



**FORMAN
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
(A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

PRC Bi-Annual Newsletter

8TH EDITION

JULY 2023 - DEC 2023

POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER (PRC), FORMAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (A CHARTERED UNIVERSITY)

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DR. SAIMA BASHIR

Manager Research,

Population Council, Pakistan.

Former Senior Research Demographer” and Head Social Dynamics Unit at Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

Full video of the webinar can be access on PRC YouTube channel through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K993NgyfrA>

Consanguineous Marriage

The preference for a cousin marriage could have implications on broader familial contexts and outcomes. Studies from different countries suggest a positive association of consanguineous marriages with high fertility, women’s young age at marriage, early-age childbearing, and child mortality.

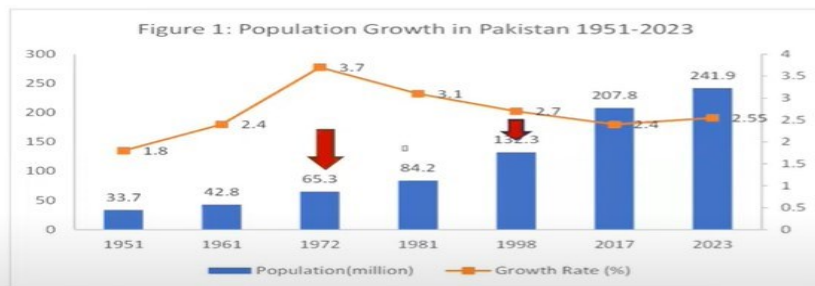
WEBINAR - “ARE THERE ANY PROSPECTS OF POPULATION DECLINE IN PAKISTAN? BIRTH COHORT ANALYSIS OF FERTILITY DESIRES AND GOALS”

The PRC organized a webinar on 20th September, 2023. The topic of the webinar was ‘Are there any prospects of population decline in Pakistan? Birth cohort analysis of fertility desires and goals. The guest speaker of the event was Dr. Saima Bashir. Dr. Saima started her talk by raising the question of why the fertility or demographic transition is not happening in Pakistan while other countries in the same region are

experiencing the transition. She also mentioned that Pakistan’s population had doubled twice in the last 75 years. Despite the programmatic issues in the implementation of family planning programs, fertility rates declined in 1990 and contraceptive use increased from 12 percent (1990) to 30 percent (2006), but not after 2006. She mentioned that high fertility is strongly associated with infant mortality. Dr. Bashir further stated that the country is presently passing

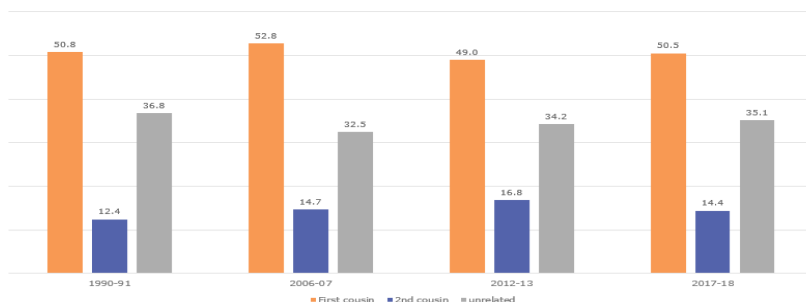
through a slow fertility transition. The acceptance of a two-child family size appears to be limited, even among the women with higher level of education. Also, Family patterns - living in an extended family system with high incidence of first cousin marriage - probably reinforce the high fertility regime. The event ended with a note of thanks followed by a Q/A session.

Population Growth at a Glance



Slide 2

Trends over time in Consanguineous Marriage



Slide 8

SEMINAR - “SKILLED & UNSKILLED MIGRATION FROM PAKISTAN: WHAT BRAIN DRAIN?”

The PRC organized and hosted a seminar on ‘Skilled and Unskilled migration from Pakistan: What brain drain?’ on October 3rd, 2023.

Dr. Nasra Shah (President, PAP) talked on the fluctuating trends of Pakistani out-migrant workers from 2010 to 2023. She shared that the emigration outflows were highest in 2015 and lower during COVID-19 pandemic. These outflows increased again in 2022. However, there is no evidence of a sudden upsurge in skilled migration in 2022.

Dr. Shah explained that since 1971, less than 10 % of yearly outflows comprise of highly skilled/qualified. Secondly, when viewed as percentage of all emigrants, no evidence of an unprecedented outflow of highly skilled/qualified is found. Third, the outflow of nurses, where a shortage may be present within the country, deserves attention.

Dr. Shah further added that according to Global, Gallup Survey 2021, 900 million adults (16 % of world population) wish to move from which only 1-2 % have taken any steps. Similarly, according to PIDE Survey (2022), 37 % would like to move if given an opportunity.



DR. NASRA SHAH
President, Population
Association of Pakistan (PAP)
&
Professor,
Lahore School of
Economics (LSE)

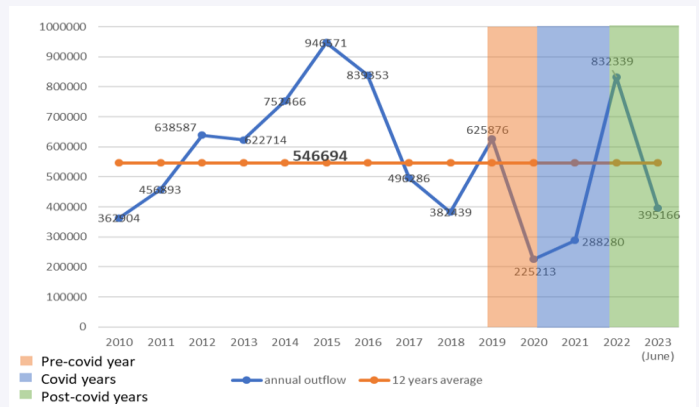


Figure 1: Pakistani out-migrant workers (Numbers), 2010-2023 (June)



SEMINAR “POPULATION DYNAMICS AND IMPORTANCE OF DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS TO PROMOTE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY FORMULATION”

Dr. Tauseef Ahmed delivered an in-depth and thorough talk while focusing on different population dynamics, e.g. population growth, population structure, fertility and family planning, mortality and health, urbanization, migration, labor market, education and literacy, environmental sustainability and gender dynamics. He also discussed implications of these dynamics on population policies.

While focusing on demographic dividend, he explained that ‘to receive a demographic dividend, a country must go through a demographic transition where it switches from a largely rural agrarian economy with high fertility and mortality rates to an urban industrial society characterized by low fertility and mortality rates’ and demographic dividends thus can be found with the following four: savings, labor supply, human capital and economics growth. Dr. Tauseef also focused on future projections for countries from different regions, i.e. UK, Japan, Iran, China and Pakistan.

The PRC organized and hosted a seminar on ‘Population dynamics and importance of demographic analysis to promote evidence-based policy formulation’ in collaboration with the UNFPA on 7th December, 2023. The guest speaker of the seminar was Dr. Tauseef Ahmed, Technical Advisor NIPS/UNFPA.



Dr. Tauseef Ahmed
Technical Advisor,
NIPS/UNFPA



Key challenges Pakistan is facing for reaping demographic dividend:

- * *Slow fertility transition and a rapidly growing youth population*
- * *Low educational enrolment rates, especially for girls*
- * *Low female labor force participation*
- * *Mismatch between increasing working age population and labour demand*

**POSSIBLE
CONSEQUENCES
FOR NOT
ACHIEVING
DEMOGRAPHIC
DIVIDEND**

***Economic
Consequences:***
Unemployment and
Underemployment;
Economic Strain;
Lost Productivity

***Social
Consequences:***
Increased Poverty;
Social Unrest; Edu-
cation Challenges

***Political
Consequences:***
Political Instability;
Youth Disenchant-
ment

***Long-Term
Implications:***
Missed Development
Opportunities; De-
pendency on Aid



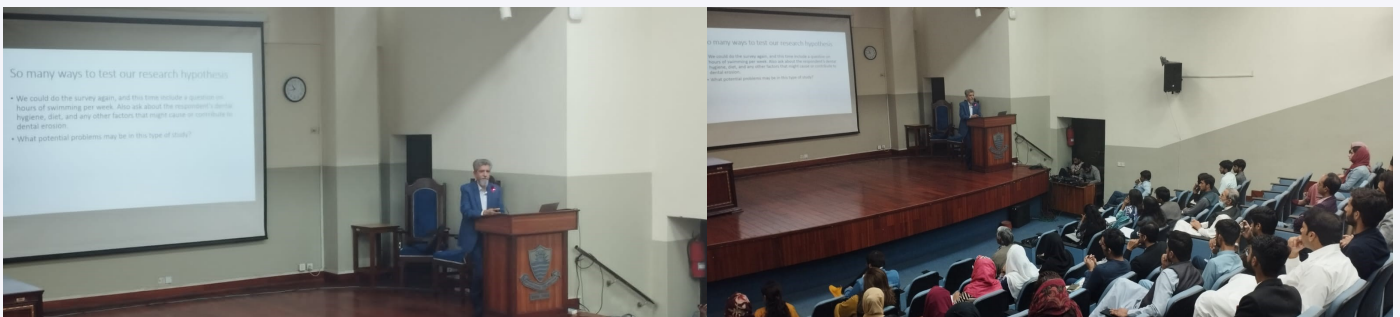
1-DAY WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BY THE POPULATION ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN (PAP)

The population Association of Pakistan (PAP) organized and hosted a 1-day workshop on ‘Research methods in Health and Social Sciences’ in collaboration with the Population Research Center (PRC), FCCU on 20th November, 2023.

The workshop was facilitated by skilled subject experts, **Dr. Farid Midhet**, Senior Professor at Bahria University, Karachi, and **Dr. Saima Bashir**, Manager Research at Population Council, Islamabad.

The workshop enabled the participants to:

- Develop critical understanding of research design, analytical methods and data visualization in health and social sciences research
- Describe a variety of advanced research skills and analytical techniques, including quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods.
- Understand aspects of research management and dissemination consistent with professional practice and principles of research ethics.



24TH ANNUAL POPULATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2023 ‘HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING SOCIETY: THE ROLE OF FAMILY PLANNING’ 21ST–22ND NOVEMBER 2023

The Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) organized a two-day conference in collaboration with the Population Research Center (PRC), Forman Christin College (A Chartered University) at FCCU. The primary objective of the 24th Annual Population Research Conference was to bring policy makers, donors, practitioners, researchers, and youth to a common platform to discuss persistent population problems, challenges, and potential solutions for translating the National and Provincial Narratives on Population into actionable solutions to realize the role of family planning in population development, in the context of a changing socio-cultural context.

Accounting for key challenges, the conference aimed to strengthen evidence-based policy direction for Pakistan on a variety of topics under the key sub themes for the conference:

- ◇ *Health Systems, Urbanization & Migration*
- ◇ *Shifting Social & Gender norms: Women in the workforce*
- ◇ *Youth Development*

These issues were discussed in four plenary and six technical sessions.

This two-day conference consisted on four plenary sessions and six technical sessions. The event started with welcome remarks by Dr. Jonathan Addleton (Rector, FCCU) and Dr. Sikandar Hayat (Distinguished Professor of History and Public Policy & Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, FCCU), opening remarks by Dr. Nasra M. Shah (President, Population Association of Pakistan and remarks by development partners Dr. Luay Shabaneh, (Country Representative, UNFPA) and Dr. Zeba A. Sathar (T.I.), (Country Director, Population Council), Pakistan.



24TH ANNUAL POPULATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE *FCCU student management team acknowledgement*

Along with the PRC team, FCCU students volunteered for PAP Conference as rapporteurs, ushers and social media managers where they played a vital role in managing the two-day event.



FOUR-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ‘ADOPTING GENDER FOCUSED METHODOLOGY IN SOCIO-CULTURAL RESEARCH’

ORGANIZED BY

THE POPULATION COUNCIL, PAKISTAN & THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
OCTOBER 4TH - 7TH, 2023

GUEST SPEAKER OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP



DR. NIDA KIRMANI

Associate Professor of Sociology at the Mushtaq Ahmad Gurmani School of Humanities and Social Sciences, LUMS

THE EVENT WAS HOSTED BY THE POPULATION COUNCIL, PAKISTAN

The PRC team *participated* in a four-day training workshop in Islamabad from 4th -7th October, 2023. The workshop was organized by the Population Council, Pakistan and the UNFPA.

The team members who participated in the workshop were Dr. M. Vaqas Ali, Dr. Jawad Tariq, Ms. Khizra Nasir and Ms. Fareeha Habib.

Other institutions participated in the workshop were team members of Population Research Center (PRC), IBA, Karachi, Population Research Center (PRC), BUITEMS, Population Research Center (PRC), University of Peshawar (UOP) and the Center of Excellence on Population and Well-being Studies (CePWS), NUST, Islamabad.

The facilitator of the workshop was Dr. Nida Kirmani, who shared her vast knowledge based on her experience regarding research methodologies in socio-cultural research.

Dr. Nida Kirmani focused on the understanding of gender construct. She thoroughly explained “how to contextualize gender in the context of Pakistan”. She also shed light on gender inclusivity and methodological issues in gender focused research.

Dr. Kirmani explained the gender biases in research, research ethics and ethical pitfalls. The workshop consisted on multiple exercises followed by presentation of a research proposal by **Ms. Khizra Nasir** and **Ms. Fareeha Habib**, which was later submitted to the UNFPA.



RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY PRC TO THE UNFPA

The PRC team has prepared and submitted a research proposal to the UNFPA. The title of the research proposal is *“A phenomenological understanding of ‘Family Planning’ reflected through the lived experiences of residents of a rural community in Punjab”*.

The proposal was prepared by Dr. M. Vaqas Ali (Principal investigator) and Ms. Khizra Nasir (Co- Principal Investigator) of the project.

The research study asserts that the reluctance at the family level towards the use of family planning methods in poverty-stricken urban and rural communities over the years is embedded in the culture and context-specific emergent understanding of this phenomenon.

To explore this proposition, the present study will use the phenomenological approach to understand how married people living in an impoverished rural community near Lahore make sense of the concept of ‘family planning’ based on their lived experiences within their specific structural context.



The Population Council, Pakistan
 The Population Research Center (PRC), FCCU, Lahore
 The Population Research Center (PRC), IBA, Karachi
 The Population Research Center (PRC), BUIITEMS, Balochistan
 The Population Research Center (PRC), University of Peshawar (UOP)
 The Center of Excellence on Population and Wellbeing Studies (CePwS), NUST, Islamabad.

**WORKSHOP ON
“DEMOGRAPHIC
ANALYSIS &
POPULATION
PROJECTION
SYSTEM
(DAPPS)”
(NOVEMBER
15TH - 19TH, 2023)**

PRC team members, Dr. Khadija Shokrullah, Dr. Jawad Tariq and Ms. Samia Ayub, attended a 5-day training Session on "Demographic Analysis and Population Projection (DAPPS)" arranged by the *Government of Punjab* and the *UNFPA* from 15th -19th November 2023. The training workshop was attended by Professionals from the Bureau of Statistics (BOS), the Department of Planning and Development, and Punjab Economic Research Institution.

At the end of the training workshop, each participant presented demographic projections of different districts of Punjab using DAPPS, Spectrum, MORTPAK softwares.

After the successful completion of the workshop, all the participants got participation certificates.

Dr. Khadija Shokrullah and two participants from Department of Planning and Development got the best presentation award.



Dr. Khadija Shokrullah
Associate Professor,
Department of Geography

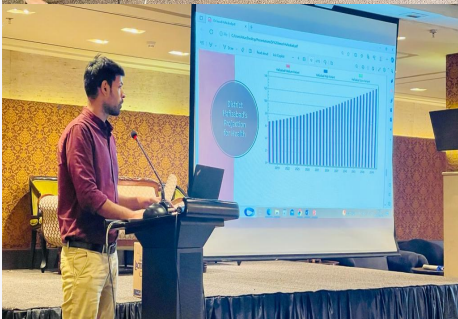


Dr. Jawad Tariq
Associate Professor,
Department of Sociology



Ms. Samia Ayub
Assistant Professor,
Department of Statistics

**Dr. Khadija Shokrullah
received best presenter
award**



**AN INTER-PROVINCIAL WORKSHOP OF POPULATION RESEARCH CENTERS (PRCS),
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF POPULATION STUDIES AND DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
30TH NOVEMBER-1ST DECEMBER 2023**

The Centre of Excellence on Population and Wellbeing Studies (CePwS) in collaboration with the UNFPA conducted a 2-day workshop where the Population Research Centre's (PRCs) from all four provinces gathered under one roof to discuss the various challenges that Pakistan's population faces.

The workshop aimed to discuss that how the PRCs can collaborate together to ensure a prosperous and productive future for the country's population.

Dr. M. Vaqas Ali & Dr. Jawad Tariq participated in this two-day workshop.



MINOR IN DEMOGRAPHY AND POPULATION STUDIES

The Population Research Center (PRC) team worked very hard on designing and preparing the proposal of “*Minor in Demography and Population Studies*” program to be offered for undergraduate students. The PRC team did an extensive research on existing demography programs (minor) around the world. After conducting the research, team prepared a proposal which consisted on six courses (two core and four elective). The proposal to launch minor was presented in 49th Academic Council by the department of Sociology, FCCU which was then approved by the committee. The department of sociology is offering this program. The program aims to provide students with a multidisciplinary perspective into demography and population studies. The following eight courses are being offered from four departments; Economics, Sociology, Geography and Statistics, are part of the program:

Sr. No.	Course Name	Course code	Status	Prerequisite
1.	Introduction to Demography	SOCL 110	Core	None
2.	Quantitative methods in Social Science	STAT103	Core	None
3.	Population Economics	ECON210	Elective	None
4.	Geography of South Asia	GEOG233	Elective	None
5.	Population Geography	GEOG323	Elective	None
6.	Demography and Public Health	SOCL 335	Elective	None
7.	The Sociology of Aging and Policy Choices	SOCL 435	Elective	None
8.	Population Migration and Implications	GEOG 424	Elective	GEOG 323 (already in the list) or instructor consent

PRC PUBLICATION & PRESENTATION

Factors Influencing Primary School Dropout in Punjab, Pakistan: Results from MICS 2017-18

Dr. M. Vaqas Ali, Khizra Nasir, Dr. Jawad Tariq, Yusra Sajid

The PRC team has published the paper ‘*Factors Influencing Primary School Dropout in Punjab, Pakistan: Results from MICS 2017-18*’ in journal ‘*Bulletin of Business and Economics*’.

The study focused on the determinants of primary school dropout in the province of Punjab in Pakistan. The study used the MICS (2017-18) dataset. Out of the MICS (2017-2018) data set, a to-

tal of 11621 cases were selected. The selected cases were all between the ages of 5 -17 years, who were enrolled in a primary school in the year prior to data collection. Primary school dropout was the main dependent variable of the study. Out of the 11612 selected children that were enrolled in primary school in the year prior to data collection a total of 274 (2.4%) children had dropped out.

The study by using multiple logistic regression revealed that some demographic, economic and individual level variables significantly increased the odds of primary school dropout. Specifically, children from urban areas (demographic) or poor families (economic) had a significantly higher likelihood of dropping out.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61506/01.00063>

Ms. Khizra Nasir presented the earlier version of the paper titled “determinants of primary school dropout in Punjab, Pakistan: An analysis of MICS 2017-18” at 24th Annual Population Research Conference organized by the Population Association of Pakistan (PAP) in 6th technical session on 22nd November, at FCCU campus.

The presentation ended with remarks by Chair, Dr. Nasra M. Shah, President, PAP & Co-Chair, Dr. Muhammad Ali Bhatti, Chairperson, Department of Economics.



POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER TEAM IN PRINT MEDIA

Digital census and the scourge of overpopulation - The Nation

by Ms. Khizra Nasir

August 8th, 2023

The official results of Pakistan’s first-ever digital census have been revealed by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and they were approved in the Council of Common Interest (CCI) meeting on August 5, 2023. According to the results, the country’s total population is 241.49 million in 2023, rising from 207.68 million in 2017. While the debate over the consequences of this census will be hijacked by the short-term effects of the exercise and legal ramifications over the election date and the necessity of a new delimitation process, it is the need of the hour to discuss the scourge of overpopulation in detail.

An intellectual discussion over structural and historical antecedent conditions impeding equitable growth might not gain too much currency in our current environment, but it is important, nevertheless. The burgeoning population is one of the biggest problems which is keeping the nation mired in the quicksand of socio-economic stagnation. Some scholars on the orthodox Left believe overpopulation is a blessing for the country, as Pakistan is a labor-intensive agrarian country. Unfortunately, this is far from the reality. For continue reading..

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Aug-2023/digital-census-and-the-scourge-of-overpopulation>

Column edition by
Ms. Khizra Nasir in
“The Nation”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Aug-2023/digital-census-and-the-scourge-of-overpopulation>
August 8th, 2023

DEMOGRAPHIC
PROFILE OF
TOP
SIX POPULOUS
COUNTRIES

India

Total Population: 1,428.6 millions
Total fertility rate per women: 2

China

Total Population: 1425.7 million
Total fertility rate per women: 1.2

United States of America

Total Population: 340 millions
Total fertility rate per women: 1.7

Indonesia

Total Population: 277.5 million
Total fertility rate per women: 2.1

Pakistan

Total Population: 240.5 millions
Total fertility rate per women: 3.3

Nigeria

Total Population: 223.8 millions
Total fertility rate per women: 5.1

MEET THE PRC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Bhatti has well-rounded experience in teaching, administration, and research. His 30 years long and productive career of diversified teaching ranges from intermediate to Ph.D. levels. At FCCU, he has been teaching a variety of courses at Baccalaureate, MSc, MPhil and PhD levels. His areas of interest include Econometrics, Statistics, Financial Economics, Islamic Economics, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics. He has also taught for more than 10 years as a visiting faculty member at the Department of Economics/School of Economics, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad.

The services of Dr. Bhatti have also been sought by other universities and institutions such as Punjab University, Islamia University of Bahawalpur, International Islamic University, Islamabad; Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi; Kashmir Institute of Economics, University of AJK, Muzafabad; Gomal University, D. I. Khan; Allama Iqbal Open University,

Islamabad; COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Lahore; and Lahore School of Economics.

His Ph.D. research work that aimed to “appropriately model, analyze and forecast the behavior of 43 stocks” listed at Karachi Stock Market was evaluated as an impressive and solid empirical work by the top scholars/ referees in the field.

Currently, he is a member of the Board of Studies in the subject of Economics, University of the Punjab, and Lahore School of Economics.

He is also working as an editor of Forman Journal of Economic Studies (HEC recognized Y-Category Journal). He has worked as an Advisor and as a Punjab Higher Education Department (HED) representative to the Punjab Public Service Commission for the selection of Assistant Professors, Lecturers, and Subject Specialists (Economics) for the HED, Government of Punjab.



Dr. Muhammad Ali Bhatti

**Chairperson & Associate Professor,
Department of Economics, FCCU**

CONTACT OR VISIT US



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