

»»» BI-ANNUAL «««  
Newsletter

# POPULATION RESEARCH CENTER (PRC)

Forman Christian College (A Chartered University)



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



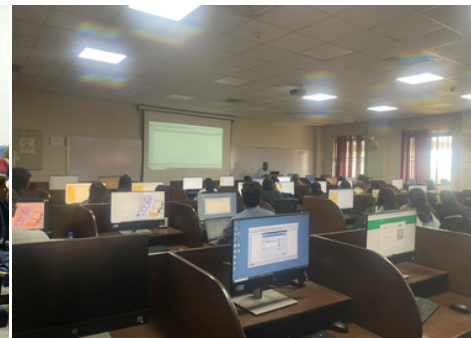
Population Research Center (PRC) was established in 2019 to conduct, promote, and strengthen inter-disciplinary population studies research in Pakistan. The PRC is an independent Center that was collaboratively created by the Departments of Economics, Geography, Statistics and Sociology, and is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

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THE OFFICIAL BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PRC, FCCU

9TH EDITION

JANUARY 2024 - JUNE 2024



## EVENTS

- Panel Discussion - Increasing Population & Sustainable Development - PWD
- Introduction to SPSS: Data Handling, Wrangling & Descriptive
- Student Research Essay Competition Ceremony - Healthy Families and Communities in Changing Society- Role of Family Planning

## RESEARCH

- Research Publications - Journal Articles
- Research Proposal submission to Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Research Collaboration
  - UNFPA - SDPI
  - PRC, FCCU - PRC, BUIITEMS

## INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

- Population Welfare Department (PWD)
- Bureau of Statistics (BOS), Punjab
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)
- Center for Family and Population Research, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
- Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR)
- Research Hub of Population Studies, University of Hong Kong

# PANEL DISCUSSION - INCREASING POPULATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

March 27th 2024



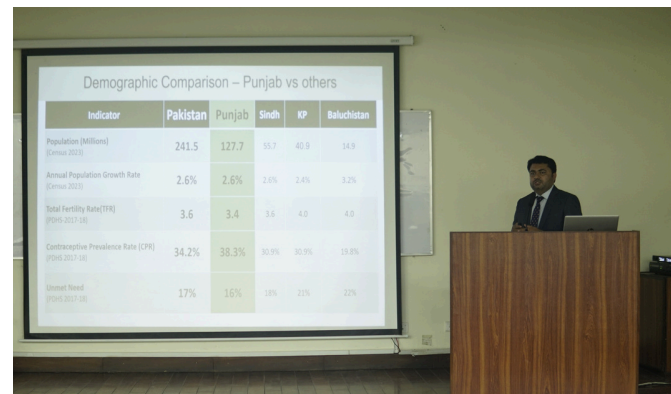
## INCREASING POPULATION & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The PRC organized and hosted a one-day panel discussion in collaboration with the Population Welfare Department (PWD) on 27th March 2024. The topic of the panel discussion was 'increasing population and sustainable development'. The event consisted on presentations by Dr. M. Amjad Rizwan (Men Advisory Training Center, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital) and Mr. Abu Hassan Madni (Tehsil Population Welfare Officer, Gujrat PWD Punjab) followed by extensive concluding remarks by chief guest Ms. Saman Rai (Director General, PWD, Punjab).



## GLOBAL POPULATION SCENARIO AND A POPULATION SITUATION ANALYSIS OF PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Mr. Madni talked about the global population scenario while comparing Pakistan's dynamics with other countries. He specifically focused on family planning and reproductive health in Punjab. He presented the current population trends in Punjab utilizing latest data and highlighted the PWD's family planning targets for 2025 - 2030.



MR. ABU HASSAN MADNI

## FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF THE WOMEN TO CHOOSE NUMBER, TIMING AND SPACING OF CHILDREN

Dr. Amjad, in his presentation shed light on a rarely discussed yet immense important topic. He started his presentation by discussing the global maternal and infant mortality rates and the annual global burden of disease. While discussing the sensitivity of this issue, he added that these issues are preventable. He also added that the occurrence of these diseases is 98% in developing countries and 2% in developed countries. After a detailed discussion of the issue, Dr. Amjad proposed solutions like the importance of contraception use and strategic planning for the number, spacing and timing of pregnancies and childbirth, at the household level.



DR. M. AMJAD RIZWAN



# REMARKS BY CHIEF GUEST FOLLOWED BY A Q/A SESSION

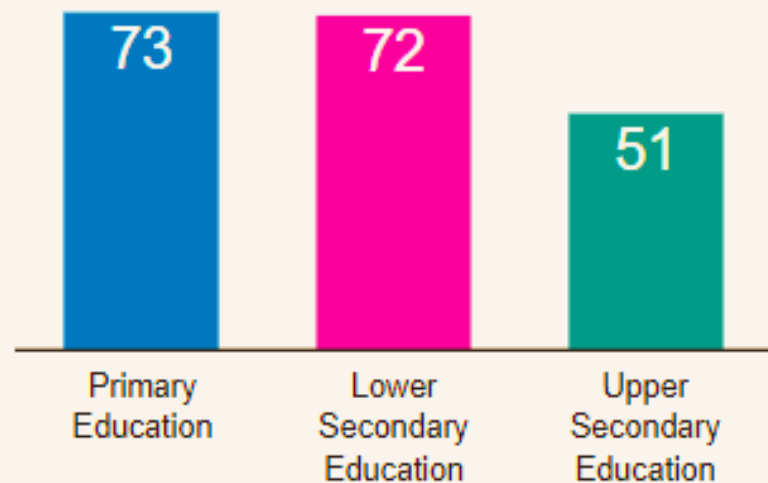
**MS. SAMAN RAI**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG),**  
**PWD, PUNJAB**



Ms. Saman Rai concluded the panel discussion by adding valuable remarks on the increasing population and its impact on sustainable development. She highlighted PWD's ongoing population control campaigns and addressed the burgeoning issue of population growth.

The panel discussion ended with an interactive Q/A session.

**Pakistan's  
total net  
enrollment  
rate, percent,  
2017 - 2023**





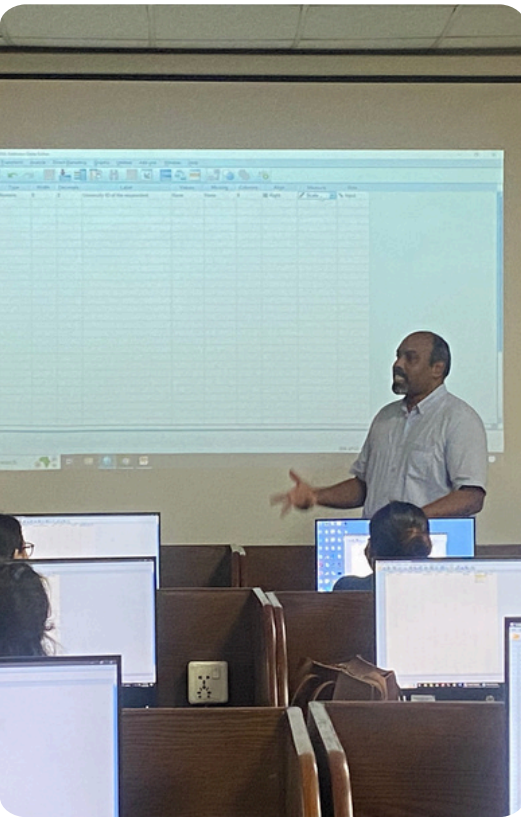
## WORKSHOP

### INTRODUCTION TO SPSS: DATA HANDLING, WRANGLING & DESCRIPTIVE

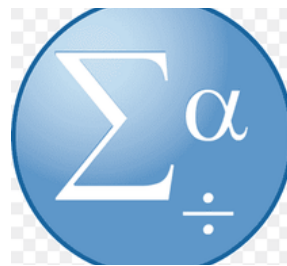
A joint collaboration of the PRC & the  
department of statistics FCCU

25th May, 2024

The PRC organized a one day workshop on 25th May 2024 at the computer Lab in S-218. The title of the workshop was 'Introduction to SPSS: Data Handling, Wrangling & Descriptive'. Dr. Sharoon Hanook from the department of Statistics facilitated the workshop. Students (Bachelors & graduate level) and faculty members participated in the workshop.



**Dr. Sharoon Hanook**  
Assistant Professor & Data Scientist,  
Dept. of Statistics, FCCU



During this productive and interactive workshop, following contents with a hands-on practice were covered:

- Data entry in SPSS.
- Discussion on problems in data collection for designed instrument
- Descriptive Analysis of data (Charts, measure, and tables)
- Box and whisker plot
- Managing data through code reversal, split file, and select cases application
- Reliability calculation through Cronbach's alpha and its interpretation
- Computer variables





# PRC SECOND RESEARCH ESSAY COMPETITION CEREMONY

6



Chief Guest: Dr. Jonathan Addleton  
Rector, FCCU

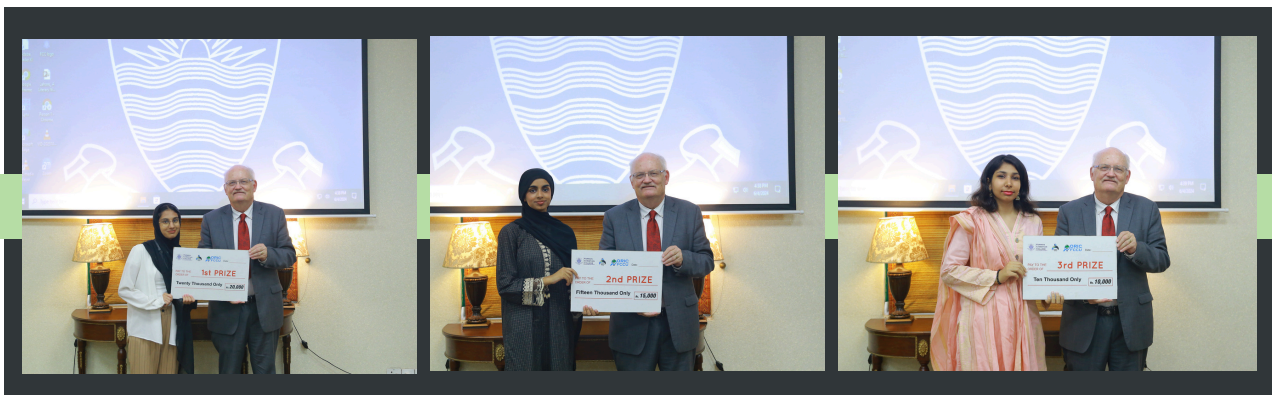
Welcome Addresses

Chief Guest: Dr. Sikandar Hayat  
Dean, Social Sciences

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES IN CHANGING SOCIETY- ROLE OF FAMILY PLANNING

4th June, 2024

E-001



**Tayyaba Asad**  
**1st Prize Winner**  
**Rs. 20,000**

**Roshan Nazer**  
**2nd Prize Winner**  
**Rs. 15,000**

**Zuha Iqbal Randhawa**  
**3rd Prize Winner**  
**Rs. 10,000**



The PRC organized its 2nd research essay competition funded by ORIC, FCCU. After receiving a significant number of essays, they were evaluated by evaluation committee which included faculty members from different departments of social sciences i.e. Sociology, Economics and Geography. All essays were reviewed thoroughly, out of which top three were awarded with a cash prize. The top three candidates presented their essays during the ceremony.

All students who submitted an essay in the competition were presented with a certificate of participation. The top fifteen essays will be published by the PRC in the form of booklet by August 2024.



## RESEARCH TOPICS OF TOP THREE CANDIDATES

- *Tayyaba Asad* (1st prize winner): Still Fighting for the Right to Choose: Examining the Impact of Low Women Empowerment on Family Planning in Pakistan
- *Roshan Nazer* (2nd prize winner): Societal Attitudes and Family Planning: Breaking Stigmas and Taboos/ Social Pressures and Gender Role
- *Zuha Iqbal Randhawa* (3rd prize winner): Family Planning and Poverty Alleviation: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty through Planned Parenthood



*Thank you note*

*by*

*Dr. M. Vaqas Ali*



## EVALUATION COMMITTEE

- Dr. M. Vaqas Ali, Director PRC, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
- Dr. Shamaila Athar, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
- Dr. Khadija Shakrullah, Chairperson & Associate Professor, Department of Geography
- Dr. Hafiz Rizwan Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
- Ms. Sharmeen Bano, Lecturer, Department of Sociology

## FAMILY PLANNING SAVES LIVES

Family planning prevents maternal deaths, saves children's lives, and also ensures that every pregnancy is intended, therefore reducing the cases of unsafe abortions

- UNFPA





# PRC RESEARCH JOURNAL PUBLICATION(S)

## Identifying the Correlates Secondary Level in Punjab, Pakistan: Insights from MICS 2017- 2018

*Authors:*

*Dr. Mohammad Vaqas Ali,*

*Dr. Shamaila Athar,*

*Dr. Shahid Rasheed*

*Dr. Gloria Calib*

Published in

*“International Journal of  
Contemporary Issues in  
Social Sciences”*

*18th May, 2024*

**“Nearly 10.7 million boys and 8.6 million girls are enrolled at the primary level in Pakistan and this drops to 3.6 million boys and 2.8 million girls at the lower secondary level.”**

**Source: UNICEF**

### About the article

This article focuses on various factors of school dropout at secondary level education in Pakistan. This study is based on the secondary data analysis of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Punjab dataset (2017-2018) which was collected by the Punjab Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The MICS dataset provides data pertaining to 51,600 households, including 37,052 children aged 5-17 years. A total of 7,322 cases that matched the inclusion criterion were selected. MICS Logistic regression was used to identify geographic, economic, household and individual level factors that could potentially influence dropout decisions at the secondary school level in Punjab. The study has shown that variables such as urban school enrollment, household size, and parental education have significantly influenced dropout rates. Additionally, gender (girls more at risk), child labor, and physical mobility issues also played significant roles. These findings highlight the multifaceted nature of factors that influence secondary school dropout.

## PRC RESEARCH JOURNAL PUBLICATION(S)

### Crude oil price variability and employment dynamics in Pakistan: A sectoral analysis

Authors:

Khizra Nasir,

Dr. Tanvir Ahmed,

Dr. Talah Nouman Khan

Dr. Rabiya Nasir

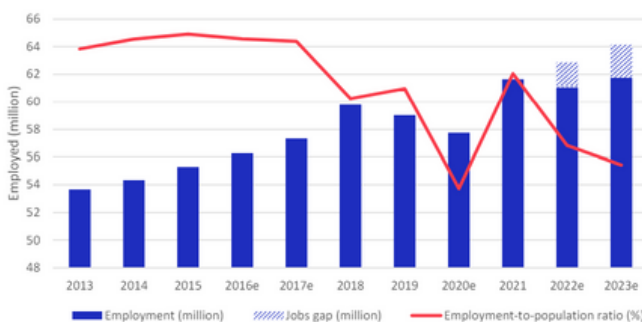
Status: Under Review in  
"Journal of Public Affairs"

- **Employment in Pakistan estimated to reach its lowest rate in decades.**
- **The female unemployment rate, which is historically at least 1.5 times that of male rates, could reach a high of 11.1 per cent**

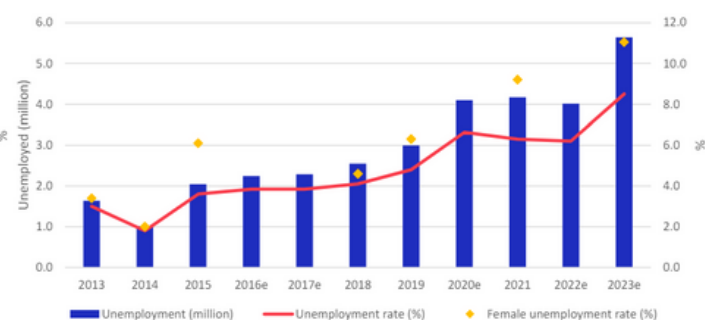
### About the article

The current research analyzed the link between crude oil prices and employment in Pakistan's agricultural, industrial, and services sectors. Pakistan being an oil-importing country is heavily dependent on oil. In 2022, the country imported worth \$5.23 billion crude oil, becoming the 29th largest importer in the world. Therefore, the whole economy as well as each sector is dependent on oil and its fluctuating prices.

The changes in the price of oil affect the economic sectors through different channels, making them sensitive. In this research, time series data for the period 1981-2019 has been used. Three models have been developed and estimated for each sector: agriculture, industry, and services based on the theoretical model efficiency wage model and ARDL co-integration technique. The results indicated an inverse association between crude oil price and employment in the agricultural, industrial, and services sectors. The study results ask for the stabilization of oil prices by adjusting taxes and profit margins of oil companies by the Government of Pakistan to promote sectoral employment for the welfare of people.



Employment (millions) and employment-to-population ratio (%), 2013-23



Unemployment (millions) and unemployment rate (%), 2013-23

Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) 2023

# PRC Research Proposal Submission to the IRB

## A phenomenological understanding of 'Family Planning' reflected through the lived experiences of residents of a rural community in Punjab

### Principle

### Investigator:

**Dr. M. Vaqas Ali**

### Co PI's

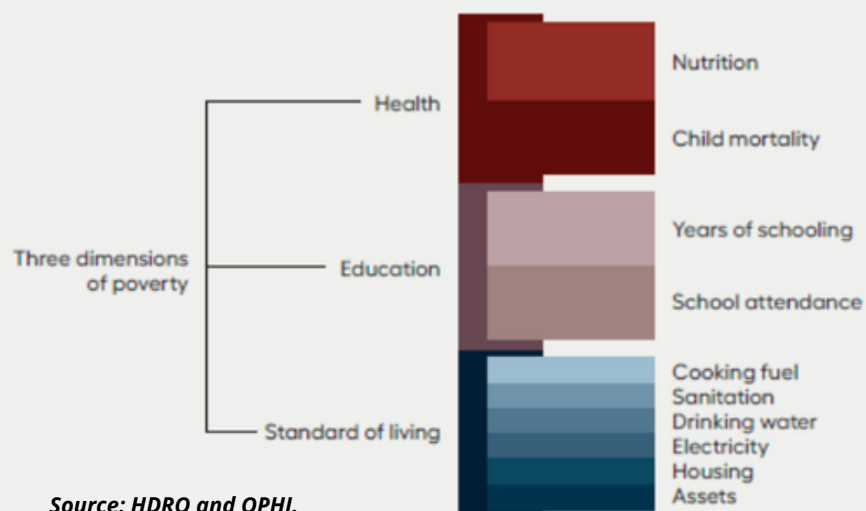
- Ms. Khizra Nasir
- Ms. Syeda Zain Fatima Shamsi

The high fertility rate and its impact on population growth in Pakistan has been an ongoing concern for the state since 1965. The existing literature on the culture of poverty and its impact on family size revealed that there are multiple social, political, religious, traditional, cultural, economic, communal and familial factors that are responsible for high fertility rates and large family sizes.

The presence of higher fertility rates in rural and poverty-stricken communities is assumed to be the product of values embedded in cultures constructed in conservative and poverty-stricken contexts. Cultures shape the subjective reality of its members and it is surmised that people living in a culture of poverty have been socialized into resisting the idea of family planning and have a predisposition towards large families and more children.

The present study will use the phenomenological approach to understand how married people living in an impoverished rural community near Lahore understand and make sense of the concept of 'family planning'.

### Structure of the global Multidimensional Poverty Index





# UNFPA -SDPI - PRC Collaboration

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) has partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for capacity development of the Population Research Centers in

Pakistan to promote research on population-related policy issues.

The purpose of this collaboration is to enhance capacity building and research activities of the PRC.

This initiative aims to empower the PRCs and build their capacity by providing resources for conducting impactful research that directly informs and shapes effective population policies in Pakistan.



## Areas of Research

- *Population and Economy*
- *Population and Climate Change Interlinkages*
- *Integrating Displaced Population and Refugees into Development Agenda:*
  - *Education and livelihood opportunities for refugee communities*
  - *How conflict induced displacement affects socioeconomic development of migrating and host communities*
  - *Household economy of refugees such as livelihoods and debt markets in refugees settings, household indebtedness*
  - *Socio-economic integration of refugee populations into host communities and associated social, cultural and labour market impacts.*



# PRC FCCU - PRC BUITEMS COLLABORATION

## A joint collaborative research proposal on 'Population and Climate Change'

### Title of research project:

Understanding the rehabilitation journey of three flood-affected rural communities in Balochistan. Can participatory approaches enhance community resilience?

### RESEARCH TEAM

#### PRC FCCU

*Dr. M. Vaqas Ali: Project lead*

*Dr. Khadija Shakrullah: Co PI*

#### PRC BUITEMS

*Dr. Bilal Sarwar: Co PI*

*Dr. Nabeel Haq: Co PI*

In wake of UNFPA - SDPI collaboration, the Population Research Center (PRC) at Forman Christian College (A Chattered University) and the Population Research Center (PRC) at the Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS) collaborated and prepared a joint research proposal on "*Population and Climate Change interlinkages: Reconstruction and Rehabilitation at Community Level after the 2022 Floods in Balochistan, Pakistan*".

This research proposal has been submitted to the SDPI and the research project will be completed by September 2024.

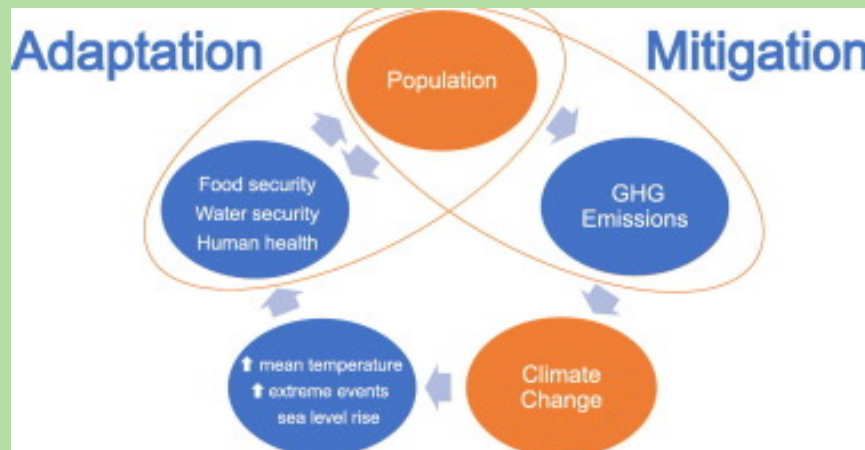
### Significance of Study:

Pakistan is under the impact of climate change and in these chains of events the flash floods of 2022 devastated the livelihoods of millions, causing loss of limb and life and displacement of population. This study will utilize the comparative case study approach to conduct a situation analysis of the extent of devastation experienced by three flood affected rural communities in Balochistan and their ongoing journey towards rehabilitation.

### Study objectives

- A situation analysis of the impact of flood devastation on the residents of three rural communities in Balochistan and their rehabilitation journey
- An examination of the rehabilitation plan and its implementation from the perspective of the community members.
- An assessment of the communities' unmet needs and inquiry into factors that have left these needs unaddressed.
- A model for enhancing community resilience to natural disasters.

**According to Global Climate Risk Index, Pakistan is ranked as the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change.**



# INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

January 2024 - June 2024

The PRC has established institutional linkages with national and international institutions/departments. The center is planning to invite experienced demographers and professors to FCCU for disseminating valuable knowledge among FCCU community.



**SDPI**  
Sustainable Development Policy Institute



**POPULATION WELFARE DEPARTMENT**  
Government of The Punjab

**POPULATION  
WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT  
(PWD), PUNJAB**

**BUREAU OF  
STATISTICS (BOS),  
PUNJAB**



**NUS**  
National University  
of Singapore

**CENTER FOR FAMILY  
AND POPULATION  
RESEARCH, FACULTY  
OF ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES, NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY OF  
SINGAPORE**

**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR  
DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH  
(MPIDR)**



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**

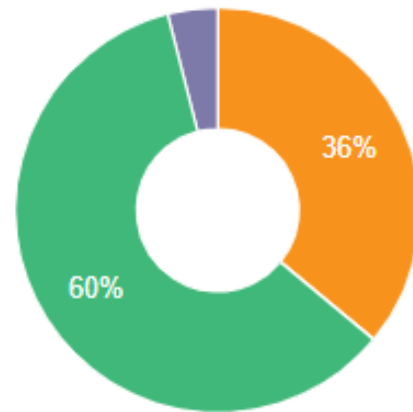


**香港大學**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**RESEARCH HUB OF  
POPULATION STUDIES,  
UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**



# Population Facts you need to know about Pakistan



- Population aged 0-14
- Population aged 15-64
- Population aged 65+

*Population, by age group, per cent*

Total population  
(2024):  
245.2 millions

Population annual  
doubling time, 2024: 36  
years

Maternal mortality  
ratio, (2020): 154  
deaths per 100,000 live  
births

Total fertility rate,  
(2024): 3.3 per woman

Life expectancy at  
birth (2024), male:  
65 years

Life expectancy at  
birth (2024), female:  
70 years

# PRC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Experienced Assistant Professor, Data scientist and consultant Biostatistician with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry.

Skilled in Biostatistics, Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials, Mathematical Modeling, Analytical Skills, Epidemiology, and Statistical Modeling. Strong education professional with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.



**Dr. Sharoon Hanook**

Chairperson & Assistant Professor,  
Department of Statistics, FCCU

For queries, contact us on

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<https://www.fccollege.edu.pk/population-research-center/>

***Designed & Compiled by***

***Ms. Khizra Nasir***

***Research Assistant, PRC***