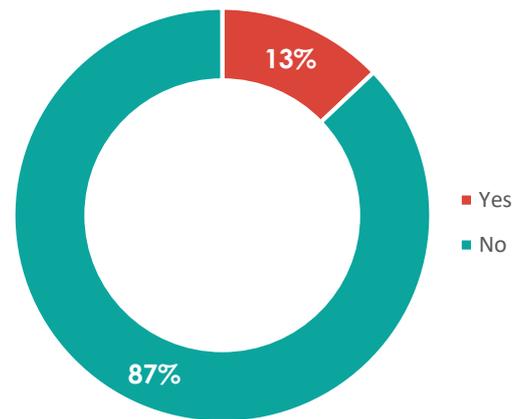
[The roles and responsibilities of Police include] removing any campaign signs or literature of contesting candidate within 100 meter of the polling station as per the instructions of the Presiding Officer, disallowing any campaign camps of the contesting candidate in the radius of 400 meter of the polling station, and ensuring that no attempts are being made to persuade voters in favor of any candidate within the specified area.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of Police, Pg. 9*

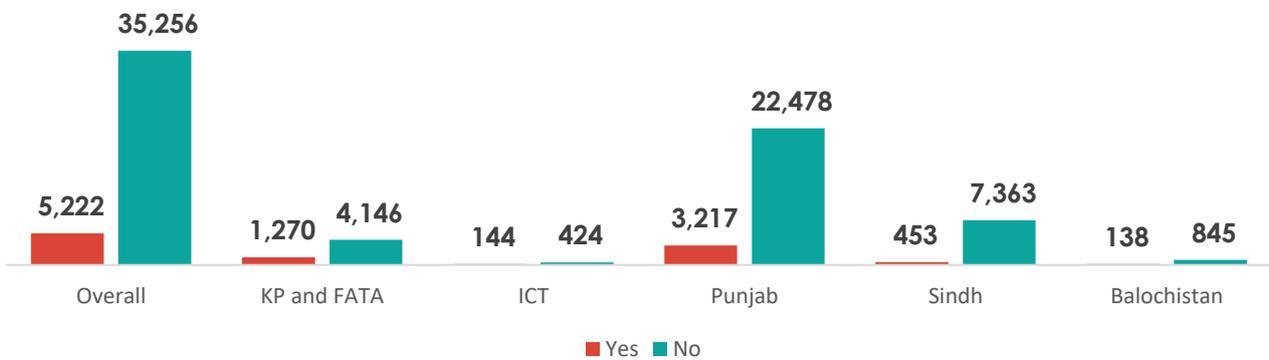
Of the 40,478 polling stations at which election camps were observed, FAFEN observers reported the distribution of campaign material in election camps set up at 5,222 (13 percent) polling stations. No such observation was made at the remaining 35,256 (87 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that campaign material was being distributed in the election camps established near 1,270 (23 percent) polling stations in KP, 144 (25 percent) in ICT, 3,217 (13 percent) in Punjab, 453 (six percent) in Sindh and 138 (14 percent) in Balochistan, suggesting that the violation was more prevalent in ICT and KP than in other regions. Polling stations at which no such observation was made included 4,146 (77 percent) polling stations in KP, 424 (75 percent) in ICT, 22,478 (87 percent) in Punjab, 7,363 (94 percent) in Sindh and 845 (86 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 8.6.1: WAS CAMPAIGN MATERIAL BEING DISTRIBUTED AT THE ELECTION CAMPS?**

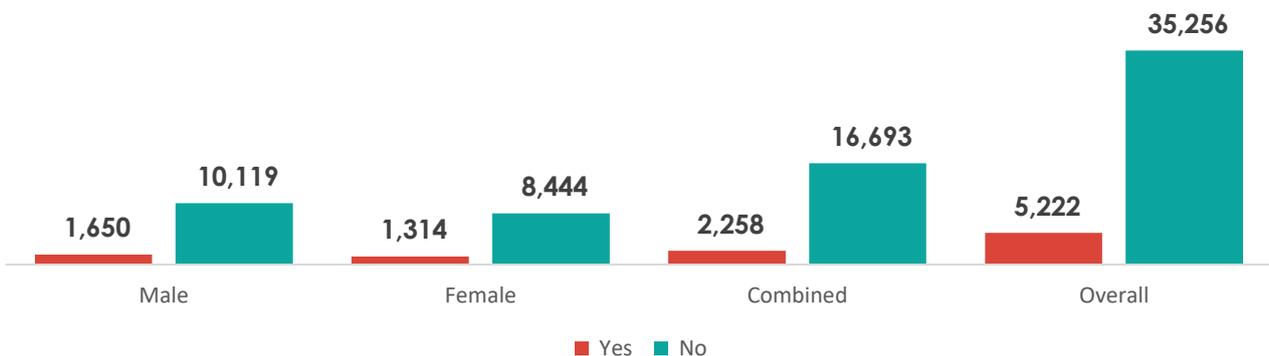


**FIGURE 8.6.2: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS BEING DISTRIBUTED AT THE ELECTION CAMPS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that campaign material was being distributed at election camps near 1,650 (14 percent) male polling stations, 1,314 (13 percent) female polling stations and 2,258 (12 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations at which no such observation was reported included 10,119 (86 percent) male stations, 8,444 (87 percent) female stations, and 16,693 (88 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 8.6.3: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS BEING DISTRIBUTED AT THE ELECTION CAMPS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 8.7 Provision of Transport Services to Voters

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

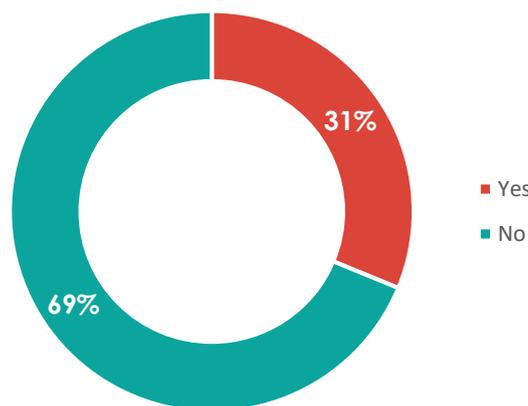
Contesting candidate, election agent and any of their supporter shall not use any vehicle to transport to or from the polling station any voter except himself and members of his immediate family. This restriction shall also apply to a political party.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, Election Agents and Polling Agents, Clause 55*

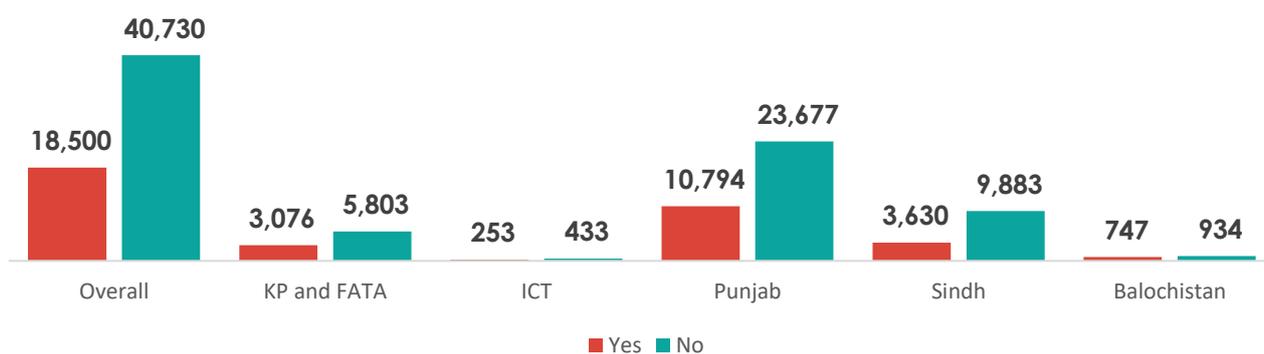
FAFEN observers reported that party workers or supporters of candidates provided transportation to voters to and/or from polling stations at 18,500 (31 percent) of 59,230 observed polling stations. The violation was not observed at 40,730 (69 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that voters were provided transportation to/from 3,076 (35 percent) polling stations in KP, 253 (37 percent) in ICT, 10,794 (31 percent) in Punjab, 3,630 (27 percent) in Sindh and 747 (44 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which no such observation was made included 5,803 (65 percent) polling stations in KP, 433 (63 percent) in ICT, 23,677 (69 percent) in Punjab, 9,883 (73 percent) in Sindh and 934 (56 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 8.7.1: WERE SUPPORTERS OR WORKERS OF CANDIDATES AND PARTIES PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO VOTERS?**

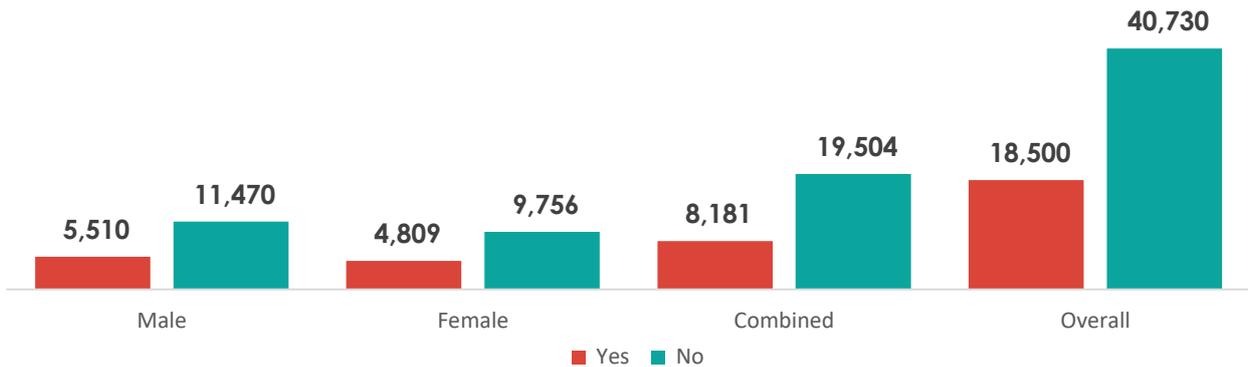


**FIGURE 8.7.2: WHETHER SUPPORTERS OR WORKERS OF CANDIDATES AND PARTIES WERE PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that party workers or candidate supporters provided transportation to voters at 5,510 (32 percent) male polling stations, 4,809 (33 percent) female polling stations and 8,181 (30 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations at which this observation was not made included 11,470 (68 percent) male stations, 9,756 (67 percent) female stations, and 19,504 (70 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 8.7.3: WHETHER SUPPORTERS OR WORKERS OF CANDIDATES AND PARTIES WERE PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO VOTERS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 8.8 Display of Campaign Material in Polling Station Surroundings

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day:

- a) within a radius of four hundred meters of a polling station
  - (i) canvasses for votes;
  - (ii) solicits the vote of any voter;
  - (iii) persuades any voter not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- b) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177*

The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day, however, these camps must not contain or display anything that may be construed as “campaign” in favour of a political party or candidate and in this regard, the distribution of promotional material such as badges, caps, stickers, reading material etc. shall be prohibited. The Election Commission will provide the SMS 8300 facility to the voters through which, voters can get the information regarding serial number at the electoral roll, name and location of the polling station.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, and Polling Agents, Clause 56*

A day before the polling, [the Presiding Officer shall] clear the polling station of all sign of election campaigns like posters and remove all campaign related material form the polling station including posters and advertisements etc.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 22*

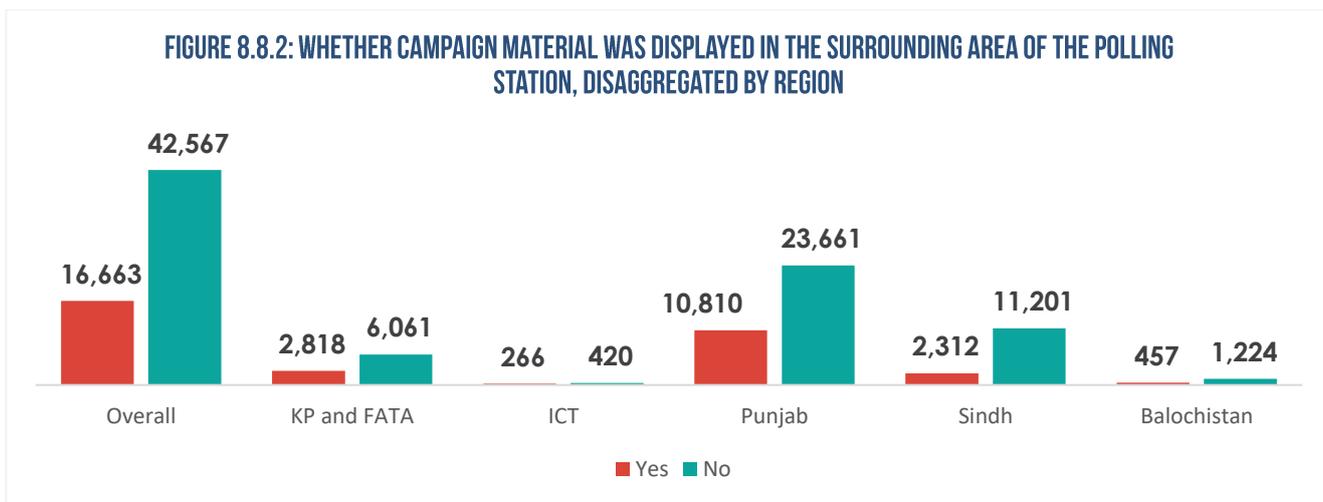
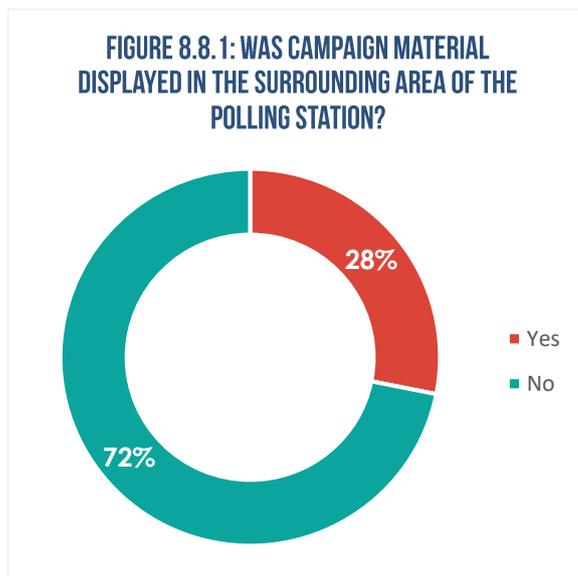
[The roles and responsibilities of Police include] removing any campaign signs or literature of contesting candidate within 100 meter of the polling station as per the instructions of the Presiding Officer, disallowing any campaign camps of the contesting candidate in the radius of 400 meter of the polling station, and ensuring that no attempts are being made to persuade voters in favor of any candidate within the specified area.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of Police, Pg. 9*

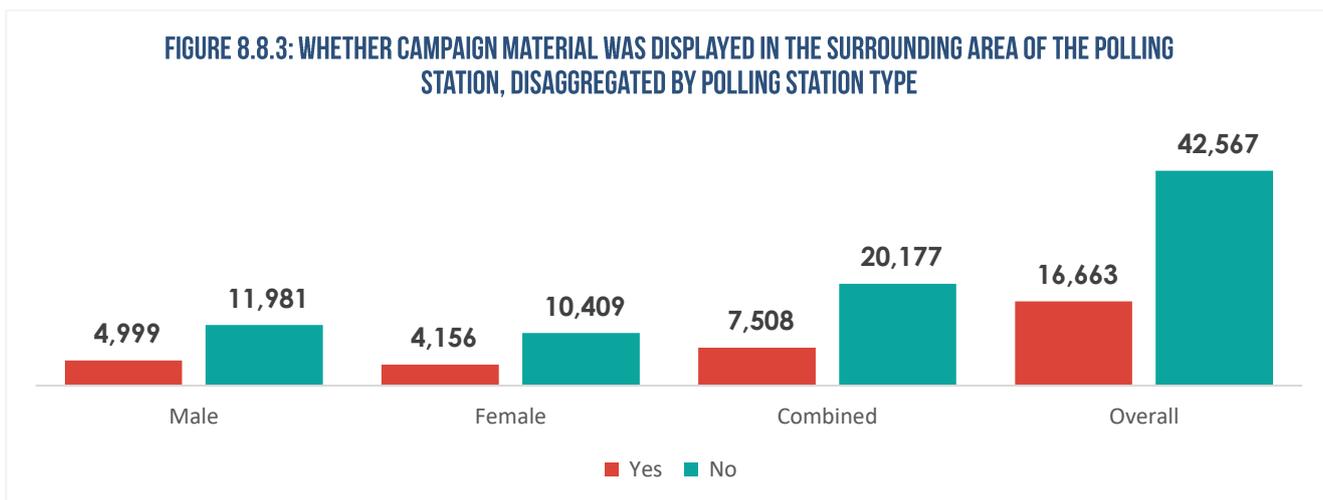


FAFEN observers reported that campaign materials such as posters, banners and flags were displayed in the surrounding areas of 16,663 (28 percent) of 59,230 observed polling stations. No campaign material was observed in the surrounding area of 42,567 (72 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that campaign materials were displayed in the surrounding area of 2,818 (32 percent) polling stations in KP, 266 (39 percent) in ICT, 10,810 (31 percent) in Punjab, 2,312 (17 percent) in Sindh and 457 (27 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which no such violation was observed included 6,061 (68 percent) polling stations in KP, 420 (61 percent) in ICT, 23,661 (69 percent) in Punjab, 11,201 (83 percent) in Sindh and 1,224 (73 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that campaign material was displayed in the surrounding area of 4,999 (29 percent) male polling stations, 4,156 (29 percent) female polling stations and 7,508 (27 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations around which no campaign materials were found included 11,981 (71 percent) male stations, 10,409 (71 percent) female stations, and 20,177 (73 percent) combined polling stations.



## 8.9 Display of Campaign Material on Walls of Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day:

- a) within a radius of four hundred meters of a polling station
  - (i) canvasses for votes;
  - (ii) solicits the vote of any voter;
  - (iii) persuades any voter not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- b) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177*

The political parties, candidates, election agents or their supporters may establish camps beyond the radius of 400 meters in rural areas and 100 meters in densely populated urban areas from the polling stations on the polling day, however, these camps must not contain or display anything that may be construed as “campaign” in favour of a political party or candidate and in this regard, the distribution of promotional material such as badges, caps, stickers, reading material etc. shall be prohibited. The Election Commission will provide the SMS 8300 facility to the voters through which, voters can get the information regarding serial number at the electoral roll, name and location of the polling station.

*Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Contesting Candidates, and Polling Agents, Clause 56*

A day before the polling, [the Presiding Officer shall] clear the polling station of all sign of election campaigns like posters and remove all campaign related material form the polling station including posters and advertisements etc.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 22*

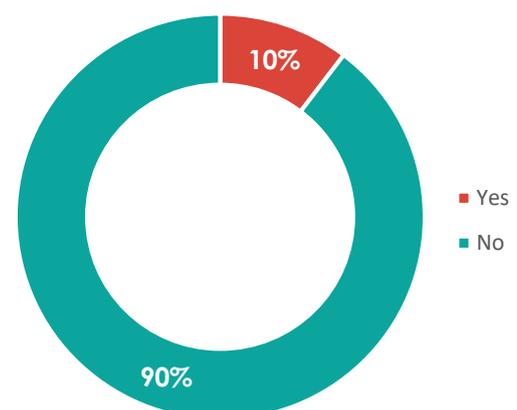
[The roles and responsibilities of Police include] removing any campaign signs or literature of contesting candidate within 100 meter of the polling station as per the instructions of the Presiding Officer, disallowing any campaign camps of the contesting candidate in the radius of 400 meter of the polling station, and ensuring that no attempts are being made to persuade voters in favor of any candidate within the specified area.

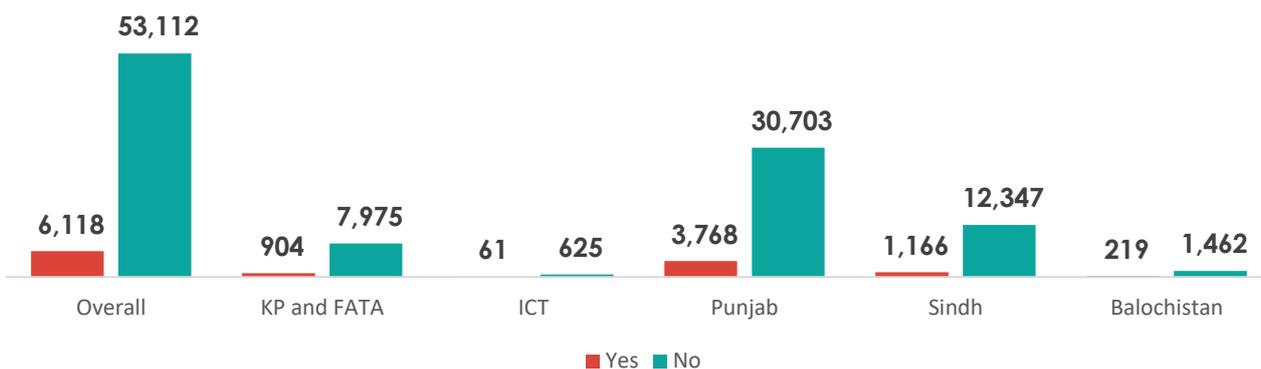
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of Police, Pg. 9*

FAFEN observers reported that campaign materials such as posters, banners and flags were displayed on the walls of 6,118 (10 percent) of the 59,230 polling stations observed. Campaign materials were not observed on the walls of 53,112 (90 percent) polling stations.

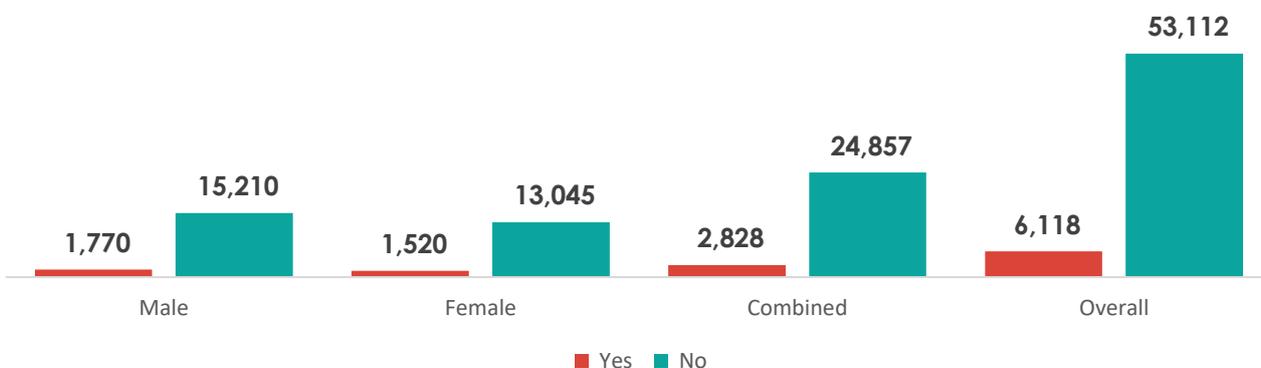
Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that the violation occurred at 904 (10 percent) polling stations in KP, 61 (nine percent) in ICT, 3,768 (11 percent) in Punjab, 1,166 (nine percent) in Sindh and 219 (13 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which the violation was not observed included 7,975 (90 percent) polling stations in KP, 625 (91 percent) in ICT, 30,703 (89 percent) in Punjab, 12,347 (91 percent) in Sindh and 1,462 (87 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 8.9.1: WAS CAMPAIGN MATERIAL DISPLAYED ON THE WALLS OF THE POLLING STATION?**



**FIGURE 8.9.2: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS DISPLAYED ON THE WALLS OF THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that campaign materials were displayed on the walls of 1,770 (10 percent) male polling stations, 1,520 (10 percent) female polling stations and 2,828 (10 percent) combined polling stations. The violation was not observed at 15,210 (90 percent) male stations, 13,045 (90 percent) female stations, and 24,857 (90 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 8.9.3: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS DISPLAYED ON THE WALLS OF THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**

## 8.10 Display of Campaign Material inside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

A person is guilty of canvassing in or near a polling station if he, on the polling day:

- a) within a radius of four hundred meters of a polling station
  - (i) canvasses for votes;
  - (ii) solicits the vote of any voter;
  - (iii) persuades any voter not to vote at the election or for a particular candidate; or
- b) exhibits, except with the permission of the Returning Officer and at a place reserved for the candidate or his election agent beyond the radius of one hundred meters of the polling station, any notice, sign or flag designed to encourage the voters to vote or discourage the voters from voting, for any contesting candidate.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 177*

A day before the polling, [the Presiding Officer shall] clear the polling station of all sign of election campaigns like posters and remove all campaign related material form the polling station including posters and advertisements etc.

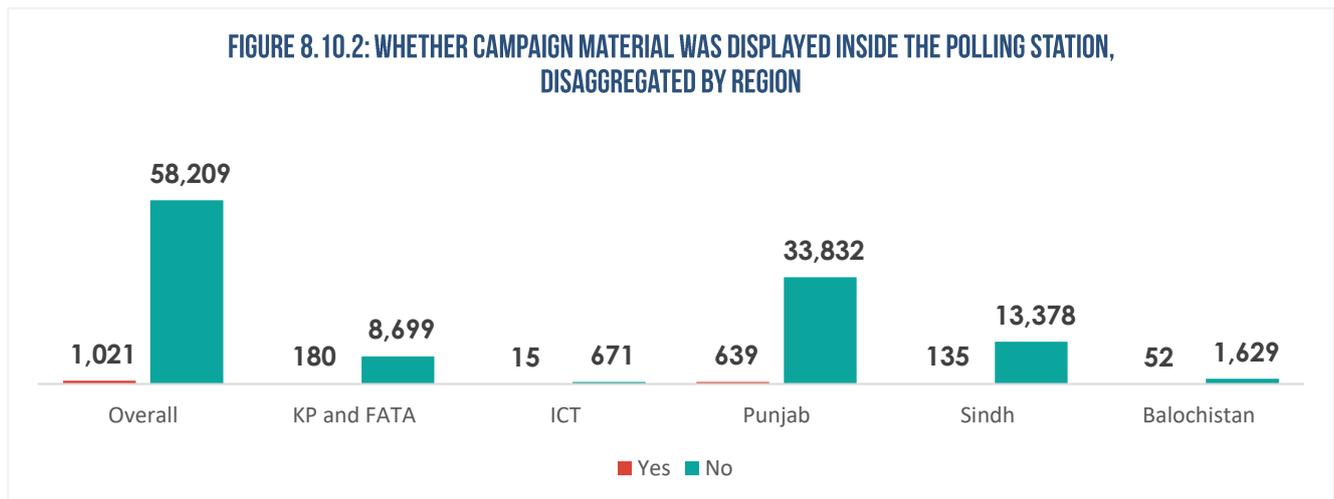
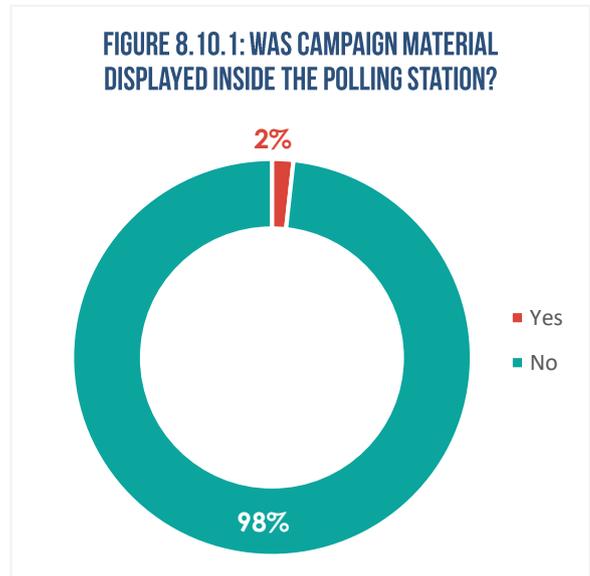
*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs Pg. 22*

[The roles and responsibilities of Police include] removing any campaign signs or literature of contesting candidate within 100 meter of the polling station as per the instructions of the Presiding Officer, disallowing any campaign camps of the contesting candidate in the radius of 400 meter of the polling station, and ensuring that no attempts are being made to persuade voters in favor of any candidate within the specified area.

*ECP Handbook for PrOs and APOs, Roles and Responsibilities of Police, Pg. 9*

FAFEN observers reported that campaign materials such as posters, banners and flags were displayed inside 1,021 (two percent) of the 59,230 polling stations observed. The violation was not observed in the overwhelming majority (58,209 or 98 percent) of polling stations.

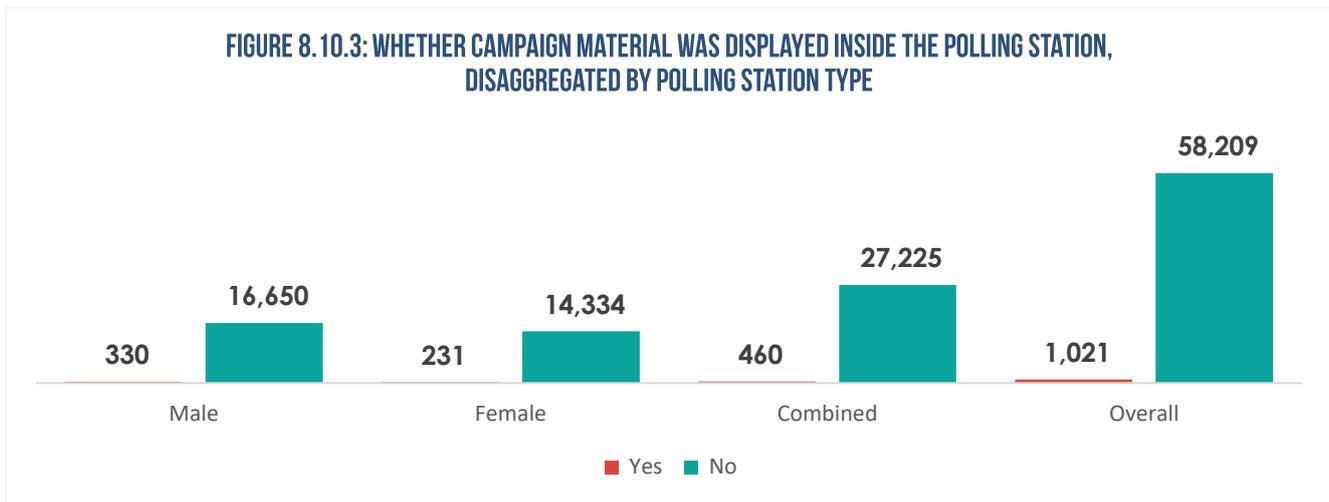
Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that campaign materials were displayed inside 180 (two percent) polling stations in KP, 15 (two percent) in ICT, 639 (two percent) in Punjab, 135 (one percent) in Sindh and 52 (three percent) in Balochistan. The violation was not observed in 8,699 (98 percent) polling stations in KP, 671 (98 percent) in ICT, 33,832 (98 percent) in Punjab, 13,378 (99 percent) in Sindh and 1,629 (97 percent) in Balochistan.



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that campaign materials were displayed inside 330 (two percent) male polling stations, 231 (two percent) female polling stations and 460 (two percent) combined polling stations. No campaign material was observed inside 16,650 (98 percent) male stations, 14,334 (98 percent) female stations, and 27,225 (98 percent) combined polling stations.



**FIGURE 8.10.3: WHETHER CAMPAIGN MATERIAL WAS DISPLAYED INSIDE THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



# SPECIAL MEASURES FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS





## 9.1 Preventing Voters with Disabilities and Elderly Voters to Choose a Person for Assistance

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

Where a voter is blind or is otherwise so incapacitated that he cannot vote without the assistance of his companion, the Presiding Officer shall allow him such assistance and thereupon such voter may, with such assistance, do anything which a voter is required or permitted to do under this Act.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 84(9)*

If a voter is totally blind or physically otherwise so incapacitated as to require the help of a companion, the Presiding Officer may allow him to be accompanied by a companion of his choice who is not less than eighteen years of age; and in case the disability is such that the voter cannot mark the ballot paper himself, the person accompanying the voter may mark the ballot paper indicated by the voter:

Provided that the person allowed to accompany the voter shall not himself be a candidate or an agent of a candidate.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 74(1)*

If the ballot paper is to be marked by the companion, the Presiding Officer shall make it clear to him that he must mark the ballot paper for the candidate of the voter's choice and that he must maintain the secrecy of voting by not divulging to any one the voter's choice of candidate.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 74(2)*

FAFEN observers reported that voters with disabilities and elderly voters, if any, were allowed to bring assistants of their choice to help them cast their votes at the overwhelming majority (55,322 or 97 percent) of the 57,302 polling stations observed. However, they were denied this facility in the remaining 1,980 (three percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that voters with disabilities and/or elderly voters, if any, were allowed to bring assistants at 8,198 (96 percent) polling stations in KP, 637 (96 percent) in ICT, 32,507 (97 percent) in Punjab, 12,478 (97 percent) in Sindh and 1,502 (95 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which they were disallowed from doing so included 355 (four percent) polling stations in KP, 25 (four percent) in ICT, 1,122 (three percent) in Punjab, 403 (three percent) in Sindh and 75 (five percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 9.1.1: WERE BLIND, DISABLED AND/OR ELDERLY VOTERS PREVENTED FROM BRINGING ASSISTANTS OF THEIR CHOICE TO HELP THEM CAST THEIR VOTES?**

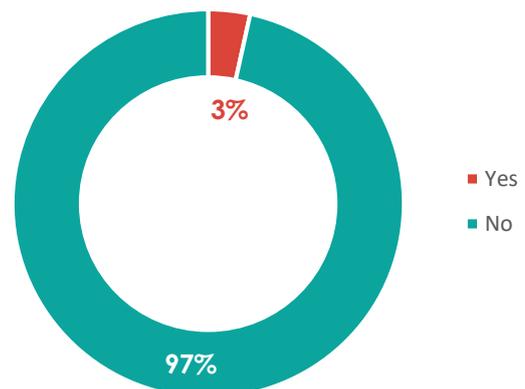
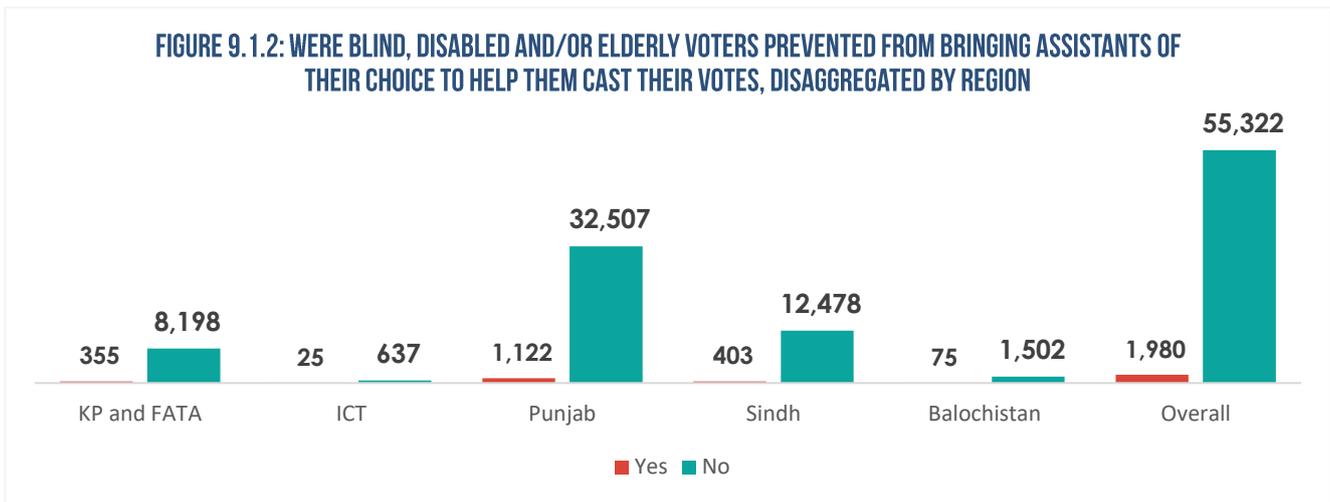


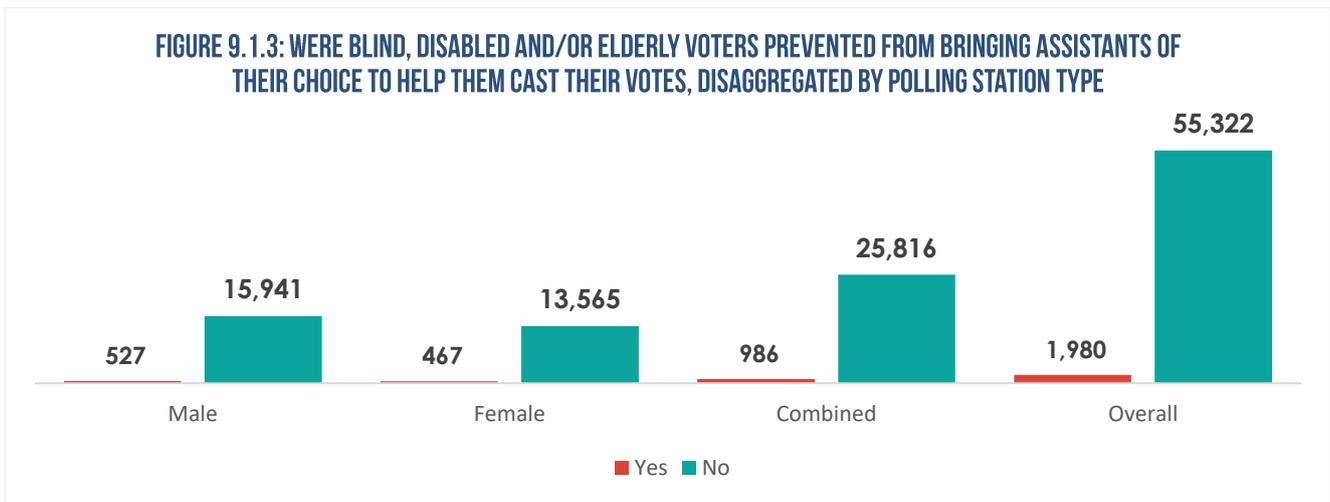


FIGURE 9.1.2: WERE BLIND, DISABLED AND/OR ELDERLY VOTERS PREVENTED FROM BRINGING ASSISTANTS OF THEIR CHOICE TO HELP THEM CAST THEIR VOTES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that voters with disabilities and/or elderly voters, if any, were allowed to bring assistants at 15,941 (97 percent) male polling stations, 13,565 (97 percent) female polling stations and 25,816 (96 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations at which they were denied assistance of their choice included 527 (three percent) male stations, 467 (three percent) female stations, and 986 (four percent) combined polling stations.

FIGURE 9.1.3: WERE BLIND, DISABLED AND/OR ELDERLY VOTERS PREVENTED FROM BRINGING ASSISTANTS OF THEIR CHOICE TO HELP THEM CAST THEIR VOTES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE



## 9.2 Ramps for Wheelchair-bound Voters

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

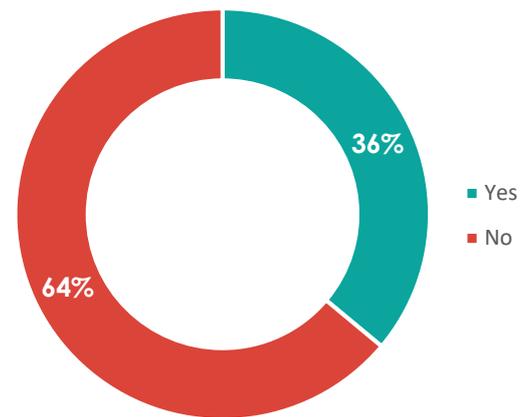
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall facilitate Voters and ensure that they are properly queued. Elderly, transgender, pregnant women, women with infants and disabled voters are entitled to have prioritized dealing.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(IX)*

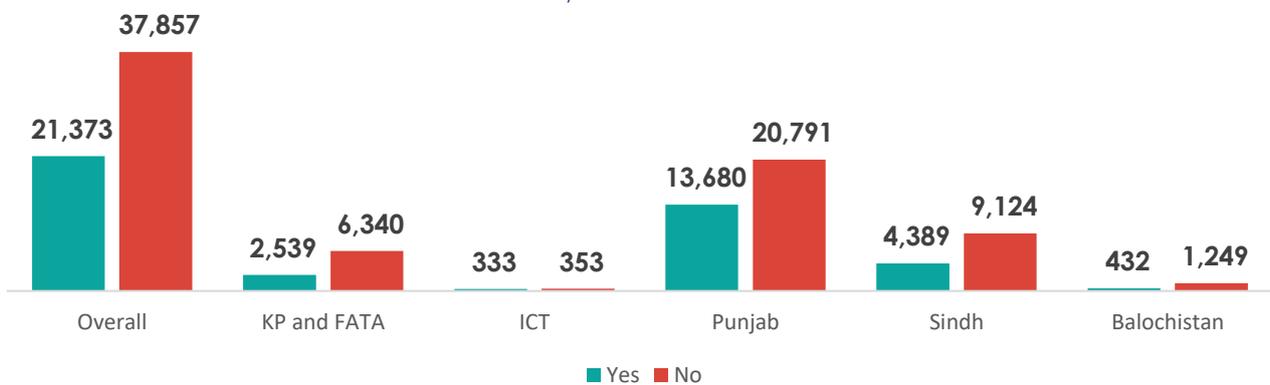
FAFEN observers reported that ramps for persons with disabilities (PWDs), especially wheelchair-bound voters, were available at 21,373 (36 percent) of the 59,230 observed polling stations. However, ramps were not found at the majority (37,857 or 64 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that ramps were available at 2,539 (29 percent) polling stations in KP, 333 (49 percent) in ICT, 13,680 (40 percent) in Punjab, 4,389 (32 percent) in Sindh and 432 (26 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations that did not have ramps included 6,340 (71 percent) polling stations in KP, 353 (51 percent) in ICT, 20,791 (60 percent) in Punjab, 9,124 (68 percent) in Sindh and 1,249 (74 percent) in Balochistan, suggestions that this issue was more prevalent in KP and Balochistan than in other regions.

**FIGURE 9.2.1: WAS THERE A RAMP OUTSIDE THE POLLING BOOTH OR STATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?**

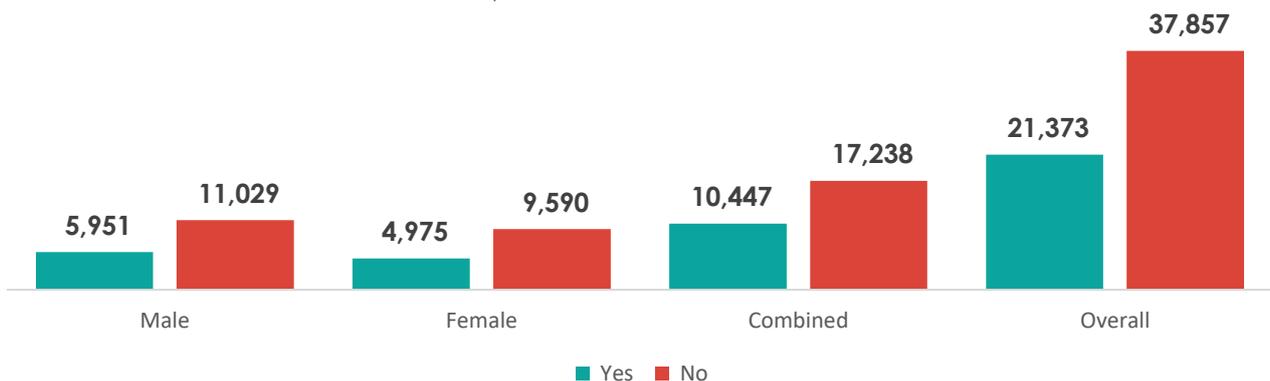


**FIGURE 9.2.2: WHETHER THERE WAS A RAMP OUTSIDE THE POLLING BOOTH OR STATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that ramps were available at 5,951 (35 percent) male polling stations, 4,975 (34 percent) female polling stations and 10,447 (38 percent) combined polling stations observed. Ramps were reportedly not available at 11,029 (65 percent) male stations, 9,590 (66 percent) female stations, and 17,238 (62 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 9.2.3: WHETHER THERE WAS A RAMP OUTSIDE THE POLLING BOOTH OR STATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 9.3 Transgender Voters Allowed Entry on Priority Basis

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

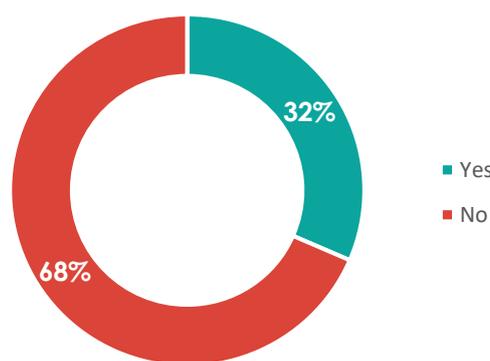
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall facilitate Voters and ensure that they are properly queued. Elderly, transgender, pregnant women, women with infants and disabled voters are entitled to have prioritized dealing.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(IX)*

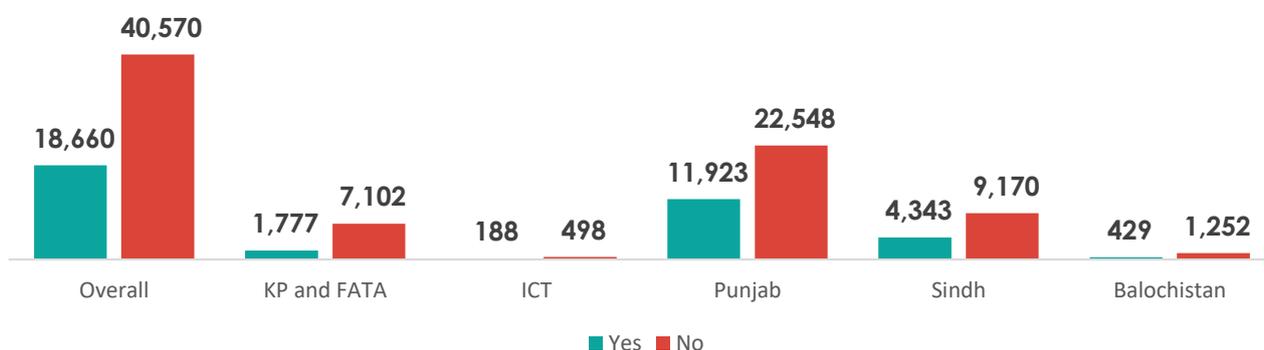
FAFEN observers reported that security officials allowed transgender voters to enter polling stations on a priority basis at 18,660 (32 percent) of the 59,230 polling stations observed. However, this was not observed at the majority (40,570 or 68 percent) of polling stations, either due to lack of transgender voters visiting the polling stations or due to security officials not facilitating them on a priority basis.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that security officials allowed transgender voters to enter on a priority basis at 1,777 (20 percent) polling stations in KP, 188 (27 percent) in ICT, 11,923 (35 percent) in Punjab, 4,343 (68 percent) in Sindh and 429 (26 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which this was not observed included 7,102 (80 percent) polling stations in KP, 498 (73 percent) in ICT, 22,548 (65 percent) in Punjab, 9,170 (68 percent) in Sindh and 1,252 (74 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 9.3.1: DID SECURITY OFFICIALS ALLOW TRANSGENDER VOTERS TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION ON A PRIORITY BASIS?**

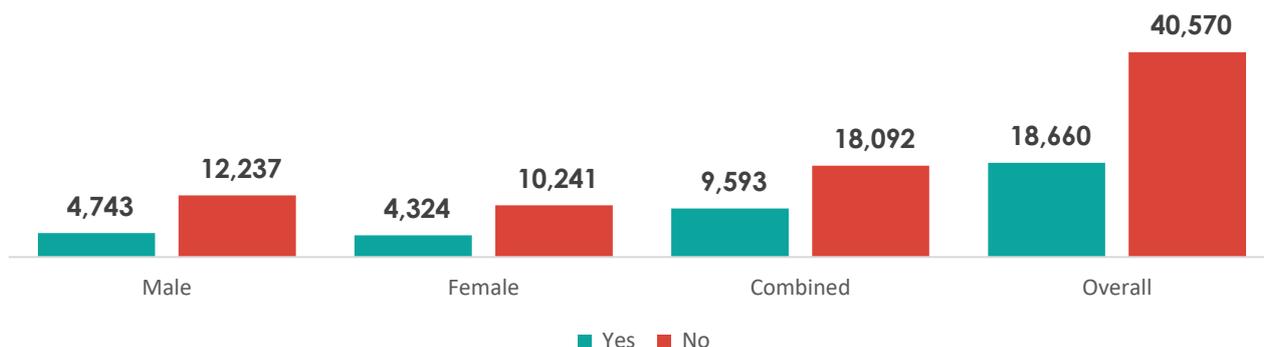


**FIGURE 9.3.2: WHETHER SECURITY OFFICIALS ALLOWED TRANSGENDER VOTERS TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION ON A PRIORITY BASIS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregation of the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that security officials allowed transgender voters to enter on priority basis at 4,743 (28 percent) male polling stations, 4,324 (30 percent) female polling stations and 9,593 (35 percent) combined polling stations observed. This was not observed at 12,237 (72 percent) male stations, 10,241 (70 percent) female stations, and 18,092 (65 percent) combined polling stations, either due to a lack of transgender voters or due to security officials not dealing with them on a priority basis.

**FIGURE 9.3.3: WHETHER SECURITY OFFICIALS ALLOWED TRANSGENDER VOTERS TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION ON A PRIORITY BASIS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 9.4 Voters with Disabilities Allowed Entry on Priority Basis

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

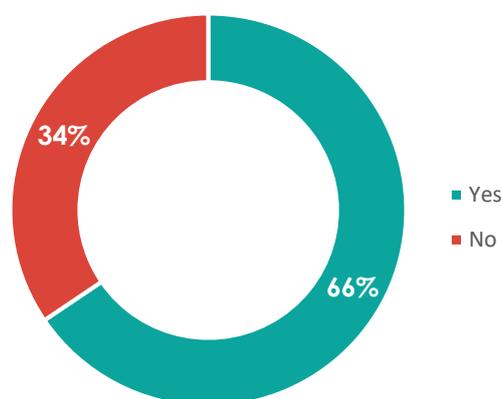
The security personnel belonging to law enforcement agencies deputed on election duty for General Election-2018 shall facilitate Voters and ensure that they are properly queued. Elderly, transgender, pregnant women, women with infants and disabled voters are entitled to have prioritized dealing.

*Code of Conduct for Security Officials, Clause A(IX)*

FAFEN observers reported that security officials allowed voters with physical disabilities to enter the polling station on a priority basis at 38,810 (66 percent) of the 59,230 polling stations observed. At the remaining polling stations (20,420 or 34 percent), voters with disabilities were either not seen visiting or were not facilitated appropriately by security officials.

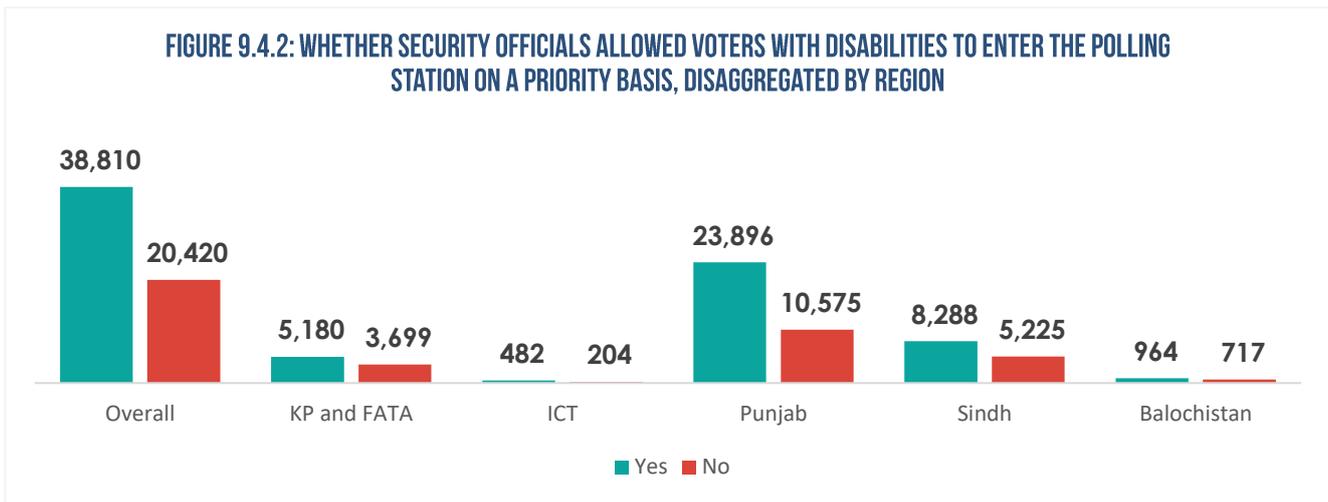
Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that security officials allowed voters with disabilities to enter on a priority basis at 5,180 (66 percent) polling stations in KP, 482 (70 percent) in ICT, 23,896 (69 percent) in Punjab, 8,288 (61 percent) in Sindh, and 964 (57 percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations where this was not observed included 3,699 (42 percent) polling stations in KP, 204 (30 percent) in ICT, 10,575 (31 percent) in Punjab, 5,225 (39 percent) in Sindh and 717 (43 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 9.4.1: DID SECURITY OFFICIALS ALLOW VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION ON A PRIORITY BASIS?**



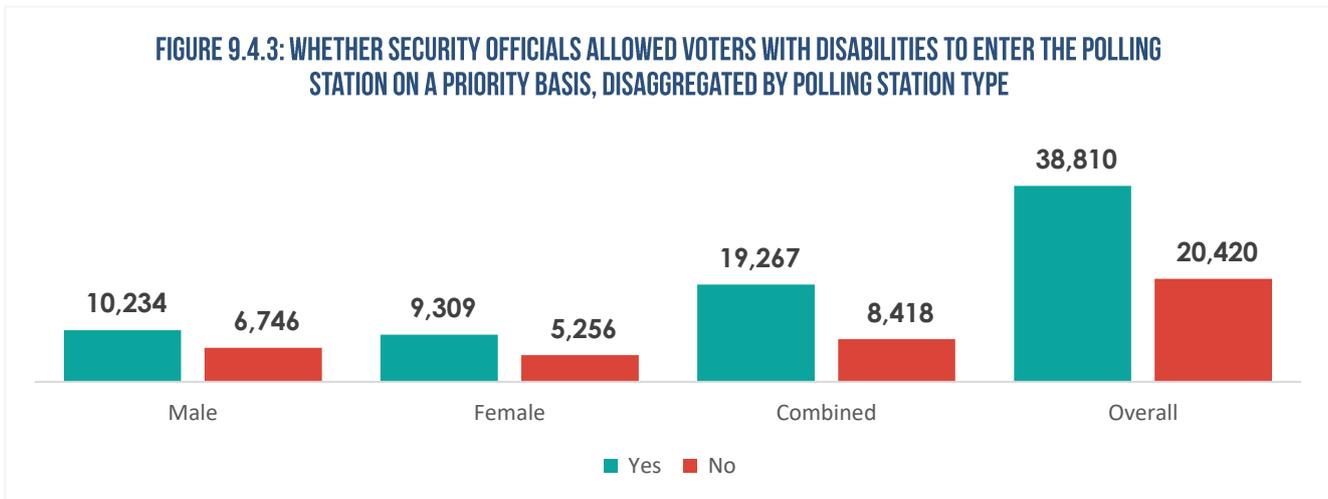


**FIGURE 9.4.2: WHETHER SECURITY OFFICIALS ALLOWED VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION ON A PRIORITY BASIS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that security officials gave priority to disabled voters at 10,234 (60 percent) male polling stations, 9,309 (64 percent) female polling stations and 19,267 (70 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations where this was not observed included 6,746 (40 percent) male stations, 5,256 (36 percent) female stations, and 8,418 (30 percent) combined polling stations, either due to a lack of voters with disabilities or due to security officials not facilitating them in on a priority basis.

**FIGURE 9.4.3: WHETHER SECURITY OFFICIALS ALLOWED VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENTER THE POLLING STATION ON A PRIORITY BASIS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 9.5 PrOs Maintaining List of Persons Assisting Voters with Disabilities and/or Elderly Voters

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

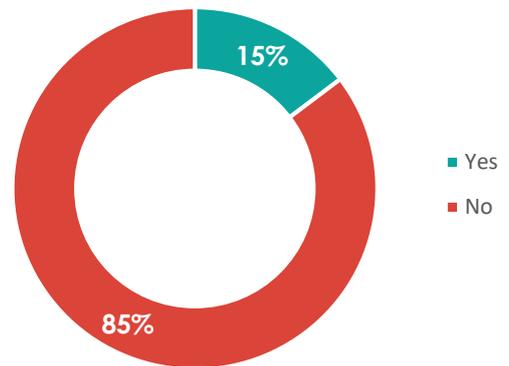
The Presiding Officer shall maintain a list of voters on whose behalf the ballot papers have been marked by their companions.

*The Election Rules, 2017, Rule 74(1)*

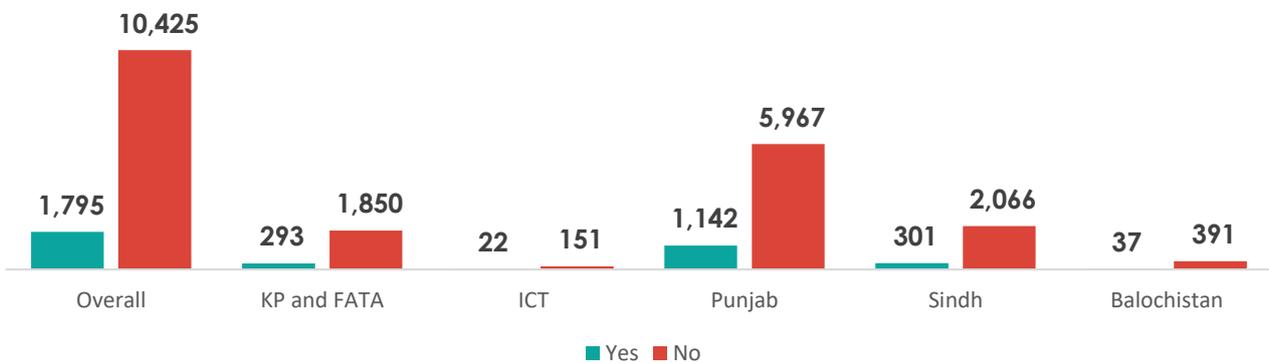
PrOs said they prepared lists of persons assisting blind, physically challenged and/or elderly voters in casting their votes at 1,795 (15 percent) of 12,220 polling stations in which PrOs were interviewed. However, lists of companions were not maintained at the majority (10,425 or 85 percent) of polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of these observations reveals that PrOs maintained lists of assistants or companions at 293 (14 percent) polling stations in KP, 22 (13 percent) in ICT, 1,142 (16 percent) in Punjab, 301 (13 percent) in Sindh and 37 (nine percent) in Balochistan. Polling stations at which the lists were reportedly not maintained included 1,850 (86 percent) polling stations in KP, 151 (87 percent) in ICT, 5,967 (84 percent) in Punjab, 2,066 (87 percent) in Sindh and 391 (91 percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 9.5.1: DID THE PRESIDING OFFICER PREPARE A LIST OF PERSONS ASSISTING BLIND, PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND/OR ELDERLY VOTERS BEHIND SECRECY SCREENS?**

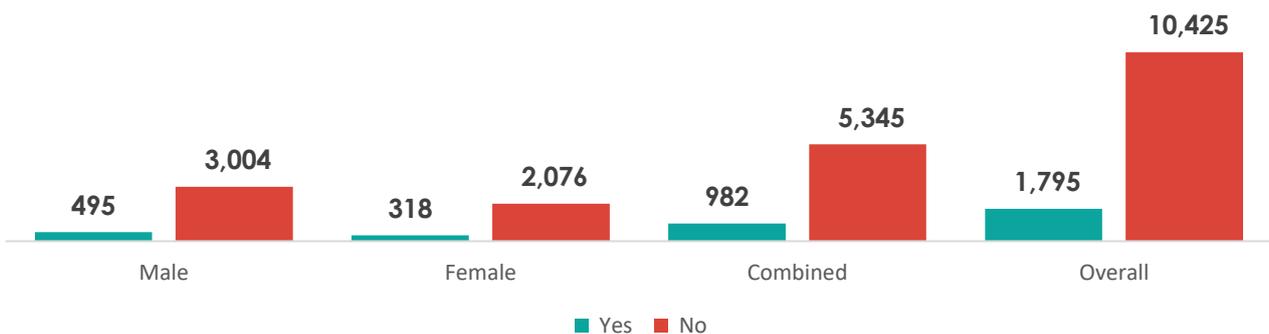


**FIGURE 9.5.2: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PREPARED A LIST OF PERSONS ASSISTING BLIND, PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND/OR ELDERLY VOTERS BEHIND SECRECY SCREENS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that PrOs maintained lists of assistants or companions at 495 (14 percent) male polling stations, 318 (13 percent) female polling stations and 982 (16 percent) combined polling stations observed. Polling stations at which lists were not maintained included 3,004 (86 percent) male stations, 2,076 (87 percent) female stations, and 5,345 (84 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 9.5.3: WHETHER THE PRESIDING OFFICER PREPARED A LIST OF PERSONS ASSISTING BLIND, PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED AND/OR ELDERLY VOTERS BEHIND SECRECY SCREENS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





10

# MONITORING AND OBSERVATION



**FREE & FAIR ELECTION NETWORK - FAFEN**

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## 10.1 Permission to Observe Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf, may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of results.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 238(1)*

Of 59,230 polling stations where they were deployed for observation, FAFEN observers reported entry without hindrance at the majority (49,783 or 84 percent) of polling stations. However, they were reportedly allowed entry at 8,049 (14 percent) polling stations only after discussing the matter with security and/or polling staff, whereas, they were barred from observing polling processes altogether at 1,398 (two percent) polling stations.

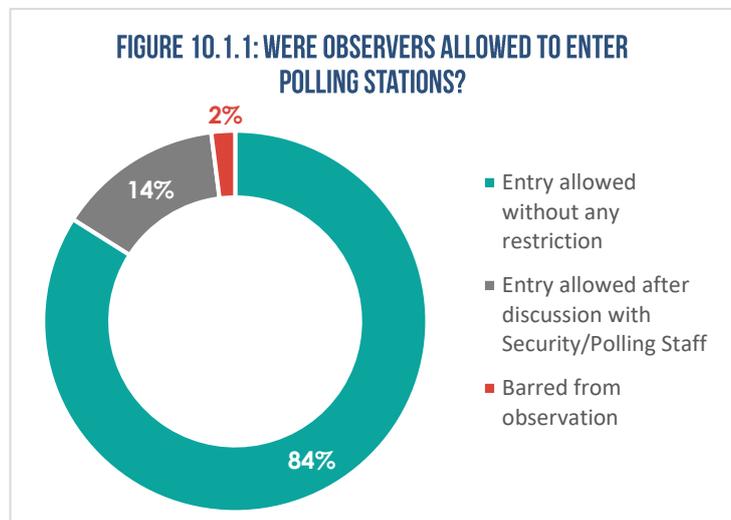
Of 34,471 observed polling stations in Punjab, observers were able to enter without any hindrances at 29,899 (87 percent) polling stations. Of the remaining polling stations, they were allowed entry only after discussion with security or polling staff at 4,027 (12 percent) polling stations and barred altogether at 545 (one percent) polling stations.

In Sindh, FAFEN observers entered 10,777 (80 percent) of 13,513 polling stations without any restrictions, whereas they were allowed entry after discussion at 2,259 (17 percent) polling stations and prohibited entry at 477 (three percent) polling stations.

Similarly, in KP, the observers entered 7,321 (81 percent) of 8,879 polling stations without any restrictions, whereas they were allowed entry only after discussion at 1,369 (15 percent) polling stations and prohibited entry at 279 (three percent) polling stations.

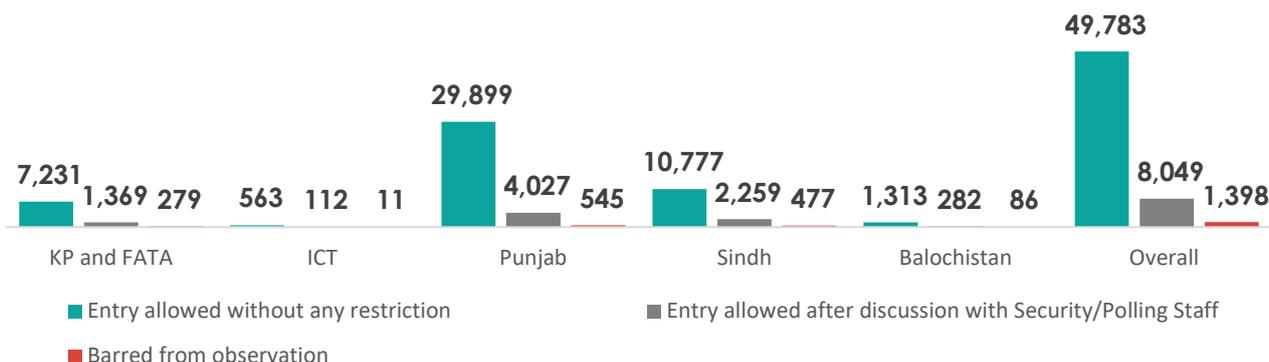
Of 1,681 polling stations observed in Balochistan, the observers entered 1,313 (84 percent) without any restrictions and entered 282 (14 percent) only after discussion with security or polling staff. They were prohibited from entering 86 (two percent) polling stations.

In ICT, the observers were able to enter without restriction in 563 (82 percent) of 686 polling stations, whereas they had to debate the matter with security or polling staff at 112 (16 percent) polling stations before being let in. They were prohibited from visiting inside eleven (two percent) polling stations.





**FIGURE 10.1.2: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**

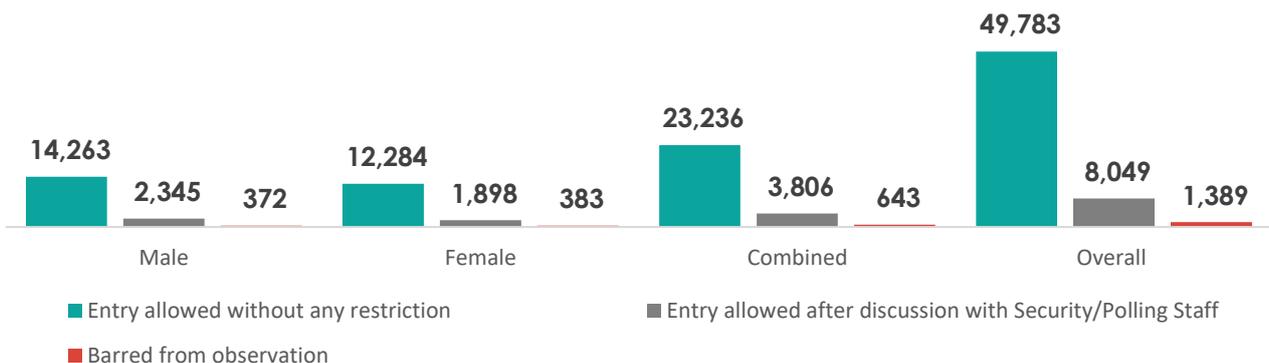


Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that FAFEN observers reported no hindrances in entering 14,623 (84 percent) male polling stations, 12,284 (84 percent) female polling stations, and 23,236 (84 percent) combined polling stations.

Polling stations in which they were allowed entry after discussion with polling and/or security staff included 2,345 (14 percent) male stations, 1,898 (13 percent) female stations, and 3,806 (14 percent) combined polling stations.

Polling stations in which they were denied entry altogether included 372 (two percent) male stations, 383 (three percent) female stations, and 643 (two percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 10.1.3: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 10.2 Permission to Observe Polling Booths inside Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf, may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of results.

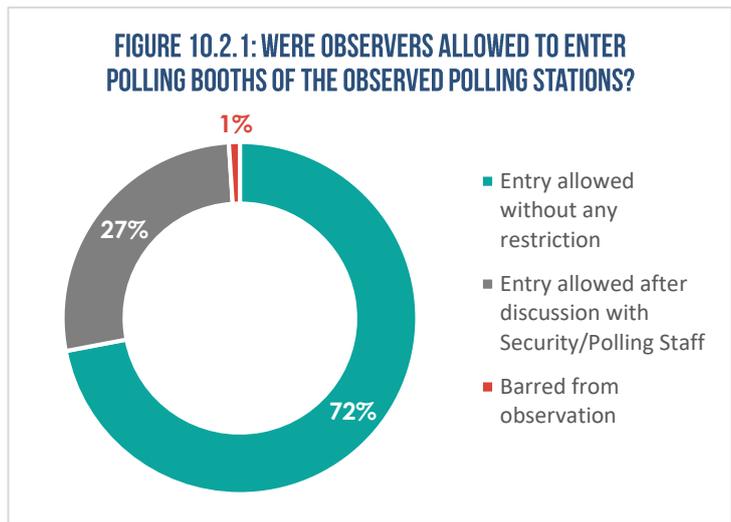
*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 238(1)*

FAFEN Observers obtained permission to observe polling booths without hindrance at 41,579 (72 percent) of 57,832 polling stations. At 15,723 (27 percent) polling stations, they were allowed entry after discussion or debate with security and/or polling staff, whereas they were prohibited altogether at 530 (one percent) polling stations.

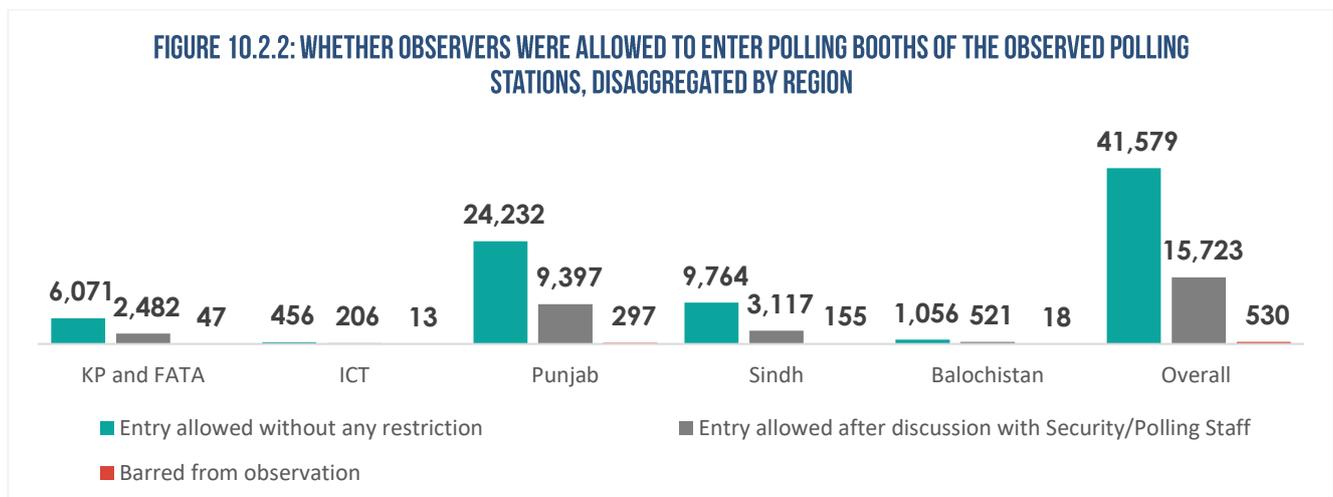
Of the 33,926 polling stations observed in Punjab, FAFEN observers entered without hindrance the polling booths of 24,232 (71 percent) polling stations, and the booths of 9,397 (28 percent) polling stations after discussing the matter with security and/or polling staff. They were prohibited from observing 297 (one percent) polling stations.

In Sindh, observers entered the booths of 9,764 of 13,036 polling stations without hindrance, and the booths of 3,117 (24 percent) polling stations after discussion with security/polling staff, whereas they were prohibited from entering booths at 155 (one percent) polling stations. Out of 8,600 observed polling stations in KP, observers entered polling booths of 6,071 (71 percent) polling stations without any problems, while their entry was allowed at booths of 2,482 (28 percent) polling stations after discussion with security/polling staff. They were barred from entering booths of 47 (one percent) polling stations.

Of 1,595 observed polling stations in Balochistan, observers entered the booths of 1,056 (66 percent) polling stations without any hindrances, and the booths of 521 (33 percent) polling stations after discussion. They were barred from entering the booths of 18 (one percent) polling stations. Out of 675 polling stations in ICT, 456 (68 percent) polling stations were such that observers entered the booths without any problems, while they had to debate the matter with security/polling staff at 206 (31 percent) polling stations. At 13 (one percent) polling stations, observers were not allowed to observe polling process in polling booths.



**FIGURE 10.2.2: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER POLLING BOOTHS OF THE OBSERVED POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



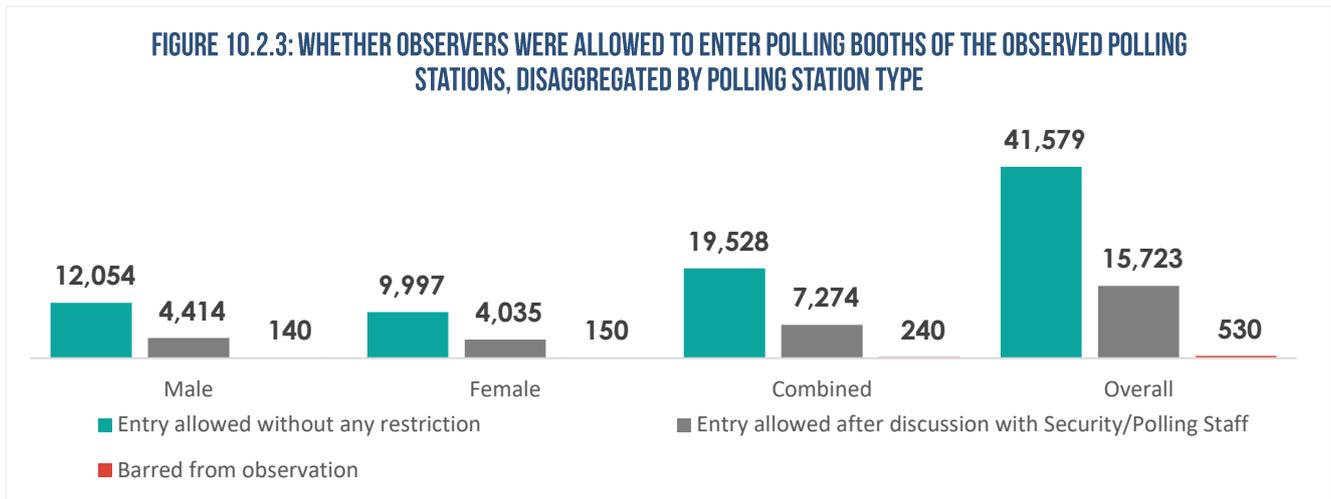
Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that observers reported no hindrance to entering booths for observation at 12,054 (72 percent) male polling stations, 9,997 (71 percent) female polling stations, and 19,528 (72 percent) combined polling stations.

Polling stations in which observers were allowed entry into booths after discussion included 4,414 (27 percent) male stations, 4,035 (27 percent) female stations, and 7,274 (27 percent) combined polling stations.



Polling stations in which observers were prohibited from observing inside polling booths included 140 (one percent) male station, 150 (one percent) female stations, and 240 (one percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 10.2.3: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO ENTER POLLING BOOTHS OF THE OBSERVED POLLING STATIONS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 10.3 Inquiry Regarding Observers' NICs and ECP Accreditation Cards

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

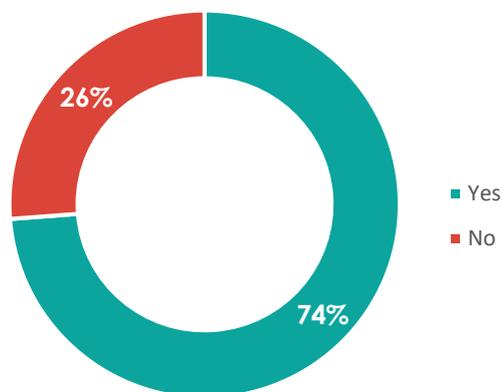
Every observer while observing the process of conduct of election shall display prominently a card of his identification issued to him by the Commission or an officer authorized by it.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 238(3)*

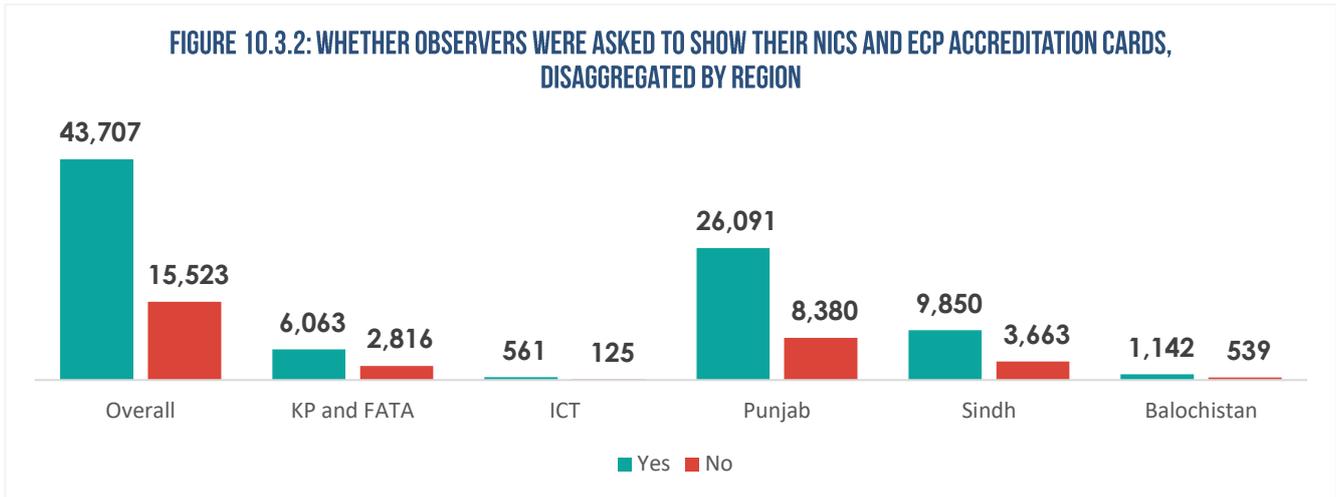
FAFEN observers were asked to show NICs and accreditation cards issued by the ECP at 43,707 (74 percent) of 59,230 polling stations observed. Observers were not asked to follow such requirements at 15,523 (26 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that observers were asked to show their NICs and ECP accreditation cards at 26,091 (76 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 9,850 (73 percent) in Sindh, 6,063 (68 percent) in KP, 1,142 (68 percent) in Balochistan and 561 (82 percent) in ICT. No such inquiry was reported at 8,380 (24 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 3,663 (27 percent) in Sindh, 2,816 (32 percent) in KP, 539 (32 percent) in Balochistan and 125 (18 percent) in ICT.

**FIGURE 10.3.1: WERE OBSERVERS ASKED TO SHOW THEIR NICs AND ECP ACCREDITATION CARDS?**

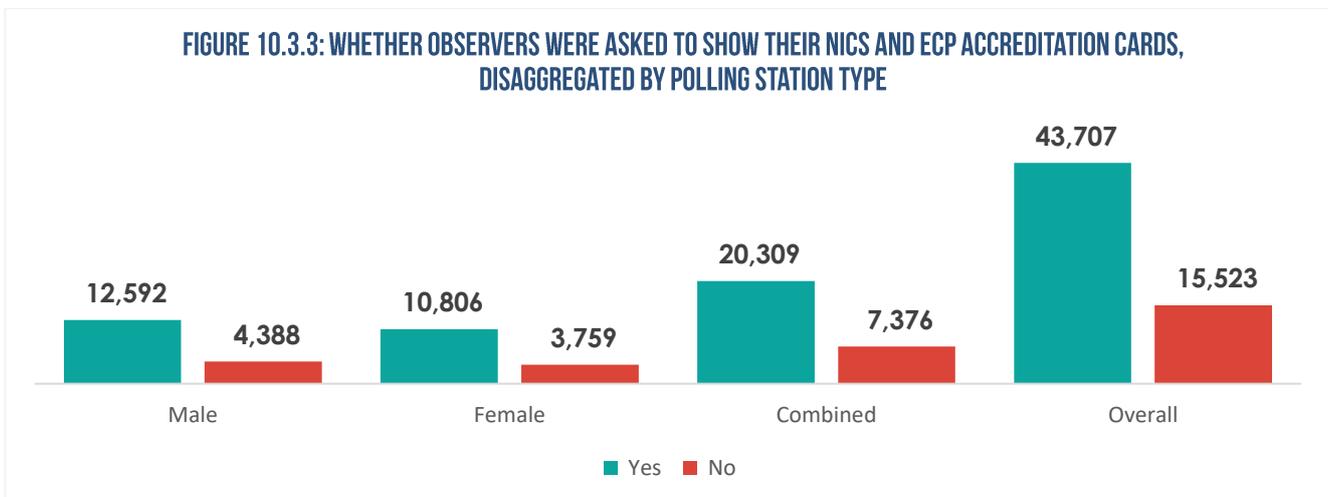


**FIGURE 10.3.2: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ASKED TO SHOW THEIR NICS AND ECP ACCREDITATION CARDS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that FAFEN observers were asked about identification at 12,592 (74 percent) male polling stations, 10,806 (74 percent) female polling stations, and 20,309 (73 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations at which no such inquiry was reported included 4,388 (26 percent) male stations, 3,759 (26 percent) female stations, and 7,376 (27 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 10.3.3: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ASKED TO SHOW THEIR NICS AND ECP ACCREDITATION CARDS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 10.4 Observation of Counting Process

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

The Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf, may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of results.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 238(1)*

FAFEN observers attempted to witness the counting process at 14,045 polling stations. Of these polling stations, observers faced no restriction at 9,226 (66 percent) polling stations while they were allowed to observe the process at 2,994 (21 percent) polling stations only after discussing the matter with security or polling staff. The observers were barred from observing the counting process at the remaining 1,825 (13 percent) polling stations.

In Punjab, FAFEN observers attempted to observe the counting process at 7,985 polling stations. Observers were given access without hindrance to observe the process at 5,583 (70 percent) polling stations, and at 1,526 (19 percent) polling stations after discussion with security/polling staff. They were disallowed from observing the process at 876 (11 percent) polling stations.

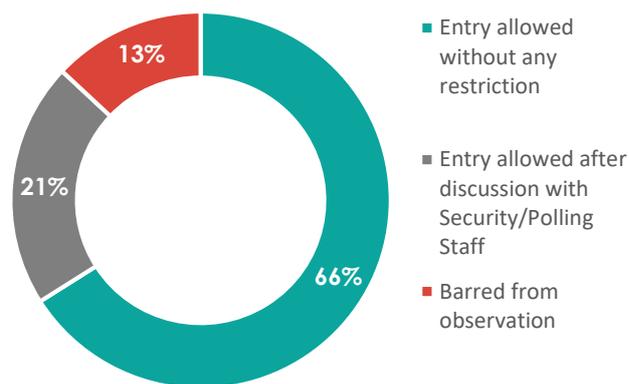
In Sindh, FAFEN observers attempted to observe the process at 3,003 polling stations. They were allowed access without problems at 1,658 (55 percent) polling stations, and at 709 (24 percent) polling stations after discussion with security/polling staff. They were disallowed at 636 (21 percent) polling stations.

Of 2,354 polling stations observed in KP, the observers observed counting procedures at 1,576 (67 percent) polling stations without any hindrance, while their entry was allowed at 567 (24 percent) polling stations after discussion with security/polling staff. Observers were barred at 211 (nine percent) polling stations.

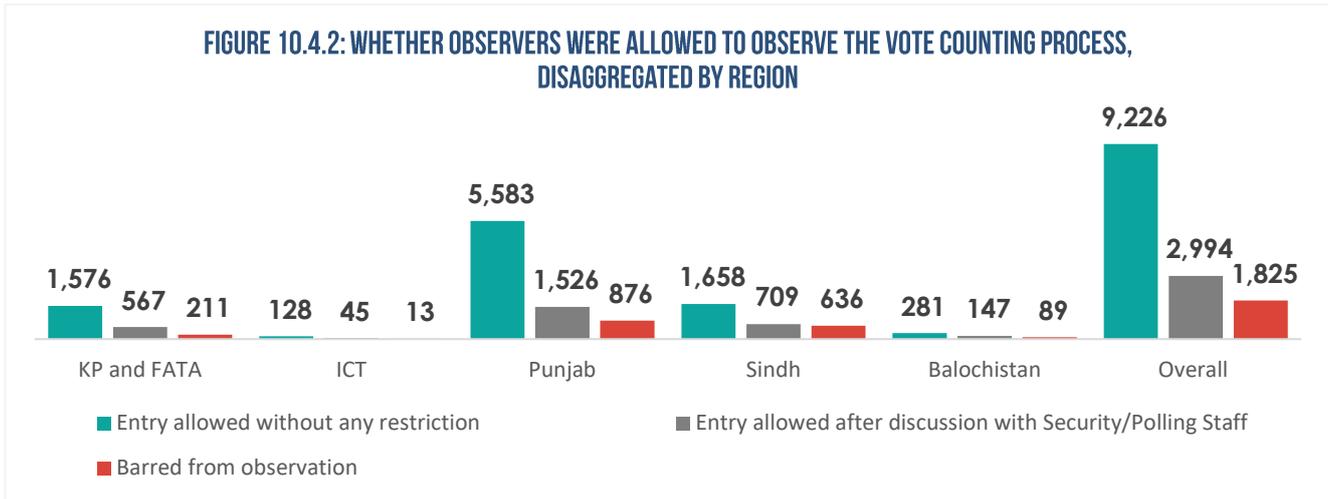
Of 517 polling stations in Balochistan, the observers accessed the process at 281 (54 percent) polling stations without any problem, while they were allowed access at 147 (28 percent) polling stations after discussion with security/polling staff. They were barred at 89 (17 percent) polling stations.

Out of 186 polling stations in ICT, 128 (69 percent) polling stations were such that observers accessed the counting process without any hindrance, while they had to debate the matter with security/polling staff at 45 (24 percent) polling stations before being let in. They were disallowed from observing the process at 13 (seven percent) polling stations.

**FIGURE 10.4.1: WERE OBSERVERS ALLOWED TO OBSERVE THE VOTE COUNTING PROCESS?**



**FIGURE 10.4.2: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO OBSERVE THE VOTE COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**

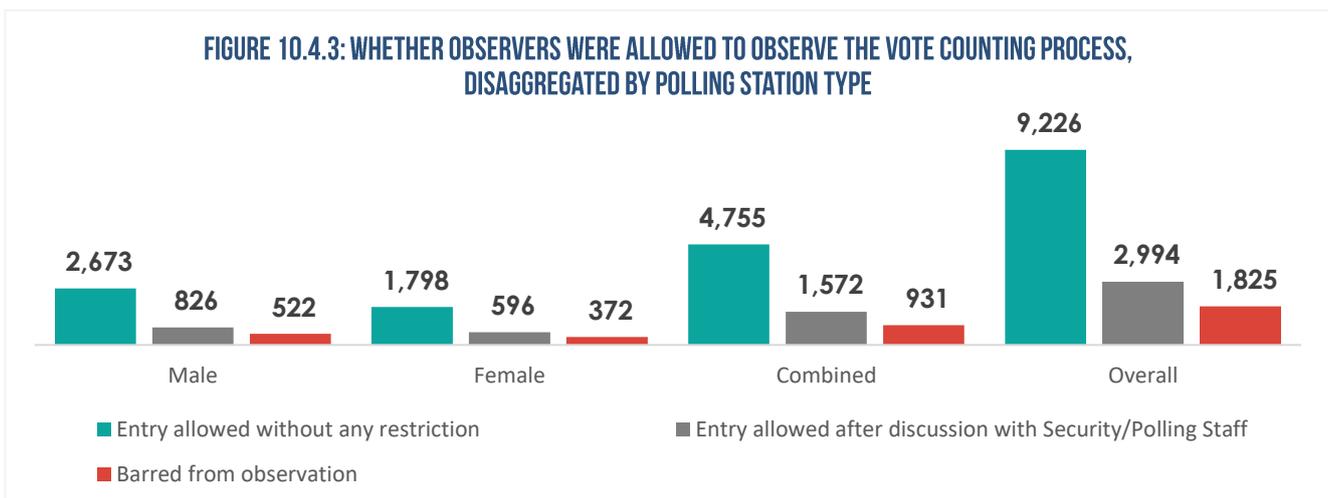


An analysis of the observation data with regard to types of the polling stations shows that observers reported no hindrance to enter 2,673 (66 percent) male polling stations, 826 (21 percent) male polling stations were such that entry was allowed after discussion with security/polling staff, and observers were barred from witnessing the counting process at 522 (13 percent) male polling stations.

A total of 1,798 (65 percent) female polling stations were such that observers entered easily to observe the counting process. Permission was granted after discussion at 596 (21 percent) female polling stations, while observation was barred at 372 (14 percent) female polling stations.

FAFEN observers reported that 4,755 (65 percent) combined polling stations were such that observers faced no difficulty to enter, while permission was granted to observers at 1,572 (22 percent) polling stations after debate with security/polling staff. In 931 (13 percent) combined polling stations, observation of counting processes was barred.

**FIGURE 10.4.3: WHETHER OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO OBSERVE THE VOTE COUNTING PROCESS, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**





## 10.5 Visits of Returning Officer or ECP Monitoring Teams to Polling Stations

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

There is no specific provision in the law, rules or procedural guidelines on monitoring visits of polling stations by ROs or ECP team. However, practically ROs and monitoring team keep a vigilance on election day activities by visiting polling stations.

FAFEN observers reported that ECP officials or monitoring teams did not visit 9,574 (78 percent) of 12,220 polling stations where the counting process was observed, whereas visits were reported at the remaining 2,646 (22 percent) polling stations.

Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that no visit of ECP officials or monitoring teams was conducted at 5,556 (78 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 1,912 (81 percent) in Sindh, 1,659 (77 percent) in KP, 324 (76 percent) in Balochistan and 123 (71 percent) in ICT. Observers reported such visits at 1,553 (22 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 484 (23 percent) in KP, 455 (19 percent) in Sindh, 104 (24 percent) in Balochistan and 50 (29 percent) in ICT.

FIGURE 10.5.1: DID ECP OFFICIALS OR MONITORING TEAM VISIT THE POLLING STATION?

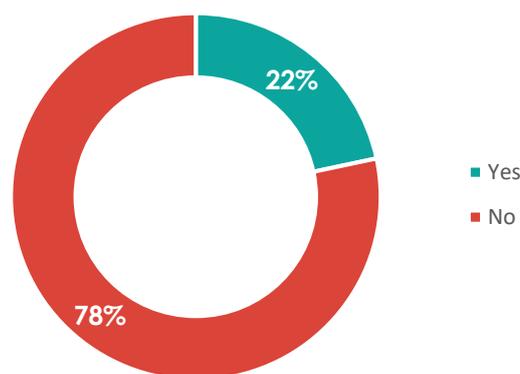
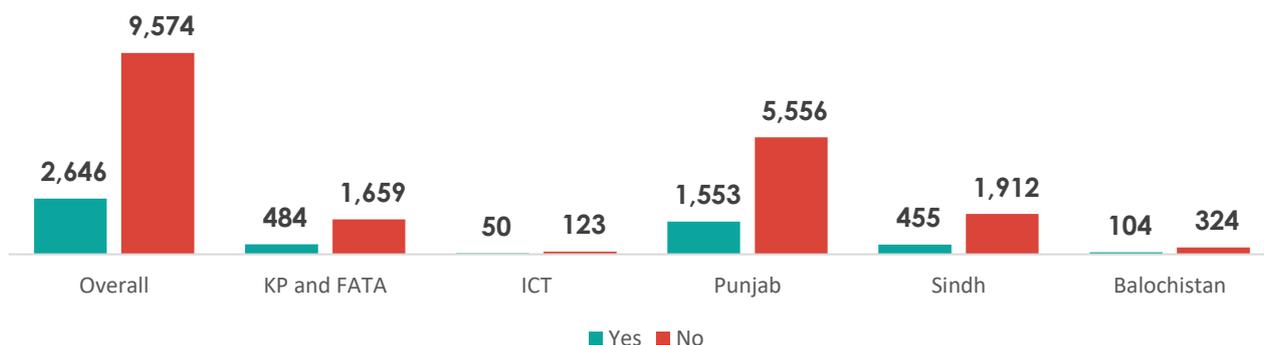
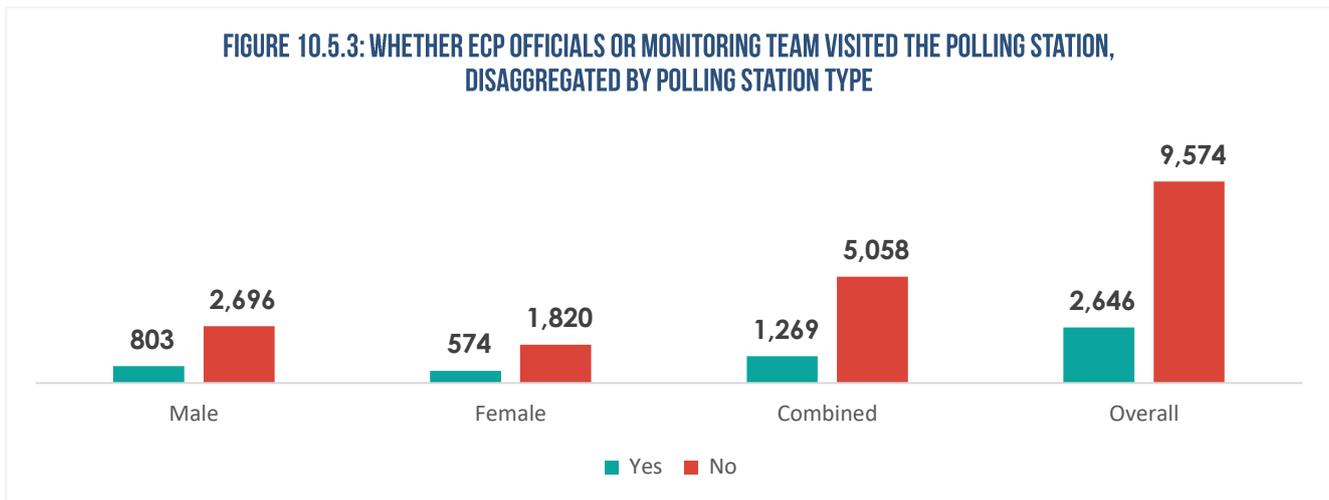


FIGURE 10.5.2: WHETHER ECP OFFICIALS OR MONITORING TEAM VISITED THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station shows that ECP officials or monitoring teams did not visit 2,696 (77 percent) male polling stations, 1,820 (76 percent) female polling stations, and 5,058 (80 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations which reportedly received visits included 803 (23 percent) male stations, 574 (24 percent) female stations, and 1,269 (20 percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 10.5.3: WHETHER ECP OFFICIALS OR MONITORING TEAM VISITED THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**



## 10.6 Polling Station Observation by Citizen Groups other than FAFEN

### Legal, Regulatory and Procedural Provisions

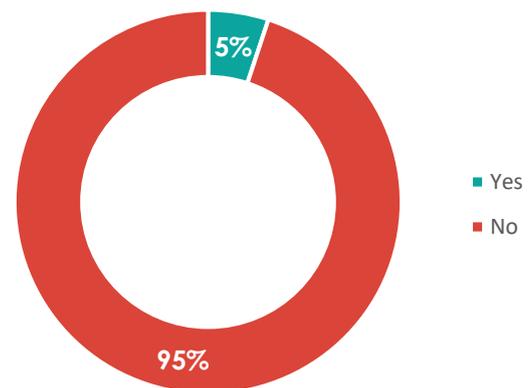
The Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf, may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of results.

*The Elections Act, 2017, Section 238(1)*

FAFEN observers reported that no other citizen observer group visited the overwhelming majority (11,603 or 95 percent) of 12,220 polling stations, whereas the presence of other observers was reported at 617 (five percent) polling stations.

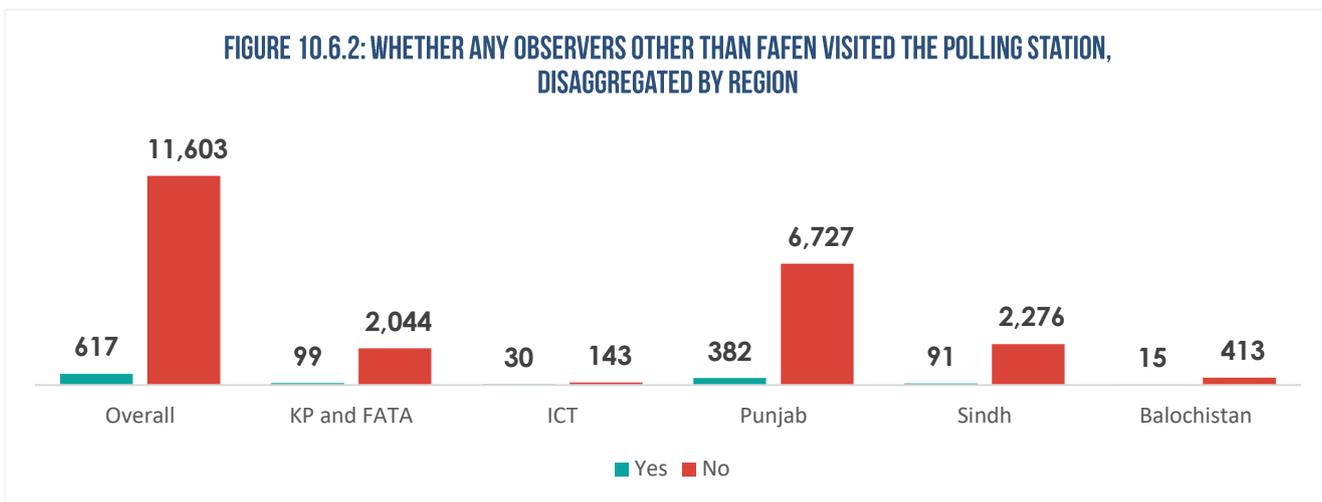
Regional disaggregation of the observation data shows that no observer group other than FAFEN visited 6,727 (95 percent) polling stations in Punjab, 2,276 (96 percent) in Sindh, 2,044 (95 percent) in KP, 413 (96 percent) in Balochistan and 143 (83 percent) in ICT. Polling stations at which such visits were reported included 382 (five percent) polling stations in Punjab, 99 (five percent) in KP, 91 (four percent) in Sindh, 30 (17 percent) in ICT and 15 (four percent) in Balochistan.

**FIGURE 10.6.1: DID ANY OBSERVERS OTHER THAN FAFEN VISIT THE POLLING STATION?**



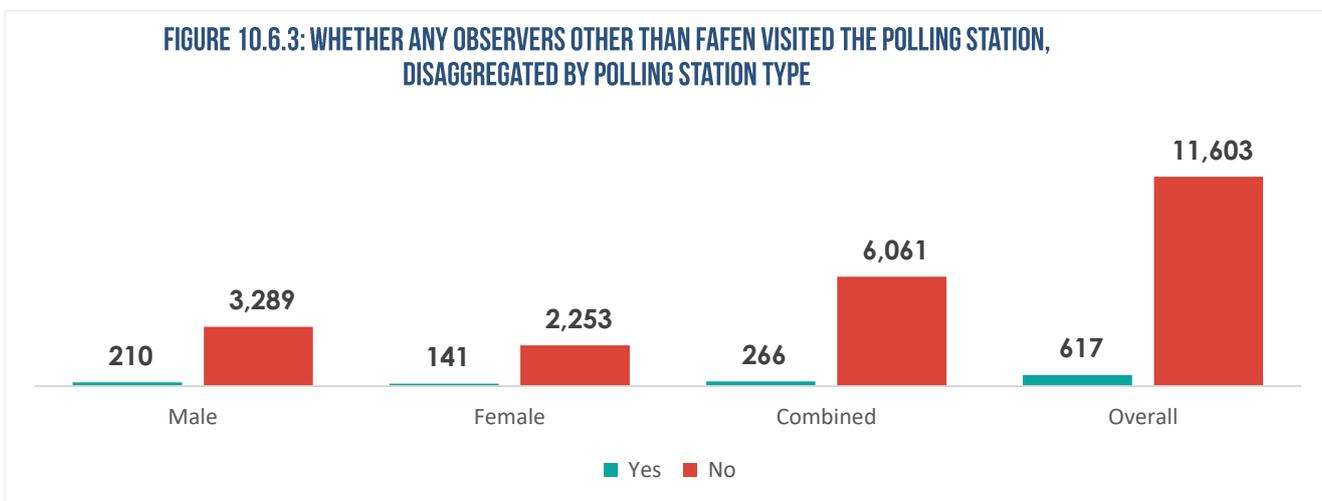


**FIGURE 10.6.2: WHETHER ANY OBSERVERS OTHER THAN FAFEN VISITED THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY REGION**



Disaggregating the observation data with regard to type of polling station reveals that no observer group other than FAFEN visited 3,289 (94 percent) male polling stations, 2,253 (94 percent) female polling stations, and 6,061 (96 percent) combined polling stations. Polling stations where other observer groups were reported included 210 (six percent) male stations, 141 (six percent) female stations, and 266 (four percent) combined polling stations.

**FIGURE 10.6.3: WHETHER ANY OBSERVERS OTHER THAN FAFEN VISITED THE POLLING STATION, DISAGGREGATED BY POLLING STATION TYPE**







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